



# **EGREMONT BRIDGE FLOOD DEFENCES, EGREMONT, CUMBRIA**

## **Archaeological Desk- based Assessment and Watching Brief**



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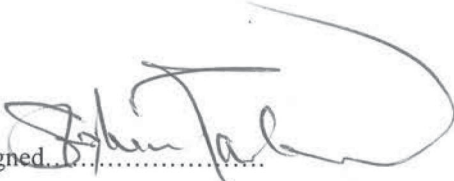
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## SUMMARY

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The Environment Agency proposes to undertake works along the flood defences adjacent to the Egremont Bridge, Egremont, Cumbria (NGR NY 01191 10374). As the site lies within the medieval and post-medieval core of the town, it has been requested that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken. This comprised an archaeological desk-based assessment, and an archaeological watching brief to be carried out during the excavation of test pits prior to the proposed works. In response to a verbal brief from Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has been commissioned to undertake the archaeological works.

The desk-based assessment analysed a 200m radius study area focusing on the Egremont Bridge. Sources consulted included the online database at the Historic Environment Record (HER), cartographic and published documents at the County Record Office (CRO), and both published and unpublished documents housed in the library at OA North.

The desk-based assessment identified eight sites across the study area, three of which will be directly affected by the proposed development, the Bridge End Tannery (**03**), High Mill Race (**04**), and part of the medieval town (**06**). Of the sites identified none pre-dated the medieval period. Those dating to the medieval period included Egremont Castle (**07**), the medieval town (**06**), and the findspot of a key escutcheon (**08**). The remaining five sites dated to the post-medieval period and were generally related to industrial activities. As well as the aforementioned tannery and mill race (**03** and **04**), there was the Bleach Green bleach works (**05**), the Great Corn Mill, (**01**) and Shoddy flint and saw mill (**02**). All of the sites were identified through the HER and cartographic sources. Only Egremont Castle (**07**) was subject to statutory designation as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM **34977**), and a Listed Building (LB **76123**).

Analysis of the cartographic and documentary resource revealed that Egremont had been established in the twelfth century as a feudal seat of the Lords of Copeland. There is some evidence that there may have been a pre-Norman settlement or barony, as the contemporary tenure system had much in common with early Welsh systems. The town was small and agricultural in nature, and huddled around the castle (**07**) to the north and west. Due to local and international instability and warfare, Egremont did not prosper during the medieval period, and by the late eighteenth century had hardly altered. With the rise of the West Cumbrian coal, iron-ore and tanning industries, Egremont saw an increase in fortune, and by the late nineteenth to early twentieth century had expanded beyond its medieval limits.

The proposed development is located towards the south of the town, which is viewed as one of its industrial areas, and will directly impact upon the sites of the former tannery (**03**), the now culverted mill race (**04**), and may even encroach on the earlier medieval town (**06**). As a result an archaeological watching brief was carried out during the excavation of test pits, to assess the presence, extent and survival of any potential sub-surface remains.

Monitoring of the excavation of the six test pits (A – D, F and G) along the line of the proposed works took place between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013. The test pits were



opened through a combination of manual and machine excavation, ranging from 2.5m x 2.2m to 1m x 1m, and up to 1.2m in depth. Two of the test pits (A and F) comprised clean, alluvial silts and gravels, and contained no archaeological remains. A further three test pits (B, C and G) consisted solely of deposits of demolition rubble and topsoil mix, and also produced no features of archaeological interest.

Test pit D, situated to the east of the Egremont Bridge and within the garden of the funeral parlour, was located over the site of the former tannery (03). It comprised a topsoil deposit that sealed a thin, friable layer of concrete. Below the concrete a series of sandstone steps were observed, ascending north towards the river. Both the steps and the concrete had been disturbed by the insertion of a modern sewage pipe. The position of the test pit is within the area of the former tan-pits or tanks, and the stone steps identified maybe the remnants of one of the tanks or an associated structure. No further remains were observed indicating that the area had been heavily truncated during later development.

The lack of extant remains observed in the test pits would suggest that the majority of the features and structures associated with the tannery (03) have been heavily truncated by later development. Nevertheless, the restricted size of the test pits limits the scope of investigation, and there is still the potential for extant sub-surface remains.

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The desk-based assessment and report were undertaken by Kelly Clapperton, and the watching brief by Mike Birtles. The drawings were produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, who also edited the report.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 The Environment Agency (EA) proposes to undertake repairs to the flood defences adjacent to the Egremont Bridge, Egremont, Cumbria (NGR NY 01191 10374, Fig 1). As the site lies within the medieval and post-medieval core of the town, the EA archaeological advisor requested that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken. This comprised a desk-based assessment, and a watching brief carried out during the excavation of test pits in advance of the proposed groundworks. In response to a verbal brief from Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned to undertake the archaeological works. The following report sets out the results of both the desk-based assessment and watching brief in the form of a short document
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment, undertaken in February 2013, comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Historic Environment Record (HER) in Kendal, the County Record Office in Whitehaven, and the archives and library held at OA North. The assessment outlines the findings of the research, including a statement of the archaeological potential and significance, and an assessment of the impact of the proposed development. The scheduling criteria employed by the Secretary of State to understand the importance of a site (Annex 1; DCMS 2010) have been used during this assessment to determine the significance of the archaeological resource and any impact.
- 1.1.3 On 22<sup>nd</sup> -23<sup>rd</sup> January 2013 the watching brief monitored the excavation of six test pits adjacent to the Egremont Bridge. The work sought to assess the presence, extent and survival of any sub-surface archaeological remains, and to investigate and record them as necessary. The test pits were opened through a combination of manual and machine excavation, and were up to 2m in depth.

### 1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The flood defence development lies either side of the Egremont Bridge, on the southern bank of the River Ehen at approximately 40m AOD. Egremont is situated within the valley of the River Ehen, approximately 7km to the south-east of Whitehaven, and 5km to the east of St Bees. It sits within the West Cumbrian Coastal Plain, an area of undulating farmland and open moorland sandwiched between the Irish Sea to the west and the Lake District to the east (Countryside Commission 1998).
- 1.2.2 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Permo-Triassic rocks composed of St Bees Sandstone (*ibid*). To the north are small areas of limestone between Egremont and Frizington, which coincide with the Cumbrian Coal Measures and also carry large bodies of iron ore (*ibid*). Glacial deposits from Scotland form much of the drift geology across the Egremont area, composed largely of boulder clay, sands and gravels (*ibid*); these are sealed by Typical Brown Earth soils (Ordnance Survey (OS) 1983).



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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 The desk-based assessment and watching brief were undertaken in response to a request by EA and in consultation with CCCHES. The project work was consistent with the standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008a; 2008b; 2010) and English Heritage (2006), and generally accepted best practice.

### 2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

2.2.1 The desk-based assessment analysed a 200m-radius study area focusing on the Egremont Bridge. The results of the research have been collated in a gazetteer that can be found in *Section 4* and shown on Figure 2. The desk-based assessment methodology closely followed current policy and guidance relating to proposed development and the historic environment (National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF), DCLG 2012, Section 12, para 126-128). The results were analysed using the set of criteria used to assess the national importance of an ancient monument (DCMS 2010). Sources consulted included:

2.2.2 **Historic Environment Record (HER):** the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) is housed in Kendal and is a database of all known archaeological sites in the region. It is maintained by CCCHES, and was consulted to establish the location of sites of archaeological and historical interest located within the study area.

2.2.3 **County Record Office (CRO), Whitehaven:** the County Record Office (CRO) in Whitehaven was consulted to examine historic maps of the study area, and assess any further relevant secondary sources.

2.2.4 **Oxford Archaeology North:** OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the study area, as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out both as OA North and in its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.

### 2.3 WATCHING BRIEF

2.3.1 The watching brief monitored the excavation of six test pits along the length of the proposed works (Fig 3). Three of the test pits were excavated by mechanical excavator, and three were manually opened. The test pits measured between 1m x 1m to 2.5m x 2.2m, and were up to 2m in depth. All features and deposits of archaeological significance were manually investigated, and the results recorded on *pro-forma* sheets. Site drawings on permatrace were produced to a suitable scale (1:10, 1:20 and 1:50). A photographic archive was compiled of the works, and recorded on *pro-forma* sheets.



## **2.4 ARCHIVE**

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (IfA 2009; English Heritage 2006). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in Whitehaven CRO, and a copy of the report will be placed in the Kendal HER on completion of the project.

### 3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The following section presents a summary of the historical and archaeological background to the general area. This is presented by period, and has been compiled in order to place the study area into a wider archaeological context.

Period	Date Range
Upper Palaeolithic	30,000 – 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	10,000 – 4,000 BC
Neolithic	4,000 – 2,500 BC
Bronze Age	2,500 – 700 BC
Iron Age	700 BC – AD 43
Romano-British	AD 43 – AD 410
Early Medieval	AD 410 – AD 1066
Late Medieval	AD 1066 – AD 1540
Post-medieval	AD 1540 – c1750
Industrial Period	cAD1750 – 1901
Modern	Post-1901

Table 1: Summary of British archaeological periods and date ranges

#### 3.2 BACKGROUND

3.2.1 **Upper Palaeolithic and Mesolithic:** The Upper Palaeolithic (30,000-10,000 BC) spans the period of the last glaciation of the Northern Hemisphere. In Britain evidence is scarce due to the nature of the climate, though some activity has been found in isolated and sheltered locations. Although there is no evidence for an Upper Palaeolithic presence in the study area, activity has been recorded in areas across southern Cumbria. Caves on the Lindale and the Furness Peninsula have produced Upper Palaeolithic material indicative of occupation by hunter/gatherers (Hodgson and Brennand 2006), whilst Late Upper Palaeolithic geological deposits have been identified at St Bees (*ibid*).

3.2.2 The Mesolithic (10,000-4000 BC) is defined as the period when nomadic groups of hunter-gatherers moved from continental Europe into Britain following the retreat of the ice sheets, the first full colonisation of the landmass. No Mesolithic activity has been identified across the study area; nevertheless, some Mesolithic presence has been identified along the nearby Cumbrian coast, with flint scatters located on raised beaches above St Bees Head, and a concentration of flints around the River Esk estuary to the south (*ibid*; Cumbria County Council (CCC) 2006a). Palaeoenvironmental evidence from Ehenside Tarn, 4km to the south of Egremont, suggests that there was intensive activity at the tarn, repeated over millennia, from the Mesolithic

to the Bronze Age (Hodgson and Brennand 2006; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000). Work on Monks Moor and Williamson Moss, to the south of the River Esk, identified hearths and stakeholes related to human settlement, and produced dates from the fifth and sixth millennia BC (*ibid*). Further to the north, in a similarly riverine environment as the study area, archaeological work on the Carlisle Northern Development Route (CNDR) revealed extensive Mesolithic and Neolithic settlement (OA North 2011). The excavations produced a flint scatter totalling over 200,000 lithics.

- 3.2.3 **Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age:** covers the period from the introduction of agriculture in the Neolithic (4000-2500 BC) through to the invasion of Britain by the Romans in AD 43, marking the end of the Iron Age. The transition between the Late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic is extremely blurred in Cumbria, particularly as the lithic technologies are indistinguishable, and it was likely that the population remained highly mobile: Ehenside Tarn shows a near seamless continuation of activity from the Mesolithic to the Neolithic (Hodgson and Brennand 2006). An increase in charcoal between 3000-2600 BC, recorded at Ehenside Tarn, coincides with pollen evidence suggesting large-scale woodland clearance across the Lake District (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000). As the Neolithic progressed, ceramics, bone and waterlogged wood were recorded from Ehenside Tarn, including two wooden ‘tridents’, resembling Neolithic examples found on the CNDR (*ibid*), suggesting that communities were more settled and investing in monumental funerary architecture (*ibid*). Although no sites dating to the Neolithic are known in the study area, the extensive surrounding settlement, and the presence of significant occupation in similar river environments (OA North 2011), indicates a potential for unknown remains.
- 3.2.4 Although funerary architecture originates in the Neolithic, the Bronze Age (2500-700 BC) witnessed an increase in monumental architecture, with the proliferation of stone circles across the region (Burl 2000). Although no sites dating to this period are recorded within the study area, less than 1km to the north-east of Egremont were the Ringing Stones (HER 1198); no longer extant, they were thought to be the remains of a stone circle and tumulus (Hutchinson 1794 cited in CCC 2006b). Other nearby sites include the now-destroyed circles at Egremont le Wheles, Lamplugh, and Wilton (Waterhouse 1985). During this period, settlement extended across most landscapes, and upland environments became dominated by clearance cairns, their form suggesting that they are the result of small-scale pastoral colonisation within a wooded environment (Quartermaine and Leech 2012).
- 3.2.5 Although the Iron Age in Cumbria is characterised by a paucity of evidence, numerous uninvestigated and undated upland and lowland enclosures have been tentatively ascribed to this period (Hodgson and Brennand 2006). Aerial survey has identified extensive putative settlement across the Solway Plain (Bewley 1994), while upland survey has identified field systems and improved land (Quartermaine and Leech 2012). These surveys are supported by palaeoecological data that indicate continuous agricultural activity during and beyond the Iron Age (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000). No known sites dating to the Iron Age are recorded in the study area, although at Seascale Moss, approximately 7km to the south of Egremont, a ‘bog body’, possibly dating to



this period, was recovered (Hodgson and Brennand 2006), suggesting some activity in the vicinity.

- 3.2.6 **Roman Period:** the nearest Roman forts to the study area are situated at Ravenglass, to the south, and Moresby, to the north (Shotter 1993). An enclosure at St Bees (HER 17834), identified through aerial photography, is very similar in form to a Roman fort, though further work needs to be done for confirmation (CCC 2006a). Two Roman roads traverse the area around Egremont, with one running south from Papcastle to the River Ehen, potentially crossing it and continuing to Ravenglass; the second at St Thomas's Cross, to the south-east, may be part of the Thornhill to Calder road (Margary 1973). A coin hoard was recovered from near the River Ehen to the south of Egremont at Braystone (Bellhouse 1989). Within the vicinity of Egremont a coin dating to the reign of Antonius Pious (138-161 AD) was discovered (CCC 2006b), but no sites are known within the study area itself.
- 3.2.7 **Early Medieval Period:** in the immediate Post-Roman period Cumbria was probably part of the Kingdom of Rheged, which was eclipsed by its larger northern neighbour, the Kingdom of Strathclyde (Rollinson 1996). By the seventh century Cumbria had been largely subsumed into Northumbria. The eighth-century decline of Northumbria created a vacuum in the North West, and the area came under increasing pressure from Scandinavian and Hiberno-Norse groups (R Newman 2006).
- 3.2.8 Evidence for pre-Norman settlement can be found across the area. Palaeoecological data from Ehenside Tarn indicates significant land clearance up to the beginning of the second millennium AD (*ibid*), and the ecclesiastical site of St Bees is reputed to have an early foundation (CCC 2006a and b). It was reputedly established in AD 650 by Bega, an Irish noblewoman, running away from an arranged marriage (CCC 2006a). The majority of sculptural crosses and religious art from the period are Scandinavian in design, and several important crosses and hogbacks tombstones are located at Gosforth, to the south (R Newman 2006). Although Egremont was an administrative centre from the twelfth century, some elements of its tenurial structure suggests a pre-Norman establishment, and have similarities to early Welsh land tenure (CCC 2006b).
- 3.2.9 **Late Medieval Period:** Cumbria came under Norman rule in 1092, later than much of England (C Newman 2006). Settlement patterns from the tenth to twelfth centuries suggest year-round coastal occupation, with the uplands being used for seasonal grazing (Winchester 1987). Egremont was established c1120 by William de Meschin as the feudal seat of the Barony of Copeland. He most likely received the title from his brother, Ranulf, when Henry I granted him Cumberland in 1093 (CCC 2006b). As well as founding the Benedictine Priory at St Bees in 1120 (CCC 2006a), William de Meschin also founded a chapel, on the current location of St Mary's and St Michael's Church, in 1122, and Egremont Castle (07) in 1125 (Fair 1937).
- 3.2.10 When he died in 1131 William's lands were divided amongst his two heiresses, and, as a consequence, the Barony of Copeland passed, through marriage, into the hands of William FitzDuncan of Scotland. The town was subsequently attacked by the Scots in 1138 (*ibid*). With the growing consolidation of the Scottish and English kingdoms, the Border area became



increasingly unstable, and remained so for much of the medieval period (C Newman 2006; Rollinson 1996).

- 3.2.11 By the beginning of the thirteenth century the Barony of Copeland was under the auspices of Richard de Lucy, who granted the burgesses land and privileges with details of agricultural rights and duties (CCC 2006b; Winchester 1979). They were the only burgesses in England liable for both agricultural and military services (CCC 2006b). The grant also makes reference to *the assize of dyers, weavers and fullers*, indicating that textiles were already a significant industry within the town (06; Winchester 1979).
- 3.2.12 At the beginning of the fourteenth century the town was embroiled within a series of conflicts, including internal rebellions within Cumbria, and attacks from Scotland (Rollinson 1996): in 1315 the castle (07) was attacked by Robert the Bruce (Turnbull and Walsh 1994). As well as warfare, disease was a major contributor to the town's poverty; as the *inquisitio nonarum* of 1340 indicated with an outbreak of sheep 'murrain' (Winchester 1979). From 1322 to 1334 the Barony was held by John de Multon, and, after his death, was surveyed and divided between his three sisters (*ibid*). The survey provides a very useful insight into medieval Egremont, and divided the town into four sections (06; CCC 2006b): the castle and associated park, fisheries, meadow and agricultural land; the 182 burgage plots with 82 free tenants; up to 14 possible waste burgage plots; and markets and mills, which included a weekly market, an annual fair, a watermill, a fulling mill and two smithies (*ibid*). After this division, however, the castle went out of use (*ibid*).
- 3.2.13 The fifteenth century brought a period of relative peace to the region, with a cross-Border truce, although the subsequent Dissolution of the Monasteries brought further social and economic upheaval (Rollinson 1996). The Percy Survey of 1578 shows that over two-thirds of Egremont had passed to the Earl of Northumberland (CCC 2006; Liddell 1966). The survey suggests that the town had not fared well during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, with the total number of burgages dropping to 101 (06; CCC 2006b). The description of the town layout, extending to the west and north of the castle (07), and to the east around the church, hardly differs to the first edition Ordnance Survey (1860).
- 3.2.14 **Post-medieval to Modern Period:** within a few years of the Union of the Crowns in 1603, the Border regions had settled into a relatively peaceable state (McCarthy *et al* 1990), which allowed Cumbria to expand both economically and socially. During the seventeenth century the Lowther family held extensive estates across Cumberland and Westmorland, including the town of Whitehaven (Collier 1991). They established the harbour at Whitehaven, exporting salt, coal, textiles and leather to the Old and New Worlds, influencing the agricultural and industrial output of the region (*ibid*).
- 3.2.15 This influence is directly seen in Egremont, where milling, iron-ore production, tanning and quarrying were among the main employers in the town. The first edition of the Ordnance Survey (1860) illustrates seven watermills on the banks of the Ehen, and nine have been recorded in all. Within the study area three mills were identified: Egremont Great Mill (01), a corn mill to the east of the Egremont Bridge; Shoddy Mill (02, initially a flint mill for the Whitehaven ceramic industry, it later became the Crosswater Saw

Mill); and the bleaching mill on Bleach Green (**05**), established by Adamson in the 1750s. Associated with the mills was the High Mill Race (**04**), which fed a number of mills within and outwith the study area. There were also two fulling mills, a hemp and flax mill, a paper mill, and a coupe of smaller mills who's function is not identified (CCC 2006b).

- 3.2.16 The iron ore in the area was seen as of high quality, suitable for steel, and therefore several mines were sunk across the town (Lancaster and Wattleworth 1977). The iron-ore industry grew rapidly in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, aided by the completion of the Furness/Whitehaven railway in 1850 (Furness Railway Trust 2003). In Egremont, mines were concentrated around the areas of Bigrigg and Moor Row (CCC 2006b), and two survived until 1968 at Florence and Ullcoats (*ibid*). Associated with iron-ore production was quarrying for limestone, needed in the smelting process. The Clintz area, to the north of the town, was mined until 1929 (*ibid*).
- 3.2.17 Four tanneries were established over the period, the first being at 'Beekwill', a stone bridge crossing the 'skitterbeck', in 1710 (CCC 2006b); the second at Bookwell, in the former castle grounds, which finally closed in 1911; the third was located at Bridge End in 1730 (**03**); and the fourth was called Woodgate and situated at the far end of North Road (CCC 2006b). The Bridge End Tannery (**03**) is within the study area and will be directly affected by the development. Although referred to as a tannery in Bulmer's Directory of 1883 (cited in HER **12886**), it is labelled as a sawmill by the second edition of the Ordnance Survey (1899).
- 3.2.18 During the twentieth century there was a move from an industrial economy towards one geared to commerce and services. Substantial development took place across Egremont, mainly for residential, commercial, educational and some industrial purposes (CCC 2006b).

### 3.3 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS



Plate 1: Detail of Hodkinson and Donald's Map of Cumberland, 1774

- 3.3.1 **Hodkinson and Donald's map of Cumberland, 1774 (Plate 1):** the town of Egremont (06) spans the roads to the north of the bridge, focusing to the north and west of the castle (07), with St Mary's Church to the east. Along the northern bank of the River Ehen, to the east of the bridge, a mill and leat are illustrated but not annotated, and could either be Egremont Great Mill (01) or Shoddy Mill (02), on the mill race (04). To the south of the bridge, two buildings are depicted, and, further to the south-west, two paper mills on a second leat cutting across the meander. To the east, along the southern river bank, another watermill is depicted, again, its function is not labelled.





Plate 2: Detail of Greenwood's map of Cumberland, 1822

- 3.3.2 **Greenwood's map of Cumberland, 1822 (Plate 2):** Egremont town has barely altered since the eighteenth-century map, with some minor occupation of unused burgage plots. Two small buildings have been erected on the eastern meander to the north of the bridge within the study area. To the south, a series of buildings have been constructed along the river bank, possibly including the Bridge End Tannery (03). A small structure has been constructed to the west with a road or track leading to it, and may be the bleach works (05); on the opposite side of the river is a more substantial building. The papermills are still extant to the south-west.
- 3.3.3 **Tithe Map of Egremont, 1842** (not illustrated): this tithe map only depicts a section of the study area, but includes the corn mill (01), the flint and saw mill (02) and the mill race (04). There is barely any difference between this map and the ones that precede and succeed it.
- 3.3.4 **Ordnance Survey 25" first edition 1860 (Plate 3):** the Ordnance Survey maps provided far more detail and accuracy than their earlier counterparts. To the north of the Egremont Bridge little has changed since the previous maps. A corn mill (01) and Flint Mill (Shoddy; 02) are annotated on the mill race (04) to the east of the bridge, and are most likely those depicted on the 1774 and 1822 maps. A weir crosses the River Ehen to the south-east of the corn mill. To the west of the bridge some mine pits are illustrated on the north bank, and are adjacent to a second weir.
- 3.3.5 To the south of the river, the district of Bridge End has been labelled, and a tannery sits on the river bank (03), with both the buildings and tanks clearly depicted. They are probably the same structures illustrated on Greenwood's map (1822). Along the southern side of the road several properties have been



occupied, and further to the south-west, the papermill and mill race are still in use.

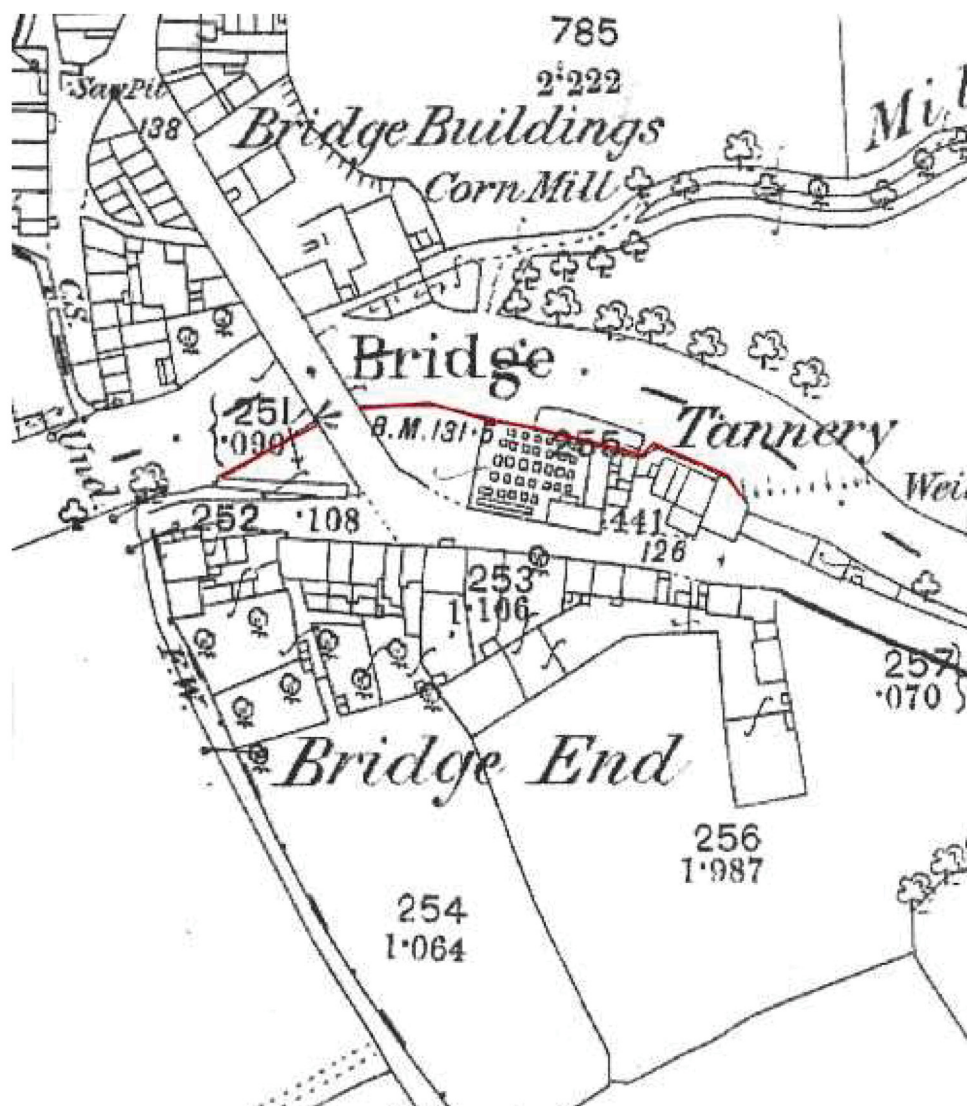


Plate 3: Detail of first edition Ordnance Survey, 1860

- 3.3.6 **Ordnance Survey 25" second edition 1899 (Plate 4):** by this edition of the Ordnance Survey, Egremont has expanded, with the construction of several rows of terraced housing to the north-east of the bridge, most likely for mill and mine workers, as well as the erection of some large villas for middle-class residents. To the east of the bridge, on the northern bank, the Flint/Shoddy Mill (02) has become Crosswater Saw Mill, and shares the mill race (04) with the still-functioning corn mill (01). A bowling green has been created in the meander between the two mills. The mines are still extant to the west of the bridge.
- 3.3.7 Along the southern bank of the river the tannery buildings (03) are now labelled 'saw mill', although the buildings and tanks still exist suggesting a recent change of function. Beyond the installation of a police station to the west, little has altered in this area.



Plate 4: Detail of second edition Ordnance Survey, 1899

3.3.8 **Ordnance Survey 25<sup>th</sup> edition 1925 (Plate 5):** very little has changed between this edition and the previous. There has been some expansion of the Shoddy/Crosswater Saw Mill (02) to the north-east, and the former tannery (03) on the southern river bank has been fully transformed into a saw mill; the tanks are no longer extant and buildings now fill that area.



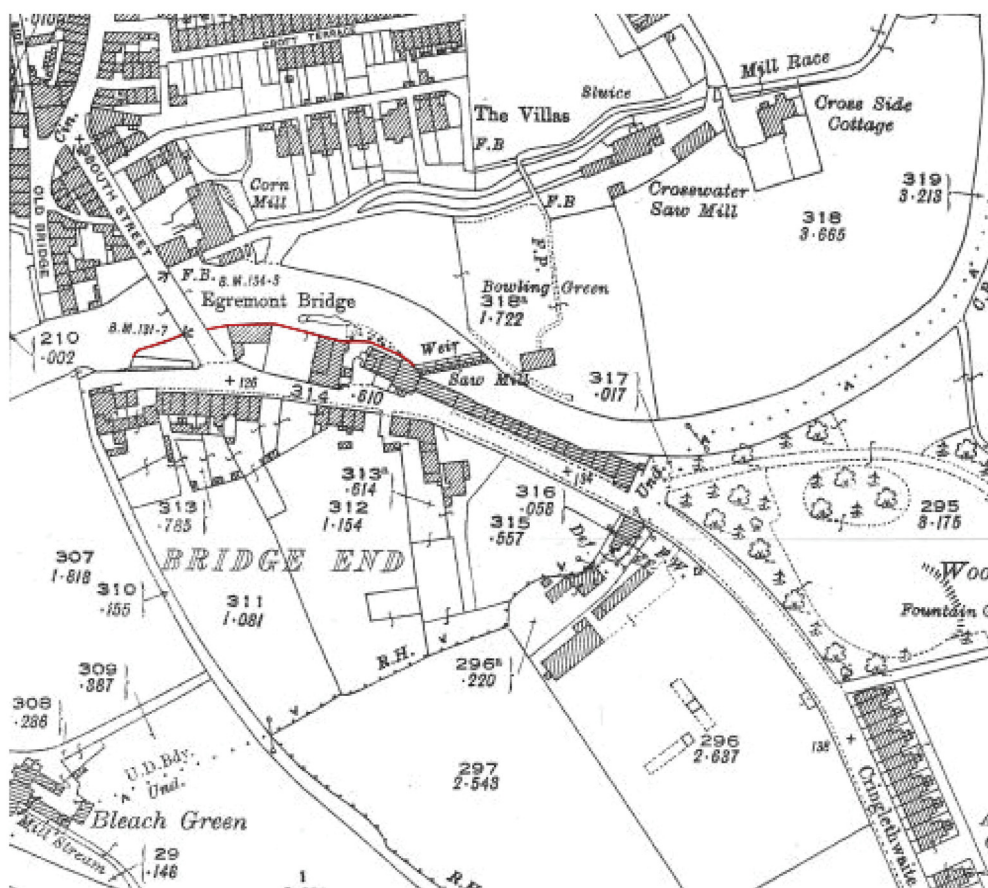


Plate 5: Detail of third edition Ordnance Survey, 1925

### 3.4 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

- 3.4.1 Over the years Egremont has been subject to various archaeological investigations. The following section provides a brief summary of the works undertaken in, or adjacent to, the study area.
- 3.4.2 In 1991 excavations were carried out at Egremont Castle by Turnbull and Walsh (1994); all the remains encountered dated to the nineteenth century. Subsequent work at the castle included a survey of the building and associated earthworks in 2002 (OA North 2002), and a watching brief of three test pits 2004 (OA North 2004), the only finds being fragments of post-medieval pottery.
- 3.4.3 Adjacent to the castle, investigations at the Old Castle Cinema in 2003 and 2010 revealed elements of nineteenth-century houses and remains associated with the Bookwell tannery (North Pennine Archaeology 2003; 2010). Within the town itself (Site 06), several decades of archaeological work have indicated that much of the area has been heavily disturbed by post-medieval development. Excavations at 6-10 Main Street in 1983 revealed nineteenth-century buildings and cobbled areas (Newman 1988), while a watching brief at the Egremont Co-op encountered medieval ditches, pits and postholes (On Site Archaeology 2002). Evaluations undertaken at Queen's Drive (LUAU 1994) and West Lakes Academy (OA North 2010) produced no archaeological remains.



#### 4. GAZETTEER OF SITES

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<b>Site number</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>Site name</b>	<b>Egremont Great Mill</b>
<b>NGR</b>	<b>NY 01120 10420</b>
<b>HER No</b>	<b>12334</b>
<b>Designation</b>	None
<b>Site type</b>	<b>Corn mill</b>
<b>Period</b>	Post-medieval
<b>Sources</b>	HER; Ordnance Survey 25" first edition 1860; CCC 2006b; Ordnance Survey 1971
<b>Description</b>	Corn mill depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey, thought to be the main town corn mill, and is described as demolished on the HER, but according to the Extensive Urban Survey (CCC 2006b) it is still extant and was converted to flats in 1979. According to modern mapping the latter seems to be more likely.
<b>Assessment</b>	Lies outside the development area and should not be impacted

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<b>Site number</b>	<b>02</b>
<b>Site name</b>	<b>Shoddy Mill/Crosswater Mill, Egremont</b>
<b>NGR</b>	<b>NY 01280 10450</b>
<b>HER No</b>	<b>12335</b>
<b>Designation</b>	None
<b>Site type</b>	<b>Flint mill and saw mill</b>
<b>Period</b>	Post-medieval
<b>Sources</b>	HER; Ordnance Survey first edition 1860; Ordnance Survey second edition 1899
<b>Description</b>	A flint mill known as Shoddy Mill, most likely owned by Wilkinson of Whitehaven pottery. Used to grind flint from southern England or Ireland, to make temper for the ceramics. Later became the Crosswater Saw Mill, which was sold in 1924
<b>Assessment</b>	Lies outside the development area and should not be impacted

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<b>Site number</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>Site name</b>	<b>Bridge End Tannery, Egremont</b>
<b>NGR</b>	<b>NY 01180 10370</b>
<b>HER No</b>	<b>12886</b>
<b>Designation</b>	None
<b>Site type</b>	<b>Tannery</b>
<b>Period</b>	Post-medieval
<b>Sources</b>	HER; Ordnance Survey first edition 1860
<b>Description</b>	Tannery depicted on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey, and referred to in Bulmers Directory of 1883 as being owned by John Mossop.
<b>Assessment</b>	Lies very close to the development area and could be impacted

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<b>Site number</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>Site name</b>	<b>High Mill Race, Egremont</b>
<b>NGR</b>	<b>NY 01330 10940</b>
<b>HER No</b>	<b>12338</b>
<b>Designation</b>	None
<b>Site type</b>	<b>Mill race</b>
<b>Period</b>	Post-medieval
<b>Sources</b>	HER; Ordnance Survey first edition 1860
<b>Description</b>	Mill race running between High Mill (HER 12337) and Bleach Green (Site 05), servicing Sites 01 and 02 en route.

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**Assessment** Lies outside the development area and should not be impacted.

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**Site number** 05  
**Site name** Bleach Green, Egremont  
**NGR** NY 01040 10210  
**HER No** 12875  
**Designation** None  
**Site type** Bleach works and watermill  
**Period** Post-medieval  
**Sources** HER; Greenwood 1822; Ordnance Survey first edition 1860; Ordnance Survey second edition 1899  
**Description** Buildings shown on the first and second edition Ordnance Survey named Bleach Green. First established by Isaac Adamson in 1750 as a Bleaching Mill. It may be the isolated building illustrated on Greenwood's map (1822). By the Directory of 1847 it was owned by a farmer called McClellon and described as a mill.  
**Assessment** Lies outside the development area and should not be impacted.

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**Site number** 06  
**Site name** Egremont Medieval Town  
**NGR** Centred on NY 01000 10700  
**HER No** 40428  
**Designation** None  
**Site type** Settlement  
**Period** Medieval to post-medieval  
**Sources** HER; LUAU 1983; OSA 2002; NPA 2003; OA North 2009; NPA 2010  
**Description** Founded in the late twelfth to early thirteenth century, Egremont was a feudal seat of power for the Copelands. The town was agriculturally centred, based on processing farm produce, but by the fourteenth century had water mills, a fulling mill and two smithies. The town was typically impoverished, for the North-West of England, subject to internal and external instability and warfare. By the late eighteenth century, however, with the Union of the Crowns and the end of the Civil Wars, the town began to attain some prosperity through the iron-ore and textile industries. It is thought that the medieval core focused around the castle, Main Street, Market Place and South Street, with some extension along the road to St Bees, Brewery Lane, Bookwell Road and Haggot End.  
**Assessment** Lies within the study area and will be affected by the development.

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**Site number** 07  
**Site name** Egremont Castle  
**NGR** NY 0098 1049  
**HER No** 3051  
**Designation** Scheduled Ancient Monument 34977, Grade I Listed Building 76123  
**Site type** Castle, motte and bailey, park  
**Period** Medieval  
**Sources** HER; OA North 2002  
**Description** The castle itself was established by William de Meschins, although the remains of an earlier Norman motte can be seen to the north. The west wall and gatehouse have the earliest surviving masonry, thought to be twelfth-century in date, with some re-facing of the gatehouse in the fourteenth-century. Recent work has established a clear sequence of development. An earthwork and timber fortification was constructed *c* 1125, with the castle being rebuilt in stone later in the same century. The façade of the great hall is thought to be fourteenth century in date, and the bailey curtain was most likely realigned between the twelfth and fourteenth centuries (OA North 2002). The

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**Assessment** castle was probably abandoned in the mid-fourteenth century when the Barony of Copeland was divided amongst three heiresses.  
Lies outside the development area and should not be impacted.

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**Site number** 08  
**Site name** Key Escutcheon Find, Egremont  
**NGR** NY 00945 10445  
**HER No** 19535  
**Designation** None  
**Site type** Settlement  
**Period** Medieval  
**Sources** HER; Richardson 1999,  
**Description** A key escutcheon recovered *c* 250m from the main entrance to Egremont Castle during repairs to an underground cable in 1983. The florid style of the escutcheon suggests a medieval date, and its form indicates that it belongs to a cupboard or door rather than a casket.  
**Assessment** Lies outside the development area and should not be impacted

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## 5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REMAINS

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 In the National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012), the Department of Communities and Local Government advises that *local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting (op cit 12.128)*. Therefore, the following section will determine the nature and level of the significance of the archaeological resource presented in *Sections 3 and 4*.
- 5.1.2 Eight sites were identified across the study area, two of which will be directly affected by the development (**03** and **06**). All of the sites were identified through the HER and cartographic sources, and one was designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Listed Building (**07**). Four Listed Buildings were identified during the desk-based assessment; these will not be affected by the development and are listed in *Table 3* below.

Period	No of Sites	Site Type
Neolithic	0	
Bronze Age	0	
Iron Age	0	
Roman	0	
Medieval	3	Town ( <b>06</b> ), castle ( <b>07</b> ), key escutcheon findspot ( <b>08</b> )
Post-medieval	5	Corn mill ( <b>01</b> ), flint and saw mill ( <b>02</b> ), tannery ( <b>03</b> ), mill race ( <b>04</b> ), bleach works ( <b>05</b> )

*Table 2: Number of sites by period*

Listed Building No	Description
<b>76121</b>	17 Bridge End, Grade II listed toll house
<b>76139</b>	Church of St Mary and St Michael, Grade II listed church, 1881
<b>76140</b>	Entrance gate to the church, Grade II listed, nineteenth century
<b>76124</b>	Sundial west of the castle gatehouse, Grade II listed, 1762

*Table 3: Listed Buildings*

### 5.2 CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING SIGNIFICANCE

- 5.2.1 There are a number of different methodologies used to assess the archaeological significance of sites; that to be used here is the ‘Secretary of State’s criteria for scheduling ancient monuments’ (Annex 1; DCMS 2010). These include *Period, Rarity, Documentation, Group Value, Survival/Condition, Fragility/Vulnerability, Diversity* and *Potential*. The

following Section will focus on those sites to be directly affected by the proposed development (Sites **03** and **06**), with each being considered using the criteria.

- 5.2.2 Although the original layout of the medieval town (Site **06**) can still be seen through the property boundary plots illustrated on the early editions of the Ordnance Survey (1860 and 1899), physical remains are likely to survive only as sub-surface features. Nonetheless, these are significant in terms of *period* as they would provide information on the initial establishment and development of Egremont. Previous archaeological work has suggested that the medieval town has been heavily disturbed by later development, and thus any remains are likely to be scarce and fragile, gaining significance through their *rarity* and *vulnerability*. The town is surprisingly well *documented* during the medieval period in the form of assizes, and surveys undertaken by the Lords of Copeland and the Earls of Northumberland. As a result, the *group value* of the town (**06**) and castle (**07**) is significant, as they formed the medieval administrative centre for the area. As well as its *group value*, the town's importance in the medieval and post-medieval periods also lies in its *diversity*, as it consists of many elements; domestic, religious and industrial.
- 5.2.3 The post-medieval site of the tannery (**03**) is important in its *period*, as it informs on the later, industrial development of the town as it moved away from its original agricultural focus. Although the area of the tannery has been levelled, and is currently used for funeral parlour parking, a garage and garden, these may not have had a huge impact on sub-surface remains (such as tanks, foundations and other industrial features, *etc*). There is thus good *potential* to identify such remains, although they would be *vulnerable* to more destructive development in the future. The potential to understand the tannery in relation to the industrial landscape means that its *group value* with other industrial elements (Sites **01**, **02**, **04** and **05**) is also significant. Historic maps, earlier editions of the Ordnance Survey (1860 and 1899), as well as trade directories provide the tannery with a certain amount of *documentation*, that might be augmented if further research could identify more, directly related, records. If any remains of the tannery do exist they will be below ground and *vulnerable* to any groundworks in the vicinity.
- 5.2.4 The *potential* for both the medieval town (**06**) and the post-medieval tannery (**03**) relies on sub-surface remains surviving later development. Some examples of surviving medieval and post-medieval archaeology are given in *Section 3.4*, and would indicate that such remains may exist. As well as the *potential* for elements of known archaeological sites, the location of Egremont, in relation to the sea and the river, and inference of some of the documentary evidence, suggests a potential for earlier, unknown remains.

### 5.3 IMPORTANCE

- 5.3.1 Using the criteria outlined in Table 4, each of the sites listed in the gazetteer has been assessed in terms of its importance as a site of archaeological interest.

Importance	Examples of Site Type
National	Scheduled Monuments (SMs), Grade I, II* and II Listed Buildings
Regional/County	Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens (Designated Heritage Assets) Sites and Monuments Record/Historic Environment Record
Local/Borough	Sites with a local or borough value or interest for cultural appreciation Sites that are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion into a higher grade
Low Local	Sites with a low local value or interest for cultural appreciation Sites that are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion into a higher grade
Negligible	Sites or features with no significant value or interest

Table 4: Criteria used to Determine Importance of Sites

5.3.2 Only one site can be defined as of *national importance*: Egremont Castle (07), as it is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Listed Building, although this is situated outside the development area. The sites of the medieval town (06) and tannery (03) are defined as being of *regional/county importance*, as they are all listed on the HER database. The remainder of the sites identified in the study area lie outwith the development area and are not included in this section.



## 6. IMPACT

### 6.1 IMPACT

6.1.1 Archaeological remains are ‘*an irreplaceable resource*’ (DCLG 2012, 12.126). Therefore, it has been the intention of this study to identify the archaeological significance and potential of the study area, and assess the impact of the proposals, thus allowing the advice of National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012) to be enacted upon. Assessment of impact has been achieved by the following method:

- assessing any potential impact and the significance of the effects arising from the proposals;
- reviewing the evidence for past impacts that may have affected the archaeological sites;
- outlining suitable mitigation measures, where possible at this stage, to avoid, reduce or remedy adverse archaeological impacts.

6.1.2 The impact is assessed in terms of the sensitivity or importance of the site to the magnitude of change or potential scale of impact during the future redevelopment scheme. The magnitude, or scale, of an impact is often difficult to define, but will be termed substantial, moderate slight, or negligible, as shown in Table 5, below.

Scale of Impact	Description
Substantial	Significant change in environmental factors; Complete destruction of the site or feature; Change to the site or feature resulting in a fundamental change in ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its cultural heritage or archaeological value/historical context and setting.
Moderate	Significant change in environmental factors; Change to the site or feature resulting in an appreciable change in ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its cultural heritage or archaeological value/historical context and setting.
Slight	Change to the site or feature resulting in a small change in our ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its cultural heritage or archaeological value/historical context and setting.
Negligible	Negligible change or no material changes to the site or feature. No real change in our ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its cultural heritage or archaeological value/historical context and setting.

*Table 5: Criteria used to Determine Scale of Impact*

6.1.3 The interaction of the scale of impact (Table 5) and the importance of the archaeological site (Table 4) produce the impact significance. This may be calculated by using the matrix shown in Table 6, below.

Resource Value (Importance)	Scale of Impact Upon Archaeological Site			
	Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Negligible
<b>National</b>	Major	Major	Intermediate/Minor	Neutral
<b>Regional/County</b>	Major	Major/Intermediate	Minor	Neutral
<b>Local/Borough</b>	Intermediate	Intermediate	Minor	Neutral
<b>Local (low)</b>	Intermediate / Minor	Minor	Minor/Neutral	Neutral
<b>Negligible</b>	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral

Table 6: Impact Significance Matrix

6.1.4 The medieval town (06) has been subject to much development over the centuries, and remains will most likely have been disturbed and truncated. The proposed development may directly affect remains dating to this period, and will be of moderate impact.

6.1.5 The tannery (03) is no longer extant, and the site has been demolished and developed. Nevertheless, underground remains may still exist and as the proposed development will directly affect the area, the impact will be substantial to moderate.

6.1.6 The remainder of the sites identified in the study area lie outside the development area and are not included in this section.

## 6.2 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.2.1 Following on from the above considerations, the significance of effects has been determined based on an assumption that there will be earth-moving works associated with the development, and that the present condition of the archaeological assets/sites is known. The results are summarised in Table 7, below.

Site No	Nature of Impact	Importance	Scale of Impact	Impact Significance
03	Likely below ground disturbance	Regional	Substantial – moderate	Major/intermediate
06	Possible below ground disturbance	Regional	Moderate	Major/intermediate

Table 7: Assessment of the Impact Significance on each Site During Development

## 7. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

7.1.1 Six test pits (A to D, F and G; Fig 3) were excavated along the line of the proposed works, ranging from 2.5m x 2.2m to 1m x 1m, and up to 1.2m in depth. Of the pits; three were opened by hand (B, C and D) and three by machine (A, F and G). The following section provides a summary of the results of the watching brief, more detailed descriptions of the test pits can be found towards the rear of this document in *Appendix 1*.

### 7.2 FIELDWORK RESULTS

7.2.1 Test pit A, situated to the west of the Egremont Bridge, and test pit F (Plate 6), to the east of the bridge, both were north of the river-side wall, revealed near-identical deposits. They consisted of topsoil, an alluvial silty-sand, to a depth of over 1.2m, and in test pit A, a reddish-brown silty-clay was encountered towards the base. No features or finds of archaeological significance were observed.



Plate 6: Test pit F, looking south

7.2.2 Test pits B, C and G (Plate 7) were located to the east of the bridge, with B and G being to the south of the river-side wall, and C to the north. They all revealed deposits of demolition rubble and topsoil mix. The rubble was formed in the main by modern red-brick, with some fragments of sandstone and metal debris. The base of the rubble deposit was not reached in test pits B and G,



reaching depths of 1m and 2m respectively. However, in test pit C the layer was 0.1m thick, and was found to overly topsoil (0.1m thick), which in turn sealed alluvial gravels to a depth of 1m. No features or finds of archaeological interest were recovered.



*Plate 7: Test pit G, looking north*



*Plate 8: Test pit D showing the steps and sewage pipe, looking north*

- 7.2.3 The only test pit to contain any features of archaeological interest was D (Plate 8). This test pit was situated to the east of the Egremont Bridge, within the garden of the funeral parlour. It comprised topsoil that sealed a thin, friable layer of concrete. A modern sewage pipe had been inserted into the concrete. Below the concrete a series of putative steps were observed, ascending north towards the river. The steps comprised sandstone blocks with no visible bonding material, and had been built directly onto the underlying natural alluvial gravels. They had also been disturbed by the modern sewage pipe. No finds were recovered from the investigated deposits.

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## 8. CONCLUSIONS

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### 8.1 DISCUSSION

- 8.1.1 Of the six test pits excavated five contained no features of archaeological interest (A, B, C, F and G). They comprised either clean, alluvial topsoil silts and natural gravels, or significant quantities of demolition rubble. Observations along the southern river bank identified numerous sandstone blocks and quantities of masonry, probably the result of the deposition of demolition rubble from nearby structures.
- 8.1.2 Although no sites or buildings were identified to the west of the bridge in the desk-based assessment, to the east stood the Bridge End Tannery (**03**), which is illustrated on the first and second editions of the Ordnance Survey (1860 and 1899). The location of test pit D is within an area of the tan-pits or tanks, and the putative stone steps identified may be the remnants of one of the tanks or an associated structure. That they are running from the river down into the ground and alluvial gravels, could suggest that the steps were descending into a feature. However, they might actually be part of the river-side wall that had been disturbed by the insertion of the later sewage pipe. The limited size of the test pit prohibits a full understanding of the remains.
- 8.1.3 No further remains associated with either the tannery (**03**) or the medieval town (**06**) were observed during the watching brief, as exhibited by the sterile nature of the remainder of the test pits opened to the north of the river-side wall (B and G). This would indicate that the area had been heavily disturbed during later development. Nevertheless, the restricted size of the test pits limits the scope of investigation, and there is still the potential for extant sub-surface remains elsewhere in the area.



