

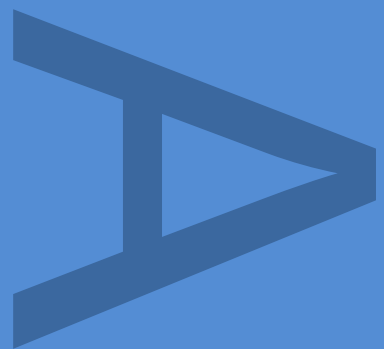


BISHOP MIDDLEHAM QUARRY WESTERN EXTENSION,  
BISHOP MIDDLEHAM, NEAR SEDGEFIELD,  
COUNTY DURHAM

DESK-BASED HERITAGE ASSESSMENT



APRIL 2012



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**BISHOP MIDDLEHAM QUARRY WESTERN EXTENSION,  
BISHOP MIDDLEHAM, NEAR SEDGFIELD, COUNTY DURHAM**

**DESK-BASED HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

<b>Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Quality Control</b>	
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<i>Site Code</i>	BMQ 12
<i>Report Number</i>	RN11001

<i>Task</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
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**Bishop Middleham Quarry Western Extension, Bishop Middleham,  
near Sedgfield, County Durham**

**Desk-Based Heritage Assessment**

***National Grid Reference: NZ 3260 3255***

***Site Code: BMQ 12***

***Commissioning Client:***

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# CONTENTS

## *List of Figures and Plates*

	<i>page</i>
<b>1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Project Background	2
2.2 Site Location and Description	2
2.3 Proposed Development Summary	3
2.4 Scope of Study	3
<b>3 AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1 Aims and Objectives	6
3.2 Methodology	6
<b>4 PLANNING AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK</b>	<b>8</b>
4.1 Introduction	8
4.2 Government Legislation and National Planning Policy	8
4.3 Regional and Local Planning Policy	9
<b>5 THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1 Introduction	11
5.2 Geological and Topographical Context	12
5.3 Designated Heritage Assets	14
5.4 Undesignated Heritage Assets	14
5.5 Historic Maps and Plans	19
5.6 Previous Archaeological Work	29
5.7 Site Visit	30
<b>6 ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE POTENTIAL</b>	<b>31</b>
6.1 Summary of Known Cultural Heritage Resource	31
6.2 Summary Statement of Archaeological Potential	31
6.3 Summary of Past Impacts	32
6.4 Summary of Potential Impacts	32

6.5	Potential LPA Investigation and Mitigation Requirements	32
7.	<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES CONSULTED</b>	34
	Appendix A	Catalogue of HER Entries
	Appendix B	Plates 1-12 (Site Photographs)

### **List of Figures and Plates**

	<i>page</i>	
Figure 1	Site Location	4
Figure 2	Site Location Detail	5
Figure 3	Site Topography	12
Figure 4	HER Locations	13
Figure 5	Armstrong's map, 1768	20
Figure 6	Cary's map, 1787	21
Figure 7	Greenwood's map, 1820	22
Figure 8	Halmote Court plan, undated	23
Figure 9	Tithe map, 1839	24
Figure 10	Ordnance Survey First Edition map, 1853	25
Figure 11	Ordnance Survey Second Edition map, 1897	26
Figure 12	Ordnance Survey Third Edition map, 1919	27
Figure 13	Ordnance Survey Fourth Edition map, 1942	28

### **List of Plates (site photographs forming Appendix B)**

	Photograph locator plan
Plate 1	Phase 1 and Phases 2 & 3 areas, looking north from the old road
Plate 2	Storage area, looking north from the field boundary
Plate 3	Phase 1 area, south part, looking south-east from the field boundary
Plate 4	Phase 1 area, north part, looking south from the field boundary
Plate 5	Proposed access route, looking north-east from the field boundary
Plate 6	Phase 1 area, south part, looking south from the field boundary
Plate 7	Phases 2 & 3 area, looking south-east from the field boundary
Plate 8	Phases 2 & 3 area, south part, looking east from the field boundary
Plate 9	Phase 1 area, north part, overview of eastern field boundary wall, looking east
Plate 10	Phase 1 area, north part, detail of eastern boundary wall, looking south-east
Plate 11	Storage area, detail of southern field boundary wall, looking north-west
Plate 12	Phases 2 & 3 area, detail of northern field boundary wall, looking north

## 1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 A desk-based heritage assessment was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited ahead of the proposed western extension of Bishop Middleham Quarry, near Sedgfield, County Durham. The work was commissioned by RP Wood Planning Consultancy on behalf of Thompsons of Prudhoe.
- 1.2 Bishop Middleham Quarry, a regionally important producer of mineral reserves, lies to the north of the village of Bishop Middleham, c. 4km north-west of Sedgfield and c. 12km south-east of Durham City. It lies within a corridor of agricultural land defined to the west by the A1(M) and to the east by the A177. The proposed western extension site, central National Grid Reference NZ 3260 3255, covers c. 13.2 hectares and comprises areas proposed for phased mineral extraction, along with an area proposed for materials storage.
- 1.3 The heritage assessment was required ahead of a planning application for the proposed quarry extension. The assessment aimed to describe the significance of heritage assets affected by the scheme and involved consultation with the County Durham Historic Environment Record, a visual inspection of the study site and examination of relevant cartographic and documentary material.
- 1.4 There are no designated heritage assets upon the study site or within its immediate vicinity. There are no known non-designated heritage assets upon the study site.
- 1.5 The Bishop Middleham area generally has potential for archaeological remains from later prehistory, as well as the Roman, medieval and post-medieval periods. The study site is considered to have: **moderate to high** potential for later prehistoric archaeological remains, based on previously recorded evidence of later prehistoric exploitation in the area; **low to moderate** potential for Roman period archaeological remains; **low** potential for Saxon archaeological remains; **high** potential for archaeological remains related to medieval and post-medieval usage of the site as agricultural land, but **low** potential for other activity, such as settlement, of medieval and post-medieval date. Map regression suggests that the study site has never been previously developed, therefore archaeological evidence from earlier eras has good potential for survival.
- 1.6 Given the potential for archaeological remains, particularly those of later prehistoric date, at the study site, and the known lack of previous development, it is recommended that the site is subject to an archaeological field evaluation in order to establish the presence or absence of any such remains and, if possible, to determine their date, character and extent.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Project Background**

- 2.1.1 Researched and prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA), this desk-based heritage assessment was commissioned by RP Wood Planning Consultancy on behalf of Thompsons of Prudhoe (the Client) ahead of the submission of a planning application in respect of the proposed western extension of Bishop Middleham Quarry, County Durham (hereafter 'the study site').
- 2.1.2 The assessment aims to quantify the known cultural heritage resource (comprising designated sites and areas, archaeological remains and historic buildings) within and adjacent to the study site, in order to establish its heritage potential, thereby allowing all relevant parties to consider the need for design, civil engineering and archaeological solutions to heritage constraints identified.
- 2.1.3 The **Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS)** reference number for the project is: preconst1-119762.

### **2.2 Site Location and Description**

- 2.2.1 The village of Bishop Middleham lies c. 12km south-east of Durham City and c. 4km north-west of Sedgfield. Bishop Middleham Quarry lies to the north of the village, extending from Stonybeck Lane, which runs along the northern margin of the village, northwards for c. 1.2km to an isolated farmstead, Highland Farm. Another farmstead, Farnless Farm, lies immediately to the east of the quarry (Figure 1).
- 2.2.2 Bishop Middleham Quarry lies in a corridor of agricultural land defined to the west by the north-south aligned A1(M) and narrowing to the north due to the SE-NW alignment of the A177, which bounds the corridor to the east. The current workings lie to the east of the study site, which with central National Grid Reference NZ 3260 3255, covers c. 13ha (Figure 2). An abandoned area of workings, to the south of Highland Farm and east of the current workings, is a nature reserve managed in partnership with English Nature; it is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a designation conferred in 1968.
- 2.2.3 The study site takes in parts of three fields. To the west is a roughly triangular field, under cultivation at the time of the assessment, the majority of which lies within the study site comprising the 'Phases 1a-1c area' (see Section 2.3), covering c. 5.5ha. Bounding this to the east is an extensive sub-rectangular field, also under cultivation at the time of the assessment, the northernmost portion of which lies within the study site comprising the 'Phases 2-3 area' (see Section 2.3), covering c. 6.4ha. Bounding the Phase 1 area at its north-western corner, and lying adjacent to the A1(M), is a small roughly triangular field of rough grassland, the southern portion of which lies within the study site comprising a proposed 'storage area' (see Section 2.3), covering c. 0.90ha.
- 2.2.4 Existing field boundaries at the study site comprise a variety of hedgerows, including some mature trees, stone walls and modern post-and-wire fencing. The location and layout of all elements of the site at the time of the project herein described are shown on Figure 2. Photographs showing the site form Appendix B.



## **2.3 Proposed Development Summary**

- 2.3.1 Bishop Middleham Quarry lies on the Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau and is a regionally important producer of agricultural lime and harder limestone reserves used for a range of crushed aggregates on construction projects throughout the North-East region. In December 2009, as part of advanced work undertaken on *The County Durham Plan*, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Durham County Council, sought new minerals and waste sites in order to provide the minerals and waste industry with sufficient time to identify proposals for new working and prepare a detailed submission on each site proposal.
- 2.3.2 As a result, amongst 20 sites proposed for mineral extraction, was the study site, the western extension to Bishop Middleham Quarry.<sup>1</sup> The site has potential reserves of more than 5 million tonnes of Magnesian Limestone of which 50% would be used for aggregate in construction projects and 50% for non aggregate purposes (agricultural lime).
- 2.3.3 Phased extraction of limestone is proposed for the study site. The main western field will see the first three phases - Phases 1a-1c - of mineral extraction. The main eastern field is proposed for subsequent phases - Phases 2-3 - of extraction. The smaller western field adjacent to the A1(M) - the storage area - is proposed for materials storage during the extraction programme.

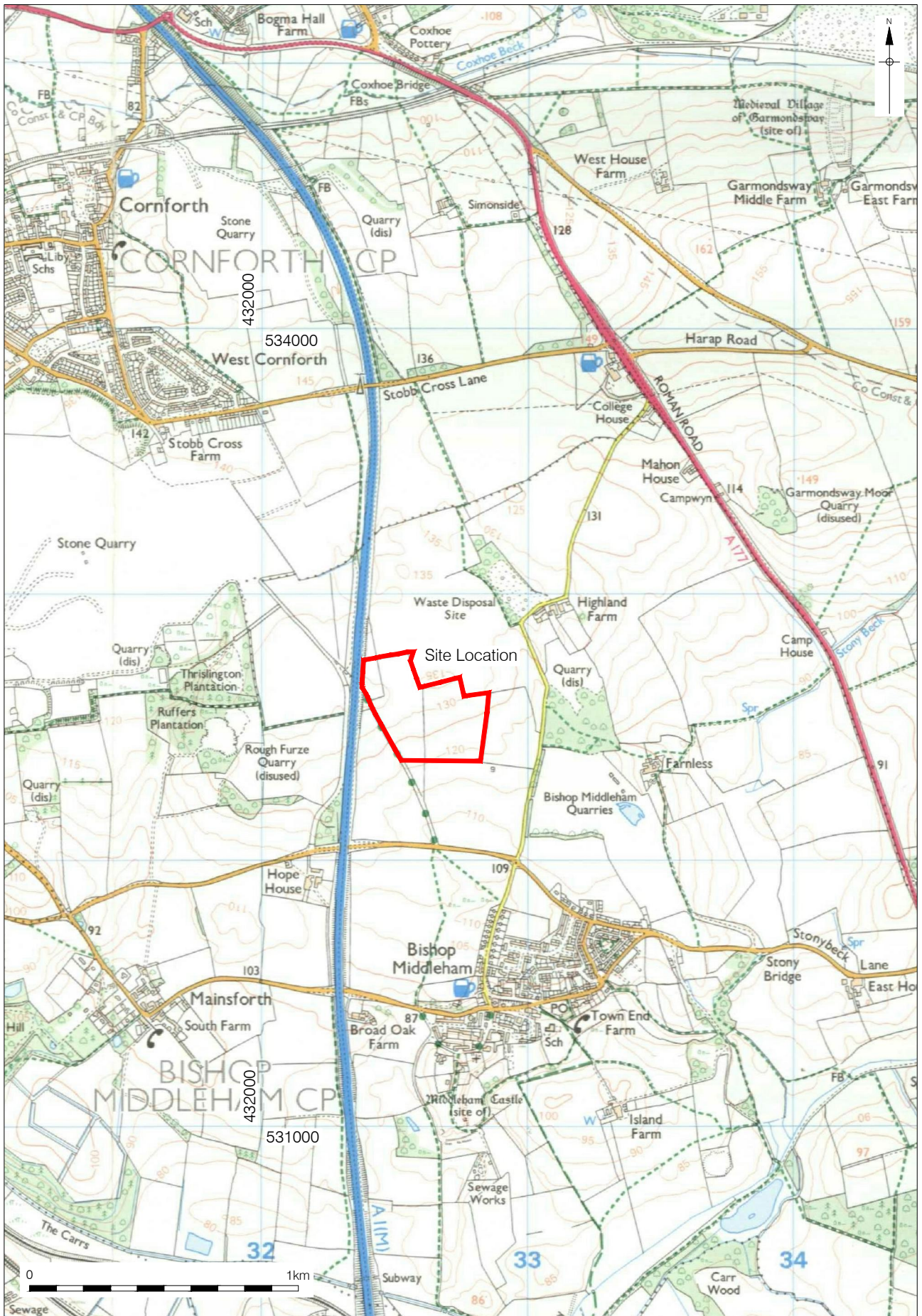
## **2.4 Scope of Study**

- 2.4.1 In accordance with the guidance provided in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF),<sup>2</sup> the assessment aims to describe the significance of heritage assets (see Section 4) affected by the scheme, using, as a starting point, data held by the LPA in the County Durham Historic Environment Record (HER), the principal source of data on the historic environment of County Durham and Darlington.
- 2.4.2 The assessment also involved a visual inspection of the study site and an examination of other relevant documentary and cartographic sources, with the collated results of this work used, firstly, to summarise the known cultural heritage resource and, secondly, to assess the potential for archaeological remains upon the study site.
- 2.4.3 The assessment therefore focuses primarily on the potential physical impacts of the proposed scheme on heritage assets. Given the rural location of the site there is no further detailed consideration of potential issues relating to any contribution to significance made by the setting of heritage assets, *i.e.* the surroundings in which those assets are experienced. Landscape and visual issues may be dealt with in a separate report, but are not considered further herein.

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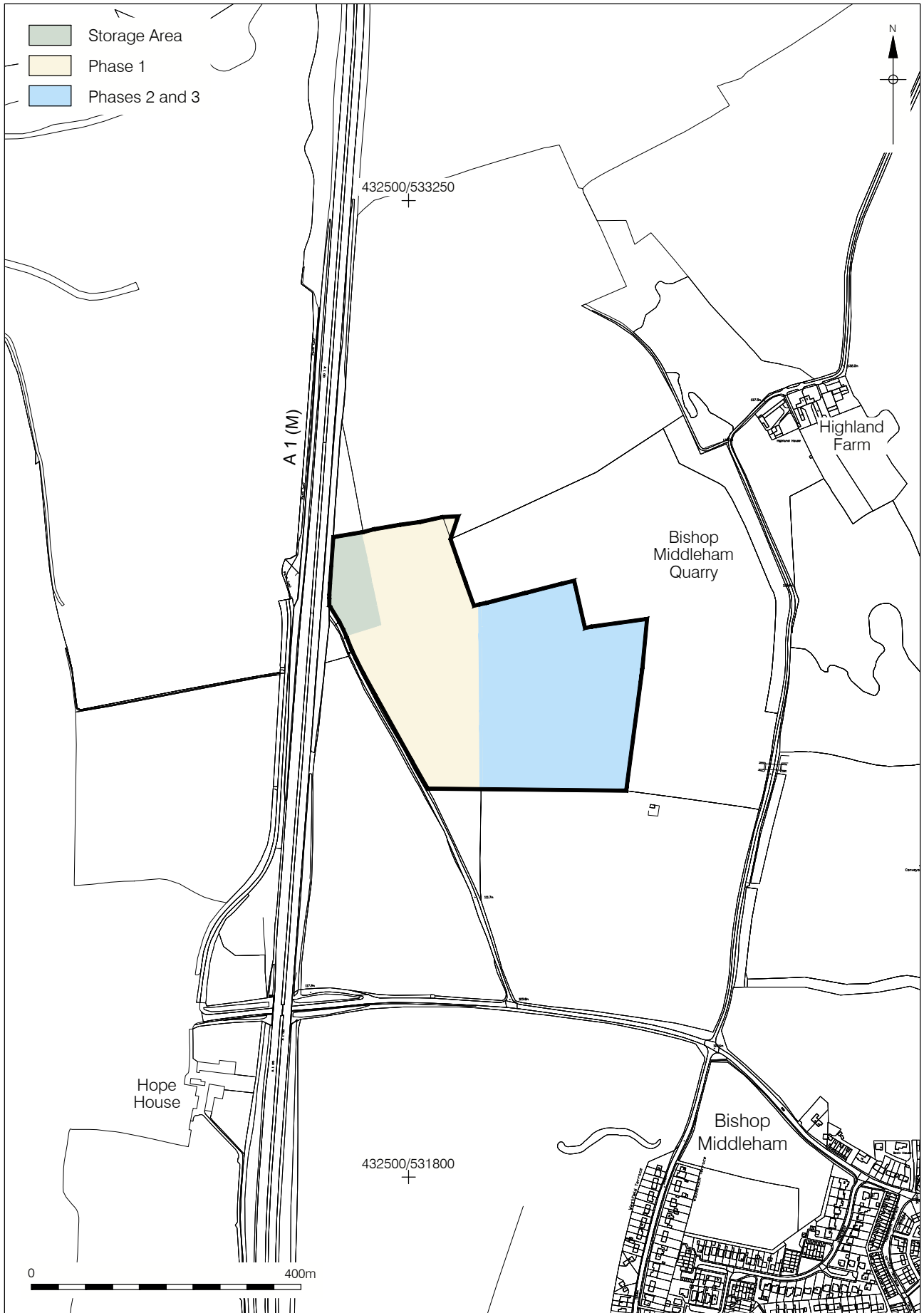
<sup>1</sup> Durham County Council produced a technical consultation report on the group of new sites in November 2010.

<sup>2</sup> The NPPF replaced *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5) on 27 March 2012.



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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
Site Location Detail  
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### **3. AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Aims and Objectives**

3.1.1 The overarching aim of the assessment was to establish the cultural heritage potential of the study site and thus to provide guidance on ways to accommodate any heritage issues identified. The work will therefore demonstrate that appropriate measures have been taken to assess the potential for impact by the proposed scheme on all components of the historic environment.

3.1.2 The specific objectives of the assessment were:

- to identify all known heritage assets (see Section 4) that may be affected by the proposed scheme;
- to assess the potential for buried archaeological remains and their likely level of preservation;
- to assess the likely extent of previous impacts on the cultural heritage resource;
- to propose appropriate mitigation strategies aimed at reducing the impacts of the proposed scheme on the historic environment.

3.1.3 As well as these specific objectives, the project was undertaken with reference to the research framework set out in *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF)*,<sup>3</sup> which highlights the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. By setting out key research priorities for all periods of the past, NERRF allows archaeological projects to be related to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment.

3.1.4 The NERRF identifies the following key research priorities within the research agenda for the Later Bronze Age and Iron Age (I) which were considered to be of particular relevance to the project:

- li. Chronology
- lii. Settlement.
- liii. Landscapes.
- liv-viii. Material culture: general; ceramics; worked stone; metalwork.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

3.2.1 The assessment was conducted with regard to standards set out by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) in *Standard and guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment*.<sup>4</sup> PCA is an IfA 'Registered Organisation'. The assessment was conducted by PCA under the management of Robin Taylor-Wilson, a member of the IfA at Member (MIfA) grade. The principal author was Robin Taylor-Wilson, assisted by Sophie Laidler. Research was undertaken by Robin Taylor-Wilson and Sophie Laidler. Illustrations were compiled by Mark Roughley.

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<sup>3</sup> Petts and Gerrard 2006.

<sup>4</sup> IfA 2008.

3.2.2 The general approach and methodology was to consider heritage assets (see Section 4) at the study site and within a radius of up to 1km from its centre (hereafter 'the wider study area') to allow for greater contextual information to be gathered. Heritage assets may be nationally or locally designated (by registration, listing or scheduling) or may appear in the national or local archaeological record or may have been identified during the assessment from specialist scrutiny of historic records or the physical landscape (during the undertaking of a site visit). Appendix A comprises a catalogue of all heritage assets – as recorded on the HER - within the wider study area.

3.2.3 In summary the assessment involved:

- identifying all relevant sources available for consultation;
- examining and transcribing all relevant material available at those sources;
- undertaking a site visit;
- synthesising and analysing the collected data;
- preparing the written report and associated figures.

3.2.4 The *main* sources consulted during the assessment were:

- The County Durham HER, as maintained by the Durham County Council Archaeology Section (DCCAS). Historic environment data is managed and organised on a computer database, combined with Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping technology. Data on all known designated and non-designated heritage assets in the form of HER entries in the wider study area data was acquired by a visit in person.
- The Durham County Record Office, County Hall, Durham. This holds local history information, historic photographs and historic mapping, including Ordnance Survey maps. Material was examined or acquired by a visit in person.
- Archives and Special Collections, Durham University Library, Palace Green, Durham. These hold historic mapping, especially pre-Ordnance Survey maps, records of the Halmote Court and other documentary material. Material was examined or acquired by a visit in person.

3.2.5 All the sources listed above were visited by appointment. Further details of all sources consulted are contained in Section 7.

## **4. PLANNING AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 Key national, regional and local planning policies and guidelines relating to the treatment of the historic environment are outlined in this section.

4.1.2 In sum, in considering the re-development proposal, the LPA will be mindful of the planning and legislative framework set by UK Government policy, as well as by current Development Plan policy and by other material considerations. The requirements of the LPA regarding the historic environment are considered as these will be critical regarding subsequent work relating to the cultural heritage resource at the site.

### **4.2 Government Legislation and National Planning Policy**

4.2.1 Legislation regarding archaeology, including Scheduled Monuments, is contained in the 1979 *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act*, amended by the *National Heritage Acts* of 1983 and 2002.

4.2.2 Legislation regarding buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest is contained in the 1990 *Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act*.

4.2.3 The aforementioned NPPF came into effect on 27 March 2012,<sup>5</sup> replacing *Planning Policy Statement 5: 'Planning for the Historic Environment'* (PPS5),<sup>6</sup> to provide up-dated guidance for LPAs, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of the historic environment.

4.2.4 Chapter 12 of the NPPF '*Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*' describes, in paragraph 126, how LPAs should '*...set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment*' and details, in paragraph 128, that '*In determining applications, LPAs should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As minimum the relevant HER should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, LPAs should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and where necessary [the results of] a field evaluation*'.

4.2.5 Chapter 13 of the NPPF '*Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals*' describes, in a paragraph 144, how LPAs should '*...ensure, in granting planning permission for mineral development, that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment*'.

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<sup>5</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government 2012.

<sup>6</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government 2010.

4.2.6 The concept of **heritage assets** had been introduced by PPS5 as '*A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. Heritage assets are the valued components of the historic environment. They include designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority during the process of decision-making or through the plan-making process (including local listing)*' and **significance** was defined in PPS5 as '*...the value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. This interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic*'.

4.2.7 Thus for the purposes of national policy, all heritage assets designated under any legislation, whether that be World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, Registered Historic Battlefields or Protected Wreck Sites, have now been merged into one category of **designated heritage assets**. English Heritage maintains 'The National Heritage List for England', a searchable database of all nationally designated heritage assets.<sup>7</sup>

4.2.8 In sum, the NPPF provides a framework which:

- protects the settings of heritage assets;
- takes into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets;
- requires applicants to provide proportionate information on heritage assets affected by their proposals and an assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the significance of those heritage assets;
- allows LPAs to require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact upon them, and to make this evidence publicly accessible.

### 4.3 Regional and Local Planning Policy

4.3.1 All Regional Spatial Strategies were revoked by the Government in July 2010.

4.3.2 At a local level, all existing policies from *The County Durham Minerals Local Plan* (2000) were 'saved' as result of the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004* until 27 September 2007. Since 28 September 2007 certain policies have become out of date, or are 'not saved'. The remaining saved policies, as set out in *The County Durham Minerals Local Plan Saved and Expired Policies* will continue to apply until replacement by new Local Development Framework policies in the emerging document *The County Durham Plan*.<sup>8</sup> Three 'saved' policies relate to archaeology:

- *Policy M31. Archaeological Field Evaluations* – Where there is reason to believe that important archaeological remains may exist within or in the vicinity of the site of a proposed mineral development, developers will be required to provide an archaeological field evaluation prior to the determination of the planning application.

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<sup>7</sup> Available online at the English Heritage website.

<sup>8</sup> Both the 2000 Minerals Local Plan and the 2007 Minerals Local Plan Saved and Expired Policies are available online at the Durham County Council website.

- *Policy M32. Archaeological Remains* – Where nationally important archaeological remains, whether scheduled or not and their settings are affected by a proposed mineral development there will be a presumption in favour of their preservation in situ. Proposals for mineral development that would have significant adverse effect on regionally important remains will only be permitted where: a) no other suitable locations are available; or b) where there is an overriding need for mineral which outweighs the requirement for physical preservation.
- *Policy M33. Recording of Archaeological Remains* – Where the preservation of archaeological remains in situ is not appropriate, planning permission will not be granted unless satisfactory provision has been made for the excavation and recording of the remains.

4.3.3 The LPA, Durham County Council, has responsibility for development control in relation to the historic environment for the Bishop Middleham area. In this instance, DCCAS, on behalf of the LPA, will advise regarding the potential implications of the proposed scheme with regard to the historic environment.



## **5. THE CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 This section has, at its core, data acquired from the County Durham HER, which includes information on designated and non-designated heritage assets, including archaeological sites and historic buildings, and archaeological events (*i.e.* archaeological fieldwork and historic building recording/survey). Each HER entry, whether that is for a site, building or event, is allocated a reference number, *e.g.* HER 1234. As previously mentioned, a 'wider study area' of radius 1km from the centre of the study site was established.
- 5.1.2 In addition to the summary discussion of heritage assets in this section, all components of the cultural heritage resource are plotted, with sequential reference numbers arranged by archaeological period, on a supporting figure (Figure 4). Full details of the HER entries can be found in Appendix A.
- 5.1.3 The assessment does not attempt to set out a comprehensive history of land use in the Bishop Middleham area. The broad intention is only to predict and extrapolate likely archaeological conditions within the study site from finds and research in the vicinity. Analysis of archaeological discoveries made in the wider area of the study site is in fact a crucial component of the process of assessment, since it is recognised that finds and sites entered onto the HER are at best a small and unrepresentative sample of the total buried heritage resource.
- 5.1.4 The following sub-section describes the geology and topography of the study site in order to set the subsequent cultural heritage data in context.

### **5.2 Geological and Topographical Context**

- 5.2.1 The study site lies in the south-western part of Natural England's 'Joint Character Area 15: The Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau'.<sup>9</sup> This low upland plateau of Upper Permian Magnesian Limestone falls eastwards to the sea and southwards to the Tees plain and is defined in the west by a prominent escarpment. Magnesian Limestone is defined as a limestone predominantly composed of calcium carbonate, with a significant percentage (usually 5-15%) of magnesium carbonate, although when the percentage of rises above 15% the mineral is usually described as 'dolomite'.
- 5.2.2 The most important dolomite resources in North-East England are found in the Raisby and Ford Formations, formerly the Lower and Middle Magnesian Limestone, respectively.<sup>10</sup> The existing workings of Bishop Middleham Quarry have extracted rock of the Ford Formation, while the Raisby Formation is worked to the west at Thrislington Quarry, where the Marl Slate Formation and Lower Permian Yellow Sands Formation are also in evidence. The study site lies at the boundary of the Ford and Raisby Formations.<sup>11</sup>

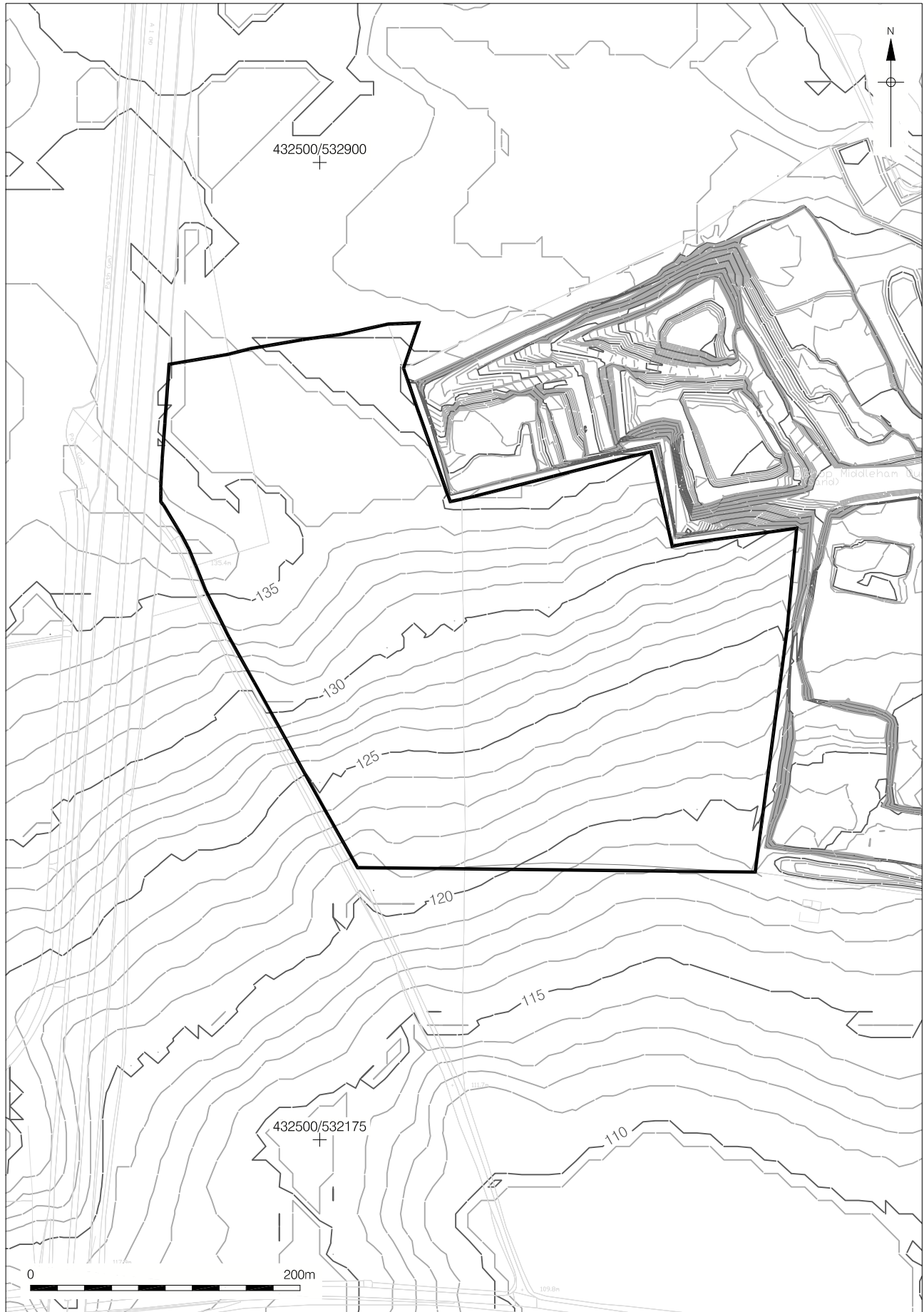
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<sup>9</sup> Natural England 2007.

<sup>10</sup> Lawrence (British Geological Survey) 2009, 3.

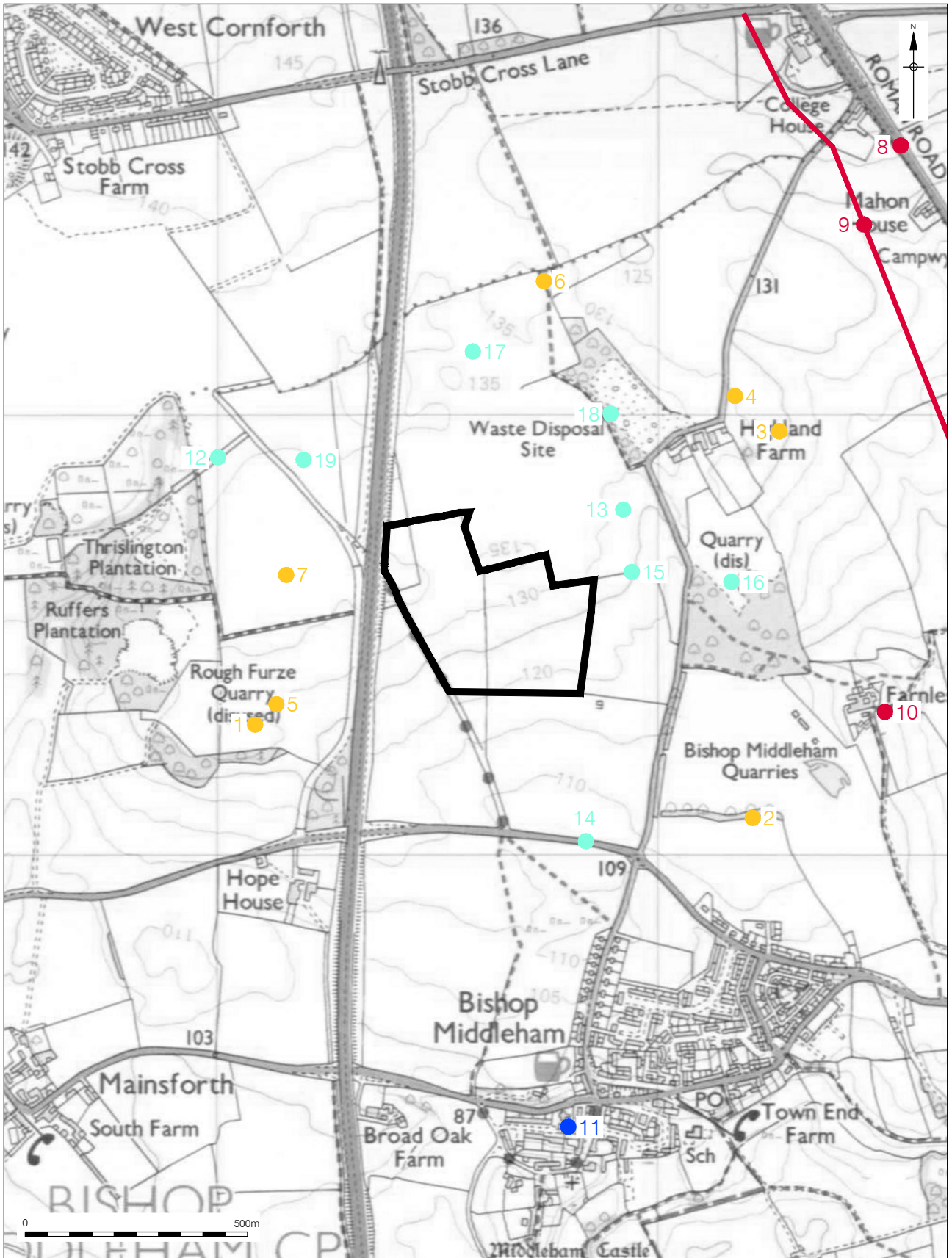
<sup>11</sup> *ibid.*, Figure 1.

Topographic data supplied by client



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Figure 3  
Site Topography  
1:4,000 at A4



- Prehistoric (1-7)
- Roman (8-10)
- Early Medieval (11)
- Post-Medieval (12-19)

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Figure 4  
 HER Locations  
 1:12,500 at A4

- 5.2.3 The Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau is characterised by a thin cover of glacial drift deposits overlying the bedrock, although in places, surface exposures are evident.<sup>12</sup> The most widespread glacial deposit on the Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau is boulder clay or 'till', with several till sequences recognised.<sup>13</sup> The 'Lower till', firm grey or brown sandy boulder clay with pebbles, cobbles and boulders throughout, and the 'Upper till', red brown stony clay, are both are likely at the study site.
- 5.2.4 From its elevated situation, at c. 135m OD, the study site overlooks the village of Bishop Middleham from the north (Figure 3). The village itself, situated at c. 100m OD, overlooks the River Skerne, a tributary of the Tees. The most elevated part of the study site, at c. 135m OD, is to the north-west, where the Phase 1 area meets the storage area. Ground level across the northernmost portion of the Phase 1 area and the storage area falls away slightly to the north. The majority of the site, *i.e.* the southernmost portion of the Phase 1 area and the entire Phases 2-3 area, occupies ground sloping away to the SSE, towards Bishop Middleham. At the southern site boundary, which does not correspond with any current physical boundary, ground level lies at c. 120m OD.

### **5.3 Designated Heritage Assets**

- 5.3.1 There are no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields upon the study site or within the wider study area.
- 5.3.2 No part of the study site lies within a Conservation Area and the nearest such designation is the Bishop Middleham Conservation Area, part of the northern boundary of which just meets the 1km radius of the wider study area. The Conservation Area takes in the historic core of the village, comprising two main areas: to the north is the area occupied by the original settlement core and village green; to the south is the area occupied by the Church of St. Michael and All Angels (commonly 'St. Michael's') and the site of Middleham Castle, the fortified medieval residence of the Bishops of Durham, which had a walled deer park to its south.<sup>14</sup> The Castle, which survives only as earthwork remains, is a Scheduled Monument, the entire area of which lies some way beyond the wider study area.
- 5.3.3 There are no Listed Building designations within the study site or indeed within the wider study area. There are five Listed Buildings within the Bishop Middleham Conservation Area, all Grade II, with the exception of St. Michael's Church, which is Grade II\*; all five lie beyond the wider study area.

### **5.4 Undesignated Heritage Assets**

- 5.4.1 The distribution of cultural heritage features, as discussed below, is plotted on the supporting figure (Figure 4).

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<sup>12</sup> Natural England 2007, 9.

<sup>13</sup> Lawrence (British Geological Survey) 2009, 9.

<sup>14</sup> Durham County Council and Archaeo-Environment Limited 2010.

*Prehistory (c. 500,000 BP - 43 AD)*

- 5.4.2 There are seven HER entries representing prehistoric archaeological eras within the wider study area, none lying within the boundary of the study site.
- 5.4.3 The higher ground to the north of Bishop Middleham has long been suspected of containing evidence of ancient land use, initially through a chance discovery in the quarry area north of the village in the 1930s and, subsequently, as a result of cropmark evidence on aerial photographs (APs), which broadly indicates widespread probable later prehistoric or Romano-British activity, including settlement.
- 5.4.4 The chance discovery referred to above was the finding in 1932 of skeletal remains representing at least ten adults and a child in a small cave in quarry workings (Figure 4; Ref. 2). Objects found in association with the remains were interpreted as being of Late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age date, including pottery, a bronze artefact, a bone point and animal bones. At the time, the area being worked for minerals was c. 0.5km to the south-east of the study site. A recent review of Iron Age burial traditions in County Durham has suggested that these burials are worthy of further review.<sup>15</sup>
- 5.4.5 Perhaps most notable amongst the cropmark evidence referred to above is a cropmark enclosure (Figure 4; Ref. 1),<sup>16</sup> recorded west of the A1(M) in the area of the dormant Rough Furze Quarry, now part of Thrislington Quarry. The cropmark, likely indicative of an enclosed settlement site of Iron Age or Romano-British date, lies c. 0.4km west of the study site and at a very similar topographic location. Like most of the surviving Iron Age sites in County Durham, it is considered that this cropmark probably represents a small farmstead with a rectilinear or sub-rectangular ditched enclosure, not designed to be defensible and containing a small number of roundhouse dwellings.<sup>17</sup>
- 5.4.6 In recent years, invasive archaeological investigations have served to confirm that at least some of the AP cropmark evidence in the wider study area does represent later prehistoric activity, with two notable sites now having been investigated to the immediate west and north of the study site.
- 5.4.7 The 'Area 4 extension' of Thrislington Quarry, adjacent to the dormant Rough Furze Quarry, was subject to a programme of archaeological work in 2003 (Figure 4; Ref. 5). An initial geophysical survey indicated widespread archaeological remains of possible late prehistoric date and a subsequent trenching evaluation, comprising nine trenches, recorded a late prehistoric enclosure with internal features and a number of other ditches, possibly former land boundaries, as well as a medieval pit. To the north of this, the 'water recharge extension area' of Thrislington Quarry saw archaeological investigation in 2007, in the form of a strip, map and record exercise (Figure 4; Ref. 7). This recorded further evidence of likely later prehistoric activity in the form of two ring ditches, one of which produced evidence for ancient metalworking through residues in a bulk sample.

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<sup>15</sup> Hewitt 2011, 52.

<sup>16</sup> The 'Thrislington Plantation' cropmark (NMR 26040) is transcribed from AP evidence in Hewitt 2011, 274.

<sup>17</sup> Hewitt 2011, 52.

- 5.4.8 Immediately north of the study site, the 'eastern extension' of Thrislington Quarry was subject to a programme of archaeological investigation in 2007 (Figure 4; Ref. 6). A total of 43 trenches were excavated following a geophysical survey, which had appeared to locate a group of possible ring gullies, along with evidence of probable medieval ploughing. The trenching was conducted in two areas, Area 1 adjacent to the A1(M) and south of Stobb Cross Lane and, to the south-east, Area 2, north of Highland Farm. Trenches in Area 1 recorded significant evidence of late prehistoric activity comprising parts of three probable ring gullies, likely representing structures, two pits, one containing a retouched flake of volcanic tuff of Neolithic or Bronze Age date, the other containing a 'rubbing' stone of probable prehistoric date, while a linear feature, possibly relating to boundary delineation, produced a flint chip.
- 5.4.9 The remaining two prehistoric HER entries in the wider study area are located at Highland Farm (Figure 4; Refs. 3 and 4), c. 0.4km to the north-east of the study site. Both are AP cropmark sites, neither the subject of archaeological investigation to date. The first is a possible rectilinear ditched enclosure indicating probable settlement activity; the second is a possible 'ploughed-out' barrow or ring ditch. The probable settlement site is referred to in a recent survey as being one of a group of important Iron Age settlements in County Durham which are coincident with bedrock and situated above 100m OD, therefore commanding strategically advantageous positions.<sup>18</sup>

*Roman (43 AD – 410 AD)*

- 5.4.10 There are three HER entries from the Roman period on or just beyond the eastern margin of the wider study area.
- 5.4.11 In the vicinity of the study site, the modern A177 road (between Stockton-on-Tees and Durham) has long been thought as following the line of Cade's Road, the Roman road from Great Stainton to Chester-le-Street (Figure 4; Ref. 8). A more recent interpretation of its route locates it to the west of the A177 (Figure 4; Ref. 9) running on the same roughly SE-NW alignment. Thus, while the site lay relatively close to an important Roman communication route, no evidence for settlement or other activity of the period has yet been recorded in the wider study area through archaeological investigation. Roadside settlement has been recorded previously along Cade's Road, most notably at East Park, Sedgfield, c. 4km to the south-east of the study site. Perhaps more significantly though, none of the aforementioned work at Thrislington Quarry (including the 'eastern extension area' immediately to the north of the study site), recorded any evidence to indicate that activity continued from the later prehistoric period into the Roman period.
- 5.4.12 Chance finds of Roman material in and around Bishop Middleham are relatively few, with just one from the wider study area, this the head, with possible crown, of a small bronze statue, probably representing a Roman god. It was found at the farmstead at Farnless on the eastern margin of the wider study area (Figure 4; Ref. 10). Other Roman artefacts recovered around Bishop Middleham all came from beyond the wider study area, with perhaps the most notable found in 1997. These comprised the remains of four copper alloy pans, tinned to give them the appearance of silver, and of differing sizes indicating that they were stacked one inside the other and possibly for religious use rather than cooking.

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<sup>18</sup> Hewitt 2011, 133-134.

*Early Medieval/Anglo-Saxon (410 – 1066 AD)*

- 5.4.13 There is just a single HER entry for the early medieval/Anglo-Saxon period just beyond the southern limit of the wider study area, this being the village of Bishop Middleham itself, which is suspected as having an Anglo-Saxon origin (Figure 4; Ref. 11). The place name Middleham possibly derives from the Old English middle and ham, meaning middle estate, farm or village.<sup>19</sup>

*Medieval (1066 - c. 1540 AD)*

- 5.4.14 There are no HER entries relating to the medieval period within the wider study area, although the village of Bishop Middleham itself, located on the southern margin of the wider study area, is known, through documentary records, to have flourished during the medieval period.
- 5.4.15 The first documentary record of the village dates to 1146 when the Church of Middleham was given to the Prior and Convent at Durham. *The Bolden Book*, a late 12th century survey of all the land owned by the Bishop of Durham, recorded that the village, which was surveyed together with neighbouring Cornforth, had 32 households.
- 5.4.16 Bishop Middleham (or simply 'Middleham') Castle, to the south of the village core, was one of the principal residences of the Bishops of Durham until the end of the 14th century and it was associated with extensive deer park occupying land on its south side. By the late 14th century, the Bishops of Durham appear to have no longer used Middleham Castle as a residence and the buildings and land were let out. The site – a Scheduled Monument - survives only as earthwork remains. St. Michael's Church – listed at Grade II\* - in the southern part of the village dates from the 13th century. As previously mentioned, the Bishop Middleham Conservation Area encompasses both the historic village core and the sites of St. Michael's Church and Middleham Castle.
- 5.4.17 The study site, occupying higher ground well beyond the limits of the medieval village, was likely utilised as agricultural land throughout the medieval period. Ridge and furrow has previously been identified by AP evidence, geophysical survey and evaluation trial trenching in the vicinity of the site (including in evaluation trenches in Area 2 of the work undertaken for the 'eastern extension' of Thrislington Quarry) and there is every reason to suggest that the south-facing sloping ground which the majority of the study site occupies was similarly exploited for cultivation throughout this era. As previously mentioned, work at the 'Area 4 extension' of Thrislington Quarry recorded a medieval pit.

*Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1939)*

- 5.4.18 There are eight HER entries for the post-medieval period within the wider study area (Figure 4, Refs. 12-19), none lying within the boundaries of the study site.

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<sup>19</sup> Watts 2002, 77.

- 5.4.19 The HER entries of this period are dominated by historic mineral workings and associated infrastructure in the area now occupied by Bishop Middleham Quarry and Thrislington Quarry. Two areas of former workings in the vicinity of the study site have HER entries. The first (Figure 4; Ref. 18) was probably one of the earliest limestone quarries in the vicinity of the study site; by the time of its abandonment in the second half of the 19th century it was known as Highland Quarry. Located immediately north of Highland House, the original element of Highland Farm, the disused Highland Quarry has in recent years been used as a waste disposal site. The second working lies to the east of the study site (Figure 4; Ref. 16) and this is now the site of Bishop Middleham Nature Reserve, which has SSSI status.
- 5.4.20 Elements of historic quarry infrastructure in the wider study area also have HER entries. To the south of the study site, the route of a waggonway (Figure 4; Ref. 14) is thought to be preserved in the line of a minor road which skirts the northern edge of Bishop Middleham village and continues eastwards as Stonybeck Lane; further afield, the waggonway would have extended westwards to Ferryhill and eastwards to Fishburn.
- 5.4.21 To the north of the study site is another 19th century waggonway route (Figure 4; Ref. 17), as depicted on 19th century mapping. This waggonway served the aforementioned Highland Quarry, curving north-westwards from the working, then south-westwards, before crossing the line of the former road between Bishop Middleham and Cornforth. Beyond the old road (now a country lane), on the approach to Thrislington Plantation, the route of the waggonway is fossilized in the line of footpath (Figure 14; Ref. 12) at the north-western limit of the wider study area. Beyond Thrislington Plantation the waggonway ran due west, before looping sharply northwards to run into the vast late 19th century industrial complex around Thrislington Colliery, West Cornforth, which was served by the Bishop Auckland and Ferryhill Branch of the North Eastern Railway and a complex network of associated minor branch lines.
- 5.4.22 The predominance of industrial features in the HER entries of this period reflects late post-medieval/industrial era exploitation of mineral resources in the locality. Despite this, however, it is likely that the majority of the population of Bishop Middleham, essentially still a rural settlement in the industrial era, supported itself for the most part by farming; it has been recently noted that in the post-medieval period the County Durham landscape was extensively cultivated, almost everywhere.<sup>20</sup>
- 5.4.23 Field boundaries of the period have been recorded in the vicinity of the study site during archaeological investigations in recent years (Figure 4; Refs. 15 and 19). In addition, evaluation trenches in Area 2 of the work undertaken for the 'eastern extension' of Thrislington Quarry recorded remains of field boundaries, a stone track and a well or other shaft, all of the post-medieval period. Such boundaries represent the formal enclosure of open and common fields and commons by private and general acts of Parliament in the period c. 1740-1850, although throughout County Durham enclosure was widespread as early as the 17th century.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Hewitt 2001, 169.

<sup>21</sup> Butlin 1973, 98.



*Modern (AD 1939 – to the present).*

- 5.4.24 The single late post-medieval/modern era HER entry within the wider study area refers to the existing workings of Bishop Middleham Quarry (Figure 4; Ref. 13).

## **5.5 Historic Maps and Plans**

- 5.5.1 Selected historic maps have been reproduced herein as Figures 5-13.

### *Pre-Ordnance Survey Mapping*

- 5.5.2 Of the numerous historic small scale maps consulted as part of the assessment, just three are reproduced herein. Armstrong's map of 1768 (Figure 5) is notable for its depiction of the local topography in the Bishop Middleham area, as well as the layout of the main settlements and roads. Cary's map of 1787 (Figure 6) also depicts the settlement and road layout, while Greenwood's map of 1820 (Figure 7) also has topographic detail and appears to depict early quarrying to the west of the study site, as well as what are presumably associated waggonways. All three maps depict the study site as undeveloped, therefore presumably agricultural land adjacent to the former road between Bishop Middleham and Thrislington/Cornforth.
- 5.5.3 An undated Halmote Court<sup>22</sup> plan of Bishop Middleham (Figure 8) may be the earliest map to show the study site in detail, although it is likely to be approximately the same date as the 1839 Tithe map (Figure 9), as the two are essentially identical, including the field numbering, although the Tithe map also depicts buildings. Both depict the study site covering four whole fields and parts of two others, east of the road between Bishop Middleham and (West) Cornforth. For the Tithe map, the accompanying schedule of rent charges payable to the tithe owners lists the owners and occupiers of each parcel of land and its usage at the time. Fields wholly within the boundaries of the study site are: '27, North Wilson's Close', covering 5 acres-2 roods-38 perches; '28, Middle Wilson's Close', covering 2 acres-3 roods-24 perches; '29, South Wilson's Close', covering 4 acres-3 roods-29 perches; '30, unnamed' covering 1 acre-0 roods-17 perches', these all owned by George Wheatley and occupied by Christopher Emmett, and; '52, unnamed', covering 15 acres-3 roods-16 perches, owned by John Fawell and occupied by George Fawdon. All the fields are described in the schedule as being arable land.
- 5.5.4 To the immediate south-east of the study site on the Tithe map is a field, '50, Barn Field', owned and occupied by John Fawell and George Fawdon, respectively, which contains a small complex of buildings at its northern end, presumably including the barn referred to in the field name. A similar complex, with a probable fold yard on its north side, is depicted to the immediate north-east of the study site in a field, '55, unnamed', owned and occupied by George Wheatley and Christopher Emmett, respectively. The farm of Farnless is depicted to the east of the study site on the Tithe map, while Highland House/Farm is not, although a building, 'Highless', is depicted to the south of the site later occupied by Highland House/Farm, in the area later quarried and now occupied by Bishop Middleham Nature Reserve. Of interest on the Tithe map is a large quarry depicted to the south of the road between Bishop Middleham and Ferryhill, evidently the only such feature in the vicinity of the study site, within the township of Bishop Middleham, at that date.

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<sup>22</sup> Maps within the records of the Halmote Court, the copyhold court of the Bishops of Durham, are generally undated.



Figure 5  
Armstrong's map, 1768  
Approx. 1:25,000 at A4



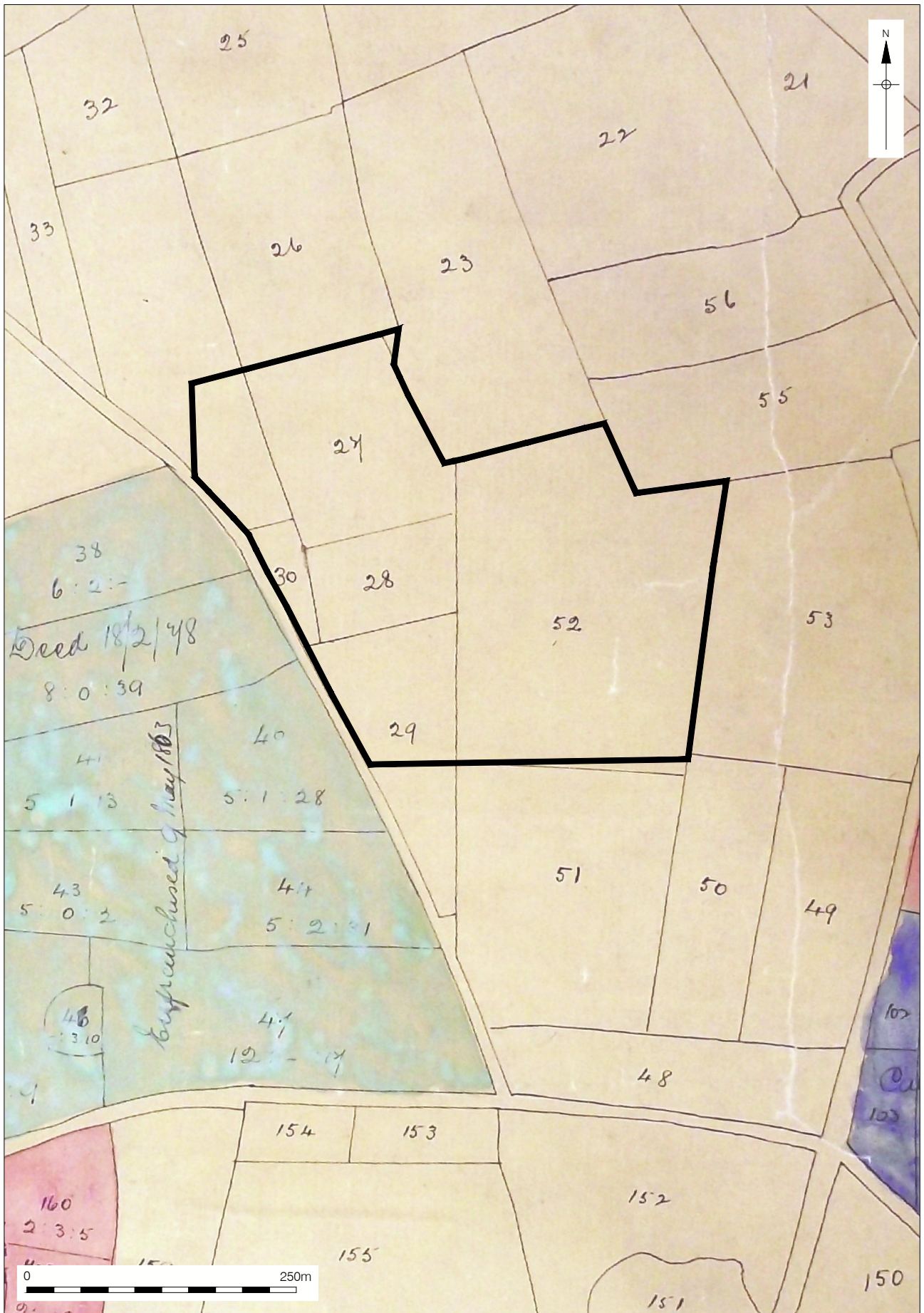
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06/03/12 MR

Figure 6  
Cary's map, 1787  
Approx. 1:25,000 at A4



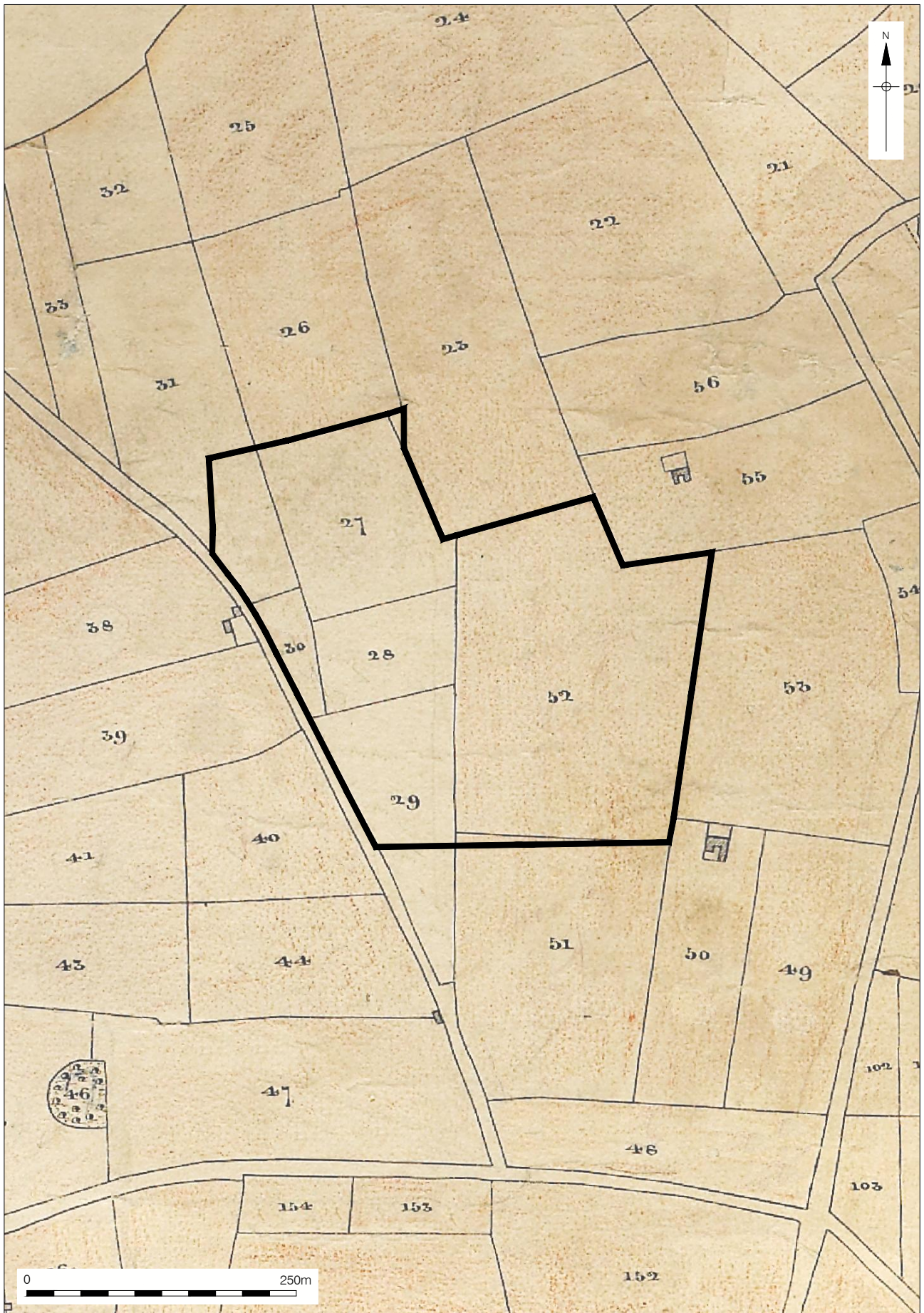
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Figure 7  
Greenwood's map, 1820  
Approx. 1:20,000 at A4



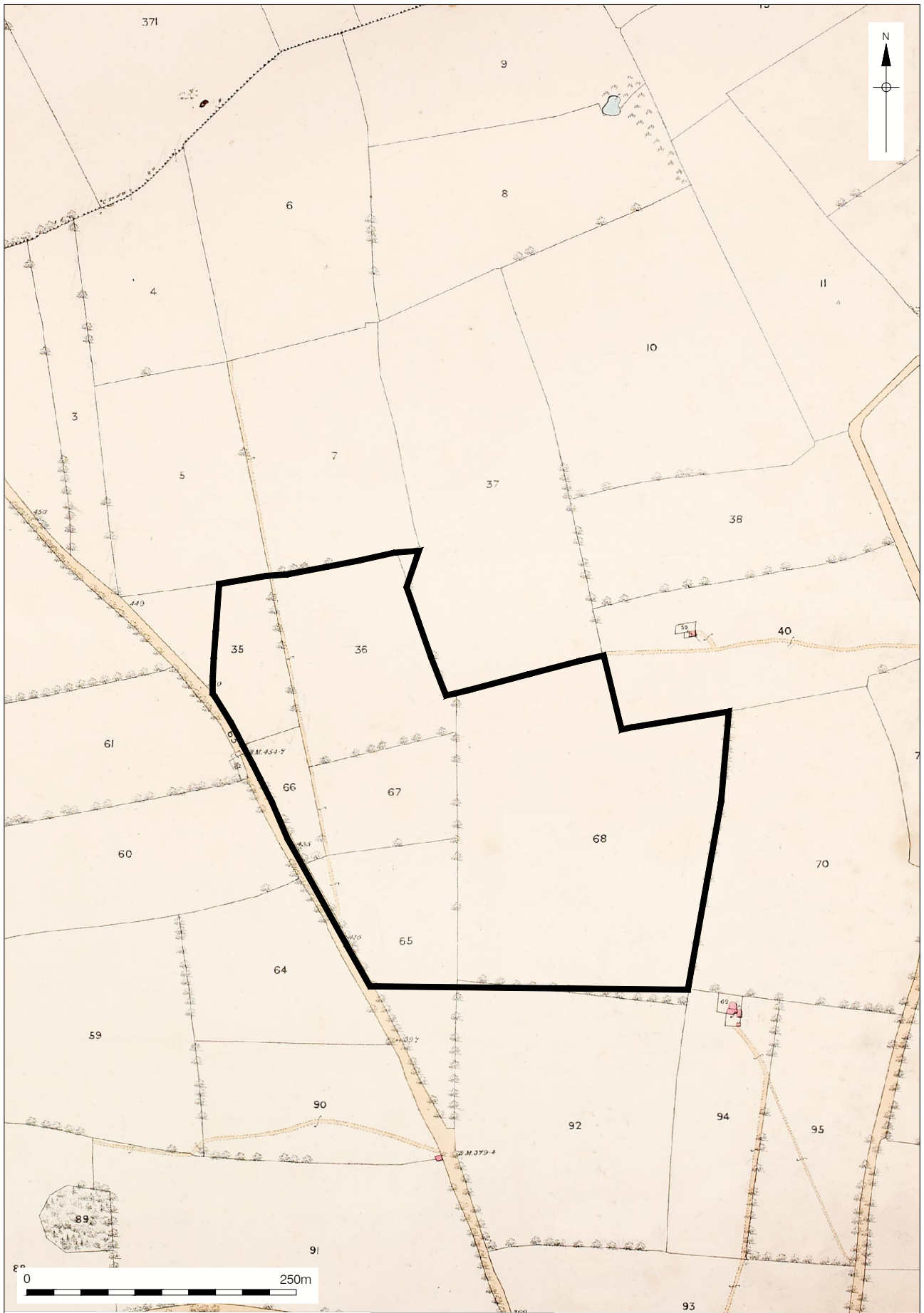
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Figure 8  
 Plan of the Township of Bishop Middleham, undated Halmote Court plan  
 Approx. 1:5,000 at A4



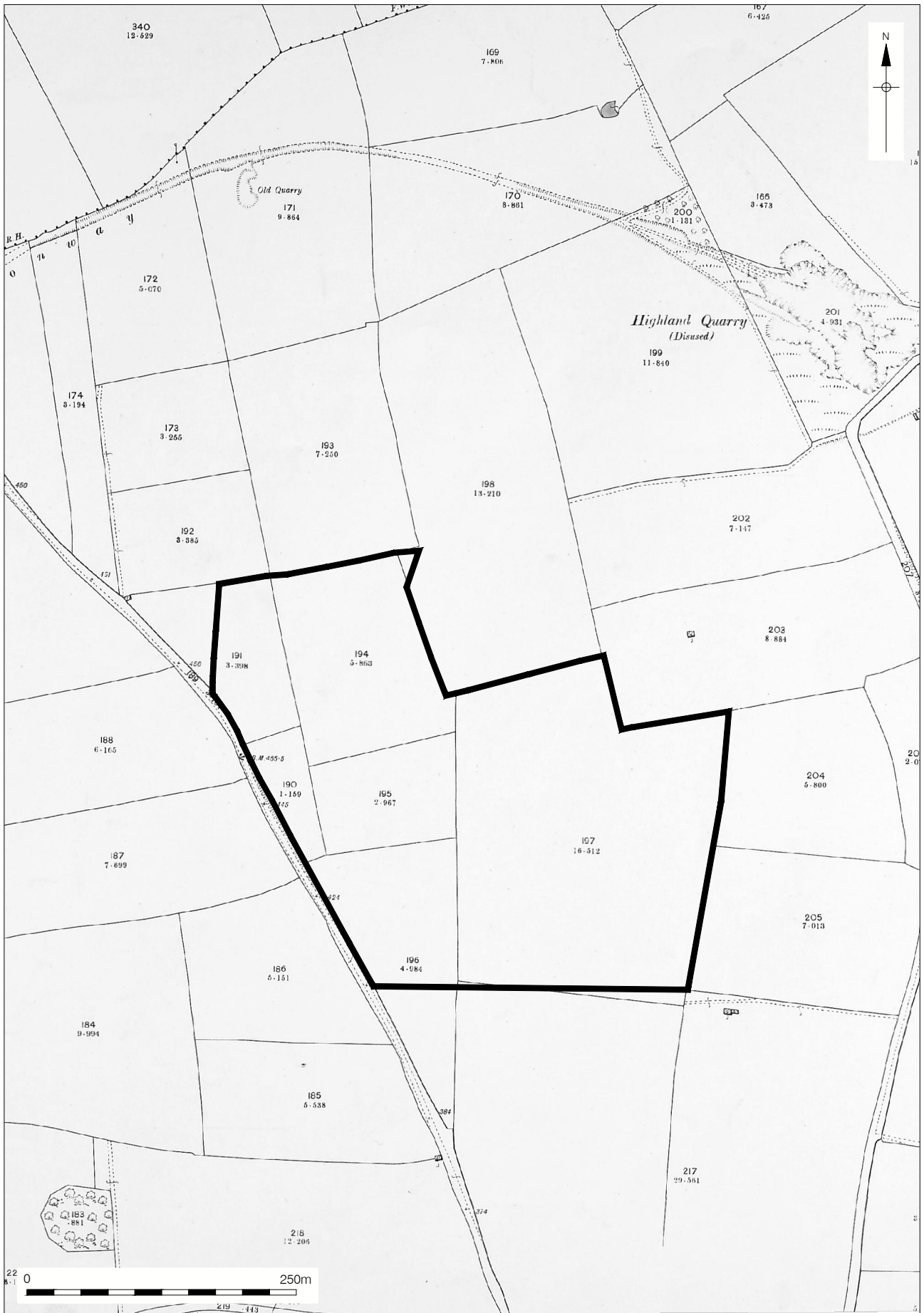
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Figure 9  
Tithe map, 1839  
1:5,000 at A4



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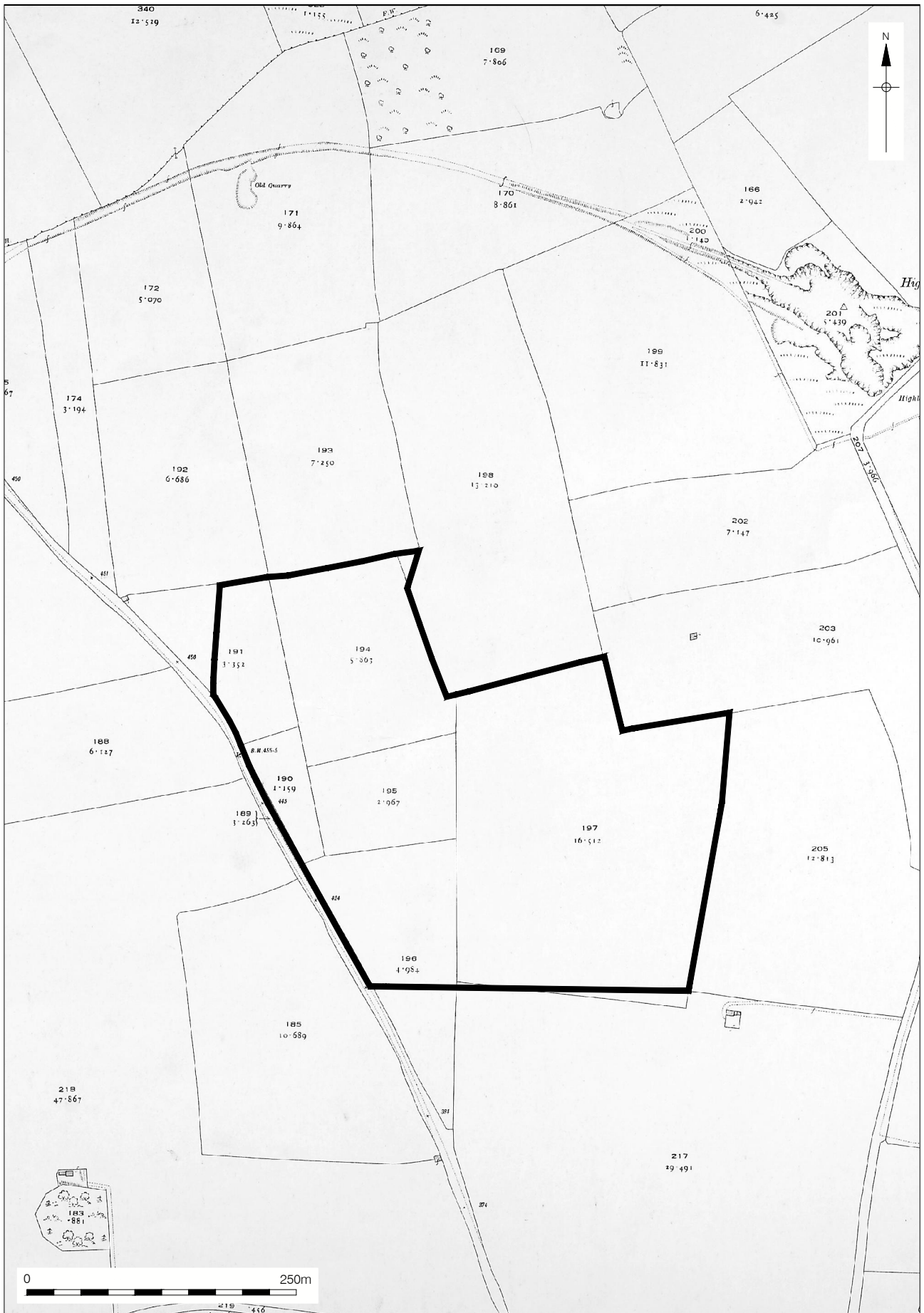
Figure 10  
Ordnance Survey First Edition map, 1853  
1:5,000 at A4



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Figure 11  
Ordnance Survey Second Edition map, 1897  
1:5,000 at A4





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Figure 12  
Ordnance Survey Third Edition map, 1919  
1:5,000 at A4

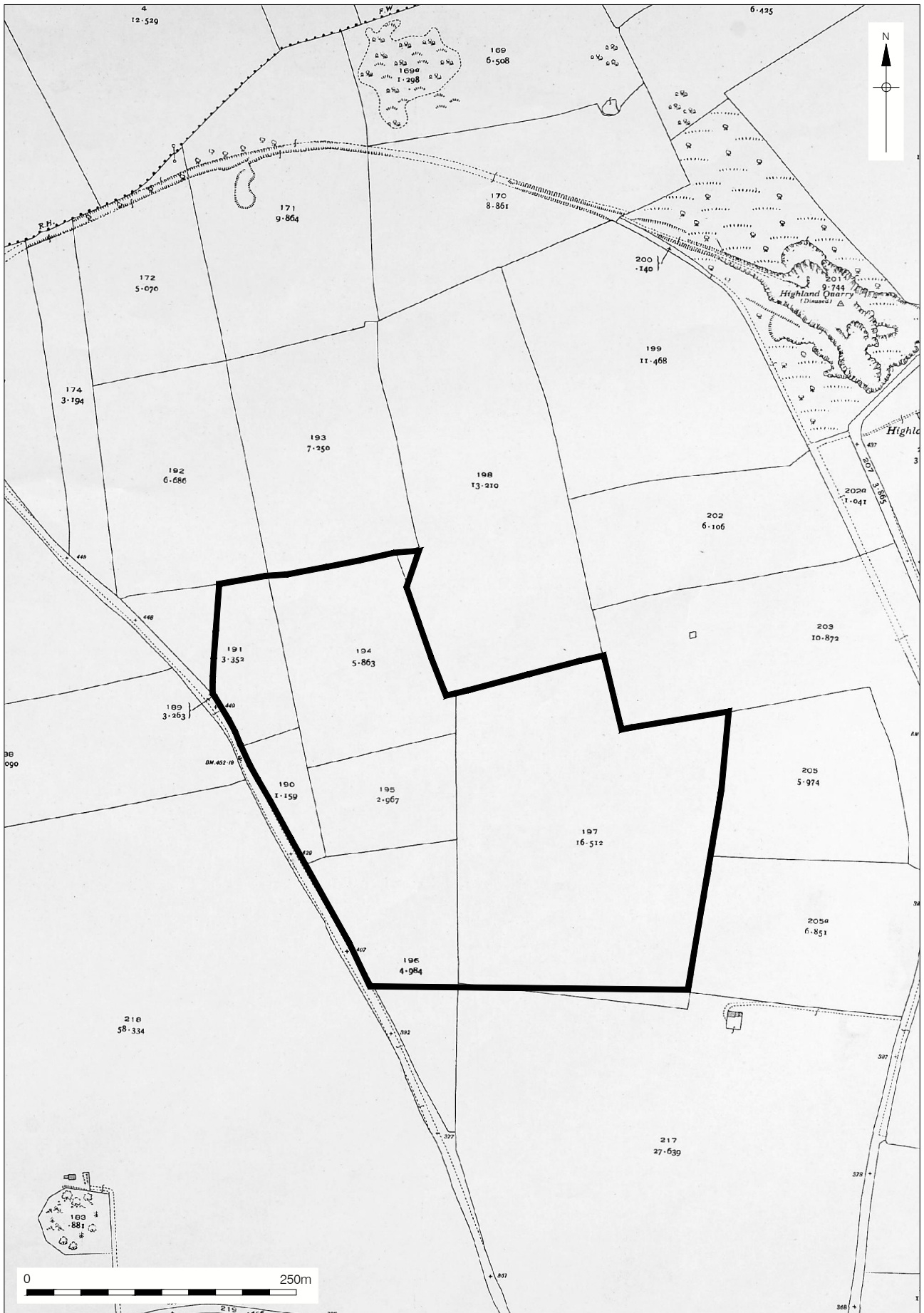


Figure 13  
Ordnance Survey Fourth Edition map, 1942  
1:5,000 at A4

- 5.5.5 The field boundaries in the vicinity of the study site, as depicted on the Tithe map, remained largely unchanged into the modern era, as shown by the sequence of Ordnance Survey maps from the 1st edition in 1853 through to the 4th edition in 1942 (Figures 10-13). Of note is that the field numbering changed between the Tithe map and the 1st edition, then changed again for the 2nd edition, then remained unaltered through to the modern era.
- 5.5.6 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition shows Highland House in place, indicating that it was built between 1839 and 1853. To its north is a small quarry, which by the time of the 2nd edition had much expanded, then named 'Highland Quarry', although by the time of that map (1897) the working was disused (Figure 11). The waggonway which served the quarry is shown on the 2nd edition, this being the previously described route which ultimately fed into the branch railway network to the west at Thrislington Colliery and West Cornforth.

## **5.6 Previous Archaeological Work**

- 5.6.1 There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on the study site. However, there are HER entries for several previous archaeological assessments and interventions (collectively known as 'HER Events') within the wider study area.
- 5.6.2 A desk-based assessment was undertaken in 1995 as part of an Environmental Statement (HER Event 4820) for a proposal to extend Bishop Middleham Quarry. Two features of archaeological and historical interest were identified that would be affected by the operations. The first was a 300m length of field boundary (Figure 4; Ref. 15) in poor condition but considered to be of likely medieval origin. Loss of the feature was mitigated by selective archaeological recording prior to removal (HER Event 31436) and by reinstatement of a dry stone wall during restoration works. The second feature was the site of the previously mentioned fold yard and associated buildings in the field to the immediate north-east of the current study site. It was considered that the foundations of the buildings could survive, but could be recorded during an archaeological 'watching brief' undertaken at the onset of the extraction programme. No report for this work could be located.
- 5.6.3 Other assessments within or in the immediate vicinity of the wider study area (but not included on Figure 4) were conducted for a housing development off Stonybeck Lane, Bishop Middleham (HER Event 32260) and for the widening of the A1(M) for the Bradbury 'Climbing Lanes' (HER Event 3811).
- 5.6.4 HER Event numbers have also been assigned to some of the previously described archaeological interventions in the wider study area, namely the 2003 geophysical survey for the 'Area 4 extension' of Thrislington Quarry (HER Event 6673, see Figure 4; Ref. 5) and the 2007 investigation of the 'water recharge extension area' of Thrislington Quarry (HER Event 33458), which recorded likely later prehistoric archaeological remains (see Figure 4; Ref. 7). An archaeological watching brief conducted in association with topsoil stripping in the same part of Thrislington Quarry recorded no archaeological remains of note (HER Event 9755).

## 5.7 Site Visit

- 5.7.1 The site visit was undertaken in February 2012. The study site is accessed from an unclassified road running westwards from Bishop Middleham toward the A1(M). A field gate gives access to a country lane, a vestige of the former road between Bishop Middleham and (West) Cornforth. The lane rises to the north and from it the majority of the study site is visible, comprising open fields occupying a south-facing slope (Plate 1). The line of the old road is interrupted by the A1(M), although it continues as a lane beyond the motorway corridor, extending to the north end of Thrislington Plantation.
- 5.7.2 The study site now comprises parts of three fields, there having been some amalgamation of smaller fields within the layout depicted on the earliest Ordnance Survey mapping of the modern era (see Figure 13). This is particularly true for the Phase 1 area, which covers c. 5.5ha and comprises the majority of an extensive roughly triangular field encompassing several former smaller fields (Plates 3, 4 and 6). The field was under cultivation at the time of the visit. Bounding the Phase 1 area at its north-western corner is the storage area, covering c. 0.90ha and comprising the roughly triangular southern portion of a rough grassland field adjacent to the A1(M) (Plate 2). The field boundary between the storage area and Phase 1 area comprises, to the south, a combination of overgrown vegetation, hedge and ruined stone wall (Plate 11), and, to the east, hedge with occasional mature trees. The eastern boundary of the northern portion of the Phase 1 area is notable for including a mortared stone wall, more than 1m high in places, flanked by mature trees (Plates 9 and 10). At its north end this boundary divides the study site from the proposed access route (Plate 5), while to the south it divides the study site from the existing quarry workings. The aforementioned wall returns to the east at its south end and continues along part of the northern boundary of the Phase 2 area (Plate 12), although that boundary is mostly delineated by hedge and post-and-wire fence.
- 5.7.3 Bounding the Phase 1 area to the east is the Phases 2-3 area, the northernmost portion of an extensive sub-rectangular field, also under cultivation, covering an area of c. 6.4ha (Plates 7 and 8). The two areas are divided by a north-south aligned hedge field boundary (Plates 6 and 7). The southern part of the Phase 1 area and the entire Phases 2-3 area are notable for their sloping south-facing aspect, while the northern part of the Phase 1 area falls away to the north-east (Plate 4) from the most elevated portion of the entire study site, this the portion where the Phase 1 area and the storage area meet, at an elevation of c. 135m OD.
- 5.7.4 To the south-east of the study site, lying within the open field which is a continuation of the field taken in by the Phases 2-3 area, is the aforementioned former barn. It comprises a derelict limestone masonry building (Plate 8).

## 6. ASSESSEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE POTENTIAL

### 6.1 Summary of Known Cultural Heritage Resource

- 6.1.1 There are no designated heritage assets within the study site and none within the 1km radius wider study area. The Bishop Middleham Conservation Area lies just beyond the southern limit of the wider study, but its relatively distant location from the study site means that this designated heritage asset, which encompasses the Scheduled Monument of Middleham Castle and five Listed Buildings, will not present any constraints to the proposed scheme.
- 6.1.2 There are no known non-designated heritage assets sites within the study site, therefore there are no constraints to the proposed scheme in this regard.
- 6.1.3 Historic field boundaries within the study site are notable for their inclusion of elements of stone wall, some mortared and surviving in excess of 1m height. Although not included in the County Durham HER, these could potentially be considered non-designated heritage assets of low value, important only at a local level. There are no other historic standing buildings within the study site boundary.

### 6.2 Summary Statement of Archaeological Potential

- 6.2.1 The known and suspected evidence of prehistoric activity, including settlement, in the wider study area and immediate vicinity of the study site, suggest that the study site may have seen human occupation or other exploitation during prehistory. The potential for sub-surface archaeological remains of later prehistoric date at the study site is therefore considered **moderate** to **high**. Such remains would likely be considered non-designated heritage assets of low to medium value, with potential to contribute to local or regional research objectives.
- 6.2.2 The suspected route of Cade's Road lies c. 1km to the north-east of the study site and as yet there is no evidence that the roadside corridor or its wider margin was exploited to any great extent during the Roman period in the Bishop Middleham area. Therefore the potential for Roman period archaeological remains at the study site is considered **low** to **moderate**. Such remains would likely be considered non-designated heritage assets of low to medium value, with potential to contribute to local or regional research objectives.
- 6.2.3 The potential for early medieval/Anglo-Saxon archaeological remains at the study site is considered **low**.
- 6.2.4 The site lies c. 1km to the north of the ancient village of Bishop Middleham, but was possibly associated with the outlying field systems farmed by its inhabitants from the medieval period onwards. In sum, there is considered to be **high** potential for archaeological remains relating to medieval and post-medieval agricultural usage of the site. In broad terms though, this rural location is not considered to be particularly archaeologically sensitive with regard to medieval and post-medieval remains, since evidence of improved agricultural soils, drainage features and former land boundaries of these eras would be of low value, with potential to contribute only to local research objectives.

6.2.5 The site has evidently seen no previous development and map regression indicates that its internal layout has seen little change, apart from variations to field boundaries in the late post-medieval period and early modern and modern eras. Therefore, while the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains of late post-medieval, early modern and modern date is considered **high**, such remains are likely to relate particularly to former field boundaries and possibly to general agricultural practices and would represent assets of negligible value of very little archaeological interest.

### **6.3 Summary of Past Impacts**

6.3.1 The site has evidently seen no previous development and has likely remained in agricultural use since the medieval period.

6.3.2 The impact of previous agricultural use of the site, since the medieval period, on potential archaeological remains of earlier eras, may have been extensive.

### **6.4 Summary of Potential Impacts**

6.4.1 There would be no adverse impacts on designated heritage assets, or on the historic setting of such assets, at the study site or indeed within the wider study area. Similarly there would be no adverse impacts on known non-designated heritage assets at the study site.

6.4.2 Structural elements of historic field boundaries within the study site will likely be demolished as part of the proposed scheme, which would constitute impact on a major scale, given the complete loss of the resource.

6.4.3 The magnitude of impact on any below ground archaeological remains will be major, likely resulting in the complete loss of the resource, given the nature of the proposed scheme.

### **6.5 Potential LPA Investigation and Mitigation Requirements**

6.5.1 Given the moderate to high potential for sub-surface archaeological remains of later prehistoric date at the study site, the LPA will likely require a pre-determination archaeological investigation to test for the presence, extent and significance of buried archaeological remains. Field evaluation can comprise of one or more of the following procedures:

- geophysical survey;
- surface artefact collection (“fieldwalking”);
- trial trenching.

6.5.2 In this instance, geophysical survey would be a suitable method for the initial identification of sub-surface archaeological features - the technique has been used to good effect at neighbouring sites. In addition, the results of geophysical survey can provide data to ensure that subsequent trial trenches target areas of high archaeological potential. Surface artefact collection is only suitable on fields that have been recently ploughed, harrowed or drilled and particularly after a period of weathering.

6.5.3 In addition, the LPA may require building recording of structural elements of historic field boundaries at the study site. Such a programme of work could be required as a condition of planning permission. Given the proposed value of the structures a relatively low level of recording (e.g. English Heritage Level II) is likely to be the maximum requirement.

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## **Maps, Documents and Other Sources**

### ***Archives and Special Collections, Durham University Library, Palace Green, Durham***

The computer database of material held at the Archives and Special Collections was searched for relevant maps, documents and photographs. Paper copies of the following historical documents were examined during a visit:

Halmote Court Maps and Plans:

*Plan of the Township of Bishop Middleham*, undated, Halmote Court Bishop Middleham miscellaneous maps and plans no. 127 (extract reproduced as Figure 8).

Unnamed plan, undated, Halmote Court Cornforth miscellaneous maps and plans no. 42.

*Plan of the Estate in the Township of Cornforth and Parish of Bishop Middleham and County of Durham, Belonging to Thomas Haswell Esquire, 1827.*

### ***County Durham Record Office, County Hall, Durham***

Paper copies of the following historical maps were examined during the visit and digital copies (supplied on CD) of relevant extracts were requested:

*Plan of the Township of Bishop Middleham in the County of Durham, 1839* ('the Tithe map') (extract reproduced as Figure 9); the accompanying apportionment tables ('*Apportionment of the Rent Charge in lieu of Tithes...*') were also examined for information relating to land use, ownership and occupancy.

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition map (25" to 1 mile), published 1853 (extract reproduced as Figure 10).

The Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map (25" to 1 mile), published 1897 (extract reproduced as Figure 11).

The Ordnance Survey 3rd edition map (25" to 1 mile), published 1919 (extract reproduced as Figure 12).

The Ordnance Survey 4th edition map (25" to 1 mile), published 1942 (revision of 1939) (extract reproduced as Figure 13).

***County Durham Historic Environment Record, The Archaeology Section, Heritage, Landscape and Design, Durham County Council, The Rivergreen Centre, Aykley Heads, Durham***

In addition to the acquisition of historic environment data held on the computer database, additional relevant material, such as hardcopy archaeological 'grey literature' reports on previous archaeological events, was examined and relevant information was transcribed. All reports consulted are listed in the bibliography above.

### **Online Sources**

The **British Geological Survey** website: [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk). This was consulted for information regarding the geology of the study area.

The **Cave Archaeology and Palaeontology Research Archive** website: <http://capra.group.shef.ac.uk/1/caves.html>. This contains the *Gazetteer of English Caves, Fissures and Rock Shelters Containing Human Remains*, compiled by Chamberlain, A. T., Williams, J. P. and Strenski, E., revised version 2001.

The **Durham County Council** website: [www.durham.gov.uk/](http://www.durham.gov.uk/). This was consulted for information regarding relevant planning policies.

The **Durham Landscape** website: [www.durhamlandscape.info/](http://www.durhamlandscape.info/). This was consulted for the *County Durham Landscape Character Assessment*.

The **MAGIC** website: [www.magic.gov.uk/website/magic/](http://www.magic.gov.uk/website/magic/). MAGIC is a partnership project involving six government organisations including English Heritage and Natural England. The website is essentially an interactive map collecting information on key environmental schemes and designations.

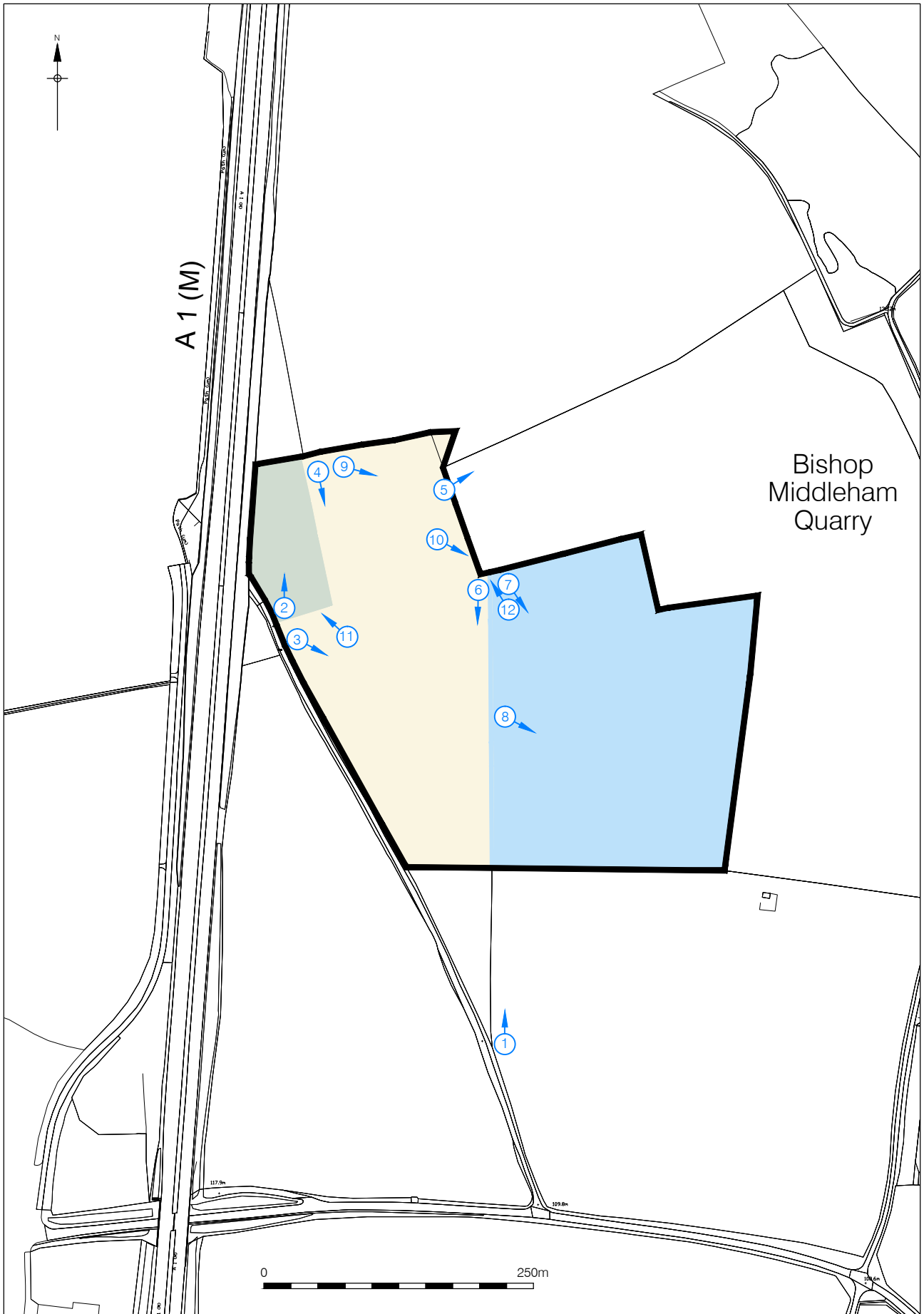
The **Natural England** website: [www.naturalengland.org.uk/](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/). This was consulted for information regarding the topography and geology of the study area.

**APPENDIX A**  
**CATALOGUE OF HER ENTRIES**

<b>Ref No. (Fig. 3)</b>	<b>HER No.</b>	<b>National Grid Reference</b>	<b>Period or Date of Intervention</b>	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	1121	432100 532300	Prehistoric	Thrislington Plantation/Rough Furze Quarry - cropmark enclosure	APs (the HER contains photos by Blaise Vyner) show a rectilinear ditched enclosure at the edge of Rough Furze Plantation. NMR 26040.
2	1125	433220 532090	Prehistoric	Bishop Middleham Quarry - inhumation cemetery	In 1932 a small cave found by quarrymen was excavated by Raistrick. The cave contained the remains of at least ten adults and a child, dated by pottery to the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. A bronze artefact, a bone point and animal bones were also recovered.
3	1126	433280 532960	Prehistoric	Highland Farm - cropmark enclosure	APs show a possible rectilinear ditched enclosure with internal feature. HER 371 probably refers to the same cropmark feature.
4	1127	433180 533040	Prehistoric	Highland Farm - cropmark feature	APs show a possible ploughed out barrow or ring-ditch.
5	9716	432148 532346	Prehistoric	Thrislington Quarry - settlement	An archaeological evaluation (2003) of the 'Area 4 extension' of the quarry recorded a late prehistoric enclosure with internal features and associated linear features, possibly a field system. An earlier geophysical survey (2003; HER Event 6673) had established the potential of the site for archaeological remains. This work identified a substantial sub-rectangular enclosure and a possible smaller enclosure. A possible ring ditch lay outside the main enclosure and a number of other ditches were identified, some possibly former land boundaries.
6	15761	432750 533298	Prehistoric	Thrislington Quarry - settlement	An archaeological evaluation (2007) of the 'eastern extension' of the quarry recorded a ring ditch, with possible entrance on its eastern side. An earlier geophysical survey (2007; HER 9443) had identified what appeared to be a group of possible ring ditches, as well as ridge and furrow of probable medieval date. Geophysical survey was also undertaken at the same site in 2005.
7	33458	432170 532637	Prehistoric	Thrislington Quarry - settlement	An archaeological strip and record exercise (2007) of a 'water recharge extension area' at the quarry recorded two ring ditches; although neither produced dating evidence, a bulk sample from the fill of one did produce hammerscale, indicative of ancient metalworking.
8	3183	433553 533603	Roman	Bishop Middleham - Roman road	As it passes Bishop Middleham the route of Cade's Road - the Roman road from Great Stainton to Chester-le-Street - is thought to lie close to the modern A177, and depicted on OS mapping and as suggested by O.G.S. Crawford. The overall HER number for the route of Cade's Road between Great Stainton and Chester-le-Street is HER 3357.
9	3356	433470 533425	Roman	Bishop Middleham - Roman road	The route of Cade's Road as suggested by R. Walton. At NZ 336 331, NZ 334 336, NZ 333 337 and NZ 332 339 cobbles revealed by informal excavation potentially represent the road surface.
10	3880	433500 532300	Roman	Farnless Farm - statuette head	The head of a small bronze statue was found by a metal detectorist; the figure appears to be wearing a crown and may be a Roman god.
11	4356	432804 531395	Early medieval	Bishop Middleham - village	The village may have an Anglo-Saxon origin, possibly dating from the 9th/10th century. Bishop Middleham (or simply 'Middleham') Castle was one of the principal residences of the Bishops of Durham until the end of the 14th century. The residence survives only as earthwork remains. In 1146 Osbert, nephew of Bishop Flambard, gave the Church of Middleham to the Prior and Convent at Durham, this being the first recorded mention of the village. The Bolden Book of 1183, surveyed the village, along with neighbouring Cornforth, and recorded that there were 32 households. By the late 14th century the Bishop of Durham appears to have no longer used Middleham Castle as a residence. The core of the village is a Conservation Area, this taking in the site of Middleham Castle and St. Michael's Church to the south, and the ancient village green area to the north.
12	2983	432000 532900	Post-medieval	Thrislington Plantation - waggonway	Part of the route of a former waggonway which served Highland Quarry. It is depicted on only the OS 2nd edition (1897), by which time it was disused. In this section it ran south-westwards into Thrislington Plantation and here its route survives as a footpath. To the north-east, it had a curving course towards Highland Quarry (see HER 3657, Ref. No. 17).
13	2988	432928 532784	Post-medieval	Bishop Middleham Quarry	The current area of limestone working, west of Highland Farm, is afforded its own HER number.
14	2989	432800 532030	Post-medieval	Bishop Middleham - waggonway	The route of a former waggonway is thought to be preserved in the line of road which skirts the northern margin of Bishop Middleham (continuing eastwards as Stonybeck Lane); this waggonway ran westwards to Ferryhill and eastwards to Fishburn. Its date of origin is uncertain but it may have been in operation as early as the 18th century.
15	3194	432929 532634	Post-medieval	Highland Farm - field boundary	A field boundary identified as being of possible medieval date during the undertaking of an Environmental Statement (1995; HER Event 4820). The feature was thought to be a replacement of a boundary created during post-medieval enclosure. The boundary - consisting of an earth bank and hedge - was subsequently investigated during a programme of fieldwork (1998; HER Event 31436) and was determined to be post-medieval in date; the feature (at 432929 532634) was then allocated HER no. 9311.
16	3655	433150 532600	Post-medieval	Highland Farm - disused quarry	A substantial disused limestone quarry, south of Highland Farm. It is first depicted in detail on the OS map edition of 1942, although earlier editions suggest that some working was occurring in the southern part of the area which was eventually exploited. This quarry is now Bishop Middleham Nature Reserve, which has SSSI

17	3657	432590 533140	Post-medieval	Highland Quarry waggonway	Part of the route of a former waggonway which served Highland Quarry. It is depicted on only the OS 2nd edition (1897), by which time it was disused. To the south-west it curved towards Thrislington Plantation and a section there survives as a footpath (see HER 2983, Ref. No. 12).
18	3659	432900 533000	Post-medieval	Highland Quarry	Highland Quarry was the first substantial quarry in the area now worked as Bishop Middleham Quarry and Thrislington Quarry (Eastern Extension). It is depicted as a relatively small working on the OS 1st edition (1853) and then as a far larger working - named as Highland Quarry - on the 2nd edition (1897), by which time it was disused. In recent years the working has been used as a waste disposal site, as depicted on modern OS mapping. Highland House (the original element of Highland Farm) may have been built for the quarry foreman.
19	9754	432209 532896	Post-medieval	Thrislington Quarry - field boundary	Archaeological monitoring (2001) of topsoil stripping recorded an earthwork hedge bank and associated infilled field ditch.

**APPENDIX B**  
**PLATES 1-12 (SITE PHOTOGRAPHS)**



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12/04/12 JB

Photograph locator plan  
1:5,000 at A4



Plate 1. Phase 1 (left) and Phases 2 & 3 (right) areas, looking north from the old road



Plate 2. Storage area, looking north from the field boundary





Plate 3. Phase 1 area, south part, looking south-east from the field boundary



Plate 4. Phase 1 area, north part, looking south from the field boundary



Plate 5. Proposed access route, looking north-east from the field boundary



Plate 6. Phase 1 area, south part, looking south from the field boundary



Plate 7. Phases 2 & 3 area, looking south-east from the field boundary



Plate 8. Phases 2 & 3 area, south part, looking east from the field boundary



Plate 9. Phase 1 area, north part, overview of eastern field boundary wall, looking east



Plate 10. Phase 1 area, north part, detail of eastern boundary wall, looking south-east



Plate 11. Storage area, detail of southern field boundary wall, looking north-west



Plate 12. Phases 2 & 3 area, detail of northern field boundary wall, looking north

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