LOWTHER DEER PARK, LOWTHER, CUMBRIA



WATCHING BRIEF REPORT CP. No: 909/09 25/06/2009

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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

In April 2009, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Lowther Estates, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks relating to a proposed development at Lowther Deer Park, Lowther, Cumbria (NGR NY 5292 2281), comprising the construction of a new house, landscape works and a new access road. Oxford Archaeology North undertook an archaeological survey and evaluation of the site in 2005 in order to establish the scope of the archaeological work required to fulfil the archaeological conditions of the planning decision. The report identified a number of historic structures and features within the 10 hectare study area that were likely to be impacted upon by the groundworks during the construction of the house and access road, most notably a Bronze Age Burnt Mound (HER 32734) and associated palaeochannel (HER 32736). As a result, The Lake District National Park Authority granted planning consent for the development (Planning App No: 7/2004/3124), on the condition that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken during the construction of the house and access road. The watching brief was also required as the site lies within the grounds of Lowther Castle, a Grade II Listed building, and a registered park and garden of historic interest. The 2005 archaeological survey and evaluation also revealed a number of sites in the immediate area including a medieval Deer Park Pale (HER 32468), ridge and furrow dated to the Roman and medieval periods associated with Greatholme Plantation (HER 32468), enclosures (HER 5297) and linear banks at Lowther (HER 32733) which identified the site to be of archaeological interest.

The archaeological watching brief was separated into two phases. Phase 1 monitored the excavation of the new access road, whilst Phase 2 of the work concerns the groundworks and landscaping associated with the development of the new house. This report comprises the results of Phase 1 of the watching brief. Phase 2 of the work is planned for an unspecified date in the future.

The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken over two days between the 16th June and 17th June 2009. The watching brief monitored the excavation of all ground reduction associated with the installation of the new access road. No archaeological remains were noted during the watching brief.

As Phase 1 of the archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the development of a new access road, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the high archaeological potential of the area, it is recommended that any future work be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation. This does not affect the planning condition for Phase 2 of the proposed development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Ken Gribben of Lowther Estates, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. NPA Ltd would also like to thank Eleanor Kingston, Archaeology and Heritage Advisor with The Lake District National Park Authority, for assistance throughout the project.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Gary Cannon and the Metcalfe staff for their help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by David Jackson. The report was written by Jocelyn Strickland and David Jackson and the drawings were produced by Jocelyn Strickland and David Jackson. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Project Manager for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Matt Town, Project Manager for NPA Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In April 2009, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were invited by Ken Gribben, on behalf of Lowther Estates, to maintain an archaeological watching brief at Lowther Deer Park, Lowther, Cumbria (NGR NY 5292 2281; Figure 1 and Figure 2), during groundworks associated with the construction of a house and access road. The proposed works lie within the immediate vicinity of Lowther Castle, a registered park and garden of historic interest. A previous archaeological survey and evaluation had also been undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (2005a), which identified a number of historic structures and features within the development area that were likely to be impacted by the proposed development (Figure 8). As a result, Eleanor Kingston of The Lake District National Park Authority requested that all ground reduction be subject to a programme of archaeological observation and investigation. This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16) and Policy NE 17 of The Lake District National Park Local Plan.
- 1.1.2 All excavation associated with the construction of the access road (Phase 1) had to be undertaken under full archaeological supervision and the first phase of the archaeological work was undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008), and were consistent with the specification provided by Martin Railton (2009) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the monitoring works undertaken during Phase 1 of the development, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.
- 1.1.4 The groundworks and landscaping associated with the development of the new house (Phase 2) are planned for an unspecified date in the future. The planning condition for Phase 2 of the work is not affected by the results of Phase 1.

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 Lowther Estates, for an archaeological watching brief of the study area (Railton 2009). Following acceptance of the project design by Eleanor Kingston of The Lake District National Park Authority, 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 for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (IfA 2002).
- 2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
 - to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
 - to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
 - to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
 - to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital, 35mm colour slide and monochrome formats as applicable, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;

- to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE standards (English Heritage 2006).
- 2.2.3 An area of approximately 1,548m² was stripped of soil, which was stored in storage area away from the site for later use. The work comprised the excavation of a gently curving trench approximately 430m in length and 3.6m in width (Figure 8). The trench was stripped of topsoil and partial subsoil to the required depth. Archaeological monitoring and supervision of groundworks associated with the stripping commenced on 16/06/2009. A summary of the findings Phase 1 of the watching brief is included within this report.

