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FIGURES

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The contractor

Gerry Martin is an independent free-lance archaeological contractor with over 25 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, evaluations, building surveys and excavations.

All projects are carried out in accordance with PPS 5 (2010) and the guidelines and recommendations issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists and English Heritage. Gerry Martin has achieved the accreditation level of MIfA (Member) with the Institute of Archaeologists (IfA).

1.2 The Commission

Emergency intervention was required by Northern Gas Networks on 7th-8th April 2011 in order to repair a fractured gas main just outside the University of Cumbria campus in Brampton Road, Carlisle.

The watching brief action has been requested by English Heritage, as potential and significant archaeological remains may be encountered and impact upon the Vallum, part of a Scheduled Ancient Mounument No. 26088.

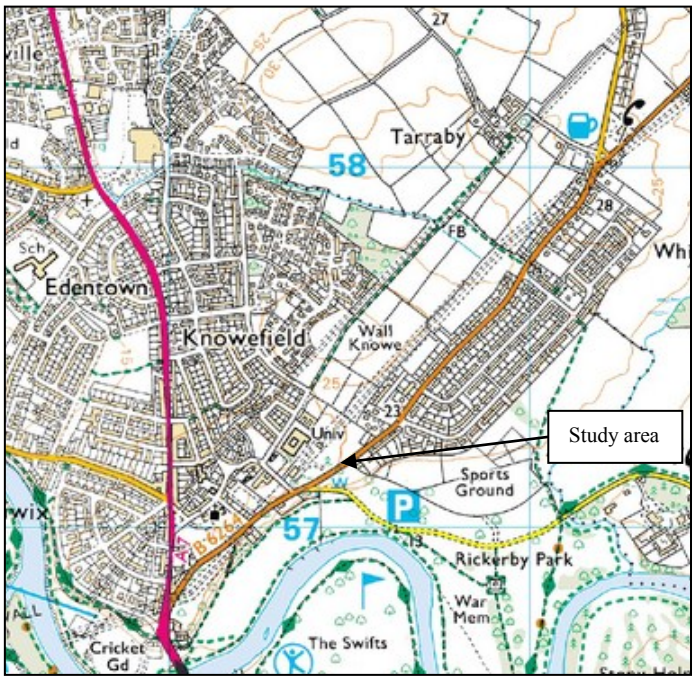

Figure 1. Site location, Brampton Road, Carlisle (OS Copyright, Licence no. 100044205)

1.3 In connection with the commission

Because of the archaeological significance and sensitivity of this location, the curatorial planning authority has stated that permission is subject to the "contractor" securing the implementation of a formal programme of archaeological observation and investigation

during the forthcoming repair. An archaeological watching brief was maintained whilst excavation took place.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Design

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd were commissioned to undertake the archaeological fieldwork following a request by the curatorial body English Heritage.

The following report has been assembled to the relevant standards and protocols of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation, 2008), combined with accepted best practice and in accordance with the brief prepared by the curatorial authority.

Fieldwork took place on April 6th-7th 2011.

2.2 Archive

The archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design and the guidelines set out by English Heritage (1991) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2008).

The archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository, Tullie House, Carlisle and a copy of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record, as requested by the curatorial authority.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, topography and geology

The drift geology comprises of alluvial sand and clay resting above Boulder Clay that overlies red sandstone solid geology.

4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

4.1 Desk-based assessment

Just south of Hadrian's Wall in an area approximately 100m south-east of the Roman cavalry fort of *Ala Petriana* lies the study area (NY 40489 57168).

Excavations by Simpson and Hogg in 1932-34 and by Simpson and Richmond 1939-40 established the positions of the south gate of the Hadrian's Wall fort and the defences of the north-eastern, south-eastern and south-western sides as well as the line of the Vallum.

Internal buildings, including a granary were also located within Stanwix School.

In the spring of 1984, excavations within the car park at the Cumbria Park Hotel, Carlisle uncovered the previously unsuspected north curtain wall, rampart and interval tower of the Roman fort at Stanwix (Dacre 1985, 55).

This work demonstrated that the fort had been enlarged during the Antonine period so that it projected north of Hadrian's Wall. The other critical discovery was that a ditch lay beneath the interval tower. This ditch antedated the enlargement of the fort and is presumed to be associated with Hadrian's Wall discovered by Simpson and Hogg between 1932 and 1934 and confirmed by watching brief during 2008 (Martin 2008).

The probable parade ground (Monument no. 1355703) was identified within the grounds of Cumbria College of Art (now Cumbria University) during 1993. It consisted of a dump of clay, 0.6m deep, covering the earlier ground surface and sealing plough marks and a military ditch. The parade ground also had a cobble surface.

Between 1997 and 1999, further excavations at Stanwix School identified a turf wall rampart, the earliest structural feature just south of the line of Hadrian's Wall. Cobbled surfaces and demolition deposits were located internally before timber buildings were established in the fourth Century.

The 1866 First Edition Ordnance Survey map confirms the study area as being within the footprint of the road and path forming Brampton Road.

The study area is believed to be within close proximity of the course of the Vallum.

The Vallum classically comprises a steep-sided ditch usually 6m in width and 3m in depth with a flat base flanked by two mounds north and south, set back approximately 9m from the ditch edge and probably constructed to deny multiple crossings up to the Wall or to delimit a prohibited zone close to the Wall.

The nearest full section excavated across the Vallum was undertaken at Crosby-on-Eden where the bulk of the ditch fill was tertiary deposition. This would be the expected deposit model for the study area along Brampton Road, Carlisle.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Methodology

The objective of the watching brief investigation is to carry out a formal programme of archaeological observations and investigations during any operations on site that may disturb or destroy archaeological or architecturally informative deposits or remains. The specific aims of the work are to:

- Provide a record of those works associated with the removal of the topsoil
- Provide a record of any significant archaeological or architectural features encountered by intrusive activities

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.

The ground-works were undertaken by hand under archaeological supervision. This action consisted of observation of the spoil removal and monitoring the displaced soil. Revealed

sections were checked for any past cultural activity and if necessary recorded according to the protocols of the GMA manual.

The work was undertaken on 6th-7th April 2011

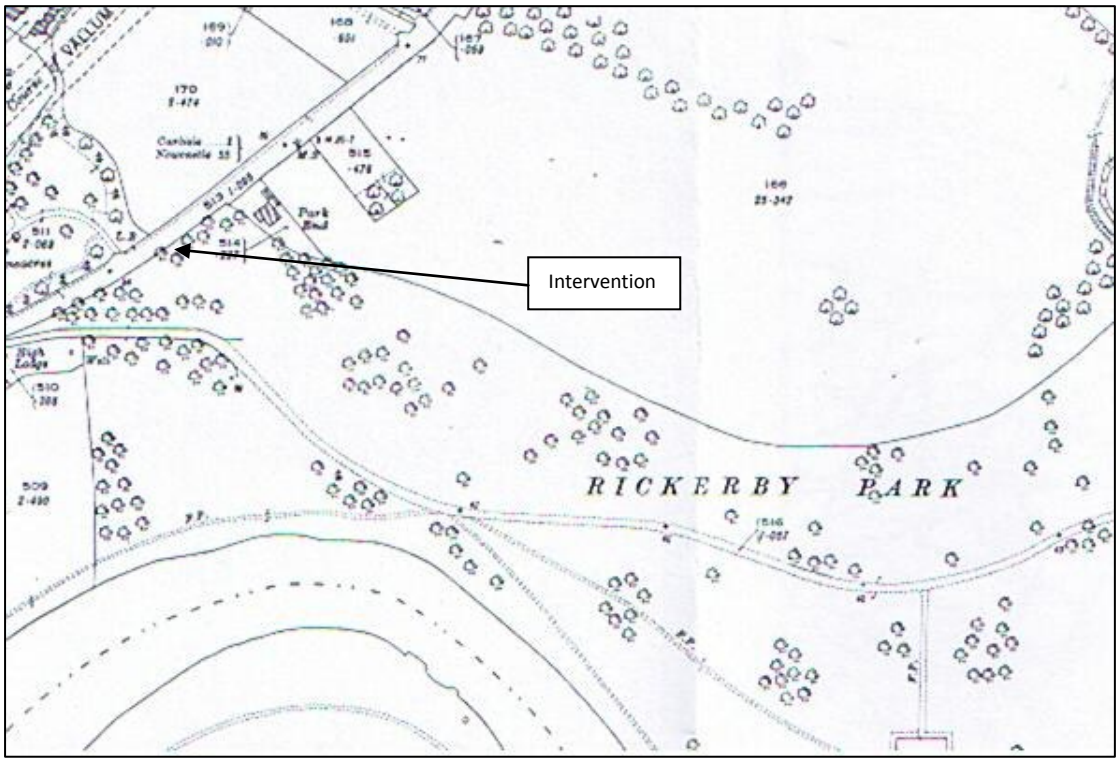

Figure 2. Location of the intervention

5.2 Results

The reception pit measured 1.90m x 0.90m in order for the gas main to be repaired excavated to a depth between 0.95m-1.10m.

The intervention revealed 0.30m of modern made ground that overlay stiff, brown clayey silt with occasional large angular stones and re-deposited orange clay sand to a depth of at least 0.65m. This material was the backfill associated with the insertion of the gas main during the 20th century.

Natural geology was not observed and no cultural material of any antiquity was present.

The ground appeared to be truncated by modern activity with no indication for the Vallum.

5.3 Discussion

The course of the Vallum appeared to be at least 50m to the north of the intervention.

No cultural activity was encountered within the monitored intervention, the study area being archaeologically sterile to a depth of at least 1.00m.

Figure 3. Reception pit

Figure 4. Detail of the gas pipe

Figure 5. Side of the reception pit

6. ARCHIVE

The archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design and the guidelines set out by English Heritage (1991) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, 2001 and 2007).

The archive will be deposited with Tullie House Museum, Carlisle, a copy donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record, as requested by the curatorial authority and a copy supplied to English Heritage.

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Mr Mark Taylor and Mr Phil Wall (Northern Gas Networks), the client for their collaboration on this project as well as the co-operation of the contractors.

I would also like to thank Mike Collins (English Heritage), the staff of Carlisle Library with my research into the local history of the area and the staff of Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle with the map regression and other documentary research.

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