

The Keep, Conisbrough Castle, Conisbrough, South Yorkshire: An Archaeological Watching Brief



CS Archaeology
March 2014

On behalf of: English Heritage
37 Tanner Row
York
YO1 6WP

National Grid Reference (NGR): SK 514 988

Project Number: 135

Oasis Reference No: csarchae1-175319

Fieldwork and report by: Chris Scurfield BA (Hons)

Pottery Assessment by: Dr C G Cumberpatch

Timing: Fieldwork March 2014
Report March 2014

Enquiries to: [CS Archaeology](#)
Manor Farm House
Manor Occupation Road
Royston
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S71 4SG

T: 01226 722571
M: 07963 586767
E: chrisscurfield@yahoo.com

Frontispiece: view of the cable trench and the SE buttress

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a narrow trench to house a lightening conductor cable and associated electrical updates within Conisbrough Castle's Keep, Conisbrough, South Yorkshire.
- 1.2 The watching brief consisted of the examination of a narrow cable trench which was 'U' shaped in plan and extended around the Keep's southeast buttress.
- 1.3 The trench consisted of disturbed and redeposited top soil. Artefacts recovered from the top soil included pottery, animal bone and a potentially significant piece of lead work. The pottery was assessed and the oldest sherds were found to date to the 14th or early 15th centuries. In the trench section a coursed limestone wall was exposed and was left in situ. This wall may represent a previously unknown wall or building.
- 1.4 The fragment of lead work appears to have probably functioned as a window ventilator and dates to the medieval period. It may provide a particular insight into the medieval appearance of the Keep's windows.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Conisbrough Castle is situated on the northern side of the town of Conisbrough, South Yorkshire, approx. 8km to the south-west of Doncaster (**Figures 1-2**). The castle is strategically positioned on a natural spur of land overlooking the river Don to the north.
- 2.2 Conisbrough Castle is a scheduled monument held in the Guardianship of the state. The site is owned by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council and managed on their behalf by English Heritage.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Conisbrough Castle dates to the 11th century when a motte and bailey castle was built, this was superseded by a masonry castle, erected in the late 12th century. The initial castle was earth and timber construction built by William de Warren, son-in-law of William I. This passed through various hands until it came into the possession of Hamelin Plantagenet, the half-brother of Henry II. It was Hamelin who was responsible for the majority of the stone structures present on the site today; including the great Keep. The surviving masonry elements of the castle are actually the remains of a much larger work and represent only the inner ward; a further outer ward probably existed towards the west. The inner ward is surrounded by a curtain wall with solid towers, with earlier stonework being defined by roughly dressed stone blocks. There are the remains of the gatehouse situated on the south-west side of the ward which appears to have consisted of a pair of towers flanking a gate passage the entrance to which was protected by a ditch and drawbridge. The entrance to the gate was further protected by a barbican; a pair of parallel walls with a further ditch and drawbridge.
- 3.2 Conisbrough Castle is a significant example of a 12th century castle, particularly as the site contains a keep of unusual and innovative design in an excellent state of preservation. This form of keep is a rare survival in England, with only four other comparable examples, Odiham, Orford, Chilham and Tickhill. The castle remains, are significant in that they demonstrate the development of castle architecture at a critical period. The use of solid towers in the curtain wall for example, is a particular innovation of the 12th century. Similarly the 14th century barbican is a further example of the adoption of new means of providing defence. The hall and service buildings located within the inner ward are of some significance in that they show the development of the domestic nature of castle design and use, from the 12th century to the end of the medieval period.
- 3.3 Seen from the outside the Keep is a cylindrical tower with a splayed base clasped by six wedge-shaped buttresses also with splayed bases. These buttresses are so large that they are in effect turrets and indeed they rise above the level of the top of the keep proper. The whole building is faced with very finely worked ashlar blocks of varying size regularly coursed and, between the buttresses, dressed to the curve (Thompson 1971).
- 3.4 As with most Norman keeps the entry was on the first floor, level with the wall-walk of the curtains. The door was reached by a flight of stone steps at right angles to it, the gap at the top being spanned by a movable bridge. The lower courses of the original work can be seen at the base of the modern staircase. The doorway has a

joggled lintel below a segmental relieving arch; the door was secured by two bars, the sockets for which remain. A widening vaulted passage through the 15ft (4.6m) thickness of the wall leads to the first-floor room. This was originally unlit except by the light from the open door. The circular aperture in the centre of the floor is still the only access to an unlit vaulted room below. The well in the centre of the ground-floor room allowed water to be drawn from inside the Keep. The upper rooms become successively larger (*ibid*).

- 3.5 A wide vaulted stairway on the east side of the entry passage features two splayed lights and leads to the principal room in the keep - the lord's *camera* or great chamber. The room is dominated on the north side by a great hooded fireplace with joggled lintel resting on triple-clustered columns with decorated capitals. Next to this is a recessed layer or wash-basin and opposite is a small doorway leading to a garderobe and a large vaulted window recess with stone benches and a window with two rectangular lights (*ibid*).
- 3.6 The doorway to the staircase leading to the top floor is placed opposite the entry, partly perhaps in order not to weaken the wall of the keep by having too much hollowness on one side. This stair case is vaulted and lit by two lights large enough to serve also as archer's slits. The third-floor room served as the lord's private retiring room and bedchamber. The fireplace is similar to the one below but smaller. Above it can be seen the base of the chimney-stack for them both. On the west side is a window also similar to that below, on the east a basin in a trefoil-headed recess. To the right of the entry a flat-headed door leads into the chapel. This is set in the thickness of one of the buttresses, from which it takes its elongated hexagonal plan. At its east is a round-headed slit window decorated with a roll moulding and set beneath a round arch decorated with chevrons which rests on small edged columns with moulded capitals. On either side are circular apertures containing quatrefoil lights decorated with pellets on the outside (these are visible only from the ground). The vaulted roof is divided into two unequal parts by an edged semi-circular rib with deep chevron mouldings and resting on either side on columns with decorated capitals. The two compartments have diagonal ribs with moulded bosses at the intersections and they rest on shafts with decorated capitals at each end of the chapel and on moulded corbels in the middle. On the north and south sides are piscinas with trefoil heads, and in the north-west corner a doorway leads into a small sacristy lit by a single window and containing a trefoil-headed recess.
- 3.7 The use of quatrefoil and trefoil pattern of decoration is significant with respect to the watching brief since the lead ventilator features both patterns in its perforated decoration.
- 3.8 Conisbrough Castle has been the subject of a small number of archaeological investigations and historical publications;

Field Archaeology Services (Jonathan Clark and Nicola Toop), *Conisbrough Castle, South Yorkshire: Conservation and Development Strategy*, commissioned by English Heritage, 2009.

Johnson, J. S. 1980. Excavations at Conisbrough castle 1973-77 (in) *Yorkshire Archaeological Journal* 52: 59-88

Johnson, J. S. 1989. *Conisbrough Castle Guidebook*, (second edition).

Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd., 2009. *Conisbrough Castle, South Yorkshire - Analytical Earthwork Survey Report*, commissioned by English Heritage.

WYAS. 1997. Report on excavation on land behind lodge building, Conisbrough Castle.

CS Archaeology 2011, *The Lodge, Conisbrough Castle, Conisbrough, South Yorkshire: An Archaeological Evaluation*

CS Archaeology (forthcoming), *The Lodge, Conisbrough Castle, Conisbrough, South Yorkshire: An Archaeological Strip and Record and Watching Brief Evaluation*

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

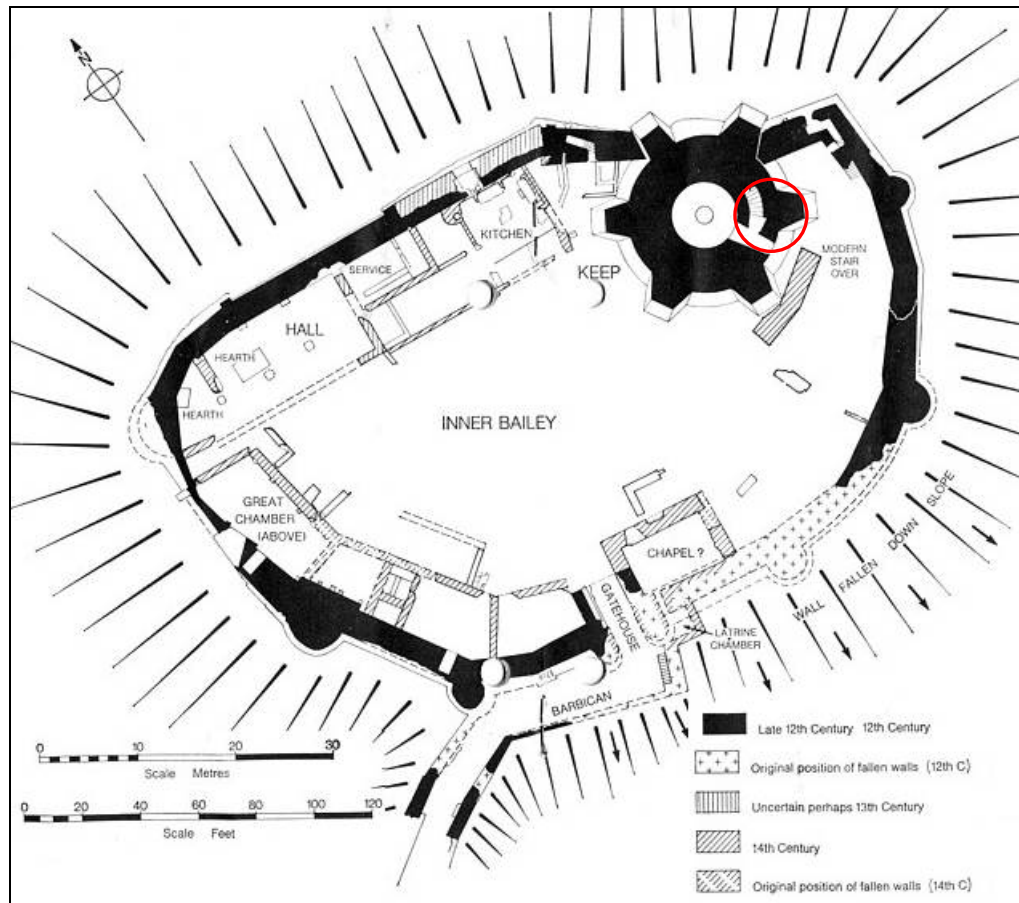
- 4.1 There is the potential for archaeological deposits in the area affected by the proposal. The objectives of this watching brief are:
- to identify any archaeological features or deposits in the given area, including environmental aspects;
 - to determine the nature, depth, stratigraphic complexity, level of preservation and date of any archaeological features or deposits in the given area.

5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 This has been carried out in accordance with the Project Design issued by CS Archaeology in March 2014 (Appendix 1).
- 5.2 A plan of the cable trench is recorded in **Figure 2**. Written records of the contexts were made on *pro-forma* recording cards and have been summarised in Appendix 2. A photographic record was made of all deposits in Black and White silver based film using a 35mm single lens reflex camera. Colour digital images were taken in order to illustrate the report and supplement the archive. All the photographs have been included in the site archive (Appendix 2), which will be deposited with Doncaster Museum.
- 5.3 The cable trench was 0.4m wide and c.0.45m deep and was 'U' shaped in plan and extended around the splayed southeast buttress base for 10.25m. The trench was hand excavated and the up-cast was constantly scanned for artefacts (**Plates 1-3**).
- 5.4 Although pottery from the excavation came from a disturbed and redeposited top soil [100], the assemblage was assessed, and was characterised by a number of later medieval (14th /15th centuries) and post medieval/modern sherds (Appendix 3).
- 5.5 Significant archaeological deposits included a coursed limestone wall in the side of the section, but no other significant archaeological deposits were revealed and no environmental sampling was undertaken.
- 5.6 Mr M Douglas of English Heritage and Mr A Lines of South Yorkshire was kept informed of progress and the results of the watching brief.

6. RESULTS

- 6.1 The upcast soils from the trench consisted of a largely disturbed top soil [100] and contained a number of artefacts which were from a largely unstratified deposit. A marked colour change towards the keep wall was characterised by reddish brown silty clay [101], but no artefacts were retrieved from this context ([101]).
- 6.2 Larger stone fragments of limestone were revealed to the northeast corner of the cable trench, and a more deliberate wall [102] was revealed in the side of the trench (**Figure 3: Plates 4 & 5**). The wall lay 0.3m below the surface and consisted of at least two courses of limestone bonded with lime mortar. The author knows of no known building in this area of the inner bailey (see plan below) and this could potentially represent a medieval wall or building to the east of the keep. Further work is required to confirm this wall's nature and extent.



Plan of the Inner Bailey (Thompson 1971)

- 6.3 Artefacts from the topsoil context [100], included: oyster shells (8 fragments) medieval/post medieval and modern pottery sherds (194g) metalwork nails and modern nut and bolt (234g), clay pipe stem, glass bottle fragments and butchered bone, predominantly cattle (231g), pig (47g) and a chicken bone (2g). Despite the disturbed nature of the top soil [100] the pottery was assessed (Appendix 3). This assessment confirmed the mixed nature of the deposit spanning the later medieval to modern periods.

- 6.4 Of even more potential significance was the perforated lead object (**Plates 8-9**) which was recovered from just below the surface (**Figure 3: Plate 3 & 6**). It represents three sides of a probable square or rectangular window ventilator/grille and weighs 190g. It is made from sheet lead, 2.5mm thick, and is 172mm wide x 73mm long. Striations to the obverse side of the artefact (**Plate 8**), form a series of squares and these represent the original layout lines (**Figure 4**) onto which a pattern was cut. The foliate pattern was formed through cutting or chiselling, and close examination of the edges suggest an uneven tool edge. In one area, the central small trefoil, the chisel has clearly overcut the intended design, which evidences the use of too large a chisel for the intricate design. There are 15 circular drill holes along the edge with a diameter of c. 6mm. These drill holes form an undulating alignment at odds with the adjacent layout lines, suggesting that the work of a secondary craftsmen or apprentice.
- 6.5 The Portable Antiquities Scheme has recorded 12 lead ventilators, but there are no examples from Yorkshire (pers. comm. Ms A. Downes¹). Ventilators are usually cast in one piece, this example from Conisbrough is unusual in that it was manufactured from a flat sheet of lead. The design was then planned by the use of construction lines (**Figure 4**) and the bespoke foliate design featuring both trefoils and quatrefoils cut out and set within a perforated (drilled) border. The use of trefoils and quatrefoils reflects the design of the Keep's quatrefoil lights (sect. 3.6). There was no effort made to clean off the burrs suggesting this side represented the external side of the window.
- 6.6 Decorative ventilating panels from windows have been found on high status monastic sites dating from the 13th to the 15th centuries. They are known from royal and archiepiscopal palaces and continued in use in farmhouses until the 17th century (Internet Source 1).

¹ Ms A. Downes is the Finds Liaison Officer for South and West Yorkshire

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Although the watching brief was a scale operation with the truncation of superficial largely unstratified deposits it has revealed a potentially unknown structure within the Inner Bailey and also has probably provided evidence for ventilated window grilles in the Castle's Keep, which may have been part of the castle's original 12th century design as envisaged by Hamelin Plantagenet.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

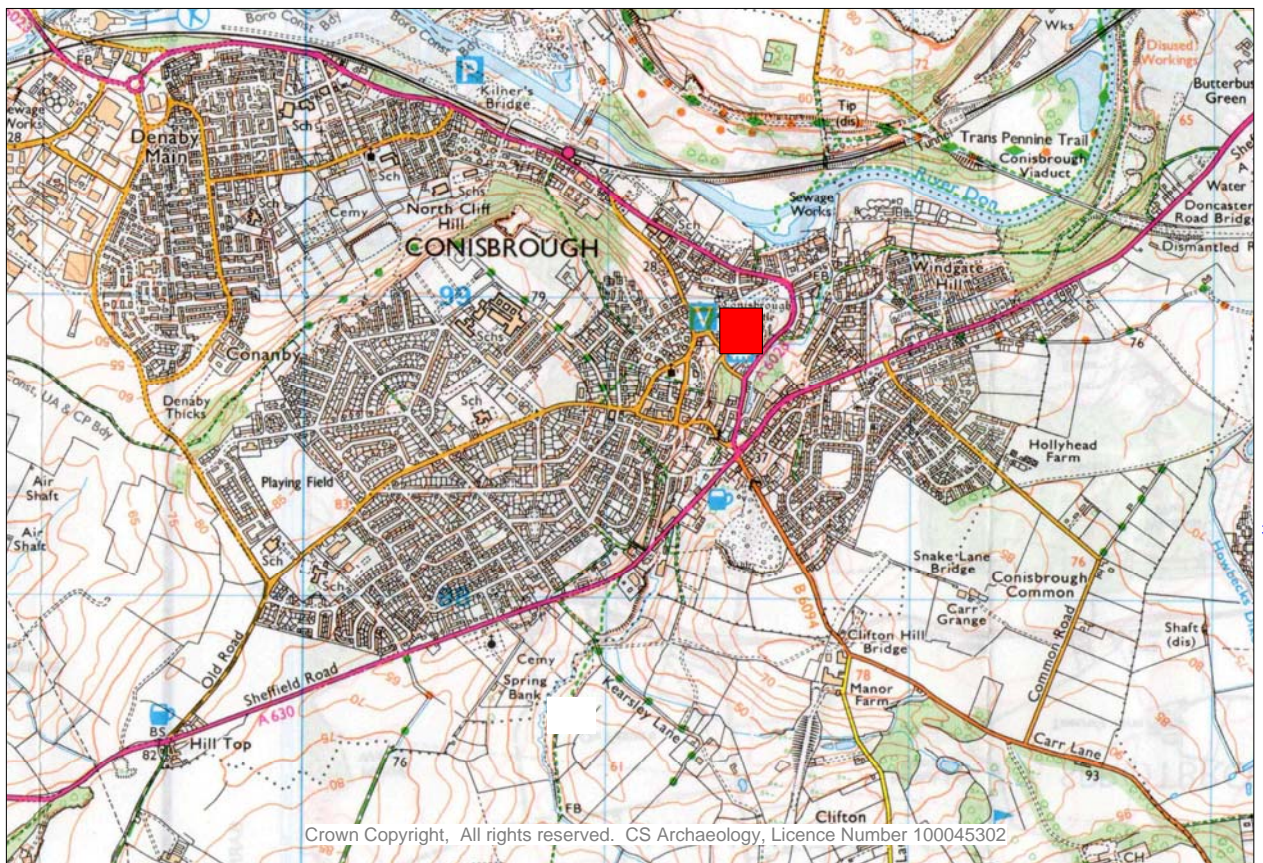
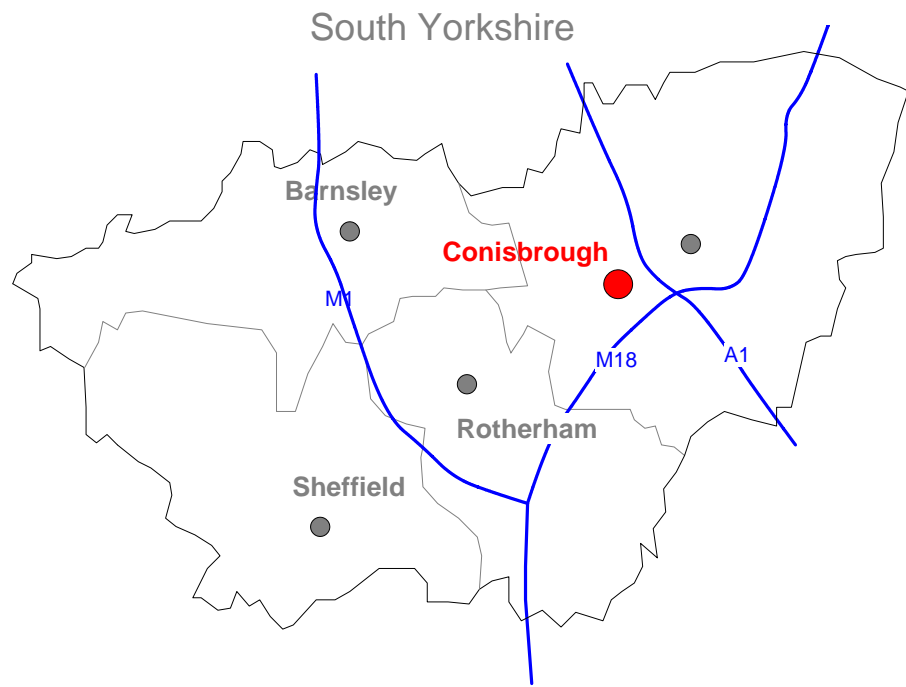
Thompson M W, 1971, Conisbrough Castle Brochure


Internet Source 1: <http://antiquities.7pillarsowisdom.co.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/118207>

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Ms C Dearlove (English Heritage) for commissioning this work and to Ms A Downes (WYAAS) and Mr M Douglas (English Heritage) for their comments and assistance.

FIGURES



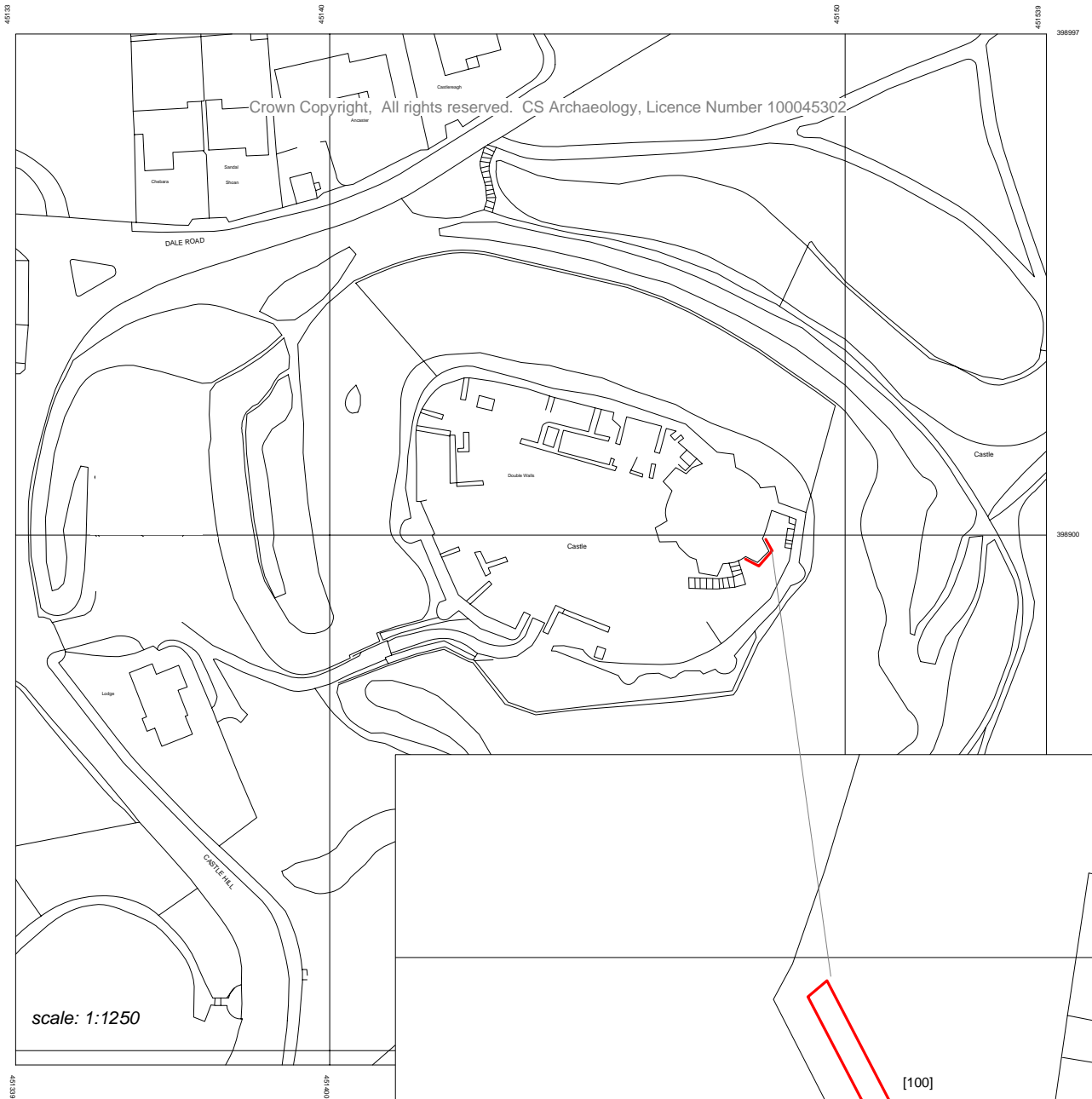
 for inset see Figure 2

The Keep, Conisbrough Castle,
Conisbrough, South Yorkshire:
An Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 1: Location Map

scale: 1:25000

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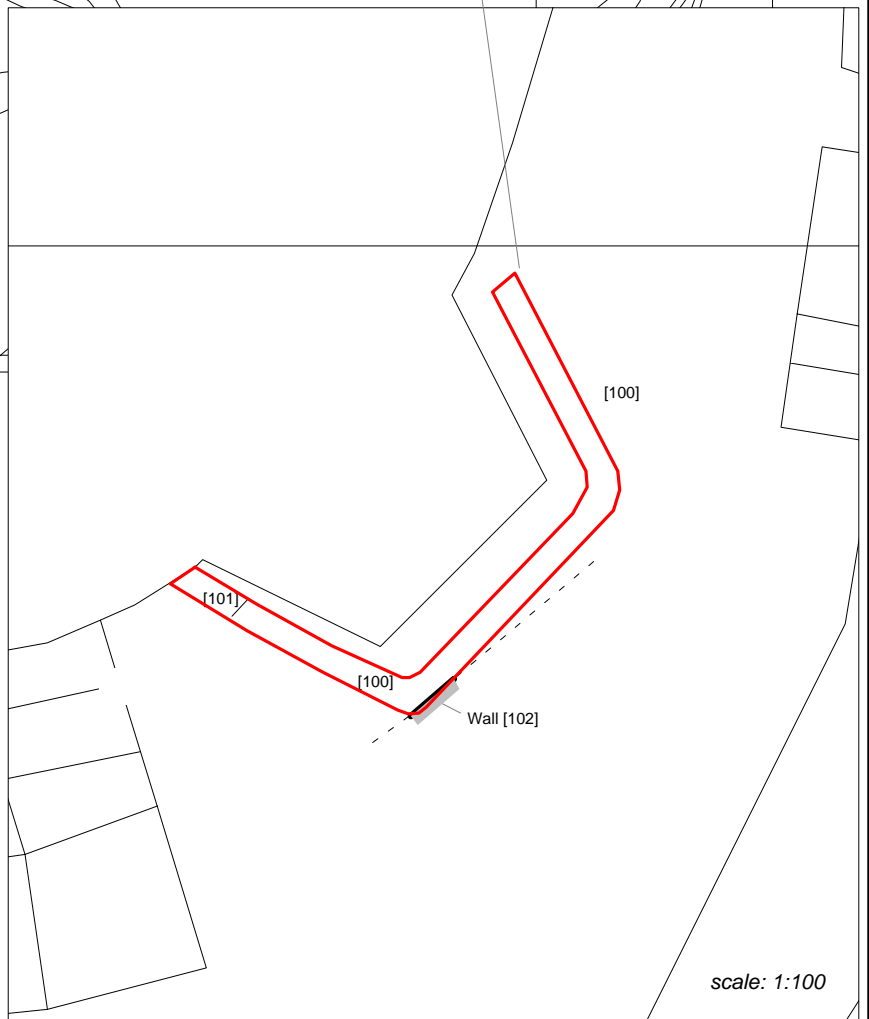


