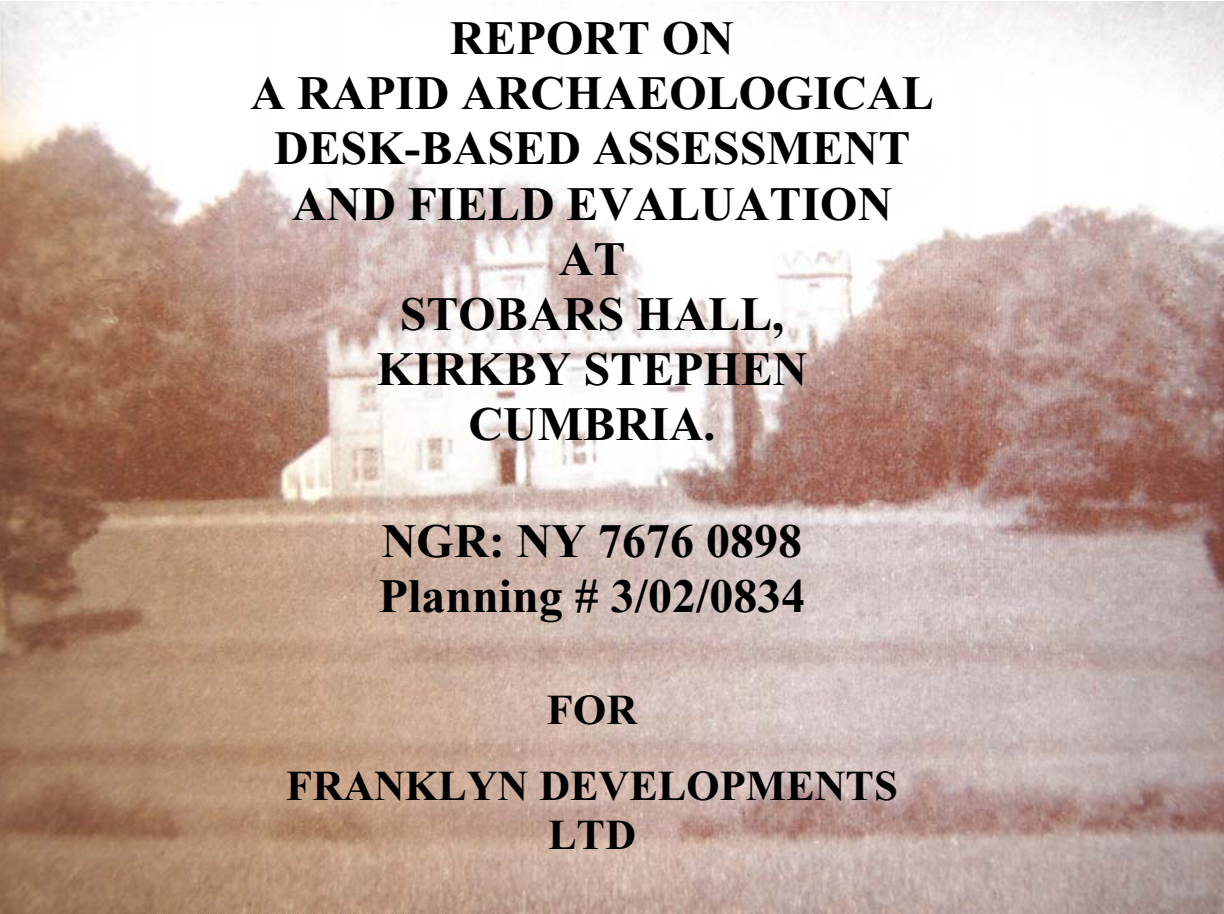

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Project Designs and Client Report No. 505/07



**REPORT ON
A RAPID ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
AND FIELD EVALUATION
AT
STOBARS HALL,
KIRKBY STEPHEN
CUMBRIA.**

**NGR: NY 7676 0898
Planning # 3/02/0834**

**FOR
FRANKLYN DEVELOPMENTS
LTD**

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Non-Technical Summary

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CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	v
1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT	1
2. METHODOLOGY	2
2.1 PROJECT DESIGN	2
2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT	2
2.3 FIELD EVALUATION	3
2.4 ARCHIVE	3
3. BACKGROUND	4
3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY	4
4 ASSESMENT RESULTS	10
4.1 INTRODUCTION	10
4.2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)	10
4.3 CUMBRIA RECORD OFFICE (KENDAL)	10
4.4 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES	10
4.5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY	11
5. EVALUATION RESULTS	13
5.1 INTRODUCTION	13
5.2 TRENCH 1	13
5.3 TRENCH 2	13
5.4 TRENCH 3	13
5.5 TRENCH 4	14
5.6 TRENCH 5	14
5.7 TRENCH 6	15
5.8 TRENCH 7	15
5.9 TRENCH 8	15
5.10 TRENCH 9	16
5.11 TRENCH 10	16
5.12 TRENCH 11	17
6 CONCLUSIONS	18
6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL	18
8. BIBLIOGRAPHY	19
8.1 PRIMARY SOURCES	19
8.2 SECONDARY SOURCES	19
APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER SITES	22
APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST	23
APPENDIX 3: FIGURES AND PLATES	24

CONTENTS

APPENDIX 4: ADDITIONAL PLATES

25

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook a desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation on land within the grounds at Stobars Hall, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria, (NY 7676 0898). Keith O'Hara of Franklyn Developments Ltd submitted a planning application for the construction of a new residential care home. As a result, Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) recommended a programme of archaeological work be undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by CCCHES. The desk based assessment provides a brief outline of the topographical, geological, historical and archaeological background of the development area, covering all periods from the prehistoric to the early twentieth century in order to give a context in which to view the results of the evaluation.

A total of 7 sites of historic and archaeological interest were identified within the defined study area. Aerial photographs show a crop mark of a possible prehistoric settlement to the southeast of the site (HER No. 3495). Furthermore, medieval earthwork remains of field systems and agricultural practices are located immediately to the south of the hall (HER No. 17760). The post-medieval period is largely represented by the construction of Stobars Hall and associated Lodge in 1829.

Of the sites identified by the desk-based assessment, only two have the potential to be affected by the proposed development (HER 17760, HER 20254). The medieval earthworks visible in front of the hall are substantial features, which would have been prominent on the landscape when the hall was constructed. There is no evidence for lynchets to the rear of the hall on which the development will be sited, however there is the possibility that the earthworks were destroyed when the hall was built and could remain as sub-surface features. A range of buildings to the rear of the hall were utilised as stables and will be directly impinged by the development, in light of this a photographic record was undertaken. The hall also incorporates a number of date stones built within the fabric of the building, the earliest being 1695 which in all probability was brought to the site when the hall was constructed.

The results of the evaluation demonstrated the survival of a number of post-medieval and modern drains, which appear to pertain to agricultural practises. However, four of the evaluation trenches within the development area were unexcavated due to a number of factors. Several live services and drainage pipes were noted within Trenches 1 and 2. Trenches 7 and 8 were abandoned due to a leaking septic tank, which made the ground unworkable for health and safety reasons. At the southern extent of Trench 4 a live BT telephone cable was encountered and similar cables were observed in Trench 3. As a result of this and in agreement with Cumbria County Council Heritage Services, an additional trench was excavated along the north boundary of the development site. The evaluation produced no finds or deposits worthy of environmental sampling.

The results of both the desk-based assessment and the evaluation indicate that the proposed development will not directly impact on significant 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 Keith O'Hara of Candy Lofthouse Architects for commissioning the project. Thanks are due to the staff and management of Stobars Hall residential home for their help, support and advice. 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 with the project, and staff at Cumbria County Records Office in Kendal.

Martin Sowerby undertook the desk-based assessment. Claire Mason, Mark Brownrigg and Joe Jackson undertook the evaluation under the direction of Martin Sowerby, NPA Project Supervisor. Martin Sowerby wrote the report, and produced the drawings. Frank Giocco, Technical Director for NPA LTD, managed the project. and edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In June 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook a desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation on land at Stobars Hall, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria, (NY 7715 0900). The work was requested in response to a planning application for the construction of a new residential care home by Keith O'Hara of Franklin Developments. As a result, Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) recommended a programme of archaeological work be undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by CCCHES (Parsons 2007 and Giocco 2007).
- 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 was to undertake sufficient work in order to identify and characterise the archaeological constraints associated within the development area, in order to assess the archaeological and historical potential of the development site.
- 1.1.3 This report presents the results of the desk-based assessment and field evaluation, outlining the findings of the work, followed by a statement of archaeological potential for the area, an assessment of the impact of the proposed development, and recommendations for further work if required.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.2.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Keith O'Hara for an archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation, on land at Stobars Hall, Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria (NY 7676 0898), 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 A number of sources of information were consulted, in accordance with the project brief and project design. The study area consisted of a 0.5km radius centred on the proposed development area (Figure 2). The principal sources of information were the Historic Environment Record (HER), maps and secondary sources.

2.2.2 ***Cumbria 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.

2.2.3 ***Cumbria County Record Office (Kendal):*** the County Record Office in Kendal (CRO(K)) 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 ***English Heritage NMR and Archaeology Data Service:*** 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.

2.2.5 ***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 un-deposited archives of the sites themselves were examined.

2.3 FIELD EVALUATION

- 2.3.1 The field evaluation consisted of 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.
- 2.3.2 In summary, the main objectives of the evaluation were:
- To establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed.
 - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
 - to recover paleoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.
- 2.3.3 Originally eight trenches measuring 20m by 1.6m and two at 10m respectively were to be excavated, which would constitute a 5% sample of the development area (Figure 6). However, due to subsequent site inspection, it became apparent that a number of trenches would remain unexcavated due to live services and a leaking septic tank. The remaining trenches were excavated by a six ton tracked mechanical excavator to either the top of archaeological deposits, or the natural substrate, whichever was observed first.
- 2.3.4 Trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features investigated and recorded according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd standard procedure as set out in the Excavation manual (Giecco 2001).

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 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 Historic Environment Record, where viewing will be available on request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA 07 SHK-A.
- 2.4.2 North Pennines Archaeology and CCCHES support the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature created as a result of developer-funded archaeological fieldwork. As a result, details of the results of this evaluation will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Kirkby Stephen lies within the undulating farmland of the upper Eden Valley, approximately 22 miles (37km) southeast of Penrith, in that part of east Cumbria formerly constituting the county of Westmorland. The town is situated on the A685 road, which links Kendal to the south west, to the A66 at Brough. The early settlement was a focal point for various roads and tracks from Sedbergh and the Lune Valley to the south, whilst on the northern side of Kirkby Stephen there was an obvious route down the Eden Valley to Appleby and beyond. To the northeast there was a link with the Roman road running through Brough and the Stainmore Pass (Birkbeck 2000). The parish originally consisted of nine townships being: Kaber, Nateby, Mallerstang, Smardale, Soubly, Waitby Wharton, Winton and Hartley.
- 3.1.2 The archaeological desk based assessment and evaluation was focused on the grounds of Stobars Hall, which lies 0.5m (0.8km) to the north of Kirkby Stephen and occupies an elevated position overlooking the town. The Hall is currently in use as a residential care home owned by The Franklyn Group and utilises the original hall and associated ancillary buildings
- 3.1.3 The surrounding landscape consists of open and rolling farmland that has rectilinear field structure subdivided by hedgerows with a high density of mature hedgerow trees (Countryside Commission 1998). The drift geology of the study area is categorised as belonging to the Clifton Association, which is a group of seasonally waterlogged soils that developed into a reddish fine loamy till, and related glacio-fluvial deposits that are stagnogley in character (Jarvis 1984 *et al*) The underlying geology is composed of calcareous magnesium conglomerate, which forms part of the lower series of carboniferous or mountain limestone also know as Breccia. This rock is made up of small pieces of limestone fused with sandstone. Locally this stone is known as Brockram. Overlying this is the Devensian glacial till. (Braithwaite 1884).

3.2 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 ***Prehistoric Period:*** evidence for early prehistory in Cumbria is known from sites dating from the Upper Palaeolithic period onwards (Young 2002). Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic material was discovered on the terraces of the Tees at Towler Hill, in Teesdale, approximately 15km east of Kirkby Stephen and further sites have been identified in south Cumbria (Salisbury 1997, Young 1992). The Cherrys have carried out extensive field walking within Cumbria, especially the Upper Eden Valley, identifying a large number of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age sites (Cherry and Cherry 1983). On the limestone uplands of the Eden Valley most of the sites of Late Mesolithic appearance were found at heights of between 275m and 300m above mean sea level. The location of these lithic scatter sites demonstrates repeated use of specific topography, usually near to a convenient water supply. Most of the sites identified by the Cherrys remain unexcavated and so detailed interpretation has not been possible (Cherry and Cherry 2002). The fertile lands of the Eden Valley have been thought to attract settlement since the Neolithic Period and the location of monuments in this period appears to suggest a shift in the emphasis of Neolithic activity from the coastal

plain to the edge of the Lake District hills and the Eden Valley (Hodgkinson et al 2000, 37). Fieldwork has indicated that the majority of Neolithic long barrows are located within the Eden Valley (Waterhouse 1985, 7). Perhaps the most well known prehistoric monuments in the area are Long Meg and Her Daughters stone circle to the north east of Kirkby Thore near Langwathby and King Arthur's Round Table and Mayburgh henge at Eamont Bridge near Penrith.

