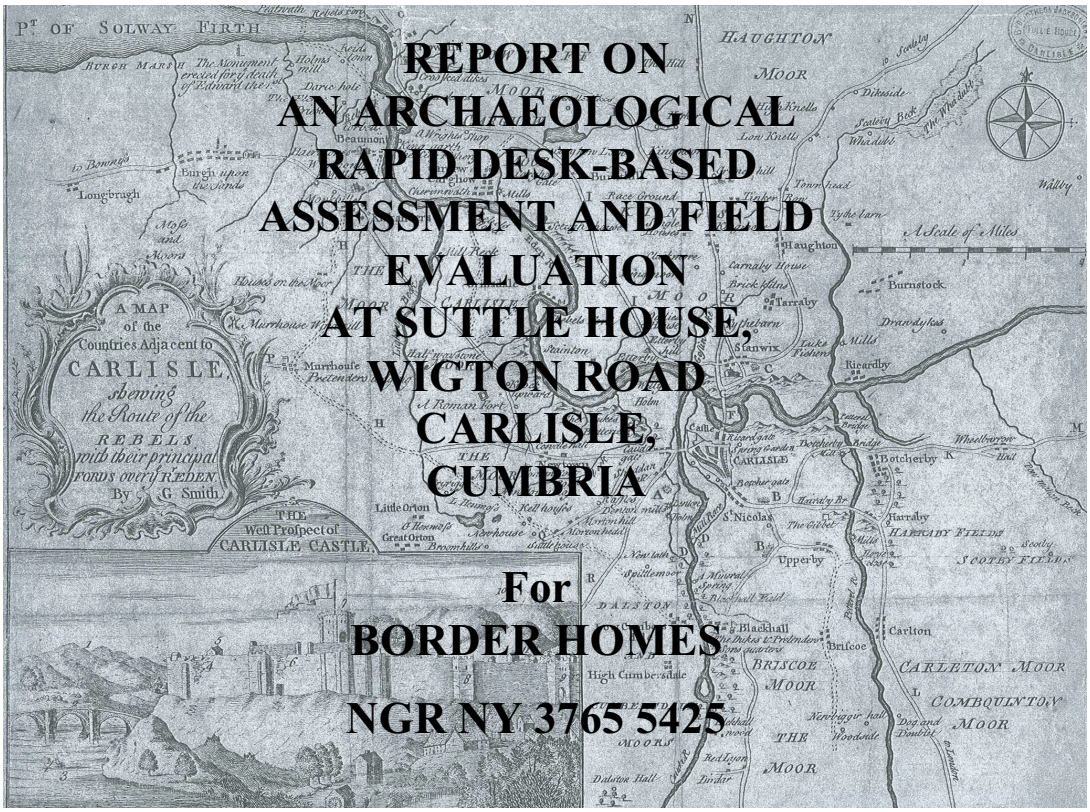
NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Client Report No. 264/05



REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT AND FIELD EVALUATION AT SUTTLE HOUSE, WIGTON ROAD CARLISLE, CUMBRIA

For

BORDER HOMES

NGR NY 3765 5425

Matthew Town BA, MA
North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre
Nenthead
Alston
Cumbria CA9 3PD
Tel: (01434) 382045
Fax: (01434) 382294
Mobile: 07966 172031
Email: m.town@nparchaeology.co.uk

30 November 2006

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd is a wholly owned company of North Pennines Heritage Trust
Company Registration No. 4847034 VAT Registration No. 817 2284 31

CONTENTS

Page

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In November 2005, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook a rapid desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation at Suttle House, Wigton Road, Carlisle, Cumbria. The work was requested in response to a series of planning applications for a residential development, a scheme considered to affect an area of high archaeological potential. The work conformed to the standards set out in a brief provided by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service, and accepted best practice.

The work involved the consultation of the County Historic Environment Record in Kendal and the County Record Office, Carlisle, in order to assess the existing information regarding the site's historic, archaeological, topographical and geographical context prior to the commencement of fieldwork. This involved the collection of all readily available information regarding the archaeological landscape of the study area, including the locations and settings of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens and other, non-designated archaeological remains. This was followed by a visual site inspection and the excavation of a series of trial trenches in order to assess the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains.

The results of the desk-based assessment identified that, whilst there was circumstantial evidence for prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity, and that the site lay adjacent to a Roman road, there appeared to be no clear evidence for any activity on the site prior to the eighteenth century, when the marginal lands in the area began to be enclosed. Suttle House was built at this time, and lay adjacent to an early enclosure; in later years, the adjoining land was also enclosed, giving rise to the characteristic nineteenth century enclosure fields which survived into the later years of the twentieth century. In recent years, the peripheral housing estates to Carlisle have engulfed Suttle House, and it now occupies land surrounded by these estates.

The results of the evaluation succeeded only in uncovering the remains of a substantial post-medieval pond in the north-west corner of the site, which is known to be of nineteenth century date and which was clearly infilled in the twentieth century. No further archaeological remains were discovered.

The results of both the desk-based assessment and the evaluation indicate that the proposed works will not directly impact on any archaeological remains, and as such the present programme of work should be sufficient to allow the development to continue.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL) would like to thank Alec Thomson of Border Homes for commissioning the project and for his assistance in facilitating the groundworks, and the residents of Suttle House for their patience and understanding. NPAL would also like to thank Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist, and Jo Mackintosh, Historic Environment Records Officer, both of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service, for their assistance on the project. The machining was ably undertaken by Hewden Plant Hire, who are also thanked.

The fieldwork was directed by Matthew Town, assisted by Mark Dodd, Jennifer Kinsman and Jon Cousins. The desk-based research was undertaken by Fiona Wooler. The surveying was undertaken by Richard Hewitt. The report and drawings were produced by Matthew Town and were edited by Juliet Reeves. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for NPAL.

