

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
MARKET SQUARE, SOUTH SHIELDS,
TYNE AND WEAR**

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:
MARKET SQUARE, SOUTH SHIELDS, TYNE AND WEAR
EVALUATION REPORT**

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**An Archaeological Evaluation:
Market Square, South Shields, Tyne and Wear**

National Grid Reference: NZ 436060 567100

Site Code: SSM 15

Commissioning Client: Prospect Archaeology (on behalf of Muse Development)

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February 2015

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trenching evaluation was conducted in association with the redevelopment of the Market Place, South Shields Newcastle, situated at National Grid Reference NZ 436060 567100. The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Prospect Archaeology on behalf of Muse Development and was undertaken in January 2015 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The Market Place is located within an area of urban development and comprises a roughly rectangular block of land bounded by Church Way to the south, the B1344 to the west and north and a pedestrianised shopping street the east.
- 1.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment was compiled in 2014 by Prospect Archaeology. The site is of archaeological interest as it is located within the vicinity of St Hilda's Chapel, which is situated to the south. The existing church is thought to overlie a 7th-century chapel founded by St Aidan in AD 647 and later put in the charge of St Hilda. The assessment concluded that the site has relatively low potential for archaeological investigation, in part due to modern uses, and in part due to low impacts from the proposed development.
- 1.3 In the Market Place, where limited impacts are proposed in the new development, it is not clear whether the underlying clay soils that lie beneath the current surface slabs and sub-base in some areas have been reworked. An archaeological watching brief was carried out in August 2014 during the investigation of four geotechnical pits located in each corner of the Market Place. A clay deposit, which was thought to possibly represent the natural sub-stratum, was encountered in Test Pit 1 in the south-western corner of the Market Place at a depth of 0.90m below the present ground surface. However due to the limited exposure it was not possible to be certain about the origin of this clay. It was not possible to excavate the full depth of levelling deposits encountered in Test Pit 2, which was located in the south-eastern corner of the Market Place; the maximum exposed thickness was 0.90m. Investigation of Test Pits 3 and 4, located in the north-eastern and north-western corners of the Market Place, respectively, ceased at depths of 0.22m and 0.42m due to the presence of concrete structures at these depths below present ground level.
- 1.4 The evaluation was therefore undertaken to determine if the clays which are known to underlie the current surface of the Market Place in some areas were redeposited. This work was also undertaken to ascertain the potential or nature of the possible archaeological remains below the current ground surface to inform a decision about whether further archaeological investigation is necessary.
- 1.5 Four trenches were investigated. Trench 1, which was located close to the north-eastern boundary of the site, was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 1.75m with a sequence of dumped deposits revealed beneath the paved surface of the Market Place. It was not possible to ascertain the full depth of made ground in this area. Trench 2, located in the north-west corner of the Market Place, was excavated to a depth of 0.68m; it was not possible to expose the full depth of made ground in this trench due to the presence of modern services and a tree. It was not possible to ascertain the full thickness of made ground deposits in Trench 3, located in the south-west corner of the Market Place, due to the presence of an electricity cable, or in Trench 4, located in the south-east corner, due to the presence of services and a tree. These trenches were excavated to maximum depths of c. 0.90m and c. 1.20m, respectively.

