# CONTENTS


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | **SUMMARY** | **2** |
| **1** | **INTRODUCTION** | **3** |
| **1.1** | **Project origins** | **3** |
| **2** | **METHODOLOGY** | **4** |
| **2.1** | **Project design** | **4** |
| **2.2** | **Archive** | **5** |
| **3** | **BACKGROUND** | **5** |
| **3.1** | **Location, topography and geology** | **5** |
| **4** | **HISTORICAL CONTEXT** | **5** |
| **4.1** | **Previous archaeological reconnaissance** | **6** |
| **4.2** | **Map regression and Historic Environment Record** | **8** |
| **4.3** | **Evaluation results** | **9** |
| **5** | **RESULTS** | **10** |
| **5.1** | **Development proposals** | **10** |
| **5.2** | **Methodology** | **10** |
| **5.3** | **Results** | **12** |
| **5.4** | **Pottery and finds** | **21** |
| **5.5** | **Enviromental samples** | **24** |
| **5.6** | **Discussion** | **24** |
| **6** | **ASSESSMENT** | **25** |
| **6.1** | **Pottery** | **25** |
| **6.2** | **Environmental** | |
| **6.3** | **Further research** | |
| **7** | **ARCHIVE** | **27** |
| **8** | **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** | **27** |
| **9** | **BIBLIOGRAPHY** | **27** |
| | **APPENDIX A** | **29** |
| | **Contexts issued** | **29** |

# FIGURES


| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Figure 1** | **Site location** | **3** |
| **Figure 2** | **Location of study area and previous find spots** | **4** |
| **Figure 3** | **Scheduled area in Stanwix** | **5** |
| **Figure 4** | **First edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865 showing the study area** | **8** |
| **Figure 5** | **Ground plan illustrating the building footprint** | **11** |
| **Figure 6** | **Spatial organisation ditches 21 and 54** | **13** |
| **Figure 7** | **Section through ditch 21** | **14** |
| **Figure 8** | **Ditch 54** | **14** |
| **Figure 9** | **Foundation 52** | **14** |
| **Figure 10** | **Plan of pits 42, 45 and 50, foundation 52 and robbing 62** | **16** |
| **Figure 11** | **Section through pit 42** | **16** |
| **Figure 12** | **Pit 42** | **17** |
| **Figure 13** | **Pit 45** | **17** |
| **Figure 14** | **Section through pit 45** | **17** |
| **Figure 15** | **Section through pit 50** | **18** |
| **Figure 16** | **Pit 50** | **19** |
| **Figure 17** | **Slot 10 with post-hole terminal 12** | **19** |
| **Figure 18** | **Slot 10 with post-hole 12, pit 40 and post-hole 41** | **20** |
| **Figure 19** | **Post-hole 12** | **20** |
| **Figure 20** | **Pit 40** | **20** |
| **Figure 21** | **Post-hole 41** | **21** |
| **Figure 22** | **Pit 51** | **21** |



**SUMMARY**

An archaeological watching brief revealed planned Roman spatial organisation outlined by two ditches. Within one cell, there was evidence of a massive foundation that probably belonged to a former masonry building currently beneath Eden Mount.

Following disuse, a series of pits rich in pottery were dug, one of which may have been a cess pit.

A late Roman wall foundation appears to have traversed this activity, following the original prevailing spatial orientation

The Roman pottery assemblage contained a relatively high proportion of lids, an unusual occurrence.

Further research into this assemblage may be desirable in order to understand Roman extra-mural settlement outside the principal cavalry fort on Hadrian's Wall.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Project Origins

Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) was consulted by Carlisle City Council regarding planning permission for a small parcel of land that will become 2 St George's Crescent, Carlisle (figure 1).

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

As potential and significant archaeological remains may occur, an archaeological watching brief was requested by Cumbria County Council.

The condition exists "to afford reasonable opportunity for an examination to be made to determine the existence of any remains of archaeological interest within the site and for the examination and recording of such remains, in accordance with Policy LE10 of the Carlisle District Local Plan 2001-2016".

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd has been commissioned by Mr Stuart Gray, the client to undertake a Programme of Archaeological Watching Brief relating to the ground works for this development.

The development of the site involved the machine removal of topsoil within the proposed footprint.

This report illustrates the following two elements:

- Results of that archaeological watching brief and its archaeological context as summarised in the desk-based assessment.
- Outline assessment of the cultural remains for further research with limited recommendations for any further work

All projects are carried out in accordance with PPS 5 (2010) and the guidelines and recommendations issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists and English Heritage. Gerry Martin, the Archaeological Project Manager has achieved the accreditation level of MIfA (Member) with the Institute of Archaeologists (IfA).

## 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 Working Scheme of Investigation (WSI) based on the results of a previous archaeological evaluation by Greenlane Archaeology (Whitehead, 2010). The WSI document outlined the contractors' professional competence as well as general objectives required of the project, the methodology and the resources needed for the successful expedition of this work.

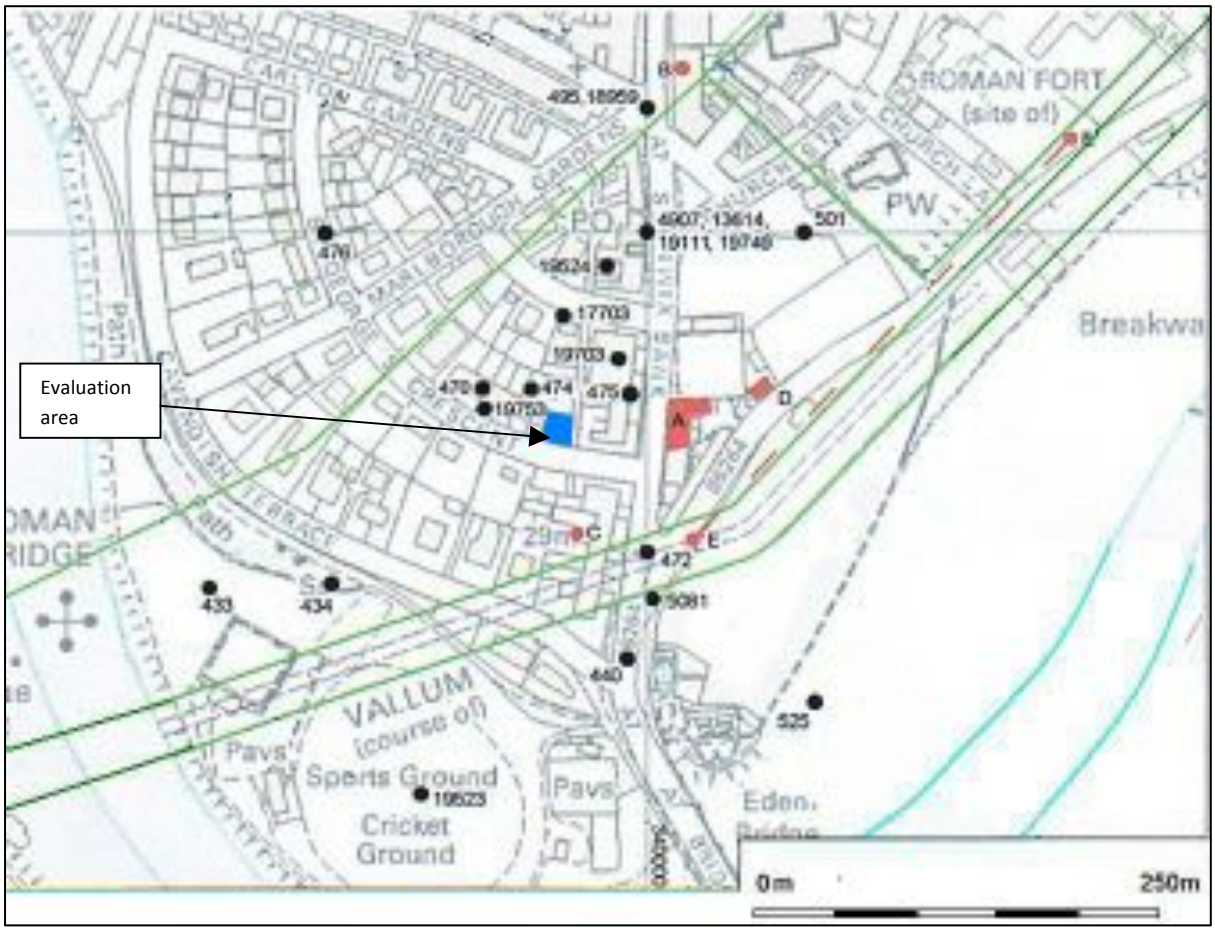



Figure 2. Location of study area and previous find spots

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd were commissioned to undertake the archaeological fieldwork following approval of the project design by the curatorial body.

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 7th and 12th September 2011.

### 2.2 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 will be deposited with an appropriate repository, Tullie House Museum, Carlisle 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

Solid geology comprises red Permo-Triassic sandstone solid geology that during the last glaciations was eroded and then overlain by a thick layer of pink Boulder Clay and outwash consisting of sand and gravel.

The prospect overlooks the River Eden on a bluff that is known as Stanwix Bank, a short but steep gradient leading up to the village that is located on a plateau.

Stanwix was an important military facility encompassing the largest Roman cavalry fort (*Ala Petriana*) on Hadrian's Wall. The Wall, Vallum and fort are protected as Scheduled Ancient Monuments as illlustrated in red outline (figure 3).