1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Planning permission is being sought by Border Homes for the development of land adjacent to Suttle House, Wigton Road, Carlisle, Cumbria (centred on NY 3765 5425). The site is located on the edge of a Roman road, on the line of the modern Wigton Road, which leads into Carlisle. Prehistoric finds have been revealed at Morton immediately to the north-east of the site. Archaeological work by Carlisle Archaeological Unit also uncovered the remains of undated post-holes and pits adjacent to the site (Reeves 1999). In addition, the buildings of Suttle House are Grade II listed, and their setting could be affected by the scheme.

1.1.2 Following initial consultation, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) advised that the presence of considerable archaeological potential within the area would require an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in the first instance, to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains in the development footprint. The results of the evaluation would then inform decisions to be taken regarding any application for planning permission for the development, 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 Guidance: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16; DoE 1990).

1.1.3 Border Homes requested that North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL) submit proposals for an evaluation and rapid desk-based assessment of the development area. NPAL provided a Project Design in accordance with a Project Brief produced by Jeremy Parsons (CCCHES 2005). The Assistant Archaeologist for CCCHES approved the Project Design and NPAL were subsequently commissioned to undertake the work in November 2005.

1.1.4 This document sets out the results of the rapid desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation in the form of a short report.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Topography

2.1.1 The development area is situated 3km to the south-west of the historic centre of the city of Carlisle. The site is situated within the north Cumbrian Plain, or Solway Basin, in the modern civil parish of Cummersdale, on low-lying ground lying at approximately 45m AOD (Figure 1). On a general level, the Solway Basin is an area of gently undulating landscape, with intensively managed enclosure fields, in use as improved pasture (Countryside Commission 1998, 19). However, within the last five years the peripheral settlement of Carlisle has encroached into the surrounding area, and the development area now lies within an urban landscape defined by residential use in the form of modern housing estates. Consequentially, the development area is now bounded on the south-east side by the A595(T) Wigton Road, and the south-west, north-west and north-east sides by modern residential housing. The buildings and outbuildings of Suttle House lie approximately central to the development area.

2.1.2 The underlying solid geology consists of undifferentiated mudstones, forming part of the Permian and Triassic Sherwood Sandstone group, known as the New Red Sandstones (Moseley 1978). The development area lies close to the edge of a small outlier of Lower Triassic mudstones and limestones of Jurassic age, which overlie the Permo-Triassic rocks (Countryside Commission 1998, 20). The drift geology consists of a deep accumulation of glacial till, predominantly boulder clay interleaved with alluvial sand and gravels, which forms a gently undulating landscape of low ridges, intersected by a mainly north-east to south-west orientated drainage system (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000). The soils consist of mainly Clifton and Brickfield Associations, the former comprising seasonally waterlogged soils which developed over tills (*ibid*).

2.2 Historical Background

2.2.1 ***Prehistoric**:* Mesolithic hunter-gatherer activity was influenced by changing relative sea-levels on the Solway coast, and as such the earliest evidence for prehistoric activity on the Cumbrian Plain consists only of isolated finds of that date. The present lack of material is explained by poor visibility of the finds; the retrieval of these finds is heavily influenced by exposures of the material, and is also biased to areas which have been extensively fieldwalked (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, Brennand and Hodgson, 2004). Extensive survey of the wetlands in the area was undertaken as part of the North West Wetlands Survey (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000) and four separate findspots of Mesolithic or early Neolithic date are detailed from the survey. Most were waste flakes, but a backed blade was also identified. Closer to the development area, a single late Mesolithic triangular microlith has been recovered in Carlisle, and a possible early Mesolithic convex-edged blade of trapezoid section from Crofton, north-east of Wigton (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 110). Bone harpoon points have also been uncovered from Crosby-On-Eden (*ibid*).

2.2.2 The Neolithic period has been traditionally associated with the development of increasingly sedentary agricultural communities, the appearance of ceremonial and funerary monuments and the development of distinctive pottery and lithic forms, though the manner and chronology of these developments is now in question (Brennand and

Hodgson 2004). In the Late Neolithic, the first indications for the existence of social hierarchies are visible through intensification of settlement, landuse and artefact production (*ibid*). The majority of the archaeological record for this period is represented by ceremonial and funerary monuments and lithic scatters. As for the Mesolithic, distribution of finds is also heavily biased to the location and intensity of particular fieldwork. There is only a limited amount of excavated evidence for this period; an extensive palisade of posts was uncovered at Plasketlands, near Mawbray, suggesting possible domestic settlement (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 111), and at Cocklakes, near Carlisle, a small hearth, cut by a the corner of a sub-rectangular structure, produced a radiocarbon date of 3650-3510 cal BC (Brennand and Hodgson, 2004, 7). Grimston Ware and stone tools have also been recovered from pits at High Crosby, and Grimston and Grooved Ware from pits and other features at Scotby Road, Carlisle (*ibid*).

2.2.3 In Cumbria, evidence for Neolithic settlement is primarily indicated by the distribution of probably Late Neolithic polished stone axes, few of which come from reliable contexts; over one hundred have been recovered from the Solway Plain (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 111-2). Two of these were recovered as part of the North West Wetlands Survey, and in addition to lithic scatters, these were concentrated on the Abbeytown Ridge area of the plain (*ibid*). Two stone axes have been found close to the development area, both found within less than a kilometre of the study area (Sites **6** and **10**) (the former is recorded as being a square-butted Langdale axehead of andesitic volcanic ash, found during the laying of a gas main on the new Morton housing estate in 1958. It gave the name 'Stonegarth' to the road where it was found – Anon 1958).

2.2.4 The Bronze Age is marked nationally by the introduction of bronze metalwork, changes in pottery styles, the increased occurrence of single burial traditions and changes in monumental building. In the north-west there is a great deal of continuity through from the Late Neolithic, though there are hints of changes in the religious, agricultural and social practices. The continued use of the exploitation of stone resources over metal is visible through the production of axe hammers in the third millennium BC (Brennand and Hodgson 2004).

