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Geophysical Survey

**Swift Mews
Strand Road
Carlisle, Cumbria**

**Desk-based Assessment
Report No. 2189**

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Commissioned by	Carlisle College
Date issued	February 2013
Version	1
Grid Ref	SD 4039 5609

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

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1. INTRODUCTION

A desk-based assessment was undertaken by CFA Archaeology on behalf of Carlisle College at Swift Mews, Strand Road, Carlisle (Fig. 1, centred on SD 4039 5609).

1.1 Project Background

This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) during February 2013. The work was commissioned by Carlisle College to evaluate the potential for archaeological remains to exist within the proposed development area (Fig. 1).

The proposed scheme would involve the redevelopment of Swift Mews for the use of Carlisle College. The north range of the mews shall be retained and converted, but the other buildings on site are due to be demolished.

1.2 Site Description

The site lies adjacent to the A7 Georgian Way immediately to the north-east of Carlisle city centre. It is situated within an area which is partly residential, but also lies within close proximity to a number of school and college buildings. The proposed development area has been extensively built over, concealing any potential earlier features which may have been present on site.

1.4 Previous Archaeological work

To date no intrusive archaeological fieldwork is known to have taken place within the proposed development area.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 General Objectives

The general objective of the desk-based assessment was to produce a report to enable judgements to be made on the condition and significance of remains and any mitigation that may be necessary on the site in relation to the proposed development.

2.2 Research Objectives

The research objectives were to interpret any archaeological or historic remains according to their significance in contributing to the further understanding of the periods they may relate to. The relevant research framework for Cumbria is the North West Archaeological Research Framework (Brennand 2007).

3. METHODS AND STANDARDS

CFA Archaeology is a registered organisation (RO) with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). All work was conducted in accordance with relevant IfA Standards and Guidance documents (IfA 1994), English Heritage guidance (EH 2005, 2006 and 2008), and CFA's standard methodology.

Information was supplied by the Cumbria Historic Environment Record (HER) on sites, find spots and monuments within the proposed development area and within a 200m study area around the boundary of the proposed development area.

Internet sources were consulted for information relating to general background, listed buildings and other heritage resources within the study area. CFA's Office library was also consulted for relevant secondary sources.

Photographs have been taken of the upstanding structures within the proposed development area.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BASELINE

4.1 Desk-Based Research

The modern city of Carlisle has its origins in the Roman town of *Luguvalium*, which grew up around a first century military fort at the junction of the Rivers Eden and Caldew. At the end of the Roman period, the town became part of the kingdom of Rheged and by the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066, it had become part of Scotland. Cumbria was reincorporated into England in 1092 by William Rufus, and by the early 12th century Carlisle Castle had been constructed along with city walls enclosing the town to the south of the castle.

The proposed development area lies outside the medieval town walls and away from the core area of the Roman civilian settlement. A late Victorian mews within the proposed development area has a date stone of 1873, and an adjoining army drill-hall. The mews was built for the adjacent Carlisle Swifts Racecourse and was used for stabling horses until 1904, when the racecourse moved to another location. During the First World War, it was used for housing army officers associated with the adjoining drill hall and following the war it was again used for the stabling of horses, later becoming part of a riding school.

The mews is recorded on Pastscape, but has no statutory designation. It is understood that an application was made to have the mews listed in October 2010 but the application was turned down because the mews were deemed not to be of sufficient architectural merit.

4.2 Historic Maps

Pre-Ordnance Survey Maps

The pre 19th-century maps are small scale and schematic, but they largely appear to depict the proposed development area as open countryside lying outwith the city limits. On Smith's map of 1746, an area to the south of the River Eden immediately to

the north-east of the proposed development area is annotated 'The Swifts or City Horse Course' and a starting post is depicted. A bowling green and a garden are also depicted situated to the west of the area. The racecourse is shown in slightly more detail on Woods map of 1821. This map shows what is now Strand Road leading past the racecourse, but the only development along this road is a structure annotated 'Sheep House', which lies to the north-east of the proposed development area.