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2007). The archive will be deposited within the Lake District National Park Authority, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA09, LDP-A, CP 909/09.
- 2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology, and The Lake District National Park Authority, supports the Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.
- 2.3.3 At the end of the project, a summary report on the results of the watching brief will be produced for inclusion in the Newsletter of the Cumberland and Westmorland Archaeological and Antiquarian Society.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 Lowther Deer Park lies within the rolling upland farmland of the Orton Fells approximately 8.0 km south of Penrith, and 1.1 km west of the M6, in Cumbria. The Orton Fells lies between the Cumbria High Fells to the west, the Eden Valley to the east, and the Howgill Fells to the south. The area consists of gentle sloping, undulating limestone terrain with limestone outcrops (Countryside Commission 1998). The site lies at a height of approximately 270m AOD and is positioned to the east of the River Lowther. The proposed development area is surrounded by land currently used for agricultural purposes, with Lowther Castle and village to the north, and Whale to the south. The area is shown in Figure 2.
- 3.1.2 The geology of the study area consists of rocks of Lower Carboniferous age, predominantly Carboniferous Limestone, in the form of limestone scars and vast areas of limestone pavement. Sandstone and shale are also present in the area. Boulder clay, present from the last glacial period, covers parts of the area, overlying the solid rock (*ibid*).

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area.
- 3.2.2 *Prehistoric (up to 43AD):* the parks and gardens around Lowther Castle lie within the boundary of the Grade II registered park and garden. Due to the emparkment of the land, modern intensive agricultural techniques were curtailed allowing for the preservation of early landscapes, some of which date to the Bronze Age.
- 3.2.3 The earliest evidence of prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the study area is a long mound measuring 274 metres in length at Lowther that may date to the Neolithic period (Higham 1986 as cited in Oxford Archaeology North 2005b).
- 3.2.4 Bronze age activity within the surrounding area of the park is in the form of two standing stones at Crooklands, south of Lowther at NGR (NY 5314 2593). Both of these stones were standing in 1965, but the smaller southernmost stone was partially buried and removed by 1974. Upon the reerection of the smaller stone, a third stone was discovered. A small cairn was found partly overlain by the remains of a hedge. This cairn contained

- cremations. Neither the cairn or cremations could be accurately dated; however, there is an existing cairn of early Bronze Age date in the same parish of Clifton and it is likely that these are contemporary with each other (Fairclough 1979).
- 3.2.5 A survey conducted in 2003 revealed a burnt mound (Figure 3, Site 75) at Morris Brow within Lowther Park. Another survey in 2004 conducted by Oxford Archaeology North identified a kidney-shaped burnt mound (Site 78) located to the west of a palaeochannel (Site 80) at Decoy Hag (Figure 8). The burnt mound consisted of an earth and stone mound with fire-cracked stones beneath the turf (Oxford Archaeology North 2005a). Many burnt mounds have been excavated and range within a broad period of time, but predominately date to the Bronze Age (English Heritage 1988).
- 3.2.6 Iron Age sites within the area include the Castlesteads hillforts at the northern end of the park (Lancaster University Archaeology Unit (LUAU) 1997). There appears to be a lack of definable and distinct 'Iron Age' material culture in the Northwest leading to a paucity of known sites (Oxford Archaeology North 2005b).
- 3.2.7 Roman (43AD-410AD): although the Roman occupation of England began in 43 AD, the earliest evidence for Roman activity in Cumbria dates to 71 AD. There is considerable evidence of Roman military activity in the surrounding area. The main Roman road, running north/south, from Tebay to Carlisle passed through Penrith and the fort at Brougham (Brovacum), located to the northeast of the site. This road intersected with the main east/west road from Brough (Margary 1973, as cited in Oxford Archaeology North 2005b). Another Roman road, High Street, ran northeast/southwest from the aforementioned Brovacum to the Roman fort at Ambleside, Galava (Oxford Archaeology North 2005b).
- 3.2.8 There were a large number of potential Roman settlements in the area. At Yanwath Wood, a Romano-British enclosed settlement was found containing pottery that dated to the 2nd century. Excavations of a rectangular enclosed settlement at Broadwood produced radiocarbon dates that dated the occupation from the late Iron Age into the Roman period (Johnson 2004).
- 3.2.9 To the south of the study area is an enclosed settlement at the northern end of Cragside Wood (Site 1). This settlement includes an oval enclosure, flattened out on the eastern end. The enclosure is formed by a bank of earth that has a core of limestone rubble, further subdivided internally into 11 subrectangular enclosures. This site differs from other village settlements in the area in its more regular and rectangular layout as well as the absence of any circular huts and has been suggested that the overall pattern may be of a possible medieval farmstead (LUAU 1997).

