OLD CLYDESDALE STUD TARRABY, CARLISLE, CUMBRIA



WATCHING BRIEF REPORT CP. No: 1236/10 23/11/2010

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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by David Wilson of HTGL Architects to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks relating to the construction of a new stable block and conservatory at Old Clydesdale Stud, Tarraby, Cumbria (NY 40592 58114).

The proposed works lay within the immediate vicinity of the potential alignment of Hadrian's Wall and as a result, Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, requested that all ground reduction be subject to a programme of archaeological observation and investigation. This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16).

The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken over 8 days between the 12th July and 17th August 2010. The watching brief monitored the ground reduction for the stable block followed by the excavation of foundation trenches for the conservatory. No archaeological deposits were noted during the programme of work, and artefacts recovered dated to the post-medieval/modern periods, with the exception of two bronze pieces of jewellery which may have been of Roman date; however, these were found within the topsoil and thus are not from a secure context.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with this particular development, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the high archaeological potential of the area, it is recommended that any future work be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank David Wilson of HTGL Architects for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. NPA Ltd would also like to thank Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, for all his assistance throughout the project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Frank Giecco, Tony Liddell, Jo Beaty, Trish Shaw and Kevin Mounsey. The report was written and the drawings produced by Tony Liddell. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Matt Town, Project Manager for NPA Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In July 2010, North Pennines Archaeology were invited by David Wilson of HTGL Architects to maintain an archaeological watching brief at Old Clydesdale Stud, Tarraby, Cumbria (NY 40592 58114; Figure 1), during groundworks associated with the construction of a new stable block and conservatory. The proposed works lay within the immediate vicinity of the potential alignment of Hadrian's Wall and as a result, Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, requested that all ground reduction be subject to a programme of archaeological observation and investigation. This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16).
- 1.1.2 All groundworks associated with the development of the stable block and conservatory had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2002) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the monitoring works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

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 David Wilson of HTGL Architects, for an archaeological watching brief. Following acceptance of the project design by Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, 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 for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (IfA 2002).
- 2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
 - to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
 - to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately leveled;
 - to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
 - to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital and monochrome formats as applicable, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;

• to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE standards (English Heritage 2006).

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2007). The archive will be deposited within Tullie House Museum, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Carlisle, Cumbria, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA10, TAR-C and TAR-D, CP 1236/10.
- 2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology, and Cumbria County Council, support the Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

3.1.1 The Old Clydesdale Stud, Tarraby is located 2.2m (3.54km) east of the border city of Carlisle. The area is classed as a broad, lowland plain landscape fringed by the low, rugged and remote coastline of the Solway Firth. It is framed by the Cumbria High Fells to the south, the hills of the Scottish borders to the north and the Border Moors and Forests to the northeast (Countryside Commission 1998). The land surrounding Tarraby is gently rolling and is intensively managed as a predominately pastoral landscape (*ibid*).

