

**An Archaeological Evaluation on Land Between 44 and 47 Front Street,
Witton Gilbert, County Durham**

Central National Grid Reference: NZ 2327 4569

Site Code: WGD 08

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in October 2008 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land between 44 and 47 Front Street, Witton Gilbert, County Durham. The work was commissioned by Hedley Park Developments, ahead of a proposed residential development.
- 1.2 The development site was approximately 900 square metres in size, comprising an open street frontage plot occupying rising ground on the north-side of Front Street in the village of Witton Gilbert; its central National Grid Reference is NZ 2327 4569.
- 1.3 The evaluation was undertaken on the recommendation of Durham County Archaeology Section. The main archaeological potential of the site came from its location in the historic core of the village, a settlement of medieval origin, located approximately 5km to the north-west of Durham City.
- 1.4 The evaluation comprised two trial trenches (Trenches 1-2) sited within the footprint of proposed new build, along with examination of a standing structure in the western central portion (Area A) of the site. No archaeological desk-based assessment or other form of fieldwork had previously been undertaken.
- 1.5 Trench 1, sited on higher ground in the north-western corner of the site, encountered a stone culvert of likely 19th century date, cut into natural sand and gravel. Trench 2, sited close to and running parallel with the street frontage in the southern part of the site, exposed truncated natural sand and gravel along its entire length. To the north of Trench 2, in Area A, a west-east aligned stone retaining wall was exposed. On its south side was an associated cobbled surface, the remains of a ginnel skirting the rear of a former street frontage building; these structural remains are of likely later post-medieval date.
- 1.6 In summary, it is concluded that the structural remains recorded in Area A are of some archaeological significance and require further exposure and recording ahead of the proposed development scheme. Furthermore, the part of the site in which Trench 1 was sited retains potential for archaeological remains of medieval and post-medieval date, so that the footprint of the area proposed for development there should also be subject to further investigation through archaeological monitoring of overburden removal.

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) on the 17th October 2008 on land between 44 and 47 Front Street, Witton Gilbert, County Durham. Approximately 900 square metres in size, the site has a central National Grid Reference of NZ 2327 4569 (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Hedley Park Developments (the Client and project Sponsor), who propose to build seven dwellings on the site frontage, with garages and access to the rear. Planning permission for the development was granted, with a scheme of archaeological work required at the site as a condition of that permission.
- 2.1.3 The evaluation was undertaken on the recommendation of Durham County Archaeology Section (DCAS), acting in its capacity as advisors to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Durham City Council (DCC). No archaeological desk-based assessment or other form of archaeological field evaluation was undertaken prior to the work.
- 2.1.4 The site comprises an open plot of land on the north side of Front Street, the main through road of the village of Witton Gilbert (Figure 2). Historic maps indicate that the site was developed along the street frontage during the later post-medieval period, and that the former buildings were demolished in the late 20th century. Existing houses, 44 and 47 Front Street, bound the site to the west and east, respectively. To the north-west, the site is bounded by the B6312 Sacriston Lane, while the remainder of its northern boundary is formed by the rear of properties fronting onto that same road.
- 2.1.5 The evaluation was undertaken according to a Project Design¹ compiled by PCA and approved by the DCAS, in advance of the work. The work comprised two machine-excavated trial trenches, both sited within the footprint of areas of new build, as well as examination of upstanding structural remains in the western central portion of the site.
- 2.1.6 The Site 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 WGD 08. The **Online Access** to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) reference number for the evaluation is: preconst1-49964.

¹ PCA 2008. This is included as Appendix C to this report.



Figure 1. Site location
Scale 1:20,000

Sacriston Lane



Tr 1

423250/545700

423325/545700

44

Tr 2

Area A

47

48

Front Street

— proposed new build

16a

15a

14a

The
Glendenning Arms



Figure 2. Trench location
Scale 1:500

2.2 Geology, Topography and Land-use

- 2.2.1 Witton Gilbert is located in the central portion of County Durham, c. 5km north-west of Durham City. Carboniferous Coal Measures form the solid geology of this area, across which thinly bedded strata of coal, sandstone and mudstone have been eroded to create several river valleys, including that of the River Wear and its largest tributary, the River Browney. Witton Gilbert lies on the northern valley side of the Browney, so that the drift geology of the village comprises alluvial and river terrace sand and gravel deposits, as is found along the corridors of most of the rivers in the county.
- 2.2.2 The site lies on the north side of Front Street, which runs through Witton Gilbert from west to east towards Durham City. On the south side of the site, street level is at c. 102.55m OD, but the ground rises steeply to the north, up the valley side, so that ground level at the north-western corner of the site, on the frontage of the B6312 Sacriston Lane, stands at c. 106.15m OD (Figure 2).
- 2.2.3 Development groundworks had commenced when the evaluation herein described was undertaken. However, a topographic plan of the site prior to these works indicates the site was previously open scrubland, rising steeply to the north, with former buildings having been demolished in the late 20th century. The aforementioned groundworks involved reduction of ground level across the entire site, with the exception of the north-western portion.

2.3 Planning Background

- 2.3.1 The Client has planning permission for the erection of seven dwellings along the street frontage, with access and separate garages to the rear. A condition of planning permission, attached on the advice of the DCAS, required a phased scheme of archaeological work to be implemented at the site, prior to development. This was in-line with UK government guidance regarding archaeology set out in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning*² (PPG 16). In addition, the Local Plan of DCC (adopted in 2004 but gradually being replaced from 2006 by the Local Development Framework) contains 'Policy E24', which deals with archaeological remains of regional and local importance that may be affected by development proposals.
- 2.3.2 Due to an oversight, development groundworks commenced without an appropriate scheme of archaeological work having been agreed with the DCAS. The Client approached PCA with a view to designing and undertaking such a scheme and a site visit was arranged. On award of contract, and following discussion with the DCAS, PCA compiled the aforementioned Project Design (Appendix C) for the work. The archaeological evaluation was required in order to establish the archaeological potential of the site.

² Department of the Environment 1990.

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

This information is drawn mostly from the 'Keys to the Past', the online version of the County Durham Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Other online and literary sources were also consulted.

- 2.4.1 The village of Witton Gilbert and its vicinity have produced a broad range of archaeological remains. Several fragments of prehistoric rock art – most unusual for an area beyond the uplands of the North Pennines – have been recovered from the area. For the Roman and Anglo-Saxon period there is relatively little evidence of activity, although it has been argued that the place name is of Saxon origin.³
- 2.4.2 Witton – as 'Wyton' – first appears in documentary records (the Boldon Book) in 1195 and there are a number of buildings of certain medieval origin in the village. Witton Hall (or Holmes' Farm), located c. 300m to the south-east of the site, is mainly of later 18th century date, but includes masonry of 12th or 13th century date. This is believed to be the remains of the leper hospital of St. Mary Magdalene, founded in the 12th century by Gilbert de la Ley, a tenant of the landowner, the Bishop of Durham. To the south of Witton Hall is the parish church, St. Michael and All Angels, occupying a peninsula of higher ground surrounded by the flood plain of the River Browney; it dates from the Norman period, being much altered in the 14th century. At the time of the Boldon Book, the settlement comprised two farms, with associated cottages, one in the vicinity the church.
- 2.4.3 Later in the medieval period, the core of the village moved up the valley side, to the north of the buildings described above, with Front Street probably representing the main east-west through route by the late medieval period. Therefore, the street is of likely medieval origin, hence the archaeological sensitivity of the area in which the development site lies.
- 2.4.4 Coal mining is recorded in the parish as early as the 15th century and by the 18th century there were four small pits, all probably drift mines, in the vicinity of the village.⁴ By this time, the road through the village became a turnpike road and, in 1730, a school was built by public subscription. As new and bigger pits were sunk in the area in early modern period - for example at Bearpark, Langley Park and Sacriston - the settlement grew quickly, with the population of the village increasing from just over 400 in 1831 to more than 1,200 in 1841. By 1862 the village had a railway station, and two brick and tile works were in operation around the same time.
- 2.4.5 It is evident that the frontage buildings along the northern portion of Front Street in which the site is located have been 'terraced into' rising ground on the valley side. The street frontage of the site is shown on the Ordnance Survey map series as being developed from the 1st edition (1850s) until the 1950s. The precise date of origin of the properties shown on this mapping is uncertain, although they are probably of later post-medieval date. By the 1960s, only the easternmost portion of the frontage at the site remained developed and, by the 1970s, even this had been cleared of buildings. Given the location of the site within the historic core of the village, there is certainly potential for evidence of post-medieval, and possibly medieval, street frontage occupation.

