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SUMMARY

The watching brief produced no deposits of archaeological antiquity, the reduction of overlying soil being too little to impact upon any putative remains; in particular the Vallum which was believed to cross the northern extremity of the study area.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Origins

Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) was consulted by Carlisle City Council regarding planning permission for 167 Brampton Road, Carlisle (figure 1).

As potential and significant archaeological remains may be encountered, an archaeological watching brief was requested by Cumbria County Council.

The condition exists "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 examination and recording of such remains, in accordance with Policy LE10 of the Carlisle District Local Plan 2001-2016".

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd has been commissioned by Mr Grant Brown, the client to undertake a Programme of Archaeological Watching Brief relating to the ground works for this development subject to planning application 1/11/0317.

The development of the site will involve the machine removal of topsoil within the proposed building footprint.

This report describes the results of that archaeological watching brief and its archaeological context as summarised in the desk-based assessment.

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).

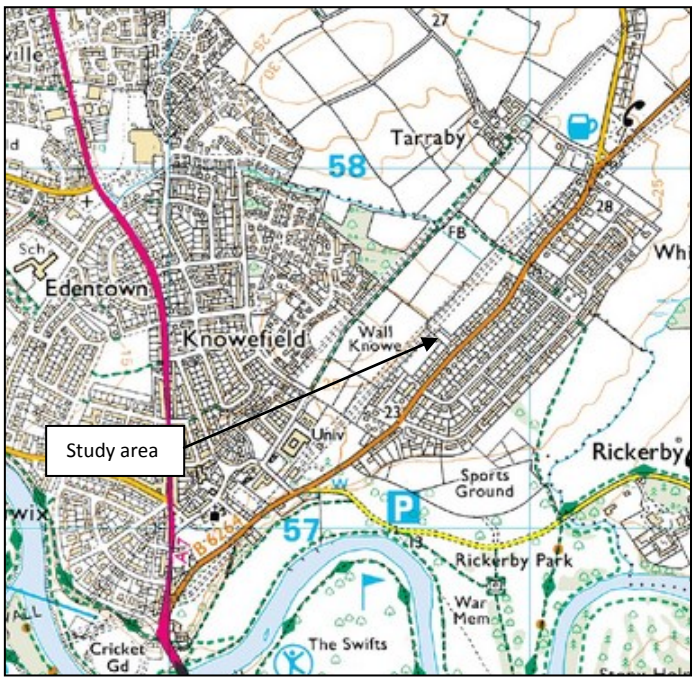

Figure 1. Site location (OS Copyright, Licence no. 100044205)

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Design

In response to a request by Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), Gerry Martin Associates Ltd submitted a Working Scheme of Investigation (WSI). This document outlined the contractors' professional competence as well as general objectives required of the project, the methodology and the resources needed for the successful expedition of this work.

The study area lies (NY 40727 57535) in close proximity to the purported line of the Vallum just to the north, part of the Hadrian's Wall defensive system (figure 2).

