Surface Air-raid Shelter, Pilling St. John’s Primary C of E School, Lancashire
Historic Building Investigation

Planning Application Number: 11/00611/FUL
NGR: SD 40337 48807

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SUMMARY

The Pilling St. John’s C of E Primary School, School Lane, Pilling, Lancashire submitted a planning application to Wyre Borough Council for the construction of a detached single-storey classroom within the rear school yard and on the site of an extant surface air-raid shelter. The Planning Archaeologist at Lancashire County Archaeological Service (LCAS) requested that a watching brief and English Heritage level II building investigation should be undertaken prior to the demolition of the shelter.

Following the approval of a Written Scheme of Investigation AP Heritage Ltd was commissioned to undertake the work. This took place in April of 2012, and notably the clearance of debris from within the shelter was kindly undertaken by a group of parent volunteers from the school.

The surface-type air-raid shelter is the only remaining one of three surface shelters that were constructed within the rear school yard. Although the air-raid shelter dates to World War II its exact date of construction is not known. The nearest known example is located to the front of St William’s Primary School to the east of the village, although this is slightly smaller and has had windows inserted.

The shelter was almost certainly used as storage space from the late 1940s, but not in very recent years. Other than the blocking to the doorways, it remains in its original form, both internally and externally. One of the chambers contains an intact example of a bench, sadly however, it is so heavily decayed that if touched it will fall apart.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AP Heritage Ltd would to thank the Planning Archaeologist at LCAS for his guidance. Thanks are also due to the staff and volunteer parents at Pilling St. John’s Primary School for clearing out debris from within the shelter, and most especially to the students who participated in the research element of the project.
INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 The Pilling St. John’s C of E Primary School, School Lane, Pilling, Lancashire (Fig 1) has submitted a planning application to the Wyre Borough Council for the construction of a detached single-storey classroom on the site of an extant surface air-raid shelter, that is located within the rear yard of the school (Fig 2).

1.1.2 Following consultation the Planning Archaeologist at LCAS requested that the air-raid shelter be subject to an archaeological watching brief during the clearing out of the interior, and secondly, an English Heritage level 2-type building investigation to be undertaken prior to the demolition works taking place. Furthermore, the Planning Archaeologist was also keen to see that any research undertaken by the students with former pupils of the school and local residents be incorporated into the building investigation report (Appendix 2).

1.1.3 AP Heritage Ltd was commissioned to undertake all elements of the building investigation, and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted to the Planning Archaeologist at LCC (Appendix 1) for approval. The work took place in April 2012.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 The school is located approximately north of the centre of the village of Pilling (Fig 1; SD 40337 48807) on the junction of School Lane and Flukey Hall Lane. It has a small garden and car parking facility to the front and enclosed yard and playing field to the rear. The air-raid shelter stands in the south-west corner of the enclosed rear yard, adjacent to the stone boundary wall.

1.2.2 Pilling is an extensive mossland parish covering some 3387 hectares situated on the southern corner of Morecambe Bay. A largely agricultural parish it is a rural community and has a flat open landscape looking toward the Bowland Fells, the Lake District and Morecambe Bay. As with most of the general area it is below 10m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2002), and in an area of flat to gently rolling plain (Countryside Commission 1998, 86). The underlying solid geology comprises Permo-Triassic red mudstone, siltstones and sandstones, but this is rarely evident on the surface as it is covered by a thick layer of glacial and post-glacial deposits, primarily a boulder clay till (op cit, 87-8).
2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 WATCHING BRIEF

2.1.1 A watching brief was maintained during the removal of blocking from the west doorway of the air-raid shelter, and during the subsequent clearance of modern materials from within the shelter. All of this work was undertaken by parent volunteers, and under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. Nothing of historic interest was disturbed during this process.

2.2 BUILDING INVESTIGATION

2.2.1 A Level II-type investigation (English Heritage 2006) was undertaken immediately following the clearance of debris from within the air-raid shelter. This was principally a descriptive record with a limited interpretation of the results, and comprised three main forms of documentation.

2.2.2 Written descriptions of all parts of the building were compiled on standard pro forma record sheets; these detail elements of the construction and use of the building, as well as any phases of alteration and significant architectural features.

2.2.3 A photographic record of the structure was also compiled using 35mm film and comprising black and white prints. In addition, digital photographs were also taken for illustrative purposes. Photographs were taken of all of the principal parts of the building, and in addition to showing internal detail such as the remains of benches.

2.2.4 A floor plan and two cross-sections were produced by the use of manual survey techniques. The drawings were manipulated through a CAD package for the production of final drawings.

2.3 STUDENT RESEARCH

2.3.1 An oral history project was undertaken by the upper school, and as part of this project members of the local community and those who had attended the school were invited to record their memories of the air-raid shelter. A questionnaire was posted on the school website. The interviews were recorded on sheets and displayed in school. In addition, the students studied the historic school logs for details of the construction of the air-raid shelter. Unfortunately, no mention of the air-raid shelter was found.

2.4 ARCHIVE

2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2009). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Lancashire County Record Office in Preston (LRO(P)) on completion of the project, and a copy of the report will be deposited with the Lancashire Historic Environment Record (HER).
3 BACKGROUND

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The background is intended to put the results of the investigation into context, as well as potentially provide evidence for phases of alteration, building and rebuilding. It is not intended to be exhaustive, or to be a history of the wider area, and it concentrates particularly on the development of St. John’s School and the air-raid shelter. Much of the general background information has been taken from an early report from a project near Pilling (OA North 2003).

3.2 HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

3.2.1 Prehistoric – Romano-British: the area around Pilling is relatively rich in archaeological remains when compared to other parts of North Lancashire, particularly those of prehistoric date. Prior to the Neolithic the area had been heavily influenced by the changing sea level, which has lead to large deposits of clay and peat developing (Middleton et al 1995, 32). The remains of red deer and elk have been discovered in the underlying clays and peat (Sobee 1997, 15), which probably survive from the post-glacial period, but they are not especially informative about human activity at the time. Polished stone axes of Neolithic date have been discovered at Cogie Hill Farm and Bone Hill, to the south-east (op cit, 18).

3.2.2 A number of artefacts of Bronze Age date have also been found in the same area (Middleton et al 1995, 66). Structural remains comprising a bank and ditch and timber poles have also been discovered, as well as a preserved head found in Pilling Moss, which are both likely to be of similar date (op cit, 68). Fewer objects of Iron Age date have been discovered, but these include a bronze scabbard also found in Pilling Moss (Sobee 1997, 22). The remains of a timber trackway, known as Kate’s Pad, have recently been dated to the late Neolithic – early Bronze Age (Middleton et al 1995, 62).

3.2.3 The Roman period is not well represented in this part of Lancashire. Numerous finds are known from across the general area, but most were found in the early nineteenth century and lack context (op cit, 70-1). There is certainly enough evidence to suggest that the Romans had a presence in the area, but how extensive this was is difficult to establish. The early medieval period is equally poorly represented, with place-name evidence giving only slight clues to the extent of settlement during the centuries following the collapse of Roman administration (Sobee 1997, 31). An initial Anglo-Saxon influence is apparent, and this is further supported by the discovery of a glass bead of Anglo-Saxon style, found in the general vicinity (op cit, 31-2), perhaps one of those found close to Town Side Farm near the old chapel (op cit, 62). The area later came under the influence of the Norse, which is mainly apparent in placename evidence (op cit, 33-4).

3.2.4 Medieval – Post-medieval: the majority of settlements in the general area probably have medieval origins, and although Pilling itself is not included in the Domesday Book, other nearby villages were (op cit, 39). Cockersands Abbey, under whose influence much was done
to improve drainage and productivity (Middleton et al 1995, 72-3), controlled much of the land. The process of reclaiming moss for its use for both agriculture and fuel was also begun in earnest at this point, as a result of the activities of the Abbey, as was a certain amount of enclosure (op cit, 73-4). Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries much of the land around Pilling was sold to John Kitchen of Cockersand (op cit, 73).

3.2.5 A short distance to the south of St. John’s School is the Chapel of St. John the Baptist, which was built in 1717 (Sobee 1997, 71). This replaced an earlier chapel, which was certainly medieval in origin and may have established during the Anglo-Saxon period (op cit, 62).

3.2.6 The post-medieval development of the area is dominated by further agricultural developments, in particular land reclamation, and peat extraction on a large scale (Middleton et al 1995, 75-83). Many of the villages and farms were still very isolated at this time, and the area was described as ‘perhaps the loneliest part of that great secluded Lancashire plain known as “The Fylde Country”’ (Waugh c 1874, 94). During the nineteenth century it was a relatively peaceful place (op cit, 95), but even then major changes in the landscape were taking place. Drainage and reclamation were major undertakings, with massive numbers of pipes being made (Rothwell 1976, 10). Some industrial action did take place in the area, in particular clay digging, and there are many disused clay pits in the general area. The whole area continued to be affected by occasional flooding due to high seas throughout this period (Watson and McClintock 1979, 9), making agricultural and economic growth difficult. During the eighteenth century it remained dependent on agriculture, while the rest of Lancashire was embracing the Industrial Revolution, and even into the nineteenth century transport and communication were so difficult that it remained relatively cut off and self-sufficient (op cit, 11-12).

3.3 PILLING ST JOHNS C OF E SCHOOL

3.3.1 The following account of the origins and development of the school relies heavily on A History of Pilling (Sobee 1997). The Pilling Parish Council website suggests a school master was recorded in Pilling as early as 1604 and a school from 1675. However, Sobee suggests that the first mention of a school is made in 1710, when a Robert Carter gave a gift of land ‘tenement’ in Pilling for the purposes of providing a school. He also made financial provision for the running of the school and established a group of trustees (Sobee 1997, 122). Following the death of Robert Carter his trustees sold the tenement and purchased a freehold estate being a messuage and tenement of some five acres, and a field called Higginsons Field of two acres. Known as the Free Grammar School, it stood on the site of the current Golden Ball Hotel, just to the north-east of the modern day school.

3.3.2 The school licence was dated 15th June 1716, and the school master was charged with instructing the children in writing and good behaviour, as well as to expound to them all the appropriate Greek and Latin authors. Church wardens’ accounts hint at the school being constructed from peat and stone walls, and as having a clay floor and thatch roof (ibid). Unsurprisingly, the school burnt down (1814) and a new school was built on the site of the current school. Sobee (1997, 124) suggests it measured 30ft long by 21ft wide, and 10ft high.
3.3.3 No further mention is made of a school until 1842 when the trustees requested of the school master an account for the last three years of the school fees received from the poor of the inhabitants of Pilling. The school, known as the Pilling Parochial School, was part-funded by the leasing of the school estate, which at this time consisted of a dwelling house, barn, shippon (cow shed), and six acres of land, and was in the tenancy of William Clavert at an annual rent of £26. Additional income came from the parents of the children who were charged a penny a week for reading and threepence for reading and writing (op cit, 125).

3.3.4 By 1855 it was felt that the school was not big enough to fulfil the educational needs of the parish, and efforts began to build a new school, with the specific aim of educating the children of agricultural labourers. It was also proposed that the fees should be reduced. The new school was to accommodate both boys and girls and should be used as a Sunday School. It was built in 1856 at a cost of £1,300 partly on the site of the dilapidated school and partly on the land formerly given for a playground and garden. The southern end comprised the master’s house, which today is rented out for residential purposes. There were approximately 100 children in attendance, but with most returning to agricultural work during the summer months. By 1885 the attendance had grown to 227. A new infant room was built in 1883. In 1904 the owner of the adjacent Golden Ball Hotel gave land to the rear of the school for a boy’s playground.

3.4 THE AIR-RAID SHELTER

3.4.1 During World War II Pilling was a regionally important producer of potatoes, and is still renowned for its New Pilling Potatoes. However, and in brief, there is further evidence for other WWII related activity. The village Reading Room, located slightly to the south of the school, is known to have served as the headquarters for the Pilling Home Guard. The circular features associated with an arrangement of hutments in the field to the south of the Church (RAF Aerial Photograph 1069/uk/625) are believed to be local defence gun emplacements. The concrete bases for the hutments can still be seen. The remains of a pillbox or gun emplacement are contained within the sea wall to the south of Pilling Sands, in the direction of Preeeall. Although outside of the village, Cockerham Sands lying to the north was a Royal Navy Air Station (RNAS) and had two ranges with one being a live bombing range. The remains of a quadrant tower can still be seen on the seafront. There is some suggestion that a target was also placed on Pilling Sands, unfortunately the evidence for this is tenuous (www.airfieldinformationexchange.org).

3.4.2 An inspection of aerial photographs (RAF 1945 1069/uk/625, 1966 05/66030 and 1978 05/78091) provides the earliest visual record of the air-raid shelter, it also confirms the existence of its twin, and hints at a third smaller shelter. The 1945 run depicts the shelter as being located in the south-west corner of the school yard, immediately adjacent to the boundary wall. It is rectangular-shaped, aligned north-south and has two opposing and projecting doorways. The second shelter (now lost) was located at the north-west end of the yard, and had the same plan and appeared to be of the same size. A third structure is shown almost half way between the two, with a single projecting doorway to the north. The most northerly of the shelters is not shown on the subsequent run (1966) and was almost certainly demolished in advance of the construction of a major extension (the school hall
and canteen) to the north-west of the school. Both the extant shelter and the third shelter are shown on the 1978 run.

3.4.3 The first Ordnance Survey map to illustrate the shelters is the 1968 1:2,500 edition (Plate 1), which clearly shows the plan of the extant shelter and the centrally located shelter. The most northerly shelter has been lost beneath the large east/west aligned extension to the north of the main school block. Subsequent maps (1991 1:2,500 and 1993 1:10:000) continue to illustrate the same two shelters. The exact date of demolition of the central shelter is not known but it probably took place sometime in the mid-nineteen nineties.

Plate 1: Extract from the 1968 OS map, 1:2500 edition, showing Pilling C of E School and the two remaining air-raid shelters
4 BUILDING INVESTIGATION

4.1 RESULTS

4.1.1 The watching brief and the building investigation were undertaken during April 2012. The children’s’ research followed throughout the school summer term. The archaeologist visited the children later in the term to discuss the archaeological approach to the recording of the air-raid shelter.

4.2 WATCHING BRIEF

4.2.1 During the watching brief the partially blocked west door of the air-raid shelter was opened up. Following this, a group of parent volunteers cleared debris from the interior of the shelter (Plates 2 and 3). The historic fabric was not disturbed. The debris included electrical conduits from the school building, car parts, and quite a number of gardening tools.

Plate 2: A collection of debris removed from the interior of the shelter.

Plate 3: Gardening tools retrieved from within the air-raid shelter.
4.3 BUILDING INVESTIGATION

4.3.1 The air-raid shelter is a typical surface shelter, and is of a very common design intended for the general public and as school yard shelters. A similar but slightly smaller example is present in the Roman Catholic primary school (St William’s) on the eastern edge of the village (Garstang Road).

4.3.2 It is of reinforced brick and concrete construction, and although built to withstand blast damage it would not have stood up to a direct hit. For the most part the walls are of English bond but with an excess of stretchers in the lower courses. Although a surface shelter, it is partially set in the ground, and there is a step down into the interior. The two projecting and opposing doorways are recessed behind blast walls. It is rectangular in plan and aligned north/south, with the doors being positioned slightly north of centre. The doorways face into the playground and it is located approximately 30m from the south end of the school, adjacent to what was the rear boundary wall (Fig 2). Both end walls (north and south) contain two small ventilation holes; those to the front have ventilation tiles, and with the two to the rear being open (Plates 4 to 8).

Plate 4: The north-facing elevation showing two ventilation openings.
Plate 5: The projecting doorway (blocked) on the west elevation of the shelter.

Plate 6: The south-facing (rear) elevation of the shelter which contains two ventilation holes.
Plate 7: The north section of the east-facing elevation showing the blocked and projecting doorway.

Plate 8: The south section of the east-facing elevation showing projecting doorway.
4.3.3 Internally, there are four chambers arranged two either side of a cross passage (Figs 3 and 4; Plate 9). The decayed remains of timber door frames can be seen at either end of the passage. Two brick partition walls aligned north/south separate the western chambers (C1 and C3) from the eastern chambers (C2 and C4). Both contain low escape openings into the adjoining chamber (external wall ends), and ventilation holes towards the central portion of the wall (Plates 10 and 11). The east/west short walls to the back chambers are of more substantial construction, and this is likely to be for blast proofing and also possibly to provide additional support for the heavy concrete roof.

4.3.4 The chambers to the rear are slightly longer than the two to the front (C3 and C4), and incorporate a small brick cubicle at their northern end for the provision of an Elsan toilet. Wooden brackets are present either side of the top of the cubicles for the purposes of hanging a curtain, and in an attempt to provide privacy (Plate 12).
Plate 9: The central passage facing west into the projecting doorway. The timber remains of the door frame are just visible.
Plate 10: The interior of Chamber 2. Note the white-washed walls, decayed benches and escape opening in the right hand corner.
Plate 11: Ventilation opening in the partition wall between chambers.

Plate 12: Timber bracket above the elsan toilet cubicle.
4.3.4 All four of the chambers exhibit evidence for the presence of wooden benches. In chambers 1 to 3 the benches were thoroughly rotten and in a state of collapse. The best example was seen in chamber 4, although even this was in an extreme state of decay (Plate 13). The benches were present along the entire length of the external walls, but limited to the central portion of the internal walls. This arrangement allowed movement into the chambers and through the escape holes if necessary. The timber seats (two planks wide) were supported on brick pillars and the backs (one timber) were bolted through timber brackets into the brickwork.

4.4.5 The over-sailing and slightly pitched concrete roof is of timber shutter construction, and the impression of the timber shutters is very visible inside the shelter (Plate 14). The underside of the roof has been white-washed, as have most of the interior walls. Where seen the floor was concrete.

4.4.6 A close inspection was maintained for graffiti but none was observed, and neither was the shelter wired for electric lights.

Plate 13: The bench in Chamber 4 with ventilation opening above.
4.4 STUDENT RESEARCH

4.4.1 The results of the student research (Appendix 2) suggest confirm that three air-raid shelters were provided for the school, and certainly those students who attended in the late 1940s thought this was the case. These appear to have been left open and used for storage, and are described as being cold, damp, dark and scary. They were never used for the purpose for which they were intended.

Plate 14: The white-washed concrete roof showing the impression of the timber shuttering used during its construction. The fixtures for a timber doorframe are visible in the brickwork.
5 DISCUSSION

5.1 THE AIR-RAID SHELTER

5.1.1 The air-raid shelter at Pilling St. John’s C of E Primary School is one of three World War II shelters that were constructed in the schoolyard to the rear of the school building. Although the air-raid shelter dates to World War II its exact date of construction is not known. A thorough search was made of the School Log but no mention was made of any of the shelters. It is of a type of shelter (surface) common throughout the country, and generally utilised for the general public and school premises. The nearest known example is located to the front of St William’s Primary School to the east of the village, although this is slightly smaller and has had windows inserted (Plate 15).

Plate 15: The surface air-raid shelter at St. William’s Primary School, Pilling. Two windows have been added to allow light into the interior, and it is currently used for storage purposes.

5.1.2 The shelter was almost certainly used as storage space from the late 1940s, but not in very recent years. Other than the blocking to the doorways, it remains in its original form, both internally and externally. One of the chambers contains an intact example of a bench, sadly however, it is so heavily decayed that if touched it will fall apart.

5.1.3 Other than the sad loss of lives experienced by most towns and villages during WWII, and some evidence for home defence, the air-raid shelter lies in an area that survived WWII with no major and direct adverse physical impact.
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APPENDIX 1: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Written Scheme of Investigation: St John’s C of E Primary School, Ladies Hill, Pilling.

Proposed Demolition of Air-raid Shelter

Planning Application No: 11/00611/FUL

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 The St John’s C of E Primary School, Pilling has submitted a planning application to the Wyre Borough Council for the construction of a detached single-storey classroom on the site of an extant air-raid shelter, located within the rear grounds of the school.

1.2 The air-raid shelter is of a semi-sunk design and of brick construction with a concrete roof. Upon initial inspection it appeared to contain six chambers arranged symmetrically to the front and rear of a central passageway. Access would originally have been through a doorway at either end of the passage. Ventilation is provided by two small ventilation holes in the rear portion. A number of the chambers contain the remains of wooden benches, which are in a very fragile state.

1.3 Following consultation, the Planning Archaeologist at Lancashire County Council (LCC) has requested that the air-raid shelter is subject to an archaeological investigation prior to demolition taking place. ‘No work is to take place until a programme of archaeological recording work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (WSI)’ has been completed. An English Heritage level 2-type survey has been specified. The Planning Archaeologist is also keen to see that any research undertaken by the students with former pupils is incorporated into the building investigation report.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 The aims objectives of the archaeological investigation are to preserve by record the extant remains of the air-raid shelter. In addition, the school has expressed an interest in undertaking a social history project based around the air-raid shelter.

2.2 An English Heritage level 2-type survey is essentially a basic visual record, supplemented by the minimum of information needed to identify the building’s location, age and type. It would comprise a sketched plan, section and elevation drawings (roughly dimensioned), written description and a photographic record of both the interior and exterior.

2.3 This nature of the building and its location within the school yard provides the ideal opportunity for the school to utilise the site as a children’s project. Moreover, St. John’s has a very strong link with the local community. It is suggested, therefore, that the basis of study should be oral history undertaken as a series of interviews with those older members of the community having memories of using the shelter in some way. This could link to a visual display both on site (photography, sketches and written work) and the school website.

2.4 The project would be both informative and interesting for the children, and also serve to reassure members of the local community that the significance of this locally important heritage asset has been recognised by the school in a positive manner.

3 BUILDING INVESTIGATION

Stage 1: Clearance

3.1 Any tidying up the interior of the shelter will be done in the presence of an archaeologist. Care should be taken not to disturb the delicate remains of the wooden benches and any doors present. Any historic artefacts should be treated as finds and recorded and catalogued.

Stage 2: Archaeological Recording

3.2 Historical Research: the background research is likely to rely heavily on the school logs. A search for photographs in the school archive will be undertaken, and also through local sources.
Photographic Archive: a photographic archive will be compiled utilising 35mm cameras to produce black and white prints. A digital camera will also be used to provide reference photographs and plates within the report. The photographic archive will typically comprise the following:

- The external appearance and setting of the building;
- The overall appearance of the interior;
- Any external or internal detail, structural or architectural, which is relevant to the design, development and use of the building, such as in benches, ventilation openings and graffiti;
- Detailed views of fabric detail relevant to phasing the building.

Site Drawings: architect’s plans (provided by the client) will be annotated during the investigation, in order to produce site drawings, which will then be digitised using a standard CAD package. The finished drawings are used to illustrate the phasing and development of the building, in addition to features of architectural or historic significance. In the absence of architect’s plans, the drawings will be manually produced.

The following site drawings will be produced during the investigation:

- A ground plan of the air-raid shelter to show the form and location of any structural features of architectural or historic significance (1:100 scale);
- A cross-section through the building, where appropriate (1:50);

Interpretation and Analysis: a visual inspection of the building will be undertaken utilising building investigation proforma sheets and descriptions will be recorded to English Heritage (2006) level 2-type standard.

Access and monitoring: liaison for basic site access will be undertaken through the client. Whilst the work is undertaken for the client, the Planning Archaeologist will be kept fully informed of the work and its results and will be notified a week in advance of the commencement of the fieldwork. Any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist in consultation with the client.

Stage 3: Report and Archive

Report: the content of the report will comprise the following:

- A site location plan related to the national grid;
- A front cover to include the planning application number and the NGR;
- A detailed account of the investigation results. This will include the building’s age, fabric, form and function, sequence of development, and historical and architectural significance. It will also include the results of any oral research undertaken by the school as part of the history project (see Section 5 below);
- A description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and results obtained;
- Copies of plans, photographs, and other illustrations as appropriate;
- A copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design;
- The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.

Two copies of the report will be supplied to the client (one hard copy and on CD), and a further digital copy to the Planning Archaeologist, and the Lancashire HER.

Archive: the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, London, 2009).

The archive will be deposited with the original record archive of projects with the appropriate County Record Office, which in this instance is Preston.

Archaeological Investigation Timetable

It is anticipated that the basic research would take in the region of one day. However, the children’s oral interviews and photograph search is likely to take a little longer. The fieldwork would take in the region of one day.
4.2 Reports are usually submitted with eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork, although a shorter deadline could be arranged.

5 **HISTORY PROJECT**

5.1 The air-raid shelter at St. John’s School is both a teaching resource and community heritage asset. As a teaching resource it is possible to make a direct link to the Key Stage 2 (KS2) history curriculum. The 2007 History Schemes of Work for primary school students at KS2 includes Unit 9: *What was it like for children in the Second World War*. Local history is a strong element in this unit, and teachers are encouraged to arrange visits from older local residents to talk about their experiences (DfES 2007). Furthermore, *Learning Outside the Classroom* a recent initiative promoted by the Department for Children Schools and Families (DfES 2006), encourages the use of school grounds and buildings as resources for formal and informal learning. The air-raid shelter is ideally positioned for such use.

5.2 It is envisaged that the history project will have two primary aims:

- For the archaeologists to introduce the children to the techniques of archaeology, and
- Compare the history, archaeology and living memory of the site.

These could be approached in a number of ways including research, recording and presentation. Following an introduction to the techniques of archaeology – ‘What is Archaeology’ the children would undertake a programme of research. This would comprise a study of the school log, photographs kept by the school, and any relevant plans. An appeal would be made locally for anyone who attended the school during the war years to contact the school, with a view to the children undertaking interviews, and to share photographs.

5.3 **Recording:** following a presentation entitled ‘What is Archaeology’ the children would be given the opportunity to assist the archaeologist during the recording of the shelter, but not throughout the clearance stage. The students would have the opportunity to have a go at being an archaeologist, including manual survey, written descriptions and photography.

5.4 **Research:** a sample of general background questions relating to the Second World War is listed below, the answers to which would provide a context for the history and function of the shelter:

- What was the Second World War.
- When and where did it take place.
- What was the Blitz. Where did bombing raids take place.
- What happened during an air raid. What happened when the bomb landed.

Specific questions focussed on the air-raid shelter could include the following:

- What was it like in an air-raid shelter.
- Was food taken in and if so what food
- How long did people stay in the shelters
- Were there beds
- Were there toilets
- How many people fitted inside
- Where were the other shelters

The oral history interviews should provide the answers to most of the above.

5.5 **Presentation:** St John’s has a very strong relationship with the local community, members of which would almost certainly enjoy an air-raid shelter open-day. This would provide the children with the opportunity to present their research through display and guided visits. The results of the history projects should be presented on the school website.
6. **PROJECT TEAM**

6.1 AP Heritage Ltd is a locally based heritage consultancy. The director (Alison Plummer BSc (Hons) Heritage Conservation) has over twenty years of experience in professional archaeology, with fifteen of those having been practiced in the North West. In addition to a wide range of fieldwork projects, research and utilities work, Alison specialises in the recording of historic buildings.

6.2 AP Heritage Ltd is committed to maintaining community links and promoting the enjoyment of archaeology by all, and especially including local groups, societies and schools.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Chester, M et al, 2003 *Key Stage 2 History: The Study Book*, Newcastle-upon-Tyne


DfES, 2007 *History at Key Stages 1 and 2: Unit 9*, http://www.standards.dfes.gov.uk


APPENDIX 2: STUDENT RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE SAMPLE

Air Raid Shelter Questionnaire

1) Did you attend Pilling St. John’s Primary?  Yes [ ] no [x]

2) If yes, which year did you start and leave?  Start [ ] leave [ ]

3) Were there two shelters or one? [ ]

4) Were they open?  yes, at the start.

5) If yes, did you go inside?  yes but not often

6) What was it like?  scary and dark

7) What games did you play around the shelter?  Juggling, hopscotch, hide and seek

8) Have you any other memories or information?  girls in front yard and boys in back yard

Are you male or female?  male [ ] female [ ]