
NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Project Designs and Client Reports No CP/258/06

**REPORT FOR
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EXCAVATION
ON LAND
ADJACENT TO
KING STREET,
CARLISLE,
CUMBRIA**

**FOR

KING STREET
DEVELOPMENTS LTD**

Planning Application Ref: 1/04/0177

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

A three week excavation carried out between the 5th and 25th of October 2005, under the direction of Frank Giecco, BA, revealed significant Roman deposits relating to the Roman suburbs of Carlisle that ran alongside present day Botchergate. The fieldwork revealed five distinct phases of Roman activity, that appeared to relate to a minor lane running off Roman Botchergate, the main southern route into Roman Carlisle.

The occupation evidence consisted of a series of ephemeral timber building, trackways and boundary ditches dating from the early 2nd century into the late 3rd century. This occupation was universally on a low level of intensity and of low social status. It is likely that the main focus of activity would have been much closer to the present Botchergate street frontage, to the north, and to the projected lane leading off Botchergate to the west beneath the site of Christ's Church.

No prehistoric remains were recorded on the site, with very little evidence for medieval activity apart from a single pit containing pottery of 13th /14th date.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

- 1.1 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was invited by Mark Morrey on behalf of King Street Developments to carry out an archaeological excavation on the site of the former United Services club on King Street. This field work followed on from an archaeological evaluation and desk based assessment carried out by HBSAI which discovered significant stratified Roman deposits on the site.
- 1.2 Following on from the evaluation report (HBSAI 11/04)) it was concluded that an area of approximately 576m² required full excavation in order to preserve any remains by record. An archaeological brief was prepared by Jeremy Parsons Assistant Archaeologist (Development Control) who monitored the archaeological excavation.

2 DESK TOP ASSESSMENT

- 2.1 The desk based assessment was carried out by HBSAI. A summary of its findings are included below.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 There is extensive evidence for prehistoric activity within and around Carlisle, including the remains of ard marks from prehistoric ploughing at Blackfriars' Street and Lowther Street. Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery was found at Scotby Road, including Grooved Ware and Beaker pottery, and a collared urn and burnt mound were excavated at Garlands Hospital (Perriam 1992, 3). Flints of Neolithic and Bronze Age date have also been found, and two socketed Late Bronze Age axes were found at Kings Meadow, Stanwix (SMR No. 525). It has been suggested that the promontory on which Carlisle Castle now stands has been a defended site since at least the Iron Age and possibly a pre-Roman *dun*.

2.3 Roman

- 2.3.1 By 73 AD the Romans had established a fort at the northern end of the present city centre, and this quickly expanded to become a substantial civilian settlement measuring over 40 acres in area. The withdrawal by the Romans from Scotland in the 80s, and later the building of Hadrian's Wall from AD 122, probably had a substantial impact on the settlement. By about AD 200 Carlisle, known as *Luguvalium*, seems to have been granted special status, and it continued to flourish, with a large number of houses, shops, administrative and other public buildings, until the end of the Roman occupation around AD 400.
- 2.3.2 Outside the core part of the Roman town of Carlisle, in the period between the Flavian period and the mid 2nd century, many forts were built, some of which were temporary camps, and others were more substantial. Some doubtless housed troops on active campaigns, whilst others probably provided accommodation for soldiers redeployed during the withdrawal from Scotland and in the context of an evolving frontier policy. In addition, there are many small farmsteads, whose economy would have been linked in some way to that of Carlisle and the needs of the military.

- 2.3.3 The corridor either side of London Road and Botchergate has long been known to contain Roman remains, with some 39 burials recovered during building works in the 19th century, and other remains recovered during systematic archaeological excavation during the 1990s (Carlisle Archaeology, Lancaster University Archaeological Unit). Little is known, however, regarding the extent of the Roman cemetery (and settlement) or the nature and extent of medieval settlement.

2.4 Medieval

- 2.4.1 Following the withdrawal of the Legions in the early part of the 5th century, Carlisle probably continued to be occupied, and it housed an important monastic community from the 7th century. The arrival of the Normans in 1092 heralded a period of major change, during which the city was enclosed by walls. Throughout the Middle Ages and up to the Jacobite rebellion in 1745, Carlisle was a major frontier city on the borders of England and Scotland.

- 2.4.2 From the Middle Ages until the late 18th century, Carlisle was more or less confined to the land within the city walls, apart from three ribbon-like suburbs outside the three city gates. From the end of the 18th century, with the rapid expansion of the town during the Industrial Revolution, the three suburbs grew very rapidly in size, with new housing, factories, roads, and industrial and commercial premises. These developments, together with the advent of the railways, expanded over what had previously been open countryside.

- 2.4.3 The development site lay outside the principal area of settlement during the medieval period, a territory that, outside the protection of the city walls, was subject to ravaging by frequent raids and invading retinues. It is likely the site consisted of agricultural land during the medieval period, and formed part of the medieval lordship or demesne of Carlisle.

2.5 Post Medieval

- 2.5.1 Following the union of the English and Scottish Crowns with the accession of James I to the English throne in 1603, a programme of pacification of the borderlands began. This saw a modernisation of tenureships of great benefit to northern landowners and a breakdown of the traditional forms of Border service (Spence 1984; 64). This process of modernisation led to the undertaking of two detailed surveys of the Socage or manorial lands of Carlisle, by Thomas Johnson in 1608 and Aaron Rathbone in 1611 (Ibid, 67).

- 2.5.2 During the later 18th and the 19th centuries, the introduction of the factory system and increasingly complex technologies gave rise to a substantial population increase in urban areas throughout Britain. In Carlisle, the construction of factories and their attraction to migrant workers from the adjacent countryside saw a concomitant rise in the urban population and a need for new residential housing outside the traditional city centre. The first known structure to have been constructed on the site and dating to the late Georgian period was St Cuthbert's Parsonage which served the adjacent Christ's Church to the north west of the development site. The Parsonage was demolished in the early 20th century and replaced by a Cinema, which was later converted into the United Services Club.

2.6 PREVIOUS WORK

2.6.1 19th-century observations

2.6.1.2 During the late 19th century a number of Roman burials were discovered on both sides of Botchergate, extending from Court Square to London Road and Gallows Hill. Over 40 burials were found at different times, including cremations and inhumations, together with miscellaneous discoveries of Roman pottery.

2.6.1.3 In 1895, an urn full of bones was found in Tait Street, and another is recorded on the opposite side of Botchergate (Charlesworth 1978, 125). At the Crown Inn, on the northern corner of Crown Street and Botchergate, Haverfield recorded the discovery of two small vessels, one containing a pipeclay figurine of Venus and burnt bone (*ibid*, 126). As burials in Roman times are usually located outside the occupied areas, there was a clear case for regarding Botchergate as lying outside the core settlement during the Roman period.

2.6.2 The Co-operative Society/Collier Lane site

2.6.2.1 In 1997, Carlisle Archaeological Unit undertook a rescue excavation to the rear of the former Co-op building at 40-78 Botchergate, directly opposite the present site. The complex sequence of Roman activity revealed here included part of a substantial linear earthwork situated adjacent to, and aligned roughly parallel with, Collier Lane. The function of this feature, which was probably built in the 2nd century AD, remains unclear; possibilities so far considered include the defences of a hitherto unknown military base, the remains of a large civic or 'official' building/enclosure, or part of a system of flood defence. An attractive, though improvable hypothesis recently put forward is that the earthwork supported a wooden aqueduct channel (evidence for a timber superstructure was found).

2.6.2.2 From the middle of the 2nd century to the second half of the 4th century, layers of earth began to accumulate east of the bank, probably as a consequence of a prolonged period of landfilling and refuse disposal. Other activity in this area seems to have been sparse, though a few pits and two truncated late 2nd century cremations were discovered.

2.6.2.3 Extensive modern truncation had removed most post-Roman levels, although the almost complete absence of deep features such as pits and wells suggests that medieval activity in this area was never very intensive.

2.6.3 Cecil Street car park

2.6.3.1 In 1994 Carlisle Archaeological Unit undertook an evaluation in the Cecil Street car park, south of Tait Street, where remains of cremation burials were located, together with boundary ditches defining fields that are probably Roman in date. Here the depth of archaeological deposits varied between approximately 0.6m and 1.45m below the modern ground surface (McCarthy and Flynn 1994).

2.6.4 Other Investigations

- 2.6.4.1 In 1985, a number of gas-pipe trenches below the western pavement of Botchergate were watched to determine whether archaeological remains could be identified. They revealed road metalling, thought at the time to belong to the Roman and medieval road, the projected line of which lies below Blackfriars Street and extends towards the Roman fort at Tullie House.
- 2.6.4.2 In 1997 traces of a small Roman settlement of uncertain function were found at St Nicholas Yard during an excavation by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit. The work revealed two broad, shallow ditches, which appeared to be separated by a metalled surface. Traces of possible burials and other features were also located. The excavations also revealed putative medieval features including an oven and the remains of walls, possibly associated with the former 12th century leper hospital (Howard-Davis and Leah 1999).
- 2.6.4.3 A series of evaluations followed by large-scale excavations were carried out by Carlisle Archaeology during 1998 and 1999 between Tait Street and Mary Street on the eastern side of Botchergate, revealing Roman deposits including a number of cremation burials (Zant and Giecco 1999; Giecco 2001).
- 2.6.4.4 An evaluation was carried out in July 2000 by Carlisle Archaeology at King Street, revealing extensive archaeological deposits throughout the site, the vast majority of Roman date (Reeves 2000).
- 2.6.4.5 An excavation was undertaken on the north-eastern side of Botchergate by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU, now Oxford Archaeology North). The work revealed extensive Roman and Medieval archaeological deposits which provided a complete stratigraphic sequence for the Roman and post-Roman periods. The features included two Roman cremations from the late 1st century AD, a series of hearths from the early 2nd century AD, including a probable lead smelting furnace, which were overlain by later medieval deposits including evidence for structures adjacent to the street frontage (LUAU 2001)
- 2.6.4.6 In January-February 2003, North Pennines Heritage Trust undertook a field evaluation on the site of the corn mill, Harraby Green, Carlisle, which revealed the substantial below ground remains of the latest phase of the mill and also probable remains of medieval settlement, consisting of a clay and cobble foundation and a number of medieval pottery fragments in an area north of the post medieval and modern mill (Jones 2003).
- 2.6.4.7 In February 2004 a field evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to St Nicholas Bridge, across the line of the Canal Branch of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway from London Road. The results of the evaluation included a series of stakeholes which were observed cut into the natural subsoil within trenches 1 and 2, one of which contained medieval pottery. A number of fragments of redeposited Roman and medieval pottery were found within a layer of buried ploughsoil. Pre-1900 deposits were significantly truncated by deposits associated with the London and North Western Railway, which included a Wagon Repair and a Creosoting Shed, both of which survive on site (NPA 2004).
- 2.6.4.8 In April 2004 a field evaluation was undertaken on land at the Rydal Street play area, approximately 50m south-east of the present site. No archaeological features

were found, although a number of sherds of Roman and Medieval pottery were recovered from within a buried ploughsoil (NPA 2004).

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The archaeological excavation comprised one rectangular trench measuring approximately 38m by 7m with a small 6m by 5m extension to the northeastern end of the trench (see figure 2). The aims of the excavation were as follows:
- the nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
 - to establish, wherever possible, the significance of archaeological remains;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
 - to recover paleoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes;
 - to prepare a report for publication.
- 3.2 The work was undertaken under the direction of Frank Giecco, BA, Dip Arch, AIFA, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd, Principal Archaeologist. He was assisted by Matt Town, Richard Hewitt, Kevin Mounsey, Jo Barnett, Patricia Crompton, Frances Wood, Alan James and Jennifer Kinsman. All staff were fully briefed on the project background, made aware of the work required under the specification, and understood the projects aims and methodologies.
- 3.3 Topsoil was excavated using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and was placed at a safe working distance from the site edges. All machine work was undertaken under the direct supervision of a NPA Ltd archaeologist.
- 3.4 In the archive of North Pennines Archaeology, the unique site identification code is **CP 258, KIG-A**.

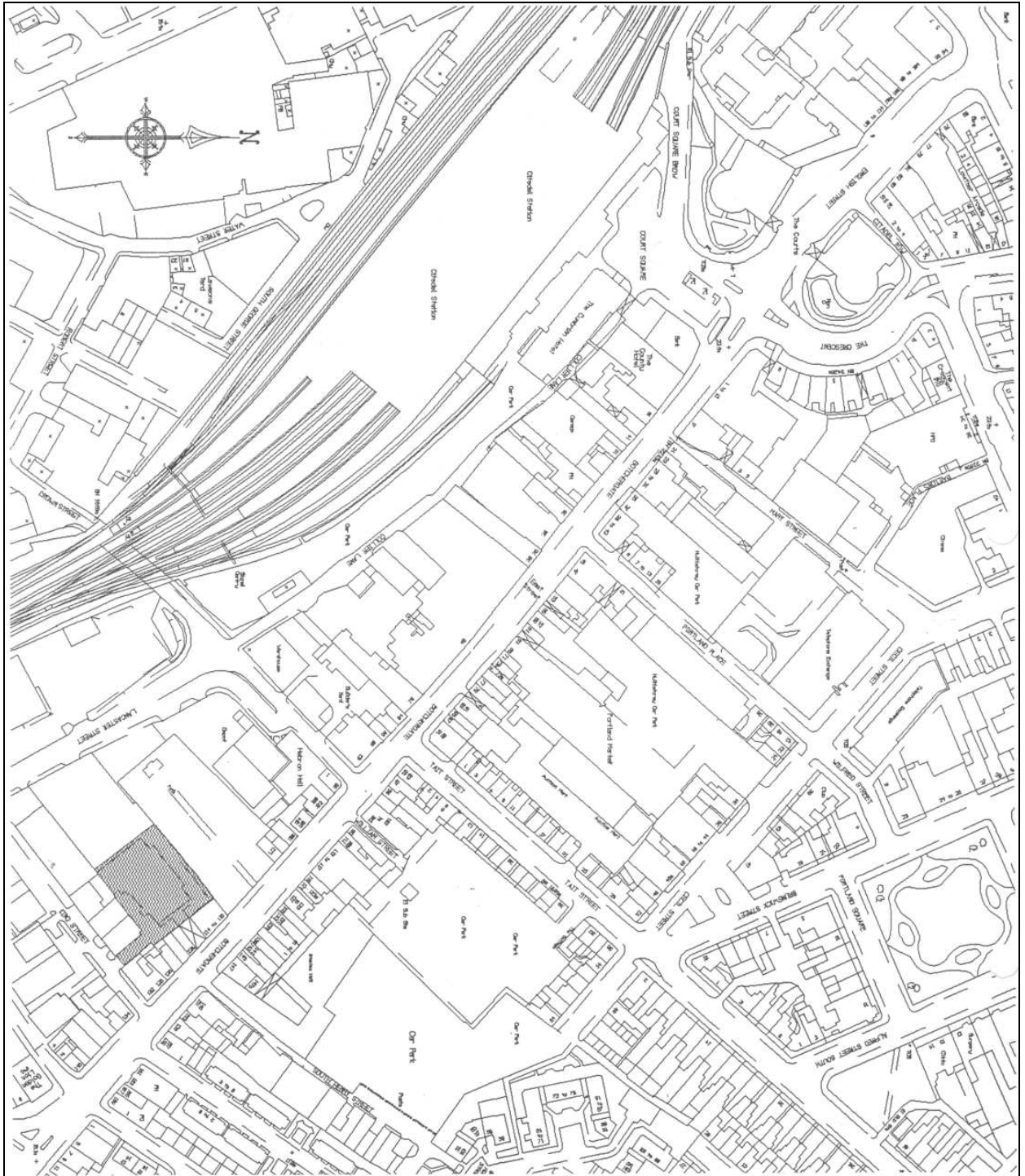


Figure 1: Site location plan
Scale 1:2500
Site Location is toned



Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

Scale 1:500

Drawn by: FG

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The excavation took place over 15 days between the 5th and 25th of October 2005. The total area of excavation measured 345m² and was excavated down to an average depth of 1.2m at which point the sandy gravel natural (101) was recorded.
- 4.1.2 Modern overburden, consisting of a dark garden soil was identified all over the site to depths of between 0.50m and 0.80m
- 4.2 **Prehistoric (Phase 0).**
- 4.2.1 No prehistoric features were recorded during the excavation.



Plate 1: Post excavation view of southern end of site illustrating natural subsoil (101)

4.3 Roman

4.3.1 Phase 1

- 4.3.1.1 The natural subsoil 101 consisted of a changeable orange brown sandy silt gravel which slightly sloped downwards from north-east to south-west, with the depth of overlying deposits ranging from 0.80m to 1.35m. The earliest recorded deposit (see figure 3) was an extensive shallow silty clay soil spread (**138**) measuring approximately 0.10-0.05m in depth which covered the south-western half of the site and overlay the natural sandy gravel (**101**). The north-eastern limit of this

deposit was defined by a linear gully (178) that was recorded cutting into this deposit, the absence of context 138 to the north-east of this gully may be the result of latter occupation activity in this area of the site resulting in the total truncation of this deposit. A spread of cobbling (215) approximately 2.5m to the north east of gully 178 may relate to this primary phase of activity. The sparse dating material recovered from 138 indicates a early 2nd century date for this activity.



Plate 2: Cobbling 215 looking west

4.4.2

Phase 2

4.4.2.1

Context 138 was then cut by a group of four shallow pits (see figure 4) in the south-western end of the site. The two larger pits (119 and 127) measured 2m and 3.68m in diameter respectively, each sub rounded in plan and surviving to a depth of no more than 0.20m. The remaining two pits (116 and 143) measured 0.85m and 1.0m and again were highly truncated surviving to no more than 0.18m in depth. A highly truncated fifth pit ([143]) measuring 1.2m in diameter and 0.12m in depth was recorded approximately 5m to the north west of this main group. Context 144, the fill of pit 143 produced a small assemblage of 2nd century domestic coarse ware pottery. The northern limit to this area of pitting was defined by a linear spread of cobbling (206) set in a sandy silt matrix measuring 3.8m in width and 0.20m in depth (see figure 4 and 8). It is likely that this deposit represents the remains of a crude track way, the original width of this track way may have been larger, but later cut features ([178] and [191]) to the north and south are likely to have significantly truncated the cobble surface.



Plate 3: Phase 2a pit group in southern end of site



Plate 4: Slot across cobble track way (206)

4.4.2.2 To the north of the probable trackway (206) a compact spread of silty clay (175) measuring 0.16m in depth was recorded extending beyond the limits of excavation to the east and west extending for approximately 8m from north to south. This deposit had the appearance of a crude floor surface and showed signs of intense occupation with large quantities of mid to late 2nd century pottery. This potential floor surface is likely to have been within a timber building which appears to have been built supported on a sill beam laid directly on the surface leaving no tangible evidence in the archaeological record. The only other possible structural feature was a single post hole (186) measuring 0.60m in diameter and 0.20m in depth.

4.4.3 *Phase 2a*

4.4.3.1 This putative timber building appears to have then been substantially remodelled with the probable floor surface (175) cut by two parallel slots ([123] and [148]) both measuring approximately 0.60m in width, 0.20m in depth and aligned north/south (see figure 4). These parallel slots are likely to be beam slots associated with timber sleeper beams that would have supported a timber super structure for a pair of internal timber partition wall. The upper fill of slot 148 (149) produced a very worn denarius of Marcus Antonius dating to 31-32 BC, which given the lifespan of republican coinage in the Imperial period could well have been lost well into the 2nd century. The only other internal feature that could be related to this structure was a circular deposit of burnt silty clay and charcoal (200) which is likely to represent the remains of a small central hearth.

4.4.3.2 It is likely that during this period of remodelling that a linear gully (178) was cut outside the south-eastern side of this timber building. The feature measured 1.2m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.53m with a distinct u-shaped profile. This gully cut into both floor surface 174 and trackway 206. There were no surviving features or deposits recorded to the north of this structure, which could have stratigraphically related to this phase. The re-cutting of pit 143 ([140]) appears to fit into this broad period of remodelling, little survived of this later re-cut as it was largely truncated by a later phase 3 ditch (ditch [191]), however two distinct fills were recorded (141 and 142) which did produce a relatively large assemblage of mid to late 2nd century pottery.

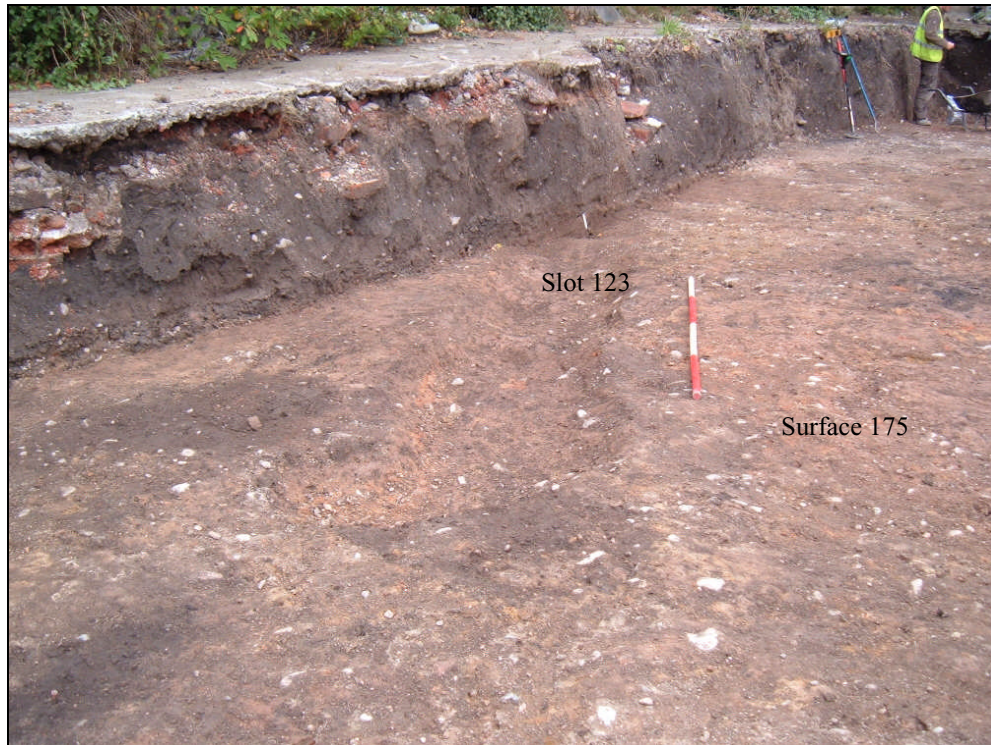


Plate 5: Surface 175 and beam slot 123 within probable timber building

4.4.4 *Phase 3*

- 4.4.4.1 The putative timber structure defined by clay spread 175 appears to have gone out of use as the floor surface was partially overlain by a new cobble track way (**164**) running east-west across the site (see figure 5). The track way was constructed out of river cobbles set in a silty clay matrix and survived in patches across the site and may correspond to an area of cobbling (HBSAI #219) recorded in the evaluation approximately 5m to the eastern limit of the current excavation. The trackway narrowed from 7m in width to 3m in an area defined by two post holes ([160] and [162]) and two butt ended gullies ([158] and [165]). Each posthole measured approximately 0.30m in diameter and 0.20m in depth with near vertical sides and a flat base, both features appeared to have been heavily truncated. The two butt ended gullies were similarly truncated only surviving to a maximum depth of 0.18m and 0.15m respectively, each having a distinctive u-shaped profile. It is likely that cobble trackway 206 although partially truncated by gully 178 was still in use during this period or at least kept clean of any debris.



Plate 6: Detail of probable gateway into enclosure and remains of cobbled surface

- 4.4.4.2 This group of features almost certainly represents a gateway through a north south boundary ditch with cobble surface 164 possibly representing a trackway running roughly parallel to Botchergate to the rear of properties fronting Botchergate. The presence of this cobbled track way was also recorded further to the east of the present excavation area during the evaluation (HBSAI 11/04) where its level of preservation was far greater with a possible camber being observed (*Cracknell P, 2004*). At some point after the laying of this trackway a shallow pit ([202]) measuring 1.8m in diameter and 0.10m in depth cut through this surface and was deliberately filled with a clean firm clay (180). It is possible that rather than being a deliberately cut feature context 202 may represent an infilled pothole in the track way. An isolated sub-rounded pit ([121]) measuring 1.6m in diameter and 0.48m in depth with steep concave sides and fairly flat base is the only feature to the north of the track way likely to relate to this phase.
- 4.4.4.3 To the south of the track way the main feature of note was another east-west aligned gully ([191]) measuring 3.20m in width, with a maximum depth of 0.38m and concave base (see figure 5 and 9). This feature was filled by a dark brown sandy silt (192) which produced a small assemblage of late 2nd century pottery. Context 192 was then cut by a narrow gully ([209]) measuring 1.7m in width and 0.32m in depth which cut on an east-west alignment over the silted up line of gully 191. It is probable that this represents a sub-phase relating to the recutting of the boundary ditch (191) on a slightly smaller scale. It is worthy of note that neither the fills of ditch 191 (192) or gully 209 (210) produced any finds whatsoever, suggesting minimal occupation activity in the immediate vicinity. This is further reinforced by the absence of any possible floor surfaces during this phase.



Plate 7: General shot of southern end of site illustrating continuity in the alignment of boundaries

- 4.4.4.4 In the south eastern corner of the site a short length of shallow probable beam slot ([198]) was identified. This feature was aligned east-west, measured 2.6m in length and 0.23m in width and was recorded in association with a group of 36 stake holes ([215]). The stake holes had an average diameter of 0.05mm and taken with the length of beam slot appear to represent the south eastern corner of a small timber structure. Very little could be said of the form or function of this building as later pitting had removed any traces of potential floor surfaces and any evidence for a western side. Similarly ditch 125 would have removed any evidence for the northern side of the structure.

4.4.5 *Phase 4*

- 4.4.5.1 The east-west aligned trackway went out of use and was sealed by an extensive compact clay surface (174) measuring 16m in width 0.20m in depth and extending beyond the limits of excavation (see figure 6). The clay surface had a similar feel to context 175 (the earlier probable floor surface laid within a timber building), but unfortunately unlike context 175 no associated features that could be interpreted as structural were recorded. Even without any obvious features that could relate to a building it is still likely that context 174 represents an occupation surface that if not within a building was adjacent to a building, as southern limit of this deposit was defined by a large dump of waste domestic pottery (134) which produced 38% of the total pottery assemblage. This assemblage was made up of domestic course wares including grey wares and black burnished ware, mortaria, south Spanish amphorae and central Gaulish samian ware. The form and make up of this hoard is typical of similar assemblages retrieved from previous excavations in Carlisle and indicates a early to mid 3rd century date for the accumulation of this rubbish deposit.



Plate 8: General shot of surface 174

4.4.5.2 Context 134, a dark grey brown sandy silt, is likely to represent the waste material from nearby intensive occupation. This layer extended for over 10m and had a maximum depth of 0.34m. It is difficult to be precise on what form this occupation took, but given the evidence recovered during earlier excavations on the Roman suburbs of Botchergate it is likely to have related to low status occupation often associated with narrow timber strip buildings.

4.4.5.3 Apart from this rubbish layer (134), there appears to have been limited activity to the south of the clay surface (174), with no obvious boundary running across the southern half of the site or any associated features. A large pit ([168]) on the northern limits of the site, only partially within the area of excavation produced a large assemblage of mid to late 2nd century pottery, of a similar nature to that recorded from deposit 134. This feature measured approximately 4.5m in diameter and over 0.375m in depth and was filled by two distinct fills (168 and 169), context 168 was made up of pinky brown silty clay and context 169 a orange brown clay silt with occasional pebbles.

4.4.6 *Phase 5*

4.4.6.1 This phase represented the final recognised period of Roman activity on the site and was defined by two main features (see figures 7 and 9) a large pit ([196]) and a probable boundary ditch ([125]). The ditch ([125]) was situated in the southern end of the site and alike all the previous ditches and gullies was aligned east–west. The feature was filled by a dark grey sandy silt (126) which produced a

small assemblage of third century pottery and measured 5.4m in length and 0.32m in depth and was clearly cut into deposit 134.

- 4.4.6.2 The large pit ([196]) was located in the north west corner of the site and measured over 4.25m in diameter and 0.60m in depth. This feature was concave in profile and sub rounded in plan with much of the feature extending beyond the limits of excavation. This pit was filled by three distinct fills (197, 173 and 172) which produced a small amount of mid to late 3rd century pottery and a small quantity of charred wood and grain. No other features were observed suggesting a decline in activity during this final phase of Roman occupation which can be no later than the late 3rd /early 4th century.

4.5 Medieval

4.5.1 Phase 6

- 4.5.1.1 Context 172 the upper fill of Roman pit ([196]) was cut by a large circular rubbish pit ([108]) which measured 3.8m in diameter and 1.9m in depth. The feature had near vertical sides and a fairly flat base and was filled by two deposits (118 and 109), both fills produced residual Roman pottery and a small quantity of medieval pottery. The medieval pottery was made up of partially reduced grey wares with a typical green glaze, with an almost complete jug retrieved from context 118. The date range for the medieval material spans from the 13th to the 14th century. No other features of medieval date were observed during the excavation so it is impossible to put this pit into any meaningful context. The medieval occupation cannot have been too intensive as there were no property boundary ditches recorded during any of the fieldwork carried out at King Street (see figure 8).
- 4.5.1.2 The upper most fill (118) of the pit was sealed beneath a *dark earth* deposit (110) which was recorded throughout the site and has been recorded along much of the length of Bothchergate during previous excavations. The dark earth is widely interpreted as a gradual soil build over areas of little activity, in the context of Urban Roman Britain it is viewed as a sign of abandonment.



Plate 9: Pit 108 half sectioned

4.6 Post Medieval

4.6.1 Phase 7

- 4.6.1.1 The dark earth layer (110) was cut by a series of early 19th century wall foundations that related to the parsonage of Christ's Church. These foundations were largely truncated by the foundations and service trenches associated with the Plaza Cinema (see figures 8 and 9).

5 THE ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS AND BONE REPORT

By Patricia Crompton

5.1 THE ENVIRONMENTAL, MOLLUSC AND BONE REMAINS

5.1.2 Introduction

- 5.1.2.1 The site of the old theatre and cinema, King Street, Carlisle, provides conditions of various degrees of preservation in that some of the contexts are moist, others being fairly dry, especially those nearer the surface. This appears to be a well-drained site throughout. Preservation of the organic remains was then expected to be moderate to poor except in cases where material had been burned or charred, aiding preservation.
- 5.1.2.2 Analysis of all the recovered material is skewed due to factors such as none recovery of pertinent material, degradation of originally deposited material,

degradation of material during processing, and differences between the preservation due to varying conditions.

5.2 THE INSECT AND PARASITE REMAINS

- 5.2.1 Minimal fragments of invertebrate exoskeletons and larva/pupa cases were noted in the organic flot. Parasitic material is unlikely to be recovered from the soil as there is no evidence of cesspits or similar features that could produce them. Further study on the material recovered is not deemed necessary for either insect or parasite remains.

5.3 THE PLANT REMAINS

5.3.1 Methodology

- 5.3.2 Some 39 contexts were considered worth sampling due to their organically rich content (see Table 1). Of the 41 samples taken, all the whole earth samples were selected for processing in order to assess their environmental potential. This will help provide further information as to the depositional processes involved in their formation. The methodology employed required that the whole earth samples be broken down and split into their various different components. This was achieved by a combination of water washing and flotation.

- 5.3.3 The process of flotation, by passing the sample through a flotation tank, serves to separate the matrix of the whole earth sample into the organic fraction and the heavier mineral content of mainly sands, silts, clays and stones. The two resultant sub-samples are the flot and the retent or residue. The flot consists of the material that floats on water as the light or floating fraction. This produces mainly organic and charred remains. The heavy, retent fraction, consists of the denser material that usually sinks, including the waterlogged material. The method relies purely on the variation in density of the recovered material to separate it from the soil matrix, allowing for the recovery of ecofacts and artefacts from the whole earth sample. The recovered remains can then be assessed for content.

- 5.3.4 The more of the sample that can be processed the better the interpretation of the results from it (see Table 2). All the material was processed and both the retent and the flot residues were examined. The results of these appear in tables 1 and 2. The results of the seed identification were expressed as diversity of taxa of seeds, where the total numbers of taxa were plotted against the context number.

- 5.3.5 The retent, like the residue from wet sieving, will contain any larger items of bone or artefacts. The flot or floating fraction will generally contain organic material such as plant matter, fine bones, cloth, leather and insect remains. A rapid scan at this stage will allow further recommendations to be made as to the potential for further study by palaeobotanists and faunal specialists with a view to retrieving vital economic information from the samples. 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, which may include anthropogenic activity, seasonality and climate and elements of the economy.

- 5.3.6 The diversity of variants recovered in the flot fell into four main categories. The first consists of charred grain (contexts 110, 118 and 195). Two contexts contained only charred grain and burnt bone (contexts 110 and 124). The charcoal associated with these contexts suggests they probably originated from hearths or fires, the small amounts of grain and seeds becoming preserved by charring around the edge of the fire. None of these contexts were associated with their original hearths or ovens; they were all recovered from pits through various levels of the site.
- 5.3.7 Numerous contexts contained charred wood and grain (114, 117, 122, 124, 134, 137, 142, 149, 151, 166, 172, 174, 175, 184, 185, 187, 195). Context 114 contained an almost complete Roman pot. These again seemed to be associated with areas of occupation where domestic rubbish had been disposed of.
- 5.3.8 Other contexts contained just charcoal (contexts 109, 112, 120, 128, 132, 135, 144, 173, 179, 182, 194). This material suggests hearth waste. Some contexts contained bone, all associated with charred grain and charcoal (contexts 126, 168, 177). This bone was not burnt so discounts in situ burning suggesting rubbish areas where hearth material had been discarded.