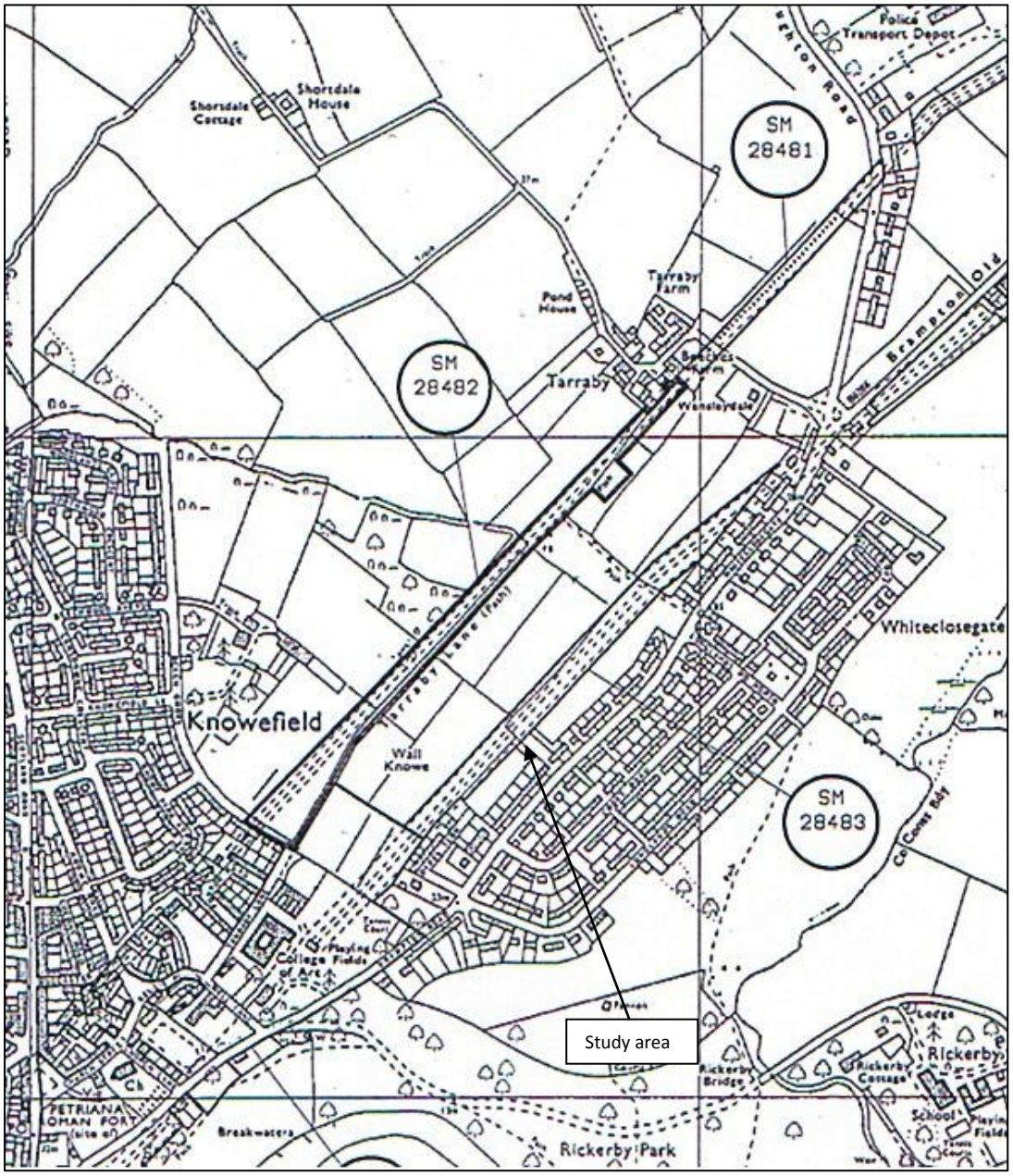

Figure 2. Location of study area in relation to scheduled monuments

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd was commissioned to undertake the archaeological fieldwork following approval of the project design by the curatorial body.

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 during two phases; on September 18th 2011 and November 28th 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 (1994).

The archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository 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 study area is located at the rear of 167 Brampton Road, Carlisle, facing onto open fields. The general disposition consists of an open river terrace at an approximate height of 24m OD.

The land has remained as gardens since the mid 20th century. Previously, it had been part of Knowefield Nursery during the early 20th century and fields in the mid 19th century.

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

A site visit conducted on Sunday July 10th 2011 revealed the following observations:

- The study area is open to the north (Phase A) but there are obstacles to the south (Phase B)
- Large trees and their root systems will impact upon the upper level of soil
- Ground conditions were dry

4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

4.1 Desk-based assessment

The study area (NY 40727 57535) lies approximately 1km north-east of Carlisle and just south of the corridor occupied by the line of Hadrian's Wall *vallum* (Scheduled Monument nos. 26116 & 26120) part of a World Heritage Site.

The proposed development lies between Milecastle 65 (HER 498) and the fort, partly on the line of Hadrian's Wall vallum, a Roman ditch that defined the southern boundary of the military zone associated with Hadrian's Wall and legally protected as a scheduled ancient monument.

