ST CUTHBERT'S LANE AND BLACKFRIARS STREET, CARLISLE, CUMBRIA



RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT AND WATCHING BRIEF REPORT CP. No: 1185/10 17/12/2010

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
NENTHEAD MINES HERITAGE CENTRE,
NENTHEAD,
ALSTON,
CUMBRIA,
CA9 3PD

Tel/Fax: (01434) 382045/043 www.nparchaeology.co.uk



NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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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.

REVISION SCHEDULE				
	01	02	03	
PREPARED BY:	Fiona Wooler and Joanne Beaty			
Position:	Project Supervisors			
DATE:	23/11/2010			
EDITED BY:	Frank Giecco			
Position:	Technical Director			
DATE:	23/11/2010			
APPROVED BY:	Matt Town			
POSITION:	Project Manager			
DATE:	23/11/2010			

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SUMMARY

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Electricity North West (formerly United Utilities) to undertake a rapid desk-based assessment and archaeological watching brief at Blackfriars Street, Carlisle, Cumbria (NY 4006 5579 to 4007 5590). Following consultation between Electricity North West and Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) regarding the laying of new electric ducting along Blackfriars Street and St Cuthbert's Lane, Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer for CCCHES, recommended a rapid desk-based assessment and watching brief be undertaken. The work was required as the site lies within the historic core of Carlisle, with previous work in the area suggesting a sequence of archaeological remains from the Roman period to modern day, including the possible location of the Blackfriars Monastery.

The rapid desk-based assessment involved the examination of all pertinent documents and cartographic sources held in the County Records Office in Carlisle, the local studies section at Carlisle Library, and the consultation of the Historic Environment Record (HER) for Cumbria based in Kendal. In addition, a number of published sources were consulted to provide background information, including the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society.

The research has shown that St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street have remained major thoroughfares within the walled city of Carlisle since at least the 16th century, with Blackfriars Street possibly originating as far back as the 1st century AD as shown by excavations in the 1970s which provided evidence of Roman buildings facing onto the street frontage.

Excavations undertaken on Blackfriars Street revealed evidence for a number of features and finds attributable to the 7th to 9th century, indicating activity on the site in the early medieval period.

Blackfriars Street gets its name for the Black Friars who had a monastic complex on the west side of the street, roughly underneath where Marks and Spencer's Food Hall is now. Excavations in the 1970s revealed evidence for their cemetery along with foundations believed to have been part of the church, together with fragmentary remains of other buildings thought to belong to those grouped around the cloister.

In the 18th century both sides of St Cuthbert's Lane are shown to be lined with properties, with gardens to the rear. Blackfriars Street is shown as largely open on both sides, possibly as gardens, although by the end of the same century buildings were located along both sides. Throughout the 19th century gradual infilling of the land on either side of Blackfriars Street appears to have taken place, possibly creating areas of courtyards and narrow lanes. Trade directory evidence appears to suggest that both St

Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street were home to small-scale industries, shopkeepers and public houses.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken over 19 days between the 21st September and 17th October 2010. The watching brief monitored the groundworks for a new electricity cable trench along St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street. Archaeological remains were identified along the trench to the rear of 26-40 English Street, along Blackfriars Street in the form of possible medieval foundations which are likely to be of medieval date.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the laying of a new electricity duct and cable, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the high archaeological potential of the area, it is recommended that any future work be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Gregg Davies of Electricity North West (formerly United Utilities), for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. NPA Ltd would also like to thank Jo Mackintosh, Historic Environment Record Officer and Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service, and staff at Carlisle Record Office and Carlisle Library for their help during this project.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Kevin Anderson, Electricity North West, Alan James for undertaking metal detecting, and staff of the contractors, Murphy's, for all assistance during the groundworks.

The rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken by Fiona Wooler. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Joanne Beaty, David Jackson, Fiona Wooler, Nigel Cavanagh and Mike McElliggot. The report was written by Joanne Beaty and Fiona Wooler. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Technical Director for NPA Ltd, who also edited the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 North Pennines Archaeology were commissioned by Electricity North West, to undertake an archaeological watching brief along St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street, Carlisle, Cumbria (NY 4006 557 to 4007 55909, Figure 1), during groundworks associated with the laying of new mains electricity cables. The proposed works lie within the immediate vicinity of the heart of the Roman and medieval town, with 1st to 4th century Roman buildings, 5th and 6th century structural remains and the cemetery of the Dominican monastery, all revealed during archaeological investigations in Blackfriars Street. As a result, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service requested that a rapid desk-based assessment be undertaken and that all ground reduction be subject to a programme of archaeological observation and investigation in the form of a watching brief (Parsons 2010).
- 1.1.2 All groundworks associated with the laying of the new electricity cables had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008a), and were consistent with the specification provided by NPA (Giecco 2010) 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 Electricity North West, for an archaeological watching brief of the study area (Giecco 2010). Following acceptance of the project design by Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer, CCCHES, 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 RAPID DESK BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 The rapid desk-based assessment involved the consultation of the County Historic Environment Record in Kendal in the first instance. This included the collection of all available information held within the HER database, in order to achieve a full understanding of the nature of the existing resource regarding the geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context of the site.
- 2.2.2 Following this the County Records Office in Carlisle, and Carlisle Library local studies, were consulted in order to study maps and documents relevant to the study area. This included the collection of historical maps, including Tithe or Enclosure maps and early Ordnance Survey maps. Several secondary sources and journals, such as the Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, were also consulted.
- 2.2.3 The desk-based assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments (IfA 2008b).

2.3 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.3.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development area. 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 2008a).

- 2.3.2 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).
- 2.3.3 A trench of approximately 170m in length was stripped of paving and soil (topsoil and subsoil) to a depth of 0.70m, to allow for the insertion of the ducting to house the cabling, and back fill. The trench extended along the length of St Cuthbert's Lane, and partly along the east side of Blackfriars Street. Archaeological monitoring and supervision of groundworks associated with the excavation of the trench commenced on 21st September 2010. A summary of the findings of the watching brief is included within this report. The trench was approximately 170m in length from the eastern end of St Cuthbert's Lane to the rear of Marks and Spencers opposite the substation. The trench was approximately 0.70m deep and on average 0.35m wide to allow for the width of the duct and cable.

2.4 THE ARCHIVE

2.4.1 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, Carlisle, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Kendal, Cumbria, where viewing will be

- made available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA10, CBF-A, CP 1185/10.
- 2.4.2 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 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1 LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 3.1.1 The city of Carlisle is located to the north of the county of Cumbria, approximately 15km to the south of the modern border with Scotland, and *c*.13km upstream from the Solway Firth. The historic core is located on the south bank of the River Eden, at its confluence with the River Caldew (Figure 1).
- 3.1.2 The modern city of Carlisle has expanded considerably beyond the ancient city centre. In the medieval period this was clearly defined by the city walls which were located along what is now Lowther Street, East and West Tower Streets and West Walls. The south-western side of the ancient and modern city centre is delimited by a steep scarp defined by West Walls, a number of car parks and the railway. Immediately west of the railway lies the River Caldew. The down-cutting action of the Eden also resulted in the formation of a steep bank along what is now East and West Tower Street, whilst the castle occupies a commanding position on a steep bluff at the north-western extremity of the centre. Within the present day city centre, the land slopes gently from west to east. The ancient topography is not yet understood, however there is some evidence from recent excavations and borehole readings that suggest there may have been two knolls, of which the Cathedral precinct occupies one and the Castle the other (McCarthy 1990).
- 3.1.3 Blackfriars Street and St Cuthbert's Lane are located to the west side of the city centre, and to the east side of the line of the River Caldew and the railway. St Cuthbert's Lane is orientated east to west, and presently provides pedestrian access been Blackfriars Street and the city centre (Figure 2). This thoroughfare presently has shops and businesses along both sides of its length. Blackfriars Street is orientated roughly north to south, and links St Cuthbert's Lane with the eastern end of Victoria Viaduct to the south. This street is presently in use as a road providing access at its northern end to the car park of the Crown and Mitre Hotel. The rear of shops along English Street define the eastern side of Blackfriars Street, whilst to the western side there is the former graveyard of St Cuthbert's Church, Heads Lane which leads towards West Walls, Marks and Spencer's Food Hall, Tesco's Car Park and a furniture store located at its southern end.

3.2 GEOLOGY

3.2.1 The city of Carlisle is located on boulder clay which overlies sandstone of the Permo-Triassic period. These consist mainly of St Bees and Kirklinton sandstones, which formed the most important source of stone building materials used locally in Roman and medieval times. The distinctive red and grey colours of the sandstone can be clearly seen in the fabric of the Cathedral and the Castle (McCarthy 1990).

4 RAPID DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 Prior to the commencement of groundworks, a rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken in order to place the study area into its historical context. The assessment involved the consultation of the county Historic Environment Record (HER), historical mapping housed at Carlisle Record Office and Carlisle Library, and secondary sources. The Brief for this scheme of archaeological works noted that a full history of Carlisle was not required in this instance (Parsons 2010); consequently only historical and archaeological evidence pertinent to the study area has been referred to here.

4.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 4.2.1 *Place name evidence:* the fortified city of *Luguvallium* which became *Luwel* in primitive Welsh (6th to the 8th century). This became *Luel* and evolved into modern *Lisle*. Old Welsh *cair* (modern Welsh *caer*) 'fortified city' had been prefixed by the 9th century. *Luguvallium*, a Romano-British name, could mean the wall of the Celtic god *Lug*, or strong as the god *Lug*. *Lug* appears as first element in several place names in areas occupied by the Celts, such as *Lugudunum* which developed into modern Lyons, France (Lee 1998, 19).
- 4.2.2 *Prehistoric (pre. 71/72AD):* Carlisle was not immediately settled after the retreat of the glaciers of the Ice Age (in about 12, 000 BC), but as the climate improved humans advanced further northwards. The evidence is slight, but it appears that there were visitors in the area by the Mesolithic period (*c.*5000BC). By 4000BC (Neolithic period) there were people living in the area (Perriam 1992, 3). There is some archaeological evidence for settlement within close proximity to, what would become, the city centre of Carlisle. Ploughmarks made in the underlying glacial soils by primitive ploughs have been found in Lowther Street, below Tullie House Museum and at Blackfriars Street. This early farming activity is believed to date to the Neolithic, partly on the basis of stone tools, including axes, which have been found (McCarthy 1993, 1).
- 4.2.3 The features interpreted as plough marks at Blackfriars Street, were revealed during excavations on the site of what is now Marks and Spencer's Food Hall, on the west side of the street. The plough marks were observed in a trench located close to the line of Blackfriars Street, cut into the natural subsoil which consisted of a yellow-brown coarse sandy loam. The marks were visible as a number of closely-spaced linear grooves 0.05m and 0.10m

- wide, and 2-3m in length, orientated north to south. The profiles of the grooves were roughly V-shaped, and they varied in depth to a maximum of 0.10m (McCarthy 1990, 13).
- 4.2.4 Evidence for pre-Roman settlement in Carlisle has also been revealed during excavations at The Lanes, where a cobbled trackway of early date was revealed. It has been suggested that this feature along with the evidence of plough or ard-marks seen elsewhere within the city, may represent the remains of an extensive system of arable fields and associated trackways situated close to a putative settlement. The relatively large flint assemblage suggests a late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date for the pre-Roman settlement, although the plough-marks have been interpreted by some as the remains of cord-rig cultivation, which is usually regarded as being a feature of the later Bronze Age or Iron Age. With the exception of an undated roundhouse of possible late Iron Age date excavated in the southern Lanes, which was found to overlie a buried soil horizon above the natural clay, there is currently little evidence for Iron Age activity in Carlisle (Zant 2009, 5).
- 4.2.5 *Romano-British (c.71/72-410AD):* at present the available evidence points to the Romans as the first to establish nucleated settlements in this area of Britain, one of the first being at Carlisle. This took place as a result of the Romans' need to establish firm control over the great northern tribal confederacy known as the Brigantes.. The Roman soldiers set up their fort, defended by a rampart of turf and timber, in the winter of AD 72-3 under the leadership of the governor of Britain, Petillius Cerialis. Attached to the southern side of the fort was a small defended annexe. Such close dating is rarely possible in archaeology, but in this instance analysis of the tree-rings on some of the timbers provides precise evidence (McCarthy 1993, 3).
- 4.2.4 The excavations at Blackfriars Street, undertaken between 1977-79, revealed evidence of two timber buildings overlying the old ground surface. These buildings (Building 1 and Building 2) were dated to the Flavian period partly from a timber and a coin, both of which dated to the year AD79, and partly from Samian Ware pottery. Although floors were lacking, more than one phase could be discerned in both buildings (McCarthy 1990, 15). Both of these buildings were seemingly orientated east to west, and were located to the eastern end of the excavation area, close to the western side of Blackfriars Street, suggesting that the line of Blackfriars Street may have been a main thoroughfare as early as the 1st century AD.
- 4.2.5 Excavations on Annetwell Street, located to the north of the Cathedral, in the 1970s and 1980s revealed well-preserved evidence for the southern rampart and gate of the Flavian (1st century) fort. The full extent of this fort has yet to

be determined, but a typical Roman fort covered 5½ acres, the fort at Carlisle would therefore have extended northwards from Annetwell Street and covered most of the castle promontory. This would have been a well-chosen site, as the River Eden historically skirted the castle promontory, while the adjacent land was marshy and a defile separated the castle and cathedral sites. A civilian settlement serving and dependant on the fort, the 'vicus', occupied the western portion of the present city centre. The vicus is suggested to have been aligned north to south along the line of Blackfriars Street, with the fort entrance to the north and the Roman approach road along the present Botchergate and London Road to the south (Towill 1991, 4).

- The archaeological excavations undertaken on the west side of Blackfriars Street in 1977-79, as already noted, demonstrated that extramural timber buildings adjacent to the main road leading south were in use within a few years of the arrival of the Roman army, and the narrow building plots remained in use to the end of the Roman period, although the buildings themselves were frequently rebuilt (Zant 2009, 9). The principal cemeteries during the Roman period appear to have been located south of the town, adjacent to the main road represented by the modern Botchergate. A small number of burials and cremations are known to the west and east, for example at Spring Gardens bowling green, and near the River Caldew beneath West Walls. The only Roman burials (with the exception of an occasional infant) to have been found within the area of the later medieval city walls, and may represent an early cemetery over which the civil settlement subsequently expanded, was at the south end of English Street where numerous cremations were found during the construction of a new gaol in the 1830s (*ibid*, 12).
- 4.2.7 Although it is not known, as yet, if the alignment of what is now St Cuthbert's Lane represents a thoroughfare which was in use during the Roman period, the HER records a rim fragment from a Roman Samian pottery vessel which had been recovered from a gas pipe trench excavated along its length in 1985 (HER No. 17967).
- 4.2.8 The Roman fort at Carlisle was abandoned by the military in AD330-40, but if the coins and pottery datable to the later 4th century are taken at face value, occupation in some form may have been sustained into the 370s. At Stanwix, on the opposite side of the Eden to the north of the city, the fate of the fort and its attendant settlement is still unclear. Given the history of the other Hadrian's Wall forts, however, it would be surprising if Stanwix did not continue to be occupied in some form into the latter half of the 4th century. The removals of the garrisons from the forts at Carlisle and Stanwix could

- have acted as the catalyst for a gradual depopulation of the town (McCarthy 1993, 27).
- 4.2.9 *Early Medieval Period* (*c.410-1066AD*): the nature of the settlement at Carlisle in the earlier post-Roman period is difficult to determine. In view of its long history as a Roman administrative centre and its position at the hub of a system of roads, the town is unlikely to have been completely abandoned. During the 6th century, Carlisle probably lay within the British kingdom of Rheged, although archaeological and historical evidence is almost entirely lacking at present (Zant 2009, 12).
- 4.2.10 There is some archaeological evidence for structural remains of possible 5th to 6th century date recorded within the area of the Roman town at Blackfriars Street (see 4.2.12 below), Scotch Street and at the Cathedral. In all cases, however, dating of these deposits relies on stretched chronologies rather than direct evidence, although excavations at the Cathedral in 1988 produced a brooch of 5th to 7th century types from the post-Roman dark soil (Zant 2009, 13).
- 4.2.11 In 685AD, two years before his death, St Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne, visited Carlisle where the queen of Northumbria was awaiting news of the fate of her husband, King Ecgfrith. In succeeding centuries the cult of St Cuthbert was to give rise to more church and holy well dedications bearing his name in Cumbria than any other saint. It is believed, that while St Cuthbert was in Carlisle, he founded a monastery. Although very little is known about this monastery, it is thought to lie within the vicinity of St Cuthbert's church and the Cathedral (McCarthy 1993, 34). This suggestion is partly reinforced by the discovery in this area of four fragmentary Anglian crosses during the 19th century, one of which, the top part of an early 9th century cross head, was found at St Cuthbert's Lane (HER No. 526), as well as by the dedication of St Cuthbert's Church itself and it unusual alignment (it is not aligned strictly east to west) (Zant 2009, 15).
- 4.2.12 The excavations undertaken on Blackfriars Street revealed evidence for a number of features and finds attributable to the 7th to 9th century, indicating activity on the site in the Anglian period. The main feature revealed was an L-shaped slot or post trench, which probably formed two sides of a timber building at least 11.8m long and 5m wide. What was noticeable about this building was that it did not align with the Roman buildings which had existed prior to its construction on the same site, or indeed respect the Roman road alignments (McCarthy 1990, 70).
- 4.2.13 By the late 9th century, control of Carlisle and its region had passed from Northumbria to the British kingdom of Strathclyde or Cumbria, which itself

owed allegiance by this time to the king of the Scots. Scandinavian political influence at this time is debatable, although it is clear that an army under Halfden made a determined attempt to conquer Northumbria in 875AD, and over-wintered on the Tyne. Some sources have suggested that Halfden sacked Carlisle, although as yet there is no archaeological evidence to support this (Zant 2009, 15). It was the opinion of the 12th century chronicler John of Worcester that when William Rufus conquered Cumberland in 1092, Carlisle had lain waste and deserted since its destruction by the Danes two centuries earlier. It is likely that the impact of the Scandinavians on Cumbria in the decades on either side of 900AD had included an attack on the settlement at Carlisle, however the results of recent archaeological work has been such as to make untenable the chronicler's claim that the town had remained in a state of dereliction thereafter. The discovery of burials dateable to the 10th century on the site of the present-day cathedral makes it clear that Carlisle remained in occupation after the Viking settlement of Cumbria, while the fact that some of the bodies buried were demonstrably those of men of rank indicates that this occupation 'involved something more than the exercise of some Dark Age equivalent of squatter's rights' (Summerson 1993, 11).

- 4.2.14 It has been suggested that during the 8th and 9th centuries, the putative monastery formed the principal focus of settlement in Carlisle; later pre-Norman activity in the area may have been centred on a church beneath the present Cathedral, the existence of which was indicated by the cemetery discovered in 1988. There are also hints that the nearby church of St Cuthbert, first recorded at a date prior to 1130AD, and perhaps St Alban's chapel on Scotch Street, which was in existence by 1201, may have pre-Norman origins (Zant 2009, 15).
- 4.2.15 *Medieval (c.1066-1540AD):* writing with regard to Carlisle at the start of the medieval period, Towill noted that previously the city had been the victim of border warfare and of clashes between English and Celtic kingdoms. Despite this, he noted that the city had not been abandoned, and was still populated in 1092 when the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle recorded: 'in this year King William went north to Carlisle with great levies and restored the town, and built the castle. He drove out Dolfin who had formerly ruled that district, and garrisoned the castle with his men. Thereafter he went southwards, sending very many peasants thither with their wives and livestock to settle there and till the soil' (Towill 1991, 17). Carlisle Castle was sited on a naturally strong position, as was the Roman fort of nearly 10 centuries earlier, protected on one side by the River Eden and on east and west by the Rivers Petteril and Caldew. The earliest phase of the castle was possibly a palisaded wooden building, the present keep being constructed by the Scottish King David, who controlled Carlisle from 1135 to 1153, and who also heightened the walls around the city (*ibid*, 18) suggesting

- that the city walls were already in existence by this date. McCarthy has suggested that the modern town of Carlisle gradually began to take shape from the reign of Henry I, who, following a visit to the city in 1122, provided funds for the building of a castle and towers, as well as granting land for the foundation of the priory by Augustinian canons (McCarthy 1993, 43).
- 4.2.16 The foundation of the priory of Augustinian canons in 1122 initiated a particularly large-scale building programme at what is now the cathedral. The churches of St Cuthbert and St Alban, as well as the suburban church of Holy Trinity in Caldewgate, almost certainly witnessed building activity in the 12th and 13th centuries, although not on as large a scale as at the priory. Little is known about the medieval church of St Cuthbert, which was entirely rebuilt in 1778, but excavations have located the lost church of St Alban on Scotch Street (McCarthy 1993, 47). In 1233AD, two groups of friars arrived in Carlisle, the Franciscans (or Greyfriars) began building on an area between what is now Bank Street and Devonshire Street, while the Dominicans (or Blackfriars) first settled beyond the city walls in Botchergate, before moving to a permanent site in Blackfriars Street in 1238. Both the Greyfriars and Blackfriars plots were almost certainly vacant and unencumbered with buildings. Very little is known about either of the friaries in Carlisle, and nothing now survives on the sites, but the excavations on Blackfriars Street uncovered part of the Dominicans' church, together with fragmentary remains of other buildings thought to belong to those grouped around the cloister. The excavations also revealed part of the cemetery in which the remains of over 200 people, men, women, children and infants, were uncovered (ibid, 47). The portion of cemetery that was excavated was located close to the west side of the present Blackfriars Street. Although there was invariably some variation in grave orientation, nearly all were aligned eastsouth-east by west-north-west, with the head to the west in the conventional manner. The graves were mostly a few centimetres below the medieval ground surface; this lay less than 0.75m below modern pavement level (McCarthy 1990, 77). The location of the Dominican's friary is clearly shown on a mid-16th century plan of Carlisle, which also appears to indicate that the lines of what are now known as St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street were major thoroughfares at this date (see Figure 3).
- 4.2.17 The buildings within the medieval walled city of Carlisle are suggested to have been of timber, apart from the stone-built priory and castle. The archaeological evidence for these buildings is slight compared to those of the Roman period. In 1977 excavations at Castle Street revealed rectangular buildings based on stone foundations. Inside the buildings were hearths, a barrel-lined pit and numerous other features typical of medieval life. Excavations at Annetwell Street and on the site of an extension to Tullie

House Museum uncovered a large number of pits and wells belonging to the back lands of properties in existence from the 12th century onwards. These pits and wells contained fragments of potter vessels used for cooking and pitchers and jugs for holding wine or water. This pottery, known as 'Red Gritty Ware', is the earliest type made locally after the Normans arrived. Excavations in The Lanes, when the old lanes were demolished to make way for a new shopping centre in the 1980s, revealed similar evidence, in the form of pits, wells, yards, and small timber buildings. By the late 13th century the main streets which are still in existence included Scotch Street, English Street, Abbey Street, Fisher Street and Blackfriars Street, although known by different names. The street frontages were built up with long narrow plot behind. The subletting of these rear plots created the need for access and this was achieved by making narrow lanes between properties. Many of these lanes survived until parts of Rickergate and Scotch Street were developed in recent years, and excavations have showed that many of these narrow lanes or 'vennels' owed their origins to the medieval period (McCarthy 1993, 53).

- 4.2.18 The last decade of the 13th century saw the beginning of a disastrous period of unrest for Carlisle and the wider area. Destruction of much of the city by fire in 1292 was followed four years later by the onset of the Anglo-Scottish wars, during which the city was attacked or besieged on a number of occasions. Writing with regard to the topography of medieval Carlisle, Jones suggests that major events such as the fire of 1292, which destroyed a large part of the western side of the town, may have prompted changes in the street pattern, referring in particular to the Castle Street and Abbey Street areas (Jones 1976, 91). It is therefore necessary to consider that streets such as St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street may not necessarily be relics of the Roman town, and may instead have been created during the medieval period. In the autumn of 1349 the Black Death arrived in the county, and although the exact impact is hard to quantify, it has been suggested that the number deaths could have reached as high as one or two thirds of the population. At the end of the 14th century, Carlisle was devastated by another large fire which destroyed approximately three quarters of the city including the market place, Rickergate (Scotch Street), Botchergate (English Street), Castle Street, St Cuthbert's Church and around 1500 homes (McCarthy 1993, 61). There is, as yet, no archaeological evidence for any of these devastating events in the city's history.
- 4.2.19 One of the most significant historical events to occur at the end of the medieval period, in the first half of the 16th century, was the Dissolution of the monasteries in the 1530s, which in Carlisle led to the disappearance of both friaries and the refoundation of St Mary's Priory as the Cathedral with dean and chapter. Many of the materials used stripped from the friaries were

used in repairs at the castle and on the city defences, where extensive works were once again urgently required. Within a few years of the accession of James VI of Scotland to the English throne (as James I) in 1603, the era of Border raiding came to an end, and Carlisle and the wider area began to enjoy a period of peace and comparative prosperity (Zant 2009, 20). This was not, however, the end of periods of siege and small-scale warfare for the city of Carlisle.

- 4.2.20 *Post-Medieval Modern (c.1540-present):* in 1639 the garrison at Carlisle was strengthened by the addition of 500 Irish soldiers and a further 300 sent by Lord Clifford, due to fears of Scottish attack. Sir Francis Willoughby, commander of the Irish forces, who saw Carlisle as 'a place of some importance' set to work restoring the castle and citadel. Not only was its defensive potential greatly improved, but Carlisle's function as a base for operating widely over the region was appreciated. Willoughby reported that every space within the castle and the city, including the Cathedral, was examined with a view to storing grain and baking bread. In 1641 the Scots eventually arrived and were bought off with the disbandment of the garrison, however three years later the city, was besieged by the Scots during the English Civil War. The city was ringed with batteries, the Scots to the north and west at Murrell Hill, Newtown, Caldcotes, Etterby and Stanwix, the English to the south and east at Swifts, Fusehill, Harraby and St Nicholas, all outside the city walls (McCarthy 1993, 7). The siege of Carlisle lasted from October 1644 to June 1645 when the city surrendered, and one of the most devastating consequences of this surrender 'was the wholesale destruction of the Cathedral' (Towill 1991, 57). This suggestion, however, has been questioned by Denis Perriam who believes that only small parts of the priory were demolished by the Scottish garrison to add to the city fortifications (Perriam 1987, 141).
- 4.2.21 The century following the end of the Civil Wars was a period of slow development for Carlisle. Throughout the medieval period, and probably as late as the beginning of the 18th century, many of the buildings within the city would have been constructed of timber, but from the late 17th or early 18th century the use of brick and stone in both public and private buildings became increasingly common. One of the first to be built was the Old Town Hall, constructed in 1669 and later extended. Little is known about private residences of this period as few have survived, the notable exceptions being the canons' houses in the Cathedral complex, which are of late 17th century date, and a number of houses on Abbey Street, including that of Thomas Tullie which was built in 1689 (Zant 2009, 21), and now forms part of Tullie House Museum.

- 4.2.22 In 1745 the genteel life of local society was rudely interrupted when the strategic position of the city came to the fore again. In the previous years fears had been expressed about the possibility of another Jacobite uprising, but as the city escaped in 1715, the city was seemingly unconcerned (McCarthy 1993, 83). Prince Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) landed in Scotland on the 23rd July 1745 to reclaim the corn of Great Britain for his father. He was able to raise an army of Jacobites (supporters of the Old Pretender, James) and defeated the English near Edinburgh as he headed southwards. Carlisle prepared its defences and the Castle was filled with militia. There was reluctance to spend money on the defences as it was possible that Bonnie Prince Charlie may have chosen an east coast invasion route via Berwick. For this reason, Marshal Wade was at Newcastle with the English army to intercept the advance. When in November the Jacobites chose a west route it was too late to stop the advancing army, and Wade could not move his troops to Carlisle quickly enough due to the state of the roads. Carlisle came under siege and the Prince called for the city's surrender. A garrison of Highlanders was left in the city whilst the remainder of the army headed south towards Derby. A second siege of Carlisle began, this time by the English. A battery was constructed on Primrose Bank, to the north-west of the city, and canons fired on the castle forced the surrender of the Highlanders, and the city was once again back again in English hands (Perriam 1992, 31). It is not known what the effect of this short siege was on the physical fabric of the city, although clearly the castle suffered substantial damage. 1745 was a turning-point in the history of Carlisle; the crushing of the Jacobite Rebellion signalled an end of Anglo-Scottish warfare. Carlisle was the last English city to be besieged and Cumberland was the last county to be invaded (Towill 1991, 67).
- 4.2.23 Travellers and early historians draw a depressing picture of Carlisle in the mid-18th century. Defoe visited the city in 1724 and noted that: The city is strong, but small, the buildings old, but the streets fair, the great church is a venerable old pile...there is not a great deal of trade here either by land or sea, it being a meer frontier'. A merchant from Bristol, John Crofts, wrote in 1759 that 'Carlisle is a small deserted dirty city, poorly built and poorly inhabited' (Towill 1991, 68). In his history of Cumberland, William Hutchinson noted at the end of the 18th century: 'Carlisle, about the beginning of the present century, exhibited no marks of modern convenience and elegance. The buildings, mostly of wood, clay and laths, bespoke the poverty and bad taste of the inhabitants'. He continued to describe the lack of foreign commerce, hindered by the centuries of warfare, however he noted that: 'This city continued in the situation above mentioned without any material alteration either in respect to trade or improvement of building, till the [Jacobite] rebellion of 1745. Soon after this period, a company of Hamburgh

- merchants fixed upon Carlisle as a proper place to carry on an extensive woollen manufactory. This manufactory was of great importance to the inhabitants of Carlisle and the country around' (Hutchinson 1794-97, 660).
- 4.2.24 Writing in 1829, Parson and White noted that manufactures increased considerably from 1760, and an estimation of the population of the city at this time was given as approximately 4158, by 1780 the number was believed to have increased to 7677, and by 1829 were noted to be double that number. It was suggested that these increases were due to an increased wealth and refinement of the city owing to the introduction of the textile industry (Parson and White 1829, 118). The trade directory section of this publication was consulted for information on any trades or industries which existed along St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street in the early 19th century, or if the properties along these streets was largely residential. The following entries are an example of the trades:
 - Abigail Holmes, lodgings, St Cuthbert's In
 - Elizabeth Warwick, lodgings, St Cuthbert's In
 - Thomas M'Ilney, blacksmith, Blackfriars Street
 - Robson Clarke, bleacher, St Cuthbert's In (works at Sebergham Bridge)
 - Wm Addison, boot and shoemaker, St Cuthbert's In
 - Peter Baret, boot and shoemaker, Blackfriars Street
 - Wm Nicholson, boot and shoemaker, Blackfriars Street
 - Jph Rankin, brucsh maker, St Cuthbert's In
 - Jas Pickup, cabinet maker, Blackfriars Street
 - R W & R Porter, chain manufacturer, Blackfriars Street
 - John Strong, chair maker, Blackfriars Street
 - Thos Tweedle & Co, coach and harness maker, Blackfriars Street
 - John Armstrong, flour dealer and shopkeeper, Blackfriars Street
 - J Porter & Brothers, steel plate manufacturers, Blackfriars Street

Of particular interest are the number of public houses, or inns, located along St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street at this date, these included on St Cuthbert's Lane the Blue Bell, Burns Tavern, Crown and Cushion, Golden Lion, and the Wellington, whilst on Blackfriars Street there was the Coach and Horses, the White Cow, the Forge Hammer and Lowther's Arms. A small theatre was also noted to have existed at this date on St Cuthbert's

- Lane 'it is but indifferently attended, unless some 'star' from the south is paying a visit, when there is generally an overflow' (Parson and White 1829).
- 4.2.25 Although population figures have been noted to have increased, the physical form of Carlisle itself did not extend much beyond its city walls, as shown on historical mapping, for example Hutchinson's map of 1794 (Figure 5) and Wood's Plan of Carlisle 1821 (Figure 6). Even as late as 1850, Carlisle covered an area no much bigger than that of the medieval city, although the population was of course many times larger than it had been several hundred years earlier. That this led to chronic overcrowding in some parts of the city is clear from a report of 1850 produced by the Carlisle Sanitary Association which recorded families living 20 to a room 'adjacent to the filthiest privies and dunghills' (McCarthy 1993, 90 and Zant 2009, 22).
- 4.2.26 By the time the Ordnance Survey First Edition map of Carlisle was published in 1865, the city had begun to expand beyond its medieval boundaries and this growth continued apace during the second half of the 19th century ad into the 20^{th} century. Between 1881 and 1903, some 3700 new houses were built, mostly outside the historic city centre, thus greatly increasing the size of the suburbs and extending the built-up area well to the west of Lowther Street, which had itself been laid out on the line of the medieval eastern defences. In the city centre too, what remained of the old open spaces to the rear of the street frontages were increasingly infilled with housing and workshops. This infilling could have occurred to the rear of properties fronting along St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street; there are historical photographs housed at Carlisle Library which show narrow lanes and courtyards believed to be located off Blackfriars Street (Plates 1 and 2). Further photographs showing St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street have been included below to provide some information on the buildings which were located along these thoroughfares at the end of the 19th century and into the 20th century (Plates 3 to 8).

