

**FORMER TYNE TEES
TELEVISION CENTRE,
NEWCASTLE UPON
TYNE,
TYNE AND WEAR**



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
REPORT**

CP. No: 10162/12



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This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	6
1 INTRODUCTION	7
1.1 Circumstances of the Project	7
2 METHODOLOGY	8
2.1 Specification	8
2.2 The Field Evaluation	8
2.3 The Archive	9
3 BACKGROUND	10
3.1 Location and Geological Context	10
3.2 Historical Context and Previous Work	10
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS	11
4.1 Introduction	11
4.2 Results	11
5 CONCLUSIONS	17
6 BIBLIOGRAPHY	18
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE	19
APPENDIX 2: FIGURES	20

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES (APPENDIX 2)

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION

FIGURE 2: LOCATION OF EVALUATION

FIGURE 3: TRENCH 1

FIGURE 4: TRENCH 2

PLATES

PLATE 1: TRENCH 1 AFTER EXCAVATION (FACING SOUTH)12

PLATE 2: TRENCH 2 AFTER EXCAVATION (FACING SOUTH)15

PLATE 3: TRENCH 2; REMAINS OF RED BRICK LINED WELL <113> (FACING EAST).....16

PLATE 4: TRENCH 2; REMAINS OF REDBRICK WALL <114> (FACING NORTH)16

SUMMARY

NP Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Eddie Ward of Northern Developments (Cumbria) Limited, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at the former Tyne Tees Television Centre, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear (NGR NZ 2586 6427). The archaeological work was required following an earlier desk-based assessment by TWM Archaeology which highlighted the proximity of the site to Hadrian's Wall and the potential for Roman period deposits to survive on the site. As a result, further intrusive investigations were required in order to produce a report to be submitted with a planning application for a student residential development and an outline application for a residential development and hotel on the site.

The Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken over four days between the 27th January and 1st February 2012. The evaluation involved the excavation of two trenches, covering 150 square metres of the 0.72 hectare site. Archaeological remains were identified in both Trenches 1 and 2. Trench 1 contained mainly modern concrete foundation features and some red brick walls. Trench 2 contained red brick walls and a redbrick lined well of 19th century or early 20th century date. These appear to relate to warehouses that once stood on the site.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NP Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Eddie Ward of Northern Developments (Cumbria) Ltd. for commissioning the project, and for all his assistance throughout the work. NP Archaeology Ltd would also like to thank David Heslop, Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist for all his assistance throughout the project.

NP Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Jennings Plant for their help during this project.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Mike McElligott and Angus Clark. The report was written by Mike McElligott and Kevin Mounsey and the drawings were produced by Angus Clark. The project was managed by Frank Giocco, Technical Director for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Martin Railton, Project Manager for NPA Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In January 2012, NP Archaeology were invited by Eddie Ward of Northern Developments (Cumbria) Ltd. to undertake a archaeological evaluation at the former Tyne Tees Television Centre, Newcastle (NGR NZ 2586 6427) (Figure 1), as part of a planning application for a student residential development in parallel with an outline application for a residential development and hotel on the site. The archaeological work was required following an earlier desk-based assessment by TWM Archaeology (Richardson 2009) which highlighted the proximity of the site to Hadrian's Wall and the potential for Roman period deposits to survive on the site. As a result, further intrusive investigations were required in order to produce a report to be submitted with the planning application.
- 1.1.2 The proposed works are situated approximately c.60m south-east of Hadrian's Wall, a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a UNESCO World Heritage Site and in the possible location of the Military Way.
- 1.1.3 All stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008), and were consistent with the specification provided by David Heslop (2012) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.4 This report outlines the archaeological evaluation undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 SPECIFICATION

2.1.1 A specification was produced by David Heslop, Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist (Heslop 2012) for an archaeological evaluation of the study area. NP Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The specification was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE FIELD EVALUATION

2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of two trenches covering 150m² of the proposed 0.72 hectares development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, the evaluation trenches being located so as to avoid any known services and to cover a representative sample of the site. All work was conducted according to the recommendations of the Institute for Archaeologists (2008).

2.2.2 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.2.3 Modern rubble deposits were removed by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recording according to the NP Archaeology Ltd standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2003).

2.2.4 All finds encountered were retained, including those from excavated topsoil, and were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and

recorded under the supervision of F.Giecco (NP Archaeology Ltd Technical Director).