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 within this study area.

An evaluation in 2003 revealed the Wall ditch NY *41290 58416* at Walby Hall, finds included Roman pottery and a lead object (Symonds and Mason 2009, 198).

The 1865 Ordnance Survey map shows the study area to be vacant (figure 3) before being enveloped by suburban development during the inter-war period of the 20th century.

The Historic Environment Record does not document any noteworthy finds or discoveries within close proximity to the study area.

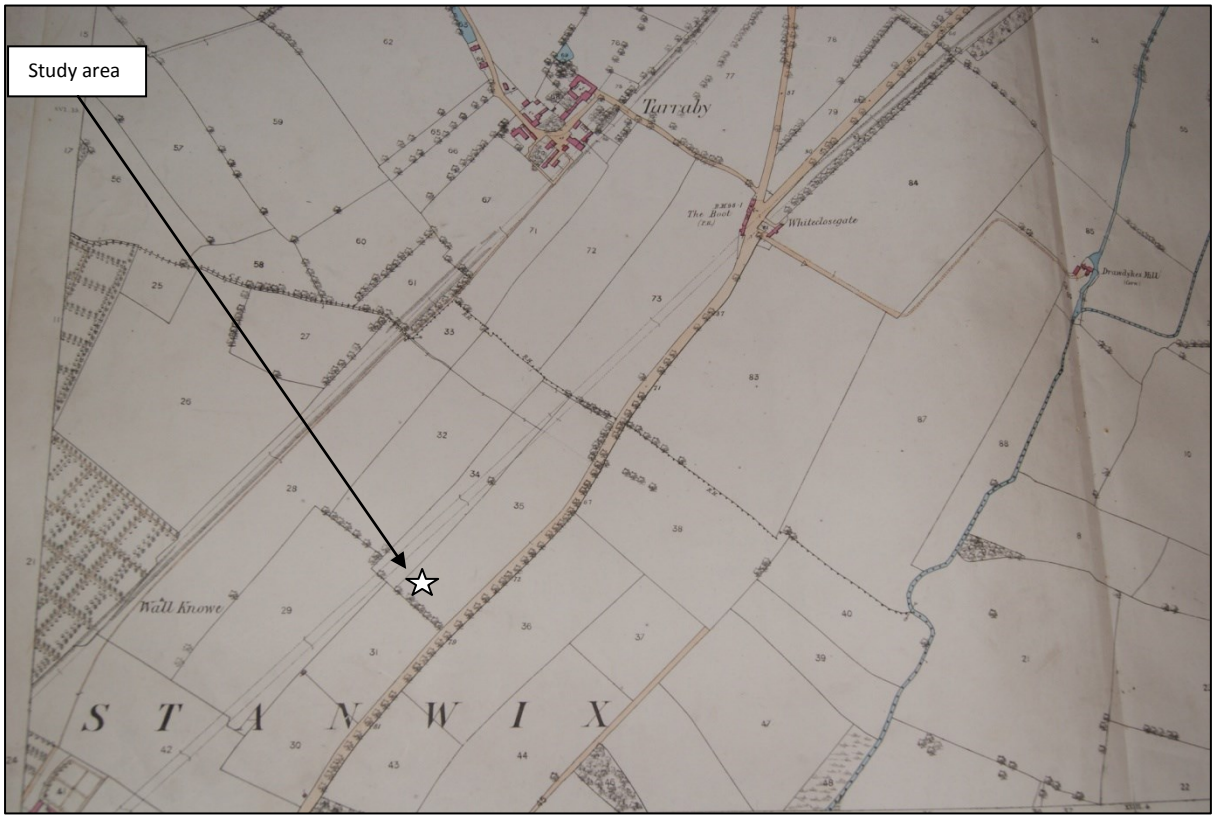

Figure 3. First edition Ordnance Survey map of 1866 showing the study area.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Development proposals

The development involves the construction of a car port, a garage and a small annex with drainage (figure 4).

The watching brief was conducted on two separate occasions; September 18th and November 28th 2011.

