

EPPLETON RECLAMATION SCHEME EXTENSION
EPPLETON
SUNDERLAND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

November 2007



Prepared for: <i>Blackett, Hart & Pratt LLP</i>	By: <i>The Archaeological Practice Ltd.</i>
--	--

<i>Project code:</i> AP06/56	<i>Stage:</i> Final	<i>Compiled by:</i> RJC	<i>Control:</i> AR	<i>Completion date:</i> 29/11/07
---------------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------------------

Registered Office: 34G Clayton Street West, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 5DZ
Telephone: 0191 2730777; FAX: 0191 2731777; E-mail: archprac@tiscali.co.uk
Registered Company no. 4549772

EPPLETON RECLAMATION SCHEME EXTENSION
EPPLETON
SUNDERLAND

Archaeological Assessment

Prepared by

The Archaeological Practice Ltd



Frontispiece: View of the former Eppleton Quarry site from the west, with the current assessment site on the north side of the quarry.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION
2. ASSESSMENT CONTEXT
3. SOURCES FOR ASSESSMENT
4. CATALOGUE
5. HISTORICAL SYNTHESIS
6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL
7. CONCLUSIONS
8. RECOMMENDATIONS
9. REFERENCES

Cover: *View of Copt Hill from the assessment site.*

Frontispiece: *View of the former Eppleton Quarry site from the west, with the current assessment site on the north side of the quarry.*

Illus 01: *The location of Eppleton Quarry, Sunderland.*

Illus 02: *The position of the assessment area north of Eppleton Quarry, Sunderland.*

Illus 03: *Extract from Great Eppleton Township Tithe Plan, 1838 (DRO EP/HH 29/1-2)*

Illus 04: *Extract from Hetton-le-Hole Tithe Plan, 1839 (DRO EP/HH 30/1-2)*

Illus 05: *Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey Plan, c.1860 (DRO XXXI.1, XX.4, XXI.5)*

Illus 06: *Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey Plan, c.1860*

Illus 07: *Extract from the Second Edition Ordnance Survey Plan, 1897.*

Illus 08: *Extract from Third Edition Ordnance Survey Plan, 1920.*

Illus 09: *Extract from Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey Plan, c.1940.*

Illus. 10: *Extract from aerial photograph ref. RAF/CPE/UK/1841/Frame 4101 (1946).*

Illus. 11: *Extract from aerial photograph ref. OS/66211/Frame 089 (1966).*

Illus. 12: *Extract from aerial photograph ref. OS/90067/Frame 028 (1990).*

Illus. 13: *Gazetteer of sites from the Tyne and Wear Historic Environment Record*

Illus. 14: *View westwards over the site from its south-east quarter.*

Illus. 15: *View westwards along the site's southern fence line.*

Illus. 16: *View northwards over the site from its south-east quarter.*

Illus. 17: *View westwards over the site from its south-east quarter, with Copt hill at upper centre of view.*

Illus. 18: *View of Copt hill, site of prehistoric and early medieval ritual activity.*

SUMMARY

This report constitutes a desk-based cultural heritage assessment undertaken by The Archaeological Practice Ltd at the request of Blackett, Hart & Pratt LLP for a proposed extension to Eppleton Quarry, Sunderland. The report incorporates an audit of both discrete and more extensive historical landscape components and presents a synthesis of the overall chronology of the defined area. It identifies cultural heritage constraints within the area of the proposed development and makes recommendations regarding the work required to mitigate the impact of the proposed development scheme.

The report collates evidence from a wide range of sources, including historic maps, secondary historical works, excavation reports and the Tyne and Wear Heritage Environment Record (HER). A site visit was also undertaken. No sites of importance were identified within the site of the proposed quarry extension, but the above sources identified a total of 33 sites and monuments bordering or in the vicinity of proposed development site, providing contextual information regarding the archaeological and historical development of the area.

On the basis of the above, conclusions are provided regarding the extent and significance of the archaeological remains in the development area, and an outline provided of the consequent cultural heritage impact of the scheme.

It is concluded that there are no known sites of specific cultural heritage interest to be recorded or evaluated within the assessment site, but on the basis of contextual evidence for prehistoric and medieval sites and find spots in the vicinity, it is recommended that further investigation is carried out in order to evaluate the potential for the existence of sub-surface features and artefact scatters.

Accordingly, It is recommended that trial trenching is carried out over the site, the area of trenching limited to the equivalent of 2% of the total area to be disturbed by the development works.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose of Assessment

This assessment, prepared by the Archaeological Practice Ltd. has been commissioned by *Blackett, Hart & Pratt LLP*. It provides the archaeological and cultural heritage input for an environmental impact assessment of an area of land including the disused site of Eppleton Colliery, adjacent disused quarries and an area of agricultural land to the north designated for reclamation and mineral extraction next to the town of Hetton-le-Hole near Sunderland. The study represents the first stage in a programme of archaeological work which may subsequently include evaluation and mitigation works.

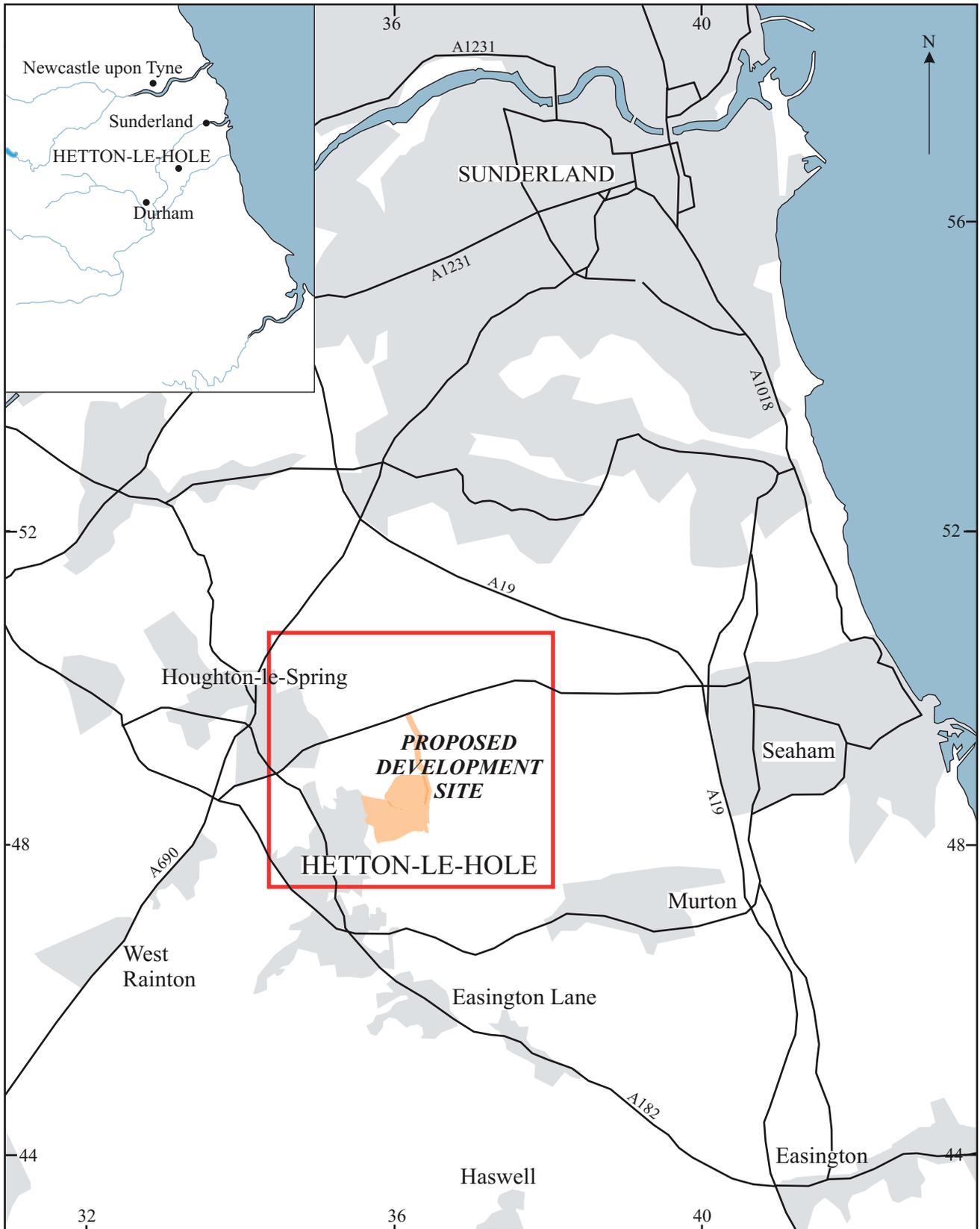
1.2 Planning Background

Planning Policy Guideline 16: archaeology and planning (1990), enables planning authorities to request assessments of archaeological potential in order to ascertain the nature and extent of any remains likely to be impacted by development, and inform upon appropriate mitigation measures. Implementation of the guideline has been requested by the planning authorities in the present case due to the known presence locally of archaeological sites dating to various periods from the early prehistoric onwards.

1.3 Methodology of Assessment

The assessment will:

- Define the principal sources of information available for archaeological assessment (Section 3).
- Present a catalogue (Section 4) and chronological synthesis (Section 5) of archaeological data derived from various sources. Accompanying base maps will locate established structures and features within, or in close proximity to, the assessment area.
- Provide an assessment of archaeological potential with respect to the development area.
- Provide conclusions with respect to the known and potential archaeological significance of the assessment area (Section 7).
- Recommend further work to define more clearly the nature of the archaeological record and facilitate management or mitigation of this resource (Section 8).



Illus. 01: The location of Eppleton Quarry, Hetton-Le-Hole, Sunderland.

2. ASSESSMENT CONTEXT

2.1 Location and Extent of the Assessment Area (*Illus. 1-2*).

The assessment focuses on an area of land (centred on Grid Reference NZ 363 488).

The site of the proposed scheme is located 1km to the east of Hetton-le-Hole in the administrative district of the city of Sunderland. The site, currently under arable cultivation, is bordered to the south by the current quarry boundary (the site of the former Eppleton Colliery) and to the east by a track way which runs northwards from the quarry, which is itself bounded to the south by Down Pit Lane and to the west by Hetton Downs Housing Estate.

2.2 Geology & Topography

The study area consists of drift deposits of glacial sand and gravel along with boulder clay overlying the Lower Magnesian Limestone Plateau with marl slate at its base and coal seams beneath.

2.3 Previous Archaeological Assessment and Investigation

An archaeological assessment was carried out in 1999 which focussed on the site of the colliery immediately to the south of the current area:

Eppleton Reclamation Scheme, Archaeological Assessment (The Archaeological Practice, February 1999).

Since then, a number of other cultural heritage investigations have been carried out in the wider vicinity, as summarised below:

Cowpen Bewley to Warden Law Proposed Gas Pipeline, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Groundwork Archaeology Ltd., 2002).

This assessment did not identify any sites of importance additional to those identified in the 1999 assessment (AP 1999)

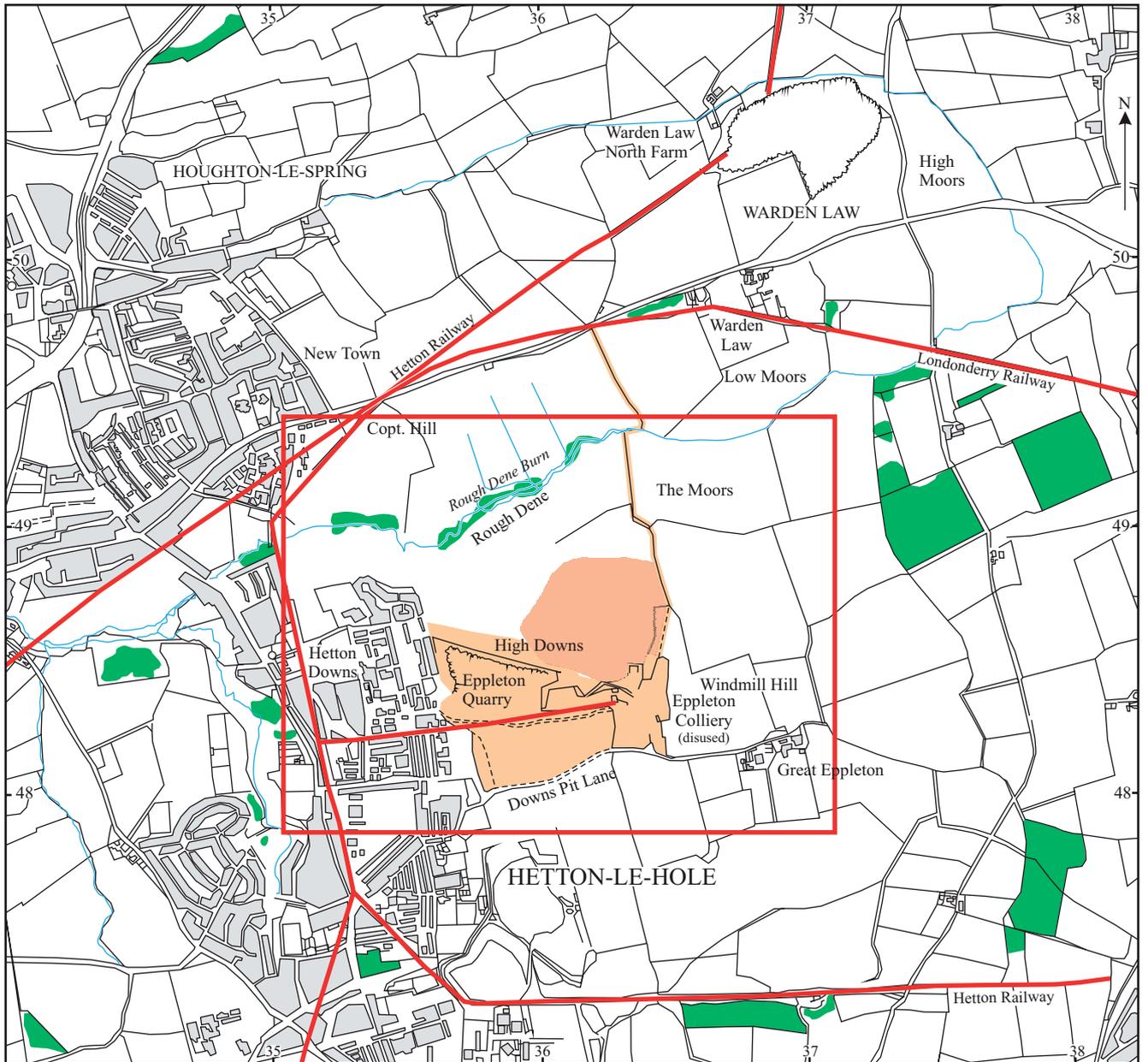
Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey: Cowpen Bewley to Warden Law Gas Pipeline (Pre-Construct Geophysics, January 2003).

This study did not locate any sites of cultural heritage importance within the proposed development area, but did suggest a number of sites in the wider vicinity which were subsequently investigated in the field (see below).

Cowpen Bewley to Warden Law Proposed Gas Pipeline: Archaeological Fieldwalking and Field reconnaissance Survey (Groundwork Archaeology Ltd., 2003).

Fieldwork based on the results of archaeological assessment and geophysical survey (GA 2002 & PCG 2003 – see above) did not locate any sites of national or regional importance in the vicinity of the assessment area, but resulted in the identification of a number of cultural heritage features of minor local importance in the immediate vicinity. The sites in question, none of which are within the area of proposed development, are as follows:

- A possible building platform along the southern edge of a field north-west of Great Eppleton Farm, adjacent to the farm access road.
- Possible plough furrows in the same field.



Illus.02: The position of the assessment area north of Eppleton Quarry, Sunderland.

- A lynchet, or field boundary earthwork between fields immediately north-east of the current assessment site. This feature is not likely to be of great antiquity, probably dating from the enclosure of the area in the 19th century.
- A probable hollow-way running N-S through the west side of The Moors, a field immediately north-east of the assessment area.

Cowpen Bewley to Warden Law Proposed Gas Pipeline, County Durham: Evaluation and Topographic Survey Report (Northern Archaeological Associates, January 2005).

A total of five archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated north-west of Great Eppleton Farm in response to discoveries made during archaeological field reconnaissance in 2003 (GA 2003 – see above). The trenching resulted in the archaeological recording of features including a possible cobbled surface and a shallow ditch containing medieval pottery within its fill. It was suggested that this feature could relate to the village of Eppleton which is known from documentary evidence to have been in existence by 1273. The ditch feature was not accorded high significance. No other features were recorded in the vicinity, and none within the boundaries of the assessment site itself.

Repowering of the Great Eppleton Wind Farm: Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (Atkins, July 2006).

This assessment report focuses on an area bordering the east side of the current assessment site, covering an area of similar extent to that of the 1999 assessment (AP 1999). This (2006) report records no additional sites of cultural heritage importance other than area of rig & furrow, which are noted on historic aerial photographs north-west, south and south-east of the current assessment area, suggesting that such cultivation features may once have been more extensive, a finding in keeping with the status of the area as the centre of the medieval township of Eppleton. No sites of cultural heritage significance are noted within the boundaries of the present assessment site.¹

2.4 Nature of Proposed Developments

Eppleton Quarry Products Limited currently operates the Eppleton Reclamation Scheme, which involves the reclamation of the original Eppleton Quarry and Eppleton Quarry sites. Activities carried out at the site as part of this operation include the reclamation of derelict land; extraction of magnesian limestone and basal Permian sand from the derelict area; washing and utilisation of the colliery spoil heaps and the backfilling of the quarry with inert fill. It is proposed to extend this operation northwards in order to extract limestone and sand in an environmentally acceptable manner, accessing the site by the existing dedicated road from Salter's Lane.

¹ The location map accompanying the catalogue of sites drawn up for this assessment erroneously sites a cropmark on Copt Hill just north of the current assessment site, while a findspot of flints found at Eppleton is placed just north-west of the site.

3. SOURCES FOR ASSESSMENT

3.1 Archival Material and Secondary Sources

The report collates evidence from a wide range of published, documentary and cartographic sources consulted in the following archival repositories:

- *Tyne and Wear Historic Environment Record (HER)*
- *The Archaeological Practice archive (AP)*
- *Tyne and Wear Archives (T&W)*
- *Durham Record Office (DRO)*
- *Newcastle Library (NL)*
- *Sunderland Council , Planning and Environmental Department (SC)*

3.2 Types of Information

Included amongst the various kinds of information used from each of the above sources to assess the significance of the assessment area are the following:

3.2.1 HER and Listed Buildings Records

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

The scheduling of a site by the Secretary of State denotes it is of at least national significance and provides statutory protection over a defined area. There are no scheduled ancient monuments within or in the vicinity of the current assessment area.

Listed Buildings

The listing of structures by the Secretary of State denotes historical or architectural interest but does not necessarily include all buildings of significance or local importance. There are no listed buildings in the immediate vicinity of the assessment area.

Sunderland Unitary Development Plan (UDP)

The Sunderland UDP sets out policies and proposals for the development of the city. The reclamation area is classified under a number of policy headings, of which the following are of relevance:

Area of potential archaeological importance (UH16):

This includes the area where the buildings associated with Eppleton Colliery once stood.

Area of Special Landscape Value (CN12):

This covers all of the agricultural land included within the reclamation scheme.

Sites Appearing on the Tyne and Wear Historic Environment Record (HER)

The Tyne and Wear HER has been accessed for entries within and in close proximity to the assessment area that may be impacted by proposed developments. Consideration of sites outside the defined area enables better evaluation of its archaeological and historical context, highlighting the nature of potential remains within the assessment area. There are no entries within the current assessment area but 33 have been identified in the wider vicinity.

3.2.2 Primary documentary sources

No primary documents of significance to the present assessment were used in compiling the present report.

3.2.3 Secondary and Published Information

Published works which shed general contextual light upon the assessment area or upon particular aspects of its archaeology or history were consulted, and cited where relevant in the synthesis included in the full assessment report.

3.2.4 Map Evidence (see *Illus. 3-9*)

The study of early maps provides invaluable evidence for the historical development of the area. A list of historic maps used in compiling the present report is given below. Since this is identical to the list given in the 1999 assessment report for the original Eppleton Reclamation Scheme, full descriptions of the maps are not repeated here, although a summary focussing on the current assessment site is provided after the listing.

Gibson's Plan of the Collieries on the Rivers Tyne and Wear and also Blyth, Bedlington and Hartley, 1787 (TW D/NCP/21/1)

Plan of Eppleton Colliery n.d. (DRO D/BO/G/21)

Great Eppleton Township Tithe Plan, 1838 (DRO EP/HH 29/1-2)

Hetton-le-Hole Tithe Plan, 1839 (DRO EP/HH 30/1-2)

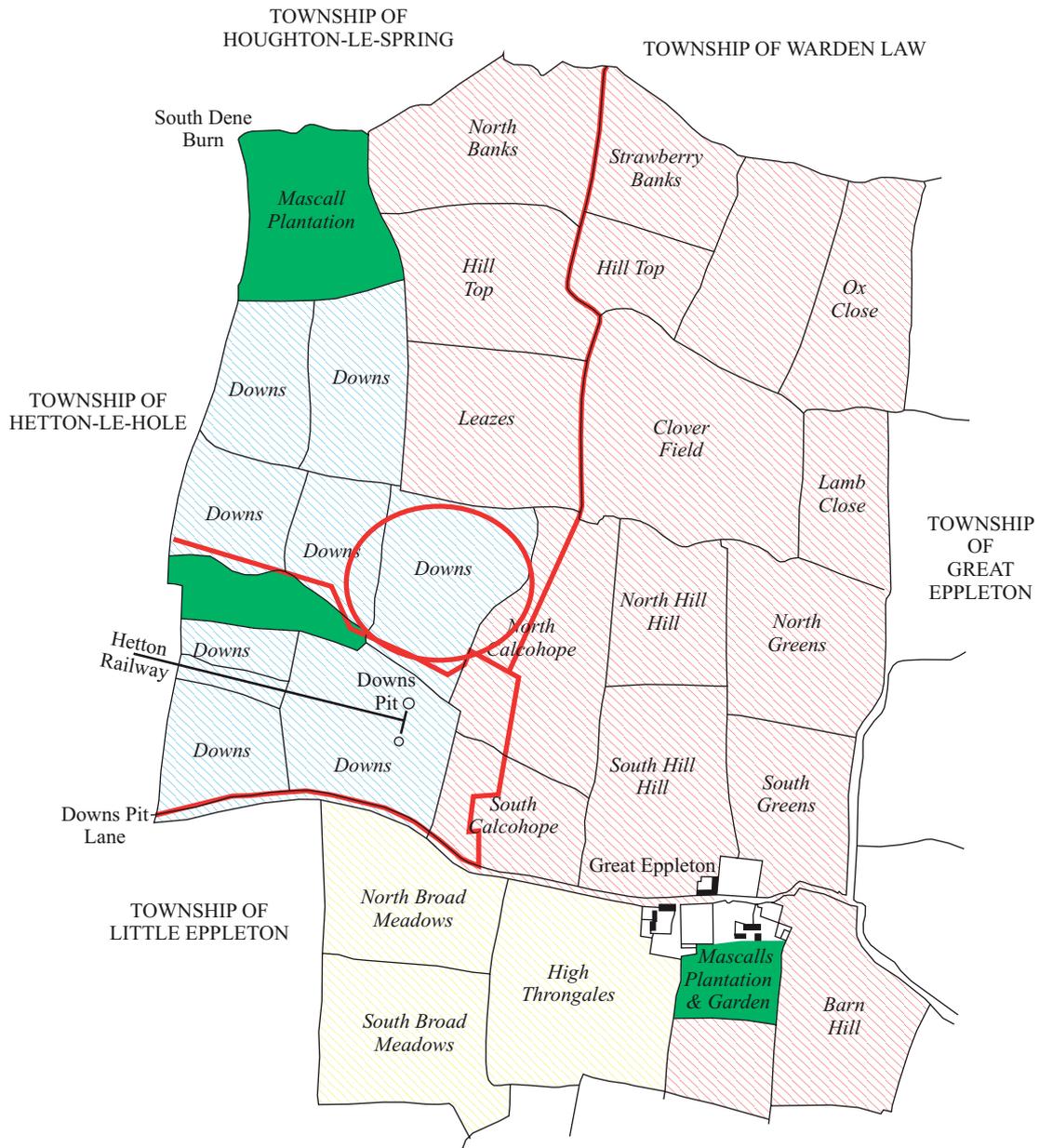
Houghton-le-Spring Township Tithe Plan, 1842 (DRO D/X 755/6/1-2)

First Edition Ordnance Survey Plan, 1:2500, c.1860 (DRO XXXI.1, XX.4, XXI.5)

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Plan, 1:2500, 1897 (DRO XXXI.1, XX.4, XXI.5)

Third Edition Ordnance Survey Plan, 1:2500, 1920 (DRO XXXI.1, XX.4, XXI.5)

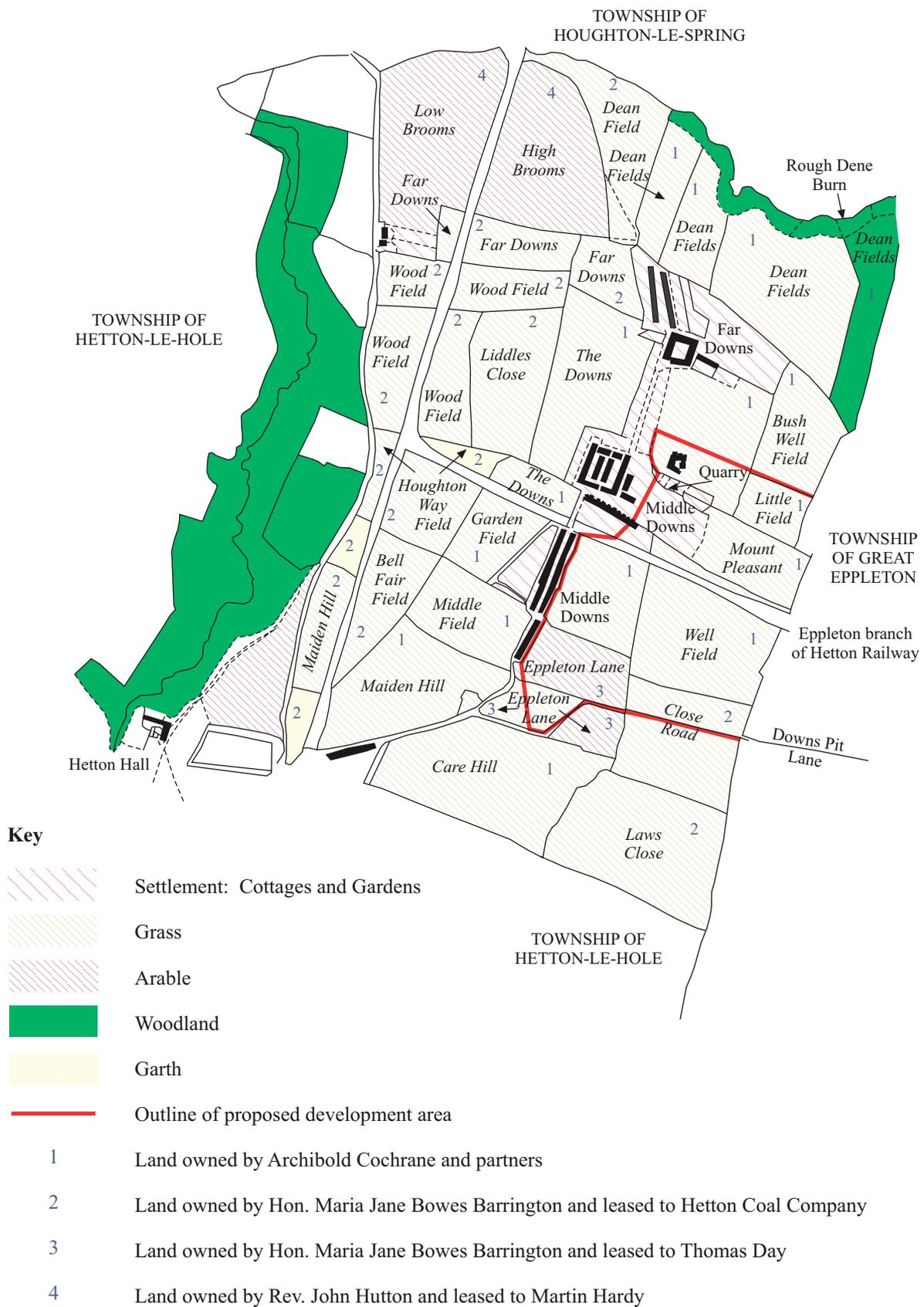
The 'High Down Estate' is shown on an undated plan of Eppleton Colliery (c.late 18th century). The Hetton Coal Company had leased the land known as 'The Downs'; hence the name given to Eppleton Quarry, labelled as 'High Downs' on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Plan, which also shows a track running north from the colliery through an area known as 'Curlew Hope'. This trackway now forms part of the line of the present access road through the site and is the eastern boundary of the proposed extension area. The proposed extension area is labelled Downs or High Downs on all available historic maps, none of which show any features other than linear field boundaries of relatively modern origin.



Key

-  Land owned by Hon. Maria Jane Bowes Barrington and leased to Hetton Coal Company
-  Land owned by Frances Mascall and leased to Joseph Johnson
-  Land owned by Frances Mascall and leased to Hanah Willis
-  Woodland
-  Outline of proposed development area, including route of access road

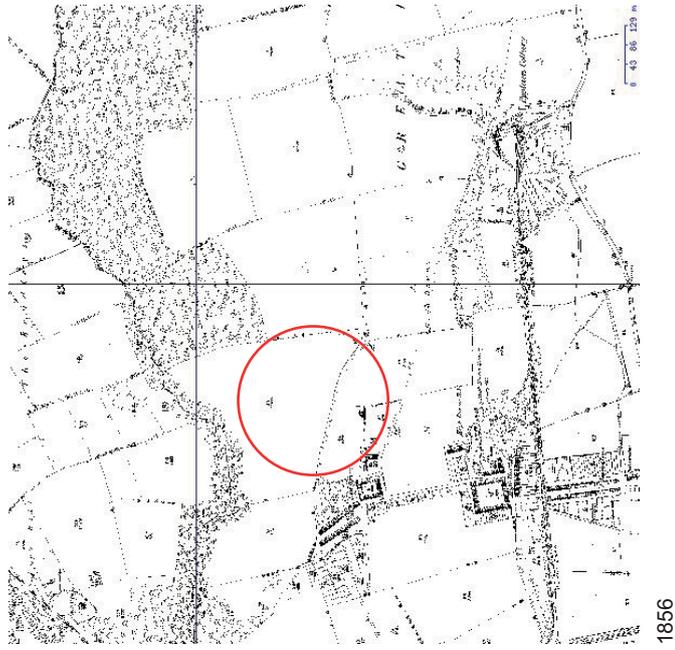
Illus. 03: Transcription from part of Great Eppleton township tithe plan, 1838, showing land ownership and tenancy. Proposed development area along with route of access road overlaid in red.



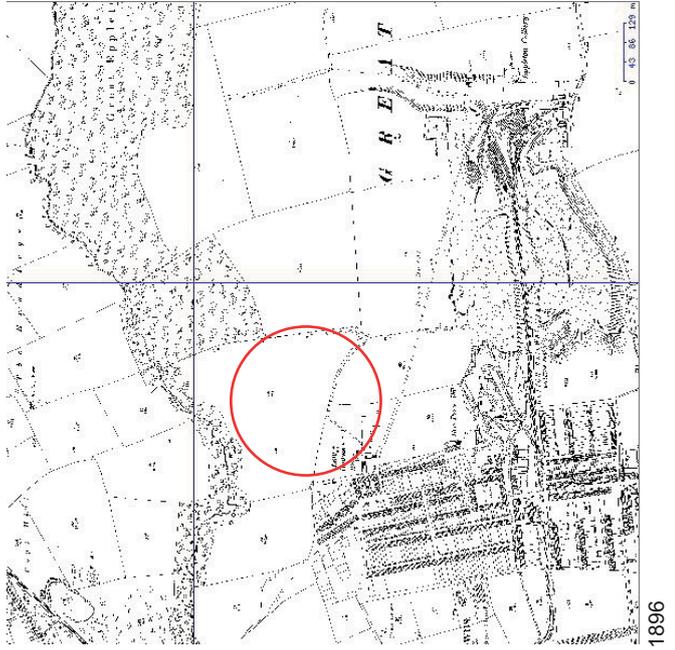
Illus. 04: Transcription from part of the Hetton-le-Hole township tithe plan, 1839, showing land use, ownership and tenancy (the present Eppleton Reclamation development is outlined in red).



Illus. 05: Extract from the First Edition Ordnance Survey showing Eppleton Colliery in c.1860.

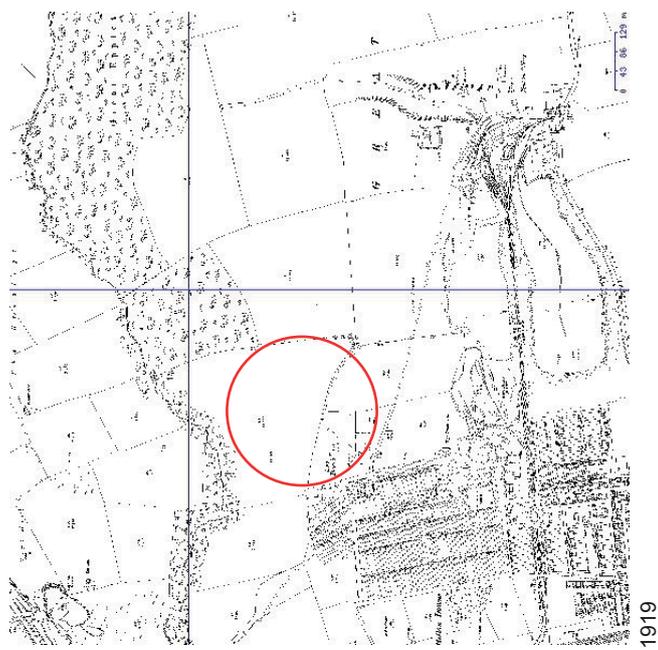


1856

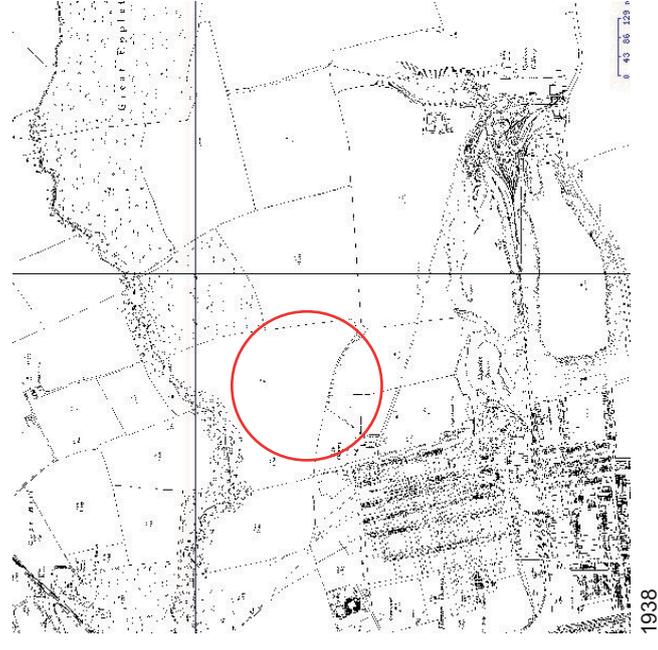


1896

Illus. 06-09: The assessment area shown on successive Ordnance Survey Plans 1856-1938



1919



1938

3.2.4 Aerial Photographs

The following aerial photographs held by Sunderland Council Planning and Environmental department were examined as part of the original (1999) assessment, but revealed no information of particular cultural heritage significance:

- 3127/56 (colour) October 1980
- 3127/57 (colour) October 1980
- 4250/130 (colour) August 1982
- 5040/42 (colour) October 1983
- 5040/43 (colour) October 1983
- 2994008-2994009 (B/W) 1981
- 170, 172, 191-193 (colour) 1992

As part of the present, revised assessment for the proposed Eppleton Reclamation Scheme Extension, the aerial photographic collection of the National Monuments Record (NMR) in Swindon was consulted, with the following results:

ENGLISH HERITAGE - NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

[Customer Enquiry Reference No. 9892]

Oblique Records

<i>NGR Index No.</i>	<i>Accession No.</i>	<i>Frame</i>	<i>Original No.</i>	<i>Copyright</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>6 Fig NGR</i>
NZ3648/13	BXV 14758	24	1992/7+8	BXV	01-Jan-92	NZ362488
NZ3648/14	BXV 14758	25	1992/7+8	BXV	01-Jan-92	NZ362488

Vertical Records

<i>Sortie No.</i>	<i>Library No.</i>	<i>Start Frame</i>	<i>End Frame</i>	<i>NGR Start</i>	<i>NGR End</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Copyright</i>
RAF/CPE/UK/1841	506	4100	4101	NZ365486	NZ359486	13-Nov-46	CRW
OS/66211	11388	89	90	NZ363480	NZ363491	16-Aug-66	CRW
OS/90067	13688	27	28	NZ365488	NZ362488	18-Apr-90	CRW

Specialist Collection Records

<i>NGR Index</i>	<i>Accession No.</i>	<i>Frame No.</i>	<i>Original No.</i>	<i>Copyright</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>6 Fig NGR</i>
NZ3648/13	BXV 14758	24	1992/7+8	BXV	01-Jan-92	NZ362488

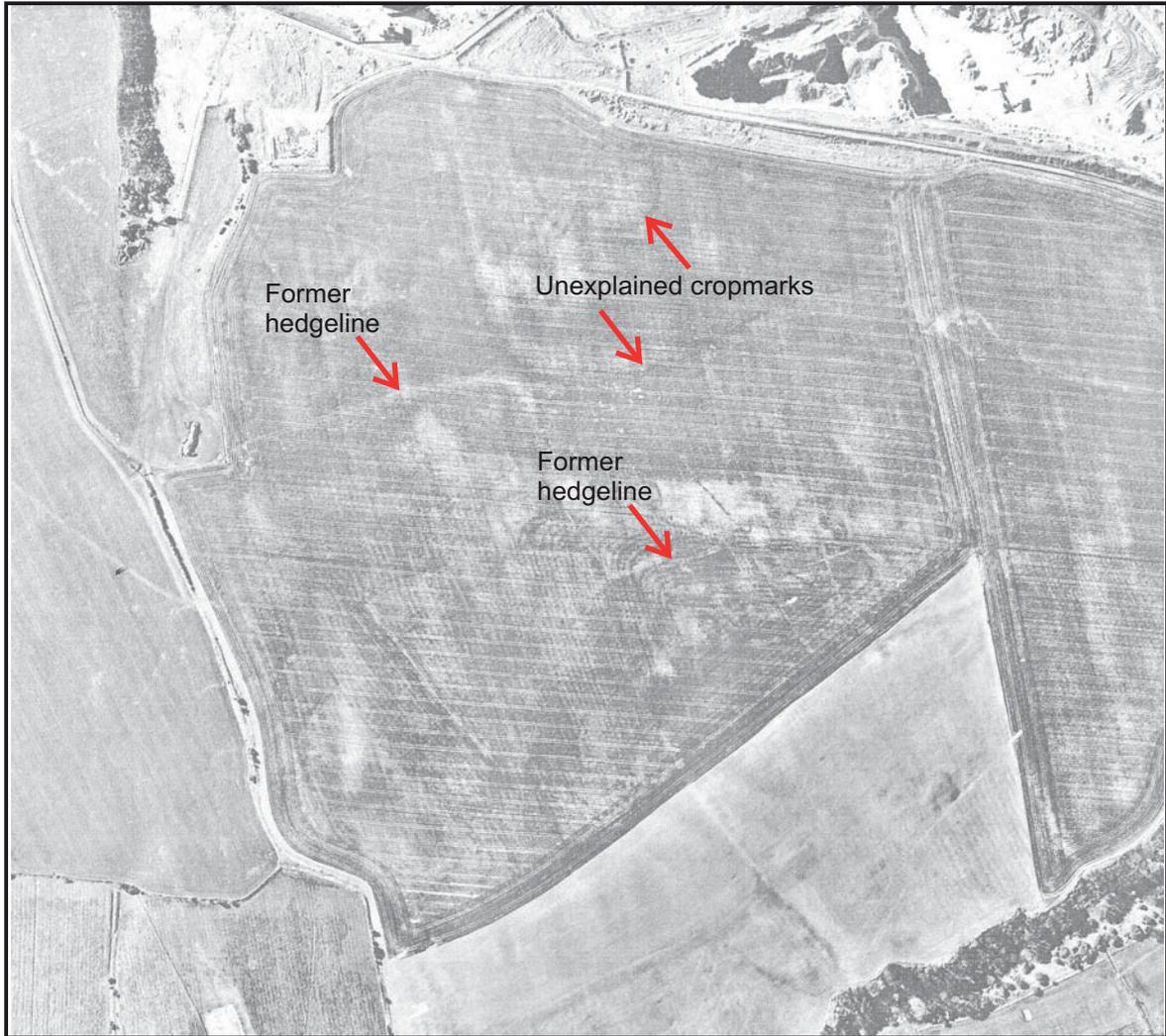
The following views are considered most representative of those examined and are reproduced here (Illus. 10-12): RAF/CPE/UK/1841/Frame 4101 (1946), OS/66211/Frame 089 (1966) and OS/90067/Frame 028 (1990). These images show no clear features of cultural heritage significance, although the earlier view (from 1946) shows some of the field boundaries which are later (in 1966 & 1990) visible only as ploughed out crop-marks. The later image also shows some cropmarks adjacent to the southern boundary of the assessment area (arrowed) which may have cultural heritage significance, although their absence from earlier views suggests otherwise.



Illus. 10: Extract from aerial photograph ref. RAF/CPE/UK/1841/Frame 4101 (1946).



Illus. 11: Extract from aerial photograph ref. OS/66211/Frame 089 (1966).



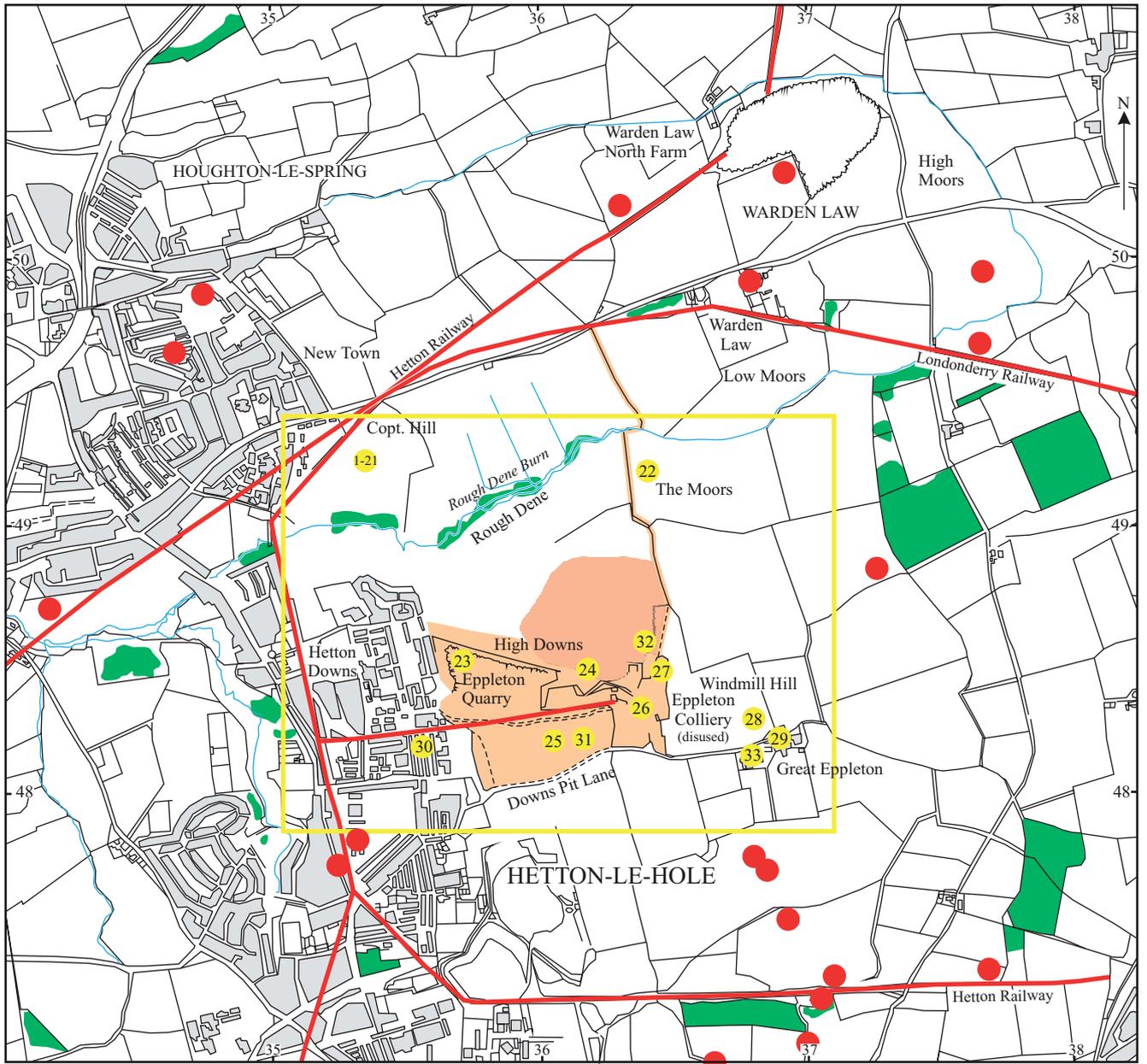
Illus. 12: Extract from aerial photograph ref. OS/90067/Frame 028 (1990).

3.2.5 Other Photographs

No additional photographs of the area were accessed during the course of the present study.

3.2.6 Site Inspection and Local Information

A visit to the proposed Eppleton Reclamation Scheme extension was made by Richard Carlton and Claire MacRae of The Archaeological Practice Ltd. on September 18th 2007. The entire area of the proposed extension was under arable cultivation and no landscape features or small finds were observed within the uninterrupted expanse of stubble. It was observed, however, that the area is of undulating nature, broadly sloping to the north-west, and affords excellent views in all directions. Views are particularly good from the east part of the site, adjacent to the wind turbines of the Great Eppleton Wind Farm, which forms the crest of a locally prominent, albeit relatively gently sloping hill, while parts of the north and west are rather more sheltered.



Key	
 Woodland	 Assessment Area
 Proposed reclamation area	 Hetton and Londonderry railway
 Other sites listed on the HER	 Sites listed on the HER

Illus.13: Location plan showing proposed reclamation area along with defined assessment area. Numbers indicate the relevant entries in the gazetteer (Section 4).

EPPLETON RECLAMATION SCHEME EXTENSION
EPPLETON
SUNDERLAND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

November 2007



Prepared for: <i>Blackett, Hart & Pratt LLP</i>	By: <i>The Archaeological Practice Ltd.</i>
--	--

<i>Project code:</i> AP06/56	<i>Stage:</i> Final	<i>Compiled by:</i> RJC	<i>Control:</i> AR	<i>Completion date:</i> 29/11/07
---------------------------------	------------------------	----------------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------------------

Registered Office: [34G Clayton Street West, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 5DZ](#)
Telephone: 0191 2730777; FAX: 0191 2731777; E-mail: archprac@tiscali.co.uk
Registered Company no. 4549772



Illus. 14:
View westwards over the site from its south-east quarter.



Illus. 15: *View westwards along the site's southern fenceline.*



Illus. 16
View northwards over the site from its south-east quarter.





Illus. 17: *View westwards over the site from its south-east quarter, with Copt hill at upper centre of view .*



Illus. 18: *View of Copt hill, site of prehistoric and early medieval ritual activity.*



4. CATALOGUE

Archaeological assessment requires consideration both of the area likely to be materially affected by developments and sites in the immediate vicinity which may be visually affected.

The course of investigation outlined above identified no sites of known cultural heritage significance within or bordering the defined assessment area, but 33 sites of known or potential importance in the vicinity of the site were identified from HER records. A further 19 sites of interest have been identified in recent cultural heritage investigations in the wider vicinity. The catalogue numbers of sites listed below are keyed to *Illus. 13*.

Site no. 01: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow; HER 100, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922; Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM No. 12)

Site no. 02 Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Neolithic Cremation, HER 114, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 03: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Neolithic Mortuary Structure; HER 115, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 04: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Cremation; HER 424, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 05: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Flint Implement; HER 425, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 06: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Inhumation; HER 426, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 07: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Short Cist; HER 427, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 08: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Inhumations; HER 428, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 09: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Flint Implement; HER 429, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 10: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Inhumation; HER 430, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 11: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Inhumation; HER 431, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 12: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Food Vessel; HER 432, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 13: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Cremation; HER 433, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 14: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Cremation; HER 434, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 15: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Urned Cremation; HER 435, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 16: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Food Vessel Urn; HER 436, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 17: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Flint Implement; HER 439, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 18: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Bronze Age Flint Implements; HER 440, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 19: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Flint and Stone Artefacts; HER 441, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 20: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Anglo-Saxon Inhumation; HER 437, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 21: Copt Hill, Seven Sisters Barrow, Anglo-Saxon Cist; HER 438, Grid Reference NZ3534 4922

Site no. 22: High Downs Bridle Road;

There are no early maps to indicate the landscape to the north of the colliery site. Current field boundaries in the area are all represented on the earliest maps available, those which accompanied tithe awards dating to the 1830s and 1840s. The majority of these boundaries are turf-covered stone banks surmounted by hedges or fencing and, although some of these certainly relate to the undocumented enclosure of the landscape, some may be earlier (a likely candidate is the boundary to the north of Rough Dene Burn which divided the medieval townships of Houghton-le-Spring and Warden Law). Hedgelines within the township of Great Eppleton also indicate a development of the farmed landscape. The present access road along the east side of the current assessment site follows a number of such boundaries lies a little to the west of a hollow-way – a track way/bridle way is first represented along the approximate line on the First Edition Ordnance Survey where it is titled 'High Downs Bridle Road'.

*Site no. 23: Eppleton Quarry; HER 2983; NZ 3585 4845
Quarry marked as old on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey*

*Site no. 24: Great Eppleton High Downs Quarry; HER 2984; NZ 362 483
Shown on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey plan with lime kiln*

Site no. 25: Spoil Heaps; Grid Reference NZ360 482

Site no. 26: Eppleton Colliery; HER 2982; Grid Reference NZ3640 4840

The sinking of Eppleton Colliery by the Hetton Coal Company began on May 25th 1825. Further details of the main developments and events at the colliery during its 161 years of operation are provided in the 1999 report (AP 1999).

Site no. 27: Curlew Hope Quarry; NZ 3655 4835

Site no. 28: Great Eppleton, Flints; HER 250, Grid Reference NZ 368 482.

A number of flakes along with a scrapper and spearhead have been located to the north-west of water tanks at Great Eppleton, but their precise findspot(s) and present location are unknown.

Site no. 29: Great Eppleton Shrunken Medieval Village; HER 259, Grid Reference NZ 369 482

The earliest documentary reference to the name appears to be to the vill of "Eplinden" 1273, on a lease of a toft in the vill. At some point in the 14th century Ralph de Epplyndon granted land

and the right to grind at the mill there to Kepier Hospital. In 1340 the manor of "Applynden" was held by the service of one third of a knight's fee. In 1391 the property passed to the Herons of Ford, and in C16 the manor was divided between Todde and Lawson. In 1618 about half the manor was sold to the Shadforths and in the 1660s Little Eppleton or Eppleton Field House occurs as part of the manor settled by Thomas Shadforth on the marriage of his son. Surtees firmly identifies Great Eppleton as the original manor and vill, and describes it as "*now reduced to 4 tenements*". By the mid 19th century the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map suggests it consisted of one farm, "*Great Eppleton*", and Eppleton Hall with a park, and today it seems to be just 2 farms. No evidence emerged in construction of new farm building in 1993. During field reconnaissance survey for a gas pipeline in 2002 a large level platform was identified 50m to the north-west of the farm. It measured 25m north to south and 70m west to east, and abutted the northern edge of Downs Pit Lane. This could be the remains of a medieval building platform, perhaps indicating that the medieval settlement was a ribbon development on either side of the road, but datable artifactual material was not found. A subsequent geophysical survey of the platform revealed two ditches 8-10m apart or a former trackway. There were no indications of medieval farmstead remains.

*Site no. 30: **Great Eppleton Coal Depot**; HER 2985, Grid Reference NZ 3564 4825*
Coal depot on the Hetton Railway Eppleton Branch

*Site no. 31: **Hetton Railway Eppleton Branch**; HER 2986, Grid Reference NZ 3613 4827*
This branch ran from Eppleton Colliery to the Hetton Railway. This was a self-acting incline built in 1825. The ropes were removed circa 1900 although the line continued in use until 1959.

*Site no. 32: **Great Eppleton Flint Scraper**; HER 5303, Grid Reference NZ 364 485*
A late Neolithic or EBA side-end scraper was found during fieldwalking along the line of a proposed gas pipeline.

*Site no. 33: **Great Eppleton Farm**; HER 5665, Grid Reference NZ 3685 4816*
Shown on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey.

5. SYNTHESIS

5.1 Early Prehistoric (*hunter/gatherers and early farmers - 8000BC to 2500BP*)

While there is no evidence for Palaeolithic or Mesolithic activity within the assessment site, this may be due to the absence of archaeological investigation in the area and the masking of any remains due to later industrial and intensive agricultural activity.

The location of a number of Neolithic and Bonze Age funerary monuments within the wider vicinity of the assessment site, notably on Copt Hill and Warden Law indicates the ritual importance of Hetton Downs throughout the early-prehistoric period. This significance might be explained topographically; Warden Law marks the highest point in the modern City of Sunderland and Copt Hill is a very prominent feature in the landscape.

Whilst there is no direct evidence of prehistoric settlement in the area, a Late Neolithic or EBA side-end scraper was found during fieldwalking at Great Eppleton farm (HER ref. 5303); another worked flint is also recorded nearby (HER ref. 5302) and several flakes and a scraper or spearhead are recorded from north-west of the water tanks at Great Eppleton (HER ref. 250). A fieldwalking exercise at Bracken Hill (HER ref. 5300) also recorded 6 further worked flints of probable prehistoric origin. This evidence from the vicinity of Great Eppleton cumulatively suggests the possibility of prehistoric settlement within the assessment area.

5.2 Later Prehistoric and Romano-British Period (*2500BP to 400AD*)

There is no evidence of later prehistoric or Roman presence in the assessment area. However, this may well represent a bias of the archaeological record (there has been little archaeological fieldwork in the area and significant parts of it have been masked by industrial activity) rather than a true indication of activity over these times.

In the close vicinity of the assessment area, a possible rectilinear enclosure (HER ref. 5300) is recorded at Bracken Hill, linked to Great Eppleton by a track, presumably of later origin. A fieldwalking exercise there recorded worked flints of probable prehistoric origin, but archaeological trenching was inconclusive.

5.3 The Medieval Period

Early Medieval Period (400-1100)

Evidence for this period indicates the possible continued ritual use of the landscape within the assessment area. An inhumation with associated cist was located within the Copt Hill Barrow mentioned above. The orientation and position of the skeleton led the excavators to assign an Anglo-Saxon date to it (Trechmann 1914:125).

Medieval Period (1100-1600)

Agricultural Landscape

While the present assessment site falls within the township of Hetton-Le-Hole, the wider assessment area comprises a number of different townships: Warden Law in the north-east, Great Eppleton in the south-east, Houghton-le-Spring in the north-west, Hetton-le-Hole in the west and Little Eppleton in the south-west. The villages of Great Eppleton, Warden Law and Houghton-le-Spring are all of medieval date, but only Houghton-le-Spring continued to expand

beyond the medieval period and into the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Both Great Eppleton and Warden Law villages have shrunk since the medieval period and are now represented by single farms. Visible remains include a possible moat to the east of Eppleton Old Hall, which appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map as a sub-rectangular, three sided feature, but by the 2nd edition had been partly backfilled. Medieval pottery has been collected from various find-spots in the vicinity of Great Eppleton Farm (e.g. HER ref. 5302 and NAA 2005).

Over the medieval period, agriculture was carried out in the open fields with tenants each holding a share of township land. The enclosure of these open fields probably occurred during the seventeenth century (the only concrete evidence for this process, however, is an award for evidence for the agricultural landscape is from the tithe apportionment plans prepared for each township over the 1830s and 1840s. All the field boundaries associated with the proposed line of the access road are represented on the various tithe maps and, while they show an enclosed landscape it is probable that some of the boundaries on the plans are of considerable antiquity.

5.4 Post Medieval and Modern Periods

Industrial Landscape

The assessment area formed a major part of Durham's coal mining landscape. One of the most important economic breakthroughs in the county was the winning of coal from beneath the Magnesian Limestone which runs throughout the assessment area. This was pioneered by the successful sinking of the Hetton Colliery during 1820-23 which led to the sinking of further collieries including that at Eppleton in 1825. To sink the shafts at Eppleton the Hetton Coal Company, under the name of Archibold Cochrane, leased the land known as 'the Downs' from two local landowners in the area, Mr. Francis Mascall of Great Eppleton and the Reverend Fox of Little Eppleton (Temple 1984:41).

Eppleton Colliery operated for 161 years, the first coal being drawn in 1833. Over the period the colliery constituted of three main shafts - Jane, Caroline and Lyndsay which operated some six coal seams- Hutton, Main Coal, Low Main, Maudline, Busty and Harvey. As part of the Hawthorn Complex operating from 1952 (united with the collieries of Elemore and Murton), it was the largest coal production unit in Europe. The expansion and history of the colliery is well documented within local histories of the area and can be seen on successive Ordnance Surveys. The layout, structures and equipment associated with it is however not so clear.

There was considerable ancillary activity with the coal mine, the most important of these being the colliery railways. Coal was transported from Eppleton to staiths on the Wear at Sunderland via the Hetton Railway which had opened in 1822 to transport coal from Hetton Colliery. In 1825 the Eppleton Branch of this railway was opened. This ran through Hetton-le-Hole. The Londonderry line was crossed by the Hetton Railway to the north-east of Copt Hill.

In addition to coal mining, three limestone quarries were located within the reclamation area. The oldest of these, Great Eppleton Limestone Quarry was disused by the time of the First Edition Ordnance Survey. The largest quarry was Eppleton Quarry, names on Ordnance Surveys as 'High Downs Quarry' which operated from at least the beginning of the nineteenth century, until fairly recently utilising the Eppleton Branch of the Hetton Railway to transport its products. A third small quarry is located on the eastern edge of the reclamation area, and is first noted on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey (Illus. 7) in the area known as 'Curlew Hope'. This quarry was disused by the time of the Third Edition Ordnance Survey in 1920 (Illus. 8). Other extractive industries in the area are attested by the presence of a Sand Pit (HER ref 2775) and brick ponds (HER ref. 2981) on historic Ordnance Survey plans.

Surface operations ceased at Eppleton Colliery in 1986. Most of the surface installations were cleared shortly after this, but the shafts were retained in conjunction with the working of the

Murton Colliery until 1988. The Limestone Quarry ceased operation in the early 1990s, and subsequently has been subject to modification as part of the Eppleton Reclamation Scheme.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL & IMPACTS

6.1 Appraisal of existing evidence

No sites of cultural heritage importance are known to exist within the bounds of the current assessment site. This despite the thorough coverage of the area by the T&W HER and a relatively high frequency of known sites of importance in the vicinity. Such recorded sites cover all periods from the neolithic, with the bronze age and medieval periods particularly well-represented.

6.2 Archaeological Potential

The potential for the discovery of large-scale settlement or industrial sites including substantial structural remains is extremely low. However, the relative abundance of prehistoric and medieval sites of importance in the wider vicinity, notably the discovery of prehistoric flint tools within or close to the assessment site itself, together with the topography of the site suggest that the potential for the survival of ephemeral features such as artefact scatters, pits, ditches and other slight earthworks may be regarded as moderately high. Indeed, a recent field investigation in the close vicinity located a ditch shown to be of medieval date (*Northern Archaeological Associates 2005*).

6.3 Survival of Archaeological Remains

There is no evidence that the site has been heavily disturbed other than by ploughing. It is likely that the use of the site for agricultural purposes will have impacted upon the survival of structures built upon the sub-soil, but ploughing and related activities are unlikely to have removed all traces of any features cut into the sub-soil and will have done no damage to individual artifacts other than to redistribute any scatters originally located upon the sub-soil or within the top-soil.

6.4 Impacts of the proposed development

The proposed development will involve the total removal of top-soil, sub-soil and a significant depth of underlying bedrock from the area of the site. Such developments will entirely remove any artifacts or features of cultural heritage importance.

6.5 Visual impacts

The only cultural heritage site of high significance which is clearly visible from the current assessment site is that of the Copt Hill or 'Seven Sisters' round barrow and associated monuments, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The setting of this site will be adversely affected by the development, but its distance from the Eppleton Quarry site is great sufficient to reduce this negative impact to an acceptable level, certainly well below the level required to preclude development. Furthermore, the negative visual impact of the development will be neutralised over time as a result of post-development landscaping.

There are no Conservation Areas within normal visual range of the assessment site and no Grade I or Grade II* Listed Buildings occur close enough to the site to be significantly adversely impacted.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Historical development

Within the wider vicinity of the assessment area there is evidence of prehistoric settlement and ritual activity dating to the neolithic and bronze ages, c. 1800-700 BC. Locally, flint finds indicate prehistoric activity in the immediate locality.

There is no evidence of late prehistoric or Roman activity within or in the immediate vicinity of the assessment area.

An Anglo-Saxon burial, reusing the Copt Hill Barrow, indicates continued ritual activity in the wider vicinity during the early medieval period.

Later Medieval and Post-Medieval activity is known from documentary sources beginning in the 13th century, although it is likely that local villages such as Eppleton were established somewhat earlier, certainly by the mid-12th century. The field system over the assessment area was first cartographically recorded on tithe award maps during the 1830s and 1840s. The present pattern of field boundaries is largely a product of enclosure, probably carried out in the seventeenth and 18th centuries, and the subsequent removal of boundaries to form larger arable holdings in the later 20th century.

Although no industrial features lie within the current assessment site, the adjacent, present extent of the Eppleton Reclamation Scheme includes a number of industrial features, notably: Eppleton Colliery and associated road- and rail-ways; and Great Eppleton, Eppleton and Curlew Hope quarries.

7.2 Known or potential archaeological remains

Despite the thorough coverage of the area by the T&W HER, the availability of good aerial photographic coverage and a relatively high frequency of known sites of importance in the vicinity, no sites of cultural heritage importance are known to exist within the bounds of the current assessment site and none have come to light during research for the present report.

There is one Scheduled Ancient Monument within clear visual range of the assessment area (Copt Hill Round Barrow; SAM No. 12).

Taking into account the wider archaeological context of the site and its topography, it is assessed that the potential for the discovery of large-scale settlement or industrial sites including substantial structural remains is extremely low, but the potential for the survival of ephemeral features such as artefact scatters, pits, and other slight earthworks may be regarded as moderately high.

7.3 The survival of potential archaeological remains

While the use of the site for arable farming will have impacted severely upon the survival of structures built upon the sub-soil, it is unlikely to have impacted severely upon traces of any features cut into the sub-soil or upon artifacts present upon the sub-soil or within the top-soil.

7.4 Visual impacts

There are no serious visual impact implications for concerning the proposed development. No Grade I or Grade II* Listed Buildings occur close enough to the assessment site to be significantly adversely impacted, and only one cultural heritage site of high significance, the Copt Hill or 'Seven Sisters' round barrow is clearly visible from it, but the negative impact sustained to the setting of that monument is assessed as well within acceptable levels, particularly in view of the planned post-development landscaping of the assessment site.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no known sites of specific cultural heritage interest to be recorded or evaluated within the assessment site, but on the basis of contextual evidence for prehistoric and medieval sites and findspots in the vicinity, it is recommended that further investigation is carried out in order to evaluate the potential for the existence of sub-surface features and artefact scatters.

Accordingly, It is recommended that trial trenching is carried out over the site, the area of trenching limited to the equivalent of 2% of the total area to be disturbed by the development works.

9. REFERENCES

Archaeological reports cited:

Eppleton Reclamation Scheme, Archaeological Assessment (The Archaeological Practice, February 1999).

Cowpen Bewley to Warden Law Proposed Gas Pipeline, Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Groundwork Archaeology Ltd., 2002).

Fluxgate Gradiometer Survey: Cowpen Bewley to Warden Law Gas Pipeline (Pre-Construct Geophysics, January 2003).

Cowpen Bewley to Warden Law Proposed Gas Pipeline: Archaeological Fieldwalking and Field reconnaissance Survey (Groundwork Archaeology Ltd., 2003).

Cowpen Bewley to Warden Law Proposed Gas Pipeline, County Durham: Evaluation and Topographic Survey Report (Northern Archaeological Associates, January 2005).

Repowering of the Great Eppleton Wind Farm: Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (Atkins, July 2006).

Published sources:

Ault, W. 1995, *City of Sunderland: Unitary Development Plan (Deposit Plan)*

Ayres, I. 1979, 'Elemore Colliery and the Hetton Coal Company', in *Industrial Archaeology Review*, Winter 1979-1980, 6-35

Greenwell, Canon. W. 1877, *British Barrows*

Kinney, I.A & Longworth, 1985, *Catalogue of the Excavated Prehistoric and Romano-British Material in the Greenwell Collection*, The British Museum

Miket, R. 1984, *The Prehistory of Tyne and Wear*

Mountford, C.E., 1971, 'The Development of Colliery Railways in County Durham,' in *The North East Industrial Archaeology Society*, **13**, 1-19

Page, W. (ed), 1905, *The Victoria History of the County of Durham*, Vol. 3

Temple, D. 1984, *The Collieries of Durham: Volume 1*

Trechmann, C. T. 1914, 'Prehistoric Burials in the County of Durham,' in *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 3 ser., **11**, 117-119

The Archaeological Practice, 1996, *Bowes Railway, Proposed Reclamation Scheme: Archaeological Assessment*. Unpub.

Young, R. 1980, 'An inventory of Barrows in County Durham,' in *Transactions of the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland*, new ser., **5**, 1-16

Young, R. 1985, 'The Copt Hill, Houghton-le-Spring, round cairn: A reassessment.' In *Archaeologia Aeliana*, 5 ser, **13**, 7-17

Young, R. 1987, 'Lithics and Subsistence in North-East England. *BAR* **161**, 199-200.