
NORTH PENNINES HERITAGE TRUST

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**REPORT ON
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD EVALUATION OF
LAND AT GARDEN VILLAGE
WIGTON ROAD
CARLISLE**

For Senator Homes

NGR NY 3735 5415

Planning Application No. 1/99/0865

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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This report documents the results of archaeological investigations on land adjacent to Wigton Road, Morton, Carlisle between March and July 2003, on behalf of Senator Homes Ltd. The report forms the archaeological component of an Environmental Impact Assessment regarding a proposed residential development.

The purpose of the fieldwork was to evaluate the presence/absence of archaeological deposits and provide a predictive model including the nature, extent, condition and state of preservation of archaeological deposits. The work was done in two phases, the first for a duration of three weeks in March 2003, evaluating fields A and B, the second for a duration of three days in July 2003, evaluating field C. Archaeological deposits were excavated in plan and, where appropriate, in section, and were recorded in order to achieve an understanding of their nature, extent, depth and state of preservation.

No significant surviving archaeological features were observed within any of the trenches excavated within Areas A, B and C. It is apparent that prior to enclosure the site consisted of poorly drained, 'barren commons' which were improved by the excavation of field drains. The poor drainage may account for the lack of evidence of human activity prior to the 18th and 19th centuries.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

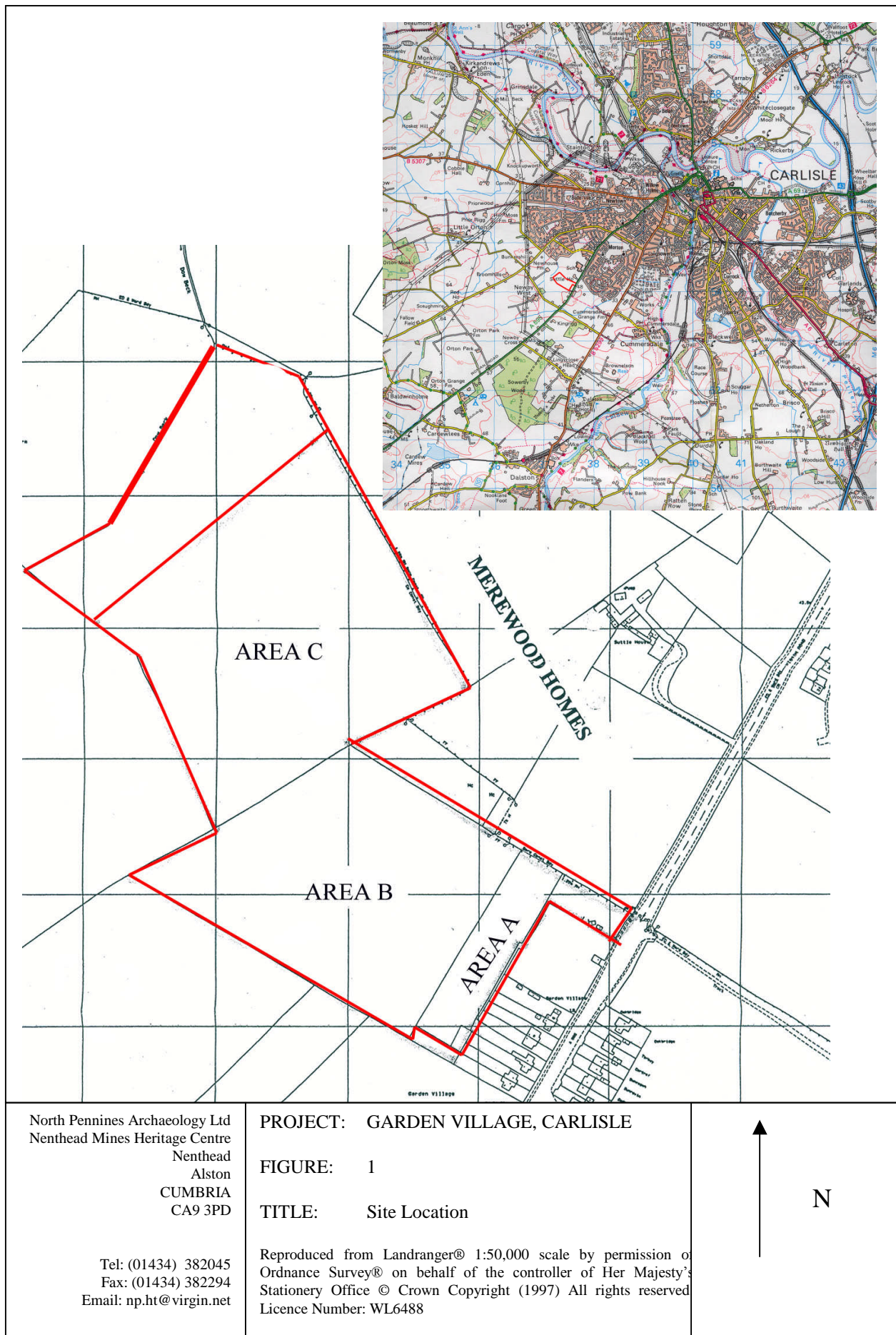
Thanks are due to the following people and institutions: Graham Parker of Senator Homes Ltd, Sue Dodwell of Woolerton-Dodwell, Frank Giecco, Ken Hope Ltd. Work on site was undertaken by Chris Jones, Trish Crompton, Ken Denham, JRC Jones, Dan Miller, Sarah Morton and Laura Scott.

