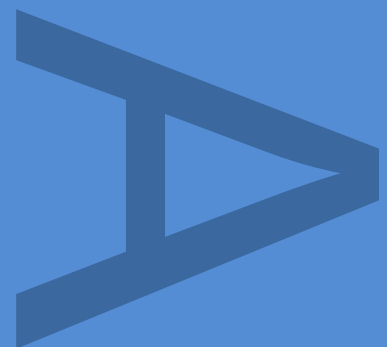


**LAND OFF SLALEY COURT,  
BEDLINGTON, NORTHUMBERLAND**

**HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT**

**APRIL 2013**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

### HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT LAND OFF SLALEY COURT, BEDLINGTON, NORTHUMBERLAND

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Quality Control	
<i>Project Number</i>	K3079
<i>Site Code</i>	SLB 13
<i>Report Number</i>	RN11019

<i>Task</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
Text prepared by:	Jennifer Proctor		April 2013
Text checked by:	Robin Taylor-Wilson	<i>R. H. Taylor-Wilson</i>	17 April 2013
Graphics prepared by:	Mark Roughley		April 2013
Graphics checked by:	Josephine Brown	<i>Josephine Brown</i>	16 April 2013
Project or Post-Excavation Manager sign-off:	Robin Taylor-Wilson	<i>R. H. Taylor-Wilson</i>	18 April 2013

<i>Revision No.</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Checked by</i>	<i>Approved by</i>

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
North Regional Office  
Unit N19a Tursdale Business Park  
Durham  
DH6 5PG

**Land off Slaley Court, Bedlington, Northumberland**

## **Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment**

***National Grid Reference: NZ 2648 8242***

***Site Code: SLB 13***

### ***Commissioning Client:***

**Persimmon Homes Limited t/a Persimmon Homes North East  
2 Esh Plaza  
Sir Bobby Robson Way  
Great Park  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
NE13 9BA**

**Tel: 0191 238 9950**



### ***Contractor:***

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited  
Northern Office  
Unit N19a Tursdale Business Park  
Durham  
DH6 5PG**

**Tel: 0191 377 1111**



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April 2013**

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## **1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

- 1.1 A desk-based historic environment assessment has been undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited ahead of a proposed development of land off Slayey Court, Bedlington, Northumberland. The work was commissioned by Persimmon Homes North East and the proposal would see the site developed for new housing.
- 1.2 The site is situated in the Blyth Valley and lies on the northern margins of the town of Bedlington, north of Slayey Court, a modern housing estate. The site comprises a triangular plot of land with central National Grid Reference NZ 2648 8242, covering c. 8,150m<sup>2</sup> and currently scrubland/grassland. The north-western boundary of the site is formed by a hedge, beyond which is a tarmaced access route then arable land. The south-eastern side of the site is also bounded by a hedge, beyond which is a narrow lane and strip of woodland, then the playing fields of Gallagher Park. The site is bounded to the south-west by a wooden fence backing onto the housing estate.
- 1.3 The desk-based assessment was required ahead of a planning application for the proposed development. The assessment aimed to determine, as far as reasonably possible from existing records, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment within a 1km radius of the centre of the proposed development site. It involved consultation with the Northumberland Historic Environment Record, a visual inspection of the site and examination of relevant cartographic and documentary material.
- 1.4 The assessment has established that the site has seen no previous development. There are designated heritage assets within the wider vicinity of the site, although all are listed buildings within the historic core of Bedlington, and another to the north, therefore these are not directly relevant to the archaeological potential of the study site. There are, however, non-designated heritage assets immediately adjacent to the study site and in the surrounding area. In terms of heritage assets of archaeological interest at the study site – specifically buried archaeological remains - only further evaluation can establish the actual magnitude of direct impact on any such assets, and thus the overall effect of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment.
- 1.5 In terms of archaeology, the assessment has found that the study site has low potential for early prehistoric remains, moderate potential for late prehistoric or Roman remains, low potential for Anglo-Saxon remains, moderate potential for remains related to medieval and post-medieval usage of the site as agricultural land and high potential for post-medieval activity associated with the coal-mining industry.
- 1.6 The study site lies within an area that was known to be densely settled and farmed during the Late Iron Age and early Roman period and cropmarks from a possible enclosure of this date lie within the near vicinity, at Sleekburn. Any archaeological remains of Late Iron Age or early Roman date at the site would be of moderate significance with potential to contribute to regional research objectives.

- 1.7 The study site may have been used for farming during the medieval period. By the mid 19th century it was in use as pasture, part of Hirst Head Farm, which remained operational into the 20th century. Any archaeological remains of medieval and post-medieval date relating to agricultural use of the land would be, at best, of low significance with potential to contribute to local research objectives.
- 1.8 In the post-medieval industrial era, a colliery waggonway skirted the north-western boundary of the study site, running between Doctor Pit of Bedlington Colliery and the main workings of Bedlington Colliery. Map regression shows that this route was upgraded to a railway by the late 19th century. Any archaeological remains of the waggonway would be of moderate significance with potential to contribute to regional research objectives.
- 1.9 Given the size of the site, its location, the known lack of previous development and the high potential for archaeological remains of some eras, the LPA will likely recommend archaeological field evaluation in order to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains and, if possible, to determine their date, character and extent. Such work would allow the formulation of an appropriate strategy to mitigate the impact of the development proposal on archaeological remains.
- 1.10 Through consideration of the settings of heritage assets in the broad vicinity of the study site, the assessment has also considered indirect impacts of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment. It is concluded that the architectural, archaeological and historical interest of designated heritage assets - listed buildings in the broad vicinity of the study site - would not be diminished at all by the proposed development, and thus that the overall effect of the development on those assets would be neutral.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Project Background**

- 2.1.1 Researched and prepared by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA), this desk-based historic environment assessment was commissioned by Persimmon Homes North East (the Client) ahead of a proposed development of land off Slayey Court, Bedlington, Northumberland for new housing.
- 2.1.2 Current UK Government planning guidance set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF)<sup>1</sup> (see Section 4) indicates that when submitting planning applications for sites with a historic environment dimension to them, developers/applicants are required to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected and, where a proposed development site includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, there is a requirement to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment.
- 2.1.3 In line with current guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA),<sup>2</sup> the assessment comprised an examination of the historic environment of the study site. In order to place the study site in context, a 'wider study area', with a 1 km radius from the centre of the site was examined. Central to the programme of study was an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information, undertaken in order to identify known and potential heritage assets within the wider study area and to establish the interests and significance of those assets.
- 2.1.4 By addressing historic environment issues for the study site and its vicinity, the assessment will allow the formulation of a strategy for mitigating potential impacts on heritage assets by the proposed development scheme.
- 2.1.5 The **Online Access** to the Index of Archaeological Investigation**S** (OASIS) reference number for the project is: preconst1-148447.

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

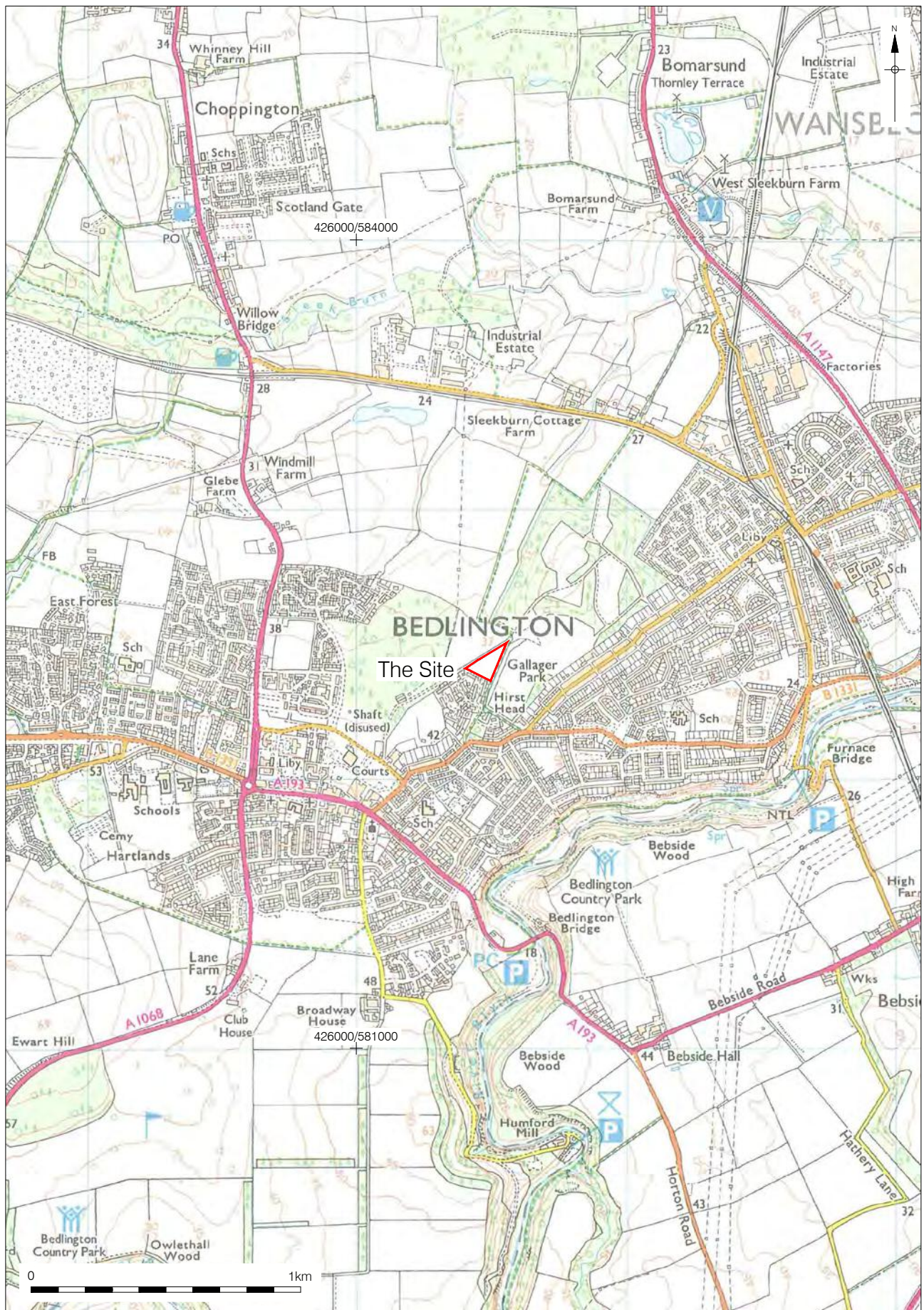
- 2.2.1 The proposed development site lies within the Blyth Valley on the northern margins of the town of Bedlington, Northumberland and comprises land to the north of a modern housing estate, Slayey Court (Figure 1). The A1068 road lies c. 0.8 km to the west of the site and the A193 (Front Street), the main road running through the centre (and historic core) of Bedlington, lies c. 0.65 km to the south-west, with the River Blyth c. 0.7 km to the south-east.
- 2.2.2 The study site comprises a triangular parcel of undeveloped grassland. Covering c. 8,150m<sup>2</sup> (0.81 ha), its central National Grid Reference is NZ 2648 8242 (Figure 2).

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<sup>1</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government 2012.

