Morpeth

Northumberland Extensive Urban Survey

NORTHUMBERLAND
Northumberland County Council

ENGLISH HERITAGE

www.northumberland.gov.uk

2009

CONTENTS

PART ONE: THE STORY OF MORPETH

PART TWO: ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF MORPETH

PART THREE: ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE PLANNING PROCESS

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location

PART ONE: THE STORY OF MORPETH

1   INTRODUCTION

1.1   Project Background

Towns and villages have been the focus of settlement in this country for many hundreds of years. Beneath our places of work, beneath our houses, gardens, streets and shops - beneath our feet - lie archaeological remains which can tell us how these settlements were once arranged and how people went about their lives. Awareness and appreciation of this resource can enhance our sense of place and identity and help us understand how the past has directly shaped our present and how we may use it to shape our future. To ensure that evidence for our urban past is not needlessly lost during development local and national government have put in place a range of statutory designations and policies to make sure that valuable remains are protected, preserved and understood.

In 1992, English Heritage published a national policy to help planners and developers deal with urban archaeology and any issues that might arise during the planning process (*Managing the Urban Archaeological Resource*). This led to the Extensive Urban Survey programme, where funds were made available to individual planning authorities to prepare material to explain how archaeology fits into the planning process and how issues raised can be best resolved. Morpeth is one of 20 towns in Northumberland to have been reviewed within this programme. The report is divided into three parts:

> **Part 1** summarises the development of Morpeth using documentary, cartographic and archaeological sources, and examines the evidence for the survival of archaeological remains in the town.

> **Part 2** assesses the archaeological potential of the town of Morpeth and how development could impact on significant archaeological resources which are of both national and local significance.

> **Part 3** looks at the national and local planning process with regard to archaeology and is designed to give the developer, planner, and general public, the framework within which development in an historic town will normally proceed.

The present survey encompasses the whole urban extent of the town of Morpeth. Material within this report includes information available on the Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER) at the time this report was updated. Information on the HER is constantly being updated and should be used as the primary source for historical and archaeological information.

1.2   Location, Geology and Topography

The market town of Morpeth lies on the River Wansbeck, a little to the east of the present course of the A1, in an undulating and wooded landscape between rural foot-hills to the west and low-lying coastal plain to the east. Morpeth is one of Northumberland's larger towns with a population of around 14,500 and is also the county town and administrative base for the county council. It lies 13 miles north of Newcastle, a similar distance to the south of Alnwick and 12 miles from the North Sea, extending over both north and south banks of the River Wansbeck where it takes a broad southward loop.

This disposition has been true of Morpeth from at least late-medieval times; the remains of two castles and the medieval parish church of St Mary lie to the south of the river whilst the civil core, laid out in burgage plots along main thoroughfares, lay to the north. As in medieval times, there are still two main axes to the town; Newgate Street (the A192) runs in from the north forming a 'T' junction with the east-west running Oldgate (to the west) and Bridge Street (to the east). The streets coalesce at the market place. The 19th century Telford Bridge continues from Bridge Street across the Wansbeck and the route joins with the Great North Road (the A197) a little way to the south. Damside, graduating into Dark Lane, runs north from the east end of Bridge Street.

Morpeth is a brick-built town, a fact which at least in part stemmed from a widespread and destructive fire in the late 17th century. The use of brick in rebuilds following the fire and new builds over the 18th century was a perfectly understandable economic choice given the availability of local clays and one which has given a distinctive feel to the town compared with most other historic settlements in the county which are sandstone built.

The underlying geology of Morpeth is Carboniferous sandstone with interleaving bands of shale and coal overlaid with a thick bed of boulder clay. This geology has resulted in the low, undulating topography characteristic of much of southeast Northumberland. Locally, along the river valley, are alluvial sands and gravels. The drainage pattern favoured the development of settlement at this spot; the Wansbeck is easily approached at Morpeth where the valleys of two tributary streams (the Church and Cotting burns) have softened the edges of the usually steeply incised valley and made it a useful crossing point for what would become the Great North Road. Morpeth was a coaching stop along this road in the eighteenth and earlier 19th century and later formed a rail connection, although the line deflected to the east at this point. It is still a stop on the main east coast route.

Hodgson thought that the name Morpeth derived from 'moor path' (1832a, 5), Watson (1970, 100) that it was from 'murder path'.

1.3   Documentary and Secondary Sources

The starting point for this assessment of Morpeth has been the Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER). A general history of the town is provided in Hodgson's *A History of Morpeth* (1832) as well as in his *History of Northumberland* of the same year. Tyson's 'Morpeth an archaeological study' (1976) provides a clear description of the development of the town but states unequivocally that because of the lack of archaeological interventions it draws heavily on documentary sources. Willis in 'Morpeth: a Northumbrian market town in the nineteenth century' (1996) gives an in-depth analysis of the later development of the settlement. *The Morpeth Miscellany* (NRO ZAN/M/16/B4), a collection of material held at Northumberland Record Office (NRO) is a useful source of information on the town.

1.4   Cartographic Sources (see Appendix 3)

The cartographic record of the town is good. The earliest extant map of Morpeth is dated 1604 (NRO ZAN/M16/B5). The copy at the NRO, clearly of a later date than this, is a transcript of an original survey by William Haiwarde for the estate of Lord William Howard of Naworth in 1603 (Dodds 1938, 153-60). Speed's 1610 plan of the town does no more than locate it as it is to such a small scale. A Survey of the River Wansbeck by Richard Ellison and Ralph Fowler, made in 1738, shows individual buildings along Morpeth's streets and in properties to the rear. However, the style of the map suggests that it is not a particularly accurate survey. John Wood's plan of Morpeth, made in 1826, the First Edition Ordnance Survey of the 1860s and the second edition of 1897 provide a good record of the development of the town. Wood's plan seems to accurately depict structures along and behind street frontages as well as the surviving boundaries of burgage plots.

1.5   Archaeological Evidence (see Appendix 2)

Although a delineation of later medieval Morpeth was prepared by Tyson (1976, fig 32) this was based on surviving buildings, the transcribed '1604' plan for Lord William Howard's estate and documentary evidence and could call on very little evidence from excavation to add to the picture. A number of areas within the town have now been the subject of archaeological investigation including Oliver's Mill in 1995, Mains Terrace and Newgate Street in 1997, 1999 and 2000, Damside in 1998, St George's Hospital in 1999, Market Place and North Place in 2003, Manchester Street in 2004. Work was carried out south of the Wansbeck at Davidson's Garage and at Lidl's foodstore to the north in 2005 and a large evaluation over the eastern part of the town north of the river (Morpeth Central Area Development) was conducted in 2006. Despite this, data yielded has as yet not provided any radical insights into the overall development of the town. Fabric recording and limited excavation at All Saints' Chapel has provided a picture of the complex development the building and a detailed archaeological survey of the motte at Haw Hill in Carlisle Park has provided much material for the area in fairly recent times but has provided only limited information on the early development of the earthwork.

1.6   Protected Sites

Within the current study area, both Morpeth Castle and the motte at Haw Hill are scheduled monuments, as are the remains of Old Bridge and the Clock Tower along Oldgate. Newminster Abbey, just to the west of the study area, is also scheduled. There are 81 listed buildings or structures in Morpeth, three of these grade I, six grade II* and 72 grade II. Morpeth Conservation Area extends as shown on figure 2.

Figure 2: Study area (purple outline), scheduled monuments (red), listed buildings (pink), Conservation Area (blue outline).

1.7   Brief History

There is little evidence for any concentrated early prehistoric activity around the immediate area of Morpeth. A Langdale stone axe found south of the river may indicate only casual loss or discard and although the probably Bronze Age burial on Haw Hill must indicate a presence in the locality the site may have been chosen for its prominence, not its proximity to that settlement. There are many later prehistoric and possibly Romano-British enclosures in the

surrounding area, but closer to the town the evidence is again thin; aerial photographs of fields at Lancaster Park show features of possibly prehistoric date and some of the earthworks on Haw Hill may be earlier than the medieval castle, but in both cases, further work will be required to confirm their chronological context. Having said this, there has been only limited archaeological intervention within the town itself, either to north or south of the Wansbeck, and any early settlement could be masked beneath later occupation beside the river; the presence of a crossing at Morpeth may well be early and will have become increasingly significant.

The first concrete evidence for a settlement at Morpeth is from the late 11th century subsequent to the area coming into the hands of William de Merlay, a follower of William I, who was granted the barony of Morpeth in 1080. This evidence is in the form of an earthwork castle on Haw Hill just to the south of the river crossing. It was presumably constructed by de Merlay soon after his acquisition of the barony. The parish church of St Mary lies a little to the south, but whether this was founded at a similar time is not certain. A civil settlement may also have developed on the route leading from the castle to the river crossing but there is no evidence for this. When settlement began in the loop to the north of the Wansbeck is also uncertain but probably before 1199, in which year a charter to hold a regular market was granted the de Merlays.

In 1216, Morpeth was burnt when King John marched against the rebellious northern barons. The Melrose Chronicle gives an account of the battles and the destruction suffered at this time (Hodgson 1832a, 117). A new castle was built, possibly soon after 1216, possibly not until the 14th century, on a prominent site close to Haw Hill. The majority of the fabric of St Mary's Church also dates to the 14th century. Whilst the symbols of authority, the castle and the parish church, were located on the south side of the river, almost all civil occupation on this bank disappeared and developed-or redeveloped- on the north bank, reached by a two-arched stone bridge built in the 13th century with a chapel close by on the north bank. The three main streets to the north, Bridge Street, Oldgate and Newgate, radiated from the Market Place. These are still the main streets of the town and although Morpeth has expanded, its historic core demonstrates its medieval ancestry.

Little development of the town occurred over the 16th and 17th centuries, the latter marked by the battering and extensive destruction of the castle by Montrose's cannon in 1644 during the Civil War siege. The town itself suffered a fire in 1689 which destroyed a large number of properties. Many were subsequently rebuilt in brick, or at least with brick facades.

Always an important market town, serving the surrounding rural areas, it was Morpeth's role as a livestock market that brought it to prominence. Livestock, mainly cattle, were droved to the town from Scotland and upland Northumberland and sold on. Writing in 1746, Samuel

Simpson, in his *Compleat English Traveller*, described Morpeth cattle market as 'the greatest for live cattle excepting Smithfield'. Forty years later, George Culley ranked it as the third market in England for quality of stock sold, and in 1830 it was still being described by William Cobbett in his *Rural Rides* as 'a great market town, for cattle especially' (Willis 1996, 78). Lying on the Great North Road, the town also became an important coaching stop on the route. Both roles; market and coaching stop, multiplied the requirement for inns in the town.

But Morpeth was never a successful industrial town: tanning and cloth manufacture, once major employers, declined and all but disappeared over the first half of the 19th century. And whilst all was expansion to the south east with the massive growth of the coalfield towns and villages, Morpeth remained static. The physical appearance of the town in the mid-19th century would not have been too different from the early 18th century and the population of a little over 4000 was static (Willis 1996, 77). At the same time, the livestock market at Morpeth declined. The introduction of the railway allowed Newcastle to become the new regional market and the emergence of markets at Wooler and Alnwick meant that Morpeth also lost local pre-eminence. But the town was well placed for, and grew increasingly important as, a service and retail centre for the new industrial south-east of the county. In more recent times, Morpeth has become a major administrative centre for the county – the headquarters of the County Council lie on the southern edge of the town - and as an attractive commuter settlement.

2   PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN

2.1   Waterlogged Deposits (HER 11616)

In the 1820s, well-preserved waterlogged deposits were exposed in deep foundation trenches cut for the construction of the gaol (now the courthouse) to the south of the Wansbeck (HER 11616; Hodgson 1832a, 60). Finds included deer horns, large trunks of oak, hazel branches and hazel nuts as well as a cowrie shell. There was no contemporary suggestion that the deposits were formed anthropogenically although this should not be discounted. It is impossible to provide a date for the material other than that it will have been laid down subsequent to the last ice age and the generation of oak and hazel forest, probably in a palaeochannel of the shifting course of the Wansbeck.

2.2   Early Prehistoric Period

Early prehistoric remains in the area of Morpeth are scarce: From an allotment at Loansdean, close to the courthouse, a Neolithic polished stone axehead, probably from Great Langdale, Cumbria was found in 1959 (HER 11703). Again to the south of the Wansbeck, a burial cairn and cist (HER 11122) was found during excavations by Woodman at Haw Hill in 1830. The cairn lay on the west end of the hill. It contained fragments of bone and a piece of pottery

(Hodgson 1832a, 25n). A precise date for the burial is problematic although probably of the Bronze Age. Presumably the location was chosen for its aspect across the valley.

2.3   Later Prehistoric and Roman Periods

There is also little local evidence for later prehistoric activity. Excavations in 1830 by Woodman at Haw Hill (Hodgson 1832a, 25; HER 11068) located an isolated earthwork on the eastern flank of the ridge which was identified again in 2000 during survey work by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit. Conceivably, this represents the remains of a prehistoric enclosure, possibly of late Iron Age or Romano-British date. A considerable number of oval and rectilinear enclosures thought to date to these times, such as a rectilinear example at Highhouse Dean (HER 11083) a little to the west of Newminster, lie on higher ground to the south of the Wansbeck. More extensive Iron Age/Romano-British settlement has recently been revealed at Pegswood (HER 11802) some way to the north-east of Morpeth. Here, frequently rebuilt roundhouses sat within a series of enclosures or compounds. Artefactual evidence for local occupation in the late Iron Age and Romano-British periods is meagre consisting of a copper-alloy button and loop fastener, probably from a horse harness, recently found by metal detectorists at Coopies Lane to the south-east of town (HER 11562).

2.4   Aerial Photographic Evidence

Possible prehistoric features were seen on aerial photographs reviewed during an archaeological assessment of Lancaster Park and Northgate Hospital by Tyne and Wear Museums in 2002 (Event Nos: 245 and 13426). No more precise functional or chronological context for the features was possible.

3   MEDIEVAL MORPETH

3.1   Development of the Settlement

There is no evidence, either archaeological or documentary, for pre-Conquest occupation at Morpeth. Whilst there is a good amount of documentary evidence for the later medieval settlement, archaeological evidence is still relatively sparse.

The most obvious feature, and puzzle, of late-medieval Morpeth is the separation of components to the south and north of the river. Successive castles, and notably the medieval parish church of St Mary, lie to the south of the river (St Mary's about a kilometre away from the crossing) whilst what can be clearly identified as medieval burgage properties running back from the main streets of the present town lie to the north.

Because of this separation, the development of Morpeth has been the subject of much discussion and a number of explanations have been offered for its form. One argument is

that components to south and north were separate creations; that to the south founded in the late 11th century by Baron William de Merlay and the settlement to the north developing after the granting of a royal charter for a market in 1199. Tyson argues this case; that the new town must have developed after the market was set up, with the settlement which lay around the church and the castle only gravitating north of the river after this time. He supports this argument with contemporary documentary evidence for relatively late grants of properties in the region of Bridge Street, Newgate and Oldgate (Tyson 1976 , 189).

An alternative argument is that a settlement to the north of the river existed alongside a settlement to the south, the former pre-dating the market charter granted at the very end of the 12th century. The truth remains uncertain.

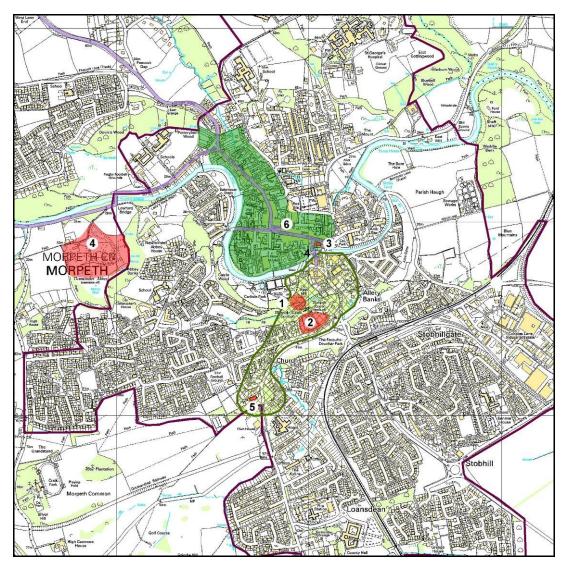*Figure 3: Medieval Morpeth. The green hatched area to the south of the Wansbeck represents an estimation (after Tyson 1976, 191) of the extent of the post-Conquest settlement. The green area to the north of the river shows the extent of burgage properties. 1. Haw Hill Castle; 2. Morpeth Castle; 3. All Saints' Chapel; 4. Newminster Abbey; 5. Church of St Mary; 6. Market Place. Medieval streets/roads shown in purple.*

The first record of the existence of burgesses in the town is under Roger de Merlay II who succeeded to the barony in 1180 and died in 1239. He confirmed the free burgesses of Morpeth in all their liberties and free customs as had been set out in a charter by gift of the king (Hodgson 1832a, 64). Evidence for the development of the settlement is provided by two other charters (Hodgson 1832b, 480-2) which extended the area of the borough between 1239 and 1266 (Beresford and Finberg 1973, 144). These charters describe 43 and 46 borough tofts respectively in terms that suggest expansion by encroachment upon former agricultural land to the north of the Wansbeck.