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## 10. ILLUSTRATIONS

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### 10.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: Plan of Gazetteer Sites

Figure 3: Plan of Test Pit Locations

## APPENDIX 1: TEST PIT DESCRIPTIONS

Test Pit	Dimensions	Description
<b>A</b>	1.5m x 0.5m x 1.2m	Machine excavated to the west of the bridge. Topsoil: grey-brown silty-sand, with occasional rounded waterborne boulders, organic debris; riverine alluvium, 1.2m thick. Reddish-brown silty-clay; natural geology. No finds or features of archaeological significance
<b>B</b>	1m x 1m x 1m	Hand dug at western gable-end of the funeral parlour. Mixed deposit of redbrick-rich demolition rubble and topsoil, 1m thick. No finds or features of archaeological significance
<b>C</b>	1m x 1m x 1m	Hand dug along the northern wall of the funeral parlour. Redbrick-rich demolition rubble layer, 0.1m thick. Topsoil deposit 0.1m thick. Mid-brown, fine and loose alluvial silts and gravels with frequent rounded waterworn cobbles and boulders; natural geology, 0.8m thick. No finds or features of archaeological significance
<b>D</b>	1.3m x 1.2m x 1.2m	Hand dug in the funeral parlour garden. Topsoil, 0.25m thick, sealed a thin, friable concrete layer, approximately 0.9m in width and 0.08m thick. The concrete had been cut to aid the insertion of a ceramic sewage pipe. Underlying the concrete were a series of three putative stone steps. These ascended north towards the river. The steps were narrow, comprising sandstone blocks measuring 0.23m x 0.12m x 0.07m, and had been truncated by the later sewage pipe. The underlying material consisted of natural geology, a mid-orange-brown, friable alluvial gravel to a depth of 1.2m.
<b>F</b>	2m x 1m x 1.2m	Machine excavated to the north of the boundary wall, to the west of the garage. Grey-brown, silty-sand with occasional rounded boulders – river alluvium. No finds or features of archaeological significance
<b>G</b>	2.5m x 2.2m x 2m	Machine excavated to the south of the boundary wall, to the north-east of the garage. The sole deposit comprised 90% red-brick demolition rubble and 10% topsoil. No features or finds of archaeological significance

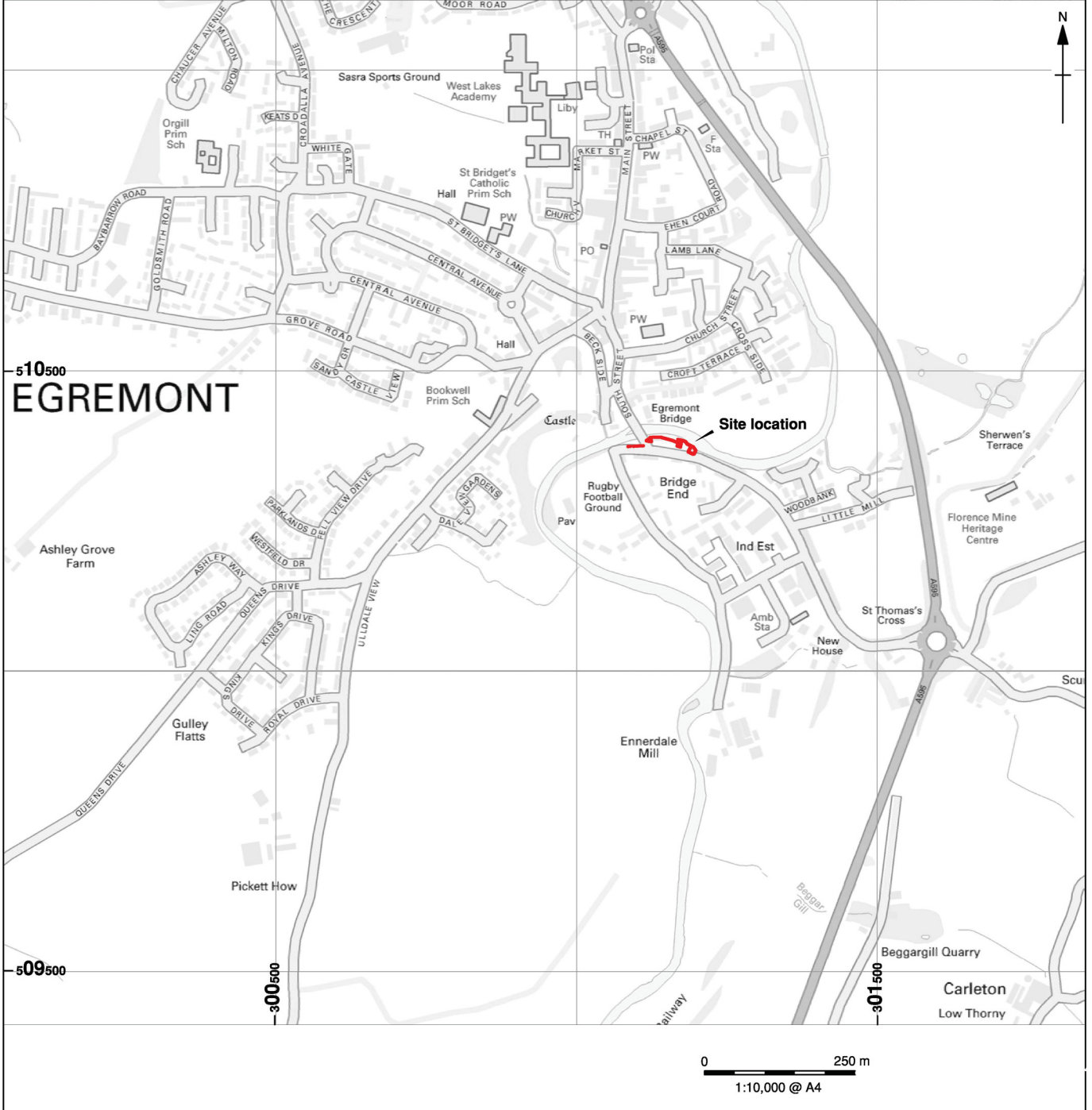
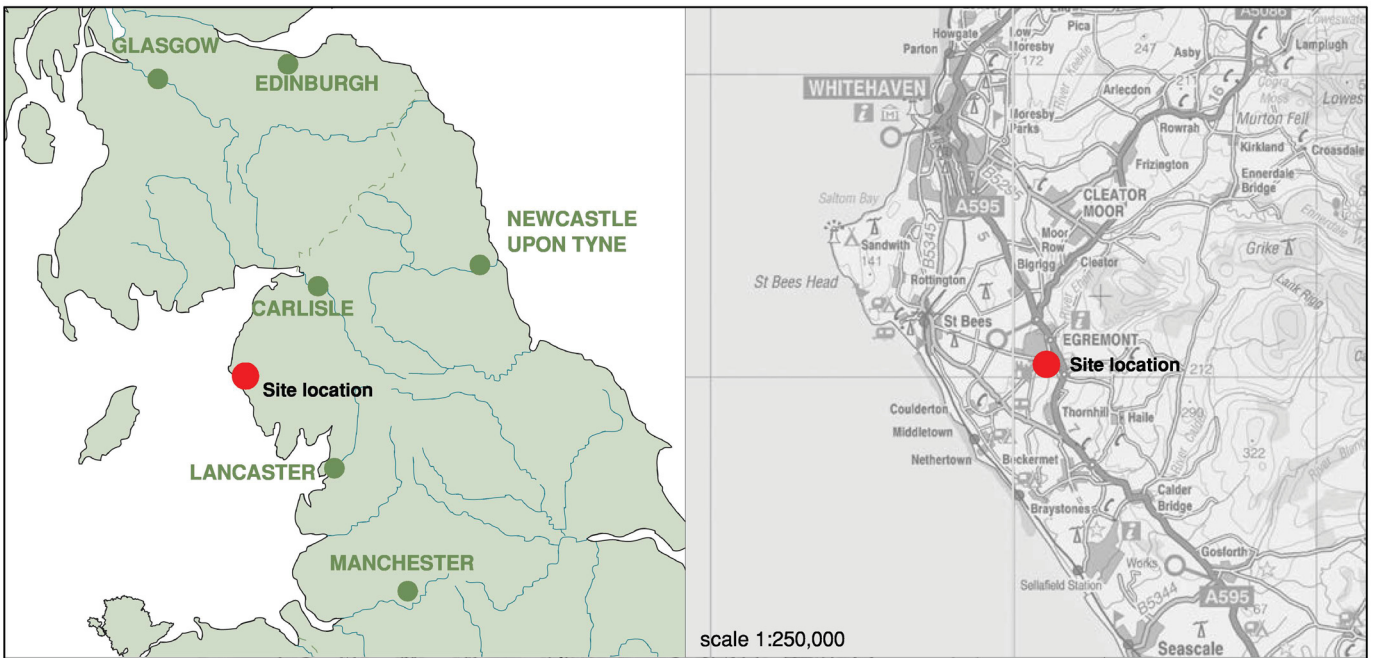


Figure 1: Site location



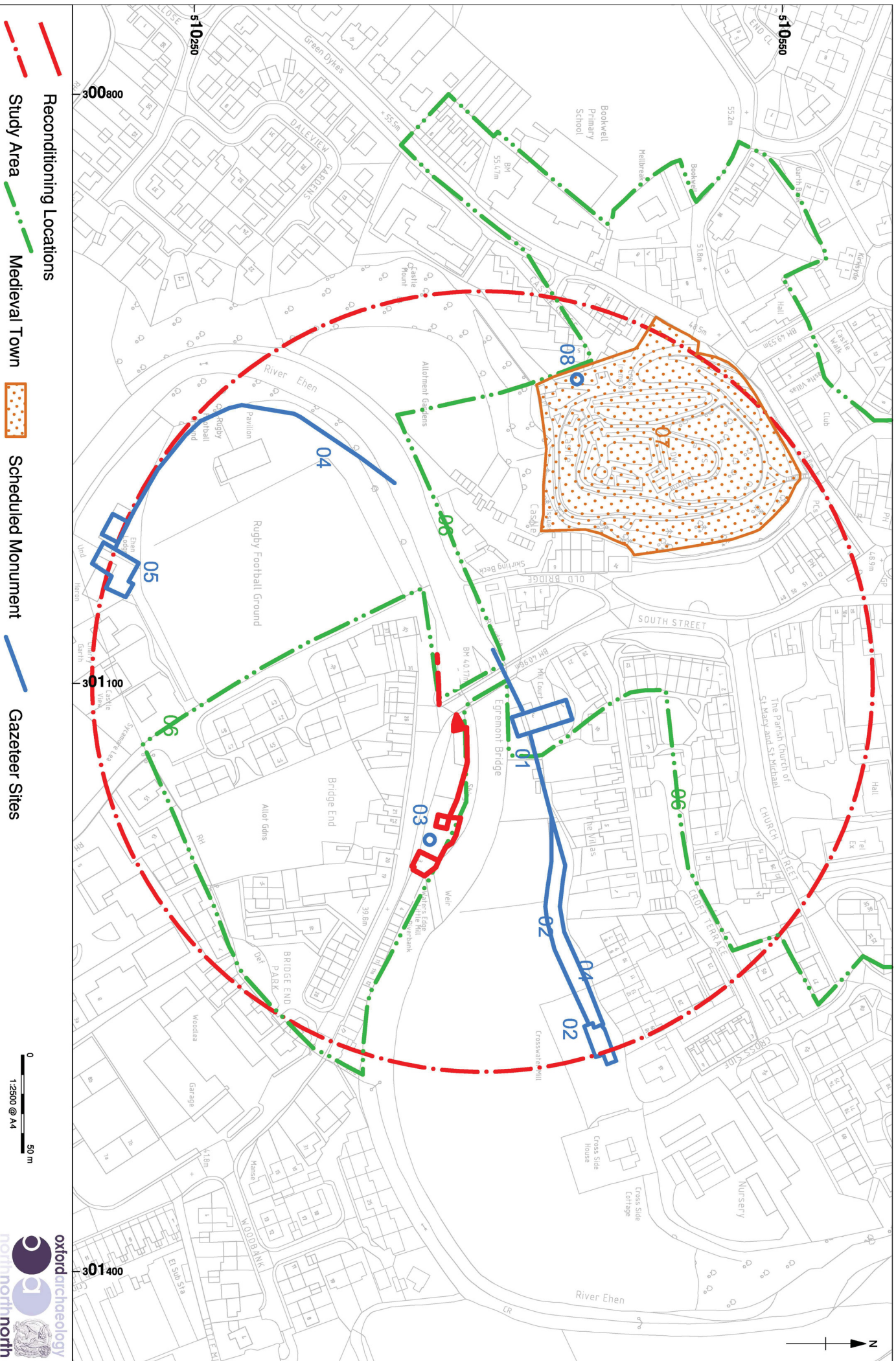


Figure 2: Plan of gazetteer sites

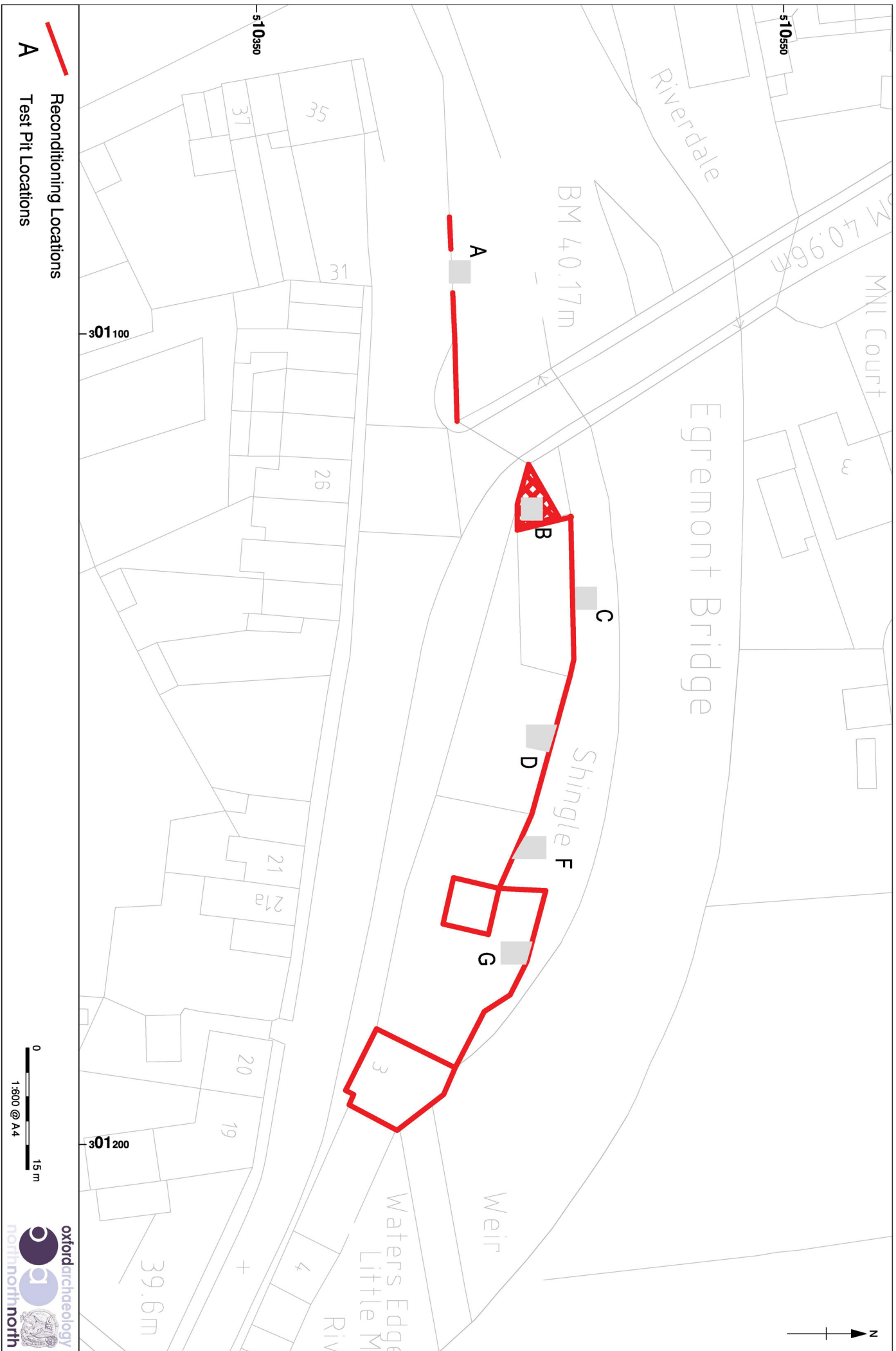


Figure 3: Plan of test pit locations