
NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2009, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were invited by United Utilities to undertake an archaeological investigation at Peel Place, Lanthwaite, within the Lake District National Park (NGR NY 160 212). It was believed that the excavation of a United Utilities exploratory trench could have impacted upon archaeological remains at the site. As a result, The National Trust, in agreement with United Utilities, requested a programme of archaeological excavation and investigation, in order to obtain further information on the presence and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits within the vicinity. The archaeological work comprised a topographic survey, the archaeological recording of the previously excavated United Utilities trench and a trial trench evaluation. The work was conducted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd, with the assistance of volunteers from the Lorton and Derwent Fells Local History Society.

The earthwork survey comprised a metric survey of all visible features, within the boundaries of the field selected for evaluation. The objective of the earthwork survey was to record the location, nature and extent of any archaeological features within the area, in order to set the results of the trial trench evaluation in context.

The archaeological recording was undertaken of a trench previously excavated by United Utilities to expose a live electricity cable, in a field containing earthworks and the foundations of a rectangular building. The purpose of the archaeological work was to record any evidence for surviving archaeological remains within the extent of the excavated trench (prior to backfilling) and to recover any archaeological material present in the spoil heaps.

The trial trench evaluation comprised the excavation of two trenches within the northwest corner of the evaluation area. The purpose of the trial trench evaluation was to investigate several prominent earthworks associated with a rectangular building within the vicinity.

The topographic survey recorded a number of features believed to be associated with the former post-medieval farmstead, including building platforms, enclosures, track ways, walls, lynchets, and a possible corn-drier or stack-stand. In addition the footprint of a previously unrecognised building was identified within the enclosure, which is not recorded on any known historic maps of the site.

Although the building within the northwest corner of the study area was already known from cartographic sources and visual site inspections, the archaeological evaluation provided much needed information about the buildings date and function. Based upon the results of the evaluation, it is probable that the building was used for housing animals. The evidence for this was particularly evident within the eastern half of Trench 2. This area revealed several different floor surfaces, some of which are likely to relate to animal pens or stalls, accessed via a central aisle. Furthermore, tentative evidence suggests that these different areas were once physically separated by perishable materials, such as wooden fencing. The general lack of archaeological finds would also lend support to the building being used for agricultural purposes. It is also probable that the western end of the building, whilst still being agricultural in nature, had a different function to the area to the east. A very fine cobbled surface to the west of a central partition wall suggests that greater concern was afforded to this area, such as might be seen within horse stables rather than areas to house general livestock. Furthermore, the fine cobbled area and the central partition wall appear to have been later additions to the building.

The eastern extent of the building was located within Trench 3. The addition of a further raised cobbled surface within this area suggests that the possible animal stalls or pens continued this far east. The discovery of a further cobbled surface and parallel stone-lined drain within the

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eastern end of Trench 3 appeared to respect a further structure or boundary further east of the main structure. However, *c.*5m of the trench between the eastern wall of the main structure and the drain and eastern cobbled surface further east was devoid of any archaeological features, suggesting that either this area has been extensively disturbed, or the drain and cobbled surface were deposited after the collapse of the main structure.

All of the finds retrieved during the evaluation support the cartographic evidence that the farmstead at Peel Place dates to the first half of the 19th century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. would like to thank United Utilities for commissioning the project. NPA Ltd would also like to thank Jamie Lund and Mark Astley of The National Trust for their assistance and advice during the archaeological investigation. Many thanks are also due to the members of the Lorton and Derwent Fells Local History Society for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the project.

David Jackson and Joanne Wilkinson conducted the evaluation with the assistance of members of the Lorton and Derwent Fells Local History Society. The topographical survey was conducted by Martin Railton. The report was produced by David Jackson and the figures produced by Tony Liddell, Martin Railton and David Jackson. The report was edited by Matthew Town, Project Manager for NPA Ltd. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Project Manager for NPA Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In September 2009, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were invited by United Utilities to undertake a programme of archaeological work at Peel Place, Lanthwaite, in the Lake District National Park (centred on NY 160 212; Figure 1). It was believed that the excavation of a United Utilities exploratory trench could have impacted upon archaeological remains at the site. As a result, The National Trust, in agreement with United Utilities, requested a programme of archaeological excavation and investigation, in order to obtain further information on the presence and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits within the vicinity.
- 1.1.2 The programme of archaeological works comprised a topographic survey of the visible earthworks within the field (Stage 1), the archaeological recording of the previously excavated United Utilities trench and a trial trench evaluation of a rectangular building (Stage 2), within the boundaries of the evaluation study area as agreed by The National Trust and United Utilities (Figure 2).
- 1.1.3 This report comprises the results of the topographical survey, archaeological evaluation and post-fieldwork analysis following the work at Peel Place, including a statement of further archaeological potential and recommendations for future work within the area.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design for a programme of archaeological work within the study area was submitted to the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) and The National Trust by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd at the request of United Utilities (the client). It was believed that the excavation of a United Utilities exploratory trench could have impacted upon archaeological remains at the site. As a result, The National Trust, in agreement with United Utilities, requested a programme of archaeological excavation and investigation, in order to obtain further information on the presence and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits within the vicinity.
- 2.1.2 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 for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.
- 2.1.3 The archaeological work comprised a topographic survey of the visible earthworks within the field (Stage 1), the archaeological recording of the previously excavated United Utilities trench and a trial trench evaluation of the rectangular building (Stage 2). The work was conducted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd, with the assistance of volunteers from the Lorton and Derwent Fells Local History Society.

