NORTH PENNINES HERITAGE TRUST

Project Designs and Client Reports No. CP/61/03

REPORT ON
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
AND EVALUATION OF
LAND AT BANK STREET
LONGTOWN
CUMBRIA

For Mr R Nichol

NGR NY 37840 68690

Planning Application No. 1/03/0505

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CONTENTS

1	INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION	5				
2	PREVIOUS WORK	6				
3	AIMS AND METHODOLOGY	8				
3.2	DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT	8				
3.3	VISUAL SITE INSPECTION	8				
3.4	FIELD EVALUATION	8				
4.	HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	10				
4.1	PLACE NAME EVIDENCE	10				
4.2	Prehistoric	10				
4.3	ROMAN	10				
4.4	Medieval	10				
4.5	Post-Medieval	11				
5	RESULTS	12				
5.4	Trench 1	12				
5.5	Trench 2	12				
6	A NOTE ON THE FINDS	13				
7	CONCLUSION	14				
8	BIBLIOGRAPHY	15				
Pri	MARY SOURCES	15				
SEC	SECONDARY SOURCES 15					

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Figure 1	Site Location	5
Figure 2	Location of Trenches	8
Figure 3	Hodskinson and Donald's 1774 map	13
Figure 4	Tithe Map of Longtown 1849	14
Figure 5	Ordnance Survey 1st Edition	15
Figure 6	Ordnance Survey 2 nd Edition	16
Figure 7a	Trench 1 Plan of Archaeological Features	17
Figure 7b	Trench 1 Representative Section	17
Figure 8	Trench 2 Pre-Excavation Plan of Archaeological Features	18
Figure 9	Trench 2 Post-Excavation Plan of Archaeological Features	19

Client Report ii

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1	Remains of Building A	20
Plate 2	Trench 1 showing structures 112 and 113	21
Plate 3	Trench 2 showing the remains of walls 133 and 139, Building A	21

Client Report iii

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Inventory of Sites, Monuments and Finds held in the County SMR

