

Land West and South-West of Williamstone Farm
Alston, Northumberland

Archaeological Watching Brief



Solstice Heritage
Crabtree Hall Business Centre
Little Holtby
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 9NY

www.solsticeheritage.co.uk



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Archaeological Watching Brief

Planning Ref: 13/00231/FUL

Northumberland Conservation Ref: T32/3 16398

Prepared for:	Robinwood Activity Centre Fielden House 41 Rochdale Road Todmorden Lancashire OL14 6LD
Prepared by:	Chris Scott BA (Hons), MA, MClfA Solstice Heritage 163 Bamburgh Avenue South Shields Tyne and Wear NE34 6SS
Checked by:	Jim Brightman BA (Hons), MLitt, MClfA
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in April and May 2016, monitoring topsoil stripping works in advance of the construction of a new coach park in an agricultural field in land to the west and south-west of Williamstone Farm, Alston, Northumberland. The watching brief was undertaken in response to a condition placed on planning permission for the scheme.

No archaeological or palaeoenvironmental features or deposits were identified or recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This report has been commissioned by Robinwood Activity Centre to outline the findings of a programme of archaeological monitoring (watching brief) on topsoil stripping works in advance of the construction of a new coach park in an agricultural field in land to the west and south-west of Williamstone Farm, Alston, Northumberland. The monitoring was undertaken to fulfil a condition of planning permission (13/00231/FUL).

Preceding the redevelopment works, an archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation was produced by Solstice Heritage (attached as Appendix 1) and approved by Northumberland County Council. All archaeological monitoring was conducted in line with this agreed scheme of work.

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The proposed development site is situated north-east of the A689, c. 750m south-south-east of the village of Slaggyford, near Alston, Northumberland, centred at grid reference NY68265155 (Figure 1). The groundworks monitored involved the removal of topsoil across the entire site area to a depth of c.0.3m (Figure 2).

1.3 POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The potential archaeological significance of the site, and hence the reason for the monitoring works, lies in the potential for archaeological deposits to survive associated with the nearby Roman road, the Maiden Way. Given that the line of the road is visible in earthwork form to the north-east of the proposed development site, it will not be directly affected by groundworks, but its proximity means there is a potential for identifying remains or deposits associated with Roman roadside settlement and/or activity.

1.4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

An archaeological watching brief is defined as:

“A formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, intertidal zone or under-water, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive” (ClfA 2014b, 2).

The overarching aim of the watching brief was:

- To ensure that significant archaeological remains were not destroyed without first being adequately recorded.

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To record, excavate and environmentally sample any archaeological deposits of significance observed during the groundworks and establish their date, character and significance, including in relation to other similar features within the area
- To ensure there is a permanent record of the work undertaken deposited with the local Historic Environment Record (HER) and made available online
- To ensure all work is undertaken in compliance with the *Code of Conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) (2014a), the *ClfA Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs* (revised 2014b), and the *Regional Statement of Good Practice*.



