

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at the former Blackshaw's Garage,
Bondgate Without, Alnwick, Northumberland**

Central National Grid Reference: NU 1895 1320

Site Code: BGA 09

Commissioning Client:

**CGMS Consulting (on behalf of McCarthy & Stone)
Morley House
26 Holborn Viaduct
London
EC1A 2AT**

Tel: 0207 583 6767



Contractor:

**Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited
Northern Office
Unit N19a, Tursdale Business Park
Tursdale
Durham
DH6 5PG**

Tel: 0191 377 1111



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October 2009**

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1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological monitoring and recording exercise was undertaken June-July 2009 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at land on the former Blackshaw's Garage, Bondgate Without, Alnwick, Northumberland. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of McCarthy & Stone. The central National Grid Reference of the site is NU 1895 1320.
- 1.2 A planning application for redevelopment of the site had been submitted and archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the scheme were required as a planning condition. A Specification for the investigation was compiled by CgMs Consulting and approved by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team prior to commencement of construction groundworks at the site. The broad aim of the work was to ensure adequate recording of archaeological remains disturbed during groundworks.
- 1.3 An archaeological desk-based assessment compiled in 2003 had highlighted the potential for medieval and post-medieval remains at the site. The site is located to the south-east of the historic core of Alnwick, beyond the line of the medieval town walls, on the north side of Bondgate Without. The medieval town was initially centred on the Market Place, and while its eastern extent is not known, it probably did not extend beyond the 15th century town walls. While medieval expansion of the town beyond the walls is thought to have occurred to both the north and south of Bondgate Without, probably by the late 15th century, the nature and extent of medieval activity in this area is generally uncertain. It is probable that domestic buildings fronted Bondgate Without with associated burgage plots extending to the north and south.
- 1.4 The monitored groundworks initially involved the excavation of a trench to facilitate the removal of a disused petrol tank (Area 3) in the central part of the site and two trial pits (Areas 1 and 2) in the northern part. This was followed by the monitoring of bulk ground reduction within the footprint of the proposed building in the area fronting Bondgate Without (Area 4).
- 1.5 Natural sand was encountered within all monitored areas. Developed soils recorded within Areas 1 and 2, are tentatively interpreted as plough soils of medieval origin, although no dateable artefactual material was recovered from any of these deposits.
- 1.6 A group of developed soils recorded within Areas 1, 2 and 3 contained inclusions of mortar and ceramic building material and are interpreted as buried garden soils of 19th to early 20th century origin.
- 1.7 Substantial modern features associated with the use of the site as a garage in the modern era were recorded in Areas 3 and 4. A layer of rubble was recorded across all monitored areas and extended across the central and north-western part of the site, where the former buildings and areas of hard standing associated with the garage had been sited. This deposit is interpreted as demolition and levelling material derived from demolition of the garage structures.
- 1.8 In sum, no deposits of proven archaeological significance were encountered during the investigation.

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 16th June and 7th July 2009 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at the site of the former Blackshaw's Garage, Bondgate Without, Alnwick, Northumberland. The work was undertaken ahead of redevelopment of the site as sheltered apartments and commercial units fronting Bodgate Without. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Limited (CgMs) on behalf of McCarthy & Stone (Developments) Limited.
- 2.1.2 The archaeological investigation was undertaken as a planning condition on the recommendation of Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT). The site was considered to be of archaeological interest mainly due to the potential of medieval and post-medieval remains as highlighted by a desk-based assessment of the site, prepared in 2003 by CgMs.¹ A Specification² was prepared by CgMs and approved by NCCCT prior to commencement of groundworks. The broad aim was to record archaeological remains encountered during groundworks associated with the redevelopment of the site.
- 2.1.3 The completed project archive, comprising written, drawn, and photographic records, will be deposited at the Great North Museum under the site code BGA 09. The **Online Access** to the **Index of Archaeological Investigations** (OASIS) reference number for the project is: preconst1-64973.

2.2 Site Location and Description

- 2.2.1 The site is located within the centre of Alnwick, on the north side of Bondgate Without. It comprises an irregularly shaped plot covering c. 4,400 m². It is bounded by Bondgate Without to the south, the grounds of Alnwick Castle to the north, Greenwell Road car park to the west, and various commercial buildings and areas of hard standing to the east. The central National Grid Reference for the site is NU 1895 1320 (Figure 1).
- 2.2.2 The site can be conveniently divided into two distinct parts. The southernmost portion, formerly a petrol filling station, occupies a length of street frontage on Bondgate Without. It is evident that substantial terracing has taken place along the northern margin of this area, which was delimited by a substantial retaining wall. The remainder of the site generally follows the natural topography, rising to the north-east, although it is evident that terracing has taken place within the central and northwestern portions of the site, an area formerly occupied by buildings and areas of hardstanding associated with Blackshaw's Garage.
- 2.2.3 At the time of the investigation, the garage and associated buildings had been demolished, hardstanding removed and the site was covered in rubble as construction groundworks commenced.