22

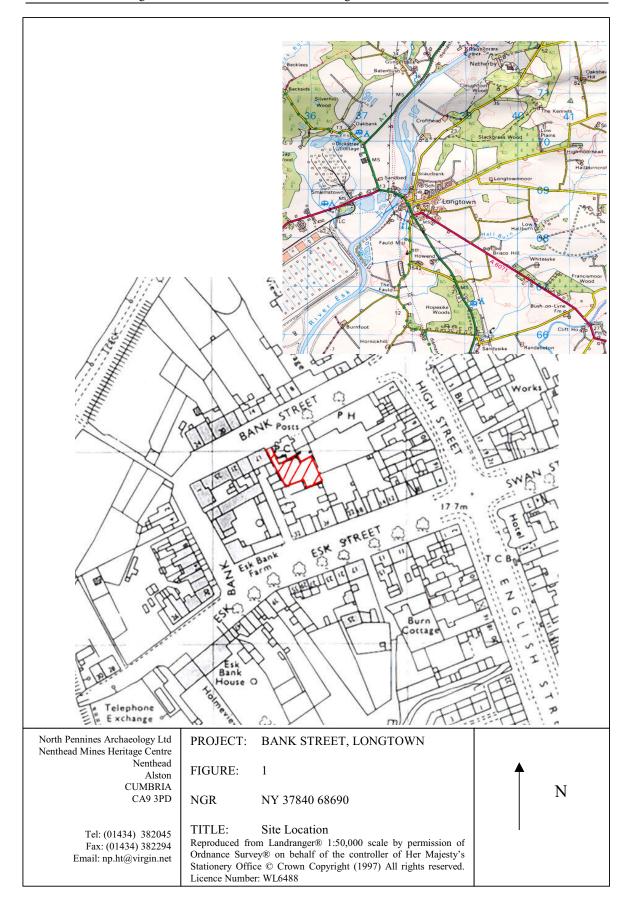
Client Report iv

1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

- In July 2003 North Pennines Heritage Trust was commissioned by Mr R Nichol to undertake the pre-determination archaeological works of land at Bank Street, Longtown, Cumbria (Planning Application Reference No.1/03/0505). This consisted of a desk based assessment and field evaluation. This report is produced in line with the brief prepared by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service and completes archaeological work on the site.
- The site is located within the centre of Longtown, an area indicated by the Cumbria Extensive Urban Survey (CCCAS) to be the site of the medieval village (NGR NY 37840 68690). The village was granted a market and fair in 1306 and stood at the river crossing on the routeway between Edinburgh and Carlisle. The site also lies within the area of the post medieval planned town, founded after 1757 by Robert Graham.
- 1.3 The site lies on land behind public toilets and consisted of an area of open ground covered by gravel and concrete. The site was most recently used as workspace for a car repair business.
- 1.4 The purpose of the fieldwork was to evaluate the site in order to define the presence or absence of archaeological remains. The fieldwork was undertaken in a single phase of four days duration. 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 archaeological features. No paleo-environmental material was encountered during the evaluation.
- 1.5 The underlying geology of the coastal area around Longtown is made up of Triassic red and grey sandstones with partings of grey mudstone (IGS, 1976). The site consists of flat ground close to the south bank of the River Esk, and stands at a height of approximately 18.40 m AOD.

2 PREVIOUS WORK

- 2.1 No previous archaeological work has been undertaken on the site at Bank Street.
- Bulman (1966) reported the clearance and excavation of St Michael's Well in the 1960s. The spring issues from the hillside and when excavated was found to have an architectural superstructure, probably erected in c. 1609 when the church was rebuilt.
- An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in advance of development on the site of the Old Saw Mill, Netherby Road. Ten linear trenches were machine excavated. A large ditch aligned north to south was identified running from the central area of the site towards the southern boundary. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this feature and its interpretation is unclear. No further archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were uncovered from the site (Moloney, 2000).
- 2.4 Carlisle Archaeology (Reeves 2000) undertook an archaeological evaluation on the proposed site of the Battle of Solway Moss, no archaeological features were found.



3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 The work undertaken consisted of a desk-based assessment, visual site inspection and field evaluation, as set out in a project design produced in accordance with a brief prepared by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service and approved by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service.

3.2 Desk-Based Assessment

- 3.2.1 This involved the consultation of the County Sites and Monuments Record in Kendal and County Record Office, Carlisle in the first instance. This included the assessment of all readily available primary and secondary documentary and cartographic material and all available aerial photographs, to achieve as fully an understanding as possible regarding the nature of the geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context of the site.
- 3.2.3 The desk-based assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 1994).

3.3 Visual Site Inspection

- 3.3.1 A visual site inspection was undertaken by the author on 23rd July 2003. This was in order to note any surface features of potential archaeological interest and to identify any potential hazards to health or constraints upon archaeological work, such as the presence of live services, Tree Preservation Orders or problems of access to the site.
- The remains of a former rectangular building were identified on the site (see Plate 1). These consisted of the remains of a doorway and traces of steps leading to a first floor entrance, and the visible remains in section of the internal construction of the building. It was decided to investigate the below ground survival of this building as it lay within the footprint of the proposed new development.

3.4 Field Evaluation

- 3.4.1 The field evaluation consisted of the excavation of a series of trial trenches in order to produce a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relevant importance against known development proposals.
- 3.4.2 In summary, the main objectives of the evaluation were:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these were they are observed.
 - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces.
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes.

- to recover paleoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.
- 3.4.3 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.
- 3.4.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (IFA 1994).

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Place Name Evidence

4.4.1 The name Longtown first appears in 1267 as Longeton in the Calendar of Charter Rolls (Armstrong et. al. 1971). According to Routledge, the name derives from Langtouni or Langetoun (Routledge, 2000, 3), the prefix of which might derive from the Welsh *glan* meaning valley, hence *town in the valley* (of the Esk) (Ibid.).

4.2 Prehistoric

- 4.2.1 Little is known regarding the prehistoric settlement of the area around Longtown. However, there are a number of unknown features of possible prehistoric date. The presence of prehistoric settlement is likely given the topographic setting of the area close to a fording point across the River Esk. Possible indicators of settlement include a cropmark complex (SMR. No. 9765) visible on an aerial photograph to the north of Longtown and a series of linear features and enclosures. Some of the marks appear to have been quarried away (Hopkins, 1990).
- 4.2.2 Pennant reported mounds which he considered to be natural but contained "coins and an urn" at Howend, Arthuret (NGR NY 337900 567700) (SMR No. 144).
- 4.2.3 A possible D-shaped enclosure visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs was observed at Arthuret (NGR NY 338100 559600; SMR No. 193).
- 4.2.4 Two mounds and a ditched enclosure were recorded by T Clare at Arthuret (NGR NY 337900 567800; SMR No. 6115).
- 4.2.5 Stray finds made within the Longtown area include a stone axe with a wooden haft which was found while peat digging on Solway Moss in 1857 (SMR No. 199) and a Bronze Age socketed spearhead found in 1950 in gravel quarries at Kirkandrews. A similar spearhead was found on Graham Street, although heavily corroded and difficult to identify.

4.3 Roman

4.3.1 Little is known of Roman settlement in the Longtown area. A coin was found in Longtown in 1983 (SMR No. 19099), dating to the reign of Constantius (Shotter, 1989).

4.4 Medieval

- 4.4.1 There is circumstantial evidence for the siting of the Battle of Arthuret, AD 573, close to Longtown. (SMR No. 5780 and Miller, 1975). This is based on the nearby place name of Carwinley as a derivation of *Caer Gwenddoleu*, proposed by Skene (Ibid.).
- 4.4.2 In 1306 the Manor of Arthuret was granted a Market Charter, although the market and fair was held at Longtown or *Longetoun*. It is at this time that the first documentary references to Longtown are mentioned (Armstrong et al 1971).

There is also evidence of a deserted medieval settlement at Arthuret (SMR No. 190). This is mentioned in the Lay Subsidy Rolls of 1334/6 and is also cited in a 12th century source. This is located close to the 12th century St Michael's Church and it is likely that the main focus of settlement shifted towards the area south of the river crossing along the main Edinburgh to Carlisle road.

4.4.3 It has been suggested that the site of the pre-18th century settlement lies off **Bank Street** and Bridge Street (CCCAS 2000). Morphological analysis of later cartographic sources support this argument (Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 1868, Figure 5), as the house plots more closely resembles the classic medieval 'burgage' pattern. However, no physical evidence exists in support of this argument.

4.5 Post-Medieval

- 4.5.1 Longtown is situated within the 'debateable lands' on the border between Scotland and England, an area known for centuries of conflict between feuding or 'reiving' aristocratic families amidst local power struggles in addition to national conflicts between the Scottish and English Kings. In 1542 James V of Scotland sent a force of 17,000 troops in retaliation for the burning of Roxburgh and Kelso by English troops under the command of the Duke of Norfolk. These troops were met by an army of some 3,000 troops from the garrison at Carlisle. Fearing this force to be an advance party for a larger army, the Scottish troops retreated back across the Esk, where, despite a rearguard defence, many were taken prisoner. The Battle of Solway Moss, as it was known, derives its name from the marshy area to the north-west of Longtown, where the conflict took place largely across a ford over the River Esk. Hodskinson and Donald's map of 1774 (Figure 3) places this battle west of Longtown (Donald, 1774) as does a map from Gentlemen's Magazine of 1771 (CCCAS).
- In 1757 Robert Graham inherited the Netherby Estates (Nicholson and Burn 1777). This inheritance of a hitherto neglected estate in poor condition (Longtown itself consisted of a dozen houses of clay and thatch in 1688) can be set against a national context of agricultural improvement. Graham rebuilt Longtown in a formal grid pattern with a wide main street, built roads and drained 1000 acres of marshy land. The houses were 2 storied, 3 bay, cobble and rubble constructed and lime rendered. The pattern of enclosed fields visible on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (1868) (Figure 5) to the south and east of the town (and beyond the north bank of the Esk) dates from this period.
- 4.5.3 The Ordnance Survey map evidence clearly shows a complex of buildings on the site now behind public toilets off Bank Street. In the early 20th century a row of four terraced houses, demolished in the 1930s, fronted the street (R.Nichol, pers. comm). Also visible on the Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition (see Figure 6) is a large rectangular building to the south of the site, a smaller rectangular building abutting it on the north side, and a building or buildings adjacent to a boundary wall at the east of the site. Nothing is known of these buildings, however, although it is likely that these were outbuildings relating to a nearby farm (also R.Nichol, pers. comm.).

5 RESULTS

- 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 JRC Jones, Dan Miller and Laura Scott.
- 5.2 A total of 2 evaluation trenches were excavated, measuring 4 m x 4 m and 5 m x 5 m respectively, providing a minimum 5% sample of the total area.
- 5.3 All references to cardinal directions refer to site grid north.

5.4 Trench 1 (Figure 7)

- 5.4.1 Trench 1 was located in the north-east part of the site, within the footprint of the proposed garage. This trench was machine excavated to a depth of 0.05 m where structural remains were observed in plan and cleaned by hand. These included a sandstone and cobble wall foundation in the northern part of the trench (103), measuring 3.20 m x 0.40 m, aligned east-west with a northerly return at the west end. To the south of this structure, with no physical relationship, a small, square, brick structure was observed (111) adjacent to a sandstone structure (112). The former was constructed entirely from late 19th-20th century engineering bricks and post-dates all archaeological deposits and structures found within the trench. The latter is of a slightly earlier character, constructed from sandstone and cobble/rubble characteristic of the late 18th century planned phase of Longtown's development.
- 5.4.2 A 1.0 m sondage was excavated adjacent to (103) (111) and (112) in order to establish any stratigraphic and/or physical relationships between these structural remains and in order to understand the stratigraphic sequence of deposits within the trench. This encountered a natural substrate at 0.90 m consisting of a red gravelly sand. The natural subsoil was sealed by a black, slag rich deposit (173) 0.19 m thick, which was in turn sealed by a mixed deposit of black silt and ash 0.05 m thick and cemented red gravelly sand deposit 0.04 m thick (161). This was in turn sealed by a thick (0.11 m) layer of heavily carbonised black silt and ash (113), possibly the product of an intense heat such as may be found in a hearth. This was in turn sealed by a similar dark carbonised deposit (118) 0.09 m thick. These slag-rich, carbonised deposits were sealed beneath demolition rubble (100) and concrete.

5.5 Trench 2 (Figure 8 and 9)

5.5.1 Trench 2 was located at the south of the site, in the footprint of the proposed residential development, on the site of the former rectangular building visible on the 1st and 2nd Ordnance Survey maps (1868 and 1901), referred to as Building A. The remains at foundation level of a large rectangular building were observed within trench 2 at a depth of 0.40 m, at which point mechanical excavation was halted and the trench was cleaned by hand and a number of targeted sample

sondages were excavated. A natural substrate consisting of a cemented red sandy gravel was observed at a depth of 0.90 m.

- 5.5.2 The stratigraphic sequence within trench 2 consisted of natural substrate (147) at 0.90 m (observed, not excavated) sealed by a mid-grey gritty clay levelling deposit 0.19 m thick (146). This was sealed by a layer of redeposited river gravel levelling deposit, 0.16 m thick (145). This was sealed by a demolition deposit consisting of a mid-brown silty clay matrix containing sandstone and cobble fragments, 0.10 m thick (144), this was overlain by an almost entirely sandstone and cobble filled demolition layer (143). This was sealed by a further redeposited river gravel deposit (142), which was in turn sealed by a mixed clay-silt levelling deposit (127) beneath a modern gravel (type 1) surface (126).
- 5.5.3 At least two building sequences were observed within Building A. The Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd Editions clearly show a large rectangular building, with a wall partition, on the site of the proposed development (Figures 8 and 9). The remains of this building were visible above ground (see Plate 2), but the relationship between these remains lay beneath a modern gravel (type 1) surface. A cobble and rubble wall foundation 4.40 m x 0.20 m, east-west aligned (133) was observed in line with the above ground remains of the north wall of Building A. A second wall (139) was observed at a 90° angle to (133), the wall measured 3.60 m x 0.20 m and was similarly constructed from cobble and rubble and was north-south aligned. It is likely that (139) formed a partition wall within Building A. Test excavation within trench 2 through a selection of targeted sondages found the south wall of Building A (171), abutting wall (139). A second partition wall (159) was observed, sealed by a layer of cobbles which, it was observed, clearly abutted wall (133). The location of this earlier wall appears to closely resemble the line of a wall on the Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition. To the north of wall (133) a sandstone paved structure (131) was observed, 2.0 m x 0.60 m, bordered by a thin, putative brick wall, possibly suggesting a lean-to structure abutting Building A. A cobbled surface was also observed to the north-east of the trench, similarly indicative of the floor of an adjacent building.

6 A NOTE ON THE FINDS

The finds recovered from secure contexts were all of 19th and 20th date, which supports the contention that the earliest occupation of the site dates from the late 18th-19th century planned town. A number of clay pipe bowl and stem fragments were recovered from within trench 1, in addition to 19th century pottery. Trench 2 yielded exclusively 19th century pottery from secure contexts.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The excavated evidence within trenches 1 and 2 appears to support the evidence visible on the Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd Edition maps. Strong evidence for buildings in the form of wall foundations were found in each trench, and the character of the earliest of these building sequences, constructed from cobble and rubble, appears to be contiguous with the construction of the planned town by Robert Graham in the late 18th century. The cobbled surfaces within Building A suggest the large rectangular building was used as a barn or stables. The carbonised deposits and the presence of slag within trench 1, which appear to clearly predate the structures observed within, suggest some sort of industrial deposit indicative, perhaps, of iron-working?
- 7.2 No evidence for medieval activity was found within any of the evaluation trenches, therefore it is possible that the extent of the medieval settlement did not extend to this area.
- 7.3 The use of a number of targeted sondages within trenches 1 and 2 has facilitated the collection of data sufficient to interpret the archaeological remains within, and as a result archaeological work was concluded upon completion of the fieldwork. No further work is recommended.

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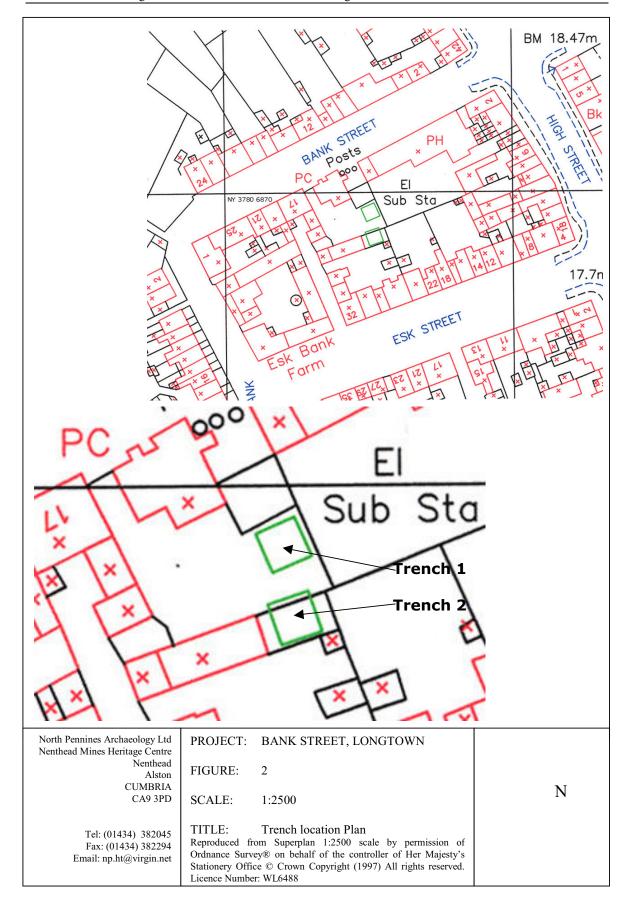
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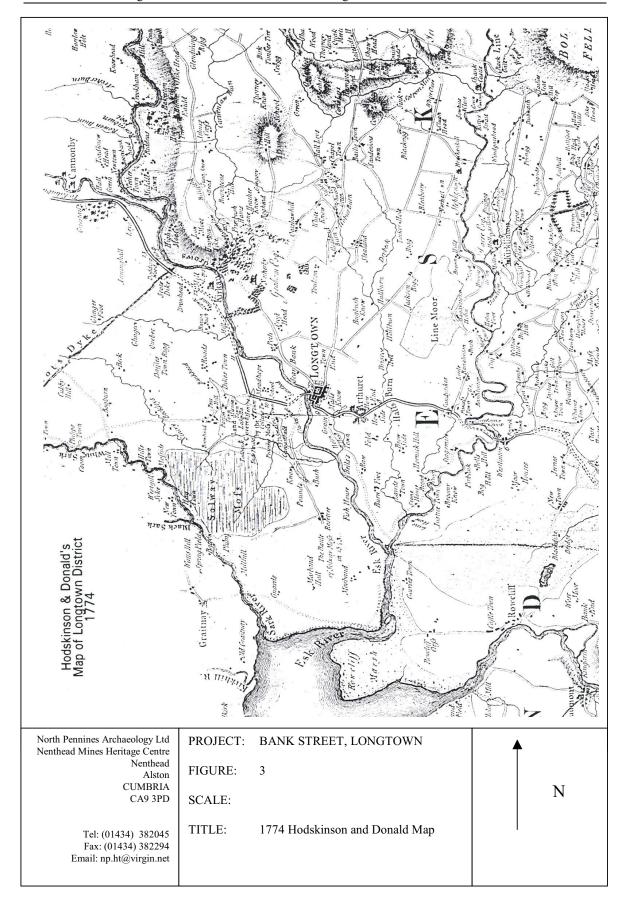
Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1868. HMSO © Crown Copyright

