

FURNESS ABBEY COTTAGE, ABBEY APPROACH, BARROW-IN-FURNESS, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Watching Brief



Client: Mr and Mrs Gilmour
Scheduled Monument Consent
Ref.: HSD 9/2/8945
NGR: SD 21778 72039

© Greenlane Archaeology Ltd
January 2008



Greenlane Archaeology Ltd,
2 Albrights Yard, Theatre Street,
Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 7AQ

Tel: 01229 588 500
Email: info@greenlancearchaeology.co.uk
Web: www.greenlancearchaeology.co.uk

Contents

Non-Technical Summary.....	2
Acknowledgements	2
1. Introduction.....	3
1.1 Circumstances of the Project.....	3
1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography	3
2. Methodology.....	4
2.1 Introduction.....	4
2.2 Desk-Based Assessment	4
2.3 Archaeological Watching Brief	4
2.4 Finds.....	5
2.5 Environmental samples	5
2.6 Archive	5
3. Desk-Based Assessment Results	6
3.1 Background History	6
3.2 Map Regression	7
3.3 Previous Work	7
3.4 Conclusion.....	8
4. Fieldwork Results	9
4.1 Watching Brief	9
4.2 Finds.....	10
5. Discussion and Conclusion	11
5.1 Discussion	11
5.2 Conclusion.....	11
6. Bibliography.....	12
6.1 Primary and Cartographic Sources	12
6.2 Secondary Sources	12
7 Illustrations	13
7.1 List of Figures.....	13
7.2 List of Plates.....	13
Appendix 1: Project Design.....	14
Appendix 2: Summary Context List.....	20

Non-Technical Summary

A planning application was submitted for the construction of a two storey extension, garage, and new porch at Furness Abbey Cottage, Abbey Approach, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (NGR SD 21778 72039), the extension and garage of which lay within the Scheduled Monument of Furness Abbey (No. 13572). An archaeological condition was placed on the Scheduled Monument Consent (Reference HSD 9/2/8945) requiring a rapid desk-based assessment, and an archaeological watching brief on all foundation trenching. The work was carried out by Greenlane Archaeology in December 2007.

The desk-based assessment revealed that the property was built c1873 for the Furness Railway Company. The property still had stables to the west which are now used for storage, and a coach house to the north was demolished between 1956 and 1983. There was also a building on the site prior to the construction of Furness Abbey Cottage, and this existed from at least 1843 although no details are known about its ownership or function.

The archaeological watching brief revealed that the footprint for the new extension followed the outer line of the demolished coach house, whose walls survived below ground level. The result of this was that backfilled foundation trenches were probably re-excavated; the loosely packed disturbed natural contained no artefacts. The situation was the same in the porch area; here the foundations for an earlier porch had disturbed the ground. Excavations in the area of the garage revealed that the base of the quarry was possibly deeper than the current ground level and that some infilling and landscaping had occurred in this area, probably at the time the house was constructed or later. No earlier archaeological features were encountered.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Russell Gilmour for commissioning and supporting the project, and John Coward Architects for providing site plans. Further thanks are also due to the staff of the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow (CRO(B)) for their help and to Andrew Davison of English Heritage for his help and additional information.

The site work was carried out by Sam Whitehead who also wrote this report, and Jo Dawson managed the project and edited the report.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Mr and Mrs Gilmour (hereafter 'the client') propose to create a two storey extension and a double garage at Furness Abbey Cottage, Abbey Approach, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (NGR SD 21778 72039; Planning Application No. 57/2007/0123; Fig 1), which lies within the Scheduled Monument boundary of Furness Abbey. The client's agents, John Coward Architects, therefore applied for Scheduled Monument Consent to carry out the works. The consent was granted by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media, and Sport, with the condition that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during all ground works (Davison 2007; reference HSD 9/2/8945). The watching brief was carried out over three days between the 3rd and 18th of December 2007.

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 Furness Abbey Cottage is located towards the south-west end of the Furness Peninsula between the towns of Dalton and Barrow, in southern Cumbria. This area is on the north side of Morecombe Bay on a sandy coastal plain consisting of gently undulating pastureland, and the Furness low fells begin a short distance to the north. (Countryside Commission 1998, 65). The cottage is situated at the base of the west edge of the steep sided and wooded Vale of Nightshade, this sheltered valley is fed by Mill Beck which has cut deep into the Sherwood sandstone geology of the area (Moseley 1978, fig 1). The red sandstone used in the construction of Furness Abbey Cottage as well as the Abbey buildings was probably sourced on site. The site is approximately 19m above sea level.

2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This project comprised a rapid desk-based assessment and an archaeological watching brief. The rapid desk-based assessment is intended to establish the extent of the known archaeological resource in the area and produce an outline history of the site environs. The intention of the archaeological watching brief was to observe necessary ground works and record any archaeological deposits therein. It was hoped that the fieldwork in Area 2 may resolve whether the site was located in a medieval quarry. It was also possible that the trenching in Area 3 may reveal moulded stonework, as was witnessed by Andrew Davison when a pool was recently constructed in this garden area (A Davison pers comm.).

2.1.2 All aspects of the desk-based assessment and archaeological recording were carried out according to the standards and guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001).

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 An area of approximately 100m diameter was examined in order to identify sites of archaeological interest within the development area, and gauge the type of archaeological remains present in the general area surrounding it. In addition, the results of previous pieces of archaeological work were also examined in order to assess the level of survival of archaeological remains, periods present, and significance. Several sources of information were consulted in order to compile a history of the site and assess the presence of any known remains of historical or archaeological interest:

- **Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record (CCCHER):** this is a list of all the known sites of archaeological interest within the county, and is maintained by Cumbria County Council and is the primary source of information for an investigation of this kind. A list of all of the known sites of archaeological interest within 100m of the centre of the proposed development area was acquired; each identified site comes with a grid reference, description and source and any additional information referenced was also examined as necessary;
- **Cumbria County Record Office, Barrow (CRO(B)):** this was visited in order to examine early maps and plans of the site;
- **Greenlane Archaeology Library:** additional secondary sources, used to provide information for the site background, were examined.