¹ CgMs 2003.

² CgMs 2009.



Figure 1. Site location
Scale 1:25,000

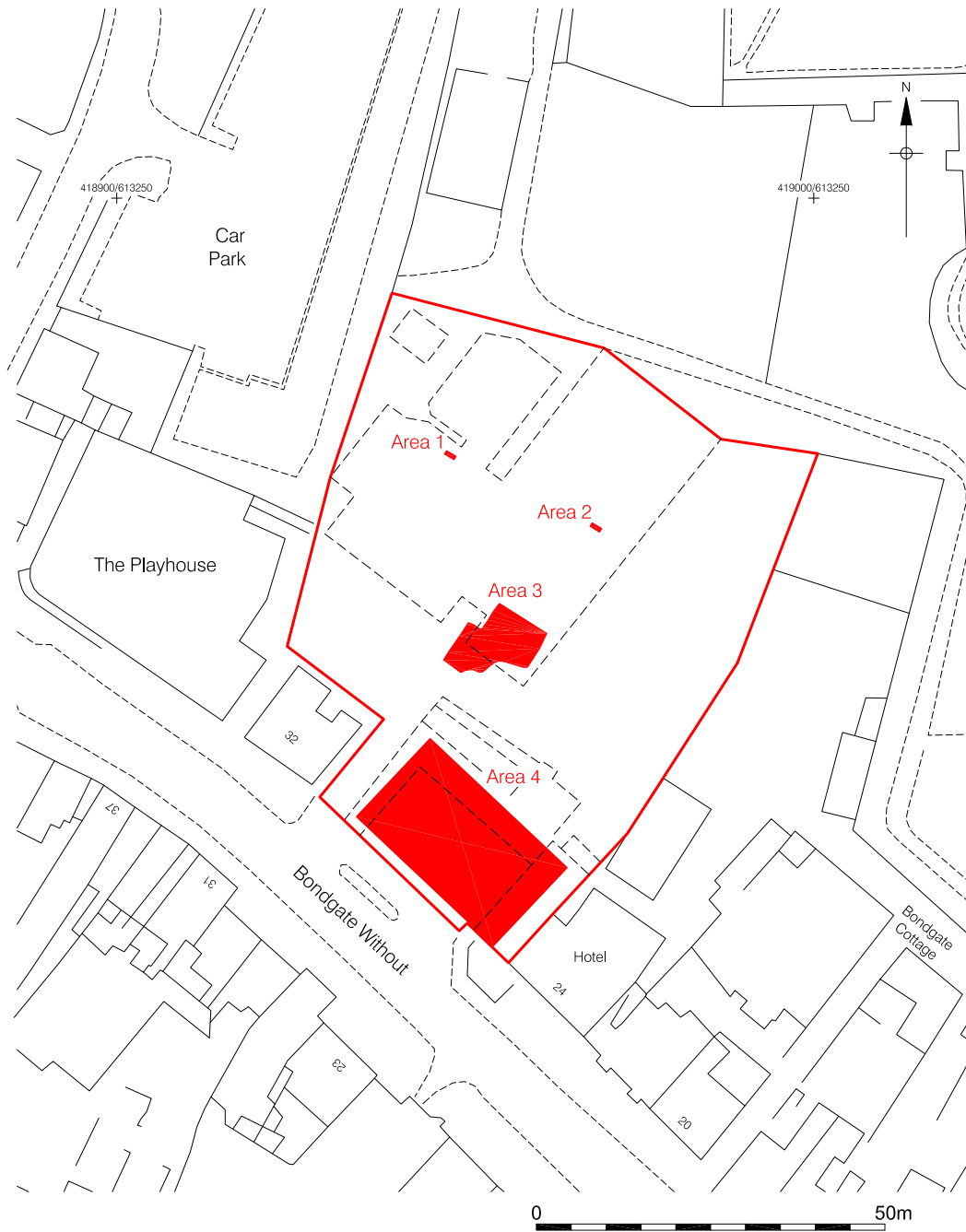


Figure 2. Areas of investigation
Scale 1:1,000

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.2.4 The underlying solid geology of Alnwick comprises the Scremerston Coal Group and Carboniferous Limestone Group sediments of Lower Carboniferous origin. These are overlain by drift deposits, characterised in this area by Boulder Clay, often overlain with glacial sand.
- 2.2.5 The site occupies a gentle south-facing slope varying between c. 60m OD in the north to 58m OD along the frontage of Bondgate Without. As previously mentioned, there is evidence of significant terracing along the street frontage of Bondgate Without and also within the central and north-western parts of the site.

2.3 Planning Background

- 2.3.1 A planning application (application no A/2007/0481) for redevelopment of the site of the former Blackshaw's Garage was submitted to Alnwick District Council in 2007.³ The redevelopment plans comprise the construction of fifty-five sheltered apartments and an unspecified number of commercial units fronting Bondgate Without.
- 2.3.2 *Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: 'Archaeology and Planning'* (PPG 16),⁴ currently provides advice concerning the safeguarding of archaeological remains within the planning process. PPG16 is informed by the principle that archaeology represents a finite and non-renewable resource and that its conservation, either by preservation *in situ* or preservation by record (through archaeological investigation), should be the primary goal of archaeological resource management. NCCCT has responsibility for archaeological development control throughout Northumberland.
- 2.3.3 As a result of the *Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004*, various Planning Policy Statements, Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks are being created. *The North East of England Plan, Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021* (RSS)⁵ has now replaced all policies within the *Northumberland and National Park Joint Structure Plan First Alteration* (adopted 2005). Relevant extracts of Policy 32 'Historic Environment' of the RSS include the following:
- 32.1. Strategies, plans and programmes and planning proposals should seek to conserve and enhance the historic environment of the Region by.....seeking to preserve, in situ, archaeological sites of national importance and, where appropriate, other archaeological remains of regional and local importance.*
- 2.3.4 As a result of the aforementioned changes to the planning system, Northumberland County Council is establishing – within the context of the RSS - a Local Development Framework, through which Development Plan Documents will gradually replace existing Local Plans from the previous system of distinct local authorities.

³ On 1 April 2009, a new unitary authority, Northumberland County Council, became the planning authority for the whole of Northumberland.

⁴ *Department of the Environment 1990*. PPG16 is currently under review as part of a consultation paper (July 2009) on a new planning policy statement on the historic environment.

⁵ Government Office for the North East 2008.

- 2.3.5 To date, relevant planning documents have been identified within the *Northumberland Consolidated Planning Policy Framework*,⁶ including the Alnwick District Wide Local Plan, adopted in April 1997, which contains the following policies relevant to this project:

POLICY BE1

A PRESUMPTION WILL BE EXERCISED IN FAVOUR OF THE PRESERVATION OF SCHEDULED ANCIENT MONUMENTS, NATIONALLY IMPORTANT ARCAEOLOGICAL SITES, AND THERE SETTINGS. DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THESE SITES OR THEIR SETTINGS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

POLICY BE2

PLANNING PERMISSION WILL NOT BE GRANTED FOR DEVELOPMENT DETRIMENTAL TO SITES OF REGIONAL OR LOCAL ARCAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE, UNLESS THERE IS A OVERRIDING NEED FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND NO ALTERNATIVE LOCATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT CAN BE FOUND. WHERE THE IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT IS NOT CLEAR, THE DEVELOPER WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE AN ARCAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OR EVALUATION AS APPROPRIATE. BEFORE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SITES OF ARCAEOLOGICAL INTEREST IS PERMITTED, THE DEVELOPER WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT FOR APPROVAL A STATEMENT OF INVESTIGATION AND PROPOSALS TO SECURE THE IMPLIMENTATION OF A PROGRAMME OF ARCAEOLOGICAL WORK BEFORE THE DEVELOPMENT COMMENCES.

- 2.3.6 An archaeological desk-based assessment compiled by CgMs Consulting in 2003 had highlighted the archaeological potential of the site, specifically for remains of the medieval and post-medieval periods. At the time of the planning application for the redevelopment scheme, NCCCT was consulted by the Local Planning Authority, Alnwick District Council. NCCCT recommended that planning permission should be granted subject to a condition requiring a scheme of archaeological investigation to be undertaken. Justification for the archaeological condition was based on the fact that the site is located at the eastern limits of the medieval borough of Alnwick, and in close proximity to Bondgate Tower, which formed the eastern entrance to the town in the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 2.3.7 CgMs Consulting prepared a Specification for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken in association with the groundworks, which was approved by NCCCT prior to the commencement of work, this comprising the written scheme of investigation required by the planning condition. The Specification detailed the methodologies to be employed during the fieldwork and post-excavation stages of the investigation. In broad terms, the investigation aimed to record archaeological remains exposed during construction groundworks at the site.

⁶ Available online at: <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/>

2.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

Information contained within the aforementioned desk-based assessment (DBA) compiled by CgMs has been used as the basis for this section of the report. The research and writing of those responsible is fully acknowledged. Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER) numbers are included here but the DBA should be consulted for other references made for copies of historic maps.

- 2.4.1 For the DBA, entries in the HER within a c. 500m radius of the site were examined, with this information being supplemented by data gathered from a variety of other sources, archaeological, documentary and cartographic.
- 2.4.2 There is no known prehistoric activity in the immediate vicinity of the site. However, there are several HER entries listed within the wider area attributed to the prehistoric period. These include a Neolithic flint arrowhead (HER 4511), a small group of Bronze Age finds (HER 4502) including two gold rings, a bronze axe and pottery, all of which were found together suggesting they were burial goods, and decorated Bronze Age pottery (HER 5723). Two Bronze Age stone-lined cist burials are listed on the HER. A stone-lined cist burial (HER 4501) was identified in St Thomas' Field in 1918, within the eastern margin of the residential area of Alnwick, however there were no associated finds. Located to the north-west was a similar stone-lined cist burial (HER 4500), identified during road construction work in 1861, from which Bronze Age pottery was recovered. A substantial roughly circular enclosure (HER 4506), which has been attributed an Iron Age period of origin based on its form, lies just beyond the south-western margins of Alnwick.
- 2.4.3 There are no HER entries of the Roman period within the vicinity of the site and there is no evidence to suggest that Alnwick has Roman origins. A copper alloy Constantian coin (AD 346-50) was found by a metal detectorist in 1991 (HER 12189) north of Alnwick. There is also a 19th century reference to a group of Roman coins found within Alnwick town itself, however there is no detailed description of their location or quantity.
- 2.4.4 It has been suggested that Alnwick has its origins as an Anglian *vill*, founded in the early 7th century, and that early medieval settlement developed around the triangle formed by Bondgate, Market Street and Fenkle Street, representing an early 'green village' which continued in use as the medieval and later market place. There are four HER entries attributed to the early medieval period within the wider vicinity of the site. Three of these (HER 4828, 4827 and 4829) refer to areas of Alnwick bordering early medieval trackways forming the suggested properties for this period at the centre of Alnwick. Also noted is the site of Alnwick Market Place (HER 4841).
- 2.4.5 Alnwick grew in prominence throughout the medieval period and the Earl of Northumberland was given permission by Henry V to build walls around the town in 1434, although construction stretched over more than 50 years. Around the circuit, the walls (HER 4497) were over 6m high and 2m thick. Each of the four entrances was defined by a strong tower. One of these, Bondgate Tower a Grade I Listed Building (HER 4830), is located to the west of the site and formed the main entrance to the medieval town of Alnwick. This tower was later used as a jail during the post-medieval period.