- 3.2.10 To the north of the study area is Greatholme Plantation (Site 38). The site lies on a crest of a hill measuring roughly 70 metres by 65 metres, possibly extending further. Greatholme Plantation is characterised by a series of prominent earthwork banks forming rectilinear enclosures (LUAU 1997). This settlement displays many characteristics common to enclosed settlements from the Roman-British period, such as that of the nearby Ewe Close (Oxford Archaeology North 2005a). There are a series of stock pounds extending out from the principle enclosure banks that fill the majority of the interior. There was also a lack of defensive qualities, there were many entrances in the external boundaries and some of the banks have a lynchet profile rather than a raised bank profile. A topographic survey in 2005 of Lowther Deer Park revealed two semi-circular depressions to the east of Greatholme Plantation thought to be associated with the enclosed settlement. The Greatholme Plantation site has been disturbed by a modern road that cuts through the site from southwest to northeast and by construction of the plantation to the southeast (*ibid*).
- 3.2.11 There were inscribed stones incorporated into Lowther Castle that are thought to be from Drumburgh Roman fort (Site 4).
- 3.2.12 Early Medieval (410AD-1066): the origins of the Lowther family are thought to be Danish. There was a Danish settlement at Lowther as evidenced by the presence of three Hogback tombstones in St. Michael's Churchyard, to the north of Lowther Castle (Anonymous, A Short History of Lowther and the Lowther Family; Carlisle Library Ref.: 1 H Low). The hogback is a development of the shrine tomb and originates to the Anglo-Danish districts and to the period of Scandinavian settlement. Similar to shrine tombs, hogbacks represent a little house with a tiled roof and gabled ends. The main difference with hogbacks is that these were representations of houses of the dead. The hogbacks at Lowther were found between the mausoleum and the churchyard wall, near the gate. Collingwood thought that the hogback stones were from the same period, with one being distinctly Christian and derived from North Yorkshire. Another resembles the 'warrior's tomb' found at Gosforth, although Collingwood thought that the Lowther stone was earlier in date. Collingwood suggested that the larger stone was a representation of a Lord of Lowther during the 10th century (Collingwood 1907).
- 3.2.13 As well as the hogbacks, there used to be two cross-shafts, inside Lowther Castle that were thought to be 8th century in date (Bailey and Cramp 1984).
- 3.2.14 *Medieval (1066-1485):* the Lowther family were first documented during the reign of Henry II, when William and Thomas de Lowther appear as witnesses to a grant (Whellan 1860). Another early reference to the Lowther family was to Dolfin who lived in Lowther during the 1100s. His name was

recorded from a document at Durham dated November 21, 1202, during the reign of King John, concerning the rent of land at Lowther. This name as well as the name of Dolfin's son, Hamon, appeared in the *De Banco* Roll of Michaelmas in 1277 describing the legal action in which Hugh de Lowther brought against John, the parson of Lowther. Translated this document states, 'Hugh of Lowther seeks as of his right against John parson of the church of Lowther a messuage with appurtenances in Lowther and [says] John has no right of entry after the lease made by Robert son of Hamo grandfather of Hugh, who is his heir' (Owen 1990). Thomas de Lowther, Sir Gervase de Lowther, a knight and Gervase de Lowther, archdeacon of Carlisle appear during the reign of Henry III (Whellan 1860).

- 3.2.15 During the reign of Henry II, the manor of Lowther was divided into three parts. In 1227/1228 one of the three parts was further divided into two by means of co-heirs who were the wife of Robert de Morville and Gilbert de Whiteby. William de Strickland and the priory of Watton held the other two parts of the manor. In 1309/1310 the manor was owned by John de Coupland, Henry de Haverington, Simon de Alve, and the priory of Watton. Five years later, the Lowther family became the fourth owners of the manor thought to have been purchased by Simon de Alve. During the reign of Henry V (1422), Sir Robert Lowther was recorded as the lord of the entire manor and has remained on the family since. In the 1452/1453 Clifford estate rental, it was stated that John de Copeland, Adam de Haverington, Simon de Alve, and the prior of Watton held homage and fealty to Lowther William and Lowther John and that Hugh de Lowther held the same by similar service (Whellan 1860).
- 3.2.16 Lowther village (Site 9) was situated between the 12th century St. Michael's Church and the 11th-12th century Castlesteads, and was probably of similar date. The village consisted of the hall, church, parsonage house as well as 17 tenements, messuages and cottages (Nicholson and Burn 1777). In 1682, Sir John Lowther demolished the village (See 3.2.25).
- 3.2.17 The earliest medieval structure at Lowther was the Castlesteads ringwork, to the west of the medieval village, and referred to in 1174 as the 'Castellum de Lauudre' (Perriam and Robinson 1998). There had been a land-holding at Lowther prior to 1287, when Alice, daughter of Peter de Thrimby, quitclaimed land to Hugh de Louthre that included a strength, most probably of motte and bailey form (Brunskill 1967). Sir Hugh de Lowther lived during the reign of Edward I. During this time, the first Lowther stronghold was built. This stronghold was described as having diagonal angle buttresses, square turrets, and a vaulted basement with three floors above. This was then known as Lowther Hall (Site 3). Lowther Hall fell into

- a state of disrepair and remained so until Charles I's reign when Sir Richard Lowther restored it (See 3.2.25) (Hugill 1977).
- 3.2.18 In 1337, Hugh de Lowther received a charter from the king granting 'our beloved and faithful Hugh de Lowther and his heirs for ever' the right to free warren in all his lands in Lowther, Lowther Whale, Hartley, and Wythop. This meant Lowther was permitted to preserve or hunt anything on his land except deer or boar. In the same charter, Lowther was granted license to enclose 200 acres at Lowther to 'make a park thereof' allowing him to preserve deer for himself as well as timber (Owen 1990).
- 3.2.19 The deer park was designed for hunting and the provision of meat for the lord of the manor. Deer parks were normally allocated typically beyond arable fields and contained both pasture and woodland to allow for the deer to graze as well as for cover and forage. The bank of the deer park was usually covered by either a fence made of timber slates, a hedge or a stone wall (Cantor 1982).
- 3.2.20 By the end of the medieval period many deer parks had gone out of use or were replaced by larger parks that were closer to the manor house (Rackham 1986). The park became to be considered more of a pleasure ground. In terms of hunting, the park evolved game into a sporting pursuit rather than as a primary means of attaining meat (Vandervell and Coles 1980, as cited in LUAU 1997).
- 3.2.21 Post-medieval and Modern (1486 to present): there are no surviving plans specific to the Lowther deer park; however, the area was marked on a 1683 map and described as 'Old Parke.' A 1682 survey of the park stated the 'compas [sic] of the park. Begining [sic] at that side towards the River from a Doore [sic] beyond the Dale end of Whale one Myle [sic] a quarter and 66 yards. From thence to Hackthorp by one Myle, a quarter, a furlong and 44 yards. To below the School house being the east side, one Myle and a halfe [sic] and 154 yards and from thence to the Doore where we begunn [sic] being the north side, halfe a Myle, and a furlong. So it is in compass four Myles, three quarters, one furlong and 44 yards' (CRO Ref No.: DLONSL/8/3).
- 3.2.22 From the 1683 map, the early deer park was thought to be 66 hectares in extent. The boundaries of the deer park were marked by substantial banks with quarry ditches on both sides. These banks would have been topped with a pale to restrict the deer. Lowther deer park was replaced by a newer, larger park by the end of the 16th century by Sir John Lowther III, 1st baronet, encompassing around 283 hectares. In his 'Observations and Remembrances of the House and Grounds of Lowther,' Sir John wrote how his grandfather Sir Richard, had 'repaired the wale [sic] about the new parke [sic] and was a great lover of the Deare [sic] and made the parke staunch' (CRO Ref No.

