



PortCarlisle, Hadrian's Wall, April 2021: PC21, excavations across the Wall



Surviving courses of the Wall west of the existing field gateway, looking north-west: April 2021

Hadrian's Wall Community Archaeology Project (WallCAP)



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BACKGROUND

What follows reports on excavations carried out by the Hadrian’s Wall Community Archaeology Project (WallCAP) team on Hadrian’s Wall, 700m west of the village of Port Carlisle and just over 200m west of Milecastle 79 (fig. 1). The Wall runs through fields and, in the vicinity of the site, forms the field boundary. A short stretch of curtain survives to the west of a field gate opening (cover photo and figs 4 and 5) and buried remains are encompassed in the bank and hidden in thick hedging to the west of the standing remains and to the east of the gate. There has been no certain information about the condition of these buried lengths of Wall remains.

The opening for the gate is too narrow for modern farm machinery and the eastern end of the Wall courses has clearly been hit by traffic through the gate and are in urgent need of consolidation work. The current gate is at the western end of the boundary of the field to the south, and Trench 1 was located to investigate whether the gate could be moved to the east, where the north-south boundary of the northern field meets the wall line. This site was suggested as historic mapping records a now demolished agricultural building in that corner (fig. 8). Moving the gate would allow the preservation of the upstanding remains, allow a wider access point for machinery further east, and provide an opportunity to investigate the history of the curtain in this length of the Wall. Trench 2 was placed to investigate further the condition of the buried Wall in this area.

The excavation work took four days from 6-9 April 2021, with a team of two, occasionally three; no volunteers could be involved because of Covid-related restrictions. The stretch of curtain remains lie within the area of Scheduled Monument ‘Hadrian’s Wall between Port Carlisle and Bowness-on-Solway in wall miles 78 and 79’ (SM number 1015951). The site is on Historic England’s Heritage at Risk Register (Historic England 2017a), and is described as in poor condition due to slow decay.



Fig. 1: location of the Port Carlisle site

The Project Design document for Port Carlisle described a sequence of work designed to explore and conserve the relevant stretch of the Wall, and to improve its condition (WallCAP 2018). Geophysical survey was to be followed by detailed recording of the curtain remains and the field boundary, and finally, small-scale excavation. Repair and consolidation work is intended to complete the work reported on here, ideally in August 2021. The consolidation work along with the removal of the gate and new fencing should protect the remains from further degradation. The works also targeted the following research questions, as set out in the 2009 Hadrian's Wall Research Framework (HWRf):

- To determine, through geophysical survey and excavation, whether there is any surviving evidence for the Turf Wall in this area (HW Research Framework: Section 3.3.1, Vol 2, p19, Section 4.1.4, p. 40).
- To analyse the structure and condition of the stone curtain wall in the western sector and, if possible, to determine the likely source of the stone used in this section (HW Research Framework: Section 3.5.2, Vol 2, p10, Section 4.7, p. 42).
- To determine, through geophysical survey, the presence or absence of berm obstacles to the north of the curtain wall (HW Research Framework: Section 3.5.4, Vol 2, p10).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Collingwood Bruce's earlier editions of the *Handbook to the Roman Wall* note that the Wall, including standing remains, could be traced clearly from Port Carlisle to Bowness and lay some one hundred yards to the south of the road, along with hints of the wall ditch (Blair 1895, 239). Blair adds that lengths of the curtain were recorded by Dr Bruce as 'several feet high' and that part of the Wall was eradicated with the use of gunpowder (*ibid.*). David Breeze records that excavation of Milecastle 79, 200m to the east of the site, revealed traces of an earlier turf milecastle, which had been considerably damaged by the construction of the stone successor (2006, 364-5).

Milecastles 78 and 79, and associated turrets, all lie within 2km of the site; the Milecastles were investigated further in evaluation trenches as part of English Heritage's *The Hadrian's Wall Milecastles Project: 1999–2000* (Wilmott 2009). The investigations revealed structural evidence for both milecastles and confirmed their locations.

GEOPHYSICS AND SURVEY

The geophysical survey revealed relatively little (figs 2 and 3; a full report is pending). The gradiometry results perhaps reflect the difference in drainage north and south of the Wall line – the northern field margin regularly floods in winter – and also picks up some geological variation. On the resistivity plot the two low anomalies south of the field boundary in the vicinity of Trenches 1 and 2 are suggestive of building remains or considerable disturbance. There is no conclusive evidence for any ditch north of the Wall, although slight dips in the north-south fence lines just north of the Wall line to the west and east may hint at a Wall ditch. However, the many attempts to improve drainage in the fields over the years may offer another explanation for the dips.

