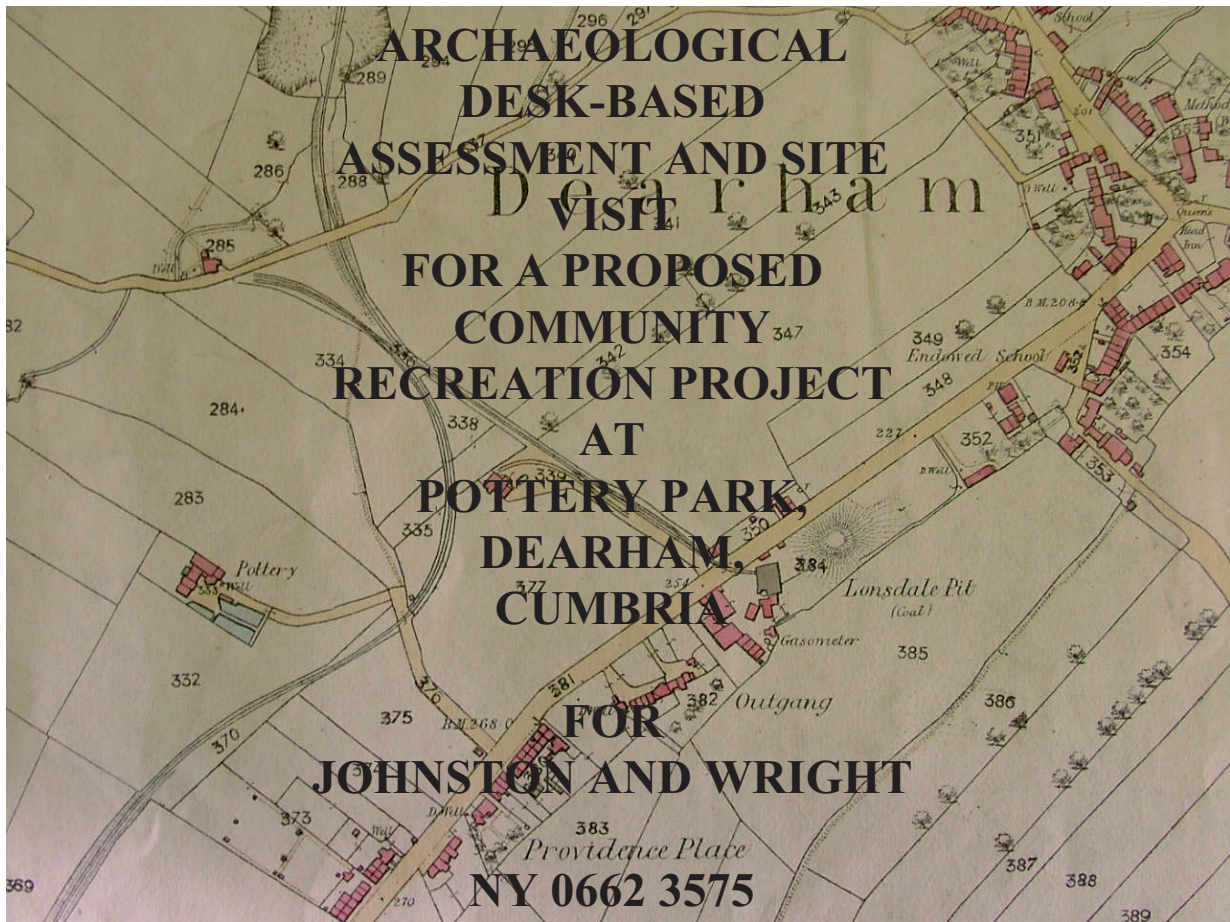


NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Project Designs and Client Reports No. CP/257/05



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2005, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Sam Fletcher of Johnston and Wright (Architects, Building Surveyors and Planning Supervisors) to undertake an archaeological desk study and site visit in advance of a proposed redevelopment of Pottery Park, Dearham, Cumbria (NGR NY 0662 3575).

The study involved the examination of all pertinent documents and cartographic sources held in the County Records Office in Carlisle, and the consultation of the Historic Environment Record (HER) of Cumbria County Council based in Kendal. The HER includes the locations and settings of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens and other, non-designated archaeological remains. In addition, a number of published sources were consulted to provide background information, including the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society and several relevant web sites.

The desk-based assessment located 17 sites from the HER and other sources within a 1km radius of Pottery Park. These include: a single findspot of a Neolithic axehead, a Roman road, two Medieval field systems and a Medieval church, a post-medieval pottery, and post-medieval collieries and associated tramways. One of the lines of the latter tramways runs through the development area, and as such is directly affected by the scheme. However, the greatest impact will be on the remains of the pottery, parts of which still survive towards the northern end of the development area. Documentary sources suggest that the pottery dates to the mid to late eighteenth century, and was founded by the Wedgwood family, which makes it a site of regional if not national importance.

The site visit served to confirm the existence of the pottery on the site. Extensive areas of rubble are visible overlying the footprint of the demolished buildings, and a number of walls relating to the pottery were identified during the visit. Lynchets relating to early boundaries, and the early access route, were also identified as undisturbed. The evidence points to sub-surface remains, and upstanding walls, relating to the pottery surviving in this area. In addition, the line of the tramway is still visible, now in use as a footpath.

The results of the desk-based assessment indicate a fairly typical spread of sites for the area. The prehistoric site represents an isolated and casual loss, and it is therefore unlikely that prehistoric archaeology will be encountered. The Roman road which passes the site to the south could be a focus for settlement, and Roman stonework was indeed used within the fabric of the medieval church at Dearham, but it seems more likely that this may have been removed from nearby Maryport. An evaluation on the Roman road by NPAL failed to find any archaeological evidence for settlement. The medieval archaeology is focussed on the main settlement and church at Dearham, to which the development area is peripheral. Remnants of medieval field systems may survive; none were noted in the walkover, but such systems have been noted to the north and east of the village. The most significant remains are the post-medieval remains of the eighteenth century pottery, and the line of the nineteenth century tramway which served the collieries to the north and east. Any significant landscaping will destroy the standing remains of the walls of the pottery, and the earthworks associated with the pottery and the tramway.

It is therefore recommended that a full programme of measured archaeological survey be undertaken on the existing landscape features within the development area; this will involve the clearance of the vegetation in the areas of the pottery and the exposure of the existing walls and rubble spreads. Due to the significance of the building, it would also be desirable to undertake

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

targeted removal of the rubble and consolidation of the remains, perhaps incorporating the buildings as a feature in the future use of the area as a park.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to offer thanks to Sam Fletcher of Johnston and Wright for commissioning the project, and for his assistance throughout the fieldwork.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Jo Mackintosh of the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER), Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist, Cumbria County Council, and all the staff at the Cumbria County Record Office in Carlisle for their help during this project.

The desk-based assessment and walkover survey were undertaken by Gareth Davies and Fiona Wooler. The report was written by Gareth Davies and Matthew Town, and the drawings were produced by Matthew Town. The project was managed by Frank Giocco, Technical Director for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Juliet Reeves.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) were consulted by Dearham Parish Council regarding a planning application submitted for a proposed scheme for a community recreation project. The site is located at Pottery Park, Dearham, Cumbria (NGR NY 0662 3575) (Fig 1). The development will involve the construction of a proposed community recreation project on land to the west of the village. This land was originally the location of a pottery, known from cartographic sources to date from at least the nineteenth century. This pottery may also relate to an eighteenth century pottery, which was operated in the village by the Wedgwood and Tunstall families. Some of the buildings related to the pottery are believed to have survived into the latter half of the twentieth century (Parsons 2005). The work would destroy any archaeological remains that may be present within the development footprint. Consequently, CCCHES advised that a programme of archaeological works would be necessary prior to the proposed development. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL) were commissioned by Johnston and Wright to undertake the required archaeological desk-based assessment of the general area around Pottery Park, and a site visit within the development area itself.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Historic Environment Record (HER) in Kendal, the Cumbria County Record Offices in Carlisle (CCRO), and the archives and library held by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. The principal objective of this assessment is to undertake sufficient work in order to identify and characterise the archaeological constraints associated with the development area, in order to assess the archaeological and historical potential of the development site.
- 1.1.3 A Site Visit was carried out on the proposed development, in order to assess the condition of any archaeological features present.
- 1.1.4 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area, an assessment of the impact of the proposed development, and recommendations for further work. This report also contains the results of the rapid identification survey carried out in conjunction with the desk-based assessment.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Johnston and Wright for an archaeological desk-based assessment and walkover survey of the study area, in accordance with a brief prepared by CCCHES. Following acceptance of the project design, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.2.1 Several sources of information were consulted, in accordance with the project brief and project design. The study area consisted of a 1km radius centred on the proposed development area. The principal sources of information were the Historic Environment Record (HER), maps and secondary sources.

2.2.2 ***Historic Environment Record (HER):*** the HER in Kendal, a database of archaeological sites within the county, was accessed. 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. A brief record including grid reference and description was obtained for the various sites within the study area, and was examined in depth. Aerial photographs of the area were also studied.

2.2.3 ***County Record Office (Carlisle):*** the County Record Office in Carlisle (CRO(C)) was visited to consult documents specific to the study area. Historic maps of the study area, including surveys, Tithe and Enclosure Maps, Acts of Parliament and early Ordnance Survey maps, were examined. A search was made for any relevant historical documentation, particularly regarding the use of the area, drawing on the knowledge of the archivists. Several secondary sources and relevant websites were also consulted.

2.2.4 ***North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL):*** various publications and unpublished reports on excavations and other work in the region are held within the North Pennines Archaeology library and any undeposited archives of the sites themselves were examined. 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.

2.3 SITE VISIT

- 2.3.1 The site was visited in order to assess the survival, nature, extent and potential significance of any upstanding archaeological remains on the site, to determine any constraints to archaeological site survival, and to provide a detailed assessment of area of archaeological potential.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design, and in accordance with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage guidelines (1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The town of Dearham lies c4km east of Maryport and c40km southwest of Carlisle, on the coastal plain of northwest Cumbria. The development area is situated on flat land located c.250m to the west of the central road through the town, at a height of around 100m above Ordnance Datum (OD).
- 3.1.2 Presently, the development area is grassed parkland with an area of dense undergrowth partially obscuring extant derelict buildings located in the northern corner of the site (HER entry 10734, *Section 5*).
- 3.1.3 Dearham sits in the North Cumbrian Plain: a relatively low-lying plain located to the north and west of the Lake District massif. To the immediate west of Dearham lies the coastal plain, and to the north the Solway plain, which forms the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Land-use around Dearham consists predominantly of both pasture and arable land.
- 3.1.4 The solid geology of the area consists of Triassic Sherwood Sandstone for the coastal areas to the north, and Carboniferous Westphalian Coal Measures elsewhere (Jones, 2003, 4). Throughout the area around the River Ellen, well-drained loams of the Wick Association overlie the solid geology. Away from the river valley the solid geology is masked by Devensian tills upon which are soils chiefly of the Clifton and Brickfield Associations (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000)