DLONS/L3/1/2). The boundaries of the new park extended southwards from Lowther Hall, with the park pale following the Lowther River south, continuing on toward Whale. The pale then ran eastwards along the northern edge of Rowlandfield, joining and following the boundary of the deer park to the centre of its northern side. From this point the new park pale turned north until it once again reached Lowther Hall. The boundaries that were re-used as part of the later park were more prominent than those of the original deer park. The 1683 map shows the new park as being trapezoidal in shape with the narrower end to the north and the old park in the southeast corner. However, later maps show that the area of the old park protruded out eastwards from the line of the eastern park pale. These inconsistencies could be from the 1683 map containing an error due to the difficulty of surveying the far corner of the park where the land would have been heavily wooded (LUAU 1997).

- 3.2.23 Hunting continued in the new park. The 1683 map shows the deliberate planting of trees along the top of Burtree Scar. Sir John wrote in his Observations, how in 1653 some areas of the new park were ploughed and 'lymed' and fenced with 'a great cast earthen hedge, and brushed above, and a rayle [sic] above thate [sic] soe [sic] that never anie [sic] Deare troubled it.' This was where the oats and barley were planted. He stated that 'it was but formerly a light brackeny ground, and full of great stones which I digged upp [sic], and made the wale [wall].'
- 3.2.24 In 1821, in the gardens of Lowther Park, two icehouses were built. One of the ice houses (Site 2) was shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1852. The ice house was stone built and apparently had shuttered windows. The ice was taken from Jack Croft Pond. This was demolished when electricity was installed. Decoy Pond (Site 43) was also enlarged and landscaped during this time. Decoy Pond was designed in order to assist in the pursuit of duck shooting (The Landscape Agency 2002).
- 3.2.25 Sir John Lowther repaired Lowther Hall during the reign of Charles I, replacing the central section with a new guest hall. The hall was three storeys high with ornamental battlements and a central cupola. Sir John Lowther was succeeded by his grandson, also Sir John Lowther, who continued his father's work by improving the porch and building a chapel and gallery. Sir John stated that the house stood in the middle of Lowther Village with the main road from Shap passing the front door. In 1682, in order to improve the view and to enlarge his demesne, Lowther demolished Lowther Village and built Lowther Newtown in its place, to re-house his displaced tennants. According to this article, the road leading from the stables through the gardens and joining the main road at the Emperor's

- Lodge was the original main road from Shap to Penrith (Anonymous *A Short History of Lowther and the Lowther Family*).
- 3.2.26 Seventy years later, Lowther Hall burnt down and remained a partial ruin for eighty more years with only the wings being habitable. In 1745 the hall was burnt by Scotsmen from Prince Charles Stuart's army. In 1757, plans were drawn up by the Adam brothers to rebuild the hall, but it was not until the beginning of the 19th century that Lowther Hall was transformed into Lowther Castle. This was undertaken by Sir George Lowther. The architect for the castle was Robert Smirke, an unknown at the time. Lowther Castle took five years to complete, from 1806-1811. The castle was over 122 metres in length, the hall and saloon, were each over 18 metres long, the dining room 14 metres long and a central staircase was 5.5 metres squared. The family lived in the house until 1936 when the cost of maintaining such a grand house proved to be too expensive and the family moved to Askham Hall. In 1957, the roof of the castle was removed except for the wings that were occupied by the estate workmen (Hugill 1977).
- 3.2.27 In 1773 Sir James Lowther built the second Lowther Village (Site 8). This was modeled after a design prepared by Robert Adam in 1766 and was one of the earliest examples of the circus form as interpreted from ancient Rome. This village is less than half the size of the village designed by Adam. Lowther village was a combination of circus and Greek cross imposed on a square consisting mainly of one-room cottages that were one-storey in height but articulated with two-storey dwellings. In 1773 the village was described by William Hutchinson as being made of stone 'handsomely sashed and covered with blue slate. The design on which the proprietor is building this beautiful place is to entertain a number of linen manufacturers, the erection being calculated for that purpose, with proper apartments for the directors and governors of such work.' In 1800 the village was still not completed. By 1802, the village was described as 'from their desolate, deserted appearance it would seem that no sufficient encouragement had been held out to their inhabitants to continue in them.' It was written in an 1806 survey that Lowther village consisted of 96 houses, some of which were occupied by cattle or used as stores, and others were still incomplete. By 1967 there were around 60 separate dwellings with many of the one-room houses having been modified to give more spacious accommodation (Brunskill 1967).
- 3.2.28 During WWII, Lowther Castle was occupied by the army. In 1942 army officials told the tenant farmers at Lowther that their land would be required for military use over the next six to eight weeks. This turned into a little over two years. Matilda and Churchill tanks were sent to Lowther castle for a 'training exercise.' Temporary accommodation was constructed in the forecourt of the castle and 'thousands of tons' of wet cement were poured

between the avenues of trees. A number of these tanks were taken into the stable yard of Lowther Castle where they were fitted with a CDL turret, a 13,000,000 candlepower light used to temporarily blind the opponent, creating a 'cloak' of darkness behind the beam of light. The training was carried out on ranges above Knipe Scar as well as the high ground running down towards Emperors Lodge. Despite the years of training the crews of the 600 CDL equipped tanks, only one squadron was ever allowed to use their training during the crossing of the Rhine (Anonymous, *The Secret Tanks of Lowther* CL Ref No.: 3/CAR 394.6).

3.2.29 An article from the Cumberland Evening News and Star entitled 'Animals galore at deer park-but lions are out...' stated that in addition to the native red deer, the Australian wallaby, llamas, Highland cattle, an Ankoli cow from Africa as well as flamingoes, cranes, geese, and swans were added to the park that opened to the public in 1969. The park claimed to be the only place in the world in which visitors could roam freely in an area where foreign animals had been imported. Wildfowl were on the decoy pond in front of what was once the deer warden's house and would become the cafeteria (Cumberland Evening News and Star 1969). The amusement park and show ground remained open until 2000, when foot and mouth threatened the deer population (per comm. Ken Gribben).

3.3 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

- 3.3.1 1683 Survey of Lowther Park (Carlisle Record Office (CRO) Ref No.: DLONS/L5/3): due to the sensitive nature of this map, a photograph was not taken. On this map was an area annotated as the 'Old Parke' to the southeast of Lowther Castle. This small area had pictures of deer, pheasants, and other exotic birds. There was a small pond labeled as a fish pond that had a house built upon the banks of the pond, presumably Decoy House, as annotated on later maps, on the current Decoy Pond. Unfortunately the house was not named on this map. There was a road or a path to the south and east of the park. Around the park are open fields. A grouping of trees labeled as 'The Cow Parke' was to the west of the park. Also to the west of the park was a walled off area with entrances on the north and east walls annotated as 'Rented Field. Containes [sic] 67 Acres.'
- 3.3.2 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1850 (CRO) (Figure 4): the First Edition Ordnance Survey map had Decoy Pond with Decoy Lodge present to the east of the pond. To the northwest of Decoy Pond was another small unnamed pond. To the east of Decoy Pond was the wooded area of Decoy Hag, with Decoy Hag Pond to the north. Further north of that small pond was the

- wooded area of Greatholme Plantation. Running through the middle of this area was what appears to be a path.
- 3.3.3 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1862 (CRO Ref No.: D/LONS/L5/3/1/22/9) (Figure 5): the land around the site boundary on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map was similar in shape to that of the First Edition map. Decoy Lodge was present to the east of Decoy Pond. Decoy Pond looked as if it had three slips or fishing platforms on the northern, eastern, and western aspects of the pond. To the southwest of Decoy Pond was an area labeled as an Old Limekiln. To the northeast of the pond, between Decoy Hag Cover and Decoy Hag, was an old quarry.
- 3.3.4 Plan of Lowther Demesne in the Parish of Lowther, 1876 (CRO Ref No.: D/LONS/L5/3/1/22/7) (Figure 6): this map was the same as the First Edition Ordnance Survey map and could have been a tracing from this map.
- 3.3.5 Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1920 (CRO Ref No.: D/LONSL/4/35/3/1/2) (Figure 7): the Third Edition Map was similar to those of the aforementioned Ordnance Survey maps. The area around Decoy Pond no longer had the slips/fishing platforms present and the area immediately around the pond had been landscaped. Decoy Lodge was now annotated as 'Decoy House' and had an extension added to it on the southern side as well as extending the house to the north. The area around Decoy Hag Pond had also been landscaped.
- 3.3.6 According to all three Ordnance Survey maps, as well as the 1876 plan of Lowther Demesne land, with the exception of a few trees, there were no historic features in the area that the proposed access road or house would impact upon.

