

# 'FURNESS HOARD' FIND SPOT, CUMBRIA

## Archaeological Excavation



Client: The Portable  
Antiquities Scheme and The  
Dock Museum

NGR: 325106 473116

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## **Non-Technical Summary**

Following the discovery of a hoard of Viking-period objects by metal a detectorist in April 2011 it was decided to examine the find spot in more detail in the hope of placing the find in context. A proposal was put together by Dot Boughton, Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, in conjunction with Sabine Skae, Collections and Exhibitions Manager at the Dock Museum. Funding for the excavation was acquired via a grant from the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.

The excavation encountered a large modern pit which was presumably the one dug during the removal of the hoard in 2011 but no features relating to the original deposition of the hoard were revealed. It seems likely that, had any such features existed, they were destroyed during its recent removal.

Nearby earthworks were surveyed at the time of the excavation since the find was made adjacent to a site of known archaeological interest. These appear to be remnants of what was clearly a once extensive settlement of probable prehistoric to Romano-British date, the bulk of which has been destroyed by quarrying, and this record allows a further consideration of them to be made.

## **Acknowledgements**

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and The Dock Museum for commissioning the project, and thanks are due to Dot Boughton, Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for Lancashire and Cumbria on behalf of the PAS and Sabine Skae, Collections and Exhibitions Manager at The Dock Museum for their help and support during the project. Further thanks are also due to the finder of the hoard, Jason Sanderson.

The project was funded by a grant from the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society. Special thanks are due to Jonathan Garbutt, Estates Manager – Cumbria and Dumfries and Galloway for Tarmac Ltd, Steve Cumberbatch, the site foreman, and in particular Dave Coward, for his valuable information about the site.

The archaeological excavation and survey was carried out by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace, who co-wrote the report. The illustrations were produced by Tom Mace. The finds were examined by Jo Dawson, who also edited the report. The project was managed by Dan Elsworth.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Following the discovery by a metal detectorist, in April 2011, of a hoard of Viking-period (10<sup>th</sup> century) objects, comprising silver coins and hack-silver (Boughton 2011a; 2011b; Spencer 2011), a proposal was made by Dot Boughton, Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for Lancashire and Cumbria on behalf of the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) to examine the find spot in more detail. This was intended to provide information about the context of the find and reveal whether any further objects are present or whether there is any evidence for the hoard being within a container of some description. The findspot is also of interest because it is adjacent to a site of known archaeological importance (although not a Scheduled Monument) previously identified by local archaeologists (Dave Coward pers comm.) and any further information about the nature of this that can be gained through a brief investigation would also place the find in its wider context. To this end, funding was obtained by the PAS from the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society (CWAAS) to enable the excavation to be carried out.

1.1.2 It was determined that a 1m<sup>2</sup> trench would be excavated over the location of the find spot. Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design for the work at the end of 2011 (Greenlane Archaeology 2011) and, following a site visit, the excavation was carried out in January 2012.

## 1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The hoard was located a few hundred metres north of Stainton-with-Adgarley (at NGR 325106 473116), which is a small village around 2km to the south-east of Dalton-in-Furness (see Figure 1; Ordnance Survey 2011). The find was made on the side of a small hill, approximately 80m above sea level, in an area of open field to the north-east end of Stainton Quarries (*ibid*). The spot is 'marked' on the surface by a large glacial erratic (see Plate 1). The wider area is home to a farming community and the landscape is characterised by gently undulating pasture subdivided by a mixture of hedgerows and stone walls (Countryside Commission 1998, 27).

1.2.2 The solid geology comprises carboniferous limestone (Moseley 1978, plate 1), which is known in this area to contain a lot of haematite iron ore (Countryside Commission 1998, 28). The limestone bedrock is mostly covered by a layer of glacial till but elsewhere is exposed on the surface to form small rocky outcrops (Countryside Commission 1998, 27).



**Plate 1: Pre-excavation view of the find spot**

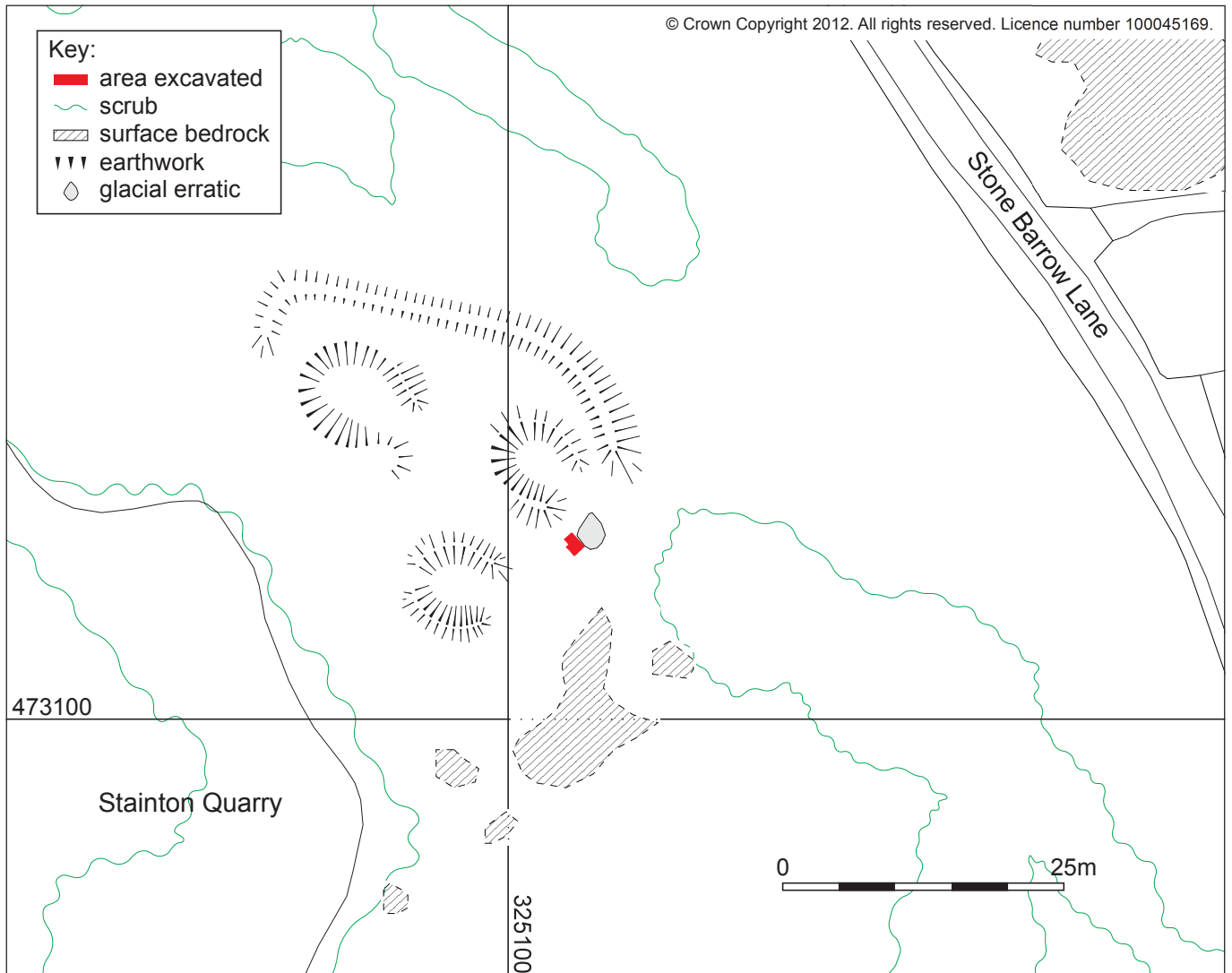
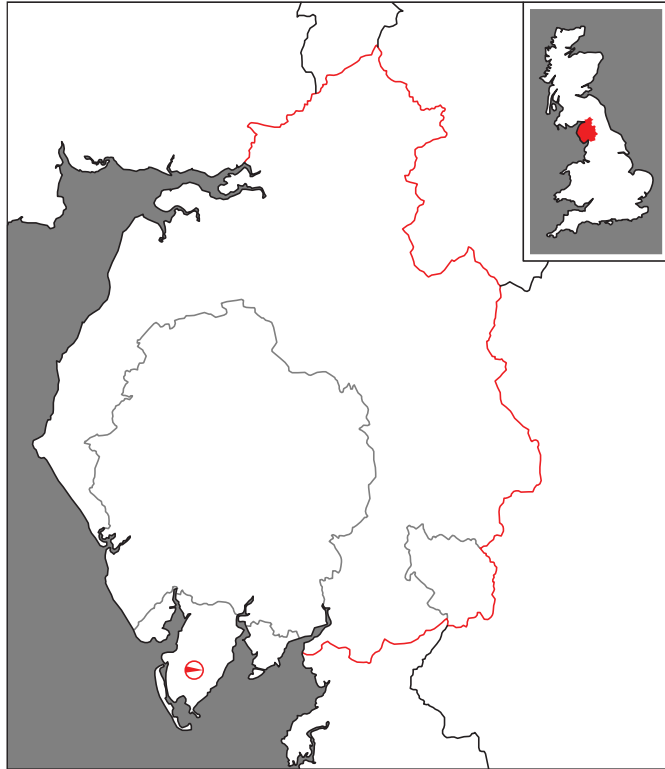


Figure 1: Site location

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## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The project comprised four main elements: a brief desk-based assessment, excavation of a single trench (initially 1m<sup>2</sup> but subsequently extended), assessment of the finds, and production of the report and archive.

2.1.2 All aspects of the excavation were carried out according to the standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008a; 2008b), and according to Greenlane Archaeology's own excavation manual (Greenlane Archaeology 2007).

### 2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 The intention of this element of the project was to provide some background information for the site in order to put the results of the excavation into their local context. This was particularly important given the proximity of the findspot to a site of known archaeological interest. Information for the desk-based assessment was entirely collated from sources, both primary and secondary, held in Greenlane Archaeology's library.

### 2.3 Archaeological Evaluation

2.3.1 Prior to the excavation a site visit was carried out and the location of the find spot confirmed through discussion with the finder. A single trench, initially 1m<sup>2</sup>, was excavated entirely by hand, although this was subsequently extended to the north-west and north-east and eventually covered an area of 1.8m<sup>2</sup>. The turf was removed by spade but all remaining deposits were excavated primarily by trowel. The location of the trench was recorded relative to the local topography as evident on local Ordnance Survey mapping, although a spot height was acquired using a hand-held GPS and so only accurate to c5m. In addition, all spoil was scanned with a metal detector whenever practical in order to retrieve any small metal finds. The following recording techniques were used during the excavation:

- **Written record:** descriptive records of all deposits and features (see *Appendix 2*) were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets. In addition, a general record was made of the day's events;
- **Photographs:** photographs in both 35 mm colour print and colour digital format were taken of all features uncovered during the excavation, as well as general views of the site, the surrounding landscape, and working shots. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report and the remainder are included in the archive. A written record of all of the photographs was also made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets (Greenlane Archaeology 2007);
- **Instrument survey:** the trench was located using a Leica reflectorless total station coupled to a portable computer running AutoCAD 2006 LT and TheoLT, which captures the survey data in AutoCAD in real-time at a scale of 1:1. In addition, earthworks of archaeological interest in immediate proximity to the findspot were also recorded using the same equipment (see *Section 4.3*);
- **Drawings:** a hand-drawn trench plan and cross-section were produced on site at a scale of 1:10.

### 2.4 Finds

2.4.1 **Processing:** artefacts were washed, naturally air-dried, and packaged appropriately in self-seal bags with white write-on panels.

2.4.2 **Assessment and recording:** the finds were assessed, identified where possible, and a list of them was compiled (see *Appendix 3*).

## 2.5 Environmental samples

2.5.1 No environmental samples were taken since no suitable contexts were encountered.

## 2.6 Archive

2.6.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*) and current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991; Brown 2007). The archive, which comprises the drawn, written, and photographic record, will be deposited with the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness (CRO(B)) on agreement with the client. A copy of the report will also be provided to the client, Greenlane Archaeology will retain a copy, and a digital copy will form part of the OASIS scheme (English Heritage 2007), again, on agreement with the client.

2.6.2 It is envisaged that the finds will be discarded on completion and deposition of the archive.



### 3. Site Archaeology and History

#### 3.1 Map Regression

3.1.1 **Ordnance Survey, 1851:** the villages of Stainton and Adgarley are marked separately; the site lies in an undeveloped area to the west of Stone Barrow Lane, approximately 670 m due north of Adgarley and 890 m due north-east of Stainton (Plate 2). A track or path sweeps round the south-east side of the spot where the find was made before following a broadly south-west alignment (towards Stainton) and then turns slightly more to the south (towards Adgarley). The 'Stainton and Adgarley Iron Mines' are located 550 m immediately due south of the findspot and the surrounding area is pockmarked by old mineshafts. Several limekilns, which presumably made use of the limestone quarries located to the north of the two villages, are scattered roundabout. The modern quarry is far more extensive; its current extent is outlined with a dashed red line. Potentially of interest is a site marked 'Castle Haw', which is shown approximately 300m to the north of Stainton (roughly 790m south-west of the find spot). The name suggests that the site was perhaps of antiquity, but the site is now well within the boundaries of the quarried area.