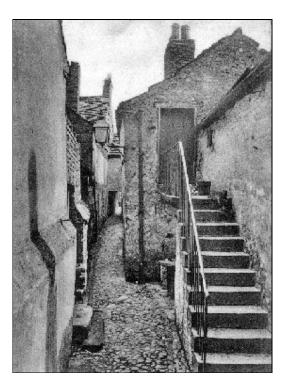


Plate 1: Clarke's Court off Blackfriars Street 1900 (Courtesy of Carlisle Library)

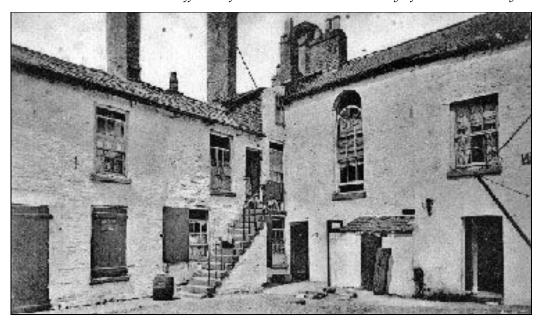


Plate 2: Castle Square off Blackfriars Street 1902 (Courtesy of Carlisle Library)

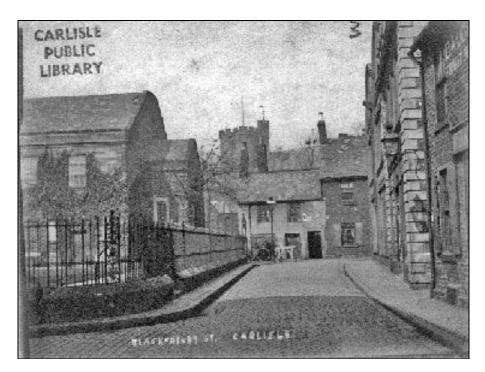


Plate 3: View looking north showing the north end of Blackfriars Street with St Cuthbert's Church to left of photograph 1865 (Courtesy of Carlisle Library)

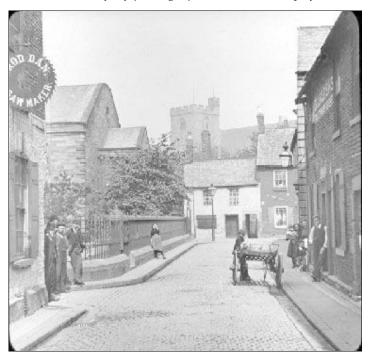


Plate 4: View looking north showing the north end of Blackfriars Street 1900 (Courtesy of Carlisle Library)

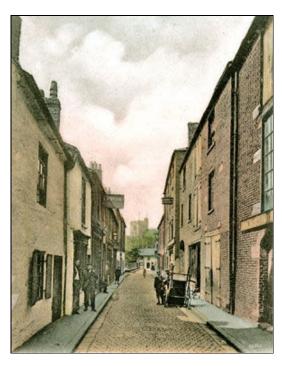


Plate 5: View looking north from the southern end of Blackfriars Street in 1905 showing buildings on the left which have now gone (Courtesy of Carlisle Library)



Plate 6: View looking north from the southern end of Blackfriars Street in 1895 showing buildings on the left which have now gone (Courtesy of Carlisle Library)



Plate 7: The Farmers Arms, north side of St Cuthbert's Lane 1902 (Courtesy of Carlisle Library)



Plate 8: Shakespeare Tavern on the north side of St Cuthbert's Lane 1913 (Courtesy of Carlisle Library)

4.3 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 4.3.1 A search of maps recording the development area was carried out at Carlisle Library. Only those that reveal the area around the development site and of direct relevance have been included.
- 4.3.2 *Plan of the Citie of Carlisle, 16th Century (Figure 3):* this early map provides interesting information on the form of the city of Carlisle, shown within its walls, in the middle of the 16th century. The central market place is clearly visible with what appears to be shambles and the market cross. To the left side of the map is the cathedral complex with its ranges of outbuildings, and to the south of the open areas is St Cuthbert's Church set within its own enclosure. Immediately to the south of St Cuthbert's Church is an enclosed area which is annotated 'The Black Friars'. This map would appear to suggest that the Blackfriars complex was located on the west side of what is now Blackfriars Street, and defined on the northern side by what is now Heads Lane (with the Tithe Barn shown at its western end). The east side of Blackfriars Street, and along both sides of St Cuthbert's Lane, properties with rear gardens are shown. This map would appear to suggest that both St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street were main thoroughfares within the city at this date. When referring to this map, in relation to the 'Friar-Preachers' in Carlisle, R S Ferguson noted that what is now Heads Lane had been a boundary ditch which separated the Black Canons of Carlisle and the Black Friars. He also referred to warehouses and stables occupying the eastern side of the former Blackfriars monastic site in 1883, as well as an 'Old Foundry' to the western side (Ferguson 1883 145-146).
- 4.3.3 A Plan of the City of Carlisle 1746 (Figure 4): this plan of 1746 was drawn up to show the positions of Batteries erected by the Duke of Cumberland from the first appearance of the Jacobite army until the surrender of the city during the Jacobite Rebellion; consequently, this map should not be viewed as an accurate representation of the city itself. The lines of St Cuthbert's Land and Blackfriars Street appear to be shown, with St Cuthbert's Church clearly labelled along with a small vignette of the church. What is now Heads Lane, to the south side of St Cuthbert's Church, appears to be labelled on this map 'St Cuthberts Head', although the word 'Head' is not clear. At the south end of Blackfriars Street a site seemingly annotated 'Taylors Jail' is labelled. Although this map shown be considered with caution regarding buildings in the town at this date, it does appear to suggest that St Cuthbert's Lane was lined with properties to either side, whilst Blackfriars Street was seemingly more open and laid out as gardens.
- 4.3.4 *Plan of the City of Carlisle and Places Adjacent 1794 (Figure 5):* this map appeared in Hutchinson's *History of the County of Cumberland 1794-97.* At the

end of the 18th century, this map appears to suggest that Carlisle essentially was still a walled city, with very little expansion beyond its walls. St Cuthbert's Lane is clearly annotated on this map, although at this date Blackfriars Street is known as 'Back Street'. It would appear that both sides of St Cuthbert's Lane were lined with properties, with gardens to the rear, and by this date Blackfriars Street is also shown as lined with buildings both sides, although as with earlier mapping it is necessary to be cautious as regards this showing an accurate representation of the buildings in the city at this date.

- 4.3.5 Extract from John Wood's Plan of Carlisle 1821 (Figure 6): John Wood's plan was the earliest consulted to label Blackfriars Street and Heads Lane as such, with St Cuthbert's Lane clearly annotated, all three of which are shown as main thoroughfares within the city. Apart from a few gaps along Blackfriars Street, both St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street are shown as being lined by properties on either side. To the south side of Heads Lane is a 'Foundry' with the name R W & R Porter, shown on the site of the former Blackfriars complex.
- 4.3.6 First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 25" to 1 mile scale, Published 1874 (Figure 7): by the publication of this map, there appears to have been a great deal of infilling undertaken between the buildings shown on the earlier 1821 plan, in particular on the east side of English Street. On the west side of Blackfriars Street there would appear to be several courtyards, possibly of low quality housing, some of which may have looked like those in Castle Square as shown in Plate 2. The former iron foundry on the west side of Blackfriars Street is now labelled as 'old'. Both sides of St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street are shown to have been lined with properties, although none are labelled as specific buildings or sites, and several lanes are shown leading from the east side of Blackfriars Street towards English Street.
- 4.3.7 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 25" to 1 mile scale, Published 1901 (Figure 8): this map appears to show very little change in the buildings which lined both St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street from the earlier First Edition map of 1874. Both Blackfriars Street and St Cuthbert's Lane are shown as main thoroughfares, as has been the case on earlier mapping.
- 4.3.8 Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 25" to 1 mile scale, Published 1924 (Figure 9): by this date there appears to have been a programme of rebuilding, in particular along the north and south sides of St Cuthbert's Lane. A 'Picture Theatre' is now shown on the east side of Blackfriars Street and the new Crown and Mitre Hotel has been constructed to the north side

of St Cuthbert's Lane. At the eastern end of St Cuthbert's Lane, along the line of English Street and Castle Street, are the tracks of the tramway.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The watching brief monitoring was undertaken in one key phase. This phase started on 21st September 2010 and finished on the 17th October 2010. This involved the removal of the modern ground surface, which on St Cuthbert's Lane comprised of large stone paving slabs and on Blackfriars Street, stone sets. Then machine excavating to a depth of approximately 0.70m for the electricity duct and cable.

5.2 WATCHING BRIEF

- 5.2.1 The watching brief aimed to monitor all subsequent groundworks associated with the excavation of the cable trench along St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street (Figure 2).
- 5.2.2 The stratigraphic matrix observed within the excavated area in the main part remained constant throughout. The uppermost layer removed consisted of modern paving slabs and stone sets (100), which measured 0.07m deep, which were removed to reveal the bedding sand (101), which were 0.05m deep, sealed beneath the bedding sand was a dark brown/ black sandy stony silt deposit (102), this deposit had been previously disturbed by the various modern services that were observed throughout the watching brief. Included in (102) were sherds of both Roman and Medieval pottery showing how disturbed the layer was. Context (102) appeared to be present throughout the trench apart from in areas where other contexts were mentioned and was usually sealed beneath the bedding sand (101) to the base of the trench at approximately 0.70m (see Plate 9).
- 5.2.3 In small areas of St Cuthbert's Lane there was a deposit of black silty soil (103), this looked less disturbed than (102), but as there were only small islands of this deposit (located outside 18-24 English Street, presently Topshop, side entrance and 12 St Cuthbert's Lane, presently 'Casanova') it was difficult to ascertain whether it may have been part of a previous ground surface or subsoil. Located outside the front of 18-24 English Street on English Street in (102) was what appeared to be a possible section of tram line it was only revealed in a small part of trench and was left *in situ*, but was photographed to record it (*see Plate 11*).
- 5.2.4 At the entrance of St Cuthbert's lane along the side of 18-24 English Street (Topshop) an area was observed with three different layers of street levels including the modern paving slabs with bedding sand, then a section of tarmac with stone sets edging, which sealed the old cobbled road surface,

- then (102), this only survived in patches outside 18-24 English Street (Topshop) and seemed to have been removed completely elsewhere.
- 5.2.5 At the entrance of Blackfriars Street facing south in the trench an area of cobbling (104) was observed, it consisted of both small red sandstone fragments and cobblestones. The cobbling was approximately 1m in length and 0.40m below the ground surface located outside 26-40 English Street (presently 'House of Fraser') next to the western entrance to St Cuthbert's Lane from Blackfriars Street. A date for this cobbling could not be given as only a small area was observed and no datable evidence was recovered. Located outside of what was MacCready's Theatre now part of 26-40 English Street (House of Fraser) was an area of gravelly hardcore (105), which sealed an area of dark brown/ black gravelly clay (106) possibly the same as (102), which went to a depth of 0.64m. Also located outside McCready's Theatre, a modern manhole was observed (107) constructed of sandstone, concrete and bricks, only part of it could be seen in the narrow trench.
- 5.2.6 Located outside the rear of 26-40 English Street (House Of Fraser) between the recess entrance of House of Fraser and Barwise Court was another larger manhole, this manhole was too large to excavate so was left *in situ*. Constructed from brick and concrete it measured approximately 1m square. The trench was widened on the southern side of the manhole to locate an existing electricity duct to approx 1m. While machine excavating the southern side of the manhole at the base of the trench was a small area with large red sandstone blocks (108) and on either side of the blocks was a cobbled surface (109), on further investigation during hand cleaning a small sherd of green-glazed medieval ceramic was recovered from between two of the sandstone blocks. Possibly giving it a date of 12th to 14th century. The area was approximately 1m by 0.70m (Plate 13).
- 5.2.7 Further along this section of the trench there were two other areas that could have been part of some form of structure or structures (112) and (113). Context (112) was comprised of an area of compacted brick and stone with some of the stone and brick still having lime mortar on. This part of the trench was back to 0.35m wide and the depth was 0.60m below the current ground surface, when cleaned a small sherd of post-medieval ceramic was recovered giving it a possible post-medieval date. Context (113) consisted of a few small red sandstone blocks and some cobbles in a sandy silt matrix, no mortar was observed, and when excavated three sherds of Roman pottery were recovered which are likely to be residual given the depth of this deposit. Between (112) and (113) was an area of grey brown clay stony soil (114); this area was compacted very hard and could have possibly been part of a previous mettled surface, unfortunately with the trench being so narrow it was too difficult to give a possible date (Plate 14). Contexts (108) to (114)

- were all located to the rear of 26-40 English Street (House of Fraser) between the recess entrance to House of Fraser and Barwise Court an area approximately 7.5m in length.
- 5.2.8 To the rear of 42 English Street adjacent to Barwise Court an area of a black clay deposit (110) approximately 0.10m deep was recorded, which sealed a compact clay and cobble deposit (111) which was at the trench depth of 0.70m. Artefacts recovered from these deposits were a mix of Roman and Medieval ceramic sherds with a fragment of animal bone. The narrow size of the trench and the proximity in which the ceramics were found make a definite date difficult. The trench on the whole had been highly disturbed by various services that a mix up the dating evidence was likely (see Plate 15).
- 5.2.9 The trench measured approximately 170m long, 0.70m deep and on average 0.35m wide. On the whole the majority of the trench was made up of paving slabs or stone sets (100) approx 0.07m, bedding sand (101) approx 0.05m and black/brown silty stony subsoil (102) approx 0.60m. Apart from the post-Medieval surfaces and tramline, the trench was highly disturbed with various services being excavated in the past. A lot of these services backfilled using the spoil they had excavated making artefactual dating extremely difficult. Only in one area between the rear entrance of House of Fraser and Barwise Court was the ground undisturbed. This area appeared not to have been previously excavated showing there are still areas on Blackfriars Street that have not been disturbed and may have other building foundations from either the Roman or Medieval occupation of Carlisle.



