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The desk-based assessment was undertaken and written by Paul Gajos. The fieldwork was undertaken by Hannah Marriott, who was assisted on site by Chris Ridings. The fieldwork report was written by Hannah Marriott and the drawings were produced by Emma Carter. The report was edited by Emily Mercer and Alan Lupton. The project was managed by Emily Mercer.

SUMMARY

Prior to the final stage in this phase of proposed expansion to Peel Place Quarry, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) were commissioned by Tendley Quarries to undertake a desk-based assessment and archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the present sand and gravel quarry at Peel Place, Holmrook, Cumbria (NY 067 012).

A low-level desk-based assessment was carried out in June 2003, and involved rapid search of primary and secondary maps and records held in the Cumbria Record Office in Whitehaven and the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record (CSMR). The documentary study identified eleven sites of archaeological interest within the study area, none of which will be affected by the development. The site is considered to have archaeological potential due to the large quantities of prehistoric flint which have been recovered from an extensive programme of field walking in the area. Four findspots of flint artefacts (SMR 1309; SMR 6459; SMR 6463 and SMR 6465) and a polished stone axe (SMR 1273) showed evidence of prehistoric activity in the area. Evidence of settlement during the Roman and post-medieval periods was also produced.

The assessment was followed in July 2003 by a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching, which entailed the excavation of 5% of the study area comprising thirteen 20m x 1.7m trenches. These were positioned uniformly over the extent of the proposed development area. Several trenches were lengthened or shortened where site constraints required, but the overall area excavated remained constant.

Three modern gullies and two tree throws were revealed, which is evidence of a post-medieval agricultural landscape, almost certainly of nineteenth century origin. Several pieces of modern pottery and a fragment of clay pipe were also retrieved from the topsoil. No flint was recovered and no features deemed to be of archaeological significance were revealed.

The desk-based assessment did provide an indication of there being archaeological potential in the area. However, given the low importance of the archaeological resource identified in the evaluation, it is considered that there is no archaeological constraint against this phase of expansion to Peel Place Quarry.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Tendley Quarries (hereafter the client) requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals to conduct an assessment of Peel Place Quarry, Holmrook, Cumbria (centred on NY 067 012) (Fig 1) in advance of the final stage in this phase of proposed extension to the existing sand and gravel quarry. The proposals were prepared in accordance to a verbal brief provided by Cumbria County Council Archaeological Service (CCCAS) requesting a low level desk-based assessment and evaluation over the proposed extension area. Following acceptance of this design OA North were commissioned to undertake the work in June 2003.
- 1.1.2 The proposed area outlined for archaeological investigation lies immediately to the north of an area previously investigated in three distinct phases from 1997-1999 by OA North, in their former guise as Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU).
- 1.1.3 The low-level desk-based assessment focused on a 2km radius centred on the proposed extension for evidence of sites with archaeological potential. The investigation consisted of an analysis of 1st and 2nd edition Ordnance Survey (OS) maps of the area held in the Cumbria Record Offices in Whitehaven and a search of the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Register (SMR) in Kendal. In total 11 sites were located (Fig 2).
- 1.1.4 The archaeological fieldwork comprised a field evaluation involving the excavation of thirteen trial trenches representing a 5% sample of the development area (Fig 3). The aim of the work was to assess the nature and potential of the archaeological resource within the study area, and to determine the extent to which any archaeological remains within the subject site may be affected by the proposed development.
- 1.1.5 The results of the desk-based assessment and evaluation trenching are presented in the form of a short report outlining the results of findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area and the impact it will have on the proposed development.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 Tendley Quarries requested that OA North submit proposals for a desk-based assessment and an evaluation prior to further quarrying of the area (*Appendix 1*). This project design was prepared in accordance with a verbal brief from the CCCAS. The project design was adhered to in full for the desk-based assessment. However, a number of the evaluation trenches required a change in their length due to constraints on site although the total coverage did not differ from that specified in the project design. The work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 A low-level desk-based assessment was undertaken focusing on an area contained within a 2km radius centred on the proposed development site. The sources of information consulted in accordance with the project design were the Cumbria SMR (Kendal) and the Cumbria Record Office (Whitehaven).
- 2.2.2 ***Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record (Kendal)***: the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) held in Kendal was consulted to establish the sites of archaeological interest already known within the study area and the extent and character of these. The SMR is a database of all archaeological sites within Cumbria, and is maintained by the County Council. For each entry a brief description was obtained which was added to the site gazetteer (*Appendix 3*) and marked on a location plan (Fig 2).
- 2.2.3 ***Cumbria Record Office (Whitehaven) (CRO(W))***: the 1st and 2nd Edition OS maps were a published source of printed maps. They show clear details and are regarded as accurate in both location and the nature of the material they represent.

2.3 EVALUATION

- 2.3.1 The programme of trenching aimed to establish the presence or absence of archaeological deposits and, if established, briefly test their date, nature and quality of preservation. The evaluation assessed the character of all archaeological deposits to the depth of the natural subsoil.
- 2.3.2 The project brief required 5% of the proposed development area to be evaluated, equating to thirteen 20m by 1.7m trenches located uniformly. Trenches 4 to 7 and 9 were lengthened and trenches 11 and 13 were shortened where site constraints required, but the overall area excavated remained according to the project design.
- 2.3.3 The turf and topsoil was removed by a JCB using a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of an OA North archaeologist. The trenches were

excavated in a strictly stratigraphical manner, with minimal disturbance to archaeological features, and the spoil heaps were scanned for artefacts.

2.3.4 The recording comprised a full description and preliminary classification of the features and materials revealed, on OA North *pro-forma* sheets. A section was excavated through all features encountered. A plan was produced showing the location of the trenches, with representative sections being drawn at a scale of 1:10 (Fig 2). The site drawing was digitised into a CAD system and tied to the National Grid using GPS. A photographic record, using black and white, colour slide and digital formats, was maintained.

2.3.5 No finds were retained in the course of the evaluation.

2.4 ARCHIVE

2.4.1 A full archive of the work has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (1991) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic, and plastic media) with the Cumbria Record Office (Kendal).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The proposed development site lies to the north of the existing quarry at Peel Place. It is located approximately 2km north of the village of Holmrook on the west coast of Cumbria, with Seascale to the north and Ravenglass to the south, and between the main river valleys of the Calder and the Irt. The landscape is gently undulating with several low hills. The ground cover consists of pastoral land, with small copses of trees, and a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) adjacent to the quarry in the south.
- 3.1.2 The site slopes gently away to the north-east, with an area of marshy ground down slope and outside the study area. The site is bounded by a hedgerow to the south, fencelines to the north and east, and the existing bund of the quarry to the west.
- 3.1.3 The topsoil in previous evaluations was generally 0.2m-0.25m in depth and comprised friable, well draining coarse loam and sandy gravels of the Ellerbeck Brown Earth series of soils. The underlying geology of the site comprises New Red Sandstone of the Permian Age overlain by a complex succession of glacial or post glacial deposited gravel, sand, silt and clay.

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** the historical and archaeological background is principally compiled through secondary sources and previous phases of archaeological investigation, and is intended to put the results of the assessment into a wider context.
- 3.2.2 **Mesolithic:** previous investigations on the West Cumbrian Coastal Plain have shown that this area was a focus of late Mesolithic and early Neolithic activity. The landscape characteristic of low sandhills suggest potential for prehistoric activity as typified by other sites in the north-west (Bewley 1984 p.53). Evidence for Mesolithic settlement is almost exclusively confined to these raised beaches of former coastlines. Extensive fieldwalking at Drigg, to the south-west of the study area, produced evidence of early prehistoric lithic assemblages. These assemblages show a predominance of beach pebble flint, which has produced small artefacts of variable quality (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000 p.76).
- 3.2.3 **Neolithic:** much of the early Neolithic activity in this area is defined through the presence of polished stone axes such as the Halsenna axe (SMR 1273) to the north-west of the site. The presence of these tools in the area suggest activities including hunting and tree clearance. The high density of axes recovered has led to the belief that extensive elm clearance was being carried out during this period (Bewley 1984 p.56). The presence of rough-out, part polished axes on the site illustrates this particular site's relevance to the production of axes in Langdale. Further sites in the surrounding area are likely to show similar relevance to this

particular activity. Large quantities of additional flint materials have also been recovered from Ehenside Tarn (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000 p.71) to the north-west of site and have been dated to this period. Flintwork from this period continued to be dominated by beach pebble flint, resulting in small artefacts such as the leaf-shaped arrowheads from the sandhill sites at Drigg (SMR 1396; SMR 3561) (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000 p.75).

- 3.2.4 **Bronze Age:** the evidence of clearance and burial cairns on the upland margins of the West Cumbria Plain suggest an expansion of settlement during the Bronze Age. However, the large amount of lithic materials recovered through extensive fieldwalking in the area suggests that much of the lowland was still settled and the coast exploited. This process can be plotted across the area through the recovery of artefacts. The Drigg dunes in particular have produced large quantities of flint, including barbed and tanged arrowheads (SMR 16924; SMR 1400; SMR 1396) where an organic layer has been revealed by sea erosion. Again the flint is predominately beach pebbles, although some chalk flint has also been recovered (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000 p.77).
- 3.2.5 **Iron Age:** evidence for Iron Age activity on the west Cumbrian Coastal Plain is fairly scarce. Eskmeals, to the west of the site, has produced artefacts of a possible Iron Age date consisting of a pair of blue beads found together with an earlier flint assemblage (SMR 1399). This limited evidence is not sufficient to prove habitation on the sandhills during this period (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000 p.77).
- 3.2.6 **Romano-British:** Roman activity in this area was concentrated at Ravenglass (SMR 1378) where a Roman fort and baths are situated. The fort is generally believed to have formed the terminus of an extended coastal defensive system to protect the Solway. Further evidence of activity in this area is generally limited to scattered finds, consisting of coin finds and small artefacts, although there is evidence of a possible local iron manufacturing industry and associated pottery at Eskmeals, and small encampments within the sandhills at Drigg (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000 p.78).
- 3.2.7 **Medieval and post-medieval:** there are no excavated settlement sites which can be dated to the medieval period in the area and very few surface finds. The West Cumbrian Coastal Plain is significant for the large number of pre-Conquest stone crosses however. The cross at Irton (SMR 1271) is regarded as “one of the finest examples of ninth century sculpture in the country”(Hodgkinson *et al* 2000 p.78). Monastic records are the first recorded evidence of the population in the area, however, and show the progressing expansion of settlements into the upland areas. Evidence of the peat industries can be shown from these sources, and from manorial records (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000 p.79). It was not until the Enclosure Act of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century that these areas of peat and mosses were drained to produce agriculturally viable land (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000 p.81).

4. DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

4.1 SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD (SMR)

- 4.1.1 A total of ten sites of potential archaeological interest were identified within the study area and are listed in *Appendix 2*. None of these sites will be affected by the development.
- 4.1.2 **Prehistory:** the prehistoric period was represented by surface finds including the Halsenna stone axe (Site 1) and several flint finds (Sites 2, 3, 4 and 5) indicating the potential for the discovery of prehistoric remains in the area. The stone axe was a butt portion but is likely to be of Neolithic origin and may relate to the Langdale Axe Factories, while the undated flint recovered included scrapers, knives and flakes
- 4.1.3 **Roman:** finds of the Roman period are limited to a Roman coin of Nerva which was located in a field near Halsenna. It may attest to the presence of a Romano-British population in the vicinity but with such little evidence it is also possible that it was imported at a later date from elsewhere, such as Ravenglass, and redeposited.
- 4.1.4 **Post-medieval:** two entries on the SMR cannot be securely dated, but it is probable that they relate to the post-medieval period. This includes the place name evidence from Gallows Hills and the site of a quarry (Sites 9 and 10) which probably relate to this period.
- 4.1.5 **Unknown:** a sub-rectangular enclosure at Gosforth near Blackbeck Bridge and a cropmark enclosure at Irton with Santon (Sites 7 and 8) are of an unknown date and have been identified through aerial photographs.

4.2 ORDNANCE SURVEY (OS) MAPS

- 4.2.1 The 1st edition OS map held by the Record Office in Whitehaven did not show any entries for the area in and around the site. The 2nd edition OS map, however, shows a building called Greason Cottage with a well attached to it. This building is situated to the south-west of Peel Place and within the bounds of the quarry. However, it is no longer marked on present day maps but is likely to be of the post-medieval period.

4.3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

- 4.3.1 The area outlined for investigation lies immediately to the north of an area previously evaluated in three distinct phases from 1997-1999. During this time a total of twenty-four trenches were excavated and were found to contain no significant archaeological deposits or features. Sieving retrieved an iron nail and a number of post-medieval and modern ceramic artefacts. A number of flint pebbles and fragments were retrieved, but none proved to be worked.

5. EVALUATION RESULTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 Thirteen trenches were excavated and recorded using OA North *pro forma* sheets. The results are set out in *Appendix 1*. Three gullies were revealed, along with two tree throws and several tyre track marks. The geology within the trenches varied slightly to the north of site. Several fragments of post-medieval and modern pottery were recovered and one fragment of clay pipe.

5.2 SITE DESCRIPTION

- 5.2.1 The topsoil was uniform across all trenches on site, comprising friable, well draining coarse loam at a depth of c0.3m below the surface. It also contained frequent root disturbance.
- 5.2.2 The natural soil on site comprised a mixture of fine mid-orangey brown sand, interspersed with patches of sand with a 20% sub-rounded gravel component. It was also fairly disturbed through root action. Towards the north of the site patches of a light brownish-grey sand appeared.
- 5.2.3 Modern finds of pottery and clay pipe were recovered from the topsoil from Trenches 7, 8 and 12. These were not retained.

5.3 TRENCH DESCRIPTION

- 5.3.1 **Trench 1:** Trench 1 was aligned north-south and measured 20m by 1.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. No archaeology was revealed.

Context	Description	Depth
101	Dark brown silty sand topsoil, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and heavy root and worm activity.	0 -0.3m
102	Dark orangey-brown sand subsoil, occasional sub-rounded pebbles.	0.3m -

- 5.3.2 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 was aligned north-south and measured 20m by 1.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. No archaeology was revealed.

Context	Description	Depth
201	Dark brown silty sand topsoil, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and heavy root and worm activity.	0 - 0.3m
202	Dark orangey-brown sand subsoil, occasional sub-rounded pebbles, with sand becoming a darker brown to the north of the trench	0.3m -

- 5.3.3 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was aligned north-south and measured 20m by 1.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. The excavation revealed a gully **303** aligned north-east/south-west running across the centre of the trench. The gully was linear in

plan and 0.5m width with a steep concave profile. It was infilled with **304** to a depth of 0.08m, and contained no artefacts. The gully was cut from within the topsoil.

Context	Description	Depth
301	Dark brown silty sand topsoil, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and heavy root and worm activity.	0 - 0.3m
302	Dark orangey-brown sand subsoil, occasional sub-rounded pebbles.	0.3m -
303	Linear gully with a steep concave profile and a flat base, aligned north-east/south-west, filled with 304.	
304	Mid-brown silty sand subsoil, with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions. No finds	0.13m

5.3.4 Trench 4: Trench 4 was aligned north-south and measured 24m by 1.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. The excavation revealed gully **403** aligned east-west, running across the south end of the trench. The gully was linear in plan, 0.4m width with a moderate concave profile. It was filled with **404** to a depth of 0.13m and contained no artefacts. The gully was cut from within the topsoil.

Context	Description	Depth
401	Dark brown silty sand topsoil, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and heavy root and worm activity.	0 - 0.3m
402	Dark orangey-brown sand subsoil, occasional sub-rounded pebbles.	0.3m -
403	Linear gully with a moderate concave profile and a flat base, aligned north-east/south-west, filled with 404.	
404	Mid greyish-brown silty sand subsoil, fairly loose with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions. No finds	0.13m

5.3.5 Trench 5: Trench 5 was aligned north-south and measured 22m by 1.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. No archaeology was revealed.

Context	Description	Depth
501	Dark brown silty sand topsoil, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and heavy root and worm activity.	0-0.3m
502	Mid orangey-brown sand subsoil, fairly loose with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions. No finds	0.3m -

5.3.6 Trench 6: Trench 6 was aligned north-south and measured 23m by 1.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.3m. The trench contained a sub-circular three throw at the northern end, which measured c0.75m diameter. The full extent of this feature was not visible in the trench. The section through this feature revealed an irregular steep side, with a sloping base at 0.2m.

Context	Description	Depth
601	Dark brown silty sand topsoil, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and heavy root and worm activity.	0-0.25m
602	Mid orangey-brown sand subsoil, fairly loose with frequent sub-rounded gravel inclusions. No finds. One irregular tree throw cut into natural in northern end measuring 0.75m diameter , 0.2m depth.	0.25m -

5.3.7 **Trench 7:** Trench 7 was aligned east-west and measured 23.5m by 1.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.65m. The trench contained an irregular tree throw at its eastern end, measuring c5m in width. The full extent of this feature was not visible in the trench. The section through the tree throw revealed irregular sloping sides with a maximum depth of 0.15m.

Context	Description	Depth
701	Dark brown silty sand topsoil, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and heavy root and worm activity.	0-0.4m
702	Mid orangey-brown sand subsoil, fairly loose with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions. No finds. One irregular tree throw cut into natural in eastern end measuring 5m width , 0.15m depth. Tyre tracks evident in the natural.	0.4m -

5.3.8 **Trench 8:** Trench 8 was aligned north-south and measured 20.7m by 1.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.5m. No archaeology was revealed.

Context	Description	Depth
801	Mid greyish-brown silty sand topsoil, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and heavy root and worm activity.	0-0.4m
802	Mid orangey-brown sand subsoil, fairly loose with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions.	0.4m -

5.3.9 **Trench 9:** Trench 9 was aligned north- south, and measured 23m by 1.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.3m. No archaeology was revealed.

Context	Description	Depth
901	Mid greyish-brown silty sand topsoil, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and heavy root and worm activity.	0-0.4m
902	Mid orangey-brown sand subsoil, fairly loose with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions.	0.4m -

5.3.10 **Trench 10:** Trench 10 was aligned east-west and measured 20.8m by 1.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.3m. No archaeology was revealed.

Context	Description	Depth
1001	Mid greyish-brown silty sand topsoil, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and heavy root and worm activity.	0-0.25m
1002	Mid orangey-brown sand subsoil, fairly loose with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions.	0.25m -

5.3.11 **Trench 11:** Trench 11 was aligned east-west and measured 19.7m by 1.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. No archaeology was revealed.

Context	Description	Depth
1101	Mid greyish-brown silty sand topsoil, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and heavy root and worm activity.	0-0.3m
1102	Mid orangey-brown sand subsoil, fairly loose with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions.	0.3m -

5.3.12 **Trench 12:** Trench 12 was aligned east-west and measured 20.8m by 1.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.55m. The excavation revealed gully **1203** aligned north-west/south-east running across east the end of the trench. The gully was linear in plan, 0.5m width with a moderate concave profile. It was filled with **1204** to a depth of 0.13m, and contained no artefacts. The gully was cut from within the topsoil.

Context	Description	Depth
1201	Mid greyish-brown silty sand topsoil, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and heavy root and worm activity.	0-0.5m
1202	Mid orangey-brown sand subsoil, fairly loose with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions.	0.5m -
1203	Linear gully with a moderately concave profile, and a flat base. Width 0.5m and depth 0.13m. Aligned north-west/south-east filled with 1204. Cut from within topsoil.	
1204	Mid greyish brown silty sand subsoil, with occasional sub-rounded gravel. No finds.	0.13m

5.3.13 **Trench 13:** Trench 13 was aligned north-south and measured 16.5m by 1.6m. It was excavated to a depth of 0.4m. No archaeology was revealed.

Context	Description	Depth
1301	Mid greyish-brown silty sand topsoil, with occasional sub-rounded pebbles and heavy root and worm activity.	0-0.3m
1302	Mid orangey-brown sand subsoil, fairly loose with occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions.	0.3m -

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 6.1.1 The desk-based assessment showed a number of sites within the vicinity but there were no sites recorded within the confines of the proposed quarry extension. The number of prehistoric isolated finds known within the SMR suggests that there may be potential for further evidence of activity. However, no such evidence was recovered during the evaluation.
- 6.1.2 The evaluation produced evidence of drainage activity within the area. As this land has been used for pastoral agriculture in the recent past, and given that the gullies were cut from within the topsoil, it can only be concluded that these features are of relatively recent date. The modern finds recovered from the topsoil concur with this interpretation.
- 6.1.3 No flints, either worked or unworked, were recovered during the groundworks.
- 6.1.4 While these results may appear negative, it must be stressed that this cannot be taken as indicative of the area as a whole. It is difficult to form patterns from these findspots, but the type of tool recovered can still provide information about the area. It has been suggested that this area would have been cleared, but perhaps not used as arable land (Bewsley 1984), if correct this would be in keeping with the supposed period of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. There is a high likelihood of additional discarded finds from an area of this nature.

6.2 IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.1 From the results of the evaluation it does not appear that this fourth stage of the proposed expansion of the quarry will have an impact on any archaeology within this area. However, any further extension to the quarry will require a similar archaeological investigation due to the potential for archaeological remains in the area as attested by the desk-based assessment.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

**Oxford
Archaeology**

North

May 2003

PEEL PLACE QUARRY, HOLMROOK, CUMBRIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION PROJECT DESIGN

Proposals

The following design is offered in response to a request from Tendley Quarries Ltd. for an archaeological assessment and evaluation of an area outlined for an extension to Peel Place Quarry, Holmrook, Cumbria.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 The proposed area outlined for archaeological investigation lies immediately to the north of an area previously investigated in three distinct phases from 1997-1999. During this time a total of 24 trenches were excavated and Tendley Quarries. (hereafter the client) has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an assessment and evaluation at Peel Place Quarry, Holmrook, Cumbria (NY 3072 5012) in advance of a proposed extension to the existing sand and gravel quarry. were found to contain no significant archaeological deposits or features. Sieving retrieved an iron nail and a number of post-medieval and modern ceramic artefacts. A number of flint pebbles and fragments were retrieved but none proved to be worked.
- 1.1.2 The site lies approximately 2km north of Holmrook on the west coast of Cumbria. It is located between the main river valleys of the Calder to the north and the Irt to the south. The landscape is gently undulating with several low hills on which there would be potential for prehistoric activity as typified by many other sites in the North-West. The Cumbria sites and Monuments Record (CSMR) data shows five findspots of flint artefacts in the area (CSMR numbers; 1273, 1309, 6459, 6463, and 6465) and two crop marks of enclosures of unknown date (CSMR 13542 and 13545).

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of the archaeological survey and evaluation of sites and monuments of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large projects during the past 20 years. Projects have been undertaken to fulfil the different requirements of various clients and planning authorities, and to very rigorous timetables. OA North has considerable experience of the recording of historic buildings together with the evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 20 years. Fieldwork has taken place within the planning process and construction programmes, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.
- 1.2.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed, in accordance with a brief by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service (CCCAS) to provide a low level desk-based assessment, and an evaluation. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 To provide a low level desk-based assessment of the site.

2.3 EVALUATION TRENCHING BRIEF

- 2.3.1 To implement a programme of greenfield trial trenching examining 5% of the study area.

2.4 REPORT

- 2.4.1 A written report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will present the desk-based study, and evaluation and would make an assessment of the archaeological potential of the area, and would make recommendations for further work.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 DESK- BASED STUDY

- 3.1.1 A low level desk-based study will be undertaken as appropriate, depending on the availability of source material. The level of such work will be dictated by the timescale of the project.
- 3.1.2 **Documentary and cartographic material:** this work will rapidly address the full range of potential sources of information. It will include an appraisal of the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record and OS 1st Edition maps (both 6" to 1 mile and 25" to 1 mile). Published documentary sources will also be examined and assessed as appropriate.
- 3.1.3 **Aerial photography:** a brief survey of the extant air photographic cover will be undertaken. This would provide an indication of recent land-use, but is not likely to significantly inform the archaeological potential of the site. The Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record has a valuable aerial photographic collection.

3.2 EVALUATION TRENCHING

- 3.2.1 The programme of greenfield trenching will establish the presence or absence of any previously unsuspected archaeological deposits and, if established, will then test their date, nature, depth and quality of preservation.
- 3.2.2 **Methods:** the evaluation is required to evaluate 5% of the undeveloped study area. The overall area is approximately 0.94ha, and this requires the excavation of 442m² and would entail the excavation of 13 20m x 1.7m trenches. Provisionally the trenches will be scattered uniformly over the extent of the undeveloped area, but in practice the precise locations will be determined by the assessment, and in consultation with CCCAS. Subject to the assessment there may also be additional areas of disturbed land, which are in appropriate for evaluation, and consequently may reduce the overall area needing to be evaluated.
- 3.2.3 The trenches will be excavated by a combination of mechanised and manual techniques; the topsoil will be removed by mechanical excavator, fitted with a 1.7m wide toothless bucket, and archaeological deposits beneath will be first manually cleaned and then any features identified will be manually excavated. The machine excavation will not intrude into any potential archaeological stratigraphy and all machine excavation will be undertaken under careful archaeological supervision. Following mechanical excavation the floor of the trench will be cleaned by hoe and Manual excavation techniques will be used to evaluate any sensitive deposits, and will enable an assessment of the nature, date, survival and depth of deposits and features. The trenches will not be excavated deeper than 1.25m to accommodate health and safety constraints; any requirements to excavate below this depth will involve recosting.
- 3.2.4 All trenches will be excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. Trenches will be located by use of GPS equipment which is accurate to +/- 0.25m, altitude information will be established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum. Archaeological features within the trenches will be planned by manual techniques.
- 3.2.5 **Environmental Sampling:** environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). Subject to the results of the excavation an assessment of any environmental samples will be undertaken by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis. The assessment would examine the potential for macrofossil, arthropod, palynological and general biological analysis. The costs for the palaeoecological assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect if good waterlogged deposits are identified and will be subject to the agreement of CCCAS and the client.
- 3.2.6 Samples will also be collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. If necessary, access to conservation advice and facilities can be made available. OA North maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeozoological specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.

- 3.2.7 **Recording:** all information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.
- 3.2.8 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology of English Heritage. The archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20, and 1:10). Levels will be tied into the Ordnance Datum. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.

3.3 REPORT

- 3.3.1 **Archive:** the results of the fieldwork will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork, which will be catalogued by context. This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be included in the Cumbria Sites and Monuments Record. A copy of the archive can also be made available for deposition with the National Archaeological Record. OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum.
- 3.3.2 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and a further two copies will be submitted to the Cumbria County Council SMR. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and present an assessment of the sites history; the report will include photographs of any significant features. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work, but not examined in detail. The report will include a description of the methodology and the results. A list of the finds, and a description of the collective assemblage. Details of any environmental work undertaken.
- 3.3.3 The report will include a frontispiece showing the planning number and the grid reference. It will have a summary and a methodological statement, and it will define any variations to the defined programme. It will include recommendations for further work.
- 3.3.4 Illustrative material will include a location map, site map, historic maps, a trench location map, trench plans, survey plans and also pertinent photographs. It can be tailored to the specific requests of the client (eg particular scales etc), subject to discussion.
- 3.3.5 **Publication:** a summary report of the results will be submitted to a regional journal, and information from the project will be fed into the OASIS project (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigation).

3.4 OTHER MATTERS

- 3.4.1 **Health and Safety:** OA North conforms to all health and safety guidelines as contained in the Lancaster University Manual of Health and Safety and the safety manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers. The work will be in accordance with Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), the Council for British Archaeology Handbook No. 6, *Safety in Archaeological Fieldwork* (1989).
- 3.4.2 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the watching brief and fabric survey, as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. A risk assessment will be completed in advance of the project's commencement. If there is a

requirement to excavate trenches deeper than 1.25m the trenches will be stepped out to minimise section collapse. As a matter of course the Unit uses a U-Scan device prior to any excavation to test for services. It is assumed that the client will provide any available information regarding services within the study area, if available.

- 3.4.3 **Insurance:** the insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with the unit and arising out of an in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of OA North, in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of OA North or any of its employees, there applies the insurance cover of £2m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.
- 3.4.4 **Confidentiality:** the report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project design, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.
- 3.4.5 **Project Monitoring:** OA North will consult with the client regarding access to the site. Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, the County Archaeologist will be kept fully informed of the work and its results. Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with CCCAS in consultation with the Client.

4. WORK PROGRAMME

- 4.1 The following programme is proposed:

Desk-based Assessment

A three day period would be required for this element

Evaluation Trenching

Two days will be required to complete this element

Archive/Report

The report and archive will be produced following the completion of all the fieldwork. The final report will be submitted within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork and the archive deposited within six months.

- 4.2 OA North can execute projects at short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client.
- 4.3 The project will be managed by **Emily Mercer BA MSc AIFA** (Unit Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. OA North adheres by the IFA's Code of Conduct and the Code of Approved Practice for the regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology.

APPENDIX 2: GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site Number	1
Site name	Hallsenna Axe Find
NGR	NY 06030 01140
SMR Number	1273
Site Type	Findspot
Period	Prehistoric
APs	-
Description	The butt portion of a stone axe was found west of Hallsenna in 1855 and is now at Gosforth school museum.

Site Number	2
Site name	Drigg Cross Flint Finds
NGR	NY 05900 01100
SMR Number	1309
Site Type	Findspot
Period	Prehistoric
APs	-
Description	Flint scrapers, knife and a core were found in 1965 by J Cherry in a field north of Drigg Cross.

Site Number	3
Site name	Gosforth, Gallows Hill
NGR	NY 07500 02300
SMR Number	6459
Site Type	Findspot
Period	Prehistoric
APs	-
Description	Three flint flakes, of which two were fire damaged, together with a flake of volcanic tuff, were found on Gallows Hill.

Site Number	4
Site name	Drigg and Carleton
NGR	NY 06000 00500
SMR Number	6463
Site Type	Findspot
Period	Prehistoric
APs	-
Description	Three slightly pattinated flakes of flint and a flake of volcanic tuff were found above Hallsenna Moor.

Site Number	5
Site name	Drigg and Carleton Moorside Farm
NGR	NY 05800 00200
SMR Number	6465
Site Type	Findspot
Period	Prehistoric
APs	-
Description	A collection of scrapers, a knife made on a thin flake of grey flint, and several flakes were found on a saddle of high ground above Moorside Farm.

Site Number	6
Site name	Hallsenna Coin Find
NGR	NY 06700 01700
SMR Number	1275
Site Type	Findspots
Period	Roman
APs	-
Description	A Roman coin of Nerva was found in a field near Hallsenna.

Site Number	7
Site name	Gosforth nr. Blackbeck Bridge
NGR	NY 07400 01100
SMR Number	13542
Site Type	Enclosure
Period	Unknown
APs	CCC3020, 3,4
Description	A sub-rectangular enclosure can be identified from aerial photographs, which appears to have some internal detail.

Site Number	8
Site name	Irton with Santon
NGR	NY 07700 00600
SMR Number	13545
Site Type	Enclosure
Period	Unknown
APs	CCC3020, 7
Description	Cropmark of an enclosure identified from aerial photographs.

Site Number	9
Site name	Gallows Hill
NGR	NY 07600 02270
SMR Number	12162
Site Type	Gallows
Period	Unknown
APs	-
Description	The placename evidence of 'Gallows Hill' suggests existence of gallows here at some time in the past.

Site Number	10
Site name	Drigg Cross
NGR	NY 05900 00850
SMR Number	12178
Site Type	Quarry
Period	Unknown
APs	-
Description	Site of a disused quarry. The period is unknown as it is not shown on either the first or second edition OS maps.

Site Number	11
Site name	Greason Cottage
NGR	NY 06970 00850

SMR Number	-
Site Type	Structure
Period	Unknown
APs	-
Description	The site of Greasons Cottage marked on the 2 nd edition OS map only. It is no longer mapped.

APPENDIX 3: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Trench	Category	Form
101	Trench 1	Deposit	Topsoil
102	Trench 1	Deposit	Natural Subsoil
201	Trench 2	Deposit	Topsoil
202	Trench 2	Deposit	Natural Subsoil
203	Trench 2	Deposit	Natural Subsoil
301	Trench 3	Deposit	Topsoil
302	Trench 3	Deposit	Natural Subsoil
303	Trench 3	Cut	Gully
304	Trench 3	Fill	Fill of 303
401	Trench 4	Deposit	Topsoil
402	Trench 4	Deposit	Natural Subsoil
403	Trench 4	Cut	Gully
404	Trench 4	Fill	Fill of 403
501	Trench 5	Deposit	Topsoil
502	Trench 5	Deposit	Natural Subsoil
601	Trench 6	Deposit	Topsoil
602	Trench 6	Deposit	Natural Subsoil
701	Trench 7	Deposit	Topsoil
702	Trench 7	Deposit	Natural Subsoil
801	Trench 8	Deposit	Topsoil
802	Trench 8	Deposit	Natural Subsoil
901	Trench 9	Deposit	Topsoil
902	Trench 9	Deposit	Natural Subsoil
1001	Trench 10	Deposit	Topsoil
1002	Trench 10	Deposit	Natural Subsoil
1101	Trench 11	Deposit	Topsoil
1102	Trench 11	Deposit	Natural Subsoil
1201	Trench 12	Deposit	Topsoil
1202	Trench 12	Deposit	Natural Subsoil
1203	Trench 12	Cut	Gully
1204	Trench 12	Fill	Fill of 1203

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES:

- Figure 1: Location Map
- Figure 2: Gazetteer Sites
- Figure 3: Trench location plan
- Figure 4: Sections through features **303**, **403** and **1203**, and from Trenches 8, 11 and 12

PLATES:

- Plate 1: Example trench shot, Trench 11
- Plate 2: Plan of Gully excavated in Trench 3
- Plate 3: Section of gully excavated in Trench 3
- Plate 4: Tree throw excavated in Trench 6
- Plate 5: Plan of gully excavated in Trench 12