



# Chester Cathedral

Date: 21/4/10

## BULLETIN 2

### Archaeology at the Cathedral

Archaeologists from Oxford Archaeology North have been working to investigate what lies beneath the ground around the Cathedral as part of the consultation process of the Chester Cathedral Phase One project being undertaken by the partnership of Cheshire West and Chester Council, Chester Renaissance and Chester Cathedral.

The work so far has helped cast light on the way in which the area around the Cathedral has been landscaped and used over a long period of time. It's clear that there are 3 separate levels in the upper ground section, relating to different periods of activity. The first dates from the early nineteenth century when the south transept was restored by Thomas Harrison (who also designed the Grosvenor Bridge). The next layer relates to George Gilbert Scott's restoration of the building from 1868 – 76, while the final layer provides evidence of the laying out of the current street plan in the 1930s.

There has been a mixture of Roman and medieval finds, but since no significant structures have yet been discovered, it suggests that some of the soil must have been brought from elsewhere in the city to make up the levels.

Looking ahead, we hope to see if there are any Roman or Saxon remains on the site, but it's early days yet!

Project Officer and archaeologist from Oxford North, Caroline Raynor said: 'All the archaeologists are enjoying working in the peace and beauty of the Cathedral surroundings, which makes a pleasant change from the more industrial sites we often excavate.'

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO ASK ANY QUESTIONS, COME AND TALK TO NICK FRY (Chester Cathedral) AND ONE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGISTS ON:**

**FRIDAY 23 APRIL      11.00 AM – 12 NOON**

**PLEASE MEET IN THE SOUTHWEST PORCH ON WERBURGH STREET**