

SPECIFICATIONS FOR A PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

North Park,

Rheda,

Frizington,

Cumbria

By

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Specifications for presentation to the Curatorial Authority

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Carlisle

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The contractor

Gerry Martin is an independent free-lance archaeological contractor with nearly 40 years experience of commercial archaeology in Britain, Norway and Germany. Gerry Martin Associates Ltd 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 (2023) and the guidelines and recommendations issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2014) and Historic England (2015).

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

1.2 The Commission

Gerry Martin has been commissioned by Mr Ian Storey, (the client's agent) to prepare a Specification of Works for a Programme of Archaeological Excavation relating to land at Rheda, Frizington, Cumbria.

The study area lies within the periphery of Frizington in an area largely isolated from the industrial settlement. Little formal excavation has occurred in the town although the Historic Environment Record lists significant features that appear to represent prehistoric settlement.

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd is seeking approval for a Working Scheme of Investigation (WSI) from Cumberland Council (CCCHES) in order to expedite an archaeological evaluation to test this assertion.

The excavation is due to sometime in 2025.

1.3 In connection with the commission

Because of the archaeological significance and sensitivity of this location, the curatorial planning authority has stated that development was subject to the "developer" securing the implementation of a formal programme of archaeological investigation (archaeological evaluation) prior to the forthcoming development. This evaluation recommended an archaeological excavation in order to adequately respond to the archaeological remains.

The study area is not scheduled as an ancient monument but has the potential to possess significant archaeological remains and will provide informed advice for the Cumberland Council.

Planning requirements requested by Cumberland Council were as follows:

Condition 21

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

The written scheme shall include the following components:

- 1. An archaeological evaluation;*
- 2. An archaeological recording programme, the scope of which will depend on the results of the evaluation;*
- 3. Where significant archaeological remains are revealed by the programme of archaeological work, a post-excavation assessment and analysis, preparation of a site archive ready for deposition at a store approved by the local planning authority, completion of an archive report and submission of the results for publication in a suitable journal.*

Reason

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 examination and recording of such remains in accordance with Policy DM27 of the Copeland Local Plan.

Condition 1 has now been satisfied and this document concerns principally of component 2 with outline provision for component 3.

The study area was subject to a geophysical survey in 2018 and subsequent archaeological evaluation by Wardell Armstrong. The evaluation exercise proved negative and no further archaeological reconnaissance was deemed necessary. This became Phase 1 for the Beckstone Development undertaken by Genesis Homes.

Jeremy Parsons advised by email 19/10/23 the following course of action in order to expedite the heritage clause within the planning application:

“The site at Rheda was subject to an archaeological geophysical survey in 2018 and the results highlighted buried archaeological remains surviving in part of the site. I enclose a plan showing the remains outlined in red on the attached plan. Although the date of these remains is unknown, they look as though they could be a prehistoric square enclosure. They therefore need to be the subject of an archaeological evaluation in the first instance, to determine their nature and significance. The need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work would be dependent upon the results of the evaluation. If the evaluation demonstrates that the remains are of low interest, no further archaeological work will be necessary. If the evaluation shows the remains are of some significance, then they will need investigation and recording by means of an archaeological excavation.

So, the first step is to commission an archaeological evaluation. The scope of the evaluation should comprise 4 trial trenches, each measuring 15 metres in length, targeting the enclosure highlighted in the geophysical survey.”

An evaluation was undertaken in December 2023 that confirmed a rectangular enclosure highlighted by the geophysical survey.

Initial belief was that the crop-mark under investigation may have possessed an Iron Age origin as it was located on a slight bluff. However, full excavation of the three ditch interventions produced no evidence for pre-Roman use. The ditch enclosure measuring approximately 55m x 49m was deep and seemingly unnecessary for a small farmstead. Although spatial zoning may be ascertained within the enclosure, clarity and survival of features is likely to be minimal.

Closure of the monument probably occurred from the late second or third century but could be later.

The enclosure upon abandonment was utilised for an unknown function. Above the backfilled ditch fill, two stone surfaces **22** and **31** were identified that were almost certainly deliberate placed. It was suggested that these *ad hoc* surfaces were to counter settlement in the enclosure ditch but surface **22** was neatly executed (figure 9), akin to a path or entrance into a functional space.

The author has speculated that this may belong to the sub-Roman period and could represent continuity into the late 4th century, a period notoriously lacking visibility in the archaeological record.

This Working Scheme of Investigation (WSI) cover the Phase 2 development which is about to come live.

1.4 Historical background

The Manor of Frizington was a fee of Beckermest and was held by a family bearing the local name. It was sold to Sir John Leigh in the early 15th century and succeeded to the Williamson and Patrickson families before being acquired by Sir John Lowther and assimilated into the Lonsdale Estates.

On the 18th June 1680, Joseph Williamson granted ownership of the freehold property to Thomas Bowman (DBH/36/3/11/12). This freehold may have passed to a Thomas Dixon, gentleman, who was listed as being from Rheda in a letter dated Michaelmas 1732 (DDIX/BOX5/38).

Coal mining was established by the 1720's and there were ironworks at Frizington from 1839 onwards. Limestone quarrying was a very important industry between 1888 and the 1980's, whilst there was earlier lime-burning and tile-making from the mid 19th century. Historically, Frizington was a collection of isolated farms and

houses but became a unified settlement as a result of mining opportunities based on a central road.

The Newcastle Courant records on Saturday 14th May 1743 the sale of free rents of 24 freeholders by the owner John Williamson of Frizington.

The waste lands were enclosed under an act of Parliament passed in 1805. Later, the Whitehaven, Cleator, and Egremont Railway held a branch line to the iron mines in this township.

The Cumberland Pacquet and Ware's Whitehaven Advertiser of 12th November 1805 noted a new road from Rheda Gate to Kerskell How to Foulmart Hill and thence eastwards in a straight line until it adjoins the high road leading from Whitehaven to Arlecdon.

In 1860, the area of the township was 1,030 acres and its rateable value was £1,770 10s (Wellan 1860, 370-372).

Examination of the First Edition Ordnance Survey published in 1863 depicted a series of vacant polygonal plan fields forming the development area, emanating from a settlement called Rheda, that was also known as Rheda Mansion (figure 1).

Probably *circa* 1887 the estate at Rheda Mansion was converted to formal parkland with two parks established as South Park and North Park surrounded by extensive woodland (figure 2) and initiated by Thomas Dixon a local eminent personality involved in district politics. He had inherited the estate in 1847 from his father also Thomas Dixon (DDX/46) who is referred to as living at Rheda in 1822 (DDIX).



Figure 1. Ordnance Survey map published in 1867

At NY 02400 16800, a former stable block to Rheda Mansion was built in 1887 for Thomas Dixon and altered in 1903 for the High Sheriff of Cumberland. It was made from sandstone ashlar and has slate gable end roofs. It was built in a Cumbrian Baronial-Revival style.

In 1894, the estate was extensively photographed, the collection held at Whitehaven

Record Office.

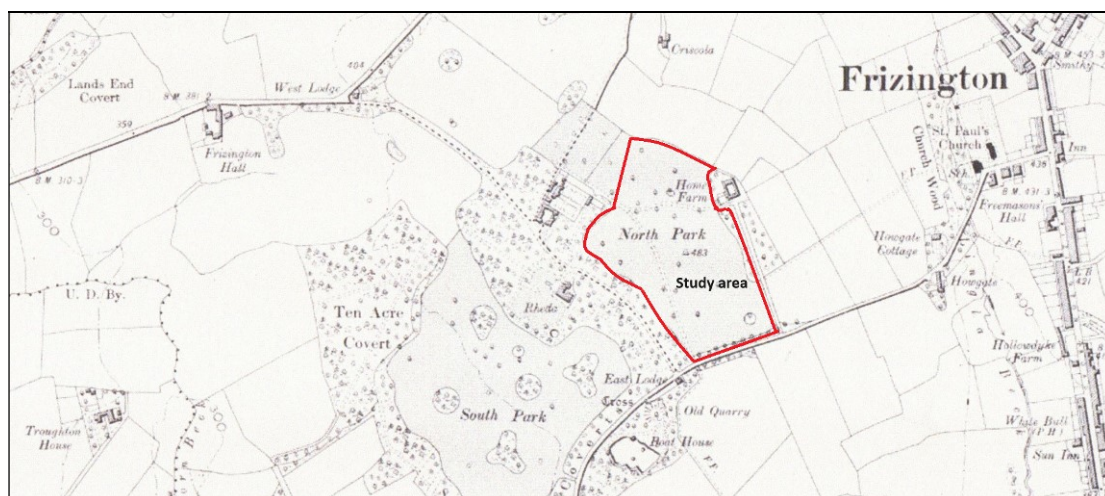


Figure 2. Ordnance Survey map published in 1900

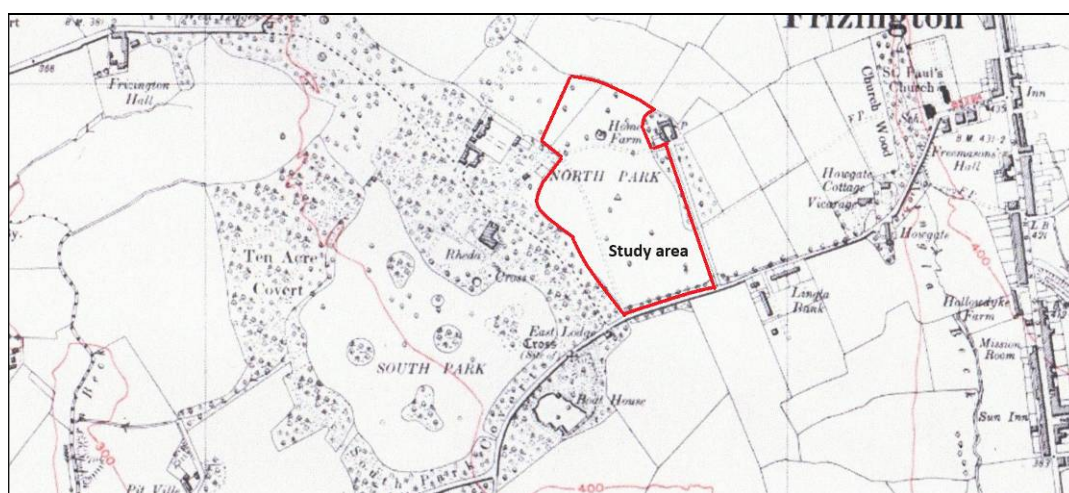


Figure 3. Ordnance Survey map published in 1946

1.5 Archaeological background

A rectangular plan feature measuring approximately 55m x 46m was clearly defined by a geophysical survey undertaken in 2018 by WYAS. Although a late Prehistoric date for this enclosure was preferred, its apparent superimposition over a field boundary or trackway may suggest that its temporal provenance is more recent (figure 4).

The enclosure lies 30m off modern southern and northern boundaries, 40m off a western boundary and 50m off an eastern boundary. Its orientation lies counter to the prevailing spatial field organization which appears to be depicted on the first edition ordnance survey map (figure 1).

No internal structures appear to exist within the enclosure.

