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Interpretation, Design & Display

Allonby Wastewater Treatment Works

Archaeological Landscape Survey Cumbria

Report No. Y167/14

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Commissioned by	United Utilities plc
Date issued	July 2014
OASIS Reference	cfaarcha1-183395
Version	1.0
National Grid Ref	NY 08117 44125

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard procedures.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

This report presents the results of an archaeological landscape Survey undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) at Allonby Waste Water Treatment Works (WwTW), Cumbria during July 2014.

Ridge and furrow were identified within the field immediately north of the existing WwTW on a 1946 aerial photo (HER no. 6698). The Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation Project identified the field systems surrounding the WwTW as fossilised strips or former common arable land.

As there was the possibility that the ridge and furrow and the field systems of the area originated during the medieval or early post-medieval periods, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) requested that a landscape survey be undertaken in order to evaluate the extent and condition of survival of potential ridge and furrow earthworks within the proposed development area, the scope of which was defined in a brief produced by CCCHES (dated 25 June 2014) and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) produced by CFA (dated 26 June 2014). CFA were commissioned by United Utilities to undertake this work in advance of any proposed extension of the existing Allonby WwTW to the north and south (Fig. 1, NY 08117 44125).

1.2 Site Location and Description

The site lies on the west coastline of Cumbria, approximately 1km north from the centre of the coastal village of Allonby, adjacent to the B5300 Road. The site lies within an area of agricultural land characterised by a narrow strip field pattern and is bounded to the west by the B5300 Road, beyond which is a raised sand dune falling to the open beach; to the north, south and east the site is bounded by open agricultural land. A stone wall runs along the western road boundary with a remnant hedgerow (with extensive gaps) along the northern, southern and eastern boundaries. The proposed development areas are flat, lie 3-6m above the Ordnance Datum (AOD), and are total 7,320m² in area.

Allonby itself is the largest village within the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and along with Mawbray and Beckfoot occupies a low-lying position adjacent to the coast. The settlements in this eastern section of the AONB have seaward frontages and have a strong linear form associated with the coastline. In contrast, the villages of Crosscanonby and Salta occupy more prominent, raised positions slightly further inland, on ridges of glacial till overlooking the sea (Land Use Consultants 2010). Allonby contains a number of historic buildings, including some notable Victorian buildings and was developed during that period as a Spa-style resort (Solway AONB 2010).

1.3 Soils and Geology

The underlying bedrock consists of red-brown, very fine- to medium-grained, commonly micaceous sandstones, generally cross bedded with some parallel

lamination of the St Bees Sandstone Formation with mudstone clasts locally common, subordinate thin beds of greenish grey sandstone (BGS 2014). This underlies superficial raised marine, including raised marine beach deposits (sand and gravel) *(ibid.*).

The soils of the area are a mixture of quaternary marine and estuarine sand and quaternary marine and estuarine clay-silts (UKSO 2014).

1.4 Previous Archaeological work

To date no intrusive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development area.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 General Objectives

The general objective of this study was to produce a report on the results of the archaeological landscape survey to enable judgements to be made on the condition and significance of any remains recorded (should they exist) and any mitigation that may be necessary on the site in relation to the proposed development.

2.2 Research Objectives

The research objectives were to evaluate the extent and condition of survival of ridge and furrow earthworks within the proposed development area, and should they exist, record their extent and condition and consider them in relation to the medieval and post-medieval landscape. The relevant research framework for Cumbria is the North West Archaeological Research Framework (Brennand 2007).

3. METHODS AND STANDARDS

CFA Archaeology is a registered organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All work was conducted in accordance with relevant IfA Standards and Guidance documents (IfA 1994), English Heritage guidance (EH 2007 and 2008), and CFA's standard methodology.

3.1 Landscape Survey

The survey took place on 3 July 2014. General photographs were taken of the proposed development area and notes were made as to the general topography. A record was made of archaeological field monuments and sites, and the extent and form and current land use of the proposed development areas.

At the time of the walkover, conditions were fine and sunny and visibility was very good. The proposed development area was systematically traversed and any surviving potential archaeological areas of interest were recorded and noted.

3.2 Archiving

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, finds, plans, reports, and photographs will be ordered to nationally recognised standards (Brown 2011).

The archive currently consists of:

Digital Photographs	1 x CD		
Notes and Research materials			
Survey data and photographs	1 x A4 folder		
All non-confidential correspondence			
This Report	-		

Should further work be undertaken on the site then the archive resulting from such work would be incorporated into the current archive to be deposited together.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BASELINE

Apart from fields containing ridge and furrow, there are no sites recorded in the HER within 500 metres of the WwTW (CCCHES 2014). It is likely that the ridge and furrow of the area dates from the medieval or early post-medieval period.

4.2 Landscape Survey

A systematic walkover of the proposed development areas was undertaken on the 3rd July 2014, the weather conditions at the time of the survey were overcast and dry and visibility was good. The southern area was a grass field of pasture, generally flat with a slight rise towards the road to the west (Plate 1). No visible earthworks or other potential surviving archaeological remains were recorded.

The northern area was long grass scrub at the time of the survey, and appeared to be flat with a slight rise towards the road in the west (Plate 2). No signs of upstanding ridge and furrow were visible, and no other potential surviving archaeological remains were recorded

5. CONCLUSION

The two areas for the proposed extension of the wastewater treatment works showed no signs of any upstanding earthworks and nothing to confirm the presence of ridge and furrow within the northern field. It may be that evidence for ridge and furrow within the northern area now exists only below ground, with evidence above ground having been removed by later agricultural activity. Or it may be that the location of the ridge and furrow has been erroneously plotted.

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Figure 1



Plates 1 - 2



Plates 1 - Field to the south of existing site, shot facing towards the north-east



Plates 2 - Field to the north of existing site, shot facing towards the east



	CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD Offices C1 & C2	Title: Plates 1.2	Pt. No: 1-2	Report: Y/167/14	Drawn: LW	CKD:	PM	Date: 07/07/14
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