NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Project Designs and Client Reports No. CP/96/03

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION OF LAND AT MOOR ROAD LONGTOWN CUMBRIA

For
MONTGOMERY
HOUSING

NGR NY 3855 6880

Planning Application No. 1/03/1189

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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and field evaluation on land at Moor Road, Longtown, Cumbria, ahead of a proposed residential development. This involved the consultation of the Cumbria County Council Sites and Monuments Record and County Records Office and the excavation of a series of linear trial trenches in order to assess the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains.

A total of 11 linear trial trenches were excavated. Two small undated pits were recorded in trench 1. No other archaeological remains were present across the site which contained large areas of major 20th century disturbance.

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1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

- In December 2003 North Pennines Heritage Trust was commissioned by Mr D Montgomery of Montgomery Housing to undertake pre-determination archaeological works of land at Moor Road, Longtown, Cumbria (Planning Application Reference No.1/03/1189). 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.
- The site is located on the eastern edge of Longtown, just outside the 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 open ground to the south of Moor Road, opposite Moor Road housing estate.
- 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 five days duration in early January 2004.
- 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 Moor Road.
- 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 circa 1609 when the church was rebuilt.
- An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Headland Archaeology 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-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 land which may have been used during the Battle of Solway Moss, no archaeological features were found, although a single musket ball was recovered.
- 2.5 The North Pennines Heritage Trust carried out an archaeological evaluation on Bank Street in 2003. 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.

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 The work undertaken was 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 The desk-based assessment 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. 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 9th of December 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.
- 3.3.2 The site comprised overgrown waste ground with areas of recent unauthorised refuse dumping. No earthworks, or any other topographical features of note were observed during the site visit.

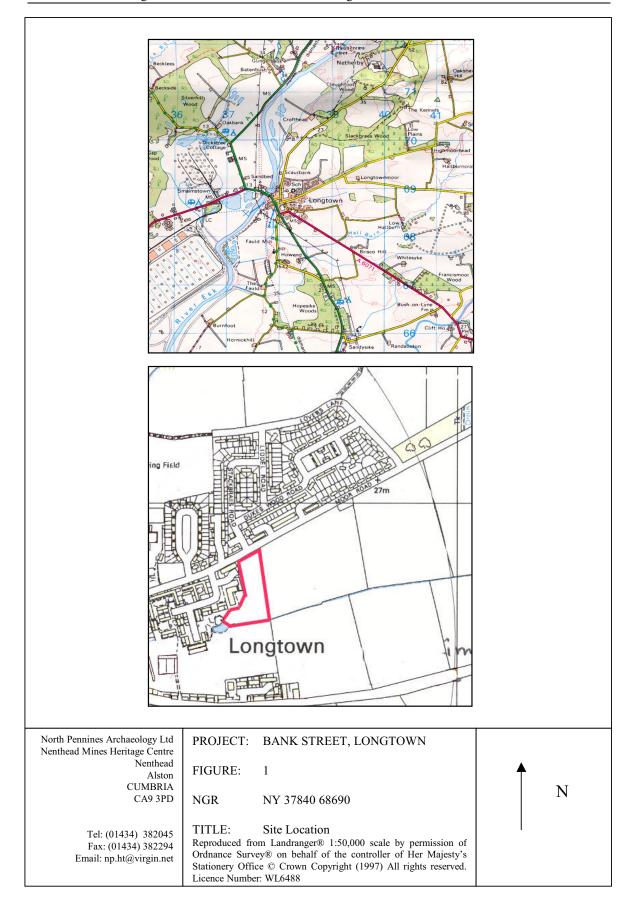




PLATE 1: The northern side of the development area.



PLATE 2: The southern side of the development area.

3.4 Field Evaluation

- 3.4.1 The field evaluation consisted of the excavation of 11 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 Trust's Excavation Manual.
- 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

4.1.1 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, together with a series of linear features and enclosures (SMR. No. 9765) visible on an aerial photograph to the north of Longtown. 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 to the north of Longtown (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). It is also possible that the crop marks (SMR 193 and 9765) recorded at NY 3381 5696 to the north of Longtown and NY 3381 5691 at Arthuret could relate to Romano British settlement in the area.

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.).

- 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. The Medieval settlement is located close to the 12th century St Michael's Church, 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 of Longtown 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 to support this.

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 2) 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, roads were built and 1000 acres of marshy land were drained. The houses belonging to Graham's rebuilding were of 2 storied, 3 bay, cobble and rubble construction and were lime rendered. The pattern of enclosed fields visible on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey (1868) (figure 4) to the south and east of the town (and beyond the north bank of the Esk) dates from this period.
- 4.5.3 The Tithe and Ordnance Survey map evidence (see figures 3,4 and 5) clearly shows that the proposed development area has never been occupied in the post medieval period, with the site being situated well to the east of the projected limits of medieval Longtown and just to the east of the limits of the 19th century expansion of the town along Moor Road. The unenclosed land around Longtown is likely to have been used for grazing and there is a high probability that the

field has never been put under cultivation. The site was still unenclosed in 1849 (see figure 3) and therefore must have been enclosed in the following decade as the area is all enclosed by the first edition OS map of 1868 (see figure 4). The exact date of this enclosure was difficult to pinpoint as the enclosure was carried out privately by the Graham Estate, which appears to still hold its own archive which is unavailable for public consultation.

4.5.4 The most significant information to come out of this research to have a direct bearing on possible archaeology of the site was the position of Moor Road. On the 1849 tithe map Mary Street which becomes Moor Road once it leaves the town centre, takes a kink to the south after leaving Longtown. This kink appears to take the line of this road directly across the northern edge of the development site. By the fist edition OS map of 1868 Moor Road had been straightened and moved to its current position.

5 THE EVALUATION RESULTS

- 5.1.1 Chris Jones, BA, MA, PIFA, Assistant Archaeologist, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd directed the evaluation in the field. He was assisted by Ken Denham BA, Patricia Crompton, MA Hons, Project Assistants.
- 5.1.2 A total of eleven linear trial trenches were excavated, providing a total sample area of 382.5m² (see figure 7).
- 5.1.3 All references to cardinal directions refer to site grid north. In the NPA site archive this project has been given the site code of MOL-A.

5.2 TRENCH 1

- 5.2.1 Trench 1 was located at the north-east corner of the proposed development area, at a right angle to Moor Road, and measured 31m by 1.5m. The natural subsoil consisted of orange brown silty boulder clay.
- 5.2.2 The earliest recorded feature was a small sub-rounded pit (106) measuring approximately 0.90m in diameter and 0.25m in depth (see figure 8). The primary fill was a grey/brown silty clay (104) which was sealed by a thin layer of redeposited natural boulder clay (103). This layer of boulder clay was in turn sealed by dark brown friable sandy silt (102).
- 5.2.3 Context 102, the uppermost pit fill, was then cut by a later shallow sub-rounded pit (105) with irregular sides and a pointed base. This feature was filled by one light brown sandy silty clay deposit (101).
- 5.2.4 Context 101 was sealed by approximately 0.40m of modern topsoil. Neither feature 105 or 106 produced any finds whatsoever making the dating of these two features problematic. Their location alongside the hedge of Moor Road could suggest that they are associated with the realignment of Moor Road in the 19th century.
- 5.2.5 No other features of archaeological note were observed in trench 1.

5.3 TRENCH 2

- 5.3.1 Trench 2 was located to the west of trench 1 at 90 degrees to trench 1 and measured 16m by 1.5m. Natural subsoil was recorded at a depth of 0.40m.
- 5.3.2 No features of archaeological note were recorded in trench 2.

5.4 TRENCH 3

- 5.4.1 Trench 3 was located to the west of trench 2 at 90 degrees to trench 2 and measured 30m by 1.5m. Natural subsoil was recorded at a depth of 0.30m.
- 5.4.2 No features of archaeological note were recorded in trench 3.

5.5 TRENCH 4

- 5.5.1 Trench 4 was located to the south of trench 2 and measured 20m by 1.5m. Natural subsoil was recorded at a depth of 1m. The whole trench was contained within a large modern cut feature (124).
- 5.5.2 This feature contained large quantities of brick, ceramic and plastic pipe and must date to the late twentieth century; probably representing major infilling with building debris related to the adjacent housing estate.
- 5.5.3 No other features of archaeological note were observed in trench 4.

5.6 TRENCH 5

- 5.6.1 Trench 5 was situated in the centre of the development site and was aligned north south running parallel to the eastern edge of the site for a distance of 50m. The trench contained the continuation of the large modern machine cut feature (124) seen in trench 4, extending for approximately 40m and having a maximum depth of 2m. This feature extended past the trench edges to the east and west and was also recorded in trenches 7, 8 and 9.
- No other features of archaeological note were observed in trench 4.

5.7 TRENCH 6

- 5.7.1 Trench 3 was located to the west of trench 4 and was aligned north-south, and measured 20m by 1.5m. Natural subsoil was recorded at a depth of 0.20m.
- 5.7.1 No features of archaeological note were recorded in trench 6.

5.8 TRENCH 7

- 5.8.1 Trench 7 was located to the west of trench 5 and was aligned east-west, and measured 10m by 1.5m. The whole trench was contained within a large modern cut feature (124), which was recorded with a maximum depth of 1.85m.
- No features of archaeological note were recorded in trench 7.

5.9 TRENCH 8

- 5.9.1 Trench 8 was aligned northeast-southwest and measured 1.5m by 20m. The trench was located to the south of trench 7 and defined the southern limit of cut feature 124.
- 5.9.2 No features of archaeological note were recorded in trench 8.

5.10 TRENCH 9

- 5.10.1 Trench 9 was located to the east of trench 8 and was aligned north/south and measured 20m by 1.5m. The southern limit of feature 124 was again defined within this trench, which was recorded with a maximum depth of 90m.
- 5.10.2 No features of archaeological note were recorded in trench 10.

5.11 TRENCH 10

- 5.11.1 Trench 3 was located to the south of trench 9 on an east-west alignment and measured 30m by 1.5m. Natural subsoil was recorded at a depth of 0.25m.
- 5.11.2 No features of archaeological note were recorded in trench 10.

5.12 TRENCH 11

- 5.12.1 Trench 11 was located to the west of trench 10 on a northwest/southeast alignment and measured 8m by 1.5m. Natural subsoil was recorded at a depth of 0.30m.
- 5.12.2 No features of archaeological note were recorded in trench.

6 CONCLUSION

- The findings from the desk-top study indicated that the site had not been built on or occupied in any way in the post-medieval period. From the site's location, well outside the medieval focus of Longtown it was unlikely to contain any significant medieval deposits. It was possible that the northern fringes of the site may contain areas of cobbling and possible drainage ditches associated with the original course of Moor Road.
- 6.2 There was no direct evidence to pinpoint any Roman or Prehistoric activity in the study area. However, nearby crop marks to the north and south of Longtown appear to indicate that significant prehistoric activity has taken place in the vicinity of the development site.
- 6.3 The fieldwork programme failed to find any evidence of the original line of Moor Road. The two undated pits in trench 1 were the only features encountered during the excavation, which could not definitely be assigned a modern date, although a 19th century date can't be ruled out.
- The centre of the development site was dominated by major 20th century disturbance, with over 1.8m of dumped material filling either a machine excavated pit or natural hollow. It is highly likely that this infilling is associated with the construction of the adjacent housing estate.

No other features of archaeological note were observed.

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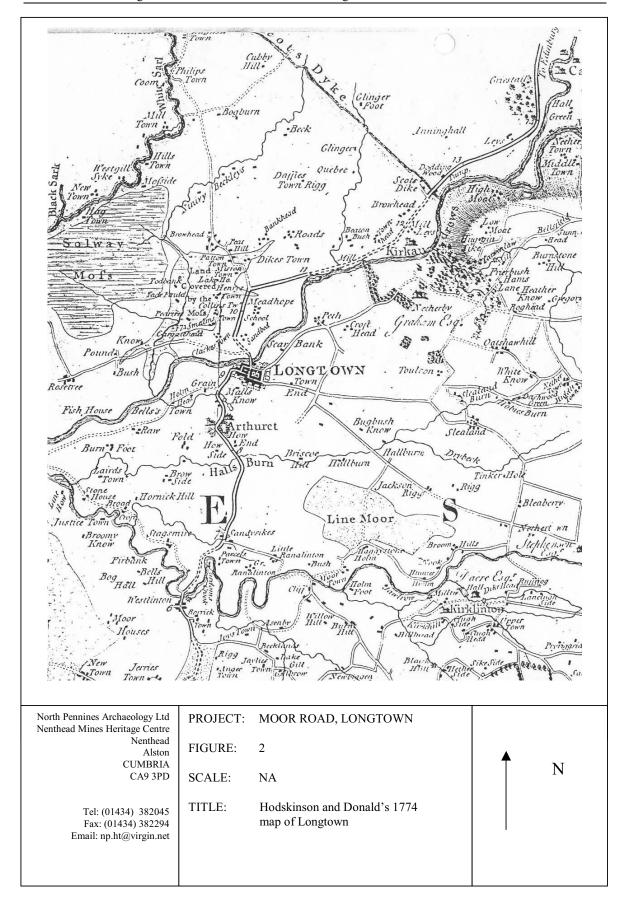
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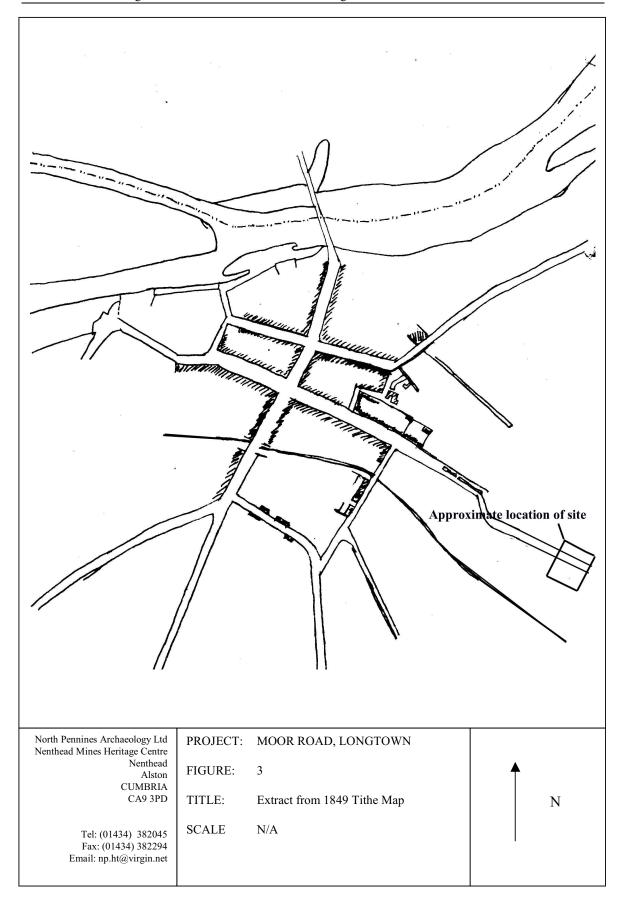
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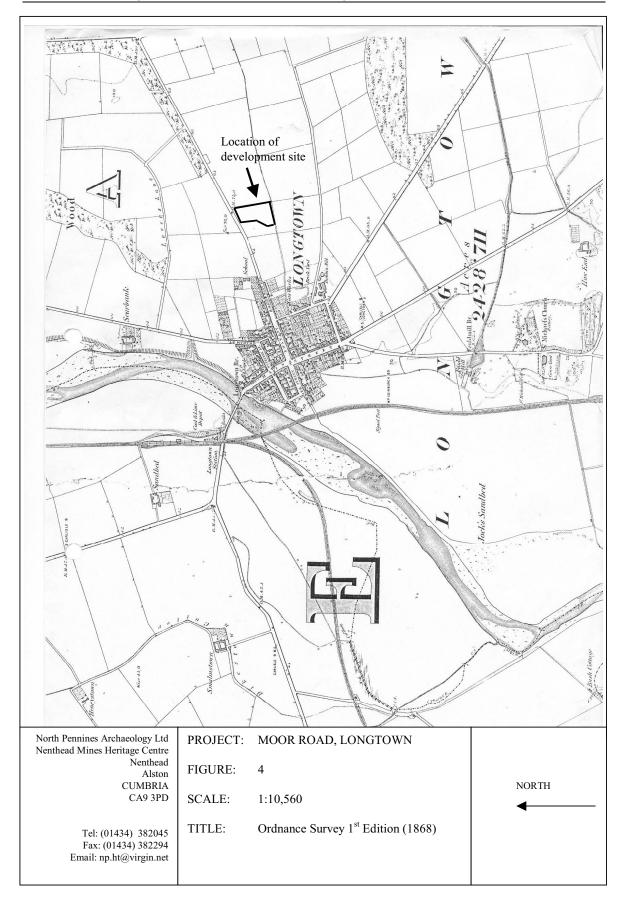
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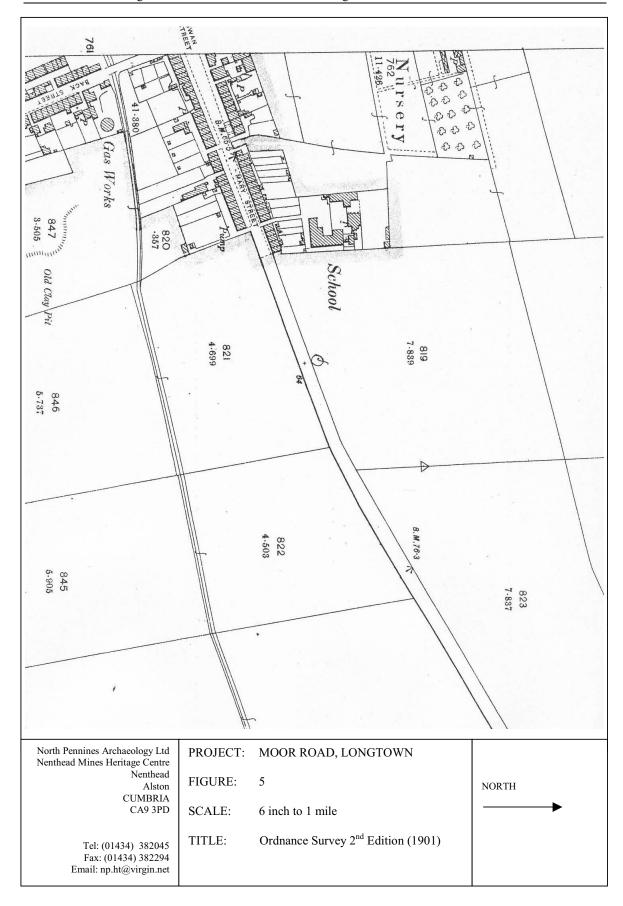
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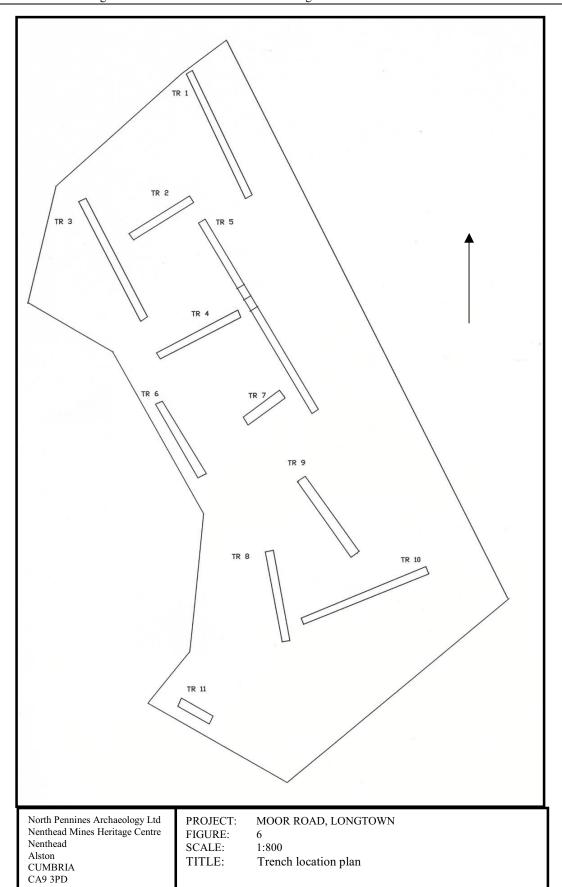
