
NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Client Report No. 209/05

**REPORT ON
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
FIELD EVALUATION ON
LAND AT
THE SHEEPMOUNT,
CARLISLE,
CUMBRIA**

**For
CARLISLE CITY COUNCIL**

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NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In May 2005 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological field evaluation on land at the Sheepmount, Carlisle, Cumbria. This was in response to a brief prepared by Andrew Davison, English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments, North-West Region, in order to inform a planning application for the formation of a coach turning area on the projected line of Hadrian's Wall.

The work involved the excavation of two linear trial trenches which measured 2m x 1.6m, in order to assess the presence/absence, extent, nature and state of preservation of archaeological deposits across the development site. Each trench was mechanically excavated to a modern formation level of 1.20m below current ground surface.

No archaeological deposits were observed within either of the trenches. The earliest recorded deposit consisted of mixed clinker and rubble associated with a late 19th century refuse tip.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the following people and institutions for their help, advice and communication provided throughout the project: Andrew Davison and Mike Collins of English Heritage, Jeff Wallace of Kier Northern Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

- 1.1 In May 2005 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological field evaluation on land at the Sheepmount, Carlisle, Cumbria on behalf of Carlisle City Council. The work was required in a brief provided by Andrew Davison of English Heritage (English Heritage 2005) in order to inform a planning application for the formation of a coach turning area. The site was situated on the line of Hadrian's Wall. As a result, Carlisle City Council was advised that an archaeological evaluation would be required in advance of the determination of a planning application.
- 1.2 The site is situated close to the confluence of the Rivers Caldew and Eden, on a plot of land behind Carlisle Castle known historically as the Castle Saucerries. The site itself lies on the projected line of Hadrian's Wall, close to the Roman river crossing across the River Eden. The area is shown in Figure 1.
- 1.3 According to the minutes of a meeting of the City of Carlisle Health (Special Committee of 20th July 1891, it was decided that "... the west side of the Castle Saucerries, along the east bank of the River Caldew, from the Caledonian Railway Bridge to the Caldew Foot, be used for a Corporation tip." (Proceedings of the Council and Committees Nov 1890 – Nov 1891).
- 1.4 The purpose of the fieldwork was to evaluate the site in order to define the presence or absence of archaeological remains. The fieldwork was undertaken in a single phase lasting one day.
- 1.4 The site archive has been prepared to full MAP2 standard and is located in the archive of North Pennines Archaeology Ltd under the unique project identifier NPA 05 SMT-A.

2 PREVIOUS WORK AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There has been no previous archaeological assessment undertaken within the study area, although Carlisle Archaeology Ltd did carry out a limited trial excavation in 1997. The trial trenches were located approximately 450m to the south east of present evaluation site, over two playing card shaped crop marks revealed in aerial photographs of the football pitches in Bitts park. The excavation failed to record any evidence of Roman activity (Giecco pers comm).
- 2.2 There have been a number of archaeological investigations within the area defined as the City of Carlisle Hazard Area (SMR No. 3560) to the south west of the site. These include major excavations at The Lanes (Carlisle Archaeological Unit 1979-83), an evaluation at 40-78 Botchergate (Carlisle Archaeology Ltd 1998-99, Lancaster University Archaeology Unit May-July 2001); an assessment of 7-9 Fisher Street (The Archaeological Practice, 2001); a watching brief at Cumbria College of Art and Design (Oxford Archaeology North/ The Archaeological Practice July 2001); and various excavations at Rickergate (Lanes extension) (Carlisle Archaeology Unit 1997, 1998, 1999), The millennium excavation on Castle Green, (Carlisle Archaeology Ltd 1999-2001).

2.3 The position of Hadrian's wall crossing of the Eden was located in 1951 when a number of bridge stone's were dredged up. A ground penetrating radar survey was carried out in 1997 south of the confluence of the rivers Eden and Caldew, by Carlisle archaeology Ltd, and recorded strong geophysical anomalies on the projected line of the wall at a depth of between 2 and 3m below the current ground surface (Giecco pers comm).

2.4 Place Name Evidence

2.4.1 In Roman times the settlement at Carlisle was known as *Luguvalium*. During the Later Medieval period the settlement was referred to as *Caer-luel*, meaning 'city of the king' or *Carleil*. French influence later added a silent 's', from which the modern day spelling *Carlisle* derives (Ferguson 1892, 344).

2.5 Prehistoric Settlement

2.5.1 Little is known about settlement in Carlisle prior to the arrival of the Romans in AD 72-3. There have been a number of stray finds of Prehistoric significance recovered within the vicinity of Carlisle. These primarily date from the Bronze Age and include spearheads, arrowheads and food vessels. Two Bronze Age cemeteries and cist burials have also been discovered in the area. It is therefore possible that there may be further finds from the prehistoric period in the area of assessment (Gosling 1976, 171). Evidence of prehistoric agricultural activity in the form of ard marks have also been recorded on Castle way and Botchergate (Giecco pers com).

2.6 Roman Settlement

2.6.1 There is evidence of a Roman stone bridge over the Eden to the North of the city. It follows that the main Roman roads to the east and southwest of Cumbria would have been bridged in Roman times over the rivers Petteril and Caldew respectively but as yet no evidence of these has been seen. The northern boundary of this site forms the present Caldew Bridge with the possibility of Roman trafficking and outer city settlement remains in this area (Gosling 1976, 171).

2.6.2 Roman occupation of Carlisle is first indicated by the presence of a turf and timber fort (Hogg 1964). This fort, dating to the early seventies AD, was possibly centred on the present Castle Green. Two phases of this fort are known to have existed from excavation, but the limitations of the excavated area failed to delineate the boundaries, alignment and layout of the structure. A ditch excavated in Annetwell Street possibly forms the northern boundary of the fort in its first phase. This fort predates the later much richer Roman town of *Luguvalium*, and was post-dated by another fort across the Eden in the Stanwix area.

- 2.6.3 At that time the Romans established a fort at the northern end of the present city centre, and this quickly expanded to become a substantial civilian settlement over 40 acres in area. The withdrawal by the Romans from Scotland in the 80s, and the building of Hadrian's Wall from AD 122, probably had a substantial impact on the settlement. The wall initially constructed out of turf but later rebuilt in stone. By about AD 200 Carlisle, known as Luguvalium, seems to have been granted special status, and it continued to flourish, with a large number of houses, shops, administrative and other public buildings, until the end of the Roman occupation around AD 400.
- 2.6.4 The Roman roads which have been located through archaeological investigation may not form the total extent of the traffic system as seen by the discovery of the street found at Tullie House which failed to fit into any grid system yet devised. This suggests the Roman civil town had a different alignment to the earlier fort. Evidence for the existence of a post 2nd century ditch may relate to urban defences of the Roman civil town. The uncovering of the Roman cemeteries outside the civil town boundaries indicates that Roman Carlisle was similar in size to its medieval counterpart (Ferguson 1893, 365-374).

2.7 Medieval Settlement

- 2.7.1 A reference from the Anglo Saxon Chronicle which was compiled on the orders of King Alfred the Great in approximately 890 AD (Garmonsway 1960, 108) states that '*Carleil or Lugubalia was the same city, which, like others in those parts, was destroyed by the Pagan Danes 200 years before and remained deserted until that time*'.
- 2.7.2 Ferguson (1890, 6) makes comment that an "*ancient British track*" runs under the west of the castle-hill after entering Cumberland at the south. Further he says that by a line represented by Collier Lane and Backhouse Walk, and lanes in Willow Holm it '*sneaks under the west side of the hill on which Carlisle and its castle now stand*'.
- 2.7.3 During the 13th century Carlisle saw an extended period of peace after the Scottish siege of 1216, as the city benefited from increased trade with Scotland. The ever-present threat of war, however, had a negative effect on trade in the city. Developing suburbs beyond the city walls were abandoned during times of war due to defence strategies or destruction by the raiding Scots. The wood-built city of the period suffered from a series of damaging fires and outbreaks of plague. The city survived on local trade, much of it associated with the agriculture of the area such as wool and leatherworking. Apart from this there seems to have been little evidence of economic support by other methods, although the City's population was retained (McCord & Thompson 1998, 126-7).
- 2.7.4 The southern limits of the early medieval town are difficult to define, although a deed from c. 1250 suggests that the limits ran from the Grey Friars' lands to the highway, with hints of a possible extension of the limits of the town in that area

with reference to the carrying of the Friars' conduit through the city walls (Jones 1976, 86-7).

- 2.7.5 Towards the end of the 15th century the population was growing and the defences were repaired and strengthened. The cathedral was constructed, the bishopric and associated clergy and friars also aiding the economic strength of the city (McCord & Thompson 1998, 127)
- 7.7.6 Accounts of St. Cuthbert's Church, begun in 1603, summarise the state of the city at that time. They say 'Carlisle then fell, from being one of the most important garrison towns in the kingdom, to a mere country town without commerce or manufactures' (Ferguson 1883, 312). The map of Carlisle from 1774 (Perriam 1976, 185) shows the main city walls with other buildings outside these associated with the various gates to the city. Later maps from 1790 and 1815 (ibid) also show buildings and associated streets in the area with the corporation dam now present. Throughout this period the Sheepmount has always been outside the limits of settlement, with no evidence of any use, apart from as pasture land until its use as one of the city tips in the late 19th century.



Figure 1: Location of the Site and Surrounding Area

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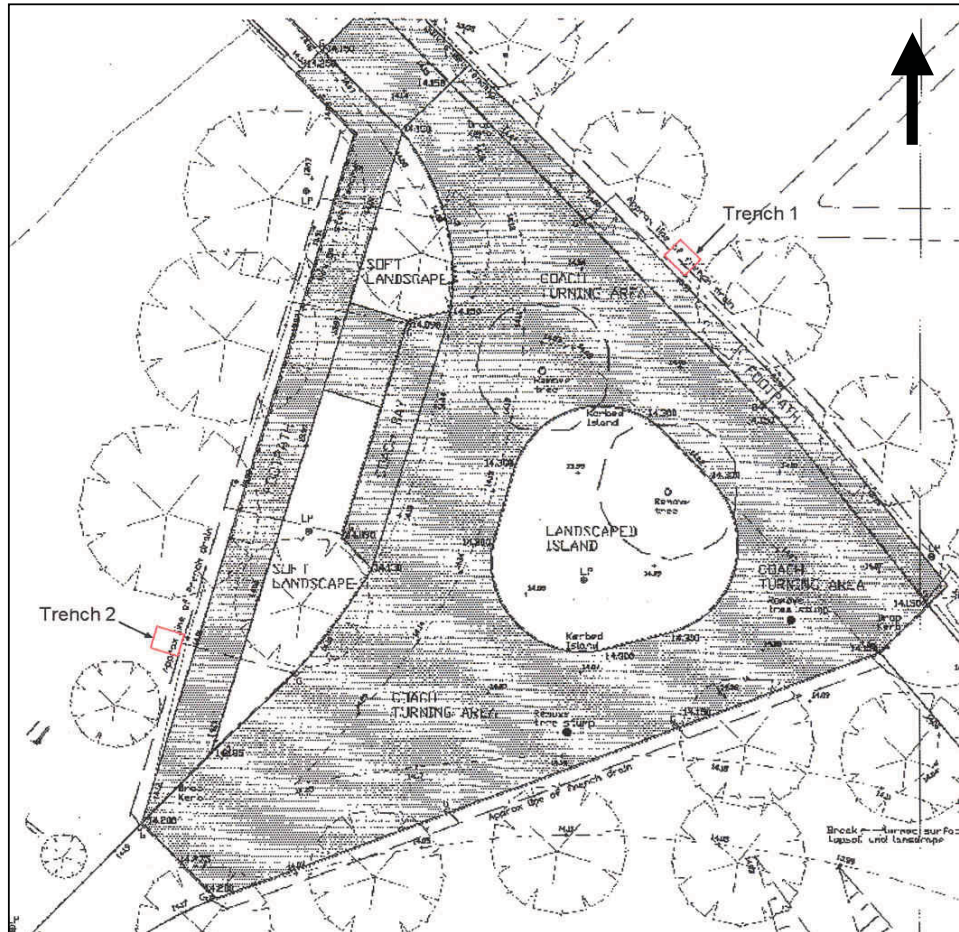


Figure 2: Location of Trenches. Scale: 1:500

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The work undertaken consisted of a field evaluation. This consisted of the excavation of two linear trial trenches each of which measured 2m x 1.6m, in order to produce a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains.
- 3.2 In summary, the main objectives of the excavation were:
- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these were they are observed;
 - to establish the line of Hadrian's Wall in relation to the development site;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- 3.3 The trenches were mechanically excavated by a JCB 3CX excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket to the top of archaeological deposits, or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first. The trenches were then manually cleaned and all features investigated and recorded according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd standard procedure, as set out in the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd Excavation Manual. Photography was undertaken using a Canon EOS 100 Single Lens Reflex (SLR) manual camera. A photographic record was made using 200 ISO colour print film.
- 3.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (IFA 1994).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The evaluation was undertaken by Chris Jones BA, MA, AIFA, Project Archaeologist, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. He was assisted by Leon Field, Archaeological Technician.
- 4.2 Two linear trial trenches, each of which measured 2m x 1.6m, were excavated within the proposed development site.
- 4.3 All references to cardinal directions refer to site grid north. Heights refer to the depth below current ground level.
- 4.4 Trench 1 was located at the eastern boundary of the site and trench 2 at the south – west of the site, each placed carefully on or close to the line of the proposed French drain. The stratigraphy within both trenches were identical and consisted of clear tips of late 19th and early 20th century material (contexts **100 –106**), natural subsoil was not observed in either trench. The earliest recorded deposit (**106**) consisted of a rubble deposit associated with the 1891 corporation tip which was observed at a depth of 12.61m AOD in trench 1 and 12.85m AOD in trench 2 (see figure 3).
- 4.5 This earliest deposit was then sealed by a further four layers of tipping (**102–105**) all consisting of a mixture of factory made brick, clinker, iron, pottery and glass. The final layer associated with this infilling (**101**) was a compact silty clay layer measuring approximately 0.12m which appears to have capped the rubbish tip. The layer of clay was sealed beneath 0.10m of topsoil (**100**).

5 THE FINDS

Context	Pottery	Glass	Clay Pipe	Cu Alloy	Pb	Other
104	17	27	11	0	0	0
Unstratified	0	0	0	3	5	0

Table 1: Finds by Context

5.1 The pottery and other artefactual material has been cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of Chris Jones. The finds have been quantified in table 1. No further work is required on the finds assemblage.

5.2 Glass

5.2.1 A large quantity of glass of 19th century or later origin was recovered from within context 104. These consisted of 19 complete bottles and jars, 7 incomplete bottles and 1 fragment of window glass. The bottles included wine and beer bottles, soda bottles, mineral water bottles, medicine bottles and ink bottles.

5.2.2 Two phases of mineral water bottles were recovered, the early 19th century ‘Hamilton’ type, with a distinctive ‘torpedo’ shape, so-called after the patented process for producing aerated mineral water, and the later ‘Codd’ type patented in 1870 by Hiram Codd of Barnsley (<http://www.thebottledump.co.uk>).

5.2.3 A small number of bottles exhibited interesting details, including:

Dan Rylands Ld, Makers, Barnsley (detail of Shaddon Mill, Carlisle)

John Reay 100-104 English Street, Carlisle

F.H.Lamb & Co, Newcastle, Established 1820

*J.Tiffen, Crescent Aerated Water Works, (Trade Mark ‘Purity JTC’)
Registered Carlisle. “The Niagra Bottle” RP65433*

H Sharp & Son, Leeds

Lea & S Perrin (inscribed on a bottle top isolated from original bottle)

5.2.4 Joseph Tiffen Aerated waters was an established Carlisle-based firm which had finished production by 1913. John Reay was a wine and spirit merchant based in Carlisle in the 1880s.

5.3 Pottery

5.3.1 There were 17 sherds of pottery from context 104, all of which dated to the 19th century and consisted largely of transfer printed porcelain and stoneware ale jars. At least one of the stoneware vessels could be securely dated to the late 19th century, bearing the mark Gray & (Sons), Portobello. Dr William Affleck Gray took over the Westbank Potteries in Portobello, Edinburgh, in 1856 and renamed

it Midlothian Potteries, he died in 1896. Another fragment from a stoneware ale jar can be traced back to Guthrie Porter, Bottler of Hexham.

5.4 Clay Pipe

5.4.1 Eleven fragments of clay pipe were recovered, all from context 104. These consisted of 8 bowls, three of which had a substantial stalk attached, and 3 stalk fragments. One stalk fragment bore the inscription 'Christie' and 'Glasgow' either side. Evidence of 'saggars', part of the furniture of clay tobacco pipe kilns is known from Christie's Glasgow works which ceased production in c.1920 (Peacey 1996).

5.5 Other

5.5.1 Five un-diagnostic lead objects and 3 unidentified copper alloy objects were recovered from unstratified layers.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 No significant archaeological deposits were observed within either of the trenches. The earliest recorded deposit consisted of a mixed rubble deposit which related to a late 19th century refuse tip. The evaluation terminated at a modern formation level of 1.20m below the current ground surface (between 12.61m and 12.85m AOD), no evidence of Hadrian's Wall or associated Roman period activity was observed at this depth.

6.2 Even though no Roman remains were recorded during evaluation, given the limited depth of both trenches and the findings from the 1997 radar survey (see 2.3) it is totally plausible that the wall may still be present at a greater depth.

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8 APPENDIX 1 – INDEX OF CONTEXTS

Context	Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Mid brown clay
102	Deposit	Dark brown silty loam
103	Deposit -	Brick rubble
104	Deposit	Clinker
105	Deposit	Brick rubble
106	Deposit	Fe stained clinker

Table 2: Index of Contexts

9 APPENDIX 2 – ILLUSTRATIONS



*Plate 1: Selection of late 19th century bottles recovered from Trench 2. Medicine bottles A-E.
Ink bottle F.*



Plate 2: Part of 'Codd' Type bottles recovered from Trench 2. Both are engraved with Dixon's Mill, Shaddongate, Carlisle, although the bottles originate from Dan Ryland's factory in Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

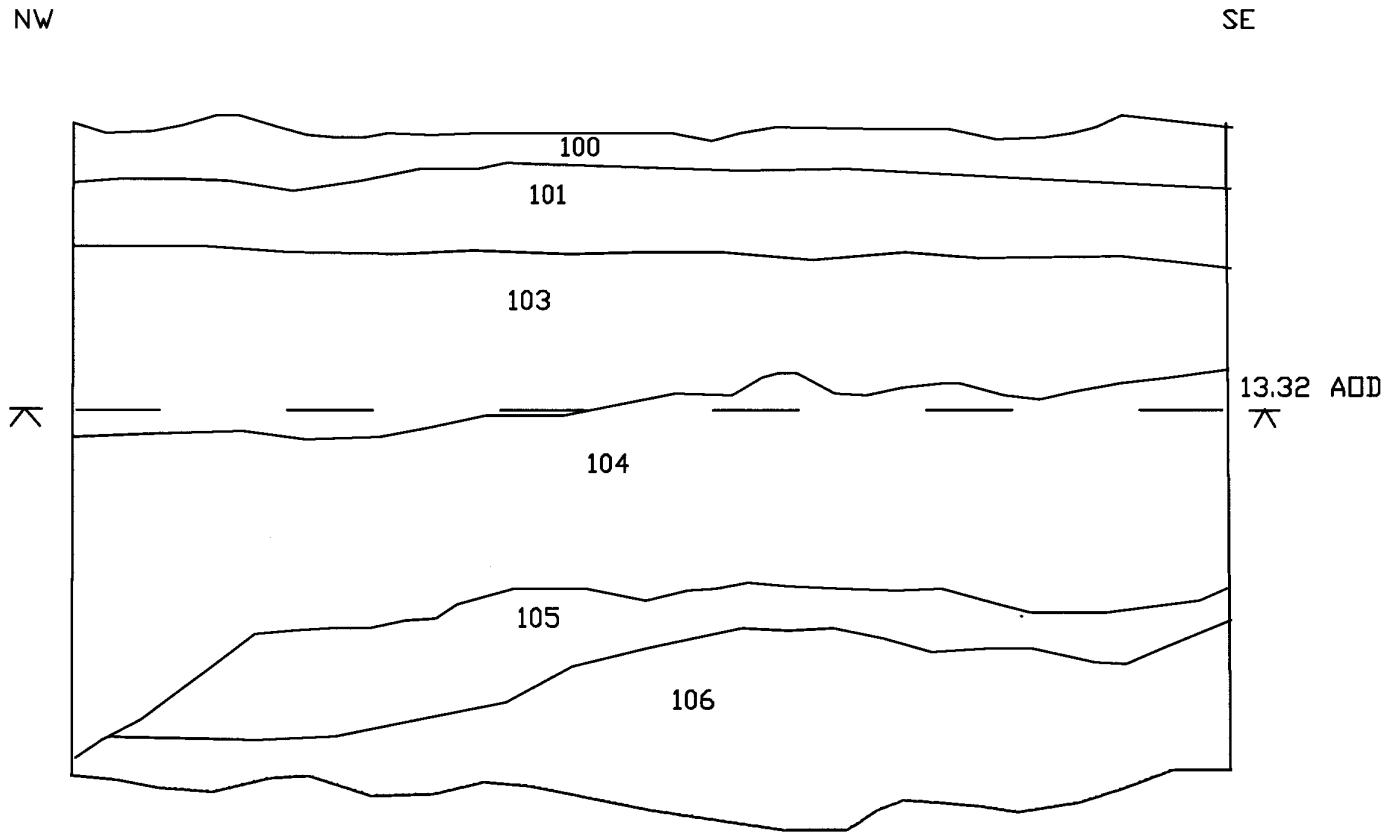


Figure 3: South-West Facing Section through Trench 1. Scale: 1:10



Plate 3: Trench 2: South-East Facing Section.