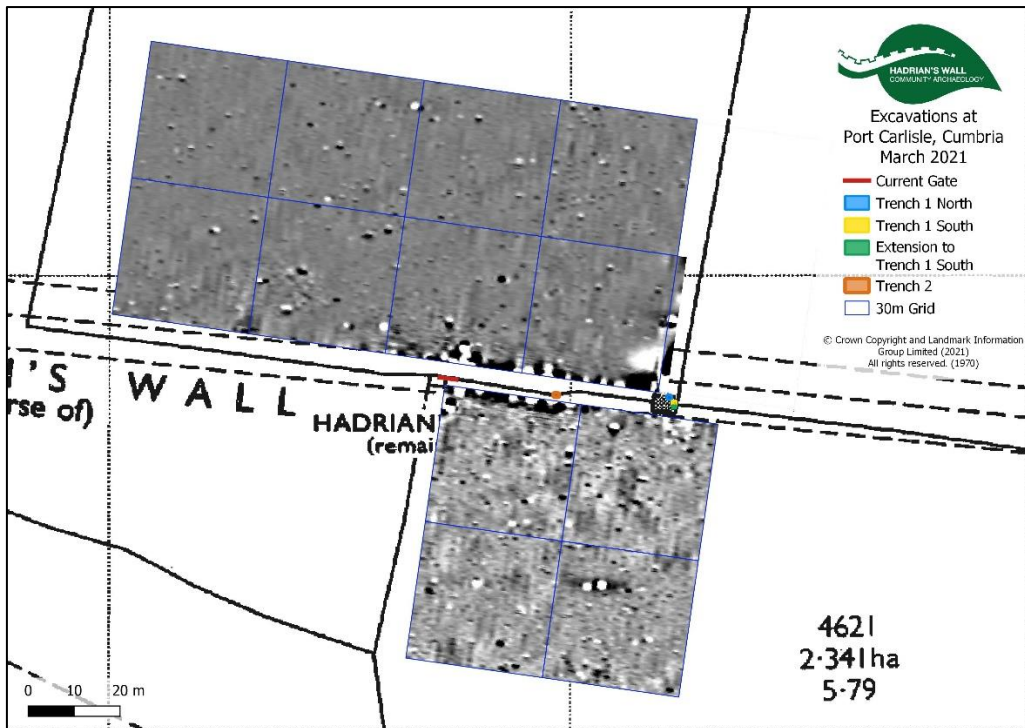


Fig. 2: Port Carlisle gradiometry

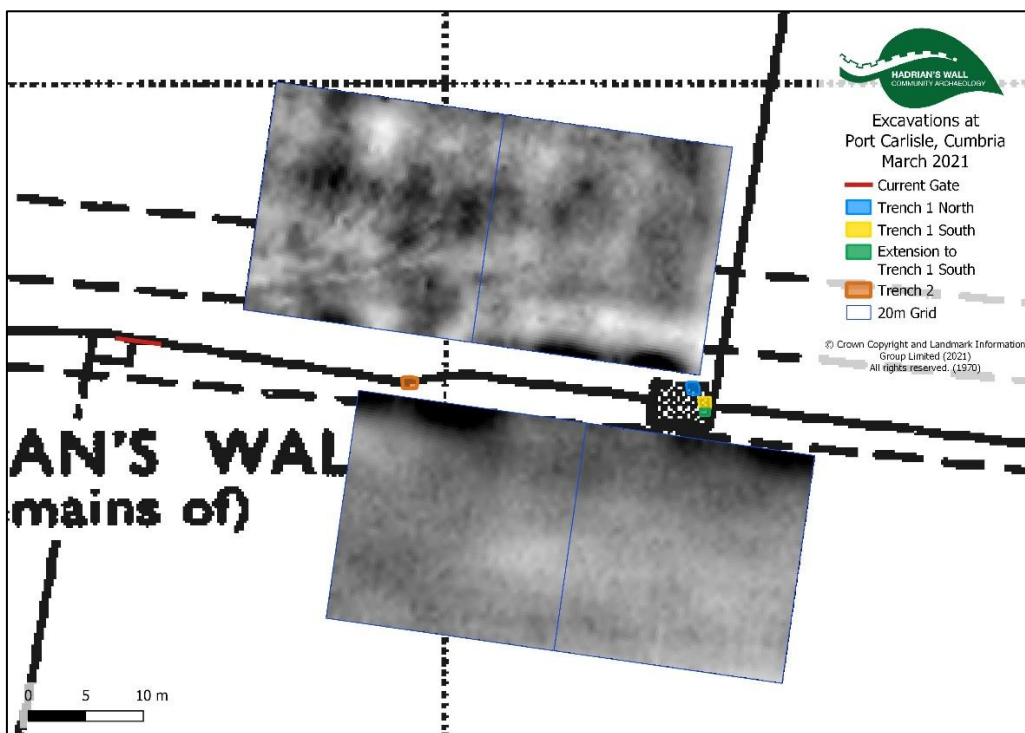


Fig. 3: Port Carlisle resistivity

The curtain remains were drawn (figs 4a and 4b) and photogrammetry done (final images pending). A visual and measured survey of the mostly very thick hedgerow was completed between the gateway and the field corner where Trench 1 was located. In only two places was the hedge growth sparse: in the vicinity of Trench 2 (see below) and where the building was recorded on the 1970 OS map, the location of Trench 1.

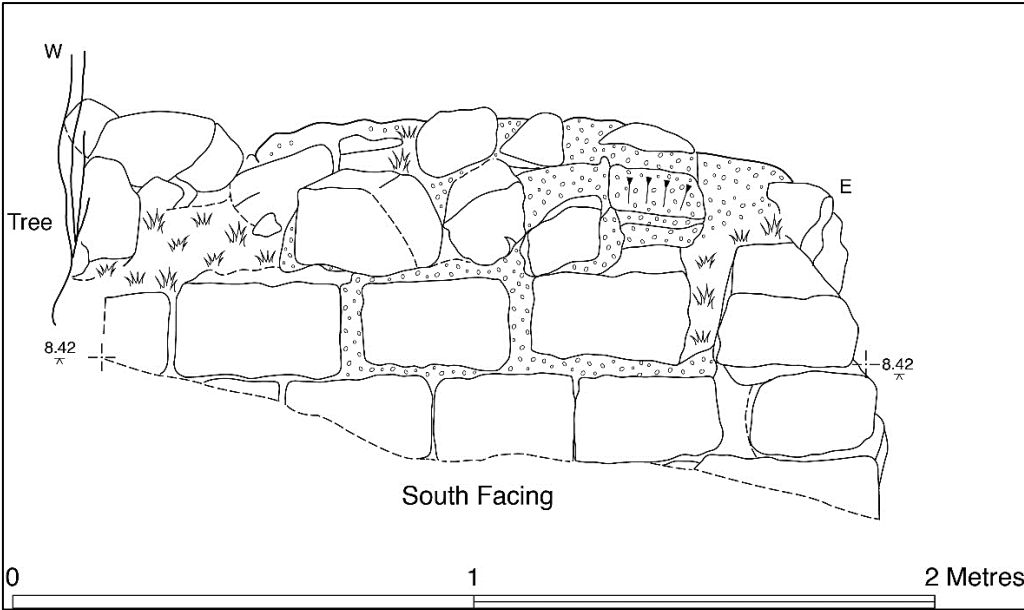


Fig. 4a: PC21 Elevation 1.0

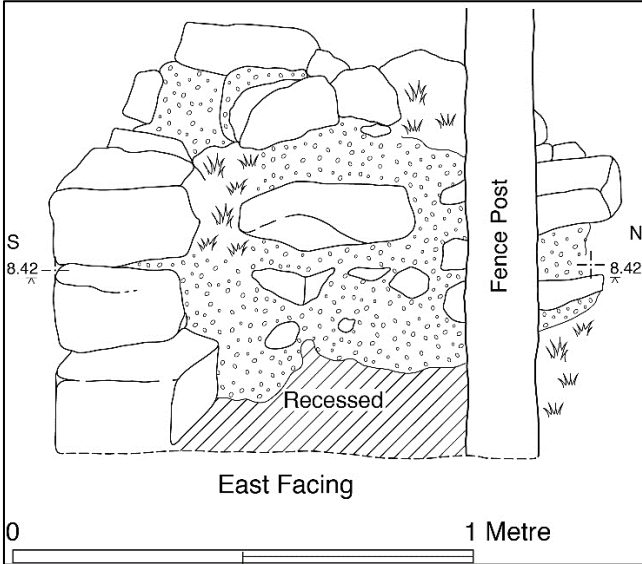


Fig. 4b: PC21 Elevation 1.1

The upper surfaces of at least six faced curtain stones – likely foundation stones by comparison with the standing remains – were visible flush with the ground in the opening of the present gateway (figs 5a and 5b). A field drain running north-south cuts between those stones in the middle of the opening, and a section of surviving stone Wall foundations and any possible turf Wall remains could easily be obtained by digging a slot over the breach made by the drain. The standing curtain remains east of the gate, visible two years ago, were well hidden by April 2021 beneath regrowth of vegetation. This will need to be cleared and suppressed when the consolidation and refencing works are completed.



Fig. 5a: gateway with facing stones looking just north of east



Fig. 5b: photogrammetry of the gateway looking NNE

EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Two trenches were excavated in 2021. Trench 1 ran across the Wall line in the south-east corner of the northern field, where it is hoped to locate the new gate. This trench was three metres north-south, including a small 0.6m extension to the south, by just over two metres west-east and excavated as a north-east and a south-east quadrant (figs 6 and 8). Trench 2 was just over two metres west-east by just under two metres north-south and was located to investigate an apparently *in-situ* and unrecorded line of south-facing wall stones (figs 6 and 8). Trench 1 was excavated down to undisturbed subsoil or bedrock and Trench 2 as far as was necessary to establish that the facing stones were re-deposited.

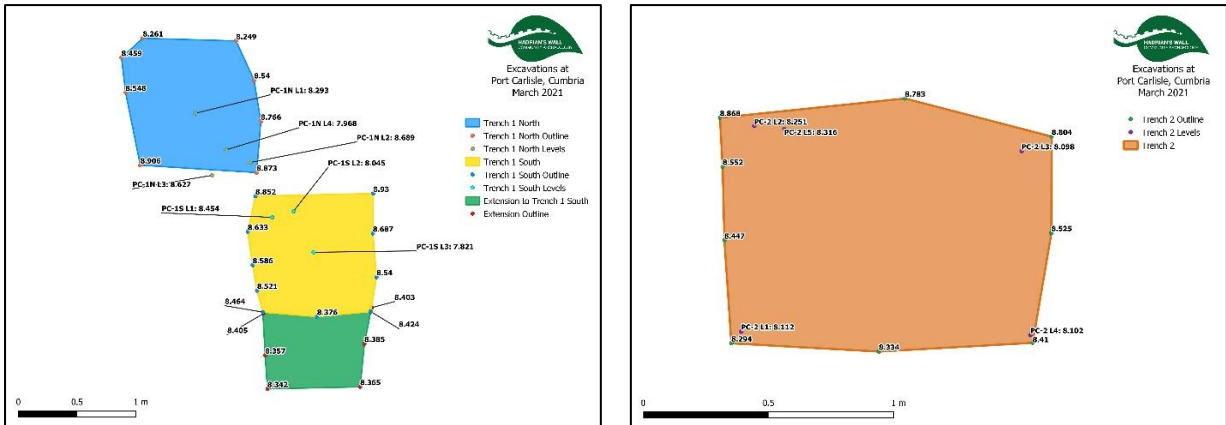


Fig. 6: levels and outlines of Trenches 1 and 2

The intention was to sample any soils with the potential when analysed to produce environmental information or material suitable for dating. Unfortunately, none of the deposits or layers were suitable for sampling. Either the organic content had been leached out by trickling water or layers were too heavily disturbed.

The details of the excavation methodology can be found in the Project Design (WallCAP 2018).



Fig. 7: the trench locations and line of the Wall plotted on 1m hillshade. From the centre of the image eastwards the line of the Wall can be seen running along a likely relict estuary bank, enhanced by Wall remains and possibly the digging of the Wall ditch to the north. Ground to the north may have been so prone to flooding that the ditch was not necessary.

TRENCH 1

Trench 1, was located to investigate the line of the Wall in the location of an agricultural building shown on the 1970 Ordnance Survey map (fig. 8). The trench was divided between north and south of the likely wall-line with the northern quadrant off-set from the southern quadrant to create a complete section through the area without removing the wooden fence on top of the bank. The northern and southern parts of Trench 1 were significantly different, with much more disturbance apparent in the layers forming the southern slope of the bank, partly as a result of the construction and demolition of the building. The northern slope had been more affected by flood deposits and the effects of a rising and falling water table. However, the layers could still be correlated from north to south, and together demonstrated that all Wall facing stones had been removed in this area, and that wall core had been re-purposed both to revett the hedge bank and to make a foundation surface for the building. Further disturbance had been caused by the digging of a rubble drain south of the Wall and by the digging out and redeposition of flood deposits on the northern side. The southern extension was made to confirm the character of the rubble drain and the absence of any foundation stones.

There is also a notable difference in level between the southern and northern field either side of the hedge bank. This may be explained by the presence of a natural relict riverine/estuarine bank. The character of the natural glacial till material found below the archaeology in Trench 1, and in particular the discovery of bedrock at a high level south of the bank, might support this hypothesis (further details below and fig. 7 above). The 1949 excavation of Milecastle 79 suggested that the turf and stone Milecastles and Walls were constructed on top of an artificial platform of alternating turf and gravel, raised to secure the Milecastle and Wall against flooding from the Solway (Richmond and Gillam 1952, 26-8). However, the evidence of Trench 1 would seem to support the hypothesis that the raised roll in the ground is a natural glacial feature (fig. 7). The resistivity plot delineates sinuous possible glacial features in the field south of the Wall but does not appear to confirm that the ditch was not dug north of the Wall in this stretch as was also proposed in the 1949 report.¹

Introduction

Trench 1 was sited north-south in two halves across the line of the curtain wall, running 1.2m up the southern bank and 1.2m down the northern bank, offset so that the western side of the southern half became the eastern side of the northern half. Both offsets were one metre wide. The southern side was covered with long rough grass amidst ivy and other vegetation. The northern side had very little grass and more nettles, ivy and small saplings. Excavation on both sides continued until natural glacial till was reached, half-a-metre below the level where *in-situ* foundation and facing stones were recorded in the gateway, nearly 50m to the west.

¹ I am grateful to Tony Wilmott and Humphrey Welfare for a helpful discussion of this point.

