



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
REPORT

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CARBURY GARDEN CENTRE,
PIERCEBRIDGE, CO. DURHAM

prepared for

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on behalf of

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REVISED ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

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REVISED ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Summary

This document presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken on land within Carlbury Garden Centre, Piercebridge, Co. Durham (centred on NZ 2113 1614; Fig. 1). It also includes a detailed archaeological and historical background in order to set the results into context. The proposed development comprises the construction of a garden centre/retail building including a cafe within an area 36m x 40m in size and extension to the existing car park as well as alterations to the existing entrance to the site. The evaluation was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) for Andrew Bramley Associates on behalf of Sam Turner and Sons Ltd during February 2012.

The evaluation accorded to a Written Scheme of Investigation (NAA 2012) approved by the Durham County Council Archaeology Section in support of the planning application. The development is located in an area of high archaeological sensitivity. It is situated 280m to the north of Piercebridge Roman fort and vicus and is flanked by a Roman burial ground. The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trial trenches to examine the proposed development site for the survival of sub-surface archaeological remains.

Trial trenching identified an undated hollow-way, two phases of cobbled Roman road with associated ditches and a pit containing burnt animal bone. The three thoroughfares all appeared to be aligned near east to west and exhibited a shift to the south through their phases of renewal. The finds assemblage ranged in date from the 2nd to the mid-3rd centuries AD and included numerous fragments from a Roman headpot of African type.

The fine fraction recovered from the primary fill of the hollow-way (8) should be sorted in an attempt to recover further carbonised material suitable for radiocarbon dating. The artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material will be retained with the site archive to inform further phases of fieldwork and form part of any further analysis. Ultimately the site archive, and aspects of the finds assemblage, will be deposited at the Bowes museum.

It is considered likely that excavations associated with the proposed development will encounter further archaeological features and deposits which have a high potential to be associated with human burial remains. Therefore it is recommended that archaeological monitoring (strip, map and record) be undertaken to all excavations within the development area. This should include excavations relating to the installation of buried services, the new car park area and alterations to the site entrance as well as structural elements of the proposed building. The construction programme should include the provision for hand excavation and recording of any identified archaeological features, deposits or burials; time therefore needs to be allowed within the construction

schedule for such works. The extent of further archaeological investigations should be provided in a detailed project design for the works and this should be agreed with the local planning authority in consultation with the Senior Archaeologist for Durham County Council.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken on land within Carlbury Garden Centre, Piercebridge, Co. Durham (centred on NZ 2113 1614; Fig. 1). It also includes a detailed archaeological and historical background in order to set the results into context. The proposed development comprises the construction of a garden centre/retail building including a cafe within an area 36m x 40m in size and extension to the existing car park as well as alterations to the existing entrance to the site.
- 1.2 The evaluation accorded to a Written Scheme of Investigation (NAA 2012) that had been approved by the Durham County Council Archaeology Section in support of the planning application. The work comprised the excavation of three trial trenches (Fig. 2) to evaluate the proposed development site for the survival of sub-surface archaeological remains.
- 1.3 The evaluation identified an undated hollow-way, two phases of cobbled Roman road with associated ditches and a pit containing burnt animal bone. The finds assemblage ranged in date from the 2nd to the mid-3rd centuries AD and included numerous fragments from a Roman headpot of African type.
- 1.4 The evaluation was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) for Andrew Bramley Associates on behalf of Sam Turner and Sons Ltd during February 2012.

2.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 Piercebridge lies on the northern side of the River Tees (Fig. 1). The proposed development site, the Carlbury Garden Centre, is situated approximately 400m to the north-east of the village, on the north-western side of the junction between the A67 Darlington to Barnard Castle road and the B6275.
- 2.2 The proposed development is located within an active garden centre on relatively level ground composed of a combination of hardcore, concrete and tarmac.
- 2.3 The solid geology of the site comprises Magnesian Limestone of the Permian and Triassic period (Institute of Geological Sciences 1978) overlain by boulder clay (Institute of Geological Sciences 1977). The soils in the study area comprise the deep fine loamy brown earths of the East Keswick Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 and Jarvis *et al* 1984, 175).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 It was agreed with the Senior Archaeologist for Durham County Council that a separate desk-based assessment was not required for this scheme but that a

detailed archaeological and historical background be included within this report in order to set the results of the evaluation into a wider context.

- 3.2 The data for the archaeological and historical background was collected from the County Durham Historic Environment Record, published and unpublished sources and the internet. For the purposes of this report a study area of 1km, centred on the proposed development, was set in order to identify known heritage assets and assess the potential for previously unknown assets. Those of relevance to the project are detailed below and are associated with a Heritage Asset number (HA). The Heritage assets are presented as a table within Appendix A and are located on Figure 1.

Prehistory

- 3.3 The earliest evidence for human activity within the study area is a prehistoric barrow and stray finds of flint tools. The barrow (**HA 1**) is located at Smotherlaw, c.760m to the east of the proposed development site, and is a Scheduled Monument (SM 1002327). Two further barrows, also Scheduled Monuments, exist on the south side of the River Tees in North Yorkshire. The stray finds of prehistoric flint tools (comprising **HA 2, HA 3, HA 4 and HA 5**) have been found to the north of the development area. A Neolithic leaf shaped arrow head (**HA 6**) was located to the south-west of the garden centre. Cropmark evidence indicating a rectilinear enclosure (**HA 7**), possibly dating to the Iron Age, is also located in the field to the south-west of the Smotherlaw barrow.

Roman

- 3.4 The development site is situated in an area of high archaeological sensitivity and potential, being located 280m due north of the Roman fort and vicus at Piercebridge (**HA 8 and HA 9**; SM 1002365). It lies directly to the west of the accepted line of Dere Street which was a major Roman Road (Margary, 1955, 8c) linking a number of important forts situated between York and Corbridge, and beyond into Scotland. Excavations in the 1970s revealed the west side of Dere Street within the entrance to the current garden centre (Fig. 2). Piercebridge fort (possibly Morbio, derived from the name of an otherwise unlocated fort mentioned in the Notitia Dignitatum (Rivet and Smith 1979, 220)) lies between the forts at Catterick Bridge (Cataractonium), and Binchester (Vinovia), but the surviving remains appear to be a later foundation than the latter two. The excavated remains of the fort belong to the later 3rd century AD (Cool and Mason 2008, 311), although the vicus and a villa within the area would appear to be earlier (*op. cit.*). Therefore it is likely that there is a hitherto unidentified early fort at Piercebridge or in the immediate vicinity.
- 3.5 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken c.200m to the south of the development area (NAA 2007) which identified Roman remains including a mortared structure, which possibly represented a bridge abutment associated with a crossing over the Piercebridge Beck, and an oven (**HA 10**). Other remains dating to the Roman period located within the study area, and at a

- distance from the fort and vicus, include burial and settlement related evidence.
- 3.6 A Roman inhumation and cremation cemetery (**HA 11, HA 12 and HA 13**) is known within the fields to the north and east of the development area from excavations undertaken in the late 19th century during construction of the Darlington and Barnard Castle Railway. The remains of four inhumation burials (**HA 14**) were identified to the north-east of the development area during quarrying activities within the 20th century. However, the machine driver responsible for unearthing the remains has reported that 50 – 60 individuals were actually excavated (Cool and Mason 2008, 26). Therefore it is possible that the development area is located within a substantial Roman cemetery.
- 3.7 Excavations in the grounds of the house on the north side of the entrance to the garden centre in the 1970s revealed the western edge of Dere Street, drains, a stone building and cobbled roads, one of which was heading westward toward the garden centre and the approximate area of the development (Fig. 2 and 3; Cool and Mason 2008, 116-120). Further excavations undertaken at the edge of the garden centre entrance revealed Dere Street and associated drains, as well as a postulated road leading from the north gate of the fort (*loc. cit.*).
- 3.8 The remains of a rectangular ditched enclosure, pits and lime kilns (**HA 15**) are recorded within 100m of the development area and within the field immediately to the west of the garden centre. The enclosure is recorded as being rectangular, measuring 88.39m by 73.46m in size, with an annex to the north. The enclosure complex contained two entrance ways along its east side that contained the remains of metalled road surfaces. These remains were associated with a series of rubbish pits and two lime kilns, all of which have been dated to the Roman period by pottery finds.
- 3.9 An uninscribed Roman altar and a milestone (**HA 16**) were also found 300m to the west of the enclosure discussed above, and at a distance of c.350m from the development area. The milestone has been dated to AD 305 – AD 311 and is not recorded in association with a road.
- 3.10 The remains of an aqueduct (**HA 17**) are also recorded to the south-west of the development at a distance of c.300m. It is recorded as being constructed from stone and is aligned toward the north-west corner of Piercebridge Roman fort.
- 3.11 A number of stray finds have also been recorded within the vicinity of the garden centre. These include sherds of pottery (**HA 18, HA 19, HA 20, HA 21, HA 22**) and a coin which possibly dated to the 4th century AD (**HA 23**). These finds were predominantly recovered from an area c.300m to the north of the development.

Medieval

- 3.12 The name of Piercebridge is first recorded around AD 1050 and probably means Percy's Bridge. It remained a small settlement with the sites of a forge

(HA 24) and a tithe barn (HA 25) recorded. The ruins of a small chapel, possibly founded in the early 13th century AD, are also located within the village (HA 26). The chapel was dedicated to St. Mary and is partially founded on a Roman bath house.

- 3.13 Other remains dating to the medieval period within the study area include stray finds of pottery (HA 27, HA 28 and HA 29) recorded to the north of the development site and traces of ridge and furrow cultivation (HA 30) recorded to the east.

Post-medieval and modern

- 3.14 During the post-medieval period a quarry was located in the field immediately south of the garden centre. Cartographic evidence suggests that this did not extend as far north as the proposed development site and its northern limit appears to have been fossilised as the southern boundary of the existing garden centre. The quarry was shown as 'Old Quarry (Limestone)' on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map and by 1923 it was marked as 'Old Quarry Allotments'. The area immediately to the north of the garden centre has been disturbed by the Darlington and Barnard Castle Railway and sidings for an associated coal depot.
- 3.15 The village of Piercebridge (HA 31) contains numerous listed buildings dating to the post-medieval period including Piercebridge Bridge (LB II*). None of these structures are intervisible with the development area and none will be affected by the proposed development.