1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

- 1.1 In March 2003 North Pennines Heritage Trust was commissioned by Mr Graham Parker of Senator Homes Ltd, to undertake a field evaluation of land at Garden Village, Wigton Road, Carlisle (Planning Application Reference No. 1/99/0865). This report fulfils the brief prepared by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service (March 2000). The work forms part of an overall Environmental Impact Assessment in advance of development (Woolerton-Dodwell, In Prep.).
- 1.2 Garden Village is situated to the south west of the City of Carlisle, close to the A 595 Wigton Road (NY 3735 5415). It is located close to a region of known Roman archaeology including the historic centre of the City of Carlisle and a number of forts, marching camps and associated settlements. The site is located to the west of the A 595 and consists of 3 fields comprising an area approximately 8.13ha. The area is shown in Figure 1.
- 1.3 Field A consists of an area of rough grass, field B of arable (wheat) and field C meadow used for rough grazing of horses.
- 1.4 The purpose of the fieldwork was to evaluate the presence/absence of archaeological deposits and provide a predictive model including the nature, extent, condition and state of preservation of archaeological deposits. The work was done in two phases, the first for a duration of three weeks in March 2003, evaluating fields A and B, the second for a duration of three days in July 2003, evaluating field C. Archaeological deposits were excavated in plan and, where appropriate, in section, and were recorded in order to achieve an understanding of their nature, extent, depth and state of preservation. Any artefactual material was collected to facilitate the interpretation and date of the features. No paleo-environmental material was encountered during the evaluation.
- 1.5 The area consists of a gently undulating landscape approximately 50 m AOD to the east, gently falling to a height of 48 m to the west. The geology of the region consists of mixed Devensian boulder clay and sand overlain by the brown loamy earths of the Clifton Series.

2 PREVIOUS WORK

- 2.1 Excavations undertaken on land adjacent to Suttle House in January-February 1999 by Carlisle Archaeological Unit (Reeves 1999), prior to the construction of the housing estate adjacent to the present site, found possible ploughmarks and features considered to be post holes or small pits. No archaeological material was recovered from any of the excavated deposits.
- 2.2 A desk-based assessment was undertaken by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU 2000), which formed stage one of the archaeological pre-determination works, according to the brief dated March 2000. The assessment found no direct evidence for archaeological activity within the undeveloped area.



3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 The work undertaken consisted of a field evaluation. This involved the excavation of a series of linear trial trenches approximately 30 m x 1.5 m, in order to provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains, detailing zones of relevant importance against known development proposals.

