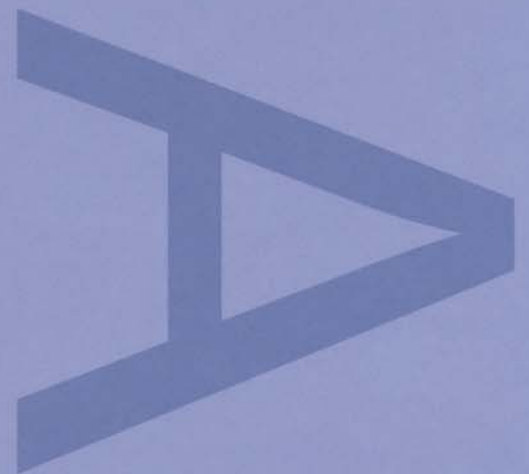
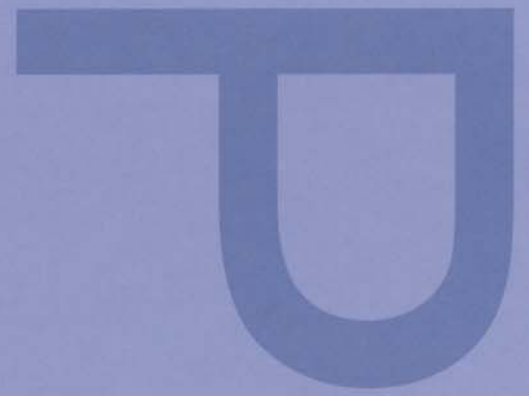


**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ON  
THE SOUTH TRANSITION SHAFT  
FOR THE NEW TYNE CROSSING,  
JARROW RIVERSIDE PARK,  
JARROW, SOUTH TYNESIDE,  
TYNE AND WEAR**

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited for  
Bouygues Travaux Publics (UK Branch)  
New Tyne Crossing, PCA Report No. 3  
November 2009**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief on the South Transition Shaft for the  
New Tyne Crossing, Jarrow Riverside Park, Jarrow, South Tyneside,  
Tyne and Wear**

**New Tyne Crossing, PCA Report No. 3**

**Central National Grid Reference: NZ 3305 6580**

**Site Code: STJ 08 and STJ (STS) 09**

**Commissioning Client:**

**Bouygues Travaux Publics (UK Branch)**  
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November 2009**

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

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken between July 2008 and April 2009 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at the site of the South Transition Shaft for the New Tyne Crossing, in Jarrow Riverside Park, off Tyne Street, Jarrow, South Tyneside.
- 1.2 The work was part of a programme of archaeological investigation undertaken as a planning condition in association with construction groundworks for the New Tyne Crossing. A Specification for the programme of archaeological investigation was compiled by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer. An archaeological evaluation had been undertaken in 2007 ahead of the construction programme.
- 1.3 The South Transition Shaft for the New Tyne Crossing - a dedicated structure linking the immersed river section of the tunnel to a 'cut-and-cover' section of tunnel extending southwards inland – was constructed on the Tyne riverfront, in Jarrow Riverside Park, at National Grid Reference NZ 3305 6580. Prior to the work, the potential for archaeological remains at this specific location was rather uncertain. It lies c. 1.0km to the north-west of the site of Jarrow's Anglo-Saxon monastery at a location that, by the post-medieval period, was part of the industrialised quayside along the south bank of the Tyne.
- 1.4 The nearest of the 2007 evaluation trenches, sited in the riverside park close to the site of the South Transition Shaft, was excavated to a depth of 3.0m below the existing ground surface without natural geological material being reached. Sand and gravel ballast, of likely post-medieval origin, comprised the lowermost approximately 2.0m of material, overlain by modern overburden, this likely imported during relatively recent landscaping. Due to the restricted nature of the work, some uncertainty remained over the potential for archaeological remains in this area.
- 1.5 Preparatory groundworks undertaken in July 2008, just to the south-east of the site of the South Transition Shaft, exposed what appeared to be the eastern end of a substantial sandstone and brick building and a probably associated east-west aligned brick culvert, both likely related to a quayside industrial facility of 19th century date.
- 1.6 When archaeological monitoring was undertaken at the site of the South Transition Shaft in April 2009, the shaft structure itself was already in place. Remote observation of machine excavation of material from its interior recorded modern overburden approximately 6m thick overlying a well-constructed east-west aligned sandstone wall. Supported by a series of timbers, driven into an underlying clay layer, this probably represents the 19th century river wall.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 General Background**

- 2.1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological monitoring and recording exercise (hereafter 'watching brief') undertaken between July 2008 and April 2009 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at the site of the South Transition Shaft for the New Tyne Crossing in Jarrow, South Tyneside, Tyne and Wear.
- 2.1.2 The New Tyne Crossing is being constructed by Bouygues Travaux Publics (UK Branch) (Bouygues TP) between Jarrow, South Tyneside and East Howdon, North Tyneside (Figure 1). The route runs up to 100m to the east of the line of the existing vehicular tunnel below the River Tyne. The new structure involves construction of an immersed tube tunnel within the river, this connecting at dedicated transition shafts built on each riverfront to 'cut-and-cover' sections of tunnel extending inland (Figure 2).
- 2.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken as a condition of planning permission for the New Tyne Crossing which required that a programme of archaeological observation be undertaken during construction groundworks to record items or finds of archaeological or historic interest. A Specification for the overall programme of archaeological work was compiled by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer.<sup>1</sup> One element of this programme of work was an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the South Transition Shaft, located on the southern riverfront of the Tyne, in Jarrow Riverside Park.
- 2.1.4 At the time of the work, the potential for archaeological remains at the site of the South Transition Shaft was rather uncertain. To the south-east lies the site of the Anglo-Saxon monastery at Jarrow. By the mid 19th century this area was part of a rapidly developing industrial quayside on the south bank of the Tyne and mapping indicates that the line of the modern riverfront remains largely unchanged from that time. However, it is likely that ground levels in the area have been raised significantly by landscaping since the 19th century.
- 2.1.5 An archaeological evaluation, undertaken in 2007,<sup>2</sup> to investigate the archaeological potential of the route of the New Tyne Crossing, included an evaluation trench sited close to the intended location of the South Transition Shaft. However, this failed to reach natural geological material, with the lowermost material exposed comprising at least 2.0m of dumped sand and gravel ballast, of likely 19th century origin. This extended to a depth of 3.0m below the existing ground surface, with the uppermost deposits in the trench comprising c. 1.0m of modern overburden, including structural remains. Due to the restricted nature of the work, some uncertainty remained over the potential for archaeological remains in this area.

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<sup>1</sup> Newcastle City Council 2008. The Specification forms an Appendix to this report.

<sup>2</sup> Archaeological Services Durham University 2007.