2.3 Archaeological Watching Brief

2.3.1 Three separate areas of foundation trenching were monitored; Area 1 adjacent to the north end of the current property marks the location of the proposed extension (Plate 7), Area 2 to the south-west of the house marks the location of the proposed garage, and Area 3 adjacent to the eastern elevation of the property the location of a new porch. The trenches were then recorded in the following manner:

- **Written record:** descriptive records of all deposits and cuts were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets. In addition, a general record of each trench and the day's events was also made;

- **Photographs:** photographs in both 35mm colour print and colour digital format were taken of all archaeological features uncovered during the watching brief, as well as general views of the foundation trenches, the surrounding landscape and working shots. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report, and the remainder are presented on the accompanying CD. A written record of all of the photographs was also made on Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Drawings:**
 - i. Trench plans were produced at a scale of 1:50;
 - ii. Sketch sections were added to the context sheets.

2.3.2 Trench locations were recorded relative to the known location of nearby buildings and other structures that were evident on the site plans and Ordnance Survey maps. A temporary benchmark was created on site from a known height on the Furness Abbey Tavern. The heights of trenches were subsequently recorded and added to the plans and sections.

2.4 Finds

2.4.1 **Processing:** artefacts were washed, they were 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 assessed and identified, see *Section 4.3*.

2.5 Environmental samples

2.5.1 The absence of sealed deposits meant that no samples were taken.

2.6 Archive

2.6.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 2*), and current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (Ferguson and Murray n.d.; English Heritage 1991). The archive comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record will be deposited with the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness (CRO(B)). A copy will be offered to the National Monuments Record, and project details will be submitted to the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) scheme (English Heritage 2007b). A copy of the report will be supplied to the client and a digital copy to the client's agent and to English Heritage within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. A digital copy will also be provided for the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER).

3. Desk-Based Assessment Results

3.1 Background History

3.1.1 The background to the site is intended to place the results of the watching brief in its local context. More specifically, information regarding the development and use of the site, where known, is also presented, which allows a more detailed understanding of the results of the watching brief.

3.1.2 **Furness Abbey:** the site is within the grounds of Furness Abbey, an important Scheduled Monument (No. 13572). The Abbey was founded by Stephen, Count of Boulogne and Mortain, later king of England. He gave a site at Tulketh, Preston in 1124, before transferring the monks of the Savignac order to Furness in 1127. By 1147 this order had been incorporated into the Cistercian tradition making Furness Abbey the first Cistercian house in England, and further expansion of the site began. The remains of the Savignac monastery are still present above and below ground as well as the more extensive Cistercian monastery. The monastery grew in prosperity, and at the time of its dissolution in 1537 it was the second richest Cistercian monastery in England. The Abbey had acquired extensive property deep into the Lake District, Yorkshire, and Lincolnshire and the deep water port at Piel allowed access and trade with the Isle of Man and Ireland. Sheep farming played an important part in the Abbey's growing wealth, due to the price of wool, as did the continued exploitation of the Furness iron ore deposits, which paved the way for the region's post medieval development.

3.1.3 Increasing wealth led to increased political autonomy and independence which attracted the attention of Scottish invaders; in the early 14th century it is recorded that the Abbot paid a ransom to Robert the Bruce in order to avoid plunder (NMR entry 13572). After the dissolution the monastery was handed over to the crown and the land was subsequently granted to the king's minister Thomas Cromwell, two years later it was passed to Sir Thomas Curwen the head of a leading local family. Thomas Curwen passed the property to his son-in-law John Preston, and in 1671 the then owner Thomas Preston built a mansion house on the grounds. The mansion deteriorated until it was re-built into a hotel by the Cavendish family, opening c1875. The hotel suffered bomb damage in 1941 and was demolished in 1953 (Wood 1998, 36). Some traces of the north wing have been incorporated into the Abbey Tavern which now stands in its place. The hotel was designed to serve the railway which was opened in 1847. In 1923 Richard Cavendish placed the ruins in the care of the Ministry of Works (*ibid*).

3.1.4 **Furness Abbey Cottage:** the cottage itself was constructed for the Furness Railway Company in response to the increased tourism created by the railway station and the new hotel at the site. According to the Listed Building details, (English Heritage 2007a) the cottage was constructed in c1873, and was built as the coachman's house to serve the Furness Abbey Hotel, which also belonged to the Railway Company. The stables and coach house suggest the main function of the property was to take care of the travel needs of visitors disembarking at the station. The first census compiled after the construction of the house suggests it was inhabited by the stationmaster and his family, Christopher and Mary Stephenson and their two children Thomas and Alicia (RG11/4290/85 p27 1881).

3.2 Map Regression

3.2.1 **William Gibson's Estate Plan 1775** (Plate 1): unfortunately the original plan is privately held; the extract reproduced in Wood (1998, 31) probably just covers the area of Furness Abbey Cottage and the site appears to be woodland.

3.2.2 **Hennett's Map of 1830** (Plate 2): while this map lacks detail, it is clear that the Abbey Approach road existed at this time and that there is no property in the vicinity of the current Furness Abbey Cottage site.

3.2.3 **Ordnance Survey 1851** (Plate 3): the first accurate map of the site shows that Furness Abbey Cottage was not built by this date. It does appear that there is a small standing building at the site at this time; this building also appears on an enlarged plan of the Furness Abbey site dated 1843 (from the original survey carried out for the Furness Railway). This plan is reproduced by Dickinson (1967, 73) but the original could not be located in the Record Office.

3.2.4 **Ordnance Survey 1873** (Plate 4): this is the first map to show Furness Abbey Cottage. The stabling to the west and the coach house to the north is clearly visible and the main house is represented by the lower right hand leg of the 'H' shape.

3.2.5 **Ordnance Survey 1891** (Plate 5): this map shows a very similar plan to the 1873 map, the main difference being the apparent addition of an outbuilding at the north end of the 'H' shape. The detail is also greater on this map and shows the covered walkway between the drive of the main house through to the yard of the stables and coach house area. It is clear from this plan that access to the coach house could only be gained from the south side of the property at this date.

3.2.7 **Ordnance Survey 1900-1914**: maps from this period suggest that the covering of the yard area occurred between 1900 and 1914 (Barrow Borough Council 2007).

3.2.6 **Ordnance Survey 1956** (Plate 6): this map apparently shows that the entire yard area was covered by this date and the layout of the buildings remains the same. It is also noticeable that the boundary to the south of the cottage has disappeared by this date.

3.2.8 **English Heritage Plan** (see Fig 2): this modern plan of the site shows that the northern half of the stable block and the coach housing have both been demolished. This must have occurred sometime after the 1956 OS map was produced, and prior to the listing of the property in 1983. A porch has also been added to the eastern elevation, its construction would also fall into the same date range.

3.3 Previous Work

3.3.1 Details of previous archaeological work carried out within the study area were also examined. These can help to determine the likely nature of any archaeological deposits in the local area, the presence or absence of any remains of particular interest, and add to the general background history of the site and its environs.

3.3.2 **Watching brief at Abbey House Hotel**: a watching brief was carried out on land at the Abbey House Hotel during groundworks for an extension (OA North 2002, quoted in English Heritage 2007c). Post-medieval features and a possible extension to the Precinct boundary wall of Furness Abbey were recorded (*ibid*). No report was deposited in the HER.

3.3.3 **Watching brief at Furness Abbey Visitor Centre**: a watching brief was carried out which involved monitoring ground works for the new visitor centre. No

details of the results were available (OA North 2005, quoted in English Heritage 2007c). No report was deposited in the HER.

3.4 Conclusion

3.4.1 The results of the desk-based assessment show that the date of Furness Abbey Cottage is known to be c1873, and that a square shaped standing building existed on the site prior to that. Little can be said about this earlier building except that it probably does not relate to Furness Railway as it exists at the time of the railway's original survey, and it is later replaced by one of the railway buildings. No archaeological work has been carried out at the site itself, and very little archaeological work appears to have been carried out beyond the main focus of the Abbey. Changes in the layout of Furness Abbey Cottage have been well documented and can be roughly dated by the maps examined.

4. Fieldwork Results

4.1 Watching Brief

4.1.1 **Introduction:** three separate areas of foundation trenching were monitored; Area 1 adjacent to the north end of the current property marks the location of the proposed extension, Area 2 to the south-west of the house marks the location of the proposed garage, and Area 3 adjacent to the eastern elevation of the property the location of a new porch. General observations were also made, and a brief photographic record was made of a carved stone that had been built into the west wall of a lean-to against the north wall of the cottage (Plate 14), which was demolished prior to the start of the watching brief.

4.1.2 **Area 1:** a large U-shaped trench marked the footings of the two storey extension to butt the north of the existing house. Due to the logistics of its excavation the trench was recorded in three separate parts, A, B, and C (Plates 8-10). The footings excavated followed the outer edges of existing below ground red sandstone foundation walls that relate to the original plan of the cottage and its associated coach house (see Fig 3). The material excavated, (**01**), was a loose pinkish-orange sandy, silty-clay with moderate quantities of angular gravels, the clay content rose imperceptibly with depth. This deposit was interpreted as the natural glacial tills of the area that had been at least partly disturbed by the earlier footings. At a depth of 1m a more solid clayey layer was found which also corresponded with the depth of the earlier wall foundations, at this level the building inspector was satisfied with the integrity of the ground and excavation ceased. There was no evidence for the original construction cuts of the earlier walls in the homogenous natural deposits and no finds were recovered. Trenches A and B which were within the Scheduled Monument boundary were overlain with deposit (**02**), this was a 0.20m thick deposit of moderately firm, mid to dark greyish-brown silty-clay with occasional gravels. This deposit lacked the organic content of a garden soil and seemed more likely to have developed in a yard area, as with deposit (**01**) it was devoid of artefacts. Trench C to the east of the garden wall was overlain by garden soil (**03**) which was a greyish dark-brown slightly clayey-silt with occasional gravels and charcoal inclusions. This deposit was within the current garden and again was free from finds. The buttress that was known to exist in this area extended into the trench (see Plate 8; Fig 3) and was keyed in to the main wall and contemporary with it.

4.1.3 **Area 2:** a U-shaped trench was excavated to house the foundations for the garage, which was to utilise the existing southern elevation of the stable block to the west of the house (Plate 11). In addition to the trench, part of the steep quarry wall immediately west of the stable block was removed, and loose material including some driveway gravel was removed from within the footprint of the proposed garage building. The removal of part of the quarry face revealed thin and fractured layers of highly weathered red sandstone that would only be suitable for rubble courses. During the levelling of the garage footprint, prior to the excavation of the trench, a layer of pinkish mid-brown silty-sand was observed beneath the driveway gravels, this contained frequent broken angular red sandstone pieces which were typically 0.05m – 0.25m in length. This 0.20m thick layer, (**04**), appeared to be derived from the weathering of the exposed rock face possibly combined with relict quarrying debris. From this deposit a broken stoneware bottle was recovered (see Section 4.2, below). It would seem likely that this artefact post-dates the quarrying activity and has probably found its way into this deposit at the time of the cottage's construction (c1873) or later, when landscaping of the site would have occurred. At the west and south sides of the garage this layer sat on top of sandstone bedrock; in the north-east corner of this area it overlay context **05**, a less homogenous layer suggestive of

quarry backfill and tipping. Deposit **05** contained modern metal pieces and two roughly shaped red sandstone ashlar blocks, it was less silty than **04** and the stone and gravels were generally larger and less well sorted. This deposit extended to a depth of at least 1m in the north-east corner of the area and presumably relates to the original depth of the quarry, which has been subsequently infilled. As with **04** this deposit probably represents landscaping of the site and is likely to date from the time of the cottage's construction, or slightly later.

4.1.4 **Area 3:** this small U-shaped foundation trench for the new porch was excavated adjacent to the eastern elevation of the house (Plate 12). The garden soil (**03**) overlay the natural glacial tills (**01**) exactly as with Trench C in Area 1. No finds were recovered and as with Area 1 it is assumed that this ground was disturbed by the original construction of the house in c1873, as well as the previous porch of which a concrete pad still remains in the ground (see Fig 3).