Crown Copyright 2013



Key

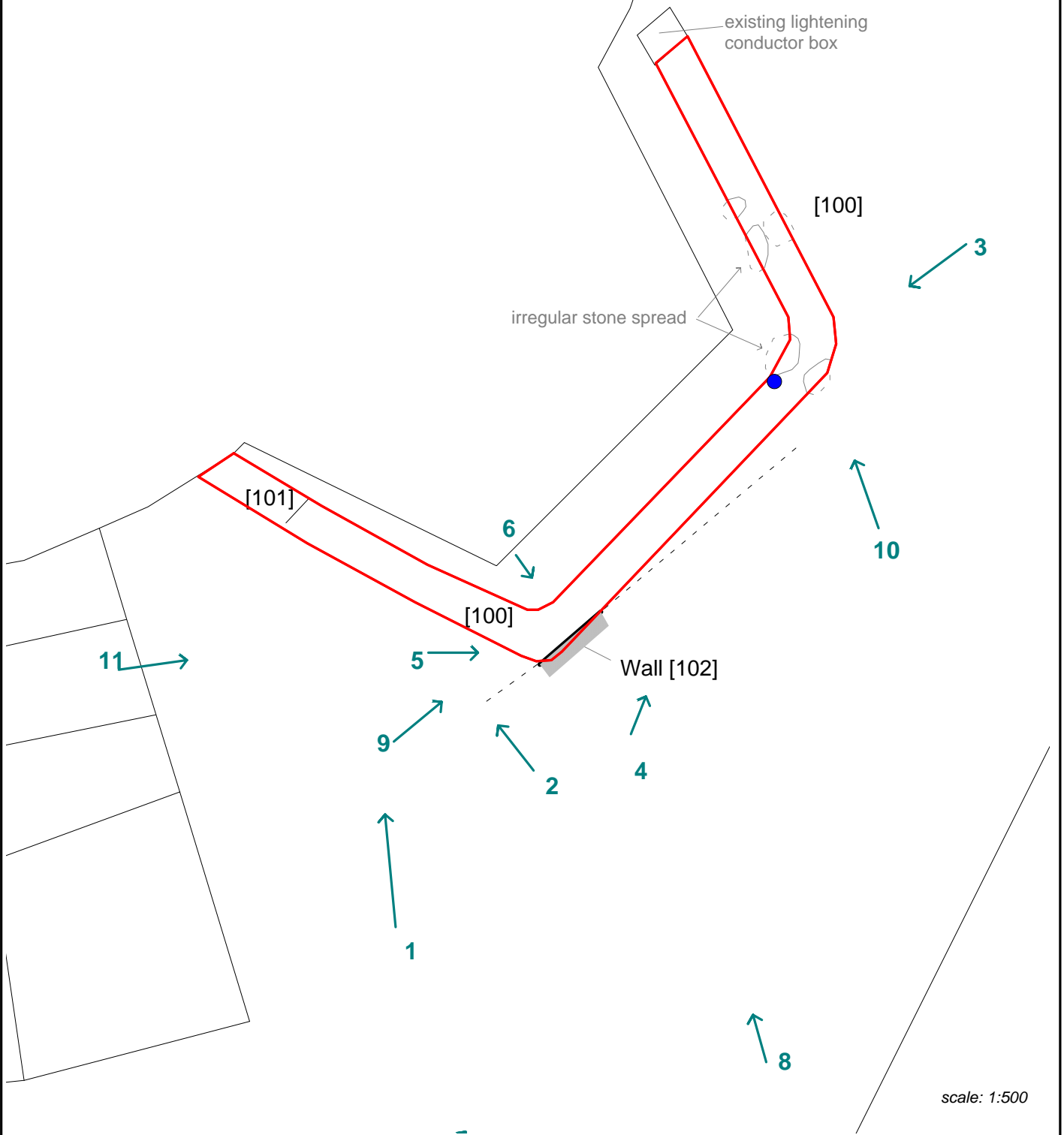
— lightening cable trench (c. 13m)

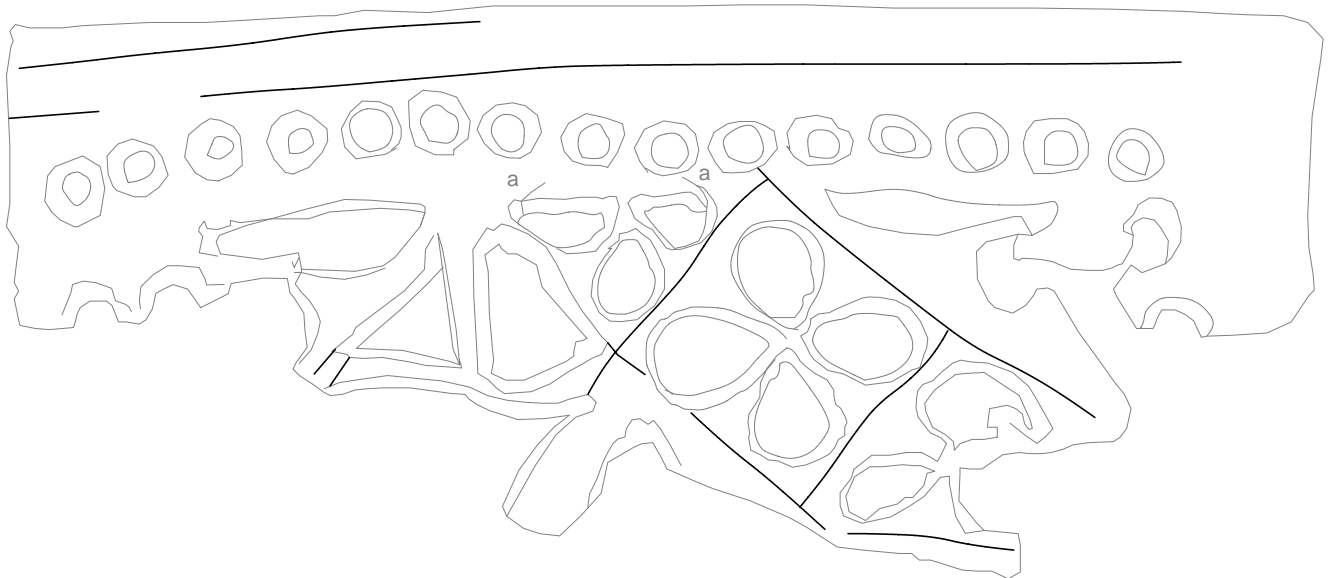




Key

- lightening cable trench (c. 13m)
- findspot, SF1





a - over cut marks

scale: 1:1

PLATES

with photographic position Nos. in italics and descriptions

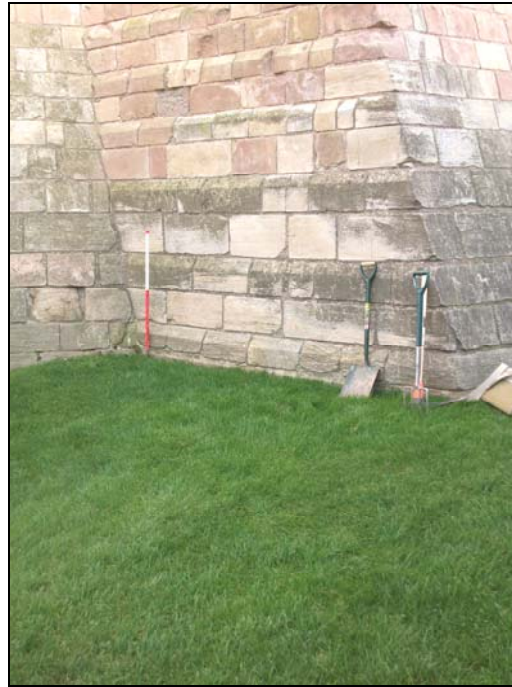


Plate 1, 7: pre-excitation view of the proposed trench, from the south (1m scale)



Plate 2, 2: excavation view of the trench, from the southeast (1m scale)



Plate 3, 3: general view of the cable trench, from the northeast



Plate 4, 5: view of wall [102] running on a SW-NE alignment beneath the NW facing baulk, from the west



Plate 5, 6: view of the wall [102] from the northwest



Plate 6, 8: general view of the trench, from the southeast



Plate 7, 9: general view of the trench linking to the existing lightning conductor, from the south southeast



Plate 8, 12: *perforated lead artefact (Obverse)*



Plate 9, 13: *perforated lead artefact (Reverse)*

APPENDICES

**A WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AT
THE KEEP, CONISBROUGH CASTLE,
CONISBROUGH, SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

CS Archaeology

March 2014

0 SUMMARY

- 0.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is in response to a condition placed on Scheduled Monument Consent by English Heritage. This condition seeks to record any archaeology encountered during the excavation of a cable trench to facilitate the insertion of an lightning conductor.
- 0.2 This condition has been imposed because the Proposed Development Area (PDA) lies within a scheduled Monument with nationally important archaeological potential, principally from the medieval period. The proposed excavation could impact upon areas of unknown archaeology.
- 0.3 This WSI proposes that an archaeological monitoring is undertaken. This will ascertain the nature and possible extent of the PDA's potential archaeological resource.
- 0.4 The results from the archaeological monitoring will allow for the recording and potential sampling of any archaeological deposits within the PDA and will inform present and future management decisions.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Details

- 1.1.1 *Site Name:* Conisbrough Castle, Conisbrough
- 1.1.2 *Location:* Castle Hill, Conisbrough, DN12 3BU
- 1.1.3 *Status:* Scheduled Monument
- 1.1.4 *Grid reference:* SK 514 988
- 1.1.5 *Area of site:* 0.0071 Ha
- 1.1.6 *Purpose of the work:* to record and potentially sample the PDAs archaeological resource this will establish the presence/absence, character, extent, state of preservation and date of any archaeological deposits within the site highlighted in **Figure 1**.

1.2 Archaeological Background

- 1.2.1 Conisbrough Castle dates to the 11th century when a motte and bailey castle was built, this was superseded by a masonry castle was erected in the late 12th century. The initial castle was earth and timber construction built by William de Warren, son-in-law of William I. This passed through various hands until it came into the possession of Hamelin Plantagenet, the half-brother of Henry II. It was Hamelin who was responsible for the majority of the stone structures present on the site today; including the great keep. The surviving masonry elements of the castle are actually the remains of a much larger work and represent only the inner ward; a further outer ward probably existed towards the west. The inner ward is surrounded by a curtain wall with solid towers, with earlier stonework being defined by roughly dressed stone blocks. There are the remains of the gatehouse situated on the south-west side of the ward which appears to have consisted of a pair of towers flanking a gate passage the entrance to which was protected by a ditch and drawbridge. The entrance to the gate was further protected by a barbican; a pair of parallel wall with a further ditch and drawbridge.
- 1.2.2 Conisbrough Castle is a significant example of a 12th century castle, particularly as the site contains a keep of unusual and innovative design in an excellent state of preservation. This form of keep is a rare survival in England, with only four other comparable examples, Odiham, Orford, Chilham and Tickhill. The castle remains other than the keep are significant in that they demonstrate the development of castle architecture at a critical period. The use of solid towers in the curtain wall for example, is a particular innovation of the 12th century. Similarly the 14th century barbican is a further example of the adoption of new means of providing defence. The hall and service buildings located within the inner ward are of some significance in that they show the development of the domestic nature of castle design and use from the 12th century to the end of the medieval period.

