# LANGLEY-CASTLE, LANGLEY-ON-TYNE, NORTHUMBERLAND



ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT CP. No: 1184/10 16/12/2010

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

**DOCUMENT TITLE:** Langley Castle, Langley-on-Tyne, Northumberland

**DOCUMENT TYPE:** Archaeological Watching Brief Report

CLIENT: Langley Castle Hotel

**CP NUMBER:** 1184/10

SITE CODE: LCH-A

PLANNING APP. No: 20100059 & 20100060

OASIS REFERENCE: northpen3-87241

**PRINT DATE:** 16/12/2010

GRID REFERENCE: NY 8341 6242

#### 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:	Catrin Jenkins			
Position:	Project Supervisor			
DATE:	15/12/10			
EDITED BY:	Martin Railton			
Position:	Project Manager			
DATE:	15/12/10			
APPROVED BY:	Matt Town			
Position:	Project Manager			
DATE:	15/12/10			

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd is a wholly owned company of North Pennines Heritage Trust (Company Registration No. 4847034; VAT Registration No. 817 2284 31). All rights reserved.

#### Disclaimer

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced, stored or transmitted by any means without prior written permission from North Pennines Archaeology Ltd, or the client for whom the work was carried out. The report has been produced specifically for the client's usage, and no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report; any person or party using or relying on this document for such purposes agrees, and with such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement, to indemnify NPA Ltd for all loss or damage resulting from their action. No liability is accepted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd for any use of this report other than the use and purpose for which it was originally intended. Information contained in this report is provided by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd using due care and diligence and no explicit warranty is provided as to its accuracy. No independent verification of any information provided to North Pennines Archaeology Ltd has been made.

## **CONTENTS**

SUM	MARY	5
ACK	NOWLEDGEMENTS	6
1 INT	RODUCTION	
1.1	Circumstances of the Project	
2 MET	THODOLOGY	
2.1	Project Design	
2.2	The Watching Brief	
2.3	The Archive	
3 BAC	CKGROUND	10
3.1	Location and Geological Context	10
3.2	Historical Context	
3.3	The Building	12
3.4	Previous Work	13
4 ARC	CHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF	14
4.1	Introduction	14
4.2	Results	14
5 FIN	DS	20
5.1	Finds Assessment	20
5.2	stone	20
6 CON	NCLUSIONS	21
6.1	Conclusions and Recommendations	21
7 BIB	LIOGRAPHY	22
	ENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE	
	ENDIX 2: FIGURES	
TITE		

## **ILLUSTRATIONS**

FIGURES (APPENDIX 2)
Figure 1: Site Location
Figure 2: Detailed site location plan
Figure 3: Plan of features exposed in pavilion area
Figure 4: Sections in Pavillion area and Service Trench
PLATES
Plate 1: Plan view of stones 101
Plate 2: North facing view of foundation stones 102
Plate 3: West facing view of foundation stones 103
Plate 4: West facing view of Castle Foundations beneath doorway
Plate 5: East facing view of section of trench across access road showing cuts 131 and 136
Plate 6: South facing section showing deposits within sewage tank trench. 19

#### **SUMMARY**

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Simpson and Brown Architects, on behalf of their clients Langley Castle Hotel, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Langley Castle, Langley-on-Tyne, Northumberland (NGR NY 8341 6242). This work follows a planning application (Planning Application Nos: 20100059 & 20100060; NCCCT Ref: T21/9; 10907 & 10909) for the construction of a new single storey extension to the west elevation of Langley Castle for a dining room pavilion. The archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the groundworks for the construction of the dining pavilion and associated drainage works. The work was required as the site lies directly to the west of the Grade I Listed Langley Castle which is considered to be an area of high archaeological potential.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken over eight days between the 1st November and 13th December 2010. Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the reduction in the ground levels across the pavilion site and service trenches within this area and also service trenches to the north of the main construction site, including a large trench for a sewage tank and its overflow trench. Archaeological deposits were encountered within the pavilion site and also within the northern service trench. Within the immediate vicinity of the castle there were several deposits of stone which were likely to be associated with the construction of the castle's foundations and therefore of Medieval date. In the western part of the pavilion site several deposits which appeared to provide evidence for dumping and demolition were encountered. These may have been associated with the renovation of the castle in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Within the northern service trench, several deposits relating to a possible construction cut were exposed. It was not possible within the scope of the programme of works to determine whether these remains were conclusively structural or represented dumped deposits. Two architectural stones were recovered during the works though no dating material was recovered from any archaeological features.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the development of a new dining pavilion, 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 Langley Castle Hotel, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Further thanks are extended to Simpson Brown Architects for all their assistance throughout the project.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to MGM Groundworks, and all staff at the Langley Castle Hotel, for their help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Catrin Jenkins. The report was written and the drawings were produced by Catrin Jenkins. The project was managed and the report was edited by Martin Railton, Project Manager for NPA Ltd.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In November 2010, North Pennines Archaeology Limited were invited by Simpson and Brown Architects on behalf of their client, Langley Castle Hotel, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Langley Castle, Langley-on-Tyne, Northumberland (NGR NY 8341 6242; Figure 1). The work follows a planning application (Planning Application Nos: 20100059, 20100060; NCCCT Ref: T21/9, 10907, 10909) for the construction of a new single storey extension to the west elevation of Langley Castle Hotel for a new dining room pavilion. The development included an associated 'moat', fountain and an area of paving immediately adjacent to the castle.
- 1.1.2 The construction works lie within the immediate vicinity of the Grade I Listed Langley Castle, an area considered to have high archaeological potential. Although no standing buildings have been recorded within the area of the development, the external walls of the castle show signs of attached structures, probably post-medieval farm buildings and so provided potential for archaeological remains to be disturbed during the development. As a result and in line with government guidance set out in the DoE *Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) and its successor *PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (Policy HE6) a programme of archaeological work was required in order to mitigate the impact of the development on archaeological remains. All of the work was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design submitted to and approved by Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT).
- 1.1.3 All groundworks associated with the development of the dining pavilion, moat, fountain and drainage works were undertaken under full archaeological supervision. All stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008), and were consistent with the specification provided in the Project Design and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.4 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 Limited (NPA Ltd) in response to a request by Simpson Brown Architects and Langley Castle Hotel, for an archaeological watching brief of the development area. Following acceptance of the project design by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT), NPA 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 leveled;
  - 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, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
  - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;

- to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE standards (English Heritage 2006).
- 2.2.3 An area of approximately 183m² was stripped of tarmac and soil (topsoil), and several drainage trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.90m. Archaeological monitoring and supervision of groundworks associated with the stripping commenced on 1st November 2010. A summary of the findings of the watching brief is included within this report.

#### 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 an appropriate repository, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Morpeth, Northumberland, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA10, LCH-A, CP 1184/10.
- 2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology, and Northumberland 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 Limited, as a part of this national project.

#### 3 BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The development site is located directly to the west of the west wall of Langley Castle on an area which comprised a combination of tarmacadam surfacing, lawned gardens and an access road. The castle is located just off the A686 to the south west of Haydon Bridge.
- 3.1.2 Langley Castle lies within the Tyne valley which forms a narrow corridor extending east to west through a low-lying gap between the uplands of the Pennines. The landuse of the surrounding area comprises mainly farmland with broadleaved woodland and conifer plantations (Countryside Commission 1998).
- 3.1.3 The Tynedale area coincides with the outcrop of the Stublick Fault System, a complex belt of faulting that delimits the northern extent of the North Pennines. The underlying bedrock geology consists of sedimentary rocks of Carboniferous age, which comprise a recurring succession of limestones, sandstones and shales, with thin coal seams locally and a small number of mineral veins. Most of these rocks belong to the Middle or Upper Limestone Groups, although several small areas of Coal Measures rocks are preserved as faulted inliers along the line of the Stublick Fault System (*ibid*).
- 3.1.4 During the last glaciations the passage of ice sheets moving from southern Scotland has greatly influenced the landscape depositing drift geology of boulder clay or till in a blanket over much of the area (*ibid*).

#### 3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area. The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Northumberland and the National Monument Record (NMR) were consulted for further background information.
- 3.2.2 *Prehistoric and Romano-British:* the earliest recorded evidence for human activity within the area dates from the Neolithic period and is represented by several polished stone axes recovered from the Tyne near Haydon Bridge (HER N7673). Bronze Age remains are evident in the presence of cup marked stones such as those just to the south west of the site at High Shaw. There have also been cist burials excavated at West Wharmley and Low Morralees which produced grave goods of Cu Alloy knives and axeheads (HER N7673). Further evidence for occupation during the prehistoric period

- can be seen in the remains of cord rig ploughing at Grindon Shaw to the north of Haydon Bridge, identified from aerial photography (HER N7588).
- 3.2.3 Later prehistoric and Romano-British activity is evidenced in the area by the settlements at Knag Burn and Howden Hill just to the south of Langley Castle (HER N7554).
- 3.2.4 The line of Hadrian's Wall runs along the Whin Sill to the north of Haydon Bridge and several Roman routes ran through the area with the nearest fort located at Vindolanda (HER N13365). A possible temporary camp depicted as a rectangular enclosure has been identified from aerial photography, just to the south of Langley Castle which has been suggested as being Roman in date (HER N7650).
- 3.2.5 *Medieval:* following the Norman invasion of 1066 much of Northumberland was split into baronies and manors, one of the most important of which was at Langley. In the Lay Subsidy of 1296, a total of 17 taxpayers were recorded in the barony. However, this included neighbouring hamlets and there may not have been a village at Langley as there is no record for it or earthwork remains in the area for a village dating to this period (HER N7657).
- 3.2.6 The castle was probably constructed in the first half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, by Anthony de Lucy who was warden of the counties of Westmoreland and Cumberland and died in 1343. The property was first referred to as a castle in an IPM of 1365, though it probably represents an example of the best preserved tower house in Northumberland. The IPM recorded the Langley manor as comprising a castle, a free husbandland and a croft (NSMR03-7640).
- 3.2.7 By the late 14<sup>th</sup> century the castle had passed into the hands of the Umfravilles and then was under the ownership of the 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Northumberland, Henry Percy. Percy was involved in a rebellion against King Henry IV and the king subsequently destroyed the castle in 1405 (NSMR03-7640).
- 3.2.8 *Post-medieval and Modern:* it is believed that the castle remained in ruins for the next 500 years and it was certainly recorded as such in 1541. However, records do exist for the property being leased in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Sir Edward Radcliffe bought the Langley Barony from the Earl of Annandale in 1631 which included the Alston lead mines. Following the civil war the Radcliffe properties were impounded though these were later redeemed and the property was let out in 1671 for an annual rent of £30.00 (HER N13365).
- 3.2.9 By 1705 the Langley estate was the property of the Earls of Derwentwater, who were Jacobites and took part in the rebellions of 1715 and 1745 which ended in the beheading of two of the earls. A stone cross on the roadside

- between Haydon Bridge and Langley Castle was erected to commemorate the executions (HER N13365).
- 3.2.10 An estate plan dating to 1736 depicted the castle and three houses. The houses stood in a field to the south of the castle called 'The Greens'. Only the castle and a farmstead remain of the buildings shown on the plan (NSMR03-7640).
- 3.2.11 In 1749 the estate was seized by the Crown and given to the Royal Hospital for Seaman in Greenwich which exploited the property's assets of farms, lead mines and smelting mills. The castle remained in the hand of the hospital governors until 1882, when it was sold to Cadwallader John Bates, a former Sheriff of Northumberland (NSMR03-7640).
- 3.2.12 Bates began the process of restoring the castle in the late 19th century and although he died in 1902, his wife Josephine continued to restore the castle until her death in 1932. Josephine was granted an audience with Pope Leo XIII in 1902 and given permission to rebuild the chapel on the roof. The castle has since been through several changes in function ranging from St Cuthbert's School for girls to a 'Medieval Banqueting Hall' to its present function as a luxury hotel (NSMR03-7640).

#### 3.3 THE BUILDING

- 3.3.1 Langley Castle represents the grandest of the upper floor hall houses in existence in the county. It consists of a central hall with four projecting angle towers giving an overall H-plan. The central area measures 25m by 7.6m externally and the towers are approximately 8m². It also has a forebuilding attached to the south east tower which continued up as far as the roof of the main block. Although many of the ground floor windows and doorways, internal floors and partitions, parapets and battlements are from the Bates' and subsequent restorations, much of the original medieval fabric of the building is well preserved. The 20th century alterations have masked some of the medieval features exposed and preserved by Bates. For example a small mural staircase in the north east tower, is now sealed off (NSMR03-7640).
- 3.3.2 The most notable medieval features include: the entrance doorway at the base of the forebuilding, which was the main entrance in the east wall with a portcullis slot and roof boss in the form of a mask, through which the portcullis chain passed; the entrance lobby between the stair and the first floor hall which included two moulded doorways and an angled passage; a unique tiered series of garderobes in the south west tower; and a possible chapel in the upper room on the top floor of the south east tower (NSMR03-7640).

- 3.3.3 There are a number of structural elements which suggest that the upper parts of the castle are a later addition, perhaps a later 14th century remodelling of a late 13th or early 14th century house. The most obvious of these is the change in colour of the ashlar wall facing, to a lighter sandy colour, at the level of the chamfered set-back above the second floor. There are round headed windows on the south and west sides which may survive from this possible earlier phase and several other windows have reticulated tracery of a mid 14th century type. It is also postulated that the forebuilding may have been an addition, or a remodelling of an earlier feature. The building contains several features which do not appear to be the result of a single phase of construction such as the steps down from the stairs into the hall entrance lobby. Also the southern part of the forebuilding contains a series of small vaulted chambers, at different levels to the floors of the main block (NSMR03-7640).
- 3.3.4 The castle stands in open parkland and has no enclosing walls or banks. The external walls of the building show various traces of attached structures, which may have been post-medieval farm buildings as suggested by the buildings historian Peter Ryder in his study, Towers and Bastles in Northumberland.

#### 3.4 Previous Work

- 3.4.1 There have been several archaeological works at Langley Castle. These have included limited excavations in 1882, undertaken against the south wall of the tower.
- 3.4.2 In 2006 Archaeological Services University of Durham undertook a watching brief on the construction of a new gazebo base in the grounds. In 2008 North Pennines Archaeology Limited undertook an archaeological watching brief within the footprint of a proposed accommodation block, approximately 80m to the north east of the castle. These works recorded no significant remains (Clark 2008).

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

#### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken intermittently over the course of eight days between the 1st November and 13th December 2010. The initial phase involved the reduction in ground levels to the west of the castle across an area of approximately 180m² within the footprint of the dining pavilion. Following this, foundation and service trenches were excavated both within the pavilion site and also to the north and west of it. (Figure 2). The excavation of the 'moat' was not archaeologically monitored though the redesign of the feature suggested that it was only excavated to a depth of approximately 0.05m below the archaeologically monitored levels.

#### 4.2 RESULTS

#### **PAVILION AREA**

- Natural subsoil was exposed in two of the foundation trenches within the pavilion site. In the trench along the northern side of the area, the deposit consisted of soft orangey brown sand (112) and was exposed at a depth of 165.59m OD. In the trench along the southern side of the pavilion site, the deposit comprised soft orangey brown silty sand (113). Overlaying these deposits was a layer of garden soil (111) which was composed of firm mid brown silty clay that measured 0.10m+ in thickness and appeared to extend across the entire area. This deposit was also probably exposed in the western part of the area and was given a separate context number 107. An architectural stone (SF 2) was recovered from the deposit which was composed of sandstone. Within the southern foundation trench the garden soil (111) was cut by two modern features [114] and [115], though their full extents were not exposed within the limits of the trench excavation. Cut [114] was filled with a deposit of light grey mixed mortar, brick and fragmented sandstone (116) with cut [115] being filled with a deposit similar in composition and consisting of sand brick mortar and sub-angular stone (117).
- 4.2.2 Several features were encountered within the eastern part of the pavilion area adjacent to the castle walls which may have been medieval in origin and associated with the construction of the castle (Figure 3). Two large flagged sandstones (101) were exposed at a depth of 165.77m OD located adjacent to the north wall of the south west tower of the castle. They measured 500mm by 400mm and 480mm by 500mm. The stones may have been a remnant of a former flagged surface (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Plan view of stones 101

4.2.3 A line of stones (102) was exposed alongside the west wall of the central hall of the castle these were assumed to be part of the castle foundations and were exposed at a depth of 165.79m OD (Figure 3) (Plate 2). They consisted of roughly shaped sandstone blocks which measured between 430mm by 210mm and 120mm and 210mm in size. They were observed extending beneath the castle wall and measured 1.10m long and projected for 0.3m from the castle wall.



Plate 2: North facing view of foundation stones 102

4.2.4 A further line of stone was exposed along the south wall of the north west tower of the castle (103) (Figure 3 and 4) (Plate 3). These were between 520mm by 300mm to 300mm by 200mm in size and projected for 0.30m from the castle wall and were observed for a total of 1.4m along the castle wall. A service trench exposed at least two courses of these stones which were directly underneath the walls of the castle.



Plate 3: West facing view of foundation stones 103

4.2.5 During the groundworks the deposits beneath the western castle doorway were exposed enabling observation and recording. The earliest deposit exposed was stone rubble and mortar (122) which was exposed for some 0.30m in depth. Above this was the ashlar sandstone doorstep and door frame (120) (Plate 4) (Figure 4).



Plate 4: West facing view of castle foundations beneath doorway

- 4.2.6 These stone deposits within the eastern half of the pavilion area were overlain by the tarmac surface (100) which was between 0.10m and 0.15m in depth and consisted of a hard surface with an aggregate component beneath it.
- 4.2.7 Within the western half of the pavilion area and above garden soil layer (107) were a number of deposits and features. Extending along the western limit of the pavilion area a north to south aligned linear feature (108) was exposed. It measured over 5m in length, 0.7m in width and it was filled with firm brownish orange silty clay (109) that contained frequent stone and brick fragments. Just to the north of this feature was a deposit of machine manufactured brick rubble and mortar (106). The bricks were fragmented and measured 240mm by 120mm by 70mm in size. Directly to the east of the linear feature, located within the central portion of the area was a demolition layer (110) which contained modern debris including plastic and glass. It measured 2.6m north to south by 1.4m east to west. Just to the south of this layer and adjacent to the southern limit of the area was a further demolition layer composed of stone and brick (105). The stones measured between 320mm by 320mm by 80mm to 410mm by 200mm by 80mm to 240mm by 120mm by 70mm in size and the bricks were 240mm by 120mm by 70mm in size. This deposit extended for 2m north to south and for 1.5m east to west.
- 4.2.8 Two service trenches were excavated along the western edge of the pavilion area and also to the north of it. The garden soil (107) was exposed in the base of both trenches and it was cut just to the north west of the pavilion area by a substantial modern soakaway pit (118). The components of the soakaway comprised machine manufactured brick and gravel (117) and the pit

- extended for at least 5m in diameter and 0.7m in depth, though its full extents were not revealed within the excavation limits.
- 4.2.9 All of the features within the western half of the pavilion area were sealed by the topsoil (104) which comprised dark brown silty clay and was 0.31m in depth.

#### SERVICE TRENCH NORTH OF THE PAVILION AREA

4.2.10 The trench which was excavated across the hotel kitchen access road to the north of the pavilion area contained several features. A layer of subsoil was exposed (123/133) which was composed of mid brown silty clay which was up to 0.6m in depth. It was given a separate number in the north side of the trench (133) to in the south (123) though the deposit was the same. It was cut by a steep sided cut [136] which measured 1.5m long. The primary fill was a deposit of river cobbles (126) which were on average 70mm by 50mm by 20mm. and were 0.15m in thickness. A deposit of squared masonry blocks overlay the cobbles (125) these were sandstone and measured 400mm x 300mm x 280mm in size and the deposit was 0.25m in depth. A thin layer of mortar (130) overlay the cut it was 0.03m thick and was light grey. Above the mortar was a deposit of loose reddish brown mixed sand and clay (135). It was cut by a small wide U-shaped cut [131)] which was 0.7m wide, 0.28m deep and had a flat base. It was filled with a deposit of (131) dark brown clayey silt. Above this was a layer of loose greyish mortar which was 0.2m thick. Sealing this layer was a bedding sand layer (129) for the modern garden gravel (128) and kerbing (134), which bordered the access road surface (127).



Plate 5: East facing view of section of trench across access road showing cuts 131 and 136

4.2.10 The service trench extended further north where a large trench for a sewage tank was excavated. The trench measured 3m north to south 2.5m east to west and was 2m in depth and a small overflow trench was excavated to the west of it. Natural brownish yellow clay subsoil (137) was exposed at a depth of approximately 0.90m below the ground level. It was overlain by garden soil (133) that was up to 0.6m in thickness and this in turn was sealed by the topsoil (104) which was up to 0.30m in thickness in this area.



Plate 6: South facing section showing deposits within sewage tank trench.

#### 5 FINDS

#### 5.1 FINDS ASSESSMENT

- 5.1.1 A total of thirteen mainly unstratified finds were recovered during the archaeological monitoring. These included 8 unidentified Fe objects, 3 pieces of Pb window came and two large disc-shaped architectural dressed stones.
- 5.1.2 The finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of F. Giecco (NPA Ltd Technical Director). Aside from the architectural stone the finds assemblage was not retained as little could be gained from further analysis.

#### 5.2 STONE

- 5.2.1 A total of two pieces of architectural stone (SF 1 and 2) were recovered during the archaeological monitoring. One of the pieces (SF 1) was unstratified with the other (SF 2) coming from the garden soil layer 107.
- 5.2.2 The unstratified stone was in excess of 20kg in weight and had a diameter of 0.34m and a depth of 12m. It was dressed and carved from sandstone and tooling marks were apparent on its sides and ends.
- 5.2.3 The other piece of architectural stone (SF 2) was recovered from the garden soil (107). It was also dressed and sandstone with a weight of approximately 20kg it was 0.346m in diameter with a depth of 0.12m. Faint tooling marks were apparent on the sides and ends.
- 5.2.4 Both stones were dressed and identical in form and they appear to be some form of structural component possibly pillar or plinth bases to support or stabilise a column or post. However, the location from where they were recovered impedes further interpretation. It is likely that they were deposited during the renovations to the castle which took place in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
unstratified	Fe	8	0.175	Uncertain
unstratified	Pb	3	0.072	C19th
unstratified	Stone	1		Med/P-medieval
107	stone	1		Med/P-medieval

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

#### **6 CONCLUSIONS**

#### 6.1 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1.1 The archaeological watching brief undertaken at Langley Castle monitored the reduction in the ground level across the pavilion site and the excavation of service trenches within this area and also service trenches to the north of the pavilion area including a large trench for a sewage tank and its overflow trench.
- 6.1.2 Archaeological deposits were encountered within the pavilion area and within two of the drainage trenches. Within the immediate vicinity of the castle there were several deposits of stone which were likely to be associated with the construction of the castle. Further dumped deposits which appeared to provide evidence for demolition were encountered in the western part of the pavilion area and possible structural remains were exposed within the service trench which extended across the access road to the hotel kitchen.
- 6.1.3 Aside from two architectural dressed stone fragments no significant finds were recovered during the works. The stones may have been used internally within the castle and been removed during the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century renovation works.
- 6.1.4 As this watching brief was conducted as a condition of groundworks associated with the development of a single story extension for a dining pavilion and associated moat and paving no further archaeological work is deemed necessary. However, given the site's location in relation to the castle, it is recommended that any work conducted in the future be subject to a similar programme of archaeological investigation.

#### **7 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Brown, D.H. (2007) Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation. Archaeological Archives Forum

Clark, A (2008) Archaeological Watching Brief: Report on works at Langley Castle, Langley, unpublished NPA report

Countryside Commission (1998) Countryside Character Volume 1: North-east - The character of England's natural and man-made landscape. Cheltenham.

DoE (1990) Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16: Archaeology and Planning. Department of the Environment.

English Heritage (1991) *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*. London: English Heritage.

English Heritage (2002) *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recording to Post-Excavation*). London: English Heritage.

English Heritage (2006) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. London: English Heritage.

IfA (2002) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists.

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

## **APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE**

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Tarmac surface
101	Deposit	Two large flagged stones
102	Deposit	Wall foundations
103	Deposit	Wall foundations
104	Deposit	Topsoil
105	Deposit	Demolition rubble
106	Deposit	Demolition rubble
107	Deposit	Layer of subsoil
108	Cut	Cut of linear
109	Deposit	Fill of 108
110	Deposit	Layer of mortar and rubble
111	Deposit	Layer of subsoil
112	Deposit	Natural subsoil
113	Deposit	Natural subsoil
114	Cut	Cut of feature
115	Cut	Cut of feature
116	Deposit	Fill of cut 114
117	Deposit	Fill of cut 115
118	Cut	Cut for soakaway
119	Deposit	Fill of soakaway
120	Deposit	Castle doorway masonry
121	Deposit	Masonry below north side of castle doorway
122	Deposit	Masonry below south side of castle doorway
123	Deposit	Layer of subsoil in road trench
124	Deposit	Layer of mortar
125	Deposit	Squared masonry blocks within cut 136
126	Deposit	River cobble deposit within cut 136
127	Deposit	Modern tarmac road
128	Deposit	Modern garden gravel
129	Deposit	Modern bedding sand
130	Deposit	Layer of mortar
131	Deposit	Fill of cut 132
132	Cut	Cut of feature
133	Deposit	Layer of subsoil
134	Deposit	Modern kerb stones
135	Deposit	Layer of sand
136	Cut	Possible structural cut

Table 2: List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief

## **APPENDIX 2: FIGURES**

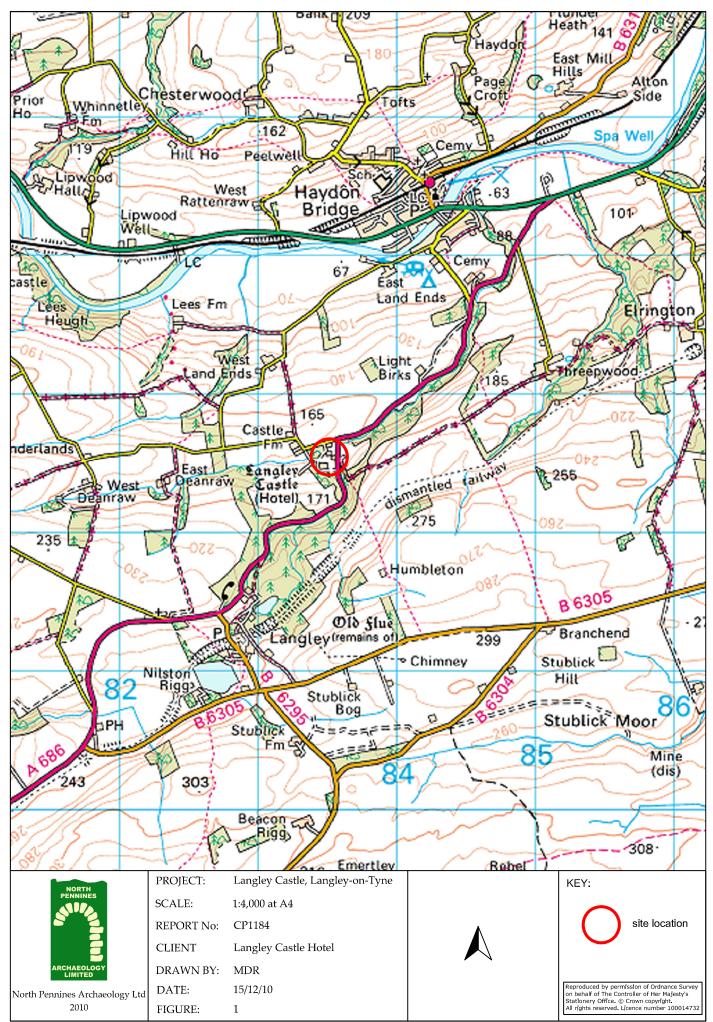


Figure 1: Site location

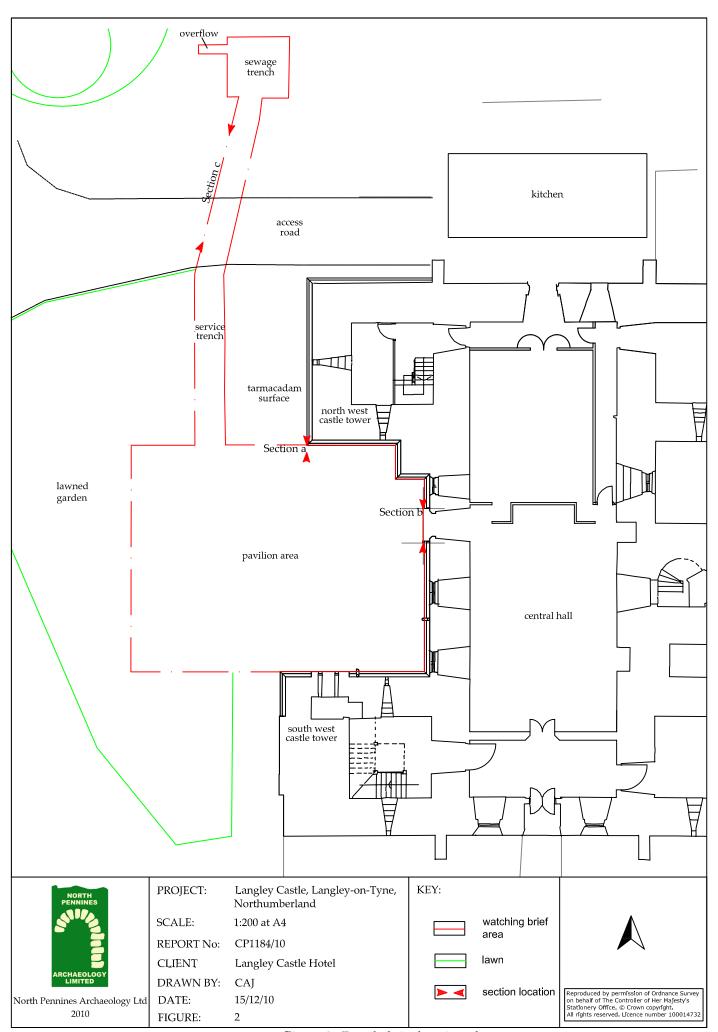


Figure 2 : Detailed site location plan

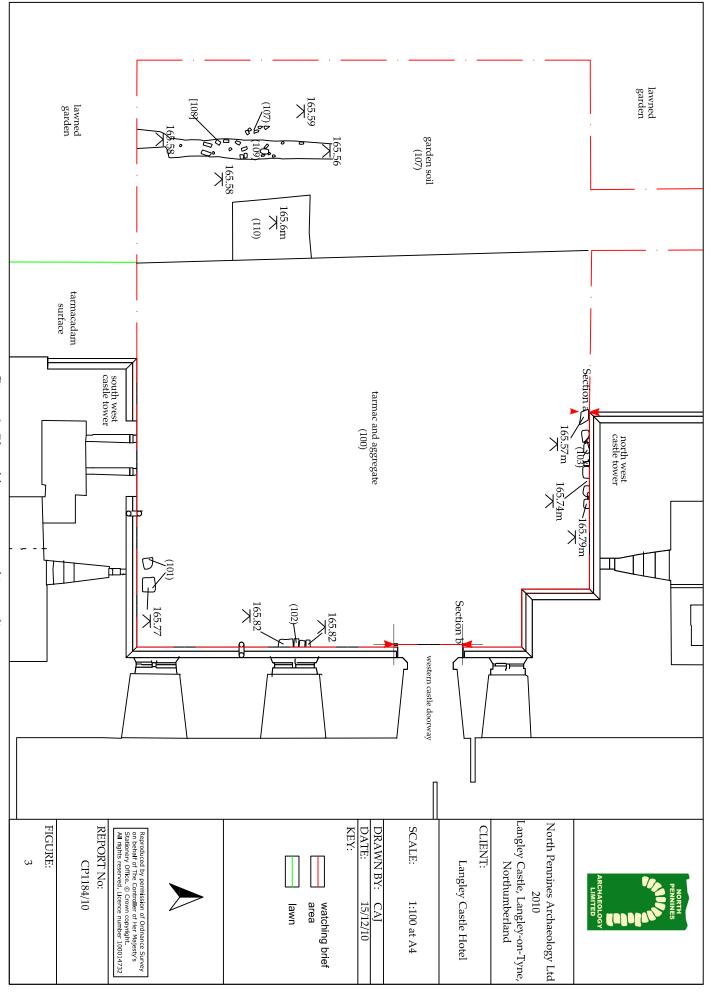
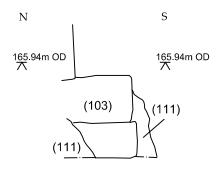
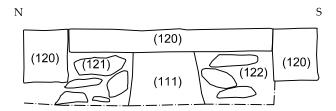


Figure 3 : Plan of features exposed in pavilion area

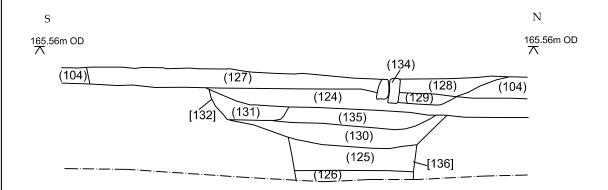
West facing section (a) of castle wall foundations 103



West facing section (b) of deposits beneath castle doorway



East facing section (c) of deposits within service trench



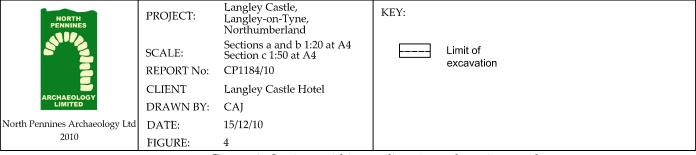


Figure 4: Sections within pavilion site and service trench