

**Bedlington School,
Northumberland
Archaeological Field
Evaluation**

Client: GALLIFORD TRY

AB Heritage Project No: 10486

Date: 30/03/2015

Bedlington School Northumberland

Archaeological Field Evaluation

Client GALLIFORD TRY
Project Number 10486
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Bedlington Community High School, Northumberland on behalf of Galliford Try. The Archaeological Evaluation works were required in support of a planning application for the development of the school and associated infrastructure.
- 1.1.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment has been carried out on the site previously (The Archaeology Practice 2014). Subsequent to the assessment report a programme of geophysical survey and archaeological investigation was recommended by the Northumberland County Council Historic Environment Team as a condition to any development. AB Heritage Ltd were commissioned by the client to undertake these works in advance of planning.
- 1.1.3 A magnetometry survey was undertaken across the site of proposed development between Wednesday the 13th of November and Friday the 15th of November 2014, covering a total area of c.7.5 hectares (ha) (AB Heritage 2015a).
- 1.1.4 The exact trench layout (comprising a total of 965 linear meters) has been determined based on the geophysical survey results.
- 1.1.5 Site work was carried out between the 17th and 20th of February 2015. Overall 965 linear metres of trench were excavated. There was no above ground trace of archaeological features.
- 1.1.6 A number of linear features identified in the south of the evaluation area seemed to represent a series of agricultural plough furrows. A possible enclosure identified during the geophysical survey was investigated and a shallow gully and a coal deposit were identified. No finds or other datable material was recovered from these although a 1902 Copper King Edward VII Coronation Medal was recovered from the topsoil.
- 1.1.7 It is recommended that no further archaeological works are required in relation to the proposed development.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Project Background

- 2.1.1 AB Heritage Limited (herein AB Heritage) was commissioned by Galliford Try, to undertake a programme of archaeological investigations at a site in Bedlington, Northumberland.
- 2.1.2 The archaeological investigations are being carried out in support of a planning application for the development of the school and associated infrastructure. A geophysical survey was recommended by the Northumberland County Council Historic Environment Team as a condition to any development. The purpose was to confirm whether any geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological origin may survive within the site limits.
- 2.1.3 A number of features of archaeological potential were identified as a result of the geophysical survey (AB Heritage 2015a) and a series of evaluation trenches were excavated to determine the nature of these anomalies, and to better define the archaeological potential of the site.
- 2.1.4 AB Heritage's elected archaeological contractor, Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd. (hereinafter Rubicon Heritage), undertook a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching to supplement the results of a geophysical survey that has been undertaken at the site.
- 2.1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted to the Northumberland County Council Historic Environment Team in January 2015 (AB Heritage 2015b) and approved. Fieldwork was carried out in February 2015.

2.2 Site Location & Description

- 2.2.1 The proposed development site (hereafter referred to as the site; Plate 1) is located approximately 2km to the east of Bedlington, Northumberland, within an urban environment at centre point NZ 27997 82697; the eastern boundary of the site lies adjacent to the line of the A183.



Plate 1 View of evaluation area prior to excavation

- 2.2.2 The overall site is 12.5ha in size and consists of multiple school buildings and fields of varying sizes. The main sports field is regularly used, and covers an area of c. 7ha to the east and south of the school. The other fields are primarily landscaped areas.

2.3 Geology and Topography

- 2.3.1 The evaluation area sits on a level landscaped area at the west side of the school c.15m Above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.3.2 The fields to the west have been levelled for playing surfaces giving a flat topography; the field to the east has an undulating topography.
- 2.3.3 The underlying bedrock geology throughout the site is sandstone, of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation. The superficial deposits are of Devensian till (BGS, 2014).

2.4 Proposed Development

- 2.4.1 The proposed development comprises the demolition of the existing school buildings in favour of a new school building complex.

3. AIMS & METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims of Works

3.1.1 The aims of the evaluation were to:

- Establish the archaeological significance or otherwise of the anomalies highlighted on the geophysical survey
- Determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered.
- Establish the nature of the activity on the site.
- Identify any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site.
- Provide further information on the archaeology of the site from any archaeological remains encountered.
- Determine the geological and soil formation at the site and establish the depths of topsoil.

3.2 Methodology of Works

3.2.1 Trial trenching was undertaken between the 17th and 20th of February 2015 by a 12-tonne 360° tracked excavator equipped with a flat bladed grading bucket. Overburden was removed in shallow spits until the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed geological levels were exposed. Any identified deposits were cleaned by hand to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date.

3.2.2 The WSI allowed for up to 1100 linear metres of evaluation trenching agreed prior to commencement of the fieldwork. The layout of the revised 965 m of trenching can be seen on Figure 8 overlying the results of the Geophysical survey. The rationale for the location of each trench was based on information gathered during the DBA and Geophysical survey results. There were no above ground traces of archaeology.

3.2.3 All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. It should be noted that, where possible, data was collected and stored digitally and in a format suitable for long term storage by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

3.2.4 The recording included where appropriate:

- The recording of individual contexts on pro-formas
- Overall excavation plans at 1:50 scale; planning and section drawing of single contexts and features (usually at 1:20 scale for plans and 1:10 scale for inhumations and sections)
- Photographs; and other drawn and written records

3.2.5 The survey and recording works adhered to the following requirements:

- All levels were recorded and reduced to OS datum
 - All trench locations were electronically surveyed with National Grid references
 - The locations of trenches were plotted on appropriate scale plans related to the National Grid and labelled with six figure eastings and northings
 - The electronic survey record is retained with the project archive.
- 3.2.6 Discrete features were half-sectioned in the first instance; linear features were sampled at a minimum of 20% along their exposed length (each sample section not less than 1m), or a minimum of a 1m sample section if the feature is less than 10m long, with the excavation concentrating on any terminals and intersections with other features which would provide important stratigraphic information.
- 3.2.7 Archaeological features were excavated and recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation, and were accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, summary scale drawings and written pro forma sheets. Sufficient EDM/Total Station survey will be taken to allow all features to be located accurately with relation to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum. Sections and profiles of each feature sampled were drawn at 1:10 or 1:20, depending on the size of the feature. All plans, sections and profiles were related to Ordnance Datum, in metres.
- 3.2.8 Site photography was by high resolution (7 megapixel or greater) colour DSLR photography. Photography includes general site shots, shots of each trench, and shots of individual features and groups of features. All photographs include a suitable photographic scale and will be recorded on a photographic register detailing as a minimum the subject, feature number, location and direction of each shot.
- 3.2.9 All artefacts that were observed were retrieved and retained.
- 3.2.10 All retained finds and archaeo-environmental samples are treated and conserved in accordance with the English Heritage guidance document A Strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds (English Heritage, 1995) and the UKIC's document Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC, 1990). Finds and sample storage will be at Rubicon Heritage's Office in Edinburgh.
- 3.2.11 Finds will be treated in the following way:
- All finds have been retained from each archaeological context excavated.
 - All finds have been washed.
 - Finds work will be undertaken in line with the Institute for Archaeologists Guidelines for Finds Work.
 - Environmental Sampling was guided by Environmental Archaeology (English Heritage centre for Archaeological Guidelines, 2001/02).

Environmental Sampling

- 3.2.12 Where appropriate contexts were sampled in accordance with the guidelines provided by English Heritage (2002). Samples were collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. .
- 3.2.13 Any bone recovered from stratified deposits was retained.
- 3.2.14 The site falls within the collection area of the Great North Museum, Newcastle. However, as no physical archive is justified then the archaeological evaluation report will form the record that will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record, and online via OASIS.
- 3.2.15 Once the Northumberland County Council Planning Archaeologist has accepted the final report, AB Heritage Limited will complete an OASIS fieldwork summary form and submit it to the Archaeology Data Service. The form and related guidance can be found at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/first.html>.

3.3 Limitations

- 3.3.1 It should be noted that the report has been prepared under the express instruction and solely for the use of Galliford Try and associated parties/agents they elect to share this information with.
- 3.3.2 All the work reported in this document was carried out based upon the professional knowledge and understanding of AB Heritage on current (February 2015) and relevant United Kingdom standards and codes, technology and legislation. Changes in these areas may occur in the future and cause changes to the conclusions, advice, recommendations or design given. AB Heritage does not accept responsibility for advising Galliford Try or associated parties of the facts or implications of any such changes in the future.
- 3.3.3 The proposed trenching of 1100 linear meters could not be fully completed due to underground services and a total of 965 linear meters were excavated.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE BASELINE

4.1 Historic Baseline Data (after The Archaeological Practice 2014)

- 4.1.1 An archaeological desk based assessment of the site was carried out prior to the current phase of work (The Archaeological Practice 2014). This included a full Historic Baseline report and the historic and archaeological context of the proposed development site, which has been summarised in this section (but should be read in conjunction with the original report for full details).
- 4.1.2 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within, bordering or immediately adjacent to the present assessment area.
- 4.1.3 There are no Listed Buildings within the site itself, but there are several in the wider vicinity, particularly north of the site.
- 4.1.4 Forty-four sites of known heritage importance lie within the historic town of Bedlington and the 18th century and later industrial town of Bedlington Station (Figure 1; Appendix 6).
- 4.1.5 There are no World Heritage Sites, Conservation Areas, Registered Historic Parks or Registered Battlefields within the vicinity of the site.

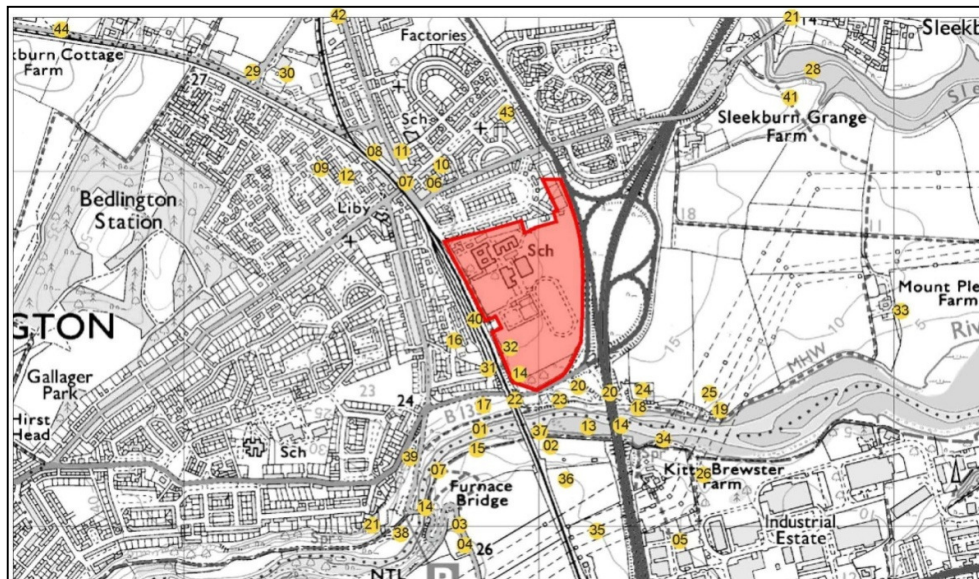


Figure 1: Map of the Bedlington Station School site (red transparency) and its environs

4.2 Previous Archaeological Works in the Study Area

- 4.2.1 Although no archaeological assessments or interventions have previously been carried out on the site or in its immediate vicinity, numerous investigations have been carried out in the wider locality. These include:
- **EVENT PRN - 94;** Bedlington Iron and Engine Works; NGR NZ 276 820; Excavation by The Archaeological Practice, 1999. Three trenches were excavated and showed that considerable remains of the largely demolished ironworks survived beneath

deposits laid down either during limited domestic occupation after the works closed in the 1860s, or during levelling in the 1960s.

- **EVENT PRN - 233**; Bedlington Waggonway Tunnel. Archaeological survey; NGR NZ 2807 8235; Photographic Record by The Archaeological Practice, 2001 The derelict waggonway tunnel has been cleared and consolidated as part of a scheme to establish pathways along the riverside. A considerable portion of the tunnel remains intact, although part of its vault had been lost towards the northern mouth and some stone were badly degraded. A photographic study and limited survey work were carried out following structural repairs.
- **EVENT PRN - 263**; Proposed regeneration of riverside path at Bedlington; NGR NZ 2660 8165; DBA by The Archaeological Practice, 1998. The study area is a corridor of land on the northern side of the River Blyth. Dene Park lies at the centre of the route and is the site of Bedlington Ironworks. A number of waggonways cross the route or in places run along it. A range of much reduced structures lie at the core of the ironworks, including a vaulted tunnel for the Bedlington Waggonway, the northern abutment of the first Bebside Viaduct and a stone riverside wall, possibly associated with a staith, east of Kitty Brewster Bridge. None of the staithes shown along the riverside on the first edition Ordnance Survey map survive today. Timber pilings on the north bank are thought to be the remains of jetties used by small river craft.
- **EVENT PRN - 264**; Bedlington waggonway tunnel; NGR NZ 2807 8235; Consolidation of standing remains, 2001. A derelict wagonway tunnel was cleared and consolidated in 2001 and prior to this work a photographic record was made and limited survey work.
- **EVENT PRN - 14359**; Increasing the Operating Voltage of the Blyth to Heddon Tee (YG) Overhead electricity Transmission Line and Associated Works; DBA, 2008.
- **EVENT PRN: - 15191**; Land at Welwyn Electronics Park, Bedlington, Northumberland; NGR NZ 2758 83517, Desk based assessment by Archaeological Services Durham University. DBA in advance of the redevelopment of the triangle of land of the existing factory on the north side of Bedlington, and between the A1147 road and railway lines to the north as an area of 8.79 ha at the Welwyn Electronics Pack. It is thought that the proposed development has the potential to impact upon any archaeological resource present through demolition and ground reduction, as well as through the excavation of foundations and service trenches. However the majority of the site has been developed throughout the 20th century and this will have likely damaged any archaeological finds, features or deposits present. The existing buildings themselves are not archaeologically significant.

4.3 Archaeology & History Background (after The Archaeological Practice 2014)

The Prehistoric & Roman Periods

- 4.3.1 There has been human activity in the immediate area from the earliest times. Evidence of prehistoric activity appears to be restricted to Bronze Age burials, uncovered on a ridge of land in the Mill Field when it was levelled to construct council houses between 1934 and 1935.
- 4.3.2 Little is known of what may have happened in this area in the later prehistoric period, although the Northumberland coastal strip in this area contains evidence of substantial Romano-British settlement at Blagdon and Pegswood.

The Medieval Period

- 4.3.3 It has been suggested that the medieval church of St Cuthbert at Bedlington had a Saxon predecessor, but little evidence has been uncovered so far to support this. During the medieval period, Bedlington formed part of the liberty of North Durham and was controlled by the Bishops of Durham as a detached part of the episcopate of Durham. Associated with the church was a place of residence for the bishop who held a court at Bedlington. These elements formed the focus for a small village settlement.
- 4.3.4 No secure archaeological evidence for Anglo-Saxon occupation within or immediately bordering the assessment site has been found.

The Post Medieval & Modern Periods

- 4.3.5 Early post-medieval Bedlington remained small, but there is evidence of early coal mining which led to the growth of the village into a town in the late 18th century as the industrial resources of the area began to be exploited and industrial complexes developed, notably at Bedlington Iron Works south-east of the town. Settlement associated with the Iron Works later expanded with the arrival of major passenger and freight railway in the mid-19th century, leading to the discrete settlement known as Bedlington Station, within which the current site falls.

4.4 Map Regression

- 4.4.1 Historic map evidence suggests that the current site has remained undeveloped farmland until the construction of the school there in the early 1930s. The school has subsequently been expanded and associated developments include construction of sports facilities, including a running track and games pitches.

Bell's Map of the Northern Coalfield, 1847

- 4.4.2 Bells Map (Figure 2) shows no features located within the site boundary.

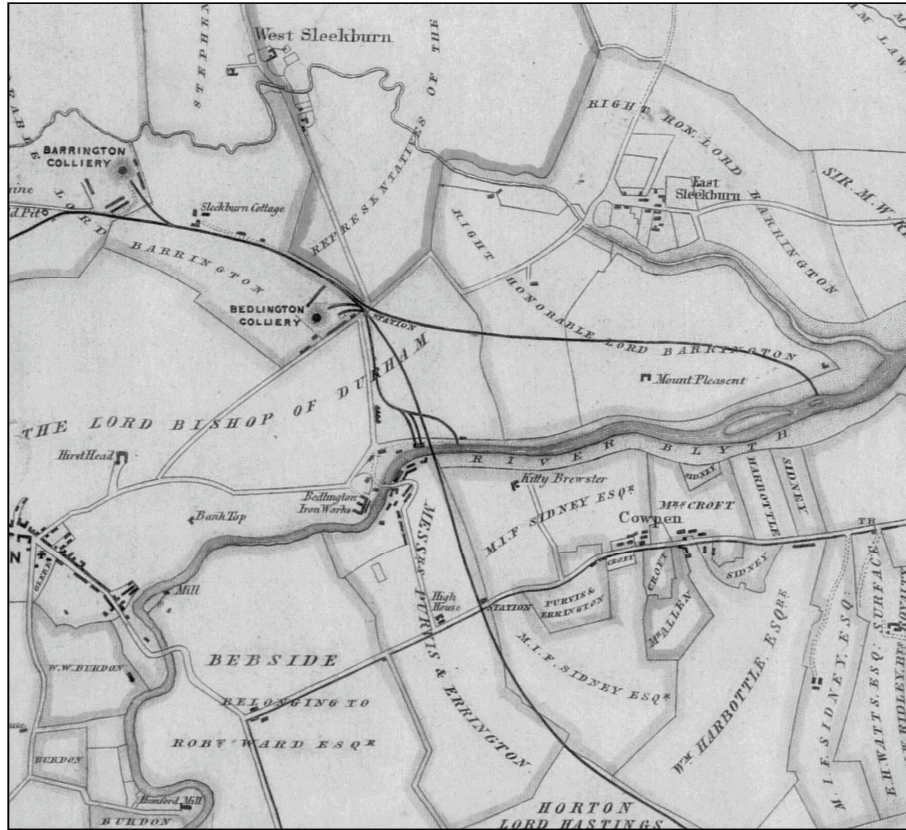


Figure 2: A section of Bell's Map of the Northern Coalfield, 1847

1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1850s

4.4.3 The site is shown to be clear of any features (Figure 3).

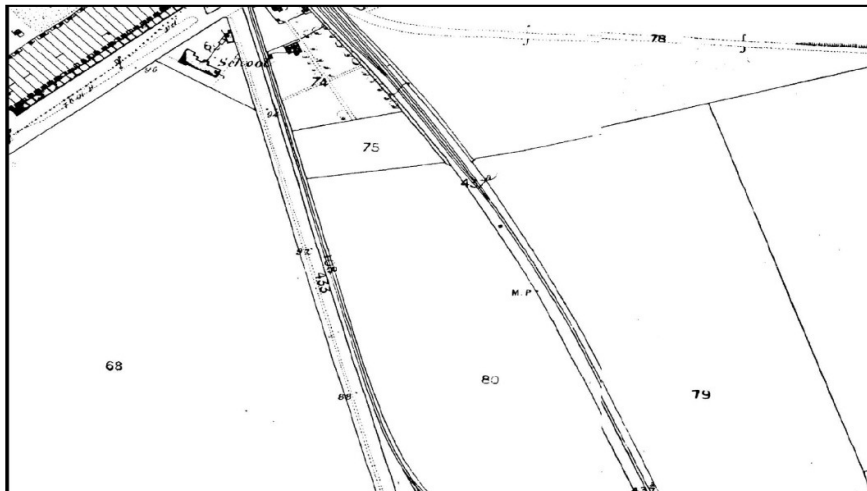


Figure 3: Extract from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1850s

2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1890s

4.4.4 The site is shown to be clear of any features (Figure 4)

