



January 2000

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**HAW HILL, CARLISLE PARK**  
**MORPETH**  
**Northumberland**

**Landscape Survey Report**

Haw Hill, Morpeth  
Northumberland

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Topographic Survey Report

Report no 1999-2000/049/AUA8942

Checked by Project Manager. ..... Date
Passed for submission to client. ..... Date

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Storey Institute  
Meeting House Lane  
Lancaster  
LA1 1TH

January 2000

*Every shire is filled with castles,  
and every castle is filled with evil men.*

**- The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle**

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend our thanks to Liz Williams and Caroline Hardie of Northumberland County Council archaeological service, and to the staff of Northumberland Record Office, Melton Park, Gosforth. We are grateful to the staff at the library of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, and to those of the library of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle upon Tyne.

We must also thank Mr Chris Davis of SGS United Kingdom Ltd. We are particularly grateful to Harry Rowland for providing copies of historical research into the site and also his generous enthusiasm and support in the course of the fieldwork. We are also grateful to the vegetation clearance team for their considerable efforts in exposing the mound.

The archaeological survey was undertaken by Chris Scurfield and Neil Wearing, and the documentary research was by Jo Bell. The drawings were prepared by Neil Wearing and Jamie Quartermaine. This report was compiled by Jo Bell and Jamie Quartermaine, and was edited by Richard Newman. The project was managed by Jamie Quartermaine.

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## SUMMARY

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This report describes the findings of an archaeological survey and research undertaken at Haw Hill, locally known as Haw Hill, in Carlisle Park, Morpeth (NZ 1998 8564). The work was undertaken in advance of the proposed landscaping of Carlisle Park, which would include the defoliation and the improvement of access onto the hill. The study area includes the site of a Norman or pre-Norman defensive motte, pre-dating the thirteenth century construction of Morpeth Castle immediately to the south.

A topographic survey was undertaken in December 1999 which recorded the morphology of the mound and recorded the earthwork and man-made enhancements that have been made to the natural hill. A brief campaign of documentary research was also undertaken, in an attempt to set the motte in the context of contemporary national and regional archaeology.

Documentary evidence suggests that it was the site of an early Norman fortification, which may have remained in use until 1216, when King John fired the town and possibly precipitated the removal of the stronghold to the later castle site on the south bank of the Postern Burn. The field survey revealed that there was an artificial platform on top of the mound which would have served as the foundation for a keep; however, there was no extant surface stone material that would indicate if this was a stone or timber structure.



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In December 1999 Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU) were commissioned by SGS United Kingdom Ltd to undertake a survey of the raised mound at Haw Hill, Carlisle park, Morpeth, Northumberland (NZ 1998 8564). This was required to provide a mitigative record of the monument in advance of the landscaping of the park and would include the defoliation of Haw Hill and the improvement of access onto the mound. This commission was undertaken in accordance with planning requirements, as set out in a brief from Northumberland County Council.
- 1.1.2 The earthwork is known to be an artificially raised natural mound, which has traditionally been interpreted as the site of a Medieval defensive structure in the 'motte and bailey' tradition. These were small castles or fortresses, usually built relatively quickly on just such artificial earthworks, to assist the military conquest or control of a territory. They are particularly associated with the early defences built in the years after the Norman Conquest of 1066.
- 1.1.3 **Legal Status:** a proposal is currently being considered by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport for the inclusion of the Haw Hill site in the Schedule of Monuments. This would afford it the highest level of statutory protection, and is normally granted only to monuments which are considered to be of national importance. Such proposals are approved only for sites whose archaeological and historical character are considered to be of national importance. The claim of Haw Hill to such importance is based largely on its status as one of only 16 motte and bailey sites in Northumberland (SGS Environment 1999, 27).
- 1.1.4 A topographic survey was undertaken in December 1999. It was accompanied by a rapid documentary survey which used primary and secondary documentation to assess the importance and archaeological potential of the Haw Hill site. This report outlines the methodology and results of both studies. The results of the documentary study are presented below (*Sections 3 and 4*) and are used, along with the results of the topographic survey (*Section 5*), to inform our assessment of archaeological potential (*Section 6*).

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 2*) was submitted in June 1999 by LUAU in response to a request from SGS United Kingdom Ltd, for a topographic survey of Haw Hill, Morpeth in advance of the landscaping of the medieval earthworks.
- 2.1.2 The project design was prepared in accordance with a brief by Caroline Hardie of Northumberland County Council. This provided for an earthwork survey and documentary study and a written report; the latter to provide an interpretive assessment of the data recorded during the programme of investigation and inform the landscaping proposals. Some areas could not be surveyed because of thick vegetation cover, but in all other respects the survey has been carried out in accordance with the project design.

### 2.2 DOCUMENTARY SURVEY

- 2.2.1 Documentary research was non-intensive, as required in the brief, because the site has already been covered by numerous secondary sources; however, the present survey did include an inspection of relevant documents held at the archives listed below:
- 2.2.2 **Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Morpeth:** documentation was kindly supplied by Mrs Liz Williams of the SMR, including the county Sites and Monuments Record Report for Haw Hill motte and bailey, and the publicly-available sections of the scheduling proposal for the study area.
- 2.2.3 **Northumberland Record Office, Melton Park, Newcastle upon Tyne:** sources included documents ranging in date between the seventeenth and twentieth centuries. Particularly important sources included historic maps such as the 1604 map of Morpeth by Haiwarde (in ZAN M16/B6 at the Record Office), and the Ordnance Survey map of 1865 which was amongst the first detailed and accurate maps.
- 2.2.4 **Libraries:** libraries of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle upon Tyne.
- 2.2.5 Photocopies and notes were taken from each archive. The notes made during this research have been incorporated into the history of Haw Hill (*Section 3*), and have informed our conclusions (*Section 6*).

### 2.3 TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- 2.3.1 **Survey Control:** the control for the survey was established by closed traverse using a Zeiss ELTA3 total station, and was able to maintain an internal control accuracy of better than +/- 0.05m. The control was locally orientated and the final map was located onto the Ordnance Survey National Grid by the subsequent superimposition of the CAD map onto base mapping provided by the client.
- 2.3.2 **Detailed survey:** the topographic survey was undertaken to LUAU's Level 4 (LUAU 1996), which incorporates a detailed level of purely interpretative survey undertaken in conjunction with contour modelling of the surface. It involves very detailed hachure draughting of surface features and is intended for output at scales of up to 1:100.

- 2.3.3 The area of the mounds had been considerably cleared of vegetation prior to and during the survey; however there were areas which had to be excluded due to dense areas of undergrowth. Most of these areas of inaccessible undergrowth relates to the local habitat around a series of badger sets to the south-east of Haw Hill, on the steep slopes above Postern Burn.
- 2.3.4 The archaeological detail and significant topographic detail was surveyed using the total station and data-logger. The digital survey data was transferred, via DXF file format, into a CAD system (AutoCAD14). The archaeological detail was drawn up in the field with respect to plots of the survey data and these edits were then transferred onto the raw survey data within the CAD system. The archaeological digital data was subsequently superimposed onto base topography which was provided by the client.
- 2.3.5 **Modelling:** the digital survey data was transferred from the logger into a survey conversion programme (Microsurveyor). The data was then transferred to a modelling package (DGM3) which created a digital terrain model (DTM) of the mound. The modelling programme provided a two-dimensional contour output for the creation of the base map (Fig 1) and also a three dimensional mesh output for the manipulation of the model. The vertical axis of the DGM was exaggerated by a factor of two, in order to enhance the visual impact of the model. The contour detail was transferred into a CAD system (AutoCAD14), and was superimposed with topographic detail digitised from a 1:1000 base map provided by the client.
- 2.3.6 The DTM mesh was input into the AutoCAD 14 system via a DXF format, and the rendering of the model was created by forming 3D polylines between the principal lines of the north/south grid and ruled surfaces were created between them. The combined surfaces were rendered within the CAD system and were output as .JPG files and are represented as Figs 7-10.
- 2.3.7 **Photographic Recording:** a photographic survey was carried out in tandem to record general and detailed views of the garden and its features. This was undertaken principally using a 35mm camera for black and white print, and colour transparency formats, but some photography was also undertaken using a digital camera.
- 2.3.8 **Gazetteer:** a gazetteer of individual mapped features was compiled, with reference to the completed LUAU survey drawings, and this gazetteer is incorporated as *Appendix 3*. It should be noted that in place overgrowth was very dense at the time of the field visit and obscured, or rendered inaccessible, some details.

## 2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full archive of the desktop survey and the field inspection has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991). The archive will be deposited with Northumberland Record Office (Melton Park). A copy of the report will be given to the Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record.

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### 3. BACKGROUND

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#### 3.1 TOPOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND.

- 3.1.1 The study area is in Carlisle Park, immediately south of the river Wansbeck and north of the Postern Burn the land in-between forms an undulating promontory/ridge (Fig 6). The site is locally known as Haw Hill, where according to Pevsner '*the north east end of a narrow ridge appears to have been artificially scarped to form a motte guarding the crossing of the Wansbeck*' (Pevsner 1992, 396). The site is at the north-eastern end of a natural promontory/ridge which appears to have been formed by fluvial action of the River Wansbeck and the Postern Burn, which curves in from the east to the north-east. Although in part a natural feature, the mound of Haw Hill has clearly been substantially enhanced, to judge by the raised elevation of the north-eastern mound and its particularly steep and well-defined scarp slopes.
- 3.1.2 The present Carlisle Park dates from around the 1920's when roads, pathways and park land was established via the planting of lawns and trees. Carlisle park continues to the east of Haw Hill as a more formal garden where the park gates enter onto the main Newcastle road.

#### 3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 No pre-Medieval activity is known in the study area or Morpeth as a whole, with the exception of a possible prehistoric cairn discovered on Haw Hill by Woodman in 1830 (*Section 3.2.11*).
- 3.2.2 **Early medieval:** the earliest known reference to Morpeth was in 966-67, when it was burnt by the Danes (NRO Archives, np). There is no mention of a castle or defensive structure at that time, and little is known about what form of settlement it had. It is understood that the Saxon *burhs* or defended settlements were often focused on an artificial mound, but knowledge of such settlements is limited, particularly in the north of England (Biddle 1976, 138).
- 3.2.3 References to a castle in Morpeth before the thirteenth century are problematic, because the documentary evidence does not make it clear whether the Haw Hill or the later castle site is meant. Pevsner suggests that Morpeth Castle was not begun until the thirteenth century, and that earlier references are to the Haw Hill site, which would have been the first Norman fortress in Morpeth (Pevsner 1992, 396).
- 3.2.4 The Domesday survey, which often provides a first documentary reference elsewhere in England, was not carried out in Northumberland. We therefore have little information about the study area or to any castle at that time (1086). However, it is likely that the Conqueror's representative, Robert de Mowbray, would have established a base defending the crossing of the Wansbeck, immediately north of the study area. There was certainly a stronghold at Morpeth before 1095, for in that year William Rufus' troops took it back. It is described as '*Morpeth, a strong castle which was situated on a little mound*' from de Mowbray (Rowland 1994, 7; Bates 1895, 113). This surely describes Haw Hill, whose location on a 'little mound' and with the river at its back make it the most likely candidate for such a stronghold. The fort is assumed to have been initially a timber keep on a substantial motte. However, there is uncertainty as to whether it also incorporated the classic bailey enclosure, characteristic of defensive structures built by the Normans in the

- post-Conquest yearS. The Haw Hill site does not correspond exactly with typical motte and bailey sites.
- 3.2.5 There is further reference in 1138 to a castle in Morpeth. At that date, according to John of Hexham, Ranulph de Merlay received monks from Fountains Abbey *'into his protection in his castle of Morpeth'* (Hodgson 1832a, 384). Again it is not known whether the Haw Hill or the southern castle site are intended, but the likely thirteenth-century date of the latter make Haw Hill the probable site at this time.
- 3.2.6 In 1216 King John fired Morpeth, as part of his campaign to subjugate the Northern barons (Bates 1895, 133). It is possible that the Haw Hill fortress was burnt during this campaign and Pevsner suggests that it was indeed *'destroyed by John in 1216 and not rebuilt'* (Pevsner 1992, 396). The de Merlays' building of Morpeth Castle in stone on the site south of Haw Hill in the thirteenth century, could therefore be explained as a removal to a new, larger site, made desirable by the destruction of the earlier castle.
- 3.2.7 In 1441, according to the county historian John Hodgson, a Morpeth source mentioned 'the Old Mote'. At that date it had 'under it' two roods of land extending 'from the street called Pitgate in front to the land of the chantry of St Mary behind.....it was, I think, some ancient appendage to the castle' (Hodgson 1832b). 'Pitgate' was the road later known as Pethgate and later still as Castle Bank, which forms the eastern boundary of the study area. The 'Old Mote' could refer to a motte (an artificial mound), or a moot (a meeting place, usually associated with Norse communities). None of these meanings is mutually exclusive. The word 'Mote' has been used elsewhere in Northumberland to denote a motte, as at the Mote Hills of Elsdon (Welfare 1995), and we would suggest that is its meaning here. The prefix 'Old' suggests that it was long out of use by the mid fifteenth century. The presence of 'an appendage to the castle' to the east of the confirmed motte, may be an indication that there was formerly a bailey or similar defended enclosure to the east of Haw Hill; however, this area has been subject to considerable development and no historic features survive.
- 3.2.8 **Post-medieval:** nothing further is known of the Haw Hill site specifically until the seventeenth century. Throughout the Middle Ages and early modern period, Morpeth found itself in an area plagued by border reivers, and 'had its full share of the disasters during the troubled times' (Tomlinson 1888, 242), as the raids of the border reivers were frequent. They often stole large numbers of cattle, driving them north of the border (Bates 1895, 221). Nevertheless' the town became an important focus for the cattle trade, attracting great numbers of drovers and seasonal immigrants, and was said to be second only to Smithfield in size as a cattle- and sheep-market.
- 3.2.9 During the Civil War Morpeth was besieged and occupied by the rebel Scots army. The nineteenth century historian John Hodgson suggests that Haw Hill was used during the 1644 siege as a gun platform from which to mount the attack that destroyed Morpeth Castle (Hodgson 1832a, 384), and certainly it would have provided a very appropriate artillery platform. This was corroborated by the finding of a Swedish seventeenth century cannon from boggy ground near the foot of Haw Hill (Rowland 1999), which is now set up overlooking River Wansbeck, off Hillgate to the east of Carlisle Park.
- 3.2.10 Morpeth has remained since the seventeenth century a small market town, and the Haw Hill site has remained largely undeveloped since the first available map, of 1604 (*Section 4.1.2*). It has been used since then as a private garden or orchard, possibly with buildings at the roadside to its east.

- 3.2.11 Archaeological interest in the study area was first expressed in the 1830s, when it was investigated by a Mr Woodman, antiquarian and town clerk (SGS Environment 1999, Appendix 4). He found carved stones at the eastern end of the mound, described by Pevsner as '*scalloped capitals and voussoirs with billet mouldings*' (Pevsner 1992, 396). Hodgson described some of these unequivocally as '*the ornamented stones of a Norman arch*', and mentions that there was some evidence of burning in the vicinity (Hodgson 1832b, 26). At the western end of Haw Hill Mr Woodman also found a tumulus or '*a cairn.....of the rudest description*', with some evidence of burning and a single freshly-broken sherd of coarse red unglazed pottery (*ibid*). He further found the foundations of a long, narrow building which he believed might be the remains of a chapel dedicated to St Michael (NABCS, 1997).
- 3.2.12 In the mid to late nineteenth century the study area continued as a private enclosure, and is shown on the 1843 tithe award as 'gardens'. At the beginning of the nineteenth century it was given to the borough of Morpeth. Since the 1920s the study area has been within Carlisle Park, recreational land which remains in the hands of the borough.

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## 4. DOCUMENTARY RESULTS

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### 4.1 MAP REGRESSION

- 4.1.1 The 'Historical Background' section above incorporates much information from secondary and, in some cases, primary sources. The most important primary historic sources consulted were maps: a simple map regression analysis is given here. It should be noted that reference numbers given are those of the Northumberland Record Office at Melton Park, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.
- 4.1.2 **Map of 1604:** this map by William Haiwarde of 'the town and castle of Morpeth' (ZAN/M16/B6, p7) showed the Haw Hill site occupied by three enclosures or plots at the west side of 'Pethgate'. They fall partly within a large enclosure called Babonies Close, which was itself within 'the West Parke'. There is no indication of topography, and no structures are shown in the study area.
- 4.1.3 **Map of 1738 (ZAN/ MI6/B6p7):** this map shows Morpeth Castle, but gives no further detail of the town and its surroundings.
- 4.1.4 **1826 plan of Morpeth by A Forrester (ZAN MI6/B3):** this shows the study area largely within a single enclosure, partly defined by the town boundary. The enclosure seems to be illustrated as an orchard. It partially preserves the line of boundaries shown on Haiwarde's 1604 map, in a path running across the enclosure which may itself be preserved in the present steps, shown on the LUAU survey of the site. Two buildings are shown within the study area, both at the roadside. There is no indication of their function. Part of the study area is named as 'Hall Hill'. The 'New Prison etc' stands to its east on the opposite side of the road. The land is shown as belonging to the 'Right Honble Lord Carlisle.'
- 4.1.5 **1843 tithe map and apportionment (DT 327L):** these were drawn up to assist with the legal commutation of tithes, nominally paid as goods in kind. The study area fell within an enclosure at the extreme south west of the township. It was numbered 141 on the plan, and was owned and occupied by Thomas Purdy. It was described as 'gardens and buildings' and had no other name.
- 4.1.6 **1859 first edition Ordnance Survey map (25" to 1 mile, Sheets 72.1 and 64.13):** this show the study area as 'Hall Hill'. The municipal boundary runs across the site on a north-west/south-east alignment, continuing north-east to meet a kink in the road. There is also an L-shaped path, on whose line the present paths sit. The Postern Burn runs south of the site, and the study area falls within the parish of Morpeth Castle, Catchburn, Stobhill and Park House. The study area itself is shown as private fields and gardens, with no contours or hachures to signify an earthwork.
- 4.1.7 **1865 first edition Ordnance Survey map (6" to 1 mile, Sheets 64 SW and 72 NW):** this shows the study area as 'Hall Hill', and a track forms the north and west boundary, as now. The road named as Castle Bank forms the eastern boundary, also as at present.
- 4.1.8 **1897 second edition Ordnance Survey map (25" to 1 mile, Sheets 72.1 and 64.13):** this shows the same layout in the study area as the first edition at this scale, with the exception of the L-shaped path which does not appear. However, this edition carries less detail than its predecessor and smaller paths such as this were not generally shown on it.
- 4.1.9 **1898 second edition Ordnance Survey map (6" to 1 mile, Sheets 64 SW and 72 NW):** this adds nothing to the information on the 1897 25" map.

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## 5. TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY RESULTS

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 Haw Hill is located at the north-eastern end of a natural fluvially formed ridge between River Wansbeck and Postern Beck. The principle mound, the motte, is to the north-east and the smaller, 'Lower Hill', is a sinuously shaped ridge to the south-west of the motte. These features are divided by a col (1), which has been artificially enhanced to provide a defended point of access to the motte. The ridge is symmetrical in cross section and varies from a narrow ridge (at 10) up to a flat platform on the motte (20), which has been artificially built up to create the present morphology. The south-western part of the ridge (outside the study area) ascends gently away from the site, and in places is higher than the high point of the 'Lower Hill'. Access to the motte is presently afforded by a set of concrete steps, which lead up from a path close to the 'bowling field', via the col (1) onto the summit of the motte (7).

### 5.2 MOTTE

5.2.1 The summit of the motte is 'egg' shaped, pointing to the south-west and can be divided topographically into three parts; a platform (2), linear embankment (14) and a small knoll (7).

5.2.2 **Platform:** the platform (2), to the north-east, has a roughly sub-rectangular plan c20m x 15m. It has an unusually level surface, and is in marked contrast to the rest of the summit, but is defined by a very sharp break of slope from its western side round to the south-east, and there is a particularly steep slope to the motte around these sides. The only reasonable point of access is from the south-western side leading from the col (1).

5.2.3 In the centre of the platform (2) is a small irregular, sub-rectangular depression with an adjacent 'spoil' mound, to the north-east (11), which was probably the result of antiquarian investigation, and possibly that of Mr Woodman, who was reported to have recovered dressed stone from the summit of the motte (*Section 3.2.11*).

5.2.5 **Knoll:** south-west of the platform (2) is a small knoll (7), which is symmetrical in profile and forms the south-west corner of the motte summit. The knoll and platform are linked by a curvilinear embankment (14), defined by the steep scarp edge of the motte to the south-west, and a more gentle scarp edge to the east; as such this would have provided a controlled and restricted line of access to the main platform.

5.2.6 The knoll (7) is edged to the west by the steep scarp slope of the col (1) and is presently followed by a modern concrete stepped route; this route then traverses around the north-western flank of the knoll onto the motte summit. The knoll is defined by a sharp break of slope, on both the north-western and southern sides, and would appear to be of artificial origin.

5.2.7 **Scarp Slopes:** around the summit of the motte the slope angle is about 30° which reduces to 10° around the base of the mound. The north-east facing slope (12) has a very regular, and steep inclination and a very straight and sharp top break of slope (Figs 4 and 5); it is clearly of artificial origin. The southern slopes of the motte are broadly continuous with few features evident, however, this area was obscured by dense vegetation associated with the badger sets and only a limited investigation was possible, where transects had been cut through the undergrowth. Around the base of the eastern and southern sloped is a



road/footpath which has been constructed with a revetment wall, truncating the lower profiles of the mound.

- 5.2.8 The north-west facing slopes incorporates an artificial terrace (3) at about one third up the slope, which, albeit intermittent, follows the contours around the north-western side of the motte and the Lower Hill (*Section 5.4.1*). Further up the slope, close to the summit, is a further terrace (15) (c4m long) which is less well defined and probably represents an accumulation of material from soil creep.
- 5.2.9 **Assessment:** the very clearly defined scarp edges to the platform, coupled with its flat surface demonstrate that this was clearly of artificial origin. It is probable that it accommodated the keep, and, being set back from the principle access point for the motte (the col (1)), would have allowed for a defined area of killing ground in front of the keep.

### 5.3 LOWER HILL AND COL

- 5.3.1 The Lower Hill defines a curved ridge, and its curved shape to the south is a result of the fluvial cutting back of the ridge by Postern Beck. It is steeply edged to the north and south, reflecting for the most part the original shape of the ridge. The top of the ridge is slightly undulating, which probably reflects the longitudinal profile of the original ridge, however, it does have a particularly sharp scarp edge to the north and this may be an indication that the slope here has been artificially enhanced.
- 5.3.2 **Col:** between the Lower Hill and the motte is a deep (c12m) col which straddles the north-west and south-east facing slopes of the ridge (1), and it forms a marked interruption in the promontory /ridge. There is a sharply defined scarp slope on both the eastern side of the Lower Hill and the western side of the motte. Observation of the profile of the site from the north-west suggests that, prior to the original landscaping of the hill, the ridge would have climbed steadily up to a point below the present summit of the motte. The col is an artificial creation, quarried out to enhance the south-western scarp edge to the motte and probably to provide a quarry source for building up the summit of the motte, and for any stone buildings that may have been present here.
- 5.3.3 No topographic features relating to a possible bridge were found although these may have been masked by subsequent activity such as, man-made or faunal disturbance on the slopes flanking the col, or may have been too insubstantial to leave any trace in the present landscape.
- 5.3.4 The south-western edge of the Lower Hill was defined by a further col, albeit much smaller, shallower and less well-defined (5). This was part formed as a hollow-way by the main access way that led up onto the ridge from the north (*Section 5.4*). A low but distinct bank extends part way across the western edge of the ridge, and was possibly the extant surface expression of a palisade.
- 5.3.5 **Assessment:** the Lower Hill is for the most part a natural feature, however, it does display indications of artificial enhancement. In particular this incorporates the building up of the northern scarp slope, the creation of a col at the eastern end, the formation of a hollow-way access to the ridge, and finally the construction of a bank across the line of the narrow ridge. The morphology of the monument does not support the possibility of a bailey, which would typically have been a defended domestic compound. In this case there is no level areas that would have accommodated structures. The earthworks, however, would have enhanced the defences of the motte by protecting and controlling the primary access onto the motte. The presence of the bank across the western edge of the ridge may possibly

indicate palisade type defences, but the extent to which such defences were applied around the Lower Hill was not evident from the surface evidence.

## **5.4 COMMUNICATIONS**

- 5.4.1 The survey has identified a series of access routes which survive as decayed and, in places, intermittent earthworks. Along the northern side of the motte and Lower Hill is a discontinuous terrace (3 and 4), which broadly follows the line of the contours and converges on the hollow-way that lead up on to the western side of the Lower Hill (5). To the east it merges with a modern tarmacadam track. This terrace would appear to be the remains of a former trackway, however, it is not known how long it has been established and whether it relates to the principal period of medieval occupation. The communication route beyond the westernmost col (5) extends over the ridge of the Lower Hill down into the central col (1) and up the steep western slope of the motte. This is the route followed by the top flight of concrete steps that leads up to the northern side of the knoll (7). This replaced an earlier pathway, which survives as a linear scar beneath dense undergrowth in the hillside and is approximately 6m x 3m. This latter route would have offered a staggered ascent to the summit.
- 5.4.2 Located to the north-eastern corner of the motte is a more extensive linear scar (9) which extends from just below the top break of slope to the base of the mound and merges with the modern tarmaced path. This feature has a sharp bend in the centre and terminates at the bottom in a pediment/mini-alluviation fan. This was evidently a communication route direct onto the motte, and to judge by the amount of material that has built up in the alluvial fan, it has been in existence for an extended period. However, it was not possible to determine if it was in contemporary use with that of the former keep.

## **5.5 CASTLE WELL (06)**

- 5.5.1 The Ordnance Survey first and subsequent editions show a structure on the immediate southern side of Postern Burn, which is described as 'Castle Well'. The feature on the ground, corresponding with this site, is a prominent, oval shaped mound (6), which is set at the north-westernmost edge of a natural sub-circular, flat terrace. The mound stands to a height of *c* 2m above the terrace, and incorporates no in-situ structural elements, although there are two fragments of dressed stone, exposed from the vegetated surface. The Postern Burn is for much of its length a relatively straight feature, but diverts dramatically around this mound, and it is possible that the feature was originally set on the course of the burn, and the burn has subsequently diverted to the north of it. The mound is clearly of artificial origin, but it is not possible to define its function on the surface evidence alone. It is possible that this was indeed a well. Considering its location, however, on Postern Burn, it was more likely to have been a structure set over a sump in the base of the burn, and the structure would have potentially allowed for the drawing, by pulley, of water from the sump. However, this can not be confirmed on the basis of the surface evidence. The feature is on the south side of the burn, and is likely to have served the later castle to the south. There are terraced paths extending down the steep southern slope of the Postern Burn gully, but none of these extend directly to this possible well.

## **5.6 FAUNAL DISTURBANCE**

- 5.6.1 Faunal disturbance is endemic across the site. Haw Hill has in the recent past been left to nature with scrub, hawthorn and brambles left unchecked, which has created an 'oasis' for wildlife. The badger is the most evident mammal, evidenced on the surface by spoil heaps of subsoil (13). The badger sets are located on the south and south-eastern slopes of the motte above the Postern Burn, and there are many other more ill-defined and irregular hollows/mounds across the study area which may also be attributed to historic faunal disturbance.

## 5.7 WALK-OVER SURVEY

- 5.7.1 The walk-over survey examined the gardens of Carlisle Park for out-of situ dressed stone, and identified a limited resource of varied re-used fragments. The locations are shown on Fig 4, and a detailed catalogue is presented in *Appendix 3* (Sites 16 - 22). The fragments include a moulded corner fragment, probably from a window (22), a series of roof ridge pieces (17), which are of eighteenth / nineteenth century date, a series of dressed stones which have been re-used as plinths (19 and 20) and a series of dressed ashlar blocks which have rusticated incised toolmarks (21). The latter blocks were clearly re-used as they are in marked contrast to the other blocks in the wall within which they were found, but they are not precisely dateable. There were also a pair of quern stones (16) and some nineteenth/twentieth century railing plinths.
- 5.7.2 None of the stones are of diagnostic medieval date, and the only stones that are diagnostic are of post-medieval date (eighteenth - twentieth centuries).

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## 6. CONCLUSIONS

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### 6.1 DATE AND FORM OF REMAINS

- 6.1.1 A settlement existed at Morpeth at least a century before the Norman Conquest (NRO Archives, nd, np) and it is possible that the natural mound underlying Haw Hill was a focal point for this community, in a defensive capacity or even as a 'moot', a public meeting place. However, this is speculation and there is no archaeological evidence to support such a contention.
- 6.1.2 The artificial earthwork which enhanced the natural mound at Haw Hill into the present 'motte' profile predates the existing Morpeth Castle, and therefore the early thirteenth century. Its form, and documented history suggest an early Norman structure (Hodgson 1832a, 384), and the site is therefore interpreted as a defensive motte of the late eleventh century, when Norman troops took advantage of a pre-existing natural mound to throw up a quick and easily-defensible stronghold. The study area is very likely to include the remains, in relatively undisturbed condition, of a motte castle dating to the eleventh century, although there is no evidence of the corresponding bailey. In addition to the valuable archaeological information preserved in such a site, Haw Hill possibly also includes additions of twelfth-century date, which may include the remnants of a stone keep; however, this inference is based entirely on the recovery of dressed stone by Woodman from the motte, and the structural origin of this stone can not be confirmed. The site is, however, of a date and type seldom seen in Northumberland or indeed nationally.

### 6.2 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

- 6.2.1 In the Medieval period with which we are primarily concerned, the castles and fortified places of Northumbria were perhaps the most perfect expressions of national military and political trends. The national and regional context of the Haw Hill site are here considered together, with particular reference to the impact of the Norman Conquest in 1066.
- 6.2.2 The territory which comprised historic Northumbria has been a borderland since at least Roman times and defensive sites in present-day Northumberland have been numbered at around 500 (Rowland 1994, 12). Northumbria's situation, in the vanguard of territorial dispute between England and Scotland and yet far from centres of regnal authority, made it not only a constant battlefield but one in which landed families could build up strong bases of power founded on a strongly defended centre. The threat from opportunistic raiders was always significant. Seaborne raiders found Northumbria as early as the eighth to eleventh centuries when the area was subject to Scandinavian incursions, and raids by land were also common throughout the Middle Ages and beyond, coming most frequently from the 'disputed territories' of the north and west.
- 6.2.3 Consequently the region's Medieval archaeology is rich in defended sites, which are varied in date, size and form. Relatively little is known about defended settlements in Northumbria in the immediate pre-Conquest period, although it has been suggested that *burhs* or defended village settlements might have been established on small earthworks such as that at Haw Hill. Of the truly Norman fortifications, the smaller defences such as Haw Hill or Elsdon were for the most part overshadowed by the larger and later fortresses. Many of these are fourteenth century creations or were at least crenellated under license at that time: such were Bothal, Belsay, Langley, Chipchase, Ford and Etal, Chillingham, Blenkinsop, Crawley and Widdrington. There is also a tradition of smaller defended

towers or bastles protecting a single private farmstead, such as that at Willimoteswick in Tynedale (Bell, 1994).

- 6.2.4 After the Norman Conquest of 1066, Morpeth fell within the Middle March of the north country (Taylor *c*1970, 4). In the first years of occupation the Normans built many motte and bailey castles across England from which to administer and rule their new landholdings. The mound, or motte, was sometimes a natural mound enhanced by a raised earthwork, as at Haw Hill or Elsdon. The bailey was an apron of raised land running back from the mound, sometimes defined by a ringwork. In Northumberland the walled enclosure upon it is sometimes known as a barmkin. Approximately 600 such sites survive in Britain, but only 16 are known in Northumberland.
- 6.2.5 The motte and bailey castle was usually a tower of three or four storeys, built of timber, with palisades and sometimes a ditch at the base of the motte to enhance its defences (Hugill 1939, 5). When time allowed, these fortlets were often rebuilt on a larger scale in stone, and some grew into very substantial castle complexes. Less commonly, small-scale rebuilding in stone sometimes took place on the original motte and bailey site; for instance, a stone keep might be added. Such a development is tentatively suggested by the stone fragments found at Haw Hill in the 1830s (*Section 3.2.11*). This places Haw Hill in a minority of motte and bailey sites (one of only 61 nationally) of which English Heritage have said that *'all surviving examples will normally be identified as nationally important'* (SGS Environment 1999, 27).
- 6.2.6 A good Northumbrian parallel for the Haw Hill site may be found at Elsdon, *'often cited as the finest surviving remains of a motte and bailey castle in the county'* according to Adam Welfare (1995, 50). Here a Norman palisaded structure erected on the 'Mote Hills' occupied the possible former site of a Saxon administrative centre (Taylor *c*1970, 3); it was subsequently built in stone before the fifteenth century (Hugill 1939, 89). Haw Hill may also be somewhat comparable with the former Alnham Castle, a 'fortlet' with barmkin on a small mound, which belonged to the Earl of Northumberland.

### 6.3 ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

- 6.3.1 In the context of regional and national priorities, the study area has considerable significance. Regionally, it is one of only sixteen motte and bailey sites. It potentially preserves buried evidence of a castle, of immediate post-Conquest date and relatively unusual type. It therefore has great potential to illustrate the impact of the Norman Conquest on the political and cultural structures of eleventh century Northumbria. Although at present little is known about the stronghold which stood here, the site is part of a very limited resource of comparable earthworks in both county and country. The remains of such defences are often obscured or destroyed by later development, whereas the Haw Hill site has been undisturbed by plough or building activity since at least the seventeenth century.
- 6.3.2 In terms of national priorities, the site is sufficiently important to be considered for scheduled monument protection. If it were established that there were a stone keep here, which is a relatively uncommon addition to early motte and bailey castles, this would mean that it would rank with only 10% of such sites in the country.

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APPENDIX 1  
PROJECT BRIEF

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APPENDIX 2  
PROJECT DESIGN

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Lancaster  
University  
Archaeological  
Unit

June 1999

CARLISLE PARK, MORPETH  
NORTHUMBERLAND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

***Proposals***

*The following project design is offered in response to a request from SGS United Kingdom Ltd for an archaeological survey of the motte and putative bailey at Carlisle Park, Morpeth.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 LUAU has been invited by SGS United Kingdom Ltd to submit a project design and costs for an archaeological and topographic survey of the Haw Hill Motte and Bailey at Carlisle park, Morpeth. The aim of the survey is to identify the archaeological significance of the fortified landscape and will serve, along with other environmental surveys, as the basis for the generation of a management plan that would enable the enhancement of that landscape, and control erosion of the monuments. There is considerable uncertainty as to the form or chronology of the extant earthworks, and despite the local importance of the structure its significance within a national context has not been recognised and it has no scheduled status. The survey is required to assess the significance of the earthworks, particularly within the context of other Northumbrian castles, but also other Norman and pre-Norman fortifications elsewhere in Northern Britain.

1.2 The work will be undertaken in accordance with a project brief by Caroline Hardie, of Northumberland County Council and this follows on from a feasibility study prepared by the Archaeology and Building Conservation Team of the Northumberland County Council in 1997 on behalf of SGS United Kingdom Ltd.

## 1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.3.1 **History:** Haw Hill is a defensively enhanced natural mound to the south of the River Wansbeck, and was the first Norman castle in Morpeth. It was first recorded in 1095, when Rufus (William II) captured it, but the precise construction date is not documented (Rowland 1987). A castle was documented as having been destroyed in 1215 by King John, but although this may have been the Haw Hill motte, it was more likely to have been a fore-runner of the present Morpeth Castle, to the south of Postern Burn, which was subsequently rebuilt (Hodgson 1820) and even now has surviving twelfth century fabric.

1.3.2 **Archaeological Character:** the form of the original castle is uncertain, in part reflecting the very considerable undergrowth which now covers the site. Although there are no extant stone structures, excavations in 1830 recovered dressed and moulded stone on the site, and also the foundations of a long narrow building which could potentially indicate that there was a stone keep on the site. The removal of the dense vegetation over the site has the potential to reveal much of the original character and form of the early Norman motte.

## 1.4 LANCASTER UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

1.4.1 Lancaster University Archaeological Unit has considerable experience of landscape and building survey of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects during the past 18 years. LUAU employs a qualified surveyor (Jamie Quartermaine BA DipSurv MIFA) who has over 14 years experience of surveying buildings and landscapes, having worked closely with the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England and the Lake District National Park Authority on a number of projects. LUAU has particular experience in the recording and analysis of medieval castles. Archaeological surveys have been undertaken of the medieval ringwork at Lowther Castle, Cumbria, which has some similarities to the Haw Hill example. Surveys have also been undertaken of such medieval fortified structures as Wigmore Castle, Herefordshire, Kendal Castle, Lancaster Castle, Egremont Castle, Cumbria, Brougham Castle, Cumbria, Pendragon Castle, Cumbria and Peel Castle, Cumbria.

1.4.2 LUAU has the professional expertise and resource to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. LUAU is one of the few registered organisations with the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and all members of staff operate according to their Code of Conduct.

## 2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed in accordance with a brief provided by Caroline Hardie of Northumberland County Council to provide an accurate archaeological survey of Haw Hill. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

## 2.2 TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- 2.2.1 A landscape survey to the equivalent of RCHM(E) level 3 and to a scale of 1:500 to record the character of the extant earthworks will be undertaken. The survey will record all archaeological features, which will include any stonework. A black and white photographic record will be made of any moulded stone identified. The survey will record possible routes for the original access route, and also lines of modern path / animal erosion. The survey will map in-situ mature trees.
- 2.2.2 A brief walk-over survey will be undertaken of the rock garden in the adjacent public park to establish if this incorporates any dressed stone that may have originated from the castle site.

## 2.3 SURVEY REPORT

- 2.3.1 Limited research will be undertaken on comparable castles in the north, to put this site within a regional context. Secondary sources about the site will also be consulted to enhance the understanding of the site.
- 2.3.2 A written survey report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will describe and present the results of the programme in a manner that will be understood by non-archaeologists.

## 3. METHODS STATEMENT

- 3.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the stages and objectives of the archaeological work summarised above.

### 3.2 TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY

- 3.2.1 **Survey:** it is proposed to undertake a level three survey (see LUAU survey levels, *Appendix 1*) of the study area. However, it is also proposed that, as an option, a digital terrain model for the castle surface be created which would result in the generation of an isometric model as well as detailed contours for the surface (*Section 3.2.9*).
- 3.2.2 The survey will involve the detailed mapping of all surface features within the survey area, and will include all pertinent topographic detail. The survey will investigate all extant archaeological features, and will record all features relating to the motte and the putative bailey. In particular any stonework will be mapped at sufficient level to record its character. If significant structures are identified in the course of the survey that would warrant detail survey, then LUAU will negotiate a variation to the specification with the County Archaeologist and the client. The survey will assess all the present and potentially former access routes onto and around the site. It will record areas of recent path and animal erosion, in order to provide an assessment of the sites condition appropriate for future monitoring of the site. The survey will record mature trees that will not be felled.
- 3.2.3 Survey control will be established over the site by closed traverse and internally will be accurate to  $\pm 15$ mm; the control network will be located with respect to field boundaries or by use of Global Positioning System (GPS) as appropriate. Permanent survey control markers can be left on site to enable future monitoring of the site. The surface features will be surveyed by EDM tacheometry using a total station linked to a data logger; the accuracy of detail generation will be appropriate for a 1:500 output. The digital data is transferred onto a portable computer for manipulation and transfer to other digital or hard mediums. The archaeological detail is drawn up in the field as a dimensioned drawing on film plots with respect to survey markers. The survey drawings will then be generated within a CAD system (AutoCAD 14) and can be output at any appropriate scale. The survey would be generated using RCHM(E) draughting conventions.
- 3.2.4 The survey CAD drawing will be superimposed onto topographic detail digitised (under license) from OS mapping to provide the context of Haw Hill within the park and local topography.
- 3.2.5 The survey would be accompanied by a gazetteer description of the principal archaeological features, which will relate directly to the survey mapping.
- 3.2.6 **Photographic Survey:** a photographic archive will be generated in the course of the field project, comprising landscape and detailed photography. Detailed photographs will be taken of the principle

features using a scale bar. Detail photography will be undertaken of all diagnostic stonework or moulded stone as well as general views of the site. All photography will be recorded on photographic *pro-forma* sheets which will show the subject, orientation and date. The photography will be primarily undertaken with black and white 35mm format for archival purposes and will be maintained to archival standards. Photography will also be undertaken with digital or transparency formats for presentation purposes.

- 3.2.7 **Walk-Over Survey:** a walk-over survey will be undertaken in the area of the park rock garden, to establish if it incorporates any worked / dressed stone that may have originated from the Haw Hill fortified site. Photographs will be taken of any pertinent stone identified.
- 3.2.8 **Level 4 Survey Option:** although there is no requirement within the brief for a modelled contour survey of the site, it is considered that a detailed contour model will significantly assist with the monitoring and conservation works as well as enhancing the public presentation of the site. Therefore the production of a full contour survey is presented as a costed option within Section 6. The modelling survey requires the recording of additional height controlled survey points scattered over the whole study area. The greater the density of points the more detailed the model will be depicted. It is proposed that this option would involve surveying contour points at a five metre separation across the extent of the area, although slightly denser concentrations will be undertaken in the proximity of significant archaeological features in order to enhance these features within the model.
- 3.2.9 The digital survey data is modelled within a modelling package (DTM3) which will create a diversity of outputs. As long as sufficient detail points have been captured, it will be possible to present a variety of different contour separations which can be used to provide either a general topographic perspective to the hachure survey or, alternatively, a dense contour depiction capable of defining the detailed form of the landscape (examples are included with the present project design). In addition a three-dimensional isometric model of the Haw Hill mound can be created which can be presented within an appropriate CAD system (AutoCAD14) and can be viewed from a variety of differing perspectives.

### 3.3 SURVEY REPORT

- 3.3.1 **Background Research:** a programme of background research will be undertaken which will examine secondary sources pertaining to the site as well as sources relating to comparable fortified sites in Northern England, such as The Mote Hills, Elsdon (Welfare 1995). The study will examine a range of sources from the following: Black Gate Library, Newcastle, the Morpeth Local Studies Library, Northumberland Records Office (Melton Park), Literary and Philosophical Society, Newcastle upon Tyne, and the Newcastle University library.
- 3.3.2 **Report:** One bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client, and a further copy submitted to the Northumberland County Archaeologist. The report will include a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design. It will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above and will include a full index of archaeological features identified in the course of the project. It will incorporate a summary gazetteer of the principal elements of the site and an assessment of the surviving features. It will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which the data has been derived, and a list of further sources identified during the programme of work, but not examined in detail.
- 3.3.3 This report will assess Haw Hill within a regional context drawing upon historical records of the site and parallels with other comparable sites in the north-east of England. An assessment and statement of the actual and potential archaeological significance of the site within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities will be made. The report will expand on the results of the survey and will highlight the significance of pertinent features. Illustrative material will include a location map, the survey plans and isometric models (if required), it can be tailored to the specific requests of the client (eg particular scales etc), subject to discussion.
- 3.3.4 **Archive:** The results of Stages 3.1-3.2 will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991*). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IFA in that organisation's code of conduct.
- 3.3.5 This archive can be provided in the English Heritage Central Archaeology Service format, both as a printed document and on computer disks as ASCII files, and a synthesis (in the form of the index to the archive and

the report) will be deposited with the Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record. LUAU practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic, and plastic media) with the appropriate County Record Office.

### 3.4 OTHER MATTERS

- 3.4.1 **Access:** liaison for basic site access will be undertaken through SGS United Kingdom Ltd. The site will need to be extensively cleared of vegetation prior to the survey in order to reveal any subtle archaeological features, and it is understood that LUAU would be consulted as to the strategy of the vegetation clearance.
- 3.4.2 **Health and Safety:** LUAU considers health and safety to be of paramount importance on all their projects. LUAU have considerable experience in applying modern health and safety practices in large and small-scale archaeological projects, including the needs of working adjacent to highways. The LUAU Health and Safety Statement conforms to all the provisions of the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Unit Managers) Health and Safety manual. A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties. The Unit Safety Policy Statement will be provided to the client, if required.
- 3.4.3 **Confidentiality:** the report is designed as a document for the specific use of SGS United Kingdom Ltd, for the particular purpose as defined in this project design, and should be treated as such. Any requirement to revise or reorder the material for submission or presentation to third parties or for any other explicit purpose can be fulfilled, but will require separate discussion and funding.
- 3.4.4 **Project Monitoring:** any proposed changes to this project design will be agreed with SGS United Kingdom Ltd. It is anticipated that there will be an initial site meeting at the outset of the project to discuss the programme and the requirements for defoliation. Further meetings will be subject to variation.
- 3.4.5 **Insurance:** the insurance in respect of claims for personal injury to or the death of any person under a contract of service with the unit and arising out of an in the course of such person's employment shall comply with the employers' liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 and any statutory orders made there under. For all other claims to cover the liability of LUAU, in respect of personal injury or damage to property by negligence of LUAU or any of its employees, there applies the insurance cover of £ 2m for any one occurrence or series of occurrences arising out of one event.

## 4. WORK TIMETABLE

- 4.1 The phases of work will comprise:

**i) Topographic Survey**

4 days - field work

4 days - Office

**ii) Background Research**

2 days

**iii) Report Production**

2 days

- 4.2 LUAU can execute projects at short notice once an agreement has been signed with the client. A summary report will be produced immediately following the fieldwork and the more detailed survey report will follow four weeks after the field work.
- 4.3 The project will be under the project management of **Jamie Quartermaine, BA Surv Dip MIFA** (LUAU Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. Jamie is a very experienced landscape surveyor, who has undertaken or managed literally hundreds of surveys throughout Northern England and has considerable experience of working on similar projects to that proposed. He has managed the major recording programmes of Pendragon Castle, Lancaster Castle, Lowther Castle and Wigmore Castle. He has been a project manager since 1995 and has managed over 160 very diverse projects since then, which are predominantly survey orientated, but of all periods from Palaeolithic to twentieth century.



## APPENDIX 3 SITE GAZETTEER

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*Feature No.* **1**  
*Feature Type* Col  
*Location* Between low hill and the motte  
*Coordinates* NZ 19960 85610  
*Dimensions* c12m deep  
*Description* Between the Lower Hill and the motte is a deep (c12m) col which straddles the north-west and south-east facing slopes of the ridge. The col forms a marked interruption in the promontory /ridge, and there is a sharply defined scarp slope on both the eastern side of the Lower Hill and the western side of the motte. No topographic features relating to a possible bridge were found though these may have been masked by subsequent activity such as, man-made or faunal disturbance on the slopes flanking the col.

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*Feature No.* **2**  
*Feature Type* Platform  
*Location* Motte Summit  
*Coordinates* NZ 19994 85646  
*Dimensions* 31m x 6m  
*Description* A sub-rectangular platform on the summit of the motte. It has a very sharply defined edge, particularly on the eastern side. There is a very undulating slope on the western side of the summit, but the surface of the 'platform' is unusually flat. The platform edge on the western side is relatively sharp but not straight edged. This would appear to have served as the foundations for the former keep.

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*Feature No.* **3**  
*Feature Type* Terrace  
*Location* Motte – Northern slope  
*Coordinates* NZ 19958 85682  
*Dimensions* c65m long  
*Description* A line of terrace along the north-western face of the motte, at about one third of the overall height of the motte. It has a sloping surface, and for the most part follows the line of the contours. The line is continued by feature 4 which extends along the Lower Hill. At the northern end it merges into the line of the modern tarmaced path. It was possibly the line of a terraced route way extending along the line of the slope.

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*Feature No.* **4**  
*Feature Type* Terrace  
*Location* Lower Hill – Northern slope  
*Coordinates* NZ 19951 85619 - 19907 85593  
*Dimensions* c50m  
*Description* A line of terrace along the north-western face of the Lower Hill, at about one third of the overall height of the Lower Hill. It has a sloping surface, and for the most part follows the line of the contours. The line is continued by feature 3 which extends along the motte. At the south-western end it curves round a subtly defined hollow-way onto the ridge of the Lower Hill (5). Thus was possibly the line of a terraced route way extending along the line of the slope.

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*Feature No.* **5**  
*Feature Type* Col/hollow-way

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*Location* South-western end of the Lower Hill  
*Coordinates* NZ 19910 85579  
*Description* A col defining the south-western end of the Lower Hill, To the south-west of the col the natural ridge gently climbs away, but there is a steeper slope on that of the Lower Hill to the north-east edge of the col. A hollow-way extends around from the end of terrace 4, and onto the ridge of the Lower Hill. The col is in part formed by the hollow way, but was also deliberately worked in order to enhance the defences of the south-western end of the Lower Hill. A bank extends across the line of the ridge at the north-eastern end of the col and this was possibly a further defensive feature.

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*Feature No.* **6**  
*Feature Type* Well ?  
*Location* Castle Well  
*Coordinates* NZ 19942 85556  
*Dimensions* 15m x 9.4m  
*Description* This is a large prominent, elliptical shaped mound on the southern side of the Postern Burn and is set at the north-westernmost edge of a natural sub-circular, flat terrace. It is shown on the OS first and subsequent editions as the Castle Well. The mound stands to a height of *c* 2m above the terrace, and incorporates no in-situ structural elements, although there are two fragments of dressed stone, exposed from the vegetated surface. The Postern Burn is for much of its length a relatively straight feature, but diverts dramatically around this substantial feature, and it is possible that the feature was originally set on the burn, and the burn has subsequently diverted to the north of it. The mound is clearly of artificial origin, but it is not possible to define its function on the surface evidence alone. It is possible that this was indeed a well; however, considering its location on Postern Burn, it was more likely to have been a structure set over a sump in the base of the burn. There are terraced paths extending down the steep southern slope of the Postern Burn gully, but none of these extend directly to this feature.

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*Feature No.* **7**  
*Feature Type* Knoll  
*Location* Motte Summit  
*Coordinates* NZ 19977 85625  
*Dimensions* 13.9m x 10m  
*Description* To the south-west of the platform (2) is a small knoll which is symmetrical in profile and forms the south-west corner of the motte summit. The knoll is edged to the west by the steep scarp slope of the col (1) and is presently followed by a modern concrete stepped route, which then traverses around the north-western flank of the knoll onto the motte summit. The knoll is defined by a sharp break of slope, on both the north-western and southern sides, and would appear to be of artificial origin.

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*Feature No.* **8**  
*Feature Type* Erosion Scar  
*Location* Motte – Northern Face  
*Coordinates* NZ 19982 85669  
*Dimensions* 21m x 7m  
*Description* On the steep northern face of the motte is an erosion scar following directly up the slope, it has been formed by pedestrian traffic and is of recent origin. It extends up to the summit, but is most pronounced in the middle of the face.

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*Feature No.* **9**  
*Feature Type* Hollow-Way  
*Location* Motte – Northern Face  
*Coordinates* NZ 19990 85680 - 19993 85655  
*Dimensions* *c* 28m long

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*Description* On the steep northern face of the motte is an narrow hollow-way extending up from the base of the slope to the summit of the motte. It has a kink in the middle, and provides a semi-switch-backed route onto the summit. There is a large fan of washed material at the base of the feature, and this would suggest that the feature has been in existence for an extended period. The hollow-way is c 2-3m across, and in places up to 0.75m deep.

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*Feature No.* **10**  
*Feature Type* Ridge top  
*Location* Lower Hill  
*Coordinates* NZ 19952 85605 - 19913 85580  
*Dimensions* 44.5m long  
*Description* The narrow line of the Lower Hill ridge top. It has a sinuous shape, following the line of the natural ridge, and it has been built up on the northern side, hence the exaggerated slope, but the southern side, would appear to have been largely unaltered. The primary communication route onto the motte followed along this ridge top, the ridge was cut away at the north-eastern end to form the large col (1).

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*Feature No.* **11**  
*Feature Type* Excavation and spoil heap  
*Location* Motte Summit  
*Coordinates* NZ 19993 85647  
*Dimensions* Excavation: 3.3m x 3.0m  
*Description* An elongated, sub-rectangular hollow in the centre of the platform (2); the hollow extends to a depth of 0.25m. Adjacent to the hollow is a relatively large spoil mound, which, was probably the upcast from the excavation. Neither the hollow or mound are excessively degraded and they would appear to be not excessively ancient. They were potentially the product of an antiquarian intervention, and may be the excavation undertaken by Mr Woodman in the 1830's.

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*Feature No.* **12**  
*Feature Type* Scarp slope  
*Location* Motte  
*Coordinates* NZ 2000 8565  
*Description* The north-eastern slope of the motte. It has a very uniform and steep slope, and the top is defined by a very straight, very sharply defined scarp edge. More than any other of the slopes this displays very clear characteristics of anthropogenic origin, and was undoubtedly formed by the building up and landscaping of the original motte.

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*Feature No.* **13**  
*Feature Type* Excavation and spoil heap  
*Location* Motte  
*Coordinates* NZ 1998 8561  
*Description* The south-eastern slope of the motte. It has a fairly uniform and steep slope, albeit not as steep as the north-eastern slope (12). The top is defined by a fairly sharp defined scarp edge. Across much of the slope are badger barrows and it was not possible to clear the vegetation over this area. Consequently, only limited examination of the slope was possible. It does, however, display clear indications of anthropogenic origin, and was undoubtedly formed by the building up and landscaping of the original motte.

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*Feature No.* **14**  
*Feature Type* Causeway  
*Location* Motte Summit

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*Coordinates* NZ 19980 85636  
*Dimensions* 13m x 5m  
*Description* The knoll and platform are linked by a curvilinear embankment or causeway, defined by the steep scarp edge of the motte to the south-west, and a more gentle curved scarp edge to the east. This narrow causeway would have provided a controlled and restricted line of access to the main platform.

*Feature No.* **15**  
*Feature Type* Terrace  
*Location* Motte – South-western face  
*Coordinates* NZ 19968 85626  
*Dimensions* c 20m long  
*Description* A narrow terrace just below the summit of the motte. It is well-defined, but relatively short. No obvious function was identified.

*Feature No.* **16**  
*Feature Type* Two Quern Stones - Reused  
*Location* Carlisle Park Gardens  
*Coordinates* NZ 20040 85668  
*Dimensions* 0.35-0.45m diameter  
*Description* A pair of quern stones set upright as an abutment to a set of garden steps. They display a clear circular shape and examination of the exposed surfaces confirmed that they were probably used as a quern stones, since the flat vertical surface are smooth and worn.

*Feature No.* **17**  
*Feature Type* Sandstone – Ridge pieces  
*Location* Carlisle Park Gardens  
*Coordinates* NZ 20033 85674  
*Dimensions* 0.4m long  
*Description* This site is marked by two stones each around 0.5m long x 0.3m wide. Both stones are similar and are convex and smooth on the upper surface with the underneath concave with evidence of tool marks. The shape and topology of these two stones are consistent ridge pieces for a roof and are associated with tiled roofs during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The ridge pieces currently form cap stones to a low revetting wall adjacent to steps again leading up onto the westernmost terrace of the Nursery gardens.

*Feature No.* **18**  
*Feature Type* Stone plinths for metal railings; reused masonry  
*Location* Carlisle Park Gardens  
*Coordinates* NZ 20028 85679  
*Dimensions* 0.95m long  
*Description* This is a series of regular cut sandstone blocks all displaying a regular series of lead and iron filled mortice holes, the remains of railings. These are arranged to delineate grass from herbaceous border which runs parallel to the south-east facing wall at the north edge of the Nursery gardens. The stubs of the railings and the lead adhesive are still set into the stones.

*Feature No.* **19**  
*Feature Type* Dated header stone on a re-used plinth  
*Location* Carlisle Park Gardens  
*Coordinates* NZ 20022 85671  
*Dimensions* Plinth 0.9m x 0.6m

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**Description** This represents an extant masonry memorial which is in three parts: a plinth (c 0.7m square) this plinth supports a tapered column on top of which, sits a date stone "19 A 62". All three stone elements of the memorial are probably re-used masonry fragments.

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**Feature No.** 20  
**Feature Type** Plinth stones used for a seating platform  
**Location** Carlisle Park Gardens  
**Coordinates** NZ 20124 85627  
**Dimensions** Seat platform: 4.25m long by 1.75m wide and 0.35m high  
**Description** This feature is formed via the construction of a two-stepped plinth. The stepped plinth has four concrete capstones which would have allowed a garden seat to be erected in an elevated position. There are a series of these stepped plinths around the garden facing north-west.

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**Feature No.** 21  
**Feature Type** Ashlared sandstone blocks in a revetting wall  
**Location** Carlisle Park Gardens  
**Coordinates** NZ 20019 85657  
**Dimensions** Plinth 0.9m x 0.6m  
**Description** This comprises dressed masonry, featuring square and rectangular blocks which have been incorporated into the revetment wall for the road way which bisects Carlisle Park and accesses tennis courts and the River Wansbeck to the West. The masonry blocks display course rusticated incised toolmarks bordered by finer tooling marks and are at contrast to the roughly hewn sandstone blocks which forms the major part of the wall.

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**Feature No.** 22  
**Feature Type** Ashlared sandstone blocks in a revetment wall  
**Location** Carlisle Park Gardens  
**Coordinates** NZ 20432 85668  
**Dimensions** 0.35m long x 0.2m wide  
**Description** Built into a footpath's north-east facing revetment wall this is a small fragment of moulded stonework. The moulded fragment is from a corner possibly from a window. The fragment is in a poor condition.

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## ILLUSTRATIONS

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- Fig 1 Haw Hill Location Diagram
- Fig 2 Plan of the Town of Morpeth, 1826 (ZAN MI6/B3)
- Fig 3 Ordnance Survey (First edn), 1865 6" sheets 64SW
- Fig 4 Haw Hill Hachure Survey Plan
- Fig 5 Haw Hill Hachure Detail Plan
- Fig 6 Haw Hill Contour Map
- Fig 7 Haw Hill model viewed from the north-east
- Fig 8 Haw Hill model viewed from the south-west
- Fig 9 Haw Hill model viewed from the south
- Fig 10 Haw Hill model viewed from the west

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## PLATES

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- Plate 1 The motte viewed from the north
- Plate 2 Motte summit platform (2) viewed from the south-west
- Plate 3 Lower Hill ridge line (10) viewed from the south-west
- Plate 4 The col (1) viewed from the Lower Hill (south-west)
- Plate 5 reused quern stones, set as revetment to a set of steps (16)
- Plate 6 Dressed stones reused as a seat platform (20)
- Plate 7 Moulded 'window' fragment (22)