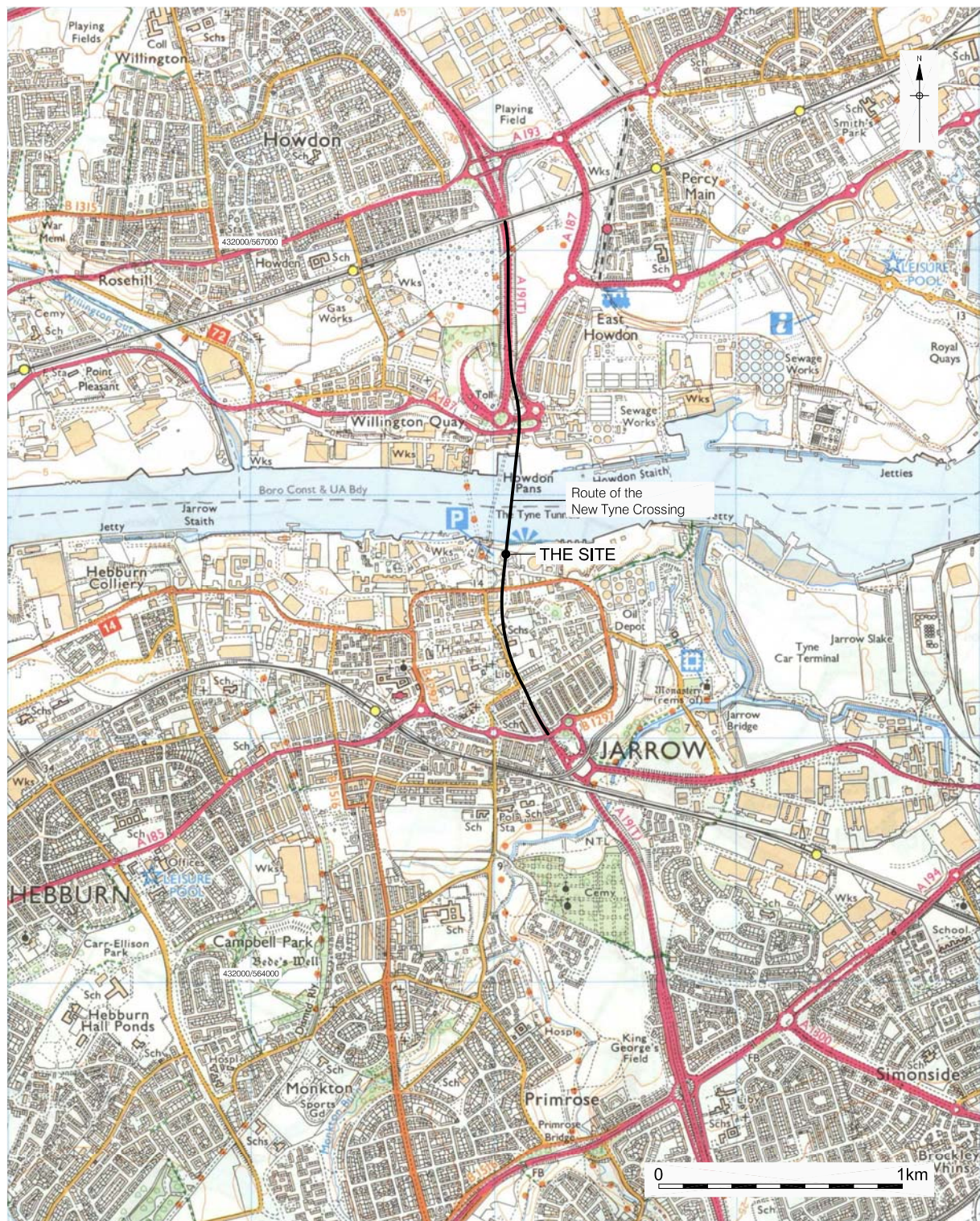
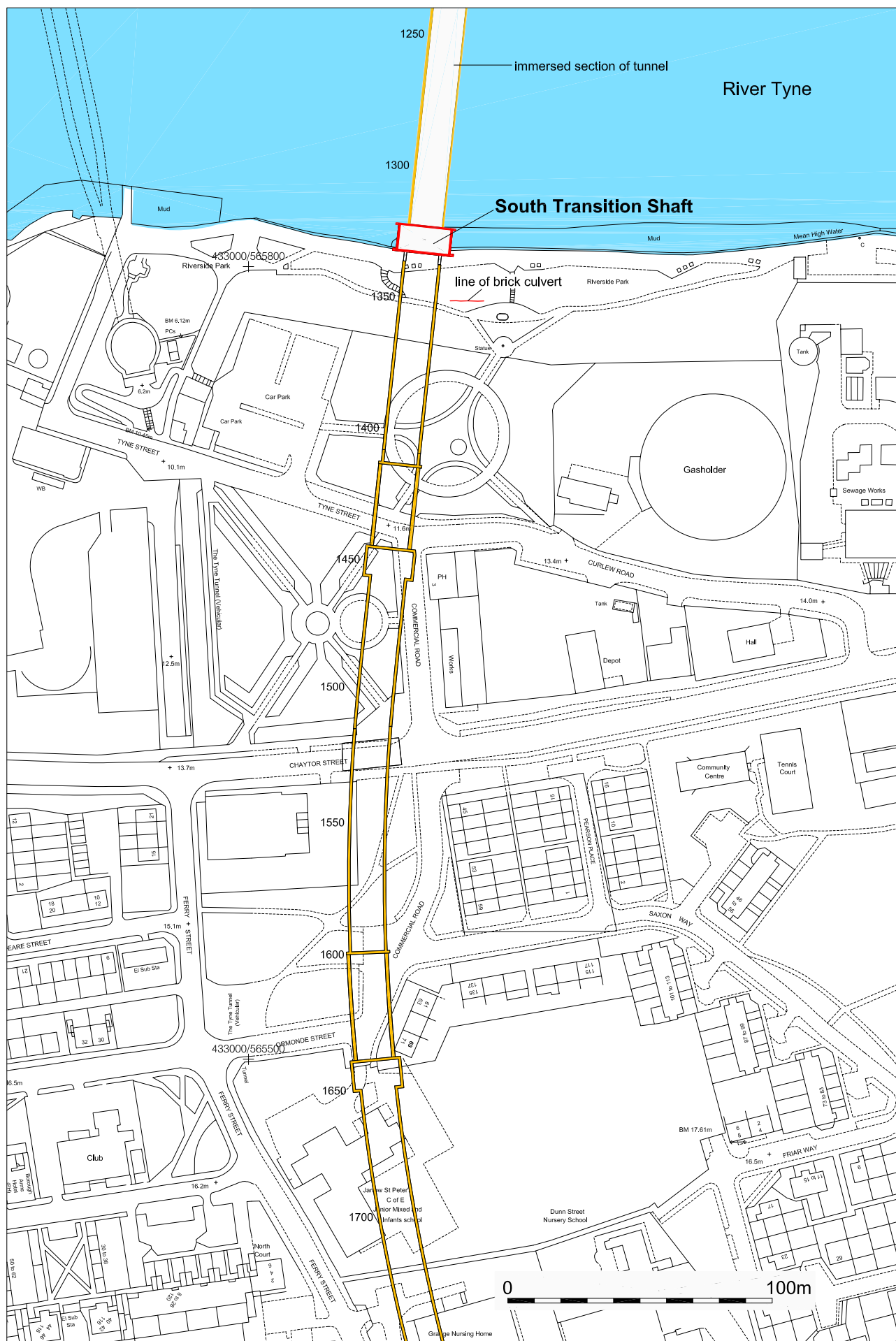


Figure 1. Site location  
Scale 1:25,000





- 2.1.6 The completed Site Archive for the overall programme of archaeological watching brief undertaken by PCA along the route of the New Tyne Crossing, comprising written, drawn, and photographic records, will be deposited at Tyne and Wear Museum Archive, Arbeia, South Shields. The site codes for the work at the South Transition Shaft are STJ 08 and STJ (STS) 09. The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) reference number for the overall programme of archaeological watching brief is: preconst1-64156.

## **2.2 Site Location and Description**

- 2.2.1 Prior to construction of the New Tyne Crossing, Jarrow Riverside Park lay to the north of Tyne Street and Curlew Terrace immediately to the east of the entrance/exit of the pedestrian and cycle elements of the existing Tyne Tunnel in Jarrow, South Tyneside (Figure 1).
- 2.2.2 The South Transition Shaft for the New Tyne Crossing was constructed on the riverfront of the riverside park at central National Grid Reference NZ 3305 6580 (Figure 2). By the mid 19th century the area occupied by the park was part of Jarrow West Quay, well known for its coal staithes, most notably Springwell Staith. Since then, however, this area has seen episodic landscaping.
- 2.2.3 By the time of the archaeological watching brief herein described, Jarrow Riverside Park was a major construction site as the New Tyne Crossing development progressed. The park is to be recreated in the latter stages of the development. The site of the South Transition Shaft, viewed from the north bank of the Tyne at the time of the watching brief in April 2009, is shown in Figure 3. A view of the monitored groundworks in the shaft is shown in Figure 4.

## **2.3 Geology and Topography**

- 2.3.1 The solid geology of the route of the New Tyne Crossing is dominated by rock of the Upper Carboniferous (Silesian), specifically the Westphalian or Coal Measures. The Coal Measures, as the name suggests, is the geological unit that was extensively mined for coal throughout Tyneside, in the post-medieval and early modern eras. The Measures typically comprise a cyclothemic sequence of mudstone, sandstone, siltstone, seat earth and coal.
- 2.3.2 The drift geology of the route of the New Tyne Crossing consists of interbedded sands and clays of glacio-fluvial origin overlain by extensive thicknesses of alluvial material, predominantly sand and gravel.
- 2.3.3 Prior to the scheme, the ground surface at the junction of Tyne Street, Curlew Road and Commercial Road, to the south of Jarrow Riverside Park was at c. 12.0m aOD. The park itself, essentially a man-made creation, was terraced above the Tyne, with ground level generally falling away towards the riverfront. The South Transition Shaft for the New Tyne Crossing was effectively constructed through the riverfront, with ground level on the landward side at c. 4.30m aOD and the foreshore below at sea level.





Figure 3. View of the site of the South Transition Shaft, from Howdon Yard riverbank, April 2009.



Figure 4. View of machine excavation within the South Transition Shaft, April 2009, looking east.

