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CNY	3067
Parish	1043
Rec'd	22/02/2005

THE BRIGANTIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION at  
OUTER LODGE, STANWICK St JOHN,  
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

A report to Ms Mandy Baker



20th February 2005

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1043 parish

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**THE BRIGANTIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE**

E312, E2600

**BRITANNIA CHAMBERS  
18a HORSEMARKET  
BARNARD CASTLE  
Co DURHAM DL12 8LZ**



C 3067

1/43/26C/FULL

also 1/43/26/FULL

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***ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION at  
OUTER LODGE, STANWICK St JOHN,  
RICHMONDSHIRE DISTRICT,  
NORTH YORKSHIRE.  
(NZ19501150)***

**A report to Ms Mandy Baker**

**Percival Turnbull**

**20th February 2005**

**Percival Turnbull, BA, MIFA, FSA**

**Deborah Walsh, BA, AIFA**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION at  
OUTER LODGE, STANWICK St JOHN,  
NORTH YORKSHIRE**

(NZ19501150)

**INTRODUCTION**

1. On instructions from Ms Mandy Baker, an archaeological investigation was undertaken on land to the south of Outer Lodge, Stanwick. This work was required in response to a planning condition attached to a consent (Richmondshire District Council 26C/FUL) for the construction of a new paddock and stables, involving the grading-off of an area of land immediately to the east of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Stanwick Camp. Work was carried out to a specification (Written Scheme of Investigation) prepared by this Practice and agreed with the office of the County Archaeologist. Fieldwork was carried out by Percival Turnbull and Deborah Walsh, of this Practice, in February 2005.

**THE SITE**

2. Stanwick Camp comprises one of the most substantial prehistoric enclosures in Europe. It was first explored by Wheeler in the 1950s, and firmly associated by him with events in Tacitus's narrative of the history of the Brigantes in the early decades of Roman Britain (R.E.M. Wheeler, 1954, *The Stanwick Fortifications*). Subsequent work has tended to emphasise the earlier origins of the site, and its importance during its Claudio-Neronian *floruit* as the probable centre of the client-kingdom of Cartimandua (P. Turnbull, 1983, 'Stanwick in the Northern Iron Age' in *Durham Archaeological Journal* 1.; P. Turnbull & L. Fitts, 1989, 'The Politics of Brigantia' in J. Price and P. Wilson (eds.) *The Romans in Yorkshire* British Archaeological Reports, 193). Excavations during the 1980s showed the existence of a privileged *elite* population, with access to luxury goods from the Roman world, based in the Tofts field near the centre of the earthwork complex (Haselgrove, Turnbull et al, 1992, 'Stanwick, North Yorkshire' in *Archaeological Journal*, 147)

3. The development site lies immediately outside (to the east of) the Stanwick ramparts: the earthwork at this point is equivalent to Wheeler's Phase III, though current thinking no longer supports his three-phase scheme for the site. The bank and ditch are well-defined hereabouts. A gap through the rampart, immediately north of the proposed development, carries the road from Aldbrough St John to the site of the former Stanwick Hall. The original status of this gap is not clear, and it is possible that it might be an original entrance (though somewhat mutilated). It does, however, lack the staggered layout of the only proven gateway at Stanwick and may well be 17<sup>th</sup> century or later; particularly, it could well be associated with the period of parkland landscaping at Stanwick (in the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century) which involved the construction of the gateway house, Outer Lodge itself.

4. Known settlement activity at Stanwick remains confined to the central Tofts field: it seems inherently unlikely that such evidence might be found outside the ramparts in the area of Outer Lodge, though the possibility of extra-mural settlement .



## THE EXCAVATION

5. The archaeological evaluation was designed (a) to resolve the question of whether or not archaeological remains exist on the site and (b) to inform any necessary decision about the protection of such remains, whether *in situ* or 'by record'. This was approached by the excavation of a pair of trenches, each measuring 20m by 2 metres, at right-angles to each other as shown on the attached drawing Fig.3 (*n.b.* the trenches as excavated were slightly longer than the specified 20 metres, and the plan shows them *as dug*). The east-west trench was laid-out at a right angle to the main axis of the Iron Age earthwork, with its western end immediately outside the area of the scheduled Ancient Monument. In this way, the trench might be expected to provide, through a substantial sample of the development area, information as to any settlement or other activity immediately outside the earthworks, and at the same time to reveal any unknown component of the Stanwick circuit (*e.g.*, any earlier ditch). The north-south trench was intended to explore more closely the area immediately around the gap through the earthworks.

