

**30 EARDULPH AVENUE, CHESTER-LE-STREET, COUNTY DURHAM**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

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**JUNE 2022**

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

## WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

**30 Eardulph Avenue  
Chester-le-Street  
County Durham**

**NGR: NZ 27760 51010**

**Contractor:** Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Durham Office)

The Rope Works, Broadwood View, Chester-le-Street, Durham, DH3 3AF

**Contact:** Aaron Goode Telephone: 0191 377 1111 Email: AGoode@pre-construct.com

**Client:** Mr Richard and Mrs Louise Lamont

**Planning Application Number:** DM/22/01010/FPA

**PCA Report Number:** 15028

**PCA Site Code:** CEA22

**Oasis ID:** preconst1-507663

### LOCATION

**Planning Authority:** Durham County Council

**County:** Durham

**Site address:** 30 Eardulph Avenue, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham

### DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION:

The proposed development comprised the erection of a single and two storey extension within the garden and driveway to the rear and side of 30 Eardulph Avenue, Chester-le-Street (Planning ref. DM/19/03889/FPA; Figures 1 & 2). The area under archaeological investigation involved the strip foundation of the proposed extension that had dimensions of c. 40m long by up to 0.90m wide, excavated to maximum depth of 0.90m. The site is located within a residential street of semi-detached properties on the eastern part of Chester-le-Street. It is situated south of Park View School and north of St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Primary School. Eardulph Avenue leads onto Lindisfarne Avenue to the south and Roman Avenue to the north. The topography of the site is level with recorded maximum and minimum heights of 17.51m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) in the west and 17.31m AOD in the east, respectively.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology, on behalf of Mr Richard & Mrs Louise Lamont and comprised monitoring the excavation of a foundation trenches (to the north and west of the house).

### REASON FOR WATCHING BRIEF:

The site is of archaeological interest as it is in an area of high potential for the survival of Roman Archaeology, due to the proximity of the Roman Fort of Concangis (HER D2153) to the north and associated Roman Road (HER 46868). Further archaeology dating from the Roman period has been recorded close by including remains in the back garden of 17a Roman Avenue (D5907); a ditch on

Roman Avenue (D6405), buildings at Park View Community School (D527283); evidence of Iron smelting at Cestria Primary School (D427600); a Trumpet Brooch discovered on Lindisfarne Avenue (D5286) and pottery and tile recovered during a watching brief at 11 Eardulph Avenue (D70199). Concangis was occupied from the early 2nd Century AD, through to the early 5th Century when the Romans left Britain.

Accordingly, the archaeological watching brief was undertaken in response to conditions attached to approval of the planning application for the proposed erection of a single and two storey extension to the rear and side of 30 Eardulph Avenue, Chester-le-Street.

The primary aim of this monitoring was to identify the presence or absence of any archaeological deposits or features at the proposed site to mitigate potential impacts to the heritage resource.

#### **DATES WORK UNDERTAKEN:**

Archaeological work was undertaken at the site on the following dates:

- Wednesday 01/06/2022
- Monday 06/06/2022 – Tuesday 07/06/2022

#### **RESULTS:**

*During the watching-brief, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual 'context' numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example [100].*

The foundation trenches were excavated using a tracked 360° 1-tonne mini mechanical excavator utilising a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision (Figure 2; Plates 1-7). The contexts recorded are summarised in the table below:

<b>Context</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Min Thickness (m)</b>	<b>Max Thickness (m)</b>
[101]	<b>Natural Bedrock</b> - Hard, light yellowish brown laminated, most probably dolostone bedrock with lenses of granulated/powdered dolostone and sandy clay.	-	-
[102]	<b>Superficial geology</b> - Loose, mid grey clay sand with frequent small to medium sub round stones and cobbles.	-	0.15
[103]	<b>Subsoil</b> - Friable, mid greyish brown silty clay.	0.15	0.20
[104]	<b>Levelling deposit</b> - Friable, mid grey clayey sand with frequent small stones and most probably dolostone fragments, exposed intermittently along the foundation. Dimensions as exposed were 10.47m E/W and 8.50m N/S.	0.40	0.90
[105]	<b>Concrete</b> - foundation for existing building.	0.20	0.30
[106]	<b>Made ground/levelling deposit</b> - Friable dark grey	0.15	0.40

	clayey sand with frequent CBM (red brick and tile waste), small stones and most probably dolostone fragments.		
[107]	<b>Levelling deposit</b> - loose, CBM (red brick and tile) and concrete crushed waste levelling deposit for [108], exposed within the southern part of the foundation trench. Dimensions as exposed 4m E/W x 0.60m N/S.	-	0.10
[108]	<b>Concrete</b> - Concrete with small stone inclusions. Subbase for brick surface [109], exposed within the southern part of the foundation trench. Dimensions as exposed were 4m E/W by up to 0.10m thick.	-	0.10
[109]	<b>Brick surface</b> - modern concrete brick (200mm X 100mm X 50mm), laid on base, bonded by sand and cement. Exposed within the southern part of the foundation trench. Dimensions as exposed were 4m E/W by 50mm thick.	-	0.05
[110]	<b>Construction cut</b> - vertical sides and flat base. Construction cut for concrete foundation [105]	0.20	0.30

Natural geological deposits were recorded within the foundation trenches. These consisted of bedrock [101], comprising light yellowish brown laminated stone with granulated stone lenses and sandy clay overlain by loose, mid grey clayey sand with frequent river washed small to medium sub round stones and cobbles [102]. The uppermost strata of the natural superficial geology was recorded at maximum and minimum depths of 0.90m and 0.75m below present ground level, encountered at maximum and minimum heights of 16.54m AOD and 16.39m AOD, respectively.

The natural superficial geology was directly overlain by c. 0.20m thick friable mid greyish brown silty clay subsoil [103] that was encountered within all sections of the foundation trench. No artefactual material was recovered from this deposit.

A single NW/SE orientated field drain was recorded cutting the subsoil [103] that contained 'horseshoe' type sections of ceramic drain (300mm x 100mm).

Modern levelling and construction activity associated with the construction of the existing building on the site was recorded. The earliest of such deposits was encountered within the southern and western parts of the foundation trench and comprised a ground raising/levelling deposit [104], encountered at maximum and minimum depths below present ground level of 0.65m and 0.30m. A construction cut [110] for concrete foundation [105] for the existing building truncated ground raising/levelling deposit [104]. A made ground/levelling deposit [106] was encountered within all parts of the foundation trench and comprised friable dark grey clayey sand up to 0.40m thick. In the southern most part of the foundation trench deposit [106] was overlain by loose crushed concrete and CBM levelling deposit [107], that in turn was overlain by a sandy cement sub-base [109] for a concrete brick surface [109]. The concrete bricks [109] were also present in the northern part of the

foundation trench, along the existing driveway however, these were laid directly onto the made ground/levelling deposit [106]. The current surface was encountered at a maximum height of 17.50m AOD.

No deposits or finds of archaeological interest were identified during the watching brief.

**ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION:**

Figure 1- Site Location

Figure 2- Trench 1 Location

Plates 1-7

Stratigraphic Matrix

**ARCHIVE DEPOSITION:**

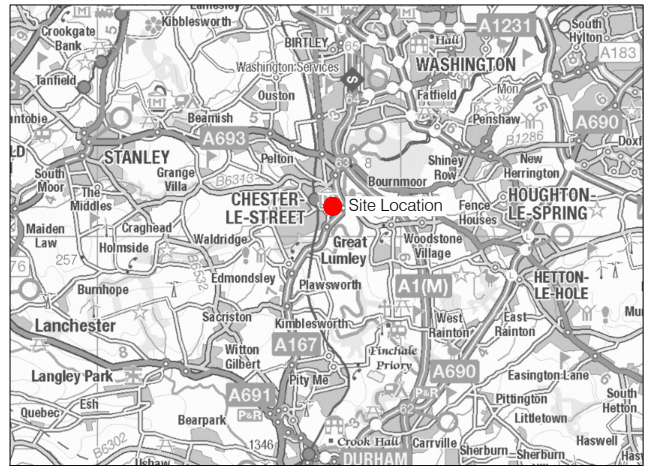
As this was a negative watching brief there is no physical archive to be deposited. A hard copy of the report will be lodged with the Durham Historic Environment Record and a digital report uploaded to OASIS.

Author: Andy Abson

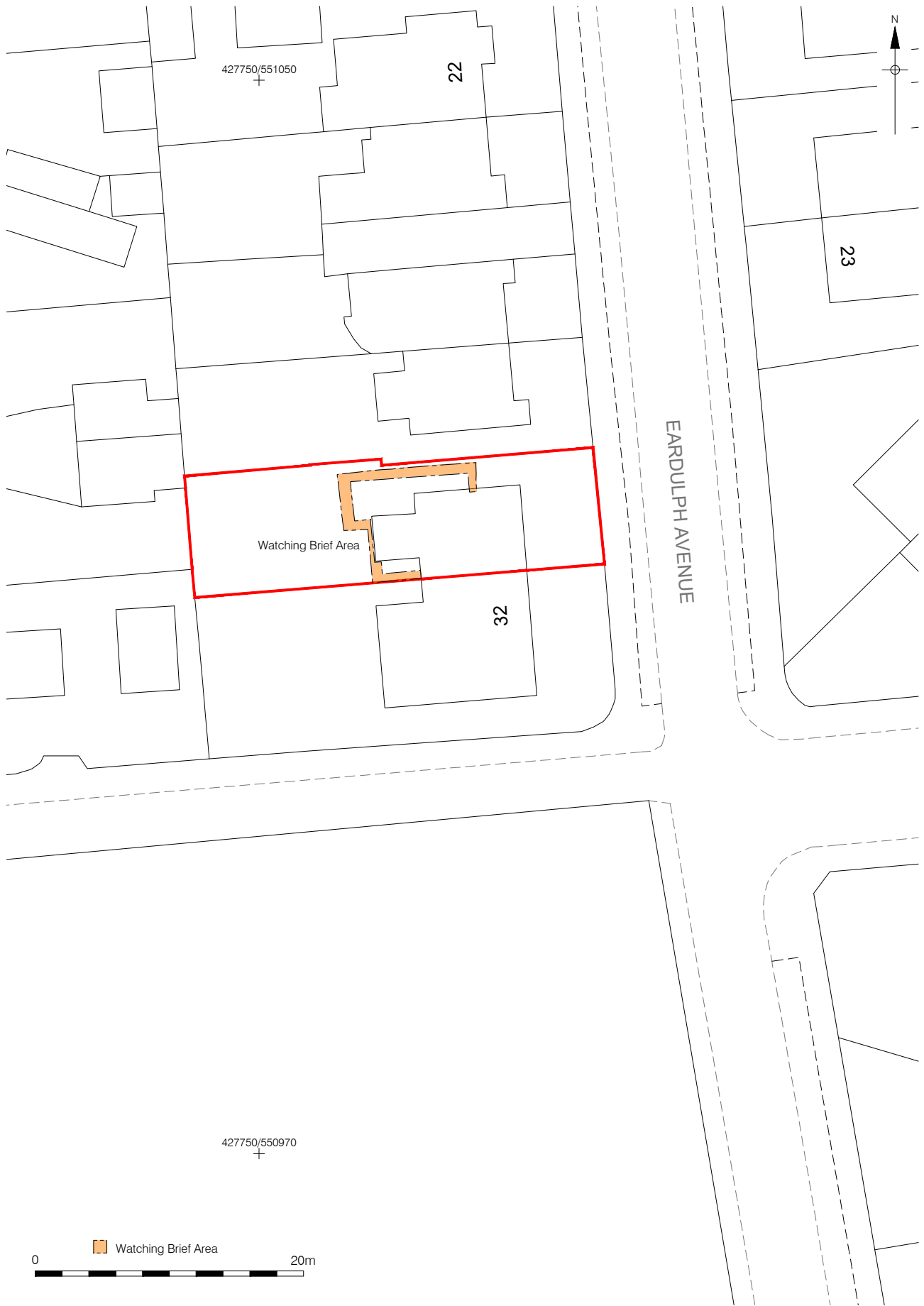
Checked: Aaron Goode

Authorised: Daniel Still

Date: 28/06/22



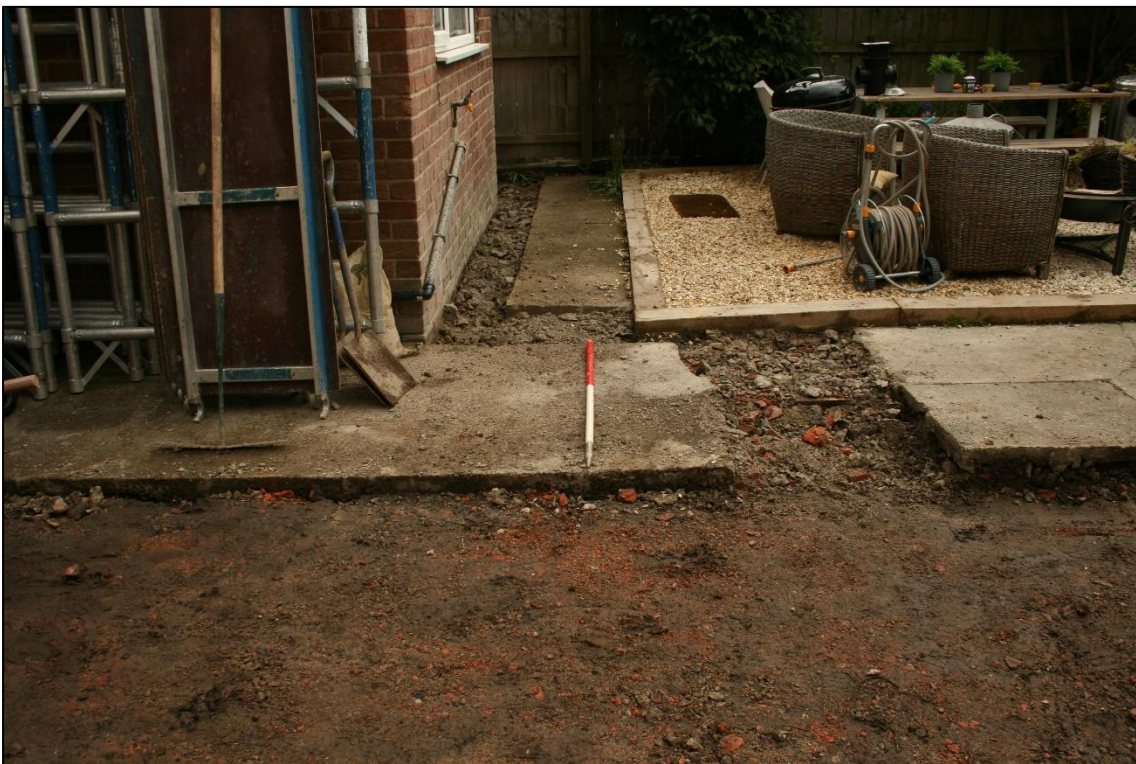
P:\PROJECT DATA\Out of London\Durham\30 Eardulph Avenue, Chester-le-Street\CAD\WB\Fig 01\_Site Location.dwg - Plot date and time = 17/06/2022 09:41:23



**PLATES:**



*Plate 1- Pre-excavation overview of southern side of house, view east, 1m scale.*



*Plate 2- Pre-excavation overview of western side of house & driveway, view south, 1m scale.*





*Plate 3-Pre-excitation overview of northern side of house & driveway, view east, 2m scale.*



*Plate 4-Overview of southern part of foundation trench, view South, 1m scale.*



*Plate 5-Overview of southern part of foundation trench, view east, 1m scale.*

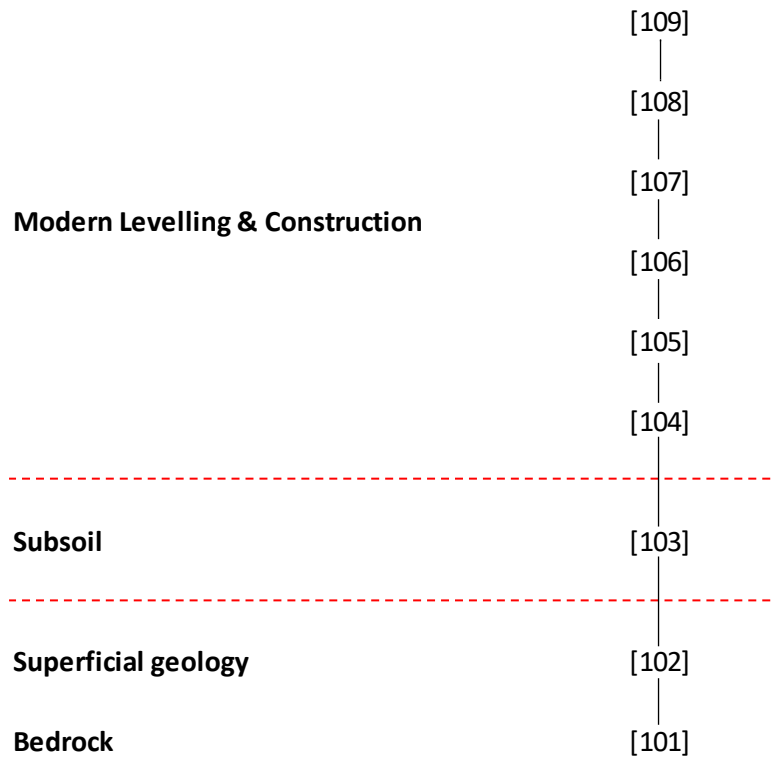


*Plate 6- Overview of east-west orientated foundation trench, northern part of foundation trench, view east, 2m scale.*



*Plate 7-Overview of southern part of foundation trench, view south-east, 2m scale.*

**STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX:**



# PCA

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