2.2.5 Despite a significant increase in clearance activity and the initiation of cereal cultivation in the Early Bronze Age, archaeological evidence is scarce. Excavation of Bronze Age sites in Cumbria is limited; in Botcherby, Carlisle, a circle of postholes, possibly a timber circle, was found associated with Bronze Age pottery, and at Cocklakes, a number of large shallow pits were found associated with charcoal and fire-cracked sandstone (*op cit*). During the North West Wetlands Survey, ten separate sites of Bronze Age date were identified on the Abbeytown Ridge; these include a flake knife from Tarns Dub and three axe-hammers from near Mawbray (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 113). Evidence for Bronze Age activity close to the development area is scarce; a broken leaf-shaped arrowhead was found at Cummersdale (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000) and a presumably Middle Bronze Age spearhead was discovered in Carlisle (Site **13**).

2.2.6 There is a scarcity of evidence for settlement on the Solway Plain in the early- to mid-Iron Age, and evidence seems to point to the lowlands being sparsely populated at this point, though archaeological fieldwork in the area has not been intensive and the aceramic character of the assemblages causes problems of identification (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, Brennand and Hodgson 2004). The development area lay within the so-called

territory of the *Brigantes*, though it is unclear to what extent this territory was a Roman construct (Brennand and Hodgson 2004, 22). Cropmarks of large numbers of undated and unexcavated prehistoric enclosures, field systems and trackways have been discovered through the study of aerial photographs, most thought to be of Iron Age date. To the south of the development area, a double-ditched trackway with an associated oval enclosure of probable Iron Age date has been noted (Site **9**). A double-ditched enclosure of this date was also excavated at Dobcross Hall, Dalston, reused in the Roman period (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 118). Other evidence for possible Iron Age activity in the development area comprises isolated and poorly located findspots of two carved stones (Sites **11** and **15**) and a piece of horse trapping (Site **14**), all of which may equally be Roman in date. By the end of the first millennium BC, the evidence suggests that the normal settlement pattern comprised individual enclosed farmsteads, possibly related to seasonal stock movement (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).

2.2.7 During the later Iron Age, there appears to have been a major expansion in forest clearance in the area, primarily for agrarian purposes; detailed analysis of the timbers from the fort at Carlisle (*Luguvalium*), for example, has shown that the majority started growing in the first or second centuries BC (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 115).

2.2.8 ***Romano-British:*** the Roman advance on the northwest during the 70s and 80s AD may have been launched from bases in the northwest Midlands such as Wroxeter and Little Chester, proceeding north via the valleys of the Eden and Lune. By 72 AD, the earliest timber fort was constructed at Carlisle (Philpott 2004), and the campaigns of Agricola, governor of Britain (AD 78-84) consolidated the Roman hold on the North. Intensive occupation of the fort at Carlisle continued until the fourth century, with extensive evidence for a *vicus* and associated civilian settlement to the south. The best evidence for the continued use of forts into the fifth century comes from Birdoswald (Wilmott 1997).

2.2.9 During the Roman period there was certainly a heavy military presence in Cumbria. Hadrian's Wall, perhaps begun in 122 AD, was built to define the northern limit of the Roman empire and a network of military roads, forts and settlements soon sprung up around the focus of Hadrian's Wall (Breeze and Dobson 1976). Until recent decades, the Roman military sites of Cumbria are also those that have received the most attention from archaeologists and as a result the nature of rural settlement during the Roman period is poorly understood (Philpott 2004). However, environmental studies suggest that woodland clearances begun in the Iron Age continued apace, implying large scale cultivation of land (*ibid*). As with preceding periods, a large percentage of the potential Romano-British rural sites around Carlisle have only been identified by aerial photography; rectangular field systems have also been identified (Bewley 1994). Where rural sites have been excavated, the traditional Iron Age building form, the roundhouse, continues in use into the Roman period, for example at Silloth Farm (Higham and Jones 1985). By the late third century, roundhouses were being superseded by rectangular timber buildings, for example at Crosshill (Higham and Jones 1983).

2.2.10 The main evidence for Roman activity adjacent to the development area is the line of the Roman road from Wigton to Carlisle (Site **8**), which runs along the south side of the development area. The entire line of the Roman road has not been ascertained, but for much of its length it lies beneath the modem A595(T). The modern road bends northwards just south of the study area, and the exact line of the Roman road has not

been established. Previous desk-based work on the area to the south of the A595(T) did not establish the line of the Roman road (LUAU 2000). Although there is no known evidence for Roman settlement, rural settlements would have been established around the fort at Carlisle, particularly along the line of the Roman roads.

2.2.11 ***Early Medieval:*** evidence for Early Medieval activity in north Cumbria is extremely limited, the end of the Roman economy depriving the archaeologist of diagnostic artefactual evidence on all but a small minority of sites (Higham 1986). Work in recent decades has shown that the 'Romans' did not leave behind them a cultural vacuum, and archaeology has begun to fill the gap between the 'Dark Ages' and the colour of, for example, such histories as the Northumbrian monk, The Venerable Bede's, *Historia Ecclesiastica* written in the early eighth century. Environmental studies focussing on pollen remains have indicated a continuing arable economy in Cumbria during the Early Medieval period (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).

2.2.12 Once the Roman administration ended in 410AD, the native Britons gradually reverted to their own autonomy. Angles had begun to enter eastern Cumbria by the seventh century AD, but the west of the county appears politically more stable (Crowe 1984). The discovery of early medieval settlement sites in the region is rare, but a number of putative Romano-British rural sites excavated more than forty years ago may have had late phases that could have been observed with the use of radiocarbon dating. Recent excavations at Stainmore in Cumbria have produced evidence for rectangular post-built buildings and sunken-feature buildings perhaps dating to the seventh or eighth centuries AD (Newman 2004).

2.2.13 Though there is little in the way of direct evidence for activity in the Early Medieval period in Carlisle, it is likely that settlement was continuous. North Cumbria fell under the aegis of Anglo-Saxon, Scandinavian and Scottish influences (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000), and in the seventh century, the region was absorbed into the kingdom of Northumbria. Carlisle became the centre of a royal estate, which was later given to endow a nunnery.

2.2.14 ***Later Medieval:*** by the eleventh century, the political situation in Cumbria was volatile, with the emergent kingdom of Strathclyde to the north and the growing power of England to the south competing for political control (Kirkby 1962). Much of the modern county of Cumbria remained outside Norman control (thus not being included in Domesday Book of 1086) until 1092 when William II marched north to Carlisle and drove out one Dolfin. The region was given to King David of Scotland in 1135, returning to England after the Anarchy (Whellan 1860, 84-5).

2.2.15 During the twelfth century, many towns started to emerge and population throughout the area increased. At this time, Carlisle and the surrounding district comprised a number of parishes, one of which was St Mary's, for which the cathedral was the parochial centre, and within which was the Holy Trinity ecclesiastical district, comprising the townships of Cummersdale and Caldew (Nicolson and Burn 1777, 247; Whellan 1860, 144). The name Cummersdale is taken from the Old English *cumbre* and the Old Norse *dalr,* meaning the valley of the Cumbrian Britons (Mills 2003, 144).

2.2.16 St Mary's fell within the manor of John de Chapple, or de Capella, a citizen of Carlisle (Hutchinson 1794, 602). This manor appears, to have been made up of the three other manors of Caldcoats, Newbiggin and New Laithes. There is little information on the

history of these manors, and the areas they comprised, with Hutchinson (1794, 643) only providing a brief history of Caldcoats, but nothing on either Newbiggin or New Laithes, nor on the manor of John de Chapple. Presumably, John de Chapple granted his manor to the priory, which held it up until the Reformation, after which it was granted by Henry VIII to the dean and chapter of the cathedral (Whellan 1860, 144). The development area also lies close to the royal forest of Inglewood, which, under Henry II, covered much of the Solway Basin. The area came under forest law, and was very extensive, although it was much reduced by 1300 (Winchester 1987, 22). It is not known whether the study area was ever part of the forest, but by 1300 the northern boundary ran along the '*great metalled way to Thursby*' (Parker 1905, 39), which is the current A595(T) (Site **8**).

2.2.17 ***Post-Medieval:*** following the union of the English and Scottish Crowns with the accession of James I to the English throne in 1603, a programme of pacification of the borderlands began. This saw a modernisation of tenureships of great benefit to northern landowners and a breakdown of the traditional forms of Border service (Spence 1984; 64). The development area first appears shown a map of 1746 (Figure 3), labelled as Suttle House, which marks it as being a significant landscape feature at this time. However, there was little in the way of settlement in the area, the house standing in isolation for much of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The house is described in its Grade II listing as being of late eighteenth century date, which suggests the present house may be a later replacement to that shown in 1746 (LBSMR 25746). The establishment of the farm, which the house represents, was probably an early post-medieval enclosure of common land, which is enforced by a description given by Hutchinson in 1794, who describes St. Mary's as having '*considerable tracts of moorish soils, which, not many years ago, were very barren commons; but which, by inclosure and proper management, are now generally in a progressive state of improvement*' (Hutchinson 1794, 678).

2.2.18 The first full-scale enclosure of the commons began in 1770, shown on the Parliamentary enclosure map and award of that date. From the enclosure map, it can be seen that much of the land to the south and west of the development area was newly enclosed, but that the development area formed part of an irregularly-shaped area of older enclosures, called grounds, bounded by New House and Keld Houses to the west and north, and by Suttle House and the road to the east (Figure 4). The term 'grounds' is taken from the Old English *grund,* meaning a large piece of grassland, and it probably indicates that this area was subject to earlier piecemeal enclosure by individuals. Details of the landholdings within the old enclosures is not given, but the edges of landholdings where they abutted on to new enclosures is shown. The development area was held by Alderman George Blamire of Suttle House, who also took possession of much the adjacent newly enclosed land to the south, apart from one field, which was held by Nancy Smith. Suttle House appears again on Greenwood's map of Cumbria in 1823 (Figure 5), and George Blamire is mentioned as occupant of Suttle House in 1811 (Jollie 1811). He died on the 14th of December 1820 (shown on a monumental inscription at St. Mary's), and the George Blamire listed in 1829 is presumably his son (Parson and White 1829, 172).

2.2.19 The extent of the older enclosures can be traced on the tithe map of 1841 (Figure 6), as a series of irregular fields amongst the more regular enclosures created by the

Parliamentary Act in 1770. The accompanying schedule to the tithe map shows that much of the development area and Suttle House was still owned by the estate of George Blamire, although by that time administered by trustees and leased out to two tenants, Thomas Richardson (who occupied the house) and Robert Todd. The layout of Suttle House is much as it is today, and the farm was said to occupy 86 acres, 3 roods and 3 perches; of note is the large pond visible against the western boundary on the tithe map, which was not infilled until after 1957 (Figure 12). In 1847, one William Blamire is shown as a farmer in Cummersdale (Mannex and Whellan 1847, 172), though not necessarily at Suttle House. On the 22nd of December 1866, one George Thompson of Suttle House died and is recorded on a monumental inscription in Carlisle Cemetery (Wooler *pers. comm*). His death may relate to the house being sold by auction on the 17th of June 1868 (Figure 8). By 1901, Richard D Jackson is recorded as resident of Suttle House (Bulmer and Co 1901). An extension to the rear of the house was built for a Mr Jackson in 1906 (Figure 10), and an outbuilding was also added by 1925 (Figure 11). In 1935, a James Fletcher Jackson, gentleman and Lord of the Manor of Threapland, James Starkie Jackson, solicitor, and Annie Louisa Jackson, spinster, are mentioned as all being residents of Suttle House in a title deed (D Law/1/298).

2.2.20 The surrounding area remained largely unchanged throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, until the encroachment of the modern housing settlements in the latter decades of the twentieth century.

2.3 Archaeological Background

2.3.1 A programme of evaluation and geophysics was undertaken in 1998 by Carlisle Archaeological Unit, prior to the construction of a housing estate adjacent to and south-west of the development area (Reeves *pers. comm*). The evaluation found evidence of possible ploughmarks and features considered to be post holes or small pits, and a subsequent excavation by Carlisle Archaeological Unit took place in the field immediately south-west of the development area between January and February 1999 (Reeves 1999). No archaeological material was recovered from any of the excavated deposits (Figure 2).

2.3.2 Between March and July 2003, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd conducted archaeological investigations on land adjacent and south of the CAU excavations, prior to the construction of a proposed residential development (Figure 2). The only features observed were field drains dating from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. No significant surviving archaeological features were observed within any of the trenches excavated, and it was apparent that prior to enclosure the site consisted of poorly drained, ‘barren commons’ which were improved by the excavation of field drains. The poor drainage may account for the lack of evidence of human activity prior to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (Jones 2003).

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 Project Design

3.1.1 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 a visual site inspection, a rapid desk-based assessment, the excavation of a series of trial trenches and a programme of post excavation and reporting.

3.2 Site Investigation

3.2.1 A site visit was made on October 12th 2005. This was in order to note any surface features of potential archaeological interest and to identify any potential hazards to health and safety, such as the presence of live services or constraints to undertaking archaeological fieldwork, such as Tree Preservation orders and public footpaths.

3.2.2 The site inspection noted that the western and northern sides of the site had a number of mature trees, which are at present subject to TPOs; the position of the trenches was moved accordingly to avoid the canopies of these. The formal garden area to the south-west of the existing buildings of Suttle House is to be preserved, and therefore fell outside of the remit for investigation. To the north-east of Suttle House was a mature orchard; a single trench was excavated in this area, though its excavation was subject to movement with regard to the tree positions. All the trench positions were subject to movement in these areas, due to the problems of the ground conditions highlighted.

3.2.3 No known services or other hazards lay within the proposed position of the trenches.

3.3 Rapid Desk-Based Assessment

3.3.1 The assessment involved the consultation of the Cumbria County Council Sites and Monuments Record, Kendal. This was in order to obtain information on the location of all designated sites and areas of historic interest and any other, non-designated sites within the study area, which included monuments, findspots, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas.

3.3.2 An electronic enquiry was also made of English Heritage's National Monuments Record and the website of the Archaeology Data Service. This was in order to enhance and augment the data obtained from a search of the appropriate repositories.

3.3.3 Further documentary study was undertaken at the County Record Office, Carlisle, which involved the collection of all relevant historical maps and documents including surveys, Tithe and Enclosure Maps, Acts of Parliament and early Ordnance Survey maps. The desk-based assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Desk-Based Assessments (IFA 1994).

3.4 Archaeological Evaluation

3.4.1 The archaeological evaluation was to have consisted of the excavation of fifteen linear trial trenches measuring 25m x 1.6m, which would have provided a 5% sample of an

area of 1.2 hectares (Figure 2). This was in order to produce a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relevant importance against known development proposals. However, following the uncovering of hitherto unidentified gas, electricity and water services in Trench 10 (and the breaching of the water supply to the house), an agreement was made with the Assistant Archaeologist for Cumbria County Council to abandon three of the trenches (Trenches 7-9), due to uncertainties as to the direction of these services (Parsons *pers. comm*). As a result, twelve trenches were excavated, and the position of Trench 6 was moved to avoid any further breaches. The trench excavated in the Orchard area (Trench 5), was deturfed and reinstated manually at the request of the client; the trench also had to be shortened to 20m to avoid the trees within the orchard, and a detected water-pipe.

3.4.2 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 were they are 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 palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

3.4.3 Each trench was mechanically excavated by a 5 tonne mini-digger equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision, to the natural substrate. Each trench was then manually cleaned where possible and any putative archaeological features investigated.

3.4.4 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.

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

3.5 Project Archive

3.5.1 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 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 05 SUT-A.

4 EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 Trench 1

4.1.1 Trench 1 was 25m long by 1.6m wide, and was orientated approximately north-east south-west (Figure 13). It was positioned in the western corner of the development area, to the west of the buildings and out-buildings of Suttle House, and was located to avoid the tree canopies on the eastern side of the plot. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.45m.

4.1.2 The machining removed approximately 0.45m of gently compacted mid to dark greyish brown clayey silt, which comprised the garden soils within the plot. Beneath the garden soils, the natural drift geology, comprising a firm mottled mid to light pinkish yellow boulder clay, was observed. Three modern land drains cut across the base of the trench, and the corner of a modern pit was also discerned; the pit contained plastic refuse and other rubbish. The fill of all these features comprised a mix of topsoil and redeposited natural.

4.1.3 No evidence of any cut archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 1, and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered during excavation.

4.2 Trench 2

4.2.1 Trench 2 was 25m long by 1.6m wide, and was orientated approximately east-west (Figure 13). It was positioned in the western corner of the development area, to the west of Trench 1, and was located to avoid the tree canopies on the south side of the plot. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.70m.

4.2.2 The machining removed approximately 0.40m of gently compacted mid to dark greyish brown clayey silt, which comprised the garden soils within the plot. At the eastern end of the trench, beneath the garden soils, the natural drift geology, comprising a firm mottled mid to light pinkish yellow boulder clay, was observed. Approximately 7m from the eastern end, the edge of a large post-medieval pond was identified, extending north and south beyond the limits of the excavation. This pond corresponds with the large pond visible on the Tithe map of 1841 (*Section 2.2.19*; Figure 6), which was infilled in the latter half of the twentieth century. Along the eastern edge of the cut, a dark greyish brown clayey silt fill band was noted, overlain by a fill of mid pinkish-brown loam and gravel, representing deliberate backfill deposits. Both deposits extended the full length of the trench; a sondage was excavated through the centre of the trench to 0.7m in depth, to confirm the stratigraphy. The pond extends into Trench 3 (*Section 4.3*).

4.2.3 No evidence of any further cut archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 2, and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered during excavation, though a quantity of modern cultural material was noted within the pond.

4.3 Trench 3

4.3.1 Trench 3 was 25m long by 1.6m wide, and was orientated approximately north-east south-west (Figure 13). It was positioned in the western corner of the development area,

to the west of Trench 1 and north of Trench 2, and was located to avoid the tree canopies on the west side of the plot. The maximum depth of the trench was 1.2m.

4.3.2 The machining removed approximately 0.25m of gently compacted mid to dark greyish brown clayey silt, which comprised the garden soils within the plot. No natural drift geology was observed, as the trench consisted entirely of the fill of a large post-medieval pond, which corresponds with the large pond visible on the Tithe map of 1841 (*Section 2.2.19*; Figure 6), and also identified in Trench 2 (*Section 4.2*). Three sondages were excavated, one at each end of the trench, and one in the centre (all machined to 1.2m in depth). At the western end, a deposit of mid to dark brown clayey silt was removed to the maximum depth, and was found to overlie a substantial deposit of redeposited natural; both deposits contained large quantities of modern cultural material. The redeposited natural rose eastwards, to beneath the topsoil horizon at 10m from the western end of the trench. The central and eastern sondages were excavated through the redeposited natural, and uncovered large quantities of modern rubble and concrete dumps at the base of the sondages.

4.3.3 No evidence of any further cut archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 3, and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered during excavation.

4.4 Trench 4

4.4.1 Trench 4 was 25m long by 1.6m wide, and was orientated approximately north-east south-west (Figure 13). It was positioned in the northern corner of the development area, to the north of the buildings and out-buildings of Suttle House, and was located to avoid the tree canopies on the western side of the plot, a sewer which runs along the western side of an adjacent outbuilding, and a large concrete tank at the south-western end of the trench. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.60m.

4.4.2 The machining removed approximately 0.33m of gently compacted mid to dark greyish brown clayey silt, which comprised the garden soils within the area. At the north-eastern end of the trench, the topsoil lay within a substantial hollow, which also contained large quantities of modern pottery, glass bottles and ceramic building material; the hollow appears to represent a large twentieth century midden deposit, perhaps within a deliberate cut. Beneath the garden soils, the natural drift geology, comprising a firm mottled mid to light pinkish yellow boulder clay, was observed. Three modern land drains cut across the base of the south-eastern half of the trench, all the fills comprising a mixture of topsoil and redeposited natural.

4.4.3 No evidence of any cut archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 4, and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered during excavation.

4.5 Trench 5

4.5.1 Trench 5 was 20m long by 1.6m wide, and was orientated approximately east-west (Figure 13). It was positioned in the Orchard area, to the north of the buildings and out-buildings of Suttle House, and was located to avoid the tree canopies of the orchard and a detected water-pipe at the eastern end. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.60m.

4.5.2 The machining removed approximately 0.60m of gently compacted mid to dark greyish brown clayey silt, which comprised the garden soils within the orchard. Beneath the

garden soils, the natural drift geology, comprising a firm mottled mid to light pinkish yellow boulder clay, was observed.

4.5.3 No evidence of any cut archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 5, and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered during excavation.

4.6 Trench 6

4.6.1 Trench 6 was 25m long by 1.6m wide, and was orientated approximately north-west south-east (Figure 13). It was located in the eastern side of the development area, and east of the buildings and out-buildings of Suttle House, towards the north of the plot. The trench position was moved to avoid the services to the south, whose position had not been securely established. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.60m.

4.6.2 The machining removed approximately 0.25m of gently compacted mid to dark greyish brown clayey silt, which comprised the garden soils within the plot. Beneath the garden soils, the natural drift geology, comprising a firm mottled mid to light pinkish yellow boulder clay, was observed. Two modern drainage ditches cut across the base of the trench, in the centre and to the north respectively, and both aligned broadly north-west south-east. Sections were excavated across both ditches to 0.35m in depth; the northern ditch had a shallow rounded profile, while the central ditch had 45º sloping sides and a flat base. The fill of both ditches comprised a mid brown clayey silt.

4.6.3 No evidence of any significant archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 6, and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered during excavation.

4.7 Trench 10

4.7.1 Trench 10 was 25m long by 1.6m wide, and was orientated approximately north-east south-west (Figure 13). It was located in the eastern side of the development area, along the eastern boundary of the plot, towards the north-eastern corner of the site. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.45m.

4.7.2 The machining removed approximately 0.45m of gently compacted dark greyish brown clayey silt, which comprised the garden soils within the plot. Beneath the garden soils, the natural drift geology, comprising a firm mottled light pinkish yellow boulder clay, was observed, becoming greyer towards the north-eastern end of the trench. Three modern services cut across the base of the trench, directly beneath the topsoil, one of which (a water-pipe) was breached.

4.7.3 No evidence of any significant archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 10, and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered during excavation.

4.8 Trench 11

4.8.1 Trench 11 was 25m long by 1.6m wide, and was orientated approximately north-west south-east (Figure 13). It was located in the eastern side of the development area, and east of the buildings and out-buildings of Suttle House, towards the west of the plot. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.60m.

4.8.2 The machining removed approximately 0.25m of gently compacted dark greyish brown clayey silt, which comprised the garden soils within the plot. Beneath the garden soils,

the natural drift geology, comprising a firm mottled mid to light pinkish yellow boulder clay, was observed. A sondage was excavated to 0.6m to act as a sump.

4.8.3 No evidence of any significant archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 11, and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered during excavation.

4.9 Trench 12

4.9.1 Trench 12 was 25m long by 1.6m wide, and was orientated approximately north-south (Figure 13). It was located in the eastern side of the development area, east of the buildings and out-buildings of Suttle House, and directly south of Trench 11, running along the western side of the plot. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.37m.

4.9.2 The machining removed approximately 0.37m of gently compacted dark greyish brown clayey silt, which comprised the garden soils within the plot. Beneath the garden soils, the natural drift geology, comprising a firm mottled light pinkish orange boulder clay with patches of more sandy boulder clay, was observed. A single land drain ran the full length of the trench, filled with a mix of topsoil and redeposited natural.

4.9.3 No evidence of any significant archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 12, and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered during excavation.

4.10 Trench 13

4.10.1 Trench 13 was 25m long by 1.6m wide, and was orientated approximately north-east south-west (Figure 13). It was located in the eastern side of the development area, and east of Trench 12, towards the south-west corner of the plot. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.90m.

4.10.2 At the north-east end, the machining removed approximately 0.35m of gently compacted dark greyish brown clayey silt, which comprised the garden soils within the plot. Beneath the garden soils, the natural drift geology, comprising a firm mottled mid to light pinkish yellow boulder clay, was observed, cut by a single land drain. At 7.3m from the south-west end of the trench, the edge of a shallow cut was identified, sloping down to 0.9m in depth to the south-west. The cut was filled with dark brown clay silt, overlain by a redeposited natural, and appears to be a further modern pond.

4.10.3 No evidence of any significant archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 13, and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered during excavation.

4.11 Trench 14

4.11.1 Trench 14 was 25m long by 1.6m wide, and was orientated approximately north-east south-west (Figure 13). It was located in the eastern side of the development area, and east of the buildings and out-buildings of Suttle House, towards the east of the plot, and north of Trench 15. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.44m.

4.11.2 The machining removed approximately 0.44m of gently compacted dark greyish brown clayey silt, which comprised the garden soils within the plot. Beneath the garden soils, the natural drift geology, comprising a firm mottled mid to light pinkish yellow boulder clay, was observed. Faint traces of a probable hedge-line, seen as an irregular linear hollow, were noted running down the centre of the trench, infilled with topsoil.

4.11.3 No evidence of any significant archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 14, and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered during excavation.

4.12 Trench 15

4.12.1 Trench 15 was 25m long by 1.6m wide, and was orientated approximately north-west south-east (Figure 13). It was located in the eastern side of the development area, and east of the buildings and out-buildings of Suttle House, at the south-east corner of the plot, and south of Trench 14. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.35m.

4.12.2 The machining removed approximately 0.35m of gently compacted dark greyish brown clayey silt, which comprised the garden soils within the plot. Beneath the garden soils, the natural drift geology, comprising a firm mottled mid to light pinkish yellow boulder clay, was observed. Faint traces of a probable hedge-line, seen as an irregular linear hollow, were noted running across the centre of the trench, infilled with topsoil, and adjoining that seen in Trench 14 (*Section 14.11*). A land drain was noted running the length of the trench.

4.12.3 No evidence of any significant archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 15, and no significant archaeological artefacts were recovered during excavation.

5. FINDS

5.1 The archaeological assemblage from Suttle House consisted entirely of material of late nineteenth and early twentieth century date, and was discarded.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

6.1 In the twelve trenches excavated, no context was considered worth sampling, being entirely of post-medieval or later date, and as such no environmental data exists for the site.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 The desk-based assessment for the development area highlighted the fact that the immediate environs of the site appears to have been largely sterile up to the post-medieval period. Slight evidence for prehistoric activity exists, in the form of casual finds of Neolithic polished axes, and tentative evidence for Iron Age/Romano-British settlement from aerial photographs, and, potentially, from undated settlement evidence uncovered during evaluation work to the west of the development area (Reeves 1999). In addition, the development area lies immediately adjacent to a Roman road, which could have been a focus for settlement. However, no clear evidence for this has emerged from directly within the development area. The site is likely to have been largely peripheral to the Roman settlement, which focussed on the fort at Carlisle, and in all probability also fell outside the zone of settlement for Carlisle in the medieval period.

7.2 It is only with the advent of the post-medieval enclosure of the marginal lands in the eighteenth and nineteenth century that this area appears to have been settled. Indicative of this is Suttle House itself, which appears to have been established as an eighteenth century farmstead/hall served by an early enclosure which it adjoined; as the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries progressed, the adjoining land was also taken in, leading to the

characteristic field systems which signify parliamentary enclosure, in the form of rigid straight field boundaries and residual evidence of steam ploughing. This landscape remained largely unaltered throughout the nineteenth and twentieth century, until the encroachment of the suburbs of Carlisle in the later twentieth century, up to the present day.

7.3 The results of the evaluation support this initial assessment of the site, which indicated that the land immediately surrounding Suttle House and forming its gardens has been largely undisturbed up to the present day, other than the excavation of trenches for services and for drainage. The only feature of note is a large pond, which is known to date to the nineteenth century, and which occupies the north-west corner of the site; this was infilled in the latter half of the twentieth century, as illustrated by the finds recovered from it and cartographic sources.

7.4 The development area will not directly impinge on any significant archaeological remains, and as such the work undertaken should be sufficient to allow the development to proceed.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

8.1 Primary Sources

A plan of the township of Cummersdale in the parish of St Mary, Carlisle, tithe map and schedule, 1841 (CRO(C) DRC/8/57)

JH Martindale and Son, Carlisle, Architects, Plan of Suttle House, 1906 (CRO (C) DB 6/Plans/2/46)

Enclosure Map and Award of Cummersdale, 1770 (CRO(C) QRE/1/90)

Greenwood, C, 1823 *Map of Cumberland*

Ordnance Survey Map, 1865 *First Edition 6" to 1 Mile*

Ordnance Survey Map, 1890 *First Edition 25" to 1 Mile*

Ordnance Survey Map, 1925 *Third Edition 25" to 1 Mile*

Ordnance Survey Map, 1957 *Fifth Edition 6" to 1 Mile*

Sales Particulars for Suttle House (two plans and particulars), 17th June 1868 (CRO(C) DBS 6/1/67).

Smith, G, 1746 *A Map of the Countries Adjacent to Carlisle shewing* [sic] *the Route of the Rebels with their principal fords over ye River Eden* in 'Gentleman's Magazine'. Tullie House Jackson Library

Threapland p. Torpenhow - Title Deed (CRO(C) D Law/1/298)

8.2 Secondary Sources

Anon 1958 *Recent Additions to Carlisle Museum,* Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, NS vol **58** 108-9

Bewley R 1994 *Prehistoric and Romano-British Settlement in the Solway Plain, Cumbria*, Oxbow Monograph **36**, Oxford

Breeze DJ and Dobson B, 1976 *Hadrian's Wall*, London

Brennand, M and Hodgson, J, (eds) 2004 *The Prehistoric Period: Resource Assessment*, North West Region Archaeological Research Framework, unpublished draft document , www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/arf

Bulmer, T, and Co 1901 *History, Topography and Directory of Cumberland*

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

Crowe CJ, 1984, *The Earliest Christian Community*, Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, NS vol **84** 61

Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service 2005 *Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation at Land Adjacent to Suttle House, Wigton Road, Carlisle, Cumbria*, unpublished document

Field, J, 1972 *English Field Names*, Newton Abbot

Higham, N and Jones G, 1983 *The Excavation of Two Romano British Farm Sites in North Cumbria*, Britannia **14**, 45-72

1985 *The Carvetii*, Stroud

Higham N, 1986 *The Northern Counties to AD1000*, London

Hodgkinson, D, Huckerby, E, Middleton, R and Wells, CE, 2000 *The Lowland Wetlands of Cumbria*, Lancaster Imprints **8**, Lancaster.

Hutchinson, W 1794 *The History of the County of Cumberland*, **2**, Carlisle

Jollie, 1811 *Cumberland Guide and Directory*

Jones, C, 2003 *Report on an Archaeological Field Evaluation of land at Garden Village, Wigton Road, Carlisle*, NPAL, unpublished report

Kirkby, DP, 1962 *Strathclyde and Cumbria: a survey of historical development to 1092*, Trans Cumberland and Westmorland Antiq and Archaeol Soc, n ser, **62**, 77-94

LUAU 2000 *Land at Garden Village, Wigton Road, Carlisle: Archaeological Assessment*, unpublished report

Mannex and Whellan 1847 *Directory of Cumberland*

Mills, A D, 2003 *Oxford Dictionary of British Place Names*, Oxford

Moseley, F (ed) 1978 *The Geology of the Lake District*, Yorkshire Geological Society Occasional Paper **3**

Newman, RA (ed) 2004 *The Early Medieval Period: Resource Assessment*, North West Region Archaeological Research Framework, unpublished draft document, www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/arf

Nicolson, J, and Burn, R, 1777 *The History and Antiquities of the Counties of Westmorland and Cumberland*, London

Parker, FHM, 1905 *Inglewood Forest*, Trans Cumberland and Westmorland Antiq and Archaeol Soc, n ser, **5**, 35-61

Parson, W, and White, W, 1829 *History, Directory and Gazetteer of the Counties of Cumberland and Westmorland,* Leeds

Philpott, R (ed) 2004 *The Romano-British Period: Resource Assessment*, North West Region Archaeological Research Framework, unpublished draft document, www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/arf

Reeves, J 1999 *Excavations at Suttle House, Carlisle*, Carlisle Archaeological Unit, unpublished report

Spence, RT 1984 *The Backward North Modernized? The Cliffords, Earls of Cumberland and the Socage Manor of Carlisle 1611-1643*. Northern History. **XX**: 64-87.

Whellan, W 1860 *History and Topography of Cumberland and Westmoreland*

Wilmott, T, 1997 *Birdoswald*, English Heritage

Winchester, AJL, 1987 *Landscape and Society in Medieval Cumbria*, Edinburgh

9 APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF SITES

No.	*Source*	*Site Name*	*Site Type*	*Period*	*NGR*
1	HER 10509	Broomhills	Pit	Post-Medieval	NY 36120 54310
2	LUAU 2000	Keld Houses	Building	Post-Medieval	NY 37170 55000
3	LUAU 2000	Newhouse	Building	Post-Medieval	NY 37080 54440
4	LUAU 2000	Morton Cottage	Building	Post-Medieval	NY 37910 54670
5	LUAU 2000	Suttle House	Building	Post-Medieval	NY 37620 54310
6	HER 448	Morton	Stone Axe Find	Neolithic	NY 38200 54600
7	LUAU 2000	Cummersdale	Pillbox	WWII	NY 37500 53700
8	HER 10087	Thursby	Road	Roman	NY 34110 51090
9	HER 16560	Newby Cross	Cropmarks	Unknown	NY 36700 52700
10	HER 469	Richmond Green	Stone Axe Find	Neolithic	NY 37700 55100
11	HER 4968	Carlisle	Carved Stone	Iron Age/Romano-British	NY 39000 55000
12	HER 443	Clifton Hall Farm	Cist Burial	Prehistoric	NY 39000 55000
13	HER 443	Carlisle	Spearhead	Bronze Age	NY 39000 55000
14	HER 6172	Carlisle	Terret	Prehistoric/Roman	NY 39000 55000
15	HER 6259	Carlisle	Carved Stone	Iron Age/Romano-British	NY 39000 55000

Table 1: HER sites adjacent to Development Area (shown on Figure 2)

10 APPENDIX 2 – ILLUSTRATIONS