- 3.2.2 The area around Kirkby Stephen, particularly to the north, has a wealth of prehistoric remains (RCHM 1936). There are a considerable number of funerary monuments across the area, particularly round cairns of the Bronze Age; however, there is also a long cairn at Rayseat Pike, Crosby Garrett Fell, which is of Neolithic Date. (LUAU 1997). At Weisber Hill, south-west of Kirkby Stephen a series of possible round barrows and earthworks were excavated by Dr Greenwell in 1877, and the finds recovered from the excavations indicated a Bronze Age date (RCHM 1936). At Ash Fell, again to the south-west of the town, traces of a ring ditch were noted, and at Windy Hill, 4km to the south of Kirkby Stephen, two barrows were excavated, one containing a crouched human burial (RCHM 1936). A polished stone axe was found in Kirkby Stephen, however its exact find spot is unknown (Richardson 1980).
- 3.2.3 Later periods are similarly very well presented; there are a particularly large number of enclosed settlements to the south of Appleby, and within the Upper Eden Valley (RCHM 1936). A minority of these have a form, which is typologically of Iron Age date, one of the most notable being the Hillfort at Castle Folds on Great Asby Scar. Similarly, there is also an Iron Age-type enclosed settlement at Gilts Farm, to the west of Kirkby Stephen, at Crosby Ravensworth. The majority of these enclosed settlements, however, are of a form typologically now ascribed to the Romano-British period, although they may have had Iron Age origins (*ibid*). Earthwork remains at Croglam Castle approximately 1km south-east of the town have been suggested as being of Iron Age date, however it is most likely that these are in fact Romano-British. The earthwork consists of a roughly oval enclosure of about 1.5 acres, surrounded by a ditch with an outer rampart. A hollow was noted to the northeast, which was presumably an entrance (RCHM 1936). Associated with the landscape of Croglam Castle are Croglam Dykes, a dyke or dykes running up to the Hillfort in a northerly direction. The earthworks are of unknown date but most likely represent pre-Roman or Romano-British remains (Jones 2003).
- 3.2.4 To the west of Stobars Hall, at Waitby, earthworks show the buried remains of an enclosed Romano-British farmstead. The enclosure runs all the way around the summit of Castle Hill, and includes a group of five small sub-rectangular enclosures, which could be interpreted as small stock pens or possible roundhouses. There are several other earthworks identified from aerial photographs in the immediate study area. To the south-east of Stobars Hall are what appears to be a possible settlement site (Site 2; HER 3495) which consists of a small sub-circular feature, contained within a large enclosure, however the site remains unexcavated and therefore it is impossible to ascertain either a function or date.
- 3.2.5 **Roman:** there is considerable evidence for Roman military activity around the study area during the Roman period (Shotter 1997); at nearby Brough was a Roman fort, linked to that at Brougham by the trans-Pennine Roman road from Scotch Corner. Some areas of so-called pre-Roman activity and settlement have been identified outside the

- town, including features seen in aerial photographs. However without substantiation from sub-surface investigation, it is difficult to determine precisely the date and nature of this activity. It is, however, clear that some of these remains are possibly of Roman origin by their form and nature.
- 3.2.6 A possible Roman marching camp has been located at Stennerskeugh, Ravenstonedale with distinct entrances on the south and east sides. The earthen banks are substantial, and there are other earthworks close by indicating the line of a possible Roman road. It has been suggested that Streetside Road in the town is the approximate alignment of a possible Roman road heading towards Sedbergh (Road 371; Margary 1973).
- 3.2.7 A hoard of Roman coins was uncovered close to the town, though, as yet, neither the precise find spot nor the full details of the coins have been disclosed. However, one coin, which has been identified, is a relatively uncommon issue of Marius, who was the second emperor of the so-called "Gallic Empire" (AD268). There has also been a large number of other stray finds of Roman coins reported in this area (Shotter 1988, 1989 and 1991)
- 3.2.8 **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). 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 Dacre 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). 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.
- 3.2.9 Very little is known about the origins and development of Kirkby Stephen; the name clearly indicates influence by the Scandinavian migration and probably signifies a well-established settlement by the 9th century. The place name indicates that the settlement grew up around the church (Fellows-Jenson 1985). It seems almost certain that the settlement surrounding it was in existence before the Norman Conquest. The town's name, Kirkby, comes from two Scandinavian words, *kirk*, a church, and *by*, a town.
- 3.2.10 It has been suggested that the early focus of settlement was at Union Square, once known as the Green (Birkbeck 2000). Although there is little in the way of direct evidence for activity in the early medieval period in Kirkby Stephen, several fragments of carved stones have been recovered from the town, mostly from the vicinity of the church. Most notable is the 'Loki Stone', part of a cross shaft with the carving of a horned and bound figure representing the Norse god 'Loki'. This was early Christian symbol of the devil in human form. Examples of these types are rare, but a similar shaft and bound devil have been found at Otley in Yorkshire (Birkbeck 2000). Other fragments of stone in the church include a hogback stone and carved cross shafts, some of these are decorated and the majority are 10th and 11th century in date, as well as a hogback stone indicating Scandinavian influence and probable settlement.

- 3.2.11 **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. The region was given to King David of Scotland in 1135, returning to England after the Anarchy (Whellan 1860, 84-5).
- 3.2.12 The development of Kirkby Stephen during the medieval period is unclear. Birkbeck (2000) suggests the focal point of the town was the church, with a market added at a later date in front of the church. During William the Conquerors reign (1066 - 1087), the church was owned by Ivo de Talebois, Baron of Kendal, who gave the church and its land to St. Mary's Abbey in York (*ibid*). This has led to a belief that it may have been from the abbot of St Mary's Abbey, Stephen, that the church got its name. The church, also known as the Cathedral of the Dales, dates from around the 11th century and has traces of both Saxon and Norman stonework.
- 3.2.13 In the reign of Edward I (1272-1307) Robert de Veteripont included Kirkby Stephen manor to his estate, and it later passed to his daughter Idonea who subsequently sold it to the Cliffords. At the time of Robert de Cliffords death in 1314, he owned a manor house in Kirkby Stephen in a place called Mellbecks, which is located towards the top end of the town (Birkbeck 2000).
- 3.2.14 During the 13th and 14th centuries, fairs proliferated throughout England as more Bishops, Barons and Lords were granted the right to hold weekly markets and annual fairs, many associated with specific Saints and usually linked with the rural calendar. Kirkby Stephen's St Luke's Fair, was granted by Edward III in 1352 in return for an undertaking by Robert de Clifford, Baron of Westmorland, who owned the manor of Kirkby Stephen, to provide the King with men at arms and archers for his wars with Scotland. In the reign of Henry VIII, the king granted the lordship of the manor of Kirkby Stephen to Lord Wharton. It then passed successively to the Earls of Thanet and the Hothfields, the Lowthers and finally to the Musgraves of Hartley Castle. King James I, by his charter, in 1606, granted to George, Earl of Cumberland, instead of the foregoing markets and fairs, "*one market on Monday and two fairs yearly; one on the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday after Whitsuntide, and the other on the two days next before the feast of St. Luke, and on that feast day; with a court of piepowder, tolls, tollages, and other jurisdiction thereunto belonging.*" (RCHM 1936).
- 3.2.15 The landscape around the hall show clear evidence of medieval land management and practises. Immediately to the front of the hall are the remains of substantial lynchets, which show that the area was utilised during this period (Site 1; HER 17760).
- 3.2.16 **Post-Medieval:** during the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there was enough capital and prosperity available in Cumbria for the rebuilding of towns, villages in stone (Rollinson 1967). As a result there are few remaining examples of domestic architecture dating from before 1610, other than the large houses built by wealthy landowning families.
- 3.2.17 There is no record of the extent of settlement in the town area, nor of buildings to be found there before the nineteenth century. It seems probable that dwellings and shops were clustered around what is still the nucleus of the town, the Market Square, the

Green, Mellbecks, Market Street and Primrose Hill. Evidence from the Tithe map of 1844 reveals few buildings south of the Town Head, including Bollam Terrace and the Crescent, Rowgate and West Garth (Jones 2003).

- 3.2.18 One of the most significant changes to the landscape character of the area around Kirkby Stephen was the construction of the Settle to Carlisle Railway and the prosperity it brought. The line was built between the years of 1869 and 1876 by the Midland Railway Company (Mitchell and Joy 1989). Construction was undertaken primarily in order to give the Midland Railway a direct route to Scotland and to avoid having to use the line from Ingleton to Lowgill, which was owned by its great rival the London and North Western Railway. The station itself is constructed 1.5km from the town and is represented by two stations (Kirkby Stephen East and West stations). The station building is an example of Midland Railway architecture at its best, and was the only station on the line to have the luxury of a first class waiting room (*ibid*). Kirkby Stephen East formed a key junction with the Carlisle and Settle line and the Eden Valley line with the route to the west towards Appleby and Penrith, Tebay to the south and east over Stainmore summit and Barnard Castle. The Eden Valley line ran from Darlington to Penrith, it opened in 1862 and finally closed in 1962 (Preston 1997). As a result of the railway and the prosperity it brought a number of new buildings were constructed especially along south road leading to the station and a number of buildings into the town, such as the Board School, Auction Mart and the creation of Jubilee Park, to the south of the railway station on former common land (Birkbeck 2000).
- 3.2.19 **Stobars Hall:** the present hall was constructed in 1829, under the ownership of James Brougham Esq. (Parson and White 1829). It is not evident if an earlier building was present on site, however it is unlikely as there is no supporting documentary or cartographic evidence. The area on which the hall was sited was known as Stobars and was briefly discussed in the 1698 Tax Return for Kirkby Stephen and described thus '*Stobars, was in the process of being let off in small closes, although earlier, tenants had held strips there*' (Gowling 2003), indicating that the site was open farm land. A photograph of the Hall taken in the late nineteenth century (Plate 1) shows the condition of the building.
- 3.2.20 James Brougham Junior Esq. was the son of James Brougham Senior, both were employed as surgeons and lived at Stobars Hall and Townhead respectively (Parson and White 1829; Pigot 1834). Previous to this James Brougham Esq. resided at Vicarage House, which was built in 1766 and who was '*erecting an elegant mansion at Stobars, on an elevated site*' (Parson and White 1829). The 1841 census has Stobars Hall occupied by Grace Brougham, aged 34 and of independent means; with Mary Brougham aged 31 and Jane Austin aged 5, none of who were born in the county, and with 3 servants. Interestingly, no mention is made of James Brougham Esq. and his wife, who presumably was not in residence or was living elsewhere at the time of the census. However, the Tithe Award for Kirkby Stephen dated 1842 showed that James Brougham was still the principal landowner of land around the hall (Figure 4). The census of 1851 had Martin Irving residing at Stobars Hall. Martin Irving married Grace Brougham at Redmarshall, Durham on 14 January 1847, and had one child called James Brougham.
- 3.2.21 By 1851 Martin Irving was still in residence at Stobars Hall, however he died in (Mannex 1851) and it appears that the house was bought by William Metcalf in that

year who owned the house until 1873 (The Westmorland Directory 1851). In 1873 the house was bought by Robert Bovill Thompson Esq. JP, whose family remained in residence at least till 1938 (Kelly 1873 and 1938; Bulmer and Co 1885 and 1905).

3.2.22 The hall was subsequently owned by a number of individuals, until the house was turned into a residential care home in the 1980`s.

4 ASSESMENT 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*. The results are presented according to the archive from which they were consulted. There are 7 HER records for the study area in close proximity to the site and most of these are of a post-medieval date. Extra information was gathered from the immediate vicinity, defined as a 0.5km radius centred on the site. A full list of the sites identified by the assessment is given in the Gazetteer in *Appendix 1*.

4.2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

- 4.2.1 **HER:** there were 4 HER records within the study area, which is defined as a 0.5km radius around the site (Fig 2). A full description can be found in *Appendix 1*.
- 4.2.2 **Listed Buildings:** the listed building records show 3 buildings within a 0.5km radius of the site. The buildings are summarised in *Appendix 1*.

4.3 CUMBRIA RECORD OFFICE (KENDAL)

4.2.3 The Cumbria Record Office in Kendal (CRO(K)) 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 Kendal (CRO(K)), an in-depth scan of the early maps for Kirkby Stephen was undertaken. A cartographic date range of between 1777 and 1925 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 **Jeffery's Map of Westmorland, 1777** (Figure 3): Jeffery's map is the earliest available map for Kirkby Stephen, which provides sufficient detail for analysis. The roads to Soulby and Waitby are clearly visible, a small stretch or track/roadway, which later forms Bloody Bones Lane, is also apparent, however there is no evidence for an earlier building within the environs of Stobars Hall (Figure 3).
- 4.4.3 **Tithe Award for Kirkby Stephen 1842** (Figure 4): the second available map is the Tithe Award Map for Kirkby Stephen dated 1842. This map clearly shows that Stobars Hall has been constructed and the land surrounding the hall has been enclosed and partly utilised as hall grounds. The hall buildings are shown as four separate structures, with an entrance to the east from the Kirkby Stephen to Waitby road. One T-shaped building which fronts the road, represents Stobars Lodge (HER 20254). The hall is shown as a rectangular building, with a possible service range to the rear. Another building, slightly to the north of the main hall building presumably acted as a guest lodge or stables. A further small rectangular building is located immediately to the

north west of this building, however its function is unclear. The land immediately surrounding the hall is owned by James Brougham Esq. (Plots 143-155) and was mainly used for pasture and arable purposes. The lane to the west of the hall, which is known as Bloody Bones Lanes is clearly defined.

- 4.4.4 ***Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1867 – First Edition 25” to 1 mile*** (Figure 5): this map is very similar to the Tithe Map, however the map shows the most detailed plan of the hall to date. The most significant change is the construction of a stylised garden, which lies slightly to the west of the main hall and occupies a rectangular parcel of land. The main hall remains the same structurally, however of note is a small square projection to the front of the building, which possibly illustrates a porch. A small semi-circular structure located between the hall and guest/stable building is visible, which possibly forms a garden feature.
- 4.4.5 ***Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1899 – Second Edition 25” to 1 mile***: the Second Edition Map was in a fragile and damaged condition making copying extremely difficult, however a written description detailing the changes was made. The map shows that significant changes have taken place, with the hall and grounds substantially enlarged. The hall has been extended with a rectangular extension added to the eastern extent of the building. A water pump marked ‘Pump’, is indicated adjacent to Stobars Lodge, which it is indicated for the first time marked ‘Lodge’. A large body of trees to the southwest of the hall has developed; marked ‘Stobars plantation’ and which has encroached onto pasture land. The stylised garden has disappeared as well as the semi-circular structure seen in the First Edition OS Map. A rectangular structure is indicated along the western side of the hall, which is visible on an early photograph (Plate 1), and has been interpreted as a greenhouse.
- 4.4.6 ***Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1925 – Third Edition 25” to 1 mile***: the map depicts the hall almost identically to the Second Edition Map. However, due to the fragile and heavily annotated nature of the map, no copy could be made to add to the report.

