

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ADJACENT TO COCK LANE,
PIERCEBRIDGE, COUNTY DURHAM**

OCTOBER 2013



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ADJACENT TO COCK LANE, PIERCEBRIDGE, COUNTY DURHAM**

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief Adjacent to Cock Lane, Piercebridge,
County Durham**

National Grid Reference: NZ 2048 1618

Site Code: CLP 13

Client:

Northern Powergrid
Cargo Fleet Lane
Middlesbrough
TS3 8DG



Commissioned on behalf of the Client by:

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October 2013**

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CONTENTS

	<i>page</i>
1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY	1
2. INTRODUCTION	2
3. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES	8
4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY	9
5. RESULTS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE	11
6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	14
7. REFERENCES	15
8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS	16

List of Figures

Figure 1	Site Location	3
Figure 2	Trench Location	4
Figure 3	Sections 1-3	13

Appendices

Appendix 1	Stratigraphic Matrix
Appendix 2	Context Index
Appendix 3	Ceramic Report
Appendix 4	Written Scheme of Investigation

1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological monitoring and recording exercise was conducted in association with an underground electrical supply installation adjacent to Cock Lane, Piercebridge, County Durham. The site lies at central National Grid Reference NZ 2048 1618, c. 0.5km north-west of the site of the Roman fort on the River Tees at Piercebridge.
- 1.2 The archaeological investigation was commissioned by ADAS on behalf of Northern Powergrid and was undertaken in May 2013 by Pre-Construct Archaeology. The work was undertaken at the request of Durham County Council Archaeology Section and was required because of the archaeological sensitivity of the site, essentially due to its close proximity to the Roman fort.
- 1.3 The archaeological investigation was undertaken in association with the upgrade of an electricity supply to north-west of Piercebridge, a scheme which for the most part entailed replacement of high voltage overhead lines. In one section, however, the scheme required the installation of underground cabling within a trench and it was these works which necessitated the investigation, in order to record any archaeological remains of importance that may have been disturbed.
- 1.4 The cable trench began adjacent to a field boundary to the west of Cock Lane, running roughly eastwards along the northern edge of the field; this portion of the route being interrupted. East of Cock Lane, the cable trench turned southwards to run along the field edge, before turning eastwards and continuing along the field edge on the north side of the A67 to join with an existing electrical supply.
- 1.5 The archaeological work involved monitoring the mechanical excavation of the cable trench; three separate lengths of cable trench (Areas 1-3), were monitored, of total length c. 540m. The trench was typically c. 0.75m wide and between 1.20m and 1.35m deep.
- 1.6 Natural geological material, comprising River Terrace Deposits, was recorded as the basal layer in all parts of the cable trench, overlain by a subsoil and then topsoil. No remains of archaeological significance were recorded during the investigation.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 General Background

- 2.1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological monitoring and recording exercise (hereafter 'watching brief') undertaken in association with the upgrade of an electricity supply to the north-west of Piercebridge, County Durham. One portion of the scheme involved the installation of cabling in a trench excavated adjacent to Cock Lane. The work was commissioned by ADAS on behalf of Northern Powergrid and undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) in May 2013.
- 2.1.2 The site of the cable installation was primarily of archaeological interest because of its proximity to the Roman fort at Piercebridge, which is a Scheduled Monument. The cable trench was excavated on land adjacent to Cock Lane, north-west of the scheduled area, and connected to an existing supply alongside the A67. The archaeological work was required by Durham County Council Archaeology Section (DCCAS) the body which undertakes development control in relation to the historic environment throughout County Durham and the Borough of Darlington.
- 2.1.3 The archaeological work was carried out according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by PCA (PCA 2013; Appendix 4 to this report), and approved in advance of the work by DCCAS. The work involved observation and recording during invasive groundworks for the installation, namely the mechanical excavation of the cable trench for the underground portion of the upgraded electricity supply.
- 2.1.4 The completed Site Archive, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited at the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham, within six months of the fieldwork at the site, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with DCCAS. The site code is CLP 13. The Online 'Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations' (OASIS) reference number for the project is: preconst1-164745.