- 2.2.5 All deposits encountered were deemed unsuitable for environmental sampling, and therefore no samples were retained.
- 2.2.6 The two evaluation trenches were backfilled, by NP Archaeology following excavation and recording.
- 2.2.7 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2007). The archive will be deposited within Tyne and Wear Archives at Blandford House, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, where viewing will be made available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA12, TCN-A, CP 10162/12.
- 2.3.2 NP Archaeology, and Newcastle City Council, support the **Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by NP Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The site of the former Tyne Tees Television Centre lies approximately 60.00m southeast of the line of Hadrian's Wall. The site lies above the Quayside which runs east- west. To the south the land slopes off towards St. Anne's Road, the Sandgate area and the River Tyne.
- 3.1.2 The site rests on the Upper Carboniferous Coal Measures which are overlain by an average of 10m thick glacial deposits belonging to the last (Late Devensian) glaciation. All earlier glacial and interglacial deposits were removed or recycled at this time. Within the Tyne valley, alluvial deposits of sand and gravel overlie these glacial deposits (Richardson 2009)

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area. A more detailed report of the historical developments of the study area was provided in an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment by TWM Archaeology (Richardson 2009.)
- 3.2.2 The development area lies within an area of known Roman activity. The site lies 60m southeast of the internationally important Hadrian's Wall UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Hadrian's Wall corridor is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 29 and 19 in this area). It is possible that the site lies on the line of the Roman Military Way, a supply road running east-west to the south of the line of the wall. Although the site has become heavily developed since the Victorian period, there was still the potential for Roman period deposits to be preserved, at depth, within the site. This was borne out by the results of excavations run by Archaeological Services University of Durham during 2004 in Melbourne Street 100m to the northwest (Richardson 2009, 11).
- 3.2.3 Here a wide section of the foundation of Hadrian's Wall survived as two courses of stonework at a depth of 0.95m below ground level. Excavation also revealed three rows of defensive pits and the Wall Ditch surviving to a width of 3.1m and a depth of 1.8m (*ibid.*2009, 7).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken in a single phase, consisting of two trenches over four days, from the 27/01/12 to the 01/02/12 (Figure 2). The trenches were excavated by two JCB 3CX's using a concrete pecker and toothed bucket.

4.2 RESULTS

4.2.1 *Trench 1:* Trench 1 was located toward the west corner of site and was aligned northwest-southeast (Figure 2). The trench measured 25m in length by 2m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 4.2m. It revealed concrete slabs at both ends of the trench with demolition rubble in the middle (Plate 1); (Figure 3).

4.2.2 The northwest end of trench had a concrete slab (100) which measured 15m in length and was 0.3m thick. It covered a demolition / rubble layer (102), which consisted of black clay mixed with frequent amounts of modern red brick, metal fragments and concrete along with modern rubbish. It appeared to be a bedding layer for the concrete on top. This covered another concrete footing (117) which was aligned southwest-northeast and measured 1.5m in width by 0.4m thick and was 0.9m below the surface and had a large steel girder set into its northeast end. The southwest end of the concrete slab stopped at a brick and concrete footing <103> that was 0.3m wide and 0.7m deep and was aligned east-west. The footing sat on top of the natural substrate, (101) which consisted of firm mid/darkish grey clay. The concrete footing (117) was cut into the natural to a depth of 0.4m. To the southeast of <103> was a sloping rubble layer (108) which covered most of the south end of the site. It was excavated to a depth of 3.5m and measured over 10m in length. It consisted of frequent amounts of modern red brick, metal work, concrete blocks, timber and rubbish. It covered a possible layer of subsoil (104) and may have been backfill for raising the surrounding ground level. It consisted of light/mid yellow grey sandy clay that measured over 15.2m in length by 1.1m in depth. Deposit (104) butted up against the northeast end of another concrete slab (106) which sealed another layer of hardcore (107) below. The slab measured 8.8m in length by 0.3m thick. At its northeast end there was a modern brick wall <105> which along with the slab was part of a relatively modern structure. The wall measured 3.5m in height and 0.3m in width. It was covered by rubble layer (108) which partially covered the

concrete slab also. Below the slab was a hardcore/rubble layer (107) which measured 8.8m in length by 0.7m in depth and consisted of frequent amounts of red brick, concrete blocks and yellow sand. No features of archaeological significance were noted.



Plate 1: Trench 1 after Excavation (facing south)

4.2.3 **Trench 2:** Trench 2 was located on the east side of site, in the car-park and was aligned north-south. It measured 50m in length by 2m in width and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.35m, sloping from north to south (Plate 2) (Figure 4). The top layer consisted of black asphalt (109) which measured 0.25 deep at the north end, decreasing in thickness to 0.12m one third of the

way down and continuing at this thickness to the southern end. The black asphalt was above a hardcore bedding layer of light yellow dolomite (110) which was visible along the whole length of the trench and measured 0.6m in depth. This layer covered a series of eight concrete plinths <112> which were located on the east side of the trench. The actual shape and size was not ascertained as they were only partially visible within the evaluation trench. The lower part measured 3.6m in length by 1.4m in width and 0.74m thick (getting noticeably thinner going down the slope). The upper section measured 2.45m in length by 0.7m in width (maximum) and was 0.6m thick. The plinths may have been part of an earlier structure as nothing was visible on the surface other than at the second one, which appeared to have evidence for the base of a concrete wall. Between the third and fourth plinths at the north end, a red brick well <113> was visible in section on the east side.

Below (110) was a demolition/rubble layer (111) which consisted of black clay mixed with frequent amounts of red brick, concrete chunks, metal fragments, patches of dolomite, timber and modern rubbish. It was visible along the whole length of the trench and was 0.8m in depth. It covered the lower part of the concrete plinths and the areas between each plinth. It was also seen to rest directly above the natural substrate (101) which consisted of mid/dark grey clay. The remains of a red brick wall <114> were located 0.3m south of the fifth concrete plinth along with an associated concrete floor <115>. The sixth plinth was built on top of this floor surface, while the seventh was cut into it. The concrete floor was covered by a rubble layer (116) which consisted of loose blackish clay containing frequent amounts of red brick, concrete chunks and pieces of timber. It measured 15m in length and was 1.08m in depth.

Context 116 appears to be another layer of demolition rubble that was associated with the brick wall <114>. This layer only covered this floor and was truncated at its southern end by a series of drains and backfilled by (111) and (110). There were five modern drains located at the southern end. The first was located near the centre of the trench and was aligned east-west and was 0.95m below the surface. It measured 0.35m in width. The second was located on top of the seventh plinth, aligned southwest-northeast and was a ceramic pipe covered in concrete and it measured 1m in width. The third was a ceramic drain, aligned north-south and was at the base of the trench on its east side. It measured 0.3m in width. The fourth was a ceramic pipe covered in concrete that was aligned east-west and was 0.75m in width. The fifth was a surface concrete drain near the south end of the trench and it measured 1.25m in width.

- 4.2.4 A fragment of a red brick well <113> was located between the third and fourth plinths and only partial remains were observed as the majority was truncated, probably during the construction of plinths. It was curved and measured 1.6m in diameter and was over 1.5m in depth. It was not fully excavated as the sides were unstable and it was 1.4m below the surface. It may be associated with the red brick wall <114> which was 11.75m to the south.
- 4.2.5 The red brick wall <114> was located in the southern end of the trench and consisted of 16 courses of modern red brick bonded with greyish white road cement mortar. It measured 1.2m in height by 0.75m in width. The bricks measured 0.23m by 0.1m by 0.08m. There were two iron machine made nails between the 11th and 12th courses of the wall 1.04m apart. It was abutted by a concrete floor (115), on its south side and appears to be contemporary as the later concrete plinths are built on top of and also truncate it. It measured 15m in length by 0.15m in depth and its south end was truncated by later concrete and ceramic drains. There was a drain, partially visible on the west side of the trench, between the sixth and seventh plinths. It measured 0.6m in length by 0.4m in width and contained red bricks along its sides.



Plate 2: Trench 2 after Excavation (facing south)



Plate 3: Trench 2; remains of red brick lined well <113> (facing east)



Plate 4: Trench 2; remains of redbrick wall <114> (facing north)

5 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 During the archaeological field evaluation at the former Tyne Tees Television Centre, two trenches, covering 150m² of the proposed 0.72 hectare development area were excavated. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, especially the Roman Military Way. All trenches were excavated down to the top of the natural substrate.
- 5.2 Trench 1 contained only modern archaeological features and deposits, whilst Trench 2 revealed the remains of red brick well and the remains of a red brick wall and concrete floor all of which are probably late 19th and early 20th century buildings, associated with the warehouses that were originally on the site.
- 5.3 The results obtained during the present evaluation suggest that due to the high levels of disturbance on the site that it is highly unlikely that any features of archaeological significance will survive on the site.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Concrete Layer (Post Medieval)
101	Geology	Dark Grey Clay Natural Substrate
102	Deposit	Demolition Layer (Post Medieval)
103	Structure	Redbrick Wall (Modern)
104	Deposit	Mid Yellow Brown Sandy Clay
105	Structure	Redbrick Wall (Modern)
106	Deposit	Concrete Layer (Post Medieval)
107	Deposit	Hardcore Layer (Post Medieval)
108	Deposit	Rubble Layer (Post Medieval)
109	Deposit	Black Asphalt Layer (Post Medieval)
110	Deposit	Yellow Dolomite Hardcore Layer (Post Medieval)
111	Deposit	Rubble Layer (Post Medieval)
112	Structure	Concrete Plinth (Post Medieval)
113	Structure	Redbrick Wall (Post Medieval)
114	Structure	Redbrick Wall (Post Medieval)
115	Structure	Concrete Floor (Early 20 th Century)
116	Deposit	Demolition Layer (Post Medieval)
117	Structure	Concrete Footing (Post Medieval)

Table 4: List of Contexts issued during Evaluation

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES