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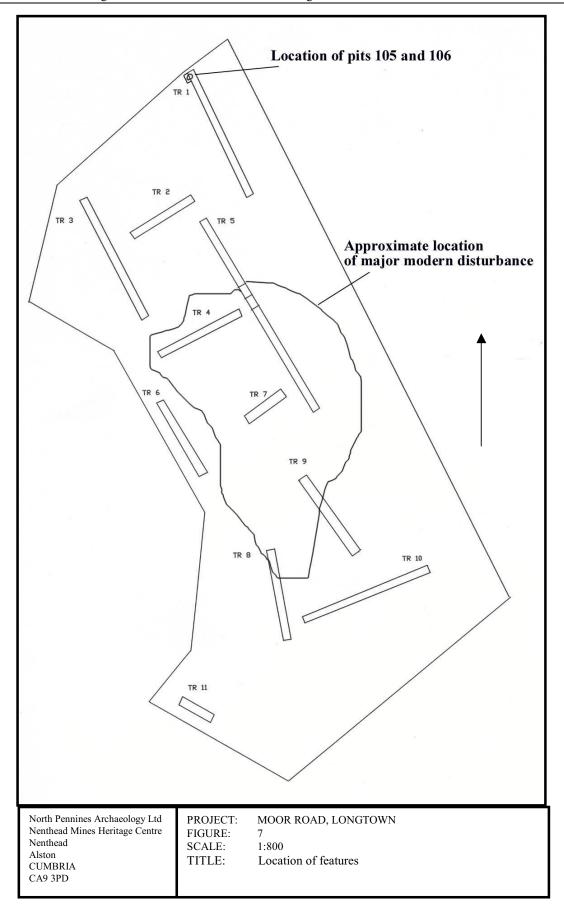












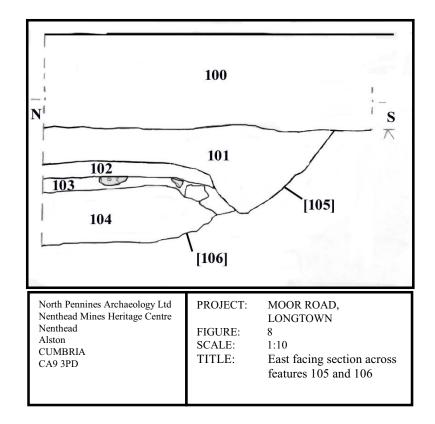


Table 1: Catalogue of Sites, Monuments and Findspots held in the County SMR

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