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area (for a full background see Sowerby 2008).
- 3.2.2 Hadrian's Wall was designated as a World Heritage Site (WHS) in 1987 and forms the most complex and best preserved of the frontiers of the Roman Empire. The World Heritage Site comprises a visual envelope between 1km and 6km from the site in order to serve as a buffer zone to protect the site and its immediate landscape from development detrimental to the visual amenity of the site (*lbid.*).
- 3.2.3 The WHS is centred on the military installations constructed from AD 122 on the orders of the Emperor Hadrian. The WHS also includes other Roman sites and structures which predate Hadrian's Wall, such as the arrangement of forts along the Cumbrian Coast between Bowness-on-Solway and Ravenglass, and incorporates a wealth of pre and post Roman sites and landscapes (*Ibid.*). Hadrian's Wall was constructed in the early second century on a line connecting the Tyne and the Solway and represented at various times the northern frontier of Roman Britain. As a whole it represents one of the best-preserved frontiers of the Roman Empire.
- 3.2.4 The Wall was a composite military barrier, which in its final form comprised several separate elements. A stonewall 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 supply 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).
- 3.2.5 The more detailed history of Hadrian's Wall is well documented and is summarised in numerous publications (Breeze 2006; Breeze and Dobson 2000; Daniels 1978 and Birley 1961). The Wall west of the River Irthing, including the stretch within Tarraby forms part of this survey and will be briefly discussed.
- 3.2.6 Hadrian's Wall west of the River Irthing was originally constructed out of grass turves laid in courses. The reason for this change is to be found in the local geology (Daniels 1978). West of the Irthing, limestone ceases at the Red Rock fault, near milecastle 54 (MC 54). As a direct result, lime used in the construction could no longer be prepared at hand and would have to be brought from over the Irthing. The milecastles of the Turf Wall were built in turf and timber and the turrets were of stone (*ibid*).
- 3.2.7 The section of Turf Wall between Walby and Tarraby (Milecastles 62-65), was thought to be constructed between AD 122 and *c*.126 (Breeze and Dobson 2000). A final revision of the Wall structure occurred perhaps before AD140, but more probably after AD 160 when the Turf Wall was replaced by an intermediate Stone Wall 2.75m wide (*ibid*).
- 3.2.8 Tarraby lies midway between Milecastle (MC) 64 and 65. Milecastle 65 was located by a resitivity survey in 1976 (Smith et al 1978; Breeze 2006), which showed that the structure laid approximately 130m west of the village and is slightly west of its measured position. A subsequent trial excavation reveled the survival of two courses of footings (Smith *et al* 1978). MC 64 (Drawdykes) was located in 1962 approximately 110m west of the M6 motorway. It measured 14.63-15.24 by 17.83m and is thus a short axis milecastle. The flagged footings of the Stone Wall were also noted above the remains of the Turf Wall. The projected line of the Wall passes between a caravan park and the former army base (Hadrians Camp). A drainage trench excavated in 1972 immediately west of Centurions Walk showed that the core of the Stone Wall, berm and the Wall ditch survived as subsurface features (Breeze 2006).
- 3.2.9 The line of the Wall, having run straight for 2km from Wallfoot, turns on the crest within the former army camp, through Tarraby. A trial excavation by F.G Simpson in the 1930s south of Tarraby Farm showed that the Wall survived at foundation level, however no plans or maps for the exact

- location of this trench exist (Smith *et al* 1978). The Wall then follows a hedge, on the Wall line, along Tarraby Lane, taking in a crest of a low ridge.
- 3.2.10 During the construction of a housing development in 1976 a substantial rescue excavation was undertaken between Hadrians Wall and the Vallum, close to the fort at Stanwix (Tarraby Lane). Traces were found of a pre-wall field system, a minor Roman road running parallel to, and 80m south of the Vallum, significant post-settings for posts over 2m high and a number of ditches (Smith *et al* 1978).

3.3 Previous Work

- 3.3.1 In July 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Limited undertook a watching brief during the demolition of an existing garage block and provision of new services for the construction of a new garage block. Groundworks at the site revealed no significant archaeological features (Mounsey 2007).
- 3.3.2 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in May 2008 by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd consisting of six linear trial trenches in the immediate vicinity of the current development area, in order to establish the projected line of Hadrian's Wall during sewerage tank installation and upgrade. The line of the Wall was originally mapped by the Ordnance Survey, and indicated that the projected course of the Wall ran through the grounds of the Old Clydesdale Stud. However, the evaluation demonstrated a distinct lack of archaeological features and or deposits relating to the Roman period (Sowerby 2008).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The watching brief monitoring was undertaken over 8 days between 12th July and 17th August 2010.

4.2 NEW STABLE BLOCK (TAR-C)

- 4.2.1 This phase of the watching brief covered the excavation of a platform in order to build a new stable block (Figure 2), and took place between the 12th 14th July 2010.
- 4.2.2 The topsoil was stripped by a JCB 3cx with a back-hoe. The topsoil (100) comprised of moderately compact pale grey-brown sandy silt, and was present across the site to a maximum depth of 0.20m. Beneath the topsoil, subsoil (102) was visible, measuring c.0.30m in thickness and was comprised of grey-brown sandy silt with occasional rounded and sub-rounded cobble inclusions. Beneath the subsoil, the natural geology (101), a compact redorange clay, was visible. No archaeological features were noted.
- 4.2.3 In the western half of the trench, modern herringbone soak-away drainage systems were noted, dating to 2008 (Figure 2).
- 4.2.4 Sherds of post-medieval pottery, clay pipe and iron horseshoes were retrieved from the topsoil, along with two bronze artefacts (see Section 5 for more details).



Plate 1: The excavation of the stable block platform, looking north east.

4.3 TAR-D: CONSERVATORY EXTENSION

- 4.3.1 This phase of the watching brief covered the groundworks associated with the construction of a new conservatory extension attached to the main building of Old Clydesdale Stud (Figure 2). The archaeological monitoring took place between the 11th 13th and the 16th 17th August 2010.
- 4.3.2 The current conservatory was demolished and the foundation cut extended by a further 0.1m width, with a maximum of 1.30m depth excavated below the modern paving in the new post-pad areas.
- 4.3.3 Beneath the concrete of the current demolished conservatory (200), was a 0.03m thick sand leveling layer (201). Beneath this deposit was a layer of hardcore (202), 0.10m in depth. Beneath the hardcore was a brown/grey organic sandy loam (203), 0.58m thick, presumed to be the layer of material that formed the original surface for the stud. A grey/brown silty clay strata (206) was observed below this, with natural geology comprising a compact red-orange clay (205) observed below it. No features of archaeological significance were observed.



Plate 2: The excavation of the foundation slot looking north west.

4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.4.1 The finds recovered during the watching brief are detailed in Section 5.

4.4.2 No environmental samples were taken during the archaeological monitoring.

5 FINDS

5.1 FINDS ASSESSMENT

- 5.1.1 A total of 45 finds from one context (100) were recovered during the watching brief.
- 5.1.2 The finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of Frank Giecco (NPA Ltd Technical Director). The metalwork was placed in a stable environment and was monitored for corrosion.

5.2 POST-MEDIEVAL CLAY PIPES

5.2.1 In total 2 fragments of undiagnostic clay pipe stems were recovered from (100), with a combined weight of 0.004kg.

5.3 CERAMICS

- 5.3.1 In total 20 sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from (**100**), with a combined weight of 0.250kg.
- 5.3.2 4 pieces of CBM were also uncovered from (100) weighing 0.089kg.

5.4 METAL OBJECTS

- 5.4.1 A total 2 miscellaneous iron objects were recovered from (100), with a combined weight of 0.153kg. Furthermore, 5 iron nails were recovered from the same context with a combined weight of 0.126kg. 2 iron horseshoes were also found, weighing 0.890kg. All of these objects are of late 19th century/early 20th century date.
- 5.4.2 4 miscellaneous lead items were also recovered from (**100**), with a combined weight of 0.135kg.
- 5.4.3 3 machine-made 20th century metal buttons were also recovered from the topsoil weighing a combined 0.008kg.
- 5.4.4 A small metal cap was also found in (**100**) weighing 0.001kg.
- 5.4.5 A copper alloy bangle, in two pieces, was recovered from (100), possibly of Roman date. The bangle is 0.005m thick, and has been bent out of shape in antiquity, now measuring 0.054m in length by 0.047m in width.

5.4.6 A copper alloy pendant, potentially of Roman date was also recovered from (100), measuring 0.032m in length by 0.012m in width. The pendant is leaf-shaped, with a concave back.

5.5 LEATHER

5.5.1 1 piece of leather with a metal buckle was recovered from (**100**), weighing 0.004kg.

5.6 DISCUSSION

- 5.6.1 All finds were recovered during the topsoil strip of the stable-block area, and as such hold little contextual value due to the disturbed nature of the topsoil context from which they came.
- 5.6.2 The vast majority of the finds comprised post-medieval detritus, with only 2 out of the 45 artefacts recovered holding a potential Roman date.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken over 8 days between the 12th July and 17th August 2010.
- 6.1.2 The watching brief monitored the ground reduction for the stable block followed by the excavation of foundation trenches for the conservatory. No archaeological deposits were noted during the programme of work, and artefacts recovered dated to the post-medieval/modern periods, with the exception of two bronze pieces of jewellery which may have been of Roman date; however, these were found within the topsoil and thus are not from a secure context.
- 6.1.3 As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with this particular development, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the high archaeological potential of the area, it is recommended that any future work be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Natural	Natural
102	Deposit	Subsoil/ploughsoil
200	Deposit	Concrete base of existing conservatory
201	Deposit	Levelling sand layer
202	Deposit	Levelling hardcore layer
203	Deposit	Former stud yard deposit
204	Deposit	Topsoil visible by conservatory
205	Natural	Natural
206	Deposit	Deposit

Table 1: List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES