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The Binnacle, Port Carlisle, Cumbria Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3346

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Commissioned by	Mr Paul Johnson
Date issued	November 2015
Version	2
Grid Ref	NY 23847 62310 centred
OASIS ref	cfaarcha1-229766
Planning Ref	2/2015/0395

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

**The Binnacle, Port Carlisle, Cumbria
Archaeological Watching Brief**

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in October 2015 during construction works associated with an extension to a domestic dwelling at The Binnacle, Port Carlisle, Cumbria (NGR: NY 23847 62310 centred, Fig 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Johnson.

Planning consent (Ref: 2/2015/0395) has been granted to Mr and Mrs Johnson for the erection of an extension to a domestic dwelling at The Binnacle, Port Carlisle. The watching brief was required as the development lay immediately to the north of Hadrian's Wall, which is a scheduled monument and World Heritage Site. A Witten Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 21 September 2015 covering the programme of works was produced by CFA on behalf of Mr Johnson and approved by the Cumbria County Council historic Environment Service (CCCHES).

1.2 Location

The development is located on the north-west outskirts of Port Carlisle. The site is bounded on the north by Hadrian's Wall Path and surrounded by rough grazing farmland on all other sides. The site lies on relatively flat land on the coastal plain of the Solway

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the project were to conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) during all groundbreaking works.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

CFA Archaeology Ltd follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance as appropriate.

2.2 Watching Brief

Soil stripping for the foundations of the building's walls was carried out using a 360° tracked mini digger equipped with a 0.6m wide ditching bucket. The operations were carried out under constant archaeological supervision.

The area monitored consisted of a series of 0.6m wide by 0.9m deep foundation trenches which was excavated on the western and southern sides of the existing domestic structure (Figs. 1 and 2).

The stratification of all excavated areas was recorded whether or not significant archaeological deposits were identified.

All excavation and on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

Following the excavation of the foundations the area between them had to be reduced. This was to happen at a later date but based on the depth of the strip required and the depth of the overburden to natural it was agreed with CCCHES that this work did not need monitored. The client supplied photographs of the stripped area after completion (Fig. 4)

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

Numbers in bold refer to contexts, a full list of which is contained Appendix 2.

The deposits across the development area consisted of 0.5m of dark brown/black sandy silt (**001**) overlying 0.1m of mottled grey/light brown silty sand (**002**) (Fig. 3). The natural was light grey clayey sand (**000**). The depth from the current ground level to natural (**000**) was consistently 0.6m across the excavation.

No archaeological remains or deposits were revealed.

4. CONCLUSION

A watching brief was carried out during the excavation of foundations for an extension to a domestic dwelling at The Binnacle, Port Carlisle. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were discovered.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with Tullie House, Cumbria.

APPENDIX 1: Photographic Register

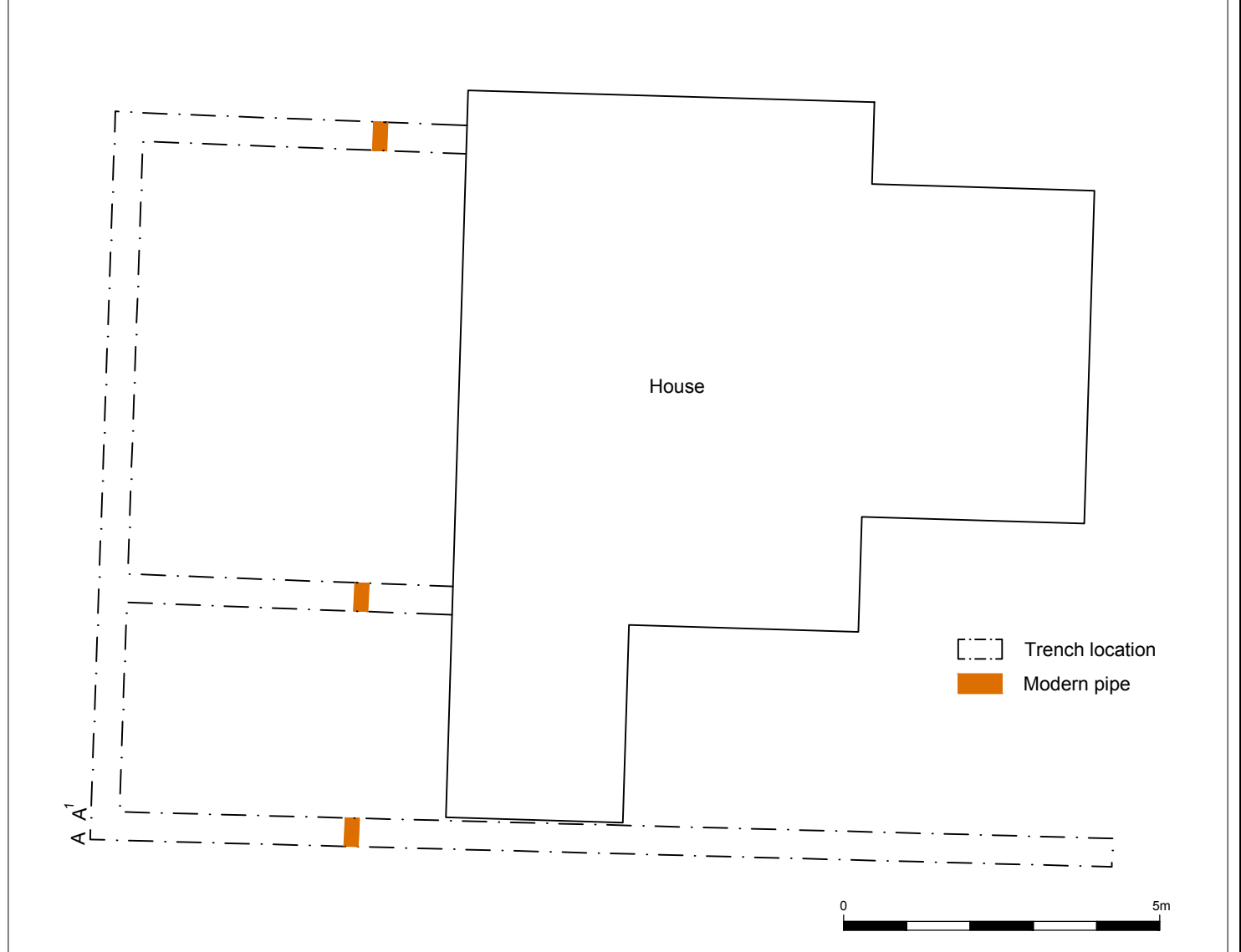
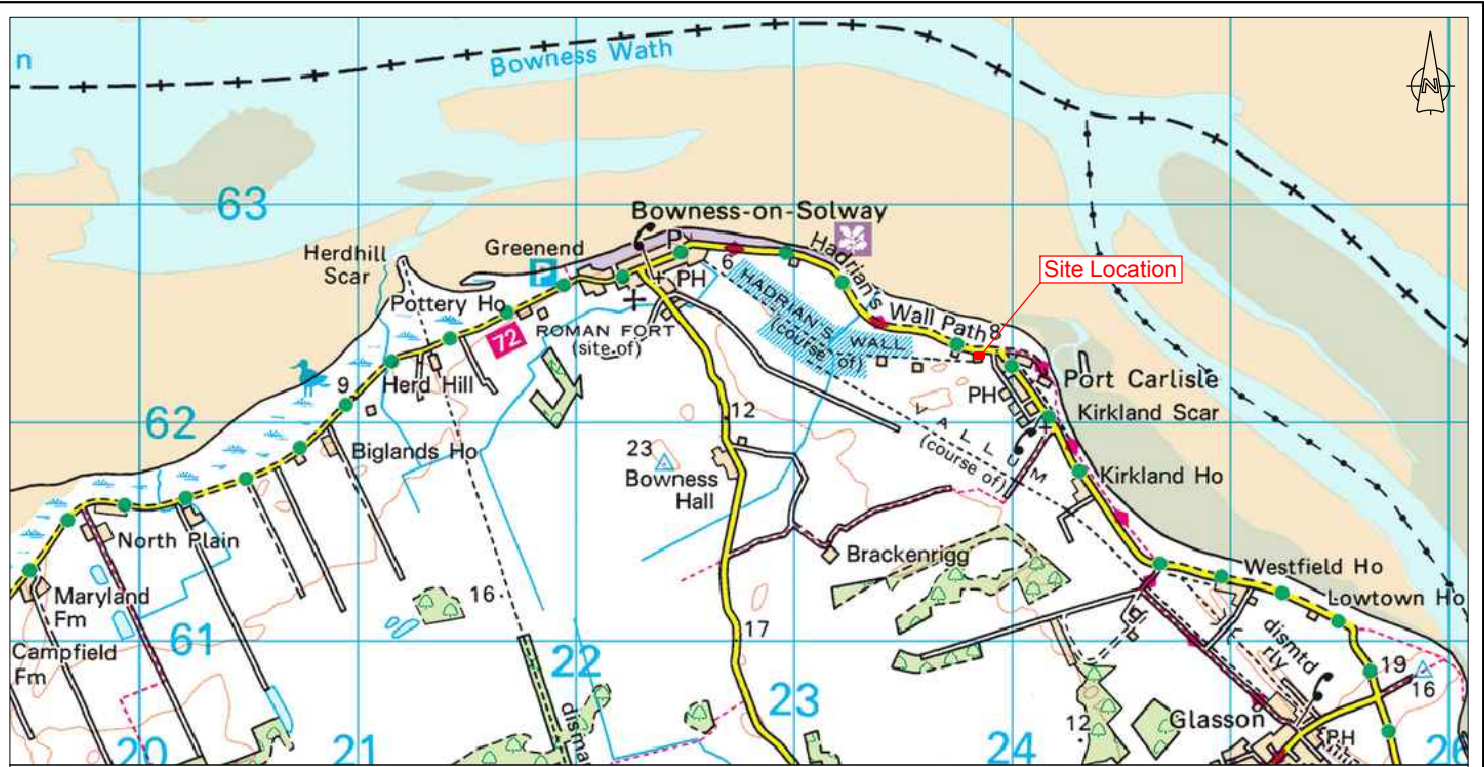
Shot	Description	From	Conditions
1	Pre- ex shot area of extension, western side	N	Overcast
2	Pre- ex shot area of extension, southern side	W	Overcast
3	Representative section, e-facing section with 001/002/000	E	Overcast
4	Post-ex shot of western side foundations	S	Overcast
5	Post-ex shot of the southern side foundations	SE	Overcast

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context No.	Description
000	Natural subsoil – Light grey clayey sand
001	Topsoil – dark brown sandy silt
002	Subsoil – mottled grey/light brown silty sand

APPENDIX 3: Drawings Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Description	Plan/ Sec	Scale
1	1	Plan of the building with location of foundation trenches	P	1:100
2	1	East-facing section of north-south foundation trench	S	1:10



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Title:
Location map and site plan

Project:
**The Binnacle, Port Carlisle, Cumbria.
An Archaeological Watching Brief**

Fig No:	1	Report:	3346	Drawn by:	SW	CKD:	BG	Date:	20/10/2015
Client: Mr and Mrs Johnson									
Scale: 1:100									
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Fig. 2 - Post-excitation of the foundation trenches on the western side of the existing domestic structure



Fig. 3 - Representative section A-A¹



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Title:	Fig. 2 - 3	Report: 3346	Drawn: SW	CKD: BG	Date: 02/11/15
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Fig. 4 - Footprint of extension following the removal of deposits between foundations



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Title:	Fig. 4	Report: 3346	Drawn: SW	CKD: BG	Date: 02/11/15
Project: The Binnacle, Port Carlisle, Cumbria, An Archaeological Watching Brief					
Client: Mr. and Mrs. Johnson					