

**MULCASTER HOUSE,
CHURCH LANE,
STANWIX,
CARLISLE,
CUMBRIA**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT
CP. No: 10898
13/05/2014**



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

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Lee Page of Space Design Solutions, to undertake an archaeological evaluation within the rear garden of Mulcaster House, Church Lane, Stanwix, Carlisle, Cumbria (NY 40217 57035), in order to inform a planning application for the redevelopment of the property, which includes the construction of a swimming pool, summer house and associated car parking facility. The proposed development is situated within a landscaped garden attached to the late 18th century villa of Mulcaster House, which is a Grade II* listed building. Mulcaster House lies within the known boundary of *Petriana* Roman Fort and within the buffer zone of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, although the proposed development site itself is unscheduled.

Archaeological investigations undertaken throughout the 20th century have successfully identified the extent of *Petriana* Roman Fort, which included the south curtain wall and boundary ditch immediately to the southeast of the investigation area and significant internal remains to the northwest. Given the extremely high potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the proposed development site associated with the Roman fort, Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service requested a programme of archaeological investigation in order to better inform on the archaeological potential of the area.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken over three consecutive days between the 9th April and the 11th April 2014. The evaluation involved the excavation of three trenches, each being located within areas of proposed development. Trench 1 was located at the northern end of the site boundary, within the vicinity of the proposed summer house and revealed several archaeological features of Roman date, including two post-holes, a possible drainage gully or beam slot and a small area of cobbling, below a layer of post-medieval demolition debris and over 0.58m of topsoil. Trench 2 occupied a central position within the proposed development site, within the vicinity of the proposed car park and revealed an alignment of three large post-holes, a possible pit or further post-hole and a beam slot or gully, all of probable Roman date, below 0.9m of subsoil and topsoil. Trench 3 was located toward the southern end of the investigation area, within the footprint of the proposed swimming pool and revealed the severely truncated base of a probable Roman pit, below 0.24m of subsoil and topsoil.

The location of the site within the Roman fort indicates the possibility of the survival of significant archaeological remains. During the evaluation however, only limited, poorly preserved archaeological remains were encountered. It is most likely that the entire area within the site boundary underwent significant vertical truncation during the construction of Mulcaster House and its associated landscaped garden, destroying all but the earliest and/or deepest features associated with Roman activity. The limited survival of archaeological remains within the proposed development area has also been noted within a desk-based assessment undertaken in conjunction with the present investigation, which concluded that previous investigations reported only intermittent survival of remains due to severe truncation within the vicinity.

Based upon the results of the investigation, the potential for archaeological remains being impacted upon by the proposed development is considered significant, although the considerable depth of archaeological remains below the topsoil and subsoil within certain

areas of the site must also be considered in conjunction with the proposed construction depths during development.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thank Lee Page of Space Design Solutions for commissioning the project and Edmond Castle Estates for their assistance during the work. Thanks are also due to Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service for his help and advice during the project. Many thanks are also extended to Alan James for his help and hard work during the project.

The work was undertaken by David Jackson, Kevin Mounsey and Diana Chard, with the assistance of Alan James. The report was written by David Jackson and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for Wardell Armstrong Archaeology.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In April 2014, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Lee Page of Space Design Solutions, to undertake an archaeological evaluation within the rear garden of Mulcaster House, Church Lane, Stanwix, Carlisle, Cumbria (NY 40217 57035; Figure 1), in order to inform a planning application for the redevelopment of the property. The proposed development is situated within a landscaped garden attached to the late 18th century villa of Mulcaster House, which is a Grade II* listed building. Mulcaster House lies within the known boundary of *Petriana* Roman Fort and within the buffer zone of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, although the proposed development site itself is unscheduled.
- 1.1.2 Archaeological investigations undertaken throughout the 20th century have successfully identified the extent of *Petriana* Roman Fort, which included the south curtain wall and boundary ditch immediately to the southeast of the investigation area and significant internal remains to the northwest. Given the extremely high potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the proposed development site associated with the Roman fort, Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service requested a programme of archaeological investigation in order to better inform on the archaeological potential of the area. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the evaluation works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 A Project Design was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (Giecco 2014) in response to a request by Lee Page of Space Design Solutions, for an archaeological evaluation of the study area. Following acceptance of the Project Design by Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer, Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The Project Design was adhered to in full and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE FIELD EVALUATION

2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches, each being located within areas of proposed development. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity. All work was conducted according to the recommendations of the Institute for Archaeologists (November 2013).

2.2.2 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.

2.2.3 Topsoil and subsoil was removed by mechanical excavator to the level of the natural substrate or first archaeological horizon under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and were investigated and recorded according to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2012).

2.2.4 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out 3.4 – 3.6 of the IfA's Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (November 2013).

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within the Tullie House Museum, with copies

of the report sent to the Cumbria Historic Environment Record at Kendal, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier **WAA14, MHS/A, CP10898/14**.

- 2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology supports the **Online Access** to the **Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The investigation area was located within a southeast sloping landscaped garden to the rear of a late 18th century villa known as Mulcaster House. Mulcaster House is located on the north bank of the River Eden within the suburb of Stanwix, approximately 1.3km to the north of the city centre of Carlisle (Figure 1). The site is bound to the south by Brampton Road (B6264), to the east by Church Lane, and to the north and west by undeveloped grassland, and is known to occupy an area within the confines of the *Petriana* Roman Fort and within the immediate vicinity of Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The wider area of the site is known as the Solway Basin, 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.
- 3.1.3 The solid geology of the Carlisle area is comprised of soft, reddish Permo-Triassic sandstones of the St. Bees formation, with the less extensive Kirklington sandstones, St. Bees Shales, and Stanwix Shales. At Stanwix, similar to Carlisle, the bedrock is overlain to a depth of several metres by drift deposits of glacial till that include sands, gravels and boulder clay (British Geological Survey 1982). The soils of the region are of the Clifton Association, typically composed of stagnogleys, although some fluvial deposits are present along the margins of the River Eden (Countryside Commission 1998).

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area.
- 3.2.2 *Prehistoric:* evidence of prehistoric occupation within Stanwix comes from a number of small scale archaeological interventions that have revealed ditches and ploughmarks cut into the natural surface of the soil. In 1976 excavations to the northeast of the fort at Stanwix revealed an extensive field system that predated the construction of Hadrian's Wall. Limited areas of buried soil were located and it was concluded that these fields had been used mainly as pasture, rather than arable land. An evaluation in 1990 to the northeast of Cumbria College of Art and Design (now a campus of the University of Cumbria) and southeast of Tarraby Lane, located a buried soil and ploughmarks that were sealed beneath a dump of sandy clay. The same features were noted in further archaeological work undertaken in 1996, also within the grounds of the Art College. A ditch was also observed that was aligned northwest to southeast, although the relationship of this to the ploughmarks and buried soil could not be determined (Zant and McCarthy 1996).

