

**THE SHACK, MARKET PLACE
HOLY ISLAND, BERWICK-UPON-TWEED
NORTHUMBERLAND**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL
EVALUATION**

MARCH 2022

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C

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PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

The Shack, Market Place, Holy Island, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland

Site Code: HIN22

Commissioning Client:

Padgett White: Architects Ltd

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March 2022**

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**THE SHACK, MARKET PLACE, HOLY ISLAND, BERWICK-UPON-TWEED,
NORTHUMBERLAND**

EVALUATION REPORT

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Quality Control	
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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology were commissioned by Padgett White: Architects Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at The Shack, Market Place, Holy Island, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, centred at National Grid Reference (NGR) NU 12671 41855. This work was undertaken in association of a proposed planning application for the demolition of an existing dwelling and the construction of a new 2-bedroom single storey structure (21/00711/PREAPP).
- 1.2 The proposed development area is located within the Holy Island Conservation Area, adjacent to the historic medieval core of the village of Holy Island and 90m north of Lindisfarne Priory (an expansive medieval monastery). The trial trenching evaluation was undertaken according to a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by PCA and approved by Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT) prior to the commencement of work. Four trenches (Trenches 1-4) were located around the exterior of the extant dwelling.
- 1.3 Four phases of activity were encountered: Phase 1: Superficial geology; Phase 2: subsoil; Phase 3: post-medieval (19th to early 20th century) made ground and Phase 4: modern surfaces.
- 1.4 Superficial geological deposits (Phase 1) were encountered in Trenches, 2-4 and comprised firm light greyish brown yellowish brown silty clay.
- 1.5 Phase 2 subsoil was encountered in Trenches 2-4 and comprised soft mid greyish brown sandy clay up to 0.22m thick from which a small assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered.
- 1.6 Post-medieval made ground deposits (Phase 3) were encountered in all trenches (Trenches 1-4) and comprised soft dark brownish grey sandy silt.
- 1.7 Phase 4 comprised the modern concreted pavers forming the current surface that extends across the area under investigation.
- 1.8 No archaeology features or deposits of significance were encountered in Trenches 1-4.
- 1.9 A small assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered from subsoil deposits in Trenches 2 & 4 and a small assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery was recovered from post-medieval made ground deposit in Trenches 3 & 2. The pottery assemblage recovered from subsoil in Trenches 2 & 4 comprised seventeen sherds of pottery providing a wide date range of possibly 13th to 15th century. The pottery assemblage recovered from post-medieval made ground deposits in Trenches 1-4 comprised forty-seven sherds. This assemblage was largely 19th to early 20th century in date with the exception of three early post-medieval (probably 17th century) sherds from Trench 3 and six medieval sherds from Trenches 2 & 3.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

- 2.1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) in February 2022 on land at The Shack, Market Place, Holy Island, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland in association with a proposed residential development involving the demolition of the existing dwelling and the construction of a new 2-bedroom single storey structure. The site is located to the east of the Crown & Anchor Pub, on Holy Island, Northumberland (central NGR NU 12671 41855). The archaeology work was commissioned by Padgett White: Architects Ltd.
- 2.1.2 The archaeological potential of the site was specifically for the medieval period due to the site's location within the near vicinity of the historic medieval core of the village of Holy Island and Lindisfarne Priory (an expansive medieval monastery).
- 2.1.3 The scope of works for the archaeological evaluation was set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (PCA 2022) which was approved by Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT). The aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence, nature, date, extent and significance of any archaeological remains that might be present in the immediate vicinity of the proposed residential development. The archaeological work included four hand excavated trial trenches (Trenches 1-4) each with dimensions of c. 1.50m by 1.50m.
- 2.1.4 The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigation (OASIS) reference number of the project is preconst1-505078.

2.2 Site Location and Description

- 2.2.1 The proposed development area is located to the east of the Crown & Anchor public house on Holy Island, Northumberland (NGR NU 12671 41855) (Figure 1). Holy Island is a tidal island which lies approximately 1.5km off the coast of Northumberland and is only accessible at low tide when the causeway is exposed.
- 2.2.2 The site itself comprises a sub-rectangular plot of land with a single storey dwelling and outbuildings situated to the west with the remaining areas currently under lawn. The site also lies within the Holy Island Conservation Area.

