

**REPORT ON  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF IN  
THE BASEMENT OF CLUB XS  
WEST WALLS, CARLISLE**

**For  
MR J PATTINSON, CARLISLE GLASS**

**NGR NY 3985 5565**

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12<sup>th</sup> April 2004

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# CONTENTS

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	<i>Page</i>
1 INTRODUCTION .....	6
2 SITE LOCATION .....	6
3 PREVIOUS WORK .....	6
4 AIMS .....	8
5 RESULTS .....	8
6 THE FINDS .....	11
7 ENVIRONMENTAL AND BONE REMAINS.....	13
8 CONCLUSION .....	26
9 RECOMMENDATIONS.....	27
10 THE CONTRACTOR .....	27
11 BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	27
12 THE PLATES .....	29

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## LIST OF FIGURES

---

		<i>Page</i>
Figure 1	Site Location (General)	17
Figure 2	William Hutchinson map of 1797	18
Figure 3	Lysons map of 1815	19
Figure 4	1 <sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey (1865)	20
Figure 5	3 <sup>rd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey (1925)	21
Figure 6	Trench plan	22
Figure 7	Section Drawing	23

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## LIST OF PLATES

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		<i>Page</i>
Plate 1	Drain 129	29
Plate 2	Detail of grill 116 surviving in air vent	29
Plate 3	Drain 129 continuing behind eastern wall of Club XS	30
Plate 4	Detail of south western elevation inside Club XS	30

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## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

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In September 2003 North Pennines Heritage Trust was commissioned by Mr John Pattinson of Carlisle Glass to carry out a watching brief during the excavation of the basement of the Club XS, Abbey Street, Carlisle, Cumbria whilst reducing the floor levels within the building. No evidence of the western city wall was recorded during this watching brief. Several finds and a small quantity of animal bone was discovered during the course of the watching brief. The only archaeological feature present of any note was a shallow ditch running the length of the building.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 North Pennines Heritage Trust (NPHT) carried out an archaeological watching brief in the basement of the Club XS, Carlisle, Cumbria for Mr John Pattinson of Carlisle Glass. The project has been given the unique project identification site code of CXS-A in the North Pennines Archaeology archive.
- 1.2 During the excavation of several trenches associated with the installation of a reduced floor level, supporting pillars and drainage system, numerous finds and some animal bones were recovered. Several courses of sandstone building blocks were also recorded beneath the level of the existing Victorian building under the southeast and northwest walls.

## 2 SITE LOCATION

- 2.1 The site is located at NGR NY 3985 5565 (see figure 1). The upper level of the building opens out onto West Walls whilst the lower levels open onto Backhouses Walk below the city walls. This area is known as English Damside, leading onto the car park, which was once the Town Dyke Orchard. The Corporation Dam, used as a millrace ran through this area.
- 2.2 The site consisted of the northwest portion of the lower ground floor area of the Club XS, formerly known as the Twisted Wheel. This area, below the West Walls of the city, opens onto Backhouses Walk and forms the lowest level of the club. The work involved the lowering of the internal floor level to accommodate an updated split-level area within this part of the club.

## 3 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.1 A number of chance finds have been discovered in the vicinity of the site a number dating from the Bronze Age. These include stone axes and hammers, spearheads, arrowheads and food vessels of various kinds. Two Bronze Age cemeteries and two Bronze Age cist burials were also discovered in the area. (Gosling 1976: 171). It is possible then that there may be further finds from the prehistoric period in the area of assessment.
- 3.2 Two phases of Roman turf and timber fort in Carlisle and a substantial civilian settlement are known to have existed from excavations but the limitations of the area investigated failed to delineate the boundaries, alignment, and layout of the structure that possibly centred on the cathedral area. (Hogg 1964). A ditch excavated in Annetwell Street possibly forms the northern boundary of the fort in its first phase.
- 3.3 Evidence for the existence of a post second century ditch were found during the redevelopment of The Lanes outside the city walls and may relate to urban defences of the Roman civil town (Zant pers com). Roman cemeteries outside the civil town boundaries were also uncovered with the development of Botchergate in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and a Roman tombstone was recovered from backhouse walk in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Ferguson 1893: 365-

- 374).
- 3.4 Ferguson also states that in March 1862, portions of Roman sepulchral monuments were found near the bed of the River Caldew and were in the company of a large urn full of ashes. This was discovered at the time of the installation of portions of the Caledonian railway under the West Walls of the city, close to the area of development (Ferguson 1893: 365-374). Several finds of Roman coins have also been found during various alterations and excavations in the vicinity (Caruana et al 1994).
  - 3.5 Other finds from the vicinity of English Damside include mortaria fragments and wasters of late second century design. These were discovered during the installation of a new sewer pipe through the area. Evidence of a hypocaust system was also uncovered on this route at the time but the results of this study remain unpublished. (Caruana pers. com.).
  - 3.6 An excavation outside the city walls in 1959 revealed a cemetery. The cemetery was overlain by a 12<sup>th</sup> century road and was within a layer of rich black humus. Within the walled area these layers overlie Roman deposits whilst being found under later Medieval material and so are probably from the Early Medieval period. (Gosling 1976: 173).
  - 3.7 Watching briefs in the mid 1987 with sewer replacement work revealed a massive deposit of second century rubbish below the Devonshire Street car park and a substantial deposit of pottery wasters indicating pottery production in the vicinity of present Devonshire Street car park adjacent to the study area (Britannia xix 1988 438).
  - 3.8 Several other items of Medieval date were found in this area, which is close to the current site (Ferguson 1878: 41-43). The site is also said to be the mustering ground for the siege of Carlisle Castle by Robert the Bruce in 1315 after the Battle of Bannockburn, and would also have formed the area of occupation by the overflow population of the town.
  - 3.9 The building that now houses Club XS is not present on the map of 1797 (Hutchinson) or 1811 (Jollie, F). With the first building on the site appearing on the map of 1816 (Lysons D & Lysons S), records mentioning that it was built as a school and opened in that year. On the three earliest editions of the OS maps (1865, 1901, 1925) the building is denoted as a school. The school closed in 1909 and was converted into a meeting hall, the hall being sold by the city and becoming the Twisted Wheel discotheque in 1971.
  - 3.10 An assessment excavation by Durham University Archaeology Unit was recently carried out at Town Dyke Orchard recently (Platel 2003). This assessed the last small grassy area in the northwest corner. The remnants of the Corporation Dam were discovered along with the edge of the large engine shed associated with the Caledonian Railway. Present on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map of 1865 this structure had disappeared by the date of the 1901 map.

- 3.11 As this particular part of the city outside the walls has not been specifically addressed with an archaeological assessment the watching brief was seen as an opportunity to record a little known area which falls just south of one of the ancient main city gates. The potential for outer city settlement in this area is high due to the availability of fresh water and the close proximity of the main town for protection if required in this area of Border turmoil.

## 4 AIMS

### 4.1 The aims of the watching brief were as follows:

- to assess and record the area already excavated;
- to advise and supervise as further work progressed;
- to record natural and archaeological deposits;
- to establish, wherever possible, the depth of archaeological remains;
- to establish, wherever possible, the condition of the remains;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives;
- to prepare a report for Mr J Pattinson setting out the salient conclusions.

## 5 RESULTS

- 5.1 The work was undertaken under the overall direction of Frank Giecco, BA, Dip Arch, AIFA, Principal Archaeologist. The watching brief was maintained by Patricia Crompton and Ken Denham between the 26<sup>th</sup> September and the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2003. All staff involved were experienced archaeologists with significant experience of urban and rural sites.
- 5.2 The floor level in the building was reduced by 1.5 metres. This was achieved by digging out the soil along the walls in approximately 1.5 metre wide spits to a depth of approximately 2 metres. Reinforced concrete pillars then consolidated the undermined walls of the original building.
- 5.3 The method of work involved undermining an area of the wall and then constructing the reinforced concrete pillar beneath the original wall. Only 1 or 2 areas were tackled in a day, kept at the maximum distance from each other so as to minimise the risk of collapse or subsidence during the work as these walls bore the weight of the building above them.
- 5.4 A series of trenches were machine excavated along the length of the northeast wall over a period of weeks to allow small areas of undermined wall to be consolidated before more were tackled. The sequence of these can be followed from the trench plan (see figure 5) by their numbers.



5.5 Each trench was photographed and recorded before any further work was carried out. Contexts were recorded at the site to a depth of 2 metres. A sequence of deposits were recorded, and drawn as representative sections.

## 5.6 The structural evidence

5.6.1 The current floor of the club was broken up to reveal a substantial gravel levelling deposit (100) measuring between 0.50m and 1.3m in depth. It was discovered as the work progressed that the sandstone foundation blocks under the northwest and southeast walls were not substantial enough in some areas to form a firm base to support the upper levels of the building. These two walls also had to be underpinned to a suitable depth in some areas.

5.6.2 The outer fabric of the building has been rendered with wet dash so the relationships of the later additions cannot be determined. Internally the wall surfaces were latterly plastered but work in progress has removed substantial amounts of this.

5.6.3 The northeast wall consisted of 19<sup>th</sup> century factory made bricks. Revealed at the most northerly corner was a drain course (129) (see plate1) associated with the construction of the school house that curved round to the northwest and exited through the north west wall of the building. The sides of this feature were constructed out of brick with the base and capping constructed out of sandstone slabs.

5.6.4 When this portion of the wall had been undermined the brick lined drain channel was observed to continue through the northeast wall towards the upper level of the building. At the rear of the building adjacent to the city wall, several large blocks of red sandstone were recorded. It was unclear whether they were associated with context 100 or with the city wall as detailed examination of this area was impossible due to health and safety concerns.

5.6.5 Both the northwest and southeast walls were brick built for the main above the floor level, there was no visible use of handmade bricks in any of the recorded walls. Both had stepped courses of sandstone blocks beneath the bricks and both contained what were probably air vents into the original building as the ventilation grate (116) survived in situ in one of these voids (see plate 2). The stepping seemed to follow the natural slope of the embankment at the two ends and provides even foundations for the brick courses of the building to be laid on.

5.6.6 A section of the southwest wall was removed to provide an access route for site machinery. This revealed roughly coursed layers of sandstone blocks to a level of approximately 2 metres below the original floor level. The exterior walls measured between 0.5 and 0.60m metres thick.

5.6.7 The southeast wall had two brick columns set onto piers of concrete above the sandstone courses (see figure 7). This suggests an open area through

this portion of the building with substantial later internal alterations possibly relating to the change of use from a school house to a church hall in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was not possible to ascertain whether the northwest wall was the same due to the adherence of the plaster and the position of the doors. A later phase saw the bricking up of the gaps between the pillars, leaving just a doorway through the wall at the southeast corner.

## 5.7 Excavation results

- 5.7.1 The earliest recorded feature was a heavily truncated ditch (128) measuring approximately 2m in width and 0.30m in depth (see figure 6). The feature had a concave profile and was seen to be cutting the natural silty clay 101. The ditch was observed running through the building from the northwest corner to the southeast end. Its position was subsequently lost due to removal of approximately 1.2 metres of material from the surface and the consequent damage and mixing of contexts caused by the digger tracks and bucket.
- 5.7.2 The ditch (128) was exposed intermittently as work progressed, and was found to contain two fills (secondary fill 119, primary fill 118,125,126 and 127) (see Figure 7). The secondary fill only survived where the ditch was observed running below the wall line of club XS and four context numbers were issued for the same deposit as it was observed during the course of the redevelopment programme.
- 5.7.3 The primary fill (sample1, context 127) consisted of a dark brown silty loam which contained small quantities of animal bone, Roman pottery and a sestertius of the Emperor Trajan. Its original depth is uncertain but it was first observed with the removal of the 19<sup>th</sup> century levelling/makeup layer 100. The secondary fill (119) was made up of a clean sandy loam. It is impossible to state how much material may have been removed during the initial construction of the building in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century as the whole area seems to have been cleared and terraced prior to construction.
- 5.7.4 In the south east corner of the site a small 1m by 0.60 m area approximately 0.15m in depth had survived the major truncation recorded elsewhere, here a dark brown clayey silty loam (sample 2) was observed (106) sealed by context 100. Fragments of 18<sup>th</sup> century bottle glass were recovered suggesting that this could relate to the rubbish deposits that were known to exist outside the west walls in the 18<sup>TH</sup> century (see 5.7.7).
- 5.7.5 A similar deposit survived in the south western corner, here a dark grey sandy loam (115) was recorded overlaying the natural boulder clay (101), although only 0.10m in depth several sherds of medieval green glazed pottery were recovered. Both contexts 115 and 106 were sealed by 110 a clean mortar rich layer which could possibly relate to the rebuilding work on the west walls of 1814 prior to the construction of the building. This mortar rich layer was in turn sealed beneath the substantial levelling deposit 100. Numerous additional context numbers (103,104,105,116,117,120-122) were issued for the 19<sup>th</sup> century deposits associated with later drains and

remodelling inside the club interior stratigraphically above context 100.

- 5.7.6 The presence of this ditch is peculiar. The maps of 1797 (see figure 2 Hutchinson 1797), 1811 (Jollie 1811) and 1815 (see figure 3 Lysons & Lysons 1816) do not show it. From the maps and the work carried out by the Durham University Archaeological Unit, the position of the Town Dyke in this area is further to the southwest. The high ground level in which it sits is also inconsistent with its being a runoff from the River Caldew and the Corporation Dam.
- 5.7.7 It is likely that this feature dates to the medieval or Roman period, with a Roman date highly probable as all the recorded finds from undisturbed sections of the feature were exclusively of a Roman date.
- 5.7.8 It is clear that the area was cleared in 1814 in a bid to improve the area under the West Walls and repair the wall itself. It was reported in the Carlisle Journal (September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1814) that this area was to be gravelled. The school was erected in 1815 adjoining the newly repaired walls.
- 5.7.9 Although of a likely Roman date, it remains possible that the ditch, may be associated with a building further to the southeast of Backhouses Walk that appears on the map of 1797 (Hutchinson). The area between the West Walls and Backhouses Walk was known as the Linney (Perriam pers. com.) here linen cloth was dried on tenterhooks. This building is thought to have been associated with it. Its purpose was the processing of linen but at what stage it is not known. Preparation of flax suitable for spinning requires the material to be soaked in water to loosen the fibres before bleaching and weaving can occur. It is possible that the ditch could have been a run off from the building associated with the processing of linen, if so the finds assemblage may be totally residual.

## 6 THE FINDS

- 6.1 The pottery and other artefactual material has been cleaned, marked and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of Frank Giocco. The pottery and finds are quantified in table 1 below. No further work is required on the finds assemblage.

**TABLE 1**

Context	Type	Period	Description
100	Glass B	PM	1 frag clear bottle glass, 2 frags green bottle glass
100	Pottery	PM, R	12 mixed Post Med pot, 1 frag Roman grey ware
100	Clay pipe	PM	2 frags of clay pipe stem, 1 cm diameter
100	Coins	PM, ?	George III penny 1773, 1 radiate copy
100	Fe, Pb(1k)	PM	Horseshoe, nails, eroded Fe, Pb end of spoon, Caledonian Railway company button.
103	Pottery	PM	1 frag PM china cup

104	Iron	PM	Nails, part of metal clog rim
105	Glass B	PM	Green bottle fragment
105	Pottery	M, PM	8 PM frags, 1 stone bottle M frag, 1 M body frag
106	Glass B	18 <sup>th</sup> C	1 bottle bottom, 4 frags bottle body
106	Pottery	R, PM	4 frags PM pot, 1 frag R pot
115	Glass slag	UK	Lump of glass slag, possible melted bottle
115	Pottery	M	3 M body frags, 1 base frag
116	Glass B, W	19 <sup>th</sup> C	3 frags window glass, 1 bottle marble
116	Pottery	PM	5 frags of pottery
116	Slate	PM	Slate fragment well cut, used for schoolwork?
116	Iron	PM	Nails, bracket, wire
116	Iron	PM	Nails, bracket
117	Pottery	R, PM	2 frags R body sherd, 1 frag PM body sherd
118/119	Pottery	R, M	2 body frags of R pottery
118/119	Coin	Roman	Imp Caes Nervae Traiano etc. AD 103-112
118/119	Iron	UK	Nail or stud
119	Pottery	M	1 body fragment
120	Glass B, W	18 <sup>th</sup> C	1 green bottle frag, 2 window frags
120	Pottery	Mx	35 body, 1 handle frags PM pot, 1 R frag
120	Slate	PM	Slate fragment well cut, used for schoolwork?
120	Clay pipe	PM	2 frags stem 0.5cm diameter, bowl, thistle design
120	Iron	PM	Conglomerate
121	Pottery	R	2 Roman frags, 1 body pot, 1 Samian rim
122	Glass	20 <sup>th</sup> C	Element from old light bulb
U/S	Glass	18 <sup>th</sup> C	1 bottle bottom, 1 body fragment, both green
U/S	Pottery	R, PM	7 frags PM, 2 Roman rim frags
U/S	Clay pipe	PM	Bowl with flower design, almost whole
U/S	Coins	M?,PM	George V penny, 1 UK, 1 possible Medieval
U/S	Button	PM	Metal button, Caledonian Railway Company
U/S	Iron	PM	Horseshoe, nails, conglomerate, bolts

B= Bottle, W= Window, frag= Fragment, C= Century, UK= Unknown, PM= Post Medieval, M= Medieval, R= Roman, U/S= Unstratified, Mx = Mixed, k = Kilogram

- 6.2 The quality of finds recovered was generally poor, the upper contexts (100, 103, 104, 105, 106, 115, 116) producing the majority of the finds of Post Medieval date.
- 6.3 Several coins were found, ranging in date from Roman through to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Again, some of these were redeposited in the upper contexts. Contexts 118, 119, 125, 126 and 127 seem to be undisturbed.
- 6.4 Other contexts produced various small finds. The levelling layer (context 100) contained an abundance of modern metallic objects such as nails, nuts and bolts. Many of these could have dropped through the floorboards of the building over the years. There were also three coins, two Roman and the other a George III penny from 1773. Two pipe stems were associated with several pieces of Post-Medieval pottery and there were three fragments of glass, one from a glass bottle. Two of the pottery sherds had the St Cuthbert's school

emblem on them.

- 6.5 Fragments of pottery were also recovered from contexts 103, 105 and 106. The pot was all Post-Medieval apart from a sherd of Roman grey ware from 106. The base of an 18<sup>th</sup> century glass bottle was also found in context 106. This was the isolated spit in the southwest corner thought to be associated with an original floor level in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 6.6 Context 115 produced three fragments of partially reduced green glazed Medieval pottery and one of Black Burnished ware, a Roman coarse ware. A small lump of probable green glass slag was also recovered.
- 6.7 Finds from contexts 116 and 117 were all Post-Medieval. There were several metal objects and fragments of pottery. Part of a school slate that may have been used by the pupils of the 1815 school was found in context 116 along with a glass marble from a soda bottle. These were found at the back of the air grating associated with the southeast wall.
- 6.8 Context 117 was associated with a pebble layer (120) in the southern corner of the building. Context 120 contained part of another school slate, fragmentary pieces of iron and some glass. The bowl and stem of a 19<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe with a thistle design were also found.
- 6.9 In the contexts associated with the ditch (contexts 118 and 119) two pieces of Roman coarse ware were found alongwith a Roman coin. The coin was a Sestertius of Trajan dated between 103-112 AD. There was also an iron hob nail. A sherd of Samian ware and one of grey coarse ware were recovered from context 121.

## **7 ENVIRONMENTAL AND BONE REMAINS**

### **7.1 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS (Tables 3 and 4)**

- 7.1.1 Two of the excavated samples (contexts 106 and 127) were sampled. Both the whole earth samples were selected for processing in order to assess their environmental potential. The methodology employed required that the whole earth samples be broken down and split into their various different components. This was achieved by a combination of water washing and flotation.
- 7.1.2 The process of flotation, by passing the sample through a flotation tank, serves to separate the matrix of the whole earth sample into the organic fraction and the heavier mineral content of mainly sands, silts, clays and stones. The two resultant sub-samples are the flot and the retent or residue, the soil matrix (less than 1mm) being removed by the water and washed away. The flot consists of the material that floats on water as the light or floating fraction. This recovers mainly organic and charred remains. The heavy retent fraction consists of the denser material that usually sinks, which includes the waterlogged material. The method relies purely on the variation in density of the recovered material to separate it from the soil matrix, allowing for the recovery of ecofacts

(organics) and artefacts from the whole earth sample. The recovered remains can then be assessed for content.

- 7.1.3 The retent, like the residue from wet sieving, will contain any larger items of bone or artefacts. The flot or floating fraction will generally contain organic material such as plant matter, fine bones, cloth, leather and insect remains. A rapid scan at this stage will allow further recommendations to be made as to the potential for further study by entomologists or palaeobotanists, with a view to retrieving vital economic information from the samples. Favourable preservation conditions can lead to the retrieval of organic remains that may produce a valuable suite of information in respect of the depositional environment of the material, which may include anthropogenic activity, seasonality and climate and elements of the economy.
- 7.1.4 Each of the 2 samples produced flots containing very little organic material of sufficient quantity, quality or diversity for further assessment. The samples are listed in Table 3 with details of contents in Table 4.
- 7.1.5 Very little material was recovered from sample 2 (106). The few seeds recovered were common nettle (*Urtica dioica*), elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and various grasses, indicating very little evidence of plant growth in the adjacent area. There was no evidence of seeds from arable crops, nor was there any grain present. A few fragments of coal and charcoal were present in the flot. Apart from the seeds, there were only a few fragmentary plant parts. Insect remains were also minimal from this sample.
- 7.1.6 The retent from sample 2 contained small gravel and medium stones. A few fragments of bone were also present along with half a sheep vertebra. Poor recovery of material from this sample may be due to the fact that it was not waterlogged and so preservation conditions were not good. The context may also not have been exposed to conditions leading to the recovery of organic material.
- 7.1.7 Sample 1 (context 127) was richer in organic remains, as would be expected in the slightly waterlogged conditions associated with it. The flot contained a number of nematode (worm) egg cases, associated with an active soil. There was also an amount of vegetative plant matter and some bran particles present. Both these materials could be associated with faecal matter. Whether animal or human, this is the type of material that would usually be associated with a ditch.
- 7.1.8 There was also an interesting suite of seeds associated with this context. Both elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and dwarf elder (*S. ebulus*) were present, the latter growing on heavy clay soils like the natural subsoil on this site. Chickweed (*Stellaria media*), fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) and dock (*Rumex* spp.) were also found. Groundsel (*Seneco vulgaris*), spear thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), and raspberry (*Rubus* sp.) were recovered. These are all seeds of coloniser species from areas of largely undisturbed and open spaces with an assortment of detritus, which attract a wide range of plants.
- 7.1.9 Common nettles recovered are an indicator of a nitrogen rich soil, indicating

that the area or vicinity may have been used for the deposition of human or animal waste.

7.1.10 The seeds and other organic remains suggest that this area was rich in plant growth or that the material was deposited in the ditch, becoming waterlogged and preserved. The retent contained only small gravel and a few medium sized stones. There were also a few fragments of bone present.

## **7.2 THE BONE REMAINS (Table 5)**

7.2.1 A number of deposits produced bone, but only 118 and 119 produced it in substantial quantities. In general only very small amounts of bone were recovered during the watching brief with only one fragment recovered from the flotation samples. Most bone represented the main domestic species of mammals such as sheep, cattle and horse. The predominant species unusually was horse. None of the bones were charred. Small mammal remains were found in a few contexts and a longbone of dog from context 115.

7.2.2 .Context 100 produced 2 long bones of horse (tibia and radius) and also a foot bone (metatarsal). A cattle and a deer foot bone (metatarsals) were also found. There were 2 scapula fragments from large mammals (unidentifiable) and several sheep sized fragments of scapula, vertebra, and foot bones (metapodials). All showed signs of butchery. One claw was recovered, probably dog but identification was restricted due to its fragmentation.

7.2.3 Several contexts (101, 105, 106, 117, 121, and 120) produced bone that was unidentifiable due to its fragmentary condition.

7.2.4 Context 115 had fragments of large mammal bone as scapula, possibly from the same animal and one large fragment of a vertebra, both with butchery marks. There was also a horse tooth and a dog femur.

7.2.5 Context 118/119 associated with the bottom of the ditch contained a substantial amount of horse bone in good condition, all with butchery marks. There was a complete radius and ulna, a femur (long bones), several vertebrae and ribs, a foot bone and fragments of a scapula. There were also three sheep vertebrae, the skull of a rabbit, and a dog jaw.

7.2.6 All the horse bones were very large and sturdy suggesting traction animals used for pulling carts or ploughing. Some of the bones bore marks of stress pathology, another sign that they were used for traction. It is well known that another building in the row was used as stables and could have housed traction animals, as there were fields in close proximity to the site.

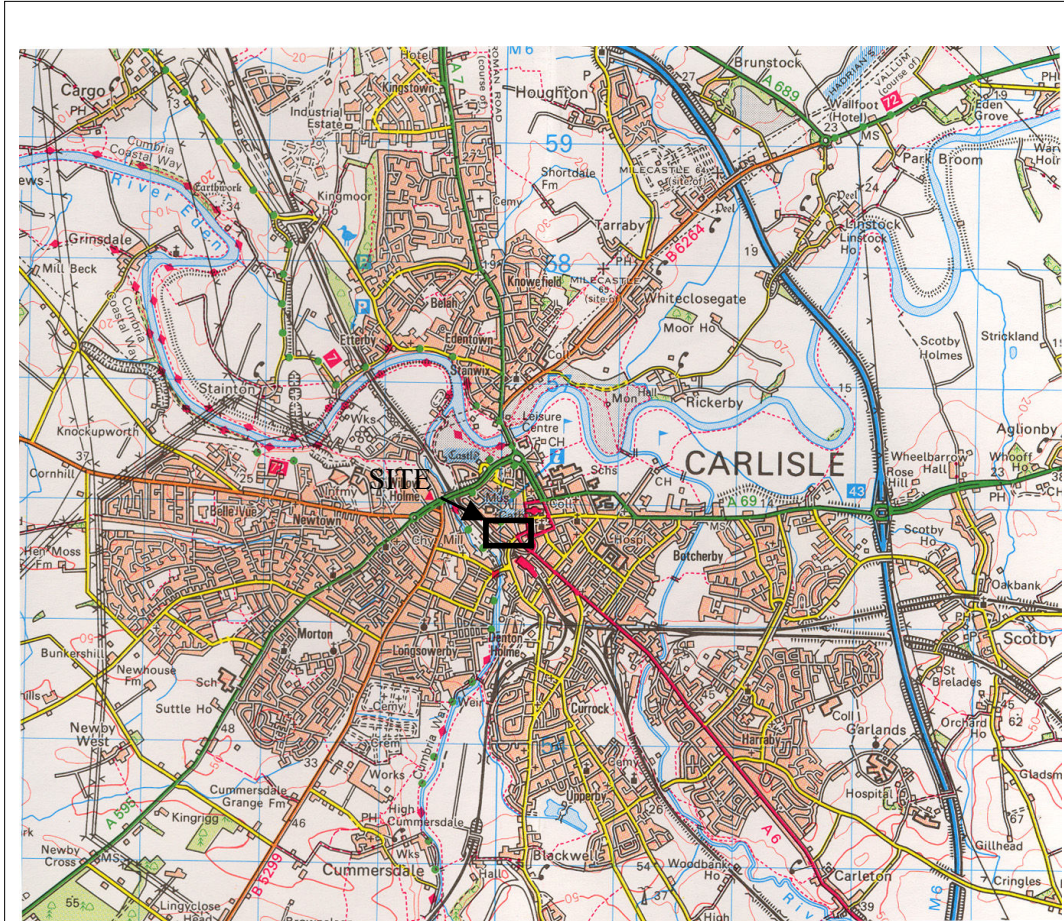
7.2.7 It is unusual that all the horse bones bore butchery marks. The butchery marks were probably caused during the dismemberment of the animals after death, which would aid removal of the heavy carcass and may not be associated with consumption of the meat.

7.2.8 Unstratified material was made up of a large mammal pelve, a medium mammal scapula and some unidentifiable fragments.

### **7.3 THE SHELL REMAINS (Table 6)**

- 7.3.1 The mollusc remains recovered from the site consisted of small numbers of oyster species with limited numbers of Dog-whelk (*Nucella lapillus*). The shells were generally well preserved. Size and patterning of both the interior and exterior of the shells rendered it possible in most cases to determine species. All the shell was hand recovered during the watching brief.
- 7.3.2 The contexts that contained oyster shell were 105, 119, 120, and 125 with a few from unstratified contexts. All these contexts contained oyster shell valves, both upper and lower, with three valves of dog whelks from the unstratified context.
- 7.3.3 Both these species would be available locally and would have been made ample use of. Most other sites around the area of Carlisle produce some shell remains. The close proximity of the sea and the rivers provide a good selection of seafood It would have been exploited in all periods of occupation of the city.





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PROJECT: CLUB XS, CARLISLE,  
CUMBRIA

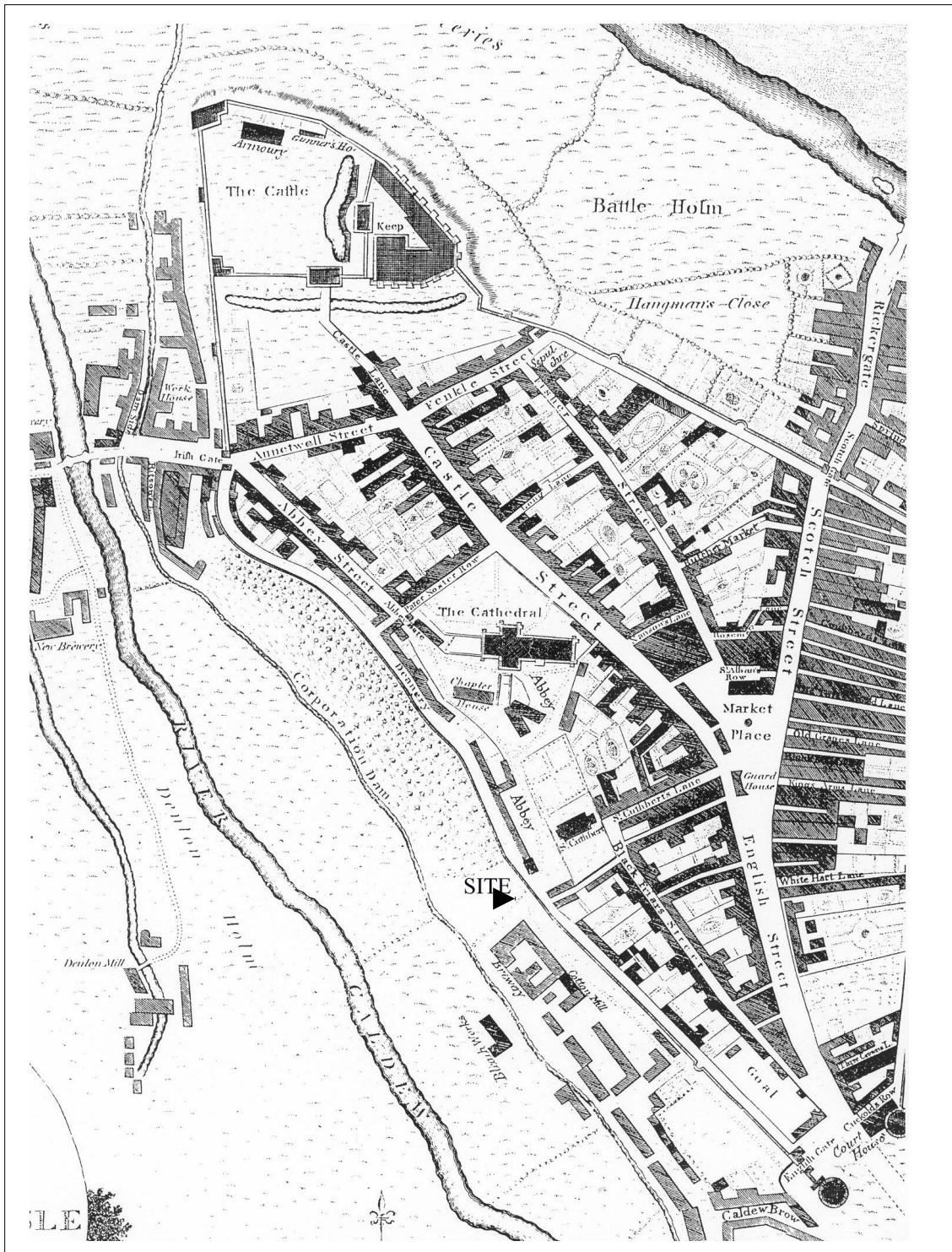
FIGURE: 1: SITE LOCATION

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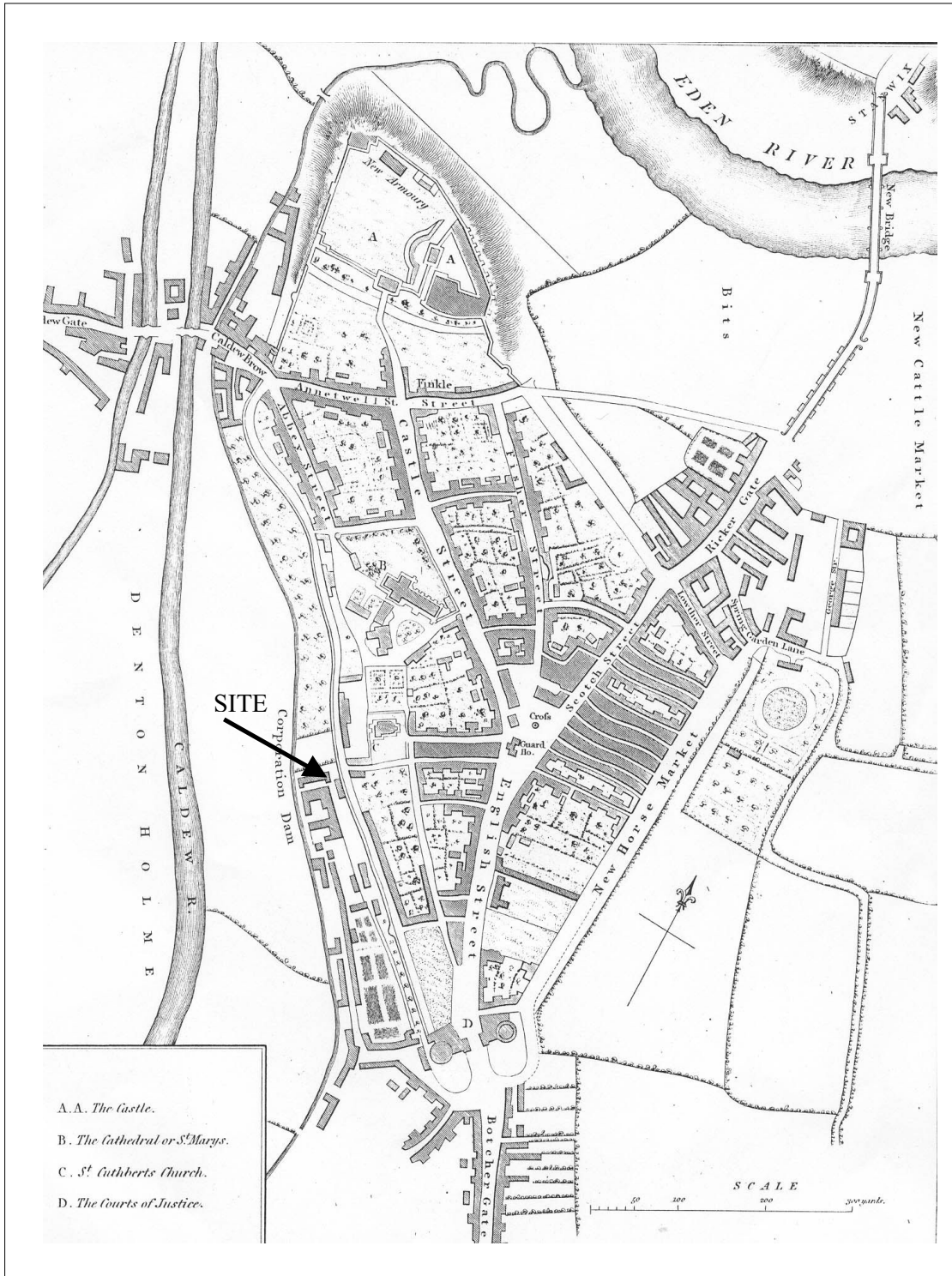
PROJECT: CLUB XS, CARLISLE,  
CUMBRIA

FIGURE: 2

William Hutchinson map of Carlisle  
(1797)

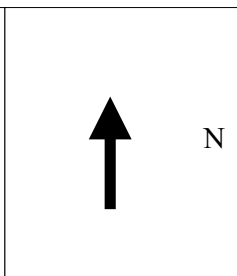


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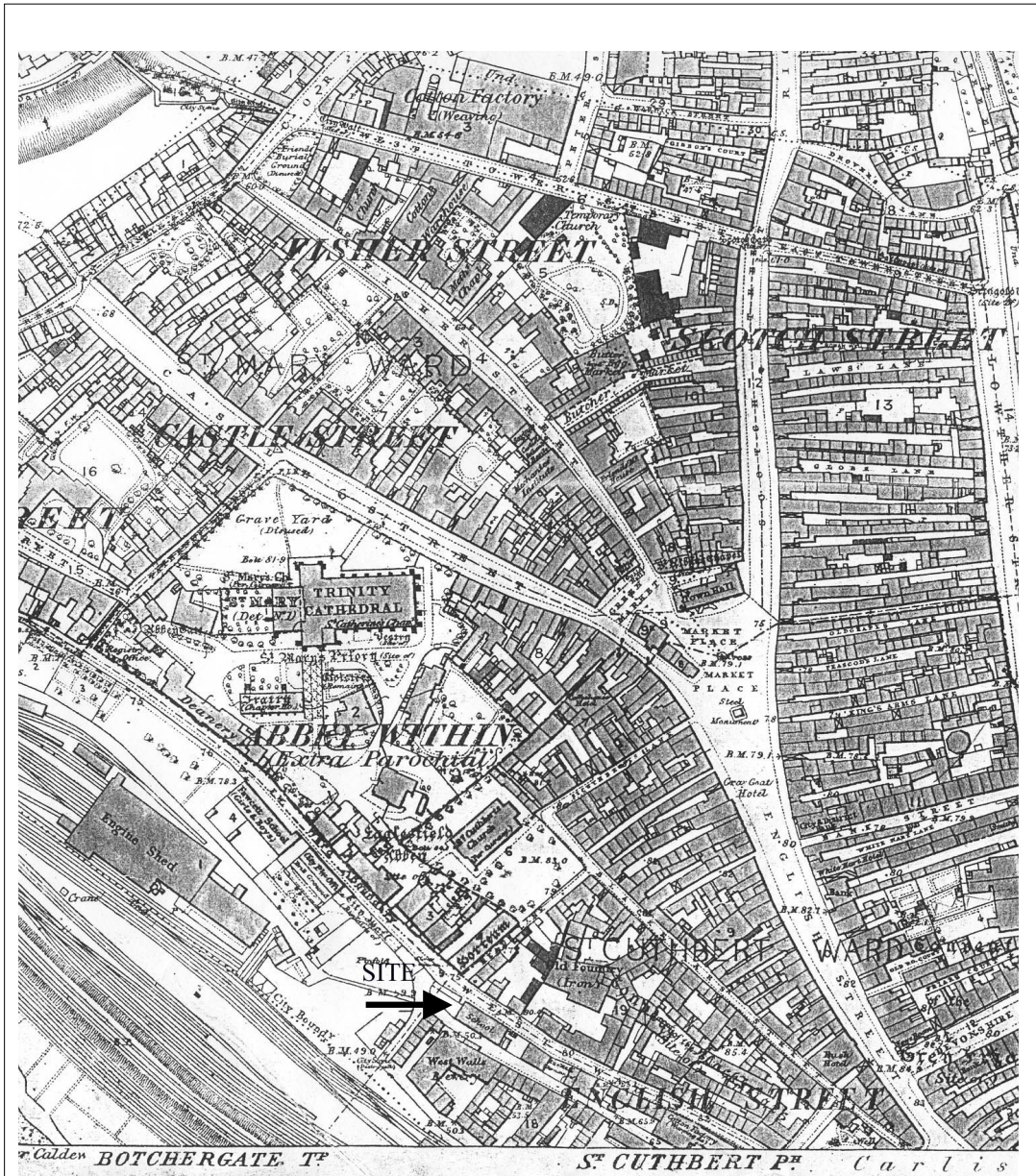


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PROJECT: CLUB XS, CARLISLE,  
CUMBRIA  
  
FIGURE: 3  
  
Lysons, D and Lysons, S map of  
Carlisle (1816)







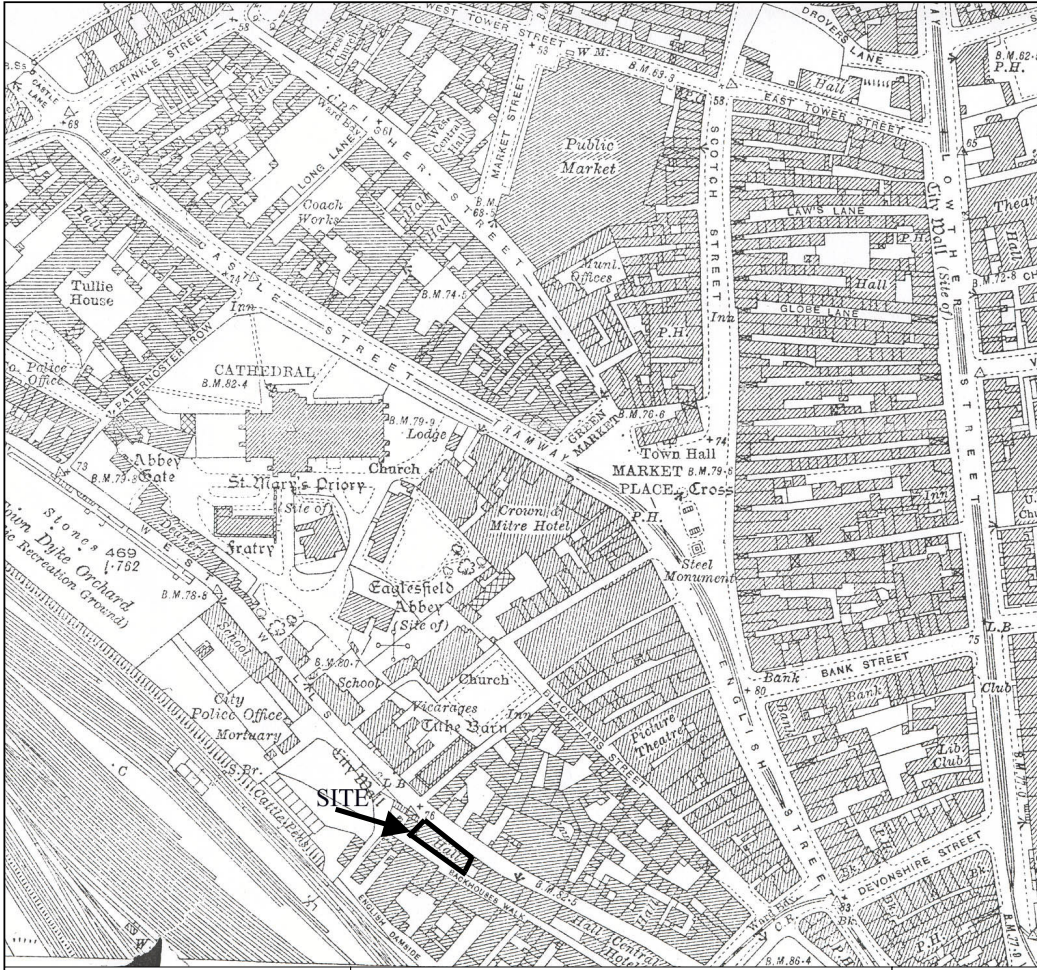
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PROJECT: CLUB XS, CARLISLE,  
FIGURE: 4  
TITLE: 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey  
(1865)  
Scale: 6 inch to the mile



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PROJECT: CLUB XS, CARLISLE,  
FIGURE: 5  
TITLE: 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey  
(1925)  
Scale: 6 inch to the mile



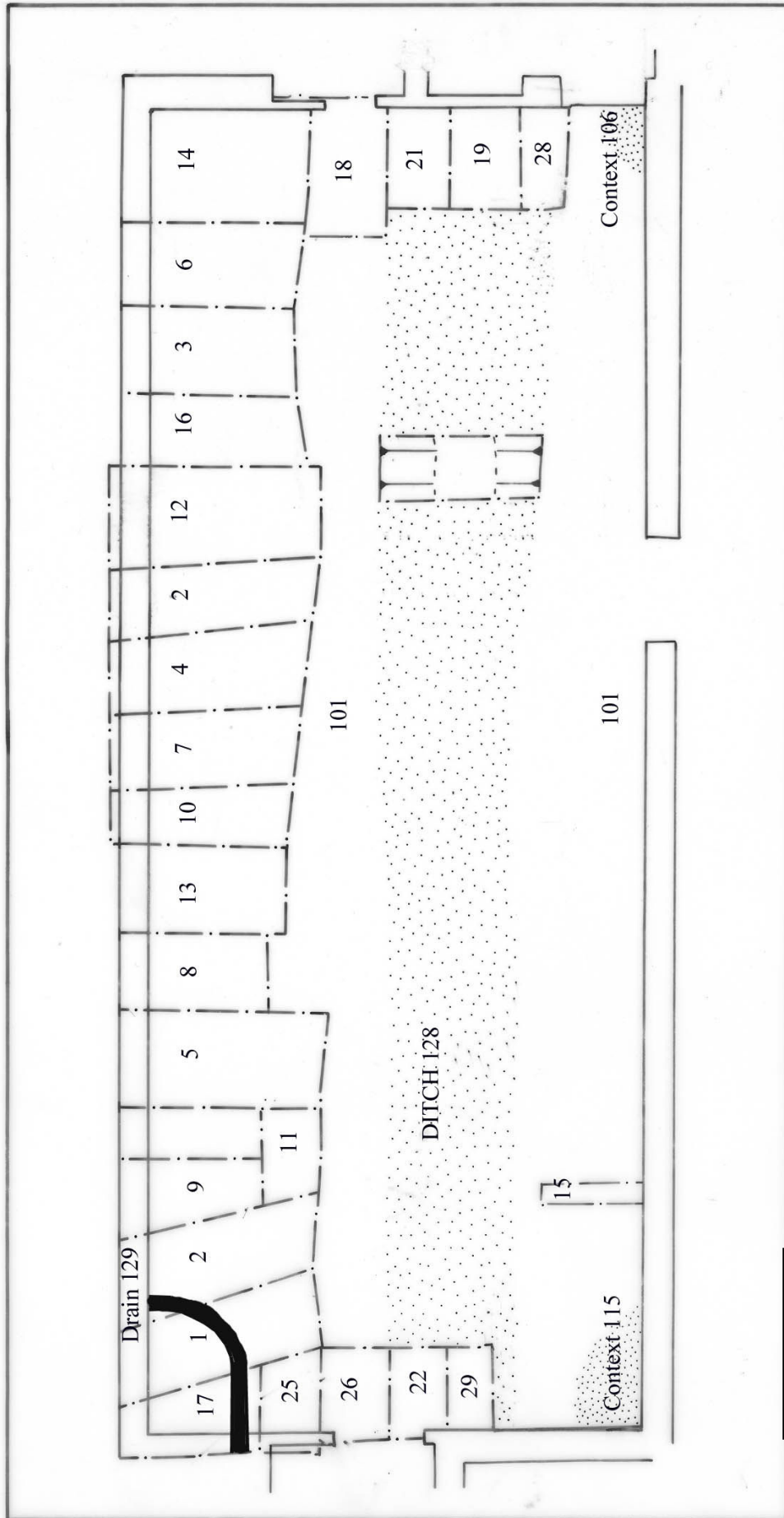


Figure 6: Trench plan  
inside club XS.  
Scale 1:100

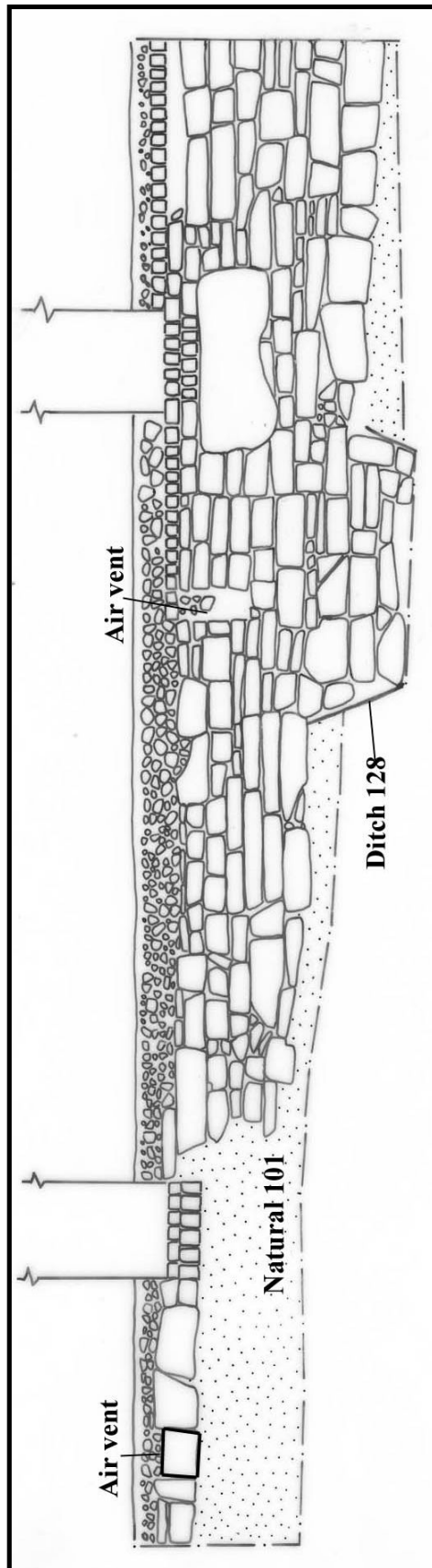


Figure 7: North west facing section inside club XS.  
Scale 1:40

**TABLE 2: LIST OF CONTEXTS ISSUED**

Context number	Description	Date
100	Sandy silty gravel levelling deposit	19 <sup>th</sup> century
101	Natural pinky brown silty clay	Natural
102	Cut for 19 <sup>th</sup> century wall	19 <sup>th</sup> century
103	Fill of 19 <sup>th</sup> century wall trench	19 <sup>th</sup> century
104	Void	-
105	Redeposited soil	19 <sup>th</sup> century or earlier
106	Floor surface	19 <sup>th</sup> century or earlier
107	Brick	19 <sup>th</sup> century
108	Concrete base for pillars	19 <sup>th</sup> century
109	Sandstone blocks	19 <sup>th</sup> century or earlier
110	Dark brown deposit	19 <sup>th</sup> century or earlier
111	Orange and white, brick and mortar dust	19 <sup>th</sup> century or earlier
112	Redeposited soil	19 <sup>th</sup> century or earlier
113	Orange and white, brick and mortar dust	19 <sup>th</sup> century or earlier
114	Dark brown sandy loam deposit	19 <sup>th</sup> century or earlier
115	Dark brown sandy loam	Pre 19 <sup>th</sup> century
116	Fill of feature in southeast wall – air vent	19 <sup>th</sup> century
117	Cobbles/ pebbles – remnant floor surface?	Pre 19 <sup>th</sup> century
118	Ditch fill	Roman
119	Ditch fill	Roman
120	Fill of feature in northwest wall	Pre 19 <sup>th</sup> century
121	Deposit of dark brown silty loam	Pre 19 <sup>th</sup> century
122	Deposit within void in northwest wall	19 <sup>th</sup> century
123	Sandstone coarses	19 <sup>th</sup> century or earlier
124	Redeposited soil	19 <sup>th</sup> century
125	Ditch fill	Roman
126	Ditch fill	Roman
127	Ditch fill	Roman
128	Cut of Ditch	Roman



**THE BONE, SHELL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS****TABLE 3. LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES.**

SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT NUMBER	TYPE	SAMPLE SIZE	FLOT SIZE	RETENT SIZE
1	127	F	5 litres	50mls	500
2	106	F	4litres	10mls	1000

**TABLE 4: LIST OF SOIL SAMPLE CONTENTS AFTER PROCESSING.**

The retent fraction was quantified by a number system. The key is as follows:  
0=absent, 1=present, 2=frequent, 3=abundant, D=deposit, S=surface, F=fill.

DETAILS		RETENT FRACTION										LIGHT FRACTION															
Context	Context type	Sample number	Cinders and coal	Charred wood	Waterlogged wood	Plaster and mortar	Bone	Burnt bone	Stones	Insects	Charred wood	Waterlogged wood	Nematode cases	Charred grain	Common nettle	Small nettle	Chenopodium	Raspberry	Pale persicaria	Bindweed	Stellaria media	Rumex	Cirsium	Senecio vulgaris	Dwarf elder	Elder	Other seeds
127	F	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	1
106	D	2	1	0	0	1	2	0	3	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

**TABLE 5: THE BONE**

Context Number	Type	Period	Description
100	Horse	UK	Radius B, P, metacarpal B, SP, tibia B, SP
	Cattle	UK	Metatarsal B, G
	Deer	UK	Metatarsal B, G - judging by size it is red deer
	UK	UK	Several bone fragments of indeterminate species
101	UK	UK	Fragment of bone of indeterminate species
105	Cattle	UK	Partial tibia
	Caprovid	UK	Tooth
	UK	UK	2 fragments of bone of indeterminate species
106	UK	UK	7 fragments of bone of indeterminate species
115	Horse	M	Tooth, well worn and large
	Mammal	M	2 large mammal frags of pelvis, cattle or horse
	Dog	M	Tibia, pelvis, metacarpal all contemporary size
	UK	M	14 fragments of bone of indeterminate species
116	Rat	PM	Pelvis, mandible, 4 tibia/fibula
	UK	PM	1 fragment of bone of indeterminate species
117	Cattle	UK	Phalange
	UK	PM	1 fragment of bone of indeterminate species
118/119	Horse	M	Radius/ulna B, femur B, SP, vertebrae, hoof, ribs
	Caprovid	M	Vertebra, humerus

	Rabbit	M	Skull (complete)
	Dog	M	Calcaneum, pelvis, skull (?), mandible
	UK	M	Numerous frags of indeterminate species
120	Mammal	Mx	Fragment of rib from large mammal
121	Cattle	R	Metacarpal
US	Mammal	UK	Several fragments of large mammal bone

**Table 2.** B = Butchery, SP = Stress pathology, G = Gnawing, Caprovid = Sheep/goat

**TABLE 6: SHELL**

Context Number	Type	Period	Description
105	Oyster	Mi	Right upper valve of oyster
119	Oyster	R	Upper and lower valve, possibly contemporary
120	Oyster	Mi	Lower valve of oyster
125	Oyster	UK	Large upper and lower valve of oyster
U/S	Oyster, cockle	Mi	1 upper, 1 lower valve, few fragments of oyster. 3 cockle shells, not contemporary

## 8 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 It appears that the ground upon which the 19<sup>th</sup> century building was built on was initially terraced and then levelled, with context 100 along with the courses of red sandstone, representing a substantial levelling deposit used for the new building platform. Earlier structural remains (if any existed) may well have been removed at this time.
- 8.3 The probable Roman ditch that was recorded running across the development site was the most significant feature, although its exact purpose is not known. It is possible that it relates to the Medieval Town ditch or dyke (hence Town Dyke Orchard); although A Roman date is considered more likely considering the exclusively Roman assemblage recovered from the ditch fills. It is unlikely to be associated with the factory known as the Linny (from linen) as no linen seeds were recovered from the processed environmental samples taken from the ditch fill.
- 8.4 No other features of archaeological note were recorded during the watching brief.
- 8.5 From the contexts, on the whole, only small quantities of bone and shell from several species were recovered which could be associated with food sources. Context 115 contained bone from several species including dog and horse. The contexts associated with the ditch (118, 119) produced the most bone, mainly horse. The clearance of this area in the 19<sup>th</sup> century may have removed any medieval dumping that is likely to have occurred outside the city wall.
- 8.6 Seed remains indicated an area of low scrub and weeds in the vicinity with little evidence to indicate crop or food production in the area.

## 9 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 It is recommended that no further archaeological work take place unless more work is undertaken within the boundaries of the site.
- 9.2 It is recommended that the archive be deposited in Tulie House Museum for long-term storage.

## 10 THE CONTRACTOR

- 10.1 North Pennines Heritage Trust is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. It works in close association with and under the approval of the County Archaeologist. Based in Nenthead, Cumbria, the company has considerable experience extending over more than twelve years of archaeological investigation in Cumbria
- 10.2 The company has a fully staffed professional field team capable of undertaking work ranging in scale from large-scale archaeological excavations to small desk based projects.

## 11 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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## 12 THE PLATES



PLATE 1: (above) Drain 115  
PLATE 2: (below) Air grate 116



PLATE 3: above Drain 116 continuing under north west wall

PLATE 4: below: Detail of natural boulder clay below south east wall