
INGLEBORO
ST HELEN'S LANE
CORBRIDGE
NORTHUMBERLAND

REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

February 2008



Prepared for: <i>The Jesmond Group</i>	By: <i>The Archaeological Practice Ltd.</i>
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INGLEBORO,
ST HELEN'S LANE
CORBRIDGE

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Prepared by:

The Archaeological Practice Ltd.

PROJECT: Archaeological watching brief at Development Site

LOCATION: St Helen's Lane, Corbridge, Northumberland

CLIENT: The Jesmond Group

SITE GRID REF: NZ 989 648

FIELDWORK: October 2007 and January-February 2008

PLANNING REF: 20070294 (NCCCT ref.: T12/24; 6977)

OASIS REF: thearch2-41446

CONTENTS

1. PURPOSE OF THE WATCHING BRIEF
2. CULTURAL HERITAGE BACKGROUND
3. WATCHING BRIEF
4. RESULTS
5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: View from the south of the freshly cut access road to the new construction site adjacent to Ingleboro house, with the original access road to left of view.

Illus. 01: Corbridge in south Northumberland

Illus. 02: Location of the assessment area in Corbridge, south Northumberland

Illus. 03: The location of Ingleboro on St Helen's Lane, Corbridge

Illus. 04: The location of the development site at Ingleboro, St Helen's Lane

Illus. 05: Suggested plan of fourteenth century Corbridge (Craster 1914, 113) based on a plan of 1778.

Illus. 06: Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Plan of Corbridge (c1860), showing the development site at Ingleboro

Illus. 07: Extract from the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey Plan of Corbridge (c1898), showing the development site at Ingleboro

Illus. 08: Extract from the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey Plan of Corbridge (c1920), showing the development site at Ingleboro

Illus. 09: Extract from the 4th edition Ordnance Survey Plan of Corbridge (c1950), showing the development site at Ingleboro

Illus. 10: View from the south of the access gate to Ingleboro from St Helen's Lane during the first phase of construction work in October 2007.

Illus. 11: View of the vertically-cut west-facing bank side of the access road into Ingleboro from St Helen's Lane, October 2007

Illus. 12: Detailed view of the west side of the access road (above) into Ingleboro from St Helen's Lane, October 2007

Illus. 13: View south-west from the new property access road adjacent to the new garage towards the original access road (bordered by drystone wall) showing topsoil and sandy subsoil.

Illus. 14: View from the north of the Ingleboro site during the second phase of construction work, January 31st 2008.

Illus. 15: View of Ingleboro site from the south during the second phase of construction work, February 4th 2008

Illus. 16: View from the west of the north part of the Ingleboro site during the second phase of construction work, February 5th, 2008

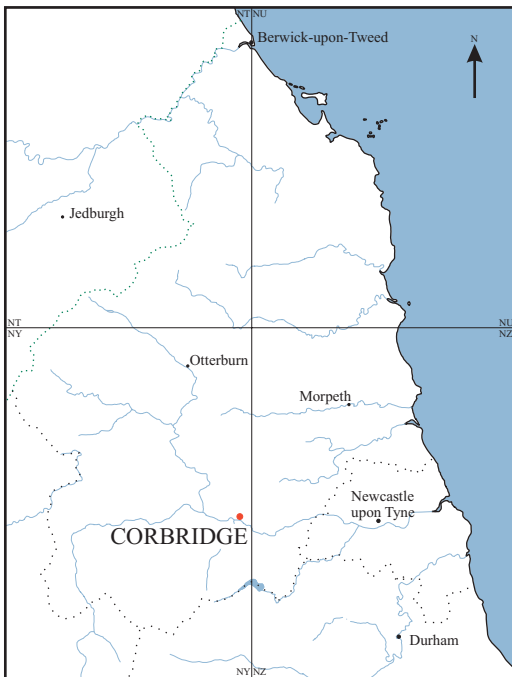
Illus. 17: View from the south of the north-west corner of the Ingleboro site, February 5th, 2008.

Illus. 18: View of Ingleboro site from the north during the second phase of construction work, February 5th 2008.