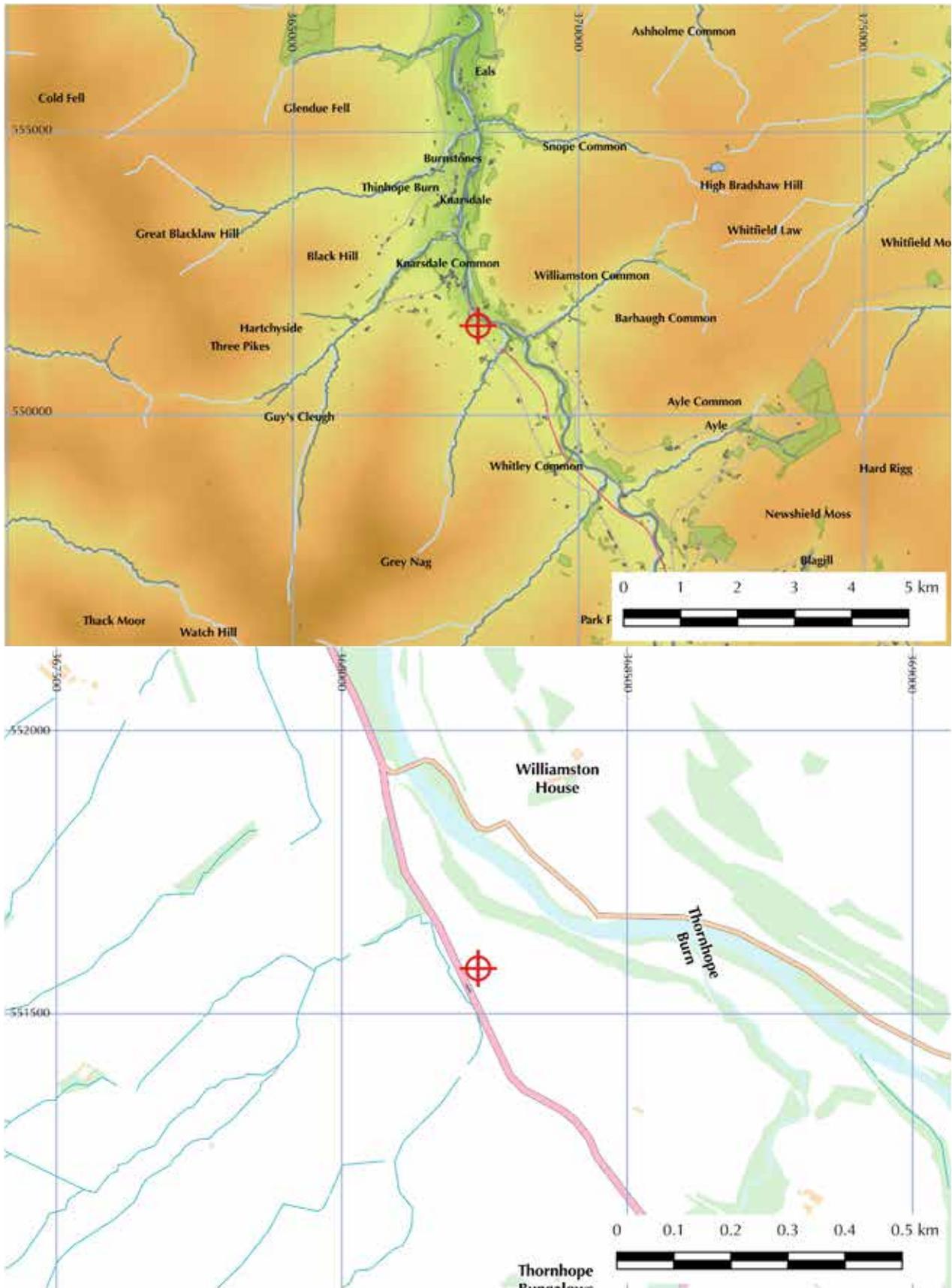


Figure 1 Site Location

2. POLICY AND GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK

2.1 LEGISLATION

National legislation which applies to the consideration of cultural heritage within development and the wider planning process is set out in Table 1 below.

Title	Key Points
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and 2002)	Scheduled Monuments, as defined under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), are sites which have been selected by a set of non-statutory criteria to be of national importance. Where scheduled sites are affected by development proposals there is a presumption in favour of their physical preservation. Any works, other than activities receiving class consent under The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1981, as amended by The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1984, which would have the effect of demolishing, destroying, damaging, removing, repairing, altering, adding to, flooding or covering-up a Scheduled Monument require consent from the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.
Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Buildings of national, regional or local historical and architectural importance are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Buildings designated as 'Listed' are afforded protection from physical alteration or effects on their historical setting.
Hedgerows Regulations 1997	The Hedgerow Regulations (1997) include criteria by which hedgerows can be regarded as historically important (Schedule 1 Part III).

Table 1 Legislation relating to cultural heritage in planning

2.2 POLICY

2.2.1 NATIONAL

The principal instrument of national planning policy within England is the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (CLG 2012) which outlines the following in relation to cultural heritage within planning and development:

Paragraph	Key Points
7	Contributing to protecting and enhancing the historic environment is specifically noted as being a part of what constitutes 'sustainable development' – the "golden thread" which, when met, can trigger presumption in favour.
17	A core planning principle is to "conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for the contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations".
128	During the determination of applications "local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting". This information should be proportionate to the significance of the asset and only enough to "understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance". The normal minimum level is expected to be a desk-based assessment of proportional size "and, where necessary, a field evaluation".

Paragraph	Key Points
129	Paragraph 129 identifies that Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset’s conservation and any aspect of the proposal.
132	It is noted that significance – the principal measure of inherent overall heritage worth – can be harmed or lost through development within its setting. Heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and any adverse effects require “clear and convincing justification” relative to the significance of the asset in question.
135	At paragraph 135 it states that the effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.
139	At paragraph 139 it states that non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.
141	In paragraph 141 amongst other matters it states that planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

Table 2 Key passages of NPPF in reference to cultural heritage

2.2.2 LOCAL

In advance of the consultation and adoption of a new Local Plan for Northumberland, all local planning policy has been compiled into the *Northumberland Consolidated Planning Policy Framework* (NCPPF), principally comprising saved policies and documents from the previous seven local planning authorities which were combined in April 2009. The key document in relation to the Williamstone Farm site is the *Tynedale District Local Plan* (adopted 2000), from which a number of policies were saved for inclusion in the *Tynedale Local Development Framework Core Strategy* (Tynedale Council adopted 2007). The key policies in relation to the site are:

Policy	Text
BE27	“Development, which would be detrimental to regionally or locally important archaeological sites or their settings, will not be permitted unless the proposed development is considered to be of overriding regional importance and no alternative site is available.”
BE29	“Where sites or monuments of archaeological importance would be affected by development, their preservation in situ is preferred. Where the site is not considered to be of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ and development is subsequently permitted, planning permission will be subject to an archaeological condition, or a Planning Obligation will be sought, which will require the excavation and recording of the remains prior to or during the development. In such instances, publication of the findings will also be required.

Table 3 Key local policies in relation to the current project



2.3 GUIDANCE

2.3.1 NATIONAL

During the preparation of this document, the following guidance has been referred to, where relevant:

Document	Key Points
National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) (CLG 2014)	The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) released the guidance to NPPF in March 2014 in a 'live' online format which can be amended and responsive to comment, particularly as case law develops in relation to the implementation of NPPF. For cultural heritage the NPPG follows previous guidance in wording and 'keys in' with, in particular, extant Historic England guidance.
Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (Historic England 2008)	This document sets out the guiding principles of conservation as seen by English Heritage and also provides a terminology for assessment of significance upon which much that has followed is based.
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (Clfa 2014)	This document represents non-statutory industry best practice as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. This work has been undertaken to these standards, as subscribed to by Solstice Heritage.

Table 4 National guidance documentation consulted

2.3.2 REGIONAL

Archaeological work in Northumberland is often required to comply with *Yorkshire, The Humber and The North East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process* (SYAS 2011). The key principles are summarised in the table below:

Principle	Key Points
2	Archaeological work should be undertaken by professionally qualified and appropriately experienced archaeologists and organisations.
3	All archaeological work will have a scope agreed in advance with the archaeological curator, and any changes to the scope or methodology will be agreed in writing with the archaeological curator.
4	Monitoring of archaeological work by the local archaeological curator will be the norm, and reasonable notice of commencement of fieldwork will be given by the archaeologist.
5	Archaeological work will be undertaken in accordance with the best practice guidance of English Heritage and the IfA.
6	The local Historic Environment Record should be consulted prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
7	Archaeological work in the planning process should have regard to national and local published research agenda (see section 4.2 below)
9	Reports and required data will be submitted to the archaeological curator and local HER in a timely fashion and in accordance with the agreed WSI.
10	Any comments made by the archaeological curator on reports and outputs will be made within a reasonable timetable of receipt.
11	Where appropriate significant archaeological findings will be submitted for publication in a suitable journal or journals.
12	Any archive produced will be deposited in an ordered and acceptable fashion within a reasonable timetable, the details of which will be given in the project report.
13	During the course of archaeological work arrangements will be made, where possible, for disseminating information about the site to the general public.

Table 5 Key principles of the Regional Statement of Good Practice

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 FIELDWORK

The footprint of the proposed new coach park, covering the total site area, was excavated to the natural clay substrate between 27th April and 2nd May 2016. All groundworks were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist, and a 360-degree excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was used for all excavations. The site was stripped in regular portions of c. 5m in width from west to east, with each previous stripped portion being inspected and passed off in turn to allow site machinery to track over the clay substrate rather than the waterlogged topsoil.

Had archaeological features or deposits been encountered, these would have been recorded to the standards outlined in the relevant ClfA *Standard and Guidance* (2014b). All features and deposits would have been recorded on pro-forma record sheets, drawn in plan and section at a suitable scale and photographed. No deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential were noted. In addition to any specific features or deposits, a general record of the trench stratigraphy was made on a *pro-forma* record sheet.

3.2 POST-FIELDWORK

The primary site archive was compiled, comprising site records and digital photography. This has been used to compile this report, which will be deposited with the local HER as the principal record of the monitoring work undertaken. If considered to be of sufficient significance following discussion with the Northumberland Assistant County Archaeologist, the documentary archive will be deposited with a suitable local collections museum within six months of the submission of this report.

An OASIS record has been completed for this work, and following approval a digital version of the report will be uploaded. The OASIS reference for this work is **solstice1-250713**.

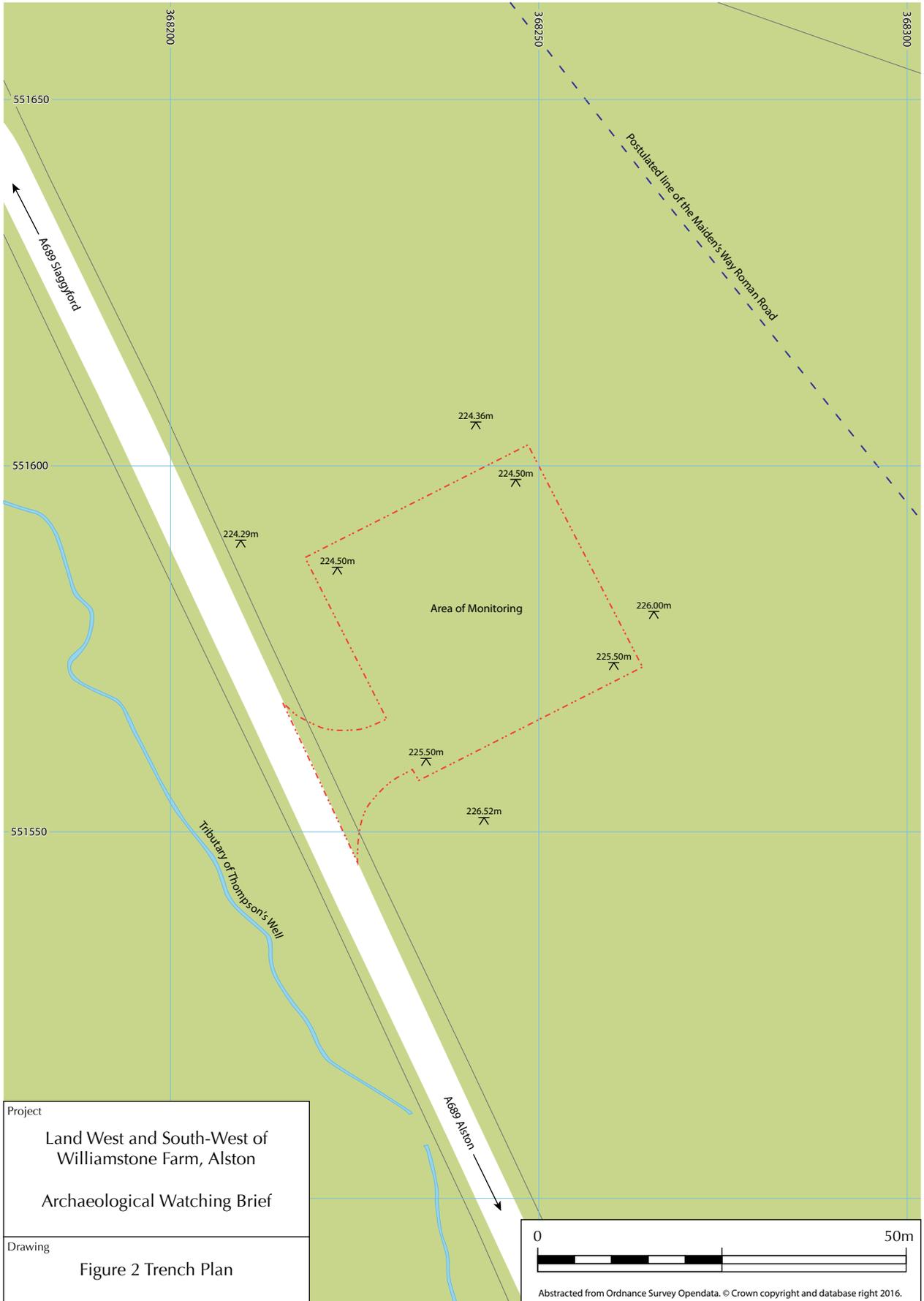
3.3 CHRONOLOGY

Where chronological and archaeological periods are referred to in the text, the relevant date ranges are broadly defined in calendar years as follows:

- Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age): 1 million – 12,000 BP (Before present)
- Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age): 10000 – 4000 BC
- Neolithic (New Stone Age): 4000 – 2400 BC
- Chalcolithic/Beaker Period: 2400 – 2000 BC
- Bronze Age: 2000 – 700 BC
- Iron Age: 700 BC – AD 70
- Roman/Romano-British: AD 70 – 410
- Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Scandinavian: AD 410 – 1066
- Medieval: AD 1066 – 1540
- Post-medieval: AD 1540 – 1750
- Industrial: AD 1750 – 1900
- Modern: AD 1900 – Present

3.4 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS

Data and information obtained and consulted in the compilation of this report has been derived from a number of secondary sources. Where it has not been practicable to verify the accuracy of secondary information, its accuracy has been assumed in good faith. All statements and opinions arising from the works undertaken are provided in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of this report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.



3.5 COPYRIGHT

Solstice Heritage will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).



Figure 3 Stripped section, looking north, showing depth of topsoil (001). Scale 1x1m

4. RESULTS

4.1 GENERAL STRATIGRAPHY

The monitored topsoil strip of the site removed topsoil deposit (001). This topsoil was a slightly clayish, dark brown loam with an average thickness of c. 0.3m (Figure 3). (001) was encountered across the entire site and was of a consistent thickness and make-up. No developed subsoil was present on the site.

Sitting directly below topsoil (001), was the glacially-deposited clay substrate (002). (002) was a fine-grained, mottled yellow clay including regularly occurring large sub-angular boulders of up to 0.5m in diameter as well as smaller rounded stones. The upper surface of the substrate was marked by regularly spaced (approx. 1m intervals) plough furrows, aligned north-south and c. 0.25m in width (Figure 4). Rapid sample excavation of these revealed a typical U-shaped profile furrow with an average surviving depth of c. 0.04m. No other archaeological deposits, features or finds were uncovered during the work.



Figure 4 Stripped area under excavation, looking north-east, showing regular plough furrows in clay substrate (002). Scale 1x1m

5. DISCUSSION

The archaeological monitoring undertaken indicates that the immediate area around the development area has been ploughed for agricultural cultivation. Although plough damage has been relatively limited within the clay substrate, and the survival of archaeological features in the vicinity cannot be ruled out, the damage through ploughing teamed with the heavy clay ground and thin soils would suggest that the survival of significant and/or ephemeral archaeological remains within the immediate vicinity is unlikely. The monitoring indicated no archaeological potential within the development area. Due to the lack of archaeological information uncovered as part of this work it is recommended that this report is sufficient as the project archive.

No archaeological features or finds were recovered, including any remains associated with the nearby Maiden Way.

6. REFERENCES

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014a. *Code of Conduct*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014b. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

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English Heritage (EH). 2008. *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance*. London, English Heritage.

Petts, D. and Gerrard, C. 2006. *Shared Visions: The North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham, Durham County Council.

South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS). 2011. *Yorkshire, The Humber and the North East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process*. Sheffield, South Yorkshire Archaeology Service

Tynedale Council. 2007. *Tynedale Local Development Framework: Core Strategy*. Hexham, Tynedale Council.



APPENDIX 1 - PROJECT BRIEF

Prepared by Northumberland County Council



LAND WEST AND SOUTH-WEST OF WILLIAMSTONE FARM, ALSTON, BRAMPTON, NORTHUMBERLAND

Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A planning application has been submitted for the construction of a coach drop off / pick up point and associated access and landscaping on land west and south-west of Williamstone Farm, Alston, Brampton (Fig. 1). The site is located to the west of the line of the Maiden Way Roman road. The Maiden Way varies in construction along its length but has shown to be a metalled road with roadside ditches in several locations. Unless there is a visible raised agger showing the line of the Roman road, the actual location may vary from that shown on Ordnance Survey maps.
- 1.2 The proposed development involves soil stripping to a depth of c.0.5m over a 30m square area 11m back from the A689. Although the depth of topsoil and ploughsoil is not known in this area, the proposed groundworks have the potential to reveal archaeological remains associated with the road over a wide area but not heavily impact on those remains. As a result Northumberland Conservation has concluded that an archaeological watching brief would be the appropriate archaeological mitigation in this instance, reflecting the size and location of the proposed groundworks and their potential archaeological impact.

1.3 National Policy Background

- 1.3.1 Policy relating to the assessment and mitigation of impacts to the heritage resource within the planning system is set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework*. The Framework identifies that the planning system should perform 'an environmental role', contributing to and protecting the built and historic environment¹ and that the pursuit of 'sustainable development' includes seeking improvements to the built, natural and historic environment.²
- 1.3.2 The Framework further clarifies that, in circumstances where heritage assets will be damaged or lost as a result of development, Local Planning Authorities should require developers to record and advance the understanding of the asset to be lost in a manner appropriate to the significance of the asset. The evidence (and any archive) generated as part of the plan making process should be made publically accessible; copies of the evidence generated should be deposited with the relevant Historic Environment Record and archives with the relevant museum.³

1.4 Archaeological mitigation of development impact

- 1.4.1 Having assessed the potential impact of the development on the archaeological

¹ NPPF Paragraph 7

² NPPF Paragraph 9

³ NPPF Paragraph 141 and footnote 30

resource, Northumberland Conservation has advised Northumberland County Council (NCC) Development Management Team (Western Area) that should permission be granted, a condition should be attached to the permission requiring a programme of archaeological mitigation consistent with the objectives of paragraphs 141; 176; 203-206 of the *National Planning Policy Framework*.

1.5 Northumberland Conservation Charging Policy

- 1.5.1 Due to the increasing pressure on local government finances resulting from the current economic situation, Northumberland Conservation has had to introduce a charging policy for staff time and the cost of travel.
- 1.5.2 The complete charging policy can be accessed on the Northumberland County Council website⁴ or a copy can be sent on request via email or post (see contact details at the end of the document).
- 1.5.3 This is an application for Industrial and other buildings or structures application. **The current costs laid out in the charging document will apply for this type of application.**

1.6 Purpose of the Brief

- 1.6.1 This brief constitutes Northumberland Conservation's justification for the investigation, its objectives and the strategy and procedures to apply to the programme of archaeological recording. **This brief does not constitute the required 'written scheme of investigation'.**
- 1.6.2 The brief is intended to establish the project parameters to enable an archaeological consultant or contractor to tender for the work and, once commissioned, to prepare and submit an appropriate Written Scheme of Investigation/Project Design/Method Statement to Northumberland Conservation for approval prior to work commencing. **The mitigation brief is tied directly into the planning condition and as a result there will be no charge for the production of a mitigation brief.**

1.7 Purpose of the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)

- 1.7.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)/Project Design/Method Statement should be produced in line with the detailed requirements laid out in the brief or following detailed discussion with the Assistant County Archaeologist.
- 1.7.2 The WSI should be based on a thorough study of all relevant background information, in particular any assessment or evaluation reports or, in their absence, data held or referenced in Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER). Contractors should therefore ensure that they have made provision to consult the HER as part of any required tender submissions or project costings. **The results should be included in the written scheme of investigation.**
- 1.7.3 The developer should discuss the extent of the development, the nature of the works

⁴ <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1627> Charging Policy document

and their intended scope of works with their archaeological contractor **prior to the production of a WSI**, in order that an appropriate programme of archaeological monitoring can be **agreed and confirmed within the WSI**.

- 1.7.4 In line with part (a) of the planning condition, work cannot commence on site until the WSI has been submitted to NCC Development Management Team (South-East/Central/Western Area) and approved in writing on the advice of Northumberland Conservation. Northumberland Conservation now charges for this service. The current costs laid out in the charging document will apply for an Industrial and other buildings or structures application.⁵

2 Method of work

- 2.1 The purpose of this work is to ensure that important archaeological remains are not destroyed without first being adequately recorded.
- 2.2 The proposed development has the potential to disturb important archaeological remains associated with the Maiden Way Roman road. It is considered that in this case a watching brief is the appropriate archaeological response. The watching brief should cover the following groundworks for the development:
- Groundworks associated with soil stripping and landscaping across the development site
- 2.3 Should the groundworks not exceed modern disturbance or equally should they exceed the depth at which archaeological remains are present, Northumberland Conservation should be contacted in order to establish whether the watching brief need continue in these specific areas.

2.4 General Standards

- 2.4.1 All work should be carried out in compliance with the Regional Statement of Good Practice⁶ and the codes of conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA)⁷ and should follow the IfA Standards for Watching Briefs⁸.
- 2.4.2 All staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles.
- 2.4.3 All staff must familiarise themselves with the archaeological background of the site, and the results of any previous work in the area, prior to the start of work on site. All staff must be aware of the work required under the specification, and must understand the projects aims and methodologies.

⁵ <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1627> Charging Policy document

⁶ Yorkshire, The Humber and the North-East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process (25 November 2009)

⁷ Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *By-Laws: Code of Conduct* (23 October 2008):

http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/code_conduct.pdf

⁸ Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (28 October 2008):

<http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/watch2.pdf>

2.4.4

2.4.5 Pre-site work preparation

- i) A specification in line with this brief must be submitted and approved by Northumberland Conservation **prior** to work commencing.
- ii) As required by Paragraph 128 of the *National Planning Policy Framework*, the appointed contractor must consult the Historic Environment Record as part of the site assessment process. Contractors should therefore ensure that they have made provision to consult the HER as part of any required tender submissions or project costings. The results should be included in the written scheme of investigation.
- iii) **The archaeological contractor should note that the formulation of an appropriate environmental sampling strategy is a mandatory part of this project. Advice on such a strategy must be obtained from the English Heritage Scientific Advisor for North East England, Dr Jacqui Huntley, English Heritage Offices, Bessie Surtees' House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 3JF(Tel. 0191 269 1250 or Mobile (preferred contact): 077134 00387).**

2.4.6 Fieldwork

- i) This observation shall involve the systematic examination and accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and artefacts identified.
- ii) **If archaeological remains are uncovered, the archaeologist should be given the opportunity of excavating and recording the remains before they are destroyed.**
- iii) A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) should be made for all work, using pro forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings should be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate. Where skeletons are encountered, they should be recorded by photography and the use of pro forma skeleton recording sheets.
- iv) The area watched by the archaeologist should be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. All archaeological deposits and features and at the top and base of all groundworks must be recorded with an **above Ordnance Datum (aOD)** level.
- v) A photographic record of all contexts should be taken in colour transparency and black and white print and should include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs should be kept.
- vi) In the event of human burials being discovered, the archaeologist will procure and comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Burial Act 1857.
- vii) **Where any part of a human burial is disturbed, the whole burial must be archaeologically excavated.**
- viii) Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation must be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.
- ix) During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts must be stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this should include controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material).

3 Contingency arrangements

- 3.1 In the event of the discovery of archaeological remains which are of a greater number or extent than anticipated, work will cease and Northumberland Conservation and a representative of the developer will be notified. An assessment will be made of the importance of the remains and any provision for their recording or preservation in situ as appropriate.
- 3.2 The contingency for this project has been set at up to 40 person-days.
- 3.3 In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens (of whatever period, date or function) are identified during the watching brief, provision should be made to collect at least one archaeo-magnetic date to be calculated from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwellings sites a minimum of one per building identified). Where applicable, samples to be collected from the site and processed by a suitably trained specialist for dating purposes. In the event that such deposits or structures are identified, the Conservation Team should be contacted to discuss the appropriate response. This specific aspect of the sampling strategy should also be discussed in advance with English Heritage as per 'General Standards' above.

3.4 Site monitoring and visits

- 3.4.1 The Assistant County Archaeologist dealing with this application must be informed on the start date and timetable for the watching brief **in advance** of work commencing.
- 3.4.2 Reasonable access to the site for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological scheme will be afforded to the Assistant County Archaeologist or his/her nominee at all times.
- 3.4.3 Regular communication between the archaeological contractor, the Assistant County Archaeologist and other interested parties must be maintained to ensure the project aims and objectives are achieved.
- 3.4.4 Northumberland Conservation has identified that **4** site visits may be required for the mitigation programme in the event that a high density or significant remains are revealed. **The current costs laid out in the charging document will apply for an Industrial and other buildings or structures application.**⁹
- 3.4.5 There will be no charge for the first visit but any additional visits will be charged at the standard hourly rate plus mileage. Any additional visits requested by the developer will be charged for at the rate stated in the charging document. Visits estimated that do not occur, will not be charged for.
- 3.4.6 Return mileage from County Hall to the site is 112 miles and will be charged at the rate stated in the charging document. It will not be invoiced for until the meetings have been agreed and set up.

4 Post-excavation work and reporting

⁹ <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1627> Charging Policy document

4.1 Finds

- 4.1.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds must be carried out in compliance with the IfA Guidelines for Finds Work¹⁰ and those set by UKIC.
- 4.1.2 The deposition and disposal of artefacts must be agreed with the legal owner and recipient museum **prior** to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides to retain artefacts adequate provision must be made for recording them. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer.
- 4.1.3 All retained artefacts must be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

4.2 Site Archive

- 4.2.1 Paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* clarifies that Local Planning Authorities should make evidence gathered as part of archaeological mitigation exercises, including any archive, publically accessible. Copies of the primary report should be deposited with the Historic Environment Record and the archive deposited with an agreed local museum.
- 4.2.2 Archiving work must be carried out in compliance with the IfA Guidelines for Archiving¹¹.
- 4.2.3 The archive and the finds must be deposited in the appropriate local museum, within **6 months** of completion of the post-excavation work and report.
- 4.2.4 Before the commencement of fieldwork, contact should be made with the landowners and with the appropriate local museum to make the relevant arrangements. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer. Details of the appropriate museum can be provided by Northumberland Conservation.
- 4.2.5 **Northumberland Conservation will require confirmation that the archive had been submitted in a satisfactory form to the relevant museum before recommending to the local planning authority that the condition should be fully discharged.**

¹⁰ Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (28 October 2008):

<http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/Finds2008.pdf>

¹¹ Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (October 2008):

<http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/Archives2009.pdf>

4.3 Report

- 4.3.1 The archaeological consultant or contractor must submit a copy of the report to their client and Northumberland Conservation within 2 months of completion of the work.
- 4.3.2 Northumberland Conservation requires one bound paper copy and one digital copy (in Word or PDF format) of the report.
- 4.3.3 Each page and paragraph should be numbered within the report and illustrations cross-referenced within the text.
- 4.3.4 The report should include as a minimum the following:
- i) Planning application number, Northumberland Conservation reference, OASIS reference number and an 8 figure grid reference
 - ii) A summary statement of the results
 - iii) A copy of this brief
 - iv) A copy of the 'check-list' appended to this brief
 - v) A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds
 - vi) Above Ordnance Datum levels and levels below current ground level in the text
 - vii) A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
 - viii) A location plan of the extent of the watching brief within the site. This must be at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Historic Environment Record
 - ix) Plans and sections of archaeology located at a recognisable planning scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate)
 - x) Above Ordnance Datum (aOD) levels included on plans and sections
 - xi) Both aOD levels and depth below current ground level to be included within the text
 - xii) **Any variation to the above requirements should be approved by the planning authority prior to work being submitted**

4.4 Approval of report

- 4.4.1 In line with the planning condition, the report will need to be submitted to NCC Development Management Team (Western Area) and approved in writing before the condition can be discharged. Approval of the report will be on the advice of Northumberland Conservation.
- 4.4.2 There will be a fixed charge for approving the report submitted at the post-excavation phase, including (if appropriate) interim and final reports. This cost has been based on the estimated time required to undertake this activity. **The current costs laid out in the charging document will apply for an Industrial and other buildings or structures application.**¹²

¹² <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1627> Charging Policy document

4.5 OASIS

- 4.5.1 Northumberland Conservation and HER support the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork.
- 4.5.2 The archaeological consultant or contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://oasis.ac.uk/>. If the contractors are unfamiliar with OASIS, they are advised to contact Northumberland HER prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Northumberland HER will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website. **The archaeological consultant or contractor must indicate that they agree to this procedure within the specification/project design/written scheme of investigation submitted to Northumberland Conservation for approval**

4.6 Publication

- 4.6.1 A summary should be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted to Liz Williams, Northumberland HER Officer, by December of the year in which the work is completed.
- 4.6.2 A short report of the work should also be submitted to a local journal if appropriate and agreed with Northumberland Conservation. If publication is a requirement, the publication report will need to be approved by Northumberland Conservation before discharging the condition on the planning permission

5 Further Guidance

- 5.1 Any further guidance or queries regarding the provision of a specification should be directed to:

Karen Derham
Assistant County Archaeologist
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Tel: 01670 622655
Fax: 01670 533409
e-mail: Karen.derham@northumberland.gov.uk

28/3/13

FOR COPYRIGHT REASONS, ALL MAPS SUPPLIED BY NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL MUST BE RETURNED TO THEM ON COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT

Archaeological Watching Brief Report Check List

Site name: Land west of Williamstone Farm, Alston
Archaeological Contractor: Solstice Heritage

Check List	Contractor	Northumberland Conservation (NC)
Copy of report checklist	Yes	
Planning ref.	Yes	
Northumberland Conservation ref.	Yes	
OASIS ref.	Yes	
Confirmation that all OASIS sections completed incl. submission of grey literature	Yes	
8 figure grid reference	Yes	
Results		
Summary statement of the results	Yes	
Table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds	N/A	
Plans and sections		
Location plan at scale of at least 1:10000	Yes	
Plans showing location of archaeological work at recognisable planning scale	Yes	
Plans showing location of archaeological work with reference to national grid	Yes	
Detailed plans and sections at recognisable planning scale	N/A	
Above Ordnance Datum levels and levels below current ground level in the text	Yes	
Above Ordnance Datum levels included on plans and sections	Yes	
Any variation approved by NC prior to work commencing	N/A	

Contractor checked:

NC Officer checked:

Date:

Date:

