

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT  
AUCKLAND COTTAGE, CHURCH CHARE,  
CHESTER-LE-STREET, COUNTY DURHAM**

**Assessment Report**

**An Archaeological Excavation at Auckland Cottage, Church Chare,  
Chester-le-Street, County Durham**

**Assessment Report**

**Central National Grid Reference: NZ 27524 51246**

**Site Code: ACL 09**

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***PART A: PROJECT SUMMARY***

## 1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological excavation was undertaken in August 2009 by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Auckland Cottage, Chester-le-Street, County Durham. The central National Grid Reference of the site is NZ 27524 51246. The work was commissioned by the Archaeology Section of Durham County Council, on behalf of the owner of Auckland Cottage, ahead of the construction of a new driveway for the property.
- 1.2 Auckland Cottage stands on the south side of a cul-de-sac off Church Chare, in the historic core of Chester-le-Street. The site is of particular archaeological interest as it is thought to lie close to the south-western corner of the Roman fort of *Concangis*, which was founded as a clay and timber installation in the second half of the 2nd century AD. A subsequent stone fort, founded in the 3rd century, continued to be occupied until the latter part of the Roman period. The excavation area, covering 19.5m<sup>2</sup>, comprised the entire driveway within the north-easternmost portion of the Auckland Cottage property. The assumed line of the south wall of the Roman fort runs very close to the northern edge of this area.
- 1.3 Observation of utility works in 2002, followed by minor excavation works undertaken since 2006 by an amateur archaeologist and monitored by the Durham County Archaeologist, revealed important Roman period archaeological remains underlying the driveway of Auckland Cottage. Of note was the west wall of a stone building and an associated internal floor, the location of which suggested that the assumed line of the south wall of the later fort was erroneous. As the property owner wished to replace the surface of the driveway, this afforded an opportunity to undertake limited archaeological excavation to define the minimum extent of the Roman building and test the theoretical line of the later fort defences.
- 1.4 The excavation recorded undated, Roman, late or post-Roman and modern archaeological remains. An undated deposit, likely the earliest to be recorded at the site, was assigned to Phase 1. Phases 2 and 3 represent Roman period activity of possible 3rd century and more certain late 3rd century+ date, respectively, and these contain the most significant archaeological remains to be examined at the site. Phase 3a represents the construction and initial usage of a stone building, possibly a barrack block within the defences of the later fort. A probable west wall of the building was exposed, returning to the east close to the northern limit of excavation, with an internal stone floor surface. Phase 3b represents replacement or repair of the southern part of the floor surface, again of late 3rd century+ date. Remains assigned to Phase 4 are of late or post-Roman date, while Phase 5 comprises modern activity.
- 1.5 This Assessment Report is divided into three parts. Part A, the Project Summary, begins with an introduction to the site, describing its location, geology and topography, as well summarising the archaeological background to the project. The aims and objectives of the work are then set out, followed by full descriptions of the archaeological methodologies employed during both the fieldwork and the subsequent post-excavation work. This part concludes with an illustrated summary of the remains representing each of the archaeological phases.

- 1.6 Part B, the Data Assessment, quantifies the written, graphic and photographic elements of the Site Archive and contains specialist assessments of all categories of artefactual and biological evidence, with recommendations for any further work in each case. This part then sets out an archaeological summary discussion before summarising the potential for further analysis of all elements of the collected project data.
- 1.7 Part C of the report contains acknowledgements and references and there are three appendices to the report, the third being a selection of photographs from the fieldwork.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 General Background**

- 2.1.1 This report describes the methodology and results of an archaeological excavation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) at Auckland Cottage, Church Chare, Chester-le-Street, County Durham (Figure 1).
- 2.1.2 The work, commissioned by the Archaeology Section of Durham County Council on behalf of the property owner, was undertaken 10-21 August 2009, in advance of the construction of a new driveway for Auckland Cottage. The excavation area covered 19.5m<sup>2</sup> and was rectangular in shape, comprising almost the entire area occupied by the driveway in the northern-easternmost portion of the property.
- 2.1.3 The excavation was undertaken as a result of an agreement between the property owner and the County Archaeologist. The proposed replacement of the existing driveway surface afforded an opportunity to undertake a controlled excavation of limited extent to investigate important Roman period remains known to underlie the property. These came to light as a result of minor investigations undertaken in recent years by a local archaeological enthusiast. The site lies on or close to the predicted line of the south wall of the Roman fort of *Concangis* and the excavation had the potential to add important information regarding the location of those defences. The site does not lie within one of the areas included in the scheduling for the Roman fort.
- 2.1.4 The excavation was undertaken according to a Specification<sup>1</sup> prepared by the Council Archaeology Section. The work comprised hand excavation of overburden and archaeological material of low significance, and then definition and detailed recording of Roman period structural remains, with limited targeted hand excavation for the purposes of obtaining dating evidence and collecting bulk soil samples.
- 2.1.5 The format of this Assessment Report follows the methodology outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE).<sup>2</sup> The completed Site Archive, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, as well as the recovered artefactual and biological material, will be deposited at the County Durham Archaeological Archive, Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham, under the site code ACL 09. The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) reference number for the project is: preconst1-70720.

### **2.2 Site Location and Description**

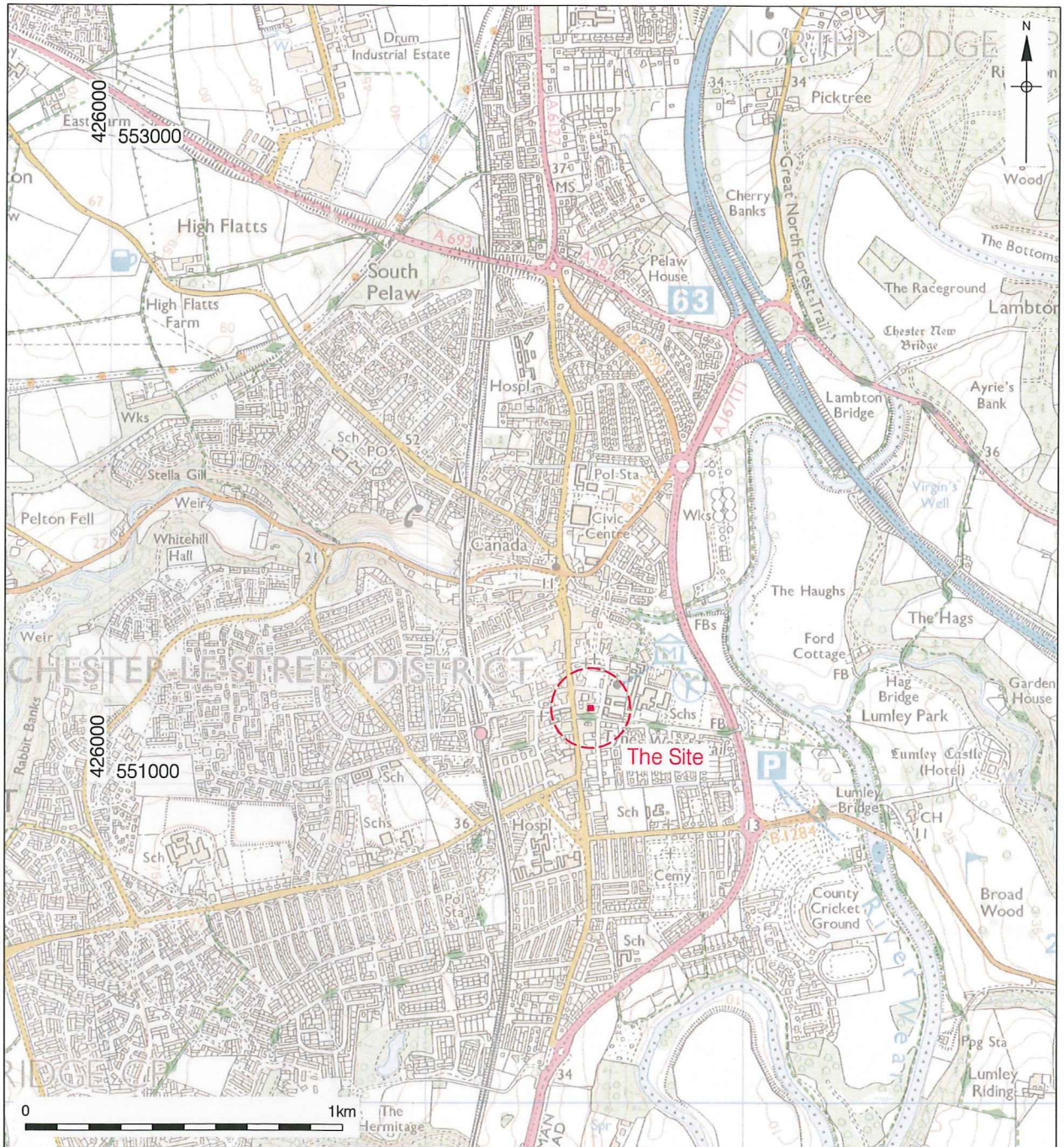
- 2.2.1 Auckland Cottage is located on the south side of a west-east aligned cul-de-sac on the west side of Church Chare midway between High Chare and Middle Chare (Figure 2). The cul-de-sac forms part of Church Chare, although the main portion of the street runs north-south, to the east of and parallel to Front Street. The site thus lies within the historic core of Chester-le-Street, c. 100m to the south-west of the Church of St. Mary and St. Cuthbert, which is now known to overlie the central part of the Roman fort of *Concangis*.

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<sup>1</sup> Durham County Council 2009.

<sup>2</sup> English Heritage 2006.

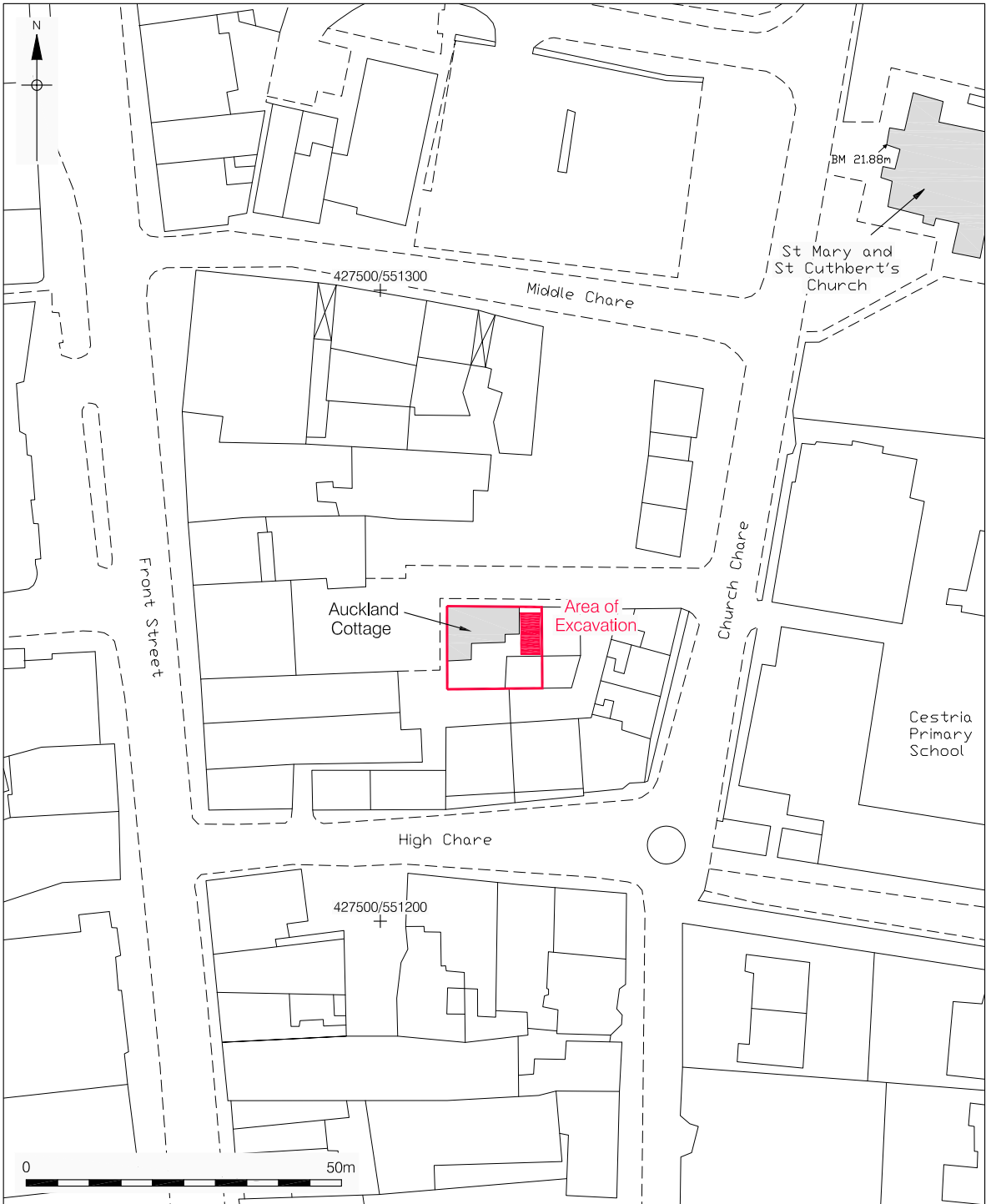




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Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4



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Figure 2  
Area of Excavation  
1:1,000 at A4

- 2.2.2 The excavation area comprised almost the entire driveway within the north-easternmost portion of the Auckland Cottage property, an area covering 19.5m<sup>2</sup> with central NGR NZ 27524 51246. It is bounded to the north by a fence within which a gate gives access to the western cul-de-sac part of Church Chare. It is bounded to the west by the gable end of Auckland Cottage and a pathway giving access to the property, to the south by a garage and shed within the property and to the east it is bounded entirely by the gable end of 18 Church Chare.
- 2.2.3 At the onset of the archaeological work the driveway had a concrete surface, with two small, previously excavated 'test-pits' along its western edge.

## 2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 The solid geology of the Chester-le-Street area comprises Carboniferous Middle Coal Measures, essentially a succession of shales and sandstones with numerous coal seams.<sup>3</sup> The predominant overlying Quaternary drift material in the Chester-le-Street area is Boulder Clay. Previous open area archaeological excavations located, like the site herein described, on the west side of Church Chare, have recorded a clay natural sub-stratum.<sup>4</sup> The lower-lying eastern margin of the town, towards the floor of the valley of the River Wear, is also notable for alluvial material.
- 2.3.2 The meandering River Wear lies c. 0.5km to the east of the site and its west-east tributary, the Cong Burn, flows c. 0.3km to the north, meeting the Wear c. 0.5km to the north-east of the site. *Concangis* Roman fort was founded on a relatively elevated (above 20m OD) plateau, overlooking the two river valleys, a classic location for Roman military base. The site herein described lies at or close to the south-western limit of the area occupied by the fort, where modern street level is at c. 22-23m OD.

## 2.4 Planning Background

- 2.4.1 In 2002, Roman period archaeological remains were exposed by utility works at Auckland Cottage. Since 2006, the Durham County Council Archaeologist, Dr. David Mason, has been monitoring minor excavation works undertaken at the property by a local archaeological enthusiast, Mr. Michael Lee. These works – undertaken with the co-operation of the property owner - have demonstrated that Roman period remains lie at relatively shallow depth below the property, while the nature of the remains has raised some intriguing archaeological questions concerning the location of the southern defences of the late Roman fort in Chester-le-Street, as discussed in greater detail in section 2.5.
- 2.4.2 In the summer of 2009, the owner of Auckland Cottage wished to replace the surface of the entire driveway forming the north-eastern portion of the property. Following discussions with Dr. Mason, the owner agreed to allow an archaeological excavation of limited depth in the driveway ahead of the construction of a new surface. The work was funded by the Archaeology Section of Durham County Council and conducted entirely for the purposes of archaeological research.

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<sup>3</sup> Mills and Holliday 1998.

<sup>4</sup> Evans *et al.* 1991; Bishop 1993. The latter describes natural geological material at the site as "yellow boulder clay".

## 2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 2.5.1 Until relatively recently, very little was known of Chester-le-Street during any of the various prehistoric eras. A few stray artefact finds of prehistoric origin are recorded in the town on the County Durham Historic Environment Record and probable evidence of ploughing recorded at Middle Chare, below the earliest phase of the Roman fort, was interpreted as representing either pre-Roman or early Romano-British agricultural activity.<sup>5</sup>
- 2.5.2 The Roman fort at Chester-le-Street is usually associated with the *Concangios* of the *Notitia Dignitatum* and was evidently garrisoned by the *Numerus Concangiensium* in the 3rd century AD and by a *Numerus Vigilum* in the 4th century. Until the modern era the fort was believed to be a cavalry fort founded c. AD 216, on the basis of an inscription referring to construction work undertaken there. However, controlled archaeological excavations in the fort area have recorded evidence for an earlier turf-and-timber fort belonging to the mid-Antonine period, with samian pottery dating indicating that foundation of this primary fort actually dates to after c. AD 175, although it is also now thought possible that a civilian Roman settlement may have existed in the area prior to this.<sup>6</sup> Numismatic - and some pottery - evidence suggests that the fort was occupied until well into the 4th century.
- 2.5.3 As previously mentioned, the fort was situated on a relatively high bluff overlooking the River Wear to the east and the Cong Burn to the north. Until now, the fort has been assumed to be c. 2.6 hectares in size, sub-square plan with rounded corners and with its long axis aligned NNE-SSW.<sup>7</sup> The Roman road known as Cade's Road ran immediately to the west of the fort and continued northwards to cross the Cong Burn. Cade's Road ran from Middleton St. George on the Tees, northwards through County Durham to Chester-le Street and then onto Newcastle, with a branch running north-eastwards to South Shields.
- 2.5.4 The fort at Chester-le-Street is the only such installation known on the main line of Cade's Road. Seven distinct areas comprise the scheduled area of *Concangis* (Scheduled Ancient Monument Number 105), all located within the central, northern and western parts of the fort footprint.<sup>8</sup> The grounds of St. Mary and St. Cuthbert's Church comprise the largest of the seven areas included within the scheduling, while Auckland Cottage lies less than 20m to the south-west of the southernmost area (Figure 3). The Middle Chare car park excavation area lies within another of the scheduled areas, while, to the north, the Parish Centre excavation area occupies the vast majority of another.

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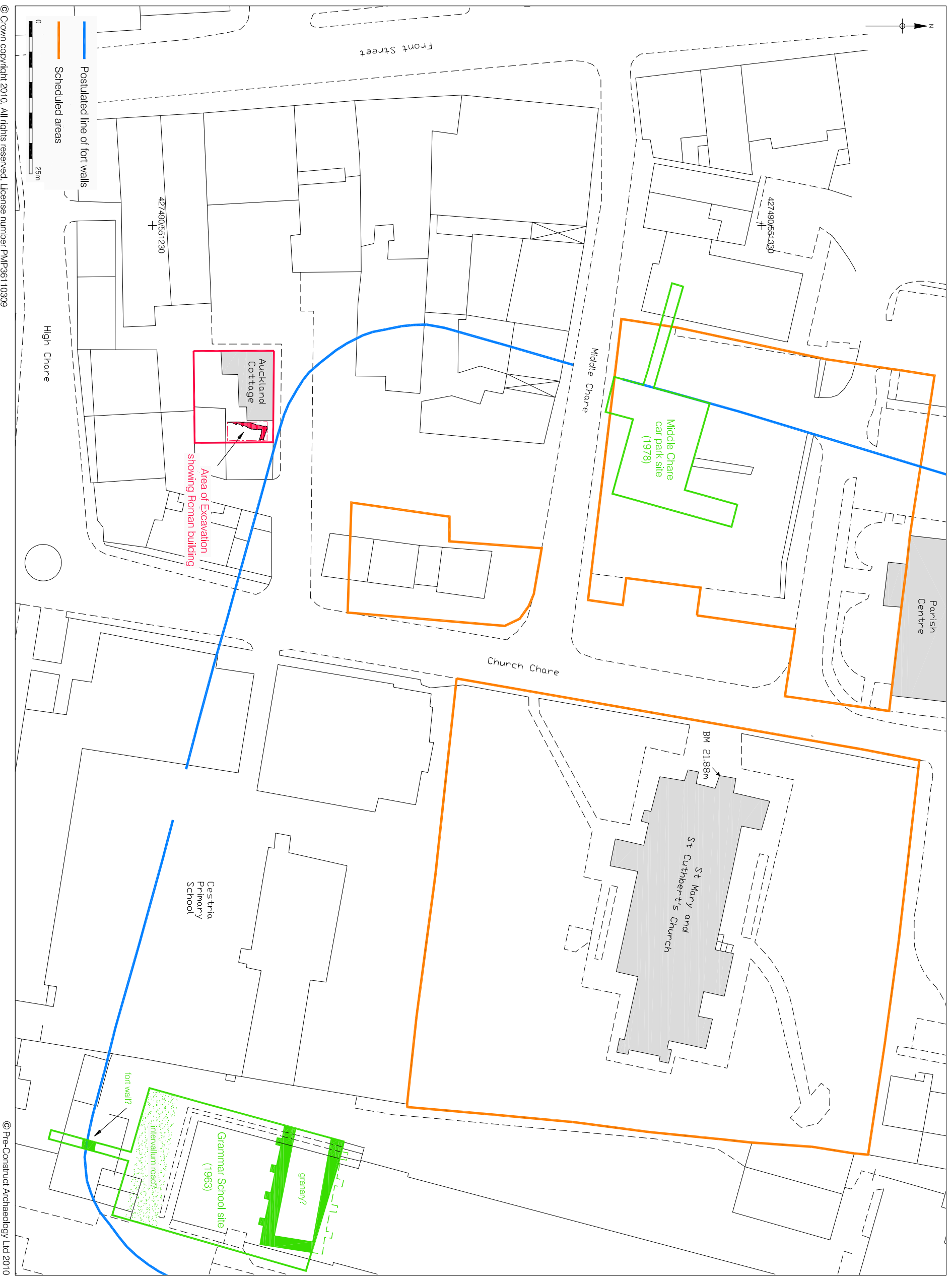
<sup>5</sup> Evans *et al.* 1991.

<sup>6</sup> Evans *et al.* 1991 details the results of a relatively large excavation undertaken in 1978 on a car park on the north side of Middle Chare, c. 65m to the north of Auckland Cottage (see Fig. 3 of this report), and also sets out the findings of work undertaken in 1979 in the grounds of what was then Chester-le-Street Grammar School (later Park View School), beyond the eastern defences of the fort. Bishop 1993 describes the results of a relatively large excavation undertaken in 1990-91 on the west side of the junction of Church Chare and Low Chare, c. 150m to the north of Auckland Cottage, ahead of re-development of the Parish Centre. Hereinafter, the two main excavations described in these papers are referred to as 'the Middle Chare car park site' and 'the Parish Centre site'. The Middle Chare car park site is recognised as providing the first controlled 'open area' archaeological excavation of any part of the fort.

<sup>7</sup> Rainbird 1971, Fig. 3; Evans *et al.* 1991, Fig. 1.

<sup>8</sup> The scheduling still refers to *Concangium*, the name by which the fort was known until opinion became divided in the modern era, when *Concangis* became more widely used.





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Figure 3  
Auckland Cottage site in relation to known and possible archaeological remains  
1:625 at A3

- 2.5.5 Numerous, mostly relatively small, archaeological interventions have been undertaken on the site of the fort and its environs, many of which have contributed important information to overall knowledge of the military complex, as well as its associated civilian settlement or *vicus*.<sup>9</sup> While relatively little of the fort interior has been examined, this body of work has established the locations of the main elements of the fort. For example, the central part of the fort, where the *principia* would have stood, is located in the area now occupied by St. Mary and St. Cuthbert's Church, c. 100m to the north-east of Auckland Cottage. In addition, evidence has accumulated in recent years for the existence of an extensive *vicus* to the east of the fort and it is now thought likely that this probably extended to the south and west of the fort, while a cemetery was located to the south.
- 2.5.6 The main findings of archaeological investigations most relevant to the Auckland Cottage site are worthy of detailed summary. Perhaps most notable amongst antiquarian work was the discovery of fragments of a building, interpreted as an extramural bath-house, exposed in 1856, c. 100m ESE of Auckland Cottage.<sup>10</sup> Various building works in the 1960s at what was then Chester-le-Street Grammar School (now Park View School) allowed numerous archaeological investigations in the eastern part of the fort. Most notably these recorded internal elements of the fort such as a probable stone granary building and a probable section of the *intervallum* road (the road which completely encircled the fort but lay within its defences), as well as recording of evidence of the defences themselves and extramural activity.<sup>11</sup>
- 2.5.7 The 1960s investigations at the Grammar School were the first to record good evidence for the eastern defences of the fort, in the form of structural remains likely representing the east wall and a guard chamber at the eastern gateway, as well as a substantial road running eastwards from the likely location of the gateway. While evidence of a possible triple-ditch outer defensive system was recorded, at no point was the full width of either the inner or central ditches exposed, although both were apparently at least 7m wide, while the outer ditch was evidently of much smaller proportions, only c. 4.0m wide, and appeared to diverge away from the other ditches. The eastern part of what was likely the central ditch was excavated in 2006 during re-development work at Park View School at a location assumed to lie to the south-east of the eastern gateway.<sup>12</sup> In this instance, the ditch was more than 1.20m deep with a flat, wide base. Within the limits of excavation, with only its eastern side revealed, running north-south, the ditch was at least c. 3.75m wide. Probable upcast material was recorded to the east of the ditch and this produced pottery of the late 2nd-early 3rd centuries. Pottery from the basal fills of the ditch indicates that silting-up began in the 2nd-3rd centuries and large quantities of well-preserved organic material were recovered from these waterlogged deposits. Natural silting of the feature probably continued into the 4th century and the upper portion of the ditch was then infilled with stone rubble, possibly demolition debris from the fort.

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<sup>9</sup> Gillam and Tait 1968 offered the first general account of antiquarian discoveries and archaeological work in the town relating to the Roman fort. Rainbird 1971 provided a useful summary of additional work, including the findings of his own trenching investigations in 1969, some of which were subsequently revisited during the work at the Parish Centre site.

<sup>10</sup> Reported in Gillam and Tait 1968, p.76.

<sup>11</sup> Summarised in Gillam and Tait 1968.

<sup>12</sup> PCA 2006.

- 2.5.8 As for the south wall of the fort, the 1960s investigations at the Grammar School recorded a truncated clay and cobble foundation to the south of the postulated granary building, at a location now occupied by an electricity sub-station, and a section of what was thought to be the *intervallum* road. The foundation was interpreted as being the probable remains of the south wall of the fort and, since then, the position and alignment of the south wall have largely been based on this evidence. On the generally accepted plan of the fort, the south wall runs immediately to the north of Auckland Cottage, just as it begins to turn into the south-western corner of the defences.<sup>13</sup> If this assumed line of the wall is correct, Auckland Cottage should lie just beyond the south wall of the fort. However, the discovery of a stone building at the site raises considerable doubt about the position of the fort wall and indicates that it must lie further south than previously thought.
- 2.5.9 The 1960s investigations at the Grammar School also recorded evidence for a group of stone buildings beyond the eastern fort defences and, immediately to the north of these, a possible extramural parade ground. The aforementioned 2006 excavation at the school located a metallised surface to the west of the central ditch and this was interpreted as possibly being part of the parade ground. In this instance, the surface had silted over with material that produced Roman pottery of 3rd century date.
- 2.5.10 The Middle Chare car park site (see Figure 3) recorded a small amount of evidence for internal buildings within the western portion of the mid-Antonine turf-and-timber fort, in the form of remains representing probably just one substantial timber structure. Sections of the western clay rampart, the *intervallum* road and an associated ditch of this period were also recorded. At this time the fort ramparts were likely surrounded by four V-shaped ditches, fragmentary traces of which survived despite the cutting of the ditches for the later fort. The late 3rd or early 4th century witnessed the construction of the stone defences to replace the clay-and-turf rampart and a complete remodelling of the extramural ditches, with three broad ditches installed. A wall foundation recorded on Middle Chare in 1933 has long been thought to represent the west wall of the fort, possibly being close to a guard chamber at the western gateway.<sup>14</sup> Successive phases of a substantial stone building, thought to be the house of the commanding officer (*praetorium*), were also recorded at the Middle Chare car park site. The latest finds within debris from the collapse of the *praetorium* were of late 4th century pottery,
- 2.5.11 The 1990-91 Parish Centre site identified remains interpreted as the western clay-and-turf rampart of the primary fort, along with what was thought to be a north-south aligned ditch to the west of the rampart. The ditch was U-shaped in profile and at least 3.0m wide and 0.85m deep. Coin and pottery evidence pointed to a date in the second half of the 2nd century for this phase of activity. The establishment of the fort at Chester-le-Street was thus thought to post-date the abandonment of the Antonine Wall and it was speculated that it was perhaps related to the construction of the fort at Newcastle, although both this and the mid-Antonine fort at South Shields were built in stone. Before construction of the secondary fort, careful attention was evidently paid to backfilling the ditch of its predecessor.

