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Front Cover Illustrations:

Top row left: Theme One – ceramic adorno from Hickman's (GE-5) (illustration: Barbara Mcnee)

Top row right: Theme Two – front elevation of The Redoubt, Newcastle (illustration: Liz James and Rob Read)

Centre: Theme Three – 19<sup>th</sup> century map showing slave village

Bottom row left: Theme Four – 19<sup>th</sup> century blue printed pearlware (photograph: David Barker)

Bottom row right: Theme Five – draft watercolour illustration from the storybook, *Jimmy and the Old Redoubt* (painting: Andy Conner)

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## INTRODUCTION

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### **Brief History of the Project**

In 1995, the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis announced that it would begin to develop the Newcastle Airport on Nevis in response to demand from increasing tourism and general economic growth in the Caribbean. The plans indicated that all structures in the village of Newcastle would be demolished to facilitate this necessary development. One unusual building which fell directly within the line of the extended runway was the Redoubt, a colonial fortification. In response to this threat, a small team of researchers organised by the Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton was quickly assembled to conduct a structural survey and archaeological excavation of the building with the aim to preserve the memory of this remnant of the historical past by archive records and photographs. The Nevis Heritage Project was created out of that experience.

### **Aims of the Project**

The Nevis Heritage Project aims:

- \* to investigate the prehistoric and historic physical and social landscapes of Nevis as a sample of human history in the Lesser Antilles of the Eastern Caribbean prior to the destruction of that history by natural and human agencies
- \* to disseminate information about the heritage of Nevis (and St. Kitts) through a variety of publications and other media such as radio, television, exhibitions, internet
- \* to train undergraduate and postgraduate students of history and archaeology in the methods needed to research the heritage of this island, and
- \* to involve Nevisian school children, teachers, citizens and visitors in exploring the heritage of Nevis.

### **Goals of the Project**

The goals of the Nevis Heritage Project are:

- \* to raise awareness of the remarkable prehistory and history of this tiny island amongst not only the citizens of the Federation of St. Kitts-Nevis but also archaeologists and historians around the world
- \* to provide an impetus to make Nevis heritage a significant factor in tourism revenue
- \* to encourage government to improve heritage legislation and respect for the past as part of the future prosperity of the islands
- \* to help train the next generation of Caribbean archaeologists and heritage managers, and
- \* to begin the process of establishing a community heritage officer for Nevis.

### **Interim Report**

This is the second interim report of the Nevis Heritage Project. It provides a detailed summary of the discoveries, and current interpretation of those discoveries, from fieldwork in 2001.

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