

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Tunstall
Village Green, Paddock Lane, Tunstall,
Sunderland**



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Compiled By:

Craig Huddart and Rupert Lothington PifA
Archaeological Research Services Ltd
The Eco Centre
Windmill Way
Hebburn
Tyne and Wear
NE31 1SR

Checked By:

Chris Scott MifA
Tel: 0191 477 511
Fax: 0191 477 7687
admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com



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Executive Summary

In January 2014 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by BBL Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Tunstall Village Green, Tunstall, Sunderland. The site displays scant evidence of use or occupation in prehistory or during the Roman period. The earliest reference to Tunstall is in Boldon Book, which was compiled in 1183 and Tunstall was recorded as being a relatively small settlement. A previous Desk Based Assessment (Archaeological Services, University of Durham; 2007) indicated that archaeological remains had the potential to survive within the proposed development area.

One evaluation trench was excavated in order to determine the possible character, nature, depth and degree of survival of any archaeological features present within the proposed development area. The evaluation trench was cut through three deposits, (101), (102), and (103). Deposits (101) and (102) were interpreted to be made-ground deposits formed during site clearance in preparation for building works. Both deposits had been heavily disturbed and contained modern brick and plastics suggesting a contemporary date.

No archaeological features were revealed within either made ground deposits (101), (102) or the natural clay substrate.

The evaluation trench has successfully characterised the nature of the deposits in this area. No further evaluation or recording is recommended.

1. Introduction

1.1 In January 2014 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by BBL Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Tunstall Village Green, Paddock Lane, Tunstall, Sunderland in accordance with paragraph 141 of the National Planning Policy Framework and UDP Policies B11, B13 and B14.

1.2 The evaluation comprised one 2m x 10m trench orientated NNE-SSW (Figure 2).

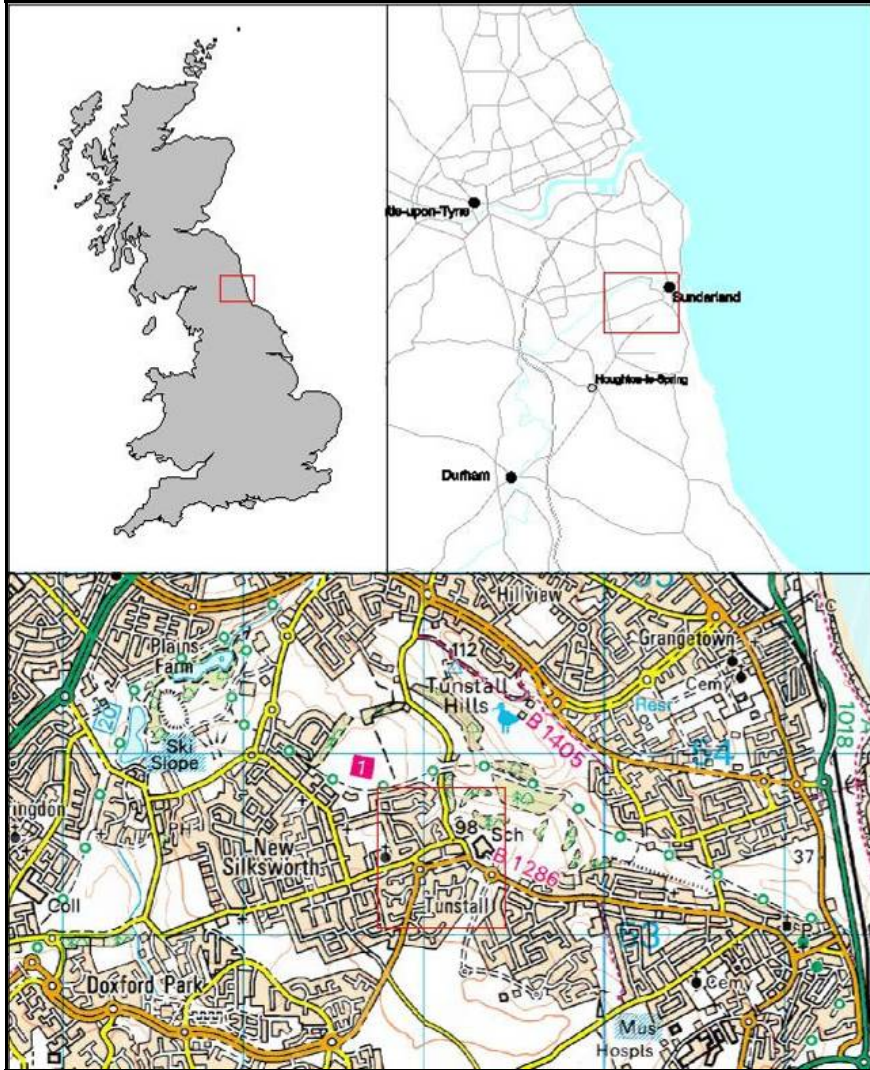


Figure 1: Site location Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420

2. Location and Geology

2.1 The proposed development site comprises the former village green at Tunstall, Sunderland and is located approximately 2.8 miles south of Sunderland city centre. The site is centred at NZ 3897 5340 (Fig.1) and is located at 1, 3 and 5 Tunstall Village Green, Tunstall. It covers an area of around 0.17ha and is bounded by Tunstall Village Road to the west, Paddock Lane to the north, The Green to the south and properties further along Paddock Lane and The Green to the east.

2.2 The solid geology of the area is Permian Magnesian Limestone, overlying Carboniferous Coal Measures. The drift geology comprises boulder clay. (BGS, 2014)

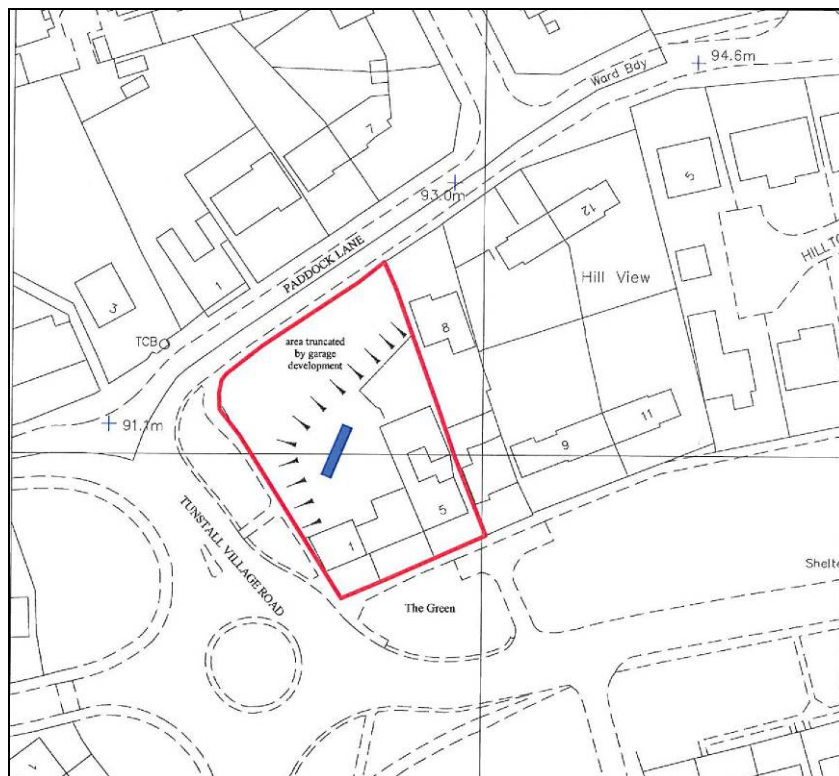


Figure 2. Location of evaluation trench

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 There is no direct evidence of prehistoric activity in the proposed development area. However, there is evidence that the surrounding area was exploited in prehistory. A number of prehistoric finds have been made around 1km to the north of the site, in the vicinity of the Tunstall Hills. These include flint tools dating to the Neolithic period or Bronze Age [HER 234 and HER 239] and possible stone cairns [HER 240]. In 1814, workmen discovered a stone cairn covering a cist [HER 154/331/332] at the base of the southern hill, which contained Bronze Age cremation urns and human bones (Surtees 1816). A possible prehistoric inhumation was discovered on the same hill, in a rock cut grave in 1887 [HER 155].

3.2 There is no evidence for Iron Age or Roman activity in the immediate area

3.3 Tunstall Village [HER 103] developed from a two row plan, with the east-west lines of house plots (tofts) being separated by a broad oval green. The present village plan may have originated in the 12th Century. The earliest reference to Tunstall (spelt Tonstall) is in *Boldon Buke*, a survey of settlements in the diocese of Durham. This was compiled in 1183 on the instruction of Hugh de Puiset (see of Durham).

3.4 Hatfield's survey of 1382 states that 12 tenants held 110 acres of the demesne lands under proportionate rents. 14 messuages (dwellings and land), a mill and two cottages are mentioned.

3.5 The enclosure of wastelands at Tunstall took place in 1671. At that time, half of the township was in the possession of Anthony Shadforth and the other half of the township was in the possession of Anthony Smith, Thomas Ayre, Edward Dale and Anthony Ayre. By 1685, Tunstall Village had 4 farms.

3.6 The earliest depiction of Tunstall is on Maire's New Map of the County Palatine of Durham, dated 1711. More detail is provided on Armstrong's Map of Sunderland, dated 1791. This depicts Tunstall as a two row village, although the village alignment is incorrect. Greenwood's map of 1820 depicts the village in the correct alignment and shows it to contain just a few buildings. The proposed development area appears to be unoccupied.

3.7 Although Tunstall remained a rural settlement at the end of the 19th Century, major industrial developments took place in the surrounding area. Ryhope Colliery [HER 6994] opened in 1857 and was located less than 1km to the east of the village. Silksworth Colliery [HER 6995] was opened in 1869 and was located around 1km to the northwest of Tunstall. The two collieries were connected by the Silksworth Colliery Railway, which ran 0.5km to the north of the village in an east-west direction.

3.8 A number of limestone quarries were located in the vicinity of the Tunstall Hills [HER 2938, 2939, 2940, 2949, 2950 and 5424] and a sand pit [HER 2929] was located between Tunstall and the hills.

3.9 The 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1921 indicates that no significant developments took place within the village in the early 20th Century. However, before 1946, a number of new dwellings were constructed on both sides of the Village Green and a war memorial was constructed at the centre of Tunstall Village Green.

3.10 During the early 1960's, planning consent was granted for the construction of a petrol filling station on the northern part of the proposed development area. The ground was cleared and storage tanks were excavated, although the development was never completed and the above-ground components were not built. The storage tanks are still in-situ and an earthwork bank marks the edge of the excavated area for this development. An aerial photograph taken in 1980 highlights that the area cleared for development was still visible.

4. Aims and Objectives

4.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological features and deposits within the area of proposed development.

5. Methodology

5.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised one trench measuring 10m x 2m. (Figure 2).

5.2 The trench was opened by machine using a toothless ditching bucket in level spits until the natural level was reached, at which point the trench was examined and cleaned by hand. All machine excavation was carried out under careful archaeological supervision.

5.5 The deposits were recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. Each context was recorded on pro-forma records which included the following: character and contextual relationships; detailed description (dimensions and shape; soil components, colour, texture and consistency); interpretation and phasing as well as cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers.

5.6 The trench was planned at 1:50. Trench sides were also drawn in section at a scale of 1:20. All deposits and the base of the trench were levelled and heights are expressed in metres above Ordnance Datum.

5.7 A photographic record was maintained including photographs of the trench. All images were taken in digital format, and contain a graduated photographic scale.

6. Evaluation Results

The evaluation trench was cut through three deposits, (101), (102), and (103) and measured 93.76m aOD at the NNE extent, 93.2m aOD at the SSW extent and 92.86m at the level of the natural substrate. A geological sondage was excavated at the SSW end of the trench to a recorded level of 92.36m aOD.

The uppermost deposit (101) was a dark, loosely compacted, yellowish-brown silty-clay that had a maximum depth of 0.30m and continued beyond the limits of excavation (Fig. 3). Deposit (101) contained a moderate quantity of broken brick, occasional fragments of charcoal and a single length of modern plastic piping. There were also frequent fragments of angular and sub-angular stony inclusions. The deposit had been heavily disturbed by modern plant activity. Deposit (101) sealed an orangey-brown sandy-clay (102) which had a maximum recorded depth of 0.40m (Figure 3). Deposit (102) contained frequent sub-angular and angular stony inclusions, occasional fragments of brick and two small pieces of plastic.

Deposit (102) sealed the natural substrate (103) which was excavated to a depth of 0.5m and continued below the limit of excavation. Deposit (103) was comprised of an orangey-yellow sandy clay containing occasional small sub-rounded stony inclusions (Figures. 3 & 4). No finds or features of archaeological significance were revealed within the trench.



Figure 3. WNW facing section through made ground deposits (101), (102) and natural clay deposit (103). Scale 1 x 1m.



Figure 4. View of Trench looking SSW, displaying natural clay deposit (103). Scale 1 x 2m.

7. Discussion

The evaluation revealed two deposits of made ground interpreted to have been formed during site clearance in preparation for building works. Both deposits had been heavily disturbed and the presence of modern brick and plastics suggests a contemporary date. No archaeological features were revealed within either made ground deposits (101), (102) or the natural clay substrate.

8. Recommendations

8.1 The evaluation trench has successfully characterised the nature of the deposits in this area. No further evaluation or recording is recommended.

9. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

9.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.

9.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

10. Statement of Indemnity

10.1 Statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

11. Acknowledgements

11.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with this work, in particular BBL Ltd.

12. References

British Geological Survey <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/>

<http://www.pastscape.org.uk/>

APPENDIX I: CONTEXT REGISTER

101	Yellowish-Brown silty-clay/ Upper made ground deposit.
102	Orangey Brown sandy-clay/ Lower made ground deposit
103	Orangey-Yellow sandy-clay/ Natural Substrate