

**STANWIX NURSERY,
CHURCH STREET,
STANWIX,
CARLISLE,
CUMBRIA.**



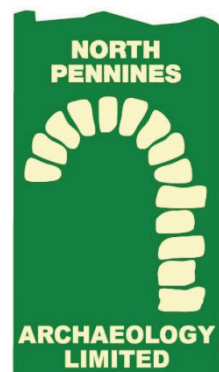
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CP. No: 1309/10

03/02/2011

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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 Elaine Alexander, of Capita Symonds on behalf of Carlisle City Council, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks relating to the excavation for the slab for the area of the new crèche building at Stanwix Nursery, Church Street, Carlisle (NGR NY 40100 57105). English Heritage granted Scheduled Monument Consent for the development on the condition that an archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks. The watching brief was required as the scheme affects an area of archaeological significance within the site of *Petriana* Roman Fort (CHER 488), which is a Scheduled Monument.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken over 2 days between the 17th and 18th January 2011. The watching brief monitored the excavation of 5 service trenches initially for all services, but a sixth trench was added for the new gas pipe which had to be kept separate from the other services. No archaeological remains were noted.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the development of a new crèche building at Stanwix Nursery, 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 Elaine Alexander of Capita Symonds for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. NPA Ltd would also like to thank Mike Collins, English Heritage Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for all his assistance throughout the project.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to contractor, Lambert Gill, and all staff at the Stanwix Nursery site, for their help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Kevin Mounsey and Mike McElligott. The report was written by Mike McElligott and the drawings were produced by Mike McElligott. The project was managed by Frank Giocco, Project Manager 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 January 2011, North Pennines Archaeology were invited by Elaine Alexander of Capita Symonds to maintain an archaeological watching brief at Stanwix Nursery, Church Street, Stanwix, Carlisle, Cumbria (NGR NY 40100 57105; Figure 1), during groundworks associated with the excavation for the slab for the area of the new crèche building. The proposed works lie within the immediate vicinity of the *Petriana* Roman Fort (CHER 488), which is a Scheduled Monument. As a result, Mike Collins, English Heritage Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist, 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 Statement (etc.) (PP 55).
- 1.1.2 All groundworks associated with the development of the new crèche building had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008) 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 Elaine Alexander of Capita Symonds for an archaeological watching brief of the study area. Following acceptance of the project design by Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist, 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 2008).

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 levelled;
- 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, 35mm colour print 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).

2.2.3 The total area of approximately 34.74 m² was stripped of tarmac (top layer) for the laying of the concrete slab foundation. The trenches were located in front of the northwest side of the building, which was partially demolished. There were five trenches, all linear in shape. The length of the trenches varied, from 0.8 metres to 9.2 metres. Three trenches were 0.3 metres wide, one was 0.2 metres and another one was 0.4 metres. They were excavated to depths of between 0.25 metres to 0.50 metres. Archaeological monitoring and supervision of groundworks associated with the stripping commenced on 17th January 2011. A summary of the findings of the watching brief is included within this report.

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, CSS-A, CP 1309/10.

2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology supports 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 Stanwix lies within the lowland plains of the Solway Basin approximately 1.6 kilometres north of the city of Carlisle and is linked to the city by the Eden Bridge (Figure 1). The Solway Basin lies between the Cumbria High Fells to the south, the rugged terrain of the Scottish Border to the north, and the Border Moors and Forests to the northeast (Countryside Commission 1998). The site is located on the north bank of the River Eden. To the north of the site boundary is 19th century housing as well as Stanwix Primary School and to the south-west is St. Michael's Church (Figure 2).

3.1.2 The solid geology of the Carlisle area is comprised of soft, reddish Permian-Triassic sandstones of the St. Bees formation, with the less extensive Kirklington sandstones, St. Bees Shales, and Stanwix Shales. At Stanwix, similar to Carlisle, the bedrock is overlain to a depth of several metres by drift deposits of glacial till that include sands, gravels and boulder clay (British Geological Survey 1982). The soils of the region are of the Clifton Association, typically composed of stagnogleys, although some fluvial deposits are present along the margins of the River Eden (Countryside Commission 1998).

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

3.2.1 *Introduction:* the village of Stanwix, situated on the line of Hadrian's Wall and Vallum, has a diverse archaeological history. Excavation of Hadrian's Wall, the associated Vallum and ditches, Stanwix fort and parade ground have been undertaken extensively for more than 100 years, but the nature of the work has always been confined to small excavations and evaluations, due in part to the urban settlement of Stanwix obscuring large sections of the archaeology and allowing only small windows of opportunity to investigate the archaeological deposits. This historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments and the archaeological works undertaken specific to the study area.

3.2.2 *Prehistoric:* evidence of prehistoric occupation within Stanwix comes from a number of small scale archaeological interventions that have revealed ploughmarks that were cut into the natural surface of the soil, and ditches. In 1976 excavations to the northeast of the fort at Stanwix revealed an extensive field system that predated the construction of Hadrian's Wall. Limited areas of buried soil were located and it was concluded that these fields had been used mainly as pasture, rather than arable land.

- 3.2.3 In most of these areas the ploughmarks and ditches were sealed by redeposited clay and cobbles that are thought to be the make-up material for a parade ground associated with the fort at Stanwix, the construction of which is dated to the 160s AD (Cook and Zant 2007). Excavations at Tarraby Lane in 1976 revealed that some of the ploughmarks and ditches were overlain by the stone phase of Hadrian's Wall (Smith 1978).
- 3.2.4 The presence of an extensive field system pre-supposes the existence of a settlement within the vicinity. Evaluations and excavations in 1993 in the Knowefield area revealed a concentration of postholes, stakeholes and cobbled surfaces suggestive of a possible settlement (Cook and Zant 2007). To the north of this, at Beech Grove, similar remains were found (Stobbs 2008). These two possible settlement sites may be broadly contemporary with the aforementioned field systems (Cook and Zant 2007). Extensive archaeological work carried out over the past 30 years to the east of the fort has shown that the landscape in the area of Tarraby Lane supported an agricultural economy existing prior to the building of Hadrian's Wall, comprising field systems and settlement activity in a dispersed pattern (Smith 1978). A series of 'V'-shaped ditches forming a field system extended across most of the fields investigated, and appeared to pre-date the Wall, as the field system extended diagonally underneath it, and was found on both sides. The ditches were broadly aligned NE-SW or NW-SE, forming a gridded rectilinear pattern lying at an acute angle to the Wall, and contrary to the modern field systems which are structured by the Wall, being at right-angles or parallel to it (Smith 1978; Figure 2). A number of plough-marks were also found running parallel with the ditches, sealed by a low bank; analysis of buried ground surfaces produced evidence of cereal pollen (, Smith 1978).
- 3.2.5 Within the study area the only artefactual evidence from the prehistoric period was from the Kings Meadow area where two Late Bronze Age socketed axes were found.
- 3.2.6 *Roman:* although the Roman occupation of England began in 43 AD, it was not until Julius Agricola (77 AD - 84 AD) that the military occupation of Cumbria began (Rollinson 1969). Throughout this period it was the Roman fort at Carlisle (*Luguvalium*), established in 72 AD that formed the principal focus of Roman activity in the area leaving little to no mark on Stanwix.
- 3.2.7 By the early 2nd century, a series of forts that were linked by a road, known as the Stanegate, had been established along the Tyne-Solway corridor. The line of the Stanegate is unclear in the Carlisle/Stanwix area. One possibility for the position of the Stanegate was that the road crossed the Eden to the east of Carlisle, at Linstock, avoiding Stanwix (Cook and Zant 2007). The

other possibility is that the Stanegate would have approached Carlisle along the north bank of the Eden and therefore very likely to have passed through Stanwix (*ibid*).

- 3.2.8 Hadrian's Wall, from Wallsend to Bowness-on-Solway was mostly built of stone from the beginning. West of the River Irthing, Hadrian's Wall consisted of turfs. It is thought that the turf wall was replaced by stone sometime in the mid 2nd century, once the Antonine Wall was abandoned (Stobbs 2008). It has been traced running through Stanwix from Tarraby Lane in the east, and crossing Scotland Road in the west. Excavations of the wall have been undertaken: in Stanwix School in 1932 to 1934; south of Tarraby Farm in the 1930s (Smith 1978); on Tarraby Lane in 1976 (*Ibid*) and on Scotland Road in 1961, where it was found to conform 'to the Intermediate standard since recognised to extend from near Milecastle 54 to Bowness' (Simpson and Hogg 1935, p256; Dacre 1985). Excavation of evaluation trenches by CAU in 1994 north of Tarraby Lane revealed a section of the ditch fronting Hadrian's Wall, together with evidence for the counterscarp bank. The bank was found to overlie and preserve ploughmarks representing pre-Wall agricultural activity (Zant *pers. comm.*, Esmonde Cleary 1994, McCarthy 1999). Further trenching at Beech Grove in 1997 by CAU revealed the inner south-eastern face of the Wall, heavily denuded and disturbed and only represented by the basal course (CAU 1997a, Esmonde Cleary 1998). McCarthy (1999) states that the wall uncovered in 1997 showed two phases of construction but with no dating evidence. In 2002, OA North undertook an archaeological evaluation also at Beech Grove, which uncovered evidence of the wall and ditch, but did not expose the full extent of the features, which extended beyond the limits of the excavation (OA North 2002a).
- 3.2.9 The Roman fort at Stanwix was the fourth station on the line of the wall, when counting from the west, situated between Burgh-by-Sands and Castlesteads (Biggins and Taylor 2000). It has been said that the Roman fort at Stanwix is one of the least known of all of the Hadrian's Wall forts. There had been some evidence of buildings in the southern section of the fort, to the south of Church Street. Anecdotal evidence from the latter half of the 19th century suggests that masonry and pottery were revealed when grave digging was undertaken within St Michael's Churchyard. Although no trace of the fort could be seen in 1875, it was noted that Roman remains had been observed when the church was rebuilt in the 1840s. A slightly raised bank located to the south-western and south-eastern boundaries of the churchyard were considered by Richmond to possibly have been the rampart of the stone curtain wall. A section of road was noted by Simpson in the southern part of the garden to Stanwix House, and Richmond found a

small section of curtain wall and part of an interval tower near the south-east corner of Stanwix House garden (*ibid*).

- 3.2.10 The main school buildings of Stanwix Primary School straddle the line of Hadrian's Wall defences. Excavations by Simpson (1932-34) and by Simpson and Richmond (1939-40) were undertaken within the Stanwix Primary School grounds. In 1932-34 Simpson traced the line of the stone phase of the Wall across the western edge of the site. To the south and east of the Wall, Simpson found what he thought were a pair of 4th century barracks or stables, beneath which was an extensive gravelled surface (Zant 1997). Simpson and Richmond's work gave a context to internal buildings excavated earlier in the 1930s (Dacre 1985, Caruana 2000). Further excavation by CAU in 1997 and 1998 located the inner ditch of the northern defences of the fort, the remains of the curtain wall, part of the inner ditch, possible remains of a denuded rampart inside the wall and a probable stone building north of the granary recorded in the 1930s. Further metallised deposits were also identified in the trench. The walls of the barracks or stables located by Simpson and Hogg were not found, perhaps sealed by unexcavated deposits of earth and rubble presumed to have belonged with the walls found in the 1930s, but metallised surfaces were identified, suggesting yards or roads internal to the fort. During excavations in 1999, extensive although probably heavily truncated, deposits within the central range of the fort were exposed. A complex sequence of several phases of timber and stone buildings was recorded, but excavation was not permitted due to English Heritage's policy of preservation *in situ*. The character of the building remains was impossible to determine with any certainty, but the ground plan was thought to be consistent with its interpretation as a hospital. Remains of other walls, cobble spreads, surfaces and other external deposits were uncovered. The most significant result of the work was the discovery of a rectilinear arrangement of large post holes which cut the Roman levels, but which appeared to broadly respect, or be influenced by, the Roman layout. It was thought that they could represent the remains of at least one substantial timber building of late Roman or post-Roman date, akin to the remains of an early post-Roman timber hall excavated at Birdoswald fort (Burnham 2000, Zant *pers. Comm.*).
- 3.2.11 In 1940 trenching on the north side of Church Street revealed the remains of a granary. There were traces of other stone buildings to the north and south. No further archaeological work occurred until 1984 when Carlisle Archaeological Unit found a stretch of the northern fort defences within an earlier ditch to the back of the Cumbria Park Hotel (Dacre 1985). This work disproved the idea that Hadrian's Wall had formed the north side of the defences and demonstrated that the stone fort postdated the rebuilding of

the Wall in stone. The significance of the ditch is unclear, although it could relate to the turf phase of the wall, or to an earlier fort (Zant 1997). Of particular interest, it was noted during the 1984 excavation that no old ground surface was identified and the unweathered appearance of the natural subsoil suggested that the area had been terraced at some stage (Dacre 1985).

- 3.2.12 With the exception of a limited evaluation at Barn Close in 1993 that revealed a cobbled surface possibly related to a robbed stone wall, a second wall and two pits that contained 4th century pottery and a coin, no further work was carried out inside the fort until Carlisle Archaeological Unit's evaluation in the school playground in 1997. At this time, all of the work was sited in the western part of the fort. Excavations within the school's playgrounds revealed walls and drains relating to a probable stone building north of the granary that was recorded by Simpson and Richmond in the 1930s. North of the building, was a road or yard in the form of a surface of rammed pebbles found within Trenches 2 and 3. A robber-trench and a layer of sandstone rubble suggested the existence of another stone building to the north of the road/yard. This was sealed by dark soils that were cut by slots and postholes thought to represent the remains of one or more clay-floored timber structures. Ceramic evidence suggests that this activity did not occur before the second half of the 4th century. No medieval activity was noted within the site. Over the entire area, the latest Roman remains were sealed by a loam of post-medieval date (Zant 1997).
- 3.2.13 In 1994 a geophysical survey was undertaken in the garden to the southeast of Stanwix House. No data relating to the Roman period was encountered due to distortion caused by modern disturbance. Investigations in the gardens to the southwest of Stanwix House and Stanwix House Cottages as well as the southwest area of the churchyard at St. Michael's Church also revealed no meaningful data. It was thought that this was because there was little extant material to record. It was suggested that the area around Stanwix House and Barn Close were cleared of the remains of former buildings prior to the construction of the present houses. This would have enabled the gardens to be laid out and building work to be completed without any interference from the masonry of earlier structures. Results from excavations in the surrounding area suggest that clearing of former buildings did not take place in the northern portion of the fort where less pretentious modern buildings were built. It is in the northern portion of the fort that the only significant remains of Roman buildings have been found (Biggins and Taylor 2000).
- 3.2.14 The fort at Stanwix was large, measuring 185 x 215 metres and occupying an area of 3.96 hectares. The most intensive use of the fort appears to be in the

later 2nd century after the arrival of the *ala Petriana*, a military size cavalry unit and the largest auxiliary regiment that is believed to have been stationed there. The known defences consisted of a stone wall 1.73 metres wide with a clay rampart backing that was fronted by two ditches. There is a noticeable decline in pottery dateable to the 3rd century; however, there is an increase in pottery by the 4th century. It is not known when the fort was abandoned. Timber buildings were located within the fort which were no earlier than the 4th century in date (Caruana 2006, Stobbs 2008).

- 3.2.15 Previous excavations revealed the *Vallum* at Whiteclosegate to the east of Stanwix. The course of the *Vallum* was traced from Whiteclosegate across Knowefield Nurseries, across the garden of Homeacres into the garden of Barn Close. From Barn Close it turned southwards passing into the garden of Stanwix House, running under Brampton Road and entering Rickerby Park 80 yards south-east of the church. At the western end of the park the *Vallum* again changed directions. Trenches were opened in order to locate the line of the *Vallum* and revealed a small V-shaped ditch of a pre-Roman earthwork, but not the line of the *Vallum*. The *Vallum* was found to have turned northward, keeping parallel to the course of Hadrian's Wall (Simpson 1934).
- 3.2.16 The *Vallum* that was traced in the 1930s was laid out in relation to a smaller fort than the larger stone fort. Nothing is known about the extent of this primary fort except that it must have been considerably smaller than 3.96 hectares. Earliest levels found on the Miles MacInnes Hall site (1986) included timber and other organic remains as well as some samianware that were probably contemporary with the earlier fort. The majority of the samian and coins recovered from this site were contemporary with the enlargement of the fort (Caruana 2000).
- 3.2.17 The fort interior and defences have been extensively excavated over the last seventy years: at Stanwix Church; on Scotland Road (Simpson 1932); and Church Street, which located the south gate and south-west angle tower, south wall and east wall in 1940. In 1984, an excavation undertaken by CAU in the car park of the Cumbria Park Hotel, located the stone footings of the north-western fort wall and an interval tower, shown by excavation to be of one build, together with a rampart to the south and two ditches to the north, the inner of which was flat-bottomed (Dacre 1985). The location of these discoveries demonstrated that the fort had been enlarged in the Antonine period, projecting it north of Hadrian's Wall, where previously held beliefs had the Wall forming the northern boundary of the fort (cf. Smith 1978). The other key discovery was that of a ditch underlying the rear section of the interval tower and the rampart, which was clearly earlier than the enlargement of the fort and was presumed to be associated with Hadrian's

Wall, the foundations of which had been discovered by Simpson and Hogg during excavations in 1932-4. In the grounds of Stanwix School they uncovered metal surfaces extending back from Hadrian's Wall and dated to the second century. These were post-dated by the foundations of long barrack-like buildings, potentially stables, dated to between 305 and 367 AD (Simpson 1933, Simpson and Hogg 1935).

- 3.2.18 Less is known about the settlement outside the fort. In 1930 workmen were excavating a trench for a sewer through Kings Meadow in Stanwix. The site was a meadow located between the Eden River and a steep hill where the Roman fort was located. A feature was encountered 4.5 metres below the surface that was several yards long aligned northeast/southwest that thinned out on either end. Roman objects that consisted of metal, a glass bead, two incisor teeth and numerous potsherds that dated to the 2nd century, as well as tiles and a boot sole of 'ordinary military pattern' were found in the area. The deposit appeared to consist of material deposited by water and thought to have belonged to suburban buildings from Stanwix fort. The coins found on this site end with Hadrian and brooches do not date any later than 150 AD. Although accurate dating was impossible, the finds suggest that these buildings were contemporary with Hadrian's Wall. It was thought that a great flood around the middle of the 1st century destroyed the buildings. The buildings were most probably associated with the *vicus* of the fort as many of the objects were of military equipment, while others were feminine in character. A considerable number of scraps were of waste metals, possible evidence of a metal worker's shop (Collingwood 1931).
- 3.2.19 It is thought that the landscape and the presence of the *Vallum* would have limited the range for settlement to the south. On the western side of the fort a dedication stone from 167 AD was found that may relate to the arrival of the *ala Petriana*. A Roman well with 1st century glass phalera was found on the western side of Scotland Road. To the east of the fort, traces of buildings were found fronting onto the east/west road, 300 metres from the fort, not far from the Roman cemetery. Observations at the Miles MacInnes Hall site (1986) emphasised that a significant part of the civil settlement was to the west of the fort (Caruana 2000).
- 3.2.20 The question as to whether the present alignment of Scotland Road was utilised as a major thoroughfare during the Roman period has been recently raised. It has been suggested that Stanwix fort and *vicus* may have had a larger and more influential community than Carlisle fort, located to the south of the River Eden. If this was the case, then it is possible that principal roads would have led to the location of the Stanwix fort rather than by-pass such an important centre, as the alignment of Scotland Road would have done (Martin 2009). A study of historical maps suggests that it was in fact

the line of Knowe Road, which may have been one of the principal routes during the Roman period leading northwards rather than the present line of Scotland Road (for example Hodkinson and Donald 1774, and the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1925 which annotates Knowe Road as 'Roman Road (course of)').

- 3.2.21 *Early Medieval (410 AD-1066 AD)*: some evidence of occupation during the early medieval period can be found from the name. Stanwix is thought to be from the Anglo-Saxon *Stanwic*, meaning stone-town (Stobbs 2008).
- 3.2.22 During this time Carlisle was part of the Kingdom of Rheged. The Kingdom of Rheged was absorbed into the expanding Anglian kingdom of Northumbria during the early 7th century (Kirby 1962 as cited in Cook and Zant 2007). During the 9th century, control passed from the Northumbria Kingdom to the British Kingdom of Strathclyde who owed their allegiance to the king of the Scots. In the mid-11th century the region was briefly under the control of the English, until it was recovered by Malcolm Canmore (1060s), where it remained under Scottish control until the arrival of William II in 1092 (Summerson 1993).
- 3.2.23 Evidence of early medieval occupation within the study area is a 9th century Anglian cross-head found in the garden of Old Croft (Site 17), to the north of the site boundary, a coin of Cnut (1016-1035) (Site 25) found while digging the foundations for St. Michael's Church in 1842, and a 10th century Anglian cross-head (Site 34), possibly a duplicate entry in the HER of the aforementioned cross-head.
- 3.2.24 *Medieval (1066-1485)*: Cumberland was not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1066. Historically the northwest of England is scarcely mentioned until 1092 when William II advanced on Carlisle and removed Dolfin, the Earl of Northumbria. Following this, Cumbria became part of Norman England. William constructed a castle and brought settlers from the south to re-inhabit the newly re-established town. The Norman hold on Cumberland was consolidated by William's brother Henry I (Rollinson 1969). Henry I (1100-1135) retained the vill of Stanwix as part of the royal demesne and it remained so during the reign of Henry II (1154-1189) (Graham 1927).
- 3.2.25 Evidence for the development of Stanwix during the medieval period is lacking. There are, however, a few references to the village within the historical record from the late 12th century onwards. In 1187, the sheriff accounted for the *donum* of *Stanwega*. In 1195 the tallage of the King's demesne was paid for by the men of *Steinweges*. In 1227 the *Calender Close Rolls* recorded that the men of the village of *Steinwegges* were pardoned for non-payment of a like due (*ibid*).

- 3.2.26 The extent of the medieval village is uncertain but it is likely that the settlement was centred around the Church Street/Kells Place area, where a small two-cell church stood in the southwest corner of the Roman fort. This small medieval structure was replaced by the present Church of St. Michael (Site 70) in the early 1840s.
- 3.2.27 Excavations at the nearby Stanwix primary school in 1997 and 1998 by Carlisle Archaeological Unit found that the latest Roman remains were sealed by deposits of a late post-medieval date, no medieval deposits or features were found. Excavations at nearby Scotland Road and Barn Close recorded medieval features. At Scotland Road, a series of postholes were recorded that contained 12th-13th century pot. At Barn Close an undated cobbled surface, thought to be a medieval feature was recorded (Cook and Zant 2007). In 1976 a minor cobbled road or trackway was discovered, adjacent to Tarraby Lane, thought to be the remains of a medieval road running between Stanwix and Tarraby (Smith 1978).
- 3.2.28 The earliest reference to an 'Eden Bridge' (Site 57) was in an early 12th century grant where '*a mill upon the bridge of Hedene to the Priory of Carlisle*' was mentioned. Medieval bridges were constructed from timber and in constant need of repair. In 1356 Bishop Welton granted an indulgence of 40 days to those that would contribute towards the repairs of the bridge over the Eden between the city of Carlisle and Stanwix. In 1359 permission to collect tolls was granted to the men of Carlisle for repairing the bridge (Hogg 1952).
- 3.2.29 *Post-medieval and Modern (1485- present):* very little is known of Stanwix during the post-medieval period. During the early post-medieval period, Carlisle and the wider region was recovering from warfare and plague that were endemic throughout the later Middle Ages.
- 3.2.30 All of the references prior to 1571 were to a single bridge, the Eden Bridge, which was the single crossing point of the river. In 1571 a disastrous flood caused the Eden to bifurcate around 220 metres to the east of Stanwix bank. A double channel was then mentioned for 360 metres. This change in the course of the river can be traced to 1571 in a letter from the Privy Council to Lord Scope and the Bishop of Carlisle where the overflowing of the Eden was mentioned as well as the danger that this was causing the Eden Bridge. In 1597 the breach was still open and now referred to as the Priest Beck. The people of Carlisle made a submission that '*both the way at the new goytt [the Priest Beck] and for amendage of Eaden Bridge ende be spedely mended and that it be nott delayed.*' The earliest reference to a second bridge (Site 27) was around the early 1600s in the Act of 43 Elizabeth (1601) for the re-edifying, repairing and maintaining of two bridges over the Eden. Both the Eden and Priestbeck

Bridges were described as being constructed of timber and provided the only passage from England to Scotland. By the early 1600s the Eden Bridge had fallen down and the Priestbeck Bridge was in a great state of decay. By the Act of 1601, the two wooden bridges were replaced by two stone bridges. The earlier Priestbeck Bridge of 1597-1601 was the only wooden bridge to have been built across the 1571 channel (Hogg 1952).

- 3.2.31 During the first half of the 19th century, the population of Carlisle rose dramatically from 10,000 inhabitants in 1801 to 35,000 by 1841 (McCarthy 1993). This resulted in the rapid expansion of the city suburbs. At Stanwix the construction of new houses and buildings during the second half of the 19th century transformed the village into a city suburb. By the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of the 1860s, this expansion was obvious as new streets and houses were depicted on the west side of Scotland Road and along Etterby Road, an area that had been open fields only 12 years earlier (Cook and Zant 2007).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The watching brief monitoring was undertaken over the course of two days, start on the 17th January 2011. It consisted of excavating three service trenches and reopening three existing service trenches to expose gas, water and electric services on the NW side of the site (Figure 3).

4.2 TRENCH 1

4.2.1 Trench 1 was located to the NW of the partially demolished building. It measured 4.24 metres in length (approx.) by 0.4 metres wide and was excavated to a depth of 0.5 metres. This was an existing service trench that was re-opened by hand and contained a gas pipe and it was aligned NW – SE (Figure 3).

4.2.2 The top layer of tarmac, (100), which measured 0.06 metres deep, covered the whole area where the watching brief monitoring was taking place. A 30m² area of tarmac, along the NW side of the partially demolished wooden building was removed by a JCB mini-digger with a narrow toothless bucket. At the SE end of trench, the tarmac sealed a loose orange sandy demolition mix, (104), which measured 1.2 metres in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.25 metres and the deposit contained occasional red brick pieces. This layer lay on top of the natural substrate, (101) which consisted of soft orange sand. This layer was also visible in Trench 2 and 3. For the remaining 3.2 metres to the NW end of the trench, the tarmac sealed a firm, grey sandy stony rubble / demolition mix, (102) that measured 0.22 metres in depth. It contained red brick fragments and hand made nails. Context (102) was visible also in Trenches 4, 5 and 6. This layer sealed another deposit, (103), which was a soft, white lime mortar demolition layer and was measured at 0.03 metres in depth. This was above the natural (101), which was excavated to a depth of 0.2 metres. These layers were all post-medieval (19th century) and are the remains of previous structures on the site. Context (104) was probably backfilled in after the construction of the Nursery building. No archaeological features were noted.

4.3 TRENCH 2

4.3.1 Trench 2 was located to the NW of the partially demolished building and to the NE of Trench 1 (Figure 3). It initially ran parallel to Trench 1 (aligned NW – SE) for 0.8 metres before turning to its left at a right angle, going in SW direction for 0.8 metres and joins up with Trench 1. It measured 0.3

metres in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.5 metres. This was an existing service trench that was re-excavated by hand.

- 4.3.2 The top layer within the trench, context (100), was made up of tarmac. It covered most of the area and measured 0.06m in depth. It sealed context (104,) which was a 20th century loose, orange sandy demolition mix that contained occasional red brick pieces and measured 0.25 metres in depth. Below (104) was the natural substrate, (101) which was a soft orange sand and was excavated to a depth of 0.25 metres. It continued for about 0.4m beyond the SW side of Trench 1, exposing a sewerage pipe. No archaeological remains were noted.



Plate 1: Shot of Trenches 1 (foreground) & 2 (background), looking E



Plate 2: Section shot of Trench 1, showing (100), (102), (103) & (101), looking NE

4.4 TRENCH 3

4.4.1 Trench 3 was located to the SW of the extant building and to NW of the partially demolished building (Figure 3). It measured approximately 8.10 metres in length, and for the first 3.20 metres, it was aligned N – S, before turning to SW - NE direction for the remaining 4.90 metres. It measured 0.30 metres in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.25 (north end) – 0.50 (southwest end) metres. Its SW end joined with Trench 2 where it turned and after a further 0.80 metres, joined up with Trench 1.

4.4.2 The latest deposit was made up of tarmac (100), which measured 0.06 metres in depth and covered the whole area being monitored. It sealed context (102) at the northern end of the N-S aligned part of the trench next to the still standing building. It measured about 3 metres in length and was excavated to a depth of 0.20 metres. It sealed a thin layer of context (103), which was a white lime mortar demolition layer which measured about 3 metres in length and was 0.02 metres in depth. These layers were from the demolition material of an earlier building known to have still existed in the early 20th century (it is shown on Second Edition Ordnance Survey mapping of 1900) and the rubble was then used to level the area. Context (103) sealed context (101) which was the natural orange sand and was excavated to a depth of 0.03 metres.

4.4.3 The trench changed direction at 3.2 metres from the north end of the trench, running parallel (SW – NE) to the partially demolished wooden structure. The deposit visible in the remaining 5.10 metres of the trench differs due to disturbances from the construction of the foundations for the existing

structure along with associated service trenches. Sealed by the tarmac (100), context (104) was a loose orange sandy demolition layer mix that measured 5.10 metres in length (within the trench) by 1.20 metres wide (approximately) and was excavated to a depth of 0.25 metres. It was above the natural orange sand, (101) which was excavated to a depth of 0.25 metres. No archaeological remains were noted.

4.5 TRENCH 4

4.5.1 Trench 4 was located to the north of Trench 1, joining it on its northeast side (Figure 3). It lay to the north of Trench 2 also joining on to its northwest corner. It was also to the west of Trench 3. The trench measured 1.30 metres in length by 0.30 metres in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.50 metres. It was aligned E – W and was hand excavated.

4.5.2 A 0.06 metre deep deposit of tarmac (100) made up the upper layer of the trench and it sealed a layer of firm grey sandy stony demolition / rubble mix, context (102), that measured 9 metres in length (approximately) by 3.60 metres in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.22 metres. It contained red brick fragments and hand made nails. This layer was visible in Trenches 1, 3, 5 and 6. It also sealed (103), a thin white lime mortar demolition layer that measured 9 metres in length (approx) by 3.60 metres in width (approx) and was excavated to a depth 0.03 metres. Again, it is likely that this layer relates to the demolished building which previously occupied the site. Below it, excavated to a depth of 0.25 metres was the natural substrate, (101), which consisted of soft orange sand. No archaeological remains were noted.



Plate 3: Shot of Trench 1 (foreground), Trench 3 (right side & background) and Trench 4 (lower centre, behind Trench 1), looking NE

4.6 TRENCH 5

- 4.6.1 Trench 5 was located on the northern end of the site, starting at the SW side of the extant structure joining with the beginning of Trench 3. It measured 9.20 metres in length by 0.30 metres in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.35 – 0.50 metres. It was aligned in an E – W direction for 3.20 metres, it then turned to a southwest direction for 6 metres, parallel to Trench 3, and it joined with Trench 1. This trench was machine and hand excavated (Figure 3).
- 4.6.2 The upper layer within the trench was context (100), which was a 0.06 metre deep layer of tarmac. This layer sealed context (102), which was a firm grey sandy stony demolition / rubble mix that contained red brick fragments and hand made nails. It was visible in Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 6. It measured, at minimum, 9 metres in width by 3.60 metres in length (approximately) and was excavated to a depth of 0.22 metres. This layer sealed context (103), which was a thin white lime mortar demolition layer that measured 3.60 metres in length (approximately) by 9 metres in width and excavated to a depth of 0.03 metres. It was on top of the natural orange sand (101) which was excavated to a depth of 0.10 to 0.25 metres. About 4.01 metres from the SW end of the trench, a modern drain / gully cut across from a drain next to Trench 2 to a manhole 1.07 metres to the NE of Trench 5 and it measured

0.50 metres wide and about 5 metres in length. No archaeological remains were noted.



Plate 4: Shot of Trench 5, slightly showing Trench 1 in the foreground, looking NE

4.7 TRENCH 6

4.7.1 Trench 6 was located in NW corner of the site, joining the NW end of Trench 1 (Figure 3). It was a small hand dug trench align SW – NE, with its centre joining Trench 1. It measured 1.1 metres in length by 0.20 metres in width and was excavated to a depth of 0.50 metres. This was an existing trench re-excavated in the same manner as Trench 1 and 2.

4.7.2 The upper layer within the trench was context (100) which was tarmac and measured 0.06 metres in depth. It sealed a firm grey sandy stony demolition/rubble mix, context (102) that contained red brick fragments and hand made nails. It was visible in Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5. It measured, at minimum, 3.60 metres in width by 9 metres in length (approximately) and was excavated to a depth of 0.22 metres. It sealed a thin lime mortar

demolition mix, (103) that measured 9 metres in length (approximately) by 3.60 metres in width and excavated to a depth of 0.03 metres. It was on top of the natural orange sand (101) which was excavated to a depth of 0.10 to 0.25 metres. No archaeological remains were noted.



Plate 5: Shot of Trench 6, looking NW (bit of Trench 1 in the foreground)

4.8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.8.1 No archaeological finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 CONCLUSION

5.1.1 A total of six trenches were opened during the course of groundworks at Stanwix Nursery. Of those six, two were re-opened existing service trenches for gas, electric, water and sewerage. Though the groundworks were located within the *Petriana* Roman Fort, no archaeological features or finds were observed. All layers observed were 20th century demolition layers and were quite shallow as the natural sand was reached after 0.25 metres in all the trenches, so possibly earlier deposits have been completely removed during later construction. Contexts (102) and (103), which were visible in Trenches 4, 5, 6 and partially in Trenches 1 and 3, are probably the earlier demolition layers from the 19th/20th building that had been demolished and spread out across the site to level it. The later demolition layer, (104) was visible in Trench 2 and partially in Trenches 1 and 3. This layer was found around the partially demolished wooden structure and is the backfill after the foundations and services had been laid down.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 As this watching brief was conducted as a condition of groundworks associated with the excavation for the slab for the area of the new crèche building, no further archaeological work is deemed necessary. However, given the site's location in relation to the Roman Fort of *Petriana* (CHER 488), it is recommended that any work conducted in the future be subject to a similar programme of archaeological investigation.

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(TCWAAS = Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society)

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Tarmac (top layer)
101	Deposit	Natural (orange sand)
102	Deposit	Grey sandy stony demolition / rubble mix
103	Deposit	White lime mortar / demolition mix
104	Deposit	Orange sandy demolition / rubble mix

List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES