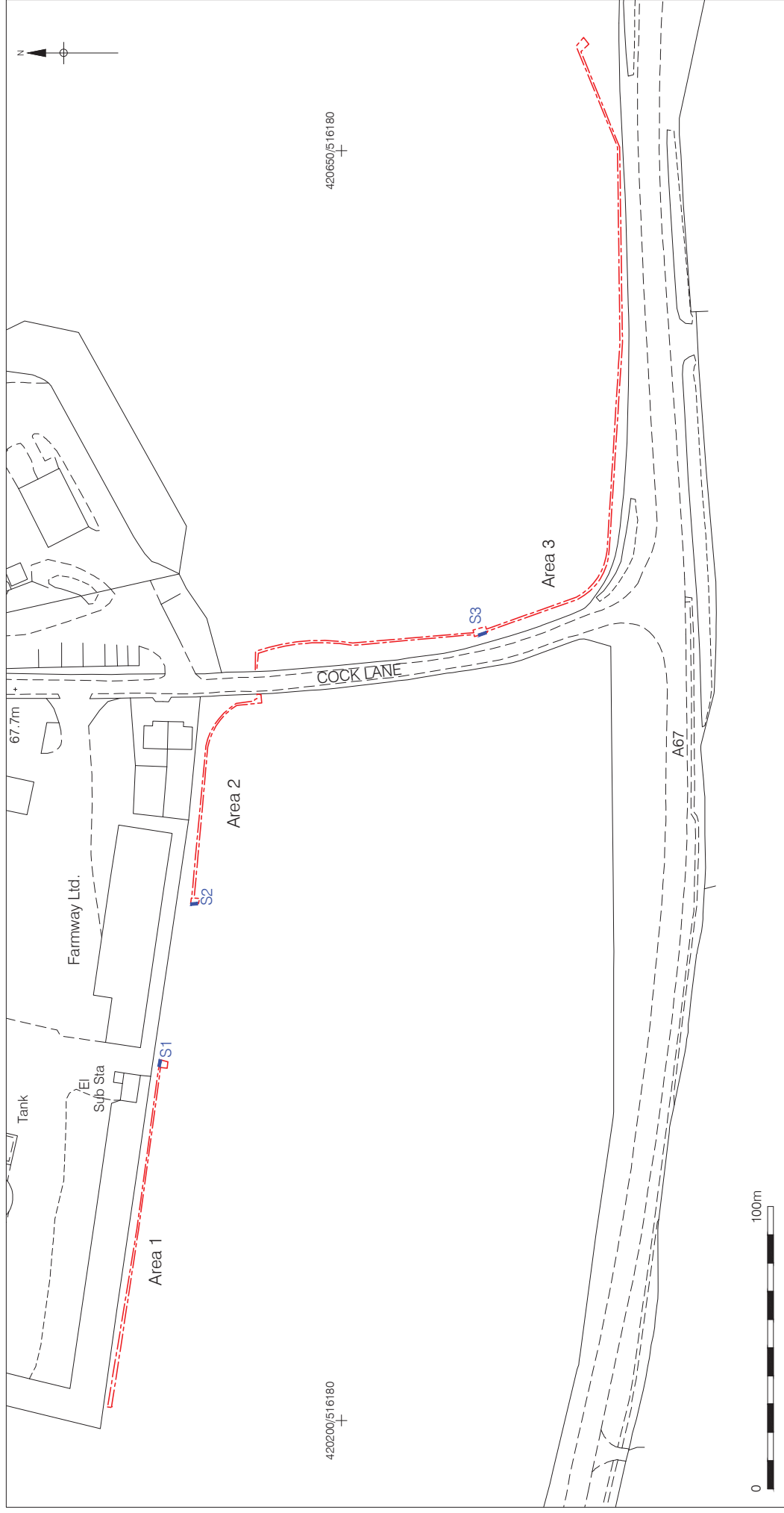
2.2 Site Location and Description

- 2.2.1 The site lies c. 0.5 km to the north-west of the town of Piercebridge on the southernmost edge of - in historical terms - County Durham. In administrative terms, however, the site lies within the westernmost portion of the unitary authority of Darlington Borough Council. The central National Grid Reference for the cable trench monitored during the work herein described is NZ 2048 1618 (Figure 1).
- 2.2.2 Three sections of cable trench were monitored, these designated Areas 1-3 (Figure 2). The route began to the west of Cock Lane, on the northern edge of a field adjacent to the premises of Farmway Trading Limited. From there, the trench ran roughly eastwards for c. 250m along the field edge, this portion divided into Areas 1 and 2, with a c. 60m interval between the two areas. Towards Cock Lane, Area 2 curved southwards before turning to the east to run up to the road. East of Cock Lane, the route, as Area 3, ran eastwards for short distance then turned southwards to run along the field edge for c. 120m, before turning eastwards to run along the field edge north of the A67, still as Area 3, to join with an existing electricity supply c. 200m along that road (Figure 2).



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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2
 Trench Location
 1:2,000 at A4

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 The solid geology of the Piercebridge area is of the Raisby Formation, consisting of Dolostone formed in the Permian Period. The superficial geology comprises River Terrace Deposits, generally gravel, sand and silt, formed in the Quaternary Period (information from the British Geological Survey website).
- 2.3.2 Piercebridge lies on the north bank of the River Tees, west of the point where the Roman road Dere Street crossed the river. To the east of the site lies Piercebridge Beck which flows south-eastwards until it reaches the Tees. To the west lie the Pennines, while to the east lie the low-lying alluvial plains of the Tees Valley. The area in which the watching brief was conducted lies between the 70m and 60m OD contours, sloping down north-eastwards to the Tees.

2.4 Planning Background

- 2.4.1 At a national level, justification for investigative work of an archaeological nature generally lies within planning guidance on the historic environment contained within Section 12 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (Department of Communities and Local Government 2012).
- 2.4.2 The route of the cable installation at Cock Lane was of archaeological interest because of its proximity to the site of the Roman fort and associated sites at Piercebridge on the River Tees. As there was undoubtedly potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest to be disturbed, specifically Roman period remains, a scheme of archaeological works was required which aimed in the first instance to preserve archaeological remains *in situ* or where this was not possible to preserve archaeological remains by excavation and record.
- 2.4.3 Therefore, the appropriate mitigation strategy for the cable installation at Cock Lane comprised a programme of archaeological watching brief, as determined by DCCAS, with all necessary subsequent reporting.
- 2.4.4 No Specification for the archaeological work was produced by DCCAS, although a WSI was prepared by PCA and submitted to DCCAS for approval prior to work commencing.

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

The information used for the following summary has been taken from the following websites: 'MAGIC' (for information on scheduled monuments, for 'National Monument Nos.'); 'Keys to the Past' (the online County Durham Historic Environment Record, for County Durham 'HER Nos.');

'The Heritage Gateway' (for information on North Yorkshire HER entries, for 'SMR MNY Nos.'); 'PastScape' (information drawn from the English Heritage Archive, for 'Monument Nos.') with other sources used as appropriate. The research and writing of those responsible is gratefully acknowledged.

- 2.5.1 There is known prehistoric activity in the wider vicinity of the site in the form of three round barrows, all Scheduled Monuments. The first is Smotherlaw round barrow (National Monument DA 69), which lies north of Low Carlbury c. 1.4km east of Cock Lane.

- 2.5.2 The two other barrows, Betty Watson's Hill (National Monument 29523) and Howe Hill (National Monument 29524), lie to the south of the Tees, in the vicinity of Cliffe Hall, c. 1 km SSE of Cock Lane. It has been suggested that Howe Hill may actually represent a medieval motte or castle, rather than a barrow. Further evidence of prehistoric activity in the area is provided by a Bronze Age cist (Monument No. 21695) and a group of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint flakes and tools (Monument No. 23647), c. 0.60 km south-west and c. 0.75 km east of Cock Lane, respectively.
- 2.5.3 It is for the Roman period that the cable installation site adjacent to Cock Lane had particular archaeological potential. The fort at Piercebridge (National Monument DA 29) lay to the south-east of Cock Lane on the north bank of the River Tees and the scheduled area of the fort extends to within c. 0.5 km of the site. The fort was 4.026 ha in size and rectangular in plan and lay 200m west of Dere Street. Investigations in recent decades have shown that it was built c. 300 AD (Scott and Mason 2008, 11). The southern and eastern boundaries of the fort have been located by excavation – as have two centrally placed opposing entrances, on the east and west sides. No entrances on the north and south side have yet been located. The north-eastern corner has been excavated and consolidated. The western defences survive as earthworks, while the south-west corner is represented by a scarp 0.60m in height. The central section in the western defences now stands 0.40m high, while the north-western corner has a maximum height of 2.70m.
- 2.5.4 While the fort effectively underlies the existing village of Piercebridge, its associated *vicus* (HER No. 1537) developed for most part on its eastern side, in the area between the Tees and Piercebridge Beck. As a rare monument type with fewer than 60 recorded examples, all *vici* in Britain exhibiting significant surviving archaeological remains are considered of national importance. During the excavation of part of the *vicus* in 1973, two buildings were discovered, one dating from the late 2nd to early 3rd century, while the second, dating to the 3rd century, contained an altar. Hypocausts, workshops containing kilns, and bronze working debris were also found in these investigations (Scott and Large 2008). Since buildings in the *vicus* area pre-date the fort, along with finds of Flavian material, it has been suggested that there may have been an earlier fort in the vicinity.
- 2.5.5 The closest HER entries to the site for the Roman period are the remains of an aqueduct (HER No. 1538), which stood on the Piercebridge Beck to the east of Cock Lane, and the site of a milestone (HER No. 1542), which stood c. 0.20 km to the east. Quarrying has, however, destroyed both sites. There have also been discoveries of cemetery activity around the fort, particularly a number of burials (Monument No. 23660) encountered near Carlbury, north of Piercebridge, during construction of the railway from Darlington to Barnard Castle in the 1850s (Scott and Mason 2008, 14).
- 2.5.6 The remains of a Roman bridge (National Monument No. NY 1150), have also been discovered south-east of the fort and c. 1 km to the south-east of Cock Lane. The structure dates from the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD and was altered in the early 4th century by the addition of a causeway.

- 2.5.7 The surviving remains of the bridge comprise an abutment on the south bank of the Tees, a length of pavement, four stone piers, as well as part of the later causeway preserved as an earthwork bank. The bridge formed part of Dere Street that ran between York and Corbridge. It was the second of two bridges over the Tees at Piercebridge, the earlier bridge was thought have been built of timber and lay upstream to the west. This earlier structure is likely to have gone out of use around 130-180 AD, potentially because it was poorly sited and subject to flooding.
- 2.5.8 Due to the proximity of Cock Lane to the Roman fort and associated sites at Piercebridge, the potential for groundworks associated with the scheme to disturb archaeological remains of Roman date was considered to be moderate to high. However, in advance of the work it was acknowledged that quarrying in the area around Cock Lane in recent centuries may have removed archaeological remains.
- 2.5.9 Activity is not noted again in the area until the medieval period. There may have been an Anglo-Saxon settlement in the area, but there is little firm evidence of this. The medieval settlement at Piercebridge (HER No. 1573) was never very large. It did not have its own parish and consisted of two rows of houses around a village green and only a small chapel. It was therefore considered that the scheme had low potential for disturbing post-Roman archaeological remains of importance.

3. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project Aims

- 3.1.1 The project aimed to fulfil the specific requirements of DCCAS with regard to the NPPF by undertaking an appropriate scheme of archaeological investigation in association with groundworks for the new underground electrical supply, with subsequent reporting on the findings, as described in this document.
- 3.1.2 The archaeological work aimed to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains through a programme of observation and recording - watching brief - conducted in association with mechanical excavation of the cable trench.

3.2 Research Objectives

- 3.2.1 In view of the known Roman occupation of the area in which the site lies, the investigation was carried out with reference to *Shared Visions: the North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (NERRF) (Petts and Gerrard 2006), specifically the following Roman period (R) research priorities, as set out in the NERRF Research Agenda:
- Rii. Roads and communication
 - Riii. The Roman military presence
 - Riv. Native and civilian life
 - Rviii. Burial
- 3.2.2 An appropriate level of reporting on the work was required, including, if necessary, full analysis and publication of any notable archaeological findings upon completion of the project. Thus the results of the work were to constitute the 'preservation by record' of any archaeological remains encountered and subsequently removed during the course of works.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken 10-12 May 2013. The work was undertaken in compliance with the relevant guidance document of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (IfA 2008a); PCA is an IfA-Registered Organisation. The WSI (see Appendix 4), approved by DCCAS, should be consulted for full details of the methodologies that were to be employed regarding archaeological recording, sampling, *etc.*
- 4.1.2 Archaeological monitoring and observation was carried out during mechanical excavation of the cable trench. Three separate lengths (Areas 1-3) of cable trench were mechanically excavated, using a tracked excavator of c. 8-tonne size. Area 1, located in the field to the west of Cock Lane, extended 124.30m roughly east-west and was c. 0.75m wide by c. 1.20m deep. A slightly larger area (3.45m north-south by 2.35m east-west) was excavated at its eastern end to house a joining bay to connect with an existing electricity cable. The western end of Area 1 was 'T' shaped, measuring c. 2.20m by 0.35m, to house the new overhead line that was to feed into the underground cable trench.
- 4.1.3 East of Area 1, Area 2 ran roughly east-west for a distance of 70.60m towards the corner of the field west of Cock Lane and then turned south for 19.30m. This portion of the cable trench was c. 1.25m deep and c. 0.75m wide, with a larger area at its western end to house another joining bay. At its eastern end the trench was enlarged into an area measuring c. 2.65m by c. 3.10m, in order to allow the cable to turn to run below Cock Lane.
- 4.1.4 A small trench, to connect Areas 2 and 3, measuring c. 3.0 m east-west by c. 0.75m wide and 1.20m deep was excavated across Cock Lane. This trench was excavated, had ducting installed and backfilled without archaeological monitoring.
- 4.1.5 Area 3 was located in the field east of Cock Lane. It ran roughly north-south for 119.10m, parallel to Cock Lane, to the south-western corner of the field, and then turned eastwards for 204.10m, running parallel to the A67. This trench was c. 0.75m wide and 1.35m deep. Two joining bays were excavated along Area 3. The first, along the north-south part, measured 4.85m by 2.40m, and the second, which measured c. 3.0m by 2.40m, was located at the eastern terminal of the trench where the connection with the existing electricity cable was made.
- 4.1.6 Any archaeological remains of possible significance exposed during groundworks were to be hand cleaned, excavated and recorded, to an appropriate level and in accordance with the methodology set out in PCA's *Fieldwork Induction Manual* (PCA 2009).
- 4.1.7 Deposits were recorded using the PCA *pro forma* 'Context Recording Sheet'. A photographic record of the work was compiled. The area of investigation was located relative to the Ordnance Survey National Grid by appropriate means.

4.2 Post-excavation

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 31 archaeological contexts were defined (Appendix 2). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, and phasing the stratigraphic data (Appendix 1). A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described in Section 5.
- 4.2.2 A total of four sherds of pottery and one fragment of ceramic building material were recovered during the fieldwork, all from topsoil in the westernmost portion of the cable trench, Area 1. These were examined by a specialist and details are provided in Appendix 3. No suitable archaeological deposits were encountered to warrant the recovery of bulk samples for palaeoenvironmental material.
- 4.2.3 The complete Site Archive will be packaged for long-term curation. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown, 2007) will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker 1990) and a more recent IfA publication (IfA 2008b). The depositional requirements of the receiving body, in this case the Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham, will be met in full.

4. RESULTS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

During the watching brief, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual 'context' numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example [123]. The archaeological sequence has been assigned to broad phases on a site-wide basis.

5.1 Area 1

5.1.1 Phase 1: Natural Sub-Stratum

5.1.1.1 Phase 1 is represented in Area 1 by deposits [8] and [7]. Deposit [8] comprised loose, mid yellowish brown, silty sand with sub-rounded cobbles throughout, this exposed as the basal deposit along the length of this portion of the cable trench. It was encountered at a minimum depth of c. 1m below existing ground level (Figure 3, Section 1). It was overlain by deposit [7], which comprised compact, dark greyish brown, silty coarse sand and sub-rounded cobbles. This was recorded along the length of Area 1 and had a maximum thickness of 0.52m, encountered at a depth of 0.52m below existing ground level. Deposits [7] and [8] are of fluvial origin, representing the superficial geology of the area.

5.1.2 Phase 2: Undated

5.1.2.1 The natural deposits were overlain by a sub-soil horizon, [6], comprising soft, mid greyish brown sandy silt. This had a maximum recorded thickness of 0.27m and was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.34m below existing ground level. No finds were recovered and the deposit remains undated.

5.1.3 Phase 3: Modern

5.1.3.1 Phase 3 is represented by a modern cable trench, [5], which truncated the sub-soil and cut into the underlying natural material. It was up to 0.50m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.66m. This housed an electrical cable, [4], brick tile covering, [3], and was backfilled with sand, [2]. The cable ran north-south from an electrical sub-station on the Farmway Trading premises to the existing overhead power line.

5.1.3.2 The uppermost deposit within Area 1 comprised topsoil and turf ground surface, [1], which had a maximum thickness of 0.36m. Three sherds of medieval pottery, one sherd of post-medieval pottery and a single fragment of undated ceramic building material were recovered from this deposit (see Appendix 3).

5.2 Area 2

5.2.1 Phase 1: Natural Sub-Stratum

5.2.1.1 The basal fluvial deposit, [19], exposed along the length of Area 2, comprised loose, mid greyish brown sand and fine sub-rounded pebbles, encountered at a minimum depth of 0.88m below existing ground level (Figure 3, Section 2). This was overlain by a 0.44m thick fluvial deposit, [18], comprising compact, dark greyish brown silty coarse sand and sub-rounded cobbles. This was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.47m below existing ground level.

5.2.2 *Phase 2: Undated*

- 5.2.2.1 The sub-soil, [17], in Area 2 had a maximum recorded thickness of 0.22m and was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.58m below existing ground level.

5.2.3 *Phase 3: Modern*

- 5.2.3.1 Phase 3 is represented in Area 2 by two service trenches and topsoil. Service trench [16] at the eastern end of Area 2 was 0.40m wide and c. 0.95m deep. It housed a black plastic water pipe, [15], and was backfilled with clayey sand, [14]. Service trench [13], located in the joining bay at the western end of Area 2, was 0.56m wide and 0.75m deep. This housed an electrical cable, [12], brick tile covering, [11], and had been backfilled with sand, [10]. The electrical cable ran NW-SE between the aforementioned sub-station and overhead line.
- 5.2.3.2 The uppermost deposit in Area 2 comprised topsoil and turf ground surface, [9], which had a maximum thickness of 0.29m.

5.3 Area 3

5.3.1 *Phase 1: Natural Sub-Stratum*

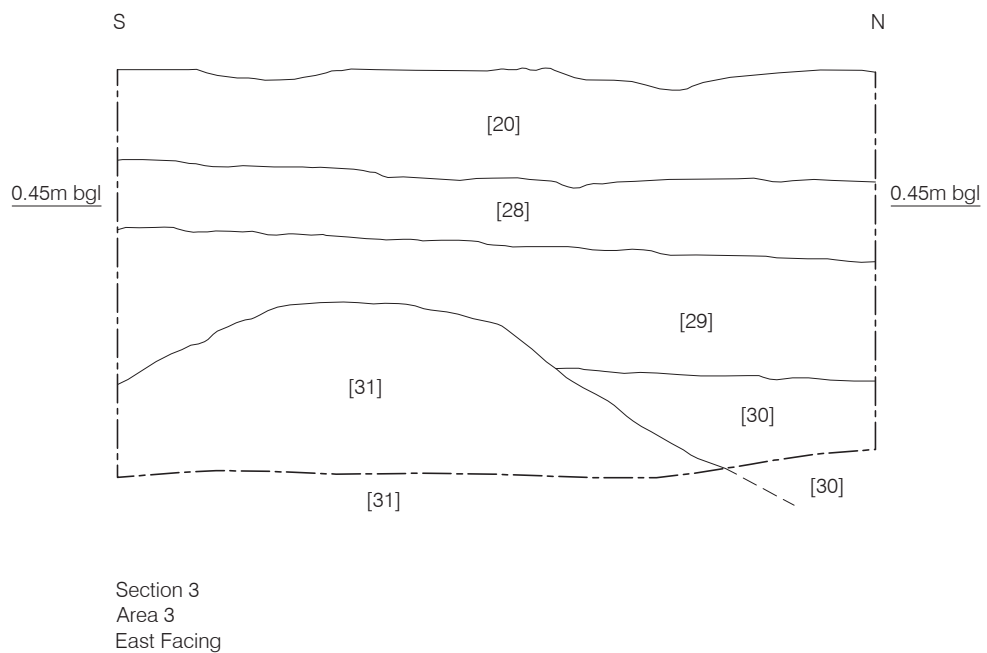
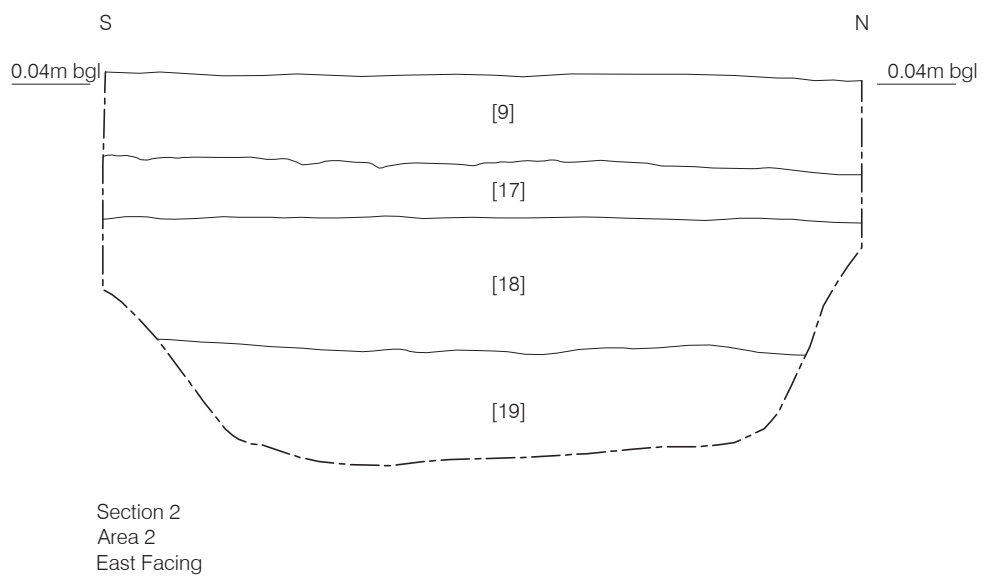
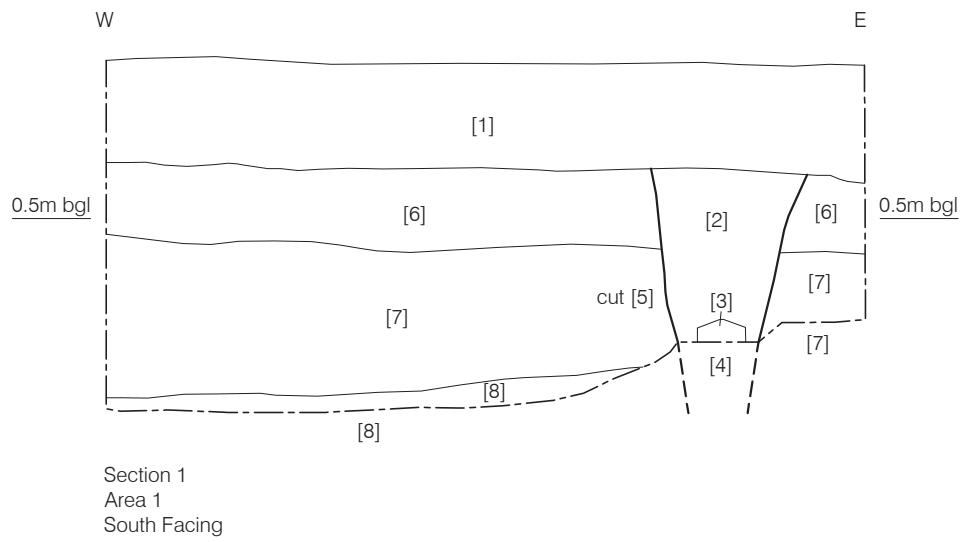
- 5.2.2.1 The earliest deposit, [31], encountered in Area 3 comprised loose rounded and sub-rounded cobbles and pebbles in a light grey sand matrix. This deposit, which represents fluviially deposited material, was observed only in the section of the joining bay along the north-south portion of Area 3 (Figure 2 and Figure 3, Section 3). Its maximum recorded thickness was 0.58m and it was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.77m below existing ground level.
- 5.3.1.2 Deposit [31] was overlain by deposit [30], which comprised loose, mid greyish brown sand and fine gravel. This was exposed as the basal deposit along the majority of Area 3, and was encountered at a minimum depth of c. 1.0m below existing ground level. It was overlain by a 0.53m thick deposit, [29], comprising compact, dark greyish brown silty coarse sand and sub-rounded cobbles. This was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.52m below existing ground level.

5.3.2 *Phase 2: Undated*

- 5.3.2.1 The sub-soil, [28], in Area 3 had a maximum recorded thickness of 0.26m and was encountered at a minimum depth of 0.37m below existing ground level. No finds were recovered from the deposit, which thus remains essentially undated.

5.3.3 *Phase 3: Modern*

- 5.3.3.1 Phase 3 is represented in Area 3 by two service trenches and topsoil. Service trench [27], which was 0.40m wide and 0.90m deep, was recorded at the north-western end of Area 3 and ran parallel to Cock Lane. It housed a black plastic water pipe, [26], and was backfilled with clayey sand, [25]. Service trench [24] was located in the joining bay at the eastern end of Area 3 and was 0.48m wide and 0.67m deep. This housed an electrical cable, [23], brick tile covering, [22], and was backfilled with sand, [21]. The cable ran NW-SE from the aforementioned overhead supply to Piercebridge.
- 5.3.3.2 The uppermost deposit, [20], in Area 3 comprised topsoil and turf, with a maximum recorded thickness of 0.36m.



6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

6.1.1 No archaeological remains of significance were recorded during the watching brief. The phases of geological and archaeological activity can be summarised as:

- Phase 1 - the natural river terrace geology of the area.
- Phase 2 - represented by an undated sub-soil.
- Phase 3 - modern activity, comprising service trenches and the existing ground surface along the cable trench route, formed by a developed topsoil and turf.

6.2 Recommendations

6.2.1 No further work is required on the information recovered during the watching brief, with the Site Archive, including this report, forming the permanent record of the strata encountered.

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- Heritage Gateway* website: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/>
- Keys to the Past* website: <http://www.keystothepast.info/Pages/Home.aspx>
- MAG/C* website: <http://magic.defra.gov.uk/>
- PastScape* website: <http://www.pastscape.org.uk/>

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

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The curatorial role of Clare Henderson, Senior Archaeologist, DCCAS, is acknowledged.

PCA Credits

Fieldwork and Report: Scott Vance

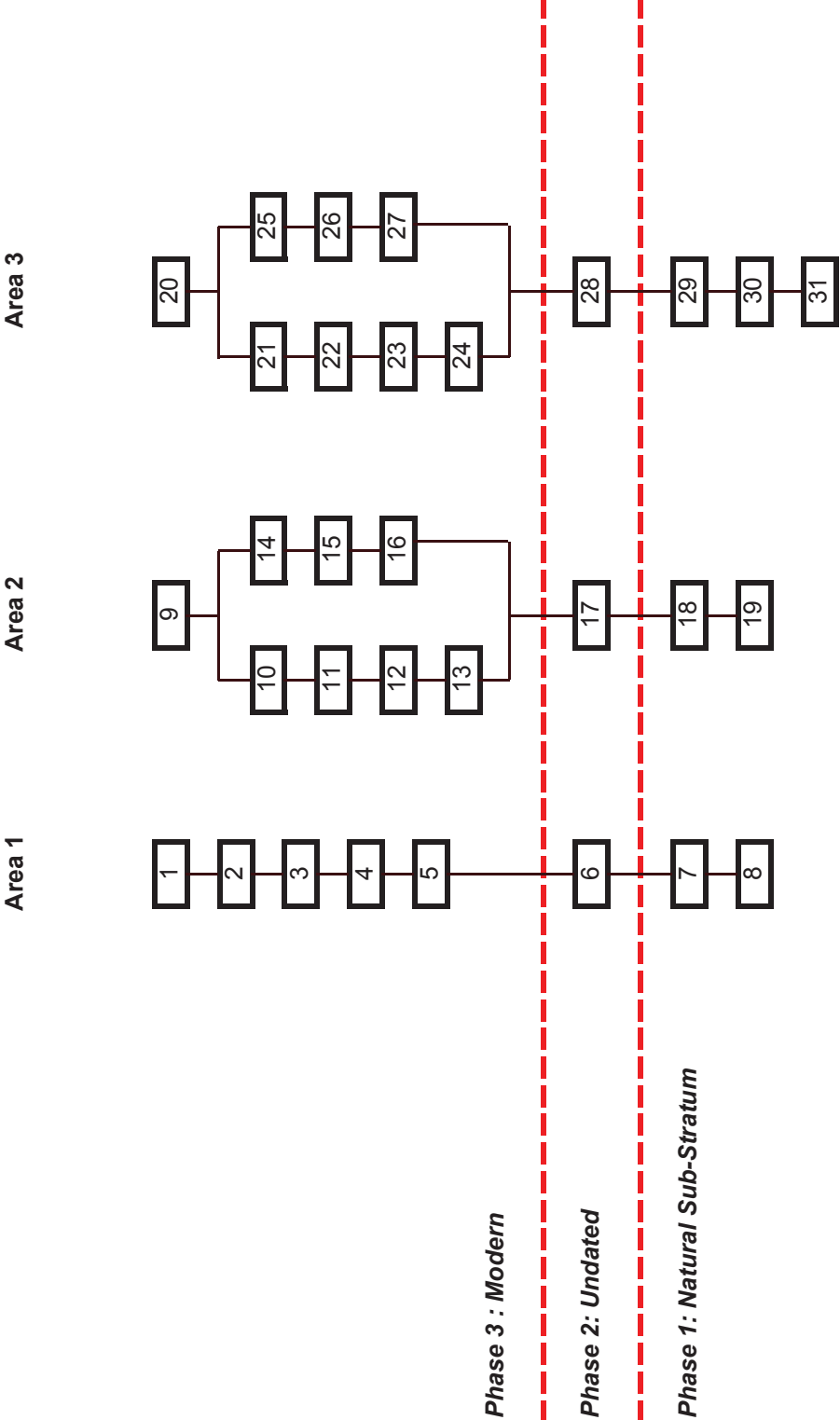
Project Manager: Robin Taylor-Wilson

CAD: Jennifer Simonson

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APPENDIX 1
STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



APPENDIX 2

CONTEXT INDEX

CLP 13: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Area	Phase	Type 1	Type 2	Interpretation
1	1	3	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
2	1	3	Deposit	Fill	Fill of service trench [5]
3	1	3	Masonry	Structure	Brick tiles covering cable [4]
4	1	3	Service	Cable	Electricity cable in service trench [5]
5	1	3	Cut	Linear	Service trench housing cable [4]
6	1	2	Deposit	Layer	Sub-soil
7	1	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural fluvial deposit
8	1	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural fluvial deposit
9	2	3	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
10	2	3	Deposit	Fill	Fill of service trench [13]
11	2	3	Masonry	Structure	Brick tiles covering cable [12]
12	2	3	Service	Cable	Electricity cable in service trench [13]
13	2	3	Cut	Linear	Service trench housing cable [12]
14	2	3	Deposit	Fill	Fill of pipe trench [16]
15	2	3	Service	Pipe	Plastic pipe in service trench [16]
16	2	3	Cut	Linear	Service trench housing pipe [15]
17	2	2	Deposit	Layer	Sub-soil
18	2	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural fluvial deposit
19	2	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural fluvial deposit
20	3	3	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
21	3	3	Deposit	Fill	Fill of service trench [24]
22	3	3	Masonry	Structure	Brick tiles covering cable [23]
23	3	3	Service	Cable	Electricity cable in service trench [24]
24	3	3	Cut	Linear	Service trench housing cable [23]
25	3	3	Deposit	Fill	Fill of pipe trench [27]
26	3	3	Service	Pipe	Plastic pipe in service trench [27]
27	3	3	Cut	Linear	Service trench housing pipe [26]
28	3	2	Deposit	Layer	Sub-soil
29	3	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural fluvial deposit
30	3	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural fluvial deposit
31	3	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural fluvial deposit

APPENDIX 3
CERAMIC REPORT

CERAMIC REPORT

By: Jenny Vaughan (NCAS)

The ceramic finds, all from context [1], consisted of:

- Two sherds of oxidised (light orange-brown) medieval pottery – one is sooted externally with a mid grey core, the other has a thin pale grey core.
- One sherd of coarse sandy medieval pottery, pinkish-brown with grey core.
- A small rolled rim of red earthenware, glazed internally – post-medieval.
- A chip of ceramic building material – tile or field drain.

The coarse sandy sherd is probably of early 13th-century date, the other two medieval sherds cannot be closely dated. The post-medieval rim is probably of 18th-century date. The chip of building material is impossible to date and could possibly even be Roman.

APPENDIX 4
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Written Scheme of Investigation: An Archaeological Watching Brief in association with an underground electrical cable installation along and adjacent to Cock Lane, Piercebridge, County Durham

Prepared on behalf of ADAS UK Limited by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

29 April 2013

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 High voltage overhead power lines (OHL) to the north-west of Piercebridge are being upgraded and, in one section, are being replaced with underground cables installed in a cable trench. The new underground portion of the route runs roughly eastwards along the edge of a field to the west of Cock Lane and then follows that road to the south before turning eastwards to join with an existing electrical supply along the A67.
- 1.1.2 An appropriately specified programme of archaeological work is to be undertaken in association with the groundworks for the new cable trench. The work - to be undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) - will involve: archaeological observation and recording – a 'watching brief' – during invasive groundworks; excavation and recording of any archaeological remains of interest exposed; reporting on the work, including publication of any significant findings, as appropriate. The work has been commissioned by ADAS UK Limited on behalf of Northern Powergrid.
- 1.1.3 The site is primarily of archaeological interest because of its proximity to the Roman fort at Piercebridge, which is a scheduled monument. The cable trench is to be excavated on land adjacent to and along the route of Cock Lane, north-west of the scheduled area, before connection to the existing supply. This work is to be archaeologically monitored, as determined by the Durham County Council Archaeology Section (DCCAS) because of the archaeological sensitivity of the site.

1.2 Site Location and Description

- 1.2.1 The site lies c. 0.5 km to the north-west of the town of Piercebridge on the southernmost edge of - in historical terms - County Durham (although in administrative terms it lies within the westernmost portion of the unitary authority of Darlington Borough Council). Piercebridge lies on the north bank of the River Tees, west of the point where the Dere Street Roman road crossed the river. To the east of the site is Piercebridge Beck which flows south-eastwards until it reaches the Tees. To the west are the Pennines, while to the east lie the low-lying alluvial plains of the Tees Valley.

- 1.2.2 The central National Grid Reference for the new underground cable route is NZ 2048 1618. The route runs eastwards for c. 250m along the northern edge of a field on the west side of Cock Lane (with the premises of Farmway Trading Limited to the north), and then follows that road to the south for c. 150m before turning eastwards to join with an existing electrical supply c. 200m along the A67.
- 1.2.3 The solid geology of the area is of the Raisby Formation, consisting of Dolostone formed in the Permian Period. The superficial geology of the area of the site comprises River Terrace Deposits, generally gravel, sand and silt, formed in the Quaternary Period (information from the *British Geological Survey* website).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

The information used for the following summary has been taken from the following websites: 'MAGIC' (for information on scheduled monuments, for National Monument Nos.); 'Keys to the Past' (the online County Durham Historic Environment Record, for County Durham HER Nos.); 'The Heritage Gateway' (for information on North Yorkshire HER entries, for SMR MNY Nos.); 'PastScape' (information drawn from the English Heritage Archive, for Monument Nos.) with other sources used as appropriate. The research and writing of those responsible is gratefully acknowledged.

- 1.3.1 There is known prehistoric activity in the wider vicinity of the site in the form of three round barrows, all scheduled monuments. The first is Smotherlaw round barrow (National Monument DA 69), which lies north of Low Carlbury c. 1.4km east of Cock Lane. The two other barrows, Betty Watson's Hill (National Monument 29523) and Howe Hill (National Monument 29524), are located on the south side of the Tees in the vicinity of Cliffe Hall, c. 1 km SSE of Cock Lane. It has been suggested that Howe Hill may actually represent a medieval motte or castle, rather than a barrow. Further evidence of prehistoric activity in the area is provided by a Bronze Age cist (Monument No. 21695) and a group of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age flint flakes and tools (Monument No. 23647), c. 0.6 km south-west and c. 0.75 km east of Cock Lane, respectively.
- 1.3.2 It is for the Roman period that the site has particular archaeological potential. The fort at Piercebridge (National Monument DA 29) lay to the south-east of Cock Lane on the north bank of the River Tees and the scheduled area of the fort extends to within c. 0.5 km of the site. The fort was 4.026 ha in size and rectangular in plan and lay 200m west of Dere Street. Investigations in recent decades have shown that it was built c. 300 AD (Scott and Mason 2008, 11). The southern and eastern boundaries of the fort have been located by excavation – as have two centrally placed opposing entrances, on the east and west sides. No entrances on the north and south side have yet been located. The north-eastern corner has been excavated and consolidated. The western defences survive as earthworks, while the south-west corner is represented by a scarp 0.6m in height. The central section in the western defences now stands 0.4m high, while the north-western corner has a maximum height of 2.7m.

- 1.3.3 While the fort effectively underlies the existing village of Piercebridge, its associated *vicus* (HER No. 1537) developed for most part on its eastern side, in the area between the Tees and Piercebridge Beck. As a rare monument type with fewer than 60 recorded examples, all *vici* in Britain exhibiting significant surviving archaeological remains are considered of national importance. During the excavation of part of the *vicus* in 1973, two buildings were discovered, one dating from the late 2nd to early 3rd century, while the second, dating to the 3rd century, contained an altar. Hypocausts, workshops containing kilns, and bronze working debris were also found in these investigations (Scott and Large 2008). The fact that buildings in the *vicus* area pre-date the fort, along with finds of Flavian material, possibly indicate an earlier fort within the vicinity.
- 1.3.4 The closest HER entries to the site for the Roman period are the remains of an aqueduct (HER No. 1538), which stood on the Piercebridge Beck to the east of Cock Lane, and the site of a milestone (HER No. 1542), which stood c. 0.2 km to the east. Quarrying has, however, destroyed both sites. There have also been discoveries of cemetery activity around the fort, particularly a number of burials (Monument No. 23660) encountered near Carlbury, north of Piercebridge, during construction of the railway from Darlington to Barnard Castle in the 1850s (Scott and Mason 2008, 14).
- 1.3.5 The remains of a Roman bridge have also been discovered at Piercebridge (National Monument No. NY 1150), south-east of the fort and thus c. 1 km to the south-east of Cock Lane. The structure dates from the 2nd to 3rd centuries AD and was altered in the early 4th century by the addition of a causeway. The surviving remains comprise of an abutment on the south bank of the Tees, a length of pavement, four stone piers, as well as part of the later causeway preserved as a earthwork bank. The bridge formed part of Dere Street that ran between York and Corbridge. It was the second of two bridges over the Tees at Piercebridge, the earlier bridge was thought have been built of timber and lay upstream to the west. This earlier structure is likely to have gone out of use around 130-180 AD; potentially because it was poorly sited and subject to flooding.
- 1.3.6 Due to the proximity of Cock Lane to the Roman fort and associated sites at Piercebridge, the potential for groundworks associated with the scheme to disturb archaeological remains of Roman date is considered moderate to high. However, it is acknowledged that quarrying in the area around Cock Lane in recent centuries may have removed archaeological remains.
- 1.3.7 Activity is not noted again in this area until the medieval period. There may have been an Anglo-Saxon settlement in the area, but of this there is little firm evidence. The medieval settlement (HER No. 1573) was never very large. It did not have its own parish and consisted of two rows of houses around a village green and only a small chapel. It is therefore considered that the scheme has low potential for disturbing post-Roman archaeological remains of importance.

2. PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The cable route at Cock Lane is of archaeological interest because of its proximity to the Roman fort and associated sites at Piercebridge. At a national level, justification for the work lies within guidance on the historic environment now contained within the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2012). The site has potential for heritage assets of archaeological interest to be disturbed and as such a scheme of works is required which will in the first instance preserve archaeological remains *in situ* or where this is not possible preserve archaeological remains by excavation and record.
- 2.2 Therefore, in sum, the appropriate mitigation strategy for the excavation of the cable trench for the underground electrical supply comprises a programme of archaeological watching brief, as determined by DCCAS, with all necessary subsequent reporting.
- 2.3 No Specification for the archaeological work has been produced by DCCAS; instead this document comprises the written scheme of investigation (WSI) to be submitted for approval by DCCAS prior to work commencing.

3. PROJECT AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The project aims to fulfil the specific requirements of DCCAS by undertaking an appropriately specified scheme of archaeological investigation in association with the excavation of the cable trench for the new underground electrical supply, with subsequent reporting on the findings, as described in this document.
- 3.2 The archaeological work will aim to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains through a programme of observation and recording - watching brief - conducted in association with the excavation of the new cable trench.
- 3.3 In view of the known Roman occupation of the area in which the site lies, the investigation will be carried out with reference to relevant research framework for the historic environment, in this instance the 'NERRF' (Petts and Gerrard 2006). In specific terms, the following research priorities are of relevance, as set out in the 'NERRF Research Agenda':
- Rii. Roads and communication
 - Riii. The Roman military presence
 - Riv. Native and civilian life
 - Rviii. Burial
- 3.4 An appropriate level of reporting on the work is required, including, if necessary, full analysis and publication of any notable archaeological findings upon completion of the project. Thus the results of the work will constitute the preservation by record of any archaeological remains thus encountered and subsequently removed during the course of works. The full scheme of archaeological work required is described in the following section.

4. METHOD STATEMENT

4.1 General Standards

- 4.1.1 All archaeological work will be carried out in compliance with the codes and practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and will follow the relevant IfA standard and guidance document (IfA 2008a). PCA is an IfA 'Registered Organisation'.
- 4.1.2 All archaeological staff involved in the project will be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. The project will be overseen for PCA by a Member (at MIfA level) of the IfA
- 4.1.3 All archaeological staff involved in the project will be aware of the work required, as detailed in this document, and will understand the aims and methodologies of the project.
- 4.1.4 All relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice will be respected. For Health and Safety purposes, PCA is a sub-contractor and will have no responsibilities as a Principal/Main Contractor. Site welfare will be provided for PCA personnel. All PCA personnel will attend site inductions as required. All archaeological personnel will use PPE.

4.2 Archaeological Methodology - Fieldwork

- 4.2.1 Continuous archaeological monitoring and observation will be carried out during invasive groundworks, namely mechanical (or hand if required) excavation of the cable trench for the new electrical supply. Work at the following location is to be monitored, as advised by DCCAS:
 - The route of the cable trench for the new supply will run eastwards along the field boundary (with the premises of Farmway Trading Limited to the north) until it reaches Cock Lane; at this point the route will follow Cock Lane to the south and then turn eastwards to join with an existing electrical supply along the A67.
- 4.2.2 All monitoring and observation will be carried out by one (or more if required) suitably experienced professional archaeologist(s). The watching brief will continue until such time as invasive groundworks are completed or until it becomes obvious that no additional archaeological information of note will be forthcoming, this to be agreed with DCCAS.
- 4.2.3 Any archaeological remains of possible significance exposed during groundworks are to be immediately examined, hand cleaned, excavated and recorded, to an appropriate level and in accordance with the methodology set out in PCA's *Fieldwork Induction Manual* (PCA 2009) and the long-established Museum of London *Site Manual* (Museum of London 1994).
- 4.2.4 Within the scope of the watching brief, adequate time is to be afforded for archaeological work to take place to the satisfaction of the attendant archaeologist(s). Depending upon the significance of any archaeological remains preservation *in situ* may be required, although it is envisaged that for most remains preservation by record will be suitable mitigation.

- 4.2.5 All archaeological remains - structures, features and deposits - encountered at the site will be excavated and recorded to the necessary extent to achieve as full an understanding as possible of the past activity that those remains represent. All archaeological features (layers, cuts, fills, structures) that do not merit preservation *in situ* will be excavated by hand tools and recorded in plan and/or section. Archaeological recording will be carried out by means of unique numeric based context records and will be written, drawn and photographic (and any other appropriate means). All archaeological exposures (layers, cuts, fills, structures) will be recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets. Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled.
- 4.2.6 The area of investigation will be located by appropriate means to ensure its accurate location relative to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Drawn records of archaeological features and deposits will normally be at a scale of 1:10 (sections) or 1:20 (plans) and will be prepared in a suitable form of digitisation. Where possible, archaeological features and deposits will be logged relative to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.2.7 Archaeological excavation may require work by pick/mattock and shovel. Such techniques will be used only for the removal of homogeneous and 'low grade' layers, where it can be reasonably argued, firstly, that more detailed attention would not produce information of value and, secondly, that their removal provides a window onto the underlying archaeological levels. Such tools will not be employed on complex stratigraphy, and where deposits are removed in this manner they will have been properly recorded first.
- 4.2.8 Photography will be undertaken in 35mm film and digital format. Graduated metric scales will appear in all photographic frames and, in addition, general 'working shots' will be taken to show the overall scale of the archaeological operation mounted. A register of all photographs will be kept.
- 4.2.9 During the archaeological work, a high priority will be given to dating any archaeological remains. Therefore, all relevant artefacts and finds would be retained. Consideration would also be given to the recovery of specialist samples for scientific analysis, particularly samples of structural materials, samples for absolute dating and bulk or column samples of deposits for palaeoenvironmental evidence. Different sampling strategies may be employed according to established research targets and the perceived importance of the strata under investigation.
- 4.2.10 The overall aim of the fieldwork with respect to archaeological science is to determine the types of material preserved and in what quantity and condition, thus enabling the aims and objectives of the project as a whole to be addressed. The advice of English Heritage's Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (RAAS) will be sought, as appropriate.
- 4.2.11 Deposits would be assessed for their potential for absolute dating by radiocarbon, archaeomagnetism or by any other means and, if appropriate, samples would be recovered for these purposes. Specialist analysis of the recovered material would be a requirement.

- 4.2.12 Appropriate procedures involving human remains and discoveries classed as ‘treasure’ under *The Treasure Act 1996* (and its 2003 revision) will be followed, as appropriate. In the event of human burials being discovered, PCA will procure and comply with all statutory consents and licences. If human burials are encountered, they would be recorded by photography and the use of *pro forma* recording sheets. Where any part of a human burial is disturbed, the whole burial would be archaeologically excavated as far as possible, but always with Health and Safety considerations in mind.
- 4.2.13 Waterlogged organic materials are possible at this site and, in the event that such materials are encountered, they would be dealt with according to guidelines set out in relevant English Heritage documents (English Heritage 2010 and 2012).
- 4.2.14 All processing of artefacts and ecofacts would be undertaken away from the site. All finds would be treated in a proper manner and would be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with recognised guidelines.

4.3 Archaeological Methodology – Post-Excavation

- 4.3.1 Irrespective of whether or not any archaeological remains of note are encountered during the watching brief fieldwork, the archaeological investigation will be summarised in a report. The report will include the following information specific to the work:
- a summary statement of the results of the investigations;
 - the aims and methods adopted in the course of the work;
 - illustrative material (cross-referenced within the text) including an overall site location plan and a plan showing the location all areas of investigation, both tied into the Ordnance Survey grid and at recognisable scales, plans and sections of archaeological deposits at recognisable scales, and photographs, as appropriate;
 - text detailing the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of any archaeological remains.
- 4.3.2 The report will detail the dates when the fieldwork was undertaken.
- 4.3.3 All recovered artefacts (e.g. ceramic, metallic) and samples (e.g. bulk soil samples for biological remains) would be examined off-site by appropriate specialists. For each category of artefact and ecofact, an assessment report would be produced, that would include a basic quantification of the material, a statement of its potential for further analysis and recommendations for such work. The results of all specialist assessment reports would be incorporated into the overall report on the watching brief.
- 4.3.4 PCA’s ceramic specialist for Roman pottery is Alex Croom (Tyne and wear Museums). PCA’s ceramic specialist for medieval and post-medieval pottery is Jenny Vaughan (Northern Counties Archaeological Services).
- 4.3.5 PCA’s palaeoenvironmental consultant is Dr. Charlotte O’Brien (Archaeological Services Durham University). Human remains and animal bone would be examined by James Langhorne and Kevin Rielly, respectively (both PCA).
- 4.3.6 PCA’s conservation specialist is Karen Barker, a freelance archaeological conservator.

- 4.3.7 Where one or more elements of the recovered data-set from the watching brief is identified as having potential for further analysis (irrespective of whether or not extensive, significant and/or unexpectedly complex archaeological remains are discovered), an 'Updated Project Design' would be produced to accompany the report on the watching brief and this would detail any requirements for further analysis of material, the results of which would likely require reporting on in a subsequent published paper or report. Costs for any such further analysis and publication can only be established after an initial assessment of the material. The scope of any such further analysis and publication would be agreed with the commissioning client before being undertaken. The 'Updated Project Design' would detail the post-excavation methodologies to be employed, as well as outlining the likely form of a publication paper.
- 4.3.8 Copies of all reports will be sent to relevant organisations in hardcopy and electronic format, as required. The requirements of DCCAS with regard to report format and number of copies will be followed. At the time of writing, DCCAS require 1 no. hardcopy and 1 no. pdf (on CD) for inclusion into the County Durham HER. PCA grant licence to the County Durham HER to use the report and its content.
- 4.3.9 DCCAS supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. PCA will complete an OASIS form for the project during the compilation of the report on the work. The OASIS reference number will be included in the report. When the report has become a public document by incorporation into the HER, DCCAS will validate the OASIS form, thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

4.4 Site Archive

- 4.4.1 The data collected during the programme of archaeological work, including all paper and photographic records, as well as all artefacts and ecofacts recovered, will comprise the Site Archive. The Site Archive will be prepared to recognised standards (Brown 2007; IfA 2008b; Walker 1990).
- 4.4.2 The Site Archive will be deposited at the County Durham Archaeological Archive, Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, within six months of the completion of fieldwork at the site, unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with DCCAS. Deposition will be in accordance with the County Durham Archaeological Archive policies.

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