

# TARN SIDE GARAGE, ULVERSTON, CUMBRIA

## Archaeological Evaluation



Client: Alan Cumberbatch

Planning Application Reference:  
SL/2014/1029

NGR:  
328860 478487 (centre)

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September 2015



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## Contents

Non-Technical Summary .....	2
Acknowledgements .....	2
1. Introduction .....	3
2. Methodology .....	6
3. Historical and Archaeological Background .....	8
4. Fieldwork Results.....	12
5. Discussion.....	17
6. Bibliography .....	18
Appendix 1: Project Design .....	20
Appendix 2: Summary Context List .....	27
Appendix 3: Summary Finds List.....	28

## Illustrations

### List of figures

Figure 1: Site location .....	5
Figure 2: Trench plan showing levels and location of trial holes .....	14

### List of plates

Plate 1 (left): General view of site from the north-west.....	3
Plate 2 (right): General view of site from the north.....	3
Plate 3: General view across site from the east .....	4
Plate 4 (left): Extract from Wood's map of Ulverston of 1832 .....	9
Plate 5 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1850 .....	9
Plate 6 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1852.....	10
Plate 7 (right): Detailed extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1891.....	10
Plate 8 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913.....	10
Plate 9 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1933 .....	10
Plate 10 (left): Trench 1 from the south .....	12
Plate 11 (centre): Trench 1 from the north .....	12
Plate 12 (right): View along the modern drain in Trench 1 .....	12
Plate 13 (left): Trench 2 viewed from the north .....	13
Plate 14 (right): Trench 2 viewed from the south.....	13
Plate 15: Trench 2, section at the south end .....	13
Plate 16: Possible flint core from context 203 .....	15

## Non-Technical Summary

Following the submission of a planning application for the demolition of disused buildings and the construction of a residential development at Tarn Side Garage, Ulverston, Cumbria, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological evaluation of the site. Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design and, following its acceptance, the evaluation was carried out on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

The cartographic and historical sources demonstrate that the site originally formed part of a larger field named 'Tarn Field', perhaps the 'Kirktarne' referred to in early documents and apparently located nearby. By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the southern end of this field was sub-divided from the rest and a range of buildings was constructed, most probably to form a timber yard for James Coward and Sons Timber Merchants. They remained in operation until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and more recently the site was used as a garage.

The evaluation comprised two evaluation trenches each c8m long. Deposits in Trench 1 comprised very thin layers of made ground and bedding for the former Tarmac surface, over the natural, which was very shallow. It was cut by a modern pipe trench at the north end and had been disturbed at this end by the demolition of the buildings on site. Trench 2 contained a sequence of dumped deposits above the natural. These dumped deposits contained mainly post-medieval finds, although most of these came from a single deposit, the finds mostly of late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 19<sup>th</sup> century date, although amongst them was a residual piece of a handle from a medieval vessel and a possible flint core of late Mesolithic to early Neolithic date. No significant archaeological deposits or features were observed although a burst water pipe at the north end of Trench 2 made investigation in this area difficult. In addition, two trial holes dug against the northern boundary of the site were also examined and found to contain similar deposits to Trench 2, although not as deep.

The archaeological work revealed that there was some variation in the depth of deposits across the site but it appeared that in the area of Trench 2 a hollow, probably wet, depression had been filled with dumped material prior to the site being built on in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Finds from these deposits suggest a primarily domestic nature to these deposits, perhaps rubbish from nearby houses, but the small amount of industrial material and residual earlier material indicates that rubbish from around the locality was brought to the site.

## Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Alan Cumberbatch for commissioning the project and for driving the mechanical excavator. Additional thanks are due to Mark Brennand, Senior Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council, for approving the project design, and Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council, for his comments. Further thanks are also due to the site's owner, John Silcock, for his assistance on site and information about it, Peter Lowe, who also provided some useful historical information, and the staff of the Cumbria Archive Centre in Barrow-in-Furness for providing access to the relevant archive information.

The evaluation was carried out by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace. This report was co-written by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace, the latter of whom also produced the illustrations. All of the finds were processed by Dan Elsworth and Elizabeth Elsworth, and assessed by Jo Dawson (post-medieval pottery and glass), Tom Mace (medieval pottery and animal bone), and Dan Elsworth (stone, industrial residue, metal, and ceramic building material). Jo Dawson 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/2014/1029) for the demolition of disused buildings and the erection of six new dwellings on the land at Tarn Side Garage, Ulverston, Cumbria (NGR 328860 478487), Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation of the site, following discussion with the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES). In response to this Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design, and following its acceptance by CCCHES the archaeological evaluation was carried out by staff at Greenlane Archaeology on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

## 1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site is close to the centre of Ulverston to the north of the main road through Ulverston, the A590, in an areas known as Tarnside, which is situated at the junction between Back Lane and Hart Street. The site is located at approximately 20m to 30m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2011; Figure 1).

1.2.2 Ulverston is on the boundary between the West Cumbria coastal plain and the higher ground of the Furness Fells to the north; the solid geology is typically made up of Bannisdale slates (Moseley 1978, plate 1), and this is overlain by a drift geology made up of glacially-derived tills comprising gravels and clays (Countryside Commission 1998, 66). The site is within the urban area of Ulverston and had recently been cleared of the buildings that had previously stood on the site (Plate 1 to Plate 3), but the local landscape is dominated by fields used for grazing and bounded by dry stone walls (*op cit*, 73).



**Plate 1 (left): General view of site from the north-west**

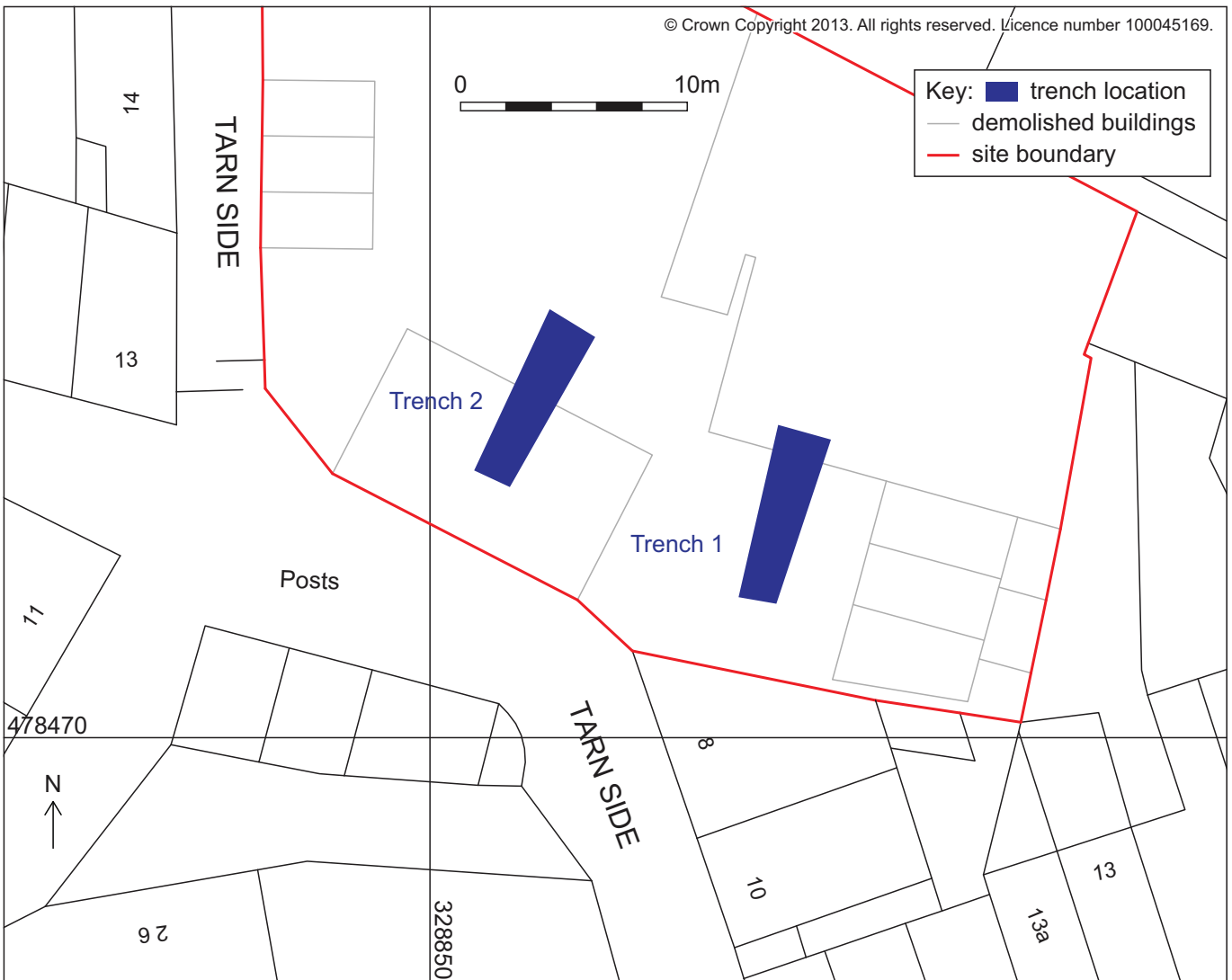
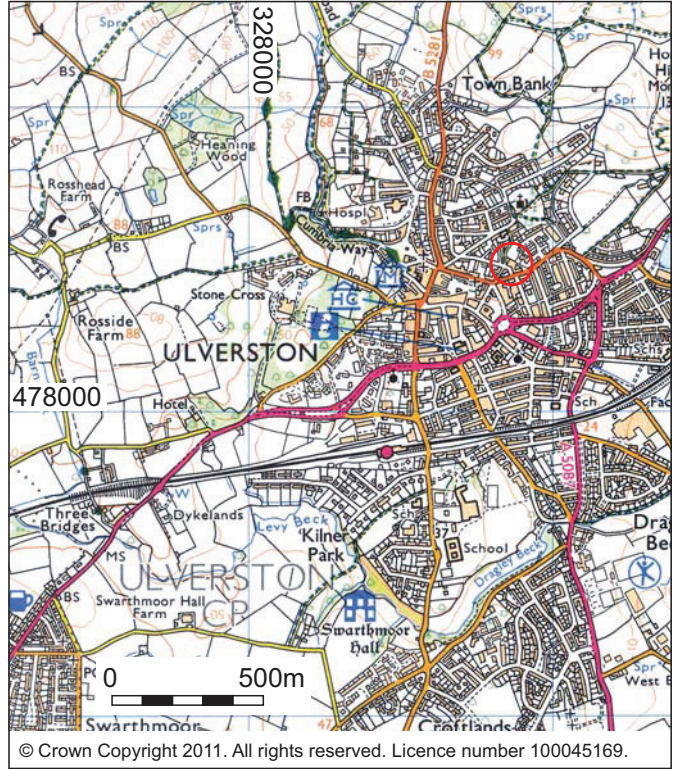
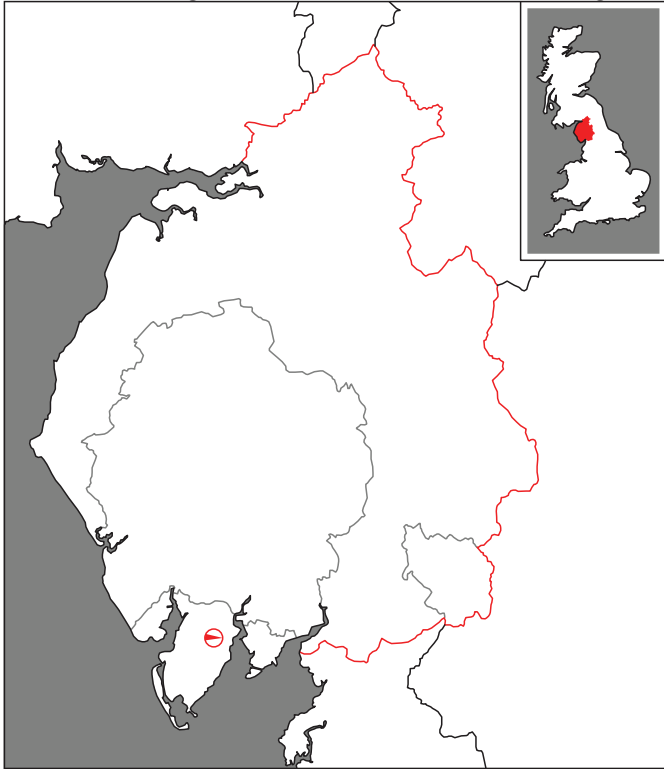


**Plate 2 (right): General view of site from the north**





**Plate 3: General view across site from the east**



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Figure 1: Site location

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 All aspects of the evaluation were carried out according to the standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and according to Greenlane Archaeology's own excavation manual (Greenlane Archaeology 2007).

### 2.2 Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 In order to provide some historical context for the building recording a rapid desk-based assessment was carried out, utilising information gathered from the following locations:

- **Greenlane Archaeology library:** copies of early maps and relevant secondary sources such as published collections of early photographs held in Greenlane Archaeology's library were consulted to provide information about the development of the site. In addition, other information covering the wider historical development of the area was extracted from previous archaeological reports for sites nearby carried out by Greenlane Archaeology;
- **Cumbria Archive Centre (Barrow-in-Furness) (CAC(B)):** a single source was also consulted here as it was being visited for another project: the rating valuation of 1910, which is a particularly useful document for revealing the later owners, occupiers, and uses of buildings.

### 2.3 Archaeological Evaluation

2.3.1 Each of the two evaluation trenches was on average c2m wide and c7.8m long. The combined area evaluated totalled approximately 30m<sup>2</sup> (Figure 2). Excavation in Trench 1 was discontinued once the natural geology was reached at a depth of c0.2m below the current ground surface, at a height of c22.1m above sea level. A burst water pipe at the north end of Trench 2 meant that excavation in this area could not be continued due to flooding of the trench. The natural was encountered here at 21.4m above sea level.

2.3.2 The topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed using a mechanical excavator with a toothless bucket. Deposits below this were subsequently cleaned and further investigated by hand. The location of each trench was recorded relative to nearby property boundaries and other structures that were evident on the site plans and Ordnance Survey mapping utilising a total station. All finds were collected from all deposits, as far as was practical. The following recording techniques were used during the evaluation:

- **Written record:** descriptive records of all deposits and features (see *Appendix 2*) were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets, in this case a trench records sheet for each trench;
- **Photographs:** photographs in both 35mm colour print and colour digital format were taken of all archaeological features uncovered during the evaluation, 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 trenches were surveyed 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. This enabled the location of each trench to be positioned and allowed levels above Ordnance Datum to be provided through reference to a nearby spot height;
- **Drawings:** sketches were made on trench record sheets showing the location of any features of interest and areas where sondages were excavated in order to better understand the survey data.



## 2.4 Finds

2.4.1 **Collection:** all of the finds were recovered by hand and stored in self-seal bags with white write-on panels on site before being removed for processing and assessment.

2.4.2 **Processing:** artefacts were washed (or dried and dry brushed in the case of glass and metal), dried in a drying oven or naturally air-dried, and packaged appropriately in self-seal bags with white write-on panels.

2.4.3 **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 contexts suitable for the retrieval of environmental samples were encountered and so no samples were taken.

## 2.6 Archive

2.6.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the evaluation, formed during the project, will be stored by Greenlane Archaeology until it is completed. Upon completion it will be deposited with the Cumbria Archive Centre in Barrow-in-Furness (CAC(B)). The archive has been compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the ClfA (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.

2.6.2 A copy of the report will be deposited with the archive at the Cumbria Archive Centre in Barrow-in-Furness, one will be supplied to the client, and within one month of the completion of fieldwork, a digital copy will be provided for Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES). In addition, Greenlane Archaeology will retain one copy and a digital copy will be submitted to the OASIS scheme.

2.6.3 The client will be encouraged to transfer ownership of any finds suitable for retention to an appropriate museum, most likely the Dock Museum in Barrow-in-Furness or 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 would be made of them beforehand.

## 3. Historical and Archaeological Background

### 3.1 Site History

3.1.1 **Ulverston:** while there is evidence for prehistoric activity from the general area of the town in the form of casual finds such as stone axes and axe hammers dating from the Neolithic and Bronze Age (CCC and English Heritage 2002, map D), the extent of any associated settlement is, as yet, uncertain. More recently a large enclosure has been identified on Hoad, to the north of town, considered to be of Late Bronze Age or Iron Age origin (Elsworth 2005; 2014).

3.1.2 While there have been occasional finds of Roman coins from around the town, no evidence has yet been confirmed of settlement in the immediate area from that period. Some of these stray finds, such as a coin (Shotter 1989, 42), have been found in relatively close proximity to the site, however, and a single fragment of possible Romano-British pottery was recently found during an evaluation on the south side of The Gill (OA North 2004). Recent reappraisal of the evidence for Roman activity in the general area, however, suggests that a road may have passed close to or through Ulverston and that this could have had an associated settlement (Elsworth 2007).

3.1.3 Although the town is thought to be of at least medieval date, the place-name demonstrates an earlier origin although its meaning is uncertain (SLDC 2005, 5). One suggestion is that it comes from the Anglo-Saxon personal name 'Wulfhere', or that it was the vill of the manor of Hougoun (*ibid*). The latter idea is perhaps further supported by the notion that it may derive from 'how-town' or 'haugr-tun' meaning hill-town – it was commonly known as 'Ooston' in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (Elsworth 2005, 15). Much of the town centre is based on planned burgage plots laid out during the medieval period, and it is from this time that it grew in size and prosperity. It was granted a market charter in 1280, although it was forced to compete with the market at Dalton, which was under the patronage of Furness Abbey, from an early date and this may have impeded the town's growth (SLDC 2005, 6). During the early 14<sup>th</sup> century it was also considerably damaged by raids from Scotland, which left considerable areas of waste (*ibid*).

3.1.4 During the post-medieval period Ulverston's prosperity increased, however, mainly as a result of its connections to the iron mining and smelting industries (*op cit*, 7). Its port also gained from the trade in this material and through connections to Lancaster and Liverpool and by the 18<sup>th</sup> century it had many ships (*ibid*). This peaked with the construction of the Ulverston canal in 1796, which considerably increased the capacity of the town for maritime trade (*ibid*) by effectively creating a large quay. Ulverston's industries continued to prosper throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although the railway replaced the canal, and as a result the town expanded and was subject to regular improvements and expansion (*op cit*, 8-9).

3.1.5 **Tarn Side:** Tarn Side lies on the edge of the medieval core of Ulverston to the rear of probable burgage plots running off what is now Fountain Street. The site actually falls within an area named 'Tarn Field' on the earliest detailed map of Ulverston, Wood's map of 1832, which suggests that the area was originally filled with water before being reclaimed and partially built on. It is possible that this tarn is the 'Kirktarne' referred to from at least the late 17<sup>th</sup> century as it is described as being near Rattenrow (now Quebec Street; CAC(B) BDS 19/T5-T6 1689), which formerly extended far as the east end of what is now Hart Street; the name 'Kirktarne' would also suggest that it was close to the church, which Tarn Field evidently was. This reference also relates to land held by Town Bank School and it is noticeable that on the 1832 plan Tarn Field is marked as belonging to Town Bank School (Plate 4). The fact that this part of Ulverston is named 'Tarn Side' is also another obvious indicator that there was at one time a tarn nearby.

3.1.6 The map evidence (see *Section 3.2* below) shows that the buildings that formerly stood on the site were constructed between 1850 and 1889, but it does not reveal what they were for. However, the rating valuation of 1910 describes the site only as 'sheds, yards etc', owned and occupied by John Coward (CAC(B) BT/IR/1/27 1910). A near contemporary directory states that John Coward, of 34 Fountain Street, was part of the business of James Coward and Son of the same address, who are described as 'timber merchants, wood and truss hoop and oak basket and hammer and pick shaft

makers' (Bulmer 1911, 380). Further research would be necessary to establish when they were first at this site, but the business was clearly in existence in one form or another from at least the 1830s to the 1940s (CAC(B) BDHJ/5 1847-1943; CAC(B) BDHJ/6 1834-1925), although it apparently ceased trading in 1926 (CAC(B) BDHJ/7 1903-1926). A diary kept by John Coward mentions timber at Tarn Side and would therefore seem to be referring to the site (Peter Lowe pers comm).

## 3.2 Map Regression

3.2.1 **Introduction:** early maps of the area tend to be relatively lacking in detail and are certainly not specific enough to be useful in understanding the development of the property. The earliest useful maps are therefore only from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

3.2.2 **Wood's map of Ulverston, 1832:** this is the earliest detailed plan of the whole town (Plate 4). The site lies within an open area of land called 'Tarn Field', which is perhaps associated with Town Bank School.

3.2.3 **Ordnance Survey, 1850:** the site is still shown as undeveloped on the Ordnance Survey map of 1850, which was surveyed in 1846-7 (Plate 5).

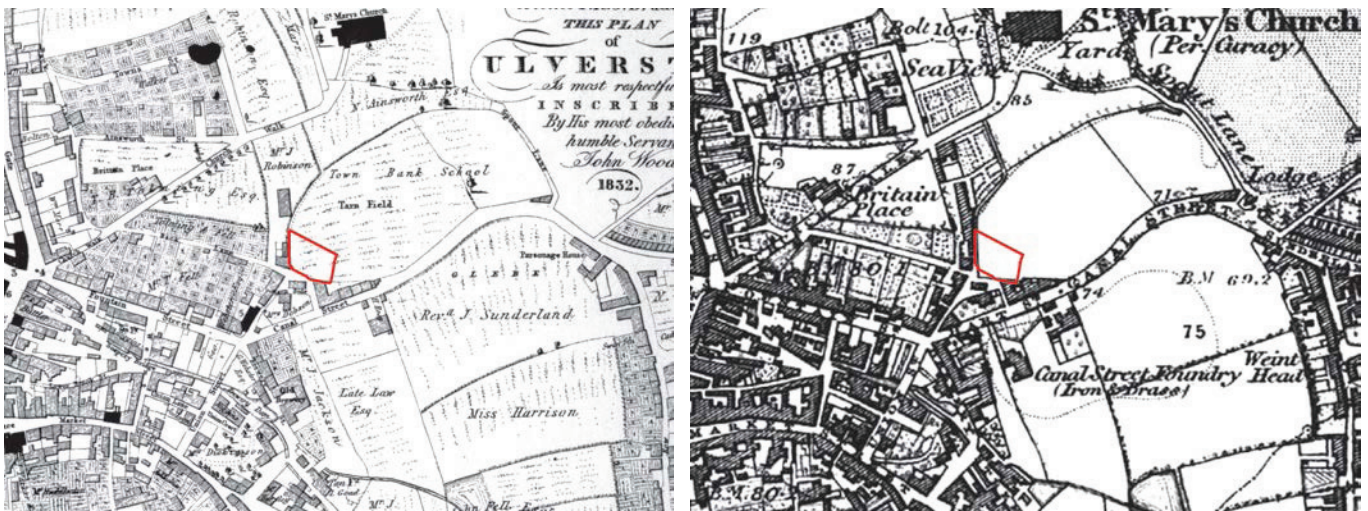


Plate 4 (left): Extract from Wood's map of Ulverston of 1832

Plate 5 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1850

3.2.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1852:** Ulverston is fortunate in having a detailed Ordnance Survey plan of such an early date. The site is undeveloped at this time (Plate 6).

3.2.5 **Ordnance Survey, 1891:** there is a considerable gap between the publication of the earlier map in 1852 and the surveying of the first map at a scale of 1: 2,500 in 1889. It is apparent that by that date various structures had been built on the site (Plate 7). The dashed line forming the south side of the central building indicates that this side of it was open.





Plate 6 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1852



Plate 7 (right): Detailed extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1891

3.2.6 **Ordnance Survey, 1913:** it is apparent that by this date various changes had been made to buildings to the north side of the site (Plate 8). In addition a smithy is now marked, but this relates to the building immediately to the south-west of the site.

3.2.7 **Ordnance Survey, 1933:** some amendments were made to buildings towards the centre of the site (Plate 9).

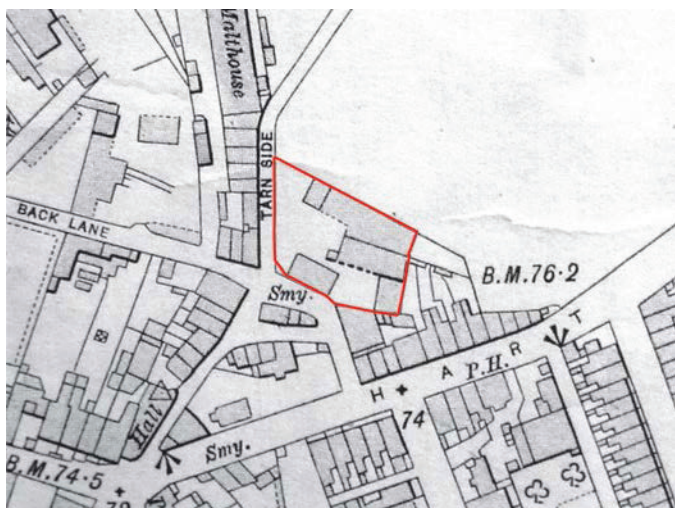


Plate 8 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913



Plate 9 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1933

### 3.3 Previous Archaeological Work

3.3.1 While there has been no previous archaeological work carried out on the site a watching brief was carried out during the construction of a new building in the garden of Laurel Cottage on Hart Street a short distance to the south, which revealed no features of archaeological interest although a single fragment of medieval pottery was found (Minerva Heritage 2009). From the same garden a flint artefact of uncertain type, perhaps of Neolithic or Bronze Age date was also recovered (HER number 43912). The southernmost of the buildings that were standing on the site until recently was also recorded as part of a brief survey of warehouses carried out in Ulverston (Elsworth and Dawson 2005; Elsworth 2006).



## 3.4 Conclusion

3.4.1 While the area evidently had medieval origins, and there is even evidence for prehistoric activity, as is the case with much of the centre of Ulverston, it is clear from the map evidence that the site was undeveloped until the mid-to-late 19<sup>th</sup> century and originally formed part of a larger piece of land called 'Tarn Field'. This name indicates that it originally formed a tarn, perhaps the Kirktarne mentioned in early records. The southern end of this field, which comprised the site, was built over between c1850 and 1889, probably to form a yard for a local timber merchants, and it is likely that some of the 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings relating to this were still standing until their recent demolition, although during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century they had been used as a garage.

## 4. Fieldwork Results

### 4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 The natural (**104**) was encountered below a thin dumped deposit (**101**) and gravel bedding material (**100**) for the former Tarmac surface at a depth of approximately 0.2m below the current ground surface (Plate 10). A modern pipe trench (**103**), c0.3m wide, for a plastic water pipe, cut into the natural at the north end (Plate 11 and Plate 12; Figure 2). The underlying deposits were also noted to be more disturbed at this end approximately in line with the footprint of one of the recently demolished former buildings on site. The modern pipe trench was backfilled with a loose pale gravel (**102**).



Plate 10 (left): Trench 1 from the south

Plate 11 (centre): Trench 1 from the north

Plate 12 (right): View along the modern drain in Trench 1

### 4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 A layer of fine gravel bedding material (**200**) covered the whole trench to a depth of c0.10m. Below that a sequence of dumped deposits was noted (contexts **201** to **204** and probably also **205**; Plate 13 and Plate 14). Of particular note, perhaps, was a dark grey sandy clay layer (**203**), which contained abundant post-medieval finds. A ceramic drain cut across the north end of the trench and an active iron water pipe was accidentally broken at the north end also (Figure 2). This caused the north end of the trench to become flooded and excavation in this area had to be abandoned. A sondage at the south end of the trench revealed the natural, which comprised a firm gravelly grey clay (**206**) at a depth of c21.4m above sea level (Plate 15) although it is possible that the overlying deposit (**205**) was also natural, albeit perhaps churned and containing considerably more stones than **206**.

4.2.2 **Trial holes:** while the evaluation was being carried out a further two trial holes were excavated by machine by the client against the northern boundary for the purposes of a contamination study (Figure 2). Although not examined in detail these were observed to deposits of a similar nature to those in Trench 2, albeit not as deep but with the natural encountered at a similar level.





**Plate 13 (left): Trench 2 viewed from the north**

**Plate 14 (right): Trench 2 viewed from the south**



**Plate 15: Trench 2, section at the south end**

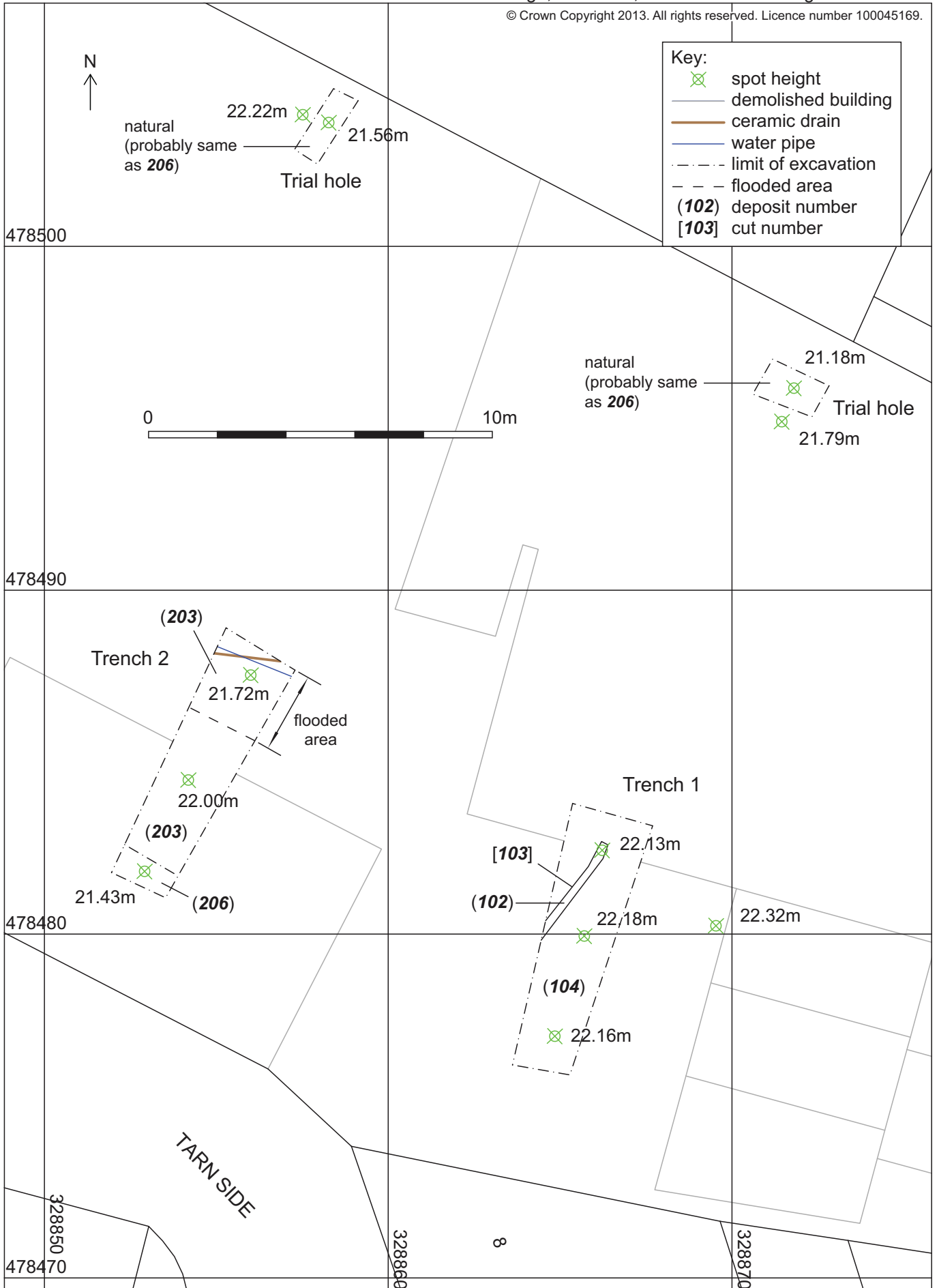


Figure 2: Trench plan showing levels and location of trial holes



## 4.4 Finds

4.4.1 **Introduction:** in total, 197 artefacts were recovered by hand from a variety of deposits during the evaluation, although of these a number were fragments from a single large animal bone and a single near-complete cat skull from context **203**. All of the finds are dealt with by category in the following sections and a complete list is provided in *Appendix 3*.

4.4.2 **Stone artefacts:** a single lump of flint was recovered from context **203**. Although found in an evidently post-medieval deposit, this appears to be a small core from which a number of flakes have been removed and, although difficult to date, is probably late Mesolithic or Early Neolithic.



Plate 16: Possible flint core from context **203**

4.4.3 **Medieval pottery:** a rod handle fragment, presumably from a jug or jar, with a dull, olive green glaze applied was recovered from context **203**, again clearly residual in this otherwise post-medieval deposit. The ware type (and therefore the date of the fragment) is difficult to determine because of the firing process and fragmentary nature of the piece. It has traits in common with both Partially Reduced Grey wares, which became the dominant late 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century ware (McCarthy and Brooks 1992, 34), and the later 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century Reduced Grey wares (Bradley and Miller 2009, 664), especially in terms of its drab glaze and chunkier feel.

4.4.4 **Post-medieval pottery:** overall the assemblage potentially ranges in date from the late 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> century to 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century and reflects typical domestic ware types of the region, including red and white earthenwares, stoneware, creamware, pearlware, porcelain and bone china. The more closely dateable fragments, which should be taken as a better indication of the actual date of the deposits, show a noticeable concentration of 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century dates.

4.4.5 **Post-medieval glass:** seven fragments of post-medieval glass were recovered from context **203**, most of which probably date from the late 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century (Morgan nd).

4.4.6 **Other post-medieval finds:** ceramic building material was recovered from context **101** and **203**, including red earthenware brick fragments of probably later post-medieval date. Several lumps of soft fired clay from context **203** are probably also ceramic building material, most likely hand-made brick of earlier post-medieval date.

4.4.7 **Industrial residue and metal finds:** two corroded nails, other heavily corroded metal objects, and industrial residue were recovered from context **203**. While generally undateable they are further evidence that this comprised a dumped deposit of general waste, probably from the local area.

4.4.8 **Clay tobacco pipe:** five plain clay tobacco pipe stem fragments were recovered from context **203** (*Appendix 3*). On the basis of the borehole diameters (4/64" and 5/64"), they most likely date from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century (following Davey 2013).

4.4.9 **Animal bone:** eight fragments of a small cat (possibly a kitten) skull were recovered from context **203**. A further 29 fragments of large mammal bones (actually probably comprising only five separate

bones, one of which was broken into several refitting pieces), of which one had been sawn, were recovered from the same context.

4.4.10 **Shell:** a cockle shell was recovered from context **203**.

4.4.11 **Conclusion:** in general the finds are consistent with the dumping of domestic, and perhaps also small-scale industrial, rubbish on the site, seemingly in quite large quantities and in the case of Trench 2 presumably therefore intended to fill an existing hollow area, perhaps deliberately prior to building on the site. The two obviously earlier finds were presumably incorporated amongst the rubbish, perhaps as a result of clearing stones and other items from gardens; in this regard it is noteworthy that a prehistoric flint artefact was found nearby during gardening (see *Section 3.3.1*).

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Results

5.1.1 **Trench 1:** the natural geology was very shallow in Trench 1 and a modern trench for a plastic water pipe, backfilled with gravel, was the only feature revealed. Some disturbance was noted at the north end of the trench which probably related to the removal of footings from buildings which formerly stood there.

5.1.2 **Trench 2:** the deposits in Trench 2 were much deeper than in Trench 1. A number of dumped deposits were noted over the natural, suggesting that in this area there had been a depression of some form, perhaps relating to the tarn that had probably stood on the site prior to 1832, that had been filled in prior to the construction of the buildings on the site in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The finds recovered from these dumped deposits are certainly in keeping with this date, although they included residual earlier material comprising a possible flint core and the handle of a medieval ceramic vessel. It is conceivable that material was being brought from neighbouring areas, or even further afield, in order to fill in a wet area prior to building, hence the incorporation of these earlier finds. The discovery of both medieval and prehistoric finds from the garden of Laurel Cottage, a short distance away on Hart Street, is therefore of potential relevance.

5.1.3 **Trial holes:** these showed a similar sequence of deposits to Trench 2, albeit not as deep, with the natural encountered at a similar depth.

### 5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 The site originally formed part of a larger field extending to the north that is likely to have been a tarn sometime before 1832. The site was first developed between c1850 and 1889 and was certainly used as a yard and storage for a local timber merchant by at least 1910, although it is likely that it was they who developed the site in the first place. Some of these 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings still stood on site until fairly recently, and latterly served as a garage.

5.2.2 The most substantial deposit (**203**) contained a considerable amount of the finds from the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century and probably relate to the deliberate infilling of a wet area prior to the construction of buildings for the timber yard. However, the possible flint core and medieval vessel handle attest to the earlier history of this part of the town.

5.2.2 On the basis of the evaluation, which did not record any particularly significant finds or features, there is limited potential for finding more important archaeological remains on the site, and so no further work is recommended.

## 6. Bibliography

### 6.1 Primary and Cartographic Sources

CAC(B) BDHJ/5, 1847-1943 *James Coward and Son, Timber Merchants*

CAC(B) BDHJ/6, 1834-1925 *James Coward, Timber Merchant*

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CAC(B) BDS 19/T5-T6, 1689 *Lease and Release Ulverston Town Bank School Deeds*

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## Appendix 1: Project Design

# TARN SIDE GARAGE, ULVERSTON, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Evaluation Project Design



Client: Alan Cumberbatch

NGR: 328860 478487

Planning Ref.: SL/2014/1029

August 2015

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Client: Alan Cumberbatch

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# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Following the submission of a planning application (Ref. SL/2014/1029) for the demolition of disused buildings and the erection of six new dwellings on the land at Tarn Side Garage, Ulverston, Cumbria (NGR 328860 478487), Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation of the site, following advice from the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES). This project design was produced in response.

1.1.2 Tarn Side lies on the edge of the medieval core of Ulverston to the rear of probable burgage plots running off what is now Fountain Street. The site actually falls within an area named 'Tarn Field' on the earliest detailed map of Ulverston, Wood's map of 1832, which suggests that the area was originally filled with water before being reclaimed and partially built on. It is possible that this tarn is the 'Kirk tarn' or 'Kirk Tarn' mentioned in a number of early records as it is close to the church.

## 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 20 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 Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Code of Conduct. The evaluation will be carried out according to their standards and guidance.

## 1.3 Project Staffing

1.3.1 The project will be managed and supervised by **Dan Elsworth (MA (Hons), CAIfA)** 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 similar archaeological excavation projects in the region including evaluation and excavation at the former Lowwood Gunpowder Works in Haverthwaite (Greenlane Archaeology 2010; 2011a), evaluation at Salthouse Farm, Millom (Greenlane Archaeology 2011b), and evaluation in Cartmel (Greenlane Archaeology 2011c), as well as several more projects over the last six years ranging from large excavations, to building recordings, surveys, and desk-based assessments.

1.3.2 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. Finds of earlier date will be assessed by specialist sub-contractors as appropriate. The Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) 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 (CCCHES) will be sought.

1.3.3 Environmental samples, and faunal or human remains will be processed by Greenlane Archaeology. It is envisaged that any environmental samples would be assessed by staff at Headland Archaeology, Roman pottery by Ruth Leary, and animal bones by Jane Richardson at ASWYAS. Other remains, such as industrial material, will be assessed by specialist sub-contractors as appropriate and the CCCHES will be informed and their approval will be sought for these arrangements.

## 2. Objectives

### 2.1 Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 To examine early maps of the area and other primary and secondary sources in order to place the results of the evaluation in their local and regional archaeological and historical context.

### 2.2 Archaeological Evaluation

2.2.1 To excavate evaluation trenches totalling 25m<sup>2</sup>, depending on the nature of any on site constraints. This will assess the presence or absence of features of archaeological interest within the area, their extent, date, nature, and significance.

### 2.3 Report

2.3.1 To produce a report detailing the results of the evaluation, that will present the results, and assess the potential of the site and significance of the remains.

### 2.4 Archive

2.4.1 Produce a full archive of the results of the evaluation.

## 3. Methodology

### 3.1 Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

3.1.1 Primary and secondary sources will be examined in a number of locations:

- **Greenlane Archaeology:** Greenlane Archaeology holds an extensive library of both primary and secondary sources relating to the history and archaeology of Ulverston, in particular relevant early maps, which will be examined in order to assess the development of the site;
- **Cumbria Archive Centre (Barrow-in-Furness) (CAC(B)):** where there are any gaps in the material held by Greenlane Archaeology additional material held at the local archive centre will also be accessed. Relevant secondary sources will also be consulted;
- **Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record (CCCHER):** this is a list of all known sites of archaeological interest in the county maintained by Cumbria County Council, and will be consulted in order to establish the extent of known archaeology in the area.

### 3.2 Archaeological Evaluation

3.2.1 A brief site visit will be carried out prior to the evaluation, primarily to ascertain whether there are any constraints to the evaluation, in particular issues of health and safety and access.

3.2.2 Evaluation trenching amounting to 25m<sup>2</sup> will be excavated, and it is envisaged that this will comprise two trenches each c8m in length and 1.7m wide (a standard excavator bucket width) depending on the topography and any constraints, targeted on the features of interest revealed during the desk-based assessment, as agreed with the CCCHES. These will be excavated until significant archaeological deposits or the natural geology are reached, or to a depth of 1.2m. The trenches will be positioned to target the features of possible archaeological interest recorded during the desk-based assessment. It is anticipated that the evaluation will take two days on site with two archaeologists (totalling four person days).

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



- Each trench will be excavated with regard to the position of any known constraints, focussing on the areas of high archaeological interest or potential, and avoiding areas which are likely to have been severely damaged or truncated by later activity, unless they are considered to have a high potential;
- The overburden (which is likely to largely comprise topsoil) will be removed by machine under the supervision of an archaeologist until the first deposit beneath it is reached;
- All deposits below the overburden 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 CCCHES, with the intension of preserving as much *in situ* as possible;
- 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. 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;
- All deposits, trenches, drawings and photographs will be recorded on Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- All finds will be recovered during the evaluation 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 evaluation, 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;
- Any human remains discovered during the evaluation will be left *in situ*, and, if possible, covered. The CCCHES 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 securely stored off-site, or covered and protected on site if immediate removal is not possible;
- Each evaluation trench will be backfilled following excavation although it is not envisaged that any further reinstatement to its original condition will be carried out.

3.2.4 Should any significant archaeological deposits be encountered during the evaluation these will immediately be brought to the attention of the CCCHES so that the need for further work can be confirmed. Any additional work will be carried out following discussion with the CCCHES and subject to a new project design, and the ensuing costs will be agreed with the client.

### 3.3 Report

3.3.1 The results of the evaluation 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;
- Results of the evaluation, incorporating the results of the desk-based assessment, 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 present within the study area, and areas of further archaeological potential. Any recommendations for further work, and appropriate types of further work, will be provided separately;
- Bibliography, including both primary and secondary sources;
- Illustrations at appropriate scales including:
  - a site location plan related to the national grid;
  - copies of early maps, plans, drawings, photographs and other illustrations of elements of the site collected as part of the desk-based assessment as appropriate to aid the understanding of the results of the evaluation;
  - a plan showing the location of the evaluation trenches in relation to nearby structures and the local landscape;
  - plans and sections of the evaluation trenches showing any features of archaeological interest;
  - photographs of the evaluation, including both detailed and general shots of features of archaeological interest and the trench;
  - illustrations of individual artefacts as appropriate.

### 3.4 Archive

3.4.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the evaluation, formed during the project, will be stored by Greenlane Archaeology until it is completed. Upon completion it will be deposited with the Cumbria Archive Centre in Barrow-in-Furness (CAC(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.

3.4.2 A copy of the report will be deposited with the archive at the Cumbria Archive Centre in Barrow-in-Furness, one will be supplied to the client, and within two months of the completion of fieldwork, one paper and one digital copy will be provided for CCCHES. In addition, Greenlane Archaeology 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. Any finds recovered during the evaluation will be offered to an appropriate museum, most likely the Dock Museum in Barrow-in-Furness or 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 would be made of them beforehand.

## 4. Work timetable

4.1 Greenlane Archaeology will be available to commence the project from the **26<sup>th</sup> August 2015**, or at another date convenient to the client. The project will comprise the following tasks:

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

## 5. Other matters

### 5.1 Access

5.1.1 Access to the site for the evaluation 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 **£1,000,000**. 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	Loose pale grey gravel, 0.1m thick; more compacted, pink and yellow in centre	Gravel bedding material
<b>101</b>	Deposit	Dark grey sandy-clay with lots of gravel inclusions and brick fragments; less than 0.10m thick except at the north end where it was up to 0.15m thick, more disturbed, and contained whole brick fragments	Dumped deposit
<b>102</b>	Deposit	Loose, pale gravel / angular cobbles; fill of cut <b>103</b>	Fill of pipe trench
<b>103</b>	Cut	Cut for modern water pipe, 0.3m wide by c2.6m long (extending beyond the limits of the trench to the south-west end), with black plastic pipe protruding at north-east end; not excavated	Cut of pipe trench
<b>104</b>	Deposit	Firm, gravelly clay, mid orange/brown; 30% rounded and angular volcanics	Natural
<b>200</b>	Deposit	Fine, pale gravel bedding for former concrete surface/floor of building c0.1m thick	Gravel bedding material
<b>201</b>	Deposit	Mottled, dark grey, firm, sandy-clay, 0.1m thick	Dumped deposit
<b>202</b>	Deposit	Firm, fine pale/buff-coloured sand at the south end of the trench only (extending c1.0m into the trench); c0.1m thick	Fine sand
<b>203</b>	Deposit	Firm, dark grey, clay, mottled with orange clay; contained brick fragments; 30% rounded cobbles upto 0.2m thick; lenses of ash and clay	Dumped deposit
<b>204</b>	Deposit	Mid-to-dark brown gritty clay at the south end of the trench only, with 20% angular and rounded cobbles, 0.1m thick	Dumped deposit
<b>205</b>	Deposit	Pale grey, gritty silt, 0.45-0.50m thick, with 20% rounded cobbles	Dumped deposit
<b>206</b>	Deposit	Firm grey clay with 10% angular stones	Natural

## Appendix 3: Summary Finds List

Context	Type	Qty	Description	Date range
101	Pottery	1	Refitting brown-glazed red earthenware coarseware base fragments with white slip-coated interior	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> century
101	Ceramic building material	1	Red earthenware brick (?) fragment	Not closely dateable (post-medieval)
201	Pottery	1	Glazed buff-coloured stoneware jar/flagon fragment	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
201	Pottery	1	Factory-produced glazed buff-coloured earthenware	Mid 18 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
201	Pottery	1	Thin-walled black-glazed red earthenware hollow-ware body fragment	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
201	Pottery	1	Creamware	Mid-late 18 <sup>th</sup> century
203	Pottery	17	Black-glazed red earthenware coarseware, including two refitting crock rims and crock base, and rim from smaller vessel	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
203	Pottery	27	Brown-glazed red earthenware coarseware, including crock base, pancheon and bowl bases, bottle base, and everted vessel rims, six fragments with white slip decoration, and one with white slip coating internally	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
203	Pottery	3	Red earthenware coarseware without glazed surfaces present	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
203	Pottery	3	Brown-glazed orange earthenware: refitting crock base fragments and pancheon rim fragment	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> century?
203	Pottery	1	Dark brown-glazed reduced red earthenware fineware, factory-produced (teapot?)	18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> century?
203	Pottery	1	Brown-glazed orange earthenware with white slip-coated interior and white slip stripes on exterior, factory-produced fineware	19 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century?
203	Ceramic building material	3	Red earthenware fragments	Not closely dateable (post-medieval)
203	Pottery	6	Brown-glazed grey-bodied stoneware bottle and jar fragments	18 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
203	Pottery	7	Factory-produced glazed buff-coloured earthenware, including three with slip stripes	Mid 18 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
203	Pottery	1	White salt-glazed stoneware hollow-ware vessel base	18 <sup>th</sup> century
203	Pottery	9	Creamware, including base fragments, and factory-produced slipware with moulded handle terminal	Mid-late 18 <sup>th</sup> century
203	Pottery	23	Pearlware, including two refitting factory-produced slipware bowl fragments, two refitting teacup rim fragments painted in an earth colours floral pattern, a relief-moulded floral plate rim with black-painted edge stripe, blue painted hollow-ware rim, white-on-blue transfer-printed saucer rim, and three spittoon (?) rim fragments with pink lustre stripe	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
203	Pottery	23	White earthenware, including three refitting purple transfer-printed plate base fragments, Willow transfer-printed plate rim fragment, blue painted shell edge plate rim fragment, and painted hollow-ware rim fragment	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> century
203	Pottery	1	Burnt creamware/pearlware (?) with blue painted pattern	Mid 18 <sup>th</sup> – early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
203	Pottery	1	Porcelain	18 <sup>th</sup> – early 20 <sup>th</sup> century

Context	Type	Qty	Description	Date range
203	Pottery	1	Bone china	19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> century
203	Glass	4	Dark green bottle fragments: high kick base x 2, neck x 1, body x 1	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
203	Glass	2	Colourless bottle refitting base fragments	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> century
203	Glass	1	Thin, flat fragment, probably window pane	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> century?
203	Animal bone	8	Refitting skull fragments of a small cat (kitten?)	Uncertain
203	Animal bone	29	Fragments from approximately five large mammal bones (one broken into several refitting pieces), one of which is sawn	Uncertain
203	Shell	1	Cockle shell	Uncertain
203	Fe object	2	Corroded nails, one with square head	Post-medieval?
203	Metal	4	Corroded pieces of composite object or several objects fused together, containing iron and copper alloy	Uncertain
203	Industrial residue	1	Undiagnostic iron-working slag, probably smithing waste	Uncertain
203	Stone	1	Lump of pale greyish brown flint with white cortex, several flakes removed from surface with cortex so possibly a small core	Late Mesolithic – Neolithic?
203	Ceramic building material	2	Probable red brick fragment and slightly mottled pinkish white fragment	Post-medieval?
203	Ceramic building material	3	Soft lumps of fired clay varying in section from a fairly clearly defined darkish grey and light red colour; no obvious surfaces; probably early hand-made brick	17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> century?
203	Pottery	1	A rod handle fragment, presumably from a jug or jar, in a coarse, hard, sandy fabric, with few sparse inclusions; the fabric is reduced to a mid grey colour at its core, with a lighter whitish grey outer margin; the outer margin and surface is sometimes oxidised to a lighter orangey-brown colour and a dull, olive green glaze has been applied to the upper(?) surface of the handle; the ware type (and therefore the dating) is difficult to determine because of the firing process and fragmentary nature of this piece; it has traits in common with both Partially Reduced Grey wares, which became the dominant late 13 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> century ware (McCarthy and Brooks 1992, 34), and the later 15 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> century Reduced Grey wares (Bradley and Miller 2009, 664), especially in terms of its drab glaze and chunkier feel	13 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> century?
203	Clay tobacco pipe	5	Plain stem fragments: 1 x L: 32mm; D: 8mm; 5/64" bore diameter; 1 x L: 34mm; D: 6mm; 5/64" bore diameter; 1 x L: 22mm; D: 7mm; 5/64" bore diameter; 1 x L: 25mm; D: 5mm; 4/64" bore diameter; 1 x L: 19mm; D: 6mm; 5/64" bore diameter.	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> century