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 The solid geology of the site is predominantly Alston Formation limestone, sandstone, siltstone and mudstone formed approximately 328 to 337 million years ago in the Carboniferous period (British Geological Survey website). Superficial deposits comprise Devensian-Diamicton till (*ibid.*).

2.3.2 No geotechnical data specific to the current scheme was available prior to the archaeological trial trench evaluation.

2.4 Planning Background

2.4.1 The requirement to undertake the archaeological investigation is in line with planning policy at a national level, as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2021). Heritage assets - those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest - are a key concept of the NPPF.

2.4.2 Chapter 16 of the NPPF 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' describes, in paragraph 194, that *'In determining applications, LPAs should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum, the relevant [Historic Environment Record] HER should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, LPAs should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and where necessary [the results of] a field evaluation'*.

2.4.3 Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT) has responsibility for archaeological development control in relation to the historic environment. A scheme of archaeological evaluation work was required in association with a proposed planning application for the demolition of the existing dwelling and the construction of a two bedroom one-storey property.

2.4.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was prepared by PCA (PCA 2022) and approved by NCCCT, detailing the methodology of the programme of works. This report details the archaeological evaluation undertaken following on from the WSI.

2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.5.1 Information in this section has been extracted from the Holy Island Northumberland Extensive Urban Survey undertaken by Northumberland County Council and English Heritage (2009). The research and writing of those responsible is acknowledged.

2.5.2 Evidence of prehistoric activity has been found during archaeological field survey and excavation and the island, with a natural harbour and plentiful food supply from the sea, would have been an attractive site for early settlement. The first documentary reference to the island, then called Lindisfarne, is found in the eighth century writing of Bede, who describes how St Aidan arrived from Iona in about AD635 and was invested by King Oswald

to found a see and a monastery. Nearby Bambrugh Castle was a stronghold of the Saxon kings of the kingdom of Bernicia, including King Oswald.

- 2.5.3 Little is known about the buildings and layout of the early monastic complex, but some timber structural remains have also been uncovered behind the Winery which may relate to this early monastic site (Event 13176). The first documented Viking raid on Holy Island occurred in AD793 and the monastery was harassed by the Danes until it was abandoned (or destroyed) in the mid- or late ninth century (O'Sullivan 1985, 27). However, this is not to say the island was unoccupied in the ninth century. The settlement at Green Shiel, on the north of the island, may date from the ninth century and evidence from the parish church suggests a continuity of secular settlement near the priory. For the monks, formal monastic life was not restored until 1083, when the Bishop of Durham re-founded the site as a cell of the Benedictine monastery of Durham administered from Norham.
- 2.5.4 In the 16th and 17th centuries, Holy Island played a role in the defence of the North East coast when the Crown built a small fort in 1549-50 (HER 5347) on the outcrop now occupied by Lindisfarne Castle, possibly replacing an earlier lookout tower; the fort continued in use as a garrison until 1819. During the Tudor period additional defences were built in recognition of the strategic importance of the island in controlling Scottish neighbours. These consisted of a possible remodelling of the settlement, the conversion of a medieval house to a military supply base and the possible construction of bulwarks around the harbour.
- 2.5.5 In the 19th century a large-scale lime industry flourished. Its remains are still scattered around the island and include kilns and waggonways (HER 5351, 5353, 5356, 5365, and 5368). Fishing has always been of significance on the island and today there is still a small fishing fleet but the island is now largely dependant on the tourist industry (O'Sullivan and Young 1995, 11). Tourism on the island has its origins in the 18th century when it began to be used as a resort. The advent of the railway in the 19th century, with a station at Beal, brought tourists with antiquarian interest to the area and the completion of the metalled causeway crossing to the island in 1954 substantially increased the numbers of visitors.
- 2.5.6 The first map to show the site in detail is the tithe plan of 1850 that shows the proposed development area within garden plots of houses facing onto the Market Place. No change is noted on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1860 however by the second edition of 1890 the Crown & Anchor public house had been built. The one storey dwelling that currently occupies the site was built in the 20th century.

3. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

3.1 Project Aims

3.1.1 The primary aim of the programme of works was to determine the absence/presence of archaeological remains. The archaeological work will identify, investigate, and record any archaeological remains observed during the evaluation. The results will be used to inform decisions regarding further archaeological mitigation measures that may be required at the site prior to commencement of the residential development.

3.1.2 The objective of trial trench evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) is to 'determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices' (CIfA 2020a).

3.1.3 Specific objectives of the investigation were:

- To assess the extent, date, character and state of preservation of any archaeological remains within the Site;
- To assess the potential that the Site has to address research questions for the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, Iron Age, Early Medieval and Medieval periods as set out in the North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Petts & Gerrard 2006);
- To assess the effect that later activity has had on the state of preservation of any archaeological resource within the Site;
- To inform the requirement for and scope of any archaeological mitigation that may be required.

3.2 Research Objectives

3.2.1 Archaeological work provides potential opportunities to address key research objectives as set out in *shared Visions: The North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF)* (Petts & Gerrard 2006). The NERRF highlights the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. It sets out key research priorities for all periods of the past so that all elements of commercial archaeological work can be related to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment.

3.2.2 The site is considered to have potential to provide and contribution to several 'Key Research Themes' in the NERRF 'Research Agenda and Strategy' for the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (NB), Iron Age (I), Early Medieval (EM) and Medieval (MD) periods. The following list contains the research priorities for each period:

- NBii. Settlement;

- li. Chronology;
- lii. Settlement;
- liii. Landscapes;
- Iv. Material culture: general;
- Ivi. Material culture: ceramics;
- EMi. Landscape;
- EMii. Settlement;
- EMiv. The early medieval coast;
- EMv. Trade and economy;
- EMvi. Christianity;
- EMvii. Death and burial;
- MDi. Settlement;
- MDii. Landscape;
- MDvii. Medieval ceramics and other artefacts;
- MDxi. The medieval to post-medieval transition.

3.2.3 An appropriate level of reporting on the work was required, including, if necessary, full analysis and publication of any notable archaeological findings upon completion of the evaluation. Thus, the results of the work constitute the preservation by record of any archaeological remains encountered and subsequently removed during the course of works. The full scheme of archaeological work is described in the following section.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken in compliance with the codes and practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and the relevant ClfA standard and guidance document (ClfA 2020a & 2021). PCA is a CIFA 'Registered Organisation'. All fieldwork and post-excavation was carried out in accordance with the Yorkshire, the Humber & The North East: Regional Statement of Good Practice (SYAS 2019).
- 4.1.2 The project was managed in line with principles set out in Historic England's *'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'* (MoRPHE) published in 2015.
- 4.1.3 All archaeological staff involved in the project were suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. The project was overseen for PCA by Aaron Goode, Project Manager at PCA's Durham Office. All relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice were respected. PCA's Health and Safety (H&S) Policy is the starting point for managing H&S at all locations where PCA carries out its operations.
- 4.1.4 The scope of the work for the archaeological evaluation was set out in a detailed WSI (PCA 2022). The trial trenches were positioned to avoid any obvious obstructions and to provide good coverage of the proposed development area.
- 4.1.5 The archaeological evaluation comprised four trenches (Trenches 1-4) each with dimensions of 1.50m x 1.50m that were hand excavated around the perimeter of the extant single-story dwelling. The archaeological evaluation was carried out between the 22nd - 24th February 2022.
- 4.1.6 In all trenches, undifferentiated topsoil and any subsoil will be removed by the archaeologist in spits of no more than 100mm. Successive spits will be removed until the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substratum is reached, whichever is first. The maximum depth of any trench was 1m.
- 4.1.7 Deposits and cut features were individually recorded on the *pro-forma* 'Trench Recording Sheet' and 'Context Recording Sheet'. All site records were marked with the unique-number NLN21 (site code).
- 4.1.8 The height of all principal strata and features was calculated in metres above Ordnance Datum (m AOD). A detailed photographic record of the evaluation was prepared using SLR digital photography. All detailed photographs included a legible graduated metric scale. The photographic record illustrated both in detail and general context archaeological exposures and specific features in all trenches.
- 4.1.9 Upon completion of the archaeological investigation, the trenches were backfilled by hand.

4.2 Post-excavation

- 4.2.1 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written and photographic records. A total of 14 archaeological contexts were defined within the 4 trenches (Appendix 2). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts and phasing the stratigraphic data. A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described in Section 5.
- 4.2.2 During the investigation a small assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered from archaeological deposits comprising 23 sherds (Appendix 5).
- 4.2.3 The complete Site Archive, in this case comprising only the written, drawn and photographic records (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation) will be packaged for long term curation. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown 2007) will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker, UKIC 1990) and the most recent ClfA publication relating to archiving (ClfA 2020b).
- 4.2.4 At the time of writing the Site Archive was housed at the Durham Office of PCA, The Rope Works, Broadwood View, Chester-le-Street, County Durham, DH3 3AF. When complete, the Site Archive will be deposited at the Great North Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne under the site code HIN22.

5. RESULTS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

During the archaeological investigation, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual context numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example [123]. The context numbers have been assigned per trench therefore contexts from Trench 1 are in the 100s and contexts from Trench 2 in the 200s etc. 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. The figures can be found in Appendix 1 with the context index and stratigraphic matrix located in Appendix 2 and 3 respectively. A selection of plates can be found within Appendix 4.

5.1 Phase 1: Superficial Geology

5.1.1 Phase 1 represents superficial geological deposits that were observed within Trenches 2, 3 & 4 and comprised firm light greyish brown firm sandy clay. This material represents the Devensian - Diamicton *till* that is noted throughout the area (British Geological Survey website).

5.1.2 The table below summarises the depth below ground level and metres above Ordnance Datum (AOD) height of geological deposits within the trenches. The highest level at which natural substratum was encountered was 7.74m AOD in Trench 2 and the lowest level was 7.68m AOD in Trench 2.

No.	Context	Depth (below ground level)	m AOD
Trench 2	[203]	0.88m	7.68
Trench 3	[303]	0.86m	7.69
Trench 4	[403]	0.78m	7.74

Summary of superficial geology depths and levels

5.2 Phase 2: Subsoil

5.2.1 Phase 2 represents subsoil that was encountered in three trenches (Trenches 2-4) and directly overlay Phase 1 superficial geology. The subsoil comprised soft mid greyish brown sandy clay ([202] Trench 2; [302] Trench 3; [302]) and had maximum and minimum thicknesses of 0.20m in Trenches 2 & 3 and 0.22m in Trench 4, respectively. A small assemblage of medieval pottery was recovered the subsoil including a single sherd from [202] in Trench 2 and 16 sherds from [402] in Trench 4 (Appendix 5). The assemblage provides a wide date range of possibly 13th to 15th century indicating the subsoil is not a primary deposit.

5.2.2 The table below summarises the thickness and Ordnance Datum height of the subsoil deposits encountered during the evaluation:

No.	Context	Thickness	m AOD
Trench 2	[202]	0.20m	7.86
Trench 3	[302]	0.20m	7.85
Trench 4	[402]	0.22m	8.00

5.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval

5.3.1 Post-medieval made ground deposits were encountered in all trenches (Trenches 1-4) and comprised soft dark brownish grey sandy silt ([101] Trench 1; [201] Trench 2; [301] Trench 3; [401] Trench 4). The full thickness of made ground deposit [101] was not established due to safety constraints. Finds including 19th and early 20th century pottery, ceramic building material, shell and fragments of clay tobacco pipe were noted in all four made ground deposits. Forty-seven pottery sherds were recovered from these made ground deposits that were primarily 19th to early 20th century in date with the exception of three early post-medieval sherds (probably 17th century) from made ground deposit [301] in Trench 3 and six medieval sherds from made ground deposits [201] & [301], in Trenches 2 & 3, respectively (Appendix 5). The medieval and early post-medieval pottery is certainly residual.

5.3.2 The table below summarises the thickness and Ordnance Datum height of the made ground deposits encountered during the evaluation:

No.	Context	Thickness	m AOD
Trench 1	[101]	>1.02m	8.74
Trench 2	[201]	0.70m	8.52
Trench 3	[301]	0.64m	8.47
Trench 4	[401]	0.48m	8.46

5.4 Phase 4: Modern

5.4.1 Phase 4 represents the current surface that extends across the area under investigation. The surface itself comprises concrete pavers (600mm x 600mm x 40mm) and c. 20mm thick sand sub-base.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The archaeological investigations undertaken on the proposed site comprised the excavation of 4 trenches. Geological deposits, subsoil, post-medieval made ground deposits and modern surfaces were encountered. This activity was assigned to four phases:
- Phase 1: Superficial geological deposits were encountered within three trenches (Trenches 2, 3 & 4);
 - Phase 2: Subsoil deposits likely dating to the medieval period was encountered in three trenches (Trenches 2, 3 & 4);
 - Phase 3: Post-medieval made ground deposits;
 - Phase 4: Modern concrete paver surface and sand sub-base associated with the residential dwelling currently occupying the site.
- 6.2 No features or deposits of archaeological significance were recorded within any of the evaluation trenches.
- 6.3 A small assemblage of medieval and post medieval pottery was recovered from Trenches 1-4 including twenty-three medieval sherds and forty-seven post-medieval sherds. Seventeen sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from subsoil in Trenches 2 and 4 providing a wide date range of possibly 13th to 15th century. The pottery assemblage recovered from post-medieval made ground deposits in Trenches 1-4 was predominantly 19th to early 20th century in date except for six medieval sherds from Trenches 2 & 3 and three early post-medieval sherds from Trench 3 that are considered to be residual. Given the small size of the assemblage further comment and interpretation is not possible. No further work is recommended on the assemblage.
- 6.4 No further work is required on the information recovered during the evaluation, with the Site Archive (including this report), forming the permanent record of the strata encountered.

7. REFERENCES

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7.2 Online Sources

The **British Geological Survey** website: www.bgs.ac.uk. This was consulted for information regarding the geology of the study area.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Padgett White: Architects Ltd for commissioning the archaeological investigations herein described. PCA would also like to thank Nick Best, Assistant County Archaeologist, at Northumberland County Council Conservation Team, for their assistance during the project.

PCA Credits

Fieldwork: Scott Vance (Project Officer) and Andy Abson

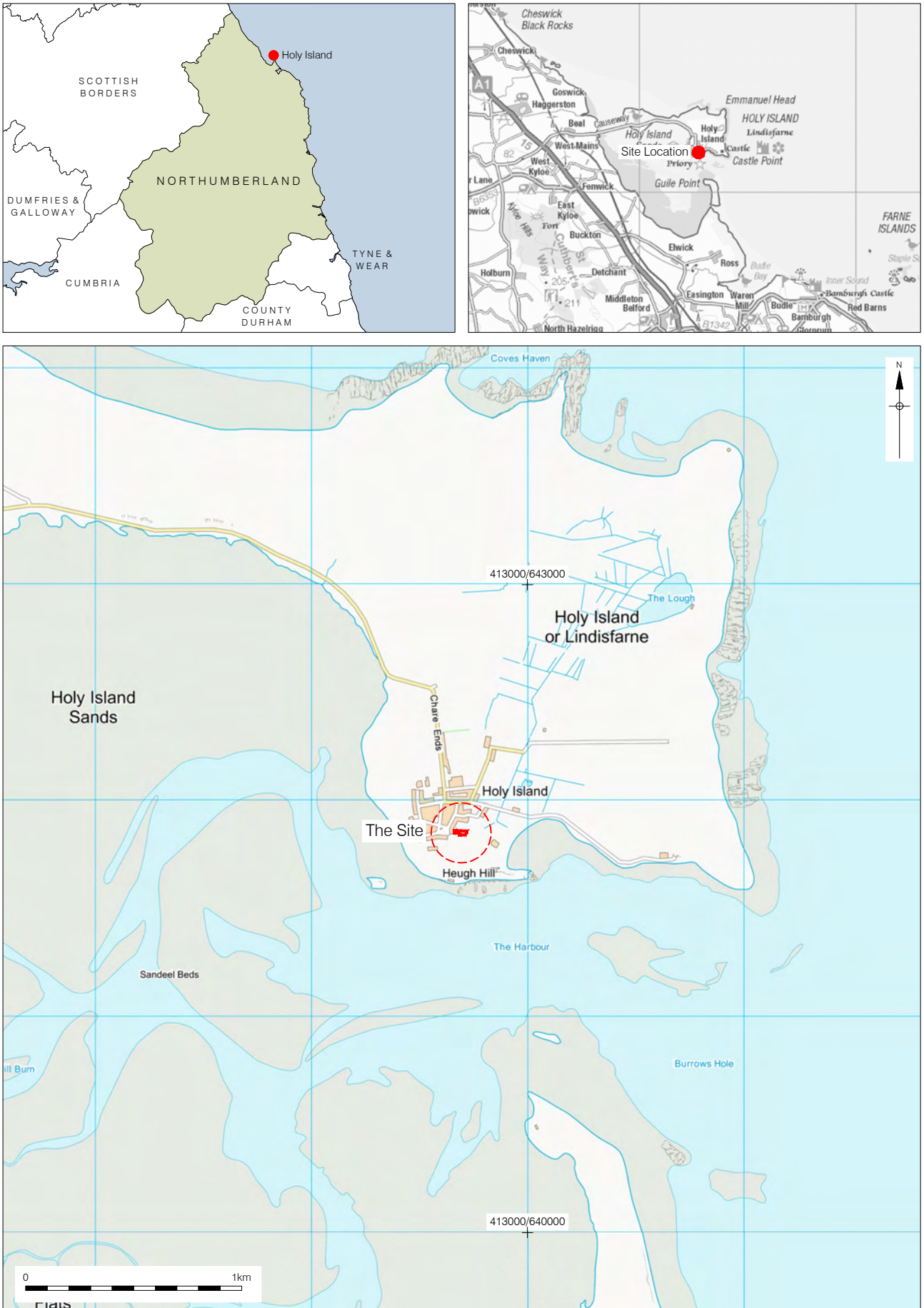
Report: Aaron Goode

Project Manager: Aaron Goode

Other Credits

Medieval Pottery: Jenny Vaughan (NCAS)

APPENDIX 1: FIGURES





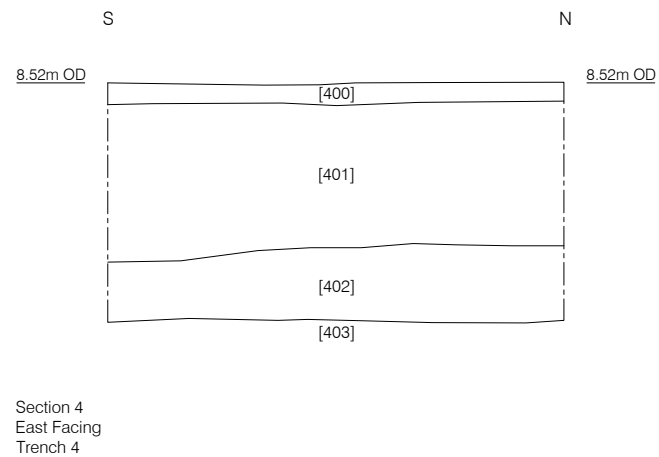
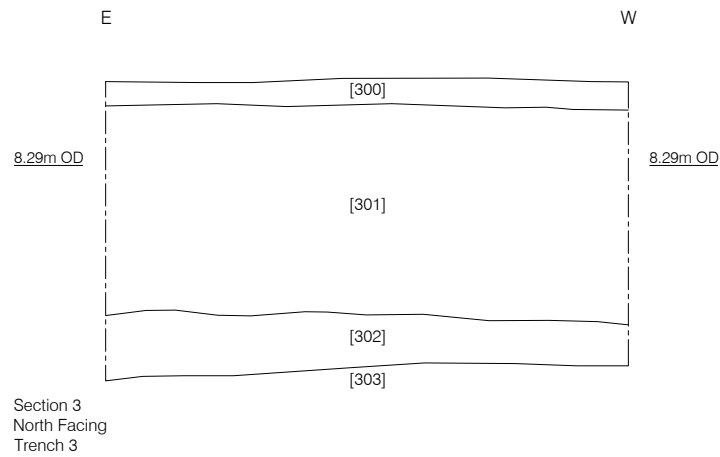
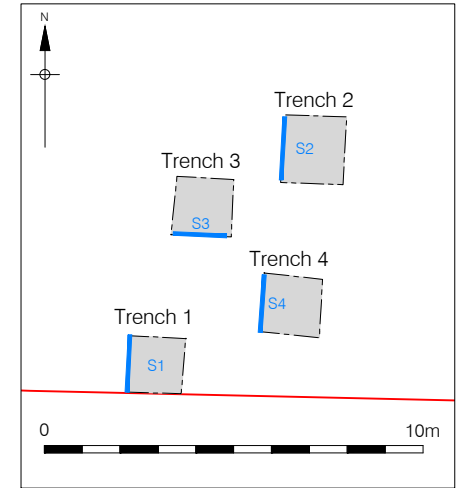
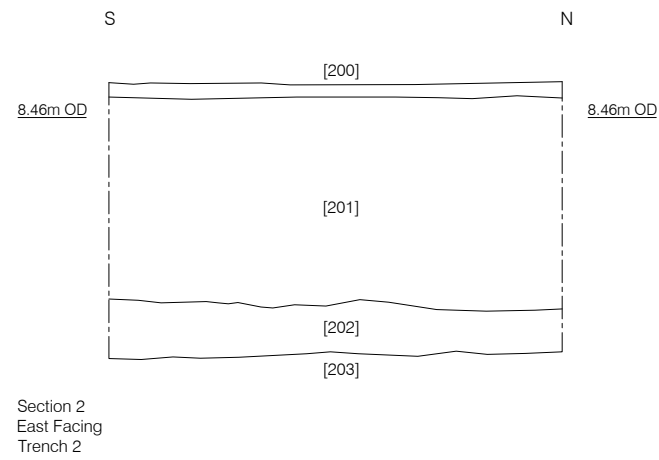
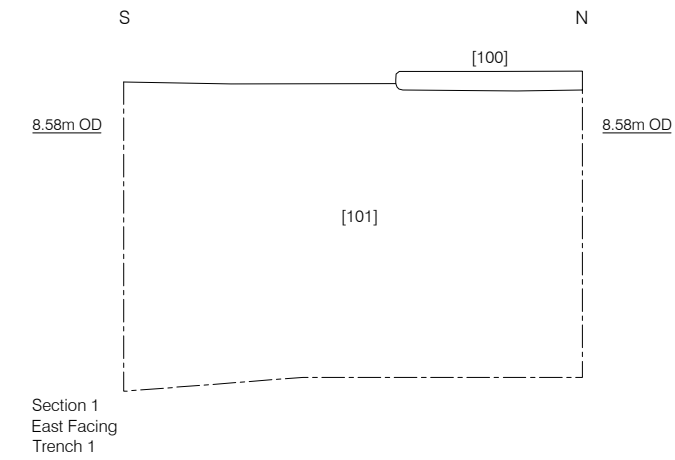
0 25m

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18/03/2022 MR

Figure 2
Detailed Site and Trench Location
1:500 at A4



APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Phase	Type 1	Type 2	Fill of	Interpretation
Trench 1					
100	4	Masonry	Surface	-	Concrete pavers
101	1	Deposit	Layer	-	Made ground
Trench 2					
200	4	Masonry	Surface	-	Concrete pavers
201	3	Deposit	Layer	-	Made ground
202	2	Deposit	Layer	-	Subsoil
203	1	Deposit	Layer	-	Superficial geology
Trench 3					
300	4	Masonry	Surface	-	Concrete pavers
301	3	Deposit	Layer	-	Made ground
302	2	Deposit	Layer	-	Subsoil
303	1	Deposit	Layer	-	Superficial geology
Trench 4					
400	4	Masonry	Surface	-	Concrete pavers
401	3	Deposit	Layer	-	Made ground
402	2	Deposit	Layer	-	Subsoil
403	1	Deposit	Layer	-	Superficial geology

APPENDIX 3: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX

	Trench 1	Trench 2	Trench 3	Trench 4
Phase 4: Modern	(100)	(200)	(300)	(400)
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed red;"/>				
Phase 3: Post-medieval	(101)	(201)	(301)	(401)
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed red;"/>				
Phase 2: Subsoil	NFE	(202)	(302)	(402)
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed red;"/>				
Phase 1: Superficial geology		(203)	(303)	(403)

APPENDIX 4: PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATES

Plate 1: Trench 1, view west, 1m scale



Plate 2: Trench 2, view south, 1m scale



Plate 3: Trench 3, view west, 1m scale



Plate 4: Trench 4, west, 1m scale



APPENDIX 5: MEDIEVAL POTTERY

By: Jenny Vaughan (NCAS)

A small assemblage of 26 medieval and early post-medieval pottery sherds weighing 273 gms was recovered from three of the trenches excavated. The sherds ranged in date from possibly as early as the late 12th to the 17th centuries. The group is listed and described below.

Catalogue

Context	Type	Count	Weight	Description
201	Scarborough type ware	1	5	Fine fabric with rich green glaze
201	Reduced green glazed	1	5	
201	Oxidised green glazed	1	20	Mainly oxidised (red/orange) fabric with trace of glaze, a flaked handle attachment.
201	Buff/grey	1	9	Dark grey with buff exterior
201	Med	1	5	Light orange/pale grey with trace of internal glaze.
202	Pink/buff	1	10	Pink fabric with paler buff layers inside and out.
301	Red slipware	1	14	Rolled dish or plate rim with traces slip trailing, light red fabric
301	Redware	1	6	Plain, light red, flakey glaze on upper/inner surface.
301	German stoneware	1	12	Part of frill from base of ?mug. Salt glazed
301	Medieval	1	9	Pinkish buff/pale grey sherd with some green glaze
402	Tweed Valley ware	2	67	Two typical square clubbed jar rims, one with thumb indentations.
402	Reduced green glazed	7	64	Various sherds, generally hard and relatively fine fabric
402	Glazed whiteware	4	24	Three with green glaze, one with yellow
402	Whiteware	1	12	Sooted/blackened externally.
402	Medieval	2	11	Orange/buff fabric

Comments

The most distinctive items in this small group are the two jar rims from [402]. Tweed Valley ware was identified by Lucy Bown in the assemblage from Holy Island village recovered in 1977. The type is discussed and many examples illustrated in the report (Bown 1985, 52-55). This pale buff fabric is part of the wider regional tradition of white firing wares, other examples of which also occur in this context although no other form sherds were present. Bown suggests, by comparison to other material from the Borders region, that the Tweed Valley type 'belongs broadly to a late 12th to 13th century date'. However, the stratigraphy was such in the 1977 excavation that it could only be ascribed to an earlier rather than a later medieval date.

A flaked off part of a handle attachment in a mainly oxidised fabric was present in [201]. No other medieval form elements occurred in the assemblage. Oxidised and part-oxidised variants are related to the iron-rich reduced green-glazed wares, a very widespread late medieval type. Reduced green-glazed sherds were present in [402] with one sherd in [201].

Other medieval sherds present were less diagnostic as to date and type.

Of the four sherds from [301] three were early post-medieval, probably 17th century, although the small piece of German stoneware could be earlier. Slip trailed redwares occur widely in the 17th century. Many found on Tyneside have been identified as coming from the Harlow production sites in Essex. However, slip-trailed redwares in a rather softer, lighter red fabric have been noted by the current writer at sites in the north of Northumberland. These may well be the products of a local production site possibly at Tweedmouth (Chenery, Phillips and Haggarty 2001 p. 47). The other redware fragment could also be from a slip-decorated ware.

Conclusion

The assemblage certainly indicates medieval activity, but the small group from subsoil deposit [402] appears to have a wide date range (possibly 13th to 15th century) and is therefore not a primary deposit. The 17th century material in the later deposit would suggest unbroken activity through into the post-medieval period. The assemblage is small and has no potential for further analysis.

Bown, L., 1985 'The Pottery' in O'Sullivan, D. M. 'An Excavation in Holy Island Village' AA⁵, 13, 47-80.

Chenery, S., Phillips, E. and Haggarty, G. 2001 An Evaluation of Geochemical fingerprinting for the provenancing of Scottish red ware pottery in *Medieval Ceramics* vol. 25

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