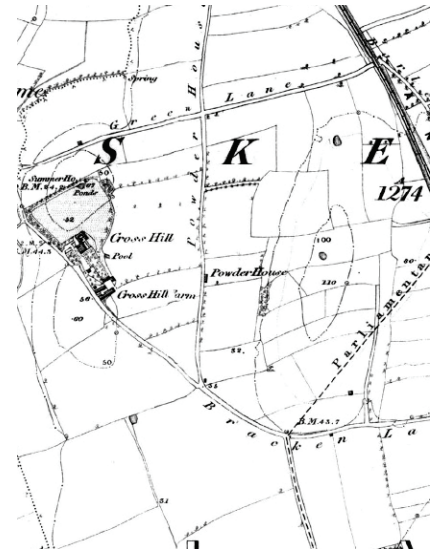


LAND OFF WATERY LANE, LANCASTER, LANCASHIRE

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey



Client: Oakmere Homes

NGR 346662 463341

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June 2021



The Site	
Site Name	Land off Watery Lane, Lancaster
County	Lancashire
NGR	346662 463341 (centre)

Client	
Client Name	Oakmere Homes
Client's architect	N/A

Planning	
Pre-planning?	No
Planning Application No.	1/2020/01442/FUL
Plans (e.g. conversion, extension, demolition)	Erection of 80 dwelling
Condition number	-
Local Planning Authority	Lancaster City Council
Planning Archaeologist	Peter Iles, Lancashire County Council

Archiving	
Relevant Record Office(s)/Archive Centre(s)	Preston
Relevant HER	Lancashire

Staffing	
Desk-based assessment	Dan Elsworth
Walkover Survey	Dan Elsworth
Report writing	Dan Elsworth
Report editing	Jo Dawson
Illustrations	Tom Mace
Date on site work carried out	26/05/2021

Greenlane Archaeology Ltd,
Lower Brook Street, Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 7EE

Tel: 01229 588 500
Email: info@greenlane-archaeology.co.uk
Web: www.greenlane-archaeology.co.uk

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Non-Technical Summary

Following to the submission of a planning application for a residential development on land off Watery Lane, Lancaster, Lancashire, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out a desk-based assessment and walkover survey of the site.

The site is located on the northern edge of Lancaster, on the north side of the River Lune, near Skerton. While the area has remains from the end of the last Ice Age onwards, HER data from the surrounding area revealed evidence for a range of sites of different dates, primarily medieval and later, although some are uncertain. A substantial amount of archaeological work had been carried out to the north in association with the 'Bay Gateway' road, linking the M6 to the port at Heysham, which revealed evidence for prehistoric (primarily Mesolithic/Neolithic) and medieval activity. The map evidence shows the site to have comprised a block of three slightly curving fields, probably originally part of a single larger block named 'Baistard', perhaps a reference to how difficult the ground was to plough. It saw little change throughout the 19th century and in the 1930s a wireless receiving station was built on one end. Lidar data shows that there are earthwork remains relating to former ploughing, in particular two large earthworks that were later preserved as field boundaries. The walkover survey revealed that these earthworks still survive on site, and a pond shown on early maps had been modified with the addition of a dammed channel on one side. No evidence for the wireless receiving station was revealed during the walkover survey.

In view of the archaeological evidence from the wider area, and taking into account the results of a site visit, there is some potential for remains of archaeological interest to be present within the proposed development area, in particular remains of medieval and post-medieval date. It is suggested that further investigation would be most efficiently carried out through geophysical survey or evaluation trenching, although it would also be worthwhile more fully surveying the surviving earthworks of the former field system prior to any development work taking place.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Oakmere Homes for commissioning the project, in particular Mark Brown, Technical Manager, for his assistance. Further thanks are due to Susan Benson at the Cumbria Archive Centre in Barrow-in-Furness and the staff at Lancaster Library for their help with a particular reference.

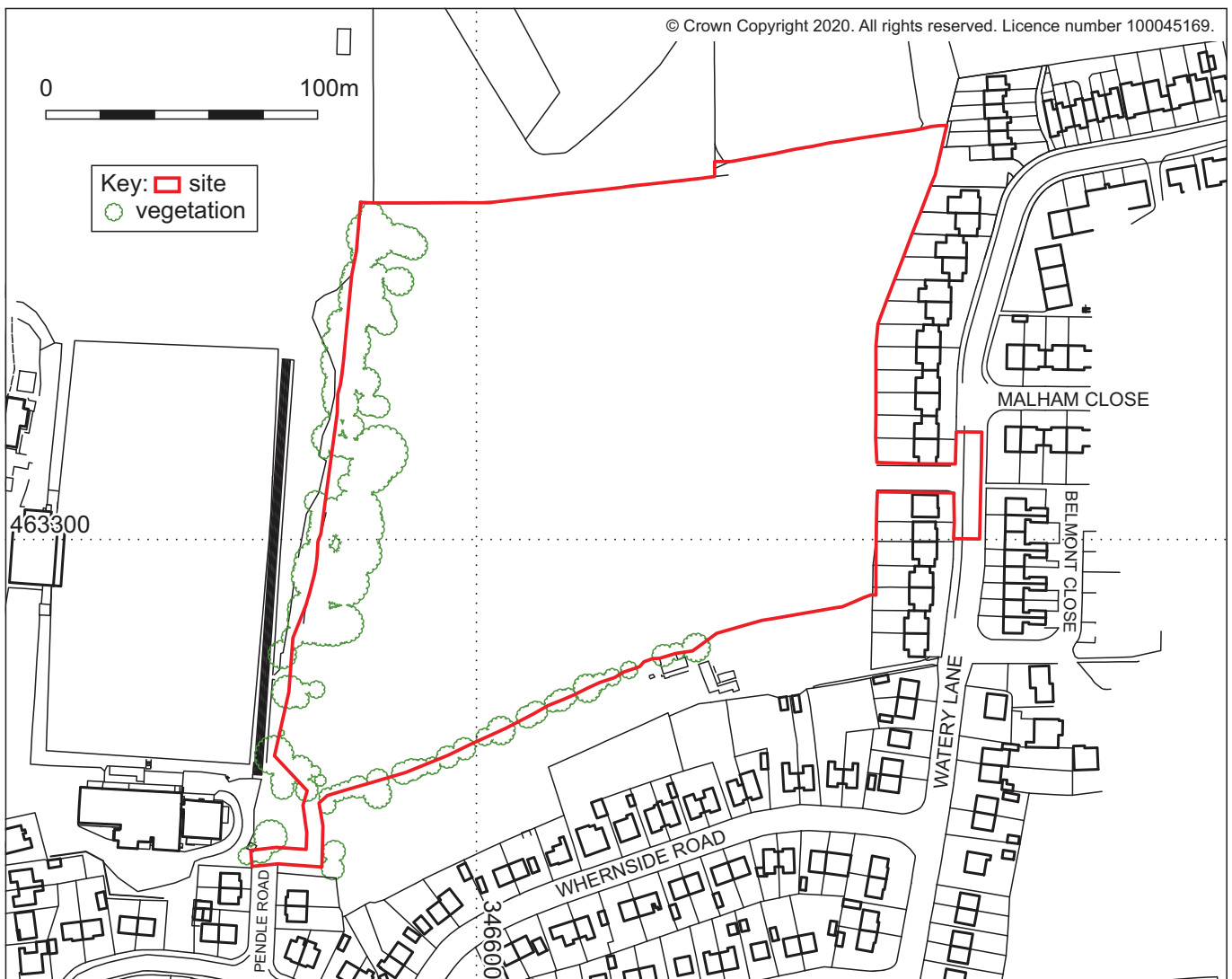
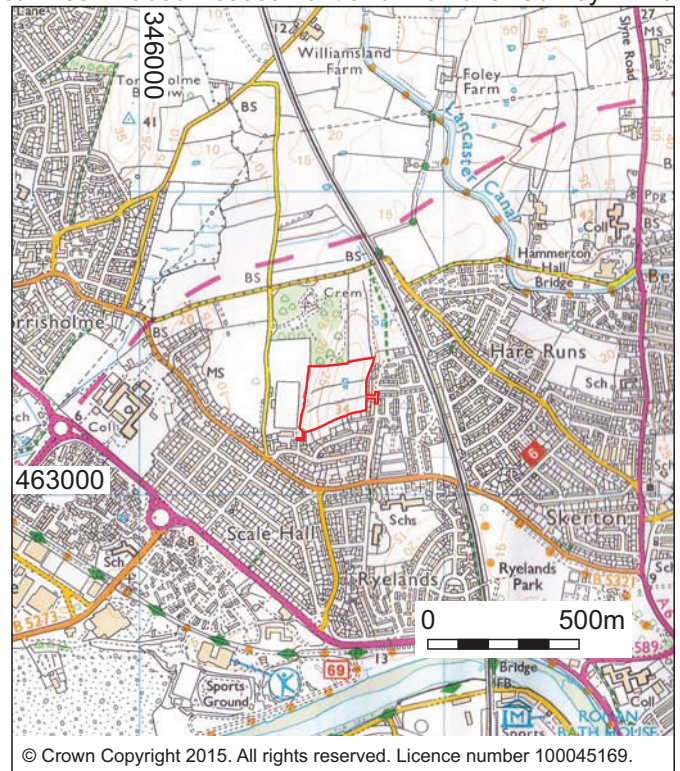
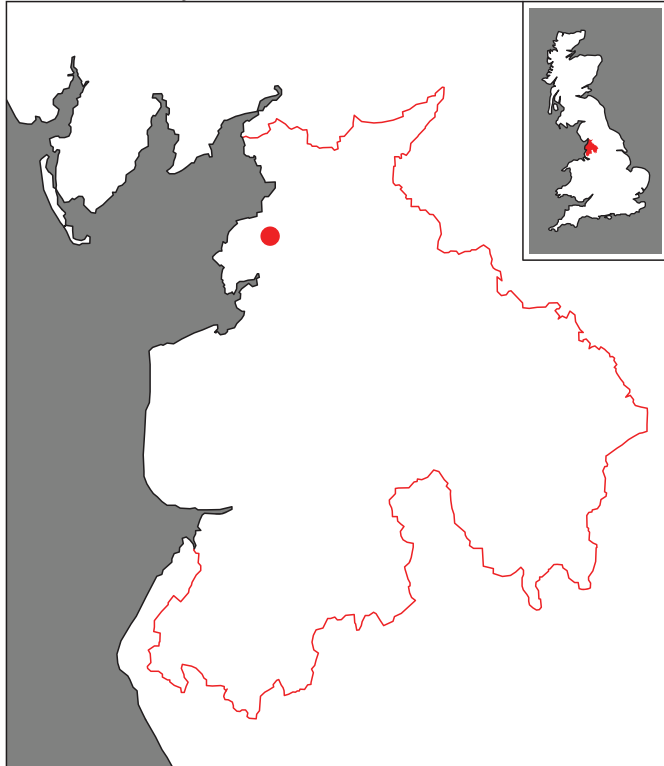
1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 The circumstances of the project are set out in the tables on the inside cover of this report.

