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Site & Landscape Survey

Geophysical Survey

**North End, Burgh-by-Sands,
Cumbria.
Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
& Evaluation.**

Report No. 1707

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| Date issued | November 2009 |
| Version | 1 |
| OASIS Reference | cfaarcha1 - 67338 |
| Planning Application No | N/A |
| Grid Ref | NY 3271 5921 |

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

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment and evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) in November 2009 on the site of a proposed residential development at North End, Burghby-Sands, Cumbria (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by the landowner, Mr Coulthard.
- 1.1.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) dated 14 August 2009 was produced by CFA based on a Brief dated 05 October 2007 issued by the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES). This required that a desk-based assessment and a single evaluation trench measuring at least 7m in length be excavated within the footprint of the proposed development. The location of the trench was approved by CCCHES and a single trench was excavated measuring 8m by 1.5m, amounting to 12m².

1.2 Objectives

- 1.2.1 The aims of the evaluation were:
- to determine the presence or absence, location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development.

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 Work was conducted with regard to the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards. Recording of all elements was done following established CFA methods.

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

- 2.2.1 A rapid desk based assessment was undertaken by examining Historic map coverage for the area and other readily available cartographic information on pre-recent land use in the development area. Records held by the Council Historic Environment Record (HER) and the results of recent fieldwork in the immediate area were consulted as appropriate.
- 2.2.2 A visual inspection of the site was carried out prior to work starting. This recorded any surface features of potential archaeological interest, areas of potentially significant disturbance, and hazards and constraints to the undertaking of the work.

2.3 Trial Trench

- 2.3.1 The trench was excavated by tracked mini-digger using a flat-bladed bucket under constant archaeological supervision to remove topsoil and other deposits down to natural subsoil or the first significant archaeological horizon, whichever was reached first. Any further excavation required to fulfil the objectives of the evaluation was carried out by hand.
- 2.3.2 On-site recording was carried out according to standard CFA procedures, principally by drawing, by 35mm and digital photography and by completing standard CFA record forms.
- 2.3.3 The trench was backfilled at the end of the evaluation on completion of recording. Its location was recorded by DGPS and by off-setting from the existing garage structure.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 Desk-Based Assessment

- 3.1.1 The village of Burgh-by-Sands straddles the line of Hadrian's Wall (SAM 26116) and Vallum (SAM 5782). The site of the Roman Fort of *Aballava* (Burgh II) lies at the eastern end of the village (Burgh Head) and two further forts (Burgh I and III) have been identified from aerial photographs in close proximity to the village.
- 3.1.2 The development site at North End lies c.80m to the west of *Aballava* Roman Fort and is c.50m to the north of Hadrian's Wall. It lies within a landscape of high significance, within a designated conservation area and also within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site.

Cartographic

- 3.1.3 The level of detail on Hodkinson and Donald's map of 1774 and on Greenwood's map of 1823 is insufficient to define the site with precision. Generally however, all of the buildings depicted are alongside the main east-west and north-south roads through the village. On the Tithe map of 1843, the present boundaries of the site are not shown but the general area is shown as an open plot with no development.
- 3.1.4 The Ordnance Survey (OS) First Edition (1865) shows the site boundaries as they are today and a rectangular building with a small square structure attached to its northern side forms the southern boundary. The Second Edition (1900) shows the rectangular building as subdivided. The small square structure remains and a second, slightly detached structure is depicted within the site to the east. The 1925 map shows no changes from 1900. By 1957, all the buildings have gone and the site is featureless. In 1971, the existing garage and shed (Fig. 1) have been built and a small square structure is shown midway between the garage and the northern boundary of the plot. This is not annotated and its purpose is unknown.

Documentary

- 3.1.5 Cumbria Historic Environment Record does not hold any records of sites within the proposed development area but a number of important sites of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date lie in the immediate vicinity.
- 3.1.6 An evaluation of the adjacent Lamonby Farm by CFA Archaeology Ltd in 2006 (Suddaby & Glendinning 2007) identified what is thought to be the Wall Ditch running through the courtyard of the farmstead. In the field to the immediate west of the proposed development site five trenches were excavated (Area 1, Trenches 5-9). A number of archaeological features (not including field drains) were identified in this area some apparently sealed by subsoil and others definitely cut through it. Despite the presence of Roman pottery in the topsoil and subsoil, and in three of the features, none of the identified features could be securely dated to the Roman period.

- 3.1.7 Various excavations have been undertaken to the south and east of the fort which lies to the east of the proposed development area. These have led to the discovery of buildings of the civil settlement: buildings dating to the mid 3rd early 4th century AD were identified fronting on to a major east-west road were found in the rear the vicarage. Other work has identified remains providing evidence of 2nd and 3rd century occupation.
- 3.1.8 Recent excavations by Headland Archaeology (Masser et al 2002), to the southeast of the proposed development site, identified the remains of the Roman civilian settlement. The features excavated were all considered to be of mid 2nd century date and included a well, four deep pits interpreted as post-pits for a substantial building, postholes and beamslots relating to other timber buildings, and shallow ditches and gullies, which appeared to be boundary features. These remains were considered to relate to the Vicus, but there was no evidence for the later 2nd and 3rd century occupation identified during previous investigations, suggesting some discontinuity in the use of the site.
- 3.1.9 Excavations conducted by CFA Archaeology Ltd to the immediate south of Buckbottom Farm and to the south of the Vallum identified a number of gullies, a probable well and a probable tanning pit suggesting an area used for stock control and industrial processing. Roman ceramics recovered from the fills of these features were 2nd to 3rd century AD in date. The features are most likely to represent the remains of industrial and/or agricultural activities associated with the civilian settlement located further to the east (Mitchell 2006).
- 3.1.10 A watching brief undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd at Demesne Cottage (Mitchell 2009) which is located to the east of the site and within the Fort identified nothing of archaeological significance although the site was significantly disturbed by modern features and the excavation did not reach depths at which *in-situ* archaeological features would be expected.

3.2 Evaluation

- 3.2.1 The trench was positioned within an area of lawn and flower/vegetable beds to lie within the footprint of the proposed building and avoid damage to the existing structures. These consist of a strongly built corrugated iron garage and lean-to shed (Fig. 1) with a separate smaller shed to the west.
- 3.2.2 A single trench (Fig. 2) with an area of 12m² was excavated. The trench became rapidly waterlogged with inflowing groundwater during excavation. In the text below, contexts numbers are in bold and parentheses and are listed in Appendix 1.
- 3.2.3 Immediately below the turf at the southern end of the trench was a cobble and brick surface (**004**, Fig. 3) which may be associated with the garage and lean-to shed that are still present on the site. Within the remainder of the trench, the black topsoil (**001**) had a depth of 0.25-0.3m and this overlay a pinkish-brown sandy silt subsoil with occasional small cobbles (**002**). The natural

subsoil (**003**) was a compact reddish-pink sandy clay with frequent small stones. Three features **005**, **007** and **009** were cut in to the natural.

- 3.2.4 Feature **009** (Fig. 2) consisted of a probable ditch. Aligned NE-SW, the feature had a width of over 2.1m and a depth of over 0.6m. Two fills were recorded; an upper fill of brownish-pink sandy silt (**011**) overlying a lower fill of brown sandy silt (**010**). No finds were recovered and there was no visible organic content in either fill.
- 3.2.5 Feature **007** (Fig. 2) may be either a pit or the terminal of a ditch. The feature measured 1m by 0.5m within the trench and a section revealed it to have a depth of 0.2m. The single fill (**008**) consisted of pinkish-brown sandy silt with small stones. No finds were recovered and there was no visible organic content.
- 3.2.6 Feature **005** (Fig. 2) was irregular in plan with a length of over 3m. A section (Fig. 5) showed it to have a depth of 0.55m. The single fill (**006**) consisted of pinkish-brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. No finds were recovered and there was no visible organic content.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The desk-based assessment indicated that although 19th-century buildings lie within the development plot at North End, Burgh-by-Sands as defined by the dashed line on Fig. 1, they do not lie within the footprint of the proposed building. These buildings had been demolished by 1957. It also suggests that the present day boundaries of the plot date to the 19th century. It further indicates that site lies to the north of Hadrian's Wall and to west of Aballava Roman Fort.
- 4.2 A single evaluation trench amounting to 12m² was excavated within the footprint of the proposed building.
- 4.3 Four features were recorded. The cobble and brick surface contained modern machine-made bricks and appears very recent. The lack of securely sealed finds and an incomplete understanding of the morphology and interrelationship of the other features mean that it is impossible to be definite about their date or function. The results of this evaluation place these remains to the front the Wall. However, there is evidence to the east of the fort (Aballava) that the line of the Wall, presumably when it was reoccupied, was moved northwards (Breeze, 2006). No evidence survives to suggest this is the case to the west of the fort. Indeed evidence to the west of the proposed development site indicates suggest that the later Wall was built directly over the earlier Wall (Austen 1994). It is therefore unlikely that this area ever lay behind the Wall. The ditch feature is on a similar alignment to the majority of the ditches and gullies identified during the work at Lamonby Farm (Suddaby & Glendinning 2007), which were all on a similar but slightly divergent alignment to the proposed alignment of the Wall . None of the features appeared to be robust enough to be associated with a military function they are far more likely to be associated with agricultural activity. This reduces but does not discount the likelihood of these features being roman in date.
- 4.4 Recommendations for mitigation lie solely with CCCHES.
- 4.5 The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports will be deposited with Tullie House, Cumbria.

5. REFERENCES

Bibliographic

Austen, P J 1994 *Recent Excavations on Hadrian's Wall, Burgh-by-Sands*. TCWAAS Vol 94

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Masser, P 2002, *Amberfield. Burgh by Sands, Cumbria, Archaeological Excavation*. Headland Archaeology Ltd, Unpublished Report. Commissioned by Croft Homes Ltd.

Mitchell, S, 2006 *Amberfield, Burgh by Sands, Cumbria: Archaeological Excavation*. CFA Archaeology Ltd, Unpublished Report No. 1226. Commissioned by Two Castles Housing Association Ltd.

Mitchell, S, 2009, *Demesne Cottage, Burgh by Sands: Desk-Based Assessment and Archaeological Watching Brief*, CFA Archaeology Ltd Unpublished Report No. 1707. Commissioned by by Hyde Harrington on behalf of David Holliday.

Cartographic

Hodkinson and Donald's Map of Cumberland 1774 (Surveyed 1770)

Greenwood's Map of Cumberland 1823

Tithe Map for Burgh by Sands 1843

Ordnance Survey First Edition Map 1865 - 6" to 1 mile

Ordnance Survey First Edition Map 1865 - 25" to 1 mile

Ordnance Survey Second Edition 1900 - 25" to 1 mile

Ordnance Survey Second Edition 1925 - 1:2500

Ordnance Survey Map 1957 - 6" to 1 mile

Ordnance Survey Map 1971 1:2500

APPENDIX 1: Context Register

| Context | Feature | Description |
|---------|----------------------------|--|
| 001 | Topsoil | Black sandy silt |
| 002 | Soil | Pinkish-Light-Brown sandy silt with occasional small stones |
| 003 | Natural subsoil | Pinkish-red sandy silt with frequent small stones |
| 004 | Path/hardstanding | Layer of cobbles and bricks, many modern machine-made |
| 005 | Cut, function unknown | Irregular in plan |
| 006 | Fill of 005 | Pinkish-Light-Brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and lumps of reddish redeposited subsoil |
| 007 | Cut, ditch terminal or pit | Semi-circular in plan |
| 008 | Fill of 007 | Pinkish-Light-Brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and lumps of reddish redeposited subsoil |
| 009 | Cut, probable ditch | Linear in plan |
| 010 | Primary fill of 009 | Brown sandy silt with very occasional stones |
| 011 | Upper fill of 009 | Brownish-Pink redeposited subsoil |

APPENDIX 2: Black and White Print Film Register

| Shot | Description | From | Conditions |
|-------|--|------|------------|
| 1-4 | Pre-ex views of the trench area | N | Overcast |
| 5-6 | Trench excavated and cleaned | S | Overcast |
| 7-8 | Ditch or pit 005 pre-excavation | SW | Sun/Shade |
| 9-10 | Ditch terminal or pit 007 pre-excavation on the left with 005 on the right | SSE | Overcast |
| 11-12 | Ditch 009 pre-excavation | W | Sunny |
| 13-15 | Ditch terminal or pit 007 section | NE | Sun/Shade |
| 16-17 | Ditch or pit 005 section | NW | Sun/Shade |
| 18-19 | General view of the trench | S | Sun/Shade |
| 20-21 | General view of the trench | S | Sun/Shade |
| 22-23 | General view of the W facing section at N end of the trench showing 009 | W | Overcast |
| 24-25 | General view of the W facing section | NW | Overcast |

APPENDIX 3: Colour Slide Film Register

| Shot | Description | From | Conditions |
|-------|--|------|------------|
| 1-4 | Pre-ex views of the trench area | N | Overcast |
| 5-6 | Trench excavated and cleaned | S | Overcast |
| 7-8 | Ditch or pit 005 pre-excavation | SW | Sun/Shade |
| 9-10 | Ditch terminal or pit 007 pre-excavation on the left with 005 on the right | SSE | Overcast |
| 11-12 | Ditch 009 pre-excavation | W | Sunny |
| 13-15 | Ditch terminal or pit 007 section | NE | Sun/Shade |
| 16-17 | Ditch or pit 005 section | NW | Sun/Shade |
| 18-19 | General view of the trench | S | Sun/Shade |
| 20-21 | General view of the trench | S | Sun/Shade |
| 22-23 | General view of the W facing section at N end of the trench showing 009 | W | Overcast |
| 24-25 | General view of the W facing section | NW | Overcast |

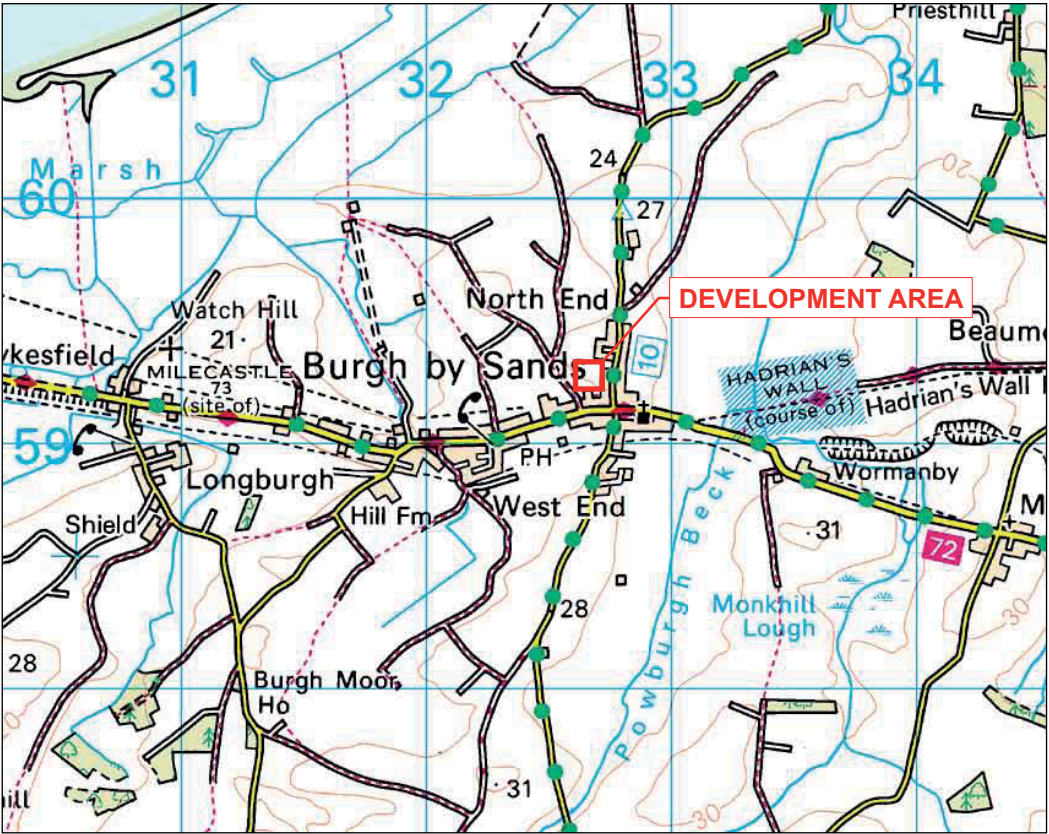
APPENDIX 4: Digital Photograph Register

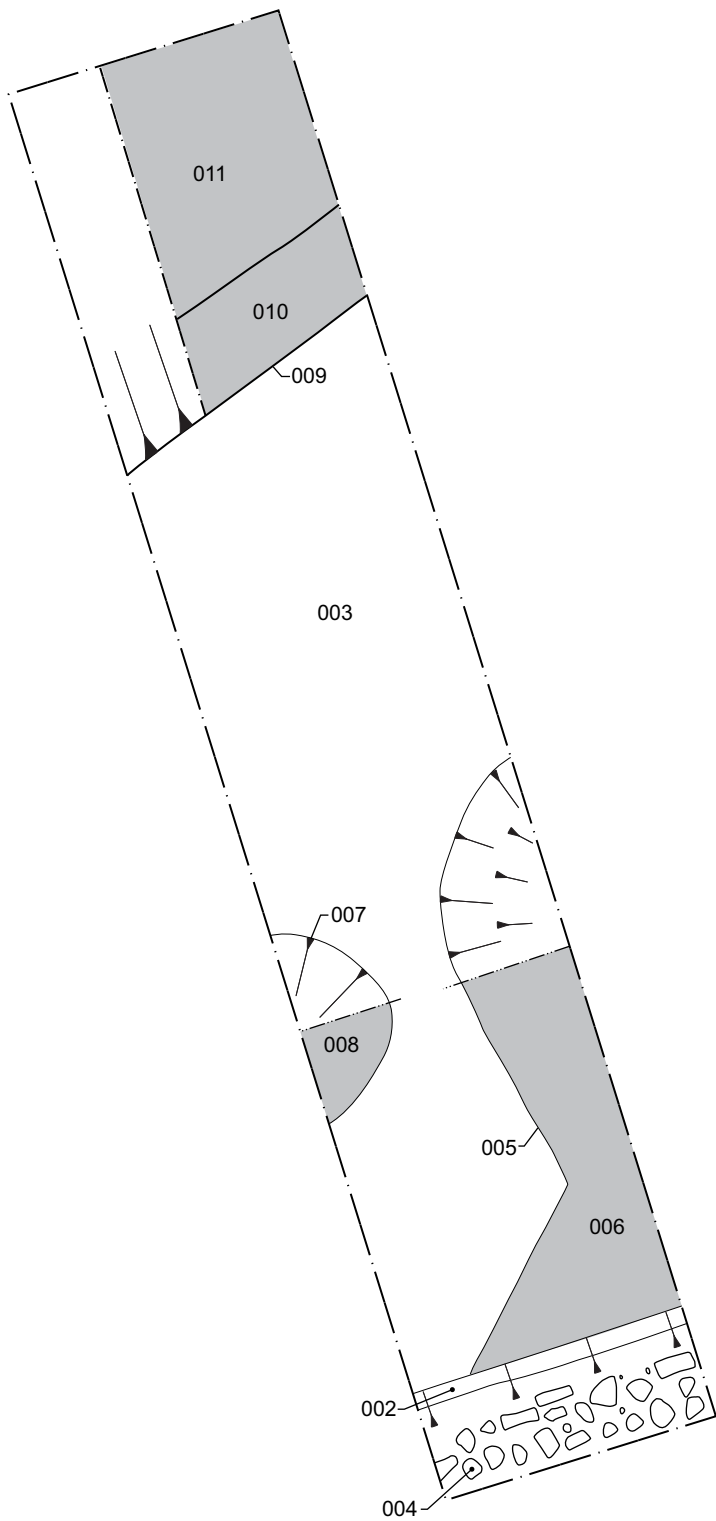
| Photo No. | Description | Taken from | Conditions |
|-----------|--|------------|------------|
| 1-2 | Pre-ex views of the trench area | N | Overcast |
| 3-4 | Trench excavated and cleaned | S | Overcast |
| 5 | Ditch or pit 005 pre-excavation | SW | Sun/Shade |
| 6 | Ditch terminal or pit 007 pre-excavation on the left with 005 on the right | SSE | Overcast |
| 7 | Ditch 009 pre-excavation | W | Sunny |
| 8 | Ditch terminal or pit 007 section | NE | Sun/Shade |
| 9 | Ditch terminal or pit 007 section | SE | Sun/Shade |
| 10 | Ditch or pit 005 section close-up | NW | Sun/Shade |
| 11 | Ditch or pit 005 section with 007 section on the right | NW | Sun/Shade |
| 12 | Ditch or pit 005 section close-up | SW | Shade |
| 13 | Ditch 009 in E facing section | SSE | Overcast |
| 14 | Ditch 009 in E facing section | SE | Overcast |
| 15-16 | General view of the trench with 004 in the foreground | S | Sun/Shade |
| 17-18 | General view of the trench | N | Sun/Shade |
| 19 | General view of the W facing section at N end of the trench showing 009 | W | Overcast |
| 20-21 | General view of the W facing section | NW | Overcast |
| 22-23 | General view of the W facing section | SW | Overcast |
| 24-25 | Post-backfilling views of the trench area | N | Overcast |

APPENDIX 5: Drawings Register

| Drawing No. | Sheet | Scale | Description |
|-------------|---------|-------|--|
| 1 | 1 | 1:20 | Trench plan showing features and fills 004-011 |
| 2 | 1 | 1:20 | West facing section showing 001-006, 009-011 |
| 3 | 1 | 1:10 | North facing E-W section across trench showing layers 001, 002 and sections through 005, 007 |
| 4 | 1 | 1:10 | Ditch 009 section in E facing trench section |
| 5 | Daybook | 1:100 | Plan showing the position of the trench relative to the existing garage and lean-to shed |

Key:





Key:



Scale: 0 0.5 1 2m
scale 1:40

Fig. No:

2

Revision:

A

Client:

Mr. Coulthard

Title:

Trench plan

Project:

North End, Burgh-by-Sands, Cumbria.
Archaeological Evaluation



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Report No:

1707





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| Key: | Fig. No: | 3,4 | Revision: | A | Client: | Architects Plus on behalf of W. W. C. Coulthard | | | |
| | Title: | | | | | | | | |
| Scale: | Project: | | | | | | | | |
| | North End, Burgh-by-Sands, Cumbria. Archaeological Evaluation | | | | | | | | |
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Fig. 5 Partial section through feature 009

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
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