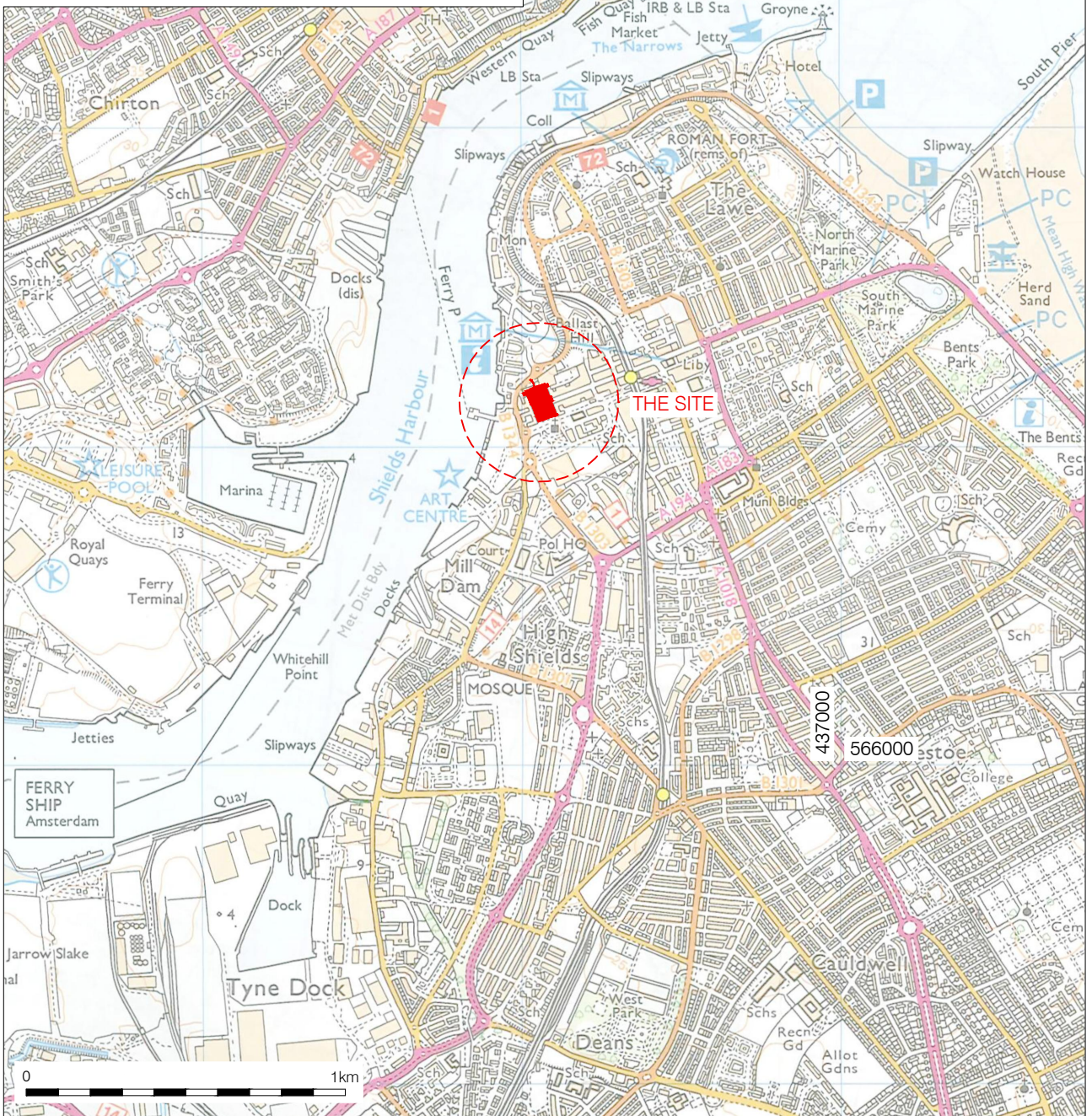
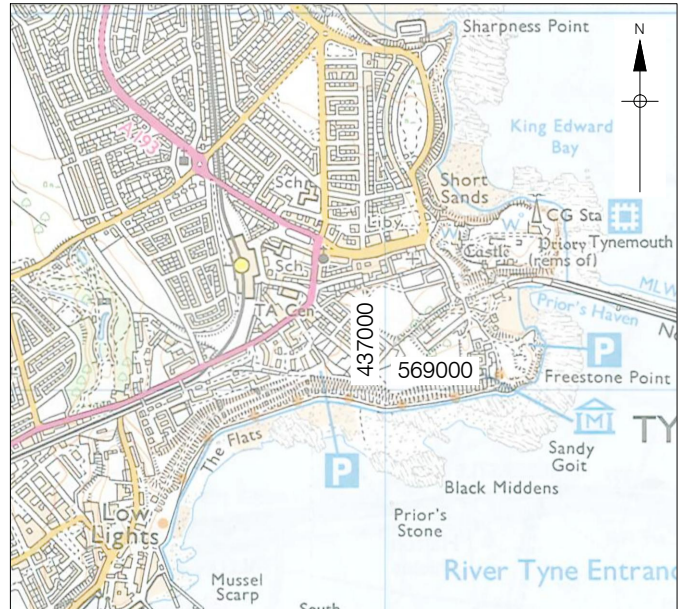
2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 General Background

- 2.1.1 An archaeological trial trenching evaluation was undertaken in association with the redevelopment of the Market Place in South Shields town centre (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Prospect Archaeology on behalf of Muse Development and undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) from the 19th to the 21st January 2015.
- 2.1.2 The archaeological work was undertaken to ascertain the potential or nature of possible archaeological remains below the current ground surface to inform a decision about whether further archaeological investigation is necessary.
- 2.1.3 A desk-based assessment (DBA) to assess the archaeological potential of the site was undertaken prior to the work as part of the planning application for the redevelopment of the site (Rosenberg 2014). An archaeological watching brief was carried out in August 2014 during the investigation of four geotechnical pits within the Market Place (PCA 2014).
- 2.1.4 At the time of writing, the Site Archive, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, is housed at the Northern Office of PCA, Unit N19a Turisdale Business Park, Durham, DH6 5PG. When complete, the Site Archive will be deposited with the Tyne and Wear Museums and Archives at Arbeia, South Shields, Tyne and Wear under the site code SPM 15. The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) reference number for the project is: preconst1- 201194

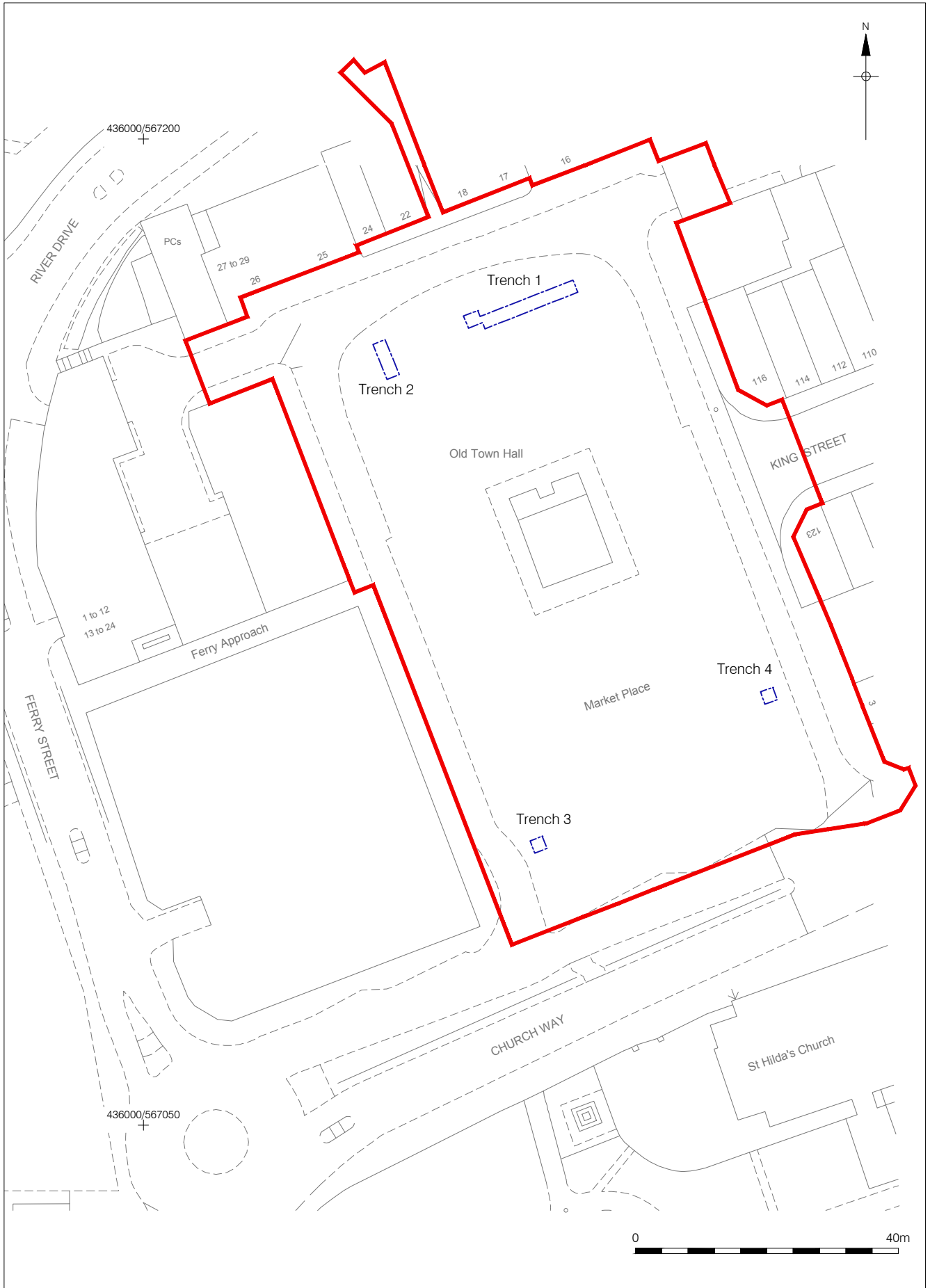
2.2 Site Location and Description

- 2.2.1 The Market Place lies on the western side of South Shields at National Grid Reference NZ 436060 567100, c. 130m to the east of the River Tyne (Figure 1). It comprises a roughly rectangular block of land which measures c. 101m NW-SE by 65m NE-SW covering c. 0.7 hectares. It is bounded by Church Way to the south, the B1344 to the west and north and a pedestrianised shopping street the east.
- 2.2.2 The site appears to have been a market place prior to the Ordnance Survey map of 1857. The Ordnance Survey map of 1896 shows what appear to be tramlines going through the Market Place from the south-west corner to Dean Street on the eastern boundary, although these had gone by 1956. The Old Town Hall which is a Grade I listed building is situated at the centre of the Market Place (Figure 2). To the south of the site is the Church of St Hilda and its grounds. The current surface of the Market Place is slab and brick paved with a one way access road encompassing it.
- 2.2.3 Many of the surrounding buildings are modern and were constructed after heavy bombing during the Second World War. The plot to the west of the Market Place which is surrounded by timber hoarding comprises an area of cleared and levelled ground. To the west of Ferry Street, the area for the proposed car park is currently grassed open space, which slopes down towards the River Tyne. The floating ferry dock is adjacent and the area enjoys views north and south along both banks of the river.



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 02/12/14 HB, updated 23/01/2015 AMB

