



FAS
HERITAGE

SHEEPMOUNT WEIR

RIVER CALDEW

CUMBRIA

CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

**REPORT
MARCH 2016**

CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

SHEEPMOUNT WEIR

RIVER CALDEW

CUMBRIA

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REPORT

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Summary

This document presents the results of a Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) undertaken to inform options appraisal for works to Sheepmount weir on the River Caldew, to the north of Carlisle. An assessment is made of the potential impact of a series of options for the weir, including full and part removal.

Sheepmount weir (NGR: NY 3954 5680) was constructed in the late 20th century, possibly at the same time as the development of ground for an adjacent sport track. The weir itself has no significance in heritage terms. However, the site lies in the immediate vicinity of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, close to the point where a Roman bridge crossed the Eden. The site is therefore of considerable archaeological significance, and any groundworks associated with works to the weir, including the creation of access tracks and site compounds, and any subsequent landscaping or habitat creation, will need to take into account impact on hitherto unrecorded archaeological remains. The weir and associated banks may retain evidence for preceding water management or mill structures, or other archaeological evidence. An appropriate programme of archaeological mitigation should be agreed with the Cumbria County Archaeologist, which may involve evaluation and/or archaeological monitoring.

Acknowledgements

FAS Heritage would like to thank Dan Brazier (Eden Rivers Trust), Mark Brennand and Jeremy Parsons (Cumbria County Council), and Steve Rose, Nick Allin, Alex Craven and Marie Lagerwall (JBA Consulting), for assistance during the preparation of this assessment.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document presents the results of a Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) to inform an options appraisal for proposed works to a weir at Sheepmount, on the River Caldew, Cumbria. The assessment has been prepared by FAS Heritage for JBA Consulting. The assessment was prepared between December 2015 and February 2016.

1.1 LOCATION AND LAND USE

The weir lies on the River Caldew as it passes through Carlisle (Figure 1). Sheepmount weir (NGR: NY 3954 5680) lies to the north of the city, on the floodplain immediately north of Carlisle Castle, close to the confluence of the Rivers Eden and Caldew (Plate 1).



Plate 1 Aerial view of the site © 2016
Infoterra Ltd & Bluesky

1.2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of the CHA is to set out the heritage significance of the weir and its setting, including existing buildings, below-ground archaeology and historic landscape features, and to assess the potential impact that proposed works to the weir would have on that significance.

2.0 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The assessment has been prepared in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (2015) and with reference to the assessment methodology provided in Historic England *Good Practice Advice Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets* (2015).