4.5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

- 4.5.1 Aerial photographs show a crop-mark of a possible prehistoric settlement to the south of the development area (Site 2; HER No 3495). Furthermore, medieval earthwork remains of a possible settlement, field systems and agricultural practices are located to the south and east (Site 1; HER No 3491).

4.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

- 4.6.1 In 1993, the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, now Oxford Archaeology North (OAN), undertook a desk-based assessment for proposed route of the A685 bypass. It identified several areas of archaeological potential; however, this road scheme was cancelled due to insufficient funding (LUAU 1993). In 2002, OAN carried out a landscape survey at Hartley Fold Estate, Hartley (OAN 2002).
- 4.6.2 In 2003, North Pennines Heritage Trust excavated a number of evaluation trenches at Rowgate (NY 7707 0779), located to the south of the town centre in response to a planning application for a residential development. In total 6 trenches, were excavated across the site. No significant archaeological deposits were uncovered, apart from post-medieval land drains and an associated culvert (Jones 2003).

- 4.6.3 In September 2003, Brigantia Archaeological Practice carried out an archaeological evaluation on the Melbecks area of the town. It proved there was no significant remaining archaeological potential and the land use must have been agricultural/horticultural since the foundation of the medieval settlement of Kirkby Stephen (Brigantia Archaeological Practise 2003).
- 4.6.4 In March 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an evaluation on land immediately to the east of Stobars Hall on undeveloped farmland. A number of post-medieval field boundaries were reveled and several features which were geological in origin (Sowerby and Beatty 2006).



Plate 1: Stobars Hall taken in 1898, facing north

5. EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 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. Where no features of archaeological interest were located, a trench record sheet was compiled, and context numbers were not issued.

5.2 TRENCH 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 was unexcavated due to the positioning of the trench over a number of live services and a new septic tank. Due to the close proximity to a number of buildings and mature tree lines, no other appropriate location could be found. After consulting Cumbria County Council Heritage Service, it was agreed that no trenching would be undertaken at this location (see Figure 6).

5.3 TRENCH 2

5.3.1 Trench 2 was located within the yard of the original stable and farm buildings and was approximately 10m long by 1.70m wide and was orientated in a northeast by southwest direction. However, a number of large ceramic drains were encountered at a depth of 0.20m below ground level, which necessitated the abandonment of the trench (see Plate 2; Figure 6).



Plate 2: Ceramic drains within Trench 2

5.4 TRENCH 3

5.4.1 Trench 3 was 20m long by 1.70m wide and was orientated in a northeast by southwest direction and was positioned in the northwestern extent of the evaluation area. A number of telecommunication cables were noted at the northeastern extent of the trench, which resulted in the trench being moved 3m to the northwest of the original trench location. The maximum depth of the trench was approximately 0.90m (see Figure 6).

5.4.2 The trench was machine stripped to reveal three distinct layers within the trench. The natural substrate **100** consisted of compacted reddish brown silty clay and contained approximately 20% inclusions of small to medium sub-rounded stones. The subsoil **108** reached a depth of 0.55m, which consists of reddish brown, firm silty clay with occasional inclusions. The topsoil **109** consisted of dark grey sandy loam, with occasional sub-rounded-rounded stones, 0.05m in diameter on average, and approximately 0.27m deep in section.

5.5 TRENCH 4

5.5.1 Trench 4 was 20m long by 1.70m wide and was aligned north south. The trench was positioned in the northeastern extent of the evaluation area. The maximum depth of the trench was approximately 0.70m. A live BT telecommunication was noted at the southern extent of the trench approximately 0.40m - 0.50m below ground level (see Figure 6; Plates 3 and 4).

5.5.2 The trench was machine stripped to a maximum depth of 0.70m revealing three deposits. The natural **100** consisted of very mixed, compacted, mid orange silty clay with frequent inclusions of small sub-angular stones. The natural was overlaid by 0.33m of subsoil, which consists of reddish brown sandy silt with 30% small to medium sub-rounded to sub-angular stones **108**. The topsoil **109** was made up of very loose, dark brown to black sandy silt with occasional small stone inclusions. Its maximum depth was 0.25m deep in section.

5.5.3 Situated at the southern extent of the trench was a land drain **107** of probable 19th century date. This feature was 0.86m wide with a depth of 0.34m, and was aligned northeast by southwest. The drain was constructed out of randomly coursed sandstones approximately three courses high and was covered with flat sandstones. The backfill of the drain consisted of yellowish brown redeposited natural **106**. The fill contained fragments of pottery dated to the post-medieval period as well as CBM (Ceramic Building Material).



Plate 3: Pre-excavation shot of **107**



Plate 4: Post-excavation shot of **107**

5.6 TRENCH 5

5.6.1 Trench 5 was 20m long by 1.70m wide and was orientated in an east-west direction. The trench was positioned in the middle section of the evaluation area and adjacent with and runs parallel with Trench 9. The maximum depth of the trench was approximately 0.78m (see Figure 6).

5.6.2 The natural soil horizon **100** consists of compacted, orangey brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions. This in turn was overlaid by 0.31m of subsoil, **108** which consisted of a moderately compacted mid brownish orange clayey sand. The topsoil **109** was made up of very loose, mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small stone inclusions up to 0.12 in diameter. Its maximum depth was 0.34m deep in section. No evidence of any archaeological features was found within Trench 5.

5.7 TRENCH 6

5.7.1 Trench 6 was 20m long by 1.70m wide and was orientated northwest by southeast. The trench was positioned in the middle of the evaluation area. The maximum depth of the trench was approximately 0.90m (see Figure 6).

5.7.2 The trench was machine stripped to a depth of 0.40 to 0.90m, revealing three distinct layers. The natural, **100** consisted of compacted reddish brown clayey silt with small stone inclusions. This, in turn was overlaid by the subsoil, **108** which consisted of moderately compacted light brownish grey clayey silt, with occasional small stone inclusions and was approximately 0.55m deep. The topsoil, **109** was made up of approximately 0.36m of loosely compacted, dark reddish brown silty loam.

5.7.3 No evidence of any further archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 6.

5.8 TRENCH 7

5.8.1 Trench 7 was unexcavated due to the presence of untreated waste from a leaking septic tank, which is sited at the top of the development site. After consultation with CCCHS it was agreed that Trench 7 would remain unexcavated due to health and safety constraints (see Figure 6; Plate 5).

5.9 TRENCH 8

5.9.1 Trench 8 was unexcavated due to the presence of untreated waste from a leaking septic tank, which is sited at the top of the development site. Again, after consultation with CCCHS it was agreed that Trench 8 will remain unexcavated due to health and safety constraints (see Figure 6; Plate 5).



Plate 5: Location of Trenches 7 and 8, facing east

5.10 TRENCH 9

- 5.10.1 Trench 9 was 20m long by 1.70m wide and was orientated in an east west-south direction; the trench was positioned middle section of the development area. The maximum depth of the trench was 0.86m deep (see Figure 6; Plate 6).
- 5.10.2 Trench 9 was machine stripped to reveal three distinct layers. The natural, **100**, was made up of compacted orange-grey silty clay with no visible inclusions. Overlying the natural was the subsoil **108**, which consists of approximately 0.50m of firm, reddish brown, silty sand in consistency. The topsoil, **109**, was made up of 0.36m of loosely compacted dark grey sandy silt.
- 5.10.3 Located within the trench was a field drain, which appears to be similar to that seen in Trench 4 (**107**). Drain **105** was recorded over a distance of 7.25m and measured 0.45m in width and was aligned northwest by southeast. It was backfilled with two distinct deposits **102** and **103** both of which are redeposited natural. A single sherd of post-medieval pottery and a copper alloy belt buckle (SF No1) was recovered from fill **102**. The drain **101** was constructed out of randomly coursed flat sandstone with broken fragments utilised for capping stones.



Plate 6: Drain [105], post-excitation shot, facing north

5.11 TRENCH 10

- 5.11.1 Trench 10 was located on the western boundary of the development site and was aligned north south. The trench was approximately 20m long by 1.70m wide and its maximum depth was 1.10m (see Figure 6; Plate 7).
- 5.11.2 The trench was machine excavated which revealed three layers. The natural **100**, was compacted reddish brown sandy clay with 40% inclusions, which were predominately small to medium, sized sub-rounded stones. The subsoil, **108** was approximately 0.87m deep and consisted of firm reddish brown silty sand with the occasional medium sized sub-rectangular stone inclusions. The topsoil, **109** was 0.34m deep and consisted of loose mid grey sandy loam.

- 5.11.3 Located within the trench was a cast iron water pipe, which appears to run into the adjacent field to supply a water trough. No evidence of any further archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 10.



Plate 7: Iron water pipe within Trench 10, facing west

5.12 TRENCH 11

- 5.12.1 As a number of trenches were unexcavated; Trench 11 was excavated in accordance with the Project Brief in an attempt to provide the full 5% sample of the development area. The trench, therefore, was placed on the northern boundary of the development site and was aligned east west. The trench was approximately 20m long by 1.70m wide and its maximum depth was 0.77m.
- 5.12.2 The natural soil horizon **100** consists of compacted orange clay. Overlying the natural was the subsoil, **108**, which consisted of firm orangey brown sandy clay with 20% small sub-angular inclusions. The topsoil, **109**, approximately 0.28m deep in section, consists of loose dark brown sandy silt.
- 5.12.3 No evidence any archaeological features was found in the base of Trench 11.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 6.1.1 The desk-based assessment revealed the surrounding area was relatively high in archaeological potential, particularly relating to the prehistoric period and medieval period. However, the results of the evaluation have shown there is little evidence of any archaeological features of significance within the proposed development area.
- 6.1.2 The features investigated during the evaluation consisted of several drains [104] and [107], both of which seem to be on the same alignment with similar fills. These drains are typical of post-medieval land management, indeed, the related artefactual material from the drains consisted of 19th century pottery sherds and a clay pipe stem and a copper alloy belt buckle.
- 6.1.3 The results of the programme of evaluation trenching appears to demonstrate a low potential for archaeological remains, despite surviving earthworks from the immediate vicinity suggesting potential for prehistoric activity in the region. Therefore no further archaeological work is recommended prior to the development of the site.

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APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER SITES

No.	Source	Site Name	Site Type	Period	NGR
1	HER 17760	Stobars Hall Lynchets	Lynchet	Medieval	NY 376900 508900
2	HER 3495	Stobars Hall	Possible Settlement	Unknown	NY37100 508700
3	HER 15619	Bloody Bones Lane	Place Name Animal Burial	Post-Medieval	NY 377190 508880
4	HER 20254	Waitby Road North Lodge to Stobars Hall	Building	Post-Medieval	NY 376900 509295
5	HER 20253	Waitby Road Stobars Hall	Building	Post-Medieval	NY 376830 508940
6	HER 16914	Greensike Lane Structure	Pound	Post-Medieval	NY 376770 509330
7	HER 20208	Redmayne House	Building	Post-Medieval	NY 377390 508850

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

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST

Context Number	Trench	Category	Interpretation
100	All		Natural Soil Horizon
101	9	Structure	Field drain
102	9	Fill	Fill of 104
103	9	Fill	Fill of 104
104	9	Cut	Cut for drain
105	4	Structure	Field drain
106	4	Fill	Fill of 107
107	4	Cut	Cut for drain
108	All		Subsoils
109	All		Topsoils

APPENDIX 3: FIGURES AND PLATES

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION

FIGURE 2: LOCATION OF GAZETTEER SITES AND DEVELOPMENT AREA

FIGURE 3 : JEFFERYS MAP OF 1777

FIGURE 4 : TITHE MAP FOR KIRKBY STEPHEN 1842

FIGURE 5 : FIRST EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1868

FIGURE 6 : TRENCH LOCATION MAP

PLATE 1: STOBARS HALL TAKEN IN 1898, FACING NORTH

PLATE 2: CERAMIC DRAINS WITHIN TRENCH 2

PLATE 3: PRE-EXCAVATION SHOT OF **107**

PLATE 4: POST-EXCAVATION SHOT OF **107**

PLATE 5: LOCATION OF TRENCHES 7 AND 8, FACING EAST

PLATE 6: DRAIN **105**, POST-EXCAVATION SHOT, FACING NORTH

PLATE 7: IRON WATER PIPE WITHIN TRENCH 10, FACING WEST

PLATE 8: MEDIEVAL LYNCHETS, FACING NORTH-WEST

PLATE 9: MEDIEVAL LYNCHETS, FACING WEST

PLATE 10: DATE STONE ABOVE REAR DOOR OF STOBARS HALL, **MT 1695**

PLATE 11: STABLE BUILDING, FACING WEST

PLATE 12: STABLE BUILDING, FACING EAST

PLATE 13: STABLE BUILDING, FACING WEST

PLATE 14: STABLE BUILDING, FACING NORTH

PLATE 15: STABLE BUILDING, INTERNAL ARCHED CEILING

PLATE 16: STABLE BUILDING, INTERNAL ROOM

PLATE 17: EXTERNAL ELEVATION, FACING EAST

PLATE 18: EXTERNAL ELEVATION, FACING SOUTH

PLATE 19: INTERNAL WALLS, FACING EAST

PLATE 20: INTERNAL WALLS, FACING EAST



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007
Stobars Hall
Kirkby Stephen, Cumbria

COMMISSIONED BY:
Franklyn Developemnt

SCALE: 1:17000

DRAWN BY: MS

DATE: July 2007

LOCATION:



KEY:



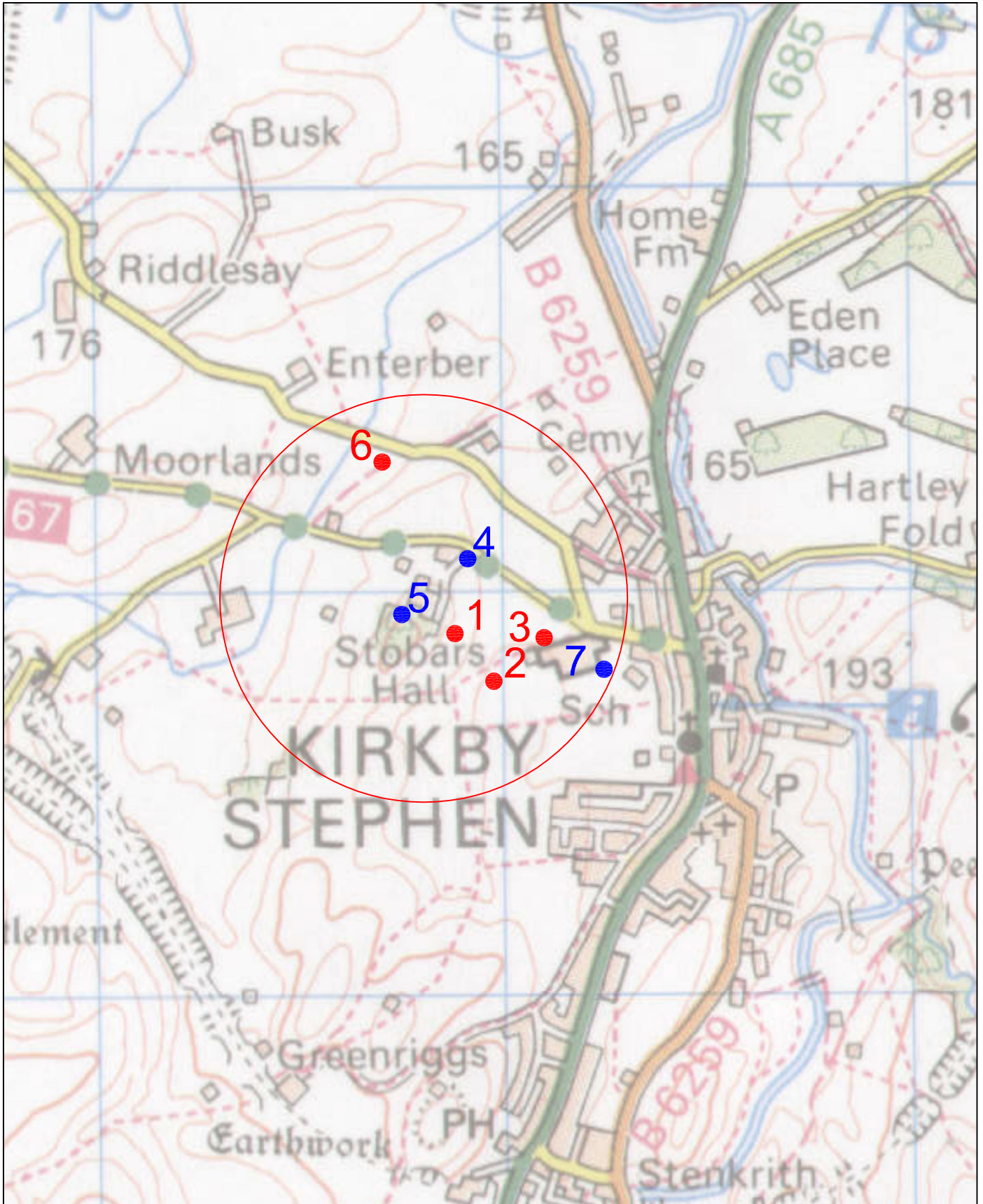
Site Location

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REPORT No: CP 505/07

FIGURE No: 1

Figure 1 : Site Location





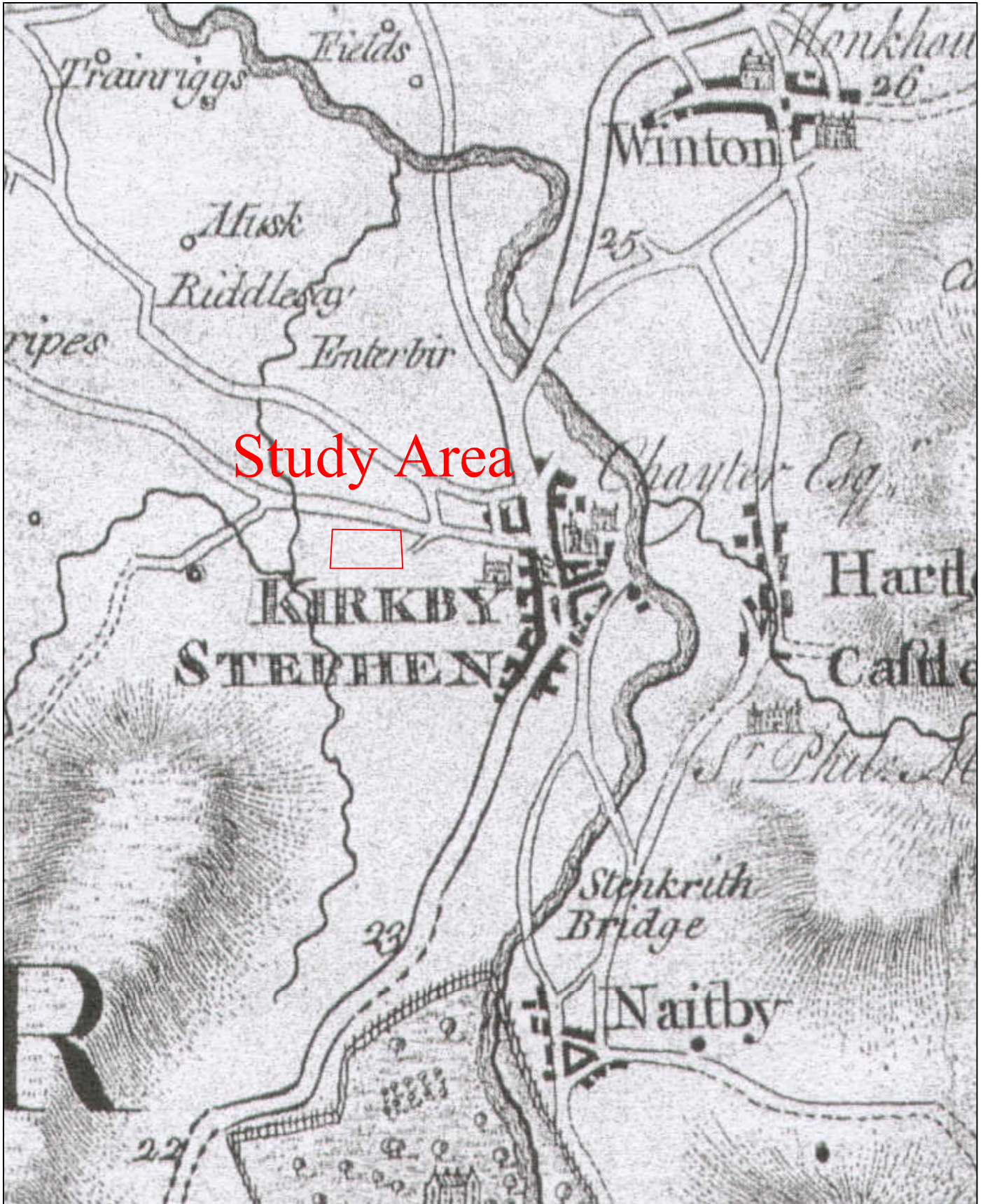
 <p>North Pennines Archaeology Ltd Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre Nenthead, Alston Cumbria CA9 3PD Tel: (01434) 382045 Fax: (01434) 382294 Email: Info@nparchaeology.co.uk</p>	<p>PROJECT: Stobars Hall, Kirkby Stephen</p> <p>DRAWING No: Fig 2</p> <p>SCALE: 1:13000</p> <p>TITLE: HER and LB Sites</p> <p>CLIENT: Franklyn Developments</p> <p>DRAWN BY: MS</p> <p>DATE: July 2007</p>	<p>ORIENTATION:</p> 	<p>KEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HER Sites ○ Listed Buildings
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Figure 2 : HER Sites Location



Study Area





 <p>North Pennines Archaeology Ltd Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre Nenthead, Alston Cumbria CA9 3PD Tel: (01434) 382045 Fax: (01434) 382294 Email: Info@nparchaeology.co.uk</p>	<p>PROJECT: Stobars Hall, Kirkby Stephen</p> <p>DRAWING No: Fig 3</p> <p>SCALE: 1:25000</p> <p>TITLE: Map Regression</p> <p>CLIENT: Franklyn Developments</p> <p>DRAWN BY: MS</p> <p>DATE: July 2007</p>	<p>LOCATION: Stobars Hall, Kirkby Stephen</p>	<p>ORIENTATION:</p> 
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Figure 3 : Extract from Jefferys map, 1777



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007
Stobars Hall, Kirkby Stephen

COMMISSIONED BY:
Franklyn Developments

SCALE: 1:600

DRAWN BY: MS

DATE: June 2007

LOCATION:



KEY:



Stobars Hall and
Grounds



Development Site

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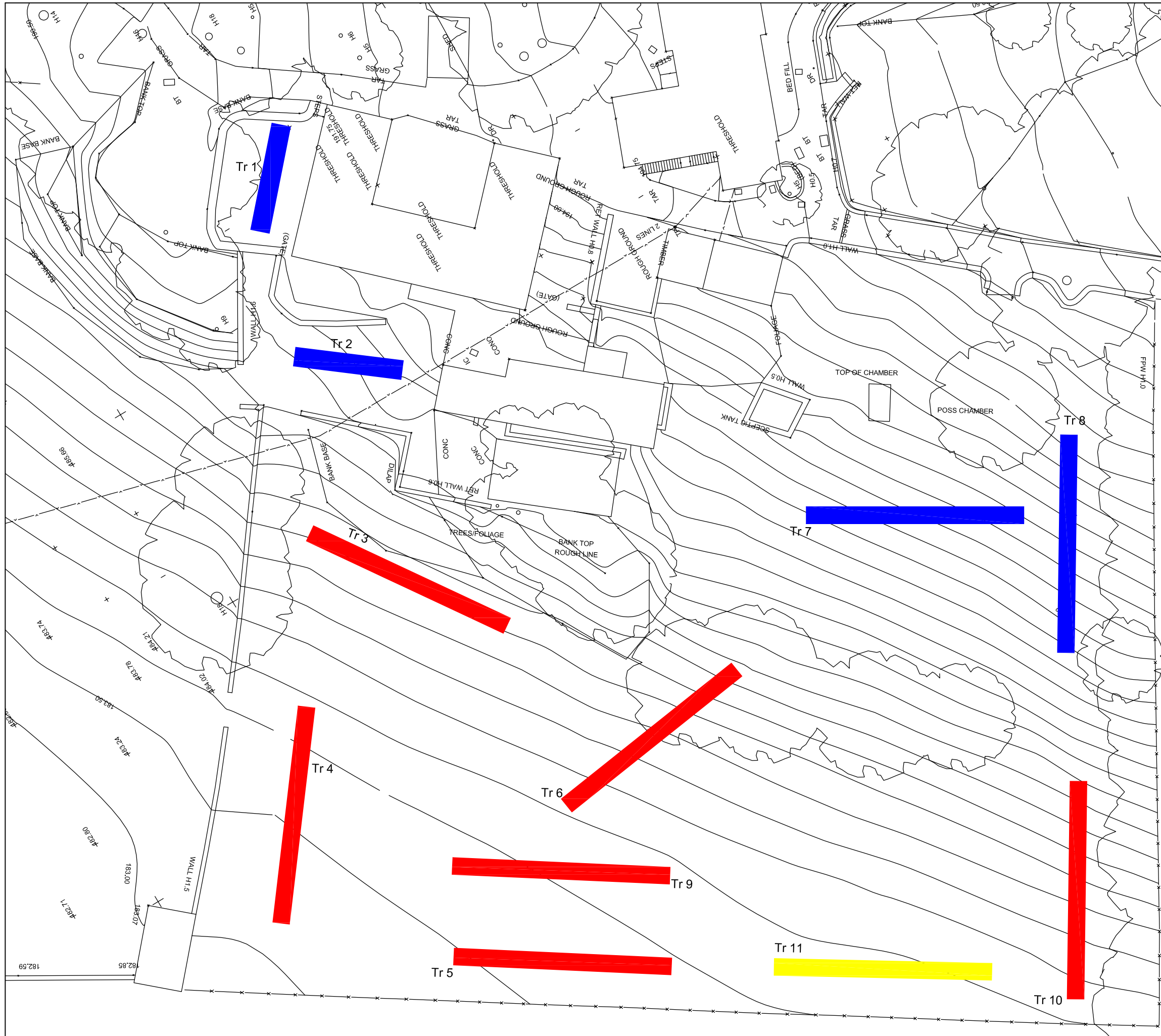
REPORT No: CP 505/07

FIGURE No: 4

Figure 4 : Tithe Award Map 1842



Figure 5: First Edition OS Map 1867



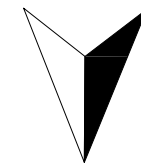
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Scale 1:350

DRAWN BY: MS and FG
 DATE: July 2007

LOCATION:



KEY	
	Excavated Trench
	Unexcavated Trenches
	Additional Trench

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 Figure No: 6

Figure 6 : Trench Location

APPENDIX 4: ADDITIONAL PLATES



Plate 8: Medieval Lynchets, facing northwest Plate 9: Medieval Lynchets, facing west



Plate 10: Date stone above rear door of Stobars Hall, *MT 1695*



Plate 11: Stable building, facing west



Plate 12: Stable building, facing east



Plate 13: Stable building, facing west



Plate 14: Stable building, facing north



Plate 15: Stable building, internal arched ceiling



Plate 16: Stable building, internal room



Plate 17: External elevation, facing east



Plate 18: External elevation, facing south



Plate 19: Internal walls, facing east



Plate 20: Internal walls, facing east