

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT  
NEWCASTLE GENERAL HOSPITAL,  
WESTGATE ROAD, NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE,  
TYNE AND WEAR**

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**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**An Archaeological Evaluation at Newcastle General Hospital, Westgate Road,  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Tyne and Wear**

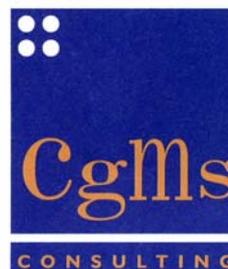
**Central National Grid Reference: NZ 2285 6445**

**Site Code: NGH 08**

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

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited on land at Newcastle General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The central National Grid Reference for the investigation area is NZ 2285 6445. The fieldwork, undertaken 3rd–7th November 2008, was commissioned by CgMs Consulting as part of the planning process in respect of a proposed retail development.
- 1.2 The site is located in an area of considerable archaeological sensitivity, due to its position immediately to the north of the line of Hadrian's Wall, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In broad terms, the evaluation aimed to establish the archaeological potential of the southernmost portion of the proposed development site. In specific terms, the main objective was to provide evidence for the position of the northern defensive ditch of the Wall. The work was designed to supplement the findings of archaeological investigations undertaken at the site in 2005.
- 1.3 The evaluation comprised six machine-excavated trenches (Trench 1-6) all sited within shrubbery borders towards the southern boundary of the hospital grounds, north of Westgate Road. All six were aligned roughly north-south and they varied in length from 2.40m to 5.60m. The aim was to test areas that would be impacted upon by specific elements of the development proposals, namely access road widening (Trenches 1 and 6), landscaping and tree planting (Trenches 2, 4 and 5) and by the proposed footprint of the main retail building (Trench 6). The locations of all trenches, with the exception of Trench 3, were constrained by the presence of trees standing within the site boundary, all of which are protected by a Tree Preservation Order.
- 1.4 Trench 1, the westernmost trench, was sited to test an area that will be affected by road widening in the development scheme. Natural boulder clay was encountered at a depth of 0.56m below existing ground level at the northern end of the trench. A thick dump layer overlay natural clay; of post-medieval or modern origin, this deposit was cut away by a substantial root bole to the south. The uppermost deposit in the trench was a root-riddled topsoil. No deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.
- 1.5 Trench 2 was sited south of a perimeter access road, to test an area to be affected by landscaping. Natural boulder clay was observed at a depth of 1.30m below existing ground level. A developed soil, up to 0.35m thick, overlay the natural clay, and this may be of medieval or earlier origin, although no artefactual material was recovered to prove this. Only a small area of this deposit survived, due to truncation to the north and south by modern service trenches. A substantial silty dump layer, up to almost 1.0m thick, sealed the service trenches, this cut into to the north by the construction cut for the pavement skirting the access road. No deposits of proven archaeological significance were encountered.

- 1.6 Trench 3 was sited north of the perimeter access road, to test the area to be affected by the footprint of the proposed new store. Natural boulder clay was observed at a depth of 0.34m below existing ground level at the southern end of the trench. To the north it had been cut into by a feature of likely modern date and probably related to demolition of former hospital buildings that stood to the north. A root-riddled topsoil formed the existing ground surface along much of the trench, this cut into to the south by a modern service trench underlying the existing pavement and to the north by modern landscaping activity. No deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.
- 1.7 Trench 4 was sited in the same shrubbery border as Trench 2, to test an area to be affected by landscaping/tree planting in the development proposal. Natural boulder clay was observed at a depth of 0.66m below existing ground level in the middle portion of the trench. It was overlain by a clayey dump layer, this of likely modern origin. The uppermost deposit was a thick root-riddled topsoil, truncated at the northern end of the trench by a modern service trench. No deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.
- 1.8 Trench 5 was also sited in the southern shrubbery border to test an area to be affected by landscaping/tree planting in the development proposal. Natural boulder clay was observed at a depth of 1.14m below existing ground level at the southern end of the trench. It was overlain by a compact layer of fragmented stone, this probably a ground consolidation layer laid down ahead of a dump layer, both deposits of later post-medieval or modern origin. Another rubble consolidation layer, this of modern origin, was overlain by a root-riddled topsoil. Several service trenches were recorded in this trench. No deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.
- 1.9 Trench 6 was sited in the south-eastern corner of the site to test an area that will also be affected by road widening in the development scheme. Natural clayey sand was revealed at 1.60m below existing ground level in the southern end of the trench. It was overlain by deposits representing probable 19th century landscaping activity. Ground levelling and consolidation deposits of modern origin underlay a substantial topsoil. No deposits of archaeological significance were encountered.
- 1.10 In summary, no archaeological features or deposits predating later post-medieval occupation of the site were encountered during the evaluation, with the exception of a truncated developed soil in Trench 2, which is potentially of medieval or earlier origin.

## **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 3rd-7th November 2008 on land at Newcastle General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting (CgMs). The central National Grid Reference of the investigation area (as described below) is NZ 2285 6445 (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 It proposed to develop the site as a retail superstore and there is particular archaeological potential for remains of Roman date due to the proximity to the line of Hadrian's Wall. This potential was established by an archaeological desk-based assessment<sup>1</sup> (DBA) undertaken by CgMs in 2004. Since the Wall probably closely follows the line of Westgate Road in the vicinity of the site, the northern defensive ditch potentially lies within the southern boundary of the site.
- 2.1.3 An initial phase of archaeological investigations, undertaken in 2005, encountered no archaeological remains of note and, in fact, that work suggested that no such remains are likely to survive in the area proposed for the main new build, this being a large, open grassed area towards the Westgate Road frontage of the hospital grounds. The work herein described formed a second phase of archaeological investigation, comprising an evaluation by trial trenching, to test the potential for archaeological remains in a corridor along the southern boundary of the hospital grounds. This area is to be affected by various elements of the proposed scheme, such as widening of access to Westgate Road, landscaping and tree planting; in addition, the south-western corner of the footprint of the proposed superstore was investigated.
- 2.1.4 A Specification<sup>2</sup> for the evaluation was prepared by CgMs, and, in response, a Project Design<sup>3</sup> was compiled by PCA, to comprise the 'written scheme of investigation' required as part of the planning process.
- 2.1.5 The evaluation comprised six machine-excavated archaeological trial trenches (Trenches 1-6) sited within areas of shrubbery just within the southern boundary of the site, which extends c. 0.3km along the north side of Westgate Road (Figure 2). Trenches 1 and 6 were sited in garden areas in the south-western and south-eastern corners of the site, respectively, while Trenches 2-5 were sited alongside a perimeter access road running parallel with Westgate Road. The locations of all the trenches, except Trench 3, were constrained by the presence of trees within the site boundary, all of which are protected by a Tree Preservation Order.
- 2.1.6 The Site Archive (PCA site code NGH 08) is currently held at the Northern Office of PCA and comprising the retained element, comprising the written, drawn and photographic records, will be transferred to Tyne and Wear Museum Archive, Arbeia, South Shields. The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) reference number for the project is: preconst1-52962.

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<sup>1</sup> CgMs 2004.

<sup>2</sup> CgMs 2008.

<sup>3</sup> PCA 2008.

