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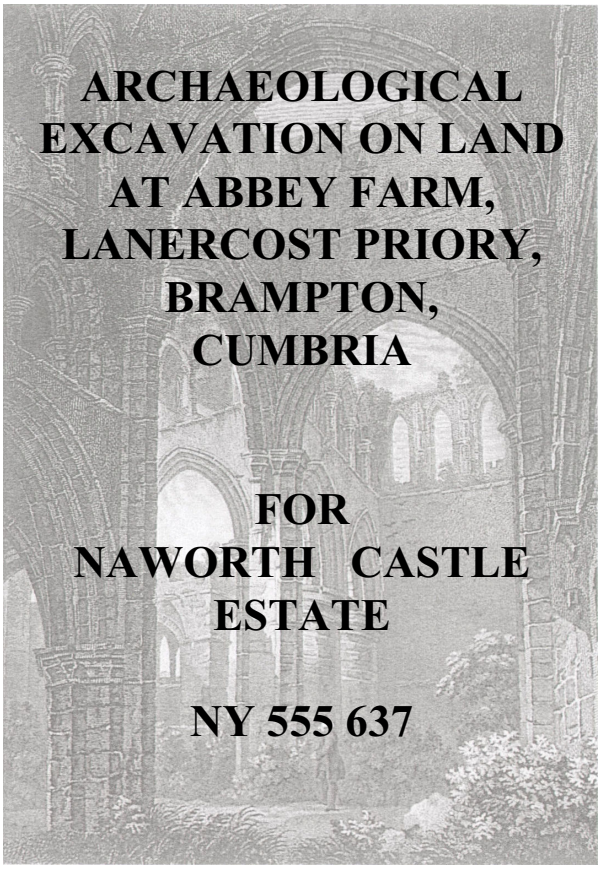

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION ON LAND AT ABBEY FARM, LANERCOST PRIORY, BRAMPTON, CUMBRIA

FOR NAWORTH CASTLE ESTATE

NY 555 637

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Lanercost Priory and Abbey Farm (NGR NY 555 637), situated in the valley floor of the River Irthing, have a diverse archaeological history, and the remains of the Priory have been the focus of many studies since the 17th century. The recent opportunity to further the investigation of the nature and development of the Priory and Abbey Farm from the medieval to the post-medieval periods was provided by an archaeological excavation in response to a series of planning applications regarding the construction of a car park and installation of a septic tank, a scheme considered to affect an area of high archaeological potential. The presence of medieval and post-medieval remains within the proposed development site had been demonstrated by an archaeological evaluation undertaken in February 2006 (Dodd 2006a).

In May 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Limited commenced a programme of excavation, designed to investigate a number of archaeological features identified in the February 2006 evaluation, also conducted by NPAL. This archaeological investigation revealed a sequence of deposits, which showed aspects of land development and re-use.

The archaeological evidence for the medieval period was largely characterised by a sequence of layers, which appeared to pertain to either agricultural activity or a crude attempt at land management. The site produced a group of medieval pottery that, whilst small, comprised a range of fabrics.

The post medieval period was represented by a number of deposits which showed evidence for the construction of Abbey Farm itself, the majority of the pottery assemblage recovered during the excavation appeared to date to the early to mid 19th century, thereby being broadly commensurate with the construction of Abbey Farm in 1859.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Philip Howard of Naworth Castle Estate for commissioning and supporting the work and to Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist for Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), for his advice and assistance during the course of the project.

The archaeological excavation was carried out by Martin Sowerby, Nicola Gaskell and Martin Railton. The report and illustrations were undertaken by Martin Sowerby. The report was edited by Gareth Davies and Juliet Reeves. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for North Pennines Archaeology Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) were consulted prior to a planning application submission regarding the construction of a car park and installation of a septic tank. The site is located on land adjacent to Abbey Farm, Lanercost Priory, Brampton, Cumbria (NGR NY 555 637) (Fig 1). The site is within an area of high archaeological potential adjacent to the 12th century Priory (Scheduled Monument no. 23689). Consequently, CCCHES advised that a programme of archaeological works would be necessary prior to any proposed development application. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL) were commissioned by Naworth Castle Estates to undertake the required archaeological excavation within the development area.

1.1.2 In February 2006 NPAL carried out an field evaluation which comprised the excavation of a series of linear trial trenches in order to provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relevant importance against known development proposals. It proved that a number of tentative archaeological features still remained in-situ, which dated to the medieval and post medieval periods. Subsequently, and as a result of the evaluation, NPAL extended one of the trenches, Trench 3, in May 2006.

1.1.3 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area. The principal objective of this excavation was to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of any archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was prepared in response to a brief prepared by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) for an archaeological field excavation. This included a detailed specification of works to be carried out, and a programme of post excavation and reporting.

2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

2.2.1 The archaeological excavation consisted of the re-excavation of Trench 3, which was subsequently widened to a width of 3.5m and extended by 2m to the north. The main aims of the excavation were as follows:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these were they are observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.2.2 The trench was mechanically excavated, under archaeological supervision, by a 7.5 tonne tracked 360 degree excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. The trench was then manually cleaned where possible, and any putative archaeological features were investigated.

2.2.3 Photography was undertaken using Canon EOS 100 and EOS 300V Single Lens Reflex (SLR) cameras. A photographic record was made using digital photography, 200 ISO Colour Print and Colour Slide film.

2.3.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (IFA 1994).

2.3 ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design, and in accordance with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage guidelines (1991). The archive will be deposited within an appropriate repository and a copy of the report given to the County Sites and Monuments Record, where viewing will be available on request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA 06 LAN-E.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1.1 Lanercost Priory and Abbey Farm are located in the valley of the River Irthing, 3.5 km northeast of Brampton, Cumbria. They are situated at the eastern edge of the Carlisle-Solway Plain on relatively low-lying ground, which extends southwards as the Vale of Eden. Moors and fell rise to the north, while to the south, the River Irthing provides a corridor that connects to the Tyne Gap.

3.1.2 The solid geology on the eastern side of the area comprises Carboniferous rocks, in the form of a succession of mudstones, siltstones, sandstones and limestones. Some of these are resistant to weathering and have been left as cliffs and ridges alongside the river (Giecco, Jones and Jones 2003). To the south of the area a succession of Permo-Triassic sandstones, including the St. Bees sandstone, outcrops in places. This fine-grained, dull red sandstone has long been used as a building stone of high quality. Subsequent glacial erosion has resulted in the deposition of boulder clay and sand and gravel over much of this solid geology. Lanercost Priory stands on an extensive river terrace on the north bank of the River Irthing.

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.2.1 ***Prehistoric Period:*** there is evidence of human activity in Cumbria from the Palaeolithic to the Neolithic periods but nothing is known specifically from the study area; however two tumuli are marked on the 1st edition OS map, one is located approximately 500m to the south-west of the Priory, halfway up Boothby Bank, the steep incline which the road ascends on the southern side of the River Irthing. The other tumulus is located adjacent to Boothby House further along the road to Brampton (Giecco, Jones and Jones 2003).

3.2.2 ***Roman:*** Roman remains were found in and around Lanercost throughout the 19th century, and Roman inscriptions were found built into various parts of the monastic buildings. The discoveries led to a display in 1836 of artefacts, such as altars and vases, in the undercroft of the priory (Summerson and Harrison 2000). Excavations conducted by W S Calverley in 1896 or 1897 on the green to the north-west of the priory revealed the remains of a mound and ditch, together with some masonry of probable medieval date, and a small stone cist containing fragments of an urn and bones (Haverfield 1897). The urn appeared to be Romano-British, and at least three of the bone fragments were identified by the Oxford Museum as deer bone; no human bone was identified (*ibid*).

