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### Environmental Report for 54 Scotland Road, Carlisle by P. Crompton

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## SUMMARY

The archaeological evaluation recovered evidence that significant archaeological deposits were still extant despite considerable modern truncation.

The principal observations include the following

- An extensive cobble surface measuring approximately 30m x 20m that probably represents a Roman yard
- The original Roman ground surface
- A wide and deep Roman ditch aligned north-south that appears to possess military characteristics
- A Roman well or deep pit with organic remains
- A probable prehistoric segmented ditch
- An undated stone foundation
- Two dog burials of unknown date

In conclusion, considerable extra-mural Roman settlement or activity appears to be occurring north of Hadrian's Wall that may parallel the *vicus* to the south around Eden Mount, possibly occurring between the establishment of the Wall in AD 122 and the remodelling of the cavalry fort *circa* AD 160.

No direct evidence for a Roman road was present.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Project Origins

Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) was consulted by Carlisle City Council regarding a planning application for planning permission for nine flats and two retail units at the former Gates Tyres workshop, 54 Scotland Rd, Carlisle, as requested under Planning Application 1/08/0224

As potential and significant archaeological remains may be encountered, an archaeological evaluation has been requested from Cumbria County Council. The results of the evaluation will determine whether a mitigation strategy will be required in order to preserve *in situ* any significant archaeological remains.

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd has been commissioned by Mr Mark Williams (Ian Belsham Associates Ltd) acting on behalf of the client Mr P Razaq, Kans & Kandy Property Developments Ltd to undertake a Programme of Archaeological Evaluation relating to the ground works for this development.

The development of the site will involve the machine removal of superfluous demolition debris and earth within the proposed building footprint as well as the insertion of various service trenches attending to the development.

The site has been the subject of an archaeological desk-based assessment (Tyne & Wear Museums, 2008, *54 Scotland Road, Stanwix Carlisle, Cumbria, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, unpublished report).

In order to ascertain the historical and archaeological merits affected by this development, the brief issued by the curatorial authority required an investigation into the survival of archaeological deposits by evaluating the site through limited trial excavation.

This document describes the results of that archaeological evaluation.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Project Design

In response to a request by Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), Gerry Martin Associates Ltd submitted a project design. This document outlined the contractors' professional suitability, historical context, general objectives required of the project, the methodology and the resources needed for the successful expedition of this work.

The project design on being accepted by the curatorial body, Gerry Martin Associates Ltd was commissioned to undertake the archaeological fieldwork.

The following report has been assembled to the relevant standards and protocols of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation, 2008), combined with accepted best practice and in accordance with the brief prepared by the curatorial authority.

Fieldwork took place between June 29<sup>th</sup> and July 8<sup>th</sup> 2009.

## **2.2 Walkover survey**

A site visit conducted on Monday June 22<sup>nd</sup> whilst demolition was in progress revealed the following observations:

- A terrace at the southern end of the site survived approximately 1.00m above the rest of the site
- A concrete slab covered the whole site approximately 0.15m in depth
- The ground level on Cheviot Road was up to 1.00m higher than the ground surface within the study area
- Extensive modern intrusions existed along the Scotland Road frontage
- The bore-hole logs suggested approximately 0.40m of made-up modern ground above natural Boulder Clay
- The integrity of a modern wall and the gable end of 52 Scotland Road at the southern end of the site could be compromised should trenching be too close

These factors heavily influenced the final trench configuration and lay-out.

## **2.3 Archive**

The archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design and the guidelines set out by English Heritage (1991) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994).

The archive comprises of forty three contexts, sixteen drawings, three environmental samples, one radio-carbon sample and one hundred and four photographic images. Cultural artefacts included a small quantity of pottery and ceramic building material and two dog skeletons.

The archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository and a copy of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record, as requested by the curatorial authority.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

### **3.1 Location, topography and geology**

The study area NY 4003 5728 is located approximately 100m north of Hadrian's Wall. It consists of a rectangular shaped parcel of land bounded to the west by Scotland Road and defined to the east and north by Cheviot Road a road in existence by 1897 according to Kelly's Directory.

The land was formerly used as a garage occupying an earlier nursery known as Knowesfield Gardens (Bulmer 1901, 271-274).

Knowefield Nurseries owned by messrs Little & Ballantyne occupied 150 acres employing up to two hundred people. The nursery was famed for its roses growing 60,000 to 70,000 each year (Ibid 267).

As described on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map, the area that became 54 Scotland Road continued as a nursery until at least 1926.

By 1929, Kelly's Directory describes the property as being "Routledge Road Garage proprietor" (Kelly 1929, 93) whilst in the 1934 and 1938 volumes (Kelly 1938, 98) the business has developed into Stanwix Garages Ltd.

The study area is situated on low ground at circa 23m OD that rises to the south towards the centre of Stanwix.

The local geology has produced a relatively heavy soil with a higher clay content due to the local underlying pink Boulder Clay and orange alluvial sands and gravel laid during successive glaciations between 2,000,000 and 12,000 years ago.

Solid geology comprises bedded Permian and Triassic red sandstone laid between 200,000,000 and 300,000,000 years ago.



Figure 1. Site location, (OS Copyright, Licence no. 100044205)

## 4. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 4.1 Historical context

The study area NY 4003 5728 is situated within a landscape associated with Hadrian's Wall that forms part of a World Heritage Site

The proposed development is located north of Hadrian's Wall and the Roman cavalry fort of *Ala Petriana* summarised below.

Excavations by Simpson and Hogg in 1932-34 and by Simpson and Richmond 1939-40 established the positions of the south gate of the Hadrian's Wall fort and the defences of the north-eastern, south-eastern and south-western sides as well as the line of the Vallum. Internal buildings, including a granary were also located within Stanwix School.

In the spring of 1984, excavations within the car park at the Cumbria Park Hotel, Carlisle uncovered the previously unsuspected north curtain wall, rampart and interval tower of the Roman fort at Stanwix (Dacre 1985, 55).

The excavation did not identify any old ground surface and the unweathered appearance of the natural sub-soil suggested that the area had been terraced during the past suggesting either no surviving or no pre-military activity.

The 1984 excavation revealed a 24m length of northeast-southwest aligned robbed curtain wall overlying a clay and cobble foundation. The wall comprised of a chamfered stone course overlying a course of yellow sandstone flags.

The southerly footings of the curtain wall were overlain by an earth bank, at least 3.5m in width that was contemporary with the curtain wall. This rampart respected a stone Interval Tower.

The square plan Interval Tower comprised of dressed stone blocks, preserved to at least three courses and resting above footings slightly askew from the towers ground plan. The tower possessed a probable doorway with a respecting path.

Occupation deposits within the Interval Tower suggested worn and coarse trampled floors with an area of paving in the angle between walls that may have provided a rigid surface for a ladder or stairway leading to upper stories or the walls summit.

Robbing of the wall and tower could not be isolated to any temporal phase whilst sealing soils and tertiary ditch fills provided no conclusive dating material.

Roman finds were mainly utilitarian items such as nails, hobnails, lead pot-mends, glass sherds and slag fragments. A tile stamp of the Ninth Legion, four fragments of pottery bearing graffiti, a lead plumb-bob and a copper alloy ring were all recovered.

Pottery was largely recovered from unsecure and unstratified contexts and the small reliable assemblage could not provide a conclusive dating range. Samian and mortarium provide a probable date of between *circa* A.D. 150-180.

