

Land on Station Road, Aspatria, Cumbria

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Trial Trench Evaluation Report



#### **Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Limited**

Cocklakes Yard, Carlisle, Cumbria CA4 0BQ, United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)1228 564820 Fax: +44(0)1228 560025 www.wa-archaeology.com



**DATE ISSUED:** May 2013

JOB NUMBER: CP10474

**GRID REFERENCE:** NY 314330 541630

**PLANNING APPLICATION No.** 2/2011/0787

OASIS REFERENCE: wardella2-153026

# For PHILLIP CARRUTHERS LTD

Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Trial Trench Evaluation Report

#### **PREPARED BY:**

Fiona Wooler Researcher and Angus Clark Site Supervisor

Martin Railton Senior Project Manager

**APPROVED BY:** 

Frank Giecco Regional Manager

This report has been prepared by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, within the terms of the Contract with the Client. The report is confidential to the Client and Wardell Armstrong Archaeology accepts no responsibility of whatever nature to third parties to whom this report may be made known.

No part of this document may be reproduced without the prior written approval of Wardell Armstrong Archaeology.

# **CONTENTS**

SUMMARY	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	7
1 INTRODUCTION	8
2 METHODOLOGY	9
2.1 Written Scheme of Investigation	9
2.2 Desk-Based Assessment	
2.3 Trial Trench Evaluation	9
2.4 Archive	10
3 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY	12
3.1 Site Location	12
3.2 Geology	12
4 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT	13
4.1 Introduction	13
4.2 Historical Context	13
4.3 Cartographic Sources	18
4.4 Previous Archaeological Work	19
4.5 Aerial Photographs	
4.6 Site Visit	
5 TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION	
5.1 Introduction	25
5.2 Results	25
6 FINDS	30
6.1 Finds Assessment	30
6.2 Post-medieval Pottery	31
6.3 Ceramic Building Material	
6.4 Clay Pipe	31
6.5 Iron	
7 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	33
7.1 Archaeobotancial Analysis	33
7.2 Discussion of the Plant Remains	
7.3 Discussion of the Heavy Residues	
7.4 Zooarchaeological Analysis	
7.5 Conclusions and Recommendations	
8 CONCLUSIONS	
8.1 Conclusions	37
9 BIBLIOGRAPHY	
APPENDIX 1: HER SITES	41
APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT TABLE	49
APPENDIX 3: FIGURES	50

# **ILLUSTRATIONS**

# FIGURES (APPENDIX 3)

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATIO	1	J
------------------------	---	---

- FIGURE 2: DETAILED SITE PLAN WITH LOCATION OF EVALUATION TRENCHES
- FIGURE 3: LOCATIONS OF HER SITES WITHIN A 1KM RADIUS
- FIGURE 4: EXTRACT FROM HODSKINSON AND DONALD'S MAP OF CUMBERLAND 1774
- FIGURE 5: EXTRACT FROM GREENWOOD'S MAP OF CUMBERLAND 1823
- FIGURE 6: ASPATRIA ENCLOSURE MAP 1825
- FIGURE 7: FIRST EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1868, 6" TO 1 MILE SCALE
- FIGURE 8: SECOND EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1900, 25" TO 1 MILE SCALE
- FIGURE 9: THIRD EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1925, 25" TO 1 MILE SCALE
- FIGURE 10: ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1957, 6" TO 1 MILE SCALE
- FIGURE 11: TRENCH 3, PLAN AND SECTIONS
- FIGURE 12: TRENCH 5, PLAN AND SECTION

# **PLATES**

PLATE 1: VIEW LOOKING NORTH FROM STATION ROAD SHOWING THE LARGE SPOIL HEAP IN THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE SITE23
PLATE 2: VIEW LOOKING NORTH-EAST SHOWING THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA WITH REMOVED SECTION OF STONE WALL
PLATE 3: VIEW LOOKING NORTH SHOWING ACCESS GATE AND TRACK HEADING IN FROM THE SOUTH ON STATION ROAD24
PLATE 4: STONE GATE POST STANDING WITHIN THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AREA (THE PROPERTY IN THE BACKGROUND IS RED GABLES)
PLATE 5: BACKFILLED GEOLOGICAL TEST PIT, TRENCH 1, LOOKING WEST
PLATE 6: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION THROUGH SHALLOW GULLY [304] LOOKING NORTH EAST .26
PLATE 7: OBLIQUE SHOT OF WEST FACING SECTION THROUGH PIT [306], LOOKING NORTHEAST27
Plate 8: Southeast facing section of [501] and [503], looking northwest28

#### **SUMMARY**

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology were commissioned by Phillip Carruthers Ltd to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation of land on Station Road, Aspatria, Cumbria, in advance of a proposed residential development on the site (Planning Application Ref: 2/2011/0787). This work was undertaken at the request of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service, acting on behalf of Allerdale District Council, and was in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).

Aspatria is located in a landscape which is well-known for its archaeological potential; a number of cropmarks along the Abbeytown Ridge were first identified in the dry summer of 1975, which led to the suggestion that these may represent a buried late-prehistoric landscape. It is also possible that the town of Aspatria may have early medieval origins, as fragments of 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> century sculptured stone are present at St Kentigern's Church. Excavations in 1789 of a round barrow on Beacon Hill, located to the north of the site on Station Road, revealed a cist burial and a variety of grave goods which have been attributed to the early medieval period.

As a result of the archaeological potential of the site on Station Road, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service requested a programme of archaeological work in the form of a desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation in order to provide information on the presence (or absence), state of preservation and character of any archaeological remains, to enable either preservation in situ, or to allow appropriate mitigation to be designed to ensure adequate preservation by record.

The trial trench evaluation consisted of the excavation of 11 trenches across the proposed development area, ten of which were located within a single pastoral field and a single trench was excavated within an area of disturbed ground in order to determine the extent of disturbance caused by the ground reduction.

Archaeological deposits were present within two of the trenches; Trenches 3 and 5, the other nine trenches were devoid of archaeological remains. The archaeological features observed within Trench 3 comprised of two linear features which potentially relate to the same curvilinear gully. A post medieval date has been attributed to these features due to post medieval artifacts being recovered from the fill of the northern most linear feature. In the southern aspect of this trench part of a large pit was recorded which was believed to have been used to quarry sandstone. Present within the backfilled material was an assemblage of 19th-20th century pot sherds, glass shards and ceramic building material. The feature may have had earlier origins but had gone out of use in the late post medieval period. Within Trench 5 a narrow and shallow linear gully was noted along a north to south alignment although its function remains uncertain.

Given the results of the desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation no further work is recommended.

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would like to thank George Parker of Phillip Carruthers Ltd, for commissioning the project and for all assistance throughout the project.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would also like to extend their thanks to Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer and Jo Mackintosh, Historic Environment Record Officer; staff at Carlisle Archive Centre and Stephen White, Carlisle Library, and the land owner Phillip Carruthers for their assistance during the project.

The desk-based assessment was undertaken by Fiona Wooler. The trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Angus Clark and Aidan Pratt. The report was written by Fiona Wooler and Angus Clark, and the drawings were completed by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Senior Project Manager, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, who also edited the report.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology were commissioned by Phillip Carruthers Ltd to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation of land on Station Road, Aspatria, Cumbria, in advance of a proposed residential development on the site (Planning Application Ref: 2/2011/0787).
- 1.2 It is likely that Aspatria has early medieval origins. The Church of St Kentigern contains fragments of stone sculpture of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> century date, and excavations in the 18<sup>th</sup> century on Beacon Hill, located to the north of the proposed development site, revealed a cist burial and a variety of grave gods attributed to the early medieval period. The Abbeytown Ridge, on which Aspatria is located, is well-known for its archaeological potential; a number of cropmark sites were first identified in the dry summer of 1975 which led to suggestions that these cropmarks represented a buried late-prehistoric landscape.
- 1.3 The Extensive Urban Survey for Aspatria has identified the area to the south side of West Street as the location of possible medieval crofts, and although the present houses in this area are post medieval in character, there could be underlying medieval features (Hopkins 2005, 18).
- 1.4 Given the archaeological potential within and around Aspatria, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service advised that an archaeological desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation were undertaken, in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved by Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer. The information gained will allow the Planning Authority to make a reasonable and informed decision regarding the current planning application, and if archaeological remains are revealed at the site, to enable either preservation *in-situ*, or to allow appropriate mitigation to be designed to ensure adequate preservation by record. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).

# 2 METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

2.1.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in response to a request by Phillip Carruthers Ltd, for an archaeological desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation of the study area (Railton 2013). The WSI set out the methodology for the scheme of archaeological works, and subsequent reporting and archiving.

# 2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 The desk-based assessment involved the consultation of a number of existing datasets in order to achieve an understanding of the geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context of the proposed development area.
- 2.2.2 The assessment involved the consultation of the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER) database, maintained by Cumbria County Council, in the first instance. This database contains information on designated heritage assets, such as listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments and conservation areas, and non-designated assets, i.e. sites of historical or archaeological interest which have not been designated. Aerial photographs for the area were also examined, and information obtained regarding previous schemes of archaeological work. A search area of 1km radius centred on the proposed development area was chosen in order to gain an understanding of the character of the archaeological resource.
- 2.2.3 Documentary sources relating to the history of the town of Aspatria and its environs, as well as historical mapping, were consulted at Carlisle Archive Centre and the local studies section of Carlisle Library. Several secondary sources and journals, such as the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, were also consulted.
- 2.2.4 A site visit was undertaken as part of the desk-based assessment in order to observe any potential archaeological features within the proposed development area site boundary, and to note any hazards and constraints to undertaking further archaeological work.
- 2.2.5 The desk-based assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (IfA 2012).

#### 2.3 TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

2.3.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of 11 trenches covering 5% of the proposed development area. A single trench was situated within the southern aspect of the site which had been subject to modern disturbance.

The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of any below ground archaeological remains present within the development area, the evaluation trenches being located to randomly sample the study area (Figure 2). All work was conducted according to the recommendations of the Institute for Archaeologists (2008).

- 2.3.2 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:
  - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
  - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
  - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
  - to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.
- 2.3.3 Turf and topsoil was removed by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recording according to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2012).
- 2.3.4 All finds encountered were retained, including those from excavated topsoil, and were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of Megan Stoakley, WWA Finds Officer.
- 2.3.5 One environmental sample was recovered from a single context **(502)** which was recovered from a shallow ditch.
- 2.3.6 The evaluation trenches were scheduled to be backfilled following excavation and recording.
- 2.3.7 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd Edition, 1991).

#### 2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A site archive will be prepared to the standard specification in the Management of Archaeological Projects, Appendix 3 (English Heritage 1991) and Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation (Brown 2011). All finds belong to the landowner, but initially they will be transferred to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology premises in Carlisle. The finds site archive will be deposited with the Carlisle Archive Centre.
- 2.4.2 One copy of the final report will be deposited with the County Historic Environment Record at Kendal, where viewing will be made available on request. The present scheme of archaeological woks is also registered with the Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS)

project, where a digital copy of the report will be uploaded (Ref: wardella2-153026).

# 3 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

### 3.1 SITE LOCATION

- 3.1.1 Aspatria lies on a dry sandy ridge approximately 60m OD, north-west of the River Ellen. It is situated on the main Carlisle to Maryport road (A596), lies eight miles east-by-north from Maryport, and 19 miles south-west from Carlisle. To the north-west the town is overlooked by Beacon Hill. The Maryport to Carlisle Railway lines partly passes through the eastern side of the town (Figure 1).
- 3.1.2 The study area is situated to the west side of the town of Aspatria, on the west side of Station Road, and to the rear of properties on the main A596 road. The proposed development area comprises three fields of pasture, measuring approximately 1ha in total (Figure 2). The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) NY 314330 541630.

#### 3.2 GEOLOGY

- 3.2.1 The town of Aspatria is situated in a character area defined by the Countryside Commission as the 'Solway Basin'. This is a broad, lowland plain landscape fringed by the low, rugged, relatively remote coastline of the Solway Firth and the Irish Sea. It is framed by the Cumbria High Fells to the south, the hills of the Scottish borders to the north and the Border Moors and Forests to the north-east. The soft horizontal form of this intensively managed, predominantly pastoral landscape contrasts markedly with the Cumbria High Fells. The Solway Basin is underlain mainly by mudstones and sandstones of Permo-Triassic age ('New Red Sandstone'). Coal Measures mudstones, sandstones and a few coals, of Carboniferous age, lie beneath the Permo-Triassic rocks and crop out in a very restricted belt along the southern margin of the area (Countryside Commission 1998, 19-20).
- 3.2.2 Aspatria borders on the Cumbria coalfields. The productive measures to the south are overlain by the Whitehaven Sandstone Series. The coal is bituminous and suitable for fuel, coke and gas making. This geological make-up contributed to the industrial expansion of Aspatria in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Ireleth Slates of the Upper Silurian Series lie north of the Coal Measures (Hopkins 2005, 2).

### 4 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

#### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Information for the desk-based assessment was derived mainly from the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER) database, historical mapping and published and unpublished sources relating to the history of Aspatria and its environs. The assessment was focused on the characterising the archaeological potential for the proposed development area, particularly for the historic periods prior to the 18th and 19th centuries when early cartographic sources start to provide information on the form of the settlement of Aspatria and the proposed development area itself.

#### 4.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 4.2.1 Place-Name Evidence: according to 'The Place Names of Cumberland', the place-name Aspatria is 'an inversion compound meaning "Patric's ash tree", the second element was assimilated in modern times to Latin Patria' (Armstrong et al 1943-44, 262). The name contains two elements, the Old Norse word askr and the Irish personal name Patric. Old Norse was the language spoken by Norwegians who colonised areas such as the north-west of England from the 9th to the 12th centuries (Lee 1998).
- 4.2.2 The earliest documented reference to Aspatria as a place name was in *c*.1160AD, when it was recorded as *Aspatric*. Subsequent spellings included *Espatric* (1171-5), *Ascpatric* (*c*.1220), and *Eskpatrike* (1347). A mill is recorded at Aspatria in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, as *Aspatr myln*, and as *Aspatria Miln* in 1777 (Armstrong *et al* 1943-44, 261).
- 4.2.3 Prehistoric (up to c.43AD): in an Inventory of Cumberland dating to 1923, Collingwood refers to several locations of findspots or sites of possible prehistoric date. Firstly, he noted that the 'Viking age' burial on Beacon Hill (HER No. 601; Site 1 on Figure 3), was an earlier Bronze Age burial site that had been reused. He then noted two findspots, a stone implement found in 1875 '400yds SSE of Aigle Gill', and a gold armlet of c.500BC which was found 'at Aspatria' in 1828 (Collingwood 1923, 245). The armlet appears to be that which is recorded in the HER as No. 645 (Site 6), and the stone implement may be that which is recorded as HER No. 643 (Site 4). The HER also contains an entry for a 'Palstave Find', which was recovered at some point before 1860 (HER No. 644; Site 5). The exact findspot location of all of these finds, however, is unclear.
- 4.2.4 The suggestion that the 'Viking Burial' on Beacon Hill may have been on the site of an earlier tumulus appears to have derived from the recovery of stones from the cist which bore 'cup and ring' markings. It has been noted that as the finds which accompanied the Viking burial have now been lost, along with the stones themselves, 'we cannot discount the possibility of the

- carvings having had a prehistoric origin. Some of the motifs on the stones do bear a close resemblance to some figures found in Irish passage grave art' (Frodsham 1989, 8-9). A reconsideration of the art on the stone slabs, however, has concluded that the inscribed symbols were not of prehistoric date, and 'instead find their closest parallels in the inscribed early Christian monuments of Western Britain, dating from the 7th to 9th centuries' (Petts 2002, 108).
- 4.2.5 A possible prehistoric site may have existed close to Fitz Farm, located to the south-east of Aspatria. There is reference to 'a group of standing stones in the corner of a big field at Fitz Farm, near the River Ellen..it is at the junction of four roads coming from Aspatria, from Blennerhasset, from Threapland and Bothel and from Arkleby and Plumbland' (Rose and Dunglinson 1987, 3). Further sites of prehistoric origin may exist around Aspatria, although as yet they have not been investigated archaeologically. To the north of the town is the area known, certainly historically, as 'Whinbarrows', which may indicate the location of possibly burial mounds (barrows) (HER No. 10178; Site 3). There are several cropmark sites, identified through aerial photography, which may be prehistoric, but which are presently listed as of 'unknown' date. These include 'Aspatria Enclosure Cropmarks' (HER No. 4406; Site 8) and 'Aspatria Castle Circular Cropmark (HER No. 3257; Site 7).
- Roman (c.43 to 410AD): there is presently only one HER entry within the 1km search radius centred on the proposed development area which relates to this period, although it must be noted that some of the cropmark sites located around Aspatria could date to this period, although this could only be confirmed through archaeological investigation. To the south of the town, close to Station Road, is the possible findspot location of a Roman coin of Vespasian (HER No. 40899; Site 23). The location of this find was reported by W A Hodgson in an undated document housed at Carlisle Library: 'About 20 years ago a Roman coin of the Emperor Vespasian was picked up about 200yds eastward of the railway station, where the line of the ancient Roman road leading from Ellenborough [Maryport] to Old Carlisle was crossed by workmen engaged in cutting and forming a branch line from the Maryport and Carlisle main line to the new coal workings of Messrs Harris'. Hodgson continued to note his observations of the line of the Roman road in the vicinity of Aspatria: 'I examined carefully the line which it took and succeeded in tracing its course, more or less distinctly, from the extreme western boundary of the parish of Aspatria, not far from Allerby and Allerby Hall, to Allhallows School' (Carlisle Library Ref: Bundle B, M No. 10).
- 4.2.7 *Early Medieval (c.410 to 1066AD):* there is evidence for early medieval settlement in and around Aspatria. The present church, dedicated to St Kentigern, is mainly of 19<sup>th</sup> century date with retained architectural elements from the Norman period. It is one of eight churches in Cumbria, dedicated to St Kentigern, also called St Mungo, who appears to have entered the area some time after 573AD (Hopkins 2005, 7).

- 4.2.8 The presence of a pre-Norman religious site at Aspatria seems further substantiated by early medieval stonework contained within the present church. In their 'Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture', Bailey and Cramp list seven fragments of early medieval stonework at St Kentigern's Church, dating to the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries (Bailey and Cramp 1988, 50-54; HER No. 614). Collingwood includes the 'Viking Age' stonework in his 1923 Inventory (Collingwood 1923, 245).
- 4.2.9 As already referred to above (see 4.2.3), a 'Viking' burial mound was excavated in the 18<sup>th</sup> century at Aspatria. The excavations on the summit of Beacon Hill in 1789 revealed a cist which contained a male skeleton, along with grave goods including a broad sword, a dagger, part of a gold fibula or buckle and several pieces of shield. Archaeological investigations in 1997 provided additional evidence for an early medieval date for the burial mound, including a large pin of 10<sup>th</sup> century date (HER No. 601; Site 1; Abramson 2000).
- 4.2.10 Further evidence for some form of settlement at Aspatria in the early medieval period is suggested by the place name itself, which derives partly from the Old Norse language (see 4.2.1). Beyond the 1km search radius, a *'silver fibula of Viking Age'* was found before 1790 in the fishpond at Brayton (Collingwood 1923, 245).
- 4.2.11 *Medieval* (*c.1066-1540AD*): as noted in 4.2.2 above, Aspatria is first documented as a place name in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when it is recorded as *Aspatric*, suggesting some form of settlement at that date. St Kentigern's Church contains medieval architectural elements in the form of a 12<sup>th</sup> century chancel arch and doorway, both reused when the church was rebuilt in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (Collingwood 1923, 245; HER No. 614). Within St Kentigern's Church and its graveyard there are several grave covers which date to the medieval period. Peter Ryder records five examples which date to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries (Ryder 2005, 162-164).
- 4.2.12 The medieval settlement at Aspatria is difficult to trace, as there is presently no archaeological evidence. It is presumed that the focus of the settlement would have been around the church; however there is no record of a market charter and no apparent early references to a market being held. The first reference to 'Aspatria town' is in an extract from a parchment roll dating to 1348 which mentions Thomas de Lucy was seised of the Manor of Aspatria 'including eight messuages, ten cottages and one forge and one hundred and fifty-five acres of land...more than a hundred in the town of Aspatrick' (Hopkins 2005, 8). The earliest detailed map of Aspatria, the Enclosure Map of 1825 (see Figure 6) shows an irregular pattern of fields and house plots near the church, whilst to the east and west of this the crofts and tofts are quite regular, especially to the west, with even a back lane separating them from fossilised strip fields (ibid); this back lane was formerly located immediately to the north of the proposed development area, and consequently the

- Station Road site seemingly would have formed part of this fossilised strip field system in the medieval period.
- 4.2.13 The HER contains several entries which relate to the medieval period. To the west of the town is the site of 'Aspatria Castle', located in a field called 'Castlesteads' or 'Hallsteads', although there are no surface remains [the property immediately to the east of this site is known as 'Castlemount'] (HER No. 616; Site 3). Reference has been made to a pele tower existing at one time, near the site of the modern Fire Station (HER No. 40901; Site 25), and the place name 'Beacon Hill' suggests the location of a medieval beacon site (HER No. 40922; Site 37).
- 4.2.14 *Post-medieval and Modern (c.1540 to present):* evidence for some form of settlement at Aspatria in the 17<sup>th</sup> century is suggested by the references to properties being in existence in 1660. The HER presently contains entries for Town Head Farm (HER No. 40933; Site 46), West Farm (HER No. 40934; Site 47), Bell Gate Farm (HER No. 40934; Site 48) and Lonning Farm (HER No. 41151; Site 61), all located to the west of the town, and in close proximity to the proposed development site, suggesting there was a cluster of settlement in this area of Aspatria in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.2.15 There are documentary references to coal mining in the area around Aspatria from as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In 1567, a royal survey showed that there was surface mining at Bothel, Priestcroft, Weary Hall and Bolton. And in 1681, in his Will of that date, William Orfeur of High Close, Plumbland, reference is made to his colliery at Oughterside (Rose and Dunglinson 1987, 148).
- 4.2.16 The earliest readily-available recorded description of the town of Aspatria, albeit brief, noted that it was in the late 17th century 'a long, dry village, being in length near a mile. Here are severall able freholders, as well as customary tenants. The church is but a vicarage, but well endowed. The bishop of Carlisle is patron. The tythes are granted by lease to the old Lady Musgrave of Hayton' (Winchester 2003, 183). Hutchinson described Aspatria as 'remarkable for its length' at the end of the 18th century (Hutchinson 1794-97, 287).
- 4.2.17 In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, Aspatria still appears to have been of the same plan form: 'Aspatria is a long, straggling village, standing on a sandy ridge, which slopes from each side. Many of the houses are good, and pleasantly situated, commanding an extensive view' (Jollie 1811, 12-13).
- 4.2.18 Enclosure of at least part of the common fields around Aspatria appears to have occurred in the middle of the 18th century, with the East End Outfields being enclosed in 1758, and the West End Outfields being enclosed in 1759 (Elliott 1960, 101). In 1825 the common wastes (4300 acres) of Aspatria were enclosed and shared by all the townships in the manor. The Lawson's of Brayton Hall purchased a large part in the east to extend their estate. These units were carved up into distinctive rectangular fields (Hopkins 2005, 10).

- 4.2.19 A trade directory of 1829 provides some indication of the economy of Aspatria as it was in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Agriculture appears to have dominated, with 20 farmers listed under 'Aspatria and Brayton'. There appears to have been very little industrial activity within the town itself at this date, with only individuals being listed as undertaking professions such as 'saddler', 'malster', 'nail maker', and 'stone mason' (Parson and White 1829, 300-301).
- 4.2.20 Although there had been coal mining in the area around Aspatria prior to the 19th century, the advent of the Maryport and Carlisle Railway (HER No. 41004), begun in 1837 and completed in May 1845, enabled large-exploitation of the coal deposits. In 1822 the Brayton Domain Colliery Company was formed and the Harris family, its founders, retained ownership until it closed in 1942. The first of the Brayton Domain pits, Aspatria No. 1, had faults and was of short duration. Aspatria No. 2 remained in production until 1867 (Hopkins 2005, 10; HER No's 10750 and 10751; Sites 13 and 14). Both of these pits were located to the south-east of the proposed development area on Station Road, to the south side of the railway line (see Figure 7).
- 4.2.21 Continued expansion of the Brayton Domain Colliery Company brought about an influx of workers and the necessity for somewhere to house them. By 1851 the population of Aspatria and Brayton had almost doubled from 632 in 1821 to 1123. Agriculture was still considered the main employment, but some inhabitants were engaged in coal mining (Hopkins 2005, 11; Whellan 1860, 203). A comparison of the First (1868) and Second Edition (1900) Ordnance Survey mapping (Figures 7 and 8) shows development had taken place around the location of the Railway Station, not only related to the railway line itself but new housing (for example Railway Terraces), an Auction Mart and a Creamery. The Second Edition OS mapping also shows a sand pit at the junction of two of the railway lines; this feature is not shown on the earlier mapping of 1868.
- 4.2.22 By the 1870s, it is clear that Aspatria had a population size, physical appearance and breadth of commercial activity commensurate with the status of a town. The first local council came into being after the Local Government Act of 1871 led to the formation of the Aspatria Local Board (Hopkins 2005, 12).
- 4.2.23 It has already been noted that it is unclear where the medieval heart of the settlement of Aspatria was located. A 'Market Square' is labelled on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1925 just to the north of what is now known as Station Road, in close proximity to the 'Public Hall', Agricultural College, 'Monument' and 'Pinfold' (see Figure 9). It has been suggested that it is probable that the market had always taken place in this location, although this cannot be established with any certainty. As noted by Hopkins: 'Whether or not this area was known as a market before the erection of the Market Hall in 1872, or took its name from that building, is uncertain'

- (Hopkins 2005, 12). It is possible that if the early 20<sup>th</sup> century 'Market Square' was the location of earlier versions, then the proposed development area on Station Road would have been in close proximity to the possible centre of medieval and later activity within the settlement.
- 4.2.24 In the present day, nearly all the commercial properties in Aspatria are located along the main street, now concentrated more to the east of the Market Square rather than to the west (West Street), which retains a more residential character except for the Red Lion Inn. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, this area of Aspatria contained shops, ale houses and lodging houses, apparently favoured by the Irish immigrants who came to build the railway. Aspatria's main street is unnamed on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1868 (Figure 7), but by 1925 the area west of Market Square is known as West Street, immediately to the east as King Street, and beyond St Kentigern's Church Queen Street (Figure 9).

#### 4.3 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- Hodskinson and Donald's Map of Cumberland 1774 (Figure 4): this map, although produced at a small-scale, does provide some information on the form of the settlement of Aspatria as it was at the end of the 18th century. The town is essentially shown as a linear form, with properties lining each side of a road, with various roads or tracks leading off to the north and south, including the line of Station Road, which has a kink at its north end possibly where it skirted around a building. A change in ground level to the south side of Aspatria is represented by the lines of closely-spaced hachures, with two water mills shown along the course of the River Ellen at the base of that drop (one of which appears to be the site of Arkleby Mill. To the east of Aspatria the stippled area represents common or waste land, wth Brayton Hall represented on the main road, set within its own enclosure. The scale of this map does not allow for detailed information on the proposed development area itself; it would appear to have been land located to the rear of the properties fronting onto West Street, with the line of modern Station Road clearly to its east side.
- 4.3.2 *Greenwood's Map of Cumberland 1823 (Figure 5):* although also at a small-scale, this map does provide slightly more information relating to Aspatria and its environs. This map appears to show a 'back lane' running behind the properties located along the south side of West Street, with a small property shown immediately to the south side, potentially within the proposed development area itself. This map shows that in the first half of the 19th century, Aspatria was still a linear settlement. To the east of the town, the former waste or common land appears to have been, at least partly, enclosed as suggested by the various roads or tracks visible, and possibly new farmsteads such as 'Wellington', located to the north of Brayton Hall.

- 4.3.3 Aspatria Enclosure Map 1825 (Figure 6): this was the earliest map consulted which provides some information on individual properties and associated plots within Aspatria. The line of Station Road is partly shown as it meets West Street, and is labelled 'from Cockermouth'. The 'back lane' which was visible on Greenwood's map of 1823, is clearly shown on this source, and would have defined the northern boundary of the proposed development area, unless its location has been taken into some of the gardens to the rear of properties on West Street. A linear building is shown on the south side of the 'back lane' although it is unclear if this would have been situated within the northern end of the proposed development area; it may have been beneath the property and garden of Brandraw House.
- 4.3.4 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1868 (Figure 7): this map clearly shows the proposed development area as one large field, and part of another which runs parallel with Station Road. A 'Well' is annotated against the western boundary, which is seemingly shown on this map as a footpath running along its length. This is one of several 'wells' shown to the north and south sides of Aspatria, some of which are named such as 'Thompson's Well' and 'Crooky Well'.
- 4.3.5 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1900 (Figure 8): this map shows the proposed development area still as fields to the south side of West Street, although by this date a large property, Brandraw House, had been constructed, seemingly in the location of earlier buildings which fronted the main road. The 'well' shown against the western boundary is not annotated on this map, suggesting it may have gone out of use, and Thompson's Well has been renamed 'Thompson's Pump'.
- 4.3.6 Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1925 (Figure 9): there has been very little change in within the proposed development area by this date, apart from the removal of a small building within, or just to the north, of the northern boundary.
- 4.3.7 Ordnance Survey Map 1957 (Figure 10): by 1957 the proposed development is still shown as a large field, with part of another field to the eastern side. The footpath continues to be labelled along the western boundary, and the location of the former well at the south end of that boundary is still represented by a slight kink in the boundary wall or hedge line.

#### 4.4 Previous Archaeological Work

- 4.4.1 There have been several schemes of archaeological work which have been undertaken within a 1km radius of the proposed development area on Station Road; information on these works has been derived from the Cumbria HER, where the final reports for each project were consulted.
- 4.4.2 Beacon Hill, Aspatria, Archaeological Survey and Field Investigation: archaeological investigations were undertaken by North Archaeological Associated (NAA) in 1997 on the summit of Beacon Hill in advance of the

construction of an antenna platform. The location was the site of a possible barrow which, from antiquarian accounts, had a 90ft circumference. The excavations in 1789 reduced the barrow to ground level and revealed a burial within a cist accompanied various grave goods. No evidence for the barrow survived in 1997, and it was noted that without a contour survey of the hill summit, the exact location could not be ascertained. In view of the former barrow location being on the 'hill summit', it was considered that a 10m by 10m area of the antenna foundation would coincide with at least part of the position. This view was confirmed by an evaluation trench that revealed a pit aligned north to south, measuring 1.6m by 1m and 0.80m in depth. Several fragments of poorly-preserved human bone representing the left and right tibia of an adult, possibly female, were recovered from the pit together with 30 fragments of iron and a large copper-alloy pin. These were distributed throughout the fill of the grave and were clearly not in-situ. A preliminary examination of the material suggested that the iron fragments may have derived from a shield, and that the large pin was of c.10<sup>th</sup> century date (Abramson 1997, 35; NAA 1999).

- 4.4.3 Land North of West Street, Aspatria: Geophysical Survey: Archaeological Services WYAS were commissioned to undertake a geophysical survey at the proposed location of a new development (Surgery) on a green field fronting onto West Street (NY 1417 4174) in 2005. The site was located within 200m to the south of the Viking burial mound on Beacon Hill. Several anomalies were identified by magnetometer and earth resistance, some of which could have been underlying archaeological features. Further archaeological work was recommended in order to test the anomalies (Archaeological Services WYAS 2005).
- 4.4.4 Results of an Archaeological Evaluation at West Street, Aspatria, Cumbria: following on from the geophysical survey referred to above, Headland Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation in order to test the features identified. Eleven trenches were excavated forming a 5% sample of the total area. All of the features identified through the geophysical techniques were found to have a geological explanation, or were the result of existing service trenches. No archaeological features were identified (Dingwall 2005).
- 4.4.5 An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land adjacent to Balwinnam, Queen Street, Aspatria: in 2005 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with a residential development. The work was required as the site lay within the possible medieval settlement of Aspatria. The whole area was machined down to natural which was located at depths of 0.20 to 0.40m below the existing ground surface. The natural geology consisted of mid brown/yellow sand with occasional patches of degraded sandstone. No archaeological features were observed during the course of the watching brief, and no artefacts were recovered (Dodd 2006).

- 4.4.6 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Field Evaluation on land at the Former Palace Cinema, Market Square: a programme of archaeological work undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in 2007 in advance of a proposed residential development within what has been identified as an area of high archaeological potential. The desk-based assessment identified the potential for early medieval and medieval archaeology due to the known Viking burial at Beacon Hill, the presence of early medieval stone sculpture at St Kentigern's Church, and the layout of the modern town which contains elements of a nucleated settlement typically dating to the immediate Post-Conquest period. The potential for post-medieval archaeology was also considered to be high, with deposits likely to be present associated with the Palace Cinema. The archaeological evaluation revealed a number of features, which related to the footings of the Palace Cinema. It was noted that the area around the development site had seen little, if any, human intervention and had remained as an open field until the cinema was constructed in *c*.1910 (Sowerby and Gaskell 2007).
- 4.4.7 Beacon Hill Community School: Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA) maintained an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with new development to the north side of Beacon Hill Community School, in order to establish the presence of any remains associated with the early medieval burial mound which is known to have existed to the west of the school. No archaeological remains were encountered during the groundworks. All of the areas investigated appeared to have been landscaped during the construction of the existing sports pitches and swimming pool. It was noted that the topsoil either overlay natural deposits of pink, stony, clayish-sand or deposits derived from the construction phases (NAA 2008).

#### 4.5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

- 4.5.1 There were no aerial photographs at Cumbria HER which were identified within the 1km search radius. There are some aerial photographs which have been taken of sites outside the 1km search radius, however these were largely associated with open cast mine locations and were not taken specifically for archaeological purposes.
- 4.5.2 Modern readily-available satellite photography shows the proposed development area as a large field seemingly under rough grazing, although the south-eastern end has been portioned off. The area is bounded to the north-west by the gardens and properties along the south side of West Street, to the east by the property known as Red Gables, with its associated enclosure, to the south-east by Station Road, and to the west by a hedgeline. There was no clear evidence visible on this source for any potential archaeological features within the boundary of the proposed development area.

# 4.6 SITE VISIT

- 4.6.1 The proposed development area was visited on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013 in order to assess if any potential archaeological features were visible within the site boundary, and to note any constraints or hazards to further archaeological work such as live services, public footpaths etc.
- 4.6.2 The proposed development area was noted to be an area of land which was bounded to the east and south by Station Road, to the west by fields (including the line of a public footpath), and to the north by housing and gardens on West Street. The southern end of the development area was noted to contain a large spoil heap and pile of masonry blocks, possibly derived from a removed area of sandstone wall which formerly bounded part of the site. It was apparent that the southern portion of the site was at a lower level than the rest, with the present fence line marking the point where the ground level drops to the south; this drop in ground level suggests that the ground level of the southern portion has already been reduced at some point. An access gate into the majority of the proposed development area was present within this fence (Plates 1 to 3).
- 4.6.3 The larger portion of the proposed development area consists of one field, which at the time of the site visit was being used as pasture for a horse. The grass and foliage, however, was overgrown and it was not possible to clearly note any potential archaeological features. A single sandstone gate post was present within the proposed development area, although this does not appear to represent a former field boundary (Plate 4).
- 4.6.4 The proposed development area includes a piece of land immediately to the south-east of Red Gables (Figure 2); this area, at the time of the site visit, could not be observed as it is still portioned off from the main field by a hedge line, and by the stone boundary walls on Station Road.



**Plate 1:** View looking north from Station Road showing the large spoil heap in the southern portion of the site



**Plate 2:** View looking north-east showing the southern portion of the proposed development area with removed section of stone wall



**Plate 3:** View looking north showing access gate and track heading in from the south on Station Road



**Plate 4:** Stone gate post standing within the proposed development area (the property in the background is Red Gables)

# 5 TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

#### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken over five days between the 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2013 and saw the excavation of 11 trial trenches. Ten of these trenches were excavated within the main aspect of the site within a single pastoral field and a single trench was excavated in the southern aspect of the site within an area of land in which the ground level had been previously reduced in preparation for its development (Figure 2). Trenches 1-10 measured 30m in length and 1.55m in width.

#### 5.2 RESULTS

- 5.2.1 *Trench 1:* Trench 1 was located towards the northwest corner of the site and was aligned northeast to southwest (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.08m revealing moderately compacted orangey brown clayey sand natural **(101)** below *c.*0.45m of dark brown silty sand subsoil **(102)** which was capped by and *c.*0.36m of mid grey/ brown silty sand topsoil **(100)**.
- 5.2.2 Within the southwestern end of the trench, visible only within the section, a straight sided cut [103] measuring 1.7m in length, 1m in width and 0.92m in depth was noted. This was believed to the location of a modern geological test pit as it was backfilled by loosely compacted mixed clayey sand with frequent sandstone inclusions, believed to be re-deposited natural (104). No archaeological features were noted within his trench.



Plate 5: Backfilled geological test pit, Trench 1, looking west

- 5.2.3 *Trench 2:* Trench 2 was located towards the northern aspect of the site and was aligned northwest to southeast (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.82m revealing moderately compacted orangey brown clayey sand natural (101) below *c.*0.38m of dark brown silty sand subsoil (102) which was capped by and *c.*0.36m of mid grey/ brown silty sand topsoil (100). No archaeological features were noted within his trench.
- 5.2.4 *Trench 3:* Trench 3 was located towards the northeastern corner of the site and was aligned north to south (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m revealing moderately compacted orangey brown clayey sand natural (101) below *c*.0.36m of mid grey/ brown silty sand topsoil (100).
- 5.2.5 Noted at a roughly central location within the trench were two narrow and shallow curvilinear features which both potentially relate to the same shallow curvilinear gully (Figure 11). The northern most linear feature [302] measured 1.48m in length, 0.39m in width and to a depth of 0.08m. This feature followed a northwest to southeast alignment and had steep sides leading to a fairly flat base and terminated at a roughly square end. This linear feature was filled by dark brown silty sand (303) from which a 19th-20th pot sherd and a glass shard were recovered. To the south of this feature another narrow and shallow linear feature [304] was noted, this time following a northeast to southwest alignment. This linear measured 2.24m in length, 0.63m in width and 0.07m in depth and had moderately sloping sides leading down to a flat base and was filled by dark brown silty sand (305) (Plate 6), no finds were recovered from within this feature.



Plate 6: Southwest facing section through shallow gully [304] looking north east

- 5.2.6 At the southern end of the trench a large cut feature [306] was noted (Plate 7), which was believed to have been utilised as a stone quarry. Only part of this feature was located within the trial trench but it was recorded to a length of 4m, a width of 1.55m and to a maximum depth of 1.1m. The feature was noted as roughly semicircular in plan with its northern edge sloping steeply at the top before leveling off and then dropping steeply down to a fairly flat base which revealed the natural bedrock. A steep rising edge was noted to the southern extent of the feature which then leveled out and continued into the section. The full extent of this feature is unknown.
- 5.2.7 The primary backfill of this feature was noted to a depth of 0.40m as loosely compacted orange/light brown silty sand with frequent sandstone block inclusions along with a large amount of post medieval artifacts such as pot sherds, glass, iron and animal bone (308). The animal bone is discussed further in the environmental analysis section below. This deposit was capped by 0.68m of dark brown silty sand (307) which contained frequent CBM fragments and numerous post medieval artifact inclusions. At the southern extent of the pit [306] deposit (307) was capped by 0.11m of firmly compacted orange/light brown clayey sand (309) which heavily resembled the natural clayey sand (301) present across the rest of the trench (Figure 11).



Plate 7: Oblique shot of west facing section through pit [306], looking northeast

- 5.2.8 *Trench 4:* Trench 4 was located towards the northwest corner of the site and was aligned northwest to southeast (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.83m revealing moderately compacted orangey brown clayey sand natural (101) below *c.*0.32m of dark brown silty sand subsoil (102) which was capped by and *c.*0.36m of mid grey/ brown silty sand topsoil (100). No archaeological features were noted within his trench.
- 5.2.9 *Trench* 5: Trench 5 was located towards the northeast corner of the site and was aligned northeast to southwest (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to

- a maximum depth of 1.08m revealing moderately compacted orangey brown clayey sand natural **(101)** below c.0.12m of dark brown silty sand subsoil **(102)** which was capped by and c.0.36m of mid grey/ brown silty sand topsoil **(100)**.
- 5.2.10 Towards the southwest end of the trench a linear feature [501] was noted following a north to south alignment and measuring 1.2m in width and to a depth of 0.10m (Figure 12). This shallow ditch has gradual sloping sides leading down to a flat base and was filled by mid orange/brown silty sand (502) <1>. The sample from this feature produced a range of charred cereal grains discussed further in the environmental report below. The northern edge of this feature had been cut through by a modern, machine made cut [503]. This modern pit measured to a width of 2.25m and a depth of 1.20m and had a very straight edge leading down a gradual slope towards the northern extent of the investigative slot. This feature was primarily backfilled by 0.26m of moderately compacted light pink/brown sand with frequent sandstone blocks (509) which was capped by 0.36m of a dark brown silty rubble/ stony deposit with charcoal inclusions (508). This in turn was sealed by 0.62m of mid orange/brown sandy silt (504). This feature is believed to be a backfilled geological test pit.



Plate 8: Southeast facing section of [501] and [503], looking northwest

- 5.2.11 *Trench 6:* Trench 6 was located towards the western edge of the site and was aligned northeast to southwest (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m revealing moderately compacted orangey brown clayey sand natural (101) below *c*.0.60m of dark brown silty sand subsoil (102) which was capped by and *c*.0.36m of mid grey/ brown silty sand topsoil (100). No archaeological features were noted within his trench.
- 5.2.12 *Trench 7:* Trench 7 was located towards the eastern edge of the site and was aligned northwest to southeast (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.72m revealing moderately compacted orangey brown

- clayey sand natural (101) below c.0.30m of dark brown silty sand subsoil (102) which was capped by and c.0.36m of mid grey/ brown silty sand topsoil (100). No archaeological features were noted within his trench.
- 5.2.13 *Trench 8:* Trench 8 was located towards the southwest corner of the site and was aligned north to south (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.62m revealing moderately compacted orangey brown clayey sand natural (101) below *c.*0.32m of dark brown silty sand subsoil (102) which was capped by and *c.*0.34m of mid grey/ brown silty sand topsoil (100). No archaeological features were noted within his trench.
- 5.2.14 *Trench 9:* Trench 9 was located in a central location towards the southern extent of the site and was aligned northeast to southwest (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.80m revealing moderately compacted orangey brown clayey sand natural (101) below *c.*0.32m of dark brown silty sand subsoil (102) which was capped by and *c.*0.34m of mid grey/ brown silty sand topsoil (100). No archaeological features were noted within his trench.
- 5.2.15 *Trench 10:* Trench 10 was located towards the southeast corner of the site and was aligned northwest to southeast (Figure 2). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.48m revealing moderately compacted orangey brown clayey sand natural (101) below *c.*0.08m of dark brown silty sand subsoil (102) which was capped by and *c.*0.36m of mid grey/ brown silty sand topsoil (100). No archaeological features were noted within his trench.
- 5.2.16 *Trench* 11: Trench 11 was located within an area to the south of the main field which had previously undergone ground reduction to prepare the site for development (Figure 2). This trench was excavated to a length of 10m and a width of 1.55m and revealed moderately compacted orangey brown clayey sand natural (101) below 0.15m of mid grey/ brown silty sand topsoil (100). No archaeological features were noted within his trench.

# 6 FINDS

#### 6.1 FINDS ASSESSMENT

- 6.1.1 A total of 48 artefacts, weighing 1845g, were recovered from four contexts during an archaeological investigation at Station Road, Aspatria.
- 6.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standard & Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials (2008). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Tullie House Museum, Carlisle.
- 6.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.
- 6.1.4 Quantification of finds by context is visible in Table 1.

Context	Material Type	Qty	Weight (g)	Date	Notes
307	СВМ	5	122	PM - 19th - 20th C	
				PM – mid-late 19th	
307	Clay Pipe	1	3	С	Stem fragment
303	Glass	1	7	PM - 19th - 20th C	Unidentifiable frag
307	Glass	3	192	PM - 19th - 20th C	
308	Glass	4	163	PM - 19th - 20th C	
307	Iron	3	311	PM - 19th - 20th C	Nails
308	Iron	5	354	PM - 19th - 20th C	1 x tractor pin
307	Lead	1	40	PM - 19th - 20th C	Waste fragment
100	Pottery	1	91	PM - 19th - 20th C	Marmalade jar
303	Pottery	1	23	PM - 19th - 20th C	Earthenware
307	Pottery	18	346	PM - 19th - 20th C	
308	Pottery	5	193	PM - 19th - 20th C	

Table 1: Quantification of Finds by Context

# 6.2 POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

6.2.1 A total of twenty-five sherds of post medieval pottery, weighing 653g, were recovered from four contexts (Table 1). Quantification of fabric types is visible in Table 2.

Context	Fabric	Qty	Weight (g)	Date	Notes
303	EW	1	23	19th - 20th C	
307	EW	6	241	19th - 20th C	
308	EW	3	171	19th - 20th C	
307	RWE	7	54	19th - 20th C	5 body sherds, 2 handles
308	RWE	2	22	19th - 20th C	
100	SW?	1	91	19th - 20th C	Base of marmalade jar
307	TPF	5	50	19th - 20th C	

Table 2: Quantification of Post-medieval Pottery by Fabric Type

- 6.2.2 Ten sherds of coarse domestic red earthenware (EW, 435g) were retrieved from three contexts (303) (307) (308).
- 6.2.3 Nine sherds of refined white earthenware (RWE, 76g), were retrieved from two contexts (307) (308).
- 6.2.4 One sherd of possible stoneware (SW, 91g) was retrieved from the topsoil (100). The sherd comprises the base of a marmalade jar.
- 6.2.5 Five sherds of transfer-print fineware (TPF, 50g) were retrieved from a single context (307).
- 6.2.6 All of the post medieval pottery dates to the late 19th to 20th century.

#### 6.3 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL

- 6.3.1 Five fragments of ceramic building material, weighing 122g, were retrieved from a single context (307).
- 6.3.2 All five fragments are post medieval in date (late 19th to 20th century). Two pieces possibly comprise land-drain fragments, two pieces possibly comprise flower-pot fragments and one piece was unidentifiable due to its size.

#### 6.4 CLAY PIPE

6.4.1 A single stem fragment of undecorated clay tobacco pipe, weighing 3g, was recovered from a single context (307).

6.4.2 The stem fragment is likely of mid to late 19th century date.

### 6.5 Iron

- 6.5.1 Eight fragments of iron, weighing 665g, were retrieved from two contexts (307) (308). All eight fragments of iron display heavy corrosion.
- 6.5.2 All of the iron is of post medieval to modern date (late 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century) and the small assemblage comprises a modern mechanical pin, three nails and four miscellaneous, identifiable fragments, most likely fittings.

#### 6.6 LEAD

- 6.6.1 A single fragment of lead waste, weighing 40g, was recovered from a single context (307).
- 6.6.2 It is likely of post medieval to modern date.

#### 6.7 GLASS

- 6.7.1 A total of eight fragments of glass, weighing 362g, were retrieved from three contexts (303) (307) (308).
- 6.7.2 All glass fragments are of post medieval date (late 19th to 20th century) and likely originate from domestic food/drink vessels.

#### 6.8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

6.8.1 This small assemblage is of very low archaeological significance and no further work or analysis is recommended on the artefacts. The artefacts were not retained with the archive.

# **7 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

#### 7.1 ARCHAEOBOTANCIAL ANALYSIS

- 7.1.1 During the course of the archaeological evaluation, one sample was taken to extract material that may aid the understanding of the environment and depositional history of the samples contexts. This could include evidence of human activity that may have left preserved archaeological material during the prehistoric or historic periods. As well as anthropogenic evidence the remains of wild plants may allow inferences to be made regarding the local environment.
- 7.1.2 The methodology employed required that the whole earth samples be broken down and split into their various different components: the flot, the residue, the clay-silt and the sand-silt. The sample was manually floated and sieved through a 'Siraf' style flotation tank. In this case the residue and the flot are retained while the sand-silt-clay components are filtered out. The sample was flotted over a 0.5mm plastic mesh, into which the residue was collected, then air-dried and sorted by eye for any material that may aid our understanding of the deposit. This included charred plant remains, bones, pottery, burnt clay and charcoal. Charcoal fragments larger than 1cm x 1cm was retained for later analysis or for use in radiometric dating. The residue samples were also scanned with a hand magnet to retrieve forms of magnetic material. This was done to retrieve residues of metallurgical activity, in particular hammer scale, spheroid hammer scale, fuel-ash slag and vitrified material which might be indicative of other high temperature non-metallurgical processes. Processing procedures and nomenclature follows the conventions set out by the Archaeological Datasheets of the Historical Metallurgical Society (1995) and the English Heritage Centre for Archaeological Guidelines publication (2001). An experienced environmental archaeologist examined all of the dried residues and it was noted from the first two residues analyzed that this material contained frequent charred grain and charred wild plant remains. A decision was made to re-flot all of the heavy residues in order to maximize the retrieval of this material as it was felt eye-sorting alone would be time consuming and may not allow an accurate retrieval of the smaller, more delicate charred remains. The importance of this procedure is discussed in the discussion section below.
- 7.1.3 The washover (flot) was dried slowly and scanned at x40 magnification for charred and uncharred botanical remains. Identification of these was undertaken by comparison with reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and by reference to relevant literature (Cappers *et al* 2010, Berggren 1981, Jacomet 2006). Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (2010).
- 7.1.4 Favourable preservation conditions can lead to the retrieval of organic remains that may produce a valuable suite of information, in respect of the depositional

environment of the material, thus enabling assessment of anthropogenic activity, seasonality and climate and elements of the economy associated with the features from which the samples are removed. In this case the sandy, well-drained, nature of the soil would be suitable for the preservation of charred plant remains, but not desiccated or waterlogged material. It is suggested below that a fluctuating water table has produced the characteristic assemblage of common plant with dense or woody seeds which may be indicative of poor levels of preservation.

- 7.1.5 Sample numbers appear in brackets thus <>, whilst context numbers appear in brackets thus () for all analysis and discussion below.
- 7.1.6 For the purposes of clarity the references to 'seeds' identified here refer to the seed or fruit structures unless otherwise stated; that is to say the propagule or disseminule structures. Cereal grain was recovered in a charred condition and where mentioned refers to the charred caryopsis.

#### 7.2 DISCUSSION OF THE PLANT REMAINS

- 7.2.1 The results from the analysis are summarised in Table 1 below. The assemblages of charred grains was quite varied with grains of wheat, hulled barley and oats all being recovered. Several indeterminate grains were also recovered.
- 7.2.2 The sample produced several hundred seed of a Chenopodium species (goosefoots), which are likely to include some modern material worked into the deposit by worm action and other natural processed. Limited numbers of brambleberry and nettle seeds were also recovered. Charred grains of brome grass are likely to be associated with the charred grains, being a weed common to cereal fields.
- 7.2.3 The dating of the features uncovered during the evaluation suggests a post-medieval date for the ditch from which sample <1> (502) was taken. Therefore, though this assemblage produced a range of charred plant remains, they have not produced enough material to make detailed inferences regarding agricultural practice in this area during the post-medieval period. It is possible that this material represents farmyard waste which was incorporated into manure which was spread on the fields. A similar pattern may have lead to the accumulation of pottery at this site.

#### 7.3 DISCUSSION OF THE HEAVY RESIDUES

7.3.1 **Magnetic Residues**: The procedure for examining magnetic residues follows from standard methods (Bayley et al. 2001). The material collected was from naturally occurring magnetic minerals. The sample produced samples of magnetic material of less than 1gram.

# 7.4 ZOOARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

7.4.1 During the evaluation some fragments of bone were also recovered, all in excellent condition. These consisted of a fragment of cattle innominate from (303), the proximal 20% of a cattle rib (308), and a fragment of a cattle thoracic vertebra with an unfused centrum plate (303). All three bones show evidence of butchery in the form of saw cuts. In this case of the rib this saw cut occurs on the dorsal-ventral plane. The vertebra has been sawn through the medial-lateral plane, unevenly leaving most of the centrum intact. The innominate has been sawn around the acetabulum with one saw line that seems to have gone though the pubis and ischium and another through iliac neck. Some light cutmarks were also noted to the cranial side of the acetabulum, at right angles to the neck. Based on the artefactual assemblage, and the levels of preservation noted on the bones these are likely to be post-medieval/modern in origin.

#### 7.5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.5.1 The archaeobotancial and archaeozoological remains recovered from this site do not present information pertinent to the further understanding of past human activity. However, the presence of post-medieval pottery in the sample from this feature does suggest that the gully was post-medieval in origin.
- 7.5.2 Further work on the samples from this phase of work is not recommended at this time.

Sample	1			
Context	502			
Volume processed (litres)	20			
Volume of flot (ml)	>25			
Residue contents (relative abundance)				
Post-medieval pottery	1			
Stones/gravel	3			
Flot matrix (relative abundance)				
Charcoal	3			
Modern roots	2			
Charred rhizomes	1			
Charred plant remains (total counts)				
Avena species (oats)	12*			
Triticum species (wheat)	2*			
Hordeum species (Barley; hulled)	3*			
Indeterminate cereal	12*			
Other plant remains (relative abundance)				
Bromus sp. (brome grass)	A*			
Chenopodium/Atriplex species (goosefoots/oraches)	Е			
Rubus species (brambleberry)	В			
Urtica dioica (stinging nettle)	A			
Unidentified				

Table 3: Summary of Archaeobotancial Analysis

#### 8 CONCLUSIONS

#### 8.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 The desk-based assessment has revealed that the proposed development area is located within close proximity to an early medieval burial mound, and to the western side of the modern town of Aspatria which may have been a settlement of some form in the early medieval period. The western side of the town appears to retain some characteristic elements of medieval settlement, such as plots fronting onto the south side of West Street with a back lane to the rear, and with the proposed development area seemingly forming part of the fossilised remains of strip fields. It is possible that the proposed development area may retain some archaeological evidence for medieval agricultural practices such as ridge and furrow.
- 8.1.2 Throughout the post medieval period it would appear that the proposed development area continued to be fields located to the south side of properties on West Street, with Station Road to the eastern side certainly being in existence in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Cartographic sources indicate that there was a well located near the western boundary of the proposed development area, but this appears to have gone out of use by 1900.
- 8.1.3 During the archaeological field evaluation 11 trenches were excavated within two separate areas, covering 5% of the proposed development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, the evaluation trenches being located to randomly sample the site. All trenches were excavated down to the top of the natural substrate.
- 8.1.4 Archaeological deposits were present within two of the trenches; Trenches 3 and 5, the other nine trenches were devoid of archaeological remains. The archaeological features observed within Trench 3 comprised of two linear features which potentially relate to the same curvilinear gully. A post medieval date has been attributed to these features due to post medieval artifacts being recovered from the fill of the northern most linear feature. In the southern aspect of this trench part of a large pit was recorded which was believed to have been used to quarry sandstone. Present within the backfilled material was an assemblage of 19th-20th century pot sherds, glass shards and ceramic building material. The feature may have had earlier origins but had gone out of use in the late post medieval period. Within Trench 5 a narrow and shallow linear gully was noted along a north to south alignment although its function remains uncertain.
- 8.1.5 Given the results of the desk based assessment and the trial trench evaluation no further archaeological work is recommended at this site.

#### 9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abramson, P, 1997, Archaeological Evaluation at Aspatria, Cumbria, *Archaeology North*, The Newsbulletin of the Council for British Archaeology, No. 14

Abramson, P, 2000, A Re-Examination of a Viking Age Burial at Beacon Hill, Aspatria, *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, Second Series, Volume C

Archaeological Services WYAS, 2005, Land North of West Street, Aspatria: Geophysical Survey, Unpublished Report, HER Ref: 2/05/1480

Armstrong, A.M, Mawer, A, Stenton, F.M and Dickins, B, 1943-44, *The Place-Names of Cumberland, Part II*, English Place-Name Society Volume XXI, Cambridge University Press

Bailey, R. N and Cramp, R, 1988, Corpus of Anglo-Saxon Stone Sculpture, Volume II, Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancaster North of the Sands, Oxford University Press

Bayley, J, Dungworth, D and Paynter, S, 2001, *Archaeometallurgy*, London: English Heritage Guidelines

Beijerinck, W, 1947, Zadenatlas der Nederlandsche Flora, Wageningen (Facsimile Edition 1976, Amsterdam: Backhuys en Meesters)

Brown, D.H, 2011, Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation, Archaeological Archives Forum

Cappers, R.T.J, Bekker, R.M and Jans, J.E.A, 2010. *Digitale Zaden Atlas van Nederlands*, Barkhuis Publishing and Groningen Library, Groningen

Collingwood, W.G, 1923, An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments of Cumberland, *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, Second Series, Volume XXIII

Countryside Commission, 1998, Countryside Character Volume 2: North-West - The Character of England's Natural and Man-Made Landscape, Cheltenham

Dingwall, K, 2005, Results of an Archaeological Evaluation at West Street, Aspatria, Cumbria, Headland Archaeology Ltd, Unpublished Report, HER Ref: 2/05/1481

Dodd, M, 2006, An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land adjacent to Balwinnam, Queen Street, Aspatria, Cumbria, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd, Unpublished Report No. CP233/05, HER Ref: 2/06/1560

Elliott, G.G, 1960, The Enclosure of Aspatria, *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, Second Series, Volume LX

English Heritage, 1991, Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2), London: English Heritage

English Heritage, 2006, Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, London: English Heritage

English Heritage, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology*, Swindon: English Heritage, Second Edition

Frodsham, P. N. K, 1989, Two Newly Discovered Cup and Ring Marked Stones from Penrith and Hallbankgate, with a Gazetteer of all known Megalithic Carvings in Cumbria, *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, Second Series, Volume LXXXIX

Hopkins, B, 2005, An Archaeological Assessment and Strategy for Aspatria, Cumbria; Extensive Urban Survey, Cumbria County Council: Unpublished Document

Hutchinson, W, 1794-1797, *The History of the County of Cumberland, Volume II,* Republished in 1974 by E P Publishing Ltd and Cumberland County Library

IfA, 2012, Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment, Reading: Institute for Archaeologists

IfA, 2008, Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials, Reading: Institute for Archaeologists

Jacomet, S, 2006, *Identification of Cereal Remains from Archaeological Sites*, Second Edition, IPAS, Basal University

Jollie, F, 1811, Jollie's Cumberland Guide and Directory 1811, Reprinted in 1995 by Michael Moon, Whitehaven

Lee, J, 1998, The Place Names of Cumbria, Carlisle: Cumbria County Council

NAA, 1999, Beacon Hill, Aspatria: Archaeological Survey and Field Investigation, Northern Archaeological Associates, Unpublished Report, HER Ref: 2/99/231

NAA, 2008, Beacon Hill Community School, Aspatria, Northern Archaeological Associates, Unpublished Report, HER Ref: 2/08/1949

NPPF, 2012, National Planning Policy Framework: Archaeology and Planning, Department for Communities and Local Government

Parson, W and White, W, 1829, A History, Gazetteer and Directory of Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire, Republished in 1984 by Michael Moon, Whitehaven

Petts, D, 2002, Beacon Hill, Aspatria: An Early Christian Carved Stone Rehabilitated, *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, Third Series, Volume II

Railton, M, 2013, Project Design for an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Trial Trench Evaluation of land at Station Road, Aspatria, Cumbria, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, Unpublished Document

Rose, J and Dunglinson, M, 1987, Aspatria, Chichester: Phillimore and Co. Ltd

Ryder, P, 2005, *The Medieval Cross Slab Grave Covers in Cumbria*, Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, Extra Series Volume XXXII

Sowerby, M and Gaskell, N, 2007, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment and Field Evaluation on land at the Former Palace Cinema, Market Square, Aspatria, Cumbria, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd, Unpublished Report No. CP500/07, HER Ref: 2/07/1837

Stace, C, 2010, New Flora of the British Isles, 3rdEdition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

UKIC, 1990, Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage

Watkinson, D.E and Neal. V, 1998, First Aid for Finds, RESCUE, The British Archaeological Trust: London

Whellan, W, 1860, The History and Topography of the Counties of Cumberland and Westmorland, Pontefract: W Whellan & Co.

Winchester, A.J.L, 2003, *Thomas Denton: A Perambulation of Cumberland 1687-1688*, The Surtees Society and Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, Woodbridge: The Boydell Press

### Maps

Hodskinson and Donald's Map of Cumberland 1774

Greenwood's Map of Cumberland 1823

Aspatria Enclosure Map 1825 (Carlisle Archive Centre Ref: QRE 1/106)

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1868, 6" to 1 mile scale, Cumberland Sheet 36

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1900, 25" to 1 mile scale, Cumberland Sheets 36.5 and 36.9

Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1925, 25" to 1 mile scale, Cumberland Sheets 36.5 and 36.9

Ordnance Survey Map 1957, 6" to 1 mile scale, Sheet NY 14SW

# **APPENDIX 1: HER SITES**

List of HER Sites within a 1km radius of the proposed development area on Station Road:

Site No.	HER No.	Site Name	Description	Grid Ref:	General Period
1	601	Beacon Hill Barrow	About 200yds N of Aspatria, on the summit of Beacon Hill, a Viking barrow of 90ft circumference. It was levelled to the natural soil (6ft down). Three feet below this was a ring marked cist of 6 large cobble stones. Contained male skeleton, a broad sword 5ft long with the guard ornamented with inlaid silver flowers, a dagger with silver studded handle, part of a gold fibula or buckle, a gold ornament for the end of a belt, several pieces of a shield, part of a battle axe, a snaffle-type bit and part of a spur. A remarkable features of the burial was that one of the side slabs of the cist was decorated with cup and ring and other carvings more Bronze Age in character. Probably Bronze Age and reused for the later burial.  An evaluation trench revealed a pit aligned north to south. Several fragments of poorly preserved human bone representing the left and right tibia of an adult, possibly female, were recovered form the pit together with 30 fragments of iron and a large copper-alloy pin. These were distributed throughout the fill and were clearly not in situ. A preliminary examination of the material suggests that the iron fragments may have been part of a shield and that the large pin was of 10th century date	E: 314130 N: 541850	Prehistoric Early Medieval
2	614	Church of St Kentigern	Aspatria cross-shaft originally stood in its own socket in the churchyard. Present church	E: 314710 N: 541910	Early Medieval

Site No.	HER No.	Site Name	Description	Grid Ref:	General Period
			was built 1846-48 by Travis and Mangnell on the site of and incorporating features from a Norman church. Two other cross-shafts preserved in the church. Also remains of an elaborate hog back coffin		Medieval Post Medieval
3	616	Aspatria Castle Settlement	There is a tradition that Gospatric built a castle at Aspatria. This field is called "Castlesteads" or "Hallsteads" and may be the castle site, but there are no surface traces to substantiate this	E: 313460 N: 541540	Medieval
4	643	Axe Hammer Find	Perforated axe-hammer of yellow sandstone found in Aspatria parish	E: 314000 N: 542000	Prehistoric (Bronze Age)
5	644	Palstave Find	Bronze palstave found before 1860 in Aspatria. Present location unknown	E: 314000 N: 542000	Prehistoric (Bronze Age)
6	645	Armlet Find	A late Bronze Age gold pennanular armlet or bracelet found in a ditch at Aspatria in 1828	E: 314000 N: 542000	Prehistoric (Bronze Age)
7	3257	Aspatria Castle Circular Enclosure	Circular enclosure appearing as a cropmark on aerial photographs	E: 313450 N: 541500	Unknown
8	4406	Aspatria Enclosure Cropmarks	Enclosures, possibly a ring ditch appearing as a cropmark on aerial photographs	E: 314957 N: 542752	Unknown
9	4416	St Patrick's Well	St Patrick's Well at Aspatria Church listed as a holy well. Consists of a short path, steps and rectangular enclosure of a spring	E: 314670 N: 541970	Medieval Post Medieval
10	10149	Brayton Road Brewery	Site of a brewery shown on First Ed OS map. No traces now, modern housing on site	E: 315240 N: 542010	Post Medieval
11	10178	Whinbarrows Place Name Site	In 1868 the site was known as "Whinbarrows", this name may possibly indicate there were barrows in the area	E: 314130 N: 542550	Unknown
12	10601	Maryport and Carlisle Railway, Bolton Branch	Course of a railway, now dismantled, still obvious as an earthwork in most places	E: 315000 N: 541390	Post Medieval

Site No.	HER No.	Site Name	Description	Grid Ref:	General Period
13	10750	Brayton Domain Colliery Pit No. 2	A disused mine. Aspatria Pit No. 2 of the Brayton Domain Colliery Company is shown on the First Edition OS map. It was sunk after Aspatria No. 1 developed faults. The pit was active until 1867 and was subsequently overlain by the Old Domain Tile Works	E: 314790 N: 541300	Post Medieval (Victorian)
14	10751	Brayton Domain Colliery Pit No. 1	Aspatria No. 1 Pit was established in 1822 by Brayton Domain Colliery Company and is shown as still active on the First Edition OS map of 1868. It had faults, however, and was superseded by Aspatria No. 2. It closed in 1870	E: 314800 N: 541110	Post Medieval (Georgian and Victorian)
15	13811	Aspatria Pinfold	A pinfold is shown on the Second Edition OS map within the area which is now Beacon Hill School	E: 314200 N: 541800	Unknown
16	19543	Medallion Find, Beacon Hill	A decorated bronze medallion was found by metal detector near Beacon Hill, close to the site of the well-known Viking burial, although it is not seemingly associated. May be a modern souvenir piece	E: 314100 N: 541800	Unknown
17	40893	No. 5 Pit, Brayton Domain Colliery Company	In 1907 work began on No. 5 Pit of the Brayton Domain Colliery Company, which was the deepest of all the pits (1026ft). The combined output of No. 4 and No. 5 Pits in 1913- 1918 was 200, 000 tons a year, but after WWI the output continued to decline and production ceased altogether in the 1940s	E: 313722 N: 540550	Modern
18	40894	Station Hotel, Station Road	The Station Hotel was constructed in 1865 on Station Road to the west of the railway. It is now a private house	E: 314307 N: 541309	Post Medieval (Victorian)
19	40895	Brandaw House	Constructed by Dr William Hodgson in 1879 as a private residence. In 2005 it was run as	E: 314271 N: 541713	Post Medieval (Victorian)

Site No.	HER No.	Site Name	Description	Grid Ref:	General Period
140.	140.		a hotel		Terrou
20	40896	Red Lion Inn	The Red Lion Inn is said to be over 250 years old and the earliest pub in Aspatria. It is referred to in a trade directory (Parson and White) of 1829	E: 314550 N: 541840	Post Medieval
21	40897	Lion House, West Street	Built in 1835. It has a distinctive ceramic lion on the roof of the porch	E: 313996 N: 541651	Post Medieval (Georgian)
22	40898	The Letters Public House, Outgang	The Letters Public House is situated next to the old Congregational Church on Outgang Road. When visited in May 2005 it was disused and the windows were boarded up	E: 314328 N: 541876	Post Medieval
23	40899	Coin Find	An undated, handwritten account by W A Hodgson, states that a Roman coin of Vespasian was found 'some 200 yds east of the railway station where the line of the ancient Roman road leading from Ellenborough (Maryport) to Old Carlisle was crossed by workmen cutting a branch line to the new coal workings of Messrs Harris'	E: 314371 N: 541281	Roman
24	40900	Brandaw Mount	Late 19th century property	E: 314218 N: 541744	Post Medieval (Victorian)
25	40901	Aspatria Pele Tower	According to Rose and Dunglinson, there was a pele tower near the modern Fire Station	E: 314420 N: 541835	Medieval
26	40904	Wesleyan Chapel, North Road	Chapel erected 1898 at the junction of North Road and Queen Street. This was replaced by a larger building on the same site in 1929	E: 314835 N: 541895	Post Medieval (Victorian) Modern
27	40905	Bible Christian Chapel, Richmond Hill	There was a Bible Christian Chapel (Baptist) at the corner of Richmond Hill and Queen Street, built in 1886. It has since been demolished	E: 315053 N: 541971	Post Medieval (Victorian)
28	40910	Aspatria Manor Hall	A farm at Richmond Croft near the present Richmond Hill School was said to have	E: 314986 N: 542057	Medieval

Site No.	HER No.	Site Name	Description	Grid Ref:	General Period
			used stones from the old Manor Hall to construct the farmhouse. Nothing is now thought to survive		
29	40911	Noble Temple	Noble Temple was designed and built by William Lawson and planned as a lecture hall, debating room and dance hall. It was used as an infants' school and for the 5th Cumberland Battalion of the Border Regiments. Still in use (in 2005) for functions	E: 315154 N: 541913	Post Medieval (Victorian)
30	40912	Market Hall, Market Square	Built in 1872, used also for theatre and entertainments. It had booths, stalls, pens and an overseer's hut as well as a weighbridge	E: 314303 N: 541798	Post Medieval (Victorian)
31	40914	Aspatria Reading and Recreation Rooms, King Street	In 1894 a limited company paid for the erection of the Aspatria Reading and Recreation Rooms on King Street, which included reading, billiard and game rooms as well as bath and refreshment rooms	E: 314500 N: 541800	Post Medieval (Victorian)
32	40916	Aspatria Forge	A forge is mentioned at Aspatria in 1348, location unknown	E: 314000 N: 541000	Medieval
33	40918	Old Domain Tile Works	The Old Domain Tile Works are shown on the Second Edition OS map of <i>c</i> .1900 on a site formerly occupied by the Brayton Domain Colliery Company	E: 314777 N: 541281	Post Medieval (Victorian)
34	40919	Jackson Pond	Shown on the Enclosure Map of 1825 as well as later maps	E: 313900 N: 541600	Unknown
35	40920	Brandreth Pot, Market Square	Site of Brandreth Pot, one of three village ponds. It is shown on the First Edition OS map but gone by 1900	E: 314252 N: 541787	Unknown
36	40921	The Fox and Hounds Public House, Queen Street	Shown on the First and Second Edition OS maps. Originally known as the Hare and Hounds. Referred to in 1829 trade directory (Parson and White)	E: 314804 N: 541889	Post Medieval

Site No.	HER No.	Site Name	Description	Grid Ref:	General Period
37	40922	Beacon Hill Place Name	The name Beacon Hill, gives strong evidence for the site of a medieval beacon	E: 314100 N: 541800	Medieval
38	40923	Shoulder of Mutton Public House	According to Rose and Dunglinson the Shoulder of Mutton Public House was in existence in 1880 in the vicinity of Queen Street. Exact location unclear	E: 314900 N: 541900	Post Medieval
39	40924	Aspatria Agricultural College	The Aspatria Agricultural College was established in 1874. It was the first agricultural college in Northern England. The College was rebuilt and enlarged in 1892-93 and enjoyed a prominent position immediately east of Market Square. The three courses which were offered were designed to give a thorough education in the sciences underlying farm practice as well as imparting instruction in farm work. In 1887 the College had 65 students. There were seven farms connected to the College where students could get practical training. It finally closed in 1925 and the buildings were pulled down in 1953 and replaced by the Beacon Hill Secondary School	E: 314305 N: 541830	Post Medieval (Victorian)
40	40923	Independent Chapel Burial Ground	This now disused cemetery was opened in 1851. The land was the gift of Sir Wilfred Lawson for use of the chapel congregation only, and some members of the Lawson family are buried there	E: 314399 N: 542185	Post Medieval (Victorian)
41	40927	The Grapes Hotel	Shown on the Second Edition OS map	E: 314338 N: 541759	Post Medieval (Victorian)
42	40928	Richmond Hill School	School which superseded the National School in 1895. The Richmond Hill Board School educated its pupils until they left school for a working life. It became the Aspatria Infant and Junior School in 1962	E: 315000 N: 542042	Post Medieval (Victorian)

Site No.	HER No.	Site Name	Description	Grid Ref:	General Period
			when a new secondary school was built at Beacon Hill		
43	40929	Saw Mill opposite Noble Temple	Saw Mill shown on the First (1864) and Second (1900) OS maps	E: 315037 N: 541909	Post Medieval
44	40930	St Kentigern's Vicarage	The vicarage is shown on both First and Second Edition OS maps, but it appears to have been rebuilt post-1864	E: 314787 N: 541927	Post Medieval (Victorian)
45	40931	Girls' Boarding School	Boarding school for girls built by Sir Wilfred Lawson, late 19 <sup>th</sup> century	E: 314719 N: 541831	Post Medieval (Victorian)
46	40933	Town Head Farm	Town Head Farm was said to be extant in 1660 on the west side of Aspatria	E: 313700 N: 541600	Post Medieval (Stuart)
47	40934	West Farm	West Farm was said to be extant in 1660	E: 313888 N: 541636	Post Medieval (Stuart)
48	40935	Bell Gate Farm	Bell Gate Farm was said to be extant in 1660	E: 314038 N: 541587	Post Medieval (Stuart)
49	40936	Aspatria Smithy	A smithy is shown on the Second Edition OS map of 1900 behind King Street Reading Rooms	E: 314490 N: 541800	Post Medieval
50	40937	Midtown North Farm	Midtown North Farm is said to have been extant pre-1660	E: 314430 N: 541860	Post Medieval (Stuart)
51	40938	Midtown South Farm	Midtown South Farm is said to have been extant in 1660, exact location unknown	E: 314200 N: 541700	Post Medieval (Stuart)
52	40939	Waverley Temperance Hotel	Waverley Temperance Hotel is shown in an old photograph on the north side of King Street. Now thought to be a private house	E: 314633 N: 541847	Post Medieval
53	40940	Prospect Farm	Said to have been extant in 1660	E: 314881 N: 541813	Post Medieval (Stuart)
54	40941	White Horse Farm	Farm said to have been extant in 1660. White Horse Yard is listed at this location	E: 314977 N: 541867	Post Medieval (Stuart)
55	40942	Aspatria Hall Farm	Aspatria Hall Farm is said to have been extant in 1660	E: 315111 N: 541991	Post Medieval (Stuart)
56	40947	Aspatria New Mill	Aspatria New Mill is mentioned in a lease from 1775, exact location unknown	E: 314500 N: 541500	Post Medieval

Site No.	HER No.	Site Name	Description	Grid Ref:	General Period
57	40948	Aspatria Creamery	The West Cumberland Dairy, which was housed in a building especially designed for the purpose, was completed in 1888 and partially covered the site of Aspatria No. 2 Pit near the railway station. A small building is shown on the Second Edition OS map. This later became the Milk Marketing Board in 1934 and is presently [in 2005] part of the Dairy Crest Organisation	E: 314447 N: 541226	Post Medieval (Victorian)
58	40949	The National School	A school is shown on the 1825 Enclosure Award for Aspatria, opposite St Kentigern's Church. This is shown as the National School on the First Edition OS map of 1864. It was built by subscription in 1825 for £160. By 1900 the school was superseded by the Richmond Hill School and used as a Sunday School. The building was (in 2005) empty but in a reasonable condition	E: 314764 N: 541835	Post Medieval (Georgian)
59	40950	The Independent Chapel, Outgang	The Independent Chapel is dated 1827 and was the first Non-Conformist Chapel in Aspatria. It had seating for about 300 persons and remained in use for over 100 years until it became a spectacle factory	E: 314333 N: 541848	Post Medieval (Georgian)
60	41004	Maryport and Carlisle Railway	The Maryport and Carlisle Railway was built almost entirely from local subscriptions, and opened from Carlisle to Wigton in 1843. The line was not completed until 1845, and it did not become a double line until the 1860s	E: 340169 N: 554907	Post Medieval (Victorian)
61	41151	Lonning Farm	Lonning Farm was said to be extant in 1660	E: 314080 N: 541631	Post Medieval (Stuart)

# **APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT TABLE**

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Natural
102	Deposit	Subsoil
103	Cut	Modern Geotechnical test pit
104	Fill	Backfill material within geotechnical test pit
302	Cut	Shallow linear gully
303	Fill	Fill of gully [302]
304	Cut	Shallow linear gully
305	Fill	Fill of gully [304]
306	Cut	Large pit, possible sandstone quarry
307	Fill	Upper fill of pit [306]
308	Fill	Primary fill of pit [306]
309	Fill	Fill at south end of pit [306]
501	Cut	Shallow and narrow linear gully
502	Fill	Fill of linear gully [501]
503	Cut	Modern Geological test pit
504	Fill	Backfill material within geotechnical test pit
505	Fill	Backfill material within geotechnical test pit
506	Fill	Backfill material within geotechnical test pit
507	Fill	Backfill material within geotechnical test pit
508	Fill	Backfill material within geotechnical test pit
509	Fill	Backfill material within geotechnical test pit
510	Group Number	Includes all the backfill material within geotechnical test pit

 $Table\ 4: List\ of\ Contexts\ is sued\ during\ evaluation$ 

# **APPENDIX 3: FIGURES**

### wa-archaeology.com

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology:

CUMBRIA Cocklakes Yard Carlisle Cumbria CA4 0BQ Tel: +44 (0)1228 564820

STOKE-ON-TRENT +44 (0)845 111 7777

CARDIFF +44 (0)29 2072 9191

EDINBURGH +44 (0)131 555 3311 GREATER MANCHESTER +44 (0)1942 260101

LONDON +44 (0)20 7287 2872

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE +44 (0)191 232 0943 SHEFFIELD +44 (0)114 245 6244

TRURO +44 (0)1872 560738

WEST BROMWICH +44 (0)121 580 0909 International offices

ALMATY +7-727-3341310

MOSCOW +7 (495) 980-07-67