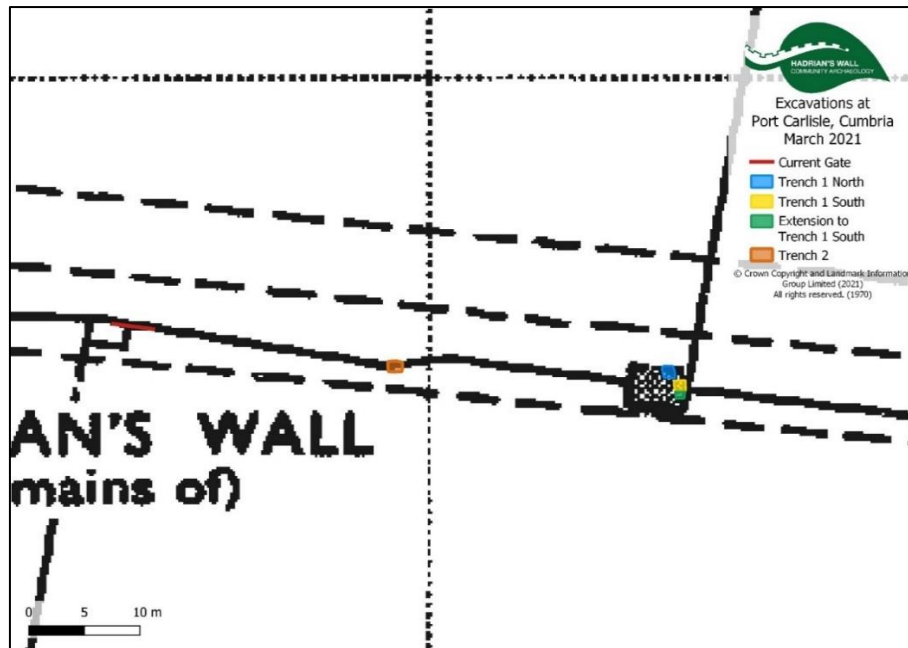


Fig. 8: Trench and gate locations on 1970 Ordnance Survey mapping, with the building shown beneath Trench 1

The Excavation

The turf, vegetation, topsoil and upper layers were removed across both trench areas south and north of the hedge bank and along the likely Wall line (fig. 9), until undisturbed glacial till was reached on both sides of the fence. A small extension, 0.6m wide was added to the southern trench to be certain there were no remaining *in-situ* facing stones. While much of the stone in the lower levels of both areas may have been redeposited core material, both Trench 1 north and south were very disturbed by later drainage works, construction and destruction. The excavation thus confirmed that a new and wider gate could be inserted in this stretch of the hedge bank without disturbing any surviving *in-situ* archaeology.

The deposits, south of the hedge bank: figures 9 and 10

Natural geology was reached in the southern half of the trench at c 7.82mOD (1004). Sandstone bedrock stained with mineral deposits was encountered in the south of this part of the trench. This may have been part of a relict natural 'sea bank'. Otherwise the natural drift geology was a mixed and reworked sandy clay of glacial till and fluvial deposits, with some cobbles and stone shatter. There were more stones, shatter and grit at the interface between the till and the layer above, (1001). None of the boundaries were clear in this area, with extended interfaces between layers. Layer (1001) was nearly 0.4m deep in the middle of the hedge bank and found across Trench 1. There were fewer stones overall in the lowest 0.25m of interface with (1004) below, with sub-rounded cobbles similar to those in the glacial till predominating over larger sub-angular shatter. In the upper part of layer (1001) yellow sandstone rubble made up c. 80% of the context, with most being sub-angular cobbles but with a considerable number of larger sub-angular stones up to 0.2-0.4m. This latter stone was more likely to have made up the substance of curtain core material and contrasted with the large, rounded beach cobbles of red sandstone readily available on the shore of the Solway Firth just to the north. The lowest level of this compact stony layer (1001) lay just below ground level of the southern field.



Fig. 9: left, Trench 1, south. Left, looking NNW, right looking near east

Overall layer, (1001) could be characterised as stone, including likely wall core, compacted over time by water action washing out soil matrix and by the construction of an agricultural building in the area between the 1950s and 1970s. The stone may have been used in creating the hedge bank, with some spread from the bank for the building base before being piled back up again to reform the hedge bank.

Above (1001) was the sandy field soil, rubble, turf and vegetation of the field bank (1000). The gritty, sandy silt soil contained at least 50% stone: poorly-sorted, sub-angular and rounded yellow and red sandstone cobbles and stone shatter, with two large round red sandstone cobbles (0.4m in diameter). This layer was up to 0.5m deep in the north by the wooden fence on top of the bank. (1000) with the upper part of (1001) form the hedge bank. The farmer remembers recreating the bank after the outbuilding blew down in the 1970s.

A small extension was dug 0.6m south from Trench 1 down to just below the level at which any surviving *in-situ* curtain foundation might be found. Sandy silt layer (1006) contained 50% sub-angular and sub-rounded cobbles of yellow and red sandstone, with the more sorted and smaller cobbles comprising the backfill of the rubble drain clearly visible. The extension clarified the line of the pre-outbuilding rubble field drain running west-east, but discovered no facing stones or foundations.

