

ROMAN AND MEDIEVAL CARLISLE THE NORTHERN LANES: EXCAVATIONS 1978-82

VOLUME TWO: THE MEDIEVAL AND POST-MEDIEVAL PERIODS

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Front cover: *Aerial photograph of the Lanes area in the 1970s, prior to development; complete wooden drop spindle, with its lead whorl, from a Period 17A well; medieval jug from Period 14B*

Rear Cover: *Union Court, looking west to the Scotch Street entrance; filming the excavations on Law's Lane for regional television news; pottery discarded in a thirteenth-century pit at the northern Lanes*

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Abbreviations

aOD	Above Ordnance Datum
AMS	Accelerator mass spectrometry
CPR	Charred plant remains
MNE	Minimum number of elements
NISP	Numbers of Identified specimens
OA	Oxford Archaeology
OS	Ordnance Survey
SEM-EDS	Scanning electron microscopy and energy dispersive x-ray spectroscopy
SUERC	Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre
WPR	Waterlogged plant remains

Summary

In the mid-1970s, Carlisle City Council drew up proposals for the redevelopment of the Lanes, a densely built-up area of approximately 2.8 ha situated in the north-east corner of the city's historic core (NY 4015 5606). At the time, the area was crossed, east to west, by 19 narrow lanes or vennels, the origins of which were obscure. Previous archaeological work in the area, though extremely limited, had confirmed the presence of complex Roman and medieval deposits in this part of the city. Consequently, a programme of archaeological and historical investigation, funded in part by the then Department of the Environment (DoE), was undertaken by the Carlisle Archaeological Unit between 1978 and 1982.

To this day, the Lanes retains its position as one of the largest and most significant urban archaeological investigations ever undertaken in northern England. The project as a whole comprised a phased programme of excavation and standing-building recording, undertaken over a period of several years, together with a survey of the surviving documentary evidence. Although the fieldwork was undertaken as a single project, for post-excavation and publication purposes they were split into two parts: the northern and southern Lanes. The former principally comprised a large, open-area excavation, consisting of seven separately excavated but contiguous trenches, whilst the latter was characterised by a series of smaller trenches. Additionally, on the northern Lanes, large areas north and south of the main excavation were subjected to salvage excavation and/or watching brief, and several smaller trenches were also excavated in the vicinity. The results of the southern Lanes investigations have been published (2000), as have the data pertaining to pre-Roman and Roman activity within the northern Lanes (2019). The present volume presents the evidence for post-Roman occupation at the northern Lanes.

As elsewhere in the city, evidence for early medieval activity, encompassing the period from the withdrawal of Roman administration in Britain in the early fifth century AD to the 'refoundation' of the settlement at Carlisle under the Norman king, William II (Rufus), in 1092, proved elusive. Following the end of Roman occupation, the site seems to have been abandoned, and dark soils accumulated over most Roman levels, though some of the walls of a third-century stone house were clearly visible as late as the twelfth century, when they were robbed of their remaining stone. Indeed, upstanding elements of this structure appear to have influenced the positioning, during the twelfth/early thirteenth century, of some property boundaries on the east side of Scotch Street, which in turn determined the position and alignment of the lanes themselves.

The core area of archaeological investigation at the northern Lanes encompassed parts of five medieval tenements or burgages, long, narrow plots extending east from Scotch Street, perpendicular to the road, the site lying within the 'backlands' of these properties, behind the street frontage. The excavated tenements were c 5-6 m wide, and it seems likely that most, if not all, were laid out at the same time, though in the southern part of the site the plot boundary revealed may not have been fixed until somewhat later. Across the wider Lanes area, spacing of those that had survived into the twentieth century, and of several 'lost' vennels that had disappeared before this, strongly suggests that the pattern of narrow burgage plots recorded archaeologically at the northern Lanes once extended over the whole of this part of the city, from the northern defences south to the Franciscan Friary, to the south of modern Bank Street.

Scientific dating, supported by pottery evidence, indicates that intensive activity in the area investigated began sometime in the period from the mid-twelfth century to the early thirteenth century (c 1150-1230), though at least one scientifically dated feature appeared to be of the first half of the twelfth century or earlier. Initially, activity within the tenement plots behind the street frontage was relatively unintensive, being characterised largely by rubbish pits and dark soils, the latter suggesting the presence of gardens, horticultural plots, or even areas of 'waste' ground during the twelfth/thirteenth century. The area investigated contained few buildings during this period, though the number and size of rubbish pits in most of the plots increased over time, suggesting an intensification of activity elsewhere in the burgages, and wells were sunk in some plots.

