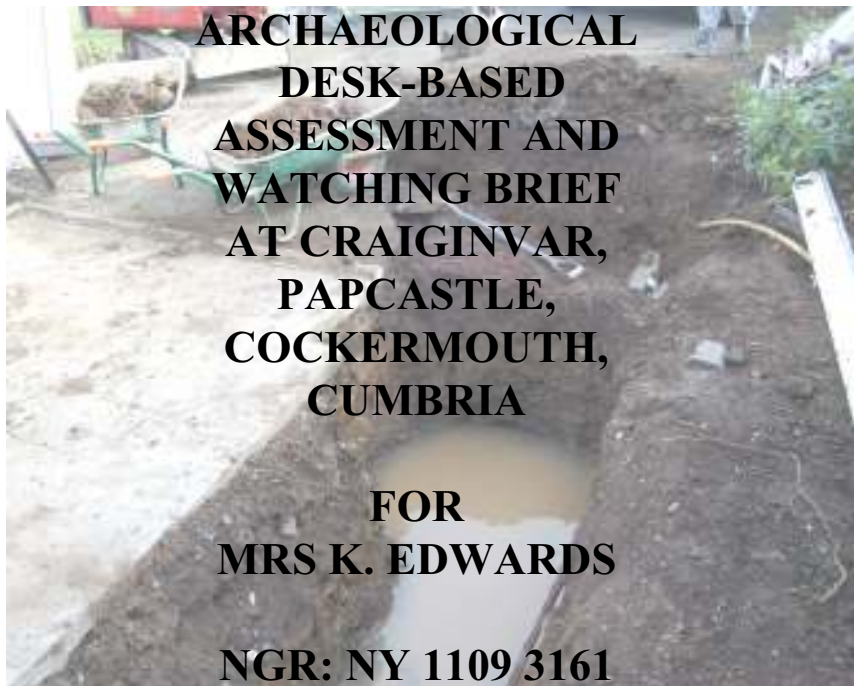


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# **NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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**Project Designs and Client Report No. CP/526/07**



**Planning Ref: 2/2007/0382  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In June 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Mr Beattie of Alpha Design Architectural Services, on behalf of the client, Mrs K. Edwards, to undertake a rapid archaeological desk based assessment and watching brief in association with a development of land at Craiginvar, Papcastle, Cumbria (NGR NY 1109 3161). This was undertaken in accordance with Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service, who recommended this programme of archaeological work. It was also undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by CCCHES.

The desk-based assessment involved the examination of all pertinent documents and cartographic sources held in the County Records Office in Carlisle, and the consultation of the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) based in Kendal. The HER includes the locations and settings of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens and other, non-designated archaeological remains. In addition, a number of published sources were consulted to provide background information, and several relevant web sites.

The desk-based assessment located sites from the HER and other sources within 0.5 km of the development site. These included 14 listed sites, 3 of which were listed buildings. These sites were predominantly Romano-British in date and associated with the fort of Derventio (a Scheduled Ancient Monument; HER 872), which is situated just to the west of the proposed development. The *vicus*, or civilian settlement, associated with the fort also lies in the vicinity, and the full extent of this settlement is not yet known.

The consequential watching brief was undertaken in February 2008. The works entailed the construction of a new house extension on the south facing gable end of the property, which involved the excavation of three small trenches to upgrade and replace existing utilities. However, the trenches revealed no clear evidence of Roman archaeology despite the close proximity of the fort to Craiginvar, this is probably due in part to the area being heavily disturbed by the building of the house and or the subsequent construction of a garage. It is likely that the majority of archaeological features in this immediate area have either been severely truncated or are located away from the immediate development site.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Glen Beattie of Alpha Design and Mrs K Edwards for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the fieldwork.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), and all the staff at the Cumbria County Record Office in Carlisle for their help during this project.

Cat Peters undertook the initial desk-based assessment, whilst Martin Sowerby carried out the watching brief. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Juliet Reeves.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) were consulted prior to a planning application submitted regarding a proposed development, which could affect an area considered to have a high archaeological potential. The site is a property known as Craiginvar, Papcastle, Cumbria (NGR NY 1109 3161) (Figure 1). The site lies to the north-east of the Roman fort of Derventio (HER 22499). Consequently, CCCHES advised that a programme of archaeological works would be necessary prior to any proposed development application. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL) was commissioned by Glen Beattie of Alpha Design, on behalf of the client, Mrs K Edwards, to undertake the required rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of the general area of Papcastle, followed by an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken on groundworks associated with the development.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Cumbria County Record Offices in Carlisle (CROC), and the archives and library held by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd., as well as a search of the known cultural and historical sites in the vicinity, held by Cumbria County Council in the Historic Environment Database. The principal objective of this assessment was to undertake sufficient work in order to identify and characterise the archaeological constraints associated with the development area, in order to assess the archaeological and historical potential of the development site. A site visit was carried out on the proposed development, in order to assess the condition of any archaeological features present.
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the project design and design specification for the project, following professional standards. A supervising archaeologist undertook a formal programme of observation of all excavating operations carried out as part of the development (IFA 1994).
- 1.1.4 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area, an assessment of the impact of the proposed development, and subsequent results of the archaeological watching brief, which formed the second stage of the archaeological works.

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Alpha Design for a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of the study area, followed by a watching brief, in accordance with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice. As a result, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned to undertake the designated archaeological works.

### 2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 Several sources of information were consulted, in accordance with the project brief and project design. The study area consisted of a 1km radius centred on the proposed development area (Figure 2). The principal sources of information were the Historic Environment Record (HER), maps and secondary sources.
- 2.2.2 *Cumbria County Record Office (Carlisle)*: the County Record Office in Carlisle (CROC) was visited to consult documents specific to the study area. Historic maps of the study area, including surveys, Tithe and Enclosure Maps, Acts of Parliament and early Ordnance Survey maps, were examined. A search was made for any relevant historical documentation, particularly regarding the use of the area, drawing on the knowledge of the archivists. Several secondary sources and relevant websites were also consulted.
- 2.2.3 *English Heritage NMR and Archaeology Data Service*: an electronic enquiry was also made of English Heritage's National Monuments Record and the website of the Archaeology Data Service. This was in order to enhance and augment the data obtained from a search of the appropriate repositories.
- 2.2.4 *North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL)*: various publications and unpublished reports on excavations and other work in the region are held within the North Pennines Archaeology library and any relevant undeposited archives were examined. Aerial photographs of the area were also studied.

### 2.3 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.3.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during all groundworks associated with the development. This was to determine the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains, and to record all surviving archaeological features encountered during the works.

### 2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design, and in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (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.

- 2.4.2 North Pennines Archaeology and CCHES support the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature created as a result of developer-funded archaeological fieldwork. As a result, details of the results of this desk-based assessment will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.



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### 3. BACKGROUND

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#### 3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Papcastle is a small village on the outskirts of Cockermouth, Cumbria, which lies approximately 40 kilometres, south-west of Carlisle, on the western fringes of the North Cumbrian Plain. The village occupies an elevated position on the north bank of the river Derwent. The site lies within the northern outskirts of the village.
- 3.1.2 The area investigated consists of a dwelling house with associated garden area and is centred on NGR NY 1109 3161. It is bounded to the north by adjoining properties, to the east by a public thoroughfare, to the south by adjoining properties and to the west by a small stretch of field before the site of Derwentio Roman Fort is located.
- 3.1.3 The area around Papcastle is well served with water sources, several wells are located within the village, whilst the River Derwent flows along the southern boundary of the village and two small tributaries of the Derwent are found immediately to the west of village. The main A595 road from Carlisle is located to the north-west of the village, whilst the A594 heads west to Maryport and the A66 is located to the east of the village.
- 3.1.4 The solid geology of the area consists predominantly of Carboniferous rocks. Throughout the area around the River Derwent, well drained loams of the Wick Association overlie the solid geology. Away from the river valley the solid geology is masked by Devensian tills upon which are soils chiefly of the Clifton and Brickfield associations (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).

#### 3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments around the study area.
- 3.2.2 **Prehistoric:** a number of stray finds most notably, stone axes from the Langdales, have been discovered in the Cockermouth area (Bradbury 1996). Located 4km east of Cockermouth is Elva Plain stone circle. It consists of 15 stones with a single outlying stone. There is no direct evidence of a burial mound or any other feature. It has been linked with the trade in Neolithic stone axes. The suggested association of the circle with the stone axe trade may find some support in the name of the site. Elva was rendered 'Elfhow' and although there are no reports of axe finds in the vicinity, it may be that the name originates from the finding here of 'elfshot', a term once applied in this part of Cumberland to polished stone axes, which were thought to have magic significance.
- 3.2.3 At Ewanrigg, to the south-west of Maryport, field walking discovered prehistoric pottery; a series of subsequent excavations identified a total of 29 cremation burials and a single cist burial. Radiocarbon dates (2470 cal BC - 1520 cal BC) suggest that

burials were being interred over a period of about 940 years during the Bronze Age. The relationship between the excavated cemetery at Ewanrigg, and an adjacent, unexcavated, settlement site (identified from aerial photographs) is unclear (Bewley 1986). Within Cockermouth itself is the small Toot, or Tute Hill, located directly opposite to the Castle, which has been interpreted as a burial mound, possibly of Bronze Age origin (Bradbury 1996).

- 3.2.4 There is a large earthwork located in Fitz Wood in Cockermouth, which appears to be Iron Age in date, based on its form and shape, however, excavation has yet to confirm this theory. It consists of a well-preserved ditch and rampart with evidence for internal structures. There are also earthworks at Castle How, Piel, 5 km to the east of Cockermouth (Bradbury 1996).
- 3.2.5 **Romano-British:** during the Roman period there was a heavy military presence in Cumbria, and there is considerable evidence for Roman military activity around the study area during this period. The earliest known settlement at Papcastle belongs to the Romano-British period, and may be divided into two categories: the fort, and the extramural settlement (site 2; a scheduled ancient monument). These sites were situated at the junction of two main Roman roads, the road from the fort at Carlisle, heading south-west and the route heading west towards Maryport (Figure 3). The fort occupies a strategic position on a hill overlooking a major crossing of the River Derwent.
- 3.2.6 There is only one historical text, which refers to the fort at Papcastle. The name of the fort is recorded in the Ravenna Cosmology of the 7<sup>th</sup> century, where it appears as *Derventione* (R&C122), between the compound entry for *Maglona* (Old Carlisle, Cumbria) and the entry for *Bravoniacum* (Kirkby Thore, Cumbria). Epigraphic evidence from the site is sparse (only four inscriptions on stone are listed in the *RIB*), and neither confirms nor refutes the identification of *Derventio* with Papcastle.
- 3.2.7 Limited excavations at various stages throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century revealed at least two distinct phases of fort building. The earliest fort was found to date to the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century, and was replaced in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century by a fort constructed on a slightly different alignment. The extensive alterations were probably associated with the general reorganisation of the frontier district under Lucius Septimius Severus (193-211 AD). Occupation of the forts would appear to be continuous, running from the Flavian period through to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century (Reeves 2002). The majority of the stone from the fort must have been removed when the fort fell out of use. It is thought that much of the stone went into the construction of Cockermouth castle, where at least three stone inscriptions relating to the fort have been found (Birley 1963).
- 3.2.8 The fort and extramural settlement has been described and discussed by many antiquarian authorities since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, including Camden (1586, 1587, 1590 and 1594) who, in his early editions of *Britannia*, noted “the carcase of an ancient fort whose Roman antiquity is attested by not a few monuments”. Specific records of finds at Papcastle begin with Alexander Gordon and William Stukely who visited the fort and dedicated a page to the fort in his book *Iter Boreale* in 1725. The next account comes from John Horsley in 1732, and later in a letter between Thomas Routh (1717-

1748) to Roger Gale, which was copied in Hutchinson's survey of Cumberland between 1794-7 (Hutchinson 1794). Brief descriptions were made by all of Westmoreland's noted antiquarians such as Nicolson and Burn (1777), Hodgson (1840) and Whellan (1860).

- 3.2.9 William Stukely, writing in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, observed the layout of the fort and noted that the fort occupied the top of a hill, provides the earliest detailed record of Papcastle. The extramural settlement extended to an area of the village called The Burroughs. Stukely mentions that "*the name of Boroughs includes both closes where the old city stood; for they find stones and slates with iron pins in them, coins, and all other matters of antiquity, upon the whole spot below the castrum, towards the waterside*", which is presumably the River Derwent. Writing in 1860, Whellan, echoes Stukely and comments, "*that the traces of a Roman station or castrum lie on the summit of the hill at Papcastle*" (Whellan 1860).
- 3.2.10 The fort and extramural settlement at Papcastle is well served by Roman roads. The road from Carlisle to Papcastle is well documented (Road 75, Margary 1973), from where it runs through the forts at Old Carlisle (Maglona) and Blennerhasset. The modern A592 road follows the original Roman road. From earlier observations it seems fairly clear that the main road 75, continued beyond Papcastle to the south-west (site 3). The name Streetgate appears at a farm 1 mile north of Lamplugh, on the north-west side of the present main road leading to Egremont and perhaps eventually to Ravenglass, where there was another fort, but much of the route still needs investigation. There is another possible road from Papcastle south-east into the Lake District (Road 753, Margary 1973). The road east to Maryport (*Aluna*) is equally well documented (Road 751, Margary 1973), the route heads through Dovenby, from where it joins the present A594 road from Cockermouth to Maryport.
- 3.2.11 As well as the Roman Fort of Derventio and associated *vicus* (site 2), further Roman finds in close proximity to the development site have been located in the form of a Roman Well (site 1) and various Roman finds (site 4) as well as a winged figurine (site 10) and a denarius of Marcus Aurelius (site 9). These all attest to a high possibility for Roman evidence from within the development site.
- 3.2.12 **Medieval:** the fact that the Roman Fort at Papcastle has yielded 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery might raise the question that the fort was not abandoned entirely when the Roman army left Britain for the last time. In any case, the late occupation at Papcastle need not have been specifically military and we cannot exclude the possibility that here, as elsewhere, a paramilitary or purely civilian population maintained itself for some years after the withdrawal of the regular garrison. There is no clear evidence to show how long the site remained occupied. However, continued occupation seems almost certain, in view of the early name for the settlement, which first appeared in 1260 as *Pabecastr*, a compound of Old Scandinavian and Old English, meaning 'the Roman fort inhabited by a hermit'.
- 3.2.13 After the Normans arrived in Cumbria, the area around Papcastle was owned by Waldeof, Lord of Allerdale (Nicolson and Burn 1777), who later constructed the present castle at Cockermouth with masonry removed from the fort at Papcastle. It is

possible that part of the defensive structure of the fort was still standing, giving Waldeof a ready made, easily defendable seat. It is noteworthy that the Normans chose Papcastle, only moving to construct a castle in Cockermouth, a more easily defended natural site, later, when cross-border raids from Scotland became more frequent.

