ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Oxford Archaeology North
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Thomas Consulting

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SUMMARY

A watching brief was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North between 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 14\textsuperscript{th} August 2006 at Wennington Hall School, Wennington, Lancashire (centred on SD 61530 70470). Lancashire County Council propose to construct a new drainage system to separate surface water from foul water. The groundworks were conducted within three areas of recognised archaeological potential associated with the medieval Wennington Hall, which was rebuilt in 1856 and is now a Grade II Listed Building. Following a request by Thomas Consulting on behalf of Lancashire County Council, Oxford Archaeology North were commissioned to undertake a watching brief during specified excavation within the grounds of the school.

During the watching brief, it was possible to determine from the extensive groundworks in this area that the southern frontage of the present hall had been built-up by a series of levelling layers to a depth of about 1.2m below the modern ground level. These sealed a buried soil horizon, in places truncated, from which a single sherd of thirteenth- to fourteenth-century pottery was recovered, representing the only identifiable medieval activity. Two stone-lined culverts and a stone soakaway were also encountered which, together with a number of make-up layers containing a high proportion of brick demolition debris, were interpreted as being related to the construction of the present hall and associated landscaping in 1856. Also encountered was a brick wall, perhaps relating to earlier horticultural features or ancillary structures, the demolition of which may have contributed to the volume of ceramic building material within the later make-up layers. Observations of the more limited groundworks within the West Courtyard suggested that deposits within this area had been truncated down to the level of the natural drift geology, again, probably as part of the landscaping and construction of the present, larger, hall into the slope to the north of the site.

Although few finds of archaeological significance were found as a result of the present scheme of groundworks, the fact that the medieval soil horizon has been sealed by make-up deposits does mean there is potential for the preservation of medieval and earlier archaeology to the south of the present hall. However, despite the fact that the intervention towards the north-west was limited, there is evidence for severe truncation in this area, and the potential for the preservation of archaeological remains must be considered to be much lower, although there is still the possibility that deeper features may survive. The fact that the nineteenth-century hall is aligned almost exactly upon its predecessor would also mean that the greatest potential for encountering remains of the medieval hall is likely to be associated with groundworks within the confines of the present building.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank Gary Clarke of Thomas Consulting for commissioning the project and Peter Iles and Doug Moir of Lancashire County Archaeology Service for their assistance with the project. Thanks are also extended to Ken Waller and colleagues of Colin Briscoe Construction for their assistance on site.

The watching brief was undertaken by Andrew Bates and David Tonks, who wrote the report. Mark Tidmarsh produced the drawings, and the cover photo was taken from the Wennington Parish Council website. The finds were examined by Rebekkah Pressler and Ian Miller. The project was managed by Stephen Rowland, who also edited the report.
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Following a proposal by Thomas Consulting, on behalf of Lancashire County Council, to create a new surface and foul-water drainage system at Wennington Hall School, Wennington, Lancashire (centred on SD 61530 70470; Fig 1), Lancashire County Archaeological Service (LCAS) requested that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development.

1.1.2 The proposed works are within an area of archaeological potential and this report sets out the results of the watching brief in the form of a short document.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 The majority of the underlying geology comprises Carboniferous rocks, in particular of the lower Millstone Grit groups (Brandon et al 1998). The gritstones of the Quernmore fault in particular, which runs north/south to the east of Lancaster, passes through nearby Caton (ibid). The overlying soil, comprising Cambic stagnoley soils of the Brickfield 3 association (Ordnance Survey 1983), is almost entirely glacially derived and part of a Drumlín field with scattered bedrock outcrops (Brandon et al 1998). To a lesser extent, this soil is also produced by fluvial deposits collected in the Lune valley, which consist of various rock types (ibid).

1.2.2 Wennington village lies approximately 16km to the north-east of Lancaster, within the Lune Valley and beside the river Wenning, from which it takes its name (Mills 2003). The proposed development is located entirely within the grounds of Wennington Hall School, on flat, landscaped ground immediately in front of the school’s south-facing frontage. The natural landscape of the surrounding area largely comprises undulating pasture, with several variations caused by the numerous river valleys (Countryside Commission 1998). The fields tend to be small and well-maintained with a relatively large amount of woodland and parkland (ibid).

1.3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.3.1 Prehistoric: there is currently no secure evidence for human activity within the immediate environs of Wennington prior to the medieval period. The closest known evidence for prehistoric activity comes from a scatter of Mesolithic flint tools found in Halton Park, approximately 10km to the south-west of the study area (Penney 1978). Although there is no contemporary evidence from Wennington, finds of Neolithic stone tools are quite common in north Lancashire. Similarly, the Bronze Age in the area is also largely represented by artefact finds, particularly axe hammers (Middleton 1996, 43). Settlement evidence is otherwise locally rare, but one site in particular, Manor Farm near Borwick, approximately 8km to the west of Wennington, revealed a complex funerary monument reused several times throughout the Bronze Age (Olivier 1988). There is a paucity of excavated Iron Age sites within
Lancashire as a whole (Hazelgrove 1996, 61), although there are potential settlement sites known within the wider area which tend to take the form of irregular enclosures. Several examples are known from the Lune valley (op cit, 65) including one at Claughton and one at Quernmore (English Heritage 1996), approximately 6km and 12km downstream from the study area respectively. Of interest is the Wennington dug-out canoe (PRN 2065); found in the nineteenth century and now apparently in Bradford Museum, the canoe is reputed to resemble the 32 foot Iron Age craft dredged from Poole Harbour (The Times 2005).

1.3.2 Roman: there is currently no evidence for Roman activity in Wennington village itself, although there are significant remains in the environs. These include presumed sections of the Ribchester to Tebay and the Lancaster to Overburrow Roman roads (Margary 1973; 7c and 705 respectively), between which lies Wennington. The Lancaster to Overburrow road was identified after the discovery of a milestone in the bed of Artle Beck near Caton (PRN 579). While the overall course of the road is disputed, the positive identification of a section of the road at Caton in 1992 refined the exact course of a section of the road to a limited extent (Shotter and White 1995, 58-62).

1.3.3 Early medieval: evidence for activity during the early medieval period is not widespread or extensive in Lancashire as whole, and none currently exists within Wennington. However, two finds, one from nearby Hornby, 4 km to the west of the study area (PRN 572), and one from Halton church, 12km downstream of Wennington (PRN 3522, OA North 2004), suggest that the Lune valley area was far from abandoned. Both are fragments of crosses rebuilt into later walls which, although limited in the information they can supply, suggest that early Christian buildings and related settlements must have existed in the centuries following the end of Roman administration. Crosses from these sites, as well as those at Lancaster, could suggest that the Lune may have been a focus for monastic activity in the fifth to eleventh centuries (Newman 1996, 98).

1.3.4 Medieval: Wennington is entered as Wennigetone in the Domesday Book of 1086 (Mills 2003). Although formerly within Earl Tostig’s estates, in 1066 it was divided, one part being owned by Ulf and one part by Chetel (Farrer and Brownbill 1914, 207). This division seems to have survived in the later demarcations of Nether Wennington and Old Wennington (ibid). During the Middle Ages, the manor was held by the Wenningtons, and then by the Morleys, the former of whom are likely to have built the original Wennington Hall during the fourteenth century (LCC 2006). None of the fabric of the medieval hall survives within the structure of the present building, although it is thought that the original hall, comprising two separate structures, is shown on the 1851 first edition Ordnance Survey map (Plate 6).

1.3.5 Post-medieval: the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries saw a number of structures within Wennington village built more permanently in stone, with the result that a number of local farmhouses and barns are recorded on the Sites and Monuments Record as Grade II Listed Buildings. In the nineteenth century the construction of a corn mill and a saw mill (PRN 362040) was accompanied by improvements to the road in the form of a bridge over the
The present Wennington Hall (PRN 660) is a Grade II Listed Building, and would appear to be a Victorian reconstruction of the medieval hall, built in the Tudor style in 1856, according to the plaque at the front of the school. This corroborates the cartographic evidence, with the two buildings of the old hall shown on the 1851 OS map (Plate 6), replaced by the present single, larger building on the 1890 OS map (Plate 7). The cartographic evidence suggests that the old and new halls shared a very similar location, with the west wing of the present structure corresponding very closely with the free-standing west wing of the older hall. However, a cursory examination of the existing building in this area would suggest construction in a very similar style and manner to the remainder of the nineteenth-century hall, and is, therefore, highly unlikely to include any old fabric. The rear of this wing is presently occupied by a courtyard, the majority of which, pre-1851, was probably an orchard. The size and shape of the formal garden to the east of the hall seems to remain unchanged, but internally, as with most of the grounds, there is evidence for extensive remodelling and landscaping.
2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 In response to a verbal brief issued by LCAS, OA North produced a project design (*Appendix I*). This was adhered to in full throughout the fieldwork.

2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 A programme of field observation recorded the location, extent, and character of all surviving archaeological features and deposits within the areas of ground disturbance, comprising excavation of a series of trenches and manhole pits within three locations (Fig 2). A systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks took place, and all archaeological features and horizons were recorded on OA North *pro forma* recording sheets. A photographic record in both monochrome and colour slide formats was also made and, where appropriate, scaled plans and sections were made on permatrace.

2.3 ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage(1991) guidelines. The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Lancashire Record Office, Preston and the material archive will be deposited with Lancaster Museum.
3. FIELDWORK RESULTS

3.1 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1.1 Introduction: three main areas were monitored as part of the watching brief, Area A, located towards the south-west of the building, Area B, within the West Courtyard, and Area C, running east/west across the southern frontage of the Hall (Fig 2). All of the service trenches and manhole pits were excavated in short, narrow, but relatively deep, sections by a mechanical excavator equipped with a 0.6m toothed bucket, and rapidly backfilled in order to prevent collapse. A full description of the contexts detailed within the results below is presented in Appendix 2.

3.1.2 Area A: groundwork in this area were effected in six sections of trench, producing a roughly ‘y’-shaped trench aligned north-east/south-west and 30m long with an east/west off-shoot 23m long (Fig 2). Excavations at the centre of this arrangement reached a maximum depth of 2.37m by 3m wide in the area of Manhole 1. Beneath 0.22m thick topsoil 2, the exposed stratigraphy in the south-west part of the trench (encompassing Trenches 3 and 4), comprised a sequence of make-up layers, 3, 4 and 5, cumulatively c 1.2m deep and most probably associated with the preparation of the area for the construction of the nineteenth-century Hall. Beneath these, layer 6 was only 50mm thick, but contained a large amount of burnt material; it is tentatively identified as relating either to clearance of vegetation in the area, or perhaps to the demolition of previous structures on the site. Layer 6 sealed a buried soil, within which there were clear upper (7) and lower (8) horizons, together in excess of 0.7m thick, with the base extending below that of the trench.

3.1.3 Immediately north of Manhole 1, a stone-built culvert, 10, apparently running north/south, was observed in the south-east-facing section (Fig 2; Plate 1). A second sandstone culvert, 13, was seen running just north-east of north/south within the north-west-facing section (Fig 3; Plate 2). Both culverts were identical, with the sides constructed of roughly-squared and -coursed sandstone blocks with maximum dimensions of 0.33m by 0.12m by 0.26m and the top and base slabs measuring roughly 0.6m square. The construction cuts (11 and 14) for these culverts had been made into buried soil horizon 7, and had been sealed by levelling layers 3, 4 and 5.