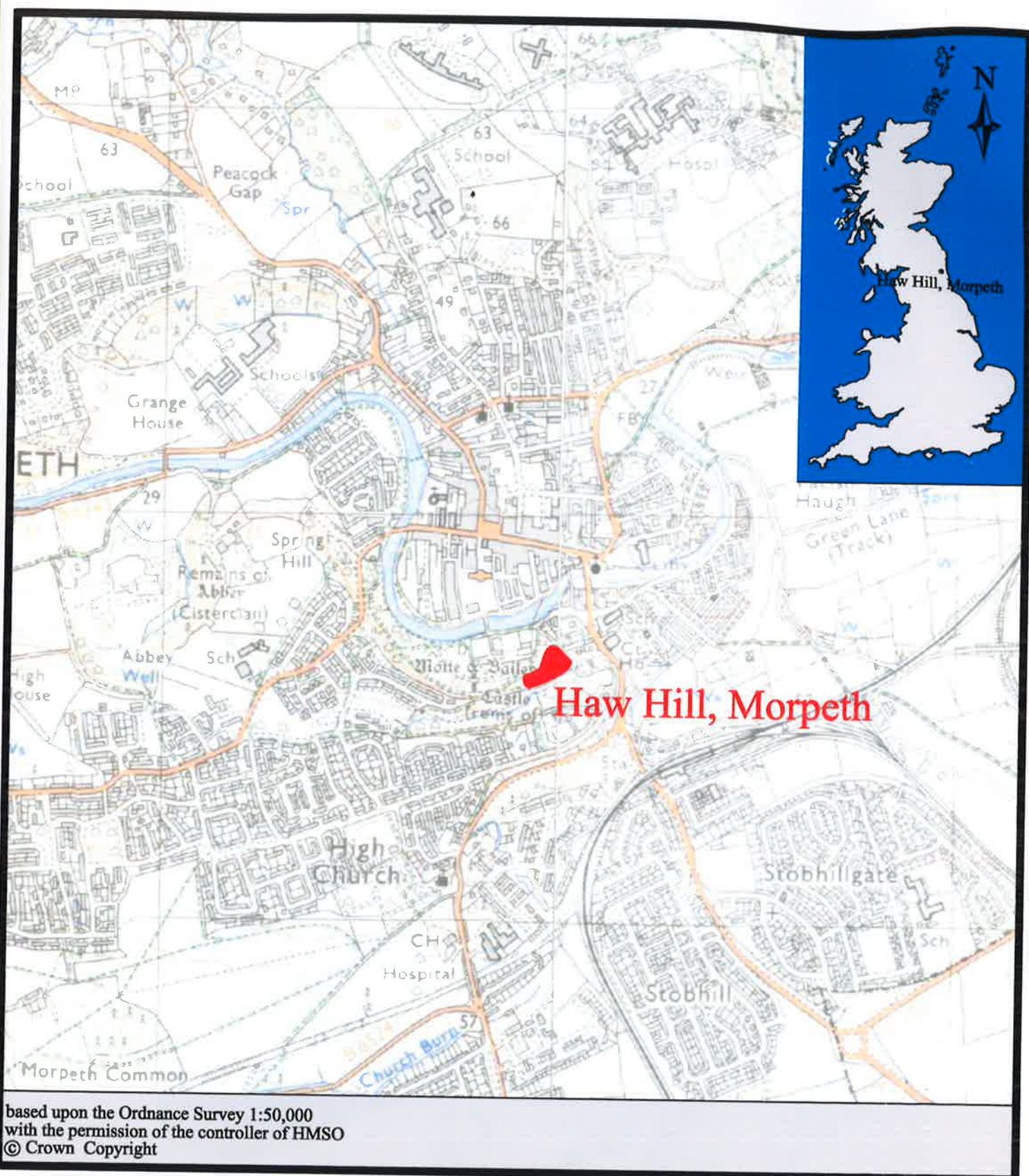


Fig 1: Haw Hill, Morpeth, Location Map

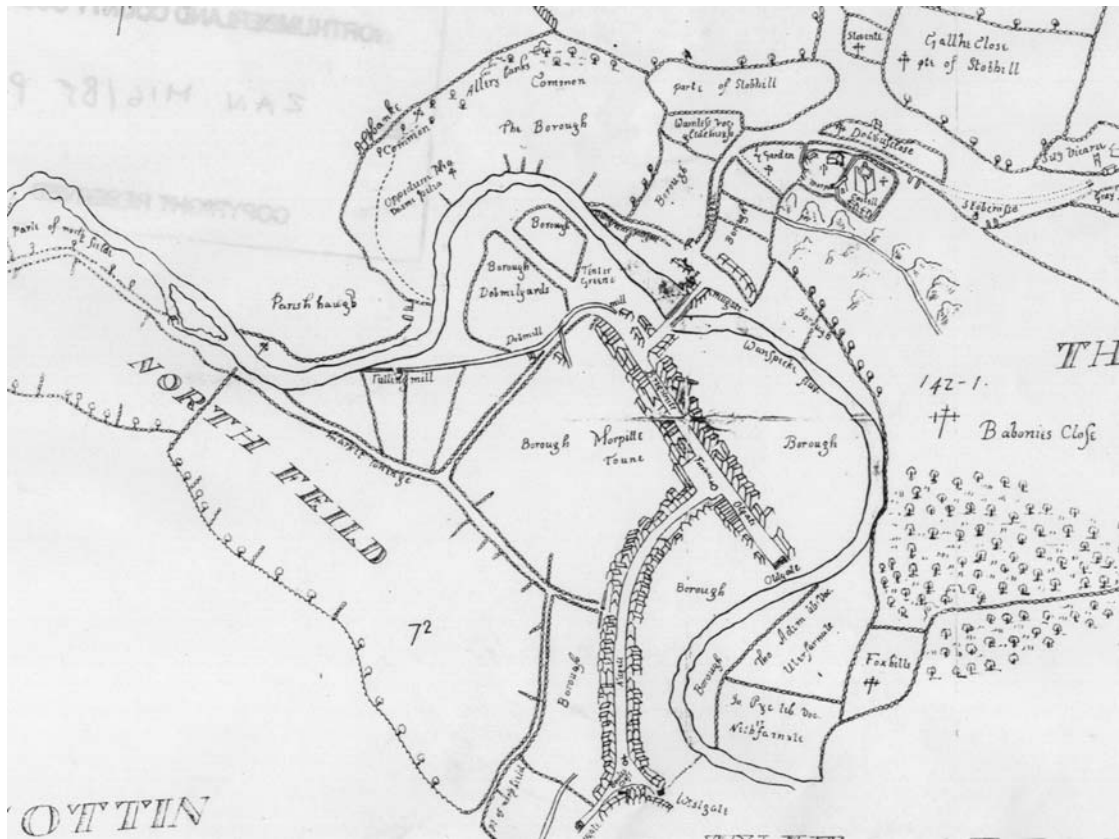


Fig 2 Haiwarde plan of the town and castle of Morpeth (1604, ZAN MI6/B5p2)

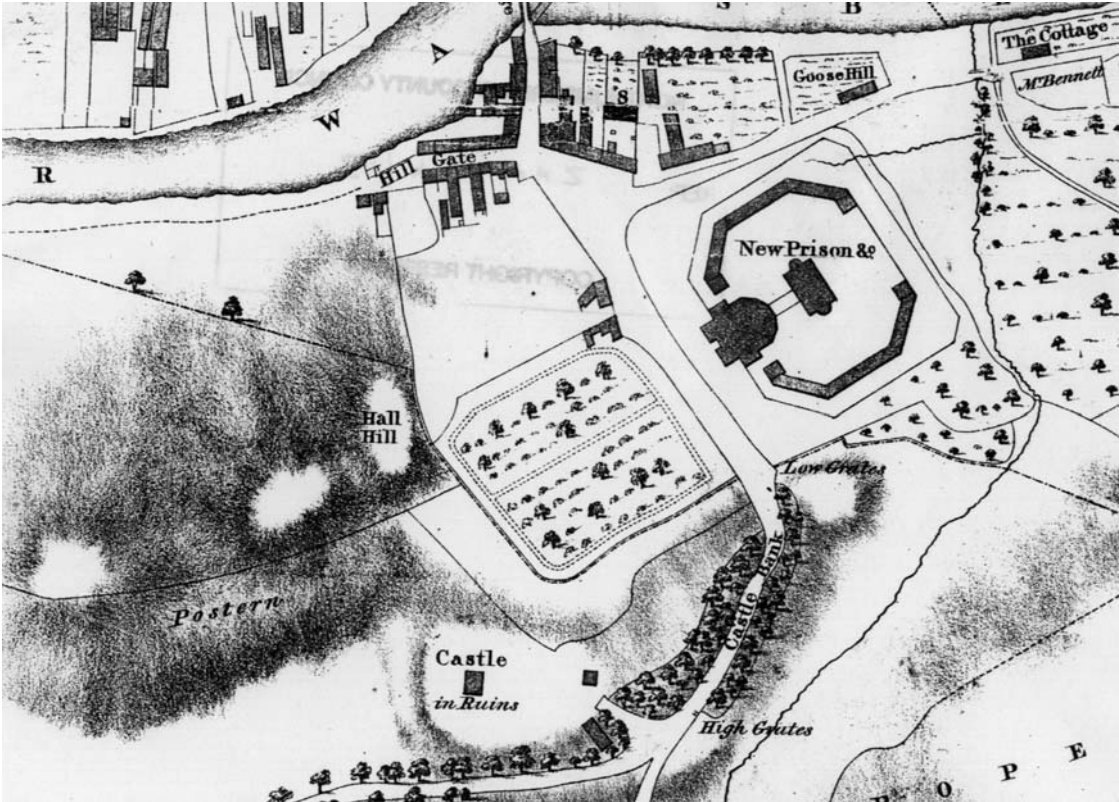


Fig 3 Forrester plan of the Town of Morpeth (1826, ZAN MI6/B3)



Fig 4 Haw Hill Hachure Survey Plan

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY  
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT  
 ARCHAEOL  
 LANCAS  
 TEL: 01524 59666

PROJECT:  
**HAW HILL**  
**Carlisle Park**  
**Morpeth**

DRAWING No: **4**

DRAWN BY: **JQ and RW**  
 DATE: **28/02/2008**  
 LOCATION:

0 25 50m

N

KEY  
 • 17 Recent Masonry  
 (11) Surface Features  
 • Tree

TITLE  
**Base Hachure Survey Plan**  
 COMPILED BY:  
 SCS United Kingdom Ltd

River Wansbeck

Foskett Burn

Morpeth Castle



LANCASTER UNIVERSITY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

STONEY INSTITUTE  
HARBOR ROAD  
LANCASTER  
LA1 1YF  
TEL: 01524 646666



PROJECT:

**HAW HILL**  
Carlisle Park  
Morpeeth

DRAWING No:

5



DRAWN BY: JQ and NW

DATE: 20/12/1999

LOCATION:



KEY	● 17	Recessed Masonry
		Surface Features
	○	Tree
		Suggested lines of historic routeways
		Dense Vegetation
		Erosion Scars

TITLE:

**Hachure Detail Plan**

COMMISSIONED BY:

SGS United Kingdom Ltd



Fig 5 Haw Hill Hachure Detail Plan



Fig 6 Haw Hill contour map

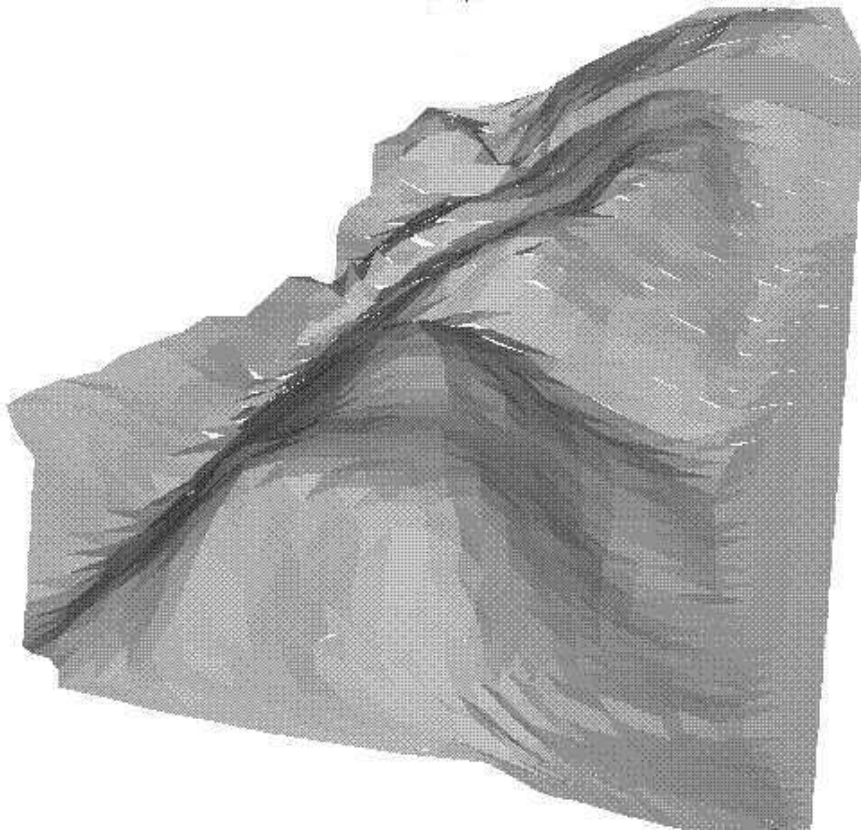


Fig 7 Haw Hill model viewed from the north-east

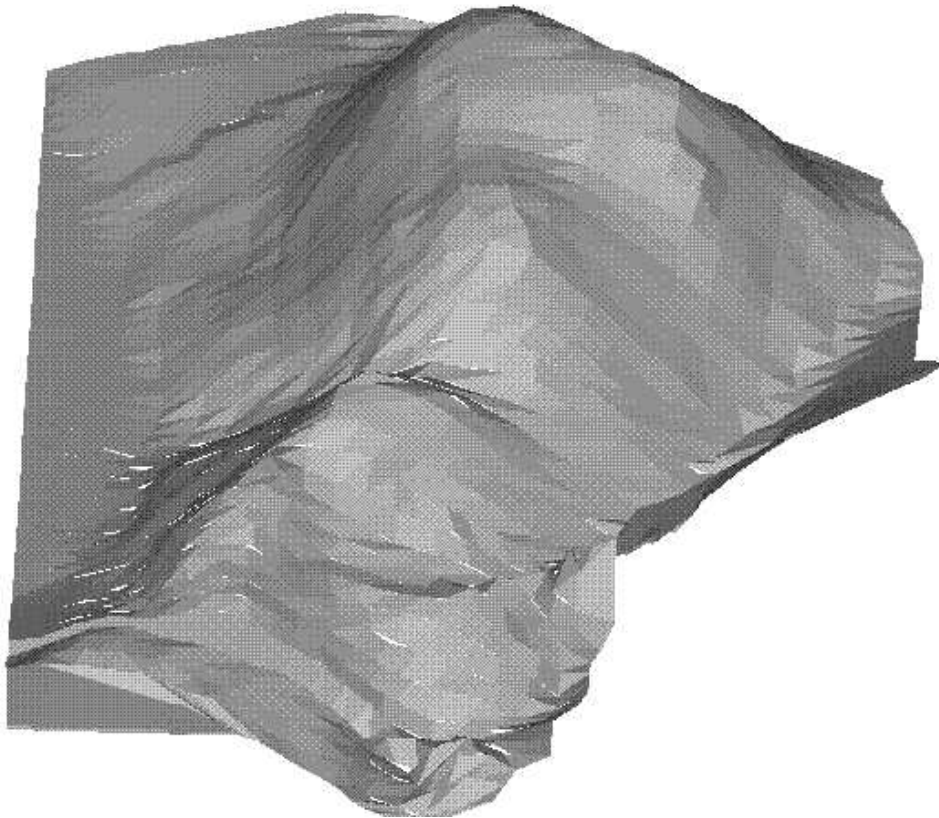


Fig 8 Haw Hill model viewed from the south-west

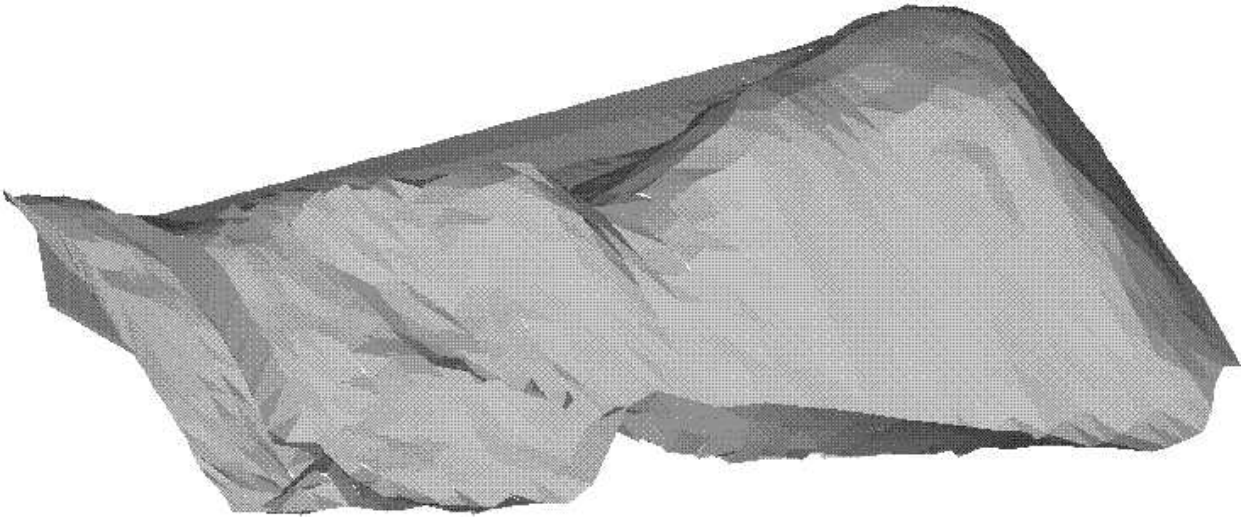


Fig 9 Haw Hill model viewed from the south

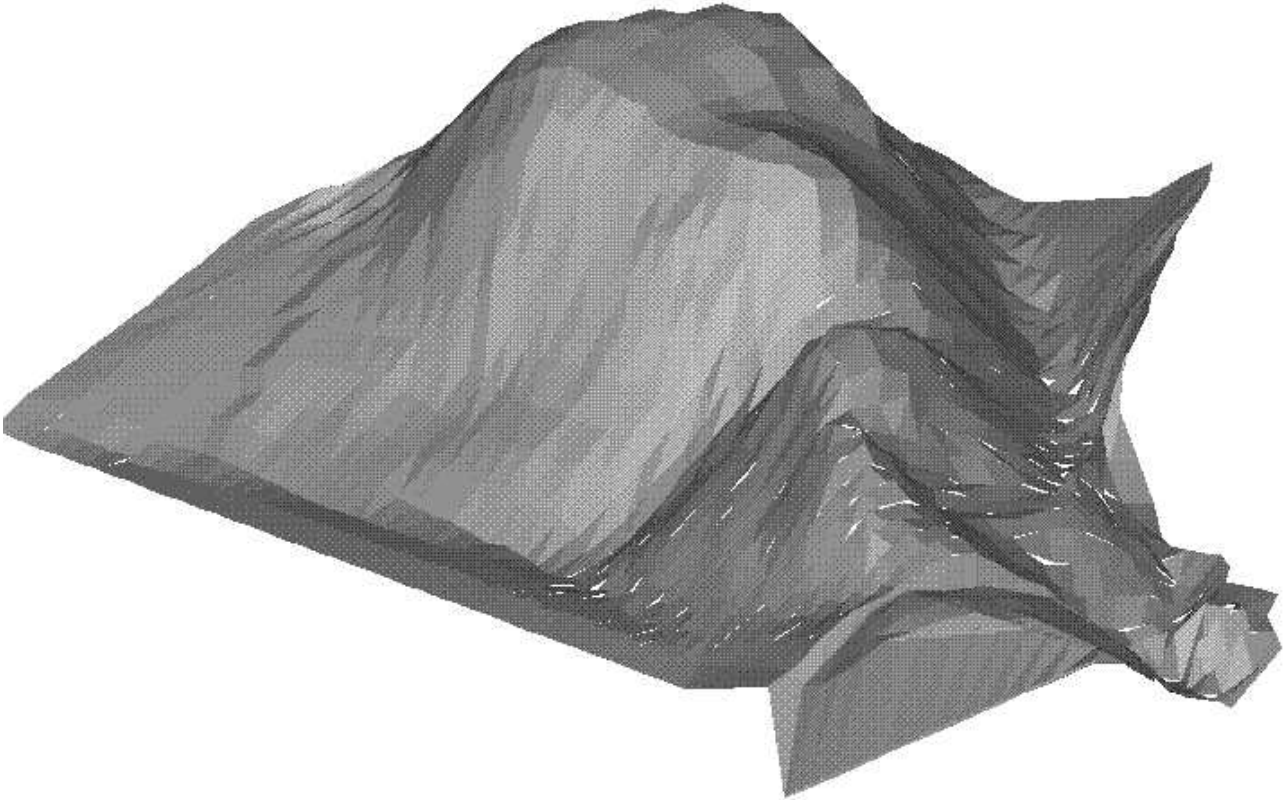


Fig 10 Haw Hill model viewed from the west



Plate 1 The motte viewed from the north



Plate 2 Motte summit platform (2) viewed from the south-west



Plate 3 Lower hill ridge line (10) viewed from the south-west



Plate 4 the col (1) viewed from the lower hill (south-west)



Plate 5 Reused quern stones, set as revetment to a set of steps (16)



Plate 6 Dressed stones reused as a seat platform (20)



Plate 7 Moulded 'window' fragment (22)





**Plate 3 Lower hill ridge line (10) viewed from the south-west**



**Plate 4 the col (1) viewed from the lower hill (south-west)**



Plate 5 Reused quern stones, set as revetment to a set of steps (16)



Plate 6 Dressed stones reused as a seat platform (20)



Plate 7 Moulded 'window' fragment (22)