LAND AT FISHPONDS ROAD, KIRKLEATHAM, TEESSIDE





WATCHING BRIEF REPORT CP. No10353 12/08/2013

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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by WA Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by Memoria Ltd, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to Fishponds Road, Kirkleatham, Teesside (NGR NZ 5985 2170). Planning permission has been granted by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council (Planning Ref. R/2012/0358/FFM) for the development of a new crematorium on condition that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during all groundworks associated with its construction.

Kirkleatham is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, and is believed to have been a two-row settlement originally set out either side of what is now Kirkleatham Lane/Plantation Lane. Tees Archaeology had previously identified that the southern part of the medieval settlement (HER 0915) may lie within the proposed development area. Fieldwalking in the vicinity has also produced large scatters of medieval pottery (HER 1801-1). Kirkleatham was defended during World War II and an anti-tank trench (HER 7956) encircled much of the village. This trench is believed to have crossed the south-west corner of the proposed development area.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken intermittently over 21 days between the 13/05/2013 and 17/07/2013, monitoring the ground reduction and foundation trenches for the crematorium building, the attenuation pond, car park and entrance road. A series of medieval plough furrows were observed within the footprint of the crematorium building together with a narrow linear ditch, believed to be post-medieval in origin, which extended into the area of the car park where it was observed together with a hearth of unknown date. The plough furrows however did not extend into the area of the car park, presumably due to later plough truncation. A further three plough furrows were observed during the excavation of the pond.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the development of a new crematorium, no further work is deemed necessary. However, it is recommended that any work conducted in the future be subject to a similar programme of archaeological investigation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would like to thank Michael Hackney of Memoria Ltd, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work.

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology would also like to extend their thanks to Steve Trewhitt, Site Manager for Needhams Building Contractors, and all the staff on site for their assistance and co-operation during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in turn by Angus Clark, Scott Vance and Adrian Bailey. The report was written by Angus Clark and Adrian Bailey, who also produced the figures. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Project Manager for WAA, who also edited the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- In May 2013 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was invited by Michael 1.1.1 Hackney of Memoria Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land adjacent to Fishponds Road, Kirtkleatham, Teesside (NGR NZ 5985 2170; Figure 1), during the groundworks associated with the construction of a new crematorium. The watching brief was to be maintained during the construction of the crematorium building itself along with the associated entrance road, car park, gardens of remembrance, attenuation pond and the installation of services. A geophysical survey was undertaken within the development area by NP Archaeology in January 2012 which is thought to have detected a 62m long section of the World War II anti-tank trench, which originally ran around Kirkleatham Defence Area 57, crossing the southern part of the survey area. This trench was in-filled soon after the end of the war. The remains of medieval or later ridge and furrow cultivation have been detected over the majority of the survey area, suggesting that this area was utilized for agriculture. As a result, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council requested that all ground reduction be subject to a programme of archaeological observation and investigation. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.2 All groundworks associated within the development of the new crematorium were excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (If A 2008) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the monitoring works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology in response to a request by Memoria Ltd, for an archaeological watching brief throughout the study area. Following acceptance of the project design by Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits within the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (IfA 2008).
- 2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
 - to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
 - to accurately tie in the area monitored by the archaeologists to the National Grid at an appropriate scale;
 - to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
 - to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital, and monochrome formats as applicable, with each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;
 - to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) standards.

2.2.3 A total area of approximately 0.35 hectares was stripped of topsoil, which was stored for later landscaping within the site. Two areas formed rectangular shapes approximately 18m x 34m (crematorium building) and 32m x 48m (the car park), with the area for the attenuation pond measuring 53m x 17m at its longest and widest respectively. The areas were excavated to a depth of *c*.0.25m-0.35m to the required formation level. Archaeological monitoring and supervision of the groundworks associated with the topsoil removal commenced on 13/05/2013. A summary of the findings of the watching brief is included within this report.

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2011). The archive will be deposited at Kirkleatham Museum, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record, Tees Archaeology, Hartlepool, where viewing will be available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier WAA13, FRK-A, CP 10353/13.
- 2.3.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology Ltd supports the Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The development area lies within the western fringes of a single arable field to the southeast of Kirkleatham, Teesside centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference NZ 5985 2170. The area is bounded by Fishponds Road (B1269) to the southwest and by the A174 to the northwest. A roundabout for the junction of the A174 and the B1269 is situated at the western corner of the site (Figure 1).
- 3.1.2 The solid geology of the area comprises Lower Lias sedimentary rocks, overlain by glacial till deposits (BGS 2001). Soils in the vicinity comprise seasonally waterlogged reddish fine loam and fine loamy over clayey soils, known as Dunkeswick soils (SSEW 1980).