Hodgson (1832a, 57) suggests that the urban development of Morpeth may also have benefited from the decline of nearby Mitford, another castle borough, after the ruin of the Bertam family in the time of Henry III. Whilst probably true, this post-dates the charter for the market at Morpeth by half a century and cannot be seen as the trigger for development to the north of the river.

Unfortunately, archaeology has not as yet provided any answers to the problem. Although some excavation has occurred within the burgage properties to the north of the river, this has not provided any secure dating evidence for the beginnings of settlement in that area. Nor has any productive excavation been carried out to the south of the river in the putative area of settlement between the church, castle and river.

Cartographic evidence for the form and development of Morpeth begins with the 1604 town plan. Early 17th century Morpeth as depicted on the survey can almost certainly also be taken as a view of its later late-medieval form. To the south of the river are the castles, parish church and common land along with some properties at the bridging point, but the main development of the town lies to the north of the river.

The surviving visible elements of the medieval town consist of the castles, All Saints' chapel and St Mary's church as well as the basic layout of streets and at least the alignment of many property boundaries.

3.2   South of the Wansbeck

3.2.1   Haw Hill Castle (HER 11068, SM 31719)

The earlier of Morpeth's castles lies on Haw Hill, now within Carlisle Park and immediately to the south of the river. Haw Hill is an earthwork castle in a good position to guard the crossing over the Wansbeck, probably built soon after the granting of the barony of Morpeth to William de Merlay, one of William the Conqueror's followers, around 1080. The first contemporary reference to it is in 1095 when it was captured by William Rufus during the rebellion of William de Mowbray. It is again mentioned in 1138 when Ranulph de Merlay 'received into his

protection in his castle of Morpeth, certain monks of Fountains who, under his patronage, founded the Abbey of Newminster' (John of Hexham cited in Hodgson 1832a, 20). The castle at Morpeth was captured - possibly burnt - by King John in 1216 during his suppression of the Northern barons. Whether this action refers to Haw Hill or the later castle (see below) is uncertain.

The motte at Haw Hill remains prominent today, whilst the location and even the presence of a bailey is tentative. Tyson (1976, 189) suggested that it lay to the south west of the motte on the site of the later castle, but as the two are separated by a steep sided valley this seems unlikely.

A survey of the site carried out in 1999 by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (Event Nos: 51 and 52) has clarified much about the nature of the earthworks. This work divided the site into two major components *i.* the motte and *ii.* the lower hill, the latter frequently considered the site of the bailey. The motte consists of a platform, an embankment and a small knoll. The lower hill is for the most part a natural feature, albeit with a number of artificial enhancements involving the building-up of the northern slope, the creation of a narrow walkway at the eastern end, the formation of a hollow-way access to the ridge, and finally the construction of a bank across the narrow ridge. The morphology of the lower hill does not suggest that it was ever used as a bailey as there is no level area to accommodate one. Possibly, a bailey lay on level ground to the east in an area which has now been developed.

Structural remains were found on the summit of the motte by William Woodman during investigations in 1830. These included the scalloped capital of a column and Norman voussoirs (Hodgson 1832a, 20). Woodman also exposed the stone foundations of a long narrow building on the 'east side of the hill'. He considered it may have been a chapel.

3.2.2   Morpeth Castle (HER 11532, SM 653, LB Grade I)
Two hundred metres south of Haw Hill on a prominent hill top is Morpeth Castle, the successor to Haw Hill. Today, it is in a fragmented state and consists of an isolated gatehouse, sections of curtain wall and a further isolated stretch of wall to the north-east. The remains are surrounded on all sides by steep falls except to the west, where they are defended by a ditch. The original extent of the castle is now uncertain. The 1604 map of Morpeth shows a keep in the middle of a bailey with a gatehouse and an outer ward.

Although early references to a castle at Morpeth may refer either to this site or Haw Hill, It is frequently thought that Morpeth Castle was founded on this site by Roger de Merlay II subsequent to the destruction of Haw Hill by John in 1216 (Hodgson 1832a, 58). Pevsner follows this by suggesting a 13th century date for the castle (1992, 396). However,

construction dates of 1342-1359 are given by Bates (1891, 11) and Knowles says that parts were erected by William de Greystock (1920, 243-4).

The curtain wall has been patched and repaired many times but parts appear to be early (Pevsner 1992, 397). The gatehouse, which may have been constructed as a courtroom rather than a major defensive work, is of three storeys with a parapet level and turrets above. The passage way has a four-centred entrance arch and pointed tunnel vault with vaulted guardrooms to left and right, both with doors with four-centred arches. The concensus of opinion is that most of the fabric is of the 14th and 15th centuries with later restorations. Much damage to the castle occurred in the siege of 1644 during the Civil War, and the first and second floors were heavily restored in 1857-8 for the Earl of Carlisle with further 19th century restoration of parapet and corner turrets. There are 19th century stables to the rear. The gatehouse was repaired and remodelled in 1989-90 by the Landmark Trust and now functions as a holiday home. Archaeological recording was carried out during the restoration work (Ryder 1992, 63-77).

Rectified photography and visual fabric analysis of the castle walls (other than the gatehouse) was carried out in 2005 (Event No: 215). The date of the walling, which is contentious, was not resolved during this work, to a great extent because of modern pointing which masks early mortar which can often be used to chart the development of fabric. Documentary and fabric analysis carried out during this work has indicated that the 'outer curtain wall' may never have existed and that an isolated length of stone wall to the north-east may in fact be the remains of a 'great barn' mentioned in the account of the Civil War siege.

3.2.3   *Newminster Abbey (HER 11070, SM 165)*

Land south of the river Wansbeck and to the west of Morpeth was granted by the de Merlay's for the establishment of the Cistercian Newminster Abbey in the mid-12th century. Much of the layout of the abbey survives as foundations below ground and parts were reconstructed as landscape features in the 20th century. The site lies beyond the present study area but must have been a major influence on Morpeth; it certainly drew some of its funds from the town, being granted rent from 14 of its burgage properties. Subsequent to the Dissolution, stone from the abbey was used as an easily available quarry by the townspeople. Parts of the site were excavated by Harbottle and Salway and published in *Archaeologia Aeliana* for 1964. An overall plan of the visible remains and earthworks was prepared in 1996 (Event No: 13427).

3.2.4   *St Mary's Church (HER 11087, LB Grade I)*

The parish church of Morpeth, St Mary's, lies nearly one kilometre to the south of the crossing of the Wansbeck. It is one of only two surviving medieval ecclesiastical structures in the town (All Saints Chapel the other). The standing structure is largely of 14th century date and

consists of a chancel higher than the nave, low aisles, a late south porch and a western tower, this with diagonal corner buttresses. The chancel has five windows with stained glass, the 'Jesse' window at the east end including outstanding 14th century glass, probably the best of this date in the county (Pevsner 1992, 395). In the churchyard are two weathered medieval stone grave slabs with recumbent figures, one female.

Although it would be reasonable to suppose that a church was established by the de Merlay's soon after the establishment of the castle at Haw Hill, there is little physical and no documentary evidence to securely say that this lay on the site of the present church. Contemporary references to the church are late, none before the later 13th or early 14th century: an undated deed (but post 1296) records the grant by Robert of Morpeth to William de Rokeby, proctor of St Mary's church, of one and a half acres of land in the fields of Morpeth (Hodgson 1832a, 27n). The visible fabric of St Mary's, as briefly described above, is also mainly of the 14th century although there is some earlier work: arch impost blocks of Early-English form projecting from the internal face of the west and north walls of the nave were seen by Hodgson as evidence for an earlier, narrower structure (Hodgson 1832a, 26). This early fabric, however, is not certainly *in-situ* (Pevsner 1992, 393-5).

A dowsing exercise and a small scale-excavation were carried out in 1984 in advance of repairs to the floor of the nave and crossing. The dowsing suggested the presence of an earlier, narrower, church as suggested by Hodgson as well as an apsidal east end. The excavation at the crossing revealed the remains of a north south mortared foundation interpreted as the eastern end of an earlier structure (Bailey, Cambridge and Briggs 1988, 63-4). Further investigations would be needed to confirm or disprove the findings.

3.2.5   Hospital (HER 11072)
A hospital at Morpeth was founded before 1170, the date of the death of William de Merlay, one of its benefactors. Its location is not known, but it may have been connected with an almshouse mentioned in Hillgate (HER 11536) on the south bank of the Wansbeck near to the Old Bridge.

3.2.6   Hillgate (Hellegate, Water Row) (HER 11203)
Modern Hillgate lies to the south of Telford Bridge and can almost certainly be equated with medieval Helle (or water) gate. It is first mentioned in a deed of around 1310. A little later, in 1330, a pathway is mentioned as leading through Hellegate to the High Church (Hodgson 1832a, 75). The 1604 map of Morpeth shows a row of six houses on the south side of Hillgate with a plot of land beyond.

3.2.7   Pethgate (Pitgate, Goose Hill) (HER 11630) and Wansbeck Street (HER 11631)

Pethgate is mentioned in a deed of 1384 and is probably the same as Pitgate referred to in a document of 1441 as a street running south from the bridge and then east towards the tenement called Goose-Hill. The 1604 survey shows properties along the road approaching the Old Bridge. This is now called Wansbeck Street (HER 11631) (Hodgson 1832a, 86). Archaeological evaluation was carried out at Davidson's Garage in this area by The Archaeological practice in 2006 (Event No: 13599). There was much evidence of industrial and domestic waste and two substantial but probably late walls, but no medieval deposits were revealed.

3.2.8   The Old Bridge (HER 11535, SM 35421, LB Grade II;)

One of the primary reasons for Morpeth's development was its location at a crossing point of the Wansbeck along a main north-south routeway. The burgesses of the town were responsible for the erection of a stone bridge at this crossing (Rowland 1995, 55) some time, probably in the first half, of the13th century (it is first mentioned in a marginal entry in the Chartulary of Newminster around the middle of the century). It was located towards the east end of Bridge Street and maintained by the collection of tolls and at some point over the century was accompanied by All Saints' Chapel. The bridge was of two low arches with a central pier of hexagonal plan (it had cutwaters both upstream and downstream). Only this pier and the flanking abutments now survive, the arches having been demolished in the 1830s and replaced by the Chantry Footbridge, an iron walkway built in 1869 (Pevsner 1992, 398). The medieval bridge is shown on Woods' plan of 1826 and in a view (print from a painting by Girtin of 1802) from the east with All Saints' Chapel alongside (Hodgson 1832a, 62). Archaeological recording accompanied repairs to the bridge in 1972 which revealed the original 13th century timber sub-structure and piles beneath the pier. Some of this timber is preserved in the Chantry Museum (Tyson 1976, 198; Rowland 1986, 17). Further sub-structural timbers were seen below a paved area of the river channel to the north of the pier by Ryder (1993) who also noted that there were structural remnants, possibly of a tower or gatehouse, adjoining the southern abutment of the bridge.

3.2.9   Abbey Bridge (HER 11079)

There was a second medieval stone bridge just to the west of town. Abbey Bridge took the road from Morpeth to Mitford across the Wansbeck near Newminster Abbey. The only reference to it is from 1680 when it was in disrepair and stones were being taken for use elsewhere in Morpeth. Hodgson says that it stood at 'about the site of the present wooden-bridge' a structure which was built in 1807 (1832a, 63) in the same location as Fulford Bridge. No sign of Abbey Bridge has ever been traced.

3.2.10 Castle Well (HER 18186)

There are no securely medieval wells to the south of the Wansbeck. Castle Well is shown on the first and second edition Ordnance Surveys immediately south of the Postern Burn, below the castle. On the ground today there is a mound around which the burn deviates (Event No: 52). The well may have served the castle although this is not certain.

3.2.11 Common Land (HER 11210)

Low Common or Morpeth Common lay to the west of the parish church on the south bank of the river, and on the 1604 map extends as far to the north as the former bounds of Newminster Abbey and comprised 380 acres.

3.3   North of the Wansbeck

3.3.1   All Saints' Chapel (Bridge Chantry) (HER 11533, LB Grade I)

All Saints' Chapel (commonly known today as the Bridge Chantry) is located on the south side of Bridge Street and immediately to the north east of the now largely demolished Old Bridge across the Wansbeck. It is not certain when the chapel was built, although definitely by the later 13th century as it is mentioned in an undated (but pre-1303) deed detailing property provided by John de Greystock to Richard de Morpeth for the foundation of a chantry within the chapel (Hodgson 1832a, 33).

The original form of the chapel is difficult to visualise because of losses and accretions over time, but consisted of a nave, choir and north and south transepts. Today, only the north and west faces of the building are of medieval fabric. The north face includes the large, blocked, transept arch (the transept was demolished in the early 19th century), the west face an elaborately moulded doorway with pointed arch and two double-chamfered windows above, the gable end topped off with a bellcote. The south face of the building is a full-length extension of 1738 with a fine row of large arched-windows. A school was a fairly early part of the chapel and occupied the west end of the building. In 1552 this became the King Edward VI Grammar School (Hodgson 1832a, 32). The chapel has had a number of recent uses, and is now the tourist information office and bagpipe museum.

Hodgson noted that the chapel 'has now no burial ground attached to it …but, formerly, persons had been interred in and around it, as the discovery of human skulls, and other bones, has frequently proved' (Hodgson 1832a, 33). The extent of the graveyard is unknown.

In 1980, during conversion to use as a museum, a limited area of the chapel was archaeologically excavated alongside the inner face of the north wall of the chancel, to a depth of 1.2m. Successive mortar floor levels were recorded along with twenty-six post-holes, stake-holes and timber slots, eight of which were considered of medieval date. The report describes eleven phases of building, six of which were medieval, followed by what was

interpreted as a period of disuse and part demolition and four post-medieval phases of
building.

3.3.2   Burgage Properties

As mentioned above, it would seem reasonable to think that early civil settlement at Morpeth
developed to the south of the river adjacent to the church of St Mary and the castle on Haw
Hill (Rowland 1995, 54; Tyson 1974, 189), but there is no evidence to substantiate this.
There is, however, contemporary reference, later cartographic evidence and some material
remains from archaeological interventions for the form and extent of the medieval town north
of the Wansbeck. Evidence for the former extent of burgage properties comes in large part
from post-medieval plans including that of 1604 and Woods' of 1826 which show these
properties almost exclusively to the north of the Wansbeck apart from a few possible
examples along Hillgate and Pethgate immediately to the south of the bridge which have
been noted above.

Exactly when and why settlement to the south of the river was overtaken by settlement to the
north is uncertain. Roger de Merlay II confirmed the privileges of free-burgesses and their
heirs in a charter of 1188 (Hodgson 1832a, 57), and so although burgesses were certainly
present before this time, we do not know where. We do know, however, that de Merlay also
established a market at Morpeth by 1199 probably, but not certainly, in the same location as
at present. His successor, Roger de Merlay III granted to the burgesses of Morpeth extensive
areas of land much of which had previously been under cultivation. It included 16 tofts in the
'culture of Berehalgh'; 16 on the 'culture of Staniflat between Cottingburn and Monksway' and
14 tofts between 'Cottingburn and Monksway to the west'. Another grant conferred on the
burgesses land extending: 'From the great river of Wansbeck, on the west side of the town,
to the toft of Henry Doghet, and from that toft by the rivulet of Cottingburn to St. Thomas's
Well, and from that well northwards to Spen…and from Spen over Cottingburn as far as the
dike of the monks of Newminster to the west, and so by that dike as far as the great river of
Wansbeck' (Hodgson 1832a, 58, 117-18). Hodgson conjectured that the grants in Berehalgh
and Staniflat comprised land running from Bridge Street and the remaining grants were along
the line of Newgate (Hodgson 1832a, 58).

The outlines of burgage properties are visible on Woods' plan of 1826; they run back from
both sides of Newgate and as far north as Buller's Green. Similarly, properties are shown on
both sides of Oldgate and Bridge Street. The Wansbeck provided the natural termination for
plots to the south of Oldgate and Bridge Street and to the west of Newgate. Properties on the
opposite sides of these streets were backed by Cottingwood Lane and Union Street
(Newgate) and Horse Entry and King Street (Bridge Street) with no visible back lane to the
north of Oldgate.

3.3.3   Bridge Street (Briggate, Bryge or Brig Street) (HER 11204)

The first reference to the street is very late, from 1465, when a tenement is mentioned. A 1500 deed mentions a burgage in 'Bryge-street' extending from 'the highway before to Fulbeck behind' (Hodgson 1832a, 61). In 1467 'the chaplain of the chantry of All Saints let a house opposite Morpeth chapel, having chantry-place on its west side, and 'one of John Smith's' on the east, and extending from the king's highway in front to Cottingburn behind' (Hodgson 1832a, 63). Chantry Place in 1466 included a capital messuage. A property in this area is shown on the 1604 map.

An archaeological assessment of an area of land lying on the north side of Bridge Street and bounded by Damside by The Archaeological Practice in 1998 (Event No: 13086) identified extant burgage boundaries leading back from both east and west sides of No. 55 Bridge Street. Subsequent evaluation in the backlands (Event No: 13085) indicated that the area had been used for agriculture or horticulture over the later medieval period with a possible period of structural development in the 17th century indicated by two slots cut into subsoil.

3.3.4   Oldgate (Aldgate) (HER 11205)

Oldgate runs west from the Market Place to the river. On the 1604 plan, the west end of the street is marked with a gateway but with no crossing. The same map shows properties on each side of the street. On the south side the tenement plots follow those of Bridge Street down to the banks of the river (and have been mapped with those of Bridge Street) (HER 11204), to the north of the street they are shorter and run up against properties from Newgate Street (as shown on Woods' 1826 plan).

In 1402, a waste messuage in Aldgate was bounded on the east by ground of the abbot of Newminster. A house on the south side of Aldgate, in 1456, had property of the same abbot on its west side and of John Ward on its east. Tenements on Oldgate are noted in the Annals in 1472, 1490, 1507, 1526 and 1529. A barn is mentioned along the street in 1478.

There has been no archaeological excavation along or to the flanks of Oldgate to establish any independent chronology for development in the area.

3.3.5   Newgate (HER 11206)

Newgate first occurs in the town's records in 1361: then again in 1362 and 1364. Houses on its east flank are mentioned in the late 14th and early 15th centuries and on its west side during the 15th century (Hodgson 1832a, 86). A place called 'The Law' on Newgate, was mentioned in 1350; a deed dated 1519 describes, 'a tenement in Newgate on the Law extending from the highway before, to Winselway behind' (Hodgson 1832a, 76). A stone-built tenement in The Law is also referred to in 1533 (Hodgson 1832a, 85).

Burgage plots on the east side of Newgate lay in an area known as 'Back Riggs', indicative of their agricultural ancestry. They ran as far as Cottingwood Lane which Hodgson suggests was the same as Monks-way, in a deed dated 1239 (Hodgson 1832a, 70). The burgage plots to the east of Newgate may therefore be the Staniflat plots; Staniflat was a culture of land which Roger de Merlay III gave to the free burgesses of Morpeth, and on it there were 16 tofts, which lay between Cottingburn and the Monksway on the east side and four tofts between Cottingburn and the same way on the west side. A burgage on it near Cottingburn is mentioned in 1330; and a 'borrow-land' on Stanyflat, in 1357.

Archaeological evidence for the street remains fairly limited despite a number of interventions: Evaluation excavations followed by monitoring of development works was carried out by Tyne and Wear Museums (TWM) to the rear of Newgate in 1997 (Event Nos: 13637 and 13638). Six trial trenches were excavated across the development area. Two stone structures were seen but with no associated dating evidence. Medieval pottery was recovered from an extensive layer of cultivated garden or plough soil and an indication of small-scale medieval industrial activity was recovered from the same deposit in the form of crucible fragments. Subsequent archaeological monitoring during the development recovered information about post medieval activities but little of significance for the medieval period. Archaeological monitoring by the same organisation during the cutting of two foundation trenches along Newgate in 2000 (Event No: 54) failed to locate any early deposits although subsoil was not located in either trench (the maximum depth to which excavation continued was 1.2m). Areas of the site were damp, with the potential for the survival of medieval waterlogged deposits.

Most recently, archaeological evaluation carried out by Archaeological Services of Durham University for the proposed Morpeth Central Area Development in 2006 (Event No: 13609) to the east of Newgate and north of Bridge Street. In the areas closest to the frontages of these streets, up to 1m of made ground was identified along with ditches and pits of probably medieval date. Monitoring of engineers boreholes and test pits for the same development suggested that much of the western part of the site contained deep and in some cases probably medieval deposits but that other areas had been truncated by modern development.

3.3.6   Market Place (HER 11201)

A weekly market on Wednesday and an annual fair were granted to Roger de Merlay II by King John in 1199 (Hodgson 1832a, 77, 116). In 1284 the fair was extended from two to three days (Hodgson 1832, 120). It seems likely that the location of the market has not changed since the end of the 12th century at the junction of the main streets of the town. Archaeological monitoring by Pre-Construct Archaeology during re-surfacing and re-ordering of the market place in 2003 (Event No: 13251) revealed no significant features other than an area of sandstone masonry, tentatively interpreted as the location of the original market cross.

3.3.7   Trade Companies and Guilds

The Corporation of Morpeth was made up of seven companies or fraternities, each consisting of an alderman and a number of free brothers and free burgesses. The Cordwainers Company was certainly in existence by 1470; the Weavers Company by 1485; the Guild of Smiths, Saddlers and Armourers by 1524 along with the Merchants and Taylor's Company. Most of the companies with surviving documentation only from the post-medieval period will undoubtedly have been trades practiced over the late-medieval period. These include the Tanner's Company (statutes dated 1617); the Fuller's and Dyer's Company (including carvers and hatters) from 1676 but known to be a much older institution; and the statutes of the Company of Skinners and Glovers, with Butchers annexed to them, date from 1604 although they only replicated documents lost by fire at the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth (Hodgson 1832a, 65-7).

The trades of tenement holders are first mentioned in the 1520s and 1530s when a tailor, tanner and shoemaker are recorded (Hodgson 1832, 142-3). Earlier evidence for trades in the town is provided by a list of jurors of Morpeth in the 1296 Lay Subsidy Roll. A salter, glover, smith, cobbler, weaver, fisherman and forester are listed, indicating the presence of a wide range of commercial and manufacturing activity significantly earlier than the formation of the guild companies. There is however insufficient evidence to locate any specific trade in the medieval period. Many crafts and trades would be carried out in workshops, which will have been part of properties on the street front of burgage plots, or in the backlands to the rear.

3.3.8   Domestic Buildings

It is probable that the earliest standing domestic structures in Morpeth are the outbuildings of No.19 Bridge Street (HER 11141) but it is not certain that they are of medieval date. Whilst the view that stone courses at the base of numerous brick houses standing today in Morpeth are the remains of earlier houses is in most cases unlikely (Tyson 1976, 189), it is very likely that structural remains of medieval buildings will exist beneath post-medieval houses. In a visual cellar survey of the historic centre of the town, only few properties were noted as certainly cellared, although Rowland's suggests that many have been filled in (1995, 73). It is in the frontage areas that medieval building remains will have been heavily impacted by cellaring and later development.

3.3.9   Fortified Buildings (HER 11074)

There were a number of defensible buildings in the town. An early 14th century deed for a property in High Street mentions that the frontage of the house extended to the turret that belonged to Robert, the son of Peter. Another deed, of 1343, mentions a rood of burgage land as lying on Staniflat and extending from the mud-wall of a tower to the rivulet of Cottingburn (Hodgson 1832a, 58-9). A tower is also shown on the 1604 map (Hodgson 1832b, 436-7) on

the site of the old gaol on the south side of Bridge Street. Apparently this also had a gatehouse (Long 1967, 136)

3.3.10 Manorial Mill (HER 11534)

A deed of 1282 set out that the burgesses of Morpeth would grind their corn in the manor mill (Hodgson 1832a, 85; 119). This mill is thought to have been located to the north of the Wansbeck and near to the bridge and chantry (Hodgson 1832a, 85). A 'Timies Mill' is shown in this position on the 1604 plan of the town and Woods shows a 'Town Mill' on the same spot in 1826.The mill building was demolished in 1860 when St George's Presbyterian Church was built (Wilson 1884, 3). Three stone sluices along a stone-lined race or channel were revealed and photographed during alterations to the church structure in relatively recent times (Tyson 1976, 189) and the stonework was reportedly seen again when part of the floor inside the church was lifted in 1998. Whether this is medieval fabric is not known.

3.3.11 Bakehouse (HER 11200)

A bakehouse is mentioned in a deed of 1312 granting a messuage to Master Adam of Morpeth (Hodgson 1832a, 124). A bakehouse, possibly the same (HER 11200), is mentioned in the Court Rolls of 1333 as near 'lands which laid west of the chapel of Morpeth, and as far as the water of Wansbeck' (Hodgson 1832a, 60).

3.3.12 Wells

There were a number of wells north of the Wansbeck. *St Thomas's Well (HER 11078)* is mentioned in the de Merlay charter of 1239. Hodgson says that this was the well sited on the Cottingburn just north of Fenwick and Co. Brewery and had 'lately been formed into a pant or covered well' (1832a, 104). It is shown on Woods' plan of 1826. There is no sign of any well in this location today. *Bog Well (HER 11202)* is shown on Wood's 1826 plan on the east side of Cottingwood Lane. It was called Bogg bog well by Hodgson (1832a, 104) who thought it to be of considerable age.

3.3.13 Boundary Markers

The site of the Stobcross (HER 11080) is shown on the 1604 map to the south of the castle. There are no surviving remains of the site. The Bowles-Green (Buller's Green) Cross (HER 11075) was a boundary stone between the limits of the Borough of Morpeth and the township of Bowles Green to the north. Its base still occupies the position at the head of Newgate (Hodgson 1823a, 71) in which it is shown on the 1604 plan.

3.3.14 Buller's Green (Bowles Green) (HER 11207)

The 1604 map shows tenements lying to the north of Newgate in Buller's Green, a corruption of the name 'Bowles Green' (Hodgson 1832a, 61). This was a discrete township where Newgate turned west to Mitford not far from Newminster Abbey. On Wood's 1826 plan fairly

regular properties extend at right angles from the street. An archaeological watching brief by The Archaeological Practice in 2000 (Event No: 55) during the cutting of foundation trenches at Buller's Green revealed no early deposits or artefacts.

4   POST-MEDIEVAL (HER 11101)

There is no evidence to suggest that the layout and overall form of Morpeth changed markedly between the late medieval period and the 19th century. Writing in 1832, Hodgson says that it had only been in recent years that development beyond the old town as represented by the 1604 Howard map had begun (1832a, 59). This is not to say that the aspect of the town as seen by Hodgson had not changed markedly from the 17th century. The fire of 1689 must have led to the speedy rebuilding of numbers of houses and the modern townscape is rich with structures which were constructed over the succeeding century (earlier buildings certainly still exist, though, as with the house at No 19 Buller's Green (HER 11145.) which probably dates to the 16th or early 17th century.

4.1   South of the Wansbeck

The part of Morpeth on the south bank of the river is known as High Church. The 1604 plan shows a number of properties on this side of the river and a rectory opposite St Mary's church. This was demolished and replaced in the 18th century. The Great North Road is shown on this plan passing between the church and the rectory on a different line to the modern road, running nearer the castle (Tyson 1976, 189).

4.1.1   Morpeth Castle (HER 11532)

Morpeth Castle was well maintained over the 16th century; necessarily so because it was not only in frequent occupation first by Thomas, Lord Dacre and later by Ralph Grey (Hodgson 1832a, 21), but also must have been a place of strength in troubled times. Its fortunes declined over the 17th century. By 1644 it was described as a 'ruinous hole, not tenable by nature and far less by art' (Hodgson 1832a, 21n, quoting the Somerville Memoirs). This was unfortunate as it was required in this parlous state to defend a garrison of Scottish troops under Lieutenant Colonel Somerville from attack by Royalist Scots under Montrose. The Somerville Memoirs provide detail of Montrose's siege of the castle and the destruction to buildings and fortifications (Hodgson 1832a, 21-4n).

4.1.2   St Mary's Church (HER 11087)

It was not only the castle that was in a bad state over the 17th century; the roof of the chancel at St Mary's was also ruinous when recorded in a visitation made in 1666 (Hodgson 1832a, 28). The church has records of burials from as early as 1663. They were numerous enough

to require the enlargement of the churchyard in 1795 with the addition of a piece of ground to the west (Rawlinson 1849, 43).

4.1.3   House of Correction (HER 11634)

In 1715, a building was completed as a county house of correction on a site bought for £130 near the south end of Old Bridge. A woollen manufactory was later established in the building. It was pulled down in 1830 to make way for the approach to Telford Bridge but is shown on Wood's plan of 1826.

4.1.4   Low or Morpeth Common (HER 11210)

Morpeth Common on the west side of the Great North Road began to be enclosed by the Corporation from 1766. At the east end a herdman's house and a number of cottages were erected on it.

4.2   North of the Wansbeck

Burgage plots and the general street layout, established in the late medieval period, continued to be respected in the post-medieval period although some properties will have been amalgamated or divided and an increasing number of buildings would appear to have been constructed on the plots behind the street frontages as shown on the map prepared by Ellison and Fowler in 1738.

4.2.1   Bridge Street

Bridge Street has a few fine listed buildings, mostly dating from the 17th and 18th centuries. No 19 is early 18th century (HER 11140). Numbers 26 and 28 (HER 11142) have an early 18th century core largely remodelled, with 20th century shop fronts. Numbers 30 to 32 (HER 11143) have early 19th century facades but they are on the site of and partly incorporate masonry from the former Old Gaol and Governor's House, founded in 1704 (HER 11074). This in turn stood on the site of, and probably incorporated masonry from, an earlier building shown on the 1604 map. A rainwater head on the building bears the date 1704 (Pevsner 1992, 400).

4.2.2   Oldgate

The entrance to Oldgate from the market place is dominated by the clock tower (see below) which sits in the middle of the street and was probably constructed in the first quarter of the 17th century. Beyond it to the west lie a number of listed buildings dating to the late 17th and early 18th century. A gate or barrier is shown blocking the west end of the street on the 1604 plan (HER 11199)

4.2.3   Newgate Street

Newgate Street has numerous listed buildings, most of which date to the 18th century. This density of historic buildings and its gradual climb to the north makes it one of the most attractive streets in Morpeth. The Dyers Cottage (HER 11209) next to High Stanners footbridge was built before 1738, appearing on Ellison and Fowler's map of that year. As with Oldgate, the 1604 plan shows a gateway or barrier blocking the end of the street (HER 11198)

4.2.4   Bridges

The Old Bridge continued in use until it was replaced by Telford's Bridge in the early 1830s. The footbridge over the Cottingburn on Beggar's Lane (LB Grade II; HER 11144) dates from the 18th century.

4.2.5   Market Place (HER 11201)

Market place retained its medieval location, and a market cross was added in 1699 (Hodgson 1832a, 71). Morpeth's principal source of wealth over the 18th and early 19th centuries derived from its livestock markets, which although primarily for cattle also dealt in oxen, lamb and sheep. Livestock were droved from Scotland and pastoral Northumberland and traded on to centres of consumption such as Newcastle and Sunderland and further afield. By the 18th century, the cattle market at Morpeth was one of the largest in the country and its scale remarked on by various visitors to the town: Writing in 1746, Samuel Simpson, in his *Compleat English Traveller*, described Morpeth cattle market as 'the greatest for live cattle excepting Smithfield'. Forty years later, George Culley ranked it as the third market in England for quality of stock sold. Although buildings on the Market Place generally have 20th and 21st century shop-fronts, behind these facades, a number are of 18th and 19th century date.

4.2.6   Presbyterian Chapel (HER 11121, LB Grade II)

New places of worship sprang up in the town over the 18th century. The Presbyterians had no fixed meeting-house in Morpeth before 1722 and for some time prior to this they are thought to have assembled in a house on Cottingburn (HER 11075). The Presbyterian Chapel in Cottingwood Lane dates to 1722 and is shown on Woods' plan of 1826. It is of a characteristic nonconformist pattern with two large arched windows in the middle bay and two smaller arched windows over doorways in the outer bays (Pevsner 1992, 399). It was turned into a domestic property in 1987.

4.2.7   Roman Catholic Chapel (HER 11212)

A Roman Catholic chapel is shown in Oldgate on Wood's 1826 plan. Hodgson explains that Catholics secretly held mass in a house in Buller's Green before this chapel in Oldgate was built in 1778 (1832a, 77).

4.2.8   All Saints Chapel (Bridge Chantry) (HER 11533)

After the Dissolution, parts of All Saints was demolished. The Grammar School of Edward VI was founded by charter in 1552 and occupied the western part of the building. The extension along the south face of the building was added in 1738.

4.2.9   The Town Hall and Tollbooth (HER 11077, LB Grade II)

The tollbooth is mentioned in 1529 and shown on the 1604 map of the town on the south side of market place. It was demolished prior to 1714, when the town hall, designed by John Vanburgh, was built. The front of Vanburgh's building has been entirely renewed but to the same style and form as the original and the back replaced by R J Johnson in brick after fire damage in 1869-70 (Pevsner 1992, 397).

4.2.10   The Clock Tower (HER 11076, SM Nd110, LB Grade II*)

It has been suggested that the Clock Tower in the middle of Oldgate is of 15th century date with later additions, and that the tower may have been used for a refuge as well as a signal or warning tower (Long 1967, 136). However, such isolated belfry towers are rare in England and since it is not shown on the 1604 map, it probably dates from the early 17th century, reusing earlier masonry from elsewhere (possibly Newminster) including a 14th century cusp-headed window. The top floor was added in 1704, and an inscription records repairs of 1760 (Pevsner 1992, 397). An assessment of the tower and its history (Event No: 39) was prepared by Ryder in 2000.

4.2.11   Tower and Gaol (HER 11542)

A tower (HER 11542) is shown on the 1604 map between Bridge Street and the Wansbeck. At a later date, a gaol (which came to be known as the old gaol) was located on this site, but it is not clear whether the tower was destroyed or incorporated into the structure. In 1702-3, the county surveyor reported that the old gaol at Morpeth could be purchased, enlarged and repaired for less than it would cost to build a new one at Alnwick. The building work was completed in 1704. The site of the gaol and associated buildings extended from the frontage in Bridge Street to the Wansbeck. The building was converted to domestic use in the early 19th century (Hodgson 1832a, 72-3). Part of the masonry of this gaol is probably incorporated in Nos. 26 and 28 Bridge Street (HER 11142).

4.2.12   Ord House (HER 11633)

The house was built in 1715 for the governor of the house of correction (later replaced by the gaol), which stood behind Ord House. It was a listed building but was allowed to become derelict and demolished in 1976 to make way for a garage (Tyson 1976, 198). A photograph of the house is reproduced in Faulkner and Lowery (1996, 57).

4.3   Industries

4.3.1   Tanneries and Textiles

The trades practised in Morpeth over the post-medieval period carried on from earlier times as can be gauged by the continuation of trade companies, crafts or guilds which had been established over the medieval period. Companies which produced statutes in the 17th century were probably only regularising existing procedures. The Tanners' Company statutes date from 1617 and the Fullers' and Dyers' Company from 1676 (Hodgson 1832a, 65-7). The Militia Roll of 1762 lists many occupations of the townsmen and confirms that textiles and tanning were by that time the major industries (Tyson 1976, 193).

Textile manufacture peaked by the end of the 18th century. The Manchester cotton manufactory in Manchester Lane, for instance (HER 11211), was advertised to let as a going concern in 1757 when it comprised 20 looms, a dye-house, with leads, pewters, etc" (Hodgson 1832a, 160). The factory employed many poor in the town. Only remnants of the industry remained into the 19th century (Willis 1996, 79).

Tanning also continued to be extensive until the beginning of the 19th century. 'Tanning, in former times, was the most staple and important trade of this town … owing perhaps in some degree to the quantity of oak wood in the neighbourhood' (Hodgson 1832a, 90). Clearly, other requirements were hides and water; and the location of tanneries in the town was strongly influenced by this last requirement, developing alongside the Cottingburn. Rawlinson noted that '...prior to the 19th century there were no buildings there except tan yards' (1849, 10). A sluice gate on the burn controlled the flow of water used by the tanneries (HER 11193 and HER 11624).

4.3.2   Mills

There were numerous mills in Morpeth with a variety of functions. Manor corn mill (HER 11534) which lay on the north bank of the Wansbeck, close to All Saints' Chapel was of medieval origin. It is called Timies Green Mill on the 1604 map and Town Mill on Wood's 1826 map. A number of mills are also marked along the Cottingburn on the 1604 map. One of these at Low Stanners (HER 11635) and named Wauk Mill on Woods' plan is likely to be one of two fulling mills rented by the Earl of Carlisle - one on the Low Stanners and the other on the Park-House banks (Hodgson 1832a, 85). A mill south of the Low Stanners was named Dob Mill (HER 11629) on the 1604 map.

Further east, the 1604 map shows East Water Mill (HER 11592) which Tyson suggests dates to 1566 (1976, 189). This was demolished at the end of the 18th century although stonework of the early structure is apparently incorporated into the corn mill structure dated 1798 which was itself extended to include an engine house in the early 19th century and altered again in

1892. Attached to the side of the mill is the miller's house, a building of the early 19th century (Pevsner 1992, 401).

Ellison and Fowler's 1738 map of the River Wansbeck shows a peg mill, Cottingwood Windmill (HER 11194), at the northern end of the town. It was rebuilt as a circular stone structure at some time after this. What remained standing was demolished in 1964.

4.4   The Racecourse

This lay to the north of the study area. The course was present by at least 1746, when the races were advertised in the Newcastle Courant, and was an extremely popular recreation in the town. Most remains untouched by development.

5   NINETEENTH CENTURY

5.1   The Decline of Industries and Markets

The lack of major change in the form of the town in the first half of the 19th century reflects the fact that it was not subject to the industrial expansion of many towns and villages in the coalfield to the south-east. In fact, Morpeth's industries stagnated and seriously declined over the century. By the 1840s, its faltering economy was reflected in a population fall; 18% between 1841 and1851. Over the same period, Newcastle's population grew by 20%, Gateshead's by 23% and Sunderland's by 34% (Willis 1996, 79). Rawlinson, rather dismally, thought that the greatest prosperity of the town had been from the 12th to the 16th centuries 'since when it has been stationary, if not retrograding' (1849, 10). In 1832, tanning and woollen manufacturing had been the staple manufactures of the town but, by the mid century, the latter had almost died out. A similar decline in the tanning industry took place. Rawlinson mentioned four remaining tan yards (1849, 10) and, in 1852, the town's biggest tannery closed. By the 1860s, only two tanneries are marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey (HER 11193 and 11624), and by the 1870s they had all gone 'victims of a failure to modernise and of competition from Leeds' (Willis 1996, 78).

Rawlinson's mid-century report to the Board of Health also provided many illustrations of the state of the town at this time 'There are no effective sewers or drains in Morpeth.' (1849, 23). He noted that many of the larger houses in the town were divided into small, often single-room tenements. In fact, severe overcrowding would be a particular problem of the town for the next 100 years. The report emphasises the effect that lack of sanitation had on the health of the population and gives, as an example, the death from cholera of the occupant of a room positioned over a large midden in a lodging house in Lumsden's Lane (Rawlinson 1849, 23, 26). The report also describes a building in Union Street adjoining the Black Swan Inn divided into single room tenements which opened directly on to cow byres, ash pits and privies.

Figure 4: Morpeth (pink tone) by the time of the first edition Ordnance Survey during the 1860s. Its overall extent had not changed markedly from medieval times.

Unfortunately, the arrival of the public railway in 1847, rather than opening the town up to new trade and industries had simply taken old ones away: In 1830, Morpeth could still be described by William Cobbett in his *Rural Rides* as 'a great market town, for cattle especially'. Subsequent to the arrival of the railway 'the market for fat stock... removed to Newcastle' (Rawlinson 1849, 6). By the 1870s the stockyards, the pinfold and the manor cross had gone. But the agricultural nature of the town remained; store cattle were still sold in the streets until 1903 (Willis 1996, 82).

5.2   A Service and Administrative Centre

If Morpeth did not industrialise in any significant way, it did manage to capitalise on the industrial centres close by. The town which had previously depended on its role as a market for its agricultural hinterland became an increasingly important service centre for the growing population of miners and railway workers who were employed in the locality, and frequently even lived in Morpeth and its increasing outskirts. Retail became the most significant element in the town's employment. The neighbouring, now much larger town of Bedlington, for

instance, had far fewer shops (Willis 1996, 80). Morpeth also became increasingly important as an administrative and jurisdictional centre. The county gaol (HER 11546) was built there in 1822 (although it was moved to Newcastle in 1881) and the county asylum (St George's hospital (HER 11627) was located in Morpeth in 1859. The county quarter sessions met in Morpeth once a year and the county constabulary was established in the town in 1886 (Willis 1996, 82).

While the Newcastle to Berwick Railway dramatically diminished the importance of Morpeth's cattle market it did at least provide good rail links to attract some new businesses and allowed the start of its growth as a commuter town.

5.3   Expansion

Early 19th century Morpeth was still largely contained within the historic core of Oldgate, Newgate, Bridge Street, Hillgate, Castle Square and Bullers Green. Hodgson thought that the only wholesale additions to the town since 1603 had been houses constructed on land to the east of Newgate and north of Bridge Street along Union Street and King Street (1832a, 59). By the 1850s the town began to expand further to the north-east. This included Howard Terrace and Dacre Street which Willis identifies as the first exclusively middle-class streets in Morpeth (1996, 85). By the end of the century, Morpeth was a commuter town, serving the industrial south-east of the county and Tyneside.

5.4   Buildings Constructed over the Century

Numbers of buildings in Morpeth were constructed over the 19th century. The majority of these along Newgate were constructed as houses (now mostly shops), but the Beeswing (HER 11090) was constructed as an inn, and the present Lloyds Bank (HER 11166) was purpose-built as a bank in 1904. Some of the old inns along Newgate Street have now disappeared such as the Old Nag's Head and The Fox and Hounds. The White Swan survives. Horse Entry is a narrow passage from the east side of Newgate along which horses were led to the stables of public houses, while carts were left in the street (Rowland 1986, 42). The ramp past the Beeswing originally led to stables and cellars. A Union Workhouse is shown on land between Newgate Street and the river on the first edition Ordnance Survey. At Buller's Green there is just one listed 19th century building (No 46, Buller's Green), a former shop. The Black Bull Hotel (HER 11601) on Bridge Street is early 19th century, and stables can still be seen to the rear. The Dispensary on Oldgate was established in 1817 (Hodgson 1832a, 71).

5.5   Places of Worship

5.5.1   St Mary's Church

A Lychgate (LB Grade II; HER 11148) was built at St Mary's in 1861. Railings and gates were added north-east of the lychgate around the same time (HER 11149). A small watch house (LB Grade II; HER 11150) was built on Low Common adjacent to the churchyard in 1831. It was used as a lookout for the protection of new burials in the churchyard from resurrection men (Hodgson 1832a, 64; Pevsner 1992, 393).

5.5.2   All Saints' Chapel

Over the century this fell out of use as a place of worship. Some rebuilding and additional work was carried out to the school ranges in 1811 and extensive repairs to the building were carried out under John Dobson in 1827 (Hodgson 1832a, 37-8n). For some time in the 1880s much of the building was used as an aerated water factory (Wilson 1884, 4). A deed dated 1883 (NRO EP 28/122/68) records its use for the production of mineral water, describing the chapel as 'all that messuage tenement and buildings formerly used as a chapel and known by the name of the chapel of All Saints' but lately used as a public hall, council chamber and waiting room'.

5.5.3   Church of St James (LB Grade II*; HER 11098)

Set back from Newgate, St James's is one of the architect Benjamin Ferrey's earliest designs, dating to 1843-6. It is in a neo-Norman style with contemporary furnishings. The churchyard is fronted on Newgate by an ornate arcade of Frosterley marble (Grade II*; HER 11099).

5.5.5   The Wesleyan Chapel (HER 11153)

The old Wesleyan Chapel in Manchester Street now houses the Boys' Brigade headquarters. Pevsner dates this building to 1884 (1992, 400). However, Hodgson says the Methodist chapel in Manchester Lane (later Street) was built in 1822, and that there had been a place of worship there for some time before then (1832a, 85). A chapel is certainly marked on Wood's 1826 map.

5.5.6   The Roman Catholic Church of St Robert (LB Grade II; HER 11175)

Sits on Oldgate, is listed Grade II and dates to 1850 (Pevsner 1992, 396).

5.5.7   St George United Reformed Church (HER 1112; LB Grade II).

This was formerly the Presbyterian Church. It dates to 1860 (Pevsner 1992, 396). As mentioned above, it sits over some remaining stonework of the leats of the former town mill.

5.5.8   A Presbyterian Chapel (Free) (HER 11215)

It is marked on the first edition Ordnance Survey in Howard Terrace.

5.5.9 A Primitive Methodist Chapel
It sits on Howard Street, dates to 1904, and had additions in 1984 (Pevsner 1992, 396).

5.6 New Gaol (Court House) (LB Grade II*; HER 11546)
The new Northumberland County Gaol, Session House, and houses for the gaoler and taskmaster on Castle Bank were designed by Dobson. The act for building it was passed in 1821, but it was not in use as a prison until 1828. The octagonal gaol was demolished in 1891 leaving the monumental gateway, now known as the Court House (LB Grade II*; HER 11546).

5.7 Bridges and Stepping Stones

5.7.1 Telford Bridge (New Bridge) (LB Grade II*; HER 11558)
was constructed between 1829 and 1831 a little to the east of Old Bridge. Hodgson says that Telford chose the site and supervised the work, while Dobson supplied the design (Hodgson 1832a, 62). An inscription on the parapet gives credit only to Telford (Pevsner 1992, 398). Construction involved considerable alteration to the bridge approaches and the construction of a tollhouse (LB Grade II; HER 11605) to the south. The arches of the Old Bridge were demolished with explosives in 1835, apparently to prevent people from using it to avoid paying tolls on the new bridge. Despite this, a wooden footway across the remains of the Old Bridge was subsequently built and replaced in 1869 by an iron footbridge made by Swinneys of Morpeth.

5.7.2 Oldgate Bridges
A point a little to the south of the west end of Oldgate was formerly the location of stepping stones across the Wansbeck. By the early 19th century a pedestrian chain bridge had been slung across the river, continuing the line of Oldgate as is shown on Woods' plan of 1826. In 1830, this bridge collapsed; its replacement also collapsed in 1870. A more conventional iron-frame bridge was then installed and remained until 1934 when it was transferred wholesale by steam engine to Low Stanners. A further iron bridge took its place soon after, itself replaced by the current bridge in 1970 (Rowland 1986, 36).

5.7.3 Lowford Bridge (HER 11106, LB Grade II)
This was built to carry the Mitford Road across the Wansbeck west of Morpeth in 1836 by public subscription. It was designed by John Dobson (Pevsner 1992, 398).

5.7.4 Stepping Stones
Woods' map of 1826 shows three sets of stepping stones across the Wansbeck at Morpeth. To the north-west, Buller's Green steps (HER 11231) went from Wansbeck Place to the High Stanners; the Bakehouse steps (HER 11232) from Percy Court off Newgate also to the High

Stanners; and the Oldgate steps (HER 11233) crossed south of Chain Bridge. By the time of the first edition Ordnance Survey 25" map in the 1860s, only the Bakehouse Steps were named and depicted, whilst Bullers Green steps are shown but not named. By 1897, when the second edition Ordnance Survey 25" map was produced, Buller's Green steps have been replaced by a footbridge. Only the Bakehouse steps continue in use today.

5.8   Rail Lines

5.8.1   The Netherton Waggonway 1829 (HER 11721)
This was constructed as a private coal line in 1829 and ran from Netherton to Coopies Lane Staith (HER 11621) in Morpeth. Remains of the line can be traced in straight field boundaries and from crop marks visible on aerial photographs to the east of Morpeth. It brought coal to the town from pits in the Bedlington area. Much was used at the gasworks.

5.8.2   Newcastle and Berwick Railway 1847 (LB Grade II)
Morpeth became a link in the developing public railway network. By the mid 1840s, the North Eastern Railway had a line to the north of Morpeth, the Blyth and Tyne Railway a line to the east and the Wansbeck Valley Line formed a branch to the east. In 1847 the Newcastle & Berwick Railway finally opened a section of line between Heaton and Morpeth and a station was opened in the town over the same year (Wells 1989, 29). This station, at Coopies Lane (HER 11608), was designed by Benjamin Green in 'Tudor Style' with glazed canopies. Cast-iron supports were added to the canopies in c.1890 (Pevsner 1992, 398). In 1864, The Blyth and Tyne Railway built a line between Bedlington and Morpeth which terminated adjacent to but did not link with the Newcastle and Berwick line at Coopies Lane station The Blyth and Tyne station (HER 11609) closed in 1888.

5.9   Industries

5.9.1   Textiles
Morpeth's textile industry continued into the 19th century with Oliver's Mill (HER 11213), a woollen mill, opening in 1830. A brick-built steam mill was added in 1899 (Pevsner 1992, 400). An archaeological watching brief in October 1994 at Oliver's Mill uncovered no archaeological deposits of early date. Manchester Street continued as an area of cotton and woollen manufacture.

5.9.2   Engineering
There was little heavy industry in Morpeth. The Swinney Brothers from Tweedmouth set up one of the town's few engineering works (HER 11636) in 1866 in an old tannery. It made a wide range of iron goods, from brick-making machines, to lamp posts, to kitchen stoves. By 1890, the firm had 130 employees. The works are shown as the Wansbeck Iron Works on the

second edition Ordnance Survey in the Back Riggs area behind Bridge Street (now the site of Safeway's supermarket).

5.9.3   Brick and Tile

The first edition Ordnance Survey shows two tile and brick works on the margins of the town at Stob Hill (HER 11617) and on Cottingwood Lane (HER 11196).

6   MODERN

The historic core of the modern town of Morpeth retains its medieval street plan and to a considerable extent its character as a Georgian, brick-built market town, this despite all the main shopping streets having suffered to some extent from insertions of 'modern frontages' with areas of plate glass and concrete. To an extent, this has been remedied as the centre of the town is now designated as a conservation area. There have, however, been many losses. A list of historic buildings demolished in the town between 1960 and 1975 compiled by Tyson provides a picture of rapid structural loss, particularly of buildings behind street frontages (1976, 98). With ever larger developments, the former integrity of historic property boundaries has been strenuously challenged and in a number of cases has been lost.