3.1.4 Within the north-east part of Area A, a slightly different stratigraphic sequence was observed. Trenches 1, 5 and 6 (Fig 2) were excavated to respective depths of 1.6m, 1.8m and 0.8m below the modern ground surface. Beneath the topsoil the stratigraphy comprised entirely made-ground, consisting of mid-grey/brown rubbly sandy clay with stones, brick fragments and some decayed mortar.

3.1.5 The westward projection of Area A was delimited by Trench 2, which was 2m wide and excavated to a maximum depth of 2.2m in the area of Manhole 2. The exposed stratigraphy again showed a sequence of make-up layers, 16, 17 and 18, cumulatively 1.1m thick and which, at a depth of 0.7m from the modern ground surface, sealed a highly truncated brick wall, 15 (Plate 3). No
construction cut was observed for wall 15, which appeared to have been built on a deposit of sandyclay, 19, a possible continuation of buried soil horizon 8.

3.1.6 **Area B**: groundworks in the northern part of the West Courtyard comprised the excavation of a single, east/west aligned trench (Trench 9), which bifurcated at its eastern end (Fig 2). The trench was approximately 19m in length and measured 0.7m in width and 0.6m in depth. The stratigraphy comprised 0.08m deep concrete sets of the courtyard surface laid in a 0.02m thick layer of sand and pea-grit directly overlying soft mid-grey/brown very fine sandy silty clay, which appeared to represent the natural geology (Plate 5). One large boulder was removed from the natural deposit but there were no archaeological horizons were encountered and there were no finds.

3.1.7 **Area C**: this area was investigated by what was effectively a single, narrow trench running contiguous with the westward extension of Area A (Trench 2) for some 55m east/west across the front of the hall. The most westerly section, Trench 7, was excavated to a depth of 2.2m. The exposed stratigraphy comprised a 1m thick rubble make-up layer (20), similar to those previously described, overlying buried soil horizon 21, which was analogous to horizon 8 within Area A and which suggested that truncation of upper horizon 7 and any overlying deposits may have occurred in this area.

3.1.8 A circular, stone-lined soakaway, 22, was exposed at a depth of 1.86m below ground level, just west of the buttress at the front of the school (Fig 2). It was cut into alevelling deposit 20, backfilled with angular sandstone blocks 23 and left highly truncated by the present pipe-trench excavation. A drain from the downpipe on the wall of the school was seen to run directly into the soakaway, confirming its interpretation and securing it as a feature associated with the building of the later hall. The construction cut for the later hall 24, was also evident within the trench.

3.1.9 The remainder of the Area C, extending east across the carpark in front of the school, was monitored intermittently as Trench 8. Although up to 2.1m deep, this trench was only 0.64m wide and, as a result, collapsed on a number of occasions, causing part of the adjoining tarmac surface to behave likewise. Due to health and safety considerations, it was possible only to monitor the spoil, which suggested the presence of a thick layer of rubbly made-ground/foundation backfill and, at the very base of the trench, a mid-brown clay that appeared similar to burial soil horizon 8/21 (Plate 4).

3.2 **The Finds**

3.2.1 **Introduction**: in total, 14 finds of medieval to twentieth century date, including pottery, bone, shell and glass, were recovered from the watching brief, the majority unstratified.

3.2.2 **Pottery**: the most significant find comprised two rather small sherds of twelfth- to thirteenth-century partially reduced northern gritty ware-type vessels from buried soil horizon 21. The remainder of the assemblage, nine sherds in total, was post-medieval in date. Two large creamware sherds of nineteenth or twentieth century date from levelling deposit 20 and another
similar piece recovered unstratified probably make up part up a bowl or possibly a chamber pot. A creamware cup base from make-up deposit 5 is of late eighteenth to early nineteenth century date, and a tiny fragment of transfer-printed hard paste porcelain from the same context dates to the eighteenth century. A sherd of eighteenth to nineteenth century blackware was also found unstratified, as was a sherd of Jackfield-type ware, possibly of Staffordshire origin. An unstratified sherd of hand-painted polychrome pearlware, a style known as 'Gaudy Dutch', is likely to date to the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century (FMNH 2004).

3.2.3 Other finds: a cow femur and a large mammal rib were found in make-up layer 5, whilst two oyster shells were recovered unstratified, as were part of an eighteenth- to nineteenth-century green glass bottle base and a sherd of window glass.
4. DISCUSSION

4.1 CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 It was evident from the surrounding topography that the present hall is built into a slope. This necessitated terracing the ground to the north, cutting into the hillside, and building up the ground to the south to create a level platform upon which to construct. With the exception of the possible buried soil horizons 7, 8, 19 and 21, the groundworks in front (south) of the hall were effected entirely through deposits of made-ground forming the present terrace and retained by the revetment wall bordering the south of the site. It is considered that this wall would have been constructed as a free-standing structure, probably cut into the buried soils 7 and 8, before the area to its north was deliberately backfilled with various imported layers (2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9) to level the ground as part of the landscaping, and in preparation for the construction of the 1856 hall.

4.1.2 Whilst made-ground was found in the area in front of the hall, the ground composition within the West Courtyard was almost entirely undisturbed natural geology. Although it seems likely that any archaeology that was present in the area of truncation has been removed, the limited size of the present intervention means that the potential for the survival of deeper foundations, pits or other negative features cannot be discounted. To the front of the present building it is possible that archaeological features of medieval or earlier date could be preserved beneath the thick make-up layers, but the fact that some truncation of the buried soil horizon may have occurred may suggest that shallow features may also have been damaged. Furthermore, given the location of the present hall, aligned almost exactly upon its predecessor, it would appear that the greatest potential for examining the remains of the medieval hall would lie with groundworks within the confines of the present hall.

4.1.3 Although the watching brief was unable to provide little information on the nature of the pre-1856 Wennington Hall, through the discovery of stratified medieval pottery it has been possible to provide, albeit limited, concrete evidence for the use of the site in the thirteenth to fourteenth centuries AD.
5. **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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6. ILLUSTRATIONS

6.1 LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location map
Figure 2: Trench location plan
Figure 3: South-west facing section, Central Trench

6.2 LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1: Culvert 10 facing north
Plate 2: Culvert 13 facing south
Plate 3: Wall 15 in south-facing section of Trench 2
Plate 4: South-facing section Trench 8
Plate 5: Trench 9 facing east
Plate 6: Wennington Hall as portrayed on the 1851 Ordnance Survey map
Plate 7: Wennington Hall as portrayed on the 1890 Ordnance Survey map

7.
Figure 2: Trench location plan
Figure 3: North-west-facing section through Area A, showing culvert 13
Plate 1: Culvert 10 facing north

Plate 2: Culvert 13 facing south
Plate 3: Wall 15 in south-facing section of Trench 2

Plate 4: South-facing section Trench 8
Plate 6: Wennington Hall as portrayed on the 1851 Ordnance Survey map

Plate 7: Wennington Hall as portrayed on the 1890 Ordnance Survey map
APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

WENNINGTON HALL SCHOOL, WENNINGTON, LANCASHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF: PROJECT DESIGN

Oxford Archaeology North

September 2006

Thomas Consulting

OA North Job No: L9739
NGR: SD 61530 70470
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Following a proposal by Thomas Consulting, on behalf of Lancashire County Council (henceforth ‘the Client’, to create a new surface and foul-water drainage system at Wennington Hall School, Wennington, Lancashire, (centred on SD 61530 70470), Lancashire County Archaeological Service (LCAS) verbally requested that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during groundworks associated with the development. The following project design has been compiled to meet the standard LCAS requirements for such works.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.2.1 Wennington lies within the Lune Valley, 16km upstream of Lancaster. Although there is evidence of prehistoric, Roman and early medieval activity in the wider area, the only contemporary evidence from Wennington is that of a dug-out canoe, now in the Bradford Museum and similar to the Iron Age example dredged from Poole Harbour. There is much more significant evidence of medieval date; Wennington is mentioned in the Domesday book, and it is thought that a manor had been built in the location of the current hall by the fourteenth century. The plan of this medieval hall is thought to be represented on the first edition OS map, but was otherwise lost when the present Grade II listed hall was constructed on the same site in 1856.

