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SUMMARY

The watching brief at Kells Place and Church Street, Stanwix, Carlisle failed to isolate deposits of any antiquity. The only deposit observed was natural boulder clay beneath made ground, remnant of the insertion of former pipe trenches. The observed deposits were the results of a mid 20th century construction of a gas main.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Origins

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd was commissioned by Mr Stephen Miller (the client on behalf of Northern Gas Networks) to initiate an Archaeological Watching Brief Action relating to the renewal of the gas main within a Scheduled Ancient Monument (figure 1).

The watching brief action has been requested by Historic England (HE), as potential and significant archaeological remains may be encountered and impact upon the Roman fort of Ala Petriana, part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument No. 28484.

The following report describes the results of that programme of archaeological reconnaissance and its archaeological context.

All projects are carried out in accordance with NPPF (2021) and the guidelines and recommendations issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Watching Brief, 2014) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England, 2015).

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

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Design

The site was subject to compulsory scheduling as it lay in a culturally sensitive area (figure 2).

In response to a request by Historic England (HE), 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 following report has been assembled to the relevant standards and protocols of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs, 2014) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015), combined with accepted best practice and in accordance with the recommendations submitted by the curatorial authority.

Fieldwork took place between November and December 2022, undertaken by Gerry Martin and Steve Wadeson on behalf of Gerry Martin Associates Ltd.



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

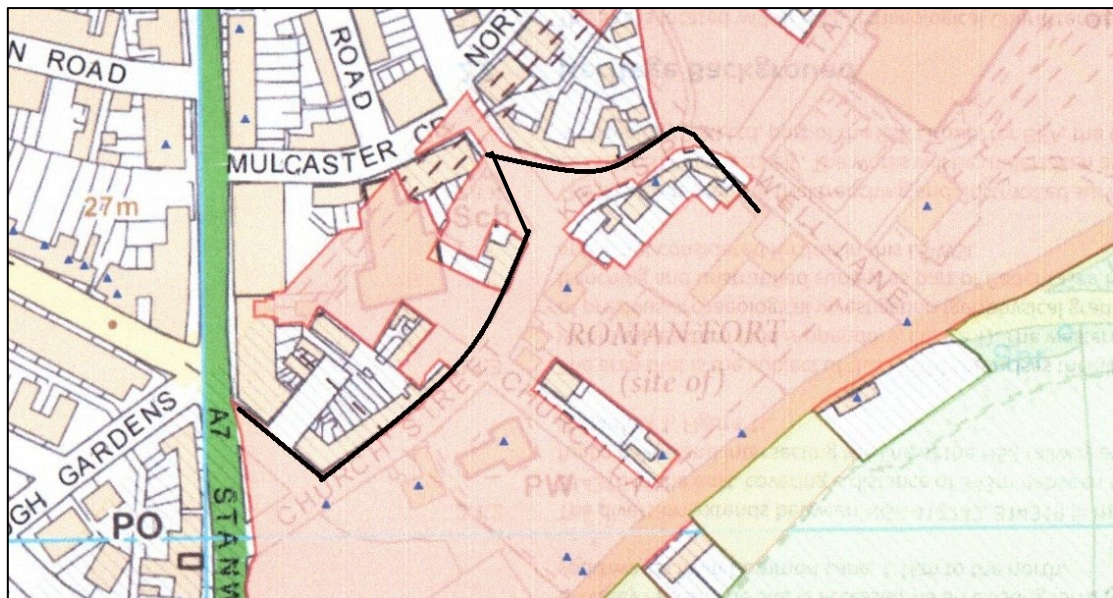


Figure 2. Scheduled area shaded red

2.2 Archive

The archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design and the guidelines set out by Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991), Management of

Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015) and the Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists protocols for a desk-based assessment (2014).

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.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, topography and geology

The study area lies at the crest of Stanwix Bank, a prospect overlooking the River Eden to the south and lowland to the north. This key strategic position allowed command of the western approach into Scotland during the Roman period and accounts for the Roman cavalry fort at Stanwix.

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

The study area (NY 40048 57017) lies just south of Hadrian's Wall in an area within the Roman cavalry fort of *Ala Petriana*.

The Roman fort of Ala Petriana

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).

The excavation did not identify any old ground surface and the unweathered appearance of the natural sub-soil suggested that the area had been terraced during the past suggesting either no surviving or no pre-military activity.

The 1984 excavation revealed a 24m length of northeast-southwest aligned robbed curtain wall overlying a clay and cobble foundation. The wall comprised of a chamfered stone course overlying a course of yellow sandstone flags.

The southerly footings of the curtain wall were overlain by an earth bank, at least 3.5m in width that was contemporary with the curtain wall. This rampart respected a stone Interval Tower.

The square plan Interval Tower comprised of dressed stone blocks, preserved to at least three courses and resting above footings, slightly askew from the towers ground plan. The tower possessed a probable doorway with a respecting path.

Occupation deposits within the Interval Tower suggested worn and coarse trampled floors with an area of paving in the angle between walls that may have provided a rigid surface for a ladder or stairway leading to upper stories or the walls summit.

Robbing of the wall and tower could not be isolated to any temporal phase whilst sealing soils and tertiary ditch fills provided no conclusive dating material.

Roman finds were mainly utilitarian items such as nails, hobnails, lead pot-mends, glass sherds and slag fragments. A tile stamp of the Ninth Legion, four fragments of pottery bearing graffiti, a lead plumb-bob and a copper alloy ring were all recovered.

Pottery was largely recovered from unsecure and unstratified contexts and the small reliable assemblage could not provide a conclusive dating range. Samian and mortarium provide a probable date of between *circa* A.D. 150-180.

