NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Project Design and Client Reports No. CP/573/07

RAPID ARCHAEOLOGICAL
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT
AND WATCHING BRIEF
AT ROSEMOUNT COTTAGE,
BURGH BY SANDS,
CARLISLE,
CUMBRIA

FOR

JOHNSTON AND WRIGHT

NGR NY 32665 59165

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Johnston and Wright to undertake a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment and watching brief, in advance of the erection of an extension at Rosemount Cottage, Burgh by Sands (NGR NY 32665 59165). The study area lies within a landscape of high significance, within a designated conservation area and also within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site.

The rapid 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 Historic Environment Record (HER) of Cumbria County Council based in Kendal. In addition, a number of published sources were consulted to provide background information, including the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.

The archaeological watching brief was carried out at Rosemount Cottage over a period of two consecutive days between 15th and 16th of October 2007. During this time all intrusive groundwork involved in the construction of two small extensions to the northwest and southwest of the property was observed.

The earliest feature identified during the watching brief was a probable Roman ditch. The location and dimensions of this ditch suggest that this feature was the defensive ditch associated with Hadrian's Wall. A Roman shoe was recovered from the primary fill of this feature. This consisted of the outer sole unit, inner sole, two fragments of upper, the heal, and a well-preserved heel stiffener of a left shoe. A Roman construction block, of unknown purpose, was also recovered from Trench 1, and has remained with the client.

Organic remains from the primary ditch fill were sampled and suggest that this was an open feature, probably located close cultivated land, and/or woodland margins, in the Roman period. The environmental evidence, supported the interpretation that this was the Roman defensive ditch associated with Hadrian's Wall.

A wall and cobble surface were also identified, and were dated to the post-medieval period on the basis of historic Ordnance Survey maps. All other finds recovered were post-medieval in date, with the exception of a residual sherd of medieval pottery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Johnston and Wright Architects for commissioning the project. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Jo Mackintosh of the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER), Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist, Cumbria County Council, and all the staff at the Cumbria County Record Office in Carlisle for their help during this project. Thanks are also due to Mike Collins Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage.

The rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken by Fiona Wooler and the archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Kevin Mounsey. The report was written by Kevin Mounsey, Fiona Wooler and Martin Railton, with contributions from Tricia Shaw (Environmental Remains) and Martin Sowerby (Finds), and was edited by Matthew Town, NPA Senior Project Officer. The illustrations were produced by Tony Liddell. The project was managed by Martin Railton, NPA Senior Project Officer and Frank Giecco, NPA Technical Director.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In September 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Johnston and Wright to undertake a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment and a watching brief, in advance of the erection of an extension at Rosemount Cottage, Burgh by Sands (NGR NY 32665 59165).
- 1.1.2 The work followed a planning application to Carlisle City Council (Planning Application No. 1/07/0549) for a extension to a residential development at the site, which lies in an archaeologically sensitive area, located on, or adjacent to, the line of Hadrian's Wall and Vallum. As a result, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) recommended an archaeological watching brief and rapid desk based assessment be undertaken, in accordance with a CCCHES brief, and a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by CCCHES.
- 1.1.3 The rapid desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Historic Environment Record (HER) in Kendal, the Cumbria County Record Offices in Carlisle (CROC), Carlisle Library Local Studies and the archives and library held by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. The principal objective of this assessment is 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.
- 1.1.4 A watching brief was carried out at Rosemount Cottage over a period of two consecutive days between 15th and 16th of October 2007. During this time all intrusive groundwork involved in the construction of two small extensions to the northwest and southwest of the property was observed.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Johnston and Wright for a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment and archaeological monitoring of proposed ground works, in accordance with a brief prepared by CCCHES. Following acceptance of the project design, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 RAPID 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. The principal sources of information were the Historic Environment Record (HER), maps and secondary sources.
- 2.2.2 Historic Environment Record (HER): the HER in Kendal, a database of archaeological sites within the county, was accessed. This was in order to obtain information on the location of all designated sites and areas of historic interest and any other, non-designated sites within the study area, which included monuments, findspots, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. A brief record including grid reference and description was obtained for the various sites within the study area, and was examined in depth.
- 2.2.3 *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 were also consulted.
- 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 were examined.

2.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.3.1 The watching brief comprised a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during groundworks at the site, followed by the systematic examination and accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and artefacts identified.
- 2.3.2 The aims of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- To determine the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
- To sample environmental deposits if encountered;
- To produce a photographic record of all contexts in colour transparency and black and white print, including a graduated metric scale;
- To recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating;
- To prepare a report for the Client setting out the salient conclusions.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design, and in accordance with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage guidelines (1991). The paper archive will be deposited in the Tullie House Museum, Carlisle. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA 07 RCB-A.
- 2.4.2 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd supports 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. Details of the results of this project will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference number is: northpen3-36621
- 2.4.3 The finds from the project will be returned to the land owner at their request.

3 SITE LOCATION

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Burgh by Sands is a village situated on low-lying ground, which forms part of the Carlisle Plain, approximately 18m AOD. It is located approximately 7km west of the Historic City of Carlisle, and 2km south of the Solway Firth within a rural environment of primarily pastoral land use, within the Carlisle District (Figure 1).
- 3.1.2 The study area lies within a landscape of high significance, within a designated conservation area and also within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site. The village (with the exception of Amberfield) has lain within a Conservation Area since 1978 and the north half of the village lies within the Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- 3.1.3 The solid geology of the area consists of red sandstones, siltstones and mudstones of Permo-Triassic strata, concealed beneath drift deposits of boulder clay or till. This gives rise to typically low relief countryside. West of Burgh-by-Sands lie silts and clays along the margins of the Solway, with boulder clay on the higher ground.
- 3.1.4 The village of Burgh-by-Sands is situated on the remains of the Roman fort and vicus of *Aballava*, the earliest known settlement. Two earlier forts have also been identified to the south and west of the village, the earliest fort dating to the late 1st century AD. The main axis of the settlement lies between the line of Hadrian's Wall and the Vallum, and extensive remains dating to the Roman period have been found.
- 3.1.5 There are a number of small feeder streams known as Becks, such as Powburgh Beck, which traverse across the village in a northerly direction, flowing into the Solway Firth. To the north of the village of Burgh-by-Sands lies Burgh Marsh, on the south side of the Solway Firth. The closest principal river is the Eden, which flows into the mouth of the Solway 3km east of the study area (Figure 1).