- 3.2.14 The archaeological evidence for occupation in the medieval period is extremely limited, although there was certainly settlement in the area at this time. Excavations at Papcastle House (Giecco 2004) have demonstrated that the land in that area of Papcastle showed evidence of a large timber building and a probable retting pond for the processing of flax. Both of the features were tentatively dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (*ibid*).
- 3.2.15 During the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Dominicans of Carlisle founded a leper hospital at Papcastle. There are fields called St Leonards, and Spital-ing, both east of the village, which refer to a medieval origin. Papcastle House (site 14) was built during the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century and a probable medieval trackway, known as Friar's Walk (site 5), exists close to the site, all attesting to strong evidence for medieval activity in the vicinity of the development site. A drain (site 8) within close proximity to the development site could date to the same period, as could a further earthwork system visible as a cropmark to the north of the site, though this could have been of prehistoric origin (site 7).
- 3.2.16 ***Post-Medieval and Modern:*** during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries there was enough capital available in Cumbria for the rebuilding of town, villages and farmsteads in stone (Rollinson 1967), which may explain the lack of surviving examples of domestic architecture dating from before the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Papcastle. Enclosure was required before most improvements could be put into effect, and Papcastle was covered by an Enclosure Act in 1838.
- 3.2.17 Cartographic sources illustrate the development of Papcastle throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, reflecting the limited expansion of the village suggesting that the settlement stayed fairly static with regards to development and population stability. Various new buildings of the period, to replace the earlier timber structures, do survive within 0.5 km of the development site and are listed buildings (sites 11- 13). Any development on-site may have a visual impact on these buildings.

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## 4. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The assessment results are based on primary documents, most notably maps, and on the secondary sources used in *Section 3.2*. The results are presented according to the archive from which they were consulted. There are 14 HER records and listed buildings for the study area around the site, and extra information was gathered from the immediate vicinity, defined as a 0.5 km radius centred on the site. A full list of the sites identified by the assessment is given in the Gazetteer in *Appendix 1*, and illustrated in Figure 2.

### 4.2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

- 4.2.1 **HER:** there were 14 HER records within the study area, which is defined as a 0.5 km radius around the site (Figure 2). Six are of Roman origin, two of medieval date and three relate to the post medieval period (listed buildings). Three further sites are of unknown date. Full details are included in *Appendix 1*, and the sites' locations are shown in Figure 2.
- 4.2.2 **Listed Buildings:** the listed building records show 15 buildings within a 1km radius of the site. Only those closest to the development site, and therefore of more concern visibly to any development on-site have been included. All the buildings relate to the post medieval expansion of Papcastle. A full description can be found in *Appendix 1*.

### 4.3 CUMBRIA RECORD OFFICE (CARLISLE)

- 4.3.1 The Carlisle Record Office in Cumbria (CROC) was consulted to collate maps for regression analysis of the study area. Information from primary and secondary sources, including archaeological or historical journals, has been incorporated into the historic background (*Section 3.2*).

### 4.4 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 4.4.1 As part of the documentary search at the Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle (CROC), an in-depth scan of the early maps for Papcastle was undertaken. A cartographic date range of between 1829 and 1924 was obtained.
- 4.4.2 **Tithe Apportionment Map for Papcastle, 1829 (CROC):** the first available map is the Tithe Apportionment map of 1829 (Figure 4) which shows the proposed development area as located to the west of a trackway leading into Papcastle, well within the boundaries of field no. '126'. The location of a 'Pinfold' to the south of the site (a place for confining stray or impounded cattle, horses, etc) suggests that this area of Papcastle formed the agricultural hinterland for the medieval and post-medieval settlement.
- 4.4.3 **Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1863 – First Edition 25" to 1 mile (Figure 5):** the First Edition Ordnance Survey map is the earliest to show the settlement of Papcastle

in detail. The development remains unchanged since the publication of the Tithe Map of 1829.

4.4.4 ***Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1899 – Second Edition 25” to 1 mile (Figure 6):*** the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the trackway, depicted on the Tithe Map of 1829, as a more established roadway. The field boundaries to the south and south-west of the development site appear unchanged, although a small subdivided field system running to the west in 1829, appears to have been extended across the back of the houses of Papcastle. In addition, houses at ‘*Belle Vue*’ have been established, to the north of the site, perhaps representing the growth of Cockermouth, and the move from village to town during the later 1800s.

4.4.5 ***Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1924 – Third Edition 25” to 1 mile (Figure 7):*** the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map is largely similar to the 1899 edition (Figure 6). The Pinfold, first seen on the Tithe Map of 1829, and still in existence by 1899, appears to have been demolished by 1924. In addition, sewage tanks have been added to the north of the development site, within the same field as the development site.

## **4.5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

4.5.1 Aerial photographs pertaining to the study area were taken in the 1950’s by JK St Joseph, which showed walls on three sides of the fort, the possible guard chambers of the west gate of the fort and a road leading from the east gate. None revealed any features of archaeological interest within the current development site itself.

## **4.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

4.6.1 There have been several archaeological investigations within close proximity to the development area, predominantly based upon the Roman fort and vicus located to the west of the development site.

4.6.2 Excavations in 1912 on the site of Derventio Roman Fort, uncovered parts of the north and east ramparts of the later fort. Further trial trenching located the east gate, which consisted of a partially blocked double gateway paved with a concrete of lime and gravel laid on larger stones. Additionally the north-east corner of the early fort was located, and was observed to have been constructed from good ashlar and lime masonry (Collingwood 1912).

4.6.3 Later discoveries associated with the second fort included a layer of blackened wheat, located outside the east gate during the excavation of a new gas main in 1923 (Birley 1963). Roman coins, pottery, and large stone slabs, 5.5 ft by 1.5 ft, dug at a depth of 6 ft were discovered just outside the south-east corner of the fort at The Mount (ibid).

4.6.4 Excavations carried out by Dorothy Charlesworth in 1961-2 revealed parts of the barrack blocks and Commandant’s quarters, with evidence for both stone and timber buildings. Although no floor levels remained in the barrack blocks numerous items of corroded bronze, some identifiable as scale armour were identified (Charlesworth

1965). Other finds included a small bronze statuette, a bronze fibula, and scraps of tent and shoe leather (ibid).

- 4.6.5 There was no further work until 1984, when an excavation in advance of a house building scheme (NY 110 315) revealed a road running south from the south gate of the fort, which had been repaired on several occasions. To the east of the road was a foundation for a large building, set on a rectangular platform of dumped clay. Below this cap of clay were waterlogged deposits yielding industrial remains and timber drains and above it traces of several phases of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century stone structures which could have been a temple (Oliver 1984). During the excavation a small bronze statuette of Marsyas was uncovered. Marsyas was a satyr who challenged Apollo, the god of music, to a music competition, promising that if he lost, he would submit himself to be bound and flayed alive. He lost, and the statuette shows him bound, awaiting his fate (Shotter 1996). This suggests that the possible temple may have been dedicated to Apollo. Excavations were undertaken in 1985 by Lancaster University Archaeology Unit (LUAU) on the vicus associated with the fort, in the area known as 'The Borroughs'. Vici were common features to arise from a Roman Fort. They were civilian settlements, established organically from trade with soldiers, rather than Roman-enforced settlements like the forts themselves. They were inhabited by a mix of people tempted from pre-existing local communities, by wealth and wares from the soldiers, and were able to sell shoes, clothes, food, beer and other such necessities to the troops. The extent of the vicus is not yet known.
- 4.6.6 Prior to the construction of the Papcastle bypass in 1989, Cumbria County Council (CCC) undertook an excavation of features identified in an earlier geophysical survey. A small ditch was excavated along its entirety, revealing both modern and Roman ceramics. Several iron nails and regularly spaced pits along the ditch showed that it was revetted with timber. The ditch may be an early field boundary (CCC 1989).
- 4.6.7 In 1998, Channel 4's Archaeological programme Time Team, carried out trial trenching and geophysical surveys. Two trenches in the garden of a private house (Derwent Lodge) revealed remains of two Roman strip houses and the foundations of a possible monumental structure. Further trenching and survey in the field called Sibby Brows revealed a more extensive area of the vicus than previously recorded. The fort defences were also examined (published in Time Team 1999 and summarised in Britannia Vol 31, 2000).
- 4.6.8 More recently excavations were undertaken by North Pennines Heritage Trust in 2002 (later to become the present North Pennines Archaeology Ltd) on land adjacent to Derventio House. In total three evaluation trenches were excavated which showed that evidence for several Roman features were present. These were interpreted as a possible terracing deposit to level of the slope of the ground surface (Reeves 2002).
- 4.6.9 As a direct result of the findings from the evaluation at Derventio House, further work was carried out in March 2004 by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL). The excavation revealed significant Roman deposits relating to the Roman fort, namely the terracing which was noted in the 2002 evaluation. It showed that the terracing had been placed in the 4<sup>th</sup> century when the fort was extensively remodelled, removing most of

the evidence relating to the earlier phases of fort. The main feature of this later fort was a chalet type barrack building from a minor east/west road. This building was partially demolished and a later Roman part-timber building was constructed on the foundations of the earlier building (Giecco 2004).

- 4.6.10 Further works were undertaken by NPAL in 2004, when planning permission was sought for a development on land to the rear of Papcastle House. Despite evidence of terracing in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a series of substantial postholes were identified, which had the potential of forming the corner of a building (Giecco and Compton 2004). Further excavations in 2005 revealed more timber buildings and a probable medieval retting pond for the processing of flax (Giecco and Crompton 2005).



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## 5. THE WATCHING BRIEF

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 Summary results of the watching brief are presented below. The context list is reproduced in Appendix 2, with Figure 8 showing the locations of the excavations observed during the watching brief.

5.1.2 The programme of works involved the construction of a new house extension on the south facing gable end of the property, involving the excavation of three small trenches to upgrade and replace existing utilities. The works commenced on the southern side of house, next to a concrete plinth for a garage, which had been demolished earlier in the week, before moving to the rear of the property.

### 5.2 EXCAVATION TRENCH 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 was located immediately south of the demolished garage and was approximately 7m long by 0.80m deep and up to 1.2m wide (see Figure 8; Plates 1 and 2). It was clearly evident that the ground had been severely disturbed by the construction of Craiginvar and the previous garage extension. Also a number of live services (gas and water pipes) were evident within the middle of the trench.



*Plate 1: Hand excavation of Trench 1, note yellow gas pipe below tarmac surface*

5.2.2 The character of the natural substrate *100* varied considerably. It appeared to have been deposited in broad undulating bands varying in colour between deep-red, mid greyish-brown and orangey-brown, generally comprising sterile gritty clayey sand with c20-30% small to medium sub-rounded to angular stones. The natural was observed at a maximum depth of 0.60m-0.80m bgl (below ground level).

5.2.3 Overlaying the natural was 0.42m of redeposited natural *101*, mixed with numerous fragments of red brick and other building materials, which presumably relates to the construction of the house or the garage extension. Up to 0.12m of modern tarmac *102*, made up the remaining depth of the trench. There were no finds retrieved or archaeological features noted in this trench.



*Plate 2: Trench 1, note services on the right hand side of the photograph*



*Plate 3: Trench 1, showing disturbed made ground*

## **5.3 EXCAVATION TRENCH 2**

- 5.3.1 Trench 2 was located in front of the small utility extension, which butts onto the southern facing wall of the house (see Figure 8: Plates 4 and 5). The trench measured 1m long by 0.80m wide and up to 0.67m deep. Within this trench an existing ceramic drain was exposed which runs towards the main manhole inspection chamber (see Plate 5). The natural substrate was not exposed within this trench, as the pipe was located relatively near the surface. There were no finds retrieved or archaeological features noted in this trench.



*Plate 4: Trench 2, note shallow depth of the trench and the existing ceramic drain, facing north-east*



*Plate 5: Trench 2, facing north-west*

## **5.4 EXCAVATION TRENCH 3**

5.4.1 Trench 3 was located adjacent to the northwest-facing wall of the building. The trench was approximately 5m long by 0.80m wide and its maximum depth was 0.35m below ground level. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within the trench, as the levels for the new drain were high in order to create flow within the drainage system. There were no finds retrieved or archaeological features noted in this trench (see Figure 8).

---

## 6. CONCLUSIONS

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### 6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 6.1.1 The potential for prehistoric archaeology is fairly low. Though there was almost certainly prehistoric activity in the area, any surviving evidence of the era will most likely be in the form of isolated findspots.
- 6.1.2 The potential for Romano-British archaeology within the development area is high, particularly in view of the known and excavated remains of the Roman fort and extra-mural settlement which lies less than 50m to the west of the development site. Roman roads associated with the fort may extend to the development site. These sites are likely to have expanded beyond the boundaries identified, as the precise extent of the *vicus* is still not known, creating the potential for outlying features associated with the civilian settlement, which is known to exist around the main entrances into the fort. The number of stray finds in the vicinity of the development site further enhances this potential.
- 6.1.3 The potential for medieval archaeology is low. Evidence for occupation and industrial works during the later medieval period was demonstrated during an excavation carried out by NPAL in 2005, indicating that in one area of Papcastle, people were living and working, possibly in the remains of the fort or extra-mural settlement. The development site itself appears to have formed a part of the agricultural hinterland, serving the medieval settlement, so finds of this period are unlikely.
- 6.1.4 The potential for post-medieval archaeology is low; the centre of the village lies to the south-west, and the development area appears to have been an enclosure field, which had been under pasture for some time prior to modern housing being constructed on-site. On the evidence presented above, there is high potential for the survival of archaeological deposits on the site; particularly in the form of sub surface remains of the Romano-British period, due to the Roman fort of Derventio and associated *vicus* lying less than 50m to the west. This information helped to inform the watching brief stage of likely encounters.

### 6.2 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

- 6.2.1 Despite the high potential for subsurface Roman remains, no Roman features or deposits were observed during the groundworks. Therefore it may be concluded that any remains relating to the Roman occupation of Papcastle were either destroyed by later activities namely the construction of Craiginvar and or by the later garage block. In addition, no finds of archaeological note of any period were encountered during the watching brief.
- 6.2.2 No further archaeological intervention is required relating to this development, although the high potential for archaeological deposits in the area, may mean that mitigation works will be required on any further development in the vicinity.

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## APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site	HER No.	Site Type	Site Name	Period	NGR (NY)
1	870	Well	Derwent lodge well	Roman	11150 31250
2	872	Roman fort and vicus	The roman fort of Derventio (scheduled monument)	Roman	10960 31250
3	1036	Road	Papcastle Road	Roman	07480 30350
4	6377	Finds	Roman finds, Lindenside	Roman	11000 31400
5	10917	Trackway	Friars Walk medieval trackway	Medieval	10700 31200
6	13555	Earthwork	Bellevue field system	Prehistoric/ medieval	11300 31300
7	13556	Earthworks	Unclassified earthworks	unknown	11300 31800
8	17642	Drain	Drain at Sunnyside	unknown	11480 31393
9	18948	Findspot	Denarius of M. Aurelius	Roman	11200 31380
10	19503	Findspot	Winged Figurine Find	Roman	10600 31700
11	23144	Listed Building	Rosebank House	18th century	11007 31421
12	23145	Listed Building	Rose Hill and the Cottage	18th century	11029 31423
13	23146	Listed Building	Lindenside Cottage	19th century	10994 31395
14	40835	Building	Papcastle House	Medieval	10827 31375

---

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

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Context	Trench	Type	Description
100	1	Deposit	Natural Substrate
101	1	Layer	Made Ground
102	1	Layer	Tarmac



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## APPENDIX 3: FIGURES

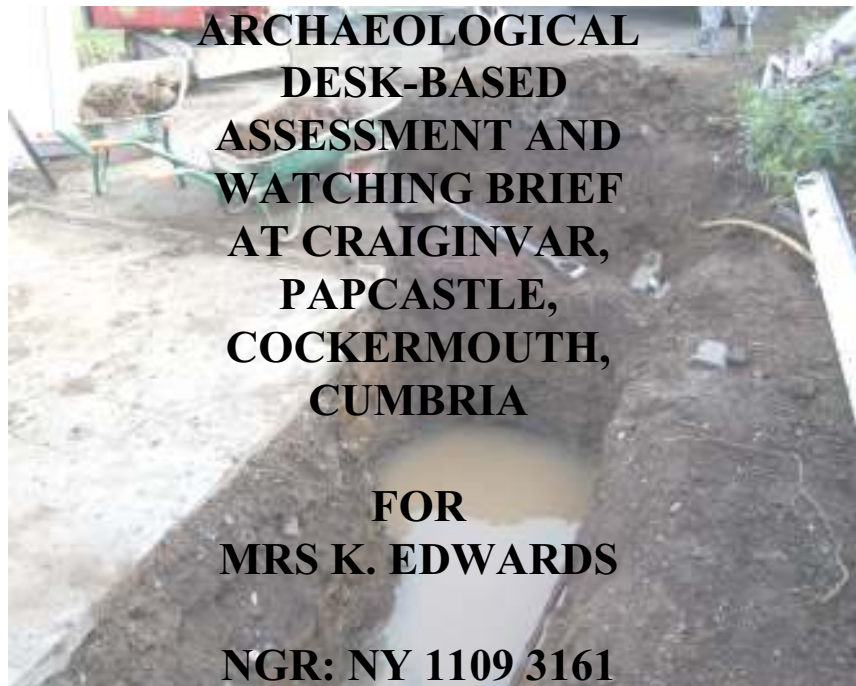
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# **NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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**Project Designs and Client Report No. CP/526/07**



**Planning Ref: 2/2007/0382  
OASIS Ref: northpen3-29221**

04 March 2008

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In June 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Mr Beattie of Alpha Design Architectural Services, on behalf of the client, Mrs K. Edwards, to undertake a rapid archaeological desk based assessment and watching brief in association with a development of land at Craiginvar, Papcastle, Cumbria (NGR NY 1109 3161). This was undertaken in accordance with Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service, who recommended this programme of archaeological work. It was also undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by CCCHES.

The desk-based assessment involved the examination of all pertinent documents and cartographic sources held in the County Records Office in Carlisle, and the consultation of the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) based in Kendal. The HER includes the locations and settings of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens and other, non-designated archaeological remains. In addition, a number of published sources were consulted to provide background information, and several relevant web sites.

The desk-based assessment located sites from the HER and other sources within 0.5 km of the development site. These included 14 listed sites, 3 of which were listed buildings. These sites were predominantly Romano-British in date and associated with the fort of Derventio (a Scheduled Ancient Monument; HER 872), which is situated just to the west of the proposed development. The *vicus*, or civilian settlement, associated with the fort also lies in the vicinity, and the full extent of this settlement is not yet known.

The consequential watching brief was undertaken in February 2008. The works entailed the construction of a new house extension on the south facing gable end of the property, which involved the excavation of three small trenches to upgrade and replace existing utilities. However, the trenches revealed no clear evidence of Roman archaeology despite the close proximity of the fort to Craiginvar, this is probably due in part to the area being heavily disturbed by the building of the house and or the subsequent construction of a garage. It is likely that the majority of archaeological features in this immediate area have either been severely truncated or are located away from the immediate development site.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Glen Beattie of Alpha Design and Mrs K Edwards for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the fieldwork.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), and all the staff at the Cumbria County Record Office in Carlisle for their help during this project.

Cat Peters undertook the initial desk-based assessment, whilst Martin Sowerby carried out the watching brief. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Juliet Reeves.

---

## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) were consulted prior to a planning application submitted regarding a proposed development, which could affect an area considered to have a high archaeological potential. The site is a property known as Craiginvar, Papcastle, Cumbria (NGR NY 1109 3161) (Figure 1). The site lies to the north-east of the Roman fort of Derventio (HER 22499). Consequently, CCCHES advised that a programme of archaeological works would be necessary prior to any proposed development application. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL) was commissioned by Glen Beattie of Alpha Design, on behalf of the client, Mrs K Edwards, to undertake the required rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of the general area of Papcastle, followed by an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken on groundworks associated with the development.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Cumbria County Record Offices in Carlisle (CROC), and the archives and library held by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd., as well as a search of the known cultural and historical sites in the vicinity, held by Cumbria County Council in the Historic Environment Database. The principal objective of this assessment was to undertake sufficient work in order to identify and characterise the archaeological constraints associated with the development area, in order to assess the archaeological and historical potential of the development site. A site visit was carried out on the proposed development, in order to assess the condition of any archaeological features present.
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the project design and design specification for the project, following professional standards. A supervising archaeologist undertook a formal programme of observation of all excavating operations carried out as part of the development (IFA 1994).
- 1.1.4 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area, an assessment of the impact of the proposed development, and subsequent results of the archaeological watching brief, which formed the second stage of the archaeological works.

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Alpha Design for a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of the study area, followed by a watching brief, in accordance with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice. As a result, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned to undertake the designated archaeological works.

### 2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 Several sources of information were consulted, in accordance with the project brief and project design. The study area consisted of a 1km radius centred on the proposed development area (Figure 2). The principal sources of information were the Historic Environment Record (HER), maps and secondary sources.
- 2.2.2 *Cumbria County Record Office (Carlisle)*: the County Record Office in Carlisle (CROC) was visited to consult documents specific to the study area. Historic maps of the study area, including surveys, Tithe and Enclosure Maps, Acts of Parliament and early Ordnance Survey maps, were examined. A search was made for any relevant historical documentation, particularly regarding the use of the area, drawing on the knowledge of the archivists. Several secondary sources and relevant websites were also consulted.
- 2.2.3 *English Heritage NMR and Archaeology Data Service*: an electronic enquiry was also made of English Heritage's National Monuments Record and the website of the Archaeology Data Service. This was in order to enhance and augment the data obtained from a search of the appropriate repositories.
- 2.2.4 *North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL)*: various publications and unpublished reports on excavations and other work in the region are held within the North Pennines Archaeology library and any relevant undeposited archives were examined. Aerial photographs of the area were also studied.

### 2.3 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.3.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during all groundworks associated with the development. This was to determine the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains, and to record all surviving archaeological features encountered during the works.

### 2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design, and in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (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.

- 2.4.2 North Pennines Archaeology and CCHES support the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature created as a result of developer-funded archaeological fieldwork. As a result, details of the results of this desk-based assessment will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

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### 3. BACKGROUND

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#### 3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Papcastle is a small village on the outskirts of Cockermouth, Cumbria, which lies approximately 40 kilometres, south-west of Carlisle, on the western fringes of the North Cumbrian Plain. The village occupies an elevated position on the north bank of the river Derwent. The site lies within the northern outskirts of the village.
- 3.1.2 The area investigated consists of a dwelling house with associated garden area and is centred on NGR NY 1109 3161. It is bounded to the north by adjoining properties, to the east by a public thoroughfare, to the south by adjoining properties and to the west by a small stretch of field before the site of Derwentio Roman Fort is located.
- 3.1.3 The area around Papcastle is well served with water sources, several wells are located within the village, whilst the River Derwent flows along the southern boundary of the village and two small tributaries of the Derwent are found immediately to the west of village. The main A595 road from Carlisle is located to the north-west of the village, whilst the A594 heads west to Maryport and the A66 is located to the east of the village.
- 3.1.4 The solid geology of the area consists predominantly of Carboniferous rocks. Throughout the area around the River Derwent, well drained loams of the Wick Association overlie the solid geology. Away from the river valley the solid geology is masked by Devensian tills upon which are soils chiefly of the Clifton and Brickfield associations (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).

#### 3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments around the study area.
- 3.2.2 **Prehistoric:** a number of stray finds most notably, stone axes from the Langdales, have been discovered in the Cockermouth area (Bradbury 1996). Located 4km east of Cockermouth is Elva Plain stone circle. It consists of 15 stones with a single outlying stone. There is no direct evidence of a burial mound or any other feature. It has been linked with the trade in Neolithic stone axes. The suggested association of the circle with the stone axe trade may find some support in the name of the site. Elva was rendered 'Elfhow' and although there are no reports of axe finds in the vicinity, it may be that the name originates from the finding here of 'elfshot', a term once applied in this part of Cumberland to polished stone axes, which were thought to have magic significance.
- 3.2.3 At Ewanrigg, to the south-west of Maryport, field walking discovered prehistoric pottery; a series of subsequent excavations identified a total of 29 cremation burials and a single cist burial. Radiocarbon dates (2470 cal BC - 1520 cal BC) suggest that

burials were being interred over a period of about 940 years during the Bronze Age. The relationship between the excavated cemetery at Ewanrigg, and an adjacent, unexcavated, settlement site (identified from aerial photographs) is unclear (Bewley 1986). Within Cockermouth itself is the small Toot, or Tute Hill, located directly opposite to the Castle, which has been interpreted as a burial mound, possibly of Bronze Age origin (Bradbury 1996).

- 3.2.4 There is a large earthwork located in Fitz Wood in Cockermouth, which appears to be Iron Age in date, based on its form and shape, however, excavation has yet to confirm this theory. It consists of a well-preserved ditch and rampart with evidence for internal structures. There are also earthworks at Castle How, Piel, 5 km to the east of Cockermouth (Bradbury 1996).
- 3.2.5 **Romano-British:** during the Roman period there was a heavy military presence in Cumbria, and there is considerable evidence for Roman military activity around the study area during this period. The earliest known settlement at Papcastle belongs to the Romano-British period, and may be divided into two categories: the fort, and the extramural settlement (site 2; a scheduled ancient monument). These sites were situated at the junction of two main Roman roads, the road from the fort at Carlisle, heading south-west and the route heading west towards Maryport (Figure 3). The fort occupies a strategic position on a hill overlooking a major crossing of the River Derwent.
- 3.2.6 There is only one historical text, which refers to the fort at Papcastle. The name of the fort is recorded in the Ravenna Cosmology of the 7<sup>th</sup> century, where it appears as *Derventione* (R&C122), between the compound entry for *Maglona* (Old Carlisle, Cumbria) and the entry for *Bravoniacum* (Kirkby Thore, Cumbria). Epigraphic evidence from the site is sparse (only four inscriptions on stone are listed in the *RIB*), and neither confirms nor refutes the identification of *Derventio* with Papcastle.
- 3.2.7 Limited excavations at various stages throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century revealed at least two distinct phases of fort building. The earliest fort was found to date to the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century, and was replaced in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century by a fort constructed on a slightly different alignment. The extensive alterations were probably associated with the general reorganisation of the frontier district under Lucius Septimius Severus (193-211 AD). Occupation of the forts would appear to be continuous, running from the Flavian period through to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century (Reeves 2002). The majority of the stone from the fort must have been removed when the fort fell out of use. It is thought that much of the stone went into the construction of Cockermouth castle, where at least three stone inscriptions relating to the fort have been found (Birley 1963).
- 3.2.8 The fort and extramural settlement has been described and discussed by many antiquarian authorities since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, including Camden (1586, 1587, 1590 and 1594) who, in his early editions of *Britannia*, noted “the carcase of an ancient fort whose Roman antiquity is attested by not a few monuments”. Specific records of finds at Papcastle begin with Alexander Gordon and William Stukely who visited the fort and dedicated a page to the fort in his book *Iter Boreale* in 1725. The next account comes from John Horsley in 1732, and later in a letter between Thomas Routh (1717-

1748) to Roger Gale, which was copied in Hutchinson's survey of Cumberland between 1794-7 (Hutchinson 1794). Brief descriptions were made by all of Westmoreland's noted antiquarians such as Nicolson and Burn (1777), Hodgson (1840) and Whellan (1860).

- 3.2.9 William Stukely, writing in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, observed the layout of the fort and noted that the fort occupied the top of a hill, provides the earliest detailed record of Papcastle. The extramural settlement extended to an area of the village called The Burroughs. Stukely mentions that "*the name of Boroughs includes both closes where the old city stood; for they find stones and slates with iron pins in them, coins, and all other matters of antiquity, upon the whole spot below the castrum, towards the waterside*", which is presumably the River Derwent. Writing in 1860, Whellan, echoes Stukely and comments, "*that the traces of a Roman station or castrum lie on the summit of the hill at Papcastle*" (Whellan 1860).
- 3.2.10 The fort and extramural settlement at Papcastle is well served by Roman roads. The road from Carlisle to Papcastle is well documented (Road 75, Margary 1973), from where it runs through the forts at Old Carlisle (Maglona) and Blennerhasset. The modern A592 road follows the original Roman road. From earlier observations it seems fairly clear that the main road 75, continued beyond Papcastle to the south-west (site 3). The name Streetgate appears at a farm 1 mile north of Lamplugh, on the north-west side of the present main road leading to Egremont and perhaps eventually to Ravenglass, where there was another fort, but much of the route still needs investigation. There is another possible road from Papcastle south-east into the Lake District (Road 753, Margary 1973). The road east to Maryport (*Aluna*) is equally well documented (Road 751, Margary 1973), the route heads through Dovenby, from where it joins the present A594 road from Cockermouth to Maryport.
- 3.2.11 As well as the Roman Fort of Derventio and associated *vicus* (site 2), further Roman finds in close proximity to the development site have been located in the form of a Roman Well (site 1) and various Roman finds (site 4) as well as a winged figurine (site 10) and a denarius of Marcus Aurelius (site 9). These all attest to a high possibility for Roman evidence from within the development site.
- 3.2.12 **Medieval:** the fact that the Roman Fort at Papcastle has yielded 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery might raise the question that the fort was not abandoned entirely when the Roman army left Britain for the last time. In any case, the late occupation at Papcastle need not have been specifically military and we cannot exclude the possibility that here, as elsewhere, a paramilitary or purely civilian population maintained itself for some years after the withdrawal of the regular garrison. There is no clear evidence to show how long the site remained occupied. However, continued occupation seems almost certain, in view of the early name for the settlement, which first appeared in 1260 as *Pabecastr*, a compound of Old Scandinavian and Old English, meaning 'the Roman fort inhabited by a hermit'.
- 3.2.13 After the Normans arrived in Cumbria, the area around Papcastle was owned by Waldeof, Lord of Allerdale (Nicolson and Burn 1777), who later constructed the present castle at Cockermouth with masonry removed from the fort at Papcastle. It is

possible that part of the defensive structure of the fort was still standing, giving Waldeof a ready made, easily defendable seat. It is noteworthy that the Normans chose Papcastle, only moving to construct a castle in Cockermouth, a more easily defended natural site, later, when cross-border raids from Scotland became more frequent.

- 3.2.14 The archaeological evidence for occupation in the medieval period is extremely limited, although there was certainly settlement in the area at this time. Excavations at Papcastle House (Giecco 2004) have demonstrated that the land in that area of Papcastle showed evidence of a large timber building and a probable retting pond for the processing of flax. Both of the features were tentatively dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (*ibid*).
- 3.2.15 During the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Dominicans of Carlisle founded a leper hospital at Papcastle. There are fields called St Leonards, and Spital-ing, both east of the village, which refer to a medieval origin. Papcastle House (site 14) was built during the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century and a probable medieval trackway, known as Friar's Walk (site 5), exists close to the site, all attesting to strong evidence for medieval activity in the vicinity of the development site. A drain (site 8) within close proximity to the development site could date to the same period, as could a further earthwork system visible as a cropmark to the north of the site, though this could have been of prehistoric origin (site 7).
- 3.2.16 ***Post-Medieval and Modern:*** during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries there was enough capital available in Cumbria for the rebuilding of town, villages and farmsteads in stone (Rollinson 1967), which may explain the lack of surviving examples of domestic architecture dating from before the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Papcastle. Enclosure was required before most improvements could be put into effect, and Papcastle was covered by an Enclosure Act in 1838.
- 3.2.17 Cartographic sources illustrate the development of Papcastle throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, reflecting the limited expansion of the village suggesting that the settlement stayed fairly static with regards to development and population stability. Various new buildings of the period, to replace the earlier timber structures, do survive within 0.5 km of the development site and are listed buildings (sites 11- 13). Any development on-site may have a visual impact on these buildings.

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## 4. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The assessment results are based on primary documents, most notably maps, and on the secondary sources used in *Section 3.2*. The results are presented according to the archive from which they were consulted. There are 14 HER records and listed buildings for the study area around the site, and extra information was gathered from the immediate vicinity, defined as a 0.5 km radius centred on the site. A full list of the sites identified by the assessment is given in the Gazetteer in *Appendix 1*, and illustrated in Figure 2.

### 4.2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

- 4.2.1 **HER:** there were 14 HER records within the study area, which is defined as a 0.5 km radius around the site (Figure 2). Six are of Roman origin, two of medieval date and three relate to the post medieval period (listed buildings). Three further sites are of unknown date. Full details are included in *Appendix 1*, and the sites' locations are shown in Figure 2.
- 4.2.2 **Listed Buildings:** the listed building records show 15 buildings within a 1km radius of the site. Only those closest to the development site, and therefore of more concern visibly to any development on-site have been included. All the buildings relate to the post medieval expansion of Papcastle. A full description can be found in *Appendix 1*.

### 4.3 CUMBRIA RECORD OFFICE (CARLISLE)

- 4.3.1 The Carlisle Record Office in Cumbria (CROC) was consulted to collate maps for regression analysis of the study area. Information from primary and secondary sources, including archaeological or historical journals, has been incorporated into the historic background (*Section 3.2*).

### 4.4 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 4.4.1 As part of the documentary search at the Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle (CROC), an in-depth scan of the early maps for Papcastle was undertaken. A cartographic date range of between 1829 and 1924 was obtained.
- 4.4.2 **Tithe Apportionment Map for Papcastle, 1829 (CROC):** the first available map is the Tithe Apportionment map of 1829 (Figure 4) which shows the proposed development area as located to the west of a trackway leading into Papcastle, well within the boundaries of field no. '126'. The location of a 'Pinfold' to the south of the site (a place for confining stray or impounded cattle, horses, etc) suggests that this area of Papcastle formed the agricultural hinterland for the medieval and post-medieval settlement.
- 4.4.3 **Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1863 – First Edition 25" to 1 mile (Figure 5):** the First Edition Ordnance Survey map is the earliest to show the settlement of Papcastle

in detail. The development remains unchanged since the publication of the Tithe Map of 1829.

4.4.4 ***Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1899 – Second Edition 25” to 1 mile (Figure 6):*** the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the trackway, depicted on the Tithe Map of 1829, as a more established roadway. The field boundaries to the south and south-west of the development site appear unchanged, although a small subdivided field system running to the west in 1829, appears to have been extended across the back of the houses of Papcastle. In addition, houses at ‘*Belle Vue*’ have been established, to the north of the site, perhaps representing the growth of Cockermouth, and the move from village to town during the later 1800s.

4.4.5 ***Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1924 – Third Edition 25” to 1 mile (Figure 7):*** the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map is largely similar to the 1899 edition (Figure 6). The Pinfold, first seen on the Tithe Map of 1829, and still in existence by 1899, appears to have been demolished by 1924. In addition, sewage tanks have been added to the north of the development site, within the same field as the development site.

## **4.5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

4.5.1 Aerial photographs pertaining to the study area were taken in the 1950’s by JK St Joseph, which showed walls on three sides of the fort, the possible guard chambers of the west gate of the fort and a road leading from the east gate. None revealed any features of archaeological interest within the current development site itself.

## **4.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

4.6.1 There have been several archaeological investigations within close proximity to the development area, predominantly based upon the Roman fort and vicus located to the west of the development site.

4.6.2 Excavations in 1912 on the site of Derventio Roman Fort, uncovered parts of the north and east ramparts of the later fort. Further trial trenching located the east gate, which consisted of a partially blocked double gateway paved with a concrete of lime and gravel laid on larger stones. Additionally the north-east corner of the early fort was located, and was observed to have been constructed from good ashlar and lime masonry (Collingwood 1912).

4.6.3 Later discoveries associated with the second fort included a layer of blackened wheat, located outside the east gate during the excavation of a new gas main in 1923 (Birley 1963). Roman coins, pottery, and large stone slabs, 5.5 ft by 1.5 ft, dug at a depth of 6 ft were discovered just outside the south-east corner of the fort at The Mount (ibid).

4.6.4 Excavations carried out by Dorothy Charlesworth in 1961-2 revealed parts of the barrack blocks and Commandant’s quarters, with evidence for both stone and timber buildings. Although no floor levels remained in the barrack blocks numerous items of corroded bronze, some identifiable as scale armour were identified (Charlesworth

1965). Other finds included a small bronze statuette, a bronze fibula, and scraps of tent and shoe leather (ibid).

- 4.6.5 There was no further work until 1984, when an excavation in advance of a house building scheme (NY 110 315) revealed a road running south from the south gate of the fort, which had been repaired on several occasions. To the east of the road was a foundation for a large building, set on a rectangular platform of dumped clay. Below this cap of clay were waterlogged deposits yielding industrial remains and timber drains and above it traces of several phases of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century stone structures which could have been a temple (Oliver 1984). During the excavation a small bronze statuette of Marsyas was uncovered. Marsyas was a satyr who challenged Apollo, the god of music, to a music competition, promising that if he lost, he would submit himself to be bound and flayed alive. He lost, and the statuette shows him bound, awaiting his fate (Shotter 1996). This suggests that the possible temple may have been dedicated to Apollo. Excavations were undertaken in 1985 by Lancaster University Archaeology Unit (LUAU) on the vicus associated with the fort, in the area known as 'The Borroughs'. Vici were common features to arise from a Roman Fort. They were civilian settlements, established organically from trade with soldiers, rather than Roman-enforced settlements like the forts themselves. They were inhabited by a mix of people tempted from pre-existing local communities, by wealth and wares from the soldiers, and were able to sell shoes, clothes, food, beer and other such necessities to the troops. The extent of the vicus is not yet known.
- 4.6.6 Prior to the construction of the Papcastle bypass in 1989, Cumbria County Council (CCC) undertook an excavation of features identified in an earlier geophysical survey. A small ditch was excavated along its entirety, revealing both modern and Roman ceramics. Several iron nails and regularly spaced pits along the ditch showed that it was revetted with timber. The ditch may be an early field boundary (CCC 1989).
- 4.6.7 In 1998, Channel 4's Archaeological programme Time Team, carried out trial trenching and geophysical surveys. Two trenches in the garden of a private house (Derwent Lodge) revealed remains of two Roman strip houses and the foundations of a possible monumental structure. Further trenching and survey in the field called Sibby Brows revealed a more extensive area of the vicus than previously recorded. The fort defences were also examined (published in Time Team 1999 and summarised in Britannia Vol 31, 2000).
- 4.6.8 More recently excavations were undertaken by North Pennines Heritage Trust in 2002 (later to become the present North Pennines Archaeology Ltd) on land adjacent to Derventio House. In total three evaluation trenches were excavated which showed that evidence for several Roman features were present. These were interpreted as a possible terracing deposit to level of the slope of the ground surface (Reeves 2002).
- 4.6.9 As a direct result of the findings from the evaluation at Derventio House, further work was carried out in March 2004 by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL). The excavation revealed significant Roman deposits relating to the Roman fort, namely the terracing which was noted in the 2002 evaluation. It showed that the terracing had been placed in the 4<sup>th</sup> century when the fort was extensively remodelled, removing most of



the evidence relating to the earlier phases of fort. The main feature of this later fort was a chalet type barrack building from a minor east/west road. This building was partially demolished and a later Roman part-timber building was constructed on the foundations of the earlier building (Giecco 2004).

- 4.6.10 Further works were undertaken by NPAL in 2004, when planning permission was sought for a development on land to the rear of Papcastle House. Despite evidence of terracing in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a series of substantial postholes were identified, which had the potential of forming the corner of a building (Giecco and Compton 2004). Further excavations in 2005 revealed more timber buildings and a probable medieval retting pond for the processing of flax (Giecco and Crompton 2005).

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## 5. THE WATCHING BRIEF

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 Summary results of the watching brief are presented below. The context list is reproduced in Appendix 2, with Figure 8 showing the locations of the excavations observed during the watching brief.

5.1.2 The programme of works involved the construction of a new house extension on the south facing gable end of the property, involving the excavation of three small trenches to upgrade and replace existing utilities. The works commenced on the southern side of house, next to a concrete plinth for a garage, which had been demolished earlier in the week, before moving to the rear of the property.

### 5.2 EXCAVATION TRENCH 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 was located immediately south of the demolished garage and was approximately 7m long by 0.80m deep and up to 1.2m wide (see Figure 8; Plates 1 and 2). It was clearly evident that the ground had been severely disturbed by the construction of Craiginvar and the previous garage extension. Also a number of live services (gas and water pipes) were evident within the middle of the trench.



*Plate 1: Hand excavation of Trench 1, note yellow gas pipe below tarmac surface*

5.2.2 The character of the natural substrate *100* varied considerably. It appeared to have been deposited in broad undulating bands varying in colour between deep-red, mid greyish-brown and orangey-brown, generally comprising sterile gritty clayey sand with c20-30% small to medium sub-rounded to angular stones. The natural was observed at a maximum depth of 0.60m-0.80m bgl (below ground level).

5.2.3 Overlaying the natural was 0.42m of redeposited natural *101*, mixed with numerous fragments of red brick and other building materials, which presumably relates to the construction of the house or the garage extension. Up to 0.12m of modern tarmac *102*, made up the remaining depth of the trench. There were no finds retrieved or archaeological features noted in this trench.



*Plate 2: Trench 1, note services on the right hand side of the photograph*



*Plate 3: Trench 1, showing disturbed made ground*

## **5.3 EXCAVATION TRENCH 2**

- 5.3.1 Trench 2 was located in front of the small utility extension, which butts onto the southern facing wall of the house (see Figure 8: Plates 4 and 5). The trench measured 1m long by 0.80m wide and up to 0.67m deep. Within this trench an existing ceramic drain was exposed which runs towards the main manhole inspection chamber (see Plate 5). The natural substrate was not exposed within this trench, as the pipe was located relatively near the surface. There were no finds retrieved or archaeological features noted in this trench.



*Plate 4: Trench 2, note shallow depth of the trench and the existing ceramic drain, facing north-east*



*Plate 5: Trench 2, facing north-west*

## **5.4 EXCAVATION TRENCH 3**

5.4.1 Trench 3 was located adjacent to the northwest-facing wall of the building. The trench was approximately 5m long by 0.80m wide and its maximum depth was 0.35m below ground level. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within the trench, as the levels for the new drain were high in order to create flow within the drainage system. There were no finds retrieved or archaeological features noted in this trench (see Figure 8).

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## 6. CONCLUSIONS

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### 6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 6.1.1 The potential for prehistoric archaeology is fairly low. Though there was almost certainly prehistoric activity in the area, any surviving evidence of the era will most likely be in the form of isolated findspots.
- 6.1.2 The potential for Romano-British archaeology within the development area is high, particularly in view of the known and excavated remains of the Roman fort and extra-mural settlement which lies less than 50m to the west of the development site. Roman roads associated with the fort may extend to the development site. These sites are likely to have expanded beyond the boundaries identified, as the precise extent of the *vicus* is still not known, creating the potential for outlying features associated with the civilian settlement, which is known to exist around the main entrances into the fort. The number of stray finds in the vicinity of the development site further enhances this potential.
- 6.1.3 The potential for medieval archaeology is low. Evidence for occupation and industrial works during the later medieval period was demonstrated during an excavation carried out by NPAL in 2005, indicating that in one area of Papcastle, people were living and working, possibly in the remains of the fort or extra-mural settlement. The development site itself appears to have formed a part of the agricultural hinterland, serving the medieval settlement, so finds of this period are unlikely.
- 6.1.4 The potential for post-medieval archaeology is low; the centre of the village lies to the south-west, and the development area appears to have been an enclosure field, which had been under pasture for some time prior to modern housing being constructed on-site. On the evidence presented above, there is high potential for the survival of archaeological deposits on the site; particularly in the form of sub surface remains of the Romano-British period, due to the Roman fort of Derventio and associated *vicus* lying less than 50m to the west. This information helped to inform the watching brief stage of likely encounters.

### 6.2 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

- 6.2.1 Despite the high potential for subsurface Roman remains, no Roman features or deposits were observed during the groundworks. Therefore it may be concluded that any remains relating to the Roman occupation of Papcastle were either destroyed by later activities namely the construction of Craiginvar and or by the later garage block. In addition, no finds of archaeological note of any period were encountered during the watching brief.
- 6.2.2 No further archaeological intervention is required relating to this development, although the high potential for archaeological deposits in the area, may mean that mitigation works will be required on any further development in the vicinity.

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## APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site	HER No.	Site Type	Site Name	Period	NGR (NY)
1	870	Well	Derwent lodge well	Roman	11150 31250
2	872	Roman fort and vicus	The roman fort of Derventio (scheduled monument)	Roman	10960 31250
3	1036	Road	Papcastle Road	Roman	07480 30350
4	6377	Finds	Roman finds, Lindenside	Roman	11000 31400
5	10917	Trackway	Friars Walk medieval trackway	Medieval	10700 31200
6	13555	Earthwork	Bellevue field system	Prehistoric/ medieval	11300 31300
7	13556	Earthworks	Unclassified earthworks	unknown	11300 31800
8	17642	Drain	Drain at Sunnyside	unknown	11480 31393
9	18948	Findspot	Denarius of M. Aurelius	Roman	11200 31380
10	19503	Findspot	Winged Figurine Find	Roman	10600 31700
11	23144	Listed Building	Rosebank House	18th century	11007 31421
12	23145	Listed Building	Rose Hill and the Cottage	18th century	11029 31423
13	23146	Listed Building	Lindenside Cottage	19th century	10994 31395
14	40835	Building	Papcastle House	Medieval	10827 31375



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## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

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Context	Trench	Type	Description
100	1	Deposit	Natural Substrate
101	1	Layer	Made Ground
102	1	Layer	Tarmac

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## APPENDIX 3: FIGURES

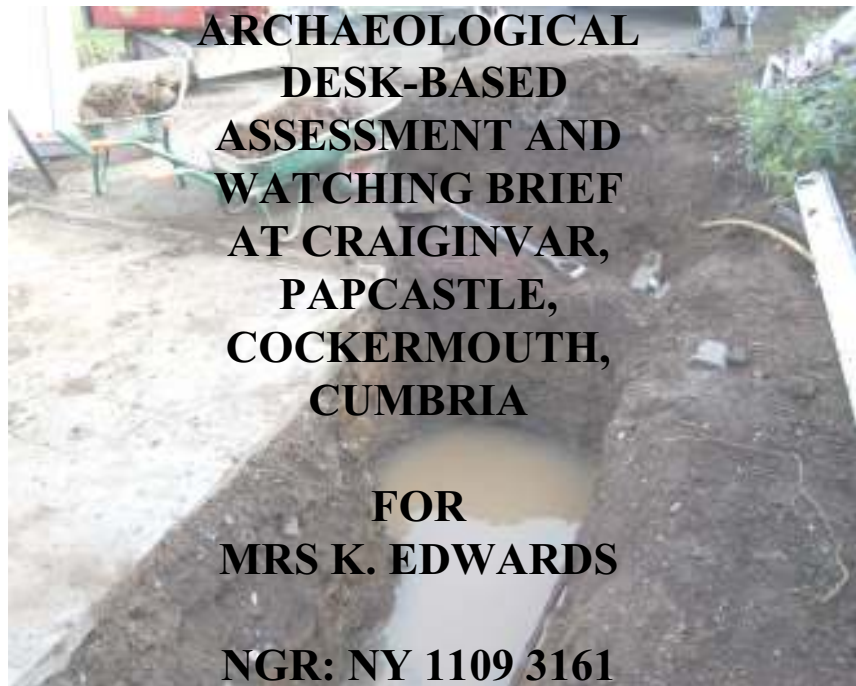
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# **NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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**Project Designs and Client Report No. CP/526/07**



**Planning Ref: 2/2007/0382  
OASIS Ref: northpen3-29221**

04 March 2008

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In June 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Mr Beattie of Alpha Design Architectural Services, on behalf of the client, Mrs K. Edwards, to undertake a rapid archaeological desk based assessment and watching brief in association with a development of land at Craiginvar, Papcastle, Cumbria (NGR NY 1109 3161). This was undertaken in accordance with Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service, who recommended this programme of archaeological work. It was also undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by CCCHES.

The desk-based assessment involved the examination of all pertinent documents and cartographic sources held in the County Records Office in Carlisle, and the consultation of the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) based in Kendal. The HER includes the locations and settings of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens and other, non-designated archaeological remains. In addition, a number of published sources were consulted to provide background information, and several relevant web sites.

The desk-based assessment located sites from the HER and other sources within 0.5 km of the development site. These included 14 listed sites, 3 of which were listed buildings. These sites were predominantly Romano-British in date and associated with the fort of Derventio (a Scheduled Ancient Monument; HER 872), which is situated just to the west of the proposed development. The *vicus*, or civilian settlement, associated with the fort also lies in the vicinity, and the full extent of this settlement is not yet known.

The consequential watching brief was undertaken in February 2008. The works entailed the construction of a new house extension on the south facing gable end of the property, which involved the excavation of three small trenches to upgrade and replace existing utilities. However, the trenches revealed no clear evidence of Roman archaeology despite the close proximity of the fort to Craiginvar, this is probably due in part to the area being heavily disturbed by the building of the house and or the subsequent construction of a garage. It is likely that the majority of archaeological features in this immediate area have either been severely truncated or are located away from the immediate development site.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Glen Beattie of Alpha Design and Mrs K Edwards for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the fieldwork.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), and all the staff at the Cumbria County Record Office in Carlisle for their help during this project.

Cat Peters undertook the initial desk-based assessment, whilst Martin Sowerby carried out the watching brief. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Juliet Reeves.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) were consulted prior to a planning application submitted regarding a proposed development, which could affect an area considered to have a high archaeological potential. The site is a property known as Craiginvar, Papcastle, Cumbria (NGR NY 1109 3161) (Figure 1). The site lies to the north-east of the Roman fort of Derventio (HER 22499). Consequently, CCCHES advised that a programme of archaeological works would be necessary prior to any proposed development application. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL) was commissioned by Glen Beattie of Alpha Design, on behalf of the client, Mrs K Edwards, to undertake the required rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of the general area of Papcastle, followed by an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken on groundworks associated with the development.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Cumbria County Record Offices in Carlisle (CROC), and the archives and library held by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd., as well as a search of the known cultural and historical sites in the vicinity, held by Cumbria County Council in the Historic Environment Database. The principal objective of this assessment was to undertake sufficient work in order to identify and characterise the archaeological constraints associated with the development area, in order to assess the archaeological and historical potential of the development site. A site visit was carried out on the proposed development, in order to assess the condition of any archaeological features present.
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the project design and design specification for the project, following professional standards. A supervising archaeologist undertook a formal programme of observation of all excavating operations carried out as part of the development (IFA 1994).
- 1.1.4 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area, an assessment of the impact of the proposed development, and subsequent results of the archaeological watching brief, which formed the second stage of the archaeological works.



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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Alpha Design for a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of the study area, followed by a watching brief, in accordance with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice. As a result, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned to undertake the designated archaeological works.

### 2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 Several sources of information were consulted, in accordance with the project brief and project design. The study area consisted of a 1km radius centred on the proposed development area (Figure 2). The principal sources of information were the Historic Environment Record (HER), maps and secondary sources.
- 2.2.2 *Cumbria County Record Office (Carlisle)*: the County Record Office in Carlisle (CROC) was visited to consult documents specific to the study area. Historic maps of the study area, including surveys, Tithe and Enclosure Maps, Acts of Parliament and early Ordnance Survey maps, were examined. A search was made for any relevant historical documentation, particularly regarding the use of the area, drawing on the knowledge of the archivists. Several secondary sources and relevant websites were also consulted.
- 2.2.3 *English Heritage NMR and Archaeology Data Service*: an electronic enquiry was also made of English Heritage's National Monuments Record and the website of the Archaeology Data Service. This was in order to enhance and augment the data obtained from a search of the appropriate repositories.
- 2.2.4 *North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL)*: various publications and unpublished reports on excavations and other work in the region are held within the North Pennines Archaeology library and any relevant undeposited archives were examined. Aerial photographs of the area were also studied.

### 2.3 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.3.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during all groundworks associated with the development. This was to determine the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains, and to record all surviving archaeological features encountered during the works.

### 2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design, and in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (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.

- 2.4.2 North Pennines Archaeology and CCHES support the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature created as a result of developer-funded archaeological fieldwork. As a result, details of the results of this desk-based assessment will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

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### 3. BACKGROUND

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#### 3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Papcastle is a small village on the outskirts of Cockermouth, Cumbria, which lies approximately 40 kilometres, south-west of Carlisle, on the western fringes of the North Cumbrian Plain. The village occupies an elevated position on the north bank of the river Derwent. The site lies within the northern outskirts of the village.
- 3.1.2 The area investigated consists of a dwelling house with associated garden area and is centred on NGR NY 1109 3161. It is bounded to the north by adjoining properties, to the east by a public thoroughfare, to the south by adjoining properties and to the west by a small stretch of field before the site of Derwentio Roman Fort is located.
- 3.1.3 The area around Papcastle is well served with water sources, several wells are located within the village, whilst the River Derwent flows along the southern boundary of the village and two small tributaries of the Derwent are found immediately to the west of village. The main A595 road from Carlisle is located to the north-west of the village, whilst the A594 heads west to Maryport and the A66 is located to the east of the village.
- 3.1.4 The solid geology of the area consists predominantly of Carboniferous rocks. Throughout the area around the River Derwent, well drained loams of the Wick Association overlie the solid geology. Away from the river valley the solid geology is masked by Devensian tills upon which are soils chiefly of the Clifton and Brickfield associations (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).

#### 3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments around the study area.
- 3.2.2 **Prehistoric:** a number of stray finds most notably, stone axes from the Langdales, have been discovered in the Cockermouth area (Bradbury 1996). Located 4km east of Cockermouth is Elva Plain stone circle. It consists of 15 stones with a single outlying stone. There is no direct evidence of a burial mound or any other feature. It has been linked with the trade in Neolithic stone axes. The suggested association of the circle with the stone axe trade may find some support in the name of the site. Elva was rendered 'Elfhow' and although there are no reports of axe finds in the vicinity, it may be that the name originates from the finding here of 'elfshot', a term once applied in this part of Cumberland to polished stone axes, which were thought to have magic significance.
- 3.2.3 At Ewanrigg, to the south-west of Maryport, field walking discovered prehistoric pottery; a series of subsequent excavations identified a total of 29 cremation burials and a single cist burial. Radiocarbon dates (2470 cal BC - 1520 cal BC) suggest that

burials were being interred over a period of about 940 years during the Bronze Age. The relationship between the excavated cemetery at Ewanrigg, and an adjacent, unexcavated, settlement site (identified from aerial photographs) is unclear (Bewley 1986). Within Cockermouth itself is the small Toot, or Tute Hill, located directly opposite to the Castle, which has been interpreted as a burial mound, possibly of Bronze Age origin (Bradbury 1996).

- 3.2.4 There is a large earthwork located in Fitz Wood in Cockermouth, which appears to be Iron Age in date, based on its form and shape, however, excavation has yet to confirm this theory. It consists of a well-preserved ditch and rampart with evidence for internal structures. There are also earthworks at Castle How, Piel, 5 km to the east of Cockermouth (Bradbury 1996).
- 3.2.5 **Romano-British:** during the Roman period there was a heavy military presence in Cumbria, and there is considerable evidence for Roman military activity around the study area during this period. The earliest known settlement at Papcastle belongs to the Romano-British period, and may be divided into two categories: the fort, and the extramural settlement (site 2; a scheduled ancient monument). These sites were situated at the junction of two main Roman roads, the road from the fort at Carlisle, heading south-west and the route heading west towards Maryport (Figure 3). The fort occupies a strategic position on a hill overlooking a major crossing of the River Derwent.
- 3.2.6 There is only one historical text, which refers to the fort at Papcastle. The name of the fort is recorded in the Ravenna Cosmology of the 7<sup>th</sup> century, where it appears as *Derventione* (R&C122), between the compound entry for *Maglona* (Old Carlisle, Cumbria) and the entry for *Bravoniacum* (Kirkby Thore, Cumbria). Epigraphic evidence from the site is sparse (only four inscriptions on stone are listed in the *RIB*), and neither confirms nor refutes the identification of *Derventio* with Papcastle.
- 3.2.7 Limited excavations at various stages throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century revealed at least two distinct phases of fort building. The earliest fort was found to date to the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century, and was replaced in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century by a fort constructed on a slightly different alignment. The extensive alterations were probably associated with the general reorganisation of the frontier district under Lucius Septimius Severus (193-211 AD). Occupation of the forts would appear to be continuous, running from the Flavian period through to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century (Reeves 2002). The majority of the stone from the fort must have been removed when the fort fell out of use. It is thought that much of the stone went into the construction of Cockermouth castle, where at least three stone inscriptions relating to the fort have been found (Birley 1963).
- 3.2.8 The fort and extramural settlement has been described and discussed by many antiquarian authorities since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, including Camden (1586, 1587, 1590 and 1594) who, in his early editions of *Britannia*, noted “the carcase of an ancient fort whose Roman antiquity is attested by not a few monuments”. Specific records of finds at Papcastle begin with Alexander Gordon and William Stukely who visited the fort and dedicated a page to the fort in his book *Iter Boreale* in 1725. The next account comes from John Horsley in 1732, and later in a letter between Thomas Routh (1717-

1748) to Roger Gale, which was copied in Hutchinson's survey of Cumberland between 1794-7 (Hutchinson 1794). Brief descriptions were made by all of Westmoreland's noted antiquarians such as Nicolson and Burn (1777), Hodgson (1840) and Whellan (1860).

- 3.2.9 William Stukely, writing in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, observed the layout of the fort and noted that the fort occupied the top of a hill, provides the earliest detailed record of Papcastle. The extramural settlement extended to an area of the village called The Burroughs. Stukely mentions that "*the name of Boroughs includes both closes where the old city stood; for they find stones and slates with iron pins in them, coins, and all other matters of antiquity, upon the whole spot below the castrum, towards the waterside*", which is presumably the River Derwent. Writing in 1860, Whellan, echoes Stukely and comments, "*that the traces of a Roman station or castrum lie on the summit of the hill at Papcastle*" (Whellan 1860).
- 3.2.10 The fort and extramural settlement at Papcastle is well served by Roman roads. The road from Carlisle to Papcastle is well documented (Road 75, Margary 1973), from where it runs through the forts at Old Carlisle (Maglona) and Blennerhasset. The modern A592 road follows the original Roman road. From earlier observations it seems fairly clear that the main road 75, continued beyond Papcastle to the south-west (site 3). The name Streetgate appears at a farm 1 mile north of Lamplugh, on the north-west side of the present main road leading to Egremont and perhaps eventually to Ravenglass, where there was another fort, but much of the route still needs investigation. There is another possible road from Papcastle south-east into the Lake District (Road 753, Margary 1973). The road east to Maryport (*Aluna*) is equally well documented (Road 751, Margary 1973), the route heads through Dovenby, from where it joins the present A594 road from Cockermouth to Maryport.
- 3.2.11 As well as the Roman Fort of Derventio and associated *vicus* (site 2), further Roman finds in close proximity to the development site have been located in the form of a Roman Well (site 1) and various Roman finds (site 4) as well as a winged figurine (site 10) and a denarius of Marcus Aurelius (site 9). These all attest to a high possibility for Roman evidence from within the development site.
- 3.2.12 **Medieval:** the fact that the Roman Fort at Papcastle has yielded 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery might raise the question that the fort was not abandoned entirely when the Roman army left Britain for the last time. In any case, the late occupation at Papcastle need not have been specifically military and we cannot exclude the possibility that here, as elsewhere, a paramilitary or purely civilian population maintained itself for some years after the withdrawal of the regular garrison. There is no clear evidence to show how long the site remained occupied. However, continued occupation seems almost certain, in view of the early name for the settlement, which first appeared in 1260 as *Pabecastr*, a compound of Old Scandinavian and Old English, meaning 'the Roman fort inhabited by a hermit'.
- 3.2.13 After the Normans arrived in Cumbria, the area around Papcastle was owned by Waldeof, Lord of Allerdale (Nicolson and Burn 1777), who later constructed the present castle at Cockermouth with masonry removed from the fort at Papcastle. It is

possible that part of the defensive structure of the fort was still standing, giving Waldeof a ready made, easily defendable seat. It is noteworthy that the Normans chose Papcastle, only moving to construct a castle in Cockermouth, a more easily defended natural site, later, when cross-border raids from Scotland became more frequent.

- 3.2.14 The archaeological evidence for occupation in the medieval period is extremely limited, although there was certainly settlement in the area at this time. Excavations at Papcastle House (Giecco 2004) have demonstrated that the land in that area of Papcastle showed evidence of a large timber building and a probable retting pond for the processing of flax. Both of the features were tentatively dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (*ibid*).
- 3.2.15 During the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Dominicans of Carlisle founded a leper hospital at Papcastle. There are fields called St Leonards, and Spital-ing, both east of the village, which refer to a medieval origin. Papcastle House (site 14) was built during the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century and a probable medieval trackway, known as Friar's Walk (site 5), exists close to the site, all attesting to strong evidence for medieval activity in the vicinity of the development site. A drain (site 8) within close proximity to the development site could date to the same period, as could a further earthwork system visible as a cropmark to the north of the site, though this could have been of prehistoric origin (site 7).
- 3.2.16 ***Post-Medieval and Modern:*** during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries there was enough capital available in Cumbria for the rebuilding of town, villages and farmsteads in stone (Rollinson 1967), which may explain the lack of surviving examples of domestic architecture dating from before the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Papcastle. Enclosure was required before most improvements could be put into effect, and Papcastle was covered by an Enclosure Act in 1838.
- 3.2.17 Cartographic sources illustrate the development of Papcastle throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, reflecting the limited expansion of the village suggesting that the settlement stayed fairly static with regards to development and population stability. Various new buildings of the period, to replace the earlier timber structures, do survive within 0.5 km of the development site and are listed buildings (sites 11- 13). Any development on-site may have a visual impact on these buildings.

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## 4. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The assessment results are based on primary documents, most notably maps, and on the secondary sources used in *Section 3.2*. The results are presented according to the archive from which they were consulted. There are 14 HER records and listed buildings for the study area around the site, and extra information was gathered from the immediate vicinity, defined as a 0.5 km radius centred on the site. A full list of the sites identified by the assessment is given in the Gazetteer in *Appendix 1*, and illustrated in Figure 2.

### 4.2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

- 4.2.1 **HER:** there were 14 HER records within the study area, which is defined as a 0.5 km radius around the site (Figure 2). Six are of Roman origin, two of medieval date and three relate to the post medieval period (listed buildings). Three further sites are of unknown date. Full details are included in *Appendix 1*, and the sites' locations are shown in Figure 2.
- 4.2.2 **Listed Buildings:** the listed building records show 15 buildings within a 1km radius of the site. Only those closest to the development site, and therefore of more concern visibly to any development on-site have been included. All the buildings relate to the post medieval expansion of Papcastle. A full description can be found in *Appendix 1*.

### 4.3 CUMBRIA RECORD OFFICE (CARLISLE)

- 4.3.1 The Carlisle Record Office in Cumbria (CROC) was consulted to collate maps for regression analysis of the study area. Information from primary and secondary sources, including archaeological or historical journals, has been incorporated into the historic background (*Section 3.2*).

### 4.4 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 4.4.1 As part of the documentary search at the Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle (CROC), an in-depth scan of the early maps for Papcastle was undertaken. A cartographic date range of between 1829 and 1924 was obtained.
- 4.4.2 **Tithe Apportionment Map for Papcastle, 1829 (CROC):** the first available map is the Tithe Apportionment map of 1829 (Figure 4) which shows the proposed development area as located to the west of a trackway leading into Papcastle, well within the boundaries of field no. '126'. The location of a 'Pinfold' to the south of the site (a place for confining stray or impounded cattle, horses, etc) suggests that this area of Papcastle formed the agricultural hinterland for the medieval and post-medieval settlement.
- 4.4.3 **Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1863 – First Edition 25" to 1 mile (Figure 5):** the First Edition Ordnance Survey map is the earliest to show the settlement of Papcastle

in detail. The development remains unchanged since the publication of the Tithe Map of 1829.

4.4.4 ***Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1899 – Second Edition 25” to 1 mile (Figure 6):*** the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the trackway, depicted on the Tithe Map of 1829, as a more established roadway. The field boundaries to the south and south-west of the development site appear unchanged, although a small subdivided field system running to the west in 1829, appears to have been extended across the back of the houses of Papcastle. In addition, houses at ‘*Belle Vue*’ have been established, to the north of the site, perhaps representing the growth of Cockermouth, and the move from village to town during the later 1800s.

4.4.5 ***Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1924 – Third Edition 25” to 1 mile (Figure 7):*** the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map is largely similar to the 1899 edition (Figure 6). The Pinfold, first seen on the Tithe Map of 1829, and still in existence by 1899, appears to have been demolished by 1924. In addition, sewage tanks have been added to the north of the development site, within the same field as the development site.

## **4.5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

4.5.1 Aerial photographs pertaining to the study area were taken in the 1950’s by JK St Joseph, which showed walls on three sides of the fort, the possible guard chambers of the west gate of the fort and a road leading from the east gate. None revealed any features of archaeological interest within the current development site itself.

## **4.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

4.6.1 There have been several archaeological investigations within close proximity to the development area, predominantly based upon the Roman fort and vicus located to the west of the development site.

4.6.2 Excavations in 1912 on the site of Derventio Roman Fort, uncovered parts of the north and east ramparts of the later fort. Further trial trenching located the east gate, which consisted of a partially blocked double gateway paved with a concrete of lime and gravel laid on larger stones. Additionally the north-east corner of the early fort was located, and was observed to have been constructed from good ashlar and lime masonry (Collingwood 1912).

4.6.3 Later discoveries associated with the second fort included a layer of blackened wheat, located outside the east gate during the excavation of a new gas main in 1923 (Birley 1963). Roman coins, pottery, and large stone slabs, 5.5 ft by 1.5 ft, dug at a depth of 6 ft were discovered just outside the south-east corner of the fort at The Mount (ibid).

4.6.4 Excavations carried out by Dorothy Charlesworth in 1961-2 revealed parts of the barrack blocks and Commandant’s quarters, with evidence for both stone and timber buildings. Although no floor levels remained in the barrack blocks numerous items of corroded bronze, some identifiable as scale armour were identified (Charlesworth



1965). Other finds included a small bronze statuette, a bronze fibula, and scraps of tent and shoe leather (ibid).

- 4.6.5 There was no further work until 1984, when an excavation in advance of a house building scheme (NY 110 315) revealed a road running south from the south gate of the fort, which had been repaired on several occasions. To the east of the road was a foundation for a large building, set on a rectangular platform of dumped clay. Below this cap of clay were waterlogged deposits yielding industrial remains and timber drains and above it traces of several phases of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century stone structures which could have been a temple (Oliver 1984). During the excavation a small bronze statuette of Marsyas was uncovered. Marsyas was a satyr who challenged Apollo, the god of music, to a music competition, promising that if he lost, he would submit himself to be bound and flayed alive. He lost, and the statuette shows him bound, awaiting his fate (Shotter 1996). This suggests that the possible temple may have been dedicated to Apollo. Excavations were undertaken in 1985 by Lancaster University Archaeology Unit (LUAU) on the vicus associated with the fort, in the area known as 'The Borroughs'. Vici were common features to arise from a Roman Fort. They were civilian settlements, established organically from trade with soldiers, rather than Roman-enforced settlements like the forts themselves. They were inhabited by a mix of people tempted from pre-existing local communities, by wealth and wares from the soldiers, and were able to sell shoes, clothes, food, beer and other such necessities to the troops. The extent of the vicus is not yet known.
- 4.6.6 Prior to the construction of the Papcastle bypass in 1989, Cumbria County Council (CCC) undertook an excavation of features identified in an earlier geophysical survey. A small ditch was excavated along its entirety, revealing both modern and Roman ceramics. Several iron nails and regularly spaced pits along the ditch showed that it was revetted with timber. The ditch may be an early field boundary (CCC 1989).
- 4.6.7 In 1998, Channel 4's Archaeological programme Time Team, carried out trial trenching and geophysical surveys. Two trenches in the garden of a private house (Derwent Lodge) revealed remains of two Roman strip houses and the foundations of a possible monumental structure. Further trenching and survey in the field called Sibby Brows revealed a more extensive area of the vicus than previously recorded. The fort defences were also examined (published in Time Team 1999 and summarised in Britannia Vol 31, 2000).
- 4.6.8 More recently excavations were undertaken by North Pennines Heritage Trust in 2002 (later to become the present North Pennines Archaeology Ltd) on land adjacent to Derventio House. In total three evaluation trenches were excavated which showed that evidence for several Roman features were present. These were interpreted as a possible terracing deposit to level of the slope of the ground surface (Reeves 2002).
- 4.6.9 As a direct result of the findings from the evaluation at Derventio House, further work was carried out in March 2004 by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL). The excavation revealed significant Roman deposits relating to the Roman fort, namely the terracing which was noted in the 2002 evaluation. It showed that the terracing had been placed in the 4<sup>th</sup> century when the fort was extensively remodelled, removing most of

the evidence relating to the earlier phases of fort. The main feature of this later fort was a chalet type barrack building from a minor east/west road. This building was partially demolished and a later Roman part-timber building was constructed on the foundations of the earlier building (Giecco 2004).

- 4.6.10 Further works were undertaken by NPAL in 2004, when planning permission was sought for a development on land to the rear of Papcastle House. Despite evidence of terracing in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a series of substantial postholes were identified, which had the potential of forming the corner of a building (Giecco and Compton 2004). Further excavations in 2005 revealed more timber buildings and a probable medieval retting pond for the processing of flax (Giecco and Crompton 2005).

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## 5. THE WATCHING BRIEF

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 Summary results of the watching brief are presented below. The context list is reproduced in Appendix 2, with Figure 8 showing the locations of the excavations observed during the watching brief.

5.1.2 The programme of works involved the construction of a new house extension on the south facing gable end of the property, involving the excavation of three small trenches to upgrade and replace existing utilities. The works commenced on the southern side of house, next to a concrete plinth for a garage, which had been demolished earlier in the week, before moving to the rear of the property.

### 5.2 EXCAVATION TRENCH 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 was located immediately south of the demolished garage and was approximately 7m long by 0.80m deep and up to 1.2m wide (see Figure 8; Plates 1 and 2). It was clearly evident that the ground had been severely disturbed by the construction of Craiginvar and the previous garage extension. Also a number of live services (gas and water pipes) were evident within the middle of the trench.



*Plate 1: Hand excavation of Trench 1, note yellow gas pipe below tarmac surface*

5.2.2 The character of the natural substrate *100* varied considerably. It appeared to have been deposited in broad undulating bands varying in colour between deep-red, mid greyish-brown and orangey-brown, generally comprising sterile gritty clayey sand with c20-30% small to medium sub-rounded to angular stones. The natural was observed at a maximum depth of 0.60m-0.80m bgl (below ground level).

5.2.3 Overlaying the natural was 0.42m of redeposited natural *101*, mixed with numerous fragments of red brick and other building materials, which presumably relates to the construction of the house or the garage extension. Up to 0.12m of modern tarmac *102*, made up the remaining depth of the trench. There were no finds retrieved or archaeological features noted in this trench.



*Plate 2: Trench 1, note services on the right hand side of the photograph*



*Plate 3: Trench 1, showing disturbed made ground*

## **5.3 EXCAVATION TRENCH 2**

- 5.3.1 Trench 2 was located in front of the small utility extension, which butts onto the southern facing wall of the house (see Figure 8: Plates 4 and 5). The trench measured 1m long by 0.80m wide and up to 0.67m deep. Within this trench an existing ceramic drain was exposed which runs towards the main manhole inspection chamber (see Plate 5). The natural substrate was not exposed within this trench, as the pipe was located relatively near the surface. There were no finds retrieved or archaeological features noted in this trench.



*Plate 4: Trench 2, note shallow depth of the trench and the existing ceramic drain, facing north-east*



*Plate 5: Trench 2, facing north-west*

## **5.4 EXCAVATION TRENCH 3**

5.4.1 Trench 3 was located adjacent to the northwest-facing wall of the building. The trench was approximately 5m long by 0.80m wide and its maximum depth was 0.35m below ground level. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within the trench, as the levels for the new drain were high in order to create flow within the drainage system. There were no finds retrieved or archaeological features noted in this trench (see Figure 8).

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## 6. CONCLUSIONS

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### 6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 6.1.1 The potential for prehistoric archaeology is fairly low. Though there was almost certainly prehistoric activity in the area, any surviving evidence of the era will most likely be in the form of isolated findspots.
- 6.1.2 The potential for Romano-British archaeology within the development area is high, particularly in view of the known and excavated remains of the Roman fort and extra-mural settlement which lies less than 50m to the west of the development site. Roman roads associated with the fort may extend to the development site. These sites are likely to have expanded beyond the boundaries identified, as the precise extent of the *vicus* is still not known, creating the potential for outlying features associated with the civilian settlement, which is known to exist around the main entrances into the fort. The number of stray finds in the vicinity of the development site further enhances this potential.
- 6.1.3 The potential for medieval archaeology is low. Evidence for occupation and industrial works during the later medieval period was demonstrated during an excavation carried out by NPAL in 2005, indicating that in one area of Papcastle, people were living and working, possibly in the remains of the fort or extra-mural settlement. The development site itself appears to have formed a part of the agricultural hinterland, serving the medieval settlement, so finds of this period are unlikely.
- 6.1.4 The potential for post-medieval archaeology is low; the centre of the village lies to the south-west, and the development area appears to have been an enclosure field, which had been under pasture for some time prior to modern housing being constructed on-site. On the evidence presented above, there is high potential for the survival of archaeological deposits on the site; particularly in the form of sub surface remains of the Romano-British period, due to the Roman fort of Derventio and associated *vicus* lying less than 50m to the west. This information helped to inform the watching brief stage of likely encounters.

### 6.2 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

- 6.2.1 Despite the high potential for subsurface Roman remains, no Roman features or deposits were observed during the groundworks. Therefore it may be concluded that any remains relating to the Roman occupation of Papcastle were either destroyed by later activities namely the construction of Craiginvar and or by the later garage block. In addition, no finds of archaeological note of any period were encountered during the watching brief.
- 6.2.2 No further archaeological intervention is required relating to this development, although the high potential for archaeological deposits in the area, may mean that mitigation works will be required on any further development in the vicinity.

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## APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site	HER No.	Site Type	Site Name	Period	NGR (NY)
1	870	Well	Derwent lodge well	Roman	11150 31250
2	872	Roman fort and vicus	The roman fort of Derventio (scheduled monument)	Roman	10960 31250
3	1036	Road	Papcastle Road	Roman	07480 30350
4	6377	Finds	Roman finds, Lindenside	Roman	11000 31400
5	10917	Trackway	Friars Walk medieval trackway	Medieval	10700 31200
6	13555	Earthwork	Bellevue field system	Prehistoric/ medieval	11300 31300
7	13556	Earthworks	Unclassified earthworks	unknown	11300 31800
8	17642	Drain	Drain at Sunnyside	unknown	11480 31393
9	18948	Findspot	Denarius of M. Aurelius	Roman	11200 31380
10	19503	Findspot	Winged Figurine Find	Roman	10600 31700
11	23144	Listed Building	Rosebank House	18th century	11007 31421
12	23145	Listed Building	Rose Hill and the Cottage	18th century	11029 31423
13	23146	Listed Building	Lindenside Cottage	19th century	10994 31395
14	40835	Building	Papcastle House	Medieval	10827 31375

---

## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

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Context	Trench	Type	Description
100	1	Deposit	Natural Substrate
101	1	Layer	Made Ground
102	1	Layer	Tarmac

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## APPENDIX 3: FIGURES

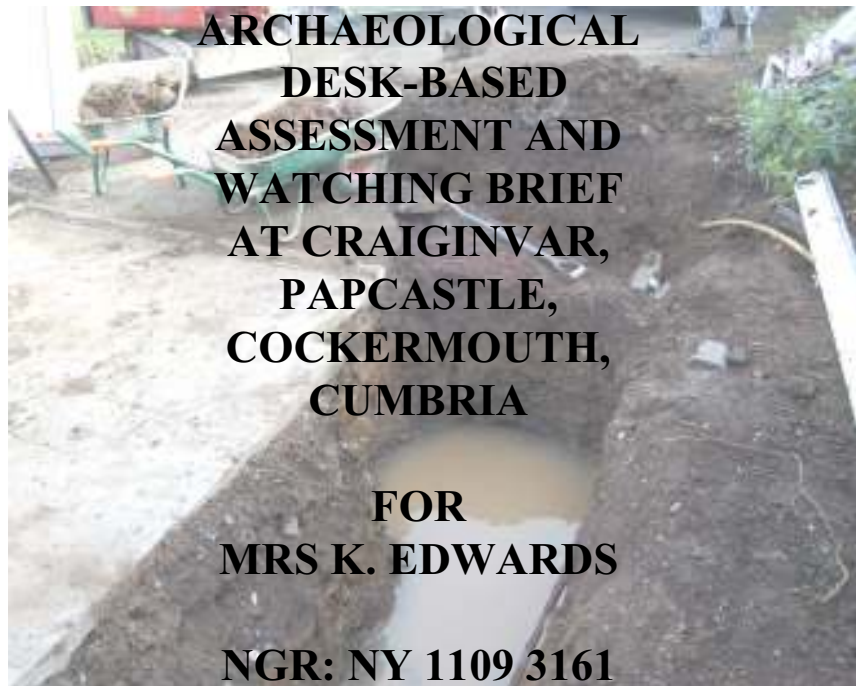
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# **NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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**Project Designs and Client Report No. CP/526/07**



**Planning Ref: 2/2007/0382  
OASIS Ref: northpen3-29221**

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04 March 2008



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In June 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Mr Beattie of Alpha Design Architectural Services, on behalf of the client, Mrs K. Edwards, to undertake a rapid archaeological desk based assessment and watching brief in association with a development of land at Craiginvar, Papcastle, Cumbria (NGR NY 1109 3161). This was undertaken in accordance with Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service, who recommended this programme of archaeological work. It was also undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by CCCHES.

The desk-based assessment involved the examination of all pertinent documents and cartographic sources held in the County Records Office in Carlisle, and the consultation of the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) based in Kendal. The HER includes the locations and settings of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens and other, non-designated archaeological remains. In addition, a number of published sources were consulted to provide background information, and several relevant web sites.

The desk-based assessment located sites from the HER and other sources within 0.5 km of the development site. These included 14 listed sites, 3 of which were listed buildings. These sites were predominantly Romano-British in date and associated with the fort of Derventio (a Scheduled Ancient Monument; HER 872), which is situated just to the west of the proposed development. The *vicus*, or civilian settlement, associated with the fort also lies in the vicinity, and the full extent of this settlement is not yet known.

The consequential watching brief was undertaken in February 2008. The works entailed the construction of a new house extension on the south facing gable end of the property, which involved the excavation of three small trenches to upgrade and replace existing utilities. However, the trenches revealed no clear evidence of Roman archaeology despite the close proximity of the fort to Craiginvar, this is probably due in part to the area being heavily disturbed by the building of the house and or the subsequent construction of a garage. It is likely that the majority of archaeological features in this immediate area have either been severely truncated or are located away from the immediate development site.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Glen Beattie of Alpha Design and Mrs K Edwards for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the fieldwork.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), and all the staff at the Cumbria County Record Office in Carlisle for their help during this project.

Cat Peters undertook the initial desk-based assessment, whilst Martin Sowerby carried out the watching brief. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Juliet Reeves.



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) were consulted prior to a planning application submitted regarding a proposed development, which could affect an area considered to have a high archaeological potential. The site is a property known as Craiginvar, Papcastle, Cumbria (NGR NY 1109 3161) (Figure 1). The site lies to the north-east of the Roman fort of Derventio (HER 22499). Consequently, CCCHES advised that a programme of archaeological works would be necessary prior to any proposed development application. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL) was commissioned by Glen Beattie of Alpha Design, on behalf of the client, Mrs K Edwards, to undertake the required rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of the general area of Papcastle, followed by an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken on groundworks associated with the development.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Cumbria County Record Offices in Carlisle (CROC), and the archives and library held by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd., as well as a search of the known cultural and historical sites in the vicinity, held by Cumbria County Council in the Historic Environment Database. The principal objective of this assessment was to undertake sufficient work in order to identify and characterise the archaeological constraints associated with the development area, in order to assess the archaeological and historical potential of the development site. A site visit was carried out on the proposed development, in order to assess the condition of any archaeological features present.
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the project design and design specification for the project, following professional standards. A supervising archaeologist undertook a formal programme of observation of all excavating operations carried out as part of the development (IFA 1994).
- 1.1.4 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area, an assessment of the impact of the proposed development, and subsequent results of the archaeological watching brief, which formed the second stage of the archaeological works.

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Alpha Design for a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment of the study area, followed by a watching brief, in accordance with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice. As a result, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned to undertake the designated archaeological works.

### 2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 Several sources of information were consulted, in accordance with the project brief and project design. The study area consisted of a 1km radius centred on the proposed development area (Figure 2). The principal sources of information were the Historic Environment Record (HER), maps and secondary sources.
- 2.2.2 *Cumbria County Record Office (Carlisle)*: the County Record Office in Carlisle (CROC) was visited to consult documents specific to the study area. Historic maps of the study area, including surveys, Tithe and Enclosure Maps, Acts of Parliament and early Ordnance Survey maps, were examined. A search was made for any relevant historical documentation, particularly regarding the use of the area, drawing on the knowledge of the archivists. Several secondary sources and relevant websites were also consulted.
- 2.2.3 *English Heritage NMR and Archaeology Data Service*: an electronic enquiry was also made of English Heritage's National Monuments Record and the website of the Archaeology Data Service. This was in order to enhance and augment the data obtained from a search of the appropriate repositories.
- 2.2.4 *North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL)*: various publications and unpublished reports on excavations and other work in the region are held within the North Pennines Archaeology library and any relevant undeposited archives were examined. Aerial photographs of the area were also studied.

### 2.3 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.3.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during all groundworks associated with the development. This was to determine the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains, and to record all surviving archaeological features encountered during the works.

### 2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design, and in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (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.

- 2.4.2 North Pennines Archaeology and CCHES support the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature created as a result of developer-funded archaeological fieldwork. As a result, details of the results of this desk-based assessment will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

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### 3. BACKGROUND

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#### 3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Papcastle is a small village on the outskirts of Cockermouth, Cumbria, which lies approximately 40 kilometres, south-west of Carlisle, on the western fringes of the North Cumbrian Plain. The village occupies an elevated position on the north bank of the river Derwent. The site lies within the northern outskirts of the village.
- 3.1.2 The area investigated consists of a dwelling house with associated garden area and is centred on NGR NY 1109 3161. It is bounded to the north by adjoining properties, to the east by a public thoroughfare, to the south by adjoining properties and to the west by a small stretch of field before the site of Derwentio Roman Fort is located.
- 3.1.3 The area around Papcastle is well served with water sources, several wells are located within the village, whilst the River Derwent flows along the southern boundary of the village and two small tributaries of the Derwent are found immediately to the west of village. The main A595 road from Carlisle is located to the north-west of the village, whilst the A594 heads west to Maryport and the A66 is located to the east of the village.
- 3.1.4 The solid geology of the area consists predominantly of Carboniferous rocks. Throughout the area around the River Derwent, well drained loams of the Wick Association overlie the solid geology. Away from the river valley the solid geology is masked by Devensian tills upon which are soils chiefly of the Clifton and Brickfield associations (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).

#### 3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Introduction:** this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments around the study area.
- 3.2.2 **Prehistoric:** a number of stray finds most notably, stone axes from the Langdales, have been discovered in the Cockermouth area (Bradbury 1996). Located 4km east of Cockermouth is Elva Plain stone circle. It consists of 15 stones with a single outlying stone. There is no direct evidence of a burial mound or any other feature. It has been linked with the trade in Neolithic stone axes. The suggested association of the circle with the stone axe trade may find some support in the name of the site. Elva was rendered 'Elfhow' and although there are no reports of axe finds in the vicinity, it may be that the name originates from the finding here of 'elfshot', a term once applied in this part of Cumberland to polished stone axes, which were thought to have magic significance.
- 3.2.3 At Ewanrigg, to the south-west of Maryport, field walking discovered prehistoric pottery; a series of subsequent excavations identified a total of 29 cremation burials and a single cist burial. Radiocarbon dates (2470 cal BC - 1520 cal BC) suggest that

burials were being interred over a period of about 940 years during the Bronze Age. The relationship between the excavated cemetery at Ewanrigg, and an adjacent, unexcavated, settlement site (identified from aerial photographs) is unclear (Bewley 1986). Within Cockermouth itself is the small Toot, or Tute Hill, located directly opposite to the Castle, which has been interpreted as a burial mound, possibly of Bronze Age origin (Bradbury 1996).

- 3.2.4 There is a large earthwork located in Fitz Wood in Cockermouth, which appears to be Iron Age in date, based on its form and shape, however, excavation has yet to confirm this theory. It consists of a well-preserved ditch and rampart with evidence for internal structures. There are also earthworks at Castle How, Piel, 5 km to the east of Cockermouth (Bradbury 1996).
- 3.2.5 **Romano-British:** during the Roman period there was a heavy military presence in Cumbria, and there is considerable evidence for Roman military activity around the study area during this period. The earliest known settlement at Papcastle belongs to the Romano-British period, and may be divided into two categories: the fort, and the extramural settlement (site 2; a scheduled ancient monument). These sites were situated at the junction of two main Roman roads, the road from the fort at Carlisle, heading south-west and the route heading west towards Maryport (Figure 3). The fort occupies a strategic position on a hill overlooking a major crossing of the River Derwent.
- 3.2.6 There is only one historical text, which refers to the fort at Papcastle. The name of the fort is recorded in the Ravenna Cosmology of the 7<sup>th</sup> century, where it appears as *Derventione* (R&C122), between the compound entry for *Maglona* (Old Carlisle, Cumbria) and the entry for *Bravoniacum* (Kirkby Thore, Cumbria). Epigraphic evidence from the site is sparse (only four inscriptions on stone are listed in the *RIB*), and neither confirms nor refutes the identification of *Derventio* with Papcastle.
- 3.2.7 Limited excavations at various stages throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century revealed at least two distinct phases of fort building. The earliest fort was found to date to the mid 2<sup>nd</sup> century, and was replaced in the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century by a fort constructed on a slightly different alignment. The extensive alterations were probably associated with the general reorganisation of the frontier district under Lucius Septimius Severus (193-211 AD). Occupation of the forts would appear to be continuous, running from the Flavian period through to the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> century (Reeves 2002). The majority of the stone from the fort must have been removed when the fort fell out of use. It is thought that much of the stone went into the construction of Cockermouth castle, where at least three stone inscriptions relating to the fort have been found (Birley 1963).
- 3.2.8 The fort and extramural settlement has been described and discussed by many antiquarian authorities since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, including Camden (1586, 1587, 1590 and 1594) who, in his early editions of *Britannia*, noted “the carcase of an ancient fort whose Roman antiquity is attested by not a few monuments”. Specific records of finds at Papcastle begin with Alexander Gordon and William Stukely who visited the fort and dedicated a page to the fort in his book *Iter Boreale* in 1725. The next account comes from John Horsley in 1732, and later in a letter between Thomas Routh (1717-

1748) to Roger Gale, which was copied in Hutchinson's survey of Cumberland between 1794-7 (Hutchinson 1794). Brief descriptions were made by all of Westmoreland's noted antiquarians such as Nicolson and Burn (1777), Hodgson (1840) and Whellan (1860).

- 3.2.9 William Stukely, writing in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, observed the layout of the fort and noted that the fort occupied the top of a hill, provides the earliest detailed record of Papcastle. The extramural settlement extended to an area of the village called The Burroughs. Stukely mentions that "*the name of Boroughs includes both closes where the old city stood; for they find stones and slates with iron pins in them, coins, and all other matters of antiquity, upon the whole spot below the castrum, towards the waterside*", which is presumably the River Derwent. Writing in 1860, Whellan, echoes Stukely and comments, "*that the traces of a Roman station or castrum lie on the summit of the hill at Papcastle*" (Whellan 1860).
- 3.2.10 The fort and extramural settlement at Papcastle is well served by Roman roads. The road from Carlisle to Papcastle is well documented (Road 75, Margary 1973), from where it runs through the forts at Old Carlisle (Maglona) and Blennerhasset. The modern A592 road follows the original Roman road. From earlier observations it seems fairly clear that the main road 75, continued beyond Papcastle to the south-west (site 3). The name Streetgate appears at a farm 1 mile north of Lamplugh, on the north-west side of the present main road leading to Egremont and perhaps eventually to Ravenglass, where there was another fort, but much of the route still needs investigation. There is another possible road from Papcastle south-east into the Lake District (Road 753, Margary 1973). The road east to Maryport (*Aluna*) is equally well documented (Road 751, Margary 1973), the route heads through Dovenby, from where it joins the present A594 road from Cockermouth to Maryport.
- 3.2.11 As well as the Roman Fort of Derventio and associated *vicus* (site 2), further Roman finds in close proximity to the development site have been located in the form of a Roman Well (site 1) and various Roman finds (site 4) as well as a winged figurine (site 10) and a denarius of Marcus Aurelius (site 9). These all attest to a high possibility for Roman evidence from within the development site.
- 3.2.12 **Medieval:** the fact that the Roman Fort at Papcastle has yielded 4<sup>th</sup> century pottery might raise the question that the fort was not abandoned entirely when the Roman army left Britain for the last time. In any case, the late occupation at Papcastle need not have been specifically military and we cannot exclude the possibility that here, as elsewhere, a paramilitary or purely civilian population maintained itself for some years after the withdrawal of the regular garrison. There is no clear evidence to show how long the site remained occupied. However, continued occupation seems almost certain, in view of the early name for the settlement, which first appeared in 1260 as *Pabecastr*, a compound of Old Scandinavian and Old English, meaning 'the Roman fort inhabited by a hermit'.
- 3.2.13 After the Normans arrived in Cumbria, the area around Papcastle was owned by Waldeof, Lord of Allerdale (Nicolson and Burn 1777), who later constructed the present castle at Cockermouth with masonry removed from the fort at Papcastle. It is

possible that part of the defensive structure of the fort was still standing, giving Waldeof a ready made, easily defendable seat. It is noteworthy that the Normans chose Papcastle, only moving to construct a castle in Cockermouth, a more easily defended natural site, later, when cross-border raids from Scotland became more frequent.

- 3.2.14 The archaeological evidence for occupation in the medieval period is extremely limited, although there was certainly settlement in the area at this time. Excavations at Papcastle House (Giecco 2004) have demonstrated that the land in that area of Papcastle showed evidence of a large timber building and a probable retting pond for the processing of flax. Both of the features were tentatively dated to the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (*ibid*).
- 3.2.15 During the 13<sup>th</sup> century, the Dominicans of Carlisle founded a leper hospital at Papcastle. There are fields called St Leonards, and Spital-ing, both east of the village, which refer to a medieval origin. Papcastle House (site 14) was built during the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century and a probable medieval trackway, known as Friar's Walk (site 5), exists close to the site, all attesting to strong evidence for medieval activity in the vicinity of the development site. A drain (site 8) within close proximity to the development site could date to the same period, as could a further earthwork system visible as a cropmark to the north of the site, though this could have been of prehistoric origin (site 7).
- 3.2.16 ***Post-Medieval and Modern:*** during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries there was enough capital available in Cumbria for the rebuilding of town, villages and farmsteads in stone (Rollinson 1967), which may explain the lack of surviving examples of domestic architecture dating from before the 17<sup>th</sup> century in Papcastle. Enclosure was required before most improvements could be put into effect, and Papcastle was covered by an Enclosure Act in 1838.
- 3.2.17 Cartographic sources illustrate the development of Papcastle throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, reflecting the limited expansion of the village suggesting that the settlement stayed fairly static with regards to development and population stability. Various new buildings of the period, to replace the earlier timber structures, do survive within 0.5 km of the development site and are listed buildings (sites 11- 13). Any development on-site may have a visual impact on these buildings.

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## 4. ASSESSMENT RESULTS

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The assessment results are based on primary documents, most notably maps, and on the secondary sources used in *Section 3.2*. The results are presented according to the archive from which they were consulted. There are 14 HER records and listed buildings for the study area around the site, and extra information was gathered from the immediate vicinity, defined as a 0.5 km radius centred on the site. A full list of the sites identified by the assessment is given in the Gazetteer in *Appendix 1*, and illustrated in Figure 2.

### 4.2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

- 4.2.1 **HER:** there were 14 HER records within the study area, which is defined as a 0.5 km radius around the site (Figure 2). Six are of Roman origin, two of medieval date and three relate to the post medieval period (listed buildings). Three further sites are of unknown date. Full details are included in *Appendix 1*, and the sites' locations are shown in Figure 2.
- 4.2.2 **Listed Buildings:** the listed building records show 15 buildings within a 1km radius of the site. Only those closest to the development site, and therefore of more concern visibly to any development on-site have been included. All the buildings relate to the post medieval expansion of Papcastle. A full description can be found in *Appendix 1*.

### 4.3 CUMBRIA RECORD OFFICE (CARLISLE)

- 4.3.1 The Carlisle Record Office in Cumbria (CROC) was consulted to collate maps for regression analysis of the study area. Information from primary and secondary sources, including archaeological or historical journals, has been incorporated into the historic background (*Section 3.2*).

### 4.4 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 4.4.1 As part of the documentary search at the Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle (CROC), an in-depth scan of the early maps for Papcastle was undertaken. A cartographic date range of between 1829 and 1924 was obtained.
- 4.4.2 **Tithe Apportionment Map for Papcastle, 1829 (CROC):** the first available map is the Tithe Apportionment map of 1829 (Figure 4) which shows the proposed development area as located to the west of a trackway leading into Papcastle, well within the boundaries of field no. '126'. The location of a 'Pinfold' to the south of the site (a place for confining stray or impounded cattle, horses, etc) suggests that this area of Papcastle formed the agricultural hinterland for the medieval and post-medieval settlement.
- 4.4.3 **Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1863 – First Edition 25" to 1 mile (Figure 5):** the First Edition Ordnance Survey map is the earliest to show the settlement of Papcastle



in detail. The development remains unchanged since the publication of the Tithe Map of 1829.

4.4.4 ***Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1899 – Second Edition 25” to 1 mile (Figure 6):*** the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the trackway, depicted on the Tithe Map of 1829, as a more established roadway. The field boundaries to the south and south-west of the development site appear unchanged, although a small subdivided field system running to the west in 1829, appears to have been extended across the back of the houses of Papcastle. In addition, houses at ‘*Belle Vue*’ have been established, to the north of the site, perhaps representing the growth of Cockermouth, and the move from village to town during the later 1800s.

4.4.5 ***Ordnance Survey Map Cumbria 1924 – Third Edition 25” to 1 mile (Figure 7):*** the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map is largely similar to the 1899 edition (Figure 6). The Pinfold, first seen on the Tithe Map of 1829, and still in existence by 1899, appears to have been demolished by 1924. In addition, sewage tanks have been added to the north of the development site, within the same field as the development site.

## **4.5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

4.5.1 Aerial photographs pertaining to the study area were taken in the 1950’s by JK St Joseph, which showed walls on three sides of the fort, the possible guard chambers of the west gate of the fort and a road leading from the east gate. None revealed any features of archaeological interest within the current development site itself.

## **4.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

4.6.1 There have been several archaeological investigations within close proximity to the development area, predominantly based upon the Roman fort and vicus located to the west of the development site.

4.6.2 Excavations in 1912 on the site of Derventio Roman Fort, uncovered parts of the north and east ramparts of the later fort. Further trial trenching located the east gate, which consisted of a partially blocked double gateway paved with a concrete of lime and gravel laid on larger stones. Additionally the north-east corner of the early fort was located, and was observed to have been constructed from good ashlar and lime masonry (Collingwood 1912).

4.6.3 Later discoveries associated with the second fort included a layer of blackened wheat, located outside the east gate during the excavation of a new gas main in 1923 (Birley 1963). Roman coins, pottery, and large stone slabs, 5.5 ft by 1.5 ft, dug at a depth of 6 ft were discovered just outside the south-east corner of the fort at The Mount (ibid).

4.6.4 Excavations carried out by Dorothy Charlesworth in 1961-2 revealed parts of the barrack blocks and Commandant’s quarters, with evidence for both stone and timber buildings. Although no floor levels remained in the barrack blocks numerous items of corroded bronze, some identifiable as scale armour were identified (Charlesworth

1965). Other finds included a small bronze statuette, a bronze fibula, and scraps of tent and shoe leather (ibid).

- 4.6.5 There was no further work until 1984, when an excavation in advance of a house building scheme (NY 110 315) revealed a road running south from the south gate of the fort, which had been repaired on several occasions. To the east of the road was a foundation for a large building, set on a rectangular platform of dumped clay. Below this cap of clay were waterlogged deposits yielding industrial remains and timber drains and above it traces of several phases of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century stone structures which could have been a temple (Oliver 1984). During the excavation a small bronze statuette of Marsyas was uncovered. Marsyas was a satyr who challenged Apollo, the god of music, to a music competition, promising that if he lost, he would submit himself to be bound and flayed alive. He lost, and the statuette shows him bound, awaiting his fate (Shotter 1996). This suggests that the possible temple may have been dedicated to Apollo. Excavations were undertaken in 1985 by Lancaster University Archaeology Unit (LUAU) on the vicus associated with the fort, in the area known as 'The Borroughs'. Vici were common features to arise from a Roman Fort. They were civilian settlements, established organically from trade with soldiers, rather than Roman-enforced settlements like the forts themselves. They were inhabited by a mix of people tempted from pre-existing local communities, by wealth and wares from the soldiers, and were able to sell shoes, clothes, food, beer and other such necessities to the troops. The extent of the vicus is not yet known.
- 4.6.6 Prior to the construction of the Papcastle bypass in 1989, Cumbria County Council (CCC) undertook an excavation of features identified in an earlier geophysical survey. A small ditch was excavated along its entirety, revealing both modern and Roman ceramics. Several iron nails and regularly spaced pits along the ditch showed that it was revetted with timber. The ditch may be an early field boundary (CCC 1989).
- 4.6.7 In 1998, Channel 4's Archaeological programme Time Team, carried out trial trenching and geophysical surveys. Two trenches in the garden of a private house (Derwent Lodge) revealed remains of two Roman strip houses and the foundations of a possible monumental structure. Further trenching and survey in the field called Sibby Brows revealed a more extensive area of the vicus than previously recorded. The fort defences were also examined (published in Time Team 1999 and summarised in Britannia Vol 31, 2000).
- 4.6.8 More recently excavations were undertaken by North Pennines Heritage Trust in 2002 (later to become the present North Pennines Archaeology Ltd) on land adjacent to Derventio House. In total three evaluation trenches were excavated which showed that evidence for several Roman features were present. These were interpreted as a possible terracing deposit to level of the slope of the ground surface (Reeves 2002).
- 4.6.9 As a direct result of the findings from the evaluation at Derventio House, further work was carried out in March 2004 by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL). The excavation revealed significant Roman deposits relating to the Roman fort, namely the terracing which was noted in the 2002 evaluation. It showed that the terracing had been placed in the 4<sup>th</sup> century when the fort was extensively remodelled, removing most of

the evidence relating to the earlier phases of fort. The main feature of this later fort was a chalet type barrack building from a minor east/west road. This building was partially demolished and a later Roman part-timber building was constructed on the foundations of the earlier building (Giecco 2004).

- 4.6.10 Further works were undertaken by NPAL in 2004, when planning permission was sought for a development on land to the rear of Papcastle House. Despite evidence of terracing in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a series of substantial postholes were identified, which had the potential of forming the corner of a building (Giecco and Compton 2004). Further excavations in 2005 revealed more timber buildings and a probable medieval retting pond for the processing of flax (Giecco and Crompton 2005).

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## 5. THE WATCHING BRIEF

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 Summary results of the watching brief are presented below. The context list is reproduced in Appendix 2, with Figure 8 showing the locations of the excavations observed during the watching brief.

5.1.2 The programme of works involved the construction of a new house extension on the south facing gable end of the property, involving the excavation of three small trenches to upgrade and replace existing utilities. The works commenced on the southern side of house, next to a concrete plinth for a garage, which had been demolished earlier in the week, before moving to the rear of the property.

### 5.2 EXCAVATION TRENCH 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 was located immediately south of the demolished garage and was approximately 7m long by 0.80m deep and up to 1.2m wide (see Figure 8; Plates 1 and 2). It was clearly evident that the ground had been severely disturbed by the construction of Craiginvar and the previous garage extension. Also a number of live services (gas and water pipes) were evident within the middle of the trench.



*Plate 1: Hand excavation of Trench 1, note yellow gas pipe below tarmac surface*

5.2.2 The character of the natural substrate *100* varied considerably. It appeared to have been deposited in broad undulating bands varying in colour between deep-red, mid greyish-brown and orangey-brown, generally comprising sterile gritty clayey sand with c20-30% small to medium sub-rounded to angular stones. The natural was observed at a maximum depth of 0.60m-0.80m bgl (below ground level).

5.2.3 Overlaying the natural was 0.42m of redeposited natural *101*, mixed with numerous fragments of red brick and other building materials, which presumably relates to the construction of the house or the garage extension. Up to 0.12m of modern tarmac *102*, made up the remaining depth of the trench. There were no finds retrieved or archaeological features noted in this trench.



*Plate 2: Trench 1, note services on the right hand side of the photograph*



*Plate 3: Trench 1, showing disturbed made ground*

## **5.3 EXCAVATION TRENCH 2**

- 5.3.1 Trench 2 was located in front of the small utility extension, which butts onto the southern facing wall of the house (see Figure 8: Plates 4 and 5). The trench measured 1m long by 0.80m wide and up to 0.67m deep. Within this trench an existing ceramic drain was exposed which runs towards the main manhole inspection chamber (see Plate 5). The natural substrate was not exposed within this trench, as the pipe was located relatively near the surface. There were no finds retrieved or archaeological features noted in this trench.



*Plate 4: Trench 2, note shallow depth of the trench and the existing ceramic drain, facing north-east*



*Plate 5: Trench 2, facing north-west*

## **5.4 EXCAVATION TRENCH 3**

5.4.1 Trench 3 was located adjacent to the northwest-facing wall of the building. The trench was approximately 5m long by 0.80m wide and its maximum depth was 0.35m below ground level. No archaeological features or deposits were observed within the trench, as the levels for the new drain were high in order to create flow within the drainage system. There were no finds retrieved or archaeological features noted in this trench (see Figure 8).

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## 6. CONCLUSIONS

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### 6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 6.1.1 The potential for prehistoric archaeology is fairly low. Though there was almost certainly prehistoric activity in the area, any surviving evidence of the era will most likely be in the form of isolated findspots.
- 6.1.2 The potential for Romano-British archaeology within the development area is high, particularly in view of the known and excavated remains of the Roman fort and extra-mural settlement which lies less than 50m to the west of the development site. Roman roads associated with the fort may extend to the development site. These sites are likely to have expanded beyond the boundaries identified, as the precise extent of the *vicus* is still not known, creating the potential for outlying features associated with the civilian settlement, which is known to exist around the main entrances into the fort. The number of stray finds in the vicinity of the development site further enhances this potential.
- 6.1.3 The potential for medieval archaeology is low. Evidence for occupation and industrial works during the later medieval period was demonstrated during an excavation carried out by NPAL in 2005, indicating that in one area of Papcastle, people were living and working, possibly in the remains of the fort or extra-mural settlement. The development site itself appears to have formed a part of the agricultural hinterland, serving the medieval settlement, so finds of this period are unlikely.
- 6.1.4 The potential for post-medieval archaeology is low; the centre of the village lies to the south-west, and the development area appears to have been an enclosure field, which had been under pasture for some time prior to modern housing being constructed on-site. On the evidence presented above, there is high potential for the survival of archaeological deposits on the site; particularly in the form of sub surface remains of the Romano-British period, due to the Roman fort of Derventio and associated *vicus* lying less than 50m to the west. This information helped to inform the watching brief stage of likely encounters.

### 6.2 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

- 6.2.1 Despite the high potential for subsurface Roman remains, no Roman features or deposits were observed during the groundworks. Therefore it may be concluded that any remains relating to the Roman occupation of Papcastle were either destroyed by later activities namely the construction of Craiginvar and or by the later garage block. In addition, no finds of archaeological note of any period were encountered during the watching brief.
- 6.2.2 No further archaeological intervention is required relating to this development, although the high potential for archaeological deposits in the area, may mean that mitigation works will be required on any further development in the vicinity.

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## APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site	HER No.	Site Type	Site Name	Period	NGR (NY)
1	870	Well	Derwent lodge well	Roman	11150 31250
2	872	Roman fort and vicus	The roman fort of Derventio (scheduled monument)	Roman	10960 31250
3	1036	Road	Papcastle Road	Roman	07480 30350
4	6377	Finds	Roman finds, Lindenside	Roman	11000 31400
5	10917	Trackway	Friars Walk medieval trackway	Medieval	10700 31200
6	13555	Earthwork	Bellevue field system	Prehistoric/ medieval	11300 31300
7	13556	Earthworks	Unclassified earthworks	unknown	11300 31800
8	17642	Drain	Drain at Sunnyside	unknown	11480 31393
9	18948	Findspot	Denarius of M. Aurelius	Roman	11200 31380
10	19503	Findspot	Winged Figurine Find	Roman	10600 31700
11	23144	Listed Building	Rosebank House	18th century	11007 31421
12	23145	Listed Building	Rose Hill and the Cottage	18th century	11029 31423
13	23146	Listed Building	Lindenside Cottage	19th century	10994 31395
14	40835	Building	Papcastle House	Medieval	10827 31375

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## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

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Context	Trench	Type	Description
100	1	Deposit	Natural Substrate
101	1	Layer	Made Ground
102	1	Layer	Tarmac

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## APPENDIX 3: FIGURES

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