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area. References to the County Historic Environment Record (HER) are included where known.
- 3.2.2 *Prehistoric:* North East Yorkshire is known to have been occupied from the Mesolithic period onwards, as demonstrated by research undertaken as part of the North East Yorkshire Mesolithic Project. The blade end of a Neolithic polished greenstone axe has been found on the surface of a field north of Kirkleatham (NMR 611246). However, no prehistoric sites are known within the immediate vicinity of the present study area.
- 3.2.3 Roman: No confirmed Roman remains are recorded in the vicinity of the survey area. However, during the previous evaluation of land to the east of the Walled Garden a number of boundary features were identified, which could potentially be Roman in date. A fragment of Roman mortaria was recovered, which is believed to be residual. This material may indicate the presence of a nearby, as yet unidentified, Romano-British settlement (Noakes and Railton 2011).
- 3.2.4 *Medieval:* Kirkleatham is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086, and is believed to have been a two-row settlement originally set out either side of what is now Kirkleatham Lane/Plantation Lane. It is recorded that in 1086 William de Percy had 4 carucates of land in Kirkleatham, a 'manor' held previously by a certain Norman (www.british-history.ac.uk). The overlordship of the Percys continued until 1608. The southern part of the medieval settlement (HER 0915) may lie within the proposed development

- area. Fieldwalking in the vicinity has also produced large scatters of medieval pottery (HER 1801-1).
- 3.2.5 Post-medieval and Modern: Kirkleatham is the birth place of Sir William Turner who was Lord Mayor of London in 1669. Kirkleatham was remodelled by the Turner family from the 17th century onwards, the majority of the village properties having been cleared by the time of a plan of 1774. The area of the proposed development also appears to have been cleared at this time. Kirkleatham Hall, which was probably built by John Turner soon after 1623, was situated to the north of the survey area (http://www.british-history.ac.uk). The proposed development area lies to the southeast of the Walled Garden and Sir William Turner's Almshouses/Turner's Hospital, built in 1676 as a hospitable establishment. Kirkleatham Old Hall (now a museum) was also built by the Turner family in 1709 as a 'Free School' to the northwest of the survey area.
- 3.2.6 Kirkleatham Hall served as a battalion HQ for units engaged on coastal defence from 1940 1943. Kirkleatham was also defended during World War II by an anti-tank trench (HER 7956, DOB Ref. S0010198), which encircled much of the village. Tees Archaeology have suggested that this trench ran across the southwest corner of the proposed development area. A number of other defensive structures were present in the vicinity of the survey area, including pill boxes, infantry posts and anti-tank gun positions.
- 3.2.7 In the 1970's the A174 was constructed immediately to the northwest of the survey area, bisecting the corner of the original larger field. Kirkleatham Hall School was constructed to the north of Plantation Road around the same time in the location of Kirkleatham Hall, which was demolished in 1955.

3.3 Previous Work

- 3.3.1 In 1992 an archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken to the north of Kirkleatham, near Manor Farm, in the location of a proposed Kirkleatham Business Park (Phase 1 Area). An Iron Age or Romano-British enclosure was known to exist to the north of the site. However, no archaeological features or finds were revealed by the work.
- 3.3.2 A desk-based assessment and walk-over survey of the Kirkleatham Estate was undertaken by Tees Archaeology in 1998 (Rowe 1998). This work identified that there had been a pre-Conquest settlement at Kirkleatham, with continued settlement from the medieval period to the present day.
- 3.3.3 An archaeological trial trench evaluation and watching brief were undertaken at Kirkleatham School in 1999, during the construction of

- classroom extensions. The evaluation revealed a probable medieval boundary ditch and post-medieval features associated with the formal gardens of the 17th and 18th century estate landscape. Three sherds of late Saxon or medieval pottery were recovered (Randerson 1999).
- 3.3.4 Also in 1999 an evaluation was undertaken of land between Manor Farm and Foxrush Farm, to the north of Kirkleatham, in the area of the proposed Kirkleatham Business Park (Phase 2 Area). Geophysical surveys were undertaken to the south of a cropmark enclosure at Foxrush Farm (SMR 0159) and at the site of a World War II searchlight battery. This was followed by a trial trench evaluation. No finds or features were recorded in the area of the cropmark enclosure. A ring ditch was recorded in the area of the searchlight battery, which was excavated in the subsequent trial trench evaluation. The whole area had been subject to ridge and furrow cultivation (Hale 1999).
- 3.3.5 A desk-based assessment accompanied a planning application for a natural gas drilling rig on the western part of Kirkleatham Business Park in 2002. This identified the potential for Iron Age and medieval agricultural activity in the vicinity of the proposed well site (Buglass 2002). A watching brief was subsequently undertaken during the construction, but no finds or features were revealed (Johnson 2005).
- 3.3.6 In 2006 a desk-based assessment was undertaken of the Kirkleatham Estate, looking at evidence for formalization of the landscape and the creation of gardens, as part of an undergraduate dissertation for Hull University. The accuracy of the *c*.1700 Knyff and Kip engraving was considered, and two small geophysical surveys were undertaken to investigate garden features (Farley 2006).
- 3.3.7 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken at the Old Sawmill to the north of Kirkleatham Old Hall Museum in 2007, ahead of a proposed residential development. However, no archaeological finds or features were revealed by the work.
- 3.3.8 The World War II defences of Kirkleatham defence Area 57 were assessed as part of the Council for British Archaeology Defence of Britain Project (Council for British Archaeology undated report). It has been identified that part of an anti-tank ditch, which encircled the village, runs through the southwest corner of the proposed development area.
- 3.3.9 In 2010 a geophysical survey of the previous application area to the east of the Walled Garden was undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology (Railton 2010). A number of linear and curvilinear positive magnetic anomalies were detected, which were believed to be associated with Kirkleatham medieval village. These features were present across the

- majority of the survey area, but were most distinct in the central and eastern parts of the site, where a series of sub-rectangular enclosures and a possible route way were identified. These appeared to have been truncated to the south and west due to later agricultural activity.
- 3.3.10 The geophysical survey also successfully detected a 75m long section of the World War II anti-tank trench, which originally ran around Kirkleatham Defence Area 57, and crossed the southwest corner of the survey area. This trench was in-filled soon after the end of the war.
- 3.3.11 A trial trench evaluation was subsequently undertaken of the application area (Noakes and Railton 2011). This involved the excavation of nine trenches; a total of 420m². Archaeological remains were identified in eight of the nine trenches, and comprised ditches, gullies, pits and postholes, the majority being of a potential medieval date.
- 3.1.12 In January 2012 a geophysical survey was undertaken on the proposed development site by NP Archaeology. The geophysical survey is thought to have detected a 62m long section of the World War II anti-tank trench, which originally ran around Kirkleatham Defence Area 57, and possibly crossed the southern corner of the survey area. This trench was in-filled soon after the end of the war. No definite evidence for the medieval village has been detected (unlike the previous geophysical survey to the west). However, the remains of medieval or later ridge and furrow cultivation have been detected over the majority of the survey area.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken in 2 key phases. Phase 1 was undertaken between 13th & 20th May 2013 and oversaw the groundworks associated with the construction of the crematorium building. Phase 2 oversaw the groundworks associated with the entrance road, car park, gardens of remembrance and attenuation pond, and was undertaken intermittently between 20th June and 17th July 2013 (Figure 2).

