

SPECIFICATIONS FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Parkside Road,

Cleator Moor,

Cumbria

ON BEHALF OF

Genesis Homes

By

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GERRY MARTIN ASSOCIATES LTD

Specifications for presentation to the Curatorial Authority

25th June 2025

Carlisle

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The contractor
- 1.2 The Commission
- 1.3 In connection with the commission
- 1.4 Historical background
- 1.5 Site development

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

- 2.1 Objectives
- 2.2 General methodology
- 2.3 Site specific methodology
- 2.4 Finds and environmental samples

3.0 ARCHIVES AND PUBLICATION

- 3.1 The report
- 3.2 The archive

4.0 TIMETABLE AND RESOURCES

- 4.1 Timetable
- 4.2 Resources and monitoring
- 4.3 Staffing
- 4.4 Health and Safety issues

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The contractor

Gerry Martin is an independent free-lance archaeological contractor trading as Gerry Martin Associates Ltd with 40 years' experience of commercial archaeology in Britain, Norway and Germany. The company specialises in the expedition of fieldwork projects. These include the field management and direction of large capital projects to execution of smaller watching briefs and evaluations.

All projects are carried out in accordance with NPPF (2024) and the guidelines and recommendations issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and Historic England (2014).

Gerry Martin has achieved the accreditation level of MCIfA (Member) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).



Figure 1. Site location

1.2 The Commission

Gerry Martin has been commissioned by Josie Scrimgour of Genesis Homes (the client) to prepare a Specification of Works for a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation relating to the construction of up to 95 dwellings, at land beside Parkside Road, Cleator Moor (figure 1) as part of planning application 4/25/2210. The archaeological evaluation relates to a potentially archaeologically sensitive area (figure 1).

An archaeological evaluation action has been requested by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) as potential and significant archaeological remains may be encountered as the study area lies close to an area that may have archaeological potential. This condition is detailed as the following:

No development shall commence within the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

This written scheme will include the following components:

- a. An archaeological evaluation;*
- b. An archaeological recording programme, the scope of which will be dependant upon the results of the evaluation;*
- c. Where significant archaeological remains are revealed by the programme of archaeological work, there shall be carried out within one year of the completion of that programme on site, or within such timescale as otherwise agreed in writing by the LPA: a post-excavation assessment and analysis, and submission of a completed archive report.*

(Reasons: To afford reasonable opportunity for an examination to be made to determine the existence of any remains of archaeological interest within the site and for the preservation, examination or recording of such remains).

1.3 In connection with the commission

The study area is not subject to Scheduled Monument Consent. The study area is at present arable land located to the north of the village (figure 2). A walkover of the site did not highlight any noticeable topographic elements that may have had a past cultural significance although subsequently the course of a Roman road has been suggested, highlighted by Lidar evidence.

The study area was subject to a desk-based assessment undertaken in 2023 by Gerry Martin Associates Ltd that did not highlight any clear and obvious archaeological potential. It was deemed an archaeological evaluation would provide a definitive answer.

The study area NY 02900 15000 (figure 2) located at Cleator Moor, lies to the north of the core settlement and exists as open ground used for agricultural grazing. Cleator Moor, historically an industrial town dating from the mid 19th century for the exploitation of iron ore attracted a large migrant Irish population.

The curatorial authority has requested four trenches measuring forty metres in width to be inserted across the putative course of a north-south aligned Roman road within Field, the eastern area of the proposed development which measures approximately 115m x 80m.

This written scheme of investigation (WSI) has been produced by the archaeological contractor and details the methods and procedures to be employed during the archaeological evaluation action. It is submitted to the curatorial authority (CCCHES) for their approval.

