

**BLAXTER QUARRY, ELSDON
NORTHUMBERLAND**

REVIEW OF PLANNING PERMISSION Z48/22

CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

**prepared for
NORTHUMBERLAND STONE LTD**

Report 46/1

May 2013

NORTHUMBERLAND STONE LTD
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Summary	2
1.0 Introduction	4
2.0 Location, topography and geology	5
3.0 Planning background	5
4.0 Methodology and information sources	7
5.0 Baseline information on heritage assets	9
6.0 Assessment of development effects	24
7.0 Mitigation	27
8.0 Conclusion	28
References	31
Appendix 1 Assessment methodology	33
Appendix 2 Heritage assets within 3km of Blaxter Quarry	40

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Summary

A desk-based assessment of the proposed working areas at Blaxter Quarry established that the surrounding 3km study area contains a number of heritage assets of both archaeological and architectural interest. These include Bronze Age burial cairns and occupation at locations such as Scald Law, High Nick and Ant Hills, all located some distance from the quarry. Settlement of Iron Age and Roman date includes that located to the north near to Ravenscleugh, at Castle Hill north of Raylees and on the slopes of Wether Hill to the north-west, but all at lower elevations than the area of Raylees Common around the quarry. Medieval settlement is recorded at Raylees, as well as at more distant locations such as Elsdon which was the focus for the parish. Other settlement within the township of Monkridge, within which Raylees Common was located, appears to have been limited to the valleys of the River Rede and Raylees Burn to the west and north-west. The area of Raylees Common around Hunterlee Hill remained as unenclosed upland moorland devoid of recorded occupation until the 19th century when mineral extraction both for stone and coal is first recorded, in part possibly facilitated by the construction of the Jedburgh to Newcastle turnpike road (the existing A696) in 1829. Coal working appears to have been located on lower ground to the north of Hunterlee Hill in the area of Grey Mare and Black Crag.

A stone quarry on Hunterlee Hill is not recorded until the mid 19th century, and initially extraction was small scale and for local use, with the site abandoned later in the century – although by this date a wagonway linking the quarry with the turnpike road had been built. Extraction on a larger scale recommenced at Blaxter Quarry in the 1890s with a new cart road (the existing quarry road) being built, together with a number of buildings, and later the construction of a railway line that was opened in 1908 to link the quarry to the station at Knowesgate and which enabled stone to be transported further afield. The quarry closed again in 1915 during World War One, and the railway line lifted, but re-opened again in 1923. Increased demand for stone and the use of an internal railway and craneway resulted in considerable expansion of the quarry area in the 1920s and 1930s, and it is during this period that the large spoil heaps on the northern edge of the site were formed which remain a feature of the local landscape. The quarry closed again in World War Two, but has continued to see intermittent stone extraction in the post-war period. The extensive coniferous plantations around the quarry were not established until the latter part of the 20th century.

Heritage assets of archaeological interest within the areas of proposed extraction include the remains of the railway line to the quarry and the foundations of an associated locomotive shed within Area A, as well as historic spoil heaps such as those within the south-western part of Area B. The sites of a number of former quarry buildings and other

structures are recorded within other areas, but these have mostly been removed by subsequent excavation or other workings. The potential for previously unrecorded remains, and specifically of prehistoric or Roman date, to survive within the 4.1ha area that has not previously been worked is considered to be relatively low. Subject to appropriate mitigation of the predicted effects upon those heritage assets associated with the quarry it is not considered that extraction within the proposed working areas would lead to substantial harm.

There are three scheduled Monuments and five Listed Buildings (excluding those on the southern edge of Elsdon) located within 3km of Blaxter Quarry. As a result of intervening topography or woodland plantations there is no intervisibility with the quarry from most of these assets, including those buildings in Elsdon. Of the remaining designated assets no impact upon the setting of the scheduled burial mounds at Ant Hills or the listed milestone west of Raylees are predicted given the nature of the monuments and their settings. As a result of the tree felling proposals around Blaxter Quarry there would be increased views of the historic spoil heaps along the northern edge of the quarry from Winter's Gibbet (and the Steng cross base) located 2.5km to the north-east. Although the views are panoramic from this location and Winter's Gibbet is a local attraction that is publicly accessible, the degree of change when seen against the backdrop of the extensive plantations along the horizon would be small. The impact upon the setting of the gibbet would therefore be negligible and would result in less than substantial harm to its significance.

There would be no substantive change to the historic landscape character of the area around Blaxter Quarry as a result of the development proposals, as the majority of the area would continue to remain as either upland moorland or 20th century woodland.

Mitigation of the direct effects upon heritage assets would include a photographic survey of the remains of the railway line, locomotive shed and the historic spoil heaps in advance of construction. Archaeological investigation in advance of or during construction would include a programme of 'strip, map and record' of the foundations of the locomotive shed and the controlled excavation of sample sections across the railway line. A 'watching brief' would be undertaken during the removal of that length of the railway line within the planning permission boundary. The scale and scope of the proposed mitigation would be agreed in advance with Northumberland County Council.

Subject to the implementation of the proposed mitigation strategy no substantial harm to heritage assets is predicted as a result of stone extraction within the proposed working areas at Blaxter Quarry.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Peter Cardwell was commissioned by MW Planning, on behalf of their client Northumberland Stone Ltd, to undertake a cultural heritage assessment study as part of the review of the 1949 planning permission Z48/22 for mineral extraction at Blaxter Quarry, located to the south of Elsdon in Northumberland. The aim of the assessment is to identify any significant heritage assets within the study area, identify any predicted effects and propose appropriate mitigation measures where necessary. The report has been prepared for inclusion within the Environmental Statement that will support the review of the existing planning permission that is to be submitted to Northumberland County Council.
- 1.2 The existing planning permission (Z48/22) for mineral extraction at Blaxter Quarry was granted in 1949 and expires in 2042. New planning conditions were imposed in 1998 (98/CC/34) following the submission of an application for the determination of conditions under Schedule 13 of the Environment Act 1995 (Review). The schedule of conditions falls due for a first periodic review after 15 years in December 2013.
- 1.3 The report describes the location of the proposed areas of extraction and their environs, and the methodology and information sources utilised while undertaking the study, including reference to relevant planning policy and guidance. It describes any heritage assets within the study area and assesses the potential for any previously unknown or unrecorded archaeological sites to survive within the area. The potential effects of the proposed development (including those on the setting of Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings in the vicinity) and appropriate mitigation strategies are discussed. There are no Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields within the study area and these categories of heritage asset are not therefore further considered as part of the assessment.
- 1.4 The assessment study takes account of both the proposed woodland felling and associated habitat restoration programme within the Monkridge and Raylees plantations adjacent to Blaxter Quarry, and specifically in relation to the increased visibility of the quarry when assessing indirect effects upon the setting of heritage assets. However, neither the proposed felling programme nor the habitat restoration programme themselves form any part of the review of the planning conditions for Blaxter Quarry.
- 1.5 Consultation was maintained with the Conservation Team of Northumberland County Council during the preparation of the assessment, and a draft of this report was submitted to the Assistant County Archaeologist for comment prior to finalisation and agreement of the proposed outline mitigation strategy.
- 1.6 The assessment study was undertaken between March 2012 and May 2013. Relevant advice relating to the study includes that in the scoping response from Northumberland County Council dated October 2011, as well as professional standards and guidance (for example, IFA 2011). A methodology for undertaking the assessment study is included as an appendix (**Appendix 1**).

2.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 Blaxter Quarry is located some 5.5km to the south-east of Otterburn and 3.0km to the south of Elsdon (centred at NY 932 900). The site is within the civil parish of Elsdon within the county of Northumberland.
- 2.2 The quarry is on the eastern and southern flanks of Hunterlee Hill, part of the more extensive area of Raylees Common to the west. This consists of an extensive area of raised ground between Hunterlee Hill and Wether Hill, defined by the valley of the River Rede to west and that of Raylees Burn to the north. The quarry is located to the south of the existing A696, from which it is accessed from the north-east. Settlements at Raylees and Ravenscleugh are located close to the A696 to the north, with Blaxter Cottages immediately to the north-east. The telecommunication masts at Mount Gilbert on Ottercops Moss are located to the south-east (**Figure 1**).
- 2.3 The existing planning permission boundary extends to some 51.6ha and the topography ranges from 325m OD, sloping both north and south down to 302m OD. The floor of the excavation at its lowest is at 296m OD. Former spoil heaps are evident within the area, particularly to the north-west where they rise as much as 20m above the original ground level. The quarry is surrounded by an existing coniferous plantation (partially felled immediately to the east) other than to the north-west where part of the planning permission boundary extends onto open moorland on Rayles Common (**Plate 1**). Blaxter Lough is located within the plantation to the south.
- 2.4 The geology within the quarry consists of Lower Carboniferous sandstone. The stone is available at depths of 1.2m on bed from a 6m face beneath about 2m of overburden (British Research Establishment (Stone List) website). The soils within the quarry area and its vicinity consist of slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey upland soils with a peaty surface horizon of the Wilcocks 1 association (Jarvis *et al* 1984).
- 2.5 The proposed areas of working excavations extend to some 14.1ha and are predominantly in an adjoining group (Areas A–D) within or to the south and east of the existing workings (**Plates 2 and 3**), with a separate area (Area E) to the south (**Figure 2**). The working depth will vary but will be up to a maximum of approximately 22m. No previous working has been undertaken within Area A which is currently part of a more extensive coniferous plantation, although the trees within the southern part of the area have been recently felled and removed.

3.0 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The planning context with respect to cultural heritage in relation to the development proposals includes saved policies in the Alnwick District Wide Local Plan (1997), the Alnwick District Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan Document (2007), statutory legislation and the National Planning Policy Framework (2012). There are no relevant saved policies in the Northumberland Minerals Local Plan (2000) and the Regional Strategy for the North East has recently been revoked.

Alnwick District Wide Local Plan (1997)

- 3.2 The only relevant saved policy (2007) within the Alnwick District Wide Local Plan is Policy BE2 on regional and local archaeological significance which states that:

“Planning permission will not be granted for development detrimental to sites of regional or local archaeological importance, unless there is an overriding need for the development and no alternative location for that development can be found. Where the impact of the development is not clear, the developer will be required to provide an archaeological assessment or evaluation as appropriate. Before the development of sites of archaeological interest is permitted, the developer will be required to submit for approval a statement of investigation and proposals to secure the implementation of a programme of archaeological work before the development commences.”

Alnwick District Core Strategy Development Plan (2007)

- 3.3 As part of Objective 9 to protect and enhance the cultural heritage and built environment of the district Policy S15 on protecting the built and historic environment states that:

“The district council will conserve and enhance a strong sense of place by conserving the district’s built and historic environment, in particular its listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, conservation areas and the distinctive characters of Alnwick, Amble, Rothbury and the villages.

All development involving built and historic assets and their settings will be required to preserve, and where appropriate, enhance the asset for the future.”

Statutory Legislation

- 3.4 Scheduled Monuments are designated by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the advice of English Heritage as selective examples of nationally important archaeological remains. Under the terms of Part I Section 2 of the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979* it is an offence to damage, disturb or alter a Scheduled Monument either above or below ground without first obtaining permission (Scheduled Monument Consent) from the Secretary of State. This Act does not allow for the protection of the setting of Scheduled Monuments.
- 3.5 Section 66 of the *Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act 1990* states that the planning authority must have special regard for the desirability of preserving (*inter alia*) the setting of any Listed Building that may be affected by the grant of planning permission.

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

- 3.6 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out the Government’s planning policies for England and how these are to be achieved, with the purpose of planning being to help achieve sustainable development. At the heart of the policy framework is the presumption in favour of sustainable development (14).

The conservation of heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance is one of the twelve core planning principles that should under-pin both plan-making and decision-making (17).

- 3.7 Policies relating to conserving and enhancing the historic environment state that when determining applications local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage asset affected, including any contribution made by their setting. This should be proportionate to the assets' importance, and where a development site may include heritage assets with archaeological interest local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, undertake field evaluation (128).
- 3.8 When considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation. Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of the heritage asset or development within its setting. Substantial harm to a grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional. Substantial harm to or loss of heritage assets of the highest significance, including scheduled monuments and grade I and II* listed buildings, should be wholly exceptional (132).
- 3.9 Where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits (133). Where a development will lead to less than substantial harm of the significance of a designated asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal (134).
- 3.10 The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account when determining the application, a balanced judgement being required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset (135).
- 3.11 Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the environment gathered as part of the development management publicly accessible. They should also 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 the archive generated) publicly accessible (141).

4.0 METHODOLOGY AND INFORMATION SOURCES

- 4.1 The principal aims of the cultural heritage assessment are:
 - to identify known heritage assets within the study area
 - to identify any areas with the potential to contain previously unrecorded heritage assets of archaeological interest

- to assess the effects of the proposed development and ancillary works upon heritage assets of archaeological interest
 - to assess the effects of the proposed development upon the settings of designated heritage assets (Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings)
 - to propose appropriate mitigation measures that could be built into the development proposals in order to avoid, reduce or remedy any potential adverse effects identified
- 4.2 The report is based upon a review of existing available information and desk studies, supplemented by a site walkover survey of the development area and adjacent areas that were publicly accessible. The study area for the assessment extended to 3km from the boundaries of Blaxter Quarry in accordance with the scoping response received from Northumberland County Council (11 October 2011).
- 4.3 A generic methodology for undertaking cultural heritage assessments is included within **Appendix 1**. This includes information relevant to the assessment of effects upon the setting of designated heritage assets. Specific organisations and data sources researched or consulted in relation to the current study are stated below.
- 4.4 The following organisations or individuals were consulted for the assessment:
- Northumberland County Council (NCC)
 - English Heritage (EH)
 - Northumberland Archives, Woodhorn (NA)
 - local study libraries (Alnwick Library, Newcastle Central Library and Rothbury Library)
 - the quarry staff
- 4.5 The following data sources were utilised for the assessment:
- Northumberland Historic Environment Record (NHER)
 - English Heritage Archives (EHA)
 - published and unpublished historical and archaeological studies
 - cartographic sources (enclosure, tithe and historic Ordnance Survey maps)
 - vertical and oblique aerial photographs
- 4.6 A site walkover survey of the proposed excavation areas was undertaken in April 2013. This was undertaken to determine the extent and survival of any buildings, structures and other remains; to note the location, extent, nature and condition of any additional recorded and unrecorded archaeological sites, including any earthworks; and to identify any artefacts which might indicate the presence of archaeological activity or subsurface features. Inspection was possible within the area of the quarry workings and areas of woodland that had been felled, but within areas of standing coniferous plantation (the northern part of Area A) no inspection was possible as a result of the impenetrable woodland cover. The

immediate vicinity of the proposed development area on Raylees Moor was also inspected where publicly accessible (to the west and north-west). An assessment of views to and from adjacent Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings (or the nearest publicly accessible location) was undertaken in March 2013.

5.0 BASELINE INFORMATION ON HERITAGE ASSETS

- 5.1 This section on baseline information addresses those heritage assets within 3km of Blaxter Quarry identified on the basis of the desk-based assessment. The baseline information however concentrates upon those heritage assets within the immediate vicinity of the development, including those recorded as part of the site walkover survey, and primarily addresses heritage assets of archaeological interest.
- 5.2 All heritage assets (including Scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings) within the 3km study area are listed in **Appendix 2** and indicated on **Figure 1**.
- 5.3 Heritage assets within the planning permission boundary and within the immediate vicinity (up to 1km) are listed in **Table 1** below and indicated on **Figures 2 and 9**. Both **Table 1** and **Appendix 2** refer to sites recorded on the Northumberland Historic Environment Record (NHER). Additional sites recorded from documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic sources, or identified during the site walkover inspection, are identified by a site number (between 1–39) in **Table 1** and on **Figure 2**. A central grid reference, suggested classification and date are provided for each site, which are listed in numerical order. Specific dates provided are the first documentary or cartographic source which records the site, which could therefore have originated earlier. The sites affected by the development proposals are graded within the text as being of high, medium and low importance based upon their designation, professional judgement and the criteria set out in Annex 1 of the guidance on identifying, protecting, conserving and investigating nationally important archaeological sites (DCMS 2010). Listed Buildings are graded by their designation.

Table 1: Heritage assets within immediate vicinity of Blaxter Quarry

Site	Grid reference	Classification	Period
9405	NY 939 899	Anti-aircraft site	Modern
9739	NY 935 908	Enclosed settlement	Later prehistoric
13639	NY 94186 89918	Milestone	Post-medieval
13772	NY 933 900	Quarry	Mid 19th century
16798	NY 93073 90939	Milepost	Post-medieval
21996	NY 92551 89693	Sheepfold	Post-medieval
21997	NY 93024 89603	Sheepfold	Post-medieval
22012	NY 93164 89089	Well	Post-medieval

Site	Grid reference	Classification	Period
24042	NY 9294 9108	Enclosure	Unknown
1	NY 9380 8980	Trackway	Post-medieval
2	NY 9359 9041	Turnpike road	1829
3	NY 93842 89738	Pile of stones	1840
4	NY 9409 8988	Stone	1840
5	NY 9338 9030	Wagonway (trackway)	1897 (1866)
6	NY 93226 90412	Coal pit	1866
7	NY 92636 90440	Coal pit	1866
8	NY 92313 90388	Coal pit	1866
9	NY 9277 9051	Trackway (wagonway)	1866
10	NY 92808 90610	Coal workings	1866
11	NY 92799 90674	Coal workings	1866
12	NY 92827 90483	Quarry	1866
13	NY 92981 89495	Sheepfold	1866
14	NY 92506 90709	Sheepfold	1866
15	NY 93635 91063	Sheepfold	1866
16	NY 93218 89165	Currick	1866
17	NY 92864 89053	Currick	1866
18	NY 93254 90217	Building	1897
19	NY 93240 90199	Building	1897
20	NY 9368 9021	Cart road	1904
21	NY 9374 8996	Railway line	1908
22	NY 93448 90177	Locomotive shed	1908
23	NY 93297 90209	Magazine house	Early 20th century
24	NY 93298 90170	Building	1922
25	NY 93343 90208	Building	1922
26	NY 93375 90218	Building	1922
27	NY 93421 90627	Cottages	1922

Site	Grid reference	Classification	Period
28	NY 94251 89663	Quarry	1922
29	NY 92888 90528	Sheepfold	1922
30	NY 9312 9029	Spoil heap	1920s–1930s
31	NY 93173 90093	Building	1920s–1930s
32	NY 93190 90111	Building	1920s–1930s
33	NY 93314 90173	Building	1920s–1930s
34	NY 94106 89850	Pillbox	1940s
35	NY 94240 89730	Pillbox	1940s
36	NY 94038 89722	Building	1940s
37	NY 93274 90128	Building	1952
38	NY 93291 90211	Saw base	20th century
39	NY 93337 90223	Office	Late 20th century

5.4 The majority of the heritage assets are graded of low sensitivity, and there is only one designated heritage asset (a listed milestone) within the vicinity of the development. Other designated heritage assets with 3km of Blaxter Quarry are discussed separately below (**Table 2** and paragraphs 5.53–5.64).

5.5 Sites within the assessment study area are summarised below in chronological order, concentrating upon those within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development and during the post-medieval and modern periods in particular.

Earlier prehistoric

5.6 No settlement sites or other evidence of occupation during the earlier prehistoric period pre-dating the Bronze Age are recorded within the study area. Although the area is presumed to have been attractive to hunter-gather populations during seasonal migrations in the Mesolithic period, or may even have been used for transhumance with domesticated flocks and herds during the Neolithic period (Archaeological Practice 2004, 28), no sites or finds of either of these periods are recorded within the study area. Unstratified flints of Mesolithic date have however been found during archaeological evaluation in excess of 3.0km to the south-east of Blaxter Quarry (NHER event 14248).

5.7 Monuments of probable Bronze Age date are the earliest recorded within the study area, although none are recorded within the immediate vicinity of Blaxter Quarry. These sites include burial cairns, areas of probable settlement and field systems. The closest such monuments to the planning permission boundary are Hare Cairn, a possible burial cairn (**NHER 9377**) located approximately 1.4km to the south-east at some 310m OD on Scald Law and a further round cairn (**NHER**

9732) located a similar distance to the north-west on the northern slopes of Wether Hill at some 210m OD together with an isolated clearance cairn to the north (**NHER 9731**). Another round cairn (**NHER 9737**) is recorded on the north-western slopes of Wether Hill at some 220m OD adjacent to an area of later settlement approximately 1.6km from the planning permission boundary; this cairn may have a funerary purpose, but is relatively small and may therefore be a clearance cairn. A group of possible burial cairns (**NHER 9785**) is located on Ant Hills at some 310m OD, approximately 2.5km to the east of the planning permission boundary, and is a Scheduled Monument (**ND 39B**). A probable kerbed cairn (**NHER 14804**) is located near Nigh Nick at some 300m OD approximately 1.9km to the south of the planning permission boundary. This is located close to orthostats (**NHER 14803**), a circular structure (**NHER 14805**) and two possible clearance cairns (**NHER 14798 and 14799**) which may be of similar date (NAA 2004, 6–7). An area of cord rig cultivation (**NHER 14806**) is recorded to the south-west.

- 5.8 This complex of features at High Nick is suggestive of occupation of Bronze Age and later date, and similar to that which has also been identified at some 250m OD on Darney Crag (**NHER 9374**), approximately 2.7km to the south-west of the planning permission boundary, where a more extensive complex of burial cairns, clearance cairns and banks of a field system has been recorded (MAP 1999 6–8). No domestic structures are recorded at either High Nick or Darney Crag, but unenclosed settlements consisting of a round house and associated clearance cairns have been recorded at some 260m OD on Staniel Heugh (**NHER 9375**) and at some 230m OD east of Halls Hill Farm (**NHER 9376**), to the south-east and north-west of Darney Crag respectively and approximately 2.5km and 2.3km from the planning permission boundary. The date of these settlements is unclear, but is probably late Bronze Age or early Iron Age. An earlier Bronze Age burial was recorded during excavations at the site near Halls Hill Farm.
- 5.9 Isolated finds of Bronze Age date include two socketed axes (**NHER 9747**) and a looped palstave (**NHER 9748**), which are all from the Elsdon area but not accurately provenanced (Dodds 1940, 54).

Iron Age and Roman

- 5.10 Climatic deterioration may be the cause of the abandonment of recorded sites of Bronze Age occupation. However, more extensive settlement is subsequently recorded at the end of the prehistoric period in the Iron Age and continuing into the Roman period. The majority of such sites appear to be native settlements and include that of a possible defended or enclosed settlement site (**NHER 9739**) south-east of Ravenscleugh at some 250m OD and approximately 400m to the north-east of the planning permission boundary. This is the closest such site to Blaxter Quarry, as the Romano-British settlement (**NHER 9476**) recorded to the south has an incorrect grid reference and is located some 5.6km to the east near Fairley Plantation.
- 5.11 An irregular univallate defended settlement (**NHER 9745**) of probable Iron Age date is located near Haining Head at some 190m OD approximately 2.0km to the north-west of the planning permission boundary. The site overlooks the Elsdon burn to the north and west and is a Scheduled Monument (**SM 21040**). An earthwork enclosure (**NHER 9743**) is located at some 220m OD on Castle Hill to

the north of Raylees and some 1.4km to the north of the planning permission boundary, and consists of a subrectangular rampart on a south-facing ridge. This could also be of Iron Age date, although the rectangular form could suggest a native enclosure of Roman date; rectilinear enclosures within the region are usually dated to the Roman period, although some seem to have their origins in the late Iron Age (Archaeological Practice 2004, 30).

- 5.12 An extensive and more substantial area of settlement is located on the north-western slopes of Wether Hill at some 210m OD and approximately 1.6km to the west of the planning permission boundary, and consists of two enclosures (**NHER 9730**) north and south of Bog Sike and containing six hut circles and a single hut circle respectively, with further enclosures (**NHER 9735**) containing three hut circles located to the north-east. These settlement sites are considered to be of Romano-British type and are located within an extensive Scheduled Monument (**ND 466**).
- 5.13 A square earthwork enclosure (**NHER 24042**) is located on Liberty Hill at some 220m OD approximately 600m to the north of the planning permission boundary. The date of the enclosure is unknown; it is overlain by narrow ridge and furrow and a Roman period date cannot be discounted, though a later date is equally possible.
- 5.14 All of the recorded sites of Roman date appear to be native in origin, and there are no military remains recorded within the study area other than unprovenanced finds. The nearest military site is the temporary camp north of West Woodburn (**NHER 7963**) located some 3.9km to the south-west of the planning permission boundary for Blaxter Quarry. The Roman fort of *Habitancum* to the south-west is approximately 5.1km from the planning permission boundary. Dere Street Roman road (**NHER 12392**) is located no closer than 3.9km where it runs north of the fort near Dyke Head (Margary 1973, 477). Isolated finds of Roman date from the area of East Woodburn, some 3.7km or more to the south-west, include a Roman altar (**NHER 9367**) and a ballista ball (NHER 9406). A Roman inscription was recovered from Mote Hills (**NHER 9744**) in Elsdon, but probably originated from the fort of *Bremenium* at Rochester, while a tombstone (**NHER 9746**) now located within the church of St Cuthbert is of unknown provenance, and there is no evidence of any Roman military presence in the vicinity (Archaeological Practice 2004, 29).

Medieval

- 5.15 Both documentary and archaeological evidence for settlement during the early medieval period within the study area is extremely limited. It is possible that some of the enclosed farmsteads continued to be occupied into the post-Roman period but there is no direct evidence for this (Archaeological Practice 2004, 31). The name for Elsdon is presumed to derive from 'valley of a man called Elli' and is Old English in origin (Mills 2003, 177). It is possible that the parish boundary may have fossilised a 9th to 11th century estate boundary as has been recognised elsewhere. The dedication of the church in Elsdon to St Cuthbert may reflect, along with similar dedications in the area, the route followed by the Community of St Cuthbert in the late 9th century when it fled from its first refuge at Norham to a temporary haven in Cumbria in the face of the Danish onslaught (Archaeological Practice 2004, 31).

- 5.16 In the post-Conquest period it appears that the Umfravilles were established in the liberty of Redesdale at some point during the reign of Henry I (1100–1135) and possibly earlier (*ibid*, 32). The liberty included the parishes of Elsdon and Corenside in Redesdale and Holystone in Coquetdale. It is probable that their initial centre of lordship was the motte and bailey castle of Mote Hills in Elsdon (**NHER 9744**) suggesting, together with the church, that Elsdon was the pre-Conquest centre for Redesdale. However, by the mid 13th century at the latest the Umfravilles had transferred their manorial centre to Harbottle Castle in Coquetdale, and while a subsidiary centre was maintained in Redesdale this was now at Otterburn rather than Elsdon.
- 5.17 The historic parish of Elsdon was divided into seven townships, six of which were wards, including Monkridge ward within which the area of Raylees Common and Blaxter Quarry are located, the wards deriving their names from the principal village or hamlet within it (Hodgson 1827, 82–83). The hamlet of Monkridge was probably one of those places excepted out of a grant from Robert Umfraville to William Bertram, and in 1242 *Munckeriche* was held of Gilbert de Umfraville by Maria de Mukeriche and Roger Dun. In 1398 Maud, the widow of Gilbert de Umfraville, died seized of both Over-Monkridge and Nether Monkridge (*ibid*, 99–100).
- 5.18 No evidence of a deserted settlement is identifiable from aerial photographic sources at the recorded location of the deserted medieval village of Monkridge (**NHER 9751**), some 1.4km to the north-west of the planning permission boundary, although this location is on open moorland some distance from the existing settlements at Monkridge, Monkridge Hall and Monkridge Hill further to the north-west and west. Earthwork remains of a deserted settlement (**NHER 9749**) are however recorded around Monkridge Hall (**NHER 9750**), but these are located in the adjoining parish of Otterburn to the west and probably those of the former village of Heatherwick.
- 5.19 The closest recorded evidence for probable medieval settlement to Blaxter Quarry is that at Raylees (**NHER 9738**), located some 900m to the north-west at 190m OD immediately south of Raylees Burn. This consists of a rectangular earthwork with a single rampart and ditch which utilises the steep slope down to the Raylees Burn to the north. Although having some similarities with Romano-British rectilinear earthworks the site has been interpreted as a moated farmstead or homestead of medieval date.
- 5.20 Other settlement sites within the study area are principally those which remain extant – such as the village of Elsdon itself – and are mostly located on lower ground within the valleys of the River Rede to the west and Elsdon Burn to the north. Occasional evidence of settlement at a higher altitude has however been identified, such as the turf-built structure (**NHER 14801**) interpreted as a possible late medieval or early post-medieval shieling bothy recorded near High Nick approximately 1.9km to the south of Blaxter Quarry at an altitude of some 300m OD (NAA 2004, 7).
- 5.21 Steng Cross (**NHER 9777**), a medieval wayside cross, is located approximately 2.5km to the east of the planning permission boundary at an altitude of some 315m OD. Only the base of the cross survives, which is a Scheduled Monument (**SM 25025**). The cross is located immediately to the south of the highest point

along a medieval routeway between Elsdon and Cambo, which continues south-eastwards towards Newcastle, although its position may have emphasised a focal point in the earlier medieval landscape.

Post-medieval and modern

- 5.22 No published documentary sources refer to the area of Raylees Common in the earlier post-medieval period, and most of the subsequent references relate to Monkridge itself rather than to the area of the ward or township (Hodgson 1827, 100–101). Queen Elizabeth had lands at Monkridge in 1568, and in the same year John Hall also had lands in *Munkershire*. Thomas Hall of *Monkkrigge* is a commissioner for enclosing lands in Redesdale in 1552, and in 1628 Robert Hall of Monkridge occurs in a sheriff's list of freeholders. In 1658 Monkridge was the residence of Edward Hall, who died before 1667 but whose daughters died without issue before 1703, resulting in subsequent lawsuits. None of these documentary references suggest settlement within or in the immediate vicinity of the planning application boundary.
- 5.23 The first detailed cartographic evidence for the area is the 1731 map associated with the enclosure of Elsdon Common. This however relates to the enclosure of land within the ward of Elsdon to the north and east, and the area around the existing quarry is referred to as *Ravenscleugh and Relees Common* and remained unenclosed.
- 5.24 General maps of Northumberland of the 18th and early 19th century by Armstrong (1769), Fryer (1820) and Greenwood (1828) all show the settlements located at Raylees and Ravenscleugh to the north. In addition, both Fryer and Greenwood indicate a road or track (**Site 1**) on a north to south alignment between Wishaw to the south and Ravenscleugh to the north. This is also indicated on subsequent historic Ordnance Survey mapping and passes immediately to the east of the planning permission boundary, now a bridleway.
- 5.25 Greenwood's map of 1828 also appears to show three buildings on Liberty Hill to the north. These appear to be located relatively close to the site of an enclosure of unknown date (NHER 24042) but do not appear to be related. There is no clear aerial photographic evidence for this settlement site, and no buildings are indicated on subsequent historic mapping of the area.
- 5.26 The earliest detailed mapping of the development area (not reproduced for copyright reasons) is the 1840 tithe map of Monkridge township (NA DT 164 M). The full extent of the planning permission boundary falls with an area identified as *Raylees* and stated to be common land. The only features identified within the area of Raylees Common are *Blackster Lough* and the track (Site 1) along the eastern side. This name of the lough is derived from that of Black Stur used for this area of the common prior to the establishment of the quarry. The Black Burn defines the south side of the common, with Red Well (**NHER 22012**) located immediately to the south. Boundary stones (**Sites 3 and 4**) are located on the eastern boundary of the common and to the east. That on the eastern boundary (Site 3) is mapped as a *Pile of Stones* on the later Ordnance Survey mapping of 1866, but no evidence of this site remains.

- 5.27 The existing A696 is also mapped across the north-eastern part of Raylees Common. This turnpike road (**Site 2**) was established in 1829 to link the turnpike road between Carter Bar and Elsdon with Newcastle, and joined the turnpike road to the north-west of Monkridge (Archaeological Practice 2004, 55) but may have been opened as late as 1833. A listed milestone (**NHER 13639**) located on the roadside verge to the south of the quarry entrance is presumed to be contemporary with the road and has distances of 4 miles to Otterburn and 30 miles to Jedburgh on one face and 26 miles to Newcastle on the other. An earthfast boulder some 1m to the west has the name Adam inscribed on it, with further illegible lettering below. Another milestone (**NHER 16798**) is located further north towards Raylees and has inscriptions for 4 miles to Otterburn and 27 miles to Newcastle.
- 5.28 No quarry site is indicated on Raylees Common on the tithe map, but a quarry does appear to be indicated on the northern side of Hunterlee Hill on the first edition Ordnance Survey mapping of 1866 but is not actually labelled as such (**Figure 3**). If this is an accurate reflection of the presence of the quarry, then the earliest working at what was to become Blaxter Quarry (**NHER 13772**) appears to date to the mid 19th century. The quarry extends to an area of some 0.4ha and is approached from the north-east from the road by what appears to be a relatively straight trackway (**Site 5**). At this time the quarry produced only a small quantity of stone for local use and this trackway is presumed to be the cart track that linked the quarry with the road to the north (Jermy 2011, 137).
- 5.29 The initial working of the quarry however appears to have subsequently ceased as on the Ordnance Survey mapping of 1897 the site is labelled as *Old Quarry* (**Figure 4**). This concurs with an 1892 lease from the Swinburn Estate to Messrs Reed and Minto which also refers to an “old quarry”. This lease also represents the first documentary evidence for named individuals associated with the quarry (*ibid*, 137). At this date the quarry is defined by a more distinct working face along its southern edge, and the trackway approaching the quarry from the north-east has been replaced by a wagonway (**Site 5**), identified as an *Old Wagonway*. This wagonway or tramway is still evident immediately north (NY 9336 9030) of later spoilheaps as an embanked linear earthwork up to 5m wide and 0.7m high which continues northwards into the adjacent plantation as far as the A696. Two small structures or buildings (**Sites 18 and 19**) are located to the north of the quarry face, the sites of which are now located beneath later spoil heaps.
- 5.30 This cartographic evidence does not appear to accord with the site assessment for Blaxter Quarry undertaken as part of the Step 3 report on the English Heritage Monument Protection Programme study of the quarrying industry in 2003 (and incorporated into both the Northumberland Historic Environment Record and English Heritage Archive). This states that Blaxter quarry dates from the later 19th century, when from the historic maps it appears to be earlier and temporarily disused by this date. The report also states that the quarry supplied stone for the construction of Edinburgh New Town. The source of this statement is not referenced, and would appear unlikely given that the construction of Edinburgh New Town commenced in 1765 and was largely completed by the mid 19th century, and most of the stone was quarried from Craigmyle Quarry near the city (Edinburgh Geological Society website). The statement may therefore be derived from the subsequent use of stone from Blaxter Quarry for more recent buildings

within the New Town area of Edinburgh (Dunhouse Natural Stone website; Jermy 2011, 136).

- 5.31 In addition to the quarry on Hunterlee Hill, a further small stone quarry (**Site 12**) is located to the north-west on the 1866 Ordnance Survey map, but is also not specifically labelled as such. This is evident as a semi-circular cut into the north-facing slope with spoil heaps either side of the mouth. The site is grass-covered and measures some 35m across with the spoil heaps surviving to a height of up to 1.5m, that to the west including worked stone blocks on the surface. The quarry is approached by a trackway from the north-east leading off a possible wagonway to the north (see below).
- 5.32 An area of coal pits and coal workings is also recorded to the north-west in the vicinity of Grey Mare and extending westwards towards Black Crag. Three *Coal Pits* are identified, all of which appear to be active in 1866. **Site 6** is currently located within a woodland plantation and may have continued in use into the early 1900s (*ibid*, 137), while Sites 7 and 8 are located at the base of a north-facing slope below Grey Mare. **Site 7** consists of a water-filled hollow and three small ovate grass-covered spoil heaps, with further intermittent short linear cuts along the base of the slope to the east. **Site 8** consists of an area of low irregular grass-covered spoil heaps and hollows, again with further linear cuts along the base of the slope to the east. These coal pits are linked by a trackway (**Site 9**), although to the east of Site 7 this is evident as a slightly embanked and raised linear feature up to 4m wide which may represent the remains of a wagonway and which continues north-eastwards to the west of Black Crag to connect to the road. A spur from this possible wagonway links to the quarry (Site 12) to the south. On the 1897 Ordnance Survey map these sites are all labelled as *Old Coal Pits*, so none of these workings are apparently active at the end of the 19th century.
- 5.33 Two further adjacent areas of coal workings (Sites 10 and 11) are also indicated on the 1866 map but are not labelled, though are labelled as *Old Coal Workings* on the 1897 Ordnance Survey map. **Site 10** is a former shaft entrance visible as a subcircular mound up to 18m in diameter and 2.5m high with a central hollow. **Site 11** consists of a series of north to south aligned linear cuts up to 40m in length and 10m wide, with spoil heaps either side and to the north, the latter some 17m in length and 1.5m high.
- 5.34 A number of sheepfolds are recorded in the vicinity of Blaxter Quarry and the surrounding area of Raylees Common on the 1866 and subsequent Ordnance Survey maps. These include two to the south of the quarry (**NHER 21997** and **Site 13**) although the former, which was rectangular in shape, was located within the southern extension to the quarry and is no longer extant. A sheepfold (**NHER 21996**) is located to the west within an existing woodland plantation. Two further sheepfolds (**Sites 14 and 15**) are located some distance to the north-west and north-east of the quarry respectively; the former survives as an extant circular stonebuilt structure with an entrance on the south side. A sheepfold (**Site 29**) to the north-west of the planning permission boundary is not mapped until 1922. This also survives as an extant circular stonebuilt structure with an entrance on the south side.

- 5.35 Other features indicated on the 1866 Ordnance Survey map include two curricks (**Sites 16 and 17**), the former possibly being an adjacent cairn apparent on current Ordnance Survey mapping.
- 5.36 Production at Blaxter Quarry appears to have re-commenced at the end of the 19th century, with leases being recorded from 1892 onwards. A lease of 1904 with the Blaxter Freestone Quarry refers to the land, two tramways and a road. The location of the tramways are uncertain, though at least one may have reused the former wagonway (Site 5) linking the quarry with the Otterburn to Newcastle road to the north. The road (**Site 20**) referred to in the lease may be the *New Cart Road* indicated on a published map of the quarry area (Jermy 2011, 137). This road remains in use as the existing access to the quarry.
- 5.37 At the start of this new lease most of the stone was sold locally, but increasingly was transported further afield, and in 1906 there are references to damage being caused to roads while hauling stone by traction engine to Knowesgate and Ponteland. As the County Council charged for repairs this was probably the cause for the planning and construction of a railway line to link the quarry with Knowesgate station on the North British Railway (*ibid*, 138) some 7km to the south-east. The railway line was constructed between 1907 and 1908, following the establishment of a new lease with Blaxters Ltd, and mostly ran alongside the existing A696.
- 5.38 The railway line (**Site 21**) was of 3ft gauge and initially ran on a relatively slight descent from the quarry in a south-easterly direction and then to the east to run alongside the road. The alignment of the railway remains visible within the planning permission boundary (some 130m in length) as a slight embankment up to 7m wide and averaging between 0.3m–0.4m above the surrounding ground surface (**Plate 3**). Occasional stone blocks are visible within the make-up of the grass- or heather-covered embankment. To the south-east the embankment has a more concave profile, evident as level area some 2m wide with parallel banks up to 2m wide and 0.5m high either side. More substantial stone blocks are visible along this length. The line continued into the quarry after the branch to the locomotive shed (see below) but is not readily evident in this area which has been disturbed.
- 5.39 A locomotive shed to house the engine for the railway was constructed at the quarry end of the line (*ibid*, 139). This is almost certainly the building (**Site 22**) mapped on the later Ordnance Survey map of 1922 on a north-west to south-eastern alignment and evident in later photographs as a stone-built structure with a corrugated iron roof (*ibid*, 144). The entrance would have been at the south-eastern end and was originally fitted with stout wooden doors. The locomotive shed remained extant until at least 1973 and the foundations remain visible, especially along the north-eastern side, as at least a single course of sandstone blocks measuring approximately 14m in length by 5m wide (**Plate 4**). Rubble has been dumped over the south-eastern end of the foundations.
- 5.40 Although not indicated on historic Ordnance Survey mapping (presumably due to its small size), a surviving magazine or powder house (**Site 23**) may date to the expansion of the quarry during this period. This is constructed of stone and measures 2.8m square and up to 1.8m high, and has a slightly rounded roof and recessed wooden doors on the north-western side (**Plate 5**). The building is

surrounded by spoil heaps, the construction of which commenced by 1922, so the building is presumed to be earlier in date.

- 5.41 The onset of the First World War led to a downturn in demand for stone and Blaxter Quarry closed in 1915 and the railway was lifted soon afterwards. As a consequence the alignment of the railway is not shown on the 1922 Ordnance Survey map of the area (**Figure 5**).
- 5.42 Blaxter Quarry had re-opened by 1923 (*ibid*, 147). The 1922 Ordnance Survey map shows three buildings on the site (**Sites 24, 25 and 26**), and most if not all of these may therefore pre-date the First World War. No evidence for any of these buildings survive, the concrete visible within the vicinity of Site 25 probably being associated with the more recent weighbridge. The extent of the quarry by this date has expanded to some 4.0ha including spoil heaps.
- 5.43 By 1922 Blaxter Cottages (**Site 27**) had been built adjacent to the existing A696 to the north-east of the quarry, although some of the structures depicted have subsequently been demolished. A smaller quarry (**Site 28**), labelled as *Old Quarry*, is located adjacent to the A696 further to the south but was disused by this date. It remains visible as a shallow grass covered depression with an exposed face on its southern edge and spoil heaps to the west.
- 5.44 Output from Blaxter Quarry in the 1920s could not justify the rebuilding of a light railway and stone was accordingly transported by road. There was however an internal craneway within the quarry by at least 1925, and by 1928 a standard gauge line had been laid and a locomotive purchased (*ibid*, 145). Surviving accounts for Blaxters Ltd at this time held by Northumberland Archives refer to a locomotive at the quarry between 1928 and 1936, together with wagons, steam lorries and trailers, and also motor lorries by 1936 (NA NRO 2993/7). The alignment of the internal quarry railway, which is likely to have moved as spoil heaps expanded, are not recorded on contemporaneous maps. Railway sleepers have however been identified within the central part of the quarry area (at approximately NY 9325 9010) during recent excavations.
- 5.45 Cartographic evidence, and photographic and documentary sources, suggest that the substantial flat-topped spoil heaps (**Site 30**) evident on the north-western edge of the quarry were probably constructed onto Raylees Common during the 1920s and 1930s. These post-date the Ordnance Survey mapping of 1922 but were evident on aerial photographs of 1945, while the infrastructure on site during the 1920s and 1930s would have enabled the construction of spoil heaps of this size as suggested by contemporaneous photographs (*ibid*, 146). These survive to a height of over 20m along their northern edge (up to 325m OD), and although in part now covered with heather remain a significant feature within the local landscape (**Plate 6**). Multi-fingered spoil heaps of similar date are located mostly on the south-eastern edge of the quarry, but are less substantial.
- 5.46 Three buildings (**Sites 31, 32 and 33**) mapped on the 1952 Ordnance Survey map (**Figure 6**) are also evident on aerial photographic sources of 1945 and are therefore considered likely to date to the 1920s or 1930s. Sites 24 and 35 are located within areas that have already been excavated, while Site 36 is located adjacent to an existing trackway but no structural remains are visible. The stone

revetment wall north of Site 33 is a more recent construction to load lorries but is no longer used.

- 5.47 Blaxter Quarry closed again early in World War Two and the steam locomotive was disposed of in 1940 (*ibid*, 145). A number of military remains of this period are however recorded within the vicinity of the quarry as a consequence of the establishment in 1940 of the Chain Home radar station (**NHER 9403**) at Mount Gilbert on Ottercops Moss to the south-east. The station was protected by four light anti-aircraft sites, one of which (**NHER 9405**) was located some 400m to the east of the planning permission boundary. Two concrete pillboxes (**Sites 34 and 35**) are located to the south-east closer to the radar station. A building (**Site 36**) is evident from 1945 aerial photographs located close to these pillboxes, adjacent to an area of disturbed ground and an access track to the north-east. Further buildings and structures associated with the radar station to the east of the A696 have not been included within the study.
- 5.48 There was intermittent stone extraction from Blaxter Quarry in the post-war period, and by the time of the 1952 Ordnance Survey mapping the quarry had extended to an area of some 11.9ha. This map indicates that a further building (**Site 37**) has been built on the site. This is no longer extant, although an area of concrete hardstanding survives within the area of an existing quarry track and adjacent loading area but appears to be near to the former building rather than part of the structure itself. Other sites include a probable saw base (**Site 38**) located near to the magazine. This is constructed of stone and consists of three adjacent stone blocks (**Plate 8**). Its date is unknown, but the use of stone rather than concrete might suggest a date earlier in the 20th century rather than later. A further more recent concrete saw base located within the loading area is not in its original location. The only surviving building now on the site is the former office (**Site 39**) though this is now disused (**Plate 9**).

Historic landscape character

- 5.49 The study area is located within the Historic Character Area of the Cheviot Hills, and the broad entry level Historic Landscape Types within the area around Blaxter Quarry primarily consist of rough ground, fieldscapes and woodland (Northumberland County Council, Northumberland National Park and English Heritage 2008). In terms of more detailed characterisation the majority of the area consists of either enclosed upland moorland or 20th century woodland (**Figure 7**).
- 5.50 Enclosed upland moorland constitutes the majority (some 58%) of the historic landscape character within the study area. In historic terms, with the exception of areas of enclosed fields on the lower ground to the north and west adjacent to Elsdon Burn and Raylees Burn (and which constitute some 16% of the historic landscape character), almost all of the study area would have been enclosed upland moorland. In describing the landscape of Elsdon parish as viewed from Steng Cross in the 19th century, Hodgson (1827, 83) states that “*the eye soon finds that it has little more to rest upon than a broad and brown expanse of dreary moors, stretching away in tame and uninteresting lines*”. Enclosure of the moorland to the north and east is recorded in 1731, although these remained large areas of pasture within which there was little improvement to the grassland (Archaeological Practice 2004, 57). There is no record of the enclosure of the area of Raylees Common itself which remained an open area without boundaries.

- 5.51 Woodland of 20th century date constitutes a significant proportion (some 23%) of the historic landscape character of the study area, and particularly to the south-west. It also forms the immediate character type around Blaxter Quarry itself, which is surrounded on all sides except to the north-west by extensive coniferous plantations. These plantations date to the last quarter of the 20th century as they are not evident on aerial photographs taken in 1973 (although the plantations on Long Fell in Corenside parish to the south are established by this date). Around Blaxter Quarry the trees within the southern part of Area A have recently been felled and cleared (**Plate 10**), but those within the northern part remain standing.
- 5.52 Active extractive sites, including Blaxter Quarry as well as the quarries at Darney Crag and High Nick to the south, also account for a small proportion of the historic landscape character within the study area (some 1%). These include the associated spoil heaps, such as that visible at Blaxter Quarry from the north-west (which dates to the 1920s and 1930s) and now forms part of the local landscape character. A small proportion of the area also consists of linear communication types, including the former turnpike roads.

Designated heritage assets

- 5.53 All designated heritage assets (scheduled Monuments and Listed Buildings) within the study area are listed in **Table 2** below, excluding Listed Buildings within and in the immediate vicinity of Elsdon. The table provides the relevant asset number, grade (where applicable to Listed Buildings), central grid reference, classification and distance to Blaxter Quarry. The location of all designated heritage assets within the study area is indicated on **Figure 8**.

Table 2: Designated heritage assets within 3km of Blaxter Quarry

Number	Grade	Grid reference	Classification	Distance
<i>Scheduled Monuments</i>				
ND39B	–	NY 96340 90225	Ant Hills (burial mounds), Monkridge	2.5km
ND466	–	NY 90975 90742	Prehistoric settlement, funerary and agricultural remains 650m south of South Monkridge Bridge	1.6km
21040	–	NY 92140 92430	Defended settlement 470m south west of Haining	2.1km
25025	–	NY 96210 90760	Steng medieval wayside cross	2.5km
<i>Listed Buildings (excluding Elsdon)</i>				
236240	II	NY 95689 88950	Bastle houses at Ottercops Farm	2.3km
236241	II	NY 95308 88878	Milestone circa 400 yards north west of Ottercops road end	2.1km
236242	II	NY 94186 89918	Milestone circa 1000 yards south of Blaxter Cottages	0.6km

Number	Grade	Grid reference	Classification	Distance
236243	II	NY91951 91510	Milestone circa a quarter of a mile west of Raylees	1.5km
236265	II	NY 96198 90774	Winter's Gibbet and adjacent cross base of Steng Cross.	2.5km

- 5.54 Three Scheduled Monuments and five Listed Buildings are recorded within the study area. On the basis of both topography and screening from woodland plantations (allowing for the proposed felling programme in the Monkridge and Raylees plantation around Blaxter Quarry) there would be no intervisibility between Blaxter Quarry and the prehistoric settlement (ND466) on the north-western slopes of Wether Hill or the defended settlement (SM 21040) near Haining, or other locations within which both would be readily visible. No effects upon their setting are therefore predicted and these monuments are not further described or discussed.
- 5.55 On the basis of screening from the surrounding plantation (and allowing for the proposed felling programme) there would be no intervisibility between Blaxter Quarry and the bastle houses at Ottercops Farm (236240), the milestones near to Ottercops (236241) and south of Blaxter Cottages (236242) or other locations within which both the quarry and the buildings or milestones would be readily visible. Those Listed Buildings within the study area either within or immediately adjacent to Elsdon are all screened from Blaxter Quarry as a result of the intervening ridgeline to the south (rising to 257m OD at Gallow Hill). No effects upon the setting of any of these Listed Buildings are therefore predicted and these are not further described or discussed.
- 5.56 The four designated heritage assets within the study area from which there are (or are predicted to be) views of Blaxter Quarry are further described below. The description of the setting of each of the assets is based upon both professional experience and recent guidance (English Heritage 2011).

ND 39B: Ant Hills burial mounds

- 5.57 This monument consists of the buried and earthwork remains of about twelve small mounds of stone or earth. Their attribution as burial mounds remains unproven. The mounds are within an area that has been closely forested (now recently cleared) and may therefore have been ploughed through, although one may survive on the edge of the area and a further two on moorland to the south-east. There is no public access to the scheduled area although there is a public right of way along the northern edge of the enclosure in which they are located.
- 5.58 The immediate setting of the monument is defined by the low rounded hill on which the mounds are located, with the wider setting being the more extensive plateau of the surrounding upland moorland. Although altered to some degree (and particularly by the coniferous plantation to the north) this setting reflects the upland location within which the mounds were located and is considered to contribute to the significance of the monument and to be of medium to high sensitivity.

SM 25025: Steng medieval wayside cross

- 5.59 This monument consists of the chamfered stone base of a medieval cross. It is 0.8m square, and is embedded in the ground but projects to a height of 0.4m. The monument is also Listed Grade II and Winter's Gibbet is located immediately adjacent (**Plate 11**). The cross base is located next to a public right of way.
- 5.60 The setting of the monument is the raised plateau on which it is located at its highest point and adjacent to the road between the medieval villages of Elsdon and Cambo. From this elevated location there are extensive views in all directions, other than to the north-east where these are restricted by the modern coniferous plantation. Although altered (and specifically by the adjacent post and wire fences, stile and hand gate) the setting is considered to contribute to the significance of the monument and to be of high sensitivity (in part enhanced by the proximity of the later Winter's Gibbet).

236242: Milestone circa a quarter of a mile west of Raylees

- 5.61 A sandstone milestone some 0.8m high. It is triangular in section with a rounded back, painted white and inscribed on one side with Otterburn 2 miles and Jedbro 23 miles, and on the other with Newcastle 28 miles. The milestone probably dates to 1829 when this new section of the Newcastle to Jedburgh turnpike road was opened.
- 5.62 The immediate setting of the milestone is the roadside of the A696 by which it is located. This section appears to be within a cutting along an improved section of the road (defined by stone walls on either side), and it is therefore probable that the milestone has been re-erected in its present position. The landscape context for the milestone is the valley of the Raylees Burn along which this length of the road is aligned.

236265: Winter's Gibbet

- 5.63 Winter's Gibbet is made of wood and is a 19th century replica of the gibbet upon which William Winter's body was hung in chains after his execution in 1791 for the murder of Margaret Crozier of the Raw near Hepple, to the north of Elsdon. It is made of wood and the base reinforced with iron (**Plate 11**). It is located immediately adjacent to the stone base for the Steng cross (SM 25025). An application has recently been submitted for the replacement of the gibbet.
- 5.64 The setting of the gibbet is the raised plateau upon which it is located at its highest point and adjacent to the road between the villages of Elsdon and Cambo, and overlooking the bastle at Raw to the north of Elsdon. From this elevated location at which the gibbet was deliberately positioned (being related to a specific event) there are extensive views in all directions, other than to the north-east where these are restricted by the modern coniferous plantation. Although altered (and specifically by the adjacent post and wire fences, stile and hand gate) and the gibbet is a replica of the original, the setting constitutes much of the reason for the location of the gibbet and is therefore considered to contribute substantially to the significance of the structure and to be of high sensitivity (in part enhanced by the proximity of the earlier Steng cross base).

6.0 ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT EFFECTS

Direct (physical) effects

- 6.1 Potential direct physical effects upon both recorded and previously unrecorded heritage assets of archaeological interest could arise from various aspects of the quarrying within Areas A–E. The areas currently or recently wooded within Area A and the south-eastern part of Area B amounts to some 4.1ha and any effects in these areas would primarily result from tree felling operations, removal of tree stumps and topsoil, and initial stripping of subsoil deposits. The remainder of the excavation areas amount to some 10.0ha and have either been used for stone extraction or the disposal of spoil, or both, although heritage assets relating to the history of Blaxter Quarry itself are located within some of these areas upon which further excavation could have an effect.
- 6.2 Extraction within Area A would involve the probable destruction of the surviving foundations of the locomotive shed (Site 22) located on the northern edge of the area. This would constitute an impact of substantial magnitude upon an asset of low sensitivity, and would be a major to moderate adverse and permanent effect. Only a proportion of the remains of the associated railway line (Site 21) running south-eastwards from the quarry and locomotive shed would be located within Area A (some 130m in length), and extraction within this area would therefore constitute an impact of moderate magnitude upon an asset of low sensitivity, and would be a moderate to minor adverse and permanent effect. The area where the railway continued into the quarry to the west is largely disturbed ground.
- 6.3 No heritage assets of archaeological interest are recorded within Area B other than existing spoil heaps, and with the exception of the south-east corner much of this area has largely been quarried or previously disturbed by the dumping of spoil. Some of the finger-tip spoil heaps date to the later 1920s and 1930s. Removal of the spoil heaps within this area would be considered to constitute an impact of substantial magnitude upon an asset of low sensitivity, and given the nature of the site would be a moderate adverse and permanent effect.
- 6.4 Within Area C there is no surviving evidence of the building (Site 24) on the eastern edge of the area, although any remains may in part be buried beneath later spoil heaps at this location. From the existing excavated levels it is apparent that any remains of the two westernmost buildings (Sites 31 and 32) have been removed during subsequent extraction at these locations. A concrete surface associated with the site of the later building (Site 37) does survive, although no evidence for the building itself is visible but may in part be sealed beneath adjacent spoil heaps.
- 6.5 No remains of the only recorded building (Site 33) within Area D are evident, and no effects upon this asset are therefore predicted. The line of the internal quarry railway within this area has already been disturbed.
- 6.6 No heritage assets of archaeological interest are recorded within Area E, which has already been either quarried in part or disturbed at the level of the existing ground surface.

- 6.7 With the exception of remains associated with the quarry itself, the potential for previously unrecorded heritage assets of archaeological interest to survive within those parts of Areas A and B that have not previously been utilised for quarrying is considered to be low. Based upon the location of other recorded sites, the only prehistoric remains that might be anticipated at this height and position on a hilltop plateau are burial mounds or occupation of Bronze Age date, and no such remains were noted on previous aerial photographic evidence of these or adjacent areas on Hunterlee Hill, or during the site inspection of Area A where trees have been felled. In addition, the deeply ploughed furrows associated with the coniferous plantation would probably at least in part have significantly damaged any such surviving sites. Remains of later date such as late Iron Age or Roman period settlements are generally located at lower elevations and adjacent to streams. While post-medieval coal working is recorded within the vicinity of the Blaxter Quarry, all of the recorded and visible remains are located at a lower elevation along the base of the slope beneath Grey Mare to the north and north-west, presumably where a coal seam is outcropping relatively close to the surface.
- 6.8 It is not anticipated that the proposed restoration scheme would have any additional direct effects upon heritage assets of archaeological interest as all of the proposals will be located within areas of previous excavation in Areas A–E.

Effects upon setting

- 6.9 The potential effects of the development at Blaxter Quarry upon the setting of those selected designated heritage assets within the vicinity are described below, the assessment being based upon both professional experience and recent guidance (English Heritage 2011). For each designated asset the assessment is based upon the proposed felling and habitat restoration programmes within the Raylees and Monkridge plantations being implemented.

SM 30133: Steng medieval wayside cross and 236265: Winter's Gibbet

- 6.10 Given their situation, proximity and association the predicted effects upon the setting of these two designated heritage assets are considered together (**Plate 11**). Both are located approximately 2.5km to the north-east of Blaxter Quarry, and from this position the substantial spoil heap (Site 30) on the north-western side of the quarry is visible on the intermediate horizon together with the surrounding woodland plantation. Visibility along the northern edge of the quarry would increase subsequent to tree felling in this area, but the western and southern areas would remain screened. The surrounding and other forestry plantations are visible in the panoramic views to the south and south-west from this location, together with other features such as the telecommunications masts at Mount Gilbert. Despite the felling operations the quarry would still form a minor component of the panoramic vista and would continue to be absorbed into the landscape by the extensive plantations that would stretch across the horizon from Wether Hill to the west and Mount Gilbert to the east. Furthermore, it could be argued that it is the views to the north towards the bastle at Raw and the particular events that occurred there that have a specific association with Winter's Gibbet. As a result of a slight slope down to the north Blaxter Quarry would not be visible in views of Winter's Gibbet from the adjacent road.

- 6.11 Blaxter Quarry is not located within the immediate setting of either the Steng cross base or Winter's Gibbet, but is located within their wider landscape context. Although the cross base is not visually prominent, Winter's Gibbet is a distinct feature within the vicinity and both are publicly accessible. The principal change in the view from Winter's Gibbet would be an increase in views of the existing spoil heaps along the northern edge of Blaxter Quarry as a result of tree felling (the plantation itself being established for less than four decades). Proposed excavation within areas to the south would be screened by these existing spoil heaps or woodland that would be retained or planted. Given both the distance to Blaxter Quarry and the limited change in the existing views it is predicted that any impact upon the setting of Winter's Gibbet (and the Steng cross base) would be negligible in magnitude and therefore of minor significance. As a consequence no substantial harm to the significance of either of these heritage assets is predicted.

ND 39B: Ant Hills burial mounds

- 6.12 These mounds are located approximately 2.5km to the north-east of Blaxter Quarry, and from this position it is predicted (there being no access to the scheduled area itself) that views towards the quarry would be broadly as from the Steng cross base and Winter's Gibbet – these being at a similar altitude some 500m to the north. The substantial spoil heap (Site 30) on the north-western side of the quarry would be visible on the intermediate horizon together with the surrounding woodland plantation. Visibility along the northern edge of the quarry would increase subsequent to tree felling in this area, but the western and southern areas would remain screened. The surrounding and other forestry plantations are visible in the panoramic views to the south and south-west from this location, together with other features such as the telecommunications masts at Mount Gilbert some 1.8km to the south-west. Despite the felling operations the quarry would still form a minor component of the panoramic vista and would continue to be absorbed into the landscape by the extensive plantations that would stretch across the horizon from Wether Hill to the west and Mount Gilbert to the east.
- 6.13 Blaxter Quarry is not located within the immediate setting of the mounds at Ant Hill, but is located within their wider landscape context. The mounds are not visually prominent. The principal change in the view from the monument would be an increase in views of the existing spoil heaps along the northern edge of Blaxter Quarry as a result of tree felling (the plantation itself being established for less than four decades). Proposed excavation within areas to the south would be screened by these existing spoil heaps or woodland that would be retained or planted. Given both the distance to Blaxter Quarry and the limited change in the existing views it is not predicted that this would have an impact upon the setting of the mounds, to which there is no public access. As a consequence no harm to the significance of the heritage asset is predicted.

236242: Milestone circa a quarter of a mile west of Raylees

- 6.14 This milestone is located on the roadside verge on the south side of the A696 some 1.5km to the north-west of Blaxter Quarry. At this location the road is in a cutting with stone walls along the top, and there are no views of Blaxter Quarry from the milestone itself. There are however views from the north side of the road within which both Blaxter Quarry – and specifically the spoil heap (Site 30) on the

north-western edge – and the milestone are visible, and the full extent of the spoil heaps along the northern edge are predicted to be visible after tree felling of that part of the adjacent plantation.

- 6.15 Blaxter Quarry is not located within the immediate setting of the milestone, but is located within its wider landscape context. The milestone is not visually prominent, and its immediate association is with the adjacent road rather than the surrounding landscape. The principal change in the view from which both the milestone and Blaxter Quarry are visible would be an increase in the visibility of the existing spoil heaps along the northern edge of Blaxter Quarry as a result of tree felling. Proposed excavation within areas to the south would be screened by these existing spoil heaps or woodland that would be retained. Given both the distance to Blaxter Quarry, the nature of the heritage asset and the relatively limited change in the existing views it is not predicted that this would have an impact upon the setting of the milestone. As a consequence no harm to the significance of the heritage asset is predicted.

Historic landscape character

- 6.16 There would be no substantive change to the historic landscape character of the area around Blaxter Quarry as a result of the development proposals. Although the area of the quarry would increase slightly and be more visible, and the proposed felling operations and habitat restoration would also result in a small increase the area of upland moorland, these would represent very small proportions within the surrounding area, the majority of which would continue to remain as either upland moorland or 20th century woodland.

7.0 MITIGATION

- 7.1 On the basis of the predicted direct effects of the development the following outline mitigation with respect to heritage assets is proposed, which would be undertaken both in advance of and during the excavation phase within each working area. A detailed written scheme of investigation stating the scale and scope of the proposed mitigation would be prepared and agreed in writing with Northumberland County Council. No mitigation is proposed with respect to the limited predicted effects upon the setting of any designated heritage asset.

Photographic survey

- 7.2 This survey would include both a general photographic record of areas of the development, with a specific record of the heritage assets to be affected by the proposals such as the railway line (Site 21) and associated locomotive shed (Site 22) within Area A. The photographic record would also include historic spoil heaps to be removed as part of the working schemes, such as those within the south-eastern part of Area B. Photographs of specific features would include measured scales. A register of the location, direction and date of all photographs would be maintained. The survey would be undertaken in accordance with any relevant guidance (English Heritage 2007, 14).

Archaeological investigation

- 7.3 The proposed programme of archaeological investigation is designed to mitigate the predicted effects of the development upon heritage assets of archaeological interest. This would be undertaken with the specific objectives of recording identified heritage assets of archaeological interest in advance of any initial site clearance, groundworks or deeper excavations. The identified sites should therefore be demarcated in order to avoid inadvertent damage during further site clearance such as tree felling and removal. The mitigation would be based upon a targeted programme of 'strip map and record', and observation, investigation and recording (or 'watching brief').
- 7.4 A programme of archaeological 'strip, map and record' would be undertaken in advance of the main phase of works within the area of the locomotive shed (Site 22) within Area A with the purpose of exposing and recording the foundations of the building and any associated features. Within this area any surface deposits such as the rubble heap at the south-eastern end would be removed by a backactor excavator to archaeological requirements. Features of archaeological interest identified would be planned, investigated and sample recorded in advance of any further site works.
- 7.5 The location and extent of the associated railway line (Site 21) would be planned and recorded, and three representative sample sections would be excavated along its alignment (some 130m) within Area A in order to record the feature in both plan and section under controlled conditions. A scheme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording (or 'watching brief') would subsequently be undertaken along its length during removal of the feature in advance of extraction, and also along the recorded alignment of the railway towards the quarry to the west. Any features of archaeological interest identified would be demarcated, planned, investigated and recorded in advance of site works, with adequate time and resources being made available within the construction programme to undertake the agreed level of fieldwork.
- 7.6 The archaeological investigations would be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional standards and guidance (English Heritage 2006; IFA 2008). The agreed programme of work would include post-excavation assessment of the site records and any artefacts recovered or samples taken, the preparation of a report (including publication as necessary) and the results of any additional documentary research considered needed, together with the deposition of the site archive at a recognised repository in accordance with the written scheme of investigation agreed with Northumberland County Council.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The 3km study area assessed around Blaxter Quarry contains a number of heritage assets of both archaeological and architectural interest. These include Bronze Age burial cairns and occupation at locations such as Scald Law, High Nick and Ant Hills, all located more than a kilometre from the quarry. Settlement of Iron Age and Roman date includes that located to the north near to Ravenscleugh, at Castle Hill north of Raylees and on the slopes of Wether Hill to the north-west, but all at lower elevations than the area of Raylees Common

around the quarry. Medieval settlement is recorded at Raylees, as well as at more distant locations such as Elsdon which was the focus for the parish. Other settlement within the township of Monkridge, within which Raylees Common was located, appears to have been limited to the valleys of the River Rede and Raylees Burn to the west and north-west. The area of Raylees Common around Hunterlee Hill remained as unenclosed upland moorland devoid of recorded occupation until the 19th century when mineral extraction both for stone and coal is first recorded, in part possibly facilitated with the construction of the Jedburgh to Newcastle turnpike road (the existing A696) in 1829. Coal working appears to have been located primarily on lower ground to the north of Hunterlee Hill in the area of Grey Mare and Black Crag.

- 8.2 A quarry on Hunterlee Hill is not recorded until the mid 19th century, and initially extraction appears to have been small scale and for local use, with the site abandoned later in the century although by this date a wagonway linking the quarry with the turnpike road had been built. Extraction on a larger scale recommenced at Blaxter Quarry in the 1890s with a new cart road (the existing quarry road) being built, together with a number of buildings and later the construction of a railway line that was opened in 1908 to link the quarry to the station at Knowesgate and which enabled stone to be transported further afield. The quarry closed again in 1915 during World War One, and the railway line lifted, but re-opened again in 1923. Increased demand for stone and the use of an internal railway and craneway resulted in considerable expansion of the quarry area in the 1920s and 1930s, and it is during this period that most of the large spoil heaps on the northern edge of the site were formed which remain a feature of the local landscape. The quarry closed again in World War Two, but has continued to see intermittent stone extraction in the post-war period. The extensive coniferous plantations around the quarry were not established until the latter part of the 20th century.
- 8.3 Heritage assets of archaeological interest within the areas of proposed extraction include the remains of the railway line to the quarry and the foundations of the associated locomotive shed within Area A, as well as historic spoil heaps such as those within the south-western part of Area B. The sites of a number of former quarry buildings and other structures are recorded within other areas, but these have mostly been removed by later excavations. The potential for previously unrecorded remains, and specifically of prehistoric, Roman and medieval date, to survive within the 4.1ha area that has not previously been worked is considered to be relatively low. Subject to appropriate mitigation of the predicted effects upon those heritage assets associated with the quarry it is not considered that extraction within the proposed working areas would lead to substantial harm.
- 8.4 There are three scheduled Monuments and five Listed Buildings (excluding those on the southern edge of Elsdon) located within 3km of Blaxter Quarry. As a result of intervening topography or woodland plantations there is no intervisibility with the quarry from most of these assets, including those buildings in Elsdon. Of the remaining designated assets no impact upon the setting of the scheduled burial mounds at Ant Hills (some 2.5km to the north-east) or the listed milestone west of Raylees (1.5km to the north-west) are predicted given the nature of the monuments and their settings, although there would be increased views of the historic spoil heaps along the northern edge of the quarry from either the assets or their immediate vicinity as a result of the tree felling proposals around Blaxter

Quarry. These proposals would also result in increased views of these spoil heaps from Winter's Gibbet (and the Steng cross base) located 2.5km to the north-east. Although the views are panoramic from this location and Winter's Gibbet is a local attraction that is publicly accessible, the degree of change when seen against the backdrop of the extensive plantations along the horizon would be small. The impact upon the setting of the gibbet would therefore be negligible and would result in less than substantial harm to its significance.

- 8.5 There would be no substantive change to the historic landscape character of the area around Blaxter Quarry as a result of the development proposals, as the majority of the area would continue to remain as either upland moorland or 20th century woodland.
- 8.6 Mitigation of the direct effects upon heritage assets of archaeological interest would include a photographic survey of the remains of the railway line and locomotive shed, and the historic spoil heaps, in advance of construction. Archaeological investigation in advance of or during construction would include a programme of 'strip, map and record' in the area of the locomotive shed and the controlled excavation of sample sections across the railway line. A scheme of observation, investigation and recording ('watching brief') would be undertaken during the removal of that length of railway line within the planning permission boundary. The details of the scale and scope of the proposed mitigation, including subsequent report preparation and archive deposition, would be set out in a written scheme of investigation to be agreed with the Northumberland County Council.
- 8.7 Subject to the implementation of the proposed mitigation strategy no substantial harm to heritage assets is predicted as a result of stone extraction within the proposed areas at Blaxter Quarry.

Date: May 2013
Report: 46/1
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APPENDIX 1

CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSESSMENT STUDIES

METHODS STATEMENT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document represents a generic methods statement for undertaking cultural heritage assessment studies for inclusion within Environmental Statements or as a separate document in support of a planning application or environmental appraisal.
- 1.2 The exact scale and scope of the study would be dependent both upon the nature of the development proposal, and upon the result of consultations with the planning authority or scoping opinion response.

2.0 POLICY BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The assessment would be undertaken in accordance with statutory legislation, planning policy and government or professional guidance relevant to the historic environment.
- 2.2 Relevant statutory legislation would primarily consist of:
- *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*
 - *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990*
 - *Hedgerow Regulations 1997*
 - *Town and Country (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011*
- 2.3 Planning policy would primarily consist of:
- *National Planning Policy Framework* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2012)
 - relevant 'saved' local plan policies (including mineral plan policies)
 - relevant emerging Local Development Framework policies
- 2.4 Relevant government and professional guidance would primarily consist of:
- *Preparation of Environmental Statements that Require Environmental Assessment: A Good Practice Guide* (Department of Environment 1995)
 - *Wind Energy and the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2005)
 - *Environmental Impact Assessment: A Guide to Good Practice and Procedures – Consultation Paper* (Department for Communities and Local Government 2006)
 - *Conservation Principles: Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (English Heritage 2008)
 - *PPS5 Planning for the Historic Environment: Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide* (Department for Communities and Local Government, English Heritage and Department for Culture, Media and Sport 2010)

- *Scheduled Monuments* (Department for Culture, Media and Sport 2010)
- *Principals of Selection for Listed Buildings* (Department for Culture, Media and Sport 2010)
- *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (English Heritage 2011)
- *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessments* (Institute for Archaeologists 2011)

2.5 Any assessment study being undertaken within the North East or Yorkshire and the Humber regions would also accord with guidance in *Yorkshire, the Humber and the North East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process* (South Yorkshire Archaeology Service 2011).

3.0 OBJECTIVES

3.1 The assessment study would provide a comprehensive desk-based review of published and readily accessible documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic information relating to the study area. The information derived from this review would be updated with new information obtained through a site walkover inspection. An assessment of the impact of the proposed development upon heritage assets of historic, archaeological, architectural and/or artistic interest (and specifically archaeological sites (including Scheduled Monuments), Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Conservation Areas, World Heritage Sites or other designated sites or areas of conservation interest (including palaeoenvironmental deposits) would be undertaken and recommendations made for evaluation, preservation and mitigation as appropriate.

3.2 Specific objectives relevant to most or all development proposals would include:

- identification of all heritage assets (recorded sites, finds, buildings and areas of archaeological, historical and architectural interest) which lie within, or adjacent to, the study area
- assessment of the potential for previously unrecorded sites of cultural heritage interest
- assessment of the potential effects of the proposal in terms of its physical (direct) impact on heritage assets and/or the visual (indirect) impact on the setting of designated heritage assets in the vicinity
- where features are found to be affected, assessment of the significance and degree of effect (both beneficial and adverse) along with the likely short term and long term effects of development
- identification of those features which should be retained and/or enhanced because of their intrinsic importance
- identification of those features or areas which require further evaluation in order to fully establish either the significance of the heritage asset and/or likely development effect
- identification of potential mitigation measures to avoid or remedy any adverse effect

- assessment of the degree of conflict and/or compliance with strategic and local plan policies relevant to archaeology and the built environment and national planning policy guidance

4.0 DATA COLLECTION

- 4.1 The collection of archaeological data would relate to the proposed development area and normally an area of 1km–3km from the boundary of the proposed development (dependent upon the nature and location of the proposal). This would place the site within its context and enable an evaluation of the potential for archaeological sites within the vicinity to extend into the development area. In some circumstances more general research may be necessary beyond the limits of the detailed study area in order to establish the context and significance of sites within the area.
- 4.2 For specific developments such as wind farms the effect of the proposal on the setting of nationally important archaeological sites (Scheduled Monuments) up to 5km or 10km from the proposal would be assessed. Defining the extent of the study area would be assisted by the use of computer generated Zones of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) and photomontage and/or wireframe views, with an appraisal of all monuments within the ZTV and a more detailed assessment of those within closer proximity to the development. The assessment would address both individual and cumulative effects.
- 4.3 In order to undertake the assessment to the required standard the information sources consulted would include:
- Historic Environment Record data
 - English Heritage Archives data
 - published sources (documentary and archaeological studies, local histories)
 - cartographic sources (usually early Ordnance Survey, enclosure, tithe and estate maps)
 - aerial photographic sources (verticals and obliques)
 - pictorial and other photographic sources
 - English Heritage scheduling information and Registers of Battlefield Sites and Historic Parks and Gardens
 - Listed Building schedules
 - local authority Conservation Area appraisals
 - previous unpublished fieldwork undertaken in the area
 - Historic Landscape Characterisation
 - Portable Antiquities Scheme information
 - museum records
 - LiDAR data
 - information from palaeoenvironmental or geotechnical ground investigations
- 4.4 Additional information sources would be consulted for specific types of development proposals, and particularly if related to existing historical buildings, industrial remains

or within urban areas. Such additional records could include insurance maps and mining or other industrial records.

4.5 In order to obtain this information some or all of the following bodies, institutions or individuals would usually be visited or consulted:

- Historic Environment Record
- English Heritage
- Archive or Records Offices
- County, District or Unitary Authority Councils
- imagesofengland website
- local reference libraries
- county and local museums
- active fieldworkers and researchers with an interest in the study area
- landowner(s) and tenant(s)

5.0 SITE INSPECTION AND EVALUATION

5.1 Subject to access, a site inspection would be undertaken of the area of the proposed development to establish the range and survival of extant features on the site. Site inspection would aim to determine the extent of survival of any buildings and other structures, to note the location, nature, extent and condition of any additional recorded and unrecorded archaeological sites, and to identify any concentrations of surface artefacts which might indicate the presence of subsurface archaeological features. Sketch plots of visible earthwork features would be made and photographs and notes would be taken relating to extant features, buildings or other structures. Sites, monuments or finds would be located using a hand-held GPS. Surface artefacts would be collected unless any concentrations identified the need for more detailed systematic fieldwalking.

5.2 If more systematic or detailed site inspection or fieldwalking were required then this would be a further phase of evaluation work undertaken as part of the preparation of the impact assessment, together with any further earthwork, geophysical, building or palaeoenvironmental surveys and/or trial trenching as necessary.

6.0 PREDICTION METHODOLOGY

6.1 The impact assessment would be based upon a staged methodology consisting of:

Step 1: Identify heritage assets that could be directly or indirectly affected by the development proposals.

Step 2: Establish the sensitivity (or significance) of the heritage assets within the study area(s) in accordance with Table A.

Table A: Definitions of sensitivity for heritage assets

Sensitivity	Level of importance	Examples of heritage assets
Very high	International	An internationally important site eg World Heritage Site.
High	National	A nationally designated asset eg Scheduled Monument, Listed Building, Conservation Area, Registered Park and Garden, Registered Battlefield, plus unscheduled archaeological remains or unlisted buildings worthy of such designation.
Medium	County	Other archaeological remains and unlisted buildings considered to be of county importance.
Low	Local	Unscheduled archaeological remains or unlisted buildings considered to be of local importance. Sites with a local value or interest for educational or cultural appreciation. Sites that are so badly damaged that too little remains to justify inclusion at a higher grade.

Step 3: Assess the magnitude of the direct and indirect effects of the proposed development upon the heritage assets and their significance in accordance with Table B.

Table B: Magnitude of effects

Magnitude	Scale of change
Extreme	Complete destruction of the archaeological, architectural, artistic and/or historic interest of the heritage asset
Very substantial Adverse	Almost complete destruction of the archaeological, architectural, artistic and/or historic interest of the heritage asset.
Substantial adverse	Considerable destruction of or damage to the archaeological, architectural, artistic and/or historic interest of the heritage asset.
Moderate adverse	Partial destruction of or damage to the archaeological, architectural, artistic and/or historic interest of the heritage asset.
Slight adverse	Limited destruction of or damage to the archaeological, architectural, artistic and/or historic interest of the heritage asset.
Negligible adverse	Very limited destruction of or damage to the archaeological, architectural, artistic and/or historic interest of the heritage asset.
No change	No material change to the archaeological, architectural, artistic and/or historic interest of the heritage asset.

Step 4: Identify measures to avoid or minimise harm and maximise enhancement.

Step 5: Establish the significance of the residual effect upon the heritage asset in accordance with Table C.

Table C: Significance of effects

Sensitivity	Magnitude of effects					
	Extreme	Very substantial	Substantial	Moderate	Slight	Negligible
Very high	Very severe	Severe	Severe/major	Major	Major/moderate	Moderate
High	Severe	Severe/major	Major	Major/moderate	Moderate	Moderate/minor
Medium	Severe/major	Major	Major/moderate	Moderate	Moderate/minor	Minor
Low	Major	Major/moderate	Moderate	Moderate/minor	Minor	Minor/neutral

Key:			Significant			Not significant
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6.2 The prediction and assessment of effects upon the setting of heritage assets is primarily based upon the relevant factors outlined in English Heritage (2005) guidance on Wind Energy and the Historic Environment, and specifically the following particular factors:

- visual dominance
- scale
- intervisibility
- vistas and sight-lines
- movement, sound and light effects
- unaltered settings

6.3 The assessment on the indirect effects upon the setting of heritage assets would be based upon the contribution that setting makes to the significance of the asset.

6.4 The assessment of residual effects upon the significance of the heritage asset set out in the National Planning Policy Framework is based upon “substantial harm” or less than substantial harm”. For the purposes of the assessment any effect identified as very severe adverse, severe adverse or severe/major adverse would be considered to constitute “substantial harm”.

7.0 REPORT

7.1 The information derived from the above stages of research would be collated, assessed and presented under the following principal sections, although the precise format of the report would be dependent upon whether included within an Environmental Statement or produced as a separate study:

- introduction
- relevant planning policies and guidance
- methodology

- archaeological and historical background
- summary of heritage assets within study area (baseline conditions)
 - archaeological sites
 - Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and other designated areas or features (such as hedgerows of archaeological or historic importance)
 - potential for unrecorded remains
- initial design mitigation
- assessment of predicted development impact and degree of significance
- scope for mitigating effects
- recommendations for mitigation
- residual effects
- conclusions
- reference sources

7.2 The report text would be supplemented by accompanying Ordnance Survey base maps at an appropriate scale indicating the location, extent and significance of sites of cultural heritage interest. Further illustrations might include copies of relevant historical mapping or historic photographs (subject to copyright restrictions) and photographs showing the current state of the site, as well as photomontages and/or computer generated wireframes relating to any impact of assessment on the setting of designated historic assets.

7.3 A non-technical summary would also be produced.

8.0 ARCHIVE

8.1 A copy of the report would be provided to the relevant Historic Environment Record in both hard format and electronic (PDF) format

8.2 If substantive further fieldwork was undertaken on the site then the archive for the desk-based study would be combined with the fieldwork archive of the relevant archaeological contractor and deposited at the appropriate museum repository.

8.3 An online OASIS form for the study would be completed.

APPENDIX 2

HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN VICINITY OF BLAXTER QUARRY

This appendix lists heritage assets recorded on both the Northumberland Historic Environment Record (NHER) and English Heritage Archives (EHA) within 3km of Blaxter Quarry. Reference numbers for Scheduled Monuments (SM) or Listed Buildings (LB) are also stated where applicable. A central grid reference, suggested classification and date are provided for each site, which are listed in numerical order.

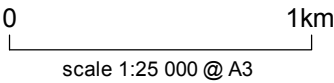
NHER	EHA	SM LB	Grid reference	Classification	Period
9374			NY 912 876	Field system	Prehistoric
9375	19350		NY 917 875	Unenclosed settlement	Prehistoric
9376	19351		NY 907 887	Unenclosed settlement	Prehistoric
9377			NY 9452 8848	Cairn	Bronze Age
9387			NY 907 899	Field boundary	Unknown
9388			NY 908 898	Building	Post-medieval
9389			NY 909 899	Cairnfield	Unknown
9390			NY 912 898	Hollow way	Unknown
9391			NY 9139 8975	Building	Post-medieval
9392			NY 9202 8836	Building	Post-medieval
9393			NY 943 883	Standing stone	Unknown
9394			NY 9164 8730	Lime kiln	Post-medieval
9395			NY 9287 8708	Building	Unknown
9397			NY 941 880	Enclosure	Unknown
9398			NY 9417 8762	Farmhouse	Post-medieval
9403	1477001		NY 949 894	Radar station	Modern
9404			NY 943 884	Anti-aircraft site	Modern
9405			NY 939 899	Anti-aircraft site	Modern
9407	19243		NY 964 894	Field system	Iron Age
9414	19270	236240	NY 9568 8895	Bastles	Post-medieval
9430			NY 9583 8822	Oval enclosure	Medieval
9435			NY 952 884	Cairnfield	Unknown
9436			NY 9533 8831	Clearance cairn	Bronze Age
9442			NY 9572 8880	Enclosure	Post-medieval
9443			NY 9547 8842	Stell	Post-medieval
9444			NY 9506 8862	Stack stand	Post-medieval
9445			NY 9505 8879	Enclosure	Post-medieval
9464			NY 9555 8848	Lime kiln	Unknown
9465			NY 9594 8850	Sheep fold	Unknown
9492			NY 954 893	Anti-aircraft site	Modern
9730		ND 466	NY 9093 9073	Settlement & field system	Iron Age to Roman

NHER	EHA	SM LB	Grid reference	Classification	Period
9731	19657		NY 9129 9093	Clearance cairn	Prehistoric to Roman
9732	19658		NY 9149 9096	Round cairn	Bronze Age
9733	19665	ND 466	NY 9117 9067	Natural feature?	Unknown
9734	19670	ND 466	NY 9112 9062	Natural feature?	Unknown
9735	19650 19675	ND 466	NY 9114 9082	Enclosure	Roman
9736	19680		NY 9080 9096	Field boundary	Unknown
9737 19683		ND 466	NY 9120 9074	Round cairn	Bronze Age
9738	19688		NY 9255 9135	Farmstead and deserted medieval village	Medieval
9739			NY 935 908	Enclosed settlement	Later prehistoric
9743	19715		NY 9267 9192	Earthwork	Iron Age
9745	19725	21040	NY 9214 9244	Defended settlement	Iron Age
9747			NY 93 93	Two socketed axes	Bronze Age
9748			NY 93 93	Bronze axe	Bronze Age
9751	19743		NY 918 912	Monkridge deserted medieval village	Medieval
9757		236246	NY 9350 9302	Bastle and kennels	Post-medieval
9770		236245	NY 9354 9286	Bridge	Post-medieval
9771			NY 915 917	Flint	Later prehistoric
9772 14757	1542924 1551850		NY 9250 9274	Farmstead	Post-medieval
9773			NY 945 909	Anti-aircraft site	Modern
9775			NY 9140 9242	Corn mill	Post-medieval
9776			NY 9210 9292	Water mill	Post-medieval
9777		25025 236235	NY 96209 90771	Cross	Medieval
9785	1042580	ND39B	NY 9630 9020	Cairnfield	Later prehistoric
9789			NY 9528 9275	Corn mill	Post-medieval
12670	1478906		NY 911 880	Quarry	Post-medieval
13275			NY 930 875	Desk-based assessment	
13638		236241	NY 95307 88877	Milestone	Post-medieval
13639		236242	NY 94186 89918	Milestone	Post-medieval
13640		236243	NY 91951 91510	Milestone	Post-medieval
13642		236253	NY 93552 93175	Bird in the Bush Inn	Post-medieval
13643		236254	NY 93660 93100	Pound	Post-medieval
13749			NY 9365 9306	Evaluation	Modern
13750			NY 94494 91589	Elsdon parish	Unknown
13771			NY 911 880	Quarry	Post-medieval
13772	1478908		NY 933 900	Quarry	Post-medieval
14051		236247	NY 93695 93190	Scott's House	Post-medieval
14052			NY 93570 93152	House	Post-medieval

NHER	EHA	SM LB	Grid reference	Classification	Period
14066			NY 93568 93097	Blacksmith's workshop	Post-medieval
14071			NY 94657 92647	East Todholes house	Post-medieval
14072			NY 94448 92528	West Todholes house	Post-medieval
14075			NY 93695 93126	Council houses	Modern
14076			NY 95099 91740	East Hillhead farm	Post-medieval
14079			NY 94388 92117	Lonning House	Post-medieval
14798			NY 92930 87661	Clearance cairn	Prehistoric
14799			NY 92922 87644	Clearance cairn	Prehistoric
14801			NY 93180 87706	Earthwork	Medieval
14802			NY 93204 87699	Platform	Unknown
14803			NY 93212 87648	Orthostats	Unknown
14804			NY 93214 87644	Cairn	Prehistoric
14805			NY 93237 87625	Circular enclosure	Unknown
14806			NY 92500 87200	Cord rig	Prehistoric
16798			NY 93073 90939	Milepost	Post-medieval
17173			NY 91451 91450	Coal shaft	Post-medieval
20282			NY 9365 9313	Building	Post-medieval
20860			NY 92890 92195	Brickworks	Post-medieval
21917			NY 95546 91850	Well	Post-medieval
21928			NY 95525 91821	Sheepfold	Post-medieval
21932			NY 95205 90883	Sheepfold	Post-medieval
21933			NY 95426 90277	Sheepfold	Post-medieval
21937			NY 95529 91453	Bield	Post-medieval
21983			NY 91985 88429	Well	Post-medieval
21995			NY 90850 89775	Sheepfold	Post-medieval
21996			NY 92551 89693	Sheepfold	Post-medieval
21997			NY 93024 89603	Sheepfold	Post-medieval
21998			NY 94405 88865	Sheepfold	Post-medieval
21999			NY 92169 88563	Sheepfold	Post-medieval
22012			NY 93164 89089	Well	Post-medieval
22015			NY 92900 88464	Bield	Post-medieval
22224			NY 94218 87444	Well	Post-medieval
22225			NY 94959 87428	Sheep fold	Post-medieval
24042			NY 9294 9108	Enclosure	Unknown
24389			NY 95100 91500	Aircraft wreck	Modern

Blaxter Quarry Northumberland

Figure 1
Heritage assets of archaeological
interest within 3km of Blaxter Quarry



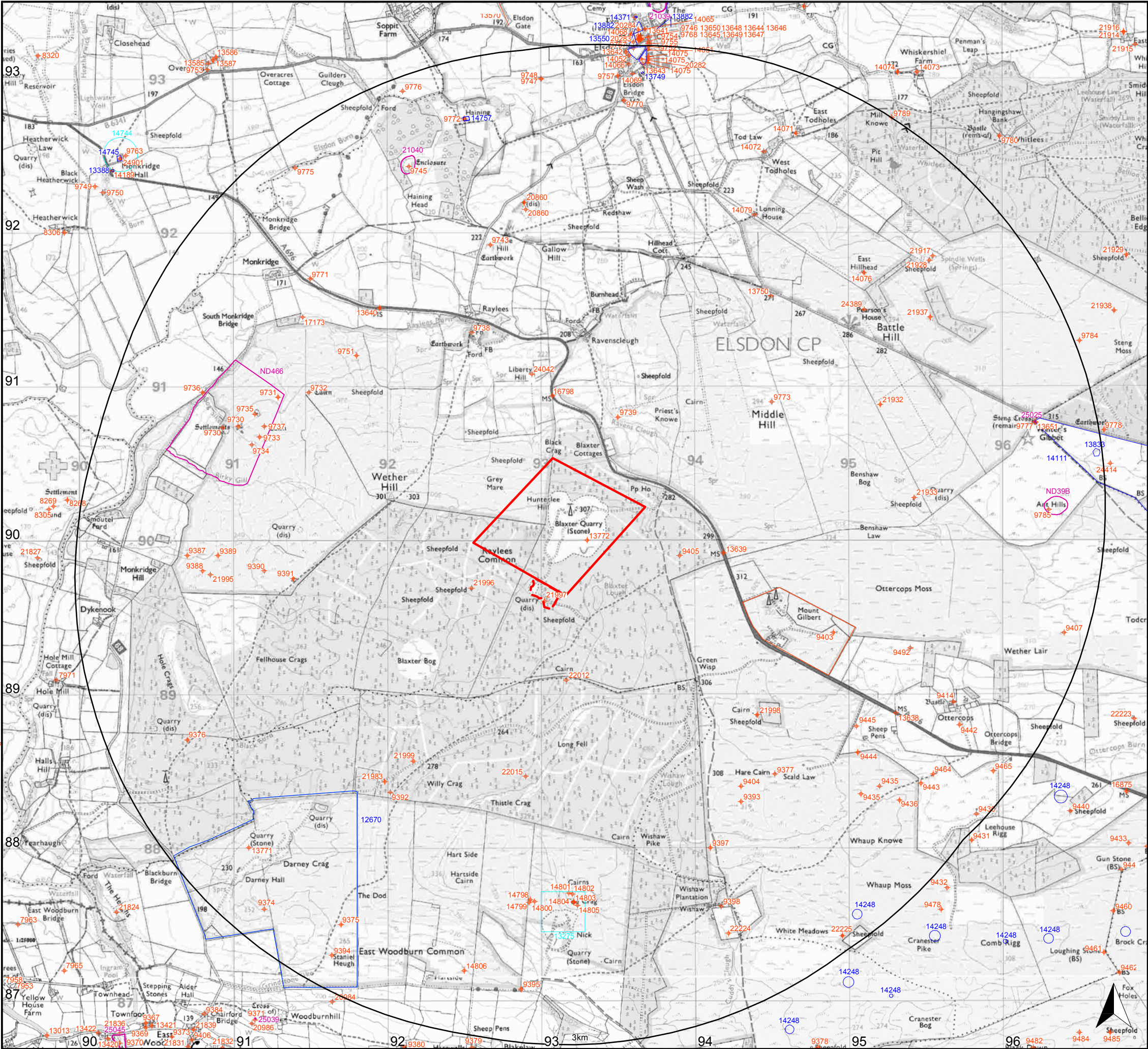
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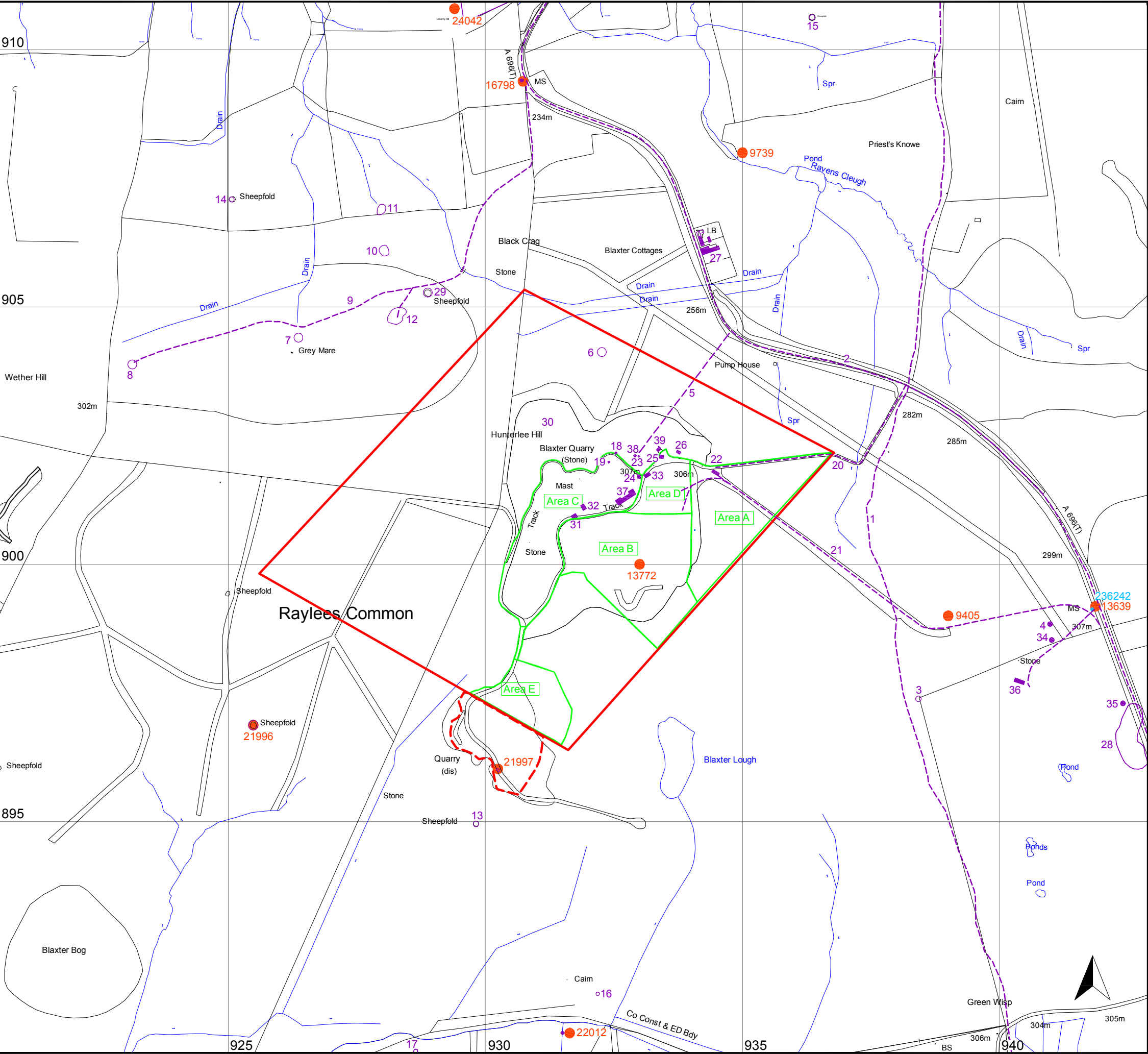
Key

- planning permission boundary
- NHER monuments
- NHER assessment
- NHER event
- scheduled monuments

Note: Data obtained from Northumberland Historic Environment
Record (NHER)

date	version
09/05/2013	2





Blaxter Quarry Northumberland

Figure 2
Heritage assets with the vicinity of
Blaxter Quarry

0 300m
scale 1:7500 @ A3

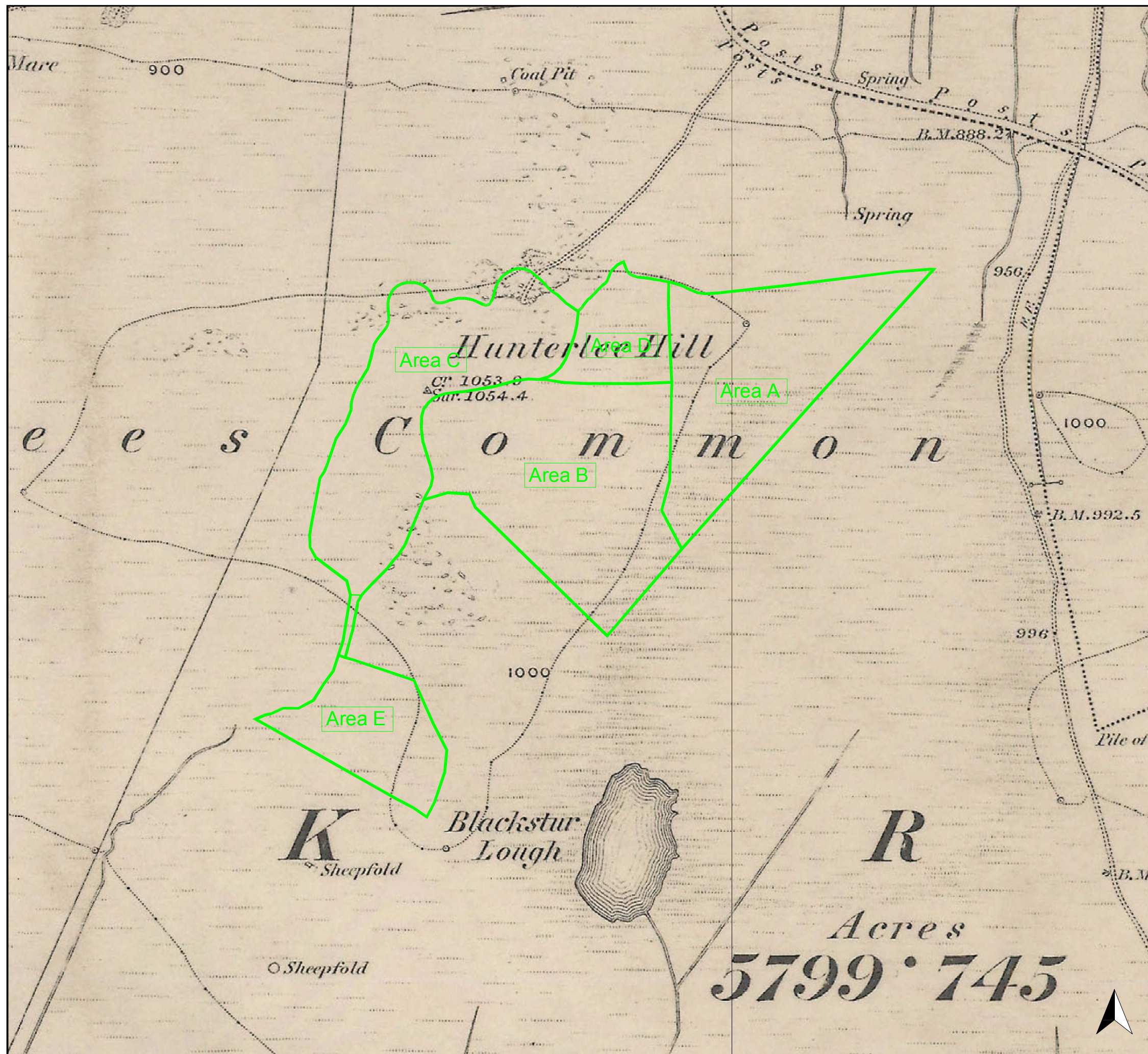
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Key

- planning permission boundary
- excavation areas
- NHER monuments
- additional heritage assets
- listed buildings

Note: Data obtained from Northumberland Historic Environment
Record (NHER)

date	09/05/2013	version	2
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Blaxter Quarry Northumberland


Figure 3

Excavation areas overlain onto the 1st edition 6-inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map of 1866 (Northumberland sheet LXI)

0 200m
scale 1:4000 @ A3

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Key

 proposed excavation areas

Blaxter Quarry Northumberland

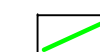
Figure 4

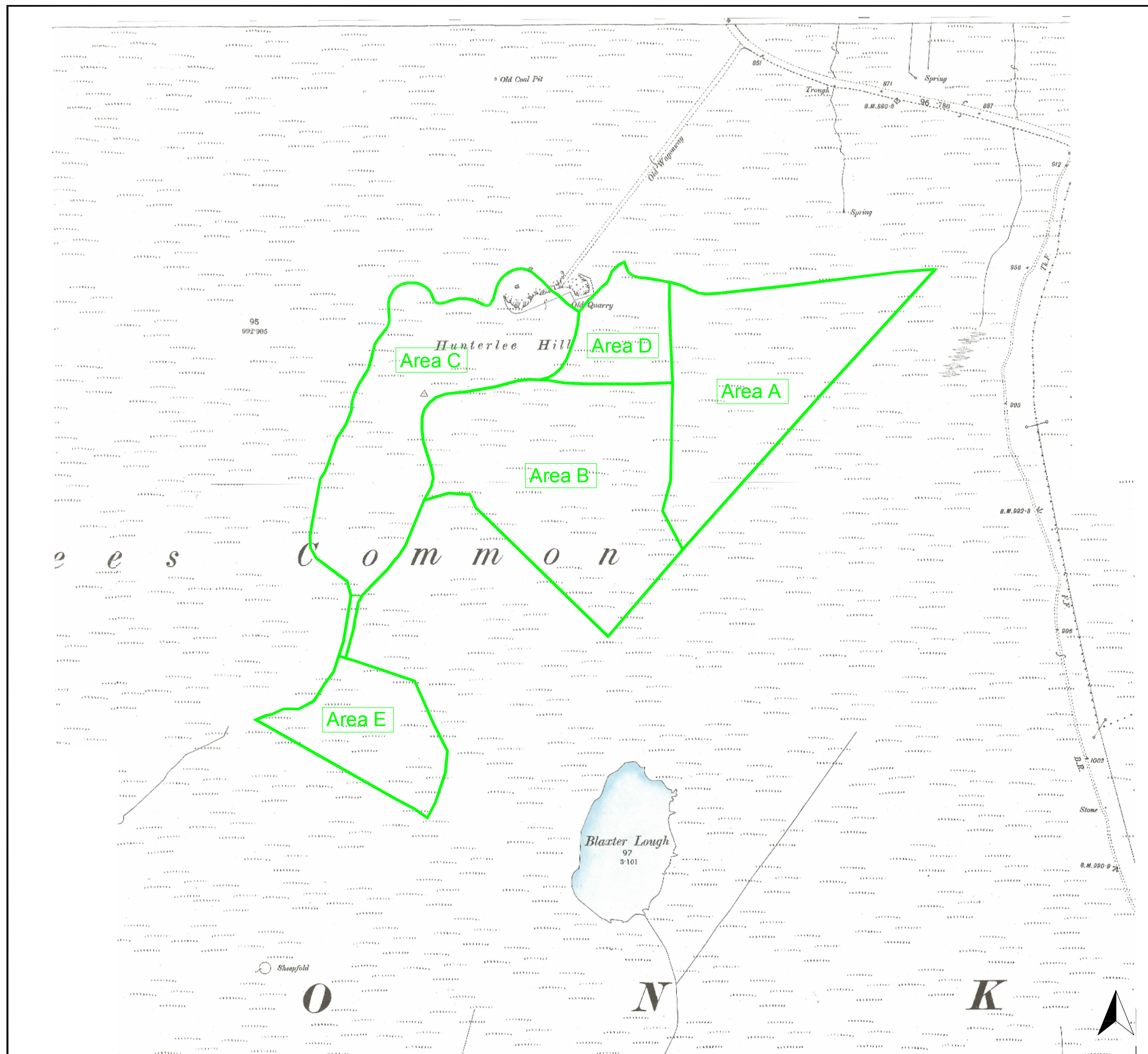
Excavation areas overlain onto the 2nd edition 25-inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map of 1897 (Northumberland sheet LXI.6)

0 200m
scale 1:4000 @ A3

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Key

 proposed excavation areas



Blaxter Quarry Northumberland


Figure 5

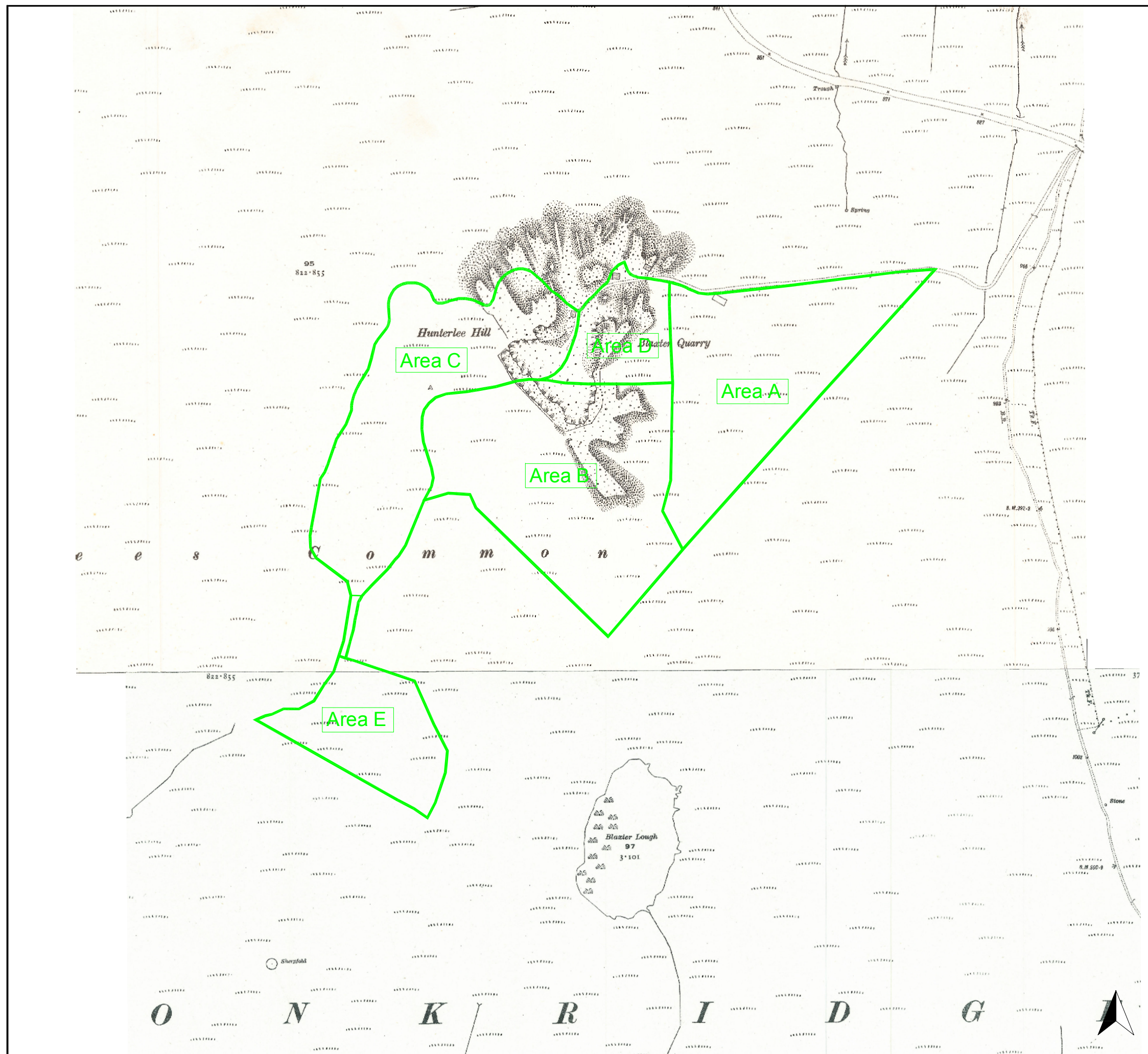
Excavation areas overlain onto the 3rd edition 25-inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map of 1922 (Northumberland [New Series] sheets LVII.11 and LVII.15)

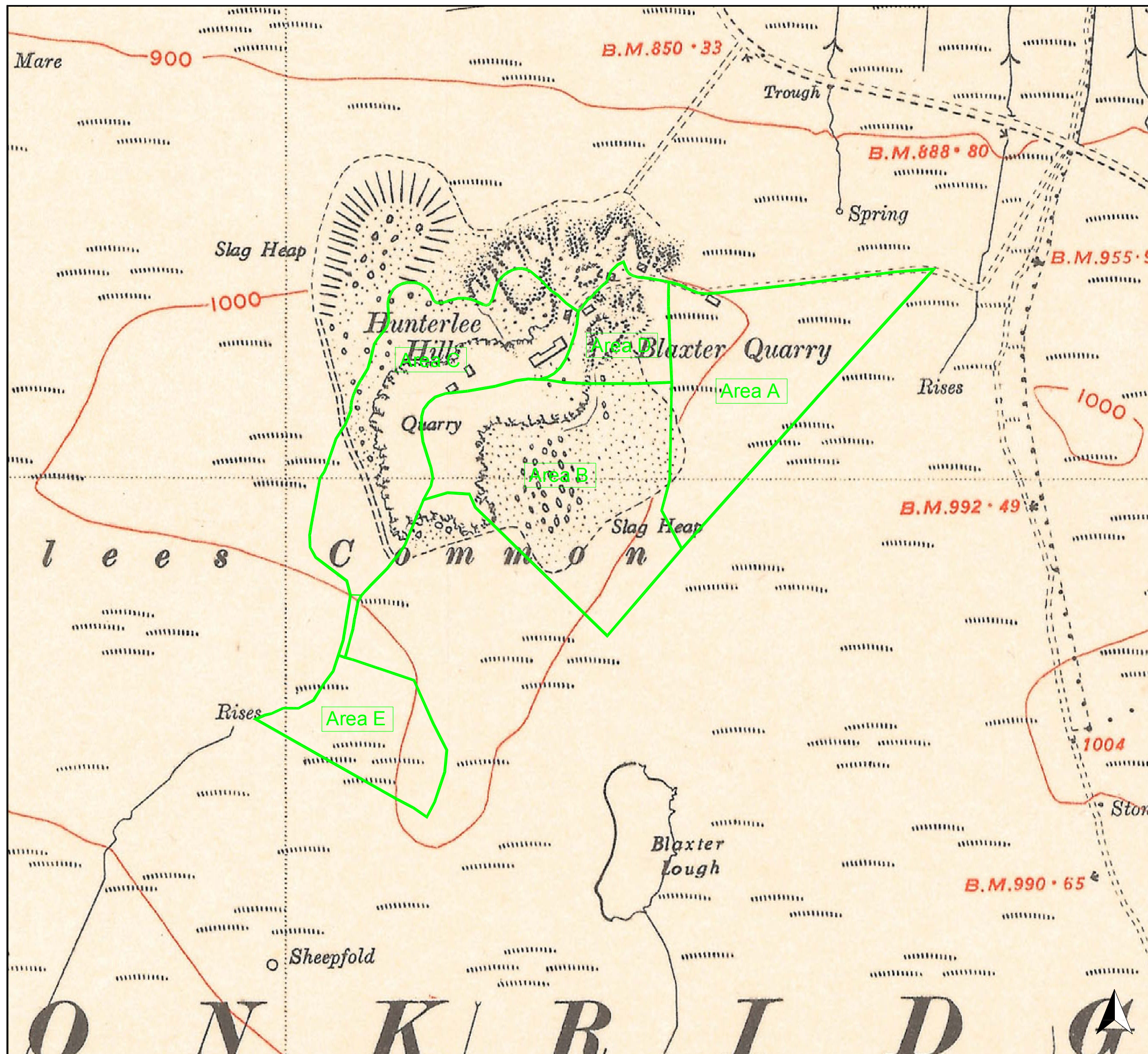
0 200m
scale 1:4000 @ A3

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Key

 proposed excavation areas





Blaxter Quarry Northumberland


Figure 6

Excavation areas overlain onto the 4th edition 6-inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map of 1952 (Provisional Edition sheet LVII.SE)

0 200m
scale 1:4000 @ A3

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Key

 proposed excavation areas

Blaxter Quarry Northumberland

Figure 7
Historic Landscape Characterisation

0 1km
scale 1:25 000 @ A3

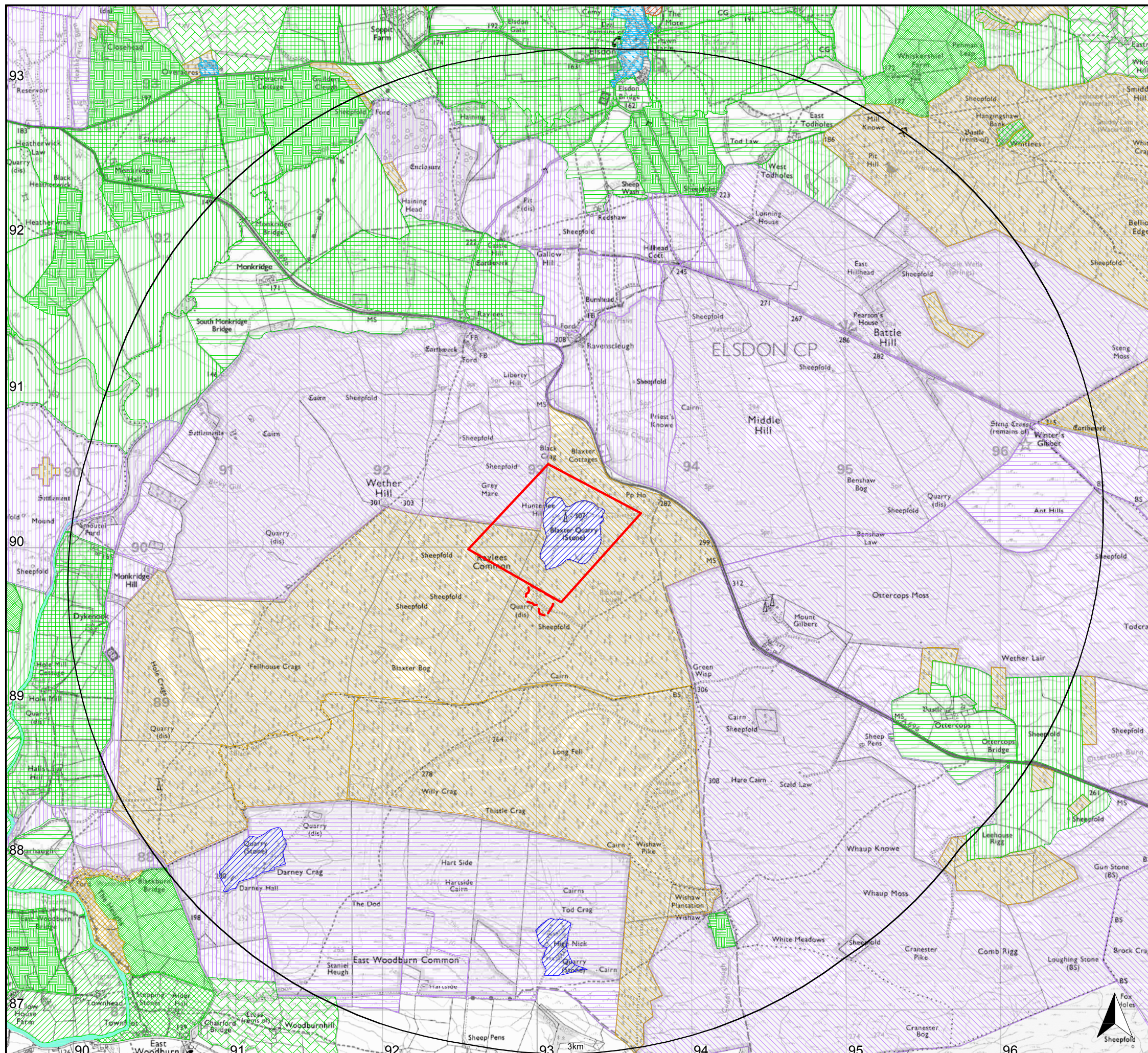
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Key

- planning permission boundary
- fields: floodplain irregular
- fields: late 19th century
- fields: other 20th century
- fields: other irregular upland
- fields: other large lowland irregular
- fields: other medium lowland irregular
- fields: other small irregular by settlement
- fields: other small surveyed lowland
- fields: piecemeal enclosure
- fields: surveyed enclosure erratic edged
- fields: surveyed enclosure straight edged
- fields: surveyed enclosure wavy edged
- industrial: active extraction
- moorland: enclosed upland
- moorland: lowland enclosed
- moorland: reverted
- ornamental: other parkland and recreational
- settlement: 20th century
- settlement: pre-1860s
- woodland: ancient
- woodland: 20th century
- woodland: late 19th century
- woodland: pre-1860
- woodland: scrub
- water: river

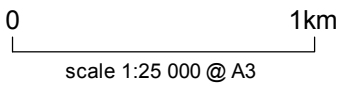
Note: Data obtained from Northumberland Historic Environment
Record

date	version
09/05/2013	2



Blaxter Quarry Northumberland

Figure 8
Designated heritage assets within
3km of Blaxter Quarry



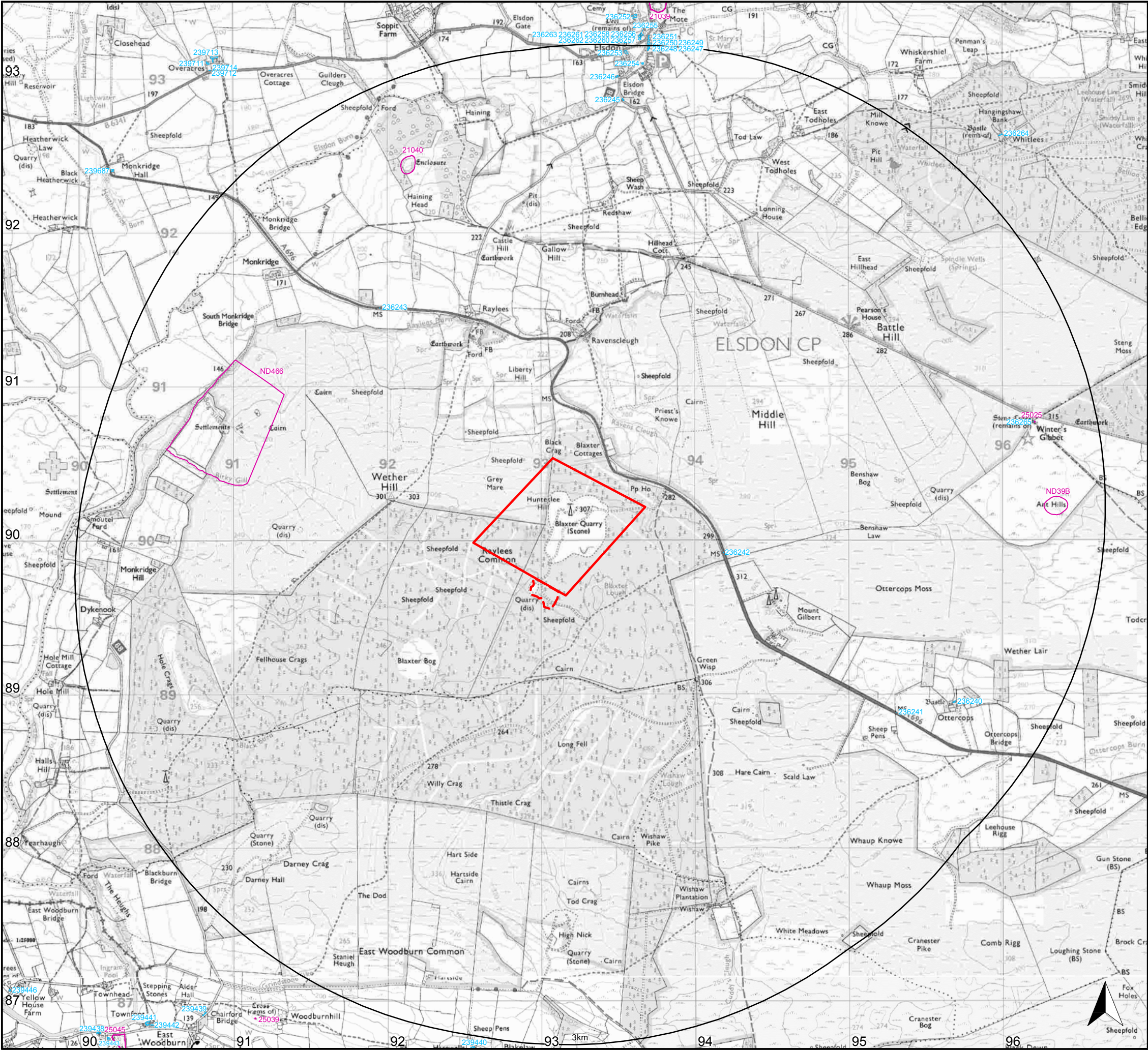
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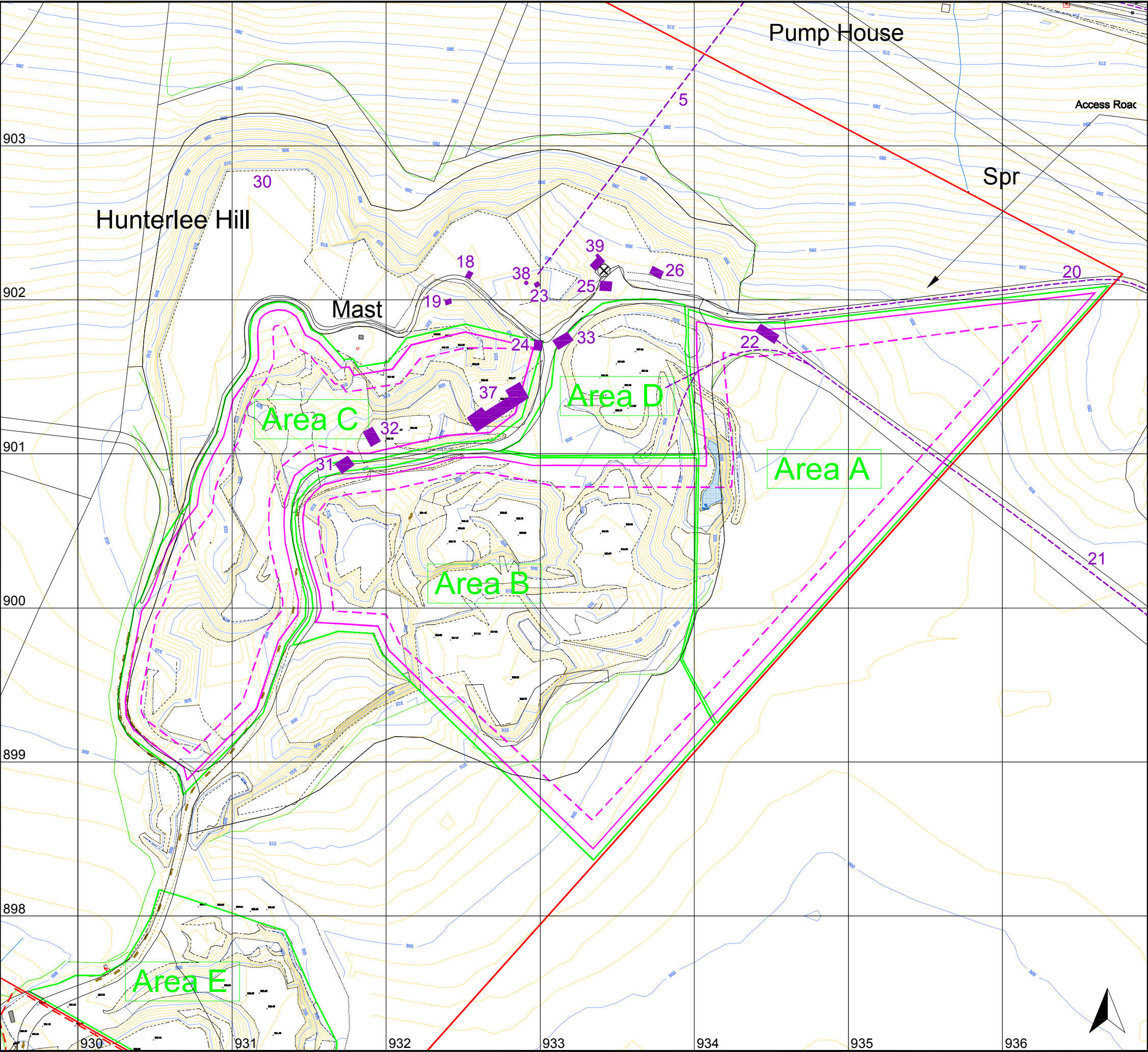
Key

- planning permission boundary
- listed buildings
- scheduled monuments

Note: Data obtained from Northumberland Historic Environment
Record (NHER) and English Heritage Archives (EHA)

date	09/05/2013	version	1
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**Blaxter Quarry
Northumberland**

Figure 9
Heritage assets within planning
permission boundary and working
scheme

0 100m
scale 1:2500 @ A3

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Key

- HER monuments
- heritage assets
- planning permission boundary
- top of excavation
- base of excavation
- excavation areas



Plate 1: Blaxter Quarry - view across Raylees Common towards the quarry from the north-west
(6 April 2013)



Plate 2: Blaxter Quarry - view across northern part of the quarry (Area D) from the south-west
(5 April 2013)



Plate 3: Blaxter Quarry - view across western part of the quarry (Area C) from the north-east
(5 April 2013)



Plate 4: Blaxter Quarry - course of railway line (Site 21) within Area A from the south-east
(6 April 2013)



Plate 5: Blaxter Quarry - foundations of locomotive shed (Site 22) from the south-east (6 April 2013)



Plate 6: Blaxter Quarry - magazine (Site 23) from the north-west (5 April 2013)



Plate 7: Blaxter Quarry - spoil heap (Site 30) from the west (6 April 2013)



Plate 8: Blaxter Quarry - saw base (Site 38) from the north-west (5 April 2013)



Plate 9: Blaxter Quarry - office building (Site 39) from the south-east (5 April 2013)



Plate 10: Blaxter Quarry - view across the southern part of Area A from the east (6 April 2013)



Plate 11: Blaxter Quarry - Winter's Gibbet (236265) and the Steng cross base (SM 25025) from the north-east looking towards Blaxter Quarry (5 March 2013)