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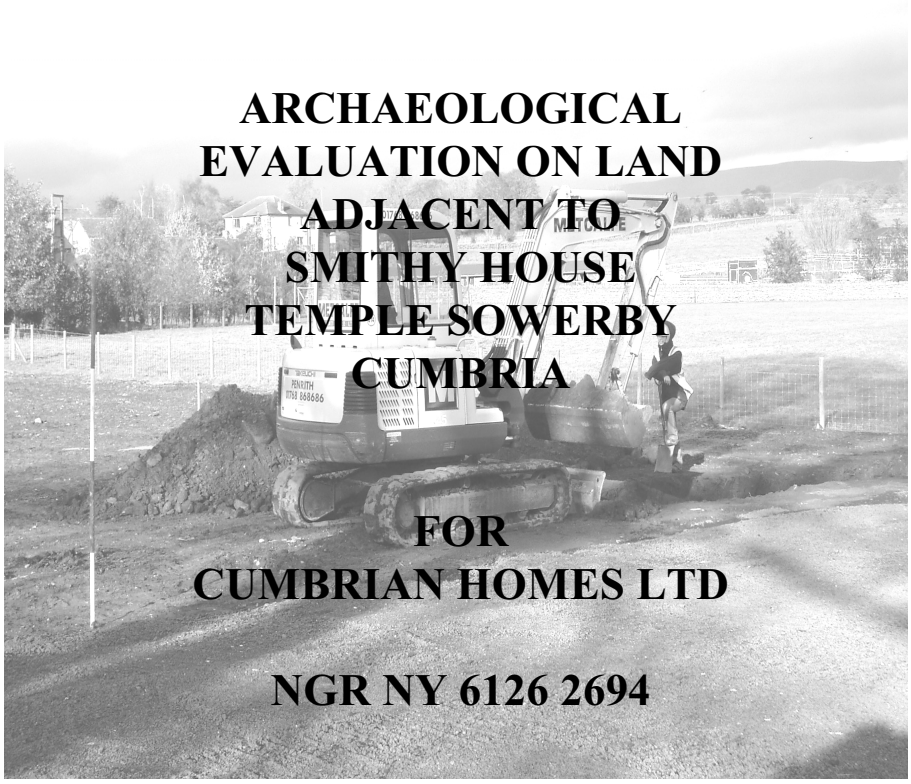

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND ADJACENT TO SMITHY HOUSE TEMPLE SOWERBY CUMBRIA

FOR CUMBRIAN HOMES LTD

NGR NY 6126 2694

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were invited by Cumbrian Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to Smithy House, Temple Sowerby, Cumbria (NGR NY 6126 2694).

A desk-based assessment undertaken prior to the evaluation by NPA Ltd (Gaskell 2006) located 1 Scheduled Ancient Monument, 13 other sites from the Historic Environment Record (HER) and 33 Listed Buildings within a 1km radius of Smithy House. The proposed scheme of development will have a significant impact on a number of barn buildings, some of which are to be demolished in order for the development to commence. Consequently, an archaeological evaluation was requested by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Section. The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three linear trenches, in order to assess the presence or absence, nature and extent of any archaeological remains within the development area.

The excavation of the trenches revealed a number of modern land drains connected with the construction of the nearby A66 trunk road and field drains associated with the redundant farm buildings. Examination of the soil horizons strongly indicate that this area of land was waterlogged, which had resulted in formation of a thick band of grey silt, this had presumably dried out when land drains were placed around the site in order to improve marginal land. The site is located 210m to the west of Temple Sowerby Moss, which formed as a result of a depression in the natural bedrock filling up with organic material and water.]

No significant archaeological remains were found, and therefore no further work should be required.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Ian Blackett of Cumbrian Homes Ltd for commissioning the project, and for his assistance throughout the fieldwork. Ian of Metcalf Plant Hire is also thanked for his patient and diligent machining.

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

The evaluation was undertaken by Martin Sowerby, under the direction of Nicola Gaskell. The report was written by Martin Sowerby, who also produced the drawings. The project was managed by Matt Town, Project Officer for NPA Ltd who also edited the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) were consulted prior to a planning application regarding a residential housing development, which could affect an area of high archaeological potential. The site is located on land adjacent to Smithy House, Temple Sowerby, Cumbria (NGR NY 6126 2694) (Figure 1), and will involve the construction of five homes. Consequently, CCCHES advised that a programme of archaeological works would be necessary prior to any proposed development application (Parsons 2006).