1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

1.3.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has considerable experience of undertaking watching briefs of all periods, having conducted a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 25 years. Fieldwork has taken place within the planning process and construction programmes, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.

1.3.2 OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed in accordance with the Lancashire County Archaeology Service document entitled General Conditions for Appropriate Archaeological Contractors in Lancashire.

2.2 Watching Brief: in order to determine the presence, date, quality and state of preservation of archaeological features on the site, an archaeological watching brief will be maintained during groundworks associated with the proposed development.

2.3 Report and Archive: a report will be produced for the Client within about eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork. The report will aim to summarise the results of the watching brief within the context of existing knowledge about the site and its surroundings. These results will provide the basis for any recommendations for further work, should this prove appropriate. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990).

3. WORK PROGRAMME

3.1 In line with the objectives and stages of the archaeological works stated above, the following work programme is submitted:

3.2 Watching Brief: to be maintained during any ground disturbing activities on the site.

3.3 Report and Archive: production of a suitably illustrated report and properly ordered archive.
4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 WATCHING BRIEF

4.1.1 A programme of field observation will accurately and systematically examine and record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features, horizons and/or deposits revealed during the course of ground disturbance, along with any artefacts, identified during observation.

4.1.2 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale plan. A photographic record of archaeological features and general working shots, utilising monochrome print and colour slide will be undertaken simultaneously.

4.1.3 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more measured sections will be produced, regardless of the presence of archaeology.

4.1.4 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified during groundworks, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels, depending on the subsoil conditions and, where appropriate, sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (ie. selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).

4.1.5 It is assumed that OA North will have the authority to stop the works for a sufficient time period to enable the recording of important deposits. It may also be necessary to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified or a high density of archaeology is discovered, but this would only be called into effect in agreement with the Client and LCAS and will require a variation to costing.

4.1.6 Human Remains: any human remains uncovered will be left in situ, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. LCAS and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential, the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Department of Constitutional Affairs (DCA) license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations, and if appropriate, in compliance with the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.

4.1.7 Recording: all information identified in the course of the watching brief works will be recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs or contact prints) to identify and illustrate individual features as well as the nature of the demolition work. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times.

4.1.8 Results of the field investigation will be recorded using a paper system, adapted from that used by the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. The archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20, and 1:10). Levels will be tied into the Ordnance Datum. All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.

4.1.9 Treatment of finds: excavated soil will be searched as practicable for finds. The presence and nature of finds definitely dating to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries will be noted but they will not otherwise be retained. All other finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed, as appropriate, in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) First Aid For Finds, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines. Except where noted above, all identified finds and artefacts will be retained,
although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum’s archive curator.

4.1.10 **Treasure:** any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.

4.1.11 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features or human remains being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with the Planning Archaeologist, as to the extent of further works to be carried out, and in agreement with the Client. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design.

5. **REPORT**

5.1 The results of the data gathered in Section 4.1 above, will be collated and submitted in report format, illustrated with the relevant photographs and drawings. Where appropriate, the report will attempt to relate any findings to the known history and archaeology of the site, and to its local setting.

5.2 One bound and one unbound copy of the report will be submitted to the Client, and one bound copy and another in digital format will be submitted to LCAS and to the Lancashire Sites and Monuments Record together with an archive CD-ROM. Any subsequent work arising from this survey will be subject to separate consideration in liaison with LCAS and the Client.

5.3 The final report will include a copy of this project design and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above, and will include details of the final deposition of the project archive. Illustrations will include a location map, trench location plan and plans and sections of trenches drawn at an appropriate scale.

5.3 A brief summary of the fieldwork will be prepared and submitted to the Council for British Archaeology North West Archaeology North West within 12 months of the completion of the project.