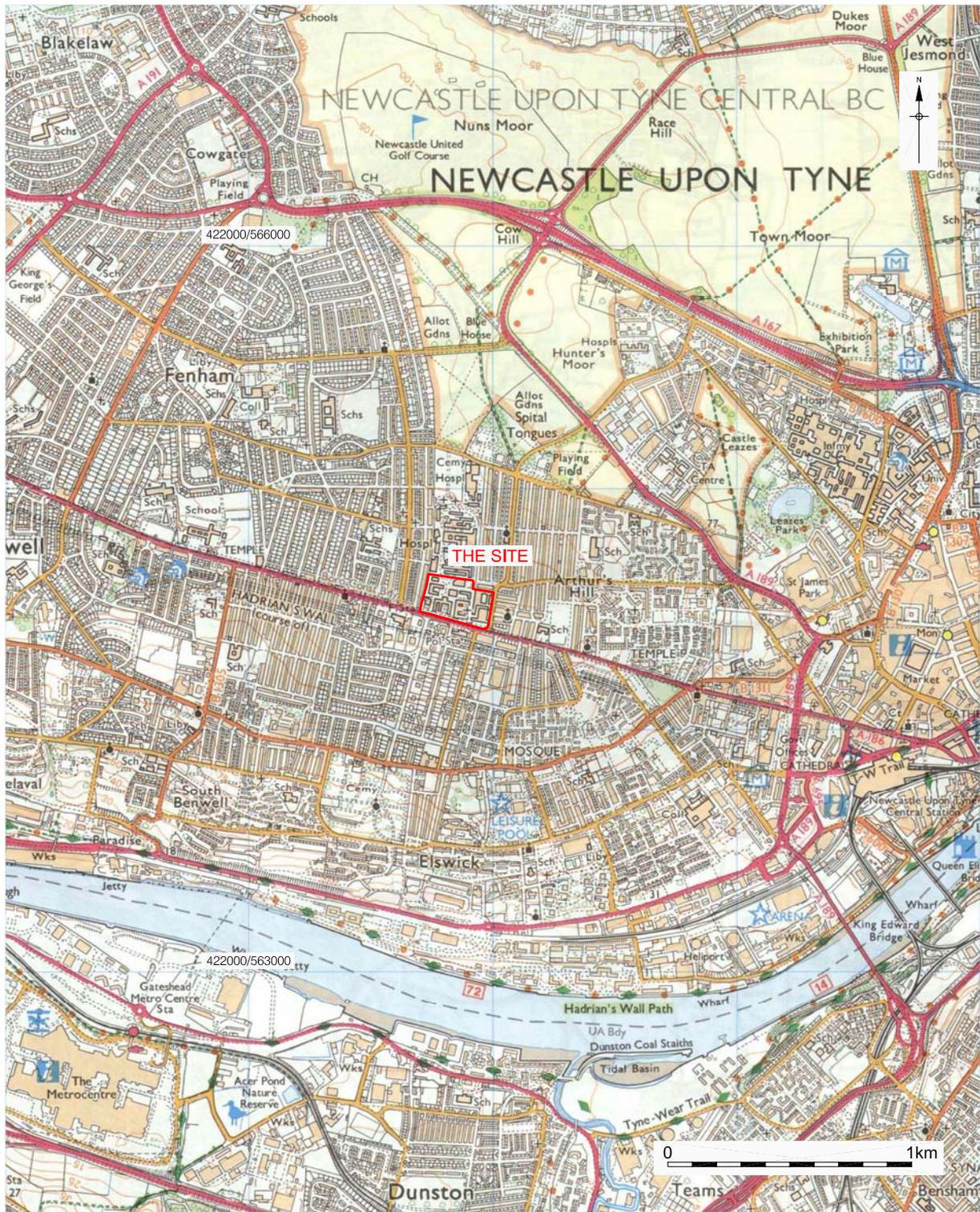


Figure 1. Site location  
Scale 1:25,000

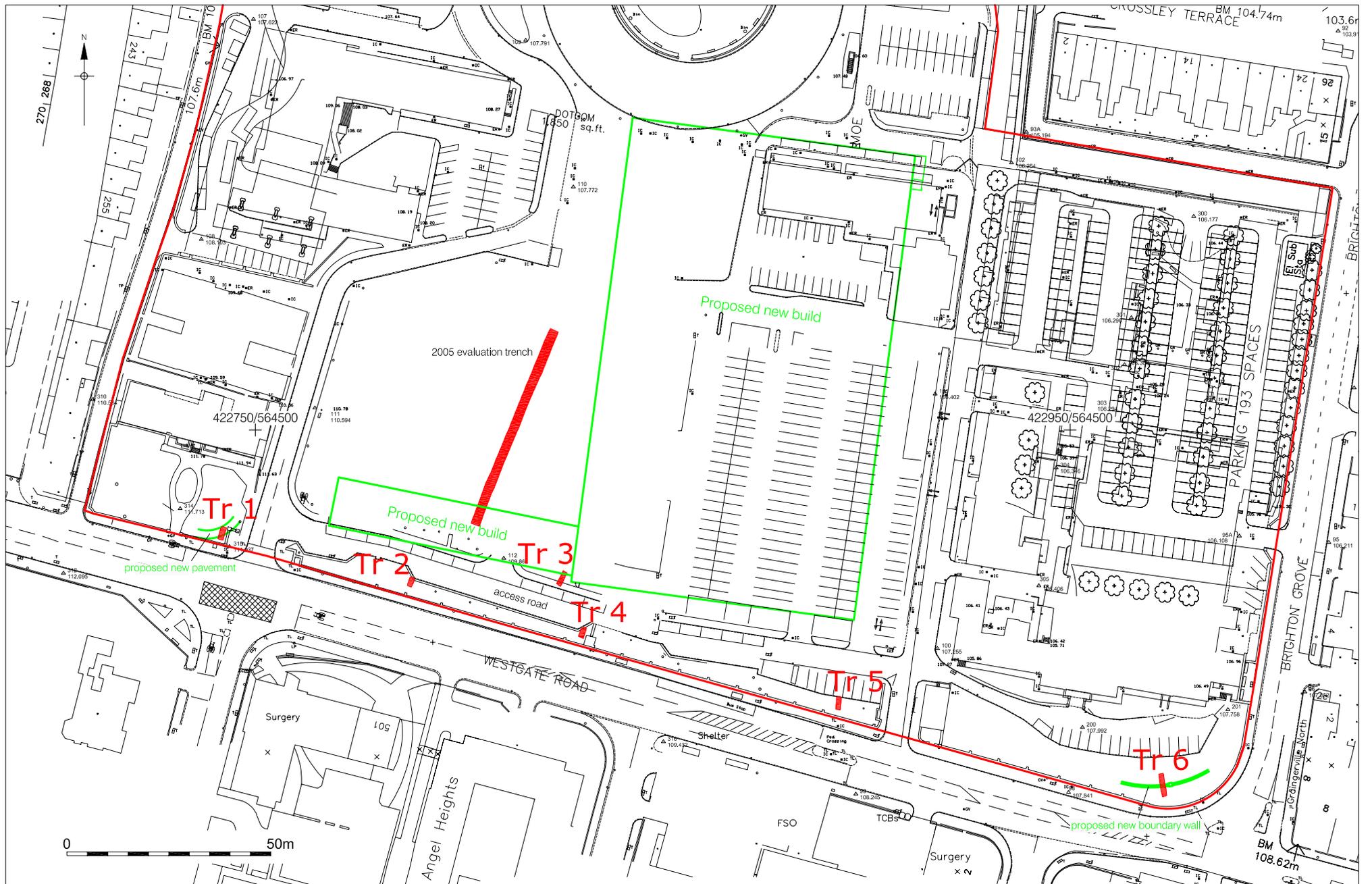


Figure 2. Trench location  
Scale 1:1,250

## 2.2 Geology and Topography

- 2.2.1 The site lies in the eastern sector of Hadrian's Wall where the Roman frontier crosses the Westphalian Coal Measures of the Upper Carboniferous. In the Benwell area specifically, the solid geology is formed by the upper part of the Middle Coal Measures, this being sandstone with mudstone-pebble conglomerate.<sup>4</sup> The drift geology of much of the eastern sector of the Wall area is characterised by Glacial Till (Boulder Clay).
- 2.2.2 The overall hospital grounds occupy land that slopes away generally to the north-east. Localised slopes within the hospital grounds site are gentle gradients, although many of these are likely to be man-made. Along the Westgate Road frontage, this being the area investigated by the work herein described, there is a fairly significant natural downward slope from west to east. For example, road level drops from c. 112m OD at the south-western corner of the site to c. 108m OD at the south-eastern corner, this at the junction of Westgate Road and Brighton Grove.

## 2.3 Planning Background

- 2.3.1 The main element of the proposed development scheme involves construction of a retail superstore on the open area comprising the southern central portion of the grounds of Newcastle General Hospital. Other works would have to take place, such as landscaping and tree planting, as well as road widening to provide better access from Westgate Road. The archaeological evaluation was undertaken pre-determination of a planning application and comprised a further element of a programme of archaeological investigations that began at the site in 2005.
- 2.3.2 Government guidance on archaeology and heritage conservation is set out in *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: 'Archaeology and Planning'* (PPG16).<sup>5</sup> At a local level, the Local Planning Authority (LPA), Newcastle City Council, has various policies within its Unitary Development Plan (UDP) concerning archaeology and cultural heritage. Of particular relevance are:
- POLICY C04. DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD HARM SITES OR AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST AND THEIR SETTINGS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.**
- and
- POLICY C04.1. THE FOLLOWING SITES AND AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST IDENTIFIED FOR THE PURPOSE OF POLICY C04 INCLUDE:**
- Scheduled ancient monuments**
7. Hadrian's Wall, Vallum and associated works
- Other sites and areas of archaeological interest, as defined on the Proposals Map**
18. *Unscheduled areas of the known and presumed line of Hadrian's Wall, Vallum, Ditch and fortifications.*
- 2.3.3 Thus the latter UDP policy not only deals with sites, monuments and areas which have scheduled monument status - these being worthy of preservation because of their national significance – but also other important known sites, monuments and areas and sites and areas which have considerable potential archaeological interest.