³ 'Witton Gilbert, The Story of Our Village' on the website *wittongilbert.com*, available on-line at: <http://fast-trax.50megs.com/wgHistory.html>

⁴ Members of the Witton Gilbert Women's Institute no date.

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 broad Aims of the trial trenching were:

- to establish the presence or absence and, where present, the date, 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 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 an Evaluation Report containing an assessment of the nature and significance of all data categories, stratigraphic, artefactual, biological, *etc.*

3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 The specific Objective of the archaeological trial trenching was to test those areas of the site where new build is proposed (Figure 2), through investigation of:

- Trench 1, aligned roughly north-south and located within the north-western portion of the site where a new access road and garage is proposed;
- Trench 2, aligned roughly east-west and located within the south-western portion of the site, within the footprint of a row of five proposed street frontage houses;
- Area A, the western central portion of the site, where a stone retaining wall was identified during an initial site visit.

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*⁵ are:

- Medieval (MD) i – Settlement;
- MD vii – Medieval ceramics and other artefacts;
- MD viii – Other medieval industries;
- Post-medieval (PM) ii. Industrialisation;
- PM viii. Industrial intensification 1790-1830.

⁵ 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 (IFA).⁶ PCA is a 'Registered Archaeological Organisation' with the IFA.
- 4.1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the aforementioned Project Design compiled by PCA, which should be consulted for full details of methodologies employed regarding archaeological excavation, recording, and sampling. The Project Design forms Appendix C of this report.
- 4.1.3 During the course of the evaluation, it was necessary to amend the dimensions of Trench 2 from those proposed in the Project Design. It had been intended that Trench 2 would comprise an area strip across as much of the footprint of the proposed new build along the south-western frontage as possible, although due to restrictions on space (stored construction materials and spoil) it was only possible to open a trench measuring 12.30m x 1.50m at ground level. An area of investigation to the north of Trench 2, where a length of stone retaining wall and associated deposits were examined, was designated as 'Area A' during the fieldwork (Figure 2).
- 4.1.4 A Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was established on the site from the Ordnance Survey Bench Mark (103.89m OD) cut into the brickwork forming the western elevation of a bus shelter on the north side of Front Street, to the east of the site.

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, 17 archaeological contexts were defined in Trenches 1 and 2 and Area A (see Appendix B). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts and phasing the stratigraphic data (see Appendix A). A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described below in Section 5.
- 4.2.2 No artefactual material was recovered during the evaluation so there was no material requiring specialist stabilisation, assessment of potential for conservation research or any form of specialist assessment.
- 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.
- 4.2.4 The depositional requirements of the body to which the Site Archive will be ultimately transferred, namely the County Durham Archaeological Archive, will be met in full.

⁶ IFA 2001.

5. RESULTS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

During the evaluation, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual 'context' numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example, [21]. 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 river terrace sand and gravel forming the superficial geology of the valley side on which the site is located.
- 5.1.2 Throughout Trench 1, the basal deposit, [17], comprised loose, mid orange brown to mid yellowish brown, coarse sand, pea grit and fine and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles with moderate large and occasional very large sub-rounded cobbles. At the northern end of Trench 1, this natural sand and gravel was recorded at 106.05m OD (c. 0.10m below existing ground level) (Figure 3), this being the highest value encountered on any natural sub-stratum during the evaluation.
- 5.1.3 In Trench 2, natural sand and gravel, [116], was recorded at a maximum height of 103.29m OD, this at the eastern end of the trench. The deposit was exposed along the base of the trench, although it appears that, in this part of the site, development groundworks had truncated the natural sub-stratum. However, it is considered probable that former development of the street frontage, during the post-medieval period at least, would also have been responsible for truncation of the natural sub-stratum.
- 5.1.4 In Area A, natural sand and gravel, [112], was recorded at a maximum height of 104.83m OD, cut into by the construction cut of stone retaining wall assigned to Phase 2 (Figure 4).

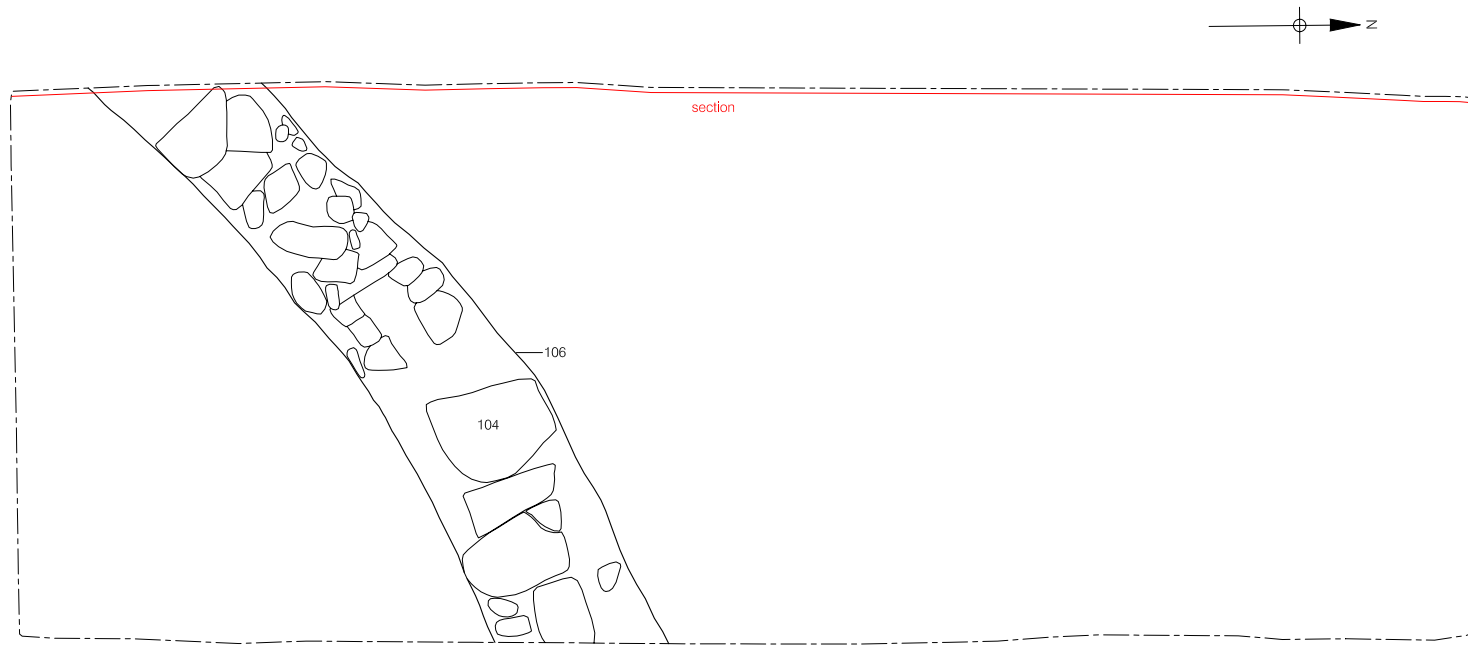
5.2 Phase 2: Post-medieval (c. early 19th century?)

- 5.2.1 Phase 2 represents essentially undated, but likely later post-medieval, activity recorded in Trench 1 and Area A.
- 5.2.2 A stone culvert, [104], was recorded in plan crossing Trench 1 on a general NE-SW, slightly curving, alignment (Figures 3 and 5). The structure was trench-built within a construction cut, [106], up to 0.53m wide and up to 0.48m deep, that had been excavated into natural sand and gravel. The construction cut was recorded at a maximum height of 106.03m OD, while the masonry of the culvert was recorded at a maximum height of 105.84m OD.
- 5.2.3 The lowermost portion of the construction cut for the culvert had been infilled with stiff, mid bluish brown clay, [105], up to 0.12m thick and forming a levelling/bedding deposit. Upon this material stood the walls of the structure, up to c. 0.25m high and comprising roughly squared sandstone blocks, unmortared and randomly coursed, with occasional fragments of red brick. The capping of the culvert, which survived only partially along the length of the structure, comprised mostly large, generally irregular, sandstone slabs. The uppermost portion of the construction cut had been infilled with a deposit, [102], comprising loose, dark grey sand and gravel, up to 0.23m thick. Within the culvert had accumulated a deposit, [103], comprising stiff, mid greyish brown silty clay, up to 0.13m thick, which represents disuse of the structure.

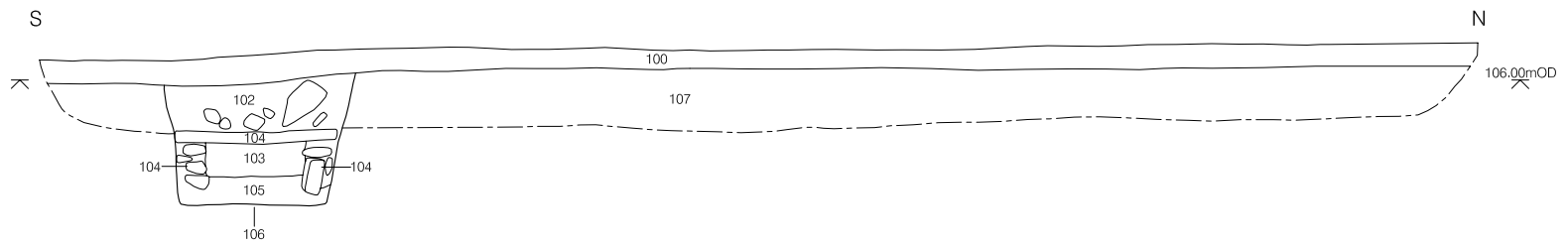
- 5.2.4 Although it was not possible to date the culvert closely, its general form and the brick fragments within its walls indicate that it is of later post-medieval, probably early 19th century, origin. It is likely to have been installed, running across the higher ground to the rear of the street frontage properties of this period, to aid drainage.
- 5.2.5 To the south of Trench 1, in Area A, another structure was exposed, this comprising an east-west aligned stone retaining wall, [111], which survived up to a height of 0.92m, at a maximum height of 105.09m OD (Figures 4 and 6). Unmortared, the wall was up to 0.30m thick and for the most part comprised courses of roughly worked sandstone slabs, with occasional large cobbles, with one course of large, roughly squared sandstone blocks and a very large cobble. Overall, the wall been built within a steeply-sided construction cut, [110], which had been excavated into the sloping natural sand and gravel, with the cut then backfilled, on the north side of the wall, with a loose, silty stony deposit, [109], up to c. 1.0m thick. A length of c. 1.0m of the south elevation of the wall was exposed, truncated (and disturbed) to the west by groundworks for the development and continuing to the east beyond the limit of excavation.
- 5.2.6 Butting against the south side of the wall - and certainly associated with it – was a small area of cobble surface, [115], recorded at a maximum height of 104.28m OD. Truncated to the west and south by development groundworks, the surface continued to the east beyond the limit of excavation, with an area measuring up to 0.70m x 0.50m being exposed in plan. The surface was bedded into a layer, [113], of soft, dark grey clayey silt, up to 0.10m thick, which overlay a mixed clayey silt and sandy silt make-up deposit, [114], up to 0.20m thick and probably dumped within the base of the overall construction cut, [110], for the adjacent retaining wall.
- 5.2.7 Like the culvert to the north, the retaining wall and cobble surface could not be closely dated by artefactual material, although, again on the basis of their general form, these structural remains are considered to be of later post-medieval, probably early 19th century, origin, although they could potentially be earlier or slightly later. The wall acted as a 'terrace retaining wall', since the street frontage buildings must have been built upon an artificial terrace created on the sloping valley side. The cobble surface probably represents the surface of the original ginnel that ran between the retaining wall and the rear elevation of the former frontage buildings. This arrangement is preserved in the property immediately to the west of the site, although the structures involved at that location have been improved.

5.3 Phase 3: Modern

- 5.3.1 Phase 3 represents modern overburden and topsoil.
- 5.3.2 A layer, [100], of loose, dark grey silty sand and gravel, was recorded along the length of Trench 1, at a maximum height of 106.15m OD (Figure 3). Up to 0.10m thick, it was modern overburden.
- 5.3.3 A layer, [108], of loose, dark grey clayey silt, was recorded in section in Area 1, at a maximum height of 105.52m OD (Figure 4). Up to 0.38m thick, it was a developed topsoil that had accumulated since demolition of the former street frontage properties.
- 5.3.4 A layer, [117], of loose, dark grey silty sand and gravel, was recorded along the length of Trench 2. On average 50mm thick, it was a layer of modern 'tread'.



Trench 1. Plan.



Trench 1. East facing section.

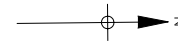


Figure 3. Trench 1, plan and section
Scale 1:30

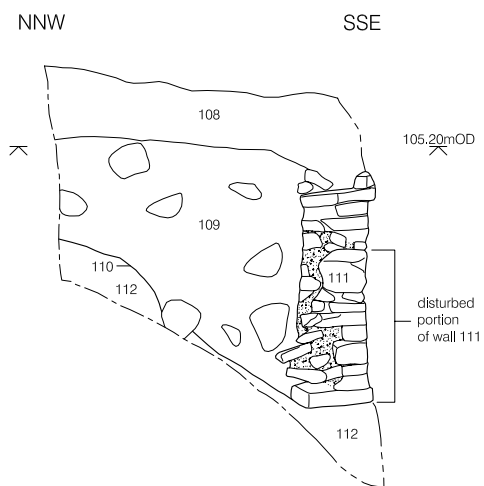
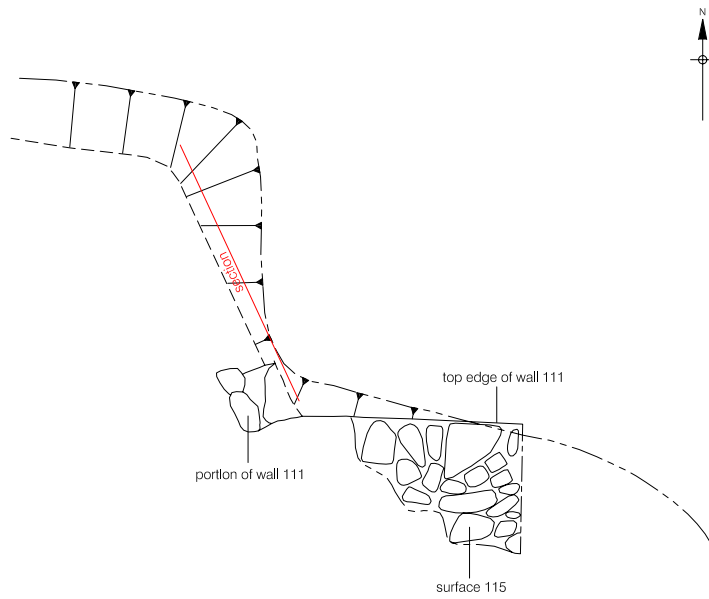


Figure 4. Area A, plan and section
Scale 1:30



Figure 5. Trench 1 photograph; culvert [104], pre-excitation, looking south-west (1m scale).



Figure 6. Area A photograph; wall [111] and surface [115], looking north-east (1m scale).

6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusions

- 6.1.1 Archaeological deposits, structures and features recorded during the evaluation have been assigned to three main phases of activity:
- **Phase 1**; comprising the earliest deposit in both trenches and in Area A, this being natural sand and gravel. In Trench 1, natural sand and gravel lay at a maximum depth of 0.10m below existing ground level, while in Trench 2, it the same deposit essentially formed the ground surface, having been previously truncated.
 - **Phase 2**; comprising structural remains of likely later post-medieval date recorded in Trench 1 and Area A.
 - **Phase 3**; comprising modern deposits.
- 6.1.2 Trench 1, sited on higher ground in the north-western corner of the site, encountered a stone culvert. To the south, in Area A, a west-east aligned stone terrace retaining wall was exposed, with an associated cobbled surface, this the remains of a ginnel skirting the rear of a former street frontage building. All these structural remains are of likely later post-medieval date with the former frontage buildings having been demolished in the late 20th century. The remains, particularly those recorded in Area A, are of moderate archaeological significance.
- 6.1.3 Trench 2, in the south-eastern part of the site, exposed only truncated natural sand and gravel along its entire length.

6.2 Recommendations

- 6.2.1 As the structural remains recorded in Area A are of some archaeological significance, further exposure and recording is recommended ahead of the proposed development. The aim of this additional work will be to establish a firm date of origin; at present the remains are suspected as being from the later post-medieval period, probably the early 19th century.
- 6.2.2 Furthermore, the part of the site in which Trench 1 and Area A are located retains potential for archaeological remains of medieval and post-medieval date. Accordingly, the footprint of the area proposed for development in the north-western portion of the site should also be subject to further investigation through archaeological monitoring of overburden removal, with recording and excavation of any remains of note thus exposed.
- 6.2.3 A report on the recommended further work must be prepared to describe the findings.

7. REFERENCES

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8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

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

PCA Credits

Fieldwork: Aaron Goode (Site Supervisor) and Robin Taylor-Wilson

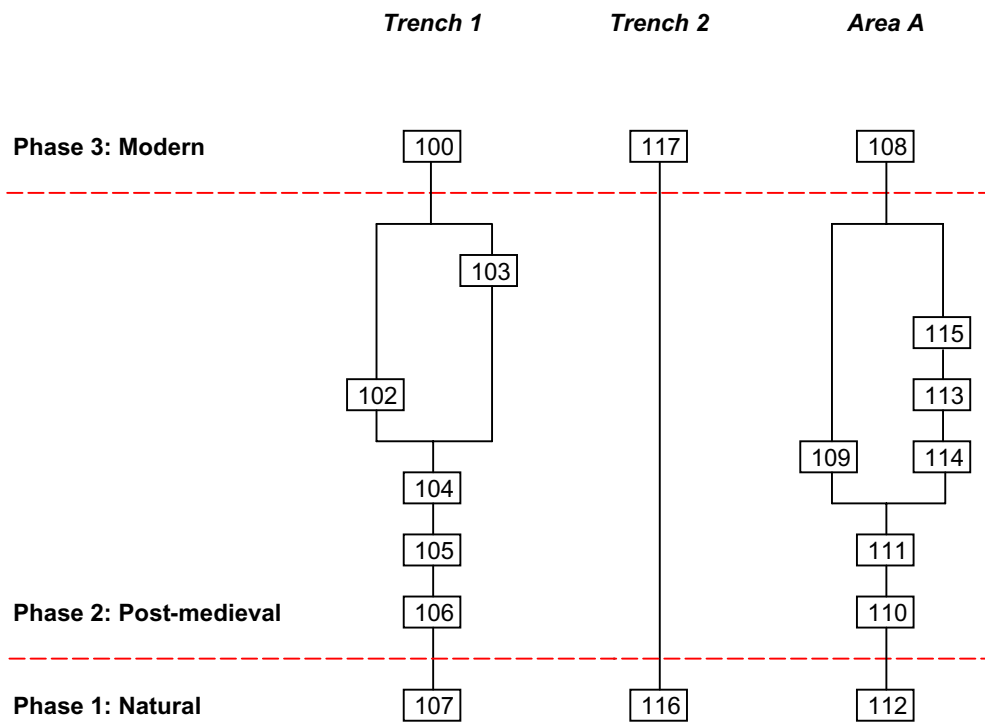
Report: Robin Taylor Wilson

Project Manager: Robin Taylor-Wilson

Illustrations: Adrian Bailey

APPENDIX A
STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES

WGD 08: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES



**APPENDIX B
CONTEXT INDEX**

WGD 08: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Trench/Area	Phase	Type 1	Type 2	Interpretation
100	Trench 1	3	Deposit	Layer	Overburden in Trench 1
101	Not used	-	-	-	-
102	Trench 1	2	Deposit	Fill	Backfill of construction cut [106]
103	Trench 1	2	Deposit	Fill	Silting-up fill of culvert [104]
104	Trench 1	2	Masonry	Structure	Stone-lined culvert
105	Trench 1	2	Deposit	Fill	Basal fill of construction cut [106]
106	Trench 1	2	Deposit	Cut	Construction cut for culvert [104]
107	Trench 1	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural sand and gravel in Trench 1
108	Area A	3	Cut	Linear	Topsoil in Area A
109	Area A	2	Deposit	Fill	Backfill of construction cut [110]
110	Area A	2	Deposit	Fill	Construction cut for wall [111]
111	Area A	2	Masonry	Structure	Stone retaining wall
112	Area A	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural sand and gravel in Area A
113	Area A	2	Deposit	Layer	Uppermost make-up for surface [115]
114	Area A	2	Deposit	Layer	Lowermost make-up for surface [115]
115	Area A	2	Masonry	Structure	Cobble surface
116	Trench 2	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural sand and gravel in Trench 2
117	Trench 2	3	Deposit	Layer	Overburden/'tread' in Trench 2

APPENDIX C
PROJECT DESIGN

**PROJECT DESIGN FOR
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION ON LAND BETWEEN
44 AND 47 FRONT STREET, WITTON GILBERT, CO. DURHAM**

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Title	Project Design for an Archaeological Evaluation on land between 44 and 47 Front Street, Witton Gilbert, Co. Durham	
Author	Robin Taylor-Wilson	
Derivation	Discussion (14/10/08) between Lee White, Durham County Archaeology Section & Robin Taylor-Wilson, PCA, regarding scope of work. Instruction (15/10/08) from Hedley Park Developments (the Client).	
Original Version & Date	Version 1.0	15 October 2008
This Version & Date	Version 1.0	15 October 2008
Reviser (if applicable)	N/A	
Summary of Changes (if applicable)	N/A	
Status of this Version	Final	
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PART 1: DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

1.1 Project Name

1.1.1 The project is known as land between 44 and 47 Front Street, Witton Gilbert, County Durham.

1.2 Summary Description of Project

1.2.1 The project entails an archaeological investigation comprising an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching and monitored area strip, to be undertaken as a condition of planning permission to develop the site. The main archaeological interest stems from the fact that the site lies on the north side of Front Street, within the historic core of the village of Witton Gilbert, thus there is potential for evidence of medieval and post-medieval occupation.