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments around the study area.
- 3.2.2 **Palaeolithic:** The British Isles was first colonised by stone tool using hominids over half a million years ago. During the most recent geological period, the Pleistocene, massive north-south travelling ice sheets repeatedly scoured the landscape during prolonged periods of extreme cold. None of the major Pleistocene glaciations, as these cold period are known, extended into southeast England, and consequently the majority of the evidence for the earliest occupation of the British Isles has been discovered here. In Northern England, the situation is quite different. No early Palaeolithic material has ever been recovered from the county of Cumbria, probably because the latest glaciation, the Devensian, has removed so much of the evidence from previous periods.
- 3.2.3 Palaeolithic peoples do not seem to have occupied Britain during the coldest part of the Devensian glaciation. Towards the end of the Devensian, some time after 13,000 BP, Late Upper Palaeolithic societies returned to Britain. Evidence of occupation in the northwest at this date is extremely scarce, but the discovery of Late Upper Palaeolithic blades at Lindale Low cave, near Grange-over-Sands, and at Bart's Cave, Aldingham,

- on the Furness peninsula, mean that the existence of a Cumbrian Palaeolithic can no longer be entirely dismissed (Chamberlain & Williams, 2001).
- 3.2.4 No Palaeolithic material has been located within a 1 km radius of Pottery Park, Dearham, Cumbria.
- 3.2.5 **Mesolithic:** By around 8,000 BP, the last of the major ice sheets had retreated. Rising sea levels submerged the land-bridge between Britain and continental Europe, an event that traditionally marks the beginning of the Mesolithic, or middle stone age period. Mesolithic populations were active on the Cumbrian coast, for example at Eskmeals, and St Bees, and it is likely that the Kent valley was occupied at this time. The Archaeology Data Service (ADS) records the discovery of a pebble macehead of characteristically Mesolithic type at Thorny Hills.
- 3.2.6 No Mesolithic material has been located within a 1 km radius of Pottery Park, Dearham, Cumbria.
- 3.2.7 **Neolithic:** The succeeding Neolithic period is characterised by increased density of occupation, which may be a result of the gradual adoption of a settled agricultural lifestyle.
- 3.2.8 By the Later Neolithic and Bronze Ages, the distribution of artefacts such as stone axes, arrowheads and axe-hammers indicates widespread settlement throughout the North Cumbrian Plain. Studies into the distribution of Stone Axes suggest that both wetlands/coastal areas and the plain itself were occupied at this time (Hodgkinson et al 2000). Polished Stone axes from the Langdale mines in the Cumbrian mountains were traded extensively throughout the British Isles, and it is likely that by the 3rd millennium BC, Neolithic inhabitants of Cumbria were part of an extensive trans-European trading network.
- 3.2.9 The later Neolithic and earlier Bronze ages are characterised by increasing social sophistication best reflected by the construction of large monuments, like the stone circles of Long Meg and Her Daughters near Penrith, or Birkkrigg, near Ulverston. These monuments have no obvious practical explanation, and are probably best seen as public works central to complex religious or spiritual practices.
- 3.2.10 The only find dating to the Neolithic period from the Dearham area is a single polished stone axehead (CHER 803) ploughed up in 1872 on the Row Hill Estate and held at Tullie House Museum, Carlisle. The findspot is almost a kilometre to the east of Pottery Park. There have been over one hundred stone axe heads found on the North Cumbrian Plain, but, as is the case with the Dearham axehead, few come from reliable contexts. The nature of the occupation represented by this ‘stray find’ is unclear.
- 3.2.11 **Bronze Age:** In the Bronze Age, human society continued to change and develop. Early metalwork finds are rare in Northern England, and metal production and ownership may have been the sole province of a privileged few.
- 3.2.12 Settlement sites dating to the Bronze Age are seldom identified, although aerial photography of the coastal plain has identified a number of sites that are yet to be tested by excavation (Bewley 1986, 37). Environmental studies, however, have identified cereal pollen dating from c2000 BC, clearly demonstrating the presence of agriculture in the North Cumbrian Plain by the Bronze Age (Hodgkinson et al, 2000).

- 3.2.13 By the beginning of the second millennium BC social change is reflected most clearly by the adoption of new burial practices. Cist burial, the practice of burying the dead in stone chambers dug into the ground and covered by slabs, seems to have become common at around this time throughout upland Northern England. Though cist burials are often found in isolation, it is suspected that they represent the surviving remnants of long vanished, or hitherto undetected, Bronze Age agricultural landscapes.
- 3.2.14 Another burial practice attributable to the Bronze Age is cremation burial. Sometimes cremation burials are associated with barrow mounds. The ploughed out remains of twenty or so barrows have been identified by aerial photography, and these may date to the Bronze Age (Bewley 1994). It is often unclear whether the contrasting practices of cist burial and cremation burial represent events of contrasting chronology or contrasting social practice.
- 3.2.15 No Bronze Age material has been located within a 1 km radius of Pottery Park, Dearham. The nearest tangible evidence was located at Ewanrigg, near Maryport, 3km to the west (CHER 3692). At Ewanrigg fieldwalking discovered Prehistoric pottery, and a series of subsequent excavations identified a total of 29 cremation burials and a single cist burial. Radiocarbon dates (2470calBC to 1520calBC) suggest that burials were being interred over a period of about 940 years during the Bronze Age. The relationship between the excavated cemetery at Ewanrigg, and an adjacent, unexcavated, settlement site (identified from aerial photographs) is unclear (Bewley 1986).
- 3.2.16 **Iron Age:** During the Iron Age the impression nationwide is of a major expansion in population as evidenced by an abundance of settlement sites. There is also clear evidence for a growing social complexity and hierarchy, as demonstrated by high status burials and contrasting settlement sites, for example hillforts compared to small farmsteads.
- 3.2.17 In Cumbria, however, settlement sites and burials attributable to the Iron Age are hard to identify. Once again, a number of unexcavated settlement sites identified by aerial photography may date to this period (Bewley 1994). Two hillforts are known at the southern end of the northern coastal plain at Carrock Fell and Swarthy Hill (Hodgkinson et al 2000). Possible Iron Age crouched burials have been excavated at Crosby Garrett (Hodgson and Brennand eds. 2004).
- 3.2.18 Although settlements are hard to locate, environmental studies for lowland Cumbria have shown a dramatic drop in tree pollen during the Iron Age, suggesting that large tracts of forest were cleared for agricultural activity.
- 3.2.19 No Iron Age material has been located within a 1 km radius of Pottery Park, Dearham.
- 3.2.20 **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 ed. 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).
- 3.2.21 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 ed. 2004).
- 3.2.22 Although rural settlement is poorly understood, environmental studies suggest that woodland clearances begun in the Iron Age continued apace, implying large scale cultivation of land (Philpott ed. 2004). As with preceding periods, a large percentage of the potential Romano-British rural sites around Maryport 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).
- 3.2.23 The few recorded Roman burials from rural Cumbria suggest that Late Iron Age native practice, such as the use of crouched inhumation, continued into the Roman period, whereas burials from Carlisle and the fort at Brough display great variety, such as respectively coffin burial and cremation (Philpott ed . 2004).
- 3.2.24 Four kilometres to the west of Dearham, some excavation work has been undertaken on the Roman fort at Maryport (*Alauna*). The fort at Maryport, along with those at Beckfoot and Moresby, served as a major focus on the northwest extension of Hadrian's Wall (Wilson ed. 1997). The western end of Hadrian's Wall was originally built of turf and replaced in stone in two stages during the second century AD (Philpott ed. 2004).
- 3.2.25 The only Roman site within a 1km radius of Pottery Park, Dearham is the east west aligned A594 (CHER 10721). Although the route of the road has not been intensively examined archaeologically, it is suggested that the road linked the forts of Maryport and Papcastle (*Derventio*) as part of the second century AD frontier defence system (Jones, 2003, 7). It is unclear whether any Roman period settlement was situated around the road in the Dearham area, and archaeological evaluation at Craika Road revealed no Roman archaeology (ibid.). Roman period stonework is incorporated into the fabric of St. Mungo's Church (CHER 804).
- 3.2.26 **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.

- 3.2.27 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 ed. 2004).
- 3.2.28 Environmental studies focussing on pollen remains have indicated a continuing arable economy in Cumbria during the Early Medieval period (Hodgkinson et al 2000).
- 3.2.29 To interpret early medieval society, archaeologists have often been forced to look at other classes of evidence beyond the traditional domain of excavation and field survey data, including place-name evidence, stone sculpture and early stone buildings. A consideration of these three classes of evidence is perhaps crystallised using evidence from Dearham itself.
- 3.2.30 The name Dearham, first documented in 1160, probably means ‘homestead or enclosure where deer are kept’ (Mills 2003). Clues to the general pattern of Early Medieval settlement in Cumbria can be gleaned from place-name evidence, although some names were still not fossilised until the twelfth century (Newman ed. 2004). Names ending in –ham (such as Dearham) are Old English, and are not common in Cumbria when compared to southern England. Clusters of –ham names have been recognised in the north-west of England, usually in areas of better agricultural quality, which suggest early foci, perhaps permanently cleared in the Roman or later prehistoric periods (Newman ed. 2004).
- 3.2.31 There are four rare items of stone sculpture located at St. Mungos Church at the northern end of Dearham. The main body of the Church dates to the twelfth century AD, but the pre-Norman stone sculpture ‘...provides mute evidence that Christianity had a footing in Dearham in Anglo-Saxon and Viking days’ (Kelly 1980). The sculpture has all been published over a century ago, and consists of a fine cross (late 10th century) with a wheel head and interweaving and interlace (Calverley 1881), and three other Anglo-Danish fragments now inside the church, including the ‘Kenneth Cross’ which depicts a man on horseback and the ‘Adam stone’, a grave slab, with a runic inscription (Calverly 1899). Items of stone sculpture of pre-Viking date is rare in Cumbria, but there are more numerous examples dating to the Viking period (ninth century AD and onwards). Strong Scandinavian influence is limited to areas north of the river Lune (Newman ed. 2004). Stone sculpture gives a rare insight into the beliefs, allegiances and motivations of early medieval peoples.
- 3.2.32 Some of the earliest stone buildings after the Roman period are churches. The extant building of St. Mungos Church in Dearham dates to the twelfth century AD and later. However, there are references to the existence of an earlier, Saxon church. Bulmer (1901) states that ‘...vestiges of this first stone fabric were discovered during restoration (1882), and a careful examination showed the original building to have been of very limited dimensions, and probably of very rude workmanship. The present edifice displaced the old saxon one during the Norman period...’ This reference

- suggests that there may well have been a pre-Norman Church, and by implication an associated settlement.
- 3.2.33 **Later Medieval:** In 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.
- 3.2.34 During the twelfth century many towns started to emerge and population throughout the area increased. The existence and trajectory of the settlement in Dearham, first referred to in 1160 (Mills 2003), is far from clear, but St Mungo's church dates to the twelfth century, and appears to have had extensive alterations in the thirteenth (chancel) and fourteenth centuries (pele tower) (CHER 804) implying a thriving community. Certainly the parish of Dearham, with its outlier Ewanrigg, would have been largely fossilised by this time.
- 3.2.35 The documentary evidence for medieval Dearham is poor. There is a later reference (Nicolson and Burn, 1777) to Dearham town, church and manor being given by Alan second lord of Allerdale to Simon Sheftlings who took the name *de Dearham*, and of other land coming to the Multons during the reign of King Henry III (1216-1272). From this evidence, an expansion of the importance of Dearham can be argued for during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.
- 3.2.36 It is possible that the main north-south road through Dearham may have Medieval origins, although modern terraced houses now line this street. Village fields were often laid out at right angles to main streets, and the early maps of the area (see below) suggest narrow fields close to the village, which appear to represent the enclosure of groups of individual plots (tofts).
- 3.2.37 Towards the east of the study area are a number of medieval ridge and furrow/walled field systems (CHER 16639 and CHER 16638), and the remains of a ridge and furrow and a house platform (CHER 16637) identified by aerial photography. It is likely that such remains exist near to Pottery Park, but have been ploughed away. This suggests an intensively exploited area during the Medieval period.
- 3.2.38 **Post Medieval and Modern:** From the eighteenth century onwards, Dearham becomes far more visible through a combination of documentary and cartographic evidence. In 1841, the population of Dearham was 1,037. This figure increased throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Man and Wheller, 1847).
- 3.2.39 The increasing prominence of Dearham in documentary sources may be due to specialisation of production in the town. For example an 1816 reference states that 'Near the village of Dearham is a considerable manufactory of coarse pottery (Lyson, 1816, 97), this statement is preceded by a similar statement in 1794-1797 (Hutchison).
- 3.2.40 At the end of the seventeenth century, employees of Sir John Lowther were testing the suitability of the clays around the Dearham area for the manufacture of earthenware pottery (Sibson, 1991). In February 1698, Sir John Lowther's agent had a contract with the Wedgwood family of Burslem, Staffordshire to, if tests were successful, construct a pottery workshop at Whitehaven. On the 14th March 1698, Gilpin (presumably an

employee of Lowther) wrote “I am willing to believe that we have those who are capable of the finest work, particularly of red unglazed...the man formerly mentioned is from Burslem in Staffordshire and says he has a patent for the sole making of the ware. I told him the strength of our clays which he likes and thinks sand will temper them...” (Sibson, 1991, 6). Unfortunately tests at Whitehaven were unsuccessful, but instead of returning to Staffordshire, one Aron Wedgwood joined the potters of Dearham (Sibson, 1991, 8). By 1704 Aron Wedgwood was renting the potter’s house from Mr. Richard Lamplugh at Harker Marsh between Dearham and Broughton Moor (Sibson, 1991, 8).

- 3.2.41 The earliest reference to the existence of a pottery in Dearham is the building of Whistling Syke by Aron Wedgwood in 1708 (Kelly, 1980, 4). This pottery can not necessarily be equated to those on the site of Pottery Park, Dearham. Whistling Syke is said to have been dismantled owing to opencast coal mining, implying that Whistling Syke may have been located on the site of the Lonsdale Pit or the Lowther pit (see below). Wedgwood had a thriving pottery business and 1724 saw him renting the nearby Dearham Manor and receiving permission to farm the potters clay from Lord Wharton (Sibson, 1991, 8)
- 3.2.42 Aron Wedgwood’s brother, Jonathon Wedgwood, built Dearham pottery around the first quarter of the eighteenth century. Dearham pottery was built for John Wilson, who sold it to Robert Batty. The road that connected the central road through Dearham to the pottery was known as Wedgwood Road (Kelly 1980, 5). On the 1827 enclosure map for Dearham, the Pottery Park site is shown as belonging to Joseph Wilson, who is most likely was a descendant of John Wilson (see below). This means that the Pottery Park pottery is most likely to be the site of Jonathon Wedgwood’s pottery. It was worked for 200 years and may have closed in 1900 (*ibid*), though a reference from 1901 states that: ‘the Jubilee Pottery Co., formerly known as the Dearham Pottery Co., has been in existence for upwards of a century. A quantity of brown earthenware is manufactured (Bulmer, 1901).
- 3.2.43 No mention of the Tunstall family could be found in relation to Pottery Park., despite extensive archive searches
- 3.2.44 The other main industry from the eighteenth onwards century was coal mining. Maryport owes its existence entirely to the coal trade. Before 1750, coal had been worked on a small scale at Dearham on the property of the Christians and Senhouses (Fletcher 1877). However, as demand increased a number of pits were opened soon after 1760. In 1781, 765,530 tons of coal was raised from the Broughton pits and shipped to Maryport (*ibid*, 304). Soon after 1781, a colliery was opened by Lord Lonsdale in Dearham (*ibid*, 304), presumably the Lonsdale or Lowther pits (see below).
- 3.2.45 By the mid nineteenth century, there were three coal pits situated near Dearham. Two of the coal pits were worked by the firm of John and Thomas Walker. The two shafts were called Lonsdale pit (CHER 10735) and the Lowther pit, which might equate to the Gillbank Mine (CHER 10738). The Lowther pit was ‘sixty fathoms deep’ and the Lonsdale pit was ‘sixty one fathoms deep’. A third, smaller pit, the Orchard pit was also in existence (Wheller, 1860).

- 3.2.46 By the nineteenth century, the pits were serviced by railways, such as the Dearham Tramway (CHER 10736). The tramway linked the numerous collieries, including Lonsdale Pit (CHER 10735) and Gillbank Mine (CHER 10738), with the main railway lines to the north and west.
- 3.2.47 By 1900, coal mining was the ‘...chief means of livelihood of the inhabitants [of Dearham]...’ (Bulmer 1901, 718). A colliery worked on the co-operative principle known as the Cross Low Colliery was also in existence. This pit was sunk in 1895 and covered an are of 600 acres. The mine gave employment to 120 men and turned out 100 tons of coal per day. The Town Head Colliery also owned another pit at the Row Beck end of Dearham that yielded 30 tons of coal per day (*ibid.* 718).
- 3.2.48 As with many other towns in the area, the decline in the population and new building within Dearham coincided with the decline of the coal industry in the second half of the twentieth century.

4. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The assessment results are based on primary documents, most notably maps, and on the secondary sources used in *Section 3.2*. The results are presented according to the archive from which they were consulted. There are **2** HER records located within the Pottery Park redevelopment area, and extra information was gathered for **15** HER records locate in an immediate study area, defined as a 1km radius centred on the site. A full list of the sites identified by the assessment is given in *Section 4.2*. A list of 2 historic buildings is also provided in that section.

4.2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

4.2.1 **HER:** There were **17** HER records within the study area, which is defined as a 1km radius around the site (Fig 2). Two of the sites will be directly affected by the development. These are:

- HER 10734 **Newlands Bank Pottery Works:** the buildings are described as still being extant in 1988. The pottery may relate to the pottery used by the Wedgwood and Tunstal families who ran pottery works in Dearham in the eighteenth century. By the nineteenth century, the pottery had been taken over by the Ostle family. The present use of the buildings is unknown.
- HER 10736 **Dearham Tramway:** the tramway that crosses the site operated as a mineral line in the nineteenth century. The tramway linked the numerous collieries, including Lonsdale Pit (HER 10735) and Gillbank Mine (HER 10738), with the main railway lines to the north and west. The line is marked as out of use by the early twentieth century, and is now used as a footpath.

4.2.2 The remaining sites are summarised in Table 1.

4.2.3 **Listed Buildings:** the listed building records shows two buildings within a 1km radius of the site, none of which will be affected by the development area. The buildings are summarised in Table 1.

HER No.	Site Name	Site Type	Period	NGR
803	Row Hall Axe Find	Findspot	Neolithic	E308 N536
804	St Mungos Church	Grade I Listed Building (LB SMR No 22846)	Medieval	E307230 N536370
10721	Dearham Roman Road	Road	Roman	E305 N53656
10733	Row Beck Watermill	Watermill (Site)	Unknown	E30666 N53576
10735	Lonsdale Pit	Colliery	Post-Medieval	NY03NE
10737	Fair Winds Engine House	Engine House	Post-Medieval	E30588 N5366

10738	Gillbank Mine	Mine	Unknown	E30675 N5361
10740	Dearham Mill	Watermill	Unknown	E30664 N53711
10741	Dearham Railway Station	Railway Station	Post-Medieval	E30705 N5373
11773	Seaton Railway	Railway	Unknown	E 30033 N5300
16637	Row Brow Shrunken Village	Shrunken Village	Medieval	E30795 N5362
16638	Dearham Hall Field System	Earthworks	Unknown	E3073 N5370
16639	Rowmoor Farm Field System	Earthwork	Medieval	E30795 N53675
40704	Home Farm, Dearham	Farmstead	Post-Medieval	E30707 N53643
40756	Dearham Hall	Farmstead	Post-Medieval	E3074 N53645
LB22847	Milestone	LB Grade II	Post-Medieval	E306651 N535243

Table 1: HER sites outside of Development Area

4.3 CUMBRIA RECORD OFFICE (CARLISLE)

4.3.1 The Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle (CRO(C)) was consulted to collate maps for regression analysis of the study area. Information from primary and secondary sources, including archaeological or historical journals, has been incorporated into the historic background (*Section 3.2*).

4.4 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

4.4.1 As part of the documentary search at the Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle (CRO(C)), an in-depth scan of the early maps for Dearham was undertaken. A cartographic date range of between 1827 and 1967 was obtained. The development area will now be discussed with reference to these early sources, noting any changes to the development area within this period.

4.4.2 **Enclosure Map for Dearham, c 1827 (CRO(C) QRE 1/15):** the earliest available source is the Enclosure Map of 1827 (Fig 3). The development area is clearly shown as an identically shaped plot of land to that visible in the present day, and the layout therefore has not been radically altered since this period. The regularity and shape of the south, west and east sides of the plot suggests an early nineteenth century Parliamentary Enclosure field. The irregularity of the field layouts to the north and north-east, however, suggest an earlier piecemeal enclosure, perhaps in the late eighteenth century or earlier.

4.4.3 The plot is labelled as number ‘53’ and the owner is recorded as being one ‘Joseph Wilson’. In the northern corner of the site, an L-shaped building complex is illustrated. Though this building is not labelled, later maps identify this building as a pottery, so it is likely that this building served the same purpose. Though little detail is shown of the building, it has clearly been extended several times, which suggests that it may have been quite well established by the time the map was drawn up. Other than these details, the map is quite schematic and provides little further information.

4.4.4 **Tithe Apportionment Map for Dearham, 1838 (CRO(C) DRC 8/65):** the second available map is the Tithe Apportionment Map of 1838 (Fig 4), which illustrates a

similar field layout to that seen on the 1827 map. The building is labelled as a 'Pottery', and is also shown in a similar schematic form, though it is interesting to note that the building appears to have been marginally altered; the south-eastern end of the building has been shortened, and a further extension appears to have been built on the north-western side. A curving drive leads from the eastern corner of the field to the building, corresponding to a similar road now leading from Pottery Lane. This was presumably also present in 1827, but was not illustrated. The buildings are illustrated as being within a rectangular enclosure that sub-divides the building from the rest of the field. A present-day lynchet corresponds with this boundary, now overgrown with scrub (*Section 5*). To the east of the small boundary, two small rectangular ponds are illustrated.

- 4.4.5 ***First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1865 – 25" to 1 mile:*** the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig 5) is the first map that shows the development area in detail; the buildings are still labelled 'Pottery'. The layout of the building appears the same as for the Tithe map of 1838, but more detail is now shown; the building is clearly sub-divided, suggesting several extensions. A small pond is located to the north-west of the building complex, adjacent to the building, and a well lies to the south-east next to the eastern corner of the building. The two ponds shown on the Tithe map have been extended westwards, and a further pond has also been excavated west of the southernmost pond. The rectangular enclosure encloses the ponds, where previously they lay outside the boundary. The plot is bisected on the eastern side by the line of a mineral railway, which leads from Gillbank Mine (HER 10738) to the north, and adjoins the main railway line to the south-west.
- 4.4.6 ***Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1901 – 25" to 1 mile:*** the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig 6) also shows the buildings labelled as a 'Pottery'. The layout of the building has been altered by this stage; parts of the central building have been demolished, and a further rectangular extension has been built on the north-west side. A further rectangular building also now accommodates the north corner of the site. The well is no longer shown, and the three ponds have now been altered. The southernmost pond survives, whilst the northern and western ponds have been replaced by a series of four smaller ponds. The mineral railway that leads from Gillbank Mine (HER 10738) is now shown as 'Old Mineral Railway' indicating it has gone out of use, and the mines themselves are also shown as 'Old Quarry'.
- 4.4.7 ***Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1925 – 25" to 1 mile:*** the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig 7) shows the first evidence of contraction of activity on the site; the buildings' function is no longer given. The layout of the buildings has been altered drastically by this stage, with most of the central buildings having been demolished, as well as the rectangular building that accommodated the north corner of the site. Of the remaining buildings, only two appear roofed. The ponds have now been infilled, and are no longer shown. The mineral railway is now shown as 'Dismantled Railway'.
- 4.4.8 ***Fifth Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1967 – 6" to 1 mile:*** the final map (Fig 8) shows the rectangular enclosure largely devoid of buildings, as it is today. A possible building is shown against the north-eastern boundary, but otherwise the plot is empty. The line of the mineral railway is now used as a footpath.

4.5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

4.5.1 No aerial photographs directly relating to the development site exist. To the north and east of Dearham, a number of archaeological sites have been catalogued through the examination of aerial photography. These comprise:

- HER 16637: Row Brow Shrunken Village
- HER 16638: Dearham Hall Field System
- HER 16639: Rowmoor Farm Field System.

4.5.2 The sites lie at minimum 1km from the development area and will not be impinged upon by the development of the site.

4.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

4.6.1 In April 2003, North Pennines Heritage Trust undertook an archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation on land at Craika Road, Dearham. The work was undertaken prior to the construction of a residential development. A series of linear evaluation trenches were excavated, but the work found no significant archaeological features within any of the trenches (Jones 2003).

5. SITE VISIT RESULTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 The site was visited on the 15th of November 2005, in order to complete a walkover survey of the area with the purpose of relating the existing landscape to research findings. The site comprises two distinct areas of topography. The main section of the development area is occupied by a moderately flat expanse of grassland, which is well-kept, and currently in use as a football pitch. The south-western side of the grassland is defined by a drainage ditch and mature hedge, which separates the area from the housing to the south. The north-western side is demarcated by a post-and wire fence, with the scrubby remains of a hedge beyond, which separates it from the fields to the west. The south-eastern boundary is formed a low bank, in use as a footpath, with a line of immature trees within a post-and-wire fence beyond. Access to the football pitch is by means of a tongue of flat grassed land running from the east into the development area, or a gate onto the footpath in the south-eastern corner of the site. By contrast, the north corner, and much of the north-eastern side, of the development area is heavily overgrown with rough vegetation, primarily rough grasses, brambles and bushes (Plate 1). The south-western side of this area is defined by a low bank, the north-western side by a post-and-wire fence, with the scrubby remains of a hedge beyond.
- 5.1.2 Two archaeological features were identified during the survey (Fig 2), and these correspond with two existing HER sites (see *Section 4.2.1*). The sites were located using manual survey techniques, tying in the new features to those already shown on the current OS map, and are discussed below.

5.2 RESULTS

- 5.2.1 The most significant remains were located in the area of scrubland to the north of the development area, measuring 65m by 30m. A rapid inspection noted two upstanding walls, which survived to over 1m in height over the extensive vegetation cover obscuring their bases (Plate 2). In addition, further wall-lines were noted extending across the central section of the scrubland, partially obscured by vegetation (Plate 3). The walls appear built of either sandstone or brick, and appear intact to one or two courses in height at minimum, though visibility was greatly hampered by the ground conditions. Though it was not possible to discern exact layouts of buildings, the walls almost certainly relate to the remains of the eighteenth and nineteenth century pottery which existed on the site (HER 10734). Large quantities of rubble also obscured the walls, and it was telling that the rubble appeared confined to the central plot of the scrubbed area, suggesting the collapse or demolition of buildings, but not their subsequent clearance. A further rectangular 'bump' was noted in the northern corner of the site, corresponding to a further building noted on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1901 (*Section 4.4.6*). The southern side of the scrubland is demarcated by a bank, which corresponds with an early boundary noted on the tithe map of 1838

(*Section 4.4.4*). The results suggest that this area has been largely untouched since the pottery went out of use and was demolished.

- 5.2.2 In addition, the line of the bank which runs down the south-east side of the development area, and now in use as a footpath (Plate 4), corresponds with the line of a mineral railway, which was first depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865, and corresponds with HER site 10736 (*Section 4.4.5*). The railway is marked as being out of use by 1901 (*Section 4.4.6*) and was in use as a footpath by 1967 (*Section 4.4.8*). The bank stands to approximately 0.5m in height, and approximately 3m in width.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 6.1.1 The potential for prehistoric archaeology is fairly low. Though there was almost certainly prehistoric activity in the area, there is no definitive evidence for this, the nearest and only archaeological site listed in the HER being a single find of a polished Neolithic stone axe found in 1872 at Row Hall (HER 803). These axes are frequently found in isolation, and therefore either represent casual losses or deliberate discard. The axes therefore signify a presence, but not necessarily settlement, in the area.
- 6.1.2 The potential for Roman archaeology is equally low, despite the close proximity of a Roman road (HER 10721) to the development area. The nearest evidence for Roman activity is the Roman stonework which survives in the twelfth century phase of the church of St Mungos at Dearham, though this quite probably originates from the Roman coastal defences and activity at Maryport, which is only 4km from the village, and which enjoyed extensive links with it. An evaluation undertaken by NPAL to the south of the development area at Craika Road failed to uncover any evidence for settlement immediately adjacent to the line of the Roman road (Jones 2003), and a watching brief undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates on works on the line of the road in 2002 found that the road metalling lay over 2.5m below the present ground surface (cited in the HER record).
- 6.1.3 The early and later medieval remains are entirely represented by the medieval village of Dearham itself. The village, though now fairly modern in terms of its housing stock, appears to have originated in the crofts-and-tofts, which radiated east and west from the north-south aligned main street. The Grade I listed medieval church of St Mungos (HER 804, LBSMR 22846) lies to the north of the village. Aerial photographs have succeeded in identifying a series of remains of a shrunken medieval village at Row Brow, as well as medieval field systems near Rowmoor and Dearham Hall (HER 16637-9), but these lie north and east of the present-day village. The topography of the development area is similar to the land where the field systems have been found, and the possibility exists that remains of field systems *may* survive in the development area as sub-surface features, but there is no definitive evidence for this. The development area is largely peripheral to the medieval village, and as such the potential for medieval remains to survive is at best moderate.
- 6.1.4 The post-medieval archaeology of the development area shows the greatest potential. The walkover survey has identified that extensive remains survive of a complex of buildings in the northern end of the site. These buildings have been demonstrated by cartographic and secondary sources to relate to the eighteenth century pottery (HER 10734) established by Jonathan Wedgwood; the pottery was operated throughout the nineteenth century until the closure of the buildings in the early twentieth century, and their subsequent demolition. The area has clearly never been cleared, and there is a very high potential for sub-surface remains of the pottery to survive in the area. In addition, an extant section of nineteenth century mineral railway bank (HER 10736) also survives to the east of the site, now visible as a low earthwork used as a footpath.

The proposed landscaping of the development area will directly impinge on both these sites.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.1 On the evidence presented above there is a high potential for the survival of archaeological deposits on the site. The proposed landscaping of the development area will probably remove the existing earthworks of the pottery and the mineral railway, as well as the surviving remains of the buildings of the pottery itself. In addition, the sub-surface remains associated with pottery, such as buried walls and earlier buildings, ponds, wells etc, could also be directly impacted upon by any landscaping works.
- 6.2.2 In light of this, it is recommended that a programme of measured survey be undertaken of the surviving earthworks in the area. The current dense vegetation cover means that large areas of the buildings associated with the pottery are heavily obscured; further measured survey of the existing buildings should also be undertaken once the vegetation has been cleared back. Interpretation can then be attempted of the demolished remains. Due to the significance of the building, it would also be desirable to undertake targeted removal of the rubble and consolidation of the remains, perhaps incorporating the buildings as a feature in the future use of the area as a community recreation area.

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Plate 1: area of scrubland at the northern end of the development area, facing north



Plate 2: section of upstanding wall within scrubland, facing north-west



Plate 3: section of partially buried wall towards southern extent of scrubland, facing west



Plate 4: section of mineral railway, now used as a footpath, facing south-west