## 2.4 Planning Background

- 2.4.1 The archaeological watching brief herein described was commissioned by Bouygues TP in advance of construction of the New Tyne Crossing, between Jarrow in South Tyneside and East Howdon in North Tyneside.
- 2.4.2 Planning permission for the scheme was granted in 2005 and Condition 11, 'Protection of items of archaeological interest', stipulated that '*an archaeologist nominated by the relevant local planning authority shall be granted access at all reasonable times to observe construction works in progress and record items or finds of archaeological or historic interest*'. The justification for the condition was '*to ensure adequate recording, protection and potential preservation of archaeological remains*'.
- 2.4.3 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: 'Archaeology and Planning'* (PPG16)<sup>3</sup> currently provides advice at a national level concerning the safeguarding of archaeological remains within the planning process. At the time of writing PPG16 is under review as part of a consultation paper on a new planning policy statement on the historic environment. In addition, the Unitary Development Plan (1999<sup>4</sup>) of South Tyneside Borough Council contains Policy ENV8 'Archaeology', within which Policy ENV8/2 'Archaeology: Other Important Remains' states: '*The Local Planning Authority will only grant planning permission for development affecting other important archaeological remains where, in its opinion: a) sufficient knowledge of the character and extent of the site's archaeological interest has been obtained (through a field evaluation survey if necessary); and b) appropriate protective and mitigatory strategies to protect this interest, within the scheme of development, can be agreed.*' Two categories of 'Other Important [Archaeological] Remains' are defined, the second, and most relevant to the work described herein, being: '*Areas of potential archaeological importance (including areas which have constantly yielded dense scatters of artefacts, prehistoric flints, early urban and village cores and areas of early industrial development)*'.
- 2.4.4 In 2002 the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Authority commissioned an environmental statement for the New Tyne Crossing, which included a study of the impact of the scheme on archaeology and cultural heritage.<sup>5</sup> In 2007 the same body commissioned the aforementioned archaeological evaluation, which demonstrated that industrial activity had affected the whole of the tunnel route and where archaeological remains were found they were of low significance. An evaluation trench sited in Jarrow Riverside Park, to the south-west of the site of the South Transition Shaft, exposed at least 2.0m of sand and gravel - interpreted as dumped post-medieval ballast - continuing below the limit of excavation, which was 3.0m below existing ground level (c. 11.05m aOD). The uppermost c. 1.0m of material in the trench was mostly modern overburden, although a brick and sandstone culvert cut into the ballast was of likely 19th century date. The area had clearly been landscaped in the modern era, probably when the riverside park was created.

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<sup>3</sup> Department of the Environment 1990.

<sup>4</sup> The main policies and proposals contained in the South Tyneside UDP will remain guiding principles pending their formal review and replacement. The Borough Council is gradually replacing policies within the UDP over the next 3-4 years with a new development plan called a Local Development Framework (LDF).

<sup>5</sup> Ove Arup and Partners 2002.

- 2.4.5 For the construction phase of the scheme, the aforementioned Specification for the programme of archaeological watching brief was produced by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer, part of the Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team, attached to the Historic Environment Section of Newcastle City Council.
- 2.4.6 Design of the programme of archaeological watching brief required careful consideration of the methodology of construction of the New Tyne Crossing. The immersed tube tunnel for road traffic would connect to cut-and-cover sections of the tunnel extending inland. Connection between the immersed tunnel and the cut-and-cover sections was at a dedicated transition structure built on each riverfront. Each transition structure would consist of a shaft constructed with three underground reinforced diaphragm walls and one steel 'combi' pile wall on the river side of the structure. The bottom of each transition shaft would have an inbuilt concrete slab which acts as a support for the walls. Once each transition structure was built, the combi pile wall would be removed to enable connection with the river tunnel section.
- 2.4.7 The Specification for the archaeological watching brief suggested five specific areas along the new tunnel route should be targeted for observation. The area of relevance to the work herein described is the site of the South Transition Shaft in Jarrow Riverside Park. In acknowledging the uniqueness of the project, the Specification highlighted the uncertainty surrounding the appropriateness of the suggested methodology and the need for regular review to establish whether or not the methodology was working.

## **2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background**

*The summary below is mostly taken from the aforementioned environmental statement, which should be consulted for full details. The research and writing of those responsible is fully acknowledged.*

- 2.5.1 No prehistoric or Roman period activity is known along the entire route of the New Tyne Crossing.
- 2.5.2 The earliest reference to settlement in the vicinity of the South Transition Shaft for the New Tyne Crossing relates to the Anglo-Saxon monastery (dedicated to St. Paul) established in the 7th century AD on the west side of Jarrow Slake, an extensive area of mud flats and salt marsh, extending eastwards towards South Shields. The monastic complex lies c. 1.0km to the south-east of the transition shaft site; it was located within an enclosure on the north bank of the River Don, a tributary of the Tyne. Domestic and farm buildings along with an extensive agricultural land-holding are believed to have been connected to the monastic site. However, the extent and location of an associated settlement area have never been determined with any degree of certainty. In addition, the extent of the monastic land-holdings in both the pre- and post-Conquest eras has never been accurately established.
- 2.5.3 Two medieval villages, Jarrow and Preston/Simonside, are recorded in the Jarrow area but their exact locations are unknown. In 1594 the manor of Jarrow, which had passed into the hands of the Eure family in 1544 after the dissolution, comprised the 'Cell of Jarrow' made up of 20 messuages (dwellings with outbuildings and land assigned to their use), 300 acres of arable, 1,000 of pasture, 500 of meadow, 2,000 of moor and two saltpans.

- 2.5.4 Beyond what can be established from the limited cartographic evidence, there is little detailed evidence for the nature and extent of settlement at Jarrow in the 17th and 18th centuries. Moll's map of the River Tyne from c. 1650 locates Jarrow at the confluence of the River Don and the aforementioned Jarrow Slake. It depicts two ballast quays on the Tyne riverfront west of the Slake. No salt pans are identified at Jarrow although such features are recorded at South Shields. Fryer's chart of the River Tyne at Jarrow from the 1770s is the earliest large scale plan of the area. It shows extensive ballast hills behind a river quay that is divided in two parts. By reference to later plans, some of the buildings on the quay may have been coke ovens or salt pans. The origin of the ballast hills is worthy of further explanation. When wooden sailing ships were the only means of transporting goods by sea they were obliged to carry sand or gravel as ballast when travelling without a cargo, otherwise they would ride too high in the water. Ships arriving in the Tyne to pick up cargoes of coal would dump their ballast on a 'ballast shore' at the side of the river and would pay port dues based upon the weight of ballast discharged. There is a record of Benjamin Ellison petitioning in 1653 for permission to open a ballast shore at Jarrow. Over the years many of the ballast shores grew into sizeable hills, as depicted on Fryer's chart and later mapping, particularly the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey map from the 1860s.
- 2.5.5 By the early 19th century the industrialisation of this part of Tyneside is very much in evidence in documentary records. In 1803 the opening of Alfred Pit, Jarrow Colliery by the entrepreneur Simon Temple brought large scale coal mining to the area and a colliery village developed along the Newcastle to South Shields turnpike road, known then as Jarrow Row, to the west of the monastery. The riverfront area to the north developed rapidly with the area later occupied by Jarrow Riverside Park then forming the easternmost portion of West Quay. A shipbuilding yard was established at the western end of the quay by Temple and housing was built in the vicinity. To the east, the quayside developed north of Jarrow Ballast Hills, which extended as far east as the mouth of the River Don.
- 2.5.6 The extent of growth on the Jarrow riverfront in the first half of the 19th century is depicted on the various 1st editions of the Ordnance Survey map from c. 1860. The ballast hills are bisected by waggonways leading to staithes on the river, with Springwell Staith in close proximity to the site of the South Transition Shaft and Jarrow Staith further east. Streets such as Dogbank Row linked the colliery to Jarrow Row, while the Brown Ware Pottery is depicted to the north-west of the colliery on the southern margin of West Quay (although it is thought to have ceased production by 1855). Despite the extent of industrialisation, the field boundaries of the post-medieval agricultural landscape remain very much in evidence on the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey, particularly on the land away from the riverfront.
- 2.5.7 An important element of industrialisation was the development of the railway network. Passenger traffic from Jarrow to Newcastle initially used the colliery line between Pontop and Jarrow that had opened in 1826 from a station to the west of Jarrow Colliery. In 1872, a new branch line, the Shields, Jarrow and Pelaw Branch was built by the North Eastern Railway Company. This required a massive embankment across Jarrow Slake, which came into the ownership of the Tyne Commissioners in the 1870s. They let it out as a series of maturing ponds for timber, which was then an expanding trade on the Tyne.

- 2.5.8 The development of Jarrow continued apace in the second half of the 19th century after Charles Palmer founded Palmer Brothers and Company in 1852 and opened his vast shipyard and ironworks to the west of West Quay. The town had a population of c. 3,350 in 1821 and this had grown to 33,000 in 1891. Initially houses were constructed to supplement the colliery rows, but thereafter a fairly regular grid of terrace houses was constructed to the south of the line of Tyne Street and its eastern continuation Curlew Road, as depicted on the various editions of the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map from the 1890s. This mapping indicates that the West Quay was relatively little developed at this date, although some quayside structures are depicted, the largest being annotated 'Jarrow Forge and Engineering Works', this to the south-east of the site of the South Transition Shaft. To the east was the Mercantile Dry Dock, established in 1889, comprising two adjacent graving docks constructed at right angles to the Tyne, these having been excavated out of the ballast hills north of Curlew Road.
- 2.5.9 Jarrow saw substantial change following the closure of Palmer's shipyard in 1932. The yard was largely cleared prior to the Second World War. Extensive demolition and rebuilding took place in the town in the 1960s and 1970s, much necessary due to bomb damage. By the early 1990s, very little remained of Jarrow's 19th century housing.