3.2.3 A Roman coin was discovered in the Lanercost area, unfortunately its exact find spot remains elusive. The coin, was a Aes of Magnentius who reigned from AD 350 to 353 (Giecco, Jones and Jones, 2003).

3.2.4 ***Early Medieval:*** works in 1889 to extend the Abbey Farm dairy, situated immediately to the west of Priory, unearthed the skeletons of three humans and two horses. Two of the human burials were noted to lie in an east-west position and the largest of the three skeletons was housed in a partially mortared stone cist (Bulkeley 1891). The cist had a separate chamber for the head of the interred, and was capped with stone flags. Examples of such burials are known from the Roman period, but they also re-emerge

in the 10th century. The skeleton of a horse was found at the foot of the cist burial, and the skeleton of a larger horse was discovered outside the dairy (*ibid*). Occasionally burials of this type can be attributed to the early medieval (or 'Viking') period, but it also is possible that the horse burials are of a much later date, and may have been associated with the use of the Abbey farm. There is some uncertainty as to whether the third burial was positioned on a north-south or east-west alignment (*ibid*). If the burial was aligned north to south then it is likely to pre-date the east-west burials, perhaps suggesting a ritual significance of the site at Lanercost prior to the foundation of the monastery in 1169. The date of the group of burials outlined above is speculative; Bulkeley suggested that they pre-dated the priory as they were located at some distance from the present churchyard, and proposes a Roman, Saxon or Anglo-Scandinavian date (*ibid*).

3.2.5 ***The Priory:*** the priory sits within the former debatable lands between the border of England and Scotland. By the 11th century, the political situation in Cumbria was volatile, with the emergent kingdom of Strathclyde to the north and the growing power of England to the south competing for political control (Kirkby 1962). Much of the modern county of Cumbria remained outside Norman control (thus not being included in Domesday Book of 1086) until 1092 when William II marched north to Carlisle. The English did not gain full control of the area until around 1157, when Henry II headed north and drove the Scottish back into the border region (*ibid*). In an attempt to consolidate the area, Henry II, appointed Hugh de Vaux to oversee and to police the land. He encouraged the founding of a monastery at Lanercost. However it was not until Robert, Henry de Vaux`s son that the Augustinian Priory was constructed around the period 1164 –1169 (Summerson and Harrison 2000). The Priory lies with the fertile river valley of the Irthing and alongside the old road from Carlisle to Newcastle. It is highly likely that the Priory was constructed in this location to take full advantage of the readily available building stone from the nearby Hadrian's Wall; indeed a number of Roman inscriptions can be seen in the fabric of the Priory walls. The order of Augustinians, were popular in the north-west with important priories at Carlisle, Cartmel Hexham in Northumberland and Jedburgh in Scotland. Around 1240 the de Vaux family failed to produce an heir and the barony of Gilsland, and which included Lanercost Priory passed onto a Thomas de Multon (Summerson and Harrison 2000). He had already married into the de Vaux line, and soon gave land to the Priory to secure the right of burial there. In 1315 Randolf de Dacre married Margaret de Multon and their long ascendancy of Lanercost began (*ibid*).

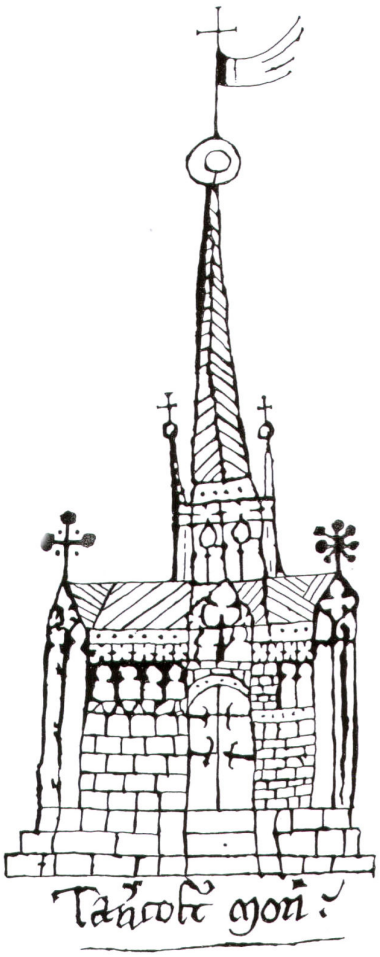

Plate 1: Lanercost Priory *c* 1400 from the Lanercost Cartulary, *Lanercost Monasterium*

3.2.6 Edward I visited the Priory on a number of occasions. He visited briefly in 1280 and 1300, making gifts on both occasions. However, in 1306-7 Lanercost became a royal palace for a period of five months, due to Edward becoming ill (English Heritage 2003). A number of buildings were constructed out of timber for the royal party and associated entourage at great expense to the Priory, presumably most of the buildings had to be within the precinct walls for security. The King's stay must have disrupted all aspects of monastic life, however he could not continue his journey to the Castle at Carlisle due to his worsening health. He finally left Lanercost in March 1307 and died later that year at Burgh by Sands (Summerson and Harrison 2000).

3.2.7 Lanercost Priory suffered heavily during the frequent Scottish border raids. A survey in 1302 showed that the Priory's property at Farlam had been destroyed while the values of Brampton, Walton and Irthington had been reduced by one-third (English Heritage 2003). In 1311, Robert the Bruce brought an army to Lanercost destroying parts of the Priory. These raids could not come at a worst time for the Priory when resources were still depleted after Edward I's prolonged stay. In 1346 the Priory was attacked again and finally in 1386 when Lanercost was held ransom by the Scots (*ibid*).

3.2.8 Over the next two hundred years the Priory never regained the prosperity that it once held. Its value in 1536 was assessed at a little over £85, considering that in 1300 the Priory had an income of £200. In 1536 an Act of Parliament decreed that any monastic community worth less than this could expect closure. On the 4th March 1537 the Duke of Norfolk, acting on behalf of Henry VIII, ordered the closure of the priory (English Heritage 2003).

3.2.9 Fortunately, Lanercost and its parish still needed a parish church, which then was owned by the Dacre family. William, Lord Dacre was out of favour with Henry VIII, due to his strong Catholic religious beliefs. His half brother Thomas Dacre, illegitimate son of Lord Thomas Dacre was a devout Protestant and a strong Royalist, and was already the deputy of Sir William Penyson, who had been put in charge of Lanercost in 1538 (Summerson and Harrison 2000). Four years later, Henry granted the Priory and its lands to Thomas, however he excluded the parish church and cemetery. A part of the west range of former cloister buildings was converted into a house for the Dacres, now known as Dacre Hall. The south end linked to the Dacre Tower, which was probably late medieval in origin, but largely rebuilt or converted by the Dacres (*ibid*).

3.2.10 The exterior fabric of the Priory appears to be constructed primarily out of re-used Roman stones. However, there are a number of stone quarries within the immediate vicinity of the Priory, which could have provided good building stone. Given the availability of large quantities of building stone of ready quarried stone within a short distance requiring, at most, a certain amount of redressing, it would not be at all surprising if the medieval builders had not made as much use of the remains of Hadrians Wall as possible.

3.2.11 ***Abbey Farm;*** the farm was designed by Anthony Salvin in 1859, however, a number of the buildings are of an earlier date and were incorporated into Salvin's redesigned buildings. Abbey Farm is designed around two courtyards, with the farmhouse to the east. The northern range that passes across both courtyards has several 17th and 18th century datestones, and only required conversion or partial rebuilding in the 19th century. The most impressive and important building in the complex is the barn to the east of the courtyards (Figs 2 and 3). This is of much earlier origin, with several blocked windows in its east wall showing that is highly likely that the building was in use during the Dacre residency from the 16th and 17th centuries (English Heritage 2003). The barn may also be of monastic origin.

3.3 RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

3.3.1 An extensive geophysical survey comprising four survey areas was carried out at Lanercost Priory by English Heritage's Ancient Monuments Laboratory in 1992. Both resistivity and magnetometry techniques were used to reveal a number of anomalies, including possible ditches, robbed out walls, a possible kiln and a circular feature measuring 5m in diameter.

3.3.2 English Heritage undertook an evaluation at Lanercost Priory in 1994 in advance of a proposed scheme of ground works to install a new drainage system. Two L-shaped trenches were excavated abutting to the northwest corner of the priory and four juvenile inhumations, presumably of Medieval in date were located (Whitworth, 1998).

3.3.3 In 2002, North Pennines Heritage Trust observed several trenches at Lanercost Priory, which failed to identify any significant archaeological deposits. Most of the area

investigated appeared to be post-medieval made ground. A number of post-medieval pottery sherds were recovered (Reeves 2002).

3.3.4 In 2003, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological desk-based assessment and field survey at Lanercost Priory. This assessment identified a number of significant archaeological features within the landscape of the priory and Abbey Farm. These included cropmark features indicative of enclosures, ridge and furrow cultivation, and earthworks, believed to be contemporary with the Priory itself. A low earthwork observed to the south of Abbey Farm was identified as an archaeological feature of potential significance (Giecco, Jones and Jones 2003). The NPA report of 2003 also identified the Abbey Farm complex of farm buildings as a complete set of model farm buildings dating to the mid-19th century. Although this complex of buildings are not of national importance, they are certainly highly significant within a regional context (Giecco, Jones and Jones 2003).

3.3.5 In February 2006 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological evaluation on land opposite Abbey Farm, prior to the redevelopment of former agricultural buildings and associated service utilities. The evaluation identified several archaeological features within the area of the proposed development. The artefactual evidence indicates that the majority of the activity is broadly contemporary, and medieval in date. A later phase of post-medieval activity during the 19th century probably relates to the present building complex of Abbey farm. The precise nature of the archaeological features is difficult to ascertain given the narrow window within which they have been observed. Nevertheless, these cut features suggested that the remains of at least two medieval structures of unknown function are located within the vicinity of one of the trenches. A large feature was also tentively identified as a possibly ditch or fish pond (Dodd 2006a).

3.3.6 In April 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological watching brief at Lanercost Priory. The work was required prior to the installation of six interpretation boards within the grounds of Priory. Due to the shallow depths required for the panels, no archaeological remains were noted (Dodd 2006b).

4 FIELDWORK RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 Summary results of the excavation are presented below. The context list is reproduced in Appendix 2, with Figures 4 and 5 showing the location of the excavation.

4.1.2 The archaeological potential for this part of the site was highlighted during an archaeological evaluation in February 2006, and was subsequently targeted in the excavation phase of the project. The evaluation indicated that Trench 3 showed the highest archaeological potential, therefore the mitigation strategy focused on this trench. Trench 3 was originally 15m long by 1.2m wide, and was orientated approximately north-south. The trench was positioned over the location of a proposed septic tank, approximately 15m to the west of the Abbey Farm cottages. The trench was extended approximately 2m to the north and by 1m each side to give a safe working platform. At its deepest point the trench was approximately 2m deep, where it encountered the natural substrate.

4.1.3 The character of the natural varied considerably across the site, both in Trench 3 and elsewhere across the site. In Trench1 the natural consisted of loose light to mid brown yellow sandy gravel, containing sub-rounded stone inclusions, whilst in Trench 2 the natural substrate appeared to be similar. However, the natural in Trench 1 is visible at only 0.20-0.55m deep, whilst Trench 3, the natural was deeper down at a depth of 0.85m. The natural in Trench 3 was at a depth of 2m and consisted of loose, mid grey silty sand with numerous poorly sorted medium-sized sub-oval to rounded stones. This may be a result of the underlying geological variation or geomorphologic effects of the river floodplain location.

4.2 EXCAVATION SUMMARY

4.2.1 The trench was excavated by machine, removing a series of deposits already identified during the original evaluation, but rerecorded at this stage as well. The topsoil (**400**) was made up of friable, dark grey brown sandy silt, with 20% small sub-rounded stone inclusions and up to 0.30m deep in section. This overlaid a deposit, approximately 0.10m thick of a loose mid-greyish brown silty clay, which contained 10% small sub-rounded stone inclusions (**401**). This in turn overlaid a deposit of moderately compacted, mid to dark brown clayey silt, which contained occasional sub-rounded inclusions (**402)**, the layer was approx 0.15m thick. Deposits (**401**) and (**402**) are best interpreted as naturally accumulated tertiary deposits of a post-medieval date.

4.2.2 Beneath these, layer **(403)** consisted of a firm mid-dark grey clayey silt with occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded stone and was approximately 0.60m deep in section. This layer probably represents a dump of material, most likely during the post medieval period, either when Abbey Farm was constructed or the land cleared to make way for the buildings. Removal of this layer uncovered deposit **(404)**, which consisted of a thin band of firm, mid-brown clayey silt. Due to the original trench being left open for a number of months, it was impossible to locate this layer with confidence. Layer **(405)** underneath again most likely represents a dump of material associated with the construction or land clearance of Abbey Farm. It consists of a moderately compacted sandy clay, mid-dark brown in colour and was 0.30m deep.

4.2.3 Towards the southern limit of the trench a deposit of loose yellowish sand **(406)** was noted in the original evaluation. Further excavation revealed that this deposit was the secondary fill of a rectangular cut feature, **[417]** (Figure 6). Cut **[417]** measured 2.20m wide, north-south by 0.70m wide and 0.20m deep. It had almost vertical sides and a flat base. Its primary deposit **(416)**, was a loose, mid grey sandy-silt mixed with re-deposited natural material**,** with 80% small inclusions of sub-rounded stones and numerous charcoal flecks, which had accumulated in the base of the feature. It contained several sherds of medieval pottery. Even though this feature contained medieval pottery, its shape and regularity possibly indicates a later, post-medieval feature that was open for a period of time and was subsequently backfilled with re-deposited natural from elsewhere on the site.

4.2.4 The feature had been excavated through deposits (**418)** and (**419)**. Layer **(418)**, the earlier of the two layers, consisted of a loose, mid greyish brown silty sand, 0.35m deep in section, with occasional small to medium inclusions. Layer **(419**), which overlies **(418),** is made up of loose, mid grey silty sand, approximately 0.35m deep. No finds were recovered from either deposits, however due to the fact that both were truncated by **[417]**, which has been interpreted as a post-medieval pit, it is likely that deposits **(418)** and **(419)** are best interpreted as naturally accumulated deposits of a post-medieval date. The deposits were also cut by a small red ceramic field drain **[412]** running in a east-west direction, and located in the centre of the trench. The fill of the drain **(413)** consisted of compacted mid brown silty sand with occasional small inclusions. Due to the rounded shape and design of the drain pipe, it was possible to ascertain that the drain was placed there in the early 20th century.

4.2.5 Beneath **(418)**, layer **(407)** consisted of a soft silty sand, mid grey in colour and was approximately 0.30m thick, with occasional sub-angular stones. This layer is most to be a post-medieval dump layer in the same vein as **(403)**, **(404)** and **(405)**. Layer **(407**) overlaid **(408)**, which also appeared to be a dump layer. It consisted of firm silty sand, dark brown almost black in colour, with occasional small to medium inclusions. Layer **(409)**, adjacent and contemporary to **(408),** was a thin band of compacted, very mixed silty sand/ clayey sand approximately 0.15m thick. This layer contained numerous small to medium sub-rounded to rounded inclusions. Layer **(410)**, beneath **(409)**, consisted of compacted mid to dark brownish black silty sand with 90% small to medium inclusions. It appeared that both these layers were placed deliberately, possibly in an attempt to level the ground, or positioned onto marshy land for agricultural purposes.

4.2.6 At the base of the trench, layer **(411)** consisted of a fairly compacted light grey, silty sand and was approximately 0.60 m thick. This layer was possibly deposited by water, either as a marshy ground close to the river or the result of a large flood, which deposited a large amount of silt onto the flood plain. However, several sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from this deposit indicating that it was open or exposed in the medieval period. There is a possibility, therefore, that layers **(409)** and **(410)** could also be of a medieval origin, as they are stratigraphically directly above **(411)**, and appear to have been deliberately laid as a surface on top of the deposit**.** Layer **(411)** directly overlies the natural **(420),** which consists of very loose, mid yellowish brown sandy silt with 80% small to medium inclusions.

4.2.7 Treebole **[415],** cutting the natural (**420)** and sealed by (**411),** measured 2.10m wide, and continued beyond the western limits of the excavation area. Due to health and

safety constraints, the treebole was only partly excavated due to the depth of the trench. It had irregular sides, undulating base and showed evidence for root action. Its primary deposit was a loose greyish-brown sandy silt mixed with re-deposited natural material **(414).** It probably remained open for a relatively long period of time, as **(411)** was observed slumping down its sides. It is likely that the tree was removed deliberately, rather than left to rot in-situ.

4.3 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

4.3.1 During the excavation at Lanercost, NPAL also undertook an archaeological watching brief next to the former farm buildings during the excavation of a service trench. The trench was approximately 90m long by 0.40m wide and a average depth of 1m. No archaeological features were observed throughout the course of the watching brief, however an area of cobbling was noted in front of each yard entrance. This surface, which has been concreted over, must relate to the original farm buildings. No evidence of any medieval activity was noted; however most of the ground immediately adjacent to the buildings is heavily truncated.

5 THE FINDS

5.1 RESULTS

5.1.1 The pottery was cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of F Giecco (NPA Ltd Technical Director). The metalwork has been placed in a stable environment and will be monitored for corrosion. At this stage only initial quantification and identification has been undertaken. The bulk finds are quantified in Table 1 below.

Context	Trench	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
411	3	Flint	1	0.003	prehistoric
411	3	Green Glaze Pottery	5	0.13	*C* 13th –C 14th
U/S	3	Heavily abraded pottery/CBM	5	0.083	medieval
400	3	Pottery	1	0.079	post medieval
400	3	Pottery	3	0.552	post medieval
400	3	Green Glaze Pottery	3	0.044	medieval
416	3	Pottery	3	0.553	medieval

Table 1 Quantification of bulk finds recovered from LAN-E

5.2 THE POTTERY

5.2.1 **Medieval:** five sherds of green glazed, reduced grey-ware and a part of a jug handle were recovered from deposit **(411)** which indicates a date from between the 13th –14th centuries.

5.2.2 Within topsoil **(400)**, three sherds of green glazed ware from the14th –15th centuries were retrieved.

5.2.3 Five sherds of unstratified green glazed reduced grey-ware from the 14th-15th centuries were also found within the trench.

5.2.4 Deposit **(416)** yielded three sherds of a 14th to 15th century, green glaze, partially reduced grey-ware.

5.2.5 **Post-Medieval: f**rom the topsoil **(400)**, an almost compete stoneware bottle was retrieved. The bottle was stamped at the base 'Bailey Fulham'. The first successful English producer of stoneware was John Dwight (*c.*1633-1703). He established a pottery in Fulham, London, around 1672. Initially Dwight copied German stone wares, using similar forms and motifs such as armorial medallions and bearded facemasks. By the 1680's however his pottery was producing simpler wares that would form the basis of a 'London stoneware' style. The Fulham pottery continued to be run by relations of Dwight until 1859. The next major phase began when the pottery was taken over by Charles Bailey in 1864. It received a dramatic overhaul, but by 1889 Bailey was declared bankrupt. The pottery survived by merging with the Cheavin Water filter Company, but little stoneware was produced here after 1918, with stoneware production finally ceasing in 1928 (Godden 1964).