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 & 1:20,000 at A4



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 26/11/14 HB; updated 23/01/2015 AMB

Figure 2
 Detailed Site Location and Trench Plan
 1:800 at A4

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 The site is located in an area of mixed geology; Roker Formation Dolostone and Pennine Middle Coal Measures, locally overlain with Glaciolacustrine Devensian clay and silt (*British Geological Survey* website).
- 2.3.2 The site is level across the Market Place and adjacent plot, dropping away towards the river on the west side of Ferry Street. Current ground level in the central part of the Market Place around the Town Hall is at around 10.50m OD. Around the margins of the Market Place current ground level is around 10.15m OD in the north and 10.30m OD in the south.

2.4 Planning Background

- 2.4.1 Muse Developments are submitting a planning application for improvements to the Market Place. A planning application will be made for the remodelling of Market Place and erection of market stall canopy structure.
- 2.4.2 At a national level, justification for the work lies within guidance on the historic environment now contained within Section 12, 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (Department of Communities and Local Government, 2012). Previously, *Planning Policy Statement 5: 'Planning for the Historic Environment'* (PPS5) (Department of Communities and Local Government, 2010) set out the guidance.
- 2.4.3 As described in the DBA, the South Tyneside Local Development Plan is in preparation and at present the Local Development Framework provides planning direction. In addition the South Shields Town Centre and Waterfront Area Action Plan (The Area Action Plan) provides specific policies relating to the current study site.
- 2.4.4 The Area Action Plan specifically recognises the archaeological potential of the proposed development site. It is identified as one of only two Areas of Potential Archaeological Importance where Policy SS12 comes into effect to "promote and encourage schemes and proposals that protect, preserve and enhance the historic, cultural and architectural character and heritage, visual appearance and contextual importance of the designated sites and settings".
- 2.4.5 The Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team at Newcastle City Council provides archaeological development control throughout Tyne and Wear. The archaeological evaluation was required, as part of the planning process, to inform the Local Planning Authority (LPA), the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer and the Client, 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.

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

Full details of the archaeological and historical background of the site are provided in the 2014 DBA compiled by Prospect Archaeology. The key points are described below, the writing of the authors responsible is acknowledged.

2.5.1 Designated Heritage Assets

- 2.5.1.1 The Old Town Hall which is the only listed building extant on site (Grade I listed) was constructed in 1786 by the Dean and Chapter of Durham to provide a market hall, manor court and offices. The Town Hall survived the Luftwaffe bombing of the Market Place in 1941 but fell into disrepair until it was restored in 1977. It is built of ashlar on a square plan with a timber bell turret above.
- 2.5.1.2 Visible from the site is the church of St Hilda to the south of the Market Place which retains an 18th-century tower (possibly with medieval lower levels) but otherwise rebuilt in 1810-11. It is believed to be constructed on the site of a chapel founded by St Aidan in AD 647. The church is located immediately to the south of the Market Place with its cemetery extending to the south and west.
- 2.5.1.3 To the north west of the Market Place, Alum House Ham (Tyne Dock Engineering Company) is an early 19th-century brick and slate building which is now in use as a public house.

2.5.2 Non-designated Heritage Assets

- 2.5.2.1 There is evidence for a pre-Roman settlement below the site of the Roman fort at Arbeia and some bones from the extinct Irish Elk were found below a nearby brickworks. This appears to be the extent of the local prehistoric activity. This being said, such waterfront locations were often focal points of activity during the prehistoric period.
- 2.5.2.2 The Roman fort of Arbeia to the north-east of the site, its later civilian settlement (*vicus*) and the potential harbour related to these are all protected as part of the World Heritage Site 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall)'. The Roman road known as the '*Wrekendyke*' passes within 60m of the site. Whilst it is unlikely to survive to any great degree, it is worth noting that Roman roads are often surrounded by small satellite buildings. There is also Roman worked stone on Corporation Road to the south of the site.
- 2.5.2.3 Of particular interest to this investigation is the chapel commissioned by St Aidan in AD 647 which was subsequently placed in the charge of St Hilda. It is believed that the current Church of St Hilda lies on top of the site of the Saxon chapel. This original chapel was probably destroyed by the Danes in the 9th century, but there is evidence for a Saxon building underneath the present nave.
- 2.5.2.4 By the mid 13th century, South Shields was known as *Suthseles*. The town had moved to the south, away from the Roman fort, with the focus of activity being located around the church. The Mill Dam inlet became a focus of trade and industry resulting in a large number of fisheries along the banks of the Tyne along with a budding salt panning industry. As well as a water mill at the Mill Dam inlet there appears to have been a nearby windmill under the same ownership.
- 2.5.2.5 South Shields owes much of its growth to the boom in industrial activity during the post-medieval period. Salt panning was an important local industry but through the 18th century, glass manufacturing developed on the river front and the town expanded eastwards into the

current market site. The market place was established by the Prior and Convent of Durham in 1767, to replace a street market that had been held in the town for many years. The town hall was constructed at the same time to provide a market hall, manorial court and offices but incorporates an earlier market cross.

2.5.2.6 The Ordnance Survey map of 1897 shows that by this date a tram line ran north-east to south-west across the southern part of the Market Place with another running north to south along the southern part of its eastern boundary. By 1915 the NE-SW branch had been removed and a line extended east to west to the Town Hall.

2.5.2.7 The Second World War saw the construction of two underground air raid shelters within the Market Place. Their precise locations are unknown although they are both believed to have been located to the east of the Old Town Hall. South Shields suffered numerous Luftwaffe bombing raids during the war, with the Market Place suffering direct hits on 2nd October 1941. Many buildings were entirely destroyed by the bombing and the subsequent fires caused as a result of a direct hit on Dunn's Paint Store which sent burning tins of paint and oil flying across to other properties, causing further extensive damage, amplified by damage to the gas mains. The air raid shelters were hit but were not as heavily occupied as they might have been as the access to them was restricted as a result of a previous bombing raid. In total, 68 people were killed, 117 seriously injured, 91 slightly injured and approximately 2,000 made homeless. In addition 240 houses, shops and offices were destroyed at the time or had to be demolished later. The Old Town Hall and the Church of St Hilda had suffered some relatively minor damage but most of the rest of the Market Place properties were destroyed or seriously damaged.

3. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The principal aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the archaeology of the site.
- 3.2 A specific aim was to assess whether the underlying soils in the Market Place have been reworked to determine whether a further programme of archaeological investigation is necessary.
- 3.3 The general aims of the project were:
- to identify and record any archaeological deposits, structures or built fabric within the site;
 - to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any encountered or exposed archaeological remains;
 - to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated during groundworks;
 - to recover artefacts disturbed by the site works;
 - to prepare a comprehensive record and report of archaeological observations during the site work.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken 19–21 January 2015. The work was undertaken in compliance with the relevant guidance document of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (IfA 2008a); PCA is a CIfA-Registered Organisation.
- 4.1.2 Four evaluation trenches were located across the Market Place (Figure 2). Trench 1, which was situated in the north-eastern corner of the Market Place, measured 17.50m NE-SW x 2m and was excavated to a depth of 1.74m. Trench 2, located in the north-western corner, measured 5.75m NW-SE x 2m. The presence of modern services and a tree meant that excavation had to cease at a depth of 0.68m. Trench 3, located in the south-western corner, measured 2m x 2m. Excavation of this trench ceased at a depth of 0.88m due to the presence of an electricity cable. Trench 4, located in the south-eastern corner measured 2m x 2m and was excavated to a depth of 1.22m ; excavation ceased at this level due to the presence of modern services.
- 4.1.3 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a 8-ton wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.80m-wide toothless ditching bucket.
- 4.1.4 Structures and deposits were examined, hand cleaned and recorded to an appropriate level and 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). High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. The trenches were located using GPS.

4.2 Post-excavation

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 13 archaeological contexts were defined, relating to two phases of activity on the site; made ground deposits and the current concrete and paved surface of the Market Place (Appendix 2). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records. A written summary of the findings was then compiled, as described in Section 5.
- 4.2.2 No suitable archaeological deposits were encountered to warrant the recovery of bulk samples for palaeoenvironmental material.
- 4.2.3 The complete Site Archive will be packaged for long-term curation. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown, 2007) will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker, UKIC, 1990) and a more recent IfA publication (IfA 2008b). The depositional requirements of the receiving body, in this case Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums, will be fulfilled.

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 [123].

The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. The evaluation extensive modern truncations, with a number of modern services and deposits of made ground identified.

5.2 Trench 1 (Plate 1; Figure 2)

5.2.1 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered within Trench 1.

TRENCH 1	Figure 2		Plate 1	
Trench Alignment: NE-SW	Length: 17.50m	Depth: 1.74m		
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)		
		Section 1	Section 5	
Paving	[100]	0.08m	0.08m	
Concrete	[101]	0.16m	0.16m	
Made Ground	[105]	0.14m	0.14m	
Made Ground	[106]	0.10m	0.14m	
Made Ground	[107]	0.28m	0.46m	
Made Ground	[103]	0.20m	-	
Made Ground	[104]	0.40m+	0.64m+	
Made Ground	[113]	-	0.28m+	
Summary				
Trench 1 was located in the north-eastern corner of the Market Place.				
No archaeological features or deposits of significance were encountered in the trench. The natural geology could not be reached due to the significant amount of made ground present throughout the trench.				
Deposits of made ground were excavated to a maximum thickness of 1.50m. Natural geology was not present at this depth.				
Modern intrusions, including modern services, were present in the trench.				

5.3 Trench 2 Plate 3 (Plate 3; Figure 2)

5.3.1 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered within Trench 2.

TRENCH 2	Figure 2		Plate 3
Trench Alignment: NW–SE	Length: 5.75m	Depth: 0.68m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		Section 2	
Paving	[100]	0.08m	
Concrete	[101]	0.06m	
Made Ground	[102]	0.36m	
Made Ground	[103]	0.24m	
Made Ground	[104]	0.12m+	
Summary			
Trench 2 was located in the north-west corner of the Market Place.			
No archaeological features or deposits of significance were encountered in the trench.			
Modern services and the presence of a tree at the northern end of the trench meant that a maximum depth of only 0.68m could be reached. Natural geology was not identified at this depth.			

5.3 Trench 3 (Plate 4; Figure 2)

5.3.1 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered within Trench 3.

5.3.2 A cut for a modern electricity cable [112] (Plate 4) heavily truncated areas of Trench 3.

TRENCH 3	Figure 2		Plate 4
Trench Alignment: NW–SE	Length: 2m ²	Depth: 0.88m	
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)	
		Section 3	
Paving	[100]	0.08m	
Concrete	[101]	0.12m	
Made Ground	[102]	0.18m	
Made Ground	[107]	0.24m	
Made Ground	[110]	0.18m+	
Summary			
Trench 3 was located in the south-west corner of the Market Place.			
No archaeological features or deposits of significance were encountered in the trench.			
A modern electricity cable crossed the trench; as such a maximum depth of 0.88m could be reached. Natural geology was not identified at this depth.			

5.4 Trench 4 (Plate 5; Figure 2)

5.4.1 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were encountered within Trench 4.

TRENCH 4	Figure 2	Plate 5
Trench Alignment: NW–SE	Length: 2m ²	Depth: 1.22m
Deposit	Context No.	Average Depth (m)
		Section 4
Paving	[100]	0.08m
Concrete	[101]	0.10m
Made Ground	[105]	0.14m
Concrete	[109]	0.16m
Made Ground	[110]	0.82m+
Summary		
<p>Trench 4 was located in the south-eastern corner of the Market Place.</p> <p>No archaeological features or deposits of significance were encountered in the trench.</p> <p>Two modern services were located in the trench and the presence of a tree also limited investigation in this area; a maximum depth of 1.22m could be reached and natural geology was not present at this depth.</p>		

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

- 6.1.1 A thick sequence of made ground deposits was present throughout the trenches investigated in the Market Place. This material was presumably deposited as ground raising and levelling material prior to the construction of the Market Place. The maximum excavated thickness of the made ground deposits was 1.50m in Trench 1 where the deposits were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.74m below present ground level. It was not possible to ascertain the full extent of these deposits in any trench due to health and safety considerations and the presence of a number of modern services and trees.
- 6.1.2 Trenches 1, 2 and 3 also contained thick layers of concrete, which had been used in the construction of the Market Place; this could not be removed in some areas as it was extremely robust.
- 6.1.3 The depth of the natural geology could not be determined due to the thick deposits of made ground as well as modern services.

6.2 Recommendations

- 6.2.1 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were present in any of the evaluation trenches excavated within the Market Place. It is possible that archaeological features may survive below the significant deposits of made ground. However, it is considered that if archaeological features were present below the ground raising deposits, these would not be affected by the limited impacts proposed for the new development within the Market Place.
- 6.2.2 Following consultation with the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer, it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological mitigation is necessary in association with the proposed redevelopment of the Market Place.

7. REFERENCES

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8. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS**

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PCA Credits

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APPENDIX 1
PLATES 1-5



Plate 1. Trench 1, looking north-east (*scales 2 and 1m*)



Plate 2. Trench 1, Section 1 (south-east facing section), looking north-west (*scale 2m*)



Plate 3. Trench 2, showing services, looking north-west (*scales 2m and 1m*)



Plate 4. Trench 3, showing electricity cable trench [112], looking north-east (*scale 1m*)



Plate 5. Trench 4, showing modern services, looking south-east (*scale 2m*)

**APPENDIX 2
CONTEXT INDEX**

Context	Cut	Type	Description	Category	Interpretation	Trench Number
100	-	Layer	Bricks in yellow sandy mortar	Paving	Modern Paving	1-4
101	-	Layer	Light blue grey concrete	Concrete	Modern Concrete	1-4
102	-	Layer	Loose orange gravel. Moderate CBM and moderate	Made Ground	Made Ground	2
103	-	Layer	Firm greyish brown clay. Moderate flint and brick and tile	Made Ground	Made Ground	1-2
104	-	Layer	Firm dark blackish grey clay. Moderate brick and tile.	Made Ground	Made Ground	1-2
105	-	Layer	Loose yellow gravel.	Made Ground	Made Ground	1, 4
106	-	Layer	Crushed brick, tile and mortar, reddish brown silt sand soil. infrequent charcoal	Made Ground	Made Ground	1
107	-	Layer	Firm dark brown silt clay. Common brick and tile	Made Ground	Made Ground	1, 3
108	-	Void	-	Void	Void	-
109	-	Layer	Grey concrete	Concrete	Concrete	4
110	-	Layer	Firm dark greyish brown silt clay. Common brick, tile, concrete and broken pipe	Made Ground	Made Ground	3, 4
111	112	Fill	Loose grey gravel	Modern service	Fill of [112]	4
112	112	Cut	Linear, steep, sharp, east to west aligned, flat based	Modern Service	Electricity cable trench	4
113	-	Layer	Firm greenish grey clay. Common stones, brick and tile	Made Ground	Made Ground	1

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