2.1 LEGAL FRAMEWORKS AND PLANNING GUIDANCE

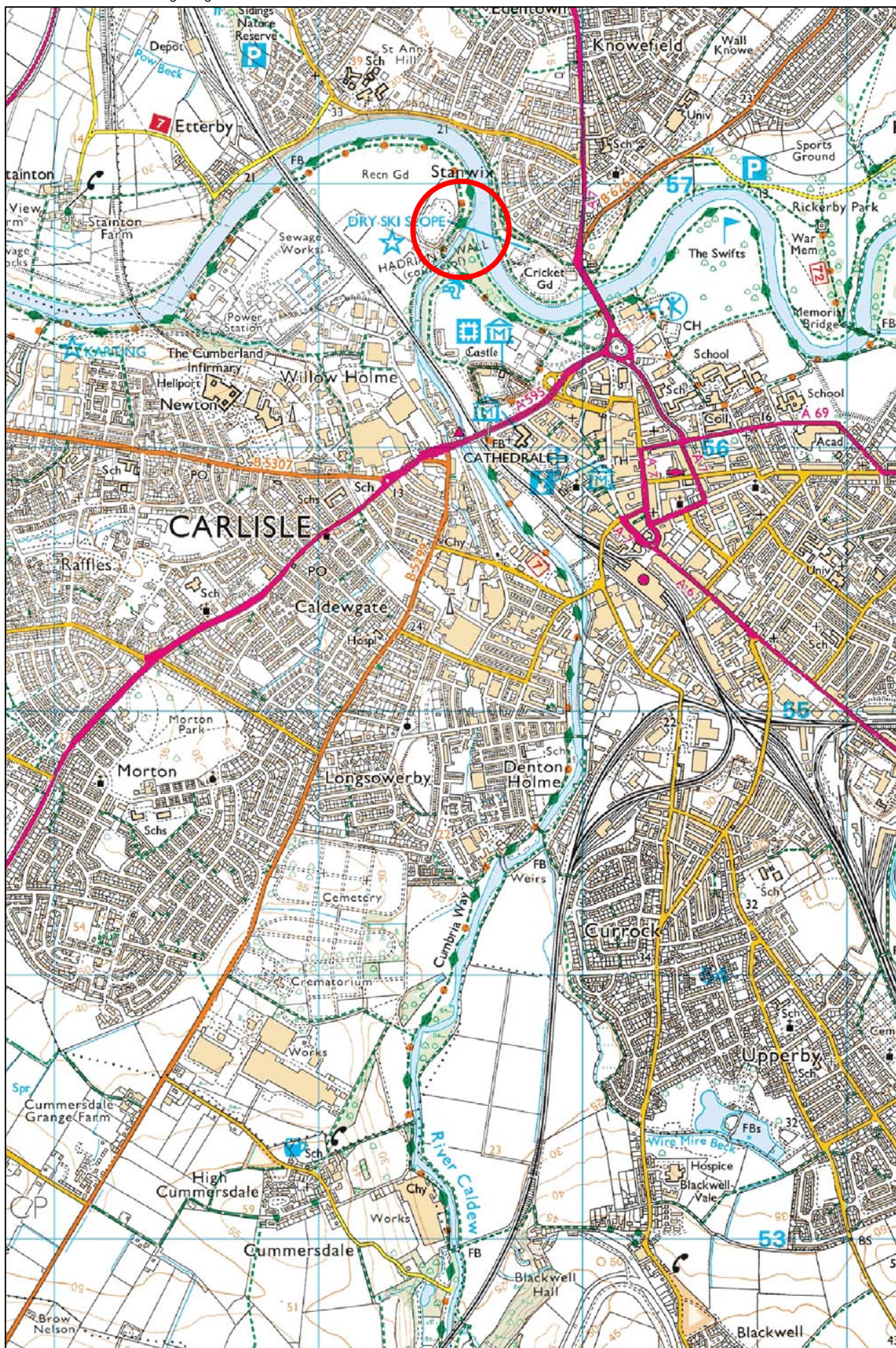
The CHA aims to address the requirements of relevant legal frameworks and planning policy pertinent to the site and the proposed masterplan. The following apply:

Planning policy

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2012

Guidance

- National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG)
- Good Practice Advice Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic England 2015



Location map

Scale 1:20000



Figure 1

Legal Framework

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979
- Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990

2.2 DEFINITIONS

2.2.1 Heritage assets

Those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of historical, archaeological, architectural or artistic significance are called heritage assets. A heritage asset can be defined as

‘a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest’ (NPPF 2012).

Heritage assets may be formally designated, but also include those sites or monuments which are identified through documentary research or fieldwork but which have not been formally designated.

2.2.2 Setting

The Glossary to NPPF (2012) defines the setting of a heritage asset as:

‘The surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral’

Historic England (2015, 2) state that

‘Setting...does not have a fixed boundary and cannot be definitively and permanently described for all time as a spatially bounded area or as lying within a set distance of a heritage asset.’

2.2.3 Chronology

For the purposes of this assessment, the following chronological periods have been used:

- Prehistoric (c.250,000BC - AD 43)
- Roman (AD 43 - c.AD 409)
- Early Medieval (c.AD 409 - c.AD 1066)
- Medieval (c.AD 1066 - c.AD 1539)
- Post-Medieval (c.AD 1539 - AD 1700)
- Modern

2.3 ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

In order to assess the impact of the proposed allocation, a four-stage approach has been taken:

- Stage 1 - Desk-based research and establishment of baseline conditions
- Stage 2 - Site visit
- Stage 3 - Assessment of significance and potential impact; draft report
- Stage 4 - Liaison with Cumbria CC and Historic England

2.3.1 Desk-based research

Information on statutory designations was obtained from the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), consulted online at www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list, and from the Multi-Agency Geographic Information System (MAGIC).

Information on known or potential heritage assets was collected through searches of the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (CHER)(searches and online) and the Historic England Archives (HEA).

Map regression was undertaken using historic maps available online. Where appropriate, copies were obtained for research purposes.

2.3.2 Site visit

A site visit was undertaken on 12th January 2016.

2.3.3 Assessment of potential, significance and impact

An assessment of the significance of heritage assets at the site has been made, followed by an assessment of the impact of the potential options on that significance.

A combination of significance and impact allows the magnitude of effect of the proposed works on each heritage asset to be assessed.

2.4 CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

2.4.1 Assessment of significance

An assessment of the significance of known and potential heritage assets likely to be affected by works at the site was undertaken as the first stage in establishing heritage impact. This is in line with NPPF (Paragraph 128), which states that

'In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting.

The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.'

The significance of a heritage asset is defined as:

'The value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic. Significance derives not only from a heritage asset's physical presence, but also from its setting.' (NPPF Glossary)

A series of criteria for assessing the significance of historic monuments is laid out in Annex 1 of the Policy Statement on Scheduled Monuments (2010) and includes the following: period, rarity, documentation, group value, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, diversity, potential.

Assessment of significance has therefore been undertaken taking into account:

- **archaeological interest**
- **architectural interest**
- **artistic interest**
- **historic interest**

Contribution of setting to the significance of the heritage asset

The justification for assigning each grade of significance is presented in terms of NPPF criteria (archaeological, architectural, artistic and historic). In addition to these intrinsic values, the level to which setting contributes to the significance is also considered. Attributes of setting which contribute to the significance of each heritage asset have been identified, drawn from the check-list provided by Historic England (2015).

The following grades of significance have been employed.

- **Exceptional significance** - elements which can be demonstrated to have international or national significance, special relevance to British history or culture, and/or are of extraordinary or unique archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic merit. This will include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Ancient Monuments (or those monuments which otherwise meet scheduling criteria) all Listed Buildings Grades I and II*, Registered Historic Parks and Gardens grades I and II*, and Registered Historic Battlefields;
- **Considerable significance** - resources with importance within a national or regional context, due to special archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic interest. This category will include Conservation Areas, Grade II Listed Buildings and Registered Parks and Gardens Grade II;
- **Moderate significance** - resources of local importance. This might include heritage assets with archaeological, architectural, historic or artistic interest, but which do not meet the criteria for designation;
- **Some significance** - resources of limited local importance, due to their high frequency, lack

of provenance or limited survival. This might include resources of local significance that have been partially destroyed by past land use, whether by agricultural activity or development;

- **Unknown significance** - resources of uncertain importance based on their type or condition;
- **Neutral** - elements which have no heritage value but which do not detract from elements of greater significance; this may include resources that are so badly damaged or altered that too little remains to justify their inclusion in a higher category;
- **Intrusive** - elements which are identified as intrusive may include those which have a degree of heritage value, but which detract from elements of greater significance.

Assignment to a category of significance is a value judgement based on the knowledge and professional expertise of the authors of the CHA. This ranking of significance is designed to be of assistance in understanding the relative importance of different elements of the site or study area, and assessing the likely impact of future works. It is critical, however, that the designation of 'some significance' should not be regarded as a suggestion that individual elements might be removed or damaged without affecting the cultural heritage resource as a whole.