3.1.2 In summary, the main objectives of the excavation were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they are observed,
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces,
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes,
- to recover paleoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

3.1.3 Each trench was mechanically excavated by a JCB 3CX excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket to the top of archaeological deposits, or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. Each trench was then manually cleaned and all features investigated and recorded according to the North Pennines Heritage Trust standard procedure as set out in the Trusts Excavation Manual. Photography was undertaken using a Canon EOS 100 Single Lens Reflex (SLR) manual camera. A photographic record was made using 200 ISO colour print film.

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

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.1 There is evidence of human activity dating back to the Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age) period (approximately 7000 BC). Settlement evidence is extremely rare, but a number of findspots of Mesolithic microlithic technologies have been made, including a late Mesolithic triangular microlith found in Carlisle, and a possible early Mesolithic blade from Crofton, north-east of Wigton, in addition to four findspots of Mesolithic or early Neolithic (New Stone Age, to 2500 BC) material from fieldwalking for the North West Wetlands project. From the Neolithic period, two stone axes are known, both found less than a kilometre from the development site (Sites 3,4; Figure 1).
- 4.2 Evidence for Bronze Age activity (2500 BC to 750 BC) is limited in the area, but includes a broken leaf shaped arrowhead from Cummersdale and a spearhead from Carlisle (Site 5; Figure 2). There is extensive evidence of Iron Age (750 BC – 1 AD) activity within the broader region, including aerial photographic settlement evidence suggesting the development of a landscape including enclosed farmsteads, field systems and trackways for the movement of people and cattle. An example of this lies to the south of the development site where a double-ditched trackway and associated oval enclosure have been identified (Site 1; Figure 1). Similar examples exist elsewhere on the Solway Plain indicative of Iron Age settlement within the region (Bewley 1994; LUAU 2000).
- 5.1 Much of the archaeology of the Roman period is dominated by Hadrian's Wall and of the frontier defence system in the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. Hadrian's Wall extends from Bowness-on-Solway to Wallsend and its system of integrated forts, mileforts, turrets, roads and ditches are well known, including forts at Bowness, Drumburgh, Burgh-By-Sands, Carlisle and a large cavalry fort on the north bank of the Eden at Stanwix. Other forts exist along the Solway coast including extensive forts at Silloth and Maryport and also at possible fort or marching camp at Cummersdale, east of the development site. Closer to the development site lies the Roman road from Wigton to Carlisle (Site 9; Figure 2), much of which lies beneath the modern A595. Beneath Carlisle town centre lies the remains of *Luguvallum*, a Roman town or *Civitas*, a substantial civilian settlement.
- 5.2 There is little evidence for early medieval activity within the development site, although Carlisle continued to be a place of some significance (LUAU 2000, 7). The region formed part of the Kingdom of Rheged and was absorbed into the Kingdom of Northumbria in the 7th century, and Carlisle became the centre of a royal estate, later given to endow a nunnery (Summerson 1993, 10; LUAU 2000, 7). The region was conquered by William Rufus in 1092 and briefly under the ownership of David I of Scotland in 1135-52 (Ibid; Whellan 1860, 84-5).

- 5.3 The first documentary evidence, which relates directly to the development site is the Parliamentary enclosure map and award of 1770 (CROC QRE/1/90). The broader region was described in 1794 as having ‘considerable tracts of Moorish soils, which ... were very barren commons; but by inclosure and proper management, are now generally in a progressive state of improvement.’ (Hutchinson 1794, 678; LUAU 2000, 8). From the enclosure map, much of the land around the development site was newly enclosed, although some area had been previously enclosed and formed part of a classic irregularly shaped area of older ‘enclosures-by-agreement’ rather than by Act of Parliament. These ‘grounds’ included areas bounded by New House and Keld Houses to the west and north and by Suttle House and the road to the east (Figure 3).

5 RESULTS

5.1 The evaluation was undertaken by a team of professional field archaeologists directed in the field by Chris Jones, BA, MA, PIFA, North Pennines Heritage Trust Assistant Archaeologist. He was assisted by Patricia Crompton, Ken Denham, JRC Jones, Daniel Miller, Sarah Morton and Laura Scott. The fieldwork was undertaken in two phases, a three week phase for Areas A and B and a further three day phase for Area C.

5.2 A total of forty five linear trial trenches were excavated, forty four of which measured 30 m x 1.5 m, providing a total area of 45 m² with one open area trench which measured 10 m x 10 m.

5.3 All references to cardinal directions refer to site grid north.

5.4 The field evaluation has demonstrated conclusively that no archaeological remains earlier than the 19th century was present in any of the evaluation trenches.

5.5 Area A (Trenches 1-9)

5.5.1 Area A consisted of the easterly field, approximately 110m x 30m (3300m²). Trenches were positioned both along the main axis of the field, and at right angles in order to evaluate the course of any potential linear features.

5.5.2 Trenches 1-8 each measured 20m x 1.5m and were machine excavated to a depth of 0.40m. The only archaeological features present within any of the trenches consisted of 19th century horseshoe field drains. Tile draining was introduced into Cumberland by Sir James Graham on his Netherby Estates in 1819, due to a lack of available stone for 'hollow' drains (Davis 2002, 261). Tile drains made use of an abundant supply of boulder clay, the most extensive of the drift deposits of an area north-east of the Lake District and west of the Carlisle Plan (Ibid.). The natural subsoil consisted of boulder clay interleaved with sand (Context 102) beneath 0.40m of a silt loam topsoil (100).

5.5.3 Trench 9 measured 10m x 1.50m and was excavated to a depth of 0.50m. Machine excavation was halted at this depth due to the presence of a linear cut 1.0m wide and running the length of the trench, sealed beneath an extensively disturbed layer consisting of mixed topsoil (100). This feature was most likely of recent origin and related to the water supply for the existing houses at Garden Village and therefore no further work was undertaken in this trench. No natural subsoil was observed.

5.6 Area B (Trenches 10-35)

5.6.1 Area B consisted of the central field, approximately 120m x 160m (19200m²). Trenches were positioned at random across the field in order to maximise the coverage of a large area.

5.6.2 Trenches 10-30 and 32-35 each measured 20m x 1.5m and were machine excavated to a depth of 0.40m. No archaeological features were observed in

trenches 10, 13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33 or 35 except for 19th century field drains. Natural subsoil consisted of a mixed sand and boulder clay (102) sealed by a silt loam topsoil (100).

5.6.3 Within trenches 11,12 and 34 two linear features were identified (122, 125). Feature (122) consisted of a ditch approximately 0.45m wide and 0.35m deep, with a horseshoe type field drain inserted in the bottom of the ditch. Feature (125) consisted of a narrow gully approximately 0.20m wide and 0.05m deep. It is likely that the ditch and gully remained in use until the 19th century, when the tile drain was placed in the ditch and both were backfilled with silt loam topsoil. Finds from the fills of the ditch (123) and (126) contained fragments of clay pipe, late 19th century bottle glass and white glazed stoneware indicative of a late 19th century date for the backfilling of the ditch and gully.

5.6.4 Within trench 25 a series of four post holes (Group 151) were observed, each 0.10m in diameter and spaced at intervals of approximately 3m. Each was filled by a dark brown silt loam and no anthropogenic material was recovered from any of the fills. It is difficult to interpret this feature but it is likely that these post holes are the remains of a former fence line on the basis of their alignment in an east-west direction a short distance from a current field boundary.

5.6.5 Trench 30 consisted of a large, open area 10m x 10m, situated on high ground at the east end of the field excavated to a depth of 0.35m. This trench was excavated based on the recommendation of the desk-based assessment (LUAU 2000) which indicated a likelihood for surviving archaeological features on the higher ground. No archaeology was present in the trench. Natural subsoil (102) was observed at 0.35m sealed by topsoil (100).

