

**WATCHING BRIEF AT
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL
PRECINCT,
CARLISLE,
CUMBRIA**



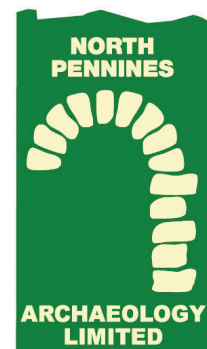
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CP. No: 1230/10

07/12/2010

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: Carlisle Cathedral Precinct
DOCUMENT TYPE: Watching Brief Report
CLIENT: Carlisle Renaissance
CP NUMBER: 1230/10
SITE CODE: CCP-A
PLANNING APP. NO: -
OASIS REFERENCE: northpen3-88814
PRINT DATE: 07/12/2010
GRID REFERENCE: NY 3900 5596

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:	Joanne Beaty		
POSITION:	Project Supervisor		
DATE:	06/12/10		
EDITED BY:	Martin Railton		
POSITION:	Project Manager		
DATE:	07/12/10		
APPROVED BY:	Frank Giocco		
POSITION:	Director		
DATE:	07/12/10		

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

SUMMARY	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	6
1 INTRODUCTION.....	7
1.1 Circumstances of the Project	7
2 METHODOLOGY	8
2.1 Project Design.....	8
2.2 The Watching Brief.....	8
2.3 The Archive	9
3 BACKGROUND.....	10
3.1 Location.....	10
3.2 Historical Background	10
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF	12
4.1 Introduction.....	12
4.2 Phase 1: Foundations.....	12
4.3 Phase 2: Cable Trenches.....	13
5 FINDS.....	15
5.1 Finds Assessment.....	15
5.2 Roman Ceramic Vessels.....	15
5.3 Medieval and Later Ceramic Vessels.....	15
5.4 Metal Objects	16
5.5 Glass	16
5.6 Small Finds	16
6 CONCLUSIONS.....	17
6.1 Conclusions	17
7 BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	18
7.1 Secondary Sources.....	18
APPENDIX 1: FIGURES	19

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES (APPENDIX 1)

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION

FIGURE 2: LOCATION OF WATCHING BRIEF AREAS

PLATES

PLATE 1: FOUNDATION TRENCH FOR ELECTRICAL JUNCTION BOXES CARLISLE CATHEDRAL
PRECINCT..... 12

PLATE 2: TREE SIX SHOWING CABLE AND LIGHT TRENCHES FACING WEST..... 13

PLATE 3: TREE SEVEN SHOWING CABLE AND LIGHT TRENCHES FACING WEST..... 14

SUMMARY

In November 2010 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were invited by Carlisle Renaissance, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Carlisle Cathedral Precinct, Carlisle, Cumbria (centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference NY 3900 5596), during the installation of lighting on the north side of the precinct.

The Cathedral is the seat of the Anglican Bishop of Carlisle. It was founded as the church to St Mary's Priory by Henry I in 1122 a house of Augustinian Canons, and became a cathedral in 1133. The building was refurbished in the 13th and 14th centuries, receiving impetus from the presence of the court of Edward I in 1307. In the 15th and early 16th centuries, the monastic buildings were renewed. Carlisle Cathedral is also believed to lie within the the Roman civil settlement associated to the Roman Fort of Luguwallium, and an Anglo-Saxon monastery, founded by St Cuthbert in AD 685.

Carlisle Cathedral Precinct is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (CU 546). A watching brief was agreed to be as an appropriate level of mitigation for any disturbance to archaeological deposits caused by the proposed works, as outlined in a project brief prepared by Andrew Davison, Inspector of Ancient Monuments Team Leader (North), English Heritage.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken over 4 days between the 2nd November and 5th November 2010. The watching brief monitored the groundworks associated with the provision of new lighting within the northern part of the cathedral precinct, which included excavation for the installation of an electricity supply within the scheduled area. All work was undertaken with Scheduled Monument Consent.

No archaeological remains were noted during the groundworks. The earliest artefacts identified were of Roman date, but they were found in the topsoil they were not from secure archaeological contexts. The remainder of the artefacts recovered were post-medieval in date, which would coincide with the use of the graveyard where the watching brief occurred.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the installation of new lighting on the north side of the precinct, 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 Carlisle Renaissance, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. NPA Ltd would also like to thank Kevin Murray of Carlisle City Council for all assistance throughout the project.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Kevin Murray of Carlisle City Council, and all staff at the Carlisle Cathedral, for their help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Joanne Beaty and David Jackson. The report was written by Joanne Beaty and the drawings were produced by David Jackson. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Project Manager for NPA Ltd. 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 were invited by Carlisle Renaissance, to maintain an archaeological watching brief at Carlisle Cathedral Precinct, Carlisle, Cumbria (NGR NY 3900 5596; Figure 1), during groundworks associated with the installation of new lighting on the north side of the precinct. The proposed works lie within the immediate vicinity of the Cathedral, which is part of an Ancient Scheduled Monument (CU 546). As a result, Andrew Davison, Inspector of Ancient Monuments Team Leader (North), English Heritage requested that all ground reduction be subject to a programme of archaeological observation and investigation. This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16).
- 1.1.2 All groundworks associated with the installation of new lighting had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2002), and were consistent with the project design provided by North Pennines Archaeology (Railton 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 Carlisle Renaissance, for an archaeological watching brief of the study area (Railton 2010). Following acceptance of the project design by Andrew Davison, Inspector of Ancient Monuments Team Leader (North), English Heritage, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice. All work was undertaken with Scheduled Monument Consent.

2.2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (IfA 2002).

2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
- to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
- to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
- to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
- to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital, and monochrome formats as applicable, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;

- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;
- to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE standards (English Heritage 2006).

2.2.3 An area of approximately 10m by 0.10m by 0.15m was air-picked of soil (topsoil and subsoil). The trenches formed a semi-circular pattern around the base of each of the seven trees to avoid damaging the tree routes. Around each tree a further four circular holes for the lights were excavated, which measured 0.20m long by 0.20m wide and approximately 0.40m deep. These circular holes were also air picked and connected the semi-circular trench and then lead onto a junction box. The foundations for the Junction boxes were approximately 0.80m long by 0.20m wide and 0.20m deep. The work on the junction boxes was hand excavated. The archaeological monitoring and supervision of groundworks associated with the groundworks commenced on 2nd 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 Tullie House Museum, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Kendal, Cumbria, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA10, CCP-A, CP 1230/10.

2.3.2 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 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION

3.1.1 Carlisle Cathedral Precinct is situated to the east of the River Caldew and south of Carlisle Castle within the heart of the historic centre of Carlisle (Figure 1). The precinct is bounded by Castle Street to the northeast, Paternoster Row to the northwest, West Walls to the southwest, with St Cuthbert's Church and the Crown and Mitre Hotel to the south and east. The site is centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference NY 3900 5596.

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.2.1 Carlisle Cathedral is part of an Ancient Scheduled Monument (CU 546) in Carlisle City centre. The Cathedral is the seat of the Anglican Bishop of Carlisle. It was founded as the church to St Mary's Priory for the Augustinian Priors by Henry I in 1122. It was granted Cathedral status in 1133 and was refurbished in 1307 by Edward I, during his Scottish campaign. During the 15th and 16th centuries the monastic buildings were renewed and in the 17th century houses were built in the grounds. Carlisle Cathedral is also believed to lie within the Roman civil settlement associated with the Roman Fort of Luguvalium, and an Anglo-Saxon monastery, founded by St Cuthbert in AD 685.

3.2.2 Carlisle Cathedral Precinct has been the subject of a number of previous archaeological investigations, many of which remain unpublished. Small scale excavation works were conducted by Carlisle Archaeological Unit during works to examine the foundations of the Cathedral in 1985. Six small trenches were excavated to the west and south of the building, which revealed Roman deposits overlain by 'dark-earth' deposits, as well as residual Roman coins, pottery and tile. A burial, radiocarbon dated to ad 750+/-70 was also revealed, which may be associated with the Anglo-Saxon monastery founded by St Cuthbert in AD 685 (McCarthy 1987).

3.2.3 Most significantly, in 1988, a rescue excavation was undertaken by Carlisle Archaeological Unit ahead of the construction of the Treasury building at Carlisle Cathedral, which revealed significant Roman remains and Anglian burials relating to an unknown monastic settlement (*pers comm.* Frank Giocco, North Pennines Archaeology). Excavations at the cathedral have produced artefacts from this period including silver pins, strap-ends, a silver garter hook and a 10th century silver coin known as a *sceat* (McCarthy 1993).

3.2.4 Carlisle Cathedral is steeped in history, with the cathedral being built on the civil settlement of a Roman fort and a 7th century Priory being founded by St Cuthbert, and burials of a Viking date all of which pre-date the norman building of the cathedral. The archaeological potential is therefore very high in this area, and the present project provided an opportunity to obtain further evidence for the early history of Carlisle Cathedral Precinct, and the opportunity to recover further chronological information for the occupation of the site.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The watching brief monitoring was undertaken in two key phases. The first phase was on 2nd November, followed by a longer phase between 3rd November and 5th November 2010. The former related to the hand-excavation of junction boxes, conducted by Carlisle City Council electricians, whilst the latter related to groundworks required for electrical cables and the foundations for the lights, which were air-picked using compressed air (Figure 2).

4.2 PHASE 1: FOUNDATIONS

4.2.1 The Phase 1 Watching Brief covered the hand excavation of junction box foundations. There were seven small foundations trenches in total that were hand excavated for the electrical junction boxes. The trenches were 0.80m long 0.20m wide and 0.20m deep, and were located next to the cathedral precinct wall north of each of the seven trees. No archaeological features were present in any of the trenches and the only finds were 20th century coins, which were observed but not retained.



Plate 1: Foundation trench for electrical junction boxes Carlisle Cathedral Precinct.

4.3 PHASE 2: CABLE TRENCHES

- 4.3.1 The Phase 2 watching brief monitored all subsequent groundworks associated with the excavation of the cable trenches (Figure 2).
- 4.3.2 The deposits observed within the excavated areas remained constant throughout. The uppermost layer consisted of a layer of topsoil (100), which was dark brown loose sandy soil. The depth of the cable trenches never penetrated further than the topsoil, the trenches were a maximum depth of 0.40m. The cable trenches surrounded each of the seven trees which aligned the northern wall of the precinct. The trenches were a maximum of 0.20m deep and 0.15m wide and were air picked using compressed air. For each tree four holes were air picked for the lights, and were approximately 0.20m wide by 0.20m long by 0.40m deep. These holes were connected by the cable trenches to the junction boxes.
- 4.3.3 The only archaeological remains that were observed consisted of small red sandstone blocks next to one trees. As the air pick could not cut around them the light was moved. The sandstone blocks were not coursed and were loose in the ground possibly comprising demolition debris.



Plate 2: Tree six showing cable and light trenches facing west.



Plate 3: Tree seven showing cable and light trenches facing west.

5 FINDS

5.1 FINDS ASSESSMENT

5.1.1 A total of 13 finds were recovered from the topsoil (100) during the watching brief, including 2 sherds of Roman pottery. Tables of artefacts recovered during the watching brief are included below (Table 1 and Table 2).

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).

Context	Material	Quantity	Period
100	Pottery	2	Roman
100	Pottery	1	C17th
100	Pottery	3	C19th
100	Clay Pipe	2	C19th
100	Bottle Glass	2	C20th
100	Sheet Glass	1	C20th
100	Fe	1	Unknown
100	Pb	1	Unknown

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

5.2 ROMAN CERAMIC VESSELS

5.2.1 A total of 2 sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the topsoil (100) during the watching brief.

5.2.2 The Roman assemblage was comprised of 2 sherds of mortarium from the same vessel. The mortarium was made of a hard beige fabric with small dark grey stones in to act as a rough surface, and is believed to have been produced locally. Mortarium were generally used as mixing bowls to combine herbs and spices similar to a modern day pestle and mortar. They were widely available from the 1st century AD and were in use throughout the Roman period.

5.3 MEDIEVAL AND LATER CERAMIC VESSELS

5.3.1 A total of four sherds of post-medieval pottery and two tobacco pipe fragments were recovered from the topsoil (100) during the watching brief.

- 5.3.2 The post-medieval assemblage was comprised of one sherd of blackware possibly dating to around the 17th century. The blackware was made from red earthenware with a shiny black lead glaze. A sherd of brownware was also recovered, which comprised a red earthenware fabric with a brown glaze. A small sherd of creamware was recovered and also a sherd of plant pot. These sherds date to the 19th and 20th centuries.
- 5.3.3 Two fragments of clay tobacco pipe were recovered from the topsoil (100). The bowl and stem fragment appeared to be from separate pipes and with no markings or features on them, dating would be difficult.

5.4 METAL OBJECTS

- 5.4.1 A total of one iron (Fe) and one lead (Pb) object were recovered from land at Carlisle Cathedral Precinct. The Fe and Pb objects were recovered from the topsoil from (100). Unfortunately too corroded to identify any further. The size of the objects ranged from small fragments of 50mm to larger heavier fragments of 100mm.

5.5 GLASS

- 5.5.1 A total of 2 sherds of bottle glass and one sherd of sheet glass were recovered from within context (100). These fragments showed no signs of being of antiquity, and therefore are ascribed a date to the modern period.

5.6 SMALL FINDS

- 5.6.1 Only one small find was recovered from the topsoil (100) at Carlisle Cathedral Precinct. This was a George V half penny dating to 1935.

Small Find Number	Context	Object	Period
1	(100)	Coin	Post-medieval (1935)

Table 2 : Small Finds Table of Artefacts Recovered from the Watching Brief.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The Phase 1 watching brief monitored a total of seven foundation trenches, which were hand excavated for electrical junction boxes. These trenches were located adjacent to the trees next to the northern wall of the cathedral precinct.
- 6.1.2 The Phase 2 monitored the excavation of foundation trenches for each of the seven trees for the lights and cables linking the lights to the junction boxes.
- 6.1.3 During the groundworks no notable archaeological remains were observed. The earliest artefacts identified were of Roman date, but they were found in the topsoil they were not from secure archaeological contexts. The remainder of the artefacts recovered were post-medieval in date, which would coincide with the use of the graveyard where the watching brief occurred.
- 6.1.4 During the watching brief a small number of human bone fragments were observed in the topsoil, which had previously been disturbed. These were not retain as they were deemed to have no archaeological value and were very fragmentary.
- 6.1.5 As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the installation of new lighting on the north side of the precinct, 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.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

7.1 SECONDARY SOURCES

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

Davison, A (2010) *Brief for an archaeological watching brief during excavations for installation of lighting to trees on the northern side of Carlisle Cathedral Precinct*, English Heritage, Unpublished Brief

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.

McCarthy, M (1987) Excavations at Carlisle Cathedral, in *Notes Trans Cumberland Westmorland Antiq Archaeol Soc* 87, 270-271

McCarthy, M (1993) *Carlisle: History and Guide*, Sutton Publishing

Railton, M (2010) *Project design for an archaeological watching brief at Carlisle Cathedral Precinct*, North Pennines Archaeology, Unpublished Project Design CP1230

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

APPENDIX 1: FIGURES