This work demonstrated that the fort had been enlarged during the Antonine period so that it projected north of Hadrian's Wall. The other critical discovery was that a ditch lay beneath the interval tower. This ditch antedated the enlargement of the fort and is presumed to be associated with the Hadrian's Wall discovered by Simpson and Hogg between 1932 and 1934 and confirmed by a watching brief last year (Martin 2008).

Between 1997 and 1999, further excavations at Stanwix School identified a turf wall rampart, the earliest structural feature just south of the line of Hadrian's Wall. Cobbled surfaces and demolition deposits were located internally before timber buildings were established in the fourth Century.

A watching brief at 18-22 Scotland Road, Stanwix, conducted between June and December 2000, confirmed further stretches of the northern curtain wall, a possible heavily denuded rampart and an inter-vallum road inside the wall along with further remains of inner and outer defensive ditches and a cobbled surface on the berm between the inner ditch and the fort wall.

However, north of the Wall archaeological reconnaissance has produced little tangible remains attributable to prehistoric, Roman or Medieval activity.

An evaluation in 1993 (HER no. 40442) approximately 660 metres northeast of the study area found evidence for a cobbled surface, foundation trenches and post-holes for putative timber buildings. A V-shaped ditch was also discovered at least 25 metres in length overlain by a series of cobbled surfaces. This multi-phased activity was interpreted as a Late Iron Age or early Romano-British farmstead.

Roman pottery (HER no. 40425) was also found 510 metres northeast of the study area at Knowefield, whilst a Roman coin (HER no. 18937) was found 300 metres northwards at Beech Grove.

Approximately 1km northwards, Windsor Way, Carlisle (unpublished) produced in 1999 occasional undated ditches and *ard* marks but no trace of substantive occupation despite a study area of several hectares (Reeve *pers comm*).

The road north of the Wall has not been observed, its character, state and condition being unknown. Although a Roman road was observed at 1 Scotland Road/10 Eden Mount during 1993 (Esmond Cleary 1994, 263-264), it remains unproven whether this route, observed on the south side of the Wall, continued northwards beyond Hadrian's Wall.

The course of this route may also have changed after the Roman period only reverting to the putative Roman route along modern Scotland Road during the early 18<sup>th</sup> Century (Stobbs 2008, 10-11).

The inference of a Roman road that maintains the same alignment as present day Scotland Road requires some detailed discussion that was not raised in the desk-based assessment.

Modern urban topography whereby Carlisle dominates its immediate environs has probably influenced successive researchers creating an implicit bias regarding research driven enquiry.

Stanwix fort with its 500 strong cavalry contingent and *vicus* may have been a larger and more influential community than Carlisle with its fort and straggling *vicus* in Botchergate. Excavations led by the author in 2000-2001 at Castle Green suggested a functional fort in Carlisle, lacking in embellishment, poorly drained that by the mid Second century AD had become a *fabrica* presumably supplying goods for the lowland Scottish campaign. Therefore, it may be the case that the fort at Stanwix was the principal nodal point where an elite in society were based whereas Carlisle was primarily a production centre e.g. pottery production in Fisher Street.

If this model is correct, then the local focus would have been on Stanwix fort and it would be expected that principal roads led to that location. It would appear unlikely that with a physical barrier such as Hadrian's Wall, that a route would by-pass such an important centre, a centre that would be administering levies and controlling importation of goods and services from beyond the formal limit of the Roman empire.

An exception is at Wroxeter, where the road from Caersws (mid Wales) does by-pass the fort and is received at the civilian settlement. However, the unique conditions applicable to the margin controlled by Hadrian's Wall do not apply after the late first to early second century AD.



Circumstantial evidence for a fort-centric option rather than an independent road by-passing the fort is provided by the location of Eden Bridge and its successor.

Although no Roman bridge has been discovered traversing the Eden (it has been speculated that access was via a ford), a Medieval bridge did connect Stanwix and Carlisle.

This wooden bridge comprised two parts as the River Eden had divided into two channels, viz the Rickergate on the Carlisle side and the Priestbeck on the Stanwix side. In 1571, the defences were breached by flooding but repaired by 1575. In 1600, an Act of Parliament was passed for the rebuilding of the two bridges in stone (Cowper 1899, 117).

The course of the rebuilt bridge is clearly illustrated on the 1774 Hodkinson & Donald map and is corroborated by the painting “Walled City of Carlisle viewed from Stanwix” painted in 1806 by Robert Carlyle Senior (1773-1825).

An Act of Parliament in 1807 initiated the rebuilding of Eden Bridge a short distance westwards. This would be a single stone bridge with a causeway leading up to it from the Carlisle side.

Built at a cost of £70,000 of which £10,000 was advanced by the government on account of it being in the direction of an intended northern road to Port Patrick, the bridge designed by Sir Robert Smirke was begun in 1812 and completed by 1815 (Lysons, D & S 1816, 56-81) before being widened in 1932.

The reconstruction of the bridge was probably part of or encouraged a programme of road improvements.

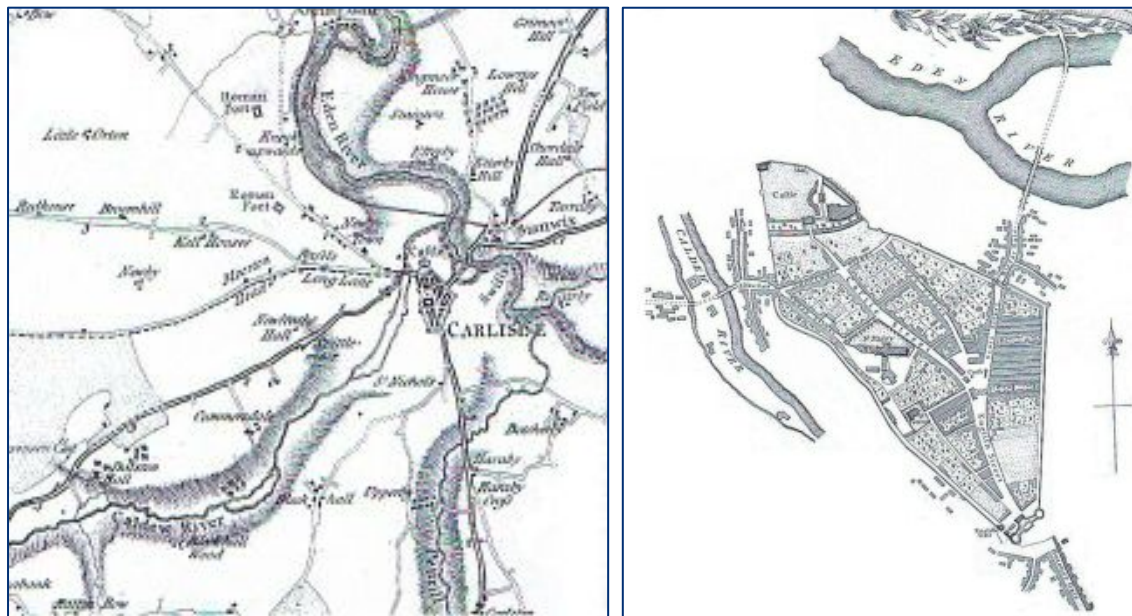


Figure 2 and 3. The Hodkinson & Donald map 1774 showing the northern route and the Eden crossing

The Hodkinson & Donald map (1774) does not show any road west of the study area that is now Scotland Road. However, it does illustrate a route to Rowcliffe that is now Etterby Street and it does

indicate a primary northbound route that is now Knowe Road before developing into present day Scotland Road.

It would appear probable that the link between the Etterby Street turn (the Crown Inn) and the junction with Knowe Road dates from the early nineteenth century and had become established by 1839 when the tithe map confirms its presence (DRC 8/181).

