

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF:
JAILER'S YARD (BACK ELVET BRIDGE) TO THE MARKET PLACE,
DURHAM CITY, COUNTY DURHAM**




JUNE 2014

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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DURHAM CITY, COUNTY DURHAM**

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief:
Jailer's Yard (Back Elvet Bridge) to the Market Place,
Durham City, County Durham**

National Grid Reference: NZ 27413 42508

Site Code: MJD14

Commissioning Client: Clancy Docwra (on behalf of Northern Powergrid)

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June 2014**

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological monitoring and recording exercise was conducted in association with the installation of a new underground electricity supply between Jailer's Yard (Back Elvet Bridge), and the Market Place, Durham City. The purpose of the installation was to address faults on the electricity supply network in this area and involved excavation of a cable trench c. 200m in length along the existing footway. The central National Grid Reference of the trench is NZ 27413 42508. The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Clancy Docwra on behalf of Northern Powergrid and was undertaken in March and April 2014 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited.
- 1.2 The work was undertaken on the recommendation of Durham County Council Archaeology Section and was required because of the archaeological sensitivity of the site. The site is of archaeological interest because of its location in the historic core of Durham, between Elvet Bridge, the oldest bridge in Durham City and the Market Place, the site of St. Nicholas Church and its associated cemetery. The excavation of the trench for the new electricity supply had the potential to disturb archaeological remains of note, including human burials. Elvet Bridge is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, although the electricity supply route lies entirely beyond the scheduled area.
- 1.3 Groundworks for the cable installation involved mechanical and hand excavation of a trench in between Jailer's Yard (Back Elvet Bridge) and the Market Place. The archaeological work involved monitoring all invasive groundwork. The cable trench route entered Elvet Bridge running north-south from Jailer's Yard, then ran WNW-ESE along Elvet Bridge turning NNW-SSE along the lower part of Saddler Street then curving NNE-SSW into the Market Place running along its eastern edge. The trench was c. 200m in length, generally c. 0.60m wide and was excavated to a depth of c. 0.70m, with the route crossing Elvet Bridge, running up the western end of Elvet Bridge.
- 1.4 No deposits of archaeological significance were encountered. The investigation recorded modern era deposits comprising existing services, backfill deposits and the existing hard ground surface materials.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 General Background

- 2.1.1 A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording ('watching brief') was undertaken in association with the upgrade of the underground electricity supply between Elvet Bridge and the Market Place in Durham City centre. The work was commissioned by Clancy Docwra on behalf of Northern Powergrid and undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) between March and April 2014.
- 2.1.2 The site is of archaeological interest because of its location in the historic core of Durham, between Elvet Bridge, the oldest bridge in Durham City and the Market Place, the site of St. Nicholas Church and its associated cemetery. The southern part of the electricity supply installation lies adjacent to Elvet Bridge, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) (National Monument No. 24457). Although the work was to take place outside the scheduled area, the location is of archaeological sensitivity. Groundworks for the electricity supply installation had the potential to disturb archaeological remains of note, including human burials to the north, towards St. Nicholas Church. Burials and charnel deposits have been encountered during previous archaeological work to the west and south of the church.
- 2.1.3 The archaeological work was required by Durham County Council Archaeology Section (DCCAS) who issued a Specification for the work, which is appended to this report (DCCAS 2013). The work was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation, (WSI) prepared by PCA (PCA 2014, also appended to this report) and approved by DCCAS. The work involved observation and recording during invasive groundworks for the electricity supply upgrade, which involved excavation of a trench to house new underground cabling.
- 2.1.4 At the time of writing, the Site Archive, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, is housed at the Northern Office of PCA, Unit N19a Tursdale Business Park, Durham, DH6 5PG. When complete, the Site Archive will be deposited with the repository for archaeological archives generated by projects within the former Durham City District under the site code MJD 14. The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) reference number for the project is: preconst1-181780.

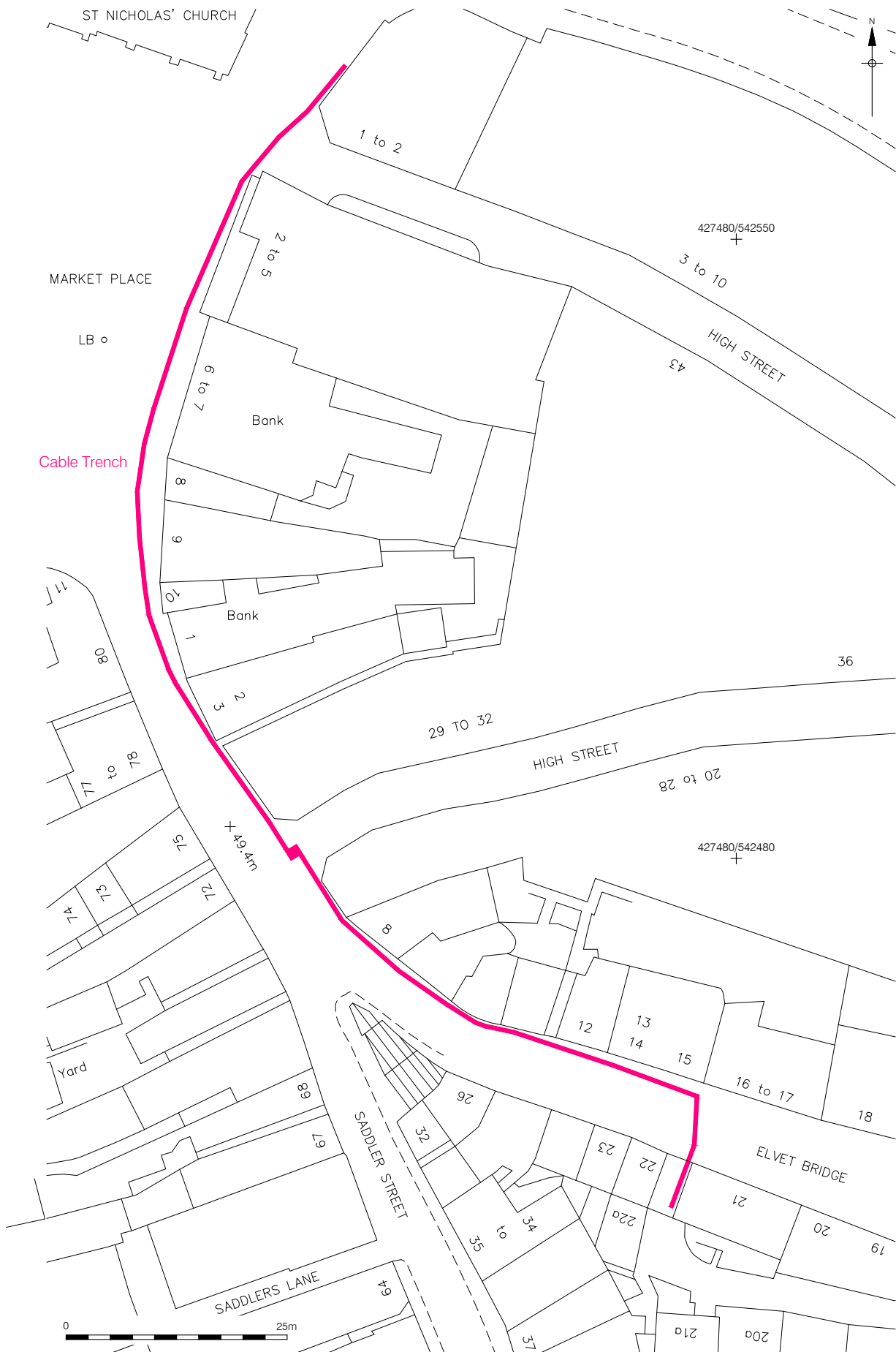
2.2 Site Location and Description

- 2.2.1 The site lies in the historic centre of Durham City on the Durham Peninsula, at central National Grid Reference NZ 27413 42508 (Figure 1). The electricity supply route runs between Jailer's Yard (Back Elvet Bridge) and the Market Place. The UNESCO World Heritage site of Durham Cathedral and Castle lies to the south of the site and Elvet Bridge, a SAM, lies a short distance beyond the southern extent of the route of the installation.
- 2.2.2 In detail, the route (Figure 2) begins in Jailer's Yard (NZ 27477 422433), on the south side of Elvet Bridge, enters the westernmost portion of Elvet Bridge, crossing the footway (NZ 27474 43543) and continues along its north-westernmost portion, into Saddler Street (NZ 27441 42465). It runs along the north-westernmost portion of Saddler Street, then continues into the Market Place (NZ 27415 42515) running along its eastern edge and terminating, beyond the entrance to the High Street, opposite St. Nicholas Church (NZ 27438 42572).



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 & 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:625 at A4

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 The solid geology of the Durham area is the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation, consisting of interbedded grey mudstone, siltstone, pale grey sandstone and commonly coal seams, with a bed of mudstone containing marine fossils at the base, and several such marine fossil-bearing mudstones in the upper half of the unit (data from the British Geological Survey website).
- 2.3.2 The superficial geology of the area consists of alluvial and glaciofluvial deposits from the Flandrian and Devensian Ages, respectively.
- 2.3.3 The Durham Peninsula lies in the centre of the city, formed by a loop in the River Wear, which meanders roughly SW-NE. The site lies at the northern extent of the peninsula just south of the A690. The southern extent of the electricity supply installation lies a short distance to the west of the river on the eastern side of the meander in the Wear at an elevation of c. 42m OD. The route ran northwards to the Market Place where ground level rises up to around 48m OD.

2.4 Planning Background

- 2.4.1 The archaeological watching brief was required by DCCAS during all ground disturbance associated with the electricity supply installation due to the archaeological sensitivity of the area through which the route runs.
- 2.4.2 At a national level, justification for the work lies within guidance on the historic environment now contained within Section 12, 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (Department of Communities and Local Government, 2012). Previously, *Planning Policy Statement 5: 'Planning for the Historic Environment'* (PPS5) (Department of Communities and Local Government, 2010) set out the guidance.
- 2.4.3 Most archaeological work conducted in County Durham on the recommendation of the DCCAS is in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). The aim of 'saved' *Policy E24 'Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Remains'* of the former Durham City Local Plan was to safeguard the archaeological interest of development sites and ensure that archaeological information gathered is made publically available.
- 2.4.4 Therefore, DCCAS determined that the appropriate mitigation strategy for the excavation of the trench for the new electricity supply cables between Elvet Bridge and the Market Place was a programme of archaeological watching brief, to preserve archaeological remains by excavation and record with all necessary subsequent reporting.
- 2.4.5 A Specification for the archaeological work was produced by DCCAS (included as Appendix 1); as well as this, the aforementioned WSI compiled by PCA and approved by DCCAS prior to work commencing (included as Appendix 2).

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.5.1 It is for the medieval and post-medieval periods that the site was considered to have particular archaeological potential due to its location between Elvet Bridge (HER 34562), the oldest bridge in Durham City and St. Nicholas Church (HER 35423) in the Market Place (HER 43121).
- 2.5.2 Elvet Bridge is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (monument no. 24457) and Grade I Listed Building, mainly of 13th-century date, although it includes one late 12th-century arch. It was built to provide access to the east side of the peninsula upon which the historic core of the city developed in the medieval period. The central three arches were renewed after a great flood in 1771 and it was doubled in width in 1804. A market in Durham was first mentioned in 1293, although it is unclear if this referred to the current site. St. Nicholas' guild hall was first mentioned in the 13th century, and was located at or near the Market Place. The existing church of St. Nicholas dates from the 1850s but the Market Place is known to mark the site of a medieval church and cemetery used for over 700 years. The original church of St. Nicholas was built to minister to the new community created during Bishop Flambard's episcopate (1099-1128) when the civilian settlement on Palace Green was cleared and re-located in the area of the present day Market Place. The church was demolished in 1857 after being found to be in a dangerous state; the new church opened in 1858.
- 2.5.3 The area through which the cable route runs lays entirely beyond the scheduled area of Elvet Bridge. The area has been subject to a number of archaeological interventions in the recent past, with the most noteworthy summarised in the Specification. An archaeological watching brief undertaken in a vennel on the west side of the Market Place in 1999 (HER 5409) recorded four inhumation burials thought to be associated with the cemetery of St. Nicholas Church. Other archaeological monitoring work in the Market Place in 2010 (HER 33635 and 38186) encountered disarticulated human bone and a 19th-century cistern.
- 2.5.4 Another programme of watching brief, in 2010 and 2011 (HER 44178), also recorded in situ burials in deeper service trenches in the area to the south of the church. Monitoring of geotechnical pits in and around the Market Place in 2009 (HER 31413) recorded a post-medieval wall at the junction between Saddler Steer and Elvet Bridge; it lay c. 1.0m below ground level. Work to the rear of 25 Elvet Bridge on the south side of the bridge in 1990 (HER 6488) recorded archaeological deposits of medieval date close to the existing ground surface. A wall of 12th-13th century date was exposed, indicated by pottery found in association with the structure, along with other industrial, commercial and domestic features such as hearths, ovens and refuse pits, in use until the 14th century.

3. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project Aims

- 3.1.1 The overarching aim of the archaeological project was to fulfil the requirements of the Specification by undertaking an appropriately specified scheme of archaeological work in association with invasive groundworks for the installation of the electricity supply cable between Elvet Bridge and the Market Place. Any archaeological remains encountered were to be identified, investigated and recorded.

3.2 Research Objectives In view of the likely potential for archaeological remains of the medieval and post-medieval periods, the investigation was carried out with reference to *Shared Visions: the North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (NERRF) (Petts and Gerrard 2006), specifically taking into account the following research priorities for the medieval period, as set out in the NERRF Research Agenda and Strategy:

- 'MDiii. Urbanism'
- 'MDv. Churches and religion'
- 'MDvi. Death and burial'
- 'MDvii. Medieval ceramics and other artefacts'
- 'MDviii. Other medieval industries'
- 'MDix. Trade and economy' and the following research priorities for the post-medieval period, as set out in the NERRF Research Agenda and Strategy:
 - 'PMi. Cultural and ethnic identity'
 - 'PMiv. Chronology'

- 3.2.2 An appropriate level of reporting on the work was required, including, if necessary, full analysis and publication of any notable archaeological findings upon completion of the project. Thus the results of the work would therefore constitute the preservation by record of any archaeological remains encountered and subsequently removed during the course of works.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken intermittently 17 March to 22 April 2014. Due to the location of the cable trench, the work was undertaken overnight (Monday to Thursday only) to minimise disturbance to the general public. The work was undertaken in compliance with the relevant guidance document of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (IfA, 2008a); PCA is an IfA-Registered Organisation. The WSI should be consulted for full details of the methodologies that were to be employed regarding archaeological recording, sampling, etc. (PCA 2014).
- 4.1.2 All monitoring and observation was carried out by Robin Taylor-Wilson, a member of the IfA at Member (MIfA) grade. The watching brief continued each evening on each new section of the cable trench until such time as invasive groundworks were completed or until it became obvious that no additional archaeological information of note would be forthcoming. In total, 25 hours of monitoring were undertaken along the route of the installation.
- 4.1.3 A site-specific 'Undertaking' was in place between the Diocese of Durham, Parish of St. Nicholas and Northern Powergrid for this project. Of particular note, with regard to archaeological discoveries, were the following three items (numbered as in that document):
4. If any disarticulated human remains are discovered, they are reverently reburied as soon as possible.
 5. If any articulated human remains are discovered all work ceases in that area pending further written Order of the Court.
 6. That no artefact or ecofact is to be removed from the Church or Churchyard without an Order from the Archdeacon (a Place of Safety Order) or an Order of the Court.
- 4.1.4 As no human remains or artefactual or ecofactual material were encountered during the watching brief, it was not necessary to implement any of these conditions.
- 4.1.5 The new cable trench followed the line of the existing underground electricity supply, with some widening of the existing trench required on occasion. Even where widened, the trench was evidently cut through previously disturbed ground. Exposures were examined, hand cleaned and recorded to an appropriate level and in accordance with the methodology set out in *Fieldwork Induction Manual. Operations Manual I* (PCA 2009) and *Archaeological Site Manual, Third Edition* (Museum of London 1994). A photographic record of the work was compiled. The trench was located using the existing services plan.
- 4.1.6 The cable trench was excavated to an average depth of 0.70m (0.80m maximum), an average width of 0.60m (1.0m maximum) and an overall length of c. 200m (Figure 2). The trench was excavated both mechanically (using a tracked digger of c. 1.6 tonne size), but for the most part by hand. Excavation of each section of trench was followed by the placing of a wide bore plastic duct along the base of the trench through which cable was later pulled (this was not observed).

4.2 Post-excavation

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written, drawn and photographic records. With the entire cable route following the line of the existing supply and cut only through backfill of previous installations or other previously disturbed ground, no archaeological contexts were defined. Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records. A written summary of the findings was then compiled, as described in Section 5.
- 4.2.2 No suitable archaeological deposits were encountered to warrant the recovery of bulk samples for palaeoenvironmental material.
- 4.2.3 The complete Site Archive will be packaged for long-term curation. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown, 2007) will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker, UKIC, 1990) and a more recent IfA publication (IfA 2008b). The depositional requirements of the receiving body, in this case the repository for archaeological archives generated by projects within the former Durham City District.

5. RESULTS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

5.1 Phase 1: Modern

- 5.1.1 The cable trench essentially removed the backfill of the existing electricity supply trench, with numerous other services (gas pipes, water pipes, fibre optic cables, drainage runs, *etc.* also encountered. The existing cable was large diameter mostly wire-armoured. No natural strata were observed and no material which could be reasonably determined to be of archaeological importance was observed. The current ground surface, comprised tarmac in Jailer's Yard, flagstones across Elvet Bridge, then paving slabs from No. 9 Elvet Bridge continuing to the end of the trench in the Market Place, to the east of St. Nicholas Church.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

- 6.1.1 All the deposits encountered during the watching brief have been assigned to a single phase of activity which represents modern utilities and overlying hard surfaces.
- 6.1.2 Despite the high potential for archaeological remains along the route of the electricity supply, no features or deposits archaeological interest were encountered. This was largely due to the fact that the cable trench closely followed the line of the existing supply cable, and the maximum depth of 0.70m to which it was excavated.