PART TWO: ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF MORPETH

7   RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

This section deals with the possibility of discovering archaeological remains within Morpeth in the course of development and the potential these remains could have for the understanding of the past of the town and the country as a whole. To be meaningful, any archaeological input in the town should be weighed against the value of likely returns. The most useful way of assessing this value is for it to be set against locally and nationally agreed research agendas which will allow relevant work to be planned and delivered to best value. Developer-funded archaeological work within Northumberland will always refer to national and local research frameworks.

Historic towns represent one of the most complex and important forms of archaeological evidence, some having been occupied over two millennia. As well as information about the overall development of urban settlement and its planning, towns can also provide information on defence, ecclesiastical organisation, crafts, commerce, industry and the environment as well as information about the individual occupants of a town and how they lived and died. As more work is carried out in our urban centres because of archaeological intervention in the planning process, more information is being accumulated. It is important that this information is made accessible to the public and is synthesized, enabling archaeologists to produce, amongst other things, models of changing urban form and spatial analysis of fluctuating forms of activity within towns and their suburbs. This will help to create a national picture of urban change.

7.1   Prehistoric Potential

Although the few prehistoric remains discovered in Morpeth have come from the south of the River Wansbeck, this should not be taken as any strong indication of the likely archaeological potential of the town; too little archaeological work has been carried out for this. It is therefore not possible to indicate a zone or zones of particular significance. Further archaeological input will hopefully rectify this position. Although not securely dated, any further survival of the waterlogged material seen during the excavation of foundations at the Court House (the former gaol) would be of particular palaeo-environmental significance.

7.1.1   *Research Agenda*
- Do waterlogged remains still survive in the area of the Court House south of the River Wansbeck?
- How extensive are they?
- What date are they?

- Does the Bronze Age burial on Haw Hill imply the presence of an adjacent settlement?
- Is there any evidence for prehistoric earthworks on Haw Hill?

7.1.2   Archaeological Priorities

- Any invasive groundworks in the area of the Court House will require archaeological monitoring to establish the existence of palaeodeposits. Ultimately, a strategy of borehole sampling would isolate any deposits but this is likely to be a research rather than development-led project.
- Further detailed survey of the Haw Hill area may identify prehistoric features

7.2   Early Medieval Potential

The current lack of evidence for early medieval occupation at Morpeth does not necessarily preclude its presence but makes it difficult to indicate any meaningful areas of potential. Although the church seems to be securely late medieval, it is possible that early fabric lies within the structure or survives below the present ground surface around or within it.

7.2.1   Research Agenda

- Is there any indication of early-medieval settlement within or adjacent to Morpeth?
- Is there any early - possibly pre-Conquest - fabric in St Mary's Church?

7.2.2   Archaeological Priorities

- Any faculties leading to work on the fabric of St Mary's Church should be accompanied by building recording to establish a development sequence and chronology
- Any groundworks around St Mary's Church should be accompanied by at least an archaeological watching brief

7.3   Medieval Potential (figure 3)

7.3.1   The Medieval Settlement

Structural remains of medieval Morpeth and the postulated extent of archaeological remains are shown on figure 3. The structural (or at least earthwork) remains consist of the two castles, St Mary's Church, All Saints Chapel (the Bridge Chantry) and the Old Bridge. None of these sites can be treated in isolation, all lying within an extensive area of medieval occupation. To the north of the Wansbeck, the survival of many of the outlines of burgage plots in current property boundaries provides some indication of the extent of the settlement. To the south of the Wansbeck, however, there is little indication for the location or even presence of civil occupation. In this area, a best guess at extent would be a strip of occupation between the castles and the church and towards the bridgehead. Future

archaeological work will test this idea. Establishing the presence of early post-Conquest, possibly planned, settlement on the south side of the Wansbeck would be of major importance regionally and nationally.

The settlement to the north is also of considerable archaeological significance, although not exhibiting as yet any great depth of medieval stratigraphy as in Berwick or many Scottish towns, there is clearly survival of medieval deposits, frequently within still visible boundaries.

7.3.2 Research Agenda

- What evidence is there for civil settlement to the south of the River Wansbeck alongside the church and the castles?
- When and why did the settlement die out?
- When was a settlement established on the north side of the river?
- Has the street pattern to the north of the river remained constant?
- What evidence is there for surviving medieval structures within burgage properties?
- How extensive is post-medieval cellaring in the town?
- What evidence is there for crafts, industry and trade within these areas?

7.3.3 Archaeological Priorities

Any development within the likely area of medieval occupation will require archaeological input during the planning process to establish the likely impact of the development and to prepare an appropriate strategy for archaeological mitigation. Most developments will require evaluation at an early stage.

7.3.4 The Castles

Both castles are of very great archaeological and historical significance. They were the most obvious symbols of the feudal authority of the Barony of Morpeth. Their development, adaptation and occasional destruction over the medieval period will acutely follow the fortunes of this authority. There is much to learn about the full physical extent of each of the castles and about the complete range of their buildings. Equally, there is much to learn about the dynamics of the pair. Were they treated as entirely separate entities, one immediately making the other redundant, or did one slowly fade into the other? Was the development of Morpeth castle a tactical or a strategic move, or simply a means to better impress?

7.3.5 Research Agenda

- Was there a bailey at Haw Hill?
- What were the stone structures located at Haw Hill by Woodman in the 1830s?
- Are there any remaining archives for Woodman's excavations at Haw Hill?
- When was Morpeth Castle constructed?
- When was Haw Hill abandoned?

- What was the full extent and form of Morpeth Castle?

7.3.6   Archaeological Priorities

Any work within or adjacent to either of the scheduled sites will require scheduled monument consent and will be accompanied by archaeological recording. Geophysical survey on both sites would help to resolve major issues involving the presence of additional structures.

7.3.7   St Mary's Church

Although appearing securely 14th century, there is some evidence (both from fabric and dowsing) that St Mary's church is earlier than this. Establishing the chronology of the church is vital to understanding the dynamics of the early development of Morpeth and the balance between the baronial authority, the ecclesiastical authority and civil occupation.

7.3.8   Research Agenda

- Is there early in-situ fabric in St Mary's Church?
- Is there any evidence for church remains elsewhere to the south of the Wansbeck?

7.3.9   Archaeological Priorities

- Any work on St Mary's church or around it should be accompanied by appropriate archaeological recording and monitoring or full excavation.
- Groundworks to the south of the Wansbeck should be accompanied by archaeological monitoring to establish the presence of medieval deposits.

7.3.10   The Bridgehead and All Saints' Chapel

A stone bridge across the Wansbeck at Morpeth was constructed sometime in the 13th century and must have facilitated the expansion of the town to the north of the river. The presence of the adjacent All Saints' Chapel on the north bank presumably also indicates that there was a local congregation using it instead of the parish church. Establishing when the bridge and chapel were constructed would be significant in understanding the chronology of settlement movement.

7.3.11   Research Agenda

- When was the Old Bridge constructed? Can timber samples from timber removed from the foundation of the central pier of the bridge be used to provide a dendrochronological date for this construction?
- How much surviving evidence is there for associated structures on the bridge abutments?
- When was All Saints' Chapel constructed?
- Is there any evidence for the extent of the graveyard around the chapel?

7.3.12   Archaeological Priorities

- An assessment should be made of the potential of recovered timber from the Old Bridge underpinning for dendrochronological dating.

- Fabric analysis and a full drawn record of the bridge should be prepared including a detailed inspection of both abutments and the implications of their form.

- A full fabric record of All Saints' Chapel should be prepared to establish the above ground phasing of the structure. This should be compared with the results from the 1980 excavation within the chapel.

- It would be particularly useful to establish the extent of the graveyard around the chapel and any developers in the area should be made aware of the particular issue of the presence of human remains as well as the general archaeological issues.

7.4   Post-Medieval Potential (figure 4)

7.4.1   Rebuilding the Town

The extent and layout of post-medieval Morpeth did not change greatly from that of the later medieval town but the housing stock was just about completely replaced over the period. Most domestic architecture in Morpeth is brick and a proportion of it of some style; the later 17th and 18th centuries saw the development of a polite architecture in a newly peaceful landscape. Little study of housing types in the area has been carried out but Morpeth, with considerable outside influences and of some wealth, will have been a trend-setter. The period also saw increasing, undoubtedly on occasion more squalid, development of backland areas at the rear of properties within the town.

7.4.2   Research Agenda

- What were the different styles of domestic architecture in Morpeth and from what models were they drawn?

- What does the housing stock say about social division within the town?

- What archaeological evidence is there for the lifestyle of the population over the 17th and 18th centuries?

7.4.3   Archaeological Priorities

- Any invasive developments to structures within the conservation area will be accompanied by fabric recording carried out by suitably qualified building historians

- In the long term, an overall historic assessment of the housing stock should be built up. This would be of great value in understanding the architectural development of the town

7.4.4   Industries

There was also a considerable continuity of occupation within the town from later medieval times, especially as regards the tanning industry which developed along the Cottingburn. There is probably still considerable archaeological evidence for the development of this industry and potentially in a context which would be favourable for the preservation of organic remains.

7.4.5   Research Agenda

- What evidence is there for industries in the town?
- Is there any archaeological evidence to suggest that the livestock trade facilitated the development of the tanning industry?

7.4.6   Archaeological Priorities

- Any developments within the rear areas of properties and the Cottingburn area in particular may hold important evidence for the development of the post-medieval industries of the town and will need archaeological input.

7.4.7   Livestock Markets

The period after 1600 also saw the development of the droving industry and of the livestock market at Morpeth, which grew to be one of the biggest in the country. Positioned on the Great North Road, Morpeth also provided important coaching facilities for travellers.

7.4.8   Research Agenda

- Is there any archaeological evidence for the livestock trade and markets?
- How did the town's inns develop and what markets were they primarily serving?

7.5   Nineteenth Century Potential

The nineteenth century saw the decline of traditional industries and markets, replaced by only a few industrial concerns, notably Swinney's engineering works which lay in the area of the present bus station to the north of Oldgate. It also saw the rise of the town as a retail and service centre for the industrialised areas to the south-east and the beginnings of its role as a dormitory town for a population which worked elsewhere in the locality.

7.5.1   Research Agenda

- What physical evidence is there for the retail and service expansion of the town in the second half of the century?
- What physical evidence is there for the decline in the livestock trade subsequent to the loss of the market to Newcastle?
- How were the suburbs of Morpeth developed?
- Are there any particular characteristics to the new housing stock?

- What factors made Swinney's Ironworks set up in the town?
- What evidence remains for the works?

7.5.2   Archaeological Priorities

- Any retail premises which survive relatively untouched by modern developments should be recorded prior to development.
- An analysis of trade directories would highlight the development of Morpeth as a service centre.
- A record of 19th century housing types should be built-up related to the areas of development in the town.
- Any development in the area of Swinney's Ironworks in the Back Riggs should be accompanied by full archaeological excavation to record one of the town's only major industries

PART THREE: ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE PLANNING PROCESS

8   THE EXISTING FRAMEWORK

The protection and management of archaeological remains in England is achieved through a combination of statutory and policy based measures. For what are considered to be the most important sites, those of national or international significance, statutory protections are conferred. For many other sites, those which are considered to be of regional or local significance, protection is provided through planning legislation and policy guidance. An indication of best practice for the protection and management of all archaeological sites is provided by Planning Policy Statement 5 issued by the Government.

8.1   Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5) was published in 2010 and replaces Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (PPG15). PPS5 is supported by a companion Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide endorsed by Communities and Local Government, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and English Heritage. The practice guide contains general and specific advice on the application of the PPS.

PPS5 recognises a heritage asset as a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. It recognises that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource which should be conserved and enjoyed for the quality of life they bring to this and future generations. It indicates that planning decisions should be made based on the nature, extent and level of significance investigated to a degree proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset (para 7). It establishes the principle that nationally important heritage assets and their settings, whether scheduled or not, should be preserved except in exceptional circumstances (HE9 and 10).

Policies HE6 and 8 require that local planning authorities should ensure that sufficient information on the significance of any heritage assets accompanies all applications with assessment being carried out by appropriate experts. In the case of archaeological assets, this may require desk-based assessment and where an assessment is insufficient to properly assess the situation, field evaluation may be required. Assessment and evaluation should be proportionate to the importance of the known or potential asset and no more than is required to understand the impact of the proposal on the significance of the asset. Where assessment and evaluation is required this needs to be undertaken prior to the submission of an application and included within the required Design and Access Statement (HE6 and 8). Pre-application discussion with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) is recommended (HE8), in

particular Northumberland Conservation, who provide planning advice to the local authority on heritage issues.

Where the loss of part or all of the asset is justified, LPAs should require the developer to record and advance an understanding of the heritage asset before it is lost. Such actions can be secured by condition. The extent of mitigation requirements should be proportionate to the significance of the asset (HE12). These procedures are examined in more detail in section 8.7 and 8.8 below.

8.2   Scheduled Ancient Monuments

The most important sites in the country are protected under the terms of section 1 of the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979).* For any works carried out on or in the vicinity of these sites consent must be granted by the Department for Culture Media and Sport (DCMS), who take advice on these matters from English Heritage (EH). Scheduling is in many ways unsuited to widespread application in urban areas. It is not designed to protect extensive areas, but rather protects well-defined and easily identifiable monuments. Nor does it adapt well to protecting archaeological remains where the precise nature of the deposits is not known. It is therefore necessary to protect many urban archaeological remains through the planning process and if necessary by controlling or reducing sub-surface interference through an Article 4 direction under the *Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1988.*

8.3   Listed Buildings

This is a statutory designation, the equivalent of scheduling for a building. Listed buildings can be altered, but only after due consideration to the nature of the building and its historic context. There is currently a range of listing grades: grades I and II* are protected directly by English Heritage, grade II by local authorities.

8.4   Conservation Areas

Conservation Areas are designated by the local planning authority under the terms of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Archaeological Areas) Act 1990. Conservation Areas are put in place in parts of towns which are considered to be of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. There are more than 50 Conservation Areas in Northumberland of which Belford is one.

8.5   Archaeological Sites without Statutory Designation

The protection and management of the majority of archaeological sites in England, *ie* those which are not protected by statutory means, is carried out by local authorities. Measures for the protection of both known and unknown archaeological sites are set out as policies within

the statutory development plan and include specific requirements as well as reference to nationally agreed planning policy guidelines and statutory obligations.

8.6 Development Plan Policies

Responsibility for the protection and management of archaeological sites and the historic environment falls upon the Local Planning Authority (LPA). To assist the LPA in preserving the built and natural environment, the statutory development plan contains a comprehensive set of planning policies. For Morpeth, the statutory development plan comprises the saved policies of the *Castle Morpeth District Local Plan*. The Regional Spatial Strategy was revoked in July 2010.

The saved policies of the Castle Morpeth District Local Plan relating to the protection and management of archaeological sites and the historic environment are:

Policy C39
The Council will seek the preservation and enhancement of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other nationally important archaeological sites and their settings. Development proposals which would be detrimental to those sites and their settings will not be permitted.

Policy C40
The Council will not permit development which would be detrimental to regionally or locally important archaeological sites or their settings unless the proposed development is of overriding regional importance and no alternative site is available.

Policy C41
Where the impact of a development proposal on an archaeological site, or the relative importance of such a site is unclear, the Council will require the developer to provide further information in the form of an archaeological assessment and, where appropriate, an archaeological evaluation. Applications for planning permission will not be determined until adequate assessment of the impact of proposals on the archaeological site and its setting has been carried out.

Policy C42
Where the Council decides to grant planning permission for development which will affect sites known to contain archaeological remains, and preservation in situ is not appropriate, such permission may be subject to a condition or an agreement requiring the developer to make provision for the excavation and recording of the remains and publication of the findings.

These objectives are implemented through the planning system and through protective legislation.

8.7 Pre-Application Discussion

Early consultation with Northumberland Conservation on planning proposals is of enormous importance and is highlighted in PPS5. Where assessment and evaluation are required, this needs to be undertaken prior to the submission of an application and included within the required Design and Access Statement in line with PPS5 policies HE6 and 8.

Northumberland Conservation can provide an initial appraisal of whether known or potential heritage assets of significance are likely to be affected by a proposed development and can give advice on the steps that may need to be taken at each stage of the process.

8.7.1   Desk-Based Assessment

Information on the likely impact a proposed development will have on the remains can be estimated from existing records (including this report), historical accounts and reports of archaeological work in the vicinity, in conjunction with a number of sources which suggest the nature of deposits on the site, such as bore-hole logs and cellar surveys. This is presented in a standard format, known as a Desk-Based Assessment, prepared by an archaeological consultant on behalf of the applicant, to a specification drawn up by, or in agreement with, Northumberland Conservation, which can assist by providing a list of organisations which do work of this sort (see Policy C41, above).

Pre-application consultation with Northumberland Conservation is vital as desk-based assessment may not be necessary in many instances but where required, it will need to be submitted with the planning application.

8.7.2   Field Evaluation

Where an assessment is insufficient to properly assess the impact of a proposed development on known or potential heritage assets, field evaluation may be required. The requirements of this stage will also be determined by Northumberland Conservation. It may require a range of survey and analytical techniques including limited excavation. An evaluation is designed to provide sufficient information about the extent, character and preservation of archaeological remains to judge what planning decision would be appropriate and, if necessary, what mitigation measures should be adopted (see Policy C41, above).

Pre-application consultation with Northumberland Conservation is vital as evaluation may not be necessary in some instances but where required, it will need to be submitted with the planning application.

8.8   Archaeological Planning Conditions

The Planning Authority can make the appropriate decision (in the context of the Policies set out in the statutory development plan) on whether or not to give consent to the scheme, based the information provided by the Historic Environment Record and assessment and evaluation reports, where necessary. If it is considered that an application can be consented, steps may be required to mitigate its impact on the archaeological remains. This can sometimes be achieved by simply designing the scheme to avoid disturbance, for example by the use of building techniques that ensure minimal ground disturbance. If planning permission is given and archaeological remains will be unavoidably destroyed, the developer may be

required to ensure that these remains are archaeologically investigated, analysed and published. In this situation, the requirements for further work will normally be attached to the Planning Consent as conditions, such as the standard Northumberland Conservation condition detailed below:

> *A programme of archaeological work is required in accordance with the brief provided by Northumberland Conservation (NC ref X dated X). The archaeological scheme shall comprise three stages of work. Each stage shall be completed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before it can be discharged:*
>
> *a) No development or archaeological mitigation shall commence on site until a written scheme of investigation based on the brief has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*
>
> *b) The archaeological recording scheme required by the brief must be completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation.*
>
> *c) The programme of analysis, reporting, publication and archiving if required by the brief must be completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation.*

8.8.1   Written Scheme of Investigation

This is a detailed document which sets out the extent and the nature of archaeological work required, including any necessary analyses and research, finds collection, conservation and deposition policies as well as likely publication requirements. This document is usually prepared by the contracting archaeologist, who will undertake the work, to a brief prepared by Northumberland Conservation.

8.8.2   The Range of Archaeological Fieldwork

The range of archaeological requirements set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation will vary. Many sites in historic urban areas will require full excavation. Frequently, though, the small-scale of disturbance associated with a development, or the low probability that archaeological remains will have once existed or survived on the site, will mean that a less intensive level of observation and recording is required. This may take the form of a Watching Brief; this is the timetabled presence of a suitably qualified archaeologist at the point when ground work on a site is underway. Any archaeological deposits encountered will be quickly recorded and any finds collected, without undue disruption to the construction work. Again, Northumberland Conservation will provide the brief for the Watching Brief and the contracting archaeologist will provide a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation which complies with the brief.

8.8.3   Building Recording

Where historic standing buildings form a component of the archaeological resource affected by development, there may be a need to undertake building recording in advance of demolition or renovation. This requirement may apply to listed and unlisted buildings and will be dependent on the historical interest of the building; outwardly unprepossessing structures

may contain important information about past communities and industries and will merit recording by qualified archaeologists or building historians to an agreed specification.

8.9   Unexpected Discoveries

Developers may wish to incorporate the potential for unexpected discoveries into their risk-management strategies. The PPS5 Practice Guide (paragraph 141) provides advice on the rare instances where, as a result of implementing a consent, a new asset is discovered or the significance of an existing asset is increased in a way that could not reasonably have been foreseen at the time of the application. It advises the local planning authority to work with the developer to seek a solution that protects the significance of the new discovery, so far as is practical, within the existing scheme. The extent of modifications will be dependant on the importance of the discovery and new evidence may require a local planning authority to consider reviewing its decision. Discoveries of treasure or human remains will need to be reported in accordance with the relevant legislation. English Heritage wishes to be informed if the discoveries are likely to merit designation.

The National Heritage Protection Commissions Programme Guidance on PPS5 Assistance Cases released in July 2010 indicates that English Heritage recognises that the best-planned and informed schemes can occasionally result in entirely unexpected discoveries of national significance, and therefore it may be possible to apply for funding as a last resort to ensure that a suitable record is made prior to destruction or loss of significance. English Heritage will only consider financial assistance towards the investigation, analysis or dissemination of such nationally significant discoveries if:

- The discovery is genuinely unexpected and could not have been predicted

- The asset discovered is of national significance

- The planning process set out in PPS5 has been followed

- Every effort can be demonstrated to have been made to accommodate unexpected discoveries within the available resources by prioritising the most important elements of the asset(s) being investigated

The request for funding must come from the appropriate local government heritage officer with responsibility for the case and not directly from the contractors or consultants conducting the investigation. Funding will be provided via the National Heritage Protection Commissions Programme (replacing the Historic Environment Enabling Programme in April 2011). English Heritage must be consulted at the earliest possible juncture so that they have an opportunity to shape the response to the unexpected discoveries. English Heritage will not consider retrospective applications to cover costs already incurred when they have not be consulted on or agreed to the response and its cost implications. The first point of contact should be the North-East English Heritage offices at Bessie Surtees House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle upon Tyne (0191 269 1200).

8.9.1 How is National Archaeological Importance Defined?

A number of assumptions will be made when determining whether archaeological remains are nationally important or not. These have been set out by English Heritage (1992, 47):

i) the further back in time the origins of the form the greater the interest to archaeology; the fewer the number of examples believed to exist the greater the interest that attaches to those places as representatives of their form;

ii) the greater the variation that can be perceived within any defined form the higher the archaeological interest in terms of opportunities to explore spatial and temporal variation in respect of social, economic, political, religious, and symbolic matters; and

iii) the more representative of the life and times of the periods during which defined forms were current the greater the archaeological interest in terms of providing insights into past lifestyles.

These assumptions are not intended to apply to all of the town at all times. Nor will all of these assumptions be appropriate to all nationally important archaeological sites within the urban area. Instead they are used to help create a value judgement on particular archaeological remains and whether they may be nationally important or not. A number of discrimination criteria will also be applied to archaeological remains discovered during the course of development. These will relate more specifically to the remains uncovered and will include their state of survival, their potential to provide archaeological evidence, previous archaeological or historical documentation on site, their group value, diversity, and amenity value. These criteria have been developed by the Secretary of State to determine whether archaeological remains are nationally important or not.

In Morpeth the majority of sites considered to be of archaeological interest are medieval and post-medieval in date, although the area around the police station, the Courthouse and Carlisle Park appears to have been the focus of prehistoric settlement. The area has already been assessed as part of the Monuments Protection Programme therefore no additional scheduled sites are likely to be designated in the near future. As a result, there are currently four, archaeological sites which have been given this form of statutory protection. There are three listed buildings which have been given Grade I status which means that they are of exceptional interest (less than 5% of buildings listed): The Chantry, Morpeth Castle and the Church of St. Mary. There are six buildings which are listed Grade II* in the town: Telford Bridge, the Courthouse, the Church of St James and its entrance screen, the Clock Tower and the Roman Catholic Church of St Robert. There are a further 72 listed buildings at Grade II standard in the town. These consist mainly of buildings along Newgate, Bridge Street and Oldgate, but also include gatepiers, gravestones and the canon outside the Joiners Arms. All listed buildings at Grade II* and Grade II are buildings of special interest which warrant every effort to preserve them.

9 SOURCES

Bibliography

Bailey, R, Cambridge, E, and Briggs, D 1988. *Dowsing and Church Archaeology*

Bates, C J, 1891. *Border Holdings of Northumberland*

Beresford, M, 1967. *New Towns of the Middle Ages*

Beresford, M W and Finberg, H P R, 1973. *English Medieval Boroughs: A hand-list*

Dodds, M H, 1938. "Two old maps of Morpeth and Newminster," *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquities of Newcastle upon Tyne* 4 series, 8

Faulkner, T E, and Lowery, P, 1996. *Lost Houses of Newcastle and Northumberland*

Fraser, C M (ed,) 1968. *The Northumberland Lay Subsidy Roll, 1296.* The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne

Hodgson, J, 1832a. *A History of Morpeth*, (Frank Graham reprint 1973)

Hodgson, J, 1832b. *A History of Northumberland*, Vol. II , part II

Hunter Blair, C, 1944. "Early castles of Northumberland," *Archaeologia Aeliana* 4 series, 22

Knowles, D and Hadcock, R N, 1953. *Mediaeval Religious Houses: England and Wales*

Knowles, W H, 1920. "Morpeth and Newminster," *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne* 3 series, 9

Long, B, 1967. *Castles of Northumberland*

Pevsner, N, et al., 1992. *The Buildings of England: Northumberland*

Rawlinson, 1849. "Report to the General Board of health on a Preliminary Enquiry into the Sewerage and Drainage and Supply of Water and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Borough of Morpeth and the Village of Bedlington", in *Morpeth Collectanea*, 4, (NRO ZAN M16/B4 and NRO 2164)

Rowland, H, undated, but probably 1986. *Visit Historic Morpeth*

Rowland, T H, 1995. *Wanderings Along the River Wansbeck*

Ryder, P, (1992. "The gatehouse of Morpeth Castle," *Archaeologia Aeliana* 5 series, 20

Ryder, P and Sermon, R, 1993 *Historic Bridges in Northumberland,* Unpublished report for Northumberland County Council

Tyson, P, 1976. "Morpeth: an archaeological study," in P.A.G. Clack and P.F. Gosling (eds) *Archaeology in the North*

Wells, J A, 1989. *The Blyth and Tyne Railway*

Whellan, W, 1855. *History, Topography and Directory of Northumberland*

Willis, I, 1996. "Morpeth: a Northumbrian market town in the nineteenth century," in T.E. Faulkner (ed) *Northumbrian Panorama*

Wilson, D F, 1884. *Wilson's Handbook of Morpeth*

Documentary Sources (Northumberland Record Office, Woodhorn)

Haiwarde, J., 1604, Survey of Morpeth Borough,	NRO ZAN M16/B5
Copy of 1604 map,	NRO ZAN M 16/8 5 p 2
Ellinson, R. and Fowler, R., 1738, Survey of the River Wansbeck,	NRO ZAN M16/B6
Woods, J, 1826, "Plan of the Town of Morpeth," in Town Atlas of Northumberland and Durham, 1991 Frank Graham reprint and also,	NRO ZAN/M16/B4
Morpeth Collecteana, Vol. IV,	NRO ZAN/M16/B4
Morpeth Miscellany, Vol. II,	NRO ZAN/M16/B6
Deed of Morpeth Chantry, 1883,	NRO EP 28/122/68
Morpeth Corporation deeds and other records including 13th century	NRO BMO //
Deed 1449	NRO ZBR 13
Morpeth Borough Records, Brimley v Warryner concerning seized goods at the corn mill c.16th century	NRO 4574/2
Morpeth Borough records list of leases by bailiffs, Of various Morpeth properties 1510-1650	NRO 4574/6
Premises owned by Newminster Abbey 1536 Survey	NRO 324/M1/7
No plans with this, parchment scroll listing lands owned by Newminster, details of locations are not given, would require detailed study to make use of it.	
Registers, 1583-1812	NRO Microf, 16, 17
Morpeth parish registers c. 1583-1937	NRO EP 28
Deeds of freehold premises in Newgate, Aldgate, Bridge Street, Castle Street, 17th -19th centuries	NRO 5006
Deeds re property in Morpeth 17th - 19th centuries	NRO 324/M1/10-16
Deeds 1621-1712	NRO ZBG 6/1-6
Deeds re house of John Ord Bridge Street, Morpeth, 1632-1771	NRO ZAN M19/17
Court Rolls 1654	NRO ZAN M16/B27
Deeds re property at Bullers Green 1659-1712	NRO 324/M1/17
Deeds, 13th century, 1666	NRO ZSW 1/171 = 173/24
Rental of Earl of Carlisle's Estate 1675-1757 including Morpeth 29-56	NRO ZAN M16/B4 pp
Deeds and papers re Morpeth Workhouse 1681-1865	NRO QCD 47
Deeds etc. Bridge Street property 1692-1866	NRO 530.20/14
Morpeth Borough records, plan of Morpeth High Common, The Enter Common and the Gubion farm c.18th century	NRO 4574/20
Morpeth Gaol title deeds 1713-1824	NRO QCD 45
Agreement re- Grammar School lands 1714	NRO ZTR 1/62
Deeds re property held in Morpeth by St George's 1721-1960	NRO UR/P 16/56-62
Newminster Abbey estate in Morpeth survey with plans, 1724	NRO BMO B, 2
Deed to houses at Bowness Green Morpeth 1724-96	NRO QCD 19
Edward VI Grammar School statutes and orders 1725	NRO 642 p 15-28

Deed re burgage and malt kiln 1732   NRO 358 B/40/20

Deeds of Pack Horse Inn Morpeth 1737-1864   NRO 1597

Deeds and papers re Great Bull public house 1745-1962   NRO 3982

Deeds Bullers Green 1753, 1754   NRO QRD 2/1

Deeds re Bullers Green, 1758   NRO QRD 2/2

Morpeth-Elsdon Turnpike trust papers 1764-1807   NRO 324/A 82

Land tax assessments 1769-1859   NRO NIR 20

Deeds re Bullers Green 1776-7   NRO QRD 4

Abstracts of Title 1777-1810   NRO ZMI B34/VIII

Leases and deeds 1781-1825   NRO 530.17/19

Deeds and papers re Morpeth Workhouse 1785-1858   NRO QCD 46

Deeds re grey Nags Head Newgate Street, 1805-1930   NRO 2373

Morpeth and North Shields Turnpike paper including map 1813-1882 NRO ZBS 1/1-24

Morpeth, Manchester Street, Methodist Church records 1815-1965   NRO M 1/J 21

Deed, house of correction, 1830   NRO QRD 8

Report on the Borough of Morpeth, also plan, 1832   NRO 3217

Morpeth Gas Co. records 1833-1933   NRO NGB 10

Certificate of Morpeth Primitive Methodist meeting house 1836   NRO QRR 1/25

Morpeth Gaol 1840-46   NRO CS 35

Shields and Morpeth turnpike papers 1841-80   NRO ZSA 26/1

Tithe award, 1843   NRO DT 327 L

Morpeth township 1844   NRO EP 28/95/1

Photocopy of lease of Morpeth metal foundry 1847 and will of John Watson, millwright NRO 815

Elevation of the former workhouse and property on the site of the new one 1863   NRO BMO B37

Logbook of St James National School 1863-1870   NRO 5064/1

Morpeth, Howard Terrace, Methodist Church records 1871-1974   NRO M 1/J 20

Deed for Morpeth Chantry for rector to aerated water manufacture 1883 with plan NRO EP 28/65

Records of JW Peters, undertakers 1893-1932 including a plan of gaol 1893 NRO 2590

Deeds re Earl of Carlisle Estates at Morpeth   NRO 2487/1,2

Record of the Company of Smiths, Sadlers, Glaziers and Armourers NRO 4258

Chart of 300 years of Presbyterianism in Morpeth   NRO UR/P 16/90

Morpeth Collectanea Independent Grammar School   NRO ZAN M16/B1-19

Map of 1826, A Forester, large vol. iii   NRO ZAN M16/B6 p.4

Plan showing Morpeth parish and Ulgham Chapelry 1843   NRO 323/1

Plan of Morpeth town centre n.d.   NRO 578/349

Plan of Groin arches in new gaol 1824   NRO ZAL 89/37

Photograph of drawing by Grimm of Morpeth Castle c.1778   NRO ZMD 163/9

Engraving of Morpeth Castle 19th century   NRO 4028/4

Plans of St Mary's Church by C.H. Fowler 1856-66   NRO 626/7

Plans and report of dowsing survey of St Mary's Church 1984   NRO 2190/23

Architectural plan of the east window of St Mary's Church 1913   NRO 591/2

Grimm's drawings of Morpeth Castle 18th century   NRO M 542

Engraving of Morpeth Market place 1836   NRO 4804/2

Sketch of the south view of Morpeth rectory 18th century   NRO 3544/15

Photos of Morpeth   NRO 1452

Photos of Morpeth c.1900   NRO 1665

Photograph of the manse in Dacre Street c.1860-1880   NRO UR/P 16/73

Newcastle City Library Local Studies

Morpeth Bridges, photographs   VF 27953

Morpeth Roads and Streets   VF 23748 0301/L384

Inn to be let 14.3.1724, Newcastle Courant   L072

Corn mills to let by the Earl of Carlisle, windmill to be rebuilt 18.4.1724 Newcastle Courant

                                                                     L072 page 10

Morpeth Castle, Engraving History, 1774   VF 40130

Engraving, Morpeth market place c.1830   VF 37633

Abbey Mill illustration 1890   VF 23827 0222/L283

Morpeth Architecture, illustrated article 1968   VF 17256

Morpeth fish market, article on history 1891 Newcastle Daily Chronicle cuttings vol. 1 page

194   L029.3

APPENDIX 1: LISTED BUILDINGS

Grade I

Morpeth Castle (HER 11532, SM Nd 653)

Parish Church of St Mary (4/17, HER 11087)

All Saints Chapel (HER 11533)

Grade II*

The Court House (HER 11546)

New Bridge (Telford Bridge) (HER 11558)

The Clock Tower (HER 11076, SM Nd110)

Church of St James (HER 11098)

Entrance screen to churchyard of Church of St James (HER 11099)

Collingwood House (HER 11100)

Grade II

The Old Bridge and footbridge (5/72, HER 11535)

East Mill (HER 11592)

The Town Hall (HER 11077)

Footbridge on Beggar's Lane (HER 11144)

No 15 and attached area railings Bridge Street (HER 11139)

No 19 Bridge Street (north side) (HER 11140)

Town and Country Antique Furniture Restorers, Bridge Street (off) (north side) (HER 11141)

No 47 (The Black Bull) Bridge Street (north side) (HER 11601)

No 57 Bridge Street (north side) (HER 11602)

No 59 Bridge Street (north side) (HER 11603)

Nos 26 and 28 Bridge Street (HER 11142)

Nos 30 and 32 Bridge Street (south side) (HER 11143)

No 19 Buller's Green (HER 11145)

No 46 Buller's Green (HER 11146)

Gatepiers and gates to Carlisle Park, Castle Bank (HER 11604)

The Cenotaph, Carlisle Park (1632/10010, HER 13511)

No 1 (The toll House) Castle Square (HER 11605)

No 13 Castle Square (HER 11607)

Former Presbyterian Church (formerly listed as School), Cottingwood Lane (22/226, HER 11121)

No 13 Dacre Street (north side) (HER 11610)

Lychgate, High Church (4/18, HER 11148)

Railings and gates north east of lychgate to Church of St Mary (HER 11149)

Watch house approximately 30 yards (27.4m) south of church of St Mary (HER 11150)

The Croft and Croft Cottage, High Church (HER 11151)

Grave Memorial, Church of St Mary (HER 11186)

Churchyard cross approx 20 yards south of Church of St Mary (24/232, HER 14761)

Softley and Brown headstones approx 3 yards south of Church of St Mary (24/233, HER 14762)

Bell headstone approx 20 yards south-west of Church of St Mary (24/234, HER 14763)

Grave of Emily Davison approx 100 yards north-west of Church of St Mary (24/355, HER 14775)

Bullen memorial approx 100 yards north-west of Church of St Mary (24/236, HER 14776)

Bollard by rear wall of Joiner's Arms, Hillgate (HER 11611)

Lowford Bridge (HER 11106)

No 1 Manchester Street (north side) (HER 11152)

Boys' Brigade Headquarters, Manchester Street (north side) (HER 11153)

No 8 Manchester Street (22/242, HER 14807)

Nos 1 and 2 Market Place (north side) (HER 11154)

No 3 Market Place (north side) (HER 11155)

No 4 Market Place (north side) (HER 11156)

The Hollon Fountain, Market Place (HER 11157)

Grange House, Mitford Road (HER 11158)

Nos 2 and 4 Newgate Street (east side) (4/39, HER 11088)

Nos 6, 6a and 8 Newgate Street (east side) (HER 11159)

Nos 30 and 32 Newgate Street (east side) (HER 11160)

No 88 (Dunedin) Newgate Street (east side) (HER 11161)

No 90 (Lansdowne House) Newgate Street (east side) (HER 11162)

No 92 (Bon Accord House) Newgate Street (east side) (HER 11163)

No 94 Newgate Street (east side) (HER 11164)

No 3 (Lloyds Bank) Newgate Street (HER 11166)

No 23 Newgate Street (west side) (HER 11167)

No 29 Newgate Street (west side) (HER 11168)

The Old Bakehouse Coffee Shop, Newgate Street (off, west side) (Old Bakehouse Yard) (HER 11169)

No 41 (Harle House) Newgate Street (west side) (HER 11170)

Nos 53 and 55 Newgate Street (west side) (HER 11171)

Nos 59 and 61 Newgate Street (2/44, HER 11089)

No 69 Newgate Street (west side) (HER 11173)

No 93 Newgate Street (2/46, HER 11090)

No 101 Newgate Street (2/47, HER 11091)

No 105 Newgate Street (west side) (HER 11174)

No 132 Newgate Street (east side) (HER 11165)

Roman Catholic Church of St Robert, Oldgate (off, north side) (HER 11175)

Nos 1 to 4 (consec) Collingwood Terrace, Oldgate (north side) (HER 11176)

Nos 5 and 7 Oldgate (south side) (HER 11177)

No 11 Oldgate (south side) (HER 11178)

No 13 Oldgate (south side) (HER 11179)

No 23 (Watson House) Oldgate (south side) (HER 11180)

Nos 25 and 25a Oldgate (south side) (HER 11181)

No 35 Oldgate (south side) (HER 11182)

Percy Cottage, Percy Court (HER 11183)

Nos 3 to 7 (consec) Pethgate Court (HER 11606)

Nos 2 to 5 (consec) Wansbeck Place (HER 11147)

Morpeth Station (HER 11608)

Old Station Buildings (Greens Agricultural Merchants) (HER 11609)

APPENDIX 2: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVENTS

Material within this report includes information available on the Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER) at the time this report was updated. Information on the HER is constantly being updated and should be used as the primary source for archaeological investigations in this area.

Event No: 13427
1996, Newminster Abbey, Morpeth, Northumberland
Plan of the fenced area of Newminster Abbey earthworks and standing remains. Details are in part added from the Harbottle and Salway excavations, published in 1964, (Archaeologia Aeliana 4th series 42). No interpretation is made of the areas shown – but identifiable in parts nonetheless. Areas of building - stone rubble are shown. No reference is made to the extent or density of the established scrub covering the site.

Event No: 13637
Tyne and Wear Museums, 1997, *Newgate Street, Morpeth. Archaeological Evaluation.*
An evaluation was carried out ahead of the development at the rear of Newgate Street. Evidence of possible stone structures was encountered in two of the trenches (1 & 5) but there was no associated dating evidence. A wall in trench 5 however may be associated with a structure marked on Wood's map of 1826. A layer of ploughsoil or garden soil containing medieval pottery was encountered in a further three trenches (2, 3 & 4) whilst a sixth trench contained only a shallow cover of modern soil overlaying the natural.

Event No: 13638
Tyne & Wear Museums, 1997, *Mains Terrace, Morpeth. Archaeological Monitoring of Land Re-Development.*
Archaeological monitoring of land on Mains Terrace, Morpeth, on the banks of the River Wansbeck. The early river frontage and access to this terraced area was identified and recorded. A dwelling overlooking the area from the highest terrace appears to be part of earlier development along Newgate Street. On the site of the new access road into Newgate Street, an area of sandstone flags laid on the subsoil was part of the site of a depot, which had been overbuilt with housing that included vaulted brick cellars.

Event No: 13086
The Archaeological Practice, 1998, *Bridge Street and Damside Developments, Morpeth. Assessment*

Event No: 13085
The Archaeological Practice, 1998, *Damside Development, Morpeth.*
The excavation of two trenches and two test pits prior to development of the Damside site. The excavations suggest that the area was predominantly used for agricultural or horticultural purposes during the medieval and post medieval periods. However a number of linear slots and postholes within the two trenches containing late medieval/17th century pottery and clay pipe fragments suggests a brief period of development on the site.

Event No: 13425
Waring and Netts Partnership, 1998, *Conditions Survey of Appleby House, 13 Castle Square, Morpeth,* for the Hunter Memorial Homes Trust
Details of the external and internal features needing alteration or replacements. Includes a description of the defects and the remedy of such. Black and white photographs printed within the report.

Event No: 240
Northern Archaeological Associates, 1999, *St. George's Hospital, Morpeth. Building recording and archaeological trial trenching.*
A photographic record was made of the farm (black and white print and colour slide).

Event No: 51
Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, 1999, *Haw Hill, Carlisle Park.*
A topographic survey was carried out of the motte. The morphology of the mound was recorded, including the earthwork and man-made enhancements to the natural mound. The survey revealed there was an artificial platform on top of the mound which would have served as the base of a keep.

Event No: 52
Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, 1999, *Haw Hill, Carlisle Park.*
A photographic survey was carried out at the same time as the topographic survey. It recorded general and detailed views of the park and its features.

Event No: 53
The Archaeological Practice, 1999, *72 Newgate Street.*
A number of shallow features of late medieval date were found near the street frontage. The fill of these included charcoal and reddened silt and, taken together with the presence of iron slag, suggests industrial activity nearby.

Event No: 97
Northern Archaeological Associates, 1999, *St. George's Hospital.*
Assessment

Event No: 238
Northern Archaeological Associates, 1999, *St. George's Hospital, Morpeth. Building recording and archaeological trial trenching.*
The farm complex was surveyed by total station and plotted at 1:50 scale.

Event No: 239
Northern Archaeological Associates, 1999, *St. George's Hospital, Morpeth. Building recording and archaeological trial trenching.*
Trial trenching around the farm showed that early elements of the late 18th to early 19th century farmstead survived below ground. Three trenches measuring 5m by 2m, 15m by 2m, and 8m by 5m, were excavated at the farm; a trench 8m by 2m was excavated across the hollow way; and a test pit 2m square excavated in the associated platform. Although not all the structural evidence could be entirely correlated with cartographic evidence, the principle features of the farm comprising walls and boundary ditch conform to the farm layout shown on a map of 1798. Other features may relate to internal elements. The nearby hollow way seems to date to the mid- to late 19th century when the hospital was founded. The platform may be associated with the hollow way but could not be proved conclusively.

Event No: 13087
The Archaeological Practice, 1999, *Jennings Garage, Morpeth.*
The excavation of two trenches in the open area to the north and in the centre of the site and a test pit within the standing structure. An octagonal post medieval stone well was uncovered in Trench 1 while a sunken brick storage tank lay adjacent to Trench 2. Deposits in the test pit indicate a probable infilled brick cellar to a depth in excess of 1.6m below the present floor.

Event No: 54
Tyne & Wear Museums, 2000, *Newgate Street*
Two foundation trenches were observed. Trench 1 measured 17.5m by 2.5m by 1.2m deep; Trench 2 measured 21.5m by 2.5m by 0.5m deep. No significant archaeological deposits were seen. Subsoil was not encountered in either trench. The only deposit seen was modern demolition debris.

Event No: 55
The Archaeological Practice, 2000, *47 Buller's Green*
A watching brief was kept on foundation trenches. No archaeological features or deposits were revealed. The trenches varied between 0.55m and 1.70m deep. 19th century and modern pottery was found.

Event No: 39
P Ryder, 2000, *The Morpeth Clock Tower. An archaeological assessment.*
Report on the structure of the tower, building phases and history etc.

Event No: 215
Briden, C., 2001, *Morpeth Castle, Curtain walls.*
Selected parts of the surviving fabric of the curtain walls of Morpeth Castle were recorded by rectified photography at 1:50 scale. This survey was used as a base image on which the various phases of work to the walls was plotted. The castle gatehouse was excluded from the survey. All parts of the inner bailey accessible to photography were recorded. These areas were revisited for assessment. Massive and largely unsympathetic repointing was carried out to all walls about 20 years ago; this has obscured all traces of original mortar in the corework (the bulk of the visible fabric) and makes it impossible to use this material to chart changes in wall construction. It remains unclear how much fabric of the Civil War period survives, although it seems possible that all the infill to the breaches in the west wall is early modern in date. From examination of the fabric and documentary sources, it seems possible that the castle may not have had a masonry outer curtain wall at all.

Event No: 245
Tyne & Wear Museums, 2002, *Lancaster Park, Morpeth.*
Assessment ahead of a proposal to develop land between Lancaster Park and Northgate Hospital. There is evidence of past activity in the study area. Aerial photographs suggest the presence of possible prehistoric features, but there is no direct evidence of Roman or Early Medieval activity on the site. Ridge and furrow in most fields suggest agricultural use in the medieval period and use for pasture in post-medieval times. The name Great Tile Hill for one enclosure suggests a possible post-medieval industrial activity. Only two out of eight enclosures have been ploughed.

Event No: 13629
The Archaeological Practice, 2002, *A1-A192 Link Road, South East Northumberland, Cultural Heritage Assessment.*

Event No: 13426
Tyne & Wear Museums, 2002, *Lancaster Park, Morpeth, Northumberland: an archaeological assessment.*
Archaeological desk based assessment of areas between Lancaster Park, Northgate Hospital and the A1 centred on NGR NZ 186 871. Three areas have been covered in the assessment separated from one another by portions of fields or the A192. Possible prehistoric features are recorded on aerial photographs. There is a widespread presence of ridge and furrow of the presumed medieval period, and the good preservation of the field system noted. Post Medieval activity is thought to have occurred in light of the place name evidence Great Tile Hill – but the intact nature of the field systems highlighted. Such remains, with the possible prehistoric features and the recorded pond/extraction pit, may be affected by any development in the area. Suggestions are made for geophysical surveying to clarify the features covered by the ridge and furrow. The recording of the Medieval field systems is highlighted of importance. Existing SMR points are summarised for the area.

Event No: 13251
Pre-Construct Archaeology, 2003, *The Morpeth Market Place*
Archaeological excavation and monitoring in association with a civic improvement scheme. Investigations involved excavation of the foundation footprint for the relocation of the Hollon Fountain, excavation of a pit for a new tree towards the north-eastern corner of the Market Place in general. Monitoring of the removal of the Hollon Fountain (Trench 1) encountered pipework and drainage features; an earlier cobbled road surface was recorded and an area of sandstone masonry tentatively interpreted as being related to the original market Cross. Trench 2 in the north-east corner of the Market Place revealed an earlier cobbled surface, with similar results from Trench 3. None of the trenches/areas produced artefacts pre-dating the 19th century. Overall, the fieldwork revealed no significant archaeological deposits or features.

Event No: 421
Pre-Construct Archaeology, 2003, *42 North Place, Morpeth.*
Fieldwork indicated that occupation of the site did not commence until the post-medieval period. No deposits or features pre-dating the early 18th century were encountered. The earliest archaeological remains recorded were those associated with a building of c. 1700-1750, which formerly stood in the south-west corner of the site, along with a pit to the north of the building.

Event No: 13509
Tyne & Wear Museums, 2004, *Manchester Street Car Park, Morpeth.*
Report prepared in advance of a proposal to develop the land with flats and a basement car park. Further archaeological evaluation was recommended.

Event No: 13600
The Archaeological Practice, 2005, *Davidson's Garage Site, Morpeth.*
Assessment

Event No: 13556
Archaeological Services University of Durham, 2005, *Carlisle Park, Morpeth, Archaeological Monitoring.*
A watching brief at Carlisle Park during construction of a new skate park. A single small unglazed sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the upper part of the southern path.

Event No: 13574
Archaeological Services University of Durham, 2005, *Extension to Lidl Foodstore, Morpeth, Northumberland.*
An evaluation in advance of extending the Lidl Foodstore in Morpeth. Two trenches were excavated across the site. The first measured 5 metres by 1.5 metres in size and located in the north-eastern part of the site on a north-south alignment. Remains of a linear feature (most likely a disused service trench) were discovered running through the trench. A second linear feature was also discovered in this trench. The second of the two trenches measured 5 metres by 1.5 metres also and was located in the north-west of the site. This too was cut through by modern service trenches.

Event No: 13599
The Archaeological Practice, 2006, *Davidson's Garage Site, Morpeth, Archaeological Evaluation.*
An archaeological evaluation was undertaken as part of a planning application on the Davidson's Garage Site. Five evaluation trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 3.6m. Although remains were uncovered most were believed to be 20th century in date and were industrial and domestic waste. One or both of the substantial walls uncovered may be earlier than 20th century. No archaeological evidence was uncovered of medieval or earlier activity.

Event No: 13609
Archaeological Services University of Durham, 2006, *Morpeth Central Area Development, Northumberland, Archaeological Evaluation.*
Ahead of proposed development of Central Morpeth 12 trial trenches and a geophysical survey were undertaken by the Archaeological Services University of Durham. The geophysical survey covered the field to the east of Dark Lane and no features of significance were identified. Trial trenching in the same area however identified faint traces of ridge and furrow. In the southwest portion of the site trial trenches identified up to one metre of made ground. Ditches and pits were identified in some of these trenches and medieval pottery was recovered. Trenches in the northwest, southeast, and east of the site encountered natural deposits directly below the modern foundations.

Event No: 13608
Archaeological Services University of Durham, 2006, *Geotechinical investigations: Morpeth Central Area Development, Northumberland, Archaeological Monitoring.*

Archaeological monitoring was undertaken during geotechnical investigations ahead of proposed development in the centre of Morpeth. In total 34 geotechnical test pits, boreholes and window samples were excavated. Results indicate that archaeological deposits relating to the medieval and post-medieval may survive across the western portion of the development area. A high degree of truncation has occurred in the area of the carpark to the east of Bilton's Court. The eastern portion of the site appears to be relatively undisturbed however.

APPENDIX 3: HISTORIC MAPS

Figure 5: Armstrong's map 1769 (ZBK sheet 6)

Figure 6: Woods Town Map 1826 (ZAN M16 B3)
With permission of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne
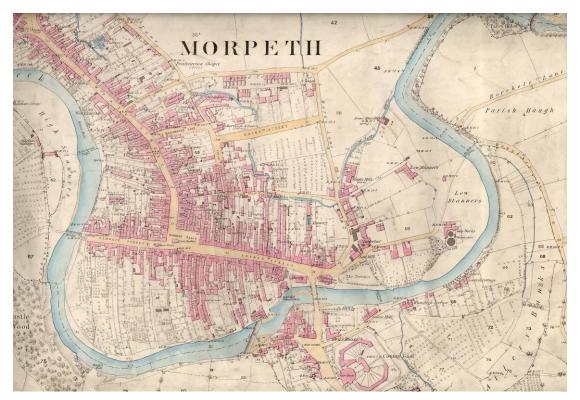
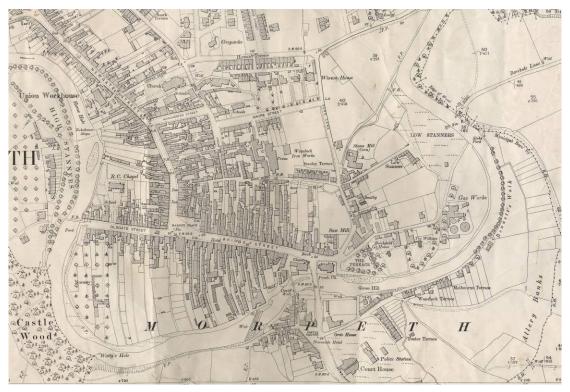*Figure 7: First Edition Ordnance Survey map 25-inch 1860, Sheet 64.13*

Figure 8: Second Edition Ordnance Survey map 25-inch 1897, Sheet 64.13

Figure 9: Third Edition Ordnance Survey map 25-inch 1920, Sheet 69.6

APPENDIX 4: STRATEGIC SUMMARY

MORPETH STRATEGIC SUMMARY

A4.1   ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Morpeth appears to have been a focus of settlement activity potentially from the prehistoric period onwards. The Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) combined documentary and cartographic evidence with the results of an increasing number of archaeological investigations.
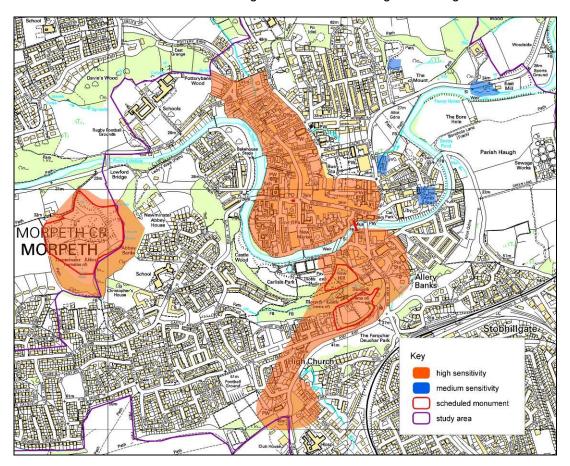

Figure 10: Morpeth areas of archaeological sensitivity

Prehistoric

- The presence of many later prehistoric and Romano-British settlements in the wider area attest to activity in those periods and the river crossing in Morpeth could have been utilised from the prehistoric period onwards.
- Prehistoric activity within the town appears to be limited to a Bronze Age burial, potential late prehistoric or Romano-British earthworks at Haw Hill, waterlogged remains of a watercourse of possible prehistoric date in the area of the Old Gaol, south of the Wansbeck and stray finds.
- The relative absence of prehistoric remains in Morpeth may be the result of limited archaeological investigations and impact of activity from the medieval period onwards.

Early Medieval

- There is no evidence of early medieval activity in Morpeth.

Medieval (south of the River Wansbeck)
<u>Church</u>
- St Mary's parish church is thought to be built on the site of an 11th century church but this has not been substantiated by documentary or archaeological evidence.
- The earliest fabric of St Mary's church is 14th century in date.

<u>Castle</u>
- The motte and bailey castle at Haw Hill (HER 1068, SM 31719) was constructed in the late 11th century.
- The precise location of the bailey is not known. Various theories locate it to the south-west under the later medieval castle, on the lower hill, in the area to the east or conclude that there was no bailey. The wider area around the motte should therefore be regarded as archaeologically sensitive.
- It is frequently thought that the castle on Haw Hill was captured and probably burnt by King John in 1216 during his suppression of the Northern Barons; opinions vary as to when Morpeth Castle was built, 200m south of Haw Hill. Construction dates vary from the early 13th to the 14th century.
- The earliest surviving structural features in Morpeth castle are 14th century in date.

<u>Settlement</u>
- It is thought that the castle had an associated settlement close to the southern side of the river crossing. A settlement in that location is certainly referred to in sources from the 14th century onwards.
- The nature and extent of the medieval settlement in this area is not known. The typical medieval street and property layout still identifiable to the north of the river Wansbeck is not visible to the south. Sources form the 14th century onwards do, however refer to settlement along the modern Hillgate, Pethgate, and Wansbeck Street.

<u>Hospital</u>
- Documentary sources indicate that a hospital was founded at Morpeth before 1170. Its location, nature and extent are not known but it may have been connected with an almshouse in Hillgate on the south bank of the river near to the old bridge.

Medieval (north of the River Wansbeck)
<u>All Saint's Chapel (Morpeth Chantry)</u>
- The Bridge Chantry incorporates standing remains of All Saint's Chapel. Its form and original date of construction are not clear, although it appears to be earlier in date than the late 13th century.
- Previous excavations within the Chantry have identified 11 phases of activity, 6 of which were medieval.

<u>Settlement</u>
- It is unclear whether there were settlements co-existing to the north or south of the river in medieval times or whether settlement shifted to the north with the granting of a royal charter for a market in 1199.
- The town layout along Bridge Street, Newgate and Oldgate is typically medieval in layout with narrow burgage plots along the street frontage.
- Archaeological investigations have revealed evidence of surviving medieval remains but investigations have been relatively limited and the nature and extent of medieval remains surviving beneath later development is unclear.
- Archaeological work on different sites along Newgate has revealed industrial activity in the form of crucible fragments and potential medieval waterlogged deposits.
- Documentary sources refer to fortified houses, a manorial mill though to be on the site of the existing Presbyterian church of St George near to the bridge and Chantry and a bake house to the west of the Chantry.
- The range of commercial and manufacturing activity in the area is reflected in the wide range of trade companies and guilds in Morpeth in the 13th and 15th to 17th centuries. These included cordwainers, weavers, smiths, saddlers, armourers, merchants, tailors, tanners, fullers, dyers, carvers, hatters, skinners, glovers and butchers

<u>Bridges</u>
- The Chantry Bridge was originally built in the 13th century and subsequently utilised by the 19th century Chantry Footbridge. The sub-structure, piles, piers and abutments

survive with potential remains of a tower or gatehouse adjoining the southern abutment of the bridge.
- Abbey Bridge is also medieval in date and is located near the Cistercian Newminster Abbey which was established in the mid-12th century to the west of Morpeth.

Post-Medieval (south of the River Wansbeck)
- A plan from 1604 shows a number of properties to the south of the River Wansbeck including a rectory opposite St. Mary's church. The rectory was demolished in the 18th century.
- The Great North Road is shown running closer to the castle on a different line to the modern road. Morpeth Castle continued to be well maintained but fell into decline in the 17th century as did St Mary's church.
- In 1715 a County House of Correction was constructed near the south end of the old bridge. It was later used as a woollen manufactory and was demolished in the 19th century to make way for the approach to the Telford Bridge.

Post-Medieval (north of the River Wansbeck)
All Saint's Chapel (Morpeth Chantry)
- Following the dissolution of the monasteries, parts of All Saints Chapel were demolished and the Grammar School of Edward VI (founded in 1552) occupied the western part of the building.

Settlement
- There is no evidence to indicate that the layout of the town altered significantly from the late medieval period to the 19th century although buildings were increasingly constructed on the burgage plots behind the street frontages and some plots were either amalgamated or sub-divided in this period.
- A tollbooth is mentioned in 1529 and was demolished prior to the construction of the Town Hall in 1714.
- A tower house shown on the 1604 map between Bridge Street and the Wansbeck was demolished prior to the construction of the Gaol in 1704.
- 30-32 Bridge Street, while having early 19th century façades, incorporate masonry from the Old Gaol and Governor's House.
- The fire of 1689 no doubt resulted in significant re-building of the town over the next century, although 16th or early 17th century buildings do survive (for example 19 Buller's Green; HER 11145).
- The post-medieval market place appears to have retained its medieval location with the clock tower constructed at its western end, probably in the first quarter of 17th century but re-using masonry from elsewhere.
- A market cross was added to the market place in 1699. By the 18th century, the cattle market in Morpeth was one of the largest in the country and became its primary source of wealth in that period.
- The trades established in the medieval period largely continued into the post-medieval period with textile manufacturing peaking in the 18th century and tanning continuing into the beginning of the 19th century. There were also a large number of mills around Morpeth including tanneries.
- Morpeth's industries appear to have stagnated and declined over the 19th century with the arrival of the railway in 1847 aiding its decline. In contrast to its industrial decline, Morpeth developed as a service, judicial and administrative centre.
- 18th century buildings include a Presbyterian chapel on Cottingburn Lane, the Town Hall.
- 19th century buildings include the County Gaol (Court House), the County Asylum (St Georges's Hospital), the Union Workhouse, various places of worship, inns and banks.
Bridges
- The footbridge over the Cottingburn on Beggar's Lane is 18th century in date.
- The Old Bridge continued in use until the Telford bridge was constructed in 1830s.
- A pedestrian chain bridge was constructed at the west end of Oldgate replacing earlier stepping stones. Following a series of collapses, it was replaced by an iron frame bridge which was moved and replaced in the 20th century. Lowford Bridge is also 19th century in date.

- A number of stepping stones were identified on Woods' map of 1826 including Buller's Green steps (Wansbeck Place to High Stanners), Bakehouse steps (Percy Court to High Stanners) and Oldgate steps (south of the Oldgate chain bridge. All but the Bakehouse steps were no longer in use by 1897 when the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map was produced.

A4.2   SUMMARY OF SETTLEMENT SPECIFIC RESEARCH AGENDAS

As part of the planning process, it is important to establish the significance of surviving remains, in order to provide an appropriate and informed response for planning applications with the potential to impact on archaeological remains.

As stated in Part Two of the EUS, the most effective way of assessing the significance of archaeological remains is by comparing them with agreed national, regional and local research agendas and frameworks, particularly the North East Regional Research Framework (Petts et al, 2006).

These research agendas are discussed in detail in the EUS and summarised below.

Prehistoric
- The potential, location, nature and extent of any prehistoric remains on Haw Hill.
- The potential that waterlogged deposits still survive on the site of the Court House, their extent and date.

Early Medieval
- Any evidence of early medieval settlement in or adjacent to Morpeth.
- Any evidence of early medieval fabric or below ground remains within the church of St Mary and its churchyard.

Medieval
- Establish whether Haw Hill had a bailey and if so its location and extent.
- The date that Haw Hill went out if use.
- The full extent, form and date of original construction of Morpeth Castle.
- The potential for medieval remains pre-dating the 14th century within the fabric of St Mary's church and below ground remains.
- The date when All Saints' Chapel was constructed and whether there is an associated graveyard.
- Any evidence of a medieval civil settlement to the south of the River Wansbeck associated with the castles and church.
- An indication of when and why that settlement declined.
- An indication of when the settlement to the north of the River Wansbeck was established.
- The extent to which the modern street pattern reflects the medieval layout.
- Evidence of the range, location and extent of medieval craft, industry and trade activities.
- Any evidence of structural remains surviving in later buildings.
- The date the Old Bridge (now Chantry footbridge) was constructed and the location, extent and function of associated structures on the bridge abutments.

Post-Medieval
- The nature and extent of the post-medieval town.
- Any evidence of re-use of earlier post-medieval structures in later buildings.
- Evidence of the location, nature and extent of the industries, livestock trade and markets.

A4.3   ARCHAEOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) has identified the areas of greatest archaeological sensitivity and potential in Morpeth as summarised in the previous two sections. The attached

plan further condenses the information into areas of high and medium archaeological sensitivity.

As stated in the EUS report, the protection and management of archaeological remains in England is achieved through a combination of statutory protection and protection through planning legislation and policy guidance. This framework is summarised in Part Three of the EUS.

There is a strong potential that archaeological work will be required by the Local Planning Authority on planning applications submitted within the areas highlighted as being of high and medium archaeological sensitivity. Areas outside the EUS area may also be of archaeological sensitivity, particularly remains associated with prehistoric activity. It is recommended that developers contact the Assistant County Archaeologist at Northumberland Conservation at the earliest opportunity, *prior* to the submission of a planning application, to establish if sites are of archaeological sensitivity and will require archaeological work as detailed below.

The nature and extent of archaeological work required as part of the planning process will depend on the location of the development in relation to the most archaeologically sensitive areas, the size of the development and the level of previous disturbance on the site. This could comprise one or more of the following:

Pre-application work
1. PPS5 indicates that, where assessment and/or evaluation are required on a site, the results of this work will need to be submitted in support of the planning application, and therefore will need to be completed prior to the submission of the application.
2. The EUS is used as an aid in the decision making process and helps to highlight large or particularly archaeologically sensitive sites which may require further, site specific, assessment or evaluation. In order to locate trial trenches or test pits most effectively, the commissioned archaeological contractor will need to provide a detailed project design for the agreement of Northumberland Conservation prior to work commencing. The project design will need to include:
   i.   A summary of all known archaeological remains and investigations in the surrounding area
   ii. Historic maps of the specific site indicating earlier site layouts and the location of structures and features
   iii. Any geotechnical, test pit data or records indicating the build-up of deposits and/or modern truncation of the site
3. The subsequent evaluation will need to work to the parameters agreed in the project design. Where undated features and deposits are revealed environmental sampling, analysis and radio carbon dating is likely to be required. The results of the fieldwork and any necessary post-excavation analysis or assessment will need to be provided in a report submitted with the planning application to enable an appropriate decision to be made.
4. It is important to have a good understanding of the nature and significance of historic buildings, any surviving features, fixtures and fittings or potential re-use of earlier buildings or material prior to the building's alteration or demolition. Dependant on the specific building and the nature of the proposed works, an application may require historic building assessment to be submitted with the planning application. This will enable a decision to be made on the appropriateness of the scheme and the nature and extent of any mitigation requirements required

Post-determination mitigation
1. The formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy will be required and this will be based on the results of the evaluation. The majority of these options can be dealt with as a condition of planning permission comprising one or more of the following:
   i.   Preservation *in situ* of important archaeological remains revealed during evaluation. This could have an impact on the viability of the scheme and whether planning permission should be granted
   ii. Full excavation prior to construction work commencing for significant remains that do not necessarily warrant preservation *in situ*. This will also require post-

excavation assessment, full analysis, publication of the results and long-term storage of the archive at the appropriate museum

iii. Strip and record prior to construction work commencing for a high density of less significant archaeological remains. The level of post-excavation work will depend on the significance of the archaeology revealed. Significant remains will require post-excavation assessment, full analysis and publication of the results. Archaeology of lesser significance may simply require an appropriate level of analysis and reporting. Long-term storage of the archive at the appropriate museum will be required

iv. Watching brief during construction work for a low density of less significant archaeological remains. An appropriate level of analysis, reporting and long-term storage of the archive at the appropriate museum will be required

v. No further work in areas where no archaeological remains are found

2. Small-scale development such as small extensions within the area of high archaeological sensitivity may not require pre-application evaluation and in some instances can be dealt with by an archaeological watching brief during construction. Given the high sensitivity of this area, the level of archaeological work required will very much depend on the nature, extent and depth of groundworks and the level of any previous disturbance on the site. An appropriate level of analysis, reporting and long-term storage of the archive at the appropriate museum will be required

3. The need for historic building recording is assessed on the significance of the building, its surviving fixtures and fittings, the potential re-use of earlier building fabric and the nature and extent of the proposed works. Sufficient information will be needed to assess the significance of the building either from existing records or the production of an historic building assessment prior to the determination of the application. An appropriate level of building recording will be identified in response to all these factors, adhering to English Heritage Guidelines

4. Ecclesiastical faculties involving groundwork and work on the historic fabric of the church are likely to require archaeological work of the nature detailed above.

NB The nature and extent of archaeological work is gauged for each individual site. It is therefore recommended that prospective developers contact the Assistant County Archaeologist at Northumberland Conservation at the earliest opportunity before the application is submitted to discuss the potential requirements on development sites in Morpeth and the surrounding area.

This document and plan have been produced based on the available evidence at the time that the EUS was produced. Our knowledge of the archaeology is continually being updated and as such this information should only be used as a broad indication of the archaeologically sensitive areas. In some instances development outside the highlighted areas may be required.

Further Guidance
Any further guidance or queries should be directed to:

Assistant County Archaeologist
Northumberland Conservation
Development & Delivery
Planning Economy & Housing
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
NE61 2EF

Tel: 01670 620305
e-mail: archaeology@northumberland.gov.uk