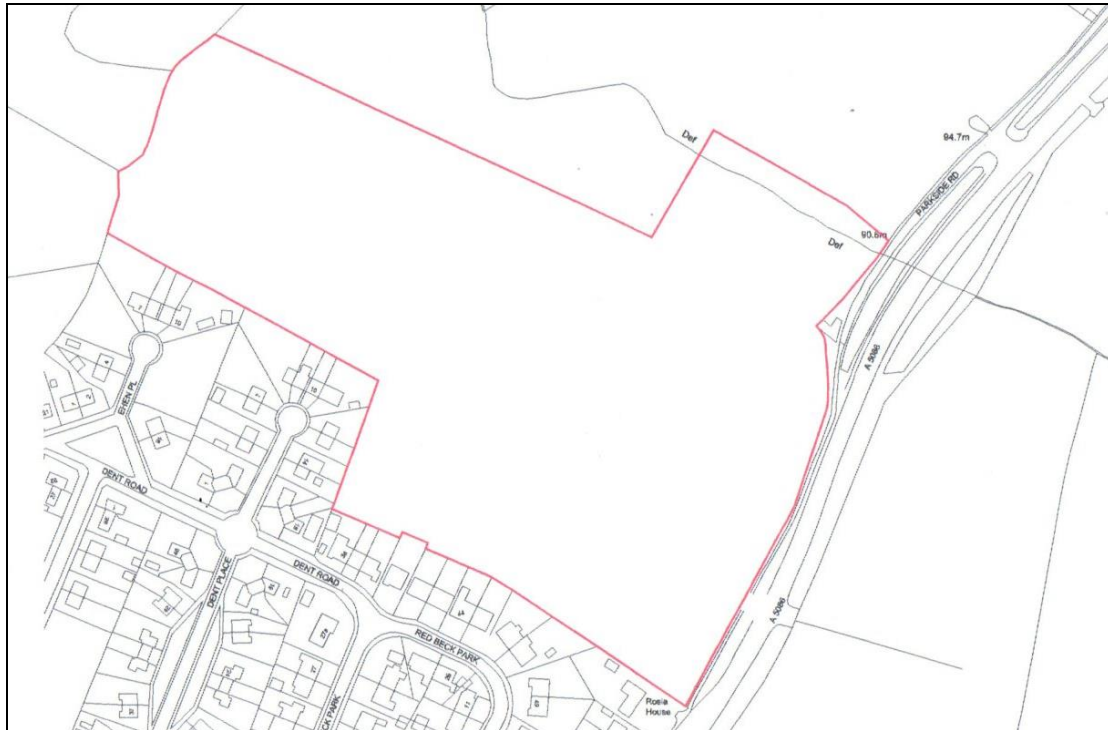


Figure 2. Study area

1.4 Historical and archaeological background

Little archaeological reconnaissance has been undertaken in close proximity to the study area. There are no immediate excavated sites within close proximity.

Fourteen out of fifteen of the Historic Environment Record entries found within a 500m radius of the study area relate to 19th and 20th century features and therefore of minimal heritage impact although mine workings may intrude into the study area and possess an engineering impact. The heritage assets are largely industrial heritage assets dating to the second half of the 19th century (Martin 2023, 15-16).

Recently, Lidar evidence has suggested that a Roman road Margary 75 extended into the study area (figure 3). This road purportedly connected the Roman forts at Papcastle and Ravenglass.

The First edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867 (figure 4) provides a detailed disposition of agricultural fields in the vicinity with a patchwork of rectangular fields. Settlement was centred along the principal road to Whitehaven but no settlement had accrued along Parkside Road. The study area comprises of four vacant fields partly bounded to the north by a footpath. Traces of a right-angled field boundary depicted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map can be seen in the Lidar image (figure 3).

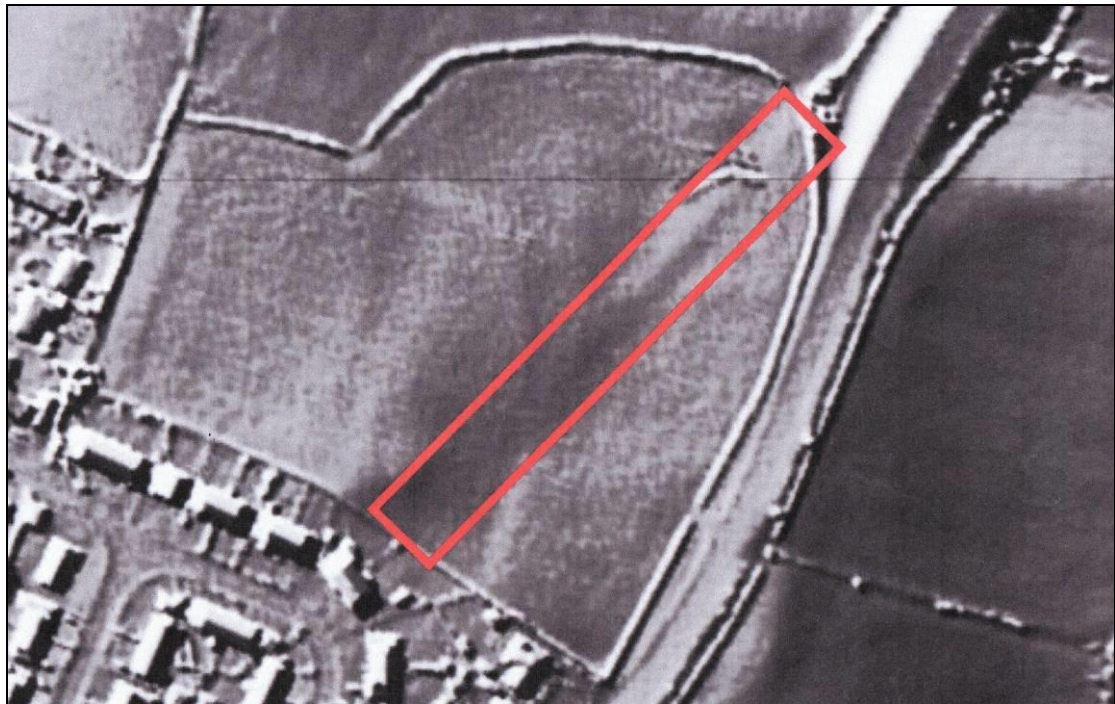


Figure 3. Lidar response purporting to be a Roman road

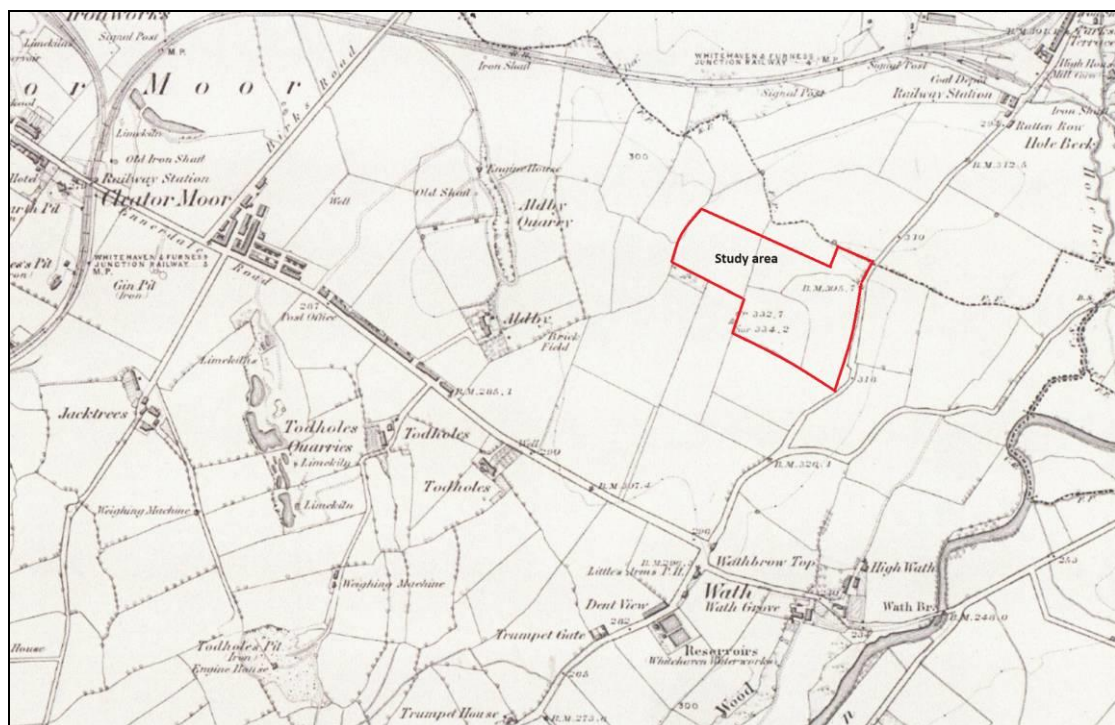


Figure 4. Ordnance Survey map surveyed in 1867

Land use remained static and the disposition of the land for agricultural usage has remained to the present.

The underlying geology of the area around Cleator Moor consists of the Frizington Limestone Formation deposited between 337 and 343 million years ago.

The superficial drift geology consists of clay, silt, sand and gravel. Sedimentary superficial deposits were formed between 118,000 years ago and the present during the Quaternary period.

1.3 Site development

The site development envisages a development of 95 dwellings with attached gardens within a dedicated housing estate (figure 5).

Roads and other infrastructure will be required and it is likely that the development of the site will not have the option of preservation in situ of any nascent archaeological remains.



Figure 5. Development proposals

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

2.1 Objectives

The objective of the evaluation is to carry out a formal programme of archaeological observations and investigations during any operations on site that may disturb or destroy archaeological informative deposits or remains.

The evaluation seeks to construct a model of the archaeological potential of the site from which an informed strategy can be formulated to either preserve *in situ* or a mitigation strategy (preservation by record) any significant archaeological remains. Its aims are to:

- Provide a detailed account of surviving archaeological strata and structures
- Determine the depth of survival of any significant archaeological deposits
- Characterize the extent, date, form and importance of any encountered cultural activity
- Assess the archaeological potential of the study area

Regarding this particular project, the fieldwork seeks to identify the possible prehistoric presence on raised ground and define any commensurate associated monuments.

In order to achieve these objectives, a record of all archaeological informative deposits encountered during the ground operations were made consisting of detailed context records on individual pro-forma sheets and field drawings, according to the protocols set out in the GMA manual.

2.2 General methodology

In order to achieve these objectives, a record of all archaeological informative deposits encountered during the ground operations shall be made consisting of detailed context records on individual pro-forma sheets, according to the protocols set out in the GMA manual.

Each layer, fill and cut will be individually numbered and described in terms of soil detail, stratigraphic position, dimensions, artefact content, environmental samples and interpretation. The context system will be cross-referenced to other records. Registers will be maintained for all photographs, levels, plans, section, finds and samples taken, made or gathered in the field.

Any plans drawn will be at scale and related to a base plan to the OS grid. All levels will be calculated to Ordnance Datum. Digital images will be used to record the proceedings supplemented if required by colour 35mm shots. All photographs will be numbered and labelled with subjects, orientation and scale and cross-referenced to film and negative numbers. General shots of the site will also be taken.

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Any plans drawn will be at scale and related to a base plan to the OS grid. All levels will be calculated to Ordnance Datum. All photographs will be numbered and

labelled with subjects, orientation and scale and cross-referenced to film and negative numbers. General shots of the site will also be taken.

For the purposes of this exercise, significant archaeological remains are defined as:

- Walls
- Structural walls, footings and *in situ* dressed stone
- Floor surfaces clearly spatially defined
- Hearths and carbonised spreads
- Trace archaeology that includes outline sill beams and timber partitions
- Graves
- Pits and post-holes that are clearly defined in plan and cutting the latest horizontal deposit in the archaeological sequence
- Ditches and linear features cutting the latest horizontal deposit in the archaeological sequence
- Coarse, undefined and undated surfaces
- Flint scatters or manufacturing stations

If the archaeological deposits have not been compromised and are stratigraphically secure, there may be a case for environmental sampling of informative deposits e.g. organic material. Collection of these samples will be done according to the protocols of the GMA manual.

Effort will be made to recover sufficient artefactual material in order to provide broad cultural phasing.

All finds from stratified deposits (with the exception of modern ceramic building material) will be collected, processed and recorded as expressed in the GMA Manual, forming an individual section within the final report.

Sealed and anaerobic deposits will be environmentally sampled as appropriate and according to the GMA manual, in order to examine past environmental conditions.

This element will form an individual section within the final report and will be led by Katherine Bostock, the incumbent archaeo-environmentalist at Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd.

Any “unexpected” discoveries will be made known to CCCHES immediately.

2.3 Site specific methodology

The four east-west aligned trenches measuring forty metres in length that have been requested have been set across the projected course of the Roman road (figure 6). The trenches have been set at twenty metre intervals.

Trench 1 has been set south of a water course thereby avoiding water inundation. This trench will be machined from the east to the boundary of the study area.

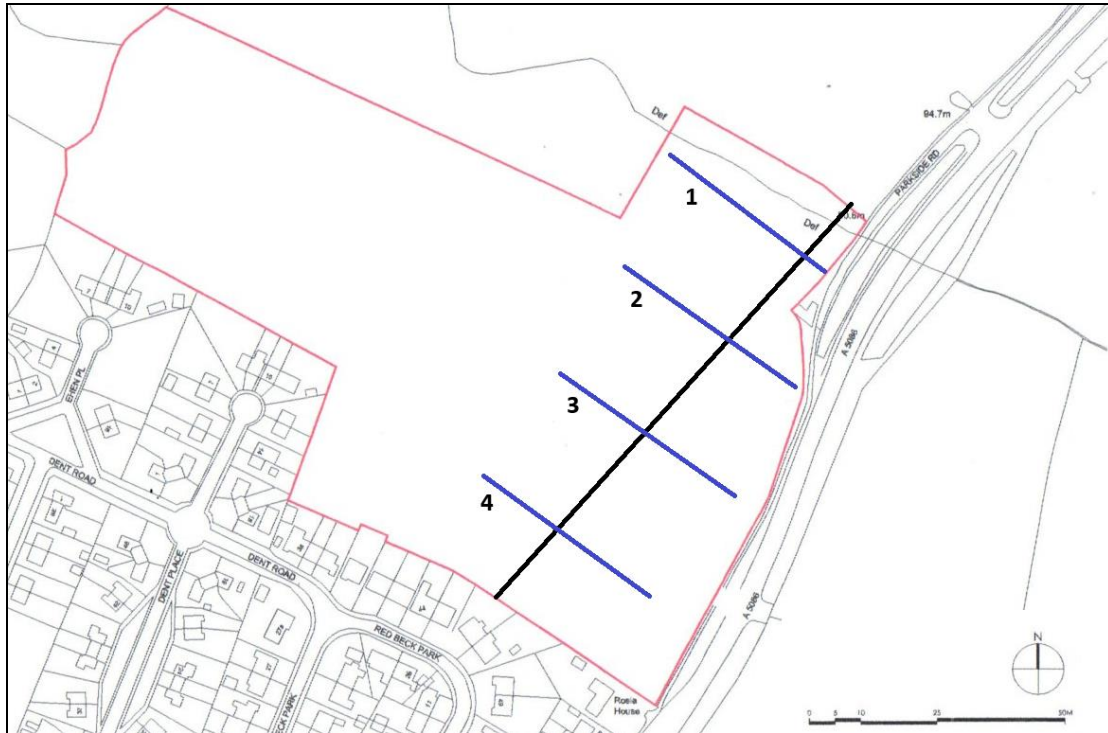


Figure 6. Disposition of the evaluation trenches

Trench 2 has probably the best chance of intercepting a putative according to the Lidar response as it appears as a distinct crop-mark. The camber of the road is unlikely to survive as it was not visible during the walk-over but the distinctive flanking ditches should be present. The putative road proceeds up a moderate gradient and would therefore be subject to surface water. Within any flanking ditches would be cobbled remnants of the road surface.

Trench 3 is located over an area that becomes indistinct regarding the Lidar image. Guidance from Trench 2 should provide the location of the putative road.

Trench 4 is located over an area that is very indistinct regarding the Lidar image. Guidance from Trenches 2 and 3 should provide the location of the putative road.

2.4 Finds and environmental samples

All stratified finds will be recovered from the evaluation and will form part of the site archive.

Finds will be bagged and labelled for initial processing off-site. Before this cultural material is sent to the specialists outlined below, these finds will be washed and marked except in the case of human remains where the specialist may wish to examine the assemblage in a raw condition. A pro-forma will detail bulk finds prior to dispatch.

Sensitive artefacts e.g. iron or artefacts of a multiple fabric such as a bone handled knife will be sent to conservation immediately. These artefacts will be stabilised and securely packaged in order to avoid further material deterioration. A pro-forma will detail small finds prior to dispatch.

Finds that are construed under the Treasure Act of 1996 remain the property of the landowner.

For the purposes of the Act, "treasure" is defined as being:

- All coins from the same find, if it consists of two or more coins, and as long as they are at least 300 years old when found. If they contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10 in the find for it to qualify.
- Two or more prehistoric base metal objects in association with one another.
- Any individual (non-coin) find that is at least 300 years old and contains at least 10% gold or silver.
- Associated finds: any object of any material found in the same place as (or which had previously been together with) another object which is deemed treasure.
- An object that would have been classed as treasure trove if found before section 4 came into force, that is: one substantially made from gold or silver but less than 300 years old, that has been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown.

Since 2023, as a result of further legislation, 'treasure' includes:

- Any prehistoric object containing metal, other than a coin, any part of which is precious metal or which is part of a collection of at least two such objects.
- Any object that "provides an exceptional insight into an aspect of national or regional history, archaeology or culture" due to its rarity in the UK, the part of the UK where it was found, or its connection with a person or event.

Human remains will be left undisturbed and the appropriate authority informed. Should removal be necessary then a burial licence will be sought from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) prior to lifting the remains. This work will be undertaken by the GMA appointed osteologist, Rea Carlin.

The standard policy during the evaluation will be to bulk sample up to 60 litres in volume per context the following environmental conditions:

- Buried soils or old ground surfaces
- Basal or primary fills of ditches
- Basal or primary fills of pits
- Organic remains

3 PUBLICATION AND ARCHIVE

3.1 The report

A report containing the written interpretation of features observed and detailing the circumstances of the project will be prepared. The main body of the report would be preceded by a non-technical summary containing the essential elements of the survey's results.

Copies of the report will be presented to the client and the County Historic Environment Service, Cumbria County Council. An additional copy will reside with the archive. The report will be presented within two months of leaving the field.

3.2 The archive

The report would state the location of the archive and acknowledge the role played by the curatorial authority and information derived from the County's Sites and Monuments Record.

The archive is to be eventually deposited with Tullie House, Carlisle or Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle.

The *Oasis* grey literature resource will be sent an electronic copy.

4 TIMETABLE AND RESOURCES

4.1 Timetable

The commission to undertake this project anticipates two archaeologist will be on site during the evaluation process. If considered necessary, provision has been made for further personnel to aid with the archaeological excavation and recording.

The fieldwork is likely to take five person days, whilst the report stage should it adhere to the anticipated model will take three day.

It is hoped to open the trenches from July 2025 subject to the wishes of the client.

4.2 Resources and monitoring

The project would be under the direction of Gerry Martin BA, MA, MCiFA.

CCCHES will monitor progress and standards throughout the project.

4.3 Staffing

The following personnel are allocated on this project.

- Gerry Martin, fieldwork and report, Project Manager
- Jane Openshaw, Katy Stronach, and Kurt Rice, fieldwork
- Frank Giecco, coins
- Louise Collier, Roman ceramics
- Graham Britton, lithics
- Sue Thompson, Medieval and Post-Medieval ceramics, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology
- Environmental analysis, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology
- Andy Towle, Roman glass
- Rea Carlin, human remains

4.4 Safety aspects

The safety of the archaeologists working on site is of the utmost importance and the requirements of the current Health and Safety legislation must be strictly adhered to.

All work will adhere to the archaeological contractors Health and Safety Manual and will be carried out according to the relevant Health and Safety legislation. This includes in particular, the following regulations

- Health and Safety at Work 1974
- Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994
- The Management of Health and Safety at work Regulations 1992
- Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992
- Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992
- Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992

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Brown, D.H.	Archaeological Archives a Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation, London 2011
Caine, C.	Cleator and Cleator Moor: Past and Present, 1916, Republished in 1973 by Michael Moon, Whitehaven
English Heritage	English Heritage Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment, London, 2008

IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards & Guidance documents, Reading 2001 and 2014.
IFA	Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds) Reading, 2001 and 2008.
IFA	Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014 <i>Code of Conduct</i> , Reading
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