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).

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.

A watching brief at 18-22 Scotland Road, Stanwix, conducted between June and December 2000, confirmed further stretches of the northern curtain wall, a possible heavily denuded rampart and an inter-vallum road inside the wall along with further remains of inner and outer defensive ditches and a cobbled surface on the berm between the inner ditch and the fort wall (Martin 2009, 6-7).

A watching brief conducted in 2010 at 3 Beech Grove isolated a post-medieval ditch but no Roman deposits or features (Martin 2010, 8-10).

A watching brief conducted in 2012 at 13 Beech Grove probably identified the forward wall ditch belonging to Hadrian's Wall (Martin 2012, 9-11).

The Historic Environment Record displayed the following relevant entries (figure 3):

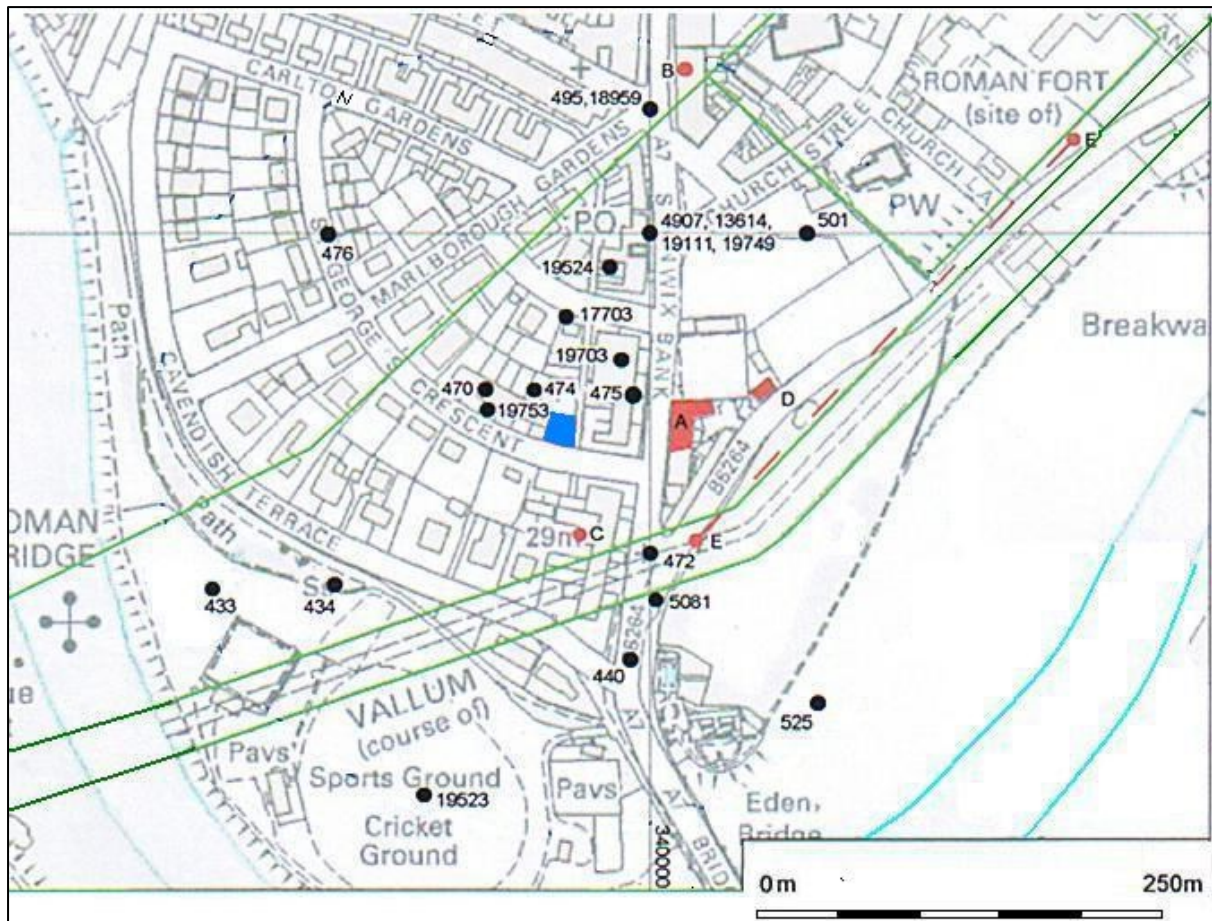


Figure 3. Location of study area and previous find spots outside the Roman fort

- HER 433, Hadrian' Wall Milecastle 66
- HER 434, Hyssops Bank Roman cemetery
- HER 440, a Roman pillar
- HER 470, carved stone
- HER 472, carved stone
- HER 474, altar
- HER 475, Roman medal find
- HER 476, statue find
- HER 501, Roman architectural and altar finds
- HER 525, Bronze Age axe find
- HER 4907, Roman vault
- HER 5081, Carlisle-Newcastle Military Road
- HER 13614 Anglian cross
- HER 17703 Roman coin finds including those dating to the Antonine period
- HER 18959 Roman fountain described as Post-Medieval
- HER 19111 Roman coin
- HER 19523 Roman pottery, Edenside Cricket Ground
- HER 19524 Roman pottery, Eden Mount

- HER 19703 Weight find, Post-Medieval
- HER 19749 Iron chisel, date unknown
- HER 19753 two hump back bridges near Harby Brow, date unknown

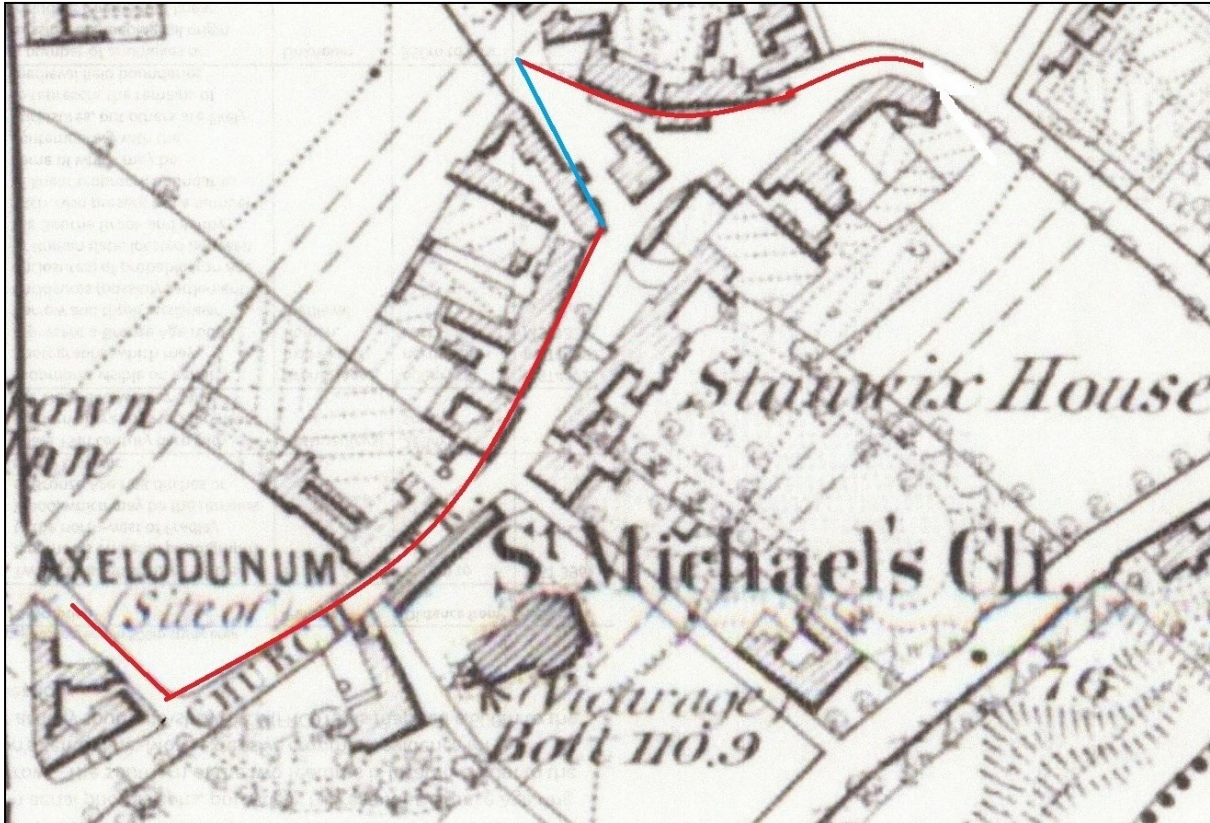


Figure 4. Location of the pipe trench plotted against the 1867 Ordnance Survey map

5 RESULTS

5.1 Methodology

The objective of the watching brief investigation was 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 were 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 excavating machine and hand-dig 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.

It was hoped that in the section of the original pipe trench, the opportunity may arise to observe heritage assets associated with past cultural activity. Residual finds may also have been present that could bear significance on the poorly understood internal disposition of the fort.

5.2 Results

The renewal of the gas pipe involved insertion of a 63mm diameter new plastic pipe within the existing cast iron pipe with connections required for each property along Kells Place, Knowe Terrace and Church Street (figure 5). Rather than an open continuous cut, small interventions were preferred to locate these connections. The stretch of pipe trench under surveillance measured approximately 400 metres.