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

#### **3.1 Project Aims**

- 3.1.1 The project was threat-led since construction of the New Tyne Crossing had potential to destroy important archaeological remains. Accordingly, the aforementioned planning condition was put in place to ensure the adequate recording, protection and potential preservation of any such remains. The Specification for the archaeological watching brief stipulated that observation of specific elements of construction work should at least allow overall depths of 'made ground' from 19th century and later reclamation of the river margins to be recorded, thereby establishing the depth of the natural sub-stratum or early alluvial material and thus possibly informing knowledge of former river bank profiles.
- 3.1.2 These broad project aims were to be achieved through a programme of archaeological observation of construction groundworks, specifically excavation into existing ground surfaces. The specific works to be monitored were:
- groundworks for the transition shaft structure on each side of the river;
  - groundworks for the cut-and-cover sections of the tunnel on each side of the river, with a 100m section closest to the river being monitored, on each side, in the first instance;
  - groundworks for a 50m stretch of the cut-and-cover section of the tunnel to the south of Ormonde Street, Jarrow (in the vicinity of 2007 evaluation trench ET205) where there was considered to be potential for archaeological remains related to Jarrow Colliery.
- 3.1.3 Additional aims of the project were:
- to compile a series of reports describing the results of, and working methods employed during, each element of the programme of archaeological monitoring;
  - to compile an overall Site Archive consisting of all site and project documentary and photographic records, to be deposited in an appropriate collecting museum.
- 3.1.4 This report details the results and working methods of the programme of archaeological watching brief undertaken at the site of the South Transition Shaft in Jarrow Riverside Park, South Tyneside.

#### **3.2 Research Objectives**

- 3.2.1 The overall recording project has the potential to make a significant contribution to archaeological knowledge of the area. *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (NERRF)<sup>6</sup> highlights the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work and 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.

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<sup>6</sup> Petts and Gerrard 2006.

## **4. METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Fieldwork**

- 4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the aforementioned Specification prepared by the Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team and guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance document, '*Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief*'.<sup>7</sup>
- 4.1.2 Archaeological monitoring was undertaken intermittently at the site of the South Transition Shaft for the New Tyne Crossing between July 2008 and April 2009. The New Tyne Crossing route chainage marker system (e.g. CH 900m, etc.) was employed as the general basis for locating operations within overall programme of watching brief.<sup>8</sup> The South Transition Shaft was located at c. CH 1322-1332m.
- 4.1.3 Structural remains exposed during preparatory groundworks to the south-east of the site of the South Transition Shaft were examined and recorded in July 2008. Machine excavation of removal of material from the interior of the South Transition Shaft was monitored remotely in April 2009. Given the nature of the operation it was only possible to examine excavated material after its deposition within designated spoil storage areas beyond the shaft structure. Also it was only possible to estimate depths of excavation below existing ground level due to the nature of the operation taking place. Access was granted to the attendant archaeologist to the interior the shaft when structural remains of note were encountered.
- 4.1.4 Archaeological features and deposits were recorded remotely using the PCA *pro forma* 'Context Recording Sheet' while structures were recorded using the *pro forma* 'Masonry Recording Sheet'. A photographic record of the work was compiled.

### **4.2 Post-Fieldwork**

- 4.2.1 The complete Site Archive, for the overall programme of archaeological work along the route of the New Tyne Crossing, will be packaged for long-term curation. The portion of the Site Archive relating to the South Transition Shaft comprises written, drawn and photographic records (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation).
- 4.2.2 No material was recovered which required specialist stabilisation or an assessment of potential for conservation research. In preparing the complete 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 a forthcoming IfA publication.<sup>11</sup>
- 4.2.3 At the time of deposition of the complete Site Archive, the requirements of the receiving body, in this case the Tyne and Wear Museum Archive, Arbeia, South Shields, will be met in full.

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<sup>7</sup> IfA 2001.

<sup>8</sup> The system began at CH 0m, located on the A19(T) open northern approach to the new tunnel, north of the new toll plaza, in East Howdon, the approximate mid point of the River Tyne was at CH 1150m and the route crossed beneath the line of High Street, Jarrow at CH 1925m.

<sup>9</sup> Brown 2007.

<sup>10</sup> Walker 1990.

<sup>11</sup> IfA forthcoming.

## 5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

*In this instance, individual unique 'context' numbers - indicated in the following text as, for example [07] - have been assigned to stratigraphic deposits - as far as these could be ascertained without detailed cleaning - as well as to structural remains exposed. The archaeological sequence is described as a series of broad phases, although the phases have not been numbered due to the general uncertainty regarding context definition and stratigraphic relationships in this part of the watching brief. Interpretation has been added to the data, where possible, and the phases have been correlated with recognised historical and geological periods, again where possible.*

### 5.1 Riverwall and Quayside Structures: 19th Century?

- 5.1.1 The earliest deposit observed within the South Transition Shaft comprised a layer, [9], of firm mid brownish grey, but very mottled, silty clay, containing frequent, rounded variously-sized cobbles. Built upon this consolidation and levelling deposit was the lowermost surviving portion of a wall, [8], running east-west with a slightly curvilinear line (Figure 5). It survived for an average height of c. 1.20m comprising up to six courses of large sandstone blocks, mostly a standard 0.55m x 0.55m x 0.30m size. The three lowermost courses were arranged so that, by design, the lowermost portion of the wall on its river side had a sloping (at an angle of c. 45°) face, with the wall above vertical sandstone ashlar. The wall ran across the full width of the Southern Transition Shaft, at a depth of c. 6m below the concrete forming the top of the shaft, and is assumed to have continued beyond its extent to the east and west.
- 5.1.2 A series of driven piles and substantial timber props were observed in association with wall [8]. The piles, collectively [10], had been driven vertically, at intervals of c. 1.20m, into the underlying clay along the northern edge of the wall. Comprising sharpened roundwoods, up to 300mm in diameter, the piles abutted the masonry at the base of its concave face, and the aim was clearly to prevent lateral movement on the river side of the structure. On the landward side of the wall a series of substantial angled props, collectively [11], were recorded. With crudely sharpened lower ends driven into the underlying clay, and again spaced at intervals of c. 1.20m, these were far more substantial timbers, probably oak, generally more than 2.0m in length and c. 0.50m in diameter, most with branched upper ends, chopped down so that they could be wedged tightly against the back of the masonry to provide support (Figure 6). A clay dump, seemingly identical to layer [9], was observed surrounding the props, evidently having been backfilled against the landward side of the wall.
- 5.1.3 Given its position, and taking into account map evidence for the line of the Jarrow riverfront in the second half of the 19th century, wall [8] is interpreted as representing the surviving portion of a former river wall of the West Quay in Jarrow. This interpretation is supported by the regular lines of retaining piles on the water side and bracing props on the landward side.
- 5.1.4 To the south-east of the South Transition Shaft, a substantial sandstone wall, [1], was exposed during preparatory groundworks for the shaft (Figures 2 and 8). Aligned north-south, at right angles to the river, the wall was exposed during the creation of a steep batter running parallel to the river. It comprised worn sandstone ashlar, the blocks 400mm long x 25mm high on average, and the overall structure survived, at its northern end, to a height of c. 4.0m. Its maximum length was c. 4.0m, extending from the batter, and the consistent end line of the lowermost five courses indicates that this was the northern end of the structure.

- 5.1.5 The uppermost portion of wall [1] had evidently been repaired with brickwork, [2], which measured c. 3.5m in length by up to c. 1.0m high. This comprised mostly unfrogged red bricks, 235mm x 110mm x 75mm on average, laid in English Garden Wall bond with very hard, light grey mortar. In places this structure had itself been repaired with a combination of yellow bricks and off-white engineering bricks. The elevation formed by wall [1] and brickwork [2] is interpreted as having formed the eastern end of a quayside building of 19th century date. Historic map evidence indicates that it may have been related to the Jarrow Forge and Engineering Works as depicted on the quayside on one version of the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition from the late 1890s.
- 5.1.6 At the northern end of wall [1] the eastern end of an arched brick culvert, [3], was exposed, running at right angles to the wall and exposed in plan for a length of c. 12.80m (Figure 7). Its constituent bricks were unfrogged, light pinkish yellow in colour, measuring 230mm x 105mm x 60mm on average and bonded with very soft light grey sandy mortar. At its eastern end, the culvert was 1.20m wide (external dimension) with only the uppermost 0.65m of its internal height being exposed, the remainder filled with rubble (Figure 9). At its western end, where the brick roof had been broken through, the interior of the structure was at least 1.60m high, and this was likely close to the full height at that location. Approximately 1.0m from the western end wall of the culvert was a brick-lined channel in its floor, this c. 0.50m wide and at least 1.0m deep, although its lower part was filled with rubble and no base or floor was seen. This channel, possibly a vent for air or water, was seen to continue through the north wall of the culvert, towards the river. To the east of the channel, an internal brick arch support for the culvert roof was observed. In this area, the internal brickwork was heavily vitrified in certain places, indicating that significant heat had episodically passed through the structure. Given its form and location, the culvert clearly relates to some quayside industrial facility and, again, it may have been associated with the Jarrow Forge and Engineering Works, as depicted on one version of the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition.
- 5.1.7 Another wall, [4], was exposed at the eastern end of the culvert and running at right angles to it, thus effectively continuing the line of the elevation formed by wall [1]. Wall [4] was c. 1.55m in length and comprised fairly crudely faced mixed masonry, c. 0.95m high, of mostly roughly hewn sandstone blocks, up to 310mm long x 250mm high, with some yellow bricks, these 218mm x 105mm x 62mm on average and bonded with hard light grey coal-flecked mortar. At its southern end, c. 0.30m of its rubble core was exposed, abutted against the north wall of culvert [3].
- 5.1.8 The general impression was that construction of culvert [3] post-dated construction of wall [4] but that the culvert was possibly contemporary with wall [1], although without detailed excavation and recording this cannot be certain. At its eastern end, the space around the exterior of the culvert had been infilled with mortared brick rubble; to the north this abutted the uppermost part of the exposed rubble core of wall [4], as described. At its northern end, wall [4] ended abruptly, and was separated by a c. 0.20m gap from another section of brickwork, [5], which could not be examined closely.

- 5.1.9 A layer of dark grey silt, [6], was recorded overlying wall [4] and the mortared infill around culvert [3]. This likely represents a dumped soil of 19th century date, although given the limited extent to which it was possible to examine this deposit, this interpretation is uncertain. Similar material was recorded, as part of a sequence of deposits, some silt, some sand and gravel ballast, seen in section immediately to the west of wall [1]. Collectively these deposits may represent a significant episode of 19th century ground-raising on the quayside.

## **5.2 Modern**

- 5.2.1 The former river wall was exposed in the South Transition Shaft below a substantial deposit, [12], up to c. 6m in depth. This predominantly comprised loose mid greyish brown silty sand and gravel and contained moderate inclusions of brick and fragmented stone, with other modern debris, such as wire, also noted. Interpreted as 'made ground' of modern origin, this material may have arrived at this location during prior landscaping activity or as a result of preparatory groundworks for the transition shaft itself.
- 5.2.2 To the south-east of the South Transition Shaft, a layer of modern demolition rubble, [7], was recorded overlying silt layer [6] above culvert [3] and wall [4].





Figure 5. Former river wall [8], within the South Transition Shaft, looking west (2 x 2m scales).



Figure 6. Timber prop, one of group [11], recovered from South Transition Shaft (2m scale).





Figure 7. Culvert [3] as exposed, looking south-east.



Figure 8. Wall [1] and culvert [3], looking west (0.5m scale).





Figure 9. Culvert [3], detail, looking west (*0.5m scale*).

## **6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 Conclusions**

- 6.1.1 The watching brief undertaken during groundworks for the South Transition Shaft of the New Tyne Crossing resulted in the recording of some archaeological remains of note.
- 6.1.2 A former river wall of likely 19th century date was observed in the shaft structure at a depth of c. 6.0m. Well-constructed in sandstone, with an angled lower portion on the river side, this likely represents the 19th century river wall of Jarrow West Quay. Timber retaining piles and substantial bracing props were noted on the river and landward sides, respectively, of the structure.
- 6.1.3 To the south-east of the South Transition Shaft, extensive, well-preserved structural remains were exposed during landscaping groundworks along the riverfront. Part of the eastern elevation of a well-constructed sandstone building was revealed, with evidence of later brickwork repair, and this was evidently closely associated with an arched brick culvert running parallel to the river. The interior of the culvert displayed evidence of exposure, perhaps episodically, to high air temperature and, collectively, these remains likely represent a quayside industrial facility of probable 19th century date. Map evidence suggests that the remains could relate to the Jarrow Forge and Engineering Works, depicted on the West Quay on the 2nd edition of the Ordnance Survey map.

### **6.2 Recommendations**

- 6.2.1 No further work is required on the information recovered during this element of the overall programme of watching brief, with the relevant portion of the Site Archive, including a copy of this report, comprising the permanent record of the work undertaken.

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### **PCA Credits**

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*Project Manager:* Robin Taylor-Wilson

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**APPENDIX A**  
**PROJECT SPECIFICATION**

## **SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK TO RECORD SUSPECTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW TYNE TUNNEL, HOWDON AND JARROW, TYNE AND WEAR**

### **Introduction**

Planning permission has been granted for an additional vehicular tunnel under the River Tyne, with portals at Howdon on the north side and Jarrow on the south side.

The commissioning client will supply a set of plans to the appointed archaeologist.

The archaeological and cultural heritage section of the Environmental Statement (Northern Archaeological Associates for Ove Arup, May 2002) concluded that whilst a number of archaeological sites had been identified on the line of the proposed tunnel, the archaeological potential of much of the route is low due to the scale of nineteenth and twentieth century redevelopment.

Main known archaeological features within the study area:

### Howdon

#### *Salt Pans – HER 5258*

Salt may have been produced at Howdon Pans as early as 1539, made by boiling sea water in lead or iron tanks (pans) grouped in pairs or fours with a central gangway for stoking the fires. Salterns were very common on the Tyne in the seventeenth century, but the trade was in decline by the end of the eighteenth century partially due to cheaply produced salt from Cheshire. Two salt pans are thought to have existed at Howdon on flat land reclaimed from the river. These were apparently swept away for the docks and shipyards.

#### *Glassworks – HER 5078*

Glass was made at Howdon from as early as 1670 by the Henzell and Tyzack families. The works were sold to Matthew Ridley in 1759. The location of the site and its date of closure have not been established.

#### *Shipbuilding – HER 2110 and 2197*

Shipbuilding began at Howdon in 1758 at Hurry's shipbuilding yard. A large graving dock was constructed in early 1759. The yard had four slipways, a dry dock, a quay, a ropery and sailmaking loft. Hurry went bankrupt in 1806 and his yard closed in 1811. Other shipbuilding firms continued at Howdon throughout the 1800s including T. Brown and C. Smith, Palmers and Banks.

#### *Howdon Colliery – HER 1178*

The colliery opened either in 1775 or 1804 and operated until 1831 when the workings became flooded. It was linked to a further pit at Percy Main by a waggonway.

#### *Howdon Whale Processing Site – HER 5468*

Howdon was a centre of blubber boiling and whale bone processing. Ships from here hunted near Greenland. Souvenir whalebone arches and vertebrae from these voyages were set up in the area. Samuel Hieronymus Grimm [who made a living from accompanying the well-to-do on their travels and recorded his journeys in pen-and-ink drawings] drew a stile made of whale ribs at Howdon Pans in the eighteenth century. The Newcastle Whale Fishing Company was formed on 4 December 1751. Meanwhile Francis Hurry, who had begun building ships at Howdon in 1758, took an interest in Greenland whaling in 1764 with Thomas Airey, whose daughter he had married. On the foreshore, on the east side of Howdon Burn, were facilities for whale bone cleaning and blubber boiling and storage facilities for harpoons, lines etc. Their first ship was "Newcastle", 340 tons, but she was burnt down in 1766.

There were extensive ballast hills at Howdon from the seventeenth century. The present river frontage at Howdon was created before 1882 by the River Tyne Commissioners, who also



dredged the river channel. The shipyard and dock were levelled and the sites infilled to create new streets like Tyne View Terrace and engineering workshops.

### Jarrow

Earliest documented settlement at Jarrow is the Anglo-Saxon monastery which lies to the south-east of the proposed tunnel. Laura Sole (Education Manager, Bede's World) has advised that Ecgrith Place, shown on a nineteenth century map of Jarrow Hall by Simon Temple on the Jarrow riverbank (copy held by HER original in TWAS), could potentially be the site of a port associated with Jarrow monastery. Jarrow was also a medieval village. The medieval settlement lies in close proximity to the monastery in the Church Bank area.

Moll's map of 1650 shows two ballast quays possibly within the study area. Fryer's map of circa 1773 shows extensive ballast hills behind a river quay and possibly coke ovens or salt pans. These are still shown on Ordnance Survey first edition, bisected by waggonways.

### *Jarrow Brown Ware Pottery – HER 2252*

There was a pottery south of Dunkirk Place in the early nineteenth century, operated by G. Grey & Co. in 1851 and by J.B. Hodgson in 1852-3. Jarrow Brownware Pottery closed in 1855.

### *Jarrow Colliery- HER 2258*

Jarrow Colliery was opened in 1803 by Simon Temple who leased the coal royalties from the Dean and Chapter of Durham Cathedral. Subsequent owners included Thomas and Robert Brown, D. Brown, W. Blackett and N. Wood, Anderson and Philipson (1850s). It closed in 1851 after an explosion but was subsequently purchased by the Hetton Coal Company and worked from their other pits.

### *Pontop and Jarrow Railway, Springwell Staith Branch – HER 2205*

Part of the original course of the Bowes Railway. The staiths lay immediately to the east of the existing Tyne Tunnel.

In the nineteenth century a shipyard was opened by Simon Temple (owner of Alfred Pit in Jarrow) at the end of a quay and houses built at Dunkirk Place. A patent slipway was opened for ship repair by T and R Dunn in 1829.

### *Palmer's Shipbuilding and Iron Works – HER 2534*

A wood shipyard, owned by a Thomas Metcalfe, had occupied a stretch of the Jarrow riverside from the 1830s. This yard was subsumed in Palmer's Shipyard which was founded in 1851 as a dedicated iron shipyard by a partnership of the brothers' Charles Mark and George Palmer, reputedly as a direct means of speeding up the transport of coal from their coal interests to markets by sea. In 1906, the overhead gantry cranes powered by electricity, which became symbols of the yard, were constructed. Subsequent to the First World War, oil tankers were the most prolifically produced ship type. In 1933 Palmer's closed and was acquired by National Shipbuilders Security Ltd. In 1935 the site was demolished, though the large Hebburn dry dock was taken over by Vickers-Armstrong and continued in use as Palmer's Hebburn Ltd.

Boreholes suggest that made ground exists on both banks of the River Tyne. On the northern bank between 6.6 and 8.7m of made ground appears to be present between the southern end of A19 and the river. This seems to support the cartographic evidence which suggests that there has been encroachment into "Howdon Gut" and a southward advance of the riverfront. On the southern bank, made ground deposits vary between 8.4 and 11.4m in depth, representing the former ballast hills overlying the former foreshore. The river's edge may have advanced as much as 100m.

The made ground could reflect reclamation deposits or buried earlier ground surfaces. The construction of the new tunnel could potentially affect structural remains associated with the Howdon shipbuilding yard, which is transected by the work. At Jarrow the tunnel transects the site of a former smithy and the waste heap associated with Jarrow Colliery, the former ballast hill, a coke works and cinder works. On both sides of the river traces of former quays, salt pans and river foreshore features may also be exposed by the work. The ES therefore



recommended a programme of archaeological evaluation on either side of the river in advance of tunnel construction work to ascertain if archaeological deposits survive.

In February 2007, seven archaeological evaluation trenches were excavated by Archaeological Services Durham University on the line of the proposed tunnel.

The aims of the evaluation were:

- To establish the upper limit of preservation of structural remains and surfaces
- To determine the southern edge of ballast deposits at Jarrow, and whether any post medieval structural remains survive above the ballast
- To define the extent of the area of archaeological interest
- To confirm the sequence and extent of reclamation on both sides of the river
- To establish the nature of activities undertaken close to the foreshore
- To record the nature, date and degree of survival of archaeological remains

Two trenches were excavated on the north side of the Tyne (one on the grassed area 200m east of the tunnel toll gates and the other in the former AMEC yard south of Tyne View Terrace). Neither trench reached natural subsoil, (all seven trenches were excavated to a maximum depth of 3m), and neither trench recorded archaeological deposits. The trench closest to the river was inundated with water.

Five trenches were excavated on the south side. The trench closest to the river (Tyne Street) did not penetrate through the ballast layer and so did not reach natural subsoil. The next trench (Tyne Street/Clayton Street) recorded re-deposited natural boulder clay but subsoil itself was not recorded.

The three final trenches excavated further away from the riverbank did reach subsoil at a depth between 1.6 and 2.3m below present ground level.

In trench ET204 (Commercial Road/Saxon Way) a brick cellar of a former off-licence was recorded.

The finds in trench ET205 (Staple Road) were of most interest. This was part of a yard for Temple Main Pit, part of Jarrow Colliery (HER 2258). Jarrow Colliery was opened in 1803 by Simon Temple who leased the coal royalties from the Dean and Chapter of Durham Cathedral. Subsequent owners included Thomas and Robert Brown, D. Brown, W. Blackett and N. Wood, Anderson and Philipson (1850s). It closed in 1851 after an explosion but was subsequently purchased by the Hetton Coal Company and worked from their other pits. Glacial subsoil was recorded at a depth of 1.98m. Above this was a deposit of stiff yellow-green clay, cut by a sandstone culvert covered with wooden planks. There was a second smaller brick culvert also capped with wooden planks. Other structural remains included a single course of sandstone blocks and three modern brick walls with colliery waste in-between. This was overlain by demolition rubble and a layer of black sandy silt containing coal and coal dust, presumably associated with the use and demolition of Temple Main Colliery.

Finds from the evaluation were sixteenth to twentieth century pottery sherds, most was late in date; a fragment of nineteenth century wine bottle, five fragments of clay tobacco pipe (one bowl was stamped) and two pieces of animal bone.

The results of the evaluation showed that large-scale industrial activity has affected the whole tunnel route. Where archaeological remains were found (such as the colliery yard site), they are low in significance.

However where natural subsoil was not reached by the trenches, there is a possibility that archaeological remains underlie the considerable depth of ballast and modern overburden (up to 10m deep). Such remains could potentially be associated with the nearby Anglo-Saxon monastery at Jarrow, which is a candidate World Heritage Site.

Following discussions with engineers, it has become clear that it would be unsafe and unfeasible to attempt to dig archaeological trenches to this depth. Water penetration would also make this exercise difficult if not impossible close to the river banks.



It has therefore been agreed that the best way to approach this is for an archaeological contractor to monitor the excavation of structure shafts and cut and cover sections of the tunnel. This will hopefully enable the further recording of industrial remains associated with Temple Main Pit, will ascertain the depth of made ground and thus the depth of natural subsoil and the original profile of the river banks, and will record any deeply buried archaeological remains as best is possible given health and safety restrictions.

The appointed archaeologist will be fully briefed by the commissioning client on site operating and safety procedures before work commences. The archaeologists will at all times follow the advice of the construction management team regarding access to excavations and time available for recording.

As this project is unique, it is not yet known how successful the suggested methodology for the archaeological work will be. The process will need to be regularly reviewed to see if the methodology is working.

Should no archaeological remains be found, or should the methodology not be working archaeologically, the County Archaeology Officer may decide to reduce the scope of the watching brief, or stop it altogether.

Tunnel construction work is due to start in Spring 2008 and will finish in 2012. The watching brief will **not** be needed on a daily basis for the whole period as this would be extremely expensive and time-consuming, probably for very little archaeological gain.

There are several targeted areas where the watching brief is needed:

- During the excavation of the two transition structure shafts on either side of the river
- During cut and cover sections on north side of river (it is suggested that in the first instance 100m of tunnel is monitored closest to the river).
- During cut and cover sections on south side of river - in first instance a 100m stretch of tunnel in vicinity of trenches ET202 and ET203 where natural subsoil was not reached
- During cut and cover sections for a 50m stretch in vicinity of trench ET205 where the colliery yard was recorded.

The watching brief is obviously only needed to the depth of natural subsoil (and not within the engineered fill deposited during construction of the transition structure platforms and subsequently excavated during construction of the transition shafts).

The two transition shafts will be dug into the riverbank using the diaphragm walling method. They will each measure around 15m in diameter and will be up to 30m deep (obviously natural subsoil will be much shallower than this).

Cut and cover sections of the tunnel in total will extend for around 320m on either side of the river, will be around 15m wide and up to 30m deep. As detailed above, it is not envisaged that the total 640m will be archaeologically monitored, only the river sides and area of the colliery yard.

On the south side of the river, the section of tunnel nearest to the riverbank will be bored in places. In this event there will be nothing to archaeologically monitor and in any case archaeological remains will remain in-situ as the tunnel will be bored beneath them.

In the event of construction workers finding something of potential archaeological interest where the appointed archaeologist is not present, the appointed archaeologist will be contacted immediately in order that the find can be inspected and recording can be undertaken if necessary.

Other potential archaeological issues:

The section of tunnel which runs under the river itself will be located in a dredged channel. There is a possibility that dredging operations could destroy archaeological remains such as boats, keels or staiths, but it is noted that extensive and deep dredging operations



undertaken by the River Tyne Commissioners in the late nineteenth century probably removed such features. Their dredging operations would have focused on the centre of the river however and so historic features may survive closer to the river banks.

The divers who will be employed to assist in putting the tunnel sections into place in the dredged channel will alert the County Archaeologist to anything of possible archaeological interest.

A second phase of archaeological recording will be needed at the listed Gaslight Public House, Commercial Road, Jarrow, if it is decided that the pub is to be demolished. This work will be subject to a separate specification.

The archaeological work is required in accordance with PPG16 and UDP Policies E18/6 (North Tyneside Council UDP) and ENV8/3 (South Tyneside Council UDP).

The appointed archaeologist must familiarise themselves with the results of previous archaeological work on the site before starting work.

All staff on site must understand the project aims and methodologies.

All work must be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and must follow the IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, Excavation or Watching Briefs as appropriate.

The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (2006) notes 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 allowing commercial contractors to demonstrate how their fieldwork relates to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment. The aim of NERRF is to ensure that all fieldwork is carried out in a secure research context and that commercial contractors ensure that their investigations ask the right questions.

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL BRIEF

Before starting work the appointed archaeologist will provide a project design to Bouygues, the TWPTA and County Archaeologist for approval, detailing the methodology to be employed.

#### Tasks

A construction timetable has yet to be agreed. Tenders for the Watching Brief should therefore be a cost per day including overheads such as travel costs and equipment. Reporting and other costs must also be identified. Contingency costs will be provided for environmental sampling and scientific dating per sample and for finds analysis. Approval from Bouygues must be obtained before incurring any of these contingency costs. Any variation on the agreed timetable will be notified by the client, who will give a minimum of 48 hours notice of a change on the days of site attendance. Close liaison between the parties involved will be needed to co-ordinate this element of the work.

The work involves undertaking a structured watching brief to observe and record any archaeological deposits and finds. The absence of deposits and finds must be recorded as negative evidence. **The Watching Brief will not aim to hinder the construction programme, however should archaeological remains be found, the appointed archaeologist must be allowed sufficient time to record the archaeological deposits.**

The level of recording needed will depend on the nature and date of the archaeological features and most importantly on health and safety considerations. It is envisaged that remains of the colliery yard on the south side of the river will be rapidly hand cleaned, photographed and drawn, excavated and sampled where needed, because the depth of deposits here (less than 2m) does not represent a safety issue. Machining here will need to

be undertaken under strict archaeological supervision, with care and in shallow layers so as not to destroy archaeological remains before they are recorded.

Elsewhere, the County Archaeology Officer has been provisionally advised that depending on onsite conditions etc. it may be possible for an archaeologist to safely enter the 'trench' to undertake recording, even at depth, as the sides will be safely supported by concrete walls. This will be at the discretion, and under the supervision, of the construction management team. Where feasible and where safe to do so, important archaeological features should be recorded by scale drawing and photograph, excavated and environmentally sampled.

However, where the appointed archaeologist is advised by construction management/supervision staff, that it is not safe to enter the 'trench' to hand clean and draw the features, a simple photographic record taken with a zoom lens from the top of the 'trench' will have to suffice. The approximate position of the feature must still be marked on a site location plan in the finished report.

#### *Fieldwork - General Conditions*

The Archaeological Contractor must detail measures taken to ensure the safe conduct of work.

The Client may wish to see copies of the Archaeological Contractor's Health and Safety Policies.

The Archaeological Contractor must be able to provide written proof that the necessary levels of Insurance Cover are in place.

The Archaeological Contractor must maintain a Site Diary for the benefit of the Client, detailing the nature of work undertaken on a day by day basis, with full details of Site Staff present, duration of time on site, etc. and contact with third parties.

All staff employed by the Archaeological Contractor shall be professional field archaeologists with appropriate skills and experience to undertake work to the highest professional standards.

#### **Recording**

Where feasible a full written, drawn (accurate scale plans, elevations and section drawings) and photographic record (of all contexts in black and white print and colour transparency with clearly visible graduated metric scale) will be made.

Pro-forma context sheets will be used.

Where feasible all archaeological features, deposits and the depth of natural subsoil will be levelled. Levels will be expressed as metres above Ordnance Datum.

Where feasible a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled where stratified deposits are recorded.

#### **Environmental Sampling and Scientific Dating**

It may be feasible for environmental samples to be taken from suitable archaeological deposits.

Scientific investigations should be undertaken in a manner consistent with "The Management of Archaeological Projects", English Heritage 1991 and with "Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions: Best Practice for Curators and Commissioning Archaeologists", English Heritage, 2003.

Aims of environmental sampling – to determine the abundance/concentration of the material within the features and how well the material is preserved, to characterise the resource (the



site) and each phase, to determine the significance of the material and its group value, what crop processing activities took place on the site? What does this tell us about the nature of the site? Is there any evidence for changes in the farming practice through time? How did people use this landscape? Can we place certain activities at certain locations within the site? Function and date of individual features such as pits, hearths etc. Are the charred assemblages the result of ritual deposition or rubbish? Is the charcoal the result of domestic or industrial fuel?

Advice on the sampling strategy for environmental samples and samples for scientific dating etc. must be sought from Jacqui Huntley, English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (0191 3341137 or 07713 400387).

Deposits should be sampled for retrieval and assessment of the preservation conditions and potential for analysis of biological remains (English Heritage 2002). Flotation samples and samples taken for coarse-mesh sieving from dry deposits should be processed at the time of fieldwork wherever possible. Sieving recovers fish, amphibian, small bird and mammal bone, small parts of adult mammals and young infused bones which may be under-represented otherwise. However it is noted that clay soils in this region make sieving difficult. Discuss the potential for sieving with Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science.

Environmental samples (bulk soil samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected by the excavator from suitable (i.e. uncontaminated) deposits. It is suggested that a large number of samples be collected during evaluation from which a selection of the most suitable (uncontaminated) can be processed. All tenders will give a price for the full analysis, report production and publication per sample.

Deposits will be assessed for their potential for radiocarbon, archaeomagnetic (guidance is available in the Centre for Archaeology Guideline on Archaeometallurgy 2001) and Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating. Timbers will be assessed for their potential for dendrochronology dating. Sampling should follow procedures in "Dendrochronology: guidelines on producing and interpreting dendrochronological dates", Hillam, 1998. All tenders will quote the price of these techniques per sample.

The following information should be provided with the environmental samples to be processed – brief account of nature and history of the site, aims and objectives of the project, summary of archaeological results, context types and stratigraphic relationships, phase and dating information, sampling and processing methods, sample locations, preservation conditions, residuality/contamination etc.

Laboratory processing of samples shall only be undertaken if deposits are found to be reasonably well dated, or linked to recognisable features and from contexts the derivation of which can be understood with a degree of confidence.

A range of features, and all phases of activity, need to be sampled for charred plant remains and charcoal. Ceramic features should not be avoided as the plant remains from these features may help to date them. Deep features should be sampled in spits to pick up changes over time. Part, or all of each of the contexts should be processed. In general samples should be processed in their entirety. All flots should be scanned, and some of the residues.

Pollen samples can be taken from features such as lakes, ponds, palaeochannels, estuaries, saltmarshes, mires, alluvium and colluvium, and from waterlogged layers in wells, ditches and latrines etc. Substances such as honey, beer or food residues can be detected in vessels. Activities such as threshing, crop processing and the retting of flax can be identified. When taken on site, pollen samples should overlap. Your regional science advisor can advise on the type of corer or auger which would be most appropriate for your site. Samples need to be wrapped in clingfilm and kept dark and cool. Make a description of the sediments in which the pollen was found, and send this with the sample to be assessed.

Coastal or estuary sites (even those which are now well drained) are suitable for sampling for foraminifera. Diatoms can also be found on marine sites, but also in urban settings (sewers, wells, drains, ditches etc). They only survive in waterlogged conditions. These aquatic microfossils are used as proxy indicators of the former aquatic ecological conditions on site,



changes in sea levels and temperature, salinity, PH and pollution. Forams are taken from cores, monolith tins or bulk samples. Diatoms are cut from monolith tins or cores or taken as spot samples.

Insects, which are useful as palaeoenvironmental indicators, survive best in waterlogged deposits such as palaeochannels and wells. They can provide information on climate change and landscape reconstruction as some species are adapted to particular temperatures, habitats or even particular trees. Certain insects can indicate the function of a feature or building (eg. Weevils, which were introduced by the Romans, often indicate granary sites, parasites will indicate the presence of particular animals such as sheep or horse, latrine flies survive in the mineral deposits in latrines, or in the daub of medieval buildings etc). Samples need to be sealed (eg. in a plastic box).

Where there is evidence for industrial activity, macroscopic technological residues should be collected by hand. Separate samples should be collected for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets). Guidance is available in the English Heritage "Archaeometallurgy" guidelines, 2001.

Buried soils and sediment sequences should be inspected and recorded on site by a recognised geoarchaeologist. Procedures and techniques in the English Heritage document "Environmental Archaeology", 2002 and "Geoarchaeology", 2004 should be followed.

Sampling strategies for wooden structures should follow the methodologies presented in "Waterlogged wood. Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood" R. Brunning, 1996. If timbers are likely to be present on your site, contact a wood specialist beforehand. Pre-excavation planning – determine questions to ask, agree on a sampling strategy, allocate reasonable time and budget. Soil samples should be taken of the sediments surrounding the timber. Keep the timbers wet! Record them asap on-site – plan, photograph, record the size and orientation of the wood (radial, tangential, transverse), any toolmarks, joints, presence of bark, insect damage, recent breaks, and if another piece of wood was on top of or below the piece sampled. Both vertical and horizontal positioning of wattling must be recorded. Wood samples can provide information on woodland management such as medieval coppicing, type of taxa (native or foreign), conversion technology (how the wood was turned into planks), building techniques and type of tools used.

Waterlogged organic materials should be dealt with following recommendations in "Guidelines for the care of waterlogged archaeological leather", English Heritage and Archaeological Leather Group 1995.

### **Animal Bone**

Animal bone can explore themes such as hunting and fowling, fishing, plant use and trade, seasonality, diet, age structures, farrowing areas, species ratios, local environment.

Animal bone assemblages should be assessed by a recognised specialist.

The specialist will need to know a brief account of the nature and history of the site, an account of the purpose, methods (details of sampling) for recovery of animal bones, and the main aims and results of the excavation, details of any specific questions that the excavator wants the animal bone specialist to consider, information about other relevant finds from the excavation (e.g. bone tools, fishing equipment, weaving equipment), specific information about each context that has produced significant quantities of animal bone (recovery method, phase, context type, position in relation to major structures, contamination by more recent material, some indication of the amount of bone (by weight or by container size)). See "Ancient Monuments Laboratory Advisory Note, "Assessment of animal bone collections from excavations", Sebastian Payne, 1991 and "The Assessment of a collection of animal bones", S. Davis, n.d., Ancient Monuments Laboratory.

### **Human Remains**

Human remains must be treated with care, dignity and respect.



Excavators must comply with the relevant legislation (essentially the Burial Act 1857) and local environmental health concerns. If found, human remains must be left in-situ, covered and protected. The archaeological contractor will be responsible for informing the police, coroner and County Archaeologist. If it is agreed that removal of the remains is essential, the archaeological contractor will apply for a licence from the Home Office and their regulations must be complied with.

Site inspection by a recognised osteologist is desirable for isolated burials and essential for cemeteries. The remains will be recorded in-situ and subsequently lifted, washed in water (without additives). They will be marked and packed to standards compatible with "Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains", McKinley and Roberts, 1993. After excavation, the remains will be subject to specialist assessment.

Analysis of the osteological material should take place according to published guidelines "Human Remains from Archaeological Sites, Guidelines for producing assessment documents and analytical reports, English Heritage, 2002.

Some of the potential benefits from the study of human skeletons – demography, growth profiles, patterns of disease, genetic relationships, activity patterns, diet, burial practices, human evolution. New scientific techniques available include DNA and stable isotope analyses.

The final placing of the remains after scientific study and analysis will be agreed beforehand.

Further guidance is available in:

"Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England", The Church of England and English Heritage, 2005 ([www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/16602\\_HumanRemains1.pdf](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/16602_HumanRemains1.pdf))

"Church Archaeology: its care and management", Council for the Care of Churches, 1999

The Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Christian burials in England can provide free well-informed advice with consideration of relevant religious, ethical, legal, archaeological and scientific issues. Panel's website:

<http://www.britarch.ac.uk/churches/humanremains/index.html>

or email the secretary [simon.mays@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:simon.mays@english-heritage.org.uk)

### **Treasure**

Defined as:

- Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10% by weight of metal is precious metal and that is at least 300 years old when found
- Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find
- All coins from the same find provided that they are at least 300 years old when found, but if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least ten
- Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, another object that is Treasure
- Any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. Only objects that are less than 300 years old, that are made substantially of gold or silver, that have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown will come into this category

If anything is found which could be Treasure, under the Treasure Act 1996, it is a legal requirement to report it to the local coroner within 14 days of discovery. The Archaeological Contractor must comply with the procedures set out in The Treasure Act 1996. Any treasure must be reported to the coroner and to The Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer, Rob Collins (0191 2225076 or [Robert.Collins@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:Robert.Collins@newcastle.ac.uk)) who can provide guidance on the Treasure Act procedures.

### **Post-excavation and report production**



### ***Finds Processing and Storage***

Finds shall be recorded and processed in accordance with the IFA Guidelines for Finds Work

Finds will be assessed by an experienced finds specialist.

The Archaeological Contractor will process and catalogue the finds in accordance with Museum and Galleries Commissions Guidelines (1992) and the UKIC Conservation Guidelines, and arrange for the long term disposal of the objects on behalf of the Client. A catalogue of finds and a record of discard policies, will be lodged with the finds for ease of curation.

Assessment should include x-radiography of all iron objects (after initial screening to exclude recent debris) and a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins). Refer to "Guidelines on the x-radiography of archaeological metalwork, English Heritage, 2006.

If necessary, pottery sherds and bricks should be recommended for Thermo-luminescence dating.

Finds processing, storage and conservation methods must be broadly in line with current practice, as exemplified by the IFA "Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials", 2001. Finds should be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication "First Aid for Finds" (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Proposals for ultimate storage of finds should follow the UKIC publication "Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage" (Walker 1990). Details of methodologies may be requested from the Archaeological Contractor.

Other useful guidance – "A Strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds", English Heritage, 2003, "Finds and Conservation Training Package", English Heritage, 2003.

All objects must be stored in appropriate materials and conditions to ensure minimal deterioration. Advice can be sought from Jacqui Huntley of English Heritage (0191 3341137 or 07713 400387) where necessary.

### **The report**

1. Because the construction project will last five years, regular interim reports will be required by the Client, Planning Authority and County Archaeologist. It is envisaged that a written report including a site location plan and any relevant photographs and drawings will be required for each separate section of tunnel which is monitored, and one each for the two shafts. These will be submitted a maximum of three months after each section of work. Whilst work is ongoing, weekly or fortnightly updates via email to all interested parties will also be needed. The distribution list for these updates must be agreed with Bouygues.

2. The production of Site Archives and Finds Analysis will be undertaken according to English Heritage Guidelines (Managing Archaeological Projects 2nd Edition) and 'Archaeological Archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation', Duncan H. Brown, Archaeological Archives Forum, July 2007.

3. At the conclusion of the whole process a full report summarising everything which has been recorded will be produced. All drawn work should be to publication standard. The report must include:

- \* Location plans of work and grid references of site
- \* Site narrative – interpretative, structural and stratigraphic history of the site
- \* Any plans showing major features and deposit spreads, by phase, and section locations
- \* Any sections through excavated features
- \* Elevation drawings of any walls etc.
- \* Artefact reports – full text, descriptions and illustrations of finds



- \* Tables and matrices summarising feature and artefact sequences.
  - \* Archive descriptions of contexts, grouped by phase (not for publication)
  - \* Deposit sequence summary (for publication/deposition)
  - \* Colour photographs of work in progress and of archaeological features and finds
  - \* Laboratory reports and summaries of any dating and environmental data, with collection methodology.
  - \* A consideration of the results of the field-work within the wider research context (ref. NERRF).
  - \* Copy of this specification
4. Seven bound and collated copies of the final report need to be submitted:
- four for the commissioning client. A digital copy of the report on CD is also required.
  - two for the planning authorities (North Tyneside Council and South Tyneside Council)
  - one for deposition in the County HER at the address below. A digital copy of the report on CD is also required by the HER in a plastic case. Please do not attach this to the report.

**The report and CD for the HER must be sent by the archaeological consultant or their client directly to the address below. If the report is sent via the planning department, every page of the report will be stamped with the planning application number which ruins the illustrations. The HER is also often sent a photocopy instead of a bound colour original which is unacceptable.**

5. If significant archaeological features are found, the results may also warrant publication in a suitable archaeological journal. The tender should therefore include an estimated figure for the production of a short report of, for example 20 pages, in a journal such as *Archaeologia Aeliana* or *Durham Archaeological Journal*. This is merely to give the commissioning client an indication of potential costs.

### **Site Archive**

The site archive (records and materials recovered) should be prepared in accordance with *Managing Archaeological Projects*, Second Edition, 5.4 and appendix 3 (HBMC 1991), "Archaeological documentary archives" IFA Paper No. 1, "Archaeological Archives – creation, preparation, transfer and curation" *Archaeological Archives Forum* etc. and *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and 'Archaeological Archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation', Duncan H. Brown, *Archaeological Archives Forum*, July 2007.

This should include indexing, ordering, quantification and checking for consistency of all original context sheets, object records, bulk find records, sample records, skeleton records, photographic records, drawing records, photographs, drawings, level books, site note-books, spot-dating records and conservation records etc. All artefacts and ecofacts retained from the site must be packed in appropriate materials. A summary account of the context record, prepared by the supervising archaeologist, should be included.

The archive will be placed in a suitable form in the appropriate museum (typically Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle for sites north of the Tyne and Tyne and Wear Museums for sites south of the Tyne, but there are different rules for Roman sites etc. check with these institutions) with the client's permission.

A letter will be sent to the County Archaeology Officer within six months of the report having been submitted, confirming where the archive has been deposited.

### **OASIS**

The Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index/access to the large and growing body of archaeological grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded fieldwork.

The archaeological contractor is therefore required to register with OASIS and to complete the online OASIS form for their evaluation at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Please ensure that tenders for this work takes into account the time needed to complete the form.

Once the OASIS record has been completed and signed off by the HER and NMR the information will be incorporated into the English Heritage Excavation Index, hosted online by the Archaeology Data Service.

The ultimate aim of OASIS is for an online virtual library of grey literature to be built up, linked to the index. The unit therefore has the option of uploading their grey literature report as part of their OASIS record, as a Microsoft Word document, rich text format, pdf or html format. The grey literature report will only be mounted by the ADS if both the unit and the HER give their agreement. The grey literature report will be made available through a library catalogue facility.

Please ensure that you and your client understand this procedure. If you choose to upload your grey literature report please ensure that your client agrees to this in writing to the HER at the address below.

For general enquiries about the OASIS project aims and the use of the form please contact: Mark Barratt at the National Monuments Record (tel. 01793 414600 or [oasis@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:oasis@english-heritage.org.uk)). For enquiries of a technical nature please contact: Catherine Hardman at the Archaeology Data Service (tel. 01904 433954 or [oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk](mailto:oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk)). Or contact the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer at the address below.

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Ref: Tyne Tunnel Watching Brief  
August 2007  
Planning Application: 02/01491/TWA2TT



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