- 2.4.6 Located to the north-east of the site is Alnwick Castle (HER 4507), a Grade I Listed Building. Built during the Norman period it was originally a motte and bailey later rebuilt in stone with added fortifications during the 12th century. A detailed history of Alnwick Castle does not need repeating herein, however it is important to recognise that the castle was vital in the development of the medieval town of Alnwick.
- 2.4.7 A survey undertaken in 1483 mentions a burgage plot beyond the Bondgate Tower and another survey of 1567 lists several burgage plots presumed to have been located north and south of Bondgate. Located immediately to the west of Bondgate Tower, the medieval arrangement of long narrow burgage plots fronting onto Bondgate is evident by the existing layout of properties. A similar layout is evident on the south side of Bondgate Without, although this is not as obvious in the existing property boundaries. There are two areas of medieval development identified in the HER located beyond Bondgate Tower, to the north side and south side of Bondgate Without (HER 4850 and 4851). There was, therefore, potential for the remains of medieval and post-medieval frontage dwellings to survive in the southern portion of the site. To the north, the remains of features typically associated with the backlots of burgage plots, such as middens, boundary ditches and outbuildings, may have also survived.
- 2.4.8 As part of the DBA, a map regression exercise was undertaken. The earliest map evidence consulted was Wilkon's map of 1780 which shows the site as two holdings, although it is not detailed enough to establish the presence of any buildings.
- 2.4.9 The earliest mapping evidence to show the site in any detail is a plan of Alnwick by Wood dated 1827. This depicts the western portion of the site as gardens or small holdings and to the east an L-shaped range of buildings is shown extending along Bondgate Without street frontage with a building to the rear labelled 'Alison Place'.
- 2.4.10 The Ordnance Survey 1st edition from 1863 shows the site itself essentially unchanged from Wood's plan. However, within the general vicinity of the site, the expansion of Alnwick Castle gardens to the north and significant infilling of land situated on both sides of Bondgate Without is depicted by this time.
- 2.4.11 The Ordnance Survey 2nd edition from 1897 shows that, by this time, a substantial building (chapel) fronting onto Bondgate Without was located within the eastern portion of the former gardens. Located immediately to the west of the chapel, this outside the site, another substantial building is depicted fronting Bondgate Without, located within the south-western portion of the former gardens. The remainder of the site is unchanged with gardens located at the north of the site.
- 2.4.12 The 1926 Ordnance Survey map shows the site unchanged from the 2nd edition.
- 2.4.13 By the time of the 1957 Ordnance Survey map, a substantial range of buildings is shown located to the north of the chapel and extending across the western portion of the site. These buildings were demolished sometime after 1957 and replaced with buildings and areas of hardstanding associated with the Blackshaw's Garage. By the time of the archaeological investigations herein described, these had been recently demolished.

2.6 Project Aims and Research Objectives

- 2.6.1 In broad terms, the archaeological investigation aimed to record the date, nature, extent and significance of any archaeological remains encountered at the site, as evidenced by any buried deposits, structures and features and any artefactual and ecofactual material.
- 2.6.2 More specifically, archaeological remains from the medieval, post-medieval and modern periods were anticipated at the site, given its setting. Archaeological evidence from the site, therefore, had the potential to illuminate the medieval and early modern history of Alnwick, which would be of, at least, local importance.
- 2.6.3 Because of the general history of occupation and construction on street frontage properties, there was potential for *in situ* structural remains associated with medieval burgage plots at the site. At such locations, features such as refuse pits, boundary ditches and wells often survive to the rear of building plots, along with deposits containing evidence of specific activities such as metalworking, butchery and other crafts.
- 2.6.4 Additional aims and objectives of the project were:
- to compile a Site Archive consisting of all site and project documentary and photographic records, as well as all artefactual and palaeoenvironmental material recovered, as appropriate;
 - to compile a report describing the findings and, where appropriate, set out an assessment of the nature and significance of all stratigraphic, artefactual, and palaeoenvironmental data recovered during the course of the work, including an appraisal of any possible requirement for further work on each element of the site data.
- 2.6.5 The work had 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)⁷ 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.

⁷ Petts and Gerrard 2006.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork

- 3.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the aforementioned Specification and guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists' guidance document, *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief*.⁸ PCA is an IfA-Registered Organisation (RO 23).
- 3.1.2 The Specification stipulated that the archaeological watching brief should be carried out during the removal of a petrol tank within the central portion of the site and that any other invasive groundworks likely to impact upon archaeological deposits would be monitored by an archaeologist.
- 3.1.3 The trench excavated for the removal of the petrol tank, designated Area 3 herein, was irregular in shape and measured a maximum of c. 11m NE-SW x 10.50m NW-SE x 1.35m deep. In addition to this work, two 'test pits', designated Areas 1 and 2 herein, were excavated in the northern part of the site; Area 1 measured 1.60m x 0.60m x 1.80m deep whilst Area 2, to the east, measured 1.65m x 0.70m x 1.30m deep. Overall bulk ground reduction was undertaken within the southernmost portion of the site, along the street frontage - designated Area 4 herein, taking in the overall footprint of proposed new build (Plate 2). Area 4 measured c. 27m x 16m and the existing level ground in this area was reduced by a depth of c. 1.60m.
- 3.1.4 The monitored groundworks were undertaken using a back-acting JCB type excavator and a 13-tonne tracked 360° excavator, both using a wide toothless bucket.
- 3.1.5 Archaeological deposits were recorded during the investigation using the 'single context recording' method. Each context was recorded on a PCA pro-forma 'Context Recording Sheet' by written and measured description. Principal deposits were recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate) and sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). A 'Harris Matrix' stratification diagram was compiled to record stratigraphic relationships. A photographic record of the investigation was compiled using a digital camera.

3.2 Post-Excavation

- 3.2.1 The stratigraphic data generated by the project is represented by the written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 20 archaeological contexts were defined during the work (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 4.
- 3.2.2 No artefactual material was recovered from the site.
- 3.2.3 The palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy for 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 work. No suitable deposits were identified for sampling.

⁸ IfA 2001.

3.2.4 The complete Site Archive, comprising written, drawn and photographic records (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation) and any artefactual material recovered will be packaged for long term curation. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document⁹ will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document¹⁰ and a forthcoming IfA publication.¹¹ The depositional requirements of the receiving body, in this case the Great North Museum.

⁹ Brown 2007.

¹⁰ Walker 1990.

¹¹ IfA forthcoming.

4. RESULTS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

4.1 Phase 1: Natural Sub-stratum

- 4.1.1 The basal deposit, [105], recorded in Area 1 comprised loose, mid pinkish brown sand, encountered at a depth of c. 1.65m below existing ground level and exposed for a maximum thickness of 0.15m (Section 1, Figure 3).
- 4.1.2 The basal deposit, [204], in Area 2, comprised loose, light yellowish brown sand, encountered at a depth of c. 1.10m below existing ground level and exposed for a maximum thickness of 0.20m (Section 2, Figure 3).
- 4.1.3 In the central portion of the site, the basal deposit, [305], recorded in Area 3, comprised loose, light yellowish brown sand, encountered at a depth of c. 1.30m below existing ground level (Section 3, Figure 3). This was exposed for a maximum thickness of 0.15m and was overlain by a series of three deposits, [304], [303] and [302], generally comprising loose, mid to light yellowish brown sand, with a combined thickness of c. 0.80m. The uppermost deposit, [302], was recorded at a depth of c. 0.40m below existing ground level.
- 4.1.4 In Area 4, deposit [402], comprising loose, light yellowish brown sand was excavated to a depth of c. 1.60m below existing ground level.
- 4.1.5 All of these deposits are interpreted as naturally derived glacial sands, representing the natural sub-stratum in this area.

4.2 Phase 2: Developed Soil

- 4.2.1 The natural sub-stratum in Area 1 was overlain by a series of three deposits, [104], [103] and [102], generally comprising loose, mid greyish brown and pinkish brown sand and clayey sand. These deposits were recorded from a depth of c. 0.45m below existing ground level and had a combined thickness of c. 1.20m (Section 1, Figure 3). These deposits are tentatively interpreted as buried developed soils of unknown origin. Although no dateable artefactual material was recovered from these deposits, it is possible that these represent developed plough soils of medieval origin.
- 4.2.2 The natural sub-stratum in Area 2 was overlain by two deposits, [203] and [202], comprising loose, light to mid greyish brown sand. These were recorded at a depth of c. 0.50m below existing ground level and had a combined thickness of c. 0.60m (Section 2, Figure 3). These deposits are similar in composition and stratigraphic position to those recorded in Area 1 and are also tentatively interpreted as possible buried plough soils. As with the deposits in Area 1, no dateable artefactual material was recovered.

4.3 Phase 3: Post-medieval – Early Modern

- 4.3.1 The developed soils in Areas 1 and 2 and the natural sub-stratum in Area 3 were overlain by layers of material of similar composition, generally comprising loose, mid to dark grey sand. The deposit in Area 1, [101], was c. 0.25m thick and was encountered at a depth of 0.20m below present ground level. In Area 2, the equivalent deposit, [201], was c. 0.35m thick and was encountered at a depth of 0.18m below present ground level. Deposit [301] in Area 3 was encountered at 0.25m below existing ground level and was c. 0.15m thick.

4.3.2 All these deposits contained flecks of mortar and ceramic building material throughout and are collectively interpreted as probable buried garden soils of 19th to early 20th century origin. This is supported by map evidence, which depicts the site as gardens or small holdings during this period.

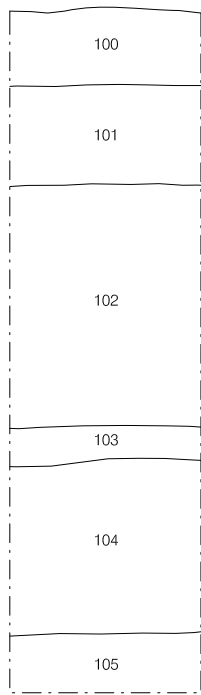
4.4 Phase 4: Modern

4.4.1 Cutting into deposit [301] in Area 3 was a rectangular shaped feature, [308], measuring c. 4m NW-SE by c. 3m NE-SW and at least 1.35m deep, encountered at a depth of c. 0.24m below existing ground level. This feature contained a cylindrical petrol tank, [306], which measured c. 3m in length by c. 1.50m diameter and was infilled with a loose mid brownish grey sand, [307] (Plate 1). This petrol tank would have been located within the southwestern corner of the former Blackshaw's Garage.

4.4.2 Part of a substantial feature, [402], infilled with stone, [401], was observed within the north-western corner of Area 4. This measured at least 12m north-south by c. 10m east-west by at least 1.60m deep, extending beyond the basal limit of excavation. This feature is interpreted as the construction cut for petrol tanks associated with the former petrol filling station, which occupied this location. The tanks were removed following decommissioning of the station in recent years.

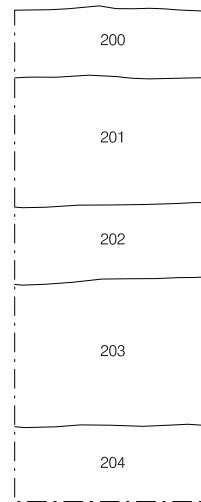
4.4.3 A loose, dark grey sand deposit, containing frequent fragments of brick, concrete and stone throughout, extended across Areas 1, 2 and 3 and was attributed numbers, [100], [200] and [300], respectively. Essentially demolition rubble, the material was up to 0.25m thick and was observed extending across the entire area of the former buildings and areas of hardstanding associated with Blackshaw's Garage. It is assumed to derive from demolition of the buildings that previously occupied this portion of the site and was used to level and consolidate the ground surface.

ESE WNW



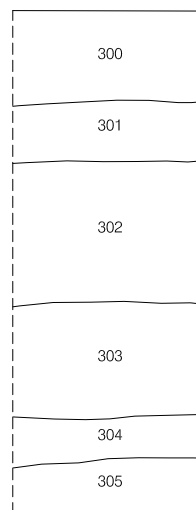
Area 1. NNE facing section.

ESE WNW



Area 2. NNE facing section.

SE NW



Area 3. North-east facing sample section.



Figure 3. Sections, Areas 1 - 3
Scale 1:20

5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

5.1.1 Archaeological deposits and features encountered during the watching brief have been assigned to four phases of activity:

- Phase 1 was the natural sub-stratum, represented by glacially-derived sand, recorded within all monitored areas.
- Phase 2 comprised deposits derived from likely agricultural use of the land in the medieval period.
- Phase 3 is represented by evidence of a possible post-medieval–early modern buried garden soil.
- Phase 4 represents modern era activity.

5.1.2 Although the potential medieval evidence from the site is of some significance, as it adds data regarding the medieval landscape in this part of Alnwick, the absence of cut features and dateable material means that the findings are of only limited significance. The post-medieval to modern period evidence is of little or no archaeological significance.

5.2 Recommendations

5.2.1 Identification of remains of the medieval period was the principle objective of the investigations. Buried developed soils were recorded in the northern portion of the site, within Areas 1 and 2. However, no dateable artefactual material was recovered and the deposits have tentatively been attributed a medieval origin. Furthermore, the absence of artefacts and inclusions generally in these deposits suggests that the site was situated some distance from an area of habitation when this soil developed and, therefore, that these deposits are likely to represent either a plough soil or garden soil.

5.2.2 No further work is recommended for the site data. The Site Archive, including this report, will form the permanent record of the archaeological remains encountered.

6. REFERENCES

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7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

Acknowledgements

Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank CgMs Consulting for commissioning the work on behalf of McCarthy & Stone. The liaison role of Rob Bourn is particularly acknowledged.

The curatorial role of the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team is acknowledged.

PCA Credits

Fieldwork: Aaron Goode and Robin Taylor-Wilson

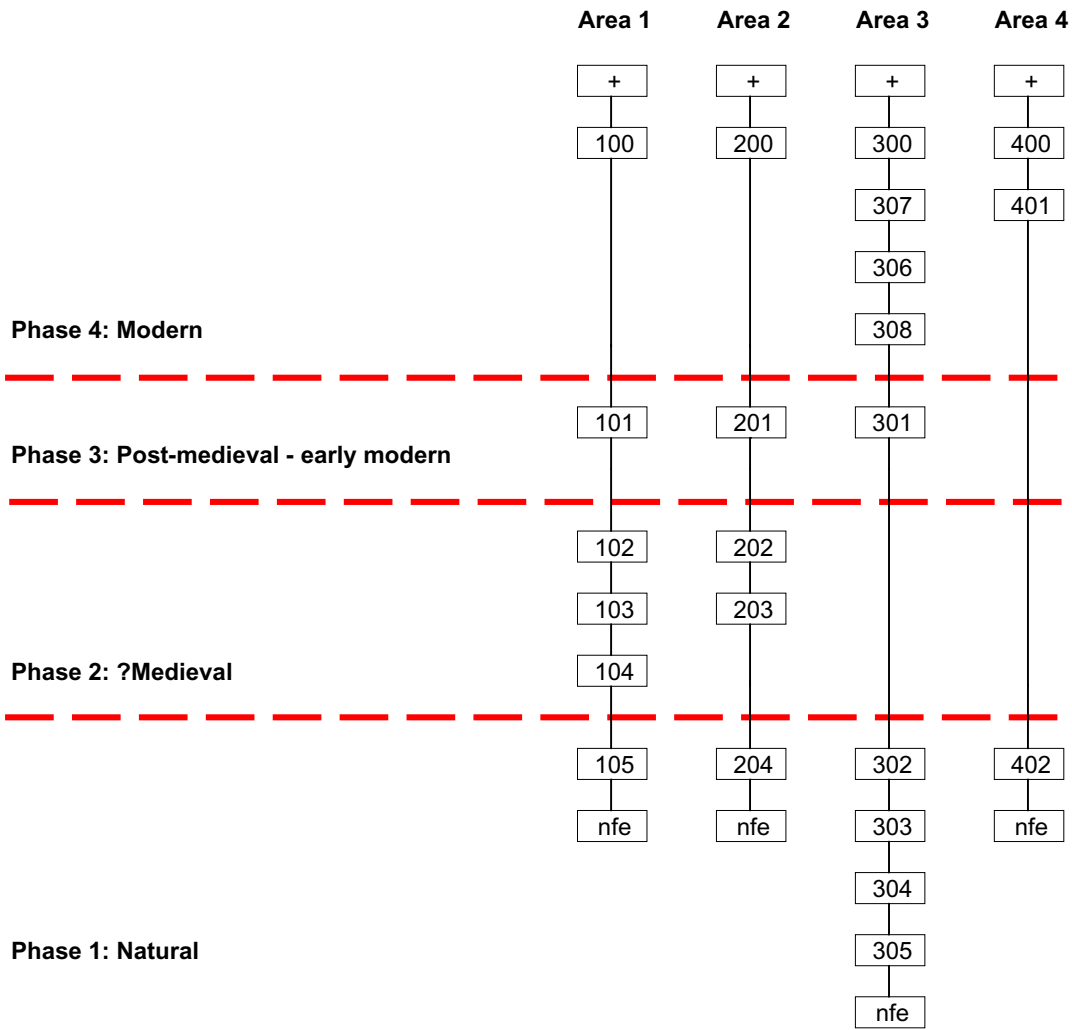
Report: Aaron Goode

Project Manager: Robin Taylor-Wilson

CAD: Adrian Bailey

**APPENDIX A
STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX**

BGA 09: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRICES



APPENDIX B
CONTEXT INDEX

BGA 09: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Phase	Area	Type 1	Type 2	Interpretation
100	4	1	deposit	layer	levelling/demolition deposit
101	3	1	deposit	layer	garden soil
102	2	1	deposit	layer	developed soil
103	2	1	deposit	layer	developed soil
104	2	1	deposit	layer	developed soil
105	1	1	deposit	layer	natural sand
200	4	2	deposit	layer	levelling/demolition deposit
201	3	2	deposit	layer	garden soil
202	2	2	deposit	layer	developed soil
203	2	2	deposit	layer	developed soil
204	1	2	deposit	layer	natural sand
300	4	3	deposit	layer	levelling/demolition deposit
301	3	3	deposit	layer	garden soil
302	1	3	deposit	layer	natural sand
303	1	3	deposit	layer	natural sand
304	1	3	deposit	layer	natural sand
305	1	3	deposit	layer	natural sand
306	4	3	structure	metal tank	petrol tank
307	4	3	deposit	fill	infill of [308]
308	4	3	cut	discrete	pit for petrol tank, filled by [306],[307]
400	4	4	deposit	fill	infill of [402]
401	4	4	cut	discrete	pit for petrol tanks, filled by [401]
402	1	4	deposit	layer	natural sand

APPENDIX C
PLATES



Plate 1. Petrol tank, Area 3.



Plate 2. Ground reduction, Area 3.