
NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Client Report No. CP/391/06

**REPORT ON
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD EVALUATION AT
ST AUSTIN FRIARS
SCHOOL,
ETTERBY,
CUMBRIA**

NGR: NY 3909 5739

**FOR
SQUIRES AND BROWN LTD**

J Beaty BA
North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre
Nenthead
Alston
Cumbria CA9 3PD
Tel: (01434) 382045
Fax: (01434) 382294

22nd November 2006



CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
List of Illustrations	ii
Executive Summary.....	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	1
3 METHODOLOGY.....	1
3.1 PROJECT DESIGN.....	1
3.3 FIELD EVALUATION.....	1
3.4 PROJECT ARCHIVE	2
4 EXISTING CONDITIONS.....	2
4.1 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY OF THE STUDY AREA.....	2
5 RESULTS.....	3
6 FINDS.....	5
6.1 TABLE 1.....	5
6.2 FINDS REPORT	5
7 CONCLUSIONS	6
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	7
APPENDICES	10
APPENDIX 1: ILLUSTRATIONS.....	10

LIST OF FIGURES AND PLATES

PLATE 1: TRENCH 1 SHOWING FEATURES (104) AND (106).....	10
PLATE 2: FEATURE (104) IN TRENCH 1.....	11
PLATE 3: FEATURE (106) IN TRENCH 1.....	12
PLATE 4: TRENCH 2 LOOKING NORTH WEST.....	13
PLATE 5: TRENCH 3 LOOKING NORTH.....	14
PLATE 6: TRENCH 4 LOOKING NORTH EAST.....	15
PLATE 7: TRENCH 5 LOOKING NORTH EAST.....	16
PLATE 8: TRENCH 6 LOOKING NORTH WEST.....	17
FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION PLAN.....	18
FIGURE 2: TRENCH LOCATION PLAN.....	19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were invited by Tim Brown of Squires and Brown Ltd to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on land at Austin Friars School, Etterby, Carlisle, Cumbria.

The work followed a planning application for a proposed new junior school at the school, which affects an area considered to have a high archaeological potential, as identified in a previous desk-based assessment by NPA Ltd (Giecco 2005). As a result, Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service has recommended an archaeological evaluation be undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by CCCHES. The work will consist of the excavation of a series of linear trial trenches.

The site is located within the visual envelope of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and lies close to River Bank Court. During the development of River Bank Court a programme of archaeological fieldwork revealed a sequence of Romano British and medieval deposits. These features are likely to relate to Romano British settlement to the north of Hadrian's Wall and medieval occupation relating to the hamlet of Etterby. The area therefore has a high potential for below ground remains of Roman and Medieval date.

The results of the evaluation have shown that the area contains very little archaeological material of interest. In all six trenches there is nothing to suggest a date earlier than the late 19th early 20th century. Some of the linear features (104 and 106) could be part of the previous market garden landscape that existed on the development area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Tim Brown who gave help and assistance during the evaluation and to Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist for Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), for his advice and assistance during the course of the project. Thanks also go to Jo Mackintosh of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record (HER).

The field evaluation was supervised by Joanne Beaty BA Hons and assisted by Kevin Mounsey BA Hons, Joe Doran BA Hons and Allan James. The report was written by Joanne Beaty BA Hons, and edited by Martin Railton BA Hons, MA. Overall responsibility for the project rested with Martin Railton BA Hons, MA, NPA Project Officer.

1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

- 1.1 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were invited by Tim Brown of Squires and Brown Ltd to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on land at Austin Friars School, Etterby, Carlisle, Cumbria. The work follows a pre-planning application for a proposed erection of a junior school, which affects an area considered to have a high archaeological potential. As a result, Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service recommended a programme of archaeological work be undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by CCCHES. The work will consist of the excavation of a series of linear trial trenches in the area of the proposed development area.
- 1.2 The evaluation consisted of six machine-excavated trenches: five 20m x 1.6m and one trench 10m x 1.6m, in order to provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relevant importance against known development proposals. The location of the trial trenches covered 5% of the proposed development area.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There has been no previous intrusive archaeological work undertaken within the limits of the site. However a number of areas of archaeological interest are known within the vicinity of the site, these are discussed in a desk-based assessment. Undertaken by NPA Ltd in 2005 (Giecco 2005). The area currently used as a rugby pitch and recreation ground is situated over the site of the former St Annes Nursery used as a market garden. Disturbance caused by the former nursery is likely to have been minimal with no records of any substantial structures other than greenhouses, and any ground disturbance is likely to have been limited to water services and drainage. The most likely disturbance on any potential archaeology would have occurred during the conversion from the nursery into recreation ground, which may have involved significant landscaping.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 3.1.1 A project design was prepared in response to a brief provided by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service. This included a detailed specification of works to be carried out, which consisted of a desk-based assessment prior to the field evaluation (Town 2006). This project design was approved by CCCAS prior to work commencing on site.

3.3 FIELD EVALUATION

- 3.3.1 The aims and principal methodology of the field evaluation can be summarised as follows:
- to determine the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains;
 - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;

- to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital, 35mm colour print and monochrome formats as applicable;
- 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 site archive in accordance with MAP2 standards (English Heritage, 1991);
- depending upon the results of the work, to prepare a report for publication.

3.3.2 This process culminated in the production of a bound client report with each page and paragraph numbered, following the guidance set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, 1991), including:

- a site location plan, related to the national grid;
- the dates on which the project was undertaken;
- a concise, non-technical summary of the results;
- a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and the results;
- plans and sections at an appropriate scale;
- a list of, and spot dates for, any finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified;
- a description of any environmental or any other specialist work undertaken and the results obtained;
- a table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and any spot dating of significant finds;
- recommendations for further analysis if applicable.

3.4 PROJECT ARCHIVE

3.4.1 The full archive has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the current English Heritage guidelines set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 2nd Ed. 1991). The archive will be deposited within an appropriate repository and a copy of the report given to the County Sites and Monuments Record, where viewing will be available on request.

3.4.2 The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA 06 AUS-A.

4 EXISTING CONDITIONS

4.1 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY OF THE STUDY AREA

4.1.1 The study area is situated at Austin Friars School, Etterby in the parish of Stanwix just to the northeast of Carlisle at approximately 36m AOD. It is located to the rear of the main school complex on a slight ridge where the land falls away considerably to the south with a fall of approximately 8m between Etterby Scaur and Belah Road. Much of

the proposed development area is currently used as playing fields with some temporary classrooms in the northeast corner.

- 4.1.2 The general topography descends on the south side to the Eden floodplain. The geology of the area consists of boulder clay interleaved with alluvial sand and gravels. The boulder clay has been deposited by ice and is derived from bedrock traversed by glacial movement and is heterogeneous (SSEW 1984). The solid geology of the area comprises Triassic mudstones overlain by drift deposits of raised beach and marine deposits (British Geological Survey).
- 4.1.3 The soils which underlie the area have been mapped by the Ordnance Survey Soil Survey of England and Wales (1983) and are of the Clifton Association, comprising Stagnogleys with some fluvial deposits along the margins of the river Eden.
- 4.1.4 The principal river closest to the study area is the River Eden, which flows to the south of the study area.

5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The evaluation was undertaken over a period of three days between 15th November and 18th November 2006. A total of six trenches were excavated by machine measuring approximately between 10 metres by 1.5 metres and 20 metres by 1.5 metres each (Figure 2). The trenches varied between 0.4 and 0.6 metres in depth. Machining of the trenches halted when undisturbed natural geology or archaeological deposits were encountered.
- 5.2 All six trenches were prone to flooding due to several factors including the natural clay ground, broken ceramic field drains and incessant torrential rain over the three day evaluation, this made conditions difficult to work in and excavate thoroughly. Two trenches had to be abandoned due to the water level in the trenches. Both Trenches 3 and 5 were observed during machining, but could not be kept sufficiently dry to record to the usual NPA Ltd standards.
- 5.3 Trench 1 was oriented approximately north-west to south-east running parallel to the road adjacent to the temporary junior school and measured 20m x 1.5m x 0.5m.
- 5.4 Machining to a depth of approximately 0.5 metres to the natural ground (101) of an orangey brown gravely clay with frequent small stone inclusions. Above the natural is a layer of 0.5metres of dark brown topsoil (100)
- 5.5 There were two archaeological features in Trench 1 (Plate 1). Two post-medieval drainage channels (104) and (106) were observed and investigated. Both features were 0.20m in depth with steep inclined sides and flat bases (Plate 2 and 3). Fragments of post-medieval plain earthenware were recovered from both features dating to the late 19th to early 20th centuries. The finds from Trench 1 topsoil (100) are the same type of plain earthenware dated to 19th century to 20th century, which coincides with the date of the market gardens that were previously located in the area.
- 5.6 Trench 2 was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 10m X 1.5m (Plate 4). The trench was located parallel to trench 1 on the northern part of the site. Trench 1

- was machined to the natural ground (101) at a depth of 0.5m with the rest of the trench being made up of topsoil (100).
- 5.7 There were no archaeological features in Trench 2. The topsoil is the same as in trench 1, with similar finds.
- 5.8 Trench 3 was aligned north to south and measured 20m x 1.5m x 0.6m It was at a 45 degree angle to trench 2 at the northern edge of the site. The trench was machined to the natural ground (101) which was 0.6m deep (Plate 5).
- 5.9 There were no archaeological features located in Trench 3. A ceramic field drain was observed running south-east to north-west diagonally at the northern end of the trench. Pottery dating to the late 19th early 20th century was recovered from the topsoil (100). Trench 3 had to be abandoned due to excessive flooding
- 5.10 Trench 4 was orientated north-east to south west and located in the middle of the site, measuring 20m x 1.5m x 0.5m. The trench was machined to the natural ground (101) at 0.5m deep (Plate 6).
- 5.11 There were two ceramic field drains observed in this trench. As in Trench 3, both drains ran north-west to south-east close to either end of the trench. Two bricks were observed in the topsoil, both handmade with the name Birkby stamped on one side. The pottery recovered from this trench was the same as the other trenches dating to the late 19th to early 20th centuries.
- 5.12 Trench 5 was orientated north-east to south-west and ran parallel to trench 4. Measuring 20m x 1.5m x 0.45m at the southern part of the site. The trench was machined to the natural ground (101) at 0.45m deep (Plate 7).
- 5.13 There were ceramic two field drains uncovered in Trench 5 in the same position as those in trench 4. As in Trench 4 two handmade bricks the same as trench 4 were observed and pottery dated to the late 19th to early 20th centuries were recovered. No archaeological features were uncovered in trench 5. Trench 5 had to be abandoned due to excessive flooding.
- 5.14 Trench 6 was orientated north-west to south-east at the southern boundary of the site. The trench measured 20m X 1.5m x 0.4m. The trench was machined to the natural ground (101) at 0.4m (Plate 8).
- 5.15 A ceramic field drain was uncovered mid trench running north-east to south-west. The pottery recovered was the same as the other trenches dating from the late 19th to early 20th century. No archaeological features were recorded in this trench.

6 FINDS

6.1 TABLE 1

Context	Trench	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
100	1	Pottery	12	0.345	19th-20th century
100	1	Window Glass	1	0.019	19th-20th century
100	1	Bottle Glass	1	0.002	19th-20th century
104	1	Pottery	3	0.023	19th-20th century
106	1	Pottery	1	0.018	19th-20th century
100	2	Pottery	3	0.037	19th-20th century
100	3	Pottery	1	0.032	19th-20th century
100	4	Pottery	1	0.137	19th-20th century
100	5	Pottery	8	0.175	19th-20th century
100	5	Window Glass	5	0.012	19th-20th century
100	6	Pottery	1	0.066	19th-20th century

6.2 FINDS REPORT

- 6.3 There were a total of 30 sherds of post-medieval pottery, 6 sherds of window glass and 1 sherd of bottle glass recovered from Austin Friars School (Table 1). The pottery was predominantly plain earthenware recovered from the topsoil (100) of Trenches 1, 2, 5 and 6 with a further 3 recovered from (104) and 1 sherd from (106) both in Trench 1. This would be in keeping with the market garden that previously existed in this area. 2 sherds of salt-glazed stoneware were recovered from the topsoil (100) in trenches 1 and 3. 1 sherd of transfer printed ware was recovered from trench 4 (100) and the remaining sherd was too small to be identified in any detail.
- 6.4 A total of 7 sherds of glass were recovered from the topsoil in Trenches 1 and 5. In Trench 1, 1 sherd of white bottle glass and 1 sherd of clear window glass were recovered. In trench 5, 5 sherds of clear window glass were recovered. All the glass was of a similar date 19th to 20th century.

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The results of the evaluation have shown that the area contains very little archaeological material of interest. In all six trenches there is nothing to suggest a date earlier than the late 19th early 20th century. Some of the linear features (104 and 106) could be part of the previous market garden landscape that existed on the development area.
- 7.2 Although the desk-based assessment has shown that the surrounding area is rich in remains, particularly relating to the proximity of the Austin Friars to the Stanegate and Hadrian's Wall. However there is no evidence of Roman occupation in the area of Austin Friars School. The finds from the evaluation were in the most part from the 19th and 20th centuries, which would be in keeping with the date of the landscape and surrounding buildings.
- 7.3 Previous to the field evaluation a series of test pits and bore holes were investigated by Norwest Holst Soil Engineering Ltd. The results of the test pits and bore-holes were in keeping with the results of the field evaluation carried out by NPA Ltd.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- ADS(ArchaeologicalData Services) 2005. <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/Carlisle>
City Council (1997) *Carlisle District Local Plan*.
- Armstrong, A.M. 1971. Armstrong, A.M.; Mawer, A.; Stenton, F.M.; & Dickins, Birley, E, 1961 *Research on Hadrian's wall*, Kendal
- Bruce. The place-names of Cumberland. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1st Edition (1950), Reprinted 1971.
- CCC & LDNPA (2003) *Cumbria and the Lake District Joint Structure Plan*. Cumbria County Council/Lake District National Park Authority.
- Charlesworth, D. (1978) Roman Carlisle. *Archaeological Journal* **135**, 115-37.
- Dacre, J A, 1985 An excavation on the Roman fort at Stanwix, Carlisle, *Trans Cumberland Westmorland Antiq Soc*, 2 ser, **85**, 53-69
- DoE (1987) *Circular 8/87*. Department of the Environment.
- DoE (1990) *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment*. Department of the Environment.
- DoE (1990) *Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16: Archaeology and Planning*. Department of the Environment.
- DoE (1990) *The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act*. Department of the Environment.
- English Heritage (1991) *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*. London: English Heritage.
- English Heritage (2003) *Register of Parks and Gardens*.
- English Heritage (2003) *Register of Battlefields*.
- English Heritage (2003) *Register of Buildings at Risk*.
- Esmonde Cleary, A S, 1994 Roman Britain in 1993: Sites explored, England, *Britannia* **25** 261-91
- Esmonde Cleary, A S, 1997 Roman Britain in 1996: Sites explored, England, *Britannia* **28** 414-53
- Ferguson, The Worshipful Chancellor. 1891. The Siege of Carlisle in 1644-45: General Leslie's Works. CWAAS (Old Series) XI, 1891, pp104-116.
- Ferguson, The Worshipful Chancellor. 1899. Ancient Bridges and Fords. CWAAS (Old Series) XV, 1899, pp114-132.
- Hassall, M W C, 1976 Britain in the Notitia, in R Goodburn and P Bartholomew (eds), *Aspects of the Notitia Dignitatum*, Brit Archaeol Rep Supp Ser 15, 103-17, Oxford

- History Directory and Gazetteer of Cumberland and Westmorland. 1829.
- HMSO (1979) *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act*. London: HMSO.
- HMSO (1990) *The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*. London: HMSO.
- Hogg, R. (1961) *Carlisle: a recently discovered cemetery*. CWAAS.
- Hutchinson, William. 1974. *History of the County of Cumberland*. Wakefield: E.P. Publishing, 1974 (Facsimile of original edition, Carlisle: F. Jollie, 1st edition, 1794-97).
- IFA (1994) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments*. Reading: Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- Jollies Cumberland Guide and Directory 1811.
- Johnson, James. 1915. *Place Names of England and Wales*. London: John Murray, 1st edition, 1st Impression, 1915.
- Jones, B.C. 1983. *Carlisle Brickmakers and Bricklayers 1652-1752*. CWAAS (New Series) LXXXIII, 1983, pp125-129
- Jones, B.C. 1976. *The Topography of Medieval Carlisle*. CWAAS (New Series) LXXVI, 1976, pp77-96.
- Kelly's Directory. 1910.
- Kelly's Directory. 1914.
- Kelly's Directory. 1934.
- Kelly's Directory. 1938.
- Lee, J. (1998) *The Place Names of Cumbria*.
- Nicolson, J. and Burn, R. (1777; Rev. Ed. 1976) *The History and Antiquities of the Counties of Cumberland and Westmorland*. Volume I. E.P. Publishing Limited.
- Ordnance Survey. 2001. *Roman Britain: Historical Map and Guide*. HMSO Crown Copyright, 2001.
- Ordnance Survey. 1989. *Hadrian's Wall: Historical Map and Guide*. HMSO Crown Copyright, 1989.
- Ordnance Survey. 2005. *Ancient Britain: Historical Map and Guide*. HMSO Crown Copyright, 2005.
- Perriam, D. R. (1992), *Carlisle: An Illustrated History*. Carlisle: Bookcase, Cumbria Library and Tullie House Museum.
- Rollinson, William. 1996. *A History of Cumberland and Westmorland*. Chichester: Phillimore, 2nd Edition, 1996.
- Simpson, F G, 1933 *Carlisle and Stanwix*, *Trans Cumberland Westmorland Antiq Archaeol Soc*, 2ser, **33**, 274-6

Simpson F G, and Hogg, R, 1935 Stanwix, *Trans Cumberland Westmorland Antiq Archaeol Soc 2 ser* , **35**, 256-7

Simpson, F G, and Richmond, I A, 1941 Hadrian's Wall, *J Roman Stud* **31**,129-30
Solway II". 1955. A Cumbrian Diary. Cumberland News, 11 November 1955.

Spence, R.T. (1984) The Backward North Modernized? The Cliffords, Earls of Cumberland and the Socage Manor of Carlisle 1611-1643. *Northern History*. XX: 64-87.

SSEW (1984) *Soils and their use in Northern England*. Soil Survey of England and Wales..

Towill, Sydney. 1991. A History of Carlisle. Chichester: Phillimore, 1st Edition, 1st Impression, 1991.

Towill, Sydney. 1996. Georgian and Victorian Carlisle: Life, Society and Industry. Preston: Carnegie Press, 1st Edition, 1st Impression, 1996.

Watts, V. 2004. The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1st Edition, 1st impression, 2004.

Whellan, William. 1860. History and Topography of the Counties of Cumberland & Westmorland. Pontefract: Whellan, 1st Edition, 1860.

Zant, John 1998. Report on an archaeological evaluation at Stanwix School, Carlisle, Cumbria, Carlisle Archaeology Unit, unpublished report.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: ILLUSTRATIONS



Plate 1: Trench 1 showing features (104) and (106)



Plate 2: Excavated drainage channel (104) Trench 1



Plate 3: Excavated drainage channel (106) Trench 1



Plate 4: Trench 2 looking north west



Plate 5: Trench 3 looking north



Plate 6: Trench 4 looking north east



Plate 7: Trench 5 looking north east



Plate 8: Trench 6 looking north west