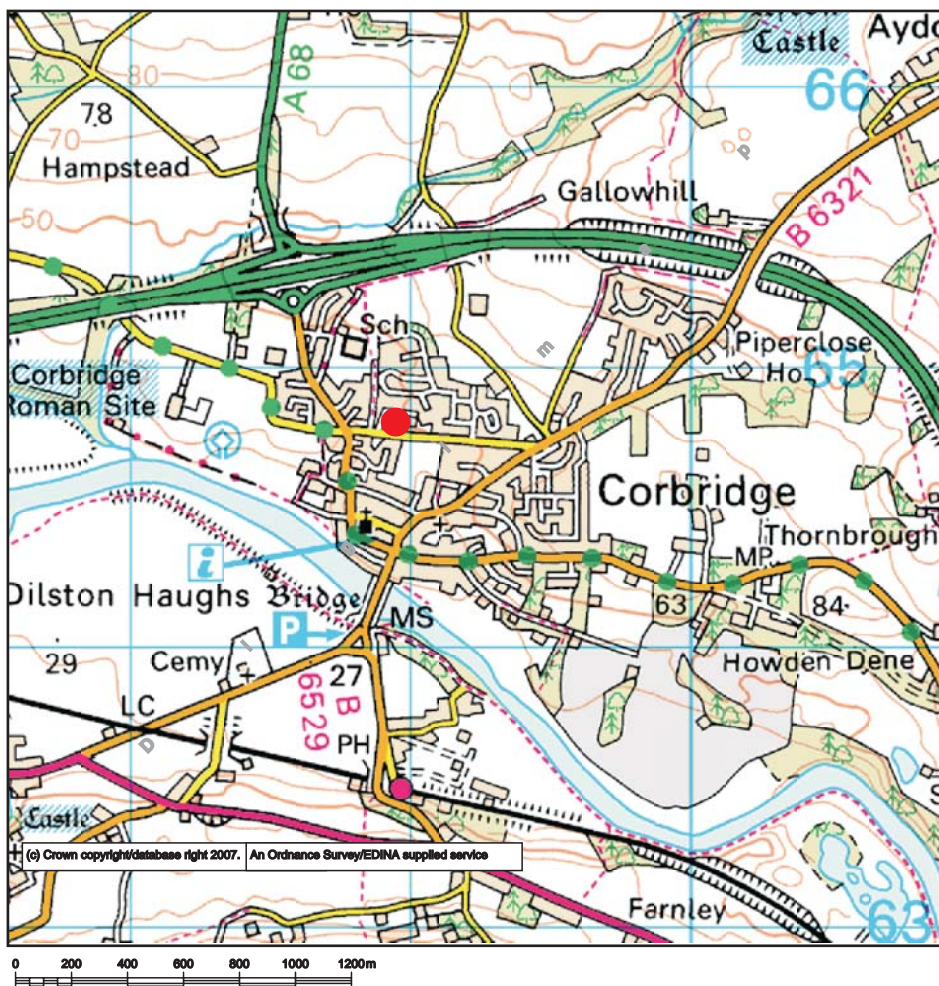
Illus. 19: View from the north of the Ingleboro site during the excavation of foundations on February 6th, 2008.

Illus. 20: View from the west of the Ingleboro site during the excavation of foundations on February 6th, 2008