5.2.6 Also from the topsoil was a rim sherd of a late 19th to early 20th century stoneware jar and a handle from a early 20th century tea pot.

5.2.7 **Flint**: a small piece of flint was recovered from **(411)**, due to its small size it is impossible to tell if it had been deliberately worked, however it could be waste from flint working. As **(411)**, has been interpreted as a naturally formed deposit, it is likely that the flint has been washed down from further up the valley, rather than evidence of flint working in the local area.

5.3 THE ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.3.1 At this stage, the environmental samples retrieved during the evaluation are yet to be subjected to water flotation and analysis.

5.3.2 Flotation separates the organic, floating fraction of the sample from the heavier mineral and finds content of sands, silts, clays, stones, artefacts and waterlogged material. Heavy soil and sediment content measuring less than 1mm falls through the retentive mesh to settle on the bottom of the tank. Flotation produces a 'flot' and a 'residue' (or retent) for examination, whilst the heavier sediment retained in the tank is discarded.

5.3.3 The residue, as well as retaining the soil matrix matter measuring more than 1mm, contains the larger artefacts of bone, pottery etc, which can then be extracted and recorded. The floating fraction or 'flot' generally comprises the organic material of mainly plant matter, seeds, small or parts of bone, both charred and uncharred, and insect remains. A rapid assessment by scanning the material with a hand lens or microscope then allows for recommendations to be made as to the samples' potential.

6 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 DISCUSSION

6.1.1 The archaeological potential for Trench 3 was highlighted in the archaeological evaluation in February 2006, and was subsequently targeted in the excavation phase of the project. The archaeological excavation consisted of the partial re-excavation of Trench 3, which was subsequently widened to a width of 3.5m and extended by 2m to the north.

6.1.2 The excavation demonstrated the survival of at least three possible layers of medieval activity **(409)**, **(410)** and **(411)**. Initial pottery analysis recovered from **(411)** suggests a broad phasing between the 12th to the 15th centuries. However **(411)** remains problematic due to the fact that it was probably formed by either water-bourn activities such as a large flood, or an area of marshy ground, that was subsequently drained by post-medieval land management. It appears that **(409)** and **(410)** were deliberately placed in an attempt to either level the ground or to soak up the marshy ground. A lack of surviving medieval surfaces possibly suggests that this area may have been subjected to horizontal truncation and the remains may have been significantly deeper than the remains recorded.

6.1.3 It is possible that layers **(407)** and **(408)**, were formed as a result of the construction of the new farm buildings in 1859. In order to construct the buildings a large amount of material would have to be removed and subsequently dumped elsewhere, if there had been a problem with the land not being suitable for agricultural purposes then this is possibly where the material was dumped.

6.2 CONCLUSION

6.2.1 The proposed development has provided a unique opportunity to study an area of land on the fringes of the medieval Priory at Lanercost, which had the potential of providing a better understanding of the development, layout and activities of this part of the site.

6.2.2 The results of the excavation demonstrate the high potential for archaeological remains, therefore any further work undertaken in this area of the Priory lands would require archaeological supervision.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

Context Number	Trench	Category	Interpretation
400	3	Layer	Topsoil
401	3	Layer	Deposit
402	3	Layer	Deposit
403	3	Layer	Deposit
404	3	Layer	Deposit
405	3	Layer	Deposit
406	3	Layer	Deposit
407	3	Layer	Deposit
408	3	Layer	Deposit
409	3	Layer	Deposit
410	3	Layer	Deposit
411	3	Layer	Deposit
412	3	Fill	of [413]
413	3	Cut	Land Drain
414	3	Fill	of [415]
415	3	Cut	Treebole
416	3	Fill	of [416]
417	3	Cut	Rectangular Pit
418	3	Layer	Deposit
419	3	Layer	Deposit
420	3	Layer	Natural

APPENDIX 2: PLATES AND FIGURES