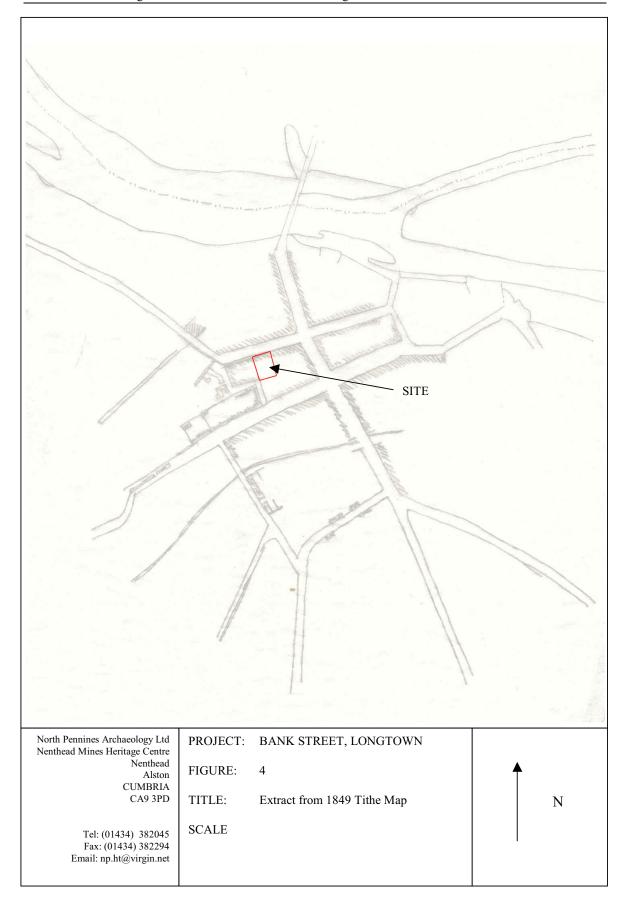
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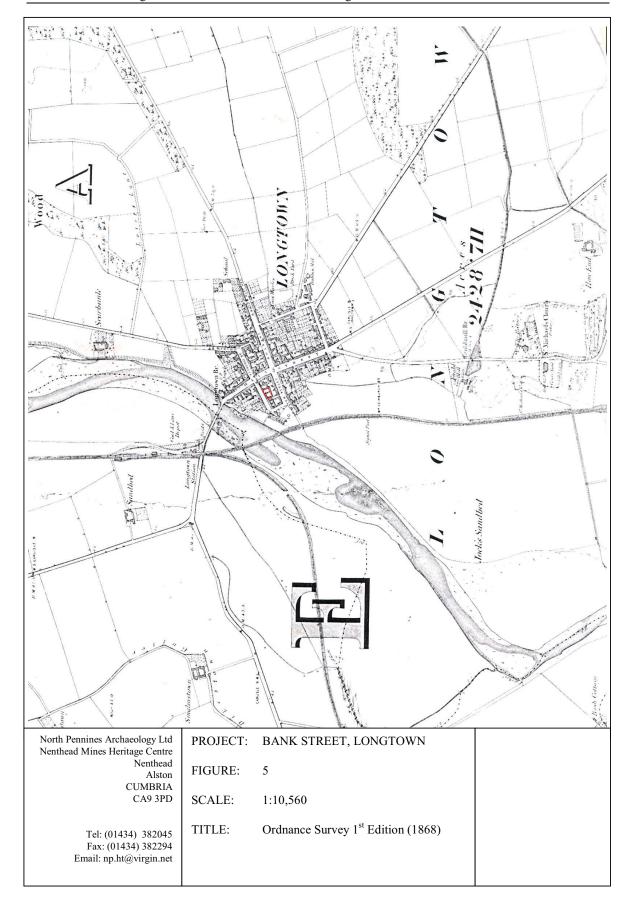
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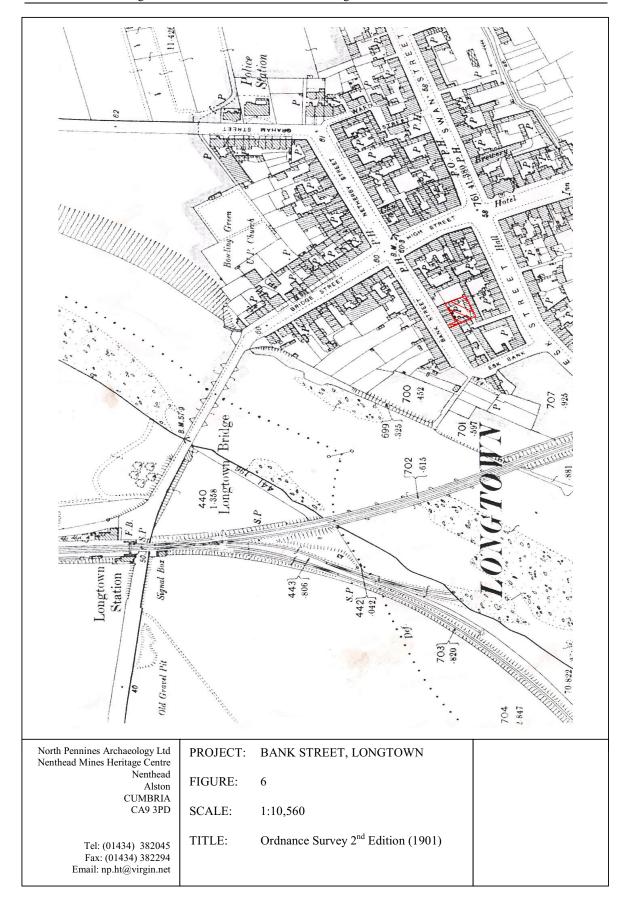
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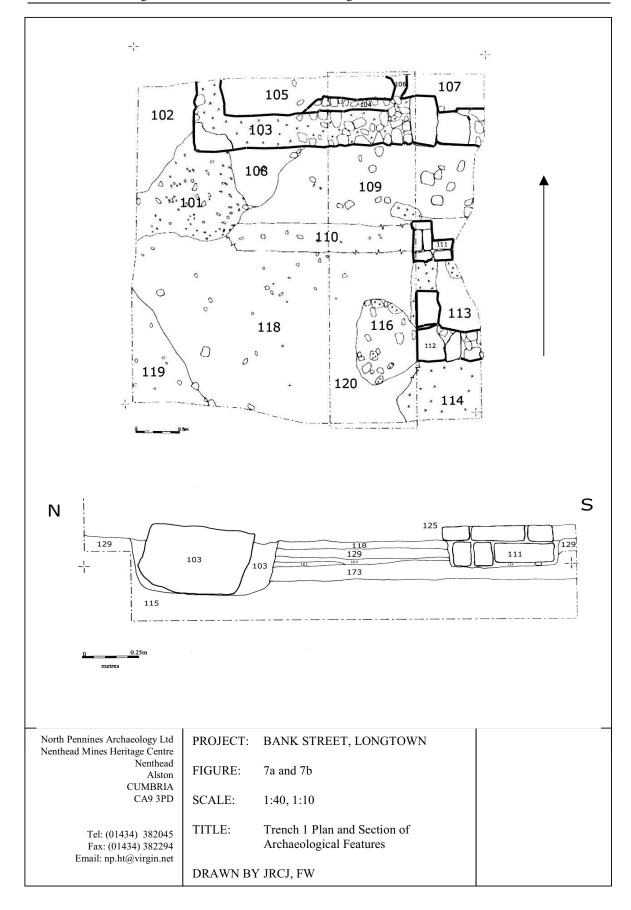