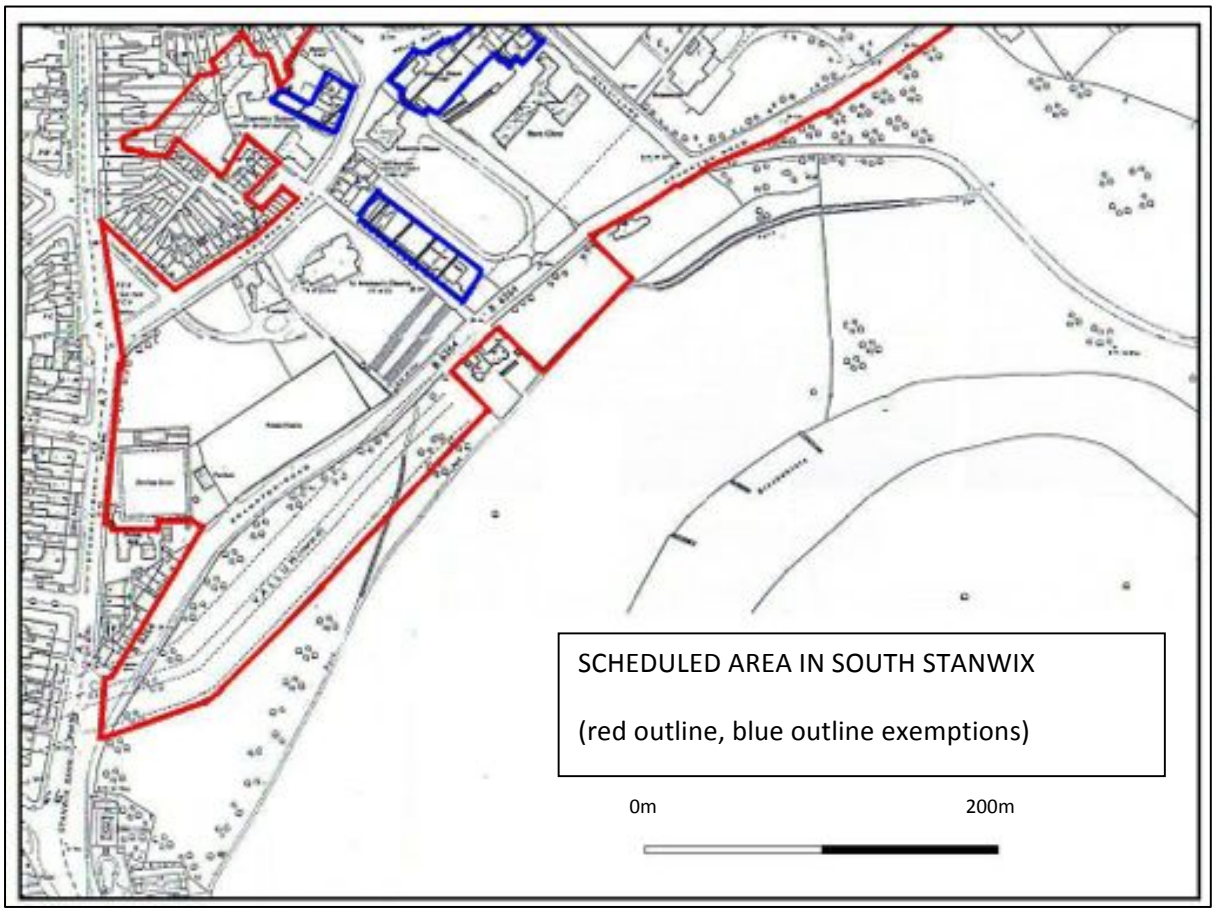



Figure 3. Scheduled area in Stanwix

The scheduled area does not advance westwards beyond Scotland Road as the scheduling criteria invoked, focused on the fort and defensive elements rather than the less formal Roman settlement.

Less academic attention has been paid to the vicus, an area that the Roman inhabitants probably lived within and where specialist functions and services were provided throughout the Roman period. Located in a salient to the west of the fort and between the Wall and the Vallum this area remains unscheduled (figure 3).

The study area prior to development had been abandoned for some considerable time but had formerly served as a garden and small orchard belonging to a property located on Eden Mount.

In 1893 when the current adjacent suite of buildings were constructed in St George's Crescent, the plot was deemed too small for development and since 1901 has been illustrated on maps as a vacant plot.

## 4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

### 4.1 Previous archaeological reconnaissance

A short desk-based assessment was undertaken by Greenlane Archaeology in association with an archaeological evaluation undertaken in 2010.

Five sites were identified by the authors as being relevant and informative regarding the archaeological programme at St George's Crescent (figure 2). These may be summarised as the following:

- Site A, a watching brief at Miles Macinness Hall, located on the eastern side of Scotland Road conducted in 1986 (Carauna 2000). This investigation revealed the presence of timber buildings, cobbled surfaces, ovens and demolition deposits over a wide and extensive area. These observations were never seen in plan merely in the section of unmonitored foundation trenches. An extensive assemblage of pottery was recovered and metal finds were recovered by metal detector (Alan James *pers comm*).
- Site B, an evaluation at 18-22 Scotland Road that located the north wall of the fort (Reeve & Zant 2001)
- Site C, a watching brief at 6 Devonshire Terrace that failed to uncover the course of the Vallum (Walker 2006)
- Site D, a watching brief at the Crown and Thistle public house that showed that earlier truncation had made the site archaeologically sterile (Whitehead 2010, 7)
- Site E, a watching brief along Brampton Road conducted in 2007 that revealed a wall and three oak posts near the fort (Ibid, 8)

The fort has been the focus of the majority of archaeological reconnaissance within Stanwix, these interventions summarised as follows.

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 approximately 100m northwards of the study area within the car park of 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.

Three ditches were observed of which one unexcavated ditch pre-dated the construction of the later masonry wall. North of this masonry wall, were two parallel defensive ditches that contained partially waterlogged fills. These ditches appeared to reflect the known northern limits of Roman occupation.

Excavation further 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 wide that was contemporary to the curtain wall. This rampart respected a stone Interval Tower.

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, a parallel noted at 54 Scotland Road (Martin 2010).

Roman finds were mainly utilitarian items such as nails, hobnails, lead pot-mends, glass sherds and slag fragments. A stamped tile of the Ninth Legion, four fragments of pottery bearing graffiti, a lead plumb-bob and a copper alloy ring were all recovered in 1984.

Pottery was largely recovered from unsecured and unstratified contexts and the small reliable assemblage could not provide a conclusive dating range. Samian and mortarium provide a probable date 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.

Further excavations at Stanwix School between 1997 and 1999, 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 and evaluation in 2005 (Martin, 2005 a and b) confirmed the presence of the curtain wall to the east.

Archaeological observations during 2006 when the car park was extended eastwards did not reveal further archaeological deposits in that location (Martin, 2007).

In 2009, excavation at 54 Scotland Road produced a large cobbled surface that produced approximately 100 metal artefacts including seven Roman coins whose date range intimated that a market place or similar facility existed north of the Wall for a period of at least 250 years suggesting a benign environment where trade and social interaction was prevalent (Martin forthcoming).

An amber bead found in the gardens of 10 St George's Crescent is the only record of any archaeological significance in close proximity to the study area.

Despite extensive archaeological interventions elsewhere in Stanwix, only the Miles Macinness site can provide meaningful extrapolations for the Roman vicus and in particular be of relevance to this study area.

### 4.2 Map regression and Historic Environment Record

The earliest reliable map regarding the study area was the 1840 tithe map (CRO DRC 8/181) that records the field as "Near Dukes Field" and is described as open grass land, probably pasture.

Figure 4. First edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865 showing the study area.

No development is shown in close proximity but by 1865 a building exists occupying the north-east corner of the plot (figure 4). This property is almost certainly an outbuilding relating to the construction of a suite of villas built *circa* 1851 and known as Eden Mount. However, the boundaries relating to the study area had not been formalised by this point, the land being unenclosed.

By 1901 this building has been demolished and the site became a formal garden.

The Historic Environment Record displayed the following relevant entries (figure 2):

- HER 433, Hadrian' Wall Milecastle 66
- HER 434, Hyssops Bank Roman cemetery
- HER 440, a Roman pillar
- HER 470, carved stone
- HER 472, carved stone
- HER 474, altar
- HER 475, Roman medal find
- HER 476, statue find
- HER 501, Roman architectural and altar finds
- HER 525, Bronze Age axe find
- HER 4907, Roman vault
- HER 5081, Carlisle-Newcastle Military Road
- HER 13614 Anglian cross
- HER 17703 Roman coin finds including those dating to the Antonine period
- HER 18959 Roman fountain described as Post-Medieval
- HER 19111 Roman coin
- HER 19523 Roman pottery, Edenside Cricket Ground
- HER 19524 Roman pottery, Eden Mount
- HER 19703 Weight find, Post-Medieval
- HER 19749 Iron chisel, date unknown
- HER 19753 two hump back bridges near Harby Brow, date unknown

### 4.3 Evaluation results

The study area was archaeologically evaluated on 10th December 2009 by Greenlane Archaeology.

A T-shaped trench configuration, the crossbar measuring 6.60m in length and the east-west aligned stem measuring 7.70m in length was inserted using a mechanical excavator, producing an area measuring 21 square metres.

The results of the evaluation (Whitehead 2010, 11-13) can be summarised as follows:

1. A "Roman layer (03)" that contained a high density of Roman pottery dated to AD 120-170.
2. Discrete areas of pink clay interpreted as occupation deposits possibly associated with wattle and daub partitions.

3. Inferred Roman features but no clear definition.
4. A "Garden/plough soil (02)" that was evident between 1840 and 1865.
5. A modern land drain (05).
6. A brick wall (07) constructed between 1840 and 1865.

The evaluation noted some intrusive sub-circular plan features but these appear to have been the result of root action.

Although, there appears to be no conclusive proof of direct Roman occupation, spreads of pottery and other cultural material may suggest either a dumping ground or associated occupation that has not been captured by the evaluation exercise.

The conclusion derived from these observations was that although the archaeological sequence was poorly understood, it lay within the Roman vicus identified in 1986. With a tight date range based on the ceramic assemblage, an excellent opportunity was available to understand the temporal and spatial development in Roman Stanwix (Whitehead 2010, 16).

## 5. RESULTS

### 5.1 Development proposals

The development (figure 5) involves a sub-rectangular plan footprint measuring 12m x 15m within a plot measuring 17m x 17m. The construction level was reduced to a depth across the site of approximately 1.00m-1.20m below current street level, except on the western margin where the site was reduced by approximately 0.80m in order to provide a temporary haul road. A small southern strip of land between 2.00m and 4.00m in width was left alone.

The explanation for this sub-basement is that in order to maintain two stories, the height of the building should be no higher than an adjacent gable end at Eden Mount.

This action resulted in the total removal of any putative archaeological deposits within the building footprint except at the western margin where topsoil masked the probable course of a ditch.

### 5.2 Methodology

The objective of the watching brief investigation was to carry out a formal programme of archaeological observations and investigations during any operations on site that may disturb or destroy archaeological or architecturally informative deposits or remains. The specific aims of the work were to:

- Provide a record of those works associated with the removal of the topsoil
- Provide a record of any significant archaeological or architectural features encountered by intrusive activities

In order to achieve these objectives, a record of all archaeological informative deposits encountered during the ground operations were made consisting of detailed context records on individual pro-forma sheets and field drawings, according to the protocols set out in the GMA manual.

The ground-works were undertaken by machine under archaeological supervision. This action consisted of observation of the spoil removal and monitoring the displaced soil by metal detector, for whom I am grateful to the voluntary services of Mr Alan James.

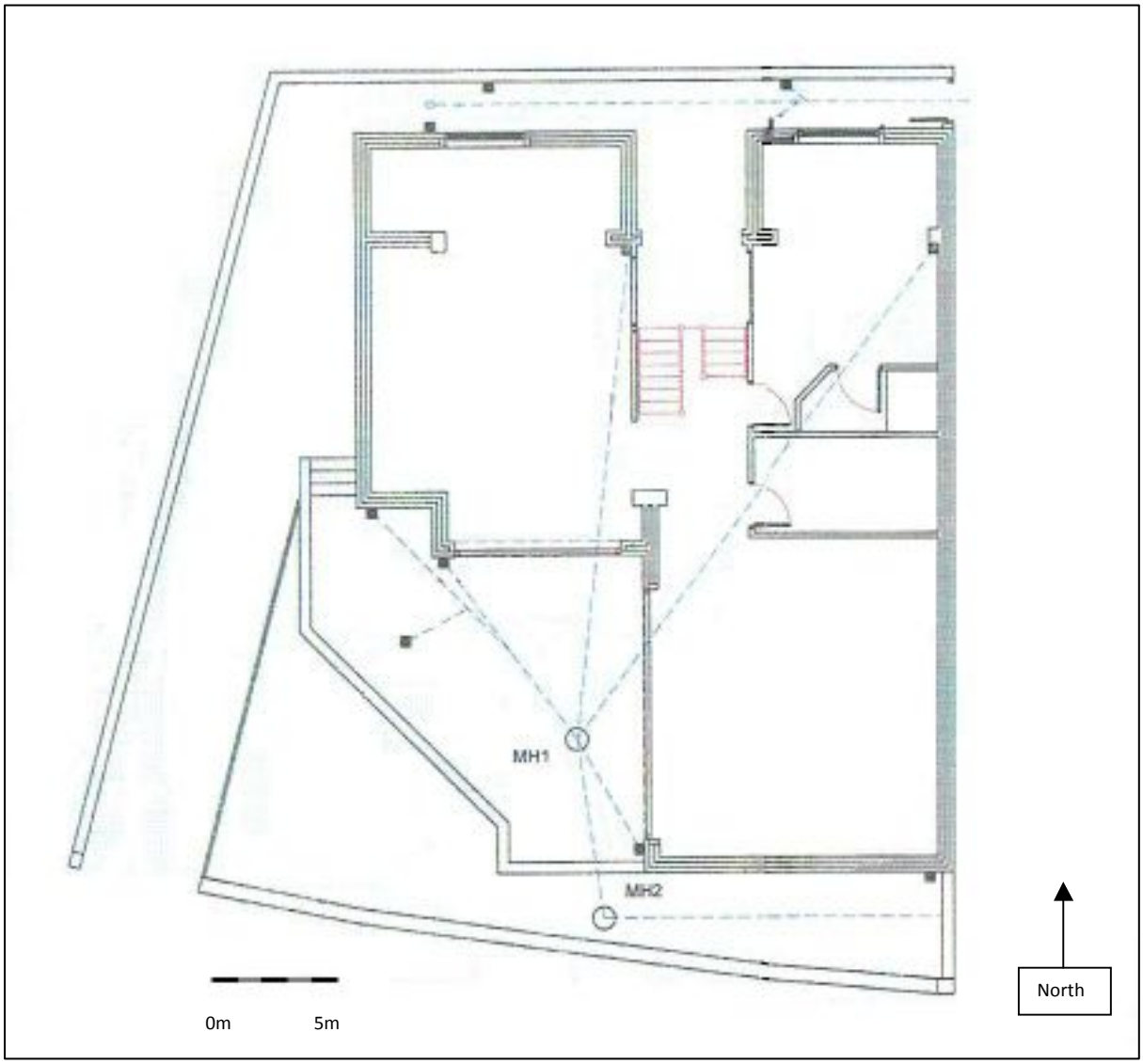



Figure 5. Ground plan illustrating the building footprint

It quickly became apparent that significant archaeological deposits were beginning to emerge and that this watching brief provided a rare insight into Roman settlement outside of the fort.

In collaboration with the client, time was graciously granted to the archaeological contractor to excavate, record and collect artefacts from secure archaeological features and thereby provide a higher level of archaeological certainty than is usually maintained during a watching brief.

During the week-end of September 10th and 11th 2011, the site was cleaned, excavated and recorded as if a rapid excavation had taken place, in the manner of a "strip, map and record response".

The complete fieldwork was undertaken between 6th and 12th September 2011.

### 5.3 Results

The following provisional results were garnered during the fieldwork programme but could be subject to revision should further research be undertaken.

The site appears to consist of seven major structural phases with an additional phase that cannot be assigned within the site model. These phases are listed as the following.

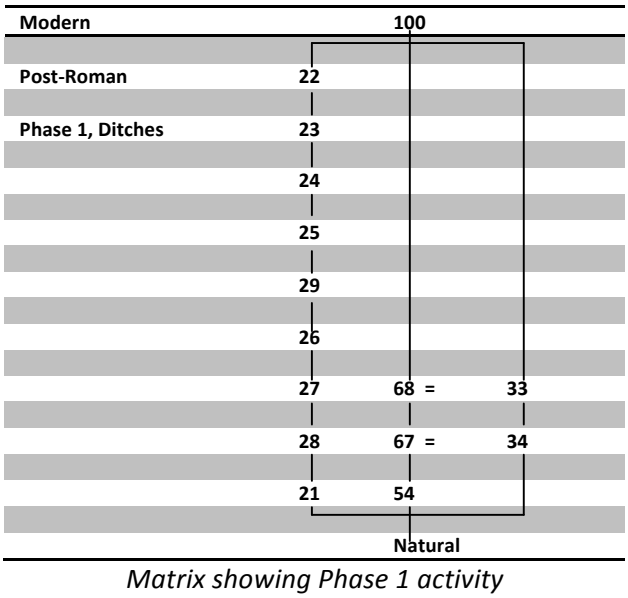
1. The introduction of spatial organisation; ditches 21 and 54
2. The construction of a large building 52
3. Pit group A, possibly contemporary with building 52; pit 42
4. Demise of building 52; robbing 61
5. Pit group B, initiated after the demise of building 52; pits 45 and 50
6. Introduction of slot 10
7. Robbing of slot 10; post-hole 12
8. A series of pits 40 and 51 and post-hole 41

1. *Introduction of spatial organisation*

Sealed by topsoil 100 was a southwest-northeast aligned linear ditch 54. Two interventions (figure 6) were undertaken along the course of ditch 54 revealing a profile comprising gently sloping sides to a virtually flat base (figure 8).

The easterly intervention produced clean, dark grey, humic silt 68 containing virtually no extraneous material. This material overlay very hard light grey, rather stony and compacted clayey silt 67. The sequence was repeated in a westerly intervention the upper fill 33 being the same as fill 68 and the lower fill 34 being the same as fill 67.

Ditch 54 (figure 6) probably continued westwards to form a junction with a broader ditch 21.




*Matrix showing Phase 1 activity*

Ditch 21 (figure 7) was aligned northwest-southeast and possessed a flat base with relatively shallow flanking sides.

The earliest fill was a small basal spread of re-deposited yellow sandy clay 28, overlain by clean light grey sandy silt 27 that may represent a slumped bank or former ground surface. Possibly, the ditch was then re-cut 73 as a thin but very hard lamination of light grey silt 26 accumulated at the base of the ditch and physically butted fill 27.

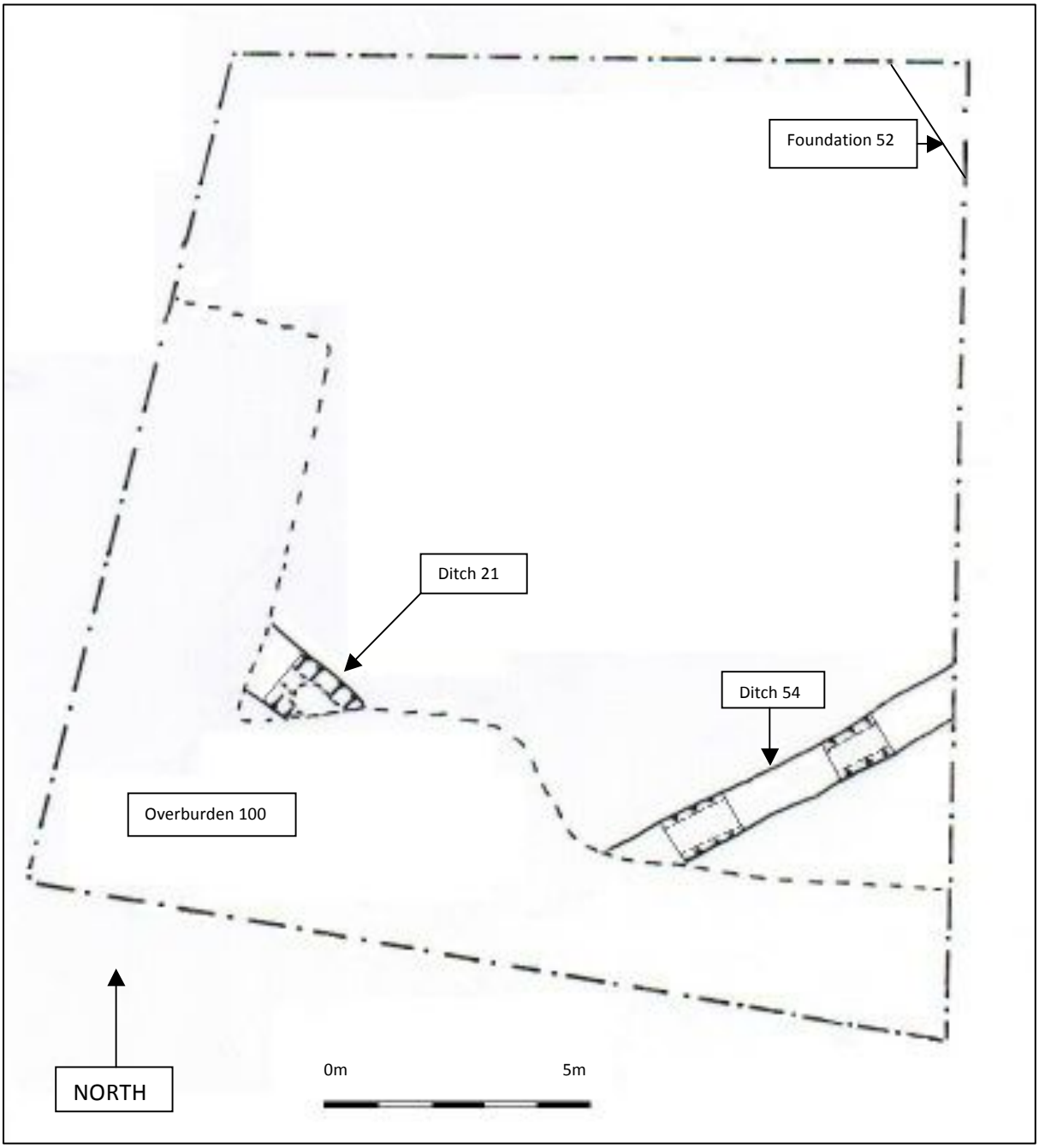



Figure 6. Spatial organisation ditches 21 and 54

A small spread of light grey silty sand 29 slipped into the ditch from the west but was sealed by pale grey sandy silt 25, material that represented secondary fill of the ditch.

An organic, dark grey fine silt 24 accumulated above fill 25, possibly representing a turf-line as the ditch had lost its original drainage function before a mid grey silt 23 containing frequent rounded pebbles formed a tertiary deposit that represented the end of the ditch as a functional entity.

A generic layer of dark grey sandy silt 22 containing frequent rounded pebbles and red sandstone fragments sealed the ditch, probably a mixture of garden soil and remnant post-Roman deposition.

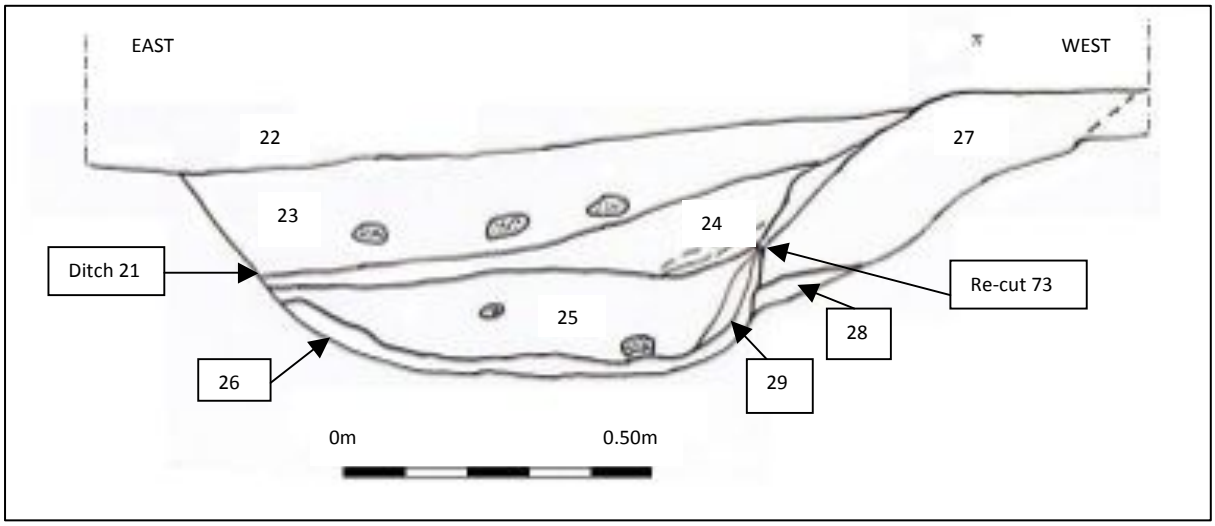



Figure 7. Section through ditch 21

2. *The construction of a large building 52*

Respecting the spatial organisation introduced by ditches 21 and 54 was a substantial foundation 52. Northwest-southeast aligned linear cut 52 (figure 9) comprised of a steep western side but was left unexcavated. The lowest fill comprised of pinkish brown clay 57 overlain by brown silty clay 56. This material was capped by homogenous pink clay 44.

This foundation had been robbed of its superstructure but the foundation was at least 1.20m in width and was over 0.54m in depth suggesting a substantial rectilinear building existed above this foundation.

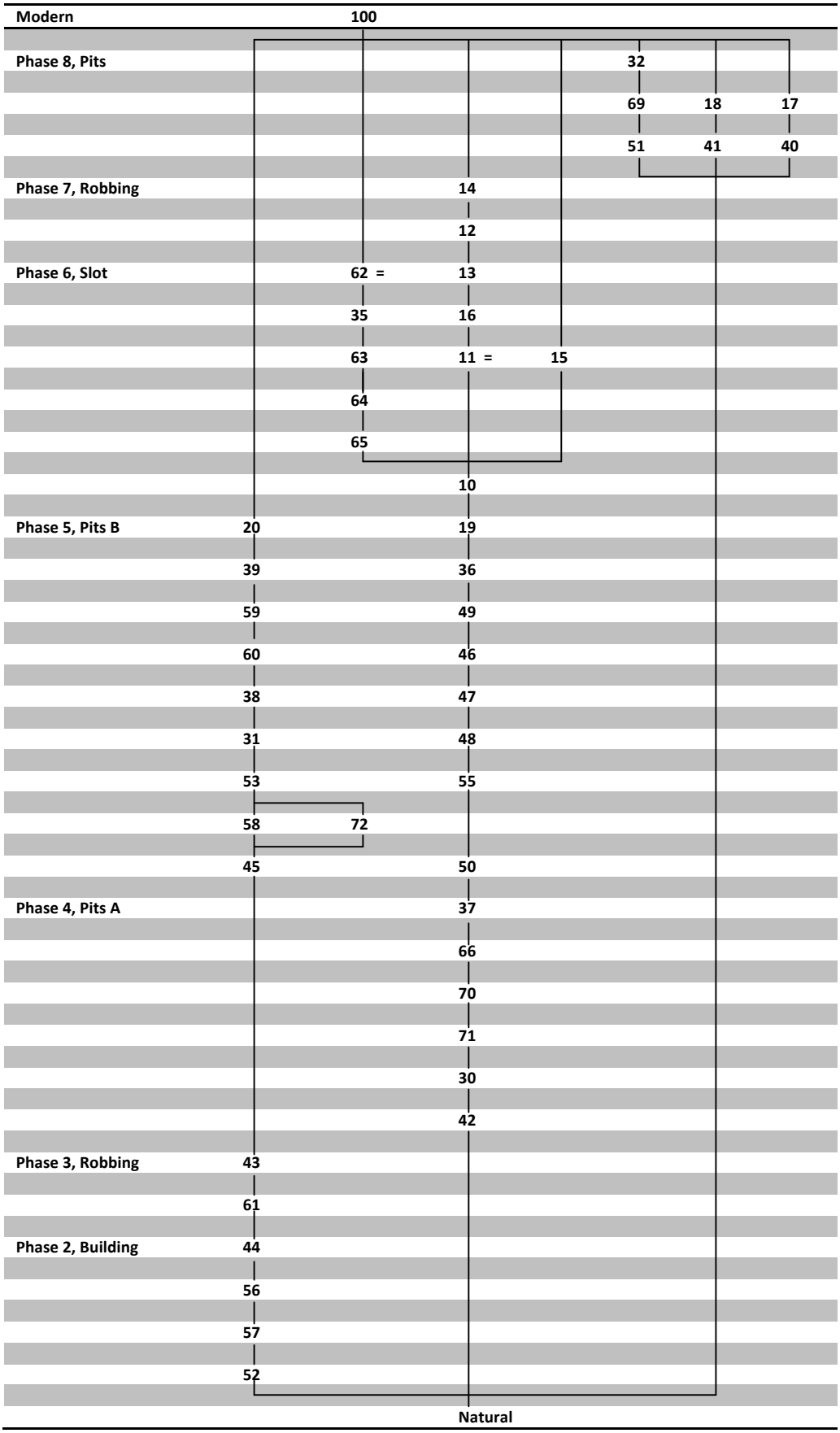
Figure 8. Ditch 54

Figure 9. Foundation 52

3. *Demise of building 52; robbing 61*

Cutting fill 44 was a northwest-southeast aligned linear cut 61 at least 0.30m in depth (figure 10) with steeply sloping sides to virtually no base filled by light grey silty sand 43.

This irregular shaped cut 61 may represent robbing of a putative stone wall that rested above foundation surface 44.




*Matrix showing Phases 2-8*

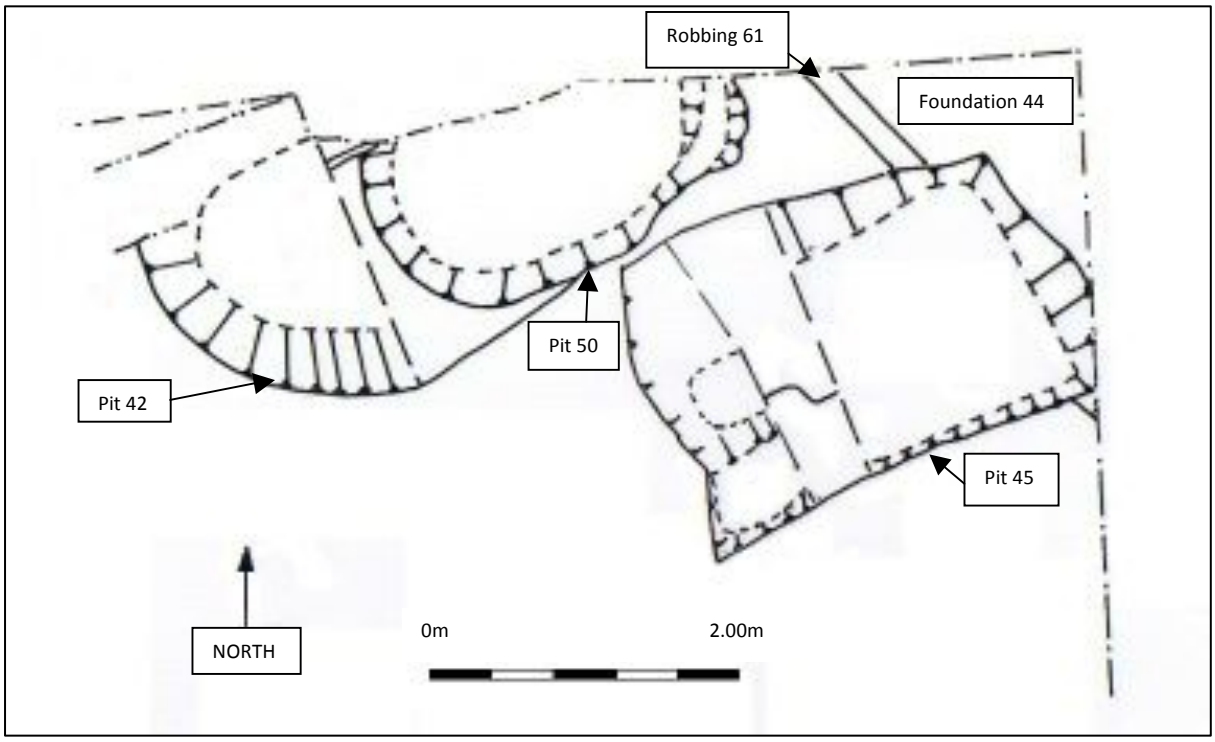



Figure 10. Plan of pits 42, 45 and 50, foundation 52 and robbing 62, the north-east corner of the site

4. *Pit group A, possibly contemporary with building 52; pit 42*

A single pit 42 (figures 11 and 12) could be contemporary with a putative structure outlined by foundation 52.

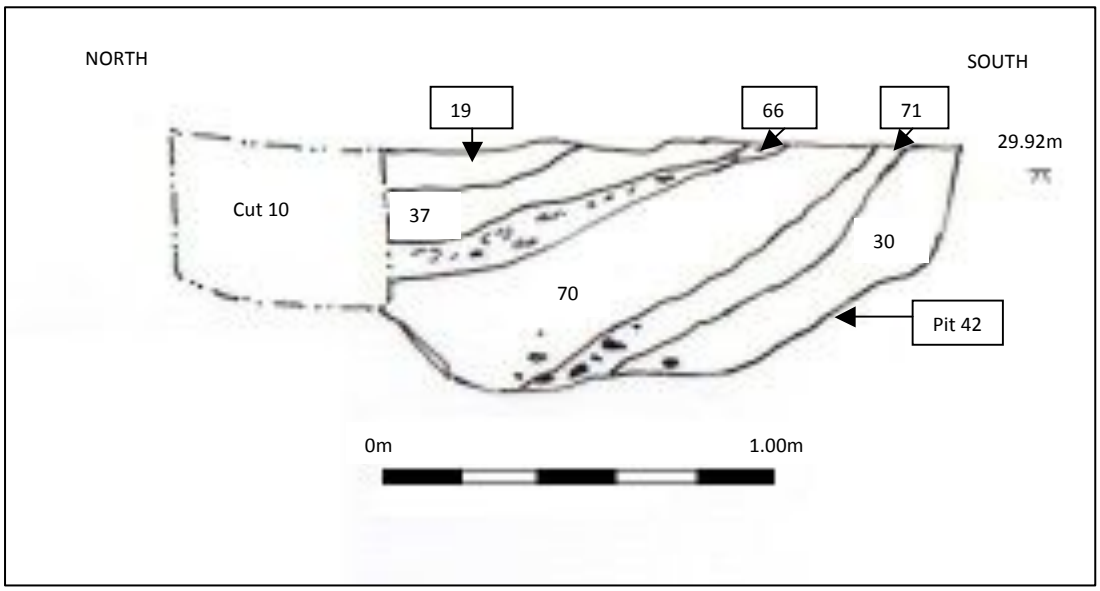



Figure 11. Section through pit 42

Pit 42 was not fully observed in plan but appeared to be sub-circular with steep sides leading to a concave base measuring approximately 2.50m in diameter and 0.60m in depth.

All the fills appeared to have been tipped from the south, the earliest being mid grey sandy clay 30 capped by a stony yellow clay with silt 71. Overlying this deposit was brown silty clay 70, beneath light grey stony clayey silt 66 that was sealed by pinkish brown clay 37.

Figure 12. Pit 42

Figure 13. Pit 45

The presence of fill 19 (dark grey silt similar to context 20) was probably due to settlement within the pit.

Cut 42 appears to have been a feature of unknown function, but does not appear to have been used a cess pit.

5. *Pit group B, initiated after the demise of building 52; pits 45 and 50*

Two pits 45 and 50 penetrated earlier features and were probably executed following the demise of a large building illustrated by foundation 52.

Pit 45 (figures 13 and 14) cut fill 43 and consisted of a sub-rectangular plan cut measuring 2.80m x 1.90m and 0.60m in depth with near vertical sides to a flattish but rather uneven base.

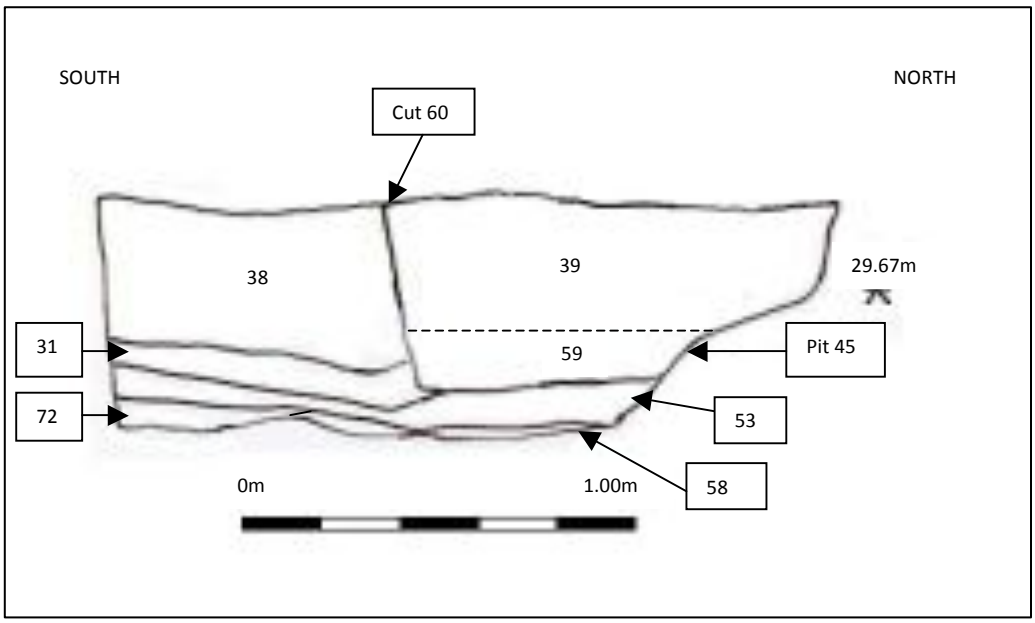



Figure 14. Section through pit 45

The basal fill consisted of a slither of dark brown organic material 58 and a small spread of re-deposited pink clayey sand 72 sealed by light grey clayey silt 53.

Covering fill 53 was a generic fill of mid grey clayey silt 31 whereupon a number of intrusive archaeological deposits were probably present.

It appears probable that pit fill 31 was capped by square plan pink clay 38 that was cut by a sub-rectangular plan cut 60 (not fully excavated) with sloping sides and a flat base filled by dark grey silty sand 59 which was covered by a similar dark grey silty sand 39.

Physically sealing fill 39 was a dark grey silt 20 very similar to fill 19 that could be slumped material due to settlement within pit 45.

Pit 45 must have been dug following the demise of a large adjacent building as it cut its foundation 52. Within the fill of pit 45 were lumps of *opus signinum* probably part of the discarded and broken floor from this structure.

The function for this feature 45 is uncertain but although there were no structural features within the cut an interpretation such as a sunken-floored building synonymous with post-Roman activity cannot be excluded.

Cutting fill 37 was a circular plan cut 50 with near vertical side and a flat base, although a slight bench occurred on the eastern side of the feature.

Pit 50 (figures 15 and 16) comprised rich, organic grey silt 55 forming a basal fill overlain by highly organic dark brown silt 48. This material was sealed by mid grey silty sand 47 with traces of organic material, overlain by pink sand 46 that rested beneath grey-brown sandy silt 49 that was covered by dark grey-brown sandy silt 36.

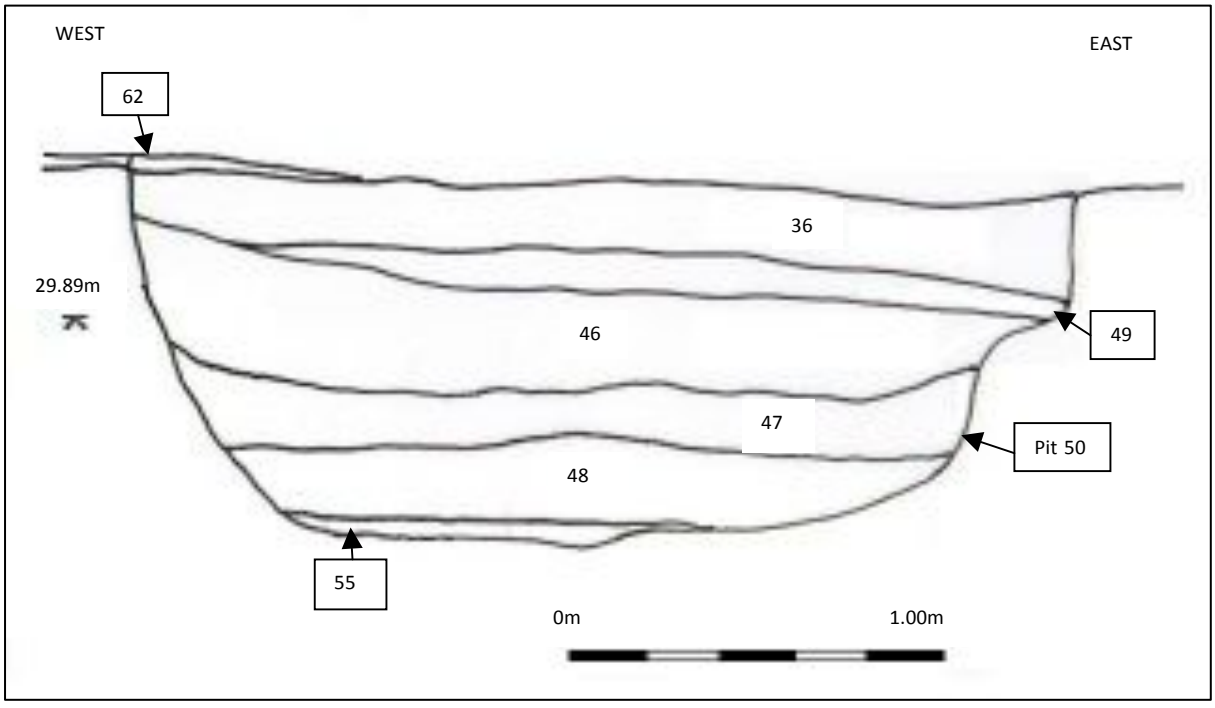



Figure 15. Section through pit 50

Mid grey sandy silt 19 was either the latest fill within pit 50 resting above fill 36 or settlement within pit 50.

Pit 50 appeared to represent a cess pit with fills 48 and 55 possessing a high organic content.

Figure 16. Pit 50

Figure 17. Slot 10 with terminal post-hole 12

6. *Introduction of slot 10*

Cutting underlying pit fill 36 or possibly pit fill 19, was a northeast-southwest aligned slot 10 (figure 17) measuring over 10.00m in length, 0.48m in width and 0.38m in depth and possessing vertical sides with a flat base.

Slot 10 was filled by lightish grey silty clay 11 which was the same as grey silty clay 15 to the east and was overlain by brown silty clay 16 which was the same as brown silty clay 35.

Fill 15 was surmounted by pinkish brown clay 13 (figure 18) which was the same as pink clay 62 to the east and was cut by robbing of post-hole 12.

To the east, slot 10 contained light grey silty sand 65, overlain by slate grey silty sand 64 that was below brown clayey sandy silt 63. This material was covered by mid grey sandy silt 35, the same as fill 16 to the west. Fill 35 was overlain by flecks of pink clay 62 which was the same as fill 13 to the west.

Slot 10 appeared to represent the foundation for a wall whose super-structure had been removed.

Fill 11 and 15 appeared to be a soft foundation to allow for settlement, overlain by a bedding horizon 16 and then a grouting surface of clay 13 and 62 onto which the super-structure was assembled.

The western terminal of slot 10 was denoted by a robbed post-hole 12. No returns were visible, although the internal area for this putative structure may have been principally beyond the limits of excavation.

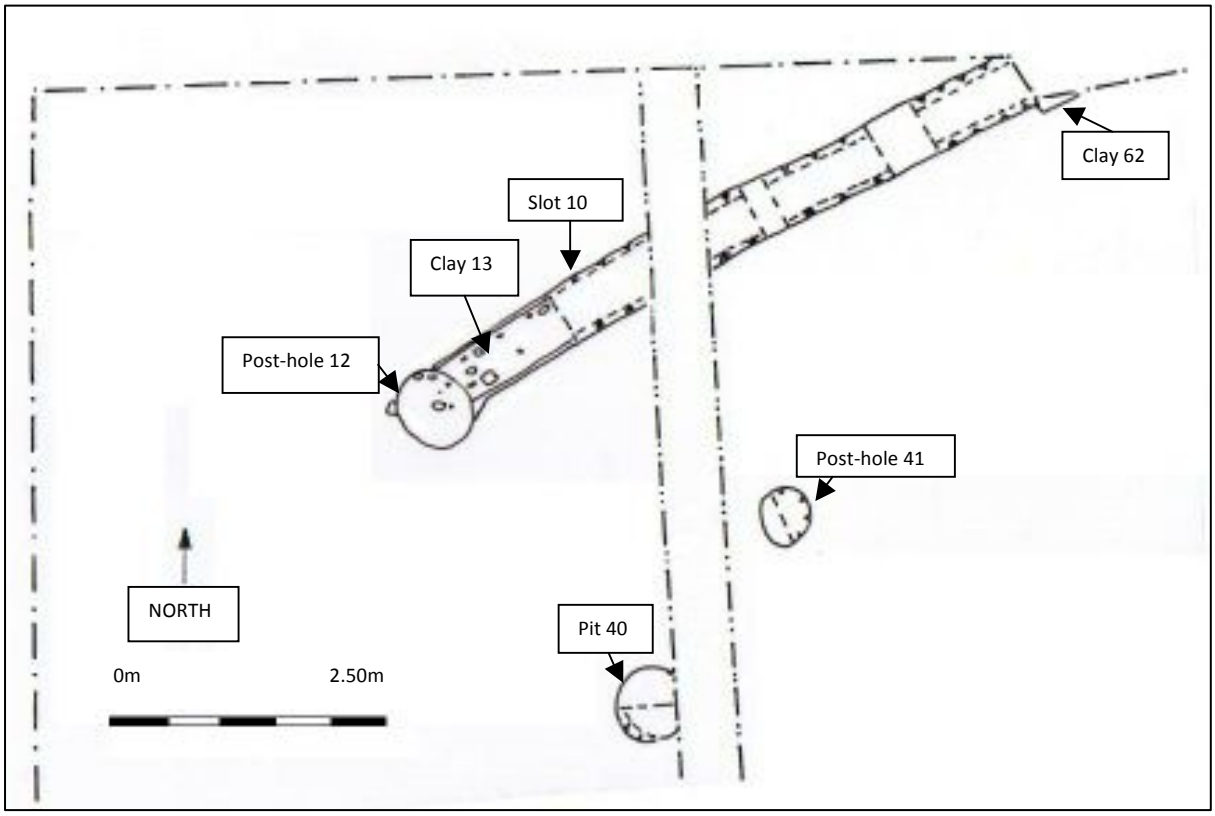



Figure 18. Slot 10 with post-hole 12, pit 40 and post-hole 41

The alignment of slot 10 appeared to be at right-angles to the line of Hadrian's Wall which was located to the west suggesting formalised planning was still evident.

7. *Robbing of slot 10; post-hole 12*

Cutting fill 13 was a circular plan cut 12 (figure 19) measuring 0.78m in diameter and 0.28m in depth filled by darkish grey clayey silt 14 containing irregular pieces of sandstone.

This action appeared to represent the robbing of an end post within slot 10.

Figure 19. Post-hole 12

Figure 20. Pit 40

8. *A series of pits 40 and 51 and post-hole 40*

Three features sealed by topsoil 100 and cutting natural clay could not be placed into any structural phase, these were as follows:

- A small, heavily truncated circular plan pit 40 (figure 20) measuring 0.60m in diameter and 0.13m in depth, possessing a flat base filled by dark grey silt 17.

- A small circular plan post-hole 41 (figure 21) 0.43m in diameter and 0.21m in depth possessing a flat base filled by dark grey stony silt 18.

- A heavily truncated circular plan pit 51 (figure 22) measuring 0.90m in diameter and 0.14m in depth possessing a flat base filled by dark grey silt 69 at its base and overlain by dark grey, stony, clayey silt 32.

Figure 21. Post-hole 41

Figure 22. Pit 51

**5.4 Pottery and finds**

A total of 360 pottery sherds were recovered during the watching brief and duly washed. Of this total, 356 were almost certainly of Roman date (98.89%), the four remaining sherds being 19th century porcelain recovered from garden soil 100.

The following analysis (table overleaf) represents a provisional statement regarding the assemblage prior to any detailed examination by a pottery specialist.

From the assemblage, grey ware appears to be the predominant fabric type with 124 sherds (34.83% of the assemblage.

Functional domestic ceramics also included black burnished ware, 34 sherds (9.55%); orange ware 41 sherds (11.52%) and other coarse wares 35 sherds (9.83%). Including grey ware, the assemblage numbered 234 sherds or 65.73% of the assemblage.

The assemblage was notable for the number of pot lids recovered which probably amounted to approximately ten. This form is usually quite rare and may be indicative of a specific function operating nearby.

Amphora accounted for 26 sherds (7.30%) of which one rim bore incised graffito in cursive latin script.

Mortaria appears to have been uncommon, only five sherds being present (1.40%).

Fine ware was represented by 63 sherds of Samian ware (17.69%) and 19 possible colour-coated sherds (5.34%). The Samian assemblage was prolific and appears to date from the mid to late 2nd century AD, whilst the colour coated ware probably falls within the 250-400 AD period.

Fine ware amounted to 23.03% of the assemblage and indicates a high status settlement that would be consistent with opulent buildings associated with the upper echelons of society or an officer cadre.

The assemblage does not appear to be particularly diagnostic of narrow date ranges but the pottery recovered from the pit cutting action probably does indicate a later date that may have crept into the 4th century AD. However, Samian pottery appears to have been curated over a long period of time, its presence slightly anomalous if the demise of the settlement is contemporary with the general regional anarchy occurring circa 368-370 AD and the withdrawal of the army in the early 5th century AD.

| Context | CBM | Fe Nails | Stone | Animal bone | Burnt bone | Briquetage | Op Sig | Glass | Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **11** | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | 8 |
| **19** | 1 | 9 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 10 |
| **20** | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | 3 |
| **31** | 7 | 1 | 3 | - | 1 | 7 | 6 | 15 | 40 |
| **36** | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| **46** | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| **49** | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| **100** | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 2 |
| **Totals** | 12 | 15 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 15 | **67** |

*Table showing other finds recovered during the watching brief*

Other finds recovered were relatively low and no metal objects were recovered from stratified deposits despite a metal detector survey being undertaken by Mr Alan James who had conducted the Miles MacInness watching brief in 1986.

Only a tiny amount of glass was recovered, probably a broken single piece.

The presence of ceramic building material (CBM) was light and only small items were recovered. There was a marked absence of roof tile that strongly suggests that occupation continued, rather than any systematic destruction invoked by a "scorched earth policy" accompanying Roman withdrawal.

Intriguingly, *Opus Signinum* was recovered from pit 45, adjacent to a massive foundation 42 that does suggest that the removed building formerly possessed a concrete floor. If this hypothesis is correct, then this would have been a prestigious private building or possibly a high status public building such as a bath house.

There was an almost total lack of animal bone; the small fragments recovered probably the result of chance loss rather than deliberate disposal.

Briquetage (crude fired clay forming shallow vessels) appears to have been present, a fabric associated with salt production and normally occurring at salterns near the sea.

### 5.5 Environmental samples

Basal fill 55 within pit 50 probably maintains a high organic content and may include cess material.

### 5.6 Discussion

The study area lies 65m to the west of the watching brief conducted at Miles MacInness Hall during 1986 (Carauna 2000, 55-78) in a salient west of the Roman cavalry fort of Stanwix, the only significant research undertaken into the Roman vicus at Stanwix.

This watching brief revealed extensive extra-mural Roman activity comprising walls, foundations, ovens, cobbled surfaces and timber buildings suggestive of significant occupation between circa AD 120-180. The exercise was limited to the recording of sections within foundations and recovery of metallic artefacts through metal detection of the spoil (Alan James pers comm). This meant that little Roman spatial arrangement could be determined merely that significant deposits were encountered.

Understanding the development of the vicus outside of the fort has been difficult due to the lack of secure observations. Revisiting 19th century accounts in contemporary journals indicates the character of the settlement within the vicus. These accounts allude to the following:

- 28th September 1812, Cumberland Pacquet; 1.20m below the surface a capital, pillar and aquaduct were discovered in fields on Stanwix Bank belonging to the Earl of Lonsdale.
- 17th October 1815, Cumberland Pacquet; a massive column found at the Stanwix end of the newly constructed Eden Bridge.
- 19th November 1816, Cumberland Pacquet; cutting part of the bank away (presumably for the new road), four to five cart loads of human bone were discovered. A stone lined vault measuring 8ft x 4ft with flagged and clay floor was also uncovered.
- 30th June 1851, Carlisle Journal; a house built for Miss Carruthers (Eden Mount) discovered two ancient walled wells, 2.10m below the surface. Both were capped but contained red and buff Roman pottery, whilst two grindstone and an iron spear were also found. Mr Farrrar's house house revealed another well, producing three within the space of 40 feet (12.19m).
- A glass *phalera* (a form of medallion discovered in 1851) was probably found during this building work.

The suggestion conferred by these accounts is of an intensively occupied settlement, noted for its high status masonry buildings, conspicuous consumption and with a cemetery close by. Indeed, it may be speculated that rather than living in the fort, officers who invariably had to be of a high status in order to serve in the cavalry, possessed prestigious houses outside of the fort, utilising the fort as a work place rather than permanent living quarters.

The recent watching brief at St George's Crescent appears to affirm this model.

The presence of two rectilinear ditches 21 and 54 confirms that space had been ordered into a series of plots that appeared to take its axes from the presence of Hadrian's Wall aligned south-west to north-east.

The plot appears to have been largely vacant although truncation by later activity may have removed vestigial and trace archaeological features.

However, a substantial foundation 52 in the north-east corner of the site confirmed the presence of a monumental building that probably possessed a concrete floor albeit devoid of its super-structure. The interior of this building would have been at the rear of Eden Mount, a location that appears to concur with the observations undertaken 160 years ago.

A programme of pit digging 42, 45 and 50 appears to have then occurred following the demise of the adjacent masonry building, in which a high concentration of Roman pottery was discarded.

Pit 45 may have possessed some structural character e.g. as a submerged building, but secure interpretation is likely to remain elusive.

Cut 50 appears to have been a cess pit but closed prior to the installation of a probable narrow wall resting above foundation 10. This may represent a building but as no return walls were encountered there exists some doubt regarding this interpretation.

The discovery of these deposits confirms that extensive Roman extra-mural settlement existed west of the fort probably occupying the entire salient enclosed by Hadrian's Wall, returning as the bluff occupied by Hyssop's Bank and the River Eden.

## 6. ASSESSMENT

The watching brief at St George's Crescent provides the first stratigraphically secure evidence for extensive Roman deposits and settlement beyond the western limit of the fort, leading to the conclusion that this survey has the potential to assist our understanding of the relationship between fort and extra-mural settlement.

Poor understanding of the relationship between fort and extra-mural settlement has been acknowledged in the Hadrian's Wall Research Agenda whereby a plea for further research projects is championed (Symonds & Mason Vol II 2009, 43).

The key questions identified include the speed with which extra-mural settlement developed, whether they possessed defences and when they ceased to be occupied (Ibid 43).

This approach although very worthy is firmly committed to understanding widespread structural development within a historical narrative on sites free of modern development. However, this model will tend to lead to generality and homogeneity, whereas in reality there probably existed considerable individuality and variation, as undoubtedly different roles within the general defence strategy were being maintained at each military facility.

The research agenda proposed regarding Roman extra-mural settlement utilises a macro-archaeological approach, keen on physical development but lacking in understanding of social interaction and the role of individuals or small groups within formal institutions.

Comparative studies of assemblages from forts and their extra-mural settlements have for in the case of Samian analysis suggested marked contrasts in consumption whilst archaeo-botanical evidence is almost totally missing from extra-mural settlement (ibid 43).

Micro-analysis of selective sites is a viable proposition for understanding Roman extra-mural settlement in areas where later and ongoing cultural development has subsumed earlier Roman activity.

The fundamental question is to understand the social relationship between the military institution, the fort and the civil institution, the extra-mural settlement. Traditionally, these two elements have been examined in isolation; academic opinion divided between a relationship that was parasitic, such as camp followers and symbiotic, the army being maintained by associated trades and services.

There exists an alternative perspective that may have developed as the fort and its sphere of influence became established.

Conspicuous consumption and high status buildings outside of the fort infer an elite living in close proximity to the fort. This could suggest the development of a bourgeois class based on economic success but may also represent the desire of the officer cadre within the fort to seek self-expression and live outside the formalised security of the fort, e.g. as was common with British imperial power in India.

Crudely put, the fort may represent the workplace where formal duties and logistics were undertaken, the extra-mural settlement the place where home and private business were conducted.

The academic case for further research remains strong as it would offer enlightenment into whether these two forms of settlements ran in parallel, either as separate development or fully integrated, holistic institutions.

If the latter option is correct, the logical conclusion to be drawn suggests that the vicus should be treated with equal importance with scheduled monuments such as the fort and the Wall.

Returning to the site specific, the following general points can be gleaned from this project undertaken at St George's Crescent.

The structural development recovered by the watching brief appears clear, namely rectilinear spatial organisation strongly influenced by the alignment of the Wall. To the very end of this settlement, this monument governs the use of space.

Analysis of the ceramic assemblage suggests a number of questions

1. Why were there so many pot lids and does this indicate manufacture or a specific function, probably domestic, being undertaken?
2. Why was there a seemingly high proportion of fine wares in direct contrast to the low proportion recovered from the roman fort at Castle Green, Carlisle less than a mile away?
3. Are late Roman pottery types occurring within the assemblage suggesting considerable longevity for the Samian ware?
4. What significance can be drawn from the apparently high sherd count found within the extra-mural settlement and the relatively low incidence of pottery within military facilities?

Examination of the highly organic soil samples that resemble cess material particularly from pit 50 may also provide indications of lifestyle and general health conditions. Possibly, radio-carbon samples could be recovered from the sample should spot dating of the pottery provide an inconclusive date for deposition.

As this fieldwork provides the first detailed archaeological observations of the vicus of Stanwix for twenty-five years, it is deserving of publication in the Cumberland & Westmorland Archaeological Transactions.

## 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 Tullie House Museum, Carlisle and a copy of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record, as requested by the curatorial authority.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to Mr Stuart Gray, the client for his collaboration on this project.

I am also extremely grateful to Mr Alan James for conducting the metal detecting survey and assisting with the fieldwork.

I would also like to thank Jeremy Parsons (CCCHES) for his guidance with the archaeological brief, the staff of Carlisle Library with my research into the local history of the area and the staff of Cumbria Record Office, Carlisle with the map regression and other documentary research.

## 9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Andrews, G. Management of Archaeological Projects, English Heritage 2nd edition 1991, London

Brown, D.H. Archaeological Archives a Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation, London 2007

Bidwell, P. Ed Hadrian's Wall 1989-1999, Kendal 1999

Brennard, M. The Archaeology of North West England: Volume 1, Loughborough 2006

Brennard, M. Research and Archaeology in North West England: Volume 2, Manchester 2008

Bulmer Bulmer's History and Directory of Cumberland 1901

Carauna, I.D. *The Vicus of Stanwix Roman Fort.* Cumberland and Westmorland Arch Trans 2000, Carlisle

Collingwood, J. Handbook to the Roman Wall. Glasgow 1978

Cook, J & Zant,J Knowefield, Stanwix, Carlisle. Carlisle Archaeological Assessment Report 2007, Lancaster

Dacre, J.A. *An Excavation on the Roman Fort at Stanwix, Carlisle*. Cumberland and Westmorland Arch Trans 1985, Carlisle

Dark, K. Britain and the End of the Roman Empire. Stroud 2000

Faulkner, N. The Decline and Fall of Roman Britain. Stroud 2000

IFA Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds) Reading, 2001 and 2008.

McCarthy, M. *Survey and Excavation on Hadrian's Wall*. Hadrian's Wall 1989-1999

Martin, G. Watching Brief Conducted at Cumbria Park Hotel, Stanwix 2005a, unpublished Report 5, Carlisle

Martin, G. Archaeological Evaluation at Cumbria Park Hotel, Stanwix 2005b, unpublished Report 6, Carlisle

Martin, G. Archaeological Watching Brief and Summary Report at Cumbria Park Hotel, Stanwix 2007, unpublished Report 22, Carlisle

Martin, G. Archaeological Evaluation at 54 Scotland Road, Stanwix, Carlisle 2009, unpublished Report 53, Carlisle

Martin, G. Archaeological Assessment for 54 Scotland Road, Stanwix, Carlisle 2009, unpublished Report 60, Carlisle

Philpott, R. *The Romano-British Period Assessment.* The Archaeology of North West Britain Volume 1, 2006, Loughborough

Philpott, R & Brennard, M. *Romano-British Period Research Agenda,* Archaeology North West Volume 9, 2007

Symonds, M. & Mason, D.J.P. Frontiers of knowledge. A Research Framework for Hadrian's Wall, Durham, 2009

Whitehead, R. Land Adjacent to 4 St George's Crescent, Carlisle, Cumbria : Archaeological Evaluation, Greenlane Archaeology Ltd, 2010, Ulverston

## APPENDIX A

### Contexts issued

| Context | Type | Part of | Interpretation | Drawing | Photo | Length | Width | Depth |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Layer | - | Topsoil | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval |
| 2 | Layer | - | Subsoil | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval |
| 3 | Layer | - | Occupation | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval |
| 4 | Layer | - | Natural | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval |
| 5 | Fill | 6 | Land drain | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval |
| 6 | Cut | - | Land drain | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval |
| 7 | Cut | - | 19th C Wall | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval |
| 8 | Fill | - | 19th C Wall | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval |
| 9 | Cut | - | Root bowl | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval | Eval |
| 10 | Cut | - | Wall foundation | 1.1, 2.2, 2.3 | 8-13,44-48, 71-74, 111-114 | 10.00m | 0.48m | 0.38m |
| 11 | Fill | 10 | Wall foundation | 1.1, 2.2, 2.3 | - | 2.25m | 0.48m | 0.33m |
| 12 | Cut | - | Post-hole | 1.1, 2.1, 2.3 | 29, 41-43, 47-48 | Dia 0.78m | - | 0.26m |
| 13 | Fill | 10 | Wall foundation | 1.1, 2.2, 2.3 | - | 2.25m | 0.29m | 0.03m |
| 14 | Fill | 12 | Post-hole | 1.1, 2.1 | - | Dia 0.78m | - | 0.26m |
| 15 | Fill | 10 | Wall foundation | 1.1 | - | 5.00m+ | 0.55m | 0.32m |
| 16 | Fill | 10 | Wall foundation | 2.2 | - | 2.25m | 0.40m | 0.17m |
| 17 | Fill | 40 | Pit | 1.1, 2.7 | - | Dia 0.60m | - | 0.13m |
| 18 | Fill | 41 | Post-hole | 1.1, 2.8 | - | Dia 0.43m | - | 0.21m |
| 19 | Fill | 50 | Cess pit | 3.1, 5.1 | - | 1.00m+ | 0.40m | 0.10m |
| 20 | Fill | 45 | Pit | 3.1 | - | 2.20m | 2.00m | 0.10m |
| 21 | Cut | - | Ditch | 1.1, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 | 30-40 | 2.50m | 1.40m | 0.38m |
| 22 | Layer | - | Garden soil | 2.6 | - | 3.00m | 2.00m | 0.30m |
| 23 | Fill | 21 | Ditch | 2.6 | - | - | 1.20m | 0.19m |
| 24 | Fill | 21 | Ditch | 2.5, 2.6 | - | 1.20m+ | 1.00m | 0.08m |
| 25 | Fill | 21 | Ditch | 2.5, 2.6 | - | 1.20m+ | 0.76m | 0.14m |
| 26 | Fill | 21 | Ditch | 2.5, 2.6 | - | 1.20m+ | 0.91m | 0.05m |
| 27 | Fill | 21 | Ditch | 2.6 | - | 0.50m+ | 0.56m | 0.20m |
| 28 | Fill | 21 | Ditch | 2.6 | - | 0.50m+ | 0.18m | 0.04m |
| 29 | Fill | 21 | Ditch | 2.6 | - | 0.50m+ | 0.09m | 0.02m |
| 30 | Fill | 42 | Pit | 5.1 | - | - | 0.90m | 0.14m |
| 31 | Fill | 45 | Pit | 5.3 | - | 1.80m | 1.60m | 0.40m |
| 32 | Fill | 51 | Pit | 2.10 | - | - | 0.40m | 0.09m |
| 33 | Fill | 54 | Ditch | - | - | - | 0.60m | 0.15m |
| 34 | Fill | 54 | Ditch | - | - | - | 0.60m | 0.05m |
| 35 | Fill | 10 | Wall foundation | 3.1 | - | 1.20m | 0.10m+ | 0.10m |
| 36 | Fill | 50 | Cess pit | 5.2 | 111-114 | - | 2.54m | 0.28m |
| 37 | Fill | 42 | Pit | 3.1, 5.1 | - | 2.60m | 1.40m | 0.14m |
| 38 | Fill | 45 | Pit | 3.1, 5.3 | - | 1.80m | 0.72m | 0.42m |
| 39 | Fill | 45 | Pit | 3.1 | - | 2.00m | 0.70m | 0.30m |
| 40 | Cut | - | Post-hole | 1.1, 2.7 | 49-50 | Dia 0.60m | - | 0.13m |
| 41 | Cut | - | Post-hole | 1.1, 2.7 | 51-52 | Dia 0.43m | - | 0.21m |
| 42 | Cut | - | Pit | 3.1, 4.1, 5.1 | 53-55, 90-95 | 2.50m | 1.70m | 0.60m |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 43 | Fill | 61 | Robbed foundation | 3.1, 4.1 | - | 1.60m+ | 0.20m | 0.20m |
| 44 | Fill | 52 | Wall foundation | 3.1, 4.1 | - | 2.80m+ | 1.40m+ | 0.20m |
| 45 | Cut | - | Pit | 3.1, 4.1, 5.3 | 56-59, 96-106 | 2.80m | 1.90m | 0.60m |
| 46 | Fill | 50 | Cess pit | 5.2 | - | 2.40m | - | 0.34m |
| 47 | Fill | 50 | Cess pit | 5.2 | - | 2.14m | - | 0.16m |
| 48 | Fill | 50 | Cess pit | 5.2 | - | 2.00m | - | 0.21m |
| 49 | Fill | 50 | Cess pit | 5.2 | - | 2.15m | - | 0.12m |
| 50 | Cut | - | Cess pit | 3.1, 4.1, 5.2 | 60-63, 79-89 | 2.54m | 1.60m | 1.00m |
| 51 | Cut | - | Pit | 1.1, 2.10 | 24-28 | Dia 0.90m | - | 0.14m |
| 52 | Cut | - | Wall foundation | 3.1 | 64-70 | 2.80m+ | 1.40m+ | 0.70m+ |
| 53 | Fill | 45 | Pit | 5.3 | - | 1.80m | 1.40m | 0.10m |
| 54 | Cut | - | Ditch | 1.1, 2.9 | 14-23, 75-78 | 8.00m+ | 0.75m | 0.15m |
| 55 | Fill | 50 | Cess pit | 5.2 | - | 1.60m | 1.10m | 0.06m |
| 56 | Fill | 52 | Wall foundation | - | - | 2.80m+ | 1.40m+ | 0.20m |
| 57 | Fill | 52 | Wall foundation | - | - | 2.80m+ | 1.40m+ | 0.30m |
| 58 | Fill | 45 | Pit | 5.3 | - | 1.00m | 0.80m | 0.04m |
| 59 | Fill | 60 | Pit? | 4.1, 5.3 | - | 1.16m | 0.50m | 0.40m |
| 60 | Cut | - | Pit? | 4.1, 5.3 | - | 1.16m | 0.50m | 0.40m |
| 61 | Cut | - | Robbed foundation | 3.1, 4.1 | - | 1.60m+ | 0.20m | 0.20m |
| 62 | Fill | 10 | Wall foundation | 3.1 | - | 1.20m | 0.10m+ | 0.03m |
| 63 | Fill | 10 | Wall foundation | 5.1 | - | - | 0.54m | 0.08m |
| 64 | Fill | 10 | Wall foundation | 5.1 | - | - | 0.54m | 0.04m |
| 65 | Fill | 10 | Wall foundation | 5.1 | - | - | 0.54m | 0.06m |
| 66 | Fill | 42 | Pit | 5.1 | - | - | 1.10m | 0.12m |
| 67 | Fill | 54 | Ditch | 2.9 | - | 3.00m | 0.63m | 0.13m |
| 68 | Fill | 54 | Ditch | 1.1, 2.9 | - | 3.00m | 0.55m | 0.10m |
| 69 | Fill | 51 | Pit | 1.1, 2.10 | - | Dia 0.90m | - | 0.10m |
| 70 | Fill | 42 | Pit | 5.1 | - | - | 1.26m | 0.34m |
| 71 | Fill | 42 | Pit | 5.1 | - | - | 0.94m | 0.10m |
| 72 | Fill | 45 | Pit | 5.3 | - | - | 0.48m | 0.06m |
| 73 | Cut | 21 | Ditch | 2.6 | - | - | 0.84m | 0.27m |
| 100 | Layer | - | Topsoil | - | - | 17m | 17m | 1.00m |