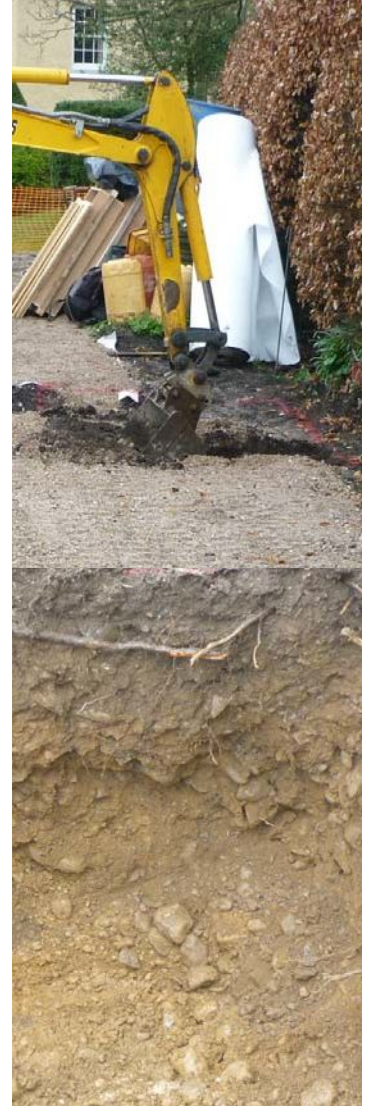


FAIRFIELD, CARTMEL, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Watching Brief



Client:
Mr and Mrs K Partington

NGR: SD 37830 78990

Planning ref. SL/2013/0857

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April 2014



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Non-Technical Summary

Following the submission of a planning application for the erection of a garage at Fairfield, Cartmel, Cumbria, planning permission was granted on the condition that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during the associated groundworks. Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design for this work and after its approval the watching brief was carried out in April 2014.

The watching brief monitored excavation of pits at each corner of the new garage which is rectangular in plan. A shallow trench was also excavated along its east side but the area in between will be left unexcavated. The north-west pit might have clipped a possible track which was recorded during the evaluation carried out in October 2011 (Greenlane Archaeology 2011), but other than that no significant archaeological finds or features were observed. This is at least in part due to the very limited depth and extent of trenching, which mitigated the impact of the new development on any underlying archaeological deposits.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Mr and Mrs Partington for commissioning the project. Further thanks are due to their agent, Roger Haigh of Haigh Architects, in particular for his assistance with organising the watching brief and for providing an 'as existing' site survey, and to Gordon Guy and colleagues for their assistance on site. Additional thanks are due to Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council, for approving the project design.

The watching brief was carried out by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace, both of whom wrote this report. The illustrations were produced by Tom Mace. The finds were examined by Jo Dawson, who also edited the report, and the project was managed by Dan Elsworth.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

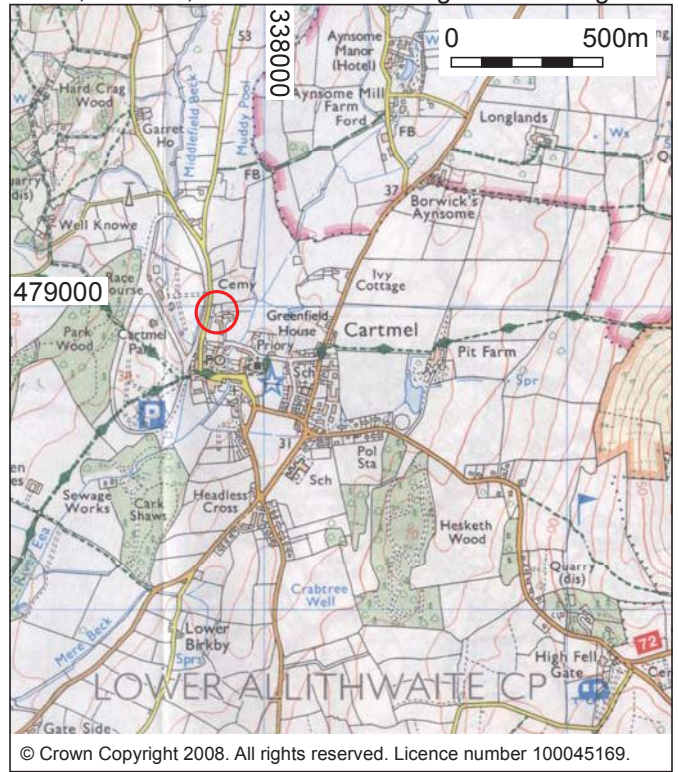
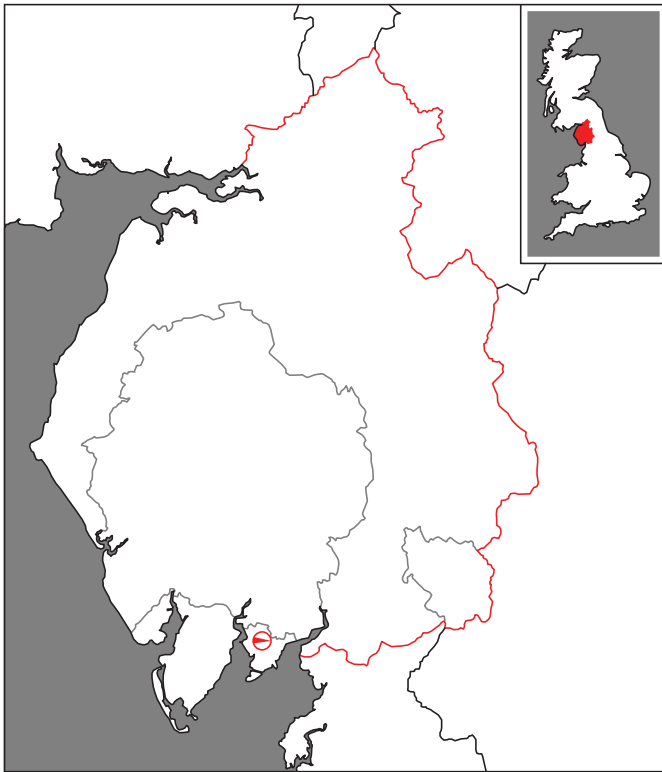
1.1.1 Following the submission of a planning application (Ref. SL/2013/0857) for the erection of a new garage at Fairfield, Cartmel, Cumbria, (NGR 337830 478990) planning permission was granted by South Lakeland District Council, with a condition requiring that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during any groundwork following advice from the Historic Environment Service at Cumbria County Council. Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design for this work (*Appendix 1*) and after its approval by the Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council the watching brief was carried out on the 7th and 11th April 2014.

1.1.2 Fairfield is situated on the north-west side of the core of the village of Cartmel, within the precinct walls of the former Cartmel Augustinian Priory, which was established in the late 12th century (CHES 2011, 2), the wall of which is thought to run to the north and possibly west, although its exact position is not certain. An archaeological evaluation previously carried out on the site revealed a narrow metalled surface thought to be a road apparently of at least medieval date, buried below later deposits (Greenlane Archaeology 2011). Although it falls outside the Scheduled Monument area, it is considered likely that it is part of an area that may have held ancillary industrial and agricultural buildings that would have been essential to the priory's economy (CHES 2011, 2).

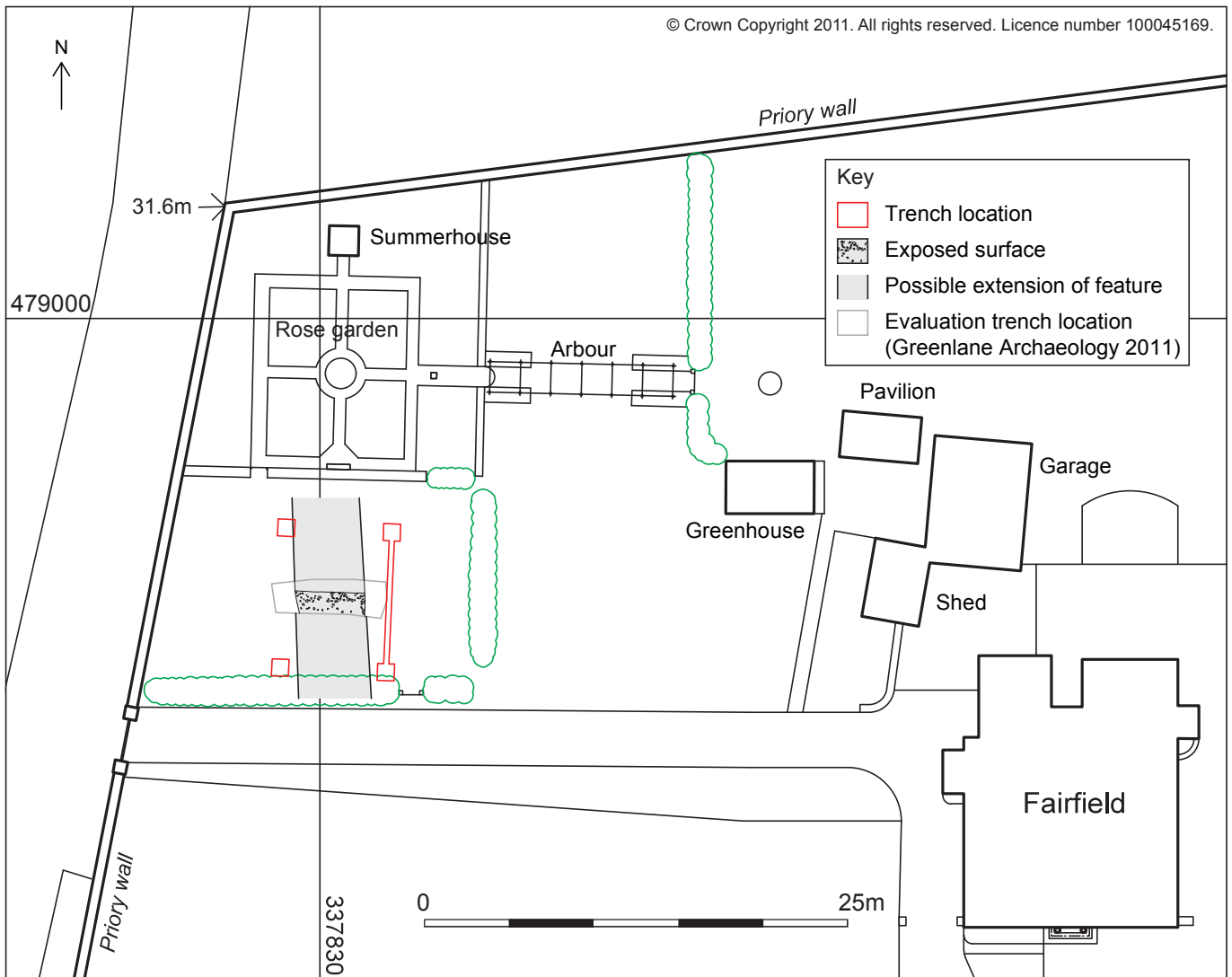
1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site is positioned within the vegetable garden of "Fairfield", a house located at the north-west corner of the village of Cartmel (Figure 1). The Priory, which is visually prominent in the landscape, formed the hub around which Cartmel developed and the village, which is described as 'exceptional' and 'largely unspoilt', is now protected by Conservation Area status (Countryside Commission 1998, 73). Cartmel is situated approximately 3.5km north-west of Grange-over-Sands to the south of the South Cumbria Low Fells on the northern side of Morecambe Bay (Countryside Commission 1998, 69; Ordnance Survey 2008).

1.2.2 Cartmel is on the junction of a complex series of solid geology comprising Bannisdale Slates of Silurian age and carboniferous limestone, covered by thick glacial debris, including deposits of cobbles, pebbles and sandy material (Mitchell 1990, 43; Moseley 1978, plate 1). The site is located to the west of the River Eea, at approximately 30m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2008); the underlying solid geology in the catchment area to the west of the River is mainly slate, but to the east the deposits are mostly limestone, and deposits of alluvium (soft peaty and clayey soils) are likely to be present closer to the River (Mitchell 1990, figure 2; 1992, figure 1). The River itself was doubtless an important influence on the sourcing of construction material in the area most notably that used in the construction of the Priory (Mitchell 1992, 72-73).



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Figure 1: Site location

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2. Methodology

2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 A comprehensive desk-based assessment of the site was carried out in accordance with IfA guidelines (IfA 2008a) as part of the archaeological evaluation of the site in 2011 (Greenlane Archaeology 2011). Information gathered as part of that earlier desk-based assessment puts the results of the watching brief into context.

2.2 Watching Brief

2.2.1 The watching brief monitored excavation of four approximately 1m² pits into which concrete was to be poured, one at each of the corners of the new garage, which is rectangular in plan. A shallow trench, for a further concrete sill beam, was also excavated between the north- and south-east pits approximately 0.7m wide (Figure 2). Sill beams joining the remaining pits and forming the perimeter of the site were also created, but on the surface level and the remainder of the area was to be covered by a concrete slab. The pits and shallow trench along the east side were excavated using a small tracked mechanical excavator and totalled approximately 6.5m². The spoil was placed in a dumper bucket before being removed from site. All aspects of the archaeological recording were carried out according to the standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008b) and Greenlane Archaeology's own excavation manual (2007). The underlying deposits and features were recorded in the following manner:

- **Written record:** descriptive records were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Photographs:** photographs in both colour print and colour digital format were taken of all archaeological features uncovered during the groundworks, as well as general views of the site and working shots. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report. A written record of all of the photographs was also made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Drawings:** a location plan showing the area of excavation was produced at a scale of 1:200.

2.3 Environmental Samples

2.3.1 No environmental samples were taken as no appropriate deposits were encountered.

2.4 Finds

2.4.1 **Processing:** all of the artefacts recovered during the watching brief were washed then naturally air-dried and packaged appropriately in self-seal bags with white write-on panels.

2.4.2 **Assessment and recording:** the finds were identified and catalogued (*Appendix 3*).

2.5 Archive

2.5.1 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 Archive Centre in Barrow-in-Furness (CAC(B)). A copy of the report will be provided to the client, Greenlane Archaeology will retain a copy, a copy will also be provided for the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER), and a digital copy will form part of the OASIS scheme.

2.5.2 The client will ultimately be encouraged to transfer ownership of the finds to a suitable museum, which in this case is Kendal Museum. The museum is, however, currently at close to full capacity, and it is unlikely that it would be willing to take anything unless it is of exceptional importance. 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.

3. Site Archaeology and History

3.1 Map Regression

3.1.1 **Introduction:** Yates' 1786 map of Lancashire shows a building in approximately the same area as Fairfield but it is impossible to be certain if this is indeed the same structure; the earliest maps of the area are typically lacking in detail and so only maps that provide more detail about the development of the site are included.

3.1.2 **Ordnance Survey, 1851:** the site lies in an undeveloped area, which is noteworthy in that it appears to lie outside (to the west) of the Priory wall, between the Priory wall and School Lane, which runs north/south to the west of 'Fairfield' (Plate 1). 'Castle Meadows' is marked a short distance to the north-east and a field of this name is traditionally held to be the site of a Roman fort in Cartmel (see Section 3.2.3 below).

3.1.3 **Ordnance Survey, 1890:** on this edition of the Ordnance Survey the Priory wall appears to continue to the road to the west of Fairfield (Plate 2) whereas on the previous edition it was discontinuous (cf. Plate 1). The site is inset slightly from the north-west corner of the north boundary wall and School Lane. It is still undeveloped at this point, although it is apparently divided from the land to the east, along what was previously marked as the extent of the Priory wall, and there appears to be an orchard or possibly a tree-lined avenue immediately to the south of the main area.

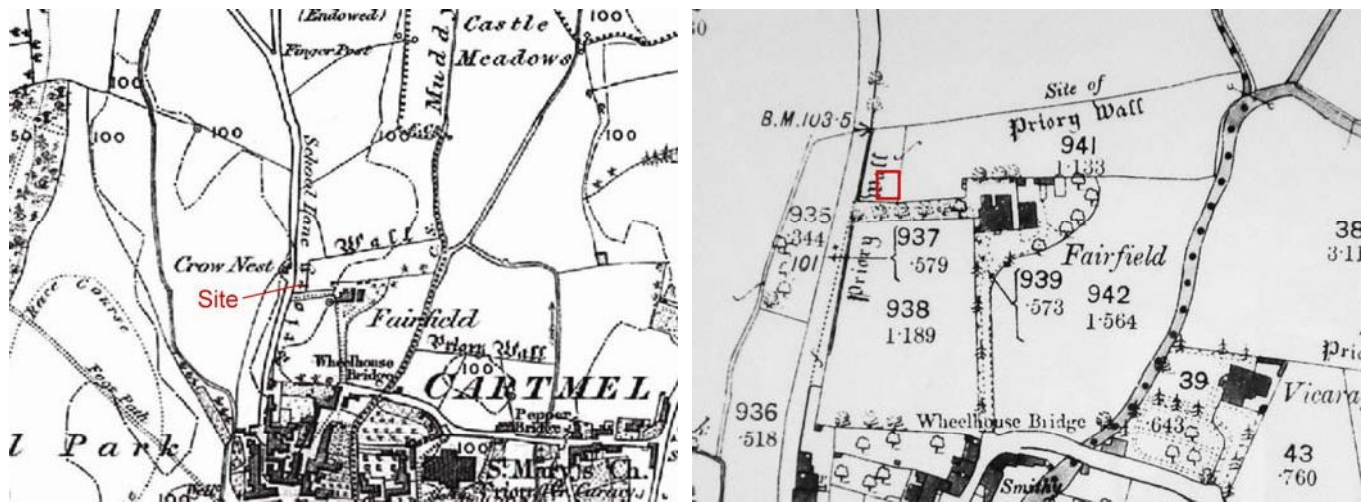


Plate 1 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1851 (a and b)

Plate 2 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1890

3.1.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1913:** the area of the proposed development is still undeveloped at this time (Plate 3) and the main house to the east is little changed from the earlier edition of the Ordnance Survey map (cf. Plate 2). The area to the south of the main site, which was covered with trees on the earlier edition, is now more clearly an access road to Fairfield.

3.1.5 **Ordnance Survey, 1933:** this edition shows the boundaries and assessment numbers allocated by the c1910 land valuation made by the commissioners of the Inland Revenue. Unfortunately, the site falls outside of the marked boundaries and no number is indicated for it on the map (Plate 4).

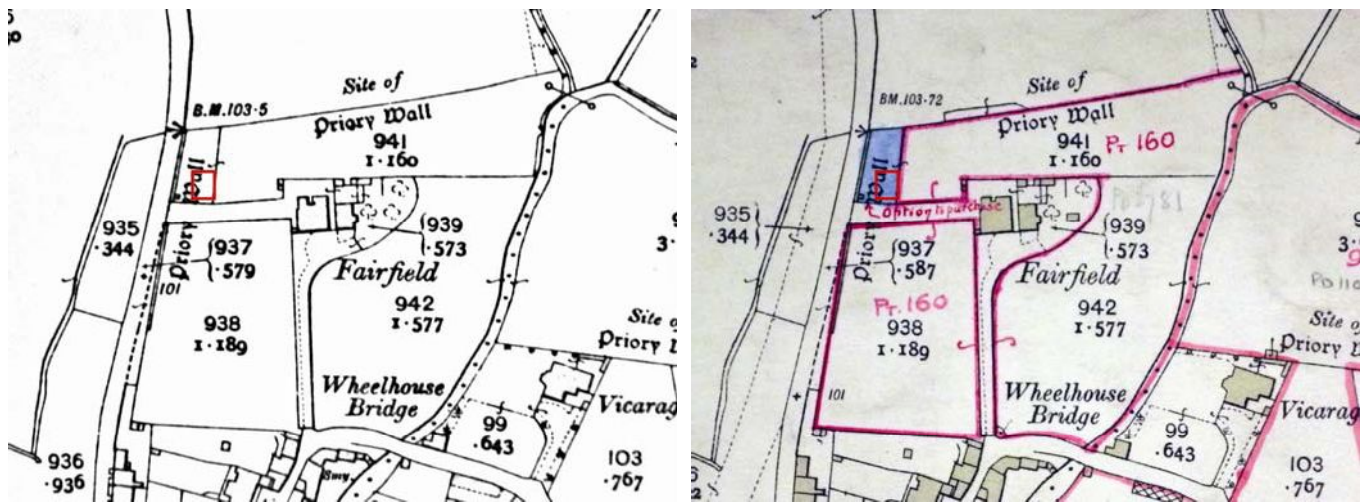


Plate 3 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913

Plate 4 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1933

3.2 Site History

3.2.1 Prehistoric Period (c11,000 BC – 1st 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). 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, a large number of finds of this date were discovered during excavations carried out in the park belonging to Levens Hall in the 1970s (Cherry and Cherry 2000). In addition, a small amount of Mesolithic material was found during excavations on the Roman fort site at the north end of Windermere (Finlayson 2004). These discoveries, particularly the one at Levens, demonstrate that further remains of similar date are likely to exist in the local area. River valleys, lakesides, and coastal areas are a common place for such remains to be discovered (Middleton *et al* 1995, 202; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 151-152).

3.2.2 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. These are not well represented in the area around the site, although an enclosure on Hoad Hill near Ulverston perhaps has its origins in this period (Elsworth 2005), as might another one at Skelmore Heads near Urswick, although evidence for activity in the Neolithic was also associated with this (Powell 1963). Stray finds of Bronze Age date are found throughout the county. Sites that can be specifically dated to the Iron Age (c600 BC – 1st 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. Closer to the site, immediately to the east of Cartmel on Hampsfell, a group of over 50 structures identified as hut circles was reported in the late 19th century (Rigge 1885); no further details relating to these are known but it is possible that they represent the remains of a later prehistoric settlement or even a hillfort. At Levens, burials radiocarbon dated to the Iron Age have been discovered (OA North 2004), but these remain a rarity both regionally and nationally. There is, however, 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).

3.2.3 Romano-British to Early Medieval Period: (1st century AD – 11th century AD): late 18th and 19th century antiquarians considered a Roman military presence in the Furness area beyond question, but by the 20th 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). Traditionally, a Roman camp is thought to have been located less than 100m from the current site in the meadow in front of the house at Fairfield (Stockdale 1872, 253), although the HER records that at the present time there is scant evidence to support this theory apart from a doubtful earthwork shown on the Ordnance Survey mapping, which may in fact be natural. That said, Stockdale recalls having the suspected *agger* [cambered embankment of a Roman road] of this *castellum* [small fort] pointed out to him by an acquaintance (Stockdale 1872, 253). The site was held to stand in front of Fairfield and stretched along the side of the River, “*It was then not very traceable, but he said it had been levelled down and much of it taken away*” (*ibid.*). Elsewhere, in Stockdale’s unpublished manuscript notes, it is recalled that an ‘*oblong (parallelogram) mound in the meadows at Cartmel called Castle Meadows exactly in the shape of a Roman Camp – [was] destroyed partly by the encroachment of [the] River – the formation of the present road and chiefly [sic] by Mr Fell when he was building his house [at Fairfield] and improving his meadow*’ (CAC(B) DDHJ 4/2/1/8 1860s-1872). Unfortunately, the location of “Castle Meadows” is now slightly ambiguous; the extent of the Scheduled Monument area would suggest that the fort lay to the west of the River in front of Fairfield, which corresponds with Stockdale’s recollection, whereas Mitchell identifies the field north of the east end of the Priory wall to The Beck as Castle Meadows (Mitchell 1990, figure 1). The issue is clouded somewhat by Stockdale who implies that both fields may have been called “Castle Meadows” (Stockdale 1872, 253), potentially owing to the former location of the fort thereabouts, while the first edition of the Ordnance Survey labels a large general area to the north-east of Fairfield as ‘Castle Meadows’ (Ordnance 1851a; Plate 1). The will of Thomas Fell of Fairfield, written in 1838 but proved in 1840, states that his house had “*three fields adjoining*” but does not give their name (CAC(B) BDKF/1/22 1840), while a later account states that Castle Meadows was “a field on the right hand side of the road which goes up to Green Bank from Cartmel” (Women’s Institute Cartmel Branch 1928, 2). Intriguingly this field is said to have been where the bells for the priory were cast; no particular evidence is given but according to local legend the people of Cartmel are said to have put their gold and silver into the melting pot for it (*ibid.*). This is a curious note given that church bells were typically made from a copper alloy (77% copper and 23% tin; Jennings 1922, 12).

3.2.4 A coin of Constantine I, Roman Emperor from AD 306-337, was found in Cartmel, but where it was found exactly is unknown. The HER lists it as a silver coin but both references it refers to record it as copper alloy such as bronze (Shotter 1986, 257; 1989, 43). Various other Roman coins, including three hoards, have been found in or around Cartmel dating from the first to the fourth centuries AD (Shotter 1989) and may point to the contemporary importance of the south Cumbrian coast and its integration into the economics of the Roman north-west, with links to other Roman centres such as Lancaster and Ravenglass (Shotter 1995). Roman material suggests that further Roman sites may yet be discovered in the areas of Barrow and Cartmel, but firm evidence for a Roman military presence remains elusive (Shotter 1995, 77; 2004, 67).

3.2.5 The *Historia de Sancto Cuthberto* records that “the land which is called Cartmel” and all its British population, which suggests a well-established community there, was given to Saint Cuthbert around c688 AD by Ecgfrith, who was King of Northumbria from 670 to 685 (Crowe 1984, 63-65; Dickinson 1991, 9). The Domesday Book of 1086 calls it “*Cherchebi*”, deriving from the Old English for church, rather than the Norse form “*kirk*”, which implies that a Northumbrian church existed on the site ahead of the Conquest, at which time it belonged to one Duann (Crowe 1984, 61, 65).

3.2.6 Medieval Period (11th century AD – 16th century AD): the earliest forms of the place-name Cartmel, which are first recorded from the 12th century, probably derive from the Old English “*ceart*” and “*mel*” from the Old Norse word “*melr*” (Crowe 1984, 61) and broadly mean “sand bank by rocky ground” (Dickinson 1991, 9) and may originally have applied to the Grange area (Dickinson 1980, 7). That a

parish church existed there is attested in The Furness Abbey Charters by 'Willelmus, clericus de Kertmel' c1135 and by 'Uccheman, persona de Chertmel' c1155 (Curwen 1920, 107). By 1168 the parish of Cartmel was a royal estate and in 1186 it was granted to the Marshall family, the Earls of Pembroke, by Henry II (Crowe 1984, 65). Much of the present village of Cartmel lies within the precinct of the Priory, which was founded with the legal permission of the future King John (who was at the time Count of Mortain) between August 1190 and 1196 by William Marshall, a wealthy and important Norman baron and Earl of Pembroke from 1189 to 1219, although the monastery may not have been established until 1202 (Dickinson 1980, 98; 1991, 10-11). The charter endowed the Priory "all my land of Cartmel" and a list of rights and privileges, which unusually included rights to iron mines (Dickinson 1980, 97; 1991, 10-11).

3.2.7 Unfortunately, it is not possible to get a detailed view of the possessions acquired by the Priory due to the loss of its archives, although it evidently received a number of further grants in the 13th and 14th century and eventually acquired a number of comparatively large farms (Dickinson 1991, 14-19). Its ecclesiastical wealth was valued at £46. 13s. 4d. in 1291 in the *Taxation of Pope Nicholas* (Dickinson 1980, 15). However, like much of the north of England, it was subject to raids by the Scots throughout the 14th century (Dickinson 1991, 29-30); the raids of 1316 and 1322 'wrought immense damage in the area' and on the latter occasion the *Lanercost Chronicle* records that the Scottish raiders "burnt the lands around the priory... and took away cattle and booty" (Dickinson 1980, 13). The Priory was also affected by the Black Death, which may explain why it, probably like many English monasteries, is recorded as having fewer brethren than normal in 1381 (Dickinson 1980, 16). The defensive potential of the priory should not be overlooked (Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 268); the main priory gatehouse leading into the precinct was built around this time, between 1330 and 1340, and land surrounding the Priory was also enclosed by a precinct wall during the 14th century (Curwen 1920, 111). The gatehouse is the only remaining building associated with Cartmel Priory, although vestiges of other buildings are incorporated in later structures. Elements of the precinct wall evidently survived in reasonable condition into the early 19th century; Baines describes it as running west from the gatehouse, before running north past Fairfield where 'about one hundred yards of the wall exist of rough ragcoble [sic] stone' before it turned east then south-east (Baines 1836, 725). Probably the earliest plan delineating the presumed and known elements of the priory and its precinct wall was produced by Ffoliott in 1854 (Plate 5) and seems to have been used as the basis for determining the position of these features in subsequent accounts (eg Dickinson 1981, 83). It is particularly clear in its definition of the precinct wall to the north and west of Fairfield (Plate 5), although the manner in which these structures were positively identified is uncertain.



Plate 5: Extract from Ffoliott's plan (1854) showing the precinct wall (the thick line) as it relates to Fairfield

3.2.8 In 1390 a papal mandate to the archbishop of York ordered an investigation of the prior of Cartmel, William, accused of simony in admitting canons to the profession and of 'too frequent visits to taverns' to the extent that the monastery was falling into disrepair (Dickinson 1980, 13). This may have

been the catalyst for a period of reputedly much needed reconstruction and restoration of the Priory, possibly begun in the final years of the 14th century (*ibid.*, 19); Hyde and Pevsner state, somewhat enigmatically, that ‘*something drastic* [emphasis added] made it necessary for the canons to rebuild their monastic precinct on the [north] side’ in approximately the mid-15th century (Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 267) and the surrounding lofty precinct wall is also suggested to have been largely rebuilt and partly re-sited in the 15th century (Dickinson 1980, 18). It has elsewhere been suggested that rebuilding was needed as a result of the devastation wrought by the Scottish raids, which perhaps burnt the Priory buildings to the ground (Curwen 1920, 111-112), or else the relocation of the cloistral buildings became necessary out of consideration for the underlying geological properties of the respective sides of the church (Mitchell 1990, 45-46).

3.2.9 The small field to the north side of Priest Lane (immediately to the north of the Priory Church) is called “farmery” field, which Dickinson interprets as a reference to the old word for infirmary, which in this case would have provided treatment for the sick and infirm brethren (Dickinson 1980, 21; 1991,109). Another suggestion for the origins of its name is that it derived from being near the Monastic Dairy (Women’s Institute Cartmel Branch 1928, 2). In either case, earthworks can allegedly be determined from aerial photographs, which show that its main structure, most likely a large hall, with twin aisles and an open area at one end, ran north/south and it had a subsidiary block on its eastern side (Dickinson 1991, 109). The walling of the monastic precinct continues to the east and the area to the north, towards the beck, is low-lying and prone to flooding (Dickinson 1991, 109-110). The land between farmery field and the beck to the west may have been gardens and orchards with fields to the north (Dickinson 1980, 21). The field immediately to the south-east of Fairfield Lodge formed part of the priory’s outer court, which would have housed the agricultural and industrial buildings essential to the priory’s economy, which potentially included barns, granaries, brewhouse, bakehouse, guesthouse, woolhouse, swinehouse, stables, mills, dovecots, tannery, and blacksmiths etcetera, and nowadays forms part of the Scheduled Monument area associated with the Priory (Scheduled Monument Number: 34796).

3.2.10 The value of the site of the Priory appears greatly diminished by 1535 when it was valued at £8. 16s. 8d. in a survey of English ecclesiastical revenue, the so-called *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, although it still received rents and similar income estimated at £91. 6s. 3d. net (Dickinson 1980, 15-16). Besides, Frith Hall grange was erected in the 16th century on the Leven Estuary where the Priory held fishing rights (Dickinson 1991, 16-17) and the valuation was raised to £212. 12s. 10½d., following protests by the priory that it had been undervalued, perhaps to avoid falling foul of the Act for the Suppression of the smaller English monasteries of 1536 (Curwen 1920, 113-114; Dickinson 1980, 21-22). It was to no avail - this Act began the Dissolution of the monasteries, which, despite violent protest, led to the Priory being dissolved between 1536-7 (Curwen 1920, 114; Wild and Howard-Davis 1999, 31); however, following the unusual decision ordered by Mr. Chancellor of the Duchy that it should ‘stand still’ as it served a *parochial* as well as monastic purpose, the Priory church was preserved for being the only place of worship available to its parishioners (Curwen 1920, 114; Dickinson 1980, 24). After the Dissolution the Priory’s assets became Crown property and ultimately became part of the Holker Hall estate (Dickinson 1991:40).

3.2.11 **Post-medieval Period (16th century AD – present):** by the early 17th century the Preston family then at Holker owned much of the land formerly owned by the Priory and the church was further improved and refurbished under their benefaction (Curwen 1920, 115; Dickinson 1980, 25). Cromwellian soldiers stayed in the village on 1st October 1643, stabling their horses in the church after a minor battle in Furness (Dickinson 1985, 115). In 1660 came the re-establishment of Anglicanism and the church bells were re-cast in 1661 (Dickinson 1980, 25); as already outlined (see *Section 3.2.4*) local tradition holds that they were founded or cast in “Castle Meadows” (Women’s Institute Cartmel Branch 1928, 2), but this story has the air of myth about it (*ibid.*).

3.2.12 Fairfield house itself is essentially of post-medieval date (although a vaulted ceiling exists within the half-cellar to the rear that might suggest it has earlier origins). It is located towards the north-west corner of the Priory precinct, may be represented on Yates’ map of the region in 1786 (Yates 1786), and was certainly constructed by the time the 1851 edition of the Ordnance Survey map was produced, which was surveyed between 1847 and 1848 (see *Section 3.1* above).

3.2.13 **Previous Archaeological Work:** the archaeological evaluation at Fairfield carried out in October 2011 provided an opportunity to examine part of the area thought to be within the medieval priory that had not previously been investigated (Greenlane Archaeology 2011). Little is known about the precincts of smaller priories due to the limited number of excavations within their confines and the past concentration on cloistral buildings (Wild and Howard-Davis 1999, 34; 2000, 179). The map regression in particular raised some questions about whether the area was actually within or outside the Priory's precinct wall (see *Section 3.1*). The evaluation trench revealed a metal track orientated north/south (although it was unclear if this was deliberately cut), which was subsequently covered with a deposit of stones, perhaps collected from the nearby stream beds in order to form a more well-built road surface. Three pieces of pottery were recovered from it but these were very small and abraded and not particularly diagnostic. They were possibly Roman (a crude imitation of Samian ware) or perhaps more likely a very soft form of sandy ware of late 12th to 14th century date. The overlying topsoil accumulated from the 18th century onwards.

3.3 Conclusion

3.3.1 Fairfield was built before the 1851 edition of the Ordnance Survey map was surveyed and is situated inside an area enclosed by strong walling which extends beyond the house to the north and west and may follow that of the monastic precinct wall; the current site is shown to lie outside the Priory wall between the wall and the Lane to the west on the 1851 edition of the Ordnance Survey but later editions show this wall continuing across the northern end of the proposed development area. In any event, the site remained undeveloped into the 20th century and it is thought likely that well-preserved archaeological remains survive within the priory's precinct. A Roman fort is traditionally held to have been situated nearby, to the south-west of Fairfield, and finds from this date might also be present in the area. The 2011 archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site revealed a north/south aligned track running through the area of probably medieval date.

4. Results

4.1 Watching Brief

4.1.1 The topsoil had already been stripped from across much of the site and hardcore had been laid across most of it prior to the arrival of an archaeologist on site (Plate 6 and Plate 7). This had revealed that the bedrock was very shallow in the south-west corner, and so excavation of the foundation pit in this area was monitored.



Plate 6 (left): Development area viewed from the south-west

Plate 7 (right): Development area viewed from the north-west

4.1.2 The south-east pit was excavated to a depth of c1.0m (Plate 8 and Plate 9). There was 0.15m of dark grey-brown topsoil (**1001**) with very few stone inclusions on top of firm pale grey-orange silty-clay subsoil (**1002**) with 2% rounded gravel inclusions. Below this was a loose sandy-clay (**1003**) with 10 percent rounded gravel inclusions and larger cobbles at the base.



Plate 8 (left): Working shot of the south-east pit

Plate 9 (right): West-facing section of the south-east pit

4.1.3 The north-west pit revealed a similar sequence of deposits to the south-east pit (Plate 10 and Plate 11), although the subsoil (**1002**) was shallower and the pit possibly clipped the edge of the track recorded during the evaluation (Greenlane Archaeology 2011; see *Section 3.2.13* above) on the east side. The base of the pit went onto solid blocks of slate, possibly bedrock, and pea gravel and so was left at a depth of 0.8m on the east side and 1m on the west.



Plate 10 (left): Working shot of the north-west pit

Plate 11 (right): South-facing section of the north-west pit

4.1.4 The north-east pit again had similar deposits to the one in the south-east corner. The topsoil (**1001**) and subsoil (**1002**) were c0.2m thick (Plate 12) and the natural (**1003**) was like that in the south-east pit but included larger stones and patches of loose gravel (Plate 13).



Plate 12 (left): Working shot of the north-east pit

Plate 13 (right): East-facing section of the north-east pit

4.1.5 The east side of the area, between the north-east and south-east pits, was stripped to a maximum depth of c0.3m (Plate 14 to Plate 16). Approximately 0.15m of the garden soil/topsoil (**1001**) remained in this area below which the subsoil (**1002**) was encountered. The underlying natural was not encountered. Some unstratified post-medieval finds were recovered from the dumper bucket, which probably date the topsoil layer.



Plate 14 (left): Area excavated between the north- and south-east pits, viewed from the north

Plate 15 (right): Area excavated between the north- and south-east pits, viewed from the south



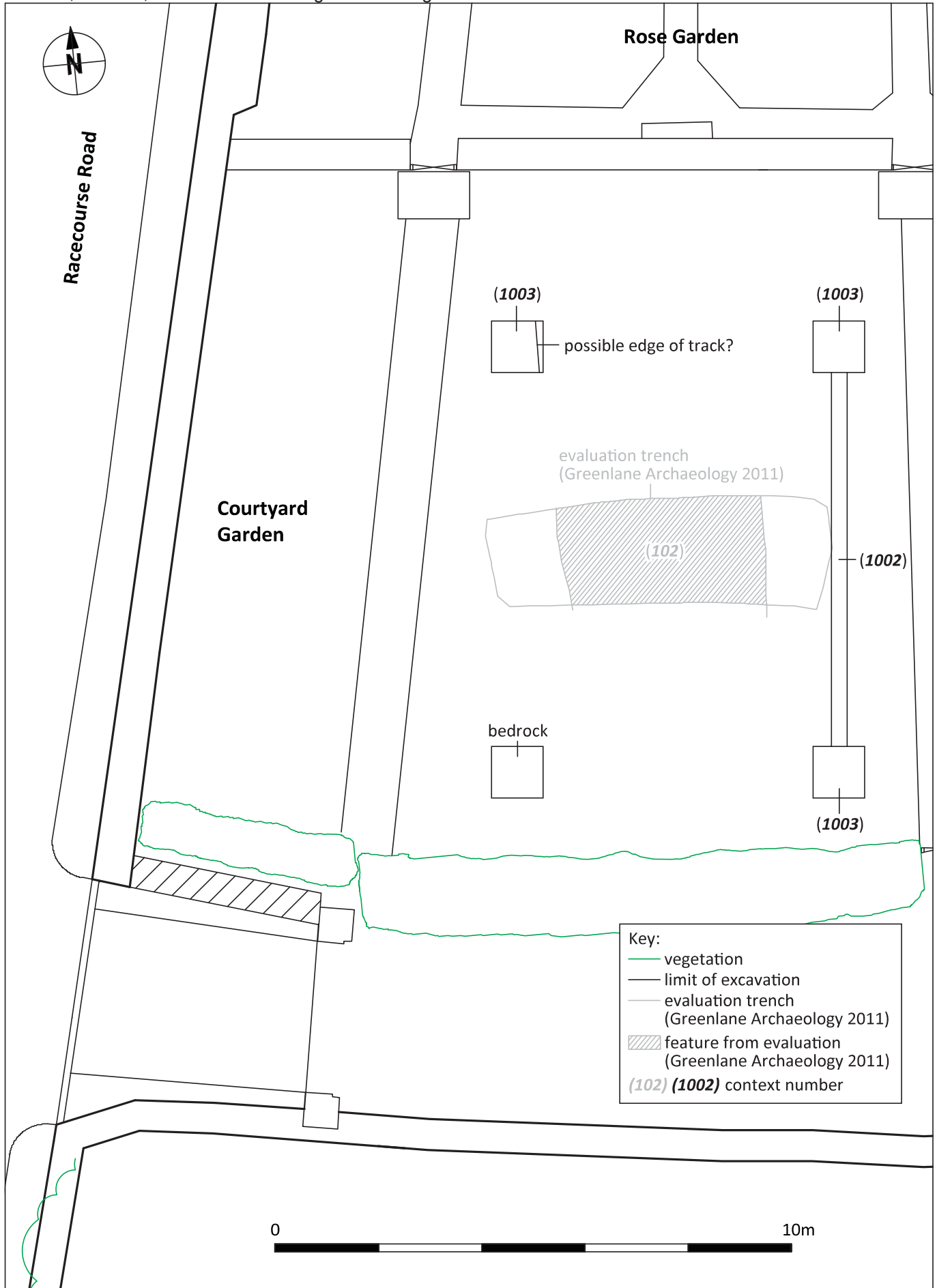
Plate 16: Area excavated between the north- and south-east pits, viewed from the south-west

4.2 Finds

4.2.1 **Introduction:** in total, nine artefacts were recovered during the watching brief, comprising pottery and a small amount of animal bone. A complete catalogue of the finds is presented in *Appendix 3*.

4.2.2 **Post-medieval pottery:** the pottery assemblage comprises fragments of mottled ware, black- and brown-glazed red earthenware, pearlware, factory-produced glazed buff-coloured earthenware and a fragment of flower pot. Overall, these finds potentially range in date from the late 17th to 20th century.

4.2.3 **Animal bone:** two unidentified animal bone fragments were recovered: one is a small fragment of rib and the other very small fragment is probably antler.



Client: Mr and Mrs K Partington

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Figure 2: Plan of watching brief area

5. Discussion and Conclusion

5.1 Discussion

5.1.1 A similar sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits was encountered in each pit apart from the pit in the south-west corner which immediately came on to bedrock. The north-west pit may have clipped the edge of the track which was recorded during the earlier evaluation (Greenlane Archaeology 2011; see *Section 3.2.13* above), but this is uncertain. Beyond that the watching brief did not reveal any features of archaeological interest and only a small amount of post-medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil.

5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 The watching brief at Fairfield provided further opportunity to examine the area connected with the medieval priory at Cartmel, however, no significant archaeological finds or features were observed, perhaps in part due to the very limited depth and extent of footings required for the new garage.

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Appendix 1: Project Design

FAIRFIELD, CARTMEL, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Watching Brief Project Design



Client: Mr and Mrs Partington

February 2014

Planning ref. SL/2013/0857

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Following the submission of a of planning application (Ref. SL/2013/0857) for the erection of a new garage at Fairfield, Cartmel, Cumbria, (NGR 337830 478990) planning permission was granted by South Lakeland District Council, with a condition requiring an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during any groundwork following advice from the Historic Environment Service at Cumbria County Council. This project design has been produced in response to that condition in order to outline the methodology that would be used to carry out the archaeological work.

1.1.2 Fairfield is situated in on the north-west side of he core of the village of Cartmel, but still within the precinct of the medieval priory, the wall of which is thought to run to the north and possibly west, although its exact position is not certain. An archaeological evaluation previously carried out on the site revealed a narrow metalled surface thought to be a road and apparently of at least medieval date, buried below later deposits (Greenlane Archaeology 2011).

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 watching brief will be carried out according to the Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

1.3 Project Staffing

1.3.1 The project will be managed by **Dan Elsworth (MA (Hons), AiFA)**. 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 wide variety of projects including building recordings of various sizes, watching briefs, and excavations in the region, including an excavation and evaluation in the centre of medieval Kendal (Greenlane Archaeology 2009a; 2010a), evaluation in the Roman *vicus* at Stanwix (Greenlane Archaeology 2010b), evaluation of a Scheduled post-medieval gunpowder works (Greenlane Archaeology 2010c), and watching briefs in Preston (Greenlane Archaeology 2009b; 2010d).

1.3.2 The watching brief will be carried out by **Tom Mace (BA (Hons), MA, MifA)** or another suitably qualified member of staff, depending on scheduling constraints. Tom has extensive experience of working on a variety of archaeological projects, especially watching briefs, but also excavations, evaluations, and building recordings, as well as report writing and illustration production. He joined Greenlane Archaeology in 2008 having worked for several previous companies including Archaeological Solutions and Oxford Archaeology North.

1.3.3 All 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. Medieval pottery will be assessed by Tom Mace, and other finds will be assessed by specialist sub-contractors as appropriate. Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service will be notified of any other specialists, other than those named, whom Greenlane Archaeology wishes to engage.

1.3.4 Environmental samples and faunal remains, should significant deposits of these be recovered, will be processed by Greenlane Archaeology. It is envisaged that charred plant remains will be assessed by staff at Headland Archaeology Ltd, and faunal remains by Jane Richardson at ASWYAS. Should any human remains be recovered for assessment it is envisaged that these will be examined by Malin Horst at York Osteoarchaeology, following appropriate advice on initial processing.

2. Objectives

2.1 Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 A comprehensive desk-based assessment of the site was carried out as part of the archaeological evaluation (Greenlane Archaeology 2011). Information gathered as part of that will be incorporated into the report on the watching brief as necessary.

2.2 Watching Brief

2.2.1 To identify any surviving archaeological remains and to investigate and record any revealed archaeological remains or deposits.

2.3 Report

2.3.1 To produce a report detailing the results of the watching brief, which will outline the nature, form, extent, and date of any archaeological remains discovered.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 Produce a full archive of the results of the watching brief.

3. Methodology

3.1 Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

3.1.1 Information about the site, intended to place the results of the watching brief in context, will be taken from the previous piece carried out on the site. As a result no new primary sources will be consulted.

3.2 Watching Brief

3.2.1 The groundworks are to be monitored, with one archaeologist on site. If there are multiple machines operating on site it may be considered necessary to have more than one archaeologist on site.

3.2.2 The watching brief methodology will be as follows:

- Foundation trenches and/or trenches for services and any areas of ground reduction will be excavated under supervision by staff from Greenlane Archaeology;
- All deposits of archaeological significance will be examined by hand if possible in a stratigraphic manner, using shovels, mattocks, or trowels as appropriate for the scale;
- The position of any features, such as ditches, pits, or walls, will be recorded and where necessary these will be investigated in order to establish their full extent, date, and relationship to any other features. If possible, 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 detailed plans and sections at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10 where practicable or sketches where it is not, and photographs in both colour print and colour digital format;
- All deposits, drawings and photographs will be recorded on Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- All finds will be recovered during the watching brief for further assessment as far as is practically and safely possible. Should significant amounts of finds be encountered an appropriate sampling strategy will be devised;
- All faunal remains will also be recovered by hand during the watching brief as far as is practically and safely possible, 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) where possible, 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 1.3.4* 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;

- Any articulated human remains discovered during the watching brief will be left *in situ*, and, if possible, covered. The client 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;
- Should any significant archaeological deposits be encountered during the watching brief these will immediately be brought to the attention of the Cumbria County Historic Environment Service (CCHES) and ground works in that area halted so that the need for further work can be determined. Any additional work and ensuing costs will be agreed with the CCHES, and subject to a variation to this project design.

3.3 Report

3.3.1 The results of the watching brief will be compiled into a report, which will contain the following sections as necessary:

- A front cover including the appropriate national grid reference (NGR);
- 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;
- Results of the watching brief including descriptions of any deposits identified, their extent, form and potential date, and an assessment of any finds or environmental remains recovered during the watching brief;
- Discussion of the results;
- Illustrations at appropriate scales including:
 - a plan showing the location of the ground works;
 - plans and sections of the watching brief ground works, as appropriate, showing any features of archaeological interest;
 - photographs of the watching brief, including both detailed and general shots of features of archaeological interest and the trenches;
 - photographs of individual artefacts as appropriate.

3.4 Archive

3.4.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the watching brief, 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. 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.

3.4.2 A copy of the report will be supplied to the client, a digital copy will be supplied to the client's agent, and within six months of the completion of fieldwork one copy will be provided for the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition, Greenlane Archaeology Ltd will retain one copy, and a digital copy will be deposited with the OASIS scheme as required.

3.4.3 The client will be encouraged to transfer ownership of the finds to a suitable museum, most likely Kendal Museum. If no suitable repository can be found the finds may have to be discarded, and in this case as full a record as possible and necessary would be made of them beforehand.

4. Work timetable

4.1 Greenlane Archaeology will be available to commence the project on **17th February 2014**, or at another date convenient to the client. It is envisaged that the project will involve tasks in the following order:

- **Task 1:** watching brief;
- **Task 2:** post-excavation work on archaeological watching brief, including processing of finds and production of draft report and illustrations;
- **Task 3:** feedback, editing and production of final report, completion of archive.

5. Other matters

5.1 Access

5.1.1 Access to the site 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
1001	Layer	Friable, dark grey/blackish-brown silt with very few stone inclusions, 0.15m thick.	Garden soil / topsoil
1002	Layer	Firm, pale grey-orange to brown, silty-clay, with 2% rounded gravel inclusions and infrequent sub-angular stone inclusions (<0.07m ea.)	Subsoil
1003	Layer	Loose, sandy-clay with 10% rounded gravel and large cobbles	Natural

Appendix 3: Summary Finds List

Context	Location	Type	Qty	Description	Date range
1002	North-east pit	Pottery	1	Black-glazed red earthenware pancheon rim	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
1002	North-east pit	Pottery	1	Brown-glazed red earthenware, courseware rim with white slip stripe on edge	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
1002	North-east pit	Pottery	1	Mottled ware?	Late 17 th – early 20 th century?
1002	North-east pit	Animal bone	1	Mammal rib, sawn	Uncertain
1002	South-east pit	Animal bone	1	Very small fragment of antler?	Uncertain
U/S Topsoil? [1001]	East side	Pottery	1	Black-glazed red earthenware crock rim	Late 17 th – early 20 th century
U/S Topsoil? [1001]	East side	Pottery	1	Factory-produced glazed buff-coloured earthenware, bowl base	19 th – early 20 th century
U/S Topsoil? [1001]	East side	Pottery	1	Tiny fragment of pearlware	Late 19 th – early 19 th century
U/S Topsoil? [1001]	East side	Pottery	1	Red earthenware, flower pot body fragment	Late 18 th – 20 th century?