1.3 Background

1.3.1 The site is less than 1 hectare in size, centred at National Grid Reference NZ 2327 4569. Prior to the current development, the site comprised rough grassland sloping down to Front Street. Planning permission for the current development has been granted, subject to a condition requiring a phased scheme of archaeological work to be implemented. Due to an oversight, development groundworks have commenced without such a scheme being agreed with the Durham County Archaeology Section (DCAS). Ground level across the frontage and in the north-eastern portion of the site has been reduced. An archaeological investigation is therefore required immediately, with a report on the work to follow, in order to establish the archaeological potential of the site. No Specification for work has been prepared, but this document is intended to comprise the 'written scheme of investigation' required by the planning condition.

1.3.2 No previously recorded archaeological work has been undertaken at the site and no desk-based assessment of its archaeological and historical potential has been undertaken. The frontage of Front Street is shown on the Ordnance Survey map series as being developed from the 1st edition (1850s) until the 1950s. The date of origin of the frontage properties is uncertain, although given the location within the historic core of the village, there is certainly potential for evidence of post-medieval and possibly medieval street frontage occupation at the site. Any invasive groundworks associated with the proposed development therefore have the potential to disturb or destroy important archaeological remains.

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The project is threat-led with potential to disturb or destroy important sub-surface archaeological remains of the post-medieval and medieval periods in particular. The aforementioned groundworks that have already been undertaken at the site may have destroyed archaeological remains.

- 1.4.2 The site lies on the north side of Front Street in the core of the village of Witton Gilbert, which is situated to the north-west of Durham City, on the northern valley side of the River Browney.
- 1.4.3 The village and its broader vicinity have produced a broad range of archaeological remains. Several interesting fragments of prehistoric rock art – most unusual for an area beyond the uplands of the North Pennines – have been recorded. For the Roman and Anglo-Saxon period there is relatively little evidence of activity, although it has been argued that the place name is of Saxon origin. Witton – as ‘Wyton’ - appears in documentary records from 1195 and there are a number of buildings of medieval origin in the village itself. Witton Hall (or Holmes’ Farm), located c. 300m to the south-east of the site, is mainly of later 18th century date, but includes masonry of 12th or 13th century date. This material is believed to be the remains of the hospital of St. Mary Magdalene, founded by Gilbert de la Ley, in the 12th century. To the south of Witton Hall stands the parish church of St. Michael and All Angels, dating from the Norman period but much altered in the 14th century.
- 1.4.4 The village developed further up the valley side, to the north of the buildings described above, with Front Street probably representing the original main east-west through route. Therefore, the street is of likely medieval origin and the area in which the development site lies is certainly archaeologically sensitive. The frontage of Front Street is shown on the Ordnance Survey map series as being developed from the 1st edition (1850s) until the 1950s. The date of origin of the frontage properties shown on this mapping is uncertain, although they are probably of later post-medieval date. By the 1960s, only the easternmost portion of the frontage was developed and by the 1970s the entire frontage had been cleared of buildings. Given the location within the historic core of the village, there is certainly potential for evidence of post-medieval, and possibly medieval, street frontage occupation at the site.
- 1.4.5 Given that the site lies within the historic core of the village, a specific Research Objective to be addressed by the project is: can any sub-surface archaeological remains at the site provide evidence of medieval occupation in this area? *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (Petts and Gerrard 2006), identifies the following priorities within the research agenda for the ‘Later Medieval’ which are of relevance to the project:
- MDi - Settlement
 - MDvii - Medieval ceramics and other artefacts
 - MDviii – Other medieval industries

1.5 Business Case

- 1.5.1 The project is being undertaken ahead of a proposed conversion of the site – previously rough grassland – for residential use by Hedley Park Developments. A planning application was submitted and granted, with an attached condition requiring a phased scheme of archaeological work to be implemented. This in line with *PPG16* and the archaeological policies of the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Durham City Council. Due to an oversight, development groundworks have commenced without such a scheme being agreed with the DCAS. An archaeological investigation is therefore required immediately, with a report on the work to follow, in order to establish the archaeological potential of the site.

1.5.2 The Client – Hedley Park Developments - has appointed Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) to design and undertake the necessary archaeological work and, as the landowner and developer, the Client will therefore also be the Sponsor. PCA - www.pre-construct.com - is one of the largest archaeological contractors in the UK, operating a nationwide service from offices in London and Durham. PCA is a 'Registered Archaeological Organisation' (RAO 23) with the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

1.5.3 An appropriately specified archaeological investigation, comprising a field evaluation by trial trenching and monitored area strip, is the preferred strategy to provide adequate information on the archaeological resource at the site. The aim is present this information in the form of an archaeological Evaluation Report to allow a decision to be made by the DCAS regarding further mitigation measures.

1.6 Project Scope

1.6.1 The **Start-up Stage** of the project was initiated following instruction by the Client and discussion with Lee White of the DCAS. This Project Design - encompassing a Project Proposal - comprises the main element of the **Initiation Stage** of the project. These stages follow guidelines set out in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006). The aim of the Project Design is to provide sufficient detail to permit authorisation of the project.

1.6.2 The Project Design sets out the research Aims and Objectives of the archaeological field evaluation and, in a series of detailed Methods Statements, describes the techniques and approaches that will be employed to achieve the Aims and Objectives of the project.

1.7 Interfaces

1.7.1 It is intended that the archaeological investigation will be undertaken by PCA on 17 October 2008 with a report on the work to follow as soon as possible. PCA has designed and will undertake the work on behalf of the Client, Hedley Park Developments, with the DCAS fulfilling the role of archaeological curator and archaeological advisor to the LPA.

1.8 Communications

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

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

1.8.3 PCA's Project Team will communicate externally with the Client/Sponsor and other Stakeholders (those parties with an active interest in the project, in this instance the DCAS) via scheduled meetings, email discussions, telephone conversations and written correspondence, as appropriate.

1.9 Project Review

- 1.9.1 Progress of the project will be initially reviewed at Review Points 'R1' (incorporating the Start-up Stage) and 'R2' following dissemination of this Project Design to all Stakeholders. Project authorisation is considered the most likely outcome at R2, with commitment of resources to the first Execution stage, namely Data Collection, that is the undertaking of the field evaluation.
- 1.9.1.1 Review Point 'R3' will be conducted at the conclusion of the first **Execution Stage** of the project, namely at circulation of the Evaluation Report, which will describe the findings of the fieldwork, and the compilation of an Updated Project Design. At R3 a decision will be made regarding whether or not the evaluation justifies proceeding to further fieldwork.

1.10 Health and Safety

- 1.10.1.1 A project-specific Health and Safety (H&S) Plan has been compiled to accompany this Project Design. At its core is PCA's H&S Policy, the starting point for managing H&S at all locations where PCA carries out its operations.
- 1.10.2 This project will not be 'H&S Executive (HSE) notifiable' due to its anticipated short duration.
- 1.10.3 In general, all PCA staff are required to:
- take care of their own safety and that of any other person on the site or in the vicinity;
 - co-operate with the Archaeological Site Supervisor and the Directors of PCA to allow them to comply with their statutory obligations;
 - be mindful of the requirements of the Sponsor;
 - be careful to minimise the environmental impact of their operations and activities.

PART 2: RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

2.1 Project Team Structure

- 2.1.1 The roles of Project Executive and Project Manager will be fulfilled for PCA by Robin Taylor-Wilson, BSc MA MIFA. As Project Executive he will have ultimate responsibility for the outcome of the project. As Project Manager he will oversee day-to-day operations with responsibility for preparation of the Project Design, project planning, identification of Risk, monitoring of costs and timetable and, in essence, ensuring that the project produces the work agreed in the Project Design.
- 2.1.2 Various Experts will be added to the Project Team as appropriate. Central amongst these will be the Archaeological Site Supervisor, an archaeologist with a requisite amount of experience. As is the case with every project where fieldwork is to be undertaken, the Project Manager will also appoint a Site H&S and Environmental Supervisor, and in this instance this role will be fulfilled by the Site Supervisor. Aaron Goode will fulfil these roles.

- 2.1.3 Fieldwork will be undertaken by the Site Supervisor and a field team comprising one or more archaeologists, with office-based Experts providing support, as appropriate, in areas such as computer-aided design (CAD) and surveying.
- 2.1.4 Appropriate specialists will examine all categories of artefactual and palaeoenvironmental materials recovered during the fieldwork.
- 2.1.5 For PCA, some specialists are in-house, while others would be external specialists, sub-contracted specifically for this project. Likely external specialist are set out below:
- Assessment of medieval and post-medieval pottery from the site would be co-ordinated by Jenny Vaughan, a ceramic specialist based in Newcastle.
 - Archaeological Services Durham University (ASDU) would undertake processing and assessment of bulk samples for palaeoenvironmental data and the assessment of faunal remains. Specialist dating by radiocarbon and dendrochronology would also be co-ordinated by ASDU.
- 2.1.6 Archaeological conservation, including on-site conservation advice, would be co-ordinated by Karen Barker, an archaeological conservator based in Hexham.

2.2 Method Statement Part A: Evaluation Fieldwork

2.2.1 Overall Evaluation Methodology

- 2.2.1.1 The research Aims and Objectives of the project will be achieved by the undertaking of an archaeological field evaluation by trial trenching and a monitored area strip. This 'Data Collection' element comprises the first **Execution Stage** of the project. The fieldwork will be undertaken in accordance with *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001). The Assistant Archaeology Officer at the DCAS has been notified of the start date of the fieldwork – Friday 17 October 2008.
- 2.2.1.2 A single archaeological trial trench (Trench 1) is proposed at the location shown on the attached figure. The trench is to be located within the footprint of a proposed short access road and garage in the north-western portion of the site. This area appears not to have been disturbed by construction groundworks undertaken to date. The trench will measure up to 5m in length and up to 2.0m in width. It is sited to maximise the potential of the site to provide the most productive archaeological information and address the research Aims and Objectives.
- 2.2.1.3 An archaeologically monitored area strip (Trench 2) is proposed across the south-western portion of the frontage that is to be occupied by new build. The existing access corridor from the frontage and the footprint of other new build, which will occupy the south-easternmost portion of the site, are not to be investigated due to practical considerations. Ground level across the entire frontage and the entire (front to back) easternmost portion of the site has already been reduced as part of the initial development groundworks.

- 2.2.1.4 An initial site inspection (14 October) by PCA indicates that current ground level across the frontage is formed by a thin layer of 'tread' upon truncated natural sand and gravel. While the aforementioned groundworks have **probably** removed all archaeological remains in that area – specifically any remains of the former street frontage properties, as well as any earlier (most likely post-medieval and possibly medieval) remains (which themselves survived previous development), there is still some potential for deeply-cut features of medieval and post-medieval date to survive. The extent of Trench 2 will effectively be determined by practical considerations, specifically the location of the site access corridor and storage of spoil.
- 2.2.1.5 There is a distinct step-up in ground level within the western central part of the site, running parallel to the frontage. Initial inspection has identified the stub of an west-east aligned stone wall along the face of this step and this is likely to be a terrace retaining wall associated with landscaping at the time of construction of the previous (19th century?) frontage dwellings. This section, including the exposed masonry, is to be examined during the investigation to establish whether any archaeological information of significance survives at that location. Archaeological recording will be required if this is the case.
- 2.2.1.6 This Project Design – and the associated budget - assumes that provision of suitable operated plant will be the responsibility of the Client/Sponsor. In addition, all site security, fencing and site welfare will be the responsibility of the Client/Sponsor.
- 2.2.1.7 Ground level reduction in Trench 1 and the area strip across Trench 2 will be undertaken by mechanical excavator. The mechanical excavator will use a toothless bucket at all times. This work **must** be undertaken under the direction of PCA's Site Supervisor.

2.2.2 Archaeological Cleaning, Excavation and Recording Methodology

- 2.2.2.1 Once ground level in Trenches 1 and 2 has been reduced to an acceptable level, machining will cease. This level will either be the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the top of the natural geological sub-stratum, whichever is soonest. PCA's Site Supervisor will have sole responsibility for deciding at what level machining shall cease.
- 2.2.2.2 Following machine clearance, Trench 1 and the exposed natural sub-stratum across Trench 2 will be cleaned by PCA's Field Team using hand tools, as appropriate. The majority of the investigation of archaeological levels will be by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section. Investigations within the trial trench and stripped area 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* (PCA 1999), which is available for consultation. All archaeological features will be recorded. Deposits and feature cuts will be individually recorded on *pro-forma* 'Context Recording Sheets'. All site records will be marked with the unique-number PCA 'Site Code' – WGD 08.
- 2.2.2.3 Archaeological excavation may require work by 'pick and shovel' or occasionally by further use of the machine. Such techniques will be used only for the removal of homogeneous and 'low grade' layers where it can reasonably be argued that more detailed attention would not produce information of value, and their removal provides a 'window' onto the underlying archaeological levels. They will not be employed on complex stratigraphy, and the deposits to be removed will be fully recorded prior to excavation.

- 2.2.2.4 All archaeological features (layers, cuts, fills, structures) that do not merit preservation *in situ* will be excavated by hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard 'single context recording' methods. Drawings will be on polyester based drawing film, and will be related to survey points. Descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated and exposed will be entered onto prepared *pro-forma* recording sheets.
- 2.2.2.5 The height of all principal strata and features will be calculated in metres above Ordnance Datum (m AOD) and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.
- 2.2.2.6 'Harris Matrix' stratification diagrams will be used to record stratigraphic relationships and these records will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the evaluation.
- 2.2.2.7 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared. This will include black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. The transparencies will be mounted in suitable frames. All photographs will include a legible graduated metric scale. Digital photographs will also be taken to supplement - but not wholly comprise - the photographic archive.
- 2.2.2.8 An adequate proportion of features encountered will be excavated by hand in order to determine their form and function, where possible. However, care will be taken not to compromise the integrity of archaeological features or deposits that may be more appropriately excavated under the remit of a full excavation. The following sampling policy will apply: stakeholes – 100%; postholes and pits with a diameter up to 1.5m – 50%; pits with a diameter greater than 1.5m – 25% minimum and 50% maximum (a complete cross section will be excavated across such features where possible); linear features up to 5m in length – 20% minimum; linear features greater than 5m in length – 10%.
- 2.2.2.9 All Stakeholders will be informed immediately if remains likely to be of national significance are encountered. Any such areas will be protected from the weather or other forms of deterioration. While investigation will not be at the expense of any structures, features or finds which might reasonably be considered to merit preservation, it is imperative that an adequate sample of the site is studied in order to fulfil the Aims and Objectives of the project.
- 2.2.2.10 Where archaeological remains are to be preserved *in situ* they will be adequately protected from deterioration.
- 2.2.2.11 Upon completion of the archaeological investigation, Trench 1 will be backfilled by mechanical excavator, again supplied by the Client/Sponsor. The area of Trench 2 is unlikely to be more than 100mm maximum depth.

2.2.3 Health & Safety and Welfare Methodologies

- 2.2.3.1 The site-specific H&S Plan should be consulted for full details.
- 2.2.3.2 The HSE does not consider archaeological investigations to fall within the definition of 'construction work' in the *Construction (Design and Management) (CDM) Regulations 2007*. Nevertheless, in line with the aforementioned regulations, the Client/Sponsor will have appointed a CDM Co-ordinator and a Principal Contractor as part of the construction scheme.

- 2.2.3.3 The site has been inspected by PCA's Project Manager with a view to establishing all Risks associated with it, so that all such hazards can be mitigated prior to staff starting work. A 'Hazard Check/Risk Assessment' *pro-forma* has been completed and a copy added to the 'Project H&S and Environmental File'.
- 2.2.3.4 The Project Manager will discuss all specific H&S and environmental issues with the Site Supervisor prior to a start on site. The Site Supervisor will be deemed responsible for the H&S at the site under their control, meaning that they will be responsible for the implementation of safe working practices and the implementation of statutory legislation and PCA's site-specific H&S Plan throughout the duration of site operations. The Site Supervisor will be responsible for site-specific induction talks to all PCA staff and site visitors (for archaeological purposes) before they start work or gain access to a site.
- 2.2.3.5 Adequate fencing and trench delineation will be responsibility of the Client/Sponsor.
- 2.2.3.6 All PCA personnel will use safety equipment. For each member of staff this will comprise: hard hat, hi-visibility garment, safety boots (steel toe-cap and insole).
- 2.2.3.7 The fieldwork is anticipated to be less than 5 days duration. Appropriate welfare facilities will be provided on or near site for use by PCA staff.
- 2.2.3.8 No issues regarding buried services are envisaged.
- 2.2.3.9 There is no information currently available regarding ground contamination at the site. If, during the course of the work, it is suspected that sub-surface deposits are contaminated, all archaeological personnel will be required to wear appropriate PPE.

2.2.4 *Finds and Samples: On-Site Methodology*

- 2.2.4.1 High priority will be given to dating any archaeological remains; therefore all artefacts and finds will be retained. Consideration will also be given to the recovery of specialist samples for scientific analysis, particularly samples for cultural/environmental evidence, structural materials and absolute dating. Different sampling strategies may be employed according to the perceived importance of the strata under investigation.
- 2.2.4.2 Deposits will be assessed for their potential for radiocarbon and archaeomagnetic dating and, if appropriate, samples will be recovered for these purposes. Specialist analysis of material recovered for scientific dating would, therefore, be a requirement in post-excavation. In addition, there may be a requirement to submit timbers for dendrochronological analysis.
- 2.2.4.3 Human remains are not anticipated at the site. If *in situ* human remains were encountered they would be recorded to an appropriate level by the use of photography and *pro forma* 'skeleton recording sheets' and including *in situ* examination by a palaeo-pathologist, if required, then protected and retained *in situ*. If *in situ* preservation were not an option at this stage, for whatever reason, the remains would be removed following receipt of the appropriate exhumation licence from the Ministry of Justice. (The Ministry has recently reconsidered its approach to burial licenses that it adopted in 2007: exhumation license applications under the *Burial Act 1857* will now be considered wherever human remains are buried in sites to which the *Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981* or other burial ground legislation does not apply).

- 2.2.4.4 If human remains have to be removed from site, they will be treated with due respect and would be carefully lifted and packaged for scientific study. If human remains are only partially located within an investigation area, the area may have to be enlarged accordingly (if practical) to allow the removal of complete burials.
- 2.2.4.5 It may be necessary to seek advice regarding lifting and/or preservation of vulnerable objects or other remains during the evaluation. Specialist on-site advice regarding archaeological conservation will be sought as appropriate. All gold and silver will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the *Treasure Act 1997*. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 2.2.4.6 The overall aim of the evaluation with respect to archaeological science should be to determine the types of material preserved and in what quantity and condition, thus enabling the aims and objectives of the project as a whole to be addressed. The advice of English Heritage's Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (RAAS) will be sought and, if appropriate, arrangements for a site visit will be made in order to determine the importance and sampling requirements for all deposits exposed during the investigation.
- 2.2.4.7 In general, the environmental sampling policy on the site will entail recovery of bulk material from well-dated (although palaeoenvironmental material recovered by sampling can itself provide the only evidence for dating), stratified deposits covering the main periods or phases of occupation.
- 2.2.4.8 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.
- 2.2.4.9 Assessment of sufficient samples will be undertaken to cover the range of feature types and dates represented. Unless the stratigraphy is unduly complex or large numbers of inhumation burials are exposed, processing and assessment of a maximum total of four samples should probably suffice from the single trench and stripped area. The samples to be processed and assessed may be a sub-set of a larger number of samples actually recovered during the fieldwork.

2.3 Method Statement Part B: Post-Fieldwork

2.3.1 *Finds and Samples: Off-Site Methodology*

- 2.3.1.1 Specialists will examine all levels of finds (e.g. organic, ceramic, metallic) recovered during the fieldwork. All finds will be treated in a proper manner and will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidelines set out in *First Aid for Finds, 3rd edition* (Watkinson and Neal 1998), *Conservation Guidelines No.2. Packaging and storage of freshly excavated artefacts from archaeological sites* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) Archaeology Section 1983) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2001).

- 2.3.1.2 Preliminary conservation and stabilisation of all objects will be undertaken as soon as possible during or upon completion of the fieldwork. Vulnerable materials that require immediate specialist archaeological conservation will be transported to appropriate facilities without delay. There will be an assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs of all excavated material.
- 2.3.1.3 All metal objects will be X-rayed and then selected for conservation. All iron objects will be X-rayed, along with a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins) and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy.
- 2.3.1.4 Waterlogged organic materials will be dealt with following guidelines set out in the English Heritage documents, *Guidelines for the care of waterlogged archaeological leather* (1995) and *Waterlogged wood. Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood* (1996).
- 2.3.1.5 All processing of artefacts and ecofacts will be undertaken away from the site. Assessment of artefactual and ecofactual material will be undertaken by suitably qualified personnel. For each category of artefact and ecofact an assessment report will be produced that will include a basic quantification of the material, a statement of its potential for further analysis and recommendations for such work.
- 2.3.1.6 Techniques of laboratory processing for material recovered through sampling are likely to vary depending upon the nature of the deposit. There will be assessment in respect of:
- the approximate proportions and types of mineral and organic components, including comments relating to presence/absence of industrial spatter and hammerscale or other technological material;
 - the nature of biological remains;
 - qualitative estimates of the amounts of each type of remains and their states of preservation;
 - a broad indication of habitats represented;
 - indications of origin of material;
 - research questions that should be formulated if full analysis of any material is recommended;
 - recommendations for additional sampling, specifically if/when further excavation is undertaken.
- 2.3.1.7 PCA's nominated specialist(s), as necessary, shall undertake a programme of pottery dating and analysis.
- 2.3.1.8 PCA will employ external specialists to undertake analysis and interpretation of materials recovered through sampling of archaeological and environmental deposits and structures (which can include soils, timbers, faunal remains and human remains).

2.3.2 Site Archive

- 2.3.2.1 The undertaking of fieldwork will, through Data Collection, result in the establishment of a Site Archive. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document *Archaeological Archives. A guide to best practice in creation, compilation transfer and curation* (Brown 2007) would be adhered to, in particular *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (IFA forthcoming) and *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (Walker, UKIC 1990).
- 2.3.2.2 The Site Archive will include all materials recovered (or a comprehensive records of such materials) and all written, drawn, and photographic records generated by the Data Collection Stage(s) of the project. In line with *MoRPHE. PPN3: Archaeological Excavation. Appendix 1* the site archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, and internally consistent before transfer to the recipient museum. It will also contain a site matrix, a site summary and brief written observations on the artefactual and environmental data.
- 2.3.2.3 Prior to the Closure Stage of the project, the Site Archive (which by then may comprise an integrated Site and Research Archive) will be deposited with the County Durham Archaeological Archive. The Site Archive will be organised as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in the County. An accession number for the Site Archive will be assigned at the time of deposition.
- 2.3.2.4 The landowner is urged to donate all finds as part of the Site Archive. Appropriate guidance set out in *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992) and *Selection, retention and dispersal of archaeological collections* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993) will be followed in all circumstances.
- 2.3.2.5 The Site Archive will be presented to the archive officer or relevant curator within 6 months of the completion of the final Fieldwork Stage of the project (unless alternative arrangements have been agreed in writing with the DCAS).

2.3.3 Evaluation Report

- 2.3.3.1 The results of the field evaluation will be disseminated in the form of written and illustrated Evaluation Report, to be compiled following completion of all fieldwork. The report will include:
- an introductory section setting out the general background to the project, details of the planning history, a summary of the site geology and topography, and the archaeological and historical background of the site;
 - a section outlining the Aims and Objectives of the project;
 - a section detailing the methods adopted during the fieldwork;
 - a section describing the archaeological findings, including the nature, extent, date, condition and significance of the archaeological remains;

- a prediction of the degree of survival of archaeological stratigraphy across the site and an appraisal of the likely impact of the development proposals upon the archaeological resource;
- recommendations for further action, identifying areas suitable for either further evaluation, preservation *in situ* or open area excavation in advance of re-development;
- illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings, photographs, as necessary;
- as an appendix, a list of archaeological contexts, with summary descriptions of each;
- as one or more appendices, as necessary, specialist reports on artefacts and palaeoenvironmental remains;
- as an appendix, the approved version of this Project Design.

2.3.3.2 The report will include a location plan of the site, tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid and at an appropriate scale. The report would also include a plan at an appropriate scale showing the location of the evaluation trench within the overall site.

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

2.3.3.4 The DCAS supports the 'Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations' (OASIS) project. Therefore, during compilation of the evaluation report, an OASIS entry would be created and the reference number will be included in the introductory section of the report.

2.3.3.5 Copies of the Evaluation Report will be sent to all project Stakeholders. The County Durham Sites and Monument Record requires a copy in electronic format, in addition to hardcopy.

2.4 Stages, Products and Tasks

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

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

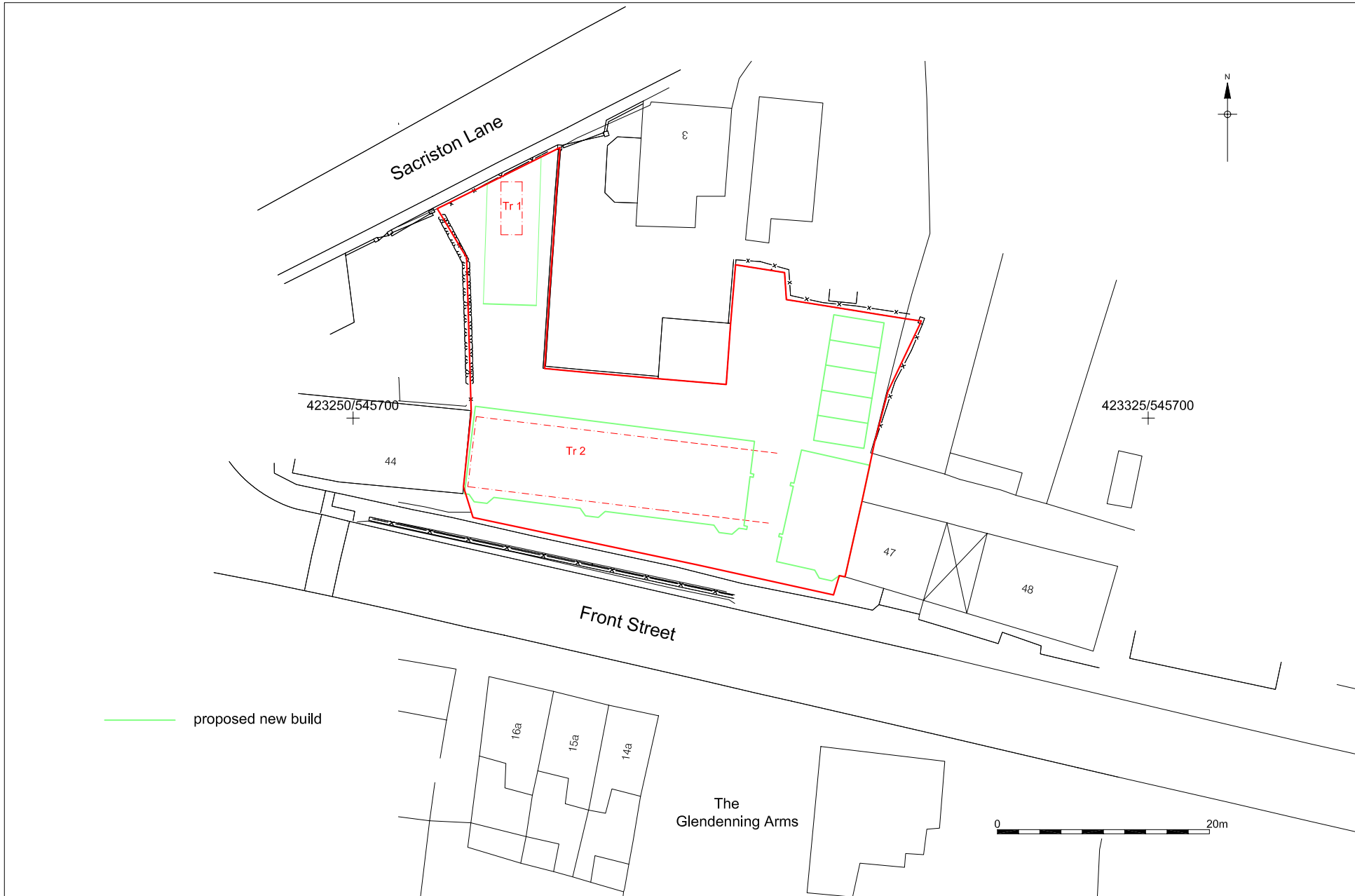
Stage	Research Products	Archive Products	Dissemination Products
Start-up	Project Proposal	-	-
End date for Start-up: 15 October 2008			
<i>Review Point R1: Have clear Aims and Objectives been established? Yes, through discussion with the DCAS.</i>			
Initiation	Project Design Site access agreed	Project Management Archive created Archive repository identified	Communications with Stakeholders (including the DCAS being notified of the start date of the fieldwork)
Estimated end date for Initiation: 16 October 2008			
<i>Review Point R2: Is the Project Design achievable? Yes, through the undertaking of the fieldwork herein described.</i>			
Execution Stage 1: Data Collection through field evaluation (17 October 2008)	Evaluation Report Updated Project Design	Site Archive established	OASIS entry created Evaluation Report circulated
Estimated end date for Execution Stage 1: 31 October 2008			
<i>Review Point R3: Does evaluation justify further fieldwork?</i>			

2.5 Ownership

- 2.5.1 The finds (*i.e.* the artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material) recovered by archaeological fieldwork contribute data of immeasurable academic worth towards the Site and Research Archive, but the bulk of the material is of little or no financial value. The legal owner of the site – in this instance the Client/Sponsor as the landowner - and consequently the owner of any material that is recovered during the course of archaeological work is urged to donate all finds to the appropriate repository of the Site and Research Archive.
- 2.5.2 PCA is committed to respecting the intellectual property rights of its staff and others.

2.6 Budget

- 2.6.1 The Client/Sponsor has been provided with and agreed a fee proposal for Initiation and Execution Stage 1 (field evaluation).



— proposed new build

Proposed trench layout
Scale 1:500