
NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Project Designs and Client Reports No. CP/79/04

**REPORT ON
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF ON
LAND AT LANERCOST
HOUSE
BERKELEY GRANGE
CARLISLE**

**FOR WESTMINSTER
HEALTH CARE LTD**

NGR NY 3785 5600

**Planning Application
Reference: 1/03/0901**

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1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

- 1.1 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were invited by R Woodcock, of Gelder and Kitchen, acting on behalf of Westminster Health Care Ltd, to maintain an archaeological watching brief of works at Lanercost House, Berkeley Grange, Carlisle. The work was requested in a brief provided by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service, as the scheme affected an area of archaeological significance, recorded on the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR No. 16559 & 4677).
- 1.2 The site is located adjacent to Moorhouse Road, Carlisle (NY 3785 5600), an area of former open fields until the late 20th century when a new development which included a housing estate and nursing home, was constructed.

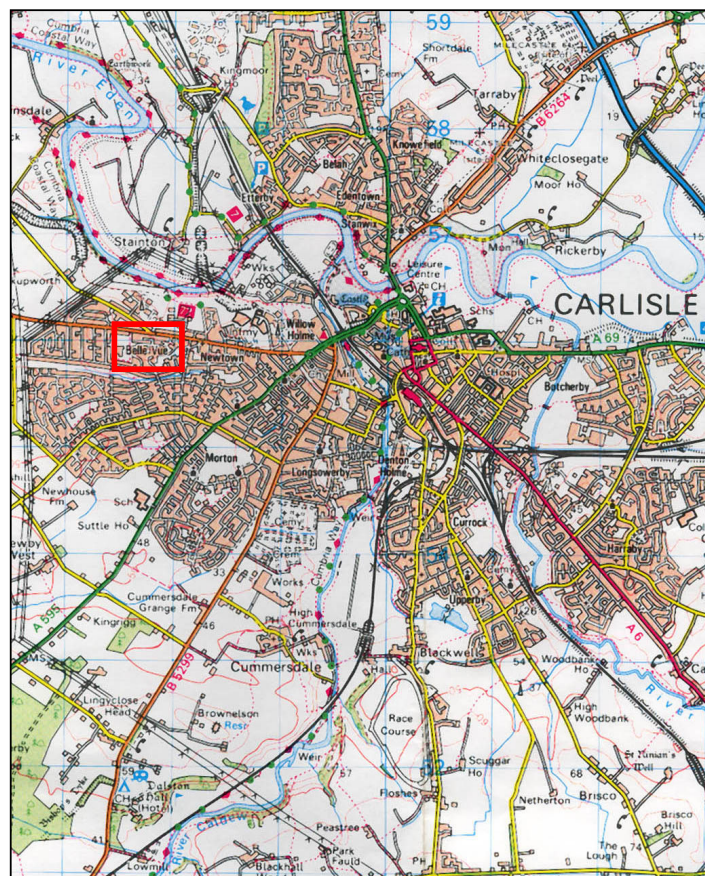


Figure 1: Site Location (1:50,000)

2 PREVIOUS WORK

- 2.1 There has been no previous archaeological work on the site.

