



NEGATIVE WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Street Lighting Column Replacement (Column 43C) at Corbridge Bridge, Corbridge, Northumberland

NGR NY 98930 64244

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Durham Office)

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Client: Galliford Try Plc

Historic England Reference: S00203838

PCA Report Number: RN 13667

PCA Site Code: CBC19

Oasis ID: preconst1-349807

LOCATION

Planning Authority: Northumberland County Council

District: Corbridge

County: Northumberland

Site address: Corbridge Bridge, Corbridge, Northumberland

DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION:

An appropriately specified programme of archaeological work was required in association with the replacement of a street lighting column at Corbridge Bridge, Corbridge, Northumberland (Figures 1 & 2). The work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) and involved the archaeological monitoring and recording (watching brief) during all invasive groundworks at the location of a street lighting column.

The street lighting column lies within the eastern extent of a scheduled monument (Historic England Ref. 1006574; Corbridge Bridge). Corbridge bridge is a seven span masonry arch bridge carrying the B6321 across the River Tyne dating predominantly to the 17th century with elements of the medieval bridge surviving on the northern side. The bridge has scheduled monument status (Historic England Ref. 1006574; Corbridge Bridge) and is a Grade I Listed Building (Historic England Ref. 1044808).

The archaeological work comprised the monitoring and recording of a street lighting column replacement trench (Trench 1) on the northern side of Corbridge Bridge. Trench 1 had dimensions of 0.75m north-south by up to 0.55m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.77m (Figure 2).

REASON FOR WATCHING BRIEF:

The work is of archaeological interest because it lies within the northern side of Corbridge bridge and has Scheduled Monument status (Historic England Ref 1006574; Corbridge Bridge) and is a Grade I Listed Building (Historic England Ref. 1044808).

Because the site has Scheduled Monument status, and thus has statutory protection under The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, any intrusive groundworks for the installation require SMC from DCMS prior to their undertaking. In accordance with the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport consulted with Historic England before deciding whether or not to grant SMC after an application for the installation was submitted by Galliford Try Plc on the 2nd October 2018.

Accordingly, SMC was granted for the archaeological work by the Secretary of State, advised by Historic England, subject to a series of conditions set out in a letter dated 16th November 2018 to Mr Andrew Douglas (Galliford Try Plc). Condition b) of SMC states 'No ground works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by Historic England'. Condition g) of SMC requires A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the Northumberland Historic Environment Record (Mrs Liz Williams, HER Officer, Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF) and to Claire Botham, Business Support Officer at historic England (address as in condition (a)) within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).

As part of a Scheduled Monument, any archaeological remains affected by this scheme fall within the category of 'designated heritage assets' as defined within current guidance on the historic environment set out within Chapter 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012 (revised 2019)).

The groundworks associated with the replacement of the street lighting column was undertaken within the area of the Scheduled Monument. Accordingly, the archaeological monitoring and recording of all groundworks were undertaken as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC ref. S00203838), on the advice of Historic England to the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS).

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the work was prepared by PCA and approved by the Secretary of State (Historic England) prior to the commencement of any work.

DATES WORK UNDERTAKEN:

Archaeological work was undertaken at the site on the following dates:

- Thursday 18/04/2019

RESULTS:

During the watching-brief, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual 'context' numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example [123].

The archaeological work involved the monitoring and recording of groundworks associated with the replacement of a street lighting column (Trench 1). The street lighting column to be replaced (Column 43C) was located on the northern side of the scheduled monument (Historic England Ref 1006574: Corbridge Bridge), and the trench for the replacement column was located adjacent to the existing street lighting column. The trench was excavated by hand by Galliford Try Plc's team under continuous archaeological supervision.

Trench 1 had dimensions of 0.75m north-south by up to 0.55m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.77m. A total of three contexts were identified during the works. The table below summarises the contexts encountered within the trench:

Context	Type	Summary description	Thickness
[100]	Layer	Indurated black, Asphalt	0.17m
[101]	Layer	Loose dark brown sandy silt, Consolidation layer	0.46m
[102]	Layer	Compact mid grey brown clayey silt, Consolidation layer	>0.14m

Summary of encountered strata descriptions

A modern ground consolidation layer [102], encountered at 0.64m below present ground level, was recorded at a maximum height of 31.05m AOD, that in turn this was overlain by c. 0.46m thick consolidation layer [101]. The current surface comprised c. 0.17m thick asphalt [101] that occurred at maximum height of 31.71m AOD at his location.

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered during the investigation.

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION:

Figure 1 - Site Location

Figure 2 - Detailed Site Location

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION:

All documentation resulting from this project will be archived internally by PCA

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