5.7 Area C (Trenches 36-45)

5.7.1 Trenches 36-45 each measured 20m x 1.50m and were machine excavated to an average depth of 0.40m. No archaeology was present in trenches 36,37, 40, 41,43,44 or 45. Natural subsoil (102) consisted of mixed sand and boulder clay sealed by a silt loam topsoil (100).

5.7.2 Trench 38 contained a relict field boundary, visible above ground as a line of 3 trees and the remains of a cobble wall. No structural remains were present in the trench, however, a linear ditch 0.50m wide and 0.10m deep was observed (168) and a narrow gully, 0.20m wide and 0.05m deep (170) parallel to the ditch. These were of a similar character to those excavated in Area B (122 and 125) and similarly contained a dark brown silt loam (with extensive tree root disturbance). No anthropogenic material was recovered from the fills of either (168) or (125).

5.7.3 Trench 39 contained the remains of a hollow field drain (173), consisting of a linear cut into boulder clay and capped with rounded cobbles. No other archaeological features were present within the trench.

5.7.4 Trench 42 contained a linear feature (175) measuring between 0.50m and 1.0m wide and 0.60m deep, with a shallow 'U-shaped' profile and orientated east-west. This was filled by an orange-grey sandy silt (178). No anthropogenic

material was recovered from the fill of this feature. It is likely this feature was a drainage ditch and relates to agricultural activity prior to the 18th and 19th centuries, when hollow and later tile drains were introduced to improve drainage.

5 THE FINDS

- 5.1 The finds recovered from secure contexts were all of early-late 20th century in date. These included fragments of pottery, predominantly white glazed stoneware observed within the topsoil (100), fragments of clay pipe and late 19th century bottle glass. None of these finds were retained.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The only features observed were found upon excavation to be related to field drainage dating from the 18th – 20th centuries. These field drains were highly variable in character, ranging from large ditches 1.0 m wide (as observed in trenches 11, 12, 34, 35) to narrow hollow drains and tile drains. There is a visible chronological development in the drainage of the three fields from larger ditches (122, 168, 175), which probably remained open until the mid-19th century, in the case of (122) being directly replaced by a tile drain. The presence of a hollow drain in trench 39 also suggests the use of narrow ‘soak-away’ gullies within the lower lying fields, making use of available stone and possibly pre-existing the tile drains.
- 6.2 No significant surviving archaeological features were observed within any of the trenches excavated within Areas A, B and C. It is apparent that prior to enclosure the site consisted of poorly drained, ‘barren commons’ which were improved by the excavation of field drains. The poor drainage may account for the lack of evidence of human activity prior to the 18th and 19th centuries.
- 6.3 On the basis of the current available evidence the proposed housing development would have **no direct impacts** upon any recorded archaeological sites. No archaeological sites are recorded either on the site or immediately adjacent to it.

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Table 1: List of Sites and Finds Within the Study Area (see Figure 2)

SITE	SMR	NGR	CLASSIFICATION	PERIOD	GRADE
1	16560	NY 3670 5270	Cropmark	Unknown	-
2	443	NY 3900 5500	Cist Burial	Prehistoric	-
3	448	NY 3820 5460	Stone Axe	Neolithic	-
4	469	NY 3770 5510	Stone Axe	Neolithic	-
5	443	NY 3900 5500	Spearhead	Bronze Age	-
6	4968	NY 3900 5500	Carved Stone	Iron Age/RB	-
7	6172	NY 3900 5500	Horse Trapping (terret)	Prehist/Roman	-
8	6259	NY 3900 5500	Carved Stone	Iron Age/RB	-
9	10087	NY 3411 5109	Road	Roman	-
10	10509	NY 3621 5431	Pit	Pre-1868	-
11	-	NY 3762 5431	Building (Suttle House)	Pre-1770	-
12	-	NY 3708 5444	Building (Newhouse)	Pre-1770	-
13	-	NY 3791 5467	Building (Morton Cottage)	Pre-1770	-
14	-	NY 3717 5500	Building (Keld Houses)	Pre-1770	-
15	15250	NY 3750 5370	Pillbox	1939-45	-