1872 25'' Ordnance Survey Map

On the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, the proposed development area is depicted with a structure cutting across the north-east corner and several garden plots extending into it, but otherwise it is an open space within an area of development. A large building to the north of the area is annotated 'St Patricks School', while to the north-west there is an area annotated 'Timber Yard'. Compton Street has not yet been constructed, while the street to the south which is now Victoria Place is annotated 'Burlington Place', with Victoria Place located further to the west under what is now the A7. What is now Strand Road is annotated 'Swifts Lane' and extends outwith the built up area into the countryside beyond and the line of the current A7 is defined by Albert Street, which is considerably narrower than the modern road.

1901 25'' Ordnance Survey Map

The 1901 Ordnance Survey map depicts the current layout of buildings within the proposed development area. The large building dominating the central and southern end of the area is annotated 'Drill Hall'. Along the western side of the building complex there are three additional extensions that are no longer present, one of which appears to extend outwith the proposed development area onto what is now the A7. Compton Street has now been constructed with a building at the northern end annotated 'Mission Hall' and while the street immediately to the north is still annotated Swifts Lane, it becomes Strand Road to the east of Compton Street. To the south, Burlington Place and Victoria Place remain unchanged from the Ordnance Survey First Edition. The timber yard to the east within the current location of Carlisle College is now an open area with further development to the east, and to the south-east there is an area of parkland or gardens annotated Chatsworth Square.

1925 – 1972 25'' Ordnance Survey Map

Maps dated 1925 and 1938 show only very minor changes within the surrounding area, with another drill hall constructed to the west of the proposed development area. However, by the late 1960s there are some considerable changes with the construction of the A7 Georgian Way. All of the buildings immediately to the west of Swift Mews have been removed along with a large part of Burlington Place, which has now been renamed Victoria Place. There have also been considerable changes to the east of Compton Street, with the open area now being occupied by the college buildings. The road immediately to the north of the proposed development area is now annotated 'Strand Road'.

4.3 Historic Environment Record

The Cumbria Environment Record records Strand Road Drill Hall (HER No. 43793) located within the proposed development area, but makes no mention of the mews building. It records that the drill hall opened in 1874 for the Carlisle Rifle Volunteers, and that during the First World War it served as an annexe of the country's second largest munitions works at Eastriggs, north of Carlisle. A special brochure commemorating King George V's visit to the building in 1917 describes it as the East Cumberland National Shell Factory. The building has also served as a roller-skating rink, a dance hall, a territorial centre and a sports hall. An application was made to have this building listed, but this was declined in 2012.

Within the wider 200m study area three sherds of Roman pottery were discovered during an evaluation undertaken at Carlisle College, Victoria Place (HER No. 42228), and part of the medieval castle defences (HER No. 3610) extend into the western edge of the area. The remaining HER sites relate to the post-medieval development of the area and are not considered relevant to this study.

4.4 Listed Buildings

English Heritage records twenty-eight listed building within the study area, but only two of these are considered relevant in relation to this development. These are numbers 36-46 (Even) Victoria Place (EH Listed Building No. 386888), and number 20 and 22 Victoria Place (EH Listed Building No. 386888). Numbers 36-46 Victoria Place are located to the immediate south of the proposed development area and are Grade II Listed. These houses date to the early 1850s and were formerly part of Burlington Place prior to the street being re-named. Number 20 and 22 Victoria Place is an ex-serviceman's club converted from three houses and is also Grade II Listed. It also dates to the early 1850s and was formerly part of Burlington Place. The houses between numbers 20 and 22 and numbers 36-46 were demolished to make way for the A7. The impact of the proposed development on these listed buildings is considered to be negligible. Numbers 36-46 Victoria Road back onto the proposed development area, while numbers 20 and 22 Victoria Road are on the opposite side of the busy A7.

4.5 Conservation Areas

The proposed development lies adjacent to the northern boundary of the Portland and Chatworth Square Conservation Area.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

5.1 Prehistoric and Roman

No prehistoric remains have been recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development area. The Cumbria HER records that three sherds of Roman pottery (HER No. 42228) were discovered at Carlisle College *c.* 70m to the west. Carlisle was an important town during the Roman period and there is a high potential for Roman remains in the area. As the proposed development site lies outside the core area of the Roman civilian settlement, it is considered unlikely that deeply stratified Roman

remains like those that have been encountered in central Carlisle would be present on site. Taking into account the extensive 19th century development of the site, the potential for the proposed development area to contain Roman remains is considered, therefore, to be low.

5.2 Medieval

The proposed development area lies *c.* 150m outside the medieval walls of Carlisle. It is possible that features from this period may have extended beyond the town walls, but they are likely to have been more sparsely distributed outside the city walls and it is not considered likely that there will be deeply stratified medieval deposits within the proposed development site. Taking into account the extensive 19th century development of the area, the potential for the proposed development area to contain medieval remains is considered, therefore, to be low.

5.3 Post-Medieval

Cartographic sources indicate that the area remained largely undeveloped prior to the construction of the current buildings on the site. Consequently, the potential for the proposed development site to contain earlier post-medieval features is considered to be low. The drill hall and mews buildings (HER No. 43793) appear to have remained largely unchanged since their construction in *c.* 1873 and it is, therefore, likely that some recording of the buildings will be required prior to development.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The proposed development area lies away from the core area of the Roman civilian settlement and outside the medieval town walls, and it is therefore considered unlikely that any deep stratified Roman or Medieval deposits would be encountered. Information from cartographic sources indicates that the proposed development area remained largely undeveloped until the second half of the 19th century when a mews associated with Carlisle Swifts Racecourse and a military drill hall were constructed. The construction of these buildings is likely to have caused disturbance to any archaeological deposits within the proposed development area and reduced the archaeological potential for the survival of features from earlier periods. Consequently the overall archaeological potential of the proposed development is considered to be low.

The proposed development area is situated on the edge of Portland and Chatsworth Square Conservation Area and adjacent to a row of Grade-II Listed houses, but the impact on these features is considered to be minimal. The drill hall and mews buildings (HER No. 43793) appear to have remained largely unchanged since their construction in *c.*1873, and it is therefore likely that some recording of the buildings will be required prior to development.

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- Heritage Gateway; <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>, (Accessed 01/03/13)
- Old Maps, <http://www.old-maps.co.uk>, (Accessed 01/03/13)
- Pastscape, 2012, <http://www.pastscape.org.uk>, (Accessed 01/03/13)

Appendix 1 – Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage Features Recorded Within The Proposed Development Area.

HER Ref.	Listed Building No.	Monument/Event Name	Description	Eastings	Northing	Period
43793		Strand Road Drill Hall, Carlisle	The drill hall opened in 1874 for the Carlisle Rifle Volunteers, but was also let out to other uses including as a popular roller-skating rink. In 1882 a light-weight roof replaced the original wooden roof. During the First World War, the drill hall was equipped with machinery and served as an annexe of the country's second largest munitions works at Eastriggs, north of Carlisle. The annexe is described in a special brochure commemorating King George V's visit to the building in 1917 as East Cumberland National Shell Factory. The building has also served as a dance hall, and as a territorial centre, and more recently in the 1970s and 1980s as a sports hall. Today it lies empty. The building was assessed for Listing but declined in 2012.	340400	556080	Post-medieval (Victorian)

Appendix 2 – Gazetteer of Cultural Heritage Features Recorded Within 200m Radius Buffer From the Proposed Development Area.

HER Ref.	Listed Building No.	Monument/Event Name	Description	Eastings	Northing	Period
3610		Carlisle Medieval Defences	The north-east side of the medieval city wall is known to run along the east side of West Tower Street.	339900	556200	Medieval (12-13 th century)
4685	386663	Carlisle Dispensary	Victorian dispensary which continued in use until the 1930s. Building now unoccupied. Dated and inscribed on a frieze DISPENSARY 1857. Grade II Listed.	340260	556050	Post-medieval (Victorian)
40968		Carlisle Tram System	Tram system built in 1900 and closed in 1931	341025	555025	Modern (Early 20 th century)
40984		United Methodist Free Church	Built in 1837 and closed in 1933	340261	555929	Post-medieval (Victorian)
40990		Church of Scotland	Constructed 1834	340276	556059	Post –medieval (Georgian)
40997	386790	Church of St Paul	Built as the Church of England Church of St Paul and St Mary in 1869-70 by	340409	555874	Post-medieval

HER Ref.	Listed Building No.	Monument/Event Name	Description	Easting	Northing	Period
		(former); Elim Church	Habershon and Brock. Now an Elim Church. Grade II Listed.			(Victorian)
41041		Lowther Street School	Constructed in 1885	340245	556129	Post-medieval (Victorian)
41069		Trinity School	Carlisle Grammar school and in 1883 moved to new premises on Swifts Lane.	340346	556138	Post-medieval (Victorian)
41084		East Tower Street Smithy, Carlisle	A smithy is marked on corner of East Tower Street and Lowther Street on the OS map of 1865.	340196	556095	Post-medieval (Victorian)
41093		St Patrick's School, Swifts Lane, Carlisle	St Patrick's Roman Catholic School for boys was on Swifts Lane by 1865, and by 1901 had accommodation for 200 children	340420	556160	Post-medieval (Victorian)
41085		SS Mary and Joseph Church, Chapel Street, Carlisle	The Church of SS Mary and Joseph was built in Chapel Street in 1822, but was moved to Warwick Square (SMR 40995) in 1883 as the accommodation was inadequate for the congregation.	340304	556073	Post –medieval (Georgian)
41094		Swifts Lane Ropery, Carlisle	A ropery was located in Swifts Lane, in 1865. This is probably the ropery listed as William Howe's, on Spring Garden Lane, in 1811. By 1901 the Ropery had been replaced by a drill hall.	340425	556181	Post –medieval (Georgian / Victorian)
41348	386789	Lonsdale Street, Nos 33-39	Four mid to late Victorian houses. No.33 is now the Women's Institute offices and meeting room, No's 35 & 37 are now undergoing conversion from offices to residential use, No.39 is now offices. Grade II Listed.	340388	555908	Post-medieval (Victorian)
42228		Pottery Finds, Carlisle College, Victoria Place, Carlisle	Three sherds of Roman pottery found during an evaluation excavation in 2005 in a deposit interpreted as plough-soil measuring 0.6m in depth. The pottery comprised of one sherd of grey wheel-thrown pottery, one sherd of decorated Samian ware most likely dating to AD 70-150 (although it could be a later import), and one of unknown type and date. This, and another ploughsoil in the trench, indicates inactivity from the Roman period onwards, until the college and adjacent housing were built.	340490	556060	Roman
42230		Carlisle Racecourse, The Swifts, Carlisle	Site of a racecourse at The Swifts besides the River Eden, shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865. An associated Grandstand hotel was built in 1839-40 (LB 386810). The racecourse closed in 1904 and the hotel continued as a pub, The Turf Inn, still extant.	340500	556500	Post-medieval (Victorian)

