

**AINDERBY ROAD AND
OLLERTON DRIVE,
THROCKLEY,
NEWCASTLE UPON
TYNE,
TYNE AND WEAR**



WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CP. No: 10332/12

15/11/2012



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Quality Assurance

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 WA Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by RSK on behalf of their clients Northern Gas Networks, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks relating to the gas main replacement works at Ainderby Road and Ollerton Drive, Throckley, Newcastle Upon Tyne (NGR NZ 414900 566800). The watching brief was required as the location of works lies within the immediate vicinity of Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, which is also a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument (Ref #26069).

The World Heritage Site is comprised of a buffer zone which protects the Wall itself, the Military Way, forts, milecastles, turrets and Vallum, which identified the site to be of archaeological interest. As a result, Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage granted planning consent for the development on the condition that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken during all ground breaking works such as trial holes and pipe trenches.

The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken over 21 days between the 10th October 2012 and 12th November 2012 and monitored the excavation of all groundworks comprising of trial holes and open trenches. With the exception of a post-medieval wall foundation, no archaeological remains were noted. These appear to relate to a former lead works, and are believed to be relatively recent.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the development of a new gas mains replacement, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the high archaeological potential of the area, it is recommended that any future work be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Joe Somerville, RSK, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd would also like to thank Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist, for all this assistance throughout the project.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Northern Gas Networks, and all staff on site, for their help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Adrian Bailey and Sue Thompson. The report was written by Sue Thompson and the drawings were produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Project Manager for WAA Ltd. The report was edited by Martin Railton, Project Manager for WAA Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In September 2012, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd were invited by Joe Somerville, RSK, on behalf of their clients, Northern Gas Networks, to maintain an archaeological watching brief at Ainderby Road and Ollerton Drive, Throckley, Newcastle Upon Tyne (NGR NZ 414900 566800; Figure 1), during groundworks associated with the replacement of the gas mains. The proposed works lie within the immediate vicinity of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, also a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Ref #26060). As a result, Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist requested that all ground reduction be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.2 All groundworks associated with the development of gas mains replacement had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008), and were consistent with the specification provided by Frank Giecco, (Giecco 2012) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the monitoring works undertaken on site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by RSK/Northern Gas Networks, for an archaeological watching brief of the study area. Following acceptance of the project design by Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design 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 WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, excavate and record any archaeological deposits within the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons on a specified area of land, inter-tidal zone or underwater where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (IfA 2008).

2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
- to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
- to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
- to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
- to produce a photographic record of all contexts using full colour digital and monochrome formats as applicable, with each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
- to recover artefactual materials, especially those that can be used for dating purposes;
- to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE standards (English Heritage 2006).

- 2.2.3 Archaeological monitoring and supervision of groundworks associated with the scheme of gas main renewal works within the Hadrian's Wall Scheduled Area was undertaken intermittently over twenty one days between the 10th October 2012 and 12th November 2012. A total of sixty trial holes and trenches were excavated along the existing gas main pipeline.
- 2.2.4 The study area was excavated under close archaeological supervision. The excavated area was subsequently investigated and recorded according to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2012b).
- 2.2.5 A summary of the findings of the watching brief is included within this report.

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited within the Great North Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which will be available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA12, AOT-A, CP 10332/12.
- 2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd and English Heritage, 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. Details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

3.1.1 Throckley is situated on the outskirts of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, approximately 8km west of the city centre. The general area is largely urbanised with outlying field systems to the north, south and west, and the large urban centre of Newcastle to the east. Throckley is a mid-sized urban village less than 2km east of Heddon-on-the-Wall, with the small village of Walbottle situated approximately 1km to the east. The B6528 Hexham Road runs through the village and along the line of Hadrian's Wall, with Ainderby Road and Ollerton Drive located towards the western end of the village in the Bank Top area. The site lies at a height of approximately 100m AOD and is positioned north of the River Tyne. The land to the southwest of the replacement works is farm land.

3.1.2 The geology of the region is underlain almost entirely by Coal Measures of Upper Carboniferous age. The underlying rocks in the area are overlain by glacial clay or till (Countryside Commission 1998). Accumulations of fine silt and clay also occur locally, the result of temporary lakes which formed during the final stages of the last glacial period (*ibid*).

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

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 areas.

3.2.2 *Hadrian's Wall:* Hadrian's Wall is probably the most complex and best preserved of the frontiers of the Roman Empire (Austen and Young 2002). The World Heritage Site (WHS) comprises a visual envelope between 1km and 6km from the site in order to serve as a buffer zone to protect the site and its immediate landscape from development detrimental to the visual amenity of the site (*ibid*). The WHS is centred on the military installations constructed from AD 122 on the orders of the Emperor Hadrian. The WHS also includes other Roman sites and structures which predate Hadrian's Wall, such as the arrangement of forts along the Cumbrian Coast between Bowness-on-Solway and Ravenglass, and incorporates a wealth of pre-Roman and post-Roman sites and landscapes (*ibid*). Hadrian's Wall was constructed in the early 2nd century on a line connecting the Tyne and the Solway Firth and represented at various times the northern frontier of Roman Britain. The northern military boundary was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1987.

- 3.2.3 Begun in AD 122, the wall was a composite military barrier, which in its final form comprised a stone wall fronted by a V-shaped ditch and a number of purpose-built stone garrison fortifications such as forts, milecastles and turrets. A large earthwork and ditch, built parallel with and to the south of the Wall, known as the Vallum, and a metalled road linking the garrison forts, which is known as the 'Roman Military Way', completed the northern military boundary. The Wall begins in the east at Wallsend in Tyneside and continues to the west terminating at Bowness-on-Solway in Cumbria, a distance of 80 Roman miles (73.5 modern miles or 117 kilometres). The wall conceived by Hadrian was to be ten feet wide and about fifteen feet high. The foundations of the ten foot wide wall were laid from Newcastle-upon-Tyne eastward for 23 Roman miles to Chesters in Northumberland, but thereafter, apart from a few short lengths further west, the wall is reduced to eight or sometimes, six feet in width. The westernmost 31 miles of the wall was initially constructed of turf from the River Irthing to the Solway Firth. The few sections of the turf wall which survive suggest that it was constructed with laid turfs, possibly retaining a steep batter at the front, while the back, at first vertical, continued at a more gentle slope. The western section of the wall was eventually rebuilt in stone toward the end of Hadrian's reign, approximately 15 years after its initial construction (Breeze & Dobson 1984).
- 3.2.4 Situated between each milecastle, and equidistant from each other were two smaller turrets. They were of a uniform pattern, about 20 feet square, recessed into the wall and built to above the height of the wall. In the original plan, the wall was to be garrisoned and patrolled from the milecastles and there was no requirement for any large forts to be built on the wall itself. The wall was to be reinforced when needed, from the forts already in existence along the Stanegate, which runs parallel to the rear of the wall. This format was to prove inadequate and the wall was soon modified by the inclusion of several auxiliary forts along its length. These garrison forts were of a standard 'playing-card' profile, but varied in size between 3 and 5 acres, depending on the type of unit it was built to house. In the infantry forts, the wall itself generally formed the northern defences of the camp, which projected wholly to the south, as is the case with the milecastles and turrets. In the cavalry forts, or those of part-mounted units, the forts were generally built across the line of the wall with three of its major gates opening out onto its northern side, part of the wall having to be demolished in order to accommodate the fort. In some cases the forts were sited on top of the milecastles, which had to be demolished, as at Bowness-on-Solway (Bedoyere 1998).

- 3.2.5 The original concept of the Wall fulfilled what Hadrian's biographer wrote that he 'drew a wall along the length of eighty miles to separate barbarians and Romans' (Birley 1976). This concept reflected the form of the German Raetian *limes* in that the wall relied on the forts of the Stanegate defensive system further south for reinforcements in case of need. Its main purpose was probably to control movement in and out of the Province, as well as forming a base for military activity on or north of the frontier, and was never intended to be a defensive feature (*ibid*).
- 3.2.6 *The Vallum*: shortly after work on the wall had been completed a large earthwork was constructed a short distance to the south, which followed along the full length of the wall. This earthwork, known as the Vallum, consisted of a continuous steep sided trench, with a flat bottom. Unlike the ditch fronting the wall to the north, which had a normal Roman military V-shaped profile, this flat-bottomed ditch, twenty Roman feet (5.9m) wide and 20 feet deep, was flanked by 10 feet (3m) high and 20 feet wide mounds, positioned 30 feet (8.9m) away on either side. Combined, these features created a 120 feet (35m) wide system of earthworks. The Vallum usually diverts around forts, therefore it is probably safe to assume that it was created after work on the wall had commenced. The Vallum may have formed part of the original plan but was perhaps not scheduled to be constructed until Hadrian's Wall was substantially completed. The purpose of the Vallum has been much debated. However, the most probable reason for the earthwork was to demarcate the southern limit of the military zone, providing protection from the south and funneling trans-wall traffic into easily policed channels (Bedoyere 1998, Shotter 1996).

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.3.1 Serious investigations of Hadrian's Wall and its associated structures and features have taken place for well over 150 years. Two of the most detailed investigations of the Hadrian's Wall complex undertaken in recent years include an extensive survey of the entire Hadrian's Wall complex undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) undertaken during 1988 to 1993, in order to update the existing Ordnance Survey Linear File which had been compiled in the mid-1960s and a programme of aerial photography undertaken between 2002 and 2008, as part of English Heritage's National Mapping Programme. The aims of the project were to interpret and transcribe all archaeological features from the prehistoric period through to the 20th century, visible on air photographs, including the entire length of the Hadrian's Wall complex.
- 3.3.2 During 2002 the Archaeology Department of Tyne and Wear Museums carried out work prior to and during the insertion of a water main on the

northern carriageway of the B6528 through Throckley. This investigation took the form of evaluation trenches and a watching brief on trenching 2.2km in length. This work revealed the survival of prehistoric and Roman features, in particular 149 pits running parallel to Hadrian's Wall within the berm. These pits have also been seen at Byker, Newcastle and Wallsend. The location of Hadrian's Wall beneath the roadway was also confirmed by the excavation of a testpit.

- 3.3.3 North Pennines Archaeology undertook a watching brief between 2009 and 2010 during groundworks relating to the upgrading of water services through Throckley, Walbottle and Denton Burn. No significant archaeological features were encountered.
- 3.3.4 A watching brief was carried out in September 2011 by Archaeological Research Services Ltd for the replacement of a bus shelter outside the Frenchman's Arms but did not encounter any archaeological remains.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken intermittently over twenty one days between the 10th October 2012 and the 12th November 2012 and monitored groundworks carried out in the Ainderby Road and Ollerton Drive area of Throckley.

4.1.1 The excavations comprised both trenching and trial pitting and were subsequently investigated and recorded fully. The results of the archaeological work are outlined below.

4.2 RESULTS

4.2.1 The watching brief monitored the excavation of 60 trial holes and trenches during the groundworks within the Ainderby Road and Ollerton Drive area and westward along the footpath north of Hexham Road, to the Former French Arms public house (Figures 2a and 2b). The trial pits outside individual properties along the footpath were located with the use of a CCTV inspection system (SynthoCam).

4.2.2 *Ainderby Road:* The groundworks along Ainderby Road consisted of an open trench from Hexham Road just east of Drove Road, around the grass verge to the south of Ingleton Drive, looping back to Hexham Road along the south side of Ainderby Road (Figure 2b). The open trench extended west along the north side of Hexham Road as far as the Aged Mineworkers Homes from which point a series of trial holes were dug to allow access to the gas services leading to individual properties along Hexham Road. The most westerly pit was dug in the pavement outside No. 262 and was enlarged to allow for insertion of the new gas main. The average width of the trenches and pits was 0.80m and the average depth between 0.70m and 1.20m. This was dug through disturbed ground and for almost the length of the trenches the pipeline was cut not only by gas but also by water services, electricity and telephone cables (Plate 1). Not only did these services disturb the ground east to west along their length, but services also connected to the dwellings to the north. Due to the high level of ground disturbance the deposits seen within the trenches was largely man-made ground and backfill deposits.

4.2.2 A trial hole at the east end of Ingleton Drive and Drove Road exposed a short stretch of modern wall foundation (105) running parallel to Drove Road and was thought to be the foundation for a garden wall between the Lead House (Stores for the Langley Lead Company) and the Mechanics

Institute, both of which are shown on Ordnance Survey to occupy the site between the 1850s and 1970 (Plate 2). Greenwood's and Fryer's county maps of the 1820s mark the crossroads between Drove Road and Hexham Road as 'Lead Gate'.



Plate 1: Location of services under pavement of 228 Hexham Road, looking east.



Plate 2: Post-medieval wall foundation at Ingleton Drive/Drove Road.

4.2.3 **Ollerton Drive:** On the southern side of Hexham Road a series of pits were excavated around the junction of Hexham Road and Hill House Road, following Hill House Road south to Sheringham Road and in the gardens of Ollerton Drive. Again, these showed heavily disturbed deposits and followed the line of the earlier gas main (Plate 3). It was clear that the ground surface had been built up in the area around Ollerton Drive, with the western end of Sheringham Road now roughly 1m above the level of the field to the west (part of the Scheduled Ancient Monument). The pits in Ollerton Drive were dug to a maximum of 1.20m while along Hill House Road the maximum depth excavated to was 0.80m



Plate 3: Backfill of made ground in Ollerton Drive, looking east.

4.2.4 The course of the Vallum runs across Hill House Road just north of Sheringham Gardens, however the trial holes in this area were dug through backfill and undisturbed deposits were not encountered.

4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.4.1 No archaeological finds of note were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 The watching brief monitored groundworks carried out in Throckley around the Ainderby Road and Ollerton Drive areas, resulting from the replacement of the gas main services within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site buffer zone.
- 5.1.2 All of the monitored trenches and trial-holes were largely comprised of made-ground and backfill deposits below ground level. A small stretch of post-medieval wall foundation was observed at the junction of Ingleton Drive and Drove Road but nothing relating to Hadrian's Wall World Heritage site was observed.
- 5.1.3 While the 2002 investigation found significant remains immediately south along the edge of the carriageway, it was found that the current work was through substantially disturbed ground. It is likely that archaeological deposits survive locally, however, as most of the service pipes and cables seem to follow the same route, no archaeology was observed along the route of the current gas main pipe.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.2.1 As this watching brief was conducted as a condition of ground works relating to the gas main replacement works, no further archaeological work is deemed necessary. However, given the location of the site in relation to the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, it is recommended that any work conducted in the future be subject to a similar programme of archaeological investigation.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
101	Deposit	Turf
102	Deposit	Levelling Deposit
103	Deposit	Garden Soil
104	Deposit	Demolition Deposit
105	Structure	Modern Wall Foundation
106	Deposit	Subsoil
107	Deposit	Consolidation Layer
108	Deposit	Levelling deposit
109	Natural	Natural sandy clay
110	Deposit	Backfill of modern services
111	Deposit	Backfill of modern services
112	Deposit	Made ground
113	Deposit	Garden soil

Table 4: List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES