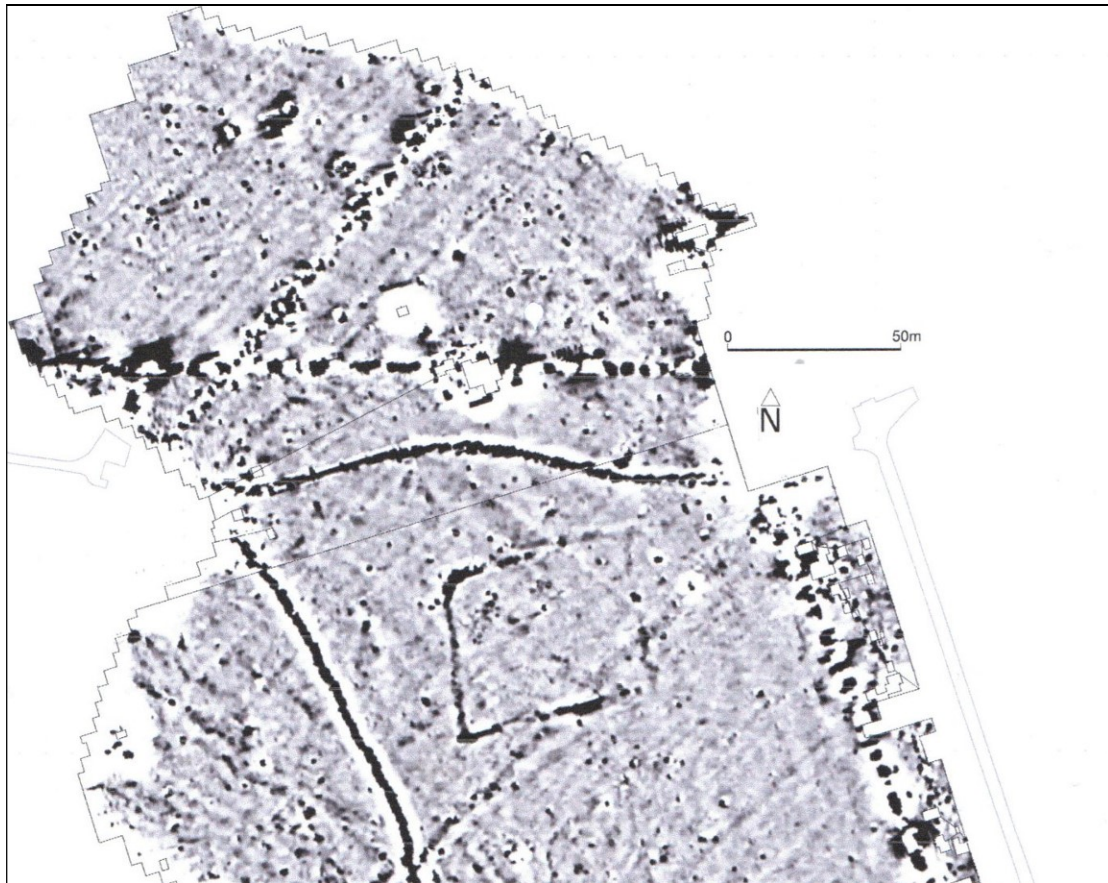


Figure 4. Geophysical survey showing a rectangular feature

1.6 Archaeological evaluation

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd was commissioned by KCS Agriculture Ltd, to undertake a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation relating to the ground works pertaining to this development.

The evaluation sought to construct a model of the archaeological potential of the site from which an informed strategy could be formulated to preserve largely *in situ* any significant archaeological remains. Its aims were 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

Regarding this particular project, the fieldwork sought to confirm the presence of a rectangular enclosure and define if possible any structural remains within the enclosure.

The curatorial authority suggested that four trenches fifteen, metres in length should be employed in order to corroborate the dimension and plan of the enclosure. The

western, northern and eastern trenches (Trenches 2-4) needed only be 1.60m in width, the width of a toothless bucket (figure 5).

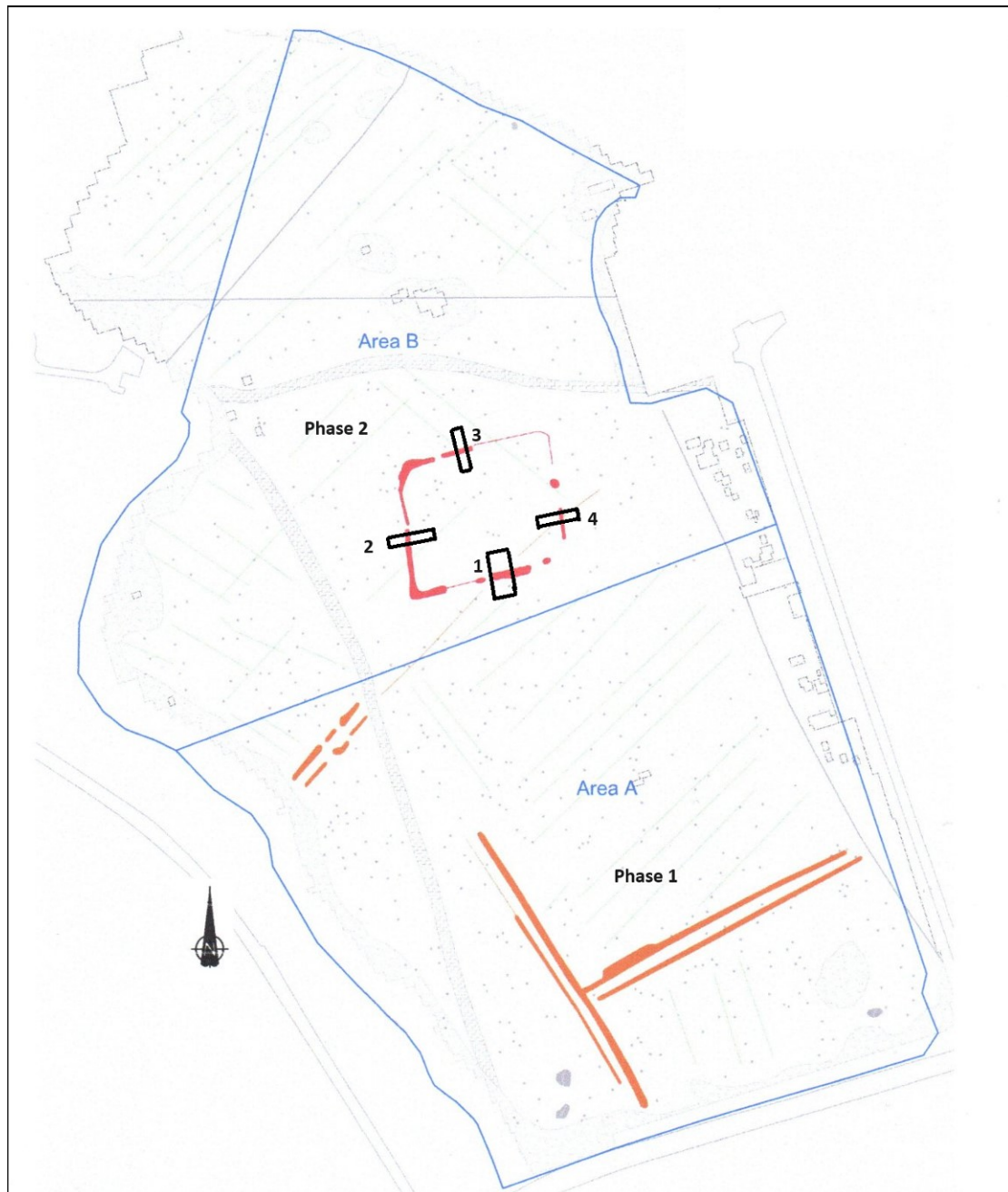


Figure 5. Location of evaluation trenches as specified by the WSI

Trench 1

Scrutinising the geophysical survey, Trench 1 (the southern trench) appeared to be intersected by a field boundary of relatively modern date (figure 4) as it appears to be present on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (figure 1).

Located between NY 02722 16814 and NY 02720 16820, the trench exposed bedrock comprising laminated sandstone corresponding to the bedding plane which was only 0.25m beneath the existing ground surface.

Clearance of topsoil revealed a northwest-southeast aligned cut **10** that represented the southern limb of an enclosure. The ditch cut measured 2.60m in width and 1.25m in depth with near vertical sides to a slightly concave base (figure 6).

Ditch **10** contained a lower fill of broken red sandstone boulders and scree within a minimal amount of red silty clay **12** that measured 1.90m in width and 0.60m in depth and was overlain by homogenous, pinkish-grey silty clay that was very stony **11** that measured 2.60m in width and 0.65m in depth (figure 7).

Basal fill **12** consisted of tightly packed sandstone rubble that represented systematic backfilling rather than gradual silting, possibly originating from an adjacent former bank. The debris was possibly capped by silty clay **11** that contained Roman pottery. There was no indication of a cutting ditch suggested by the geophysics within Trench 1 (figure 4).



Figure 6. Trench 1 looking south

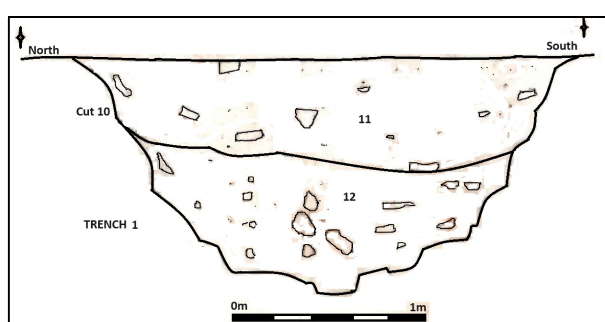


Figure 7. Ditch section for cut **10**

The earliest datable pottery sherd was recovered from silty clay upper fill **11** of ditch **10**. The fragment comprised a very heavily abraded wheel-thrown rim sherd of Central Gaulish Samian ware. The sherd likely originated from a plain bowl which could be from a number of forms and was of late 1st to early 2nd century date.

Ditch fill **11** also yielded a base sherd of type 1 Dorset Black-burnished ware, which was in good condition; very little evidence of post-depositional damage was observed on either the edges or surfaces. Weighing 22g, the sherd would have originated from a medium-sized, wheel-thrown storage or cooking pot. It was likely to date to the late 2nd to 3rd century.

Three wheel thrown sherds of type 1 Dorset Black-burnished ware were recovered from silty clay lower fill **12** from ditch **10** that comprised an everted rim sherd and two body sherds. The sherds would have originated as medium-sized storage jars or cooking pots. The presence of a splayed everted rim in the assemblage potentially places these sherds in the later Roman period, e.g. 3rd century.

Trench 2

Trench 2 measured 7.20m x 6.20m and sought to find the location of the enclosure ditch (figure 5) It depicted the backfilled western limb of the enclosure ditch **20** (figure 8) that bore stony surface **22** (figure 9).

Located between NY 02682 16804 and NY 02681 16810, the trench exposed bedrock comprising laminated sandstone corresponding to the bedding plane which was only 0.25m beneath the existing ground surface (figure 8).

Clearance of topsoil revealed a northwest-southeast aligned cut **20** that represented the western limb of an enclosure. The ditch cut measured 2.50m in width and 1.12m in depth with near vertical sides to a slightly concave base (figure 10).



Figure 8. Profile of Ditch **20**



Figure 9. Stone surface **22**

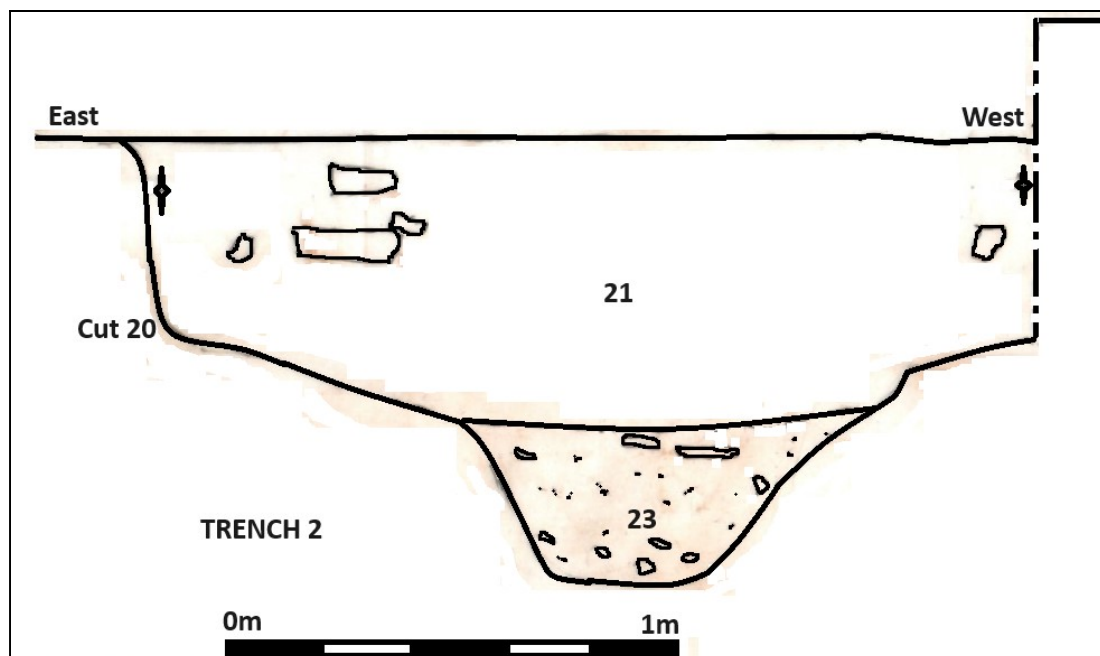


Figure 10. Ditch **20** in section

Ditch **20** consisted of a basal fill of stony pink clay **23** measuring 0.85m in width and 0.36m in depth sealed by stony pink clay **21** measuring 2.50m in width and 0.80m in depth (figure 10).