The alignment of this section of road, conforms to the township boundary between Etterby and Stanwix within Stanwix parish (Summerson 1997, 118) and is probably part of the road improvement scheme between Carlisle and Glasgow which included an entirely new section of road between Kingstown and Gretna built in 1820 (Hogg 1952, 131-159).

The presence of a Roman road from the river Eden, up Stanwix Bank to the southern end of Scotland Road has a stronger claim but is not conclusively proven.

Observations in 1986 at Miles MacInness Hall provided a narrow strip of cobbling or metalling at the western limit of the study area. However, this was not a controlled excavation but a watching brief where several other extensive areas of cobbles were present just under a soil overburden (Carauna 2000, 55-78). This does suggest an extensive *vicus* rather than any conclusive proof of a northbound road.

The Carlisle Patriot records on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1851 that excavation for the foundations of Miss Carruthers house produced large amounts of Roman pottery and a Roman well similar to the material found whilst constructing Mr Farrer's house, bringing the total to three for Roman wells found close-by (Unknown author 1937, 48). Enquiry within the Post Office Directory for 1858 (page 208), reveals that Miss Carruthers lived at 4 Eden Mount and a W.Farrer at 3 Eden Mount.

Roman settlement must have extended westwards as far as Eden Mount and a series of putative roads observed in 1986 and 1993 may be part of this settlement rather than a single thoroughfare processing beyond Hadrian's Wall.

Traditional Roman road-building practice necessitated the clearance of an approximate 27 metre wide corridor flanked by ditches with a road resting upon a stone core finished with a hardened pebble surface producing a pronounced camber (Bagshawe 1979, 13-17).

Being beyond the formalised political boundary of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall) ownership and responsibility may have fallen to other parties who did not adopt Roman practices in road construction and maintenance.

Although the course of the road may exist, little of its fabric (if this even existed) is likely to survive due to modern truncation its course surmised by two probable parallel north-south aligned flanking ditches.

Finally, the 1866 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map describes the study area as being two fields divided by a hedge or boundary. This replicates the 1839 Tithe Award that also shows two enclosed fields.



Figure 4. 1866 1:2,500 Ordnance Survey map (study area in blue edging)

## 5. DISCUSSION

### 5.1 Academic merit

Considerable academic questions arise that may be answered by this evaluation exercise. The enquiry would include:

1. Identifying a northern Roman route into Scotland
2. Identifying whether this route emanated from the fort at Stanwix or via a gate within Hadrian's Wall
3. Roman settlement beyond the Wall either military or civilian
4. Whether any putative settlement occurs between 122-160 AD when the frontier becomes established in Scotland and the area has become *de facto* Roman territory
5. Whether ancillary features associated with the fort lie within this area e.g. stockyards
6. The relationship between military and civilian settlement and whether such terms are relevant in this region
7. Temporal variation (if any) within settlement type as the role of the frontier evolved

These questions would be dependent on the survival and existence of archaeological deposits that may be present in the study area.

### 5.2 Archaeological potential

The potential for recovering archaeological deposits appeared initially to be low, the study area being a brown field site formerly used as a service station and garage since *circa* 1929.

Modern activity had covered the site in concrete overlying brick hardcore. Although the former buildings were not substantial, all the buildings possessed footings and service trenches. Inspection pits, drains, submerged tanks and former brick walls were all present.

Truncation had occurred to approximately 0.30m below ground level at the northern end, a depth that became greater as the former development had excavated into the rising ground towards the south.

This suggested that only deep, penetrative features would survive such as ditches, whilst horizontal stratigraphy such as floor surfaces or a road camber would not be present.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

The brief recommended that 5% of the total study area required evaluation. As the study area comprised 0.22 hectares, the sample size to be analysed was 110m sq. This amounted to four trial trenches (subsequently three due to modern intrusive activity) two metres in width. Trenches 1 and 4 were 20m in length whilst Trench 3 was 25m in length. Subsequently, a further trench (Trench 5) was added in order to resolve a specific task.

## **6. RESULTS**

### **6.1 Methodology**

A total of 110 square metres of evaluation trench was requested for this reconnaissance exercise.

The most important criterion was to locate the course of any putative road and the only certain method to do this was to establish a trench across the site from east to west. This was to become Trench 3.

A secondary goal was to define any roadside activity near Scotland Road, the likeliest candidate for a former Roman road, a trench that was abandoned due to modern intrusive activity, but retained in the programme as Trench 2.

Should the Roman road enter the study area from an oblique angle at the northern end of the site, Trench 1 would provide coverage. This configuration ensured that any putative broadly north-south aligned road would be seen across the study area.

A Trench (Trench 4) at the centre of the study area was designed to provide adequate within the site, no spatial point being more than approximately 10 metres from a trench apart from the western half of the site where intrusive modern activity prevented suitable evaluation.

Finally, the opportunity arose to observe a site section Trench 5. The removal of a brick retaining wall ensured that deposits preserved by a southern terrace could be recorded in section.

The location of trenches adhered to the original configuration agreed with the curatorial authority. However, due to the effects of modern truncation and intrusion the trenches have had to be slightly re-configured in order to achieve full coverage of the area under investigation. This action can be summarised as follows:

- Trench 1, extended slightly eastwards in order to avoid access into the site
- Trench 2, modern truncation down to natural geology and many services, trench abandoned
- Trench 3, curtailed westwards where modern truncation revealed natural drift geology
- Trench 4, extended eastwards in order to prove the course of a Roman ditch
- Trench 5, removal of the retaining wall towards the south of the site enabled a full section to be revealed traversing the raised southern terrace