6. Before excavation, the surface of the site and of its immediately surrounding area (which had a winter cereal crop just breaking the surface) was closely inspected for a total of 30 minutes. No object of archaeological significance was encountered

7. Topsoil was stripped off by means of a back-acting J.C.B. machine fitted with an edentate ditching bucket. Loose spoil and exposed surfaces were constantly watched for artefacts, none of which were encountered. The topsoil was thin, averaging 25 cms in depth, and directly overlay the natural clay subsoil. This was then further cleaned using hand tools (Fig. 4). The natural clay subsoil proved to become progressively thicker and more yellow in colour as one moved to the south, where the rock-head was evidently very close to the surface; near the centre of the east-west trench was encountered what was either a huge boulder or an outcropping of the underlying Carboniferous sandstone. No structure, cut feature or other object of archaeological interest was encountered.

## DISCUSSION

8. The results of this evaluation have clearly been archaeologically negative, in that no evidence has been found either for settlement activity immediately outside the ramparts (which was always unlikely) or (which was more probable) for linear features either contemporary with or earlier than the (probably) first-century rampart. The present development, therefore, has no immediate archaeological impact. The question of the status of the gap in the earthworks at Outer Lodge remains open and interesting. It is on balance the opinion of this writer (P.T.) that the gap is of post-mediaeval date, and associated entirely with the formal landscape of the former Stanwick Hall: this serves, however to point out the rather perplexing shortage at the Stanwick *oppidum* of undoubted original entrances. That excavated as Site B by Wheeler in 1952 (and re-excavated by Haselgrove and Turnbull in 1985) is of markedly different form from the simple gap at Outer Lodge but it should be remembered that Site B is not an entrance into the entire earthwork complex, but a link between Wheeler's Phases II and III. His Site H, which would have



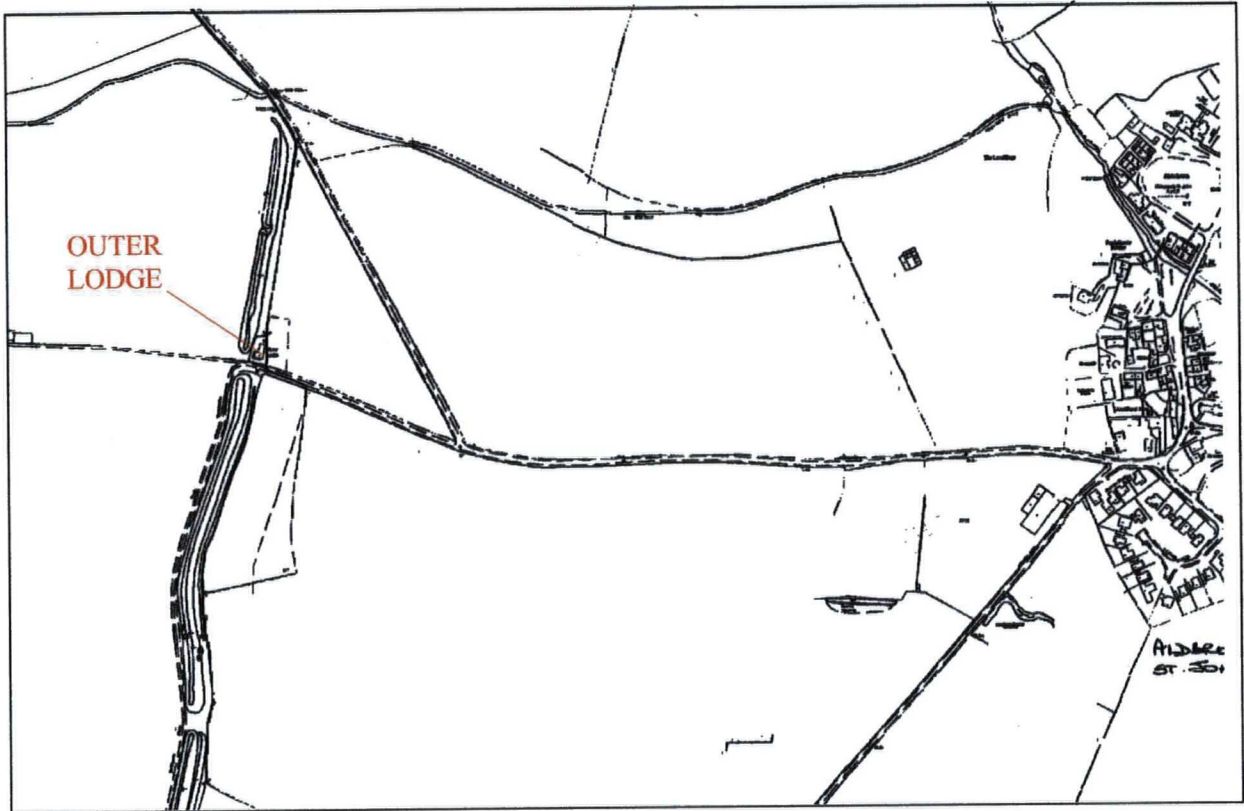
communicated with the outside world, proved not to be an entrance, but to have a continuous ditch without any causeway, and Wheeler's attempts to explain this away are unsatisfactory (though a revised and extended chronology might make the idea of an original entrance here more plausible). It is noteworthy that Wheeler did not mark the Outer Lodge gap as a possible original entrance, though he did suggest entrances at Park House, at Forcett Park, and by Stanwick Vicarage.

#### **APPENDIX: WATCHING BRIEF in 1999**

9. In the June of 1999, Planning Consent and Ancient Monument Consent were granted for the extension on its northern side of Outer Lodge; this involved some encroachment into the bottom of the main Iron Age ditch in the area immediately to the north of the gap through the rampart which has always been regarded as at least a possible original entrance (Fig. 5). A continuous watching brief was maintained (by P.T.) during the process of excavation.

10. All excavation was carried out by a back-acting machine fitted with an edentate bucket, spoil being removed from site and disposed of away from the Ancient Monument. The maximum depth of excavation was to *circa* 1 metre below the existing surface. All deposits removed proved to consist of modern organic material and rubble; at no point did the works penetrate either to natural subsoil or to undisturbed archaeological deposits. It appeared that this convenient spot had long been used as a dumping ground for garden and other waste.

11. Reference to Wheeler's sections of the main Iron Age ditches (where they are unquestionably so) indicates a total depth of fill of about 4 metres, of which well over a metre (and sometimes much more) of the upper levels appears to be of recent date (apart from the large section at Site A there is hardly any dating evidence from Wheeler's ditch sections). It is clear that the intrusion at Outer Lodge did not penetrate further than those modern deposits and that there was no direct intrusion on deposits of archaeological significance.