4.2 Phase 1: Crematorium building

- 4.2.1 Phase 1 of the watching brief covered the controlled removal of the topsoil and excavation of the foundation trenches for the crematorium building (Figure 2).
- 4.2.2 An area measuring 645m² was reduced by a maximum depth of 0.13m 0.41m in order to provide a level working surface. Within this area the foundation trenches for the building were excavated. The topsoil was stripped by a JCB 8080 tracked 360 excavator with a ditching bucket. The topsoil (100) comprised loosely compacted light to mid brown sandy clay, and was present across the site to a maximum depth of 0.41m. Beneath the topsoil the natural drift geology (101), consisting of moderately compacted mid orangey brown clayey sand, was visible.
- 4.2.3 Due to the required depth of excavation for the development, the topsoil remained *in situ* in the northernmost part of this area with the natural clayey sand being revealed to the south-east of this. Cut into the natural here, a series of southwest-northeast aligned parallel linear furrows was observed (Figures 3 and 4).
- 4.2.4 A narrow linear feature on the same alignment was detected north of the furrows extending beyond the limits of excavation. This feature comprised a steep sided U-shaped gully [102] filled by a moderately compacted dark brown sandy clay (103), and is believed to be the remnants of a former field boundary, believed to be post-medieval or modern in date. Within this gully, for a length of 4.6m, a modern waste deposit (104), consisting of red brick fragments, mortar, broken roof tiles, glass shards, pottery sherds and metal objects was observed. This deposit is believed to have been deliberately placed into the ditch perhaps in order to make a crossing or access point from one field to another.



Plate 1: North-east facing section, field boundary [102] (1m scale).

4.2.5 Three parallel shallow linear features approximately 3m apart were observed aligned southwest-northeast towards the southern aspect of the area. These features [105], [107] and [109] are believed to be the remains of post-medieval plough furrows (Figures 3 and 4). The general characteristics of these features consisted of a shallow ditch with gently sloping sides leading to a flat base and measured an average width of 2.5m with a depth of 0.25m. All three furrows were filled with a moderately compacted light to mid grey sandy silt. No dating evidence was recovered from any of the features but due to their size and spacing they have been categorized as post-medieval in origin.



Plate 2: North-east facing representative section of furrows, showing [105] (1m scale).

4.2.6 The foundation trenches for the building were excavated through the newly reduced ground level to a maximum depth of 0.70m. They were excavated through 0.25m of mid orangey brown sandy clay (101) and 0.45m of firmly compacted mid-dark grey boulder clay natural (111). No archaeological features were observed within these trenches.

4.3 Phase 2: Car Park, Entrance Road and Attenuation Pond

- 4.3.1 Phase 2 of the watching brief aimed to monitor all subsequent ground reduction associated with the entrance road, the car park area and the attenuation pond (Figures 2 and 5).
- 4.3.2 The stratigraphic matrix observed within the excavation of these areas remained consistent throughout. The topsoil (101) was removed to the required depth as in Phase 1 to reveal the natural drift geology (101).
- 4.3.3 Excavation for the entrance road (Phase 2a; Figure 2) revealed no archaeological features and, disappointingly, no evidence of the anti-tank trench which was thought to have been detected in the geophysical survey.
- 4.3.4 Continuation of Phase 2a concentrated on the area of the car park, in which the former field boundary observed within the area of the building was seen to proceed. This feature [113] was seen to extend for *c*.14m in a southwesterly direction where it ceased to be apparent. There was no evidence for a terminus and it is therefore assumed that it had been heavily truncated by later agricultural activity.

4.3.5 The only other feature of note in this area was in the form of a small pit situated *c*.10m south of the former field boundary. This sub-circular feature, **[115]**, measured 0.6m x 0.7m with a depth of 0.23m and contained a single fill, **(114)**, of dark orangey brown/mid greyish brown sandy clay with frequent inclusions of burnt sandstone fragments. A soil sample was retained to assist in the dating of this feature as no dating evidence was recovered from it, though this was inconclusive.



Plate 3: South facing section, pit [115] (0.2m scale).

4.3.6 Further work of Phase 2 monitored the topsoil removal in the area for the attenuation pond (Phase 2b; Figure 2). The ground was reduced to the natural geology in order to ascertain the presence of any archaeological features before the full excavation of the pond took place. This area revealed three linear features in the form of furrows. Two of these were noted near to the centre of this area and extended beyond the limits of excavation, another was observed towards the northern extent of the area. Excavation of the central feature showed it to be a shallow, flat base cut with a depth of 0.27m and a width of 1.85m, identical and on the same alignment to those recorded in Phase 1.