3.4 Previous Work

- 3.4.1 Numerous excavations and investigations have occurred in the immediate area around Lowther Deer Park, including a survey of three sites undertaken by Lancaster University Archaeology Unit (LUAU) in 1996. This survey reported the findings of a Romano-British enclosed settlement, the Lowther medieval settlement associated with the Castlesteads defensive ringworks, and the boundaries of the former deer park (LUAU 1997).
- 3.4.2 Further work was undertaken in 2005 with the archaeological survey and evaluation of Lowther Deer Park in order to inform the proposed construction of the new Estate House and associated access road. No archaeological features were found during the evaluation trenching; however, the topographical survey revealed a concentration of archaeological features in the western part of the study area that survive as

low grass covered earthworks and areas of undulating disturbance. The eastern half of the assessment area had been subjected to extensive landscaping from the construction of Decoy Pond as well as an amusement park. Apart from the medieval deer park pale, the only other features noted were related to the construction of the amusement park. The topographical survey revealed a variety of features including a Romano-British settlement as well as a Burnt Mound and an associated palaeochannel, possible evidence of Bronze Age settlement activity in the area (Oxford Archaeology North 2005a).

3.4.3 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 2007 by Oxford Archaeology North at Lowther Castle. Nine trenches were excavated, five of which were to the south of the extant castle, within an area of disused chicken sheds, and the remaining four were within the footprint of what was referred to as Lowther II, constructed during 1677-1693, also known as Smirke's Castle. Eight of the nine trenches revealed below ground archaeological features. Five of these trenches revealed remains of structures and deposits possibly relating to Lowther I, dating to the later medieval period, and Lowther II. Two trenches contained walls, some of which were associated with 12th –13th century pottery (Oxford Archaeology North 2007). The following year a watching brief was undertaken during the demolition of the chicken sheds that overlaid the remains of earlier castles on the site of Lowther Castle. This watching brief identified and recorded structural remains of former castles (Oxford Archaeology North 2008).

3.5 SITE VISIT

- 3.5.1 The proposed development site is near the western boundary of the medieval deer park. The documented line of the 18th century park boundary crosses through the proposed development area; however, there is no surviving earthwork of this boundary. The site of the estate house is on the bund, or large bank, overlooking Decoy Pond.
- 3.5.2 There were three extant buildings to the south of Decoy Pond. Another extant building abutted into Decoy Lodge. These buildings were used to house the café and shop that were associated with the amusement park. These are to be demolished except for Decoy Lodge, which is a listed building.



Plate 1: Extant buildings present on site, to be demolished with the exception of Decoy Lodge (not in photo)



Plate 2: Extant building abutting onto Decoy Lodge

3.5.3 The evaluation trench, undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North in 2005, was still present as an earthwork.



Plate 3: Remains of evaluation trench undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North

3.5.4 The proposed access road is to begin near the Romano-British enclosed settlement that was defined by a 1997 survey site, heading southeastwards towards a gate to the north of Decoy Pond.



Plate 4: Northern terminus of the proposed access road, looking southeast towards

Decoy Pond



Plate 5: Southern terminus of the proposed access road, looking northwest

3.5.5 To the east of the proposed access road was an earthen bank aligned northwest/southeast. Along this bank were exposed limestone rocks. Oxford Archaeology North defined this area as containing two small quarry scoops that were located on the edge of this prominent limestone scarp as well as a small clearance cairn associated with the enclosure wall surrounding Decoy Hag (Oxford Archaeology North 2005a).



Plate 6: Earthen bank with limestone scar, to the east of the proposed access road, looking east

3.5.6 To the west of the proposed access road was a small paved footpath/road aligned north/south.



Plate 7: Footpath/road aligned north/south, looking south

3.5.7 Earthworks of the Romano-British enclosed settlement, to the north of the proposed access road, as well as ridge and furrow were still evident. Again, Oxford Archaeology North (2005a) revealed two small semi-circular bankedged hollows as well as a section of boundary bank in this area. To the east of the proposed access roads was the area known as Greatholme Plantation, now ploughed fields with no earthworks visible. This is not to imply that they were not still present further east of the site, there were simply no earthworks visible in the ploughed fields to northeast and east of the proposed access road.



Plate 8: Earthworks of Romano-British Enclosed Settlement, to the north of the proposed access road, looking north, northeast



Plate 9: Further earthworks in the area of the Romano-British Enclosed Settlement, looking southwest



Plate 10: Ridge and Furrow in the vicinity of the Romano-British Enclosed Settlement, looking northwest

3.5.8 There were earthworks as indentified by Oxford Archaeology North halfway between the northern terminus of the proposed access road and Decoy Pond. These consisted of an earthen bank or possible roadway running northwest/southeast on the northern edge of Decoy Pond as well as circular depressions all within the vicinity of a possible palaeochannel (Oxford Archaeology North 2005a). The proposed access road is to circumvent these earthworks.



Plate 11: Earthworks identified during the 2003 walkover survey, looking northwest

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The discussion presented below comprises the results of the first phase of the archaeological watching brief undertaken at Lowther Deer Park. Phase 1 of the work was undertaken between the 16th and 17th of June 2009, and comprised the excavation of a gently curving trench across an undulating pasture field for a new access road (Figure 8).

4.2 PHASE 1: RESULTS

- 4.2.1 The Phase 1 Watching Brief covered the excavation of a gently curving trench in a pasture field situated immediately north of Decoy Pond (Figure 8). The trench was aligned northwest to southeast, and measured approximately 430m in length and 3.6m in width.
- Harrow. The trench was further excavated mechanically to an average depth of *c*.0.25m with a JCB JS220 using a *c*.2.1m wide ditching bucket. The topsoil (100) was comprised of a light brown sandy silt with occasional small stone inclusions, and was present across the site to an average depth of *c*.0.1m. The topsoil (100) was above a deposit of light brown/orange clayey silt subsoil (102) with occasional limestone inclusions (Plate 12). The subsoil (102) measured over 0.15m in depth and was relatively uniform throughout except for a *c*.40m area within the south-central section of the trench. The subsoil in this area was comprised of a light/mid-brown clayey silt (103) which measured *c*.1m in depth. The light/mid-brown (103) subsoil was directly above the natural substrate (101) (Plate 13) which was comprised of pink/orange boulder clay, and measured over 0.2m in depth. This was the only area in which the natural substrate (101) was exposed. Several land drains were also noted throughout the trench.
- 4.2.3 During the watching brief, a dark spread of material was noted within the subsoil (103). The darker spread measured approximately 13m in length although further investigation failed to define any edges (Plate 14). Given the darker spreads close proximity to the Bronze Age burnt mound and associated palaeochannel, the decision was taken to excavate a test-pit by hand within the deposit (Figure 8). The test-pit measured *c*.1.3m in length x *c*.0.9m in width, and was excavated to a depth of *c*.0.65m, exposing a solid sandstone base below *c*.0.35m of heavily degraded red/yellow sandstone mixed with pink boulder clay (104) (Plate 15). The sandstone deposit (104)

was below a *c*.0.1m deposit of subsoil (**103**) and *c*.0.25m of topsoil (**100**), both of which were mixed with large sandstone fragments (Plate 16). The test-pit revealed that the darker spread of material resulted from geological processes. It is probable that the sandstone platform (**104**) was deposited during the last glacial maximum, creating an area of softer rock within the limestone escarpment. It is possible that this area of sandstone formed a natural undulation or hollow which was later filled by a thicker deposit of topsoil creating the darker spread within the surrounding subsoil.

4.2.4 No archaeological features or deposits were noted during Phase 1 of the watching brief.



Plate 12: View northwest of excavated trench showing subsoil (102)



Plate 13: View east-southeast of excavated trench showing subsoil (103) and natural substrate (101)



Plate 14: View northwest of excavated trench showing area of darker spread



Plate 15: View southeast of test-pit showing sandstone platform (104)



Plate 16: Northeast facing section of test-pit

4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.3.1 No archaeological finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during Phase 1 of the archaeological watching brief.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored all ground works associated with Phase 1 of the proposed development work, which comprised the excavation of a *c*.430m trench to a depth of *c*.0.25m. An additional *c*.1.3m x 0.9m test-pit was excavated to a depth *c*.0.65m in close proximity to a previously identified Bronze Age burnt mound and associated palaeochannel.
- 5.1.2 No archaeological features or deposits were noted during Phase 1 of the watching brief

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.2.1 As Phase 1 of the archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the development of a new access road, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the high archaeological potential of the area, it is recommended that any future work be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation.
- 5.2.2 The results of Phase 1 do not affect the planning condition for Phase 2 of the proposed development.

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Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1920; CRO Ref No.: D/LONSL/4/35/3/1/2

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Geological	Natural Substrate
102	Deposit	Orange/Light Brown Subsoil
103	Deposit	Light/Mid-Brown Subsoil
104	Geological	Sandstone Platform

Table 1: List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES