
NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Project Designs and Client Reports No. CP/141/04

**REPORT ON
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION AT
MIDDLE FARM
NEWTON ARLOSH
CUMBRIA**

**For
MRS FOSTER**

NGR NY 1965 5501

**Planning Application No.
2/04/0066**

F Giocco BA, Dip Arch, AIFA
North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre
Nenthead
Alston
Cumbria CA9 3PD
Tel: (01434) 382045
Fax: (01434) 382294
Email: info@nparchaeology.co.uk

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In August 2004 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological field evaluation on land at Middle Farm, Newton Arlosh, Cumbria. This was in response to a brief prepared by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service following a planning application for a private development by the client, Mrs Foster.

The work followed a desk-based assessment and site visit. The field evaluation involved the excavation of two linear trial trenches in order to assess the presence/absence, extent, nature and state of preservation of archaeological deposits within a minimum 5% sample of the proposal area.

The five evaluation trenches found few deposits of archaeological interest. Of the limited features identified including the cobbled yard surface in trench 4, none could be dated any earlier than the late 19th century. The last remains of the clay barn and farm house of likely 17th century date which once formed the core of middle farm were removed during the clear up operation relating to the foot and mouth epidemic of 2001.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the following people, Patricia Crompton, Joanne Beaty, of North Pennines Archaeology Ltd, Alan James, Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service and Mrs Foster.

1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

- 1.1 In August 2004 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Mrs Foster to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on land at Middle Farm, Newton Arlosh, Cumbria (Planning Application Reference No. 2/04/0666). This report fulfils a brief prepared by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service.
- 1.2 The village of Newton Arlosh may have been settled prior to its recorded Edwardian foundation in 1305, but there is no firm evidence to back this up. Little is known of the size of the planned settlement which contained a church, market place and possible strip settlement. No evidence of this medieval settlement has yet been recorded and it was thought that Middle Farm may have been situated over a part of this medieval village.
- 1.3 The purpose of the assessment 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 three 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.