4.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.4.1 No finds of archaeological interest were recovered during any phase of the watching brief. One environmental sample was collected, this being from the pit [115] found within the car park area (Phase 2a). This sample was unable to provide any further information regarding its date or function.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 *Phase 1*: The site of the crematorium building was stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision to create a leveled working area. Four linear features were recorded, one of which is believed to be a post-medieval field boundary ditch. The other three linear features ran in parallel to this along a southwest-northeast alignment and are believed to be the remains of post-medieval plough activity.
- 5.1.2 *Phase 2:* The areas of the entrance road, car park and attenuation pond were in turn stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision to create a levelled working area. Three linear features were recorded in the pond area, all of which represent post-medieval plough activity and ran parallel to those recorded in Phase 1. The field boundary observed in Phase 1 continued into the area of the car park where it was truncated by later plough activity. A possible hearth of unknown date was also recorded. The plough furrows observed in Phase 1 were not identified within the car park area, presumably due to later truncation by ploughing.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 As this watching brief was conducted as a condition of ground works relating to the construction of a new crematorium and associated infrastructure, no further archaeological work is deemed necessary.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

6.1 SECONDARY SOURCES

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SSEW (1984) Soils and their use in Northern England. Soil Survey of England and Wales.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context	Context	Description
Number	Type	
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Natural clayey sand
102	Cut	Ditch
103	Fill	Primary fill of [102]
104	Fill	Secondary fill of [102]
105	Cut	Plough furrow
106	Fill	Fill of [105]
107	Cut	Plough furrow
108	Fill	Fill of [107]
109	Cut	Plough furrow
110	Fill	Fill of [109]
111	Deposit	Natural boulder clay beneath (101)
112	Fill	Fill of [113]
113	Cut	Ditch (same as [102])
114	Fill	Fill of [115]
115	Cut	Cut for possible hearth
116	Fill	Fill of [117]
117	Cut	Plough furrow
118	Fill	Fill of [118]
119	Cut	Plough furrow
120	Fill	Fill of [121]
121	Cut	Plough furrow

Table 4: List of contexts issued during watching brief

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES

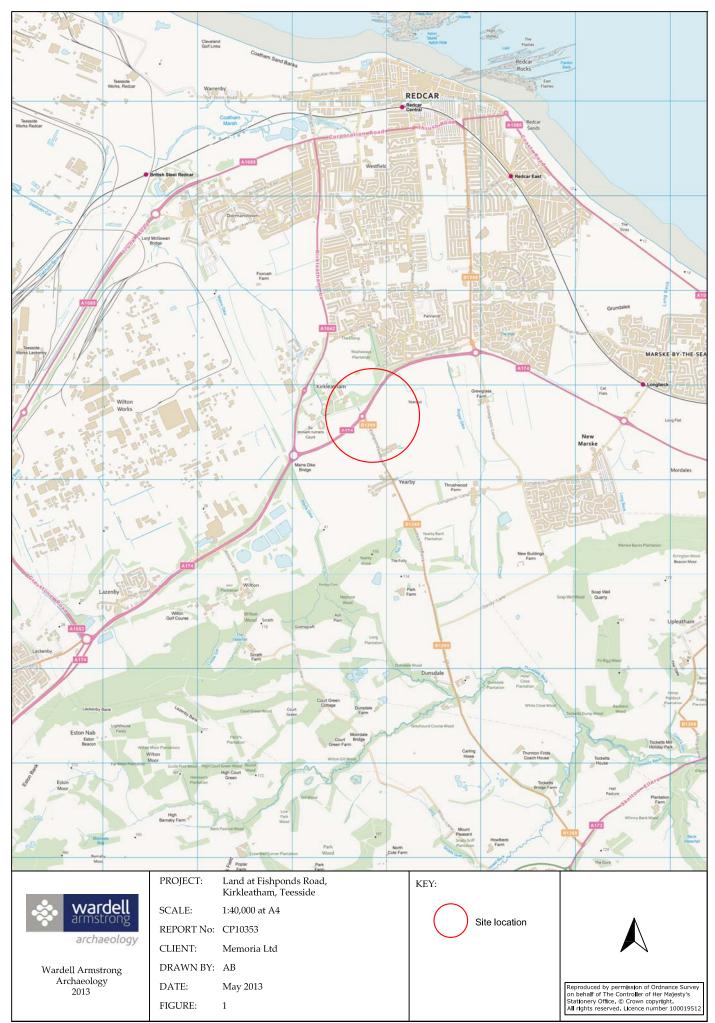


Figure 1: Site location.