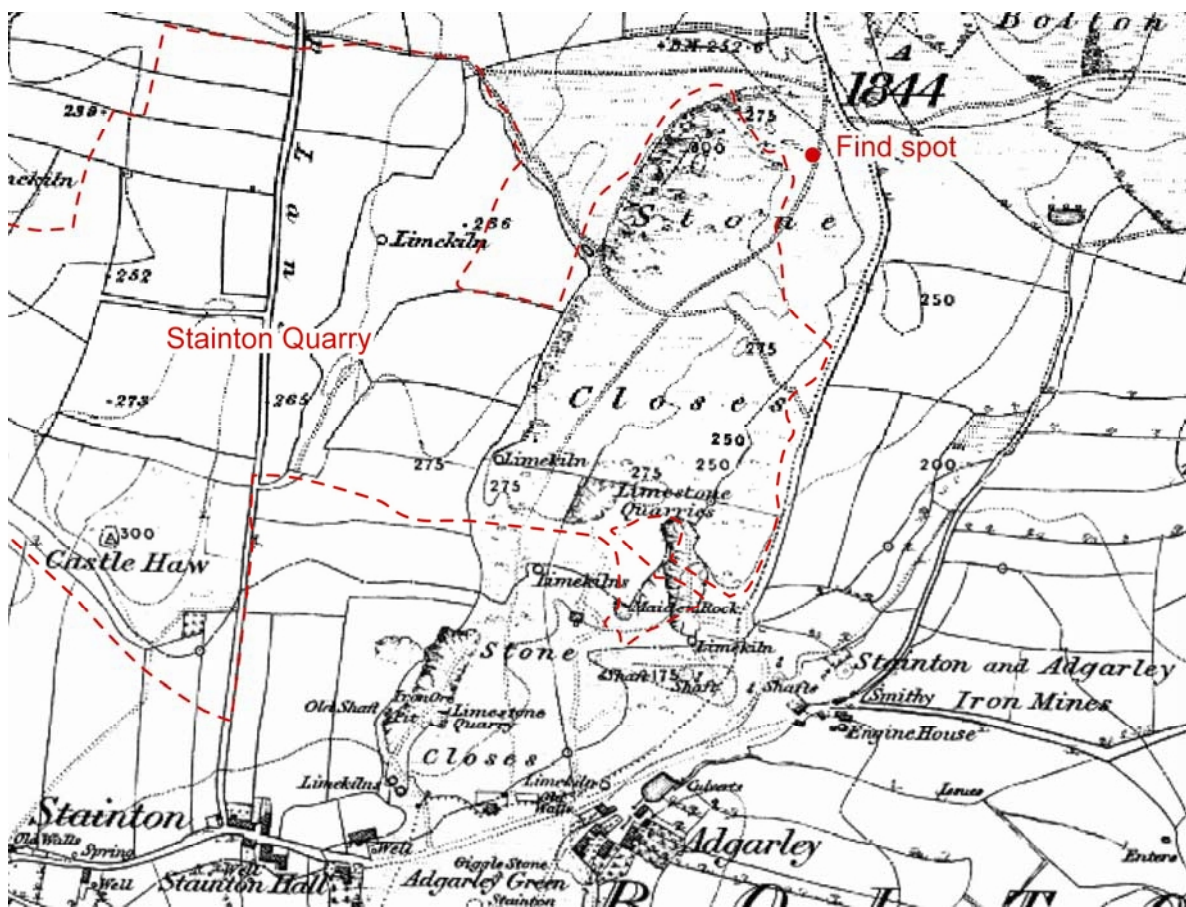


Plate 2: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1851

3.1.2 **Ordnance Survey, 1891:** Stainton and Adgarley have merged becoming Stainton with Adgarley (Plate 3). The main difference between this edition of the Ordnance Survey mapping and the previous one is the construction of the Stainton Branch of the Furness Railway, which terminates at 'Stainton Station (Mineral)', as it is marked, near to the Stainton and Adgarley Iron Mines (Plate 3; cf. Plate 2). The route of the railway follows that of the main road approximately 120m to the north. Various sidings lead into 'Devonshire Quarry', which is possibly part of 'Stainton Quarries' and presumably an expansion of the earlier limestone quarries located north of Adgarley. Various raised and sunken earthworks are shown around the quarry and probably relate to it and the 'old' limekilns and mineshafts are also marked. The triangular marker at Castle Haw is still shown, but the site is no longer named and appears to be at

the bottom of 'Crown Quarry'. Two railway sidings pass either side of the marker, suggesting the 'Castle Haw' site no longer existed. The area to the north of the quarry is still criss-crossed by various tracks and paths, following broadly the same alignment as they did forty years previously. The find spot is still in an area of open field, which is shown to be hilly scrubland, to the west of one of these paths. An area of exposed rock face is shown to the west of the find spot (which broadly follows the extent of the current quarry) and more exposed rock face is shown to the south.

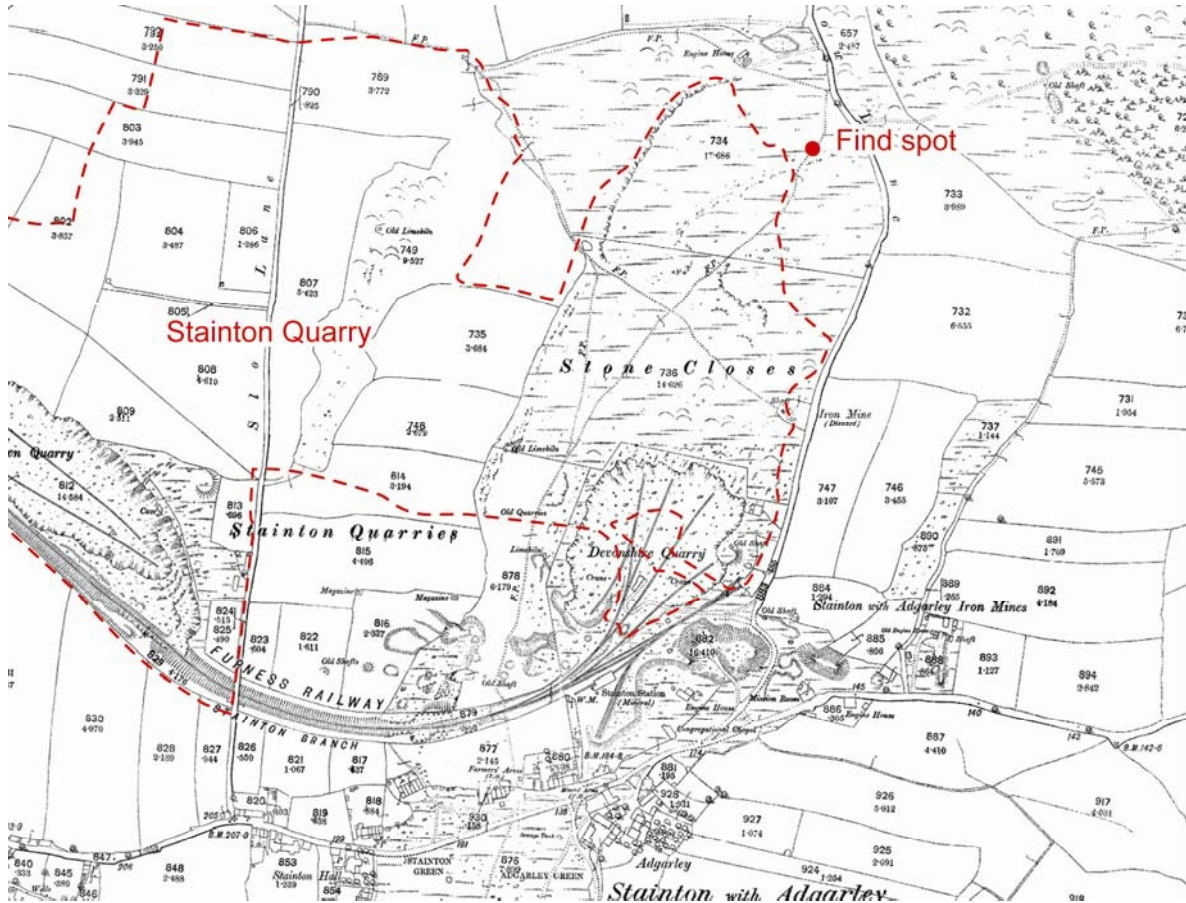


Plate 3: Extract of the Ordnance Survey map of 1891

## 3.2 Site History

**3.2.1 Introduction:** the general environs of the findspot are known to have been of archaeological interest for at least 100 years. A brief mention of it was made in 1774 (and subsequently expanded upon; West 1805, 24), although this was largely concerned with the views from its very central position in Furness. In addition, John Bolton and others drew attention to a large cave uncovered in the stone quarry in 1871 (Howes 1987). A more detailed account, including a summary of all of the finds recorded from the area known as 'Stone Close' was made by John Dobson. This background history is therefore largely taken from his relatively extensive account. Most of these remains were subsequently destroyed by quarrying; indeed, they were actively being destroyed when Dobson recorded them in 1912.