FLOTATION SAMPLE ANALYSIS**SITE CODE NPA 05 KING-A**

DETAILS							CONSTITUENT OF SAMPLE WITH ESTIMATE OF ABUNDANCE AS NUMBERS 1-3																						
SAMPLE NUMBER	RELATIONS	SOIL CONDITION	VOLUME (LITRES)	SOIL CONDITIONS	Residue type	Analysis required	CONTEXT NUMBER	Charred cereal	Charred wheat	Charred barley	Charred oats	Chenopodium	Sambucus nigra	Vicia	Brassica	Rubus	Rumex	Euphorbia	Fibres	Charred wood	Cinders	Coal	Bone	Burnt Bone	Insects/Larvae	Woody plant parts	Root material	Spores	Metal droplet
1				M	1	N	109	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
2				M	1	P	110	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
3				M	3	Y	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	1
4				M	1	Y	114	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
5				M	3	Y	117	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
6				M	3	Y	118	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
7				M	1	Y	122	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0
8				M	2	Y	124	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0
9				M	3	N	120	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
10				M	2	Y	128	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0
11				M	1	Y	137	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12				M	3	N	112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
13				M	1	Y	149	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
14				M	1	N	151	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
15				M	2	Y	126	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
16				M	3	N	132	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0
17				M	1	Y	134	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
18				M	1	Y	144	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
19				M	1	Y	155	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20				M	NA	N	142	VOID - No sample recovered																					
21				M	3	N	166	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
22				M	3	Y	168	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
23				M	3	Y	172	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
24				M	3	Y	173	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
25				M	2	Y	177	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
26				M	NA	Y	180	VOID - No sample recovered																					
27				M	2	Y	182	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
28				M	2	Y	184	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
29				M	1	Y	185	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
30				M	1	Y	187	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
31				M		N	189	VOID - No sample recovered																					
32				M	1	Y	195	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33				M	1	Y	199	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0
34				M		N	267	VOID - No sample recovered																					
35				M	1		214	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36				M	3	N	194	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0
37				M	1	Y	174	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
38				M	1	Y	135	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
39				M	1	Y	175	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
40				M	1	N	142	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
41				M	1	Y	179	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1

Table 1: The Environmental Samples

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA - SAMPLE DETAILS AND VOLUMES RECOVERED

Sample details for KING-A

Context number	Sample number	Volumes of material		
		Sample (litres)	Retent (litres)	Flot (millilitres)
C109	1	40	1	16
C110	2	20	4	80
C112	3	10	2	10
C114	4	20	1.3	17
C117	5	5	1	4
C118	6	20	6	12
C122	7	20	4	8
C124	8	20	5	7
C120	9	20	5	15
C128	10	20	4	50
C137	11	10	3	3
C112	12	20	4	15
C149	13	20	5	8
C151	14	10	1.3	5
C126	15	20	9	8
C132	16	20	6	15
C134	17	20	4	9
C144	18	10	3	10
C155	19	20	4	4
C166	21	10	2	5
C168	22	20	2.5	10
C172	23	20	3.2	7
C173	24	20	4	5
C177	25	10	3	5
C180	26	20	3	20
C182	27	10	2.5	5
C184	28	10	3	5
C185	29	5	1.3	3
C187	30	5	3	7
C189	31	VOID - SAMPLE NOT RECOVERED		
C195	32	10	3	3
C199	33	10	3.5	5
C267	34	VOID - SAMPLE NOT RECOVERED		
C214	35	10	4	
C194	36	12	2.5	3
C174	37	20	3	6
C135	38	20	2.6	17
C175	39	10	4	8
C142	40	20	5	5
C179	41	10	3	2

Table 2: Sample Details and Volumes Recovered

5.4 Further work

- 5.4.1 Of the 41 samples none produced adequate flots containing organic material of sufficient quantity, quality and diversity for further assessment (see table 2 and 3). After initial assessment none of the samples contained enough material to form a detailed study. Although in nearly all cases the material recovered, especially that which was charred, was of good preservation the amount, and generally the amounts of the flots recovered was too small to give a good interpretation of the site.

5.5 The mollusc remains

- 5.5.1 There were no mollusc remains recovered from the site.

5.6 THE BONE REMAINS

5.6.1 Introduction

- 5.6.1.1 A number of deposits produced bone, but none produced it in substantial quantities (see Table 3 below). The condition of the bone was also very poor and fragmentary, indicating that the conditions for preservation were not good on the site. This was probably a combination of the lack of waterlogging throughout most of the contexts and also an acidic pH leading to the degradation of the bone.
- 5.6.1.2 Animal bones from several species were found. The burnt bone was better preserved but of such small and fragmentary amounts as to not be worthy of further analysis. The amount and condition of the unburnt bone recovered does not warrant further investigation.

5.7 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.7.1 It is recommended that no further analysis of the environmental data need be carried out as there is not sufficient quantity or quality of material, of either flora or fauna, from which to gain any meaningful information for this site.

Context Number		Phase	Weight (g)	Description
100	Caprovid	U/S	36	Teeth
	UK	U/S	28	Fragments of bone of indeterminate species - burnt
109	UK	M	28	Fragments of bone of indeterminate species - burnt
	Caprovid	M	8	Teeth
110	UK	R	2	2 Fragments of bone of indeterminate species
114	UK	R	33	2 Fragments of bone of indeterminate species
	Caprovid	R		Teeth
118	Cattle	M	487	Phalange, tibia, ulna
124	Caprovid	R	12	Teeth
	Mammal	R	6	Fragments of bone of indeterminate species - burnt
128	Caprovid	R	7	Teeth
	UK	R	4	1 unidentifiable fragment of burnt bone
134	Caprovid	R		Several teeth
	UK	R	505	Fragments of bone of several species, medium and large mammal, burnt to varying degrees
	Bird	R	5	Femur of small bird, unburnt
142	UK	R	15	3 fragment of bone of medium mammal
149	UK	R	4	1 unidentifiable fragment of burnt bone
171	UK	R	5	1 fragment of bone of indeterminate species
	Caprovid	R	9	Teeth
172	UK	R	7	2 Fragments of bone of indeterminate species
173	UK	R	13	2 Fragments of bone of indeterminate species
214	UK	R	7	Several fragments of indeterminate species - burnt

Table 3: Caprovid = Sheep/goat, U/S = unstratified M= Medieval, R= Roman, g = grammes

6 THE FINDS

- 6.1 The pottery and other artefactual material has been cleaned, marked and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of Frank Giecco. The pottery and finds are quantified in tables 4, 5 and 6. The slightly acidic soil conditions made the preservation of metallic objects very poor, particularly copper alloy, the vast majority of which survived as little more than soil staining. Iron objects survived little better with only the lead objects maintaining a good of preservation, in particular the collection of lead seals.

6.2 The Roman Pottery (full report still in preparation)

By Louise Hird

- 6.2.1 1861 fragments of Roman pottery were recovered during the excavation. Selected objects which required conservation are being assessed by Jennifer Jones English Heritage conservator at Durham University.

6.3 The Roman coarse ware by Louise Hird

- 6.3.1 A total of 1755 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the 2005 excavation, made up of 1653 sherds of coarse/fine wares, 66 sherds of amphorae and 80 sherds of mortaria. The total weight was 36.355 kilos (29.800 kilos of coarse/fine ware, 1.255 kilos of amphora and 5.300 kilos of mortaria).
- 6.3.2 The pottery was recovered from 53 separate contexts. The material was recorded onto proforma sheets, by fabric type, vessel type, weight, sherd count etc and copies of these sheets are provided with this summary.
- 6.3.3 The assemblage is typical of that found on Carlisle sites occupied in the second century ie the Lanes. It is made up largely of oxidised and grey wares, much of which was produced locally, as well as BB1 inconsiderable quantity.
- 6.3.4 The pottery dates almost entirely to the second century AD with a small amount of late first/early second century residual material and a small amount of early third century material. The majority of the pottery is of local manufacture. This is true of the coarse/fine wares and particularly true of the mortaria. All the amphora sherds are of South Spanish vessels imported for their contents ie olive oil.
- 6.3.5 The traded wares include BB1, Severn Valley ware which is usually of later second century date onwards in this region, and Nene Valley ware of which the same is true. There is one example of an unusual grey Crambeck platter from an unstratified context, of typical fabric but unusual form, which dates to the fourth century.
- 6.3.6 The predominance of local manufacture is particularly marked in the case of the mortaria of which there is a rather higher percentage of material than is normal. A usual figure is around 2% of the assemblage but here there is about 4.5%. There are three examples of stamped vessels all stamped by the same potter Doc(e)ilis who has long been recognised as working in Carlisle, possibly from about 130-160, but is now known to have had a kiln on Fisher Street.

Fabric type	1	3	4	6	11	12	14	15	17	21	27	29	31	34	35	54	207	208	213
Context																			
100	36		5		71	31	2		6	1					3				
102	2				9	5				7								1	
109	10				10	19											1		
110	11				42					4				1	1		2		
112	1				4	1					4								
114	19				22	26				1							1		
118	1				1												1		
120					1														
122	5		5		2	8													
124	12	1	5	6	20	19	1	1					1				1		
126	14				16	6			1										
128	19		2	1	31					2				1			2		
132	2				1	2									1				
134	160		4	6	15 9	25 0	5	4	8								5		
135	10				1	3				1				1			2		
138	5				4	3													
139	11		2		5	19													
142	2	1			10	17							1				1		
144	4				7	3				2									
146	17				22	20											3		
149	8	2			17	17													
155			8		2	2						4							
168						3													
169	1				5	3										2			
171					11	7												1	
172	2		3		9	3													
173	1				8	1													
175	18		4 7	6	23	11													
177					4	1													

179	6				2	9													
180	8	3			12	7													1
183					2	3													
187					2	1													
189	2				2														
192					5	1													
194	1				2	2													
199					1														
214	1					1													
Total	389	7	8	1	54	50	8	5	15	18	4	4	2	3	5	2	19	2	1

Table 4: The coarse ware fabric types by context.

Fabric type	301	302	313	324	348
Context					
100	3			1	
109	1				
110				2	
124	5				
128				2	
132	2				
134	13	2	1	2	
138	1	1			
142	2	6			
144					1
146	1	14			
149	1				
171		2			
173		2			
175	2	1			
179		2			
180	1	6			
Total	32	42	1	7	1

Table 5: The Mortaria types by context

6.3.5 Research Objectives

- 6.3.5.1 A fabric series will be produced. The number of illustrations will not exceed 12 of coarse/fine ware vessels and will not exceed 5 mortaria. Discussion will include the evaluation of the importance of both local products to the site and also traded wares, and the changing nature of supply through the Roman period. A detailed discussion of the Roman pottery will include comparison with material from other sites in the North of England.

6.4 The Samian ware

by Felicity Wilde

- 6.4.1 In preparation.

6.5 The Amphora

- 6.5.1 66 fragments of amphora were recovered during the excavation and were exclusively of South Spanish origin. The South Spanish Amphora were originally produced for the export of fish paste a popular ingredient in Roman cookery and was often re-used once the contents had been used, making this material a common place find from deposits dating from the 2nd century and as residual finds up to the end of Roman Britain.

6.6 The Roman coins

- 6.6.1 A total of 3 Roman coins were recovered during the excavation and were assessed by David Shotter. Condition of the coins was universally poor due to the acidic soil conditions making detailed identification of many of the coins impossible, with some of the coins totally illegible.

Small Find Number	Context	Phase	Description	Date	Comments	material
4	100	na	Sestertius of Vespasian	AD 69-79	Very Corroded	Ae
6	100	na	Sestertius of Trajan	AD 103-111	AQVA TRAIANA Issue (RIC 463)	Ae
8	149	2	Denarius of Marcus Antonius	BC 32-31	ANT AVG III VIR RPC (Crawford 544) Very Worn	Ag

Table 6: The Roman coins by context

6.8 The Medieval Pottery

- 6.8.1 26 fragments of medieval pottery were recovered during the excavation, 24 of which came from a single pit ([108]). The pottery from this pit was exclusively green glazed partially reduced grey ware and included a almost complete example of a small two handled jar. This material isn't closely dated and could date to any time between the 13th and 14th century. The complete vessel will be illustrated, no further work is required on the assemblage as a whole.

6.9 Post-Medieval Pottery

- 6.9.1 Only five pieces of post medieval pottery were recovered, including 1 piece of bone china and a fragment of transfer printed earthenware. All the fragments dated from the late 19th / early 20th century and no further analysis is required.

6.10 Iron

- 6.10.1 In preparation

6.11 Building material

- 6.11.1 72 fragments of brick and tile were recovered from 16 separate contexts of which 13 were from secure Roman deposits. The material was all fragmentary and is likely to have been imported to the site as hardcore as there were no structures on site substantial enough to have utilised brick and tile. The fragmentary nature of this material prohibits and meaningful analysis on brick and tile form and no further work is recommended.

6.12 Glass

- 6.12.1 The glass assemblage recovered during the excavation consisted of 39 shards of which 29 were of Roman date. Ten fragments of post medieval glass from the topsoil (100) were also recovered and were of exclusively 20th century date. The 29 shards of Roman date consisted exclusively of small undiagnostic flask fragments. This very small assemblage was made up of small blue green body sherds that are likely to have come from relatively common square mould blown beakers which were popular throughout the 2nd and 3rd centuries. Two small find number were allocated for glass items and are listed below.

- 6.12.2 **Small find 7:** A dark blue melon bead measuring 2.5cm in diameter and 1.5cm in width. A common form of decorative bead common throughout the Roman period.

- 6.12.3 **Small find 13:** 7 small fragments of glass bracelet, the glass fragments are milky white in colour and D shaped in profile. The bracelet fragments measured 1.3cm in width and 0.7cm at its maximum breadth.

6.13 Flint and worked stone

- 6.13.1 One unworked piece of flint was recovered from context 173 during the excavation.
- 6.13.2 2 fragments of worked stone were recovered: a small probable stone lid and a possible polishing stone were recovered during the excavation.

- 6.13.3 **Stone 1** context 139. Measures 110mm in length and has a square section of 30mm by 30mm.
- 6.13.4 Polishing stone likely to have been used in textile production. Highly polished on all sides. Made out of a medium grained schist.
- 6.13.5 **Stone 2:** context 134. A fragment projected diameter is 0.21m with a average thickness of 0.04m.
- 6.13.6 This item appears to be a crude pot lid, these items are not uncommon on domestic sites and were utilised throughout the Roman period.
- 6.14 Clay Tobacco Pipe**
- 6.14.1 13 clay tobacco fragments were recovered from context 100 ranging from late 17th century belly bowls to early 19th century varieties.. No further work is required.
- 6.15 Lead**
- 6 fragments of lead were recovered from all contexts and consisted almost exclusively made up of undiagnostic fragments of molten lead. A single item was allocated a small find number (**SF17**) and was a small lead circular loom weigh; Circular in plan and domed in profile. **Context 134**, Diameter 0.20m and height 0.10m.
- 6.16 Copper Alloy**
- 6.16.1 7 pieces of copper alloy other than coins were recovered during the excavation, 2 of which were undiagnostic fragments measuring less than 3mm by 3mm. The remaining five objects were given small find numbers and are discussed below.
- 6.16.2 **Small find 1: Context 109.** A small crossbow broach with the remains of enamelled decoration. Date from the early 3rd into the 4th century. Currently under conservation at Durham University. A full description will follow.
- 6.16.3 **Small find 2: Context 109.** A small post medieval copper alloy buckle, measuring 0.35cm in length and 1cm in width. Currently under conservation at Durham University. A full description will follow.
- 6.16.4 **Small find 10:** Context 124. Length 0.45m, maximum width 0.20m. A small decorative copper alloy fitting of probable military origin. Full description to follow.
- 6.16.5 **Small find 14: Context 100.** Diameter 0.23m, thickness 0.01m. A undecorated post-medieval button.
- 6.16.6 **Small find 15:** Context 100. Diameter 0.25m, thickness 0.01m. A post-medieval coin totally worn with no remaining detail.
- 6.21 STORAGE**
- 6.21.1 The material was received quite well packed for medium – long term storage.

7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- 7.1 No features of a prehistoric date were recorded, with no evidence of ard marks which characterised the earliest features recorded on Botchergate during the Carlisle Archaeology Unit excavations of 1998-99 between Tait Street and Mary Street. The earliest recorded features at King Street were of likely Hadrianic date (phase 1), although Roman activity has been recorded on Botchergate dating back as early as the late 70s it is probable that the current area of excavation lay beyond the limits of this late 1st century occupation.
- 7.2 The limited pitting and single ditch dating to phase 1 indicates minimal activity in this area well into the early 2nd century. It is worth noting that the earliest boundary ditch was roughly parallel to Botchergate indicating that this boundary ditch came into existence after the alignment of the roadway, unlike areas closer to the centre of Carlisle which showed traces of features at 45⁰ to the alignment of Botchergate. The realignment of the Botchergate area has been tentatively dated to the final decade of the 1st century.
- 7.3 The first activity of any consequence on the site (phase 2a) involved the construction of a slight timber building measuring approximately 8m by over 6m, and was characterised by a distinctive clay floor surface (**175**) similar to other examples of Roman timber buildings excavated on Botchergate. The presence of a small hearth may indicate a domestic function for this building with no evidence of any industrial activity in the area. This structure was initially likely to have been constructed with a sill beam construction set directly onto the current surface, after a relatively short period of time the building was remodelled with two beam slots cut into the clay floor surface. Both types of timber building construction techniques are common in Carlisle with similar examples recorded at Castle street (McCarthy 1983) and Scotch Street (Giecco 2003).
- 7.4 This building appears to have been systematically pulled down with no demolition layers or evidence of post pipes or sill beams (phase 3). A well constructed cobbled track way (**162**) was then laid on a north-west/ south-east alignment roughly parallel with Botchergate. This track continued passed through a field boundary at which point a pair of substantial post holes were recorded which are likely to have been gate posts. A highly truncated small timber structure that judging by the stake holes used wattle work fencing on at least one of its sides is likely to have been used to house animals rather than any human occupation. The lack of good environmental preservation prevented the retrieval of any additional information from the soil samples.
- 7.5 The life span of this trackway does not appear to have been great as it was overlain by the second (phase 4) timber structure to have been recorded on the site. The clay floor surface which characterised this structure clearly sealed the track produced finds dated to the early 3rd century. Occupation reached its most intensive point in this period with substantial amounts of domestic waste generated. At this point in time the site fits in to the overall picture a sprawling

civilian settlement following Botchergate south out of the centre of Carlisle. This ribbon settlement appears to have been substantial extending at least to King Street and with the southern limits still to be defined.

- 7.6 The lack of substantial structures and evidence of industry which is common place throughout the excavated suburbs to the north west of King street is likely to be the result of the location of excavated area set back approximately 15m from the current street frontage. The excavation carried out between Portland Place and Tait Street in 1999 revealed at least six properties, all showing evidence of intensive occupation and significant industrial activity (Giecco 2001. However at no point along this area did the structures extend beyond 5m back from the street frontage. The areas to the rear of these properties was characterised by far less intensive activity, typically involving pitting, ditches and the occasional timber structure. This paints a remarkably similar picture to the features recorded during the King Street excavation.
- 7.7 It is therefore probable that the phase 2 and 4 structures were associated with properties fronting Botchergate and probably served as service buildings to the rear of the main plots possibly relating to agricultural activity rather than industrial activities that appear to predominate in the areas closer the frontage. The sequence of four ditches to the south of the excavation area although maintaining the same alignment do appear to drift to the south over time, possibly encroaching on unenclosed land to the rear of these plots.
- 7.8 It is worthy of note that although the sequence of Roman activity does continue with the phase 5 pitting, no more structures were built on the site. Elsewhere on Botchergate particularly on the eastern side, there is strong evidence for the abandonment of much of the vicus in the early third century when there is a clear shift from occupation towards field systems and burials along Botchergate. It has been speculated that this major shift in the structure of this part of Carlisle involved central planning and was linked to a major redevelopment and building programme in the centre of Carlisle. The likely reason for this building programme is the granting of *Civitas* status to Carlisle possibly under the Emperor Septimus Severus or his son Caracalla in the first decade of the third century.
- 7.9 The final phase of Roman activity (phase 5) produced only limited activity, a single pit and a ditch, with very few finds. Here the pattern at King Street differed from that recorded elsewhere on Botchergate as there was no evidence of the cemetery that lined much of Botchergate during the third and fourth centuries, and had been recorded to the north and south of King Street. The absence of burials in the area of excavation may simply be the result of the site being too far away from the street frontage where the burials are most likely to have been placed.
- 7.10 The final phase of Roman activity was sealed beneath a 0.30m spread of homogenous dark earth. The only post Roman feature of note was a single medieval pit of 13th /14th date. There is evidence of medieval activity around the junction between St Nicholas Street and Botchergate just to the south of King Street. There is no cartographic or known documentary evidence for medieval occupation adjacent to the site, but it is possible that this pit could be to the rear of a potential structure fronting Botchergate.

8 POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER WORK

- 8.1 This report, in addition to being an assessment, also serves as a level 3 archive report for the site. The primary records have been checked, ordered and appropriately stored, and stratigraphic matrices have been produced.
- 8.2 The final publication report text has largely been written, and a significant quantity of the publication drawings have also been completed. Once the specialist finds reports have been completed, to take the report to publication level would require only a small amount of editorial work.

9 UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN

- 9.1 Some additional research will take place on a number of potential sources with the potential to clarify unresolved functional and dating problems.
- 9.2 Structural and stratigraphic study**
- 9.2.1 The structural and stratigraphic data from the various phases will form the basis a synthesised report which will include any additional data gathered from further documentary and artefact studies.
- 9.3 Artefactual study**
- 9.3.1 **Iron Objects:** No further work is planned.
- 9.3.2 **Lead objects:** No further work is planned.
- 9.3.3 **Copper alloy objects:** specialist examination to specify specific usage. Selected items to be recorded by photography and line drawing.
- 9.3.4 **General non-ferrous metal objects:** No further work is planned.
- 9.3.5 **Glass and ceramic objects:** No further work is planned.
- 9.3.9 **Brick and tile:** No further work is planned.
- 9.4 Deposition of the archive**
- 9.4.1 On completion of the analysis and publication the archive will be prepared for deposition in Tullie House Museum, Carlisle, Cumbria.
- 9.5 Publication report**
- 9.5.1 The final report will be submitted for publication in the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian Journal.

9.6 Resources

Named project team

Team Member	Project role
Frank Giecco (NPA)	Project management, structural/stratigraphic analysis, documentary research, manipulation of digital graphic data, report synthesis
David Flush (NPHT)	NPHT administrative project management
Gareth Davies (NPA)	Documentary research, research, archive update
Matt Town	Manipulation of digital graphic data
Patricia Compton (NPA)	Environmental Archaeologist
Fiona Wooler	Illustrator
Juliet Reeves	Illustrator
Julia Cussans	External consultant
Hugh Wilmott	External consultant
Dr Roger Tomlin	External consultant
David Shotter	External consultant
Ian Caruana	External consultant
Jennifer Jones	External consultant
Louise Hird	External consultant
Cathy Brooks	External consultant
Felicity Wilde	External consultant
Brenda Dickinson	External consultant

9.6.1 Management structure

9.6.2 The team will be managed by Frank Giecco BA, Arch Dip, AIFA, NPA archaeologist. The Project Manager has the ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of this Project design. The project manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key team members, who may supervise others and have a direct input into the final report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who will contribute to the project, and the museum named as the recipient of the project archive. The Project Manager will compile the final reports.

9.6.3 Internal NPA administrative management will be undertaken by David Flush (NPHT Manager).

9.7 Timetable

9.7.1 The projected date for submission of the completed report to the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian society for inclusion in the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society is September 2006.

10

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THE APPENDIX

APPENDIX 3

THE BULK FINDS DATABASE

Context No.	Description	No. of Finds	No. of Bags
U/S	Roman Coarse Ware (RCW)	31	1
U/S	Roman Samian Ware	2	1
U/S	Roman Mortaria	1	1
U/S	Post-Med Clay Pipe	5	1
U/S	Ceramic Building Material (CBM)	2	1
U/S	Glass	3	1
U/S	Fe Object	5	1
U/S	Medieval Pottery	1	1
100	Tile	1	1
100	Glass	4	1
100	RCW	12	1
100	Medieval Pottery	4	1
100	Post Medieval Pottery (PMP)	1	1
100	Post-Med Clay Pipe Stems	2	1
100	Roman Samian Ware	3	1
100	RCW	14	1
100	Pb Object	1	1
100	Roman Samian Ware	5	1
100	RCW	8	1
100	Roman Amphora	2	1
100	Roman Glass	1	1
100	CBM	1	1
100	Post-Med Clay Pipe	1	1
100	CBM	1	1
100	CBM	5	1
100	Fe Object	11	1
100	Roman Samian Ware	5	1
100	Roman Amphora	1	1
100	Post-Med Clay Pipe	1	1
100	Fe Object	2	1
100	Metal Object	1	1
100	Cu Alloy Object	1	1
100	RCW	71	1
100	Roman Amphora	3	1
100	Roman Mortaria	1	1
100	Roman Mortaria	1	1
100	Object	1	1
100	CBM	3	1
100	Cu Alloy Object	1	1
100	Fe Object?	3	1
100	Glass	3	1
100	Post-Med Clay Pipe	2	1
100	Fe Object	3	1
100	Roman Samian Ware	18	1
100	Fe Object	4	1
100	Roman Mortaria	3	1
100	RCW	51	1
100	Roman Glass	2	1
100	Roman Amphora	5	1

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100	Medieval Pottery	1	1
100	Roman Samian Ware	1	1
100	Coal	1	1
100	Charcoal	2	1
100	Carbon	1	1
102	CBM	2	1
102	Roman Samian Ware	10	1
102	Glass	2	1
102	Fe Object	6	1
102	Roman Amphora	2	1
102	RCW	24	1
109	Roman Samian Ware	5	1
109	RCW	7	1
109	Medieval Pottery	13	1
109	CBM	2	1
109	RCW	58	1
109	Roman Samian Ware	9	1
109	Fe Object	13	1
109	Roman Samian Ware	1	1
109	RCW	6	1
109	Fe Object	20	1
110	Roman Samian Ware	6	1
110	RCW	35	1
110	Roman Amphora	1	1
110	Glass	1	1
110	CBM	3	1
110	RCW	12	1
110	CBM	1	1
110	Fe Object	5	1
110	Modern Glass	1	1
110	Fine China Pottery	1	1
110	Roman Samian Ware	2	1
110	Roman Samian Ware	5	1
110	Roman Mortaria	2	1
110	Fe Object	1	1
110	RCW	15	1
110	CBM	1	1
112	Fe Object	1	1
112	RCW	10	1
112	CBM	2	1
114	Roman Amphora	2	1
114	Roman Samian Ware	4	1
114	RCW	34	1
114	CBM	4	1
114	RCW	38	1
114	Fe Object	2	1
114	Roman Amphora	1	1
114	Roman Samian Ware	6	1
114	Coal	1	1
118	Medieval Pottery	9	1
118	RCW	6	1
118	Roman Mortaria	3	1
118	Bone	6	1
120	Fe Object	2	1
120	Post-Med Pottery	2	1
120	Roman Samian Ware	1	1
120	RCW	2	1
120	Misc?	1	1

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120	Glass	2	1
122	Fe Object	3	1
122	RCW	20	1
122	Roman Amphora	1	1
124	Pb Object	1	1
124	Fe Object	3	1
124	RCW	61	1
124	CBM	2	1
124	Roman Glass	2	1
124	Roman Mortaria	8	1
124	Roman Amphora	3	1
124	Roman Samian Ware	4	1
126	CBM	2	1
126	RCW	38	1
126	Roman Samian ware	11	1
128	Fe Object	9	1
128	Bone	5	1
128	Roman Mortaria	5	1
128	Roman Amphora	1	1
128	RCW	18	1
128	Roman Samian Ware	6	1
128	RCW	21	1
128	RCW	13	1
128	CBM	1	1
128	RCW	6	1
130	Glass	2	1
132	Roman Mortaria	1	1
132	Roman Samian Ware	3	1
132	RCW	6	1
132	Roman Colour Coated Ware	1	1
132	Fe Object	2	1
134	Roman Amphora	3	1
134	Roman Amphora	1	1
134	RCW	4	1
134	Roman Samian Ware	7	1
134	RCW	40	2
134	RCW	35	2
134	CBM	9	1
134	Roman Samian Ware	17	1
134	RCW	49	1
134	Roman Mortaria	1	1
134	Fe Object	2	1
134	RCW	65	1
134	Roman Mortaria	10	1
134	Roman Mortaria	1	1
134	Roman Glass	1	1
134	Roman Samian Ware	7	1
134	Fe Object	2	1
134	Roman Samian Ware	9	1
134	Roman Mortaria	2	1
134	Roman Amphora	2	1
134	RCW	26	1
134	Roman Samian Ware	5	1
134	Roman Mortaria	1	1
134	RCW	51	1
134	CBM	1	1
134	Roman Samian ware	10	1
134	Roman Mortaria	1	1

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134	Roman Amphora	1	1
134	RCW	58	1
134	CBM	4	1
134	Roman Samian Ware	2	1
134	Roman Amphora	4	1
134	Roman Mortaria	1	1
134	Roman Amphora	2	1
134	RCW	54	2
134	RCW	60	2
134	Roman Mortaria	1	1
134	Fe Object	1	1
134	Roman Samian Ware	14	1
134	CBM	1	1
134	Fe Object	1	1
134	Roman Amphora	3	1
134	Glass	3	1
134	Roman Mortaria	3	1
134	Roman Samian Ware	17	1
134	RCW	56	1
134	Roman Amphora	2	1
134	Roman Glass	1	1
134	CBM	1	1
134	Burnt Stone	1	1
134	Fe Object	5	1
134	Roman Samian Ware	6	1
134	RCW	56	1
134	Roman Amphora	1	1
134	Fe Object	1	1
134	Worked Stone – Pot Lid?	1	1
134	CBM	10	1
134	Roman Samian Ware	4	1
134	Roman Amphora	2	1
134	Roman Mortaria	1	1
134	RCW	60	1
134	Fe Object	3	1
134	Glass	1	1
134	Roman Samian Ware	6	1
134	Roman Mortaria	1	1
134	RCW	34	1
134	CBM	2	1
135	RCW	19	1
135	CBM	2	1
135	Fe Object	2	1
138	Roman Amphora	1	1
138	RCW	14	1
138	Roman Samian Ware	3	1
139	Roman Amphora	1	1
139	Roman Samian Ware	1	1
139	RCW	3	1
139	Roman Samian Ware	13	1
139	RCW	34	1
139	Worked Stone?	1	1
139	CBM	3	1
139	Glass	1	1
142	CBM	2	1
142	Roman Mortaria	9	1
142	Fe Object	1	1
142	Roman Glass	2	1

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142	RCW	30	1
142	Roman Samian Ware	9	1
144	RCW	16	1
144	Medieval Pottery	1	1
144	Post-Med Clay Pipe	1	1
144	Roman Samian Ware	10	1
144	Roman Amphora	2	1
144	Roman Mortaria	1	1
146	RCW	60	1
146	Roman Samian Ware	11	1
146	Roman Mortaria	10	1
146	CBM	5	1
149	RCW	15	1
149	Roman Samian Ware	6	1
149	Samian Imitation	1	1
149	CBM	1	1
149	CBM	4	1
149	RCW	30	1
149	Roman Amphora	2	1
149	Fe Object	2	1
149	Roman Mortaria	1	1
149	Roman Samian Ware	1	1
149	Roman Glass	1	1
151	Glass	1	1
155	RCW	15	1
159	Misc?	1	1
159	Roman Samian Ware	2	1
164	Fe Nail	1	1
168	RCW	3	1
169	RCW	11	1
169	Roman Amphora	6	1
171	Roman Samian Ware	3	1
171	Roman Amphora	1	1
171	Roman Mortaria	2	1
171	RCW	19	1
171	Pb Object	2	1
172	Roman Samian Ware	2	1
172	Roman Amphora	4	1
172	RCW	17	1
173	RCW	10	1
173	Roman Samian Ware	5	1
173	Lithic Artefact	1	1
173	Roman Mortaria	2	1
173	Glass	2	1
175	CBM	1	1
175	RCW	37	1
175	Roman Mortaria	1	1
175	Roman Amphora	1	1
175	Roman Samian Ware	3	1
175	RCW	69	1
175	Roman Samian Ware	7	1
175	Roman Amphora	3	1
175	CBM	1	1
175	Fe Object	2	1
175	Misc?	2	1
177	RCW	6	1
177	Coal / Coke	1	1
179	Roman Samian Ware	7	1

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179	RCW	17	1
179	Roman Mortaria	2	1
180	Roman Mortaria	4	1
180	RCW	32	1
183	Roman Samian Ware	2	1
183	RCW	5	1
183	Fe Object	1	1
187	RCW	3	1
189	RCW	4	1
189	Coal / Coke	1	1
192	RCW	6	1
194	RCW	5	1
199	RCW	1	1
203	Coal / Coke	3	1
203	Roman Samian Ware	1	1
203	Roman Colour Coated Ware	1	1
205	Coal / Coke	3	1
214	RCW	2	1
214	Roman Samian Ware	2	1
214	Bone	7	1

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

Film no.	Film type	Film speed	Frame nos. (AS ON INDEX SHEETS)	Processed.	Comments
1	B+W	400	1-36	Yes	6 th Oct-14 th Oct
2	Colour Slide	400	1-36	Yes	6 th Oct-14 th Oct
3	B+W	400	1-36	Yes	14 th Oct-18 th Oct
4	Colour Slide	400	1-36	Yes	14 th Oct-18 th Oct
5	B+W	400	1-36	Yes	18 th Oct-21 st Oct
6	Colour Slide	400	1-36	Yes	18 th Oct-21 st Oct
7	B+W	400	1-8	Yes	21 st Oct
8	Colour Slide	400	1-8	Yes	21 st Oct
102 Digital images were also taken					

THE DRAWN ARCHIVE – SECTIONS

APPENDIX 3

DR. NO.	SHEET NO.	SCALE	DRAWN BY	DATE	SUBJECT	DIR. FACING
1	1	1:10	KJM	14/10/05	Small Foundation Trench [119]	
2	1	1:10	KJM	14/10/05	Small Circular Pit [116]	
3	1	1:10	KJM	14/10/05	Rectangular Pit [111]	
4	1	1:10	KJM	14/10/05	Large Shallow Pit [113]	
5	1	1:10	KJM	17/10/05	Large Shallow Pit [127]	
6	1	1:10	KJM	17/10/05	Possible Post Hole [150]	
7	1	1:10	RH	17/10/05	Beam Slot	North
8	1	1:10	PC	17/10/05	Posthole [152] Ditch [154]	S-E
9	1	1:10	PC	17/10/05	Ditch [167]	East
10	1	1:10	PC	17/10/05	Posthole [136]	North
11	1	1:10	PC	17/10/05	Trench Edge & Pit [121]	West
12	1	1:10	FW	18/10/05	North End of Sondage 1	West
13	1	1:10	FG	17/10/05	Post Hole [160]	West
14	1	1:10	FG	17/10/05	Ditch [158]	West
15	1	1:10	FG	17/10/05	Section Through [162]	North
16	1	1:10	FG	17/10/05	Pit [123]	N-W
17	1	1:10	FG	17/10/05	Pit [148]	N-W
18	1	1:10	KJM	19/10/05	Ditch [191]	South
19	1	1:20	KW	20/10/05	Beam Slot & Post Hole [188]	North
20	1	1:10	KJM	20/10/05	Section Through [198]	South
21	2	1:10	KJM	20/10/05	Section Through [131]	West
22	2	1:10			[176]	
23	2	1:10			[186]	
24	2	1:10			[183]	
25	2	1:10			North West Edge of Site	
					North East Edge of Site	

APPENDIX 3

THE DRAWN ARCHIVE - PLANS

Dr. No.	Sheet No.	SCALE	DRAWN BY	DATE	SUBJECT SECTION THROUGH/PROFILE OF;
1	1	1:100	RH/JK	06/10/05	General Plan of Site
2	2	1:20	RH/JK	06/10/05	Pre-Ex Plan (PT1)
3	3	1:20	RH/JK	06/10/05	Pre-Ex Plan (PT2)
4	4	1:20	RH	07/10/05	Pre-Ex Plan (PT3)
5	5	1:20	RH	07/10/05	Pre-Ex Plan (PT4)
6	6	1:20	RH	07/10/05	Pre-Ex Plan (PT5)
7	7	1:20	RH	07/10/05	Pre-Ex Plan (PT6)
8	8	1:20	RH	07/10/05	Pre-Ex Plan (PT7)
9	9	1:20	FG	14/10/05	Overlay to Plan 8
10	10	1:20	FG	14/10/05	Overlay to Plan 7
11	11	1:20	FW	17/10/05	Overlay to Plan 9
12	12	1:20	RH	17/10/05	Late Wall and Robber Trench [145]
13	13	1:20	RH	17/10/05	Sondage Overlay for Plan 10
14	14	1:20	MT	18/10/05	Post-Ex Plan NE Corner (Overlay for Plan 2)
15	15	1:20	FW	19/10/05	Pre-Ex Beam Slot [188] Running E-W Overlay for Plan 12
16	16	1:20	DR	19/10/05	Overlay to Plan 13
17	17	1:20	MT	20/10/05	NW Corner of Site Overlay for Plan 4
18	18	1:20	RH	21/10/05	Overlay to Plan 15 & 16 Showing Sondage 3, 4 & 5
19	19	1:20	FG		Overlay for Plan 5

APPENDIX 4

THE SMALL FINDS DATABASE

<u>SF NO.</u>	<u>CONTEXT</u>	<u>MATERIAL / DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>DRAWING NO.</u>	<u>PHOTO NO.</u>	<u>FINDER</u>	<u>DATE</u>
1	109	Cu Alloy Brooch	Plan 4		FG	10/10/05
2	109	Cu Alloy Small Buckle	Plan 4		KJM	10/10/05
3	109	Complete Medieval Pot		F1/28-29 F2/28-29	KJM	11/10/05
4	100	Cu Alloy Coin – Roman?			DHR	05/10/05
5	100	Coin?			AJ	05/10/05
6	100	Cu Alloy Coin – Roman?			AJ	05/10/05
7	110	Melon Bead	Plan 8		AJ	13/10/05
8	149	Ag Coin – Denarius			AJ	17/10/05
9	146	Fe Bar?			RH	
10	124	Cu Alloy Fitting			FG	
11	189	Spindle Whorl			FW	19/10/05
12	134	Gaming Counter			DR	19/10/05
13	134	Bracelet – Semi Precious Stone?			JC	28/11/05
14	100	Cu Alloy Object			JC	28/11/05
15	100	Coin?			JC	28/11/05
16	134	Samian Pottery Game Counter			JC	28/11/05
17	134	Pb Loom Weight			JC	28/11/05
18	114	Almost Complete Grey Ware Roman Pot			PC	26/01/06
19	149	Complete Grey Ware Beaker Roman Pot			PC	26/01/06

APPENDIX 5

THE FIGURES

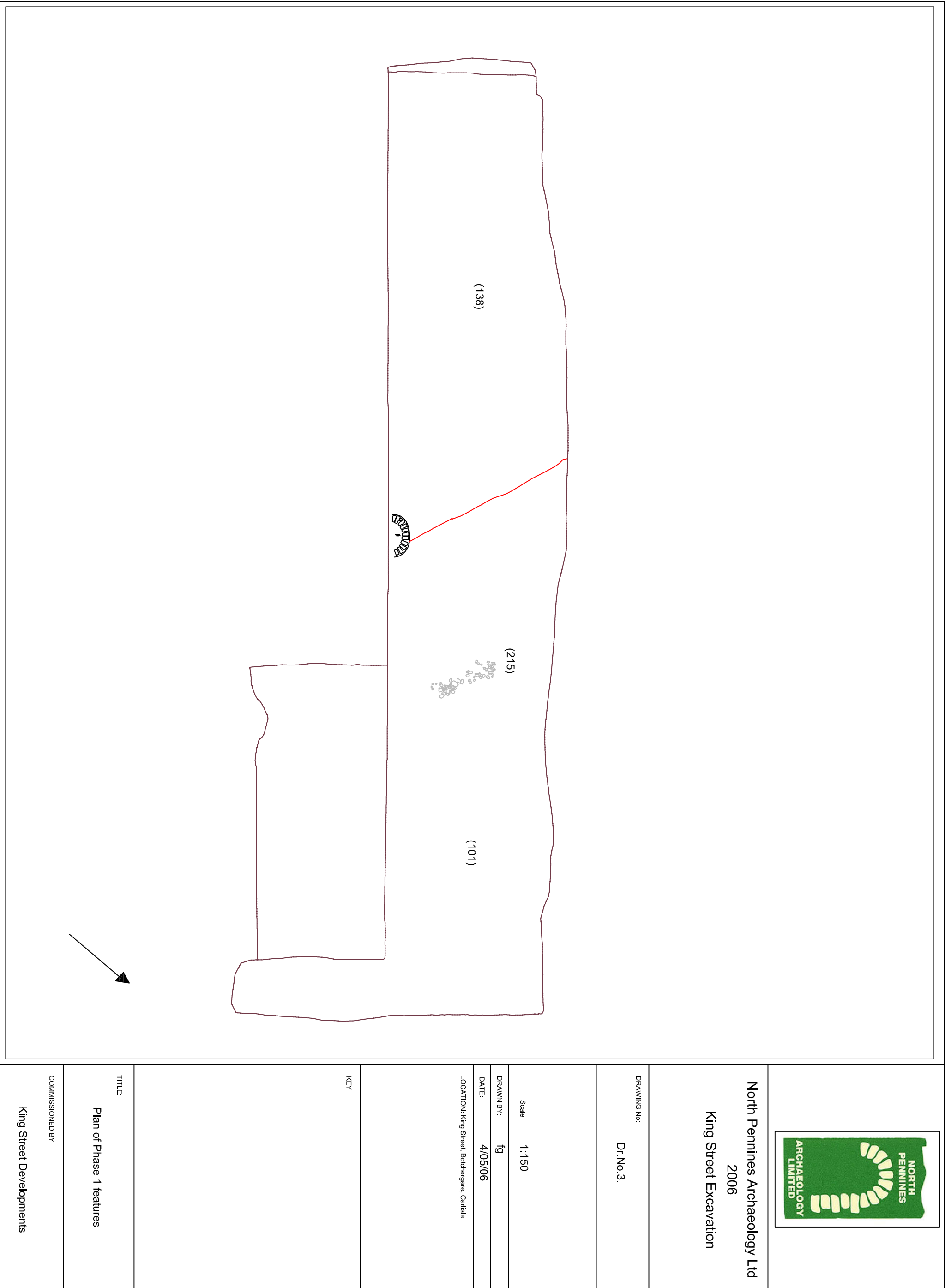
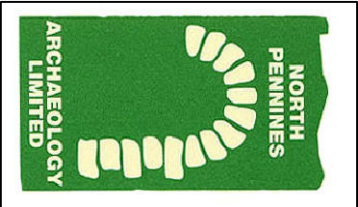
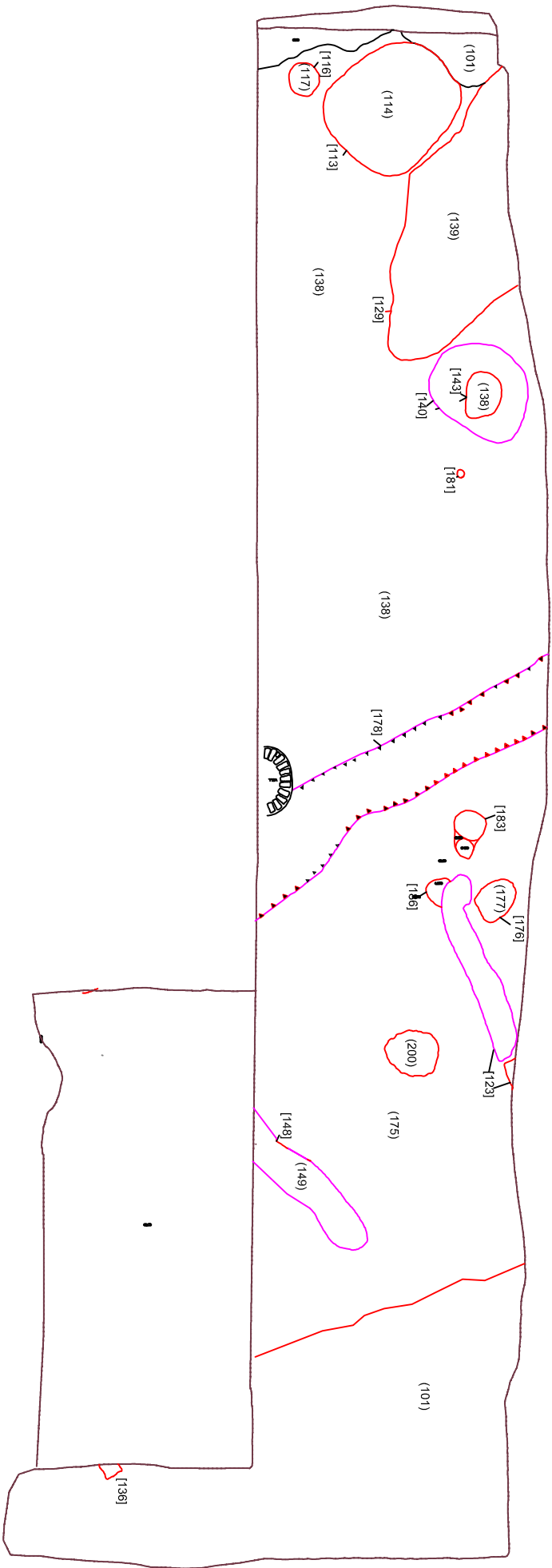


Figure 3



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2006
Excavation at King Street

DRAWING No:
Dr.No.4.

Scale 1:150

DRAWN BY: FG

DATE: 4/05/06

LOCATION: King Street, Carlisle, Cumbria

KEY

- Phase 2a features
- Phase 2b features

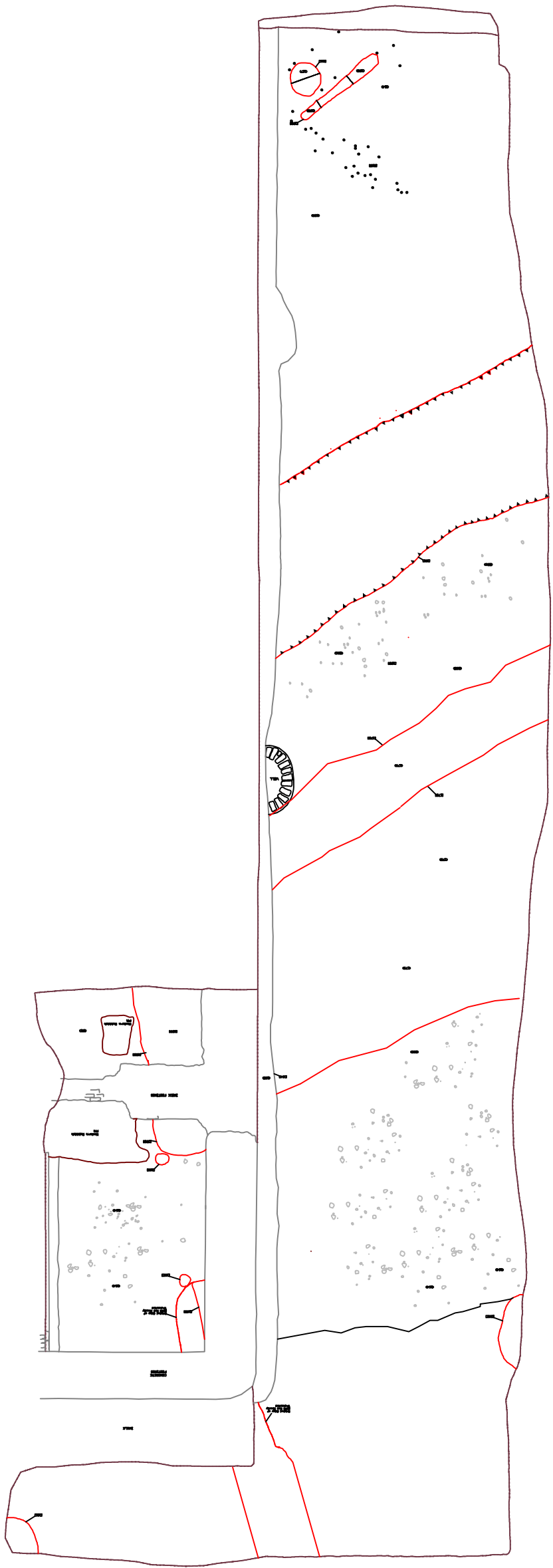
TITLE:

Plan of Phase 2 features

COMMISSIONED BY:

King Street Developments

Figure 4



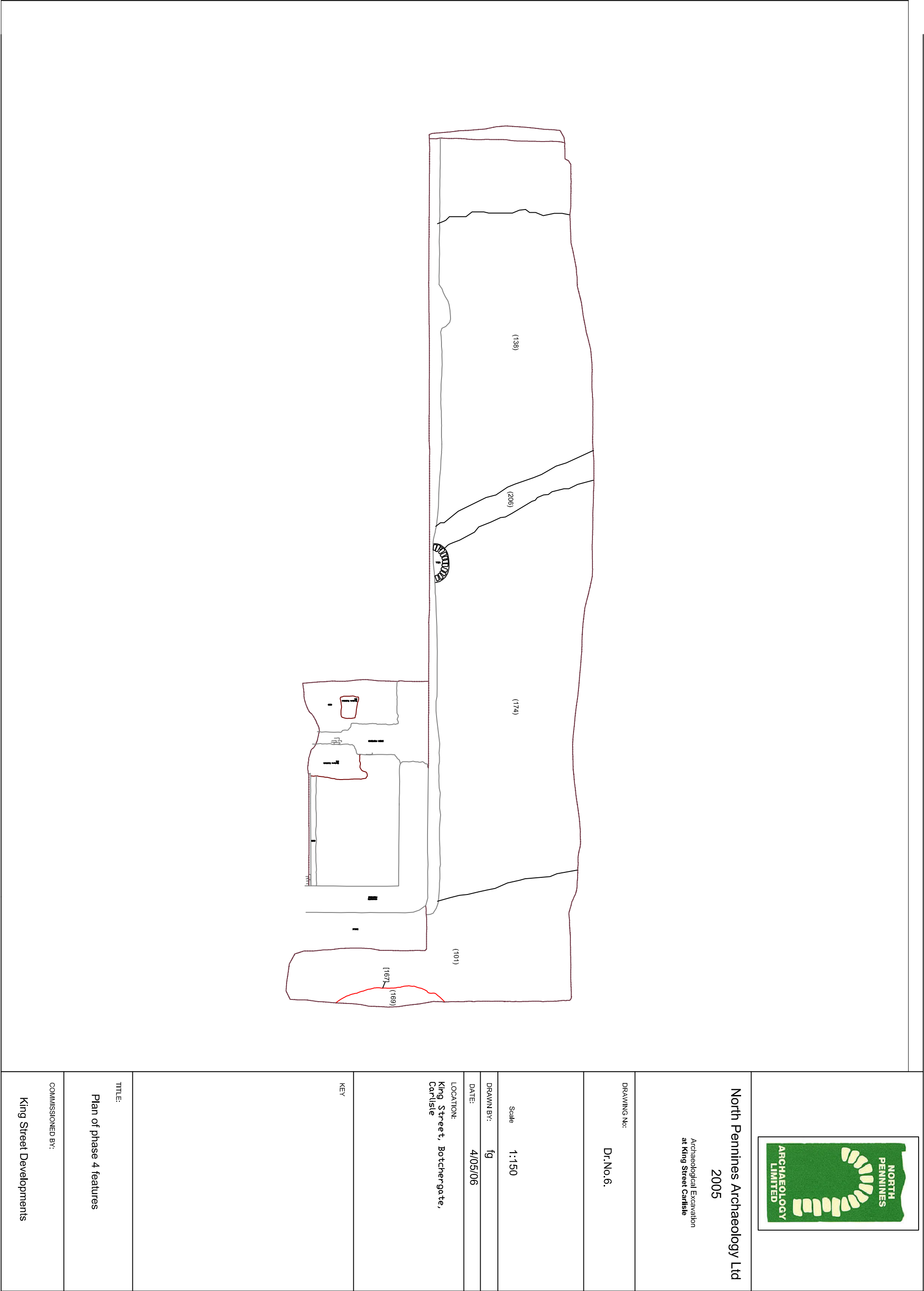
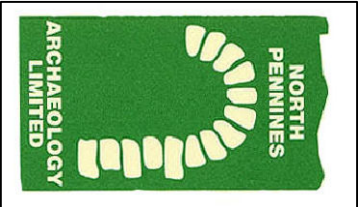
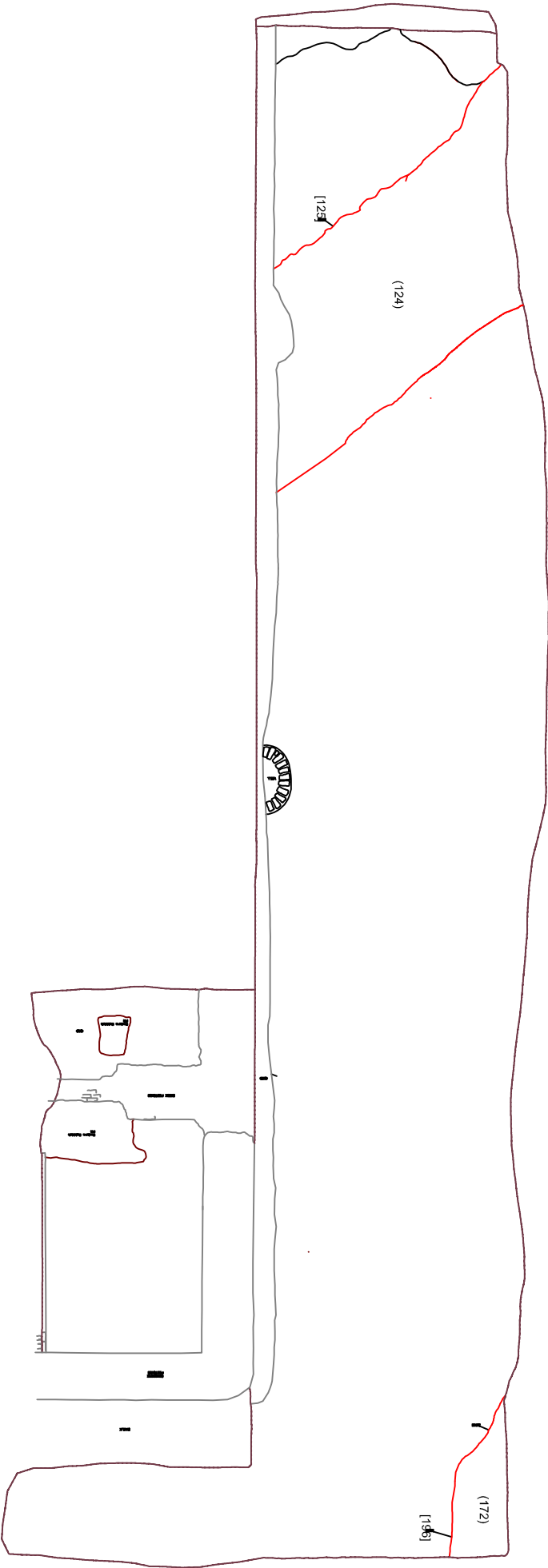


Figure 6



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2006

Archaeological Excavation
at King Street Carlisle

DRAWING No:
Dr.No.7.

Scale 1:150

DRAWN BY: fg

DATE: 4/05/06

LOCATION:
King Street, Botchergate,
Carlisle

KEY

TITLE:

Plan of phase 5 features

COMMISSIONED BY:

King Street Developments

Figure 7

