

2020

Northumberland

Archaeological
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LAND NORTH OF FAIRFIELDS PHASE 3

Longframlington
Northumberland

NGR 412671 601301

Archaeological Evaluation

Project 318-20-EVA | July 2020



on behalf of Tantallon Homes (Longframlington) Ltd

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Archaeological Evaluation

LAND NORTH OF FAIRFIELDS (PHASE 3)

Longframlington
Northumberland

July 2020



VINDOMORA SOLUTIONS LTD
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SUMMARY

Name of location:	Land north of Fairfields
Address of location:	Longframlington, Northumberland NE65 8DS
National Grid Reference:	NGR 412671 601301
Client:	Tantallon Homes (Longframlington) Ltd
Project Type:	Archaeological Evaluation
Local Authority Conservation Team:	Northumberland Conservation
Planning Application Reference:	<i>Not applicable at the time of report production</i>
Project Site Code:	FLP-20
Vindomora Solutions Reference:	318-20-EVA
Report Author:	Tony Liddell
This Report Version/Date:	V1 / This issue, Wednesday, July 1, 2020
OASIS Identifier:	vindomor1-397975
Ordnance Survey Licence Reference:	100053142
Google Earth Pro:	Licensed 2015-20

CONCISE SUMMARY OF REPORT

In June 2020 Vindomora Solutions Ltd were commissioned by Tantallon Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation scheme on land to the north of Fairfields, Longframlington, Northumberland. This project would seek to evaluate Phase 3 of Tantallon Homes Ltd's development on the site, with Phases 1 and 2 (directly to the northeast) previously evaluated in Vindomora Solutions Ltd report 265-19-EVA. The Phase 3 investigation was undertaken to inform any potential mitigation condition requirement for the upcoming Phase 3 planning application which proposes to construct 28 residential units with associated access, landscaping and amenity space. The need for the evaluation to be undertaken was identified in line with paragraphs 189, 190, 197 and 199 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019).

21 trenches were excavated totalling a 5% sample (990m²) of the proposed development area. All of the trenches were shallow with no discernable topsoil/ploughsoil stratification. A network of field drains, previously identified in the 2019 evaluation to the northeast was recorded, as well as two alignments of furrow remnants. Both systems and their alignments can still be seen in the field to the west of the proposed site.

The extent of evaluation coverage coupled with that of the 2019 evaluation suggests that the development area as a whole was part of the agricultural field system during the later medieval period, but that the medieval settlement itself did not extend into the development boundary.

The evaluation also produced no evidence of any earlier archaeological remains.

Based upon the evaluation of this proposed development area, and coupled that that of Phase 1 & 2 to the northeast, the archaeological potential within the development area can be classified as **negligible**.



Figure 1. Location of the site, regionally.

1. SCOPE OF PROJECT



Plate 1. Aerial view of the site (dataset © 2020 Getmapping PLC). The proposed development area is outlined in red.

1.1 Project location

- 1.1.1 The development site was located at on the west side of the A697, Longframlington, Northumberland (centred at 412671 601301). The site lies north of the new housing estate Fairfields and southwest of Longframlington URC Church.
- 1.1.2 **Geology:** The development area lies over the Stainmore Formation, consisting of mudstone, siltstones and sandstone with a narrow band of limestone running northeast-southwest through the site. Over this lies Devensian Till mainly composed of clay, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey, 2019).
- 1.1.3 The site lies at an average of 163m OD (*Ordnance Datum*, above sea level) at its eastern extent, rising to 165m to the west.

1.2 Circumstances of the Project

- 1.2.1 In June 2020 Vindomora Solutions Ltd were commissioned by Tantallon Homes Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation scheme on land to the north of Fairfields, Longframlington, Northumberland. This project would seek to evaluate Phase 3 of Tantallon Homes Ltd's development on the site, with Phases 1 and 2 (directly to the northeast) previously evaluated in Vindomora Solutions Ltd report 265-19-EVA. The Phase 3 investigation was undertaken to inform any potential mitigation condition requirement for the upcoming Phase 3 planning application

which proposes to construct 28 residential units with associated access, landscaping and amenity space. The location and extent of the development area can be viewed on *Figures 1 and 2*.

1.2.2 The need for the evaluation was identified in line with paragraphs 189, 190, 197 and 199 of the National Planning Policy Framework (2019).

1.2.3 Archaeological and historical research objectives are built into developer funded archaeological schemes of work. This is the result of a number of English Heritage national policy frameworks: *Exploring our Past* (1991), *Frameworks for our Past* (1996), *Research Agenda* (1997) and *Policy Statement on Implementation* (1999). The research priorities proposed initially to have potential direct relevance to this project are set out in *Shared Visions: North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (2006), in particular:

- Prehistoric: *l*ii. Settlement;
*l*iii. Landscapes;
*l*v. Material culture
- Roman: *R*iv. Native and civilian life;
*R*v. Roman material culture;
*R*ix. Landscape and environment.
- Medieval: *M*Di. Settlement;
*M*Dii. Landscape;
*M*Dvii. Artefacts.

1.3 Written Scheme of Investigation

1.3.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for this project was produced by Tony Liddell, Principal Archaeologist for Vindomora Solutions Ltd and approved by Nick Best, Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland Conservation, Northumberland County Council (Version 1, approved 19th June 2020).

1.4 Timetable of works

1.4.1 The fieldwork was undertaken during the week beginning the 22nd June 2020.

1.4.2 The evaluation report was finalised on Wednesday, July 1, 2020.

1.5 Professional standards

1.5.1 The work undertaken was in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct* (2014) and their *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological evaluation* (2014), as well as in accordance with the British Archaeologists' and Developers' Liaison Group's *Code of Practice* (1988).

1.6 Health and safety

1.6.1 Standard PPE was utilised for health and safety purposes throughout the fieldwork. All issues of on-site health and safety were undertaken in accordance with the Vindomora Solutions Limited *Health and Safety Manual* (updated 2018).

1.6.2 An overhead power cable area was initially noted from Ordnance Survey mapping in the production of the WSI running southeast-northwest across the southern extent of the proposed development area. However, it seems that the overhead wires were removed during the construction of Fairfields, with the likelihood with standard practice of the cables being placed underground. As such the exclusion zone was maintained.

1.6.3 COVID-19 restrictions: This evaluation took place during the COVID-19 pandemic late June semi-lockdown and as such further health and safety measures were in place.

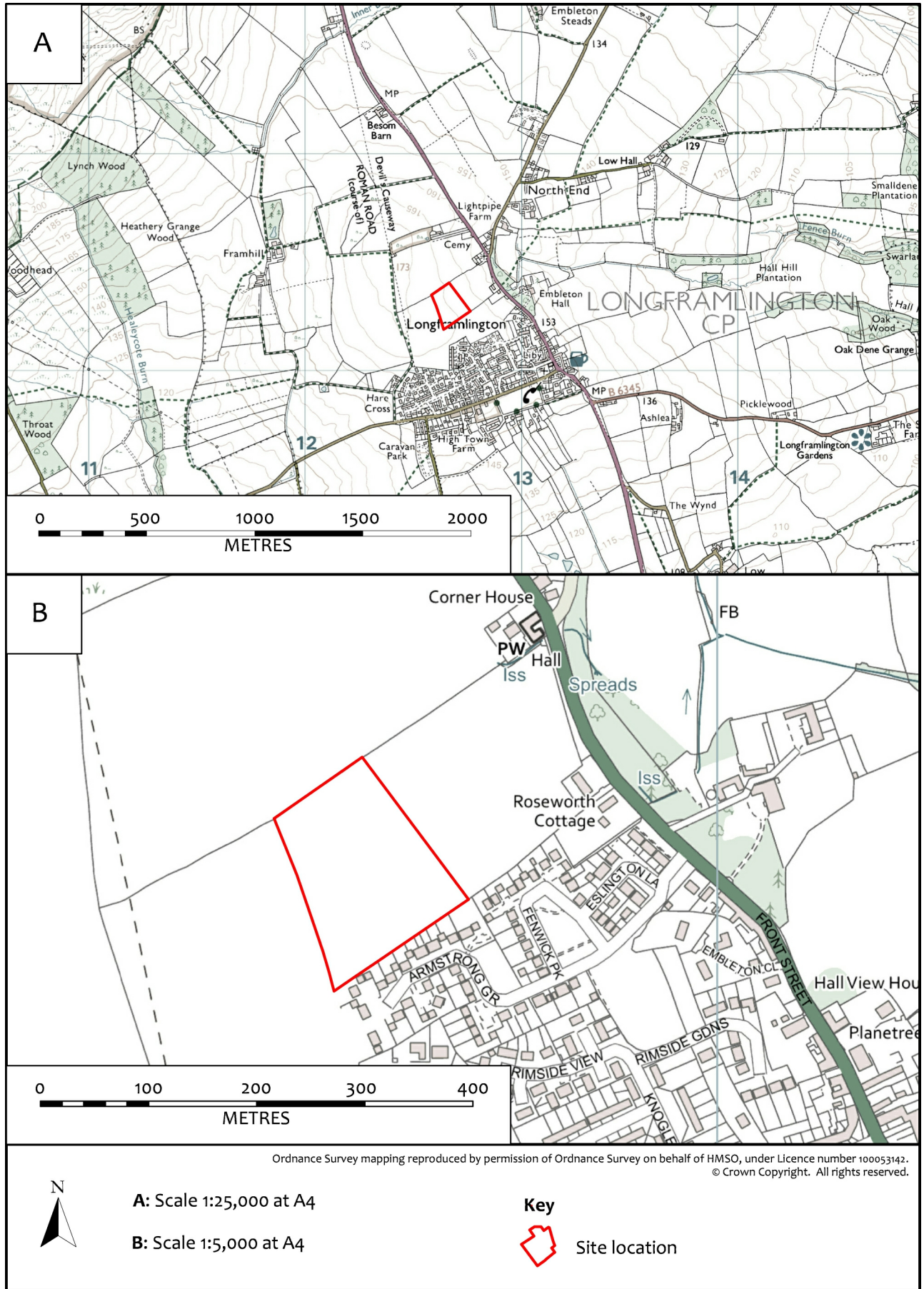


Figure 2. Location of the site, locally.

- *Distancing.* All staff were required to keep 2m distance at all times. The machine driver was also required to maintain social distancing from the archaeological staff.
- *Food and drink.* All staff were required to bring their own food and drink and also ensure distancing during breaks.
- *Tools.* All staff were required to utilise one set of tools and not share.
- *Archive and recording.* All recording was undertaken by the site supervisor.
- *Gloves/Hand sanitiser.* Field staff were required to wear gloves at all times and wash/sanitise their hands after gloves are removed.

1.7 Archive

- 1.7.1 A full archive has been compiled in line with the specification and current UKIC and English Heritage Guidelines. The project code is **FLP-20** (**F**airfields **L**ongframlington **P**hase3 Northumberland 20**20**). Vindomora Solutions support the **Online Access** to the **Index of Archaeological Investigations** project (OASIS). As a result, this report will be made available to the project under the unique identifier **vindomor-397975**.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL/HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



Plate 2. Extract from the 1864 Ordnance Survey map. The proposed development area is outlined in red.

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 This historical/archaeological background is based primarily upon data from the Northumberland County Council Historic Environment Record (HER) as well as primary and secondary sources.
- 2.1.2 The development site is located within a known archaeological and historic landscape with human habitation in the wider area known from the prehistoric periods onwards.

2.2 Longframlington

- 2.2.1 *Place name:* 'Longframlington' is believed to be derived from Old English meaning *framela's people's settlement*, and was first referred to in AD 1166 as *Fremelintun*.

2.3 The site in its wider archaeological context

- 2.3.1 In 2013, a scheme of archaeological evaluation was undertaken 600m to the southwest of the site at Harecross, though no archaeological remains or deposits were found.
- 2.3.2 In 2014, a scheme of archaeological geophysical survey was undertaken in the fields directly to the south of the proposed development area, but failed to identify any features of interest. However, the field contained upstanding ridge and furrow earthworks, which are known to often mask archaeological remains beneath.
- 2.3.3 In 2018, a scheme of archaeological evaluation uncovered an undated gully containing post-holes, approximately 270m to the northeast of the proposed development boundary. It was noted that the feature pre-dated the medieval field system, and as such could be Roman or prehistoric in origin.



Plate 3. Aerial image (dataset © 2020 Getmapping PLC), with potential cropmarks marked in magenta.

- 2.3.4 A scheme of archaeological geophysics was undertaken to the west/southwest of the proposed development area in 2018, though the upstanding earthworks associated with the medieval ridge and furrow system in the field prevented clear identification of anomalies, though the presence of pits, gullies and ditches was suggested. Interestingly, the survey also failed to identify the line of the Devil's Causeway Roman Road, thought to run through the western extent of the site: the purported line of the Roman Road also runs only 235m to the west of the current proposed development's western boundary.
- 2.3.5 In 2019, an archaeological evaluation comprising 41 trenches was undertaken directly to the east of the proposed development area (Phase I and II) by Vindomora Solutions Ltd. The evaluation targeted suggested anomalies recorded on aerial imagery. These anomalies were found to comprise remains of ridge and furrow, post-medieval and modern land drainage and a palaeochannel. A single pit feature was recorded at NGR 412759 601369. Potentially a post-pit, this feature and a 400m² area around it is subject to further investigation as archaeological mitigation for the Phase I/II project.
- 2.3.6 500m southeast of the proposed development area lies the supposed Roman camp of Hall Hill, noted on historic mapping as holding the classic Roman military camp shape and outline. The 'camp' is formed by a single rampart earthwork with Hall Hill farm now residing in the southeast corner.
- 2.3.7 St, Mary's Church, located 433m southeast of the development site dates to the 12th century AD with 14th century additions and also contains potentially earlier fabric.

2.4 Historic mapping evidence

- 2.4.1 Historic mapping from 1864, 1867, 1897, 1923 and 1974. All showed the field as pasture with no notable post-19th century features. Plate 2 shows an extract from the 1864 Ordnance mapping, with the development area highlighted in red.

2.5 Aerial photographic evidence

- 2.5.1 *Aerial photographic evidence:* Combining the 2002 and 2006 Google Earth Pro images a number of potential anomalies could be seen as faint cropmarks, including two sub-rectangular enclosures and old field boundaries. Later photography also shows a series of north-south aligned field drains covering the development area. Infra red-imagery does not highlight any features of significance.

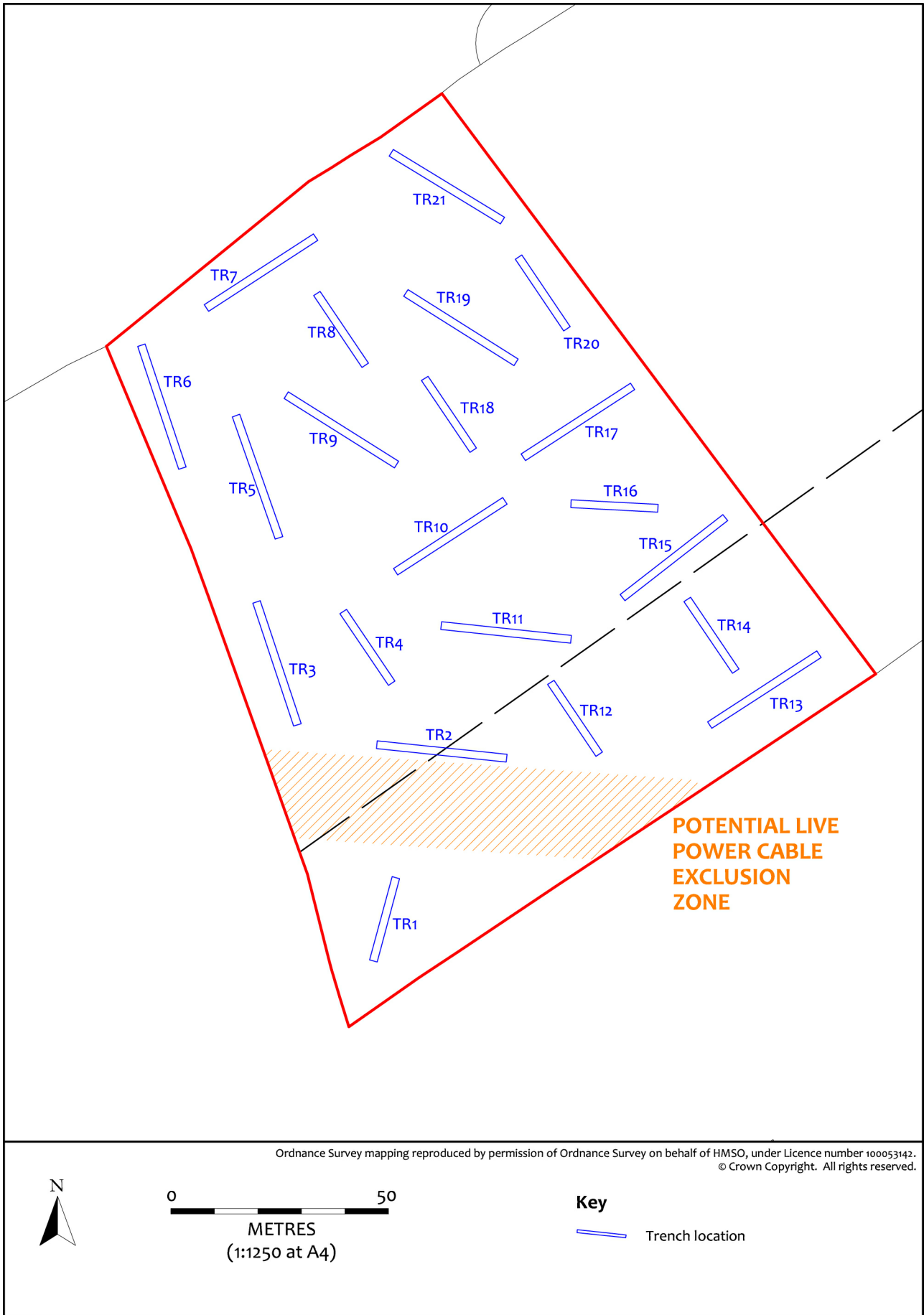


Figure 3. Trench location plan

3. THE EVALUATION: TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION



Plate 4. Trench excavations underway under constant archaeological supervision

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 In accordance with the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation, the evaluation involved the excavation of 990m² of trenching (see Figure 3 for the trench location plan) based upon a 5% sample of the development area. This resulted in 13 trenches measuring 30m long by 1.8m wide and 8 trenches measuring 20m by 1.8m wide.
- 3.1.2 The trenches were plotted on site by Tony Liddell, Principal Archaeologist for Vindomora Solutions Ltd utilising a Leica GPS Rover, and then excavated by a JS130 mechanical tracked excavator with a 1.8m wide toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Trenches were opened until the afternoon of each working day, and then backfilled with the machine and gate to the field secured at the end of each day.
- 3.1.3 Each trench was cleaned by hand and inspected for archaeological remains. A sample of images detailing each trench from the evaluation can be seen in Appendix 1.
- 3.1.4 The mechanical excavation of the trenches was undertaken by D&K Plant Hire. The archaeological supervision was undertaken by Mick Coates. The trenches were investigated and recorded by Mick Coates and Jack Coates.

3.2 Overburden

- 3.2.1 The trenches in the field had no discernable subsoils, with heavy ploughing down to the natural substrate horizon. The ploughsoil, context (1), was a mid-brown sandy clay. The depths of each trench can be seen on Table 1.

Trench #	Depth of geology in trench from surface (m)	Depth (m OD)	Depth of geology in trench from surface (m)	Depth (m OD)	Land drains	Furrows
1	SW 0.3	165.68	NE 0.25	165.42	1	
2	SE 0.3	164.52	NW 0.25	165.22		3
3	SE 0.3	165.63	NW 0.35	165.5	2	3
4	SE 0.27	164.87	NW 0.3	164.88	1	1
5	NW 0.3	165.03	SE 0.35	164.92	1	
6	NW 0.08	165.73	SE 0.18	165.77		
7	SW 0.18	165.12	NE 0.2	164.15	1	
8	SE 0.23	163.92	NW 0.2	164.35		1
9	SE 0.28	163.84	NW 0.22	164.85	1	5
10	NE 0.25	163.4	SW 0.1	164.42		
11	NW 0.22	164.3	SE 0.26	163.5	2	
12	SE 0.3	163.84	NW 0.34	163.82	1	1
13	SW 0.2	163.1	NE 0.2	162.11		
14	SE 0.25	162.65	NW 0.3	162.66	3	4
15	SW 0.18	163.1	NE 0.2	162	2	
16	NW 0.27	162.92	SE 0.25	162.36	2	
17	NE 0.2	161.96	SW 0.23	163	2	1
18	NW 0.3	163.44	SE 0.22	163.28	1	
19	NW 0.22	163.59	SE 0.25	162.71	1	3
20	NW 0.2	162.61	SE 0.3	162.15	1	1
21	SE 0.25	162.54	NW 0.1	163.34	3	2

Table 1. Trench data.

3.3 Natural substrate

3.3.1 The underlying geology within the evaluation area consisted of a sandy yellow-brown clay with occasional stones (G1).

3.4 Trenches devoid of archaeological remains

3.4.1 None of the trenches excavated revealed any archaeological remains of interest.

3.4.2 Trenches 1, 3-5, 7, 9, 11-12 and 14-21 contained field drains, many of which aligned with the system noted in Phase 1&2 of the evaluation scheme in 2019.

3.4.3 Trenches 2-4, 8-9, 12, 14, 17 and 19-21 contained heavily ploughed out furrow remnants, again aligning with those uncovered in the Phase 1&2 evaluation scheme in 2019.

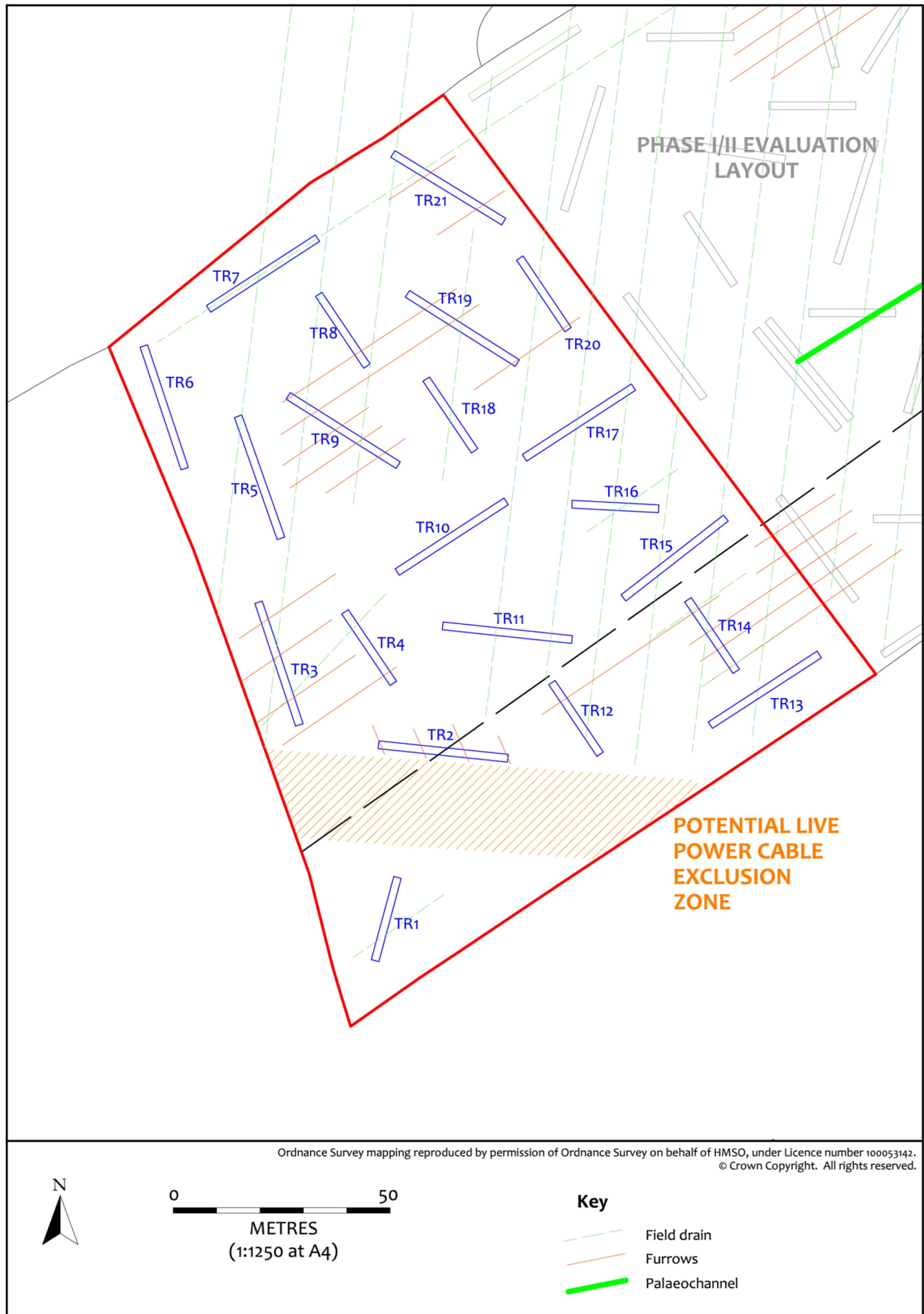


Figure 4. Trenching results



Plate 5. Recovering the copper alloy button.

3.5 Background artefactual remains

3.5.1 A small shard of green 19th century bottle glass was recovered from the topsoil in Trench 16.

3.5.2 A degraded copper alloy button, likely early 20th century in date was recovered from the upper horizon of the southern furrow remnant in Trench 9.

4. THE EVALUATION: INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION



Plate 6. Recording Trench 21

4.1 Interpretation of the results

- 4.1.1 21 trenches were excavated totalling a 5% sample of the proposed development area. All of the trenches were shallow with no discernable topsoil/ploughsoil stratification.
- 4.1.2 A network of field drains, previously noted in the 2019 evaluation to the northeast was identified, as well as two alignments of furrow remnants. Both systems and their alignments can still be seen in the field to the west of the proposed site.

4.2 Archaeological potential

- 4.2.1 No archaeological remains of interest were identified within the evaluation. Coupled with the Phase 1&2 41 trench evaluation, the total trenching in this development covers 62 trenches (3075m²), identifying a single small undatable pit within the Phase 2 area.
- 4.2.2 The extent of coverage suggests that the development area as a whole was part of the agricultural field system during the later medieval period, but that the medieval settlement itself did not extend into the development boundary.
- 4.2.3 The evaluation also produced no evidence of any earlier archaeological remains.
- 4.2.4 Barring potential for background artefactual remains, the archaeological potential within the development area, based upon the 3075m² sample is **negligible**.

5. REPOSITORIES AND SOURCES

5.1 Repositories

- Beamish Museum People's Collection.** Online at <http://collections.beamish.org.uk/>
- Britain from Above Project.** Online at <http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/>
- British Library.** Online at <http://www.bl.uk/>
- British Geological Survey.** Online at <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>
- Durham Record Office.** County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL
- Historic England Archive.** Online at <http://archive.historicengland.org.uk>
- Keys to the Past.** Online at <http://www.keystothepast.info>
- Newcastle City Library.** Local studies section, Princess Square, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 1DX
- PastScape Project.** Online at <http://www.pastscape.org.uk/default.aspx>
- Portable Antiquities Scheme.** Online at <https://finds.org.uk/>
- Tyne and Wear Archives.** Blandford House, Blandford Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4JA
- ViewFinder Project.** Online at <http://viewfinder.english-heritage.org.uk/>
- Vindomora Solutions Ltd Archive.** Prospect House, Prospect Business Park, Leadgate, Consett, County Durham DH8 7PW

5.2 Sources

- ClfA (2010) *Code of Conduct*. Institute for Archaeologists
- ClfA (2014) *Standard and guidance for archaeological evaluations*. Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- ClfA (2014) *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Institute for Archaeologists
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- Department for Communities and Local Government (2012) *Communities and Local Government: National Planning Policy Framework*
- English Heritage (2008) *Conservation Principles - Policies and Guidance*
- English Heritage (1991) *Managing Archaeological Projects*. Second edition
- Google Earth Pro
- Historic England (2015) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment - The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*
- Liddell, T (2020). *Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological evaluation on land north of Fairfields (Phase 3), Longframlington, Northumberland*. WSI 318-20-EVA.
- Ordnance Survey mapping: 1867, 1898, 1919, 1940 and 2019 editions
- Petts, D. & Gerrard, C. (2006) *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham

APPENDIX 1: EVALUATION TRENCHES



Plate 7. Trench 1 looking southwest.

Plate 8. Trench 2 looking northwest.

Plate 9. Trench 3 looking southwest.





Plate 10. Trench 4 looking north.



Plate 11. Trench 5 looking northwest.

Plate 12. Trench 6 looking northeast.



Plate 13. Trench 7 looking southeast.





Plate 14. Trench 8 looking northwest.



Plate 15. Trench 9 looking northwest.

Plate 16. Trench 10 looking southwest.



Plate 17. Trench 11 looking east.





Plate 18. Trench 12 looking northwest.



Plate 19. Trench 13 looking southwest.

Plate 20. Trench 14 looking southeast.



Plate 21. Trench 15 looking northeast.





Plate 22. Trench 16 looking west.



Plate 23. Trench 17 looking southwest.

Plate 24. Trench 18 looking northwest.



Plate 25. Trench 19 looking west.





Plate 26. Trench 20 looking northwest.



Plate 27. Trench 21 looking southeast.