Upon completion of the backfilling of ditch **20**, a flat, concordant surface of deliberately lain stone slabs **22** was established bearing an unknown function (figure 9).

Thirteen sherds of very heavily abraded pottery, weighing 139g, were recovered from stony pink clay fill **21** of ditch **20**. The wheel thrown pottery sherds comprised locally-sourced, coarse oxidised earthenware with no decoration present on any of the sherds and they would have originated from medium to large-sized storage jars or cooking pots. These sherds were of 2nd to 3rd century date

Trench 3

Trench 3 measured 16.00m x 2.75m investigating the location of the northern limb of enclosure ditch **30**. It revealed a backfilled enclosure ditch **30** that bore stony surface **31** (figure 11). Due to the unknown function of stony surface **31**, the horizon was left in situ although a small sondage corroborated that it sat upon backfill **32** to ditch **30** (figure 12).

Located between NY 02705 16850 and NY 02701 16862, the trench exposed bedrock comprising laminated sandstone corresponding to the bedding plane which was only 0.25m beneath the existing ground surface.

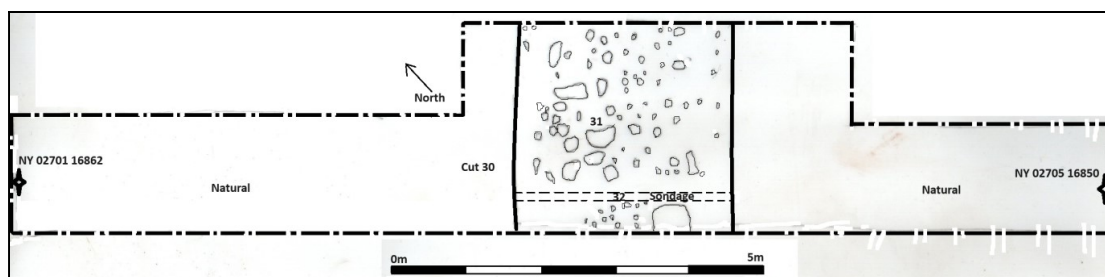


Figure 11. Trench 3 in plan



Figure 12. Sondage through surface **31**



Figure 13. Surface **31** sealing ditch **30**

Ditch **30** was left unexcavated but was approximately 2.80m in width. It was sealed by a series of concordant flat stones **31** that only existed within the ditch margin and appeared to articulate an *ad hoc* surface (figure 13).

Stony surface **31** yielded six body sherds of Huntcliff calcite-gritted ware. No decoration or sooting was present on any of the sherds. This type of pottery dates to the late 4th century and would have been imported from East Yorkshire.

Trench 4

Trench 4 measured 14.00m x 2.50m investigating the location of the eastern limb of enclosure ditch **40** (figure 14). It depicted a backfilled enclosure ditch **40** aligned approximately north-south.

Located between NY 02732 16831 and NY 02745 16837, the trench exposed bedrock comprising laminated sandstone corresponding to the bedding plane which was 0.80m beneath the existing ground surface, separated by topsoil and a possible subsoil or buried soil from a denuded bank (figure 15).

Ditch **40** bore a cut with near vertical sides to a flat, slightly concave base (figure 14). The feature was filled by pink silty clay with sandstone scree **41**. Within fill **41** was evidence of micro-stratigraphy that suggested some natural clay silting before systematic infilling. Ditch cut **40** measured 2.40m in width and was 1.00m in depth (figure 16).



Figure 14. Ditch **40** in Trench 4

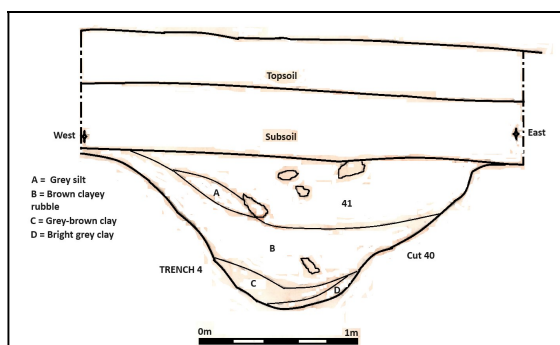


Figure 15. Ditch **40** in section

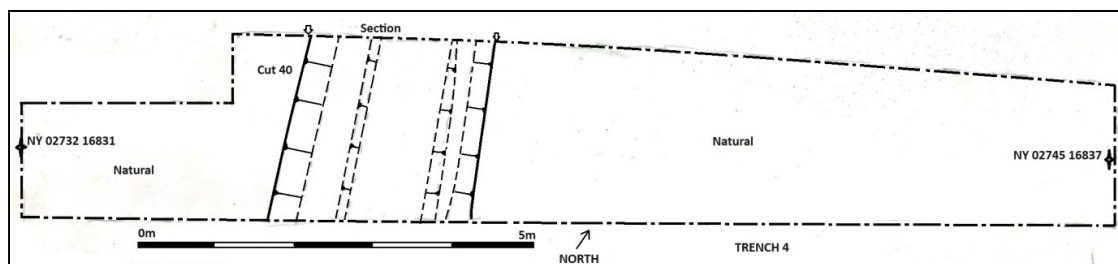


Figure 16. Plan of Trench 4

1.7 Development proposals

The development envisages up to fifty dwellings comprising of two, three and four bedroom houses centred on a cul-de-sac forming the Phase 2 development (figure 17).

No timetable has been assigned to construction for the development although provisionally 2025 has been mooted.



Figure 17. Development proposal

1.8 Historic Environment Record

The Historic Environment Record acknowledges the undated enclosure as HER 44848. Apart from Hollowdyke Farm (GMA Report 401), all the other entries pertain to the former estate at Rheda Mansion and its immediate environs.

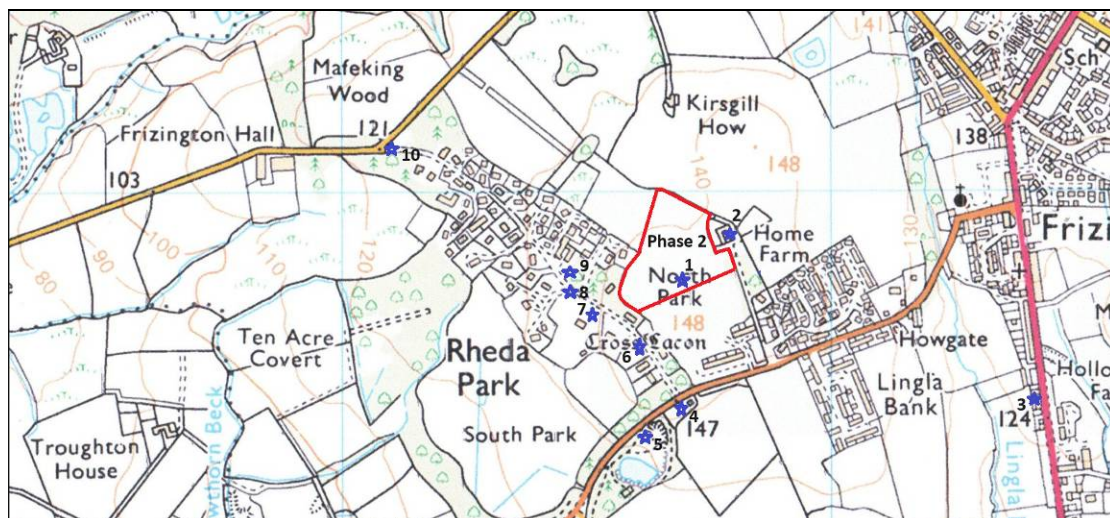


Figure 18. Historic Environment Record

The search recorded ten entries within a five hundred metre radius (figure 18) listed below.

No.	Her No.	Location	Description	Site type	Period	Status
1	44848	North Park, Rheda	Enclosure	Sub surface deposit	Unknown	-
2	43815	Home Farm, Rheda	Model Farm	Documentary Evidence	Victorian	-
3	45677	Hollowdyke Farm	Farmstead	Demolished Building	Post Medieval	-
4	43816	East Lodge, Rheda	Gate Lodge	Documentary Evidence	Victorian	-
5	43818	Rheda Boat House	Pond, Boathouse, Quarry	Documentary Evidence	Victorian	-
6	1208	Lacon Cross,	Cross	Standing Monument	Medieval	SAM
7	43813	Rheda Mansion	Mansion House	Documentary Evidence	Victorian	-
8	43814	Rheda, Frizington	House, Building, Farmstead	Documentary Evidence	Georgian	
9	23594	The Dower House, Rheda Park,	Stable	Roofed Building	Victorian	
10	43817	West Lodge, Rheda,	Gate Lodge	Documentary Evidence	Victorian	

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

2.1 Excavation aims

The evaluation reconnaissance suggested that the enclosure was of Romano-British date and it was not proven to be of an Iron Age origin.

Undoubtedly, the settlement was active during the Roman period and possibly occupied from the 1st Century AD through to the 4th Century AD. The enclosure does not appear to be consistent with a military function, probably therefore representing a farmstead.

The deep ditches employed to cut bedrock appear incongruous for a farmstead especially when an internal bank was probably formed from the upcast, further heightening a defensive obstacle.

Although there was no definitive Iron Age evidence, the form of the enclosure appears typical of an Iron Age fort or defensive asset. An aim of the excavation would be to recover any relevant evidence for an Iron Age origin. This is likely to be through OSL dating or radio-carbon dating found within the enclosure ditches. Cleaning of the ditches probably occurred until the settlement went into disuse or decline, so definitive early deposits may not exist.

The full plan of the enclosure will be sought. Provisionally two entrances have been isolated to the west and north suggesting that the enclosure may have possessed ingresses at four points of the compass. The suggested standard sample size for ditch interventions is 10% of the linear curtilage. This amounts to approximately 21 metres of intervention which will be apportioned at strategic points as the site visibility unfolds.

Where entrances exist, the loss of casual finds is increased by incoming traffic and therefore these areas should be investigated through excavation. From the evaluation observations, the ditch enclosure appears to be contiguous with platforms overlying the ditch, a characteristic suggesting defensive necessity.

The internal organisation of the enclosure is not known. The state of preservation is likely to be poor with only negative features penetrating bedrock probably extant. Within the enclosure may have been remains of house bases and pits although as the bedrock is exposed sandstone, digging would have been difficult. Expectation would suggest that any surviving features would be low but the internal confines of the enclosure would need to be checked.

Zoning of activities may be broadly outlined especially the separation between domestic facilities and animal husbandry. Slate roof tiles were seen in the ditch backfill suggesting that rectangular plan buildings (a preferred Roman style) were present rather than circular plan huts (pre-dominantly prehistoric). Areas where there is a concentration of slate probably will denote domestic structures.

The backfilling of the enclosure ditch suggests demise of the farmstead but despite the apparent levelling of the site, occupation re-emerged or continued. The coarse Crambeck Ware of the late 4th Century AD found above the backfill strongly suggests that occupation continued into the sub-Roman period, a period notorious for a lack of archaeological visibility.

The archaeological evaluation suggested that stone causeways across the backfilled ditches were from this period. This adaptation would be consistent with renewal of the farmstead, albeit its former defensive function no longer serving any serious purpose.

In summary, the excavation of the enclosure would investigate three temporal phases:

1. Any Iron Age precedent that could confirm to a defensive antecedent
2. Roman occupation up to the demise of the enclosure
3. Re-use in the late 4th century into the sub-Roman period when the defensive properties were neutralised

2.2 Excavation methodology

The objective of the excavation is to carry out a formal programme of archaeological observations and investigation that provide a documentary account of any archaeological remains essentially preservation by record to replace preservation *in situ*.

The excavation seeks to construct a model of the archaeological deposits on site from which an informed strategy can be formulated to understand 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

The proposed development is at land known as North Park, Rheda in Frizington and was subject to a geophysical survey in 2018 and archaeological evaluation in 2023 by Gerry Martin Associates Ltd. The development or study area equates to an area approximately 65m x 60m equivalent to 0.39 hectares (figure 19).

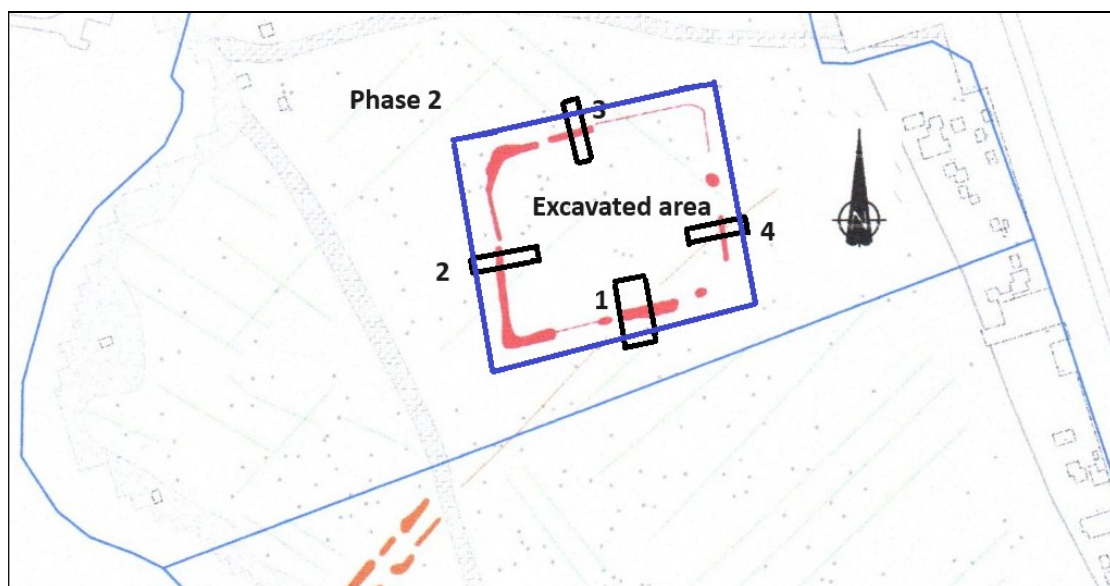


Figure 19. Area to be investigated

The excavation area needs to fully encompass the footprint of the enclosure measuring approximately 55m x 49m with a five metre clearance margin around the feature.

Experience gained from the evaluation exercise confirmed several physical environmental constraints that will impact upon the successful execution of the requested eight interventions

Overburden

Overburden must be removed prior to any archaeological observations can be successfully undertaken.

This consists of, in the main, agricultural topsoil between 0.30m and 1.00m in depth. The topsoil deposit is relatively modern and unlikely to provide culturally significant artefacts. Such deposits will be removed using an excavating machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. No sub-soil was apparent during the evaluation exercise, therefore it is believed that topsoil lies directly above red sandstone bedrock, the horizon that machining will cease.

Where topsoil is appreciably deep, an area to the east around ditch **40**, site safety would be immeasurably improved if this horizon was completely removed within a five metre zone from the enclosure. This would allow working at depth without the need to make provision for stepping the intervention.

Groundwater

Groundwater appears to be an unlikely impediment as the enclosure penetrates permeable bedrock.

It is anticipated that the spring and early summer should provide less copious amounts of water but this always remains uncertain. Where deep excavation occurs water may accumulate, prohibiting safe and effective archaeological recording. Pumping may be required to remove this hazard. Electric pumps using a 110 volt charge would be relatively quiet and not produce noxious fumes.

A permit to pump may be necessary, in order that silty water does not enter water courses.

Deep excavation

By removing the overlying topsoil the study area will be between 0.30m and 1.00m lower than the current ground surface.

Bedrock has been clearly identified meaning that the integrity of cutting features will be very secure and that excavation can continue to the full depth of the ditch or any negative features such as pits or wells.

Any opened ditches based on the limited exposure seen during the evaluation exercise are likely to have an angle of repose of approximately 60 degrees. The robust solid geology should maintain the integrity of the newly opened ditch.

Avoidance of a steep section face should be an aim, as the section could be deemed unsafe and a potential hazard. The fill of primarily solid sandstone rock backfill should provide sufficient integrity for working at depth.

Tertiary backfill formed from sandstone rubble can be removed by machine until sensitive archaeological deposits are encountered, essentially the basal fill.

Egress and ingress into the excavation area will be by ladder, safely attached to the ditch edge.

Spoil derived from hand excavation can be removed by wheelbarrow to an area beyond the excavated area.

2.3 Recording 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.

The underlying horizon will be hand-cleaned in order to identify and define archaeological features. A base plan, conforming to a scale of 1:50 will then be assembled utilising a fixed site grid tied to the Ordnance Survey national grid from which archaeological targets will be planned and then excavated. The cardinal points of the grid will be recorded by DGPS or Total Station equipment supplied by an engineer (surveyor) working for the client.

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

Excavation will follow a purely stratigraphic sequence. Intrusive features to be excavated before excavation of horizontal strata.

- Large linear features such as ditches will be excavated in one metre long segments and will comprise a probable sample size of at least 10%.
- Butt ends of ditches will be excavated in one metre long segments.
- Quadrant excavation of spreads over 1.00m in size or large negative features over 1.00m in size

- Horizontal deposits will be cleaned, photographed, planned and documented as per the protocols outlined in the Gerry Martin Associates Ltd Field Manual.
- Horizontal deposit representing cobbled surfaces will be removed in order to ascertain whether earlier horizontal or intrusive features are present. Possible, structural elements such as slots or post-holes unseen in a cobbled surface may be present indicative of formal, albeit timber utilitarian buildings.
- Linear beam slots will be 100% excavated as will pits, post-holes and other features of a structural nature. This sample size should provide diagnostic cultural material that will characterise period and function.
- Any intersections between linear features will be intercepted in order to provide relative stratigraphic chronologies.
- Human remains within graves will be 100% recovered and the Department of Justice (section responsible for human remains) notified as per the revised legislation.
- Intrusive or discrete features such as pits will be half-sectioned, the half-section being photographed, drawn and documented prior to excavation of the remaining half if required, as per the protocols outlined in the Gerry Martin Associates Ltd Field Manual.

Cumberland Council will be notified of any variation or exceptional finds that warrants further investigation beyond the above methodology.

2.4 Field records

A Project Code will appear on all field records.

Multiple context recording will be used on site unless the stratigraphy is sufficiently complex to warrant recording on a single context basis.

A system of pre-printed pro-forma as illustrated in the GMA Field Manual will be used to document each stratigraphic unit during the excavation. Registers will be kept for contexts, soil samples, photographs and small finds as per the GMA Field Manual.

Drawings will consist of the following:

- A base plan detailing the location of the excavation with reference to the Ordnance Survey at a scale of 1:2500 or 1:1000

- Archaeological plans at 1:20 for discrete features and 1:50 for the base plan
- Section drawings at 1:10 for small features and 1:20 for larger ditch sections (over 1.00m in width)

Photography will be taken using a digital camera illustrating specific contexts and features, sections, overall site shots and the juxtaposition of salient features. Photographs will include an appropriate scale, context number and north arrow if appropriate.

Levels will be taken using a dumpy level and be accurate to two decimal points using the Ordnance Survey datum.

2.5 Artefact collection

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

All finds from stratified deposits will be collected, processed and recorded as expressed in the GMA Manual, forming an individual section within the final report.

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.

It is anticipated that the finds yield from the site will be low due to poor preservation and the propensity for little lost material within the Iron Age and the sub-Roman period.

2.6 Ecofact collection

Sealed and anaerobic deposits will be environmentally sampled as appropriate and according to the GMA manual, in order to examine past environmental conditions. The ditch deposits are unlikely to be environmentally rich but will be sampled should sealed archaeological horizons of past antiquity are encountered.

The standard policy within the excavation will be to bulk sample the following environmental conditions:

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

- Basal or primary fills of pits
- Organic remains

2.7 Human remains and treasure trove

Treatment of human remains would be in accordance with the British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteo-archaeology and ClfA Paper 7, Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains (BABAO & ClfA, 2017).

Treatment of potential treasure objects would be in accordance with the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd revision, 2008).

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

2.8 Absolute dating

It is possible that the cultural assemblage will not provide a tight chronological sequence for this site. If the opportunity arises, there is a strong case to undertake Radio-Carbon dating (dependent on securely stratified organic material), dendro-chronology (unlikely as the deposits are likely to be dry) or OSL dating.

The latter provides a remnant date based on the last exposure to sunlight. Sealed quartz-based sand is required but this methodology may be suitable for ascertaining a date for a slighted ditch lacking past cultural remains.

Specialist advice will be sought from the Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor should further detailed scientific methodology be required outside the scope of the project team.

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.

The report is likely to incorporate the following elements:

- Table of contents
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the fieldwork area
- A statement of the project aims and objectives
- An account of the investigation methodology undertaken and an assessment of its effectiveness
- A description of the archaeological findings

- Plans and section drawings at appropriate scales
- Description of any finds and palaeo-environmental samples collected including an explanation of the methodologies employed, a statement on the presence or absence of material and an assessment of preservation. An interpretation of the finds including reference to any unusual or important features of the assemblage will also be included
- Discussion and assessment of the results with a statement of the heritage significance of any identified archaeological features/sites on a local/regional/national scale
- Interpretive maps, plans, drawings and photographs as appropriate
- Summary of any implication of the findings for the proposed development;
- Bibliography of sources consulted;
- The project archive and a statement of its location and proposed repository

Copies of the report will be presented to Cumberland Council and its Historic Environment Service (CCCHES). An additional copy will reside with the archive. The report will be presented within two months of leaving the field.

A short note will be provided for Cumberland & Westmorland Archaeological Transaction for fieldwork conducted in Cumbria during 2025.

If the results of the excavation are encouraging then publication will ensue in a forthcoming edition of Cumberland & Westmorland Archaeological Transactions.

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.

3.2 The archive

The archive will be prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute For Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (2020). Arrangements will be made for its long-term storage and deposition with an appropriate repository

The report will be entered into the *Oasis* database of archaeological grey literature.

Tullie House Museum, Carlisle will be the ultimate location for the deposition of the site archive.

4 TIMETABLE AND RESOURCES

4.1 Timetable

The commission to undertake this project anticipates four archaeologist will be on site during the phases of ground disturbance associated with the archaeological excavation. If considered necessary, provision has been made for further personnel to aid with the archaeological recording.

A presumption of *preservation in situ* will guide this fieldwork.

The fieldwork is likely to take four weeks for four members of staff.

A start after January 2025 has been assigned to this project.

4.2 Resources and monitoring

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

Cumberland Council or its nominated planning archaeologist will monitor progress and standards throughout the project. It is recommended that the monitor visits the site at an early opportunity in order to evaluate the potential for further archaeological investigation.

4.3 Staffing

The following personnel are allocated on this project.

- Gerry Martin, fieldwork and report, Project Manager
- Trevor Ennis, Kurt Rice, Kevin Mounsey, fieldwork
- Frank Giecco, coins
- Wardell Armstrong, small finds
- Paul Preston, lithics
- Kerry Tyler, prehistoric ceramics
- Stephen Wadeson, Roman ceramics
- Sue Thompson, Medieval and Post-Medieval ceramics
- Wardell Armstrong, environmental samples
- 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, the requirements of the current Health and Safety legislation to be strictly obeyed.

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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