- 3.2.3 *Roman:* although the Roman occupation of England began in 43 AD, the military occupation of Cumbria did not begin until the 70's AD. Throughout this period it was the Roman fort at Carlisle (*Luguvalium*), established in 72 AD that formed the principal focus of Roman activity in the area leaving little to no mark on Stanwix. By the early 2nd century, a series of forts that were linked by a road, known as the Stanegate, had been established along the Tyne-Solway corridor. The line of the Stanegate is unclear in the Carlisle/Stanwix area. One possibility for the position of the Stanegate was that the road crossed the Eden to the east of Carlisle, at Linstock, avoiding Stanwix (Cook and Zant 2007). The other possibility is that the Stanegate would have approached Carlisle along the north bank of the Eden and therefore very likely to have passed through Stanwix (*ibid*).
- 3.2.4 During 122 AD, work began on the construction of Hadrian's Wall. The wall, which extended from Wallsend in the east to Bowness-on-Solway in the west, was mostly constructed from stone. West of the River Irthing however, Hadrian's Wall consisted of turfs. It is thought that the turf wall was replaced by stone sometime in the mid 2nd century, once the Antonine Wall was abandoned (Stobbs 2008).
- 3.2.5 The Roman fort at Stanwix, known to antiquarians as both *Uxelodunum* and *Petriana*, was the fourth station on the line of the wall from the west, situated between Burgh-by-Sands and Castlesteads (Biggins and Taylor 2000), and is one of the least known of all of the Hadrian's Wall forts. The fort at Stanwix was large, measuring 185 x 215 metres and occupying an area of 3.96 hectares. The most intensive use of the fort appears to be in the later 2nd century after the arrival of the *ala Petriana*, a military size cavalry unit and the largest auxiliary regiment that is believed to have been stationed there. The known defences consisted of a stone wall 1.73 metres wide with a clay rampart backing that was fronted by two ditches. There is a noticeable decline in pottery dateable to the 3rd century, although evidence of pottery appears to increase by the 4th century. It is not known when the fort was abandoned. Timber buildings were located within the fort which were no earlier than the 4th century in date (Caruana 2006, Stobbs 2008).
- 3.2.6 *Early Medieval:* some evidence of occupation during the early medieval period can be found from the name. Stanwix is thought to be from the Anglo-Saxon *Stanwic*, meaning stone-town (Stobbs 2008), and probably relates to contemporary standing stone-built Roman remains. Evidence for a timber building that is likely to have been an early medieval timber hall, built within the ruins of Stanwix fort, was recovered from excavations at Stanwix Primary School in 1999 (Frank Giecco pers comm.; Strickland and Wooler 2010). Other evidence of early medieval occupation within the study area consists of a 9th century Anglian cross-head found in the garden of Old Croft to the north of the proposed development site and a coin of Cnut (1016-1035) found while digging the foundations for St. Michael's Church in 1842.
- 3.2.7 *Medieval:* Evidence for the development of Stanwix during the medieval period is lacking. There are, however, a few references to the village within the historical record from the late 12th century onwards. The extent of the medieval village is uncertain but it is likely that the settlement was centred around the Church Street/Kells Place area, where a small two-cell church stood in the southwest

corner of the Roman fort. This small medieval structure was replaced by the present Church of St. Michael in the early 1840s (Strickland and Wooler 2010).

- 3.2.8 Very little evidence of medieval occupation within the area has been identified during archaeological investigations and the little evidence that has been found, suggests that medieval Stanwix may have lain to the west of the church, along Church Street and at the junction with Scotland Road (Cook and Zant 2007).
- 3.2.9 *Post-Medieval*: very little is known of Stanwix during the post-medieval period. In the later 16th and 17th century, Carlisle and its region was adversely affected by warfare and plague. Civil War and Jacobite rebellions ensured that the Carlisle area remained unstable until the mid 18th century. Increasing wealth in the later 18th century may have been reflected by the development of out of town villas such as at Mulcaster (Newman & Wooler 2014). During the first half of the 19th century, the population of Carlisle rose dramatically from 10,000 inhabitants in 1801 to 35,000 by 1841. This resulted in the rapid expansion of the city suburbs. At Stanwix the construction of new houses and buildings during the second half of the 19th century transformed the village into a city suburb (*ibid*).
- 3.2.10 Mulcaster House dates to the late 18th century with early 19th century additions for James Mulcaster. The house is essentially a characteristic double-pile house of this period, with two wings to each side to provide additional space, possibly utilised as servant's quarters. Cartographic sources and census records indicate that the property appears to have been two, or possibly three separate dwellings throughout its history (*op cit*).

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.3.1 There have been a number of previous archaeological interventions in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development site, including a geophysical survey undertaken by Biggins and Taylor in the grounds of St Michaels church and Stanwix House and small excavations by the Carlisle Archaeology Unit in 1996, 97 and 98 at Tarraby Lane and Stanwix Primary School. In addition, a watching brief was undertaken on a service trench along Church Street in 2010. In these excavations evidence of Hadrian's Wall was found along with deposits relating to activity at the fort between the 2nd and 4th centuries (Strickland and Wooler 2010, 57-8). Numerous other interventions have taken place elsewhere in the vicinity of the Roman fort and the early 19th century settlement area of Stanwix. These have shown that remains of the wall and the fort do survive in the area and that medieval settlement appears to have been confined to the west of Church Lane towards Scotland Road.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken over three consecutive days between the 9th April and the 11th April 2014. The evaluation involved the excavation of three trenches, each being located within areas of proposed development. All trenches were excavated within the landscaped garden to the rear of the property (Figure 2).

4.1.2 Topsoil and subsoil was removed by mechanical excavator to the level of the natural substrate or first archaeological horizon under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and were investigated and recorded fully.

4.2 RESULTS

4.2.1 **Trench 1:** Trench 1 was located towards the northwest end of the site boundary, within the area of the proposed summer house (Figure 2). The trench measured 2m² and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.86m, revealing the natural substrate (**101**) which was comprised of mixed orange/yellow sandy clay and measured over 0.2m in depth. The natural substrate had been truncated/sealed by several features of Roman date, including two post-holes, a possible gully or beam slot and the remains of a cobbled surface (Figure 3, Plate 1).