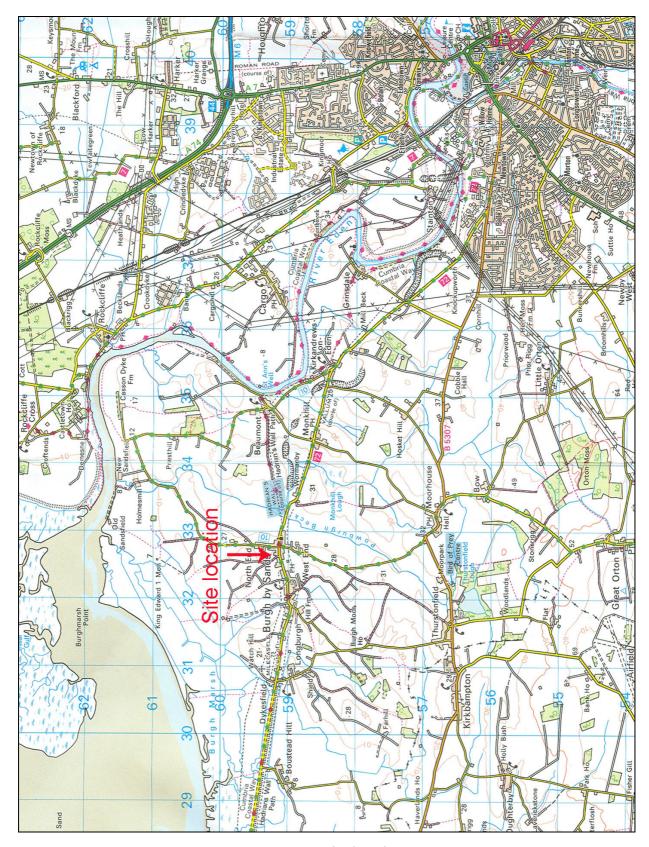


Figure 1 – Site location

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 4.1.1 As part of the documentary search at the Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle (CROC), a consultation of historical maps for the Burgh by Sands area was undertaken. A cartographic date range of between 1774 and 1971 was obtained.
- 4.1.2 *Hodskinson and Donald's Map of Cumberland 1774:* the first readily available map consulted during the rapid desk-based survey was Hodskinson and Donald's Map of Cumberland (Figure 2). This map clearly shows the village of 'Burgh on the Sands' as a linear settlement, with properties either side of the main road which runs through the village east-west. The Church is shown at the crossroads of the road to Moorhouse to the south, and the road to the north of the village (what is now known as North End) is also clearly shown heading towards the Edward I Monument, Holme Mill and 'Sand Field'. The line of Hadrian's Wall is shown to the north of the village, running east-west, and labelled 'Picts Wall' (Figure 2).
- 4.1.3 *Greenwood's Map of Cumberland 1823:* Greenwood's map shows that there has been some development within the village of Burgh by Sands by this date, with the line of the canal shown to the south side of the village, and more properties located along the road to the north (Figure 3). A lane between White Row and Buckbottom Farm is shown on this map running from the main road northwards; branching off this lane heading eastwards is another lane on which Rosemount Cottage now stands. The line of Hadrian's Wall is described on this map as 'Scite of the Picts Wall'.
- Awards were produced following the Tithe Commutation Act of 1836. The maps generally have plot numbers, which are listed in the Award, and provide information such as ownership, occupier, acreage, field name, state of cultivation and tithe payable. There is a Tithe Map for the Parish of Burgh by Sands dating to 1843, however, not all the properties in the village appear to have been subject to paying a Tithe, consequently many of the buildings are not completely shown, have no plot numbers and therefore provide no information about the description of the property or who was living there. Figure 4 shows an extract of this map centred on the location of Rosemount Cottage. The roads to North End and Moorhouse are clearly shown to the left of the church, and the lane between White Row and Buckbottom Farm, as well as the lane on which Rosemount Cottage stands are also shown. The line of the canal is shown as in blue to the south of the main road through the village (Figure 4).
- 4.1.5 *First Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1865 (6" to 1 mile scale):* this small-scale map shows the whole village of Burgh by Sands along with the location of many features such as the conjectured line of Hadrian's Wall, here described as 'Roman Wall', running east-west to the north of the main road through the village, just to the south of Rosemount Cottage (Figure 5). The Roman fort is named 'Cabrosentum' with the site marked as being in the vicinity of St Michael's Church. The line of the Vallum (the ditch to the south of Hadrian's Wall) is shown as being to the south of the church, running westwards towards the north side of Dykesfield (Figure 5). The railway line, which followed the same route as the canal, also runs east-west to the south of the

- village with the station being located at West End. The present buildings around and including Rosemount Cottage appear to have been constructed by this date, although no structures are shown to the north of the back lane.
- 4.1.6 *First Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1865 (25" to 1 mile scale):* this larger scale map shows the buildings in the vicinity of Rosemount Cottage, around the church and towards North End in greater detail. The conjectured line of Hadrian's Wall and the vallum is shown as dashed lines to the south of Rosemount Cottage. The suggested outline of the Roman fort of 'Cabrosentum' is shown as a playing card shape between the line of the Wall to the north, and the Vallum to the south, orientated east-west. St Michael's Church is shown located within the fort interior, to the eastern side (Figure 6).
- 4.1.7 **Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map c.1900 (25" to 1 mile scale):** by the date of publication of this map, very little appears to have changed with regard to the buildings around Rosemount Cottage. The Public Hall has been constructed to the south-east of, and additional buildings have been erected at Buckbottom Farm. A new Vicarage has been constructed to the east of the Church, with the earlier Vicarage now being labelled 'Old' (Figure 7).
- 4.1.8 Ordnance Survey Map 1957 (6" to 1 mile or 1:10,560 scale): by this date, the orientation of the Roman fort of 'Aballava' has changed to be aligned north-south across the line of Hadrian's Wall, but still with the Church within its interior. To the east of the fort, the site of a manor house (Burgh Castle) is shown just to the north of the line of Hadrian's Wall, with 'Spillblood Holme' and the site of 'Hangman Tree' to the east of that. To the north-west of the village are Rifle Ranges with the targets and distance in yards marked (Figure 8).
- 4.1.9 *Ordnance Survey Map 1971 (1:2500 scale):* this large scale map provides a clearer indication of the position of the Roman fort of 'Aballava', the line of Hadrian's Wall and the Vallum, as well as the site of the old manor house 'Burgh Castle'. Rosemount Cottage is shown just to the north of the line of Hadrian's Wall. By this date the railway line to the south of the village is described as 'dismantled' (Figure 9).

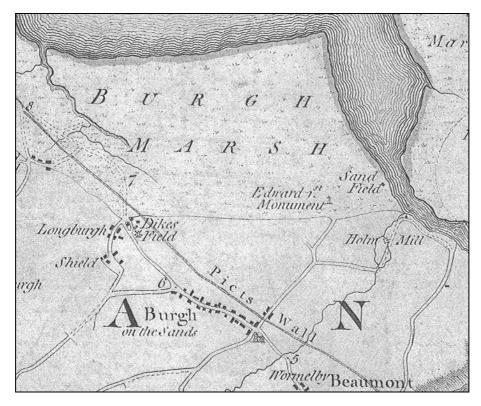


Figure 2 – Extract from Hodskinson and Donald's Map 1774

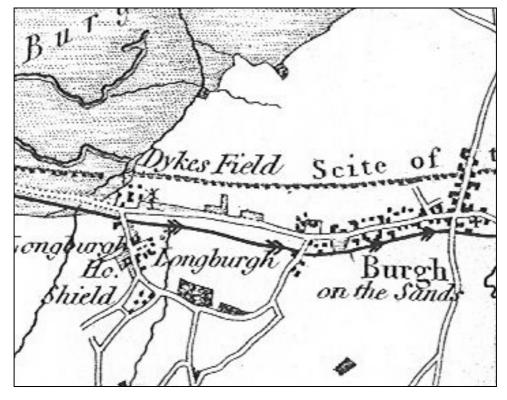


Figure 3 – Extract from Greenwood's Map 1823



Figure 4 – Extract from the Tithe Map of the Parish of Burgh by Sands 1843

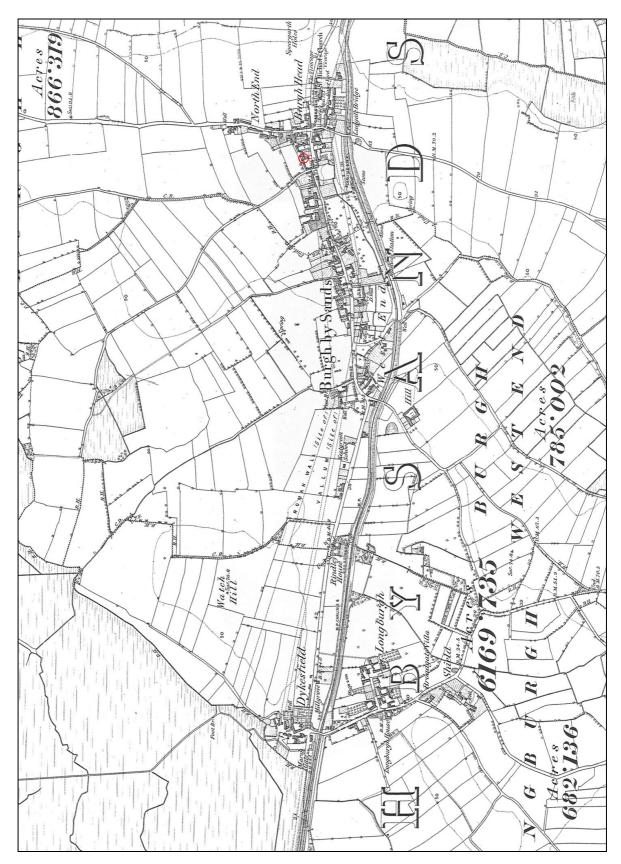


Figure 5 – First Edition Ordnance Survey map *c*.1865 (6" to 1 mile scale)

