


NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Client Report No. CP/463/07



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF
FOR A PROPOSED WASTE
WATER TREATMENT
WORKS AT
WILLOWFORD FARM
GILSLAND CUMBRIA**

FOR

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AND LAUREN HARRISON**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Liam McNulty and Lauren Harrison of Willowford Farm, Gilsland, Cumbria, to undertake an archaeological watching brief, in advance of the construction of a new waste water pipe and associated septic tank (NGR NY 362484 566526).

The aim of the watching brief was to record any significant archaeological deposits uncovered during the construction of works in order to upgrade and renew the current waster water treatment works. Willowford Farm lies immediately to the south of Hadrians Wall and the work had the potential impact upon significant archaeological remains relating to the Wall.

The watching brief failed to locate any significant archaeological remains within the construction trenches. It is evident, that the post-medieval expansion of Willowford Farm would have severely truncated any remains relating to Hadrians Wall and associated features.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Liam McNulty and Lauren Harrison 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 report was compiled by Martin Sowerby, and edited by Matt Town Senior Project Officer. The watching brief was undertaken by Frances Wood. The project was overseen by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for NPA Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd on land at Willowford farm, Gilsland, Cumbria (NY 362484 566526) on behalf of Liam McNulty and Lauren Harrison. The aim of the watching brief was to record any significant archaeological deposits uncovered during the construction of works in order to upgrade and renew the current waster water treatment works. Willowford Farm lies immediately to the south of Hadrians Wall and the work had the potential impact upon significant archaeological remains relating to the Wall.
- 1.1.2 Work was undertaken in strict accordance with the specification document issued by Jeremy Parsons, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) (*Land at Willowford Farm, Gilsland, Cumbria, brief for an archaeological watching brief*, (Parsons 2006), and under the terms set down in a Project Design prepared by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (Giecco 2006).
- 1.1.3 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 recommendations for further work. This report also contains the results of the rapid identification survey carried out in conjunction with the desk-based assessment.

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 Liam McNulty and Lauren Harrison for archaeological monitoring of the 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 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 A programme of field observation was intended to:

- observe and record archaeological remains should they occur within the defined watching brief area;
- establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains as far as possible within the remit of the archaeological watching brief condition;
- recover artefactual material, especially where useful for dating purposes;
- recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives.

2.3 SITE SPECIFIC AIMS

2.3.1 Site-specific aims of the watching brief were defined as follows:

- to monitor, as per specifications and project design, all groundworks within the construction trenches;
- to detect, if possible, any surviving evidence of Roman activity within the trenches;
- to define the location, character, extent and state of preservation of features possibly related to Hadrian's Wall and the Military Way, or any other significant archaeological remains, should these be encountered in the construction area, and protect them from impact by the development works;
- to prepare a report for our client detailing the results of the watching brief, and providing recommendations for any future archaeological work that may be deemed necessary.

2.3 METHODOLOGY OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.3.1 Excavation was undertaken by the client's contractor, using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The entire area of the construction/drainage trenches was closely monitored, and any archaeological features discovered were investigated and recorded according to the NPA standard procedure as set out in the company Excavation Manual (Giecco, 2003).
- 2.3.2 A Photographic record of all aspects of the archaeological watching brief was made using Pentax K1000 and Pentax P30 Single Lens Reflex (SLR) manual cameras. A photographic record of all contexts was taken in colour transparency and black and white print and included a graduated metric scale. Digital photographs were also taken where applicable.
- 2.3.3 The area watched by the archaeologist was accurately tied into the national grid using a total station at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits and features were adequately levelled to Ordnance Datum (OD).
- 2.3.4 All archaeological deposits were sampled and assessed for their environmental potential. The recommended sample sizes for dry deposits were 30-60 litres and for wet deposits the sample sizes should be approximately 5 litres. Dr Jacqui Huntley, English Heritage Regional Science Advisor for Hadrian's Wall was consulted prior to the fieldwork.
- 2.3.5 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IFA 1994).
- 2.3.6 All references to cardinal directions refer to site grid north, aligned approximately with Ordnance Survey (OS) grid north.
- 2.3.7 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 recommendations for further work.