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<sup>13</sup> Rainbird 1971, Fig. 3.

<sup>14</sup> Reported in Gillam and Tait 1968, p.82.

- 2.5.12 The Parish Centre excavation recorded a multi-phased barrack block in the north-western corner of the fort and the excavator raised the possibility that the previously referred to inscription perhaps referred to the construction of stone buildings within the turf-and-timber defences of the primary fort. A precise date for the construction of the secondary fort was certainly not confirmed by the findings at the Parish Centre site, although occupation during the second half of the 3rd century was strongly indicated by archaeomagnetic dating, as well as pottery and coin evidence. The barrack block initially had stone officer's quarters and timber accommodation for the men, and what was likely the *intervallum* road was recorded to the north. Later modifications included partial rebuilding and various alterations of internal arrangements before possibility deliberate demolition in the late Roman period. Coin evidence suggested occupation until the middle of the 4th century.
- 2.5.13 When the body of St. Cuthbert was brought to Chester-le-Street by the monks of Lindisfarne in the late 9th century, settlement in the town is believed to have been concentrated on the site of St. Mary and St. Cuthbert's Church, in the central part of the Roman fort. The original church may have been constructed in wood, but it was certainly re-built in stone in the mid 11th century and has been much altered since, including another rebuild in stone in 1262, and a large spire added c. 1400. The church contains the remains of many stone effigies of members of the nobility from the surrounding area. Substantial parts of the existing fabric are of medieval date. As well as religious buildings, there were other developments in medieval Chester-le-Street, for example, a large stone bridge was built over the Wear in 1528.
- 2.5.14 In the post-medieval period Chester-le-Street remained an important regional market town, but it also increasingly became an industrial centre, particularly for coal mining. There were several industries based within the town, including an engineering works, brickworks, foundries and a jam factory.
- 2.5.15 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map from the 1850s shows development in the town largely concentrated along either side of Front Street, which probably follows the line of Cade's Road. At this date the Auckland Cottage site is depicted as undeveloped, probably within a garden area to the rear of the Front Street frontage properties. However, the overall land parcel defined by Front Street to the west, Church Chare to the east, Middle Chare to the north and High Chare to the south is clearly depicted, with a row of buildings fronting onto Church Chare to the east of the possible garden. On the 2nd edition in the 1890s the site is still undeveloped, but the 3rd edition of c. 1920 depicts the dwelling at Auckland Cottage, along with the adjacent property to the east.



### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 In broad terms the aims of the archaeological excavation were:

- to expose, clean, record and, as appropriate, excavate and sample, then interpret any archaeological remains below the driveway of Auckland Cottage.
- to locate, recover, identify and, as appropriate, conserve any archaeological artefacts and palaeoenvironmental remains encountered during the excavation;
- to prepare a report summarising the results of the work.
- to prepare and deposit a suitable archive with an appropriate repository.

3.2 The overarching research objective of the work was to record archaeological evidence of Roman occupation at the site. *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (NERRF)<sup>15</sup> identifies a number of key research priorities for the Roman period, including 'Riii. The Roman military presence', which highlights a need to expand existing knowledge of the interior of forts to the south of Hadrian's Wall and implicit in this line of research is the need to provide further evidence for the locations of fort defences.

3.3 The aforementioned exploratory work of Mr. Lee exposed what appeared to be the west wall of a Roman building running NNE-SSW just beyond the eastern gable end of Auckland Cottage, along with the remains of its internal stone floor, these remains at a depth of c. 0.60m below the existing driveway surface. The assumed line of the south wall of the later (Severan onwards) fort, largely based on the observation of a truncated structural foundation made during building works in the 1960s, c. 120m to the east of Auckland Cottage, runs immediately to the north of Auckland Cottage, with the wall beginning to turn to the north to form the south-western corner of the defences (Figure 3). Thus the location of the building encountered by Mr. Lee suggested that this interpretation is erroneous, in that the building lies to the south of the assumed line of the southern defences. The work of Mr. Lee also indicated that the building appeared to overlie an earlier feature, possibly on a similar alignment, of considerable size and depth. It was speculated that this could be the continuation of a ditch thought to belong to the western defences of the early (mid-Antonine) fort, as recorded at the Parish Centre site in the 1990s.

3.4 The specific objectives of the archaeological excavation were thus:

- to excavate to a depth sufficient to expose the full extent of the west wall of the Roman building and any surviving associated flooring to the maximum extent possible within the confines of the driveway;
- to define whether there was an eastwards return/partition wall at the north end of the driveway;
- to obtain material for the dating of the construction of the building through limited excavation in the vicinity of the wall and below the level of the associated flooring;
- if practicable, to further investigate the deep feature underlying the wall.

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<sup>15</sup> Petts and Gerrard 2006.

## 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The archaeological fieldwork at Auckland Cottage was undertaken in accordance with the relevant standard and guidance document<sup>16</sup> of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). PCA is an 'IfA-Registered Organisation'. The Specification provided by the DCAS was also followed.
- 4.1.2 The excavation area was rectangular in shape measuring c. 6.5m north-south by c. 3.0m west-east, with a total area of c. 19.5m<sup>2</sup>. It comprised the practically the entire area of the existing driveway in the north-eastern portion of the property, bounded to the west and east by the gable ends of Auckland Cottage and 18 Church Chare, respectively.
- 4.1.3 The existing concrete surface of the driveway was broken out with an electric power tool at the onset of the fieldwork. All broken concrete was removed from site. All subsequent excavation was by hand, with deposits removed in stratigraphic order. Excavated material was stored in a garden area to the south-west and the aforementioned garage.
- 4.1.4 Excavation continued down to the level of Roman period stone walls and an associated internal stone floor surface, substantial remains which covered much of the excavation area. At the south-western corner of the excavation area an exploratory sondage previously excavated by Mr. Lee was enlarged slightly (becoming 'the southern sondage') and in an attempt to recover dating evidence, collect a bulk soil sample and to facilitate recording of the underlying strata. Deposits external to the walls in the north-western corner of the excavation area and adjacent to the northern limit of excavation were excavated in sequence as far down as was safe to continue. Another exploratory sondage previously excavated by Mr. Lee was incorporated into the excavated area ('the northern sondage') in the north-western corner of the excavation area. No further excavation was undertaken and all remaining archaeological deposits, including the structural remains, were left unexcavated *in situ*.
- 4.1.5 At the conclusion of the archaeological recording, the excavation area was backfilled with the excavated material, petrol-driven mechanical compaction being undertaken throughout the backfilling. A new driveway with adequate sub-base was to be constructed at the conclusion of the archaeological work, although this did not form part of the archaeological project.
- 4.1.6 Archaeological excavation and recording was undertaken in accordance with recognised archaeological practice and following the methodologies set out in PCA documentation.<sup>17</sup> Excavated features, structures and deposits were recorded in plan at a scale of 1:20 relative to a survey baseline established within the excavation area. Excavated features, structures and deposits were recorded in section and drawn at a scale of 1:10. The survey baseline was located relative to the Ordnance Survey grid.

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<sup>16</sup> IFA 2001.

<sup>17</sup> PCA 2009.

- 4.1.7 Archaeological remains were recorded using a 'single context planning' system. All features, structures and deposits were cleaned with hand tools to facilitate characterisation and recording and, where appropriate, excavation. All discrete features, such as pits and postholes were initially subject to 50% excavation and recording in section before being fully excavated for artefact recovery. All features and deposits were recorded using the PCA *pro forma* 'Context Recording Sheet', while structures were recorded using the PCA *pro forma* 'Masonry Recording Sheet'.
- 4.1.8 A detailed photographic record of the investigations was compiled using SLR cameras. This comprised black and white prints and colour transparencies (on 35mm film), illustrating the principal features, structures and deposits in detail and in general context. All photographs of this nature included a clearly visible graduated metric scale. Digital photography was used to supplement the photographic record.
- 4.1.9 A Temporary Bench Mark (TBM) was established on site using a Bench Mark (value 21.88m OD) located on St. Mary and St. Cuthbert's Church on Church Chare. The TBM was located on a surviving edge of the concrete driveway at the southern end of the excavation area; it had a value of 22.43m OD. Levels were taken on all archaeological remains, with heights recorded on the appropriate paperwork.

## **4.2 Post-excavation**

- 4.2.1 This Assessment Report enumerates the different kinds of evidence (stratigraphic, artefactual and palaeoenvironmental) from the site and sets out a formal assessment of the collected data.
- 4.2.2 The stratigraphic data from the site is represented by the written, drawn and photographic records. Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts, constructing a matrix, consulting the results of external specialist work and phasing the stratigraphic data. A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described below in Section 5. The contents of the written, graphic and photographic archive are quantified in Section 6.
- 4.2.3 Assemblages of ceramic material, including pottery and tile, were recovered, along with 'small finds', comprising iron, copper, stone and ceramic objects. All processing of artefacts was undertaken away from the site and all artefacts were treated in an appropriate manner and were cleaned, marked, conserved, bagged, packaged, boxed and stored, as appropriate and in accordance with recognised guidelines.<sup>18</sup> Assessment of artefactual material was undertaken by suitably qualified personnel. All materials that required stabilisation were transferred to a specialist conservation facility as soon as possible. The conservation of vulnerable materials commenced with an initial assessment of all recovered artefacts and X-radiography of the metal objects. Quality of preservation was assessed and the long-term conservation and storage needs of all excavated material identified. For each category of artefact an assessment report has been produced, including a basic quantification of the material.

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<sup>18</sup> UKIC 1983; Watkinson and Neal 2001.

- 4.2.4 The palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy was to recover bulk soil samples from suitable, well-dated archaeological deposits. To this end, three bulk samples collected during the fieldwork were sent to a specialist facility for processing and assessment of their potential for survival of biological remains. Other biological material from the site comprised an assemblage of faunal remains hand collected during the excavation. This material was also treated in an appropriate manner with the bones being cleaned, bagged, packaged and boxed, as appropriate and in accordance with recognised guidelines, prior to being sent to the same specialist facility as the bulk soil samples.
- 4.2.5 Survival of all materials recovered during or generated by archaeological projects depends upon suitable storage. The complete Site Archive, comprising written, drawn and photographic records (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation) and all recovered materials will be packaged for long term curation according to relevant guidelines.<sup>19</sup> An acceptable standard for archives generated by archaeological projects is defined in MoRPHE.<sup>20</sup> The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, and internally consistent. The depositional requirements of the receiving body, in this case the County Durham Archaeological Archive, Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle, County Durham, will be met in full.

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<sup>19</sup> UKIC 1990.

<sup>20</sup> English Heritage *op. cit.*

## 5. PHASED SUMMARY OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

### 5.1 Phase 1: Undated

5.1.1 The basal deposit, [41], exposed in the exploratory sondage in the south-western corner of the excavation area was recorded at a maximum height of 21.38m OD (Figure 4 and Sections 1 and 2, Figure 8). It comprised firm mid bluish grey clay, mottled with mid orange and mid brown, and appeared to be a generally sterile deposit with no obvious inclusions. However, as the deposit was merely exposed in plan within the sondage and not excavated, any interpretation must remain uncertain. It may have been the fill of a feature or a clay layer, perhaps an alluvial deposit and it may have been of Roman or earlier origin.

### 5.2 Phase 2: Roman (3rd Century?)

5.2.1 In the south-western exploratory sondage, clay layer [41] was overlain by a layer, [39], comprising firm mid bluish/greyish brown silty sand, mottled with distinct dark reddish brown sand, and with moderate small and medium, and very occasional large, sub-angular and sub-rounded stones throughout. This deposit attained its maximum thickness of 0.25m at the northern end of the sondage but became thinner as it sloped upwards towards the southern limit of excavation, where it attained its maximum recorded height of 21.62m OD (Sections 1 and 2, Figure 8).

5.2.2 Only a very small portion of deposit [39] was excavated, this when the southern sondage was slightly enlarged, and this yielded a single rim sherd of pottery from a BB2 bowl or dish, of 3rd century date. Precise interpretation of the deposit is again problematic given the limited degree of exposure. Once more, it may have been the fill of a feature or a dumped layer, possibly a ground levelling and consolidation deposit ahead of construction of the building described in Phase 3a.

5.2.3 At the base of the northern sondage, a small area of cobbles, [31] was recorded at a maximum height of 21.68m OD (Figure 4 and Section 3, Figure 8). The cobbles were mostly sub-rounded and varied in size, up to a maximum of c. 120mm by c. 80mm. The cobbled area extended c. 0.90m north-south, meeting the limit of excavation to the south and petering out to the north, by c. 0.50m west-east, meeting the limit of excavation to the west and possibly abutting a clay foundation, [45] to the east, although this relationship could not be clarified definitively within the limits of the excavation (Section 3, Figure 8).

5.2.4 The cobbled area appeared to be the remains of a deliberately laid surface, possibly part of a roadway from a largely unseen phase of occupation. If this was a roadway, it could potentially be the *intervallum* road within the defences of the fort, although far too little was exposed to be able to conclude this with any degree of certainty. The cobbles have been assigned to Phase 2 on the basis that they probably predate the structural remains of Phase 3a.

### 5.3 Phase 3: Roman (Late 3rd Century+)

#### *Phase 3a*

- 5.3.1 In the west- and south-facing sections of the southern sondage, layer [39] was overlain by a distinctive layer, [43], comprising compact mid brownish pink clay, up to 0.12m thick and recorded at a maximum height of 21.67m OD (Sections 1 and 2, Figure 8 and Plate 4). This material, into which occasional medium and large sub-rounded cobbles had been incorporated, provided the bedding layer for a stone wall, [42]. This structure was exposed for a length of c. 5.70m running in a NNE direction towards the northern limit of excavation (Figure 5, Plates 4, 6 and 7). Bedding deposit [43] was also observed on the western side of the wall in the northern sondage, where it may have abutted cobbled surface [31], as previously described (Section 3, Figure 8).
- 5.3.2 At its northern end, wall [42] turned at right angles to continue on an ESE alignment, as wall [38], for a length of c. 1.70m, meeting the eastern limit of excavation (Figure 5 and Plate 3). Wall [38] had been bedded down onto a pink clayey deposit, [45], identical to deposit [43] (Plate 3). At the external north-western angle of walls [42] and [38], all three courses of masonry had been removed to expose the clay bedding, [45]/[43], which extended to the northern limit of excavation (Figure 8, Section 4).
- 5.3.3 Walls [42] and [38] were faced with squared sandstone rubble, with a core of smaller rubble and sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles. The overall bonding material comprised firm light brownish yellow sandy clay. The facing blocks ranged in size from 160mm x 120mm x 100mm to 480mm x 210mm x 220mm. Three courses of both walls survived, with the two lowermost courses being 'stepped out' footing courses. Wall [42] was up to 0.90m wide, with the footing courses observed in the southern sondage stepping out on its internal, eastern side, each for a further c. 0.10m, and it survived for an overall height of c. 0.50m. Wall [38] was a less substantial element, with a maximum width of 0.65m, with the footing courses seen stepping out along its north side, each for a further c. 50mm, and it survived for a height of 0.40m. The maximum height recorded on both walls was 22.08m OD.
- 5.3.4 External to the angle of walls [42] and [38] was a deposit, [28]/[44], comprising soft dark greyish brown silty sand, up to c. 0.25m thick and recorded at a maximum height of 21.91m OD. The material had evidently been laid down against the footings following construction (Section 4, Figure 8) and may in fact have been a fill of the construction cut for the wall itself, although this could not be confirmed within the limits of excavation. Deposit [28] produced pottery dating from AD 270+, while the portion excavated as deposit [44] produced at least one sherd from a painted Crambeck parchment ware mortarium from the late 4th century AD or later; this later material is considered likely to have been introduced intrusively.

- 5.3.5 Deposit [28]/[44] was overlain by a deposit, [27]/[36], comprising soft, mid brownish grey silty clay with frequent flecks of coal and degraded sandstone. It had a maximum thickness of 0.22m and was recorded at a maximum height of 22.03m. This material was also confined to the area external to the angle of the masonry walls, meeting the limit of excavation to the west, east and north (Sections 3 and 4, Figure 8). This also may have been a fill of the construction cut for the walls, although again this is uncertain. The portion excavated as deposit [27] yielded a few sherds of pottery giving a date of AD 225+ while the portion excavated as deposit [36] yielded only a single sherd of samian ware, presumably residual in context.
- 5.3.6 In the south-facing section of the southern sondage, a layer, [40], was recorded, abutting the footing of wall [42], on its eastern, internal, side (Section 1, Figure 8). It consisted of firm, dark greyish brown silty sandy grit, with a large flat sub-angular boulder evidently within the deposit in the aforementioned section. The deposit had a maximum thickness of c. 0.15m and was recorded at a maximum height of 21.70m OD. The preferred interpretation of this material is that it was laid down following construction of wall [42], given that it appeared to have been dumped against its footing. Layer [40] was overlain by a substantial mixed dump layer, [37], mostly comprising pockets of soft light greyish yellow clay and soft mid orange brown sandy ash/silt. Throughout were occasional medium and large sub-rounded and sub-angular stones, as well as flecks of coal and charcoal. This deposit had a maximum thickness of c. 0.25m and was recorded at a maximum height of 22.01m OD. It is interpreted as a ground-raising and levelling dump, internal to the building represented by walls [42] and [38], imported ahead of construction of stone floor surface, [35], as described below.
- 5.3.7 Stone floor surface, [35], overlying dump layer [37], abutted walls [38] and [42] to the north and west, respectively, while to the south it petered out overlying layer [37] (Figure 5). The floor was thus exposed across an area measuring c. 3.90m north-south by c. 2.0m west-east, meeting the limit of excavation to the east (Figure 5 and Plates 5, 6 and 8). The surface was cleaned and recorded but retained *in situ*. It comprised squared or coursed sandstone rubble, with the individual stones ranging in size from 80mm x 50mm, up to 350mm x 300mm in size. Very occasional sub-rounded cobbles were also recorded within the surface. There was no obvious bonding material. The surface was recorded at a maximum height of 22.11m OD at the internal angle of the associated walls, while towards the south-eastern corner of the area exposed, it stood at a somewhat lower height of 21.82m OD.

### **Phase 3b**

- 5.3.8 To the south, stone surface [35] was overlain by a spread, [34], of soft dark brown sandy silt, with moderate lenses of dark orange sand and occasional fine and medium sub-rounded stones and small coal fragments throughout. This deposit measured c. 2.90m north-south and c. 2.20m west-east, petering out to the north and west, overlain by another stone surface, [33], (which was retained *in situ*) to the south and meeting the limit of excavation to the east (Figure 6). It had a maximum thickness of 0.15m and was recorded at a maximum height of 22.02m OD. The northernmost portion of the deposit was excavated, in order to fully expose surface [35] and this yielded three sherds of pottery, three fragments of building material and some animal bone fragments; the pottery indicates a date of deposition after c. AD 270.

- 5.3.9 Deposit [34] perhaps most likely represents an occupation deposit that accumulated on the lower lying southern portion of surface [35], possibly following disturbance or removal of the surface in that area. Alternatively, it could have been deliberately dumped as a levelling deposit, as part of an act of repair, ahead of the laying down of stone surface, [33], as described below.
- 5.3.10 At the southern end of the excavation area, layer [34] was overlain by stone floor surface, [33], which was exposed across an area measuring c. 2.20m west-east by c. 1.0m north-south, meeting the limit of excavation to the south and east and petering out to the north and west (Figure 6). This surface was constructed in similar fashion to surface [35], with the stones ranging in size from 100mm x 110mm x 45mm to 540mm x 300mm x 120mm. Again, no bonding material was observed. The surface was recorded at a maximum height of 21.95m OD. It is concluded that this surface represents an internal floor repair, in the area where the earlier surface, [35], had not survived.

#### **5.4 Phase 4: Late/Post-Roman**

- 5.4.1 Much of the internal area bounded by walls [38] and [42] was covered with an extensive spread, [30], of masonry rubble – the majority worked sandstone - in a matrix of dark greyish brown sandy silt (Plate 2). This rubble covered an area measuring c. 4.0m north-south by c. 2.10m west-east and was recorded at a maximum height of 22.12m OD. This spread is believed to be the result of collapse or demolition of the building represented by the aforementioned walls and it yielded artefactual material including pottery, ceramic building material, iron objects and slag, as well as animal bone. Towards the north-eastern corner of the excavation area, a small area of masonry rubble, [32], was recorded; this is likely to be contemporary with spread [30], presumably deriving from the same collapse or demolition event. This was recorded at a maximum height of 22.01m OD.
- 5.4.2 Rubble spread [30] was overlain to the south by an extensive layer, [20], comprising soft mid brown clayey silt, mottled with patches of orange sand. Moderate sandstone fragments were noted within this deposit, this likely derived from the underlying rubble, as well as occasional small fragments of coal. Layer [20] was measured c. 5.0m north-south by c. 3.0m west-east, meeting the limit of excavation to the east, west and south and petering out to the north, over rubble spread [30]. In the south-western corner of the excavation area, layer [20] partly overlay wall [42]. Its maximum thickness was 0.17m and it was recorded at a maximum height of 22.08m OD. This deposit yielded 50 sherds of pottery, several fragments of ceramic building material and numerous animal bone fragments. The pottery indicated a date of deposition after c. AD 270. This layer is interpreted as a developed soil, with much material from the underlying Roman structures and deposits incorporated, and it is considered to be broadly of post-Roman date, but of otherwise indefinite period of origin.



## 5.5 Phase 5: Early Modern/Modern

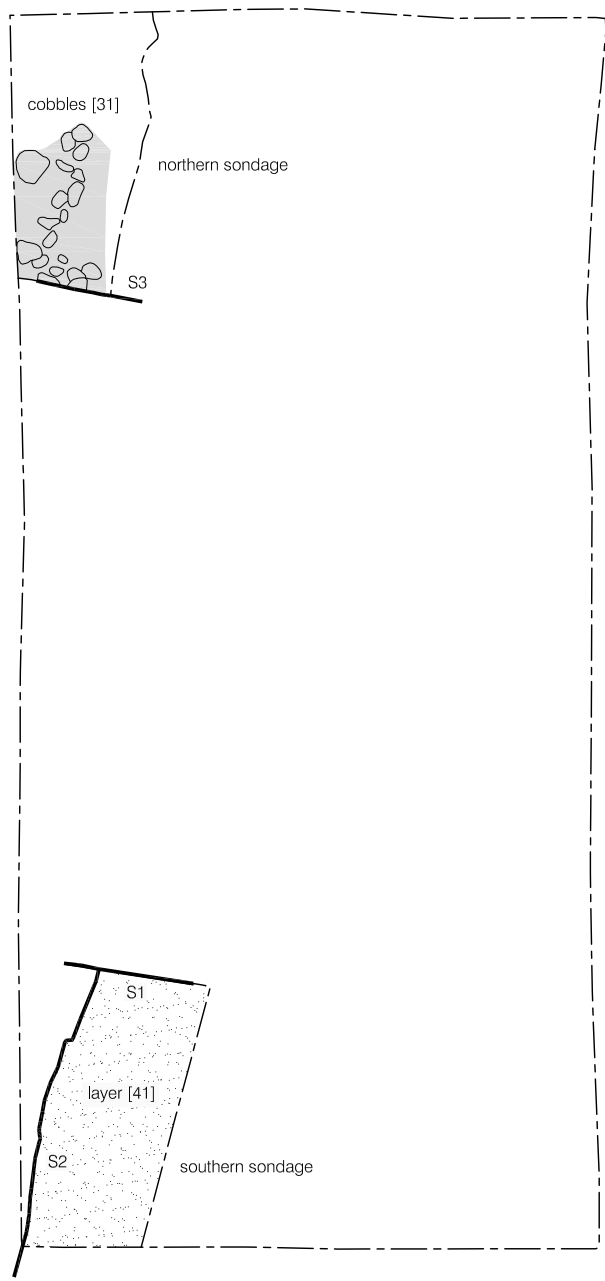
### *Phase 5a*



- 5.5.1 Underlying the make-up for the modern driveway surface was a layer, [4], comprising compact dark greyish brown silty clay with occasional fine and medium sub-angular and sub-rounded stones throughout, was recorded across the entire excavation area (Sections 2 and 4, Figure 8). On average the deposit was 0.18m thick and it was recorded at a maximum height of 22.18m OD.
- 5.5.2 Layer [4] produced a variety of artefactual material, including pottery, glass and metal, giving a broad 19th/early 20th century date of deposition. This deposit is interpreted as a developed soil of post-medieval or earlier origin, reworked through time and likely disturbed during 19th/early 20th century development of this part of the town.
- 5.5.3 Several features were recorded cutting into layer [4] (Figure 7). Close to the southern limit of excavation, was a circular post-pit, [19], 0.55m in diameter and 0.34m deep. It had straight, near vertical sides and a flat base and contained a single silty fill, [17], containing several 'packing' stones of various size. The impression of the timber post that had been housed within the pit took the form of an oval shaped void, posthole [18], located in the western part of feature. Angled slightly to the west, it contained some loose black grit, [16], which had likely worked its way down from an overlying layer, [2], as described below, after the post was removed. The posthole measured 0.12m by 80mm and was 0.29m deep.
- 5.5.4 A second post-pit, [15], recorded c. 3.60m directly north of post-pit [19], was of similar form (Figure 7). It measured 0.73m by 0.62m and was 0.65m deep. Its single silty fill, [13], again contained 'packing' stones. The posthole, [14], also sited in the western part of the feature, was again an oval void containing some loose black grit, [12]. This posthole was near vertical and measured 0.24m by 0.20m and was 0.65m deep. Post-pits [19] and [15] are assumed to be contemporary, presumably representing a former fence line, of 19th century or later date.
- 5.5.5 An irregular possible post-pit, [11], was recorded in the north-western part of the excavation area (Figure 7 and Section 4, Figure 8). It measured c. 1.0m north-south, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the north, by up to 0.78m west-east and was up to 0.38m deep. The pit had sloping sides, a concave base and contained a single clayey fill, [10], with flecks of coal and degraded sandstone throughout. A possibly associated posthole, [9], was recorded adjacent to the northern limit of excavation and this measured 0.21m west-east by 0.17m deep. It was filled with loose black sandy grit, [8]. Also of likely 19th century or later date, this feature may have been contemporary with the two post-pits/postholes described above, but this is not certain.

- 5.5.6 The western gable wall of the adjacent property formed the eastern limit of excavation. Some of the 'trench-built' footing for this wall extended westwards into the excavation area. It took the form of a discontinuous line of coursed sandstone rubble, [26], no more than c. 0.30m wide, in a narrow construction cut, [26] (Figure 7). This 'stepped out' portion measured c. 4.90m north-south, truncated to the north, and was recorded at a maximum height of 22.12m OD. Two courses of the footing were seen down to the maximum depth of excavation. To the north, a later service trench running alongside the footing had removed the upper part of the construction cut. It is possible that the masonry used for the footing was re-used material from the underlying Roman building,
- 5.5.7 The aforementioned service trench, [7], housed a redundant iron gas pipe, [6]. This entered the excavation area close to its north-eastern corner (Section 4, Figure 4) and ran c. 4.50m southwards, parallel to the eastern limit of excavation, with a short branch running to the east, this clearly cut through the 'stepped-out' portion of the footing, [21], of the adjacent building (Figure 7 and Plate 2). At its southern end, the trench and its pipe turned to the west, crossing the excavation area and then continued into the western limit of excavation. The service trench was generally c. 0.40m wide and c. 0.30m deep with a silty backfill, [5].

#### ***Phase 5b***

- 5.5.8 Two concrete post footings were recorded adjacent to and within the northern limit of excavation (Section 4, Figure 8, but not shown on Figure 7). To the west was post footing [24], filled with concrete, [23]. It was 0.44m wide, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the west, 0.56m deep and was recorded at a maximum height of 22.25m OD. To the east was post footing [25], filled with concrete, [22]. This was 0.48m wide, continuing beyond the limit of excavation to the east, and 0.40m deep and was recorded at a maximum height of 22.21m OD. The purpose of these features was to provide support for the existing gate at the northern end of the driveway.
- 5.5.9 The uppermost strata were related to the existing surface treatment of the driveway, all of which were removed at the onset of the investigation. In general, reworked developed soil [4] was overlain by a layer, [3], of crushed brick and tile rubble (Figure 8, Section 4). This had an average thickness of 0.10m and was recorded at a maximum height of 22.29m OD. It was overlain and surrounded by a layer, [2], of very loose black sandy grit. This is interpreted as being a levelling layer, stratigraphically later than rubble layer [3]. It was the same material which had worked its way down into postholes [8], [12], and [16], suggesting that the posts were removed from these features immediately prior to construction of the driveway, thereby allowing the levelling material to enter the post voids.
- 5.5.10 The concrete driveway surface, [1], had a maximum thickness of 100mm and was recorded at a maximum height of 22.43m OD.



-  Phase 1
-  Phase 2



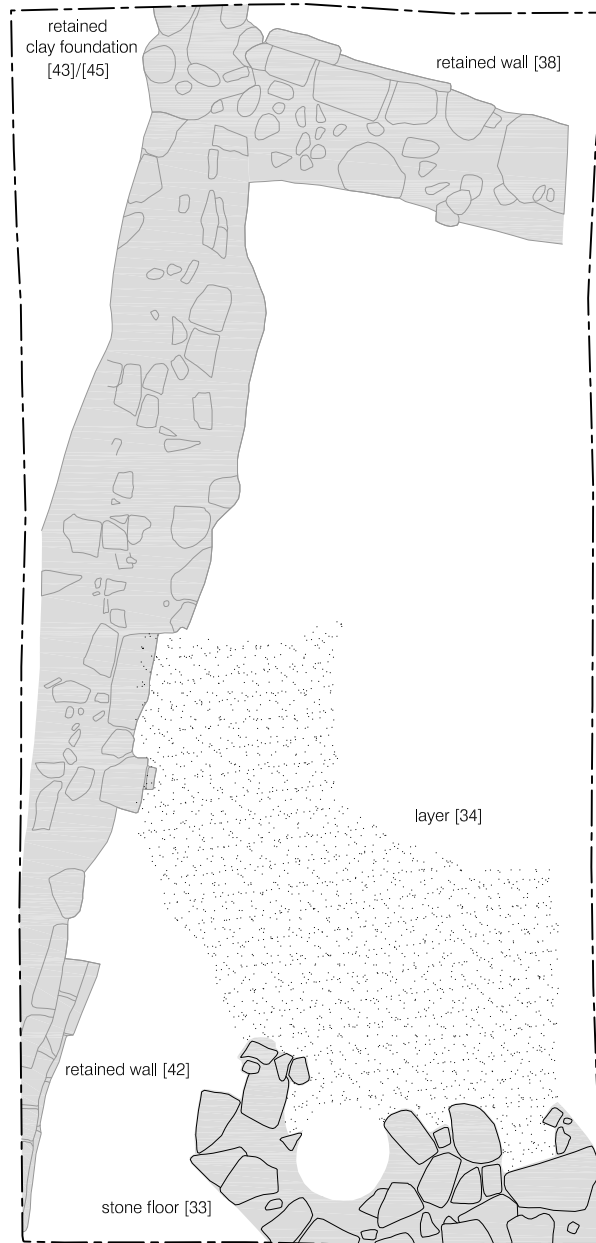
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Figure 4  
Phases 1 & 2  
1:40 at A4



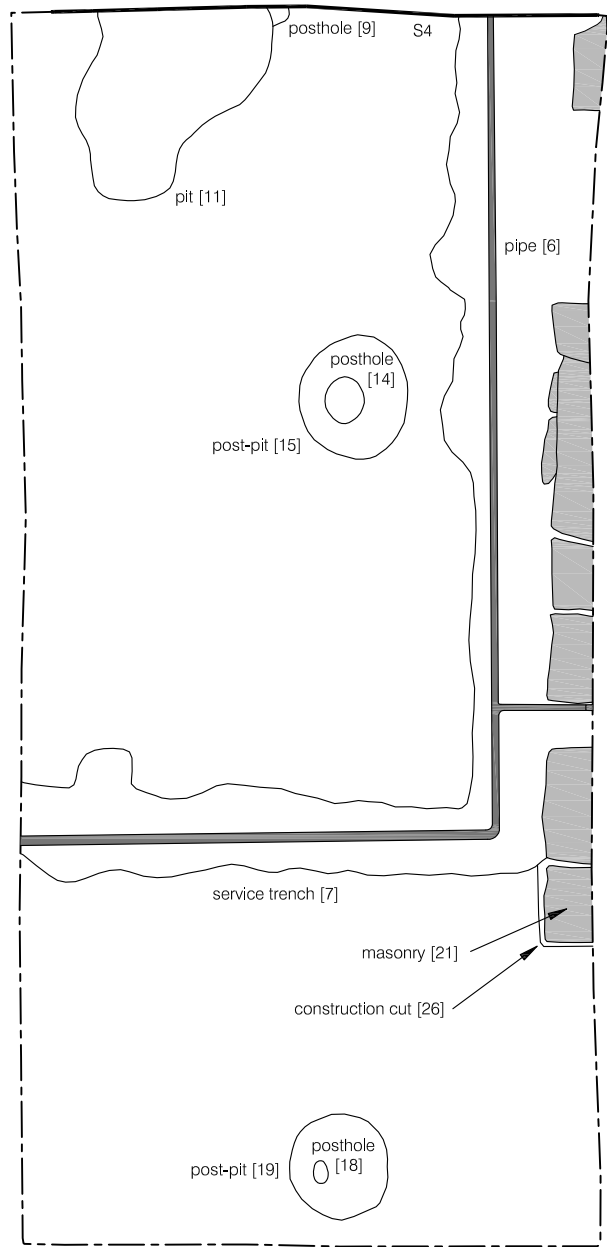
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Figure 5  
Phase 3a  
1:40 at A4



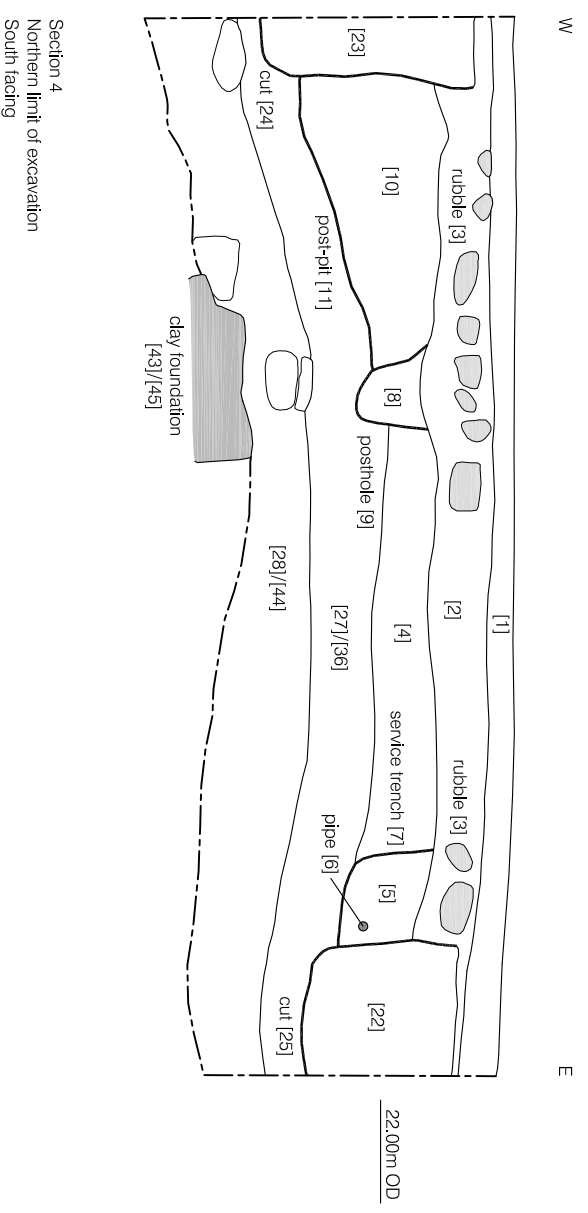
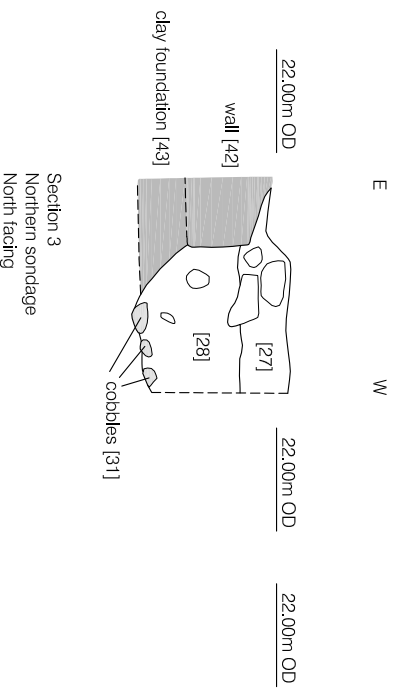
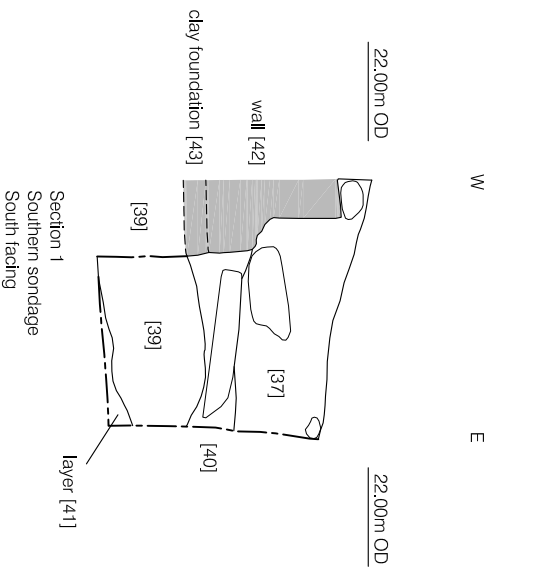
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Figure 6  
Phase 3b  
1:40 at A4



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Figure 7  
Phase 5  
1:40 at A4



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Figure 8  
Sections 1 - 4  
1:20 at A4

## ***PART B: DATA ASSESSMENT***



## 6. STRATIGRAPHIC DATA

### 6.1 Paper Records

6.1.1 The contents of the paper archive are set out in Table 6.1, as follows:

<i>Item</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Sheets</i>
Context register	1	2
Context sheets	44	44
Section register	1	1
Section drawings	10	9
Plans	16	16
Bulk sample register	1	1
Bulk sample sheets	5	5
Small finds register	1	1

*Table 6.1: Paper archive contents*

### 6.2 Photographic Records

6.2.1 The contents of the photographic archive are set out in Table 6.2, as follows:

<i>Item</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Sheets</i>
Colour slide register	1	1
Colour slides	34	2
Monochrome print register	1	1
Monochrome prints	30	4
Monochrome negatives	30	1

*Table 6.2: Photographic archive contents*

### 6.3 Paper and Photographic Archive

6.3.1 The paper and photographic elements of the Site Archive (Site Code: ACL 09) is currently housed at the Northern Office of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited. The complete Site Archive will eventually be deposited with the County Durham Archaeological Archive, Bowes Museum for permanent storage and the detailed requirements of the repository will be met prior to deposition.

## **7. ROMAN POTTERY**

*By: Alex Croom*

### **7.1 Introduction**

7.1.1 The excavation produced 117 sherds of Roman pottery weighing 2.596kg. Of this, 42 sherds (1.183kg) came from eight different Roman period contexts, with the remainder from post-Roman deposits or unstratified material.

### **7.2 Summary**

7.2.1 The Roman pottery assemblage consists mainly of sherds from coarse ware cooking pots or jars, with one sherd of amphora, eight sherds of mortaria, 14 sherds of samian and three sherds of fine wares.

7.2.2 Much of the material dated to the late 3rd or 4th centuries.

### **7.3 The Pottery**

#### ***Samian***

7.3.1 There were at least three Dr 45 mortaria. This is a high number for such a small assemblage, but the assemblage as a whole is too small for it to be regarded as significant.

7.3.2 There is a single stamp from a cup, in good condition.

#### ***Mortaria***

7.3.3 Excluding the three samian mortaria, there are sherds from four other mortaria. These consist of a base sherd from a 2nd century locally produced mortarium, and two rims and a base sherd from Crambeck mortaria.

#### ***Amphorae***

7.3.4 There is a single sherd from an oil-carrying Dressel [20], the most common type of amphora found on Romano-British sites.

#### ***Fine and coarse wares***

7.3.5 There are sherds from two Nene Valley colour coated beakers, and the base of a Trier black-slipped ware beaker.

7.3.6 Roman period contexts yielded a small quantity of 3rd century BB1, BB2 and South Essex/North Kent bowls and cooking pots, mainly found in association with later material. More common were Crambeck reduced ware vessels of the 3rd century or later. Most were of flanged bowls, but there were also sherds from a beaker and a counter-sunk lug-handled jar. Context [44], a dump deposit against wall [42], yielded a painted Crambeck wall-sided mortarium, of c. 370+.

7.3.7 Post-Roman deposits or unstratified material included a number of vessels of interest, including a Crambeck parchment vessel and a Huntcliff-type rim calcite-gritted ware jar of c. 360+.

## 7.4 Discussion

- 7.4.1 The assemblage is made up of material typical for the region. There is some material from the 2nd and 3rd centuries, but the pottery as a whole dates most of the excavated features to the late 3rd century or later, while context [44] appears to date to the late 4th century or later. Although small, the group does include some vessel forms not previously recorded from Chester-le-Street that are worthy of note. All are very late in date and suggest a flourishing trade for a wide range of pottery continued during the very late 4th century at the fort.
- 7.4.2 The samian stamp is one not yet recorded from Chester-le-Street and will provide further information on the samian supply to the fort and settlement in the early period. The foundation of the primary fort is thought to be mid-Antonine in date and a study of the whole samian assemblage would be useful to see if it offers any further support for this dating.

## 7.5 Recommendations

### *Archive Report*

- 7.5.1 An archive report was created as part of the assessment, following SGRP guidelines.<sup>21</sup> For 'spot dating' of all contexts and of the unstratified Roman material, see Table 7.1 below.

<b>Context</b>	<b>No. of sherds</b>	<b>Vessels</b>	<b>Dating</b>
4	N/A	Crambeck reduced ware and calcite-gritted ware	c. 270+
5	N/A	Crambeck parchment ware bowl	c. 370+
13	N/A	Calcite-gritted ware body sherd	probably c. 270+
17	N/A	Crambeck reduced ware	c. 270+
20	N/A	Crambeck reduced ware, Crambeck white ware mortaria and calcite-gritted ware	c. 270+
27	3	BB1 cooking pot body sherd with obtuse angle lattice	c. 225+
28	6	Two rims from Crambeck reduced ware flanged bowls, and a body sherd of calcite-gritted ware	c. 270+
30	20	Rim and body sherds from Crambeck reduced ware flanged bowl, and two body sherds of calcite-gritted ware	c. 270+
34	3	Body sherd of Crambeck reduced ware jar	c. 270+
36	1	Body sherd Central Gaulish samian	2nd century
37	4	Rim of samian Dr 45 mortarium, and a BB1 plain-rimmed dish	late Ant +
39	1	BB2 rounded rim bowl/dish	3rd century
44	4	Painted Crambeck parchment ware wall-sided mortarium	c. 370+
U/S		Calcite-gritted ware Huntcliff-type rim	c. 360+

Table 7.1. 'Spot dating' showing the latest dated Roman pottery within each context (or in the unstratified material)

### *Publication Report*

- 7.5.2 A short note is recommended to indicate the range and dating of the pottery recovered, although quantification is unnecessary due to the size of the assemblage. Three vessels are worth illustration and discussion.
- 7.5.3 The samian stamp should be published.

<sup>21</sup> Darling 1999.

***Condition and Curation***

- 7.5.4 The Roman pottery is in a stable condition and no further conservation is required. All the material is currently held by Tyne and Wear Museums and Archives.
- 7.5.5 It is recommended that all the Roman pottery should be retained as part of the Site Archive.

## **8. ROMAN CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL**

*By: Alex Croom*

### **8.1 Introduction**

8.1.1 The excavation produced 26 fragments of Roman ceramic building material, of which 18 were unidentifiable scraps.

### **8.2 The Tile**

#### ***Tegulae***

8.2.1 There were seven fragments of *tegulae*, including one undercut and one cutaway flange. The example with the cut-away flange was a fragment from the top of the tile, which also included a nail hole. The undercut flange came from the lower edge of a separate tile and was of particular interest because of the unusual finger-ribbing on the lower surface.

#### ***Imbrex***

8.2.2 There was a single fragment from an *imbrex*, and a couple of scraps.

#### ***Other***

8.2.3 There were 18 scraps (identifiable as fragments without two surviving faces).

8.2.4 There were no stamped tiles and no wall or floor tiles.

### **8.3 Recommendations**

#### ***Archive Report***

8.3.1 An archive catalogue was produced during the assessment.

#### ***Publication Report***

8.3.2 As very little tile has been published from Chester-le-Street, a brief publication report is recommended, highlighting the forms of undercut and cutaway flanges used at the site, and illustrating the finger-ridging on the *tegula* fragment. This has been recorded once before, and seems to be a site specific variation of interest.

#### ***Condition and Curation***

8.3.3 All the material is currently held by Tyne and Wear Museums and Archives.

8.3.4 All fragments listed as 'scrap' have little value and could be discarded.

## 9. POST-MEDIEVAL FINDS

By: Jenny Vaughan

### 9.1 Pottery

- 9.1.1 The excavation recovered a small assemblage of 32 sherds of pottery weighing 537 grams from six contexts, see Table 9.1. The group was broadly of 19th century date.
- 9.1.2 The assemblage was a mix of refined tablewares, kitchenwares and utilitarian wares and is of no particular interest. For more details, see Table 9.2.

### 9.2 Clay Pipe

- 9.2.1 Two clay pipe stems were recovered from layer [4]. They were from pipes with spurs and had bore diameters of 5/64". They are of later 18th or 19th century date.

### 9.3 Ceramic Building Material

- 9.3.1 A few post-medieval (18th century or later) brick and tile fragments were recovered from contexts [3], [4], [10], [13] and [17]. The only item of any note was a piece of brick from rubble layer [3], the worn surface of which indicated it had been used in a floor surface. It was about 100mm wide and 60mm thick, very heavy and gritted with large angular quartz fragments.

### 9.4 Glass

- 9.4.1 Fourteen fragments of glass were recovered. The group (listed below in Table 9.1) was of late 19th/20th century date, with the possible exception of the two fragments of window glass which might be earlier. Fragments were generally small and of no particular interest or significance.

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>No. of frags.</b>	<b>Comments</b>
2	Brown bottle	1	Top of bottle with internal screw thread
3	Blue green bottle	1	?Medicine bottle, panelled rather than cylindrical
4	Dark brown bottle	1	Chip of base – looks reheated/burnt
4	White/clear vessel	1	Probable bottle, has part of a moulded mark
12	White/clear ?bottle	1	Chip of clear thick glass. ?Recent milk bottle
13	White/clear vessel	3	Small fragment
13	Brown bottle	2	N/A
13	Amber vessel	1	Small fragment
13	Window glass	1	Pale green with some patina, 3mm thick
17	White bottle	1	Abraded surface
17	Window glass	1	Some patina, 1-2mm thick

Table 9.1: Post-Roman glass

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>No. of sherds</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
2	Salt glazed stoneware	1	153	Fragment of a large jar
2	Stoneware	2	86	Fragments, including base, of ridged jam jar
2	Refined whiteware	2	9	
2	Yellow slip	1	1	Buff fabric with white slip bands on yellow glaze
3	China	1	8	Base
4	Refined whiteware	1	53	Ring base of cream glazed whiteware
4	Refined earthenware	1	18	Plate rim with blue combed slip lines on white ground
4	Black glazed redware	2	23	Shiny black glaze
4	Refined whiteware decorated	1	6	With mottled brown patches
4	Late red slipware	2	55	Rim
4	Salt glazed stoneware	1	9	
10	Black glazed redware	3	46	Everted rim and clubbed base
10	Refined whiteware printed	1	9	Blue transfer printed handle
10	Refined whiteware	2	5	One cream coloured and one with blue tinge to glaze
10	Late red slipware	1	4	
13	Refined whiteware decorated	2	14	Moulded plate rim (?letters) with thin brown (?manganese) glaze; body sherd also moulded but green glaze - ?same vessel as both have thin brown glaze on underneath
13	Stoneware	2	12	Ridged jam jar fragments
13	Refined whiteware	1	5	Plain
17	China	3	17	Includes bit of base, trace of red paint overglaze
17	Refined whiteware	1	1	Shell edged (blue) rim of plate
17	Redware	1	3	Small rim of brown glazed redware

Table 9.2: Post-Roman pottery

## **10. SMALL FINDS**

*By: Alex Croom*

### **10.1 Introduction**

10.1.1 The excavation produced 12 small finds (for example, SF <1>) in copper alloy, iron, pottery and stone. All but two of the objects were stratified.

### **10.2 Summary**

10.2.1 Half of the artefacts came from Phase 4 deposits, these assigned a broad late or post-Roman date. Four came from the Phases 3a and 3b, the main late 3rd century+ phases of occupation, while one came from Phase 2, from what was likely one of earliest deposits recorded on site, and the other was unstratified. Most of the finds are undateable, but the two coins were 3rd or 4th century in date and both of these were recovered from the main late 3rd century+ phases of Roman occupation.

### **10.3 The Finds**

#### ***Copper Alloy***

10.3.1 There was a single fragment of buckle or loop from a likely post-Roman layer.

#### ***Coins***

10.3.2 There were two 3rd or 4th century coins in poor condition and both from Roman contexts.

#### ***Iron***

10.3.3 As usual on Roman sites, the majority of iron fragments were nails or fragments of nails. There were two complete nails and three fragments. Of more interest is a hooked rod that is expanded at one end, from a likely late or post-Roman layer. This would require cleaning before certain identification could be made, but it could possibly be a steelyard fitting or similar.

#### ***Pottery***

10.3.4 A single pierced disc, made from a re-used samian sherd, was recovered from a likely post-Roman layer. It would have been used as a spindle whorl or tally counter.

#### ***Stone***

10.3.5 There were two natural ironstone nodules showing no indication of re-use.

### **10.4 Recommendations**

#### ***Archive Report***

10.4.1 The small finds from the site are catalogued in Table 10.1

#### ***Publication Report***

10.4.2 The legible coin (SF <3>) should be identified and the coins published.



10.4.3 Few of the finds are worth full publication. The only iron object worth further work is the possible fitting (SF <10>), which would require conservation before publication. The pierced pottery disc should also be noted.

10.4.4 The fitting would require illustration, although the pierced disc could simply be photographed.

**Condition and Curation**

10.4.5 All the material is currently held by Tyne and Wear Museums and Archives.

10.4.6 Detailed conservation records form part of the Site Archive.

<b>Small Find No.</b>	<b>Context/Phase</b>	<b>X-ray ID</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Copper Alloy</b>			
2	20/4	XRK09/172	Loop of rolled sheet, plus corroded strip
<b>Coins (copper alloy)</b>			
3	34/3b	XRK09/172	Poor condition, but legible. C3-C4 radiate
5	44/3a	XRK09/172	Badly corroded, no details showing on X-ray. Conservation suggests had silver wash. Probably C3-C4
<b>Iron</b>			
4	34/3b	XRK09/172	Nail shank and lump with little metal content
7	20/4	XRK09/172	Complete nail shank with part of head
8	20/4	XRK09/172	Nail shank
9	30/4	XRK09/172	Complete nail shank with part of head
10	30/4	XRK09/172	Bent rod with flared end. Further conservation suggested
11	39/2	XRK09/172	Nail shank
<b>Pottery</b>			
1	20/4	XRK09/172	Central Gaulish samian pierced disc
<b>Stone</b>			
6	37/3a	XRK09/172	Natural ironstone nodule; no indication of use
12	U/S	XRK09/172	Natural ironstone fragment

Table 10.1: Small finds catalogue

## 11. ARCHAOMETALLURGICAL MATERIAL

By: Dr. Roderick Mackenzie

### 11.1 Introduction

11.1.1 The excavation produced a small assemblage of production residues. A basic identification of the residues has been carried out and, with consideration of their archaeological contexts, the individual pieces have been assessed for further research potential. The results of the assessment are summarised below in Table 11.1. It should be noted that as no metallographic analysis has been carried, the results of this assessment should be regarded as provisional.

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>No. of pieces</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Approx. weight (g)</b>
20	1	Fragment of undiagnostic slag	35
20	1	Fragment of possible iron smithing slag from base of hearth*	226
30	3	Fragments of undiagnostic slag	90

*\*indicates items require which should be retained as part of the Site Archive.*

*Table 11.1 Summary of production residues*

### 11.2 Summary

11.2.1 This is a relatively small assemblage with only one piece of possible metalliferous slag, this from context [20], a likely post-Roman layer. This slag possibly formed in the base of a smithing hearth that was being used to reheat iron for forging. It is fairly common to find smithing slag amongst general 'dumped rubbish' material on archaeological sites of this nature.

11.2.2 All the material is currently held by Dr Roderick MacKenzie.

### 11.3 Recommendations

11.3.1 There is not enough supporting archaeological evidence to justify further analysis of the piece of possible smithing slag at this stage, although it is recommended that it is retained as part of the Site Archive. The remaining material can be discarded.

## **12. PLANT MACROFOSSIL, BONE AND SHELL**

*By: Archaeological Services Durham University*

### **12.1 Introduction**

- 12.1.1 Three bulk samples for palaeoenvironmental remains as well as hand-recovered bone and shell were collected during the excavation. The samples and hand-recovered material were received by ASDU on 8 October 2009. Assessment and report preparation was conducted between 26 November – 2 December 2009.
- 12.1.2 The objective was to assess the quantity and preservation of plant macrofossil, faunal and shell remains, and to establish their potential to provide information about the contexts and the site in general.
- 12.1.3 Sample processing was carried out by Charlotte Henderson, faunal remains assessment was undertaken by Louisa Gidney, and shell remains assessment was by John Carrott (Palaeoecology Research Services). Plant macrofossil assessment and report preparation was undertaken by Lorne Elliott.
- 12.1.4 The remaining portions of bulk samples are currently stored at the ASDU Environmental Laboratory, along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the biological remains assessment. The flots, bone and shell are currently retained at the ASDU Environmental Laboratory awaiting collection or return. Artefactual material recovered from the samples was returned to PCA with this report.

### **12.2 Plant Macrofossils**

#### ***Methods***

- 12.2.1 The bulk samples were manually floated and sieved through a 500 $\mu$ m mesh. The residues were examined for shells, fruitstones, nutshells, charcoal, small bones, pottery sherds and industrial residues, and were scanned using a magnet for ferrous fragments. The flots were examined at  $\times 60$  magnification for charred and waterlogged botanical remains using a Leica MZ7.5 stereomicroscope. Identification of these was undertaken by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory. Plant nomenclature follows those set out by recognised works.<sup>22</sup>

#### ***Results***

- 12.2.2 Charred plant macrofossils, although small in number, occurred in all three bulk samples. Context [28] – possibly a fill of the construction cut for the late Roman building examined at the site - yielded a few grains of wheat and barley, with several of the barley grains identified as being of the hulled variety. A single glume base of spelt wheat, two indeterminate cereal grains, a wild radish pod, and weed seeds of ribwort plantain, grass and sedge were also present. A few grains of barley, wheat and indeterminate cereals and grass seeds were noted in context [34] – a late Roman occupation or levelling deposit - and a wheat and indeterminate grain occurred in context [37] – a late Roman dump layer.

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<sup>22</sup> Stace 1997.

12.2.3 The flots and residues of all three contexts comprised varying amounts of pottery, ceramic building material, unburnt and calcined bone, clinker/cinder, charcoal, coal, coal shale, and hammerscale. Tiny shards of glass occurred in contexts [34] and [37], and oyster shell was also present in context [37]. The well-drained nature of the sediment suggests the uncharred seeds recorded are recent introductions. The presence of coal and coal shale is more likely to reflect the local geology rather than the use of coal as a fuel. Material suitable for radiocarbon dating was present in all three samples, although the material in context [37] may be of insufficient weight. The results are presented in Table 12.2.

### ***Discussion***

12.2.4 The small plant macrofossil assemblages suggest that spelt wheat and hulled barley crops were used at the site, although diagnostic spelt chaff was only present in context [28]. Barley and spelt wheat were the major field crops at the time of the Roman occupation in Britain.<sup>23</sup> The plant remains were too few for further interpretation.

12.2.5 The presence of charred plant remains, charcoal, clinker/cinder, ceramic building material, pottery, oyster shell, and fragments of calcined and unburnt bone, suggests that the fills accumulated as a result of the disposal of domestic waste.

## **12.3 Faunal Remains**

### ***Methods***

12.3.1 Notes were made of the species and element for the identifiable fragments present in each context (see Table 12.3). Fragments of cattle, sheep/goat and pig bones were listed as identifiable, if these encompassed a discrete diagnostic feature, or 'zone'. Unidentifiable fragments were only noted if all fragments from a context were unidentifiable. Notes of ageing data, butchery marks and the like were made where appropriate.

### ***Results and Discussion***

12.3.2 One box of animal bones was recovered from the site. Preservation was variable. The lower lying Roman contexts produced well-preserved elements of very young piglets. Probable post-Roman deposit, context [20], produced cattle bones with superficially good surfaces. However, these are flaking off as the underlying bone structure is decaying. The variable preservational conditions have particularly favoured the survival of robust cattle bones. Sheep, pig, dog and mouse are also represented. The cattle bones all derive from adult-size animals. The few bones with epiphyseal ends are fused and the single tooth is from the permanent dentition. Butchery marks were seen on some of the unidentified cattle-size bone fragments, but gnawing marks created by dogs appear to be more numerous on the identifiable cattle bones.

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<sup>23</sup> Greig 1991.

- 12.3.3 Context [30], likely representing demolition of the late Roman building, produced two joining parts of a cattle radius that had clearly been chopped in antiquity. Such joins indicate that the bones were in fresh condition when buried and have not suffered further disturbance. A bucranium, the forehead section of a cattle skull, was also deposited in context [30]. It is now highly fragmented but the basal diameters of the horncores appear more masculine than feminine. The teeth in the single sheep jaw from the midden indicate that this was a young animal but probably in its second year. The one sheep tooth from context [30] is at a comparable wear stage.
- 12.3.4 The late Roman dump layer, context [37], produced a radius from a young pig and an ulna from the bulk sample taken of this context. While both bones are from very young animals, the ulna derives from a slightly older and larger animal than the radius. Neither are neonatal but one might postulate a sucking pig and a weaner. A taste for such young pigs is characteristic of a prosperous, Romanised diet.<sup>24</sup> A further young pig is indicated by the teeth from one mandible recovered from the bulk sample of context [34], a late Roman occupation or levelling deposit.
- 12.3.5 Context [30] produced the only find of dog bones, a matching pair of mandibles, rather than merely gnawed bones. The enamel wear on the teeth, while not extensive, does indicate that this was a mature adult. These bones are less well preserved than the accompanying cattle bones. The soil conditions producing the internal decay of the bone structure appear to affect the bones of smaller species more severely than the robust cattle bones.
- 12.3.6 A single mandible of mouse was found in the bulk sample of context [34], indicating the presence of this commensal species within the fort.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Post-Roman</b>	<b>Roman</b>	<b>Bulk samples</b>
Cattle	12	14	-
Sheep/goat	1	1	-
Pig	-	1	2
Dog	-	2	-
Mouse sp.	-	-	1

Table 12.1: Approximate bone fragment counts for the species present

## 12.4 Shell Remains

- 12.4.1 A single fragment (to 30mm; 1.5g) of very soft and disintegrating (*i.e.* there were a few recently separated mm-flakes) oyster shell (*Ostrea edulis* L.) was hand-collected from context [37], a late Roman dump layer. A bulk sample from this same deposit recovered two additional small fragments of oyster shell (to 16mm; <0.1g). The remains were too few to be of any interpretative value.

## 12.5 Recommendations

- 12.5.1 No further plant macrofossil analysis is recommended due to the low numbers of charred remains. The presence of charred plant remains (albeit limited) indicates that other features on the site may have the potential to provide further information about diet and crop husbandry practices. If additional works are undertaken on the site, the results from this assessment should be added to any further environmental data produced.

<sup>24</sup> Cool 2006.

12.5.2 Further work is not recommended on the faunal remains collection at present. It should be retained for further analysis if either further archaeological investigation is undertaken on this site or a future synthesis of the environmental finds from the Roman occupation of Chester-le-Street should be proposed. Any further archaeological investigation of this site should devise a recovery strategy to minimise damage to the delicate bones in late and post-Roman deposits. The sampling strategy for the Roman deposits should be designed to recover such small bones as those from piglets and mice, to complement the bias towards cattle bones in the hand-recovered finds.

<b>Context</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Sample</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Feature</b>	<b>Layer</b>	<b>Layer</b>	<b>Layer</b>
<i>Material available for radiocarbon dating</i>	✓	✓	(✓)
<i>Volume processed (l)</i>	10	10	10
<i>Volume of flot (ml)</i>	100	75	8
<i>Residue contents (relative abundance)</i>			
Bone (calcined) indet. frags	1	1	1
Bone (unburnt)	1	1	1
Ceramic Building Material	2	3	2
Clinker / cinder	1	1	1
Coal / coal shale	2	2	2
Fuel waste (magnetic)	-	1	-
Glass (total number of fragments)	-	1	2
Hammerscale	1	2	1
Shell (oyster)	-	-	1
Tooth (total number of fragments)	-	3	-
Pot (total number of fragments)	5	3	10
<i>Flot matrix (relative abundance)</i>			
Bone (unburnt)	1	-	1
Charcoal	2	2	1
Clinker / Cinder	3	3	1
Coal / coal shale	2	2	1
Insect egg case	-	-	1
Pre-Quaternary Spores	-	-	1
Uncharred seeds	1	1	1
<i>Uncharred remains (total number)</i>			
(a) <i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> (Wild Radish) pod	1	-	-
(c) Cerealia indeterminate grain	2	3	1
(c) <i>Hordeum</i> spp (Barley species) grain	4	2	-
(c) <i>Hordeum</i> spp (Hulled Barley) grain	3	-	-
(c) <i>Triticum spelta</i> (Spelt Wheat) glume base	1	-	-
(c) <i>Triticum</i> spp (Wheat species) grain	1	2	1
(r) <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> (Ribwort plantain) seed	2	-	-
(w) <i>Carex</i> spp (Sedges) trigonous nutlet	1	-	-
(x) Poaceae undiff. >2mm (Grass family) caryopsis	1	2	-

[a-arable; c-cultivated; r-ruderal; w-wetland; x-wide niche]

Relative abundance is based on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest)

(✓) there may be insufficient weight of carbon available for radiocarbon dating

See Table 12.3 for bone/tooth identifications.

**Table 12.2: Results from the plant macrofossil assessment of the bulk samples**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Post-medieval</b>		
13	Indeterminate	Fragment, crumbling long bone
20	-	Preservation mixed, robust elements still appear solid. Long bones appear to have good surfaces but the underlying bone structure has decayed so the surfaces are flaking off.
20	Cow	Tibia, distal fused, articulates astragalus
20	Cow	Astragalus, articulates tibia calcined
20	Cow	Calcaneum, proximal chewed, articulates astragalus
20	Cow	Centro-quartal, fragment, probably belongs with above
20	Cow	Metatarsal, probably belongs with above, distal chewed
20	Cow	Metatarsal
20	Cow	Tibia
20	Cow	Scapula
20	Cow	Humerus, distal fused
20	Cow	Calcaneum, chewed
20	Cow	Acetabulum, feminine
20	Cow	Upper Molar 1 and 2, slight wear
20	Sheep/goat	Jaw, deciduous lower premolar 3-4, molar 1 and 2
<b>Roman</b>		
27	Indeterminate	Fragment, crumbling long bone
28	-	Preservation moderate, decay of internal bone
28	Cow	Jaw, molar 2 in wear
28	Cow	Ilium
28	Cow size	Vertebra
30	-	Preservation fair
30	Cow	Humerus, distal fused, chopped
30	Cow	Femur
30	Cow	Frontal, in many fragments, left & right horncore & temporals, hc possibly male/castrate
30	Cow	Metatarsal
30	Cow	Radius, distal fused, shaft ancient joining break, <i>i.e.</i> deposited fresh
30	Sheep/goat	Lower Molar 2, slight wear
30	Dog	Jaw, left & right pair, enamel wear on teeth
34	Cow	1st phalanx, proximal fused preservation ok
36	-	Preservation moderate, decay of internal bone
36	Cow	Calcaneum, proximal fused, chewed
36	Cow	Tibia, distal fused, measurable
36	Cow size	Vertebra, anterior fused
37	-	Preservation fair
37	Cow	Horncore, basal measurable male/steer
37	Cow	1st phalanx
37	Pig	Radius, proximal unfused, sucking pig not neonatal piglet
39	-	Preservation fair
39	Indeterminate	Fragment
U/S	Cow	1st phalanx, proximal fused
<b>Bulk samples</b>		
28	Indeterminate	Fragments
34	Pig	Jaw, teeth only deciduous lower premolar 4 molar 1, molar 2 unerupted
34	Indeterminate	Fragments, include calcined
37	Pig	Ulna, proximal unfused bigger than piglet, possible weaner
37	Mouse sp.	Jaw

Table 12.3: Identifiable animal bone



## 13. SUMMARY DISCUSSION

### 13.1 Summary of Findings

- 13.1.1 The Roman fort of *Concangis* is thought to have been founded as a clay-and-timber installation in the second half of the 2nd century AD, and then subsequently re-founded with stone defences, probably in the later 3rd century.<sup>25</sup> The fort continued to be occupied until the late 4th century, towards the very end of the Roman period. Auckland Cottage lies on Church Chare, Chester-le-Street, on or close to the assumed line of the south wall of the later fort.
- 13.1.2 The archaeological excavation at Auckland Cottage recorded undated, Roman, late or post-Roman and modern remains. The recorded evidence has been assigned to five phases of activity (with sub-phasing in some cases) ranging from the earliest undated deposit within Phase 1 through to Phase 5, representing modern activity. Phases 2 and 3 represent Roman period activity of possible 3rd and more certain late 3rd century+ date, respectively, and these contain the most significant archaeological remains to be recorded at the site. Remains in Phase 4, of late or post-Roman date, are arguably of lesser significance.
- 13.1.3 A single, undated clay deposit in Phase 1 was not obviously a natural geological deposit. It could be of Roman date, although this not certain, and it may have been the fill of a feature or a layer, perhaps an alluvial deposit.
- 13.1.4 Two deposits were assigned to Phase 2, tentatively assigned a broad 3rd century AD date. The first was a sandy deposit, recorded in the south-western part of the site, which may have been the fill of a feature or a dumped layer, possibly a ground levelling and consolidation deposit. It produced a single sherd of 3rd century pottery. The second was a small area of cobbles seen in the northern part of the site, and this was likely part of a yard, path or road surface. Conceivably it could have been the *intervallum* road within the defences of the earlier Roman fort. Too little was seen of both of these deposits to be able to form definite interpretations.
- 13.1.5 Phase 3a represents the construction and initial usage of a stone building, probably situated within the defences of the later fort. Pottery evidence from likely associated deposits indicates a late 3rd century+ date. A probable west wall of the building was exposed, returning to the east close to the northern limit of excavation, with an internal stone surface. Phase 3b represents replacement or repair of the southern part of the internal stone floor, activity again of late 3rd century+ date.
- 13.1.6 Phase 4 relates to the demise and abandonment of the Roman building and the deposits assigned to this phase include spreads of masonry rubble. It is assumed to date to the late or post-Roman period although dating evidence could not establish the precise date at which the building collapsed.

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<sup>25</sup> Bishop 1993.

13.1.7 Phase 5 broadly represents modern activity. The earliest deposit in a sub-phase, Phase 5a, was an extensive developed soil of post-medieval or earlier origin, reworked through time and likely disturbed during late 19th/early 20th century development in this part of the town. Other remains in this sub-phase relate to late 19th/early 20th century activity. Phase 5b represents activity at Auckland Cottage in recent decades, including the surface of the existing driveway.

## 13.2 Interpretation of Findings

13.2.1 Construction of the new fort at Chester-le-Street is generally thought to be a sign of the arrival of a new garrison, possibly even being indicative of a new type of unit taking over assuming occupation, since the old fort was evidently demolished.<sup>26</sup> Review of existing published work and grey literature related to archaeological investigations in the area of the fort demonstrates that while there is reasonably good evidence for the location of the west and east walls of the later fort, there is less convincing evidence for the location of the north wall and, particularly, the south wall.

13.2.2 The assumed fort plan for *Concangis* (shown on Figure 3) has changed little since the 1991 publication of the results of work undertaken in 1978 on Middle Chare and in 1979 at Park View School.<sup>27</sup> This shows a fort c. 2.6 hectares in size, sub-square plan with its long axis aligned NNE-SSW. From its assumed south-eastern corner, underlying the car park of Park View School, the assumed line of the south wall runs, on a ESE-WNW alignment, through the playground of Cestria Primary School and across Church Chare. From there it runs through No. 19 Church Chare and the north-eastern corner of No. 18 Church Chare and across the entranceway to the driveway of Auckland Cottage, at which point it begins to turn into the curve of the south-western corner of the defences. This line is based largely on the discovery in 1963 of a truncated clay and cobble foundation during groundworks below the site of what is now an electricity sub-station in the south-western corner of the grounds of Park View School.<sup>28</sup> The structure has long been assumed to represent the south wall of the fort, while an area of metalled surface discovered around the same time a few metres to the north was interpreted as part of the *intervallum* road skirting the interior of the fort defences.

13.2.3 As described above, the previously assumed line of the south wall of the later fort of *Concangis* places the excavation area at Auckland Cottage just outside the fort wall. Therefore the presence of a stone building dating to the late 3rd century+ at the site, as detailed herein, raises considerable doubt over the theoretical line of the south wall. The south end of the building itself was not seen and may have extended southwards for a further c. 5m at least. It is likely that the *intervallum* road skirted the south end of this building, and the aforementioned portion of this road found to the east in the 1960s was c. 5.5m wide.<sup>29</sup> The road would likely have run just inside the line of the rampart backing the fort wall, and any such rampart may have been c. 10-15m wide. Therefore, the south wall of the fort likely lies somewhere in the range of c. 20-25m to the south of its assumed line, much closer to High Chare than previously thought.

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<sup>26</sup> Bishop 1993.

<sup>27</sup> Evans *et al.* 1991; Fig. 1, p.6.

<sup>28</sup> Gillam and Tait 1968, pp.77-78; Fig. 2.2, p.80; Fig. 3, p.83.

<sup>29</sup> Rainbird 1971, p.77.

- 13.2.4 A consequence of the south wall of the fort being repositioned as suggested is that the size of *Concangis* would increase from c. 2.6ha to c. 2.95ha, making it slightly larger than the c. 2.83ha of Binchester (*Vinovia*) but still far less extensive than the fort at Piercebridge (c. 4ha) – both of these examples lying on Dere Street in County Durham. In its final form, South Shields (*Arbeia*) in Tyne and Wear, covered only c. 2.1ha, this being larger than the c. 1.6ha occupied by Ebchester (*Vindomora*), another of the Dere Street forts in County Durham.<sup>30</sup>
- 13.2.5 Given the limited extent to which it was possible to expose and excavate the structure at Auckland Cottage, any interpretation of the type of building that it represents must remain uncertain. Its location within the south-western portion of the fort, perhaps indicates that it was part of a barrack block, adjacent to the southern ramparts, to house troops in the new garrison. If so, the walls examined during the excavation could conceivably represent the north-western corner of a projecting larger room for the centurion at the south end of the block, from which a row of paired smaller rooms for the legionaries and other ‘non-commissioned’ officers would have extended to the north.<sup>31</sup> The structure as seen at Auckland Cottage measured at least 6.50m in length by at least 2.50m wide, but the overall building which these remains represent is likely to have been considerably larger. By way of broad comparison, a Hadrianic infantry barrack block at Housesteads (*Vercovicium*) on Hadrian’s Wall was c. 50m in length and c. 10m wide, at the end with the room for the centurion.<sup>32</sup>
- 13.2.6 However, other interpretations for the building at Auckland Cottage are possible. For example, it may have been a granary block or even a stable block. Early 3rd century campaigning in Scotland saw *Arbeia* undergo a radical change in its usage as its cavalry *ala* was withdrawn, to be replaced by an auxiliary infantry cohort, with a period of rebuilding which saw most of the internal buildings replaced by new stone-built granaries, as well as new barrack blocks being added.<sup>33</sup> The Hadrian’s Wall fort at Benwell (*Condercum*) in the west end of Newcastle is suspected as having had stable blocks set out within its southern wall.
- 13.2.7 Whatever the purpose of the late Roman building at Auckland Cottage, its discovery demonstrates that a revision of the postulated line of the south wall of *Concangis* is required.

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<sup>30</sup> Fort sizes from Graham 1979, Cool and Mason (eds.) 2008 and Hodgson 2009.

<sup>31</sup> de la Bédoyère 1991, pp.52-54.

<sup>32</sup> Breeze and Dobson 2000, pp.173-174.

<sup>33</sup> Hodgson 2009, pp.61-70.

## **14. SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS**

### **14.1 Introduction**

14.1.1 The archaeological remains recorded at Auckland Cottage are of significance at a local and regional level. This assessment of the archaeological data-set has demonstrated that elements of the stratigraphic and artefactual evidence warrant further research and publication of the results.

14.1.2 Academic justification for this is provided by the NERFF key research priority for the Roman period, previously mentioned in Section 3, that is 'Riii. The Roman military presence', which states that:

*'Research on the forts to the south and north of the Wall has generally been less focused and coherent...Amongst the basic research priorities for the southern forts is the need to expand our knowledge of their interiors and their related vici...Fieldwork should evaluate should evaluate the date and preservation of sites, which must feed into site management and protection'.*

14.1.3 In summary, it is considered that dissemination of the archaeological evidence from the site through publication would contribute important new information to current understanding of *Concangis*. The results of further analysis of elements of the site data, as recommended in this report, should be published in an appropriate outlet.

### **14.2 Summary of Potential for Further Work**

#### ***Roman Pottery***

14.2.1 The pottery assemblage does not warrant quantification due to its small size. However, a summary is recommended in any publication in order to indicate the range and date of the material recovered, particularly since some vessel forms have not been previously recorded from *Concangis*.

14.2.2 Three vessels from the assemblage are worthy of illustration and discussion in any publication, along with the stamped samian pottery, the stamp of which should be published.

#### ***Roman Ceramic Building Material***

14.2.3 As very little tile from *Concangis* has been published, a summary of the material is recommended in any publication, highlighting the forms of undercut and cutaway flanges seen, and illustrating the finger-ridging on the *tegula* fragment. This seems to be a site-specific variation of interest.

#### ***Post-medieval Finds***

14.2.4 No further work is recommended on the post-medieval ceramic and glass assemblages with regards to publication.

#### ***Small Finds***

14.2.5 Few of the small finds are worth full publication. It is recommended that the legible coin SF <3> should be published and the pierced pottery disc be noted. The only iron object worth further work is the possible fitting SF <10> which would require conservation before publication.

- 14.2.6 The fitting would require illustration, although the pierced disc could simply be photographed. No further work would be required for the remaining objects.

#### ***Archaeometallurgical Remains***

- 14.2.7 There is not enough supporting archaeological evidence to justify further analysis of the piece of possible smithing slag.

#### ***Biological Remains***

- 14.2.8 The poor preservation of the ancient plant remains precludes any further interpretation. However, the presence of charred plant remains (albeit limited) indicates that other features on the site may have the potential to provide further information about diet and crop husbandry practices should this part of the fort be revisited at any time. No further work is recommended on the bulk soil samples.
- 14.2.9 Further work is not recommended on the faunal remains collection at present. It should be retained for further analysis, in the event of either further archaeological investigation being undertaken at this site or a future synthesis of such material being proposed from the Roman occupation of Chester-le-Street.

### **14.3 Publication Outline**

- 14.3.1 It is considered that the archaeological data-set merits publication in the form of a synthesised report in a suitable outlet.
- 14.3.2 A full assessment of the data-set has been undertaken and a summary of the potential of each element for further research/analysis is set out in the preceeding section. Any publication of the site should, as a minimum, contain the following:

#### ***Abstract***

This introductory paragraph will summarise the publication, including the site location and the nature and significance of the archaeological evidence.

#### ***Introduction***

The introduction will describe the setting of the site, detail the background to the investigations and outline the methodologies employed.

#### ***Geological and Topographical Background***

This section will detail the geology and topography of the site.

#### ***Archaeological Background***

This will set the results of these investigations into context, with particular focus on Roman military occupation in the North of Britain.

#### ***Archaeological and Artefactual Evidence***

This section will detail the results of the investigations and will include a synthesised description of the archaeological evidence.

***Discussion***

This will propose an interpretation of the archaeological remains based on the excavated features and the artefactual evidence.

***Illustrations***

These will include a site location plan, a location plan of the excavated area, plans and section drawings, along with at least one interpretative plan.

***PART C: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REFERENCES***

## 15. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

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### **PCA Credits**

*Project Manager:* Robin Taylor-Wilson

*Fieldwork:* Amy Roberts (Site Supervisor), Scott Vance and Aaron Goode (site preparation)

*Report:* Amy Roberts and Robin Taylor-Wilson

*Illustrations:* Hayley Baxter

### **Other Credits**

*Roman Pottery:* Alex Croom (Tyne and Wear Museums and Archives)

*Ceramic Building Material:* Alex Croom (Tyne and Wear Museums and Archives)

*Post-medieval Finds:* Jenny Vaughan (Northern Counties Archaeological Services)

*Small Finds:* Alex Croom (Tyne and Wear Museums and Archives)

*Archaeometallurgical Remains:* Dr. Rod Mackenzie

*Biological Remains:* Archaeological Services Durham University (see Section 12 for named individuals)



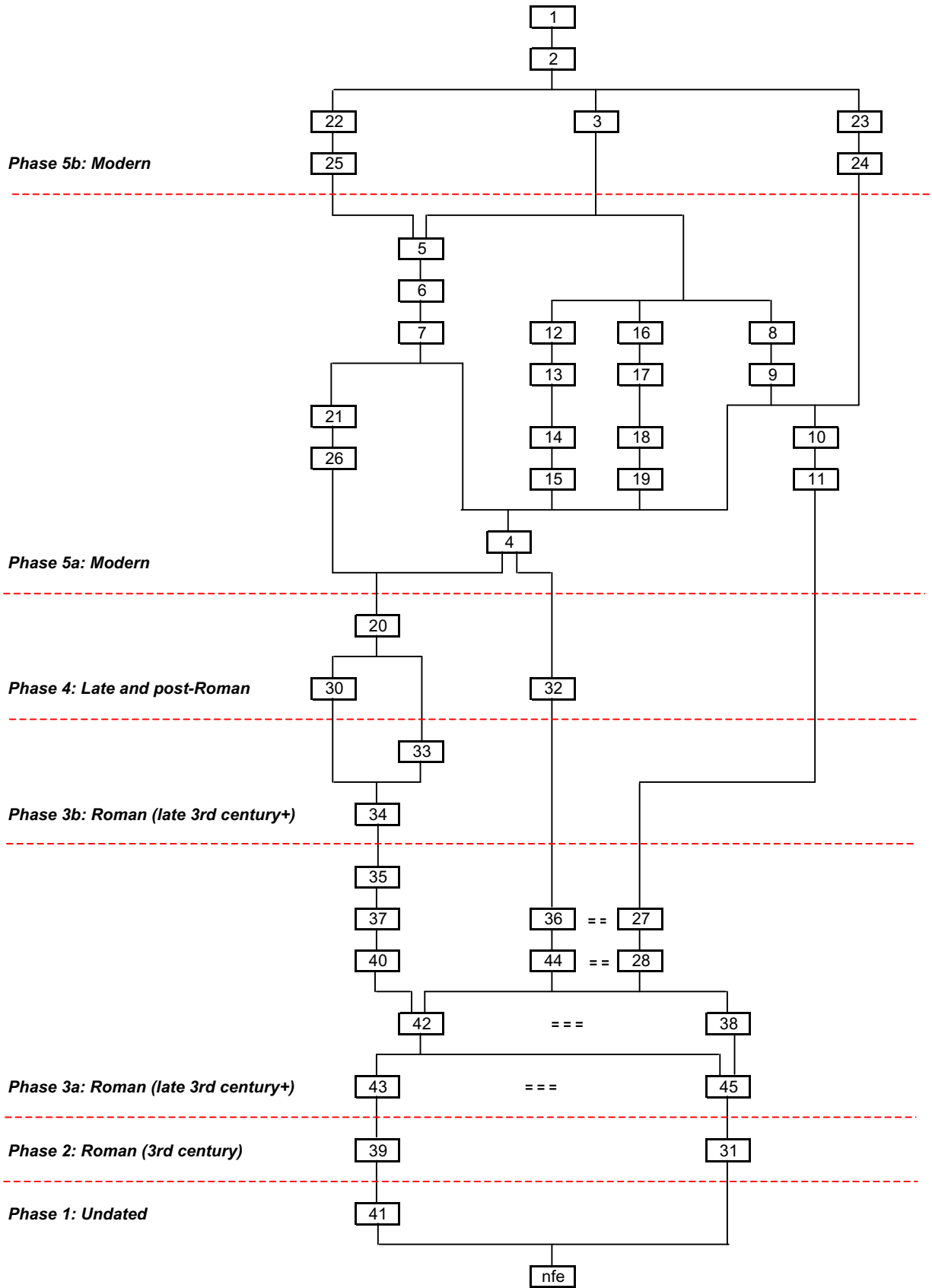
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**APPENDIX 1**  
**STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX**

**ACL 09: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX**



**APPENDIX 2**  
**CONTEXT INDEX**

**ACL 09: CONTEXT INDEX**

<b>Context</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Type 1</b>	<b>Type 2</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
1	1	5b	Deposit	Layer	Concrete surface
2	1	5b	Deposit	Layer	Levelling layer
3	1	5b	Deposit	Layer	Rubble make-up layer
4	1	5a	Deposit	Layer	Made ground
5	1	5a	Deposit	Fill	Backfill of service trench [7]
6	1	5a	Deposit	Fill	Iron gas pipe within [7]
7	1	5a	Cut	Linear	Service trench filled by [5] & [6]
8	1	5a	Deposit	Fill	Fill of posthole [9]
9	1	5a	Cut	Discrete	Posthole filled by [8]
10	1	5a	Deposit	Fill	Fill of pit [11]
11	1	5a	Cut	Discrete	Pit filled by [10]
12	1	5a	Deposit	Fill	Fill of post-pipe[14]
13	1	5a	Deposit	Fill	Fill of post-pit [15]
14	1	5a	Cut	Discrete	Post-pipe filled by [12]
15	1	5a	Cut	Discrete	Post-pit filled by [13]
16	1	5a	Deposit	Fill	Fill of post-pipe [18]
17	1	5a	Deposit	Fill	Fill of post-pit [19]
18	1	5a	Cut	Discrete	Post-pipe filled by [16]
19	1	5a	Cut	Discrete	Post-pit filled by [17]
20	1	4	Deposit	Layer	Levelling layer
21	1	5a	Structure	Foundation	Wall foundation
22	1	5b	Deposit	Fill	Fill of [25]
23	1	5b	Deposit	Fill	Fill of [24]
24	1	5b	Cut	Discrete	Posthole filled by [22]
25	1	5b	Cut	Discrete	Posthole filled by [23]
26	1	5a	Cut	Linear	Foundation cut filled by [21]
27	1	3a	Deposit	Layer	Dump layer (equates to [44])
28	1	3a	Deposit	Fill	Dump layer (equates to [36])
29		Void			
30	1	4	Deposit	Layer	Wall collapse
31	1	2	Deposit	Layer	Cobble surface
32	1	4	Deposit	Layer	Wall collapse
33	1	3b	Structure	Paving	Possible re-surfacing
34	1	3b	Deposit	Layer	Occupation layer
35	1	3a	Structure	Floor	Paved floor surface
36	1	3a	Deposit	Layer	Dump layer (equates to [28])
37	1	3a	Deposit	Layer	Dump layer
38	1	3a	Deposit	Wall	Wall running west-east from wall [42]
39	1	2	Deposit	Layer	Dump or occupation layer
40	1	3a	Deposit	Layer	Dump layer
41	1	1	Deposit	Layer	Clay layer/fill?
42	1	3a	Structure	Wall	Wall running north-south
43	1	3a	Deposit	Layer	Clay foundation deposit for wall [42] (equates to [45])
44	1	3a	Deposit	Layer	Dump layer (equates to [36])
45	1	3a	Deposit	Deposit	Clay foundation deposit for wall [38] (equates to [43])

**APPENDIX 3**  
**PLATES**



Plate 1. Pre-excavation overview looking south (1m scale).



Plate 2. Rubble spread [30], looking north (1m scale)





Plate 3. Wall [38], looking south (*1m scale*).



Plate 4. Wall [42] in southern sondage, looking west (*1m scale*).



Plate 5. Stone floor surface [35], looking north-east (*1m scale*).



Plate 6. Wall [42], stone floor surface [35] and southern sondage, looking north (*1m scale*).





Plate 7. Wall [42] and northern sondage, looking south (*1m scale*).



Plate 8. Post-excavation overview, looking south (*1m scale*).