6.2 Recommendations

- 6.2.1 No further work is required on the information recovered during the watching brief, with the Site Archive, including this report, forming the permanent record of the strata encountered.

7. REFERENCES

Bibliography

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Online Sources

- The **British Geological Survey** website: www.bgs.ac.uk. This was consulted for information regarding the geology of the study area.
- The **Durham County Council** website: www.durham.gov.uk/. This was consulted for information regarding relevant planning policies.
- The **PastScape** website, the online records held in English Heritage's national historic environment database: www.pastscape.org.uk/. *English Heritage*

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

Acknowledgements

PCA would like to thank Clancy Docwra for commissioning the project herein described on behalf of Northern Powergrid. The liaison role of Peter Gellatley, Clancy Docwra Contract Manager, is acknowledged.

The curatorial role of Clare Henderson, Senior Archaeologist, DCCAS, is acknowledged.

PCA Credits

Fieldwork: Robin Taylor-Wilson

Project Manager: Robin Taylor-Wilson

Report: Aidan Pratt

CAD: Hayley Baxter

APPENDIX 1 SPECIFICATION

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF: Laying cables, Durham City Co. Durham

1 Site Location

- 1.1 The development is centred on OS grid reference NZ 27413 42508 starting in the Market Place, Durham City, running towards Elvet Bridge, through an alley known as 'Jailors Yard' and ending under Elvet Bridge.

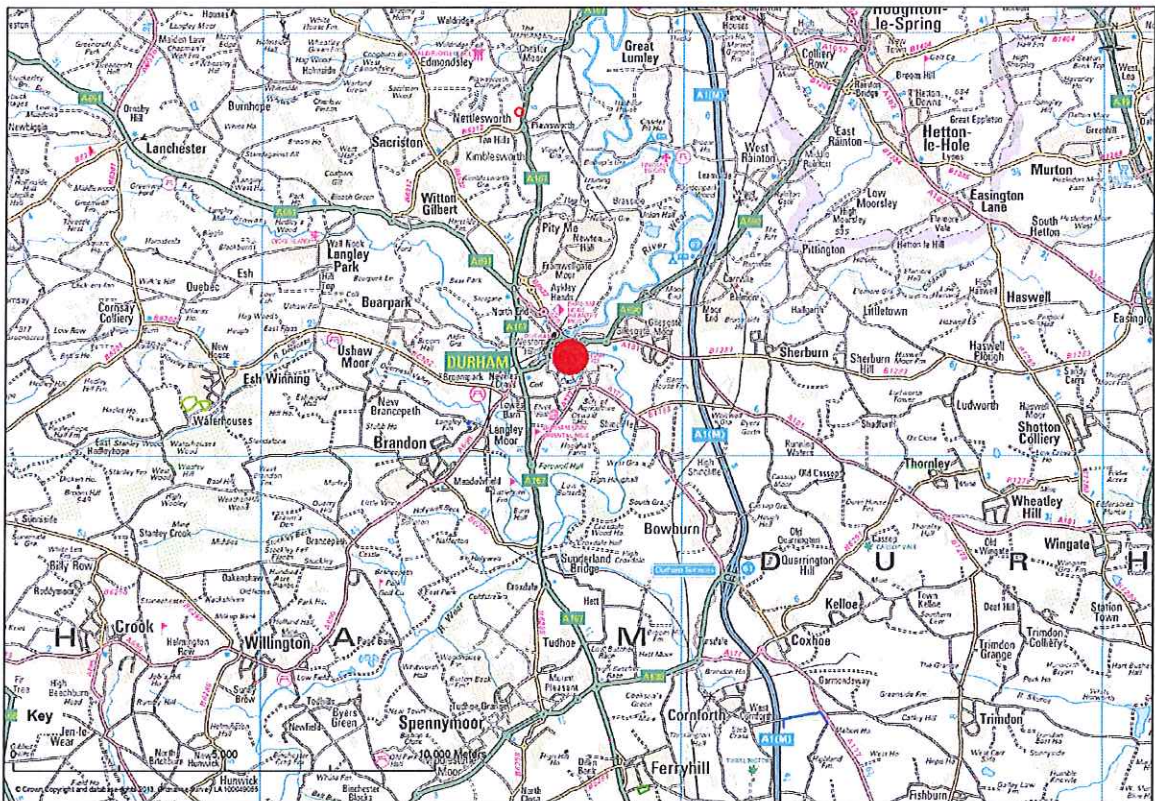


Figure 1: location of site. (© DCC)

2 The Development

- 2.1 The client for this work is Northern Powergrid Ltd. The client wishes to carry out the works in the immediate future.
- 2.2 The purpose of the work is to address faults on the network in this area by re-laying approx. 200m of cables. The work will entail excavation of a trench up to 900mm in depth and 400mm wide.

- 2.3 The appointed contractor will need to liaise with the client regarding scale plans of the proposed works.