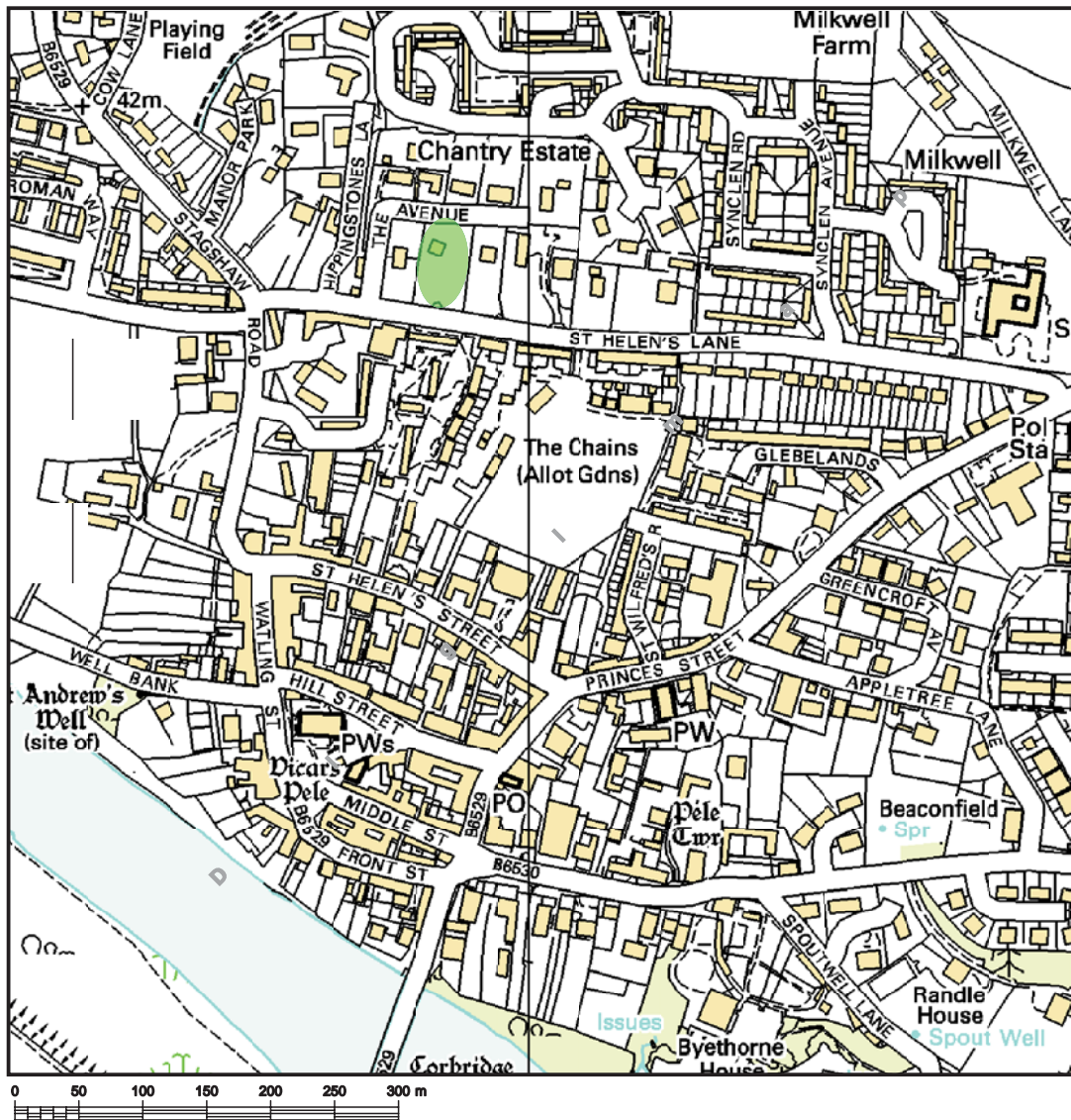
Illus. 21: View of Ingleboro site from the north during the second phase of construction work, February 6th 2008.



Illus. 01: Corbridge in south Northumberland



Illus. 02: Location of the assessment area in Corbridge, south Northumberland



Illus. 03: The location of Ingleboro on St Helen's Lane, Corbridge

1. PURPOSE OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

The Archaeological Practice was instructed to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Land Ingleboro, St Helen's Lane, Northumberland. The work was requested by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team in order to mitigate the potential impact of groundworks being carried out for the construction of a new residential development.

The aim of the watching brief is to record any significant archaeological remains before their removal or destruction during the course of development works.

The watching brief was requested because Corbridge is known to be an area of high archaeological potential with regard to Roman, Medieval and post-Medieval remains.

2. CULTURAL HERITAGE BACKGROUND

Corbridge is known to be an area of high archaeological potential with regard to Roman, Medieval and post-Medieval deposits. It is also known that the focal point of settlement within the town changed over time, and at certain periods there may have been more than one focal point. In addition, it is known that the area of the town shrunk during the later medieval period, and that areas now outside or on the periphery of the historic core may once have been within it. The current site is in the vicinity of St Helen's Well, a water source associated with the adjacent St Helen's chapel to the south, and a short distance north of the projected line of the early medieval town ditch.

3. WATCHING BRIEF

The aims of the watching brief were to determine whether archaeological features or deposits were present, and to make an appropriate record of any such finds by photographic and other means. Attendance by an archaeologist was requested by Northumberland County Council Conservation Team.

Accordingly, seven visits were made to the site during groundworks associated first with the construction of a new garage and associated modifications to the site entrance from St Helen's Lane (*Phase 1*, below), secondly with the construction of a new house north of the garage, adjacent to the existing Ingleboro dwelling (*Phase 2*, below).

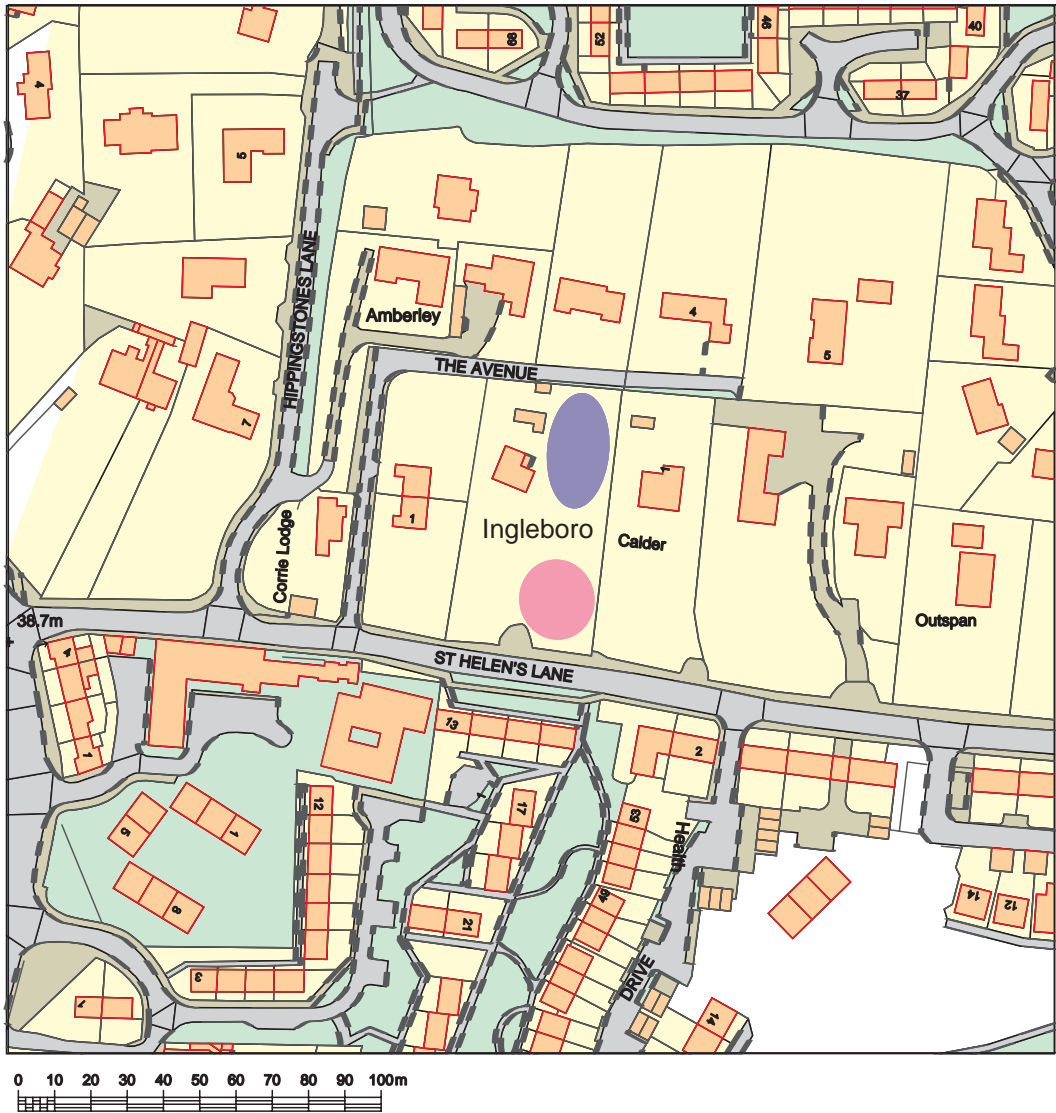
4. RESULTS

Phase 1 of the work was carried out on 24th October 2007, and *Phase 2* on 29th January, 31st January, 4th February, 6th February and 11th February 2008.

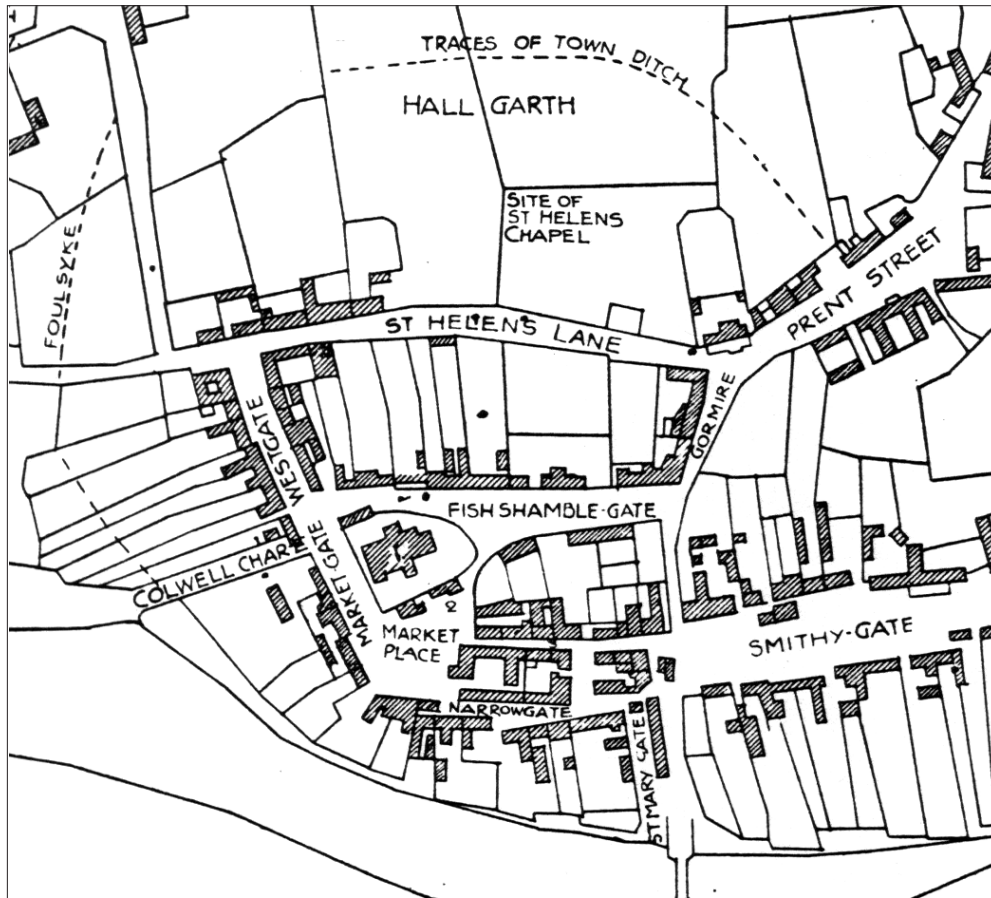
Phase 1:

A watching brief was carried out during groundworks in advance of the construction of a new garage in the south-east part of the property and related modifications to the access road.