6. **ARCHIVE**

6.1 The results of the watching brief will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991). The fully indexed project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. It will include all the original records and drawings along with fully labelled and indexed slides and contact prints. It will include summary processing and analysis of any features and finds recovered during fieldwork, in accordance with UKIC guidelines. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository, is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA, and arrangement to this effect will be made with the museum curator prior to the commencement of the project.

6.2 All finds will be treated in accordance with OA North standard practice, which follows current IFA guidelines and will be deposited, along with a copy of the report and of the original site records, with Lancaster City Museum.

7. **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

7.1 OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.
7.2 The client would be asked to determine the nature of any utility services to the properties and site prior to any fieldwork being carried out.

7.3 OA North has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

8. CONFIDENTIALITY

8.1 The final report is designed as a document for the specific use of the Client, and should be treated as such; it is not suitable for publication as an academic report, or otherwise, without amendment or revision. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties beyond the project brief and project design, or for any other explicit purpose, can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.

8.2 Any proposed variations to the project design will be agreed with LCAS in co-ordination with the Client. OA North will arrange a preliminary meeting, if required, and LCAS will be informed of the commencement of the project in writing.

9. WORK PROGRAMME

9.1 The following programme is proposed:

9.2 Watching Brief: the duration of the watching brief will be dependent upon the progress of the contractor.

9.3 Archive/Report: the report and archive will be produced following the completion of all the fieldwork. The final report will be submitted within about eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork and the archive deposited within six months. If desired, an interim statement could be produced within ten days of completion of the fieldwork.

10. STAFFING

10.1 The project will be managed by Stephen Rowland (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

10.2 The watching brief will be undertaken by an OA North Supervisor, suitably experienced in fieldwork techniques. Present timetabling constraints preclude detailing at this stage exactly who will be undertaking this element of the project.

10.3 The archaeological work will be monitored by LCAS, which will be arranged accordingly.

11. REFERENCES


SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers), 1997 Health and Safety Manual, Poole

UKIC, 1990 Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage, London

UKIC, 1998 First Aid for Finds, London
**APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Context</th>
<th>Thickness</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Masonry wall comprising sub-rounded sandstone blocks of maximum dimensions 0.24m x 0.13m. The courses are bonded with a light grey, friable lime mortar with areas consolidated with concrete by means of repair.</td>
<td>Revetment wall built prior to the construction of the grounds to the school. It was probably constructed to retain levelling layers 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.22m</td>
<td>A friable dark grey coarse sand silt clay with inclusions of sub-rounded stones of maximum dimensions 0.08m x 0.04m x 0.03m</td>
<td>Imported topsoil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.15m</td>
<td>A loose light grey coarse sand with inclusions of sub-rounded and sub-angular stones of maximum dimensions 0.16m x 0.14m x 0.10m.</td>
<td>Levelling deposit for construction of grounds to the school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.88m</td>
<td>A friable mid orange-brown silty clay with inclusions of sub-rounded stone of maximum dimensions 0.22m x 0.18m x 0.12m.</td>
<td>Imported sediment used to level the ground prior to the construction of the school grounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.13m</td>
<td>A friable dark grey silty-clay with inclusions of sub-rounded stones of maximum dimensions 0.08m x 0.08m x 0.04m. Finds of pot were recovered from this context.</td>
<td>A layer possibly accumulated during the initial works of school construction or end-of-life/demolition of hall building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.05</td>
<td>A friable very dark grey silty-clay with c25-50% charcoal flecks.</td>
<td>A layer showing a considerable amount of burnt material. This is probably a destruction layer relating to the destruction of the old hall or possibly a layer representing vegetation clearance prior to the construction of the school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>A friable mid grey silty-clay with inclusions of sub-rounded stones of maximum dimensions 0.13m x 0.10m x 0.04m. Finds of pot were recovered from this context.</td>
<td>Upper part of buried pre-school soil horizon showing strong soil structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.25m (minimum)</td>
<td>A friable mid orange-brown fine sand silt clay with inclusions of sub-rounded stones of maximum dimensions 0.20m x 0.15m x 0.13m.</td>
<td>Lower part of buried soil horizon showing strong soil structure but with larger stones towards the base. These have been cleared from higher level for the purposes of agriculture or horticulture.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.4m</td>
<td>A loose light grey loam sand with over 90% inclusions of sub-angular stone of maximum dimensions 0.18m x 0.15m x 0.12m</td>
<td>A levelling deposit raising the ground level for the construction of the school or school grounds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>0.42m</td>
<td>A masonry-constructed culvert comprising roughly coursed, roughly squared sandstone blocks of maximum dimensions 0.33m x 0.12m x 0.26m. Capped and floored with sandstone flags measuring 0.6m x 0.6m x 0.06m creating an inner void measuring 0.33m x 0.33m. Finds of pot and glass were recovered from this context.</td>
<td>A drainage culvert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Context</td>
<td>Thickness</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Interpretation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.42m</td>
<td>A north/south linear flat-bottomed U-shape cut with a sharp break of slope at top leading to vertical sides and a sharp break of slope at base.</td>
<td>Construction cut for culvert 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>0.32m</td>
<td>A friable mid orange-brown silty clay with inclusions of sub-rounded stones of maximum dimensions 0.08m x 0.06m x 0.02m.</td>
<td>Deliberate backfill over culvert 13. Essentially layers 7 and 8 dug out, mixed up and put back in.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.45m</td>
<td>A masonry-constructed culvert comprising roughly coursed, roughly squared sandstone blocks of maximum dimensions 0.35m x 0.14m x 0.27m. Capped and floored with sandstone flags measuring 0.6m in width by 0.06m in depth creating an inner void measuring 0.33m x 0.30m.</td>
<td>A stone culvert identical in design to feature 10 which is nineteenth century in date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.50m</td>
<td>A north north-east/south south-west aligned linear flat-bottomed U-shape cut with a sharp break of slope at top leading to vertical sides and a sharp break of slope at base.</td>
<td>Construction cut for culvert 13.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>0.45m</td>
<td>An east/west aligned, highly truncated, wall comprising a maximum of five courses of red brick in both headers and footers bonded weakly by an off-white lime mortar. Only .1m in length was exposed at a depth of 0.7m below ground surface and it was extant to a total height of 0.45m.</td>
<td>Most probably the remains of a nineteenth century garden wall. It did not appear substantial enough to have been structural or load-bearing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.20m</td>
<td>A firmish mid brown sandy-clay with less than 2% sub-rounded stones.</td>
<td>Probable levelling layer for topsoil 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>0.10m</td>
<td>A thin layer comprising entirely brick fragments and whole bricks.</td>
<td>Make-up layer of brick rubble.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.8m</td>
<td>A very loose layer of rounded and sub-rounded boulders and rocks up to 0.4m in diameter in a matrix of off-white/grey sand.</td>
<td>Make up layer sealing brick wall 15.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.96m</td>
<td>A soft and loose mid brown sandy clay with some stone inclusions observed in the base of the trench.</td>
<td>Probable redeposited natural as make-up layer. May be variation of buried sub-soil 7 and 8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>1.0m</td>
<td>A mid-orange/grey fine sandy silty clay with lenses of sub-angular stones and mid-grey silty clay.</td>
<td>Levelling deposit behind revetment wall 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>0.66m+</td>
<td>A mid-brownish-orange firm fine silty sandy clay with occasional sub-rounded stones</td>
<td>Lower buried soil horizon, possibly close to natural interface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dry stone-constructed circular soakaway.</td>
<td>Soakaway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
<td>Angular sandstone rubble of maximum dimensions 0.32m x 0.28m x 0.08m.</td>
<td>Backfill of construction cut 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
<td>Construction cut for late hall foundations.</td>
<td>Construction cut</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>