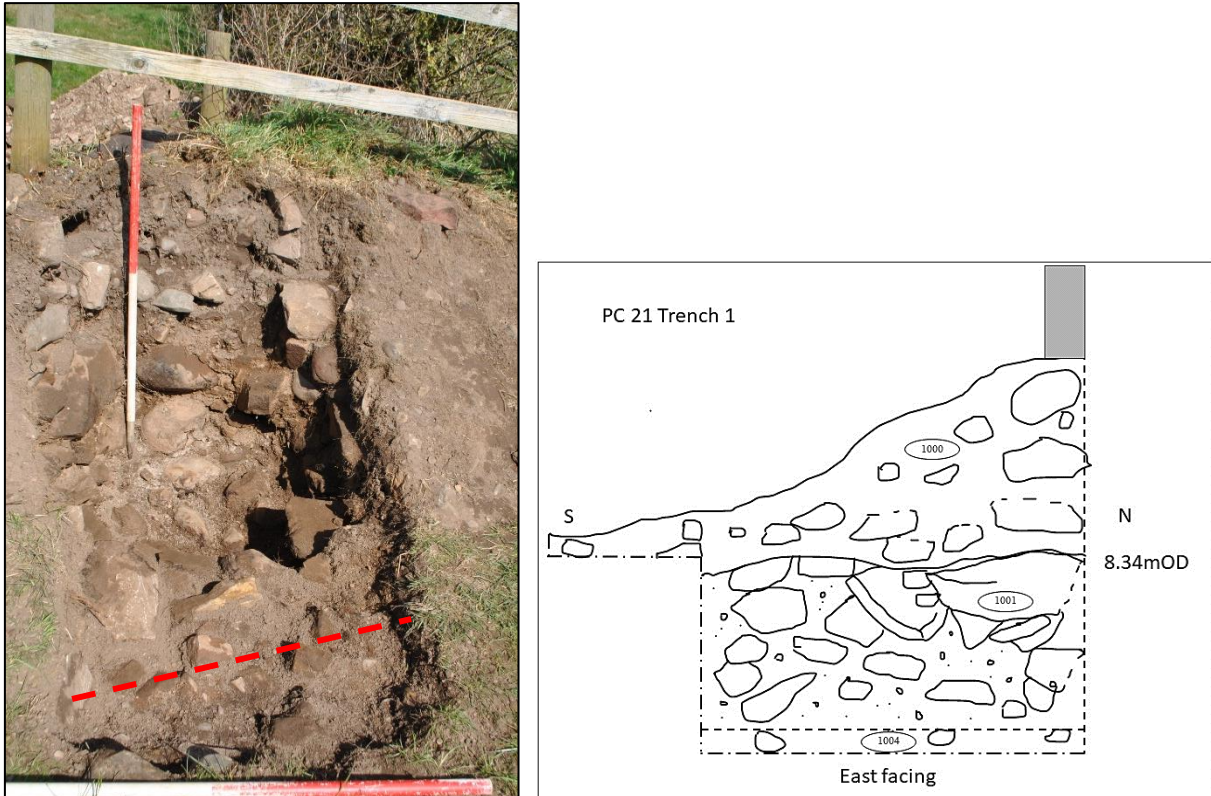


Fig. 10: left, Trench 1 after excavation, looking NNE, with northern side of rubble drain indicated in red
Fig 11: right, Trench 1 after excavation E facing section, 1.8m long

The deposits, north of the hedge bank: Figure 12

Natural geology was also reached in Trench 1, north of the wooden fence. Excavation stopped at 8mOD, about 0.25m into the interface (1005) between the field bank layer above and the mixed natural glacial till and fluvial deposits below. There had been more reworking of this layer than to the south, caused by the flooding of the lower northern field and a rising and falling water table. In October 2020, the south-east corner of the field, adjacent to Trench 1 north, was under water; the northern field is about 0.2m lower than the one to the south. The boundary between this interface (1005) and the field bank (1003) above was clearer north of the fence, than to the south of fence. Sandy silt (1003) was equivalent to (1001) to the south, and was also up to 0.5m deep in the centre of the bank. However, (1003) contained far fewer stones than to the south, being only c 10% sub-rounded cobbles and occasional larger sub-angular shatter; (1003) and (1002) above also produced several very corroded Fe fragments, probably from agricultural equipment, and mostly found at the boundary between (1003) and the layer above. Layer (1003) thus comprised material piled up to recreate the field bank including silty flood deposits mixed with glacial till material, cobbles and some possible wall core. There was far more soil and fewer larger stones in (1003) than the equivalent deposit to the south, suggesting Trench 1 south may have been closer to the line of the curtain but also indicating the silt deposition resulting from flooding.

Layer (1002) comprised the upper makeup of northern half of the field bank with topsoil and vegetation. The gritty, sandy silt was up to 0.25m deep. The layer was c 15% stone: the larger sub-angular stones may have been re-purposed wall core, but most of the stone was smaller sub-rounded and sub-angular red and yellow sandstone cobbles and pebbles. The top of this layer rose from ground level in the north at c 8.25mOD to the wooden fence line at c 8.9mOD.



Fig. 12: Trench 1 north, after excavation, facing south

TRENCH 2

Trench 2 examined a stretch of the southern field bank where the scrubby hedge growth was confined to the steeper northern slope and a line of at least four apparently *in-situ* Wall facing stones were visible through the patchy turf and vegetation. The limited excavation aimed to record the location of the stones and to investigate possible explanations for the gap in vegetation. The trench demonstrated that the facing stones were not *in-situ*: alterations had been made to the bank, at least one drainage ditch had been dug, and an agricultural building built and demolished in the trench area before the 1860s. This disturbance explained the condition of the hedge. Victorian brick, bottle-glass and pottery were found.

Introduction

Trench 2 was sited to run SSW-NNE for nearly 1.8 metres from the lower part of the cattle-eroded bank beneath the line of facing stones up to the stones themselves. The trench was 1.2m wide. The area had been under rough turf, with patches trampled away by cattle (fig. 13).

The Excavation

The turf and topsoil were removed across the entire trench and excavation continued to the layer beneath those disturbed by an agricultural building, probably demolished in the early-mid nineteenth century. This limit of excavation was also well below the level (c 8.3mOD) at which *in-situ* Wall facing/foundation stones were recorded around the field gate c 25m to the west.

The Deposits: figs 14 and 15

The earliest layer (2006) uncovered in Trench 2 was seen in the southern half of the trench, the northern half having been cut away by the west-east ditch/rubble drain [2005] also seen in Trench 1. Layer (2006) was a gritty, dark greyish brown, sandy silt with frequent sub-rounded pebbles but also a considerable number of larger sandstone cobbles and sandstone shatter (at least 40%). This appeared to be a subsoil containing some redeposited and spread wall core material. The layer would have been created over time as facing stones were robbed, the field bank was reshaped, and repeated ditches were cut in attempts to

improve drainage. Finally layer (2006) was levelled to construct a firm surface for raising the agricultural building (this was gone before the 1860s). All the boundaries between layers in Trench 2 were very diffuse and the layers disturbed and full of redeposited material.



Fig. 13: left, Trench 2 area before excavation, looking NE; right, post-excavation, looking N

A west-east ditch [2005] had been cut through this layer (2006). This ditch – probably a French or rubble drain – is visible today as a very slight dip south of the field bank and running along the entire length of the field boundary. Although the ditch line was heavily truncated and probably disturbed by attempts to run another drain from it northwards, it had been at least 0.5m wide. The ditch was completely back-filled and covered to create the foundations for a probably relatively small, earlier than mid-Victorian agricultural structure. The upper fill of the ditch (2002) was subsequently mixed with demolition debris from the removal of that building: it was impossible to discern the boundary between remaining ditch fill/rubble fill and levelled demolition debris. The combined, reworked layer comprised a friable, humic, dark greyish black, sandy silt with small pebbles and in the lower layer more than 50% small-medium sorted cobbles. It was found across the trench, thinning to the south and deepening to 0.25m in the centre of the ditch to the north. Eight sherds of nineteenth-century bottle glass, a bone knife handle and many fragments of hand-made bricks were collected from (2002). The upper layer was composed of levelled dumps of material– in particular, brick fragments – and finds clustered in different areas of the trench.

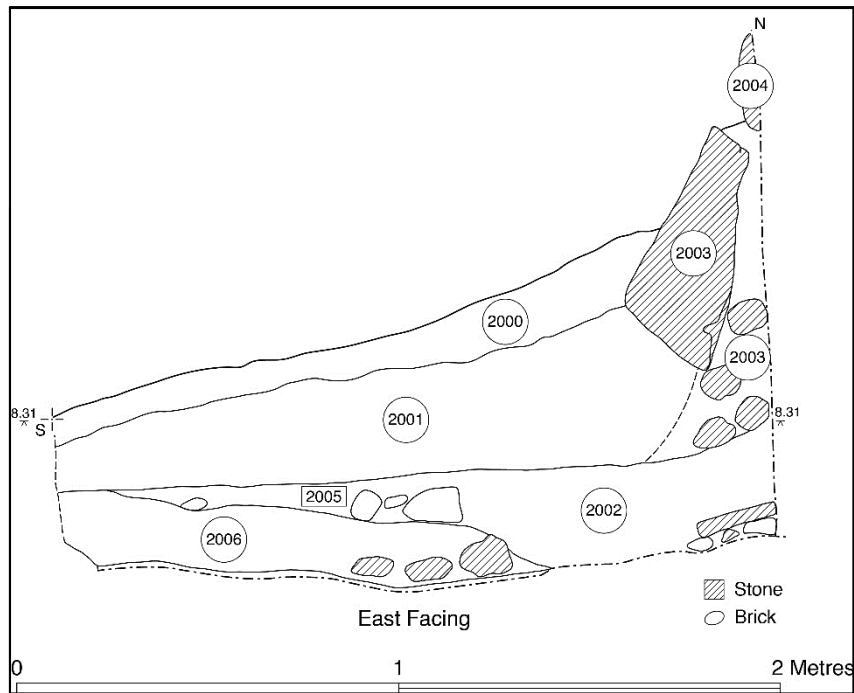


Fig. 14: Trench 2 section drawing, east facing



Fig. 15: Trench 2 after excavation, looking near west

After the removal of the structure, the field bank was rebuilt using many cobbles and some larger sandstone blocks, the majority of which latter stones could have originated as wall core, all held together by clayey silt soil (2003). Finally, a number of curtain facing stones, which may already have been re-used in the building, were lined up along the bank to complete the restructuring [2004]. Four of these were visible, three at the top of the trench and one to their immediate west. The three stones in Trench 2 were similar in size to those recorded in the *in-situ* courses to the west by the field gate, averaging at around 0.3m long by 0.18m high. However, the stones were either not re-set in the bank with the front faces outwards or they had twisted in settling and/or been disturbed. Only the stone to the immediate west and most eastern of the stones in the trench might be facing approximately the right way.



Fig. 16: Trench 2 after excavation, facing NNE

A gritty sandy silt soil (2001) had formed over the site of the building and the re-formed bank, thinner to the south and deepening to 0.4m deep up the bank, with a rough turf, well-trampled by cattle over that.

Conclusions: Trench 1 and 2

The trenches demonstrated a considerable degree of disturbance and damage to the Wall. Only redeposited wall core remained, with four repositioned facing stones in Trench 2. After removal of the facing stones, any remaining *in-situ* core material was moved and redeposited during repeated attempts to improve drainage and also by the construction and demolition of two agricultural out-buildings. The surviving curtain courses around the gateway are a fortuitous survival in this hedge-line, protected by their usefulness in supporting and delineating the gate.

The Wall in this length appears to have been constructed on a relict glacial river bank and the Wall ditch not to have been dug to the north.

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT INVENTORIES

PC21: Trench 1			
Context No. <i>Type</i>	Physical relationships <i>Levels mOD</i>	Description Interpretation	<i>Drawings: on reverse of all context sheets</i>
1000 layer: trench south	Above (1001) <i>Top: 8.93-8.85m to 8.46-8.40mOD Bottom: c 8.40-8.30m</i>	Friable, dry and humic, mid greyish black, gritty sandy silt (30:70); at least 50% stone: two large round red sandstone cobbles (c 0.4m); poorly-sorted, sub-angular and rounded yellow sandstone cobbles and stone shatter, most c 0.1-0.2m. Layer trench-wide 1.2m N-S, by 1m in W-E, up to 0.5m deep in north by wooden fence on top of bank; sloping to 0.1m at level ground in the south. The larger sub-angular yellow sandstone may originally have been wall core material. Much root disturbance. <i>Turf/vegetation, field soil and rubble forming southern field bank, rebuilt after 1970s building removed. The farmer remembers recreating the bank after the outbuilding blew down.</i>	
1001 layer: trench south	Below (1000) ; above (1004) <i>Top: c 8.30 m Bottom: c 7.90m</i>	Friable, dry, mid yellowish/orangey brown silty sand (40:60); at least 80% yellow sandstone rubble, majority sub-angular cobbles 0.1-0.15m; some larger sub-angular shatter 0.2-0.4m; occasional small, rounded pebbles and grit. In lower 0.25m far fewer stones, fewer larger and more sub-rounded stones: intersection with natural. Across trench and up to 0.4m deep. Some bioturbation and affected by flooding and falling and rising water table. <i>This compact stony layer lay at and just below ground level of the southern field. It appeared to be a spread of stone including possible wall core compacted over time by water action washing out soil and the construction of an agricultural building in the area between the 1950s and 1970s. From c 0.25m down the layer seemed to have an extended interface with diffuse boundaries to natural.</i>	
1002 layer: trench north	Above (1003) <i>Top: c 8.91-8.25mOD Bottom: c 8.65-8.00mOD</i>	Friable, root-matted mid greyish black sandy silty sand (20:80); 10-15% medium-large cobbles; up to 0.2m, sub-rounded and sub-angular red and yellow sandstone. Across the trench 1.2m N-S by 1m E-W by 0.15-0.25m deep. Boundaries unclear. Bioturbation and water disturbance. A few very corroded Fe fragments, probably from agricultural equipment, found in this layer. <i>Vegetation and makeup of northern hedge bank with wooden fence on top. Some of the stone may have been re-purposed wall core. Note the field north of the field bank is noticeably lower than that to the south by c 0.3m.</i>	
1003 layer: trench north	Below (1002); above (1005) <i>Top: c 8.65-c 8.40mOD Bottom: c 8.29mOD</i>	Loose-friable mid greyish brown, sandy silt (50:50); fine-medium sand. 10% small-medium sub-rounded cobbles. Max. depth c 0.5m in the south, thinning to c 0.2m in the north. Trench wide. Diffuse and irregular boundary with (1002); clearer boundary to (1005) as lower layer much more compact. Bioturbation, including heavy rooting, and water action. Several very corroded Fe fragments, probably from agricultural equipment found at the boundary between (1002) and (1003). <i>Silty flood deposits mixed with glacial till material and some possible wall core piled up to (re)create field bank.</i>	
1004 layer: trench south	Below (1001); LOE <i>Top: c 7.90mOD Bottom: c 7.82mOD</i>	Friable, damp gritty, mid blueish grey silty sandy clay (15:40:45) with purplish black siltier degraded organic lenses; some cobbles and stone shatter, mostly at interfaces, with solid bedrock encountered in the south of the trench; across the trench excavated for 0.1m depth. Diffuse boundary to (1001). <i>Natural: mixed glacial till with fluvial/beach deposits. Possible relict natural 'sea bank'</i>	

PC21: Trench 1			
Context No. <i>Type</i>	Physical relationships <i>Levels mOD</i>	Description <i>Interpretation</i>	Drawings: on reverse of all context sheets
1005 layer: trench north	Below (1003); over (1004) <i>Top: c 8.29mOD</i> <i>Bottom: c 8.00mOD</i>	Friable-compact mid greyish brown silty sand (40:60); small-medium s0% sub-rounded cobbles, pebbles and grit c 20%; Layer 0.2-0.25m across trench above natural; boundaries clear. Some bioturbation. <i>Interface between field bank and natural glacial till/fluvial deposits.</i>	
1006 layer: trench south	Below (1001) LOE <i>Top: c 8.40m OD</i> <i>Bottom: c 8.34m OD</i>	Friable, gritty mid orangey brown humic sandy silt (30:70); sub-angular, angular cobbles of yellow and red sandstone, 50%, majority 0.1 x 0.1m, occasional larger stone 0.2 x 0.2 x 0.4m ; small pebbles and grit 10%; across 0.6m x 1m extension south, dug for c 0.1m until ditch line and lack of facing stones discovered. <i>Small extension of Trench 1 southwards on south side. 1m W-E by 0.6m N-S to confirm no Wall foundations and to trace line of rubble drain. Rubble drain northern edge located and no facing stones or likely in-situ core material found.</i>	

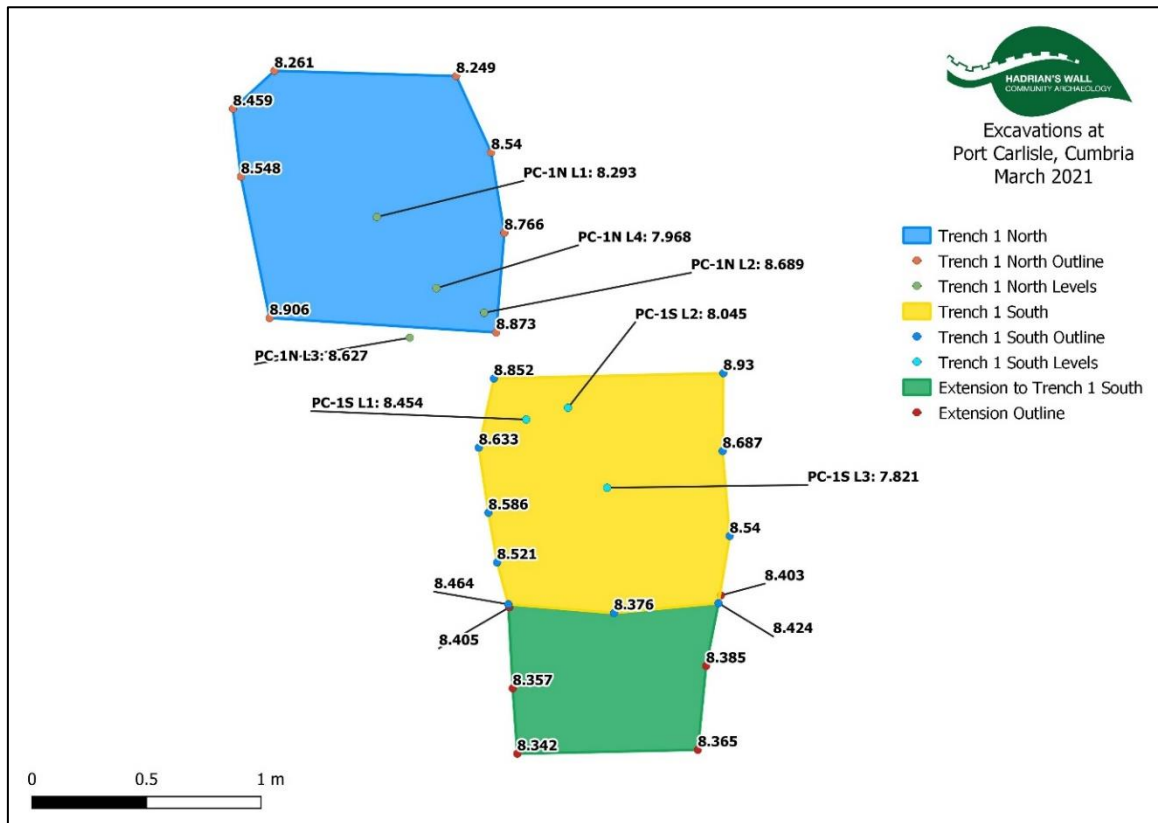


Fig. 17: Trench 1 outline with levels in m

PC21: Trench 2			
Context No. <i>Type</i>	Physical relationships <i>Levels mOD</i>	Description <i>Interpretation</i>	Drawings: sketches also on reverse context sheets
2000 layer	Above (2001) <i>Top: from c 8.78-87 (N) to c 8.29-33mOD (S)</i>	Layer of rough turf, matted with roots, some poorly sorted degraded stone shatter and pebbles (0.01-0.1m). Across trench 2m N-S x 1.2m, W-E c 0.1m deep. <i>Turf layer, matted roots and vegetation.</i>	Sec: 2.0

PC21: Trench 2			
Context No. Type	Physical relationships Levels mOD	Description Interpretation	Drawings: sketches also on reverse context sheets
2001 layer	Below (2000); above (2002), (2003, (2004) <i>Top: c 8.2-8.7 mOD Bottom: c 8.15mOD</i>	Friable, dry, gritty and humic mid greyish brown sandy silt (20:80), lighter with depth (up to 40:60), with fibrous and sandier lenses; occasional small pebbles. Across trench. 0.15-0.4m deep, thinning to S. Heavily rooted. <i>Disturbed topsoil of bank and field edge</i>	Sec: 2.0
2002 fill	Below (2001), (2005); above (2003), (2006); Fill of [2005] <i>Top: c 8.10m in S, bottom in ditch c 7.85mOD</i>	Friable, humic dark greyish black to blackish brown sandy silt (30:70) with some more clay lenses; grit, small pebbles and occasional cobble c 10%. Across trench, thinning to nothing in S sloping gently for 1m to N then dipping to 0.25m deep in ditch. Rooting and bioturbation. 10% inclusions: hand-made thin brick and degraded mortar (with some evidence of paint) and some coke. Finds: 8 sherds of 19C bottle glass; 1 bone knife handle; 2 x sherds 19C pottery; Fe fragments <i>At least pre/early-Victorian rubble field drain (using wall core) levelled off to create foundation for likely Victorian building. This was then mixed with demolition debris from the removal of the building spread to level the area. The curtain in this area has been heavily damaged by attempts to improve field drainage: the original ditch runs W-E but may also have had N-S element, and/or a re-cut. The disturbed nature of the layers made it difficult to be certain.</i>	Sec: 2.0
2003 layer	Below (2001) (2004); above (2002; LOE S <i>Top: c 9.1mOD Bottom: c 8.3mOD</i>	Friable-compact, light brownish grey, slightly clayey sandy silt (10:15:75) with some more clay lenses; c 70% stones of various sizes, from cobbles to larger sandstone blocks, including facing stones of (2004) Across N of trench on bank, up to 0.6m high but only max 0.2m width excavated into face of bank. <i>Disturbed wall core, reconstituted and piled up after demolition of building and 'refaced' with [2004].</i>	Sec: 2.0
2004 layer	Above (2003); below (2001) <i>Top: c 9.0mOD Bottom: c 8.4mOD</i>	Three repositioned curtain facing stones: sandstone roughly faced c 0.35m wide by 0.2m high. A fourth stone continues the line to the west beyond the trench. <i>Three repositioned curtain facing stones (of four visible), with cobble revetting (2003). Presumably used in the 19C agricultural building and then re-used to recreate the field bank after the building was demolished, before the 1860s.</i>	Sec: 2.0
2005 cut	Cuts (2006); filled by (2002) <i>Top: c 8.10m in S, bottom in ditch c 7.85mOD</i>	Truncated ditch with spread gently sloping west side visible in east-facing section, with 45° slope after break of slope to lowest level of ditch excavated. Bottom not quite reached (max. 0.25m deep) and only short portion of northern return slope caught in section. 1.7m wide as revealed across the trench, but possibly disturbed by re-cuts or ditches running to the north. <i>Disturbed length of ditch/drain visible elsewhere as a slight dip running W-E to south of bank. Also seen in Trench 1. The ditch preceded the building.</i>	Sec: 2.0
2006 layer	Below (2002), cut by [2005] (2005); LOE <i>Top: c 8.0-8.1 mOD Bottom: 8.0mOD, LOE</i>	Friable to compact dark greyish brown, gritty, sandy silt (30:70); grit; frequent sub-rounded pebbles and large sandstone cobbles c 30% of context. <i>Subsoil with some likely deposited and spread wall core created over time as facing stones robbed and work done to shape field bank and improve drainage.</i>	Sec: 2.1

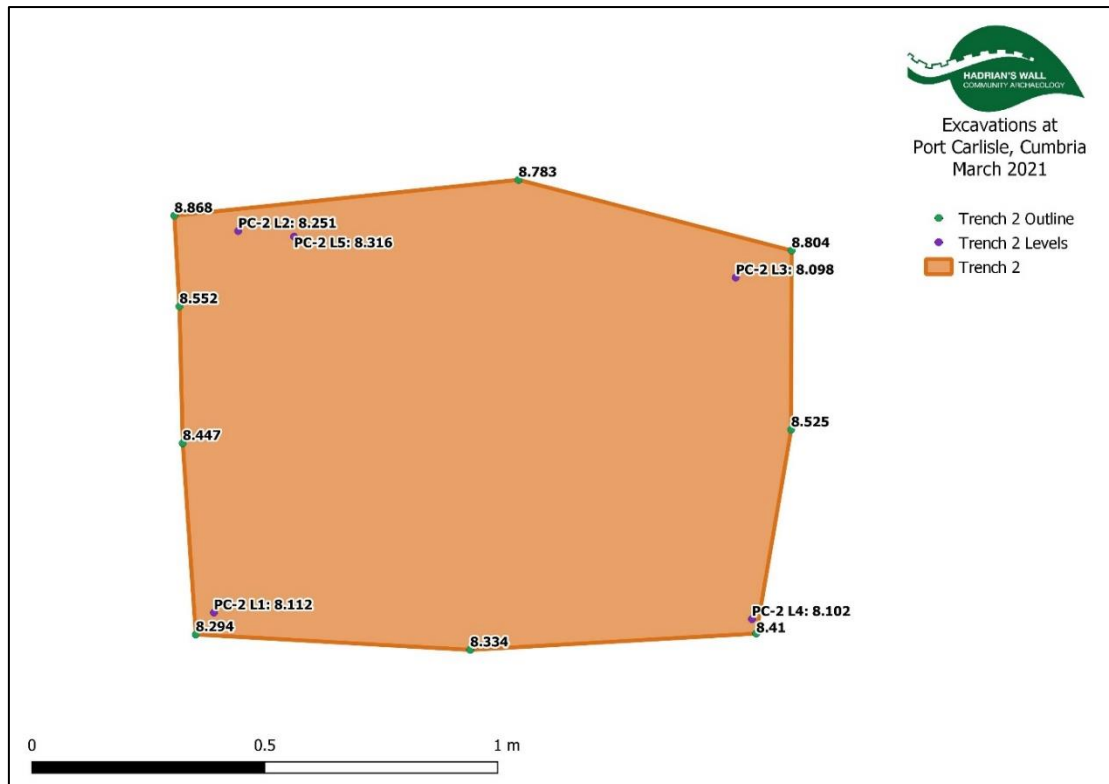


Fig. 18: Trench 2 outline with levels in m

APPENDIX B

Repair and consolidation work: to be included once work completed

APPENDIX C

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