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking southwest showing with stone-filled linear [110] to left of trench

4.2.2 The possible gully or beam slot **[110]** was located at the southeastern end of the trench and measured over 2m in length, over 0.4m in width and retained a maximum depth of 0.12m. The linear feature **[110]** retained a sloping profile with a flat base, which had been filled by a deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay **(111)** with frequent inclusions of large cobbles and sandstone fragments, including a large foundation stone (Plate 1). One of the post-holes was located approximately 0.2m west of the linear feature **[110]**, partially within the northeast facing section of the trench. The post-hole **[106]** measured 0.45m in diameter, 0.2m in depth and retained a steep-sided profile with a flat base, which had been filled by a single deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay **(107)** (Plate 2). The fill of this post-hole retained the largest concentrated collection of Roman material recovered during the evaluation, which included samian ware, greyware, locally produced oxidised ware, and fragments of box tile.



Plate 2: Northeast facing section of post-hole [106]

- 4.2.3 Located approximately 1m north of the post-hole **[106]**, the second post-hole **[108]** revealed within Trench 1 measured c.0.3m in diameter, 0.2m in depth and retained a steep-sided profile with a flat base, which had been filled by a single deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay **(109)**. Within the northern corner of the trench, approximately 0.35m north of the post-hole **[108]**, a small patch of cobbling was also revealed. The remnant surface **(104)** was comprised of small tightly packed cobbles, which retained a maximum depth of 0.04m (Plate 3).
- 4.2.4 All of the features revealed within Trench 1 were sealed by a 0.08m deposit of mid-grey silty clay **(112)** with large cobbles and sandstone fragments **(105)**, which were also likely to be of Roman origin. These deposits were sealed by a c.0.1m deposit of mid-brown silty clay subsoil **(102)**, which was replaced by a 0.09m deposit of post-medieval mortar and debris **(103)** within the north-western half of the trench.

These deposits were in turn sealed by a 0.53m deposit of dark brown silty clay topsoil **(100)**. Given the significant depth of this topsoil, it is likely that it was imported to the area during the landscaping of the garden.



Plate 3: View of cobbles (104) looking north

- 4.2.5 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 was located centrally within the site boundary, approximately 18m southeast of Trench 1 and was excavated within the vicinity of a proposed car park (Figure 2). The northwest to southeast aligned trench measured 5.5m in length, 1.6m in width and was excavated to maximum depth of 0.9m, revealing the mixed orange/yellow natural sandy clay **(101)** which had been cut by several features of probable Roman date, including a possible gully or beam slot and a linear alignment of four large pits or post-holes (Figure 4, Plate 4).
- 4.2.6 The alignment of possible pits or post-holes were roughly aligned northwest to southeast and spanned a distance of approximately 3.7m, each being separated by an average distance of c.0.4m. The south-easternmost feature in the alignment **[203]** measured 0.71m in length, 0.53m in width and 0.3m in depth. The sub-oval feature **[203]** retained a sloping profile, which had been filled by a single deposit mid-grey silty clay **(204)**. This deposit also included several large rounded stones which may have once acted as packing material, suggesting that the feature is likely to have been a post-hole (Plate 5). The next feature in the alignment was located approximately 0.42m northwest of the probable post-hole **[203]**, and measured 0.66m in length, 0.65m in width and 0.28m in depth. The sub-oval feature **[205]** retained a flat base and a profile which ranged between steep-sided to the southeast and gently sloping to the northwest. The gently sloping side of the feature had been backfilled with a deposit of re-deposited natural sandy clay **(215)**, which measured 0.24m in width and 0.2m in depth, before several large cobbles and pieces of sandstone appear to have been deposited around the edge of the

feature. The feature was finally filled by a uniform deposit of mid-grey silty clay **(206)** (Plate 6). The presence of packing stones would again suggest that this feature **[205]** is likely to have been a post-hole.



Plate 4: Trench 2 looking northwest with post-holes [203] and [205] in foreground



Plate 5: East-northeast facing section of post-hole [203]



Plate 6: Northeast facing section of post-hole [205]

4.2.7 Located approximately 0.4m northwest of the probable post-hole [205], a further feature was revealed within the alignment which measured 0.7m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.27m in depth. The irregular shaped feature [207] retained a sloping profile with a rounded base, which had been filled by a single deposit of mid-grey silty clay (208) (Plate 7). Unlike the two features located to the southeast, the fill of this feature [207] did not contain any evidence of packing material, although it was the only feature to produce definitive Roman artefactual evidence within Trench 2. Given its overall shape and the absence of any packing material, it is unclear whether this feature actually represents a post-hole, although the single homogenous fill with few finds was not really reminiscent of a Roman pit either.



Plate 7: Northeast facing section of pit/post-hole [207]

4.2.8 The final feature within the alignment was located approximately 0.48m northwest of feature [207], and measured 0.73m in length, 0.46m in width and 0.17m in depth. The sub-oval feature [211] retained a flat base with a profile ranging between steep-sided to the west and gently sloping to the east, which had been filled by a single deposit of mid-grey silty clay (212). Although the fill of this feature did not contain any packing material, its overall shape is more suggestive of a post-hole rather than a pit (Plate 8). Located between features [207] and [211], a northeast to southwest aligned linear feature was revealed extending from the northeast facing section of the trench. The linear feature [213] measured over 0.95m in length, 0.44m in width, 0.12m in depth, and retained a rounded terminus at its north-eastern extent and a steep-sided profile with a flat base, which had been filled by a single deposit of mid-greyish brown silty clay (214). Although the exact function of this linear feature remains uncertain, it most likely represents either a beam slot or shallow gully.

4.2.9 Both the eastern edge of the potential post-hole [211] and the north-eastern extent of the linear feature [213] had been truncated by a later post-medieval linear feature of unknown function, which extended from the southwest facing section of the trench on a northeast to southwest alignment (Plate 8). The post-medieval linear feature [209] measured over 0.88m in length, 0.51m in width and retained an insignificant depth of 0.03m, itself likely having been truncated at a later date. The feature [209] retained a steep-sided profile with a flat base, which had been filled by a single deposit of dark brown silty clay (210). The archaeological features within Trench 2 had been sealed by c.0.55m of mid-brown silty clay subsoil (202) and c.0.35m of dark brown silty clay topsoil (200).



Plate 8: View southeast of Trench 2 showing excavated features with pit/post-hole [211] in foreground

4.2.5 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was located approximately 8.5m southeast of Trench 2, within a terraced area of the garden immediately to the rear of the property (Figure 2). The northeast to southwest aligned trench measured 4m in length, 2m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m, revealing the mixed orange/yellow natural sandy clay (101). Only a single feature of probable Roman date was

observed within Trench 3, with the rest of the trench revealing significant disturbance from several modern service pipes (Figure 5, Plate 9). It is probable that the limited survival of archaeological remains within Trench 3 is a direct result of the severe terracing within this area of the garden.



Plate 9: View northeast of Trench 3 with possible Roman feature towards bottom right

4.2.6 The potential Roman feature was located towards the southeast corner of Trench 3, extending from the northwest facing section. The irregular shaped feature **[302]** measured over 2.2m by 0.5m and had a maximum depth of 0.23m. The feature retained a gently sloping profile with a flat base, which had been filled by a deposit of mid-greyish brown/yellow silty clay (**303**) with frequent inclusions of rounded stones and sandstone fragments (Plate 10). The fill of this feature also produced two sherds of early Romano-British white ware. Unfortunately, the exact function of this feature **[302]** remains unclear due to its limited exposure, although it possibly represents the base of a large pit. The remains of the possible pit **[302]** was sealed by c.0.15m of dark greyish brown silty clay subsoil (**301**) and c.0.15m of dark brown sandy silt topsoil (**300**).



Plate 10: View east of feature [302]

5 FINDS

5.1 FINDS ASSESSMENT

- 5.1.1 A total of 136 artefacts, weighing 7,239Kg, were recovered from twelve contexts during an archaeological evaluation at Mulcaster House, Stanwix, Carlisle, Cumbria.
- 5.1.2 A total of two small finds, weighing 9g, were recovered from unstratified deposits.
- 5.1.3 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.
- 5.1.4 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.
- 5.1.5 The finds assessment was compiled by Megan Stoakley with contributions from Don O'Meara.
- 5.1.6 Quantification of finds by context is visible in Table 1.

Cxt	Tr No	Material	Qty	Wgt (g)	Date	Notes
100	1	Animal Bone	1	78	U	
100	1	Animal Bone	4	43	U	
301	3	Animal Bone	3	2	U	
U/S	1	Animal Bone	1	39	U	
103		CBM	11	1616	PM	
107	1	CBM	2	811	RB	Box tile fragments - over-fired
109	1	CBM	1	175	RB	Box flue tile fragment
202	2	CBM	2	46	RB	Gritty, miscellaneous fragments
202	2	CBM	1	2942	RB	Hypocaust tile/slab
303	3	CBM	10	174	RB	One possible box tile fragment (small)
208	2	CBM	1	345	RB	Floor tile?
303	3	CBM	3	43	RB	Miscellaneous fragments
U/S	2	CuA	7	42	PM-M	Misc fragments & fittings, including buckle
U/S	1	CuA	1	15	M	Circular rivet
103	1	Fe	2	26	M	2 nails
214	2	Fe	1	8	U	Nail
U/S	2	Fe	15	116	M	14 nails, 1 misc fragment
100	1	Glass	6	36	PM-	1 x marble, 1 x dark green bottle glass, misc

					M	fragments
103	1	Glass	11	35	PM-M	Window glass, 1 x bottle glass
202	2	Glass	6	7	PM-M	
100	1	Pottery	6	38	M	1 ESW, 4 x flowerpot fragments, 1 x CRE - over-fired
100	1	Pottery	10	110	PM-M	1 x RWE, 1 x TP, 1 x ESW, 7 x flower pot fragments
103	1	Pottery	1	13	M	Fragment of flower pot
107	1	Pottery	9	174	ERB	6 x SAM (MNV = 2), 2 x CO OX, 1 x greyware
111	1	Pottery	7	32	RB-PM	1 x CO OX, 3 x SAM, 2 x BB1, 1 x PM (residual)
202	2	Pottery	3	15	RB-Med	1 x SAM, 1 x grey coarseware, 1 x med sherd with glaze
301	3	Pottery	2	27	ERB	1 x SAM & mortaria - MAH WH (2 nd C?), both very abraded
303	3	Pottery	2	16	ERB	Locally produced whiteware - gritty and abraded
U/S	2	Pottery	4	135	PM-M	1 x TP, 3 x flowerpot sherds
U/S	3	Pottery	1	27	ERB	1 x SAM
U/S	1	Pottery	1	50	RB-PM	1 x greyware rim (copy of BB1 flanged bowl), flower pot
U/S	1	Pottery	1	3	M	Flower pot
TOTAL			136	7239		

Table 1: Quantification of Finds by Context

KEY

Cxt: Context

Qty: Quantity

Wgt: Weight

ERB: Early Romano-British

RB: Romano-British

Med: Medieval

PM: Post-medieval

U: Undated

M: Modern

CuA: Copper Alloy

Fe: Iron

TP: Transfer Print

SAM: Samian ware

CO OX: locally sourced oxidised ware

BB1: Black-burnished ware (south-east, from Dorset, hand-made)

CRE: Coarse Red Earthenware

RWE: Refined White Earthenware

ESW: English Stoneware

MNV: Minimum No of Vessels

5.2 CERAMICS

- 5.2.1 Forty-seven sherds of pottery, weighing 640g, were recovered from the evaluation (Table 1). Pottery of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date was recorded. The Roman and medieval pottery were in poor condition generally while the post-medieval pottery was in good condition.
- 5.2.2 *Roman Pottery.* Pottery of early Roman date (mid 1st to 2nd century AD) was recovered from deposits **(107) (111) (202) (301) (303) (U/S)**. Fabric groups included Black-burnished ware and Samian ware as well as locally produced greywares, oxidised wares (CO OX) and white wares. A single sherd of white mortaria, possibly Mancetter Hartshill (MAH WH), was recovered from deposit **(301)**.
- 5.2.3 *Medieval Pottery.* A very small sherd of medieval pottery, weighing 2g, was recovered from subsoil **(202)**. It is likely of post-14th century date due to the very fine, sand-tempered fabric. A small patch of yellow-green glaze is evident on one surface.
- 5.2.4 *Post-medieval & Modern Pottery.* Pottery of later 19th and 20th century date was recovered from deposits **(100) (103) (111) (U/S)** (Table 1). The post-medieval pottery recovered from deposit **(111)** is likely residual or intrusive and not related to the feature **[110]** from which it originated. Fabric groups comprise refined white earthenware, Transfer Print, coarse red earthenware and English stoneware. Several sherds of modern flower or garden pots were retrieved from five deposits.

5.3 CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL (CBM)

- 5.3.1 Thirty-one fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), weighing 6,152Kg, were recovered from the evaluation (Table 1).
- 5.3.2 Ceramic building material of Roman date was recovered from deposits **(103) (107) (109) (202) (208) (303)**. Of particular note was the recovery of box flue tile fragments from contexts **(107) (109) (303)**. A large, thick square tile was recovered from context **(202)** and is likely to have originated from a hypocaust.
- 5.3.3 Eleven fragments of post-medieval to modern ceramic building material were recovered from context **(103)**. Cream-white mortar is evident on five fragments.