Plate 9: Excavation on St Cuthbert's Lane facing west showing (102)



Plate 10: North-facing section showing the three separate road levels on St Cuthbert's Lane



Plate 11: Located outside the 18-24 Scotch Street, just visible is a small section of tram track at the base of the trench facing east



Plate 12: Shot of trench running south on Blackfriars Street showing (102)



Plate 13: Shot facing south showing the possible medieval sandstone foundations (108) and cobbling (109)



Plate 14: Shot facing south showing possible medieval foundations and compacted surface (112), (113) and (114)



Plate 15: Shot facing north on Blackfriars Street showing dark/brown black clay (110) and cobbling (111)

6 FINDS

6.1 FINDS ASSESSMENT

- 6.1.1 A total of 121 finds from Blackfriars Street different contexts were recovered during the watching brief. These included 10 sherds of Roman pottery, and 11 sherds of medieval pottery.
- 6.1.2 The finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of F. Giecco (NPA Ltd Technical Director). The metalwork was placed in a stable environment and was monitored for corrosion.

6.2 ROMAN CERAMIC VESSELS

- 6.2.1 In total 10 fragments of Roman pottery were recovered. Of these, one sherd derived from reduced greywares, three sherds were of Black-Burnished Ware Type 2, two sherds of mortaria, and one sherd was of a central Gaulish Samian body sherd.
- 6.2.2 The reduced greywares were recovered from one context; context (111). This suggested dating for this assemblage is roughly from the 2nd century AD.
- 6.2.3 The Black Burnished (Type 2) Ware was also recovered from two separate contexts: Context (103), and (113). Context (113) was a possible occupation level. The dating range for this Type 2 assemblage is roughly the mid to late 2nd century AD, based on the acute lattice decoration on the pottery. Believed to be developed in the Thames Estuary area around 120AD, Black Burnished Ware Type 2, reached its height during 139-193AD and was traded on the Antoine Wall, but became uncommon after 250AD.
- 6.2.4 The Mortarium recovered consisted of a hard white colour fabric with dark grey stone inclusions and is likely to be produced in the Mancetter-Hartshill area. The trituration grit was of quartz and sandstone. Mortarium were used as food preparation vessels to mix herbs and spices, similar to the modern day pestle and mortar. Mortarium were widely available from the 1st century, but were in use throughout the Roman occupation.
- 6.2.5 The piece of central Gaulish Samian pottery was found in (113). The date range for Samian pottery reaches up to the 3rd century AD, at which point it ceased to be imported into Britain in significant quantities. The dating of Samian is always tenuous, due in part to the fact that Samian appears in later contexts and seems to be an item which had specific social values attached to it and was often handed down for use by the next generation.

6.2.6 The pottery assemblage therefore, can be roughly dated to the 2nd century AD, the period of which the fort and extra-mural settlement were thought to have been established. It is not possible to ascertain a production centre for all the Roman ceramics; however the sherds of Greyware are likely to originate from local production centres most likely at Carlisle or Scaleceugh. It is likely that all the Roman pottery recovered was residual material recovered from later deposits.

6.3 MEDIEVAL AND LATER CERAMIC VESSELS

- 6.3.1 A total of 11 sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the trench, with the majority of the medieval sherds coming from (102), which had been highly disturbed. There was however a single sherd of green-glazed pottery from (108) possibly giving the foundations a medieval date during the watching brief.
- 6.3.2 The post-medieval assemblage was a mixture of different types of pottery. The majority of the post-medieval pottery was from an unstratified context, with only one sherd coming from a datable context (106). The sherds date to the 19th and 20th centuries.

6.4 METAL OBJECTS

6.4.1 A total of 34 Fe (iron) objects were recovered from the trench on St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street. The majority of Fe objects were recovered from the spoil by metal detector (see finds table, below), amongst which was a possible handmade Roman nail; the other finds however were unfortunately too corroded to identify any further. The size of the objects ranged from small fragments of 50mm to larger heavier fragments of 100mm. Given the unstratified nature of this deposit no further work is recommended.

6.5 CU ALLOY

6.5.1 A total of 3 Cu (copper) alloy objects were recovered from an unstratified context. One appears to be a Roman coin with a possible 2nd century date and a button with an unknown date was also recovered.

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
102	pottery 4		0.036	Medieval
102	pottery	1	0.001	Post-medieval
102	Animal bone	8	0.134	Unknown
102	Pb	1	0.016	unknown
103	pottery	3	0.041	Roman

103	pottery	1	0.015	Medieval	
103	Animal bone	13	0.121	unknown	
106	Fe	2	0.594	Unknown	
106	Salt-glazed drain	3	0.279	Post-medieval	
106	Red clay service drain	1	0.109	Post-medieval	
106	Pottery figurine	1	0.029	Post-medieval	
106	Animal bone	11	0.106	Post-medieval	
108	pottery	1	0.005	Medieval	
110	pottery	4	0.014	Medieval	
110	Animal bone	4	0.048	Medieval	
110	Fe	6	0.036	Medieval	
111	pottery	1	0.009	Roman	
111	Animal bone	2	0.125	Roman	
113	pottery	4	0.008	Roman	
113	Fe	1	0.016	Roman	
u/s	Cu Alloy	2	0.009	unknown	
u/s	Coin	1	0.021	Roman	
u/s	pottery	2	0.006	Medieval	
u/s	Pottery	2	0.033	Roman	
u/s	Fe	20	0.392	Unknown	
u/s	Bronze object	1	0.007	Unknown	
u/s	Animal Bone	7	0.171	Unknown	
u/s	mortar	5	0.015	Unknown	
u/s	pottery	4	0.017	Post-medieval	
u/s	Pb	3	0.040	Unknown	
u/s	Musket ball	1	0.025	Post-medieval	
u/s	Clay pipe stem	1	0.005	Post-medieval	

Table 1: Finds Table of Artefacts Recovered from the Watching Brief

7 ENVIRONMENTAL

- 7.1 During the course of the archaeological watching brief, animal bones were collected from seven contexts (including the bones from unstratified contexts). All bones were hand collected during the excavation of their respective contexts (see Appendix 2 for table).
- 7.2 Favourable preservation conditions can lead to the retrieval of animal bones that may produce a valuable suite of information. This can enable an assessment of anthropogenic activity, seasonality and climate and elements of the economy associated with the features from which the samples are removed. For the excavation in general animal bones may bear taphonomic markers which give some indication as to how the surrounding deposit formed, and the natural and cultural formation processes to which the deposit was exposed to until its time of excavation. More generally it will allow an assessment of the types of animals present on this site during phases of prehistoric and historic activity, though in this case the artefactual data suggests these bones originated from the medieval to post-medieval period. The small quantity of bone recovered does not allow broad interpretations of the zooarchaeological history of Carlisle to be interpreted, however, it will be shown that the bones contain useful information as to the levels of preservation of the bones in this area based on an examination of their taphonomic evidence. The various taphonomic factors act on the death assemblage causing degradation and weathering of the original sample. Thus, the sample being discussed here is only a fragment of the original assemblage formed in the past but does contain evidence of the difference processes which have acted to create that assemblage since their entry into the archaeological sediment.
- 7.3 The purpose of this study is to:
 - Examine the bones collected from the excavation by deducing their anatomical position and the Genus of the animal from which they originate (if possible). This is done by comparing the material with reference material held at the Environmental Laboratory at North Pennines Archaeology, Nenthead.
 - To assess the presence of butchery evidence on all bones.
 - To assess evidence which may allow comments to be made regarding the pathology of the original animal population and other factors such as age at death and sex of animals.
 - To assess the taphonomic history of the bone from the creation of the death assemblage to their examination for this report.

7.4 Attempts to present quantified information using standard methods such as Minimum Number of Individual (MNI) or Number of Independent Specimens (NISP) have not been made here. The problems of these methods are well discussed in zooarchaeology literature (O'Connor 2000), and it was felt that due to the small number of bones recovered all MNI and NISP fragments would report values of 1, a result which does not aid our understanding of this assemblage or the species which it consists of.

7.5 ASSESSMENT RESULTS

- 7.5.1 Seven contexts produced animal bone. These were Contexts (102), (103), (106), (110), (111), (113) and the unstratified material (U/S).
- 7.5.2 Context **(102)** produced eight bones, three of which could be indentified to a species identification and an anatomical position while four bones could be ascribed an anatomical position but not a species identification.
- 7.5.3 One bone was identified as that of cattle; this consisted of a fragment of a distal tibia, approximately 25% of the whole bone including the distal articulation. A single bone was identified as that of a dog; this consisted of a ulna, approximately 60% of the whole bone including the proximal articulation.
- 7.5.4 Two midshaft rib fragments and an incisor were recovered which it is suggested are from cattle. A fragment of metapodial (a fragment of the proximal articulation) was also identified but could not be identified further to the species level. Two other fragments could not be identified either to species or anatomical position. The only evidence for butchery came from one of the rib fragments which had been sawn obliquely at one end. It is suggested that these bones came from a number of different origins and have undergone differing taphonomic pathways. The cattle tibia is very well preserved and fine details such as the location of different blood vessel foramen are very clear. However, one of the rib fragments is covered in a thick sandy concretion which has obscured any fine detail, such as butchery marks.
- 7.5.5 Context **(103)** produced 13 bones.
- 7.5.6 Two bones were identified as those of a Caprid (sheep/goat); these consisted of distal tibia and a rib fragment. Other bones from this group included an unfused vertebral centrum and a rib fragment. The nine remaining fragments consisted of at least four long bone fragments (one from a large mammal such as a adult cow and three from a medium sized mammal such as a sheep). Other fragments were too small to give a confident basic identification. The Caprid rib fragment contained some deep cut marks on

- its medial aspect, below the neck of the rib, suggesting the carcass may have been split along the spinal midline during the process of systematic butchery. This assemblage displayed greater taphonomic uniformity than the bones from (102). All had some level of sandy concretions on their surface as well as evidence of trampling which has produced wear on the edges of the bones, hindering their identification.
- 7.5.7 Context (106) produced 12 bones. Significantly nine of these bones were small fragments (all less that 1x1x3cm). Two bones were identified as those of cattle. These consisted of a loose molar and a fragment of acetabulum. A fragment from a large mammal long bone may also be that of cattle, though its identification is unclear. All bones from this group showed high levels of abrasion, suggesting that they did not rapidly enter the archaeological context, or were subsequently disturbed after their initial deposition. The high number of small fragments may also suggest a disturbed context, or one which contains bones from disturbed sources.
- 7.5.8 Context (110) produced four bones, one of which could be indentified to a species identification and an anatomical position.
- 7.5.9 One bone was identified as that of a pig; this consisted of an ulna, approximately 50% of the whole bone including the proximal articulation. Light cutmarks were noted around the medial aspect of the bone, proximal to the point of articulation with the humerus. Possible dog gnawing was noted around the olecranon process. The other three fragments included a rib midshaft fragment, but no further identification was possible.
- 7.5.10 Though only a small assemblage this group incorporates bones from clearly mixed contexts. The pig ulna is generally well preserved with clear edges, fine details such as the cutmarks and is a light sandy brown colour. The other three bones range from a mottled brown to dark brown in colour and range from moderately abraded to heavily abraded. This suggested an unsecure deposit with bones of varying levels of preservation.
- 7.5.11 Context (111) produced two bones, both of which could be indentified to a species identification and an anatomical position.
- 7.5.12 One fragment of bone was identified as the left metatarsal of cattle. This consisted of the proximal articulation and approximately 40% of the shaft. The heavily worn surface of the bone will have obscured evidence of butchery which may have been evident. The other bone identified was the proximal tibia of a pig. This consisted of the proximal articulation and approximately 60% of the shaft. The preservation of surface detail on this bone was very poor with deep flaking evident and heavy abrasion, particularly at the articulating surface.

- 7.5.13 Context (113) produced six bones, all of which were heavily abraded fragments too small to identify to either an anatomical position or a species level.
- 7.5.14 The unstratified context **(U/S)** produced eight bones, four of which could be identified to an anatomical position and a species identification.
- 7.5.15 Two bones was identified as that of a red deer (Cervus elaphus). These consisted of a complete left radius and a fragment of a left metatarsal. The radius surface displayed some light longitudinal cracking but in all aspects the condition of the bone was very clear. A series of light cutmarks on the medial cranial aspect over a length of the middle third of the shaft was the only evidence of butchery. The metatarsal was, in contrast, poorly preserved and showed deep flaking of its surface and abrasion around the point of proximal articulation.
- 7.5.16 One bone was identified as that of a human. This was a left distal radius. The presence of this item within an assemblage of this nature raises some issues as to how human remains ended up incorporated into what appears to be heavily disturbed layers of domestic animal bone waste. The main issues of agency and formation processes which led to this item being recovered in this context are not clear here, however, the nearby medieval cemetery relating to the Dominican friary. Future work in the area of Blackfriars Street should be mindful that this material may be recovered and thus all recovered bone should be assessed by a zooarchaeologist.
- 7.5.17 One bone was identified as that of a pig. This consisted of a midshaft fragment of a femur. No butchery marks were evident. One bone of cattle was recovered; this consisted of a midshaft fragment of femur. Four fragments could not be identified to either a species or anatomical position. This group displayed the same contrasting levels of preservation evident in other samples, ranging from the well preserved red deer radius, to the highly abraded metatarsal.

7.6 DISCUSSION

7.6.1 The animal taxa represented in this study represent species which have been commonly encountered in previous excavations in Carlisle, though in this case there is a clear bias in favour of larger bones from large mammals. The differing levels of preservation suggest a mixed taphonomic history incorporating material which rapidly entering the archaeological context and was preserved very well, to material which has undergone modifications which has damaged the surface and structure of the bone. Due to the small size and levels of preservation of the assemblage no interpretation can be offered at this time regarding the age at death and sex

of animals and other factors such as pathological factors within the original animal population.

7.7 CONCLUSION

7.7.1 The small nature of this assemblage does not allow a deeper interpretation of the importance of these animals in the zooarchaeological past of Carlisle. However, they do show that the deposits in this area may contain a mixture of material from different periods, a fact which should be borne in mind when interpreting other archaeological material from this area. It is not recommended that further study of this assemblage is needed at this time.

8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The research has shown that St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street have remained major thoroughfares within the walled city of Carlisle since at least the 16th century, with Blackfriars Street possibly originating as far back as the 1st century AD as shown by excavations in the 1970s which provided evidence of Roman buildings facing onto the street frontage.
- 8.2 Excavations undertaken on Blackfriars Street revealed evidence for a number of features and finds attributable to the 7th to 9th century, indicating activity on the site in the early medieval period.
- 8.3 Blackfriars Street gets its name for the Black Friars who had a monastic complex on the west side of the street, roughly underneath where Marks and Spencer's Food Hall is now. Excavations in the 1970s revealed evidence for their cemetery along with foundations believed to have been part of the church, together with fragmentary remains of other buildings thought to belong to those grouped around the cloister.
- 8.4 In the 18th century both sides of St Cuthbert's Lane are shown to be lined with properties, with gardens to the rear. Blackfriars Street is shown as largely open on both sides, possibly as gardens, although by the end of the same century buildings were located along both sides. Throughout the 19th century gradual infilling of the land on either side of Blackfriars Street appears to have taken place, possibly creating areas of courtyards and narrow lanes. Trade directory evidence appears to suggest that both St Cuthbert's Lane and Blackfriars Street were home to small-scale industries, shopkeepers and public houses.
- 8.5 The watching brief has revealed that the majority of this area has been previously disturbed by various services and groundworks. There are however islands of undisturbed ground that have not been impacted upon by previous service routes, these islands are therefore high in archaeological potential. Although the groundworks were limited in nature, it did highlight the differing levels of preservation that can exist within the centre of Carlisle. This is particularly relevant to medieval deposits that are often highly truncated in Carlisle, and as this fieldwork has revealed can still survive at depths of 0.5m beneath the current street levels.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description			
100	Deposit	Modern Paving			
101	Deposit	Bedding Sand			
102	Deposit	Dark brown stony sandy silt			
103	Deposit	Black silty soil			
104	Deposit	Cobbles			
105	Deposit	Hardcore/Rubble			
106	Deposit	Dark brown/ black gravelly clay			
107	Structure	Manhole			
108	Deposit	Sandstone			
109	Deposit	Cobbles			
110	Deposit	Dark brown/black clay			
111	Deposit	Dark brown cobbley clay			
112	Deposit	Possible foundation			
113	Deposit	Possible foundation			
114	Deposit	Compacted surface			

List of Contexts issued during the Watching Brief

APPENDIX 2: ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

Archaeozoo	Archaeozoology Report for SWA-A CP1185									
				number	/10	Fusion		Condition		
Context #	Genus	Element	Side	of bones	present	Prox	Distal	Butchery	Gnawing	Notes
102	Cattle	Tibia	Left	1	4	-	Υ	-	-	Well preserved fragment
102	Dog	Ulna	Left	1	6	Υ				Sandy concretion around olecranon
102		Rib		2	1			Υ		from cattle, one with a saw cut
102		Metapodial		1	1					To fragmentary for further identification
102		Tooth		1						Incissor, probably from cattle
102		Fragments		2						
103	Sheep	Tibia	Right	1	4		Υ			
103	опсор	Rib	rugiit	1	5			Y		caprid, deep cutmarks on medial aspect
103		Vertebra		'	Ü			'		Unfused centrum
103		Rib								Unidentifed to species level
103		Fragments		9						Not confidently ascribed to a particular genus
106	Cow	Innoninate		1						Fragment of acetabulum
106	Cow	Molar		8						heavily worn but suggested as from cattle
106		Fragments		9						All very small fragments (less than 1x1x3cm)
110	Pig	Ulna	Right	5	5			Υ	Υ	Light cut marks and dog gnawing
110		Rib		1						Heavily worn fragment
110		Fragments		2						
										Heavily worn shaft
111	Cow	Metatarsal	Left	1	4					fragment
111	Pig	Tibia		1	6	Y				Deep flaking of bone surface with heavy abrasion
113		Fragment		6						All small, heavily abraded fragments
U/S	Red deer	Radius	Left	1	10	Υ	Υ	Y		Very well preserved
U/S	Red deer	Metatarsal	Left	1	4					Poorly preserved
U/S	Pig	Femur		1	4					Both points of articulation
U/S	Cow	Femur		1	2					Fragment from below lesser trochanter
U/S		Fragments		4						Unidentifed fragments
U/S	Human	Radius	Left	1	5					Flaking on surface

APPENDIX 3: FIGURES

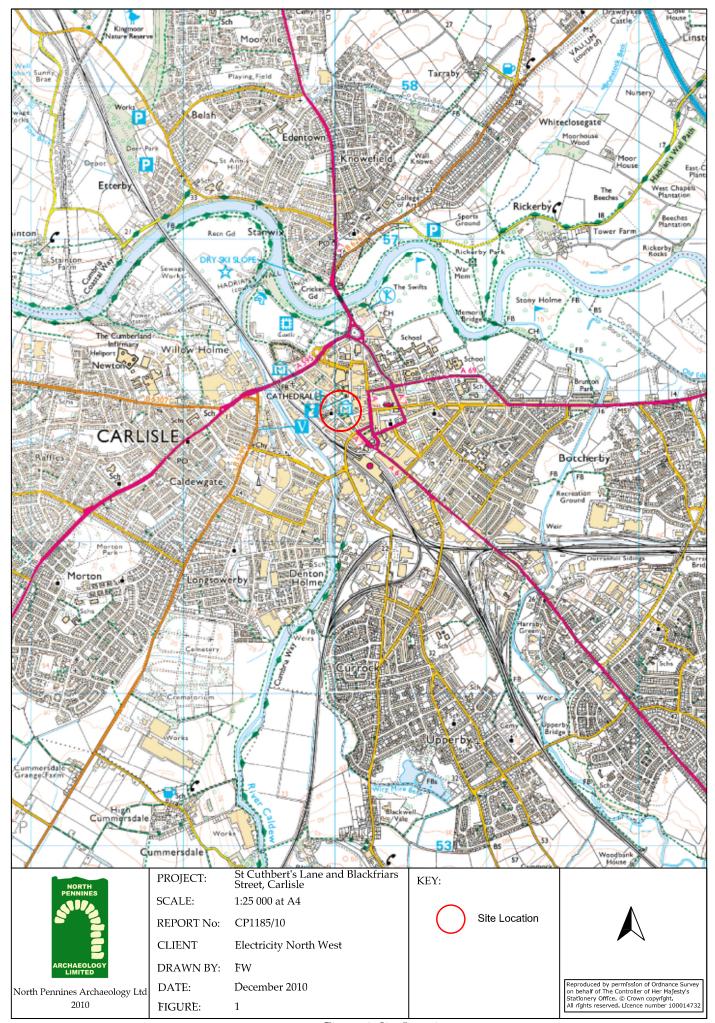


Figure 1: Site Location

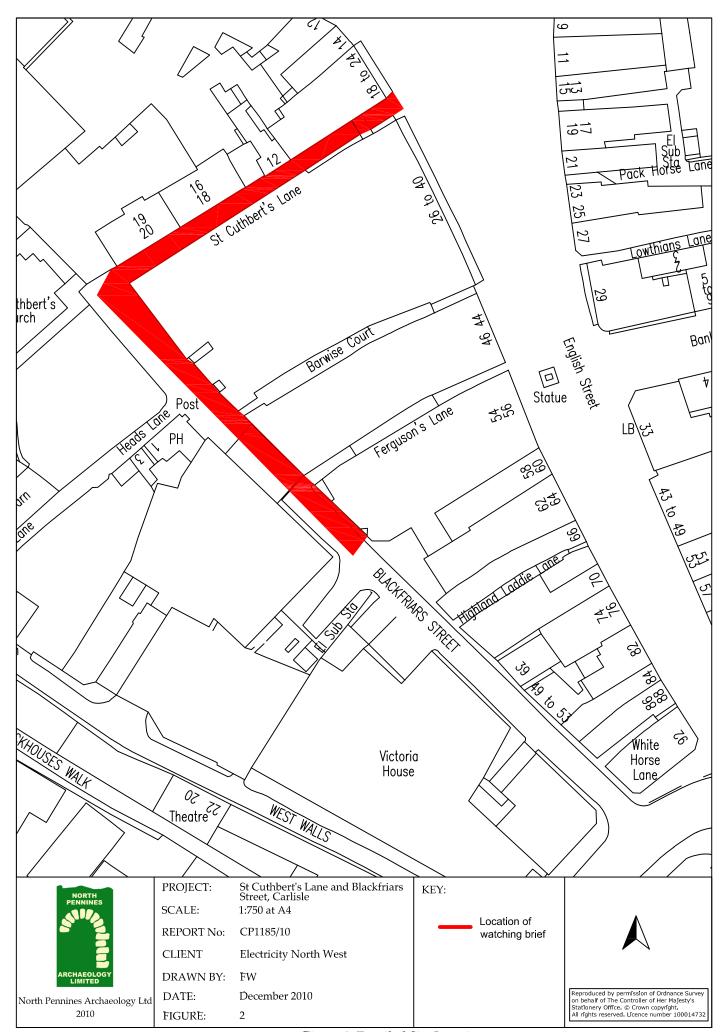


Figure 2: Detailed Site Location

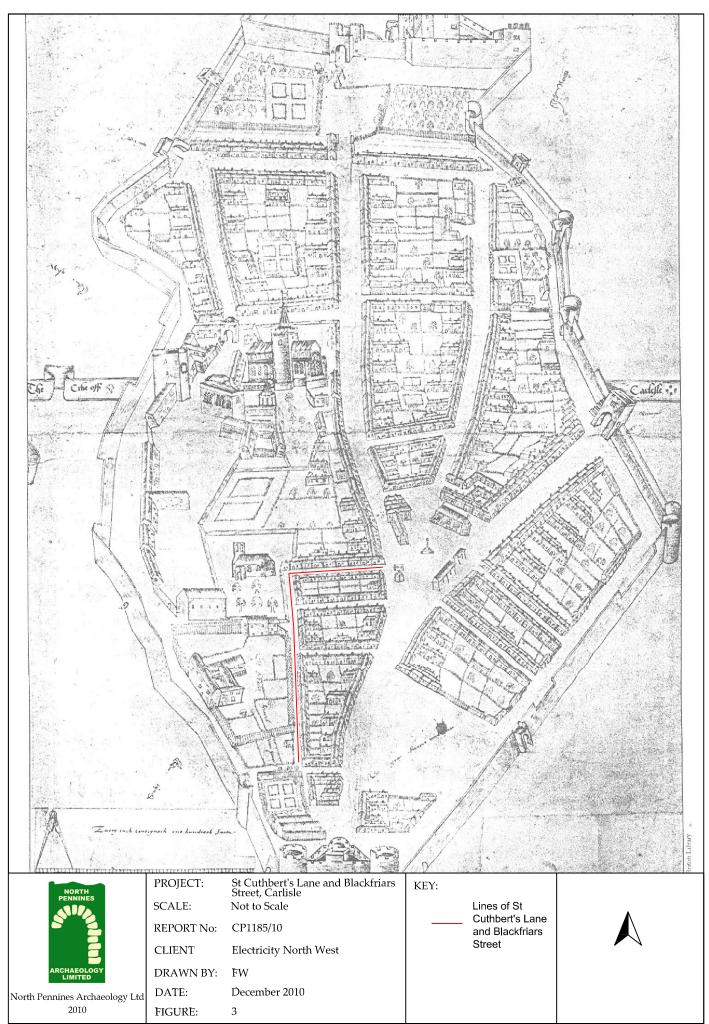


Figure 3: Plan of the Citie of Carlisle, 16th century

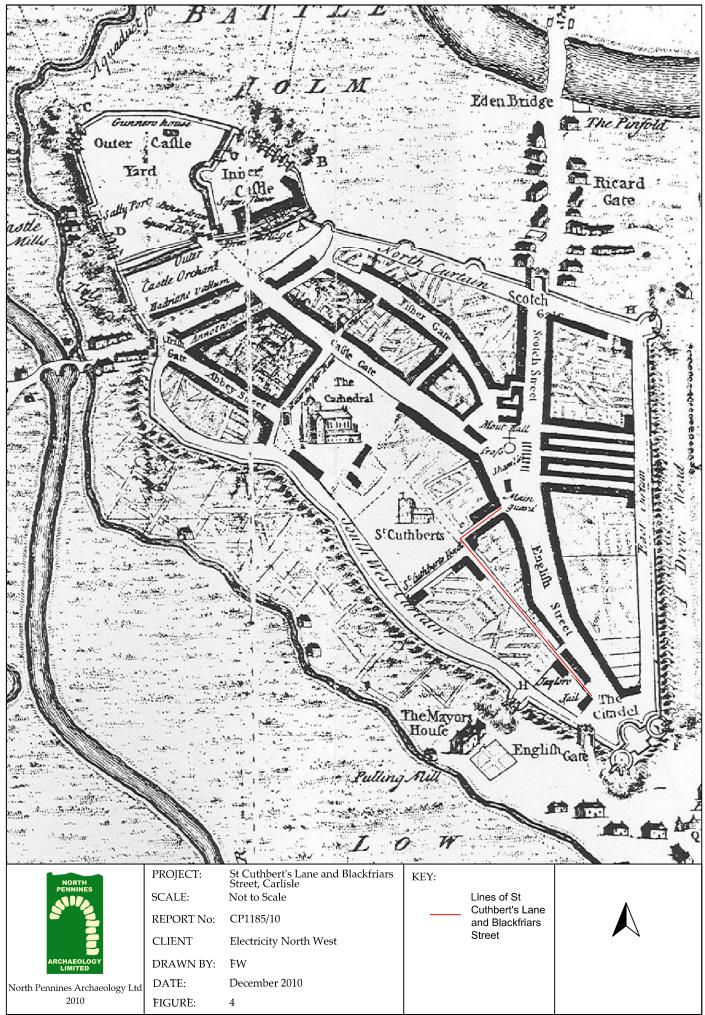


Figure 4: A Plan of the City of Carlisle 1746

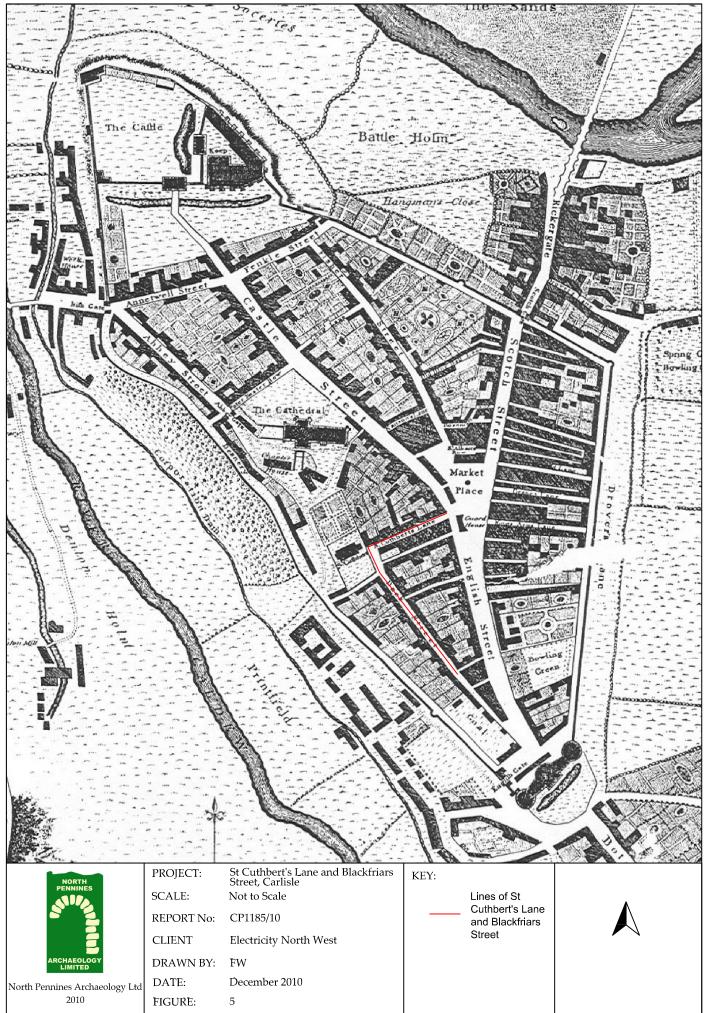


Figure 5: Plan of the City of Carlisle and Places Adjacent 1794

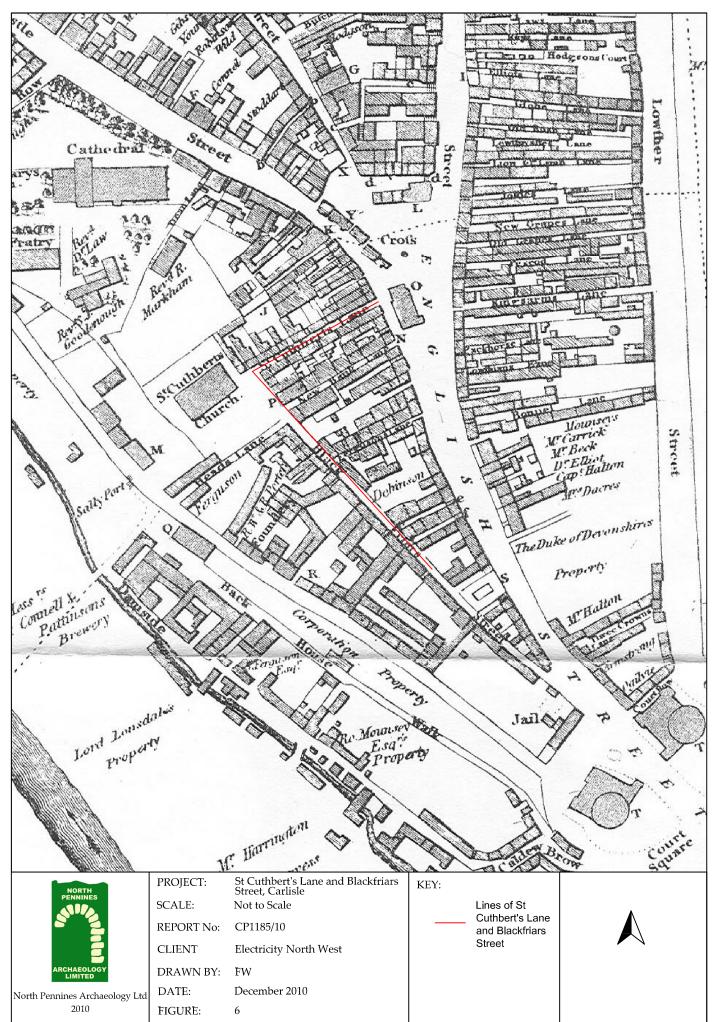


Figure 6: John Wood's Plan of Carlisle 1821