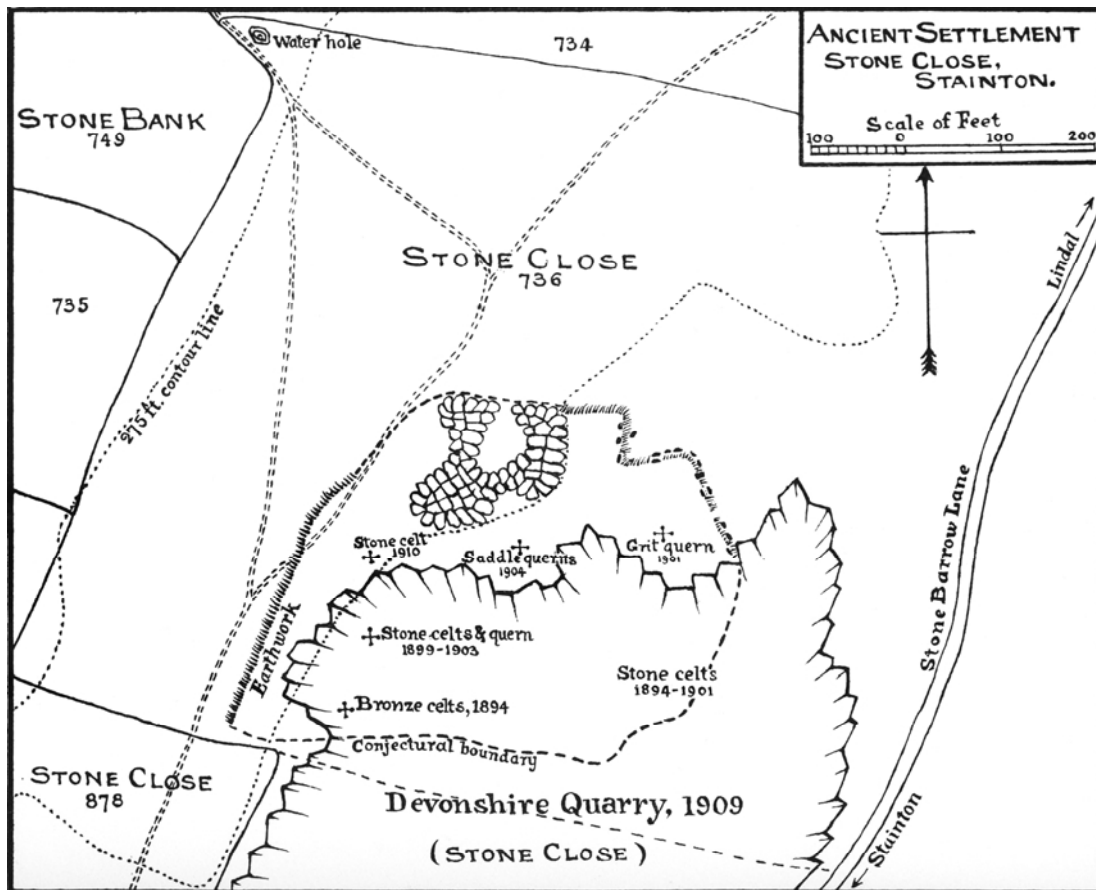


Plate 4: Location of an 'Ancient Settlement' near Stainton (after Dobson 1912)

3.2.2 **Prehistoric Period (c11,000 BC – 1<sup>st</sup> century AD):** while there is some limited evidence for activity in the county in the period immediately following the last Ice Age, this is typically found in the southernmost part on the north side of Morecambe Bay. Excavations of a small number of cave sites have found the remains of animal species common at the time but now extinct in this country and artefacts of Late Upper Palaeolithic type (Young 2002). Again, the county was also clearly inhabited during the following period, the Mesolithic (c8,000 – 4,000 BC), as large numbers of artefacts of this date have been discovered during field walking and eroding from sand dunes along the coast, but these are typically concentrated in the west coast area and on the uplands around the Eden Valley (Cherry and Cherry 2002). Slightly closer to the site, however, large number of finds of this date and later have been found during field walking (see Evans 2008). These discoveries demonstrate that further remains of similar date are likely to exist in the local area, although in general such finds seem typically to be found in river valleys, lakesides, and coastal areas (Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152).

3.2.3 In the following period, the Neolithic (c4,000 – 2,500 BC), large scale monuments such as burial mounds and stone circles begin to appear in the region and one of the most recognisable tool types of this period, the polished stone axe, is found in large numbers across the county, having been manufactured at Langdale to the north of the site (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 45). During the Bronze Age (c2,500 – 600 BC) monuments, particularly those thought to be ceremonial in nature, become more common still, and it is likely that settlement sites thought to belong to the Iron Age have their origins in this period. It is very likely that the enclosure recorded by Dobson immediately to the south of the findspot (see Plate 4) Plate 4: Location of an 'Ancient Settlement' near Stainton (after Dobson 1912) has its origins in the Neolithic or Bronze Age. Similar sites are also recorded in the local area, including an enclosure on Hoad hill near Ulverston (Elsworth 2005), and another at Skelmore Heads near Urswick (Powell 1963). While stray finds of Neolithic and Bronze Age date are found throughout the county, it is apparent from Dobson's investigation into Stone Close that numerous finds of this period including both stone and bronze axes and probably also querns were discovered within the enclosure that was still

partially extant in 1912 (Plate 4). In addition, what was described as a pair of stone axes were found with a crude iron tool in some 'old men's workings', meaning ancient mines – this has been taken to be proof that axes such as these were used after the Neolithic (Barnes 1968, 11), an opinion that does not seem otherwise sustainable.

3.2.4 Sites that can be specifically dated to the Iron Age (c600 BC – 1<sup>st</sup> century AD) are very rare; the enclosures at Ulverston and Urswick may represent hillforts, a typical site of this period, but they have not been dated. Burials belong to the Iron Age are extremely rare, a radiocarbon dated example at Levens being perhaps the only certain example (OA North 2004a). There is, in general, likely to have been a considerable overlap between the end of the Iron Age and the beginning of the Romano-British period; it is evident that in this part of the country, initially at least, the Roman invasion had a minimal impact on the native population in rural areas (Philpott 2006, 73-74). Closer to the site, square earthworks and apparent iron extraction pits evident on Bolton Heads, less than 1km to the north-east, visible in aerial photographs (Bowden 2000, 14) may be Iron Age in origin, based on similar examples at Stone Walls near Urswick (*op cit*, 13). It is possible that some of the querns recorded as found at Stone Close were of Iron Age date (see Plate 4) although the details are unclear. In addition, it is recorded that 'perhaps a cartload' of bloomery slag and a similar amount of iron ore, found nearby, were removed from the site before 1912 (Dobson 1912, 281). Although undated this could not be any earlier than the Iron Age.

3.2.5 **Romano-British to Early Medieval Period: (1<sup>st</sup> century AD – 11<sup>th</sup> century AD):** late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century antiquarians considered a Roman military presence in the Furness area beyond question, but by the 20<sup>th</sup> century there was a complete reversal of opinion (summarised in Elsworth 2007, 31-37). Re-examination of the evidence however suggests a strong Roman influence or "background" presence in the peninsula during the Roman period, which doubtless would have been attractive for its rich iron reserves (Shotter 1995, 74; Elsworth 2007, 37, 41-43). There is little known Roman activity in the area around Stainton, although the earthworks and apparently associated iron ore extraction trenches on Bolton Heads might have been used into the Roman period or even later (Bowden 2000, 14). There is little record of the area in the early medieval period; although the place-names Stainton and Adgarley have early medieval origins (see Section 3.2.6 below). Only a single find of this general period is thought to have come from the site prior to the discovery of the hoard: a Roman coin (of 4<sup>th</sup> century date), discovered in the vicarage garden at Little Urswick is thought to have come from Stone Close, having been transported in a load of topsoil taken from the quarry (Dobson 1912, 283). However, the pile of bloomery slag and apparently associated iron ore removed from the site could also belong to this period. The hoard itself is significant as being a rare discovery of the early medieval period, comprising silver coins, fragments of silver bracelets and hack-silver, with a deposition date no earlier than cAD959 (Boughton 2011a; 2011b; Spencer 2011). In terms of the local history this is of interest because by this date the village of Stainton was likely to have been in existence (as it was just over 100 years after the hoard was deposited, when it was recorded in the Domesday survey) and so it generates questions about how different peoples ('native' Britons, Angles, and Scandinavians) were interacting with each other at that time.

3.2.6 **Medieval Period (11<sup>th</sup> century AD – 16<sup>th</sup> century AD):** the village of Stainton is recorded in the Domesday survey, the name probably deriving from Old English but influenced by the Old Norse and meaning 'stone village' (Ekwall 1922, 210). Adgarley is first recorded in 1180-1190 in the Coucher Book and the name again derives from a combination of the Old English name Edgar and the Old English or Old Norse word for slope (*ibid*). There is little information relating to the later medieval history of Stainton. It was situated in the parish of Urswick and probably formed part of the manor of Bolton with Adgarley, which was created by Michael le Fleming, the lord of Aldingham, on the marriage of his daughter Godith in the 12<sup>th</sup> century (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 328-329). There were important iron ore mines at Stainton, recorded in 1653 (*op cit*, 329) but presumably with much earlier origins, and, again, bloomery slag discovered at Stone Close might suggest that the site was being utilised for the smelting of iron in the medieval period.

3.2.7 **Post-medieval Period (16<sup>th</sup> century AD – present):** as already mentioned Stainton's importance in the post-medieval period stemmed from its mineral reserves; iron ore was already being exploited by at least the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and limestone quarrying became a major element of the landscape

by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as shown by the early maps (see Plate 2 and Plate 3). The village of Stainton continued to develop during the post-medieval period, the population grew, and new additions were made, primarily in the form of a mineral railway serving the growing quarry (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 329), but also including a small school-chapel serving the village (*op cit*, 338). The limestone quarry is of course still operational and continues to be a major feature of the local landscape to the present day.

### 3.3 Conclusion

3.3.1 The environs of the findspot have been of known archaeological interest for over 200 years, with the area known as Stone Close containing at least one known enclosure and being home to a considerable number of individual finds probably dating from at least the Neolithic to the Roman period. The nearby village of Stainton probably has early medieval origins, although until the hoard was discovered there was no physical evidence relating to this. The area became dominated by iron mining and quarrying from at least the late medieval period and this continued to be the major feature dominating the landscape into the post-medieval period and beyond.

## 4. Fieldwork Results

### 4.1 Excavation

4.1.1 Initially a 1 m<sup>2</sup> trench was excavated over the area of the find spot (Plate 5). Within this an upper deposit of soft, often wet, and trampled reddish orange-brown silty clay topsoil (**100**) was encountered immediately below the patchy turf. This had few inclusions, although it was noticeably more gravelly where it met the underlying deposit, and was typically 0.1 m thick or less. The removal of this revealed a more compacted light-mid orange-brown silty-clay subsoil with 10% sub-angular inclusions below (**101**) (Plate 6); this was not investigated further but it appeared to be c 0.2 m thick when it was seen in section (see Figure 3). A large, essentially oval pit (**103**; visible towards the top left-hand corner of Plate 6), orientated approximately north-west/south-east, cut through the subsoil and was filled with a loose slightly greyish mid orange-brown soft silty clay containing a very small amount of angular gravel (**102**). As the pit extended both north-west and north-east, beyond the extent of the original trench, this was extended in both directions to reveal its full extent (Plate 7; Figure 3). At its full extent the pit was almost 1.1 m long north-west/south-east and 0.7 m wide north-east/south-west, with a maximum depth of 0.25 m (below layer **100**) on the north-west side, although it was considerably shallower on the south-east side. It was apparent that the pit had, at its lowest point, cut through a layer of firm mid to light orange sandy clay (**104**; Plate 8), which most likely represents the underlying glacially-derived boulder clay, although it was not examined in further detail.



Plate 5 (left): Cleaning the area after removal of the turf



Plate 6 (right): Subsoil exposed



Plate 7 (left): Oblique view of pit 103



Plate 8 (right): Overhead view of pit 103

## 4.2 Finds

4.2.1 A total of 26 finds were recovered from two contexts: the topsoil (**100**) and the fill of pit **103** (**102**). All but one of these finds comprised fragments of green bottle glass, most probably derived from a single vessel, most likely of late 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century date. These fragments were retrieved from the topsoil (**100**) and fill of the pit (**102**) and were presumably already lying on the surface, within the topsoil, or dropped when pit **103** was dug, and then incorporated into its backfill. The only other find was a single piece of clinker from **100**, which, while broadly undateable, perhaps indicates that industrial activity was taking place nearby. Occasional lumps of haematite were present in the subsoil (**101**) but as this is naturally occurring in the local area these were not retained. They could, however, be indicative of iron working in the vicinity, which is known to have taken place from an early date (see *Section 3.2*).

## 4.3 Site Environs

4.3.1 As discussed in *Section 3* the environs of the hoard's discovery are known to have been of archaeological interest. Of particular relevance to the location of the hoard are a series of earthworks in close proximity, which have been known to local archaeologists for some time (Dave Coward pers comm.) but not previously recorded in detail. These remains appear to comprise an outer bank partially enclosing two probable hut circles and a third approximately circular scooped feature, probably also the remains of a hut circle, all of which were surveyed (see Figure 2). The bank consisted of an apparently earth-built structure orientated approximately east/west, although turning south at either end, and up to 2m wide and 0.5m tall (it sweeps round from the left-hand side of the shot, below the ranging rod, towards the summit of the hill in Plate 9 and the profile of the bank is visible to the right of the ranging rod in Plate 10). The two more prominent hut circles (the two closest to the find spot) were also represented by earthworks, essentially formed by a horseshoe-shaped bank with an opening (perhaps the original entrance?) on the east side, with an inner diameter of approximately 7m. The centre point of the southernmost roundhouse is marked by the ranging rod in Plate 11; the larger but less prominent roundhouse of the three (to the north-west of the other two) is partially visible in front of the tripod. In Plate 12 the ranging rod is positioned close to the entrance of the easternmost roundhouse; the north-east side of the less prominent, north-westernmost roundhouse is visible to the rear. The outer bank can also be seen along the rim of the hill (Plate 12). The position of the presumed entrance on the east side is of interest as this is typically where entrances are found in round houses of the later prehistoric and Romano-British periods (see Oswald *et al* 2006, 78 for a recent discussion). The size is also of interest; the smaller round houses are typically assumed to be more likely to be either Romano-British or even post-Roman in date following a decline from the architecturally sophisticated and much larger round houses of the preceding periods (*op cit*, 103).



**Plate 9 (left): The outer bank viewed from the east**

**Plate 10 (right): The profile of the bank viewed from the north-west**



**Plate 11 (left): The south-west side of the earthworks**

**Plate 12 (right): The north-east side of the earthworks**

4.3.2 The earthworks that were recorded would seem to represent the remains of a settlement site of not dissimilar form to that at Stone Walls, Urswick, which is apparently associated, or at least in close proximity to another square enclosure as well as remains of early iron ore extraction (see Bowden 2000, 13). This too draws interesting parallels with the remains at Stainton. The enclosure close to the hoard's location seems to have been quite distant from the earlier remains recorded prior to and during their destruction by quarrying (Dobson 1912; see Figure 2). In addition, there is at least one square enclosure apparently associated with iron ore extraction pits, similar in style to those at Stone Walls, on nearby Bolton Heads, to the north-east (see Bowden 2000, 14). Other earthworks were also visible in proximity to the find spot that were not recorded due to time restrictions, including possible ore extraction pits, and it is possible that the earthworks at Stainton represent a similar complex to the one at Stone Walls, comprising a probable settlement site, square enclosure of uncertain form, and early iron ore extraction, all probably of late Iron Age, Romano-British or even post-Roman date.