1.1.2 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL) were commissioned by Cumbrian Homes Ltd to undertake the required archaeological desk based assessment and evaluation within the development area itself. The archaeological desk-based assessment of the site was undertaken by NPAL in June 2006 (Gaskell 2006), which showed that the site had potential for the survival of archaeological remains relating to the current extant farm buildings.

1.1.3 The field evaluation comprised the excavation of a series of linear trial trenches in order to provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relevant importance against known development proposals. The principal objective of this evaluation was to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed. Three trenches were to be excavated, comprising a minimum 5% sample of the undeveloped area.

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.

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 Cumbrian Homes Ltd for an archaeological desk-based assessment and evaluation 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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

2.2.1 The archaeological evaluation consisted of the excavation of three linear trial trenches, two measured 15m by 1.60 and one 16m by 1.60m, in order to provide a 5% sample of an area measuring approx 1550 square meters (see Fig 2). This was in order to produce a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relevant importance against known development proposals. 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.

2.2.2 Each trench was mechanically excavated by a 13 tonne tracked 360 degree excavator 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.

2.2.3 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 Black and White Print and Colour Slide film.

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

2.3 ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design, and in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (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 06 TEM-B.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1.1 The village of Temple Sowerby lies 11.5km southeast of Penrith and 14.5km northwest of Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria and is located within the civil parish of Temple Sowerby in the part of Cumbria that used to be known as the county of Westmorland. The development area is situated on flat land located immediately to the north of the main road through the village, (the A66), at a height of around 110m above Ordnance Datum (OD).

3.1.2 Temple Sowerby sits on Permian basal breccias, which comprise of sandstones and mudstones (British Geological Society web site) in the base of the Eden Valley. This solid geology is overlain with soils of the Clifton Association, which are fine reddish, loamy till soils (Countryside Commission, 1998). The Eden Valley is a landscape of enclosed, agricultural land and woodland. Most of the area is mixed dairy and livestock farming with some arable towards the north, or on the river soils of the River Eden floodplain (English Nature web site). Land-use around Temple Sowerby consists predominantly of both pasture and arable land. The development area is within the boundaries of the Temple Sowerby Village Conservation Area.

3.1.3 The site was occupied at the time of the desk-based assessment by a series of late 19th century barns. These were partly demolished prior to the archaeological evaluation, however the range of buildings, which fronted the A66 trunk road and a single barn adjacent to Smithy House survived relatively intact.

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.2.1 The general layout of Temple Sowerby is typical of a medieval, nucleated settlement. These settlements have been tentatively dated as belonging to the early post-Conquest period, and are a particular feature from the 12th century onwards. Evidence for the beginnings of the village arise from the name of Temple Sowerby; it being a dual one, the Sowerby aspect deriving from *'sourebi'* meaning 'a farmstead on boggy ground' of Old Scandinavian origin, which is first encountered in 1179. The full name of *'Templessoureby'* was first recorded in 1292 and comes from the early possession of the village by the Knights Templars (Mills, 2003).

3.2.2 Though there was almost certainly prehistoric activity in the area, the only evidence is stray finds, mostly relating to the Bronze Age (Gaskell 2006). An area known locally as The Moss is situated just to the east of the site and contains a rounded enclosure with ditches. Even though there is no certainty as to the date of this feature its proximity to the site meant there was a possibility of prehistoric remains (Gaskell 2006).

3.2.3 The Roman road from the nearby fort at Kirkby Thore to Carlisle possibly runs through the village, however no evidence for this road has been uncovered and its exact route can only be speculative. Also, to the south of the site is a Roman milestone; this stone is one of only two Roman milestones in Britain which remain *in situ.*

3.2.4 In the post-medieval period the village underwent some expansion and rebuilding, possibly connected to improvements in agricultural practices, the mining of gypsum in the area and the arrival of the railway network to the village (Gaskell 2006).

4 EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The machine stripping of the trenches, which were subsequently excavated by hand down to the natural subsoil, permitted an examination of the archaeological remains within the development site. All trenches locations are depicted in Figure 2.

4.2 TRENCH 1

4.2.1 Trench 1 was 16m long by 1.60m wide and was orientated in a north-west by south-east direction. The trench was positioned in the north-western corner of the evaluation area, between two extant stone built farm buildings The maximum depth of the trench was approximately 0.70m (see Fig 2, Plates 1 and 2).