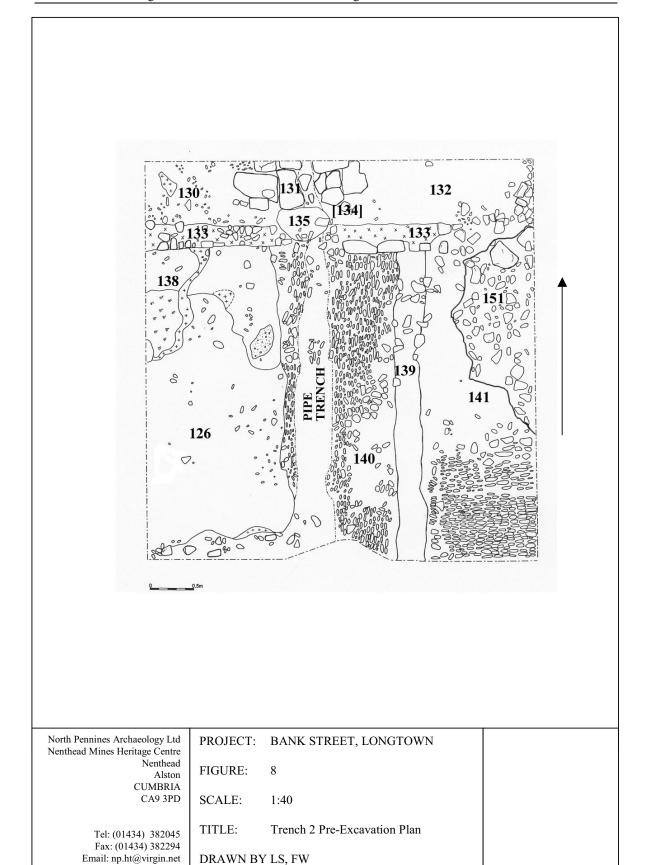












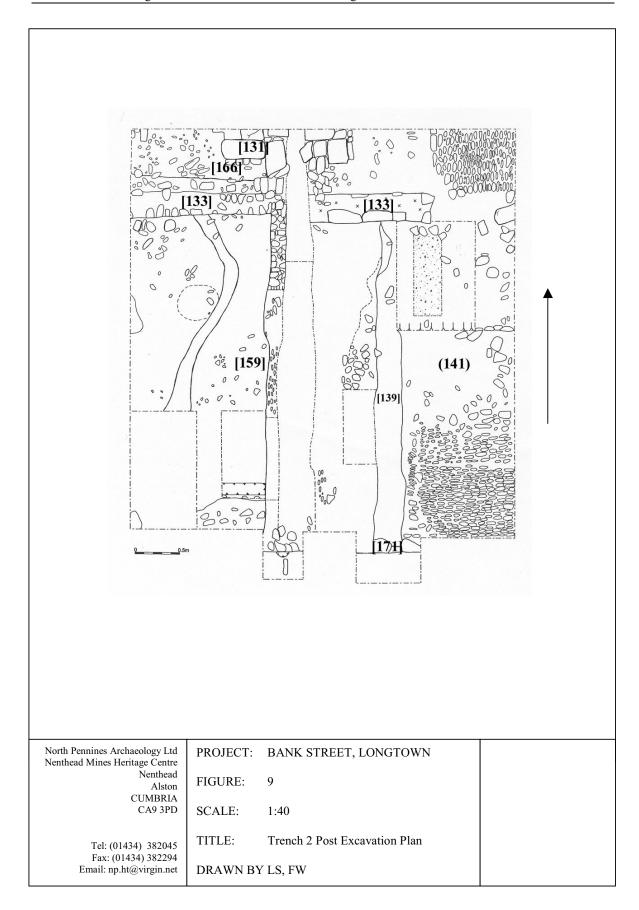




Plate 1: The remains of Building A, showing floor timbers and wall construction in section, modern roof and brickwork. (Photo: Chris Jones)



Plate 2: Trench 1 Showing the remains of structures 103 and 112. (Photo JRC Jones)



Plate 3: Trench 2 Showing the remains of building A, walls 133 and 139. (Photo: JRC Jones)

Table 1: Catalogue of Sites, Monuments and Findspots held in the County SMR

SMR NO.	Description	Period	Scheduled
144	Howend Burial, Arthuret	Unknown	
190	Arthuret Deserted Village	Medieval	
193	Arthuret Enclosure	Unknown	
200	Kirkandrews Spear Find	Prehistoric	
4586	Battle of Solway Moss, Kirkandrews	Post Medieval	
4587	Arthuret Holy Well	Post Medieval	
5316	Bobbin Mill, Longtown	Post Medieval	
6115	Arthuret Mound	Unknown	
6116	Arthuret Ditched Enclosure	Unknown	
6117	Arthuret Cross	Unknown	
9765	Netherby Park Cropmark Complex	Unknown	
10684	Longtown Coal and Lime Depot	Unknown	
10685	Longtown Gasworks	Unknown	
10687	Longtown Railway Station	Unknown	
10688	Fauld Mill Water Corn Mill	Unknown	
13503	Toll Bar Cottage, Kirkandrews	Post Medieval	LB
16861	Kirkandrews World War II Pillbox	Modern	
19168	Spearhead, Graham Street, Longtown	Unknown	
19315	Linear Feature, Old Saw Mill Site	Unknown	
19610	Slab with Bird Carving, Longtown	Post Medieval	
19780	Longtown 18thC Planned Town	Post Medieval	