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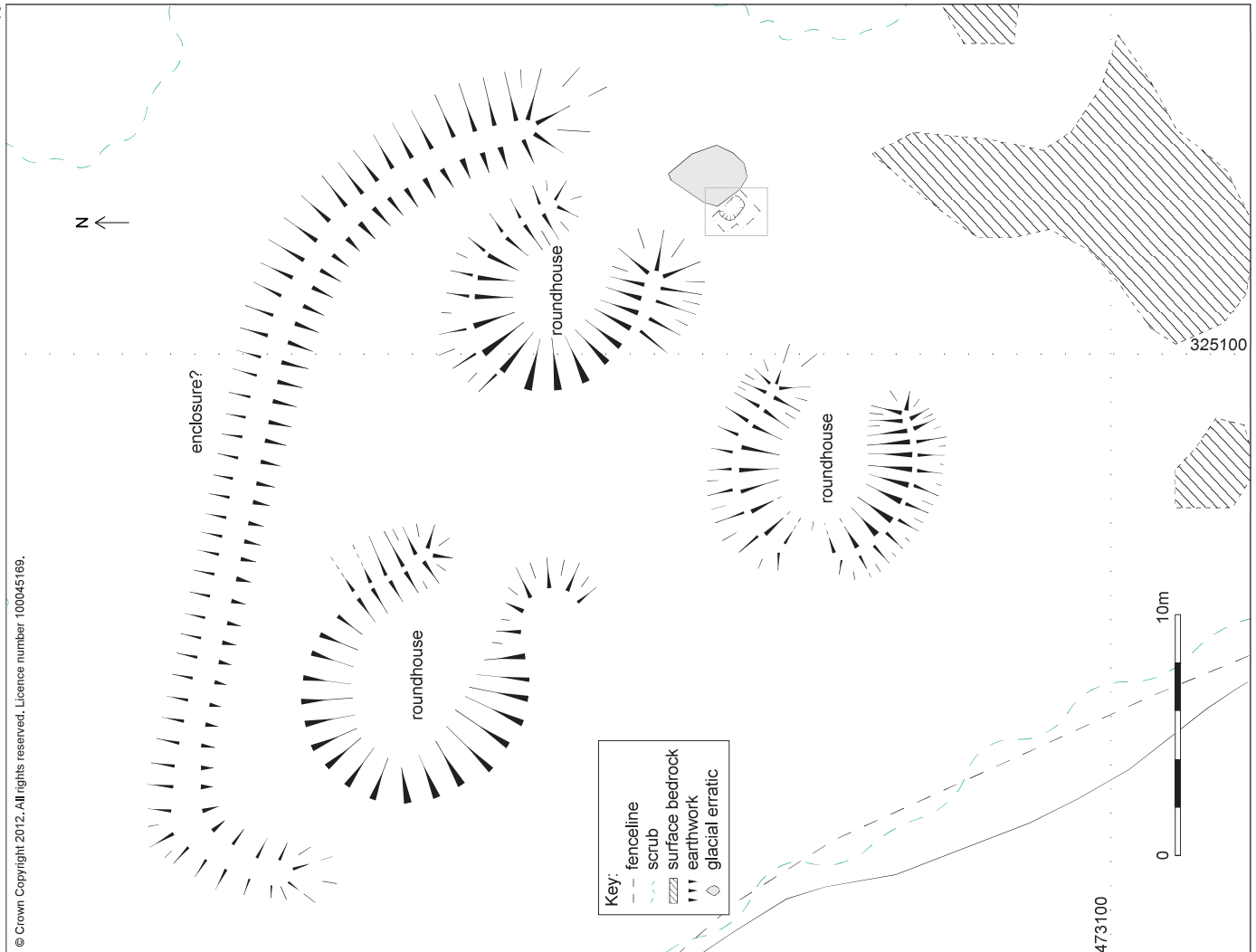
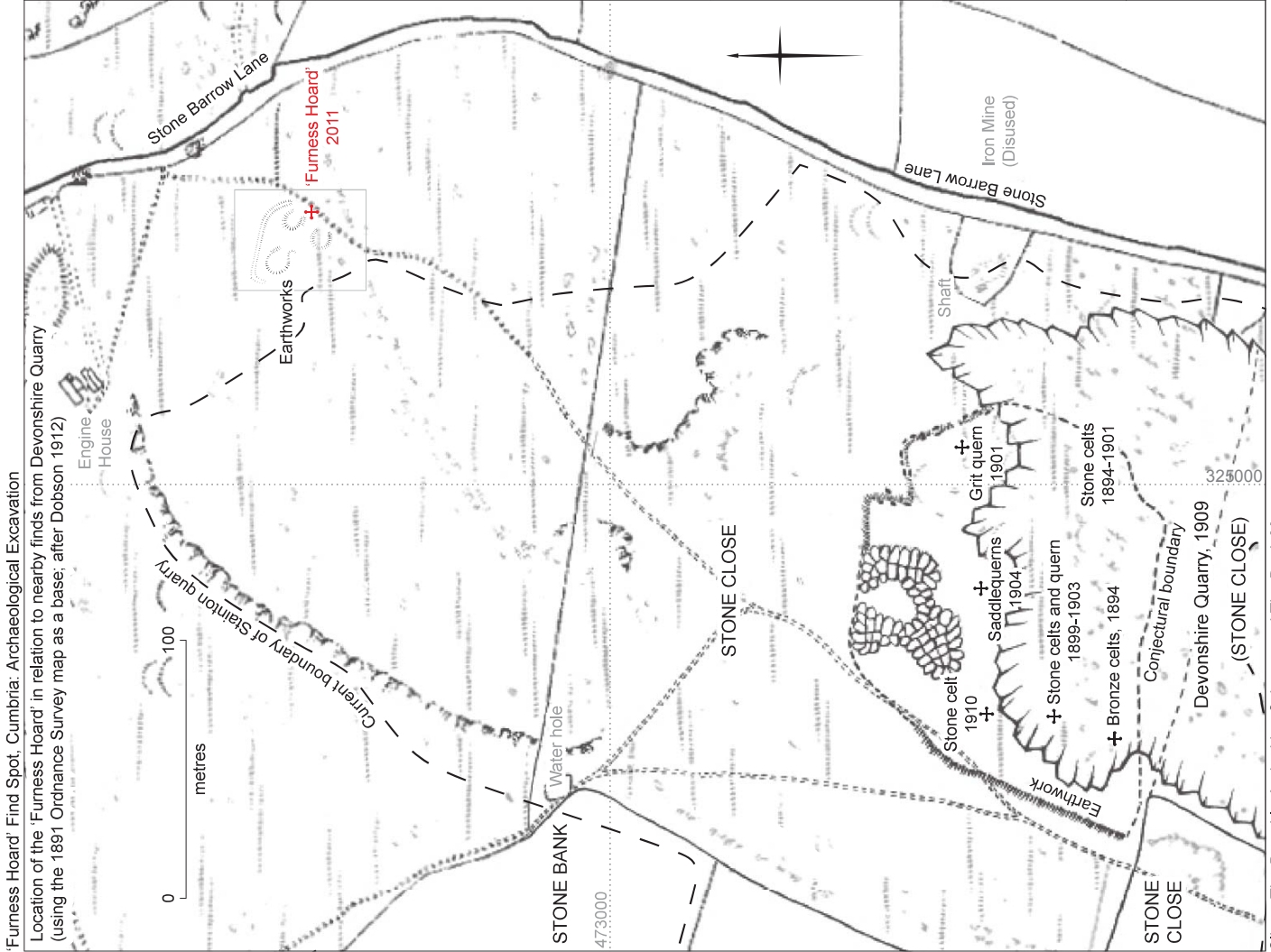


Figure 2: The location of the 'Furness Hoard' in relation to nearby finds from the Devonshire Quarry and a detailed plan of nearby earthworks



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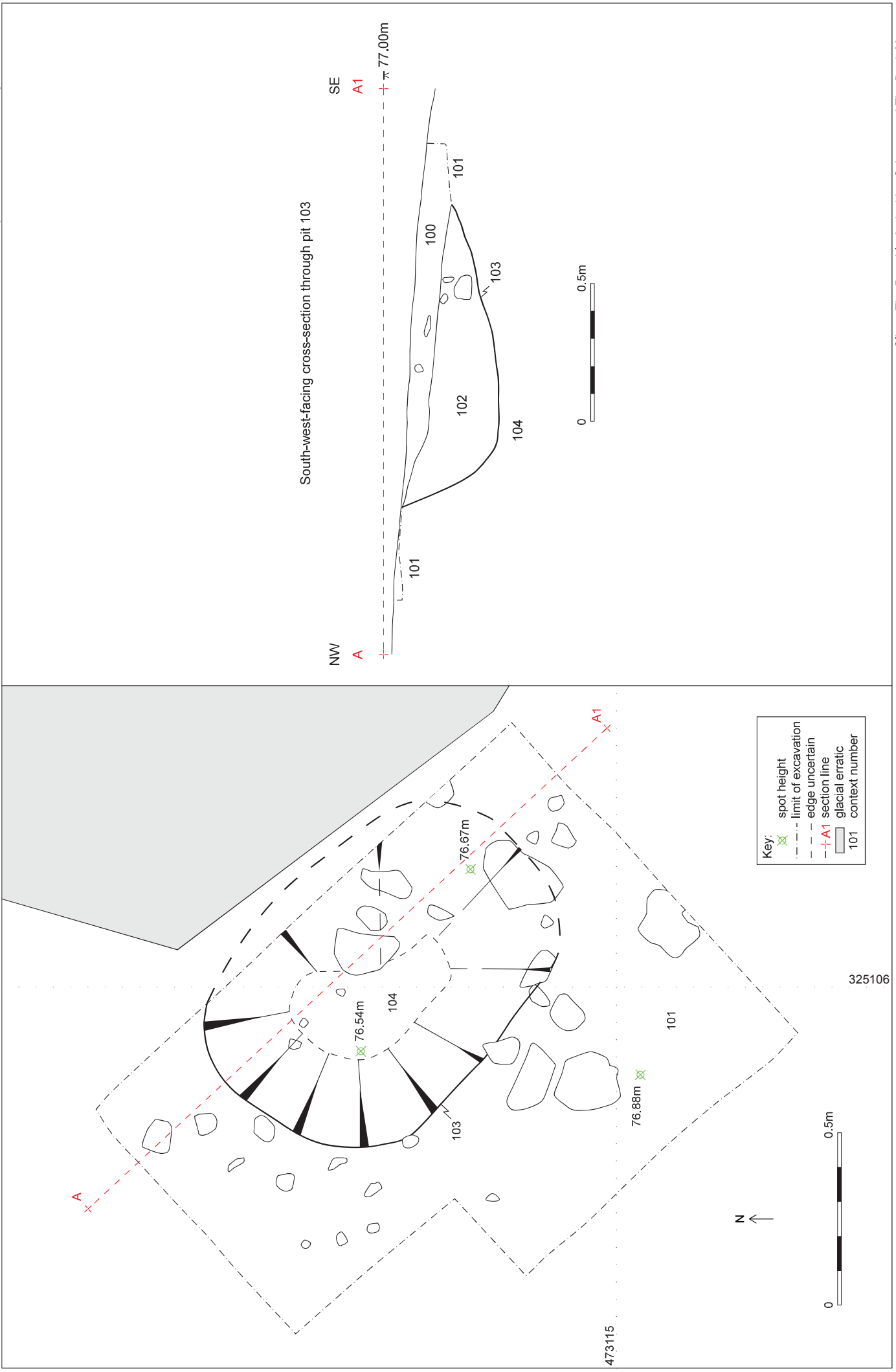


Figure 3: Plan of the excavated area and south-west-facing cross-section A-A1 through pit 103

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The excavation of the hoard find spot, while providing an opportunity to examine the context of the hoard and assess whether any further finds of relevance to it were present, only revealed features relating to its discovery and finds of relatively late date which could even have been deposited at the time the hoard was removed.

### 5.2 Phasing

5.2.1 Four main phases of activity were identified during the excavation. The natural clay (**104**) was probably laid down on the underlying limestone bedrock at the end of the last Ice Age over 12,000 years ago. Overlying this layer a subsoil developed (**101**), although no finds were recovered from this so it is not clear over what period this could have been. Evidence from the immediate site environs suggest a long period of human activity, from perhaps as early as the Neolithic to as late as the Romano-British period (see *Section 3.2*) and it is likely that deposit **101** developed throughout that time and later. Following this a large pit was excavated through the subsoil and into the natural. The dating evidence suggests that this is quite modern, and it is assumed to have been formed during the removal of the coin hoard, which was discovered in May 2011. No features relating to the original deposition of the hoard were revealed; this is most probably because they were destroyed during the, evidently extensive, excavation carried out during its recent removal. Following the backfilling of this pit the whole area was covered by a thin layer of trampled 'topsoil' and turf.

### 5.3 Conclusion

5.3.1 The excavation revealed a single feature: a large pit probably formed during the removal of the hoard in 2011. No other features of archaeological interest were discovered during the excavation. Some context of the hoard's original deposition can be gained, although it is unclear whether the original pit in which it was contained was cut into the natural boulder clay (**104**) or just the subsoil (**101**). Given the depth to which pit **103** was excavated it would seem the former is most likely.

5.3.2 The excavation did, however, allow the wider context of the find spot to be examined and the nearby earthworks recorded. In many ways these are of greater archaeological significance as they represent the last remnants of what was clearly a once extensive settlement of probable prehistoric to Romano-British date, the bulk of which has been destroyed by quarrying. Their recording will, as a minimum, allow further consideration of them to be made. The positioning of the hoard adjacent to these earthworks is also of interest, as it perhaps suggests that the site was not occupied at that time, as well as raising questions about the relationships between the person who deposited it and the inhabitants of the nearby village of Stainton, which logically must have been in existence by AD 959. The hoard's more immediate location, next to a large glacial erratic, is also of interest as it seems reasonable to suggest that this was deliberately in order to enable its rediscovery at a later date, although this evidently never occurred.

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## **Appendix 1: Project Design**

# **'FURNESS HOARD' FIND SPOT, CUMBRIA**

Archaeological Excavation Project Design



Client: The Portable Antiquities Scheme and the Dock Museum

November 2011

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Following the discovery by a metal detectorist, in May 2011, of a hoard of Viking-period (10<sup>th</sup> century) objects, comprising silver coins and hack-silver, in the Furness Peninsula a proposal has been made by Dot Boughton, Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) (Lancashire/Cumbria) for the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS), to examine the find spot in more detail. This is intended to provide information about the context of the find and reveal whether any further objects are present or whether there is any evidence for the hoard being within a container of some description. The find spot is also of interest because it is adjacent to a site of known archaeological interest and any further information about the nature of this that can be gained through a brief investigation would also place the find in its wider context.

1.1.2 After discussions with Dot Boughton, it was determined that the excavation area cover a 1m<sup>2</sup> area across the find spot. This is to be located by reference to local topography and, in addition, earthwork remains known to be adjacent to it and probably of some archaeological significance, will be recorded as much as is practically possible.

## 1.2 Greenlane Archaeology

1.2.1 Greenlane Archaeology is a private limited company based in Ulverston, Cumbria, and was established in 2005 (Company No. 05580819). Its directors, Jo Dawson and Daniel Elsworth, have a combined total of over 18 years continuous professional experience working in commercial archaeology, principally in the north of England and Scotland. Greenlane Archaeology is committed to a high standard of work, and abides by the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) Code of Conduct. The excavation will be carried out according to the Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

## 1.3 Project Staffing

1.3.1 The project will be managed and supervised by **Dan Elsworth (MA (Hons), AIfA)** with suitably qualified assistance. Daniel graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1998 with an honours degree in Archaeology, and began working for the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, which became Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) in 2001. Daniel ultimately became a project officer, and for over six and a half years worked on excavations and surveys, building investigations, desk-based assessments, and conservation and management plans. These have principally taken place in the North West, and Daniel has a particular interest in the archaeology of the area. He has recently managed a number of archaeological excavation projects in the region including an excavation in Barrow-in-Furness (Greenlane Archaeology 2007a), evaluation in Milnthorpe (Greenlane Archaeology 2008a), a series of assessments at 130-136 Stricklandgate, Kendal (Greenlane Archaeology 2008c; 2008d; 2008e), and more recently an evaluation in Millom (Greenlane Archaeology 2011) and evaluation and excavation at Lowwood near Haverthwaite (Greenlane Archaeology 2011; forthcoming).

1.3.2 Any non-metal artefacts will be processed by Greenlane Archaeology, and it is envisaged that they will initially be assessed by Jo Dawson, who will fully assess any of post-medieval date. Finds of earlier date will be assessed by specialist sub-contractors as appropriate, and in this case it is envisaged that these may include Ian Miller or Jeremy Bradley, both of Oxford Archaeology North, for medieval pottery. The FLO will be notified of any other specialists, other than those named, who Greenlane Archaeology wishes to engage, before any specialist contracts are awarded, and the approval of the FLO will be sought. Metal artefacts will be processed and assessed by the FLO.

1.3.3 Environmental samples, and faunal or human remains will be processed by Greenlane Archaeology. It is envisaged that environmental samples will be assessed by Scott Timpany (Headland Archaeology), human remains by Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology), and faunal remains by Jane Richardson (Archaeological Services WYAS), depending on their timetabling constraints. The FLO will be informed and their approval will be sought for these arrangements.

## 2. Objectives

### 2.1 Archaeological Excavation

2.1.1 To excavate a single trench covering a total area of at least 1m<sup>2</sup>. This will assess the presence or absence of features of archaeological interest within the area, their extent, date, and significance.

### 2.2 Report

2.2.1 To produce a report detailing the results of the excavation, that will outline the results and assess the significance of the remains.

### 2.3 Archive

2.3.1 Produce a full archive of the results of the excavation.

## 3. Methodology

### 3.1 Archaeological Excavation

3.1.1 A trench of at least 1m<sup>2</sup> is required, centred on the location of the find spot. It is anticipated that the excavation will take half a day on site with two archaeologists (totalling 1 person day).

3.1.2 The evaluation methodology, which is based on Greenlane Archaeology's excavation manual (Greenlane Archaeology 2007b), will be as follows:

- All deposits will be examined by hand in a stratigraphic manner, using shovels, mattocks, or trowels as appropriate for the scale. Deposits will only be sampled, rather than completely removed, below the first identified level of archaeological interest, unless specified by the FLO, with the intension of preserving as much *in situ* as possible;
- All of the spoil removed from the trench will be examined with a metal detector, which will also be used to identify the presence of other metal remains within the excavation area;
- The position of any features will be recorded and where necessary these will be investigated in order to establish their full extent, date, and relationship to any other features. Negative features such as ditches or pits will be examined by sample excavation, typically half of a pit or similar feature and approximately 10% of a linear feature;
- All recording of features will include hand-drawn plans and sections, typically at a scale of 1:20 and 1:10, respectively, and photographs in both 35mm colour print and colour digital format;
- The position of the trench will be recorded relative to the local topography through instrument survey, in this case a total station coupled to a portable computer operating AutoCAD LT and TheoLT. Any earthwork features of archaeological interest in the immediate proximity of the site will also be recorded, as is practical to do so within the given schedule;
- All deposits, trenches, drawings and photographs will be recorded on Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- All finds will be recovered during the excavation for further assessment as far as is practically and safely possible. Should significant quantities of finds be encountered an appropriate sampling strategy will be devised;
- All faunal remains will also be recovered by hand during the excavation, but where it is considered likely that there is potential for the bones of fish or small mammals to be present appropriate volumes of samples will be taken for sieving;
- Deposits that are considered likely to have, for example, preserved environmental remains, industrial residues, and/or material suitable for scientific dating will be sampled. Bulk samples of



between 20 and 60 litres in volume (or 100% of smaller features), depending on the size and potential of the deposit, will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (e.g. gullies, pits and ditches) and occupation deposits such as hearths and floors. An assessment of the environmental potential of the site will be undertaken through the examination of samples of suitable deposits by specialist sub-contractors (see *Section 1.3.3* above), who will examine the potential for further analysis. All samples will be processed using methods appropriate to the preservation conditions and the remains present;

- Should it become apparent that significant quantities of preserved organic material such as timber or fabric are present, in particular the remains of a container that might have originally held the hoard, then specialist advice will immediately be sought from Ian Panter at the York Archaeological Trust. Should it be deemed necessary such remains will be excavated and removed as a block by or under the supervision of Ian Panter for assessment, examination, excavation, and curation off-site.
- Any human remains discovered during the evaluation will be left *in situ*, and, if possible, covered. The FLO will be immediately informed as will the local coroner. Should it be considered necessary to remove the remains this will require a Home Office licence, under Section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857, which will be applied for should the need arise;
- Any objects defined as 'treasure' by the Treasure Act of 1996 (HMSO 1996) will be immediately reported to the local coroner and secured stored off-site, or covered and protected on site if immediate removal is not possible;
- The excavation trench will be backfilled following excavation although it is not envisaged that any further reinstatement to its original condition will be carried out.

3.1.3 Should any significant archaeological deposits be encountered during the excavation these will immediately be brought to the attention of the FLO so that the need for further work can be confirmed. Any additional work and ensuing costs will be agreed with the client and according to the requirements of the FLO, and subject to a variation to this project design.

## 3.2 Report

3.2.1 The results of the excavation will be compiled into a report, which will include the following sections:

- A front cover including the appropriate national grid reference (NGR) and planning application number;
- A concise non-technical summary of results, including the date the project was undertaken and by whom;
- Acknowledgements;
- Project Background;
- Methodology, including a description of the work undertaken;
- Summary historic and archaeological background to the site as necessary;
- Results of the excavation including descriptions of any deposits identified, their extent, form, and potential date, and an assessment of any finds or environmental remains recovered during the evaluation;
- Discussion of the results including an assessment of the significance of any archaeological remains encountered during the excavation, areas in which further work is recommended, and appropriate types of further work;
- Bibliography, including both primary and secondary sources;
- Illustrations at appropriate scales including:

- a site location plan related to the national grid;
- a plan showing the location of the excavation trench in relation to nearby structures and the local landscape and any features of archaeological interest;
- copies of early maps, plans, drawings, photographs and other illustrations of elements of the site as relevant;
- plans and sections of the excavation trench showing any features of archaeological interest;
- photographs of the excavation, including both detailed and general shots of features of archaeological interest and the trench;
- illustrations of individual artefacts as appropriate.

### 3.3 Archive

3.3.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the excavation, formed during the project, will be stored by Greenlane Archaeology until it is completed. Upon completion it will be deposited with the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness (CRO(B)). The archive will be compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the IFA (Brown 2007), and in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). In addition details of the project will be submitted to the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS) scheme. This is an internet-based project intended to improve the flow of information between contractors, local authority heritage managers and the general public.

3.3.2 A copy of the report will be deposited with the archive at the CRO(B), one will be supplied to the client, and within two months of the completion of fieldwork, one copy will be provided for the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition, Greenlane Archaeology will retain one copy, and digital copies will be deposited with the OASIS scheme as required.

3.3.3 The client will be encouraged to transfer ownership of the finds to a suitable museum. Any finds recovered during the excavation will be offered to the Dock Museum in Barrow-in-Furness. If no suitable repository can be found the finds may have to be discarded, and in this case as full a record as possible would be made of them beforehand.

## 4. Work timetable

4.1 Greenlane Archaeology will be available to commence the project on **7<sup>th</sup> November 2011**, or at another date convenient to the client. The project will comprise the following tasks:

- **Task 1:** archaeological excavation;
- **Task 3:** post-excavation work on archaeological excavation, including processing of finds and production of draft report and illustrations;
- **Task 4:** feedback, editing and production of final report and archive.

## 5. Other matters

### 5.1 Access

5.1.1 Access to the site for the excavation will be organised through co-ordination with the client and/or their agent(s).

## 5.2 Health and Safety

5.2.1 Greenlane Archaeology carries out risk assessments for all of its projects and abides by its internal health and safety policy and relevant legislation. Health and safety is always the foremost consideration in any decision-making process.

## 5.3 Insurance

5.3.1 Greenlane Archaeology has professional indemnity insurance to the value of **£500,000**. Details of this can be supplied if requested.

## 5.4 Environmental and Ethical Policy

5.4.1 Greenlane Archaeology has a strong commitment to environmentally and ethically sound working practices. Its office is supplied with 100% renewable energy by Good Energy, uses ethical telephone and internet services supplied by the Phone Co-op, is even decorated with organic paint, and has floors finished with recycled vinyl tiles. In addition, the company uses the services of The Co-operative Bank for ethical banking, Naturesave for environmentally-conscious insurance, and utilises public transport wherever possible. Greenlane Archaeology is also committed to using local businesses for services and materials, thus benefiting the local economy, reducing unnecessary transportation, and improving the sustainability of small and rural businesses.

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## Appendix 2: Summary Context List

| Context    | Type    | Description  | Interpretation     |
|------------|---------|--|--------------------|
| <b>100</b> | Deposit | Reddish orange-brown soft silty clay, 2% gravel, up to 0.1m thick                                    | Topsoil            |
| <b>101</b> | Deposit | Light-mid orange-brown firm silty clay, 10% sub-angular gravels                                      | Subsoil            |
| <b>102</b> | Deposit | Mid orange-brown loose silty clay, similar to <b>100</b> , 2% angular gravels                        | Fill of <b>103</b> |
| <b>103</b> | Cut     | Oval pit, orientated approximately north-west/south-east. Up to 1.1m long, 0.7m wide, and 0.35m deep | Pit                |
| <b>104</b> | Deposit | Mid-light orange firm sandy clay   | Natural            |

## Appendix 3: Summary Finds List

| Context    | Type               | Qty | Description            | Date range                                       |
|------------|--------------------|-----|------------------------|--|
| <b>100</b> | Glass              | 16  | Green bottle fragments | Late 20 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> century |
| <b>100</b> | Industrial residue | 1   | Clinker                | Post-medieval                                    |
| <b>102</b> | Glass              | 9   | Green bottle fragments | Late 20 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup> century |