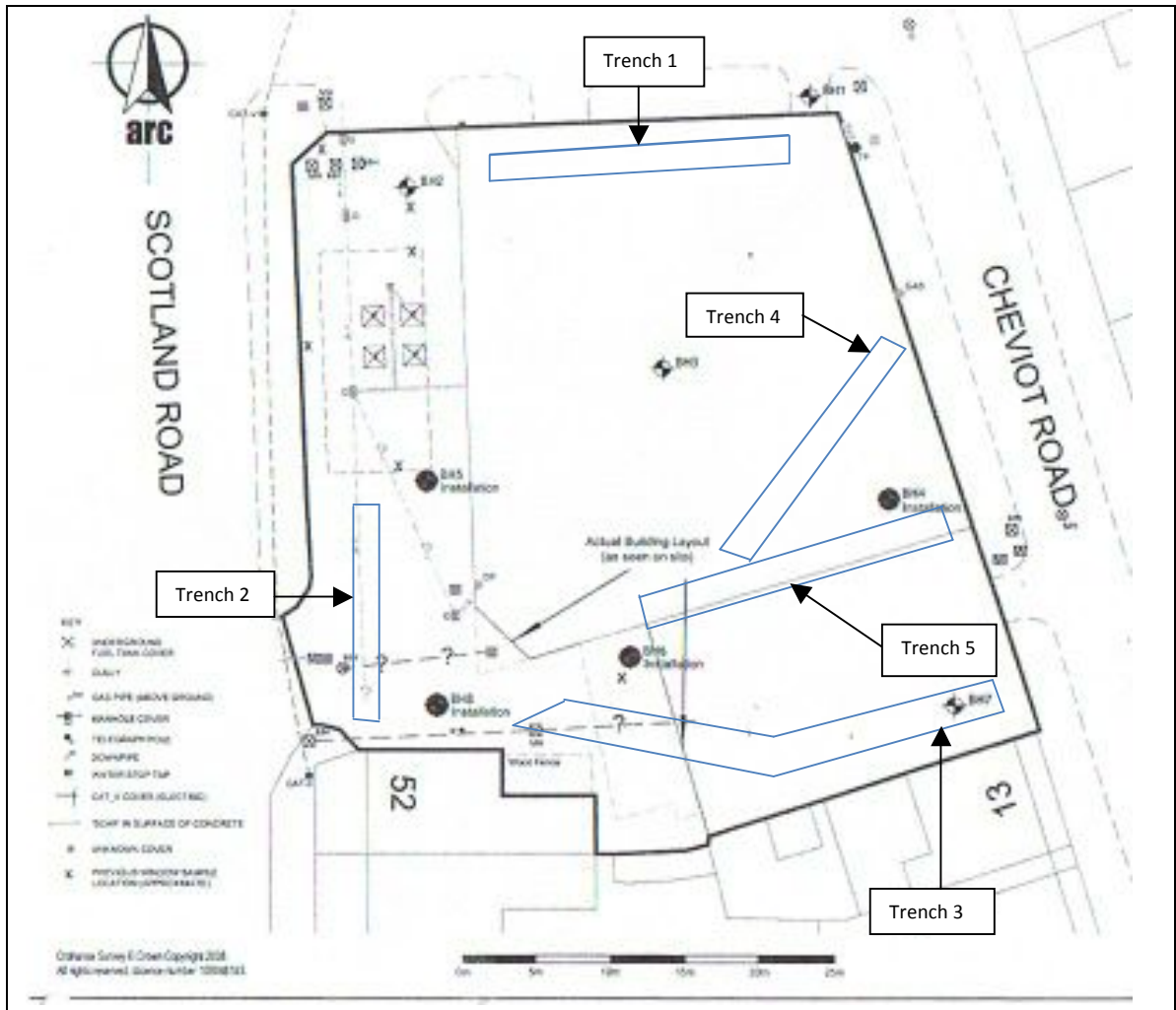


Figure 5. Location of trenches, 54 Scotland Road, Carlisle

## 6.2 Site archive

The site archive consisted of sixteen drawings, three environmental samples and 104 photographic images.

Forty three contexts were issued, summarised in the table below.

### *Register of contexts issued*

Number	Type	Fill of	Filled by	Trench	Interpretation	Date
1	Layer	-	3	1-5	Boulder clay and sand	Natural
2	Fill	3	-	4	Upper fill of well	Roman
3	Cut	-	2, 23	4	Well	Roman
4	Layer	-	-	1	Cobble surface	Roman
5	Cut	-	34-37	3 & 5	Military ditch	E.Roman

An archaeological evaluation at 54 Scotland Road, Carlisle

6	Cut	-	17	1	Segmented ditch	Iron Age
7	Layer	-	-	1	Garden soil	19 <sup>th</sup> Century
8	Fill	9	-	1	Segmented ditch	Iron Age
9	Cut	-	8	1	Segmented ditch	Iron Age
10	Cut	-	18	1	Stake-line	20 <sup>th</sup> Century
11	Cut	-	19	1	Stake-line	20 <sup>th</sup> Century
12	Cut	-	20	1	Stake-line	20 <sup>th</sup> Century
13	Cut	-	16	1	Post-hole	Unknown
14	Cut	-	15	1	Stake-hole	Unknown
15	Fill	14	-	1	Stake-hole	Unknown
16	Fill	13	-	1	Post-hole	Unknown
17	Fill	6	-	1	Segmented ditch	Iron Age
18	Fill	10	-	1	Stake-line	20 <sup>th</sup> Century
19	Fill	11	-	1	Stake-line	20 <sup>th</sup> Century
20	Fill	12	-	1	Stake-line	20 <sup>th</sup> Century
21	Layer	-	-	3 & 5	Cobble surface	Roman
22	Cut	-	42	5	Foundation trench	Unknown
23	Fill	3	-	4	Lower fill of well	Roman
24	Fill	22	-	5	Foundation trench	Unknown
25	Layer	-	-	5	Old Ground Surface	Roman
26	Fill	28	-	3	Backfill to dog burial	Unknown
27	Fill	28	-	3	Dog skeleton	Unknown
28	Cut	-	27, 28	3	Cut for dog burial	Unknown
29	Fill	31	-	3	Backfill to dog burial	Unknown
30	Fill	31	-	3	Dog skeleton	Unknown
31	Cut	-	29, 30	3	Cut for dog burial	Unknown
32	Fill	42	-	5	Re-cut ditch or pit	Unknown
33	Fill	42	-	5	Re-cut ditch or pit	Unknown

34	Fill	5	-	5	Military ditch	E.Roman
35	Fill	5	-	5	Military ditch	E.Roman
36	Fill	5	-	5	Military ditch	E.Roman
37	Fill	5	-	5	Military ditch	E.Roman
38	Fill	41	-	5	Post-hole?	Unknown
39	Layer	-	-	5	Soil	Unknown
40	Layer	-	-	5	Garden soil	19 <sup>th</sup> Century
41	Cut	-	38	5	Post-hole?	Unknown
42	Cut	-	32, 33	5	Re-cut ditch or pit	Unknown
43	Layer	-	-	3	Sealing deposit	Post-Roman

### 6.3 Results

#### Results

##### Trench 1

An extensive, undated, concordant spread 4 of rounded cobbles grouted into the natural Boulder Clay 1 was observed. This surface measured over 15m in width. No structural elements or flanking ditches were observed, although the cobbled spread may have sealed earlier ditches or other features.



Figures 6 and 7. Cobbled surface and unexcavated segmented ditch, cuts 6 and 9 in Trench 1

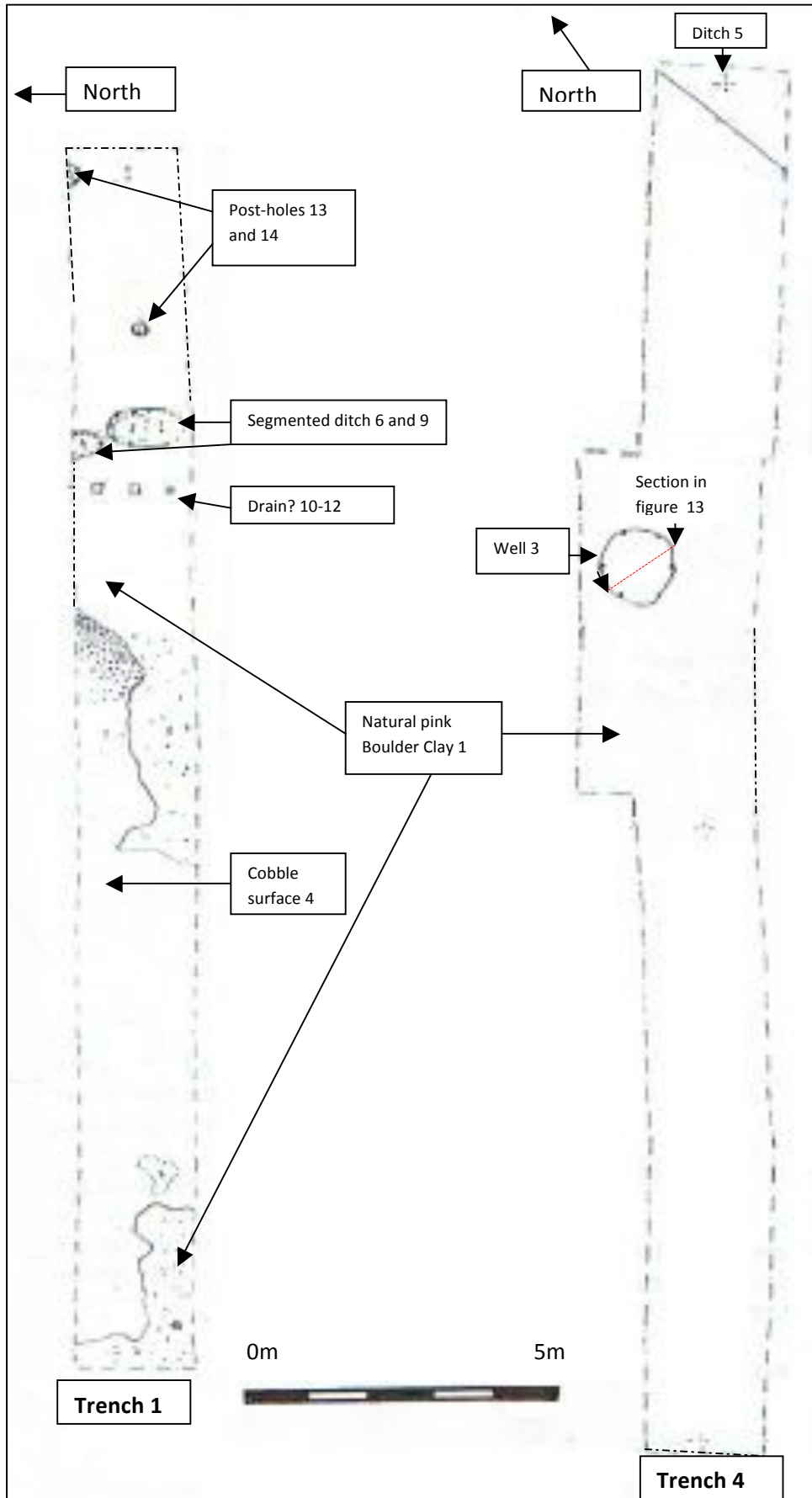


Figure 8. Plan of Trenches 1 and 4. Note: see figure 3 for relative locations of each trench



To the east of this spread, a heavily truncated north-south aligned undated ditch was present. This consisted of two oval plan ditch segments 6 and 9 that would probably have formed a contiguous alignment filled by light grey silt 17 and 8 respectively. This feature would appear to parallel the prehistoric ditch found at Monkhill (Martin 2008) as well as the ditch found at Castle View School, Sunderland (Towle, 2009).

Two undated post-holes 13 and 14 were located to the east of this alignment, but no structural format could be ascertained.

A line of three north-south aligned truncated square plan post or stake-holes 10-12 coincided with a modern drain probably marking out the fall for the pipe.

### *Trench 2*

Observation of modern service trenches revealed natural drift geology 1 was immediately beneath the concrete slab.

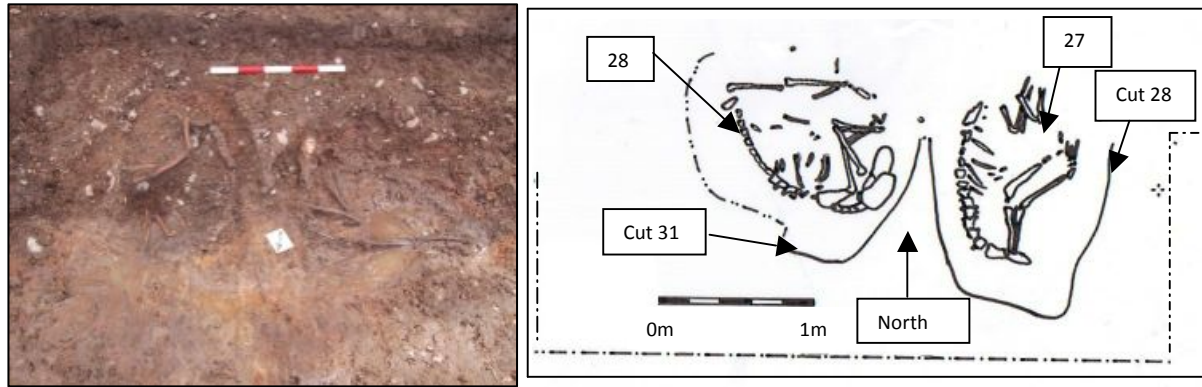


Figure 9. Modern truncation in the area designated as Trench 2

### *Trench 3*

At the eastern end of Trench 3, a wide ditch 5 was observed penetrated by a modern brick chamber. The ditch measured approximately 3.50m in width, filled by fine grey silt. The eastern side of the ditch possessed a step side developing into a shallow slope on its western limit.

Sealed by modern overburden and heavily truncated were two undated graves 28 and 31 containing the articulated remains of two dogs 27 and 30 (Brayne *pers comm*).



Figures 10 and 11. Dog burials within cuts 28 and 31

It is uncertain whether these graves cut an accompanying cobbled surface 21 located immediately to the west although the shallow depth of these burials suggests that the ground surface from which these graves had been inserted had been removed.

Modern glass and brick was found within the unsecure backfill of 26. Although not definitive proof, this suggests that burial 28 was interred relatively recently and by association, implies that the other dog burial 31 was also recent.



Figure 12. Cobble spread 21, Trench 3

Cobble spread 21 was extensive consisting of large cobbles grouted into a pink Boulder Clay. The cobbles were loose in places but a small area that was judiciously examined suggests a very solid flat horizon with both large and small rounded pebbles forming a genuine, robust surface.

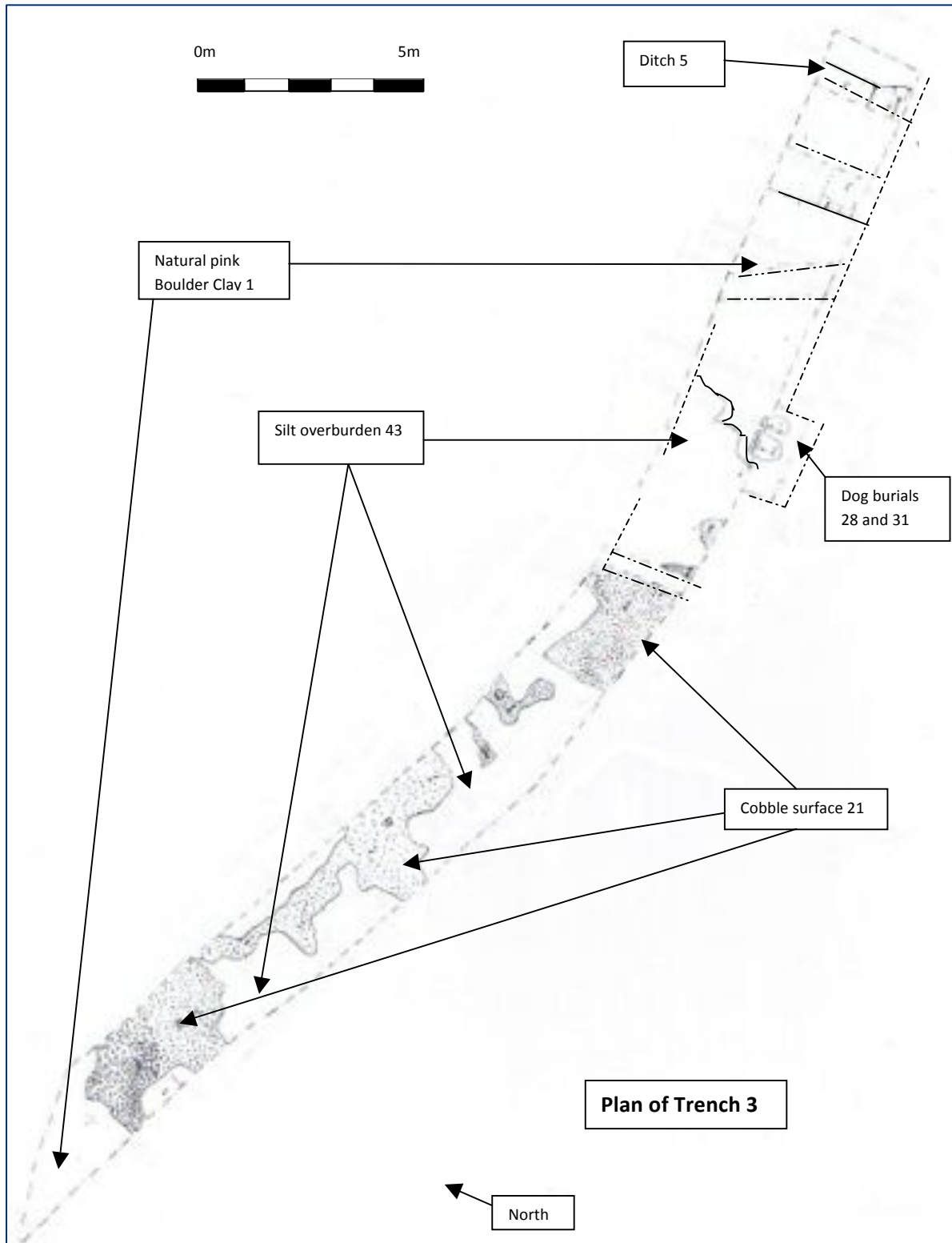


Figure 13. Plan of Trench 3

As with Trench 1, there did not appear to be any obvious structural elements within the cobbled surface although the cobbling could be masking earlier structural features such as post-holes, stake-lines or slots.

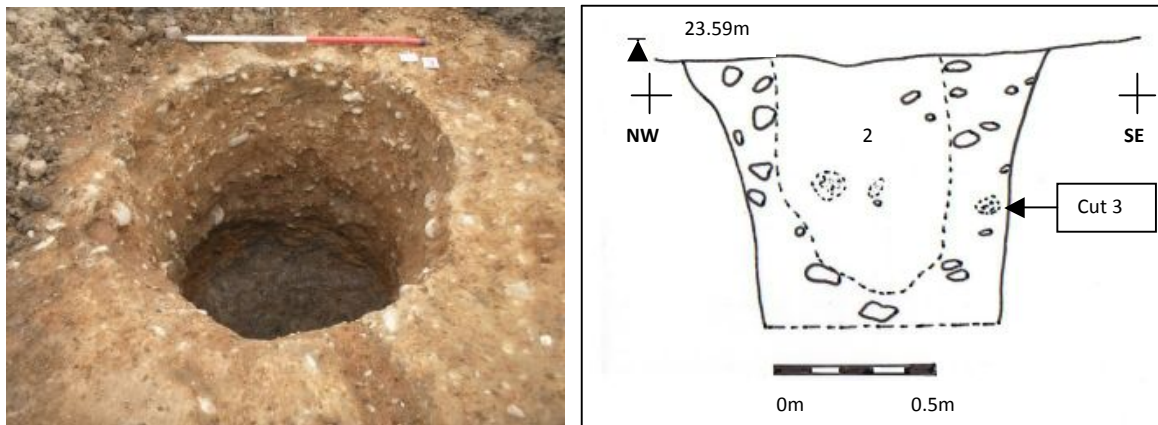
The cobbled area in Trench 3 measured approximately 20m x 10m spatially defined by modern truncation suggesting that this surface was far greater than the surviving horizon and incorporating the cobbles 4 discovered in Trench 1. A sealing layer of fine greenish brown “washed” silt 43 appears to confirm the antiquity of this surface. A fuel leakage suggests that the condition of environmental material would be seriously compromised.

#### Trench 4

The ditch observed in Trench 3 continued northwards into Trench 4.

A single, circular plan pit 3 or well contained remnants of Roman tile, Roman pottery and decayed animal bone. Waterlogged conditions were evident, approximately 1.20m below the surface. The feature could not be bottomed, but appeared to be at least 2.20m in depth strongly suggesting that it was a well.

Elsewhere, the trench appeared to be archaeologically sterile as modern truncation had reduced the ground level onto the natural drift geology.



Figures 14 and 15. Pit 3, Trench 4

#### Trench 5

The section revealing the face of the southern terrace demonstrated the presence of a wide north-south aligned ditch 5. This feature measured approximately 3.50m in width, its profile comprising a steep eastern side, a flat, narrow slot at its base leading to a moderately steep western edge.

Ditch 5 was filled by grey silt 34 at its base with light brown clayey sand 35 and a washed pale yellow sand 36 collecting in the remainder of the ditch. This may represent the slighted eastern bank formed from the ditch upcast. A possible re-cut 42 located towards the base of the ditch may have existed, whilst a modern ditch or foundation trench has latterly penetrated the upper backfilled reaches of the ditch.

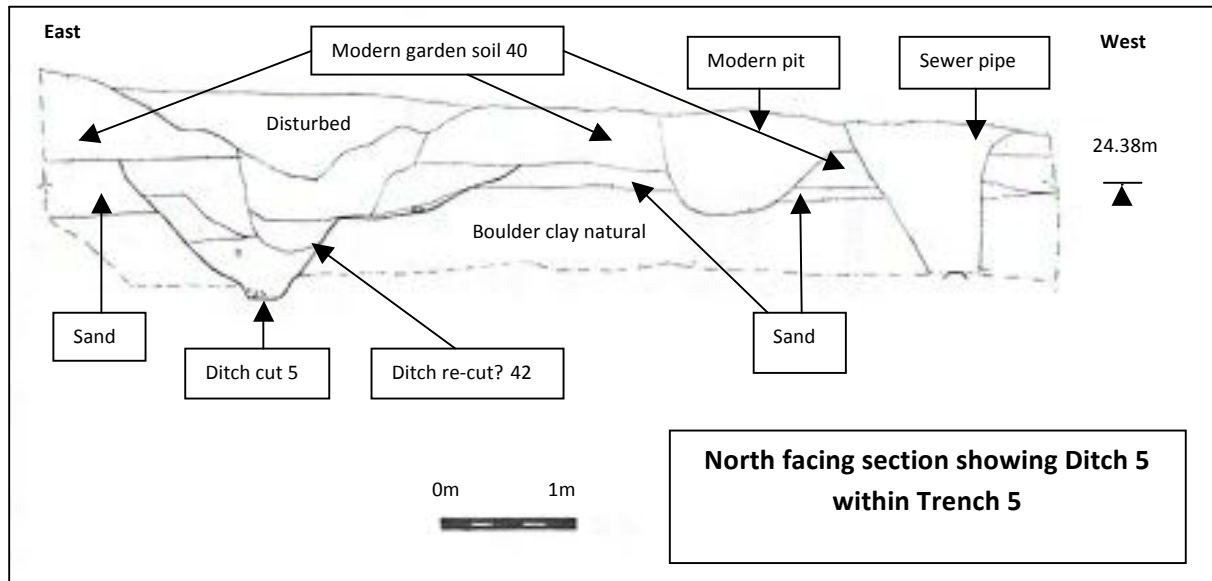


Figure 16. Section showing Ditch 5 within Trench 5



Figures 17 and 18. Ditch 5 profile, Trench 5

An undated, loose stone foundation 22 probably aligned east-west filled by large unmortared rounded cobbles 24 appeared to cut a light brown sandy silt horizon 25 that may represent a buried soil or old ground surface. This horizon abuts a compacted cobble surface 21 observed in Trench 3 overlying natural Boulder Clay 1.

A small cut of unknown plan 41 may represent a small post-hole of unknown date.

At the western side of a modern intrusion removed by the demolition contractors, a concordant cobble spread 21 comprising compacted small pebbles was observed, extending the cobble spread observed in Trench 3 a further five metres northwards.

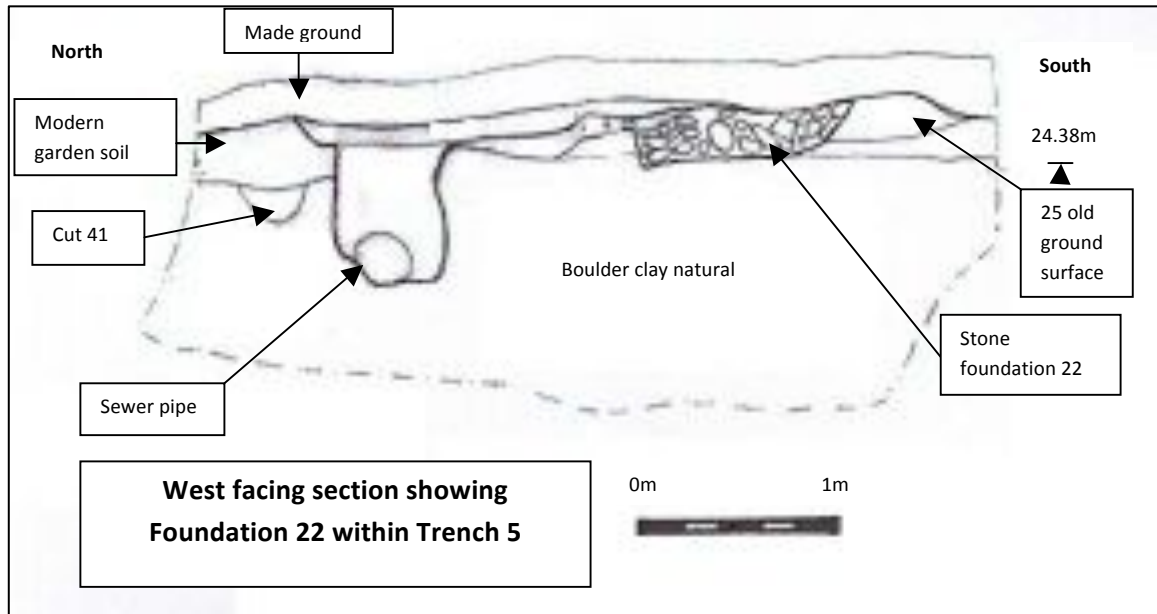


Figure 19. Section showing Foundation 22 and cut 41 within Trench 5

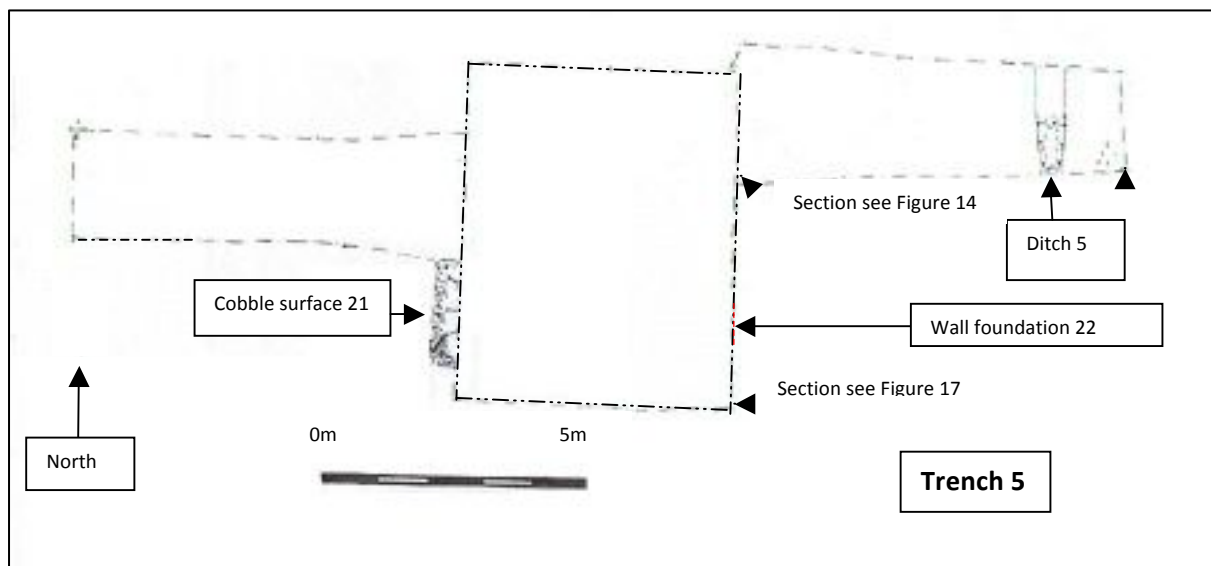


Figure 20. Plan of Trench 5



Figure 21. Cobble spread 21, Trench 5

## **6.4 Discussion**

### *Trench 1*

The appearance of a cobble spread 4 in Trench 1 initially suggested that a Roman road leading from the fort had been discovered. However, the presence of a cobble spread 21 in Trench 3 suggested that these cobble surfaces formed a single horizon covering an area approximately 30m x 20m. The almost absolute lack of cultural artefacts suggests that this surface lain open and was not used for domestic purposes. Interpretation at this juncture is conjectural, but possibly this surface formed a courtyard or stockyard.

The segmented ditch, cuts 6 and 9 suggests a limited amount of prehistoric spatial organisation but cannot, based on this limited evidence, be affiliated to any settlement site.

The two post-holes 13 and 14 may form a timber structure but the evaluation was too limited in scope to provide a definitive ground plan for any putative building.

### *Trench 2*

Archaeologically sterile although deep intrusive features could still survive.

### *Trench 3*

It is not clearly understood whether the dog burials 28 and 31 are of any antiquity or this activity pre-dates or post-dates the adjacent cobble surface 21 but a build-up of soil must have occurred in order for the graves to be cut. This tentatively suggests that the cobble surface 21 may have been abandoned and soil accumulated, following which the graves were inserted.

Therefore, it is probable that these burials represent pets interred prior to the construction of the former garage and workshop recently demolished.

The presence of a copper alloy brooch or clasp recovered from the surface of these cobbles strong suggests that surface 21 was probably lain during the Roman period.

The presence of a massive north-south aligned ditch 5 may confirm a road leading northwards from the fort. However, the character of this ditch, a steep bank, “ankle-breaker” at the base and a shallower opposite side appears to be in keeping with a military ditch found defending forts on Hadrian’s Wall.

Possibly, an undiscovered annex to the fort or a fort may have been defined by this ditch, the feature representing its western limit. This may explain the copious backfilling of silty sand 35 and 36, the result of a bank being slighted.

Ditch 5 appears to respect the course of Cheviot Road before joining Scotland Road. However, Cheviot Road does not appear on an Ordnance Survey map until 1901 tending to dispel the notion that Cheviot Road may have possessed a precursor Roman road linking it to the north gate of Stanwix fort.

*Trench 4*

Ditch 5 observed in Trench 3 continued northwards for a further 15 metres and proved that this ditch was not part of a modern brick intrusion observed in Trench 3.

A single pit or well 3 suggests that deep, isolated features may exist within an area of major modern truncation. The presence of roof tile indicates that substantive Roman buildings were nearby and that abandonment may have been systematic rather than under stress or duress.

*Trench 5*

The section appeared to confirm a military ditch 5 flanking Cheviot Road. Cobble spread 21 observed in Trench 3 continued northwards at least a further five metres. A limited amount of soil accumulation occurred during antiquity that became overlain by agricultural or garden soil 40 during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

**6.5 Finds and environmental material**

The pottery assemblage recovered during the archaeological investigation has been listed in the table below.

Context	Greyware	Samian	Colour Coat	Amphora	BB1	Mortaria	Medieval	Other	Totals
23	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Totals	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4

*Table showing sherd count per context*

The only context producing pottery was fill 23, the lower fill of a probable well. The pottery assemblage belonged to the Roman period, but the low sherd count could not produce a narrower temporal date for this deposition.

Other finds recovered from the site are included in the following table.

Context	CBM unknown	CBM <i>Tegula</i>	CBM <i>Imbrex</i>	Animal bone	Dog burials	Glass	Totals
2	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
23	3	7	3	1 small bag	0	0	14
26	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
27	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
30	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
34	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Totals	4	8	3	1 small bag	2	1	19

*Table showing item count per context*



Fill 23, the backfill to a well, produced ten pieces of Roman roofing tile (*imbrex* and *tegula*) suggesting a substantive Roman building was located nearby prior to its demolition.

Animal bone was also deposited into the well, but this material was heavily desiccated and difficult to identify as individual items. It has collectively been administered as a single item (one small bag).

A Roman copper alloy brooch or clasp was recovered from the western end of cobble surface 21 within Trench 3. Possibly, this may have military connotations associated with the nearby cavalry fort.

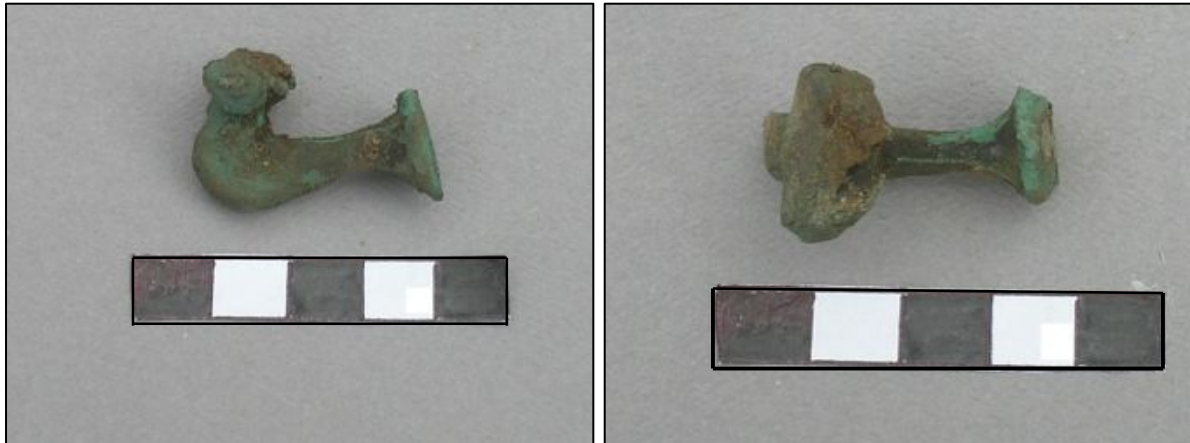


Figure 22 and 23. Roman brooch or clasp, 21 Trench 3

Two environmental samples 23 and 34 are currently under examination regarding their archaeological potential. These samples relate to the organic remains within a well 3 and the basal deposit found at the bottom of a possible military ditch 5.

## 6.6 Conclusion

Three spatial areas where archaeological deposits were encountered were identified. Development would compromise these areas.

These areas are identified as:

1. A strip of ground approximately 10m in width along the northern side of the development
2. The course of a ditch approximately 3-5m in width flanking Cheviot Road on the eastern side of the development
3. A raised terrace approximately 20m x 10m on the southern side of the development

The remaining area was truncated to a natural drift geology horizon that is probably archaeologically sterile except for isolated pits.

Future archaeological work will be decided by the curatorial authority (CCCHES) prior to redevelopment of the site.

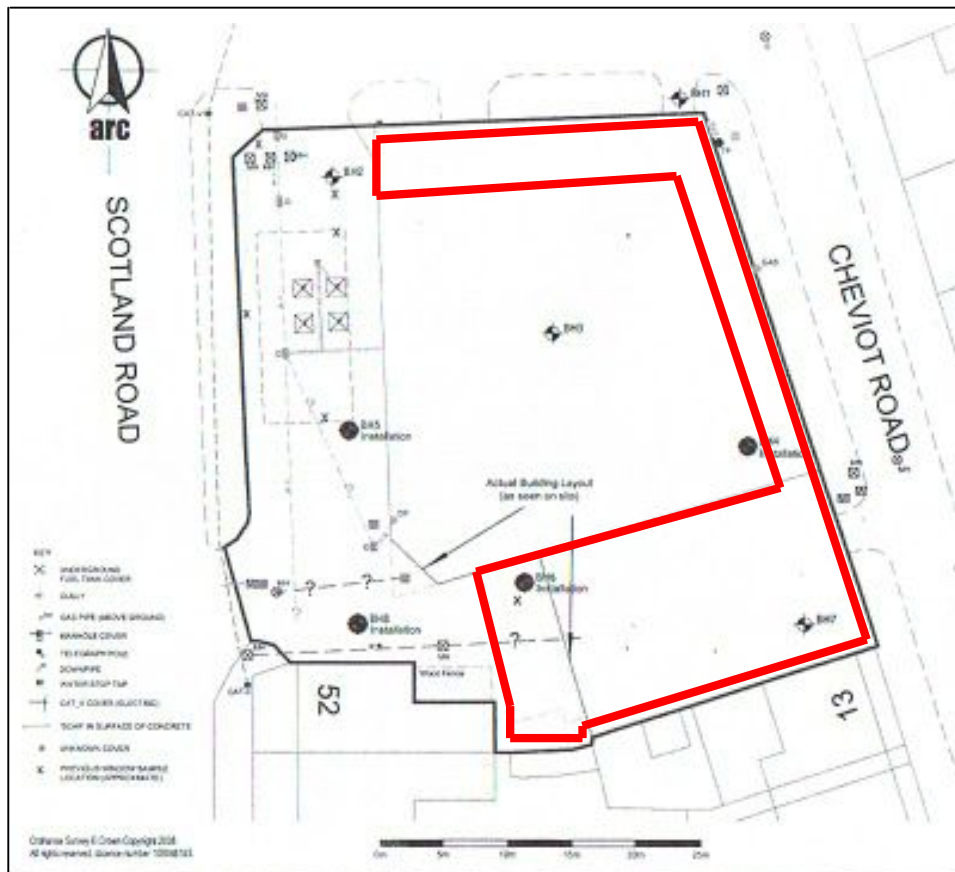


Figure 24. Areas showing archaeological deposits (red outline)

## 7. ARCHIVE

The archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design and the guidelines set out by English Heritage (1991) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (1994, 2001 and 2007).

The archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository and a copy of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record, as requested by the curatorial authority.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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