5.4 GLASS

- 5.4.1 A total of 23 shards of glass, weighing 78g, were recovered from three deposits. All of the fragments are in poor to moderate condition.
- 5.4.2 Glass fragments of Roman date were recovered from deposit **(202)**.
- 5.4.3 Glass fragments of post-medieval to modern date were recovered from contexts **(100) (103)**. Fragments include a light green marble, dark green bottle glass and window glass.

5.5 ANIMAL BONE (DON O'MEARA)

- 5.5.1 Few fragments of bone were recovered, and in all cases these were from the topsoil deposits; **(100)**. Therefore this analysis is intended as a note of the remains rather than a full analysis which seeks comparative analysis with other sites, or one which seeks to analyse morphometric analysis, body part analysis, or economic concerns for Roman or medieval Carlisle.
- 5.5.2 Three cattle bones were recovered. These consisted of two fragments of right femur and an unidentified carpal. The identified bones were a fragment of the femoral head, and a fragment of the greater trochanter. In both cases a saw had been used to cut the bone (though it wasn't exactly clear whether these represented the same right femur, or separate ones). The evenness of these cuts suggests these cuts are from a post-medieval mechanical saw and therefore these remains represent post-medieval or modern remains.
- 5.5.3 A mid-shaft fragment of a pig femur was also recovered. Heavy chop-marks to the distal end of this bone present evidence of butchery, though in general the bone was poorly preserved and showed evidence of flaking of the bone surface.
- 5.3.4 A right humerus and a left tibio-tarsus of a domestic fowl were also recovered. These were both in excellent condition showing no evidence of butchery, and little surface damage. Considering their excellent condition these are also likely to be derived from modern activity, rather than material from the medieval or Roman period.

5.6 METALWORK

- 5.6.1 Eighteen fragments of iron, weighing 150g, were recovered from three contexts. Eight fragments of copper alloy, weighing 57g, were recovered from unstratified deposits. The iron fragments are all in poor condition and the copper alloy fragments are in moderate condition.
- 5.6.2 Seventeen iron artefacts comprise nails of likely modern date. One miscellaneous fragment was recovered from an unstratified deposit.
- 5.6.3 The eight copper alloy fragments are all of post-medieval to modern date and include a belt buckle, a circular rivet and other miscellaneous fittings.

5.7 SMALL FINDS

- 5.7.1 A small, decorated pewter button (Small Find 1), weighing 4g, was recovered from an unstratified deposit. The artefact is in moderate condition and displays evidence of abrasion and damage. Part of the button is broken and most of the shank has been broken off. The button is decorated with a symmetrical pattern of four small circles separated by a cross. A central circle is visible in the middle.
- 5.7.2 It is possibly of earlier post-medieval date e.g. 17th century.
- 5.7.3 A coin (Small Find 2), weighing 5g, was recovered from an unstratified deposit. The artefact is in fairly good condition.

5.7.4 The artefact is a one cent coin from the reign of Queen Victoria dating to 1864. "Nova Scotia" is engraved on the reverse of the coin. The one cent coin has the same observe as a British halfpenny.

5.8 STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

5.8.1 The recovery of Roman and medieval pottery and Roman ceramic building material is significant and provides evidence of domestic activity on the site and in close proximity.

5.8.2 The retrieval of post-medieval and modern pottery, ceramic building material and metalwork is of little archaeological significance, although their recovery provides dating evidence and for activity of this date on the site. As such, these finds were not retained with the archive.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL

6.1 INTRODUCTION

- 6.1.1 During the course of the excavation 8 soil samples were collected by the excavation team. This consisted of c.100 litres of sediment. It was hoped that anthropogenic evidence could be collected from these samples, but it was also recognised that the shallow nature of this site, and the well drained acidic soils would in general only allow the preservation of charred plant remains assemblages.
- 6.1.2 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 soaked in water, then manually flotted 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 into a 250-micron geological sieve, while the heavy residue was retained within a 1mm plastic mesh. The heavy residue was then air-dried and sorted by eye for any material that may aid our understanding of the deposit; in particular artefactual and ecofactual material. During the course of the project the heavy residue was examined, material of archaeological interest was collected, and the remaining heavy residue (stones of various lithologies) was discarded. The material which might be recovered would include charred plant remains, bones (though based on past experience this would generally only be in the form of calcinated bone fragments; a fact borne out during the processing), pottery, burnt clay and charcoal. All charcoal was retained either by being handpicked by the environmental assistants from the heavy residue, or collected in the secondary flot. 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. 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).
- 6.1.3 Based on the past experiences dealing with environmental samples from sites in the North-East and Cumbria it was felt that the heavy residues should be re-flotted for the purposes of maximising the amount of charred material retrieved by the environmental processing team. This would be particularly important for recovering material such as charred chaff, or charred grains which might be weighed down by the penetration of clay into the voids in the grain. After being scanned by the environmental assistants and after having the larger material such as nutshell or charcoal larger than 1x1cm removed, the dried residue was placed in a bucket, covered in water, and the charred remains were decanted into the geological sieve. This created a 'secondary flot' which was examined separately to the 'primary flot' i.e. the one created by the flotation tank. The results of both flots were integrated at the analysis stage.

- 6.1.4 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 modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Wardell-Armstrong Archaeology and by reference to relevant literature (Beijerinck 1947; Berggren 1981; Jacomet 2006; Cappers et al. 2010). Plant taxonomic nomenclature follows Stace (2010).
- 6.1.5 The table which accompanies this document contains the details of the analysis on a sample by sample basis. For material from the residue the relative abundance is based on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 3 (highest), unless it is stated that total counts or weights were used to record the presence of such material. Cereals and chaff are counted in terms of the total number of individual elements. The other plant remains have been recorded on a scale from A-E. This is calculated as; A=1, B=2-10, C=11-20.
- 6.1.6 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.

6.2 TYPES OF FEATURES REPRESENTED

- 6.2.1 The samples were taken from six post-hole features, one linear feature and one pit feature.

6.3 DISCUSSION

- 6.3.1 Few remains were recovered from the samples examined. The samples were dominated by elder, goosefoot and brambleberry seeds, a combination which when they dominate a sample are often seen as indicative of poor preservation. Cereal remains were of indeterminate types, though one possible bread wheat type was identified. In general the remains are indicative of the general low numbers of charred remains which might be found around a medieval or Roman settlement, rather than indicative of a specific process or activity.
- 6.3.2 Fragments of pottery and tile were also recovered from <1> (107), <3> (210), <4> (208) and <6> (204) which may be useful for dating purposes. All of the artefactual remains appeared to be from ceramics dating to the Roman period, though are in general quite small (less than 1cm), and heavily abraded.
- 6.3.3 Fragments of burnt bone were recovered from samples <3> (210) and <6> (204), and probably represent low levels of disposal of domestic rubbish in the vicinity of the fort.

6.4 CONCLUSIONS

6.4.1 The remains from this site show low frequencies of archaeological plant remains which one would expect near a Romano-British or medieval settlement in Northern England, though not of specific processes or activity.

Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Context	107	212	210	208	206	204	303	109
	P-hle	P-hle	Lin.	P-hle	P-hle	P-hle	Pit	P-hle
<i>Volume processed (litres)</i>	10	10	10	20	20	10	10	10
<i>Volume of flot (ml)</i>	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10
<i>Samples suitable for radiocarbon dating</i>	Y		Y				Y	
<u>Residue contents (relative abundance)</u>								
Bone/teeth, burnt bone			1			1		
Pottery				1				
CBM/Tile fragments	1		1	1				
Stones/gravel	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
<u>Flot matrix (relative abundance)</u>								
Charcoal	2;	2;	2;	2;	2;	2;	1;	2;
Modern Herbaceous roots	2;	2;	2;	2;	2;	2;	3;	2;
<u>Charred plant remains (total counts)</u>								
<i>Triticum species - aestivo-compactum type grain</i>	?1;							
Indeterminate type grain	1;		1;				2;	
<u>Other plant remains (relative abundance)</u>								
<i>Carex sp. (Sedge; trigonous type)</i>			A;					
<i>Chenopodiaceae (Goosefoots)</i>		A;	B;	B;	B;	B;		A;
<i>Euphorbia helioscopia (Sun spurge)</i>			A*;	A*;				
<i>Fallopia convolvulus (Black bind-weed)</i>					A;			
<i>Rosaceae species (Rose family)</i>				A?;				
<i>Rubus species (Brambleberry)</i>		B;	C;	B;	B;	B;		
<i>Sambucus species (elder)</i>			B;	B;		B;		
<i>Sonchus oleraceus (Sow thistle)</i>			A*;					
Unidentified								

Table 2: Archaeobotanical Data

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation within the rear garden of Mulcaster House, in order to inform a planning application for the redevelopment of the property. The proposed development is situated within a landscaped garden attached to the late 18th century villa of Mulcaster House, which is a Grade II* listed building. Mulcaster House lies within the known boundary of *Petriana* Roman Fort and within the buffer zone of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, although the proposed development site itself is unscheduled.
- 7.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was undertaken over three consecutive days between the 9th April and the 11th April 2014. The evaluation involved the excavation of three trenches, each being located within areas of proposed development. All trenches were excavated within the landscaped garden to the rear of the property.
- 7.1.3 Trench 1 was located at the northern end of the site boundary, within the vicinity of the proposed summer house and revealed several archaeological features of Roman date, including two post-holes, a possible drainage gully or beam slot and a small area of cobbling, below a layer of post-medieval demolition debris and over 0.58m of topsoil. Trench 2 occupied a central position within the proposed development site, within the vicinity of the proposed car park and revealed an alignment of three large post-holes, a possible pit or further post-hole and a beam slot or gully, all of probable Roman date, below 0.9m of subsoil and topsoil. Trench 3 was located toward the southern end of the investigation area, within the footprint of the proposed swimming pool and revealed the severely truncated base of a probable Roman pit, below 0.24m of subsoil and topsoil.
- 7.1.4 Given the limited archaeological remains identified during the evaluation, it is probable that the entire area within the site boundary underwent significant vertical truncation during the construction of Mulcaster House and its associated landscaped garden, destroying all but the earliest and/or deepest features associated with Roman activity. The possibility that the features identified during the evaluation represent some of the earliest Roman activity within the area is strengthened by the dating of the Roman finds to the mid-1st to 2nd century AD.

7.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 7.2.1 Based upon the results of the investigation, the potential for archaeological remains being impacted upon by the proposed development is considered significant, although the considerable depth of archaeological remains below the topsoil and subsoil within certain areas of the site must also be considered in conjunction with the proposed construction depths during development.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Trench	Description
100	Deposit	1	Topsoil
101	Geological	All	Natural Substrate
102	Deposit	1	Subsoil
103	Deposit	1	Demolition Layer
104	Deposit	1	Cobble Surface
105	Deposit	1	Stone and Cobbles
106	Cut	1	Post-Hole
107	Fill	1	Fill of [106]
108	Cut	1	Post-Hole
109	Fill	1	Fill of [108]
110	Cut	1	Linear Feature
111	Fill	1	Fill of [110]
112	Deposit	1	Occupation Layer
200	Deposit	2	Topsoil
201	VOID	VOID	VOID
202	Deposit	2	Subsoil
203	Cut	2	Probable Post-Hole
204	Fill	2	Fill of [203]
205	Cut	2	Post-Hole
206	Fill	2	Fill of [205]
207	Cut	2	Probable Post-Hole
208	Fill	2	Fill of [207]
209	Cut	2	Post-medieval Linear
210	Fill	2	Fill of [209]
211	Cut	2	Probable Post-Hole
212	Fill	2	Fill of [211]
213	Cut	2	Possible Beam Slot
214	Fill	2	Fill of [213]
300	Deposit	3	Topsoil
301	Deposit	3	Subsoil
302	Cut	3	Possible Pit
303	Fill	3	Fill of [302]

Table 3: List of Contexts issued during the evaluation

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES






 <p>Wardell Armstrong Archaeology 2014</p>	<p>PROJECT: Mulcaster House, Church Lane, Stanwix, Carlisle, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4</p> <p>REPORT No: CP10898</p> <p>CLIENT: Space Design Solutions</p> <p>DRAWN BY: AB</p> <p>DATE: April 2014</p> <p>FIGURE: 1</p>	<p>KEY:</p> <p> Site location</p>	 <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100019512</p>
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Figure 1: Site location.



Wardell Armstrong
Archaeology
2014

PROJECT:

Mulcaster House, Church Lane,
Stanwix, Carlisle, Cumbria

CLIENT:

Space Design Solutions

SCALE: 1:750 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: April 2014

KEY:



Site boundary



Evaluation trenches



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REPORT No:

CP10898

FIGURE:

2

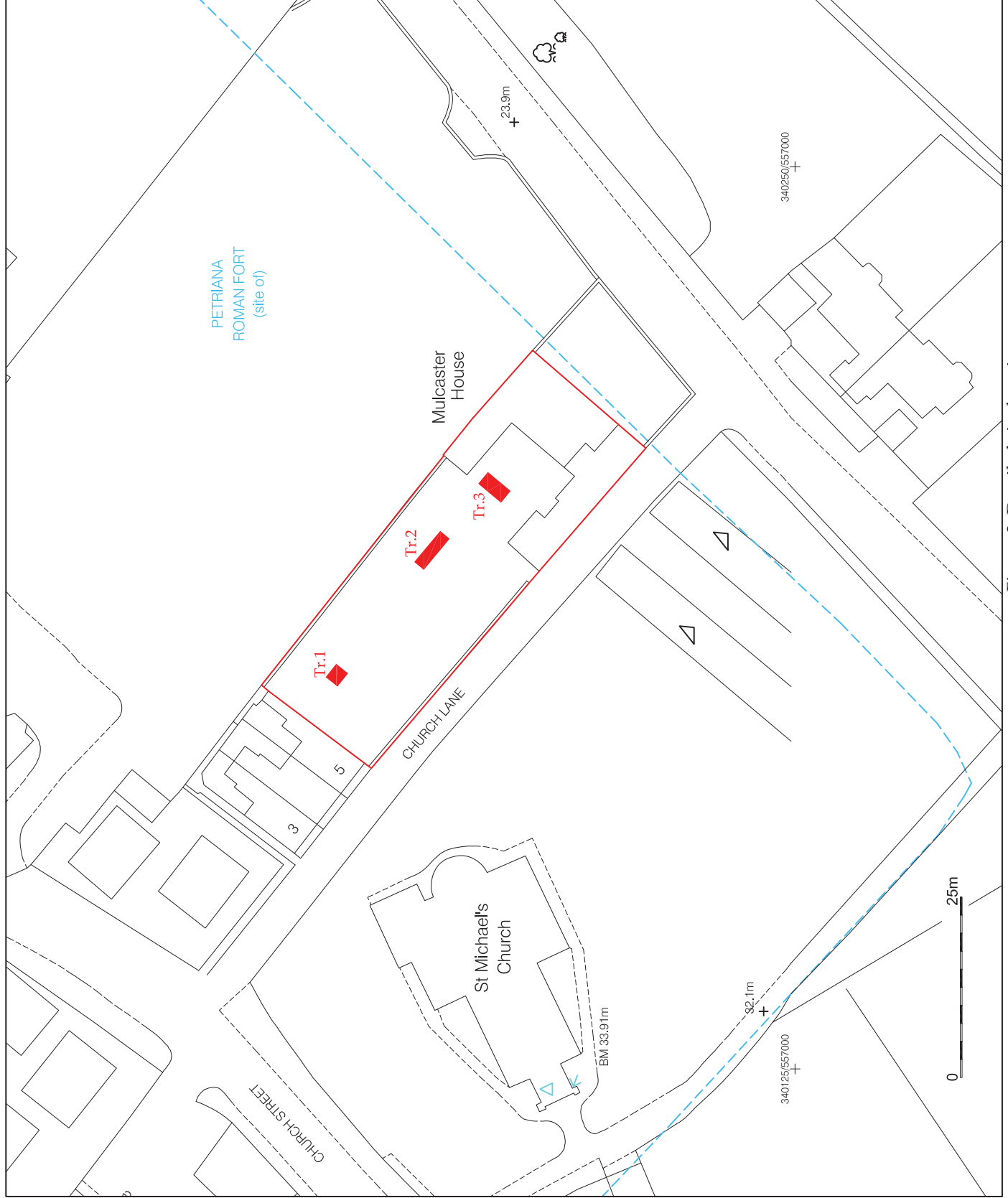
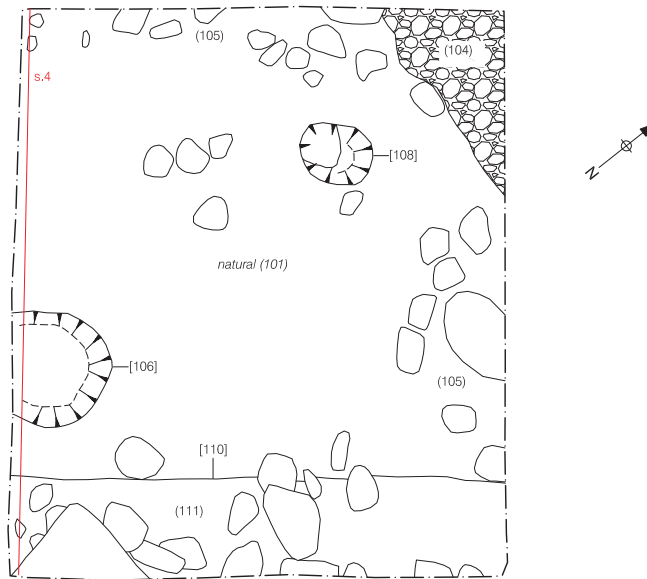
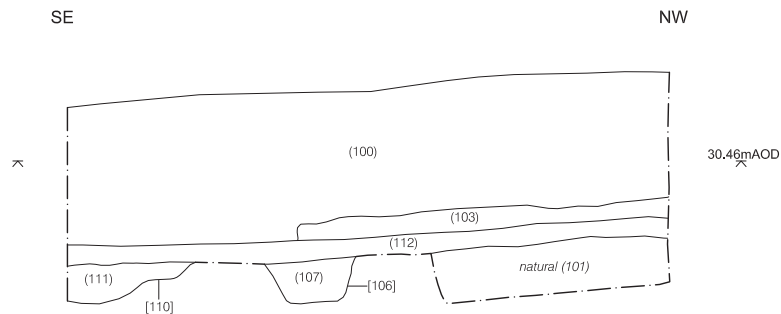


Figure 2: Detailed site location.



Trench 1. Plan.



Section 4. North-east facing section.



Wardell Armstrong
Archaeology
2014

PROJECT: Mulcaster House, Church Lane,
Stanwix, Carlisle, Cumbria
SCALE: 1:30 at A4
REPORT No: CP10898
CLIENT: Space Design Solutions
DRAWN BY: AB
DATE: April 2014
FIGURE: 3

KEY:

- (101) Context number
- / Height mAOD
- Section location
- Limit of excavation

Figure 3: Trench 1; plan and section.

PROJECT:

Mulcaster House, Church Lane,
Stanwix, Carlisle, Cumbria

CLIENT:

Space Design Solutions

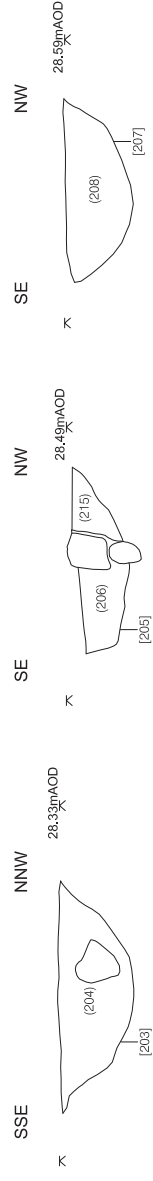
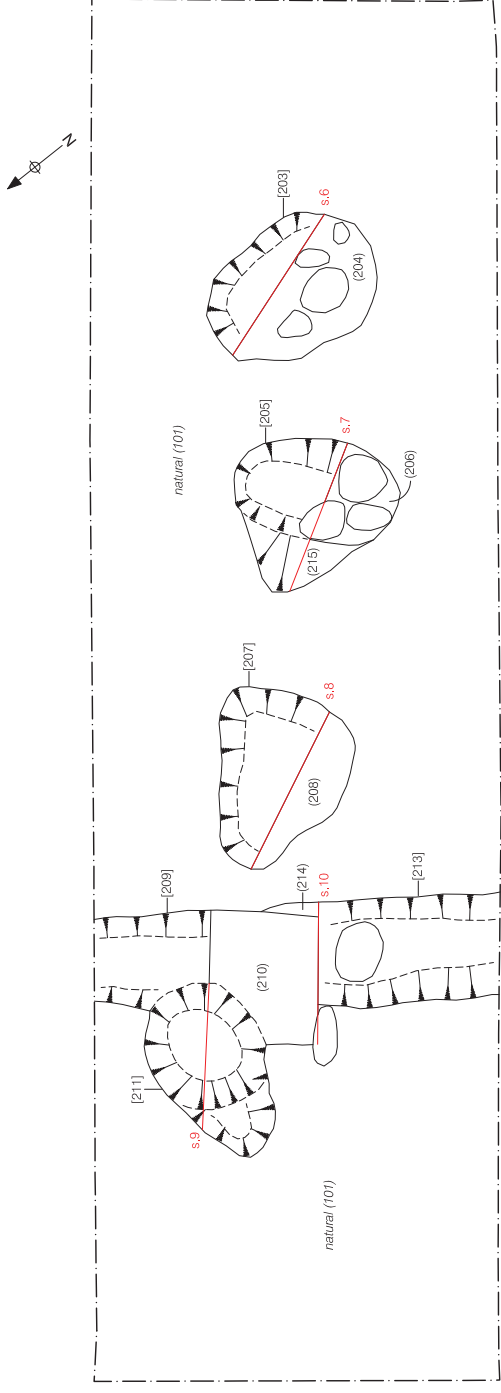
SCALE: 1:30 at A4

DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: April 2014

KEY:

- Context number
- Height mAOD
- Section location
- Limit of excavation



Section 6. ENE facing section across post-hole [203].
Section 7. North-east facing section across post-hole [205].
Section 8. North-east facing section across pit/post-hole [207].



Section 9. Profile of pit/post-hole [211].
Section 10. South-west facing section across gullies/beam-slot [213] and [209].



REPORT No:

CP10898

FIGURE:

4

Figure 4: Trench 2; plan and sections.

PROJECT:

Mulcaister House, Church Lane,
Stanwix, Carlisle, Cumbria

CLIENT:

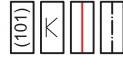
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DRAWN BY: AB

DATE: April 2014

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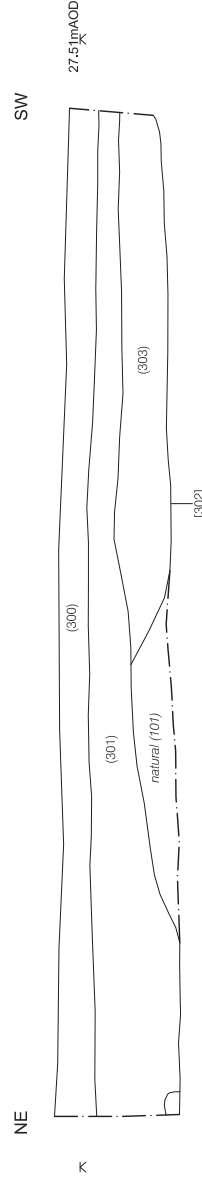
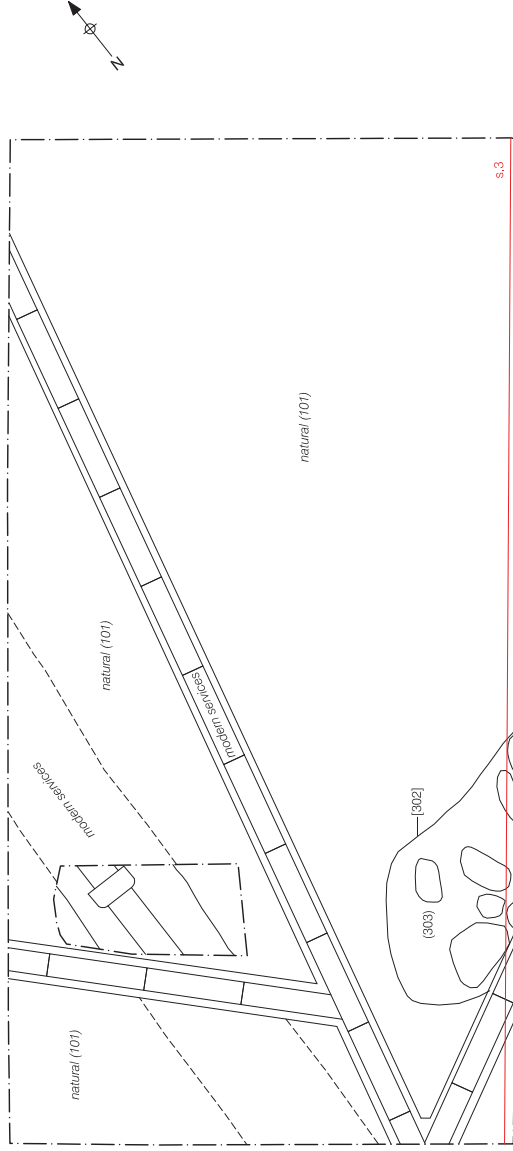


REPORT No:

CP10898

FIGURE:

5



Section 3. North-west facing section.



Figure 5: Trench 3; plan and section.