

THE BRIGANTIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING (‘WATCHING BRIEF’) at CARLTON, STANWICK St JOHN, Nr RICHMOND, NORTH YORKSHIRE

A report to North Yorkshire County Council



12th March 2011

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OASIS reference: thebriga1-95927

Fieldwork & report: Percival Turnbull

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INTRODUCTION

1. On instructions from North Yorkshire County Council (Highways and Transportation) an archaeological watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a drainage trench in the small village of Carlton, in the parish of Stanwick St John, Richmondshire District.
2. Work was carried out by Percival Turnbull, of this Practice, between 7th and 11th March, 2011, according to North Yorkshire County Council’s *Standard Written Scheme of Investigation* for watching briefs (approved by N.Y.C.C. as the W.S.I. for this scheme) and to the appropriate *Standard Procedures* of this Practice.
3. This project has been allocated the OASIS number *thebriga1-95927*.

LOCATION & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4. The excavated trench (Fig. 1) lay along the west side of the narrow road which skirts the village of Carlton. Excavation commenced immediately south of the bridge over the Clow Beck (sometimes known as the Aldbrough Beck) at (National Grid Reference) NZ 1916 1252 and continued to an existing gulley at the corner of the road at NZ 1909 1231, a total distance of circa 225 metres.
5. Although the hamlet of Carlton now contains only a single building older than the last few decades (an estate cottage of the 1890s) it is the site of a mediaeval manor and vill, the history of which is epitomised by Page (1914):

‘In CARLTON (Cartun, 1086; North Carleton, xvi cent.) at the time of the Domesday Survey there were 2 carucates at geld ‘inland’ to Aldbrough. It belonged to Count Alan, and continued to be held of the lords of Richmond. Geoffrey Scales held half a knight’s fee in Carlton and Barforth in 1211–12, and Roald was said to be mesne lord in 1286–7, probably as lord of Aldbrough. Geoffrey Pigot held 2 carucates of the vill in 1286–7, the remaining carucate being held, half by John de Layton of Hanlath de Halnaby, half by Hanlath of Roald. In 1316 his son Ranulph held the vill, and in 1334 Edward III granted free warren in Carlton to him and his heirs. The Pigots of Clothierham held Carlton till 1503, when Ranulph Pigot died, leaving co-heirs Margaret, Joan and Elizabeth, daughters of his brother Thomas. Margaret wife of Sir James Metcalfe, kt., of Nappa, died in possession of the manor 3 February 1530–1, her heir being her son Christopher, aged sixteen. Sir Christopher Metcalfe conveyed the manor in 1564 to George Catterick, whose grandson John Catterick sold it in 1667 to George Witham of Cliffe in Manfield. Thomas Pulleine, Master of the Stud to William III and Sheriff of Yorkshire in 1696 and 1703, purchased Carlton Hall from the Withams. Wingate Pulleine held the manor in 1728 and 1734, and Henry Pulleine had four men-servants here in 1780. It is now (1914) in the possession of the Duke of Northumberland’.

6. Carlton is situated immediately outside, but close to, the complex of earthworks known as Stanwick Camp, now generally accepted to have been a major territorial *oppidum* at the time of the client kingdom of Cartimandua. Wheeler, after a series of excavations in the early 1950s, identified the site with the historical

personality of Venutius, and saw it as the centre of anti-Roman resistance in the 50s and 60s A.D. (Wheeler, 1954). More recent work (Turnbull, 1983) has identified the presence at Stanwick of an elite population with access to luxury goods from the Roman world, and the earlier origins of the site have been emphasised. At its nearest point, the Stanwick earthwork complex approaches to *circa* 200 metres of the Carlton drainage trench.

THE WATCHING BRIEF

7. Excavation of the drain trench was carried out by a back-acting machine of 'J.C.B.' type, fitted with a 30 cm bucket. This work was carried out in four distinct lengths, with intervals for pipe-laying and backfilling; the excavation periods were continuously and closely monitored, and the spoil continuously scanned for loose finds or debris. The depth of the trench varied according to the natural slope of the ground and the required fall, but was an average of *circa* 1200 mm.

8. Results were archaeologically entirely negative. For almost the whole of its length the trench followed the line of an earlier drain cut to a greater depth than that of the current excavations, and the deposits removed consisted entirely of backfill. Traces could intermittently be seen of at least two periods of stone culvert and a later terracotta pipe (Fig. 2). For a short length near the centre of the trench run the line deviated from that of the earlier drains and the natural subsoil, a yellow, sandy clay, could be seen directly to underlie some 50cms of topsoil (Fig.).

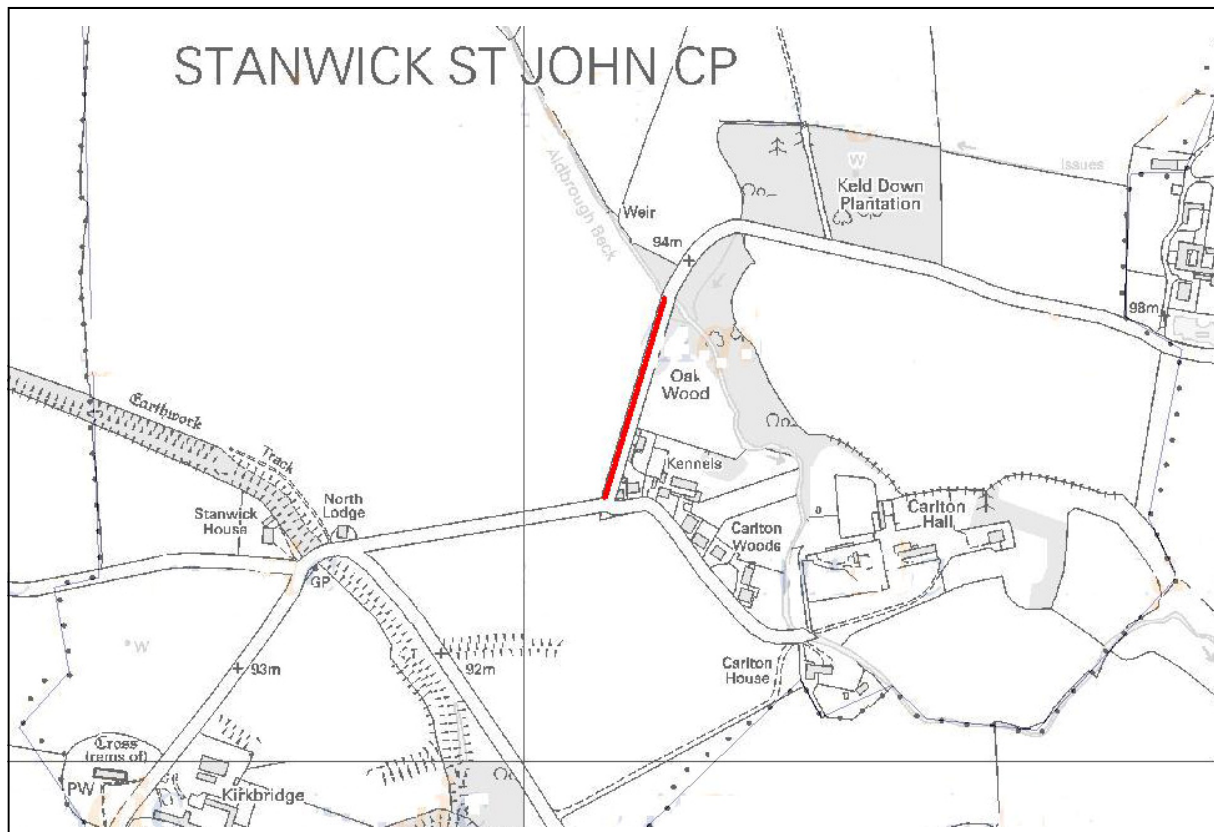
9. No object of possible archaeological significance was discovered, nor was any feature, structure or deposit of possible archaeological significance noted.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Page, W., 1914. *The Victoria County History of the County of York North Riding*.

Turnbull, P., 1983 'Stanwick in the Northern Iron Age' *Durham Archaeological Journal*, I

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Carlton watching brief

Fig. 1

Trench location



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Fig. 2

Typical section



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Fig. 3

Section in central area



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