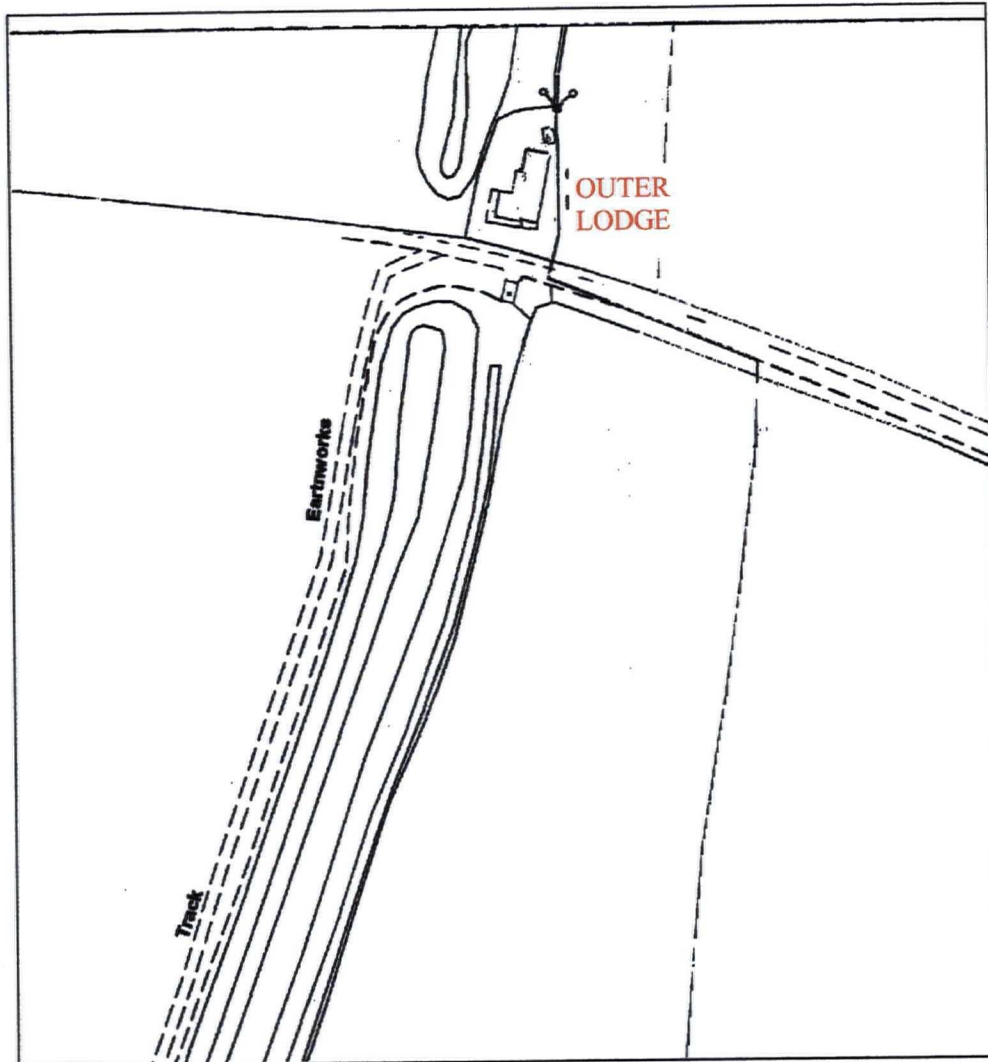
**OUTER LODGE**

**FIG.1**

**OUTER LODGE in RELATION  
to ALDBROUGH St JOHN**



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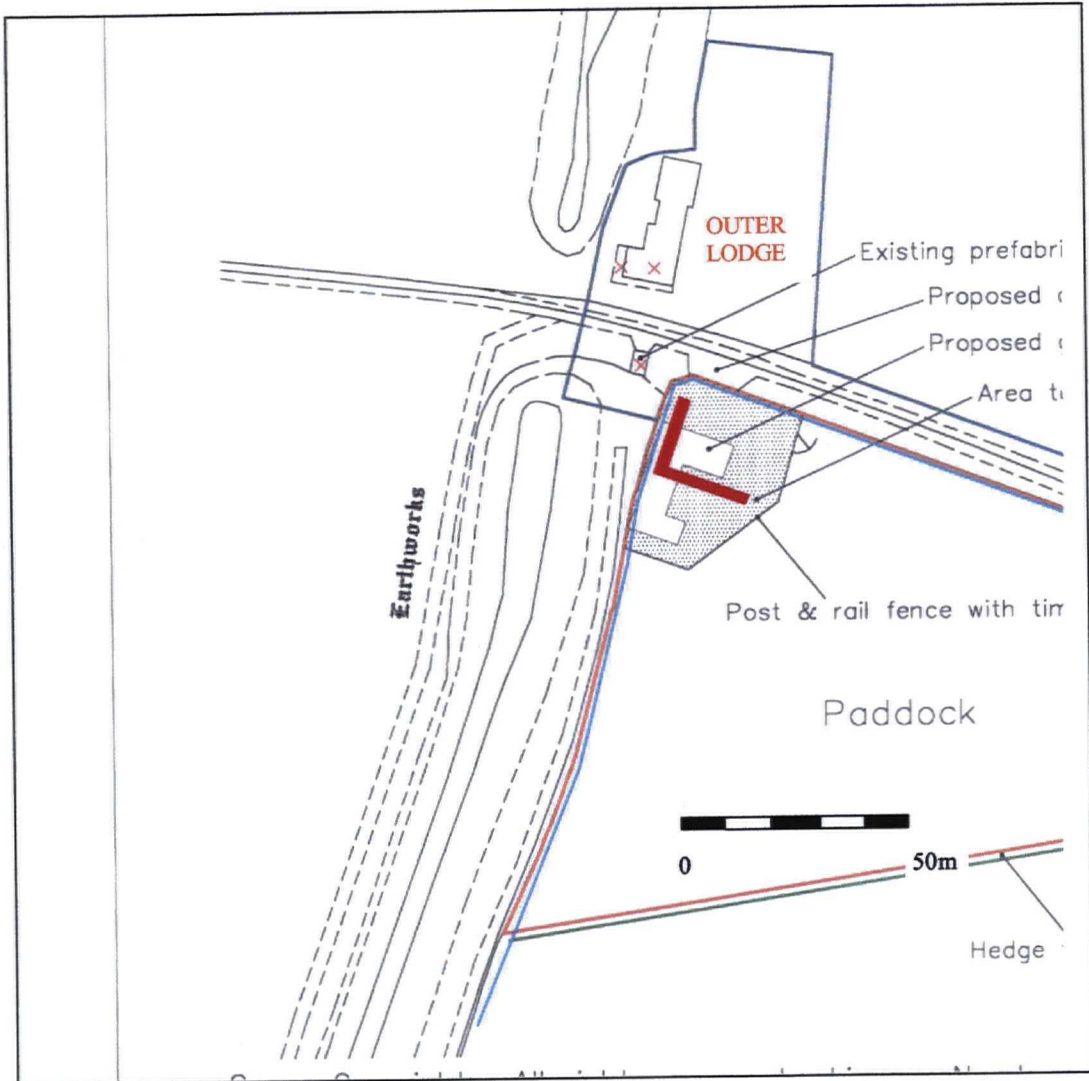
**OUTER LODGE**

**FIG.2**



**THE BRIGANTIA  
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**OUTER LODGE in RELATION  
to the EARTHWORKS**



**OUTER LODGE**

**FIG.3**

**LOCATION of TRENCHES**



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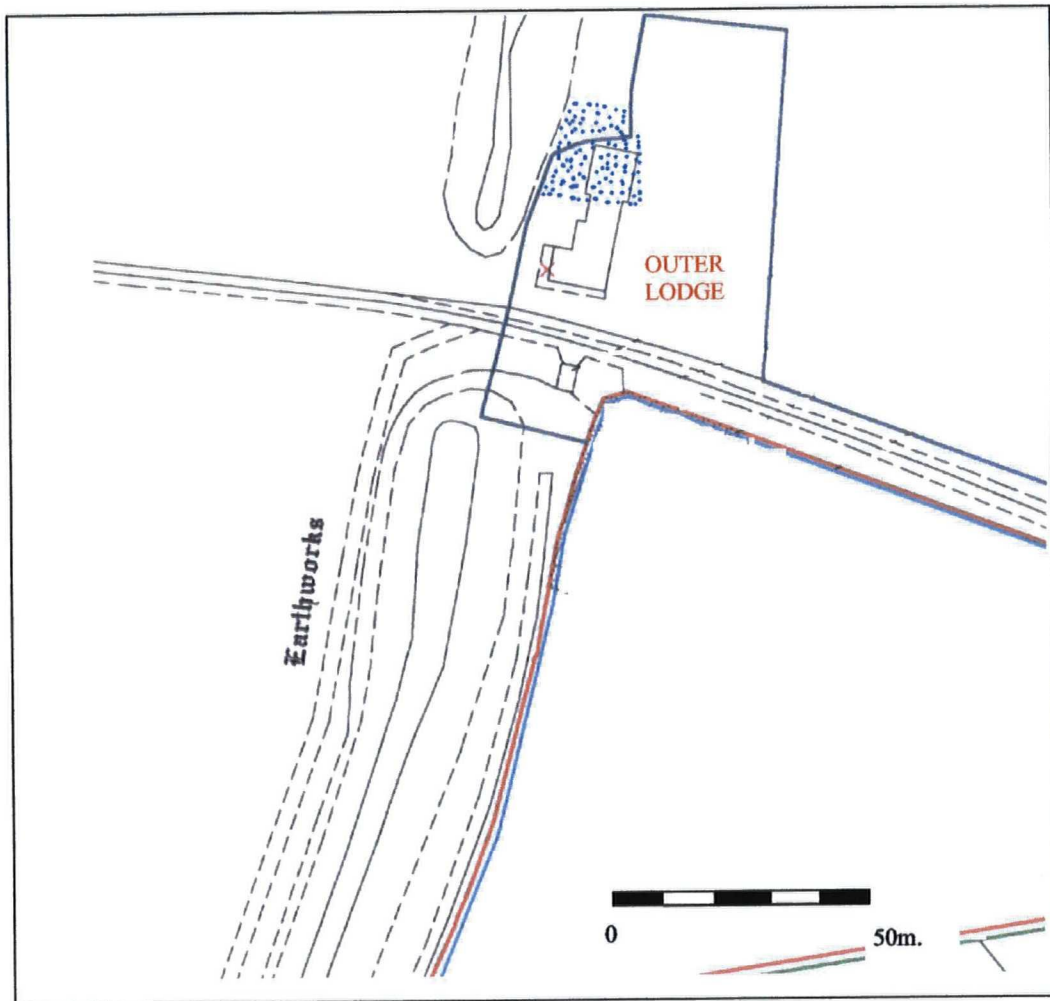
**OUTER LODGE**

**FIG.4**



**THE BRIGANTIA  
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**TRENCHES LOOKING EAST (above) and  
NORTH (below)**



**OUTER LODGE**

**FIG.5**



**THE BRIGANTIA  
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**THE AREA (shown as blue stipple) OF THE  
WATCHING BRIEF of 1999**