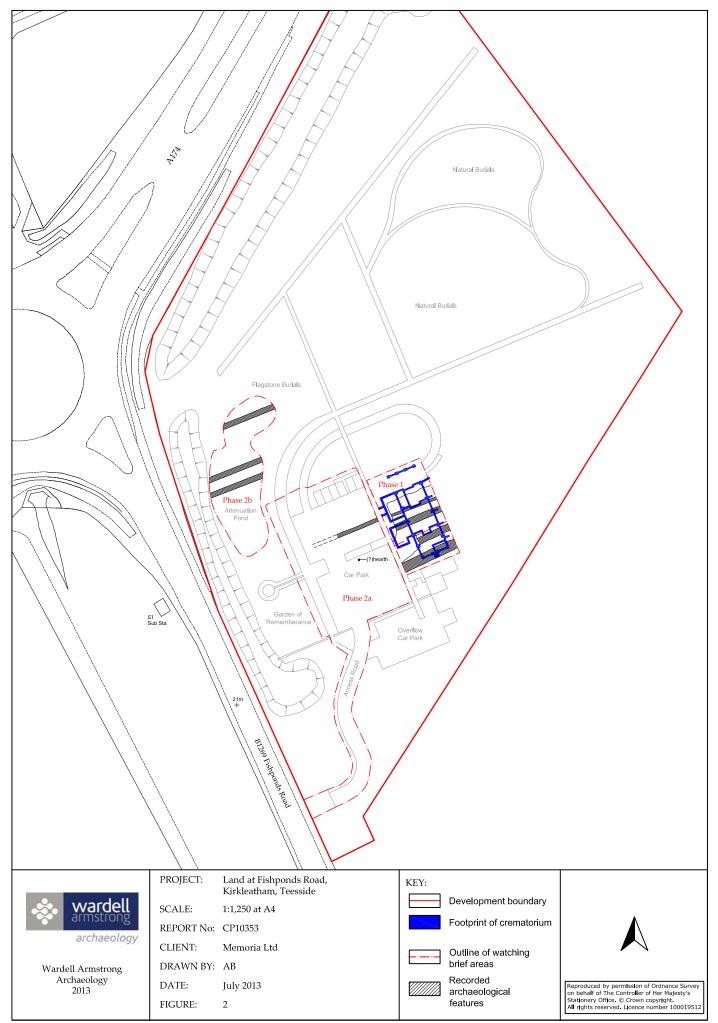


Figure 2: Areas of watching brief within the development area.

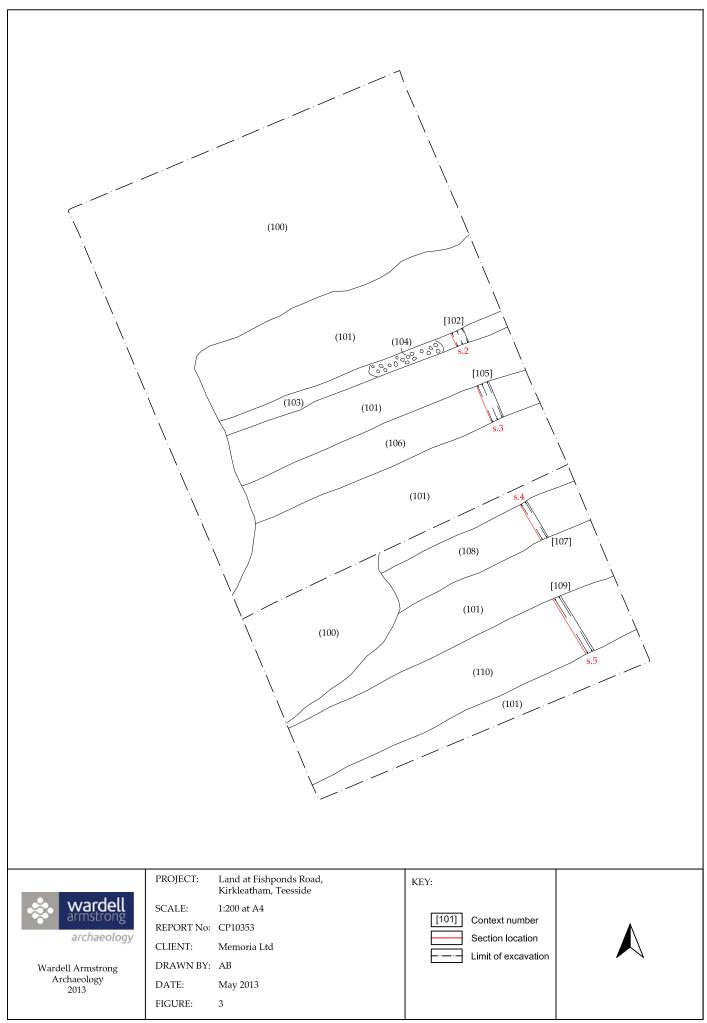
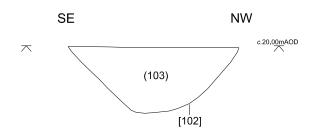
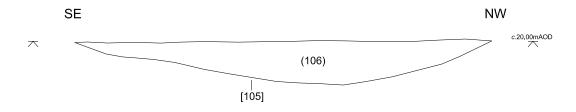


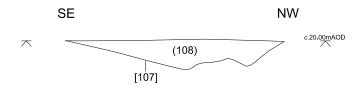
Figure 3: Phase 1 Watching Brief; Plan.



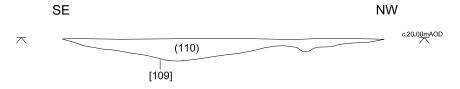
Section 2. North-east facing section across ditch [102].



Section 3. North-east facing section across furrow [105].



Section 4. North-east facing section across furrow [107].



Section 5. North-east facing section across furrow [109].

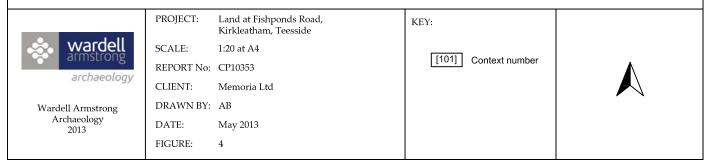


Figure 4: Phase 1 Watching Brief; Sections.

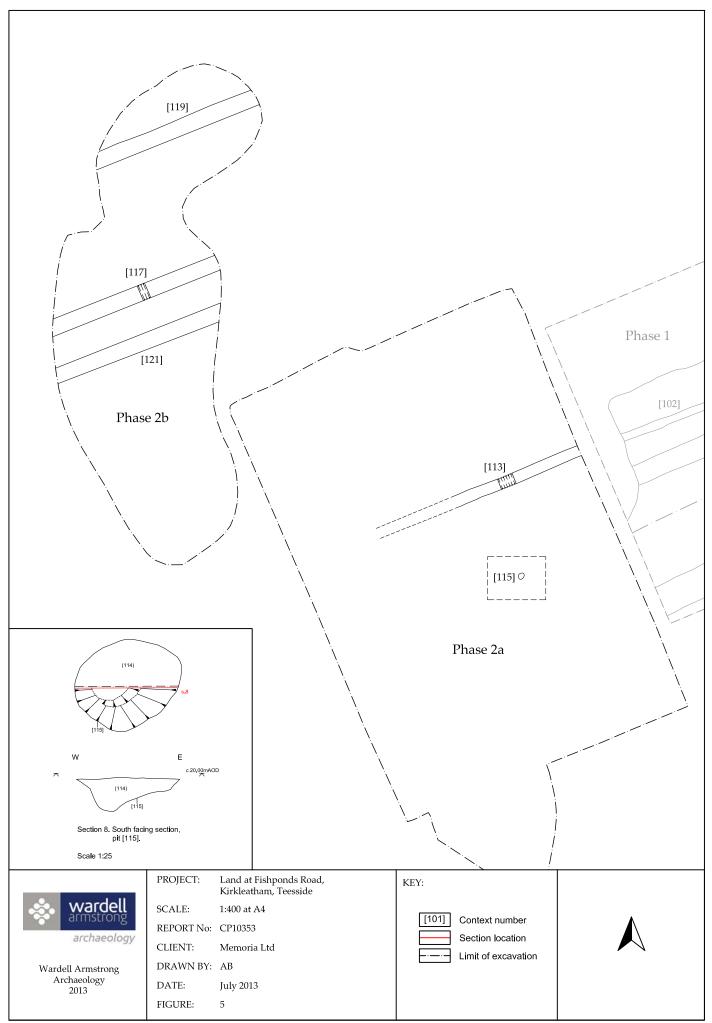


Figure 5: Phase 2 Watching Brief; Plan and Section.