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 and digital archive will be deposited in the Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA 07 WFG-B.
- 2.4.2 North Pennines Archaeology and CCCHES 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 evaluation will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3 SITE SPECIFIC BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Willowford Farm is located approximately 1 mile (1.6km) west of Gilsland, Cumbria (NGR NY 362484 566526, Figure 1). The farm is built on a spur of higher ground and is contained within a broad meander of the River Irthing. The north of the site is dominated by a high ridge of Whinsill called 'The Hill' and 'Kiln Hill', which rises to a height of 152.40 m AOD.
- 3.1.2 The farm is situated in the Tyne Gap, a landscape that forms a narrow but distinctive lowland corridor, which separates the North Pennines from the Border Moors and Forests. To the west it merges with the pasture landscape of the Solway basin and Eden valley, while to the east it merges into the more densely populated Tyne and Wear Lowlands (Countryside Commission 1998).
- 3.1.3 The land around Willowford farm is predominately pasture and improved grassland. There are a few hedgerow trees; those that occur are mainly ash. The surrounding area is reasonably wooded with large areas of deciduous, mixed and coniferous woodland to the southeast of the farm.
- 3.1.4 The site is dominated by the line of Hadrian's Wall and associated military features. The Stone Wall lies adjacent to the entrance of the farm, whilst to the east the well-preserved Wall ditch has been utilised to form an approach from Gilsland. The projected line of the Vallum lies to the south of the farm buildings. Turret 48a lies 30m from the entrance to the farm.
- 3.1.5 The underlying solid geology consists of sedimentary rocks of the Carboniferous age, a repetitive succession of limestones, sandstones and shales belonging to the Middle or Upper Limestone Groups (Countryside Commission 1998). The drift geology consists of melt out debris and fluvio-glacial deposits dating from the Devensian period, predominately boulder clay or till (Countryside Commission 1998).

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 relating to the Roman period around the study area.
- 3.2.2 The Roman advance on the northwest of England was launched during the 70s and 80s AD, and the campaigns of Agricola, governor of Britain AD 78-84, consolidated the Roman hold on the North. During the Roman period there was certainly a heavy military presence in Cumbria. Hadrian's Wall, perhaps begun in 122 AD, was built to define the northern limit of the Roman Empire and a network of military roads, forts and settlements soon sprung up around the focus of Hadrian's Wall (Breeze and Dobson 1976). The earliest timber fort was constructed at Carlisle in AD 72 (Philpott ed. 2004). Intensive occupation of the fort at Carlisle continued until the 4th century, with extensive evidence for a vicus and associated civilian settlement to the south. The

best evidence for the continued use of forts into the 5th century comes from Birdoswald (Wilmott 1997), just west of the site.