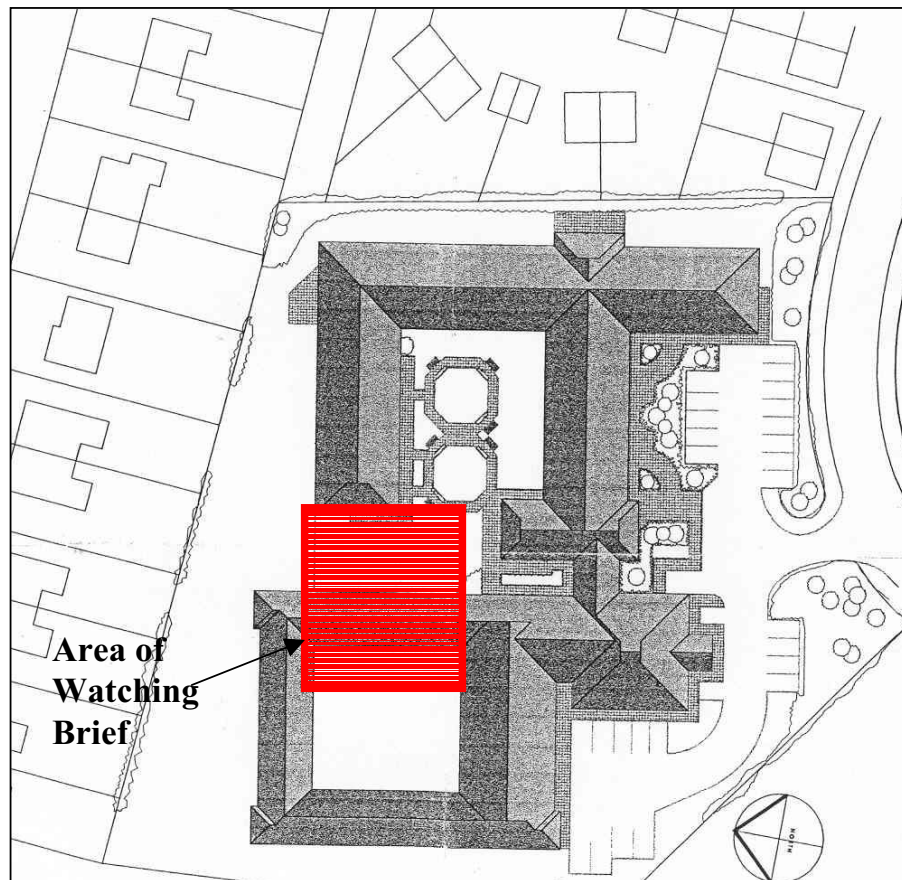


Figure 2: Site Plan (Scale : 1:1000)

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The study area lies to the south of a Roman road (SMR 4677) on the fringes of western Carlisle. An undated but possibly Roman or prehistoric complex of cropmarks visible from aerial photographs (SMR 16559) suggests a form of enclosed, nucleated settlement within close proximity.
- 3.2 All historic maps until the late 20th century show the site to have been undeveloped until this time (Figures 3-7).

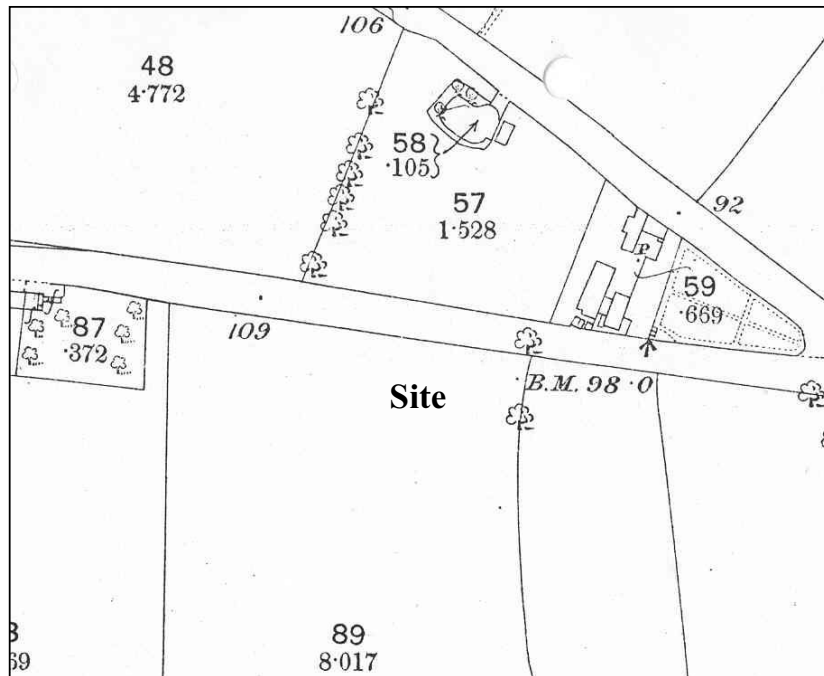


Figure 3: Ordnance Survey 1st Edition (1865)

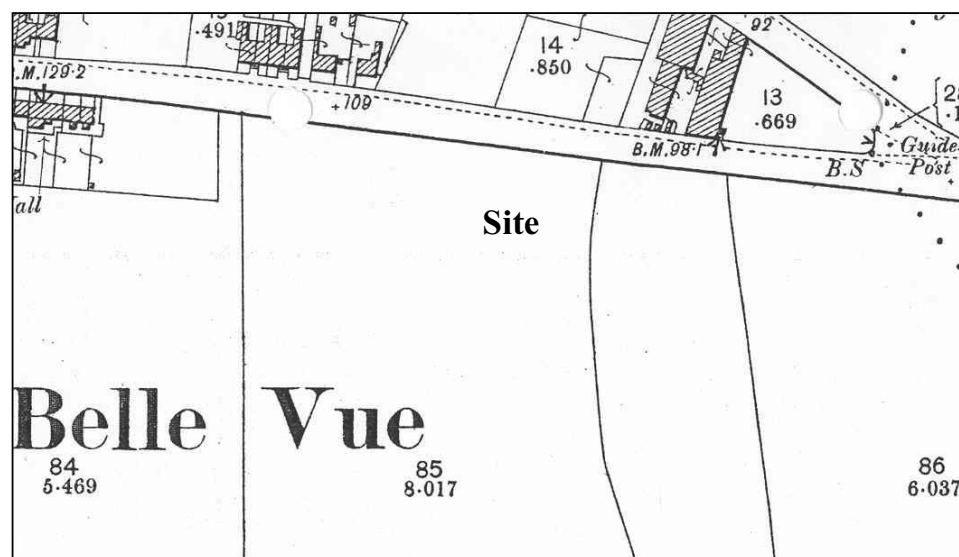


Figure 4: Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition (1901)

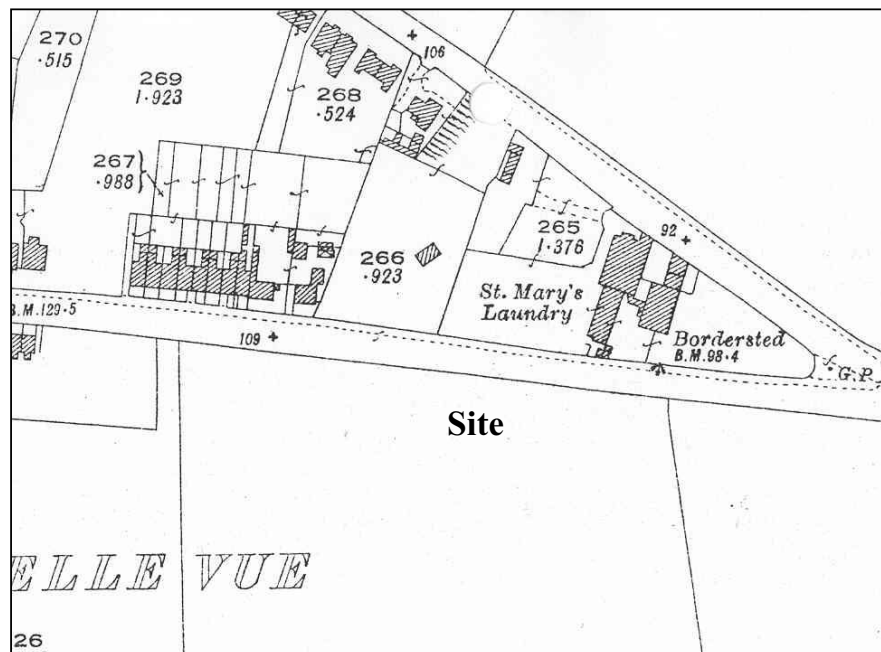


Figure 5: Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition (1925)

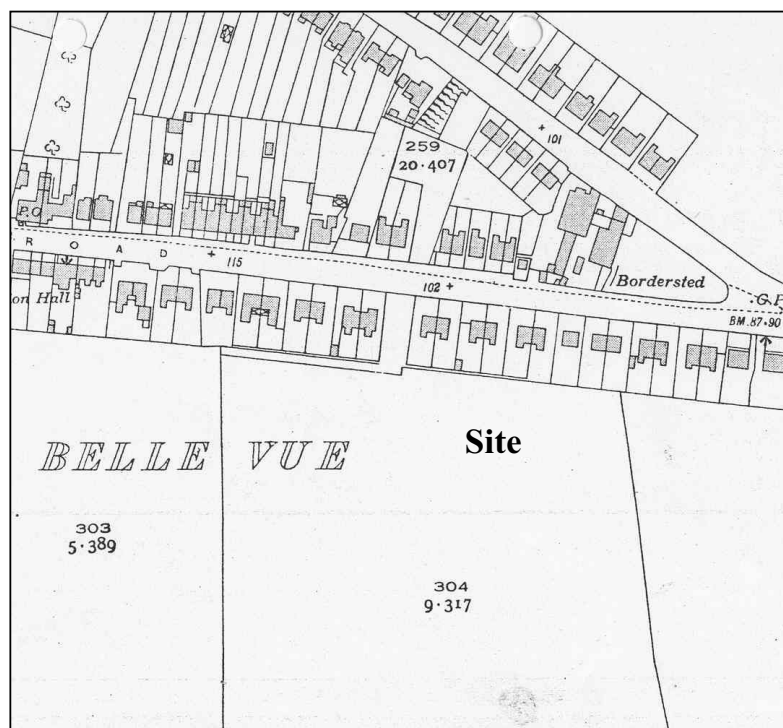


Figure 6: Ordnance Survey 4th Edition (1937)

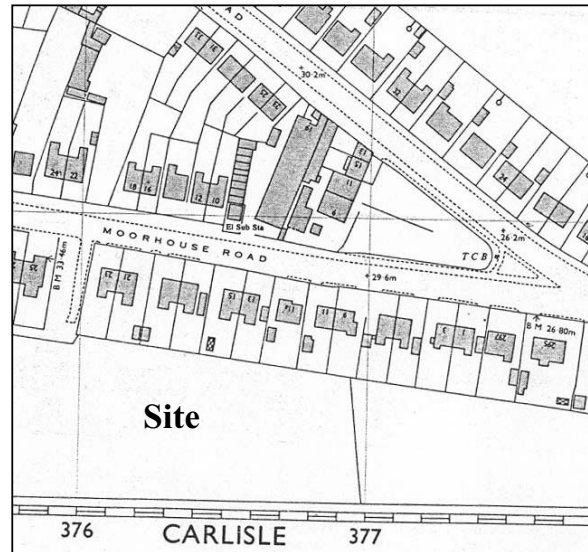


Figure 7: Ordnance Survey 5th Edition (1970)

4 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

4.1 The work undertaken consisted of a watching brief.

4.2 Watching Brief

4.2.1 The aims of the watching brief were as follows:

- to supervise all topsoil stripping and excavation for footings and/or service trenches and clean and record any putative archaeological features and produce a stratigraphic record;
- to record archaeological deposits;
- to establish, wherever possible, the depth of archaeological remains;
- to establish, wherever possible, the condition of the remains;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover paleoenvironmental material where it survives.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The watching brief was maintained for a total of 5 days by Chris Jones BA, MA, AIFA and Gerry Martin BA, MA, MIFA.
- 5.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed within the foundation trenches. A layer of glacially deposited boulder clay (101) was observed at a depth of c. 0.60m sealed by a mixed layer of slightly humic topsoil (100) or gravel sub-base (102).
- 5.3 The stratigraphic sequence has suggested that during the construction of Lanercost House the foundations were excavated through the natural boulder clay within the courtyard area. This has removed any archaeological deposits which may have existed. The spoil from this area may have been re-used during landscaping works, which has raised the former ground surface outside of the original development.

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The results of the watching brief have suggested that all archaeological deposits have been removed during the construction of the nursing home, which has resulted in the site being archaeologically sterile.
- 6.2 No archaeological structures or deposits could be observed and no anthropogenic material recovered from within any of the excavations.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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