# GLAVE HILL, Dalston, Cumbria



# WATCHING BRIEF REPORT CP. NO: 1428/11 15/06/2011

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# NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

<b>DOCUMENT TITLE:</b>	Glave Hill, Dalston, Cumbria
DOCUMENT TYPE:	Watching Brief Report
CLIENT:	J J Lattimer
<b>CP</b> NUMBER:	1428/11
SITE CODE:	GHD/A
PLANNING APP. NO:	1/10/0050
OASIS REFERENCE:	northpen3-103233
PRINT DATE:	15/06/2011
GRID REFERENCE:	NY 3686 5000

Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

<b>Revision Schedule</b>				
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## SUMMARY

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Swarbrick Associates, on behalf of their clients J J Latimer, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land at Glave Hill, Dalston, Cumbria (NY 3686 5000), associated with the development of a new car parking facility.

The work follows a planning application for the erection of a convenience store and three dwellings with associated access and parking (Planning Ref: 1/10/0050), which affects an area considered to have high archaeological potential. The site is located on the edge of the medieval village of Dalston in which resides the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of St. Michael and numerous 18<sup>th</sup> century dwellings. The remains of earthworks survive nearby on The Green that relate to the development of the village and the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map shows that Close Hall was located on the proposed development site during the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The area is therefore considered to have a high potential for below ground remains associated with medieval and post-medieval development and land-use.

In 2010 North Pennines Archaeology undertook a desk-based assessment and trialtrench evaluation at the site, which was formerly occupied by a service station (Westgarth 2010). The research showed that there was significant industrial development during the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when Dalston was viewed as an ideal location for the production of cotton. The footprint of the proposed development was shown to be in the location of several buildings, including a smithy, prior to the development of the former service station and several other buildings. The trial-trench evaluation identified archaeological remains in the form of a flagstone floor and sandstone drain with associated surfaces. These remains appear to relate to late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings located within the development area.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and comprised an investigation within the vicinity of the proposed car park, which covered an area of approximately 0.2ha. Topsoil was excavated to a depth of *c*.0.3m, revealing a reddish brown silty clay subsoil. No archaeological finds features or deposits were observed during the watching brief.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the development of a new car parking facility, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the shallow depth of the excavation, it is possible that archaeological remains survive at a depth greater than 0.3m. Therefore, it is recommended that should any further groundworks be required within the area of the proposed car park to a greater depth than 0.3m, a similar programme of archaeological investigation should be implemented.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank J J Lattimer for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. NPA Ltd would also like to thank Mr. Pollard of J J Lattimer, for all his assistance during the watching brief.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by David Jackson. The report was written by David Jackson, who also produced the drawings. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Project Manager for NPA Ltd, who also edited the report.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

#### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- In June 2011, North Pennines Archaeology were invited by Swarbrick 1.1.1 Associates, on behalf of their clients, J J Lattimer, to maintain an archaeological watching brief on land at Glave Hill, Dalston, Cumbria (NY 3686 5000; Figures 1 & 2), during groundworks associated with the development of a new car parking facility. The work follows a planning application for the erection of a convenience store and three dwellings with associated access and parking (Planning Ref: 1/10/0050), which affects an area considered to have high archaeological potential. As a result, of this archaeological potential, and in accordance with guidance provided in Planning Policy Statement 5 and with local planning policy, an archaeological watching brief was requested by Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES). This was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), submitted to, and approved by the CCCHES.
- 1.1.2 All groundworks associated with the development were investigated and recorded fully and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008), and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the monitoring works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 **PROJECT DESIGN**

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by J J Lattimer, for an archaeological watching brief of the study area (Railton 2011). Following acceptance of the project design by Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

## **2.2 THE WATCHING BRIEF**

- 2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, 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 2008).
- 2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:
  - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
  - to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
  - to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
  - to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
  - to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital and monochrome formats, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
  - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;
  - to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE standards (English Heritage 2006).

## 2.3 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2007). The archive will be deposited within the Tullie House Museum, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Kendal, Cumbria, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA11, GHD/A, CP/1428/11.
- 2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology, and Cumbria County Council, support the Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

## 3 BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 Dalston is located approximately 4 miles south of Carlisle, within an area of Cumbria known as the Solway Basin (Figure 1). The proposed development site lies toward the southern end of Dalston, within a gently undulating rural setting. The site is bound to the east by the B5299, to the north by residential buildings and to the south and east by large pasture fields (Figure 2).
- 3.1.2 The underlying geology of the area is mainly comprised of mudstones and sandstones of Permo-Triassic age ('New Red Sandstone'), forming a large area of low relief. The Permo-Triassic rocks are overlain by thick deposits of boulder clay (till), deposited during glacial intrusion into the area (Countryside Commission 1998).

#### 3.2 PREVIOUS WORK

3.2.1 In 2010 North Pennines Archaeology undertook a desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation at the site, which was formerly occupied by a service station (Westgarth 2010). The research showed that there was significant industrial development in the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when Dalston was seen to be an ideal location for cotton production. The footprint of the proposed development was shown to be in the location of several buildings including a smithy, prior to the building of the old service station and the former buildings present onsite. The archaeological trial trench evaluation involved the excavation of 4 trenches at the site (Figure 2). Archaeological remains were identified in two of the trenches in the form of a flagstone floor and sandstone drain with associated surfaces. These appear to relate to the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings located within the development area.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and comprised the investigation and recording of all groundworks within the area of the proposed car parking facility.
- 4.2.1 All excavation work was carried out by tracked mechanical excavator. The area was subsequently investigated and recorded fully. The results of the watching brief are outlined below.

#### 4.2 **Results**

- 4.2.1 An area of approximately 0.2ha was stripped of topsoil. The topsoil (100) was comprised of light brown silt which contained occasional small stones and measured *c*.0.3m in depth. The topsoil was overlying a deposit of reddish brown silty clay subsoil (102), which contained frequent amounts of small stones and which measured over 0.01m in depth.
- 4.2.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief.



Plate 1: View south of southwest corner of excavated area



Plate 2: North facing section showing topsoil (100) above subsoil (102)

## 4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.3.1 No archaeological finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.

## **5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### 5.1 CONCLUSIONS

5.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2011 and comprised an investigation within the vicinity of the proposed car park, which covered an area of approximately 0.2ha. Topsoil was excavated to a depth of *c*.0.3m, revealing a reddish brown silty clay subsoil. No archaeological finds features or deposits were observed during the watching brief.

#### 5.2 **Recommendations**

5.2.1 As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the development of a new car parking facility, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the shallow depth of the excavation, it is possible that archaeological remains survive at a depth greater than 0.3m. Therefore, it is recommended that should any further groundworks be required within the area of the proposed car park to a greater depth than 0.3m, a similar programme of archaeological investigation should be implemented.

## 6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

## 6.1 SECONDARY SOURCES

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## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Geological	Natural Substrate (not encountered)
102	Deposit	Subsoil

Table 1: List of contexts issued during watching brief

# **APPENDIX 2: FIGURES**

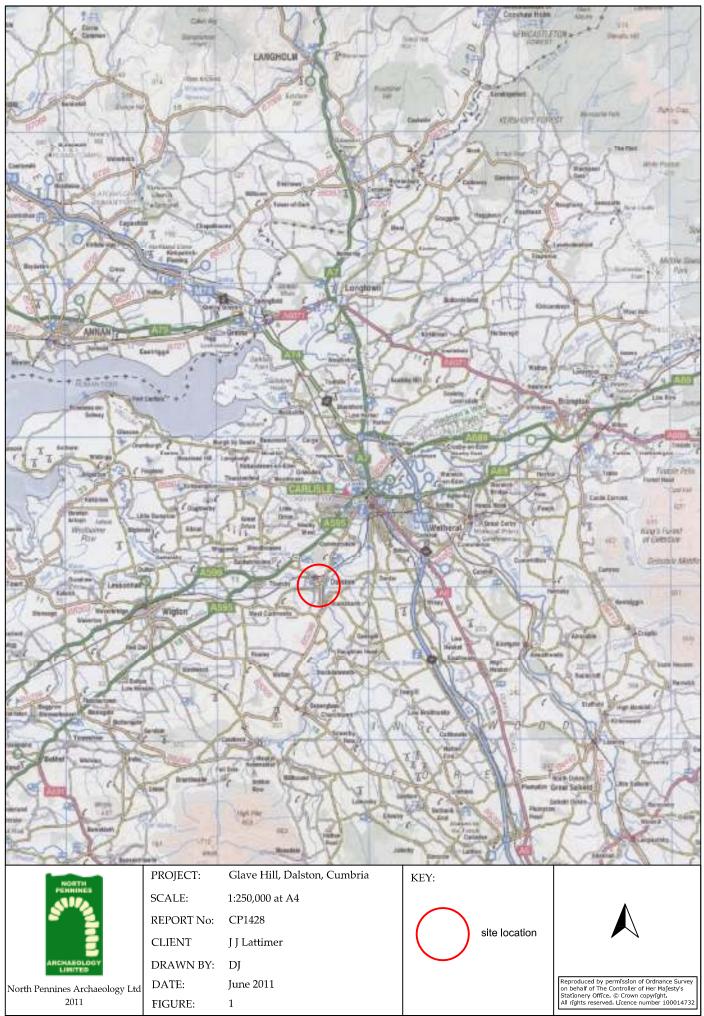


Figure 1: Site location

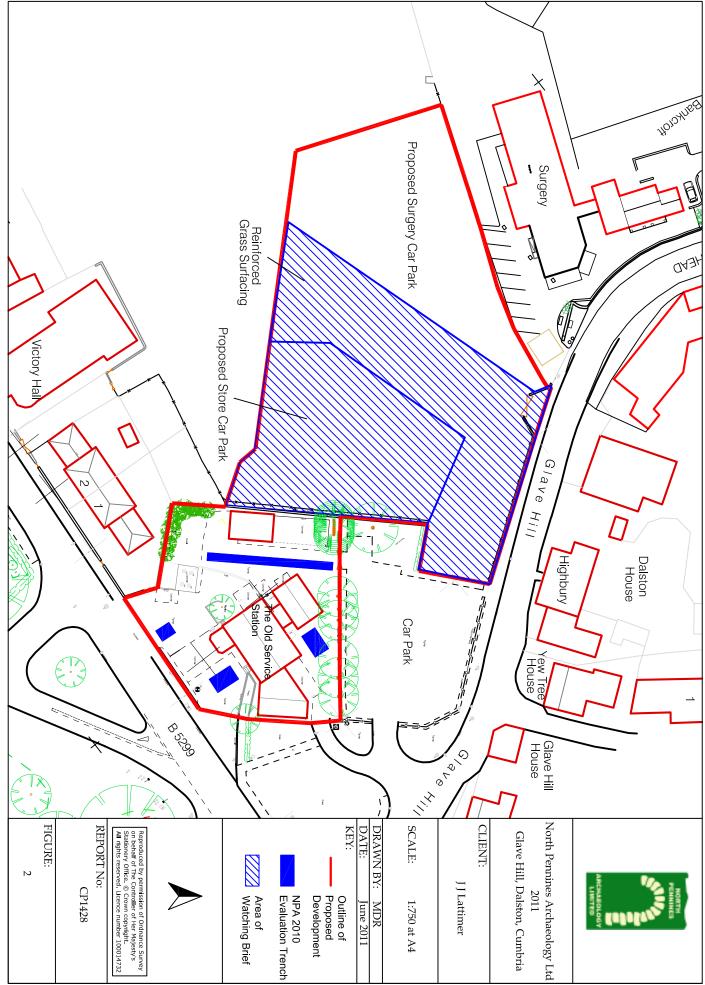


Figure 2: Location of watching brief