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<sup>4</sup> Johnson 1997.

<sup>5</sup> Department of the Environment 1990.

- 2.3.4 While the section of Hadrian's Wall in the vicinity of Newcastle General Hospital does not have statutory protection as a scheduled monument, the entire Hadrian's Wall Military Zone was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. A subsequent management plan, prepared by English Heritage, Local Authorities along the length of the Wall and other interested parties, identified three distinct areas: the 'archaeological core' of the Wall and Vallum (the World Heritage Site), the surrounding 'buffer zone' and the outer 'visual envelope'. While there is a possibility that some or all of the northern defensive ditch of the frontier lies within the southern portion of the proposed development site, at the very least it lies within the buffer zone of the World Heritage Site.
- 2.3.5 In sum, therefore, the archaeological evaluation was required, as part of the planning process, to inform the LPA regarding the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological remains, specifically those associated with the Hadrian's Wall frontier, in the southern portion of the site. The results should inform a decision by the Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist regarding further archaeological mitigation measures.

## 2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

*The archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken in 2004, has been used as the basis of the following summary. The research and writing of those responsible from CgMs Consulting is gratefully acknowledged.*

- 2.4.1 No sites or finds dating to the various prehistoric eras are recorded on the Tyne and Wear Historic Environment Record (HER) within 1km of the site. Late prehistoric activity recorded at Denton (c. 4 km to the west) is thought to represent evidence for Iron Age cultivation and potential settlement activity. In spite of this nearby activity, the lack of a reliable water supply may have made the site unattractive for permanent settlement.
- 2.4.2 The site is bordered by a section of Hadrian's Wall that lies between Benwell (*Condercum*) fort (1.5km to the west) and *Pons Aelius* Fort (2km to the east). Although not scheduled in this particular part of Newcastle, the Wall corridor as a whole has, as previously mentioned, been designated a World Heritage Site, with three distinct areas - the 'archaeological core', the surrounding 'buffer zone' and the outer 'visual envelope' – having been defined.
- 2.4.3 Hadrian's Wall in the vicinity of the site consisted of a stone wall c. 5m high and c. 3m wide.<sup>6</sup> To the north of the Wall was a ditch; this was separated from the Wall by an open flat space, a berm, usually 6m wide on the stone section of Wall because of the pressure on the south lip of the ditch from the weight of the Wall, on the turf Wall the berm was only 1.8m wide. The ditch varied in width from 8m to 12m, but was generally c. 8.2m wide, and was between 2.7m to 3m deep. It was V-shaped in profile with a square-cut drainage or clearing-out channel at the base. The material excavated from the ditch was deposited on the north side and smoothed out to heighten the outer scarp of the ditch. A deep ditch with banks on either side, the Vallum, was located to the south of the Wall. It is generally thought that Hadrian's Wall in the vicinity of the site, between Milecastles 5 and 6, follows the line of Westgate Road, with the northern ditch running parallel to the northern edge of Westgate Road, and possibly lying within southern boundary of the grounds of Newcastle General Hospital.

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<sup>6</sup> Breeze and Dobson 2000.

- 2.4.4 In 2002, an archaeological evaluation at Prospect House on Grainger Park Road, immediately to the south of the site, aimed to locate the Vallum ditch and northern mound as depicted on Ordnance Survey mapping, running at a distance of c. 80m from the expected line of the Wall below Westgate Road. No evidence of the feature was found, suggesting that the Vallum ditch lies to the south of the line shown on the Ordnance Survey, perhaps at a distance nearer to 100m, which would be consistent with antiquarian and earlier map evidence
- 2.4.5 Very little is known about the character, extent and detailed location of post-Roman settlement in the area and it is possible that settlement returned to Iron Age patterns centred on hillforts. In the late Saxon period, a small community of monks settled at Monkchester, near to *Pons Aelius* fort.
- 2.4.6 No finds or sites dating to the Saxon/early medieval period have been identified within 1km of the site.
- 2.4.7 During the medieval period, the site lay within the township of Elswick, within the parish of Newcastle, St. John. Elswick was granted to Tynemouth Priory in 1120 and the estate was held until the Dissolution in the 16th century. Evidence of field names from medieval rentals of the manor, such as 'Estangriding' and 'Dunlandriding' suggest that agricultural land was being created through woodland clearance until a relatively late date. References mentioning mineral mining '*in the field of Elswick*' exist dating to the 13th century and in 1378 '*the coal pits with way and staiths*' were valued at £40 per annum. However, no archaeological evidence of medieval date has been found within 1km of the site and the site probably lay beyond the settlement limits of both Newcastle and Elswick.
- 2.4.8 In 1839, a new, purpose-built and extensive 'Union Workhouse' was constructed on Westgate Road, in the south-eastern portion of the site, by the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Board of Guardians. This replaced four parish workhouses and the new build included an administration block, laundry, dining hall, workshops, bakehouse, school, various wards and a lunatic asylum. The complex is shown in some detail on Ordnance Survey 1st edition maps from c. 1860. At this time the south-westernmost corner of what are now the hospital grounds was occupied by a large dwelling, annotated as 'Elswick Grange', with what appeared to be a relatively formal garden set out in front of it, on Westgate Road. In the late 1860s, an Infirmary was constructed in the southern central portion of the site – in the area occupied at the time of the Ordnance Survey 1st edition by two buildings, possibly farmhouse and an L-shaped range of outbuildings - while a residential school and a small farmstead were built within the northern portion of the site. All these additions are shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition maps from the 1890s.
- 2.4.9 The existing building in the south-western portion of the site is now 416a Westgate Road, generally referred to as the 'former lodge', and at present in use as a 'Young People's Unit'. Along with its southern boundary wall, this is a Grade II listed building. The existing structure is probably not the aforementioned Elswick Grange, since map evidence indicates that it is considerably smaller than the imposing dwelling annotated as such on the 1st and 2nd editions of the Ordnance Survey map. The existing ashlar building on the site, therefore, probably dates from c. 1900.

- 2.4.10 The workhouse complex on the site was abolished by 1930 and the hospital building was handed over by the Board of Guardians to the City Council and its name was changed to Newcastle General Hospital. By the late 1930s, the hospital complex had extended northwards. In the 1990s, all hospital buildings within the central part of the site were demolished. Therefore, any remaining 19th century buildings are limited to the eastern part of the site.
- 2.4.11 The archaeological investigations undertaken at the site by PCA in February 2005, recorded no archaeological features or deposits predating the 19th century and, in places, truncation by 19th century and modern activity was severe.
- 2.4.12 There are no scheduled ancient monuments or listed buildings on the site or in its immediate vicinity.

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

#### **3.1 Project Aims**

- 3.1.1 The project is threat-led with potential to disturb or destroy important sub-surface archaeological remains of the Roman period in particular. The broad aim of the project was therefore to inform the LPA regarding the character, date, extent and degree of survival of archaeological deposits along the southern margin of the proposed development site, this being the most archeologically sensitive area affected by the scheme.
- 3.1.2 Archaeological trial trenching was chosen as the investigative tool to test the archaeological potential of the southern margin of the proposed development site. Six small trenches (Trenches 1-6) were sited in this area to investigate locations to be affected by:
- road widening to provide better access from Westgate Road (Trenches 1 and 6);
  - general landscaping/tree planting along the Westgate Road frontage (Trenches 2, 4 and 5);
  - the south-western corner of the footprint of the proposed superstore (Trench 3).
- 3.1.3 Additional aims of the project were:
- to compile a site archive consisting of all site and project documentary and photographic records, as well as all artefactual and paleoenvironmental material recovered.
  - to compile a report that contains an assessment of the nature and significance of all data categories, stratigraphic, artefactual, etc.

#### **3.2 Research Objectives**

- 3.2.1 *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF)*<sup>7</sup> identifies the following key priority within the research agenda for the Roman period which is of direct relevance to the project:
- Riii – The Roman military presence.
- 3.2.2 Given the location of the site, a specific research objective for the project was: can any sub-surface archaeological remains at the site provide evidence for the position of the northern defensive ditch of Hadrian's Wall or the berm or indeed the Wall itself?

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<sup>7</sup> Petts and Gerrard 2006.

## **4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Fieldwork**

4.1.1 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the relevant standard and guidance document of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.<sup>8</sup> PCA is an IFA-Registered Organisation. The evaluation was undertaken according to the Specification provided by CgMs and the Project Design complied by PCA, which should be consulted for full details of methodologies employed regarding archaeological excavation, recording and sampling.

4.1.2 All trenches ran on a roughly north-south alignment. Their dimensions were as follows:

- Trench 1 measured up to 3.25m x 1.38m at ground level;
- Trench 2 measured up to 2.4m x 1.28m at ground level;
- Trench 3 measured up to 3.66m x 1.22m at ground level;
- Trench 4 measured 2.65m x 1.30m at ground level;
- Trench 5 measured 3.15m x 1.23m at ground level;
- Trench 6 measured 5.60m x 1.27m at ground level.

4.1.3 The locations of all the trenches, except Trench 3, were constrained by the presence of trees standing within the site boundary, all of which are protected by a Tree Preservation Order. In general, the trenches were slightly larger than those proposed in the Project Design, due to the presence of modern services or the need to provide safe access for archaeological personnel. Two Temporary Bench Marks (TBMs) were established on the site using existing survey data: TBM 1 - used for Trenches 3-6 - had a value of 107.56m OD; TBM 2 - used for Trenches 1 and 2 - had a value of 109.11m OD. The existing survey data was checked using an Ordnance Survey Bench Mark (cut mark at 103.27m OD) on a wall opposite No. 30 Bentinck Road. The height of all principal strata and features were calculated relative to Ordnance Datum and indicated on the appropriate plans and sections.

### **4.2 Post-excavation**

4.2.1 The stratigraphic data generated by the project is represented by the written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 55 archaeological contexts were defined in the trenches (Appendix B). Post excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts and phasing the stratigraphic data (Appendix A). A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described below in Section 5.

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<sup>8</sup> IFA 2001

- 4.2.2 The artefactual material from the evaluation comprised a small assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material. Specialist assessment of the material was undertaken (Appendix C). No other categories of inorganic artefactual material were represented.
- 4.2.3 The palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy of the project was to recover bulk samples where appropriate, from well-dated (where possible), stratified deposits covering the main periods or phases of occupation and the range of feature types represented, with specific reference to the objectives of the evaluation. To this end, no appropriate deposits were encountered and therefore no bulk samples were recovered. No other biological material was recovered.
- 4.2.4 None of the material recovered during the evaluation required specialist stabilisation or an assessment of its potential for conservation research.
- 4.2.5 The 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. The artefactual material will not be retained due to its very low significance. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document<sup>9</sup> will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document<sup>10</sup> and an forthcoming IfA publication.<sup>11</sup> No material was recovered that required specialist stabilisation or an assessment of potential for conservation research. The depositional requirements of the body to which the Site Archive will be ultimately transferred will be met in full. At the time of writing this will be the Tyne and Wear Museum Archive, Arbeia, South Shields.

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<sup>9</sup> Brown 2007.

<sup>10</sup> Walker, UKIC 1990.

<sup>11</sup> IfA forthcoming.

## 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 [123]. The archaeological sequence is described by placing stratigraphic sequences within broad phases, assigned on a site-wide basis in this case. An attempt has been made to add interpretation to the data, and correlate these phases with recognised historical and geological periods.*

### 5.1 Phase 1: Natural sub-stratum (Figures 3-8)

- 5.1.1 Phase 1 represents natural geological material, exposed at some point within the base of all six trenches.
- 5.1.2 The natural sub-stratum in Trenches 1, 3, 4 and 5 comprised soft to firm, light to mid brownish yellow clay, layers [105], [309], [406] and [511], respectively. It was typically mottled with pockets of light grey clay and had very occasional fine and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles throughout. In Trenches 2 and 6, the natural sub-stratum, layers, [212] and [611], respectively, comprised soft, mid pinkish brown clayey sand. All these deposits represent the typical Boulder Clay drift geology of this part of Newcastle, the material being of glacial origin.
- 5.1.3 The height of the natural sub-stratum varied across the site. The highest value encountered on the sub-stratum was to the west, in Trench 1, where layer [105] had a maximum height of 111.24m OD, this 0.56m below existing ground level. Moving eastwards, the maximum height recorded on the natural sub-stratum became progressively lower in each trench: layer [212] in Trench 2 was at 109.72m OD (1.30m below existing ground level), layer [309] in Trench 3 was at 108.80m OD (0.34m below existing ground level), layer [406] in Trench 4 was at 108.43m OD (0.66m below existing ground level), layer [511] in Trench 5 was at 106.77m OD (1.14m below existing ground level). In Trench 6, in the south-easternmost portion of the site, layer [611] was at 106.41m OD (1.60m below existing ground level). This fall in the height of natural sub-stratum from west to east is largely reflected in the existing ground level across the site, with a fall away to the east along Westgate Road, towards the junction with Brighton Grove.

### 5.2 Phase 2: Undated (Figure 4)

- 5.2.1 Phase 2 is represented solely by a layer of soil recorded overlying the natural sub-stratum in Trench 2. This deposit, layer [211], consisted of loose, mid pinkish brown sandy clayey silt, with no inclusions observed. It was up to 0.35m thick and was recorded a maximum height of 110.07m OD (0.96m below existing ground level). Due to truncation to both the north and south by modern services, only a small area of this deposit was exposed in section, this extending only 0.18m north-south.
- 5.2.2 The generally sterile nature of this deposit indicates that it probably accumulated naturally, being a 'developed soil'. No artefactual material was recovered from the deposit, although based on its and composition and character, as well as its stratigraphic position, it may be of some considerable age, possibly of medieval or earlier origin.

### **5.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval (19th century?) (Figure 8)**

- 5.3.1 Overlying the natural sub-stratum in the southern end of Trench 6 was a layer, [610], of firm, dark greyish brown clayey silt, with occasional small fragments of coal and medium fragments of sandstone throughout. It had a maximum thickness of 0.23m, was recorded at a maximum height of 106.66m OD (1.41m below existing ground level) and met the limit of excavation in all directions. Seven sherds of pottery were recovered from the deposit during cleaning, these indicating a date of deposition during the 19th century (Appendix C).
- 5.3.2 Towards the western section of the trench, layer [610] appeared to be cut into by a feature, [609], of which only a small portion of the base was revealed in plan, the exposed portion being flattish. It was filled by a deposit, [608], consisting of firm, dark orange brown sandy silty clay, mottled with lenses of black silt. This material continued beyond the exposed portion of the base of the feature to meet the limit of excavation in all directions. It achieved a maximum thickness of 0.75m and was recorded at a maximum height of 107.17m OD (0.80m below existing ground level). Two sherds of pottery and three fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from this deposit, indicating a 19th century date for deposition (Appendix C).
- 5.3.3 These deposits (and the feature) are interpreted as representing an episode of landscaping activity during the 19th century. It can be reasonably assumed that the activity, involving ground raising, levelling and consolidation, probably took place ahead of the documented construction of the Union Workhouse in the south-eastern portion of the hospital site in 1839.

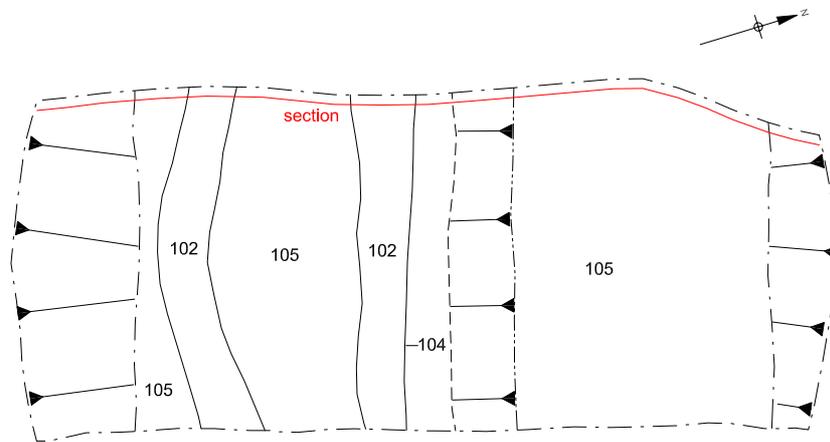
### **5.4 Phase 4: Modern (Figures 3-8)**

- 5.4.1 Phase 4 represents modern activity at the site, the majority being landscaping of later 19th century and modern date, and a variety of services.
- 5.4.2 Overlying the natural sub-stratum in Trench 1 was a layer, [103], comprising friable, mid greyish brown silty clay, with occasional fine sub-angular and sub-rounded pebbles and occasional flecks of chalk and coal throughout. It was 0.45m thick on average and was recorded at a maximum height of 111.60m OD (0.24m below existing ground level). The layer produced four pieces of pantile, broadly indicative of a post-medieval or modern date for deposition (Appendix C). This deposit, interpreted as dumped material, was possibly laid down ahead of establishment of the existing garden area in this part of the site, possibly at the time of construction of 416a Westgate Road. Alternatively, it could originate from the 19th century, potentially representing the garden area associated with Elswick Grange as shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st and 2nd edition maps.
- 5.4.3 At the southern end of Trench 1 was a substantial irregular feature, [104], interpreted as a root bole and associated root channels. It was filled with soft, mid greyish brown clayey silt, [102], which contained occasional flecks of chalk and coal, and occasional large angular stones. Stratigraphically the feature truncated dump layer [103] and was recorded to the north as slightly undercutting both that deposit and the underlying natural boulder clay.
- 5.4.4 The uppermost deposit recorded within Trench 1 was the existing topsoil, [101], comprising soft, dark greyish black clayey silt with frequent root disturbance throughout. It had a maximum thickness of 0.29m and was recorded at a maximum height of 111.84 OD, forming the existing ground surface in the vicinity of the trench.

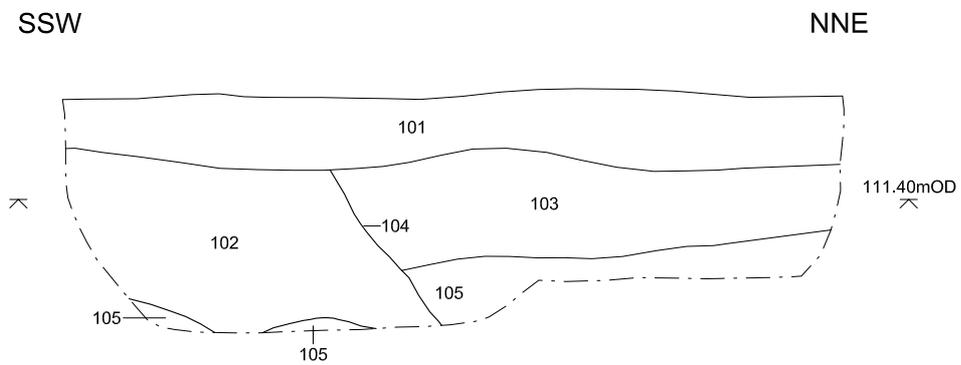
- 5.4.5 Running across Trench 2 on an east-west alignment were two service trenches, [207] and [210], these being the features responsible for leaving only a thin strip of Phase 2 layer [211] *in situ* in the central part of the trench. The exposed sides of both features had vertical sides, but neither was fully excavated to reveal a full profile once it had been established that they cut down into the natural sub-stratum. The upper part of a substantial iron pipe, [209], was exposed within feature [210], and it was buried below a silty clay infill, [208], at least 0.41m thick. A smaller diameter iron pipe, [205], was exposed in feature [207], evidently having been laid upon a silty clay backfill, [206], this up to 0.50m thick, as exposed. This feature may have housed another service pipe at a greater depth than it was possible to extend the trench.
- 5.4.6 Overlying the service trenches described above was a substantial deposit, [204], comprising firm, dark pinkish brown clayey silt, with a maximum thickness of 0.98m. Recorded at a maximum height of 111.04m OD, it was the existing topsoil, thereby forming the existing ground surface along much of the trench. At the northern end of Trench 2 was the construction cut for a pavement associated with the south side of the access road to the north of the trench. This feature was 0.35m deep and had a vertical southern side. Its primary fill, [202], was loose, light brownish yellow crushed stone, up to 70mm thick and its main clayey silt fill, [201], was up to 0.35m thick. None of the paving stones appeared in section.
- 5.4.7 Towards the northern end of Trench 3 was the southern side of a feature, [306], which cut into the natural sub-stratum at a shallow angle. It was recorded in section at a maximum height of 108.70m OD, and a single fill, [305], was recorded, this being a very mixed, but firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent pockets of yellowish brown clay (certainly redeposited natural boulder clay) and moderate small and medium sub-angular stones throughout. Its maximum recorded thickness was 0.30m. Synthetic textiles were noted within the deposit and a shard of modern glass was recovered, along with a flake of red earthenware pottery. The preferred interpretation of this feature is that it represents landscaping of the large open area to the north of the trench and probably dates from the time of the demolition of the former hospital buildings in the 1990s.
- 5.4.8 Layer [304], a loose, mid blackish brown sandy clayey silt formed a topsoil comprising part of the existing ground surface in Trench 3. It was up to 0.43m thick and was recorded at a maximum height of 109.15m OD. This topsoil had been cut away at both the northern and southern ends of the trench. To the north, feature [308], was responsible, with only the upper part of its southern side recorded in section. It was at least 0.50 deep and was recorded at a maximum height of 109.06m OD. A single silty fill, [307], was recorded. The feature is likely to be the result of very recent groundworks, probably mechanical rotavating of the ground surface to form the existing grassed area to the north.

- 5.4.9 In the southern part of Trench 3, topsoil [304] was truncated by a service trench, [303], which housed a live electricity cable running below the existing pavement to the south. The service trench was excavated only to the depth of the electricity cable, this work removing a single fill, [302], of loose, light brownish yellow crushed stone, up to 0.26m thick. The overlying paving stone, [301], of the existing pavement stood at a height of 109.15m OD.
- 5.4.10 Overlying natural clay in Trench 4 was a layer, [405], of mixed composition, principally firm, mid brownish orange silty clay but with frequent pockets of yellowish brown clay (certainly redeposited natural boulder clay), as well as moderate fragments of sandstone and occasional small fragments of coal throughout. This layer had a maximum thickness of 0.28m and was recorded at a maximum height of 108.68m OD (this 0.47m below existing ground level). A sherd of later post-medieval pottery (Appendix C) recovered from the deposit may have been residual in context. The mixed nature of its composition and material contained therein indicate that this deposit was dumped either during an episode of later post-medieval landscaping, possibly ahead of the construction of the Infirmary to the north in the 1860s, or during activity in the modern era, perhaps at the time of the demolition of those same buildings in recent years. On balance, the latter is the preferred interpretation.
- 5.4.11 Overlying deposit [405] was a topsoil, [404], comprising loose, mid greyish brown clayey silt. It had a maximum thickness of 0.75m, and formed the existing ground surface, at a maximum height of 109.17m OD. At the northern end of the trench the layer had been truncated by an east-west aligned service trench, [403]. Towards the base of the section, the side of the feature fell vertically but it remained unexcavated beyond a depth of 0.57m. An iron pipe of relatively small diameter, [402], was exposed at the base of the trench, overlain by a single silty clay backfill, [401].
- 5.4.12 Overlying natural clay in Trench 5 was a compact layer, [508], consisting of mid brownish yellow crushed sandstone within a matrix of mid brownish orange silty clay. The deposit had an average thickness of only 90mm and was recorded at a maximum height of 106.85m OD. It was overlain by a layer, [507], of compact, dark brownish orange silty clay with frequent medium and large sandstone fragments and occasional large fragments of coal throughout. It had a maximum thickness of 0.31m and was recorded at a maximum height of 107.12m OD (this 0.78m below existing ground level). This layer produced two small fragments of ceramic building material (Appendix C) indicating that it was deposited, probably along with the underlying deposit, [507], in the late post-medieval period or modern era. This may have been during an episode of landscaping, possibly ahead of the construction of the Infirmary to the north in the 1860s, or perhaps at the time of the demolition of those same buildings in recent years.

- 5.4.13 In section, layer [507] appeared to be overlain by another layer, [506], of loose, mid greyish brown sandy silt with frequent stone rubble throughout and with an average depth of 0.50m. However, further into the section, an iron pipe was observed running north-south within the deposit, this indicating that the deposit was, in all probability, the infill of a north-south aligned service trench. At the northern extent of the trench was another service trench, [510], this running east-west and housing a plastic coated electricity cable. With a steeply sloping side and a flat base, it was 0.28m deep. Its single fill, [509], comprised loose, mid greyish yellow sand and the feature was sealed by a concrete slab, [504], this being 50mm thick and recorded at a maximum height of 107.60m OD.
- 5.4.14 Concrete slab [504] was overlain by a layer, [505], of loose, mid pink brick rubble up to 0.10m thick and recorded at a maximum height of 107.62m OD. This ran along the entire section of the trench and probably represents an episode of ground levelling and consolidation within this area in the modern era, following insertion of the services described above.
- 5.4.15 The existing topsoil in Trench 5 was a layer, [503], of loose, dark greyish brown clayey silt, with heavy root disturbance. It had an average depth of 0.46m and formed the existing ground surface, recorded at a maximum height of 107.92m OD, this at the southern end of the trench. A concrete footing, [501], 0.52m thick and set in a construction cut, [502], had been inserted into the topsoil at the same end of trench. Its purpose is uncertain.
- 5.4.16 In Trench 6, a layer, [607], was exposed along the full length of the trench. It comprised firm, mid pinkish brown silty clay with frequent medium and large sandstone fragments throughout. On average it was 0.48m thick and was recorded at a maximum height of 107.47m OD, this 0.60m below the existing ground surface. Overlying this deposit was a distinctive layer, [606], comprising loose, light brownish yellow crushed stone. With a maximum depth of 0.17m this deposit represents an episode of ground levelling and consolidation in the modern era, with the underlying deposit, [607], probably being a make-up dump laid down prior to this layer of 'hardcore'. This activity presumably relates to the establishment of the garden area in the south-western corner of the site in the 20th century.
- 5.4.17 The existing topsoil in Trench 6 comprised two similar deposits recorded in section either side of a substantial root bole, [603]. To the north, was layer [604], this loose, mid greyish brown clayey silt up to 0.70m thick, while to the south was layer [605], this much darker brownish grey to black in colour. Up to 0.58m thick, it was recorded at a maximum height of 108.06m OD, this at the southern end of trench and the existing ground surface. The aforementioned tree bole was filled with dark brown clayey silt, [602], and had a maximum depth of 0.48m deep. It was sealed by a turf line, [601], which extended to the north, forming the sloping ground surface and falling to a height of 107.92m OD, this at the northern end of the trench.



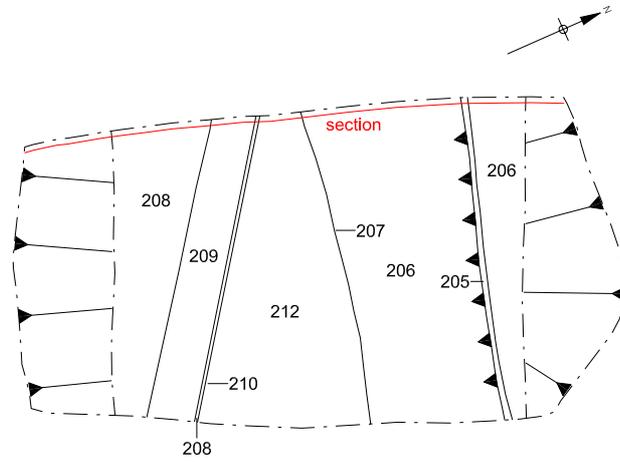
Trench 1. Plan.



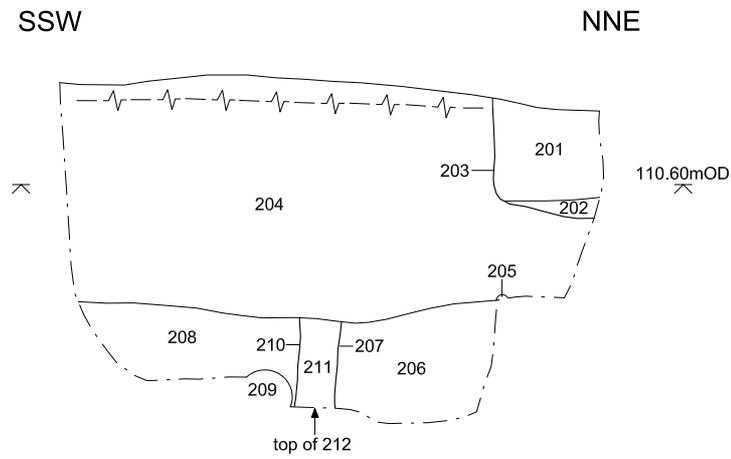
Trench 1. ESE facing section.



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



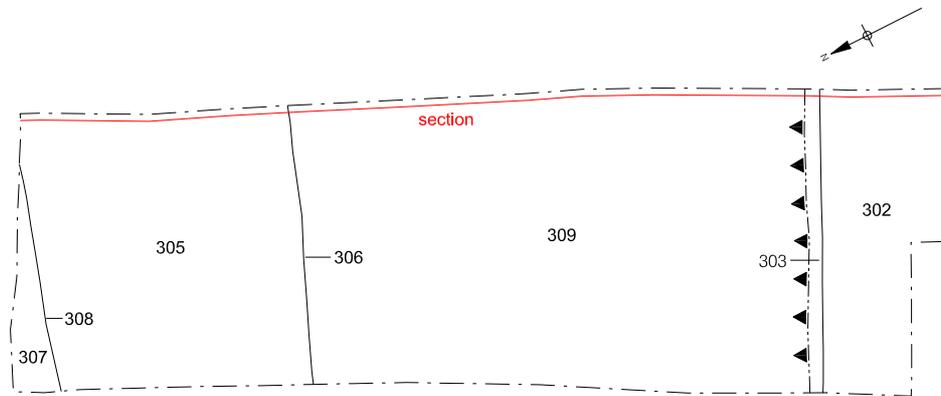
Trench 2. Plan.



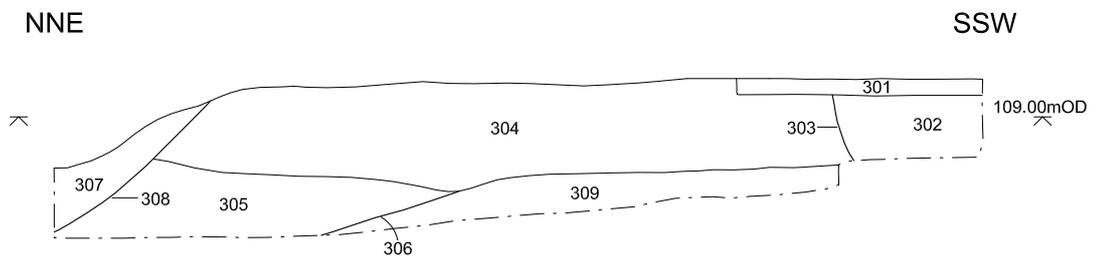
Trench 2. ESE facing section.



Figure 4. Trench 2, plan and section  
Scale 1:30



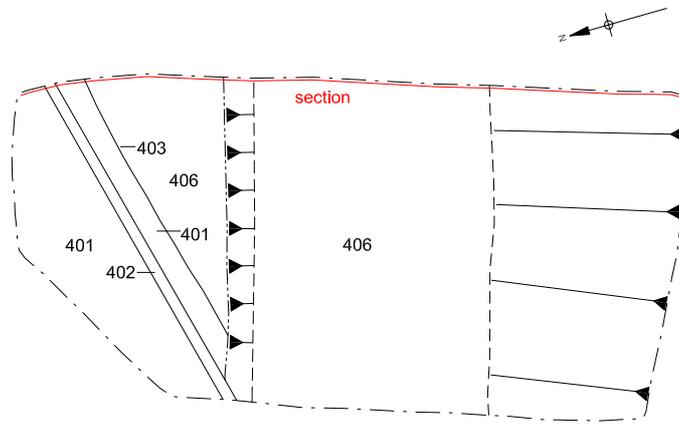
Trench 3. Plan.



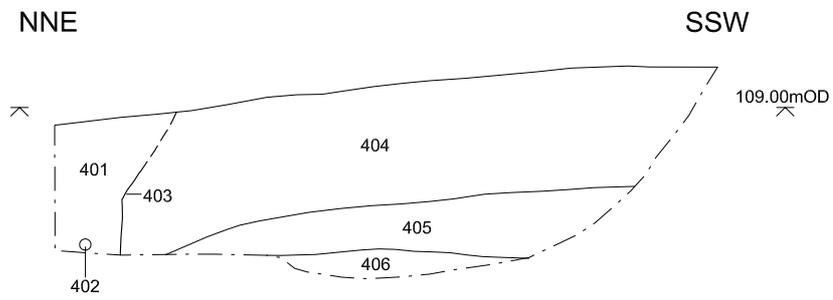
Trench 3. WNW facing section.



Figure 5. Trench 3, plan and section  
Scale 1:30



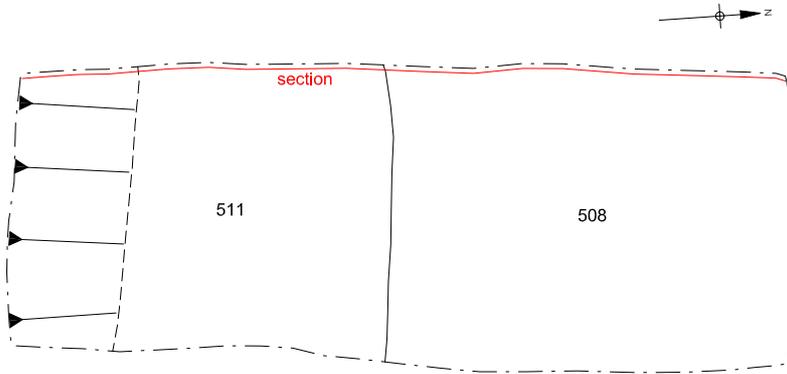
Trench 4. Plan.



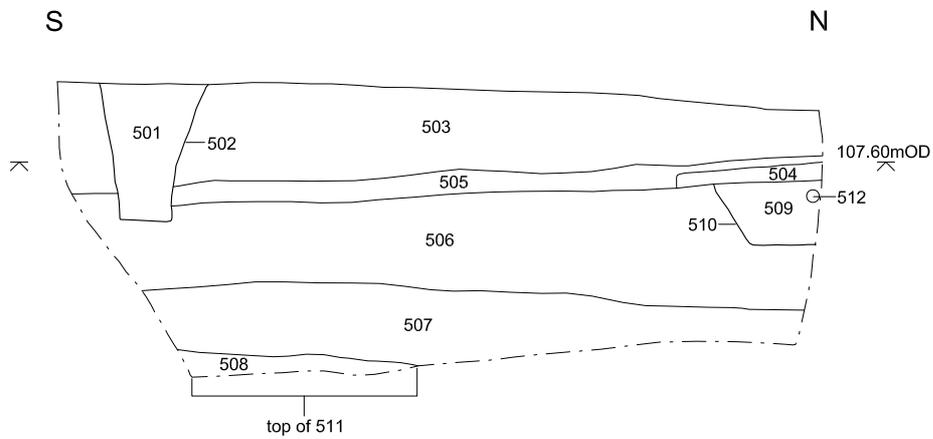
Trench 4. WNW facing section.



Figure 6. Trench 4, plan and section  
Scale 1:30



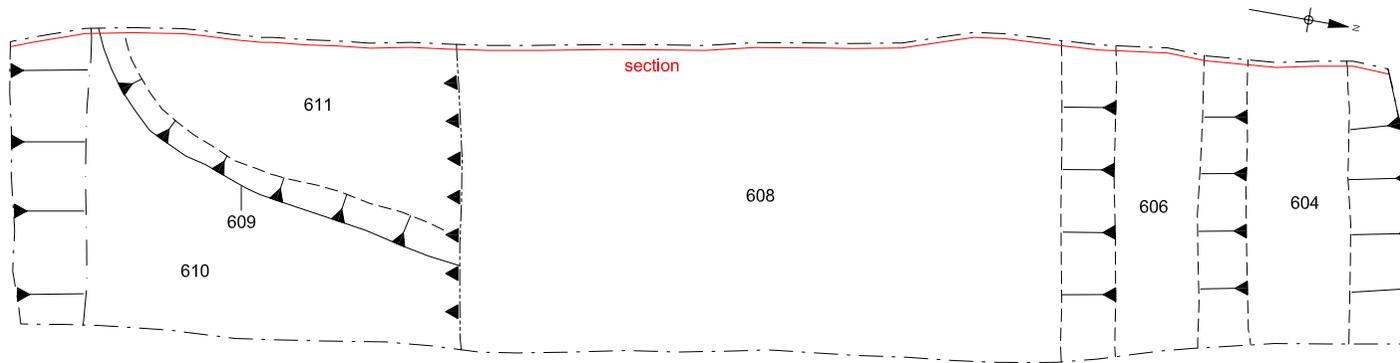
Trench 5. Plan.



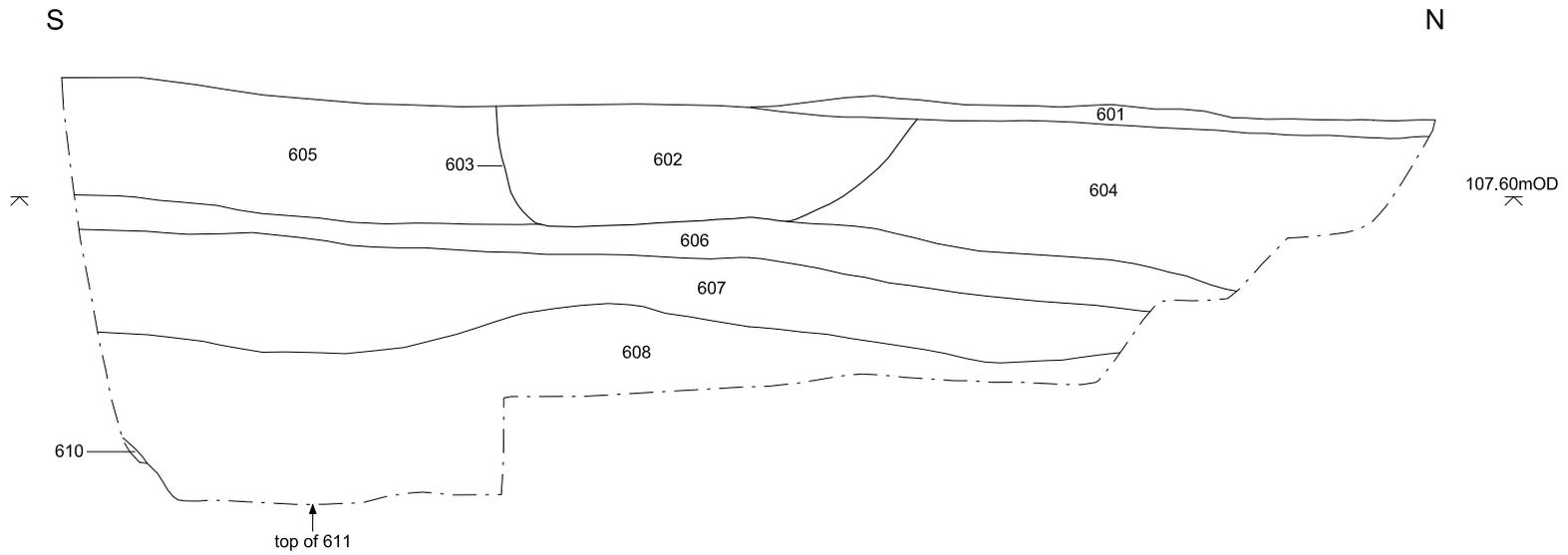
Trench 5. East facing section.



Figure 7. Trench 5, plan and section  
Scale 1:30



Trench 6. Plan.



Trench 6. East facing section.



Figure 8. Trench 6, plan and section  
Scale 1:30

## **6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 Conclusions**

6.1.1 Archaeological deposits and features encountered during the evaluation have been assigned to four phases of activity:

- Phase 1. The natural sub-stratum recorded in all trenches and of geological origin.
- Phase 2. A small area of developed soil recorded in Trench 2, this being undated but potentially of medieval or earlier origin.
- Phase 3. A small number of deposits representing probable 19th century landscaping activity recorded in Trench 6.
- Phase 4. All later post-medieval (19th century and later) and modern deposits, comprising dump layers for ground levelling and consolidation, as well as service trenches and existing topsoil and pavements.

6.1.2 No evidence for Roman occupation of the site was encountered and, specifically, there was no evidence to elucidate the position of any element of the Hadrian's Wall frontier, including the northern ditch. The results of both this work and the 2005 investigations indicate that, if the northern ditch did run through this part of Newcastle, then it probably lies to the south of the site boundary, therefore below the pavement or carriageway of Westgate Road.

### **6.2 Recommendation**

6.2.1 The results of this evaluation, in common with those of the 2005 investigations, indicate that further archaeological work is probably not justified at the site ahead of the proposed development.

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## **8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS**

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The input of Dave Heslop, the Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist, is acknowledged.

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### **PCA Credits**

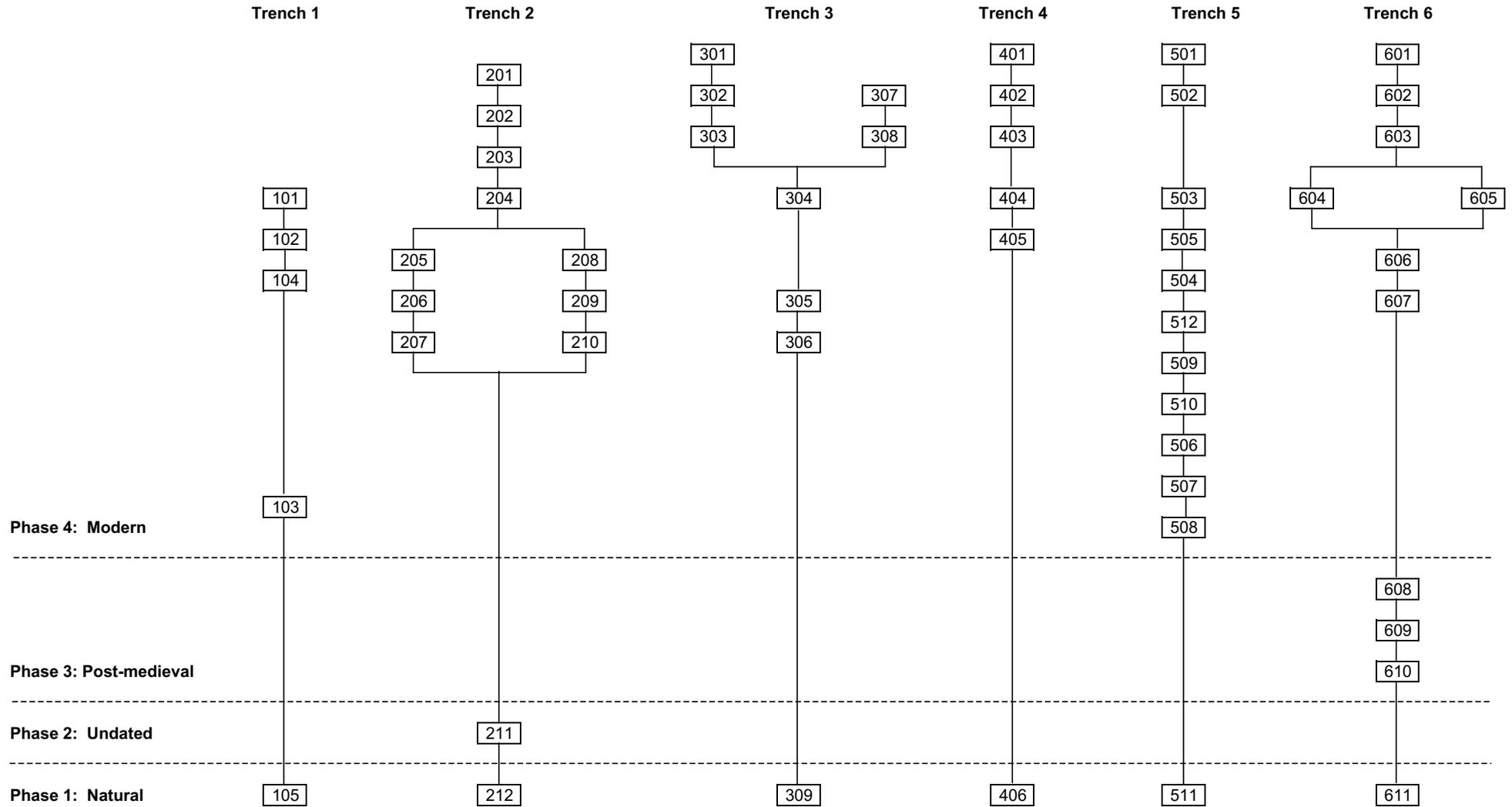
*Fieldwork:* Amy Roberts and Robin Taylor-Wilson

*Report:* Amy Roberts and Robin Taylor-Wilson

*Illustrations:* Adrian Bailey

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

NGH 08: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES



**APPENDIX B  
CONTEXT INDEX**

**NGH 08: CONTEXT INDEX**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Trench</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Type 1</b>	<b>Type 2</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
101	1	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
102	1	4	Deposit	Layer	Fill of root channel [103]
103	1	4	Deposit	Layer	Dump layer
104	1	4	Cut	Linear	Root channel
105	1	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural boulder clay
201	2	4	Deposit	Fill	Secondary fill of construction cut [203]
202	2	4	Deposit	Fill	Primary fill of construction cut [203]
203	2	4	Cut	Linear	Construction cut for pavement
204	2	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
205	2	4	Deposit	Fill	Iron pipe
206	2	4	Deposit	Fill	Fill of service trench [207]
207	2	4	Cut	Linear	Service trench
208	2	4	Deposit	Fill	Fill of service trench [210]
209	2	4	Deposit	Fill	Iron pipe
210	2	4	Cut	Linear	Service trench
211	2	2	Deposit	Layer	Developed soil
212	2	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural clayey sand
301	3	4	Deposit	Surface	Paving stone
302	3	4	Deposit	Fill	Fill of service trench [303]
303	3	4	Cut	Linear	Service trench
304	3	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
305	3	4	Deposit	Fill	Fill of feature [306]
306	3	4	Cut	Discrete	Landscaping feature
307	3	4	Deposit	Fill	Fill of feature [308]
308	3	4	Cut	Discrete	Gardening/landscaping feature
309	3	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural boulder clay
401	4	4	Deposit	Fill	Fill of service trench [403]
402	4	4	Deposit	Fill	Iron pipe
403	4	4	Cut	Linear	Service trench
404	4	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
405	4	4	Deposit	Layer	Dump layer
406	4	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural boulder clay
501	5	4	Deposit	Structure	Concrete footing
502	5	4	Cut	Penannular	Construction cut for footing [501]
503	5	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
504	5	4	Deposit	Layer	Concrete slab
505	5	4	Deposit	Layer	Demolition dump
506	5	4	Deposit	Layer	Dump layer
507	5	4	Deposit	Layer	Demolition dump
508	5	2	Deposit	Layer	Consolidation/levelling layer
509	5	4	Deposit	Fill	Fill of service trench [510]
510	5	4	Cut	Linear	Service trench
511	5	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural boulder clay
512	5	4	Deposit	Fill	Service cable
601	6	4	Deposit	Layer	Turf
602	6	4	Deposit	Fill	Fill of root bole [603]
603	6	4	Cut	Penannular	Root bole
604	6	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
605	6	4	Deposit	Layer	Topsoil
606	6	4	Deposit	Layer	Consolidation/levelling layer
607	6	4	Deposit	Layer	Dumping layer
608	6	3	Deposit	Layer	Dumping layer
609	6	3	Cut	Discrete	Landscaping feature?
610	6	3	Deposit	Layer	Dump layer
611	6	1	Deposit	Layer	Natural clayey sand

**APPENDIX C  
POTTERY ASSESSMENT**

## Pottery Assessment

By Jenny Vaughan, Northern Counties Archaeological Services

### Introduction

A small assemblage of 22 items was recovered from the evaluation trenches. This consisted of 10 fragments of ceramic building material, 7 of these from pantiles, 11 sherds of pottery and a small piece of modern window glass. The assemblage is catalogued in the table below, with an indication of the date range of each item.

### Discussion

Much of the pottery is not necessarily 19th century, but for site where the interest is primarily for the Roman period, the material is of no particular significance, other than aiding in the dating of the various deposits.

Cxt	Type	No.	Wt.	Comments	Date
103	CBM	4	259	Pantile fragments	17th c. or later
305	Red earthenware	1	2	A flake which might be pottery	?
305	Glass	1	1	Clear modern window glass	Modern
405	Pearlware?	1	1	Refined white earthenware, blue tinged glaze	Late 18th c. or later
506	Drain pipe	1	142	Coarse glazed drain pipe fragment	Modern
507	CBM	2	6	Small red fragments ?tile	Modern?
608	Glazed red earthenware	1	86	With internal white slip coating	18th c. or later
608	Creamware?	1	4	Refined whiteware with cream coloured glaze. Now broken in two.	Late 18th c./early 19th c.
608	CBM	3	318	Pantile fragments	17th c. or later
610	Glazed red earthenware	3	92	With internal white slip. Everted rim of bowl	18th c. or later
610	Glazed red earthenware	1	11	Plain brown glazed	18th c. or later
610	Pearlware?	1	5	Base fragment – refined whiteware with flaking blue tinged glaze.	Late 18th c. or later
610	Transfer printed whiteware	1	1	Small fragment	19th c.
610	China	1	7	Scalloped upright rim with blue transfer printing	19th c?

**APPENDIX D  
PLATES**



Plate 1. Trench 1, ESE facing section, looking south-west (*1m scale*).



Plate 2. Trench 2, ESE facing section, looking west (*1m scale*).



Plate 3. Trench 3, WNW facing section, looking north-east (*1m scale*).



Plate 4. Trench 4, WNW facing section, looking east (*0.5m scale*).



Plate 5. Trench 5, east facing section, looking south-west (*1m scale*).



Plate 6. Trench 5, general view, looking south (*1m scale*).



Plate 7. Trench 6, general view, looking WNW  
(1m scale).



Plate 8. Trench 6, east facing section, south end, looking west (1m scale).

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