The lanes themselves were probably established during the second half of the thirteenth century (or, less probably, in the early fourteenth century), being placed between the existing tenements. The reason for their construction is unclear, though it seems likely that they were intended to improve access to the backlands of the burgage plots, allowing these areas to be reached without having to enter the property directly from the main street. This may have become increasingly important if, as documentary records suggest, multiple occupancy of some of the original landholdings became increasingly common, and increasingly complex, as time went by. Another, less likely, possibility, is that all the vennels in the Lanes area were laid out in a single phase of 'town

planning', at the instigation of some centralised authority. In this regard, the dating of the lanes investigated is of interest, since it could (just) coincide with the commencement of the Anglo-Scottish wars at the end of the thirteenth century, when Carlisle was besieged on several occasions (although what evidence there is might point to a somewhat earlier date for the origin of the excavated lanes). It is possible, therefore, that the system of closely spaced lanes was established with the intention of facilitating rapid access to the defences. The fact that, in so far as it was possible to tell, all four of the lanes investigated were laid out at or about the same time, might lend support to this hypothesis, though it is more likely to reflect the fact that the adjacent burgages were, according to contemporary documents, in single ownership by this time, forming part of a block of six tenements held, from the late thirteenth century at least, by the Barony of Liddell.

The archaeological evidence from the project demonstrated that, following the establishment of the lanes, activity in the rear of the tenement plots intensified significantly, though perhaps not immediately. From the fourteenth century, many more buildings were erected in these areas than previously, these being frequently associated with extensive cobbled yards and other external occupation features, such as pits, wells, and drainage gullies. All the recorded buildings were of timber and most were quite small, though some were considerably larger. A range of construction methods was attested, but differences do not seem to have been significant in terms of chronology or function, though the latter was frequently unclear, since, in many cases, few internal associated features or occupation deposits had survived. However, where these were present, the associated finds and palaeoenvironmental remains were broadly suggestive of a 'domestic' milieu. In the northernmost tenement investigated, evidence for the cupellation of silver from lead ore, unique in medieval England, was found, in the form of an assemblage of primary litharge, from two pits of probable mid/late twelfth- to early thirteenth-century date.

Evidence for medieval activity after the early/mid-fifteenth century, and of occupation during the earlier part of the post-medieval period (mid-sixteenth- to eighteenth-century) was extremely slight. This was probably a result of the removal of most of the relevant strata in the nineteenth/early twentieth century, though the possibility that the archaeological evidence reflects a real decline in activity during these periods cannot be discounted. Certainly, historical mapping suggests that, away from the main street frontages, much of the Lanes was occupied by gardens and courts during the late eighteenth/early nineteenth century. Indeed, both the cartographic evidence and the data generated by the Lanes standing-building recording programme, which was conducted in tandem with the archaeological investigations, demonstrate that it was only in the second half of the nineteenth century that infilling of these areas began in earnest, resulting in the pattern of narrow lanes flanked by densely packed, brick-built houses and small commercial and industrial premises, that was such a feature of the area at the time of the Lanes project, and which was subsequently swept away by the shopping-centre development.

Résumé

Au milieu des années 1970, le conseil municipal de Carlisle a élaboré des propositions pour le réaménagement des Lanes, une zone densément bâtie d'environ 2,8 ha située dans le coin nord-est du centre historique de la ville (NY 4015 5606). À l'époque, la zone était traversée d'est en ouest par 19 voies étroites, ou venelles, dont les origines étaient obscures. Des travaux archéologiques antérieurs dans la région, bien qu'extrêmement limités, avaient confirmé la présence de dépôts romains et médiévaux complexes dans cette partie de la ville. En conséquence, un programme d'études archéologiques et historiques, financé en partie par le Département de l'Environnement (DoE) de l'époque, a été entrepris par l'Unité Archéologique de Carlisle entre 1978 et 1982.

