



Latest news from the
Northgate project team

August 2020

First Archaeological Finds Revealed

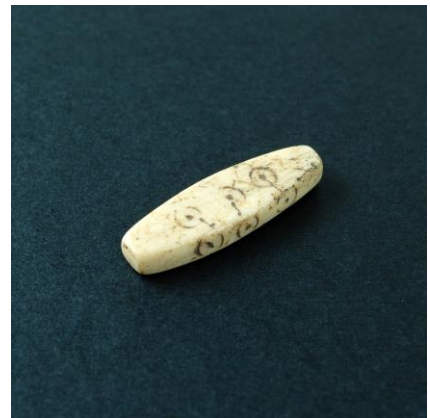
Archaeologists working on the Northgate site alongside our contractors, have discovered several Roman artefacts which include what is thought to be a rare gaming piece made from bone.

The lozenge-shaped gaming piece, middle right, is highly polished, probably from use, is approximately 29mm long and features a common Roman decoration of a ring and dot motif.

Experts link this to the game of *Ludus Latrunculorum*, meaning the Game of Mercenaries, which was a two-player military strategy board game played throughout the Roman Empire, similar to draughts. Finding it in part of a legionary barracks in Chester would back up this theory. Other artefacts found to date include another bone artefact, possibly a comb; a possible spearhead; and a pin or broach.

With work now well underway, contractor VINCI Construction UK and archaeologists Oxford Archaeology, have been carefully excavating to find signs of Roman life and other historical artefacts. However, despite all of the activity on site at present, the construction will not result in any major intrusion into the important archaeological remains which remain undisturbed as the works proceed.

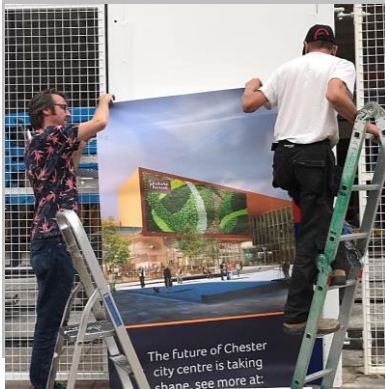
The development has been carefully designed to avoid disturbance of archaeological remains as far as possible and a comprehensive mitigation strategy overseen by Historic England is in place to ensure intrusions into the most sensitive strata are kept to an absolute minimum. Andrew Davison, Historic England's Inspector of Ancient Monuments for the North West recently visited the site to inspect the work to date. He said: "Chester residents are unusually knowledgeable about the City's heritage, including its archaeology, They speak volumes about the quality of the archaeology we are dealing with at this very significant site."



Northgate Street Hoardings

Our new hoarding design has now been installed in front of the former library building.

We hope you like our 'From... to' rhymes from Chester's past and present. E.g. From Eastgate Clock... to flaming wok. Let us have your ideas and we may include them in future hoardings elsewhere on the site.



Construction Plan Update

With work now well underway, here are some of the forthcoming expected milestones for the remainder of the year:

- The steps at the bottom of Hunter Street have now reopened for pedestrian access onto St. Martin's Way, please take care and follow footway signage
- Drain enabling works commence and central reservations removed on St. Martin's Way/Nicholas St. to allow for drain shafts – currently underway
- Site Investigations for drainage tunnel – completion imminent, and reopening of Castle Drive expected Friday 21st August
- Market Car Park entrance closes on Princess Street, access will remain via St. Martin's Way – 1st September
- Piling works commence on site, working west to east – early September
- Substructure to former Library building extension commences – end September
- Hunter Street alignment completed to provide access onto St. Martin's Way – early November
- Princess St. closed to access from Northgate St. - early November
- St. Martin's Way/Nicholas St. closed to southbound traffic for drain works – expected early November – further details of the traffic diversions will be provided in September
- Car Park foundations and Market/Cinema superstructure commences – late December.