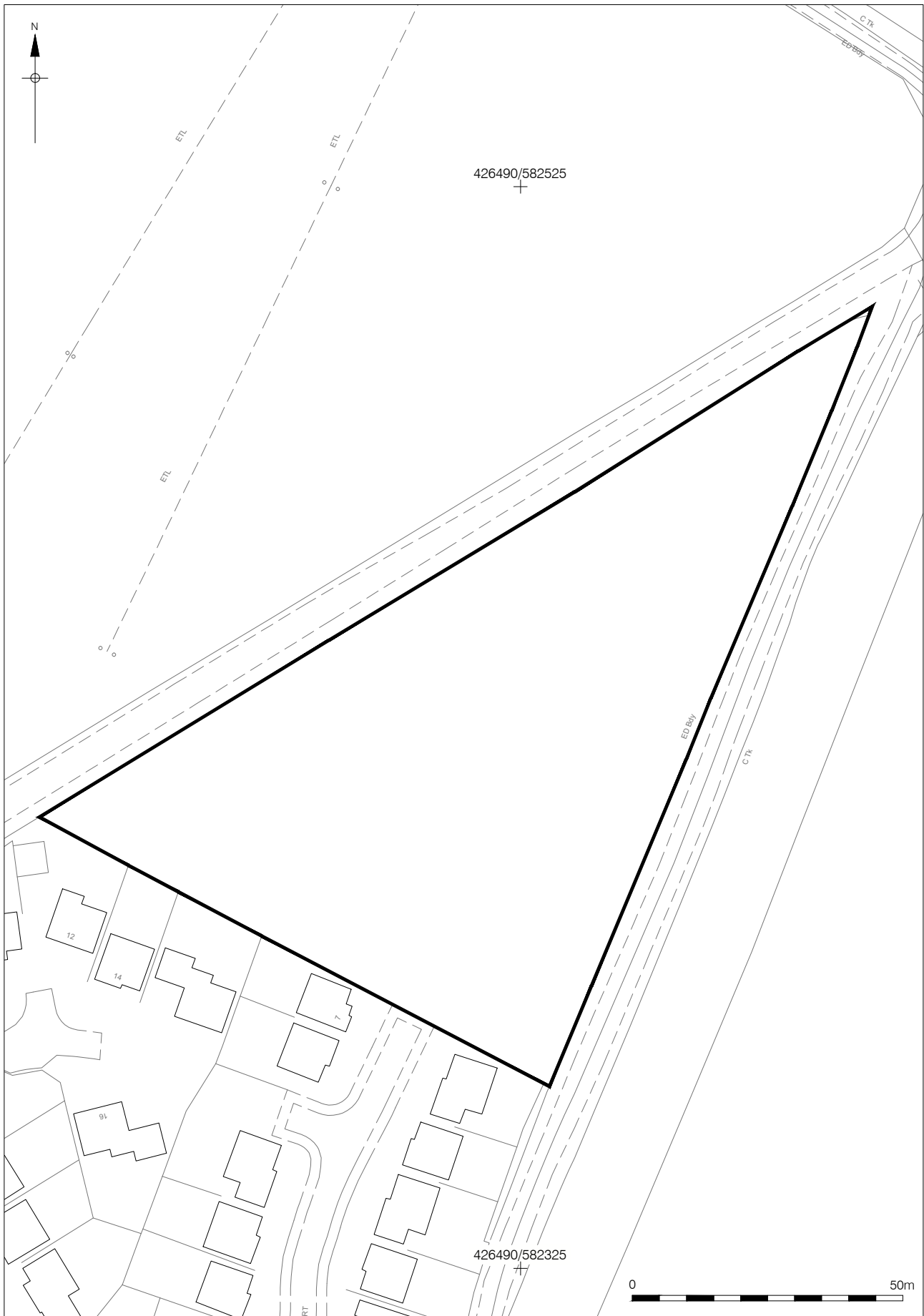
<sup>2</sup> IfA 2011.





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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
Detailed Site Location  
1:1,000 at A4

- 2.2.3 The north-western boundary of the study site, c. 190m in length, is delineated by a hedge beyond which is a tarmaced access route, this representing the line of a former SW-NE aligned colliery waggonway, subsequently a railway. Beyond this lies undeveloped arable farmland, beyond which lies an extensive area of woodland. The south-eastern side of the site, c. 150m in length, is also bounded by a hedge, beyond which is a narrow NNE-SSW aligned footpath lane which marks the route of a lane shown on historic mapping. This is skirted to the east by a strip of woodland, beyond which lie the playing fields and recreation facilities of Gallager Park.
- 2.2.4 The south-western limit of the site, c. 110m in length, is bounded by a timber fence, beyond which lies the existing housing of Slayey Court. Beyond the north-eastern corner of the site, the land rises to the north-east as woodland, cut through by public footpaths, this being the reclaimed site of the main workings of the former Bedlington Colliery.
- 2.2.5 The study site is occupied by scrubland/grassland and existing ground level across the site is relatively level, at c. 37m OD. Figure 2 shows, in detail, the site at the time of the project herein described and Appendix B comprises a series of photographs of the site and its environs, taken in April 2013.

## **2.3 Proposed Development Summary**

- 2.3.1 The study site is proposed for development by the Client as a new housing development comprising 33 houses.

## **2.4 Scope of Study**

- 2.4.1 In accordance with the aforementioned UK Government guidance provided in the NPPF with regard to determining planning applications, this historic environment assessment aims to identify and describe the significance of heritage assets affected by the proposed development, including any contribution made by their setting, at a level of detail proportionate to the importance of the assets and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. In accordance with the aforementioned IfA guidance, the assessment includes appropriate consideration of the settings of heritage assets and the nature, extent and quality of their known and potential archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interest.
- 2.4.2 The starting point for the programme of study of the historic environment of the study site was data held by the LPA in the Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER), the most valuable source of baseline data for Northumberland's historic environment, particularly in terms of archaeological information. The assessment also involved a visual inspection of the study site and an examination of other available, relevant documentary and cartographic sources, the latter held at Woodhorn Museum and Northumberland Archives. The collated results of this programme of study have been used to set out a baseline consideration of the heritage assets of the site, thereby allowing their significance to be established in order to elucidate the potential impact of the proposal on that significance.



### **3. AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY**

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

3.1.1 The overarching aim of the assessment was to establish, as far as reasonably possible, from existing and available information from the wider study area, the nature, extent and significance of the historic environment of the study site. The work will therefore demonstrate that appropriate measures have been taken to assess the likely impact of the proposed scheme on all components of the historic environment and thus provide guidance on ways to accommodate any historic environment issues identified.

3.1.2 The specific objectives of the assessment were:

- to identify all known heritage assets at the study site and within the wider study area;
- to establish the significance of known and predicted heritage assets at the study site and within the wider study area, considering their archaeological, historic, architectural and artistic interests;
- to assess the potential for buried archaeological remains of all eras upon the study site and to predict the likely level of preservation of any such remains through a consideration of the likely extent of previous impacts;
- to assess the impact of the proposed development on the significance and settings of known and predicted heritage assets at the study site and within the wider study area;
- 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.

#### **3.2 Methodology**

3.2.1 In line with the aforementioned current IfA guidance, the assessment comprised an examination of existing and available historic environment data for the wider study area. Central to this was an analysis of existing written, graphic, photographic and electronic information, undertaken in order to identify known and potential heritage assets and to establish the interests and significance of those assets.

3.2.2 PCA is an IfA 'Registered Organisation'. The assessment was conducted by PCA under the management of Robin Taylor-Wilson and the principal author was Jennifer Proctor, both members of the IfA at Member (MIfA) grade. Research was undertaken by Amy Roberts and Jennifer Proctor. Illustrations were compiled by Mark Roughley.

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

- 3.2.3 The general approach and methodology was to consider heritage assets at the study site and within the aforementioned wider study area, an area of radius 1 km from the centre of the site (Figure 3), to allow for greater contextual information to be gathered. Further details of heritage assets are set out in Section 4, but, in sum, 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 scrutiny of historic records or the physical landscape (for example, during the undertaking of the site visit). Appendix A comprises a catalogue of all heritage assets – as recorded on the HER - within the wider study area.
- 3.2.4 In sum, 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.
- 3.2.5 The *main* sources consulted during the assessment were:
- The Northumberland HER, as maintained by the Conservation Team of Northumberland County Council (NCCCT). 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 supplied by NCCCT.
  - Woodhorn Museum and Northumberland Archives. This holds local history information, historic photographs and historic maps, including comprehensive historic Ordnance Survey mapping. Material was examined or acquired by a visit in person.
- 3.2.6 Further details of all sources consulted are contained in Section 7.

## **4. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POLICY BACKGROUND**

### **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 possible subsequent work relating to known or potential heritage assets of 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, replacing *Planning Policy Statement 5: 'Planning for the Historic Environment'* (PPS5),<sup>4</sup> to provide up-dated guidance for LPAs, property owners, developers and others on the conservation and investigation of the historic environment. Heritage assets - those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest - remain a key concept of the NPPF, retained from PPS5. Despite the deletion of PPS5, the *PPS5 Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide*<sup>5</sup> remains a valid and UK Government endorsed document.
- 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*'.

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<sup>4</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government 2010a.

<sup>5</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government 2010b.

- 4.2.5 As mentioned above, 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*’.
- 4.2.6 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>6</sup>
- 4.2.7 In sum, the NPPF provides a framework which:
- 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;
  - takes into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets;
  - protects the settings of 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 proposed for revocation by the UK Government in 2010. Revocation of the 2008 *Regional Strategy for the North East of England* was confirmed when the *Localism Act* was passed in November 2011 and a statutory instrument was laid in Parliament by the Secretary of State in March 2013 to revoke the *Regional Strategy for the North East*.
- 4.3.2 The Local Planning Authority is Northumberland County Council. Current planning policies relating the historic environment are those ‘saved’ from the Local Plans of the various former District Councils and, until finalisation of the Local Development Framework (LDF), those policies remain in place to guide and determine planning applications in Northumberland (excluding the Northumberland National Park). A key element of the emerging LDF will be the Core Strategy Development Plan Document, which will contain strategic planning policies with regards development.

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<sup>6</sup> Available online at the English Heritage website.

- 4.3.3 Those policies relating to archaeology which were 'saved' from the *Wansbeck District Local Plan* (adopted July 2007)<sup>7</sup> are:

*Policy GP 20 – Protection of archaeological sites*

*Development which would adversely affect a scheduled or other nationally important archaeological site, and/or its setting, will only be permitted where: a) there is no alternative solution; and b) the development is in the national interest.*

*Development which would affect other sites of archaeological significance will only be permitted if:*

*a) the archaeological remains would be preserved in situ as part of the proposals;*

*or b) the significance of the remains is outweighed by the need for and benefits of the development. Where development affecting archaeological remains is permitted, the developer will be required to make proper provision for the excavation and recording of the site and its remains before and during development and also for post-excavation analysis and publication of findings.*

*Policy GP 21 – Evaluation of archaeological sites*

*Where evidence suggests that a proposed development could disturb archaeological remains, the developers will be required, before their planning application is determined, to provide information on the character and extent of the remains and any measures they propose to mitigate the impact of development. A field evaluation will be required if judged necessary.*

- 4.3.4 NCCCT has responsibility for development control in relation to the historic environment in Northumberland. In this instance, NCCCT, on behalf of the LPA, will advise regarding the potential implications of the development proposal with regard to the historic environment.

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<sup>7</sup> Local planning information from the Northumberland County Council website.



## **5. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT BASELINE DATA**

### **5.1 Introduction**

- 5.1.1 This section has, at its core, data acquired from Northumberland 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 1 km from the centre of the study site was examined.
- 5.1.2 In addition to the summary discussion of heritage assets in this section, all components of the historic environment resource are plotted, with sequential reference numbers arranged by archaeological period, on a supporting figure (Figure 3). 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 of the Blyth Valley 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 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 archaeological resource.
- 5.1.4 The following sub-section describes the geology and topography of the study site in order to set the subsequent historic environment data in context.

### **5.2 Geological, Topographical and Landscape Context**

- 5.2.1 The solid geology of the part of the South East Northumberland Coastal Plain in which the site lies is the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation of the Upper Carboniferous, with bedrock comprising mostly mudstone and sandstone with numerous coal seams (*British Geological Survey* website). The superficial geology consists of glacial debris, technically Devensian Till, which generally takes the form of 'boulder clay'. The geology was formerly worked for coal, via deep and surface mines, although no extraction currently takes place in this area, and the landscape has been heavily modified by mining and industrial activity. The superficial geology has also been exploited for the massive production of bricks for industrial buildings and infrastructure as well as to construct houses for the population serving the coalmines and other industries.
- 5.2.2 The entire South East Northumberland Coastal Plain is low lying, with land rarely rising above 70m OD. There are some gentle summits and the land slopes eastwards to the coast. The study site is relatively flat and lies at a level of *c.* 37m OD above the deeply incised northern bank of the River Blyth at the point where the valley begins to widen out into broad estuarine mudflats. The river lies *c.* 0.7 km to the south-east of the study site and the North Sea lies *c.* 2 km to the east at Blyth.

- 5.2.3 Within the context of the *Northumberland Landscape Character Assessment*, the study site is located within 'Landscape Character Type 42: Urban and Urban Fringe',<sup>8</sup> and specifically within '42a Ashington, Blyth and Cramlington'. The Key Characteristics of this area are: large built-up areas including former mining towns; large-scale industrial and commercial land uses; significant human features, including dual carriageways, railways, pylons, and chimneys; and residential areas of a range of ages.
- 5.2.4 The countryside around the town of Bedlington beyond the valley of the Blyth is typical of the commonly flat, occasionally undulating landscape of the coastal plain. It is a countryside divided into large fields, usually in arable but some under pasture, with dispersed farms, thin hedges and only relatively little tree cover.

### **5.3 Designated Heritage Assets**

- 5.3.1 The study site does not lie within a World Heritage Site, nor does it contain a Scheduled Monument, or lie within a Registered Battlefield or Registered Park and Garden, as defined, by English Heritage. There are no examples of such sites within the wider study area or within its immediate vicinity.
- 5.3.2 No part of the study site lies within a Conservation Area and the nearest such designation is the 'Bedlington Conservation Area' which comprises the historic core of Bedlington along Front Street, lying c. 0.6 km to the south-west of the study site.
- 5.3.3 There are no Listed Building designations within the study site. Nineteen listed buildings of post-medieval or modern date are recorded on the HER in the vicinity of the study site (Figure 3; Refs. 41-59). With one exception these are all situated within the historic core of Bedlington and therefore have no direct relevance to the archaeological potential of the study site. The single modern example is a War Memorial in the town centre (Figure 3; Ref. 59). The building outside Bedlington is Sleekburn Cottage Farmhouse (Figure 3; Ref. 44), located 0.9 km to the north-east of the site, which again has no direct relevance to the study site.

### **5.4 Undesignated Heritage Assets**

- 5.4.1 The distribution of undesignated heritage assets, as discussed below, is plotted on the supporting figure (Figure 3).

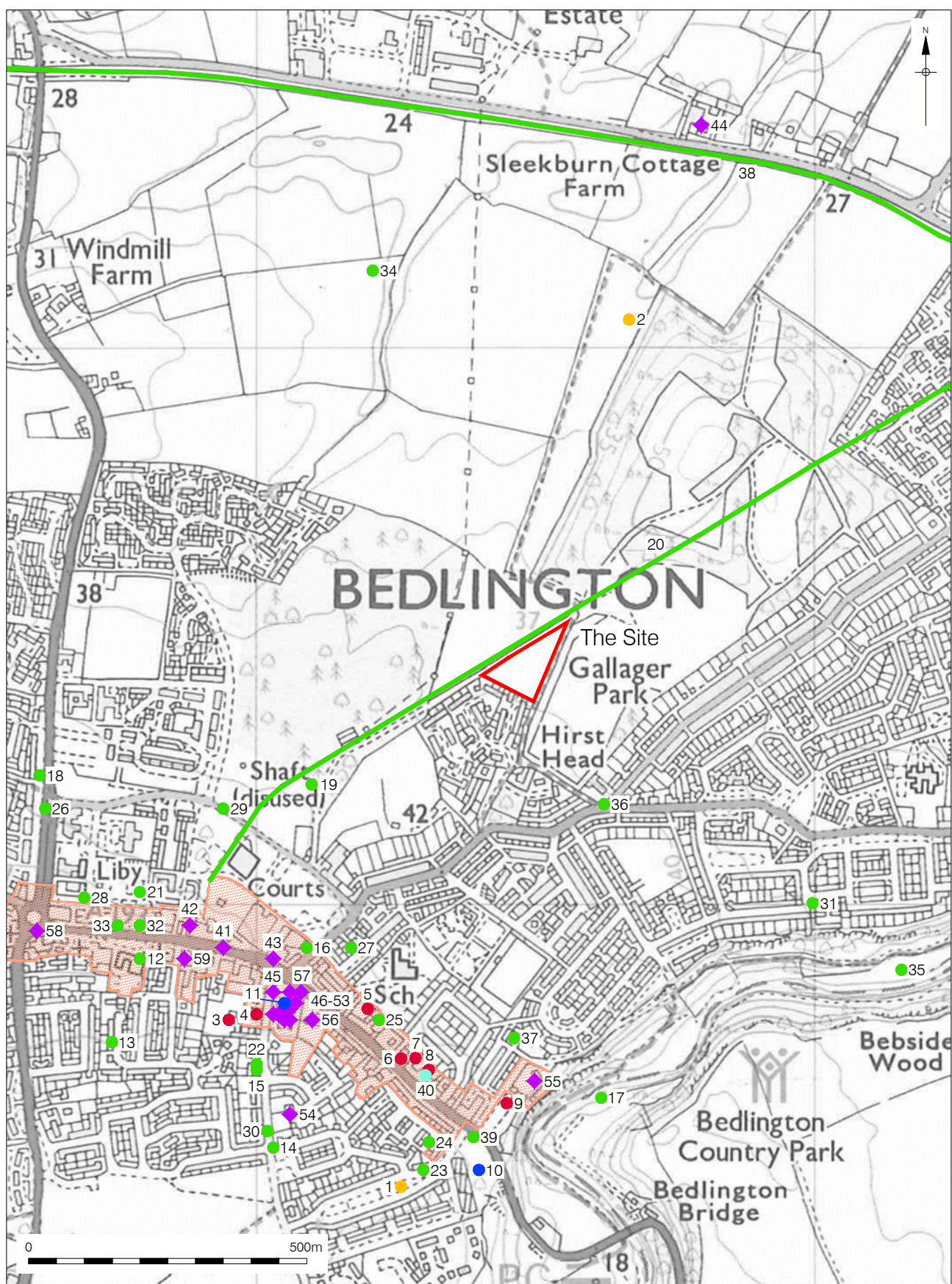
#### *Early Prehistoric*

- 5.4.2 Although there will have been at least transient human activity on the coastal plain around Bedlington since the end of the last glaciation, around 10,000 years ago, the first substantial archaeological evidence in the vicinity of the town listed on the HER comprises a cluster of five Bronze Age cist burials.<sup>9</sup> These were discovered during development of a council estate in 1934-5 at Mill Field, a site now incorporated in the southern part of the town, overlooking the valley of the River Blyth, located c. 0.9 km to the south-west of the study site (Figure 3; Ref. 1).

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<sup>8</sup> Land Use Consultants 2010.

<sup>9</sup> Northumberland County Council and English Heritage 2009.



- Prehistoric (1-2)    ● Medieval (3-9)    ● Medieval to Post-Medieval (10-11)    ● Post-Medieval (12-39)
- Modern (40)    ◆ Listed Buildings (41-59)    ▨ Conservation Area

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Figure 3  
 HER Entries and Events  
 1:10,000 at A4

- 5.4.3 All the cists were constructed with sandstone side slabs and cover stones. One contained a burial with an 'earthenware pot'; one a burial with a 'beaker'; another cist, described as a 'large chamber' with what appeared to be a side opening contained only a few bone fragments and a flint knife. A small, crudely built, cist next to this large chamber contained the remains of a cremation and an earthenware pot. The final cist contained a burial but no grave goods. No controlled excavation was undertaken at the time and the cists and contents were apparently damaged by onlookers.

#### *Later Prehistoric*

- 5.4.4 A possible prehistoric enclosure is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs on land south of Sleekburn Cottage Farm, c. 0.6 km north-east of the study site (Figure. 3; Ref. 2). Only part of the cropmark site remains; the portion in the adjacent field has been destroyed by quarrying.
- 5.4.5 The study site lies within a landscape which was densely occupied by agricultural settlements and extensively farmed during the Late Iron Age and early Roman period. A pattern of late prehistoric and early Roman small farmstead ditched enclosures is well documented on the South East Northumberland Coastal Plain. Numerous rectilinear enclosures have been identified on aerial photographs.<sup>10</sup> Several examples of such small ditched settlements, thought to represent single household farmsteads, were excavated by George Jobey from the 1950s to 1980s, including at Burradon, located c. 10 km south of the study site.<sup>11</sup> These investigations were generally conducted as 'rescue excavations' ahead of the destruction of the sites by development and with limited time and resources excavation focused on the ditch circuit and internal areas. More recent large-scale developer funded excavations in advance of housing schemes and opencast mining have revealed evidence for a wider range of settlement types and in some case for extensive field systems associated with settlements.<sup>12</sup>
- 5.4.6 At Pegswood Moor, Morpeth, c. 7 km to the north-west of the study site, large-scale excavation in 2000 ahead of opencast mining revealed a multi-phase settlement with areas of habitation set within extensive field and enclosure systems.<sup>13</sup> Roundhouses at that site were enclosed by ditches of much smaller proportions than the ditched enclosures previously identified in the region and it is noteworthy that this settlement and its extensive field systems were not visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs of the site. This was presumed to be due to a combination of the relatively insubstantial nature of most of the features coupled with the fact that the ditches contained little organic or occupation debris and were infilled with soils of very similar composition to the natural clay through which they were cut. This work has highlighted the fact that it is possible for hitherto unknown substantial and extensive settlements to be present in this area.

#### *Roman (43 AD – 410 AD)*

- 5.4.7 There are no HER entries from the Roman period on the study site or within the wider study area.

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<sup>10</sup> Burgess 1984, 163; Petts and Gerrard 2006, 37.

<sup>11</sup> Jobey 1970.

<sup>12</sup> Proctor 2009, 101.

<sup>13</sup> Proctor 2009.

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

- 5.4.8 There are no HER entries from the early medieval/Anglo-Saxon period on the study site or within the wider study area.

*Medieval (1066 - c. 1540 AD)*

- 5.4.9 There are seven HER entries relating to the medieval period within the wider study area; these are all situated within the historic core of Bedlington and are therefore considered to be of no direct relevance to the archaeological potential of the study site. The locations of these entries are shown on Figure 3 (Refs. 3-9) and summary details are provided in Appendix A.
- 5.4.10 Some form of settlement is known to have existed in Bedlington by 1069 as the body of St Cuthbert is recorded as having laid within Bedlington for one night en-route to Lindisfarne.<sup>14</sup> The Boldon Book of 1183 provides much evidence about the settlement at this time and refers to a Bishop's hall and court, a mill and fishery, as well as naming a number of tenants including eight cottagers and the number of bovates within the township. Although the church in Bedlington is not mentioned in the entry, it was certainly there by the 1180s as fabric within the structure survives from this time. There was almost certainly a church at Bedlington by the 10th century, but there is no in-situ physical evidence for this.
- 5.4.11 The settlement at Bedlington had seen such little change up to the mid-19th century that the Tithe Map of 1843 can effectively be used as evidence for the form of the later medieval town.<sup>15</sup> The map shows long narrow properties running at right angles from Front Street in four fairly discrete blocks. Whether all four blocks were laid out at one time is uncertain. These are typical of croft or tenement plots, which would have been held by tenants of the bishop. Each would have had domestic and ancillary ranges towards the street with an open property running to the rear, utilised as areas to hold stock, for horticulture and for crafts and industries. The properties would have been demarcated by walls at an early date.

*Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1939)*

- 5.4.12 There are 30 HER entries for the post-medieval period within the wider study area (Figure 3, Refs. 10-39), although as with the medieval period, the majority lie within the historic core of the town and the adjacent portion developed in the post-medieval period and are considered to be of no direct relevance to the study site. The few exceptions which are not located within the core of the town relate to specific and isolated features and are also therefore considered to have no direct relevance to the archaeological potential of the study site: a well (Figure 3; Ref. 18); Blackbird Hall (Figure 3; Ref. 26); a smithy (Figure 3; Ref. 29); a milepost (Figure 3; Ref. 34).
- 5.4.13 The extent of early post-medieval Bedlington can be estimated from surviving rental returns for the town paid to the Bishop of Durham in the 1630s and these show that it was not an extensive settlement. No plans survive which show the town in any detail before 1800, though as mentioned above, the form of the settlement probably changed little before the mid-19th century. The Tithe Map of 1843 shows the whole settlement which continued to focus along Front Street, with walled properties running back at right angles from the road line.

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<sup>14</sup> Wallace 1862, 127.

<sup>15</sup> Northumberland County Council and English Heritage 2009.

- 5.4.14 Of significance, however, are two HER entries for post-medieval/industrial era waggonways in the vicinity of the study site. The first is Bedlington waggonway (Figure 3; Ref. 31) was built by Huntingdon Beaumont who had already installed a waggonway in Wollaton, Nottinghamshire, and was looking to exploit the 'Great Northern Coalfield' by conveying coal from pits at Bedlington, Bebside and Cowpen to the River Blyth for shipment to London. By 1606 he was operating three short waggonways from staithes on the river including the Bedlington waggonway, which is mentioned in a lease from 1608,<sup>16</sup> and these are believed to have been the earliest wooden waggonways in the region. Their precise routes and the location of the mines they were serving are uncertain however and they were closed by 1616 as they were unprofitable.<sup>17</sup>
- 5.4.15 The second HER entry of importance is the SW-NE aligned route of Doctor Pit Waggonway (Figure 3; Ref. 20), which bounds the north-western side of the study site. At the beginning of the 19th century there was one small colliery at Bedlington. During the period 1836-1860, further large pits were sunk including Doctor Pit (Figure 3; Ref. 19), located c. 250m to the south-west of the study site, which was sunk in 1854 as part of Bedlington Colliery. The waggonway ran north-eastwards from Doctor Pit to join the main waggonway of Bedlington Colliery. Historic Ordnance Survey mapping indicates that, by 1920, this route had been converted to a railway.
- 5.4.16 Doctor Pit closed in 1967 but the line of the railway is still clearly visible within the landscape as a tarmaced access route leading to Gallagher Park and the reclaimed site of the main workings of Bedlington Colliery to the north-east of the study site. Bedlington Colliery (HER 11830) included 'A' Pit, a school and three terraces of colliery houses. It was noted in 1849 that cottages were being built for 300 colliers and their families, almost certainly those built of brick at Bedlington Colliery.<sup>18</sup>
- 5.4.17 Therefore, the HER and historic mapping demonstrates that a waggonway of mid-19th-century or earlier origin skirted the north-western limit of the study site on a SW-NE alignment. Although the track was likely located beyond the site boundary, as indicated by the line of the subsequent upgrade to a railway, elements of the waggonway corridor, such as trackside ditches or fencelines defining the wayleave corridor, potentially lay within the site itself.
- 5.4.18 Early waggonway systems were usually designed so that full waggons would travel under their own weight, on a gradual downhill incline, with horses pulling the empty vehicles uphill to the coal workings for reloading.<sup>19</sup> Early rails were typically of oak, ash or birch, usually approximately 4 inches square, with sleepers between, with a variety of gauges in use. Early lines were single track, with a buffer zone to either side where lines passed through private property. Double-tracked lines were certainly in existence in the 18th century, although many remained single track, facilitating vehicular movement with a series of sidings and passing places.

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<sup>16</sup> Turnbull 2012, 9.

<sup>17</sup> Turnbull 2012, 9.

<sup>18</sup> Rawlinson 1849, 29.

<sup>19</sup> For the most part, the works of Lewis 1970 and Warn 1976 are used as a basis for this summary.

- 5.4.19 The waggons were also initially made entirely of wood, with a brake to regulate the downhill descent, while from the mid-18th century wooden axles were replaced by iron ones and cast-iron wheels were eventually introduced. Upgrade of the rails was inevitable, with 1794 often quoted as being the date of the first recorded use of two-foot long malleable iron rails, at Walbottle Colliery in Newcastle. A survey of 1810 noted that although 'traditional' wooden waggonways remained in extensive use in the Tyneside area, replacement of wooden rails with metal ones was taking place on most routes.
- 5.4.20 To date there has been only a handful of examples of detailed archaeological investigation of former colliery waggonways, two of which in Tyne and Wear - both of likely late 18th century date - have led to published papers, underlining the significance of these structures in terms of post-medieval and early modern industrial archaeology. The first reported on an excavation at Lambton D Pit in 1995, which uncovered the substantial and well preserved remains of a timber waggonway, dating from c. 1780-90.<sup>20</sup> The second reported the findings of an excavation in 2002 at Rainton Bridge, near Houghton-le-Spring, which revealed a waggonway that could predate the example at Lambton D Pit.<sup>21</sup> Although timber preservation was poor in this case, the excavation was able to determine the rail gauge, and identify a series of re-cut ditches and fencelines that would have demarcated the surrounding wayleave.
- 5.4.21 There have also been several other archaeological investigations of industrial era waggonways in the region, to date unpublished. At Sir Charles Parson School in Walker, Newcastle, a clay embankment of increasing height was recorded to accommodate the waggonway track over the valley of a burn.<sup>22</sup> Such embankments would have provided a solid foundation, as well as the required track gradient; and similar construction methods have been recorded for waggonway embankments at other locations in the region such as Harraton Outside, near Washington<sup>23</sup> and Killingworth.<sup>24</sup>
- 5.4.22 These investigations have also shown that waggonway tracks were usually bounded on either side by drainage ditches or 'gutters' from their earliest construction. Such trackside ditches served to delineate the wayleave corridor of the waggonway and provided drainage for the track; adequate drainage was essential to stop the timbers rotting. At Rainton Bridge, a line of stakeholes on the outer edge of one of the trackside ditches marked the position of a fenceline which would have prevented stock crossing the ditch and straying onto the track.
- 5.4.23 These previous archaeological investigations have largely confirmed theories regarding general construction of late 18th- and 19th-century waggonways, in that initial groundworks involved laying down linear banks of ballast, often small-coal and ash, upon which wooden sleepers were placed and to provide gradients as required. Wooden rails were then laid down and pegged into place, before a layer of fine ballast was deposited on and around the sleepers as protection. Further ballast could be added to raise or effectively conceal the rails, with provision sometimes made for a path and, more usually, drainage gutters or ditches either side.

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<sup>20</sup> Ayris *et al.* 1998.

<sup>21</sup> Glover 2005.

<sup>22</sup> PCA 2012.

<sup>23</sup> PCA 2010.

<sup>24</sup> T&WM 2005.



*Modern (AD 1939 – to the present)*

- 5.4.24 There is one HER entry for the modern era within the wider study area. This is a storage or workshop facility of early 20th-century date located within the historic core of Bedlington (Figure 3; Ref. 40).

## **5.5 Historic Maps, Plans and Other Documentary Material**

- 5.5.1 Selected historic maps have been reproduced herein as Figures 4-8.

*Pre-Ordnance Survey Mapping*

- 5.5.2 Speed's map of Northumberland (1610) shows the settlement of 'Bedlington', but no details of roads are shown on this map. Armstrong's map of 1769 (Figure 4) depicts Bedlington with the main road (Front Street) lined with buildings and at this date the study site appears to be unoccupied. Fryer's map of 1820 (Figure 5) shows a route leading north-eastwards from Bedlington towards a small group of buildings, probably a farmstead (see below), situated at the north-western corner junction of a triangular arrangement of routes. From there, another route leads north-eastwards, skirting the south-eastern side of the study site then terminating abruptly. On Greenwood's map of 1828 (Figure 6), the route skirting the study site is not shown, but the group of buildings to the south is shown in more detail and labelled 'Stead Ho.[use]'. The course of the route shown on Fryer's map, running north-eastwards from the farmstead then terminating, evidently remains fossilised in the landscape today as the narrow lane which skirts the south-eastern boundary of the study site (Plate 6).
- 5.5.3 The Tithe map of 1843 (Figure 7) shows that the entire study site lay within the eastern part of large rectangular field (no. 88) owned by John Clayton and occupied by Thomas Wilson, the farmer of 'Hust Head Farm' (no. 117). The field is named on the Tithe apportionment as 'ewe fold', occupied by grass and thus presumably in use as pastoral land as part of the farm. The NNE-SSW aligned route from the farm and bounding the study site (no. 87 on the Tithe map) is a 'lane'. The area surrounding the study site is occupied by arable fields and while the field to the south-east (no. 86) is named on the apportionment as 'Engine Field', it is shown as being an empty, presumably arable, field.
- 5.5.4 The buildings of 'Hust Head Farm' to the south of the site are depicted on the Tithe map in some detail. The farm is assumed to be the 'Stead House' depicted on Greenwood's earlier map. The Tithe map shows the buildings arranged in a regular courtyard plan, with the yard enclosed on three sides by outbuildings (barns, stables, feed stores, *etc.*) and, on the south side, by a semi-detached farmhouse. This simple form of courtyard farm was commonly seen throughout Northumberland by the mid 19th century.<sup>25</sup> The Hirst Head (or Hirsthead) estate appears in documentary records earlier in the 19th century; one, for example, dating from 1816, names Nathaniel (*sic*) Clayton as the owner of the estate.<sup>26</sup> The aforementioned John Clayton, as named on the Tithe apportionment, is assumed to be a descendant. The 1851 census lists Fenwick Wilson as the resident (along with his wife and seven children) of Hirst Head, describing him as farmer of 350 acres employing five male and 12 female labourers.

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<sup>25</sup> Lake and Edwards 2006, 45.

<sup>26</sup> Northumberland County Council and English Heritage 2009, 41.



### *Ordnance Survey Mapping*

- 5.5.5 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition, 25" scale, of c. 1860 (Figure 8) shows that, by this date, the field within which the study site lies had been bisected diagonally by a waggonway running north-eastwards from Bedlington Colliery Doctor Pit, located a short distance to the south-west. The waggonway appears to be a single track route built on an embankment, which branches into three tracks at the pit head, and skirts the north-western study site boundary. The study site itself remains an empty field, skirted on its south-eastern side by the lane. To the south, the buildings of the parent farm, Hirst Head, are depicted in detail in the same regular courtyard plan. The barn forming the long western range has, by this date, a projecting horse engine house ('gin gang') on its western side. A detached house or cottage has been added to the east of the main complex, at the south end of the lane.
- 5.5.6 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition, 6" scale, of 1865 (Figure 9) shows the same layout as the earlier larger scale map. The extract of the map reproduced in this report shows the extensive main workings of Bedlington Colliery, including terraces of housing for the mine workers, to the north-east of the study site.
- 5.5.7 The Ordnance Survey 2nd edition, 25" scale, of 1897 (Figure 10) shows that, by this date, the waggonway had been upgraded to a railway, 'Bedlington Colliery Railway'. This map and the 2nd edition, 6" scale, of 1898 (Figure 11) show the development of Bedlington to the north of the historic core, with rows of terraced housing having been built to the west of Doctor Pit and along the road leading north-eastwards out of the town centre. The study site itself remains an empty field. Hirst Head Farm is shown in somewhat developed form by this date. To the north-east, the main workings of Bedlington Colliery are named 'A Pit'.
- 5.5.8 The Ordnance Survey 3rd edition 6" scale of 1924 (Figure 12) shows no change within the study site, but the fields to the immediate north-east contain linear earthworks along both sides of the railway which appear to be disused branches of the route, with some tracks still visible, branching from just beyond the north-east corner of the study site. The earthworks to the south of the railway continue right up to the lane that skirts the south-east side of the study site.
- 5.5.9 Ordnance Survey mapping shows that throughout the mid-20th century no change took place within the study site. In the wider area, following the closure of Doctor Pit in 1967, the railway skirting the site was closed and, by the 1970s, the line of the route is shown as a track. The site of Bedlington Colliery was reclaimed, with Gallagher Park created to its south. Modern housing development infilled the former fields to the south of the site, encompassing the few surviving elements of Hirst Head Farm but retaining the name Hirst Head for the overall development. Slaley Court had been constructed to the immediate south-west of the study site by the late 20th century.

## **5.6 Previous Archaeological Work**

- 5.6.1 There has been no previous archaeological work undertaken on the study site. There are five HER entries for previous archaeological interventions (collectively 'HER Events') within the wider study area. These are all located within the historic core of Bedlington (Figure 3; Refs. 5-9) and are therefore considered to be of no direct relevance to the archaeological potential of the study site and are not discussed further in the main report (see Appendix A for summary details).

## **5.7 Site Visit**

- 5.7.1 A site visit was undertaken in April 2013.
- 5.7.2 The study site comprises relatively level open scrubland/grassland (Plates 1-5). The south-western boundary of the study site is formed by a timber fence backing onto Slaley Court (Plates 3 and 4). The north-western and south-eastern boundaries of the study site are formed by high hedges, with the line of the former waggonway/railway surviving to the north-west as a tarmaced SW-NE aligned access route (Plate 8).
- 5.7.3 Beyond the south-eastern boundary is a narrow footpath lane (Plate 6), which marks a former lane shown on mapping from the early 19th century. Skirting this lane to the east is strip of woodland in which is discernible a 'hollow-way' (Plate 7), possibly representing the remains of a ditch associated with an earlier version of the lane.







Figure 5  
Fryer's Map of 1820  
Approx. 1:20,000 at A4

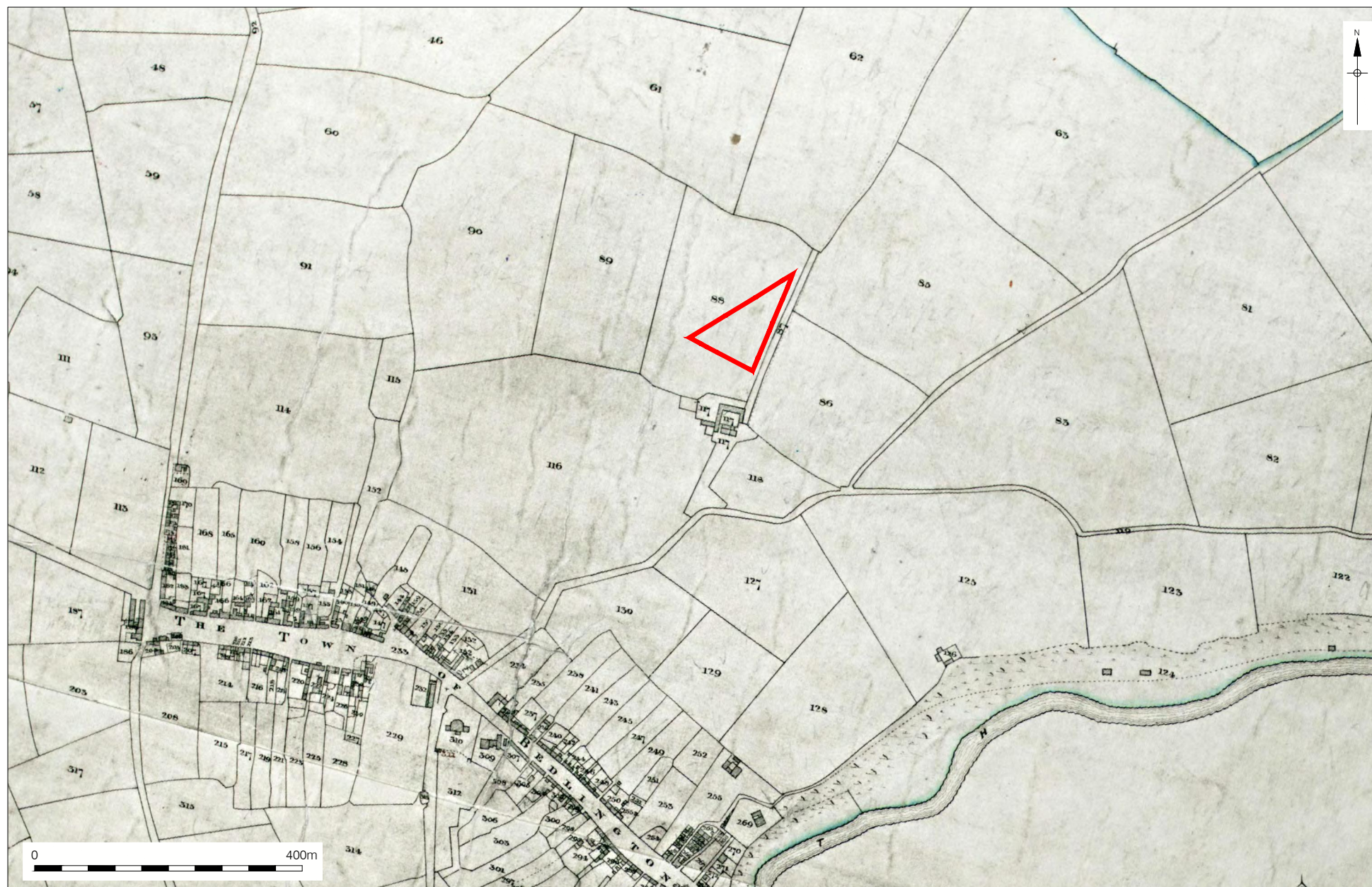




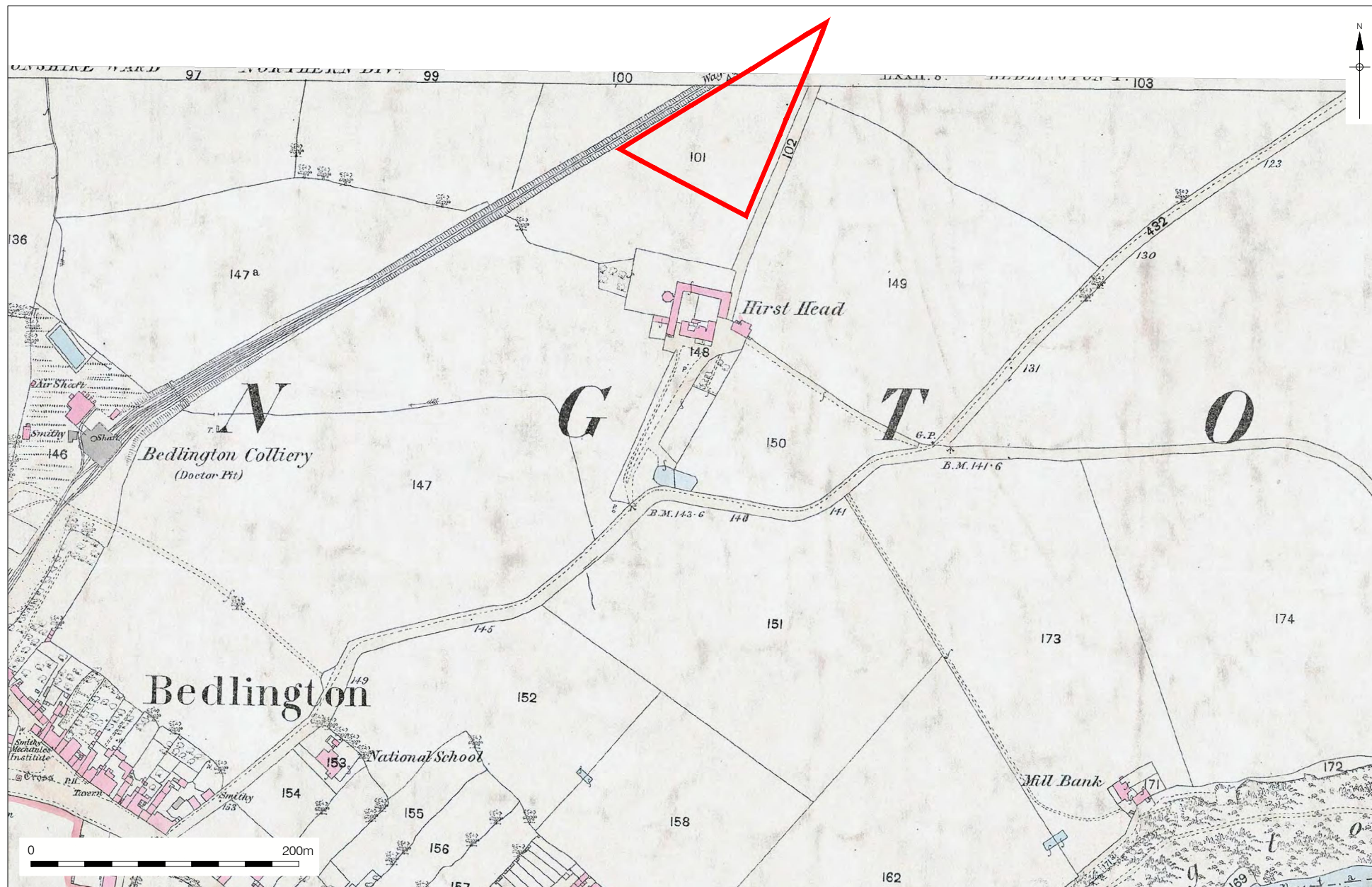
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Figure 6  
Greenwood's Map of 1828  
Approx. 1:20,000 at A4