À ce jour, les Lanes conserve sa position comme l'une des recherches archéologiques urbaines les plus vastes et les plus importantes jamais entreprises dans le nord de l'Angleterre. Le projet dans son ensemble comprenait un programme pluriannuel et progressif de fouille et d'enregistrement des bâtiments debout, ainsi qu'une étude des sources documentaires survivantes. Bien que le travail sur le terrain ait été entrepris comme un seul projet, à des fins de post-fouille et de publication, ils ont été divisés en deux parties : les Lanes du nord et les Lanes du sud. La première comprenait principalement une grande fouille à ciel ouvert, composée de sept tranchées creusées séparément mais contiguës, tandis que la seconde était caractérisée par une série de tranchées plus petites. De plus, sur les Lanes du nord, de vastes zones au nord et au sud de la fouille principale ont été soumises à des fouilles de sauvetage et/ou à de brèves observations, et plusieurs tranchées plus petites ont également été creusées dans les environs. Les résultats des investigations sur les Lanes du sud ont été publiés (2000), tout comme les données relatives à l'activité préromaine et romaine dans les Lanes du nord (2019). Le présent volume présente les preuves de l'occupation post-romaine dans les Lanes du nord.

Comme ailleurs dans la ville, les indices de l'activité du début du Moyen-Age, période allant du retrait de l'administration romaine en Grande-Bretagne au début du Vème siècle après J.-C. à la « refondation » de la colonie de Carlisle sous le roi normand Guillaume II (Rufus) en 1092, se sont avérées évasifs. Après la fin de l'occupation romaine, le site semble avoir été abandonné et des couches organiques se sont accumulées sur la plupart des niveaux romains, bien que certains murs d'une maison en pierre du IIIème siècle aient été clairement visibles jusqu'au XIIème siècle avant d'être dépouillés entièrement. De plus, les murs de cette structure semblent avoir influencé au cours des XIIème/XIIIème siècle le positionnement de quelques limites de propriété à l'est de la rue Scotch, ce qui a déterminé à son tour la position et l'alignement des Lanes elles-mêmes.

La principale zone de fouille archéologique dans les Lanes du nord comprenait cinq logements médiévaux, ou bourgs, de longues parcelles étroites s'étendant à l'est de Scotch Street, perpendiculaires à la route, le site se trouvant dans les « arrière-pays » de ces propriétés, derrière la façade sur rue. Ces logements avaient une largeur d'environ 5 à 6 m, et il semble probable que la plupart, sinon la totalité, aient été aménagés en même temps, bien que dans la partie sud du site, la limite de la parcelle est peut-être un peu plus tardive. Sur l'ensemble de la zone des Lanes, l'espacement de celles qui avaient survécu jusqu'au XXème siècle, et plusieurs venelles « perdues » qui avaient disparu avant cela, suggère fortement que ce modèle de parcelle étroite, enregistrée archéologiquement dans les Lanes du nord, s'étendait autrefois sur l'ensemble de cette partie de la ville, allant des défenses méridionales au sud du couvent franciscain jusqu'au sud de la Bank Street contemporaine.

La datation scientifique, étayée par le mobilier céramique, indique qu'une intense activité dans la zone étudiée a commencé entre le milieu du XIIème siècle et le début du XIIIème siècle (vers 1150-1230), bien qu'au moins un fait archéologique scientifiquement daté semble être de la première moitié du XIIème siècle, voir plus tôt. Initialement, l'activité à l'intérieur des parcelles d'habitation était relativement peu importante, caractérisée en grande partie par des fosses à ordures et des couches organiques, ces dernières suggérant la présence de jardins, de parcelles horticoles ou même de zones de « déchets » au cours du XIIème/XIIIème siècle. La zone étudiée contenait peu de bâtiments pour cette période, bien que le nombre et la taille des fosses à ordures dans la plupart des parcelles aient augmenté au fil du temps, suggérant une intensification de l'activité ailleurs dans les bourgs, et que des puits ont été creusés dans certaines parcelles.

Les ruelles elles-mêmes ont été établie entre les immeubles existants, probablement au cours de la seconde moitié du XIIIème siècle (ou, moins probablement, au début du XIVème siècle). La raison de leur construction n'est pas claire, bien qu'il semble probable qu'elles étaient destinées à améliorer l'accès à l'arrière des parcelles des bourgs, permettant d'atteindre ces zones sans avoir à entrer dans la propriété directement depuis la rue principale. L'accès est peut-être devenu de plus en plus important si, comme le suggèrent les sources documentaires, l'occupation multiple de certaines propriétés foncières est devenue de plus en plus courante

et de plus en plus complexe au fil du temps. Une autre possibilité, moins probable, est que toutes les venelles de la zone des Lanes aient été aménagées en une seule phase de « projet urbain », à l'instigation d'une autorité centralisée. À cet égard, la datation des voies étudiées est intéressante, car elle pourrait (de justesse) coïncider avec le début des guerres Anglo-écossaises de fin du XIII^{ème} siècle, lorsque Carlisle a été assiégée à plusieurs reprises (bien que les preuves existantes puissent indiquer une date antérieure quant à l'origine des ruelles fouillées). Il est donc possible que le système de ruelles étroitement espacées ait été mis en place dans le but de faciliter un accès rapide aux défenses. Le fait que, dans la mesure où il était possible de le dire, les quatre voies étudiées aient été aménagées à peu près au même moment, pourrait étayer cette hypothèse, bien qu'il semble plus susceptible de refléter le fait que les bourgs adjacents, formant un bloc de six logements, étaient selon des documents contemporains tenu par un propriétaire unique à cette époque, au moins à partir de la fin du XIII^{ème} siècle, la baronnie de Liddell.

Les preuves archéologiques du projet ont démontré qu'après l'établissement des ruelles, l'activité à l'arrière des parcelles s'est considérablement intensifiée, mais peut-être pas immédiatement. À partir du XIV^{ème} siècle, beaucoup plus de bâtiments ont été érigés qu'auparavant, ceux-ci étant fréquemment associés à de vastes cours pavées et à d'autres caractéristiques d'occupation extérieures telles que des fosses, des puits et des rigoles de drainage. Tous les bâtiments enregistrés étaient en bois, la plupart assez petits, bien que certains soient considérablement plus grands. Un éventail de méthodes de construction a été identifiée, mais les différences ne semblent pas avoir été significatives en termes de chronologie ou de fonction, bien que cette dernière soit souvent peu claire, car dans de nombreux cas peu de faits archéologiques internes associées ou de dépôts d'occupation avaient survécu. Cependant, là où ceux-ci étaient présents, les découvertes associées et les vestiges paléo-environnementaux suggéraient largement un milieu « domestique ». Dans l'immeuble le plus septentrional étudié, des preuves de coupellation de l'argent à partir de minerai de plomb, unique dans l'Angleterre médiévale, ont été trouvées sous la forme d'un assemblage de litharge primaire, provenant de deux fosses datant probablement du milieu/fin du XII^{ème} au début du XIII^{ème} siècle.

Les preuves d'une activité médiévale après le début/milieu du XV^{ème} siècle et d'une occupation au cours de la première partie de la période post-médiévale (milieu du XVI^{ème} au XVIII^{ème} siècle) étaient extrêmement faibles. Cela était probablement le résultat de l'élimination de la plupart des strates pertinentes au XIX^{ème}/début du XX^{ème} siècle, bien que la possibilité que les preuves archéologiques reflètent un déclin réel de l'activité au cours de ces périodes ne puisse être écartée. Certes, la cartographie historique suggère que, loin des façades des rues principales, une grande partie des Lanes était occupée par des jardins et des cours à la fin du XVIII^{ème} et au début du XIX^{ème} siècle. En effet, tant les preuves cartographiques que les données générées par le programme d'enregistrement des bâtiments debout des Lanes, qui a été mené en tandem avec les recherches archéologiques, démontrent que ce n'est que dans la seconde moitié du XIX^{ème} siècle que le remplissage de ces zones a commencé sérieusement, ce qui a abouti au modèle de ruelles étroites densément flanquées de maison construites en briques et de petits locaux commerciaux et industriels, une caractéristique de la zone à l'époque du projet des Lanes, et qui ont ensuite été balayés par le développement du centre commercial.

Zusammenfassung

Mitte der 1970er Jahre beschloß der Stadtrat von Carlisle die Sanierung der „Lanes“, einem Gebiet von ca. 2.8ha im dicht bebauten Nordosten des historischen Stadtkerns von Carlisle (NGR: NY 4015 5606). Das Areal war zu der Zeit von 19 Gassen (d.h. schmalen Durchgängen) von Ost nach West durchzogen, deren Ursprung jedoch im Unklaren lag. Vorangegangene archäologische Arbeiten an dieser Stelle waren bis dato begrenzt gewesen, ließen aber vermuten, dass es in diesem Stadtviertel weitreichende römische und mittelalterliche Befunde geben könnte. Aus diesem Grunde wurden eine Reihe von archäologischen und baubegleitenden Maßnahmen beschlossen, die zum Teil vom Department of the Environment (DoE – Umweltbehörde) finanziert und vom Carlisle Archaeological Unit in den Jahren zwischen 1978-1982 ausgeführt wurden.

Bis heute stellen die Grabungen in den Carlisle „Lanes“ eine der größten, umfassendsten und wichtigsten archäologischen Stadtkernuntersuchungen Nordenglands dar. Das gesamte Projekt umfaßte sowohl ein mehrphasiges Grabungsprogramm als auch Baudokumentation von noch existierenden Gebäuden, welche über mehrere Jahre hinweg durchgeführt wurden. Die archäologischen Untersuchungen wurden außerdem von Beginn an von intensiver Archiv-, Urkunden- und Quellenarbeit begleitet. Obwohl die Ausgrabung beider „Lanes“ Areale zur gleichen Zeit stattfand, wurden die sich anschließenden Laborarbeiten und Kleinfundanalysen und die daraus entstandenen Publikationen einfachheitshalber in zwei Teile gegliedert: die nördlichen Lanes („Northern Lanes“) und die südlichen Lanes („Southern Lanes“). Während das Grabungsareal der Northern Lanes aus sieben Schnitten bestand, die, obwohl getrennt angelegt, eine einzige Fläche darstellten, bestand die Grabung der Southern Lanes aus einer Reihe kleinerer unzusammenhängender Schnitte. Desweiteren konnten bei den Northern Lanes nördlich und südlich des Hauptareals durch effiziente Baubegleitung und der sich an die Hauptgrabung anschließende Rettungsgrabungen weitere Befunde sicher gestellt und untersucht werden. Die Ergebnisse der Untersuchungen der Southern Lanes wurden 2000 publiziert, und die Daten zu den vorrömischen und römischen Aktivitäten in den Northern Lanes 2019. Die hier vorliegende Publikation beschäftigt sich mit der frühmittelalterlichen Besiedlung und Nutzung der Northern Lanes.

Wie auch in anderen Stadtteilen Carlises sind Hinweise auf eine frühmittelalterliche Besiedlung – d.h. aus der Zeit nach dem Abzug der römischen Verwaltung und Truppen im 5. Jahrhundert n. Chr. bis zur „Neugründung“ Carlises unter dem normannischen König, William II (Rufus), im Jahre 1092 n. Chr., in den Lanes archäologisch sehr schwer zu erfassen. Nach dem Ende der römischen Besatzung scheint das Gebiet zunächst verlassen und eine schwarze Erdschicht versiegelte einen großen Teil der römischen Befunde. An einer Stelle blieben jedoch die Grundmauern eines Steingebäudes aus dem 3. Jahrhunderts n. Chr. so gut erhalten dass sie offensichtlich noch im 12. Jahrhundert sichtbar waren und dann zu der Zeit vollständig abgetragen und in mittelalterlichen Bauten wiederverwandt wurden. Die Befunde an der Ostseite der Scotch Street, d.h. noch bestehende Mauerreste, zeigen hier sehr deutlich, dass der Grundriss des Gebäudes aus dem 3. Jahrhundert nicht nur Einfluß auf die Lage von späteren Gebäuden und Grundstücksgrenzen des 12. und frühen 13. Jahrhunderts hatte, sondern auch auf die generelle Lage und Ausrichtung der Lanes, d.h. den schmalen Gassen zwischen den Grundstücken.

Bei der Stadtkerngrabung in den Northern Lanes von Carlisle richtete sich das Hauptaugenmerk auf die von der Strasse abgewandten, hinteren Teile von fünf Liegenschaften (gepachtete Grundstücke, den mitteleuropäischen mittelalterlichen Lehen ähnlich). Hierbei handelt es sich um fünf langgestreckte, schmale Grundstücke, die sich von der Scotch Street im rechten Winkel von der Straße weg nach Osten erstreckten. Jedes dieser schmalen Grundstücke war nur c. 5-6m breit und es ist zu vermuten, dass alle etwa zur gleichen Zeit angelegt wurden, vielleicht mit Ausnahme des südlichsten Streifens, dessen Grundstücksgrenze erst etwas später festgelegt wurde. Vom modernen Straßen- und Stadtbild Carlises her betrachtet kann angenommen werden, dass diese langgestreckten Liegenschaften auch in anderen Stadtteilen existierten. Dies läßt sich außerdem durch Grabungen nachweisen; deren Befunde lassen darauf schließen, dass sich das Netzwerk von schmalen Gäßchen von den Befestigungsmauern im Norden zum Franziskanerkloster im Süden und bis hin zur heutigen Bank Street erstreckte.