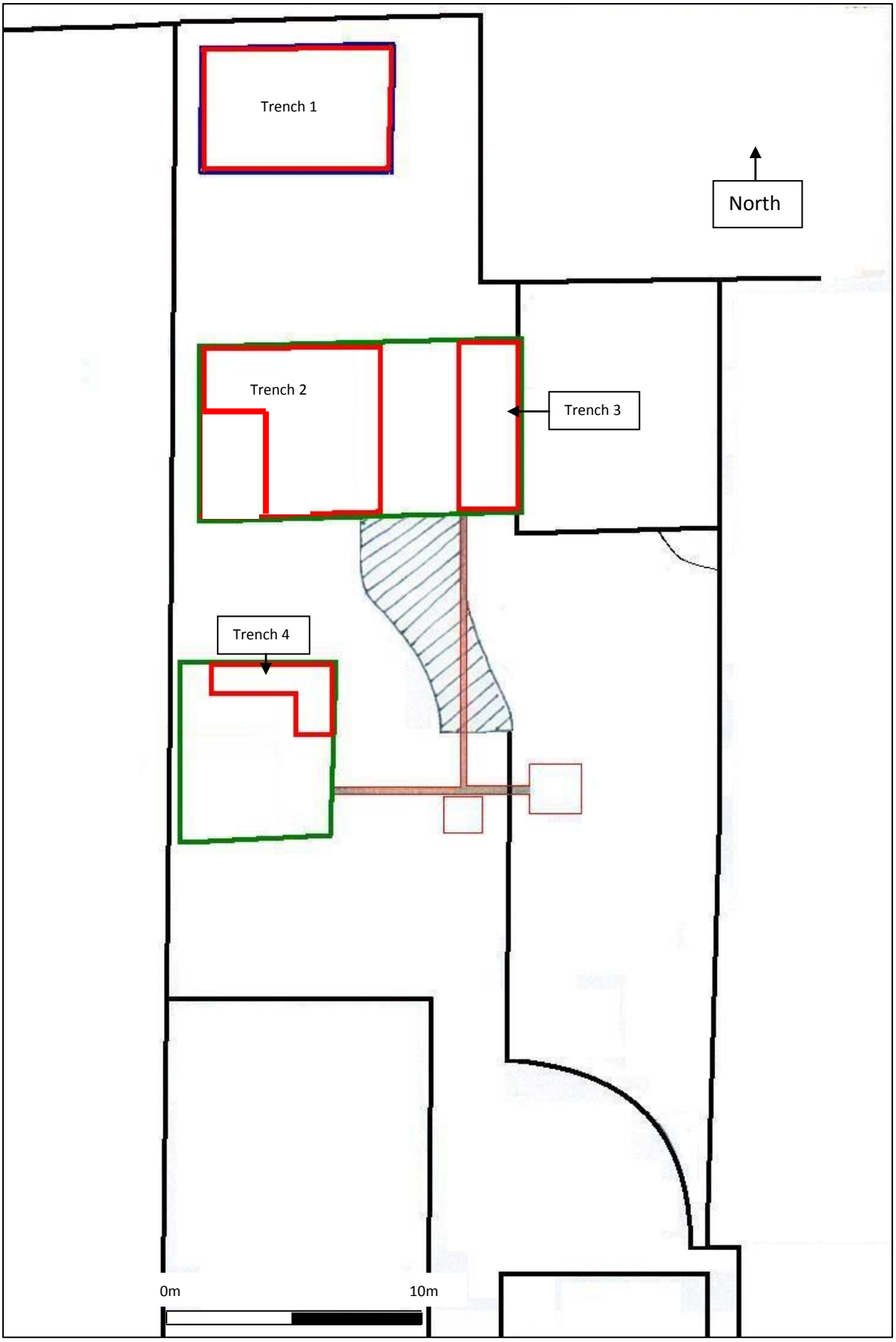

Figure 4. Lay-out of first phase development (blue outline), second phase (green outline) and stripped area (red outline)

5.2 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 machine 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.

5.3 Results

Four areas were stripped and designated as Trenches 1-4 (Figure 4).

Trench 1 was dug on 18th September 2011 the remaining three trenches on 28th November 2011.

