



## ALTOGETHER ARCHAEOLOGY Theme 4. The Missing Centuries.

### Fieldwork module 4b St BOTOLPH'S CHAPEL, FROSTERLEY EXCAVATION - PHASE 2

#### PROJECT DESIGN



## Document control grid

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*This document has been produced in accordance with the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) guidelines (English Heritage 2006).*

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*Cover illustration. General view of Altogether Archaeology excavations in progress at St Botolph's, September 2013.*

## 1. General introduction to Altogether Archaeology

*Altogether Archaeology*, largely funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, is the North Pennines AONB Partnership's community archaeology project. It enables volunteers to undertake practical archaeological projects with appropriate professional supervision and training. As well as raising the capacity of local groups to undertake research, the project makes a genuine contribution to our understanding of the North Pennines historic environment, thus contributing to future landscape management.

Over an initial 18 month period ending in December 2011, the project attracted 400 volunteers and completed a range of fieldwork modules including survey and excavation of prehistoric, Roman, medieval and post-medieval sites, and the survey of complex multi-period archaeological landscapes. Details of work completed during the pilot phase can be found on the AONB website.

The current *Altogether Archaeology* programme runs from September 2012 - September 2015. It involves a range of professional and academic partners, and participation is open to all. Work is arranged according to ten themes, ranging from Early Farming to 20th-Century Industrial Archaeology. Further information, including details of how to register as a volunteer, are available on the AONB website.

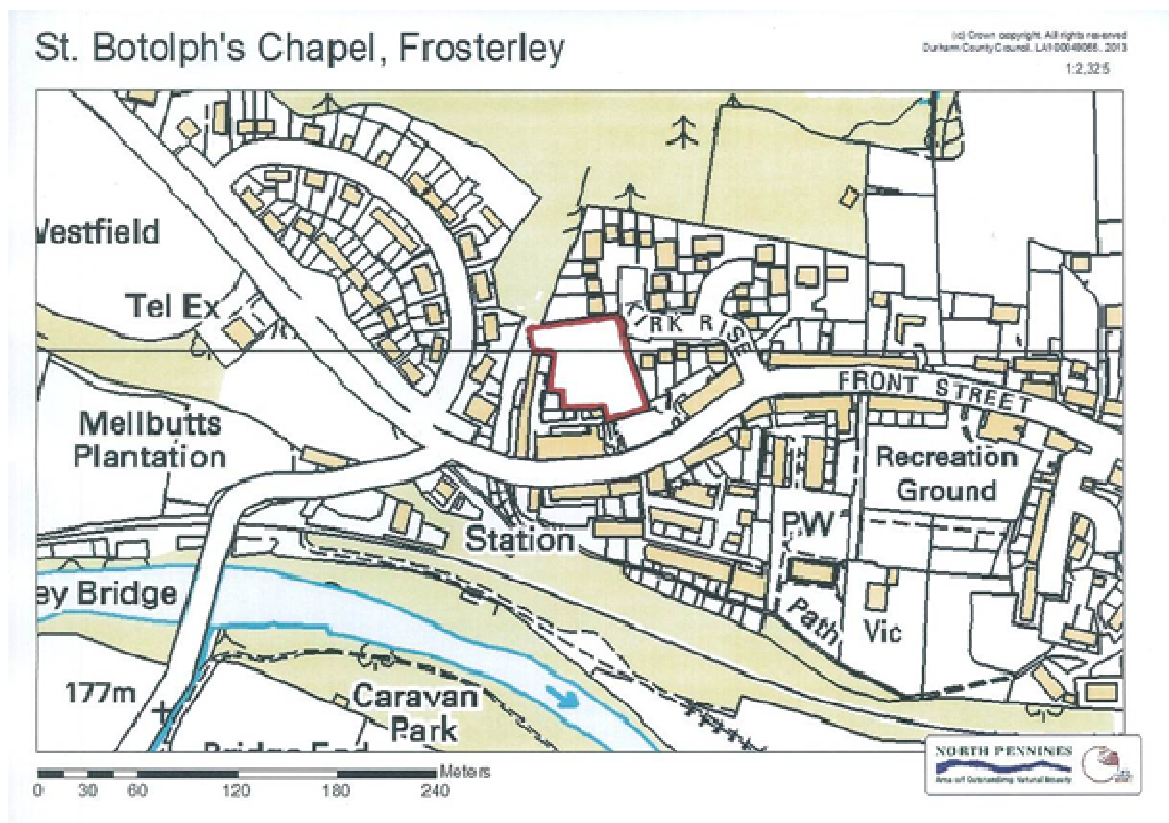


Fig 1. OS Map showing the location St Botolph's within the village of Frosterley, Weardale. Participants in this project should use the main village car park, on the north side of the A689 (Front Street) immediately south of the site and west of the village hall. Access to the excavation site will be via a gate in Kirk Rise.

## **2. Introduction to Altogether Archaeology Theme 4. Anglo-Saxons and Vikings: The Missing Centuries.**

2.1 With only a handful of exceptions, no sites or finds from the six and a half centuries between the end of Roman rule in Britain (AD 410) and the Norman Conquest (AD 1066), the period generally referred to by archaeologists as 'early medieval', have been recognised in the North Pennines. This is a huge gap in the local archaeological record, and is thus a priority area for research. There are some clues, for example there are several churches with supposed pre-Conquest origins, and many place-names that seem to date back to pre-Conquest times. It may also be that some 'Roman' sites continued in use well into post-Roman times, and some 'medieval' sites may well have pre-Conquest origins. This module, developed in close collaboration with Durham University, will use a range of techniques to enable volunteers to study various aspects of the 'Missing Centuries'.

2.2 Proposed fieldwork modules within this theme are:

- 4a. Place-name studies.
- 4b. St. Botolph's, Frosterley.
- 4c. Further site investigations - sites to be determined.
- 4d. Production of overview relating to the 'Missing Centuries'.

Because so little is known about this period it can be difficult to know where to start. The project has been fortunate in securing the services of Dr David Petts, Lecturer in Early Medieval Archaeology at the University of Durham, who is providing academic direction for all work undertaken as part of this theme, as well as contributing to the delivery of workshops and the direction of fieldwork. In addition to work planned specifically within Theme 4, other work undertaken within other modules is also expected to enhance our understanding of the 'Missing Centuries'.

2.3 Included within this module is the production of an outline synthesis (listed above as module 4d) incorporating all relevant information from this and other modules. It is expected that this will be produced by volunteers with a particular interest in this period, in collaboration with David Petts. It will include some suggestions for future research which volunteers may wish to follow up once the Altogether Archaeology project is over.

2.4 This document focuses specifically on item 4b in the above list. Because of the results of the 2013 excavations at St Botolph's, it has been decided to return to the same site in 2014 for a second campaign, rather than commence work on a 'new' site (this work thus effectively replaces module 4c). The proposed work aims to further our understanding of a unique site that the 2013 work suggests probably originated in pre-Conquest times and remained in use through into the medieval era. The results will be of importance in their own right, but will also contribute to our understanding of the North Pennines in early medieval and medieval times.

2.5 In addition to providing the necessary Project Design for the work, this document is also intended to function as an introduction to the site and the project for all participants.

### 3. St Botolph's, Frosterley. Previous work and site description.

(This is an updated version of the same section of the 2013 Project Design, taking last year's results into account. It incorporates material from ASDU 1995, ASDU 2013 & ASDU 2014).

3.1 The site of the chapel of St Botolph lies in a paddock within the village of Frosterley, just north of the A689 (NGR NZ 02534 36990). It is legally protected as a scheduled ancient monument (number 1016466). The oldest known record of Frosterley is in the late 12th-century Bolden book, and the village is best known for 'Frosterley marble', a distinctive fossiliferous limestone used in many important medieval and post-medieval buildings, most notably Durham Cathedral. The oldest known documentary reference to the St Botolph's chapel dates from 1346, but there are various reasons for believing that the original chapel here may date back to pre-Conquest (ie Anglo-Saxon) times. As evidence for pre-Conquest settlement is very rare throughout the North Pennines, St Botolph's has been chosen as prime site for archaeological investigation, the results of which could be of value to the wider area as well as to this particular part of Weardale. A small-scale investigation of the site by Durham University in 1995 demonstrated that substantial remains of at least one medieval building do survive here, and recent geophysical survey undertaken as part of the Altogether Archaeology project suggests that further buried features also survive, so there is high potential for volunteers to make significant discoveries and make a genuine contribution to our understanding of the origins and history of the chapel, and the village.

3.2 The earliest known reference to Frosterley (probably an Anglo-French name meaning 'clearing of the foresters') is in the Boldon Book, an equivalent of the Domesday Book for Northumberland and Durham, produced in 1183. The Boldon Book records:

*Ralph the Craft holds Frosterley for half a mark.*

The village is again mentioned in Close Rolls of 1239, but the chapel itself is not documented until 1346 in an Inquest Post Mortem:

*Henry de Bradley cum Constancia ux. Eq. in frank. Marr. - The rent 2s 10d at the Exch. and 9s to the chaplain of the Chapel of Frosterley....* (Victoria County History 1968, 334).

Pre-Conquest evidence for Frosterley is less firm but still revealing. During construction work for houses to the north and east of the site a ninth-century copper alloy strap-end was recovered, though not under archaeological conditions. References to 'Bot's Well' in the vicinity of the chapel suggest an early religious association. Holy wells frequently relate to late Romano-British or early Saxon shrines, and many of these later developed into chapel, church or monastic sites. If the original well was dedicated to St Botolph, it may indeed be a much earlier precursor to the chapel mentioned in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The name 'Bottlingham', which still survives within the village, is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and is perhaps the original name of the village.

3.3 Botolph (also known as Botwulf, Botulph or Botulf) is a relatively early saint, although there is some argument about the precise details of his life. The surviving biography, written by Abbot Folcard of Thorney in 1068, is supposedly based on information received from Botolph's disciples (Baring Gould 1874, 247-8). He is thought to have been born in East Anglia in the second quarter of the seventh century



(Farmer 1992, 66). He petitioned King Ethelwold (645-64) for land to build an monastery. According to an Anglo-Saxon Chronicle entry (Garmonsway 1967, 28) the monastery was built at *Icanho*, which can probably be associated with Iken in Essex. Excavations at Iken church by Dr Stanley West in 1977 confirmed that the Norman church had a timber predecessor, and led to the recovery of a fragment of an Anglo-Saxon cross shaft. Botolph was apparently buried at his monastery, but King Edgar I gave permission in 970 for his remains to be transferred to Burgh, near Woodbridge, only for them to be moved to Bury St Edmunds Abbey by order of King Cnut some 50 years later. Subsequently his relics were transferred to Thorney Abbey, although his head allegedly went to Ely Cathedral and other bones to various churches including Westminster Abbey.

3.4 Botolph's links with Northumbria are recorded in the Life of Ceolfrith, Bishop of Jarrow. Ceolfrith is said to have gone to Icanho to visit Botolph and hear his teaching before joining Benedict Biscop at Wearmouth/Jarrow. Botolph is credited with being one of the pioneers of the Benedictine Rule in England (Bond 1914, 90) and his influence on the early medieval church is reflected in the large number of churches dedicated to him, a total in excess of 70, of which Frosterley is the most northerly known example. It is possible that the dedication at Frosterley may belong to the period of Benedictine reform under Dunston (Archbishop of York from 961-988), especially as Botolph had influenced Ceolfrith, such an important figure in the early Northumbrian church. Today, his name is remembered in the names of several places, including Boston (Lincolnshire) and Boston (Massachusetts).

3.5 Very little is known of the history of the chapel. It apparently came into the possession of the squires of Stanhope after the Reformation, and they advertised in 1522 for a priest to fill the vacant benefice. By the late 18<sup>th</sup> century the chapel had disappeared, its masonry presumably largely robbed for use in other buildings in the village:

*The chapel named in the records has been many years disused and gone to decay, the site of it only known by the name of the Chapel Close, which the field where it stood retains.* (Hutchinson 1787, 297-8).

3.6 Today, the site of the chapel consists of a flat-topped mound measuring approximately 30 metres east-west by 22 metres north-south, and standing some 1.5 metres high.

3.7 In 1995, three small trenches were excavated by Archaeological Services (Durham University) in an attempt to evaluate surviving archaeological deposits throughout the site (ASDU 1995). A trench towards the east end of the top of the mound uncovered the east end of a rectangular stone building standing to a maximum height of two courses. An earthwork bank was initially targeted but this proved to be a bank of rubble, parallel with and outside the east wall of the rectangular structure. The presence of a robbed floor was inferred from an internal sand deposit and the remains of painted wall plaster survived in situ at the base of the walls. Painted plaster would have been rare in any medieval structure other than a chapel, church or manor house. It was considered that this evidence, together with the rectangular, narrow shape of the earthwork, made the structure a very strong candidate for St Botolph's Chapel. The excavation also uncovered evidence of stone-robbing and several phases of demolition. Potsherds of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-century date were recovered from post-demolition deposits.

The 1995 excavations also recorded a substantial deposit of stone rubble in a trench to the south of the chapel mound. It was postulated that this could possibly be

associated with the construction of a ramp from the road up to the chapel for stone-robbing. Medieval pottery of Tees Valley Ware was recovered from this deposit, providing a 13th or 14th-century date, though the sherds may have been residual. Beneath the rubble were colluvial deposits, which sealed what appeared to be a wall trench, though the stone had either been robbed or the wall had never been built. In a third trench, to the west of the presumed chapel, no structures or features were found, though abraded sherds dating to the 11th-13th centuries were recovered.

3.8 Geophysical survey (magnetometry and resistance) of the entire field was undertaken by Altogether Archaeology volunteers, supervised by Duncan Hale of Archaeological Services Durham University, in July 2013. The report on this work (Archaeological Services Durham University 2013) records that:

An area of relatively high resistance was detected, covering the mound and much of the northern part of the field. This may be due, in part at least, to better drainage here, but much will almost certainly be due to the presence of near-surface rubble; some bands of stone rubble were evident on the surface. Within this general area it is possible to identify broad, irregular bands of particularly high resistance which almost certainly reflect deposits of stone rubble; these may overlie or be adjacent to the former walls of the chapel. Narrow high resistance anomalies could reflect in situ wall footings.

Some additional narrow high resistance anomalies, and occasional negative magnetic anomalies, on the southern and western slopes of the mound could possibly reflect further stone features and possible wall footings.

Two discrete anomalies on the southern edge of the mound probably reflect fired or burnt materials.

Two probable stone features were also detected aligned broadly north-south in the southern half of the field. The western feature may comprise a stone surface such as a track, while the eastern feature appears to be a stone-built ramp or track between the chapel site and the road. This latter feature can be discerned on the ground.

Several more subtle anomalies in both datasets could reflect the remains of soil filled ditches and gullies or wall trenches.

A ferrous pipe has been detected across the southern part of the site.

The 2013 Altogether Archaeology excavation trenches were located to investigate features recorded by the geophysical survey.

3.9 Our understanding of the site was transformed by the first phase of Altogether Archaeology excavations in September 2013, full details of which are provided in the project report (ASDU 2014). In summary, the remains of the medieval chapel of St Botolph were uncovered in trenches 1 and 2 (see fig 8.1 for trench locations). This has established the overall length of the chapel and the width of the chancel, giving external dimensions of 16.25m by 4.98m, and internal dimensions of 14.65m by 3.40m. In plan, St Botolph's is comparable with the exceptionally well preserved Anglo-Saxon church at Escomb, just a few miles down the Wear near Bishop Auckland. The chapel was constructed of stone and had a painted plaster



interior and a stone tile roof. The walls were mortared, excepting the foundation of the western wall. A large quoin at the north-east corner of the Chapel may be an indication of an early date. Following demolition or collapse, some of the building materials had been robbed out. The eastern end of the Chapel was subsequently reused to an extent, as crude walling had been constructed within it and alongside it. Human remains were recovered from external deposits, indicating the presence of an associated graveyard. Part of an Anglo-Saxon cross head, of possible 8<sup>th</sup> century date, was found just outside the chapel's south wall, indicating that the site was probably the focus for pre-Conquest Christian worship. Although geological confirmation is still awaited, the cross is of non-local stone which appears to be Roker Dolomite, a stone used in other Anglo-Saxon churches in County Durham, from a source close to the well-known monastery at Monkwearmouth. Part of a decorated medieval font made of Frosterley marble, of probable 13<sup>th</sup> century date, was recovered from the rubble within the chapel's interior.

Along with the cross and font fragments an assemblage of finds was recovered including medieval and post-medieval pottery, wallplaster, human and animal bone, medieval window glass, ceramic building material, various metal objects, and industrial residues. These are all discussed in the report. Samples were taken from beneath the foundations for radiocarbon dating, but these have yet to be processed.

So, taking all this into account, it does seem highly likely that the Chapel of St Botolph and the village of Frosterley (or 'Bottlingham') have pre-Conquest origins, perhaps dating back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century. The 2014 excavations are designed to further investigate the form and chronology of this extremely important site.



*Fig 3.1, above. Aerial view of St Botolph's within the village of Frosterley. (Source: Durham County Council GIS).*

*Fig 3.2, below. General view of the site, from the village car park, taken prior to the 2013 excavation, showing the mound on which St Botolph's Chapel stood.*





*Two views of the 2013 Altogether Archaeology excavations (reproduced from ASDU 2014).*

*Fig 3.3, above. The east end of the chapel interior, looking east.*

*Fig 3.4, below. The NE angle of the chapel, note the large in-situ quoin forming the external corner. The line of slabs along the outer face of the north wall was an unexpected feature and is yet to be fully explained.*





*Two key finds from the 2013 Altogether Archaeology excavations (reproduced from ASDU 2014).*

*Fig 3.5, above. The Anglo-Saxon cross fragment of possible 8<sup>th</sup> century date.*

*Fig 3.6, below. The fragment of medieval (probably 13<sup>th</sup> century) font, of Frosterley marble.*



*Fig 3.7. Sketch showing how the chapel may have appeared in Anglo-Saxon times, by Peter Ryder. This uses evidence from the 2013 excavations coupled with knowledge of comparable sites elsewhere, most notably Escomb.*

## 4. Research Aims and Objectives

4.1 This project aims to build on the results of the 2013 season at St Botolph's, helping to provide a better understanding of the site, including more information about its initial construction, subsequent use and eventual abandonment. The project seeks in particular to address the intriguing question of whether the site has pre-Conquest origins.

4.2 As well as further investigating the structure of the chapel, and other features recorded by the geophysical survey undertaken by Altogether Archaeology volunteers in advance of the 2013 excavations, it is hoped that further fragments of the Anglo-Saxon carved stone cross can be recovered. This is such an important artefact for the village of Frosterley, for Weardale, and for the North Pennines, that its recovery is a justifiable aim.

4.3 The results of this work will represent a key stage in the study of this important site. They will be of great value in their own right, but will also provide a basis for future possible conservation, interpretation and research.

4.4 The report will also include a brief assessment of the potential for further work, and observations regarding site management including suggestions regarding any particular problems noted during fieldwork.

4.5 A further important project objective is the further enhancement of local public interest in the site and more generally in the local historic environment. In 2013, there was massive local interest, including participation in the fieldwork by a local sixth-form college and the village infant school. There was a constant stream of visitors to site, and an open day on the second weekend was attended by hundreds of people. Similar efforts will be made this time around to involve local people.

## 5. Project scope

This project builds on the 2103 excavations here, but other than that is a largely self-contained project, the results of which will be produced and disseminated accordingly. Further work to merge the results with those of other Altogether Archaeology fieldwork modules, and other work elsewhere, does not form part of this module, though the project report will make reference to appropriate sites elsewhere. The project report may include outline recommendations for further work aimed at the better understanding and management of the site.

## 6. Project team

6.1 In accordance with standard Altogether Archaeology practice, this project will be overseen by a Project Team, as follows:

Paul Frodsham	North Pennines AONB Partnership Historic Environment Officer and Altogether Archaeology Project Manager	Overall project management/coordination
David Petts	Lecturer in early Medieval Archaeology, University of Durham	Overall academic direction.
Peter Carne	Manager, Archaeological Services Durham University	Direction of project fieldwork.
Jamie Armstrong	Archaeological Services Durham University	On site direction of fieldwork.
Rob Young	Archaeological Advisor, English Heritage North-East.	Liaison with English Heritage.

6.2 Overall project management will be by Paul Frodsham, assisted if appropriate by other members of the North Pennines AONB Historic Environment Working Group (HEWG). The HEWG is the designated advisory group for the whole of the *Altogether Archaeology* project; it includes the Durham County Archaeologist and English Heritage North-East Region Inspector of Ancient Monuments. Paul Frodsham will be responsible for co-ordinating volunteer involvement in the project, and for preparatory work including liaison with the landowner and the provision of site facilities.

6.3 The project is being delivered in partnership with the Department of Archaeology at Durham University. Various members of staff and students may become involved, but the three key University staff are those shown in the above chart. Dr David Petts will provide academic direction, while fieldwork on the ground, including provision of training to volunteers, will be directed by Peter Carne and Jamie Armstrong.

6.4 Fieldwork will be undertaken by Altogether Archaeology volunteers with training and supervision provided by professional staff from Archaeological Services, who have extensive experience working on comparable projects with volunteers. The site landowner, Lucy Pearson, teaches A'level history at a local school, and there will be an opportunity for ten of her students to take part in the work. It is expected that Paul Frodsham will also be on site for much of the time, but his role will be to assist the fieldwork directors rather than to direct the fieldwork himself. Archaeological Services staff will be responsible for the production of the project report. Paul Frodsham will produce a risk assessment, and will be responsible for health and safety on site throughout fieldwork.

6.5 The *Altogether Archaeology* project has a pool of some 560 volunteers, of whom up to 50 are expected to participate actively in this module. Although there must be some flexibility with regard to volunteer involvement, up to 25 volunteers are expected on site each day. Paul Frodsham will draw up a rota showing which volunteers expect to be on site each day, and fieldwork can then be planned



accordingly. Some volunteers are more experienced excavators than others, but all will receive an appropriate level of training and supervision. Experience gained here at St Botolph's should then be of value to future projects.

## 7. Communications

7.1 Paul Frodsham maintains a volunteer database of all *Altogether Archaeology* volunteers, and information about the project will generally be disseminated by email or telephone using contact details contained within this database. For ease of communication, any local people wishing to take part in the St Botolph's project who have not registered with the *Altogether Archaeology* project will be asked to do so, at least temporarily. All communication with volunteers will then be via the *Altogether Archaeology* volunteer database.

7.2 Paul Frodsham, Peter Carne, Jamie Armstrong other project staff will be in daily contact during the fieldwork phase, and will communicate as necessary by email, telephone and face to face meetings as necessary during project planning and post-excavation phases.

7.3 The North Pennines AONB Historic Environment Working Group (the advisory group for the *Altogether Archaeology* project) meets quarterly. A draft report on the results of this project will be presented by PF for discussion at the first meeting following completion of the project.

## **8. Methods statement.**

### **8.1 General**

8.1.1 This methods statement is essentially the same as that for the 2013 season, except that it relates primarily to a different area of the site. All work will be completed according to relevant professional standards and guidelines. Fieldwork will be undertaken by volunteers from the Altogether Archaeology project, with training and constant on-site supervision provided by highly experienced professional staff from Archaeological Services Durham University, assisted by Paul Frodsham.

8.1.2 The Project Design incorporates a degree of flexibility; decisions will be taken according to factors such as ongoing results, numbers of volunteers attending, and the weather. Volunteers will be encouraged to take part in discussion and debate about the project design while work is in progress and during lunch breaks.

8.1.3 It is expected that fieldwork will take place over nine days from 13<sup>th</sup> September to 21<sup>st</sup> September. A volunteer programme will be prepared, with a maximum of twenty-five volunteers on site each day. Full training will be provided to all volunteers, who will be closely supervised throughout the fieldwork.

8.1.4 Welfare facilities (a room to act as a canteen for lunch breaks or for shelter in bad weather, along with toilet and washing facilities) will be available within Frosterley Village Hall, just a short walk from the site. Car parking will be in the village car park, immediately adjacent to the site. The basic working day will be from 10am through until 4pm, with breaks. Volunteers should report to the car park at 9.45 each morning.

### **8.2 Pre-start planning and start-up meeting**

8.2.1 A project planning meeting was held by Paul Frodsham and Peter Carne in February 2013. The outline proposals were subsequently discussed with English Heritage (Rob Young) in May. On site discussions have also taken place with the landowner, Lucy Pearson.

8.2.2 There will be an on-site project start-up meeting, including an introduction to the site and health and safety induction, at 10am on Saturday 13th September. Participating volunteers will be encouraged to attend this meeting, although numbers may dictate that not everyone can attend on the first day, in which case all relevant information will be made available to the volunteers on the first occasion that they attend.

### **8.3 Fieldwork: excavation strategy and methods.**

8.3.1 The excavation plans are flexible, and the amount of work completed during the project will be dependent on factors such as the weather, the numbers of volunteers attending, and the complexity of the archaeological deposits encountered. It will be possible to amend the plans during fieldwork as necessary, subject to agreement with Rob Young (English Heritage), but the initial proposal is for the excavation of a single large trench, approximately 12 by 10 metres (see fig 8.1),

joining up trenches 1 and 2 from 2013. This will enable the further investigation of the chapel's south wall, its presumed main entrance, and other features within and outside the building. It is important to stress that the aim is not necessarily the full excavation of this trench down to undisturbed natural; some features encountered during the work may be recorded on plan but not fully excavated, depending on available resources. The 2014 plans also include the completion of Trench 3 from 2013 (the southernmost of the three trenches highlighted in green in Fig 8.1). This was designed to investigate features noted on the geophysical survey, but which was not completed due to the need to concentrate on trenches 1 and 2. Depending on features encountered during the excavations, it is possible that the ground between this year's main trench and last year's trench 3 may also be excavated, to produce a single large trench this year. In addition, trenches 1 and 2 may be partially re-opened so that relationships between features in the different trenches will be clearly visible. In 2013, the large Anglo-Saxon cross fragment was recovered from the section in the very south-west corner of trench 1. In addition to the large fragment, two smaller fragments were recovered from the same location, but the three pieces did not conjoin. Consequently there is a high possibility that further portions of the cross may lie in the ground in this area, even perhaps the entire cross, which may have stood here and fallen at some point during the site's history. If so, then the recovery of as much as possible of this important artefact will be a primary aim of the excavation. Depending on the complexity of archaeology uncovered in the above trenches, the numbers of volunteers attending, and other factors such as the weather, further trenches may be opened elsewhere in the field (outside the scheduled area) to investigate features recorded by the 2013 geophysical survey.

8.3.2 Turf and overburden will be excavated by hand; the turfs and spoil will be stored directly adjacent to the trenches and following completion of the excavation the trenches will be backfilled and re-turfed so that the ground profile upon completion of the work will be as close as possible to that prior to commencement of work. The area will be hand-cleaned for the identification of archaeological deposits and recorded in plan. Features will be sampled excavated in order to characterise the nature and extent of the archaeological deposits.

8.3.3. Excavation of archaeological deposits identified will proceed by hand, using standard archaeological procedures in accordance with the Archaeological Services Recording Manual (v.5.3 2011).

8.3.4 All suitable deposits will be subject to an environmental sampling strategy.

8.3.5 Archaeological features will be sectioned, excavated and recorded in plan and section. Plans will be drawn at 1:20 and sections at 1:10. The excavations will be tied in to the site boundary and related to an OS benchmark. Bracketed 35mm monochrome prints and colour digital photographic images will be taken. A site diary will be maintained, to which volunteers will be encouraged to contribute.

8.3.6 All excavation locations will be surveyed, together with plans, sections and levels, using a Leica Viva GS15 global navigation satellite system (GNSS), with real time kinematic (RTK) correction, typically providing accuracy of approximately 10mm.

### **Sampling**

8.3.7 It is Archaeological Services' policy to collect bulk samples from the fills of all cut features, and from other deposits that have the potential to provide palaeoenvironmental information. Industrial residues and waste from craft and manufacturing processes are also routinely sampled. Sample size will depend on the apparent potential value of the deposits, but the minimum volume collected from a context will be 40 litres or 100% of the available material. Unsecure deposits may

also be sieved for artefactual retrieval. Assessment of processed material will be conducted by Dr Charlotte O'Brien, the Environmental Archaeology Service Manager. The English Heritage Regional Science Advisor will be consulted in relation to any unusual sampling requirements.

#### **Artefact recovery**

8.3.8 Archaeological Services operates a 100% finds collection policy, including post-medieval, 19th century and modern material. Bulk finds such as pottery and animal bone will be collected by context. Where unusually large quantities of finds, or very small types of material are encountered (e.g. fish bones), such that recovery by hand is not practicable, soil samples will be sieved. Finds will be removed from site to a secure location at the end of each working day. All finds that are retained will be washed, marked and bagged in a manner suitable for long-term storage. Where finds fall under the Treasure Act (1996) relevant procedures will be followed.

#### **Conservation**

8.3.9 All Archaeological Services field personnel are trained in artefact first aid and procedures for the recovery, packing and transportation of artefacts, following First Aid for Finds (2nd Edition) and UKIC's Conservation Guidelines No. 2. Where delicate artefacts are uncovered, appropriate immediate measures will be taken, and the artefacts transferred to the Conservation Laboratory at Durham for stabilisation. Should particularly complex conservation requirements become apparent, an appropriately qualified and experienced specialist will be called to site to excavate and package the object.

#### **Scientific dating**

8.3.10 Samples of material suitable for scientific dating techniques including AMS C14 dating, archaeomagnetism (for example, charcoal or in situ burnt clay from appropriate contexts) or thermoluminescence will be collected where appropriate. The value of these will be assessed during the post-fieldwork assessment phase and a suitable recommendation made.

#### **Human remains**

8.3.11 It is not envisaged that human remains will be excavated as part of this project. Should it become necessary for bones to be lifted then appropriate permissions will be sought from the Ministry of Justice before any work is begun.

#### **Liaison and monitoring**

8.3.12 Monitoring of the project will be undertaken by Paul Frodsham (NPAONB), and Rob Young (English Heritage).



*Fig 8.1. Location of proposed 2014 excavation trench (in RED), shown in relation to the 2013 trenches (in GREEN). The 2014 plans also include the further investigation of Trench 3. Note that trenches are subject to extension or alteration during fieldwork, by agreement with English Heritage. See text for further details. (Base plan is reproduced from ASDU 2014).*



## 9. Report and Archive

### Post-excavation assessment and reporting

9.1 The report into the 2013 excavations (ASDU 2014) will be updated to incorporate the results of the 2014 fieldwork. A digital copy will be provided in pdf format, suitable for use with the AONB website. Reporting will adhere to the reporting requirements for Durham County Council. This will include the deposition of one bound copy with the Historic Environment Record (HER). The report will include relevant plans and sections and will be based on the following format:

1. Executive summary
  - 1.1 The project
  - 1.2 Results
  - 1.3 Recommendations
2. Project background
  - 2.1 Location
  - 2.2 Development proposal
  - 2.3 Objective
  - 2.4 Specification summary
  - 2.5 Dates
  - 2.6 Personnel
  - 2.7 Acknowledgements
  - 2.8 Archive
3. Archaeological and historical background
4. Landuse, topography and geology
5. The trenching
  - 5.1 Introduction
  - 5.2 Trench 1
  - 5.3 Trench 2
  - 5.4 Trench 3
6. Discussion
7. Updated project design
8. Sources
- Appendix 1: Context data
- Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrices

### Archive

9.2 The project archive will be prepared to the standard specified in Appendix 3 of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). The archive will be deposited at the Bowes Museum or Weardale Museum by agreement with the Durham County Archaeologist.

### OASIS

9.3 Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS project (OASIS). An OASIS form will be completed for this project. It is understood that after validation by the HER, and with the agreement of all the parties concerned, the project report may become a publicly accessible document.

### Publication

9.4 Recommendations for publication will be made if required following completion of the works (including any further schemes of works): this may include a submission to the *Durham Archaeological Journal*. The nature and extent of the publication will be dependent on the results of the work.

**Publicity**

9.5 Decisions regarding publicity of the project will be made, subject to the nature of results, during and after fieldwork. Any publicity relating to the site will only occur following consultation with the landowner. Should such publicity be considered desirable, it will be arranged through the AONB Partnership's Publicity Officer. Depending on results, a public open day will be arranged towards the end of fieldwork, and a public lecture on the results will be given in Frosterley Village Hall later in the year.



## 10. Stages, Tasks and Timetable

This project is divided into three stages and 17 tasks as shown in the table below.

Fieldwork is planned to extend over 9 days from Sat 13<sup>th</sup> Sept to Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 2014. Results analysis, post-excavation assessment and report production will proceed as soon as possible following the completion of fieldwork.

STAGE or Task No.	STAGE/Task	Person(s) responsible	Dates (2014 unless stated)
<b>S 1</b>	<b>PREPARATION</b>		
T 1.1	Preliminary site meeting.	PF/PC	Feb
T 1.2	Finalising of MORPHE compliant project design and EH approval.	PF/RV/DP/PC	25 Aug
T 1.3	Obtain Scheduled Monument Consent	PF/RV	6 Sept
T 1.4	Arrange provision of on-site facilities and temporary fencing, and produce risk assessment.	PF	10 Sept
T 1.5	Put project live on AA sector of AONB website, inviting volunteers to register.	PF	1 Sept
T 1.6	Closing date for volunteer registration	PF	6 Sept
T 1.7	Agree volunteer participation rota - inform volunteers.	PF	8 Sept
T 1.8	Start-up meeting	Volunteers/PC/JA/PF.	13 Sept
<b>S 2</b>	<b>FIELDWORK</b>		
T 2.1	Site set-up	Volunteers/JA/PF	13 Sept
T 2.2	Fieldwork	All	13-21 Sept
<b>S 3</b>	<b>REPORT, ARCHIVE &amp; PUBLICITY</b>		
T 3.1	Production of assessment report	PC/JA/DP	Nov
T 3.2	Discussion of post-ex requirements and agreement of post-ex programme	PC/JA/DP/PF	Nov
T 3.3	Completion of post-ex and final report	PC/JA/DP	Feb 2015
T 3.4	Presentation of final report to HEWG (subject to completion of post-ex).	PF	Mar 2015
T 3.5	Deposition of archive, dissemination of final report to HER & OASIS	PC	Mar 2015
T 3.6	Link to Project Report placed on AONB website.	PF	Mar 2015
T 3.7	Contribution to <i>Altogether Archaeology</i> annual public conference.	PF/JA/volunteers	tbc

PC = Peter Carne (Archaeological Services Durham University)

JA = Jamie Armstrong (Archaeological Services Durham University)

DP = David Petts (Dept of Archaeology, Durham University)

PF = Paul Frodsham (North Pennines AONB Partnership)

RV = Rob Young (English Heritage)

## 11. Ownership and Site Access

The site is within a field, used as pasture for horses and donkeys, owned by Mrs Lucy Pearson of Front Street, Frosterley, who has kindly given permission for the project.

Last year the horses and donkeys were not present during fieldwork, but this year they will be in the field. It has been agreed that the field will be temporarily divided in half, with the animals in the southern half, so that work in the northern half, on the chapel site, can take place unimpeded. For this reason, access to site will only be possible via the gate in Kirk Rise, east of the site. Parking will be in the village car park, and volunteers must walk the short distance up Kirk Rise to this gate. Further information will be circulated to participants in due course.

## 12. Health & Safety and Insurance

12.1 Full consideration will be given to matters of health and safety throughout this project. All work will be undertaken in accordance with the 1974 *Health and Safety Act* and its subsequent amendments, the 2007 *Construction Design and Management Regulations*, and the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) Health and Safety Manual (2007). Work will also take place under the terms of the Durham University *Health and Safety Policy* and *Code of Practice for Safety in Fieldwork*.

12.2 A full Risk Assessment will be undertaken to assess all real and potential hazards prior to the commencement of fieldwork. A comprehensive health and safety induction will be given to all volunteers at project start-up, and all will be required to read a written statement on health and safety which will be kept on site and which all volunteers partaking in the project will be required to sign, stating that they have read and understood it and that they will abide by its terms. A generic Risk Assessment for Altogether Archaeology fieldwork is included herewith as Appendix 1, and a specific Risk Assessment for this module forms Appendix 2.

12.3 Paul Frodsham will ensure that at least one qualified First-Aider and appropriate first aid supplies are on site at all times while fieldwork is in progress. Staff members will be supplied with appropriate safety clothing and equipment, and advice as to appropriate clothing and equipment will be provided to volunteers.

12.4 Welfare facilities will be available within Frosterley Village Hall, a short walk from the site.

12.5 All aspects of the Altogether Archaeology project are covered by Durham County Council's comprehensive insurance policy. In addition, Archaeological Services staff are covered by their own insurance provided by Durham University.

### 13. References

- Archaeological Services Durham University. 1995. St Botolph's Chapel, Frosterley. Trial Archaeological Excavations. Unpublished report.
- Archaeological Services Durham University. 2013. St Botolph's Chapel, Frosterley. Geophysical Survey. Report 3215 (unpublished report).
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- Baring-Gould, S. 1874. The Lives of the Saints.
- Bond, F. 1892. Dedications and Patron Saints in English Parish Churches. Oxford University Press.
- Boyle, J. R. 1892. The County of Durham, its castles, churches and manor houses. London.
- Farmer, D. 1992. The Oxford Dictionary of Saints. Oxford University Press.
- Garmonsway, G. N. (Trans) 1967. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. London.
- Holweck, F. G. 1924. A Biographical Dictionary of the Saints. London.
- Hutchinson, W. 1785-7. The History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham. 3 vols. Newcastle upon Tyne.
- Page, W. 1968. Victoria County History of Durham. 3 vols. London.
- West & Scarfe, N. 1983. Iken, St Botolph and the coming of East Anglian Christianity. Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology and History, XXXV, 279-291.