4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to determine whether there were unrecorded sub-surface archaeological remains within the proposed development area and, if remains proved to be present, to confirm their location, extent, nature and importance. The results of the evaluation will inform an assessment of impact and agreement on a suitable mitigation strategy to be implemented ahead of, or during development of the site.
- 4.2 The objectives of the evaluation were:
- to establish the presence, nature, extent, preservation and significance of any archaeological remains within the site;
 - to provide a detailed record of any such archaeological remains;
 - to recover and assess any associated structural, artefactual and environmental evidence;
 - to determine which areas within the footprint of the proposed scheme require archaeological mitigation in the form of preservation in situ, open

area investigation in advance of construction, or monitoring of soil stripping during construction works;

- to prepare an illustrated report on the results of the evaluation to be deposited with the County Durham Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Monuments Record (NMR); and
- to evaluate the potential for further unrecorded significant archaeological remains to be present within the site.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

5.1 At the outset, the programme of archaeological works comprised the excavation of two trial trenches (Trenches 1 and 2), both measuring 20m by 1.6m with the provision of a third trial trench, measuring up to 20m by 1.6m, allowed for as a contingency. Recommendations were made for the location of Trenches 1 and 2 in the specification for the project supplied by the Senior Archaeologist for Durham County Council (McFarlane 2012) and these were adhered to as far as possible. However, due to the location of a concrete base, and overhead and buried services a best fit approach was taken which still evaluated the footprint of the proposed development.

5.2 Once informed by the excavation of the first two trenches, and following discussion with the Senior Archaeologist for Durham County Council, it was considered necessary to extend Trench 2 a further 3m to the south and excavate the third trench (Trench 3, 10m by 1.6m in size) 15m to the east of Trench 2. The extension to the southern end of Trench 2 was limited due to the need to maintain access through the garden centre.

5.3 Each trench was set out by hand and subsequently located by GPS. All survey information was transferred to AutoCAD software and reproduced for incorporation within this report. All levels were tied in to Ordnance Datum.

Machine excavation

5.4 All mechanical excavation was undertaken using a JCB type excavator fitted with a toothless bucket that operated under direct archaeological supervision at all times. The excavator removed modern overburden down to a level at which significant archaeological deposits were identified or down to natural subsoil deposits, whichever was encountered first. Modern overburden was removed to the edge of each trench and was stored at a safe distance. The trenches were backfilled upon conclusion of the work.

Hand excavation

5.5 Machined surfaces were cleaned by hand in an attempt to identify all archaeological features exposed within the stripped areas. Hand excavation was then undertaken to the exposed soil filled features and layers of

archaeological interest in order to characterise the archaeological remains and to ensure the recovery of any artefactual and environmental evidence to enable dating and an assessment of the archaeology to be achieved.

5.6 The excavation strategy adopted comprised:

- at least a 50% sample of each individual domestic or settlement-related features or deposits;
- at least a sample of 20% of the overall length of linear features within sections no less than 1m in length; and
- the investigation of relationships between features and deposits, to help determine phasing of the site.

Recording

5.7 The NAA project number is 1059. The NAA site code is PGC 12.

5.8 A drawn record of all archaeological features was made at an appropriate scale. Sections and profiles were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and their location was accurately identified on the appropriate trench plan. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20. A representative drawn section of all trenches was recorded, even if negative, and is presented within this report. All drawings include appropriate data on levels relative to Ordnance Datum.

5.9 Written descriptions of archaeological features/deposits were recorded on NAA *pro forma* context sheets, which employ standard archaeological recording conventions.

5.10 A photographic record of the site was taken using colour digital photography, monochrome prints and colour slides at a format of 35mm.

Finds recording

5.11 All finds processing, conservation work and storage was carried out in compliance with guidelines issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008). Pottery and animal bone were collected as bulk samples. Significant artefacts were three-dimensionally recorded prior to removal. Finds were appropriately recorded and processed using the NAA system and submitted for preliminary post-excavation assessment.

5.12 All finds recovered were appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions. Finds recovery and storage strategies are in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995; Watkinson and Neal 1998).

5.13 Metal detecting within the site included scanning of the stripped surface and spoil heaps. It was undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist so that any significant metal finds were properly located,

identified, and conserved. All metal detecting was carried out in accordance with the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (HMSO 1996, revised 2002).

Environmental sampling

- 5.14 Bulk palaeoenvironmental samples were taken from appropriate deposits and submitted to the relevant specialist for assessment of the environmental potential. This included the recovery and assessment of any charcoal, small bones, cereal grains, pollen, molluscs and macro-environmental material. Recovery and sampling of environmental remains was in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 2002, 2003). The results are included as Appendix E.

6.0 EXCAVATION RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig. 4, plan and section)

- 6.1 Trench 1 was located in the northern part of the proposed development area on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment. This trench was repositioned c.7m further to the west of the location recommended within the specification to avoid the location of a concrete pad and possible buried service identified to the east. It covered land which stepped down midway along the trench from higher ground to the west to a lower, levelled area to the east.
- 6.2 Modern overburden was removed down to the natural sand and gravel (3) at a maximum depth of 0.7m below ground level which exposed no archaeological features. The natural deposits were sealed by 0.35m of mid-yellow brown silty sand (2) which represented buried topsoil and contained a sherd of modern pottery. This deposit was identified within the western half of the trench only. The buried topsoil (2) had previously been removed from the eastern part during levelling of that area, presumably to facilitate the construction of former greenhouses. Some truncation to the natural deposit was also noted within this area, which may have reduced its upper level by up to 0.2m.
- 6.3 The buried topsoil (2) and the truncated natural sand and gravel (3) were sealed below 0.3m – 0.4m of compacted mid-grey brown sandy silt (1) which contained lenses of orange clay and pockets of ash and clinker. This material formed the existing ground surface and contained patches of hard standing created by deposits of crushed tarmac. It contained quantities of modern flowerpot and metal and plastic waste, none of which were recovered.

Trench 2 (Fig. 4, plans a – d and trench section)

- 6.4 Trench 2 was situated in the western part of the proposed development area on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment. The trench had been repositioned c.4m to the east of the location recommended within the specification to avoid an overhead power cable.

- 6.5 Modern overburden was removed down to the level of the natural sand and gravel deposit (3) at a depth of 0.55m. This exposed a series of archaeological features and deposits which represented the remains of at least three phases of activity comprising a hollow-way, two road surfaces, two ditches and a pit.
- 6.6 The earliest phase of activity was a hollow-way (7) (Fig. 4, plan a, Plate 1 and 2). The hollow-way crossed the southern end of the trench on an approximate west-north-west to east-south-east alignment. It was in excess of 7.4m wide with a concave profile to a maximum depth of 0.39m. The base of the feature was formed by the natural sand and gravel which had been compacted, possibly by traffic, and contained the remains of two shallow parallel ruts spaced c.1.5m apart centre to centre. Only the northern edge of the hollow-way was identified, although the feature became increasingly shallow to the southern end of the trench, suggesting its other edge lay in the vicinity. It was filled primarily by dark brown silty sand (8) which contained charcoal identified as hazel and oak and a small charred fruit seed. This deposit may have represented material that accumulated during use of the route. A secondary fill, mid-red brown silty sand (9), seemed to have formed during a period of disuse of the hollow-way. None of the fills contained diagnostic artefactual material.
- 6.7 The fill of the hollow-way was overlain by metalled road surface 6 (Fig. 4, plan b, Plate 2). The road appeared to be aligned near east to west and its northern edge was identified further to the south than that of the underlying hollow-way. The road had a width in excess of 5.4m and continued beyond the southern trench edge. It comprised a firm layer of sub-rounded to rounded cobbles and pebbles up to 0.1m in size. The matrix of the road (6) contained fragments of animal bone and a sherd of grey ware pottery that may have been from a reeded-rim bowl dating to the late 1st to early 2nd century AD. The road (6) may have been associated with a ditch (18).
- 6.8 Ditch 18 was identified c.2.7m to the north of the northern edge of the metalled road (6). It was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east and had cut the northern edge of the underlying hollow-way (7). Ditch 18 was 0.7m wide with a rounded concave profile to a depth of 0.15m. It was filled by dark brown silt (19) that contained no artefactual material.
- 6.9 Road surface 6 was sealed by a layer of mid-brown silt (5) that appeared to represent occupation material that accumulated during use of the road and was probably associated with settlement of the area. It was recorded for a maximum width of 5.1m (north to south) and was up to 0.16m thick. Only the northern edge of the deposit was identified, it continued beyond the extent of the trench in all other directions. The occupation layer (5) contained charcoal, animal bone, an iron fragment, fragments of ceramic building material and a small piece of intrusive roofing slate. A large assemblage of Roman pottery was also recovered which comprised 105 sherds and included samian, Nene Valley colour-coated ware, grey ware and sherds from a headpot of African type (Appendix C) which dated from the early to mid-3rd century AD.

- 6.10 Occupation layer 5 was cut by a pit (15) at the southern end of the trench (Fig. 4, plan c, Plate 3). The pit was sub-oval in plan measuring 0.44m by 0.38m by 0.06m in size and contained burnt animal bone. The animal bone (16) survived in small fragments and was white in colour and included a large amount of pig (Appendix F). It was identified as a discrete concentration centrally within the pit suggesting it had been intentionally placed. The pit fill surrounding the burnt remains was mid-brown sandy silt (17) that contained an iron nail (RF 1) and sherds of Roman grey ware pottery that had an optimum date within the 3rd century AD.
- 6.11 Following infilling of the pit (15) another road surface (4) was constructed (Fig. 4, plan d, Plate 4). This road appeared to be aligned west-north-west to east-south-east and its northern edge was identified 1.5m – 2m further to the south than the northern edge of the underlying road surface (6). It had a width in excess of 3.4m and was constructed from rounded river cobbles and fragments of soft yellow limestone up to 0.3m in size. Sherds of Roman pottery, which dated from the early to mid-3rd century AD, were recovered from the matrix of the road (4). The assemblage included samian, Nene Valley colour-coated ware and more sherds from the same headpot recovered from the underlying occupation layer (5). Animal bone, a lead fragment and sherds of Roman pottery dating to the late 2nd to mid-3rd century AD were recovered from a thin layer of mid-brown sandy silt (10) which appeared to have formed on the road surface during its use. The road (4) may have been associated with ditch 20.
- 6.12 Ditch 20 was identified c.4.1m to the north of the northern edge of road 4. It was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east and had cut the southern edge of the earlier ditch (18). Ditch 20 was 0.98m wide with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile to a depth of 0.28m. It was filled by dark brown silt (21) that contained no artefactual material.
- 6.13 All the archaeological features were sealed below buried topsoil (2) and the modern surface material (1) as recorded and described within Trench 1.

Trench 3 (Fig. 5)

- 6.14 Trench 3 was situated within the central part of the proposed development area on a north-north-east to south-south-west alignment. The trench was positioned to identify any continuation of the hollow-way and road surfaces identified within Trench 2 into this area.
- 6.15 Modern overburden was removed down to the level of the natural sand and gravel (3) at a depth of 0.45m. This exposed a continuation of the hollow-way (7) and the two roadside ditches from Trench 2 (Plate 5).
- 6.16 The hollow-way (7) again represented the earliest phase of activity. It was aligned consistently with the remains identified within Trench 2. In this case it had a width in excess of 5.2m with a concave profile to a maximum depth of 0.30m. As with Trench 2 the base of the feature was compacted and contained

the remains of two shallow parallel ruts which, although less distinct than those identified within Trench 2, were spaced consistently. Again the hollow-way (7) was filled by the same sequence of deposits (8 and 9) as Trench 2 and contained no finds.

- 6.17 The northern edge of the hollow-way (7) was cut by ditch 11, which appeared to represent a continuation of the earlier roadside ditch (18) from Trench 2. Ditch 11 was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east and was 0.7m wide with a rounded 'U'-shaped profile to a depth of 0.28m. It was filled by dark brown silty sand (12) that contained no artefactual material.
- 6.18 Ditch 11 was cut along its northern edge by ditch 13, which appeared to represent a continuation of the later roadside ditch (20) from Trench 2, although located to the north of the earlier ditch rather than the south as was the case with the previous trench. Ditch 13 was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east and was 1.4m wide with a flat-based 'U'-shaped profile to a depth of 0.26m. It was filled by dark brown silt (14) that contained only a small piece of charcoal but no diagnostic material.
- 6.19 During investigations within Trench 3 no evidence for the later road surfaces (4 and 6), the occupation material (5) or the buried topsoil (2) was identified. It seemed likely that these features and deposits had been removed during the same levelling event that was identified within the eastern part of Trench 1 to the north. The archaeological features were sealed directly by the modern surface material (1).

7.0 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 A total of three trenches were excavated during the trial trench evaluation undertaken at Carlbury Garden Centre, Piercebridge, Co. Durham. The site was situated within a landscape of Roman remains, including a substantial burial ground, and is located between the known course of Dere Street to the east and a ditched enclosure and related features to the west. Piercebridge Roman fort lay at a distance of 280m to the south.
- 7.2 The investigations undertaken during the evaluation have identified a hollow-way and two phases of cobbled road. A layer of occupation material and a pit containing burnt animal bone were located between the road surfaces.
- 7.3 The hollow-way (7) was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east and was compacted at the base by traffic. Evidence of ruts, possibly formed by wheels and spaced c.1.5m apart, were also identified. This feature can be compared to a hollow-way associated with wheel ruts that has been investigated during groundworks associated with the upgrading of the A63 at Melton in East Yorkshire (Fenton-Thomas 2011, 119 - 123). The Melton hollow-way had its origin within the 1st century BC, and remained in use through the Roman and into the medieval period. The current hollow-way remains undated, although it must pre-date the late 2nd to early 3rd century AD and may be earlier than the

late 1st century AD. Within its later stages it appeared to have entered a period of disuse, allowing the feature to silt up. Although no artefacts were present, the silt fills did contain charcoal and charred grain which, when the fine fraction is sorted, may yield material suitable for radiocarbon dating.

- 7.4 The fills of the hollow-way were then sealed by a metalled road surface (6), possibly within the late 1st or early 2nd century AD. This road was located slightly further to the south of the earlier hollow-way and appeared to be aligned east to west, however, its identification within a narrow trench made this difficult to determine. The metalled road was constructed from small cobbles and pebbles and may have been associated with an adjacent ditch (18).
- 7.5 Road surface 6 was overlain by a layer of accumulated occupation material (5) which contained a large finds assemblage indicative of settlement within the vicinity. The occupation material was cut by a pit (15) that contained burnt animal bone, including pig. The animal bone was identified as a discrete concentration centrally within the pit and may have been intentionally placed during some form of ritual, possibly prior to construction of a second cobbled road surface (4). Its deposition within this area may have been associated with the surrounding burial ground. Diagnostic aspects of the finds assemblage recovered from both the occupation material and the fill of the pit suggested a date of the early 3rd century.
- 7.6 The later road (4) continued the trend of being location slightly further to the south of the earlier, but appeared to be consistently aligned. It was constructed from large course cobbles, which differed markedly from the former road and also appeared to be associated with a parallel ditch located to the north (20). The road contained finds which suggested a date of the early to mid-3rd century AD.
- 7.7 Excavations undertaken in the grounds of the house located on the north side of the entrance to the garden centre in the 1970s (Fig. 3 and 4) revealed a cobbled road surface and associated ditch which appeared to continue westward from Dere Street and toward the development area (Cool and Mason 2008, 116 - 120). It is possible that the road surfaces identified within the development area are a continuation of this road. It can also be postulated that the road continued through the development site to provide access to an enclosure complex located within the field to the west (HA 15). The discovery of a milestone (HA 16) c.350m to the west of the site may also imply a more far reaching road.
- 7.8 The results of the trial trench evaluation combined with the results of further phases of archaeological investigation at Carlbury Garden Centre have the potential to add much to research themes outlined by the North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Petts and Gerrard 2006). The identification of the hollow-way underlying a series of Roman roads has the potential to cast light on the transitional period between the Iron Age and the Roman period as well as providing information on the network of minor

roads and trackways within the Roman period. The discovery of any human burials within the vicinity may also allow central questions to be addressed regarding the dominance of particular burial types at particular times as well as providing more general information relating to stature, age and pathologies of the Roman population (*op. cit.* 152).

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The fine fraction recovered from the primary fill of the hollow-way (8) should be sorted in an attempt to recover further carbonised material suitable for radiocarbon dating. The artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material will be retained with the site archive to inform further phases of fieldwork and form part of any further analysis. Ultimately the site archive, and aspects of the finds assemblage, will be deposited at the Bowes museum.
- 8.2 It is considered likely that excavations associated with the proposed development will encounter archaeological features and deposits, which may be associated with human burial remains. Therefore it is recommended that archaeological monitoring (strip, map and record) be undertaken to all excavations within the development area. This should include groundworks relating to the installation of buried services as well as structural elements of the building and any ground reduction for the new car parking areas. In addition any groundworks associated with alterations to the existing entrance to the site should be monitored. The construction programme should include the provision for hand excavation and recording of any identified archaeological features, deposits or burials, so therefore time needs to be allowed for such works. The extent of further archaeological investigations should be provided in a detailed project design for the works and this should be agreed with the local planning authority in consultation with the Senior Archaeologist for Durham County Council.

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**APPENDIX A:
TABLE OF HERITAGE ASSETS**

Table of known Heritage Assets within the study area

HA No.	HER No.	GIS Ref.	Date	Description
1	1555	421880516010	Prehistoric	Barrow, Smotherlaw (SM 1002327)
2	912	421000516800	Prehistoric	Flint findspot
3	917	421200516500	Prehistoric	Flint findspot
4	924	421300516500	Prehistoric	Flint findspot
5	940	421300516500	Prehistoric	Flint findspot
6	6688	421000516000	Prehistoric	Flint findspot
7	2484, 7797	421706515974	Iron Age	Rectilinear enclosure, cropmark
8	1536	421000515700	Roman	Piercebridge Roman Fort (SM 1002365)
9	1537	421200515700	Roman	Vicus, Toft field
10	-	421200515930	Roman	NAA watching brief. Roman stone structure and oven were identified
11	1574	421220516180	Roman	Cemetery, cist burials. Carlbury Station
12	1575	421330516200	Roman	Cremation and inhumation cemetery. Carlbury Station
13	1579	421100516100	Roman	Cremation burial
14	41118	420987516187	Roman	Inhumation burials
15	1543, 1544, 41114	421048516145	Roman	Ditched enclosure, pit, lime kiln
16	1542	420730516130	Roman	Altar and Milestone findspot
17	1538	420870516030 - 420670516310	Roman	Aqueduct, location of
18	910	421000516800	Roman	Pottery findspot
19	916	421200516500	Roman	Pottery findspot
20	926	421300516500	Roman	Pottery findspot
21	927	421300516500	Roman	Pottery findspot
22	931	421100516400	Roman	Pottery findspot
23	925	421300516500	Roman	Coin findspot
24	1571	420930515650	Medieval	Site of forge
25	1548	421000515860	Medieval	Site of tithe barn
26	34794, 1550	421030515630	Medieval	Ruins of chapel on Roman foundations
27	911	421000516800	Medieval	Pottery findspot
28	932	421300516500	Medieval	Pottery findspot
29	933	421300516500	Medieval	Pottery findspot
30	9367	421887515851, 422040515759, 421707516006	Medieval	Remains of ridge and furrow
31	6859	421000515500	Post-medieval	Piercebridge village inc. 15 post-medieval listed buildings (comprising HER No.s 1540/37082, 34551, 34552, 34553, 34565, 34738, 34748, 34795, 36040, 36402, 36403, 36553, 36651, 37081, 37082).

**APPENDIX B:
CONTEXT CATALOGUE**

Context	Same as	Interpretative description	Relationships	Trench	Findings and sample information
1	-	Re-deposited surface material/ hard standing	Above 2	1, 2, 3	-
2	-	Buried topsoil	-	1, 2	1x RB pottery
3	-	Natural sand and gravel	Below 7	1, 2, 3	-
4	-	Later road surface	-	2	9x RB pottery
5	-	Occupation deposit	-	2	40l bulk sample; Animal bone, iron fragment, slate roof tile, 5x CBM, 105x RB pottery
6	-	Early road surface	-	2	Animal bone, 1x RB pottery
7	-	Hollow way	Above 3, cut by 11=18, sealed by 6	2, 3	-
8	-	Primary fill of hollow way 7	-	2, 3	40l bulk sample
9	-	Secondary fill of hollow way 7	-	2, 3	-
10	-	Thin deposit sealing road surface 4	-	2	Animal bone, lead fragment, 19x RB pottery
11	18	Cut of roadside ditch	Cuts 7, cut by 13=20	3	-
12	-	Fill of roadside ditch 11	-	3	-
13	20	Cut of roadside ditch	Cuts 11=18	3	-
14	-	Fill of roadside ditch 13	-	3	20l bulk sample
15	-	Cut of pit	Cuts 5, sealed by 4	2	-
16	-	Burnt animal bone within pit 15	-	2	Recovered as 10l sample
17	-	Fill of pit 15	-	2	Iron nail, 5x RB pottery
18	11	Cut of roadside ditch	Cuts 7, cut by 13=20	2	-
19	-	Fill of roadside ditch 18	-	2	-
20	13	Cut of roadside ditch	Cuts 11=18	2	-
21	-	Fill of roadside ditch 20	-	2	-

**APPENDIX C:
THE ROMANO-BRITISH POTTERY**

Ruth Leary

Introduction

A group of 144 ceramic fragments were submitted for analysis. One fragment was identified as modern flowerpot. Most of the pottery, except one possible reeded-rim bowl, dated to the later 2nd or 3rd century AD.

Methodology

The pottery was examined in context groups and catalogued according to the guidelines of the Study Group for Romano-British Pottery for basic archiving (Darling 2004). The fabric of the pottery was first examined by eye and sorted into ware groups on the basis of colour, hardness, feel, fracture, inclusions and manufacturing technique. If the sherds could not be adequately grouped by eye then they were examined under an x30 binocular microscope and compared with sherds from known sources. National fabric collection codes are given wherever possible (Tomber and Dore 1998). The fabrics were recorded and the source is suggested where appropriate.

Table C1: Wares

AMP Dr 20?	One abraded buff sherd in a ware comparable to Dressel 20 amphora fabric (Tomber and Dore 1998, BAT AM).
BB1	Some of these sherds could be from Catterick and are rather greyer than is usual for the Dorset BB1 fabrics. These are noted in the archive catalogue (Table C3)
E1	Ebor 1 (Monaghan 1997; Tomber and Dore 1998, EBO OX).
Flowerpot	Fine, hard orange fabric.
GRA	Fine grey ware with buff core and moderate fine quartz and silver mica. Similar to a fine Crambeck buff ware.
GRB	Grey ware with medium quartz inclusions. Common grey ware.
GRB1	Medium grey ware, moderate medium sub-angular quartz inclusions.
GRB2	Grey, very hard with gritty feel and overfired look. Moderate medium quartz inclusions. Similar to Norton wares.
GRB3	Grey with brownish margins. Smooth with fairly smooth fracture. Moderate fine quartz and sparse, medium rounded white and brown inclusions, micaceous.
GRC	Very hard gritty ware with sparse to moderate, ill-sorted crystalline quartz and sparse rounded white inclusions.
NV1	Nene Valley colour coat with white paste.
NV2	Nene Valley colour coat with oxidised paste.
OAA	Orange, hard with smooth feel and finely irregular fracture. Abundant, fine, well-sorted quartz and sparse, ill-sorted, medium to fine rounded orange-brown inclusions, micaceous.
OAB	Later Ebor ware. Orange, hard, sandy feel and irregular fracture. Abundant medium sub-angular quartz and sparse, medium/fine, rounded, red/brown inclusions, EBO OX.
OBA/NV	Fine pale ware with traces of brown colour coat or paint.
OBB	One small buff ware scrap. Possibly Dressel 20 amphora scrap but too small and abraded for certainty.
TS	Samian ware.

Table C2: Fabric quantification.

Ware	No	weight	Rim %
AMP Dr 20?	1	9	
BB1	6	40.3	4
E1	1	1.7	9
Flowerpot	1	5.7	
GRA	4	31.4	
GRB	57	444.8	74
GRB1	8	80.6	5
GRB1? burnt pinkish	1	17	8
GRB2	3	19.4	
GRB3	12	157.5	
GRC	4	35	
NV1	2	4.8	
NV2	1	1.5	
OAA/B	5	14.1	
OAB	29	658.3	5
OBA/NV	1	0.2	
OBB	1	2.1	
TS	7	28.5	5
Total	144	1551.9	110

Chronology

Five contexts containing Romano-British pottery were excavated. No pottery was recovered from the earliest context 7, the hollow-way, but a very abraded and battered rim sherd came from metalised road surface 6 overlying this feature. Initial examination of this worn sherd concluded this was a bowl or dish with a flat rim and a straight wall dating to the 2nd to 3rd century AD. More detailed examination detected very faint lines on the worn upper surface of the rim. These appear to be the remnants of three or four grooves and the most likely identification is that of a late 1st to early 2nd century AD reeded-rim bowl. This form might be compared with a bowl from a pit in Tofts Field 1973 dated to AD 80-100 associated with a ring-necked flagon dated AD 70-110 (Cool and Mason 2008, 90-1 and D9.188-9 fig. D9.38 no. 1 and 39, no. 27). A number of reeded-rim bowls were found at Piercebridge (Croom *et al* D9.39 no's 27-30) along with other Flavian-Trajanic types such as rusticated jars (Croom *et al* D9.38 no's 16-24). They are not present in the kiln which Swan and Hartley date to the Trajanic period, where their place is taken by the flat rim bowl form (Croom *et al* 2008, 88 and fig. 5.4 no's 10-12). At York the flat-rim bowl form post-dates the reeded-rim bowls and is given date in the 2nd century AD (Monaghan 1997 types BC and BD). Flavian-Trajanic activity was present in to the north of the later fort at Piercebridge (Cool and Mason 2008, 297-302) in Toft Field 73 and 74 but evidence for it was minimal in the Northern Nurseries (Cool and Mason 2008, 299 and tables 14.1-5). Cool and Mason suggested that such evidence as there was for Flavian activity pointed to a non-military settlement during this period and included a votive focus at the river.

This single sherd, although significantly earlier than other sherds from the excavation, was extremely battered and abraded. How long it was lying around before being incorporated in the road surface is difficult to say with any certainty and it was certainly more abraded than most other sherds from the excavation suggesting it had been lying around on the surface for some time.

Context 5, an accumulation on road surface 6, contained 205 sherds from a variety of vessels. These included much of a headpot, also found in context 4, sherds from a grooved rim GRB dish (Buckland and Dolby 1980 type B late 2nd to 3rd century AD, Monaghan 1997 type DG4, c. AD 160-280, Hayes and Whitley 1950 type 1h) bodysherds from BB1 type jars with grouped

vertical and grouped acute lattice burnished lines (as BB2 types, Monaghan 1987 type 3J9, late 2nd to mid-3rd century+), rim sherds from hooked and everted-rim jars, both fairly wide-mouthed (as at Norton, Hayes and Whitley 1950 type 6, 3rd century AD), a lid, a BB1 plain-rim dish (Gillam 1976 no's 79-81, 3rd century AD), two scraps of Nene Valley colour coated ware from beakers, sherds from the base of a small oxidised beaker, four samian sherds from an East Gaulish samian dish dated AD 150-220, a Central Gaulish samian flake dated AD 120-200 and a Central Gaulish Dr 30 bowl dated AD 170-200, coarse grey ware bodysherds (Croom *et al* 2008, 229-30, 3rd to 4th century AD) and many undiagnostic grey ware sherds. The most closely datable sherds are those from an African type headpot with an ear and incised 'U'-shaped hair curls very much in the style of a male headpot from Micklegate, York identified as Caracalla by Swan and Monaghan (1992, 27-8). The hair curls and the hair effect below the ear shape can be compared with the hair and side-burns on the Caracalla pot although on the York pot the side-burns are incised spirals and the 'U'-shapes here may alternatively represent a beard. If Swan is correct in her interpretation of this and the female headpots at York, a date of c.AD 205-225 is suggested. However the African type headpots continued to be used and possibly made as late as the mid-3rd century AD (Monaghan 1997, 914). The other forms from layer 5 could belong to the early to mid-3rd century and the absence of Dales ware, Crambeck wares and calcite gritted wares would fit this date range.

Context 17, the fill of pit 15 which cut layer 5, contained a complete base and much of the lower body of a small grey ware jar, sherds from a second grey ware jar base and bodysherds in a very hard grey ware from the neck of an everted rim jar. These are difficult to date but the hard grey ware compare with the type of fabric made at Norton in the 3rd century AD and although this source is unlikely to be the only place making this type of grey ware, a date in the 3rd century would fit the fabric and form as well as the stratigraphic position of this feature.

Road surface 4, which was above fill 17, contained more sherds from the headpot as well as fragments from the grooved-rim dish and jar with grouped vertical line burnish from layer 5. A small body fragment from an indented Nene Valley colour-coated beaker from layer 4 can only be broadly dated to the mid-/late 2nd to 3rd century AD (Perrin 1999, 93-4). A sherd from an East Gaulish samian dish was dated to AD 150-220.

A silt layer, 10, on the road surface 4 included sherds from the rim of a cupped-rim flagon (Monaghan 1997 type FC mid-2nd to early 3rd century), two BB1 sherds from a bowl or dish of uncertain form and a lid with burnished zigzag decoration, a grey ware jar with grouped linear burnish and two small samian sherds from a Central Gaulish cup form 33, dated to c.AD 120-200.

Table C3: Quantities from contexts.

Context	No	weight	Rim %
2	1	5.7	
4	9	347.8	5
5	105	978.9	78
6	1	17	8
10	19	108.2	14
17	4	80.3	
05 AA	7	14	5
Total	146	1551.9	105

The absence of any Crambeck or calcite-gritted types all support a date range pre-dating c.AD 270 and possibly pre-AD 250.

Status and function

It should be noted that Monaghan considered the York headpots ritual in function (Monaghan 1997, 914) although he notes that most were from disturbed graves, or remnants of ritual activity or rubbish deposition. Swan considered all the complete ones to be derived from burials but takes the distribution of headpot fragments in areas with no 3rd century AD burials as evidence of an additional ritual function, perhaps in household shrines and for libations (Swan and Monaghan 1992, 25 and 28). Braithwaite suggests that Ebor and northern headpots may be linked to Bacchic or other mystery rites (2007, 450).

A remarkable number of sherds from headpots was found at Piercebridge (sherds from at least 48 head, face and smith pots, Croom *et al* 2008, 211-212) and Cool and Mason (2008, 309-10) noted evidence of structural deposition not only of a near complete pot but also of fragments of headpots which they suggest may be votive deposits representing body parts. Some of these deposits were dated considerably later than the original date of the vessel. The complete headpot at Piercebridge, for example, appears to have been a structured deposit at a date some 150 years after its original manufacture (Cool and Mason 2008, 309). In the case of the sherds from the present excavation, there is no obvious selection of head parts, although an ear is present, and the accompanying pottery appears to be contemporary with the primary dating of the headpot. It is perhaps more likely that this is a disturbed grave pot or rubbish from ritual activity. Other vessels from context 5 such as a small oxidised beaker from context 5 and cooking pot type jars from pit 17 could also be disturbed cremation urns and grave pots.

Recommendations

It is recommended that this assemblage is also considered alongside any further assemblages recovered from future fieldwork at the site as part of this project. The following illustrations are recommended for inclusion in any future analysis report:

1. GRB1, reeded-rim bowl. Very abraded. The original colour is not clear but it is probably grey with brown margins, now exposed, and a grey core (context 6).
2. GRB1, grooved-rim dish (context 5).
3. GRB, everted-rim jar with beaded rim tip, burnished inside rim (context 5).
4. GRB, hooked-rim wide-mouthed jar (context 5).
5. GRB, plain-rim lid (context 5).
6. OAB, head pot fragments. Wheel-thrown in late Ebor ware. A rather chunky everted rim came from context 5 and stood fairly upright as Swan and Monaghan fig. 1 no's 1 3 and 4. Many of the sherds have sections pushed out with the finger tip – nail impressions are visible inside at one end of these impressions. These areas have then been incised with triple 'U'-shaped incisions, partially overlapping and representing hair curls. It is possible to reconstruct two areas. One ran from the neck to below the ear, with curls above the ear forming the hair, and those below the ear perhaps forming side burns or a beard. A second non-adjointing section included curls next to a smooth area. It is not clear where on the pot this should be placed. Faint traces of burnish remain. One sherd in this group, which displays the beginnings of a boss, may be from a different headpot. Another plain section may also be from another vessel as it seemed slightly finer than the rest of the headpot (context 4 and 5).
7. E1, cupped rim flagon (context 10).

Table C4: Pottery data.

Context	Ware	No.	Weight (g.)	Abrasion	Types	Dec	Motif	Date range	Spot dating of context
2	Flowerpot	1	5.7	Unabraded	Flowerpot				Modern
4	OAB	5	326.9	Unabraded	Bodysherds from headpot of African type. The technique of incising the hair is very similar to the male headpot thought to be of Caracalla but the locks are pushed out as in the later bossed Ebor headpots			Early 3rd century AD but possibly continuing into mid-3rd century AD	Early to mid-3rd century
4	GRB	2	13.2	Unabraded	Bodysherd and rim of grooved rim dish			Mid-2nd to mid-3rd century AD	Early to mid-3rd century
4	TS	1	6.2	Moderate	Bodysherd of dish EG, probably same as in context 5			AD 170-220	Early to mid-3rd century
4	NV2	1	1.5	Unabraded	Folded beaker			Late 2nd to 3rd century AD	Early to mid-3rd century
5	TS	2	17	Moderate	Moulded bowl DR30 Doeccus i CG			AD 170-200	Early to mid-3rd century AD, before c.AD 270.
5	TS	1	0.8	Moderate	Flake CG			AD 120-200	Early to mid-3rd century AD, before c.AD 270.
5	TS	1	2	Moderate	Bodysherd of EG dish - same as in context 4			AD 150-220	Early to mid-3rd century AD, before c.AD 270.
5	NV1	1	3.6	Unabraded	Beaker sherd				Early to mid-3rd century AD, before c.AD 270.
5	NV1	1	1.2	Moderate	Beaker sherd with applied dot				Early to mid-3rd century AD, before c.AD 270.
5	GRC	4	35	Unabraded	Bodysherds				Early to mid-3rd century AD, before c.AD 270.
5	BB1	2	12.5	Moderate	Bodysherds				Early to mid-3rd century AD, before c.AD 270.
5	BB1	2	10.2	Abraded	Body and rim of plain rim dish as Gillam 1976 no's 79-81 early to late 3rd century AD	Burnished	Intersecting arcs		Early to mid-3rd century AD, before c.AD 270.

Context	Ware	No.	Weight (g.)	Abrasion	Types	Dec	Motif	Date range	Spot dating of context
5	GRA	4	31.4	Abraded	Bodysherds sooted with vertical burnish lines, could be an early Crambeck related ware				Early to mid-3rd century AD, before c.AD 270.
5	OAB	23	324.6	Unabraded	Rim and bodysherds of headpot as in context 4, including part of everted rim c.16cm diam.			Early 3rd century but possibly continuing into mid-3rd century AD	Early to mid-3rd century AD
5	OAA/B	5	14.1	Unabraded	Basal and lower body of small beaker				Early to mid-3rd century AD
5	OBB	1	2.1	Abraded	Bodysherd				Early to mid-3rd century AD
5	AMP Dr 20?	1	9	Abraded	Bodysherd, ? Later dr20				Early to mid-3rd century AD
5	OBA/NV	1	0.2	Very abraded	Very small scrap of pale ware with traces of brown colour coat or paint - too small to identify with certainty				Early to mid-3rd century AD
5	GRB	31	153.6	Moderate	Plain bodysherds- closed vessels				Early to mid-3rd century AD
5	GRB	3	20.5	Unabraded	Bodysherds with multiple broad grooves				Early to mid-3rd century AD
5	GRB	5	84.2	Moderate	Bodysherds with grouped acute burnish lines				Early to mid-3rd century AD
5	GRB3	3	92.8	Unabraded	Bodysherds with grouped burnish lines same as context 10				Early to mid-3rd century AD
5	GRB	2	20.9	Moderate	Bodysherds with single and double grooves				Early to mid-3rd century AD
5	GRB	1	6.8	Unabraded	Very hard quite gritty sherd with burnished wavy line				Early to mid-3rd century AD
5	GRB	7	62.8	Moderate	Sherds from same grooved rim dish as context 4				Early to mid-3rd century AD
5	GRB	1	20.4	Unabraded	Everted rim with beaded tip from small wide-mouthed jar (24cm diam.)	Burnished			Early to mid-3rd century AD
5	GRB	1	40.8	Moderate	Everted rim with hooked tip from jar (18cm diam.)				Early to mid-3rd century AD
5	GRB	1	12.5	Unabraded	Rim of ? Plain rim lid 20 cm diam.				Early to mid-3rd century AD

Context	Ware	No.	Weight (g.)	Abrasion	Types	Dec	Motif	Date range	Spot dating of context
05 AA	GRB1	1	3	Unabraded	1 rim tip from everted rim vessel burnished internally				Early to mid-3rd century AD
05 AA	GRB1	1	4.2	Moderate	One bodysherd from jar with slightly offset neck				Early to mid-3rd century AD
05 AA	GRB1	3	3	Moderate	Bodysherds				Early to mid-3rd century AD
05 AA	GRB2	1	3.8	Unabraded	Bodysherd	Burnished	Wavy line	3rd century AD+	Early to mid-3rd century AD
6	GRB1? burnt pinkish	1	17	Very abraded	Bowl with wide flat rim, traces of two grooves - this could be a reeded-rim bowl			Late 1st to early 2nd century AD	Late 1st to early 2nd century AD
10	GRB3	9	64.7	Unabraded	Sherds from jar with grouped burnished oblique or vertical lines - thin wall suggests medium jar rather lugged jar series			Late 2nd to mid-3rd century AD	Broadly types dating to the late 2nd to mid-3rd century
10	GRB	3	9.1	Abraded	Bodysherds				Broadly types dating to the late 2nd to mid-3rd century
10	GRB1	1	5.7	Moderate	Basal fragment of /open vessel				Broadly types dating to the late 2nd to mid-3rd century
10	TS	2	2.6	Moderate	Small plain rim sherds grooved internally, Dr33 one possibly with traces of lead repair			AD 120-200	Broadly types dating to the late 2nd to mid-3rd century
10	BB1	1	5	Moderate	Sherd from dish/bowl or lid with zigzag burnish	Burnished	Zigzag		Broadly types dating to the late 2nd to mid-3rd century
10	BB1	1	12.6	Abraded	A basal and lower bodysherd from a bowl or dish, possibly local (Catterick?)				Broadly types dating to the late 2nd to mid-3rd century
10	E1	1	1.7	Very abraded	Cupped rim flagon			Late 2nd to mid-3rd century AD	Broadly types dating to the late 2nd to mid-3rd century
10	OAB	1	6.8	Very abraded	Very worn oxidised ware or CBM				Broadly types dating to the late 2nd to mid-3rd century
17	GRB1	1	51.3	Unabraded	Complete base of small jar with bodysherd				These are most likely to be 3rd century AD on the basis of fabric and the surviving forms but the most diagnostic pieces, the rim and girth are either incomplete or absent altogether.

Context	Ware	No.	Weight (g.)	Abrasion	Types	Dec	Motif	Date range	Spot dating of context
17	GRB1	1	13.4	Unabraded	Jar base				These are most likely to be 3rd century AD on the basis of fabric and the surviving forms but the most diagnostic pieces, the rim and girth are either incomplete or absent altogether.
17	GRB2	2	15.6	Unabraded	Incomplete everted rim, all burnished externally	Burnished		Late 2nd to mid-3rd century AD	These are most likely to be 3rd century AD on the basis of fabric and the surviving forms but the most diagnostic pieces, the rim and girth are either incomplete or absent altogether.

APPENDIX D:
BUILDING MATERIALS AND METALWORK

Gail Hama

Introduction

A small assemblage of ceramic building material, slate and metalwork was hand collected as part of the archaeological evaluation at Carlbury Nursery, Piercebridge.

All the items were identified, quantified and the details recorded on an Access database for the site archive. The results are presented in Table D1 below. A conservation assessment for the metalwork was not required. The following report on the finds assemblage has been prepared in accordance with English Heritage MAP2 guidelines (1991).

Discussion

The long tapering iron nail is similar to other Type I examples found at many other Romano-British sites including Housesteads Fort, Chesters and Bewcastle (Manning 1976, 41-42, fig 11). An unidentifiable plate fragment of iron came from occupation deposit 5. This item had very little metal core surviving and x-radiography would not have provided more detail.

The strips of lead could derive from roof flashing, while the box flue tiles point to the presence of a building in the vicinity. The keying technique on the tiles places them within Pringle's (2006) Type 2 category of box flue tiles from London. When found in situ they date between c.AD 70 and 120, but the dating of brick and tile is problematic when dealing with demolition deposits and re-used materials.

A fragment of slate roof tile is considered to be intrusive.

