

OLD CARLISLE FARM, WIGTON, Cumbria



Watching Brief



Oxford Archaeology North

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SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was invited by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Section (CCCHES) to submit a project design for an archaeological watching brief during the insertion of a field drain at Old Carlisle Farm, Wigton, Cumbria (NY 26294 46453 - NY 26337 46308). This necessitated the excavation by a 360° machine using a toothed bucket of a trench measuring 150m x 0.7m to a depth of between 1.2m and 1.5m. Following the acceptance of the project design, OA North was commissioned to undertake the project, which took place over three days in March 2005.

The trench was located c220m to the east of the Roman fort at Old Carlisle and was aligned broadly north/south. The watching brief identified a ditch, **5**, a pit, **8**, and a Roman road, **11/15**. Ditch **5** was revealed in the section of the trench, and measured 2.15m wide and 0.41m deep. It contained two fills, **3** and **4**, although no finds were retrieved and the ditch thus remains undated. Pit **8** was again only seen in section, with a single piece of pottery recovered from **7**, its only fill. The road consisted of a metallated surface, **15**, overlying substantial foundations, **11**, comprising stones set in a matrix of loose, light yellow sand. The road appeared to be aligned broadly north-west/south-east, although, given the constraints of the trench, this remained uncertain.

The foundations of the road overlay three further layers in turn, **13**, **10** and **14**, of which **10** proved most interesting as it contained a significant number of finds. The assessment of botanical remains from context **10** recorded low numbers of charred cereal grains, crop processing waste and weed seeds, while an abundance of waterlogged *Juncus* (rush) seeds may indicate that the road was constructed over damp ground. High numbers of charcoal fragments and slag globules were identified, which may be associated with industrial activity at the site before the construction of the road.

A relatively high number of finds were recovered, with the amount of Romano-British material illustrating a significant presence, particularly during the later second and early third centuries. The range of material suggests a high degree of Romanisation, and implies close links with the military markets. The small assemblage from the later third/fourth century and the absence of material dated from between the mid-fourth century to the late eighteenth century seems to imply that use of the area declined within the Roman period, before being largely abandoned, with later material (nineteenth-twentieth century kitchen and tablewares) reaching the site as a result of local settlement and/or midden spreading.

The overall pattern suggested by the evidence is of a possibly waterlogged ground surface, **10**, which was the location for at least some industrial and crop-processing activity and which contained finds dated to the second century AD, providing a *terminus post quem* for the construction of the road. The road appears to have been constructed as an upstanding feature, possibly due to the waterlogged nature of the ground, with deliberate dumping of material to the south of the road at some stage (as evidenced by deposit **9**). To the north of the road the evidence is different, comprising a number of layers, possibly naturally deposited against the foundation of the road. The earliest of these layers, **12**, contained exclusively Roman finds dating from the late second to early third centuries. These overlying layers continued a significant

distance north of the road, suggesting that much of the modern ground surface in this area overlies a substantial depth of stratigraphy dating to the Roman period.

The volume of material recovered, purely from cleaning of sections and from scanning of the topsoil for finds, during this work is noteworthy. This watching brief has highlighted the intact nature of the archaeological resource to the east of Old Carlisle fort and when considered with previous work undertaken at the site (OA North 2002a, Bellhouse 1959) demonstrates the importance of this site and its potential to inform our understanding of the Roman period.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

OA North would like to thank Richard Newman of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Section for commissioning the project. Thanks should also be offered to Ian Lowe, the landowner, who excavated the trench, for being extremely helpful and accommodating during the course of the work. Special mention should also be made of his assistant, Billy, for greatly increasing the number of topsoil finds recovered.

The watching brief was undertaken by Paul Clark, with Pip Kok ably assisting with the recording. The report was written by Paul Clark, with the finds discussed by Chris Howard-Davis, the environmental analysis undertaken by Sandra Bonsall and Elizabeth Huckerby and the drawings created by Kathryn Blythe. Stephen Rowland managed the project and edited the report, along with Alan Lupton.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Following a proposal by Mr Lowe, the landowner, for the insertion of a drain at Old Carlisle Farm, Wigton, Cumbria, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was invited by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Section (CCCHES) to submit a project design for an archaeological watching brief to monitor any ground disturbance. The ground works comprised the excavation of a trench measuring 150m x 0.7m to a depth of between 1.2m and 1.5m (NY 26294 46453 - NY 26337 46308). Following the acceptance of the project design (*Appendix 1*), OA North was commissioned to undertake the project, which took place over three days in March 2005.

1.2 SITE LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 Old Carlisle Farm (NY 2628 4646) is situated 2km to the south of Wigton, and some 15km south-west of Carlisle, Cumbria. The trench excavated ran from immediately to the east of the farm buildings (NY 26294 46453) southwards to the field boundary north of the A595 (NY 26337 46308). The ground in this area is fairly flat, sloping very gently downwards from north to south. The trench was located c220m to the east of the Roman fort at Old Carlisle, Scheduled Monument CU8.
- 1.2.2 Old Carlisle lies on the southern edge of the broad, lowland plain of the Solway Basin, which is fringed by the coastline of the Solway Firth. The Solway Basin is underlain mainly by mudstones and sandstones of Permo-Triassic age ('New Red Sandstone') which, to the west of Carlisle, are overlain by mudstones and limestones of Jurassic age (Countryside Commission 1998, 20). Erosion of the comparatively weak Permo-Triassic and Jurassic rocks had already reduced much of the Solway Basin to an area of low relief prior to the onset of the last glaciation, when thick ice-sheets crossed the area from Scotland and the Lake District, resulting in further erosion and the deposition of boulder clay (*op cit*, 21).

1.3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The Roman fort and associated settlement at Old Carlisle (*Maglona*) are amongst the most intriguing sites on the Roman Frontier, not least due to the limited amount of archaeological investigation undertaken there. Whilst the foundation date for the fort remains uncertain, it was clearly an integral component of the network of forts constructed throughout Cumberland as a rearward support for the western flank of the Wall, and is therefore clearly an element in the Hadrianic frontier-scheme (Collingwood 1928, 104). This does not rule out the possibility that a fort existed at Old Carlisle prior to Hadrian's reorganisation of the Frontier (cAD 122-130), as there are numerous examples of forts of the Hadrianic network using sites that dated back to the Flavian (AD 69-96) and Trajanic (AD 98-117) periods (*op cit*, 106). It is, nevertheless,

likely that the existing ramparts and general plan are Hadrianic; the size and dimensions of the fort at Old Carlisle suggest that it is one of the Hadrianic series of cavalry forts (Birley 1951, 33) and, morphologically, it compares closely with the Hadrianic cavalry forts at Benwell and Chesters (both in Northumberland). Epigraphic evidence has confirmed that the fort was indeed occupied by a cavalry unit (from the reign of Commodus (AD 180-192) - the *ala Augusta Gallorum Proculeiana*), which, as Birley points out (*op cit*, 30) along with the *Ala Augusta Gallorum Petriana*, stationed at Stanwix, were the only cavalry units on the western flank of Hadrian's Wall. The position of Old Carlisle relative to the network of roads led Ferguson (1890) to propose that the fort was a strategic centre for the region, and Haverfield similarly considered Old Carlisle to have played a key role in the defence strategy of the region, and proposed it to be '*among the most important Roman forts in north-western Cumberland*' (1920, 146).

1.3.2 Of the associated settlement, Birley concluded that it was '*in many ways far more interesting, and deserving of investigation by the spade, than the fort itself. For one thing, it seems to have occupied as wide a tract as any such settlement in our area*' (1951, 34). Aerial photography of the site taken by JK St Joseph in the summer of 1949 showed clear outlines of rectangular buildings along both sides of the main Roman road, between Carlisle and Papcastle, to the south of the fort, and along the approach road to the east gate. A further programme of aerial photography, undertaken some 25 years later (Higham and Jones 1975), adopted a system of block-flying, in preference to linear flying, in order to gain an understanding of the wider landscape around the Roman fort. This indicated that the extramural settlement covered c5.8 hectares, and incorporated buildings that extended for at least 0.5km along the main road to the south. Detailed analysis and transcription of the aerial photographs provided a clear picture of the main buildings within and around the fort (Fig 2), and showed that the axis formed by the line of the Roman road, from Carlisle to Papcastle, formed the principal street of the extramural settlement (*op cit*, 24). Bidwell suggested that the apparent regularity of the settlement plan indicated that it had been laid out by the army (1997, 74), whilst Higham and Jones (1975) argue that the principal alignments of the settlement were based upon the Carlisle to Papcastle road and the road issuing from the east gate of the fort.

1.3.3 In addition to the Carlisle to Papcastle road, and its branch road leading to the east gate of the fort, Bellhouse traced a north-bound road '*from the east gate as far as the new secondary modern school, a straight length of just over one mile, pointing uncompromisingly towards Drumburgh*' (1956, 42). Bellhouse also postulated a south-bound road from Old Carlisle, via Broadfield, to Old Penrith, but conceded that '*in both cases much fieldwork is still needed before these roads can be accepted as certain*' (*ibid*). Some evidence for the north-bound road was furnished by a limited programme of archaeological investigation in 1998/9 by the Carlisle Archaeological Unit (CAU), which focused on the area c1.5km to the north of the fort. This work revealed a series of boundary ditches of Roman date, and included the retrieval of fourth century pottery (CAU 1999). Whilst being far from conclusive, this work

provided tentative evidence of extramural settlement at a distance in excess of 1km beyond the north gate of the fort.

- 1.3.4 In addition to its apparently large size, the extramural settlement at Old Carlisle *'is the only one to have produced epigraphic evidence for the existence of a village council'* (Birley 1951, 34); an altar dedicated to Jupiter Optimus Maximus and Vulcan for the health of the emperor Gordian (AD 238-44), was *'set up by the village authorities from money contributed by the villagers'* (translation in Collingwood 1928, 116).
- 1.3.5 In terms of the wider landscape, Higham and Jones identified several acres of divisions within the fields to the south of the fort and settlement at Old Carlisle. *'Fields somewhat less than one acre in size proliferate ... in an agglomeration of rectangular boxes that at last give us some impression of the reality of Roman agriculture close to a fort'* (1975, 25). They further identified numerous 'native-style' settlements in the vicinity, as at Jenkin's Cross and Sandy Brow to the east, and concluded that *'the Old Carlisle fort accumulated a number of sites to create a rather denser infilling on the location map than is normally the case in this area'* (*ibid*). Higham and Jones concluded that these settlements were attracted *'by the economic forces created by the Roman road and its attendant fort'* (*op cit*, 26).
- 1.3.6 Archaeological excavation within the extramural settlement at Old Carlisle is limited to that undertaken in 1956 by RL Bellhouse, which focused on part of the settlement to the south of the fort (Bellhouse 1959). This excavation revealed a sequence of buildings, which included *'substantial stone ones with flagged floors and stone and slate roofs'* and *'wattle-and-daub houses with clay floors'* (*op cit*, 23). Analysis of the pottery retrieved from this excavation indicated that part of the settlement was occupied during the second and third centuries AD. Bellhouse did not offer any interpretation of the function of these buildings, but did note the frequent occurrence of burnt clay nodules and abundant charcoal. Recent work has been undertaken (OA North 2002a), however, comprising the cleaning and recording of an area measuring c18m x 14m that had been exposed during the topsoil strip for the construction of a yard for Old Carlisle Farm. This cleaning revealed a suite of Roman remains, including a well-preserved section of the road that led out from the east gate of the fort, and evidence of at least one substantial building. The finds recovered during the course of this work provided a similar date range to Bellhouse's excavations, predominantly dating to the second and third centuries AD.
- 1.3.7 The date at which the Roman Army abandoned Old Carlisle is uncertain. The fort is mentioned in the *Notitia Dignitatum*, an official document containing a list of army units, which has been dated to cAD 410, although is thought to have been based on earlier sources (Shotter 1993, 106). This suggests that a Roman garrison, the *Numerus Solenses*, was still maintained at Old Carlisle during the closing stages of the fourth century. Significantly, there is some evidence, albeit slight, for continued occupation during the post-Roman period. The *Historia Brittonum*, written in the early ninth century and attributed to Nennius, refers to the castle, which Vortigern built for himself at *Guasmoric* near Carlisle as, *'a city which in English is called Palmcastre'* (Birley 1951, 17). An inquest of 1305 includes Palmcastre among a group of

enclosures in the King's forest, all of which are identified as places in the western part of the parish of Westward, whilst a survey of the same area, dated 1578, mentions '*Old Carliell at Palmcastle*' (*ibid*). Using this evidence, Collingwood (1928, 111) raised the possibility that the settlement at Old Carlisle may thus have been the capital of a British chief or king in the fifth century AD, the time of Vortigern, or else the same settlement was still inhabited and had become the local centre of British survival when the Northumbrians extended their sphere of influence in the seventh century.

- 1.3.8 One of the earliest eyewitness accounts of Old Carlisle was provided by Camden, who visited the area during his northern tour in 1599, and described the site as the '*pitifull reliques of an ancient citie* [sic]' (Camden 1610). A more detailed account was compiled in 1725 by William Stukeley, who described the remains as '*the fairest show of foundations I ever yet saw: one might almost draw an intire* [sic] *plan of it, and of every dwelling*' (1776, 54). Similarly, Horsley remarked that '*the ruins of the old Roman town and station here are very grand and conspicuous...*' (1732, 112). In the years subsequent to, but also likely to have begun before, Horsley's remarks, the fort and associated structures provided an ideal source of building materials for houses and boundary walls in the locality. Hutchinson (1776, 230), for instance, noted that '*the church of Wigton, and many of the buildings in that town, have been erected out of the ruins* [of Old Carlisle]'. In their volume on Cumberland, published in 1816, the Lyson brothers remarked that '*in the year 1811 a considerable portion of the wall on the east side of the station was laid open for the purpose of obtaining ready hewn stone for some buildings on the adjoining farm*' (quoted in Birley 1951, 26). Birley suggests that '*the drastic stone-robbing of 1811 had been a consequence of the passing in that year of an enclosure act, which eliminated the last surviving common lands in the parish of Westward, and made it necessary to provide field-walls to mark the boundaries of different properties*' (*ibid*).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 Following a request from Richard Newman of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Section, and in line with correspondence from him, a project design (*Appendix 1*) was prepared. All work undertaken complied with the project design and was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 A programme of systematic field observation accurately recorded the location, extent, and character of surviving archaeological features, finds and deposits during the groundworks for the drain. The recording consisted of a full description and preliminary classification of features and materials revealed, and their accurate location. Features were planned accurately at appropriate scales and a photographic record in both colour slide and monochrome was undertaken simultaneously. Results of all features were recorded stratigraphically on *pro-forma* context sheets, using a recording system adapted from that used by English Heritage's Centre for Field Archaeology. Primary records were available for inspection at all times. The site archive includes both a photographic record and accurate large-scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:20 and 1:10).
- 2.2.3 Putative archaeological features and deposits identified during the machining process, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, were cleaned by hand, using trowels, and appropriate sections were studied and drawn.
- 2.2.4 Environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) were collected only from suitable deposits (i.e. sampling only a percentage of securely stratified features based on the presence of good chronological data and/or the presence of organic-rich residues. An assessment of the environmental samples was undertaken by the in-house palaeoecological specialists in order to establish the potential for further analysis of macrofossil, arthropod, palynological and general biological assemblages.

2.3 ASSESSMENT OF PLANT REMAINS

- 2.3.1 Two bulk samples were taken from layer **10**, likely to be the Roman ground surface, for the assessment of charred and waterlogged plant remains. A single 15 litre sample (Sample 2) was processed for this assessment.
- 2.3.2 The sample was hand-floated and the light fraction (flot) was collected on 250 micron mesh and air dried. The flot was scanned with a Leica MZ6 stereo

dissecting microscope and plant material was recorded and provisionally identified. The data are shown in Table 1 (*Section 4.3*). Botanical nomenclature follows Stace (1991). Plant remains were scored on a scale of abundance of 1-4, where 1 is rare (less than 5 items) and 4 is abundant (more than 100 items). The components of the matrix were also noted.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in Cumbria County Record Office (Carlisle) on completion of the project. Copies of the report will be deposited with the HER in Kendal. The finds will be deposited with the Tullie House Museum, Carlisle.

3. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 A single trench, aligned broadly north-north-west/south-south-east, was excavated by a tracked, back-acting, 360° mechanical excavator using a 0.7m wide toothed bucket (Fig 2, Plate 1). The resulting trench was, in most places, 0.7m wide, although in areas this increased to 0.8m. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.5m. Individual features were located by distance from the southern end of the trench (ie 0m is the southern end of the trench, 150m is the northern end). Context descriptions are provided in *Appendix 2*.

3.2 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

- 3.2.1 The topsoil, **1**, was fairly uniform along the length of the trench, comprising light brown sandy-clay, to a maximum depth of 0.4m. Initially, this topsoil immediately overlay the natural geology, **2**, comprising light orange boulder clay. At 17m, the underlying rock strata, comprising red sandstone, appeared, as the trench progressed up the slight slope. Further north (starting at c60m) an intermittent subsoil, **6**, appeared, comprising light grey sandy-clay.
- 3.2.2 At c9m a ditch, **5**, was revealed in the section of the trench (the use of a toothed bucket made it almost impossible to see features in plan), cut into the natural subsoil **2** and measuring 2.15m wide by 0.41m deep (plate 2). It contained two fills, **3** and **4**, although no finds were retrieved from within it and it thus remains undated.
- 3.2.3 At c80m a pit, **8**, was observed cut into both subsoil **6** and boulder clay **2** respectively. Again, this feature was only seen in section, being observed to a greater depth in the western section than the eastern (1.1m as opposed to 0.47m). This change in depth led to its interpretation as a pit, rather than a linear feature running across the trench. The fill, **7**, of this pit comprised grey sandy-clayey-silt and contained a single piece of Romano-British greyware pottery (*Section 5.2*).
- 3.2.4 A metalled surface, **15**, was revealed at c100m, approximately 4.5m wide, and immediately beneath the topsoil, which was noticeably thinner at this point (Plate 3). It appeared to be aligned broadly north-west/south-east, although given the constraints of the trench, this remained uncertain. The surface was edged to the south by a number of large stones, with maximum dimensions of 0.4m x 0.3m x 0.2m (Plate 4). It was noticeable that the metalled surface survived best in the vicinity of the edging stones.
- 3.2.5 Metalled surface, **15**, was built on substantial foundations, **11**, comprising rectangular stones set in a matrix of loose light yellow sand. The foundation, **11**, had a maximum thickness of 1.2m and was 5.55m wide (Plates 5 and 6). No finds were recovered from this layer.

- 3.2.6 To the south, the foundations, **11**, were overlain by a layer of light yellow sand, **9**, which had a maximum thickness of 0.85m and contained a single piece of abraded Samian ware (see *Section 5.2*). To the north, the foundations were overlain by a layer of mid- to dark grey sandy silt, **12**, which had a maximum thickness of 0.38m (Fig 3). This layer contained pottery, glass and iron.
- 3.2.7 The foundations overlay a layer of light to mid-orangeish-yellow sandy-clay, **13**, containing pottery, which had a maximum thickness of 0.24m. This in turn overlay a layer of grey sandy-clay, **10**, which had a maximum thickness of 0.32m. This layer contained pottery and artefacts of iron, glass and copper alloy.
- 3.2.8 This layer in turn overlay a layer of white sand, **14**, containing charcoal flecks and fragments, which was observed to a maximum thickness of 0.1m. Layers **10**, **13** and **14**, all seemed to be gently sloping downwards from the north, continuing the general trend seen along the length of the trench. The natural geology was only seen underneath layer **10** at its southern extent, demonstrating this slope.

4. ASSESSMENT OF PLANT REMAINS

4.1 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The results of the assessment of the plant remains from layer **10** are shown in Table 1 (Section 4.3). The sample contained charcoal in abundant quantities with some *Calluna* (heather) charcoal and charred monocotyledon stems (grasses, sedges and rushes). Charred cereals were present, including *Avena* (oats), *Triticum* (wheat) and *Hordeum* (hulled barley). A little crop processing waste was identified and included *Triticum spelta* glume bases. Some charred weed seeds were recorded and included *Galium* (bedstraws), *Bromus* (brome grasses), *Polygonum aviculare* (knotgrass), small Fabaceae (legumes) and small Poaceae (grasses). Fungal sclerotia were abundant. Waterlogged plant remains included abundant *Juncus* (rushes) seeds.
- 4.1.2 Frequent slag globules from metal working were identified in the flot and slag was recorded in the mineral residue together with some Roman Pottery sherds.

4.2 DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL

- 4.2.1 The assessment of charred and waterlogged plant remains from layer **10** beneath the Roman Road at Old Carlisle recorded low numbers of charred cereal grains, crop processing waste and weed seeds, indicating the consumption or growing barley, spelt wheat and oats at Old Carlisle before the construction of the road.
- 4.2.2 The abundant waterlogged *Juncus* (rush) seeds indicate that the road may have been constructed over damp ground.
- 4.2.3 The high numbers of charcoal fragments, globules, which may be associated with a smithy, and the presence of slag in the mineral fraction may suggest some industrial activity was taking place at the site before the construction of the road.
- 4.2.4 Despite the presence of charred and waterlogged plant remains in layer **10**, the environmental dataset is limited. Consequently, there is no potential for analysis, and no further environmental work is recommended.

4.3 TABLE OF RESULTS

Sample	Context	Sample volume	Flot description	Plant remains	Potential
2	10	15 litres	950 ml. charcoal (4), some <i>Calluna</i> charcoal and charred monocot stems, fungal sclerota (1), insect remains (1), globules from metal working (2), sand (4), some modern roots.	Cereals (2) including barley, wheat , oat, and indet, chaff (2), including <i>Triticum spelta</i> glume, charred weed seeds (2) including <i>Galium</i> sp (bedstraws), <i>Bromus</i> (bromes), <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> (knotgrass), small Poaceae (grasses) and <i>Persicaria</i> sp, waterlogged plant remains (4) <i>Juncus</i> (Rushes)	None

Table 1: Assessment of charred and waterlogged plant remains.

(Remains recorded on a scale of 1-4. 1= present (up to 5 items), 2= frequent (5-25), 3= common (25-100), 4= abundant (>100))

5. FINDS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 In total, 111 fragments of artefacts and ecofacts were recovered from the watching brief, comprising animal bone, burnt clay, copper alloy, glass, industrial debris, iron, and pottery. The bulk of the finds was retrieved from topsoil **1**. The types of finds found are summarised by context, below in Table 2. A full catalogue is also presented in *Appendix 3*.

Material	Context									Total
	1	6	7	9	10	12	13	15	Ss1	
Animal bone	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	4
Burnt clay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Copper alloy	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Glass	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
Industrial debris	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	8
Iron	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	5
Pottery	43	1	1	1	14	10	3	0	9	82
Stone	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Total	51	1	1	1	19	13	3	5	17	111

Table 2: Find material by context

- 5.1.2 Dateable artefacts fall into two groups: Romano-British material belonging primarily to the later second and third centuries, and post-medieval - modern material belonging to the very late eighteenth century and after. The period between the two is marked by a single small and abraded fragment of medieval pottery.

5.2 POTTERY

- 5.2.1 The Romano-British pottery dates, almost without exception, to the second and third centuries, and includes coarsewares, imported finewares (Samian) and amphora. The mix suggests close contacts with, and access to the military supply system, presumably reflecting the proximity of Hadrian's Wall and the important settlement of *Luguvalium* (Carlisle). The material is fragmentary and somewhat abraded, suggesting an element of disturbance, and although subsoil **6**, pit fill **7**, and layers **9**, **10**, **12**, and **13** all produced exclusively Romano-British material, the bulk was from topsoil **1**.

- 5.2.2 The generally small size of the fragments meant that little could be dated with precision, but fabrics present included Black Burnished ware category 1 (mostly second century AD, but also one or two third to fourth century AD sherds), possibly Crambeck greywares (dated, at the earliest, to the late third century AD), and mortaria from the Mancetter-Hartshill production centre (late second to fourth century AD). Samian vessels from the site derived mainly from the Central Gaulish kilns at Lezoux, but included fragments from several East Gaulish suppliers, including Trier. The Samian vessels present pointed to a date range centred round the late second to early third century, with nothing earlier than the Antonine period (AD 138-161).
- 5.2.3 The single sherd of medieval pottery was a dark orange gritty fabric, possibly dating to the mid-twelfth-mid-fourteenth century. As an isolated find it seems most likely to have reached the site in midden spreading.
- 5.2.4 The later group, comprising both kitchen and table wares, again seems to suggest midden spreading, during the nineteenth century and later.

5.3 GLASS

- 5.3.1 Three of the four fragments of glass were Roman in date. One derived from a common storage vessel type, dating to the first to third centuries AD, whilst a second vessel fragment was from fine tableware, being colourless and thin-walled, but otherwise unidentifiable, except to note that colourless glass was in general vogue from the second century. The third fragment, from layer **10**, was from an opaque white frit bangle, with typically triangular section. These are a widespread, but not particularly common type, dating from the second century and later. The fourth fragment of glass falls into the later group of finds, being a small body sherd from a dark green wine bottle, probably of late eighteenth century form.

5.4 METALWORK AND INDUSTRIAL DEBRIS

- 5.4.1 A single copper alloy object was recovered. It appears to be a strap end, but has not been identified with confidence. Despite deriving from a context which produced exclusively Romano-British finds (layer **10**) it does not appear to represent any immediately identifiable Roman type, and thus the possibility that it is later, and therefore intrusive, cannot be entirely ruled out. The small number of fragments of iron appear to be hand-forged nails or small unidentifiable fragments. Artefacts such as nails change little through time and cannot thus be dated with any precision.
- 5.4.2 Although represented in extremely small quantities, industrial debris recovered from soil sample 2 (layer **10**) appears to be small agglomerations of hammer scale, suggesting that secondary ironworking was being undertaken at, or near the site.

5.5 OTHER FINDS

- 5.5.1 A small amount of burnt bone was recovered. The fragments were too small to be attributed to species, but their extreme calcination raises the possibility that they derive from a disturbed cremation. Heavily calcined flint was also recovered. It did not appear to have been worked in any way.
- 5.5.2 A single fragment of a black material has been tentatively identified as jet or similar stone, for example cannel coal; it appeared to have been roughly worked. Black shiny materials such as jet or coal were worked in prehistory but also, probably at the level of a cottage industry, from the later second to fourth centuries AD and this fragment might represent a rough-out from such activity. Its context, however, should be borne in mind (topsoil *I*) and it is possibly a late introduction to the site. Similarly, a small whetstone from topsoil *I* could be of any date.

5.6 DISCUSSION

- 5.6.1 The amount of Romano-British material from the site makes it clear that there was a significant presence here during the later second and early third centuries, and probably later. The range of material suggests a high degree of Romanisation, and implies close links with the military markets. The markedly smaller assemblage of material dated later than the third century AD and an absence of finds datable from the mid-fourth century to the late eighteenth century seems to imply that the area was largely abandoned, with later material (nineteenth-twentieth century kitchen and tablewares, reaching the site as a result of local settlement and/or midden spreading).

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 DISCUSSION

- 6.1.1 This watching brief provided an opportunity, albeit under far from ideal conditions, to examine a transect through the landscape immediately to the east of Old Carlisle Roman fort. There were a number of factors that reduced the amount of information recovered, including the use of a toothed bucket to excavate the trench, the narrowness of the trench and the fact that the trench's primary purpose was not archaeological. However, a number of archaeological features were still exposed and recorded.
- 6.1.2 The most important feature recorded was the Roman road (**11** and **15**), that proved to be of very substantial construction, with the road foundation, **11**, built to a maximum thickness of 1.2m. The metalled surface of the road, **15**, was fairly poorly preserved in plan, perhaps suffering some plough damage, and was insufficiently thick in section to be recordable as a separate layer from the foundation. Laying the road surface on a built-up *agger* seems characteristic of many Roman Roads, such as the High Street Roman Road along the Eden Valley, and was also noted in the case of the Roman Road identified by OA North in 2002, running from the east gate of Old Carlisle Fort. The width of the latter road, at 5.2m, also compares favourably with that identified during the watching brief. The relatively high *agger* for the road identified during the watching brief, may relate to the damp surrounding conditions, and may partly explain why no drainage ditches were provided, unlike those that are apparent from aerial photographs of the High Street Roman road (OA North 2002b).
- 6.1.3 Comparison with previously published plots of aerial photographic evidence (Higham and Jones 1975) suggests that the road identified is in roughly the correct location to be the main Carlisle to Papcastle road. However, the alignment of the road appeared to be broadly north-west/south-east, whilst that of the Carlisle to Papcastle road should be south-west/north-east. This could possibly be explained as merely an incorrect identification of the direction of the road within the extremely narrow confines of the trench, but remains a problem in any attempt to definitely state that the feature revealed was the main road from Carlisle to Papcastle. However, no further possible roads were revealed in the trench.
- 6.1.4 The layers, **9** and **12**, that had built up against the foundation of the road, **11**, appeared to derive from different depositional processes, with the layer to the south, **9**, comprising a very clean sand deposit, perhaps suggesting a deliberate dumping, whilst the deposit to the north, **12**, comprised a sandy silt, which probably gradually accumulated over time. The artefactual remains from layer **12** broadly dated to the late second to early third centuries, whilst the single piece from layer **9** was less tightly dated, to the first to third centuries. Deposit **9** was visible in section for c20m to the south of the road, whilst layer **12** appeared to continue for a far greater distance to the north, as part of a fairly consistent stratigraphy.

- 6.1.5 The layer, **13**, immediately underneath the road foundation, **11**, only extended beneath the road for 0.65m, although did continue for a substantial distance to the north as part of the consistent stratigraphy. The layer beneath this, **10**, a grey sandy-clay, contained 14 pieces of pottery, which seemingly dated broadly to the later second century. It is tempting to identify this layer with Bellhouses' 'grey pasty clay' (1959, 17), which he believed to be the 'upper horizon of a much trodden fossil soil' (*ibid*), and to interpret this layer as the original mixed ground surface across the site. Indeed, the environmental evidence from this layer suggests that a degree of industrial activity was taking place at this site before the construction of the road, whilst the reed seeds suggest the area may have been somewhat waterlogged, which would provide a sound reason for the substantial foundation of the road.
- 6.1.6 The overall pattern suggested by the evidence is of a ground surface, **10**, which was possibly quite waterlogged, which was the location for at least some industrial activity, as evidenced by the slag droplets. The origin of this industrial waste could conceivably relate to a construction camp for the fort itself. In addition, the burnt grain in the area may relate to domestic activity, but might also derive from grain drying. The evidence for grain-processing from the sample may support an argument for agricultural production rather than domestic consumption. Layer **10** contains finds dated to the second century, which provides a *terminus post quem* for the construction of the road. This date again proves problematic in trying to reconcile the exposed road with the aerial photographic evidence, as the suggestion has been made that the Carlisle to Papcastle road would have been constructed some time in the first century (Bidwell *et al* 1999, 69). This discrepancy may relate to the fact that much of the pottery recovered from layer **10**, which possibly represents the original Roman ground surface extending for some distance either side of the road, did not come from directly beneath foundation layer **11**. It is possible that midden material had been incorporated into layer **10**, either for fertiliser or as a means of consolidating damper ground for cultivation. The abraded nature of the Roman pottery from this layer would suggest a certain degree of disturbance commensurate with ploughing.
- 6.1.7 The road appears to have been constructed as an upstanding feature, possibly due to the waterlogged nature of the ground, with deliberate dumping of material to the south of the road at some stage (as evidenced by deposit **9**). To the north of the road, the evidence is different, with a number of layers accumulating, possibly by natural deposition processes, against the foundation of the road. The earliest of these layers, **12**, contained exclusively Roman finds dating from the late second to early third centuries. These overlying layers continued a significant distance north of the road, suggesting that much of the modern ground surface in this area overlies a substantial depth of stratigraphy dating to the Roman period.
- 6.1.8 The remaining features, ditch **5** and pit **8**, are less easy to place within a wider context. Aerial photographs (Fig 2) clearly indicate that an extensive linear feature is transected by the trench at exactly the same position as that at which ditch **5** was recorded. They are highly likely to be the same feature. Pit **8** contained Roman pottery, but the possibility remains that this material could

be residual. However, the placement of the pit, within 20m of the line of the road, may suggest that it was associated with some sort of structure aligned along the road.

- 6.1.9 The volume of material recovered, purely from cleaning of sections and from scanning of the topsoil for finds, during this work is noteworthy. This watching brief has highlighted the intact nature of the archaeological resource to the east of Old Carlisle fort and when considered with previous work undertaken at the site (Bellhouse 1959, OA North 2002a) demonstrates the importance of this site and its potential to inform our understanding of the Roman period. It is also suggestive of the potential for the preservation of features relating to agricultural and possibly industrial activity within the region of the Roman Road. While it is tempting to note the potential for preservation of associated structural remains, there is no aerial photographic evidence for such remains within the study area.

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8. ILLUSTRATIONS

8.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

Figure 3: Section through road

8.2 PLATES

Plate 1: Working shot of trench being excavated

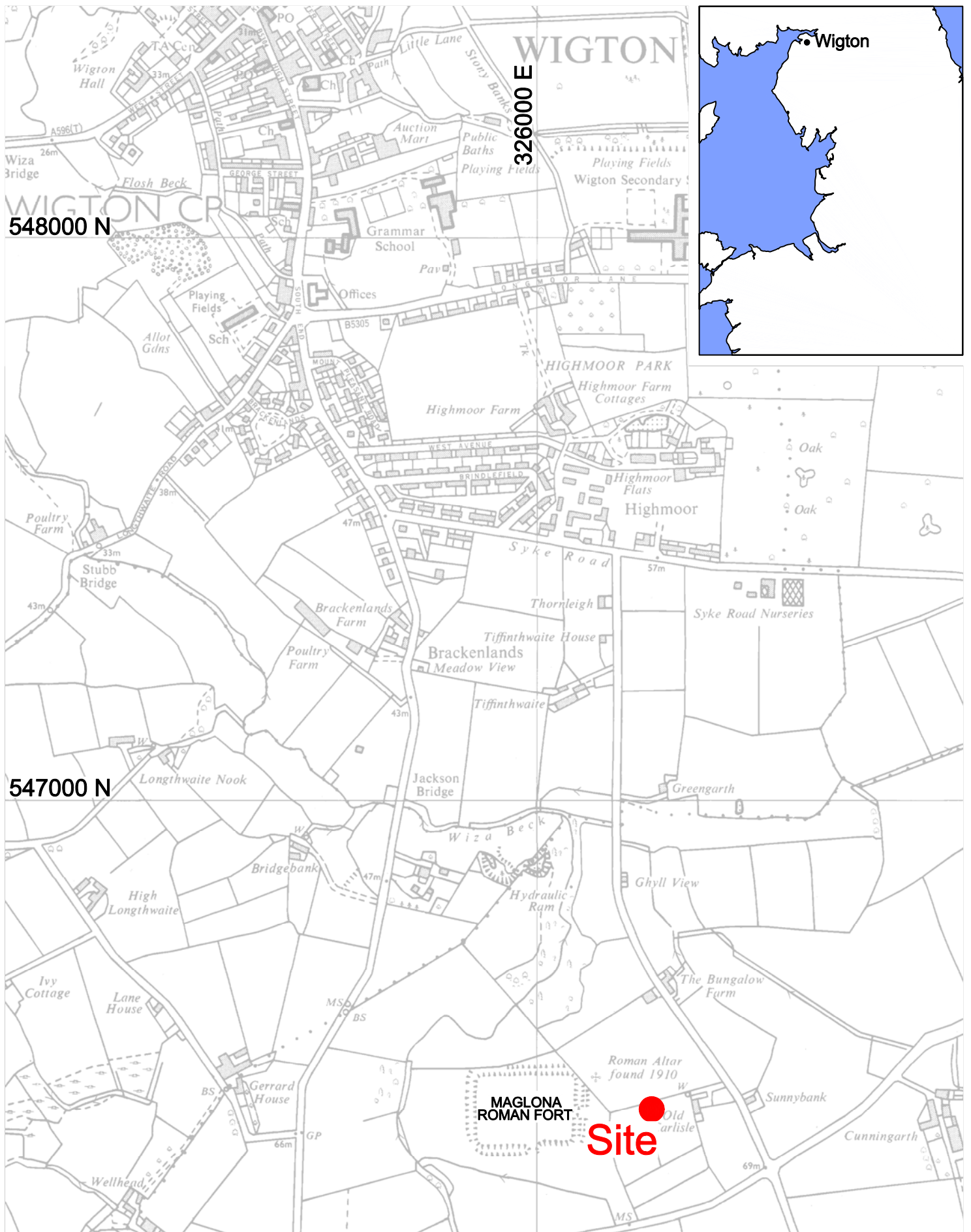
Plate 2: Ditch **5**

Plate 3: Road surface **15**

Plate 4: Southern edge of road surface **15**

Plate 5: Partial view of section through road foundation **11**

Plate 6: Oblique view of section through road foundation **11**



based upon the Ordnance Survey 1:10000
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0 500
metres

Figure 1: Location Map

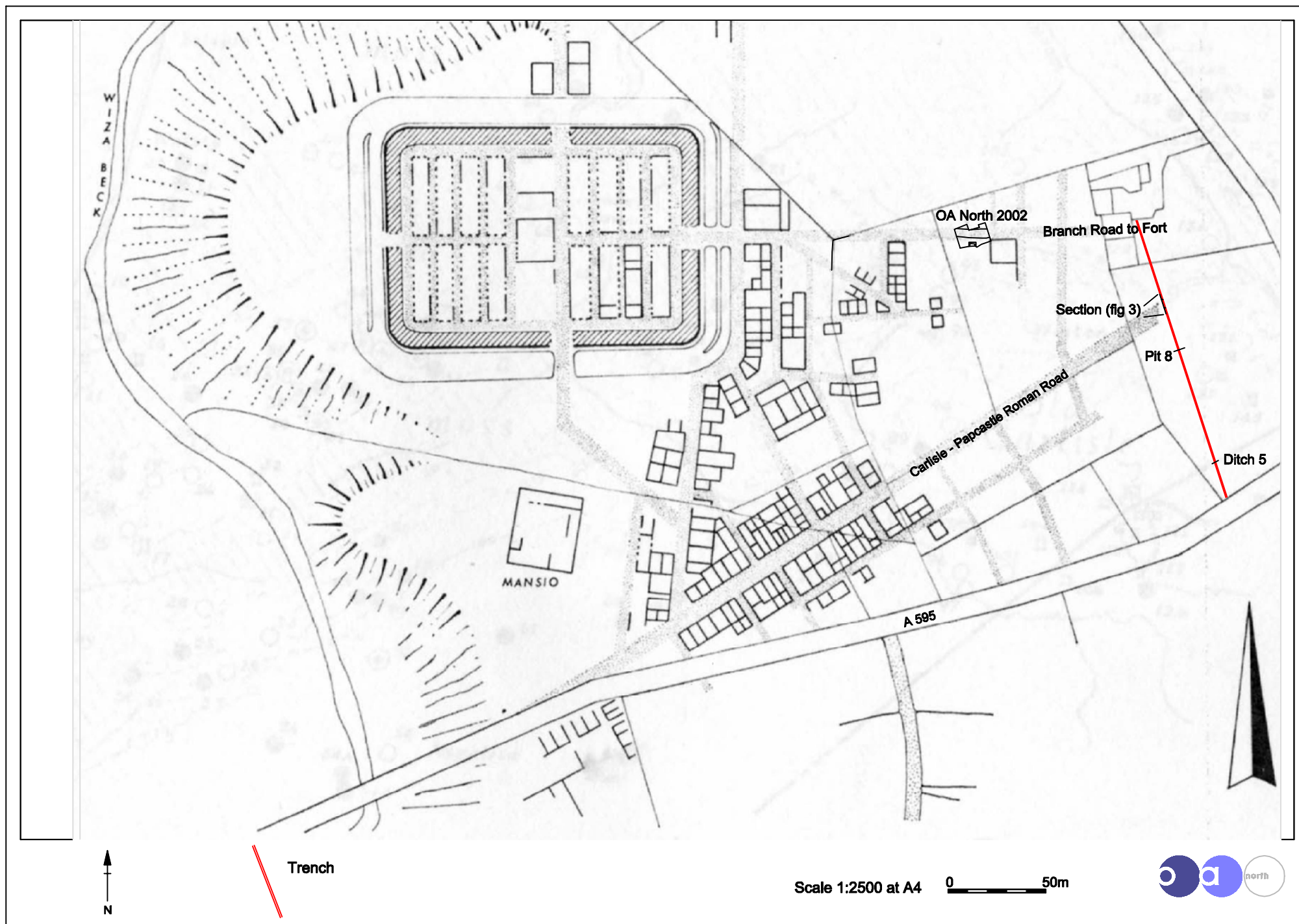
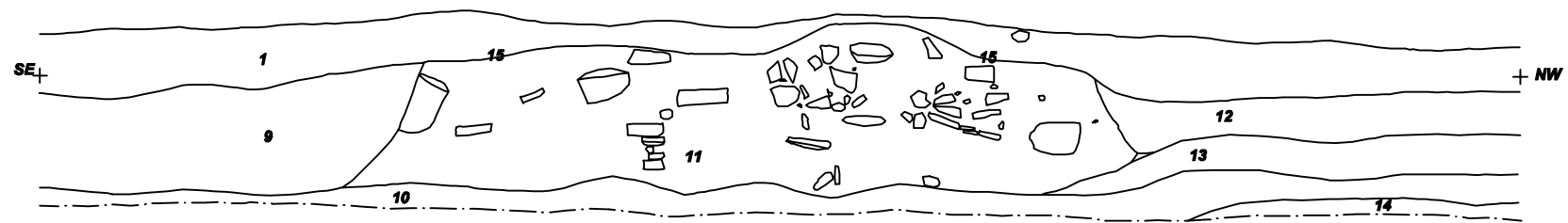


Figure 2: Trench location plan



Scale 1:50 at A4



Figure 3: Section through road



Plate 1: Working shot of trench being excavated



Plate 2: Ditch 5



Plate 3: Road surface *15*



Plate 4: Southern edge of road surface *15*



Plate 5: Partial view of section through road foundation *II*



Plate 6: Oblique view of section through road foundation *II*

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

Oxford

Archaeology

North

March 2005

OLD CARLISLE FARM, WIGTON CUMBRIA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PROJECT DESIGN

Proposals

The following project design is offered in response to a request by Cumbria County Council Historical Environment Section on behalf of Mr Ian Lowe for an archaeological watching brief during the digging of field drains at Old Carlisle Farm, Wigton, Cumbria.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CONTRACT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) has been invited by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Section (CCCHES - hereafter the Client), to submit a project design and costs for an archaeological watching brief during insertion of field drains at Old Carlisle Farm, Wigton, Cumbria, grid reference NY 2614 4614 over a period of two days between 22nd and 23rd April 2005. This document presents a methodology for the archaeological work to be undertaken during the proposed groundworks and has been prepared following correspondence with the Client.
- 1.1.2 **Archaeological background:** Old Carlisle Farm is situated 2km to the south of Wigton, and some 15km south-west of Carlisle, Cumbria. The site lies c116m east of the Roman fort at Old Carlisle, and is within the area of the Scheduled Monument (SM CU8). The foundation of the fort is of uncertain date and, while the extant ramparts and plan are likely to be Hadrianic, it is possible that the site of an earlier Roman fort was reused. The shape and dimensions of the fort are very similar to the Hadrianic cavalry forts at Benwell and Chesters, and epigraphic evidence indicates that Old Carlisle too, was garrisoned by a cavalry unit (the ala Augusta Gallorum Proculeiana) (Birley 1951). Despite its position behind the line of Hadrian's Wall, the fort is clearly an integral component of the Hadrianic Frontier system; it is situated on the Roman road linking Carlisle to Papcastle, perhaps to protect the south flank of the Solway Plain (OA North 2002). Indeed, the placing of a mobile, mounted reserve behind the initial line of defence is sound military sense.
- 1.1.3 The associated extramural settlement is particularly intriguing, not least for being the only one to have produced epigraphic evidence for a 'village' council. Very little is known, however, about the chronological development of the settlement, reflecting the very limited amount of archaeological excavation undertaken there. The large settlement covers an area of c5.8 hectares, extending for 0.5km from the east gate of the fort and aligned along the main Carlisle to Papcastle road (OA North 2002).
- 1.1.4 Previous work by OA North at Old Carlisle Farm comprised a programme of archaeological recording in 2002 following a watching brief (OA North 2002). Within an area c18m by 14m a suite of Roman remains was recorded, including a well-preserved section of the road that led out from the east gate of the fort, and evidence of at least one substantial building, providing important new evidence of the nature, character, and extent of the extramural settlement at Old Carlisle. Work undertaken by Carlisle Archaeological Unit in 1998/9 recorded possible evidence of extramural settlement 1.5km north of the fort in the form of boundary ditches and fourth century pottery (CAU 1999). The only other excavation within the settlement was that undertaken in 1956 by RL Bellhouse, which focused on part of the settlement to the south of the fort (Bellhouse 1959). This excavation revealed a sequence of buildings, occupied during the second and third centuries AD. Various items of documentary evidence may indicate that the fort, and possibly the extramural settlement, were occupied between the end of Roman administration and the incorporation of the area into the Anglian kingdom of Northumbria.
- 1.1.3 OA North has considerable experience of the assessment, evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large-scale projects during the past 24 years. Desk-based assessments, watching briefs, evaluations and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. OA North has a great deal of experience of working in Cumbria, and has undertaken previous work at Old Carlisle Farm.
- 1.1.4 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The following programme has been designed to provide adequate archaeological mitigation of the designated area within its broader context and to meet the requirements of the brief provided by the CCCHES. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:
- 2.2 **Project design:** a written scheme of investigation will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the CCCHES brief.
- 2.3 **Watching brief:** to maintain a permanent presence watching brief during the topsoil stripping and subsequent groundworks in advance of the development, in order to identify any previously unknown archaeological features.
- 2.4 **Report and Archive:** an interim report may be issued should there be any further mitigation work necessary. The final report will be produced for the client within eight weeks of completion. A site archive will be produced to English Heritage guidelines (MAP 2) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990).

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.1.1 **Methodology:** a programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features and/or deposits during the groundworks for the field drains. This work will comprise observation during these groundworks, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.
- 3.1.2 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section, and as grid co-ordinates where appropriate). Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale plan provided by the Client. A photographic record in both colour and black and white will be undertaken simultaneously. Results of any excavated features will be recorded stratigraphically on *pro forma* context sheets using, where appropriate, a recording system, adapted from that used by English Heritage's Centre for Field Archaeology, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times. The site archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:20 and 1:10).
- 3.1.3 Putative archaeological features and/or deposits identified by the machining process, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and where appropriate sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated (ie. selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal).
- 3.1.5 It is assumed that OA North will have the authority to stop the works for a sufficient time period to enable the recording of important deposits. It may also be necessary to call in additional archaeological support if a find of particular importance is identified or a high density of archaeology is discovered, but this would only be called into effect in agreement with the Client and English Heritage and will require a variation to costing.

- 3.1.6 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc.), as well as to all Health and Safety regulations. OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Unit Managers.
- 3.1.7 **Human Remains:** any human remains uncovered will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial and to allow examination by a palaeopathologist. English Heritage and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a Home Office license, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations, and if appropriate, in compliance with the 'Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act, 1981.
- 3.1.8 **Environmental Sampling:** following advice on the site sampling policy from the English Heritage Specialist Scientific Advisor, Jacqui Huntley of the University of Durham, environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from suitable deposits (i.e. only where the deposits are reasonably well dated and are from contexts the derivation of which can be understood with a degree of confidence). It should be noted that OA North will undertake a tightly focused sampling strategy designed only to provide information relating to specific project objectives. This will involve sampling only a percentage of securely stratified features based on the presence of good chronological data and/or the presence of organic-rich residues. Subject to the results of the archaeological work, an assessment of any environmental samples will be undertaken by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis. The assessment would examine the potential for macrofossil, arthropod, palynological and general biological analysis. The costs for the palaeoecological assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect in agreement with the County Archaeologist, English Heritage, and the Client.
- 3.1.9 Samples will also be collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. If necessary, access to conservation advice and facilities can be made available. OA North maintains close relationships with Ancient Monuments Laboratory staff at the Universities of Durham and York and, in addition, employs artefact and palaeozoological specialists with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation.
- 3.1.10 **Treatment of finds:** all finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition), MAP2, and the recipient museum's guidelines. They will be assessed by OA North finds specialists. Where appropriate, and as a contingency, iron artefacts will be x-rayed and samples submitted for relevant dating methods, such as archaeomagnetic or C¹⁴ dating.
- 3.1.11 **Treasure:** any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.1.12 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator.
- 3.1.13 **Contingency plan:** in the event of significant archaeological features being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with the Client as to the extent of further works to be carried out. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design. In addition, it will be necessary to invoke the contingency plan in the event of the following situations: important artefacts requiring extensive conservation, consultation

and/or analysis; scientific (C14 and archaeomagnetic) dating; recovery and processing of a large amount of palaeo-environmental samples.

3.2 ARCHIVE/REPORT

- 3.2.1 **Archive:** the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct. OA North conforms to best practice in the preparation of project archives for long-term storage. This archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Cumbria HER (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office, and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche) together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) with an appropriate museum. Wherever possible, OA North recommends the deposition of such material in a local museum approved by the Museums and Galleries Commission, and would make appropriate arrangements with the designated museum at the outset of the project for the proper labelling, packaging, and accessioning of all material recovered.
- 3.2.2 The Arts and Humanities Data Service (AHDS) online database *Online Access to index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) will be completed as part of the archiving phase of the project.
- 3.2.3 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the Client, and a further three bound copies submitted to the Cumbria HER within eight weeks of completion of fieldwork. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. Background information will include such details as: the planning application number, an executive summary, an OASIS reference number, the contractor's details, including the dates of work carried out, the nature and extent of the proposed development including developer/client details, a description of the site location and geology. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and will include a full index of archaeological features and contexts identified in the course of the project, with an assessment of the overall stratigraphy, together with appropriate illustrations, including detailed plans and sections indicating the locations of archaeological features. Any finds recovered will be indexed and assessed with reference to other local material and any particular or unusual features of the assemblage will be highlighted and the potential of the site for palaeoenvironmental analysis will be considered. The report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived and details of the archive location.
- 3.2.4 This report will identify areas of defined archaeology, but will also outline recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work. An assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of the identified archaeology within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities will be made. Illustrative material will include a location map, section drawings, and plans. This report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a digital copy of the report can be provided, if required.
- 3.2.5 Provision will be made for a summary report to be submitted to a suitable regional or national archaeological journal, within one year of completion of fieldwork, if relevant results are obtained.
- 3.2.6 **Confidentiality:** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

4. PROJECT MONITORING

- 4.1 Monitoring of this project will be undertaken through the auspices of the CCCHEs, who will be informed of the start and end dates of the work.

5. WORK TIMETABLE

- 5.1 The duration of the watching brief will be dependent upon the progress of the contractor, but it assumed for the purposes of this project design that the watching brief will take place between 22/03/05 and 23/03/05.
- 5.2 The client report will be completed within twelve weeks following completion of the fieldwork.

6. STAFFING

- 6.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Stephen Rowland** (OA North Project Manager), to whom all correspondence should be addressed.
- 6.2 The watching brief will be directed by **Paul Clarke** OA North supervisor. Paul is an experienced field archaeologist who regularly undertakes supervision of numerous small- and medium-scale watching brief, evaluation and excavation projects, particularly in Cumbria.
- 6.3 The processing and analysis of any palaeoenvironmental samples will be carried out under the auspices of **Elizabeth Huckerby BA, MSc** (OA North project officer), who has extensive experience of the palaeoecology of the North West, having been one of the principal palaeoenvironmentalists in the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey.
- 6.4 Assessment of any finds from the watching brief will be undertaken by **Sean McPhillips BA**. Sean has worked as a finds supervisor for English Heritage and MOLAS on a number of occasions and has extensive knowledge concerning finds.

7.0 INSURANCE

- 7.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT LIST

Context Number	Location	Description
1	Length of trench	Topsoil
2	Length of trench	Natural geology
3	9.05m - 11.20m	Upper fill of ditch 5
4	9.05m - 11.20m	Lower fill of ditch 5
5	9.05m - 11.20m	Ditch cut
6	In a number of patches along trench	Subsoil
7	79.70m - 80.20m	Fill of pit 8
8	79.70m - 80.20m	Pit cut
9	80.20m - 101.20m	Sand layer
10	c 85m - >120m	Grey clay layer
11	100.70m - 106.20m	Foundations for road
12	105.90m - >120m	Grey sandy-silt layer
13	105.55m - >120m	Orangeish-yellow sandy-clay
14	106.65m - >120m	White sand layer
15	101.25m - 105.90m	Road surface

APPENDIX 3: FINDS CATALOGUE

Context Number	OR	Material	Category	No	Description	Date
<i>I</i>	118	Bone	animal	1	Small fragment of calcined bone.	Not closely dateable
<i>I</i>	119	Ceramic	vessel	1	Glazed spherical bottle stopper.	Nineteenth-early twentieth century
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Rim. Creamware plate with blue edge.	Late eighteenth-early nineteenth century
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	3	Body fragments. All small and undiagnostic, all Black Burnished ware category 1.	Romano-British; not closely dateable
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Rim fragment. Soft coarse orange fabric.	Medieval
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	One fragment slip-decorated hollow ware.	Post-medieval
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment, white fabric, mixed trituration grits. Mortarium.	Romano-British
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	3	Chips samian, producers not identified.	Romano-British
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment. Cream fabric with brown slip.	Nineteenth-Twentieth century
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment. White ware.	Romano-British
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	6	Body fragments. Black-glazed redwares.	Nineteenth-Twentieth century
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment. Cherry red fine fabric.	Romano-British
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Rim. Transfer-printed blue and white ware. Plate.	Nineteenth-Twenty-first century
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	5	Whiteware.	Nineteenth-Twenty-first century
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment. Black Burnished ware category 1. Obtuse lattice.	Third-fourth century?
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment. Crambeck greyware? Obtuse lattice.	Third century??
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	2	Body fragments, very soft sandy greyware Very abraded.	Romano-British
<i>I</i>	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment yellow-ware.	Nineteenth century

1	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment. Gardenware.	Nineteenth-Twenty-first century
1	120	Ceramic	vessel	4	Body fragments. Small and undiagnostic, all orange fabrics.	Romano-British
1	120	Ceramic	vessel	2	Body fragments. Redware with internal white slip.	Eighteenth-nineteenth century
1	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Rim. Transfer-printed blue and white ware. Plate.	Nineteenth-Twenty-first century
1	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Whiteware.	Nineteenth-Twenty-first century
1	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Small body fragment, coarse sandy fabric with some mica. White slip. Amphora?	Second century??
1	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment. Hard-fired greyware.	Romano-British
1	120	Ceramic	vessel	1	Rim fragment, form Dr37. Deep rim. Dull cherry-red fabric with white fleck. Ovolo not identified, freestyle vegetation.	Late second century
1	103	Glass	vessel	1	Fragment of dark olive green wine or beer bottle, abraded but otherwise in good condition.	Eighteenth century
1	121	Glass	vessel	1	Small fragment of thin, colourless glass, blown.	Second century??
1	116	Jet?	worked	1	Fragment of jet, cannel coal or similar. This appears worked and could be a roughout of some sort from manufacture.	Not closely dateable
1	102	Stone	whetstone	1	Small rectangular whetstone with oval section.	Not closely dateable
1	117	Stone	flint	3	Three fragments of heavily calcined flint. Not obviously worked.	Not closely dateable
6	109	Ceramic	vessel	1	Rim, Dr 33 with internal groove. Central Gaulish fabric, Lezoux?	Early second century
7	108	Ceramic	vessel	1	Fragment from shoulder of greyware jar.	Romano-British
9	110	Ceramic	vessel	1	One extremely abraded fragment of samian. No further identification possible.	First to third century
10	106	Bone	animal	1	Small fragment of calcined bone.	Not closely dateable
10	105	Ceramic	vessel	1	Base. Samian. Plain vessel, form Dr33. Central Gaulish fabric, Lezoux.	Second century

10	105	Ceramic	vessel	2	Joining rim fragments. Greyware jar, thin fabric.	Second century?
10	105	Ceramic	vessel	2	Small body fragments, coarse sandy fabric with some mica. White slip. Amphora?	Second century?
10	105	Ceramic	vessel	1	Shoulder fragment greyware jar in soft micaceous fabric with stabbed decoration.	Romano-British
10	105	Ceramic	vessel	1	Rim. Plain, shallow Black Burnished ware category 1 dish.	Late second century?
10	105	Ceramic	vessel	1	Small body fragment. Black Burnished ware category 1.	After c 120 AD
10	105	Ceramic	vessel	1	Base fragment only. Greyware.	Romano-British
10	105	Ceramic	vessel	3	Small plain fragments. All probably Lezoux.	Second century
10	105	Ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment. Soft sandy orange fabric.	Romano-British
10	105	Ceramic	vessel	1	Rim only. Crambeck-type fabric.	Romano-British
10	100	Copper	strap end?	1	Small triangular fitting with round perforation at apex and triangular hole in centre, perhaps for passing a strap through in harness?	Not closely dateable
10	101	Glass	bangle	1	Small fragment of white frit bangle.	Second century
10	104	Iron	nail	2	Two ?nail fragments, obscured by corrosion products.	Not closely dateable
12	111	Ceramic	vessel	1	Small and heavily abraded. Samian. Bright orange fabric, brown slip. East Gaulish? Too small for certainty.	Late second-early third century
12	111	Ceramic	vessel	1	Small and heavily abraded. Chip.	Romano-British
12	111	Ceramic	vessel	2	Small and heavily abraded. Fine orangeware.	Romano-British
12	111	Ceramic	vessel	2	Small and heavily abraded. Fine greyware.	Romano-British
12	111	Ceramic	vessel	3	Small and heavily abraded. Black Burnished ware category 1.	After c 120 AD
12	111	Ceramic	vessel	1	Small and heavily abraded. Samian. Pinkish fabric with heavy fleck, brown slip. East Gaulish? Too small for certainty.	Late second-early third century
12	112	Glass	vessel	1	Fragment of prismatic bottle in natural blue-green glass.	First-third century
12	113	Iron	object	2	Two small fragments.	Not closely dateable
13	107	Ceramic	vessel	3	Joining rim and body fragments mortarium with	Late second-fourth

					predominantly red trituration grits. Mancetter- Hartshill.	century
15	115	Burnt clay	daub	2	Two very small fragments of ?daub, both <20mm.	Not closely dateable
15	114	Ind debris	slag?	3	Three very small fragments of vesicular slag, possibly coke or fuel ash.	Not closely dateable
Soil sample 2	0	Bone	animal	2	Small fragments of calcined bone.	Not closely dateable
Soil sample 2	0	Ceramic	vessel	3	Body fragments, gritty greyware. Sandy fabric with slightly oxidised inner surfaces.	Romano- British
Soil sample 2	0	Ceramic	vessel	1	Very small fragment of ?Nene Valley ware.	Romano- British
Soil sample 2	0	Ceramic	vessel	3	Chips greyware. Undiagnostic.	Romano- British
Soil sample 2	0	Ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment. Black samian? Yellowish-brown fabric with some mica.	Second century
Soil sample 2	0	Ceramic	vessel	1	Body fragment. Greyware. Obtuse	Late second- early third century
Soil sample 2	0	Ind debris	hammerscale	5	Small fragments, possibly smithing?	Not closely dateable
Soil sample 2	0	Iron	nail	1	?Nail fragment, obscured by corrosion.	Not closely dateable