AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND ADJACENT TO 25 FRONT STREET SOUTH, TRIMDON, COUNTY DURHAM

SEPTEMBER 2014

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND ADJACENT TO 25 FRONT STREET SOUTH, TRIMDON, COUNTY DURHAM

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Quality Control	
Project Number	K3472
Site Code	FRT 14
Report Number	RN11038

Task	*Name*	*Signature*	*Date*
Text prepared by:	Robin Taylor-Wilson		8-9 April 2014
Text checked by:	Jennifer Proctor	J Proctor	10 April 2014
Graphics prepared by:	Josephine Brown		8-9 April 2014
Graphics checked by:	Josephine Brown	Josephine Brown	9 April 2014
Project or Post-Excavation Manager sign-off:	Robin Taylor-Wilson	R.H. Taylor-Wilson	10 April 2014

Revision No.	*Date*	*Checked by*	*Approved by*
1	September 8 2014	J Proctor	P G Johnson

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

An Archaeological Evaluation on Land Adjacent to 25 Front Street South, Trimdon, County Durham

Central National Grid Reference: NZ 3689 3418

Site Code: FRT 14

Commissioned by:

Self Build and Design Architects
The Studio
Sylvan Vista
Brancepeth
Durham
County Durham
DH7 8DT

Tel: 0191 378 4727
Email: selfbuildarchitects@hotmail.com

Archaeological Contractor:

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

Tel: 0191 377 1111
Email: info.north@pre-construct.com

CONTENTS

List of Figures

1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.1 An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken March-April 2014 by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land adjacent to 25 Front Street South, Trimdon, County Durham. The work was carried out as a condition of planning permission for a residential development and was commissioned by Self Build and Design Architects, acting for the developer. The development comprises new build of five dwellings in the rear part of the plot.

1.2 The site is located in the village of Trimdon, near Sedgefield. It lies on the south side of Front Street South, adjacent to an existing bungalow, No. 25, and comprises land covering *c.* 1,385m^2 with central National Grid Reference NZ 3689 3418. The site is bounded by, and accessed from, Front Street South to the north and is bounded to the east by a house and its back garden, to the west by a social club and to the south by a narrow lane, beyond which lies a property on Church Road.

1.3 The site was mostly vacant rough ground at the time of the work, with a number of previous structures having recently been demolished, the exception being an electricity sub-station situated along the western site boundary.

1.4 The site lies within the Trimdon Village Conservation Area, which has at its centre a designated village green of medieval origin, surrounded by a collection of historic buildings. No desk-based assessment of the site and its historic environment potential was undertaken prior to the archaeological evaluation. Nevertheless, the site was considered to have particular potential for archaeological remains of the medieval and early post-medieval periods.

1.5 The planning condition relating to the archaeology of the site was added on the recommendation of the Durham County Council Archaeology Section. A Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological evaluation was compiled by Pre-Construct Archaeology and approved by the Archaeology Section in advance of the fieldwork.

1.6 In broad terms, the evaluation aimed to establish the archaeological potential of the site. The trenches were sited to investigate areas to be disturbed by construction groundworks, two within the footprint of the new build in the southern central part of the site, the other within an area proposed for car parking along the north-western site boundary.

1.7 The evaluation comprised three machine-excavated trenches (Trenches 1-3; in practice Trenches 2 and 3 were conjoined). Trench 1, orientated north-south, was approximately 10m in length and 2m wide; it was located in the proposed car parking spaces along the western side of the site access road and was excavated on a concrete slab representing the floor of a former building. Trench 2/3 was reverse-L-shaped, with is north-south part (Trench 2) approximately 10.40m in length and 2.0m wide and its east-west part (Trench 3) approximately 9.0m in length and 2.0m wide; it was located in the proposed new build footprint in the central southern part of the site and was excavated on rough grassland.

1.8 Natural bedrock was the basal deposit encountered in Trench 1, overlain by natural boulder clay. In Trench 2/3 natural boulder clay was the basal deposit encountered throughout.

1.9 Two features of probable geological origin were recorded in the northern half of Trench 1; these were probably small sinkholes caused by water solutional action at the interface of natural boulder clay and the underlying natural limestone bedrock. A deposit likely representing ground-raising and levelling ahead of the construction of a former building in this part of the site was recorded throughout the trench, with the uppermost deposits associated with various phases of the floor surface of the building, including the existing concrete slab.

1.10 A developed soil of probable medieval or earlier origin was recorded overlying natural boulder clay throughout Trench 2/3. A north-south orientated linear feature was exposed in the western part of Trench 3, cutting through the developed soil. Of substantial dimension, it was probably a former property boundary ditch, which sub-divided the plot prior to enlargement into its present form in the post-medieval era. No dating evidence was recovered from the excavated portion of the ditch, although a fragment of animal bone was recovered; the ditch is interpreted as being of probable medieval or early post-medieval date. A wide stone pathway, also probably orientated north-south, was recorded overlying the infilled ditch, and this was likely of later post-medieval - probably 19th century - origin. A posthole, also of later post-medieval origin, was recorded in Trench 2. A buried topsoil, this underlying the existing topsoil, comprised the uppermost layers recorded in Trench 2/3.

1.11 In summary, the evaluation recorded a substantial ditch in Trench 3, this feature likely representing a former plot sub-division of medieval or later date. If of medieval or early post-medieval date as suspected, the feature is of low archaeological importance, of significance at a local level. Where development groundworks will potentially disturb the feature – or any remains of similar date – further archaeological work will be required, most likely monitoring of groundworks to allow recording and, if necessary, excavation, of the remains, with the specific aim of recovering artefactual and ecofactual evidence. No other archaeological remains of importance were recorded during the evaluation.

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) 31 March to 2 April 2014 at 25 Front Street South, Trimdon, County Durham (Figure 1). Planning permission has been granted for re-development of the site for housing and the work, commissioned by Self Build and Design Architects, acting as the agent for the developer, was required as a planning condition.

2.1.2 The site lies within the Trimdon Village Conservation Area, which has at its centre a designated village green of medieval origin and upon which lies the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, a Grade II listed building of 12th century origin. No desk-based assessment of the historic environment potential of the site was undertaken prior to the archaeological evaluation. However, because of its location within the historic core of the village, the site was considered to have particular potential for archaeological remains of the medieval and early post-medieval periods.

2.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was approved by Durham County Council Archaeology Section (DCCAS) in March 2014, ahead of the fieldwork (PCA 2014a – see Appendix 3).

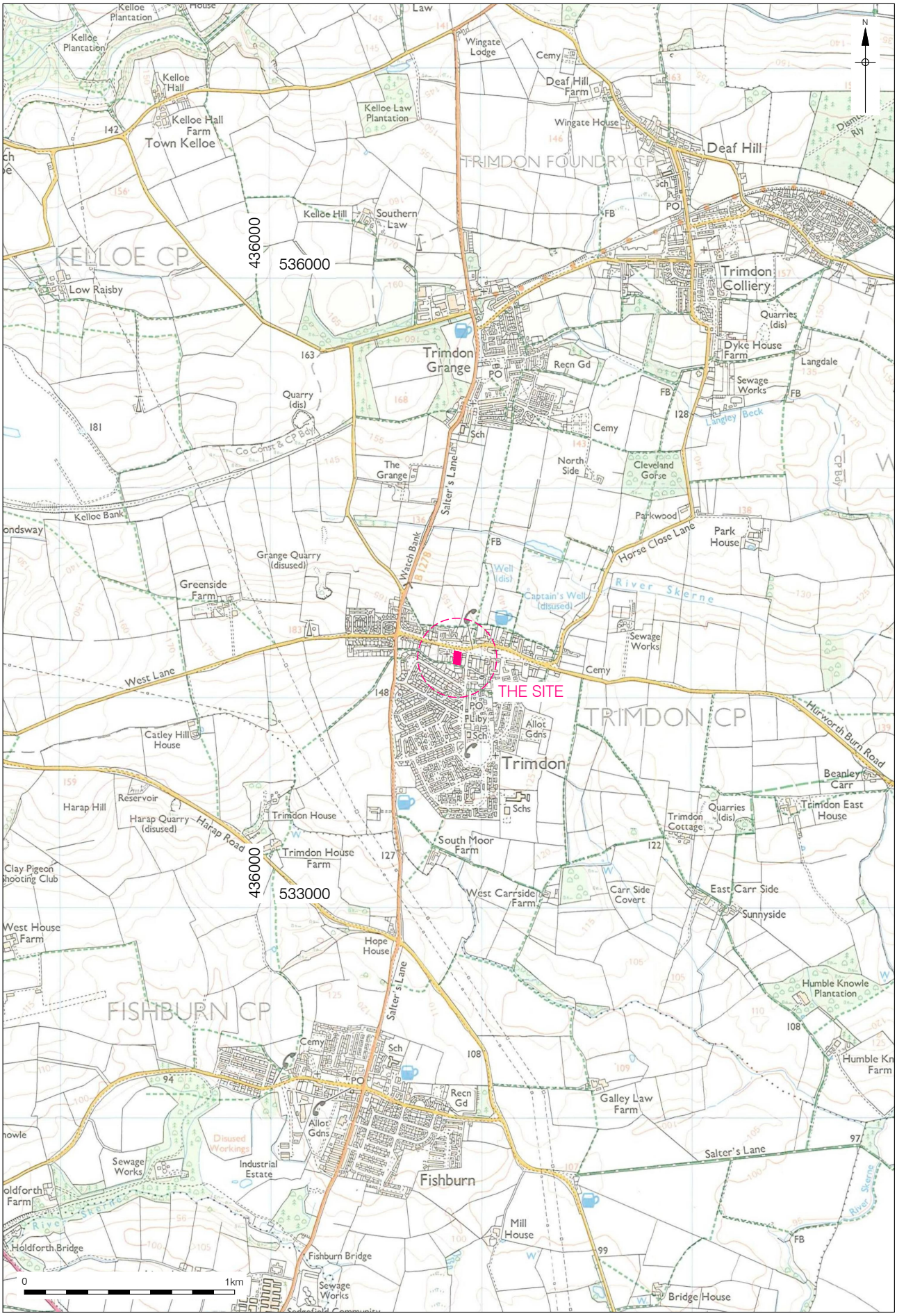
2.1.4 The evaluation comprised three machine-excavated trial trenches (Trenches 1-3, with Trenches 2/3 conjoined in practice), located to assess the archaeological potential of areas which would see maximum ground disturbance during the development, specifically an area of proposed car parking along the north-western site boundary and the reverse-L-shaped new build footprint in the southern central part of the site (Figure 2).

2.1.5 The site archive (site code: FRT 14) 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 ecofactual material, will be deposited with the County Durham Archaeological Archive at Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham. The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) reference number for the project is: preconst1-176664.

2.2 Site Location and Description

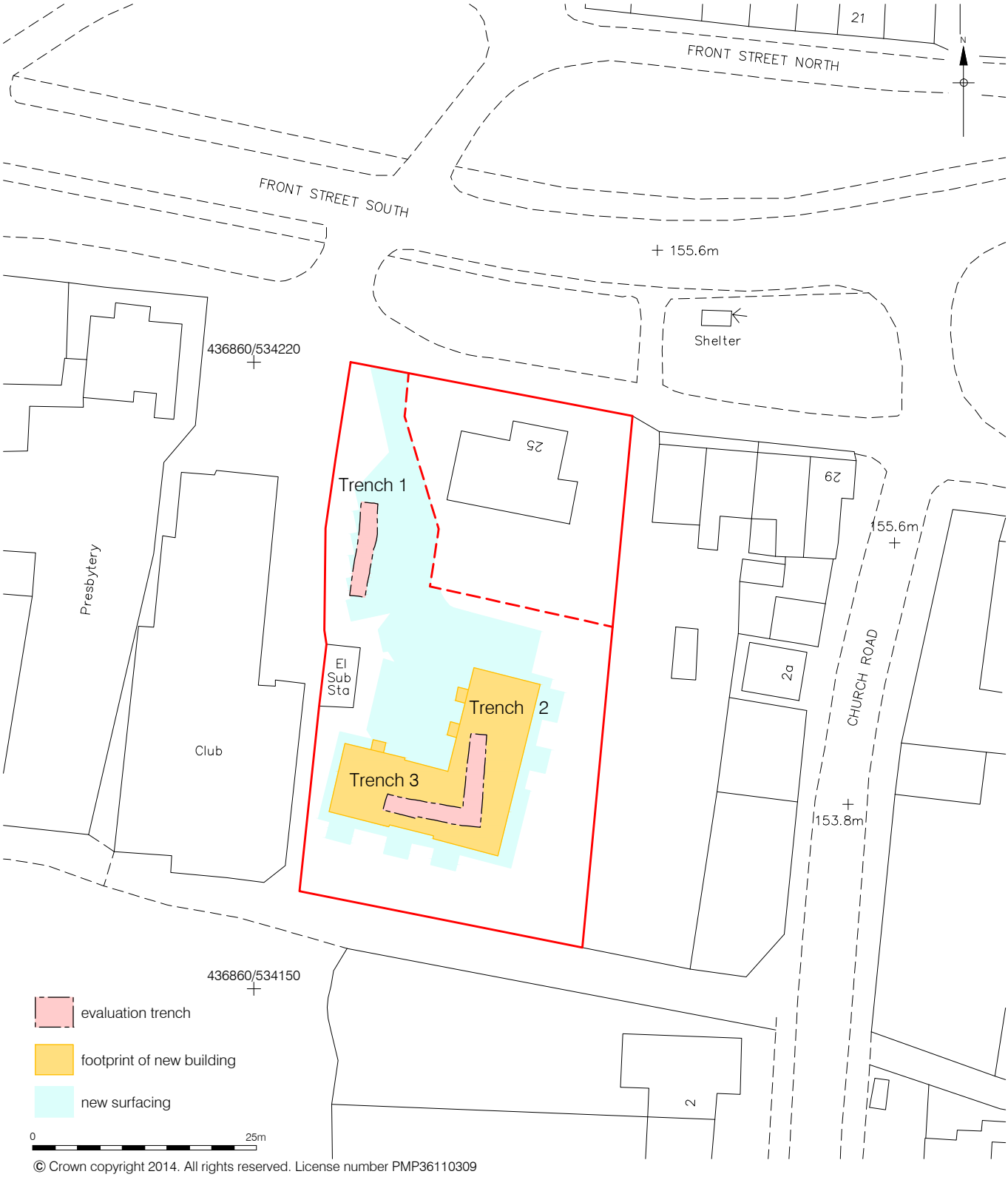
2.2.1 The site is located in the village of Trimdon, near Sedgefield, County Durham, postcode TS29 6LZ (Figure 1). The village has an essentially rural setting, lying *c.* 10 km south of Durham City. The site lies in the historic core of the village, on the south side of Front Street South, with the narrow westernmost part of the ancient village green lying between the site and the road.

2.2.2 The site comprises land adjacent to - mostly south of – an existing street frontage bungalow, 25 Front Street South, which dates to the 1960s and is to be retained. Roughly rectangular in shape, with an extension to the north-west, the site covers *c.* 1,385m^2, centred at National Grid Reference NZ 3689 3418 (Figure 2).



11/03/14 HB

Figure 1
Site Location
1:25,000 at A4



08/04/14 JB

Figure 2
Trench Location
1:625 at A4

2.2.3 The site is accessed from Front Street South at its north-western corner; from where a roughly made-up access track leads into the site. The site is bounded to to the east by a house and its back garden (26 Front Street South), to the west by No. 24, a social club, and to the south by a narrow back lane, beyond which lies the long back garden of 2 Church Road.

2.2.4 At the time of the work herein described, the site was essentially vacant waste ground, with the exception of an electricity sub-station located roughly centrally along its western boundary. A number of previous structures, one along the north-western site boundary, north of the sub-station, and one in the eastern central part of the site, had recently been demolished. The concrete floor slabs of these buildings remained *in situ* at ground level, while the remainder of the site was rough grassland.

2.2.5 The site perimeter is delimited to the west by a masonry wall and, south of the sub-station, by a timber fence. The site perimeter is delineated to the east and south by a hedgerow and a timber fence, respectively. To the north, the site perimeter (extending across the frontage of No. 25) is delimited by a low brick wall, with an open gateway giving vehicular access to the development site.

2.3 Geology and Topography

2.3.1 Trimdon lies in the southern part of the Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau, towards the Tees Lowlands, these being 'National Character Areas' defined by Natural England (*Natural England* website). The bedrock of the village is therefore Dolostone of the Ford Formation, this being sedimentary carbonate rock of the Permian Period (*British Geological Survey* website). In terms of superficial geology, the area in and around the village 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 Land across the Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau has historically been used for arable farming and grazing pasture, although the area has been strongly influenced by its industry, with coal mining and quarrying in particular having affected local landscapes. Trimdon is one of a scatter of traditional villages built around village greens on the plateau, with larger urban areas such as Sunderland to the north and many ex-mining settlements in evidence, particularly to the south and east, including Trimdon Colliery, a distinct village which lies *c*. 2 km to the north of the historic village in which the work conducted herein was undertaken.

2.3.3 In broad topographic terms, the site lies on ground which falls away to the south of the village core; ground level to the north of the site, on the westernmost part of the main area of village green, is *c.* 156m OD. The nearest watercourse to the site is the River Skerne, which flows roughly west-east *c.* 0.5 km to the north of the village core.

2.3.4 Within the site itself, ground level north of Trench 1 is at *c.* 157m OD and from there the land falls away to the south, with ground level south of Trench 2/3 at *c.* 155m OD.

2.4 Planning Background

2.4.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out as a condition of planning permission for the development of the site. The Local Planning Authority (LPA) is Durham County Council. No desk-based assessment was undertaken as part of the planning process to establish the archaeological or broader historic environment potential of the site.

2.4.2 The requirement to undertake the evaluation is in line with planning policy at a national level as now set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) 2012). A key component of the NPPF - retained from the previous national guidance document *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (*PPS5) - is the concept of heritage assets, those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest. Despite the deletion of PPS5 and its replacement with the NPPF, the *PPS5 Practice Guide* (English Heritage, Department of Culture, Media and Sport and DCLG 2010) remains a valid and UK Government endorsed document.

2.4.3 Planning permission for the development was granted in 2011 (application no. 7/2011/0138/DM), when PPS5 was valid. The development will entail construction of five two-storey dwellings around a courtyard with a new access road and car parking areas (depicted in outline form on Figure 2). Two archaeological planning conditions (nos. 11 and 12) were imposed, on the recommendation of DCCAS, the body which provides archaeological development control in the county. In full, these conditions stated:

11. NS05 (Archaeology)

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, including a timetable for the investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Scheme shall provide for:

(i) The proper identification and evaluation of the extent, character and significance of archaeological remains within the application area in accordance with a brief issued by the County Durham Archaeology Section; the evaluation is to be undertaken following the approval of planning permission;

(ii) An assessment of the impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains identified in the trial trench evaluation phase;

(iii) Proposals for the preservation in situ, or for the investigation, recording and recovery of archaeological remains and the publishing of the findings, it being understood that there shall be a presumption in favour of their preservation in situ wherever feasible;

(iv) Sufficient notification and allowance of time to archaeological contractors nominated by the developer to ensure that archaeological fieldwork as proposed in pursuance of (i) and (iii) above is completed prior to the commencement of permitted development in the area of archaeological interest; and

(v) Notification in writing to the County Archaeologist of the commencement of archaeological works and the opportunity to monitor such works.

The development shall then be carried out in full accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To comply with Policy HE12 of PPS5 as a heritage asset is likely to be adversely affected.

12. NS06 (Archaeological publication)

Prior to the development being beneficially occupied, a copy of any analysis, reporting, publication or archiving required as part of the mitigation strategy shall be deposited at the County Durham Historic Environment Record. This may include full analysis and final publication. Reporting and publication must be within one year of the date of completion of the development hereby approved by this permission

Reason: To comply with Policy HE12.2 & 12.3 of PPS5 to make the information as widely accessible to the public as possible.

2.4.4 The aforementioned WSI for the evaluation, as required by the planning condition, was prepared by PCA in March 2014 and approved by the Senior Archaeologist at DCCAS ahead of the fieldwork.

2.4.5 In sum, therefore, the 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, as necessary.

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.5.1 The village of Trimdon (County Durham Historic Environment Record - HER - reference 4631) has been the site of an established settlement since at least the 12th century, while there have been archaeological discoveries in the wider area dating from the Bronze Age onwards (Durham County Council 2012). Later prehistoric activity is well known to the north-west, in the vicinity of Coxhoe (*e.g.* HER 46015), while, to the south-west, higher ground north of Bishop Middleham has recently revealed evidence of what appears to have been extensive land management and settlement in later prehistory (*e.g.* HER 9443 and PCA 2014b).

2.5.2 The elongated village green at the core of the oldest part of Trimdon village encompasses the Church of St. Mary Magdalene (HER 34538), which dates to the Norman period. It is set on a raised mound and dominates the village core and views through the Trimdon Village Conservation Area. In 1146 it is documented that the church was given to Guisborough Priory and was later purchased by the Roper family during the reign of Henry VIII after the dissolution.

2.5.3 The site itself lies on the south side of Front Street South with the narrowing westernmost portion of the main village green lying between the site and the road. The general form of the properties here, with street frontage dwellings and elongated rear gardens, is long-established. It represents a fossilisation of the medieval village layout when land either side of the main street was divided into long narrow burgage plots, with houses on the street frontage and long narrow backlots, which were used for a variety of purposes, such as for kitchen gardens, outhouses, keeping animals, *etc*. Although burgages were usually subject to internal divisions from their creation, later divisions often did not alter or remove earlier boundaries.

2.5.4 Throughout England, the layout of many medieval towns and villages remained largely unaltered until the 19th century, reflecting the original burgage pattern of the settlement nucleus. Trimdon itself remained a small isolated rural settlement until the opening of Trimdon Colliery, *c.* 2 km to the north-east, which brought greater prosperity to the village in the 19th century. It was often the case, especially in larger towns, that the pressure to sub-divide land as a result of prosperity and population growth resulted in the sub-division of burgage plots. Although this has occurred to some degree in Trimdon, the original pattern of medieval development remains clearly evident in the village core.

2.5.5 It is for archaeological remains of the medieval and early post-medieval period that the site was considered to have particular potential, principally due to its location within the historic core of the village. Any sub-surface archaeological remains, whether structures, deposits or other archaeological features, which would cast light on the nature and precise date of medieval or early post-medieval occupation would be of importance. These would be non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, of significance at a local or, at best, regional level.

2.5.6 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map from *c.* 1860 shows the site with essentially the same outline as today. A roughly T-shaped building with a rectangular rear extension occupied the frontage area (now only partly occupied by the far smaller building, No. 25), while a long rectangular building occupying the north-western part of the site was associated with a street frontage building occupying the property to the west. A narrow access from the street was located in the same position as the current access The rear part of the plot was delimited, including west-east at the southern end of the rearmost parts of the buildings, this presumably therefore a back paddock or garden. The plot to the immediate south-west of the site boundary included a small limestone quarry.

2.5.7 By the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map in the 1890s, the quarry to the south-west, by then in extended form, was abandoned, given the annotation ‘Old Quarry’. By this date, a more-defined ‘back lane’, running roughly NW-SE, skirted the backlots of the street frontage properties in this part of the village. Another lane ran due south at right angles to the lane, extending from the south-western corner of the site, along the eastern side of the abandoned quarry and continuing through the field system (an area extensively developed for housing in the modern era) to the south of the village, to eventually join Salter’s Lane. Internally, the layout of the site itself evidently remained largely unchanged until after the Second World War.

2.5.8 By the 1960s, the current street frontage building (No. 25) had replaced the larger earlier structure, while a building remained in place along the north-western site boundary, albeit in reduced form from that shown on previous mapping. The plot to the west had been re-developed as a social club, but with no street frontage component and the main building set back. By the 1980s, another outbuilding had been added to the site itself, this in its eastern central part, while the social club to the west had been extended.

2.5.9 No previous archaeological work had been conducted at the site and indeed the village as a whole has seen little or no archaeological investigation, certainly of the invasive variety.

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 DCCAS, and the developer and their agent, regarding the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological remains at the site in order to put in place a suitable mitigation strategy, as required by the planning condition.

3.1.2 Trial trenching was selected as the most appropriate investigative tool to test the archaeological potential of the site. The trenches were sited to investigate areas to be disturbed by groundworks for either the new build or associated surfacing (including car parking areas, an access road and a courtyard adjacent to the dwellings) (see Figure 2).

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 medieval and early post-medieval period, due to the location of the site within the historic core of the village.

3.2.2 The project was considered to have good potential to make a significant contribution to existing archaeological knowledge of Trimdon in general, particularly of the medieval and early post-medieval periods. 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 In sum, the work had the potential to contribute to several NERRF Key Research Priorities in the Research Agenda and Strategy for the later medieval period:

MDi. Settlement. *'There are still very few excavated sites of this period. It is essential that any development within the historic cores of early villages should have archaeological conditions imposed as matter of course'.*

MDvii. Medieval ceramics and other artefacts. *'Ceramic evidence is crucially important; it can be used as a chronological indicator and tells us about patterns of economic exchange and consumption'.*

MDxi. The medieval to post-medieval transition. *'Did a decline in settlement numbers reflect a reduction of the rural population due to the growth of towns, or was there merely a refocusing of existing rural settlement patterns?'*

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

4.1.1 The trial trenching evaluation was undertaken 31 March-2 April 2014.

4.1.2 The 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 PCA 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).

4.1.3 Trial trenching was considered as the most appropriate investigative tool to test the archaeological potential of the site. Areas to be directly affected by development groundworks were targeted. Three distinct trenches (Trenches 1-3), each 10m by 2m at ground level, were to be investigated, as described in the WSI. During set-out a decision was made, due to site constraints (specifically the presence of live underground electricity supplies and septic tanks), to conjoin Trenches 2 and 3 into a single, reverse-L-shaped trench, Trench 2/3.

4.1.4 Trench 1, orientated north-south, was approximately 10m in length and 2m wide; it was located in the area proposed for car parking along the western side of the site access road and was excavated on a concrete slab representing the floor of a former building. Trench 2/3 was reverse-L-shaped, with its north-south part (Trench 2) approximately 10.40m in length and 2.0m wide and its east-west part (Trench 3) approximately 9.0m in length and 2.0m wide; it was located in the southern central part of the plot, within the new build footprint, and was excavated on rough grassland.

4.1.5 The trenches were set-out using manual surveying methods, using the standing buildings as reference points. On completion of the work the trenches were located using a Leica Viva Smart Rover Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS). The Smart Rover GNSS provides correct Ordnance Survey co-ordinates in real time, to an accuracy of 1cm.

4.1.6 The trenches were mechanically-excavated by a back-acting machine, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under archaeological supervision. Concrete in the area of Trench 1 was initially broken out with a hydraulic breaker fitted to the machine. The trenches were then excavated to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon, or the clearly defined top of the natural sub-stratum, whichever was reached first.

4.1.7 The full length of each trench was hand cleaned using trowels. All potential features were subject to partial or full excavation within the trenches with photography and archaeological recording taking place at appropriate stages in the process. A selection of digital photographs is included within this report (Figures 7-14).

4.1.8 A Temporary Bench Mark was established at the site and its height above Ordnance Datum was recorded using the Smart Rover GNSS instrument after the trenches had been recorded. The TBM was located on a concrete slab in the central eastern part of the site; its value was 156.27m 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 34 archaeological contexts were defined in the two 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 recovered during the evaluation comprised a small assemblage of post-medieval pottery and organic material comprised a fragment of animal bone. Specialist examination of the pottery was undertaken and the results are presented in Appendix 3. 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 medieval date, in Trench 2/3, although, as yet, this has not been subject to processing and assessment as part of the post-excavation work, due to the absence of dating evidence.

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 [10], [11], etc. 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 (and Probable Geological Activity)

5.1.1 Phase 1 represents natural geological material exposed within the base of each of the evaluation trenches.

5.1.2 Dolostone ('magnesian limestone') bedrock, [30], was exposed in the southern part of Trench 1. It comprised compact light yellowish brown rock, recorded at a maximum height of 156.24m OD and falling away to the south, to a minimum height of 155.89m OD at the southern end of the trench (Figures 4, 7-9).

5.1.3 Overlying bedrock [30] in the northern part of Trench 1 was natural boulder clay, [29], a firm to stiff deposit of mixed/banded composition, this reflecting the proximity to the upper interface of the underlying bedrock at this particular location. It comprised light to mid brownish pink clayey silt with bands, lenses and pockets of fragmented light yellow dolostone throughout. It was recorded at a maximum height of 156.72m OD and was up to *c.* 0.25 thick, petering out to the south partway along Trench 1, where it overlay the underlying bedrock (Figures 4, 7-9).

5.1.4 To the south, in Trench 2/3, natural boulder clay, [10], comprised the basal deposit exposed throughout both parts of the trench (Figures 11 and 13). The material comprised stiff, light yellowish brown clayey silt, with frequent fine and medium and occasional large sub-angular and sub-angular stones throughout, as well as very occasional large angular stones/boulders. It was recorded at a maximum height of 155.05m OD at the north end of Trench 2 and minimum height (on its untruncated upper interface) of 154.41m OD at the south end of Trench 2 (Figure 6; Sections 2 and 3).

5.1.5 The stated maximum height values on the boulder clay reflect the natural topography of the area investigated, with the ground falling away from north to south. In Trench 1, located in the higher northern part of the site, towards the street frontage, boulder clay was encountered at a depth of *c.* 0.15m below existing ground level at the north end of the trench, increasing to *c.* 1.15m at the south end, this reflecting an increasing thickness of overburden as a result of probable later post-medieval ground-raising in and levelling of that part of the site. In Trench 2/3, located in the lower-lying backlot area to the south, boulder clay was recorded at a fairly uniform depth of *c.* 1.10-1.20m below existing ground level.

5.1.6 Two probable geological features, [32] and [34], were recorded in the northern half of Trench 1 (Figures 3, 8 and 10). Feature [32] was roughly sub-circular, measuring up to *c.* 0.95m north-south by *c.* 0.75m west-east, meeting the limit of excavation to the west (Figure 4), and *c.* 0.55m deep. Immediately to its south-east was feature [34], oval in shape, measuring up to *c.* 1.20m NE-SW by *c.* 0.85m wide and also *c.* 0.50m deep. Their fills, [31] and [33], respectively, were similar deposits comprising firm mid to dark reddish brown silty clay with pockets of light to mid greyish brown silty clay, moderate thin lenses of degraded dolostone and occasional very thin lenses of mid to dark grey slightly organic silt.

5.1.7 The majority of each of the two features was excavated in an attempt to establish whether or not they were of anthropogenic origin (Figure 10). Neither yielded any artefactual material and, on the basis of their form, as well as the nature of their fills, the features have been interpreted as probable dolines (small sinkholes) caused by water solutional action at the interface of natural boulder clay and the underlying bedrock. It is worthy of note, however, that the overlying layer, [26], has been interpreted as a ground levelling dump of probable later post-medieval date, indicating that the natural sub-stratum in which these features were identified would have been exposed at the time that layer was deposited.

5.2 Phase 2: Undated (Medieval or Earlier?)

5.2.1 In Trench 2/3, natural boulder clay was overlain by a layer, [9], comprising soft, mid brown silty clay. With only occasional fine and medium angular and sub-angular stones throughout, this was a sterile deposit, which was recorded at a maximum height of 155.15m OD at the north end of Trench 2, falling away to a height of 154.60m OD at the south end (Figure 6; Section 2 and Figure 10). The deposit had a maximum thickness of 0.45m, this recorded in section at the western end of Trench 3 (Figure 6; Section 3), although its thickness was variable.

5.2.2 Layer [9] is interpreted as a developed soil of ancient origin, 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. It was likely re-worked over centuries through bioturbation as well as by gardening and agricultural processes during medieval and post-medieval occupation of the site.

5.3 Phase 3: Undated (Medieval?)

5.3.1 Phase 3 represents undated activity of probable medieval date, with a single feature assigned to this phase being recorded in Trench 3.

5.3.2 Towards the western end of Trench 3, a linear north-south aligned feature, [8], was recorded (Figure 5), cutting into the developed soil, [9], at a maximum height of 155.01m OD (Figure 6; Section 3 and Figures 13 and 14). The feature, interpreted as a boundary ditch, had a maximum width of *c.* 2.30m and a maximum depth of *c.* 0.80m, both dimensions as recorded in section. It had a wide V-shaped profile and steep, slightly concave sides and a narrow flattish base.

5.3.3 Ditch [8] had three fills. The primary fill, [7], was a fairly sterile deposit comprising mid greyish brown sandy silty clay with very occasional flecks of charcoal throughout; up to 0.30m thick, it represents initial natural silting-up of the feature as it fell into disuse. The secondary fill, [15], comprised a band of dark grey silty clay, mottled with thin lenses of black crushed charcoal; up to 0.12m thick, it represents a dump of refuse into the partially silted feature. The deposit yielded a fragment of animal bone. The tertiary fill, [6], comprised dark brownish grey silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal throughout; up to 0.40m thick, it represents final infilling of the feature over time.

5.3.4 No artefactual material was recovered from the excavated portion of ditch [8], therefore it is essentially undated. A bulk sample of fill [15] was recovered but as yet has not been processed and assessed for palaeoenvironmental remains due to the absence of dating evidence. Interpreted as a boundary ditch of medieval or early post-medieval origin, the feature was probably part of a burgage plot boundary, prior to at least two plots becoming amalgamated into the existing plot in the post-medieval period.

5.4 Phase 4: Late Post-Medieval (19th Century?)

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 three trenches.

5.4.2 A compact stony deposit, [4], was recorded in section in Trench 3, at a maximum height of 155.25m OD, overlying the Phase 3 infilled ditch. Extending in excess of 6.0m in length, continuing beyond the western limit of excavation, it had a maximum thickness of *c.* 0.30m, tapering at each end (Figure 6; Section 3 and Figure 14). This deposit is interpreted as representing a probable north-south pathway. Its location, corresponding closely with that of the postulated earlier burgage plot boundary, indicates that the pathway was established along the former boundary line, probably during the post-medieval period.

5.4.3 A posthole, [12], was recorded in Trench 2, adjacent to the eastern limit of excavation (Figure 5). Probably sub-circular in plan (only the western part was seen) the posthole/post-pit component measured 0.47m north-south by 0.35m west-east, meeting the limit of excavation to the east, and was *c.* 0.50m deep, as seen in section, recorded at a maximum height of 154.91m OD (Figure 6; Section 2). The fill, [11], of the posthole comprised mostly re-deposited boulder clay, with several large sub-sounded cobbles recorded throughout and a single broken brick (of 19th century date) continuing into the section, these elements representing the post-packing. An angled post-pipe, [14], was recorded in section, representing a removed timber post, evidently sharpened at its lower end; the fill, [13], of the post-pipe comprised loose, dark grey clayey silt. The feature presumably relates to some former structure in the backlot, possibly a fence line.

5.4.4 A layer, [5], was recorded in section along the full length of Trench 2 and in the eastern part of Trench 3, overlying the eastern side of pathway [4] (Figure 6; Sections 2 and 3 and Figures 11-13). Up to 0.42m thick, it was recorded at a maximum height of 155.53m OD, this at the north end of Trench 2. It comprised friable, dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional flecks and small fragments (and very occasional large fragments) of coal, occasional flecks of brick and occasional small fragments of chalky mortar throughout. It yielded (from the trench section) a

small sherd of refined white-glazed white earthenware with some blue painted decoration of late 19th- or early 20th- century date.

5.4.5 Layer [5] is interpreted as a former topsoil, which probably accumulated and was re-worked during usage of the site as a backlot during the post-medieval period. At the western end of Trench 3, beyond pathway [4], a similar deposit, [3], can be reasonably equated with layer [5]. Up to 0.13m thick, deposit [3] was recorded at a maximum height of 155.21m OD. It yielded (from the trench section) a sherd of late redware/brownware with internal white slip and clear glaze and a rim sherd from a stoneware preserve jar, both of late 19th- or early 20th-century date (see Appendix 3). A thin levelling layer, [2], was recorded overlying layer [3] at the western end of Trench 3. Recorded at a maximum height of 155.24m OD, it comprised loose, dark greyish purple crushed clinker and ash, with frequent crushed and fragmented burnt slate and coal throughout.

5.4.6 A substantial layer, [26] was recorded in section along the majority of the length of Trench 2 overlying the natural material revealed along the base of the trench (Figures 4 and 7-9). Up to *c.* 0.80m thick, this at the southern end of the trench, but only *c.* 0.18m thick at its northern extent, it was recorded at a maximum height of 156.83m OD. Firm in compaction, it was a mottled deposit comprising mid greyish brown and mid brown silty clay with occasional medium and very occasional large (up to 250mm) sub-rounded boulders and occasional pockets of crushed and fragmented limestone throughout. Layer [26] is interpreted as representing an episode of ground raising/levelling to create a building platform, essentially using re-deposited natural clay, ahead of the construction of a building in this part of the site in the later post-medieval period. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of *c.* 1860 indicates that a building stood at this location by that date; by the 1960s a structure of smaller scale stood here, probably adapted from the earlier building, which was demolished ahead of the current development scheme.

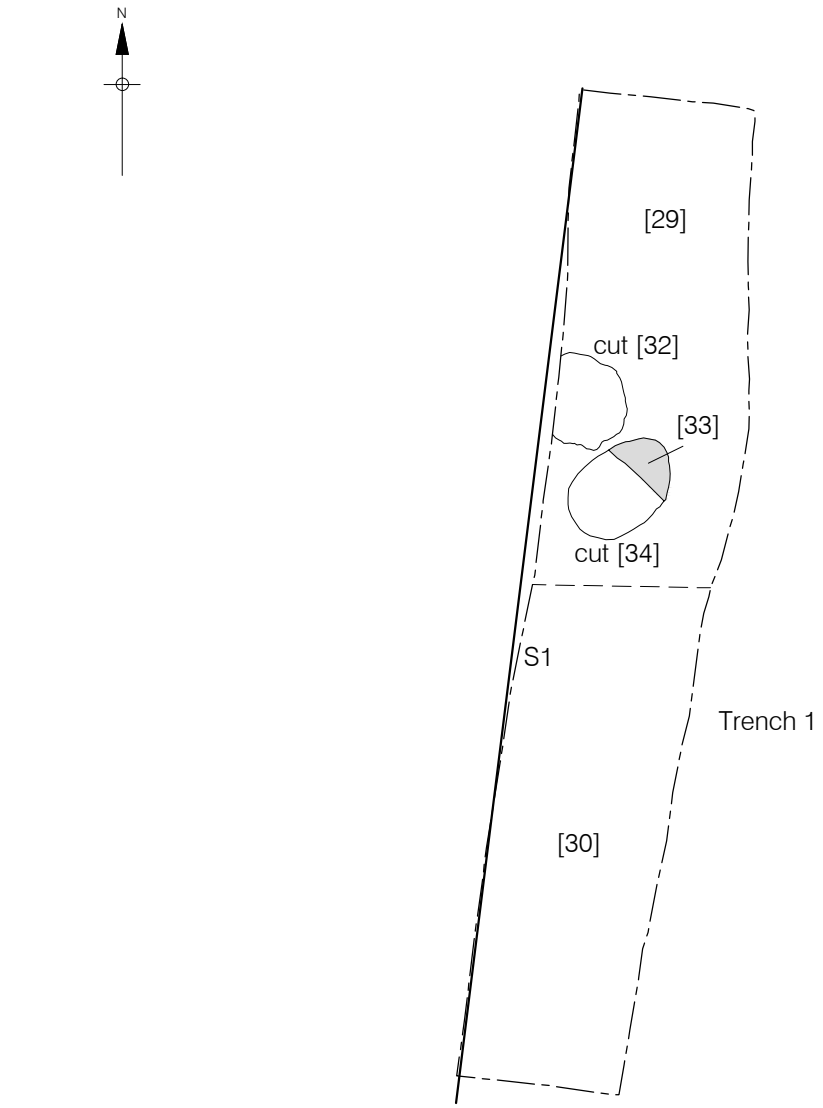
5.4.7 A feature, [28], was recorded in section at the north end of Trench 1 (Figures 4 and 7). Part of its southern edge was exposed, this steep and straight, falling to a flat base. The feature extended *c.* 1.60m in section and was *c.* 0.18m deep, recorded at a maximum height of 156.83m OD. Its fill, [27], comprised loose, dark purplish black crushed clinker and ash with occasional flecks of brick and flecks and small fragments of degraded limestone throughout. The feature was the construction cut for a stone sett surface, which although observed to the west and north of this part of the trench, did not appear in section, with the loose fire-debris used as the fill of the construction cut being a suitable material for bedding-in the setts. The surface may derive from an early, perhaps the first, phase of construction of the building depicted at this location on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of *c.* 1860.

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 three trenches.

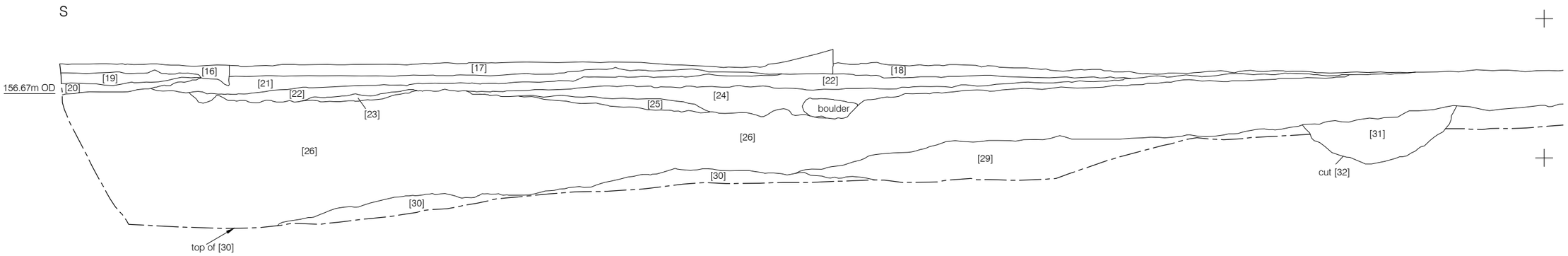
5.5.2 The uppermost strata recorded in section in Trench 1 relate to surfacing associated with the former building at this location (Figures 4 and 7-9). The deposits comprised various levelling and make-up layers, [25], [24], [22], [21], [20] and [19], with the remaining deposits comprising or representing a sequence of surfaces; layer [18] was the loose pea gravel bedding layer for a concrete surface observed to the west of the trench but not appearing in section; to the south were abutting concrete surfaces, [17] and [16]. Bedding layer [18] was recorded at a maximum height of 156.85m OD, while concrete slab [16] at the south end of the trench was recorded at a maximum height of 156.84m OD.

5.5.3 Topsoil, [1], formed the existing ground surface in the majority of the site and was thus the uppermost deposit recorded in section in Trenches 2 and 3 (Figure 6; Sections 2 and 3 and Figures 11-13). The deposit comprised dark grey clayey silt, with frequent pea gravel throughout, but otherwise only occasional other inclusions, most notably fragments of concrete and part bricks in Trench 3. The maximum height recorded on topsoil was 155.70m OD, this at the north end of Trench 2, falling away to the south and recorded at a lowest height of 154.99m OD, this at the south-eastern corner of Trench 2/3. The deposit was up to *c.* 0.30m thick, but this thickness was observed only at the western end of Trench 3 where initial ground preparation for the trenches had not removed the uppermost part of the topsoil and the ground vegetation cover.

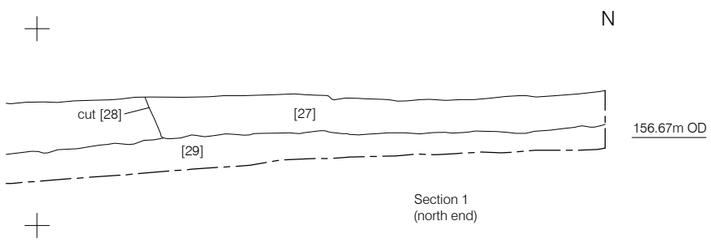


08/04/14 JB

Figure 3
Plan of Trench 1
1:80 at A4



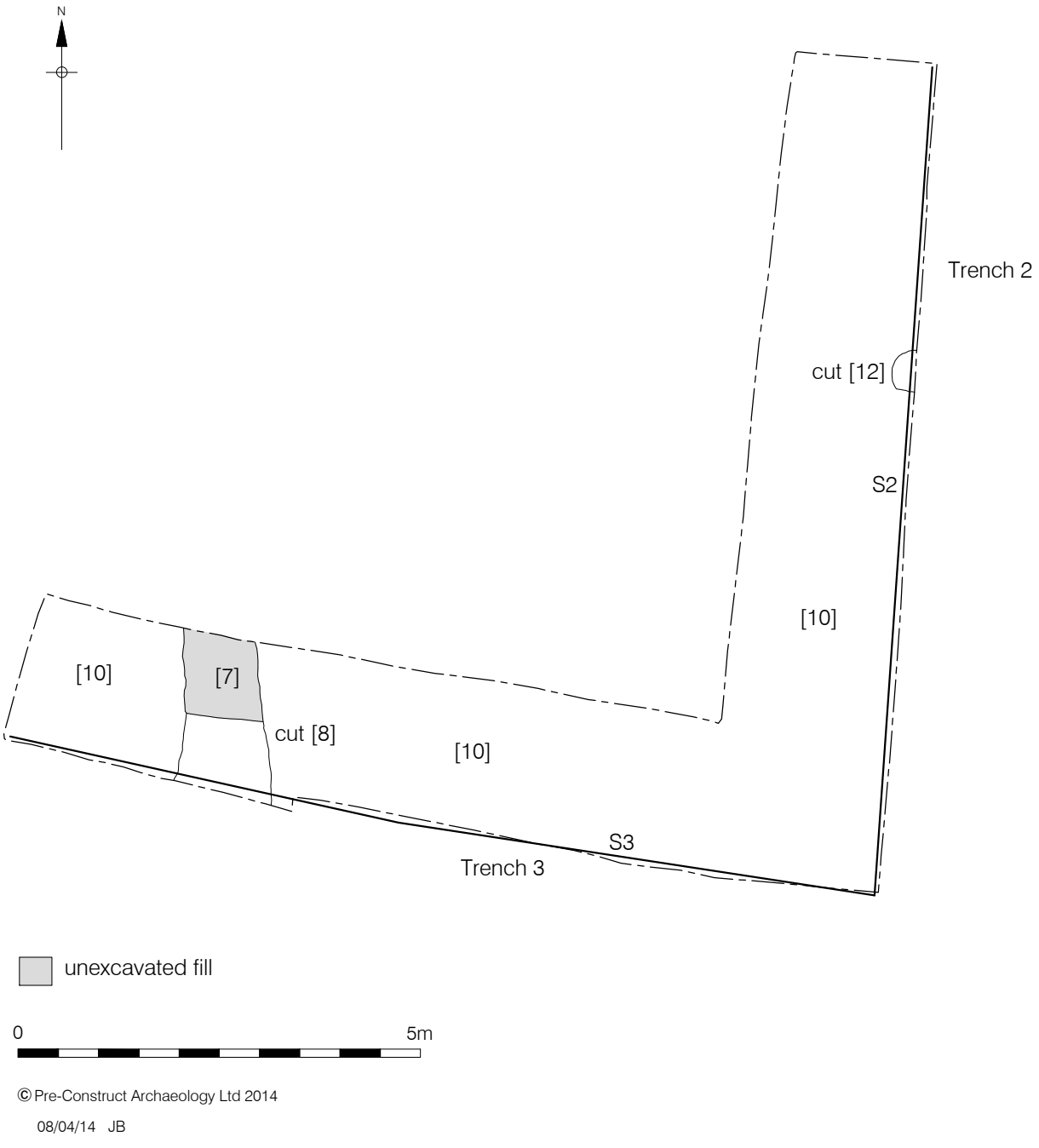
Section 1
Trench 1, east facing



0 2m

08/04/14 JB

Figure 4
Trench 1, Section 1
1:25 at A3



08/04/14 JB

Figure 5
Plan of Trench 2/3
1:80 at A4

N

155.11m OD

[1]

[5]

[9]

top of [10]

[1]

[5]

[9]

[11]

[13]

[10]

cut [12]

cut [14]

S

Section 2
Trench 2, west facing

155.11m OD

[1]

[5]

[9]

top of [10]

Section 2
(south end)

E

154.81m OD

[1]

[5]

[9]

[10]

Section 3
(east end)

W

[1]

[2]

[3]

[4]

[5]

[6]

[9]

[10]

[15]

[7]

cut [8]

top of [10]

154.81m OD

Section 3
Trench 3, north facing

0 2m

08/04/14 JB

Figure 6
Trench 2/3, Sections 2 and 3
1:25 at A3

Figure 7. Trench 1, north end, looking west *(1m scale)*

Figure 8. Trench 1, central part, probable geological features [32] and [34], pre-excavation, to right, looking west *(1m scale)*

Figure 9. Trench 1, south end, looking WSW *(1m scale)*

Figure 10. Trench 1, probable geological features [32] and [34], post-excavation, looking west *(0.5m scale)*

Figure 11. Trench 2, oblique overview, looking south-east *(1m scale)*

Figure 12. Trench 2, south end, looking ESE *(1m scale)*

Figure 13. Trench 3, overview, with ditch [8], pre-excavation, in foreground, looking ESE *(1m scale)*

Figure 14. Trench 3, ditch [8], post-excavation, looking south *(1m scale)*

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 bedrock and boulder clay was recorded in Trench 1 and boulder clay throughout Trench 2/3. The sloping aspect of the site was reflected in the height at which natural geological material was recorded, with the maximum and minimum values being 156.72m OD (boulder clay, north end of Trench 1) and 155.41 OD (boulder clay, south-eastern corner of Trench 2/3), respectively. At the north end of Trench 1, boulder clay lay at a relatively shallow depth, *c.* 0.15m below existing ground level, increasing to the south along the trench, to *c.* 0.90m at the south end, as a result of landscaping. Two probable geological features, possibly dolines (sinkholes) were recorded in Trench 1.

- Phase 2. An undated, but probably medieval or earlier developed soil, was recorded in section in Trench 2/3, although it was entirely absent in Trench 1, probably the result of this part of the site having been previously developed.

- Phase 3. A ditch recorded in Trench 3 is essentially undated but of probable medieval or early post-medieval date based on its form and stratigraphic position. It ran north-south and probably represents a former burgage plot boundary, prior to the site attaining its current form, which was evident on mapping from the mid 19th century, encompassing at least two medieval backlots. The feature was of significant dimension, up to *c.* 2.30m wide and *c.* 0.80m deep, and it was first encountered at a depth of *c.* 0.50m below existing ground level.

- Phase 4. Deposits and features interpreted as being of later post-medieval date were recorded in the trenches. A wide stone pathway lay along the line of the former boundary, as represented by the Phase 3 ditch, in Trench 3. Other remains assigned to this phase included a posthole and a former topsoil in Trench 2/3, and an extensive levelling/ground raising layer of re-deposited clay in Trench 1, this probably laid down to create a platform ahead of the construction of an outbuilding in that part of the site.

- Phase 5. Modern remains comprised the existing concrete surfacing, and associated make-up deposits, in Trench 1, and the existing topsoil in Trench 2/3.

6.1.2 In summary, the evaluation recorded a plot boundary ditch of probable medieval or early post-medieval date in Trench 3. This feature is of archaeological importance, albeit of significance at only a local level. The feature, and any associated remains of similar date, could contribute information to the key priorities for the later medieval period identified within the NERRF research agenda. Trench 1 recorded no archaeological remains of importance.

6.2 Recommendations

6.2.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation indicate that the proposed development has the potential to disturb archaeological remains of importance - specifically in the area in which Trench 3 was located - these relating to the occupation of the site in the medieval and/or early post-medieval period. The evaluation indicates that no archaeological remains of importance lie in the areas in which Trenches 1 and 2 were located.

6.2.2 In summary, it is recommended that, if construction groundworks extend to the depth of archaeological remains of importance in Trench 3 (and therefore disturb those remains), further archaeological fieldwork should be undertaken in order to mitigate the impact of the development on heritage assets of archaeological importance at the site. Subject to precise details of the construction groundworks being made available – specifically, details of ground formation/preparation level and foundation design – it is envisaged that the fieldwork would likely comprise a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during construction groundworks (a controlled 'watching brief') for some or all of the new build footprint. The specific aim of such work would be to confirm the date of the boundary feature identified during the evaluation, through further investigation, excavation, recording and sampling. Where it can be demonstrated – again, specifically taking into consideration details of ground formation/preparation level and foundation design - that archaeological remains of importance in Trench 3 will not be disturbed by construction groundworks, then further archaeological fieldwork will likely be considered unnecessary.

7. REFERENCES

Bibliography

Brown, D.H., 2007. *Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum.

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2010. *Planning Policy Statement 5, 'Planning for the Historic Environment'*, HMSO.

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012. *The National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF), HMSO.

Durham County Council, 2012. *Trimdon - Conservation Area Appraisal*, Durham County Council.

English Heritage, 2006. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment,* English Heritage.

English Heritage, Department of Culture, Media and Sport and Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012. *PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment - Practice Guide* (Revision Note June 2012), English Heritage, DCMS and DCLG.

Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, IfA.

Institute for Archaeologists, 2009. *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, IfA.

Petts, D. and Gerrard, C., 2006. *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*, English Heritage, Durham University and Durham County Council.

PCA, 2009. *Fieldwork Induction Manual,* PCA Operations Manual I, PCA.

PCA, 2014a. *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation on Land Adjacent to 25 Front Street South, Trimdon, County Durham*, unpublished.

PCA, 2014b. *An Archaeological Evaluation at Bishop Middleham Quarry (Western Extension), Bishop Middleham, near Sedgefield, County Durham, Trimdon, County Durham*, unpublished.

Walker, K., 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage*, UKIC.

Online Sources

British Geological Survey website: *www.bgs.ac.uk*.

Department for Communities and Local Government website: *www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government*

Durham County Council website (for the *Trimdon Conservation Area Appraisal*):

http://www.durham.gov.uk/Pages/Service.aspx?ServiceId=8940

English Heritage website: *www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications*

Keys to the Past website (includes the online County Durham Historic Environment Record): *www.keystothepast.info/Pages/Home.aspx*

MAGIC website: *www.magic.gov.uk/website/magic/*

Natural England website (for information on 'Natural Character Area 15: The Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau'): *http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/8308038?category=587130*

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Keith Ryder of Self Build and Design Architects for commissioning the archaeological evaluation herein described on behalf of the developer.

The role of Lee McFarlane, Senior Archaeologist (Durham County Council Archaeology Section) is acknowledged.

PCA Credits

Project Manager: Robin Taylor-Wilson

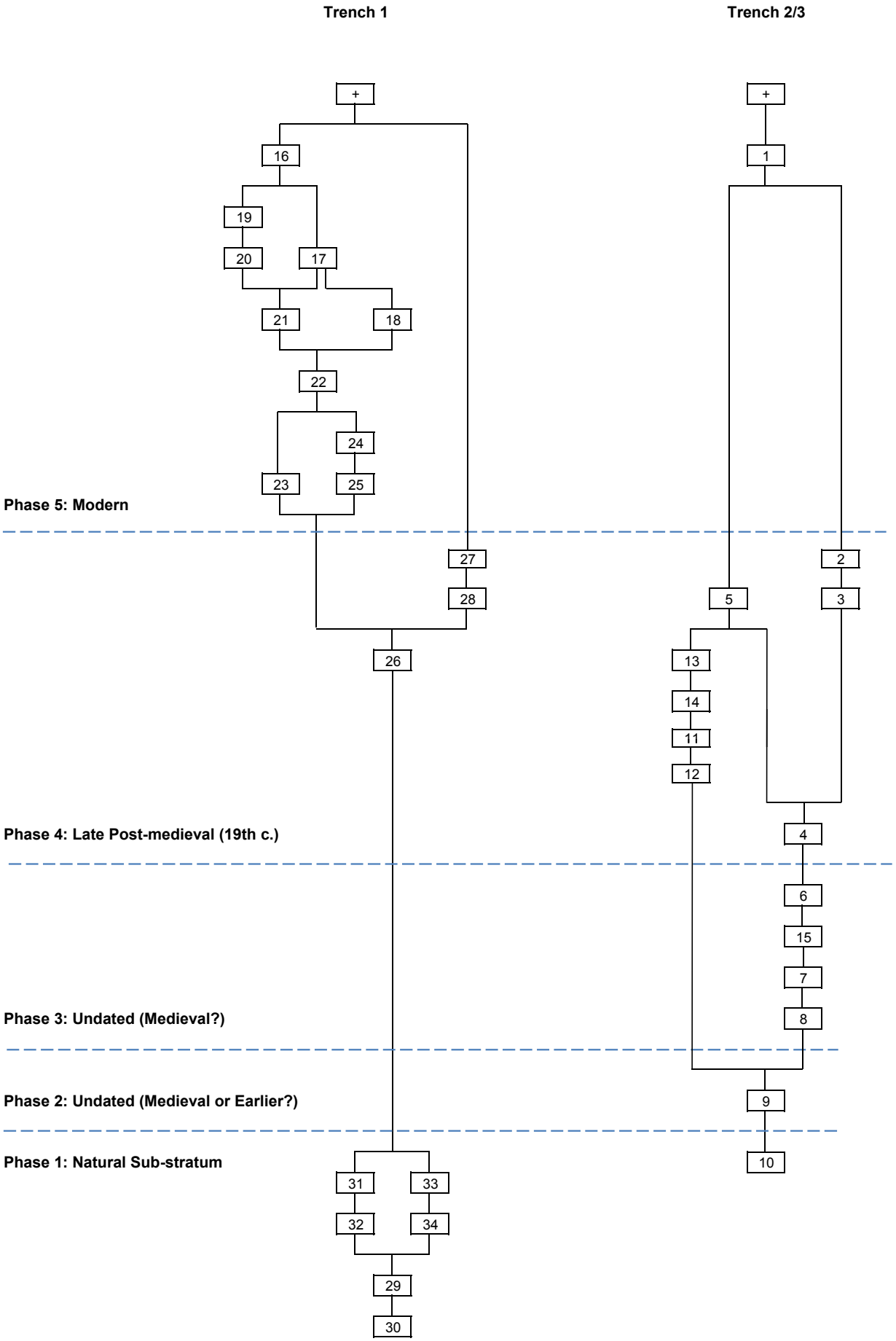
Fieldwork: Robin Taylor-Wilson, (Site Supervisor), Aaron Goode (Survey), David Green

Report: Robin Taylor-Wilson

Illustrations: Josephine Brown

APPENDIX 1
STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES

FRT 14: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES



APPENDIX 2
CONTEXT INDEX

FRT 14: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	*Trench*	*Phase*	*Type 1*	*Type 2*	*Interpretation*
1	2/3	5	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
2	3	4	Deposit	Layer	Levelling layer (ash/clinker)
3	3	4	Deposit	Layer	Buried topsoil
4	3	4	Deposit	Surface	Stone pathway
5	2/3	4	Deposit	Layer	Buried topsoil
6	3	3	Deposit	Fill	Tertiary fill of ditch [8]
7	3	3	Deposit	Fill	Primary fill of ditch [8]
8	3	3	Cut	Linear	Boundary ditch; filled by [7], [15] and [6]
9	2/3	2	Deposit	Layer	Developed soil
10	2/3	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural boulder clay
11	2	4	Deposit	Fill	Fill of posthole [12]
12	2	4	Cut	Discrete	Posthole (post-pit); filled by [12]
13	2	4	Deposit	Fill	Fill of post-pipe [14]
14	2	4	Cut	Discrete	Post-pipe; filled by [14]
15	3	3	Deposit	Fill	Secondary fill of ditch [8]
16	1	5	Deposit	Surface	Concrete slab
17	1	5	Deposit	Surface	Concrete slab
18	1	5	Deposit	Layer	Levelling/make-up/bedding layer (pea gravel)
19	1	5	Deposit	Layer	Levelling/make-up layer (rubble)
20	1	5	Deposit	Layer	Levelling/make-up layer (silt)
21	1	5	Deposit	Layer	Levelling/make-up layer (dolostone)
22	1	5	Deposit	Layer	Levelling/make-up layer (silt)
23	1	5	Deposit	Layer	Levelling/make-up layer (mortar)
24	1	5	Deposit	Layer	Levelling/make-up layer (mortar)
25	1	5	Deposit	Lens	Levelling/make-up dump (dolostone)
26	1	4	Deposit	Layer	Levelling/make-up layer (re-deposited boulder clay)
27	1	4	Deposit	Fill	Levelling/make-up/bedding fill (ash/clinker)
28	1	4	Cut	Linear	Construction cut for stone sett surface
29	1	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural boulder clay
30	1	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural bedrock
31	1	1	Deposit	Fill	Fill of 'sinkhole' [32]
32	1	1	Cut	Discrete	Probable 'sinkhole'; filled by [31]
33	1	1	Deposit	Fill	Fill of 'sinkhole' [34]
34	1	1	Cut	Discrete	Probable 'sinkhole'; filled by [33]

APPENDIX 3
POTTERY IDENTIFICATION

POTTERY IDENTIFICATION

By: Jenny Vaughan (NCAS)

Three fragments of pottery were recovered:

Context [3], buried topsoil:
One fragment of stoneware preserve jar with vertical ribs
One fragment of late redware/brownware with internal white slip and clear glaze.

Context [5], buried topsoil
One fragment of refined white-glazed white earthenware with some blue painted decoration.

These sherds cannot be closely dated but are likely to be late 19th or early 20th century.

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND ADJACENT TO 25 FRONT STREET SOUTH, TRIMDON, COUNTY DURHAM

Title	Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation on Land Adjacent to 25 Front Street South, Trimdon, County Durham	
Author	Robin Taylor-Wilson (PCA)	
Derivation	Requirement of Planning Condition 11	
Original Version & Date	Version 1	12 March 2014
This Version & Date	Version 3	20 March 2014
Reviser (if applicable)	Robin Taylor-Wilson (PCA)	
Summary of Changes (if applicable)	N/A	
Status of this Version	Final	
Circulation	Lee McFarlane (Senior Archaeologist, DCC); Keith Ryder (Self Build and Design Architects)	
Required Action	N/A	
File Name	FRT14 WSI v3 20Mar2014	
File Location	C drive PCANorth1	
Approval	Approved by email 20 March 2014	

PART 1: DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1.1 Project Name

1.1.1 The project is known as land adjacent to 25 Front Street South, Trimdon.

1.2 Summary Description of Project

1.2.1 A new build development of five dwellings is proposed on land adjacent to 25 Front Street South, Trimdon, County Durham.

1.2.2 The project entails an archaeological trenching evaluation to determine the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains in the development area, to be undertaken as a planning condition.

1.3 Background

1.3.1 The site lies on the south side of Front Street South, and comprises land adjacent to - mostly south of - No. 25, in the village of Trimdon, near Sedgefield, County Durham. Covering *c.* 1,385m^2, the site is centred at National Grid Reference NZ 3689 3418 and the postcode is TS29 6LZ (Figure 1). The site is vacant, with the exception of an electricity sub-station along its western boundary; a number of previous structures have recently been demolished.

1.3.2 A new build development of five dwellings is proposed and planning permission has been granted. The Client's agent is Self Build and Design Architects.

1.3.3 No historic environment desk-based assessment has been undertaken for the site. The site lies within the Trimdon Village Conservation Area, which has at its centre a designated village green of medieval origin, surrounded by a collection of historic buildings. The site is considered to have particular potential for archaeological remains of the medieval and early post-medieval periods.

1.3.4 An archaeological trenching evaluation is required as a condition of planning permission to determine the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains at the site. This document represents the required Written Scheme of Investigation for archaeological work, as described in the planning condition. No brief or specification for the work has been compiled by Durham County Council Archaeology Section (DCCAS), although the required scope of work has been discussed with that body.

1.4 Project Aims and Research Objectives

1.4.1 The trenching evaluation aims to determine the potential of the development area for buried archaeological remains which could be destroyed by the development.

1.4.2 Specific research objectives to be addressed by the project have been formulated with reference to an existing archaeological research framework, *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (NERRF) (Petts and Gerrard 2006) which highlights the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. It sets out key research priorities for all periods of the past allowing commercial contractors to demonstrate how their fieldwork relates to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment.

1.4.3 Trimdon (County Durham Historic Environment Record – HER - reference 4631) has an essentially rural setting, *c.* 10 km south of Durham City. The village has been the site of an established settlement since at least the 12th century, while there have been archaeological discoveries in the wider area dating from the Bronze Age onwards (*Trimdon - Conservation Area Appraisal*, Durham County Council 2012). The elongated village green at the core of the oldest part of the village surrounds the church of St. Mary Magdalene (HER reference 34538), which dates back to the Norman period. It is set on a raised mound and dominates the village core and views through the Trimdon Village Conservation Area. In 1146 it is documented that the church was given to Guisborough Priory and was later purchased by the Roper family during the reign of Henry VIII after the dissolution.

1.4.4 The site lies to the west of the village green, on the south side of Front Street South. The form of the properties here, with street frontage dwellings and long rear gardens is long-established. It represents a fossilisation of the medieval village layout when land either side of the main street was divided into long narrow burgage plots, with houses on the street frontage and long narrow backlots, which were used for a variety of purposes, such as for kitchen gardens, outhouses, keeping animals, *etc*. Although burgages were usually subject to internal divisions from their creation, later divisions did not normally alter or remove earlier boundaries.

1.4.5 Throughout England, the layout of many towns and villages remained largely unaltered until the 19th century, reflecting the original burgage pattern of the settlement nucleus. Trimdon itself remained a small settlement until the opening of Trimdon Colliery, which lies *c.* 2 km to the north-east, brought greater prosperity to the village in the 19th century. It was often the case, especially in larger towns, that the pressure to sub-divide land as a result of prosperity and population growth resulted in the sub-division of burgage plots, and although this has occurred to some degree in Trimdon, the original pattern of medieval development remains clearly evident in the village core.

1.4.6 It is for archaeological remains of the medieval and early post-medieval period that the site has particular potential due to its location within the historic core of the settlement. Any sub-surface archaeological remains, whether structures, deposits or other archaeological features, which would cast light on the nature and precise date of medieval or early post-medieval occupation would be of importance. These would be non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest, of significance at a local or, at best, regional level.

1.4.7 In sum, the work has the potential to provide a contribution to several NERRF Key Research Priorities in the Research Agenda and Strategy for the later medieval period:

MDi. Settlement

There are still very few excavated sites of this period. It is essential that any development within the historic cores of early villages should have archaeological conditions imposed as matter of course.

MDvii. Medieval ceramics and other artefacts.

Ceramic evidence is crucially important, it can be used as a chronological indicator and tells us about patterns of economic exchange and consumption.

MDxi. The medieval to post-medieval transition.

Did a decline in settlement numbers reflect a reduction of the rural population due to the growth of towns, or was there merely a refocusing of existing rural settlement patterns?

1.5 Business Case

1.5.1 The project Sponsor is the Client's agent, the project architect, Self Build and Design Architects.

1.5.2 The requirement to undertake the archaeological work is in line with planning policy at a national level as now set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) 2012). A key component of the NPPF – retained from the previous national guidance document *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (PPS5) - is the concept of heritage assets, those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest. Despite the deletion of PPS5 and its replacement with the NPPF, the *PPS5 Practice Guide* (English Heritage, Department of Culture, Media and Sport and DCLG 2010) remains a valid and UK Government endorsed document.

1.5.3 Planning permission for the development was granted in 2011 (application no. 7/2011/0138/DM), when PPS5 was valid. Two archaeological planning conditions (nos. 11 and 12) were imposed, on the recommendation of DCCAS, which provides archaeological development control in the county. In full, these conditions stated:

11. NS05 (Archaeology)

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, including a timetable for the investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The Scheme shall provide for:

(i) The proper identification and evaluation of the extent, character and significance of archaeological remains within the application area in accordance with a brief issued by the County Durham Archaeology Section; the evaluation is to be undertaken following the approval of planning permission;

(ii) An assessment of the impact of the proposed development on any archaeological remains identified in the trial trench evaluation phase;

(iii) Proposals for the preservation in situ, or for the investigation, recording and recovery of archaeological remains and the publishing of the findings, it being understood that there shall be a presumption in favour of their preservation in situ wherever feasible;

(iv) Sufficient notification and allowance of time to archaeological contractors nominated by the developer to ensure that archaeological fieldwork as proposed in pursuance of (i) and (iii) above is completed prior to the commencement of permitted development in the area of archaeological interest; and

(v) Notification in writing to the County Archaeologist of the commencement of archaeological works and the opportunity to monitor such works.

The development shall then be carried out in full accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To comply with Policy HE12 of PPS5 as a heritage asset is likely to be adversely affected.

12. NS06 (Archaeological publication)

Prior to the development being beneficially occupied, a copy of any analysis, reporting, publication or archiving required as part of the mitigation strategy shall be deposited at the County Durham Historic Environment Record. This may include full analysis and final publication. Reporting and publication must be within one year of the date of completion of the development hereby approved by this permission

Reason: To comply with Policy HE12.2 & 12.3 of PPS5 to make the information as widely accessible to the public as possible.

1.5.4 The Client's agent has appointed Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) to undertake the required archaeological work. PCA - www.pre-construct.com - is one of the largest archaeological contractors in the UK, operating a nationwide service from offices in London, Durham, Market Harborough, Cambridgeshire and Winchester. PCA is a 'Registered Organisation' (RO 23) with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA).

1.5.5 PCA has compiled this WSI, in the format of a 'Project Design' as described in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006).

1.6 Project Scope

1.6.1 The various elements of the required work comprise Execution Stages of the project, as described in MoRPHE. The aim of this WSI is to provide sufficient detail to permit authorisation of the project.

1.6.2 The WSI sets out the aims and research objectives of the work and, in a series of detailed methods statements, describes the techniques and approaches that will be employed to achieve those aims and objectives.

1.7 Interfaces

1.7.1 The archaeological evaluation will be undertaken in March 2014. The results of the fieldwork will be subsequently detailed in an Evaluation Report, to be submitted before 10 April 2014.

1.7.2 PCA will undertake the required archaeological work for the Client's agent, on behalf of the Client, with the Senior Archaeologist of DCCAS fulfilling the role of archaeological advisor to the LPA, Durham County Council.

1.8 Communications

1.8.1 Every PCA project has a designated Project Manager and, where fieldwork is required, there will also be a Site Supervisor/Site Director. Other members of the Project Team are identified below. The Project Manager is the person responsible for preparation of the WSI and ensuring that execution and monitoring of project activities follow the general procedures of PCA and are in accordance with the WSI.

1.8.2 PCA's Project Team will communicate internally via scheduled meetings, both office-based and on site during the fieldwork element of the archaeological evaluation.

1.8.3 PCA's Project Team will communicate externally in the first instance with the Client's agent via scheduled meetings, email discussions, telephone conversations and written correspondence, as appropriate. PCA and the Client's agent will inform other stakeholders (those parties with an active interest in the project, for example, DCCAS) as required.

1.8.4 Principal points of contact:

- Pre-Construct Archaeology - Robin Taylor-Wilson (Director): 0191 377 1111; [rtaylor-wilson@pre-construct.com];
- Self Build and Design Architects – Keith Ryder : 0191 378 4727; [selfbuildarchitects@hotmail.com];
- Durham County Council Archaeology Section – Lee McFarlane (Senior Archaeologist): 03000 267 009; [lee.mcfarlane@durham.gov.uk].

1.9 Project Review

1.9.1 Progress of the project will be reviewed at Review Point 'R2' following dissemination of this WSI to all stakeholders. Project authorisation is the considered the most likely outcome at R2, with commitment of resources to the various Execution Stages, namely Data Collection, *i.e.* the undertaking of the trenching evaluation.

1.9.2 Review Point 'R3' will be conducted at the conclusion of the Execution Stages of the project, signalled by circulation of a report on the fieldwork. At R3 a decision will be made regarding the scope of further work, as appropriate.

1.10 Health and Safety

1.10.1 PCA's H&S Policy is the starting point for managing H&S at all locations where PCA carries out its operations. A Risk Assessment has been undertaken, following a site inspection on 11 March 2014.

1.10.2 This project will not be 'H&S Executive (HSE) notifiable' due to its anticipated short duration.

1.10.3 In general, all PCA staff are required to:

- take care of their own safety and that of any other person on the site or in the vicinity;
- co-operate with the Site Supervisor and the Directors of PCA to allow them to comply with their statutory obligations;
- be mindful of the requirements of the Sponsor;
- be careful to minimise the environmental impact of their operations and activities.

PART 2: RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

2.1 Project Team Structure

2.1.1 The Project Manager for PCA will be Robin Taylor-Wilson, BSc MA MIfA. In broad terms, he will have ultimate responsibility for the outcome of the project, as well as overseeing day-to-day operations with responsibility for preparation of the WSI, project planning, identification of Risk, monitoring of costs and timetable and, in essence, ensuring that the project produces the work agreed in the WSI.

2.1.2 Various Experts will be added to the Project Team as appropriate. Central amongst these will be an Archaeological Site Supervisor, an archaeologist with the requisite amount of experience to undertake the evaluation and monitoring of the investigative work on the retaining wall.

2.1.3 Office-based Experts will provide support, as appropriate, in areas such as computer-aided design (CAD).

2.1.4 Appropriate specialists will examine all categories of artefactual and palaeoenvironmental materials recovered during the fieldwork. PCA generally use a combination of in-house and external specialists. For this project, assessment of medieval and post-medieval era artefactual material from the site would be co-ordinated by Jenny Vaughan, a ceramic specialist based in Newcastle, the most likely external specialist to be involved with this project. Archaeological conservation, including on-site conservation advice, would be co-ordinated by Karen Barker, a freelance archaeological conservator. Palaeoenvironmental assessment of bulk samples would be co-ordinated by Dr. Charlotte O'Brien of Archaeological Services Durham University. All other specialists would be in-house.

2.1.5 PCA will hire in welfare for PCA staff and plant for trench groundworks. Temporary fencing will be hired-in to protect archaeological working areas, as required.

2.2 Method Statement Part A: Fieldwork

Overall Methodology

2.2.1 The research aims and objectives of the project will be achieved by the undertaking of the trenching evaluation. This represents an element of Data Collection, comprising an Execution Stage of the project.

2.2.2 The project will be carried out in line with: *By-Laws – Code of Conduct* (IfA 2010) and *A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process* (IfA, Yorkshire, the Humber and the North East 2009).

Health and Safety

2.2.3 The HSE does not consider archaeological investigations to fall within the definition of 'construction work' in the *Construction (Design and Management) (CDM) Regulations 2007*.

2.2.4 The site has been inspected (11 March 2014) by the PCA Project Manager with a view to establishing all Risks likely to be associated with the work, so that all such hazards can be mitigated prior to staff starting work. A 'Site Inspection Preliminary Risk Assessment' *pro-forma* was completed on site and has been 'written-up' as a formal Risk Assessment.

2.2.5 The PCA Project Manager will discuss all specific H&S issues with PCA staff who will be involved with work on site. PCA staff will undertake site-specific induction talks with all staff and visitor before they enter the site, as required.

2.2.6 All PCA staff on site will use safety equipment. For each member of staff this will comprise: hard hat, hi-visibility garment, safety boots (steel toe-cap and insole).

2.2.7 Adequate welfare will be provided for PCA staff for this short duration fieldwork project.

Trenching Evaluation Methodology

2.2.8 The trenching evaluation will be undertaken in accordance with *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2009). All groundworks (excluding archaeological supervision, hand cleaning, hand excavation and recording) will be undertaken by a plant sub-contractor on behalf of and fully supervised by PCA.

2.2.9 Three archaeological evaluation trenches are proposed, at the locations shown on Figure 2. All trenches will measure 10m x 1.60m at ground level. The evaluation will therefore sample *c.* 3.5% of the proposed development site (which covers *c.* 1,385m^2).

2.2.10 Trench 1 will test the main new parking area of the development, situated along the western side of the site, towards the frontage. The area in which Trench 1 is located was until recently occupied by a linear stone farm building depicted on mapping as far back as the Ordnance Survey 1st edition of *c.* 1860. The building was recently demolished to ground level, so that only its most recent floor surface – constructed of concrete - remains in place. Trenches 2 and 3 will test the area of the new build footprint. Trenches 2 and 3 will be sited on rough scrubland in the rear of the plot. The trenches have been sited to take into account the known locations of two subterranean septic tanks and also of below ground cable runs associated an electricity sub-station along the western site boundary (Figure 2). Existing plans of electrical supplies in and around the site have been provided to PCA.

2.2.11 The trenches will be set-out and located relative to the Ordnance Survey grid by appropriate means. If necessary a Leica *iCON gps 60* Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) would be used. The *iCON gps 60* provides corrected Ordnance Survey co-ordinates in real time, to an accuracy of 1 cm.

2.2.12 The fieldwork is programmed to commence 31 March 2014 and will be of up to 4 days duration, subject to findings, as well as ground and weather conditions.

2.2.13 The area of each trench will be scanned with a Cable Avoidance Tool ahead of machine excavation. This task, in collaboration with examination of existing service plans, may necessitate adjustment of trench locations at the onset of the fieldwork.

2.2.14 Concrete surfaces in the area of Trench 1 will be broken out. Ground level in all trenches will be reduced by JCB 3CX or similar back-actor, with all such work under PCA supervision. Moving along the length of each trench, the machine will remove - using a wide blade, ditching bucket (with no teeth) - successive spits of no more than 0.25m depth until either the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the natural geological sub-stratum is reached. The machine will not be used to cut arbitrary trial trenches down to natural deposits, without regard to the archaeological stratification and leaving a section record only. Excavated spoil will be examined for archaeological material by hand and eye.

2.2.15 Excavated spoil will be neatly bunded a safe distance from trench edges. Trenches will be surrounded with some form of fencing and the site entrance made secure. All spoil will be carefully backfilled by machine into the trenches upon completion of the work. Infilled material will be compacted by tamping down with the machine. PCA will not be responsible for any subsequent ground remediation, for example following subsidence of the trench areas over time.

Archaeological Cleaning, Excavation and Recording Methodology

2.2.16 The majority of investigation of archaeological levels will be by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section, where appropriate. Investigations within the trenches will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and will be conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in *Fieldwork Induction Manual. Operations Manual I* (PCA 2009) and *Archaeological Site Manual, Third Edition* (Museum of London 1994).

2.2.17 Deposits and feature cuts will be individually recorded on a *pro-forma* 'Context Recording Sheet'. Structural remains – if encountered - will be individually recorded on a *pro-forma* 'Masonry Recording Sheet'.

2.2.18 All site records will be marked with the unique-number 'Site Code'. This is 'FRT 14'.

2.2.19 Archaeological excavation may require work by 'pick and shovel' or occasionally by further use of the machine. Such techniques will be used only for the removal of homogeneous and 'low grade' layers where it can reasonably be argued that more detailed attention would not produce information of value, and their removal provides a 'window' onto the underlying archaeological levels. They will not be employed on complex stratigraphy, and the deposits to be removed will be fully recorded prior to excavation.

2.2.20 All archaeological features that do not merit preservation *in situ* will be excavated by hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard 'single context recording' methods. Drawings will be on polyester based gridded drawing sheets. At least one long section of each trench will be drawn to scale. The height of all principal strata and features will be calculated in metres above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) and indicated on appropriate plans and sections.

2.2.21 'Harris Matrix' stratification diagrams will be used to record stratigraphic relationships and these records will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the evaluation.

2.2.22 A detailed photographic record of the evaluation will be compiled. All detailed photographs will include a legible graduated metric scale. The photographic record will illustrate both in detail and general context archaeological exposures and specific features in all trenches. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

2.2.23 The photographic record will be compiled using a) a SLR camera with black and white 35mm film to provide negatives from which a set of prints will be generated b) a digital SLR camera of at least 6 megapixels. Full and detailed photographic record sheets cross-referenced to the black and white negatives/prints and the colour digital images/prints. For digital photography, the 'RAW plus JPEG' camera setting will be used (with the camera set for the largest image size with least compression to produce the highest quality possible JPEG images). The RAW setting allows all the information that the camera is capable of producing to be saved and images retained using this setting will form a key component of the photographic archive along with the black and white negatives generated by 35mm film. RAW images will be converted to the uncompressed format TIFF before they are burnt onto archival quality CD to form the digital element of the photographic archive. A selection of colour printed images (standard 6x4-inch) will be generated from the JPEG images.

2.2.24 In sum, the photographic element of the Site Archive (for deposition with the appropriate repository) will comprise: black and white negatives, black and white prints generated from the negatives, a selection of colour prints generated from digital images, colour digital TIFF images on CD. The County Durham HER will be provided directly with a selection of digital images, as required.

2.2.25 An adequate proportion of archaeological features encountered will be excavated by hand in order to determine their form and function, where possible. The following sampling policy will apply to archaeological features: postholes and pits – 50% (a complete cross section will be excavated across such features where possible); linear features - 20% minimum.

Finds and Samples: On-Site Methodology

2.2.26 High priority will be given to dating any archaeological remains; therefore all artefacts and finds will be retained. Consideration will also be given to the recovery of specialist samples for scientific analysis, particularly samples for cultural/environmental evidence, structural materials and absolute dating. Different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation.

2.2.27 Deposits will be assessed for their potential for high resolution radiocarbon and archaeomagnetic dating and, if appropriate, samples will be recovered for these purposes. Full analysis of ceramic assemblages (*i.e.* petrological analysis), including thermoluminescence dating would be applied if the site yields suitable material. Specialist analysis of material recovered for scientific dating would, therefore, be a requirement in post-excavation.

2.2.28 It may be necessary to seek advice regarding lifting and/or preservation of vulnerable objects or other remains during the evaluation. Specialist on-site advice regarding archaeological conservation will be sought as appropriate. All gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the *Treasure Act 1996*. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

2.2.29 Human remains are probably unlikely, at this site. If *in situ* human remains are encountered they would be recorded to an appropriate level by the use of photography and a *pro forma* 'Skeleton Recording Sheet' and including *in situ* examination by a palaeo-pathologist, if required, then exhumed following receipt of an appropriate licence from the Ministry of Justice. In 2012 the MoJ reconsidered its approach to burial licenses that it had adopted in 2007: in sum, exhumation license applications under *The Burial Act 1857* will now be considered wherever human remains are buried in sites to which *The Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981* or other burial ground legislation does not apply. The MoJ exhumation licence is now known as an 'Authority to Exhume Buried Human Remains For Archaeological Purposes'.

2.2.30 The overall aim of the evaluation with respect to archaeological science will be 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 Jacqui Huntley, English Heritage's Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (RAAS) will be sought and, if appropriate, arrangements for a site visit will be made in order to determine the importance and sampling requirements for all deposits exposed during the investigation.

2.2.31 In general, the environmental sampling policy on the site will entail recovery of bulk material from well-dated (although palaeoenvironmental material recovered by sampling can itself provide the only evidence for dating), stratified deposits covering the main periods or phases of occupation.

2.2.32 Sample size will take into account the frequency with which material is likely to occur. In general, however, samples will be of the order of 40 litres where sufficient material is available, although with the expectation that smaller quantities (*c.* 5-10 litres) will be processed and assessed as part of the evaluation. Thus if no subsequent excavation is undertaken at the site adequate material will remain for further processing and full analysis of the evaluation material should that prove necessary.

2.2.33 Assessment of sufficient samples will be undertaken to cover the range of feature types and dates represented. Unless the stratigraphy is unduly complex, processing and assessment of a maximum total of up to five samples will probably suffice from the proposed trenches. The samples to be processed and assessed may be a sub-set of a larger number of samples actually recovered during the fieldwork.

2.3 Method Statement Part B: Post-Excavation

Finds and Samples: Off-Site Methodology

2.3.1 Specialists will examine all levels of finds (e.g. organic, ceramic, metallic) recovered during the fieldwork. All finds will be treated in a proper manner and will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in *First Aid for Finds, 3rd edition* (Watkinson and Neal 1998), *Conservation Guidelines No.2. Packaging and storage of freshly excavated artefacts from archaeological sites* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) Archaeology Section 1983) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IfA 2008).

2.3.2 Preliminary conservation and stabilisation of all objects will be undertaken as soon as possible during or upon completion of the fieldwork. Vulnerable materials that require immediate specialist archaeological conservation will be transported to appropriate facilities without delay. There will be an assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs of all excavated material.

2.3.3 All metal objects will be X-rayed and then selected for conservation. All iron objects will be X-rayed, along with a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins) and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy.

2.3.4 Waterlogged organic materials will be dealt with following guidelines set out in the English Heritage documents *Guidelines for the care of waterlogged archaeological leather* (1995) and *Waterlogged Wood. Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood, 3rd edition* (2010).

2.3.5 All processing of artefacts and ecofacts will be undertaken away from the site. Assessment of artefactual and ecofactual material will be undertaken by suitably qualified personnel. For each category of artefact and ecofact an assessment report will be produced that will include a basic quantification of the material, a statement of its potential for further analysis and recommendations for such work.

2.3.6 Techniques of laboratory processing for material recovered through sampling are likely to vary depending upon the nature of the deposit. There will be assessment in respect of:

- the approximate proportions and types of mineral and organic components, including comments relating to presence/absence of industrial spatter and hammerscale or other technological material;
- the nature of biological remains;
- qualitative estimates of the amounts of each type of remains and their states of preservation;
- a broad indication of habitats represented;
- indications of origin of material;
- research questions that should be formulated if full analysis of any material is recommended;

- recommendations for additional sampling, specifically if/when further excavation is undertaken.

2.3.7 PCA's nominated specialists will undertake pottery dating and analysis, as necessary. For medieval and post-medieval pottery this will be Jenny Vaughan (Northern Counties Archaeological Services). Prehistoric pottery would be examined by Alex Croom (freelance, formerly Tyne and Wear Museums). Other specialists which are likely to be involved in this project are named in 2.1.4, above.

2.3.8 PCA would employ a combination of in-house and external specialists to undertake analysis and interpretation of materials recovered through sampling of archaeological and environmental deposits and structures (which can include soils, timbers, faunal remains and human remains).

Site Archive

2.3.9 Through Data Collection, the undertaking of fieldwork results in the establishment of a Site Archive. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document *Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation transfer and curation* (Brown 2007) would be adhered to, in particular *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (IfA 2008) and *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (Walker, UKIC 1990).

2.3.10 The Site Archive will include all materials recovered (or a comprehensive records of such materials) and all written, drawn, and photographic records generated by the Data Collection Stage(s) of the project. In line with *MoRPHE. PPN3: Archaeological Excavation. Appendix 1* the Site Archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, and internally consistent before transfer to the recipient museum. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.

2.3.11 Prior to the Closure Stage of the project, the Site Archive (which by then may comprise an integrated Site and Research Archive) will be deposited with the County Durham Archaeological Archive at Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham, under the site code FRT 14. The archive will be organised as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in County Durham and will include all artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the project. A completed transfer of title deed will accompany the Site Archive on deposition.

2.3.12 The Site Archive will be presented to the archive officer or relevant curator as soon as is practically possible following of the completion of the project. Appropriate guidance set out in *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992) and *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993) will be followed in all circumstances.

Evaluation Report

2.3.13 The results of the evaluation will be disseminated in the form of a written and illustrated report, to be compiled following completion of the fieldwork.

2.3.14 The report will include:

- an introductory section setting out the general background to the project, the planning history and a summary of the site geology and topography;
- a section outlining the aims and objectives of the project;
- a section detailing methodologies adopted during the work;
- a section setting out the historical and archaeological background to the project;
- a section describing the findings of the evaluation, including the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of any archaeological remains encountered, with appropriate illustrations and photographs.

2.3.15 The report will include a location plan of the site, tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and at an appropriate scale. The report will also include a plan at an appropriate scale showing the location of the trial trenches.

2.3.16 The report will include a statement regarding the location of the Site Archive at the time of writing, and the intended depository of the Site Archive.

2.3.17 The DCCAS supports the 'Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS' (OASIS) project. PCA would complete an online OASIS form during compilation of the report and the reference number would be included in the introductory section of the report. When the report has been submitted to the HER, DCCAS will validate the OASIS form and PCA agrees to this procedure.

2.3.18 Copies of the report will be sent to all project stakeholders as required. DCCAS (HER) requires a copy in electronic (pdf) format by email or on CD, in addition to 1 no. hardcopy. Other stakeholders should contact PCA with their specific requirements.

2.4 Stages, Products and Tasks

2.4.1 The table below shows how the project will proceed up to Review Point R3. Estimated dates for completion of key stages are included. These are subject to revision.

2.4.2 Any Updated Project Designs will detail additional stages of the project through to Closure.

Stage	Research Products	Archive Products	Dissemination Products
Start-up	PCA awarded contract (notified by email from Client's agent 10 March 2014)	N/A	N/A
Review Point R1: Have clear aims and objectives been established? Yes, within this WSI.			
Initiation	Site inspection and Risk Assessment (11 March 2014) PCA WSI v1 issued for comment (12 March 2014). PCA WSI v2 issued for comment (17 March 2014). PCA WSI approved (as WSI v3) by DCCAS Senior Archaeologist (20 March 2014).	Project Management Archive created Archive repository identified	Communications with stakeholders (including DCCAS Senior Archaeologist notified of start date).
Review Point R2: Are the project aims as set out in the WSI achievable? Yes, through the undertaking of the trenching evaluation.			
Execution: Data Collection through the undertaking of the trenching evaluation (programmed for late March 2014)	 Draft Report Final Report (by 10 April 2014) Updated Project Design, if necessary	 Site Archive established Site Archive enhanced	 OASIS entry created Report circulated
Review Point R3: Does any element of the work justify further work?			

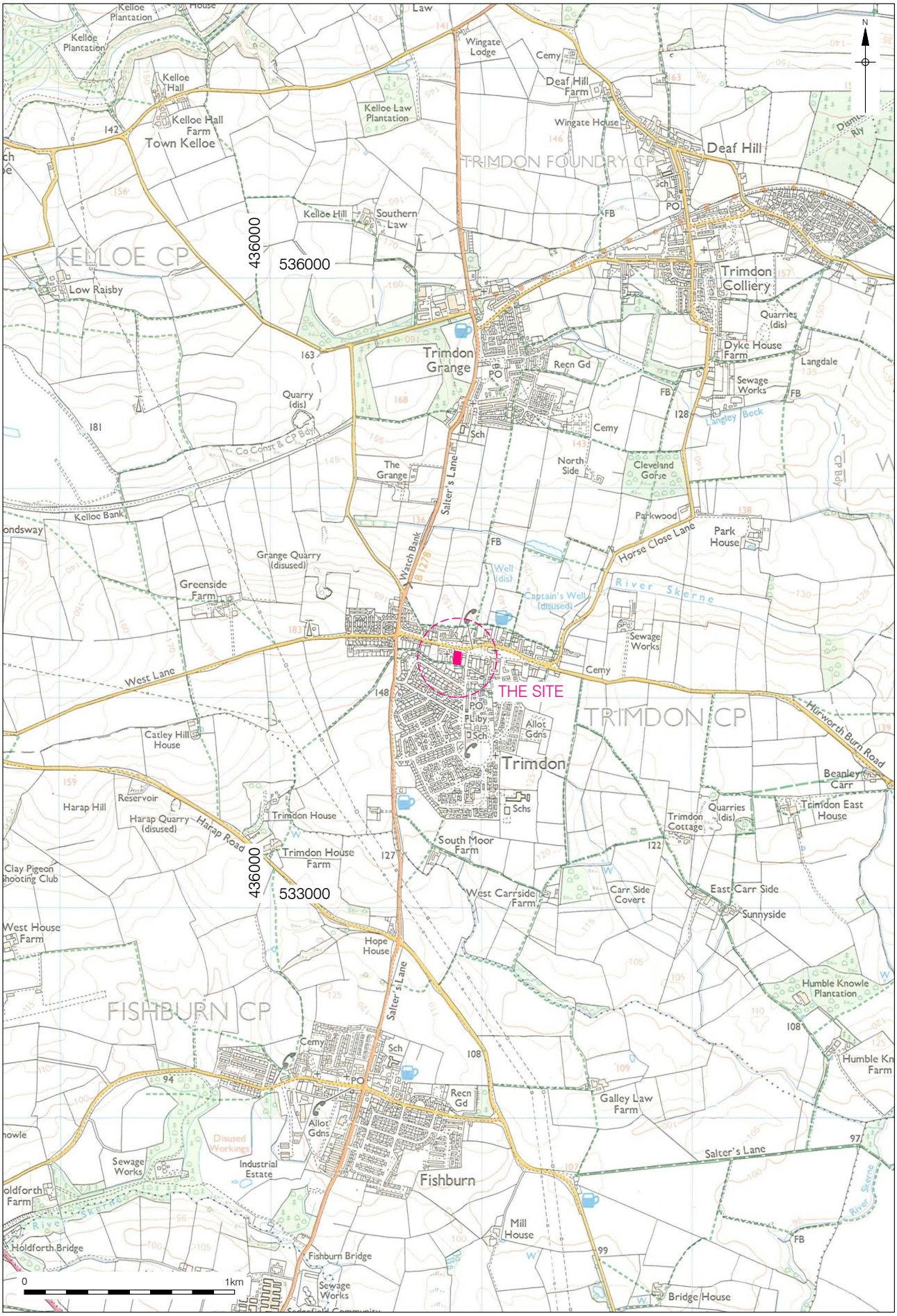
2.5 Ownership

2.5.1 The finds (*i.e.* the artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material) recovered by archaeological fieldwork contribute data of immeasurable academic worth towards the Site and Research Archive, but the bulk of the material is of little or no financial value. In this instance, the legal owner of the site, and consequently the owner of any material that is recovered during the course of the archaeological project, must agree to donate all finds to the County Durham Archaeological Archive as part of the Site Archive.

2.5.2 PCA is committed to respecting the intellectual property rights of its staff and others.

2.6 Budget

2.6.1 A budget for the undertaking of the evaluation and compilation of a report on the work has been agreed with the Client's agent.



11/03/14 HB

Figure 1
Site Location
1:25,000 at A4

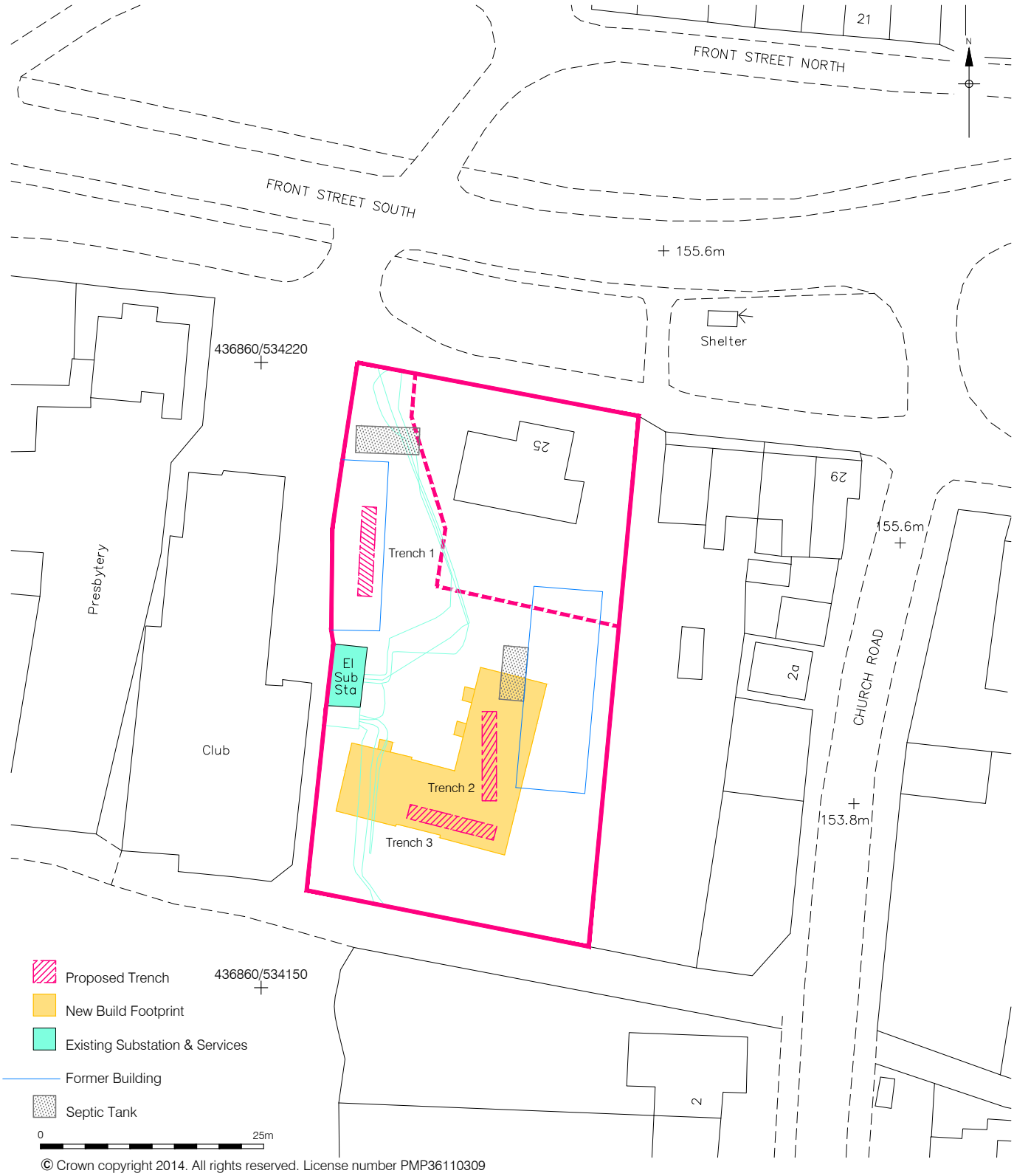


Figure 2
Proposed Trench Location
1:625 at A4

P C A

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

PCA NORTH
UNIT 19A
TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK
DURHAM DH6 5PG
TEL: 0191 377 1111
FAX: 0191 377 0101
EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com

PCA CENTRAL
7 GRANTA TERRACE
STAPLEFORD
CAMBRIDGESHIRE CB22 5DL
TEL: 01223 845 522
FAX: 01223 845 522
EMAIL: info.central@pre-construct.com

PCA WEST
BLOCK 4
CHILCOMB HOUSE
CHILCOMB LANE
WINCHESTER
HAMPSHIRE SO23 8RB
TEL: 01962 849 549
EMAIL: info.west@pre-construct.com

PCA MIDLANDS
17-19 KETTERING RD
LITTLE BOWDEN
MARKET HARBOROUGH
LEICESTERSHIRE LE16 8AN
TEL: 01858 468 333
EMAIL: info.midlands@pre-construct.com