## Appendix 1

### Scheduled Monument List Entry Summary

This monument is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 as amended as it appears to the Secretary of State to be of national importance. This entry is a copy, the original is held by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

**Name:** St Botolph's Chapel, 280m north east of Frosterley Bridge

**List Entry Number:** 1016466

#### Location

The monument may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

**County:**

**District:** County Durham

**District Type:** Unitary Authority

**Parish:** Stanhope

**National Park:** Not applicable to this List entry.

**Grade:** Not applicable to this List entry.

**Date first scheduled:** 14-Nov-1986

**Date of most recent amendment:** 19-Mar-1999

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#### Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

**Legacy System:** RSM

**UID:** 28600

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#### Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

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## List Entry Description

### Summary of Monument

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

### Reasons for Designation

A medieval chapel is a building, usually rectangular, containing a range of furnishings and fittings appropriate for Christian worship in the pre-Reformation period. Chapels were designed for congregational worship and were generally divided into two main parts: the nave, which provided accommodation for the laity, and the chancel, which was the main domain of the priest and contained the principal altar. Around 4000 parochial chapels were built between the 12th and 17th centuries as subsidiary places of worship built for the convenience of parishioners who lived at a distance from the main parish church. Other chapels were built as private places of worship by manorial lords and lie near or within manor houses, castles or other high-status residences. Chantry chapels were built and maintained by endowment and were established for the singing of masses for the soul of the founder. Some chapels possessed burial grounds. Unlike parish churches, the majority of which remain in ecclesiastical use, chapels were often abandoned as their communities and supporting finances declined or disappeared. Many chantry chapels disappeared after the dissolution of their supporting communities in the 1540s.

Chapels, like parish churches, have always been major features of the landscape. A significant number of surviving examples are identified as being nationally important. The sites of abandoned chapels, where positively identified, are particularly worthy of statutory protection as they were often left largely undisturbed and thus retain important information about the nature and date of their use up to their abandonment.

St Botolph's chapel at Frosterley survives well and retains significant archaeological deposits. It is of particular importance as it is the most northerly church dedicated to St Botolph and is a rare example of its type. It will contribute greatly to our knowledge and understanding of the establishment and spread of the Christian Church in England.

### History

Legacy Record - This information may be included in the List Entry Details.

### Details

The monument includes the remains of a chapel of medieval date, situated in the village of Frosterley on a flat site overlooking steep slopes to the south. The chapel is visible as the earthwork remains of an oval mound orientated east to west measuring 30m by 22m, surmounted by a rectangular structure 18m by 7.5m. It stands to a maximum height of 1.4m at the western end where it is best preserved. The place name Frosterley is first mentioned in the Bolden Book in AD 1183 and specific mention of a chapel at Frosterley is first mentioned in a document of AD 1346. It is thought that the chapel may have originated many centuries earlier and the discovery of a copper alloy strap end of ninth century date during house construction to the north of the chapel testifies to early activity in the vicinity. The chapel is believed to have been dedicated to St Botolph, the seventh century Anglo-Saxon saint considered to have been one of the pioneers of Benedictine rule in England. As late as 1522, the chapel was still in use, but by the late 18th century it

was described as 'disused' and 'gone to decay'. The eastern end of the chapel was partially excavated in 1995 in advance of house construction to its north and east. The excavations uncovered the east end of a rectangular stone building standing to a maximum height of two courses. The remains of painted wall plaster survive in situ at the base of the walls. The excavation also uncovered evidence of stone robbing and several phases of demolition. Pottery of 18th and 19th century date was recovered from post-demolition deposits. Pieces of pottery ranging in date from the 11th to the 14th centuries was recovered from areas excavated to the south and west of the chapel and the remains of a possible wall were also found.

#### MAP EXTRACT

The site of the monument is shown on the attached map extract. It includes a 2 metre boundary around the archaeological features, considered to be essential for the monument's support and preservation.

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#### Selected Sources

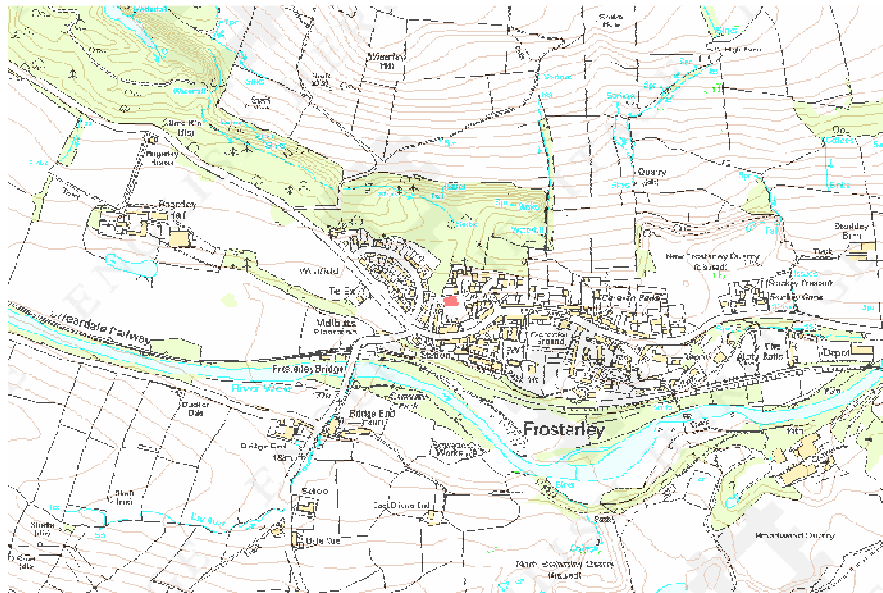
1. **Book Reference** - Title: NZ03NW 15 - Type: SMR
2. **Book Reference** - Author: Adams M - Title: St. Botolph's Chapel, Frosterley: Trial Excavations - Date: 1995 - Type: EXCAVATION REPORT

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#### Map

**National Grid Reference: NZ 02522 37008**

The below map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale.



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This copy shows the entry on 30-Aug-2013 at 10:16:32.