AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT RECTORY FARM, EASINGTON VILLAGE, COUNTY DURHAM

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

An Archaeological Evaluation at Rectory Farm, Easington Village, County Durham

Central National Grid Reference: NZ 41247 43577

Site Code: RFE 07

Commissioning client:
Mr & Mrs McCabe
64 Holwick Close
Consett
County Durham
DH8 7UJ

Tel: 0207 582 772

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

Tel: 0191 377 1111

CONTENTS

List of Figures and Plates

1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in October 2007 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Rectory Farm, Easington Village, County Durham. The work was commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. McCabe, ahead of a proposed residential development.

1.2 The proposed development site was *c.* 700 square metres in size and comprised sloping ground, partly grassed, partly with shrubbery cover, to the south-east of the existing farmhouse; its central National Grid Reference is NZ 41247 43577.

1.3 The evaluation was undertaken on the recommendation of Durham County Archaeology Section who, as archaeological advisors to Easington District Council, assess any potential archaeological impact of proposed development schemes as part of the planning process. The evaluation comprised two trial trenches (Trenches 1 and 2) sited within the footprint of the proposed development. No desk-based assessment, field evaluation or geophysical survey had previously been undertaken.

1.4 The main archaeological potential of the site was considered to stem from its close proximity to the important medieval site of Seaton Holme, which occupies land immediately to the south of Rectory Farm, and includes the former rectory, a Grade I listed building of medieval origin. Previous archaeological investigations at Seaton Holme suggested that an early medieval farm may have been located to the north, where Rectory Farm is now situated.

1.5 The earliest archaeological feature recorded in the evaluation was in Trench 2, where a shallow, slightly curvilinear feature was exposed, cutting into the natural sub-stratum, *c*. 1m below the existing ground surface. Undated by artefactual evidence, it was possibly related to agricultural activity during or prior to the medieval period. The feature was overlain by a distinctive developed soil of likely medieval origin, which was also recorded throughout Trench 1, this being the basal layer overlying the natural sub-stratum throughout that trench. A similar sequence of post-medieval, early modern and modern layers, none of any significant archaeological interest, comprised the uppermost deposits in both trenches.

1.6 Artefactual material from the evaluation comprised a struck flint core, tentatively dated to the late 2nd or early 1st millennium BC, and three sherds of medieval pottery, all probably of 13th century date. This material was either unstratified or found residual in context.

1.7 In summary, it is concluded that no significant archaeological remains are likely within the proposed development area at Rectory Farm and, therefore, no further archaeological investigation is recommended ahead of the proposed scheme.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 General Background

2.1.1 This report details the methodology and results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) 3rd-4th October 2007 at Rectory Farm, Easington Village, County Durham. The central National Grid Reference of the site is NZ 41247 43577 (Figure 1).

2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. McCabe, who propose to build a two-storey dwelling on the site, which is owned by their family. A planning application has been submitted to this effect.

2.1.3 The site comprises an area of garden immediately to the south-east of the existing farmhouse at Rectory Farm, which lies to the north of Hall Walks, the main east-west thoroughfare at the core of the historic village of Easington. Open fields bound the farm complex to the north and west, with a housing development, 'The Spinney,' to the east. The farm is situated immediately north of Seaton Holme, one of the few remaining domestic 13th century buildings in the UK, which, following extensive restoration, was opened as Seaton Holme Discovery Centre in 1992.

2.1.4 The evaluation was not preceded by a desk-based assessment and no form of field evaluation including geophysical survey had previously been undertaken. The evaluation was undertaken on the recommendation of Durham County Archaeology Section (DCAS), acting in its capacity as advisors to the Local Planning Authority, Easington District Council (EDC). The planning application could not be determined until the results of an archaeological field evaluation had been submitted.

2.1.5 The evaluation was undertaken according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)[1] compiled in response to a Specification[2] issued by DCAS. The investigative work comprised two machine-excavated trial trenches, both sited within the footprint of the proposed development.

2.1.6 The project archive, comprising written, drawn, and photographic records and all recovered materials, is currently held at the Northern Office of PCA and will be transferred to the County Durham Archaeological Archive at Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham, under the site code RFE 07. The **O**nline **A**cces**s** to the **I**ndex of Archaeological Investigation**s** (OASIS) reference number for the evaluation is: preconst1-33178.

[1] PCA 2007. This is included as Appendix E to this report.
[2] DCAS 2007.

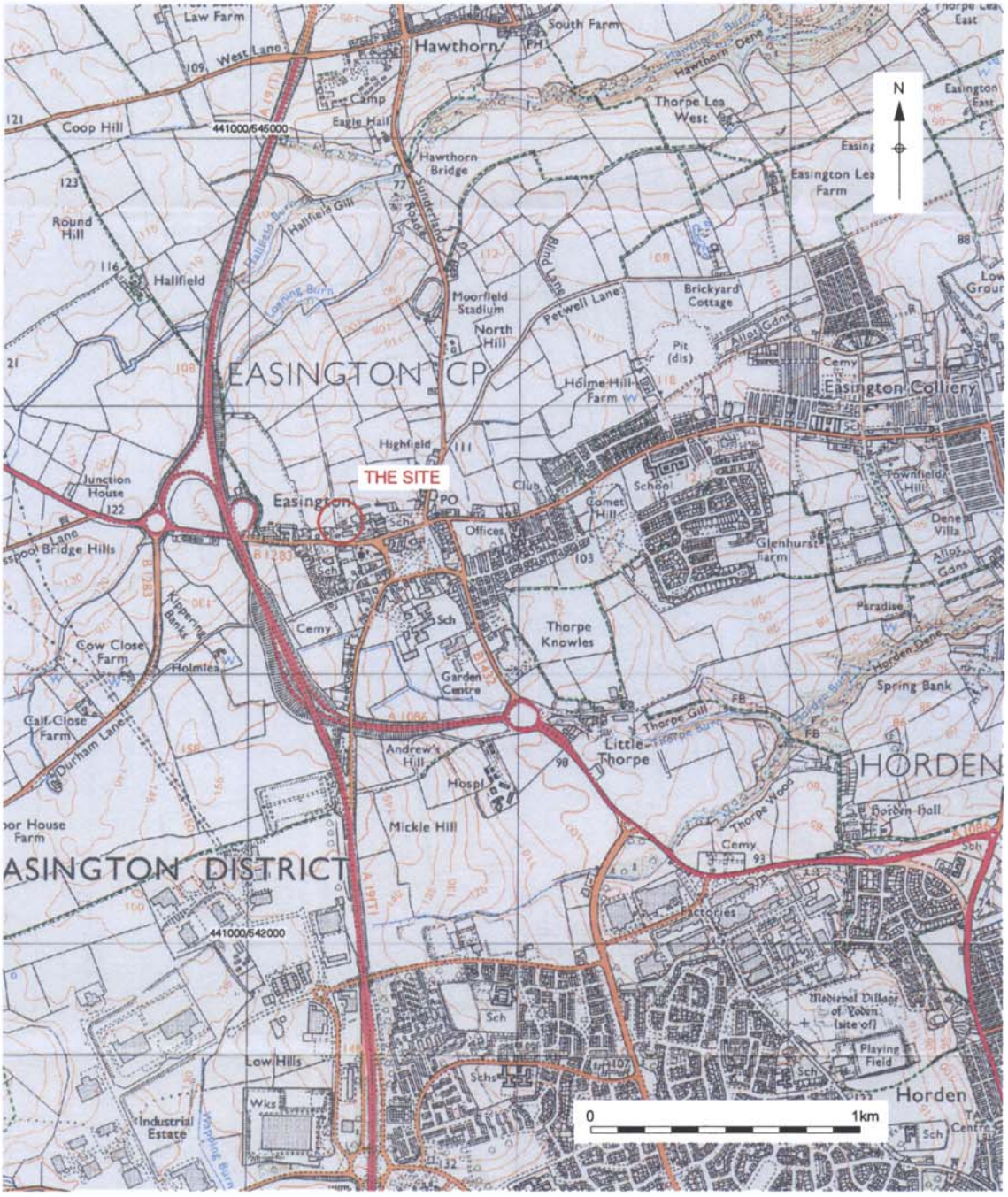


Figure 1. Site location
Scale 1:25,000

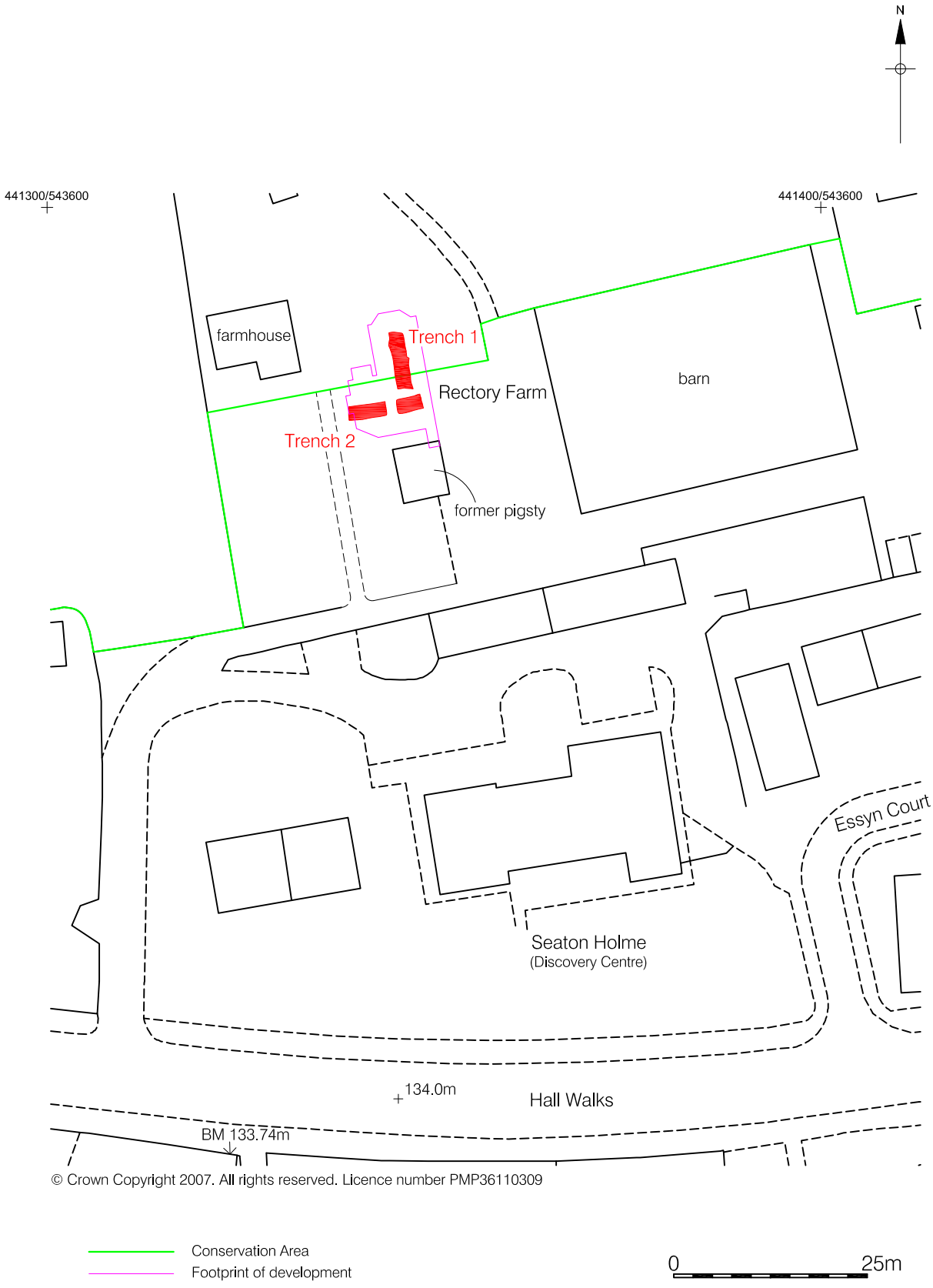


Figure 2. Trench location
Scale 1:7,500

2.2 Geology, Topography and Land-use

2.2.1 Magnesian Limestone forms the underlying 'solid' geology of the Easington area, which lies in the 'Concealed Durham Coalfield'. The 'drift' geology is characterised in this area by glacial and fluvioglacial sediments of various types, but mainly boulder clays and sands. These sediments conceal the underlying Permian rock.

2.2.2 Rectory Farm occupies land on the north side of the village, lying at *c.* 134m OD, but generally sloping away to the north. The proposed development site occupies ground to the south-east of the existing farmhouse and immediately to the north of a single-storey stone building, formerly a pigsty, which, due to its ruinous condition, is to be demolished as part of the scheme (Figure 2).

2.2.3 At the time of the evaluation, the southern half of the proposed building footprint occupied a grassed bank adjacent to the former pigsty and sloping away to the west and north, in the latter direction becoming an area of shrubbery.

2.3 Planning Background

2.3.1 A planning application (PLAN/2007/0533) has been submitted to EDC to develop a parcel of land, *c*. 700 square metres in size, at the site, into a two-storey residential dwelling.

2.3.2 Government guidance on archaeology and heritage conservation is set out in *'Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning'*[3] (PPG 16). At a local level, EDC implements various policies with regard to cultural heritage.

2.3.3 The archaeological evaluation was required by DCAS, prior to determination of the planning application. In this instance, DCAS was acting in its capacity as advisor to EDC with regard to archaeology. DCAS had concluded that an informed planning decision could not be made until the results of an archaeological field evaluation were submitted in support of the application.

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

This information is drawn mostly from the aforementioned WSI, Durham County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the National Monuments Record (NMR) maintained by English Heritage. Literary sources were also consulted to substantiate the historical summary. All sources are gratefully acknowledged.

2.4.1 Only one reference exists for prehistoric activity in Easington Village. This is a series of circular features noted on an aerial photograph spreading across an area of rough pasture to the north of Caldwell Lane. The precise characteristics and age of these remains is uncertain, although they have long been assumed to date from the Iron Age (*c.* AD 800–AD 43).

2.4.2 There is no Information pertaining to any Roman (late 1st century AD to the early 5th century AD) activity in the immediate vicinity of the development site.

[3] Department of the Environment 1990.

2.4.3 The medieval history of Easington Village is extensive, and can be broadly split into two eras. The first is the early medieval period (early 5th century AD up to 1066). It is likely the village is of Anglian origin, with the first recorded reference to the village of 'Esingtun' probably deriving from this period. In 1991-92, excavations on Andrew's Hill, to the south of the village core, recorded three female and six male inhumations. Dating evidence, comprising metalwork and beads, from the fieldwork suggested that the cemetery belonged to a small community of 6th century pagan farmers, although a Kentish brooch potentially extends its use into the 7th century (NMR 909367). Further evidence to suggest continuing settlement within the area in the early medieval period comes from the structural fabric of the largely medieval church of St. Mary's, on the opposite side of Hall Walks to the development site. A cross set into the west-facing elevation of the tower potentially dates this element of the fabric to the 8th–10th centuries, suggesting that this was a site of earlier Christian worship. Archaeological evaluation in 1990 at Seaton Holme, immediately to the south of the current site, revealed a posthole, a series of foundations, a suggestion of a timber structure and an earth bank, all of which were interpreted as representing elements of late Anglo-Saxon settlement (SMR 3866).

2.4.4 For the medieval period (*c.* AD 1066–mid 16th century), Easington has a series of well-documented remains and surviving buildings. Most notable are the Grade I listed buildings of the largely 12th century St. Mary's Church and the former rectory of Seaton Holme (County SMR 66), which lies to the south of Rectory Farm. Seaton Holme was reputedly built *c*. AD 1249 for Bishop Nicholas de Farnham as a dwelling following his retirement. The initial building phase has been dated by dendrochronolgical analysis on the roof beams. During this period, the house had a series of wings with services on the ground floor and a great chamber on the first. Little is known about the history of the building during the medieval period until the end of the Reformation when it became the rectory for St Mary's Church and one of the principal residences of the Archdeacon of Durham. The building has constantly been altered and repaired in the subsequent centuries, with comprehensive remodelling in the late 18th–19th centuries, including a re-build of the west wing and large scale re-roofing of the entire structure.

2.4.5 Immediately to the north of Seaton Holme stands a second range of buildings, two-storey in stone rubble, and listed at Grade II. These are also believed to be of medieval origin, possibly13th century or earlier, and have been interpreted as the remains of an oratory (SMR 3865), with a Tithe barn attached, to the east. It was in this area, during renovation and extension work in 1990 to create Seaton Holme Discovery Centre, that the aforementioned archaeological evaluation revealed earthwork and structural remains believed to be associated with early medieval settlement. A conclusion of that investigation was that an early medieval farm might have been orientated to the north of the oratory building, potentially on the site of Rectory Farm.

2.4.6 The St. Mary's Church (NMR 27243, SMR 248) lies to the south-east of the development site, on the south side of Hall Walks. The western tower is of Norman origin, with this early fabric preserved right up to the corbel table below the battlements, while the majority of the building is 12th century Early English, with various later furnishings, including a 17th century pulpit.

2.4.7 Historic maps show that Rectory Farm is essentially a 20th century creation, occupying the southern margin of former fields adjacent to the grounds of the rectory. Since the proposed development site had evidently never been developed, it was likely that any archaeological deposits at the site relating to the early development of the village would survive relatively undisturbed.

2.4.8 There are no scheduled monuments or listed buildings within the proposed development site, which straddles the boundary of the Easington Village Conservation Area (Figure 2). The statutory definition of a Conservation Area – 'Section 6' of the '*Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990'* - gives recognition of "*areas of special architectural of historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance*". The nearest listed buildings are Seaton Holme Rectory (Grade I) and the former oratory and Tithe barn (Grade II), all of which lie to the immediate south of the proposed development.

3. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project Aims

3.1.1 Archaeological trial trenching was used as an investigative tool to test the archaeological potential of site. The aims of the trial trenching were:

- to establish the presence or absence and, where present, the nature, depth and character of any archaeological remains;
- to provide sufficient data to enable an appropriate mitigation strategy to be devised in order to minimise the impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource, either through preservation of archaeological remains *in situ* or by record;
- to determine whether or not any further archaeological investigation was required ahead of the development.

3.1.2 In broad terms, the archaeological evaluation aimed to establish the date, nature, extent and significance of archaeological remains at the site through examination of any buried deposits, structures and features, along with any artefactual and ecofactual evidence that they may contain.

3.1.3 Additional aims of the project were:

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

3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 The specific objective of the archaeological trial trenching was to provide representative sample coverage of the entire development site through investigation of:

- Trench 1, aligned north-south and located within the northern portion of the development footprint (Figure 2);
- Trench 2, aligned east-west and located within the southern portion of the development footprint (Figure 2).

3.2.2 Within the wider research context, the relevant key research priorities for this project, as defined in '*Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*'[4] (NERRF) are

- Early Medieval (EM) ii – Settlement;
- EM v – Trade and economy;
- Medieval (MD) i – Settlement;
- MD vii – Medieval ceramics and other artefacts.

[4] Petts and Gerrard 2006.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

4.1.1 The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the relevant standard and guidance document of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.[5] PCA is an 'IFA-Registered Archaeological Organisation'.

4.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the Specification provided by DCAS and the resulting WSI compiled by PCA, which should be consulted for full details of methodologies employed regarding archaeological excavation, recording, and sampling. The WSI in included in this report as Appendix E.

4.1.3 During the course of the evaluation, it was necessary to amend the dimensions of the trial trenches from those stated in the Specification, namely minimum dimensions of 10m x 1.5m at ground level. In practice, Trench 1 measured 7.70m north-south x 1.90m wide, these being the maximum dimensions possible whilst maintaining machine access to open the trench. Trench 2 measured 9.75m in length east-west x 1.90m wide, although an underground service crossing the southern portion of the development footprint from south-east to north-west necessitated investigation of the trench in two sections (Trenches 2a and 2b), to allow the service run to remain *in situ*. The southernmost extent of the western part of Trench 2 was determined by a requirement to preserve the root system of a mature tree, which was to be retained immediately to the south of the development area.

4.1.4 A Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was established on the site from the Ordnance Survey Bench Mark (142.22m OD) located at the south-eastern corner of St. Mary's Church.

4.2 Post-Excavation

4.2.1 The stratigraphic data generated by the project is represented by the written, drawn and photographic records. In total, 31 archaeological contexts were defined in the two trenches (Appendix B). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts and phasing the stratigraphic data (Appendix A). A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described below in Section 5.

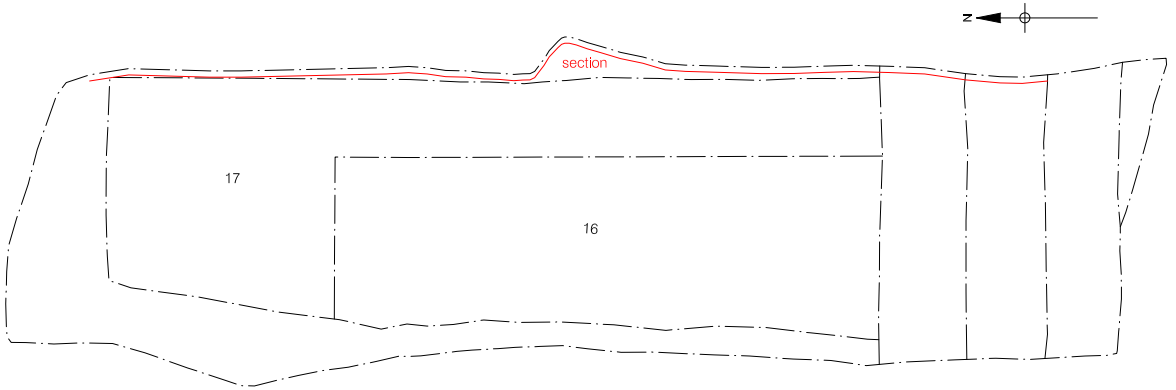
4.2.2 The artefactual material from the archaeological evaluation comprised a small assemblage of pottery and one struck flint. Specialist assessment of the material was undertaken, as appropriate (Appendices C and D). No other categories of inorganic artefactual material were represented.

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. To this end, no appropriate deposits were encountered and, therefore, no bulk samples were recovered. No other biological material was recovered.

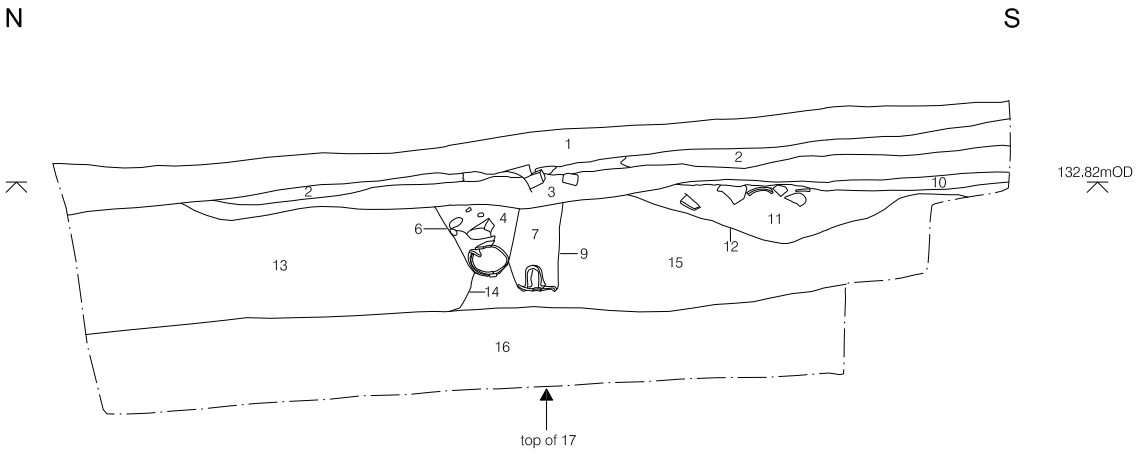
[5] IFA 2001.

4.2.4 None of the material recovered during the evaluation required specialist stabilisation or an assessment of its potential for conservation research.

4.2.5 The depositional requirements of the body to which the project archive will be ultimately transferred, namely the County Durham Archaeological Archive at Bowes Museum, will be met in full.



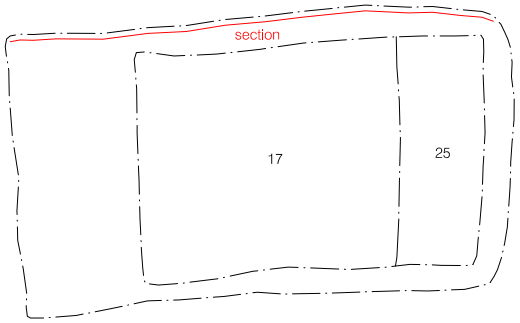
Trench 1. Plan.



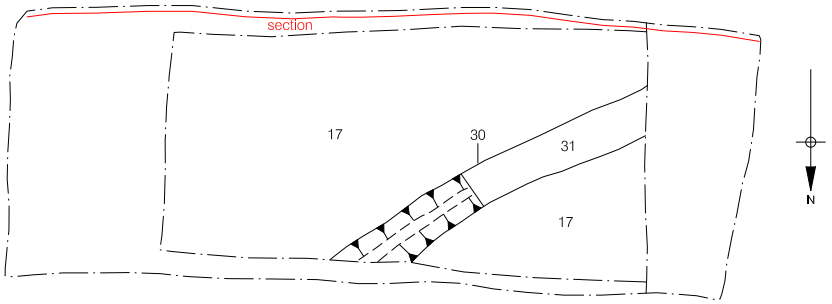
Trench 1. West facing section.

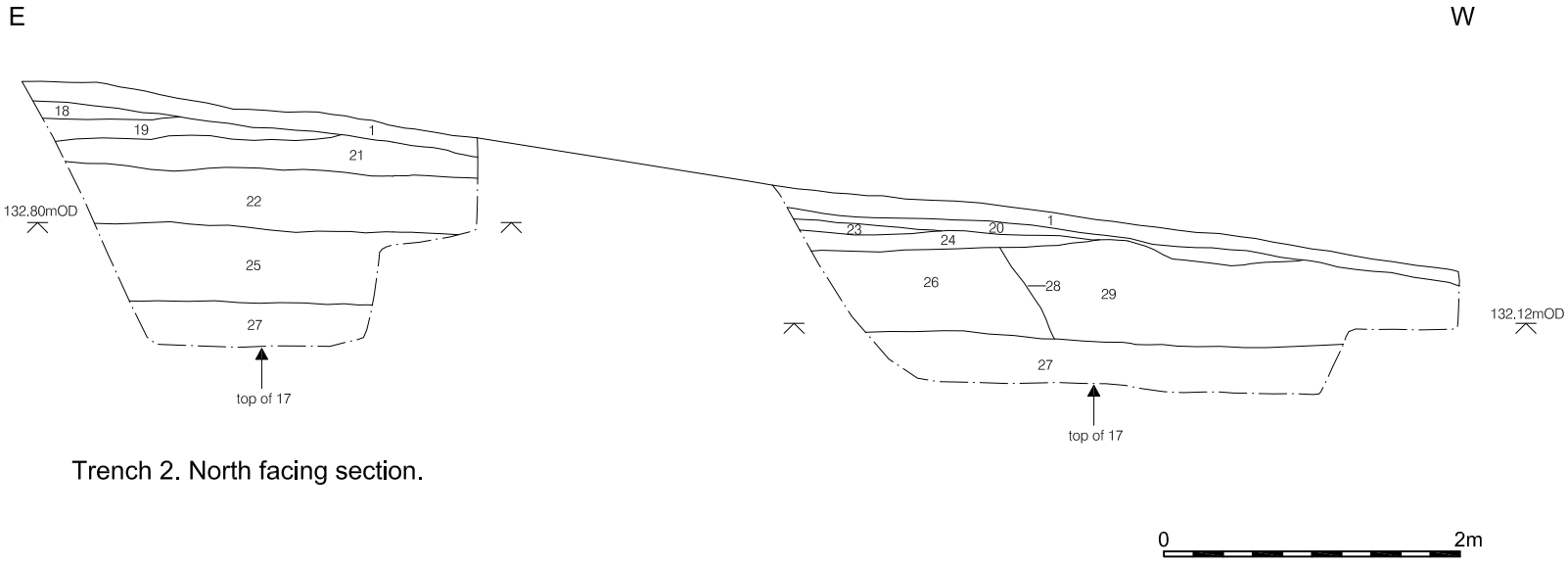
0 2m

Figure 3. Trench 1, plans and sections
Scale 1:50



Trench 2. Plan.





Trench 2. North facing section.

Figure 4. Trench 2, plans and sections
Scale 1:50

5. RESULTS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

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

5.1 Phase 1: Natural

5.1.1 Phase 1 represents natural geological material across the development area.

5.1.2 The basal deposit in each trench comprised glacial boulder clay, [17], representing the typical 'drift' geology of this part of County Durham. At the eastern end of Trench 2a, this deposit was recorded at 131.98m OD *(c.* 1.75m below existing ground level), this the highest value encountered on natural sub-stratum during the evaluation, sloping away to *c.* 131.65m OD (*c.* 0.95m below existing ground level) in the westernmost part of Trench 2b (Figure 4). Along Trench 1, the natural sub-stratum sloped away from *c.* 131.55m OD at the south end of the trench to *c.* 131.30m OD (*c.* 1.65m below existing ground level) at the north end, this the lowest value recorded on natural sub-stratum during the investigation (Figure 3).

5.1.3 Deposit [17] generally comprised soft, light to mid yellowish brown sandy clay, with occasional pockets and thin lenses of mid orange brown sand throughout, as well as occasional fine and medium pebbles, these moderate to frequent in Trench 2. In both trenches, the deposit was mottled throughout with small pockets of silt, the result of root action.

5.2 Phase 2: Undated

5.2.1 Phase 2 represents essentially undated, but possibly medieval, activity recorded in Trench 2b, in the westernmost part of the development area (Figure 4).

5.2.2 A slightly curvilinear gully, [30], was recorded cutting into the natural sub-stratum at a height of *c.* 131.60m OD in the western end of Trench 2b. It was traced for a length of *c.* 2.40m, running on an approximate SW-NE orientation, and was up to 0.20m wide and up to 0.10m. With shallow sides and a slightly concave base, it was filled with firm, clayey silt, [31], with frequent fine and medium pebbles throughout.

5.2.3 Undated by artefactual evidence, the period of origin of this feature is unclear, as is its original function. The preferred interpretation, based on form, dimensions and stratigraphic position, is that it relates to drainage activity or field demarcation during the medieval period; the feature is not thought to represent any structure of the period.

5.3 Phase 3: Medieval

5.3.1 Phase 3 represents the accumulation of a substantial developed soil across the site, probably as a result of agricultural activity, in association with the standard processes of soil formation, in the backlands of the village during the medieval period,

5.3.2 Layer [27] in Trenches 2a and 2b (Figure 4) and layer [16] in Trench 1 (Figure 3) comprised soft to friable, dark reddish brown clayey silt, with occasional fine and medium pebbles and very occasional large cobbles, occasional small sandstone fragments and occasional charcoal flecks throughout. Deposit [16] had an average thickness of 0.53m and deposit [27] an average thickness of 0.32m. Essentially identical, homogeneous deposits overlying the natural sub-stratum, these layers can be confidently equated on the basis of their physical similarity and stratigraphic position.

5.3.3 Although undated by artefactual evidence, these deposits have been interpreted as parts of an extensive developed soil, for which the assumed period of origin is medieval. With the historic settlement core developing to the south, it is likely that the site, located within the immediate settlement backlands, would have seen intensive agricultural activity.

5.4 Phase 4: Post-medieval

5.4.1 Phase 4 represents the broad post-medieval period, throughout which the backlands of the village probably remained in use for agricultural purposes, although this may have slowly declined on the site itself, probably with tree cover developing in the latter stages of the post-medieval period.

5.4.2 Layer [15], recorded in section in the southern portion of Trench 1 (Figure 3), and layer [25], recorded in section along Trench 2a (Figure 4), were physically identical deposits, comprising soft, dark brownish grey clayey silt, with occasional fine and medium pebbles, small sandstone fragments and charcoal flecks throughout. Layer [15], recorded at a maximum height of 132.76m, had a maximum thickness of 0.78m, while layer [25], recorded at maximum height of 132.80m OD, had a maximum thickness of 0.41m. A broadly similar clayey silt layer, [29], , up to 0.69m thick, was recorded in the western portion of Trench 2b, at a maximum height of 132.68m OD (Figure 4). This deposit yielded, during cleaning of the trench section, two sherds of medieval pottery, considered residual in context (Appendix C).

5.4.3 To the north, layer [15] had been 'truncated' by an extensive 'feature', [14], filled, to a maximum thickness of *c.* 0.75m, with a distinctive compact, dark greyish brown silty deposit, [13] (Figure 3). Included throughout were moderate fine to medium, and occasional large, pebbles, occasional small, and very occasional moderate to large, sandstone fragments, occasional small chalk fragments and occasional flecks of charcoal and ceramic building material. The preferred interpretation of this 'feature' is that it represents the former location of a tree bole, with the root system having been subsequently forcibly removed.

5.4.4 A similar interpretation is proposed for a 'feature', [28], recorded in section in the easternmost portion of Trench 2b (Figure 4). At this location, aforementioned layer [29] appeared, on first inspection, to fill this feature, the edge of which sloped away to the west. However, the preferred interpretation is that, again, this was the location of a former tree bole, with the root system having been subsequently removed, leaving a compact silty deposit, [26], (essentially physically similar to deposit [13] in Trench 1), as the fill, up to *c.* 0.60m thick, of 'feature' [28].

5.4.5 Although undated by contemporary artefactual evidence, Phase 4 has been interpreted as spanning the broad post-medieval era, when the site, having been used for centuries as farmland, then developed a cover of vegetation, possibly being used for coppicing, prior to an episode of clearance which saw established trees uprooted. The Ordnance Survey 1st edition from the mid 19th century indicates that the site lay within the southern margin of large field adjacent to the rear boundaries of the settlement properties.

5.5 Phase 5: Early Modern (Late 19th–Early 20th Century)

5.5.1 Phase 5 represents activity at the site during the early modern period, this probably a reflection of renewed development in and around Easington Village as the economy of the broader area was reinvigorated following the Industrial Revolution. The activity represents land drainage and ground-raising and consolidation, possibly undertaken at the time of construction of outbuildings immediately to the south of the development area, these appearing on the 2nd edition of the Ordnance Survey map from *c.* 1895. The only surviving example of these structures is the ruinous pigsty, which is to be demolished as part of the current scheme (Figure 2).

5.5.2 A linear cut, [9], was recorded in section in Trench 1, at a maximum surviving height of 132.68m OD (*c.* 0.50m below the existing ground surface), having been inserted into the ground surface formed by Phase 4 developed soil, [15] (Figure 3). The feature, at least 0.35m wide, but truncated to the north, and 0.55m deep, housed an early modern land drain, [8], comprising pantiles laid along the flat base of the feature, and horseshoe pipes laid end-to-end to carry the water flow. The feature was backfilled with clayey silt, [7].

5.5.3 Further to the south in the section of Trench 1, and cut into layer [15], was a shallow pit, [12], measuring *c.* 1.80m north-south and with a maximum depth of 0.40m. Its main fill, [11], comprised mixed building debris, including sandstone and brick rubble, with occasional fragments of pantile, in a clayey silt matrix. This deposit extended to the south, beyond the lip of the pit, and this area had evidently been further levelled, to a maximum height of 132.88m OD, using a spread, [10], of compacted coal, ash and cinder, up to 0.10m thick.

5.5.4 A distinctive banded dump layer, [22], up to 0.40m thick, was recorded in section in Trench 2a, at a maximum height of 133.21m OD (Figure 4). It comprised lenses of sandstone and brick rubble, interleaved with thin bands of ash, cinder and coal, in a silty clay matrix. Given its composition and stratigraphic position, it can be reasonably assumed that this layer was deposited contemporaneously with layer [10] in Trench 1. A tapering deposit, [23], up to 80mm thick, recorded in section in the eastern portion of Trench 2b comprised fragments of pantile in an ash and cinder matrix. Surviving to a maximum height 132.82m OD, this deposit also concords with the aforementioned strata.

5.5.5 Layer [22] petered out upon another tapering layer, [24], comprising friable, light to mid grey silt, with a maximum thickness of 0.13m. This has been interpreted as probable re-deposited topsoil, laid down during general ground levelling activity.

5.6 Phase 6: Modern (Early 20th Century–Present Day)

5.6.1 Phase 6 represents ground-raising and levelling, general agricultural practice and existing land use within the development area during the last century. Rectory Farm itself dates from the later part of the 20th century.

5.6.2 The earliest feature assigned to Phase 6 in Trench 1 is a salt-glazed drain, [5], recorded in section within a deep V-shaped cut, [6] (Figure 3). The feature had been infilled with silty clay, [4], with broken pantiles and sandstone fragments throughout. A clayey silt layer, [3], up to 0.18m thick, extended along the majority of the section of Trench 1, this probably representing levelling activity through the importation of topsoil from elsewhere. This was overlain by a mixed deposit, [2], up to 0.17m thick, the most notable elements of which were concentrations of crushed lime and brick rubble. The deposit represents residue from the use of lime in agricultural practice and arrived at the site within the living memory of the present owner of Rectory Farm.

5.6.3 Phase 6 deposits in Trench 2 represent ground-raising activity associated with the creation of an extensive raised platform to the east of the development area prior to the construction of a large barn, which remains in place (Figure 2). A layer, [20], of weakly cemented sandstone hardcore, up to 0.10m thick, extended along the majority of the section of Trench 2b (Figure 4). In Trench 2a, a compact layer, [21], up to 0.25m thick, mostly comprising building rubble, extended along the trench. This was overlain to the east by a layer, [19], of compact sandstone hardcore, up to 0.16m thick, overlain itself to the east by layer, [18], of dolomite hardcore, up to 0.10m thick.

5.6.4 Dark grey clayey silt topsoil, [1], formed the uppermost deposit in both trenches. In Trench 2a, this deposit had a maximum thickness of 0.17m and was recorded at a maximum height of 133.75m OD, this to the east, in the highest part of the development site. From there it sloped away to the west, being recorded at a height of 132.49m OD at the western end of Trench 2b, this the lowest part of the site. At the southern end of Trench 1, topsoil, was recorded at a height of 133.35m OD, falling away to 132.94m OD at the northern end, where it had a maximum thickness of 0.35m. The topsoil reflects usage of the site in recent decades as part of the garden associated with the present farmhouse at Rectory Farm.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

6.1.1 Archaeological deposits and features encountered at the site have been assigned to six main phases of activity. These phases are:

- ***Phase 1***; comprising the basal deposit in each trench, this being the natural boulder clay sub-stratum. It was recorded at a depth of 1.60-1.70m below ground level in Trench 1 and depths of 1.70m (to the east) to 0.95m (to the west) in Trench 2.
- ***Phase 2***; represented by a shallow, slightly curvilinear gully of uncertain date in Trench 2b. The feature yielded no dating evidence and its precise function and date are uncertain. The preferred interpretation is that it represents a drainage gully or field boundary of probable medieval or earlier origin.
- ***Phase 3***; represented by a homogeneous and largely sterile developed soil, recorded throughout both trenches overlying the natural sub-stratum and varying in thickness from 0.27-0.55m. Although without precise dating evidence, the preferred broad dating for this material is the medieval period.
- ***Phase 4***; represented by similar, substantial developed soils, up to 0.70m thick, recorded in both trenches, and including probably related evidence of possible tree removal. This activity has been broadly dated to the post-medieval period.
- ***Phase 5***; representing early modern (19th–early 20th century) activity and comprising evidence of land drainage and ground-raising and consolidation.
- ***Phase 6***; comprising modern activity, including evidence of drainage and large-scale ground-raising ahead of construction of a large barn to the east of the site. Existing topsoil was the uppermost deposit in both trenches, reflecting recent usage as the garden of Rectory Farm.

6.1.2 No securely dated archaeological remains of significance were recorded during the evaluation. The curvilinear feature recorded in Trench 1 was the only feature of any potential antiquity to be recorded. Although underlying a substantial developed soil of likely medieval date, its precise period of origin is uncertain. The preferred interpretation of the feature, based on its form and dimensions, as well as its stratigraphic position, is that it represents drainage activity or field demarcation from the medieval period or earlier. All other anthropogenic activity recorded at the site can be considered of no archaeological significance.

6.1.3 Artefactual material recovered during the evaluation comprised three sherds of medieval pottery and a flint core. The flint was found, residual in context, in Trench 1 and is either a flaked core or heavy-duty implement, tentatively dated to the late 2nd or early 1st millennium BC. The pottery, although either unstratified or found residual in context, dates to the 13th century and is therefore broadly in keeping with the known archaeology of the immediate vicinity, specifically the high status of domesticity at Seaton Holme.

6.2 Recommendations

6.2.1 The results of the archaeological evaluation at Rectory Farm suggest that no significant archaeological remains are present within the area of the proposed development.

6.2.2 It is considered unlikely that any significant archaeological information would be gained from further archaeological work at the site. Therefore, it is recommended that no further archaeological investigations are undertaken in advance of the proposed development.

7. REFERENCES

Durham County Archaeology Section, 2007. *Specification for Archaeological Evaluation at Rectory Farm, Easington Village, Easington, County Durham, SR8 3BS*, Durham County Council unpublished.

Department of the Environment, 1990. *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: 'Archaeology and Planning',* HMSO.

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001. *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*, IFA unpublished.

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, 2007. *Rectory Farm, Easington Village, County Durham. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation*, PCA unpublished.

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

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Kathryn and Terry McCabe for commissioning the work described in this report.

The curatorial role of Lee White, of the Durham County Archaeology Section, is acknowledged.

PCA Credits

Fieldwork: Robin Taylor-Wilson (Site Supervisor), Phil Moore

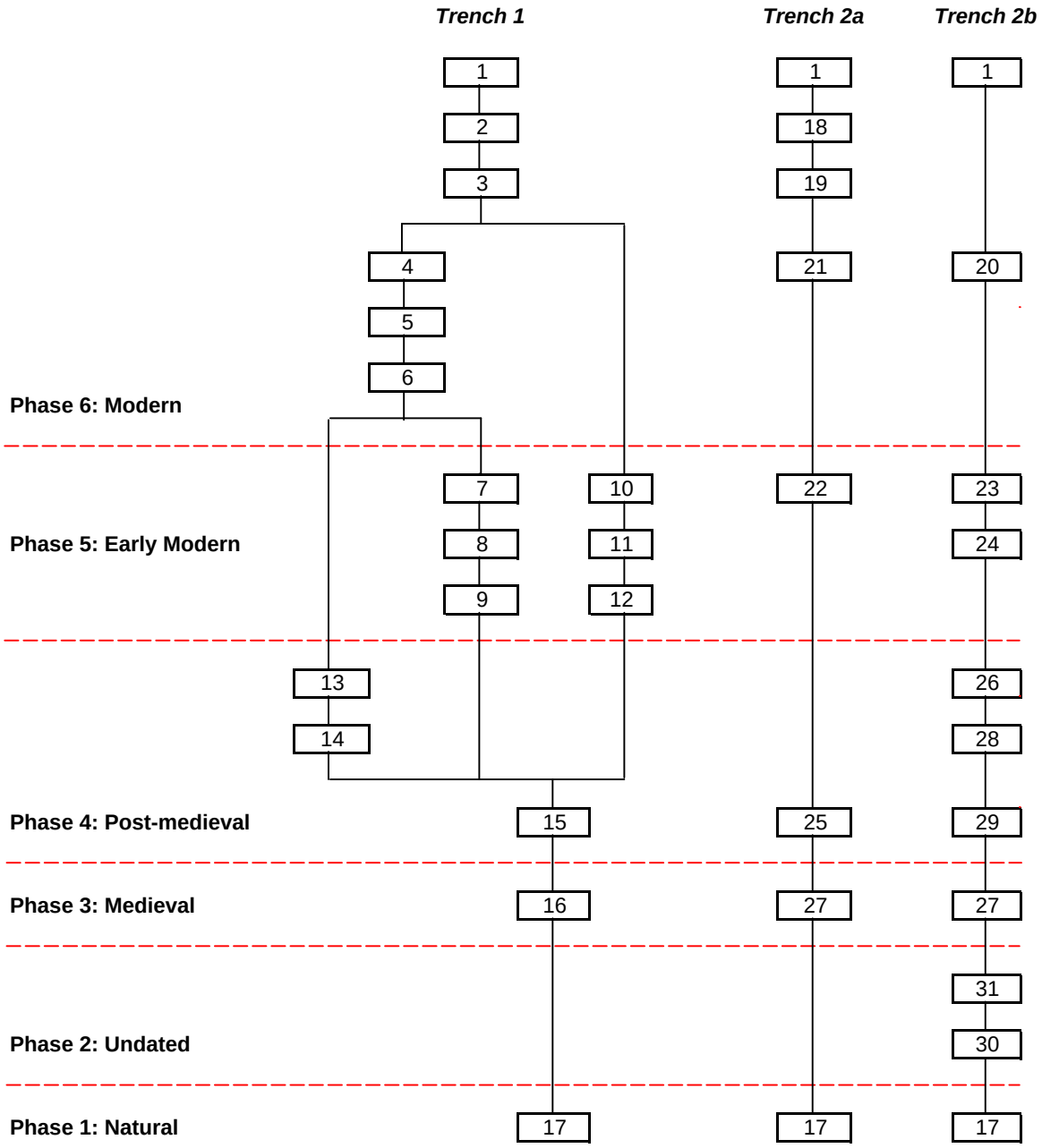
Report: Phil Moore and Robin Taylor Wilson

Project Manager: Robin Taylor-Wilson

CAD: Adrian Bailey

APPENDIX A
STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES

RFE 07: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES



APPENDIX B
CONTEXT INDEX

RFE 07: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	*Trench*	*Phase*	*Type 1*	*Type 2*	*Interpretation*
1	1 & 2	5	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
2	1	5	Deposit	Layer	Lime & rubble dump
3	1	5	Deposit	Layer	Ground-raising dump
4	1	5	Deposit	Fill	Backfill of drain [6]
5	1	5	Masonry	Structure	Salt-glazed drain
6	1	5	Cut	Linear	Construction cut for drain [5]
7	1	4	Deposit	Fill	Backfill of drain [9]
8	1	4	Masonry	Structure	Pantile & horseshoe drain
9	1	4	Cut	Linear	Construction cut for drain [8]
10	1	4	Deposit	Spread	Levelling dump
11	1	4	Deposit	Fill	Backfill of pit [12]
12	1	4	Cut	Discrete	Refuse pit
13	1	4	Deposit	Fill	Fill of ?tree bole [14]
14	1	4	Cut	?Discrete	?Tree bole
15	1	3	Deposit	Layer	Developed soil
16	1	2	Deposit	Layer	Developed soil
17	1 & 2	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural boulder clay
18	2	5	Deposit	Layer	Ground-raising dump
19	2	5	Deposit	Layer	Make-up deposit
20	2	5	Deposit	Layer	Make-up deposit
21	2	5	Deposit	Layer	Ground-raising dump
22	2	4	Deposit	Layer	Ground-raising dump
23	2	5	Deposit	Layer	Ground-raising dump
24	2	5	Deposit	Layer	Buried topsoil
25	2	3	Deposit	Layer	Developed soil
26	2	4	Deposit	Fill	Fill of ?tree bole [28]
27	2	2	Deposit	Layer	Developed soil
28	2	4	Cut	?Discrete	?Tree bole
29	2	3	Deposit	Layer	Developed soil
30	2	2	Cut	Linear	Shallow gully
31	2	2	Deposit	Fill	Fill of gully [30]

APPENDIX C
POTTERY ASSESSMENT

POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By: **Jenny Vaughan, Northern Counties Archaeological Services**

Introduction

The evaluation produced a small assemblage of pottery comprising three sherds. One sherd was found unstratified in Trench 1, while the other two were recovered from Trench 2b, having been redeposited by some means within a deposit interpreted as a developed soil of likely post-medieval origin.

The Assemblage

Trench 2b

Phase 4 in Trench 2 includes a substantial deposit, [29], broadly dating to the post-medieval period. Cleaning of the trench section yielded two sherds of pottery from the upper portion of this layer. As such, it appears the pottery is residual in context, having been redeposited by some means, such as agricultural activity, or possibly as a consequence of bioturbation.

The first sherd is a Whiteware bi-fid rim, which is of distinctive Tees Valley jar form. Characteristically this is a hard gritty ware, although this fabric seems particularly coarse. it is the assumption the external flange was for the seating of a lid. The sherd has some spots of green glaze on the internal surface and dates to the 13th century.

The second sherd from Trench 2b is a small rod handle with green glaze on the upper surface, with red brown margins/surfaces elsewhere. There is a dark grey core in the handle and the fragment is dated to the 13th century, possibly the 2nd half based on similar finds in Newcastle.

Trench 1

A single sherd was found during machine excavation of Trench 1 and, as such, is classed as unstratified. It is a flat, sooted sherd of buff fabric and a pink surface, probably from a base of unknown form, and is of suggested 13th century origin.

Discussion

Although the assemblage is small and all the material is either redeposited or unstratified, it is broadly in keeping with the known archaeology of the immediate vicinity, specifically the high status of domesticity linked to the earlier phases of occupation in the monastic dwellings at Seaton Holme.

Recommendations

No further work is recommended on the pottery, although the material should be retained as part of the project archive.

APPENDIX D
LITHIC ASSESSMENT

LITHIC ASSESSMENT

By: **Barry Bishop**

Introduction

The evaluation produced one lithic of flint from a Phase 6 deposit in Trench 1. As a consequence, the piece can be described as being residual in context.

The Assemblage

The lithic measures 0.41m x 0.54m x 0.19m and weighs 55g. It has a wide cortical striking platform, a pronounced bulb of percussion and a step fractured distal end. Its dorsal surface consists of a single flake scar and c. 30% rough but thin cortex. The piece had been modified by the removal of a series of flakes from its ventral face along its distal left and lateral margins. Both the ventral and dorsal faces exhibit a large number of incipient Hertzian cones. The flake has become burnt with moderate spalling, which has rendered its original colour somewhat uncertain, although it appears to have been a translucent grey or dark brown with frequent opaque grey inclusions. Flint such as this can be obtained from the boulder clays and beach deposits along the Durham coast, although the rough nature of the cortex suggests the former is perhaps more likely.

Discussion

The item is not truly chronologically diagnostic and is of limited interpretational value. However, it does resemble a range of flake cores or heavy-duty implements that have been identified from later prehistoric deposits, particularly those of the later 2nd and early 1st millennium BC and as such indicates prehistoric activity within the vicinity of the site. It remains uncertain whether the removed flakes were intended for use in their own right or to produce a suitable chopping or scraping edge for the main flake. The flake has subsequently become battered, although to what degree this has occurred post deposition remains uncertain.

Recommendations

No further work is recommended on the object, although it should be retained as part of the project archive. It is recommended that the find should be mentioned in the County Historic Environment Record and a brief description included in any published account of the fieldwork.

References

Saville, A., 1980. ‘On the Measures of Struck Flakes and Flake Tools’, *Lithics* 1, 16-20.

Young, R., 1984. ‘Potential Sources of Flint and Chert in the North-East of England’, *Lithics* 5, 3.

APPENDIX E
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

RECTORY FARM, EASINGTON VILLAGE, COUNTY DURHAM
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

September 2007

---

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

1.1.1 The site of a proposed residential development (a single, two-storey, dwelling) at Rectory Farm, Easington Village is to be subject to an archaeological field evaluation. The overall development site is *c.* 710 sq. m. in size and is currently occupied by a grass bank and an area of shrubbery.

1.1.2 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) is to undertake the archaeological evaluation, having been commissioned by Mr and Mrs McCabe (the Clients). No archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) has been prepared and no form of field evaluation, including geophysical survey, has been previously undertaken.

1.1.3 Important archaeological remains are known to the south of and directly adjacent to the proposed development site The evaluation is required to provide sufficient information for Durham County Archaeology Section (DCAS), as advisors to Easington District Council, as part of the planning process. A Specification for the evaluation has been prepared by DCAS.[1]

1.1.4 In broad terms, the proposed development has the potential to impact upon any buried archaeological remains at the site. The evaluation will seek to determine the nature, date and importance of any archaeological remains at the site so that an informed planning decision can be made.

1.1.5 The evaluation will follow the standards set out in:

- '*Code of Approved Conduct for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*', Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) September 1998.
- *'Standards and guidance: archaeological field evaluation'*, IFA 2001.
- '*Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd Edition'* (MAP2), English Heritage 1991.

1.1.6 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited is an IFA 'Registered Archaeological Organisation' (RAO 23).

1.2 Site Location and Description

1.2.1 The proposed house plot is currently undeveloped land to the south-east of the existing farmhouse at Rectory Farm. It comprises a grassed bank and an area of shrubbery to the north of a single storey stone outbuilding. With a total area of *c*. 710 sq. m., the proposed house plot is centred at NZ 41347 43577.

1.2.2 Rectory Farm lies on the north side of Hall Walks, the main east-west through road of the historic core of Easington Village. Open fields bound the farm complex to the north and west, with a housing development to the east and Seaton Holme Discovery Centre to the south, this fronting onto Hall Walks. Across the farm the ground generally falls away to the north; on the proposed house plot, the land lies at *c*. 134m OD.

1.2.3 The 'solid' geology of the Easington area - which lies in the 'Concealed Durham Coalfield' - is formed by Magnesian Limestone. Glacial or fluvioglacial 'drift' sediments of various type – mainly Boulder Clays and Sands in this part of County Durham - largely conceal the underlying Permian rocks.

[1] DCAS 2007.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 A planning application (PLAN/2007/0533) has been submitted to Easington District Planning Authority for development of the site for residential use, comprising a single two-storey dwelling. However, DCAS, in its capacity as advisors to the Planning Authority, have said that the application cannot be determined until the results of an archaeological field evaluation are submitted in support of it.

1.3.2 This recommendation is in line with PPG 16 and the archaeological policies of both the District Council and the County Council. The results of the evaluation are required by DCAS in order to inform a decision regarding the nature and scope of any further archaeological works required in advance of the proposed development. On award of contract to undertake the evaluation, PCA has prepared this Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

1.4 Historical and Archaeological Background

1.4.1 The site lies immediately to the north of the former rectory Seaton Holme (County SMR 66) which is reputed to have been built *c*. AD 1249 for Bishop Nicholas de Farnham as a dwelling following his retirement. Little is known about the history of the building during the medieval period until the end of the Reformation when it became the rectory and one of the principal residences of the Archdeacon of Durham who held the rectorship. It survives as the shell of a relatively large stone house with hall and cross wings.

1.4.2 Immediately to the north of Seaton Holme stands a second range of buildings of medieval origin, possibly an oratory (SMR 3865), again of earlier 13th century date. Archaeological recording carried out during renovation and extension works at the rectory in 1990 – to create offices and the interpretation centre - revealed earthworks and structural remains - including those of a timber building – of probable Anglian date (SMR 3866). The conclusion of this work was that the earlier medieval farm may have been oriented to the north of the oratory building, potentially on the site of Rectory Farm.

1.4.3 The church of St. Mary's lies to the south-east of the site, on the south side of Hall Walks. It was first built in the late Anglian period (8th-10th century). The present building is mainly of late 12th century construction; this is known to have replaced an earlier structure of 11th century origin. The surviving western tower is of Norman origin, preserved right up to the corbel table below the battlements.

1.4.4 Historic maps show that Rectory Farm is a 20th century creation, occupying the southern margin of former fields adjacent to the Rectory. Since the development area itself seems to have never been developed, it is likely that should archaeological deposits relating to the early development of the village exist there, they should survive relatively undisturbed.

2. AIMS OF THE PROJECT

2.1 Archaeological trial trenching will be used an initial investigative tool to test the archaeological potential of the site and in order to assess the impact of the development on the archaeological resource. This will allow an informed decision to be made regarding the future treatment of the remains and identify any mitigation measures appropriate either in advance of and/or during development.

2.2 The overall aim of the trial trenching will be:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, depth and character of any archaeological features;
- to make recommendations, where possible, about further mitigation which may be necessary to preserve archaeological features *in situ*, or
- to make recommendations to preserve archaeological features by record, where necessary;
- to determine if no further archaeological interventions are required.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 Trial Trenching: Overall Methodology

3.1.1 Trial trenching will be undertaken to determine the presence/absence of archaeological remains and, where such remains exist, to determine their character and significance.

3.1.2 Two trial trenches are proposed, each measuring 10m x 1.5m at ground level. Their proposed locations are shown on Figure 1. An underground pipe carrying fuel oil to the existing farmhouse will cross the line of Trench 2 and must remain undisturbed.

3.1.3 In both trenches, initial excavation will be undertaken by a suitably sized mechanical excavator utilising a wide blade, non-toothed 'ditching' bucket under archaeological supervision. Machine excavation will cease at the first archaeologically significant horizon or until natural undisturbed ground is encountered, whichever is soonest. The supervising archaeologist will decide at what level excavation will cease, although the maximum depth of either trench will be 1.10m. All further excavation will be undertaken by professional archaeologists using appropriate hand tools.

3.1.4 All archaeological features will be sampled by hand excavation in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to fulfil the purpose of the evaluation. Complete excavation of features will not be undertaken unless this is an absolute necessity. The proposed extent of excavation of differing feature types is listed below:

- Stakeholes –100%.
- Postholes and pits with a diameter up to 1.5m – 50%.
- Pits with a diameter greater than 1.5m – 25% minimum (a complete cross section would be excavated across such features in order to record the full profile).
- Linear features (excluding plough furrows and field drains) up to 5m in length – 20% minimum.
- Linear features (excluding plough furrows and field drains) greater than 5m in length – 10%;
- Plough furrows and field drains will simply be characterised and defined upon exposure, with minimal recording, as required.

3.1.5 Investigations within trial trenches will follow the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and will be conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in PCA's *'Site Recording Manual'*, which is available for consultation.

3.1.6 Following the completion of the fieldwork, the trenches will be backfilled by the landowner. If archaeological features of note have been encountered, such remains may require covering with geotextile for their protection and so that they can be easily identified during any possible subsequent phase of work. Shallow field drains disturbed by the work will not be reinstated by PCA.

3.2 Site Recording

3.2.1 A unique-number site code has been assigned to the project. It is RFE 07.

3.2.2 All archaeological features will be recorded. Deposits and feature cuts will be individually recorded on pro-forma context sheets. A drawn record will be compiled, comprising a site plan showing the locations of trenches, individual trench plans showing identified archaeological features and section drawings. These will be produced at appropriate scales, normally 1:100, 1:50, 1:20 and/or 1:10, as the complexity of the drawing requires. Polyester-based drawing film will be used for section drawings and trench plans. The height of all principal strata and features will be calculated in metres above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the values will be indicated on the appropriate plans and section drawings.

3.2.3 For each trench, a 'Harris Matrix' stratification diagram will be compiled to record stratigraphic relationships. The stratigraphy of both trenches will be recorded even when no archaeological deposits are identified.

3.2.4 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be completed. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), illustrating the principal features and finds discovered in detail and in general context. Any photographs of this nature will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. Digital images will also be taken and a selection of the best images will be made available for use by the County SMR.

3.3 Artefacts and Palaeoenvironmental Remains

Artefacts

3.3.1 All artefacts encountered at the site will treated in a proper manner and will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, marked, conserved, bagged, packaged, boxed and stored as appropriate and in accordance with recognised guidelines.[2]

3.3.2 Pottery and ceramic building material will be collected as bulk samples by context. Significant 'small finds' (*i.e.* metalwork, struck flint, *etc*.) will be three-dimensionally located prior to collection. All finds will be processed and subject to specialist assessment according to relevant guidelines (as described in MAP2).

3.3.3 Any finds defined as Treasure, according to the '*Treasure Act 1997'*, would be located and then removed to a safe place, where they would be temporarily stored according to appropriate archaeological conservation guidelines. The local coroner would be informed in writing within 14 days. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

3.3.4 If necessary, conservation of vulnerable artefacts will be undertaken prior to specialist study. All recovered iron and copper alloy objects will be X-rayed prior to specialist assessment.

3.3.5 Bulk sampling will take place from securely dated contexts where significant industrial processing waste is known or suspected, as described further below.

3.3.6 Assessment and analysis of each category of artefactual material will be undertaken by suitably qualified specialists as soon as possible following the completion of the fieldwork. The results, including a statement of potential for all categories of artefacts, in the event of further archaeological work at the site, will be included in the report on the evaluation.

Outline Palaeoenvironmental Strategy

3.3.7 In general, the bulk palaeoenvironmental sampling policy on the site will entail recovery of bulk material from well-dated, stratified deposits covering the main periods or phases of occupation. Different sampling strategies for ecofacts may be employed according to the perceived importance of the deposit or feature under investigation. Close attention will be given to sampling for date, structure and environment.

3.3.8 Sample size will take into account the frequency with which material is likely to occur. In general, however, samples will be of the order 20–30 litres although with the expectation that smaller quantities (*c.* 5 litres) will be processed and assessed as part of the evaluation. Thus if no subsequent excavation is undertaken at the site, adequate material will remain for further processing and full analysis of the evaluation material should that prove necessary.

3.3.9 Assessment of sufficient samples will be undertaken to cover the range of feature types and dates represented.

[2] United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), Archaeology Section 1983; Watkinson and Neal 1998.

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

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

3.3.11 A formal assessment of the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site will be carried out and the results will appear in the report on the evaluation.

Faunal Remains, Human Remains and Scientific Dating

3.3.12 Faunal remains encountered at the site will recovered as bulk samples during hand excavation and will be bagged, packaged, boxed and stored as appropriate and in accordance with the aforementioned recognised guidelines.

3.3.13 Any human remains encountered will be accurately recorded, including *in situ* examination by a palaeo-pathologist if required. In general, such remains will be protected and will not be removed from site during this phase of work, unless this is absolutely necessary.

3.3.14 Scientific dating techniques, such as radiocarbon, archaeomagnetism and thermoluminescence, will be applied where appropriate.

3.5 Evaluation Report

3.5.1 A report on the evaluation will be compiled by the supervising archaeologist upon completion of the fieldwork. The report will be bound with each page and paragraph numbered.

3.5.2 Two hardcopies of the report will be supplied to the Clients. One hardcopy will be supplied to DCAS; in addition a digital (pdf format) copy will be supplied to DCAS.

3.5.3 The report will set out the background to the project and will contain an assessment of the nature, date and significance of the stratigraphic, artefactual and palaeoenvironmental evidence. The results will be placed in a local and regional context.

3.5.4 The report will include ‘site location’ and ‘trench location’ plans, as detailed above, plans and sections of features recorded and/or the extent of the archaeology located and a trench-by-trench summary of the findings, incorporating all available dating evidence. A copy of this WSI will be appended to the report.

3.5.5 In the event of further fieldwork, such as open area excavation, being undertaken at the site, the results of the evaluation could require publication in some form. This would either be a report on the evaluation results on their own or part of an academic paper on full mitigation works, which would require publication in an appropriate monograph or journal.

3.6 Site Archive

3.6.1 The minimum acceptable standard for archives generated by archaeological projects has been defined by English Heritage.[3] It will include all materials recovered (or a comprehensive records of such materials as referred to below) and all written, drawn, and photographic records relating directly to the investigations. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed, and internally consistent. It will also contain a site stratigraphic matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on artefactual and palaeoenvironmental data.

3.6.2 A copy of the documentary and photographic archive for the project will be deposited with an appropriate museum in the County.

3.6.3 Unless overridden by National Law, any artefacts and ecofacts recovered from the site will belong to the landowner, who is urged to donate these to an appropriate museum. PCA will arrange for deposition of the material with a suitable repository.

3.6.4 Alternative arrangements for the curation of all or part of the site archive require prior written approval from DCAS. For example, if the artefacts are not to be donated to an appropriate museum, arrangements will be made for a comprehensive record to be compiled of all relevant materials (including detailed drawings, photographs and descriptions of individual finds), which can instead constitute that part of the archaeological archive.

3.6.5 PCA agrees to fulfil its obligations in respect of the OASIS Project.

3.7 Health & Safety and Insurance

3.7.1 PCA will conduct a Risk Assessment prior to commencement of the fieldwork.

3.7.2 During the fieldwork all relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice will be acknowledged and PCA's *Health and Safety Policy*, which is available for consultation, will be followed.

3.7.3 All information reasonably obtainable on the location of live services is required prior to the fieldwork commencing.

3.7.4 Copies of insurance documentation can be supplied on request.

4. RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

4.1 Outline of Resources

4.1.1 A dedicated Project Manager for PCA will be responsible for the setting-up, running and completion of the project. The Project Manager will also be responsible for liaison with representatives of the Clients and DCAS, as appropriate.

4.1.2 A field team, consisting of 1 no. Site Supervisor and up to 2 no. Archaeologists, will undertake the trial trenching. The Site Supervisor will direct the cutting of the trenches. The field team will carry out the cleaning, excavation, recording and sampling, as appropriate, of archaeological features and deposits within the trial trenches.

4.2 Timetable

4.2.1 The trial trenching will involve less than 5 days fieldwork. It is proposed that the work will commence in the week beginning Monday 1 October 2007. The fieldwork will comprise survey/setting out, trench cutting, archaeological investigations, with trench backfilling to be completed by the landowner.

[3] English Heritage 1991. *MAP2 - Appendix 3: Site Archive Specification*.

4.2.2 The evaluation report will be prepared as soon as possible following completion of the fieldwork. In the event of significant archaeological findings, the report may be an interim statement, with a full report to be submitted when the results of specialist assessments are available.

4.2.3 A working week is Monday to Friday. A working day for fieldwork is 8.00 am to 4.30 pm.

4.2.4 PCA will ensure that reasonable access to the investigations will be granted to representatives of DCAS who wish to be satisfied, through site inspections, that the archaeological works are being conducted in accordance with the agreements made and to proper professional standards.

4.3 Key Personnel

4.3.1 PCA's Project Manager will be Robin Taylor-Wilson.

4.3.2 PCA's Site Supervisor will be Phil Moore.

4.3.3 PCA's Post-Excavation Manager will be Jenny Proctor.

4.4 Sub-contractors

4.4.1 Palaeoecology Research Services will undertake all necessary processing and analysis of palaeoenvironmental remains, including faunal remains. Their work will be co-ordinated by John Carrott.

4.4.2 Prehistoric and Roman ceramic material, if present, would be assessed by Scott Martin.

4.4.3 Medieval and post-medieval ceramic material will be assessed by Jenny Vaughan of Northern Counties Archaeological Services.

4.4.4 Archaeological conservation will be undertaken by Karen Barker.

4.4.5 Plant for opening the trenches is to be hired-in by PCA as part of the contract, while the Clients are to assume responsibility for backfilling. Site welfare facilities are to be the responsibility of the Clients.

5. BIBLIOGRAPHY

DCAS, 2007. '*Specification for Archaeological Evaluation at Rectory Farm, Easington Village, Easington, County Durham, SR8 3BS',* unpublished, Durham County Council.

Department of the Environment, 1990. *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16),* HMSO.

English Heritage, 1991. *Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd Edition'*, English Heritage.

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001. *Standards and guidance: field evaluation,* IFA.

PCA, 1999. *Site Recording Manual,* unpublished, PCA.

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), 1983. *Conservation Guidelines No. 2. Packaging and storage of freshly excavated artefacts from archaeological sites,* UKIC, Archaeology Section

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC), 1990. *Conservation Guidelines No. 3. Environmental standards for the permanent storage of excavated material from archaeological sites,* UKIC, Archaeology Section.

Watkinson, D. and Neal, V., 1998. *First Aid for Finds*, 3rd Edition, Rescue/UKIC, Archaeology Section and Museum of London.

P C A

PRE - CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

UNIT 54

BROCKLEY CROSS BUSINESS CENTRE

96 ENDWELL ROAD

BROCKLEY

LONDON SE4 2PD

TEL: 0207 732 3925 0207 639 9091

FAX: 0207 639 9588

EMAIL: info@pre-construct.com

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED (NORTHERN OFFICE)

UNIT 19A

TURSDALE BUSINESS PARK

DURHAM DH6 5PG

TEL: 0191 377 1111

FAX: 0191 377 0101

EMAIL: info.north@pre-construct.com