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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Between December 2002 and January 2003, North Pennines Heritage Trust undertook an archaeological watching brief of works on land adjacent to 1 Irish Street, Maryport, Cumbria, located at NY 03299 36522. This report fulfils the requirement of a brief set by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service dated 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2002 (Ref: 2/2002/0413)

No archaeological features were recorded within the linear foundation trenches, the lift shaft pit or the majority of pad foundations.

Archaeological features comprising a square brick built structure with associated features and the remains of stone walls were observed during the excavations. These were recorded in plan and, where appropriate, in section. The excavations did not precede below the levels of these structures and associated deposits which were covered over with hard standing. This effected the in-situ preservation of archaeological remains.

The North Pennines Heritage Trust Archaeologist on site was given adequate access and time to undertake any recording.

**It is recommended that no further work take place.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>LIST OF FIGURES.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>LIST OF PLATES.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2. TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND HYDROLOGY.....</b>	<b>Error!</b>
Bookmark not defined.	
<b>3. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4. PREVIOUS WORK.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5. RESULTS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>6. CONCLUSION.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>7. SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8. BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>11</b>

## LIST OF FIGURES

	<i>Page</i>
1. Site Location	7
2. Site Plan	Appendix

## LIST OF PLATES

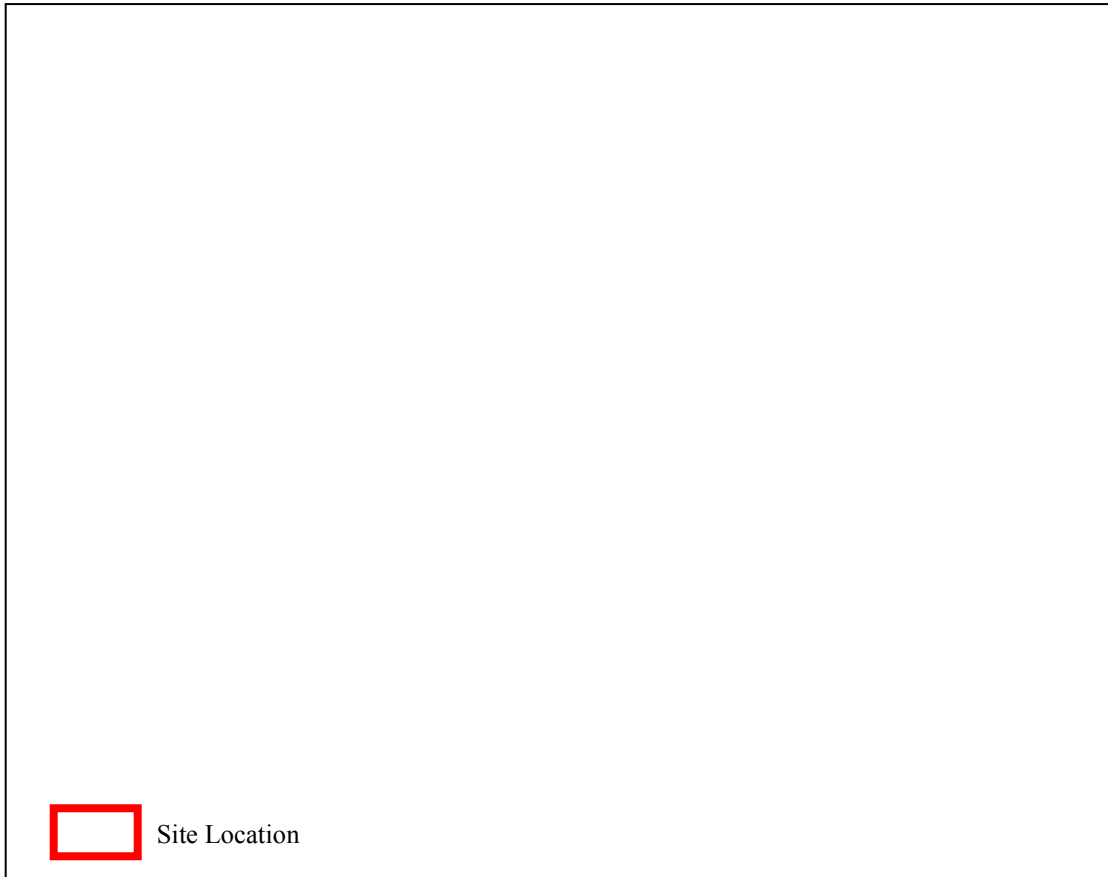
- |  |          |
|--|----------|
| 1. General Photograph of Site                        | Appendix |
| 2. South East Facing Photograph of Foundation Trench | Appendix |
| 3.   |          |
| 4.   |          |
| 5.   |          |
| 6.   |          |
| 7.   |          |

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## 1. INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

- 1.1 On 12<sup>th</sup> November 2002 North Pennines Heritage Trust was commissioned by Mr Michael Dawson of Capita DBS, acting on behalf of Maryport Developments Ltd, to undertake the pre-determination archaeological works on an area of land adjacent to 1 Irish Street, Maryport, within the Allerdale District of Cumbria (Planning Application Reference No. 2/2002/413). This consisted of a desk-based assessment and watching brief. The desk-based assessment was completed on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2002 and submitted to the Client and Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service. This report fulfils a brief set by Dr Richard Newman, County Archaeologist, Cumbria County Council.
- 1.2 The site is located on the south quay, between Irish Street, Bridge Street and Elizabeth Dock (NGR NY03299 36522). The area is shown in Figure 1.
- 1.3 The site comprises an area of open ground, with localised areas of concrete, self-cemented slag and sparse grass cover used by the public for dog walking and access between Bridge Street, the Play Area, Irish Street car park and the promenade.
- 1.4 The solid geology of the region comprises Triassic Sherwood Sandstone for the coastal areas to the north and Carboniferous Westphalian Coal Measures obscured at the surface by superficial deposits associated with the coastal environment at the mouth of the River Ellen, consisting of granular sand and gravel.
- 2.1 .



Site Location

<p>Project:</p> <p>39 Market Place Cockermouth Cumbria</p> <p>Archaeological Watching Brief</p>	<p>Title:</p> <p>Cockermouth Location of the Study Area</p> <p>Figure 1</p>	<p>North Pennines Heritage Trust Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre Nenthead Alston Cumbria CA9 3PD Tel: (01434) 382045 Fax: (01434) 382294 Email: np.ht@virgin.net</p>
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### 3. AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The proposed work consisted of an archaeological watching brief of all groundworks excavated on site, the aim of which was to preserve *by record* the deposits threatened by the development. The assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IFA 1994).
- 3.2 A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. (IFA 1994, 2).
- 3.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the brief provided by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service.
- 3.4 The project was managed by Frank Giocco, BA, Dip. Arch. AIFA, Principal Archaeologist. Day to day management, on-site logistics, fieldwork and post excavation work was undertaken by Chris Jones, BA, MA, Assistant Archaeologist.

### 4. PREVIOUS WORK

- 5.1 North Pennines Heritage Trust undertook a desk-based assessment of the existing resource in December 2002 (Jones 2002). Prior to this no work had been undertaken within the development site. However, a number of excavations and watching briefs have been undertaken in Cockermouth.

#### 5.1.1 Excavations at 75-85 Main Street

In 1980 R.H.Leech undertook excavations behind 75-85 Main Street (Cumberland and Lancashire Archaeological Unit and the Department for the Environment). The results of these excavations found that by 1300 AD there were buildings fronting the street with cross-wings to the rear. These buildings had foundations of river boulders supporting earthen or 'cob' walls. By the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries the houses were constructed from mortared stone walls and had semi circular stair turrets to the rear. By 1900 up to 16 cottages stood on the plot, 'such dense infilling was typical of 19<sup>th</sup> century Cockermouth'. (Medieval Archaeology 1980)

#### 5.2 Bridge Street

In 2000 a watching brief was undertaken by Carlisle Archaeology prior to a development on Bridge Street. However, much subsequent building and demolition work had destroyed any potential medieval deposits. (Carlisle Archaeology 2000).

#### 5.3 Rubby Banks Road

A watching brief was undertaken prior to the construction of flood defences. No archaeological deposits were found. (Northern Archaeological Associates 2000).



**5.4 Mitre Court**

In February 2002, North Pennines Heritage Trust undertook an excavation prior to a residential development on the site of buildings relating to the former Crown and Mitre Hotel. This excavation found remains of a former cobbled yard surface and sub surface drains. No other archaeological features were found. (Jones 2002).

**5.5 Cockermouth Castle**

In February 2002, North Pennines Heritage Trust undertook a watching brief of works close to Butlers Pantry, Cockermouth Castle. No archaeological deposits were found. (Giecco 2002).

## 5. RESULTS

- 5.1 The work was undertaken under the overall management of Frank Giecco, BA, Dip Arch, NPHT Principal Archaeologist. The watching brief, on and off site logistics and report preparation were undertaken by Chris Jones, BA, MA, NPHT Assistant Archaeologist. Work was undertaken on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2003.
- 5.2 The development site consisted of one open area approximately 78m<sup>2</sup>. The site stratigraphy was sealed by tarmac (100) which was removed by a JCB mini-excavator prior to the excavation of the foundation trenches.
- 5.3 Foundation trenches were excavated through a layer of mixed rubble with black gravelly silt (101) to a depth of approximately 0.95 m. The natural sandy gravel substrate was not encountered at any point within the foundation trenches.
- 5.4 No artefactual material was recovered from within the foundation trenches.

**Table 1: Context Summary**

Context	Type	Description	Above	Below	Initials
100	Layer	Tarmac	101	+	CJ
101	Layer	Mixed rubble with black gravelly silt	-	100	CJ

## 6. CONCLUSION

### 6.1 The Significance of the Results

No significant structural remains were present within the development area.

## 7. SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that no further archaeological work is undertaken.

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