2.2 STAGE 1: EARTHWORK SURVEY

- 2.2.1 The earthwork survey comprised a metric survey of all visible features, within the boundaries of the field selected for evaluation (Figure 2). The objective of the earthwork survey was to record the location, nature and extent of any archaeological features within the area, in order to set the results of the Stage 2 trial trench evaluation in context.
- 2.2.2 Primary survey stations were established using a Trimble 3605DR Geodimeter total station and marked with permanent survey markers. The elevation values for these stations were established using the nearest known mapped Ordnance Survey benchmark. A nominal scale of 1:250 was adopted for the survey. This scale is considered most appropriate for showing earthwork detail and structural relationships clearly and accurately. At this scale measurement inaccuracies of 5cm would be represented as a deviation of 0.2mm on the plot, invisible to the eye.
- 2.2.3 Visible archaeological features and earthworks were surveyed in plan using a Trimble 3605DR Geodimeter total station. This instrument has an angular measuring precision of 5", well within the required tolerances for a 1:250 scale survey. The principal plan components of visible archaeological features were established by standard EDM measurement using a detail pole mounted prism. Measurements are stored directly within the instrument's internal memory.

- 2.2.4 The survey data was downloaded onto a laptop computer for initial data processing using Terramodel 10.3 software. The data was subsequently exported as .DWG files in order to produce hachured plan and profile drawings in AutoCad 2007.
- 2.2.5 The metric survey was conducted in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (Riley & Wilson-North 2001), and corresponded to an English Heritage Level 3 survey (English Heritage 2006).

2.3 STAGE 2: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND RECORDING

- 2.3.1 The archaeological recording was undertaken of a trench previously excavated by United Utilities to expose a live electricity cable, in a field containing earthworks and the foundations of a rectangular building. The purpose of the archaeological work was to record any evidence for surviving archaeological remains within the extent of the excavated trench (prior to backfilling) and to recover any archaeological material present in the spoil heaps.
- 2.3.2 The trench (Trench 1) measured approximately 5.9m by 2.3m and was situated at the northwest corner of the field, adjacent to the gateway.
- 2.3.3 The eastern section of the trench was cleaned by hand, using a spade and trowel to remove any loose material. All deposits were investigated and recorded according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd standard procedure as set out in the Excavation manual (Giecco 2003).
- 2.3.4 The backfilling of the trench by United Utilities was subsequently monitored and the spoil inspected for any archaeological finds.
- 2.3.5 The archaeological evaluation consisted of the excavation of two trial trenches within the northwest corner of the evaluation area (Trench 2 and Trench 3). The work included the systematic examination and accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and artefacts identified. All work was conducted according to the recommendations of the Institute for Archaeologists (2008).
- 2.3.6 Trench 2 was located across several prominent earthworks immediately east of the United Utilities exploratory trench, and was initially designed to be L-shaped, measuring 5 metres in each direction. However, after consultation with Jamie Lund of The National Trust, the decision was taken to extend Trench 2 to a length of 8.4m and a width of 5m.
- 2.3.7 Trench 3 was located *c.*5m northeast of Trench 2, and was located across a prominent earthwork at the eastern end of the building. The trench measured 8.4m in length and 1m in width.
- 2.3.8 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:
- to investigate several earthworks within the area associated with the rectangular structure, as agreed with all relevant authorities;
 - 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 palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

- 2.3.9 The trial trenches were excavated by hand and all features were investigated and recorded according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2003).
- 2.3.10 All finds encountered were retained, and were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of F. Giecco (NPA Ltd Technical Director).
- 2.3.11 All deposits encountered were deemed unsuitable for environmental sampling, and therefore no samples were retained.
- 2.3.12 Both trial trenches excavated during the archaeological evaluation were to be backfilled at the discretion of The National Trust.
- 2.3.13 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, 1991).

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design, and in accordance with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage guidelines (1991), and according to the recommendations in *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Brown 2007). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Kendal Museum under the unique project identifier: **NPA 09 PPL-B**.
- 2.4.2 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd supports 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. Details of the results of this project will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology as a part of this national project under the unique project identifier: **northpen3-66596**.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The settlement of Lanthwaite is located approximately 10km south of the town of Cockermouth in Lorton Vale, at the north end of Crummock Water. The village of Loweswater is located *c.*2 kilometres to the west and Buttermere is located *c.*4 kilometres to the south (Figure 1). Peel Place is situated on the east side of the B5269 and the properties of Lanthwaite Gate and Lanthwaite Green Farm (Figure 2). The proposed site is situated at a height of *c.*160 metres above mean sea level.
- 3.1.2 The land to the north of Peel Place is agricultural, whilst the land to the southeast is open fell which rises steeply to a height of *c.*850 metres at the top of Grasmoor, and to the northeast to a height of *c.*700 metres at the top of Whiteside. Between these two fells, is Gasgale Gill through which flows the Liza Beck.
- 3.1.3 The geology of the site is Quaternary Till and Alluvium on the Kirkstile Formation of the Skiddaw Group (British Geological Survey Solid and Drift Geology Sheet 29).

