QUARRY HOUSE, RUDCHESTER, HEDDON-ON-THE WALL, NORTHUMBERLAND

EVALUATION REPORT

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

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QUARRY HOUSE, RUDCHESTER, HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL, NORTHUMBERLAND

EVALUATION REPORT

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An Archaeological Evaluation at Quarry House, Rudchester, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Northumberland

Central National Grid Reference: NZ 113 672

Site Code: QRH 13

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1.1 An archaeological trial trenching evaluation was undertaken in December 2013 by Pre-Construct Archaeology at Quarry House, Rudchester, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Northumberland. The work was carried out to inform a planning application for the re-development of the property and was commissioned by Archaeo-Environment on behalf of Napper Architects, acting for the developer.

1.2 The site, central National Grid Reference NZ 113 672, forms part of the hamlet of Rudchester, which lies to the immediate south of the B6318 (known as the Military Road), approximately 2 km west of the village of Heddon-on-the-Wall in Northumberland. Heddon-on-the Wall is located close to the county boundary with Tyne and Wear; Newcastle-upon-Tyne lies approximately 12 km to the east of the site.

1.3 The focal point of the site, which has an overall size of *c.* 3.5 ha, is Quarry House, a detached 1960s house, with later additions. The house, with a landscaped garden on all sides, overlooks the southern part of the property, a large pasture field which slopes away to the south. To the north of the house is a wooded area, the site of a disused stone quarry. The re-development proposal would see the house demolished and replaced by a new residential building on a slightly larger footprint with associated landscaping and service installations.

1.4 The site is accessed from a minor road which bounds its western side, with the road continuing to the south-west to meet the A69 and to the north to meet the B6318. Rudchester Farm, the main component of the hamlet of Rudchester, is situated on the west side of the road, to the north-west of the site. Arable fields lie to the south and east of the site and a pasture field lies to the north, beyond the wooded area marking the site of the former quarry.

1.5 The main archaeological interest of the Quarry House site stems from known Roman activity within the immediate vicinity. Rudchester in part overlies the Roman fort of *Vindobala* and its associated civilian settlement (*vicus*), on the line of Hadrian's Wall. The site of the fort, the known extent of the *vicus* and the line of the Wall are scheduled and lie within the 'core area' of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall) World Heritage Site (WHS). Although the site itself does not lie with the scheduled area or WHS core area, it is considered to have a sensitive archaeological location, within the so-called WHS 'buffer zone' and possibly on the margin of the *vicus* of *Vindobala.*

1.6 A desk-based heritage assessment of the site was undertaken earlier in 2013. This informed an initial non-invasive phase of archaeological evaluation, comprising geophysical survey, which was undertaken in October 2013. A Written Scheme of Investigation for a second phase of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was compiled by Archaeo-Environment and approved by the Assistant County Archaeologist at Northumberland County Council in November 2013.

1.7 In broad terms, the evaluation aimed to establish the archaeological potential of the site. The trenches were sited either to investigate areas to be disturbed by new build or the installation of associated services or to investigate geophysical anomalies which were potentially indicative of sub-surface archaeological remains upon which the development would impact.

1.8 The evaluation comprised four machine-excavated trenches (Trenches 1-4), measuring between 13m and 15m long and between 1.50m and 2.0m wide. Trenches 1 and 4 were sited in the pasture field to the south of the house. Trench 1, to the west, was located in an area proposed for landscaping and heat pump installation and aimed to test two linear geophysical anomalies. Trench 4, to the east, was located at the proposed site of a septic tank installation and aimed to test a linear geophysical anomaly. Trenches 2 and 3 were sited in the garden of the existing property, to the west and east, respectively, in areas to be affected by the proposed new build.

1.9 Natural boulder clay was the basal deposit encountered within all four trenches.

1.10 Trench 1 recorded a NW-SE aligned linear feature, probably a former field boundary ditch, which corresponded closely, in terms of location and orientation, with one component of a group of geophysical responses detected by the earlier survey. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature, which maybe of late prehistoric or later date.

1.11 Trench 2 recorded two linear features, one probably a SW-NE aligned field boundary ditch which yielded a small fragment of building material, broadly indicative of a Roman period date. This feature was possibly the continuation of a feature which caused one component of a group of geophysical responses recorded to the south-west. The second feature, recorded running NNE-SSW at the southern end of the trench, produced no dating evidence and therefore may be of late prehistoric or later date.

1.12 Trench 3 recorded no archaeological features of importance.

1.13 Trench 4 recorded two linear features, the first evidently a broad SW-NE aligned field boundary ditch which produced a sherd of Roman mortaria. Towards the north-western end of the trench, the second feature, NNE-SSW aligned and of far smaller dimension, was possibly a field gully; essentially undated, as no dating evidence was recovered, it maybe of late prehistoric or later date. Neither feature corresponded closely, in terms of location and orientation, with geophysical responses recorded in this part of the site. A sherd of Roman amphora was also recovered from a developed soil horizon in Trench 2.

1.14 In each trench, topsoil and its developed turf line formed the existing ground surface.

1.15 In summary, the evaluation recorded archaeological features of late prehistoric or later date in Trenches 1, 2 and 4, with a single linear feature in each of Trenches 2 and 4 most likely being of Roman date. Any features at the confirmed as being of Roman date, would be of medium archaeological importance, of significance at a regional level. These will likely relate to the vicus of *Vindobala* Roman fort, lying on the margin of the area occupied or exploited by the inhabitants.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 General Background

2.1.1 This report details the methodology and results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) 16-18 December 2013 at Quarry House, Rudchester, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Northumberland (Figure 1). The site is proposed for re-development and the work was commissioned by Archaeo-Environment (the Consultant) on behalf of Napper Architects, acting for the developer (the Client), to inform a planning application for the scheme.

2.1.2 The site had particular potential for Roman archaeological remains since it lies less than 150m south of Hadrian's Wall, the line of which, at this location, is closely followed by the B6318, the Military Road. The site forms the south-easternmost part of the hamlet of Rudchester, which in part overlies the Wall fort *Vindobala* and its associated civilian settlement (*vicus)*. Although the site does not lie within the scheduled area of the fort, *vicus* and Hadrian's Wall, nor does it lie within the 'core area' of the Hadrian's Wall portion of the transnational Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site (WHS), it does bound the scheduled area directly to the north-west and north (Figure 2) and does lie within the 'buffer zone' of the WHS. In sum, therefore, it was considered to occupy a sensitive archaeological location, potentially on the margin of the *vicus*.

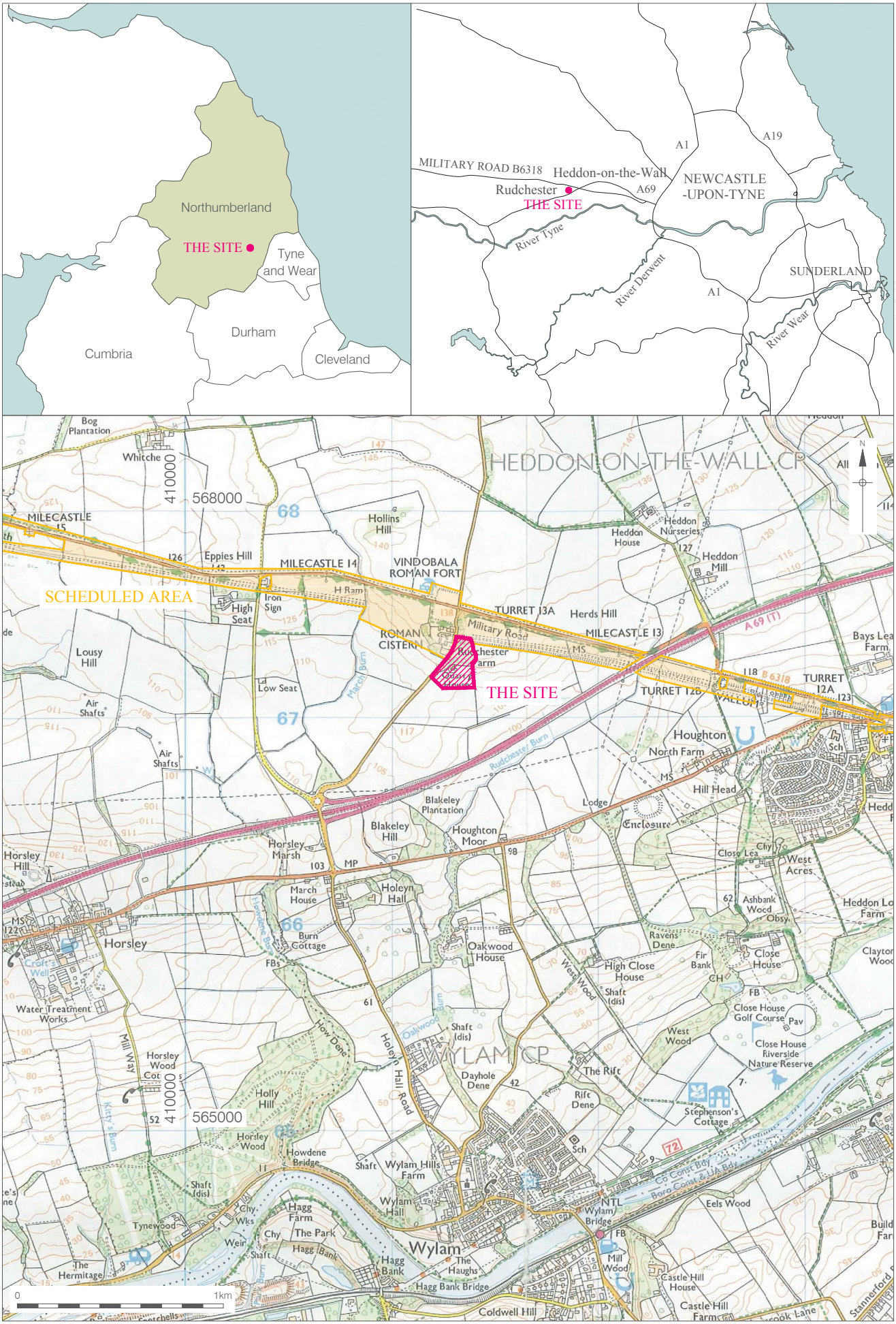
2.1.3 The archaeological potential of the site was established by a desk-based heritage assessment undertaken earlier in 2013 (Archaeo-Environment 2013a). This informed an initial non-invasive phase of archaeological evaluation, comprising geophysical survey, which was undertaken in October 2013 by Phase Site Investigations (PSI), co-ordinated by PCA (PSI/PCA 2013). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a second phase of archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was approved by the Assistant County Archaeologist at Northumberland County Council in November 2013 (Archaeo-Environment 2013b).

2.1.4 The trial trenching evaluation comprised four machine-excavated trial trenches, located either to target potential archaeological remains identified by the geophysical survey which would be impacted upon by construction groundworks or to assess the archaeological potential of areas proposed for new build where no geophysical anomalies had been identified (Figure 2).

2.1.5 The Site Archive (Site Code: QRH 13) is currently held at the Northern Office of PCA and the retained element, comprising the written, drawn and photographic records, as well as a small assemblage of artefactual material, will be deposited with the Great North Museum: Hancock (managed by Tyne and Wear Archives & Museums on behalf of Newcastle University). The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) reference number for the project is: preconst1-168675.

2.2 Site Location and Description

2.2.1 The site is located in the hamlet of Rudchester, which lies on the B6318, the Military Road, *c.* 2 km west of Heddon-on-the-Wall in the south-eastern part of Northumberland, close to the county boundary with Tyne and Wear, and *c.* 12 km west of Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Figure 1). Covering an overall area of *c.* 3.5 ha, the site is centred at National Grid Reference NZ 113 672 (Figure 2).



15/01/14 HB

Figure 1
Site Location
1:2,000,000; 500,000 & 25,000 at A4

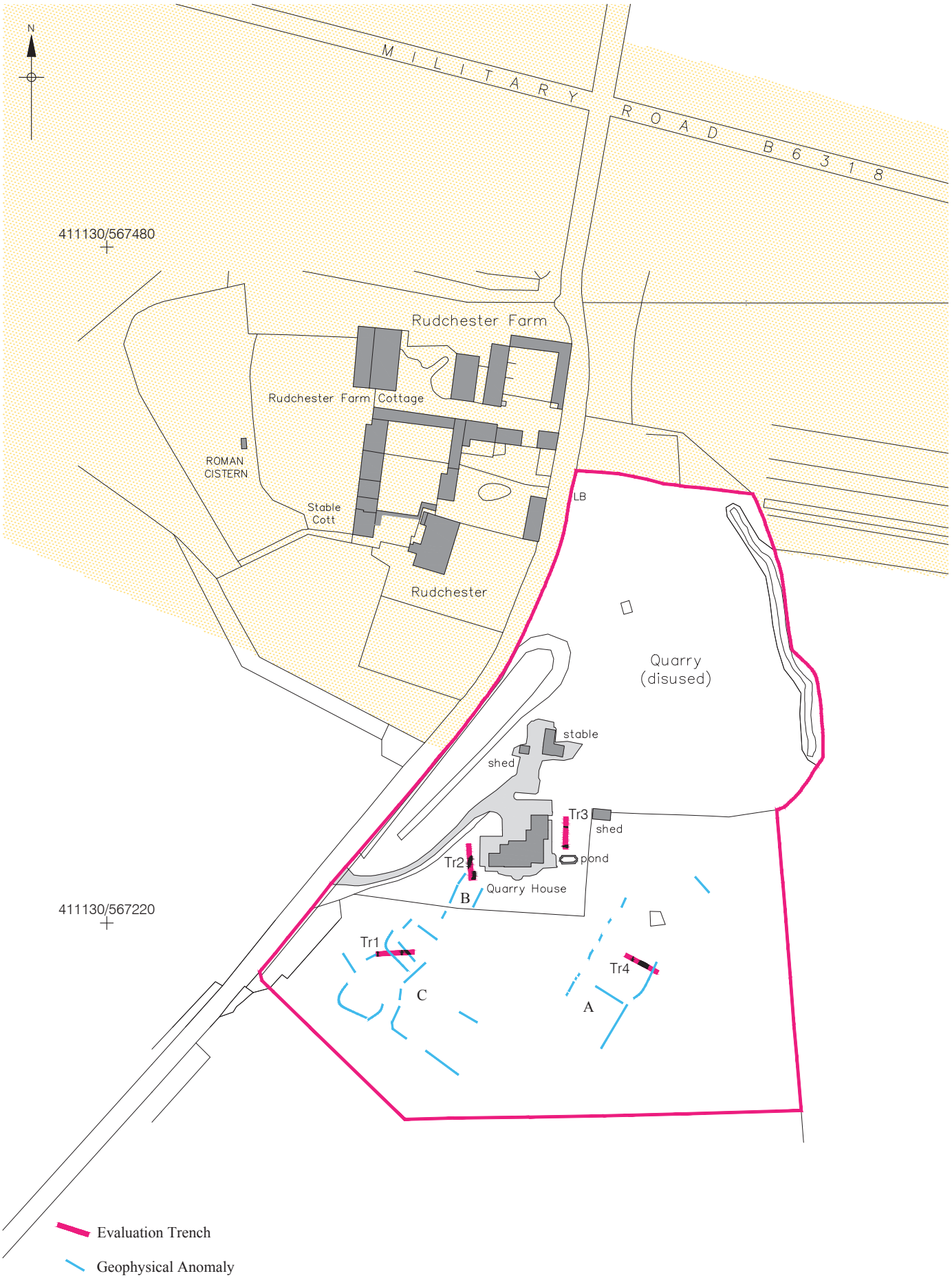


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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:2,000 at A4

2.2.2 The site is bounded to the west by (and accessed from) a minor road which continues to the north to meet the Military Road at a cross-roads and to the south-west to meet the A69 at a roundabout junction. Rudchester Farm, the main component of the hamlet of Rudchester, is situated on the west side of the road, north-west of the site. Arable fields bound the site to the south and east, falling away towards the A69, which lies only *c.* 0.3 km distant. North of the site and within the scheduled area are pasture fields, extending to the line of Military Road.

2.2.3 The site has a south-facing aspect and its dominant focal point is Quarry House, a detached 1960s domestic building, with later additions. The building is located in the western central part of the site, occupying a landscaped platform (terraced into the sloping ground to the north and built up to the south) at an elevation of *c.* 125m OD. On its north side is a car parking area with few outbuildings beyond, these around what was probably the original entrance to the disused quarry which occupies the northernmost portion of the site. This area is surrounded by spoil heaps and now densely wooded, with the corridor of Hadrian's Wall running along the higher ground to the north, beyond the site boundary.

2.2.4 The property is accessed along a sinuous drive which runs from a gated western entrance. The house, with gardens on its west, south and east sides, overlooks the remainder of the property, a large pasture field to the south. The eastern garden incorporates a small garden pond. The garden area is delineated from the pasture field by a wooden post-and-rail fence.

2.3 Geology and Topography

2.3.1 In the area of Rudchester, the Military Road closely follows the line of Hadrian's Wall through a relatively localised area underlain by Carboniferous sandstone bedrock of the Stainmore Formation (*British Geological Survey* website). Beyond the Wall corridor, the surrounding area is underlain by Carboniferous sandstone bedrock of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation. In terms of superficial geology, the area is known for Devensian Till, formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Locally, this material is known as 'boulder clay'.

2.3.2 In broad topographic terms, Quarry House occupies a south-facing site, at an elevation of *c.* 125m OD, 'below' the Hadrian's Wall corridor and overlooking the A69 road corridor, beyond which the land falls away to the south, towards Wylam on the River Tyne, which lies *c.* 2.5 km distant. A minor watercourse, Rudchester Burn, flows NE-SW *c.* 0.4 km to the south of the site, just beyond the A69. In this area, the A69 road corridor can be described as a regular enclosure landscape which combines arable and pasture land with fields delineated by intermittent hedgerows, with a skyline dotted with electricity pylons.

2.3.3 At the site itself, ground level in the area of the outbuildings north of the house lies at *c.* 127m OD. To the south, ground level on the landscaped house platform is at *c.* 125m OD. At the gated site entrance to the west ground level is at *c.* 123m OD, while at the south-east corner of the garden area south of the house ground level is at *c.* 122m OD. Across the remainder of the site, comprising a pasture field, as described, the land falls away to the southern site boundary, where ground level lies at *c.* 115m OD.

2.4 Planning Background

2.4.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out ahead of the submission of a planning application for the proposed re-development of Quarry House. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) is Northumberland County Council. The scheme will see the existing Quarry House demolished and replaced by a new residential building occupying a slightly larger footprint, together with associated landscaping and service works.

2.4.2 The trial trenching evaluation was required, as part of the planning process, to inform relevant parties, of the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological remains at the site. The aim was to provide results which should inform a decision regarding further archaeological mitigation measures. A report (this document) detailing the results of the evaluation is to be submitted with the planning application.

2.4.3 The archaeological potential of the site was established by the aforementioned desk-based heritage assessment undertaken earlier in 2013. An initial non-invasive phase of archaeological evaluation, comprising geophysical survey, was undertaken in October 2013 by PSI, co-ordinated by PCA. This informed the WSI for the trial trenching, which was approved in November 2013 by the Assistant County Archaeologist, of the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team.

2.4.4 The requirement to undertake the archaeological work in association with the proposed development is in line with planning policy at a national level, as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (DCLG 2012). The NPPF came into effect in 2012, replacing *Planning Policy Statement 5: 'Planning for the Historic Environment'* (PPS5) (DCLG 2010), to provide updated 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: Planning for the Historic Environment - Practice Guide* (English Heritage, DCMS and DCLG (revised) 2012), remains a valid, UK Government-endorsed, document.

2.4.5 Chapter 12 '*Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*' of the NPPF 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 a minimum, the relevant* [Historic Environment Record] *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'*.

2.4.6 Northumberland County Council is currently preparing its Local Plan. The key components will be the Development Plan Documents (DPDs), Core Strategy DPD and Delivery DPD, as well as Local Development Framework (LDF) and Adopted Local Plan documents, with the latter including some of the planning policies developed by the previous county council and six districts, all of which are listed in the 2013 *Northumberland Consolidated Planning Policy Framework* (available on the Northumberland County Council website). Policies retained from the former *Castle Morpeth District Local Plan* (2003), which relate to the historic environment are:

- *Policy C38 - It will be the policy of the council to protect listed buildings and buildings of architectural merit or historic interest, together with their setting, against unsuitable development.*
- *Policy C39 - The council will seek the preservation and enhancement of scheduled ancient monuments and other nationally important archaeological sites and their settings. Development proposals which would be detrimental to those sites and their settings will not be permitted.*
- *Policy C40 - The council will not permit development which would be detrimental to regionally or locally important archaeological sites or their settings unless the proposed development is of overriding regional importance and no alternative site is available.*
- *Policy C41 - Where the impact of a development proposal on an archaeological site, or the relative importance of such a site is unclear, the council will require the developer to provide further information in the form of an archaeological assessment and, where appropriate, an archaeological evaluation. Applications for planning permission will not be determined until adequate assessment of the impact of proposals on the archaeological site and its setting has been carried out.*
- *Policy C42 - Where the council decides to grant planning permission for development which will affect sites known to contain archaeological remains, and preservation in situ is not appropriate, an archaeological evaluation. Applications for planning permission will not be determined until adequate assessment of the impact of proposals on the archaeological site and its setting has been carried out.*

2.4.7 In addition, the following policy is of particular relevance, as it requires not just the protection of Hadrian's Wall and its setting, but also their enhancement:

- *Policy C43 - The council supports measures to protect and enhance that part of Hadrian's Wall which is within the borough in accordance with its designation as a scheduled ancient monument and as a World Heritage Site. Development adversely affecting the Wall and its setting will be refused.*

2.4.8 Hadrian's Wall is internationally important, as indicated by its WHS status – it currently forms a component of the transnational Frontiers of the Roman Empire WHS. The Quarry House site does not lie with the 'core area' of the WHS, but does lie within the so-called 'buffer zone' first identified, as a swathe of land either side of the monument, in the *Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site Management Plan* (2008). The area of *Vindobala* fort at Rudchester, along with the known extent of the *vicus* and the Wall corridor (the WHS core area) at this location comprise a scheduled monument (list entry number 1017533) '*Rudchester Roman fort, associated civil settlement and a section of Hadrian's Wall and vallum from the A69 to the March Burn in Wall mile 13'*.

2.4.9 Archaeo-Environment's heritage assessment for the current scheme notes that while the WHS buffer zone is not referred to in local planning policy, the setting of the Wall is and highlights the fact that the WHS buffer zone is not necessarily the same as the setting of the WHS (the surroundings from which the Wall is experienced). The aforementioned management plan states:

- *Policy 3e - Local Authorities will require formal environmental impact assessment for significant developments affecting Hadrian's Wall WHS and its buffer zone* (Hadrian's Wall Heritage Limited 2008, para. 6.3.25).

2.4.10 As discussed in the heritage assessment, since the proposal is for a replacement of an existing building, albeit on a larger footprint, the LPA has agreed that the re-development is not significant and therefore no environmental impact assessment is required. However, it has been determined that consideration needs to be given to the impact of the re-development proposals on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the WHS.

2.4.11 In terms of the impact of the proposed re-development on the OUV of the WHS, the heritage assessment discusses the setting of Hadrian's Wall in some detail, including the importance of the extent to which it is possible to understand the local topography at the time the Wall was built and to what extent it influenced the location of the forts and other structures. Crucially, with reference to the OUV of the WHS, the assessment highlights the particular relevance of archaeological evidence in this instance, specifically any evidence relating to the *vicus*, and pre-and post-Roman occupation around the location of the Wall and forts.

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.5.1 Archaeo-Environment's heritage assessment contains full details of the archaeological and historical background to the project, along with the results of a map regression exercise. A summary of the background is set out below and the research and writing of those responsible is gratefully acknowledged. The heritage assessment should also be consulted for bibliographic references and Northumberland Historic Environment Record reference numbers.

Roman

2.5.2 The site comprises the south-easternmost portion of Rudchester, a hamlet located to the south of Hadrian's Wall which derives its name from 'the red camp', this thought to originate from distinct reddening of the stonework – presumably as a result of burning - of the Hadrian's Wall fort *Vindobala*. Occupied between the 1st and 4th centuries AD, Rudchester is the fourth fort along the line of the Wall, from its eastern terminal. At this location, the Wall runs along high ground, at *c.* 135m OD, with good visibility on all sides, particularly towards the south and east.

2.5.3 The fort survives as a turf-covered platform, up to 1.6m high, to the north of Rudchester Farm. The fort guarded and stood immediately east of the valley of the March Burn, an ancient route to the Tyne ford at Newburn. The fort covered 1.80 ha and would have accommodated a part-mounted cohort, 500 strong. It conforms to the standard design of being generally rectangular in shape with curved corners. Double gateways were featured on each of the four sides, with linking roads quartering the fort; the line of the *via principalis* (the main west-east road) has become fossilised as the B6318. At every Roman mile (*c.* 1.5 km) along the Wall, a milecastle was constructed to supplement the defences. These installations housed garrisons of up to 100 men and between each were two smaller defensive structures, turrets, which also held a small garrison. At Rudchester was Turret 13a, located 369m to the north-east of Quarry House. The southern defences of the Wall, the vallum, consisted of a flat-bottomed ditch, *c.* 6m wide by *c.* 3m deep with an earthwork bank either side. The vallum established the southern boundary of the military zone, which was bounded to the north by the Wall.

2.5.4 With the establishment of forts along the Wall, came civilian settlements in the vicinity. Known as *vici* (singular *vicus*), in some areas the vallum was flattened in order to accommodate their development. These settlements housed a range of people and activities, some such as traders and merchants simply attracted by the military presence, while some may have been families of troops stationed on the Wall. The most common type of building found in the *vici*, as well as in other areas around forts, was the long, narrow strip building. These appear to have been used for both domestic and commercial purposes. The full extent of the *vicus* at Rudchester is unknown, but to date, most visible evidence has been found to the south-west of the fort.

2.5.5 The fort at Rudchester was very well preserved until the 1720s but was thereafter reduced by stone robbing, presumably to improve houses in the vicinity, but also to construct the Military Way along the length of Hadrian's Wall and to build stone-walled field enclosures as part of agricultural improvements. This was followed by ploughing and cultivation of the area, which accounts for ridge and furrow earthworks overlying the southern part of the fort. The fort and its surrounding landscape was shown on the Military Way Map of 1746, which depicted the proposed road and the existing fort within a landscape of arable ploughing, limited enclosures and clumps of trees.

2.5.6 In the 1760s, a life-sized statue of Hercules and the cistern known as the 'Giant's Grave' were found to the south-west of the fort, these the initial antiquarian discoveries which placed the *vicus* to the south-west. A Roman temple dedicated to the Persian god Mithras discovered to the south-west of the fort was excavated in 1953 by Gillam and MacIvor. Traces of underlying and unrelated buildings associated with Antonine pottery were also uncovered, indicating that the extent of the *vicus* and its plan form varied between the 1st and 2nd centuries and a rebuilding in the 4th century. A series of terraces stretching westwards from Rudchester to the Mithraeum potentially represents the *vicus* building platforms and trackways. In 1766, labourers found an urn containing gold and silver coins near the Rudchester Burn, reportedly on the site of a Wall milecastle; Milecastle 13A is the nearest to Rudchester Burn, this lies *c.* 370m north-east of the Quarry House site.

2.5.7 Despite the concentration of *vicus* evidence to the south-west of the fort at Rudchester, there is limited evidence that the settlement extended into the fields on the east side of the fort According to Bruce, writing in 1851, *'The suburbs have been to the south of the station, but their site has recently been disturbed by the opening of an extensive quarry which has supplied large quantities of stone used in carrying the railway over the Tyne, and through Newcastle*'. The working referred to was presumably the disused quarry in the northern part of the Quarry House site.

2.5.8 The area to the north of the quarry and to the south of Hadrian's Wall still contains undulating earthworks which appear to represent ancient building platforms, suggesting that *vicus* remains survive there. This land was included in a survey undertaken in 1990 by RCHME, although the accompanying report stated '*There are no definitely Roman features in the field to the east of Rudchester Farm'.* Further, the vallum immediately to the north of the quarry has certainly been levelled and while this possibly took place to accommodate the *vicus*, it is also possible that it took place in association with the much later quarry development.

2.5.9 In sum, therefore, it is not clear, despite the accumulation of fragmentary evidence, whether or not the *vicus* ever extended southwards to the site of Quarry House.

Medieval

2.5.10 During the medieval period, Rudchester was a member of the barony of Prudhoe. Documentary sources first mention the site of 'Rouchestre' in a *c.* 1181 charter. In the 13th century, Rudchester was held by Simon of Rudchester, steward of Richard de Umfraville. Sources from *c.* 1300 indicate that Simon of Rudchester gave evidence for proof of his age which was required as part of litigation in order to build his proposed hall in Rudchester in 1285. This hall is now incorporated in the Grade II* listed Rudchester Manor/Hall, which lies in the core of the hamlet.

2.5.11 The complex ownership details of Rudchester Manor/Hall throughout the later medieval and post-medieval period are set out in the aforementioned heritage assessment. Today, the south-east corner of the building includes a square three-storey 13th-century Pele tower; although the main part of the house is the result of extensive remodelling and extension in the late 18th and early 19th centuries when the property was owned by the Fawkes/Hawkesworth family. The land around Rudchester Manor still shows signs of ridge and furrow ploughing, which may have its origins in the medieval period when an open field system was used, although such ploughing is likely to have continued until the 18th century.

Post-Medieval

2.5.12 In response to the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion the Military Road was constructed between Newcastle and Carlisle in 1752. Along parts of its route, the road closely followed the line of the Wall and, in fact, at Rudchester it was constructed directly over the Wall, using the stone as its foundations. A 1746 plan of the (proposed) Military Road, produced prior to construction, showed the fort and its entrance points, but only a cluster of trees to the south-east with no evidence of buildings. It also showed what was by then a predominantly arable field system around the fort.

2.5.13 Contemporary accounts from the time of the building of the Military Road make it clear that field walls adjacent to the road (the modern B6318) were (and remain) made of stone from Hadrian's Wall and Rudchester fort. Armstrong's map of Northumberland dating to 1769 indicated that Rudchester had been emparked and contained only the Hall and a symbol possibly representing another structure such as a hemmel or perhaps the fort itself. However, there is no evidence, such as a planting scheme, in the area today to suggest that the emparkment was ever implemented.

2.5.14 In 1815 the awards for enclosure of the land around Rudchester were made and the earlier open field system was replaced with larger enclosed fields. It was from this time onwards that the current historic landscape character was formed. Newspaper articles from 1816 and 1818 described how the manor and township of Rudchester were to be sold by auction. The 1818 article detailed how the manor and township comprised two farmhouses and outbuildings, cottages for labourers and 640 acres of land, presumably including the land within which the Quarry House site now stands. There was no mention of the quarry.

2.5.15 The 1841 Tithe map showed small buildings, annotated 'Cottages', on the east side of the road, these probably also depicted on earlier small-scale maps of 1820 (Fryer) and 1828 (Greenwood) and likely the same set of buildings annotated 'Smithy' on subsequent Ordnance Survey mapping. Again, however, the quarry does not appear on any maps which pre-date Ordnance Survey mapping.

2.5.16 A newspaper article from 1849 referred to workmen of 'Rudchester Quarries and by the 1860s the quarry to the north of the current site was depicted on 1st edition Ordnance Survey mapping. To the north, the vallum and fort were depicted with broken lines, suggesting their extremely dilapidated condition. The quarry was depicted as an earthwork to the east of the manor and farm, directly north of the small structure by then identified as a smithy. The field enclosures were shown as hedgerows rather than stone walls, although those walls on either side of the Military Road remained as stone.

Modern

2.5.17 The Ordnance Survey third edition map of 1919 indicates that the quarry was disused by this date, since it annotates the working 'Old Quarry', while the 1963 edition map is the first to show Quarry House, accessed from the road to the west.

2.5.18 The heritage assessment should be consulted for modern ownership details of the property.

Previous archaeological work at the site

2.5.19 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the construction of an extension to Quarry House in 2001. No evidence of any features of archaeological significance was observed. The heritage assessment should be consulted for further details.

2.5.20 The initial phase of archaeological evaluation undertaken in association with the current development proposal for Quarry House comprised geophysical survey of the southernmost portion, covering *c.* 1.7 ha, of the overall site, namely the area occupied by the existing house, its garden and the pasture field to the south and east. The report on that component of the overall project should be consulted for full details (PSI/PCA 2013), with Figure 2 herein depicting the main linear geophysical anomalies of potential archaeological interest.

2.5.21 Some of the responses recorded by the geophysical survey appeared to form regular, sub-rectangular patterns, as might typically be produced by a complex of Roman period buildings in a *vicus* or, perhaps more likely, an associated field system. For the most part, however, the responses were weak and discontinuous, so that it was not possible to provide a reliable interpretation for their origin. Furthermore, it was considered that while some or all of the linear anomalies and trends detected could be of archaeological origin, it was considered equally possible that some or all simply represent drainage features and/or geological features or variations.

3. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project Aims

3.1.1 The project is 'threat-led' with potential to disturb or destroy important sub-surface archaeological remains, if present. Therefore, the broad aim of the project was to inform the LPA, advised by its Conservation Team and English Heritage, and the Client, advised by Archaeo-Environment, regarding the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological remains at the site.

3.1.2 Following the geophysical survey undertaken in October 2013 as an initial phase of non-invasive archaeological evaluation of the site, trial trenching was selected as the next most appropriate investigative tool to test the archaeological potential of the site. The trenches were sited either to investigate areas to be disturbed by new build or the installation of associated services or to investigate geophysical anomalies which were potentially indicative of sub-surface archaeological remains upon which the development would impact.

3.1.3 Additional aims of the project were:

- to compile a Site Archive consisting of all site and project documentary and photographic records, as well as all artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material recovered;
- to compile a report that contains an assessment of the nature and significance of all data categories, stratigraphic, artefactual, *etc.*

3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 The specific research objectives of the archaeological evaluation were principally for the Roman period, due to the location of the site immediately adjacent to the scheduled area of the Roman fort and *vicus* of *Vindobala* and the line of Hadrian's Wall (the WHS core area) and within the WHS buffer zone. However, the WSI identified some additional potential for evidence of prehistoric settlement and ritual activity and medieval settlement.

3.2.2 The project was considered to have good potential to make a significant contribution to existing archaeological knowledge of Rudchester in general, particularly of the Roman period. Specific research objectives to be addressed by the project were formulated with reference to existing archaeological research frameworks. *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (NERRF) highlights the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work (Petts and Gerrard 2006).

3.2.3 The following key priority within the NERRF research agenda for the Prehistoric period were identified within the WSI as being of direct relevance to this project:

Iii – Settlement (Later Bronze Age and Iron Age) - in particular, evidence for any pre-Roman settlement evidence.

3.2.4 The following key priorities within the NERRF research agenda for the Roman period were identified within the WSI as being of direct relevance to this project:

Ri – The Iron Age to Roman transition – in particular, evidence of continuation and/or change in land use through the period of Roman colonisation.

Riv – Native and civilian life – in particular, evidence for the functioning and occupation of *vici*.

3.2.5 In addition to these particular themes, the WSI described how other identified research agenda questions relating to Roman material culture, trade and industry may be pertinent depending on the results of the project.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

4.1.1 The trial trenching component of the archaeological evaluation was undertaken 16-18 December 2013. All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the relevant standard and guidance document of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) (IfA 2009). PCA is an IfA-Registered Organisation. The evaluation was undertaken according to the aforementioned WSI compiled by Archaeo-Environment which should be consulted for full details of methodologies to be employed regarding archaeological excavation, recording and sampling. PCA's standard manual for fieldwork procedures was also adhered to (PCA 2009).

4.1.2 Trial trenching was considered as the most appropriate investigative tool to test the archaeological potential of the site following on from the earlier geophysical survey. Four trenches (Trenches 1-4) were sited either to investigate areas to be disturbed by new build or the installation of associated services or to investigate geophysical anomalies which were potentially indicative of sub-surface archaeological remains upon which the re-development scheme would impact.

4.1.3 A summary of the rationale for the trenching (with proposed trench dimensions, orientations and locations) is set out below:

- Trench 1 (15.0m x up to 2.0m; aligned west-east; located in the pasture field south of Quarry House). Sited to target two NW-SE aligned components of a complex of geophysical anomalies 'C' in an area proposed for landscaping and installation of a ground source heat pump.
- Trench 2 (15.0m x up to 2.0m; aligned north-south; located in the lawned garden west of Quarry House). Sited essentially to target an area which will be substantially disturbed by new build and lying to the north-east of a complex of geophysical anomalies 'B'.
- Trench 3 (15.0m x up to 2.0; aligned north-south; located in the lawned garden east of Quarry House). Sited essentially to target an area which will be substantially disturbed by new build.
- Trench 4 (15.0m x up to 2.0m; aligned NW-SE; located in the pasture field south of Quarry House). Sited to target a NE-SW aligned component of a complex of geophysical anomalies 'A' in an area intended as the site of a new septic tank and associated drain/soakaway.

4.1.4 All trenches were set-out using a Leica Viva Smart Rover Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), with pre-programmed co-ordinate data determined by an office-based CAD Technician. The Smart Rover GNSS provides correct Ordnance Survey co-ordinates in real time, to an accuracy of 1cm.

4.1.5 A summary of the actual positing of the trenches (with actual dimensions, orientations and, where relevant, reasons for re-locating) is set out below:

- Trench 1 was sited in its intended location and with the intended orientation; its actual dimensions at ground level were 15.65m x 1.60m.

- Trench 2 was re-sited to the west from its intended location, but with the intended orientation, for practical purposes, due to the presence of the western extension to the house and an adjacent elevated paved patio; its actual dimensions at ground level were 14.10m x 1.60m (northernmost 10.90m) and 2.40m (southernmost 3.20m); its southernmost portion was widened to further expose an archaeological feature which was initially revealed directly adjacent to the eastern limit of excavation, so that detailed investigation would have been impractical without the trench being widened.
- Trench 3 was re-sited to the south from its intended location, but with the intended orientation, for practical purposes; its extent to the north was limited by the presence of a probable underground electricity supply and its extent to the south was limited by the presence of a garden pond; its actual dimensions at ground level were 13.20m x 1.60m.
- Trench 4 was sited in its intended location and with the intended orientation; its actual dimensions at ground level were 14.10m x 1.60m. It had been thought that the trench would have to be excavated in two parts due to the presence of a field boundary fence, although this was not necessary as the fence was no longer present.

4.1.6 All trenches were mechanically-excavated by a back-acting 'JCB' with toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon, or the clearly defined top of the natural sub-stratum, whichever was reached first. All potential archaeological features were identified and marked on the ground with sprayline at the time of machine clearance of overburden.

4.1.7 The full length of each trench was hand cleaned using trowels. All potential features were subject to partial excavation within the trenches with photography and archaeological recording taking place at appropriate stages in the process. A selection of digital photographs is included as Appendix 4 to this report. All trenches were recorded, irrespective of whether or not they contained archaeological features.

4.1.8 Two Temporary Bench Marks were established at the site using the Smart Rover GNSS instrument prior to the trenches being excavated. The first was located on the coping stone of a low brick wall on the north side of the house (value 125.69m OD) and the second was located on a robust timber cross-member of a field boundary fence to the south-east of the house (value 122.36m OD). The height of all principal strata and features were calculated relative to Ordnance Datum and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.

4.2 Post-excavation

4.2.1 The stratigraphic data generated by the project is represented by the written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 38 archaeological contexts were defined in the four trenches (Appendix 2). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts and phasing the stratigraphic data (Appendix 1). A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described below in Section 5.

4.2.2 The artefactual material from the evaluation comprised a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material. Examination of the material was undertaken and relevant comments integrated into Section 5, with a summary report included as Appendix 3. The only organic material recovered comprised a small assemblage of animal bone. Examination of the material was undertaken and relevant comments integrated into Section 5. None of the material recovered during the evaluation required specialist stabilisation or an assessment of its potential for conservation research.

4.2.3 The palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy of the project was to recover bulk samples where appropriate, from well-dated stratified deposits covering the main periods or phases of occupation and the range of feature types represented, with specific reference to the objectives of the evaluation. A bulk sample was collected from a linear feature, of potential Roman date, in each of Trenches 1, 2 and 4, although none of these were subject to processing and assessment as part of the post-excavation work, due to the absence or very limited quantity of dating evidence in each case.

4.2.4 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, (UKIC 1990) and the relevant IfA publication (IfA 2008). The depositional requirements of the body to which the Site Archive will be ultimately transferred will be met in full.

5. RESULTS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

During the evaluation, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual 'context' numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example [101], [102], etc. for Trench 1 and [201], [202], etc. for Trench 2. The archaeological sequence is described by placing stratigraphic sequences within broad phases, assigned on a site-wide basis in this case. An attempt has been made to add interpretation to the data, and correlate these phases with recognised historical and geological periods.

5.1 Phase 1: Natural Sub-stratum

5.1.1 Phase 1 represents natural geological material exposed within the base of each of the four evaluation trenches. Boulder clay, [101], [205], [309] and [402], comprised the basal deposit in Trenches 1-4, respectively. The material comprised firm to stiff, very mottled, but generally mid yellowish brown and mid brownish grey, sandy clay, with frequent fine and medium angular and sub-angular stones throughout, as well as occasional large angular stones/boulders.

5.1.2 The maximum recorded height on natural boulder clay was 124.69m OD, this at the north end of Trench 3 (Figure 5; Section 3), and the minimum recorded height (where probably untruncated) was 118.52m OD, this at the south-eastern end of Trench 4 (Figure 6; Section 4). These values reflect the natural topography of the area investigated, with the ground falling away fairly steeply from north to south.

5.1.3 The depth at which the boulder clay was encountered below existing ground level was typically *c.* 0.40-0.50m throughout Trenches 1, 3 and 4, with Trench 2 having the minimum and maximum recorded depths below ground level, *c.* 0.25m and *c.* 0.55m at its north and south ends, respectively, these values likely to represent the effects of modern landscaping in the area of the existing house platform.

5.2 Phase 2: Undated (Palaeosol)

5.2.1 In Trench 2, natural boulder clay was overlain by a layer, [102], comprising firm, mid greyish brown silty sandy clay. With only occasional fine and medium angular and sub-angular stones throughout, this was noted as a generally sterile deposit, which was recorded at a maximum height of 120.71m OD. The deposit had a maximum thickness of 0.17m, this recorded in section in the eastern half of the trench, although its thickness was variable and, in fact, the deposit was entirely absent along the majority of the western part of the trench, which may have been a result of later ploughing.

5.2.2 Layer [102] is interpreted as a developed soil of ancient origin (palaeosol), having developed upon the boulder clay through the natural processes of soil accumulation to form the ground surface at the onset of human occupation of the area.

5.3 Phase 3: Roman and Undated

5.3.1 Phase 3 represents activity of possible Roman date, with features assigned to this phase being recorded in Trenches 1, 2 and 4.

5.3.2 Trench 1 was positioned in an area proposed for landscaping and installation of a ground source heat pump to target two NW-SE aligned components of a complex of geophysical responses, 'C' (Figure 2). Towards the eastern end of the trench, a linear NW-SE aligned feature, [104], was recorded, cutting into the developed soil, [102], at a maximum height of 120.65m OD (seen in section) (Figure 3; Section 1). Its maximum width, as recorded in the base of the trench, was 0.70m and its maximum depth, as recorded in section, was 0.40m (Figure 3; Sections 1 and 5). With steep, slightly concave sides and a flat base, the ditch was filled with loose, dark greyish brown sandy clay, [105], with occasional fine and medium angular and sub-angular stones and flecks of charcoal throughout. No artefactual material was recovered from the excavated portion of the feature, therefore it is essentially undated. Interpreted as a field boundary ditch of prehistoric or later origin, the feature is considered to be the origin of one of the components of geophysical response 'C', due to the precise correlation in terms of both position and orientation.

5.3.3 Trench 2 was positioned in an area of proposed new build on the west side of the existing house and its re-siting, as described above, placed the trench closer to one SW-NE component of a complex of geophysical anomalies 'B' recorded to the south-west. In the central part of the trench, a linear SW-NE aligned feature, [203], was recorded, cutting into the natural sub-stratum, [205], at a maximum height of 124.11m OD (seen in section) (Figure 4; Section 2). Its maximum width and depth, as recorded in the base of the trench, were *c.* 1.15m and *c.* 0.20m, respectively (Figure 4; Section 6). With shallow, variable sides and a narrow concave base (disturbed in the excavated portion by the removal of large boulder), the ditch was filled with friable, mid-dark yellowish brownish grey silty clay, [204], with frequent fine and medium angular and sub-angular stones throughout. A small, much abraded fragment of possible ceramic building material was recovered from the excavated portion of the feature, along with a cattle-sized calcined fragment of bone. The fabric of the building material, as far as can be gathered from such a small fragment, is broadly indicative of a Roman period date. A human identification cannot be entirely discounted for the calcined bone fragment. Interpreted as a field boundary ditch of probable Roman period origin, this feature may be a continuation of a feature which was the cause of one SW-NE component of geophysical response 'B', based on its position and orientation.

5.3.4 In the wider, southern part of Trench 2, a linear SSW-NNE aligned feature, [201], was recorded, cutting into the natural sub-stratum, [205], at a maximum height of 123.55m OD (seen in section) (Figure 4; Section 2). Its maximum width and depth, as recorded in the base of the trench, were *c.* 1.20m and *c.* 0.10m, respectively. With very gradually sloping, straight sides and a broad flat base, the ditch was filled with friable, dark brownish grey silty clay, [202], with frequent fine and medium angular and sub-angular stones and occasional flecks of charcoal throughout. The fragmented remains of one or two sheep/goat maxillary molars were recovered from the excavated portion of the feature. Essentially undated, the feature has been interpreted as a possible field boundary ditch or agricultural feature of prehistoric or later date.

5.3.5 Trench 4 was positioned in an area intended as the site of a new septic tank and associated drain/soakaway to target a NE-SW aligned component of a complex of geophysical anomalies 'A'. Towards the centre of the trench, a broad, probably linear, NE-SW aligned feature, [405], was recorded, cutting into the natural sub-stratum, [402], at a maximum height of 118.98m OD (seen in section) (Figure 6; Section 4). Its maximum width and depth, as recorded in section, were *c.* 3.80m and *c.* 0.40m, respectively.

5.3.6 With gradually sloping, slightly concave sides and an undulating base, feature [405] was filled with friable, mid brownish grey sandy silty clay, [406], with occasional fine and medium angular and sub-angular stones and flecks of charcoal throughout and very occasional flecks of possible brick/tile and large angular stones/boulders. No artefactual material was recovered from the excavated portion of the feature, although a sherd of pottery was recovered from its fill, as exposed after hand cleaning along the north-eastern side of the trench. This somewhat abraded sherd was from a Roman mortaria; with an interior surface containing a variety of trituration grits, the vessel was possibly produced in Corbridge (see Appendix 3). Interpreted as a broad field boundary ditch of probable Roman period origin, this feature can be only broadly considered to be the cause of one SW-NE component of geophysical response 'B', based on the lack of close positional correlation.

5.3.7 Towards the north-western end of Trench 4, a narrow, linear, NNE-SSW aligned feature, [403], was recorded, cutting into the natural sub-stratum, [402], at a maximum height of 119.43m OD (seen in section) (Figure 6; Section 4). Its maximum width and depth, as recorded in section, were *c.* 0.50m and *c.* 0.20m, respectively. With steeply sloping, slightly convex sides and a narrow concave base, the feature was filled with friable, mid orange grey sandy clay, [404], with occasional fine and medium angular and sub-angular stones and flecks of charcoal throughout. No artefactual material was recovered from the excavated portion of the feature and it is, therefore, essentially undated. Interpreted as a probable drainage gully of Roman period or later date, this feature cannot be considered to be the cause of any component of geophysical response 'B', based on the lack of close correlation in terms of both position and orientation.

5.4 Phase 4: Late Post-Medieval

5.4.1 Phase 4 represents deposits and activity of later post-medieval or later date with features and/ or deposits assigned to this phase being recorded in all four trenches.

5.4.2 Layers [206], [302] and [409], recorded in Trenches 2, 3 and 4, respectively, are interpreted as representing developed soils of probable ancient origin which have been reworked, possibly over the course of many centuries up to the post-medieval period, largely as a result of agricultural activity. The three deposits can reasonably be equated. The description recorded for layer [206] was typical for the deposits: soft, mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt with occasional fine and medium angular and sub-angular stones and flecks of charcoal throughout. Typically the deposits were 0.25m to 0.30m thick, with the maximum recorded thickness being *c.* 0.40m, this for layer [409] in Trench 4, this probably representing the location of a plough furrow.

5.4.3 A sherd of pottery was recovered from layer [409] during hand cleaning in Trench 4. This was a fairly large, reasonably fresh sherd in a slightly micaceous orange fabric, from a Roman amphora, specifically a Baetican olive oil jar (see Appendix 3). The item is considered to be residual in context.

5.4.4 The remaining deposits and features assigned to Phase 4 comprise: two north-south aligned field drains in Trench 1 (cut [108], drainpipes [107], backfill [106]; cut [111], drainpipes [110], backfill [109]; Figure 3); an unexcavated roughly west-east aligned service trench in Trench 3 (cut [304], fill [303]; Figure 5); a roughly north-south aligned field drain in Trench 4 (cut [407], drainpipes [410], backfill [408]; Figure 6).

5.5 Phase 5: Modern

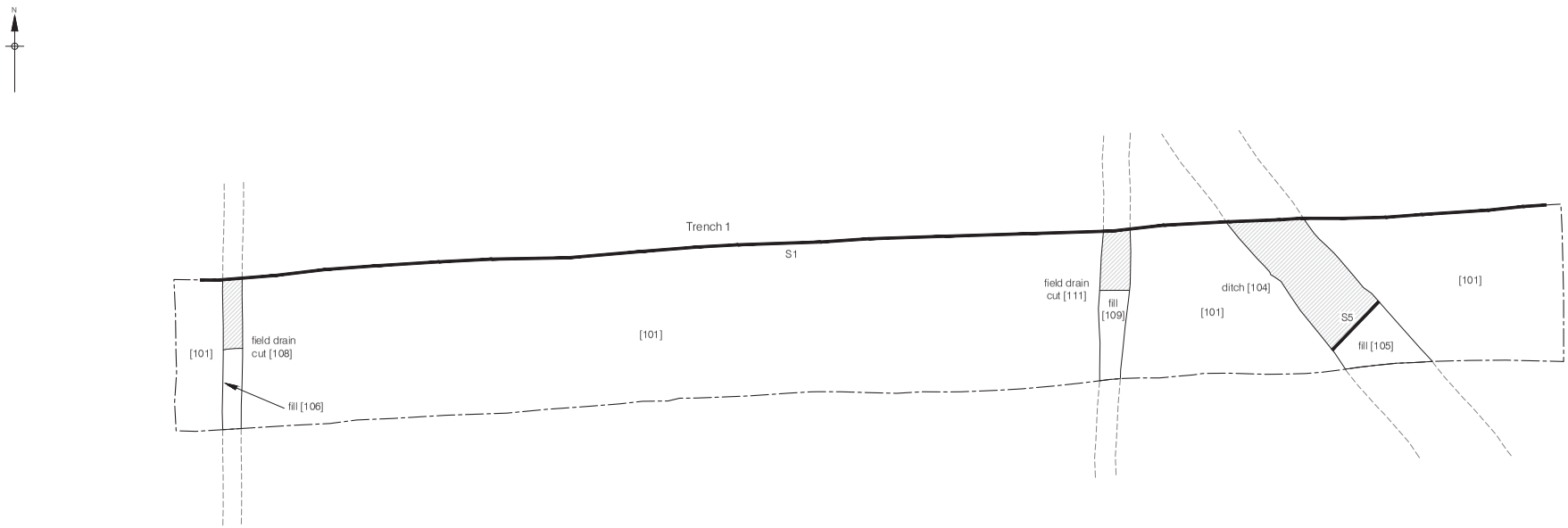
5.5.1 Phase 5 represents deposits and activity of modern date with features and/or deposits assigned to this phase being recorded in all four trenches.

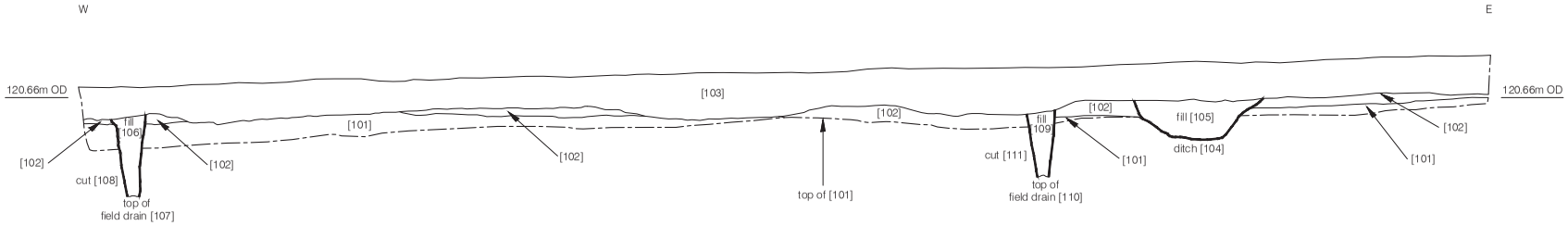
5.5.2 A posthole, [308], was recorded in the southern end of Trench 3, cut into the natural clay at a height of 123.77m OD (Figure 5). Sub-rectangular in shape it measured 0.57m NNW-SSE (truncated to the north) by 0.45m and was 0.25m deep. Its fill, [307], comprised firm, mottled mid grey clayey silt with mid greyish brown sandy clayey silt. A chip of dark red earthenware, of broadly 'modern' date, was recovered from the deposit. The degraded lower end of a timber post was observed evidently being dragged from the general location of this feature during machine clearance of overburden, thereby confirming its modern origin.

5.5.3 Layers [103], [207], [301] and [401], recorded in Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4, respectively, was the existing topsoil at each location. The deposits generally comprised soft, dark brownish grey clayey silt or sandy silty clay, with occasional fine and medium angular and sub-angular stones and flecks of charcoal throughout. Typically the deposits were 0.20m to 0.30m thick, with the maximum recorded thickness being 0.50m, this for layer [103] in Trench 1, where the deposit appeared to have been ploughed into a furrow. The minimum recorded thickness was *c.* 0.15m for layer [207], at the north end of Trench 2, where landscaping had evidently occurred to create the platform for the existing house.

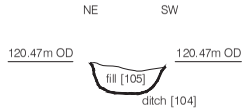
5.5.4 The maximum recorded height on topsoil (*i.e.* existing ground level) in each trench was: 121.09m OD (Trench 1; Figure 3, Section 1); 124.67m OD (Trench 2; Figure 4, Section 2); 125.11m OD (Trench 3; Figure 5, Section 3); 120.05m OD (Trench 4; Figure 6, Section 4). The minimum height recorded on topsoil (again, existing ground level) was 118.94m OD, this at the south-eastern end of Trench 4. A sherd of white china pottery, of broadly 'modern' date, was recovered from layer [207] in Trench 2. All topsoil had a developed turf line, this forming the existing ground surface of the pasture (Trenches 1 and 4) or lawned garden (Trenches 2 and 3) in the areas investigated.

5.5.5 Truncating the north side of posthole [308] in Trench 3 was a roughly west-east aligned service trench, probably a redundant water supply for a field trough (cut [306], copper and iron pipes [310], backfill [305]; Figure 5). In section, it was evident that this feature had been cut through the existing topsoil, layer [301] (Figure 5; Section 3).





Section 1
South facing
Trench 1



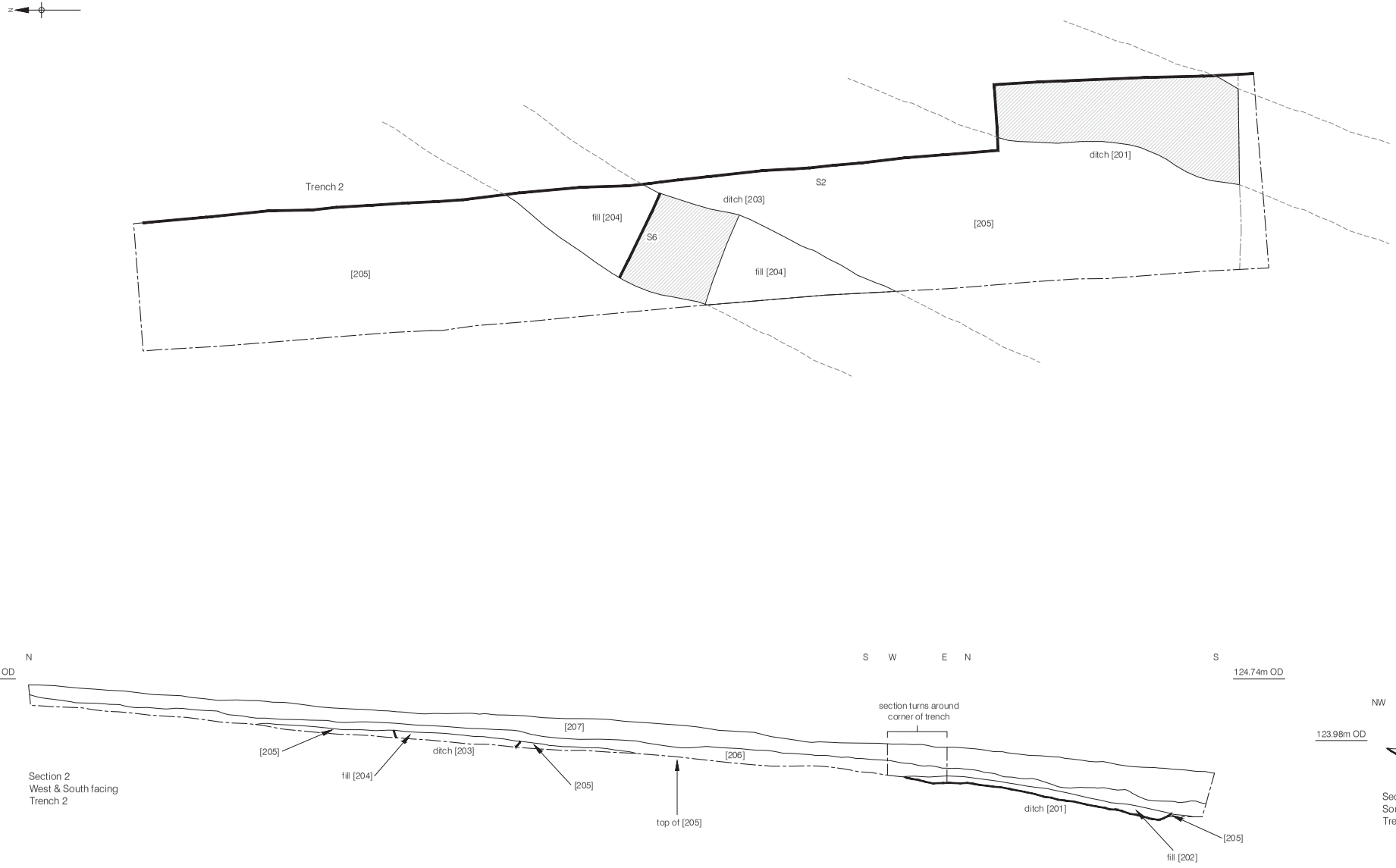
Section 5
North West facing
Trench 1

Excavated

0 2m

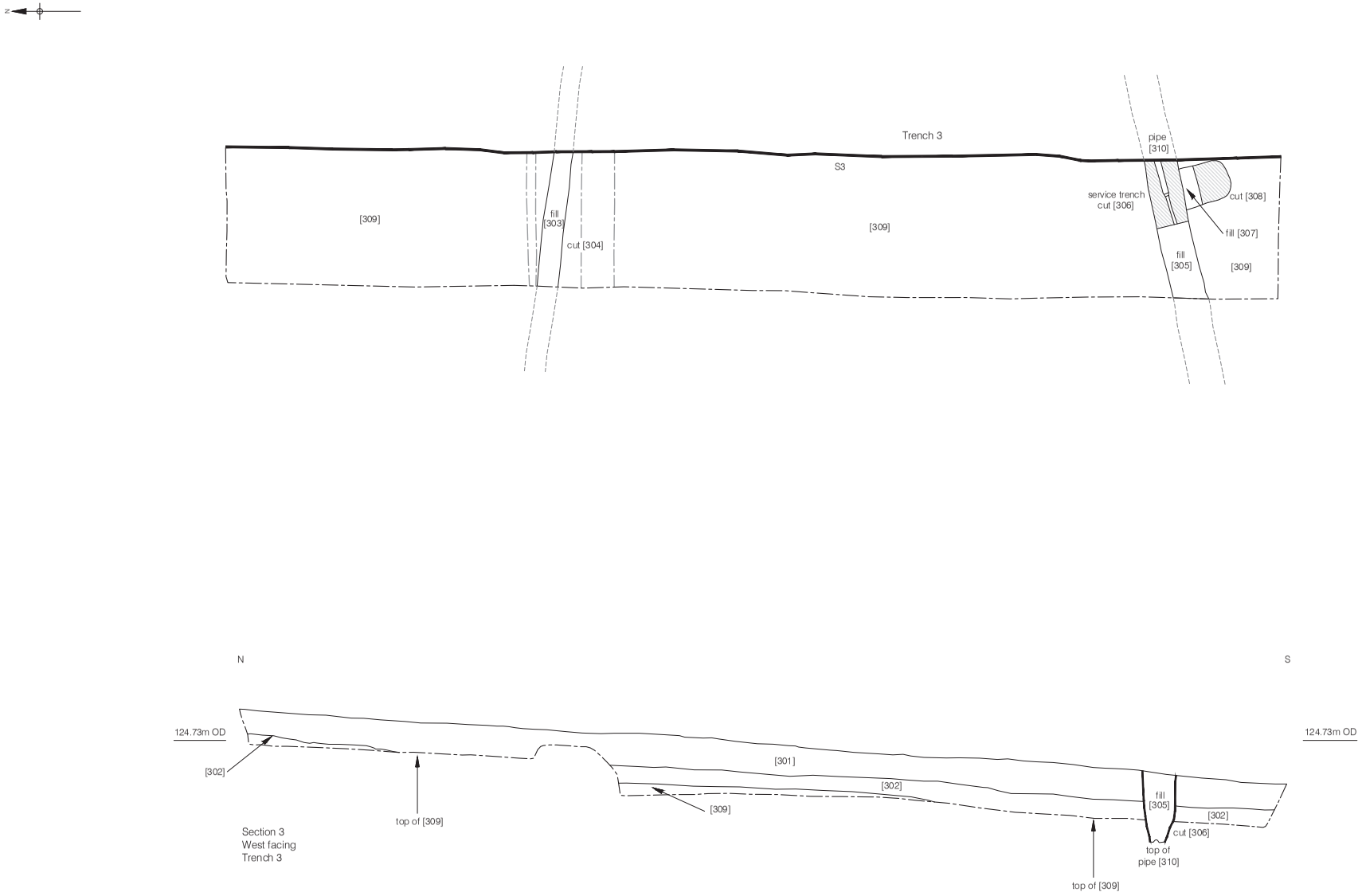
14/01/14 HB

Figure 3
Plan of Trench 1 & Sections 1 & 5
1:50 at A3



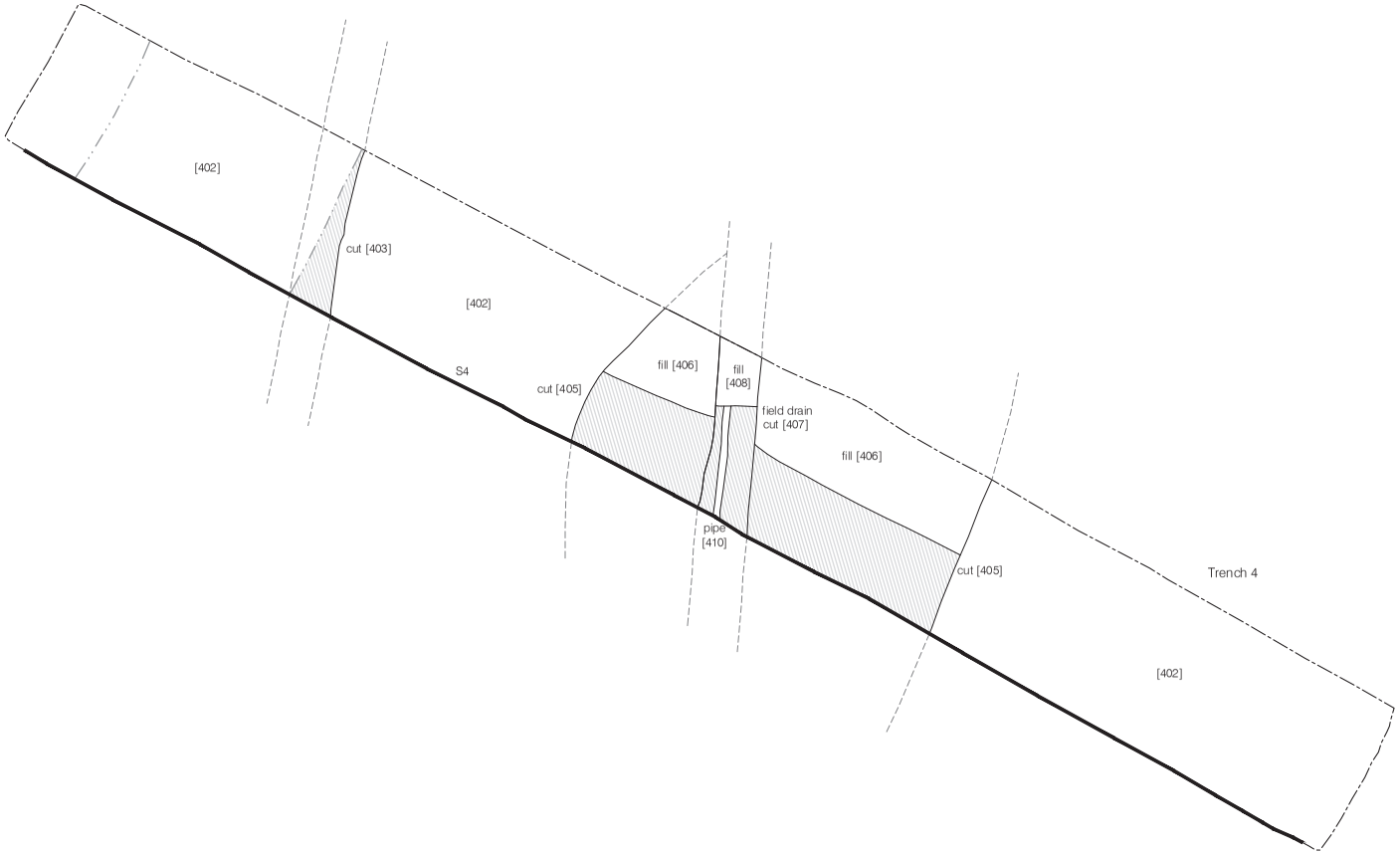
14/01/14 HB

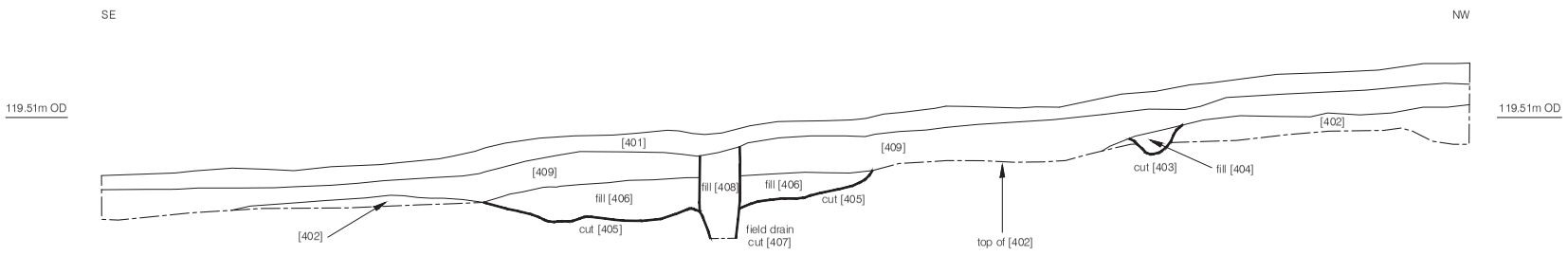
Figure 4
Plan of Trench 2 & Sections 2 & 6
1:50 at A3



14/01/14 HB

Figure 5
Plan of Trench 3 & Section 3
1:50 at A3





Section 4
North East facing
Trench 4

Excavated

0 2m

14/01/14 HB

Figure 6
Plan of Trench 4 & Section 4
1:50 at A3

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

6.1.1 Geological deposits and archaeological deposits and features encountered during the evaluation have been assigned to five phases of activity:

- Phase 1. Natural boulder clay was the basal deposit recorded in all four trenches. The sloping aspect of the site was reflected in the height at which the material was recorded, with the maximum and minimum (where probably untruncated) values being 124.69m OD (north end of Trench 3) and 118.52 OD (south-eastern end of Trench 4), respectively.
- Phase 2. An undated, but potentially pre-Roman sterile palaeosol, was recorded in section in the eastern half of Trench 1, although it was entirely absent along the majority of the western part of the trench, probably the result of later ploughing.
- Phase 3. Linear features recorded in Trenches 1, 2 and 4 are of late prehistoric, Roman or later origin. Trench 1 recorded an essentially undated, NW-SE aligned linear feature, probably a former field boundary ditch, which corresponded closely, in terms of location and orientation, with one component of a group of geophysical responses recorded in this part of the site. Trench 2 recorded two linear features: the first probably a SW-NE aligned field boundary ditch, which yielded a small fragment of building material, broadly indicative of a Roman period date; the second, which ran NNE-SSW, was essentially undated. Trench 4 recorded two linear features: the first evidently a broad, SW-NE aligned field boundary ditch which yielded a sherd of Roman mortaria; the second, NNE-SSW aligned and of far smaller dimension, was possibly a field gully and was essentially undated; neither feature corresponded closely, in terms of location and orientation, with geophysical responses recorded in this part of the site.
- Phase 4. Deposits and features interpreted as being of later post-medieval date were recorded in all four trenches. Developed soils recorded in Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were likely to be of earlier origin, having been reworked for many centuries as a result of agricultural activity. North-south aligned field drains in Trenches 1 and 4, along with a probable service trench in Trench 3, comprised the remaining features assigned to this phase.
- Phase 5. A posthole which likely represents a former fence line was recorded in Trench 3, along with a probably redundant water supply for a field trough. Topsoil was recorded in all four trenches; along with its developed turf line this formed the existing ground surface of the pasture field or garden in which the trenches were sited.

6.1.2 In summary, the evaluation recorded linear archaeological features of late prehistoric, Roman or later date in Trenches 1, 2 and 4. Two features, one in each of Trenches 2 and 4, are potentially most likely to be of Roman origin, based on the albeit limited quantity of dating evidence recovered. A fairly regular, sub-rectangular pattern of responses recorded by the geophysical survey may be seen as being broadly indicative of a complex of Roman period buildings in a *vicus* or, perhaps more likely, an associated field system. Despite close correlation with a geophysical response in only one or two cases (Trench 1 and possibly Trench 2), the features recorded in the trial trenches could, reasonably, be similarly interpreted. Any features confirmed as being of Roman date, would represent archaeological remains of medium archaeological importance, of significance at a regional level. In addition, such remains could contribute further information to the key priorities for the Roman period identified within NERRF research agenda. Trench 3 recorded no archaeological features of importance.

6.2 Recommendations

6.2.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation indicate that elements of the proposed development have the potential to disturb archaeological remains of importance - specifically in the areas in which Trenches 1, 2 and 4 were located - these potentially relating to the *vicus* of *Vindobala* Roman fort, lying on the margin of the area occupied or exploited by its inhabitants. No archaeological remains of importance appear to lie in the area in which Trench 3 was located.

6.2.2 In summary, it is recommended that further archaeological fieldwork is required in order to mitigate the impact of the development on heritage assets of archaeological importance at the site. This should take the form of a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during construction groundworks (a controlled 'watching brief'), particularly within the western extension of the new build footprint (Trench 2). The specific aim of such work would be to confirm the date of any of the various ditched boundary features identified during the evaluation.

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Northumberland Communities website: *www.communities.northumberland.gov.uk*/.

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8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

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Other Credits

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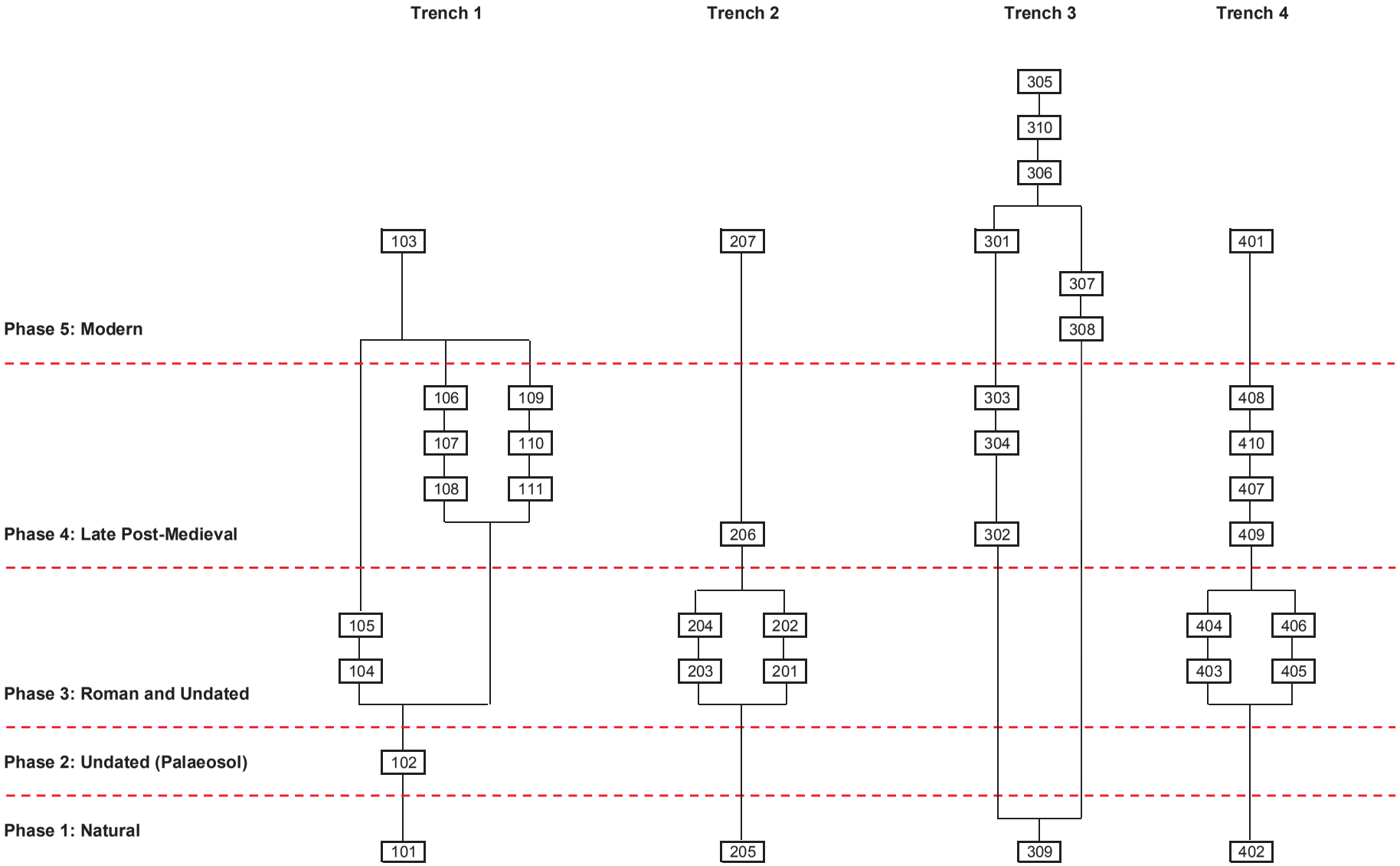
Post-Medieval pottery report: Jenny Vaughan (Northern Counties Archaeological Services)

APPENDIX 1
STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES

QRH 13: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES



APPENDIX 2
CONTEXT INDEX

QRH 13: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	*Trench*	*Phase*	*Type 1*	*Type 2*	*Interpretation*
101	1	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural boulder clay
102	1	2	Deposit	Layer	Developed soil
103	1	5	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
104	1	3	Cut	Linear	Ditch; filled by [105]
105	1	3	Deposit	Fill	Fill of ditch [104]
106	1	4	Deposit	Fill	Backfill of drain trench [108]
107	1	4	Object	Pipes	Drain pipes in drain trench [108]
108	1	4	Cut	Linear	Field drain trench; houses pipes [107]
109	1	4	Deposit	Fill	Backfill of drain trench [111]
110	1	4	Object	Pipes	Drain pipes in drain trench [111]
111	1	4	Cut	Linear	Field drain trench; houses pipes [110]
201	2	3	Cut	Linear	Ditch; filled by [202]
202	2	3	Deposit	Fill	Fill of ditch [201]
203	2	3	Cut	Linear	Ditch; filled by [204]
204	2	3	Deposit	Fill	Fill of ditch [203]
205	2	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural boulder clay
206	2	4	Deposit	Layer	Developed soil
207	2	5	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
301	3	5	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
302	3	4	Deposit	Layer	Developed soil
303	3	4	Deposit	Fill	Backfill of service trench [304]
304	3	4	Cut	Linear	?Service trench; filled by [303]
305	3	5	Deposit	Fill	Backfill of service trench [306]
306	3	5	Cut	Linear	Service trench; houses pipes [310]
307	3	5	Deposit	Fill	Fill of posthole [308]
308	3	5	Cut	Discrete	Posthole
309	3	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural boulder clay
310	3	5	Object	Pipes	Cu and Fe pipes in service trench [306]
401	4	5	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
402	4	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural boulder clay
403	4	3	Cut	Linear	Gully; filled by [404]
404	4	3	Deposit	Fill	Fill of gully [403]
405	4	3	Cut	Linear	Ditch; filled by [406]
406	4	3	Deposit	Fill	Fill of ditch [405]
407	4	4	Cut	Linear	Field drain trench; houses pipes [410]
408	4	4	Deposit	Fill	Backfill of drain trench [407]
409	4	4	Deposit	Layer	Developed soil
410	4	4	Object	Pipes	Drain pipes in drain trench [407]

APPENDIX 3
POTTERY REPORT

POTTERY REPORT

Romano-British Material

By James Gerrard BA MA PhD AIfA (Lecturer in Roman Archaeology, Newcastle University)

The site produced three sherds of Roman pottery/ceramic building material. These are catalogued below.

Trench 2. Context [204], fill of Ditch [205]

A small (1g) and very abraded fragment of possible ceramic building material. It is difficult to date such a small and abraded fragment but the fabric would be indicative of a broadly Roman period date.

Trench 4. Context [409], developed soil

A single sherd (75g) of reasonably fresh orange, slightly micaceous amphora. The fabric (BAT AM) is from a Baetican olive oil jar of the Dressel 20 type (Tomber and Dore 1998). Date: AD 43-200.

Trench 4. Context [406], fill of ditch [405]

A single, somewhat abraded orange mortaria sherd (11g). The interior surface contains a variety of trituration grits including very sparse quartz, occasional grey and red ?sandstone. It is possibly a Corbridge product (COR WH) (Tomber and Dore 1998). Date: first half of the second century AD.

Recommendations

The pottery is clearly indicative of Roman period activity either on, or very close to, the site. No further work is recommended for the assemblage, which should be retained as part of the site archive.

Reference

Tomber, R. and Dore, J., 1998. *The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection Handbook*, Museum of London.

Post-Medieval/Modern Material

By Jenny Vaughan (Northern Counties Archaeological Services)

The site produced two sherds of post-medieval/modern pottery/ceramic building material. These are catalogued below.

Trench 2. Context [207], topsoil

A single sherd (12g) from a simple rim of plain white china. Not closely dateable, but probably relatively modern.

Trench 3. Context [307], fill of posthole [308]

Chip (8g) of hard, dark red earthenware. Probably from a 19th-century or later field drain.

Recommendations

The assemblage is indicative of later post-medieval/modern activity either on, or very close to, the site. No further work is recommended for the assemblage, which can be discarded.

APPENDIX 4
PLATES

Plate 1. Trench 1, ditch [104], with excavated portion, looking north-west (scale 1m)

Plate 2. Trench 1, ditch [104], excavated portion, looking north-east (scale 1m)

Plate 3. Trench 2, pre-excavation view, ditches [201] (foreground) and [204] (rearground), looking north (scale 1m)

Plate 4. Trench 2, ditch [204], excavated portion, looking south-east (scale 1m)

Plate 5. Trench 3, northern part, looking east (scale 1m)

Plate 6. Trench 3, service trench [306] and posthole [308], looking ENE (scale 0.5m)

Plate 7. Trench 4, ditch [405], pre-excavation view, looking north-west (scale 1m)

Plate 8. Trench 4, ditch [405], excavated portion, oblique view, looking south-west (scale 1m)

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