

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
ON LAND NEAR THORNHOPE FARM,
SLAGGYFORD,
NORTHUMBERLAND**

OCTOBER 2015



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

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ON LAND NEAR THORNHOPE FARM,
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NORTHUMBERLAND**

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**An Archaeological Watching Brief on Land Near
Thornhope Farm, Slaggyford, Northumberland**

National Grid Reference: NY 68603 51197

Site Code: TFS15

Commissioning Client:

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Newcastle upon Tyne
NE27 0LP**



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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in July-August 2015 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land near Thornhope Farm, Slaggyford, Northumberland. The work was commissioned by Northern Powergrid ahead of an underground fibre-optic cable installation and was required by Northumberland County Council Conservation Team. Prior to the work commencing, Northumberland Conservation issued a brief for the scheme of archaeological monitoring on the cable trench.
- 1.2 The site lies at central National Grid Reference NY 68603 51197, within the North Pennine Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The route of the cable trench crossed the line of the Maiden Way Roman road close to the old Alston branch railway line. The Maiden Way was a Roman Road which ran between the Brough/Penrith road at Kirby Thore and Carvoran Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall. The line of the Roman Road can still be observed running north-west to south-east across the field and is visible as a raised agger. The land is currently used for cattle and sheep grazing.
- 1.3 Groundworks for the fibre-optic installation involved mechanical excavation of an open trench across open pasture. The trench ran roughly north-west to south-east, starting from an electricity pole (NY 68615 51186), heading for a BT connection box approximately 350m to the west. The archaeological watching brief monitored the first 60m of the cable trench starting at the electricity pole and took into consideration the line of the Roman road, the angle of the proposed works and the potential that the actual location of the Maiden Way may differ from the line marked on the Ordnance Survey map along with the potential for associated remains.
- 1.4 The archaeological work involved monitoring the invasive groundworks and excavating and recording archaeological remains. The Roman road was located within the eastern part of the trench and comprised a low mound or agger constructed with a silty clay deposit, presumably excavated from roadside ditches which would have bounded the road, overlain by a stone surface. The road ran on roughly the same alignment as shown on the OS map (NNW to SSE). A sherd of post-medieval pot was recovered from the road surface. This evidence of the prolonged use of the road into the post-medieval period rather than material dating from its construction.
- 1.5 Two ditches were also observed; a ditch on the same alignment as the metalled road bounding its western side was most likely to be a roadside drainage ditch of Roman origin. The period of origin of a north-east to south-west aligned ditch recorded to the north-west of the roadside ditch is uncertain. No artefactual material was recovered from either feature.
- 1.6 This report outlines the background for the watching brief, the results of this scheme of archaeological works and the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 General Background

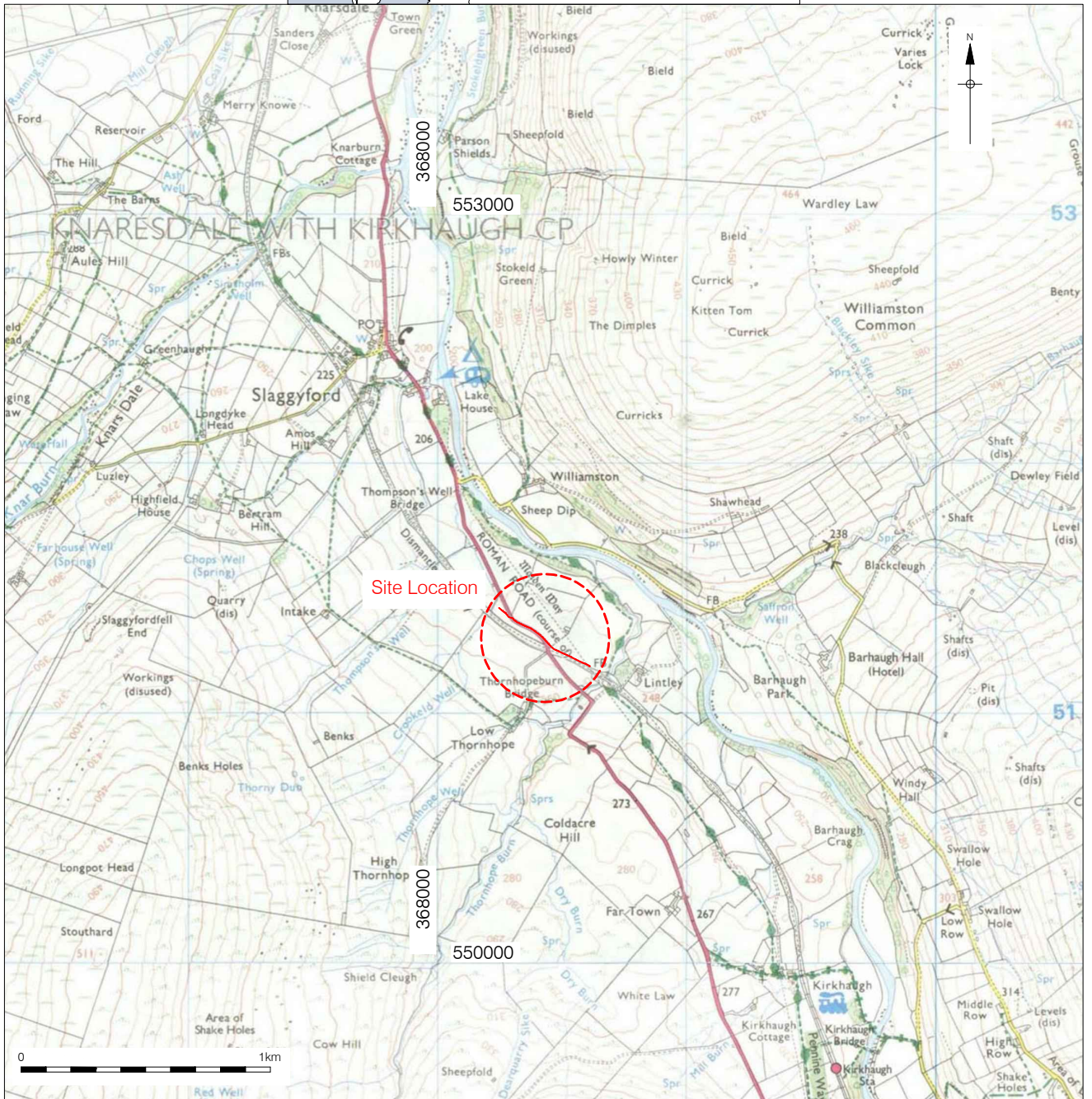
- 2.1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological monitoring and recording exercise (hereafter 'watching brief') undertaken in association with a fibre-optic cable installation across fields of pasture near Thornhope Farm, Slaggyford, Northumberland. The work was commissioned by Northern Powergrid and undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) in July-August 2015.
- 2.1.2 The site was of archeological interest because the course of a Roman road (the Maiden Way) crosses the site. The archaeological work was required by the Northumberland Conservation team (part of Northumberland County Council), which undertakes development control throughout the various districts of the county, in this case the North Pennines.
- 2.1.3 The trench ran roughly north-west to south-east, starting from an electricity pole (NY 68615 51186) towards a BT connection box approximately 350m to the west. The archaeological watching brief monitored the first 60m of the cable trench starting at the electricity pole and took into consideration the line of the Roman road, the angle of the proposed works and the potential that the actual location of the Maiden Way may differ from the line marked on the Ordnance Survey map along with the potential for associated remains.
- 2.1.4 The watching brief was carried out according to a brief issued by Northumberland Conservation (2015, reference T32/3; 22413). The work involved observation and recording during invasive groundworks for the cable installation.
- 2.1.5 The completed Site Archive, comprising written, drawn and photographic records, will be deposited at The Great North Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne. The site code is TFS15. The Online 'Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations' (OASIS) reference number for the project is: preconst1-223623.

2.2 Site Location and Description

- 2.2.1 The site (Figure 1) is located within the North Pennines, and designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The North Pennines is at the northern end of the Pennine ridge and forms a distinct area of upland moorland and dales, separated by the Tyne Gap from the uplands of the Border Moors. It is bordered to the west by the Eden Valley, to the north by the Tyne Valley, to the east by the Durham lowlands and to the south by the Yorkshire Dales (Natural England 2013).
- 2.2.2 The area comprises some of the highest and most exposed moorland summits in England with several major rivers, including the South Tyne, Wear and Tees, draining out to the north, east, and south-east. The area is a largely undisturbed landscape, with sheep and cattle rearing the predominant farming practice over the centuries (*ibid.*).
- 2.2.3 The geology of the North Pennines is internationally significant, being a designated UNESCO European and Global Geopark. The largely Carboniferous rocks with mineral veins have given rise to a long history of mining and quarrying. The Northern Pennine Orefield became world famous for its lead and other minerals such as zinc and iron ores, copper, fluorspar, barytes and witherite. The landscape retains much evidence of this mining, such as mine

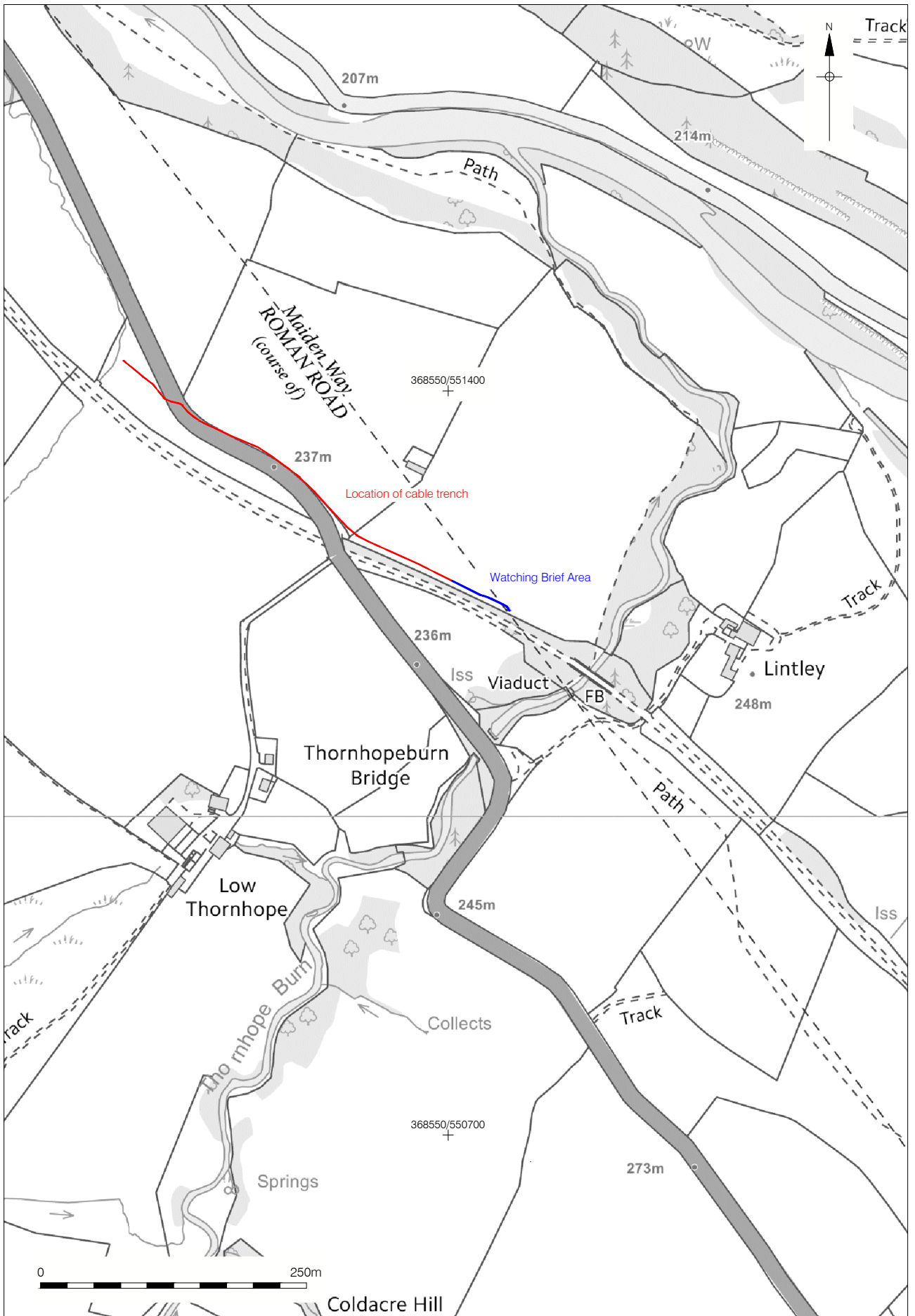
buildings, smelt mills, shafts, levels, and leats, while on the hillsides there are heaps of spoil and evidence of mineral extraction (Natural England 2013).

- 2.2.4 The site (NY 68603 51197; Figure 1 & 2) is located within Knarsdale approximately 1.5km south-east of the village of Slaggyford, along the A689, within a field of pasture. The site is bounded to the north by the South Tyne, to the east by the Thornhope Burn, to the south by the disused Alston Branch railway line and to the west by further fields of pasture. The cable trench was excavated from an electricity pole running westward approximately 350m to join with a BT connection box. Only the first 60m of the cable trench was monitored to observe the proposed route of the Maiden Way Roman Road (Figure 2).



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



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Figure 2
Location of cable trench showing watching brief area
1:5,000 at A4

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 The solid geology in the vicinity of the site is Alston Formation, a sedimentary bedrock comprised of a mixture of limestone, sandstone, siltstone and mudstone (data from the *British Geological Survey* website). The sedimentary bedrock was formed approximately 322 to 335 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period when the local environment was dominated by shallow carbonate seas. The superficial deposit was composed of Devensian-Diamcton Till formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period.
- 2.3.2 Peaty soils cover extensive areas of the higher grounds within the North Pennines while the soil within lower lying lands are comprised of slowly permeable loamy and clayey soils (Natural England 2013).
- 2.3.3 The site is located to the south of the River South Tyne, and to the west of the Thornhope Burn in a valley between Knaresdale Common and Williamston Common. The disused Alston Branch railway bounds the site to the south.
- 2.3.4 The nearest areas of habitation are Slaggyford village, 1.5km north-west, and the town of Alston 5.5km to the south-east. The elevation of the site ranges from 235.1m aOD in the west to 233.80m aOD in the east. Beyond the area of the archaeological watching brief the land slopes down to meet the South Tyne River in the north and the Thornhope Burn in the east.

2.4 Planning Background

- 2.4.1 At a national level, justification for archaeological work generally lies within planning guidance on the historic environment contained within Section 12 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (Department of Communities and Local Government 2012).
- 2.4.2 The proposed development had the potential to disturb important archaeological remains associated with the Maiden Way Roman road. Having considered the nature, extent, and location of the groundwork and the location of potential archaeological remains, the local planning authority, Northumberland Conservation, issued a brief (2015; appendix D) to ensure that the archaeological remains were not destroyed without being adequately recorded.

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

The majority of the information used for the following summary has been taken from the MAGIC and Keys to the Past- Northumberland's Historic Environment Record, as well as Northumberland Conservation's brief.

- 2.5.1 There is little prehistoric activity recorded around the area of Slaggyford and none in the immediate vicinity of the site. Within the moorlands of the North Pennines are well preserved remains of prehistoric settlement, ritual sites and features. Mesolithic hunters may have begun the process of woodland clearance, and Neolithic farmer-hunters and Bronze Age settlers extended the process which, combined with climate change, led to the formation of the moors and peat bogs. Bronze Age to Romano-British burial mounds, field systems and settlements within the moorland are evident within the wider area with examples such as Barningham Moor, Hope Moor, Bowes Moor and Cotherstone Moor.

- 2.5.2 In the Roman period, the area was an important part of the military frontier zone, and several roads crossed the uplands. The Maiden Way (HER ref. N5968) was a Roman road that ran between Brough/Penrith road at Kirby Thore, near Appleby, and Carvoran Roman Fort on Hadrian's Wall. The road is believed to have been constructed to facilitate lead and silver mining on Alston Moor (Frodsham 2011).
- 2.5.3 The course of the Maiden Way Roman road has been intermittently traced for approximately 11km between Kirkhaugh and Melmerby Fell in Cumbria as part of the National Mapping Programme Miner-Farmer Project (Oakey *et.al.* 2012 cited in Northumberland Conservation 2015). Aerial photographs and Lidar have revealed that the road survives in various states across its route. Approximately 2.7km south-east of the site the road approaches Whitley Castle Roman Fort (*Epiacum*; Scheduled Monument No. 13725). The section to the east of the fort survives as an earthwork agger mound with flanking parallel ditches. The Maiden Way over Hartleyburn Common and Glendue Fell is visible as a 4m wide agger with metalling visible through the turf in some areas and side ditches
- 2.5.4 A comprehensive survey compiled by Reginald Bainbridge in 1851 and published in 1855 describes the road in its entire length from north to south, including notes on the condition of its visible remains (Frodsham 2011). The road was believed to have been constructed with the aim of protecting the Roman mines within the area and for the transportation of the raw ore for smelting.
- 2.5.5 Archaeological fieldwork within the area has shown that the road remains in various states of disrepair. In 1965 Tullie House Museum excavated three sections across the line of the Roman road at Midgeholm Moss, north of Birdoswald Roman fort, Gilsland. The excavation uncovered a metalled road surface with kerb stones on the outer edges constructed on a pronounced clay agger with ditches on either side (Joyce 1965). Evidence of a later second layer of metalling was also observed.
- 2.5.6 North Pennines Archaeology excavated three trenches across the line of the road in 2011 to the south-east of Whitley Castle Roman fort and uncovered archaeological features in the form of a metalled road surface on the line of the Maiden Way. The evaluation revealed that there were different forms of road construction in different states of preservation. The road within Trench 2 had remains of an earth bank with a ditch running along the western edge. A stone delineated trackway of a later date was observed cutting through the bank and ditch (Mounsey 2011).
- 2.5.7 It is likely that the Maiden Way remained in use after the Roman period until at least the medieval period and perhaps up until the enclosure acts of the late 18th and early 19th century. To the east of Whitley Castle Roman Fort the agger mound is truncated by ridge and furrow earthworks and it can be assumed that the road had fallen out of use by this point. In other areas a post-medieval track is shown on the same alignment as the Roman road between Castle Nook and Holymire suggesting that parts of the road remained in use.
- 2.5.8 The Maiden Way is shown as a post-medieval unenclosed road in 1774 by Thomas Donald (Northumberland Conservation 2015). In 1851 the line of the road between Whitlow and the Gilderdale Burn was found to have all the stone robbed away with other sections between Whitlow and the Castle Nook farmstead surviving in better conditions.

2.5.9 The enclosure acts leading to the construction of the field boundaries rendered the course of the Maiden Way impassable with much of the stone being robbed out to construct the dry stone walls that are common within the area.

3. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project Aims

3.1.1 The broad aim of the project was to ensure that regionally important archaeological remains were not destroyed without first being adequately recorded. The main objectives of the watching brief to establish the presence/absence and state of preservation of the Maiden Way Roman road and record it where observed. 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 basic layout of the Roman road network in the region is well understood, although there are still gaps where the precise route is conjectural. In addition to the major roads, there would have been minor routeways, about which relatively little is known. Specific research objectives to be addressed by the project were formulated with reference to the main existing archaeological research framework, *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (NERRF, Petts & Gerrard 2006) which highlights the importance of research as a vital element of development led archaeological work.

3.2.2 The relevant key research priority for the Roman period in the NERRF research agenda and strategy is 'Rii. Roads and communication' which states that '*The Roman communication network in the region is only superficially understood and a greater understanding of its development is a priority*' and goes on to stress that '*There has been very little excavation of roads in general...*'.

3.2.3 After consulting NERRF, the research objectives of the archaeological project were:

- to precisely locate the Maiden Way Roman road within this vicinity;
- to identify and record all relevant construction methods for the Roman road, and those derived from any subsequent archaeological eras, including the presence or absence of roadside gullies, ditches or kerbs;
- to gather dating evidence for any archaeological remains.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken 30th July to 3rd August 2015. The work was undertaken in compliance with the relevant guidance document of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (CIfA 2014a). PCA is a CIfA-Registered Organisation. The brief for the archaeological monitoring was provided by Northumberland Conservation (2015).
- 4.1.2 Groundworks for the fibre-optic installation involved mechanical excavation of a trench across open pasture. The trench ran roughly north-west/south-east, starting from an electricity pole (NY 68615 51186) towards a BT connection box approximately 350m to the west. The archaeological watching brief monitored the first 60m of the cable trench starting at the electricity pole (Figure 2). The area observed measured 60m NW/SE and 0.58m wide. Where no archaeology was observed the trench was excavated to a depth of 900mm.
- 4.1.3 Any archaeological remains of possible significance exposed during groundworks were examined, cleaned, excavated and recorded, to an appropriate level and in accordance with the methodology set out in the CIfA guidelines and *Fieldwork Induction Manual. Operations Manual I* (PCA 2009).
- 4.1.4 During the archaeological work, a high priority was given to dating any archaeological remains. Therefore, all relevant artefacts and finds were retained.
- 4.1.5 Deposits were recorded using the PCA *pro forma* 'Context Recording Sheet'. A photographic record of the work was compiled. The area of investigation was located relative to the Ordnance Survey National Grid by appropriate means.

4.2 Post-excavation

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 15 archaeological contexts were defined (Appendix B). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, and phasing the stratigraphic data (Appendix A). A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described in Section 5.
- 4.2.2 A total of one sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered during the fieldwork. No suitable 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 the relevant CIfA publication (CIfA 2014b). The depositional requirements of the receiving body, in this case Great North Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne, will be met in full.

5. RESULTS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

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

5.1 Phase 1: Natural Sub-stratum

5.1.1 The basal deposit [110] exposed across the length and width of the trench consisted of firm, mid greyish brown silty clay. This was observed at a depth of 0.21m below present ground level at a height 233.89m aOD. The deposit is likely to represent the superficial geology of the area.

5.2 Phase 2: Maiden Way (Roman or later)

5.2.1 Phase 2 represents deposits associated with the Maiden Way Roman road. No dating evidence was recovered to corroborate this interpretation, which is based on the form of the overall structure and its location.

5.2.2 A layer [111] comprising firm, light bluish grey, silty clay with frequent to occasional sub-rounded sandstone cobbles (c. 100mm x 120mm x 200mm) with occasional flat slabs of sandstone (c. 100mm x 300mm x 400mm) was recorded towards the eastern end of the trench (Section 1, Figure 3). The deposit was 0.10m thick at its centre, thinning out at either side to form a mound. It was recorded at a depth of 0.30m below present ground level at a maximum height of 233.79m aOD. The deposit formed the road agger for the overlying metalled stone surface [109].

5.2.3 The cambered metalled road surface [109] consisted of compact sub-angular to sub-rounded sandstone cobbles within a matrix of firm, dark brownish grey, silty clay (Plates 1,2, & 3). The surface measured 5.70m wide and was exposed for a length of 0.58m within the limit of excavation, aligned NNW to SSE. It was a maximum of 0.21m thick, thinning out at either side. It was observed at a minimum depth of 0.12m below ground level at a maximum height of 234.12m aOD, dropping down to 233.67m aOD at the edge of the camber. A single sherd of post-medieval pot was recovered from the road surface. This is considered to be evidence of the prolonged use of the road into the post-medieval period rather than material dating from its construction.

5.2.4 The surface of the stone deposit as exposed within the trench was irregular and uneven, however it was not possible to determine if this represents a road make-up deposit, with an overlying surface no longer present, or if deposit [109] represents the stones that remained after robbing of the surface for the construction of dry stone walls in the surrounding area.

5.2.5 Ditch [108] ran parallel to road surface [109] along its western edge. The ditch was shallow, had a gradual break of slope at top and base and was slightly concave in profile. It measured 0.24m deep, 2.45m wide and was recorded for a distance of 0.60m within the limits of the trench. The top of the ditch lay at a depth of 0.15m below present ground level at a maximum height of 233.89m aOD with the base at 233.68m aOD.

5.2.6 Ditch [108] was filled by soft, mid brownish grey, silty clay [107]. No dateable artefactual material was recovered from this deposit, however, due to the fact the ditch runs parallel to

metalled surface [109] it is presumed to be contemporary and therefore Roman in date. The feature is interpreted as a roadside drainage ditch running along the western side of the road.

5.3 Phase 3: Undated

5.3.1 Ditch [106] was located to the west of ditch [108] and was orientated on a slightly different alignment, north-east to south-west. It measured 2.65m wide and 0.24m deep and was exposed for a distance of 0.60m within the limits of excavation. The ditch had a sharp break of slope at the top and base and steep sides with a concave base. The ditch lay 0.21m below present ground level at a maximum height of 233.89m aOD with the base at 233.71m aOD.

5.3.2 The primary fill of ditch [106] comprised soft, dark brownish grey, clayey silt [105], up to 0.24m thick. The upper fill [104], comprising firm, mid greyish brown clayey silt, was situated across the central part of the ditch and measured 0.95m wide and 40mm thick. No dating material was recovered from either fill. The ditch may have functioned as a boundary or field drainage ditch and is of unknown date.

5.4 Phase 4: Modern

5.4.1 Phase 4 is represented by modern activity, associated with drainage features.

5.4.2 Road surface [109] was truncated by the construction cut [114] for a field drain towards the centre of the road. This measured 0.40m wide and 0.45m deep and was orientated NNE–SSW. The ceramic drain [113] measured 80mm in diameter, and the trench was backfilled with a firm, light brownish grey, silty clay [112]. The drain pipe was recorded at a depth of 0.49m below present ground level at a height of 233.56m aOD.

5.4.3 Ditch [106] was truncated towards its eastern edge by a NNE–SSW aligned construction cut [103] for a field drain. The cut measured 0.25m wide and 0.26m deep and the ceramic drain [102] was 80mm in diameter. The backfill [101] comprise a firm, mid greyish brown, silty clay. The drain pipe was observed at a depth of 0.47m below ground level at a height of 233.87m aOD.

5.4.4 The upper deposit recorded across the extent of the trench, overlying the road surface, ditches and field drains, comprised soft, dark brownish grey, silty clay topsoil [100] up to 0.24m thick. The maximum height of the present ground level was 234.13m aOD sloping down to 233.85m aOD in the south-east.

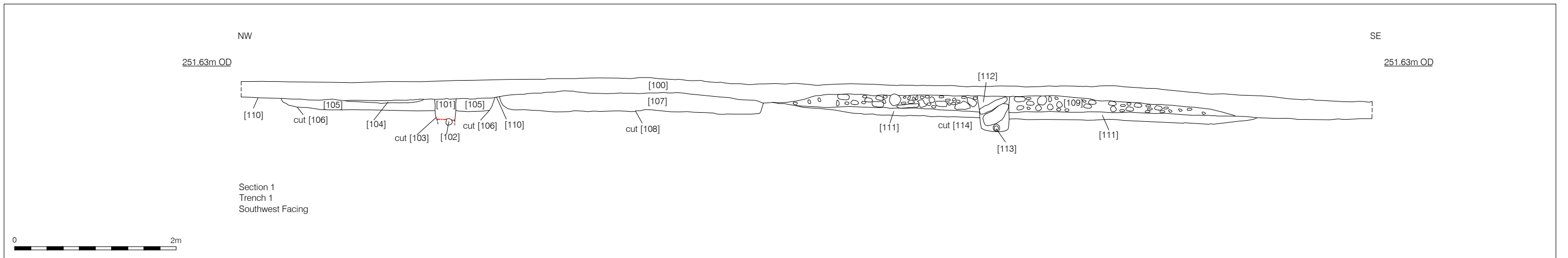
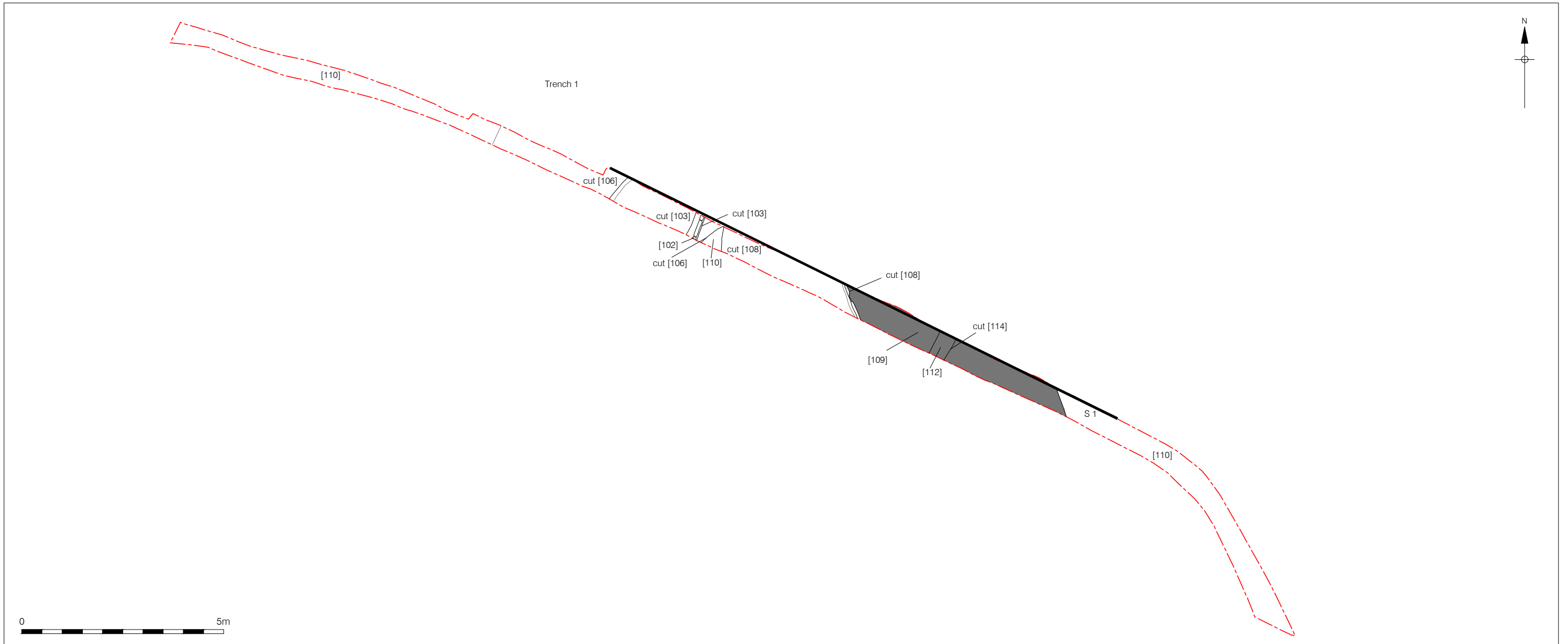


Figure 3
Plan and Section of watching brief area
Plan 1:100 and section 1:50 at A3

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

6.1.1 Geological and archaeological deposits encountered during the watching brief have been assigned to four phases of activity:

- Phase 1 represents the natural geology of the area, a silty clay deposit recorded within the base of the cable trench, at a minimum depth of c. 0.21m below ground level.
- Phase 2 comprised a silty clay deposit which formed the mound for an overlying cambered stone road surface. A ditch running along the western side of the road on the same alignment is interpreted as a contemporary roadside drainage ditch, and the excavation of this ditch would have provided the material for the mound upon which the road surface was constructed. No ditch was discovered on the eastern edge but this was probably due to the natural topography in this area; the sloping land down to the Thornhope burn making a drainage ditch unnecessary. Due to the location and construction techniques observed, these archaeological features are interpreted as the remains of the Maiden Way Roman Road with flanking drainage ditch. Three sections excavated across the Maiden Way to the north of Birdoswald fort, near Gilsland, revealed a similar construction; a clay agger overlain by a metalled road surface built with large cobbles and small cobbles edged by kerbstones (Joyce 1965). Evidence for a second layer of metalling was also uncovered in the Gilsland trenches and the road was flanked by ditches on either side. Three sections have also been excavated across the Maiden Way to the immediate south of Whitley Castle Roman fort, c. 3km to the south-east of the site (Mounsey 2011). The road within trench 1 was also of very similar construction to the road excavated during the watching brief. A 0.25m high raised mound of redeposited natural material was overlain by a substantial cambered stone road surface 5.80m wide and up to 0.20m thick. Although this surface was mainly constructed with flat sandstone fragments, around 25% of the stones were large and irregular and not particularly flat, resulting in an uneven surface similar to that recorded during the watching brief. Within trench 1, the road was flanked by a relatively shallow ditch along its western side, of similar proportions to the ditch in the watching brief. A slight feature on the eastern side was interpreted as the result of the road agger rather than a deliberately excavated roadside ditch, which would also have been unnecessary in this area due to the sloping topography.
- Phase 3 represents an undated ditch running on a north-east to south-west alignment to the north-west of the road. The period of origin of this drainage or field boundary ditch is uncertain.
- Phase 4 represents modern field drains and topsoil.

6.1.2 Despite the limited area of the watching brief, the work near Thornhope Farm, Slaggyford has provided important further knowledge of the Maiden Way Roman road in the North Pennines, Northumberland. Not only has the line of the road been firmly established at this particular

location, but further evidence of the techniques employed during construction have been recorded.

6.2 Recommendations

- 6.2.1 The remains of the Maiden Way are considered to be of archaeological significance at a local level. Therefore, it is recommended that a summary of the project findings relating to the Roman activity is prepared as a short article for *Archaeology in Northumberland*, the magazine produced annually by the County Council's Conservation Team to showcase the broad spectrum of archaeological work undertaken throughout the county.

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8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

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PCA would like to thank Northern Powergrid for commissioning the project herein described. The role of Karen Derham of Northumberland County Council's Conservation team is also acknowledged

PCA Credits

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Post-excavation Manager: Jennifer Proctor

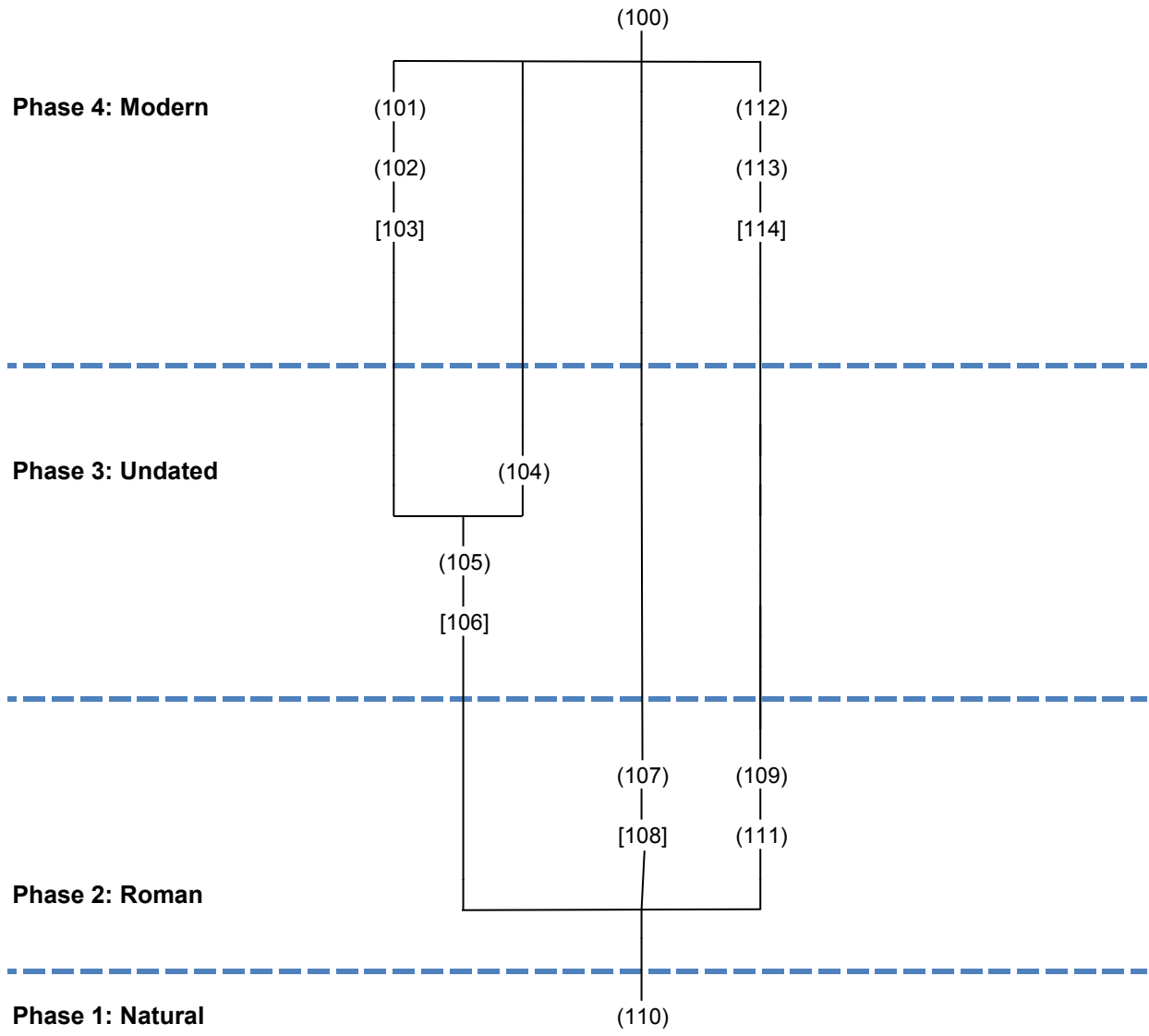
Fieldwork: Scott Vance (Supervisor), Danni Parker, Tanja Karlsen

Report: Scott Vance

Figures: Ray Murphy

APPENDIX A
STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX

TFS 15: Stratigraphic Matrix



APPENDIX B
CONTEXT INDEX

TFS 15: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Trench	Type 1	Type 2	Interpretation
100	n/a	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
101	n/a	Deposit	Fill	Fill of field drain [103]
102	n/a	Deposit	Pipe	Field drain in [103]
103	n/a	Cut	Linear	Field drain cut
104	n/a	Deposit	Fill	Fill of linear ditch [106]
105	n/a	Deposit	Fill	Fill of linear ditch [106]
106	n/a	Cut	Linear	Linear ditch cut
107	n/a	Deposit	Fill	Fill of ditch [108]
108	n/a	Cut	Linear	Cut of Ditch. Possible drainage ditch for [109]
109	n/a	Deposit	Structure	Road surface
110	n/a	Deposit	Layer	Geological Sub-Stratum
111	n/a	Deposit	Layer	Mound for road surface [109]
112	n/a	Deposit	Fill	Fill of field drain [114]
113	n/a	Deposit	Pipe	Field drain in [114]
114	n/a	Cut	Linear	Cut of field drain

**APPENDIX C
PLATES**



Plate 1. Maiden Way Roman Road [109]. Looking east-south-east. (2m scale)



Plate 2. Maiden Way Roman Road [109]. Looking south-south-east. (2m scale)



Plate 3. Slot through Maiden Way Roman Road [109]. Looking east. (2m scale)

APPENDIX D
BRIEF FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

PROPOSED UNDERGROUND CABLE NEAR THORNHOPE FARM, SLAGGYFORD, NORTHUMBERLAND

Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Northumberland Conservation has been directly consulted by Northern Powergrid concerning a proposed underground cable near Thornhope Farm, Slaggyford (Fig. 1). The proposed route crosses the line of the Maiden Way Roman road close to the old Alston branch line. The Maiden Way is a Roman road between the Brough/Penrith road at Kirkby Thore, near Appleby, and Carvoran Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall.
- 1.2 The course of the Maiden Way Roman road has been intermittently traced for approximately 11km between Kirkhaugh and Melmerby Fell (in Cumbria) as part of the National Mapping Programme Miner-Farmer project. Aerial photographs and LiDAR have revealed the road to survive in various states of repair between these two points. The section to the east of Whitley Castle is of particular note surviving as an earthwork agger mound with flanking parallel ditches. Some of this earthwork is overlain by ridge and furrow earthworks and it can be surmised that the road had fallen out of use at least by this medieval period. Elsewhere a post-medieval track is shown on the same alignment as the Roman road between Castle Nook and Holymire suggesting that parts of the road remained prominent, whilst part appears to have been levelled after 1971 at Castle Nook Farm. The line recorded in this work varies to the Ordnance Survey recorded line for the road¹.
- 1.3 Three trenches excavated across the line of the Roman road in 2011 revealed archaeological features in the form of metalled road surfaces on the line of the Maiden Way. The evaluation revealed that there were different forms of road construction in different states of preservation. The road in Trench 2 had the remains of an earth bank and large ditch on its western edge. Crossing the ditch and cutting through the bank was a stone delineated track way. No Roman material culture was recovered from the evaluation, all the finds being ascribed a post-medieval date, which may relate to the later re-use of the road².
- 1.4 Maiden Way over Hartleyburn Common and Glendue Fell is visible as a 4m wide agger with side ditches which are well-preserved at the north end as it runs up hill. Metalling/large stones are visible through the turf at that end, are less obvious near the highest point of Hartleyburn Common and are visible on the downslope to Glendue Burn. The Roman road can be seen terraced into hillside in places and is visible over Glendue Fell as far as the quarry³.
- 1.5 A watching brief was carried out by The Archaeological Practice in May 1997 during

¹ Oakey, M, Radford, S, & Knight, D, 2012. Alston Moor, North Pennines Miner-Farmer Landscapes of the North Pennines AONB NMP: Aerial Investigation and Mapping Report. Unpublished English Heritage Research Report Series 4/2012 (31-32)

² Mounsey, K, 2011. The Maiden Way Roman road, at Whitley Castle, Tynedale, Northumberland. NP Archaeology, report CP01413/11

³ Margery, I D, 1967. Roman Roads in Britain. (393)

the construction of four new stiles adjacent to the line of Maiden Way on Lambley Common. The stiles were positioned several metres away from the visible course of the road between grid references NY 668580 and NY 669568. The posts were driven into soft ground at a distance of between 2m and 4m from the east kerb of the Roman road. No features or artefacts of archaeological interest were exposed. This suggests the road is contained by its visible boundaries and the course of the present trackway represents the full extent of the Roman and post-Roman road. The road also does not appear to have been widened at a later date into a drove road. The stretch of road over Lambley Common is visible as a well raised agger about 4m wide and up to 0.5m high. As the road heads towards its junction with the A68 it survives as a slightly raised grassy strip⁴.

- 1.6 The Maiden Way is shown as a post-medieval open unenclosed road in 1774 by Thomas Donald, The line of the road between Whitlow and the Gilderdale Burn (the county boundary) in 1851 was found to have all the stone taken up and not visible. Between Whitlow and the Castle Nook farmsteads at the same date more survival is recorded⁵.
- 1.7 Archaeological fieldwork has therefore demonstrated that unless there is a visible raised agger showing the line of the Roman road, the actual location may vary from that shown on Ordnance Survey maps. As a result Northumberland Conservation has requested a continuous archaeological watching brief is carried out for a 60m length of the route, 40m to the west of the line of the Roman road and 20m to the east. This takes into consideration the line of the Roman road, the angle of the proposed works and the potential that the actual location of the Roman road may vary from the line marked on the OS map along with the potential for associated remains (shown in purple of fig 1).

1.8 Northumberland Conservation Charging Policy

- 1.8.1 Northumberland Conservation now operates a charging policy for archaeological advice to utility companies. Charges are calculated to recover the costs of staff time and travel associated with the preparation and monitoring of archaeological assessment and mitigation work.
- 1.8.2 The approval of reports and attendance at meetings (plus travel time) are charged at £50.40 per hour (incl. VAT). Travel to meetings and site visits is charged at £0.54 per mile (incl. VAT).

1.9 Purpose of the Brief

- 1.9.1 This brief constitutes Northumberland Conservation's justification for the investigation, its objectives and the strategy and procedures to apply to the programme of archaeological recording. **This brief does not constitute the required 'written scheme of investigation'.**

⁴ The Archaeological Practice, 1997. Lambley Common, Northumberland. Archaeological monitoring of stile construction adjacent to the line of the Maiden Way. Unpublished report

⁵ Went, D, & Ainsworth, S, 2013. 'Whitley Castle, Northumberland: An Analytical Survey of the Fort and its Setting', *Britannia* 44, 93-143 (126-127)

- 1.9.2 The brief is intended to establish the project parameters to enable an archaeological consultant or contractor to tender for the work. **Once commissioned to undertake the work the archaeological contractor must provide written confirmation that they will comply with the requirements of this brief prior to work commencing.**
- 1.9.3 The archaeological contractor will need to confirm if they intend to use digital or slide and print photography. Contact should be made with the relevant Archives (see sections 3.4 and 4.1) to discuss their requirements **prior to work commencing on site. Details of these requirements should be provided for approval.** *Contractors should therefore ensure that they have made provision for any associated fees as part of any required tender submissions or project costings.*

2 Method of work

- 2.1 **The purpose of this work is to ensure that important archaeological remains are not destroyed without first being adequately recorded.**
- 2.2 The proposed development has the potential to disturb important archaeological remains associated the Maiden Way Roman road. Having considered the nature, extent and location of the proposed groundwork and the location of potential archaeological remains, it is considered that in this case a watching brief is the appropriate archaeological response. The watching brief should cover the area highlighted in purple on figure 1. **Sufficient time must be provided for the archaeological contractor to excavate and record Roman road deposits and associated remains.**
- 2.3 Should the groundworks not exceed modern disturbance or equally should they exceed the depth at which archaeological remains are present, Northumberland Conservation should be contacted in order to establish whether the watching brief need continue in these specific areas.

2.4 General Standards

- 2.4.1 All work should be carried out in compliance with the Regional Statement of Good Practice⁶ and the codes of conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA)⁷ and should follow the IfA Standards for Watching Briefs⁸.
- 2.4.2 All staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles.
- 2.4.3 All staff must familiarise themselves with the archaeological background of the site, and the results of any previous work in the area, prior to the start of work on site. All staff must be aware of the work required under the specification, and must

⁶ Yorkshire, The Humber and the North-East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process (25 November 2009)

⁷ Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *By-Laws: Code of Conduct* (23 October 2008):

http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/code_conduct.pdf

⁸ Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (28 October 2008):

<http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/watch2.pdf>

understand the projects aims and methodologies.

2.4.4 Pre-site work preparation

- i) The archaeological contractor must provide written confirmation that they will comply with the requirements of this brief **prior** to work commencing.
- ii) **The archaeological contractor should note that the formulation of an appropriate environmental sampling strategy is a mandatory part of this project. Advice on such a strategy must be obtained from the English Heritage Scientific Advisor for North East England, Dr Jacqui Huntley, English Heritage Offices, Bessie Surtees' House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 3JF(Tel. 0191 269 1250 or Mobile (preferred contact): 077134 00387).**
- v) **The Great North Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and ADS (if digital photography is being used) should be contacted to discuss archiving prior to work commencing.**

2.4.5 Fieldwork

- i) This observation shall involve the systematic examination and accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and artefacts identified.
- ii) **If archaeological remains are uncovered, the archaeologist should be given the opportunity of excavating and recording the remains before they are destroyed.**
- iii) A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) should be made for all work, using pro forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings should be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate. Where skeletons are encountered, they should be recorded by photography and the use of pro forma skeleton recording sheets.
- iv) The area watched by the archaeologist should be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. All archaeological deposits and features and at the top and base of all groundworks must be recorded with an **above Ordnance Datum (aOD)** level.
- v) A photographic record of all contexts should be taken in colour transparency and black and white print and should include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs should be kept. **If the archaeological contractor would prefer to use digital photography as standard, the digital photographs will need to be submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) for long-term archive storage. ADS will need to be approached prior to the production of the Written Scheme of Investigation (see section 1.5.4) and the digital archiving details included in that document. Contact details can be provided by Northumberland Conservation on request.**
- vi) In the event of human burials being discovered, the archaeologist will procure and comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Burial Act 1857.
- vii) **Where any part of a human burial is disturbed, the whole burial must be archaeologically excavated.**
- viii) Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation must be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.
- ix) During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts must be stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this should include controlled storage, correct

packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material).

3 Contingency arrangements

3.1 In the event of the discovery of archaeological remains which are of a greater number or extent than anticipated, work will cease and Northumberland Conservation and a representative of the developer will be notified. An assessment will be made of the importance of the remains and any provision for their recording or preservation in situ as appropriate.

3.2 The contingency for this project has been set at up to 40 person-days.

3.3 In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens (of whatever period, date or function) are identified during the watching brief, provision should be made to collect at least one archaeo-magnetic date to be calculated from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwellings sites a minimum of one per building identified). Where applicable, samples to be collected from the site and processed by a suitably trained specialist for dating purposes. In the event that such deposits or structures are identified, the Conservation Team should be contacted to discuss the appropriate response. This specific aspect of the sampling strategy should also be discussed in advance with English Heritage as per 'General Standards' above.

3.4 Site monitoring and visits

3.4.1 The Assistant County Archaeologist dealing with this application must be informed on the start date and timetable for the watching brief in advance of work commencing.

3.4.2 Reasonable access to the site for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological scheme will be afforded to the Assistant County Archaeologist or his/her nominee at all times.

3.4.3 Regular communication between the archaeological contractor, the Assistant County Archaeologist and other interested parties must be maintained to ensure the project aims and objectives are achieved.

3.4.4 Northumberland Conservation has identified that 2 site visits may be required for the mitigation programme. This will be subject to Northumberland Conservation's charging policy.

3.4.5 Attendance at meetings (plus travel time) is charged at £50.40 per hour (incl. VAT). Travel to meetings and site visits is charged at £0.54 per mile (incl. VAT).

4 Post-excavation work and reporting

4.1 Finds

- 4.1.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds must be carried out in compliance with the IfA Guidelines for Finds Work⁹ and those set by UKIC.
- 4.1.2 The deposition and disposal of artefacts must be agreed with the legal owner and recipient museum **prior** to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides to retain artefacts adequate provision must be made for recording them. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer.
- 4.1.3 All retained artefacts must be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

4.2 Site Archive

- 4.2.1 Paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* clarifies that Local Planning Authorities should make evidence gathered as part of archaeological mitigation exercises, including any archive, publically accessible. Copies of the primary report should be deposited with the Historic Environment Record and the archive deposited with an agreed local museum.
- 4.2.2 Archiving work must be carried out in compliance with the IfA Guidelines for Archiving¹⁰.
- 4.2.3 The archive and the finds must be deposited in the Great North Museum, within **6 months** of completion of the post-excavation work and report.
- 4.2.4 Before the commencement of fieldwork, contact should be made with the landowners and with the Great North Museum to make the relevant arrangements. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer.
- 4.2.5 ***If the archaeological contractor would prefer to use digital photography as standard, the digital photographs will need to be submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) for long-term archive storage within 6 months of completion of the post-excavation work is and the report.***
- 4.2.6 **Northumberland Conservation will require confirmation that the archive had been submitted in a satisfactory form to the relevant depository.**

⁹ Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (28 October 2008):

<http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/Finds2008.pdf>

¹⁰ Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (October 2008):

<http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/Archives2009.pdf>

4.3 Report

4.3.1 The archaeological consultant or contractor must submit a copy of the report to their client and Northumberland Conservation within 2 months of completion of the work. The approval of reports is charged at £50.40 per hour (incl. VAT).

4.3.2 Northumberland Conservation requires one bound paper copy and one digital copy (in Word or PDF format) of the report.

4.3.3 Each page and paragraph should be numbered within the report and illustrations cross-referenced within the text.

4.3.4 The report should include as a minimum the following:

- i) Northumberland Conservation reference, OASIS reference number, Archive reference and an 8 figure grid reference
- ii) A summary statement of the results
- iii) A copy of this brief
- iv) A copy of the 'check-list' appended to this brief
- v) A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds
- vi) Above Ordnance Datum levels and levels below current ground level in the text
- vii) A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
- viii) A location plan of the extent of the watching brief within the site. This must be at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Historic Environment Record
- ix) Plans and sections of archaeology located at a recognisable planning scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate)
- x) Above Ordnance Datum (aOD) levels included on plans and sections
- xi) Both aOD levels and depth below current ground level to be included within the text
- xii) **Any variation to the above requirements should be approved by Northumberland Conservation prior to work being submitted**

4.4 OASIS

4.4.1 Northumberland Conservation and HER support the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork.

4.4.2 The archaeological consultant or contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://oasis.ac.uk/>. If the contractors are unfamiliar with OASIS, they are advised to contact Northumberland HER prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Northumberland HER will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website. **The archaeological consultant or contractor must indicate that they agree to this procedure within the specification/project design/written scheme of investigation submitted to Northumberland Conservation for approval**

4.5 Publication

- 4.5.1 A summary should be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted to Liz Williams, Northumberland HER Officer, by December of the year in which the work is completed.
- 4.5.2 A short report of the work should also be submitted to a local journal if appropriate and agreed with Northumberland Conservation. If publication is a requirement, the publication report will need to be approved by Northumberland Conservation.

5 Further Guidance

- 5.1 Any further guidance or queries regarding the provision of a specification should be directed to:

Karen Derham
Assistant County Archaeologist
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Tel: 01670 622655
Fax: 01670 533409
e-mail: karen.derham@northumberland.gov.uk

20 May 2015

Archaeological Watching Brief Report Check List

Site name:

Archaeological Contractor:

Check List	Contractor	Northumberland Conservation (NC)
Copy of report checklist		
Northumberland Conservation ref.		
OASIS ref.		
Confirmation that all OASIS sections completed incl. submission of grey literature		
Archive reference		
8 figure grid reference		
Results		
Summary statement of the results		
Table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds		
Plans and sections		
Location plan at scale of at least 1:10000		
Plans showing location of archaeological work at recognisable planning scale		
Plans showing location of archaeological work with reference to national grid		
Detailed plans and sections at recognisable planning scale		
Above Ordnance Datum levels and levels below current ground level in the text		
Above Ordnance Datum levels included on plans and sections		
Any variation approved by NC prior to work commencing		

Contractor checked:

NC Officer checked:

Date:

Date:

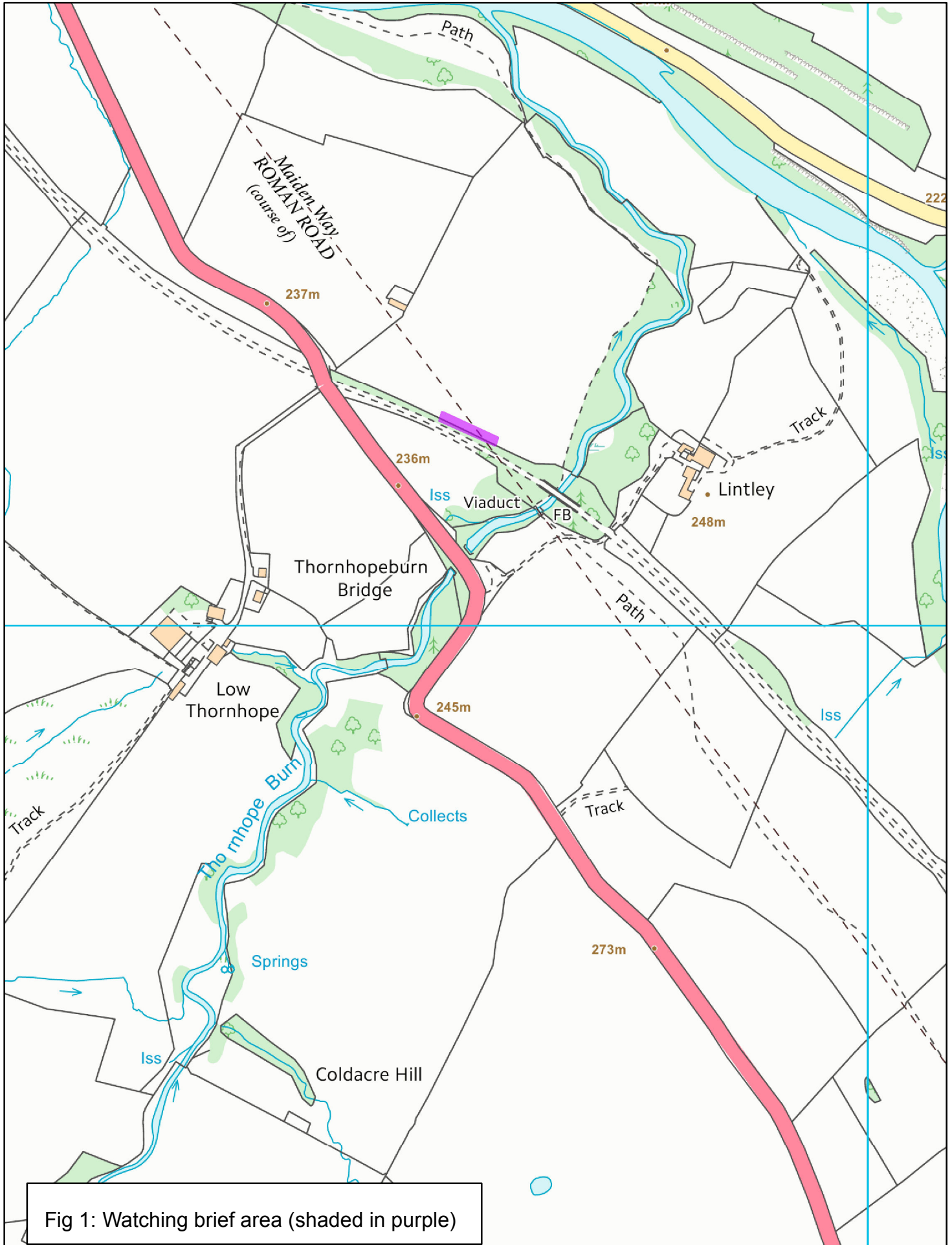


Fig 1: Watching brief area (shaded in purple)

Scale: 1:5,000
Date: 20/05/2015

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