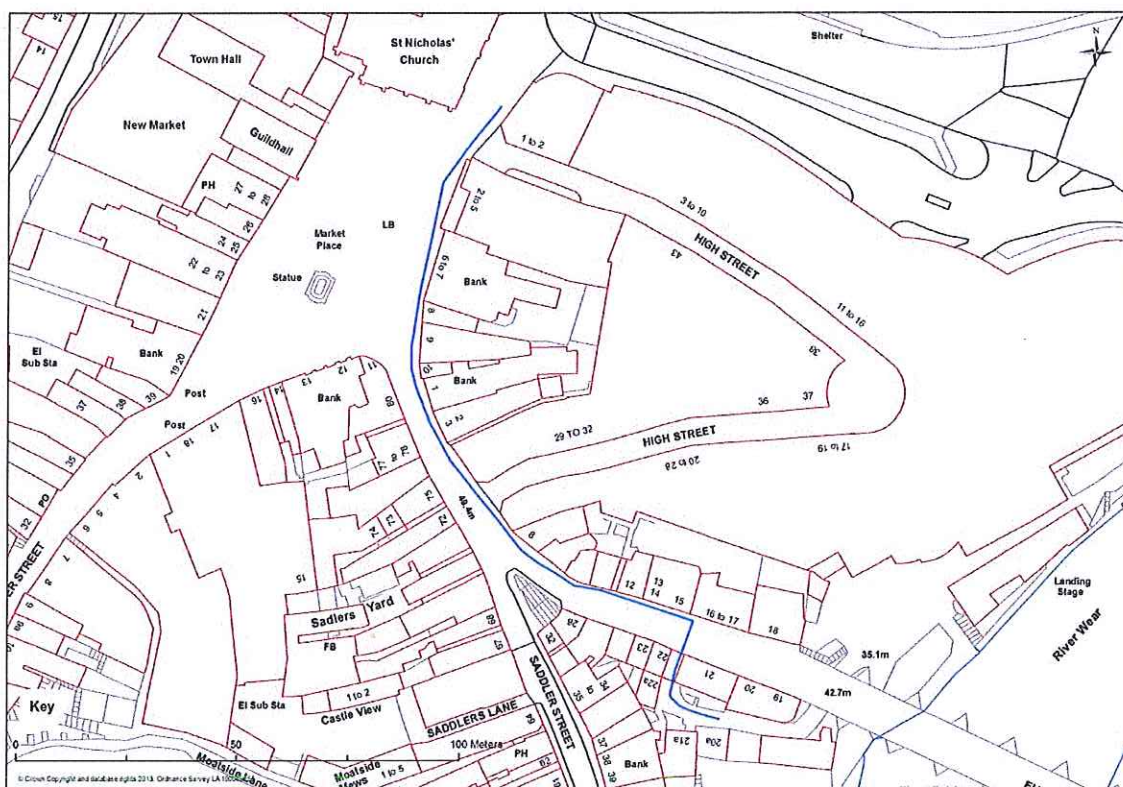


Figure 2: Detailed of proposed works, cable run in blue (© DCC)

3 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The following information is taken from the County Durham HER. The area through which the cable route runs has been subject to a number of archaeological interventions in the recent past, some of these are summarised briefly below, however, **it is advised that the appointed contractor visit the HER PRIOR to the monitoring taking place to familiarise themselves with the nature of the features/deposits previously encountered and the depths/ground conditions to be anticipated along the route.**
- 3.2 Monitoring work in a vennel west of the Market Place in 1999 revealed inhumations of 4 individuals from the cemetery known to be present in this area and associated with St Nicholas Church (HER E5409). Further work in 2010 & 11 also unearthed burials in the area south of St Nicholas Church. Whilst the relatively shallow re-surfacing work at this time avoided disturbing the burials, some of which are only 300mm below the existing ground level, the deeper service trenches did expose graves (S44178). This demonstrated that the cemetery, although small, was used intensively whilst open.

- 3.3 Monitoring of geotechnical pits in the Market Place in 2009 encountered a post-Medieval wall at the junction between Saddler Street and Elvet Bridge. This feature was approx. 1m below ground level. As is to be expected modern surfaces, services and other recent disturbance were also encountered during the work (E31413)
- 3.4 During further episodes of monitoring in the Market Place in 2010 disarticulated human bone and a 19th C cistern were discovered (E33635 & E38186)
- 3.5 Work to the rear of 25 Elvet Bridge in 1990 encountered Medieval archaeology close to the modern ground surface. A wall and pottery of 12-13th C date was found along with other industrial, commercial and domestic features such as; hearths and slag, ovens and refuse pits in use till the 14th C (E6488).

4 Archaeological brief

- 4.1 It is expected that the archaeological works will be carried out according to archaeological best practice as set out in the following publications: Yorkshire, the Humber and the North-East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process (see document '**General Standards for Archaeological Work in County Durham**') and Standard and Guidance: for an archaeological watching brief (IFA 2008).
- 4.2 Archaeological works involving a watching brief are required on this development during all ground disturbance associated with the cable trench.
- 4.3 The fact that a watching brief has been identified as the appropriate archaeological response indicates that although the area has some archaeological potential, the impact of the groundworks can be mitigated by the monitoring of the site and the recording of any archaeological deposits.
- 4.4 If archaeological remains are found, the archaeologist must be given the opportunity of excavating and recording the remains before they are destroyed. Depending on the significance of these features, further mitigation in terms of preservation in situ or preservation by record may be required. This would be dealt with by a separate brief if required.
- 4.5 It must be noted that recording work, when required, must be to the same standard as for any larger evaluation or excavation. The watching brief must set out to identify and record any previously unknown archaeological deposits disturbed during the process of the work (see document '**General Standards for Archaeological Work in County Durham**').
- 4.6 A continuous presence watching brief must be maintained during all excavation works carried out on the site until such time as they are completed or the area of the works is determined to be archaeologically sterile (in consultation with DCC Archaeology Officer).
- 4.7 A toothless ditching bucket on a back-acting machine must be used on site by the building contractor (where a machine is required) during the groundworks phase. In any area where evidence is observed which indicates the presence of archaeological remains, and it is considered that the normal method of stripping and excavation would be inappropriate, the technique and type of machine being employed may be varied so as to ensure that an adequate record is made of the archaeological remains. Final on-site methodology must be

confirmed with the DCC Archaeology Section prior to work commencing.

- 4.8 Due to the nature of a watching brief, the archaeological working practice must be accommodated within the development timetable of the client's scheme. A clear working practice must be agreed in advance and cover the following points:
- 4.9 Any human remains encountered must be accurately recorded, including in-situ examination by a palaeo-pathologist, but not removed from site until a Section 25 licence has been obtained from the Ministry of Justice. Both the client and the DCC Senior Archaeologist must be informed if human remains are found so that an agreement can be reached on the best possible way forward.
- 4.10 This brief does not constitute the "written scheme of investigation" which must be submitted by the appointed contractor for approval by Durham County Council Archaeology Section prior to work commencing.

5 The Report

- 5.1 The watching brief report must follow the standards and layout as set out in MAP2 (phase 4 and appendix 4):
- executive summary
 - a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale with at least an 8 figure central grid reference
 - OASIS reference number; unique site code
 - Planning application number
 - contractor's details including date work carried out
 - nature and extent of the proposed development, including developer/client details
 - description of the site location and geology
 - a site plan to a suitable scale and tied into the national grid so that features can be correctly orientated
 - discussion of the results of field work
 - context & feature descriptions
 - features, number and class of artefacts, spot dating & scientific dating of significant finds presented in tabular format
 - plans and section drawings of the features drawn at a suitable scale
 - initial assessment reports by specialists to MAP2 standards
 - recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work
 - bibliography

6 References

- | | | |
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Archaeology in the development process |

03rd Nov 2013
Clare Henderson
Senior Archaeologist
Durham County Council

APPENDIX 2
WSI

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief between Jailer's Yard (Back Elvet Bridge) and the Market Place, Durham City, County Durham

***Prepared on behalf of Northern Powergrid and Clancy Docwra
by Pre-Construct Archaeology***

17 March 2014

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 An appropriately specified programme of archaeological work is to be undertaken in association with the installation of a new underground electricity supply between Jailer's Yard, Back Elvet Bridge, and the Market Place, Durham City. The purpose of the installation is to address faults on the electricity supply network in this area. The work will involve excavation of a cable trench c. 200m in length along the existing footway.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological work – to be undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) - will involve: archaeological observation and recording – a 'watching brief' – during invasive groundworks; excavation and recording of any archaeological remains of interest exposed; reporting on the work, including publication of any significant findings, as appropriate. The work has been commissioned by Northern Powergrid Limited, and the utility contractor is Clancy Docwra.
- 1.1.3 The site is of archaeological interest because of its location in the historic core of Durham, between Elvet Bridge, the oldest bridge in Durham City and the Market Place, the site of St. Nicholas Church and its associated cemetery. The excavation of the trench for the new electricity supply has the potential to disturb archaeological remains of note, including human burials. All groundworks along the supply route are to be archaeologically monitored on the recommendation of the Durham County Council Archaeology Section (DCCAS) because of the archaeological sensitivity of the site.
- 1.1.4 Elvet Bridge is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (monument no. 24457), although the electricity supply route lies entirely outwith the scheduled area.
- 1.1.5 DCCAS has compiled a Specification for the work (dated 3 November 2013).

1.2 Site Location and Description

- 1.2.1 The site is located at central National Grid Reference is NZ 27413 42508 and comprises the proposed new cable route between Jailer's Yard, back of Elvet Bridge, and the Market Place, Durham City.

- 1.2.2 In detail, the route begins in Jailer's Yard (NZ 27477 422433), on the south side of Elvet Bridge, enters the westernmost portion of Elvet Bridge, crossing the footway (NZ 27474 43543) and continues along its north-westernmost portion, into Saddler Street (NZ 27441 42465). It runs along the north-westernmost portion of Saddler Street, then continues into the Market Place (NZ 27415 42515) running along its western edge and terminating, beyond the entrance to the High Street, opposite St. Nicholas Church (NZ 27438 42572). The area of archaeological investigation therefore comprises a cable route c. 200m in length. The trench to be excavated along the route will measure up to 900mm in depth and 400mm wide.
- 1.2.3 The solid geology of this part of the city is formed by the Carboniferous Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation and the superficial geology comprises Devensian glaciofluvial material, mostly sand and gravel.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Much of the information used for the following summary has been taken from the DCCAS Specification and 'Keys to the Past', the online County Durham Historic Environment Record (HER), with other sources used as appropriate. The research and writing of those responsible is gratefully acknowledged.

- 1.3.1 It is for the medieval and post-medieval periods that the site has particular archaeological potential due to its location between Elvet Bridge (HER 34562), the oldest bridge in Durham City and St. Nicholas Church (HER 35423) in the Market Place (HER 43121). Therefore, because of its setting and location, the site has undoubted potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains.
- 1.3.2 Elvet Bridge is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (monument no. 24457) and Grade I Listed Building, mainly of 13th-century date, although it includes one late 12th-century arch. It was built to provide access to the east side of the peninsula upon which the historic core of the city developed in the medieval period. The central three arches were renewed after a great flood in 1771 and it was doubled in width in 1804. A market in Durham was first mentioned in 1293, although it is unclear if this referred to the current site. St. Nicholas' guild hall was first mentioned in the 13th century, and was located at or near the Market Place. The existing church of St. Nicholas dates from the 1850s but the Market Place is known to mark the site of a medieval church and cemetery used for over 700 years. The original church of St. Nicholas was built to minister to the new community created during Bishop Flambard's episcopate (1099-1128) when the civilian settlement on Palace Green was cleared and re-located in the area of the present day Market Place. The church was demolished in 1857 after being found to be in a dangerous state; the new church opened in 1858.
- 1.1.6 The area through which the cable route runs lies entirely outwith the scheduled area of Elvet Bridge. The area has been subject to a number of archaeological interventions in the recent past, with the most noteworthy summarised in the Specification. An archaeological watching brief undertaken in a vennel on the west side of the Market Place in 1999 (HER 5409) recorded four inhumation burials thought to be associated with the cemetery of St. Nicholas Church. Other archaeological monitoring work in the Market Place in 2010 (HER 33635 and 38186) encountered disarticulated human bone and a 19th-century cistern.

- 1.3.3 Another programme of watching brief, in 2010 and 2011 (HER 44178), also recorded in situ burials in deeper service trenches in the area to the south of the church. Monitoring of geotechnical pits in and around the Market Place in 2009 (HER 31413) recorded a post-medieval wall at the junction between Saddler Steer and Elvet Bridge; it lay c. 1.0m below ground level. Work to the rear of 25 Elvet Bridge on the south side of the bridge - in 1990 (Her 6488) recorded archaeological deposits of medieval date close to the existing ground surface. A wall of 12th-13th century date was exposed, indicated by pottery found in association with the structure, along with other industrial, commercial and domestic features such as hearths, ovens and refuse pits, in use until the 14th century.

2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The archaeological work is required the DCCAS, as described in the Specification which states (para 4.6): *A continuous presence watching brief must be maintained during all excavation works carried out at the site until such time as they are completed or the area of the works is determined to be archaeologically sterile (in consultation with the DCC Archaeology Officer).*
- 2.2 Most archaeological work conducted in County Durham on the recommendation of the DCCAS is in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). The aim of 'saved' *Policy E24 'Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Remains'* of the former Durham City Local Plan was to safeguard the archaeological interest of development sites and ensure that archaeological information gathered is made publically available.
- 2.3 The appropriate mitigation strategy for the electricity supply installation is a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording – a 'watching brief' - during groundworks with all necessary subsequent reporting. This document comprises the written scheme of investigation (WSI) mentioned in the DCCAS Specification, to be submitted for approval by DCCAS prior to work commencing.

3. PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The project aims to fulfil the requirements of DCCAS by undertaking an appropriately specified scheme of archaeological work in association with invasive groundworks for the cable installation, with subsequent reporting on the findings, as described in this document.
- 3.2 The archaeological work will aim to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains through a watching brief conducted in association with invasive groundworks during the re-cable installation.
- 3.3 In view of the likely potential for archaeological remains of the medieval and post-medieval periods, the investigation will be carried out with reference to *Shared Visions: the North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (NERRF) (Petts and Gerrard 2006), specifically taking into account the following research priorities for the medieval period, as set out in the NERRF Research Agenda and Strategy:
- *'MDiii. Urbanism'*
 - *'MDv. Churches and religion'*
 - *MDvi. Death and burial'*

- *'MDvii. Medieval ceramics and other artefacts'*
- *'MDviii. Other medieval industries'*
- *'MDix. Trade and economy'*

and the following research priorities for the post-medieval period, as set out in the NERRF Research Agenda and Strategy:

- *'PMi. Cultural and ethnic identity'*
- *'PMiv. Chronology'*

- 3.4 An appropriate level of reporting on the work is required, including, if necessary, full analysis and publication of any notable archaeological findings upon completion of the project. Thus the results of the work will constitute the preservation by record of any archaeological remains thus encountered and subsequently removed during the course of works. The full scheme of archaeological work required is described in the following section.

4. METHOD STATEMENT

4.1 General Standards

- 4.1.1 The Brief which forms section 4 of the DCCAS Specification sets out the scope of the required archaeological work. A site-specific 'Undertaking' is in place between the Diocese of Durham, Parish of St. Nicholas and Northern Powergrid for this project.
- 4.1.2 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes and practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and will follow the relevant IfA standard and guidance document. PCA is an IfA 'Registered Organisation'. In addition, and in accordance with the Specification, the work will be conducted according to archaeological best practice as set out in *Yorkshire, the Humber and the North-East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process*.
- 4.1.3 All archaeological staff involved in the project will be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. The project will be overseen for PCA by a Member (at MIfA level) of the IfA
- 4.1.4 All archaeological staff involved in the project will be aware of the work required, as detailed in this document and the DCCAS Specification, and will understand the aims and methodologies of the project.
- 4.1.5 All relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice will be respected. For Health and Safety purposes, PCA is a sub-contractor and will have no responsibilities as a Principal/Main Contractor. Site welfare will be provided for PCA personnel. All PCA personnel will attend site inductions as required. All archaeological personnel will use PPE.

4.2 Archaeological Methodology - Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 Continuous archaeological monitoring and observation will be carried out during invasive groundworks for the development. All monitoring and observation will be carried out by one (or more if required) suitably experienced professional archaeologist(s). The watching brief will continue until such time as invasive groundworks are completed or until it becomes obvious that no additional archaeological information of note will be forthcoming, this to be agreed with DCCAS.
- 4.2.2 Relevant items set out in the aforementioned site-specific 'Undertaking' between the Diocese of Durham, Parish of St. Nicholas and Northern Powergrid will be taken into account. Of particular note, with regard to archaeological discoveries, are the following three items (numbered as in that document):
- 4. *If any disarticulated human remains are discovered, they are reverently reburied as soon as possible.*
 - 5. *If any articulated human remains are discovered all work ceases in that area pending further written Order of the Court.*
 - 6. *That no artefact or ecofact is to be removed from the Church or Churchyard without an Order from the Archdeacon (a Place of Safety Order) or an Order of the Court.*
- 4.2.3 At all times taking into account the directions set out in the items 4-6 within the aforementioned Undertaking, any archaeological remains of possible significance exposed during groundworks would be immediately examined, hand cleaned, excavated and recorded, to an appropriate level and in accordance with the methodology set out in *Fieldwork Induction Manual. Operations Manual I* (PCA 2009) and *Archaeological Site Manual, Third Edition* (Museum of London 1994).
- 4.2.4 Within the scope of the watching brief, adequate opportunity is to be afforded to the attendant archaeologist(s) to examine, excavate and record archaeological remains of note before they are destroyed. Depending upon the significance of any archaeological remains preservation *in situ* may be required, although it is envisaged that for most remains preservation by record will be suitable mitigation.
- 4.2.5 All archaeological remains - structures, features and deposits - encountered at the site will be examined and recorded to the necessary extent to achieve as full an understanding as possible of the past activity that those remains represent. All archaeological features (layers, cuts, fills, structures) that do not merit preservation *in situ* will be excavated by hand tools and recorded in plan and/or section.
- 4.2.6 Archaeological recording will be carried out by means of unique numeric based context records and will be written, drawn and photographic (and any other appropriate means). All archaeological exposures (layers, cuts, fills, structures) will be recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets. Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled.

- 4.2.7 All areas of investigation will be located by appropriate means to ensure its accurate location relative to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Drawn records of archaeological features and deposits will normally be at a scale of 1:10 (sections) or 1:20 (plans) and will be prepared in a suitable form of digitisation. Where possible, archaeological features and deposits will be logged relative to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.2.8 A photographic record will be compiled using a) an SLR camera with black and white 35mm film to provide negatives from which a set of prints will be generated b) a digital SLR camera of at least 6 megapixels. Photographs will include a legible graduated metric scale, if possible. Full and detailed photographic record sheets cross-referenced to the black and white negatives/prints and the colour digital images/prints will be compiled. For digital photography, the 'RAW plus JPEG' camera setting will be used (with the camera set for the largest image size with least compression to produce the highest quality possible JPEG images). The RAW setting allows all the information that the camera is capable of producing to be saved and images retained using this setting will form a key component of the photographic archive along with the black and white negatives generated by 35mm film. RAW images will be converted to the uncompressed format TIFF before they are burnt onto archival quality CD to form the digital element of the photographic archive. A selection of colour printed images (standard 6x4-inch) will be generated from the JPEG images.
- 4.2.9 Thus the photographic element of the Site Archive (for deposition with the appropriate repository) will comprise: black and white negatives, black and white prints generated from the negatives, a selection of colour prints generated from digital images, colour digital TIFF images on CD. The County Durham HER will be provided directly with a selection of digital images, as required.
- 4.2.10 With regard to artefacts and ecofacts encountered during the work, the directions set out in item 6 of the aforementioned Undertaking would be followed at all times.
- 4.2.11 Appropriate procedures involving discoveries classed as 'treasure' under *The Treasure Act 1996* will be followed, as appropriate.
- 4.2.12 With regard to human remains, the directions set out in items 4 and 5 of the aforementioned Undertaking would be followed at all times. Articulated human remains would be recorded to an appropriate level by the use of photography and a *pro forma* 'Skeleton Recording Sheet' and including *in situ* examination by a palaeo-pathologist, if required, then exhumed following receipt of an appropriate licence from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). In 2012 the MoJ reconsidered its approach to burial licenses that it had adopted in 2007: in sum, exhumation license applications under *The Burial Act 1857* will now be considered wherever human remains are buried in sites to which *The Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981* or other burial ground legislation does not apply. The MoJ exhumation licence is now known as an 'Authority to Exhume Buried Human Remains For Archaeological Purposes'. Where any part of a human burial is disturbed, the whole burial should be archaeologically excavated as far as possible, but always with Health and Safety considerations in mind.

4.3 Archaeological Methodology – Post-Excavation

4.3.1 Irrespective of whether or not any archaeological remains of note are encountered during the fieldwork, the archaeological investigation will be summarised in a report. The report will include the following information specific to the work:

- a summary statement of the results of the investigations;
- the aims and methods adopted in the course of the work;
- illustrative material (cross-referenced within the text) including an overall site location plan and a plan showing the location all areas of investigation, both tied into the Ordnance Survey grid and at recognisable scales, plans and sections of archaeological deposits at recognisable scales, and photographs, as appropriate;
- text detailing the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of any archaeological remains.

4.3.2 The report will detail the dates when the fieldwork was undertaken.

4.3.3 With regard to artefacts and ecofacts encountered during the work, the directions set out in the aforementioned item 6 in the Undertaking will be followed. All recovered artefacts (e.g. ceramic, metallic) and samples (e.g. bulk soil samples for biological remains) would be examined by appropriate specialists. For each category of artefact and ecofact, an assessment report would be produced, that would include a basic quantification of the material, a statement of its potential for further analysis and recommendations for such work. The results of all specialist assessment reports would be incorporated into the overall report on the watching brief.

4.3.4 PCA's ceramic specialist for medieval and post-medieval pottery is Jenny Vaughan (Northern Counties Archaeological Services). PCA's specialist for medieval and post-medieval small finds, e.g. metalwork, is Marit Gaimster (PCA).

4.3.5 PCA's palaeoenvironmental consultant is Dr. Charlotte O'Brien (Archaeological Services Durham University). Human remains and animal bone would be examined by James Langhorne and Kevin Rielly, respectively (both PCA).

4.3.6 PCA's conservation specialist is Karen Barker, a freelance archaeological conservator.

4.3.7 Where one or more elements of the recovered data-set from the watching brief is identified as having potential for further analysis (irrespective of whether or not extensive, significant and/or unexpectedly complex archaeological remains are discovered), an 'Updated Project Design' would be produced to accompany the report on the watching brief and this would detail any requirements for further analysis of material, the results of which would likely require reporting on in a subsequent published paper or report. The scope of any such further analysis and publication would be agreed with the commissioning client before being undertaken. The 'Updated Project Design' would detail the post-excavation methodologies to be employed, as well as outlining the likely form of a publication paper.

- 4.3.8 Copies of all reports will be sent to relevant organisations in hardcopy and electronic format, as required. The requirements of the DCCAS with regard to report format and number of copies will be followed. At the time of writing, the DCCAS require 1 no. hardcopy and 1 no. pdf (on CD) for inclusion into the County Durham HER. PCA grant licence to the County Durham HER to use the report and its content.
- 4.3.9 The DCCAS supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. PCA will complete an OASIS form for the project during the compilation of the report on the work. The OASIS reference number will be included in the report. When the report has become a public document by incorporation into the HER, the DCCAS will validate the OASIS form, thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

4.4 Site Archive

- 4.4.1 The data collected during the programme of archaeological work, including all paper and photographic records, as well as all artefacts and ecofacts recovered, will comprise the Site Archive. The Site Archive will be prepared to recognised standards.
- 4.4.2 The Site Archive will be deposited with the repository which takes on the responsibilities of the Old Fulling Mill, Museum of Archaeology, Durham, as repository for archaeological archives generated by projects within the former Durham City District, within six months of the completion of fieldwork at the site, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the DCCAS. Deposition will be in accordance with the requirements and policies of the receiving body.

APPENDIX 3
PLATES



Plate 1. View of trench at entrance to Elvet Bridge from Jailer's Yard



Plate 2. View of No. 12 Elvet Bridge with trench in foreground



Plate 3. View of trench outside No. 8 Elvet Bridge



Plate 4. View of trench outside Nos. 2/3 Sadler Street



Plate 5. Working shot of trench outside No. 10 Sadler Street



Plate 6. View of trench outside No. 5 Silver Street