

# CFA Archaeology Ltd

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*Geophysical Survey*

*Historic Building Recording*

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*Interpretation, Design & Display*

**Conservatory Extension at Old  
Parsonage Farmhouse  
Beetham  
Milnthorpe  
Lancashire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

# **CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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

**Conservatory Extension at Old  
Parsonage Farmhouse  
Beetham  
Milnthorpe  
Lancashire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. Y248/16**

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## **Summary**

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in October 2016 at the Old Parsonage Farmhouse, Beetham, Milnthorpe, Lancashire. The watching brief was to monitor the excavation of the foundation trench for the conservatory. No archaeological remains were recorded and no finds were recovered.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 General**

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between 3 and 5 October 2016. The work was commissioned by Smithers Purslow, for the erection of a conservatory, within the grounds of the existing farmhouse. The CFA code and project number for the work is OPFB/2295.

All work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by CFA, and all relevant professional standards and guidance. The work was intended to mitigate the disturbance and potential impact on archaeological remains.

#### **1.2 Site Location and Description**

The site is located in the back garden of the Old parsonage Farmhouse in Beetham (SD 49625 79627) behind which is situated Saint Michaels and all angels church; Church street to the north; to the east the A6 road, and other buildings to the west.

The site lies at approximately 23.6m above the Ordnance Datum (AOD).

The underlying bedrock is of Great Scar Limestone with superficial deposits consisting of alluvial clay, silt and gravel. (BGS 2016).

#### **1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background**

The old Parsonage Farmhouse is situated just north of St Michael's church, on the outskirts of Beetham village. The church is a grade I listed building and originates from the Anglo-Saxon period, with additions from the 1200s onwards. The farmhouse is thought to be built upon the demolished remains of a medieval cottage that belonged to the monastery of St Mary's in York, where some of the fabric still survives in the southern wall of the existing 17th century farmhouse.

#### **1.4 Previous Archaeological work**

No previous archaeological work is known to have taken place on the site.

#### **1.5 Project Aims**

In general the project objectives were to:

- determine the form and function of any archaeological features encountered;
- determine the spatial arrangement of any archaeological features encountered;
- as far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features;
- establish the sequence of any archaeological remains present on the site, and;
- produce a report which places any discovered archaeological remains in their local, regional or national context, as appropriate.

## **2.1 Watching Brief**

The excavation of the foundation trenches were under constant archaeological supervision with a flat bladed ditching bucket. All existing overburden and modern deposits were removed. All on-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawings, photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.

## **2.2 Standards and Guidance**

CFA Archaeology is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). All work was conducted in accordance with relevant CIfA Code of Conduct and relevant Standards and Guidance documents (CIfA 2014a, 2014b) as well as the terms of the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 3), Historic England guidance (EH 2008 and 2011), and CFA's standard methodology.

## **2.3 Monitoring**

The project was monitored by Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), who was informed in advance of the works taking place.

## **2.4 Archiving**

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans, photographs, reports and finds, will be deposited with the relevant museum according to an agreed timescale, and will be ordered according to current guidelines and to nationally recognised standards (CIfA 2014a). The Oasis reference for the project is cfaarchal-265278

## **2. RESULTS**

The watching brief area consisted of the foundation foot prints for an extension to the south of the existing building which covered 67m<sup>2</sup> (Fig 1)

The natural substrate consisted of mid-yellow brown, silty clay (003), sealed by a 0.50m thick layer of disturbed and made ground with a high volume of cobbles (002) topped by a layer of pea gravel that was the existing patio area.

Running across the site was a north-west to south-east orientated service trench that contained a copper pipe. The back fill for the trench contained large quantity of modern pottery mixed with fragments of concrete. No archaeological remains were discovered

### **3. CONCLUSIONS**

The watching brief successfully monitored the stripping for the foundations of the new building, and confirmed that no archaeological remains were impacted upon. The area had previously been landscaped.

#### 4. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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EH, 2008, *Investigating Conservation: Guidelines on how the detailed examination of artefacts from archaeological sites can shed light on their manufacture and use*, English Heritage

EH, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Method, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-Excavation*, English Heritage

## Appendix 1: Context Descriptions

Context no.	Depth(m)	Type	Description
001	0.1	Ground level	Hard, grade 1/ pea gravel used for patio gardens.
002	0.5	Over burden	Made ground , friable, dark brown ,silty clay with high quantity of cobbles
003		Natural	Mid brownish-yellow, friable silty clay natural.



## Appendix 2: Inventory of Primary Archive


Watching Brief - OPFB/2295	Context sheets *	3
	Context register	1
	Digital photographic register sheets	1
	Digital Photographs	16
	Trench Record sheet	1

**Figures 1-4**



**Key:**

- Site Boundary
- Excavation Area



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Title:  
**Site location and plan**

Project:  
**Conservatory Extension at old Parsonage Farmhouse, Beetham, Milnthorpe, Lancashire**

Client:  
**Smithers and Purslow**

Scale at A3:  
**1:300**

Drawn by: <b>MP</b>	Checked: <b>SW</b>	Date: <b>20/10/2016</b>
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Fig. 2 - General pre-excitation of site



Fig. 3 - North-facing section of foundation trench with copper pipe service

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Fig. 4 - Post-excavation of site

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