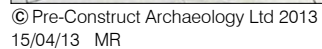
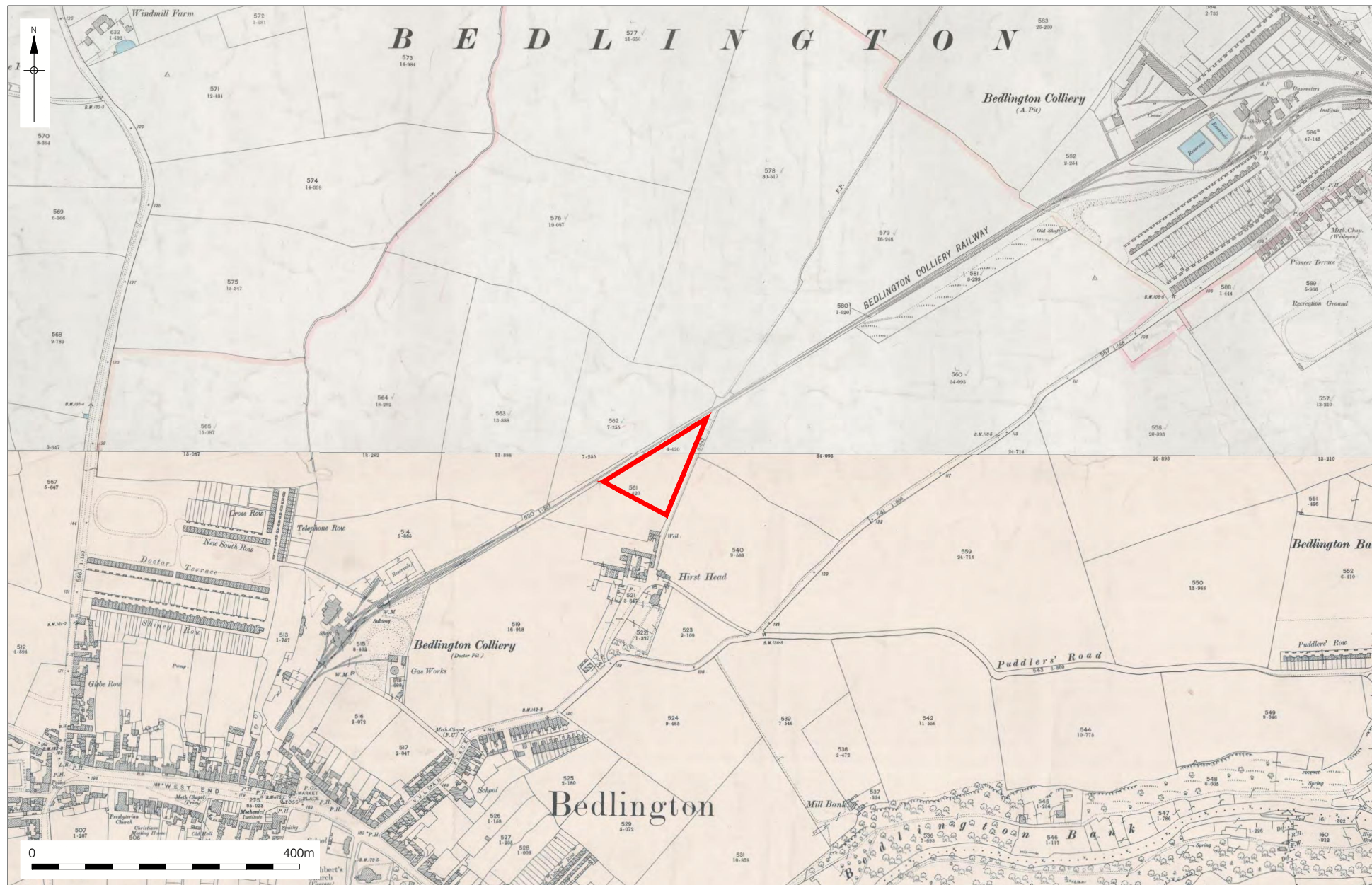


Figure 9  
Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 6", 1865  
1:10,000 at A4

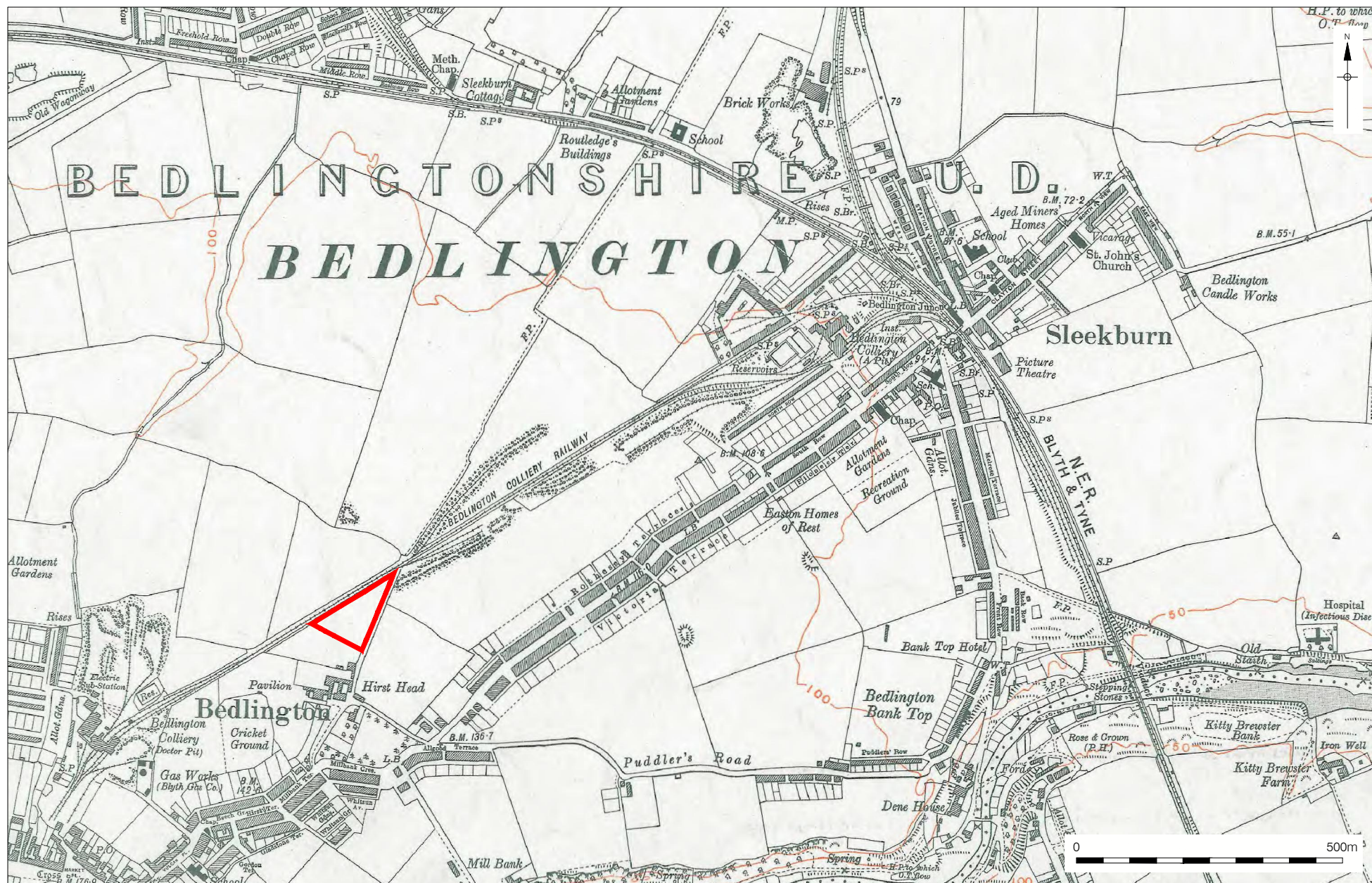












## **6. ASSESSMENT OF HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT POTENTIAL**

### **6.1 Summary of the Known Historic Environment Resource**

- 6.1.1 There are no designated heritage assets upon the study site. Within the 1 km radius wider study area there are nineteen designated heritage assets; all are listed buildings of post-medieval or modern date, and with one exception, Sleekburn Cottage Farmhouse, all are located to the south, within the historic core of Bedlington.
- 6.1.2 The non-designated heritage asset of Bedlington waggonway skirts the north-western boundary of the study site. Although the waggonway track is likely to have been situated just beyond the site, following the line of the subsequent railway which survives as a current access route, elements of the waggonway corridor could potentially survive within the study site adjacent to its boundary.

### **6.2 Summary Statement of Archaeological Potential**

- 6.2.1 The assessment has determined the potential for heritage assets with archaeological interest at the study site – specifically buried archaeological remains – through consideration of archaeological sites and discoveries within the wider area.
- 6.2.2 There is limited evidence of early prehistoric activity in the wider study area. In sum, therefore, the evidence base only very broadly suggests that the study site may have seen human occupation or other exploitation during prehistory. The potential for sub-surface archaeological remains of early prehistoric date at the study site is therefore considered low at best.
- 6.2.3 The site lies within an area that was densely settled and farmed during the Late Iron Age and early Roman period and cropmarks of an enclosure that may date from these periods are located within the vicinity of the study site. Recent excavations on the coastal plain have shown that some settlements of this period and associated extensive fields systems do not show up as cropmarks, highlighting the potential for hitherto unknown archaeological remains of this period. The potential for archaeological remains of the Late Iron Age and early Roman period at the study site is considered moderate. Any such remains would be non-designated heritage assets of moderate significance, with potential to contribute to regional archaeological research objectives.
- 6.2.4 The potential for later Roman and early medieval/Anglo-Saxon archaeological remains at the study site is considered low.
- 6.2.5 Map regression has shown that the study site lay within agricultural land during the post-medieval period, and it was therefore probably used for agricultural purposes throughout the medieval period. Therefore, there is considered to be moderate to high potential for archaeological remains relating to medieval and post-medieval agricultural usage of the site. In broad terms though, this location is not considered to be particularly sensitive with regard to medieval and post-medieval archaeological remains, since evidence of ploughing, improved agricultural soils, drainage features and former land boundaries of these eras would be of low significance, with potential to contribute only to, at best, local research objectives.

- 6.2.6 The potential for sub-surface features of post-medieval/industrial date associated with the Bedlington Colliery waggonway to be present on the site is considered moderate to high. Such remains would be non-designated heritage assets of moderate significance, with potential to contribute regional archaeological research objectives.

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

- 6.3.1 The site has evidently seen no previous development and has likely remained in use as arable or pastoral land since the medieval period. By the time of the Tithe Map the site was certainly used as pastoral land and therefore probably not subject to ploughing, so that the impact of previous agricultural use of the site on potential archaeological remains of earlier eras is likely to have been minimal.

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

- 6.4.1 With no designated heritage assets upon the study site, it is concluded that the proposed development would have no direct impacts on designated heritage assets.
- 6.4.2 Given the distance to the nearest designated heritage assets within the wider study area – listed buildings in Bedlington town centre to the south of the study site and another listed building to the north - it is concluded that the architectural, archaeological and historical interest of those assets will not be diminished by the proposed development, and thus that there would be no indirect impact upon them as there would be no appreciable change in their settings. The overall effect of the development on those assets would, therefore, be neutral. In sum, it is considered that designated heritage assets in the wider study area will not present any historic environment constraints to the proposed scheme.
- 6.4.3 Components, in the form of buried archaeological remains, of a known non-designated heritage asset – the 19th-century colliery waggonway - could encroach into the north-western margin of the study site. If this were the case, the proposed development could have a detrimental impact on the significance of the historic environment by impacting directly on archaeological remains of moderate significance.
- 6.4.4 In terms of potential heritage assets with archaeological interest at the study site – specifically buried archaeological remains - only further evaluation can establish the actual magnitude of direct impact on such assets, and thus the actual overall effect of the proposed development on the significance of the historic environment. The magnitude of direct impact on buried archaeological remains could be major, if any such assets were totally altered and much of their significance was lost. However, in order to confirm the magnitude of direct impact, the presence, character, date and extent of archaeological remains would first need to be established and then precise construction details for the proposed scheme would need to be considered.

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

6.5.1 Given the moderate to high potential for sub-surface archaeological remains of significance at the study site, the LPA will potentially require archaeological investigation, possibly pre-determination of the planning application, 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 could be a suitable method for the initial identification of sub-surface archaeological features of any era. Geophysical survey often provides useful data to ensure that subsequent trial trenches target areas of particular archaeological potential. However, as the likely location of post-medieval/industrial features associated with the waggonway can be predicted with some degree of certainty and any potential features of Late Iron Age or early Roman date may evade detection by such survey - due to their likely ephemeral nature - this is not considered to be the most suitable method. Surface artefact collection is only suitable on fields that have been recently ploughed, harrowed or drilled and particularly after a period of weathering. This method is therefore also unsuitable for the study site.

6.5.3 In sum, therefore, a trial trenching evaluation is considered the most suitable method for the identification of any sub-surface archaeological features at the study site.

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

### ***Woodhorn Museum and Northumberland Archives***

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 Bedlington* ('the Tithe map') (extract reproduced as Figure 7) 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 (25" to 1 mile), published c. 1860 (extract reproduced as Figure 8).

The Ordnance Survey 1st edition (6" to 1 mile), published 1865 (extract reproduced as Figure 9).

The Ordnance Survey 2nd edition (25" to 1 mile), published 1897 (extract reproduced as Figure 10).

The Ordnance Survey 2nd edition (6" to 1 mile), published 1898 (extract reproduced as Figure 11).

The Ordnance Survey 1924 edition (6" to 1 mile) (extract reproduced as Figure 12).

### **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 **Find My Past** website: [www.findmypast.co.uk/](http://www.findmypast.co.uk/). This was consulted for census information.



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 **Pictures in Print** website: [www.dur.ac.uk/picturesinprint/](http://www.dur.ac.uk/picturesinprint/)

The **Durham Mining Museum** website: [www.dmm.org.uk](http://www.dmm.org.uk). Consulted for information about the collieries in the vicinity of the study site, particularly Bedlington Colliery.

The **Northumberland Communities** website: [www.communities.northumberland.gov.uk/](http://www.communities.northumberland.gov.uk/). This site contains a range of resource material that reflects Northumberland's heritage. This was consulted for pre-Ordnance Survey mapping of Northumberland and Bedlington.

**APPENDIX A**  
**CATALOGUE OF HER ENTRIES AND EVENTS**

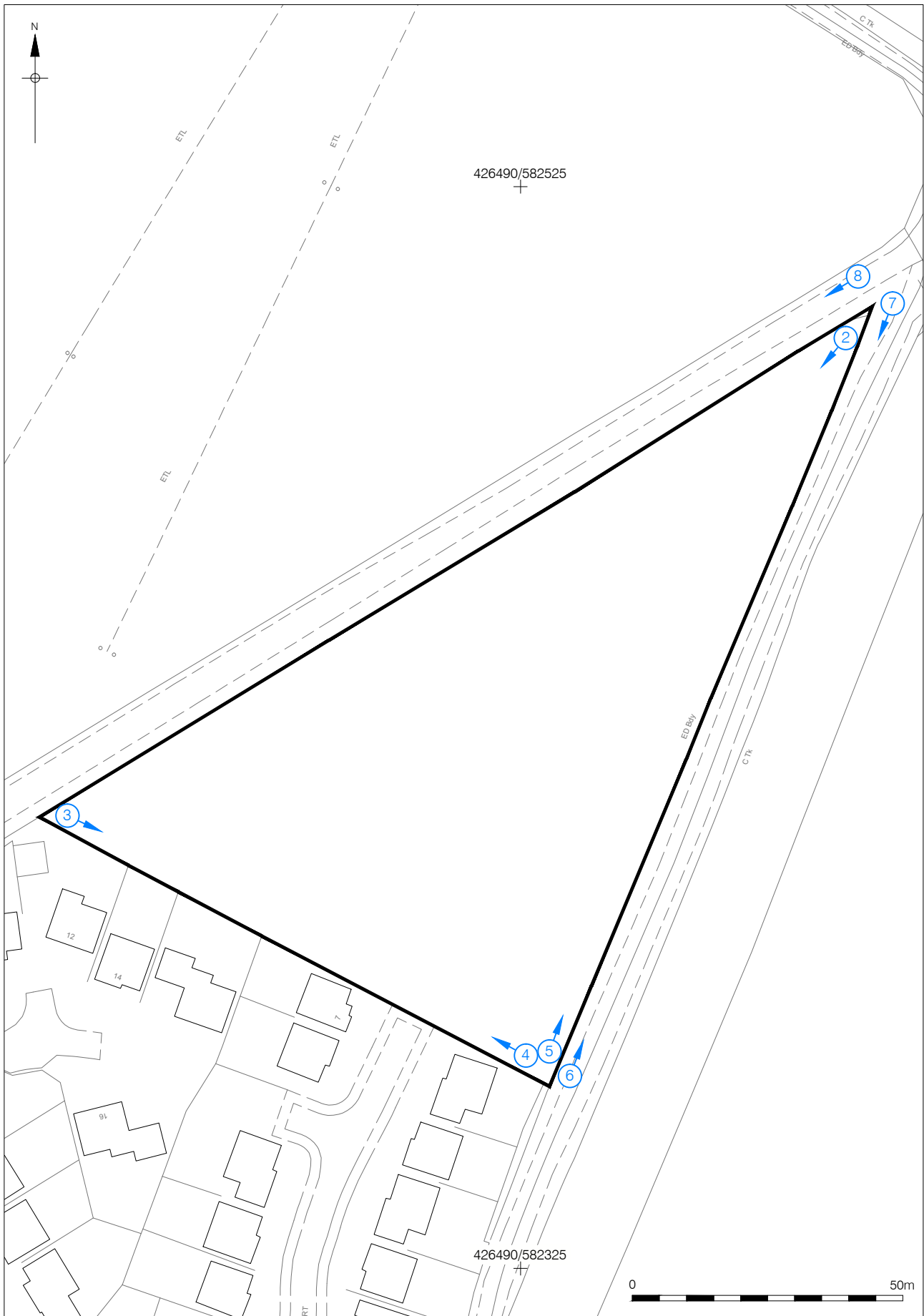
**SLB 13: Land off Slayey Court, Bedlington, Northumberland - Catalogue of HER Entries and Events**

Map Ref.	NGR	HER No.	Name	Monument Types	Date Range	Description
1	426260 581490	11747	Cists in Mill Field	Cist, Inhumation	Prehistoric	Five Bronze Age cists found, in 1930s, in close proximity in Mill Field, Bedlington: 1. Inhumation with 'an earthenware pot', subsequently broken; 2. Inhumation with cover stone and beaker; 3. 'A large chamber' with possible side entrance, handful of fragmented human bone and flint knife; 4. Small roughly made feature near the opening to 3, some incinerated remains and an 'earthenware pot'; 5. Inhumation, but no grave goods.
2	426670 583050	11774	Cropmark site, south of Sleekburn Cottage Farm	Cropmark	Prehistoric	Possible site visible on aerial photographs in field adjacent to Bedlington 'A' quarry. Only part of the cropmark site remains, the portion in the adjacent field has been quarried out.
3	425950 581790	11750	Leper Hospital	Leper Hospital	Medieval	Leper Hospital founded at Bedlington before AD 1203; its location is uncertain and its exact date of dedication and dissolution are not known.
4	426000 581800	11849	Bishop's Hall	Hall	Medieval	Demesne house (or 'hall of the bishop') documented in Bedlington in AD 1183, along with a Court; exact location of both is uncertain, although they are thought to have been located in the demesne field close to the church on the western side of Church Lane.
5	426200 581810	13863	Land boundaries, 72-84 Front Street East	Boundary Ditches	Medieval	Evaluation in 2003 on land to the rear of 72-84 Front Street East, Bedlington, revealed two slight ditches or gullies, possibly croft boundaries and/or for drainage, one produced a single sherd of medieval pottery; two larger ditches were probably of post-medieval date.
6	426260 581720	14899	Land boundaries, 34-38 Front Street East	Boundary Ditches	Medieval	Watching brief in 2003 during the excavation of foundations for two new properties on Front Street East, Bedlington, revealed a complex of possibly medieval boundary features running parallel with existing rear wall of the properties.
7	426286 581721	23182	Land boundary, 22-30 Front Street, Bedlington	Ditch	Medieval	Evaluation in 2008 on land to the rear of 22-30 Front Street recorded a ditch, 0.48m deep, running on a NE-SW alignment; stone wall had been subsequently built over the ditch.
8	426310 581700	23183	Land boundary, 22-30 Front Street	Ditch	Medieval	Evaluation in 2008 on land to the rear of 22-30 Front Street, Bedlington, recorded three ditches; the largest feature, measuring 5m wide by 0.80m deep, probably represents a substantial long-lived land boundary (it had been re-cut in the post-medieval period), with the smaller ditches marking individual plot boundaries.
9	426450 581640	24078	Land boundaries and occupation features, Spring Bank	Ditches and Pits	Medieval	Work in 2005 on Spring Bank, Bedlington, recorded several small pits and two ditches; one ditch, aligned east-west, was overlain by the remains of a dry stone wall foundation; the alignment bears no relationship to modern boundaries, suggesting a significant change in the nature of land holdings.
10	426400 581520	11753	Bedlington Mill	Mill	Medieval - Post-Medieval	Bedlington Mill is documented in AD 1183, with an associated mill dam and pond mentioned; there are no building remains or surface indications to show where this stood, although it is thought to have been in the area of Dene park on the steep, wooded banks of Blyth Dene. Later there were two mills: Bedlington Mill, which fed Bedlington Ironworks, and Sheepwash or Cleaswell Mill (HER 11690) which was a post-medieval construction; 'Mill Bank' is at NZ 267 819.
11	426050 581820	11764	Church of St. Cuthbert	Church	Medieval - Post-Medieval	Parish church of Bedlington; possibly a Saxon origin but the existing nave and other elements are mid 12th c.; south porch chamber added c. 1400; nave extended to the north in 1818; chancel enlarged in 1847; tower demolished in 1867.
12	425790 581900	11755	Bedlington Old Hall	Tower House	Post-Medieval	Demolished in 1959 and with no surviving remains, this was a 16th or 17th c. tower-house, built in stone of three storeys, with hood-moulded mullioned windows; it had been converted in the 18th c. into a range of tenements.
13	425740 581750	11784	Old Hall Well	Well	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
14	426030 581560	11785	Joe's Well	Well	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
15	426000 581700	11786	Pinfold	Pound	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
16	426090 581920	11792	Smithy	Blacksmiths Workshop	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
17	426620 581650	11793	Bebside Mill	Mill	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
18	425610 582230	11796	Dunny Well	Well	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
19	426140 582220	11797	Doctor Pit	Colliery and Brickworks	Post-Medieval	Doctor Pit of Bedlington Colliery, sunk 1854; like many collieries, this had an associated brickworks within the complex.
20	426100 582200	11798	Doctor Pit Waggonway	Waggonway	Post-Medieval	Waggonway linking Doctor Pit to the main Bedlington Colliery complex, appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1865.
	427500 583000					
21	425790 582020	11834	Well	Well	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
22	426000 581710	11835	Well	Well	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
23	426300 581520	11836	Well	Well	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
24	426310 581570	11837	Well	Well	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
25	426220 581790	11838	Well	Well	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
26	425620 582170	11839	Blackbird Hall	Hall/House	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
27	426170 581920	11843	National School	School	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
28	425690 582010	11844	Baptist Chapel	Baptist Chapel	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
29	425940 582170	11845	Smithy	Blacksmiths Workshop	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
30	426020 581590	11846	Well	Well	Post-Medieval	Appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1865.
31	427000 582000	11852	Huntingdon Beaumont Bedlington Waggonway	Waggonway	Post-Medieval	By 1608 Huntingdon Beaumont was operating three short waggonways staithe on the River Blyth from Bedlington, Cowpen, and Bebside; their locations/routes are not fully known.
32	425790 581960	11857	The White House	Brewery	Post-Medieval	The White House, Bedlington; originally a brewery dating to 1767.
33	425750 581960	11858	The Top Club, Front Street West	House	Post-Medieval	The building, 40a Front Street West, Bedlington, has a date stone of 1777 and blue memorial plaque reading 'The Laird's House'; had associated service buildings, a kitchen and stable block (this now 40c, Market Place Post Office), and there are former gardener's/coachman's cottages (variously occupied) of a similar date to the east.
34	426209 583138	18347	Stone	Stone	Post-Medieval	Stone to the north-west of Bedlington, appears on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey of 1865; purpose uncertain, possibly a milepost.

**SLB 13: Land off Slayey Court, Bedlington, Northumberland - Catalogue of HER Entries and Events**

35	427160 581880	18365	Bedlington Banks	Allotment Gardens?	Post-Medieval	Fourteen small, regular enclosures running away from the River Blyth; no function ascribed to them, but probably small allotment gardens; similar distinct, single enclosures, appear to the west.
36	426625 582178	18367	Guidepost	Signpost	Post-Medieval	Guidepost, noted on early mapping of the area.
37	426463 581757	20710	Hollymount Hall	Hall/House	Post-Medieval	Demolished in 1958; Hollymount Hall, Bedlington was built in 1844 by John Birkenshaw, Chief Agent of the Bedlington Ironworks.; Birkenshaw was an associate of George Stephenson, as was Michael Longridge who owned the property after Birkenshaw.
38	420340 585410	24695	Blyth and Tyne Railway	Railway	Post-Medieval	Blyth and Tyne Railway ran from Morpeth to Bedlington and on to Tynemouth and Newcastle; first recorded in 1847 as a private railway, not incorporated until 1853; the oldest part connected Seghill Colliery to Northumberland Dock on the Tyne, which opened in 1840.
	429500 574210					
39	426390 581579	24908	Well, Bedlington Bank	Well	Post-Medieval	Pipeline installation in 2011 revealed a well, c. 1m diameter internally, constructed of sandstone blocks, topped by a course of red brick; no dating evidence for original construction recovered, but thought to be post-medieval.
40	426304 581690	25402	Outhouses, 22-28 Front Street	Storehouse/ Workshop	Modern	Series of outhouses recorded at the rear of 22-28 Front Street, Bedlington, prior to demolition; an irregularly shaped range, divided into three sections with attached lean-to; brick-built with slate roof and probably a former storage or workshop facility, constructed post-1918, though before the Ordnance Survey 1922 edition.
41	425940 581920	11751	The Cross	Market Cross	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. Market Cross, Bedlington, probably 18th c.; squared stone; steps on east.
42	425880 581960	11757	The Kings Arms	Public House	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. Public house, Bedlington, early 18th c., perhaps with earlier fabric; double-span plan; front good-quality squared stone; Welsh slate roof with 20th c. brick stacks; front two storeys, five narrow bays; 20th c. extension.
43	426030 581900	11758	Barclays Bank	House	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. Former house in Bedlington town centre, late 18th c., now a bank; brick front with cut stone quoins and dressings; rear elevation stone; 20th c. pantile roof with brick stacks; front two-and-a-half storeys, three bays.
44	426800 583400	11810	Sleekburn Cottage Farmhouse	Farmhouse	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. Sleekburn Cottage Farmhouse, c. 1800; squared tooled stone with ashlar door surround; Welsh slate roof with rebuilt brick stacks; one storey and attic, three bays; domestic accommodation now extended into adjacent farm buildings range.
45	426030 581840	11812	Gate piers and walls with railings, Church of St. Cuthbert	Gate Piers etc	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. Gate piers and adjacent walls with railings at St. Cuthbert's church, mid-18th and 19th c.; squared stone, cast-iron; circular piers with plinth and moulded capitals.
46	426070 581820	11813	Two headstones, Church of St. Cuthbert	Headstones	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. Two headstones, 19th c.; sandstone; southern stone bears inscription to Elizabeth Burdon, d. 1806; northern stone has inscription to Sarah, wife of Peter Stavers, d. 1863, and her son Wilkinson, drowned 1864.
47	426060 581810	11814	Two tombs and two headstones, Church of St. Cuthbert	Headstones and Tombs	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. Two headstones and a box tomb and table tomb, 18th c.; sandstone; one headstone - inscription to children of Matthew and Jane Potts of Netherton 1745-1752; second headstone - inscription to Robert Wilson of Bedlington, 1777; box tomb - for the children of Robert and Elizabeth Potts of Bedlington, 1740; table tomb - inscription to George Potts of Netherton, 1797.
48	426050 581810	11815	Willson Headstone, Church of St. Cuthbert	Headstone	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. Headstone, 1710; sandstone; inscription to 'Robert Willson of Bedlington, Richard his son and Elliner his wife'.
49	426060 581790	11816	Hedley Headstone, Church of St. Cuthbert	Headstone	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. Headstone, 1805; sandstone; inscription to John Hedley, drowned 1805.
50	426050 581790	11817	Nicholson Headstone, Church of St. Cuthbert	Headstone	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. Headstone, 1741; sandstone; inscription to Frances Nicholson, wife of James Nicholson.
51	426040 581800	11818	Spearman Headstone, Church of St. Cuthbert	Headstone	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. Headstone, 1800; sandstone; inscription to 'Ann, wife of Edward Spearman, Shipwash Mill'.
52	426030 581800	11819	Two Headstones, Church of St. Cuthbert	Headstones	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. Two headstones, 18th c.; sandstone; inscription to William Scott of Choppington, 1759; inscription to Elizabeth, wife of William Collingwood (of) Bluehouse, 1787.
53	426060 581840	11820	Southern Headstone, Church of St. Cuthbert	Headstone	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. Headstone, 1840; sandstone; inscription to Thomas Southern, erected by the Bedlington Iron Company in commemoration of the long and faithful service.
54	426060 581620	11821	The Tower and The Beeches	House	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. The Tower and The Beeches, Bedlington, now two dwellings; late 18th c., extended and altered in 1910; coursed rubble with tooled quoins and dressings; mostly green slate roof; front elevation two plus three storeys, four bays, in two sections; formerly known as Tower Cottage, once a school; tower said to have been constructed as an astronomical observatory in the 18th c.
55	426500 581680	11822	Spring View	House	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. House, Bedlington, early 19th c.; tooled-and-margined stone, front ashlar quality; Welsh slate roof; rectangular villa with twin wings to rear; hipped roof; formerly the house of the manager of Bedlington Ironworks.
56	426100 581790	11823	The Old Vicarage	Old Vicarage	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. The Old Vicarage, Bedlington, now a private house, 1835 with earlier 18th c. predecessor, relegated to use as service wing; main part squared tooled stone; Welsh slate roofs.
57	426080 581840	11824	Garden Wall, Gateway and Gates, The Old Vicarage	Garden Wall etc	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. The Old Vicarage, Bedlington, garden wall with gateways and gates; early 19th c. incorporating older fabric, late 19th c. or early 20th c. gates; wall coursed rubble, gateways squared stone; Old Vicarage gate wooden, churchyard gate wrought iron.
58	425605 581950	11825	Trotter Memorial Drinking Fountain	Drinking Fountain	Listed Building - Post-Medieval	Grade II Listed Building. Drinking fountain in Bedlington town centre, dated 1899; red sandstone ashlar with white marble and pink granite; inscription to Dr. James Trotter and marble bas-relief bust of that person.
59	425870 581900	11851	Bedlington War Memorial	War Memorial	Listed Building - Modern	Grade II Listed Building. War memorial in Bedlington town centre; granite and sandstone war memorial with Celtic cross; commissioned by the War Memorial Committee, designed and sculpted by R. Oliver, unveiled 20 January 1923; inscription dedications to fallen of both World Wars.

**APPENDIX B**  
**PLATES 1-8 (SITE PHOTOGRAPHS)**



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Plate Locations and Directions  
1:1,000 at A4



Plate 1. Overview of study site setting, from reclaimed site of Bedlington Colliery, looking south-west



Plate 2. Overview of study site, from north-eastern corner, looking south-west





Plate 3. View along study site south-west boundary, looking south-east



Plate 4. View along study site south-west boundary, looking north-west





Plate 5. View across the site, looking NNE



Plate 6. View along footpath lane skirting study site south-east boundary, looking NNE





Plate 7. Woodland with 'hollow-way' skirting east side of footpath lane, looking SSW



Plate 8. View along land skirting north-west site boundary (route of former railway to left), looking south-west

# PCA

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## PCA SOUTH

UNIT 54  
BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE  
96 ENDWELL ROAD  
BROCKLEY  
LONDON SE4 2PD  
TEL: 020 7732 3925 / 020 7639 9091  
FAX: 020 7639 9588  
EMAIL: [info@pre-construct.com](mailto:info@pre-construct.com)

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## PCA NORTH

UNIT 19A  
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK  
DURHAM DH6 5PG  
TEL: 0191 377 1111  
FAX: 0191 377 0101  
EMAIL: [info.north@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.north@pre-construct.com)

---

## PCA CENTRAL

7 GRANTA TERRACE  
STAPLEFORD  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL  
TEL: 01223 845 522  
FAX: 01223 845 522  
EMAIL: [info.central@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.central@pre-construct.com)

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## PCA WEST

BLOCK 4  
CHILCOMB HOUSE  
CHILCOMB LANE  
WINCHESTER  
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB  
TEL: 01962 849 549  
EMAIL: [info.west@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.west@pre-construct.com)

---

## PCA MIDLANDS

17-19 KETTERING RD  
LITTLE BOWDEN  
MARKET HARBOROUGH  
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN  
TEL: 01858 468 333  
EMAIL: [info.midlands@pre-construct.com](mailto:info.midlands@pre-construct.com)

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