Trench 1

Trench 1 measured 8.25m x 5.30m and was 0.90m off the north-west corner of the property and was reduced by 0.20-0.30m in depth.

The trench was divided by a breeze block dwarf wall 3.25m inwards from the western boundary covered by dark brown sandy humic silt that formed the topsoil.

The western half of the trench revealed light brown clayey silt that was clean in texture with little bioturbation representing a buried soil.

The eastern half of the trench was heavily disturbed by root action from an adjacent horse chestnut tree and the former presence of a garden shed. Pink sandy clay emerged through brown sandy silt probably due to a modern intrusion.

Modern pottery was evident confirming that the trench was archaeologically sterile.

Trench 2

Trench 2 formed an inverted, reversed L-shaped area the longest axes being 8.30m x 7.30m. The trench revealed debris with garden soil (dark brown sandy silt) and as only 0.20m in depth was removed, sub-soil or drift geology was not encountered.


Figure 5. Trench 1, western half


Figure 6. Trench 1, eastern half

Modern pottery was evident confirming that the trench was archaeologically sterile.


Figure 7. Trench 2, northern limb


Figure 8. Trench 2, eastern limb

Trench 3

Trench 3 was opposite Trench 2 and measured 7.3m x 2.8m reduced by up to 0.30m in depth.

Topsoil (dark brown sandy silt) covered natural pinkish brown clayey silt forming subsoil and the remnant remains of a former flower bed or landscaping 1.40m in width comprising dark grey brown clayey silt with modern brickbats.

The trench was archaeologically sterile.

Trench 4

Trench 4 formed an inverted, reversed L-shaped area the longest axes being 4.80m x 3.00m reduced by approximately 0.20m in depth.

Topsoil (dark brown sandy silt) covered dark brown silt that was probably part of the topsoil.

The trench was archaeologically sterile.

Figure 9. Trench 3, looking south

Figure 10.Trench 4, looking west

5.4 Additional information

Around the garden a number of worked stones caught the eye of the author as they appeared to display considerable antiquity and appeared to be of Roman origin.

The stones had been used principally as hard core transported from St Michaels Church, Stanwix over thirty years ago when the church yard was cleared of extraneous architectural fragments and stone (Brown *pers comm.*).

These stones included the following:

- A dressed stone moulding for a column base (figure 11) with rebate and ogee profile (figure 12) that would have been positioned on the left-hand side of a south facing masonry building.
- A square plan stone base with circular pediment for a pillar (figure 13).
- A composite stone bird table formed from a circular stone base and a cylindrical pillar with circular plinth, both separate elements from their original use (figure 14).
- A long cylindrical stone pillar (figure 15) approximately 2.00m in length with beading around the broken top (figure 16).
- A small remnant of cylindrical stone pillar (figure 17).
- Laurel decorated fragment of 18th century gravestone (figure 18).

Figure 11. Frontal view of stone moulding

Figure 12. Side view of stone moulding


Figure 13. Stone pillar base


Figure 14. Composite birdtable


Figure 15. Cylindrical pillar


Figure 16. Broken head of the pillar with beading


Figure 17. Remnant of cylindrical pillar


Figure 18. Laurel decorated gravestone

5.5 Discussion

The principal area of interest was proximity to the Vallum (Trench 1). However, the development was reduced by only 0.20m, as was the case elsewhere (Trenches 2-4) and did not impact or compromise the scheduled monument.

In all the trenches, only modern material namely topsoil was encountered the development remaining within the modern topsoil and garden soil horizon.

The stone assemblage is worthy of further research as this material emanated from Stanwix churchyard following a clear-out over thirty years ago.

Many fragments are former gravestones but some pieces probably relate to the Roman fort *Ala Petriana* and include architectural pieces including pillars and column bases. No epigraphic evidence appeared to exist on these stones, nor fragments of sculpture.

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 and a copy of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record, as requested by the curatorial authority.

7. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Mr Grant Brown, the client for his collaboration on this project.

I would also like to thank Jeremy Parsons (CCCHES) for his guidance with the archaeological brief, 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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