2.4.2 Assessment of impact

The impact of works upon the significance of a heritage asset may be adverse or beneficial. The significance of a heritage asset might be affected by direct physical impact, including destruction, demolition and alteration, but may also be affected by changes to its setting. This could include changes to the historic character of an area, alterations to views to and from a site, accidental damage from construction work, temporary loss of amenities (largely arising during development work and including air and noise pollution, visual intrusion, increased traffic, changes in the character of a landscape or townscape).

Categories of impact have been graded thus:

- **Substantial** - elements which contribute to the significance of the heritage asset, including its setting, are substantially harmed or lost;
- **Moderate** - elements which contribute to the significance of the heritage asset, including its setting, are harmed;
- **Slight** - there is change to elements which contribute to the significance of the heritage asset or its setting, but that harm is minimal;
- **Beneficial** - those elements which contribute to the significance of the heritage asset, including its setting, are enhanced or better revealed;
- **No change** - no change.

Following consideration of the value of the heritage asset, the attributes which contribute to its significance, and the likely magnitude of the impact of development on those attributes, an assessment can be made of the overall effect of the proposed work on each asset and on the heritage resource as a whole. This is broadly based on the assumption that the most significant effect will result in circumstances where the very highest impact occurs to very important remains.

3.0 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The following represents a brief summary of the archaeological and historical development of the area. This is not intended to represent comprehensive discussion of the history and archaeology of the area, but sufficient to inform an assessment of the significance of the weir structure.

An HER search of a 1km radius around the Sheepmount weir produced 187 records. These are not exhaustively cross-referenced for this focussed study, as many are spot finds. Those which are referred to in the text are labelled on Figure 2 and included in the gazetteer in Appendix A, and are cross-referenced in the text by a Heritage Asset (HA) number.

3.1 PREHISTORY

The wider area has revealed a large number of prehistoric finds, and features, which attest to activity of this period in the area, including Bronze Age socketed axes.

3.2 ROMAN

Sheepmount weir is situated close to the confluence of the Rivers Caldew and River Eden. The site lies within a significant Roman landscape, close to the known route of Hadrian's Wall (HA 1) where it crosses the River Eden. The site lies close to the boundary of the designated World Heritage Site, and c.150m from the nearest Scheduled length of the wall, which lies at Willow Holme. In 1600 Camden reported stones from the Roman bridge over the Eden in the riverbed, and during dredging in the 1951, stones deriving from the Roman bridge were retrieved from the Eden close to this location (Hogg 1952; HA 2). A column base was found on the north side of the Eden during gravel extraction (HA 3).

