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# **NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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**Project Designs and Client Reports No. CP/530/07**

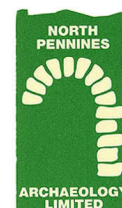
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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF  
REPORT ON LAND  
DISTURBED BY NEW  
INTERPRETATION  
PANELS AT SHAP  
ABBEY,  
SHAP,  
CUMBRIA  
  
FOR  
ENGLISH HERITAGE  
  
NY548154**



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In July 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by English Heritage to undertake a programme of archaeological works on land at Shap Abbey, Shap, Cumbria (NY 548154).

The site is located within an area of high archaeological potential, within the boundary of the designated Scheduled Ancient Monument of Shap Abbey, which is also a Listed Grade I building. As a result, all works associated with the insertion of a new scheme of interpretation panels in the environs of the Abbey required a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken, in the form of a watching brief, undertaken on all groundworks associated with the development.

The works involved the excavation of four square pits, measuring 0.75m excavated to a depth of 0.20m, and two small square holes to hold the supports for one of the interpretation panels also an existing interpretation panel was removed, measuring 0.30 by 0.30m to a depth of 0.20m. Fragmentary bone and a single pottery sherd were recovered from the area beneath panels 3 and 4.

The archaeological material encountered, consisted of a single animal bone, a single sherd of late medieval pottery and a single sherd of blackware pottery, dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century.

As this report comprises the recommendations for archaeological recording of the developments relating to works at Shap Abbey, no further work is necessary. However, due to the continuing high archaeological potential of the area, and the status of the site as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, any further development in the area should be subjected to a programme of archaeological investigation.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Susan Westlake of English Heritage for commissioning the project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Joanne Beaty. The report was written by Joanne Beaty, and Patricia Shaw, who undertook the analysis of the bone material. The pottery was identified by Joanne Beaty. The drawings were produced by Martin Railton. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Senior Project Officer for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Martin Railton, Senior Project Officer for NPA Ltd.

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 The development site, centred on NY548154, is within the area of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Shap Abbey, which is also a Grade I Listed Building. Deposits of archaeological significance may exist in the area of the works associated with the insertion of new interpretation panels. As a result, a condition of the planning permission was that, an archaeological watching brief be undertaken. This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16). The development works also required Scheduled Monument Consent from the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and English Heritage advised that such consent was conditional upon the implementation of a programme of archaeological work.
- 1.1.2 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL) were invited by Susan Westlake of English Heritage, to undertake the required archaeological watching brief. The proposed groundworks involved the insertion of new interpretation panels in four areas within the grounds of the Abbey and removal of the existing interpretation panel. All of these groundworks had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision. The objective of this watching brief was to obtain an adequate record of any archaeological deposits or finds, which were disturbed or exposed by work associated with the development. All stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IFA 1994).
- 1.1.3 This report comprises the results of the various stages of the archaeological work programme, namely: the archaeological recording of the groundworks associated with the development and post fieldwork analysis of the archaeological deposits recovered from the groundworks.

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## 2 METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 WORK PROGRAMME

- 2.1.1 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were requested to undertake a watching brief by English Heritage at Shap Abbey, following a condition of planning permission which required the work to be undertaken. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work, which was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.

### 2.2 ARCHIVE

- 2.2.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design, and 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 Historic Environment Record, where viewing will be available on request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA07, SHA-A.
- 2.2.2 North Pennines Archaeology and CCCHES support the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature created as a result of developer-funded archaeological fieldwork. As a result, details of the results of this evaluation will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

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## 3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

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### 3.1 LOCATION

- 3.1.1 The development site lies on the outskirts of the rural village of Shap (Fig 1). It is located within the designated Scheduled Ancient Monument of Shap Abbey to the west of Shap village. (Fig 2).

### 3.2 THE RESULTS OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 3.2.1 The interpretation panels for Shap Abbey were excavated by hand. The first of the panels excavated was panel 4 (Plate 2) in the vestibule area of the Abbey. An area approx 0.75m by 0.75m was excavated by hand. 0.05m of hardcore surface was removed to reveal 0.10m of soil, stone and rubble mix. This sealed an area of dark red clay possibly an area of burning or part of flooring. Two sherds of pottery were recovered from the soil and rubble, one was transfer printed ware and the other was 18<sup>th</sup> century Blackware. No archaeological features were observed.
- 3.2.2 Panel 2 (Plate 3) was excavated by hand and was located next to the river outside the abbey facing the vestibule area, the area excavated was 0.75m by 0.75m the depth was 0.15m. The turf was removed to reveal a topsoil layer. No archaeological features or finds were observed.
- 3.2.3 Panel 3 (Plate 4) was excavated outside the tower facing the aisle inside the Abbey. The area excavated was 0.70m by 0.75m to a depth of 0.20m. The hardcore surface layer was removed to reveal 0.15m of soil mixed with small stone inclusions. A single base sherd of late-medieval pottery and a fragment of pig knuckle-bone were recovered from the soil and small stone layer. No archaeological features were observed.
- 3.2.4 Panel 1 (Plate 5), although larger in size, required a smaller area to be excavated. Two small 0.10m by 0.15m by 0.20m were hand excavated next to the entrance gate facing towards the tower. The holes were too small to observe the groundworks in any detail. The turf was removed to reveal the topsoil sealed beneath. No archaeological features or finds were observed.
- 3.3.5 The original Shap Abbey interpretation panel (Plate 6) was removed from site. The area was excavated by hand. A small hole approx 0.30m by 0.25m by 0.25m was exposed. This revealed a dark brown topsoil sealed beneath the grass turf.



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## 4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### 4.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief recorded all works associated with the insertion of a new interpretation panel at Shap Abbey, undertaken on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2007. Several archaeological finds were recovered from the six pits excavated during the groundworks.
- 4.1.2 Apart from the pottery and bone no other archaeological finds were recovered and no archaeological features were observed. The soil sealed beneath the hardcore and turf surface produced the finds. As the both the medieval pottery and bone were not found in archaeological deposits, but were found just outside the medieval tower it could be concluded they have previously been disturbed during the renovations of the tower. The other pottery found was of a date in keeping with the adjacent farmhouse, which used the stone from the Abbey as a building material.

### 4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.2.1 As this report comprises the recommendations for archaeological recording of the developments relating to the insertion of new interpretation panels, no further work is necessary. However, due to the continuing high archaeological potential of the area, and the status of the site as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, any further development in the area should be subjected to a programme of archaeological investigation.

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## 5 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### 5.1 SECONDARY SOURCES

English Heritage (1991), *MAP II: The Management of Archaeology Projects, Appendix 3*

IFA (1994), *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

MCG (1992), *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*

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Refurbishment, Northumberland', *unpublished client report by North Pennines  
Archaeology Ltd. for Northumbrian Water plc.*

UKIC (1990), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*

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## **APPENDIX 1: FIGURES AND PLATES**

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## PLATES

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Plate 1: View of Shap Abbey Tower and grounds from the entrance



Plate 2: Panel 4 after removal of hardcore  
Floor surface.



Plate 3: Panel 2 after the removal of turf.





Plate 4: Panel 2 after removal of hardcore  
Floor surface



Plate 5: Panel 1 during hand excavation.



Plate 6: After the removal of the original interpretation panel.



Plate 7: View to the north-east of the medieval tower.

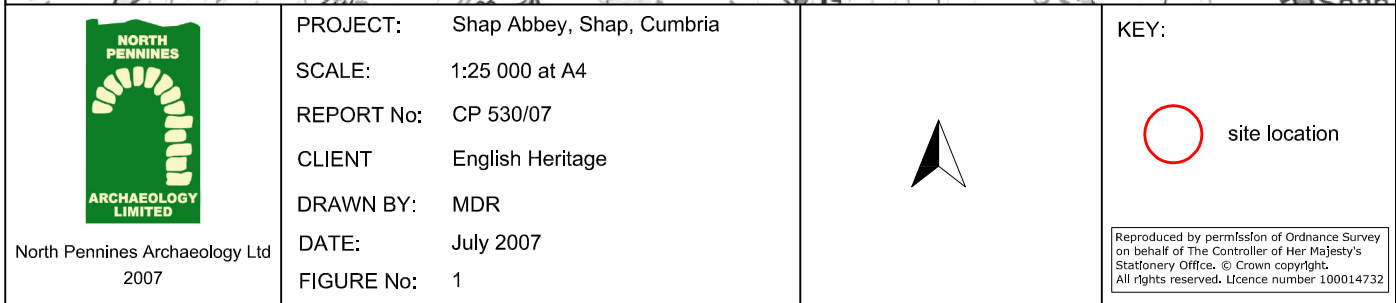
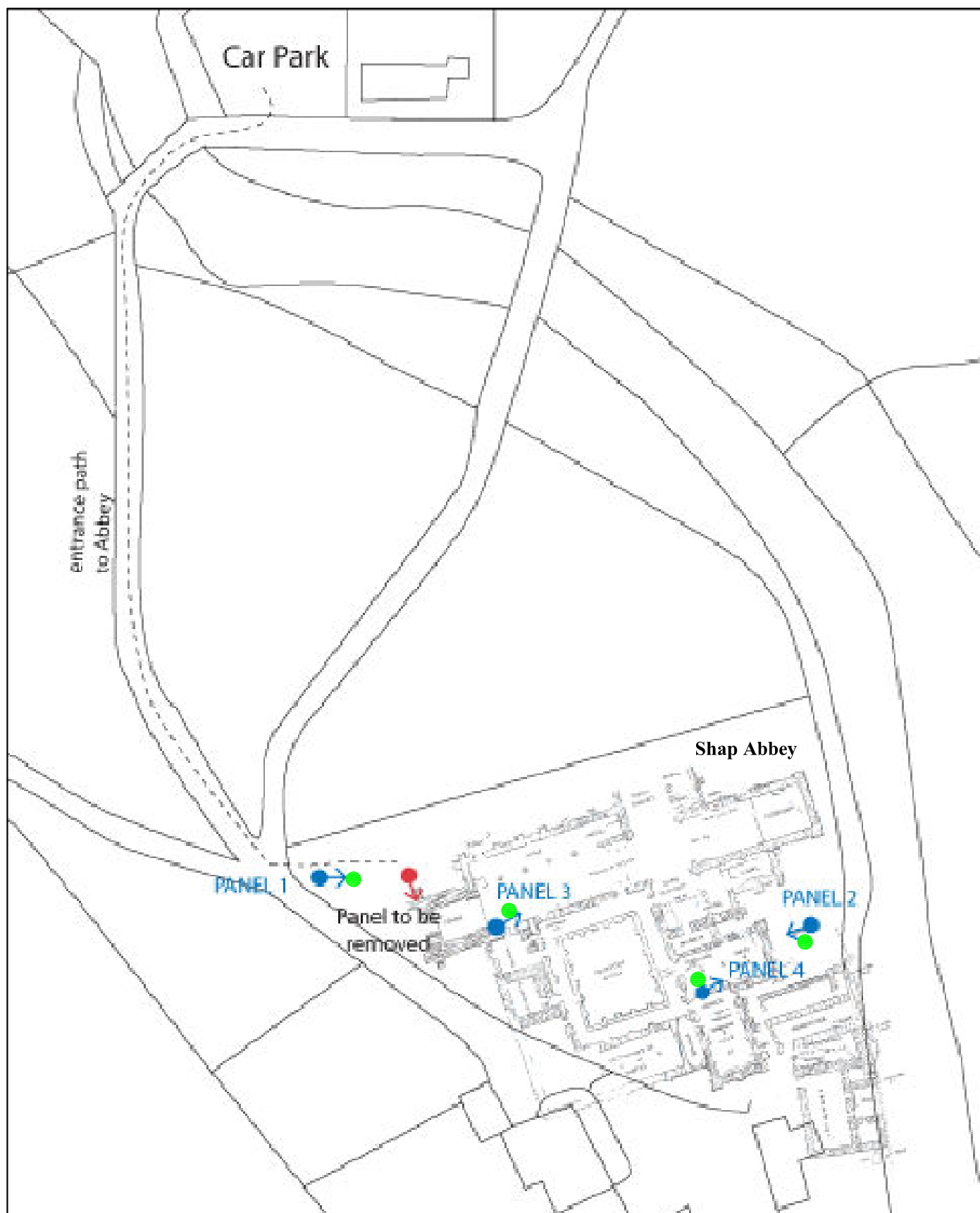


Figure 1: Site location







 <p>North Pennines Archaeology Ltd 2007</p>	<p>PROJECT: Shap Abbey, Cumbria</p> <p>SCALE: Not to scale</p> <p>REPORT No: CP 530/07</p> <p>CLIENT English Heritage</p> <p>DRAWN BY: MDR</p> <p>DATE: July 2007</p> <p>FIGURE No: 2</p>		<p>KEY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><span style="color: red;">■</span> panel removed</li> <li><span style="color: blue;">■</span> proposed panel locations</li> <li><span style="color: green;">■</span> actual panel locations</li> </ul> <p><small>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732</small></p>
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Figure 2: Plan showing locations of interpretation scheme panels