

**PUNTON ROAD &  
BRAMPTON ROAD,  
CARLISLE,  
CUMBRIA**



**WATCHING BRIEF REPORT  
CP10187/12  
03/05/2012**



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### *Quality Assurance*

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by WA Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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## SUMMARY

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Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Carlisle City Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of several post-holes for signage on Punton Road and Brampton Road, Carlisle, Cumbria (NGR NY 40235 57183). The proposed groundworks were situated within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, which has been identified as being of high archaeological importance and is statutorily protected as a Scheduled Monument (Scheduled Monument No. 26069). This section of the wall has an additional Scheduled Monument Number 28484 for the area between Wall Knowe and Scotland Road (Wall Mile 65). As a result, Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, requested that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during all groundworks for the scheme.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 and monitored the excavation of four post-holes on Punton Road for parking restriction signs and a single post-hole on Brampton Road for a new bus stop sign. The post-holes were excavated to an average depth of 0.4m with a maximum depth of 0.55m, each revealing modern make-up deposits. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the work and all finds were classified as modern and discarded on site.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks during the installation of new sign-posts, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the high archaeological sensitivity of the area, it is recommended that any future work be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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WA Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Sharon Jenkinson, Carlisle City Council, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. WAA Ltd would also like to thank Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist, for all his help during this project.

WA Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to the employees of Carlisle City Council for their help during the work.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Sue Thompson. The report was written by David Jackson, Project Supervisor for WA Archaeology Ltd, who also produced the drawings. The project was managed by Matthew Town, Project Manager for WA Archaeology Ltd, who also edited the report.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

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- 1.1 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Sharon Jenkinson of Carlisle City Council, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the excavation of several post-holes for signage on Punton Road and Brampton Road, Carlisle, Cumbria (NGR NY 40235 57183).
- 1.2 The proposed groundworks were situated within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, which has been identified as being of high archaeological importance and is statutorily protected as a Scheduled Monument (Scheduled Monument No. 26069). This section of the wall has an additional Scheduled Monument Number 28484 for the area between Wall Knowe and Scotland Road (Wall Mile 65). Four of the post-holes were situated on Punton Road, between the line of Hadrian's Wall and the probable course of the associated *Vallum*, c.200m to the south-east of the wall, with a further post-hole on Brampton Road immediately south of the *Vallum*. The monitored area is also only approximately 500m northeast of the northeastern defences of the Roman fort of Stanwix, the largest fort on Hadrian's Wall. As a result, Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, requested that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during all groundworks. This is in line with government advice as set out in the Department for Communities and Local Government Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS 5).
- 1.3 All groundworks had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008), and were consistent with the project brief provided by WA Archaeology Ltd (Town 2012) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.4 This report outlines the monitoring works undertaken on-site and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

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## 2 METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Carlisle City Council, for an archaeological watching brief of the study area (Town 2012). Following acceptance of the project design by Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, WA Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

### 2.2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (IfA 2008).

2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
- to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
- to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
- to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
- to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital and monochrome formats as applicable, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;



- to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE standards (English Heritage 2006).

2.2.3 All relevant areas were excavated under full archaeological supervision and were subsequently investigated and recorded fully. A summary of the findings of the watching brief is included within this report.

## 2.3 THE ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2007). The archive will be deposited within the Tullie House Museum, Carlisle, with copies of the report sent to the Cumbria HER at Kendal, which will be available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier: **PBC/A CP/10187/12**

2.3.2 WA Archaeology Ltd supports the **Online Access** to the **Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by NP Archaeology as a part of this national project, under the unique OASIS identification number: **wardella2-124703**