- 3.2.3 the Roman advance on the northwest during the 70s and 80s AD may have been launched from bases in the northwest Midlands such as Wroxeter and Little Chester, proceeding north via the valleys of the Eden and Lune. By 72 AD the earliest timber fort was constructed at Carlisle (Philpott ed. 2004), and the campaigns of Agricola, governor of Britain AD 78-84, consolidated the Roman hold on the North. During the Roman period, there was certainly a heavy military presence in Cumbria. Hadrian's Wall, perhaps begun in 122 AD, was built to define the northern limit of the Roman empire and a network of military roads, forts and settlements soon sprung up around the focus of Hadrian's Wall (Breeze and Dobson 1976).
- 3.2.4 The extravagant expansion of the Empire, which was undertaken by the Emperor Trajan (98-117), forced Hadrian (117-138) to realise that Rome could no longer afford to continue this policy of expansion to envelop the whole known world as foreseen by Augustus (Frere 1978). During Hadrian's many protracted visits of inspection and reform throughout the Empire he determined to define its limits and consolidate the defences. During the course of these visits, in AD 121 to 122, Hadrian visited Germany to reassess the linear German-Raetian frontier, which most likely represented the first fixed frontier the Roman Empire had seen. In 122 Hadrian came to Britain to establish the northern limit of the Empire. The time of the visit could have followed a period of insurrection by northern tribes culminating the construction of the wall (Taylor 2000).
- 3.2.5 ***The Stanegate System:*** by the turn of the first and second centuries AD, the Roman armies had formally withdrawn from Scotland to the Tyne-Solway isthmus. The total abandonment of lowland Scotland is evidenced only by the destruction of the forts on Dere Street at Newstead and Corbridge, and the burning of forts at Dalswinton, Cappuck, Glenloch, Oakwood and High Rochester, all of which were abandoned sometime between A.D.100 and 105 (Salway 1985). Following this, the so-called northern frontier in Britain fell upon line of forts running across northern England from the supply depot at Corbridge on the Tyne to the Flavian fort at Carlisle on the Solway, both of which sites were notable as they were positioned upon the two Roman lines of advance into lowland Scotland, Dere Street in the east and the imperfectly-known western route through Annandale. Between these two military highways a number of forts were established to act as a buffer against the lowland tribes just recently conquered, these were arranged along the line of a Roman road now known by its medieval name, the Stanegate (*ibid*).
- 3.2.6 It is likely that the road was extended to the east of Corbridge, possibly heading for the fort at Washing Well and subsequently to South Shields. Along the Stanegate a number of military sites have been discovered suggesting that they may be part of the Trajanic frontier. On pottery evidence forts at Corbridge, Vindolanda, Nether Denton and Carlisle had been in existence since the Flavian period (AD 75 -120). Carvoran fort 2km east of Thirlwall has been generally assumed to be of similar date, though what evidence there is from the pottery assemblage, indicates that the fort was occupied during the Trajanic period. The fort at Brampton Old Church is thought to have had a short occupation of about the time of Trajan. Newbrough has yielded

pottery of the 4th century, however an earlier fort on this site is generally postulated as it fits a regular spacing of forts along the Stangate.

- 3.2.7 The garrison along the Stanegate was also supplemented by the establishment of new 'fortlets' and 'small forts' between the larger stations, at Newbrough, Haltwhistle Burn, Throp and Boothby. In addition, beyond the known terminus of the Stanegate there were further forts, at Burgh-by-Sands overlooking the Solway estuary and at Kirkbride on the River Wampool in the west (Breeze and Dobson 2000). Another fort overlooking the Tyne at Washing Wells near Gateshead in the east was discovered by aerial photography in 1970 shows evidence of several phases and is thought to date from the Trajanic period (*ibid*).
- 3.2.8 The recent discovery of a timber palisade running beneath the Trajanic fort at Burgh-by-Sands and traces of the same linear work associated with a timber watch-tower along the whale-backed ridge at Fingland, coupled with evidence of a Roman road east of Kirkbride, aligned towards the fort at Burgh-by-Sands, points to some sort of frontier work, very-likely contemporary with the Stanegate system and evidence of pre-Hadrianic frontier management in northern Britain (Higham & Jones 1985). This transient and elusive palisade and watchtower system overlooking the Solway perhaps evidence a change in strategy on the part of the Roman military (*ibid*).
- 3.2.9 The Stanegate system was not efficient enough to police the local tribes of the Brigantes, Selgovae and Novantae effectively. It is suggested that there may have also been interaction between the Brigantes (within Roman Provincial territory) and the Selgovae (in Lowland Scotland). British threats to the Empire had become a pressing concern at the beginning of Hadrian's reign; this is indicated by his biographer who mentions that 'The Britain's could no longer be kept under control' (Taylor 2000).
- 3.2.10 **Hadrian's Wall:** the Wall was a composite military barrier, which in its final form, comprised several separate elements; a stone wall fronted by a V-shaped ditch, and a number of purpose-built stone garrison fortifications such as forts, milecastles and turrets. A large earthwork and ditch, built parallel with and to the south of the Wall, known as the Vallum and a metalled road linking the garrison forts, which is known as the 'Roman Military Way'. The Wall begins in the east at Wallsend in Tyneside and continues to the west terminating at Bowness-on-Solway in Cumbria, a distance of 80 Roman miles (73.5 English miles or 117 kilometres). The Wall conceived by Hadrian was to be ten feet wide and about fifteen feet high. The front face of the wall most likely sported a crenulated parapet, behind which the soldiers patrolled along a paved rampart-walk (Bedoyere 1998). The foundations of Hadrian's ten-foot wide Wall were laid from Newcastle-upon-Tyne eastward for 23 Roman miles to Chesters in Northumberland, but thereafter, apart from a few short lengths further west, the wall is reduced to eight or sometimes, six feet in width. We can assume that at some time during the early construction of the Wall, a decision was made to reduce its width, probably in order to speed-up the work during times of threat from the tribes of southern Scotland. The wall to the west of the River Irthing was originally built out of turf and about sixteen feet wide, topped by a wooden palisade and walkway and punctuated by timber-framed turrets and milecastles. This 'turf-wall' did not endure long, and it was all replaced in stone within a few years, section by section. It is thought that the reason the western part of the Wall was built of turf was due to the fact that there were no ready supplies of stone or lime close to hand at the time of

construction, and it was left to a later date to replace this with a regular stonewall. The interior structures in each milecastle seem to have varied, but all contain at least one recognizable barrack-block. They housed a varying number of men with a conjectured maximum of approximately 64 soldiers, and were effectively large gate-houses, whose garrison were originally stationed to control egress through the Wall, and perhaps to levy a tax on goods carried through.

- 3.2.11 Between each milecastle were two smaller turrets, equidistant from each other and the milecastles to either side. They were of a uniform pattern, about 20 feet square, recessed into the Wall and built-up above the height of the Wall rampart walk. In the original plan the Wall was to be garrisoned and patrolled from the milecastles, and there was no requirement for any large forts to be built on the Wall itself. The wall was to be reinforced when needed, from the forts already in existence along the Stanegate, which runs parallel, to the rear of the wall. This format was to prove inadequate, however, and the wall was soon modified by the inclusion of several auxiliary forts along its length. These garrison forts were of a standard 'playing-card' profile, but varied in size between 3 and 5 acres, depending on the type of unit it was built to house. In the infantry forts, the Wall itself generally formed the northern defences of the camp, which projected wholly to the south, as is the case with the milecastles and turrets. In the cavalry forts, or those of part-mounted units, the forts were generally built across the line of the Wall with three of its major gates opening out onto its northern side, part of the wall having to be demolished in order to accommodate the fort. In some cases forts were sited on top of milecastles, which had to be demolished, as at Bowness on Solway.
- 3.2.12 The original concept of the Wall fulfilled what Hadrian's biographer wrote, that he 'drew a wall along the length of eighty miles to separate barbarians and Romans' (Birley 1961). This concept reflected the form of the German Raetian *limes* in that the Wall relied on the forts of the Stanegate for reinforcements in case of need. Its main purpose was to control movement in and out of the Province, as well as forming a base for military activity on or north of the frontier, and was never intended to be a defensive feature (*ibid*).
- 3.2.13 The stretch of Hadrian's Wall between Gilsland and the fort at Birdoswald is remarkably well preserved considering that the land has been extensively used for agriculture. The Broad Wall is clearly visible with up to four courses high onto which the Narrow Wall has been placed.
- 3.2.14 ***The Vallum:*** shortly after work on the Wall had been completed a large earthwork was constructed a short distance to the south, which followed along almost the full length of the Wall. This earthwork, known as the Vallum, consisted of a continuous steep-sided trench, with a flat-bottom. Unlike the ditch fronting the Wall to the north, which had a normal Roman military V-shaped profile this flat-bottomed ditch, twenty Roman feet (5.9m) wide and 20 feet deep, was flanked by 10 feet (3m) high and 20 feet wide mounds, positioned 30 feet (8.9m) away on either side. These features combined created a 120-foot (35m) wide system of earthworks. The Vallum usually diverts around forts therefore, it is probably safe to assume that it was created after work on the Wall had commenced. The Vallum may have formed part of the original plan but was perhaps not scheduled to be constructed until Hadrian's Wall was substantially completed. The Vallum followed the route of the Wall closely for almost

its entire length, being conspicuously absent in the stretch from Wallsend to Newcastle, but running uninterrupted from the bridge over the River Tyne to the large auxiliary fort at Bowness on the Solway Firth. The Vallum runs almost parallel to the Wall all the way to the fort at Stanwix in Carlisle deviating from this route for only a short stretch at Castlesteads. Beyond the large cavalry fort at Stanwix, the Vallum proceeds westwards to the Bowness terminus with only three or four relatively minor re-alignments, and mostly ignores, the meandering course of the Wall in this part of the Solway region. It is thought that the Vallum was intended to mark-out a kind of rearward boundary or "exclusion zone" behind the Wall, another school of thought is that its main purpose was as a communication route. An idea recently expounded, is that the Vallum served no other purpose than to punctuate the northern frontier of Rome, and was deliberately built on a monumental scale on the orders of emperor Hadrian.

- 3.2.15 ***The Military Way:*** at first, the Wall garrisons were supplied along roads, which issued from the gates at the rear of each fort and were possibly connected to the Stanegate, which ran parallel with the Wall. These supply-roads were provided to each of the main forts on the Wall, and also to a few of the milecastles. Around the time that the Vallum went out of use *c* AD 140, the Wall was provided with its own purpose-built, metalled supply road, which ran between the Wall and the Vallum. This new road connected each of the garrisons on the Wall, and ran through the rear portion of each fort. In addition to providing a shorter and more secure route between each fort, there were branch-roads serving the milecastles, and pathways to all of the turrets probably branched-off from it (Bedoyere 1998). The modern name for this road is the Roman Military Way.
- 3.2.16 The Roman Wall crosses three major rivers The North Tyne at Chesters; The Irthing at Willowford, and the Eden at Stanwix, Carlisle. At the first two sites a programme of survey and limited excavations over the past eighty years has substantially aided our understanding of the bridges. Evidence from both Chesters and Willowford combines to demonstrate the form of the primary Hadrianic bridges. Early antiquarian studies and modern excavations have shown that the bridge at Willowford had at least three distinct phases (Bruce 1863, Simpson 1941, Collingwood and Richmond 1969, Bidwell and Holbrook 1989).
- 3.2.17 The Hadrianic bridges are noteworthy structures because their width and positioning on the very line of the frontier work strongly suggest that they were originally designed to carry a sentry walk on top of the Wall. At Willowford this first bridge appears to have been rebuilt after a possible flood (Simpson 1941, Bidwell and Holbrook 1989). A significant find of a stone voussoir reused in a secondary structure, indicates that the stone arches of the bridge were probably semicircular (Bidwell and Holbrook 1989) rather than segmental as first interpreted (Simpson 1941). The design of this second bridge abutment however implies a timber superstructure.

4 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 Summary results of the watching brief are presented below. Figure 2 shows the location of the development area during the watching brief, in relation to previous archaeological investigation at Willowford Farm. The figure also depicts the location of the circular trenches in preparation for the insertion of two septic tanks linked by a manhole. Where no features of archaeological interest were located, a watching brief sheet was compiled and context numbers were not issued.
- 4.1.2 The two construction trenches were excavated immediately to the north of Hadrian's Wall. The trench for Tank 1 (see Figure 2) was excavated to a maximum depth of 3.1m by 2.3m wide. The natural soil horizon consisted of reddish brown clayey sand with 80% inclusions of sub-rounded cobbles and small rounded pebbles. This was overlaid by 0.40m to 0.50m of light to mid reddish brown sand clay with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions. The topsoil, consisting brownish red silty sand, approximately 0.30m deep made up the remaining depth of the trench.
- 4.1.3 A sub-circular area was also excavated for Tank 2 (see Figure 2). The trench was approximately 3.1m in depth by 2.3m in diameter. The natural soil horizon consisted of firmly compacted gravely clay, interpreted as possible alluvial material, was observed at the base of the trench. Overlaying the natural was the subsoil, approximately 1.5m in depth and consisted of firmly compacted red clay with alluvial cobbles. Up to 0.30m of dark reddish brown silty sand topsoil made up the remaining depth of the trench. No finds, or any archaeological features were observed during the excavation of the trench.
- 4.1.4 A small trench aligned north south for the manhole joined the two trenches. The depth of this trench was approximately 1.5m deep, by 0.50m wide. There were no archaeological features observed in these areas.
- 4.1.5 A linear trench was excavated for the insertion of a sewage pipe which linked the septic tanks with the main farmhouse (see Figure 2). Trench 1 was 50m long and 0.72m wide with an average depth of 0.85m. The northern extent of the trench was evaluated in May 2006; therefore the ground was heavily disturbed. The natural substrate varied considerably across the trench, which showed it had been laid in thin bands consisting of clayey sand to patches of fine sand. The area that had not been previously excavated, through the yard, had a covering of concrete over laying dark brown soil with occasional medium sized sub-rounded inclusions. A number of post-medieval ceramic drains crossing the trench were observed, cutting the natural. At the north end of the yard there was a thin covering of tarmac directly below the concrete surface. Towards the south end of the trench the concrete overlay a patch of cobbles, suggesting that the yard surface had been previously cobbled over. The main water pipe for the farm crossed the trench on an east-west alignment near the house.
- 4.1.6 A further three trenches were excavated to join waste pipes up to the main waster water pipe (Trench 1) (see Figure 2). Trench 2 was 9m long by 0.70m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.90m. The trench was located on the eastern side of the farmyard and was aligned east west. The disturbed nature of the natural made secure

identification difficult, however the fill of the trench consisted of dark reddish brown silty sand. There was a patch of cobbles below the concrete surface by the barn, which may represent an earlier yard surface. A single red ceramic drain was noted which had been partly demolished and was no longer in use.

- 4.1.7 Trench 3 ran from the western corner of the farmhouse to Trench 1 to join the sink outlet with the sewage pipe. Trench 3 was 8m long by 0.70m wide with an average depth of 0.80m. The fill of the trench consisted of reddish dark brown silty with the occasional rounded cobble inclusion. This layer in turn was sealed by a modern concrete surface (see Figure 2).
- 4.1.8 Trench 4 joins Trench 1 and was located at the southeastern extent of the yard. The trench was 0.78m wide by 0.72m deep. The earth was reddish dark brown with red sandy and gravelly patches. A post-medieval ceramic field drain was visible within the trench.
- 4.1.9 No archaeological features were observed in these four trenches.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 5.1.1 The results of the watching brief failed to locate any features or finds of an archaeological origin. It is clear, that the area to the front of Willowford farmhouse has been extensively disturbed during the post-medieval period and any remains relating the Hadrians Wall has been removed, possibly during the construction of the yard surface.

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APPENDIX 1: ILLUSTRATIONS

APPENDIX 2: PLATES



Plate 1 and 2: Excavation of the pipe trench, facing north



Plate 3: Pipe trench, facing south, Willowford Farmhouse in the background



Plate 4: Trench 2, facing west



Plate 5: Excavation trench, in front of Willowford Farmhouse entrance



Plate 6: Excavation of Tank 1 (Septic Tank), facing northeast



Plate 7: Base of septic tank trench

