

**HEADS WOOD
NEWTOWN
BRAMPTON
CUMBRIA**



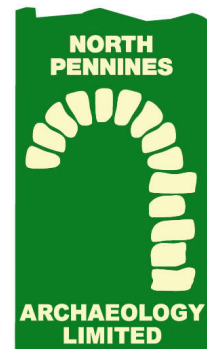
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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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.

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
1 INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Circumstances of the Project.....	7
2 METHODOLOGY	8
2.1 Project Design	8
2.2 The Watching Brief.....	8
2.3 The Archive	9
3 BACKGROUND	10
3.1 Location and Geological Context	10
3.2 Historical Context	10
3.3 Previous Work	11
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF	13
4.1 Introduction	13
4.2 Archaeological Finds and Environmental Sampling.....	14
5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	15
5.1 Conclusions	15
5.2 Recommendations.....	15
6 BIBLIOGRAPHY	16
6.1 Secondary Sources.....	16
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE	17
APPENDIX 2: FIGURES.....	18

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES (APPENDIX 2)

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION

FIGURE 2: LOCATION OF WATCHING BRIEF

PLATES

PLATE 1: EXCAVATION OF NORTH EASTERN END OF SERVICE TRENCH13

SUMMARY

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Linda Wilkinson to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks relating to the re-excitation of a backfilled drainage trench at Heads Wood, Newtown, Brampton Cumbria (NGR NY 5031 63169).

The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken on the 30th of April 2009. The watching brief monitored the re-excitation of a service trench which had been originally excavated without any archaeological supervision.

The re-excitation of the service trench revealed no features of archaeological significance, confirming that no damage had been caused to the remains of Hadrian's wall during the original groundworks.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Linda Wilkinson, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. NPA Ltd would also like to thank Mike Collins for all his assistance throughout the project.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Alan James, for his help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Kevin Mounsey. The report was written by Kevin Mounsey and the drawings were produced by Frank Giocco. The project was managed by Frank Giocco, Director for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Matt Town, Project Manager for NPA Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In April 2009, North Pennines Archaeology were invited Linda Wilkinson to maintain an archaeological watching brief at Heads Wood, Newtown, Brampton (NY 5031 63169; Figure 1), during groundworks associated with the re-excavation of a service trench. The proposed works lie within the immediate vicinity of large earthworks visible to the north east of the study area and area the remains of a 12th century Norman motte and bailey castle (SMR #246). The line of Hadrian's Wall crosses directly through the study area. The site is located between Turret 57A and 57B. A previous desk-based assessment and evaluation carried out by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in 2007 confirmed that traces of Hadrian's Wall survived in the study area. As a result, Mike Collins (Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist) requested that all ground reduction be subject to a programme of archaeological observation and investigation.
- 1.1.2 All groundworks associated with the development at Heads Wood therefore had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work undertaken would following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2002). Following on from the evaluation a drain was inserted to the south of Hadrian's Wall without any archaeological monitoring. In order to ascertain if any damage had been carried out on the below ground archaeology, the client was asked to re-excavate the trench under archaeological monitoring.
- 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 Linda Wilkinson, for an archaeological watching brief of the re-excavation of a service trench. Following acceptance of the project design by Mike Collins of English Heritage, 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 2002).

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, 35mm colour slide and monochrome formats as applicable, 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).

2.2.3 A single trench measuring approximately 46m in length and 22cm in width was excavated by a mechanical excavator with a 20cm wide trenching bucket (see Figure 2 for location).

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 Tullie House Museum, with copies of the report sent to Mike Collins (Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist). The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA 09, HWN-B, CP 915/09.

2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology, and English Heritage, 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 Heads Wood is located 1.5km north west of Brampton, Cumbria and approximately 15.2km north east of the border city of Carlisle (see figure 1). The area is classed as a broad, lowland plain landscape fringed by the low, rugged and remote coastline of the Solway Firth. It is framed by the Cumbria High Fells to the south, the hills of the Scottish borders to the north and the Border Moors and Forests to the north-east (Countryside Commission 1998). The land surrounding Heads Wood is gently rolling and is intensively managed as a predominately pastoral landscape (*ibid*)

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

3.2.1 The Hadrian's Wall ditch is still visible as a earthwork in the vicinity of the site. A number of large earthworks are also visible to the north east of the study area and area the remains of a 12th century Norman motte and bailey castle (SMR #246). The line of Hadrian's wall crosses directly through the study area. The site is located between turret 57A and 57B, Roman finds have been discovered in the vicinity of the site including a altar fragment at Kileyske Hill approximately 700m to the north east of the study area.

3.2.2 Hadrian's Wall was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1987 and forms the most complex and best preserved of the frontiers of the Roman Empire. The World Heritage Site comprises a visual envelope between 1km and 6km from the site in order to serve as a buffer zone to protect the site and its immediate landscape from development detrimental to the visual amenity of the site (*Ibid.*).

3.2.3 The WHS is centred on the military installations constructed from AD 122 on the orders of the Emperor Hadrian. The WHS also includes other Roman sites and structures which predate Hadrian's Wall, such as the arrangement of forts along the Cumbrian Coast between Bowness-on-Solway and Ravenglass, and incorporates a wealth of pre and post Roman sites and landscapes (*Ibid.*). Hadrian's Wall was constructed in the early 2nd century on a line connecting the Tyne and the Solway and represented at various times the northern frontier of Roman Britain. As a whole it represents one of the best-preserved frontiers of the Roman Empire.

3.2.4 The Wall was a composite military barrier, which in its final form, comprised several separate elements; a stone wall fronted by a V-shaped ditch, and a number of purpose-built stone garrison fortifications such as forts,

milecastles and turrets. A large earthwork and ditch, built parallel with and to the south of the Wall, known as the Vallum, and a metalled supply road linking the garrison forts, which is known as the 'Roman Military Way'. The Wall begins in the east at Wallsend in Tyneside and continues to the west terminating at Bowness-on-Solway in Cumbria, a distance of 80 Roman miles (73.5 English miles or 117 kilometres). The Wall, conceived by Hadrian was to be ten feet wide and about fifteen feet high. The front face of the wall most likely sported a crenulated parapet, behind which the soldiers patrolled along a paved rampart-walk (Bedoyere 1998).

- 3.2.5 The more detailed history of Hadrian's Wall is well documented and is summarised in numerous publications (Breeze and Dobson 2000; Daniels 1978), however the Wall west of the River Irthing forms part of this survey and will be briefly discussed.
- 3.2.6 Hadrian's Wall west of the River Irthing was originally constructed out of grass turves laid in courses. The reason for this change is to be found in the local geology (Daniels 1978). West of the Irthing, limestone ceases at the Red Rock fault, near milecastle 54 (MC 54). As a direct result, lime used in the construction could no longer be prepared at hand and would have to be brought from over the Irthing. The milecastles of the Turf Wall were built in turf and timber and the turrets were of stone (*ibid*). It is possible that replacement of the Turf Wall in stone probably began almost immediately (Daniels 1978), and for a stretch of roughly five miles west of the Irthing, the Turf Wall was replaced in stone.
- 3.2.7 The stone wall at Heads Wood is known to have been of the Intermediate stone wall type measuring approximately 2.9m across its base. The base of the turf wall was substantially wider than that of the stone wall and could be up to 6m in width approximately double that of the intermediate stone wall.
- 3.2.8 From the west of MC 54 to Bowness on Solway, the replacement was deferred, and was rebuilt in stone before AD180, and was perhaps part of the preparation for the reoccupation of Hadrian's Wall on the Antonine withdrawal from Scotland. Both replacements incorporated the stone turrets of the Turf Wall, and supplied new stone milecastles (Daniels 1978).

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.3.1 During May 2007, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological field evaluation consisting of five trenches on land at Heads Wood, Newtown, Brampton (see Figure 2).
- 3.3.2 Trench 3 confirmed the presence of natural boulder clay at a relatively shallow depth of 0.27m beneath the current topsoil; no archaeological

features were noted, despite evidence to suggest that the projected line of the Wall runs through the trench. This strongly indicates that the area around the trench has suffered extensively from horizontal truncation in the post-medieval periods and any remains relating to the Wall have been entirely removed.

- 3.3.3 In Trenches 4 and 5 a large deposit of dark brown organic rich silty sand were revealed which was identified as the demolished remains of the Turf Wall. However, only the northern extent of the Turf Wall was visible as the southern side was defined by the limit of excavation, therefore its full width could not be determined. A large rubble core was seen in Trench 5, which appears to be the foundations of the later Stone Wall.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The watching brief monitoring was undertaken on the 30th of April 2009. The main trench was aligned SW/NE with the northern end turning to the west and connecting to an existing drain (see Figure 2). The trench depth varied from SW to NE with the south eastern end starting at 0.25m in depth and increasing to 1.25m at the north western end. The underlying natural deposit consisted of compacted silty sand with occasional patches of degraded yellow limestone (104) and was observed at an average depth of 0.50m. This was underlying between 0.20m and 0.80m of dumped material (101), which consisted of re-deposited natural mixed with topsoil, indicating that the area has been disturbed during the excavation of the original service trench. Context 101 was sealed beneath approximately 0.10m of topsoil (100). The in situ pipe was observed in plan along the whole length of the trench and only subsoil and topsoil were observed in section.

4.1.2 No archaeological features were noted.



Plate 1: Excavation of north eastern end of service trench

4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.4.1 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 re-excavated service trench revealed no archaeological features in plan or in section.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.2.1 As this watching brief has revealed no features of archaeological significance, no further archaeological work is deemed necessary. However, given the site's location in an area of high archaeological potential and much of the site protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, it is recommended that any groundwork conducted in the future be subject to a similar programme of archaeological investigation.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Subsoil
102	Cut	Service trench
103	Fill	Fill of service trench
104	Natural	

Table 1: List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES