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## 3 BACKGROUND

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### 3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The study area lies within the modern suburb of Stanwix approximately 2km north of the centre of Carlisle, being situated to the north and south of the University of Cumbria. The area lies at a height of approximately 24m AOD, on a terrace of land forming part of the north bank of the River Eden. Part of the study area was situated on Punton Road, between the line of Hadrian's Wall and the probable course of the associated *Vallum*, c.200m to the south-east of the wall, with an additional area on Brampton Road immediately south of the *Vallum*. The monitored area is also only approximately 500m northeast of the northeastern defences of the Roman fort of Stanwix, the largest fort on Hadrian's Wall. The area is shown in Figure 2.
- 3.1.2 The wider area around the site is comprised of expansive low lying ground within an area known as the Solway Basin, which is itself bound by impressive elevated ranges to the north, south and east and by the Solway Firth and Irish Sea to the west. The geology of the area is largely comprised of mudstones and sandstones of Permo-Triassic age. The underlying geology is largely covered by extensive deposits of boulder clay (till), deposited during the last glaciation. The boulder clay is often scarred by sand and gravel intrusions, deposited by glacial meltwaters (Countryside Commission 1998).

### 3.2 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.2.1 The proposed work is within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and comprises the Wall itself, the Military Way and the Vallum, which are all protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments (NY 3261 5909). A brief outline of previous work is presented below being primarily referenced from the WA Archaeology Project Design for the site (Town 2012).
- 3.2.2 Excavation of Hadrian's Wall, the associated Vallum and ditches, Stanwix fort and parade ground have been undertaken extensively for more than 100 years, but the nature of the work has always been confined to small excavations and evaluations. This is due in part to the urban settlement of Stanwix obscuring large sections of the archaeology and allowing only small windows of opportunity to investigate the archaeological deposits. Nevertheless an important and comprehensive record of the archaeology of the area now exists.

- 3.2.3 Hadrian's Wall has been traced running through Stanwix from Tarraby Lane in the east, and crossing Scotland Road in the west. Excavations of the wall have been undertaken in: Stanwix School in 1932 to 1934; south of Tarraby Farm in the 1930s (Smith 1978); on Tarraby Lane in 1976 (*Ibid*) and on Scotland Road in 1961, (Dacre 1985). Excavation of evaluation trenches by CAU in 1994 north of Tarraby Lane revealed a section of the ditch fronting Hadrian's Wall, together with evidence for the counterscarp bank. The bank was found to overlie and preserve plough-marks representing pre-Wall agricultural activity (Zant *pers. comm.* as in Town 2012).
- 3.2.4 The Vallum at its eastern end was traced near to the entrance to Cumbria College of Art and Design, now the University of Cumbria, on Brampton Road by CAU in 1998 (CAU 1998), though further excavations in the same area by LUAU in 1999 found no evidence that the Vallum was present (LUAU 1999).
- 3.2.5 Between the fort and the rising ground to the north-east centred on Wall Knowe, is an area of lower ground, which has formed the focus for widespread investigations by CAU (McCarthy 1999). The investigations have revealed an extensive clay platform up to 0.5m thick, which has been provisionally interpreted as the parade ground of the Hadrian's Wall cavalry fort at Stanwix, thought to cover 7.5 acres. Between this putative parade ground and the east gate of the fort is a raised area which was tentatively identified as a tribunal (McCarthy 1999); this corresponds with the walled garden of the college, which is now a car-park. The parade ground sealed an old ground surface, and extensive areas of plough marks and field boundary ditches, including some discovered in 1976 by CEU (Smith 1978).
- 3.2.6 The parade ground was first identified in 1990, when an evaluation was undertaken by CAU in advance of the proposed construction of a new primary school on land at the corner of Tarraby Lane and Beech Grove, north of the development area. Excavation of six evaluation trenches revealed evidence for cross-ploughing representing early, presumably pre-Roman, ploughing in the form of plough- or ard-marks scoring the natural surface. These features were sealed by a highly organic buried soil or turf-line which was itself sealed by dumps of redeposited natural clay, interpreted as makeup for the parade ground (Zant *pers. comm.* as in Town 2012).
- 3.2.7 Evaluation work in 1993 (CAU 1993) and 1994 by CAU in the college grounds was undertaken prior to building work; this led to an excavation in 1994, which was undertaken in advance of construction of new student accommodation. A sizeable open area was opened up conforming to the footprint of the building and revealed more evidence for pre-Roman

ploughing associated with a buried soil or turf-line. The uppermost deposits were associated with late post-medieval gardening activity (Zant *pers. comm.* as in Town 2012). Photographic evidence of the excavations also shows a sizeable ditch cutting NW/SE across the excavation area, probably of post-Roman date, as it is shown cutting the parade ground deposits.

- 3.2.8 Excavations in 1998 by CAU prior to further building work at the college again revealed part of the parade ground deposits. This material was seen to be directly cut by a ditch in excess of 1.2m wide, which was not excavated. A second, possibly larger, ditch was observed to the north. Neither ditch was dated, but was thought to be of Roman or post-Roman date on stratigraphic grounds. The top of the archaeology lay c.0.75m below the modern surface (Zant *pers. comm.* as in Town 2012).
- 3.2.9 A watching brief undertaken by Newcastle University's Archaeological Practice during the construction of a lift-shaft extension on the south-east side of the main college building, revealed an extensive area of cobbling similar to that encountered by the CAU (1993) to the north of the college building. Large postholes and slots were also discovered, apparently contemporary with the cobbled area; these were cut by ditches and overlain by burnt deposits. The deposits appeared to concentrate in the east end of the trench, with the west end showing truncation from the point at which the college building has been terraced into the slope (Rushworth *pers. comm.* as in Town 2012).
- 3.2.10 In 2000, an evaluation and watching brief was carried out by LUAU to the north-west of the main college building. The watching brief on a pipe trench revealed a deposit of clay and cobbles running approximately two thirds the length of the trench. The evaluation was between the pipe trench and the main college building to the south, and revealed mainly nineteenth and twentieth century features and soil horizons. However, excavation in the centre of the trench revealed the same deposit of clay and cobbles as identified in the watching brief by Newcastle University's Archaeological Practice. This deposit consisted of two phases of clay/cobble surfaces abutting a metallised surface at the western exposed end; Roman tile, brick and pottery were embedded in both clay surfaces. A sondage revealed the depth of the deposit to be c.0.3m. These clay and cobble surfaces were interpreted as a further section of the parade ground (LUAU 2000).
- 3.2.11 In June 2004, OA North undertook an archaeological evaluation at the Ceramics Courtyard. Two trenches were excavated which showed that archaeological features were present on the site sealed below 1.2-1.3m of post-medieval overburden. Sealed beneath these deposits was a ditch aligned NW/SE, which is almost at right angles to Hadrian's Wall and the

Vallum. The full profile of the ditch was not seen but it exceeded 2m in width and 1m in depth with steeply sloping sides. On the basis of the finds in the fill the ditch appeared to date to the post-medieval period. Cut by the ditch was a deposit of orange sandy silt with a high proportion of stone inclusions, which appeared relate to a further section of the parade ground seen in the excavations on the site (OA North 2004). Excavations confirmed the position of the parade ground, and also uncovered more evidence of the buried soils and plough marks on the site.

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## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 and monitored the excavation of four post-holes on Punton Road for parking restriction signs, and a single post-hole on Brampton Road for a new bus stop sign (Figure 2). The post-holes were excavated to an average depth of 0.4m with a maximum depth of 0.55m, each revealing modern make-up deposits. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the work and all finds were identified as modern and discarded on site.
- 4.1.2 All areas of ground reduction were excavated by hand, which were monitored and subsequently investigated and recorded fully. The results of the watching brief are outlined below.

### 4.2 RESULTS

- 4.2.1 *Pit 1:* Pit 1 was located on the north-west corner of the western junction between Punton Road and Tarraby Lane (Figure 2). It measured 0.75m in length, 0.60m in width and 0.55m in depth. Two paving slabs were removed and a single deposit of mid-brown silty clay (**100**) was excavated to a depth of 0.55m. This deposit contained a single sherd of modern glazed pottery which was not retained (Plate 1).



*Plate 1: Pit 1 looking north*

- 4.2.2 **Pit 2:** Pit 2 was located on the north-east corner of the western junction between Punton Road and Tarraby Lane (Figure 2). It measured 0.80m in length, 0.45m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m. Two paving slabs were removed revealing a mixed sandy clay/gravel modern backfill (**101**), which was excavated to a maximum depth 0.40m (Plate 2).
- 4.2.3 **Pit 3:** Pit 3 was located on the north-west corner of the eastern junction between Punton Road and Tarraby Lane (Figure 2). It measured 0.75m in length, 0.55m in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.40m. Two paving slabs were removed and a single deposit of mid-brown silty clay (**100**) was excavated to a depth of 0.30m. This deposit also contained a single sherd of modern glazed pottery which was not retained. This was sealed by a bedding layer of 0.10m of sharp sand which formed a bedding layer for the paving slabs (Plate 3).



*Plate 2: Pit 2 looking east*

- 4.2.4 **Pit 4:** Pit 4 was located on the north-east corner of the eastern junction between Punton Road and Tarraby Lane (Figure 2). It measured 0.75m in length, 0.40m in width and 0.40m in depth. Two paving slabs were removed revealing a deposit of mid-brown silty clay (**100**), which was excavated to a depth of 0.25m. This was sealed by a 0.05m hard black stony deposit (**103**) and 0.10m of sharp sand (Plate 4).
- 4.2.5 **Pit 5:** Pit 5 was located on Brampton Road to the north-west of the main entrance to the University of Cumbria, directly opposite a pedestrian gateway into Rickerby Park (Figure 2). This pit measured 0.45m in length, 0.35m in width and 0.40m in depth. The pit was cut through 0.05m of tarmac



revealing a deposit of mid-grey/brown silty clay (102), which was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m (Plate 5).



*Plate 3: Pit 3 looking north*



*Plate 4: Pit 4 looking east*





*Plate 5: Pit 5 looking northeast*

#### **4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING**

4.3.1 All finds were modern and discarded on site.

4.3.2 No environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.

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## 5 CONCLUSIONS

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### 5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 and monitored the excavation of four post-holes on Punton Road for parking restriction signs and a single post-hole on Brampton Road for a new bus stop sign (Figure 2). The post-holes were excavated to an average depth of 0.4m with a maximum depth of 0.55m, each revealing modern make-up deposits. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the work and all finds were classified as modern and discarded on site.

### 5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.2.1 As this watching brief was conducted as a condition of groundworks associated with the erection of new sign-posts, no further archaeological work is deemed necessary. However, given the site's location in relation to the Scheduled Ancient Monument, it is recommended that any work conducted in the future be subject to a similar programme of archaeological investigation.

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## 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

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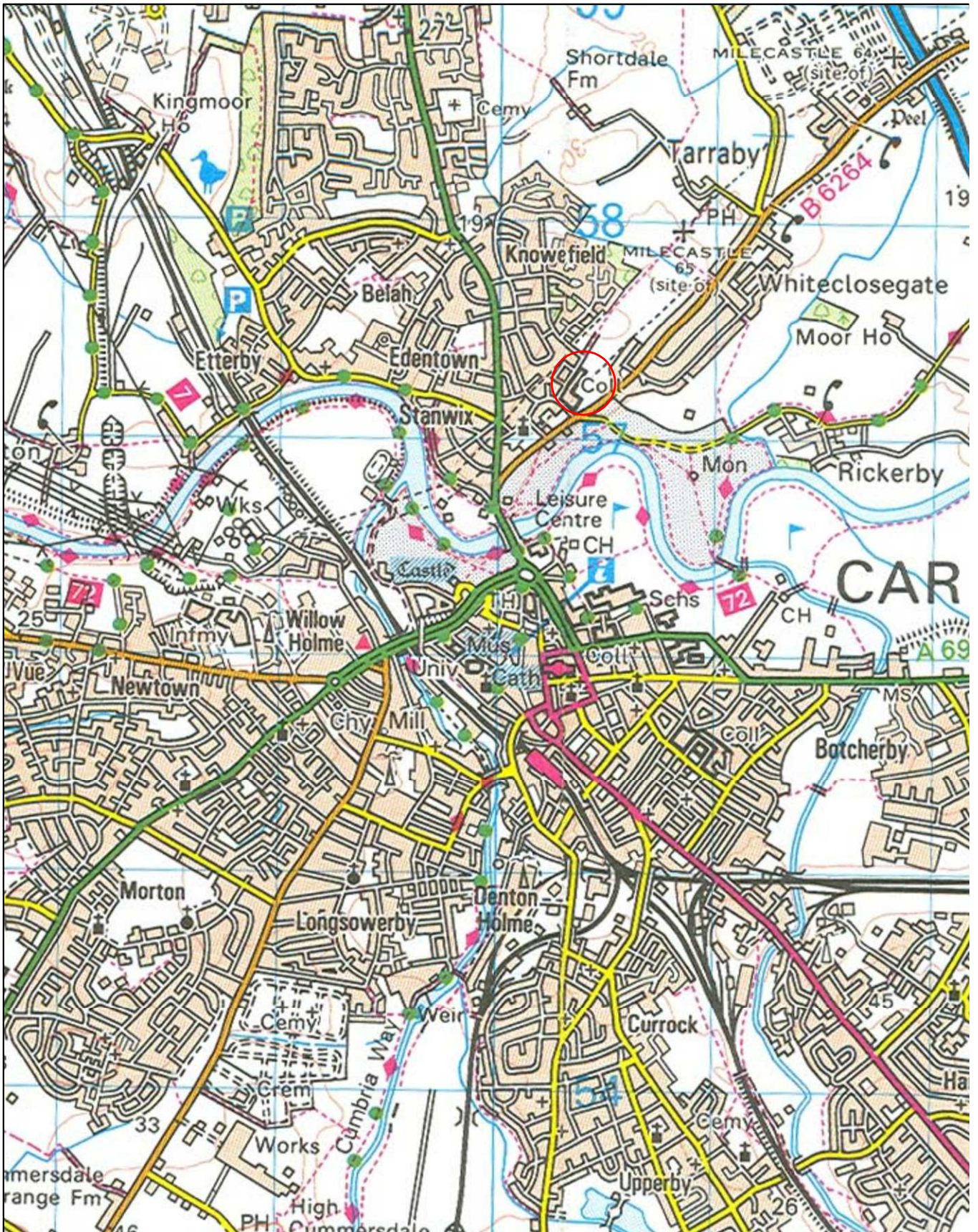
<b>Context Number</b>	<b>Context Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
100	Deposit	Mid-Brown Silty Clay
101	Deposit	Dark Brown/Black Sandy Clay/Gravels
102	Deposit	Mid-Grey/Brown Silty Clay
103	Deposit	Hard Black Stony Deposit

*Table 1: List of contexts issued during watching brief*

## APPENDIX 2: FIGURES

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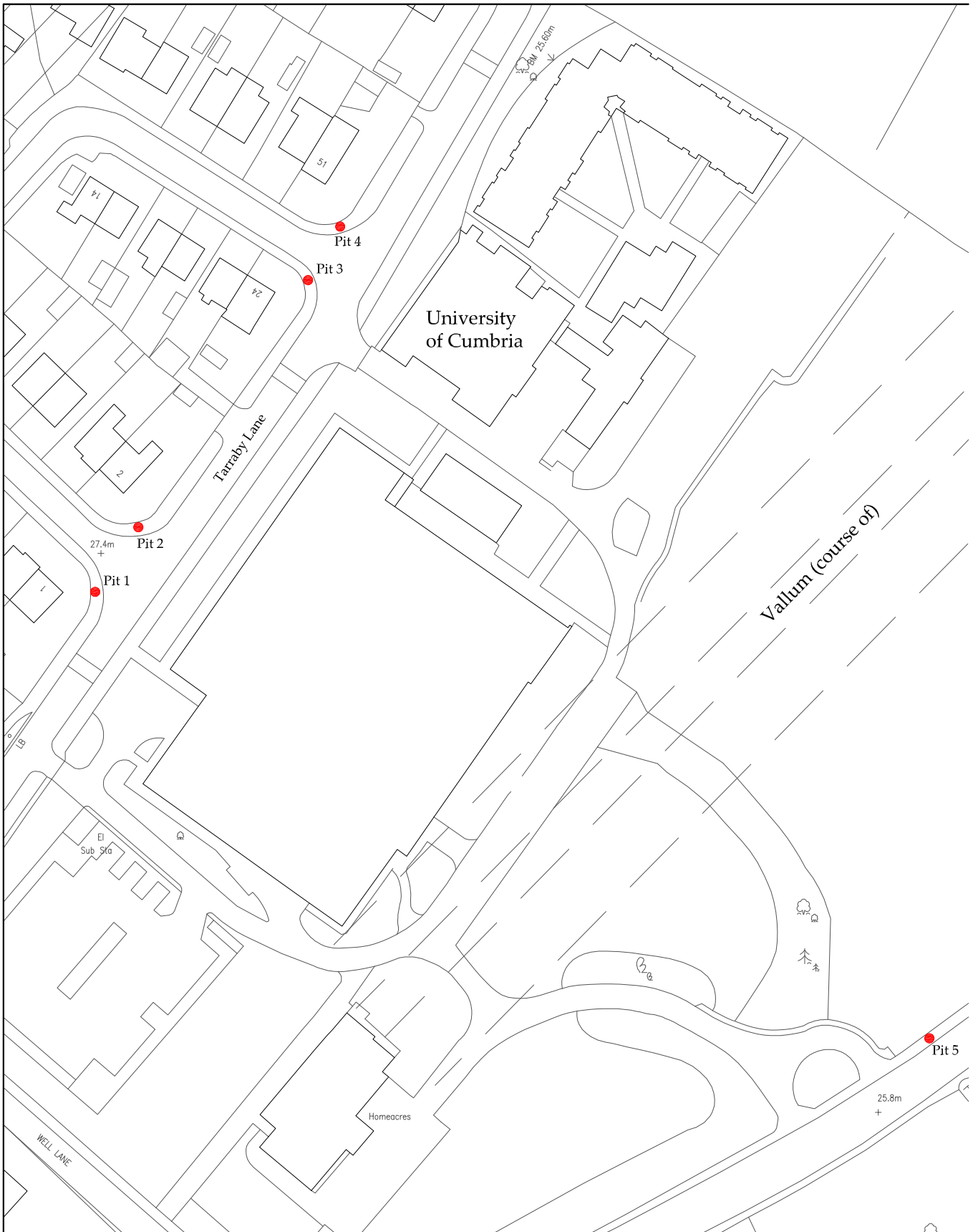
 <p>wardell armstrong archaeology</p> <p>WA Archaeology Ltd 2012</p>	<p>PROJECT: Punton Rd &amp; Brampton Rd, Carlisle, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10187</p> <p>CLIENT Carlisle City Council</p> <p>DRAWN BY: DJ</p> <p>DATE: May 2012</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site Location</p>	
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Figure 1 : Site Location








 <p>wardell armstrong archaeology</p> <p>WA Archaeology Ltd 2012</p>	<p><b>PROJECT:</b> Punton Rd &amp; Brampton Rd, Carlisle, Cumbria</p> <p><b>SCALE:</b> 1:1,000 at A4</p> <p><b>REPORT No:</b> CP10187</p> <p><b>CLIENT:</b> Carlisle City Council</p> <p><b>DRAWN BY:</b> DJ</p> <p><b>DATE:</b> May 2012</p> <p><b>FIGURE:</b> 2</p>	<p><b>KEY:</b></p> <p> Areas monitored by Watching Brief</p>	 <p><small>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732</small></p>
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Figure 2: Location of monitored areas.