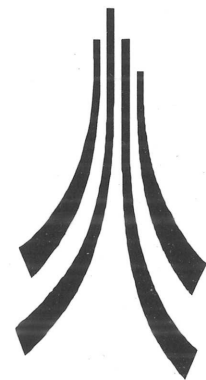


**LANCASTER**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL**  
**UNIT**



August 2000

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**CUMBRIA COLLEGE OF ART AND  
DESIGN  
CARLISLE**

**INTERIM REPORT OF PHASE 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION  
AND WATCHING BRIEF**

Cumbria College of Art and Design  
Carlisle

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Interim Report of Phase 4 Excavation and Watching Brief

Report no 1999-2000/103/AUA8019

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Passed for submission to client. ..... Date

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Storey Institute  
Meeting House Lane  
Lancaster  
LA1 1TH

August 2000

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## SUMMARY

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Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) conducted an excavation and watching brief at Cumbria College of Art and Design, Carlisle (NY 4030 5730) between 30<sup>th</sup> May and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2000. The work represented Phase 4 of a programme of archaeological fieldwork being carried out for the College jointly by LUAU and Newcastle University Archaeological Practice, in accordance with the terms of a brief set by Helena Smith, Development Control Officer, Cumbria County Council.

The College lies on a site which has been identified as being of high archaeological importance (County Sites and Monuments Record 5782, Scheduled Monument 28484). The main College building is situated between the line of Hadrian's Wall, and the probable course of the associated *Vallum*, c200m to the south-east of the Wall. It is also only approximately 60m north-east of the north-eastern defences of the Roman fort of Stanwix, believed to have been the largest fort along Hadrian's Wall.

The watching brief on a pipe trench, running parallel to the both the college and building and the evaluation trench, revealed a deposit of clay and cobbles running approximately two thirds of the length of the trench. The evaluation to the north of the main College building, and immediately south of the pipe trench, revealed mainly nineteenth and twentieth century features and soil horizons. However, excavation in the centre of the trench revealed a deposit of clay and cobbles as identified in the watching brief. This consisted of two phases of cobbled surface, which abutted a metalled surface at the western end. Roman tile, brick and pottery were uncovered embedded in the cobbled surface. The brief provided only for the recording of features that would be affected by the proposed development, which would impact only to a limited depth, so little intervention was made into the deposit. A sondage revealed the depth of the deposit to be approximately 0.3m. The evidence suggests that a series of extensive cobbled surfaces associated with the adjacent Roman fort of Stanwix.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Lancaster University Archaeological Unit is grateful to Cumbria College of Art and Design for its funding of the project, and for the College's hospitality on site.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Andy Bates, Alex Farnell, Vix Hughes, John Trippier, and Matt Town. Christine Howard-Davis commented on the pottery. The report was written by Matthew Town, and edited by Jamie Quartermaine and Rachel Newman. The project was managed by Jamie Quartermaine.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) conducted an excavation and watching brief at Cumbria College of Art and Design, Carlisle (NY 4030 5730), between 30<sup>th</sup> May and 16<sup>th</sup> June 2000. The work represented Phase 4 of a programme of archaeological fieldwork being carried out for the College jointly by LUAU and Newcastle University Archaeological Practice, in accordance with the terms of a brief set by Helena Smith, Development Control Officer, Cumbria County Council. The fieldwork was required as a condition of planning permission in order to mitigate the impact on the archaeological resource of the extension and improvement of the College currently being conducted for the College by principal contractors Lambert and Gill Ltd.
- 1.1.2 The College lies on a site which has been identified as being of great archaeological importance (County Sites and Monuments Record 5782) and indeed of national significance (Scheduled Monument 28484). The main College building is located between the line of Hadrian's Wall, and the probable course of the associated *Vallum* c200m to the south-east of the Wall. It is also only approximately 60m north-east of the north-eastern defences of the Roman fort of Stanwix, believed to have been the largest fort along Hadrian's Wall and its command base (Daniels 1978, 238). The site has previously been evaluated by Carlisle Archaeological Unit (then CAU) (CAU 1993; 1998). Trial trenches close to the main College building identified the presence of redeposited layers of clay, which may represent the remains of the fort's parade ground. A cut feature was revealed adjacent to the main Brampton Road entrance to the College and it was suggested that the course of the *Vallum* lay further to the south-east than had hitherto been thought.

### 1.2 LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 1.2.1 The Phase 4 study area lies immediately north-west of the main College building, and south-east of Tarraby Lane, in a tarmaced area which operated as the contractor's compound. The natural topography of the area is suitable for a parade ground, as the grounds which the College occupy are relatively flat, with the land rising to the east, and immediately adjacent to the fort. To the north, Hadrian's Wall would have provided a visual barrier, and to the south the *Vallum* would have marked the southern extremity of any parade ground (CAU 1993), although one has not been proven to date.
- 1.2.2 The site lies at approximately 26.5m AOD. The underlying solid geological deposits consist of Stanwix shales overlain by boulder clay (Dixon *et al* 1926).

### 1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 **Stanwix Fort:** excavations in the 1930s by Simpson, Hogg and Richmond established the positions of the south gate of the Hadrian's Wall fort, and of the defences on the north-eastern, south-eastern and south-western sides, as well as the line of the *Vallum*. Internal buildings, including a granary, were located in the playground of Stanwix Primary School. From 1940 on, very little new information was obtained until the 1980s, when an excavation in the car park of the Cumbria Park Hotel, immediately north of the school playground, located the stone footings of the fort wall and an interval tower on the north-

western side, together with two ditches beyond. This discovery showed that the fort had been enlarged in the Antonine period so that it projected north of Hadrian's Wall. The other key discovery was that of a ditch underlying the interval tower. This ditch, clearly ante-dating the enlargement of the fort, was presumed to be associated with Hadrian's Wall, the foundations of which had been discovered by Simpson and Hogg in 1932-4 (McCarthy 1999).

- 1.3.2 In 1997, CAU carried out further work in the playground of the Primary School, in advance of the construction of an extension to the school. The earliest identifiable feature consisted of a turf deposit, probably either a rampart or perhaps the Turf Wall, a precursor of the stone wall built during the reign of Hadrian. The front and rear faces of the turf were not seen, but the deposit identified was located some metres south of the stone Hadrian's Wall discovered in the 1930s. Overlying the turf was a substantial deposit of clay. The walls located by Simpson and Hogg were not found, but stone and cobbled surfaces and rubble deposits are presumed to belong with the walls found in the 1930s. Timber buildings erected after the deposition of Huntcliff ware in the fourth century were also discovered (McCarthy 1999).
- 1.3.3 In 1997 and 1998, CAU dug two further trenches in a narrow passage immediately adjacent to the north-western side of the Victorian school, locating the inner ditch and the stone footings of the fort wall. Work in 1993 in Barn Close, Stanwix, revealed two phases of walls and surfaces (McCarthy 1999).
- 1.3.4 ***The fort environs:*** in 1986, CAU excavated some deeply stratified deposits, including remains of buildings, at the former Miles MacInnes Hall at Scotland Road, demonstrating the existence of extramural development beyond the west gate of the fort (McCarthy 1999).
- 1.3.5 Between the eminence on which the fort is situated, and the rising ground to the north-east centred on Wall Knowe, is an area of lower ground, where investigations by CAU in the grounds of Cumbria College of Art and Design in 1996 (CAU 1996) revealed an extensive clay platform up to 0.5m thick. The clay was provisionally interpreted as the parade ground for the fort, which, from a combination of observations, is suggested may be 7.5 acres (3.15 ha) in extent. Between the putative parade ground and the west gate of the fort is a raised area which has been tentatively identified as the tribunal. The clay of the parade ground seals and preserves an old ground surface, extensive areas of plough marks, and field boundary ditches, including some discovered in 1976 by the Central Excavation Unit (Smith 1978). These investigations also revealed traces of buildings close to Dykes Terrace, south of the *Vallum*. In 1998, CAU located further buildings and possible industrial debris close to the entrance to Cumbria College of Art and Design on Brampton Road. The same investigation implied that within the College campus the *Vallum* was situated some 75m south of the position indicated on the maps (McCarthy 1999).
- 1.3.6 An excavation and watching brief was carried out at the College in 1999 by LUAU. Excavation to the south-west of the main College building revealed only twentieth century features, and suggested that modern disturbance had been heavy due to the college being terraced into the hill slope. However, a watching brief at the main gate revealed deposits containing Roman pottery, the butt-ends of two possible beam slots, a larger linear feature, a pit, a posthole, and a possible kiln. The brief provided only for the recording of features that would be affected by the proposed development, and, as the putative kiln was below this depth, it was agreed that it should not be excavated, and thus an alternative origin, such as a tree bole, cannot be discounted. The evidence suggested Roman occupation close

to Brampton Road, probably ending by the late third century AD. No evidence for the Hadrian's Wall *Vallum* was present in this area (LUAU 1999).

- 1.3.7 A watching brief was undertaken at the same time by the University of Newcastle Archaeological Practice, on extensions to the south-east side of the main College building. The excavations failed to uncover any archaeology to the depth of the pile caps, except for thick ploughsoil and hill-wash. A much deeper excavation was undertaken for the construction of a lift-shaft, however, and this revealed an extensive area of cobbling similar to that encountered by CAU evaluations in 1993 to the north of the College building. Large postholes and slots were also discovered, apparently contemporary with the cobbled areas; these were cut by ditches and overlain by burnt deposits. The deposits appeared to concentrate in the east end of the trench, with the west end also showing truncation from where the college building has been terraced into the slope (A Rushworth *pers comm*).

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 2*) was submitted by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit and the University of Newcastle Archaeological Practice, in response to a request from Architects Plus for an archaeological evaluation and watching brief of the study area, in accordance with a brief prepared by Cumbria County Council Environment and Design (*Appendix 1*). This design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.
- 2.1.2 The results of the Phase 4 evaluation and watching brief are presented within the present report.

### 2.2 EXCAVATION

- 2.2.1 The Phase 4 development will be constructed on piles, with ground beams linking the piles. The brief required the excavation of a 59.0m by 2.5m trench parallel to the north of the present building, and running for the full length of the building. A further short trench, measuring 6.0m by 4.5m, was established linking the eastern end of the trench with the building façade. An off-shoot to this latter trench, measuring 10m by 1m, was also excavated to evaluate the intervention by the piles along the north-eastern end of the extension. The trenches were excavated as specified in the project design, except for the off-shoot trench, which was shortened in order to allow continued access to the north-east entrance of the College buildings.
- 2.2.2 The trenches were excavated by a JCB excavator, using 1.6m and 0.8m wide toothless ditching buckets, working under full archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation continued down to the agreed depth for the base of the pile-caps, or to the level of the first potentially significant archaeological deposit, whichever was uppermost. The depths established were 25.675m AOD for the north-east end of the trench, and the subsidiary trenches. At a distance of 22.5m from the west end of the main trench, the depth to be machined decreased to 26.615m AOD. All subsequent excavation was by hand. All the trenches were cleaned, in their entirety, by hand, and displaced material (stored in appropriate spoil-heaps at the sides of the trenches) was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts and other potentially significant materials.
- 2.2.3 Recording was by means of the standard LUAU context recording system, with trench records and supporting registers and indices. A full photographic record in colour slide and monochrome formats was made, and scaled plan and section drawings were made of the trenches at appropriate scales.
- 2.2.4 On completion of the site works, the trenches were backfilled with sub-base in accordance with the instructions of the client, but were not otherwise reinstated.

## **2.3 WATCHING BRIEF**

- 2.3.1 The Phase 4 development also required the monitoring of a pipe trench and five man-holes which were dug immediately to the north-west of, and parallel to, the main trench. This work comprised observation during the excavation for these works (both during the removal of the overburden and the excavation of the pipe trench), 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. The pipe-trench was dug to an average width of approximately 0.85m, and to an average depth of 1.8m. The manholes were dug to approximately 2.0m by 2.5m, and the same depth as the pipe trench.
- 2.3.2 During this phase of work, recording comprised a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location (either on plan and/or section and as grid coordinates where appropriate). Any features encountered were planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale plan provided by the Client.
- 2.3.3 A plan was produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance (Figs 2 and 3); dimensioned sections were produced to show the archaeological deposits encountered.
- 2.3.4 All written archaeological records were made on standard *pro-forma* sheets. A full photographic record consisting of scaled black and white prints and colour transparencies was compiled.

## **2.4 FINDS**

- 2.4.1 All finds were collected for washing, marking and spot identification. The potential for ecofacts was to have been evaluated by the taking of 5 litre bulk samples from suitable deposits; however, no such deposits were noted.

## **2.5 ARCHIVE**

- 2.5.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 2*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition 1991).
- 2.5.2 The paper and digital archive will be deposited in Tullie House, Carlisle with the excavated material, and a further copy will be made available for deposition within the County Record Office.

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### 3. PHASE 4 RESULTS

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#### 3.1 EXCAVATION TRENCHES

- 3.1.1 **Subsidiary trenches:** the machining of the arm of the trench excavated towards the college façade, to the east of the main trench, involved the removal of tarmac, concrete and sub-base, as well as selected modern deposits down to the level required by the contractors. These deposits are hereafter described as overburden [1]. A further south-eastern off-shoot (Trench 4b) from the main trench also involved the stripping of tree roots at the northern end, and topsoil across the full length, as well as a pathway to the east entrance of the college; these are also described as overburden [1]. A gas pipe was encountered at the south-eastern end during the excavation of this off-shoot section, and this was maintained intact.
- 3.1.2 Trench 4b revealed no significant archaeological deposits. Towards the south-east end, a defunct electricity cable ran east/west, apparently related to previous temporary offices. A bag of lime mortar had also been buried in this area. The rest of the trench consisted of a greyish brown silty sand [12], overlying a reddish brown silt [11], which in turn overlay a deposit of orange silt natural subsoil [3], partially exposed at the north-western end.
- 3.1.3 The southern arm of the trench revealed a similar stratigraphy to that within Trench 4b. The deposit down to which the excavation was machined was revealed to be a similar greyish brown silty sand to that encountered in Trench 4b ([12]). This was cut by a series of modern service trenches, which were left unexcavated. These consisted of a pipe trench running east/west in the south corner of the trench, and a field drain or pipe trench running north/south across the centre of the trench, cut by a further service running north-west/south-east. Two potential features were identified immediately to the north-west of the latter drain. The first feature [8] consisted of a semi-circular pit, 1.4m by 0.8m, which was excavated to a depth of 0.18m. This was filled by a grey sandy silt, which yielded nineteenth century pottery. A sondage [5] (1m x 1m) was cut through the second putative feature, which measured 0.95 by 1.2m. The fill [6] consisted of a mixture of pinkish sand mixed in with grey silt, and was identified as interleaving deposits rather than a firm feature. This also produced nineteenth century pottery and further investigation was stopped.
- 3.1.4 **Main Trench (eastern section):** the first 23m of trench was machined as for the small trench, with the removal of the overburden [1], and selected deposits down to the depth required by the contractor. The machining uncovered no archaeological deposits or features. Four deposits were identified in this section: [11] and [12], as previously discussed, and two further deposits, which consisted of [16], a firm mid-grey fine loam, and [17], a mid orange-brown fine sandy clay silt containing water-worn sandstone, identified as ploughsoil. Several modern features cut these deposits particularly [9] a pipe trench (left unexcavated), which was visible as a long linear cut with a north-north-east/south-south-west alignment, and was filled by a light pinkish firm silty sand with patches of grey and mid grey silt [10]; this was overlain by a dark grey stony patch, containing lumps of brick and plastic [13]. Nineteenth century pottery was recovered from deposit [11].
- 3.1.5 **Main trench (central section):** the central 14m of the trench were machined as for the eastern section, and this revealed a deposit of pink clay-and-cobbling; this was identified as a deposit of archaeological significance [14] and therefore machining was suspended as soon as this was revealed. Deposit [14] and consisted of a pinkish brown plastic clay

containing approximately 30-50% sub-rounded beach pebbles. A further short section of this deposit, measuring 1m by 4m, was exposed running eastwards, in order to establish that it was sufficiently extensive not to be completely destroyed by the ground beams. The east end of this section revealed that the deposit lay at least 0.10m below the overlying deposit [17]; no further interventions were made to the east as there was little threat beyond this point.

- 3.1.6 The central section was hand cleaned in order to expose as much detail as possible. Deposit [14] appeared to have been overlain by a deposit of 80% large rounded, sub-rounded and sub-angular river cobbles, mixed in with a lower percentage of smaller river pebbles, in a light orange silt matrix [18]. This had been partially truncated by ploughing (a plough mark was visible running the length of the trench), and the stones appeared to have been displaced as though disturbed, either prior to sealing beneath the ploughsoil, or due to the action of the plough. Embedded within the deposit were several pieces of Roman tile and brick; the finds appear to indicate a deliberately laid deposit rather than chance losses during deposition, acting as a surface of some sort (or the foundation for a surface). A number of sherds of Roman pottery were also recovered, but only in very small numbers. The absence of large numbers of finds may support the theory put forward that the area was effectively sterile, used only for military exercises (CAU 1993), with most settlement activity occurring elsewhere, perhaps further to the south (see LUAU 1999). The cobbles were probably quarried from the River Eden to the south.
- 3.1.7 The cobble surface [18] appeared to abutt a metallised surface [19], which was also set into the clay-and-cobble deposit [14]. This consisted of a very tightly packed hard deposit of small pebbles in a gritty matrix, and consisted of approximately 95% stone. The deposit had no clearly defined edges, but was c1.92m width and may represent a make-shift trackway rather than any defined road. It appeared to be orientated approximately east/west, and respected the clearly defined southern edge of deposit [18]. As some depth was allowed within the original project specification, approximately 3m<sup>2</sup> of the cobble surface [18] was removed in order to expose any further metallising which might exist below. Metallised surface [19] maintained its definition, and below cobbles [18] only deposit [14] was encountered. A sondage was also dug through metallising [19] against the north-western-facing trench edge. This revealed that the metallising was only thin, being c0.05m in depth, and that the clay and cobble deposit below [14] was only 0.07m deep. Beneath the clays were natural silts [3]; no buried ground surfaces or plough marks were encountered.
- 3.1.8 **Main trench (western section):** immediately to the west of the archaeological deposits, the trench was required to step up to 0.94m below the present surface, in order to accommodate a change in the depth of the pile-caps. The trench was machined for a further 27m. The machining at this point was removing little more than the sub-base [1], and some of the underlying deposit, and the depth of the archaeological deposits was noticeably much deeper in the central section. The deposits encountered consisted entirely of deposit [16], a firm grey fine loam running the full length of this section. A slightly shaley linear feature, encountered towards the east of this section, was identified as a modern land drain. This section was hand-cleaned and photographed, but otherwise not investigated.

## 3.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.2.1 The pipe trench and man-holes were dug from the east to the west, running parallel with the main trench, except at the east end where a short section measuring approximately 4.8m in length was dug up to Tarraby Lane, to connect with services within the road itself.

This short section had mostly already been machined on arrival. The deposits visible in section consisted of overburden [1] comprising (in order) tarmac, sub-base, red gritty sand and old concrete, immediately overlying natural silts and boulder clay [3]. The only visible feature was a land drain which cut the natural subsoil approximately 3.1m from the road and running parallel with it.

- 3.2.2 The first man-hole (Man-Hole 1) was dug at the corner of this short section and the main pipe trench; it measured 2.0m by 2.5m. The overburden [1] and underlying deposits [16] and [17] were removed down to the level of the natural subsoil [3], and the man-hole was hand-cleaned and checked for archaeological features or deposits. No features were identified and the machining was continued under observation to the required depth.
- 3.2.3 The following section of pipe trench was dug westwards up to Man-Hole 2, for a distance of 11.5m. The overburden [1] and underlying deposits [16] and [17] were removed, and the man-hole was hand-cleaned and checked for archaeological features or deposits. Approximately 3m along the pipe trench, a dark grey firm silty clay with flecks of charcoal and ceramic fragments [2] was identified. This was hand-cleaned and yielded two fragments of medieval pot (*Section 3.3*). Originally this was taken to be a discrete feature, but further machining revealed the deposit to continue along the pipe trench for its full length, and it also produced post-medieval glass, ceramic building materials and clay pipe; the deposit was therefore removed by machine. Beneath the deposit was natural subsoil [3], which was hand-cleaned as previously. A pipe-trench was identified approximately 6.5m along the trench. No other features or deposits were identified and the machining was continued under observation to the required depth.
- 3.2.4 The second man-hole (Man-Hole 2) measured 1.8m by 2.3m. The overburden [1] and underlying deposits [16] and [17] were removed, and the man-hole was hand-cleaned and checked for archaeological features or deposits. The pink clay-and-cobble deposit [14], previously encountered in the main trench, was identified, commencing slightly to the east of the man-hole, and thickening westwards. This was recorded and hand excavated but no finds were recovered; the deposit appears to overlie natural subsoil [3].
- 3.2.5 The following section of pipe trench was dug westwards up to Man-Hole 3, for a distance of 14.7m. The overburden [1] and underlying deposits [16] and [17] were removed, and the clay-and-cobble deposit [14] was encountered again for the length of the trench. This was recorded and hand excavated, but yielded no finds. Beneath the deposit was the natural subsoil [3], which was hand-cleaned as previously. No other features or deposits were identified and the machining was continued under observation to the required depth.
- 3.2.6 The third man-hole (Man-Hole 3) measured 1.75m by 2.1m. The overburden [1] and underlying deposits [16] and [17] were removed, and the man-hole was hand-cleaned and checked for archaeological features or deposits. The pink clay-and-cobble deposit [14], previously encountered in the main trench, was again identified within the cut. Set into the pink clay-and-cobble deposit [14] was a small post-pad [15] (0.3m across), located in the north-west corner of the trench. The post-pad consisted of two large flat stones, made of red sandstone, set into the clay, with four smaller stones grouped in with it. The stones were recorded and lifted, but no dating evidence was recovered either above or below the setting. The clay-and-cobble deposit [14] was recorded and hand excavated, but again yielded no finds. Beneath the deposit was natural subsoil [3], which was hand-cleaned. No other features or deposits were identified and the machining was continued under observation to the required depth.

- 3.2.7 The following section of pipe trench was dug westwards up to Man-Hole 4, for a distance of 6.25m. The overburden [1] was removed, and the clay-and-cobble deposit [14] was encountered again for the length of the trench. This was recorded and hand excavated, but yielded no finds. Beneath the deposit was the natural subsoil [3], which was hand-cleaned as previously. No other features or deposits were identified and the machining was continued under observation to the required depth.
- 3.2.8 The fourth man-hole (Man-Hole 4) measured 1.85m by 2.0m. The overburden [1] and underlying deposits [16] and [17] were removed, and the man-hole was hand-cleaned and checked for archaeological features or deposits. The pink clay-and-cobble deposit [14], previously encountered in the main trench, was again identified within the cut. The deposit was recorded and hand excavated, but yielded no finds. Beneath the deposit was the natural subsoil [3]. No other features or deposits were identified and the machining was continued under observation to the required depth.
- 3.2.9 The following section of pipe trench was dug westwards up to Man-Hole 5, for a distance of 12.2m. The overburden [1] and underlying deposits [16] and [17] were removed, and the clay-and-cobble deposit [14] was encountered at the eastern end of this section, but petered out approximately 1.2m from Man-Hole 4. The small section of deposits was quickly hand excavated, but yielded no finds. The profile of the deposits suggests that the clay-and-cobble rose at this juncture, and was truncated by the terracing of the College into the slope. Beneath the deposit and for the rest of the length of the trench was the natural subsoil [3]. Just beyond the point of which deposit [14] was truncated, a small pipe-trench, containing a ceramic pipe, cut the trench obliquely running east/west. No other features or deposits were identified and the machining was continued under observation to the required depth.
- 3.2.10 The fifth man-hole (Man-Hole 5) measured 1.90m by 2.2m. The overburden [1] and underlying deposits [16] and [17] were removed down to the level of the natural subsoil [3] (at the very base of the man-hole), and the man-hole was hand-cleaned and checked for archaeological features or deposits. No features were identified and the machining was continued under observation to the required depth.
- 3.2.11 The final section of pipe trench was dug westwards up to the tarmaced car-park, for a distance of 7.3m. The machining was slightly shallower at this end, rising gently up to a depth of 1.4m. Beneath the overburden [1] and for the rest of the length of the trench the machining only cut the deposit [16], which was photographed but not otherwise recorded. No other features or deposits were identified and the machining was continued under observation to the required depth.

### 3.3 FINDS

- 3.3.1 A total of 240 fragments of artefacts was recovered from the excavation; of this, more than half (156 fragments) were small and abraded fragments of tile and brick, little of which could be assigned a date.
- 3.3.2 Ceramic vessel fragments from the site could be divided into three groups, Romano-British (second to third century), medieval (probably thirteenth century or slightly later), and modern (probably after the mid-nineteenth century and before the second quarter of the twentieth century).
- 3.3.3 **Romano-British:** the fourteen fragments of Romano-British vessels were all small and abraded, the majority being chips of amphora from subsoils [4, 14, and 17], and also

from the clay and cobble deposit [14]. Two tiny fragments of badly abraded Central Gaulish samian were residual in subsoil [17], and a larger piece of a greyware jar with lattice decoration suggests a second to third century date for metallised surface [19].

- 3.3.4 **Medieval:** medieval material was considerably better represented than the Romano-British assemblage; it comprises 26 fragments, and all but one were from subsoil [17], the other from cobbled surface [18]. The majority were abraded, but are in significantly larger fragments than the Romano-British material, joins and unabraded breaks suggesting that subsoil [17] was perhaps less disturbed than other deposits from the site or (more likely) had received material in the relatively recent past from less disturbed deposits elsewhere, as it also produced both earlier and later material, implying disturbance. No diagnostic sherds were recovered, but the range of fabrics represented suggest a thirteenth century date, with red gritty fabrics being relatively well represented (normally regarded as twelfth century in Carlisle, but here they were somewhat abraded). There were also gritty white and beige fabrics with a thin green glaze, and incompletely reduced fabrics. Fragments of an extremely hard, unglazed, reduced gritty fabric, two with a thin pinkish-mauve surface treatment, were also noted.
- 3.3.5 **Modern:** the modern pottery comprised only 14 fragments, and were domestic wares typical of the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- 3.3.6 Other material included numerous small fragments of lava from cobbled surface [18], presumably part of a shattered millstone of typical Roman type, and often associated with a military presence, a single fragment of a dark olive green wine bottle from subsoil [17], typically eighteenth century in date, and late sheet glass from subsoils 6 and 16. A relatively large fragment of burnt clay from cobbled surface [18] bore impressions of wattle or laths, and might have been accidentally fired daub, or part of the superstructure of a hearth or similar structure, although it is unlikely to have been fired to a high temperature.

#### 3.3.4 **Spot dates**

<b>Deposit 4</b>	not dated
<b>Deposit 6</b>	modern - mid to late nineteenth century to early twentieth century
<b>Subsoil 11</b>	modern - mid to late nineteenth century to early twentieth century
<b>Clay 14</b>	not dated
<b>Subsoil 16</b>	modern - mid to late nineteenth century to early twentieth century
<b>Subsoil 17</b>	probably modern, but predominantly thirteenth century medieval with residual Romano-British - and there is a possibility the modern material is intrusive?
<b>Cobbled surface 18</b>	possibly Romano-British or the Romano-British deposit has been disturbed by medieval intrusion?
<b>Metallised surface 19</b>	Romano-British second to third centuries.

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## 4. CONCLUSIONS

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### 4.1 EXCAVATION SUMMARY

- 4.1.1 **Subsidiary trenches:** the subsidiary trenches were dug to a mean depth of 25.67m AOD, and were characterised by modern overburden directly overlying subsoils [11] and [12]. Several modern services were the only features found in the trenches, all either associated with services to the college or pre-dating it, when the land was used as fields. Only nineteenth century artefacts were found during the excavation. The deposits were hand-cleaned and recorded at the fixed depth but otherwise not investigated.
- 4.1.2 **Main trench and watching brief trench:** the eastern and central sections of the main trench were machined to the same depth as the subsidiary trenches (25.67m AOD) for 37m. In the western section of the trench, for a further 27m the machining was undertaken to a lesser depth (26.61m AOD), and consequently no pre-modern archaeology was visible there. The pipe trench and its associated man-holes were excavated into natural subsoils throughout and provided a good opportunity to examine the Roman stratigraphy identified.
- 4.1.3 The eastern section had a similar profile to that encountered in the subsidiary trenches, with modern features cutting the two aforementioned subsoils, and two further subsoils [16] and [17] were also identified. Only nineteenth century artefacts were found in subsoil [16] but there was both medieval and Roman pottery intermixed with modern material artefacts, and it was considered to be a modern deposit. The deposits were hand-cleaned and recorded at the fixed depth but otherwise were not investigated.
- 4.1.4 The central section revealed a deposit of clay-and-cobble [14], overlain by large patches of cobbling [18]; the two cobble deposits were in places fairly substantial, being up to 0.1m thick. A metallised surface [19], set into the clay-and-cobble [14] at the western end of this section, was interpreted tentatively as a trackway. In the pipe trench, between Man-Holes 2 and 4, the clay and cobble deposit [14] was visible as a clear band, but no dating evidence was recovered. Beyond the two manholes, the deposit appeared to peter out to the east and west, suggesting that it had been truncated during the construction of the college. A putative post-pad [15] was recorded in the north-west corner of Man-Hole 3.
- 4.1.5 **Chronology:** deposits 14, 18 and 19 were associated with almost entirely Romano-British pottery, the sole exception being a single sherd of medieval pottery from cobbled surface [18], and this was probably intrusive. The pottery was not particularly diagnostic but was seemingly of second to third century date. The clay and cobble deposit [14] was apparently cut by the metallised surface [19] which was seemingly butted by the secondary cobble and clay deposit [18], it was not, however, established as to the length of time over which the stratigraphic development occurred. The post-pad [15] was set into the earlier clay and cobble deposit, [14], but as it was not associated with any patches of the later clay and cobble deposit, [18], it was not possible to establish if this post-dated both clay and cobble deposits, or even if it was of Roman date. In the compact space available, it was impossible to establish if the post-pad indicates the presence of a building, but any structure would have been to the north of the area available for excavation.
- 4.1.6 While it is possible that the clay and cobble deposit [14] was established as a foundation for cobbled surface [18], the fact that the putative trackway [19] is stratigraphically set between the two would suggest either an extended chronological timespan or that the putative trackway was a staged and integral element of a broadly contemporary design.

## 4.2 DISCUSSION

- 4.2.1 The evaluation and watching brief highlighted the survival of Roman archaeology across the length of the development area, and this was particularly visible in the deeply cut trenches. The profile of the deposits suggests that the truncation of the archaeology by the construction of the college building in this area is less severe than had previously been thought, and that a deposit of ploughsoil appears to blanket the whole area.
- 5.1.2 The central section of the main trench demonstrated this unequivocally, with the survival of a Roman surface immediately below the ploughsoil. The quantities of Roman brick and tile embedded in it suggest that this was a deliberately laid feature rather than a casual spread and, when the overall relationship between the two cobbled deposits and the putative trackway is considered, this could reflect either an integral, well-designed single surface or multiple phases of surface. The cobbled surface was located between Hadrian's Wall and the *Vallum*, and to the east of Stanwix fort, which is a comparable position to the suggested location of parade ground at Birdoswald (Bidwell and Holbrook 1985, 85, 95); it is therefore possible that the observed surfaces in the Phase 4 trenches relate to such a parade ground, as has been previously suggested (CAU 1993). However, given the limited area excavated such an interpretation of the surfaces can not be proven on the observed evidence alone.

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## APPENDIX 1 PROJECT BRIEF

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### APPENDIX 3

#### SUMMARY CONTEXT LIST

Context No.	Site Subdivision	Description
1	Pipe trench/main trench	Overburden
2	Pipe trench	Post-medieval deposit
3	Pipe trench/main trench	Natural subsoil
4	Pipe trench	Deposit
5	Main trench	Sondage cut
6	Main trench	Layers within Sondage
7	Main trench	Nineteenth century – fill
8	Main trench	Nineteenth century – cut
9	Main trench	Drain cut
10	Main trench	Drain fill
11	Main trench	Deposit
12	Main trench	Deposit
13	Main trench	Deposit
14	Pipe trench/main trench	Clay-and-Cobble
15	Pipe trench	Post-pad in Man-Hole 3
16	Main trench	Deposit
17	Main trench	Deposit
18	Main trench	Large cobble surface
19	Main trench	Metalled surface

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

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- Fig 1 Location Map
- Fig 2 Site Plan showing extent of phases 2a, 2b, 3 and 4
- Fig 3 Phase 4 Site Plan
- Fig 4 Surfaces within central section of Phase 4 main trench



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Figure1: Location Map

**Fig 2: Site Plan, showing extent of Phases 2a, 2b 3 and 4**

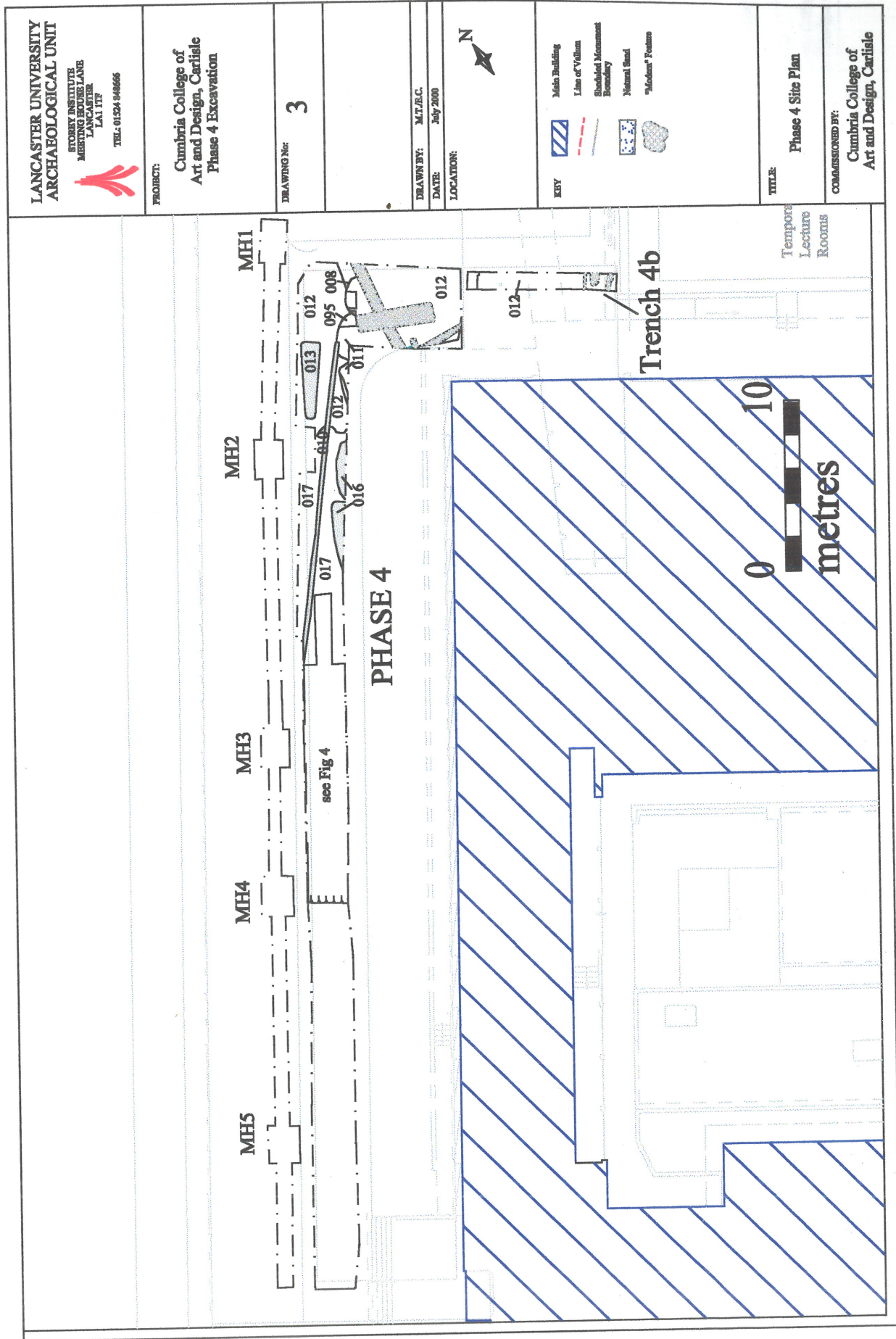


Fig 3: Phase 4 Site Plan

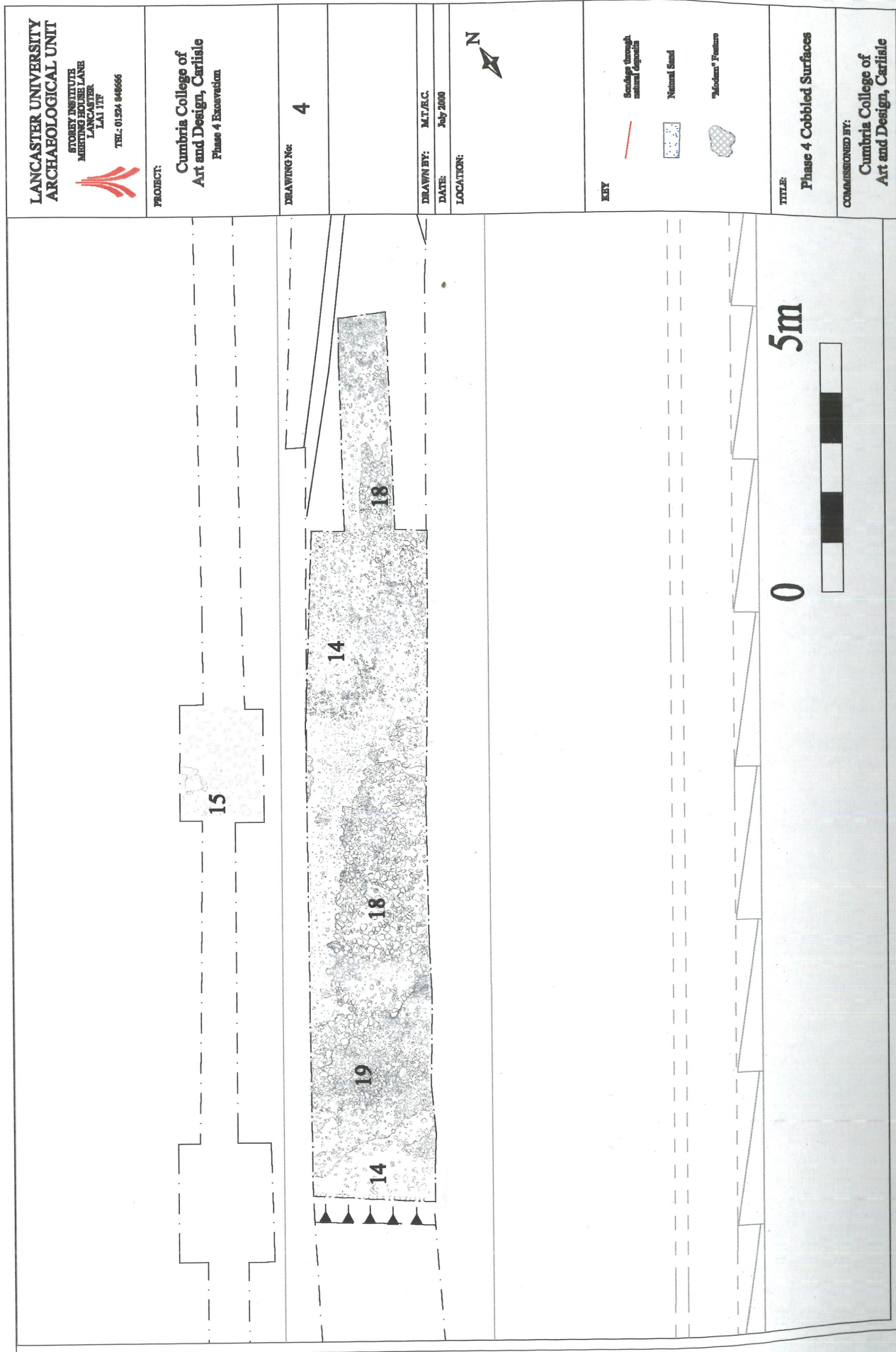


Fig 4 Cobbled Surfaces within Central Section of Phase 4 Main Trench