

MELDRUM CONSTRUCTION

MAIDEN'S WALK, HEXHAM, NORTHUMBERLAND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK BASED ASSESSMENT AND WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

August 2015



Wardell Armstrong Archaeology

Cocklakes Yard, Carlisle, Cumbria CA4 0BQ, United Kingdom Telephone: +44 (0)1228 564820 Fax: +44(0)1228 560025 www.wa-archaeology.com



DATE ISSUED: August 2015
JOB NUMBER: CP11252/15

SITE CODE: MWH-A

OASIS REFERENCE: wardella2-209832

GRID REFERENCE: Centred on NY 9388 6380

REPORT NUMBER: RPT-001

Meldrum Construction

Maiden's Walk Desk Based Assessment and Archaeological Watching Brief

Desk Based Assessment and Watching Brief Report

August 2015

PREPARED BY:

Cat Peters Researcher

Ed Johnson Assistant Supervisor

APPROVED BY:

Martin Railton Senior Project Manager

This report has been prepared by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, within the terms of the Contract with the Client. The report is confidential to the Client and Wardell Armstrong Archaeology accepts no responsibility of whatever nature to third parties to whom this report may be made known.

 $No\ part\ of\ this\ document\ may\ be\ reproduced\ without\ the\ prior\ written\ approval\ of\ Wardell\ Armstrong\ Archaeology.$







Wardell Armstrong Archaeology is the trading name of Wardell Armstrong LLP, Registered in England No. OC307138.



CONTENTS

SUMMARY5				
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS6				
1	INT	RODUCTION	7	
	1.1	Circumstances of the Project	7	
2	ME	THODOLOGY	8	
	2.1	Written Scheme of Investigation	8	
	2.2	Desk-based Assessment	8	
	2.3	The Watching Brief	8	
3	BAC	CKGROUND	10	
	3.1	Location and Geological Context	10	
	3.2	Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment	10	
	3.3	Map Regression	14	
4	ARC	CHAEOLOGICAL Watching Brief	18	
	4.1	Introduction	18	
	4.2	Results	18	
5	CON	NCLUSIONS	19	
	5.1	Conclusions	19	
6	BIBI	LIOGRAPHY	20	
	6.1	Primary Sources	20	
	6.2	Secondary Sources	20	
	6.3	Internet Sources	21	
Αŀ	APPENDIX 1: FIGURES22			



LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS (APPENDIX 1)

Figure 1: Site location

Figure 2: Detailed site location

Figure 3: Location of heritage assets

Figure 4: Extract from Wood's Plan of Hexham, 1826

Figure 5: Extract from Hexham's Tithe Award Plan, 1844

Figure 6: Extract from Rawlinson's Map for the General Board of Health, 1853

Figure 7: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1861

Figure 8: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1896

Figure 9: Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1922

Figure 10: Ordnance Survey Map, 1968

Figure 11: Ordnance Survey Map, 1984

Figure 12: Areas monitored during watching brief



SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was invited by Watts Group Ltd. on behalf of Meldrum Construction, to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment and watching brief on land at Maiden's Walk, Hexham, Northumberland (NGR NY 9388 6380). The archaeological works were associated with the excavation of foundations for two new buildings at the site, with associated service trenches. Although this new development lies just to the south of the medieval core of Hexham, its relative close proximity to it, and to the later development of the settlement, identified the site as potentially retaining archaeological remains.

The desk-based assessment was undertaken in April 2015 to provide a deeper knowledge and understanding of the archaeological potential of the land at Maiden's Walk, prior to the archaeological watching brief taking place.

The desk-based research found that the development site lay in the agricultural hinterland of Hexham, utilised as an orchard and field by 1826, as market gardens by 1844, and as allotments by 1896. Between 1922 and 1968 the area had been developed, with much of the site in use as a car park. This, and more recent developments, may have affected the potential for earlier archaeological remains to survive sub-surface.

The watching brief was undertaken over five days during July and August of 2015. Both phases of excavation revealed that no archaeological deposits remain on the site.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology thank Mark Taylor of Watts Group Ltd for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. Thanks also go to Meldrum Construction who undertook the project. Wardell Armstrong Archaeology also thank Liz Williams, HER and Heritage Officer at Northumberland County Council, for all assistance throughout the project. Thanks also go to staff at Northumberland County Archive Service, Woodhorn, and at the local studies section of the library at Hexham.

The archaeological desk-based assessment was undertaken by Cat Peters. The watching brief was undertaken by Ed Johnson and Dave Jackson. The report was written by Cat Peters and Ed Johnson with the figures produced by Adrian Bailey. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Senior Project Manager for Wardell Armstrong Archaeology (WAA). The report was edited by Richard Newman, Post-Excavation Manager for WAA.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

- 1.1.1 In April 2015 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was invited by the Watts Group Ltd, to undertake a rapid archaeological desk-based assessment and watching brief on land at Maiden's Walk, Hexham, Northumberland (NGR NY 9388 6380; Figure 1). The archaeological works were associated with the excavation of foundations for two new buildings at the site, with associated service trenches. Although this new development lies just to the south of the medieval core of Hexham, its relative close proximity to it, and to the later development of the settlement, identified the site as potentially retaining archaeological remains.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment and watching brief were undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, submitted to, and approved by, the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team. This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the results of the desk-based research and 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 Written Scheme of Investigation

2.1.1 A written scheme of investigation (WSI) was submitted by Wardell Armstrong Archaeology, for an archaeological desk-based assessment and watching brief. Following acceptance of the WSI by Northumberland County Council Conservation Team, Wardell Armstrong Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the work. The WSI was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA 2014a; CIFA 2014b).

2.2 Desk-based Assessment

- 2.2.1 Prior to the commencement of groundworks, a rapid desk-based assessment was undertaken in order to provide historical information relating to the site at Maiden's Walk, and its immediate environs. The assessment primarily involved the consultation of the Historic Environment Record (HER) a database of local heritage assets held by Northumberland County Council.
- 2.2.2 Following the consultation of the HER, historical mapping and documentary sources were assessed for any additional information on the landscape around the Maiden's Walk area of Hexham.
- 2.2.3 The desk-based assessment was undertaken following *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment* (CIFA 2014a).

2.3 The Watching Brief

- 2.3.1 The groundworks involved a structured watching brief to observe record and excavate any archaeological deposits. 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 (CIfA 2014b).
- 2.3.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief is 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 the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
- 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 35mm monochrome formats, 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.
- 2.3.3 The Watching Brief was maintained on a permanent basis on all areas of excavations occurring as part of this development at Maiden's Walk, Hexham. This report provides a summary of the results of the archaeological watching brief and initial desk-based research.

2.4 The Archive

- 2.4.1 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 within Northumberland County Archive Service, Woodhorn if no finds; if finds, Great North Museum, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Morpeth, Northumberland, available upon request.
- 2.4.2 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology and Northumberland County Council support 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. The OASIS reference for the project is wardella2-209832



3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location and Geological Context

- 3.1.1 Hexham lies in the Tyne Valley, south of the River Tyne within the western part of Northumberland, 20 miles west of Newcastle upon Tyne and just south of the main A69 Carlisle to Newcastle road.
- 3.1.2 Maiden's Walk is located to the south of the centre of Hexham, south of the major east-west and historical route of Priestpopple. The proposed development site is located within a current car parking area, south of an existing M&S store (NGR NY 9388 6380).
- 3.1.3 The superficial geology of the area consists of alluvium, seen to be soft to form consolidated, compressed silty clay with some layers of silt, sand, peat and basal gravel in places. The bedrock geology comprises limestone, sandstone, siltstone and mudstone of the Yoredale Group (British Geological Survey website http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html).

3.2 Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

- 3.2.1 Introduction: this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and from records held in the Historic Environment Record. Asset numbers refer to the gazetteer in Appendix 1, summarizing specific heritage assets within the study area. Other references refer to original documents, held at either Northumberland County Archive Service, Woodhorn (NCASW) or Hexham Library Local Studies Section (HLLSS).
- 3.2.2 **Prehistoric (up to c. AD 72):** there is no evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the development site. There are a number of Bronze Age cist graves known from the wider area outside Hexham though nothing from within the town itself (Finlayson *et al* 2010, 5). A Neolithic cup and ring marked stone has been noted, built into the monastic workshop of Hexham Priory (asset 13), though its original location is not clear.
- 3.2.3 *Roman (c. AD 72 c. 410):* although Roman architectural fragments have been noted, reused in later buildings (e.g. assets 9 and 13), and altars and coins have been discovered in the vicinity (assets 11 and 14), there is no clear evidence for a Roman military or civilian presence in Hexham (Finlayson *et al* 2010, 5).
- 3.2.4 **Early Medieval (c. 410 1066):** "in the early 670s, Queen Etheldreda of Northumbria granted land to Wilfrid... to found a monastery at Hexham" (ibid, 5). The naming of the



site in documentary sources as 'Hagustaldesei' suggests 'young warrior' or 'warrior's enclosure' which may indicate that this prominent, defensible site was already utilized (Cambridge and Williams 1995, 72-3). Wilfrid built a church, dedicated to St Andrew, which became a cathedral in 681, the present Hexham Priory (asset 1). The best preserved part of the original church is in the crypt, which has reused Roman architectural fragments from the bridges at Corbridge and Chesters and the mausoleum at Shoreden as well as from other sources (Bidwell 2010). The base of the eastern sanctuary cross of Hexham Priory also survives from the early medieval period, though not in its original location (asset 2). Early medieval carved stones are also visible in Hexham Priory, including Acca's Cross (asset 13). In addition, some early medieval graves are known from the south and east of the present Hexham Priory, including a grave marker to 'Tundwini' (Finlayson et al 2010, 13).

- 3.2.5 Two further churches were thought to have been established during the early medieval period. The first, that of St Peter (asset 3) was thought to have been built between 674 and 678 and is likely to have been destroyed by the Danes in 875, perhaps never restored. Documentary sources mention it in the 12th century, though its architecture is not described, unlike the Church of St Mary (asset 4), perhaps further indicating its ruinous state by this time. It has been postulated that it once stood where the market now is, opposite Hexham Priory, though it may be that it never existed (Finlayson *et al* 2010, 13). The Church of St Mary is thought to have been constructed between 705 and 709, by Wilfrid to the east of the Church of St Andrew (asset 1) with only a graveyard and narrow yard between. It was destroyed by the Danes but subsequently restored, before being either completely rebuilt or a nave added during the 13th century. It was ruinous by 1537, and gradually subsumed by later development in the area.
- 3.2.6 Further evidence for early medieval activity from within the search area comes from the findspot of an Anglican cross in c. 1890 (asset 8) and of a hoard of 8,000 Anglo-Saxon stycas in a bronze vessel of AD 794-834 origin to the west of Hexham Priory, and another hoard in 1841 (asset 12).
- 3.2.7 The presence of potentially three churches in Hexham at such an early date suggests a religious settlement of some importance, though it is likely that activity was largely restricted to the environs close to Hexham Priory, which was "a flourishing centre of both learning and administration" (Finlayson et al 2010, 6). Hexham was a central place in Northumbria, and the centre of a Northumbrian Shire. The Viking raids of the 9th



- century had a big impact on Hexham, the last Bishop fleeing in 821, and with extensive damage dealt by an attack in 876.
- 3.2.8 *Medieval (1066 1540):* monastic life continued in some form during the 10th and 11th centuries at Hexham, St Andrews eventually refounded under Archbishop Thomas in 1113 as a priory of Augustine canons (asset 51; Finlayson *et al* 2010, 6), though Scottish military invasions had an impact on the development of Hexham during the medieval period (asset 144).
- 3.2.9 Hexham became the administrative centre of the Liberty and Regality of Hexhamshire held by the Archbishops of York, with buildings erected for this purpose, some of which survive today, including the Moot Hall (asset 5) erected at some time between 1355 and 1459, and used as a courthouse until 1838; and the Manor Office, or gaol, built between 1330 and 1332 (asset 6). It has been suggested that these stood within a defensive wall, with some surviving truncated upstanding remains potentially of medieval origin (Pevsner 1992, 330) and further suggestions that a vaulted basement of No. 14a Hall Stile Bank was originally part of such a wall (asset 7/85).
- 3.2.10 Hexham medieval town must have developed around these two centres, the religious centred on St Andrews/Hexham Priory and the administrative Archbishop of York precinct (Finlayson *et al* 2010, 17). A weekly market was granted in 1239 with more fair days granted in 1319, indicative of growing prosperity. A documentary source dating to 1297 cites the settlement as "the entire street of Cockshaw, 24 messuages in Priestpopple, 14 in Market Street and 16 in Hencotes" (quoted in Finlayson *et al* 2010, 17), indicating that Priestpopple, the main east to west thoroughfare forming the projected southern part of the medieval settlement, and located c.100m to the north of the proposed development site, had been settled by this time. It has been suggested that the form of Priestpopple, with narrowings at either end, is indicative of it containing a livestock market (*ibid*, 18). The name itself may mean "small plots of land that belonged to priests" (Beckensall 2012, 44) or "where recipients of alms lived" (Graham 1973, 29).
- 3.2.11 **Post-Medieval (1540 1900):** industrial growth in Hexham, in the form of milling and tanning, developed close to the burns and the River Tyne for a water supply, and, "as these industries developed, and as housing infilled areas to meet the demands of a growing population, Hexham, in the 18th century, for the first time, grew to cover a larger area than the medieval core" (Finlayson et al 2010, 19-20). Tanning and glovemaking were important in Hexham with "71 men and boys employed as leather



dressers and glove cutters, 40 boys employed as dusters, 100 women employed in sewing" (Wright 1823, quoted in Finlayson et al 2010, 24). The railway came to Hexham in 1835 in the form of the Blaydon to Hexham section of the Carlisle to Newcastle Railway (assets 28, 30, 31. 137, 149, 150, 151, 152, 160 and 161). The railway is thought to have helped lead to the development of the town beyond its medieval core, an expansion which brought public health concerns of overcrowding in the centre by the mid 19th century (Rawlinsons report to the General Board of Health, 1853 (NCASW NRO2012)). This coincided with a population growth from 5,000 between 1851 and 1881, to 8,000 by 1911, all leading to a building boom occurring between 1880 and 1910 (Higgins 1995, 39).

- 3.2.12 There are numerous sites within the search area dated to the post medieval period that relate to this expansion of Hexham, but bear little relevance to the proposed development site itself. These are summarized in Appendix 1, Table 1, and will not be individually discussed further (assets 10, 15-18, 21-22, 24-26, 29, 32-50, 52-112, 121, 124-136, 138-9, 141-3, 145-7, 153-9, 162-3). Only those of relevance are included below.
- 3.2.13 In 1823, Priestpopple, Battle Hill and Hencotes were described as one long handsome street, formed along the route from Newcastle to Carlisle, with the houses being mostly new (Wright 1823). Several listed buildings survive along Priestpopple, dating to the post medieval period (assets 113-120 and 122-3) as well as a well, discovered in 1991 (asset 23). The proposed development site itself, located c. 100m south of Priestpopple, seems to have remained in the agricultural hinterland of the town. On Wood's Plan of Hexham of 1826 (Figure 4), the site lies in two fields, between two lanes, presumably leading to outlying farmsteads (e.g. asset 140). The lane to the west is labeled 'Wanless', and the lane to the north and east 'Maidens Walk'. The pattern of the medieval town with buildings fronting Priestpopple and burgage plots and a backlane to the rear is preserved just to the north and west of the proposed development site on Wood's plan, the back lane west of Maidens Walk being utilized as a ropery, thought to date to c. 1800 (the grade II listed ropery building still survives at this location; asset 27). To the immediate west of the ropery, a 'School' and 'Independent Chapel' once stood, and to the north-west of the proposed development site, where Kiln Lane met 'Priest Popple', a large brewery, labeled 'Northumberland Brewery' on First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping, was once located (Figure 7).



3.2.14 *Modern (1900 – present):* evidence for modern activity from the search area comes from the extant bus station (asset 148), constructed in 1932 and considered of local significance.

3.3 Map Regression

- 3.3.1 Although some plans have been mentioned in the historic outline above, this section will ascertain the developments within the proposed development site and immediate area, noted from cartographic sources.
- 3.3.2 Wood's Plan of Hexham, 1826 (Figure 4): the proposed development site is shown as lying in agricultural land to the immediate south-east of Hexham. 'Maidens Walk' is shown as a dog-legged lane running to the north and east of the proposed development, and the west, 'Wanless', leading south to the farmstead of Bogacres (asset 140). To the north of where 'Maidens Walk' meets 'Wanless', the track is called 'Lonning' where it meets 'Priestpople'. A field boundary is shown running north-northwest south-south-east across the proposed development site, segregating possibly orchard land in the western half, owned by 'Mr. Pearse' from the field in the eastern half, owned by 'Mr Corbett'.
- Hexham's Tithe Award Plan, 1844 (NCASW E.P184/10.30) (Figure 5): the tithe award 3.3.3 plan of 1844 shows the proposed development site as occupying parts of the same two fields as shown previously. By 1844, the western half is owned by 'Mary Pears' and the eastern half by the 'Revd John Scott'. The layout of the lanes also remains the same. The tithe award indicates that plot no '905', the western one was both owned and occupied by 'Mary Pears', was called 'Maiden Walk' and was used as a 'Market Garden'. Plot no '906', the eastern one was owned by 'Revd John Scott', occupied by 'Thomas Stokoe', known as 'Maiden Walk' and in use as a 'Market Garden'. Both Mary Pears and the Revd John Scott only owned one plot of land in Hexham at this time. Market gardens were a fairly common industry at the edges of settlements in the early 19th century, the produce sold at markets in the towns, though at Hexham itself, much of the market gardening occurred to the north of the town (Finlayson et al 2010, 25). Land for garden purposes near the town in 1853 let for about 8l per acre, with grass at about 4l per acre and wages for agricultural labourers at about 12s per week (Rawlinson's report for the General Board of Health 1853, 18 (NCASW NRO2012)).
- 3.3.4 Rawlinson's Map for the General Board of Health, 1853 (NCASW NRO2012) (Figure 6): this map concentrates on the settled area of Hexham, showing over-population to



support the accompanying report, attesting to a lack of burial ground facility, sewerage problems and poor provision of water facilities. Although individual fields are not shown, the lanes are shown, and the layout remains the same as on earlier mapping (Figures 4 and 5). 'Wanless Lane' is shown to the west of the proposed development site, with 'Kiln Lane' to the north, on what was the 'Lonning'. The road to the north and east of the proposed development site was known at this time as 'Clay Pool Lane', which is interesting, as the field to the immediate east of the proposed development site was known as 'Clay Pool' on the Tithe Award of 1844 (NCASW E.P184/10.30).

- 3.3.5 *First Edition Ordnance Survey Mapping, 25 inch to the mile, 1861 (Figure 7):* the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1861 shows a similar layout as earlier mapping (Figures 4-6). The lanes in the vicinity are still shown with the same names, the site itself still encompassing parts of two fields, both of which are depicted as tree-covered by this time. Hinds noted that poorer land was used for arboriculture, which may have been the case for the proposed development site (Hinds 1896, 17). Within the western field, and within the proposed development site itself, a small square structure is shown to the north of what looks like a lozenge-shaped area of formal garden.
- 3.3.6 **Second Edition Ordnance Survey Mapping, 25 inch to the mile, 1896 (Figure 8):** the same structure as seen on the 1861 Ordnance Survey map appears to also be shown on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1896. The same north-north-west south-south-east boundary is shown, although further boundaries are also shown across the two former separate plots of land, indicative of sub-plots of allotment gardens. The area to the west, formerly undeveloped, contains 'Hexham Auction Mart', with rows of terraced housing beyond, indicative of the expanse of Hexham.
- 3.3.7 Third Edition Ordnance Survey Mapping, 25 inch to the mile, 1922 (Figure 9): confirmation of the land-use of the proposed development site by 1896 as allotment gardens is shown on the 1922 Ordnance Survey map, annotated 'Allotment Gardens'; separate plots with adjoining trackways are shown. New buildings have also been constructed in the intervening years to the south of the proposed development site fronting 'Wanliss Lane'.
- 1968 Ordnance Survey Mapping, 1:2500 (Figure 10): at some time between 1922 and 1968, the area to the immediate east and south-east of the proposed development site had been developed for housing. 'Wanliss Lane' had been widened and by 1968, had become 'Wanless Lane'. 'Maidens Walk', was by 1968, 'Maiden's Walk' and had also been widened. The proposed redevelopment site had also been redeveloped at



some point within these years, with two large buildings depicted to the immediate north and north-east, and a smaller building encroaching into the north-western part of the site itself. The majority of the proposed development site is shown as a 'Car Park', indicating that the site may have been leveled for this purpose.

1984 Ordnance Survey Mapping, 1:2500 (Figure 11): the 1984 Ordnance Survey map shows the same developments as the 1968 map (Figure 10). At some point after 1984, the proposed development site had again been redeveloped for the co-operative supermarket, with new mini roundabouts and extended car parking facilities. This may have been in the mid 1990s, as it apparently "traded from the M&S site for ten years until 2006" (Soult 2011 article at: http://www.soultsretailview.co.uk/2011/01/26/new-mountain-warehouse-reaffirmshexhams-status-as-a-retail-hotspot/). By Christmas 2007, Marks and Spencer were aiming to have re-branded and refurbished the former co-operative building on Maiden's Walk (Compson 2007 at: http://www.hexhamcourant.co.uk/news/2.2978/m-s-on-track-to-be-trading-inhexham-by-christmas-1.182953). The brief site visit, undertaken on 22nd April 2015, showed the extant building in use as an M&S store. It was also noted that the site has been leveled, with buildings to the south at a higher level, indicating a reduced level in the southern part, and perhaps a built up area in the north. This may affect the survival rates of any buried archaeological remains.

3.4 Previous Work

- 3.4.1 A total of 57 previous archaeological investigations have occurred within the 500m search area radius, many relating to developments at the centre of Hexham and within the medieval core, and of little relevance to the present proposed development site. A summary of these is provided in Appendix 1, Table 2. Those of relevance to the proposed development site are discussed below.
- 3.4.2 A well was encountered in a good state of preservation at Orchard Place to the north of the proposed development site in 1991 when underpinning works were undertaken (HER event 12549). This shows the potential for archaeological features to survive subsurface, even in built-up areas.
- 3.4.3 The ropery building to the north-west of the proposed development site has been subjected to a building survey in 1997 (HER event 13369) and a desk-based assessment in 2014 (HER event 15325), suggesting it may be subject to future development.



- 3.4.4 The Old Billiard Hall at No. 44 Priestpopple had three geotechnical pits bored through its floor under archaeological supervision in 2014 (HER event 15425). These revealed flowerbeds from a former 19th century formal garden, a refuse deposit and a possible built-over vennel which once led to a yard. This indicates the potential for archaeological features to survive in built-up areas sub-surface.
- 3.4.5 No archaeological investigations have been undertaken beyond the medieval core of Hexham, to the south of the settlement, so the preservation levels in the vicinity of the proposed development site have not yet been tested. The fact that the site has been subjected to modern leveling may have had a detrimental effect on any surviving archaeological features.



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the removal of topsoil from the working area, and the excavations linked with the installations of the footings for the new store (Figure 12). This was undertaken between the 7th of July and the 5th of August 2015.

4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 The initial groundworks which were undertaken between the 7th of July and the 9th of July, required the excavation of 0.5 metres of ground before a reinstatement to the same level using aggregate. The area to the north of the site and closest to the existing store was cleared first and found to consist of made ground with this covering and extending past the required 0.5 metre level in areas. At the southern extent of the site more made ground was visible during the excavations while some small patches of natural grey clay were also visible at the reduced level. After consultation it was decided that further watching of this phase of excavations was not required as this was within the area of made ground.
- 4.2.2 The second phase of groundworks covered the excavation of the footings for the new building construction. This was undertaken over two days from the 4th of August 2015, and consisted of five areas of footings being excavated across the site. All footings were excavated to a depth of 1.3 metres with a natural grey clay visible 0.25 metres under the already reduced level of 0.5 metres. Within one area of footings a yellowish brown sandy clay was exposed at 0.7 metres under the reinstated aggregate and made ground.
- 4.2.3 After monitoring the excavation of seven areas of footings across the site it was deemed unnecessary to monitor any other excavations as it became apparent the site had been significantly levelled and reduced during previous work.



5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 **Conclusions**

- 5.1.1 The desk-based research has found that the development site lay in the agricultural hinterland of Hexham, utilised as an orchard and field by 1826, as market gardens by 1844, and as allotments by 1896. Between 1922 and 1968 the area had been developed, with much of the site in use as a car park. This, and more recent developments, may have affected the potential for earlier archaeological remains to survive sub-surface.
- 5.1.2 The watching brief monitored both phases of ground reduction across the site with the site being found to be significantly reduced and levelled prior to this phase of construction. No further work is deemed necessary.



6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

6.1 **Primary Sources**

Wood's Plan of Hexham, 1826

Hexham's Tithe Award and Plan, 1844 (NCASW E.P.184/10.30)

Rawlinson's Map for The General Board of Health, 1853 (NCASW NRO2012)

First Edition Ordnance Survey Mapping, 25 inch to the mile, 1861, Northumberland Sheet XCIV.6 (HLLSS YA22)

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Mapping, 25 inch to the mile, 1896

Third Edition Ordnance Survey Mapping, 25 inch to the mile, 1922

1968 Ordnance Survey Mapping, 1:2500

1984 Ordnance Survey Mapping, 1:2500

6.2 **Secondary Sources**

Beckensall, S (2012), Hexham Through Time, Amberley Publishing Ltd: Stroud

Bidwell, P. (2010), 'A survey of the Anglo-Saxon crypt at Hexham and its reused stonework', in *Archaeologia Aeliana 5, series 39, pp 375-400*

Brown, D.H (2011), *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum

Brown, D.H. (2011), Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation. Archaeological Archives Forum

Cambridge, E. and Williams, A. (1995), 'Hexham Abbey: a review of recent work and its implications', in *Archaeologia Aeliana 5, series 23, pp 51-138*

CIfA (2013b), Standards and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials, Reading: Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA (2014a), Standards and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment, Reading: Institute for Archaeologists

CIfA (2014b), Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists

English Heritage (1991), Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2). London: English Heritage

English Heritage (2002), Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods from Sampling and Recording to Post-Excavation). London: English Heritage

English Heritage (2006), Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE). London: English Heritage

Finlayson, R, Carlton, R. Hardie, C, Williams, A. and Derham, K. (2009), *Hexham Extensive Urban Survey*, Northumberland County Council and English Heritage: Morpeth



Graham, F. (1973), *Hexham: a short history and guide*, Northern History Booklet No. 29, Frank Graham: Newcastle upon Tyne

Higgins, R.M. (1995) 'The Growth of Hexham in the 1890s', in *Hexham Historian No 5, pp 39-45*

Hinds, A.B. (1896), A History of Northumberland, Vol 3, Hexhamshire Part I

NPPF (2012), *National Planning Policy Framework: Archaeology and Planning*. Department for Communities and Local Government

Peters, C. (2007a), 'Archaeological Watching Brief on Hexham Water Mains Refurbishment', unpublished grey literature report by North Pennines Archaeology

Peters, C. (2007b), 'Archaeological Watching Brief Report on Land Disturbed by New Interpretation Panels at Hexham Abbey', unpublished grey literature report by North Pennines Archaeology

Pevsner, N. (1992), The Buildings of England: Northumberland, Yale University Press: London

Wright, A.B. (1823), *History of Hexham*, 1973 third edition reprint Frank Graham: Newcastle upon Tyne (HLLSS)

6.3 Internet Sources

British Geological Survey website http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html (accessed 23/04/15)

Compson, H, 2007, 'M&S on track to be trading in Hexham by Christmas', in the *Hexham Courant*, 3rd August 2007; online at: http://www.hexhamcourant.co.uk/news/2.2978/m-s-on-track-to-be-trading-in-hexham-by-christmas-1.182953 (accessed 24/04/15)

Soult, G, 2011, 'New Mountain Warehouse reaffirms Hexham's status as a retail hotspot', in *Soult's Retail View* online at: http://www.soultsretailview.co.uk/2011/01/26/new-mountain-warehouse-reaffirms-hexhams-status-as-a-retail-hotspot/ (accessed 24/04/15)



APPENDIX 1: FIGURES

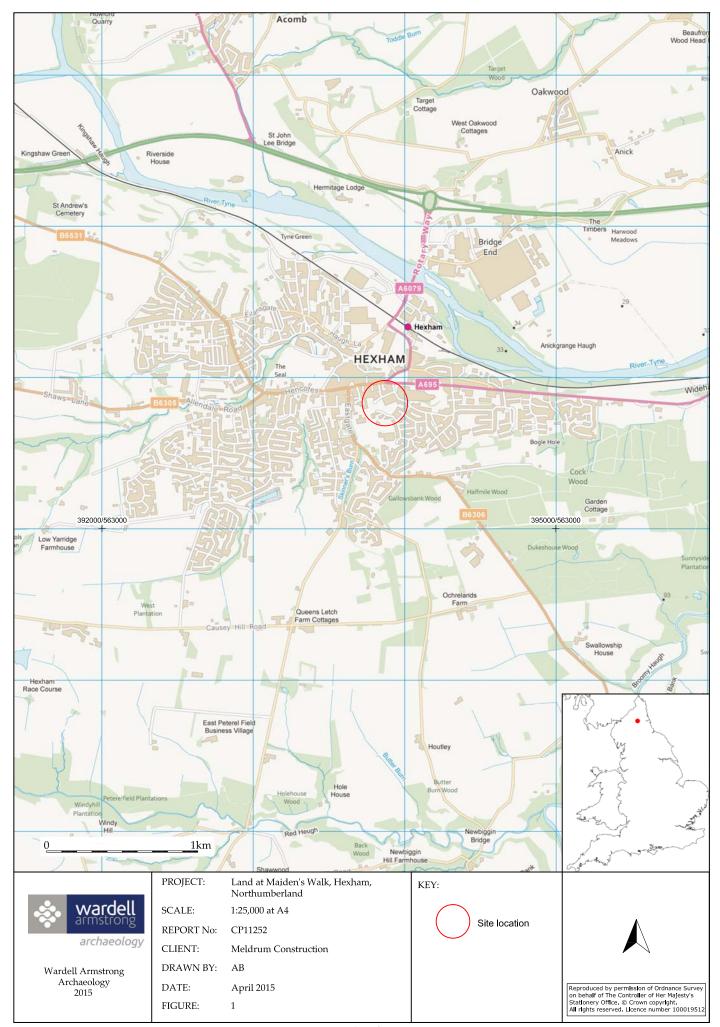


Figure 1: Site location.

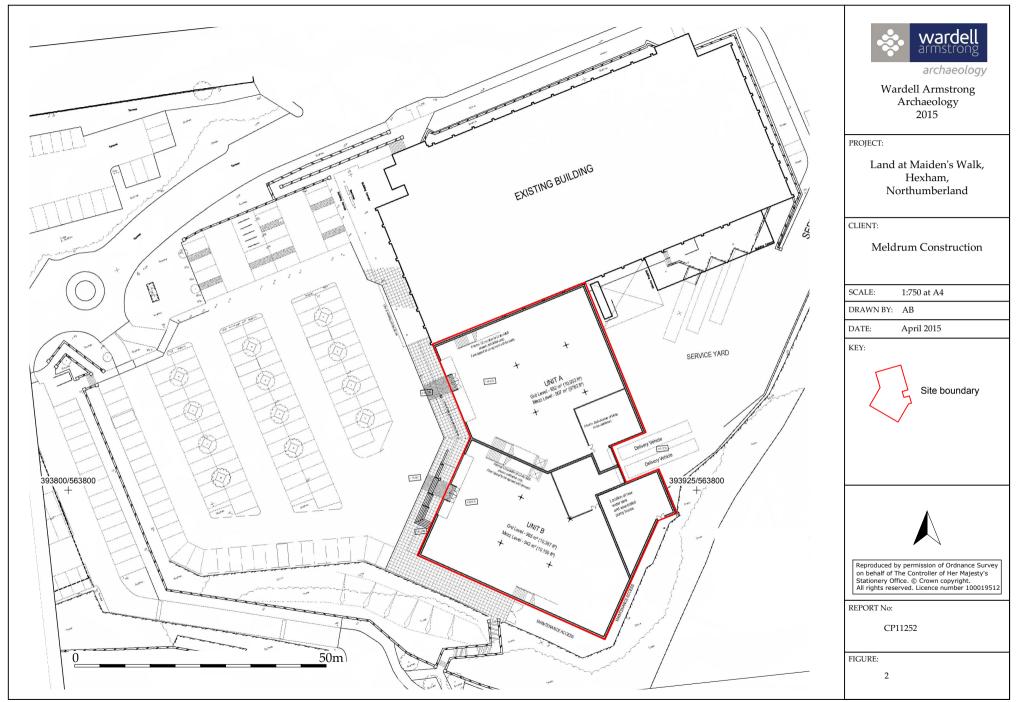


Figure 2: Detailed site location.

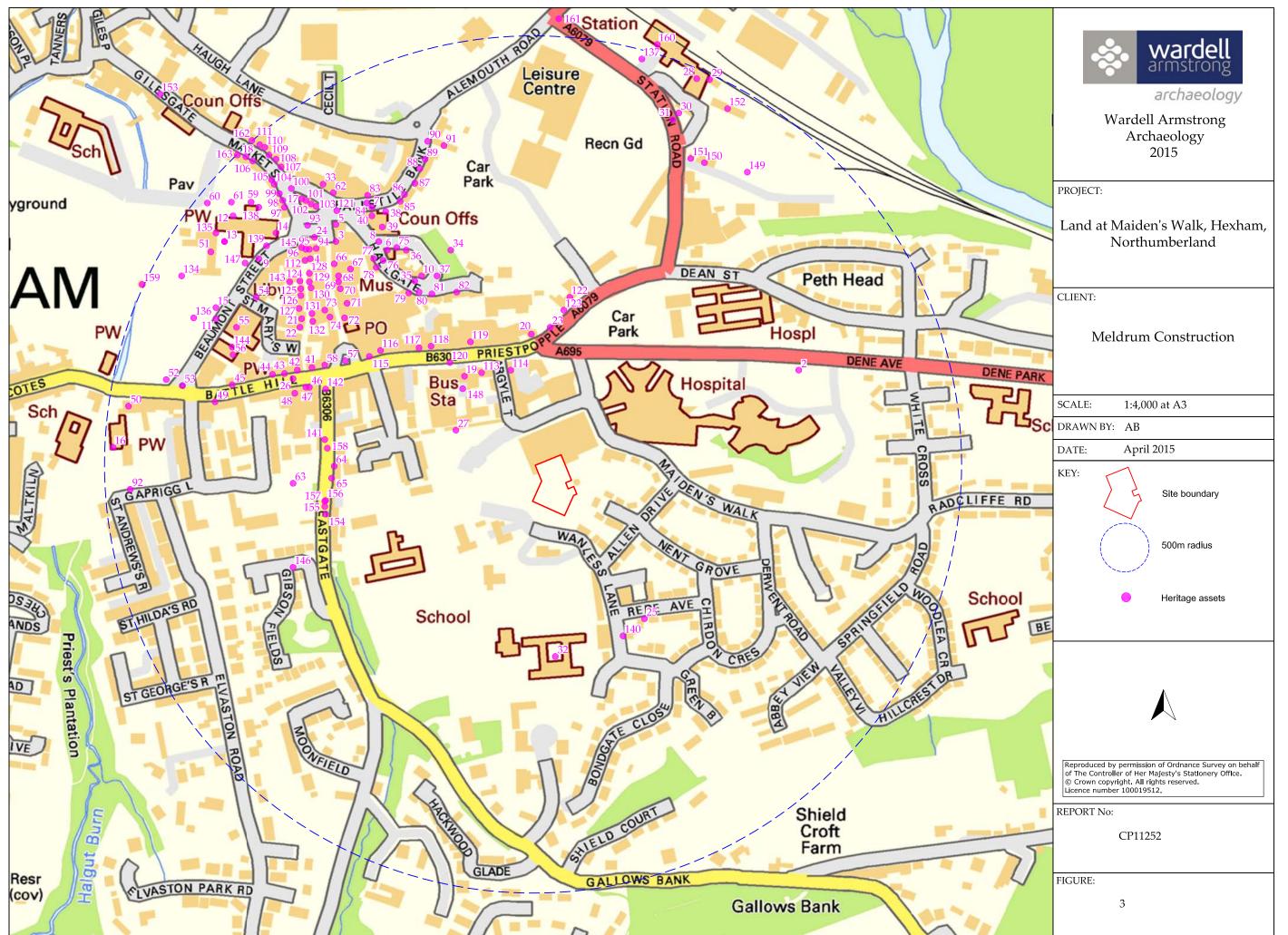


Figure 3: Location of heritage assets.

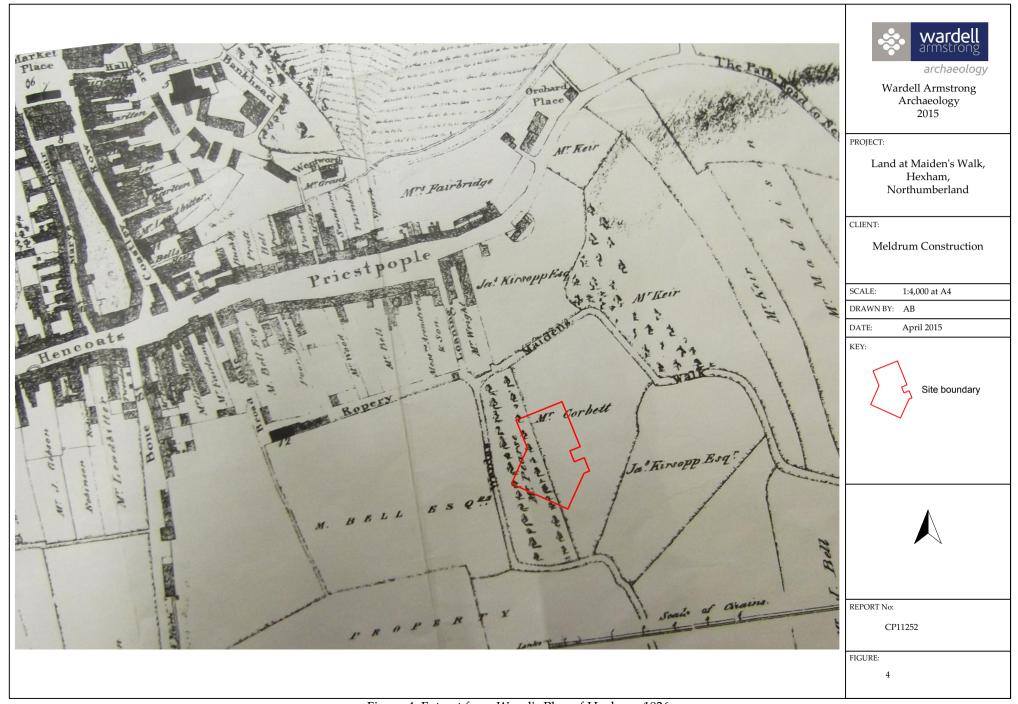


Figure 4: Extract from Wood's Plan of Hexham, 1826.



Figure 5: Extract from Hexham's Tithe Award Plan, 1844.

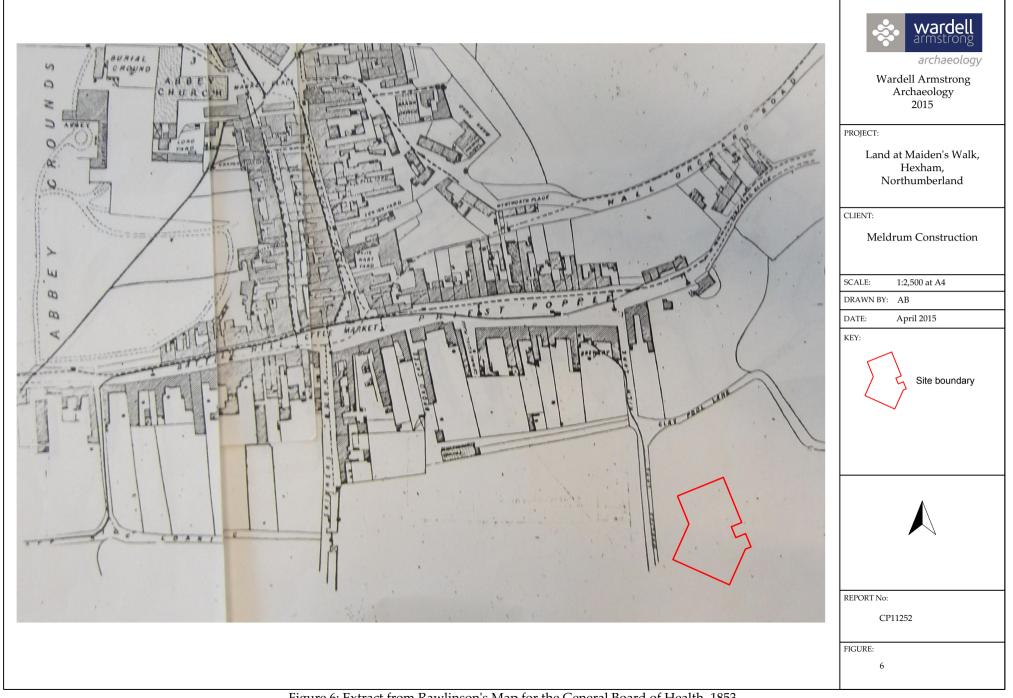


Figure 6: Extract from Rawlinson's Map for the General Board of Health, 1853.



Figure 7: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1861 (25" to 1 mile).

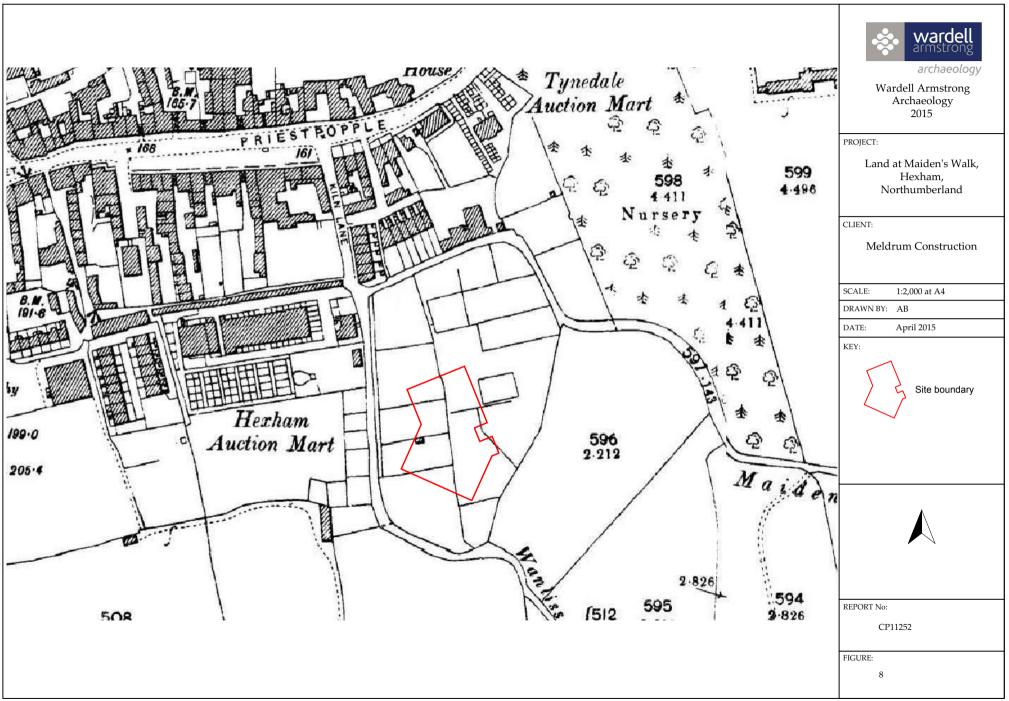


Figure 8: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1896 (25" to 1 mile).

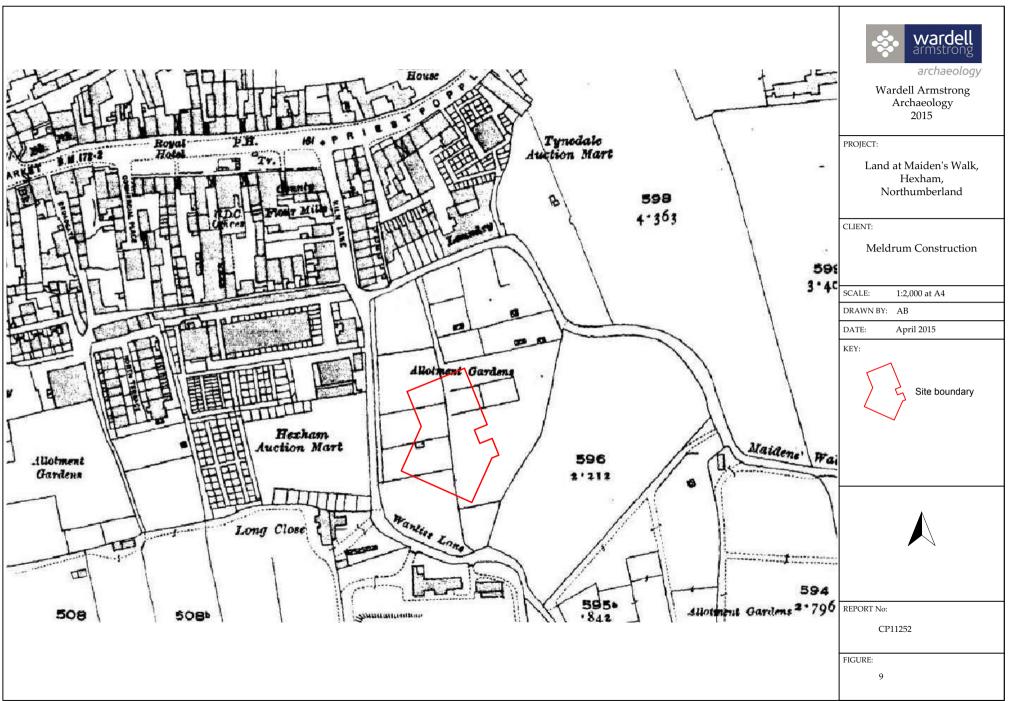


Figure 9: Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1922 (25" to 1 mile).

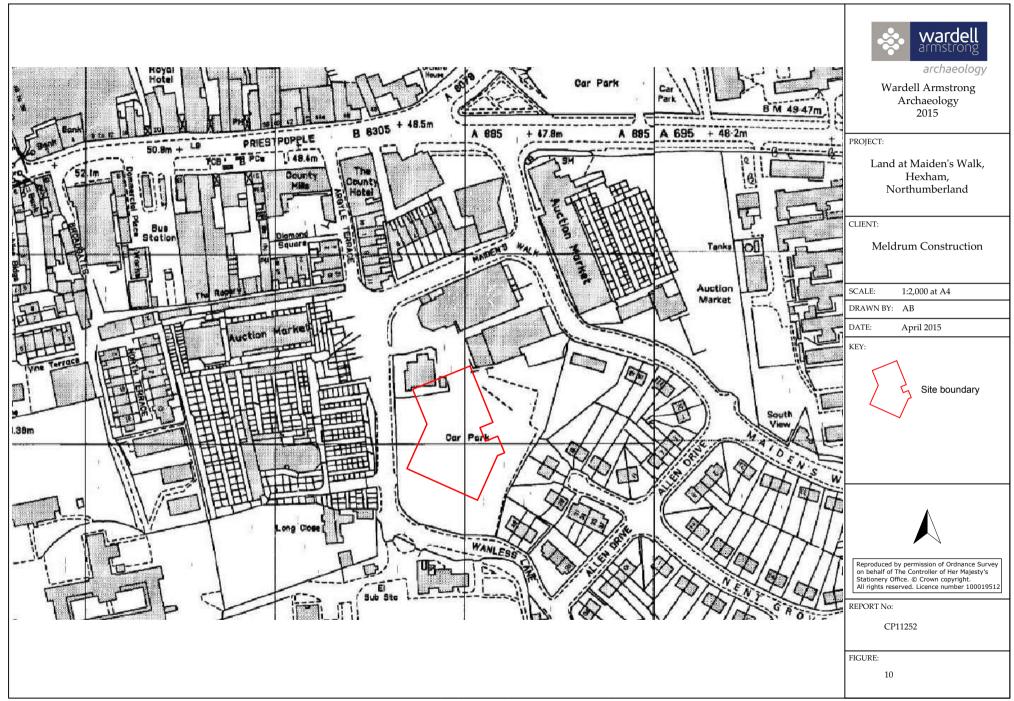


Figure 10: Ordnance Survey Map, 1968 (1:2,500).



Figure 11: Ordnance Survey Map, 1984 (1:2,500).

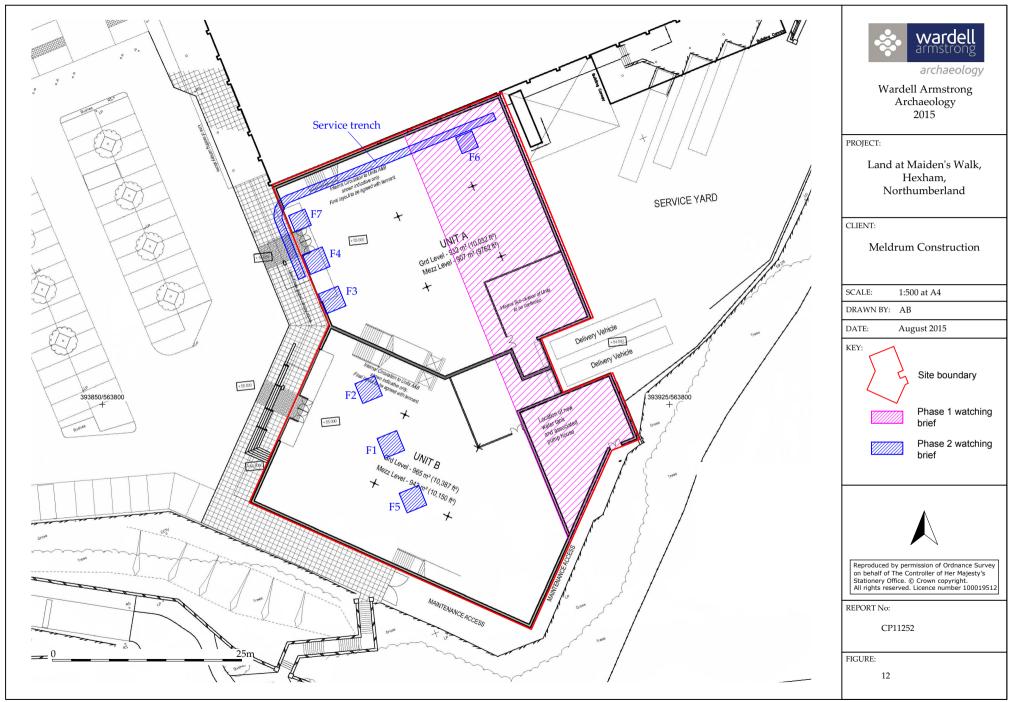


Figure 12: Areas monitored during watching brief.

wardell-armstrong.com

STOKE-ON-TRENT Sir Henry Doulton House Forge Lane Etruria Stoke-on-Trent ST1 5BD Tel: +44 (0)845 111 7777

CARDIFF 22 Windsor Place Cardiff CF10 3BY Tel: +44 (0)29 2072 9191

EDINBURGH Suite 2/3, Great Michael House 14 Links Place Edinburgh EH6 7EZ Tel: +44 (0)131 555 3311

GREATER MANCHESTER
2 The Avenue
Leigh
Greater Manchester
WN7 1ES
Tel: +44 (0)1942 260101

LONDON Third Floor 46 Chancery Lane London WC2A 1JE Tel: +44 (0)20 7242 3243

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE City Quadrant 11 Waterloo Square Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4DP Tel: +44 (0)191 232 0943 PENRYN Tremough Innovation Centre Tremough Campus Penryn Cornwall TR10 9TA Tel: +44 (0)1872 560738

SHEFFIELD
Unit 5
Newton Business Centre
Newton Chambers Road
Thorncliffe Park
Chapeltown
Sheffield
S35 2PH
Tel: +44 (0)114 245 6244

TRURO Wheal Jane Baldhu Truro Cornwall TR3 6EH Tel: +44 (0)1872 560738

WEST BROMWICH Thynne Court Thynne Street West Bromwich West Midlands B70 6PH Tel: +44 (0)121 580 0909 International offices:

ALMATY 29/6 Satpaev Avenue Rakhat Palace Hotel Office Tower, 7th Floor Almaty 050040 Kazakhstan Tel:+7-727-3341310

MOSCOW Suite 2, Block 10, Letnikovskaya St. Moscow, Russia 115114 Tel: +7(495) 980 07 67

Wardell Armstrong Archaeology:

CUMBRIA Cocklakes Yard Carlisle Cumbria CA4 0BQ

Tel: +44 (0)1228 564820