4.2.2 The earliest horizon encountered consisted of an indurated brownish orange clayey sand **(105)**, which was clearly natural in origin. The natural was overlaid by **(104)** and **(103)**. The former**, (104)** located in the south-east corner of the trench consisted of loose light to mid grey silt, approximately 0.35m deep. It appears that this layer was formed by standing water, as the site is located 210m to the west of Temple Sowerby Moss, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The moss or basin mire was formed as a result of a depression in the natural bedrock filling up with organic material and water, which drained off from the surrounding hillsides. The land around the moss was drained in the late 18th to 19th centuries, which presumably reduced the size of the moss and increased available farmland.

4.2.3 Towards the north-west extent of the trench was a hard compacted layer **(103)**, which consisted of dark grey clayey silt mixed with modern CBM and brick fragments. This layer has been interpreted as an original surface for the farm buildings. Both **(103)** and **(104)** were sealed by **(102)**, a loose red sand which was bedding material for a partly removed cobble surface **(101)**. Up to 0.10m of modern demolition rubble, **(100)**, made up the remaining depth of the trench.

4.2.4 No evidence of any archaeological features was found in the base or sections of Trench 1.

4.3 TRENCH 2

4.3.1 Trench 2 was 15m long and 1.60m wide, and orientated in a north-south direction. It was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m. The trench was located in the eastern extent of the proposed development area. The natural subsoil **(105)** was encountered at a depth of 0.60m (see Fig 2, Plates 3 and 4).

4.3.2 In the northern part of the trench, the natural subsoil **(105)** was cut by an east-west orientated modern field drain, measuring 0.20m wide by 0.28m deep. In the southern corner of the trench a large modern red ceramic drain was found associated with drainage for the A66 trunk road. The drain measured 0.70m wide and was 0.24m deep.

4.3.3 Both features were overlaid by up to 0.34m of dark brownish grey clayey sand, **(201)**, which appeared to identical to the probable buried ground surface **(103)**, recorded in Trench 1. Up to 0.20m of demolition rubble **(200)**, made up the remaining depth of the trench.

4.4 TRENCH 3

4.4.1 Trench 3 was 15m in length by 1.60m wide, orientated in a north-south direction. It was machine excavated to a maximum depth of 0.60m. The trench was located in the southern extent of the proposed development area. The natural subsoil **(105)** was encountered at a depth of 0.50m (see Fig 3, Plates 5 and 6).

4.4.2 Observed cutting the natural towards the southern end of the trench was a cut by a modern service trench, which was 0.30m wide by 0.20m deep. It contained a black plastic water pipe, which supplies water to a field water trough. This feature was sealed by **(301)**, which formed a layer up to 0.30m deep throughout the trench. It consisted of light to mid grey silty clay. This layer was overlaid by **(300)**, a loose demolition/rubble layer.

5 FINDS

5.1 FINDS

5.1.1 The pottery has been cleaned, marked and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of Frank Giecco NPAL Technical Director.

5.1.2 ***Pottery***: a total 78 fragments of pottery were recovered during the evaluation. The majority of the pottery sherds were late 19th early 20th century domestic wares, which consisted of dark glazed earthenwares and transfer printed wares. Layer **(201)**, in Trench 2 yielded the majority of sherds, which showed that a large amount of material had been dumped onto this earlier surface over a long period of time.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

6.1.1 The evaluation identified several linear features in Trench 2 and 3, which relate to modern farming practices and drainage associated with the construction of the nearby A66 trunk road. Although no other significant archaeological remains were observed the evaluation has identified that the land on which the development is to be sited was drained in order to increase available farmland. It is not possible to suggest at which point these changes to the landscape took place, though there is a distinct lack of archaeological activity earlier than the 19th century.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

6.2.1 From the evidence presented above there is little potential for the survival of archaeological remains. In light of this, no further archaeological work will be required.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

Context Number	Trench	Category	Interpretation
100	1	Layer	Demolition Rubble
101	1	Layer	Cobble Surface
102	1	Layer	Bedding For Cobbled Surface
103	1 & 4	Layer	Possible Original Surface
104	1	Layer	Waterlogged Silt
105	1,2, & 3	Layer	Natural
200	2	Layer	Demolition Rubble
201	2	Layer	Possible Original Surface
300	3	Layer	Demolition Rubble
301	3	Layer	Waterlogged Silt

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES AND PLATES