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site occupies an area of approximately 4.1ha to the north side of Lancaster, north of the River Lune and south of the A683, between 10m and 34m above sea level (Figure 1; Ordnance Survey 2015). The underlying geology of the area comprises Namurian millstone grit of the carboniferous period (Moseley 1978, plate 1), which is overlain by drumlin fields on the higher ground and estuarine deposits closer to the coast (Countryside Commission 1998, 83). The landscape is typically used as grazing for sheep and cattle, within small fields formed by hedges above the saltmarshes along the coastal plain (*ibid*, 82-84).



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Figure 1: Site location

2. Methodology

2.1 Desk-Based Assessment

2.1.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a). This principally comprised examination of early maps of the site and published secondary sources. A number of sources of information were used during the compilation of the desk-based assessment:

- **Record Office/Archive Centre:** the majority of original and secondary sources relating to the site are deposited in the relevant Record Office(s) or Archive Centre(s), as specified in the cover sheet of this report. Of principal importance are early maps of the site. These were examined in order to establish the development of the site, date of any structures present within it, and details of land use, in order to set the site in its historical, archaeological, and regional context. In addition, any details of the site's owners and occupiers were acquired where available. Many of the most useful of these sources, or their equivalent, are now available online;
- **HER:** this is the primary source of information recording previously known archaeological discoveries. For each site a grid reference, description, and related sources were obtained for inclusion in the gazetteer (see *Appendix 2*). In addition, details of previous archaeological work carried out within the study area was also obtained from the HER;
- **Online Resources:** where available relevant sources were also consulted online;
- **Greenlane Archaeology:** Greenlane Archaeology's office library includes maps, local histories, and unpublished primary and secondary sources. These were consulted where relevant, in order to provide information about the history and archaeology of the site and the general area.

2.2 Walkover Survey

2.2.1 A walk-over survey was carried out to English Heritage Level-1 type standards (Historic England 2017) and according to the guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014b). This is a relatively low-level of investigation intended to provide basic descriptive details about each site of archaeological or historical interest within the Level 1 survey area. It comprised three types of recording:

- **Drawn Record:** the grid coordinates of each site or find of archaeological or historical interest were recorded using a Garmin Etrex GPS, accurate to within c5m and subsequently marked on Figure 2;
- **Written Record:** a basic descriptive record of each site was made on Greenlane Archaeology standard *pro forma* record sheets; each site recorded during the walkover survey was given its own number, which was recorded on the relevant sheet and is given in the appropriate gazetteer entry, but these do not correspond to the Site numbers otherwise used in this report. These records describe each site's form, size, and (where possible) function and date. In addition, the landscape and historic setting of each site was described, in particular its relationship with other sites identified, field boundaries, and the local topography. An assessment of the significance of each site was also made, where possible, although a more detailed assessment of this was also made during the report writing stage (see *Section 6.2* below);
- **Photographic record:** photographs in colour digital format (both 12 meg jpeg and RAW format) were taken of each site. A written record was kept of all of the photographs that were taken detailing the direction, size of scale, date, and identity of the photographer. The digital photographs have also been used for illustrative purposes within the report.

2.3 Archive

2.3.1 The archive of the project will be deposited with the relevant Record Office or Archive Centre, as detailed on the cover sheet of this report, together with a copy of the report. The archive has been compiled according to the standards and guidelines of the CIfA guidelines (CIfA 2014b). In addition, details 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. A copy of the report will be provided to the client and to the relevant Historic Environment Record, as detailed on the cover sheet of this report.

3. Results

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 A total of 20 sites of archaeological interest are recorded within the study area in the Historic Environment Record (Figure 2) comprising 16 identified in the HER and four additional sites identified during the desk-based assessment and walkover survey (*Appendix 2*; summarised in Table 1 below). Unfortunately, the original location of the pottery, stone artefact and spearhead finds (marked at **Site 15**) are not located accurately on the HER and the date of many of the earthworks, identified by walkover survey, is unknown (**Sites 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 11** and **14**). Most of the earthworks are considered probably medieval or post-medieval in date (**Sites 1, 2, 4, 10, 11** and **14**); however, the hollow at **Site 3** could equally be a natural spring. Sites included in the gazetteer that relate to periods of the study area's history are individually mentioned in the site history (see *Section 4* below).

Site No.	Type	Period	Site No.	Type	Period
1	Earthwork (field boundary)	Medieval or post-medieval	11	Earthwork (field boundary)	Medieval or post-medieval
2	Earthwork (field boundary and ridge and furrow)	Medieval or post-medieval	12	Milestone	Post-medieval
3	Earthwork (hollow [spring]); water pump	Earthwork: unknown [natural]; water pump: post-medieval	13	Gunpowder magazine	Post-medieval
4	Earthwork (lynchet and ridge and furrow)	Medieval or post-medieval	14	Earthwork (field boundary)	Medieval or post-medieval
5	Earthwork (mound)	Unknown	15	Find spot (pottery, stone artefact, spearhead)	Bronze Age/Roman [Note: the HER records the spear as Bronze Age and Roman (uncertain)].
6	Quarry	Medieval or post-medieval	16	Wireless receiving station	Post-medieval
7	Gravel pit	Post-medieval	17	Find spot (cannonballs)	Medieval
8	Cross (conjectural evidence); farmstead; house	Undated / post-medieval	18	House and barn	Post-medieval
9	Milestone	Post-medieval	19	Park	Post-medieval
10	Pond(s)	Medieval or post-medieval	20	Find spot (coin)	Roman

Table 1: Summary of sites of archaeological interest within the study area

3.2 Desk-Based Assessment

3.2.1 The results of the desk-based assessment have been used to produce two main elements. Firstly, all available maps of the area were compiled into a map regression, demonstrating how the site physically developed. The second purpose of the desk-based assessment is to produce a background history of the site. This is intended to cover all periods, in part to provide information that can be used to assess the potential of the site, but more importantly to present the documented details of any sites that are known.

3.2.2 Once this information has been compiled the significance of those sites of archaeological interest within the study area, their potential, and the degree to which they are likely to be affected is considered and based on this possible mitigation work is then suggested.

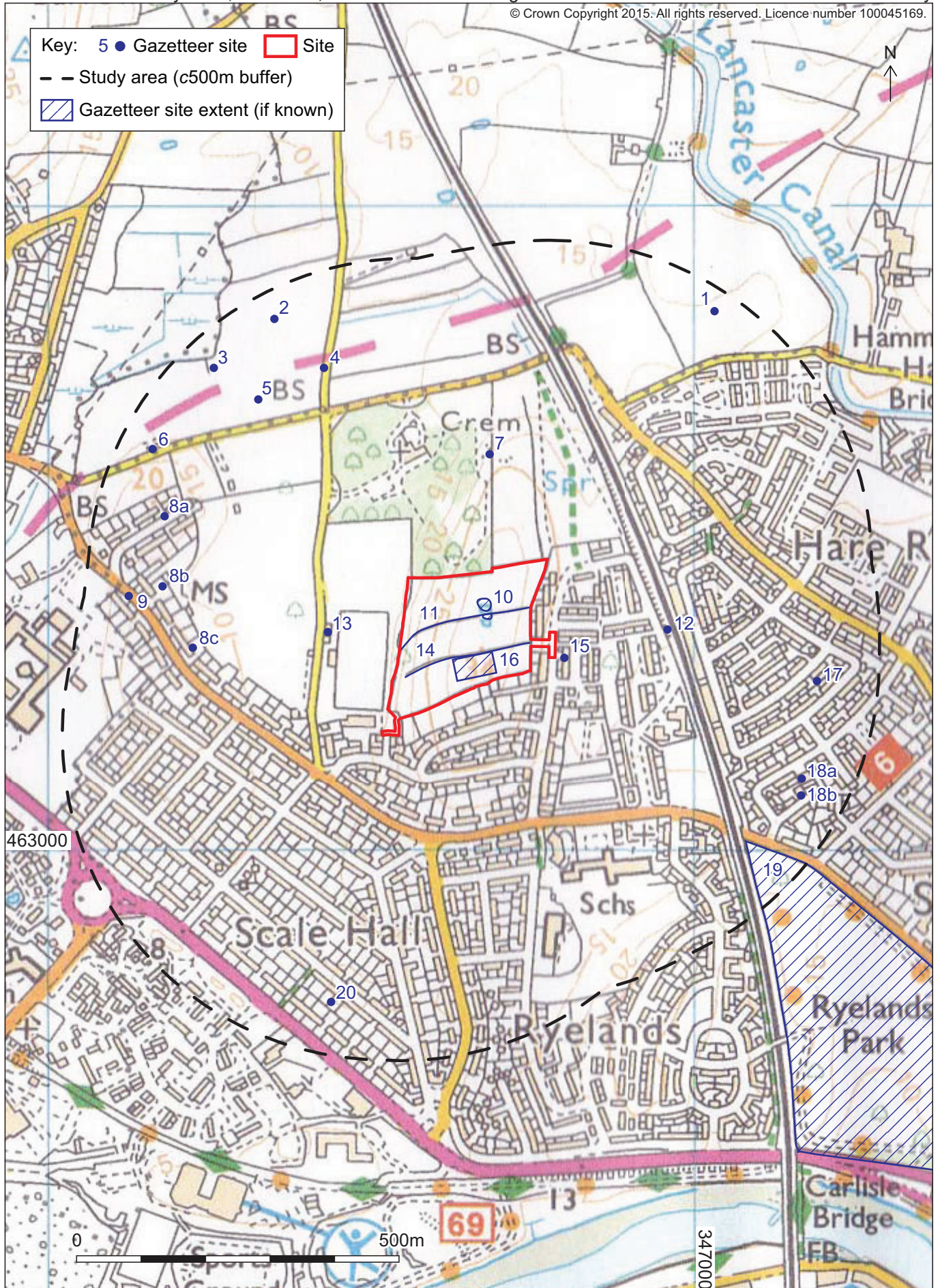


Figure 2: Gazetteer site plan

Client: Oakmere Homes

3.3 Map Regression

3.3.1 **Introduction:** early maps of the area tend to be relatively lacking in detail, so the earliest useful maps therefore only date from the 19th century.

3.3.2 **Tithe map, 1841:** the site occupied parts of several long, east/west aligned fields and part of a north/south aligned field in the township of Skerton in the parish of Lancaster, numbered 162, 167, 168, 169, 170 and 172 (Plate 1). Details of these plots, recorded in the accompanying schedule (NA IR 29/18/288 1838), are summarised in Table 2. A small wooded area is shown at the west end of Plot 169. The consistence of the name element 'baistard' suggests that these fields originally formed a single block; the meaning of these is uncertain but probably simply comes from an old form of the modern word 'bastard', perhaps an insulting reference to an owner or occupier or just that the ground was particularly difficult to plough. The use of humorous terms to describe pieces of land is known from elsewhere in the region (Martin *et al* 2019).

Plot	Owner	Occupier	Name	Description
162	Jane Walker	Jane Walker	Baistard Bottom	Grass
167	Henry Fitzaker	John Munroe	Baistard	Grass
168	Henry Fitzaker	John Munroe	Baistard	Grass
169	Thomas Baldwin Mary Baldwin Elizabeth Baldwin & Charlotte Baldwin	Thomas Baldwin	Baistard	Grass
170	William B Thornton	Richard Eskholme	-	Grass
172	Richard Atkinson	Robert Knowles	Baistard Meadow	Grass

Table 2: Extract from the tithe apportionment schedule for Skerton township

3.3.3 **Ordnance Survey, 1848:** the first edition 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1844-45, shows a similar field arrangement as the tithe map (Plate 2; cf. Plate 1). Additionally, a pond is shown in the centre of the northernmost field.

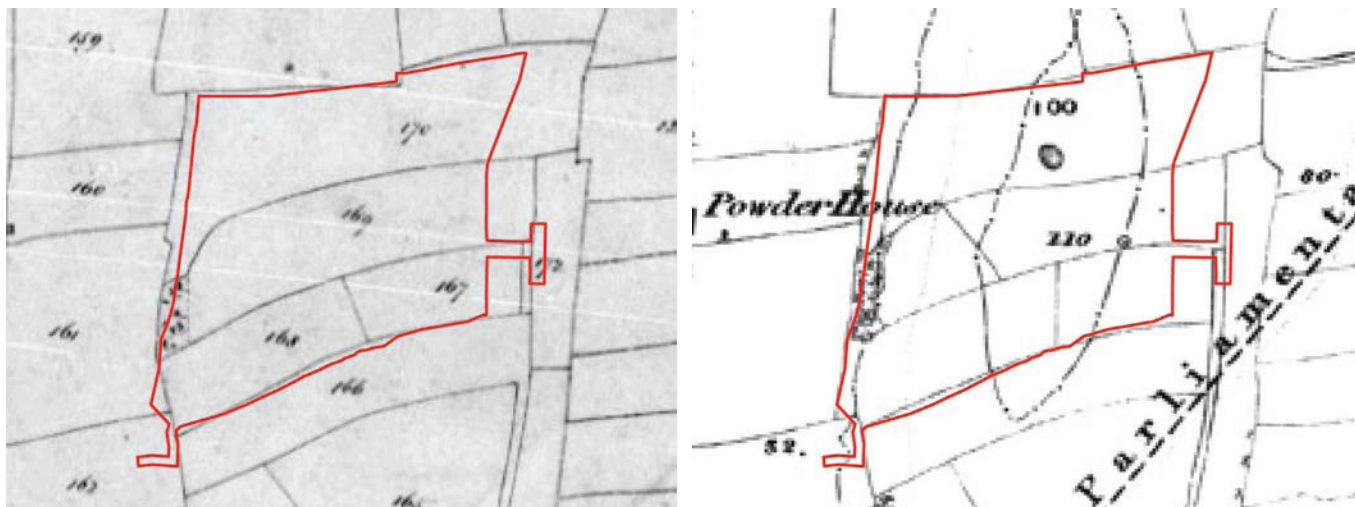


Plate 1: Extract from the tithe map of 1841

Plate 2: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1848

3.3.4 **Ordnance Survey, 1892:** the 1892 edition of the Ordnance Survey map was revised in 1890. This edition, at a scale of 1:2,500, shows slightly more detail than the 1848 edition, including a small pond close to the one in the northernmost field but in the next field to the south and another small pond close to the north edge of the next field to the south from that, both of which lie close to the centre of the site (Plate 3; cf. Plate 2).

3.3.5 **Ordnance Survey, 1913:** this edition, revised in 1910, shows much the same detail as the 1892 edition (Plate 4; cf. Plate 3).



Plate 3: Extract from the tithe map of 1892



Plate 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913

3.3.6 **Ordnance Survey, 1932:** depiction of the site was unchanged by revisions to the Ordnance Survey map in 1931 (Plate 5; cf. Plate 4).

3.3.7 **Ordnance Survey, 1939:** the 1939 edition of the Ordnance Survey map, which was revised in 1938, shows that a large part of the southern field had been fenced off around a centrally situated rectangular structure described as a 'wireless receiving station' (Plate 6; **Site 16**). Residential development around the edge of Skerton has started to encroach on the site from the south along Watery Lane (Plate 6; cf. Plate 5).



Plate 5: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1932

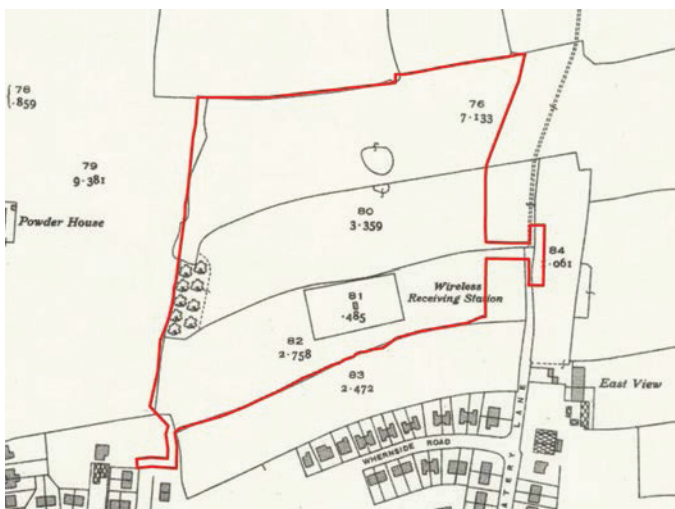


Plate 6: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1939

3.4 Lidar

3.4.1 **Lidar:** lidar imagery of the site is freely available online (Houseprices.io 2021). The east/west field boundaries shown on the Ordnance Survey maps of the area can be seen, and the striated appearance across the area to the south probably relates to ridge and furrow (Plate 7). The embankment at the west side of the site and the outline of the pond to the north are both clear. The area along Watery Lane to the east of the site has seen substantial development; however, there is no sign of the wireless receiving station formerly to the south (Plate 7; cf. Plate 6).



Plate 7: Lidar imagery of the site

3.5 Walkover Survey

3.5.1 The walkover survey revealed three sites of archaeological interest, all of which were also already identified in other sources (**Sites 10, 11, 14 and 16**), and the details of which are presented in the gazetteer (*Appendix 1*). The walkover survey also demonstrated that the site currently comprises rough pasture, bounded by a mixture of fences and hedges, with some small shrubs growing both on the boundaries and on the site itself. There were a number of areas of dumped material, primarily former fencing and old bath tubs used as troughs, although several of these were still *in situ* and connected to water supplies. The site is bounded by a cemetery to the north, the gardens of houses along Watery Lane to the east, a small field to the south, and a sports field to the west, although this is at the bottom of a substantial earthwork bank, probably a result of landscaping caused by ploughing within the fields to the east and subsequent landscaping associated with the sports field.



Plate 8 (left): The bank along the west boundary, viewed from the south-west



Plate 9 (right): The bank along the west boundary, viewed from the north-west

4. Site History

4.1 Background History

4.1.1 The background history to the site helps our understanding of the development and use of the site, where known, making use of the map evidence presented above where relevant. The background to the site is intended to place the results of the project in its local context and in order to do so a brief discussion of the earlier history of its wider environs is also necessary.

4.2 Prehistoric Period (c11,000 BC – 1st century AD)

4.2.1 While there is limited evidence for human activity in the region in the period immediately following the last Ice Age, this is typically found in the southernmost part on the north side of Morecambe Bay. Excavation of a small number of cave sites have found the remains of animal species common at the time but now extinct in this country and artefacts of Late Upper Palaeolithic type (Young 2002). The earliest evidence of human occupation in the area was found in Kirkhead Cave, which has late Upper Palaeolithic (c11,000-8,000 BC) remains (Salisbury 1992, 3). Palaeolithic blades have also been found at Lindale Low Cave to the north-east of Kirkhead (*ibid*; Salisbury 1988) and human and animal bones were also recovered from Kents Bank Cave, of which one of the human bones was more recently dated to the end of the Late Upper Palaeolithic or beginning of the Mesolithic period (Smith *et al* 2013).

4.2.2 Evidence for activity in the Mesolithic period in the immediate vicinity of the study area is relatively limited, and the available published discussions regarding this in Lancashire tend to emphasise the larger concentrations of discoveries associated with wetland and upland areas and the coast and river valleys (Barrowclough 2008, 48-65; Middleton *et al* 1995, 202), which is a general pattern in the wider region (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 26) and finds of this period are encountered across the wider Morecambe Bay area (Elsworth 1998). Discoveries of this date closer to the site have recently been made, including during excavations at Dalton Square on the east side of Lancaster, which revealed a number of microliths of this period (Bates *et al* 2011). Even more recently finds of Mesolithic date were found during archaeological work in advance of the construction of the 'Bay Gateway' to the north of the site on the edge of a former river channel (Bradley and Howard-Davis 2018), confirming the earlier suggestion that such material would be encountered in these sorts of locations.

4.2.3 In the following period, the Neolithic (c4,000 – 2,500 BC), large scale monuments such as burial mounds and stone circles begin to appear nationally, although this was seemingly quite a gradual process in the North West (Barrowclough 2008, 74-75). One of the most recognisable tool types of this period, the polished stone axe, is found in large numbers across the wider region, having been manufactured at Langdale in the central Lake District (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 45). Evidence is generally fairly sparse for activity in this period in North Lancashire, with stray finds, albeit sometimes in quite large numbers, being the norm (Barrowclough 2008, 78-84). Neolithic pottery was discovered *in situ* in the centre of Lancaster on Church Street (White 2003, 26) and flints of this date were also found on the Bay Gateway project, demonstrating the continuity that existed on some sites (Bradley and Howard-Davis 2018).

4.2.4 During the Bronze Age (c2,500 – 600 BC) monuments, particularly those thought to be ceremonial in nature, become more common still. Burial remains, typically in the form of cremations in urns, are found across the region, and there is a particular concentration in Lancaster (Barrowclough 2008, 98-99; Iles 2009). The spear find at **Site 15** could be Bronze Age, but this is uncertain. Other finds such as Bronze tools and weapons are also present in the region, but often as stray finds discovered accidentally in the 19th and early 20th century, often in wetland locations, or more recently through the use of metal detectors, with several regional groups defined (*op cit*, 150-176). By contrast settlements from this period are still very rare; although it is likely that many continued in use into the Iron Age, few have been studied in enough detail to ascertain this with any certainty, although some non-funerary remains of Bronze Age date were also found on the Bay Gateway project (Bradley and Howard-Davis 2018).

4.2.5 Sites and remains thought to belong to the Iron Age (c600 BC – 1st century AD) are very rare. Settlements thought to be of this period are often revealed as crop marks in aerial photographs but they are typically undated and little understood. However, there is likely to have been a considerable overlap between the end of the Iron Age and the beginning of the Romano-British period, and it is evident that in this part of the country, initially at least, the Roman invasion had a minimal impact on the native population in rural areas (Philpott 2006, 73-74). One of the classic 'type sites' of the Iron Age, the hillfort, is relatively well represented in the wider area, although these too are complex structures that were probably used over a considerable period of time (Elsworth 2014). There are several undated enclosures and earthworks in the local area, some of which may date from this period, including a substantial earthwork enclosure on Burrow Heights, which may in fact be a hillfort (Ratledge 2017a), and a large enclosure with internal hut circles, which was Iron Age in form but dated well into the Roman period, was excavated immediately south of Lancaster University at Barker House Farm (Philpott 2006, 74).

4.3 Romano-British to Early Medieval Period (1st century AD – 11th century AD)

4.3.1 During the Roman period a fort was established in Lancaster in the AD 70s, soon after the conquest of the area, on the hill later occupied by the medieval castle (Shotter and White 1990, 18). It acquired a civilian settlement, the *vicus*, by at least the 2nd century (*op cit*, 32), which extended outwards from the east side of the fort. Burials have been found in a number of areas, but the main site seems to have been on the south side of Lancaster, off what is now Penny Street (Iles 2009). Outside of Lancaster itself the settlement pattern is less well understood as many rural sites probably continued to be used from the Iron Age and were seemingly well connected to the new Roman way of life; somewhere near Burrow Heights a substantial Roman mausoleum was constructed (Edwards 2009). Stray finds of Roman date have been found within the study area, including pottery at **Site 15** and a coin of Valentinus (c AD 364-8) at **Site 20**. The route of a Roman road heading north from the fort at Lancaster towards that at Watercrock near Kendal (and crossing Morecambe Bay, assuming such a route existed; see Elsworth 2007 for discussion of this) is uncertain but it is thought to have been to the east of the site at Skerton, perhaps on the line of the current A6 (Ratledge 2017a; 2017b).

4.3.2 Evidence for activity in the early medieval period is generally quite limited. In Lancaster it is primarily found in a few objects such as pieces of carved stone cross and coin finds, which demonstrate that there was probably an early monastic establishment on Castle Hill from perhaps the 7th century (Edwards 1988). Recent work nearby has demonstrated the potential for waterlogged early medieval remains of perhaps the 10th century on the edge of the former line of the River Lune (Elsworth and Mace 2017). In the area around the site itself there is considerably less evidence for this period, although evidence for possible continuity from the preceding period was found during the excavation of a Romano-British settlement at Barker House Farm near Lancaster University, where a hearth radiocarbon dated to the 8th to 10th century was also revealed, suggesting a lengthy period of use or re-use (OA North 2004; Anon 2007). Place-name evidence demonstrates that the area was settled and that a number of different groups influenced the development of the landscape, with local examples such as nearby Skerton including Old Norse and Old English elements while nearby Scale Hall derives from a Norse word for a temporary settlement used during the movement of animals (Ekwall 1922, 177). Within the study area it is possible that the place name 'Cross Hill' might relate to a site of early medieval origin (**Site 8**), but this is by no means definite.

4.4 Medieval Period (11th century AD – 16th century AD)

4.4.1 The site is located some distance from the town of Lancaster, which, by the medieval period, had become a significant city. It is closer to what was the village of Skerton, located c1km to the east. Skerton was first recorded in the Domesday survey of 1086, based on earlier records, and at that time belonged to Earl Tostig (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 58). It later became part of the demesne lands of the Lord of Lancaster and the estate remained in the hands of the Crown until it was sold in 1630 (*op cit*, 59). Skerton was evidently a relatively small settlement in the medieval period, with 10 oxgangs of land and 12 cottagers recorded in 1297 although there were two mills (*ibid*).

4.4.2 Four iron cannonballs of late medieval date were found in the back garden of 36 Harcourt Road (**Site 17**). Some of the earthwork features, including areas of ridge and furrow and field boundaries (**Sites 1, 2, 4, 11 and 14**), and the quarry at **Site 6** could be medieval.

4.5 Post-medieval Period (16th century AD – present)

4.5.1 Skerton remained relatively rural well into the post-medieval period. Following the sale in 1630 the manor was apparently divided among the tenants, who became freeholders (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 61). The most significant change was arguably the arrival of the railway, beginning with the Lancaster to Carlisle initiated in 1839, eventually becoming the West Coast Main Line to Scotland (Bairstow 1995, 8), which passed to the east of the site, and later a connection to Morecambe, with land purchased for this in Skerton in 1850 (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 61). More recently the topography of the area has been substantially changed by the construction of the 'Bay Gateway' connecting the M6 to the port at Heysham, to the north of the site (see Bradley and Howard-Davis 2018).

4.5.2 Sites of post-medieval date recorded on the HER within the study area include a water pump (**Site 3**), gravel pit (**Site 7**), farmstead (**Site 8**), milestone on Torrisholme Road (**Site 9**), railway milepost (**Site 12**), powder magazine (**Site 13**), 'Vale Cottage' (**Site 18**), and Ryelands Park (**Site 19**). Moreover, a wireless receiving station (**Site 16**) was constructed on the proposed development site between 1931 and 1938. Some of the earthwork features, including areas of ridge and furrow and field boundaries (**Sites 1, 2, 4, 11 and 14**), and the quarry at **Site 6** could also be post-medieval, although most probably have earlier origins.

4.6 Previous Archaeological Work

4.6.1 Several previous pieces of archaeological work are recorded on the HER within the study area (Figure 3), all of which relate to the construction of the Lancaster and Morecambe bypass (also known as the Heysham to M6 link road and 'The Bay Gateway') across the north of the study area:

- **Lancaster and Morecambe Bypass (Phase 1): Archaeological Investigations (01/07/1993 - 31/07/1993)**: a desk-based assessment was undertaken by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit in July 1993 (LUAU 1993) ahead of the construction of the Lancaster and Morecambe Bypass (Phase 1), which was followed by a watching brief during topsoil removal along the southern edge of Heysham Moss and survey of a 19th century bobbin mill. The watching brief recorded no archaeological deposits;
- **Heysham to M6 Link: Desk Based Assessment, Rapid Identification Walkover Survey and Built Heritage Appraisal (01/03/2003 - 30/04/2003)**: Oxford Archaeology North carried out an archaeological assessment as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment of potential northern and western routes of the bypass, consisting of a desktop assessment, walkover survey, and built heritage appraisal (OA North 2005; 2006);
- **Heysham to M6 Link: Geophysical Survey (01/03/2009 - 31/03/2009)**: a magnetometer survey covering approximately 40 hectares and earth resistance survey covering about 2.5 hectares was undertaken at 47 locations along the proposed route of the M6 Link (WYAS 2009). Modern disturbance, former field boundaries and areas of ridge and furrow were identified and archaeological activity was recorded at two locations known to have archaeological potential due to the presence of earthworks;
- **Completion of Heysham to M6 Link**: several pieces of work have been carried out by Rubicon Heritage Services (Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd 2014), comprising:
 - **Geoarchaeological Assessment (04/02/2013 - 19/02/2013)**: a desk-based assessment of geotechnical data, a walkover survey, and geoarchaeological boreholes were carried out to provide a detailed context of the landscape (Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd 2014);
 - **Archaeological Earthwork Survey (19/02/2013 - 28/02/2013)**: survey of 31 earthworks to English Heritage Level 3 was undertaken, including a measured survey, photographic record, written description and interpretative account of each monument;

- **Archaeological Trial Trenching (11/03/2013 - 23/03/2013):** a total of 87 trial trenches were excavated, of which seven contained significant or substantial archaeological features. The stratigraphic sequence generally comprised topsoil/overburden overlying a buried subsoil, with a clear interface between the subsoil and natural geology at a depth of c0.4m below ground level. Sites of archaeological interest included: a Bronze Age feature previously interpreted as a Romano-British settlement, extending beyond the limit of excavation; further prehistoric sites positioned at the margins of areas of activity; and features indicative of a medieval farming landscape;
- **Completion of the Heysham to M6 Link: Mitigation Excavation (01/01/2014 - 30/06/2014):** six excavations were undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North forthcoming). One investigated the edge of a known late prehistoric site near Carus Lodge, and the others examined sites identified as having significant archaeological potential through the excavation of a series of archaeological trial trenches in 2013 (see Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd 2014). The most important sites comprised a multi-period prehistoric settlement, featuring a significant scatter of Mesolithic (8,000-4,000 BC) microliths and a rectangular longhouse of early Neolithic date (3,500 BC) - the first of its kind known in Lancashire, and an extensive complex of buildings and kilns of medieval date, possibly associated with the monastic grange at Beaumont. The post excavation analysis and reporting was published in 2018 (Bradley and Howard-Davis 2018).

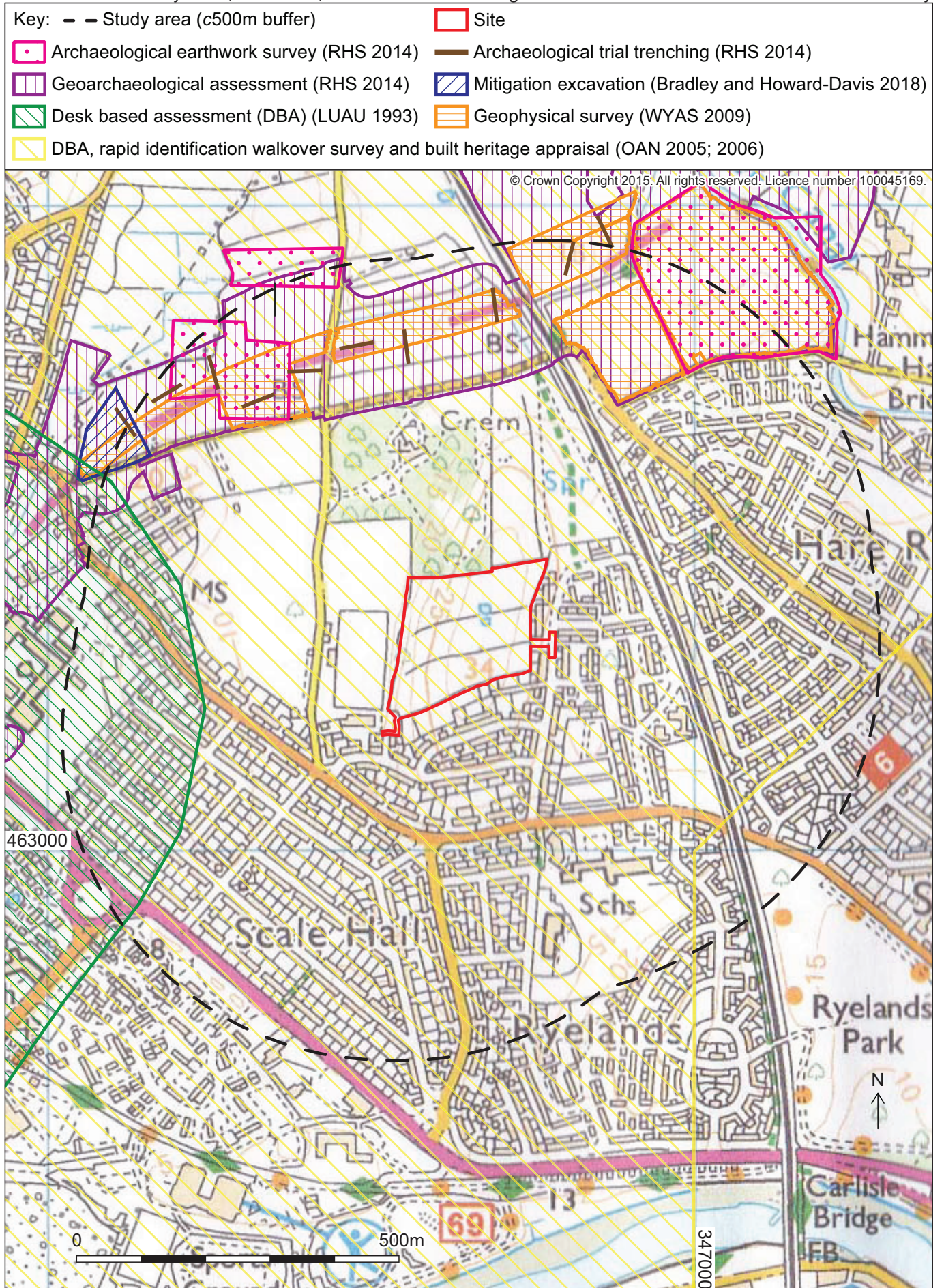


Figure 3: Previous archaeological work

Client: Oakmere Homes

5. Discussion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The discussion of the results of the desk-based assessment and walkover survey is intended to determine the archaeological significance and potential of any known remains (above or below ground) and the potential for any as yet unidentified remains being present. The system used to judge the significance of the remains identified within the development area, or those thought to have the potential to be present within the development area, is based on the criteria used to define Scheduled Monuments (DCMS 2013, annex 4; *Appendix 1*). Of the 20 sites identified within the study area, **Sites 10, 11, 14 and 16** lie inside the site area and are therefore likely to be affected by subsequent groundworks. The site is also situated within a wider area of known archaeological interest, so there is clearly potential for further remains of archaeological interest to be discovered, which are otherwise unknown at present.

5.2 Significance

5.2.1 There are no statutorily protecting heritage sites (Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings) in the study area and the site is not part of a Conservation Area. None of the other heritage assets listed on the HER or revealed during the desk-based assessment or walkover survey have any formal designation.

5.2.2 The level of significance of the features within or adjacent to the proposed development area is therefore only relative to the site itself and the local area, and can be categorised on that basis. The sites have been assessed, according to the criteria used for Scheduled Monuments, as high, medium, or low. An average of these has been used to produce an overall level of significance for each site (see Table 3 below: H=high, M=medium, L=low). As can be seen in Table 3, these features are considered to be of low to medium significance.

Site	10	11	14	16
<i>Period</i>	L	M	M	M
<i>Rarity</i>	L	L	L	H
<i>Documentation</i>	L	L	L	L
<i>Group value</i>	L	M	M	M
<i>Survival/condition</i>	H	M	M	L
<i>Fragility/Vulnerability</i>	M	H	H	H
<i>Diversity</i>	L	M	M	L
<i>Potential</i>	L	L	L	M
Significance	L-M	M-L	M-L	M

Table 3: Significance by site

5.2.3 As can be seen, all of the sites are of low to medium significance. The two earthworks (**Sites 11 and 14**) are primarily more important because of their relative group value as part of what is clearly a wider field system, while **Site 16** is of interest because of its relative rarity. All of the sites are vulnerable as they would be totally destroyed by the proposed development.

5.3 Potential for Unknown Archaeological Remains

5.3.1 Details of the archaeological remains present within the study area are presented in the results of the desk-based assessment (*Section 3; Appendix 2*). The potential for as yet unidentified archaeological remains to be present, however, is based on the known occurrence of such remains in the study area and also in the local environs (see *Section 4*). Where there are no remains known within the study area the potential is based on the known occurrence within the wider local area. The degree of potential is examined by period and the results are presented in Table 4 below; in each case the level of potential is expressed as low (L), medium (M), or high (H).

Period	Present in study area?	Potential
Late Upper Palaeolithic	N	L
Mesolithic	N	M
Neolithic	N	M
Bronze Age	?Y	L
Iron Age	N	L
Roman	Y	L
Early Medieval	N	L
Medieval	?Y	H
Post-medieval	Y	H

Table 4: Degree of potential for unknown archaeological remains by period

5.3.2 In consideration of Table 4 it is worth noting that one of the find spots, **Site 15**, is not located accurately in the HER and, of the group of items recorded, the date of the purported spearhead is uncertain. It should also be noted that the earthworks have not seen archaeological excavation and as such their date is uncertain (e.g., **Sites 1, 2, 4, 5, 11 and 14**), although **Sites 11 and 14** evidently form part of a larger field system that is likely to be at least medieval in date. The presence of prehistoric remains, primarily of Mesolithic and Neolithic date, found during archaeological work associated with the nearby 'Bay Gateway' road scheme, only a small amount of which was directly within the study area, suggests that further remains of these dates are a possibility within the site. It is also perhaps noteworthy that the site is on a hill top location, which would potentially have made it a more favourable location for settlement and activity.

5.4 Disturbance

5.4.1 The walkover survey revealed relatively little evidence for modern disturbance, with the exception of the installation of modern fencing, water troughs (and associated pipes) and the associated dumping of material. The whole site has clearly been subject to ploughing, both historically and possibly also more recently, and other land improvement such as drainage has probably also taken place. This would have disturbed any earlier remains of archaeological interest.

5.5 Impact

5.5.1 Although no detailed plans were available regarding proposed developments it is likely that any building on site would substantially impact on any archaeological remains that might be present.

5.6 Conclusion

5.6.1 There are some remains of archaeological interest remaining within the proposed development site, specifically earthworks relating to former agricultural land use (**Sites 10, 11, and 14**), the latter of which clearly form part of a larger system of ploughed fields, probably of at least medieval date based on their curving form and wide ridges; the surviving earthwork banks probably representing headlands that later became fossilised as field boundaries (Higham 2004, 56-59). The pond (**Site 10**), while probably natural, has been modified apparently in order to control and use the water, although it is not clear when this was carried out and seems likely to be quite recent. The wireless receiving station (**Site 16**) is not previously recorded and there is no evidence for it now present on site. Such stations typically comprised a small number of light-weight structures and receiving equipment in the form of masts or towers (OA South 2015) and so there is perhaps unlikely to be a great deal of remains surviving below ground. There is also the potential for further, as yet unknown, archaeological remains to be present, in particular those of prehistoric date, based on the evidence of what was recovered during work on the 'Bay Gateway' to the north. Frustratingly, the reference to pottery (possibly Roman) and a spear head (possibly Bronze Age) found during building work on Watery Lane (**Site 15**) is entirely unsubstantiated

by any sources other than the HER and it has not been possible to confirm if this is genuine or entirely spurious.

5.6.2 The most efficient means to investigate the likelihood of any unidentified archaeological remains being present, and to further explore those that have been identified, would be through geophysical survey and/or archaeological evaluation, although a watching brief during development work in the affected areas might also be considered appropriate. In addition, the extant earthworks (**Sites 10, 11 and 14**) should be subject to topographic survey in order to make a more detailed record of them prior to the development commencing.

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Appendix 1: Significance Criteria

After DCMS 2013

- i) *Period*: all types of monuments that characterise a category or period should be considered for preservation;
- ii) *Rarity*: there are some monument categories which in certain periods are so scarce that all surviving examples which retain some archaeological potential should be preserved. In general, however, a selection must be made which portrays the typical and commonplace as well as the rare. This process should take account of all aspects of the distribution of a particular class of monument, both in a national and regional context;
- iii) *Documentation*: the significance of a monument may be enhanced by the existence of record of previous investigation or, in the case of more recent monuments, by the supporting evidence of contemporary written records;
- iv) *Group Value*: the value of a single monument (such as a field system) may be greatly enhanced by its association with related contemporary monuments (such as a settlement and cemetery) or with monuments of different periods. In some cases, it is preferable to protect the complete group of monuments, including associated and adjacent land, rather than to protect isolated monuments within the group;
- v) *Survival/Condition*: the survival of a monument's archaeological potential both above and below ground is a particularly important consideration and should be assessed in relation to its present condition and surviving features;
- vi) *Fragility/Vulnerability*: highly important archaeological evidence from some field monuments can be destroyed by a single ploughing or unsympathetic treatment; vulnerable monuments of this nature would particularly benefit from the statutory protection which scheduling confers. There are also existing standing structures of particular form or complexity whose value can again be severely reduced by neglect or careless treatment and which are similarly well suited by scheduled monument protection, even if these structures are already listed historic buildings;
- vii) *Diversity*: some monuments may be selected for scheduling because they possess a combination of high quality features, others because of a single important attribute;
- viii) *Potential*: on occasion, the nature of the evidence cannot be specified precisely but it may still be possible to document reasons anticipating its existence and importance and so to demonstrate the justification for scheduling. This is usually confined to sites rather than upstanding monuments.

Appendix 2: Site Gazetteer

Site Number: 1

NGR: 347030 463830

HER No: PRN26417 - MLA26365

Sources: HER; OA North 2005

Designation: none

Site Type: earthwork (field boundary)

Description: 85-90m long linear ridge, aligned east/west, probably a former field boundary (OA North 2005).

Period: medieval or post medieval

Site Number: 2

NGR: 346349 463826

HER No: PRN26412 - MLA26360

Sources: HER; OA North 2005

Designation: none

Site Type: earthwork (field boundary); earthwork (ridge and furrow)

Description: field boundary identified during field survey (OA North. 2005). Field boundary surviving as a raised bank running east/west and fading towards the east. Eight trees remain showing its course. It is 200m long, 1.5m wide and 0.8m high. To the south there is an area of ridge and furrow orientated north/south.

Period: medieval or post medieval

Site Number: 3

NGR: 346256 463750

HER No: PRN26414 - MLA26362

Sources: HER; OA North 2005; Ordnance Survey 1848; 1891

Designation: none

Site Type: earthwork (hollow [spring]); water pump

Description: hollow identified during field survey (OA North 2005). Small sub-circular hollow at the base of a possible culvert finished with cap stones. This site is shown as a conventional circle symbol labelled 'Spring' on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map of 1848 (Ordnance Survey 1848) and as a small sub-circular feature with an attached rectangle labelled 'Pump' on the 1891 1:2,500 mapping (Ordnance Survey 1891).

Period: earthwork: unknown date [natural?]; water pump: post-medieval

Site Number: 4

NGR: 346426 463750

HER No: PRN26413 - MLA26361

Sources: HER; OA North 2005

Designation: none

Site Type: earthwork (lynchet); earthwork (ridge and furrow)

Description: earthwork remains of medieval or post medieval lynchet; lynchet identified during field survey. Lynchet orientated east/west, with ridge and furrow orientated east/west to the south.

Period: medieval or post medieval

Site Number: 5

NGR: 346320 463700

HER No: PRN26415 - MLA26363

Sources: HER; OA North 2005

Designation: none

Site Type: earthwork (mound)

Description: small earthen mound, identified during field survey, 4m by 3m and 0.3m high (OA North 2005).

Period: unknown

Site Number: 6

NGR: 346160 463624

HER No: PRN 26416 - MLA26364

Sources: HER; OA North 2005

Designation: none

Site Type: quarry

Description: oval quarry, 35m long and 15m wide, with a maximum depth of 5m (OA North 2005).

Period: medieval or post medieval

Site Number: 7

NGR: 346683 463616

HER No: PRN22184 - MLA22143

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey 1892

Designation: none

Site Type: gravel pit

Description: Old Gravel Pits are named on the Ordnance Survey first edition 1:2,500 map, 1892 (Ordnance Survey 1892). They do not appear on the 1848 1:10,560 sheet (Ordnance Survey 1848) but earthworks are shown here on modern mapping (Figure 2).

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 8

NGR: 346199 463417

HER No: PRN2539 - MLA2539

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey 1848; 1891

Designation: none

Site Type: cross (conjectural evidence); farmstead; house

Description: place name - Cross Hill. House and farm with this name extant in 1848 but since lost; there is no evidence of a cross having existed here. A large house with grounds, summerhouse, etc. named 'Cross Hill' (**Site 8b** at 346176 463411) and an adjacent farm - Cross Hill Farm (**Site 8c** at 346223 463316) - appear here on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 map of 1848 (Ordnance Survey 1848) and the 1891 1:2,500 sheet (Ordnance Survey 1891). They presumably took their name from the topographic feature, whose summit is about 34618 46352 (**Site 8a**). Both have since been lost.

Period: undated/post-medieval

Site Number: 9

NGR: 346124 463395

HER No: PRN20510 - MLA20

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey 1848

Designation: none

Site Type: milestone

Description: pre-1848 milestone, adjacent to 167 Torrisholme Road, Torrisholme, Lancaster marked Lancaster/Town Hall/ 2 Miles; milestone marked on first edition six inch map 1848 (Ordnance Survey 1848); still extant.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 10

NGR: 346671 463386

HER No: -

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1848; 1892; 1913; 1932; 1939; Houseprices.io 2021; walkover survey

Designation: none

Site Type: pond

Description: a pond is shown at this location on the 1:10,560 Ordnance Survey map of 1848 (Ordnance Survey 1848) and a smaller pond is marked c4.5m to the south on subsequent editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping (Ordnance Survey 1892; 1913; 1932; 1939). The larger pond is still visible on lidar imagery of the site (Houseprices.io 2021). The extant pond is approximately c6m north/south by 2m east/west (Plate 10 and Plate 11), and has been modified on the north-west side by the addition of a channel 1m wide and 0.5m deep, which is dammed where it meets the pond at the south-east end. The dam is constructed from boulders and rubble including concrete slabs and is presumably therefore quite modern (Plate 12 and Plate 13).

Period: natural/post-medieval



Plate 10 (left): General view of the pond, from the west

Plate 11 (right): General view of the pond, from the north



Plate 12 (left): The dam on the north-west side of the pond, viewed from the north

Plate 13 (right): The channel leading from the north-west side of the pond, viewed from the north-west

Site Number: 11

NGR: 346585 463342 – 346666 463362 – 346748 463371

HER No: -

Sources: NA IR 29/18/288 1841; Ordnance Survey 1848; 1892; 1913; 1932; 1939; 2011; walkover survey

Designation: none

Site Type: earthwork (field boundary)

Description: relict field boundary, surviving as an earthwork; It is marked on the tithe map of 1841 and Ordnance Survey maps from the first edition to modern ones (Ordnance Survey 1848; 1892; 1913; 1932; 1939; 2011). The walkover survey revealed that it comprises a bank running approximately east/west for c170m and angled north-east/south-west for c45m at its west end. It is up to 1.2m tall and 2-3m wide and constructed from earth and stone and is eroded and cut through at the east and west ends by vehicle tracks (Plate 14 to Plate 17).

Period: medieval or post-medieval



Plate 14 (left): Eroded section of the bank at the west end, viewed from the north



Plate 15 (right): General view of the west end of the bank, viewed from the west



Plate 16 (left): General view of the east end of the bank, from the south-east



Plate 17 (right): Section cut through the bank at the east end, viewed from the south-west

Site Number: 12

NGR: 346960 463344

HER No: PRN22183 - MLA22142

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey 1892

Designation: none

Site Type: milestone

Description: post-1848 railway M.P. (milepost) on first edition 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map of 1892 (Ordnance Survey 1892), marked Lancaster 1; still extant.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 13

NGR: 346433 463340

HER No: PRN4603 - MLA4603

Sources: HER; NA IR 29/18/288 1838; 1841; Ordnance Survey 1848; 1892; 1913; 1932; 1939

Designation: none

Site Type: powder magazine

Description: possible site of a powder magazine, from Lancaster City Museum database. The site is named 'Powder House' on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 mapping of 1848 (Ordnance Survey 1848), as well as the 1892 1:2,500 mapping (Ordnance Survey 1892) and later editions (Ordnance Survey 1913; 1932; 1939), although it is now known as 'The Powderhouse Cottage'.

It has been suggested that this site was either a magazine for quarry explosives or that it was a magazine for storage of gunpowder, etc. from the shipping on the Lune, but neither theory appears to have much evidence to support it. Of the two suggestions the latter seems more likely, as the site is only c1km from the Lancaster quays - but is on the 'wrong' side of the river (although close to Scale Ford, passable at low water) for supervision by the Lancaster Port Commissioners. As a quarry magazine it has much less to support it, with only a small number of hard rock quarries being present closer than Carnforth on this side of the River Lune and much more convenient locations being available to service the extensive quarries in and around Lancaster itself.

The present building is a rectangular single-storey house, c15m by 5m, of stone with a slate roof and three chimneys, it is clearly of more than one phase and was perhaps two cottages or cottage and barn/store before its current use.

The building is marked on the tithe map of 1841 and the adjoining field (plot 160) is named 'Powder House Field' and listed as owned by the commissioners of the turnpike road and Mrs Ann Clark. This suggests that it was used in the construction of the turnpike and so presumably in associated quarrying.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 14

NGR: 346567 463274 – 346671 463304 – 36749 463322

HER No: -

Sources: NA IR 29/18/288 1841; Ordnance Survey 1848; 1892; 1913; 1932; 1939; 2011; walkover survey

Designation: none

Site Type: earthwork (field boundary)

Description: relict field boundary, surviving as an earthwork. It is marked on the tithe map of 1841 and Ordnance Survey maps from the first edition to modern ones (Ordnance Survey 1848; 1892; 1913; 1932; 1939; 2011). The walkover survey revealed that it survives a bank running east/west for c200m, up to 1m tall and 2m wide, and constructed from earth and stone and is eroded and cut through by vehicle tracks at the east and west ends (Plate 18 to Plate 21).

Period: medieval or post-medieval



Plate 18 (left): Eroded section of the bank, viewed from the north

Plate 19 (right): The west end of the bank, viewed from the north-west



Plate 20 (left): The east end of the bank, viewed from the east

Plate 21 (right): Section cut through the bank at the east end, viewed from the south-west

Site Number: 15

NGR: 346 463 [HER marks the location at NGR 346800 463300]

HER No: PRN2753 - MLA2753

Sources: HER

Designation: none

Site Type: find spot (pottery, stone artefact, spearhead)

Description: pottery, stone artefact and spearhead (? Roman) discovered by builders on a site near Watery Lane. There is no trace of a written account. Builders said to have kept finds. No further information. [Note: the HER records the spear as Bronze Age and Roman (uncertain)].

Period: Bronze Age/Roman

Site Number: 16

NGR: 346660 463287

HER No: -

Sources: Ordnance Survey 1939; OA South 2015

Designation: none

Site Type: wireless receiving station

Description: pre-1938 wireless receiving station recorded on the 1939 edition of the Ordnance Survey map (Ordnance Survey 1939), not shown on the earlier edition, surveyed 1931 (Ordnance Survey 1932); no longer extant. Such stations were typically constructed from just before the First World War and then reused in the Second World War, although this was evidently constructed in the 1930s. They were usually in coastal locations and utilised for intercepting enemy radio transmissions.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 17

NGR: 347192 463263

HER No: PRN19412 - MLA19374

Sources: HER

Designation: none

Site Type: find spot (cannonball)

Description: iron cannonballs found in back garden of 36 Harcourt Road, Lancaster, late medieval in date; one of four retained by Lancaster City Museum.

Period: medieval

Site Number: 18

NGR: 347167 463099

HER No: PRN40029 - MLA37426

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey 1848; 1892

Designation: none

Site Type: house and barn

Description: 'Vale Cottage', a large house in its own grounds accessed by a driveway off Torrisholme Road, is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:10,560 mapping of 1848. By the time of the 1:2,500 edition of 1892 (Ordnance Survey 1892) the site was known as 'The Vale' (**Site 15b** at 347167 463086). It is still extant as a house, although the area around has been redeveloped as a housing estate. A large outbuilding - barn? - to the north (**Site 15a** at 347168 463112) is also still extant and apparently now in light industrial use.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 19

NGR: 347420 462741

HER No: PRN38688 - MLA36160

Sources: HER; Ordnance Survey 1848; 1893

Designation: none

Site Type: park

Description: landscaped park around Ryelands House, the eastern portion extant pre-1848 (Ordnance Survey 1848), the central portion pre-1893 (Ordnance Survey 1893) (probably c1883) both of these probably private grounds to Ryelands House (See PRN4632). Later extended to the north and now a public park with some facilities.

Period: post-medieval

Site Number: 20

NGR: 346437 462766

HER No: PRN4629 - MLA4629

Sources: HER; Lancaster City Museum Database

Designation: none

Site Type: find spot (coin)

Description: a coin of Valentinus (Valens AD 364-8?) was found in the back garden of 35 Clevellys Avenue, Scale Hall.

Period: Roman

Appendix 3: Archive Index

Project name:	Land off Watery Lane, Lancaster, Lancashire: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Walkover Survey		
Project Code:	G1483	Site Code:	WL21
Description	Material	Size	Quantity
Report	Paper, comb-bound	A4	18 sheets printed double-sided
Walkover survey record sheet	Paper	A4	3 sheets, double-sided
Photo record sheet	Paper	A4	1 sheet, double-sided
Digital archive index	Paper	A4	1 sheet, single-sided
Digital archive	DVD	-	1