

**GLEBE FARM, PALACE ROW,  
HART VILLAGE  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**April 2017**

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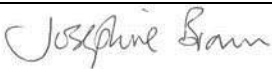

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

**DOCUMENT VERIFICATION**

**GLEBE FARM, PALACE ROW, HART VILLAGE,  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

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# **An Archaeological Evaluation at Glebe Farm, Palace Row, Hart Village**

**Central National Grid Reference: NZ 46577 34737**

**Site Code: GFH 17**

**Commissioning Client:  
NE Property Limited**

**Contractor:  
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## **1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in March 2017 by Pre-Construct Archaeology ahead of a proposed housing development at Glebe Farm, Palace Row, Hart Village. The work was commissioned by NE Property Limited as part of the planning process to inform the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Hartlepool Borough Council, of the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological remains at the site.
- 1.2 The site, centred at National Grid Reference NZ 46577 34737, is located c. 445m south-west of Hart Village, on the south side of Palace Row within agricultural land. The housing development is in a small paddock linked to Glebe Farm that comprises a roughly square-shaped area covering c.8442m<sup>2</sup>.
- 1.3 A condition of the planning process for the housing development required a programme of archaeological work to be undertaken prior to the commencement of development. An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site compiled in 2016 concluded that there was moderate potential for the prehistoric period, low to moderate in relation to Roman and early medieval activity, moderate potential for medieval remains, and high potential for post-medieval remains relating to Glebe Farm and associated agricultural features. Recent evaluation work to the east of Hart has confirmed the presence of an Anglo-Saxon settlement and burial activity which suggest a high potential for early medieval activity within the area.
- 1.4 A geophysical survey undertaken in August 2016 identified anomalies thought to relate to agricultural practise, modern material and geological/pedological variations.
- 1.5 The archaeological evaluation aimed to identify the archaeological potential of the site within the housing development area. Five machine-excavated trenches (Trenches 1-5), each measuring c. 10m x 1.5m, were investigated.
- 1.6 Natural geological material, of varying compositions of sands and clays was exposed in all trenches. This was in turn overlain by sub-soil.
- 1.7 One archaeological feature was recorded in Trench 5. This comprised a ditch of probable medieval date. A single sherd of pottery dating from the medieval period was recovered from the ditch. The form and infill of the feature indicates that it is likely to be a boundary ditch associated with agricultural use of the land. Topsoil formed the current ground surface.
- 1.8 The evaluation established that archaeological remains of low significance were situated in the area proposed for housing development.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Project Background**

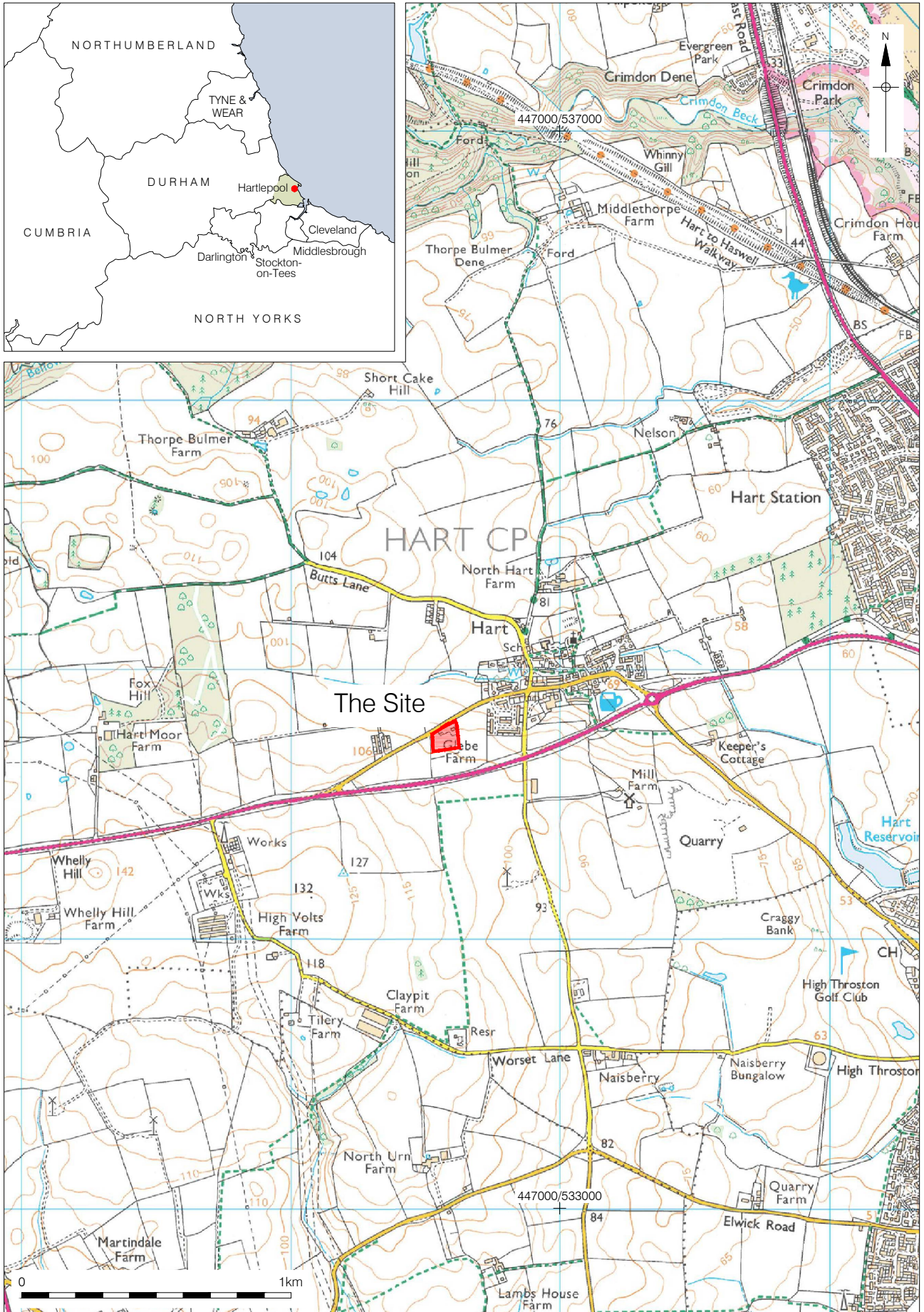
- 2.1.1 This report details the methodology and results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at Glebe Farm, Palace Row, Hart Village (Figure 1). The work was commissioned by NE Property Limited (the client) as part of a planning process for a housing development scheme.
- 2.1.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site and a geophysical survey was undertaken in 2016 (PCA 2016, Phase Site Investigation 2016). The survey revealed anomalies thought to relate to agriculture practice, modern material and geological/pedological variations.
- 2.1.3 The archaeological evaluation of the housing development area composed of trial trenching in order to identify the potential for archaeological remains within the area. Five mechanically-excavated trenches (Trenches 1-5), each measuring c. 10m x 1.50m at ground level were investigated (Figure 2).
- 2.1.4 The overall project was undertaken on the recommendation of Tees Archaeology who issued a brief for the work (Tees Archaeology 2017). A written scheme of investigation (WSI) compiled by Pre-Construct Archaeology was approved by Tees Archaeology prior work commencing (PCA 2017).
- 2.1.5 The **Online Access** to the **Index of Archaeological InvestigationS** (OASIS) reference number of the project is: preconst1-282365.

### **2.2 Site Location and Description**

- 2.2.1 The proposed development area is located 443m to the south-west of the centre of Hart Village at National Grid Reference NZ 46577 34737 (Figures 1-3). The site is bounded to the north by Palace Row road, and by fields of pasture to the east, south, and west.
- 2.2.2 The site itself occupies a roughly square-shaped parcel of land covering an area of 8442m<sup>2</sup> measuring a maximum of 65m north–south and 100m east–west. Glebe Farm is situated within the northern half of the site and comprises a brick bungalow in the east and a brick barn complex to the west. A number of outbuildings are also present within the farmstead; a single-storey structure opposite the bungalow to the north; a wooden panel building attached to the barn at the eastern gable and a corrugated iron structure on the western gable of the barn.
- 2.2.3 The southern section of the proposed development comprises a small paddock to the rear of the farmstead where all five trenches are located.
- 2.2.4 Land at the study site lies at approximately 95m AOD. The natural topography of the coastal plain area slopes down to c. 75m AOD to the east in Hart Village, dropping to

15m AOD within the dunes at Durham Coast National Nature Reserve c. 3.2km to the east. The land rises to 132m AOD at High Volts Farm c. 932m to the south-west. A watercourse flows eastwards c. 200m to the north of the study site.

- 2.2.5 The proposed scheme involves the development of a field of pasture to the south of Glebe Farm for the construction of nine two-storey residential properties with associated car parking and amenity space. The scheme has been designed to emulate a traditional farmstead arrangement, utilising linear plan buildings in compact groupings (Kane Architectural Services 2016).
- 2.2.6 The bungalow at the north-eastern end of the site is to be retained as well as the existing brick barn to the north-west. The barn is to be converted into a single dwelling with a new garage constructed to the north.
- 2.2.7 Vehicular and pedestrian access to the new properties will be gained off the existing access lane that borders the site to the north (Palace Row).



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017

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Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:2,000,000, 1:50,000 at A4



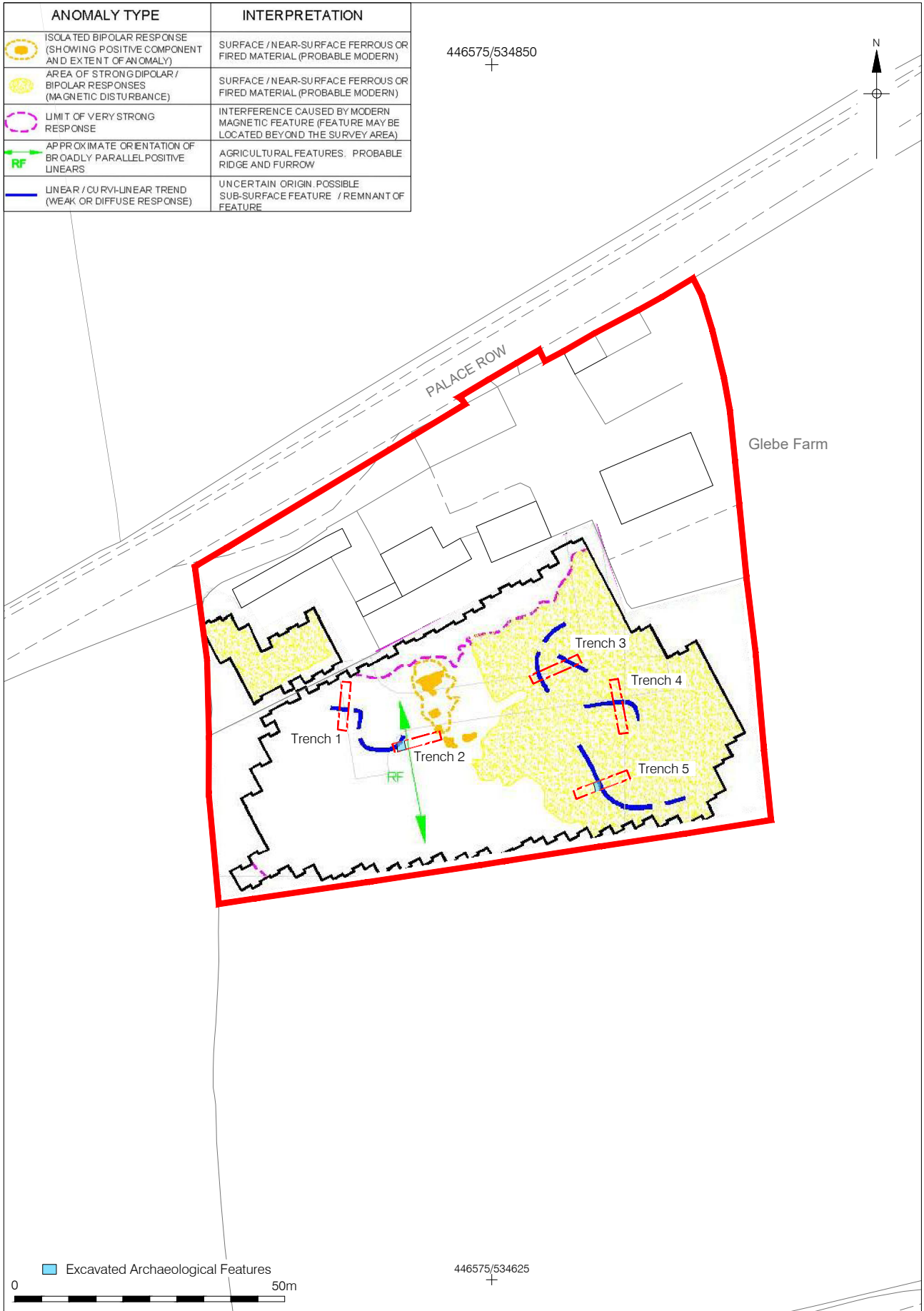


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Figure 2  
Trench Location  
1:1,250 at A4



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Figure 3  
Trench Location Plan overlain on Geophysical Survey  
1:1,000 at A4

## **2.3 Geology and Topography**

- 2.3.1 The bedrock geology of the area comprises Roker Formation Dolostone formed approximately 251 to 271 million years ago in the Permian Period. These rocks were formed in warm shallow seas with carbonate deposited on platform, shelf and slope areas; often rich in corals and shelly faunas (British Geological Survey website).
- 2.3.2 The superficial deposits within the development boundary are comprised of Devensian-Diamicton till formed up to two million years ago in the Quaternary Period. These deposits were formed in cold periods with Ice Age glaciers scouring the landscape and depositing moraines of till with outwash sand and gravel deposits from seasonal and post glacial meltwaters (ibid).

## **2.4 Planning Background**

- 2.4.1 The archaeological evaluation was carried out pre-determination of a planning application for residential development at Glebe Farm. The archaeological investigation was required, as part of the planning process, to inform the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Hartlepool Borough Council, of the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological remains at the site. The aim was to inform the LPA of the significance of the heritage assets affected by the proposed development (NPPF para 128).
- 2.4.2 Chapter 12 of the NPPF 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' describes, in paragraph 126, how LPAs should '*...set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment' and details, in paragraph 128, that 'In determining applications, LPAs should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum, the relevant [Historic Environment Record] HER should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, LPAs should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and where necessary [the results of] a field evaluation'.*
- 2.4.3 Tees Archaeology has responsibility for archaeological development control in relation to the historic environment. A brief for trial trenching at Glebe Farm was issued by Tees Archaeology in March 2017 (Tees Archaeology 2017), prior to work commencing on site. A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was compiled by Pre-Construct Archaeology and submitted to and approved by the Planning Archaeologist at Tees Archaeology in March 2017 before work commenced (PCA 2017).

## **2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background**

### **Prehistoric**

- 2.5.1 Several archaeological features were excavated approximately 340m to the north-east of the proposed development during evaluation trenching along the proposed route of a sewer main for Northumbria Water (ASDU 1995 & 1996). The features identified included slots and trenches for wooden structures as well as ditched boundary features. Although no pottery was recovered from the site, it is likely that some of the features may represent prehistoric activity as suggested by two worked flints recovered during the work.
- 2.5.2 Four conjoining sherds of Early Bronze Age pottery of a thick, coarse fabric were recovered from excavation in Hart Village in 1971 c. 720m to the north-east of the study site. The sherds of pottery contained a large quantity of miscellaneous grits and were decorated with alternate lines of fingernail marks (Austin & Thoms 1974).
- 2.5.3 An Iron Age beehive quern has been noted c. 525m to the north-east within Hart Village. The top stone of the quern has been reused within the masonry of the front garden wall of White Cottage. The stone is not completely drilled through suggesting that it is unfinished.
- 2.5.4 Three findspots of worked flint are also listed on the HER within the wider search area; a worked flint found during fieldwalking c. 910m to the east of the proposed development a core c. 915m to the east and a worked flint in Hart Field 28 c. 680m to the south-east.

### **Roman**

- 2.5.5 One sherd of abraded Samian dish or bowl was recovered during excavations at Hart in 1971, c. 720m to the north-east of the study site.

### **Early Medieval**

- 2.5.6 Several linear features were detected during a geomagnetic survey in 2015 (ASDU 2015a), c. 820m to the north-east of the proposed development. The features were subject to trial trenching later in the same year (ASDU 2015b). The trial trenching confirmed an archaeological origin for the features which included a former watercourse and various ditches and gullies. One broad ditch towards the east of the site was associated with a number of human burials. The cut features were rich in organic deposits (particularly the former watercourse) with animal and fish bone well preserved along with environmental material including charred seaweed. The cereal grains from the site (bread wheat, oats and barley) along with the seaweed are typical of early medieval settlement sites (ASDU 2015b).
- 2.5.7 One of the human burials recorded during the 2015 trial trenching (ASDU 2015b) was east-west facing. The grave contained the partial remains of a non-adult skeleton and

the partial co-mingled remains of at least one other individual. Grave goods were limited to two iron nails and several animal bones. Towards the centre of the trench was a linear feature cut by a circular grave containing a non-adult skeleton. The western edge of the linear feature was cut by two further circular graves containing the remains of non-adults. A total of 50 unstratified human bones were recovered from the spoil heaps that were likely derived from the identified graves during the initial machine excavation. The graves are thought to date to the early medieval period given the orientation of one of the graves and the inclusion of small quartz pebbles in several of the grave fills.

- 2.5.8 Excavation around the site of Hart Manor, c. 565m to the north-east of the proposed development revealed features that may have been a precursor to the medieval manor house. The earliest phase consisted of gullies, post-holes, trenches and pits of timber buildings and enclosures that were ceramically dated to the 10th and 11th centuries.
- 2.5.9 An incomplete ninth century AD crosshead was ploughed up in 1967 at the east end of Hart Village at the 'Old Kirk Field', c. 855m to the east of the study site. The crosshead comprises the lower arm, centre piece and one horizontal arm. The face of the cross has fine edge moulding and in the centre, is a carved lamb facing to the right with its head turned back. To the right of the lamb is a crouched creature with a feline-like head and three pairs of wings that is clasping a book between its paws. Beneath the lamb is a frontal figure that appears to have horns. All three figures have halos. Due to the design of the sculptures and the use of symbolism, the piece is dated to the second quarter of the ninth century AD (Cramp 1984).
- 2.5.10 Old Kirk/Kirkfield as a name is derived from the Scandinavian for a church, 'Kirk'; this could mean that a church had previously stood in the field or that the field belonged to the church or the income from the field belonged to the church (Daniels 2012, 24). A geophysical survey was undertaken in this area in an attempt to determine if traces of activity that might include timber buildings such as a church and associated graves could be identified (ASDU 2012). The survey did not conclusively identify any features of possible early medieval date but a number of curving ditches, a possible enclosure that may have defined the area of a churchyard or a manorial complex and features which may be the remains of ditches or wall trenches for buildings were detected (ASDU 2012; Daniels 2012, 24).
- 2.5.11 A fragment of Anglo-Saxon brooch was found c. 945m to the north-east of the proposed development in a field east of Hart Village. The fragment appears to have been burnt. It is postulated that the burning could have occurred during cremation, although as yet no evidence has been discovered to confirm this (Daniels 2012, 23).
- 2.5.12 Two Anglo-Saxon silver coins were also noted, although their precise locations are unknown, they may have come from the same field to the east of Hart. One is a coin

of Alhred dating to the eighth century AD, the other of Athelred II, second reign, AD 844–862.

- 2.5.13 Documentary evidence suggests that Hart was the administrative centre of a large royal early medieval estate from at least the seventh century (Daniels 2012, 10). As centre of an estate, a settlement of some size must have existed at Hart and this would certainly have contained the residence of a noble of some standing, administering or holding the land on behalf of the Northumbrian royal family (*ibid.*). The present church of St. Mary Magdalene is considered to be Norman in date; the foundation charter of Gisborough Priory (c. 1119 AD) demonstrates that there was a church at Hart at this time and it seems plausible that it was the present one (Ryder 1997; Daniels 2012). However, the church does contain several fragments of Anglo-Saxon sculptured stone dating from the eighth, late ninth to early tenth, mid tenth and eleventh centuries, suggesting that there was a church at Hart prior to the Norman Conquest (Cramp 1984, 93–97; Daniels 2012).
- 2.5.14 Recent evaluation work to the east of Hart has confirmed the presence of Anglo-Saxon settlement and burial activity (Events 1139 and 1140 cited in Tees Archaeology 2017, 1).

### **Medieval**

- 2.5.15 The Grade I Listed building of St. Mary Magdalene's Church (List entry 432125) lies c. 590m to the north-east of the proposed development. The church consists of a nave with a two-bay north aisle and a four-bay south aisle with porch. There is a short chancel and a west tower. The nave of the church is traditionally thought to be pre-conquest although Ryder (1997), in the most recent re-assessment, suggests it may be early Norman. The remainder of the church is of 12th, 13th, and 15th centuries with additions and rebuildings c.1600 & 1806 (V.C.H 1906).
- 2.5.16 Situated 50m west of St Mary Magdalene's Church is the Scheduled Monument known as the Great House which includes the buried and fragmentary upstanding remains of a manorial complex of late Saxon and medieval date (List Entry 1018945). The complex was owned from the 12th to the 16th centuries by the de Brus and Clifford Lords. Excavation of the site in 1965-7 and 1972-3 revealed the site plan and an enclosure ditch surrounding the complex was excavated and found to be 2.5m wide and 0.9m deep with timber uprights. A gold ring was recovered in one of the pits during the 1966 excavations. The ring is dated by its style to the second half of the 14th century. Further excavations slightly to the west of the Manor at Hart Primary School revealed further evidence of medieval activity in the form of traces of wall recovered in the trench closest to the manor complex. Few other remains were recovered from this phase of excavation

- 2.5.17 The associated fishponds, situated in the field immediately to the north of the Manor House are also scheduled and are visible as two ponds with a central linking leat. The eastern pond is visible as a prominent rectangular depression 55m long by 25m wide and varying between 2m to 3m deep. The pond is fed by a leat immediately to the west. The leat is 55m long by 15m wide and a maximum of 2m deep. At the western end of the leat is a second, and most westerly pond. This is now infilled and is visible as a slight waterlogged depression in the school playing field. Traces of a watercourse have been noted in satellite imagery two fields to the east of the Hart fishponds. The watercourse runs in an east-north-east direction from the east of the fishponds.
- 2.5.18 The medieval core of Hart is located to the south of St. Mary Magdalene's church, c. 720m east of the proposed development area. Three more rows of medieval occupation have been identified to the east of Hart Village Centre. Two are on either side of the Hart Beck and one lies on the south side of the main street.
- 2.5.19 Rescue excavation and survey were conducted in the medieval core of Hart by the University of Durham in 1971 (Austin & Thoms 1974), c. 715m north-east of the proposed development. Earthworks were noted to the field east of the church and north of the stream that flows through the village. The survey observed clear toft boundaries, a trackway, a double bank and a ditch of a field system to the north. The pattern showed a regular row of tofts with an axis consistent with the direction of the main road, the stream, and the orientation of the church. One of the houses was excavated and was dated to the mid-14th century to the end of the 15th century by the toft banks and range of occupational material. The regular row structure within this section of the village, and the differing layout to the rest of Hart may represent a deliberately planned expansion during the mid-14th century.

### **Post-Medieval**

- 2.5.20 Home Farm dates from the late 17th century and is Grade II listed. The farmstead is located c. 430m to the east of the proposed development and lies on the southern side of Front Street in Hart Village. The main house is rendered and has two storeys and a bay on either side of the door. Two barns lie to the rear of the farm; a two-storey 18th-century granary built of uncoursed limestone rubble with stone quoining and stone sills and a mid-late 18th-century barn built from roughly coursed Magnesian limestone blocks with edging quoins and a replaced pantile roof.
- 2.5.21 Hart Farm lies adjacent to Home Farm on the Front Street of Hart Village. It consists of a large two-storey farmhouse with one and a half-storey farm cottage adjoining its western extent. The house has two bays with four asymmetrical windows. There are

a range of outbuildings in a courtyard arrangement to the rear. The buildings are thought to be at least 18th century in date and may have earlier origins.

- 2.5.22 An evaluation was undertaken in 1993 prior to development on land 100m east of Hart Farm within an L-shaped field that contained earthwork banks and a holloway leading from the centre of the village to the windmill 500m to the south. The evaluation consisted of five trenches that exposed evidence of ridge and furrow and a yard surface.
- 2.5.23 Seven 18th-century structures are recorded within the 1km search radius. These include; a series of mortar and stone floor surfaces at Hart Primary School c. 500m to the north-east; the Grade II listed Voltigeur Cottage c. 575m to the north-east, a stable block c. 615m to the north-east; two barn complexes c. 635m and 350m to the north-east; a bridge c. 905m to the east and a vicarage c. 430m north-east of the proposed development.
- 2.5.24 The 1841 Tithe map of Hart Township shows the area of the proposed development labelled as No. 27 in a field labelled as Glebe. The word Glebe is a middle English term that derives from the Latin gleba/glaeba that means clod, land or soil. In church traditions, a glebe refers to land belonging to a benefice (a reward received in exchange for services rendered and as a retainer for future services) and by default to its incumbent (the parochial charge). Therefore, the glebe is land which was assigned to support the priest (Coredon 2007, 140). Further evidence for a link with the church is seen in the pink hue used to mark out the perimeter of Field 27; the same colour is used to mark out the perimeter of Meadow Vicarial Glebe, the site of the vicarage to the north-east, and the site of St Mary Magdalene church slightly to the north of Hart village centre.
- 2.5.25 To the north of Field 27 is a road leading into Hart, while the site itself is surrounded by agricultural fields.
- 2.5.26 The Ordnance Survey of 1861 shows the proposed development site as a long strip field with further fields to the east and west. The field is no longer labelled as Glebe and no structures are evident at the site.
- 2.5.27 The Ordnance Survey of 1898 shows a farmstead at the north-eastern corner of the proposed development site. The farm is labelled as Glebe Farm and is shown as an irregular C-shaped range forming a courtyard open to the north-east, with a further small structure adjacent to the north east as well. The 1871, 1881 and 1891 censuses list a farmer living at Glebe Cottage/Glebe Farm, Hart, indicating a construction date in the 1860s. The long strip field has also been subdivided with a new paddock being created to the south of the farmstead.



## **Modern**

- 2.5.28 The Ordnance Survey of 1923 shows additional small structures to the west of the courtyard, including the brick barn that is still currently standing at the site. A well is also noted within the proposed development area just to the south of Glebe Farm.
- 2.5.29 The Ordnance Survey of 1947 & 1953 show no further changes to the proposed development area.
- 2.5.30 Within the Ordnance Survey of 1961 the layout has changed slightly and another building has been constructed to the west. By the time of the Ordnance Survey of 1985, many of the original courtyard buildings have been demolished and replaced.
- 2.5.31 A geophysical survey of the proposed development site comprising a magnetic gradient survey was undertaken on August 12 2016. The anomalies identified by this survey were thought to relate to agricultural practice (including ridge and furrow), modern material or geological/pedological variations. There were several anomalies of uncertain origin, but there was no clear evidence in the magnetic data for archaeological features or activity

### **3. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Project Aims**

3.1.1 A brief for archaeological work was issued by Tees Archaeology (2017). The primary aim of the programme of works was to determine the absence/presence of archaeological features at the site. The work aimed to attempt to define the presence, character, date and extent of any structures or archaeological deposits, particularly those of prehistoric or Anglo-Saxon date. The results are to be used to inform decisions regarding further archaeological mitigation measures that may be required at the site prior to the proposed development.

#### **3.2 Research Objectives**

3.2.1 Archaeological work at Glebe Farm provides potential opportunities to address key research objectives as set out in Shared Visions: The North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF) (Petts & Gerrard 2006). The NERRF 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 so that all elements of commercial archaeological work can be related to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment.

3.2.2 The NERRF Research Strategy for the Bronze Age and Iron Age has identified five Key Research Themes which address a range of archaeological topics. As the site is situated within a landscape that was evidently relatively densely settled during the later Iron Age, the work has the potential to provide a contribution to all of these Key Research Themes:

- li. Chronology;
- lii. Changing landscapes;
- liii. Settlement function;
- liv. Social organisation and identity;
- Iv. Material culture.

3.2.3 Furthermore, the archaeological evaluation could also contribute to research agendas relating to the early medieval period:

- Emi. Landscape;
- EMii. Settlement;
- EMiii. Architecture;
- EMv. Trade and economy;
- EMvi. Christianity;

EMvii. Death and burial;

EMviii. The impact of the Vikings.

## **4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Trial Trenching Evaluation**

- 4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken in compliance with the codes and practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a) and will follow the relevant CIfA standard and guidance document (CIfA 2014b). PCA is a CIfA 'Registered Organisation'. All fieldwork and post-excavation work was also carried out in accordance with the *Yorkshire, the Humber & The North East: Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process*.
- 4.1.2 The project was managed in line with the principles set out in Historic England's '*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*' (MoRPHE) published in 2006.
- 4.1.3 The work was carried out between 27th-30th March 2017. A total of 5 trenches were set-out using a Leica Viva Smart Rover Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), with pre-programmed co-ordinate data determined by an office-based CAD operative. The trenches measured c.10m x 1.5m at ground level and were positioned to investigate geophysical anomalies of potential archaeological origin (Figure 3).
- 4.1.4 Ground level in the trenches was reduced using a tracked mechanical JCB utilising a wide blade, toothless ditching bucket. Successive spits of no more than 100mm depth were removed until either the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the natural geological sub-stratum was reached. All ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision.
- 4.1.5 The investigation of archaeological levels was by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section, where appropriate. Investigations within the trenches followed the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and were conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the field manual of PCA (PCA 2009) and the Museum of London *Site Manual* (Museum of London 1994).
- 4.1.6 Deposits and cut features were individually recorded on the *pro-forma* 'Trench Recording Sheet' and 'Context Recording Sheet'. All site records were marked with the unique-number 'Site Code' (GFH 17). All archaeological features were excavated by hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard 'single context recording' methods. The height of all principal strata and features was calculated in metres above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) and indicated on appropriate plans and sections.

4.1.7 A detailed photographic record of the evaluation was prepared using SLR cameras (35mm film black and white prints for archive purposes) and by digital photography. All detailed photographs included a legible graduated metric scale. The photographic record illustrated both in detail and general context archaeological exposures and specific features in all trenches.

## **4.2 Post Excavation**

4.2.1 The stratigraphic data generated by the evaluation is represented by the written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 19 archaeological contexts were defined in the 5 trenches (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 of this report.

4.2.2 During the evaluation, a single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered. No other artefactual or ecofactual material was recovered from the evaluation trenches.

4.2.3 The palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy of the project was to recover bulk samples where appropriate, from well-dated (where possible) 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. Sample (<1>) was taken from a silty sand deposit interpreted as potential geology, at the time of compiling the report, the sample had yet to be analysed.

4.2.4 The complete Site Archive (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation) 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 most recent ClfA publication relating to archiving (ClfA 2014b). The depositional requirements of the body to which the Site Archive will be ultimately transferred will be met in full.

4.2.5 At the time of writing, the Site Archive was housed at the Northern Office of PCA, Unit N19a Tursdale Business Park, Durham, DH6 5PG. When complete, the Site Archive will be deposited with Tees Archaeology at Sir William Gray House, Clarence Road, Hartlepool, TS24 8BT under the site code GFH 17. The Site Archive will be organised as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in the county. A completed transfer of title deed will accompany the Site Archive on deposition.

## **5. EVALUATION 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 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. A selection of plates can be found within Appendix C.*

### **5.1 Phase 1.1: Natural Sub-stratum**

5.1.1 Phase 1.1 represents natural geological material which comprised varying compositions of sands and clays. It was recorded at a highest level of 99.52m AOD within the western end of Trench 2, at a depth of 0.40m below ground level. The level of the natural geological sub-stratum sloped across the site and at the lowest point was observed at a depth of 0.88m below ground level at a height of 97.32m AOD in the eastern end of Trench 3.

5.1.2 In Trenches 1, 3 and 4, no archaeological features were observed; the natural sub-stratum was directly overlain by sub-soil (Figure 4, Plates 1 - 3).

### **5.2 Phase 1.2: Undated, Natural Geological Feature?**

5.2.1 Phase 1.2 is represented by a possible geological feature [204] recorded within Trench 2 (Figure 5). The feature was orientated roughly north-south and was located at the west end of the trench. It had a sharp break of slope at top, shallow concave sides, imperceptible break of slope at the base and a shallow concave base (Plate 4). The western edge of the feature was heavily disturbed by animal burrowing. The feature was visible for 1.58m to the limit of excavation and was 1.70m wide and 0.27m deep. It contained a single fill which comprised soft mid brown silty sand [203] (sample <1> was taken from this deposit). No datable material was recovered from the fill. Due to the form and infill of the feature, the preferred interpretation is that this represents a natural geological feature.

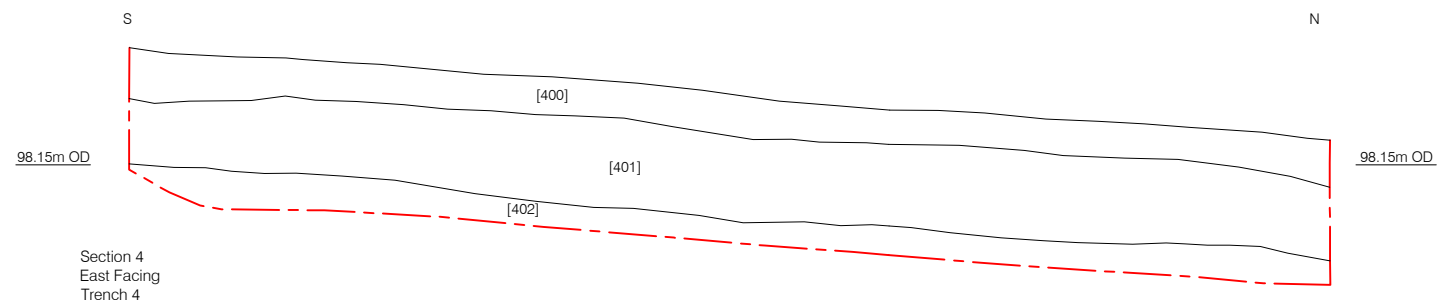
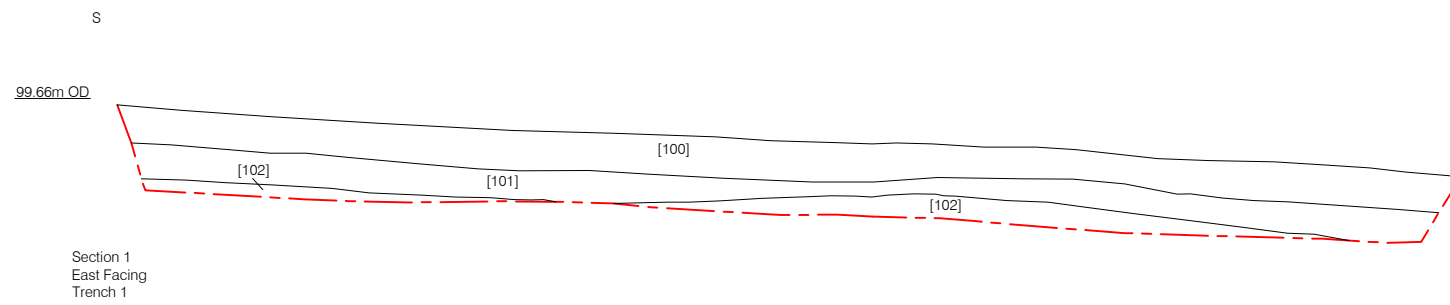
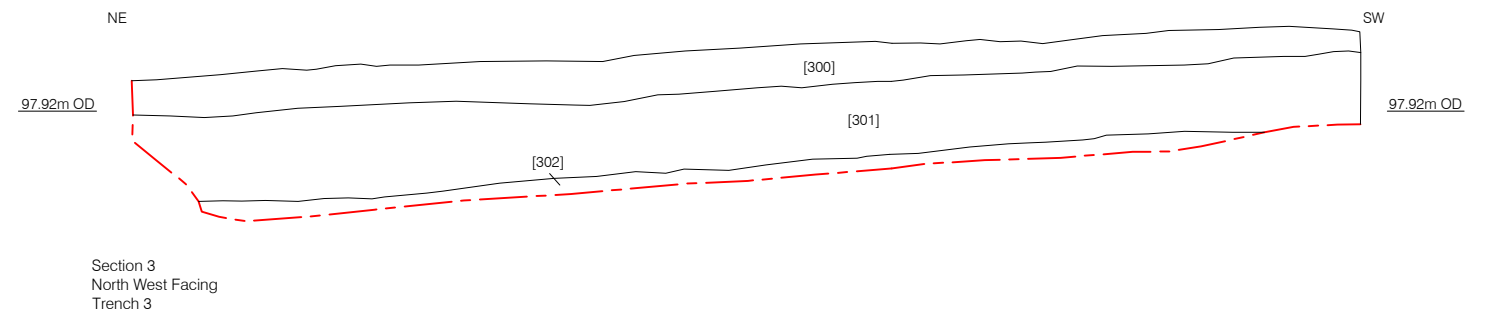
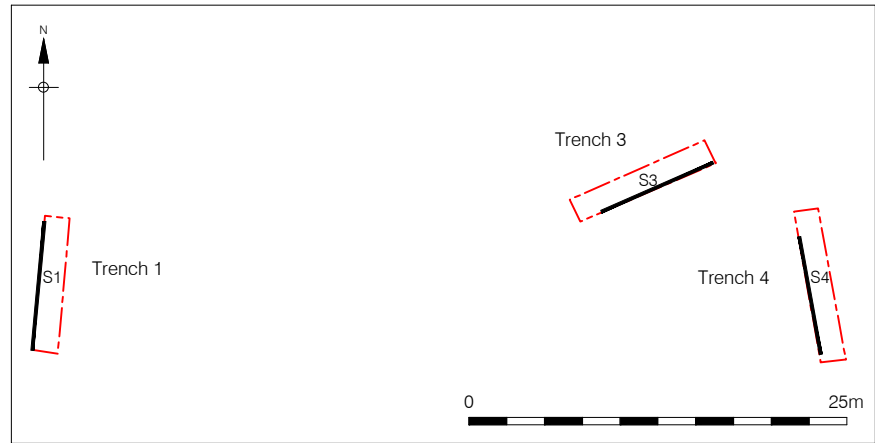
### **5.3 Phase 2: Medieval**

5.3.1 Phase 2 is represented by a shallow ditch [504] observed within Trench 5 (Figure 5). The ditch was orientated roughly north-south and was located near to the west end of the trench. It had a sharp break of slope at the top, shallow sides, a gradual break of slope at the base and a shallow concave base (Plate 5). The feature was recorded for a distance of 1.55m to the limit of excavation and was 1.16m wide and 0.15m deep and was recorded at a maximum height of 98.88m AOD.. It contained a single fill which comprised compact mid brown grey sandy silt with frequent small angular stones and occasional charcoal flecks. A single sherd of pottery, likely dating to the medieval period, was recovered from the fill. The form and the infill of the feature indicates that it is likely to be a medieval boundary ditch associated with the agricultural use of the land.

5.3.2 A subsoil which comprised friable mid brown clayey silt with occasional small sub-rounded stones measuring <300mm was observed in all five Trenches. It was recorded at a highest level of 99.61m AOD, 0.34m below ground level in Trench 2 and the lowest point was observed at a depth of 0.30m below ground level at a height of 97.76m AOD in Trench 3.

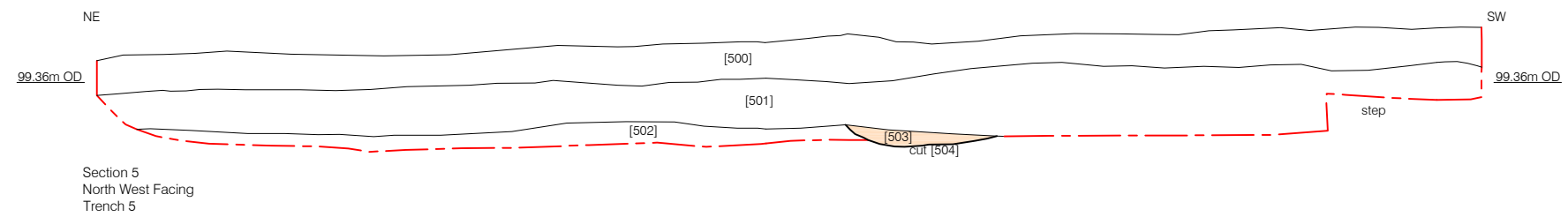
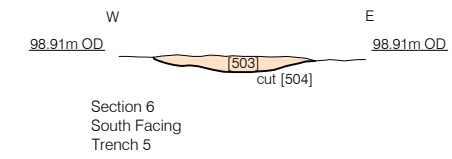
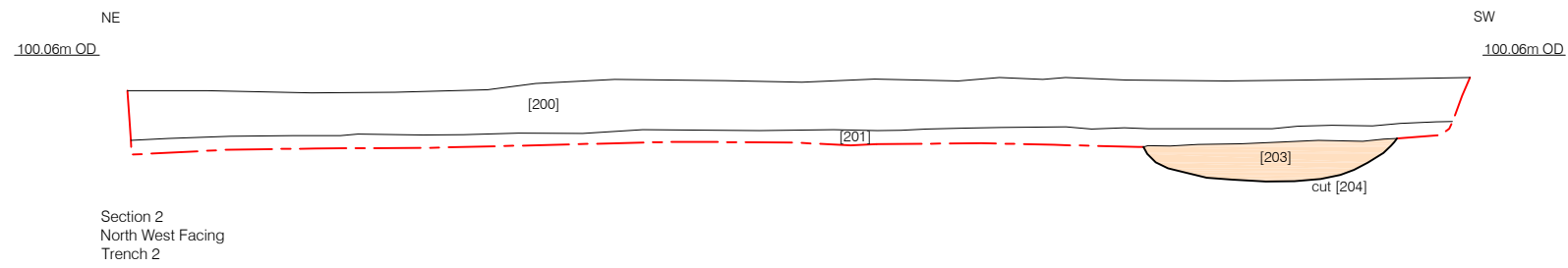
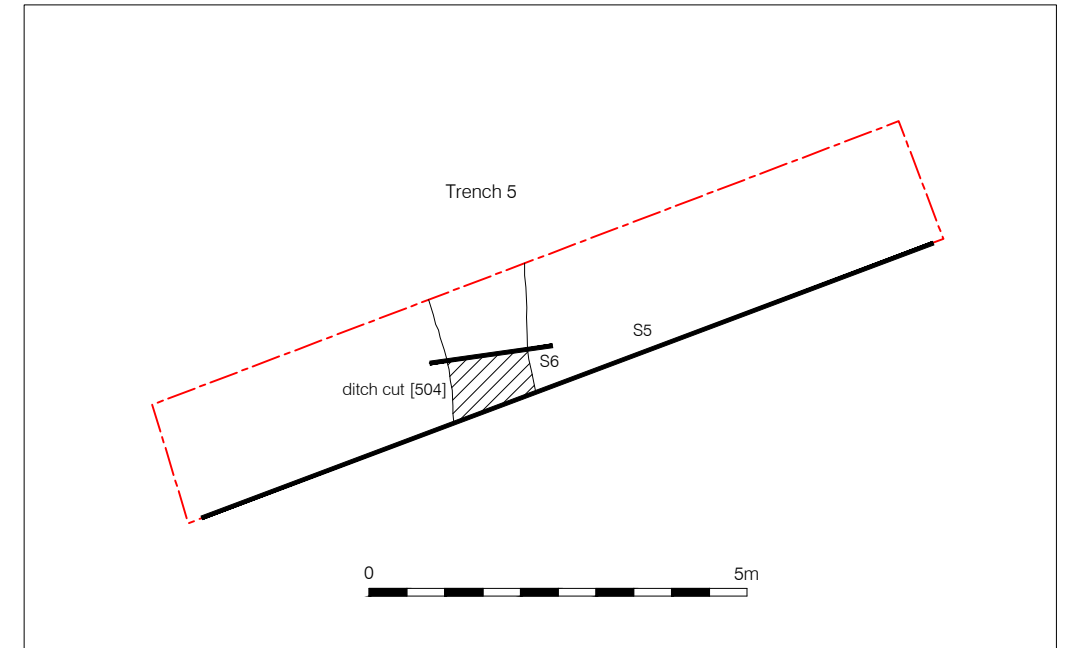
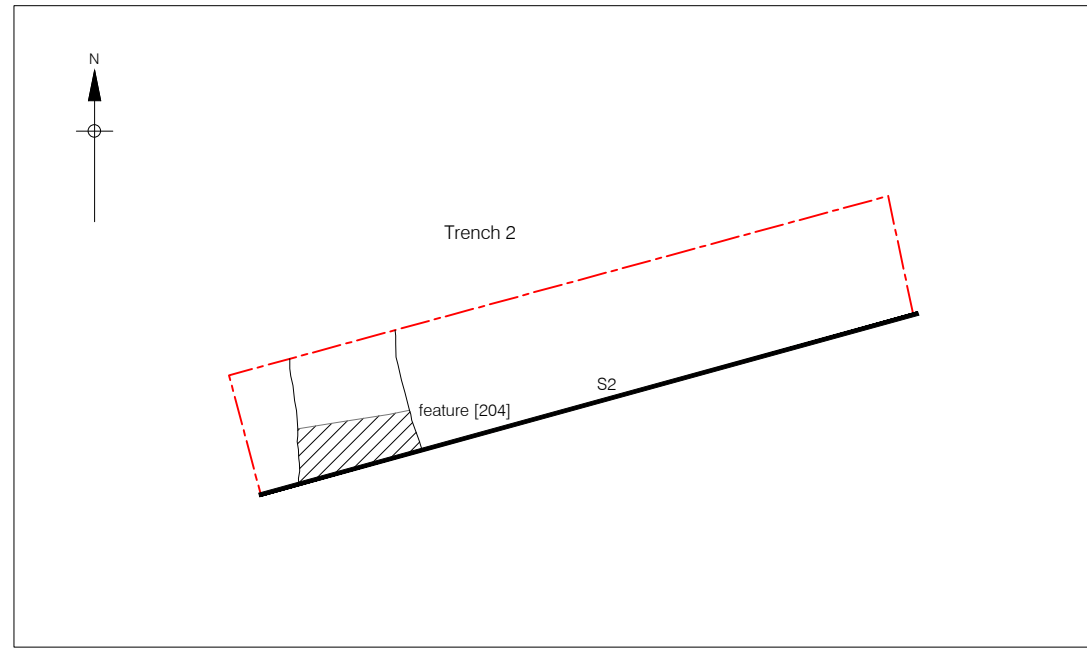
#### **5.4 Phase 3: Modern**

5.4.1 Topsoil, which was on average 0.27m thick across the investigated area, comprised friable, mid brownish grey clayey silt. The existing ground surface ranged from a maximum height of 99.88m AOD in the western extent of Trench 2 to a minimum height of 97.91m AOD at eastern end of Trench 3.



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Figure 4  
Sections 1, 3 and 4 and Trench Plans  
1:500 and 1:50 at A3



- Excavated Slot
- Archaeological Fill



Figure 5  
Plan of Features [204] and [504] and Sections 2, 5 and 6  
Plans 1:100 and Sections 1:50 at A3



## **6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 Conclusions**

6.1.1 Geological, as well as archaeological, deposits and features were encountered during the trial trenching evaluation and have been assigned to four phases of activity:

- Phase 1.1 - natural sub-stratum; varying compositions of sand and clay were observed in Trenches 1-5. Natural deposits were observed at a highest level of 99.52m AOD in the western end of Trench 2, gradually sloping to a minimum height of 97.32m AOD at the eastern end of Trench 3.
- Phase 1.2 – undated, probable natural geological feature; represented by a shallow feature [204] observed within Trench 2. The feature was heavily disturbed by animal burrowing.
- Phase 2 – Medieval; a shallow boundary ditch [504], orientated north-south was recorded in the western end of Trench 2. A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the fill. Sub-soil was observed in Trenches 1-5.
- Phase 3 - Topsoil was recorded across all trenches, this forming the present ground surface, which slopes from a height 99.88m AOD in the west to 97.91m AOD at the east of the investigated area.

6.1.2 It is concluded that no features of archaeological significance were recorded within any of the trenches investigated. With the exception of the ditch recorded in Trench 5, none of the geophysical anomalies which the trenches were sited to test were identified as being features of archaeological origin.

### **6.2 Recommendations**

6.2.1 This report will be updated when the sherd of probable medieval pottery has been examined by a specialist. There may be a requirement to process the soils sample from the undated features. Other than this, no further work is required on the information recovered during the evaluation with the Site Archive, including this report, forming the permanent record of the strata encountered.

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### **Online Sources**

The **British Geological Survey** website: [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk).

## **8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS**

### **Acknowledgements**

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### **PCA Credits**

*Project Manager:* Jennifer Proctor

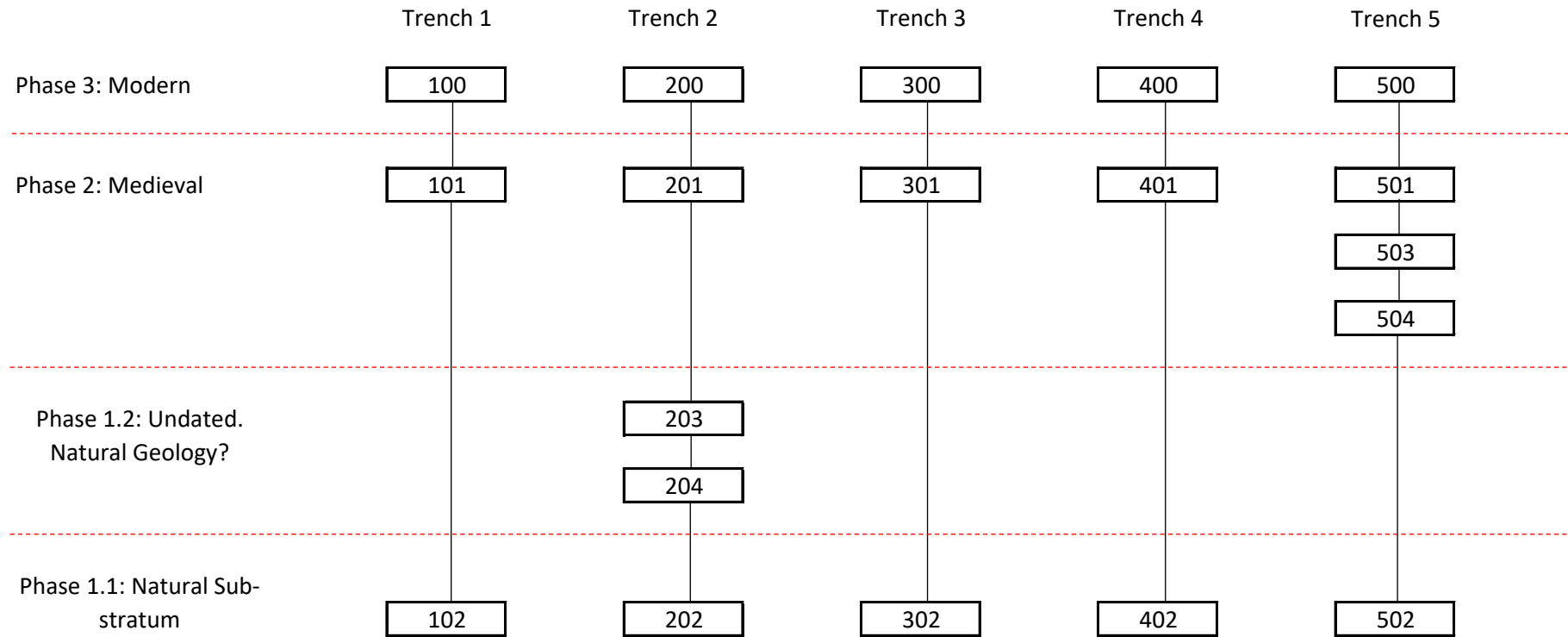
*Fieldwork:* Aaron Goode (Site Supervisor) and Danni Parker

*Report:* Danni Parker

*Illustrations:* Charlotte Faiers

**APPENDIX A**  
**STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES**

GFH17 Matrices: Trench 1-5



**APPENDIX B**  
**CONTEXT INDEX**

GFH17 Context Index

<b>Context</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Type 1</b>	<b>Type 2</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
100	1	3	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
101	1	2	Deposit	Layer	Subsoil
102	1	1.1	Deposit	Layer	Natural
200	2	3	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
201	2	2	Deposit	Layer	Subsoil
202	2	1.1	Deposit	Layer	Natural
203	2	1.2	Deposit	Fill	Fill of possible natural feature [204]
204	2	1.2	Cut	Linear	Cut of possible natural feature [204]
300	3	3	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
301	3	2	Deposit	Layer	Subsoil
302	3	1.1	Deposit	Layer	Natural
400	4	3	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
401	4	2	Deposit	Layer	Subsoil
402	4	1.1	Deposit	Layer	Natural
500	5	3	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
501	5	2	Deposit	Layer	Subsoil
502	5	1.1	Deposit	Layer	Natural
503	5	2	Deposit	Fill	Fill of Ditch [504]
504	5	2	Cut	Linear	Ditch filled by [503]



**APPENDIX C**  
**Plates**



Plate 1: General overview of Trench 1, direction of view south (scale 1m)



Plate 2: General view of Trench 3, direction of view east (scale 1m)



Plate 3: General view of Trench 4, direction of view south (scale 1m)



Plate 4: N-facing section of possible natural geological feature, direction of view south (scale 1m)



Plate 5: General view of SSW facing section of medieval ditch [504], direction of view north (scale 1m)

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