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 The following historical background is intended as brief summary of the history of Peel Place and its environs only. LD HER refers to references from the Lake District Historic Environment Record.
- 3.2.2 There is some evidence for prehistoric activity within the immediate vicinity of Peel Place. An alleged hillfort was identified within Lanthwaite Wood to the southwest of Peel Place by Oxford Archaeology North in 2002 (LD HER 1093). However, whilst the hillfort could be of prehistoric date, this must remain speculative without further evidence. Other evidence includes a stone hammer of local stone, measuring 5” in diameter, which was reported to have been found at Lanthwaite Gate Camp in 1919 (TCWAAS 1935, 175).
- 3.2.3 An extensive Romano-British settlement exists to the south of Peel Place which was first recorded in the 1924 edition of the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society (LD HER 1091). The report on ‘*The British Village Site at Lanthwaite Green*’ provides a description of the site, which consisted of a circular rampart and the remains of hut circles within the interior. The settlement has since been subject to several recent investigations (see Section 3.3 below).
- 3.2.4 The only known medieval site within the vicinity of Peel Place is a bloomery, situated within Lanthwaite Wood to the southwest (LD HER 31737). However, several buildings and earthworks relating to ridge and furrow survive within the vicinity of Peel Place which could be of medieval date (LD HER Nos. 6332, 11696, 32711).
- 3.2.5 Nothing is recorded for Peel Place itself until the early 19th century. An undated map entitled ‘*Plan of Peile Place and Lanthwaite Green Farm in the Township of Brackenthwaite. The Property of John Marshall Esq*’ (Whitehaven Records Office Ref: D/WM/1/36/1-25), shows the estate at this date. Buildings at Peile Place are

clearly visible and may be interpreted as farm buildings and a farmhouse (Plate 1). The plan contains a list of the plot numbers referred to on the map along with acreage. Plot 10 is noted to be 'houses, yard etc', although this does not necessarily mean that there was a farmhouse, as 'houses' may refer to farm buildings. John Marshall is named as lord of the manor of Brackenthwaite in Parson and White 1829 (Parson and White 1829, 183), therefore it is suggested that this map dates to the first half of the 19th century.

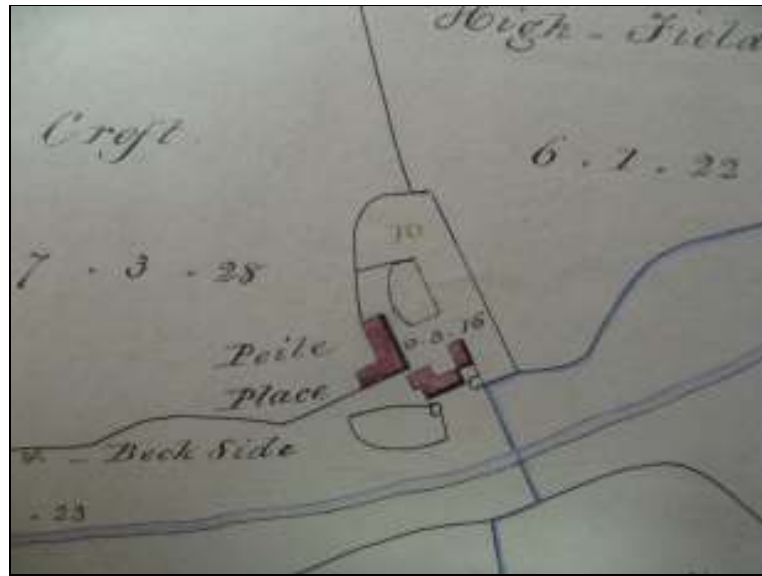


Plate 1: An extract from an undated plan of Peile Place and Lanthwaite Green Farms, (believed to date to the early 19th century)

- 3.2.6 A further undated map of 'Peile Place' and the associated land housed at Whitehaven Record Office (WRO Ref: DWM 11/249/16), shows buildings at Peile Place and names the fields, with the beck running through 'Beck Side Fold'.
- 3.2.7 Tithe maps and awards were produced following the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836, and are useful for providing details of land ownership, occupiers, field names, acreage and state of cultivation. The Tithe map for Brackenthwaite dates to c.1840. However there is no accompanying Award to provide information on land ownership and occupancy. The map does show quite an extensive set of buildings at 'Peel Place' at this date.
- 3.2.8 The possibility that a fortified dwelling exists on the site of Peel Place, as suggested by the place name, has also been considered. In his publication *Castle and Towers of Cumberland and Westmorland* (1913), Curwen refers to Peel, Crummock Water, which he described as probably the early residence of the de Lindsay family 'the name at once suggests a palisaded enclosure' (Curwen 1913, 45).
- 3.2.9 The *Loweswater Pele and Parks* was the subject of an article by Mary Fair in 1936, in which she noted that this area was used as a refuge during Scottish raids in the medieval period. Although referring to Loweswater Pele, which was located on the north-west side of Crummock Water, and is still shown on modern OS mapping as

‘Peel’, she noted that there was the possibility of a further fortified dwelling at ‘Peel Place’, as well as a look-out post at Pickett Howe and a warning beacon station at Tindle Crag, both located to the north of Peel Place (Fair 1936, 126).

- 3.2.10 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map (6"/mile scale) was surveyed in 1861-3 and published in 1867. By this date Peel Place is referred to as a ‘ruin’. The field immediately to the west is shown as rough grazing at this date, with the Liza Beck flowing through. To the north of Peel Place, Brackenthwaite Mill is referred to as a ‘corn mill’. The larger 25"/mile scale version of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (c.1865) clearly shows the buildings at Peel Place, Lanthwaite Gate and Lanthwaite Green at this date. Some of the buildings at Peel Place appear to have been demolished at this time.
- 3.2.11 By the time of the c.1970 Ordnance Survey map, the buildings at Peel Place appear to have almost disappeared with only one small building shown in the location of an existing shed.

3.3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 3.3.1 The Enclosed Hut Circle Settlement at Lanthwaite has been the subject of several archaeological investigations. Potboilers and querns were found on the site and were reported in the 1924 and 1935 volumes of the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society (TCWAAS). In 1990, the National Trust conducted a survey which revealed a small field system of low stone banks which contained over thirty clearance cairns to the south and south-west of the site. There were also the remains of a simple partitioned structure (LD HER 1091).
- 3.3.2 The National Trust undertook an archaeological survey of Lanthwaite Green and its environs in 1999. The Romano-British settlement enclosure was noted to measure approximately 70m east to west and 65m north to south, and to be sub-circular in plan. The bank of the enclosure was constructed from rounded cobbles, which may have supported a wooden palisade for defensive purposes, or as which acted as a stock proof barrier. Also observed during this survey was a field system and cairn field to the south and south-west of the enclosure. The settlement site at Lanthwaite Green was noted to be similar to other rural sites throughout north-west Britain, which have been dated through archaeological excavations, to the early centuries AD (Lund 1999 and 2001). Several of the features identified during this survey work are now recorded on the National Trust SMR (No’s 20744, 22642, 25058, 25059, and 28808).
- 3.3.3 Several of the sites within a 1km radius of Peel Place were identified during a watching brief conducted by Oxford Archaeology North in 2002 for the Buttermere Pipeline. The sites included the Enclosed Hut Circle Settlement (LD HER 1091), Lanthwaite Wood Hillfort (LD HER 1093), and the Bloomery in Lanthwaite Wood (LD HER 31737).
- 3.3.4 In June 2009, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook a rapid desk-based assessment and archaeological watching brief in advance of underground electricity works at Peel Place. Although the watching brief failed to locate any archaeological features or deposits, the rapid desk-based assessment revealed that there was significant potential for the survival of below ground archaeological remains within

the immediate vicinity, especially those associated with the tenanted farmstead which once occupied the site (Wooler and Jackson 2009).

4 EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation took place between the 29th September 2009 and the 7th October 2009, and comprised a topographic survey of the visible earthworks within the field (Stage 1), the investigation of an exploratory trench excavated by United Utilities in August 2009 and the subsequent excavation of two further trial trenches across the rectangular building (Stage 2) (Figure 3), as agreed with The National Trust and United Utilities.
- 4.1.2 The United Utilities Trench was excavated by mechanical excavator without archaeological monitoring, whilst the two evaluation trenches were excavated by hand to the level of the first archaeological deposit under full archaeological supervision. This work was undertaken with the help of volunteers from the Lorton and Derwent Fells Local History Society.
- 4.1.3 The results of the evaluation are summarised below.

4.2 STAGE 1: TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- 4.2.1 The topographic survey comprised a metric survey of all earthworks and structures visible within the evaluation study area (Figure 3), and the recording of two profiles across the site (Figure 4), in order to place the results of the archaeological trial trench evaluation in context. These features are believed to be the remains of a former post-medieval farmstead. The letters in the following text (a-l) refer to the features identified during the survey, which are indicated on Figures 3 & 4.
- 4.2.2 The foundations of a former stone wall were identified on the western side of the study area (a), adjacent to an existing stone shed (Plate 2). The wall defined an area measuring c.6m long and c.5m wide, interpreted as a former pen or small building. The remains of the wall measured 0.8m high and 0.6m wide at the north end, where it abutted the shed, indicating it was a relatively recent structure. However, another wall foundation was identified immediately to the southwest of this structure, measuring 1.8m long and 1.2m wide, which may relate to an even earlier building. A number of buildings are shown in this location on the Brackenthwaite Tithe Map of c.1840 (Plate 1) and the Plan of Peile Place and Lanthwaite Green Farms (Plate 1), suggesting that this may be a remnant of a 19th century or earlier structure.
- 4.2.3 These features were located on the southwest side of a level platform of land measuring c.20m long and c.13m wide, which was defined by a stone and earth bank on the east and north sides, measuring between 0.4m and 1.4m high (b). The historic plans mentioned above indicate that this platform was formerly occupied by a number of farm buildings in the 19th century (Plate 3).
- 4.2.4 Immediately to the east of this platform was a sunken track or holloway (c), which ran southwards from the northwest entrance into the field, before splitting into two, and running westwards to the southwest field gate. The track measured c.2.5m wide and was defined on the south side by a 0.4m-high bank. Another track ran west to east

along the south side of the study area, defined by a similar 0.4m-high bank on the north side (d). The tracks provide evidence for the former layout of the site, presumably providing access between buildings, enclosures and fields.



Plate 2: *Foundations of a possible ruined building and existing shed on the west side of the site, looking northwest*



Plate 3: *A platform of land and track ways (right) on the west side of the site, which housed buildings in the 19th century, looking northwest*

- 4.2.5 On the south side of the site, situated on a small spit of land between these tracks, was a small earth and stone mound measuring 4m long, 2m wide and 0.5m high (e). The nature of this mound is uncertain, but it may possibly be associated with former

agricultural activity at the site. Two further small mounds and a remnant of a stone wall were identified on the east side of one of the tracks (f). The southern mound measured 2.1m long, 1.8m wide and 0.5m high. To the north of this was a low bank with a section of drystone wall measuring 1.4m long, 0.7m wide and 0.5m high. The northern mound measured 1.7m long, 1m wide and 0.3m high. It is possible that these features are part of a former enclosure wall or other agricultural structure.

- 4.2.6 The most notable earthwork identified during the survey was a stone and earth bank at the centre of the study area (Plate 4), which defined an irregular polygonal enclosure measuring *c.*24m long and *c.*13m wide, aligned approximately northeast to southwest (g). The banks were set into the natural hillside, with steeper northwest sides, being up to *c.*1m high. The foundations of a stone wall measuring *c.*0.8m wide were visible on the top of the bank, particularly on the west side of the enclosure, where a definite wall edge was visible. This enclosure is clearly marked on the Brackenthwaite Tithe Map of *c.*1840 and the Plan of Peile Place and Lanthwaite Green Farms, but is not illustrated on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of *c.*1865. It is likely that this was a former stock enclosure. A mature ash tree occupied the north side of the enclosure at the time of the survey.
- 4.2.7 On the northwest side of the enclosure the clear edge of a stone wall was visible. This comprised a series of rounded earth-fast boulders which were exposed for a distance of 4.6m, being up to 0.15m high, and aligned northwest to southeast. Further foundation stones were detected, which formed the outline of a possible rectangular building measuring 8.7m long and 5.7m wide (h). This building is not shown on any historic maps of the site and therefore may be of some antiquity. A stone gate stoop measuring 2.3m long, 0.6m wide, and 0.15m thick was also noted on the north side of the enclosure.



Plate 4: *The banks of the former enclosure, looking east*

- 4.2.8 On the east side of the enclosure a similar earth and stone bank ran northwards to meet the existing field boundary, being up to 1.6m wide and *c.*1m high (i). This bank appears to mark the eastern limit of the former farmstead. Approximately 7m to the east of this bank was a further earthwork, interpreted as a lynchet (j). This was *c.*17m long and 0.5m high, aligned north to south. At the southern end the lynchet ran southwest for 8.5m, and was aligned with the southern side of the enclosure. The bank of the enclosure appeared to overlay the lynchet, suggesting that this marks the location of an earlier field boundary. It may be significant that the building foundation (h) appears to be aligned with this lynchet, but is oddly-placed within the enclosure (g).
- 4.2.9 To the south of the enclosure was a sub-oval earthwork (k), comprising a low bank measuring 0.8m wide and 0.3m high, enclosing an area 1.5m wide and 4.7m long. There appeared to be a 0.8m-wide entrance through the bank on the east side. The west side had been truncated by a modern track. This earthwork is likely to be an agricultural feature associated with the former farmstead, possibly a stack-stand or corn-drier.
- 4.2.10 On the north side of the study area the foundation wall of a former rectangular building was visible. This was covered in places by stone rubble forming a 2.6m-wide bank (l). The wall was visible for a distance of *c.*7m, being *c.*1.3m wide and 0.4m high, aligned northeast to southwest (Plate 5). A large boulder marked the east corner of this building, with further stones protruding out of the dry stone wall to the northwest (Plate 6). A low bank was visible under this dry stone wall, which was believed to be the location of the northern wall of the former building. The southern corner of the building was not identified, however a line of stones marking a possible internal wall were targeted in the subsequent trial trench evaluation. A building is shown in this location on the Brackenthwaite Tithe Map of *c.*1840 and the Plan of Peile Place and Lanthwaite Green Farms, but is only marked as an enclosure on modern Ordnance Survey maps.



Plate 5: *Foundation wall of a rectangular building on the north side of the site, the subject of the trial trench evaluation (looking west)*



Plate 6: *Possible return of the building within the existing dry stone wall (looking northwest)*

4.3 STAGE 2: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AND RECORDING

- 4.3.1 Stage 2 comprised the archaeological recording of a previously excavated utility trench (Trench 1), and the excavation of two trial trenches targeting a rectangular building within the northwest corner of the evaluation area (Trench 2 and Trench 3).
- 4.3.2 **Trench 1:** Trench 1 was located within the northwest corner of the evaluation area and measured *c.*5.9m in length and *c.*2.3m in width (Figure 3). The northwest to southeast aligned trench was excavated by mechanical excavator in order to locate existing underground utilities. Trench 1 was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.1m revealing *c.*0.32m of firm yellow sandy clay and gravel (**104**) below *c.*0.4m of loose grey fluvial gravel (**102**) and *c.*0.06m of loose mid-brown silty gravel topsoil (**100**). The northeast corner of Trench 1 was largely comprised of over 1m of gravel backfill (**103**) below topsoil (**100**), associated with existing services (Plate 7).
- 4.3.3 Neither archaeological remains nor finds were observed during the investigation, although any ephemeral features or insubstantial deposits may have been lost during excavation.



Plate 7: *West facing section of Trench 1 (utility trench)*

- 4.3.4 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 was located immediately east of Trench 1, *c.*2m south of the northern boundary wall (Figure 3). Trench 2 was located in order to investigate two features, presumed to be the south wall of the rectangular building and an internal dividing wall. The northeast to southwest trench was extended to a length of 8.4m and a width of 5m in order to gain further information about the internal layout of the rectangular building.
- 4.3.5 After the removal of *c.*0.15m of fluvial gravel (**102**) and *c.*0.07m of topsoil (**100**), two walls and a series of different floor surfaces were revealed. The most substantial of the two walls was a section of the south wall of the building, which measured over 6.4m in length and *c.*0.8m in width. The south wall (**113**) survived to a height of over 0.3m and was comprised of large grey angular and sub-angular stones, of local volcanic type, with smaller angular stones acting as infill (Plate 8, Figure 5). It is possible that the wall (**113**) had once been bonded with lime mortar or sealed with lime render as several fragments of mortar were noted during excavation. However, no mortar or render was noted to be *in-situ*. The wall (**113**) was separated by two entrances into the building, situated *c.*2.3m apart (Figure 5). The eastern most entrance (**109**) measured *c.*1.2m in width and comprised a threshold of small-large river worn cobbles (Plate 9), whilst the western most entrance (**115**) measured *c.*1m in width and comprised a threshold of sandstone slabs and small river worn cobbles (Plate 10). However, both thresholds had been excessively damaged by root activity. The southern limit of the rectangular building was marked by an exterior cobbled yard. The cobbled yard (**112**) measured over 5.5m in length and over 1.5m in width, and was comprised of large river worn stones (Plate 8, Figure 5).
- 4.3.6 The interior of the building was divided into two sections by a dividing wall. The dividing wall (**108**) was aligned northwest to southeast and abutted the eastern corner of the entrance (**115**) (Figure 5). The dividing wall measured over 3m in length, *c.*0.6m in width and survived to a height of 0.4m. The wall was comprised of large sub-angular stone of quartz, slate and local volcanic stone (Plate 11). It is possible that the

dividing wall was also bonded with lime mortar as large amounts of mortar were noted within the immediate vicinity. However, it is also possible that the mortar observed during the evaluation may have been torching which would have been used as draft proofing within the roof, as large numbers of roof slate were also observed within the same area.



Plate 8: *View north of Trench 2 with wall (113) and cobbled yard (112) in foreground*

- 4.3.7 Immediately west of the dividing wall (108), the trench revealed an internal area which measured over 3m x 2.4m (Figure 5). The floor of the area was largely comprised of a fine cobbled surface (107) which had been well-set with small river worn cobbles (Plate 11). However, the flooring within the southwest corner of the area was comprised of roughly laid large sub-rounded stones and slate (124), which measured c.1m in width and over 1.6m in length (Plate 12). The cobbled surface (107) and the rectangular area to the southwest (124) were physically separated by a c.0.3m wide area devoid of any substantial surface. The area to the west of the wall (108) would have been accessed via the westernmost entrance (115) (Figure 5).
- 4.3.8 Immediately east of the internal dividing wall (108), an area was revealed which measured over 5.2m x 3m (Figure 5). The area was comprised of several different floor surfaces, including a central aisle (105) which measured over 3m in length and c.1m in width. The central aisle was comprised of roughly laid small-large river worn cobbles (Plate 13). The aisle was flanked to the east by an area of large flags of local volcanic stone (117). The flagged surface (117) measured c.2m x 1.4m, although it is unclear whether the surface continued further northwest, or whether the area once comprised a separate surface, as this area was completely damaged (Plate 14). The flagged surface had been laid on a bed of fine river gravel (118), which measured over 0.2m in depth. The central aisle (105) was also flanked to the west by a raised area of roughly laid cobbles (116). The raised cobbled surface (116) measured c.1.9m x 1.7m, and was flanked to the northwest by an area of slate flooring (106) (Plate 15). The slate flooring

measured *c.*1.4m in length and over 1m in width, although it is unclear whether the flooring extended further northeast as this area was extensively damaged. The slate flooring had been laid on a bed of fine river gravel (**118**), which measured *c.*0.19m in depth. Similar to the area to the west of the internal dividing wall (**108**), all of the different floor surfaces were separated by a *c.*0.3m wide area devoid of any substantial floor surface. This strongly suggests that the floor surfaces were once physically separated by perishable materials, such as wooden fencing. However, no evidence was noted to support this. The area to the east of the dividing wall (**108**) would have been accessed via the easternmost entrance (**109**) (Figure 5).



Plate 9: Entrance (**109**) looking southwest



Plate 10: Entrance (**115**) looking southwest



Plate 11: View north of cobbled surface (**107**) and internal wall (**108**)



Plate 12: *View southwest of cobbled surface (107) and rough surface (124)*



Plate 13: *View southeast of central aisle (105)
leading out to the exterior yard (112)*

- 4.3.9 Additional investigations within Trench 2 included the removal of a *c.*1m section of the interior partition wall (108) in order to investigate the possibility of earlier activity on the site. Although no evidence of earlier activity was found, the additional investigation did reveal that the partition wall was probably a later addition to the structure as it was situated directly above the slate flooring (106). However, the fine cobbled surface (107) appeared to respect the partition wall (108) suggesting that this was contemporary with the wall (Plates 16 and 17).



Plate 14: *View southwest of flagged surface (117)*



Plate 15: *View southeast of raised cobbled surface (116) and slate surface (106)*



Plate 16: *View northwest prior to the removal of wall (108)*



Plate 17: *View northwest after the removal of wall (108)*



Plate 18: *View east of Trench 2*

4.3.10 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was located *c.*5m northeast of Trench 2, and *c.*2m south of the northern boundary wall (Figure 3). The trench was located in order to investigate a prominent earthwork believed to relate to the east wall of the rectangular structure. Trench 3 measured *c.*8.4m in length and *c.*1m in width. After the removal of *c.*0.12m of fluvial gravel (102) and *c.*0.1m of topsoil (100), a deposit of wall tumble (110) was revealed which covered the entire trench. The wall tumble measured *c.*0.45m in depth and was comprised of small-large sub-angular stones (Plate 19, Figure 6).



Plate 19: *View southwest of Trench 3 showing wall tumble (110)*

- 4.3.11 Following the removal of the wall tumble, several archaeological features were revealed within Trench 3, including the foundations of the east wall of the rectangular building. The wall foundations (**121**) measured over 1m in length, *c.*0.5m in width and survived to height of over 0.1m (Plate 20, Figure 6). The northwest to southeast aligned wall foundations were comprised of green slate and large angular stones, and appeared to correspond with the eastern extent of the earthwork marking the south wall of the building (**113**), and with stones protruding out of the northern boundary wall of the evaluation area to the northwest. However, the wall foundations (**121**) did not correspond with the earthwork which was the original focus of Trench 3, suggesting that this earthwork may have resulted from the wall tumble (**110**) which may have been largely redeposited within this area. Immediately west of the wall foundations (**121**), Trench 3 revealed a heavily disturbed cobbled surface (**119**) abutting the east wall. The cobbled surface measured *c.*0.8m x 0.8m, and was comprised of roughly laid river worn cobbles (Plate 20). The cobbled surface was flanked to the north by an area of raised cobbling (**120**), which was separated from the cobbled surface (**119**) by a slate division. The raised cobbled surface measured over 0.3m in length and over 0.2m in width, and was comprised of roughly laid river worn cobbles and slate (Figure 6).
- 4.3.12 The *c.*5m section to the northeast of the wall foundation (**121**) was devoid of any archaeological features or deposits. This section of the trench was excavated to the level of the natural substrate (**101**) was revealed at a depth of *c.*0.45m below the ground surface (Plate 21, Figure 6). The natural substrate (**101**) was comprised of compact yellow/light brown sandy clay.
- 4.3.13 Further archaeological features were revealed within the northeast end of Trench 3. These features comprised a stone-lined drain (**122**), flanked by a roughly laid cobbled surface (**111**) to the east. The cobbled surface measured over 1m x 1m, and was comprised of moderately sized river worn cobbles. The stone-lined drain was aligned north to south, and measured over 1m in length, *c.*0.24m in width, and *c.*0.15m in depth (Plate 22, Figure 6). The drain had been cut into the natural substrate (**101**), and was comprised of mid-sized rounded stones and small angular stones, forming the base and sides. It is also possible that the drain was originally covered, as a single piece of

slate was observed within the southeast facing section of the trench, directly above the drain. The drain was filled by a c.0.15m deep deposit of mid-brown silt and small rounded pebbles (123).



Plate 20: *View southeast of Trench 3 showing wall foundations (121) and cobbled surface (119)*



Plate 21: *View southwest of Trench 3*



Plate 22: *View southwest of cobbled surface (111) and drain (122)*

4.4 DISCUSSION

- 4.4.1 The topographic survey recorded a number of features believed to be associated with the former post-medieval farmstead, including building platforms, enclosures, track ways, walls, lynchets, and a possible corn-drier or stack-stand. In addition the footprint of a previously unrecognised building was identified within the enclosure, which is not recorded on any known historic maps of the site.
- 4.4.2 Although the building within the northwest corner of the study area was already known from cartographic sources and visual site inspections, the archaeological evaluation provided much needed information about the buildings date and function. Based upon the results of the evaluation, it is probable that the building was used for housing animals. The evidence for this is particularly evident within the area to the east of the central partition wall **(108)**. This area revealed several different floor surfaces, some of which are likely to relate to animal pens or stalls, accessed via a central aisle. Furthermore, tentative evidence suggests that these different areas were once physically separated by perishable materials, such as wooden fencing. The general lack of archaeological finds would also lend support to the structure being used for agricultural purposes. It is also probable that the area to the west of the central partition wall **(108)**, whilst still being agricultural in nature, had a different function to the area to the east of the partition wall. The very fine cobbled surface **(107)** to the west of the central partition wall **(108)** suggests that greater concern was afforded to this area, such as might be seen within horse stables rather than areas to house general livestock. Furthermore, the fine cobbled area and the central partition wall **(108)** appear to have been later additions to the building.
- 4.4.3 The eastern extent of the building was located within Trench 3. The addition of a further raised cobbled surface **(120)** within this area suggests that the possible animal stalls or pens continued this far east. The discovery of a further cobbled surface **(111)** and parallel stone-lined drain **(122)** within the eastern end of Trench 3 appeared to respect a further structure or boundary further east of the main structure. However, the *c.*5m of the trench between the eastern wall of the main structure **(121)** and the drain **(122)** and eastern cobbled surface **(111)** further east was devoid of any archaeological features, suggesting that either this area has been extensively disturbed, or the drain **(122)** and cobbled surface **(111)** were deposited after the collapse of the main structure.
- 4.4.4 It is unclear exactly how far the main structure extended to the west. Cartographic evidence suggests that it may have extended as far as the existing western boundary wall of the evaluation area, although no evidence of this was observed within the previously excavated United Utilities trench. However, any ephemeral features or insubstantial deposits may have been lost during excavation.
- 4.4.5 All of the finds retrieved during the evaluation support the cartographic evidence that the farmstead at Peel Place dates to the first half of the 19th century.

5 FINDS ASSESSMENT

5.1 ASSESSMENT

- 5.1.1 A total of 17 finds from 5 different contexts were retrieved during the archaeological evaluation. All finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of F. Giecco (NPA Ltd Technical Director).
- 5.1.2 **Pottery:** a total of 11 sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered during the archaeological evaluation. The pottery assemblage included a single sherd of porcelain from the topsoil (**100**) within Trench 2, four sherds of lead glazed red earthenware with a brown slip from the fluvial deposit (**102**) within Trench 2, a single sherd of porcelain and a sherd of stoneware from the fluvial deposit (**102**) within Trench 3, three sherds of lead glazed red earthenware with a brown slip from the cobbled aisle (**105**) within Trench 2, and a single sherd of lead glazed red earthenware with a yellow slip from the interior partition wall (**108**) within Trench 2.
- 5.1.3 **Metal:** a total of four hand-made iron nails were recovered during the evaluation from the topsoil (**100**) and the fluvial deposit (**102**) within Trench 2.
- 5.1.4 **Clay Pipe:** a total of two clay pipe fragments were recovered during the evaluation including a stem fragment from the fluvial gravel (**102**) within Trench 2, and a stem fragment from the wall tumble (**110**) within Trench 3.
- 5.1.5 Whilst the pottery assemblage can be dated to the 19th/early 20th century with a relative degree of certainty, it is much more difficult to assign a date to the metal nails without specialist advice. Similarly, clay pipe fragments are notoriously difficult to date without any distinguishing features. However, given the context that both the metal objects and clay pipe fragments were recovered from, it would not be unreasonable to also assign them a 19th/early 20th century provenance. Furthermore, most of the finds have come from secondary contexts (e.g. fluvial gravel and topsoil). However, the lead glazed red earthenware recovered from the cobbled aisle (**105**) and the interior partition wall (**108**) provide a relatively secure 19th century date for certain features within the rectangular structure at least.
- 5.1.6 No further work is recommended on the finds assemblage.

Context	Trench	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
100	2	Pottery	1	0.006	Post Medieval
100	2	Fe nail	1	0.016	Post Medieval
102	2	Pottery	4	0.008	Post Medieval
102	2	Fe nail	3	0.013	Post Medieval
102	2	Clay pipe stem	1	0.002	Post Medieval
102	3	Pottery	2	0.002	Post Medieval
105	2	Pottery	3	0.012	Post Medieval
108	2	Pottery	1	0.012	Post Medieval
110	3	Clay pipe stem	1	0.003	Post Medieval

Table 1: *Finds Index*

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The archaeological investigation has provided valuable information regarding the nature of archaeological features relating to the post-medieval farmstead at Peel Place.
- 6.1.2 The topographic survey recorded a number of features believed to be associated with the former post-medieval farmstead, including building platforms, enclosures, track ways, walls, lynchets, and a possible corn-drier or stack-stand. In addition the footprint of a previously unrecognised building was identified within the enclosure, which is not recorded on any known historic maps of the site.
- 6.1.3 The trial trench evaluation revealed that the rectangular building within the northwest corner of the evaluation area was probably used for housing animals. The separate areas identified within the structure are suggestive of a Shippon or cow house (Jamie Lund *pers. comm.*). Some of these areas may have been later additions to the building.
- 6.1.4 No archaeological remains were observed during the archaeological investigation of the previously excavated United Utilities trench. However, any ephemeral features or insubstantial deposits may have been lost during excavation.
- 6.1.5 Both the cartographic evidence and the finds retrieved during the evaluation suggest that the farmstead dates to the first half of the 19th century, although the possibility exists that Peel Place has earlier origins. Further documentary research may shed light on the history of the farmstead.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.1 As the purpose of this archaeological investigation was to assess the nature and extent of archaeological remains within the defined evaluation area at Peel Place, no further work is deemed necessary associated with the present study. However, it is recommended that, should the opportunity arise, further trenches should be excavated to investigate a sample of the features identified during the topographic survey. In particular excavation of the possible corn-drier or stack-stand, could provide further information regarding the nature of agricultural activities at the site. It may also be worthwhile to consider the building identified within the enclosure for further investigation, as it could be of some antiquity.

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7.1 MAPS

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APPENDIX I: CONTEXT INDEX

Context Number	Category	Trench	Above	Below	Interpretation
100	Deposit	All	102/103/108	/	Topsoil
101	Geological	3	/	102/110/121 /122	Natural Substrate
102	Deposit	All	101/104/105/106/ 107/109/110/112/ 113/115/116/117/ 118/119/120/121/ 124	100	Fluvial Gravel
103	Deposit	1	104	100	Gravel Backfill
104	Deposit	1	/	102/103	Sandy Clay/Gravel
105	Deposit	2	118	102	Rough Cobbled Surface
106	Deposit	2	114	102	Slate Surface
107	Deposit	2	/	102	Fine Cobbled Surface
108	Structure	2	114	100	Partition Wall
109	Structure	2	/	102	Eastern Threshold
110	Deposit	3	101/111/123	102	Wall Tumble
111	Deposit	3	/	110	Exterior Cobbled Surface
112	Deposit	2	/	102	Exterior Cobbled Yard
113	Structure	2	/	102	South Wall of Building
114	Deposit	2	/	106/108	Gravel Bed
115	Structure	2	/	102	Western Threshold
116	Deposit	2	/	102	Raised Cobbled Surface
117	Deposit	2	118	102	Flagged Surface
118	Deposit	2	/	102/105/117	Gravel Bed
119	Deposit	3	/	102	Interior Cobbled Surface
120	Deposit	3	/	102	Raised Surface
121	Structure	3	101	102	East Wall of Building
122	Structure	3	101	123	Stone Lined Drain
123	Fill	3	122	110	Fill of Drain [122]
124	Deposit	2	/	102	Rough Large Cobbles

Table 2: Context Index

APPENDIX II: FIGURES