4.1.5 **Summary:** no archaeological features were revealed except for the wall footings of the original cottage complex to the north of the current house; these will remain largely undisturbed when the extension is completed. It is likely that the trenches excavated in Areas 1 and 3 closely followed the original construction trenches of the cottage, and that the ground has therefore been disturbed in these areas. Area 2 revealed the possibility that the quarry was deeper than the current ground level and that some infilling or tipping has occurred in the area of the cottage driveway. The date of the stoneware pottery probably corresponds with this landscaping and the construction of the house and little can be said for sure about the history of the quarry due to the small area examined during the watching brief.

4.2 Finds

4.2.1 A single find was recovered, part of a stoneware gin or liqueur bottle from Amsterdam (Plate 13). This find was not from a sealed context and its presence in deposit **04** is probably the result tipping and landscaping.

4.2.2 The bottle bore the impressed mark 'ERVEN LUCAS BOLS / HET LOOTSJE / AMSTERDAM' (this translates as 'Heirs of Lucas Bols, The Little Shed, Amsterdam'). This company was in existence by the 17th century, but there was only a need to produce their own marked bottles from around 1850 onwards (Vermeulen 1997). Prior to this date local customers were bringing their containers to the factory, which were mainly German mineral water jugs (*ibid*). For selling outside Amsterdam the company purchased German stoneware jugs from German traders who were travelling through Holland with horse-drawn wagons carrying empty containers (*ibid*). From 1854 the company ordered their stoneware jugs directly from Germany, and they were still ordering them from the same pottery at the end of the 20th century (*ibid*).

4.2.3 The presence of a handle on the bottle recovered from context **04** suggests a latest possible date for the find. During the First World War it was not possible for the company to import bottles from Germany, and when imports resumed after the war they could only be produced without the handle (*ibid*). The date of the bottle is therefore c1850 to c1914.

5. Discussion and Conclusion

5.1 Discussion

5.1.1 **Introduction:** the results from the rapid desk-based assessment and the watching brief have added little to our overall knowledge of Furness Abbey Cottage or the Furness Abbey Scheduled Monument site, however certain issues have been resolved.

5.1.2 The foundations of the coach house were discovered to the north of the cottage, in Area 1. These foundations appeared to closely resemble the plan of the buildings as shown on the 1873 Ordnance Survey map (Plate 4), however the western north-south orientated wall (Trench B) continues past the southern wall of the east-west building (Trench B). This may indicate that the layout of the mapped buildings is wrong, or that the foundations laid did not reflect the end build.

5.1.3 There was no evidence for the Abbey precinct wall among the foundations of the cottage buildings, and there was nothing in the area to suggest its existence. It is difficult to envisage the correct path of the precinct wall from the sources consulted although it would seem likely that it followed the Abbey Approach Road northwards to somewhere near the current A590. The wall that runs eastwards from the southern side of the plot as shown on the three earliest Ordnance Survey maps probably relates to the later park boundary of the manor house.

5.1.4 The site of Furness Abbey Cottage is apparently within a quarry site, although it was not possible to confirm the suggestion that it was medieval in origin (Andrew Davison pers comm.). The friable nature of the exposed stone did not lend itself to preserving tool marks and the area excavated was too small to get accurate dating evidence, especially given the landscaping that has undoubtedly occurred over the last 135 years.

5.1.5 An earlier building did exist on the site; this was constructed before 1843 and presumably demolished to make way for Furness Abbey Cottage. No evidence for this structure was found in the watching brief and the desk-based assessment revealed no information about it. It does however suggest that the quarrying at the site pre-dates the construction of the cottage.

5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 During the watching brief no archaeological deposits were encountered. In Area 1 the foundations for the cottage's coach house were revealed, as expected, and these will remain in place under the extension that is currently being built. The trenches excavated around these foundations and for the porch (Area 3) both encountered disturbed natural that is the backfill of earlier construction cuts. A single find was retrieved from Area 2, a stoneware bottle from the late 19th century, and it is thought that this may be contemporary with the construction of the cottage and associated landscaping of the site. Evidence of an earlier building was discovered from the map regression, no evidence for this was encountered during the watching brief. The earlier building suggests that the quarrying on the site pre-dates the 1873 date for Furness Abbey Cottage, and must have occurred before 1843.

6. Bibliography

6.1 Primary and Cartographic Sources

Hennet, H, 1830 *A Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster*

Ordnance Survey, 1851 *Lancashire Sheet 21*, 1:10560, surveyed 1847

Ordnance Survey, 1873 *Lancashire Sheet 21*, 1:10560, surveyed 1873

Ordnance Survey, 1891 *Lancashire Sheet 21.4*, 1:1250, surveyed 1889

Ordnance Survey, 1956 **SD27SW**, 1:10560

RG11/4290/85 p27 1881 *Census*

6.2 Secondary Sources

Barrow Borough Council, 2007 *Historic Maps*, <http://www.barrowbc.gov.uk/>

Countryside Commission, 1998 *Countryside Character, Volume 2: North West*, Cheltenham

Davison, A, 2007 Letter to John Coward of John Coward Architects, regarding Furness Abbey Cottage, dated 19th July

Dickinson, JC, 1967 Furness Abbey: An Archaeological Reconsideration, *Trans Cumberland Westmorland Antiq Archaeol Soc*, 2nd ser, **67**, 51-79

English Heritage, 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edn, London

English Heritage 2007a *Images of England: Furness Abbey Cottage*, <http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/>

English Heritage, 2007b *OASIS: Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS*, <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>

English Heritage 2007c *PastScape*, http://pastscape.english-heritage.org.uk/events.aspx?a=0&hob_id=38229

Ferguson, LM, and Murray, DM, n.d. *Archaeological Documentary Archives*, IFA Paper 1, Reading

Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, revised edn, Reading

Moseley, F (ed), 1978 *The Geology of the Lake District*, Yorkshire Geological Society, occ publ **3**, Leeds

OA North, 2002 *Abbey House Hotel, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria: Watching Brief Report*, unpubl rep

OA North, 2005 *Furness Abbey Visitor Centre, Cumbria: An Archaeological Watching Brief*, unpubl rep

Vermeulen, P, 1997 *Erven Lucas Bols*, De Oude Flesch Verzamelaarsclub, <http://www.deoudeflesch.nl/english.htm>

Wood, J, 1998 History, in English Heritage (ed) *Furness Abbey*, London

7 Illustrations

7.1 List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Immediate site location

Figure 3: Trench plans

7.2 List of Plates

Plate 1: Extract from an estate map by William Gibson, 1775, (from Wood 1998, 31). The site of Furness Abbey Cottage appears to be woodland

Plate 2: Extract from Hennet's map of 1830 (prior to cottage being built)

Plate 3: extract from the 1850 Ordnance Survey map, there appears to be a building on the site at this date, north of the east-west wall in the top centre

Plate 4: Extract from the 1873 Ordnance Survey map (the H-shaped building is Furness Abbey Cottage in its earliest form)

Plate 5: Extract from the 1891 Ordnance Survey, note the eastern buttresses

Plate 6: Extract from the 1956 Ordnance Survey, appears to show covered yard

Plate 7: Furness Abbey Cottage from the north, showing Area 1

Plate 8: Area 1, Trench C, from north-west, note buttress near ranging rod

Plate 9: Area 1, Trench B, from west

Plate 10: Area 1, Trench A, from the south

Plate 11: Area 2, from the south-west

Plate 12: Area 3, from the west

Plate 13: Stoneware bottle from context **04**

Plate 14: Carved stone apparently from demolished outbuilding to north of Furness Abbey Cottage

Appendix 1: Project Design

FURNESS ABBEY COTTAGE, ABBEY APPROACH, BARROW-IN-FURNESS, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Watching Brief Project Design



Client: Mr and Mrs R Gilmour

August 2007

Scheduled Monument Consent No. HSD 9/2/8945

Commercial in confidence

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Mr and Mrs Gilmour (hereafter 'the client') propose to create a two storey extension and a double garage at Furness Abbey Cottage, Abbey Approach, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (NGR SD 21778 72039; Planning Application No. 57/2007/0123), which lies within the Scheduled Monument boundary of Furness Abbey. The client's agents, John Coward Architects, therefore applied for Scheduled Monument Consent to carry out the works. The consent was granted by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media, and Sport, with the condition that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during all ground works (Davison 2007). This project design has been produced in response to the advice given by English Heritage to John Coward Architects.

1.1.2 Furness Abbey Cottage was built in c1873 for the Furness Railway Company (English Heritage 2001), and the ground to the north of it is considered likely to be disturbed by post-medieval activity (Davison 2007), perhaps as a result of the construction of the cottage and associated landscaping. Nevertheless, its close proximity to the Abbey and position within the Scheduled Monument area make it of high archaeological potential (*ibid*).

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). Although a relatively new company, its directors, Jo Dawson and Daniel Elsworth, have a combined total of over 14 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 of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) Code of Conduct. The watching brief and rapid desk-based assessment will be carried out according to the Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001a; 2001b).

1.3 Project Staffing

1.3.1 The project will be managed by **Jo Dawson (MA (Hons), AIFA)**. Since graduating from the University of Glasgow in 2000 with a joint honours degree in Archaeology and Mathematics, Jo has worked continuously in commercial archaeology. Her professional career started at Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division (GUARD), for whom she worked for six months, following which she worked for Headland Archaeology, in Edinburgh, for two years, and for Oxford Archaeology North, in Lancaster, for three years. During this time she has been involved in a range of different archaeological projects, and, over the past few years, has concentrated on desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments, as well as finds reports. She has extensive experience of both planning and pre-planning projects, and has undertaken assessments of all sizes. She has managed projects in Cumbria, including several recent watching briefs.

1.3.2 The watching brief will be carried out by **Sam Whitehead (BSc (Hons), MA)**. Sam graduated from the University of Liverpool in 1994 with an honours degree in Archaeology, and has more than seven years continuous professional experience in commercial archaeology, much of which was in a supervisory capacity. He has extensive experience of excavations, evaluations, and watching briefs, as well as report writing and illustration production.

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. Finds of earlier date will be assessed by specialist sub-contractors as appropriate, and in this case it is envisaged that these may include Ian Miller for medieval pottery, Ruth Leary for Roman pottery, David Shotton for Roman coins, and Malin Horst for human remains. English Heritage 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 English Heritage will be sought.

1.3.4 Environmental samples and faunal remains will be processed by Greenlane Archaeology. It is envisaged that charred plant remains will be assessed by Scott Timpany of Headland Archaeology Ltd, and faunal remains by Steve Rowland or Andy Bates, both at Oxford Archaeology North.

2. Objectives

2.1 Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 To examine information held in the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER), and also those primary and secondary sources referenced in the HER.

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 desk-based assessment and watching brief.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 Produce a full archive of the results of the desk-based assessment and watching brief.

3. Methodology

3.1 Rapid Desk-based Assessment

3.1.1 A rapid desk-based assessment will be conducted, and sources will be consulted at the following locations:

- **Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER):** this is a list of all of the recorded sites of archaeological interest recorded in the county, and is the primary source of information for a study of this kind. Each site is recorded with any relevant references, a brief description and location related to the National Grid. All of the references relating to sites identified in the HER will be examined in order to verify them and add any necessary background information. In addition, relevant secondary sources, particularly previous archaeological investigations in the immediate area, will also be examined;
- **Cumbria Record Office (Barrow-in-Furness):** any primary and secondary sources referred to by the HER but not available for consultation there will be examined at the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness;
- **Greenlane Archaeology:** a number of copies of maps, local histories, unpublished reports, and journals are held in Greenlane Archaeology's library. These will be consulted as necessary.

3.2 Watching Brief

3.2.1 The groundworks are to be monitored, with one archaeologist on site.

3.2.2 The watching brief methodology will be as follows:

- The overburden will be removed by machine 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 measured plans and sections, 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 preserved environmental remains will be sampled. Bulk samples of between 10 and 40 litres in volume, depending on the size and potential of the deposit, will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (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;
- Any human remains discovered during the watching brief will be left *in situ*, and, if possible, covered. English Heritage 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 English Heritage so that the need for further work can be confirmed. Any additional work and ensuing costs will be agreed with the client and according to the requirements of English Heritage, and subject to a variation to this project design.

3.3 Report

3.3.1 The results of the rapid desk-based assessment and watching brief will be compiled into a report, which will include the following sections:

- 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 rapid desk-based assessment;
- 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;
- Bibliography, including both primary and secondary sources;
- Illustrations at appropriate scales including:
 - a site location plan related to the national grid;
 - a plan showing the location of the study area in relation to nearby structures and the local landscape;
 - copies of early maps, plans, drawings, photographs and other illustrations of elements of the site, as appropriate;
 - 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;
 - illustrations of individual artefacts as appropriate.

3.4 Archive

3.4.1 The archive, comprising the drawn, written, and photographic record of the desk-based assessment and 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 (CRO(B)). A copy will also be offered to the National Monuments Record (NMR). The archive will be compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the IFA (Ferguson and Murray n.d.), and in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). In addition details of the project will be submitted to the Online AccessS 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 to English Heritage, and within six months of the completion of fieldwork, three bound copies will be provided for the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER). In addition, Greenlane Archaeology Ltd will retain one copy, and digital copies will be deposited with the NMR and 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 watching brief will be offered to the Dock Museum in Barrow-in-Furness. If no suitable repository can be found the finds may have to be discarded, and in this case as full a record as possible would be made of them beforehand.

4. Work timetable

4.1 Greenlane Archaeology will be available to commence the project on **27th August 2007**, or at another date convenient to the client. It is envisaged that the project will take 5.75 person days to complete (excluding all post-excavation time, and excluding watching brief on-site time), spread over the following tasks and including any necessary management time:

- **Task 1:** desk-based assessment, including compilation of this element of the report – 1 person day;

- **Task 2:** watching brief – dependent on length of time taken by another contractor to undertake all ground works;
- **Task 3:** post-excavation work on archaeological watching brief, including processing of finds and production of draft report and illustrations, and project management time – 4.25 person days (excluding post-excavation finds and sample work as specified in costing document);
- **Task 4:** feedback, editing and production of final report, completion of archive – 0.5 person days.

5. Other matters

5.1 Access

5.1.1 Access to the site for the site visit 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 **£250,000**. 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.

6. Bibliography

Davison, A, 2007 Letter to John Coward of John Coward Architects, regarding Furness Abbey Cottage, dated 19th July

English Heritage, 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edn, London

English Heritage, 2001 *Images of England: Furness Abbey Cottage, Abbey Approach (West Side), Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria*,
<http://www.imagesofengland.org.uk/search/details.aspx?pid=2&id=388371>

Ferguson, LM, and Murray, DM, n.d. *Archaeological Documentary Archives*, IFA Paper 1, Reading

Greenlane Archaeology, 2007 *Archaeological Excavation Manual*, unpubl rep

HMSO, 1996 *Treasure Act*, <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1996/1996024.htm>

IFA, 2001c *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*, revised edn, Reading

IFA, 2001b *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, revised edn, Reading

Appendix 2: Summary Context List

Context	Type	Location	Description	Interpretation
01	Natural	Area 1 & 3	Mid pinkish-orange sandy, clayey-silt with moderate angular gravels	Glacial till
02	Layer	Area 1, trench A & B	Greyish mid-dark brown clayey-silt, occ. gravel	Topsoil
03	Layer	Area 3 & 1-Tr. C	Greyish dark-brown slightly clayey-silt, occ. gravel	Topsoil
04	Layer	Area 2	Mid pinkish-brown silty-sand with frequent angular red sandstone pieces	Landscaped natural weathering of exposed rockface with possible relict quarrying debris
05	Layer	Area 2	Pinkish orangey mid-brown sandy gravel with stone	Disturbed quarry backfill

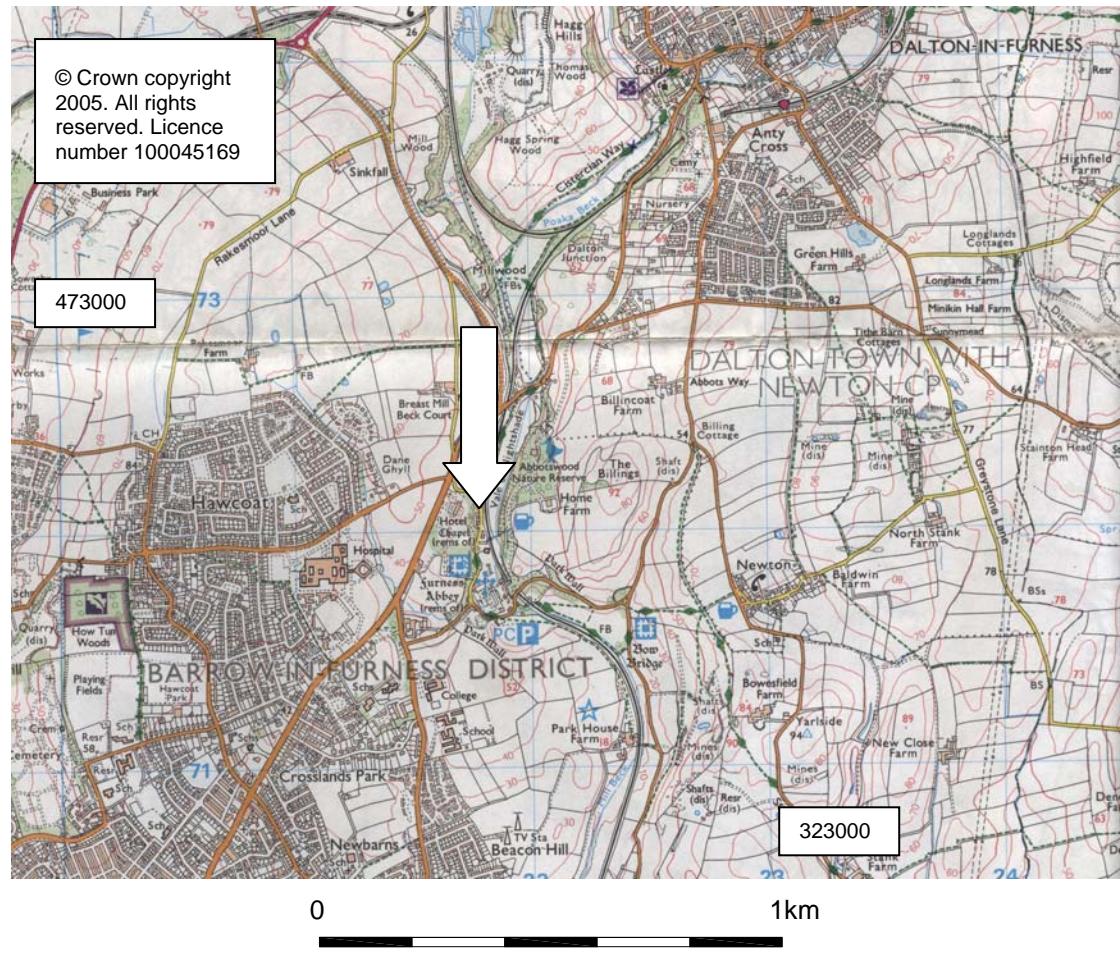
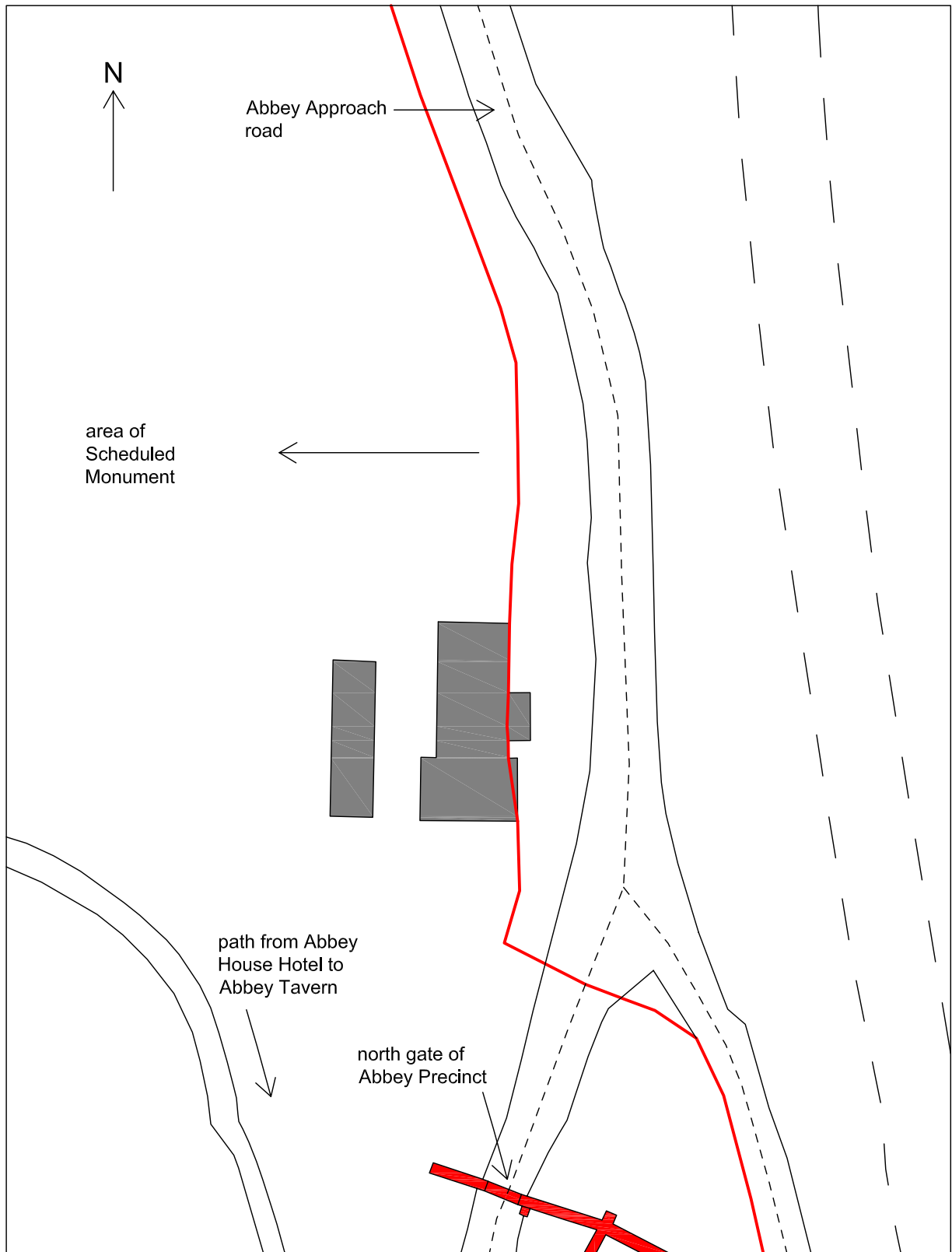


Figure 1: Site location



Project: Furness Abbey Cottage, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria	Key: — — — railway	0 20m
Project Code: G1067 Site Code: FA07 Date: January 2008	SM - Chapel remains Furness Abbey Cottage road Sceduled Monument boundary	

Figure 2: Immediate site location

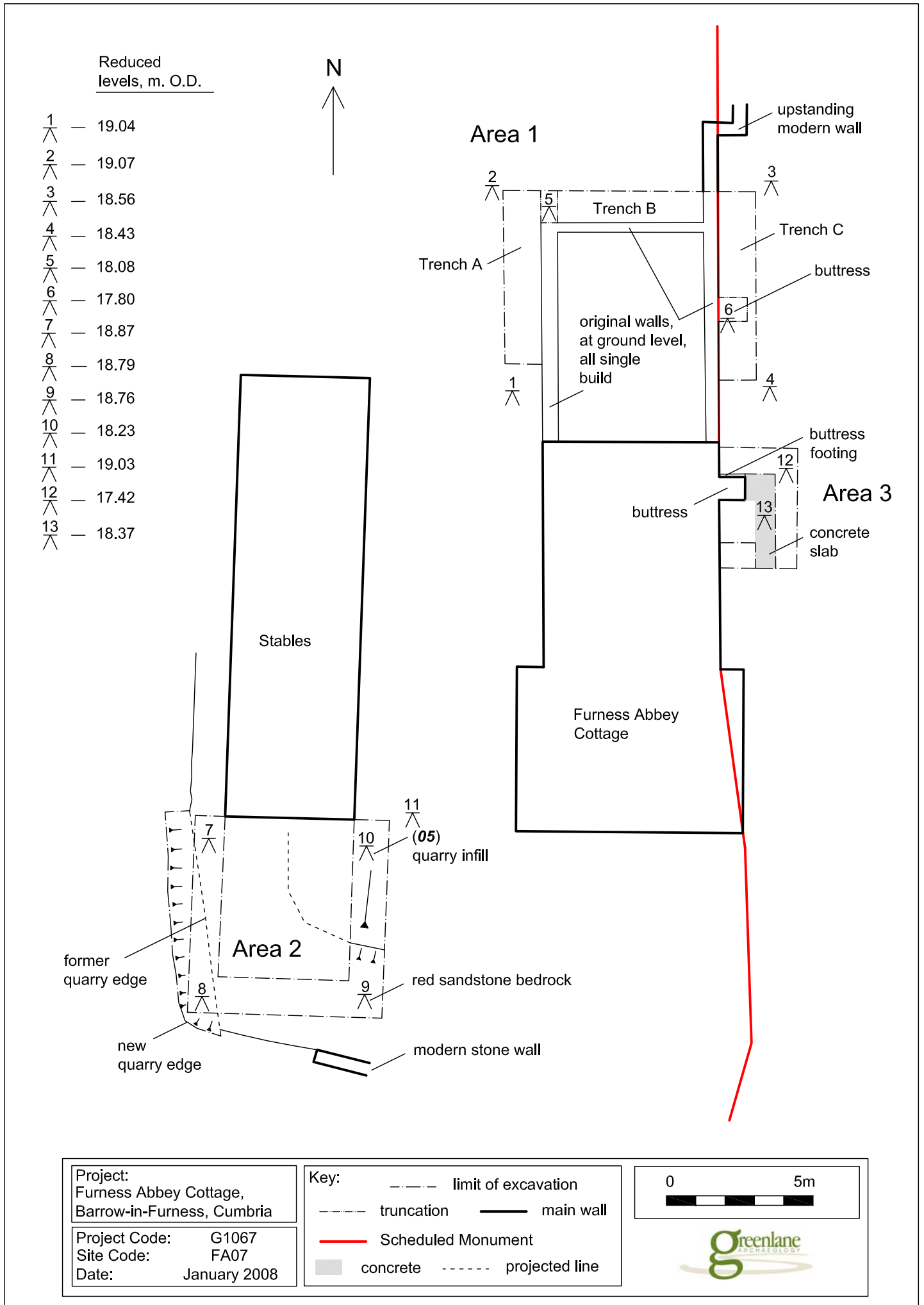


Figure 3: Trench plans



Plate 1: Extract from an estate map by William Gibson, 1775 (from Wood 1998, 31).
The site of Furness Abbey Cottage appears to be woodland



Plate 2: Extract from Henriet's map of 1830 (prior to cottage being built)



Plate 3: Extract from the 1850 Ordnance Survey map, there appears to be a building on the site at this date, north of the east-west wall in the top centre



Plate 4: Extract from the 1873 Ordnance Survey map (the H-shaped building is Furness Abbey Cottage in its earliest form)

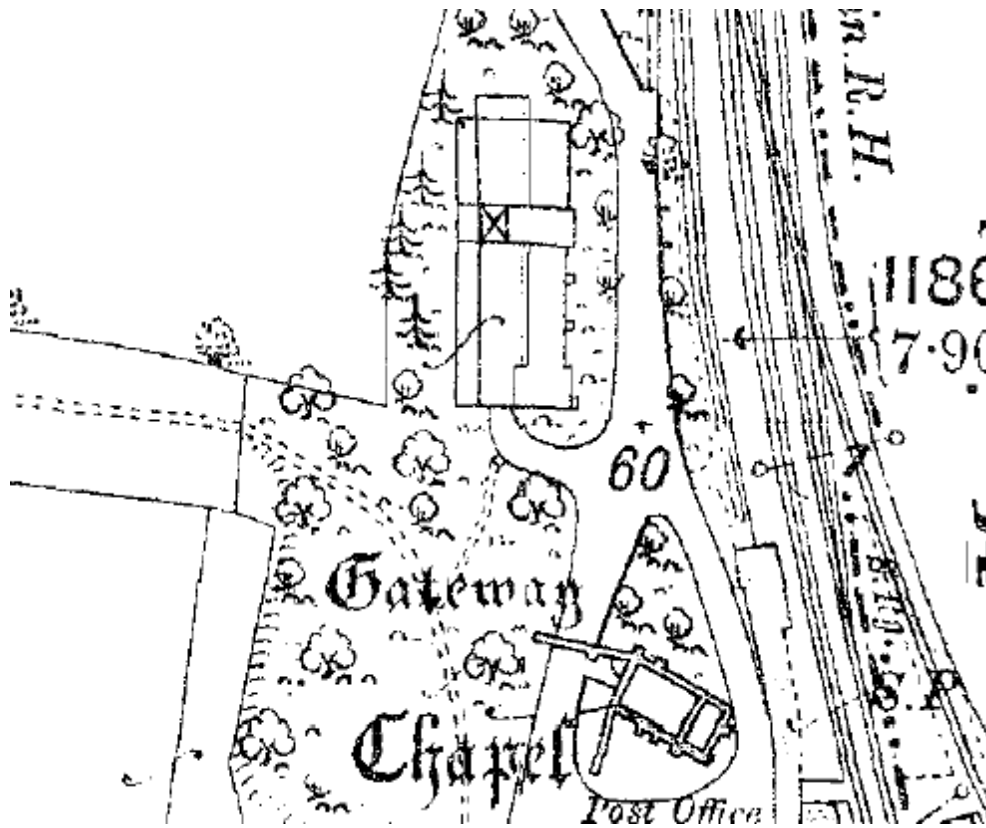


Plate 5: Extract from the 1891 Ordnance Survey, note the eastern buttresses



Plate 6: Extract from the 1956 Ordnance Survey, which appears to show covered yard



Plate 7: Furness Abbey Cottage from the north, showing Area 1



Plate 8: Area 1, Trench C, from north-west, note buttress near ranging rod



Plate 9: Area 1, Trench B, from west



Plate 10: Area 1, Trench A, from the south



Plate 11: Area 2, from the south-west



Plate 12: Area 3, from the west



Plate 13: Stoneware bottle from context **04**



Plate 14: Carved stone apparently from demolished outbuilding to north of Furness Abbey Cottage