Sowohl die Keramik aus den Befunden als auch die wissenschaftliche Datierung der Kleinfunde bestätigt dass die intensive Nutzung dieser Liegenschaften Mitte des 12. Jahrhunderts n. Chr. begann und bis Anfang des 13. Jahrhunderts n. Chr. andauerte (c. 1150-1230), obwohl wenigstens ein Befund auch schon in das frühe 12. Jahrhundert oder etwas früher datieren könnte. Anfänglich läßt sich nur schwache Aktivität innerhalb der Grundstücke nachweisen. Die Befunde waren zum größten Teil Abfallgruben und eine dunkle Erdschicht, welche auf Gartenanlagen und Gartenarbeit schließen läßt, oder aber Stellen, die im 12./13. Jahrhundert ausschließlich als ‚Müllhalden‘ genutzt wurden. Es konnten hier nur wenige Gebäude nachgewiesen werden, aber die Anzahl

der Abfallgruben und ‚Müllhalden‘ vervielfachte sich mit der Zeit und in einigen Liegenschaften wurden Brunnen angelegt, so dass eine intensivere Nutzung des Areals durchaus wahrscheinlich ist.

Die Lanes selber wurden höchstwahrscheinlich während des späten 13. Jahrhunderts (oder, etwas unwahrscheinlicher, erst im frühen 14. Jahrhundert) zwischen den jeweiligen Liegenschaften oder Grundstücken angelegt. Es ist unklar aus welchem Anlaß sie angelegt wurden aber es liegt nahe, dass sie eine einfache Verbindung zwischen den Liegenschaften und dem Hinterland darstellten – Gäßchen, die jeder, ohne ein Grundstück überqueren zu müssen benutzen konnte. Diese Verbindung zwischen Siedlung und Hinterland wurde den mittelalterlichen Urkunden nach immer wichtiger: mehrere Liegenschaften wurden von mehr als nur einer Familie bewohnt und die Besitz- und Pachtverhältnisse wurden mit der Zeit immer komplizierter. Eine weitere – aber weitaus unwahrscheinlichere – Erklärung für die Entstehung der Gäßchen ist, dass sie Teil einer rudimentären Stadtplanung waren; dies würde jedoch eine zentrale Stadtverwaltung voraussetzen für die wir aber nur wenige Hinweise haben. Vor diesem Hintergrund ist die genaue Datierung der Lanes von Bedeutung; ihr Entstehen könnte vielleicht gerade mit dem Beginn der Anglo-Schottischen Kriege (hier, des schottischen Unabhängigkeitskrieges) Ende des 13. Jahrhunderts zusammenfallen. Zu jener Zeit wurde Carlisle mehrere Male von feindlichen Truppen belagert und es ist möglich (obwohl unwahrscheinlich, da die Befunde eher für die frühere Datierung sprechen), dass die Lanes erst Ende des 13. Jahrhunderts angelegt wurden und hauptsächlich zum schnellen Rückzug hinter die eigenen Linien dienten.

Soweit man feststellen kann wurden alle vier Gassen die im Grabungsareal lagen zur gleichen Zeit angelegt und folgen einem ähnlichen Verlauf. Dies wiederum könnte für die spätere Datierung sprechen, aber es ist doch wahrscheinlicher, dass zur Zeit ihrer Entstehung die Liegenschaften alle ein und denselben Besitzer hatten. Urkunden weisen darauf hin, dass es sich bei dem Lehen um sechs Liegenschaften handelte, die im späten 13. Jahrhundert im Besitz des Barons von Liddell waren.