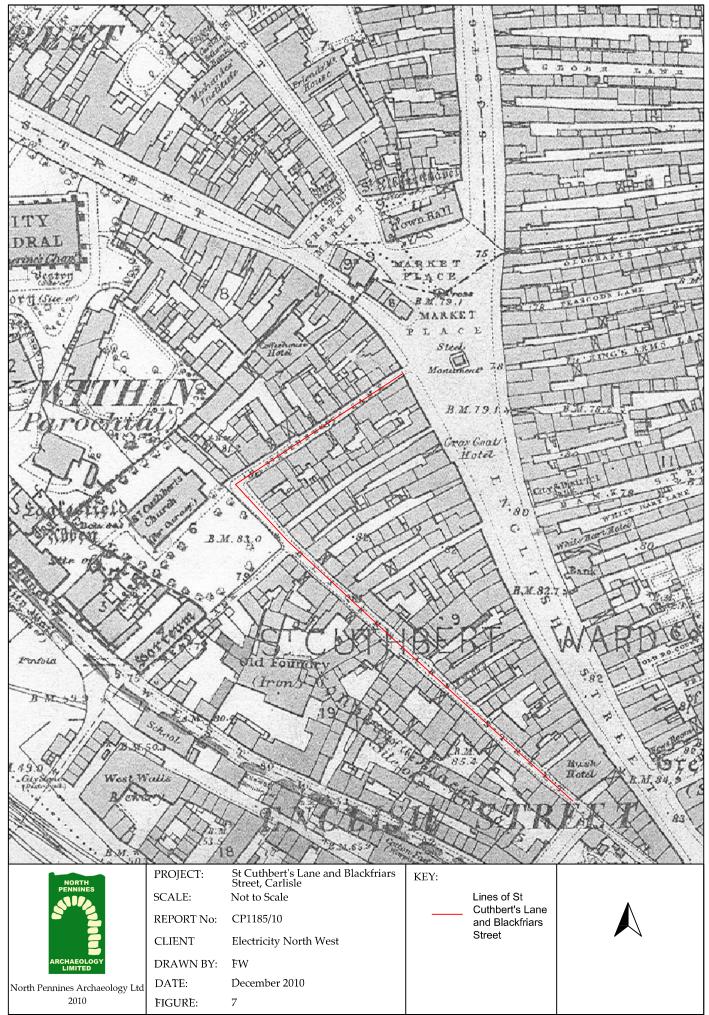


Figure 7: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1874 (25" to 1 mile scale)

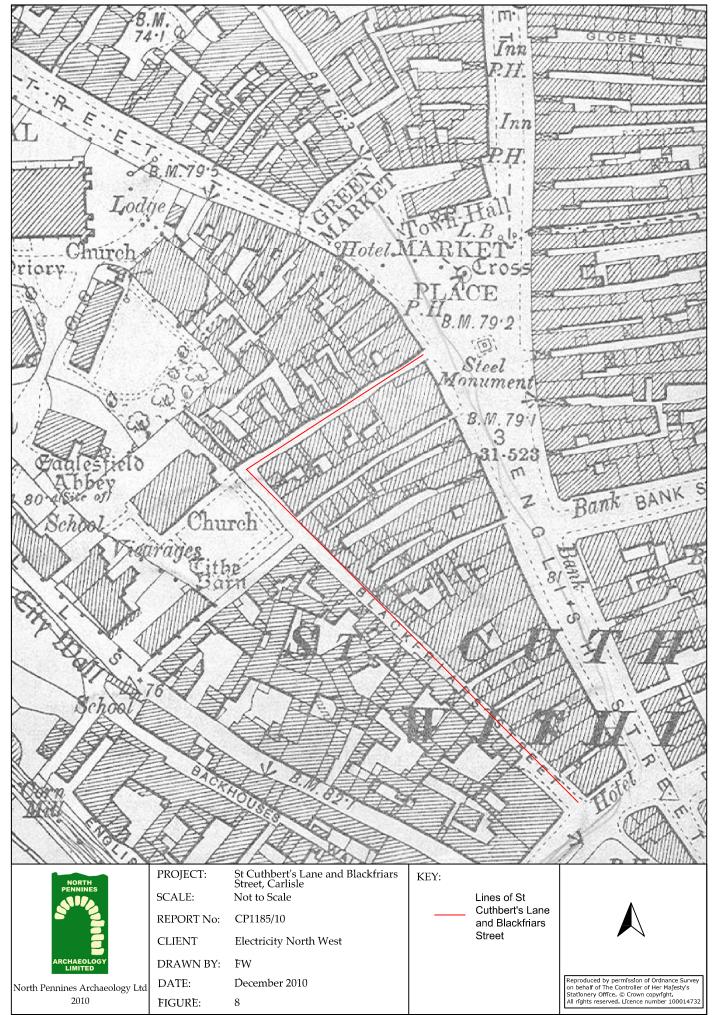


Figure 8: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1901 (25" to 1 mile scale)

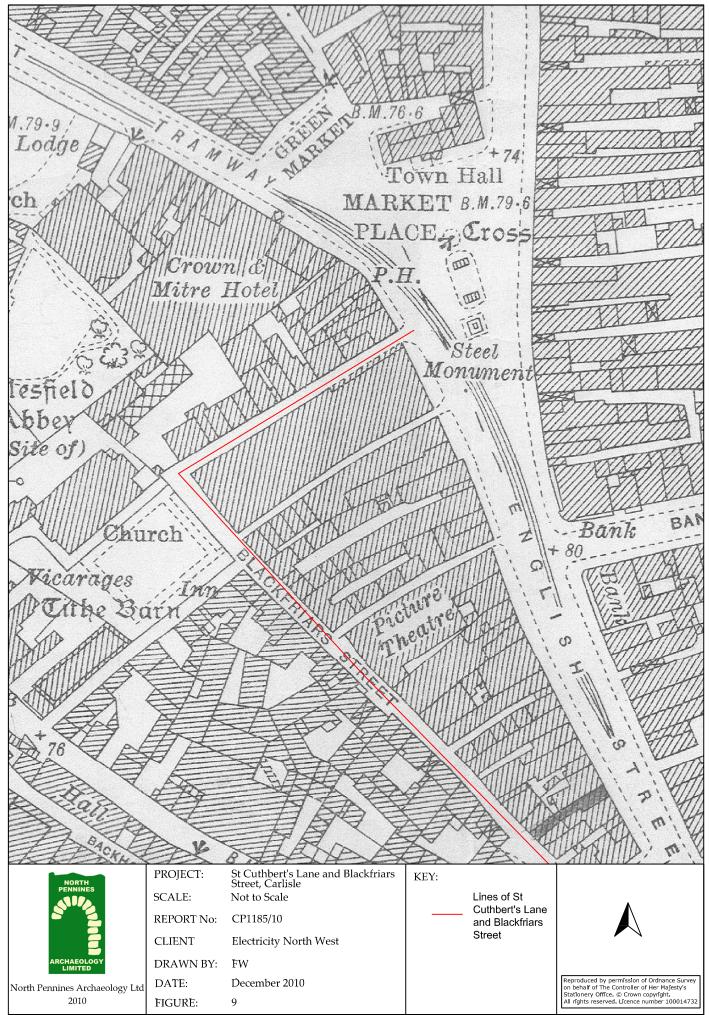


Figure 9: Ordnance Survey Map 1924 (25" to 1 mile scale)

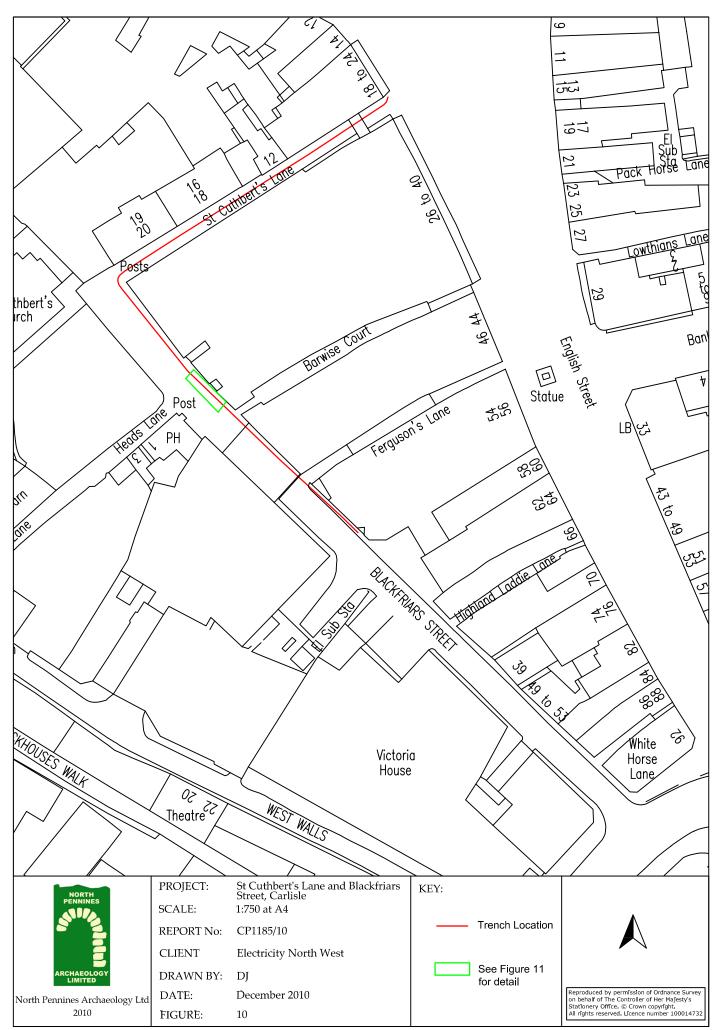


Figure 10: Trench Location Plan

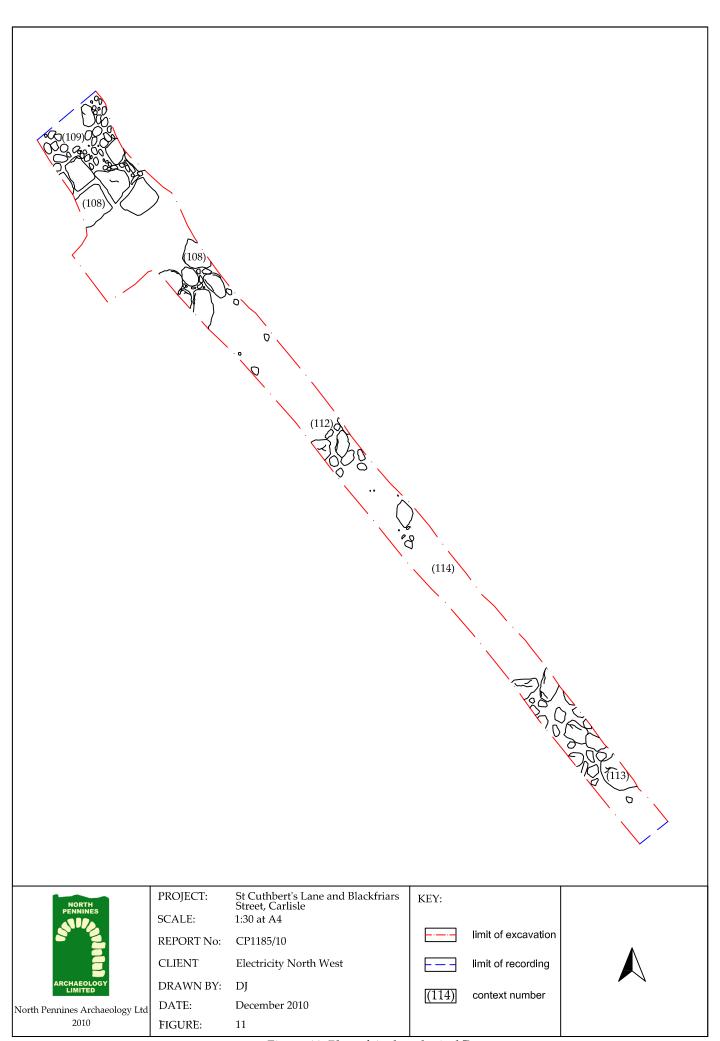


Figure 11: Plan of Archaeological Features