HER Ref.	Listed Building No.	Monument/Event Name	Description	Eastings	Northing	Period
	386662	Chapel Street Nos. 2-9 (Consecutive)	Terrace of 8 houses, now 6 houses, shop and office. . . Grade II Listed.	340290	556039	Post –medieval (Georgian)
	386665	Chatsworth Square, No. 17, Red Gables	House divided into flats. 1884-5 for William Hudson Scott (of the Metal Box Co) by George Dale Oliver of Carlisle Grade II Listed	340563	555962	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386668	Chatsworth Square, Nos. 22 and 23	2 houses. Dated 1889 on cast-iron rainwater head. Grade II Listed.	340628	556033	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386669	Chatsworth Square, Wall, railings and gates around central gardens	Wall, railings and gates around private gardens in centre of square, 1870s. The only private residents' garden left in Carlisle. Grade II Listed.	340609	555997	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386672	Chiswick Street, Nos. 4-12 (Even)	5 houses forming part of a terrace, late 1860s-1870sChiswick Street. Grade II Listed.	340497	555878	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386673	Chiswick Street, Nos. 5-29 (Odd)	13 houses in a terrace and one round corner, late 1840s and 1850s. Grade II Listed.	340503	555922	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386674	Chiswick Street, Nos 14 and 16 with gate and piers front	2 houses forming part of a terrace late 1860s and late 1870s. Grade II Listed.	340522	555881	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386675	Chiswick Street, Nos. 18 and 20	2 houses forming part of terrace, dated 1869. Grade II Listed.	340537	555884	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386678	Chiswick Street, Nos. 31-33	3 houses forming the end of a terrace, now house and office, dated 1860s. Grade II Listed.	340570	555932	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386679	Chiswick Street, Nos. 35-47 (Odd)	7 houses forming part of terrace. Late 1860s or early 1870s. Grade II Listed.	340600	555936	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386765	Chatsworth Square, No. 20	Terrace of four houses, one now divided into flats. Early 1870s. Grade II Listed.	340613	555966	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386788	Lonsdale Street, No. 31 Arkle House	House now office dated 1874 on pediment. Grade II Listed.	340372	555901	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386798	Lonsdale Street, Nos. 30-40 (Even) including railings to front	Terrace of 7 houses, now shops and offices, with some storage accommodation above. Late 1820s or 1830s with later alterations. Grade II Listed.	340253	555898	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386802	Lowther Street, Nos. 103 and 105 and Howard	2 houses now 2 shops and a pub. Late 18 th century or early 19 th century with later alterations.	340198	556051	Post –medieval (Georgian)



HER Ref.	Listed Building No.	Monument/Event Name	Description	Easting	Northing	Period
		Arms Public House	Grade II Listed.			
	386869	Spencer Street, Nos. 2 and 4	2 houses now part of one office. Mid or late 1870s. Grade II Listed.	340369	556001	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386870	Spencer Street, Nos 5-33 (Odd)	Terrace of 16 houses and 2 on Chiswick Street forming overall L-shape. Late 1840s Grade II Listed.	340429	555955	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386871	Spencer Street, Nos 6-28 (Even)	12 houses in terrace now offices, house and surgery. Early 1870s. Grade II Listed.	340385	555946	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386872	Spencer Street, Nos 35-49 (Odd)	8 houses and one on Chiswick Street forming overall L-shaped terrace. Late 1840s and early 1850s. Grade II Listed.	340468	555861	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386882	Victoria Place, No.1	House now office. Late 1830s, probably by John Hodgson of Carlisle. Grade II* Listed.	340264	555980	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386883	Victoria Place, No 2	House now office. Late 1830s. Grade II* Listed.	340257	556017	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386884	Victoria Place, Nos. 3-17 (Odd) and railings	Terrace of 8 houses now offices. Late 1840s, early 1850s and early 1880s. Grade II* Listed.	340305	555986	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386885	Victoria Place, Nos. 4-18 (Even) and railings	Terrace of 9 houses (one on the return), now offices, club and house. Dated 1852-54. Grade II* Listed.	340297	556025	Post-medieval (Victorian)
	386886	Victoria Place, Nos. 19, 21 and 23	3 houses now offices and house. Early 1870s. Grade II* Listed.	340352	555999	Victorian
	386887	Victoria Place, Nos. 20 and 22, Ex-serviceman's Club	3 houses, now a club. Early 1850s. Grade II Listed.	340351	556042	Victorian
	386888	Victoria Place, Nos. 36-46 (Even)	7 houses, now offices and 3 houses, one divided into flats. Early 1850s. Grade II Listed.	340421	556052	Victorian



Plate 1 - Swift Mews, North Elevation



Plate 2 - Swift Mews, North Elevation

Fig. No: 2	Revision: A	Project: Swift Mews, Strand Road, Carlisle			CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD The Old Engine House Eskmills Park, Musselburgh East Lothian, Eh21 7PQ T: 0131 273 4380 F: 0131 273 4381 e: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk w: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk
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