Die archäologischen Untersuchungen zeigen deutlich, dass sich nach der Anlage der Lanes die Nutzung des hinteren Teils der jeweiligen Liegenschaften verstärkte, obwohl dies ein stetiger und kein plötzlicher Wandel war. Vom 14. Jahrhundert an intensivierte sich dann auch die Bebauung und es wurden deutlich mehr Gebäude erreicht also zuvor. Diesen Bauten schlossen sich häufig weite, gepflasterte Höfe an und sie bezogen außerdem oft Brunnen, Gruben und Abflurrinnen mit ein. Alle aufgenommenen Gebäude waren aus Holz gebaut und nicht sehr groß, obwohl es auch hier Ausnahmen gab. Es gab eine Reihe von verschiedenen Bautechniken, aber diese lassen weder auf eine bestimmte Zeit noch auf einen bestimmten Zweck schließen. Die direkte Nutzung der Gebäude ließ sich leider oft nicht erschließen, da nur wenige interne Befunde gesichert werden konnten. Wo jedoch Befunde gut genug erhalten sind, da lassen sich vor allem ‚hauswirtschaftliche‘ Tätigkeiten im Innern der Gebäude nachweisen. In der nördlichsten Liegenschaft die bei den archäologischen Arbeiten untersucht wurde, konnten Hinweise auf Treibarbeit gefunden werden, d.h. die Isolierung von Silber aus Bleierz. Es ist der erste und bisher einzige Nachweis für Silbergewinnung aus Blei im mittelalterlichen England. Der Nachweis kam aus zwei Gruben, die Bleioxid (Lithargit) enthielten und in die Mitte oder das späte 12. Jahrhundert oder Anfang des 13. Jahrhunderts datierten.

Hinweise auf mittelalterliche Aktivität nach dem frühen und Mitte des 15. Jahrhunderts gab es wenig – ebenso wenig wie Hinweise auf die spätmittelalterlich bis frühneuzeitliche Besiedlung, d.h. den Zeitraum zwischen Mitte des 16. Jahrhunderts und dem 18. Jahrhundert. Der Grund für die nur sehr spärlichen Hinweise ist mit großer Wahrscheinlichkeit ihre Zerstörung durch neuzeitliche Bauten, aber ein reeller Zurückgang der Stadtbevölkerung kann zu diesem Zeitpunkt auch nicht ganz ausgeschlossen werden. Historische Stadtpläne lassen vermuten, daß in den Gebieten um die Lanes im späten 18. Jahrhundert und frühen 19. Jahrhundert vermehrt Gärten und Höfe angelegt wurden. Sowohl kartographische Analysen als auch Gebäudeaufnahmen zeigen deutlich, dass in der zweiten Hälfte des 19. Jahrhunderts die Bebauung dieser Gebiete mit Vehemenz begann. Das Ergebnis waren die schmalen Gäßchen – die Lanes – die zwischen extrem stark bebauten Arealen verliefen. Die Gebäude waren aus Ziegelstein gebaut und wurden sowohl für private als auch kommerzielle und industrielle Zwecke genutzt. Dieser Plan und Straßenverlauf blieb bis in die 1970er Jahre erhalten und wurde (nach den archäologischen Untersuchungen und ihrem eventuellen Abriß) durch das „Lanes“ Einkaufszentrum ersetzt.

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A period of over 40 years has elapsed between the commencement, in 1978, of archaeological excavations at the northern Lanes and the publication of the present volume. From the early stages of planning, through the various, and often protracted, phases of fieldwork and post-excavation analysis, large numbers of people have contributed to the project. Inevitably, and regrettably, the work of some individuals will have passed unrecorded, and their input will therefore remain unacknowledged. In mitigation, sincere thanks are offered to all those who were involved in the project, and who contributed, in one way or another, to the production of this report.

Strategic planning and direction of the excavations was undertaken by Mike McCarthy, formerly Principal Archaeologist with Carlisle City Council and Director of the Carlisle Archaeological Unit (CAU; Carlisle Archaeology Ltd (CAL) from August 1999), who was also responsible for managing the initial phases of the post-excavation programme in the 1980s and 1990s. Too many field staff worked on the site for all to be named individually, but the site supervisors included Edgar Bolton, Ian Caruana, Andrew Dacre, Jan Sewter, and John Timperley. Also for CAU/CAL, Philip Cracknell, formerly Senior Draughtsman, prepared most of the original site and finds drawings, upon which the majority of the illustrations that appear in the present volume were based. Much of the initial work on the finds recovered from the site was undertaken or supervised by Tim Padley, then Finds Researcher with CAU, who also compiled many of the original finds reports and catalogues, whilst Cathy Brooks, CAU's medieval and post-medieval pottery researcher, produced a large corpus of highly detailed notes on the large assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery, which formed the basis for the analysis and reporting, by Jeremy Bradley, then of Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), of this extremely important collection.

