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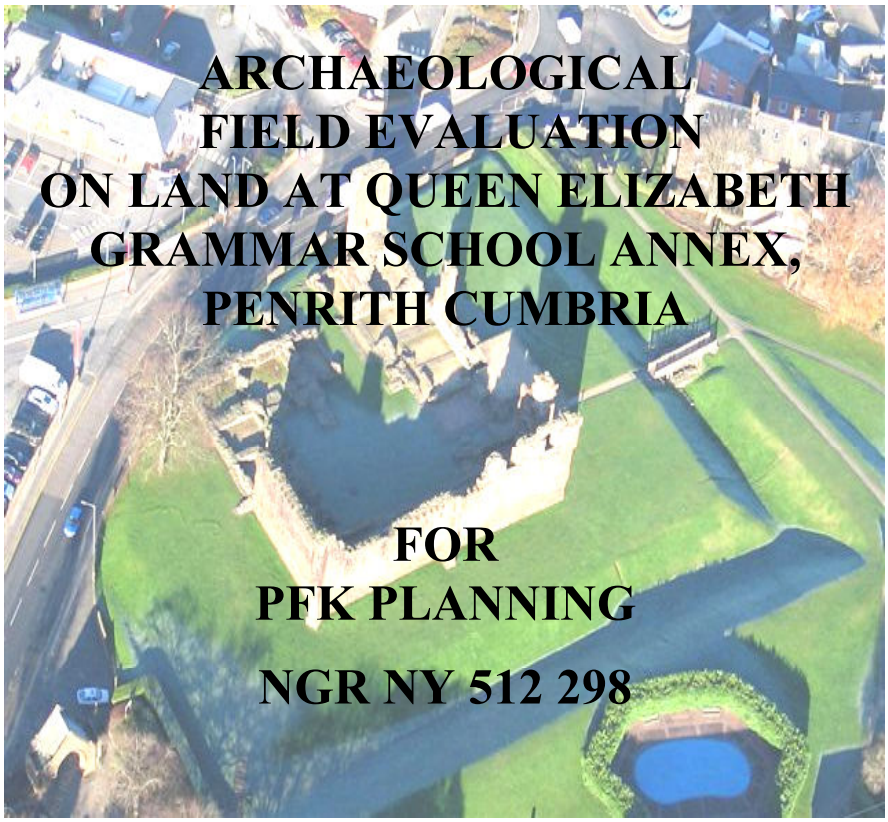

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION ON LAND AT QUEEN ELIZABETH GRAMMAR SCHOOL ANNEX, PENRITH CUMBRIA

FOR PFK PLANNING

NGR NY 512 298

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In July 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological field evaluation on land at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Annexe, Penrith, Cumbria (centred on NY 512 298). This work was requested by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) in advance of a planning application for a proposed redevelopment scheme, which would affect an area considered to have a very high archaeological potential, as identified by a previous desk-based assessment (Davies 2006).

The field evaluation consisted of the excavation of eight linear trial trenches, each measuring 20m x 2m, and positioned to adequately sample the site, which covers an area of approximately 5100m². The main aim was to provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing their character, condition, and significance, which would enable the school's proposed redevelopment of the annexe building to proceed in a highly informed way.

The results of the trenching indicated that the periphery of land immediately around the annexe buildings had not been excessively disturbed or truncated by human interventions, both in the medieval or post medieval periods, however three tentative archaeological features were located and subsequently excavated: in Trench 1, a shallow linear cut **[103]**, and in Trenches 4 and 7, two irregular pits or tree/bush boles, **[105]** and **[106]** respectively. However, the features are probably modern, relating to landscaping or when the land around the school was used during the Second World War for cultivation purposes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to offer thanks to Bruce Armstrong-Payne of PFK Planning for commissioning the project. Thanks also go to the Mr Chris Kirkup, Headmaster of Queen Elizabeth Grammar School and to the staff and pupils of QEGS for their assistance and enthusiasm throughout the works. Finally, thanks go to David of Metcalf Plant Hire, for diligent and professional machining of the trenches.

North Pennines Archaeology would also like to extend their thanks to Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist, Cumbria County Council, for his help during this project.

Gareth Davies managed the project. The fieldwork was carried out by Martin Sowerby, Nicola Gaskell, Kevin Mounsey and Charlotte Burrill. Additional fieldwork and metal detecting was kindly undertaken by Alan James. Nicola Gaskell produced the drawings; Kevin Mounsey undertook artefact processing. Martin Sowerby wrote the report. Frank Giecco, Technical Director for NPA LTD, oversaw the project. Matthew Town edited the report.

1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

1.1 In June 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Bruce Armstrong-Payne of PFK Planning, to undertake a targeted archaeological field evaluation on land at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School Annexe, Penrith, Cumbria, (QEGS) (NY 512 298; Figure 1). The work was a requirement of Cumbria County Councils Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) to inform the determination of a planning application for the proposed redevelopment of the site, which is still in use as the current sixth form centre, and which is located to the north of the main school campus.

1.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment (Davies 2006) has shown that the proposed scheme affects an area considered to have a very high archaeological potential. The result of the evaluation would therefore inform decisions to be taken regarding any application for planning permission for the redevelopment, and would suggest mitigation measures designed to preserve any archaeological remains in-situ or by record. This process is in line with current government advice contained within Planning Policy Guidelines: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16; DoE 1990).

1.3 North Pennines Archaeology Limited (NPAL), accordingly produced a project design, detailing the aims, objectives and methodology of the evaluation, in accordance with a Project Brief produced by CCCHES (Parsons 2005). The evaluation was undertaken from 10th to the 12th July 2006 and was monitored by Jeremy Parsons, Cumbria County Councils Assistant Archaeologist.

1.4 The QEGS annexe site consists of a plot of land 5100m² in size, positioned immediately beyond the southern extent of the historic core of Penrith; c.75m metres east of Penrith railway station, and 75m south of the remains of Penrith Castle. The site lies at a height of approximately 150m AOD and is bounded on the west by the northeast-southwest aligned A592, on the east and north by the grassed grounds of Castle Park, and on the south by the gardens of the houses on Castle Gate. The plot currently includes the existing QEGS annexe school buildings, a levelled tarmac car park and two grassed areas (east and south of the plot) that slope moderately from north to south but may have been levelled to some degree (Davies 2006).

1.5 The terrace of the River Eamont at Penrith consists of glacial drift deposits of a presumed late Pleistocene or early Holocene date overlying a solid geology of outcropping red sandstone (Moseley 1978). The glacial drift deposits (sand and gravel) of the river terrace are generally overlain by fine silt and loam top-soils of the Wick Association (*ibid*).

1.6 This document sets out the result of the archaeological evaluation in the form of a short report.

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Design

2.1.1 A project design was prepared in response to a brief prepared by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) for an archaeological field evaluation. This included a detailed specification of works to be carried out, which consisted of the excavation of a trial trench and a programme of post excavation and reporting. The post excavation reporting was required to include specific recommendations on the potential for the further study of the environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and mollusca remains), faunal remains and soil micromorphology from the site.

2.2 Archaeological Evaluation

2.2.1 The field evaluation consisted of the excavation of eight linear trial trenches, measuring 20m x 1.6m, which provided a 5% sample of an area 5100m². Deposits and features of archaeological interest identified within the trench were investigated and recorded in order to provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing their character, condition, and significance.

2.2.2 In summary, the main objectives of the excavation were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover paleoenvironmental material where it survived in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.2.3 The trench was mechanically excavated by a JCB 3CX excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision, to the natural substrate. The trench was then manually cleaned and any putative archaeological features were investigated. Archaeological features were recorded using NPA standard *pro-forma* recording sheets utilising guidelines set out in the NPA Excavation Manual (Giecco 2001).

2.2.4 Photography was undertaken using Canon EOS 100 and EOS 300V Single Lens Reflex (SLR) cameras. A photographic record was made using digital photography, 200 ISO Colour Print and Colour Slide film.

2.2.5 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (IFA 1994).

2.3 Project Archive

2.3.1 The full archive has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the current English Heritage guidelines set out in the Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 2nd Ed. 1991). The archive will eventually be deposited

within an appropriate repository and a copy of the report given to the County Sites and Monuments Record, where viewing will be available on request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA 06 QEG-A.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 It is generally considered that Penrith has been under-explored archaeologically (Newman et al. 2000, CCC EUS), but that the historic core contains well preserved buried deposits of high archaeological potential (CCC EUS, 21). The QEGS annexe site is located on the southern periphery of this historic core. Below is a summary of the key archaeological investigations that have taken place in Penrith, including those near to the Castle and the QEGS annexe site.

3.2 Penrith Castle was presented to the Ministry of Works (now English Heritage) in 1914. In c.1928 the remains were 'excavated and consolidated (Jackson 1990)' by the then Office of Works. The only reference to the work is in an article by F. Hudleston published in volume 30 (1930) of the *Transactions of the Cumberland & Westmorland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society*, where plans of the Castle are reproduced. Hudleston states that;

> *'Since Col. Haswell and Mr. J. F. Curwen in 1907 and 1918 respectively gave us their papers on Penrith Castle, the Office of Works have completed their work on the ruins, and by the courtesy of our Honorary Member, Mr. C. R. Peers, Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, who lent me the whole of the drawings he had prepared, I am able to lay before you a plan showing the foundations of walls and towers which are now laid bare, and these discoveries must undoubtedly modify the ideas we formerly held.'*

3.3 In 1970, a small excavation carried out by Barbara Harbottle in the present garden of the friarage, which identified a brown soil containing medieval pottery and overlying rubble possibly relating to the destruction of the friary at the time of the dissolution (Med Arch. 1971).

3.4 In 1976, an unpublished excavation on the former site of the grammar school identified a number of undated graves (CCC EUS).

3.5 An excavation by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) discovered evidence of both medieval (perhaps pre-dating the 14th century) and post-medieval activity (Newman et al 2000).

3.6 A watching brief by LUAU monitored the groundworks for new visitor signs at Penrith Castle. No significant archaeological deposits were observed (LUAU 1997)

3.7 An archaeological evaluation by LUAU, east of the QEGS annexe site, identified a ditch possibly associated with the castle moat. A subsequent watching brief located a masonry wall in alignment with the retaining wall on the southern side of the Castle moat, raising the possibility that the moat continues to the north west, no other significant features were located (LUAU 2000).

3.8 An archaeological evaluation by Headland Archaeology at 23 Strickland Gate, Penrith, recovered the foundations of tenement buildings that had stood on the site until the 1950's (Headland 2001)

3.9 There were 42 HER records within the study area identified from the desk-based assessment (Davies 2006), which are defined as a 1km radius around the site. Although

no sites will be directly affected by the development three finds have been made in the environs of the QEGS Annex site. These are:

HER 19607	Sculptured Head Find	Findspot	Unknown	E29700, N51400
HER 4910	Elizabethan Coin	Findspot	P.Medieval	E29900, N51300
HER 1172	Perforated Stone Find	Findspot	Unknown	E29800, N51300

Table 1: HER findspots within the environs of Queen Elizabeth School Annexe

4 EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 The evaluation trench was 1.6m wide by 20m long, and was orientated north-west by south-east (Fig 2). The trench was positioned in the eastern extent of the site, along the hedge line, which separates the school from Penrith Castle Park.

4.1.2 The trench was mechanically excavated to a maximum depth of 0.34m, which exposed the natural geology. The natural geology **(101)**, consisted of pale, compacted, brownish red silty sand with numerous inclusions of poorly sorted, small to medium sub-rounded to angular stones. Directly overlying the natural substrate**,** was a deposit of horticultural or garden-soil **(100)**, which was 0.34m in depth and ran the whole length of the trench. The soil consisted of moderately compacted silty sand, mid to dark brown in colour with occasional small to medium inclusions. It is highly likely that this deposit is the topsoil, due to the fact that the ground on which the annexe is sited was agricultural land prior to the school being constructed. Alternatively, it could be a deposit of soil from when Castle Park was constructed in 1923.

4.1.3 No evidence of any cut archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 1, however a number of archaeological artefacts were recovered using a metal detector, a small number of probably modern iron objects were recovered from garden/horticultural soil **[100]**.

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Trench 2 was 20m in length by 1.60m wide and was orientated approximately north-east by south-west. It was positioned at the eastern limit of the proposed redevelopment area and was located 2m to the south of Trench 1. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.50m at the north-eastern end, sloping down to 0.30m at the south-western end.

4.2.2 The machining removed 0.50m of garden/horticultural soil **(100)**. The soil consisted of a moderately compacted, mid brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded stones. Across the south-western extent of the trench, an extensive deposit of dark material, which contained large quantities of ash, clinker and modern glass fragments, was noted. The nature of this deposit **(102)** and its constituents provided evidence of post-medieval ash dumping, which most likely predates the school annexe buildings. This deposit overlaid a shallow linear feature **[103]**. This feature, 0.80m wide, with a depth of 0.10m was aligned north-west by south-east and was backfilled by **(102).** It is difficult to discern what the feature was and to what function or form it served, however it must be post-medieval in origin due to its relatively modern backfill. The natural **(101)** at the base of the trench consisted of a mid reddish brown, sandy silt with numerous inclusions of small to medium sub-angular stones.

4.2.3 A number of archaeological artefacts were recovered using a metal detector; a small number of probably modern iron objects were recovered from garden/horticultural soil **[100].**

4.3 Trench 3

4.3.1 Trench 3 was 20m long by 1.60m wide and was orientated east-west. It was positioned 3m to the south of Trench 2 and ran parallel with the hedge line forming the boundary between the school and the gardens of the houses on Castle Drive. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.50m.T

4.3.2 Trench 3 was mechanically excavated to the natural substrate. It revealed one distinct layer **(100)** which is the same deposit seen in Trench 1 and 2. It consisted of mid to dark grey silty sand, moderately compacted with occasional poorly sorted inclusions of small sub angular stones up to 60mm in diameter. The natural **(101)** varied in colour from a pale reddish brown, deep red and orangey-brown generally comprising sterile gritty sandy silt with *c*60% inclusions, poorly sorted, very small to medium sub angular and sub rounded stones.

4.3.3 No evidence of any cut archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 1, however a number of archaeological artefacts were recovered using a metal detector, a small number of probably modern iron objects were recovered from garden/horticultural soil **[100].**

4.4 Trench 4

4.4.1 Trench 4 was 1.60m wide by 13.70m long and was orientated north-south, and was positioned in the southern extent of the site. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.50m at its southern end, rising to 0.30m at its northern end. Several services, including a live electrical cable ran parallel with the school building, therefore it was not possible to complete excavation of the trench to the full 20m.

4.4.2 The machining removed 0.50m of garden/horticultural soil **(100)**. This layer consisted of mid grey, compacted but friable when dry, silty sand. In the northern part of the trench a small sub-square cut was uncovered. This feature **[105]** was 0.45m in length by o.20m wide and 0.14m deep. It was filled by one deposit **(104)**, a mid to dark brown silty clay. The deposit appears to have formed naturally, rather than deliberately backfilled due to its homogenous nature. The shallow irregular profile of this feature possibly implies a small tree or bush bole. The natural drift geology **(101)** consisted of compacted mid brown to reddish brown sandy silt, with *c* 70-80% stone inclusions, poorly sorted throughout and sub-angular to sub-rounded in shape.

4.4.3 A number of archaeological artefacts were recovered using a metal detector; a small number of probably modern iron objects were recovered from garden/horticultural soil **[100].**

4.5 Trench 5

4.5.1 Trench 5 was 20m long by 1.60m wide and was orientated east-west. It was positioned in the southern extent of the site, approximately 5m east of Trench 4. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.55m. A small sondage was placed at the western end of the trench.

4.5.2 The trench was machine excavated to reveal one distinct layer within the trench. The garden/horticultural soil **(100)** 0.40m deep consisted of moderately compacted sandy

silt, with *c* 10% small sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions. Beneath this was the natural substrate **(101)**, a well compacted gritty silty sand with *c* 40% small to medium stone inclusions varying in shape from sub-rounded to sub-angular. In the middle of the trench were two large rounded boulders.

4.5.3 No evidence of any cut archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 1, however a number of archaeological artefacts were recovered using a metal detector, a small number of probably modern iron objects were recovered from garden/horticultural soil **[100].**

4.6 Trench 6

4.6.1 Trench 6 was 20m long and 1.60m wide and was oriented north-south. It was located in the southern side of the proposed redevelopment site and is approximately 5m to the east of Trench 5. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m.

4.6.2 The trench was machine stripped, removing 0.35m of garden/horticultural soil **(100)**, which consisted of mid grey compacted sandy silt with occasional stone inclusions which were sub-oval to rounded in shape. This overlaid the natural substrate **(101**), which was compacted gritty silty sand with *c* 50% small to medium inclusions.

4.6.3 No evidence of any cut archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 1, however a number of archaeological artefacts were recovered using a metal detector, a small number of probably modern iron objects were recovered from garden/horticultural soil **[100].**

4.7 Trench 7

4.7.1 Trench 7 was 20m in length by 1.60m wide and was orientated approximately north-south. The trench was positioned at the western limit of the proposed redevelopment area on a thin strip of land, which is aligned to the A592 roadway. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.40m.

4.7.2 The trench was opened by mechanical excavator, exposing the natural substrate at a depth of 0.40m. Immediately above the natural was the garden/horticultural soil **(100)**, which is similar to that seen in the other evaluation trenches across the site. It consisted of loose silty sand, dark brown almost black in colour. The natural **(101)** is a moderately compacted, mid brownish red sandy silt.

4.7.3 No evidence of any cut archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 1, however a number of archaeological artefacts were recovered using a metal detector, a small number of probably modern iron objects were recovered from garden/horticultural soil **[100].**

4.8 Trench 8

4.8.1 Trench 8 was 20m in length by 1.60m wide and was orientated approximately north-south. The trench was positioned at the western limit of the proposed redevelopment area on a thin strip of land, which is aligned to the A592 roadway. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.75m at its southern end, rising up to 0.25m at its northern extent.

4.8.2 The machining removed 0.75m of garden/horticultural soil **(100)**. This layer consisted of mid grey to brown silty sand. In the southern end of the trench a small sub-oval cut was uncovered. This feature **[106]** was 0.90m in length by 0.80m wide and 0.20m deep. It was filled by one deposit **(107)**, a loose, mid to dark brown silty sand. Several sherds of post-medieval glass, CBM and pottery were also recovered from the fill. It appears that the feature was possibly a small cut for the insertion of a tree or bush that has since been removed due to its regular shape and profile. The natural drift geology **(101)** consisted of compacted mid brown to reddish brown sandy silt, with *c* 70-80% stone inclusions, poorly sorted throughout and sub-angular to sub-rounded in shape.

4.8.3 A number of archaeological artefacts were recovered using a metal detector; a small number of probably modern iron objects were recovered from garden/horticultural soil **[100].**

5. FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The archaeological finds from the evaluation were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of F Giecco (NPA Ltd Technical Director). During the targeted evaluation, all spoil and archaeological horizons were fully metal detected. The finds were retrieved either from the topsoil **(100)** or from the spoil so are classed as unstratified **(U/S).**

5.2 Clay Pipes

5.2.1 Four fragments of undecorated clay tobacco pipe stems were recovered from the evaluation. All four stems were retrieved from horticultural/topsoil **(100)** located in Trench 7.

5.3 Medieval and Post-Medieval Pottery

5.3.1 The excavation produced 51 fragments of medieval/post-medieval pottery, which dates from the 14th to twentieth centuries.

5.3.2 In total two sherds of medieval pottery was recovered during the evaluation, which consisted of 13th to 15th century, partly reduced green glazed ware.

5.3.3 The post-medieval assemblage was dominated by kitchenwares from the eighteenth to twentieth centuries, although there was a small group of ceramics representing the seventeenth century, which included fragments of tin-glazed earthenware.

5.4 Iron and other metal objects

5.4.1 Over 100 fragments of iron were recovered, the majority of which (85%+) comprises of unidentified objects. The rest comprised of nails, bolts, screws and a general assortment of domestic and industrial debris. The ironwork was spread evenly throughout all of the trenches.

5.5 Coins

5.5.1 In total 13 coins were recovered, which includes a number of modern, pre and post decimal coinage. The oldest coin was a 1914 King George 1, one-penny piece. The majority of the coins were recovered from Trench 2.

5.6 Glass

5.6.1 Thirty fragments of vessel and window glass, as well as one complete spirits bottle were recovered during the evaluation. Trench 7 produced the most with 17 shards and one small complete spirits bottle. This is hardly surprising given that the trench location is next to the main road out of Penrith. Most of the glass is modern in date (after the eighteenth centuries), however one shard from Trench 7 is clearly late medieval in date. It consists of a mould-blown, pale green glass, which is cloudy and pitted.

5.7 Ceramic Building Materials

5.7.1 In total five fragments of brick were recovered from the horticultural/topsoil layer **(100)** and one small piece from the backfill of a small cut/pit **[106]/(107)**. Most of the fragments were small and thus could not be assigned a secure date. The majority are however, of a modern construction, namely machine made.

5.8 Copper Alloy

5.8.1 Two artefacts of copper alloy were recovered. The small group comprises of what appears to be a small pair of pliers or a book clasp **(SF No 3),** from Trench 1 and a small clip badge of an aeroplane **(SF No 6)** from Trench 6. The pliers or book clasp are of particular interest. Initial analysis seemed to indicate that the object was of a Middle Saxon date. However further investigations (Andrew Rogerson *pers comm.*) has showed that that object is possibly late medieval to post-medieval in date and in all probability is a page-turner or a book fitting.

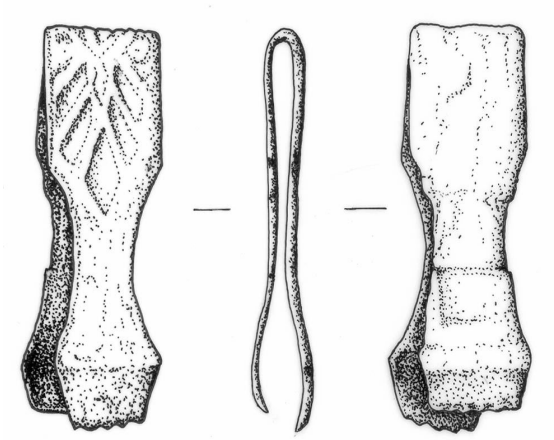

Plate 3 Late medieval tweezers or book fitting from Trench 1 (scale 2:1)

5.9 Lead Objects

5.9.1 In total three lead objects were recovered during the metal detector scan. These include a small lead musket ball, which retains its moulding pimple indicating that it was not fired **(SF No 4)**.

5.9.2 Also recovered were two lead sack or bale seals **(SF No 2, (100),** Trench 4 and **SF No 5, (100),** Trench 1). Lead seals such as cloth seals and bale seals were widely used in Britain between the 13th and 19th centuries as a means of identification and as a component of regulation and quality control. Both seals were stamped; small find number two is stamped "**NW5"** and small find number 5, **"CARR"** and **"CG"**. The seals were two discs of lead joined by a connecting strip and these would be folded around each side of a textile and stamped closed.

5.10 Environmental and Bone Report

5.10.1 ***Introduction:*** In the trench excavated some 2 contexts were considered worth sampling. Sample 1 (104) came from a possible posthole; Sample 2 (107) came from a possible shrub or small tree bole. Both the whole earth samples were selected for processing in order to assess their environmental potential. This will help provide further information as to the depositional processes involved in their formation. The methodology employed required that the whole earth samples be broken down and split into their various different components. This was achieved by a combination of water washing and flotation. The recovered remains can then be assessed for content.

5.10.2 Flotation separates the organic, floating fraction of the sample from the heavier mineral and finds content of sands, silts, clays, stones, artefacts and waterlogged material. Heavy soil and sediment content measuring less than 1mm falls through the retentive mesh to settle on the bottom of the tank. Flotation produces a 'flot' and a 'residue' for examination, whilst the heavier sediment retained in the tank is discarded. The method relies purely on the variation in density of the recovered material to separate it from the soil matrix, allowing for the recovery of ecofacts and artefacts from the whole earth sample.

5.10.3 The retent, like the residue from wet sieving, will contain any larger items of bone, or artefacts. The flot or floating fraction will generally contain organic material such as plant matter, fine bones, cloth, leather and insect remains. A rapid scan at this stage will allow further recommendations to be made as to the potential for further study by entomologists or palaeobotanists, with a view to retrieving vital economic information from the samples. Favourable preservation conditions can lead to the retrieval of organic remains that may produce a valuable suite of information in respect of the depositional environment of the material, which may include anthropogenic activity, seasonality and climate and elements of the economy.

5.10.4 The contents of the samples are listed below in Tables 2 and 3.

SAMPLE **NUMBER**	CONTEXT **NUMBER**	**SAMPLE SIZE (litres)**	**FLOT SIZE (cm^3)**	**RETENT SIZE (cm^3)**
1	104	10	150	1000
2	107	10	100	1204

Table 2 *Details of samples and contexts*

DETAILS			RETENT FRACTION							LIGHT FRACTION													
Context	Context type	Sample number	Root material	Charred wood	Wood fragments	Burnt bone	Bone	Gravel	Stones	Insects	Charred wood	Root material	Charred wheat	Charred oats	Charred barley	Bedstraw	Chenopodium	Raspberry	Other seeds	Small snail shells	Cinders	Wood fragments	Woody plant parts
104	Fill	1	1	1	0	1	0	3	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
107	Fill	2	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	1

Table 3 *Contents of flot and retent residues from samples.*

Key to tables: Fill = ditch, posthole or pit fill. Contents assessed by scale of richness 0 to 3. 0 = not present, 1 = present, 2 = common, 3 = abundant.

5.10.5 **Sample 1 *(Context 104)*, Trench 4:** This mid to dark brown silty clay appears to be a deposit that has formed naturally, the fill of a small sub-square cut, possibly a shallow tree or bush cut. The retent contained mainly gravel with some stones with a small amount of both charred wood and root material. There was a lot of charred wood in the flot recovered with no seeds. There was also a small amount of root material, burnt bone and wood fragments. The burnt wood was mainly small wood, which suggests it may have come from a woody bush that was burned out.

5.10.6 **Sample 2 *(Context 107)*, Trench 7:** This sample came from the fill of another shrub or shallow tree bole feature, as in sample 1. The retent of this sample was made up of mainly gravel and stones with some cinders and a small amount of root material. The flot contained mainly cinders and roots with some small snail shells (5mm diameter). Wood fragments and woody plant parts were also present with seeds of *Chenopodium* species, raspberry and bedstraw. The presence of the cinders may have been before the shrub was planted and the weed seeds will have entered the deposit from the surrounding area, previously a garden.

5.10.7 **Discussion:** the flot samples recovered yielded only a few seeds and none of these were particularly interesting environmentally. In all aspects the soil matrix removed from the fill of the postholes was almost sterile. It is not thought necessary to carry out any scientific dating methods on the material recovered, as this would add little to the material recovered from the site.

5.10.8 **Conclusion and recommendations:** The potential for further information being gained from the examination of this material is limited and so it is recommended that no further work be done.

5.11 Vertebrate Remains

5.11.1 No vertebrate remains were recovered from the site.

5.12 Mollusc Remains

5.12.1 These remains consisted of the very small snail shells recovered from sample 2, which, although indicative to the habitat and geology of the area, do not warrant further investigation.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The results of the evaluation failed to locate any significant archaeological features even though the annexe buildings are located only 75m from Penrith Castle. Cartographic sources illustrate the development of this part of Penrith throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, reflecting the expansion of the town onto the castle grounds. From these sources it is clear that the land around the school has not been built upon, indeed layer **(100)**, which was noted in all eight evaluation trenches, appeared to be homogenous, indicating a garden/horticultural soil which has been cultivated over a long period of time.

6.2 The potential for medieval archaeology within the area was thought to be high, however it is likely that any archaeological activities relating to the medieval period were focused closer to the castle and may have been truncated by later post-medieval activities, namely the construction of Castle Park in 1923, the building of the railway and the A592 roadway.

6.3 The redevelopment of the QEGS annexe site will not directly impinge on any significant archaeological remains and as such the work undertaken should be sufficient to allow the development to proceed.

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8 APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Type	Description
100	Layer	Garden Soil/ Topsoil
101	Layer	Natural
102	Fill	Fill of [103]
103	Cut	Linear feature
104	Fill	Fill of [105]
105	Cut	Sub-square cut
106	Cut	Small oval pit/cut
107	Fill	Fill of [106]

Table 4: Index of Contexts

9 APPENDIX 2 – FIGURES AND PLATES