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 To identify any archaeological features or deposits in the given area, including environmental aspects;
- 2.2 To determine the nature, depth, stratigraphic complexity, level of preservation and date of any archaeological features or deposits in the given area.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Monitoring (Watching Brief)

- 3.1.1 This project will be undertaken in a manner consistent with the guidance in MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and professional standards and guidance (IFA, 2010).
- 3.1.2 CS Archaeology will ensure that services are located prior to excavation by means of site plans.
- 3.1.3 Mechanical excavation, ideally using a toothless ditching bucket will be monitored under constant archaeological supervision down to the required construction depth.
- 3.1.4 The removed material will be scanned using a metal detector by the site archaeologist ensuring that all metal finds are located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection will be carried out following the Code of Practice in the Treasure Act of 1996.
- 3.1.5 Should any human remains be revealed these will be initially left *in situ*. The Coroner's Office will be informed only if the remains appear to have been buried for less than 100 years. If the remains prove to be archaeological and have to be removed, a licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice and relevant regulations.
- 3.1.6 All deposits will be fully recorded on standard context sheets, photographs and conventionally-scaled plans and sections. All features will be planned at 1:20, with individual features being planned at 1:10 where additional detail is required. All feature sections sampled will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. The elevation of the underlying natural where encountered will also be recorded. Even if no archaeology is recorded the stratigraphy will still be recorded. The limits of excavation will be shown in all plans and sections, including where these limits are coterminous with context boundaries.
- 3.1.7 Archaeological features to be affected will be investigated – discrete features will initially be half-sectioned; linear features will be excavated to 20% of their extent, not less than 1m in extent. Archaeological contexts at junctions or interruptions in linear features will be sufficiently excavated for the relationship between components to be established.
- 3.1.8 All finds that are 'treasure' will be reported to the coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act Code of Practice (1997).
- 3.1.9 Attention will be paid to artefact retrieval and conservation, ancient technology, dating of deposits and the assessment of potential for the scientific analysis of soil, sediments, biological remains, ceramics and stone.
- 3.1.10 All artefacts and ecofacts visible during the excavations will be collected and processed, unless variations to this are agreed by the archaeological monitor (Tees Archaeology). In some cases sampling may be most appropriate.
- 3.1.11 Finds will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in First Aid for finds (Watkins and Neal, 1998). In accordance with the procedures of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991), all iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins) and a

sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy should be X-radiographed before assessment. Where there is evidence for industrial activity, large technological residues should be collated by hand, with separate samples collected for micro-slags. In these instances, the guidance of Bayley *et al* (2001) will be followed.

3.2 Sampling Strategy

3.2.1 If the archaeological deposits are of sufficient interest Environmental sampling may be recommended in consultation with Tees Archaeology. Different sampling strategies will be employed according to established research targets and the perceived importance of the deposits under investigation. CS Archaeology conventionally recovers three main categories of sample:

- i) Routine Soil Samples; a representative 500g sample from every excavated soil context on site. This sample is used in the characterisation of the sediment, potentially through pollen analysis, particle size analysis, pH analysis, phosphate analysis and loss-on-ignition;
- ii) Standard Bulk Samples; a representative 60-70 litre sample from every excavated soil context on site, in accordance with English Heritage Guidelines (2011). This sample is used, through floatation sieving, to recover a sub-sample of charred macroplant material, faunal remains and artefacts;
- iii) Purposive or Special Samples; a sample from a sediment which is determined, in field, to either have the potential for dating (wood charcoal for radiocarbon dating or in situ hearths for magnetic susceptibility dating) or for the recovery of enhanced palaeo-environmental information (waterlogged sediments, peat columns, etc).

3.2.2 Samples will be taken for scientific dating, principally radiocarbon (C14) and archaeomagnetic dating, where dating of artefacts is insecure and where dating is a significant issue for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies.

3.2.3 Environmental samples will be collected from primary and secondary contexts, where applicable, from a range of representative features, including pit and ditch fills, postholes, floor deposits, ring gullies and other negative features. Positive features should also be sampled. Sampling will also be considered for those features where dating by other methods (e.g. pottery and artefacts) is uncertain. Animal bones will be hand collected, and from bulk samples collected from contexts containing a high density of bones.

3.2.4 Standard Bulk Samples of 60 litres or more will be recovered from every archaeologically significant deposit as part of a comprehensive environmental sampling strategy.

3.2.5 Within each significant archaeological horizon a minimum number of features required to meet the aims of the project will be hand excavated. Pits and postholes normally will be sampled by half-sectioning although some features may require complete excavation. Linear features will be sectioned as appropriate. No deposits will be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable. However, the full depth of archaeological deposits across the entire site will be assessed. Even in the case where no remains have been located the stratigraphy will be recorded.

3.2.6 Any excavation, whether by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features or deposits which appear to be demonstrably worthy of preservation in situ.

3.3 Photography

- 3.3.1 A general digital photographic record of the monitoring will be made using a digital camera at not less than 12 Mp.
- 3.3.2 Black and White photographs will also be taken of significant archaeology and will supplement the archive, copies will be included in the digital archive. All photographs will be supplied to English Heritage and will form part of the site archive.

3.4 Site Monitoring

- 3.4.1 English Heritage will be notified at least one week in advance of the monitoring works, so that arrangements for monitoring the work can be made.
- 3.4.2 Monitoring will be arranged so that all excavated areas can be inspected in a clean and fully exposed condition.

3.5 Health and Safety

- 3.5.1 CS Archaeology will operate with due regard to health and safety according to the Health and Safety Act and its subsequent amendments. CS Archaeology's Health and Safety Policy is available upon request.

3.6 Post –Recording Work and Report Preparation

- 3.6.1 Once the field recording work has been completed, a full report of the results of the monitoring will be completed. The post-excavation assessment of material will be undertaken in accordance with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991). The report will include: background information, methods, detailed results, grid references, conclusion and discussion.
- 3.6.2 The monitoring will include a phased interpretation of the site, if possible.
- 3.6.3 The monitoring report will also contain a detailed context index to the archive.
- 3.6.4 If required the results of the palaeo-environmental assessment will outline the potential of the samples and will be included in the monitoring report.
- 3.6.5 The report will provide an interpretation of the results, placing them in local and regional context.
- 3.6.6 A copy of this WSI will be included as an appendix to the final report.

3.7 The Archive

- 3.7.1 All original site records, post-excavation material (paper based, photographic and digital), photography together with finds and sample residues will be transferred to Doncaster Museum.

3.8 Report Submission

- 3.8.1 Copies of the completed report will be submitted in both hard and digital formats to:
- The Client, English Heritage;
 - Mr A Lines SYAS.

3.9 Submission and Deposition of the Archive

- 3.9.1 The archive, including a copy of the report, will be compiled, indexed and then offered for deposition with Doncaster Museum.

3.10 Publicity

- 3.10.1 Provision will be made for publicising the results of the work locally, and an OASIS form will be completed for the project.

3.9 References

- Bayley J., et al. 2001, *Archaeometalurgy, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines*, English Heritage
English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP2)
English Heritage, 2002, *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* [2002/01]
Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*
Institute of Archaeologists, 2010, *By-Laws Code of Conduct*, Reading
Treasure Act, 1996, *Code of Practice*
Watkinson D. & Neal V., 1998, *First Aid for Finds* (3rd edition), RESCUE & the Archaeological Section of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation.
Yorkshire, the Humber and the North East 2009, *A Region Statement for Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process*

Any comments on this WSI please address to Chris Scurfield at:

CS Archaeology
Hawnby House
Thornton Le Beans
Northallerton
DL6 3SW
E: chrisscurfield@yahoo.com
M: 07963 586767

Appendix 2: Archive Inventory

PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER *Digital colour at 12 mega-pixel resolution*

No.	Plate	Description	From
1	1	pre-excitation view of the proposed trench	S
2	2	excavation view of the cable trench	SE
3	3	general view of the cable trench	NE
4	-	General view	SSW
5	4	view of the wall [102] proposed trench	W
6	5	view of the wall [102] proposed trench	NW
7	-	general view	SW
8	6	general view of the trench	SE
9	-	Post excavation view of the cable trench	SW
10	7	general view of the cable trench linking to the existing lightening conductor	SSE
11		General view from the foot bridge	W
12	8	Perforated Lead artefact ,(Obverse)	-
13	9	Perforated Lead artefact (Reverse)	-
14	-	Artefact assemblage [100]	-

Colour Slide

No.	Plate	Description	From
5	4	view of the wall [102] proposed trench	W
6	5	view of the wall [102] proposed trench	NW
7	-	general view	SW
8	6	general view of the trench	SE

Black & White (Ilford Delta Professional 400)

No.	Film/Fra me Nos.	Description	From
5	1/31-29	view of the wall [102]	W
7	1/28-27	general view	SW
8	1/26	general view of the trench	SE
12	1/13, 11	Perforated Lead artefact ,(Obverse)	-
13	1/14, 12	Perforated Lead artefact (Reverse)	-

CONTEXT REGISTER

Context No.	Location	Description
100	Cable trench	<i>Deposit:</i> turf and top soil 0.35m-<0.45m deep. Artefacts, miscellaneous range of medieval to modern pottery, iron work glass, animal bone and a perforated lead artefact. Overlies all.
101	"	<i>Deposit:</i> reddish brown silty clay, position at the keep end of the trench 0.1m deep. Underlies [100].
102	"	<i>Structure:</i> coursed limestone wall of at least two courses and still bonded with lime mortar, Underlies [101].

Appendix 3: Archive Inventory

Pottery from excavations at Conisbrough Castle (CSA-135)

C.G. Cumberpatch BA PhD
Freelance Archaeologist

Introduction

The pottery assemblage from Conisbrough Castle (CSA-135) was examined by the author on 28th March 2014. It consisted of fifteen sherds of pottery weighing 186 grams representing a maximum of fourteen vessels with two pieces of blue-painted asbestos or an asbestos-like compressed fibrous material and a fragment from a clay tobacco pipe. The details are summarised in Table 1.

The pottery

The earliest pottery in the assemblage was of medieval date and local Coal Measures type. Two sherds were present representing the two principal phases of production. The earlier of the two was a sherd of Coal Measures Whiteware dating to the 14th or early 15th century. The later sherd, Coal Measures Purple ware, dates to the 15th or 16th century, spanning the end of the medieval period and the start of the post-medieval period. Both types were in common use in the Castle (Cumberpatch 2013) and were manufactured locally, possibly at Firsby Hall Farm. A full account of the industry as it is currently understood can be found elsewhere (Cumberpatch 2004).

Late post-medieval activity was represented by a single sherd from a Redware bowl of late 17th or early 18th century date. Early modern pottery was somewhat more abundant with sherds of Slipware and Mottled Coarseware representing the vernacular tableware class and a small piece of Pearlware representing formal tablewares. Both of the vernacular wares are likely to have been of local manufacture but the origin of the Pearlware sherd is unclear.

Nineteenth century pottery was represented by a variety of utilitarian wares and tablewares. The former included part of a stoneware bottle or flagon and most probably two sherds of Brown Gazed Coarseware (although a mid to late 18th century date cannot be entirely ruled out for these sherds). Fragments of numerous stoneware vessels in the assemblages from earlier excavations on the site attest to its popularity as the venue for drinking and recreation during the 19th century and it is probably in this context that the sherd should be considered, together with the clay tobacco pipe stem.

The tablewares included sherds of Blue Banded ware and transfer printed Whiteware, all typical of 19th century assemblages although whether they represent vessels used on the site or evidence of the dumping of domestic refuse is unclear. The latter may be considered to be more likely.

Discussion

The small size of the assemblage and the fact that it consists of a mixed deposit spanning the later medieval to modern periods renders any detailed interpretation difficult; the assemblage would appear to represent material from disturbed medieval layers or features mixed with the debris from more recent use of the site. As such it contributes in a general way to our appreciation of the history of the castle but is inadequate as a source of more detailed information.

Archiving and curation

The assemblage forms part of the much larger archive of pottery from excavations on the site of the castle. As such it should be incorporated into the archive as a whole and deposited in an appropriate museum or repository where it will be available for future reference.

Bibliography

Cumberpatch, C.G. 2004 **Medieval and post-medieval pottery production in the Rotherham area**
http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/specColl/ceramics_eh_2003/

Cumberpatch, C.G. 2013 **Medieval and later pottery from excavations at Conisbrough Castle: A report on the material from excavations undertaken in the 1960s and 1970s** Unpublished archive report for English Heritage

Table 1

Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
100	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	30	1	BS	Pancheon	Brown glaze int only	C18th – C19th	
100	Brown Glazed Coarseware	1	14	1	BS	Hollow ware	Brown glaze int & ext	C18th – C19th	
100	Blue Banded ware	3	8	3	Rim & BS	Bowl	Blue and white bands & lines ext	C19th	
100	Coal Measures Purple ware	1	25	1	BS	Hollow ware	Patchy purple glaze ext	C15th – C16th	
100	Coal Measures Whiteware	2	45	1	BS	Hollow ware	Pale green glaze ext	C14th – EC15th	
100	Mottled Coarseware	1	4	1	BS	Hollow ware	Mottled glaze int & ext	C18th	
100	Pearlware	1	3	1	Ring foot base	Dish	Hand painted blue floral design int	c.1780 – c.1840	Angular ring foot base
100	Redware	1	25	1	Rim	Bowl	Clear glaze int only	C17th – EC18th	
100	Slipware	1	5	1	BS	Bowl	Trailed white & brown curvilinear design int	C18th	
100	Stoneware	1	12	1	BS	Bottle/flagon	Green glaze int & ext	M – LC19th	
100	TP Whiteware	1	9	1	BS	Plate	Willow	M – LC19th	
100	TP Whiteware	1	6	1	BS	Bowl	U/ID TP design	M – LC19th	
	Total	15	186	14					