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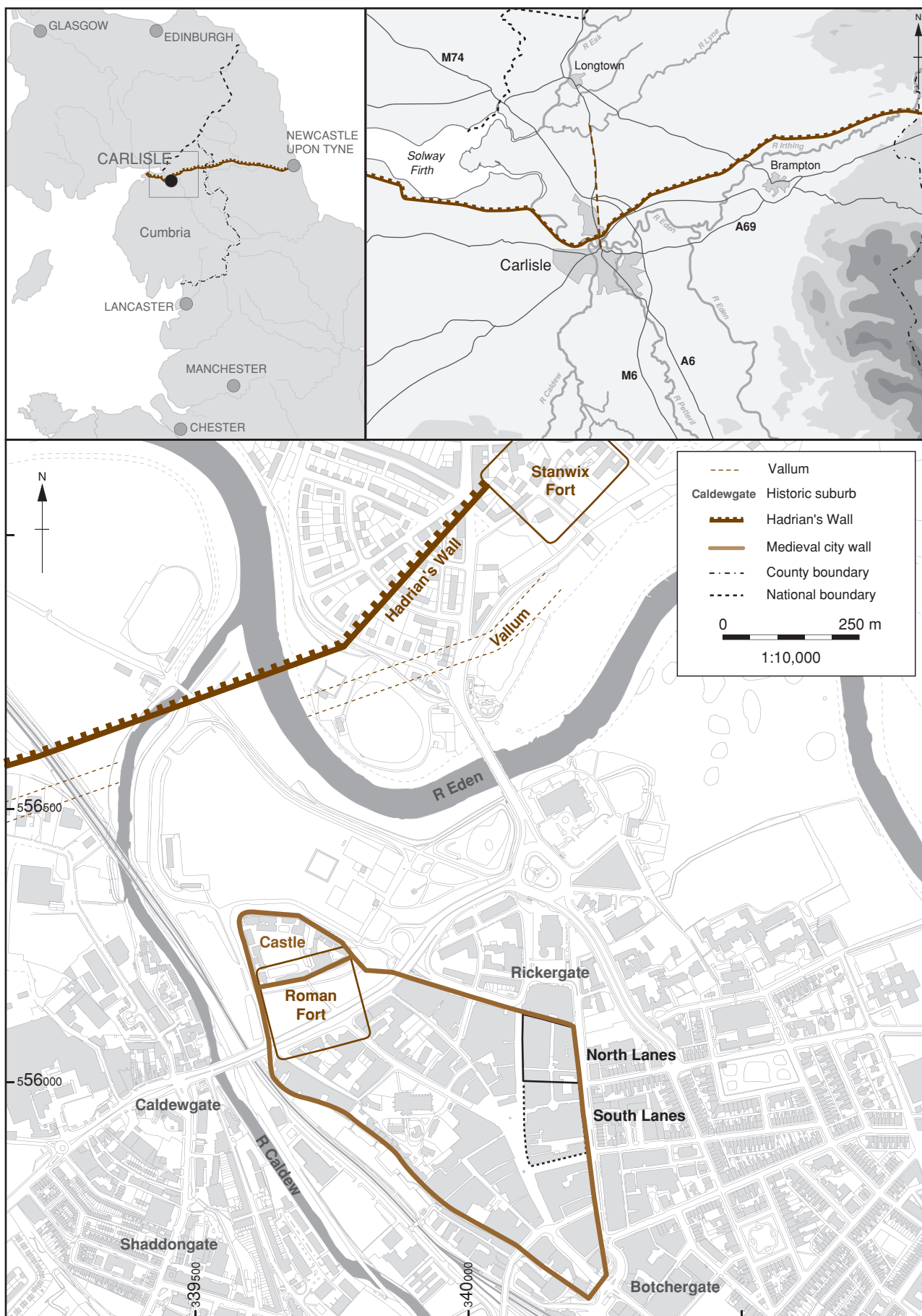


Figure 1: Site location