Conclusions

The proposed development is located in an area of high archaeological potential. The site is approximately 280m north of the Roman fort at Piercebridge, in what is thought to be the Roman cemetery adjacent to Dere Street, approximately 100m to the east. Excavations within the property boundary on the north side of the entry into the garden centre in the 1970s revealed the western side of Dere Street, a 3rd or 4th century building and a cobbled road heading west into the garden centre. It is likely that these recent finds derive from features of comparable date but the small size of the assemblage means that it is not possible to draw any further conclusions.

The finds should be retained with the site archive to inform further phases of work.

Table D1: Finds catalogue by context and material

Context	Material	Object type	Artefact description	Period	Quantity	Weight (g)
10	Lead	Roof fitting	Incomplete rectangular strip; one original edge with square nail hole. L 42mm+, W 25mm+, Th 1mm		1	12
10	Lead	Roof fitting	Incomplete rectangular strip, no original edges; square nail hole with iron nail head and part of shank in stu. L 45mm+, W 30mm+, Th 1mm		1	18
5	Fe	Object	Plate fragment, non-diagnostic and heavily corroded. L 25mm, W 15mm		1	8
17	Fe	Nail	Complete, rectangular section shank; flat, roughly circular head. L 110mm, shank c. 7 x 5mm. RF 1		1	40
5	CBM	Box flue tile	Corner fragment with four lightly combed parallel lines. Dark orange oxidised fabric, few inclusions. Th 20mm	Roman	1	76
5	CBM	Box flue tile	Corner fragment, abraded; trace of combed keying. Pale orange, oxidised fabric. No complete dimensions	Roman	1	16
5	CBM	Box flue tile	Fragments with combed keying consisting of parallel lines. Dark orange oxidised fabric, few inclusions but occasional large voids. Th 17-20mm	Roman	3	114
5	Slate	Roof tile	Fragment. L 55mm; W 35mm		1	11

APPENDIX E:
PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Lynne Lowrie

Introduction

This report presents the results of the palaeoenvironmental assessment of material recovered during investigations at Carlbury Garden Centre, Piercebridge. It has been prepared in accordance with English Heritage (1991). All the data from the *pro forma* recording sheets employed during this assessment have been entered into an Access database and will form part of the site archive.

Methodology

For the assessment of the animal bone, identification was attempted to both the element and species. Where identification to species could not be made the fragment was assigned a generalisation of 'large mammal' (cattle/ horse size), 'medium mammal' (caprovid-sheep/goat or deer) or 'small mammal' (dog/ cat size). Preservation, colour and any cut-marks indicative of butchery were noted on a *pro forma* recording sheet. The animal bone was identified to species as far as the condition of the fragment permitted using Hillson (2003) and Schmid (1972).

The three bulk environmental samples and one sample of burnt bone complete with its soil matrix (see Appendix F) were processed at NAA. The colour, lithology, weight and volume of each sample was recorded using standard NAA *pro forma* recording sheet. The samples were processed with 500 micron retention and flotation meshes using the Siraf method of flotation (Williams 1973). The burnt animal bone was processed using 250 micron meshes. Once dried, the residues from the retention mesh were sieved to 4mm and the artefacts and ecofacts removed from the larger fraction and forwarded to the relevant specialists. The smaller fraction was not examined and has been retained. The flot, plant macrofossils and charcoal were retained and scanned using a stereo microscope (up to x50 magnification). Any non-palaeobotanical finds were noted on the *pro forma* recording sheet. The plant remains and charcoal were identified to species as far as possible, using Cappers *et al.* (2006), Hather (2000), Jacomet (2006) and Schoch *et al.* (2004). Nomenclature for plant taxa followed Stace (2010).

Results

ANIMAL BONE AND SHELL (TABLES E1 AND E2)

The total weight of the 85 hand-collected bone fragments was 527.1g. The largest quantity was from occupation deposit (5) where a range of domestic species was identified which included cattle, pig and caprovid. A single bone recovered from the earlier road surface (6) was the mid-shaft of a tibia from a possible deer. The occupation deposit (10) had leg and rib bone from cattle, caprovids, 'medium-sized' and 'large-sized' mammals. Overall this was an assemblage of domestic animals and is indicative of general waste. Shell was recovered from all flots. A small quantity of terrestrial mollusca was recovered but was not assessed as they were likely to be intrusive.

PLANT AND CHARCOAL REMAINS (TABLES E3, E4 AND E5)

Charcoal was recovered from all samples. The occupation deposit (5) yielded the greatest amount of pieces with hazel, ash, willow/poplar and heather present. The burnt animal bone, however, yielded the greater diversity of species where hazel, willow/poplar, hawthorn, heather and Maloideae were present.

Single wheat and barley grains were identified within 5 AA. The sample from the primary fill of the hollow-way (6 AA) yielded a single barley grain.

Statement of potential and recommendations

The barley or the wheat grain from 5 AA have the potential for submission for AMS dating, although a degree of intrusiveness through bioturbation may prohibit an accurate date for the deposit. The available charcoal would not be suitable for this procedure.

The sorting of the fine fraction residues from 5 AA and 8 AA may yield more charred grain and chaff.

The potential exists for well-preserved charred plant macrofossils, charcoal and animal bone to be recovered from the site. A systematic sampling strategy should be employed for further work within the vicinity.

The palaeoenvironmental assemblage recovered during the current phase of the project should be retained to inform future phases of fieldwork. Should further archaeological work be undertaken at the site then it is recommended that the evaluation assemblages be combined with the assemblage from further work and both be assessed together with recommendations for further analysis.

Table E1. Quantification of the animal bone

Context	Species	Common name	Element	Description	Preservation
5	Indet.		Various	22 fragments	Poor
5	<i>Sus</i>	Pig	Tooth	M2 mandible	Good
5	<i>Sus</i>	Pig	Tooth	P3 mandible	Good
5	<i>Sus</i>	Pig	Tooth	M1 mandible	Good
5	<i>Sus</i>	Pig	Tooth	Canine	Fair
5	Large		Rib fragments	5 but 2 have possible cut marks	Fair
5	Medium		Rib fragments	7 fragments	Fair
5	Small		Rib fragments	1 fragment	Fair
5	Medium		Radius	Mid shaft	Fair
5	Medium		Femur	Mid shaft	Fair
5	Small		Radius	Mid shaft	Fair
5	<i>Bos</i>	Cattle	Rib		Fair
5	Medium		Femur	Mid shaft	Fair
5	Large		?femur	Part proximal end	Fair
5	Large		?	2 indet. fragments	Fair
5	Indet.		? part of mandible		Fair
5	Large		Tibia	mid shaft	Fair
5	Medium		Mandible fragment	Too fragmented for id	Fair
5	<i>Bos</i>	Cattle	Scapula	Fragment	Good
5	<i>Bos</i>	Cattle	Rib	2 fragments	Fair
5	<i>Bos</i>	Cattle	Tibia	Fragment	Fair
5	<i>Bos</i>	Cattle	Phalange		Good
5	Large			long bone fragment	Good
5	? <i>Bos</i>	?Cattle	Radius	Proximal end	Fair

Context	Species	Common name	Element	Description	Preservation
5	Medium		Scapula	Fragment	Fair
5	<i>Bos</i>	Cattle	Astragalus	Fragment missing	Fair
5	<i>Bos</i>	Cattle	Calcaneus	Nearly complete	Good
6	? <i>Cervus</i>	?Deer	?tibia	Middle of shaft	Fair
10	Indet.		indet.	13 fragments	Poor
10	<i>Bos</i>	Cattle	Tooth	M1 from maxilla	Good
10	Caprovid	Sheep/goat	Tooth	?M1 from mandible	Good
10	Medium		Rib	4 Rib fragments	Fair
10	<i>Bos</i>	Cattle	Astragalus	Cut marks on distal end	Good
10	? Caprovid	?sheep/goat	?Phalange		Fair
10	Large		?tibia	Middle of shaft	Fair
10	Medium		?tibia		Poor
10	Caprovid	Sheep/goat	?Metatarsal	Fragment of proximal end	Poor

Key: Large= mammal (cow, horse); medium= mammal (sheep/goat, deer); small= mammal (dog, cat)

Table E2. Animal bone from the samples

Context	SC	Weight (g)	Comment
5	AA	20	long bone fragments from medium to very small mammals
8	AA	<0.1	Possible mandible fragment from very small mammal
16	AA	<0.1	Small vertebrate incisor tooth

Table E3. Data from flots and sample pro forma recording sheets.

Context	SC	Wt proc (kg)	Vol proc (l)	R?	Wt flot (g)	AMS?	Comments	EWC	Finds
5	AA	47	40	yes	6.9	yes	Comminuted charcoal 65%, ecofacts 5%, sand 30%	5	shell
8	AA	39	28	yes	3.8	-	Rootlets 10%, comminuted charcoal 70%, uncharred seeds 10%, sand 10%	10	shell,
14	AA	20	14	yes	2.1	-	Sand 60%, comminuted charcoal 40%	-	shell
16	AA	10	9	yes	13.7	-	Sand 50%, comminute charcoal 50%	-	animal bone, shell

Key: SC= sample code, 'proc'=processed, R?=residues remaining, AMS= suitable for AMS dating, EWC=earthworm capsule

Table E4. Quantification of the charcoal

	Context & sample code	5 AA	8 AA	14 AA	16 AA
	%	90	100	100	50
Binomial name	Common name				
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	15	2		11
<i>Fraxinus</i>	Ash	3			
<i>Salix/Populus</i>	Willow/Poplar	1			4
<i>Quercus</i>	Oak		4		
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn				12
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather	3			5
Maloideae	Sub-family of Rosaceae, contains apples and pears)				2
Dicotyledon (tree)				1	
Indet.		3			2

Table E5. Quantification of the charred grain

Context	Sample code	<i>Triticum cf. aestivum</i>	<i>Hordeum nudum</i>	<i>Hordeum sp.</i>	Poaceae	indet.	Fruit
5	AA	1	1			1	

8	AA			1	2		1
14	AA						
16	AA						

**APPENDIX F:
BURNT ANIMAL BONE**

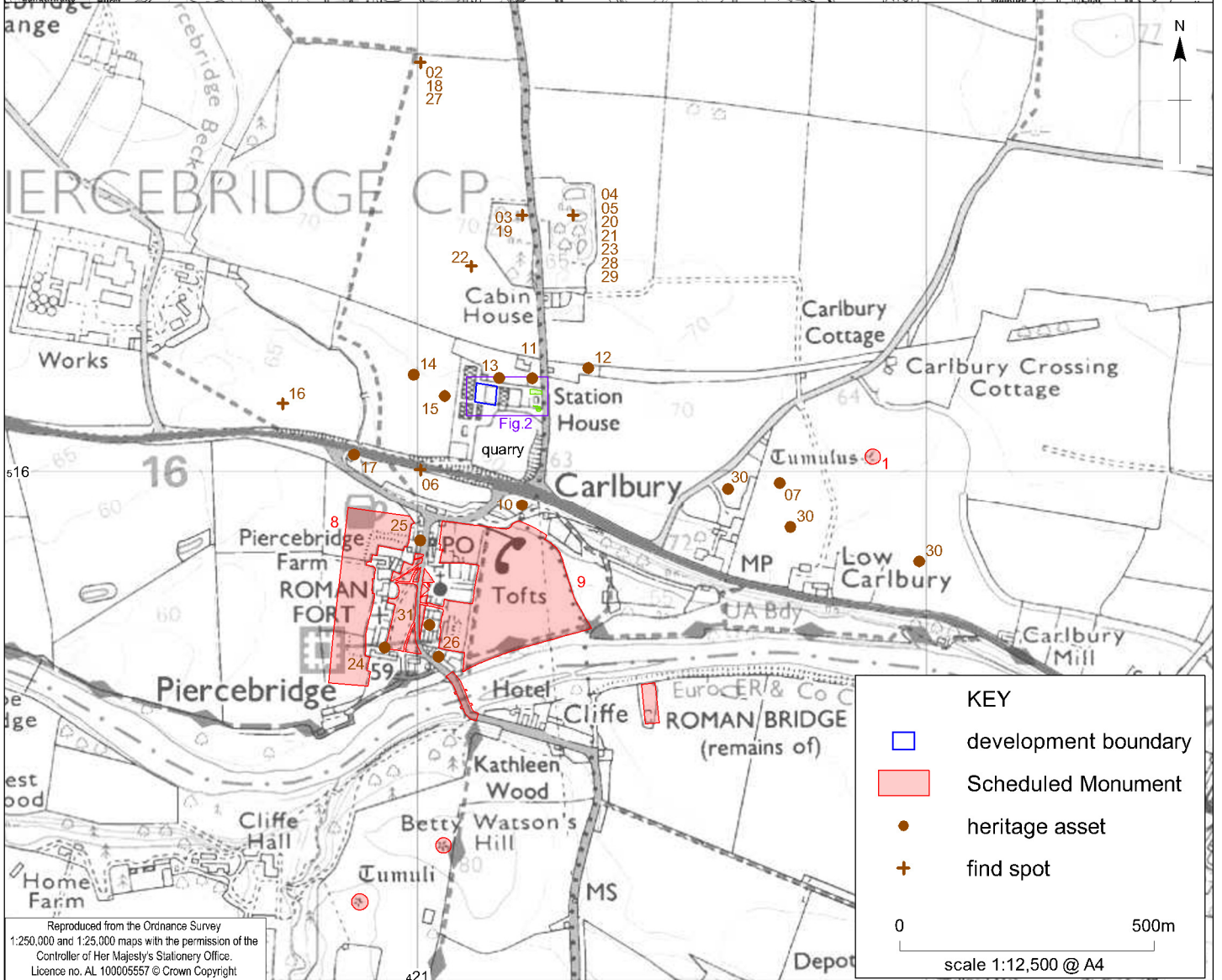
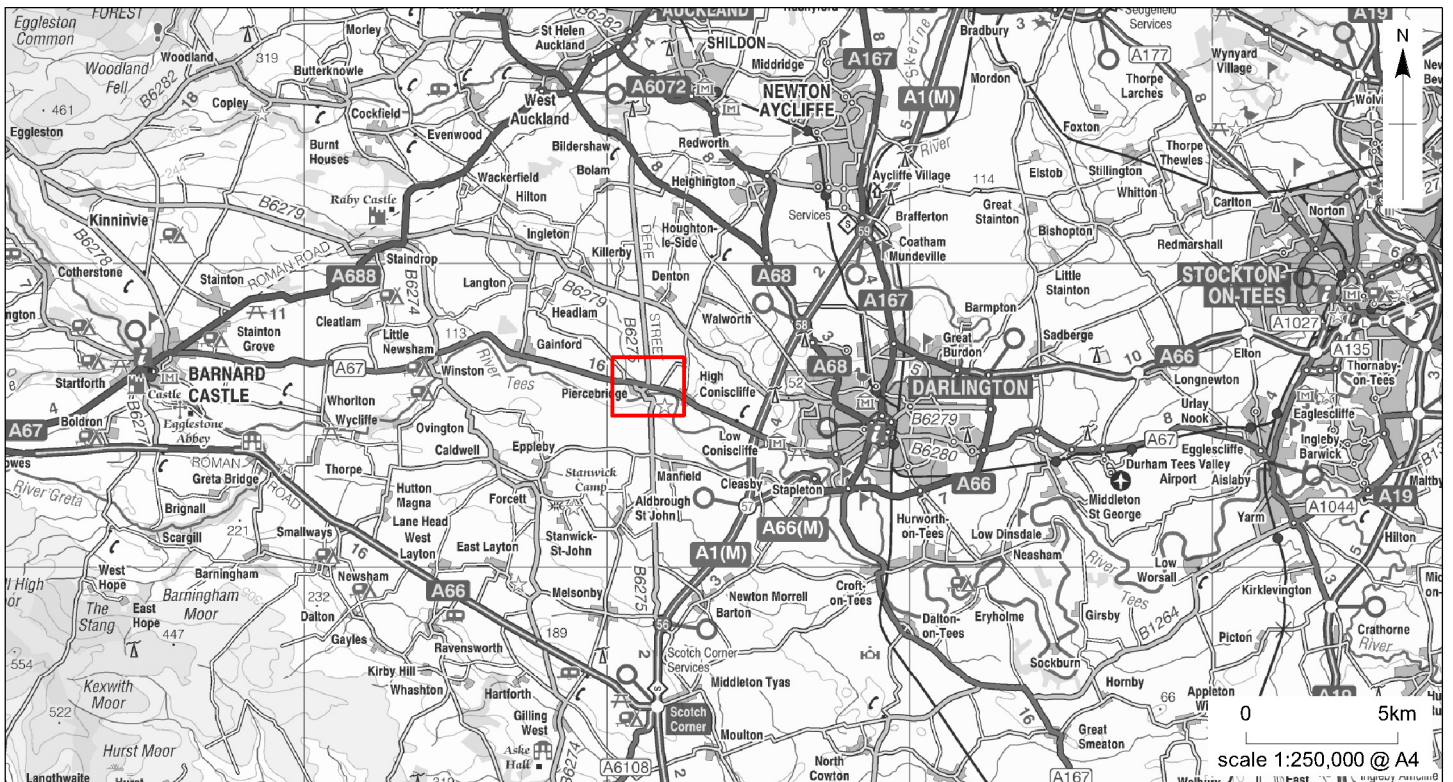
Deborah Jaques

Context 16 contained an assemblage of animal bone comprising 135 fragments. Most of the bone had been burnt (only three do not appear to have been) and the assemblage is summarised within table F1 below. Few of the bones were identifiable and the material showed a high degree of fragmentation and extensive fresh breakage damage, probably due to the bone being fragile. The fragmentation size was up to 58 mm, but most less than 30 mm.

Table F1

5	Fragments of pig tooth
3	Fragment of ?pig cranium
2	Fragments of ?pig mandible
2	Medium-sized mammal vertebra fragments
8	Medium-sized mammal rib fragments
25	Medium-sized mammal shaft fragments
3	Medium-sized mammal cranium fragments
2	Medium-sized mammal scapula fragments
1	Medium-sized mammal ?calcaneum
1	Large mammal calcaneum fragment (?cattle)
1	Large mammal proximal tibia fragment
1	Large mammal ?pelvis fragment
2	Large mammal shaft fragment
79	Unidentified fragments

Key: large mammal (assumed to be cattle, horse or large cervid); medium-sized mammal (assumed to be caprovid (sheep/goat), pig or small cervid).



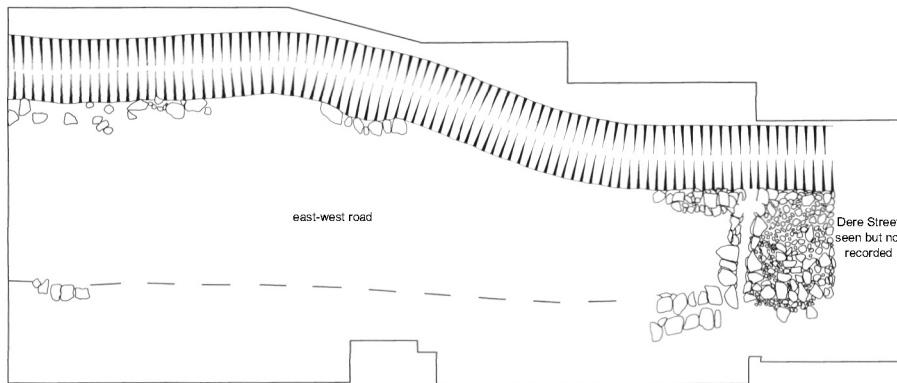
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Carlbury Garden Centre, Piercebridge: site location

Figure 2

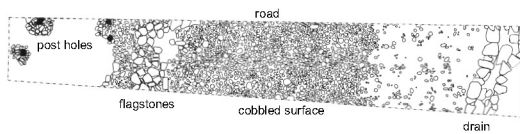
Site A, early features



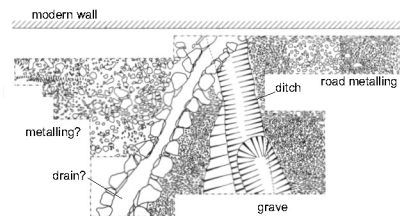
Site A, later building



Site B

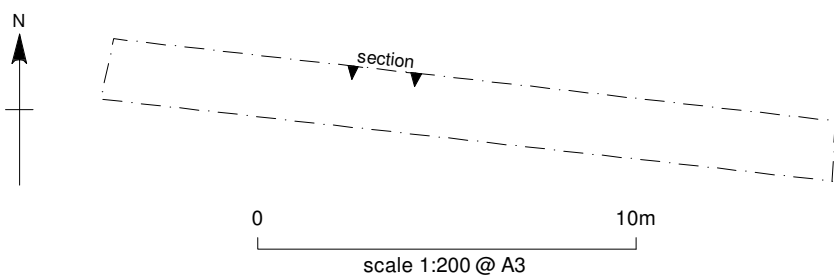


Site C

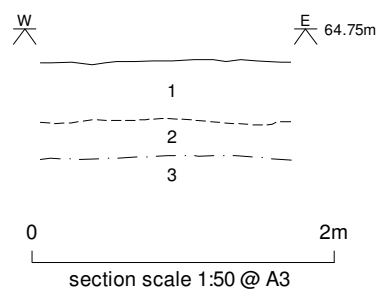


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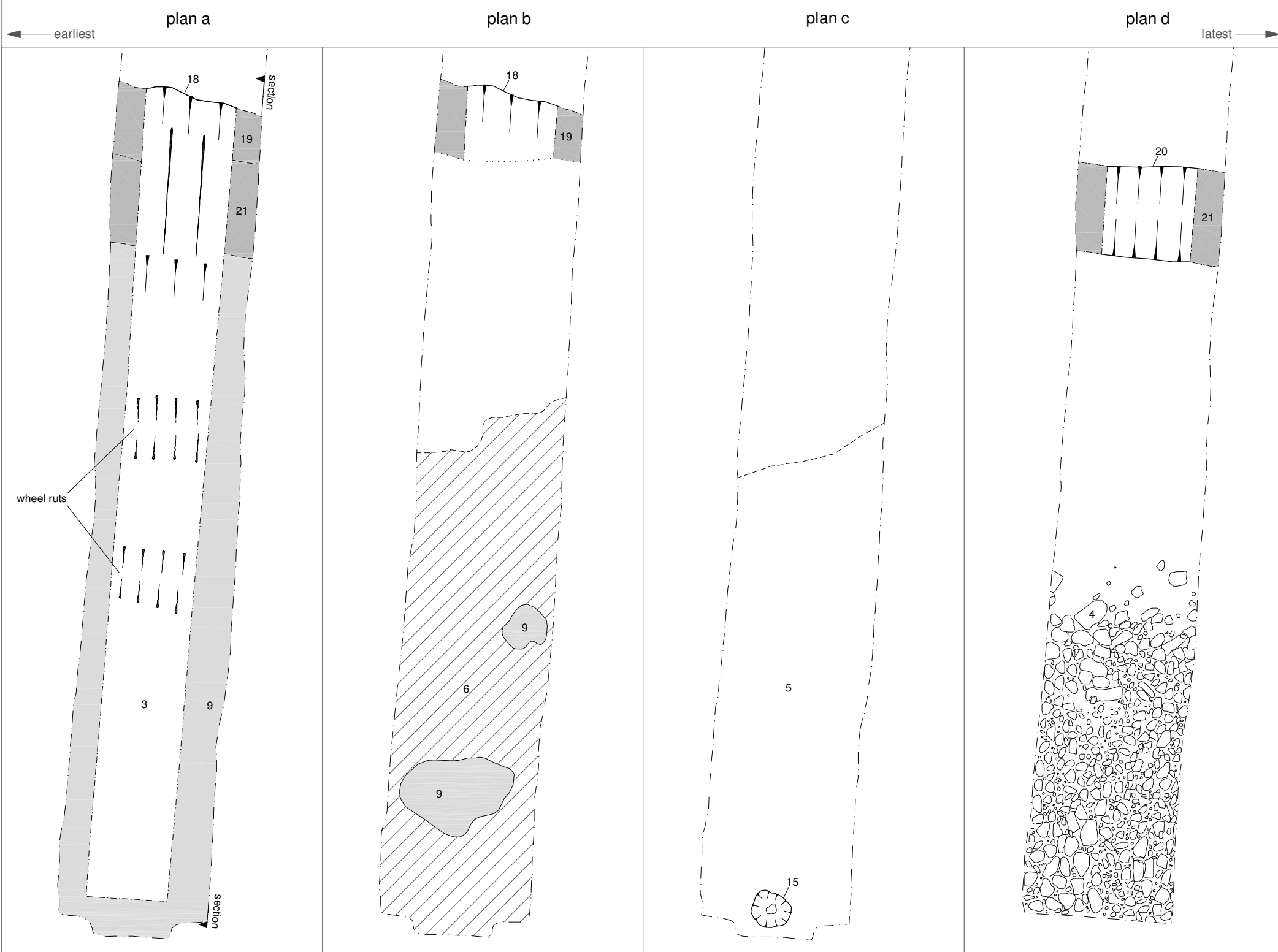
Trench 1 plan



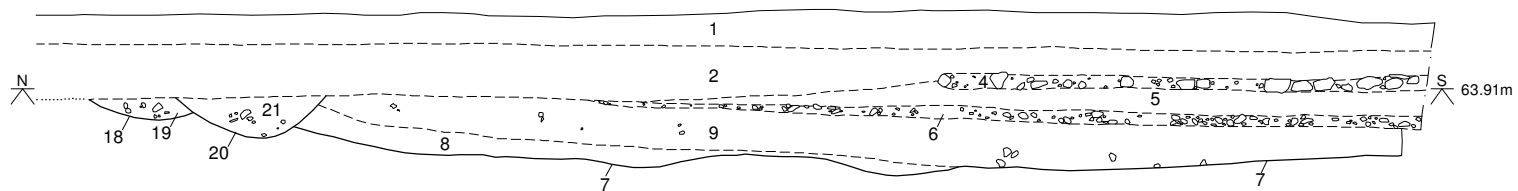
Trench 1 section



Trench 2 plans



Trench 2 section



KEY

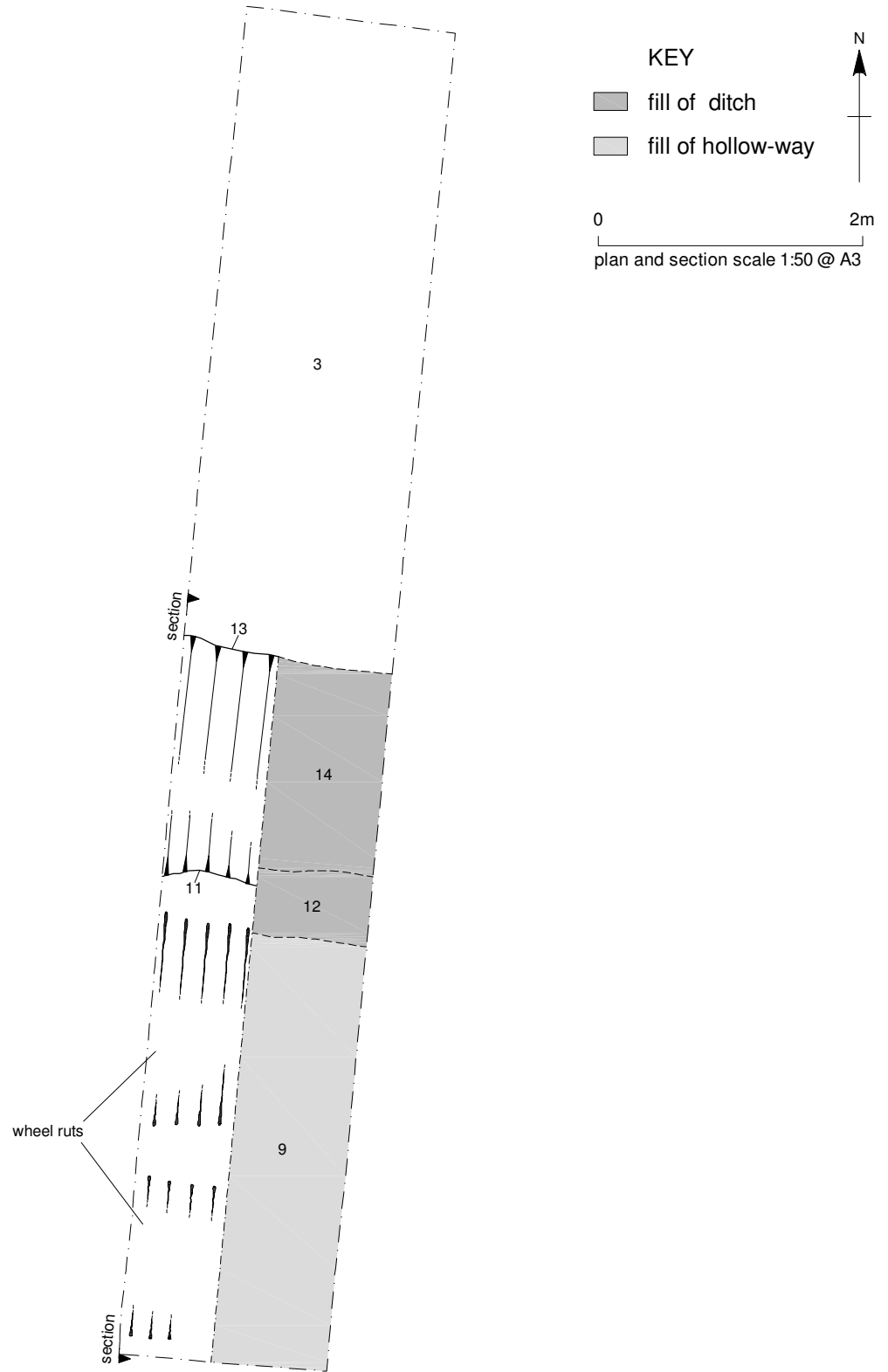
- fill of ditch
- fill of hollow-way
- road metalling

N

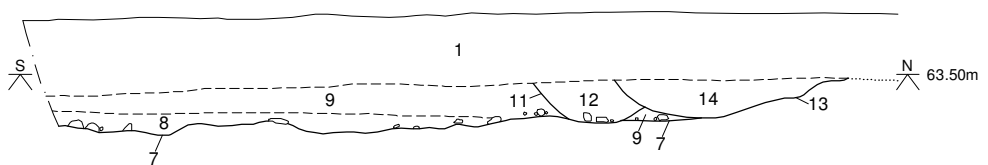


0 2m
plan and section scale 1:50 @ A3

Trench 3 plan



Trench 3 section





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*Carlbury Garden Centre, Piercebridge: Plate 1
Trench 2, hollow-way 7 from the south*



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*Carlbury Garden Centre, Piercebridge: Trench 2, hollow-way 7
with overlying deposits Plate 2*



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Carlbury Garden Centre, Piercebridge: Trench 2, cremation 16 including iron nail (Rf1), with metalled road 6 in foreground

Plate 3



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Carlbury Garden Centre, Piercebridge: Trench 2, road surface 4 with underlying hollow-way to rear

Plate 4



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Carlbury Garden Centre, Piercebridge: Trench 3, east-facing section showing hollow-way 7 and wheel ruts

Plate 5