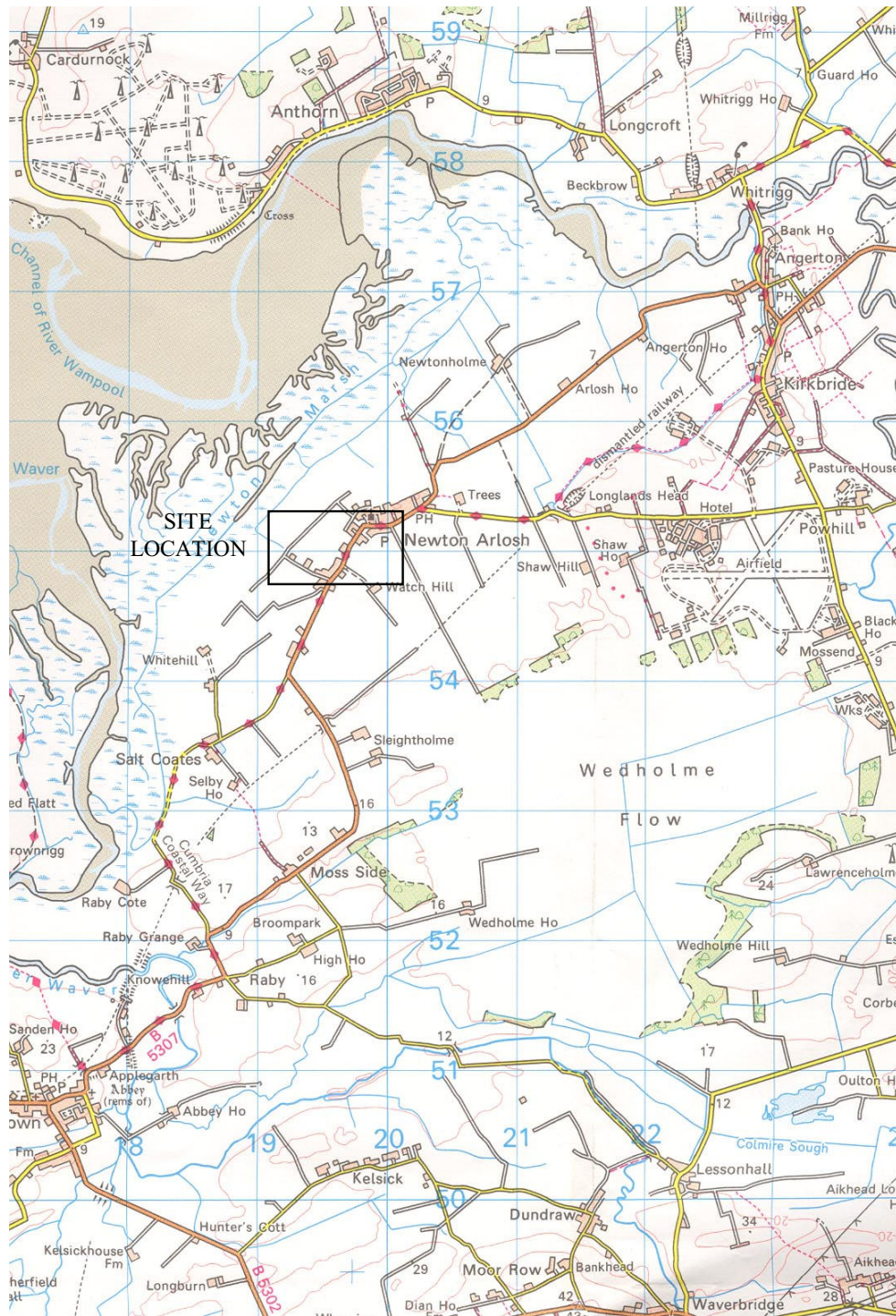


FIGURE 1: AREA LOCATION
NGR: NY 1965 5501

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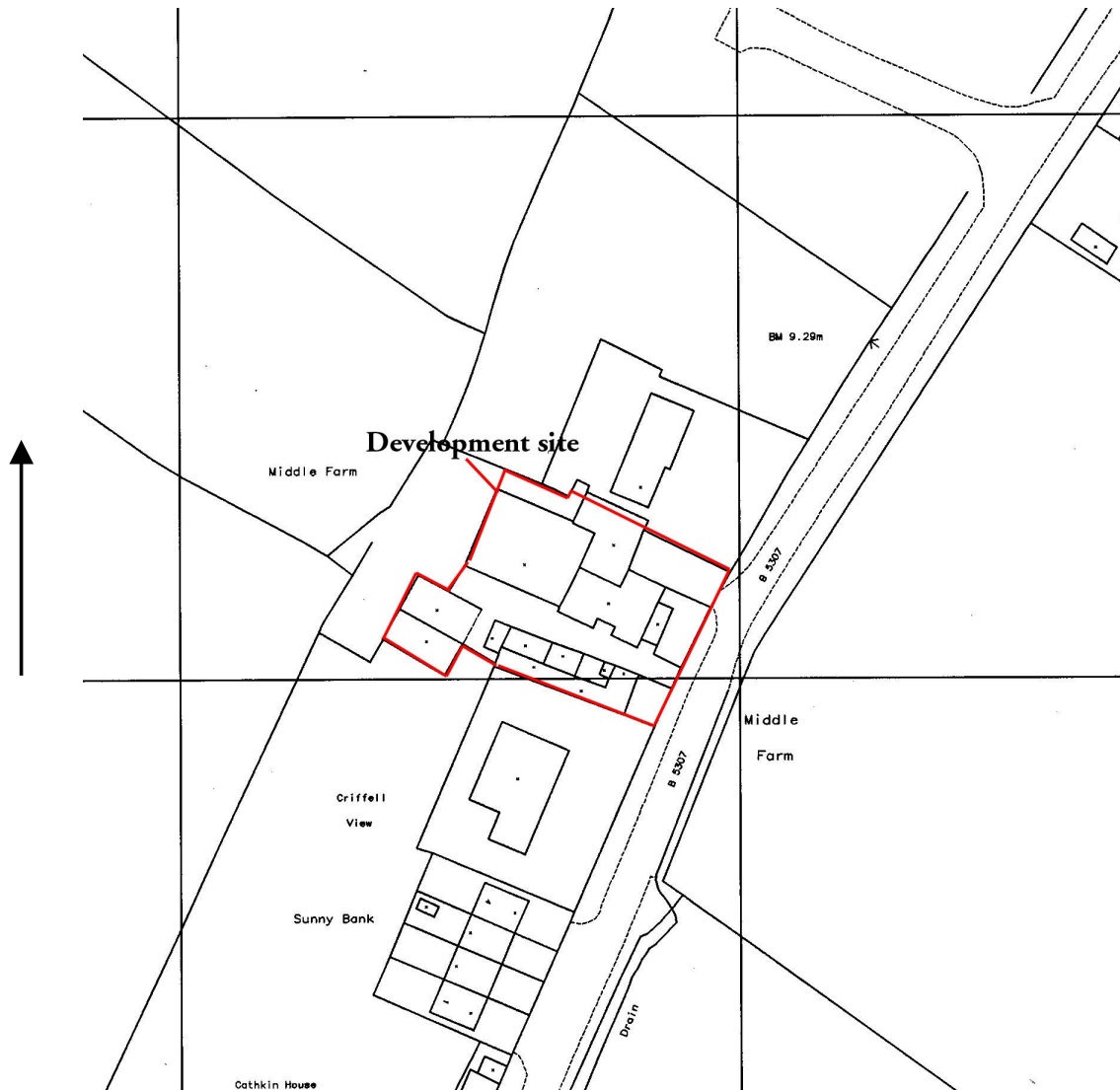


FIGURE 2: SITE LOCATION

Scale 1:1250

NGR: NY 1965 5501

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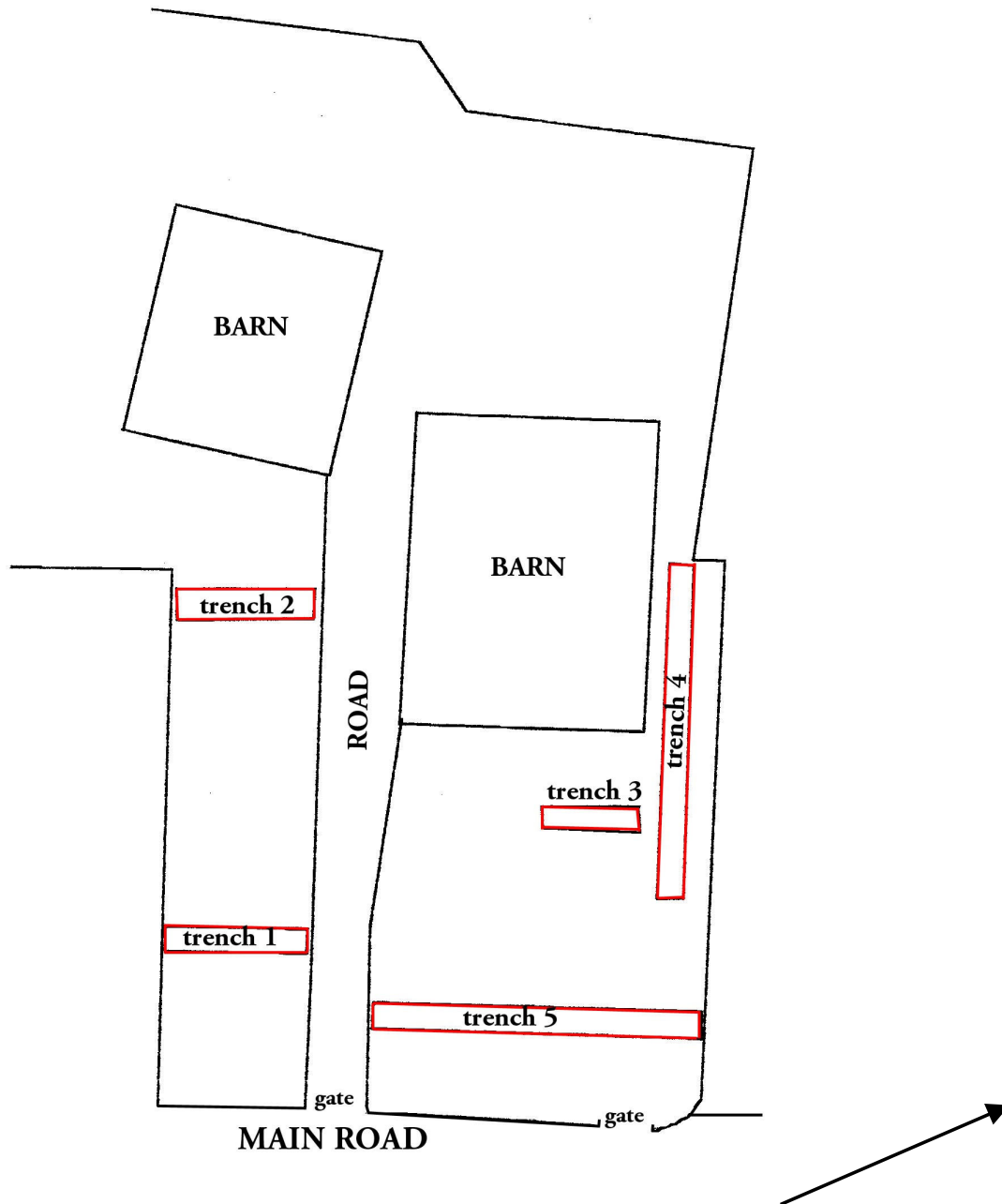


FIGURE 3: TRENCH LOCATION PLAN, MIDDLE FARM, NEWTON ARLOSH

Scale 1:400

NGR: NY 1965 5501

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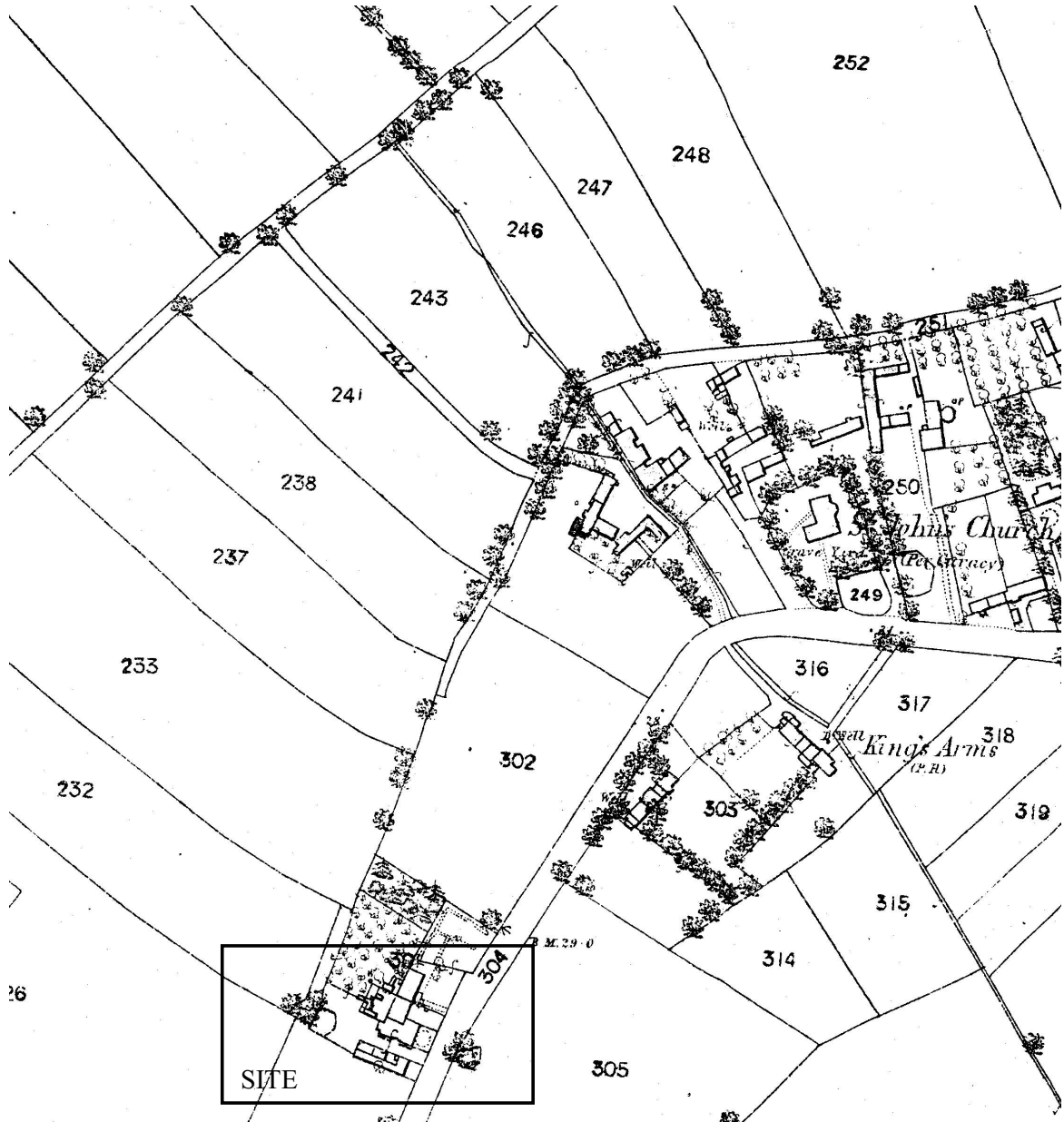


FIGURE 4: FIRST EDITION OS MAP OF NEWTON ARLOSH (1864)

Scale 1:10560

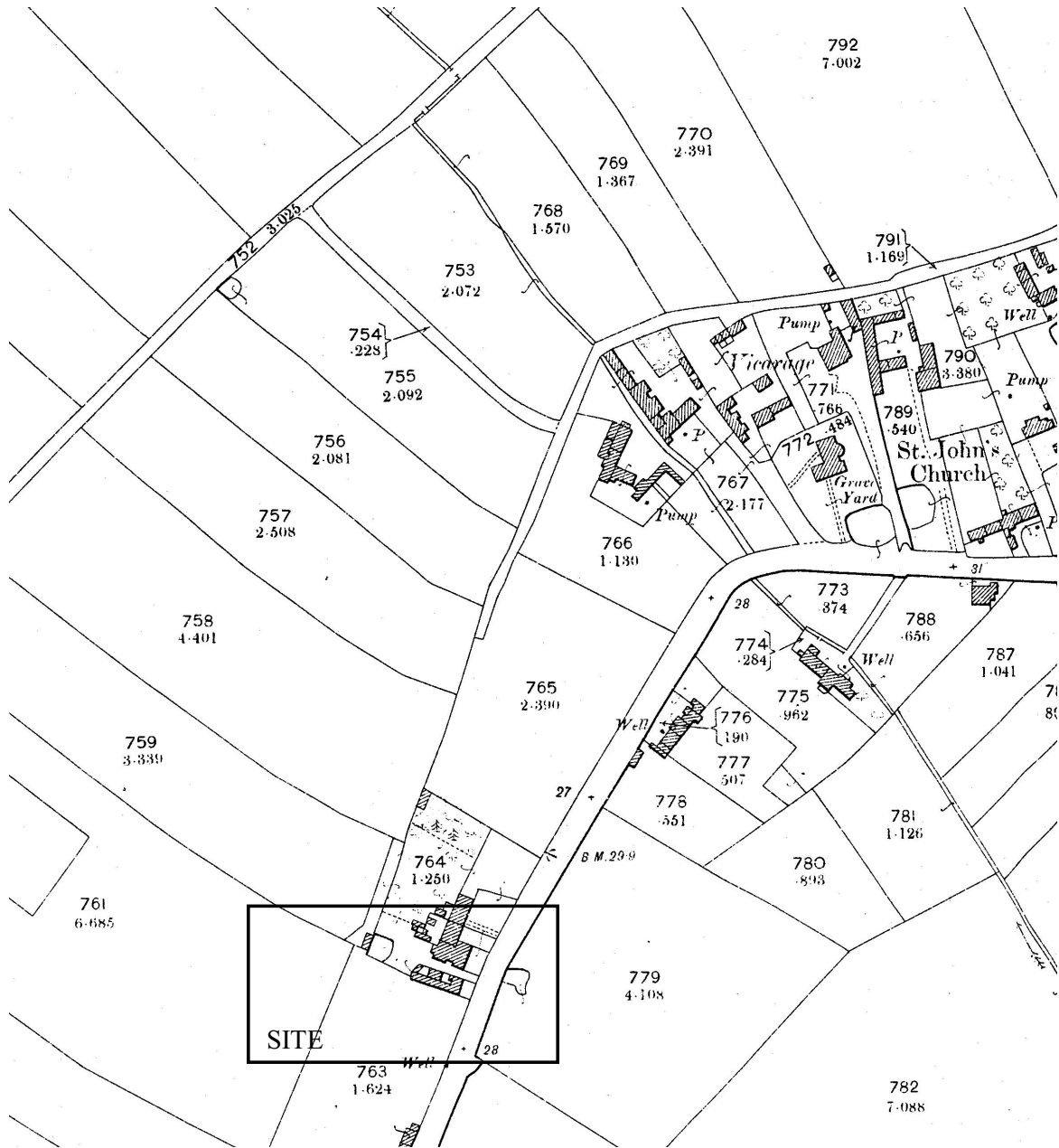


FIGURE 5: SECOND EDITION OS MAP OF NEWTON ARLOSH (1901)

Scale 1:10560

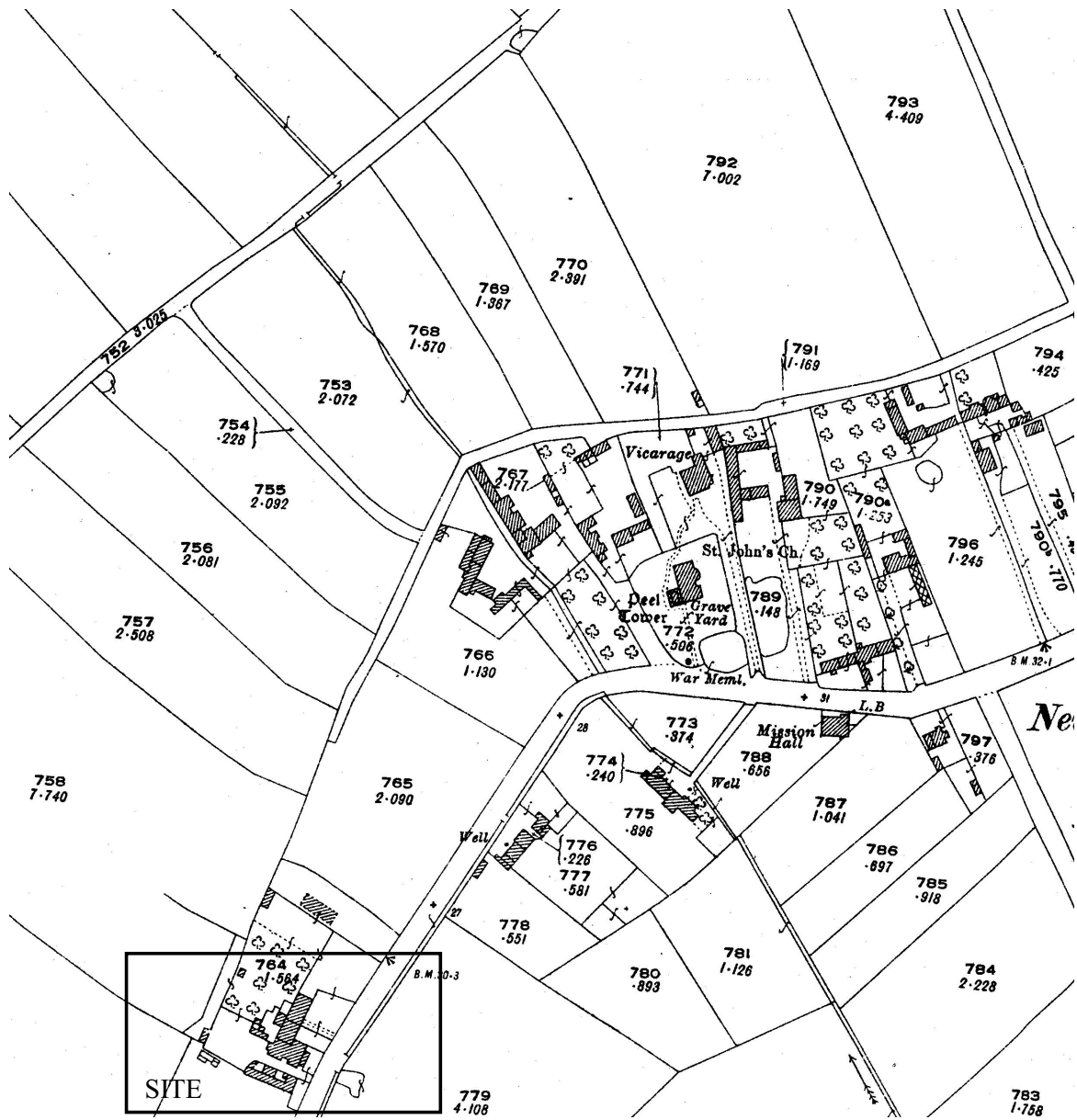


FIGURE 6: THIRD EDITION OS MAP OF NEWTON ARLOSH (1923)

Scale 1:10560



Plate 1: Middle Farm in 1976.

2 PREVIOUS WORK

- 2.1 There has been no direct archaeological investigation on the site of the proposed development.

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The work undertaken consisted of a rapid desk-based assessment, visual site inspection and field evaluation.

3.2 Project Design

- 3.2.1 A project design was prepared in response to a brief prepared by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service. This included a detailed specification of works to be carried out, which consisted of a desk-based assessment prior to field evaluation.

3.3 Field Evaluation

- 3.3.1 This consisted of the excavation of 5 linear trial trenches in order to produce a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relevant importance against known development proposals. 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 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 paleoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.
- 3.3.2 Each trench was mechanically excavated by hand 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 Archaeology Ltd standard procedure as set out in the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd Excavation Manual. Photography was undertaken using a Canon EOS 100 Single Lens Reflex (SLR) manual camera. A photographic record was made using 400 ISO colour print film.
- 3.3.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (IFA 1994).

4 DESK TOP ASSESSMENT

4.1 Place Name Evidence

4.1.1 The roots to Newton Arlosh would appear to originate from Celtic, with the original spelling of Newton Arlosh being *Newton Arloch*. The Celtic word *losc* or *losk* means area cleared by fire and the meaning of *Newton* is new town. Put together Newton Arlosh simply means a new town built on an area cleared by burning.

4.2 Prehistoric

4.2.1 There is no known evidence for prehistoric activity at Newton Arlosh.

4.3 Roman

4.3.1 The surrounding areas of Burgh-by-Sands and Kirkbride were occupied during the Roman period. There is no historical evidence to suggest that Newton Arlosh was occupied during the Roman period.

4.4 Medieval

4.4.1 The medieval history concerning Newton Arlosh is largely in connection with the Cistercian monks of Abbeytown. The abbey has been given several dates for its foundation. The official founder of the Abbey was Henry II in around 1150. However the unofficial founder was Henry Prince Regent of Scotland in around 1135. Henry was granted Cumberland by King Stephen of England to rule as vassal to Stephen for his acquiescence in the usurpation of the throne. .

4.4.2 When Henry of Scotland was granted Cumberland by Stephen he gave two thirds of the land at Holm Cultram to the Cistercian monks for the foundation of the Abbey and for use as pasture and meadow. The remaining third was given to Alan of Waldieve. Alan of Waldieve subsequently gave his remaining third to the Abbey.

4.4.3 In 1301 Bishop Halton granted the Abbot at Abbeytown the right to open a church at Skinburness with all the rights and privileges of a parochial establishment. The church at Skinburness was now the parochial capital of Holm Cultram until 1305 when the church and all roads to it were ravaged by the sea.

4.4.4 In 1305 the Abbot petitioned King Edward I to move the church and market to Kirkby Johan (Newton Arlosh) as he had already paid a fine of 100 marks to the king for a fair and market at Skinburness. The abbey had previously been using the land at Kirkby Johan (Newton Arlosh) as pasture and meadow until the flood at Skinburness.

4.4.5 It was then that Kirkby Johan was changed to Newton Arlosh and a new church erected. The church itself was fortified because of the raids from Scotland. Fortified churches were a feature of the borders at this time. The church at Newton Arlosh was built more as a defensive building from the invading Scots than a traditional church. "In consequence of the frequent hostile invasions and depredations of the Scots, to which special attention is made in the bishop's

charter, the church then built was so constructed as to appear more like a fortress than ecclesiastical structure” (Cory 1876, 51).

4.4.6 This would explain the size and height of the windows. The door is described by Cory as being “2ft 7in wide; all the windows are more than seven feet from the ground, and not one, even at the east end of the church, measures more than 1ft in width, and 3ft 4in in height” (Cory 1876, 51).

4.4.7 The upper floor is unusual as it has a fireplace in the upper floor room and a small chamber adjoining though to be used as a privy. The church itself was typical of fortified buildings as it had a tower. The fortified church was typical of important buildings in the area. The church of St Michael’s in Burgh-by-Sands and the church at Great Salkeld are other examples.

4.5 Post Medieval

4.5.1 The evidence for post medieval Newton Arlosh is of that of an expanding agricultural community. The introduction of clay buildings started around the 17th century. The only buildings built out of stone in the area were either ecclesiastical or manorial, all other buildings were built out of clay. Clay was the obvious choice as other building materials, such as stone and wood, were in short supply until the introduction of the railways in the area around the 19th century.

4.5.2 Clay dabbins as they were called were an ingenious way of using materials freely available in the local vicinity. The structures were built using large pad stones for foundations and wooden crucks or supports. The walls were built out of a mixture of clay and sand and ensured that they were sturdy and warm.

4.5.3 There are still some clay dabbins in the area still in occupation today. The clay dabbins on middle farm (Newton Arlosh) were thought to be later in build as the barn is much wider than others in the area and had no wooden crucks “The only buildings outside this range are the large barns at Longburgh farm and at Middle farm, Newton Arlosh (7 + 8m wide respectively) none of these have crucks and are all probably late.” (Jennings 2003, 129).

4.5.4 Middle farm at Newton Arlosh had two significant clay buildings comprising the farm house and barn and is likely to have been constructed in the mid 18th century. The complex of buildings was largely unchanged from those shown on the first and third edition ordnance survey maps to those photographed in 1976 with the exception of two new barns to the rear of the complex (see Plate1).

4.5.5 The front wall of the farm house collapsed in the wet summer of 1976 as a result of water leaking through the roof into the clay making the whole structure unstable. The farm house itself was demolished as a result and a new house built on the site. The barn was still in extant up until the outbreak of foot and mouth in 2001. The clay building had at some point been reinforced with breeze blocks, but with the outbreak of foot and mouth the clay building was considered to be too difficult to disinfect and was subsequently demolished. Fortunately the building was documented in a recent book on Clay dabbins so the plan of the barn is available.

- 4.5.6 The church at Newton Arlosh is thought to have gone into disrepair in the early 19th century. The 19th century refit of the church has remodelled most of the original features. The remodelling includes a north aisle added and a communion table placed along the north wall with seats facing it. Newton Arlosh has undergone many changes through its history including several name changes. During its occupation Newton Arlosh has been called Newton Arloch, Longnewton and Kirkby Johan.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1.1 The evaluation was directed in the field by Frank Giecco, BA, Arch Dip, AIFA, Principal Archaeologist, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. He was assisted by Joanne Beaty and Alan James.

- 5.1.2 A total of 5 linear trial trenches were excavated, giving a total sample area of 93m². Trenches 1 and 2 measured 8m by 1.5, trenches 4 and 5 measured 20m by 1.5 and trench 3 measured 6m by 1.5m.

- 5.1.3 All references to cardinal directions refer to site grid north.

5.2 Trench 1 (see figure 3 for location)

- 5.2.1 Trench 1 measured 1.5m by 8m and was excavated to a depth of 0.45m. The trench was aligned northeast-southwest. Natural sandy gravel (101) was recorded beneath 0.35m of modern overburden (100).

- 5.2.2 No features of archaeological note were observed.

5.3 Trench 2 (see figure 3 for location)

- 5.3.1 Trench 1 measured 1.5m by 8m and was excavated to a depth of 0.50m. The trench was aligned northeast-southwest. Natural sandy gravel (101) was recorded beneath 0.48m of modern overburden (100).

- 5.3.2 No features of archaeological note were observed.

5.4 Trench 3 (see figure 3 for location)

- 5.4.1 Trench 1 measured 1.5m by 6m and was excavated to a depth of 0.45m. The trench was aligned northeast-southwest. The trench was positioned to cross the north eastern wall of the clay barn. The presence of this wall was confirmed by a series of large sub rounded cobbles recorded in the south western limit of the trench (context 108), this crude foundation measured over 0.60m in width and 0.40m in depth. The wall foundation trench (context 109) was seen to cut in natural sandy gravel (101), unfortunately no datable material was recovered from the wall foundation, which was recorded beneath 0.48m of modern overburden (100).

5.4.2 No other features of archaeological note were observed.



Plate 2: Detail of the wall foundation (108) for the original clay barn.

5.5 Trench 4 (see figure 3 for location)

5.5.1 Trench 4 measured 1.5m by 20m and was excavated to a depth of 0.45m. The trench was aligned northwest-southeast and cut across the site of the original farmhouse. No evidence survived of the building itself, although an associated cobble yard surface (109) was observed in the north western end of the trench measuring 0.25m in depth. This was sealed beneath a modern demolition deposit measuring 0.30m in depth. This 19th century cobble surface (109) was laid directly onto the natural sandy gravel. No earlier deposits were recorded within trench 4.

5.5.2 No other features of archaeological note were observed.



Plate 3: Cobble yard surface (109) in trench 4

5.6 Trench 5 (see figure 3 for location)

5.6.1 Trench 5 measured 1.5m by 20m and was excavated to a depth of 0.50m. The trench was aligned northeast-southwest. Natural sandy gravel (101) was recorded at a depth of 0.40m. The natural subsoil was sealed beneath a 0.20m layer of clean gravel (101) which in turn was sealed beneath the remains of a 19th century cobble yard surface (context 109) measuring 0.10m in depth. The 19th century yard surface was sealed beneath a 20th century tarmac surface.

5.6.2 No features of archaeological note were observed.

6 THE FINDS

6.1 The pottery and other artefactual material has been cleaned, marked and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of Frank Giecco.

6.2 Post-Medieval Pottery

6.2.1 12 sherds of post medieval pottery were recovered from modern overburden (contexts 100) in trenches 1-4. The pottery was made up of domestic earthenware

and porcelain fragments of a likely 20th century date. All the pottery ranged in date from the late 19th century to the early 20th century.

6.3 Iron

6.3.1 11 pieces of iron were recovered from the modern overburden, the majority being machine cut nails with 2 fragments of undiagnostic cast iron.

6.4 Building material

6.4.1 Large quantities of factory made brick were recorded in the demolition layers, none of this material appeared to date any earlier than the late 19th century and was discarded on site.

6.5 Glass

6.5.1 No glass fragments were recovered during the evaluation.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Although the evaluation did reveal a trace of the north/eastern wall of the clay barn in trench 3, no other features of archaeological note were observed. The areas of the original farm and barn were all highly disturbed with very little survival of any of the structures illustrated on the 1st edition OS map (see figure 3).

8.2 The site in general contained minimal archaeological potential, with the last standing remains of the clay buildings and cruck barn systematically demolished in 2001, leaving virtually no trace of these buildings.

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