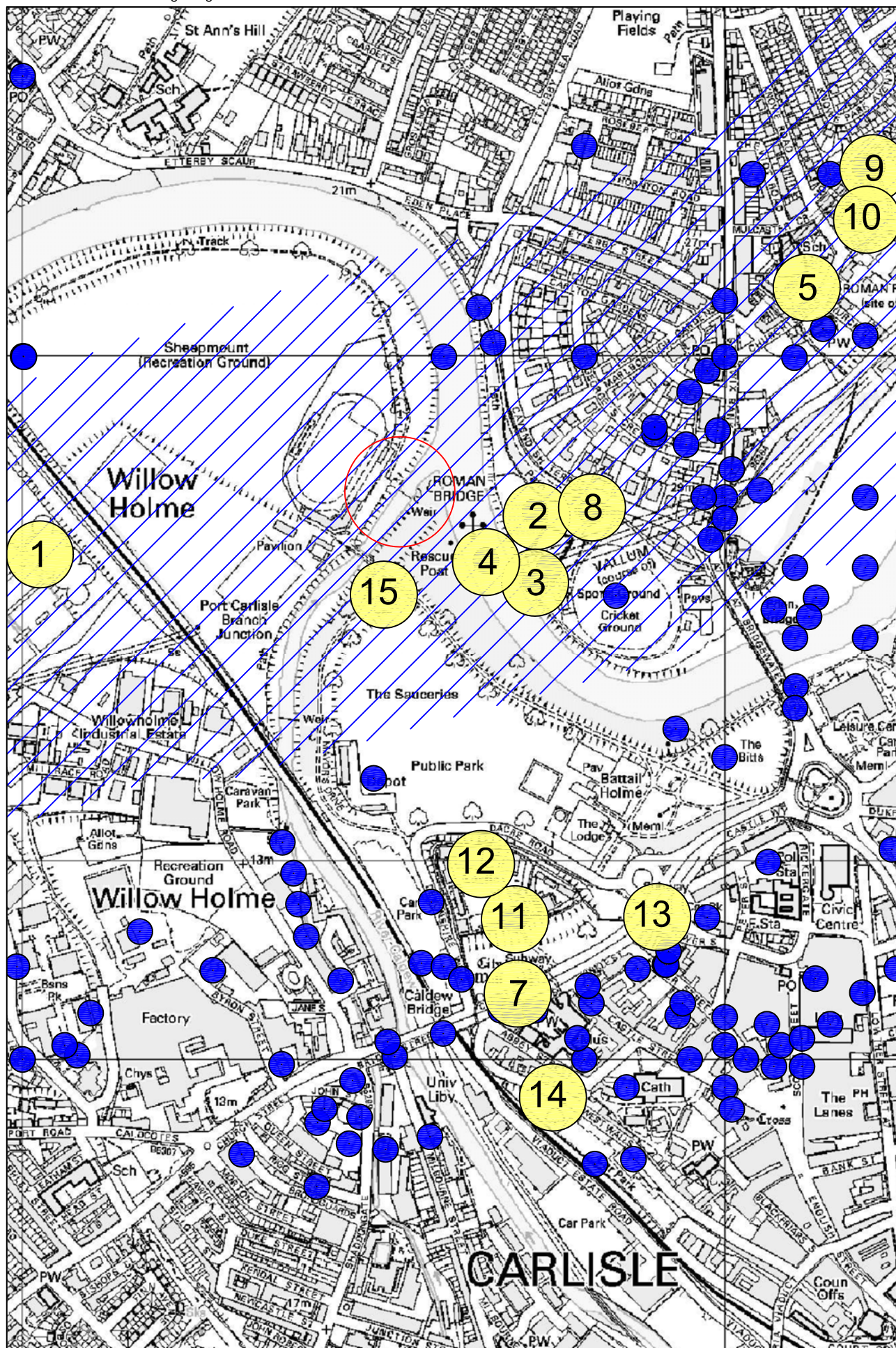
Within the wider study area are Milecastle 66 (HA 4), the *Petriana* Stanwix fort and vicus (HA 5, 6), and Carlisle fort (HA 7). On the opposite bank of the Eden, a cliff fall revealed a 'stupendous' amount of horse bones relating to an equine cemetery where the Stanwix garrison buried their horse (HA 8).

Many of the HER records from the area relate to finds of Roman coins, ceramic and carved stone, including finds generally located to the banks of the Eden, indicating high potential for chance finds from this period within this landscape.

3.3 EARLY MEDIEVAL TO MEDIEVAL

Early medieval activity within the study area is represented by a 9th-century Anglian cross encountered at Old Croft (HA 9), and a 10th-century crosshead from Stanwix (HA 10). An Anglo-Saxon brooch was found at Carlisle Castle (HA 11).

The site lies c.450m to the northwest of medieval Carlisle Castle (HA 12), which is protected as a Scheduled Monument. The city walls of Carlisle lies within 500m of the weir site (HA 13; 14).



Location of heritage assets

Scale 1:7500



Figure 2

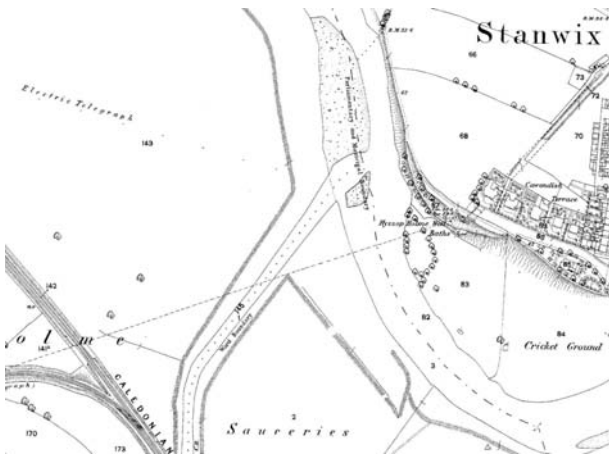


Plate 2 Extract from Ordnance Survey, 1874

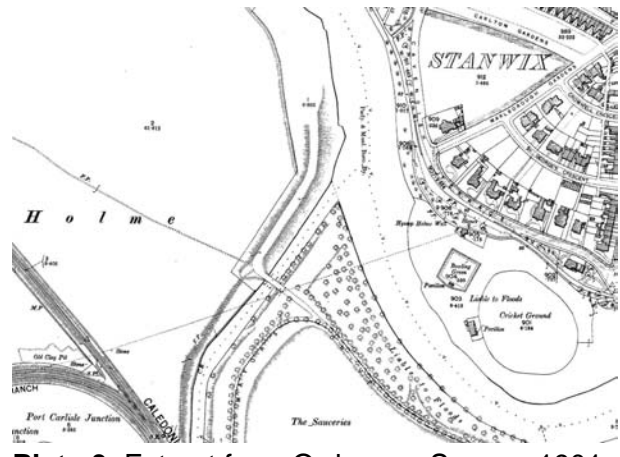


Plate 3 Extract from Ordnance Survey, 1901

3.4 POST-MEDIEVAL TO MODERN

During the post-medieval period, the area immediately adjacent to the weir became known as the Saucerries. In 1892, an artificial bank known as 'Mayor's Drive' was created around the Saucerries, to provide a additional flood embankment to Weaver's Bank (HA 15); earlier maps show a more angular earthwork in this area (Plate 2 and 3). The Sheepmount was used for placement of aircraft obstructions in World War II. Structures are visible on the Saucerries in an aerial photograph of 1947 (Plate 4).



Plate 4 Aerial view of Sheepmount, 1947 © Historic England

Sheepmount weir itself (Plate 5) is first shown on OS mapping of 1966, at the same time as the first appearance of the formal track on the recreation ground to the north, and likely to be part of the same programme of development.

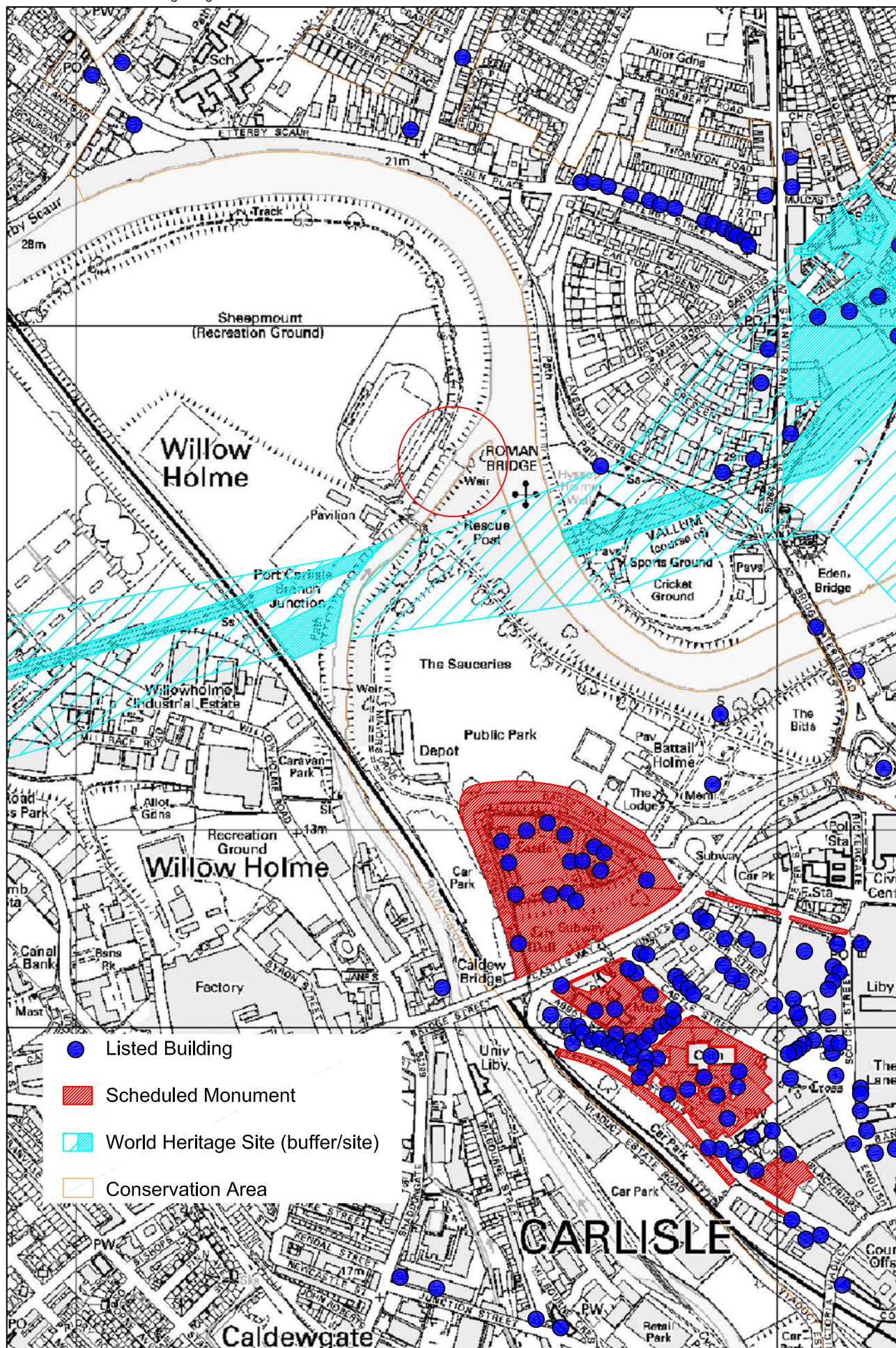
4.0 HERITAGE BASELINE (Figure 3)

4.1 World Heritage Site

The weir lies within the immediate vicinity of the 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall)' World Heritage Site. Works to the weir would not affect the significance of the WHS, and this is not considered further.



Plate 5 Sheepmount weir, looking west



Location of designated heritage assets

Scale 1:7500



Figure 3

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY SPECIALISTS

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4.2 SCHEDULED MONUMENTS

Parts of Hadrian's Wall are protected as Scheduled Monuments; the weir does not lie within the boundary of any Scheduled areas.

4.3 LISTED BUILDINGS

A number of Listed buildings lie within 500m of Sheepmount Weir. The weir does not contribute to the significance of these Listed Buildings and so these have not been considered further in this assessment.

4.4 CONSERVATION AREA

The Caldew forms the northern boundary of the Carlisle City Centre Conservation Area. The weir makes little visual or historic contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area, and so impact has not been considered further.

4.5 NON-DESIGNATED HERITAGE ASSETS

Non-designated heritage assets are not recorded at, or immediately adjacent to the weir.

4.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The wealth of finds from the study area, and proximity to Hadrian's Wall, suggest the potential for archaeological remains within the adjacent floodplains, and suggest that mitigation may be required for groundworks required to facilitate to work on the weir (site compounds, access tracks).

5.0 ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Sheepmount weir itself is of modern construction, and is not considered to be of heritage significance.

No known heritage assets would be affected by the proposed works, but the potential for affecting hitherto unrecorded remains associated with the internationally significant Roman frontier in this area must be taken into account.

6.0 ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACT

A series of options for each the weir is currently under discussion. The proposed options for Sheepmount weir include:

Option 1: Full removal of the weir

Option 2: Part removal

Removal or part removal of the weir itself presents no archaeological issues; the late 20th-century structure is not of heritage significance. Any groundworks associated with access/compound or affecting the adjacent banks may require archaeological mitigation and consultation with Cumbria CC is recommended.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

Removal or part removal of the weir would not represent harm to the historic environment. There remains the possibility that associated groundworks will contact remains of archaeological significance, and so it is recommended that a programme of mitigation is put in place to facilitate the preservation by record of any remains affected by the works, and to recover any artefacts that may be extant at the riverside.

Given the archeological potential of the area, it is recommended that necessary access tracks and site compounds are constructed with minimal groundworks, to minimise impact.

References

Cartographic sources

Ordnance Survey County Series: Cumberland, 1867 1:2,500

Ordnance Survey County Series: Cumberland, 1874 1:2,500

Ordnance Survey County Series: Cumberland, 1901 1:2,500

Secondary sources

Hogg, R. 1952. 'The historic crossings of the river Eden at Stanwix, and their associated road-systems' *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*, 2nd series: Volume 52: 131-159

APPENDIX A GAZETTEER

| HA No. | HER/ NHLE no | NGR | Identity | Description | Status |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|--|---|-----------|
| SHEEPMOUNT | | | | | |
| 1 | CHER 5782 | 322100,562600 | Hadrian's wall and vallum | Group number given to Hadrians Wall and a vallum | SM WHS |
| 2 | CHER 433 | 339730,556780 | Hadrian's wall milecastle 66m Stanwix Bank | Milecastle 66 would, by calculation, be situated on the edge of the escarpment. No visible remains. | WHS |
| 3 | CHER 17951 | 339730,556680 | Column base find, River Eden | Large column base found during gravel extraction in 1951 | WHS |
| 4 | CHER 436 | 33966,556710 | Carlisle Bridge | Site of Roman bridge, where Hadrian's wall crossed the Eden. Stones found during dredging in 1951 | WHS |
| 5 | CHER 488 | 340200,557100 | Petriana/Stanwix | Roman wall fort of Petriana | SM WHS |
| 6 | CHER 500 | 340300,556900 | Stanwix Roman civil settlement | Site of vicus of Petriana Roman fort | - |
| 7 | CHER 43216 | 339700,556100 | Luguvalium/Carlisle Roman fort | Site of Roman fort known as Luguvalium, large part of which under later castle | - |
| 8 | CHER 434 | 339810,556780 | Hyssop Bank Cemetery | Horse cemetery of the garrison at Stanwix; bones revealed during cliff fall | - |
| 9 | CHER 521 | 340210,557270 | Old Croft Cross | Anglian cross head found in 1947 in a garden at Old Croft | - |
| 10 | CHER 13614 | 340000,557000 | Anglian cross head | Anglian cross head found at Stanwix | - |
| 11 | CHER 463 | 339700,556200 | Brooch find | Anglo-Saxon inscribed brooch found at Carlisle Castle, | - |
| 12 | CHER 5636 | 339690,556220 | Carlisle Castle | Carlisle Castle | SM |
| 13 | CHER 3610 | 339900,556200 | Carlisle City wall | Carlisle City wall NE side | SM |
| 14 | CHER 5058 | 339750,555950 | Carlisle City Wall | Carlisle City wall, West walls | SM, LB |
| 15 | CHER 14757 | 339522,556663 | Mayors Drive | Mayor's Drive, The Saucerries. Artificial bank created in 1892 as a further flood embankment from Weaver's Bank | - |