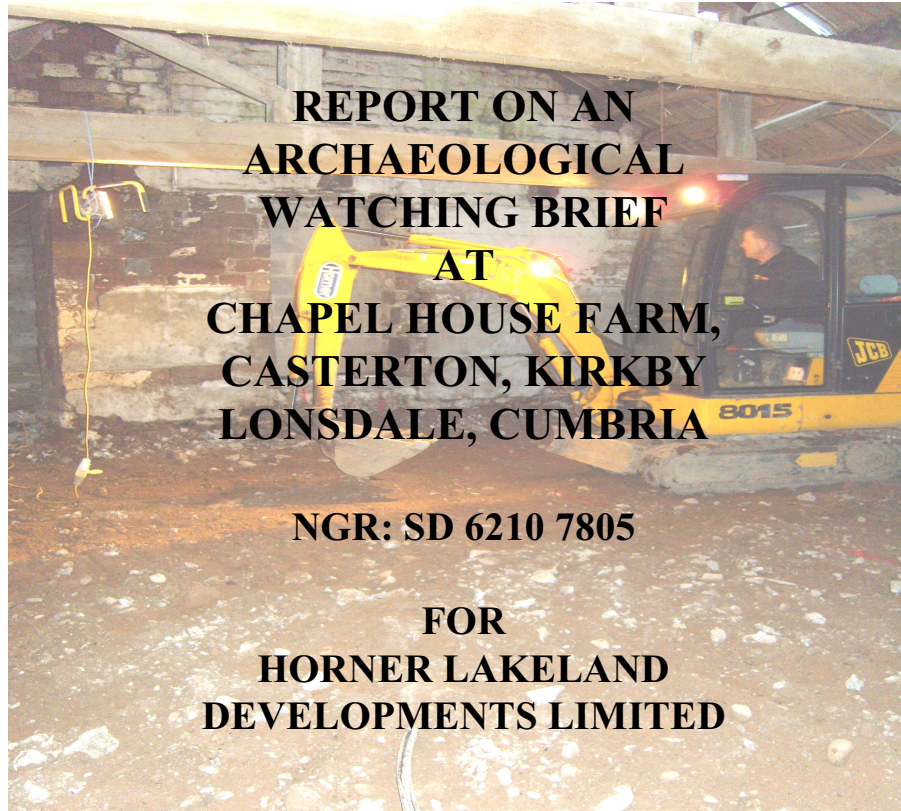

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Client Report No. CP/364/06



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Beginning August 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological watching brief during redevelopment works on redundant farm buildings at Chapel House Farm, Casterton, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria.

The site lies within the Lune Valley, 0.5km east of the River Lune and 1km to the southwest of the market town of Kirkby Lonsdale. The village of Casterton is 1.5km to the north of Chapel House Farm. The buildings are situated towards the bottom of a west-facing slope, at a height of approximately 70m above sea level.

An archaeological building survey undertaken on site in 2004 (Wooler 2004) defined the buildings to be 18th century in date and as a result, all groundworks associated with the redevelopment of the barns were observed. These works entailed the excavation of three trenches within Barn A to form the foundation of partition walls, a further trench in Barn B, for the same purpose, a trench for service pipes, and clearance of material and excavation into the ground behind Barn A. The width of the trenches inside the barns was 0.8m, with the depth being no greater than 1.35m. All sections of these trenches were devoid of any archaeological remains.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank John Walker and Stephen Chaplow of Horner Lakeland Developments for their assistance and support on site, and Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist for Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Services, for his guidance on this project.

Nicola Gaskell and Kevin Mounsey undertook the watching brief. Martin Sowerby and Nicola Gaskell prepared the report. Juliet Reeves, edited the report. Frank Giocco, NPA Technical Director, managed the project.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Starting in August 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological watching brief at Chapel House Farm, Casterton, Cumbria, (NGR: SD 6210 7805; see Figure 1), following a request by M B Hodgson and Son on behalf of Horner Lakeland Development Limited for archaeological monitoring during groundworks undertaken at the site in the course of redevelopment.
- 1.1.2 The site of Chapel House Farm, Casterton is within the Lune Valley, 0.5km to the east of the River Lune and 1km south-west from the market town of Kirkby Lonsdale in the south of the county of Cumbria. The area subject to the watching brief includes a range of redundant farm buildings that are undergoing renovations for the conversion to residential units, and the area of the farmyard that will be subject to excavation trenches for service pipes and cables.
- 1.1.3 The aim of the watching brief was to record any significant deposits uncovered during the proposed groundworks at the site which involved the excavation of a limited number of interventions associated with the construction of residential units and associated services/landscaping around the existing structure.
- 1.1.4 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document outlining the results of the archaeological recording undertaken during the watching brief.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 The watching brief comprised monitoring target areas of the interior of the barns and any interventions within the farmyard area that related to this redevelopment (see Figures 2, 3 and 4).

2.1.2 In summary, general objectives of the watching brief were:

- to observe and record archaeological remains should they occur within the defined watching brief area;
- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains as far as possible within the remit of the archaeological watching brief condition;
- to recover artefactual material, especially where useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives.

2.2 SITE SPECIFIC AIMS

2.2.1 Site-specific requirements were defined as follows:

- to monitor the area during excavation to impact depth (approx 1m below present-day ground level) for wall foundations and service pipe/cable insertion;
- to investigate and record any archaeological remains encountered, and to protect them from damage where appropriate;
- to define the location, character, extent and state of preservation of any features associated with the site should they be encountered in the development area.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 3.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by M B Hodgson and Son on behalf of Horner Lakeland Development Limited for archaeological monitoring during groundworks undertaken at Chapel Farm, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria. The works were in accordance with a brief prepared by Jeremy Parsons, Assistant County Archaeologist at Cumbria County Council (Parsons 2006). Planning Permission had been applied for these works, and, due to the possible archaeological sensitivity, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) stated that a condition should be attached to the permission requiring that all of the groundworks be excavated under a full watching brief condition. Following acceptance of the project design, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work.
- 3.1.2 The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.

3.2 FIELDWORK

- 3.2.1 The watching brief comprised six non-consecutive days of observation in three areas of the development site. The machine-excavated trenches varied in depth and width depending on their intended function.
- 3.2.2 NPA standard pro-forma watching brief sheets were completed for each day of observations and any archaeological features were investigated and recorded, in accordance with the NPA standard procedure as set out in the company Manual (Giecco 2003) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IFA 1994).
- 3.2.3 Photography was undertaken using Canon EOS 500 Single Lens Reflex (SLR) manual cameras. A photographic record was made using 200 ISO colour slide film and 400 ISO black and white print film. A digital photographic record was also made using a Samsung Digimax D103 camera.
- 3.2.4 All references to cardinal directions refer to site grid north.

3.3 PROJECT ARCHIVE

- 3.3.1 The full archive has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the current English Heritage guidelines set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 2nd Ed. 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, CHF-B.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 4.1.1 The village of Casterton lies in the valley of the River Lune in the southernmost part of Cumbria, on the north side of the A65 road (Figure 1) close to the border with North Yorkshire and Lancashire. It is positioned approximately 1km to the south west of the market town of Kirkby Lonsdale and 11km to the northwest of Ingleton in North Yorkshire.

4.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.2.1 Located 1.2km to the east of Casterton village lies an Early Bronze Age stone circle, which despite the availability of large glacial boulders in the landscape is made up of small stones. They form a circle 19m diameter, which is positioned on a flat-topped platform. On the northwest perimeter are the remains of a possible secondary (later) burial cairn from which, in 1828, a bronze spearhead, a flint arrowhead and perhaps a late beaker may have been recovered (Burl 1995). Other settlement sites and burial cairns occupy areas of the hills to the east of Casterton.
- 4.2.2 *Calacum* Roman Fort lies just 2km south of Chapel House Farm. The fort lies on a slight prominence almost 0.6 km east of the River Lune, beside the A638 road from Kirkby Lonsdale to Lancaster. The plateau occupied by the fort and its annexes measures about 250m by 100m, covering an area of about 2.5 ha and aligned roughly NNE-SSW. Excavations conducted on the site in 1952/53 seemed to indicate that the fort itself occupied the southern end of the platform, and was almost square in outline measuring about 143m by 135m enclosing about 1.94 ha, which is enough space for a *cohors peditata milliaria*, a one-thousand strong auxiliary infantry unit (Shotter 1997).

4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.3.1 In August 2004 North Pennines Archaeology Limited undertook a rapid desk-based assessment and a Level 2 building survey of the farm buildings considered for redevelopment at Chapel House Farm. It was found that although the buildings were not of national importance they represent good regional examples of 18th century agricultural buildings (Wooler 2004).

5. WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 During August 2006, January 2007 and July 2007, North Pennines Archaeology undertook an archaeological watching brief undertaken at Chapel House Farm, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria. The work was requested as a number of 18th century farm buildings were being converted into residential units. The resulting groundworks consisted of the excavation of a series of construction and foundation trenches associated with the build. A period of time was available after the trenches had been opened to conduct a thorough examination of the material removed from them and to examine and record the sections and bottoms of the excavated trenches before they were utilized. As no archaeological deposits or features were encountered no context numbers were issued.

5.2 BARN A (10TH / 18TH / 29TH JANUARY 2007)

- 5.2.1 In total, three trenches (Trenches 2, 3, and 4) were excavated inside Barn A to accommodate foundation trenches for new partition walls within the building (see Figure 2). Trench 2 was located in Room 2 of Barn A and was aligned northeast by southwest. It measured 7.5m in length (the entire length of the room), and was 0.80m wide by 0.40m deep. Only one layer was observed during the excavation of the trench which consisted of light to mid brown silty clay which was moderately well compacted with up to 70% stone inclusions which varied in size from small to large sub-rounded river washed cobbles. The appearance of this material was that it was a naturally formed layer rather than a deliberate dump of material (see Plate 1).
- 5.2.2 Trenches 3 and 4 were located in the main area of the barn, with Trench 3 positioned 2.4m southeast of the doorway into room 2. The length of the trench was 5.3m (the width of the room) and was 0.80m wide. The minimum depth of the trench was 0.60m. The concrete floor that was previously in this part of the barn had already been removed, below that and seen throughout the extent of the trench was the natural substrate. This comprised dark brown clayey silt that carried up to 75% inclusions of sub-rounded water worn cobbles that varied in size from small to large and also other pieces of medium sized angular limestone.
- 5.2.3 Trench 4 was positioned 6.9m to the southeast of Trench 3. It measured 5.30m in length, was 0.80m in width and was 0.60m in depth. On the surface of the trench were a number of loose cobbles that may have previously formed a floor surface under the concrete one, however, they were greatly disturbed. The natural substrate material encountered within the trench was the same as in Trench 3, a dark brown clayey silt that carried up to 75% inclusions. Approximately 1.75m from the southwestern end of the trench was a very large bluestone boulder (Plate 4), this had to be mechanically reduced by a pecker to achieve the necessary trench depth as it could not be removed from the trench as a whole piece.



Plate 1: Barn A, foundation trench 2
inside the building



Plate 2: Excavation of trench 2, inside Barn A



Plate 3: Excavation of trench 3, inside Barn A



Plate 4: Excavation of trench 4, inside Barn A

- 5.2.2 No datable finds were recovered and no archaeological features or layers were observed during the course of the groundworks.

5.3 BARN B (1ST AUGUST 2006)

- 5.3.1 A single trench (Trench 1) was excavated inside Barn B (Figure 3, Plates 5 and 6), which was aligned north-northwest by south-south east across the central section of the building to accommodate a new internal load-bearing wall. The trench was approximately 0.8m wide by 5.5m long. A modern concrete surface, up to 0.2m deep, was removed which overlaid a loose mid brown silty sand which contained 70% small to medium sized inclusions, which were predominantly sub-rounded to round in shape. This layer was up to 0.40m deep and likely represents a deliberate dump of material, perhaps to raise the floor in the barn to accommodate the relatively modern concrete surface above. Observed at the base of the trench was the foundation of an earlier partition wall, which was presumably removed when the barn was enlarged to accommodate larger agricultural machinery. It consists of a randomly coursed limestones measuring 0.30m by 0.30m by 0.20m deep and was bonded with a pale grey mortar.

- 5.3.2 As the new internal wall was to be constructed in order to create a stable foundation, the area immediately to the south of the original trench was expanded to create more roof space. The wall was partially revealed which showed it to be six courses high (see Plate. No 6) finds or archaeological features were exposed during the excavation of this material.



Plate 5: Inside Barn B



Plate 6: Foundation trench 1, in Barn B, showing earlier internal partition wall

5.4 EXTERNAL FIELD WORK (10TH JULY 2007)

- 5.4.1 Over two consecutive days ground intervention work was carried out to the rear of Barn A (Plate 7). Due to the unstable nature of the rear wall on the northeast side this had been almost completely demolished. Only a section, 6m long, on the northern end was left standing. In order to facilitate the demolition work the ground adjacent to the rear wall had been previously excavated down approximately 2.30m for a distance 5m out from the wall.
- 5.4.2 The levelling of an area measuring 17m long by 5m wide, adjacent to the rear of Barn A, was undertaken by a mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision, which resulted in the removal of a large bank of redeposited material. The bank averaged 3m in height, with three distinct layers forming its make-up. Brown topsoil, approximately 0.10m deep lay over brown, sandy silt, subsoil approximately 2.80m to 2.90m deep. This is likely to be made ground, placed against the exterior of the original barn wall. Originally, there had been a first floor access door on this side of the barn. The natural natural soil horizon was noted at the base of the excavated bank. This appeared as light brown/orange, silty clay, containing a large amount of stone.

Some of the stone was quite large, up to 0.60m in size. The original barn foundations had been laid on to the natural soil horizon (Plate 9).

- 5.4.3 On completion of the levelling work adjacent to the barn rear, work proceeded in scraping out a layer of subsoil, 0.20m thick, from what would be a future room within the barn conversion. This revealed some of the original foundation stones lying on the natural sub-strata (Plate 8).



Plate 7: Excavation into the bank at the rear of Barn A. Note that the majority of the rear wall has been demolished.



Plate 8: Barn A, an original stone dividing wall (on left) lying on the light brown/orange natural soil horizon



Plate 9: Internal foundation stones lying on the natural substrata

- 5.4.4 In order to reconstruct the barn rear wall it was necessary to excavate a trench (Trench 5) for concrete foundations. This trench ran along the line of the original rear wall for a distance of 16.70m, measured 1m wide and was excavated into the natural to a depth of 0.80m (Plate 10).



Plate 10: Foundation trench 5 along the line of the rear wall

- 5.4.5 No finds were recovered from this phase of the development and no archaeological features were observed.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

- 6.1.1 The watching brief undertaken at Chapel House Farm, Kirkby Lonsdale, Cumbria failed to locate any significant archaeological remains. It is evident that the barns were constructed directly on to the natural soil horizons and therefore any archaeological features relating to any earlier activities on site would have been severely truncated by the construction of the barns in the 18th century.
- 6.1.2 The watching brief did reveal a wall inside Barn B, (Plate 11) relating to an internal wall that was possibly removed to increase available space inside the barn. This wall has been covered with a concrete beam, to construct a new dividing wall within the barn, preserving the wall in situ.



Plate 11: Original dividing wall, in Barn B

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APPENDIX 1: FIGURES