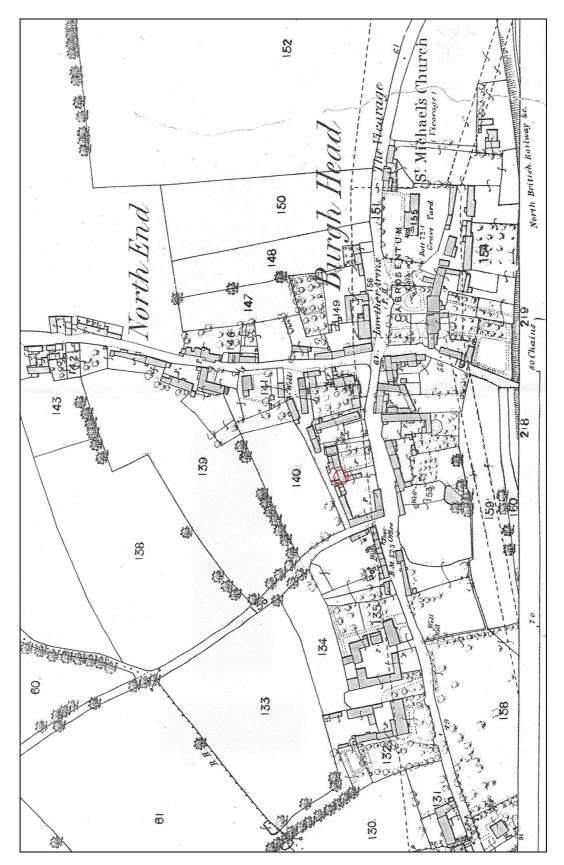


Figure 6 – First Edition Ordnance Survey map *c*.1865 (25" to 1 mile scale)

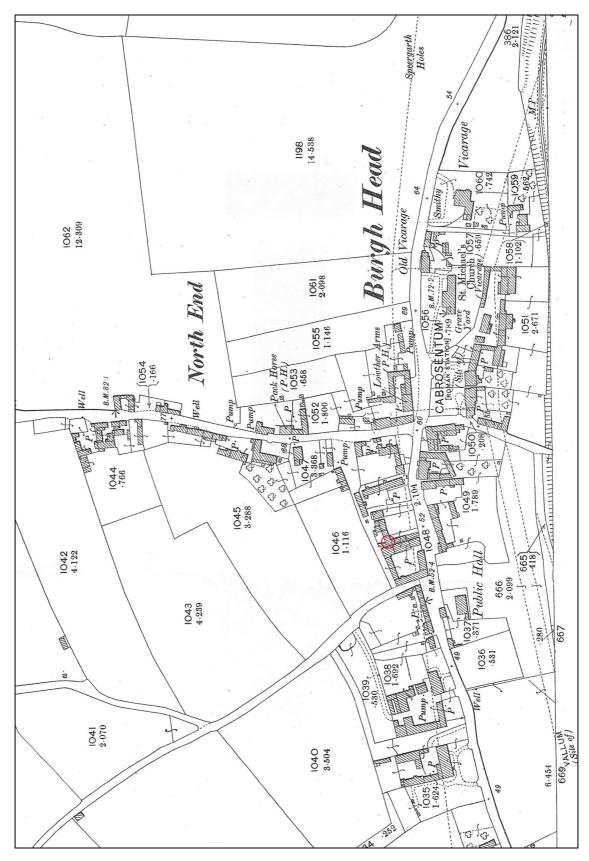


Figure 7 – Second Edition Ordnance Survey map 1900 (25" to 1 mile scale)

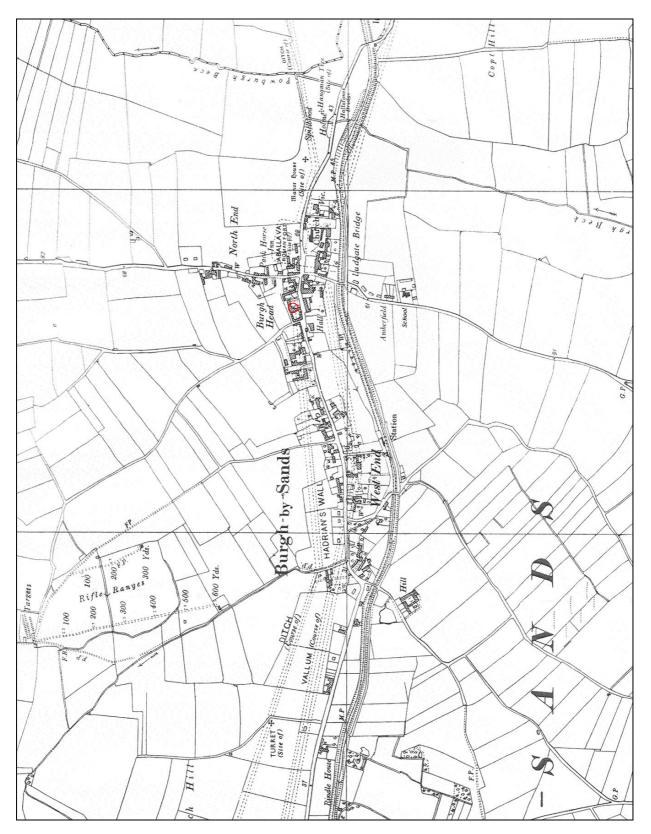


Figure 8 – Ordnance Survey map 1957 (6" to 1 mile scale)

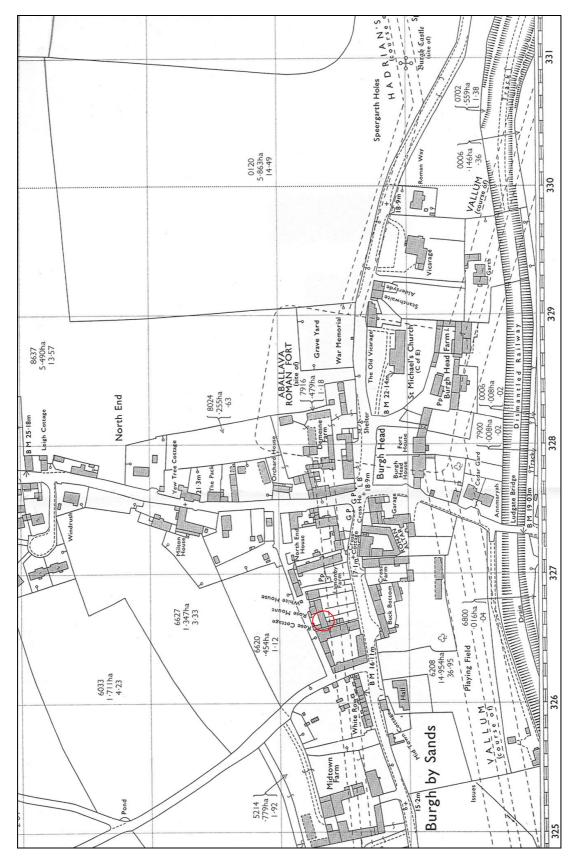


Figure 9 - Ordnance Survey map 1971 (1:2500 scale)

4.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

- 4.2.1 The earliest published excavation report consulted during the rapid desk-based survey is from 1923 following excavations of the Roman fort at Burgh by Sands in 1922. This excavation by Collingwood was prompted by the enlargement of the churchyard in a field to the north side of the road when foundation trenches for the boundary wall revealed walls (Figure 9 shows the graveyard on the north side of the road). During the 1922 excavations it was determined that the fort lay astride Hadrian's Wall, similar to Chesters, and the main east gateway and ramparts were positively identified.
- 4.2.2 In 1950 excavations were undertaken on the site of the old manor house at Burgh by Sands, located to the east of St Michael's Church, on the north side of the main road (Figure 9 shows the location marked as Burgh Castle). The excavations revealed the foundations of a 13th century hall house with a rare example of a circular tower on the north-west corner possibly constructed on the site of an earlier wooden moated grange, all of which overlay the north ditch of Hadrian's Wall (Figures 10 and 11). The circular tower discovered at Burgh by Sands is rare for Cumbria, with only two other examples at Cockermouth and Egremont².
- 4.2.3 In 1986 an excavation was undertaken by the Central Excavation Unit on the presumed location of Turret 72a to the west of Burgh by Sands (north of Rindle House). Two trenches were excavated, neither of which located Turret 72a however one of the trenches did reveal some interesting evidence about the construction of the earlier turf wall, which had been laid on a boulder foundation 19ft wide, whereas the second trench showed that the turf wall had been constructed in that area directly on the subsoil³.
- 4.2.4 In 1989 limited excavations examined the east wall and part of the north wall of Milecastle 72 in the access track west of Fulwood House, located to the west of Rosemount Cottage. This work confirmed features identified in 1960 such as the position of the west wall. The Milecastle had originally been constructed in turf and timber, as might be expected in the Turf Wall section of Hadrian's Wall, however, interestingly, the turf ramparts were laid on a foundations of cobbles, similar to the section of Turf Wall observed in one of the trenches near Turret 72a in 1986⁴ (see Section 3.3.3 above).
- 4.2.5 Small-scale excavations by Carlisle Archaeological Unit in 1992 were undertaken within the area of the Burgh II fort in advance of a new house on the site of three derelict cottages east of Demesne Farm (to the east of Rosemount Cottage and immediately north of the church See Figure 9). This work identified the infilled ditch of Hadrian's Wall with a 4m wide causeway, which confirmed the projected line of the Wall⁵.
- 4.2.6 In 1993, Lancaster University Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation at Ludgate Hill, Amberfield, Burgh-by-Sands, to the south-east of

¹ Collingwood, R.G, 1923

² Hogg, R, 1954

³ Austen, P, 1988, Pages 18-19

⁴ Bidwell, P (Ed), 1999, Page 179

⁵ *Ibid*, Page 178

Rosemount Cottage. This revealed the presence of potential cobble yard surfaces, timber constructed buildings belonging to the vicus adjacent to the fort of Aballava. The finds included quern fragments, Samian ware and mortaria and jewellery dating to the 2nd century⁶

- 4.2.7 In July 1994 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in a field to the west of Milton House, North End, prior to a small housing development. The evaluation was located at the north end of Field No.6627 (see Figure 9) on a south-facing slope. Possible archaeological features revealed during the fieldwork included, ditched, post holes and pits. Finds retrieved, mainly from Trench E to the south-east of the site, included fragments of Roman pottery of 3rd century date. The site was interpreted as a native settlement or farmstead (HER Report Ref: 1/94/102).
- 4.2.8 During 1999, Carlisle Archaeological Unit undertook a series of investigations between the two forts at Burgh-by-Sands, at Amberfield, prior to a small housing development. The findings resolved that there had been intense occupation throughout the field adjacent to Amberfield (NY 3278 5895) with evidence of metalled surfaces, linear boundaries, possible timber buildings, a hearth and possible well⁷.
- 4.2.9 Oxford Archaeology North undertook an archaeological evaluation in 2002 at Burgh East, along the proposed alignment of the Hadrian's Wall National trail. Ten trenches were excavated to the east of the Roman fort between Grid References NY3291 5914 and 3308 5908. The fieldwork revealed the *in-situ* presence of extensive Roman deposits suggesting an extramural settlement. A large number of hearths were exposed suggesting a possible 'industrial quarter' (HER Report Ref: 1/02/398).
- 4.2.10 Prior to the erection of a detached house at Tower Court, to the west of Rosemount Cottage and behind Burgh House and Fulwood House, an archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Jan Walker in June 2003. Service trenches were excavated to a depth of *c*.1.10m in depth, whilst the foundation trenches were excavated to a depth of between 1.00 and 1.15m in depth. Apart from the remains of 19th century farm buildings, no other archaeological features were observed (HER Report Ref: 1/03/1111).
- 4.2.11 During February 2002, Headland Archaeology carried out at excavation at Amberfield, approximately 200 metres to the south of Hadrian's Wall and the Burgh II fort. The fieldwork revealed evidence for a considerable settlement of later 2nd-3rd century date, believed to be part of the *vicus*, or civilian settlement, relating to the Burgh II fort to the north⁸.
- 4.2.12 In December 2002, Timescape Research Services undertook a geophysical survey to the west of Burgh by Sands, to confirm the line of Hadrian's Wall and the locations of Milecastle 73 and Turret 72b. The fieldwork revealed that Hadrian's Wall was found to follow a line some 7m south of the route marked on present-day Ordnance Survey maps. The locations of Milecastle 73 and Turret 72b were also established⁹.

⁶ LUAU, 1993

⁷ Reeves, J and McCarthy, M, 1999

⁸ Masser, P and Evans, J, 2005

⁹ Biggins, A, Hall, S and Taylor, D, 2004

- 4.2.13 An archaeological evaluation at Buckbottom Farm in October 2006, located to the west and south of Rosemount Cottage, revealed in Trenches 5 9, north of the main road (therefore immediately to the west of Rosemount Cottage), features interpreted as a field system defined by what may have been narrow boundary ditches. All stratified finds uncovered from all the trenches were Roman¹⁰.
- 4.2.14 Prior to the construction of a new agricultural shed in a field immediately to the north of the farm buildings at Midtown Farm (to the west of Rosemount Cottage), a watching brief was undertaken in May 2007 during the excavation of 16 one metre by one metre holes for the vertical stanchions for the building. Each of these holes were excavated to a depth of approximately one metre, and apart from a section of horseshoe drain in one, no other archaeological features or finds were revealed¹¹.

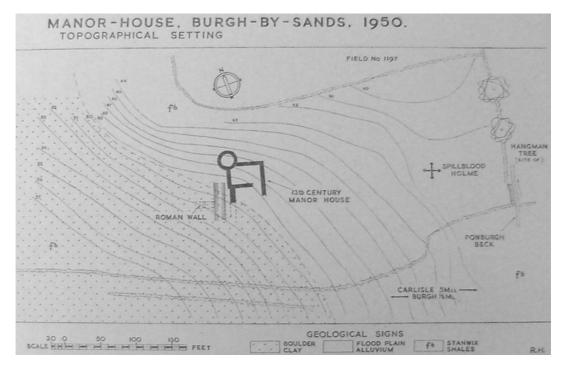


Figure 10 – Location of the Manor House at Burgh by Sands (Source: Hogg 1954)

¹⁰ Suddaby, I, 2006

¹¹ Wooler, F, 2007

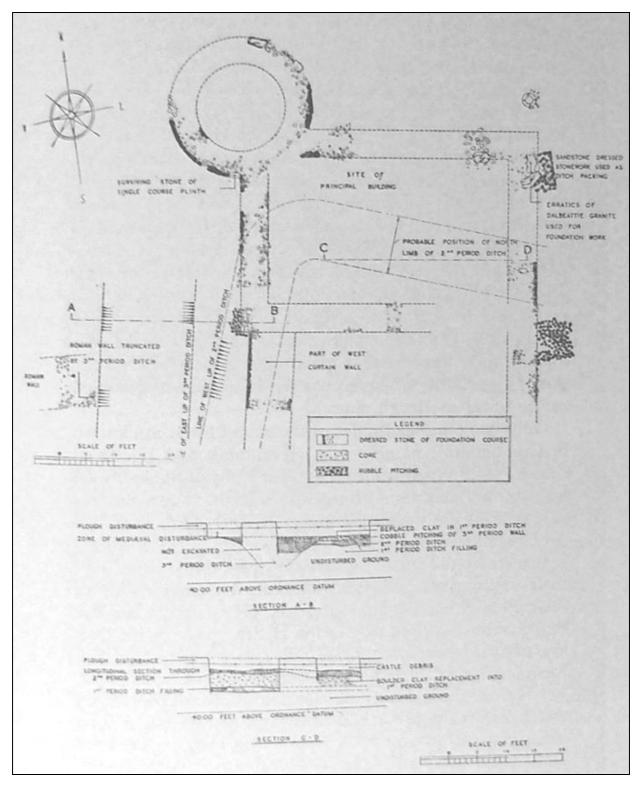


Figure 11 – Plan and sections of the structures excavated in 1950 (Source: Hogg 1954)

4.3 Publications

- 4.3.1 In his 'Perambulation of Cumberland 1687-1688', Thomas Denton refers to Burgh by Sands, or 'Brough' as he calls it, as the place where 'King Edward the first, surnamed Longshanks, in his return from his Scotch conquest, was here taken out of this world by a fitt of the grypes, upon this marsh, and his bowells were buried in this church, where there are two stones set up, the one where his head and the other where his feet lay, at 3 yards distance, he was soe exceeding tall. But his body was removed to Windsor'. He also mentions that there was, between 'Brough and the sands, a mannor-house, where one William de Sands (agentleman) dwelt' 12.
- 4.3.2 At the end of the 18th century, Hutchinson noted that there was a Roman station in the Parish of Burgh, at that date known as *Burgh Upon Sands*, apparently to distinguish it from *Burgh under Stanemoor*, Westmorland [modern Brough]. He observed the Roman wall in several places within the parish 'many feet in height, the facing stones have been wholly taken away'. Hutchinson clearly regarded the Wall as the work of Hadrian, 'neither Mr Horsley nor we could trace any remains of Hadrian's work farther than the Marsh here, and we are of the opinion, that it went no farther; from Longburgh to Drumburgh no vestige of the wall'¹³.
- 4.3.3 Writing in 1829, Parson and White note that the Roman fort at Burgh by Sands was known as *Axelodunum*. They go on to inform that at this date, the fort was referred to as the Old Castle and had visible ramparts measuring about 136 yard square¹⁴. Parson and White place the village of Burgh by Sands north of the Ship Canal and to the south of the *'great Roman wall, where there are still traces of the station of Axelodunum*, 15.
- 4.3.4 During the construction of the canal, to the south of the village, Whellan noted that blocks of stone, blackened with smoke, were dug out of the soil to the south-east of the church. He also comments on the former manor house which stood on the east side of the village; he describes it as 'the castle of Sir Hugh de Morville. The adjoining field is called "Hang-man-tree", doubtless because the lord lad his gallows here always ready for use. A neighbouring enclosure bears a designation not less ominous "Spillblood Holme" 16.
- 4.3.5 An Inventory of Cumberland in 1923 records that *Burgh Castle* was a ruin in 1539 when it was described by Leland¹⁷.
- 4.3.6 In his article 'The Manor of Burgh-by-Sands' Storey refers to the presence of gallows at Burgh, which 'existed for the despatch of thieves caught red-handed' This is presumably the gallows referred to in the place name 'Hangman Tree' to the east of the village (Figure 9). The manor house appears to have been in ruins by 1362, when an inquisition was taken after the death of Margaret de Multon and noted that the building

¹⁶ Whellan, W, 1860, Page 153

¹² Denton, T, 1687-1688 (Published 2003), Page 227

¹³ Hutchinson, W, 1794-1797, Page 503

¹⁴ Parson and White, 1829, Page 94

¹⁵ Ibid, Page 364

¹⁷ CWAAS, 1923, Page 236

¹⁸ Storey, R.L, 1954, Page 125

was worth nothing. It appears that the manor of Burgh by Sands suffered heavily from Scottish raids¹⁹.

- The old 'Burgh House' which is located to the west of Rosemount Cottage was divided 4.3.7 into two properties in the early part of the 20th century to create Burgh House and Fulwood House. According to Stoddart, in the grounds of what is now Fulwood House there is a tower which was used as a watch tower for smuggling, as the smuggling of spirits between England and Scotland was big business historically. Stoddart also goes on to note that many of the traditional buildings within the village of Burgh by Sands. and vicinity, were constructed of clay and many still survive such as those on White Row, The Old Vicarage, Leigh Cottage and a building at Lamonby Farm which has had one of its timbers dated by dendrochronology to 1615²⁰. Stoddart also refers to 'Tatie Pot Alley' which she notes was used as a short cut from the main road through the village to North End. This appears to be the lane on which Rosemount Cottage stands. Tatie Pot Alley derives its name from the fact that there was a public bake house on waste land abutting this lane, where inhabitants of the village took their bread and tatie-pots to be baked for a small charge. The bake house was demolished in the 1950s to be replaced by a telephone exchange²¹.
- 4.3.8 St Michael's Church has elements of its fabric constructed from masonry from Hadrian's Wall and the fort, and appears to be Norman (12th century) in origin. The broad tower of the church is believed to be mid-14th century, and constructed for defensive purposes, as there is no doorway to the outside and only small windows. Subsequent building phases occurred in the 18th and 19th centuries²².
- 4.3.9 Rosemount is believed to have been constructed in the mid to late 1700s²³.

¹⁹ Storey, R.L, 1954, Page 126

²⁰ Jennings, N, 2001, Page 206

²¹ Stoddart, N, 1957, Pages 4, 8 and 9

²² Salter, M, 1998, Page 32

²³ Ford, D, 2002, Page 17

5 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 A watching brief was carried out at Rosemount Cottage over a period of two consecutive days between 15th and 16th of October 2007 (Figure 12). During this time all intrusive groundwork involved in the construction of two small extensions to the northwest and southwest of the property was observed (Figure 13). Trench 1 was located to the southwest of Rosemount Cottage, and revealed a worked Roman construction block along with some post medieval finds. Trench 2 to the northwest, revealed a Roman ditch and some post medieval finds. All excavation was carried out using a mechanical digger with a toothless bucket.
- 5.1.2 Map regression, with regard to Rosemount Cottage, clearly indicates Hadrian's Wall and its northern defensive ditch running east-west through, or close to the property boundaries (Figure 9). The projected line of the monument is constantly being updated as and when new evidence is discovered.
- 5.1.3 Rosemount Cottage lies a short distance to the west of *ABALLAVA* Roman fort (Burgh II). This was situated immediately to the east of the Burgh-by-Sands crossroads and under St. Michael's Church. The fort was one of a number constructed along Hadrian's Wall and incorporated in the northern frontier system.

5.2 TRENCH 1

Trench 1 (Plate 1) was situated at the southwest corner of the property. The total length measured 10.50m and it formed three sides of a rectangular foundation with east, west and southern sides. Natural substrate was observed at a depth of 0.57m and consisted of orange, mixed sand and stone (101). This was sealed by a 0.4m-deep layer of mixed rubble (103), which in turn was sealed by a 0.12m-deep layer of sand blinding (102). Context (102) was sealed by a 0.05m-deep layer of red sandstone slabs (100) which were lifted by hand. The worked Roman construction block (Plate 2) measured 0.55m long, 0.3m wide and 0.15 deep, with a chamfered upper edge. One corner showed later reuse, possibly as a base for a door jamb. Sherds of post-medieval pottery, decorated tile, glass and metal objects were also recovered from context (103).

5.3 TRENCH **2**

5.3.1 Trench 2 (Plate 3) was situated at the north-west corner of the property. It was L-shaped and had a total length of 7.0m. Natural substrate was observed at a depth of 1.60m and consisted of orange, mixed sand and stone (201). This was cut by a 0.7m-deep ditch [208], aligned approximately east-west, of which a maximum exposed width was 2.14m (Plate 4). The whole of the northern, east-west section of Trench 2 was located within this ditch, which had a shallow curved profile and base (Figure 14). The primary fill of the ditch consisted of an 0.3m-deep organic, black, silty layer (206). From within this fill the remains of a Roman shoe was recovered. An environmental sample was taken from this context. This deposit was sealed by a secondary 0.42m-deep fill of dark brown/ black silty clay (204), which in turn was sealed by a 0.4m-deep

layer of brown, silty clay (203). On the west side of the north/south part of the trench context (203) was sealed by the foundations of a 0.4m-deep wall (202), which in turn was sealed by a 0.12m-deep layer of concrete (200). On the east side of the north/south part of the trench, context (203) was sealed by a 0.25m-deep layer of mixed gravel and rubble backfill (205) which in turn was sealed by the concrete (200). Context (205) contained a quantity of post-medieval pottery, glass and metal objects.



Plate 1: Trench 1, looking north



Plate 2: Worked Roman construction block from Trench 1

5.3.2 On the west side, and adjacent to, the wall (202) was the remains of a cobbled surface (207) (Plate 5).



Plate 3: Trench 2, north/south excavation facing south



Plate 4: East facing section of Trench 2, showing cut [208] of Roman ditch



Plate 5:Remains of wall (202) and cobbled surface (207) in Trench 2.

5.4 TRENCH **3**

Trench 3 consisted of a further L shaped excavation, for a waste pipe, adjoining Trench 2. It measured 5.8m long, in total, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.50m (Plate 6). No new contexts or finds were encountered.



Plate 6: Trench 3 (on the left), with new waste pipe installed.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The objective of the environmental analysis was to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of any ecofactual remains recovered during the watching brief, and to determine their origins.
- 6.1.2 Trench 1 was located to the southwest of the site, and revealed a worked Roman construction block along with some post-medieval finds. No environmental deposits were recovered from this trench.
- 6.1.3 Trench 2, located to the northwest of Rosemount Cottage, contained a Roman ditch and some post-medieval finds. An environmental sample was removed from the primary fill of this ditch (context 206), as the matrix seemed to be partially waterlogged. Preservation of the organic remains and bone from this sample was then expected to be reasonable, depending on the acidity of the soil. An acid soil would degrade any bone within the matrix.
- 6.1.4 The whole earth sample was processed in order to assess the environmental potential of the material recovered. This will help provide further information as to the depositional processes involved in the formation of the material. The methodology employed required that the whole earth sample be broken down and split into the various different components. This was achieved by a combination of water washing and flotation. The recovered remains were then assessed for content.
- 6.1.5 Flotation separates the organic, floating fraction of the sample from the heavier mineral and finds content of sands, silts, clays, stones, artefacts and waterlogged material. Heavy soil and sediment content measuring less than 1mm falls through the retentive mesh to settle on the bottom of the tank. Flotation produces a 'flot' and a 'residue' for examination, whilst the heavier sediment retained in the tank is discarded. The method relies purely on the variation in density of the recovered material to separate it from the soil matrix, allowing for the recovery of ecofacts and artefacts from the whole earth sample.
- 6.1.6 The retent, like the residue from wet sieving, will contain any larger items of bone, or artefacts. The flot or floating fraction will generally contain organic material such as plant matter, fine bones, cloth, leather and insect remains. A rapid scan at this stage will allow further recommendations to be made as to the potential for further study by entomologists or palaeobotanists, with a view to retrieving vital economic information from the samples. Favourable preservation conditions can lead to the retrieval of organic remains that may produce a valuable suite of information in respect of the depositional environment of the material, which may include anthropogenic activity, seasonality and climate and elements of the economy.

6.2 SAMPLE 1, CONTEXT 206

- 6.2.1 The matrix was a moderately compacted black silty soil with occasional inclusions of pebbles. The retent was made up mainly of gravel and small stones. There was an amount of charred wood and amorphous organic material, the origins of which could not be determined even through the microscope. A very small amount of magnetic material was present.
- 6.2.2 The flot, like the retent, contained an amount of amorphous organic and also woody plant parts and some charred wood. There is also what appears to be a small amount of bran suggesting some of the matrix may have faecal origins. This is though a tentative identification as there was only a small amount of the material present. No charred grain was recovered from the sample. The flot did however contain a lot of seeds of different species. They were species from several different types of habitat.
- 6.2.3 The contents of the sample are listed below in Table 1 and Table 2.

SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT NUMBER	SAMPLE SIZE (litres)	FLOT SIZE (cm ³)	RETENT SIZE (cm ³)
1	206	10	500	800

Table 1. Details of samples and contexts

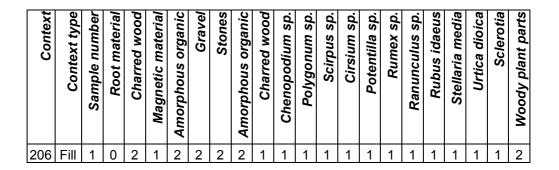


Table 2. Contents of flot and retent residues from the sample.

Key to tables: Contents assessed by scale of richness 0 to 3. 0 = not present, 1 = present, 2 = common, 3 = abundant.

6.3 DISCUSSION

6.3.1 No charred grain was recovered from the sample but there were a lot of different seed types present. None of the seed types was charred but all of them seemed to be well preserved and on the whole were complete. This suggests some type of mineralisation occurring to the seed after deposition.

- 6.3.2 The matrix of the context was very organic and contained a well preserved shoe from the Roman period. This suggests, from the good state of preservation, that the ditch was at least very moist when this material was deposited. This would explain the seed mineralisation, especially if some of the material was faecal so aiding the preservation process.
- 6.3.3 The recovery of the sclerotia, resting bodies of the soil fungus *Cenococcum geophilum*, indicates the presence of woodland. The fungus would have lived in the upper layers of the soil and is an ectomycorrhizal species, which has associations with some tree roots, particularly members of the Fagaceae, Pinaceae and Betulaceae²⁴.
- 6.3.4 The conditions in and around the ditch seem to have provided a range of habitats. These included some woodland in the vicinity from which the sclerotia were deposited. No woodland survives in the area today but it could have been present in the Roman period. The range of possible woodland species that may have been present is from initial woodland colonisers right through to climax woodland as oak woodland. It is probable though that the species in this area would be initial woodland colonisers as it is a marginal area, prone to estuarine flooding in this modern period.
- 6.3.5 The *Ranunculus* species have wide ranging ecological niches from waterlogged conditions to meadow habitats. The perennial species of *Rumex* lives in such diverse habitats as waste ground, field margins, wet ground, grassland, hedgerows, and woods and disturbed ground generally, certain species being a serious agricultural weed. The raspberry, *Rubus idaeus*, grows in woods and hedgerows, as does the common nettle *Urtica dioica* L., which also grows on wasteland on rich soils. *Stellaria media*, common chickweed, grows on arable land or waste places.
- 6.3.6 Habitats for *Polygonum* spp. also vary from damp areas to meadowlands. Various species of *Scirpus* can be found anywhere from wet, boggy places and brackish waters, to damp sites. *Chenopodium* spp. such as fat hen and good king Henry like nitrogenrich, damp soils. The *Cirsium* spp. tend to be wasteland, meadowland or field and pasture weeds as are the *Potentilla* spp²⁵.
- 6.3.7 From the above it can be seen that the habitat in the ditch either contained an amount of standing water or was waterlogged to some degree, other areas close by probably being damp pasture or meadowland. Some of the other species of drier habitats were probably introduced from the surrounding area, either blown in or washed in.
- 6.3.8 This in itself suggests the ditch was open for a time, allowing the accumulation of the seeds in the deposition layer. This is further upheld by the presence of the amorphous organic material and the woody plant parts that accumulated at the bottom of the ditch, these then becoming well preserved in the resulting anoxic conditions.

6.4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.4.1 That the ditch remained open for a period after its construction seems certain, given the seed species recovered from it. The good state of preservation of this material indicates mineralisation, possibly a combination of leaching salts from the surrounding soil

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²⁴ Fairhurst & Soothill, 1981; Hudson, 1986

²⁵ Jones et al, 2004

- aided by what seems likely to have been faecal waste deposited in the ditch. The absence of charred grain in the flot from the sample, could suggest that this ditch was not close to a focus of domestic activity.
- 6.4.2 No vertebrate remains were recovered from the site. This may be due to the lack of deposition or to the soil conditions being too acidic and so eroding the material after its deposition.
- 6.4.3 The potential for further information being gained from the examination of this material is limited, and so it is recommended that no further work be done.

7 FINDS

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The finds recovered during the watching brief were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of Frank Giecco, NPA Technical Director. The metalwork and organic artefacts were placed in stable environments and were monitored and assessed at regular intervals. A full list of finds is shown in Table 3 below:

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
U/S	Samian pottery	1	0.009	Roman
103	Ceramic tile	1	0.405	Post Medieval
103	Pottery	15	0.654	Post Medieval
103	Decorated ceramic tile	2	1.534	Post Medieval
103	Fe (Iron)	1	0.11	Post Medieval
103	Bottle glass	6	0.799	Post Medieval
205	Pottery	1	0.025	Medieval
205	Pottery	38	1.087	Post Medieval
205	Bottle glass	8	0.298	Post Medieval
205	Fe (Iron)	5	0.913	Post Medieval
205	Vessel Glass	1	0.012	Post Medieval
205	Decorated glass	1	0.039	Post Medieval
206	Leather shoe fragments			Roman

Table 3: Finds recovered during the watching brief

7.2 ROMAN POTTERY

7.2.1 A single undecorated fragment of a Roman Samian vessel was recovered during the watching brief from a disturbed unstratified context. The sherd measured 30mm by 50mm, being 7mm thick, and was typically East Gaulish is origin, recognisable as Dragendorff 38 form, which was in production from AD140-230.

7.3 MEDIEVAL POTTERY

7.3.1 A single fragment of unglazed medieval pottery was recovered from context (205). The sherd measured 45mm by 50mm, being 10mm thick, and consisted of regionally produced Northern Gritty Ware, which may be broadly dated to the twelfth to midthirteenth centuries²⁶.

7.4 POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

7.4.1 The excavation has produced a large assemblage of post-medieval pottery, which dates from the 19th to the 20th centuries. The pottery is in good condition, and consists of small to large fragments. In total, fifty-four fragments (weighing 1.766kg) were recovered from the excavation, from a total of two contexts (103) and (205). All the

²⁶ McCarthy and Brooks 1992

fragments were examined and recorded by sherd numbers and weight, in order to determine the relative proportions of vessel form and type. The information has been placed on to an Access database. No formal attempt has been made to subdivide the assemblage by fabric, although a basic survey of the types of ceramics was undertaken.

7.4.3 The post medieval pottery assemblage appeared to represent domestic activity, with no evidence for any specialist or industrial function. The majority consisting of salt glazed stonewares, industrial slipwares, salt-glazed creams wares and dark glazed earthenwares. Interestingly, a large amount of transfer printed wares were also recovered.

7.5 METAL OBJECTS

7.5.1 In total six artefacts or fragments of ironwork weighing 1.023kg, were recovered during the watching brief. The group comprises two small horseshoes from context (205). Both shoes have iron studs added to them, indicating they were used on the back hoofs to aid traction and stability. The rest of the group, and from context (103), consisted heavily corroded iron nails and hooks, which are all post-medieval/modern in origin.

7.6 LEATHERWORK

- 7.6.1 The remains of a left Roman nailed shoe were recovered from context (206). This consisted of the outer sole unit, inner sole, two fragments of upper, the heal, and a well-preserved heel stiffener.
- 7.6.2 The outer sole was 245mm long, measuring 90mm at the ball of the foot, and 60mm wide at the heal. The inner sole fragment was missing the toe end, but measured 237mm long, and 72mm wide, being 45mm wide at the heal. The left upper part measured 235mm by 77mm, and the right upper part 252mm by 64mm, with fastening latchets on each fragment. The heal fragment was 95mm wide and 50mm deep, within which was a heel stiffener, measuring 90mm wide and 42mm deep.
- 7.6.3 The principal nailing pattern could be distinguished (as recognised at Billingsgate Buildings²⁷), which is typical of Type C grouping. The shoes are heavily nailed with a closely spaced double row of peripheral nailing and two rows at the seat of the shoe. Due to the fragmentary condition of the shoes, it was not possible to ascertain a toe shapes with a degree of certainty, however they are likely to be oval. Both upper portions had five regularly spaced 15mm-long slit eyelets for fastening.
- 7.6.4 It is recognised that Roman nailed footware is a valuable dating tool, as styles changed rapidly, and these changes can often be closely dated²⁸. Large quantities of Roman shoes have been recovered from Vindolanda, and it is recommended that parallels be sought for this example, in order to aid site interpretation.
- 7.6.5 The shoe recovered was from a waterlogged context and so was quite well preserved. The method of preservation for waterlogged leather is fairly simple but quite lengthy. It relies on the water content within the cell matrix of the leather being replaced by a long

²⁸ Van Driel-Murray 2001, 191

²⁷ Rhodes 1980, 105-07

chain molecule, which virtually serves to hold out the cell walls in their original shape. It is recommended that the shoe be preserved using polyethylene glycol (PEG).



Plate 7: Roman Shoe upper showing fastening latchets

7.7 GLASS

7.7.1 In total sixteen sherds of post-medieval glass weighing 1.148kg was recovered during the watching brief. The sherds were recovered from stratified deposits (103) and (205). The majority of the assemblage consists of vessel and window glass, as well as one complete brown medicine bottle.

7.8 OTHER FINDS

7.8.1 In total three fragments of oven/fire tiles, weighing 1.939kg was recovered during the evaluation. The fragments consist of red ceramic tiles coloured with a yellowish orange slip and are decorated with a flower motif. All three tile fragments are post-medieval/modern in date and derived from context (103).

8 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.1.1 The earliest feature identified during the watching brief was a probable Roman ditch in Trench 2. A Roman shoe was recovered from the primary fill of this feature. The location and dimensions of this ditch suggest that this feature was the defensive ditch associated with Hadrian's Wall. A Roman construction block, of unknown purpose, was also recovered from Trench 1, and has remained with the client.
- 8.1.2 The wall and cobble surface identified in Trench 2 can be dated to the post-medieval period on the basis of historic Ordnance Survey maps. All other finds recovered were post-medieval in date, with the exception of a residual sherd of medieval pottery.
- 8.1.3 Organic remains form the primary ditch fill suggest that this was an open feature, probably located close cultivated land, and/or woodland margins, in the Roman period. The environmental evidence, and the find of the Roman shoe, supports the interpretation that this was the Roman defensive ditch associated with Hadrian's Wall.

8.2 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.2.1 It is recommended that the shoe fragments are dated by a leather specialist, as this would also provide valuable dating evidence for the use of the ditch. It is recommended that the shoe fragments are preserved, prior to being returned to the client.
- 8.2.2 No further work is recommended on the medieval or post-medieval finds, or the environmental sample.

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APPENDIX 1: HER SITES

SITE NAME	LOCATION	PERIOD	HER NO.	DESIGNATION	NOTES
Bath House/Temple	3329 5590	Roman	414		
Aballava Fort	3328 5591	Roman	415	Scheduled AM	
Milecastle 72	3324 5591	Roman	416	Scheduled AM	
Turret 72A	3319 5590	Roman	420	Scheduled AM	
Turret 72B	3314 5592	Roman	421	Scheduled AM	
Carved Stone	3320 5590	Roman	429		
Kiln Garth Altar Find	3327 5591	Roman	454		
Longburgh Altar	3328 5592	Roman	460		
Watch Hill	3314 5597	Unknown	3390		Cropmark
Church & Pele	3328 5591	Medieval	3769	Grade I	
Fort	3323 5582	Roman	4395	Scheduled AM	
Pottery Vessel	3320 5590	Roman	4627		
Hadrian's Wall	3221 5626	Roman	5782	Scheduled AM	
Pottery Vessel	3320 5590	Roman	6283		
Fort	3318 5588	Roman	6486		
Linear Feature	3321 5597	Unknown	6891		Cropmark
Enclosure	3314 5585	Unknown	6892		Cropmark
Hill Farm	3316 5585	Unknown	9723		Cropmark
Linear Feature	3323 5597	Unknown	9756		Cropmark
Railway	3150 5513	Post Medieval	10036		Dismantled Railway
Altar	3328 5592	Roman	15198		
Chemical Works	3320 5580	Post Medieval	16796		
Lamp	3328 5590	Roman	17964		
Pivot Stone	3322 5594	Unknown	19183		
Bronze Finger Ring	3320 5580	Roman	19317		
Silver Pendant	3320 5590	Roman	19319		
Copper alloy figurine	3320 5590	Roman	19320		
Copper alloy knife	3320 5590	Roman	19321		
Figurine	3328 5589	Early Medieval	19533		
Ring or Ferrule	3314 5591	Unknown	19617		
Demesne Farm	3327 5591	Post Medieval	40443		

APPENDIX 2: LISTED BUILDINGS

Site Name	Location	Period	SMR No.	GRADE	Notes
Cross Farm and barns	NY332559	Post Medieval	21587	II	
Burgh Head House	NY332559	Post Medieval	21588	II	
Church of St Michael	NY332559	Medieval	21589	I	
The Old Vicarage	NY332559	Post Medieval	21590	II	
Yew Tree Cottage	NY332559	Post Medieval	21591	II	
North End Cottage	NY332559	Post Medieval	21592	II	
Ludgate Bridge	NY332559	Post Medieval	21593	II	
West Green	NY331559	Post Medieval	21594	II	
West Green Bridge	NY331558	Post Medieval	21595	II	
The Hill	NY331558	Post Medieval	21596	II	
Longburgh Farm and barn	NY330558	Post Medieval	21604	II	
Leigh Cottage	NY332559	Post Medieval	27282	II	
Fauld Farm and barn	NY332559	Post Medieval	21578	II	
Burgh House and Fulwood House and former barn	NY332559	Post Medieval	21579	II	
Garden Wall	NY332559	Post Medieval	21580	II	
Tower north west of Fulwood House	NY332559	Post Medieval	21581	II	
Midtown Farmhouse	NY332559	Post Medieval	21582	II	
Rose Mount	NY332559	Post Medieval	21583	II	
Lanonby Farmhouse and barn	NY332559	Post Medieval	21584	П*	
Greyhound Inn	NY332559	Post Medieval	21585	II	
Buckbottom Farm	NY332559	Post Medieval	21586	II	

APPENDIX 3: ILLUSTRATIONS

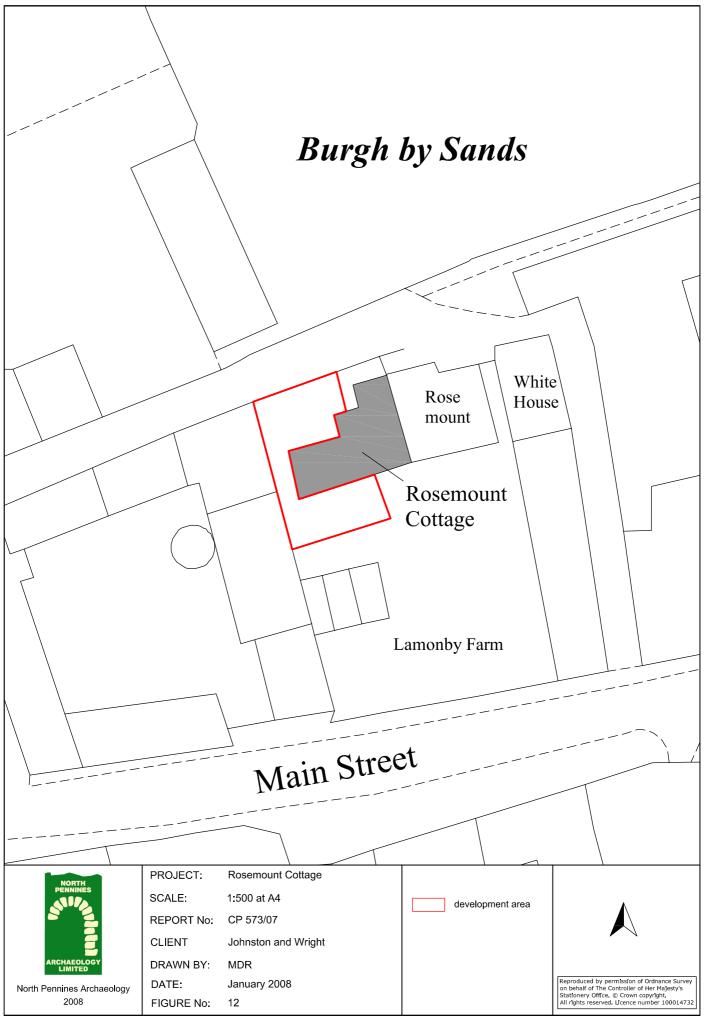


Figure 12: Location of Rosemount Cottage

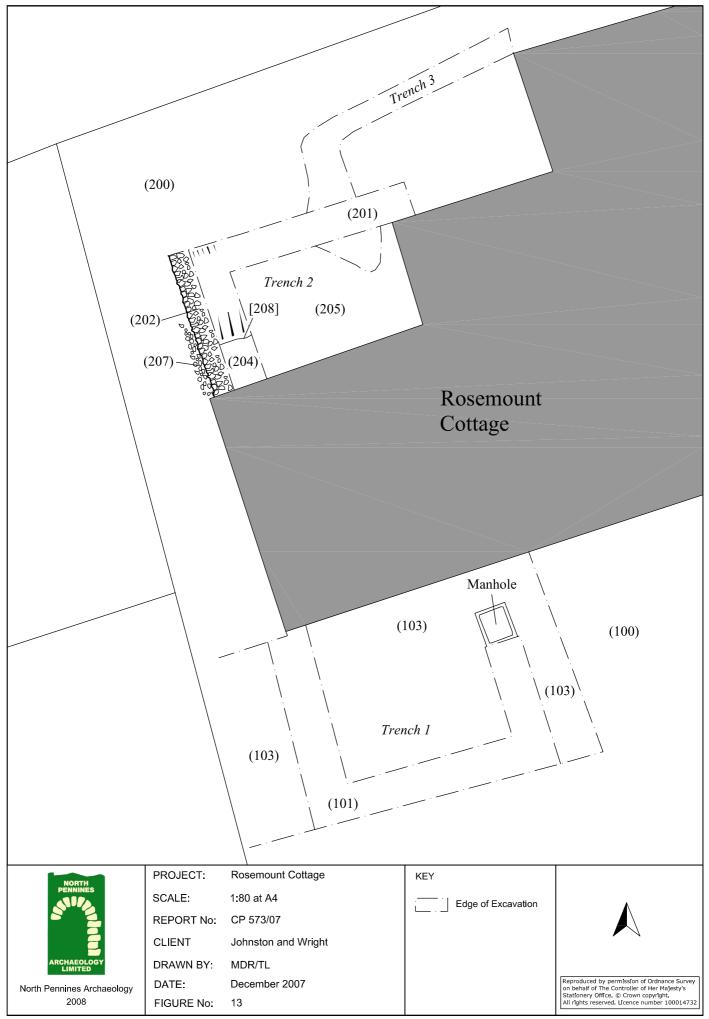


Figure 13: Location of excavated areas subject to the watching brief

Figure 14: Section through ditch [208] in Trench 2