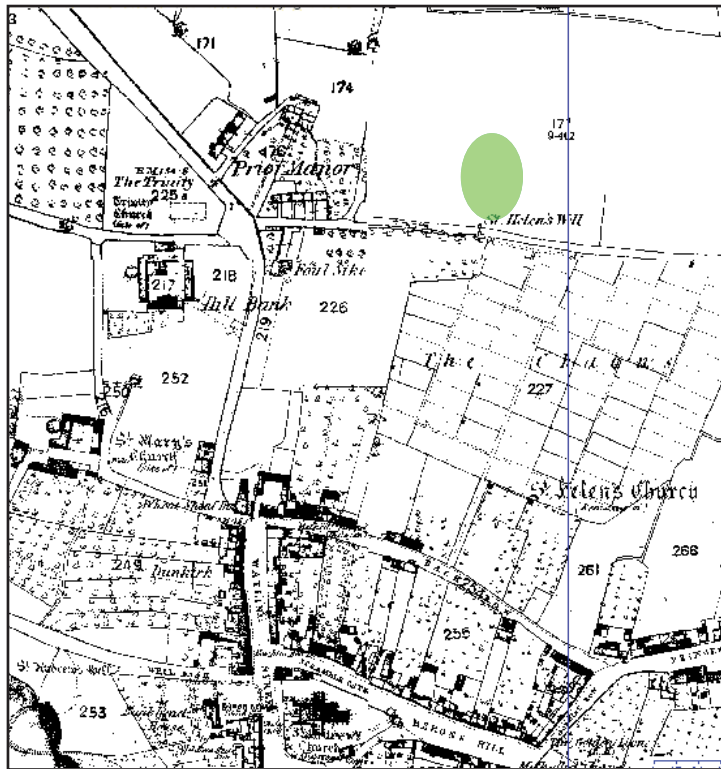
The vertically-cut west-facing bank side of the access road into Ingleboro from St Helen's Lane provided an opportunity to examine the structure of the surface deposits prior to the construction of a drystone wall. The ground, sloping to the south, was comprised of a sandy topsoil to a depth of up to a metre, below which was a grey clay, possibly part of the natural



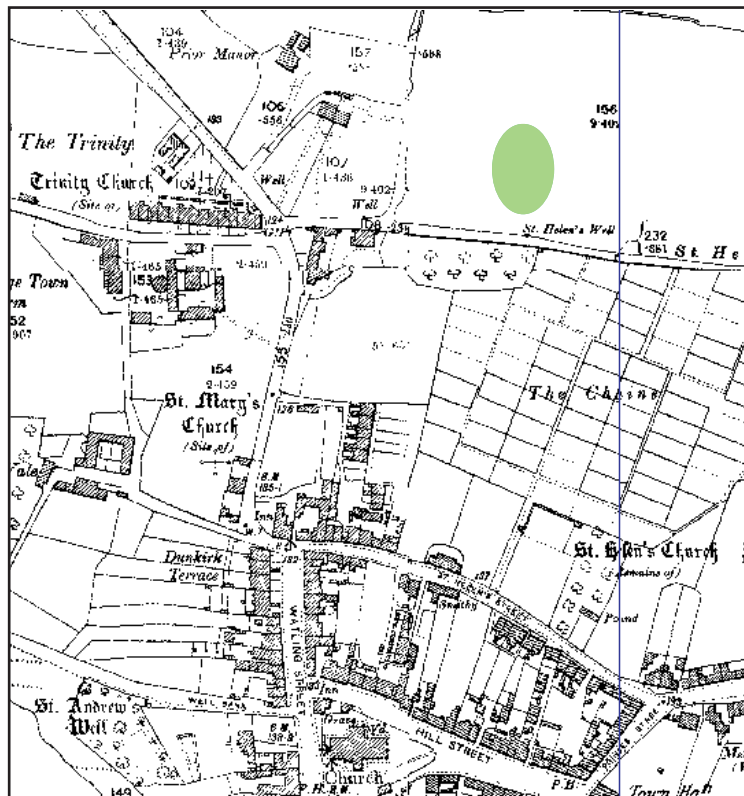
Illus. 04: The location of the development site at Ingleboro, St Helen's Lane (blue fill marks position of groundworks for new house, pink marks position of new garage and modified site entrance).



Illus. 05: Suggested plan of fourteenth century Corbridge (Craster 1914, 113) based on a plan of 1778.



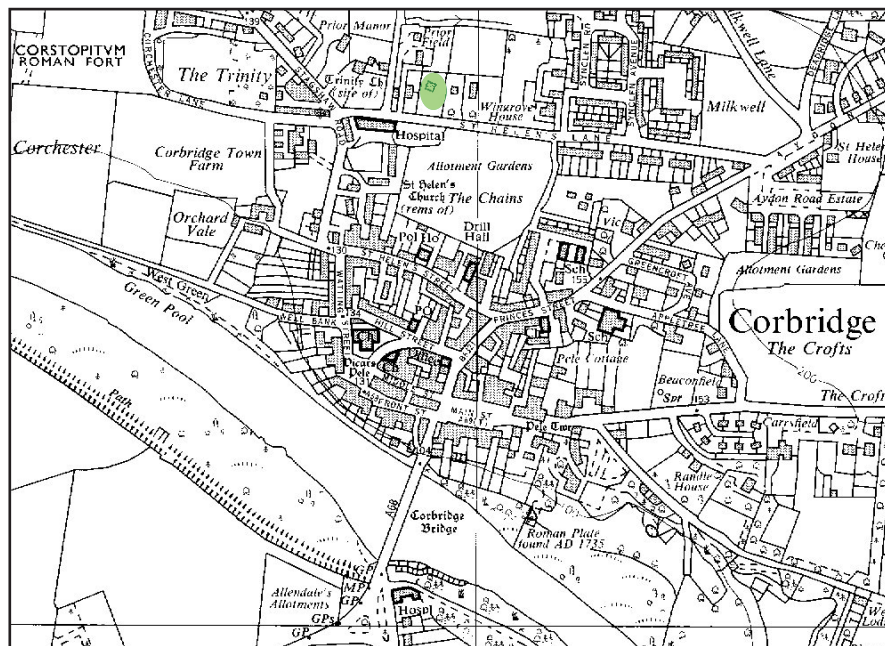
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sub-soil. Between the topsoil and clay in the area close to the site gate from St Helen's lane was a shallow deposit of sandstone fragments, perhaps a rudimentary surface, but more likely a destruction deposit. None of the deposits visible in the section were considered to be of archaeological importance.

Phase 2:

Phase 2, the construction of a new dwelling adjacent to the present Ingleboro began with ground clearance in late January 2008 and the excavation of foundation trenches early in February 2008. The ground was made up of a sandy topsoil to a depth of 0.70 metres, giving way thereafter to a brown silty-clay up to a maximum observed depth of 1.75 metres. In the north-east corner of the site some rounded stone blocks, possibly part of the bedrock, were observed but remained unexcavated.

No deposits, features or finds of any archaeological significance were recorded or recovered from the observed groundworks.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

No features, deposits or finds of archaeological significance were observed during a watching brief on groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling and garage and modified entrance at Ingleboro, St Helen's Lane, Corbridge.

The excavations had no impact upon the cultural heritage of Corbridge.

No recommendations are made with respect to the present scheme. Any further development work in the vicinity should be considered on its own merits.



Illus. 10: View from the south of the access gate to Ingleboro from St Helen's Lane during the first phase of construction work in October 2007.



Illus. 11: View of the vertically-cut west-facing bank side of the access road into Ingleboro from St Helen's Lane, October 2007.



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Illus. 21: View of Ingleboro site from the north during the second phase of construction work, February 6th 2008.

6.1.3. All archaeological staff will be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles and will familiarise themselves with the results of any previous assessment of the site prior to the start of work on site. All staff must be aware of the work required under the specification and they will understand the aims and methodologies of the project

6.1.4. The Developer will allow all the appointed Archaeological Contractors full access to the site in order to fulfill their commissions, subject only to safety requirements.

6.1.5. The Developer will allow the NCCCT Archaeologist all reasonable access to the site for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological scheme, subject only to safety requirements.

6.1.6. The archaeological consultant appointed to manage the execution of the scheme shall ensure that:

i. the appropriate parties are informed of the objectives, timetable and progress of the archaeological work

ii. the progress of the work is adequately and effectively monitored and the results of this are communicated to the appropriate parties.

iii. significant problems in the execution of the scheme are communicated at the earliest opportunity to the appropriate parties in order to effect a resolution of the problems.

6.2.7. The archaeological consultant appointed to manage the execution of the scheme will carry, and will ensure that other archaeological contractors involved in the scheme carry, appropriate levels of insurance cover in respect of Employers Liability, Public and Third Party Liability, Professional Indemnity.

6.2.8. The archaeological consultant appointed to manage the execution of the scheme will liaise with the appointed CDM Planning Supervisor and prepare or arrange for the preparation of a Safety Plan for the archaeological work.

6.2.9. The archaeological consultant appointed to manage the execution of the scheme will prepare an estimate of the cost of executing the scheme in consultation with the Developer and appropriate specialist advisors. Maximum contingency sums will be identified for certain parts of the post-excavation work. These estimates will be used as a baseline from which to assess the tenders received to execute the scheme.

6.2 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

6.2.1 Watching Brief

All sections and deposits exposed during trenching as part of the main development or during service installation will be systematically examined to locate, excavate, sample and record previously unidentified archaeological features which may survive within the site and are at threat from development works.

Should any archaeological features be identified, sufficient time will be allowed to sample, fully excavate or record these features within practicable operational parameters.

Should additional staff members be deemed necessary by the archaeological contractor to excavate and record revealed archaeological features, this would be in agreement with the developer and the planning authority.

A full and proper record, using drawings, photography and written records of discrete features, as appropriate will be made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Written descriptions should comprise both factual data and interpretative elements. The recording work should be sufficient to allow interpretation of the material and the preparation of a report on the site.

6.2.3 Finds Processing

All processing, storage and conservation of finds will be carried out in compliance with the relevant IFA and UKIC (United Kingdom Institute of Conservation) guidelines.

Artefact collection and discard policies must be fit for the defined purpose.

Finds will be scanned to assess the date range of the assemblage with particular reference to pottery. Artefacts will be used to establish the potential for all categories of finds, should further archaeological work be necessary.

All bulk finds which are not discarded must be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling must be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds must be appropriately bagged and boxed and recorded. This process must be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

All small finds must be recorded as individual items. All small finds must be appropriately packaged. Vulnerable objects must be specially packaged, and textiles, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process must be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.

Assessment and analysis of artefacts and environmental samples must be carried out by an approved, named specialist.

The deposition and disposal of artefacts must be agreed with the legal owner and recipient museum prior to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides to retain artefacts, adequate provision must be made for recording them.

During and after the excavation and watching brief, all objects must be stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this should include controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage must have appropriate security provision.

6.2.4 Production of Site Archive

The site archive will be prepared to the standard specified in MAP 2 and in accordance with the UKIC guidelines. This should include the indexing, ordering, quantification and checking for consistency of all original context records, object records, bulk finds records, sample records, skeleton records (if recovered), photographic records, drawing records, photographs, drawings, level books, site note-books, spot dating records, and conservation records. Ensuring that all artefacts and ecofacts recovered and retained from the site are packed and stored in the appropriate materials and conditions and that all their associated records are complete. This will be completed by the end of the field work. A summary account of the context record will be included and written by the supervising archaeologist.

The archive will be submitted to the County HER within 6 months of the end of the fieldwork. The location of artefacts must be stated in the archive.

6.2.5 Production of Final Report

Two copies of the report will be supplied to NCCCT, one bound, the other unbound, as well as additional copies for the client and AP archive. The report will be page-numbered and should include as a minimum the following:

A summary statement of methodologies used.

A location plan of the site. A general location plan of all trenches, etc.

Plans and sections of all features excavated.

A summary statement of results.

A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds.

Conclusions

Recommendations

Copies of the report will be provided within two months of the completion of fieldwork to the developer, the NCCCT archaeologist and the NCCCT HER officer.

6.2.6 Oasis

The online Oasis form will be completed and submitted in relation to this project.

6.2.7 Publication of Results of Archaeological Works

The contractor will, at the request of the NNPA archaeologist, prepare a summary of the results of the investigation for publication in an agreed journal.