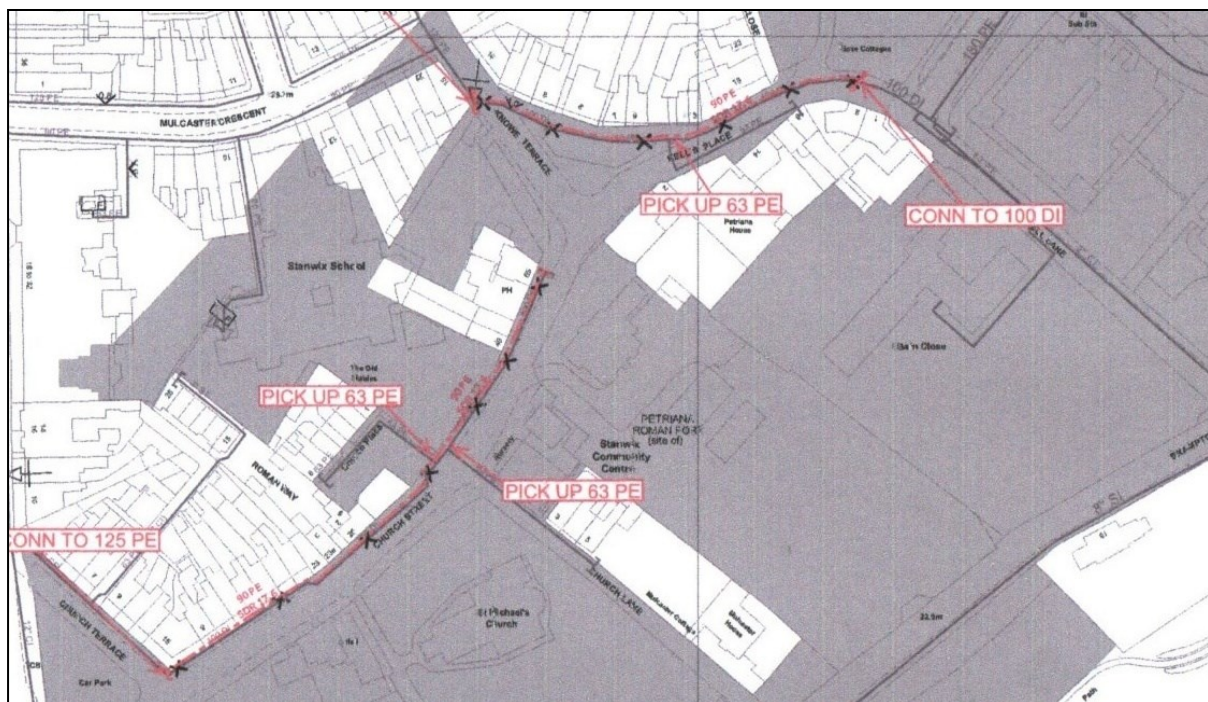


Figure 5. Location of the renewed gas pipe

Clearance of extraneous tarmacadam was removed by a small excavating machine. This material measured on average 0.30m in depth. The pipe was on average 1.00m below the current ground surface within a 0.60m wide trench but often wider in order to access the various domestic connections.

Beneath the road lay the existing cast iron pipe within re-deposited backfill from the original pipe-laying exercise and Type 2 gravel. The pipe-line had been previously repaired and numerous interventions for other services were observed.

Unfortunately, modern activity namely the construction of the road fabric had heavily truncated the underlying surface. Remnant or buried soil was not present and any putative soil horizon was indistinguishable from the backfill of the pipe trench.

Where clearly visible, the natural drift geology consisting of pink or tan Boulder Clay was approximately 0.50m to 0.80m below the road surface.

A total of 40 interventions and an open trench (50) were monitored (figure 6). All the interventions were archaeologically sterile, whilst no residual past cultural material was recovered except occasional 20th century porcelain.

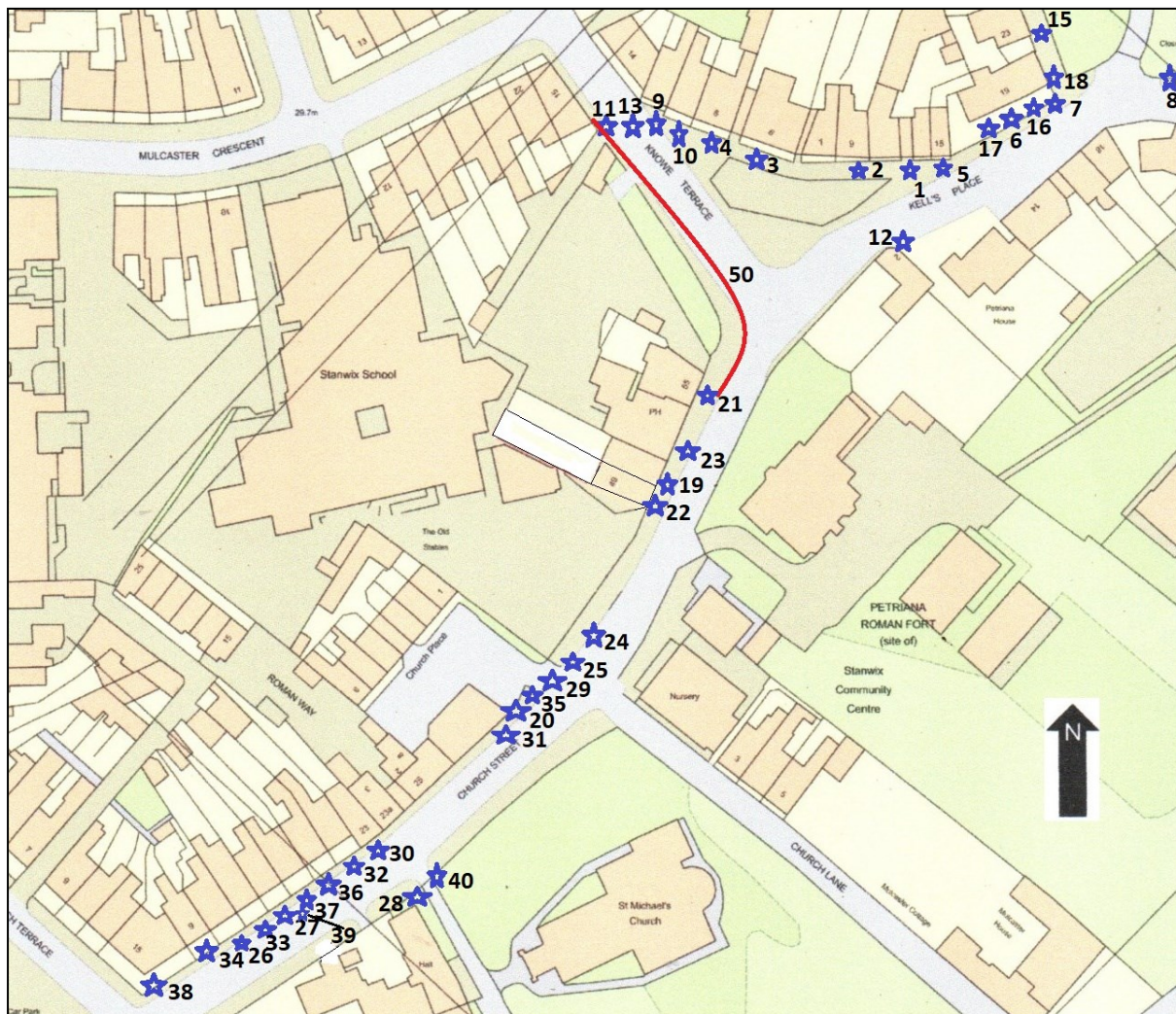


Figure 6. Location of test pits 1-40 and Trench 50

The metrics and observations for each intervention are listed as follows:

ROMANBY CLOSE

Intervention 14: Situated outside **No.1 & No.2 Romanby Close** (in the road) @ **NY 40207 57225**. Backfilled prior to recording. 1.10m x 0.70m (NW/SE) x 0.80m deep from upper tarmac surface of road. Associated with **Interventions 7 & 18** at the bottom of Romanby Close and Kells Place. The trench was monitored during excavation with no external stratigraphy visible. **Archaeologically Sterile**.

Intervention 15: Situated outside **No.23 Romanby Close** (in the road) @ **NY 40220 57199**. All redeposited pink sand & clay backfill within pipe trench. 1.25m x 0.60m (N/W) x 0.05m deep from upper tarmac surface of road. Connects with extension for gas service connection point. Associated with **Interventions 7 & 18** at the bottom of Romanby Close and Kells Place. The trench was monitored during excavation with no external stratigraphy visible. **Archaeologically Sterile**.

NB. x2 small shallow interventions, on Romanby Close to allow the replacement of services dug by hand. Further excavations are planned in this location to allow connection of services and the replacing/upgrading of the Gas mains. **Archaeologically Sterile**.

Intervention 18: Situated in the road/driveway at the bottom of **Romanby Close** and across the pavement to the kerb, along **Kells Place**. GPS location **NY 40225 57185**. All redeposited pink sand & clay in pipe trench. 2.50m x 0.60m (NW/SE) x 0.60m deep from upper tarmac surface of road & pavement. Trench truncates previous interventions incl. Cable and Electric and original intervention for Gas services. The trench was monitored during excavation with no external stratigraphy visible. **Archaeologically Sterile**.

KELLS PLACE AND WELL LANE

Intervention 8: Situated at the top of Well Lane & Kells Place on the road outside the entrance to Carrs Group Plc @ **NY 40238 57187**. Redeposited pink sand & clay backfill above cast iron Gas pipe/Gas main. 2.95m (E/W) x 1.25m x 1.00m deep from upper tarmac surface of road. The trench truncates several previous interventions incl. electric TV - backfilled with sand and gravel & Water services protected under tarmac by concrete blocks. The trench was monitored during excavation with no external stratigraphy visible. **Archaeologically Sterile**.

Intervention 8 Extended: Situated at the western end of Intervention 8 (in road) @ **NY 40236 571818**. Small extension, slip trench was excavated for access to gas services. Modern grey/brown sand/gravel backfill (?previous intervention) above modern redeposited clay. 2.00m x 0.40m (E/W) x 0.75m deep (max) from upper tarmac surface of road. No external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile**.

KELLS PLACE

Intervention 1: Situated in drive between **No.11 & No.13 Kells Place** @ **NY 40198 57174**. All modern clay backfill above cast iron pipe. 0.85m (N/S) x 0.70m x 1.00m deep from tarmac under paving stones. Connection to iron pipe all pink clayey sand representing backfill to pipe. **Archaeologically Sterile**.

Intervention 1 Extended: Situated in drive between **No.11 & No.13 Kells Place @ NY 40198 57174**. All modern clay backfill above cast iron pipe as previously recorded. New dimensions are: 3.00m (length) x 1.50m (width) x 1.00m deep from upper tarmac paving stone surface. The extension was monitored during excavation and again no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 2: Situated outside **No.7 & No.9 Kells Place @ NY 40185 57171** (in road). All modern clay backfill above cast iron pipe. 1.00m x 1.00m square x 1.00m deep from upper surface of tarmac road. Connection to iron pipe all pink clayey sand representing backfill to pipe. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 2 Extended: Situated outside **No.7 & No.9 Kells Place** (in road) @ **NY 40185 57171**. Intervention 2 was extended across the pavement up to the property boundary to allow for replacing of gas services. The extension was monitored during excavation and was confined to the limits of the backfill of the cut for the original services. As such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 5: Situated outside **No.15 Kinsale cottage, Kells Place** (in road) @ **NY 40204 57170**. All modern clay/sand backfill above cast iron Gas pipe/main. 1.05m x 1.05m x 1.05m deep from upper tarmac surface of road. The trench was monitored during excavation and was confined to the limits of the backfill of the cut for the original services. As such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 6: Situated outside **No.19 Kells Place** (in road) @ **NY 40218 57181**. Modern clay/sand backfill with occasional Brick and tarmac fragments above cast iron Gas pipe/Gas main. 1.35m x 1.20m (N/S) x 1.05m deep from upper tarmac) surface of road. Pit truncates previous interventions incl. Cable TV - backfill with fine grey sand. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 7: Situated on the road opposite the entrance to Romanby Close @ **NY 40224 57185**. All redeposited pink sand & clay backfill within pipe trench - occasional brick and tarmac fragments, frequent medium stones - above cast iron Gas pipe/main. 1.40m x 1.20m x 1.00m deep from upper tarmac surface of the road. The trench was monitored during excavation with no external stratigraphy visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 12: Situated in the road next to driveway for **Petriana House, Kells Place**. @ **NY 40197 57165**. All modern clay/sand backfill above cast iron Gas pipe/Gas main. 0.00m x 0.00m x 0.85m deep from upper tarmac surface of road.

Excavated at the end of the day the trench not complete and will be extended tomorrow. As it stands the trench was monitored during excavation and is confined to the limits of the backfill of the cut for original services. As such no external stratigraphy was visible.

Archaeologically Sterile

Intervention 12 Extended: Extended to the east to locate service connection for the property. Situated in the road next to driveway for **Petriana House, Kells Place**, @ **NY 40197 57165**. 3.15m x 1.25m x 0.90m deep from upper tarmac surface of road. Frequent medium to large stones/cobbles within backfill. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Petriana House: Hole dug in front garden next to garage to allow gas service replacement and connection of a new gas metre in the garage. Backfill of previous interventions predominantly garden soil. Associated with Intervention 12. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 16: Situated in the road outside **No.19 Kells Place** located @ **NY 40222 57183** (between Interventions 6 & 7). All redeposited pink sand/clay backfill above cast iron Gas pipe/main with frequent medium stones/cobbles and occasional brick and tarmac inclusions 1.45m x 1.15m (NW/SE) x 1.10m deep from upper tarmac surface of road. Pit truncates previous interventions incl. Cable TV and original intervention for Gas services. Single intrusive post medieval pottery sherd in upper backfill. The trench was monitored during excavation and was confined to the limits of the backfill of the cut for the original services. As such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 17: Located in the road opposite entrance to driveway of **No.19 Kells Place** @ **NY 40211 57177** (between Interventions 5 & 6). Redeposited pink sand/clay backfill above cast iron Gas pipe/main with occasional brick fragments 2.00m x 1.05m (NW/SE) x 1.10m deep from upper tarmac surface of road. The trench was monitored during excavation and was confined to the limits of the backfill of the cut for the original services. As such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

KNOWE TERRACE

Intervention 3: Situated outside **No.6 Knowe Terrace** @ **NY 40169 57176**. All modern clay backfill above cast iron pipe. 1.00m x 1.00m square x 1.00m deep from upper surface of tarmac road. Connection to iron pipe all pink clayey sand representing backfill to pipe. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 3 Extended: Situated outside **No.6 Knowe Terrace** @ **NY 4021857181**. Intervention 3 was extended across pavement into garden to allow for replacing of gas services. The extension was monitored during excavation and was confined to the limits of the backfill of the cut for the original services. As such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

(figure 7).

Intervention 4 Extended: Situated outside **No.8 Knowe Terrace** (in road) @ **NY 40158 57175**. Backfill as previous. New dimensions 2.10m x 1.20m x 1.20m deep. The extension was monitored during excavation and no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 9: Located outside **No.12 Knowe Terrace** (on the road) @ **NY 40148 57182** Initial work today consisted of prep work, cutting and machining of tarmac prior to excavation tomorrow.

Intervention 9: Located opposite **No.12 Knowe terrace** (in the road) @ **NY 40148 57182**. Pink sandy clay representing backfill to pipe trench - occasional brick and tarmac fragments - above cast iron Gas pipe/main. Dimensions - see sketch plan x 1.05m deep from upper tarmac surface of road. Pit truncates previous interventions incl. Cable ducting - located above gas main close to surface of road - backfilled with grey sand/gravel.

Archaeologically Sterile.

Intervention 10: Situated outside **No.10 Knowe Terrace** (tarmac path) @ **NY 40156 57178**. Modern clay/sand backfill with occasional Brick and tarmac fragments above cast iron Gas pipe/Gas main. 1.80m x 1.40m x 0.90m x 0.75m (See sketch plan) x 1.10m deep from upper tarmac surface of road. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 11: Situated in the road outside **No.14 Knowe Terrace** (opposite side of road to Intervention 9) GPS location **NY 40142 57182**. All modern clay/sand backfill above cast iron Gas pipe/main. 3.60m (NW/SE) x 1.20m x 1.00m deep from upper tarmac surface of road. The trench was monitored during excavation and was confined to the limits of the backfill of the cut for original services. As such no external stratigraphy was visible.

Archaeologically Sterile

Intervention 13: Situated in the road and joining **Intervention 9 & Intervention 11** (extensions of) on either side of Knowe Terrace at row of hill @ **NY 40146 57182**. Modern clay/sand backfill above cast iron gas pipe. 3.30m x 0.50m (NE/SW) x 0.80m deep from upper tarmac surface of road. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

CORNER OF KNOWE TERRACE AND CHURCH STREET

Trench 50 began at NY40141 57184 and conjoined with the gas pipe from 12 Knowe Terrace (figure 10). The trench revealed 0.60m of modern overburden within a trench 1.05m in width before a reduction of width to 0.50m at NY40140 57183 (figure 9). Measuring 0.70m in depth natural clay was visible at the base and also a cast iron water pipe or main. The trench penetrated a probable 19th century wall (figure 11) at NY 40154 57162 with tightly packed limestone, brick and boulders continuing southwards and probably representing road widening. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Trench 50: Continued excavation of Trench 50 from the corner of Knowe Terrace @ the end of Bend, **NY40167 57144** (in the road) up to and joining @ 90° Intervention 21 located outside of No. 55, Stanwix Cottage, Church Street @ **NY40161 57133**.

9.00m (E/W) x 0.45m x 0.68m (max) deep from the upper tarmac surface of road.

The trench was monitored during excavation and was confined to the limits of the backfill for the road and pipe trench for gas main. Backfill below road make up - redeposited pink sand & pinkish/brown clay with occasional brick and tarmac fragments above cast iron Gas main. Where the trench turns at 90° to connect with Intervention 21 a single ceramic wastewater/drainage pipe is the only other service identified within this part of Trench 50. No external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile**

CHURCH STREET

Intervention 19: Located at **NY 40155 57117** beside the Crown and Thistle public house the intervention measured 2.80m north-south x 0.60m and 1.80m x 0.90m east-west. The northern leg was 0.50m in depth of which 0.30m in depth was modern overburden including 0.07m of tarmac. The remaining area exposed was pink sandy clay. Contains TV cable ducts with the trench continuing up to the kerb. The gas main was 0.70m in depth observed to a depth of 0.80m with 0.50m of natural pink sandy clay observed (figure 8). **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 20: Located at **NY 40127 57078** beside a lamp post next to the opticians, the intervention measured 1.20m x 0.60m x 0.50m in depth. The trench cut made ground formed from tarmac and gravel. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 21: Located at **NY 40157 57135** connecting to 55 Church Street. The intervention measured 1.40m x 0.60m x 0.65m in depth. The trench cut produced only re-deposited backfill including pink sand and pinkish brown clay to the existing pipe trench for the gas main. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 22: Located at **NY 40154 57115** connecting to 49 Church Street. The intervention measured 1.00m x 0.78m x 0.90m in depth. The trench cut produced only re-deposited backfill including pink sand and pinkish brown clay (figure 12). **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 23: Located at **NY 40157 57130** connecting to the Crown and Thistle public house Street. The intervention measured 1.00m x 0.90m x 0.80m in depth. The trench cut produced only re-deposited backfill including pink sand and pinkish brown clay to the existing pipe trench for the gas main. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 24: Situated on the pavement outside **Stanwix Primary School, Church Street** (across the road from the Pre School building) @ **NY 40138 57092**. All modern redeposited orange sand & clay backfill above cast iron Gas pipe/main. 1.00m x 1.00m x 0.97m deep from upper tarmac surface of pavement. The trench was monitored during excavation and was confined to the limits of the backfill of the cut for original services. As such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 25: Situated across the pavement & road outside **Stanwix Primary School, Church Street** (opposite church Lane) @ **NY 40134 57088**. All modern redeposited orange clay & sand backfill above cast iron Gas pipe/main. 2.90m x 1.05m x 1.00m deep from upper tarmac surface of pavement. Intervention truncates previous interventions for Cable ducting and original intervention for Gas services. Monitored during excavation no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 26: Situated outside **No.11 Church Street** on the pavement @ **NY 40074 57040**. Redeposited pinkish sand & clay backfill above cast iron Gas pipe/main - above grey sandy gravel backfill from previous interventions, primarily ducting for Cable TV. 1.10m x 0.95m x 0.73m deep from upper surface of pavement. Monitored during excavation the intervention was confined to the limits of the backfill of previous services. As such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 27: Situated outside **No.15 Church Street** on the pavement @ **NY 40080 57043**. Redeposited pinkish/brown clay backfill above cast iron gas pipe/main. 1.12m x 0.90m x 0.85m deep from upper surface of pavement. The trench truncates previous service interventions incl. Cable TV, Electric as well as original intervention for gas main. Monitored during excavation no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 28: Situated within the grounds of **St Michaels Church, Church Street** (between the front wall railings and the Church Hall) @ **NY 40108 57046**. Small shallow intervention for connection of gas services to the Church Hall. All modern backfill, grey/brown sandy gravel above redeposited layer of modern brick & tile above ?steel gas pipe. 1.00m x 0.70m x 1.50m deep from upper surface. The trench was monitored during excavation and no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 30: Situated outside **No.23 Church Street**, opposite the entrance to St Michaels Church @ **NY 40104 57057**. Redeposited pinkish/brown sand & clay backfill above cast iron gas main. Grey/brown sandy gravel backfill of previous interventions. 1.37m x 1.07m x 1.00m deep from upper tarmac surface of the road. The trench truncates previous service interventions, the water pipe (blue) laid under the original cast-iron gas main. . Monitored during excavation the intervention was confined to the limits of the backfill of the cut(s) for the original services. As such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 31: Situated on Church Street (to the east of Intervention 20) at the junction with Church Place next to McWilliams Opticians @ **NY 40126 57075**. All redeposited modern pink sand & clay backfill above cast iron gas main. 1.25m x 1.13m x 1.05m deep from upper surface of road. Monitored during excavation the intervention was confined to the limits of the backfill of the cut for the original services. As such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 31 Extended: Situated on Church Street (to the east of Intervention 20) at the junction with Church Place next to McWilliams Opticians trench extended to allow the replacement, on a new alignment (**Intervention 35**) of the gas main between **Intervention 29 & 31**. x2 new GPS points recorded replacing previous recorded (See sketch plan) #1 **NY 40123 57075** (western edge of original cut) & #2 **NY 40126 57074** (intersection with Intervention 35)

All redeposited modern pink sand & clay backfill above cast iron gas main. New dimensions for the trench - 2.50m x 1.13m (NW/SE) x 1.05m deep (max) from upper surface of road. (See sketch plan). The extension to the trench was monitored during excavation and as previous no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 32: Situated across the pavement from the front wall and on the road outside of **No.21 Church Street**. GPS locations #1 **NY 40098 57049** & #2 **NY 40096 57048** (See sketch plan). All redeposited pink sand/clay backfill with occasional brick and tarmac inclusions above cast iron Gas pipe/main. Dimensions see sketch plan x 1.05m deep from upper tarmac surface of road & pavement. The trench truncates previous interventions incl. Cable TV ducts (green), electric and water (blue) as well as original intervention for Gas services.

Intervention 33: Situated on the pavement outside **No.13 Church Street** - access for services to property. GPS location **NY 40079 57037**. Grey sandy gravel backfill - fill of trench for Cable ducting - above redeposited pinkish/brown clay above cast iron Gas pipe/main. 1.05m x 1.05m x 0.75m deep from upper surface of pavement. Cut of trench truncates previous interventions for both Cable TV and original intervention for Gas services, as such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 34: Situated on the pavement outside No.9 Church Street - access for services to property. GPS location **NY 40067 57035**. Grey sandy gravel backfill - fill of trench for Cable ducting - above redeposited pinkish/brown clay above cast iron Gas pipe/main. 0.93m x 0.93m x 0.80m deep from upper surface of pavement. Cut of trench truncates previous interventions incl. Cable TV and original intervention for Gas services, as such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 35: Situated at the junction of **Church Place & Church Street** - connecting **Interventions 29 & 31** - to allow the replacement, on a new alignment of the gas mains. The trench from each intervention joins at an angle @ **NY40130 57078** (See sketch plan). Modern redeposited pinkish/brown sand & clay backfill with occasional brick and small worked sandstone blocks* and broken fragments (not seen in either Interventions 29 or 31). Trench dimensions - see sketch plan x 0.75m deep (max) from upper surface of road. The trench was monitored during excavation with no external stratigraphy visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

*These roughly worked sandstone blocks have been thrown in as backfill and are consistent with some of the worked stone blocks used within the fabric of St Michaels across the road. Unwanted waste? Not Roman.

Intervention 36: Situated on the pavement outside No.19 Church Street. GPS location **NY 40091 57050**. Grey sandy gravel backfill - fill of trench for Cable ducting - above redeposited pinkish/brown clay above cast iron Gas pipe/main. 0.93m x 0.93m x 0.80m deep from upper surface of pavement. Cut of trench truncates previous interventions incl. Cable TV, Electric and original intervention for Gas services, as such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 37: Situated on the pavement outside No.17 Church Street. GPS location **NY 40085 57045**. Grey sandy gravel backfill - fill of trench for Cable ducting - above redeposited pinkish/brown clay above cast iron Gas pipe/main. 1.05m x 1.05m x 0.90m deep from upper surface of pavement. Cut of trench truncates previous interventions incl. Cable TV, Electric and original intervention for Gas services, as such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 39: Situated on the pavement outside No.15 Church Street (Gas service connection). Second of two interventions outside property No.15 (also Intervention 27). GPS location **NY 40081 57044**. Grey sandy gravel backfill - fill of trench for Cable ducting - above redeposited pinkish/brown clay above cast iron Gas pipe/main. 1.05m (NW/SE) x 0.73m x 0.55m deep from upper surface of pavement. Truncates previous interventions incl. Cable TV, Water outlet (right hand corner) and original intervention for Gas services, as such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

Intervention 40: Located in the road outside No.23 Church Street - extension of Intervention 32 to allow for connection of gas services to the Church Hall, Intervention 28 (other side of road). GPS location **NY 40099 57054** (#1 - end of intervention) & **NY 40097 57053** (#2 - junction of Interventions 32 & 40). Redeposited pink sand & clay backfill with above cast iron Gas pipe/main. 2.75m (NE/SW) x 0.47m x 0.55m deep (max) from upper tarmac surface & gravel bedding of road. As such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**

CHURCH PLACE

Intervention 29: Situated at the junction of **Church Place & Church Street** - between the opticians and school - inverted T trench @ #1 **NY 40131 57081** & #2 **NY 40128 57088** (See sketch plan). All redeposited pinkish sand & clay backfill with occasional brick and large stone inclusions above cast iron Gas pipe/main. Dimensions - see sketch plan x 1.08m deep (Max) from upper tarmac surface of road. The trench truncates several previous interventions incl. Cable TV, (sand & gravel backfill) electric, water, and original intervention for gas services.

The trench was monitored during excavation and was confined to the limits of the backfill of the cut for the original services. As such no external stratigraphy was visible. (Nb. Several intrusive sherds of modern pottery were recovered from upper fill of Intervention including blue transfer ware). **Archaeologically Sterile.**

CHURCH STREET AND CHURCH TERRACE

Intervention 38: Situated outside **No.15 Church Terrace** (corner of Church Terrace & Church Street) on the pavement. GPS #1 **NY 40058 57027** (Church St.) #2 **NY 40056 57027** (Corner of Church St/Church Terrace) & #3 **NY 40052 57029** (See sketch plan). Redeposited pinkish/brown sand & clay backfill above cast iron gas main. Dimensions - see sketch plan x 0.70m (Church Terrace) & 0.90m (Church St.) deep from upper surface of pavement.

The trench truncates several previous interventions incl. Cable TV, Electric and the original intervention(s) for cast iron gas main. The trench was monitored during excavation and was confined to the limits of the backfill of the cut(s) for the original services. As such no external stratigraphy was visible. **Archaeologically Sterile.**



Figure 7. Intervention 3



Figure 8. Intervention 19



Figure 9. Trench 50 with stone



Figure 10. Course of Trench 50



Figure 11. Wall in Trench 50



Figure 12. Intervention 22

5.3 Finds and environmental analysis

Other than modern surface finds, no artefacts were present that warranted collection.

No environmental samples merited collection.

5.4 Discussion

The study area appeared to be archaeologically sterile, with no archaeological features observed. The renewal of the gas pipes only encountered the backfill from previous services. It was hoped that Trench 50 would encounter ground unaffected by services but this was not the case.

No residual Roman pottery or building material was found within the overburden, this may suggest that Roman and later settlement had been truncated or removed following development in the early and mid 19th century.

The keyhole interventions provided an archaeologically untargeted sample size. The observations, although negative do not disprove that archaeological remains existed within the fort.

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