

---

# **NORTH PENNINES HERITAGE TRUST**

---

**Project Designs and Client Reports No. CP/62/03**

**REPORT ON  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT  
AND EVALUATION OF  
LAND AT HARDWICKE  
CIRCUS  
CARLISLE**

**For DFS LTD**

**NGR NY 4025 5645**

**Planning Application No. 1/03/0462**

C J Jones BA, MA, PIFA  
North Pennines Heritage Trust  
Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre,  
Nenthead  
Alston  
Cumbria CA9 3PD  
Tel: (01434) 382045  
Fax: (01434) 382294  
Email: np.ht@virgin.net

28<sup>th</sup> August 2003



---

# CONTENTS

---

	<i>Page</i>
<b>1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2 PREVIOUS WORK.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
3.2 Desk-Based Assessment.....	5
3.3 Visual Site Inspection .....	5
3.4 Field Evaluation.....	5
<b>4. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1 PLACE NAME EVIDENCE .....	6
4.2 PREHISTORIC.....	6
4.3 ROMAN.....	6
4.4 MEDIEVAL .....	6
4.5 POST MEDIEVAL .....	6
<b>5 RESULTS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
5.4 Trench 1 .....	8
5.5 Trench 2.....	8
5.6 Trench 3.....	8
5.7 Trench 4.....	8
5.8 Trench 5.....	8
<b>6 THE FINDS.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7 CONCLUSIONS.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>8 BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Primary Sources .....	10
Secondary Sources .....	10

---

## LIST OF FIGURES

---

Figure 1	Site location	5
Figure 2	Location of trenches	8
Figure 3	Map showing the River Eden and complex of bridges	Appendix
Figure 4	Carlisle <i>temp</i> Henry VIII	Appendix
Figure 5	Carlisle: City and castle by Stephen von Haschenperg, 1542	Appendix
Figure 6	Carlisle and the Socage Manor, 1611	Appendix
Figure 7	Ordnance Survey 1 <sup>st</sup> Edition	Appendix
Figure 8	Ordnance Survey 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition	Appendix
Figure 9	Ordnance Survey 3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition	Appendix

---

## LIST OF PLATES

---

Plate 1	Extract from a 1715 Board of Ordnance Map of Carlisle	Appendix
Plate 2	The Sands in 1895	Appendix
Plate 3	Hardwicke Circus in 1931, looking north towards Stanwix	Appendix
Plate 4	The Swifts, looking west, showing the Matchbox Theatre (later Carr's Works)	Appendix
Plate 5	Aftermath of a fire at Carr's Works, February 21 <sup>st</sup> , 1920.	Appendix

---

## LIST OF TABLES

---

Table 1      Inventory of Sites, Monuments and Finds held in the County SMR

Appendix

## **1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION**

- 1.1 North Pennines Heritage Trust were commissioned by Mr Andrew Mills, acting on behalf of DFS Ltd, to undertake the pre-determination archaeological works at Hardwicke Circus, Carlisle, Cumbria (Planning Application Reference No. 1/03/0462). This consisted of a desk based assessment and field evaluation. This report fulfils the brief prepared by Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service.
- 1.2 Hardwicke Circus is situated within Carlisle City Centre, on the south bank of the River Eden. The site is located within the area of the former County Garage, within an area historically known as 'The Sands', an area of reclaimed land which consisted of meander of the River Eden in Roman and medieval times, and sandbanks. The site is triangular in shape and is bordered by Nemarket Road to the north, Hardwicke Circus to the west, Duke's Road to the south and Newark Terrace to the east. The area is shown in Figure 1.
- 1.3 The most recent buildings on the site were demolished prior to the archaeological assessment taking place. The site consisted of areas of demolition rubble, concrete and tarmac across the site.
- 1.4 The purpose of the fieldwork was to evaluate the site in order to define the presence or absence of archaeological remains. The fieldwork was undertaken in a single phase of three days duration. No archaeological features were observed in any of the trenches. Across the site a sequence of layers of deliberately deposited building waste were observed and recorded in section. No artefactual material was recovered from within any of the trenches.
- 1.5 The site consists of a low-lying, reclaimed landscape approximately 17 m AOD. The site overlies river silt and sand at a depth of 3.50 m and river gravels at a depth of 4.50 m (Lloyd and Partners 1977).

## **2 PREVIOUS WORK**

- 2.1 There has been no direct archaeological work on the site of the former County Garage. However, there have been numerous archaeological interventions within the City of Carlisle Archaeological Hazard Area. In the late 1980s an archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site of the Wickes DIY store, which lies to the south of Duke's Road. This found the remains of a Roman camp and also identified the south bank of a relict course of the River Eden, which had silted up substantially and was reclaimed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Giecco, pers comm.).
- 2.2 A watching brief was undertaken in July 2001 within the walled garden of Cumbria College of Art and Design, Stanwix, by Oxford Archaeology North followed by a programme of excavation undertaken jointly by Oxford Archaeology North/The Archaeological Practice (May-July 2001). A large V shaped ditch was observed within the garden, running north-south, parallel and adjacent to the east side of the Roman fort at Stanwix. No other significant archaeological features earlier than post medieval were observed in any of the excavations.

### 3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 The work undertaken consisted of a desk-based assessment, visual site inspection and field evaluation.

#### 3.2 Desk-Based Assessment

3.2.1 This involved the consultation of the County Sites and Monuments Record in Kendal in the first instance, and the County Record Office, Carlisle. This included the assessment of all readily available primary and secondary documentary and cartographic material and all available aerial photographs. To achieve as fully an understanding as possible regarding the nature of the geographical, topographical, archaeological and historical context of the site.

3.2.3 The desk-based assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessments* (IFA 1994).

#### 3.3 Visual Site Inspection

3.3.1 A visual site inspection was undertaken by the author on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2003. This was in order to note any surface features of potential archaeological interest and to identify any potential hazards to health or constraints upon archaeological work, such as the presence of live services, Tree Preservation Orders or problems of access to the site.

3.3.2 There were numerous obstacles to archaeological fieldwork on the site in the form of pile foundations, fuel tanks, sewerage and other services. These positions of the former were known from foundation design plans provided by the engineers and the locations of the latter were visible on the ground. The positions of the five evaluation trenches, whilst comprising a randomly situated sample, were positioned away from known contamination.

#### 3.4 Field Evaluation

3.4.1 The field evaluation consisted of the excavation of a series of linear trial trenches in order to produce a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relevant importance against known development proposals.

3.4.2 In summary, the main objectives of the excavation were:

- To establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these were they are observed.
- To establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces.
- To recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes.
- To recover paleoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

3.4.3 Each trench was mechanically excavated by a JCB 3CX mechanical excavator equipped with a 0.50 m bucket. Due to the extreme depth of stratigraphy each trench was stepped at a depth of 1.20 m. A representative section of each trench was manually cleaned and recorded according to the North Pennines Heritage Trust Recording Manual. Photography was undertaken using a Canon EOS 100 Single Lens Reflex (SLR) manual camera. A photographic record was made using 200 ISO colour print film.

3.4.4 All work will be undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (IFA 1994).

## 4. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 4.1 Place Name Evidence

- 4.1.1 In Roman times the settlement at Carlisle was known as *Luguvalium*. During the Later Medieval period the settlement was referred to as *Caer-luel*, meaning ‘city of the king’ or *Carleil*. French influence later added a silent ‘s’, from which the modern day spelling *Carlisle* derives (Ferguson 1892, 344).

### 4.2 Prehistoric

- 4.2.1 There is extensive evidence for prehistoric activity within and around Carlisle, including the remains of ard marks from prehistoric ploughing at Blackfriars Street and Lowther Street (McCarthy 1993, 1). Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery was found at Scotby Road, including Grooved Ware and Beaker pottery (McCarthy 2002, 37) and a collared urn and burnt mound at Garlands Hospital (LUAU 1996, 2001; Perriam 1992, 3). Flints of Neolithic and Bronze Age date have also been found, and two socketed Late Bronze Age axes were found at Kings Meadow, Stanwix (SMR No. 525). It has been suggested that the promontory on which Carlisle Castle now stands has been a defended site since at least the Iron Age and possibly a pre-Roman *dun* (LUAU 2001, 8, Doubleday 1901, 285).

### 4.3 Roman

- 4.3.1 A substantial fort was established on a promontory overlooking the River Eden in AD 70, and the *vicus* or civilian settlement outside the fort grew up to be the substantial town of *Luguvalium*, the name written on tablets dating from c. AD 80 (LUAU 2001, 9; McCarthy et al 1990, 4). There was a substantial second century fort at Stanwix, on the north bank of the Eden and dredging of the old Priest Beck resulted in a substantial quantity of Roman artefacts, including metalwork being discovered (Giecco, pers comm.; Perriam, pers comm.).
- 4.3.2 A Roman bridge stone was found by the late Miss D Charlesworth, the first of such associated with the Roman bridge across the Eden (Caruana and Coulston 1987, 43). It has been suggested by Hogg that the line of the Roman bridge crossed the river sixty yards west of the medieval and modern bridges (Hogg, 155), although the location of this bridge has been refuted by Caruana and Coulston (Caruana and Coulston, 1987).
- 4.3.3 A camp was discovered during archaeological work prior to the construction of the Wickes DIY store, on land south of Dukes Road and east of Georgian Way. This work also identified the south bank of the former course of the River Eden, and places the site of the County Garage within the relict river channel.

### 4.4 Medieval

- 4.4.1 The extent of the medieval settlement is well attested from documentary sources. Stephan von Haschenperg’s drawing of 1542 is one of the earliest representations of medieval Carlisle (Figure ), showing in vague detail the street plan and the medieval bridge over the River Eden. It is likely that the exclusion of the Sands area signifies the lack of archaeological activity within this area. The remains of the medieval bridge were found during construction work for the Civic Centre in 1961 (Figure ). In 1571 a disastrous flood caused a new channel to be formed to the north of the medieval river, and a second bridge known as the Priest Beck bridge was constructed over the enlarged channel, by Act of Parliament in 1601 (Perriam, ref.).

### 4.5 Post Medieval

- 4.5.1 Following the Union of the English and Scottish Crowns with the accession of James I to the English throne in 1603, a programme of pacification of the border lands began. This saw a modernisation of tenureships of great benefit to northern landowners and a breakdown of the traditional forms of Border service (Spence 1984; 64). This process of modernisation led to the undertaking of two detailed surveys of the Socage or manorial lands of Carlisle, by Thomas



- Johnson in 1608 and Aaron Rathbone in 1611 (Ibid, 67, see Figure ). The latter survey shows the area of the Sands as an island between the two courses of the River Eden and consisting of 15 acres in extent (Ibid.). In 1611, “property bounds reflected their medieval origins following the conquest of the area by William Rufus in 1092.” (Ibid.). Furthermore, the demesne lands of the Castle, “Broadmeads, the Swifts and the Saucerries” brought in an annual rent of £5. (Ibid.)
- 4.5.2 In 1805 William Boyd and Thomas Telford proposed a rebuilding scheme for the bridges across the Eden (see Figure ). Although this scheme was never carried out, in 1816 the current Eden bridge was constructed by Robert Smirke. According to Perriam, the southerly river channel was blocked by this time following the construction of the Swifts embankment, although it was necessary to construct a bridge over the dry bed (Perriam, ref.).
- 4.5.3 The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map (1865) shows the position of the Swifts bank, an Auction Mart and Cattle Fair Ground on the site of the Sands, with no evidence of the southern river channel, and presumably a programme of infilling had already taken place by this date. The Turf Hotel and Grandstand for the Swifts Racecourse, a listed building (SMR No. 25647), is visible as is a Rifle Volunteer Drill Shed and the Matchbox Theatre (see Plate ). By 1901 only the Turf Inn, with an extension and bowling green, remains (Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition). In 1895 the three streets, Newmarket Road, Newarke Terrace and Duke’s Road were constructed, forming the triangular plot which forms the initial development area, seen on the architects street plan (CRO/C/890) (see Figure ). This plan also included the construction of the original Hardwicke Circus roundabout.
- 4.5.4 The 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map (1925) shows the triangular plot occupied by a complex of buildings, possibly the Carr’s Works which was destroyed by fire in 1920 (Perriam, ref.). This was superseded by the construction of the County Garage, following the undertaking of a bore hole survey (see below) to ascertain the integrity of the ground prior to construction. The County Garage extended across the entire site and its construction involved the excavation of a number of service trenches and fuel pits in addition to the driving of 10 m concrete pile foundations.
- 4.5.5 It is noteworthy to mention that, although firm evidence is limited, there has been a programme of land reclamation and dumping on the site during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, following the construction of the Swifts bank in the early part of the century, until the construction of the new road layout in 1895 and continued in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, following the destruction by fire of Carr’s works. The results of the bore hole survey undertaken in 1977 (Lloyd and Partners, 1977) found that below surface level the ground consisted of a concrete hardcore to 0.99 m, which sealed a mixed brick, stone, concrete, ashes and clay with traces of topsoil to a depth of c. 2.60 m, which in turn sealed a layer of medium coarse sand 0.99 – 1.15 m thick which sealed sand and river gravel at a depth of 4.50 m.

## 5 RESULTS

5.1 The evaluation was undertaken by a team of professional field archaeologists directed in the field by Chris Jones, BA, MA, PIFA, North Pennines Heritage Trust Assistant Archaeologist. He was assisted by Ken Denham and Joanne Beaty.

5.2 A total of five trial trenches were excavated, each measuring 5 m<sup>2</sup>. Each trench was excavated to 1.20 m and stepped prior to any further excavation in order to ensure full compliance with health and safety legislation for deep excavations. No significant archaeological deposits were observed within any of the trenches. NB. Trenches 1 and 2 were excavated using a 1.50 m wide toothless ditching bucket which was found to be inadequate given the depths of stratigraphy. Trenches 3-5 were excavated by a 0.75 m bucket more suited to the ground conditions.

5.3 All references to cardinal directions refer to site grid north.

### 5.4 Trench 1

5.4.1 Trench 1 was located at the south-eastern part of the site, within the footprint of a proposed Retail Unit. Natural substrate was not encountered within this trench as excavation was halted at a depth of 2.56 m. The base deposit consisted of a mixed clay, ash and brick deposit 0.16 m thick (158). This was sealed by a sequence of interleaving clay, silt and rubble deposits (147-157) with a total thickness of 1.0 m. These deposits in turn were sealed by a clear sequence of backfilled deposits, the tip lines of which were clearly visible in section (126-146). These deposits consisted of a mixture of mortar, brick rubble, ash and clinker with a total thickness of 1.20 m. A layer of concrete 0.10 m thick and demolition rubble 0.10 m thick in turn sealed these deposits.

### 5.5 Trench 2

5.5.1 Trench 2 was located at the east-central part of the site. Natural substrate was not encountered in this trench, which was excavated to a depth of 2.60 m. This trench consisted entirely of a stratified sequence of building waste deposits brick, mortar, silt and shale (101-115) 2.30 m thick, sealed by a layer of demolition rubble 0.30 m thick.

### 5.6 Trench 3

5.6.1 Trench 3 was located at the north-central part of the site. Natural substrate consisting of a layer of fine sand was observed at a depth of c.3.50 m. This was sealed by cumulative layers of burnt shale, ash, clay and brick rubble 3.20 m thick (116-125) sealed by a layer of demolition rubble 0.18 m thick (100).

### 5.7 Trench 4

5.7.1 Trench 4 was located at the centre of the site. Natural substrate consisting of a layer of fine sand was observed at a depth of c.3.50 m. As with trench 3, this was sealed by cumulative layers of shale, ash, clay and brick rubble c. 2.80 m thick (159-170), which were in turn sealed by demolition rubble 0.35 m thick (100).

### 5.8 Trench 5

5.8.1 Trench 5 was located at the extreme west of the site. This trench was abandoned at 1.20 m and declared unsafe given the nature of the deposits. No further work was undertaken in this trench.

## 6 THE FINDS

- 6.1 The finds recovered from trenches 1-4 consisted of entirely late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century white glazed and brown glazed stoneware pottery and bottle glass, the earliest of which dates approximately to the 1890s, but not in sufficient quantity to suggest deliberate deposition (i.e. dumping). None of these finds were retained.

## **7 CONCLUSIONS**

- 7.1 Until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the site lay partly within the river bed of the south course of the Eden, and partly on sandbanks known as the Sands, an area upon which Carlisle Cattle Market was situated. The present road layout was established in 1895 and between this date and shortly afterwards a complex of buildings was constructed on the triangular plot between Newmarket Road, Newarke Terrace and Duke's Road. The former County Garage was constructed after 1977 and demolished in advance of this assessment.
- 7.2 No significant archaeological deposits were observed within any of the trenches.

## 8

**BIBLIOGRAPHY****Primary Sources**

CRO/C/DX452. Board of Ordnance Plan and Section of the city, castle and environs 1716.

CRO/C/CaE/1/1227 Map of the Sands and Old Eden Bridge, 1808

CRO/C/CaE/1/833 The Sands. Nd.

CRO/C/CaE.1.890 Hardwicke Circus Street Layout 1895.

Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition 1865. HMSO © Crown Copyright

Ordnance Survey 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition 1901. HMSO © Crown Copyright

Ordnance Survey 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition 1925. HMSO © Crown Copyright

**Secondary Sources**

Armstrong, A.M. et al (1950) *The Place Names of Cumberland*. English Place Name Society.

Caruana, I and Coulston, J.C. (1987) A Roman Bridge Stone from the River Eden, Carlisle. *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*. Vol. 87: 42-51

Giecco, F.O. (2001) *Excavation Manual*. North Pennines Heritage Trust

Hogg, R. (1952) The historic crossings of the River Eden at Stanwix, and their associated road systems. *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society*. 52: 131-159.

HMSO (1967) *Maps and Plans in the Public Record Office. 1. British Isles c. 1410-1860*. London: HMSO

Jones, C.J. (2003) *Project Design for an Archaeological Evaluation of land at Hardwicke Circus, Carlisle*. North Pennines Heritage Trust: Project Designs and Client Reports No. 62.

Lloyd, T.H. and Partners (1977) *Report on Site Investigation at County Garage Ltd, Hardwicke Circus, Carlisle*. Edinburgh: Bingham, Blades and Partners.

Perriam, D. (1989) *Carlisle in camera 2*. Carlisle: Caryl Press.

Perriam, D. (1992) *Carlisle. An illustrated history*. Carlisle.

Perriam, D. (1995) *Carlisle*. Stroud: Archive Photograph Series.

Perriam, D. (1997) Past and Present in Cumbria. Sandstone blocks that bridge part of the city's history. *Cumberland News* 21<sup>st</sup> March 1997.

Spence, R.T. (1984) The Backward North Modernized? The Cliffords, Earls of Cumberland and the Socage Manor of Carlisle 1611-1643. *Northern History*. XX: 64-87.

Templeton, J.P. (1978) *Old Carlisle: A second photographic collection*. Dalesman.