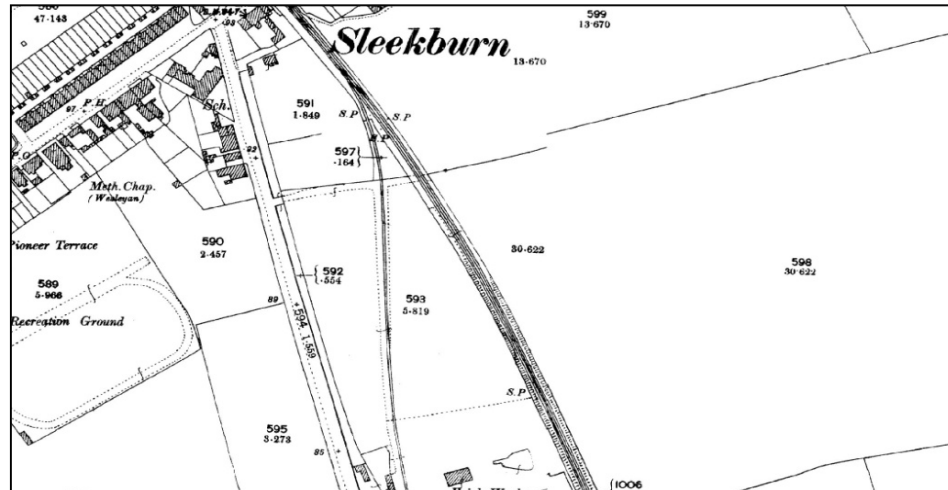


Figure 4: Extract from the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1890s

4th Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1930s

4.4.5 The 4th Edition OS map shows the location of the original school and playing fields (Figure 5).

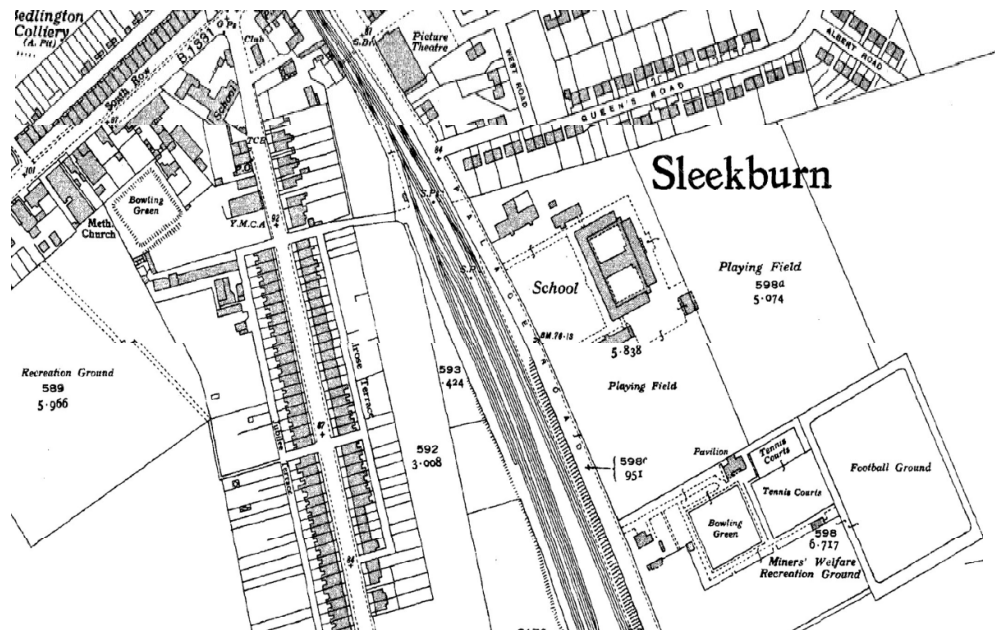


Figure 5: Extract from the 4th Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1930s, showing the school.

4.5 The School

4.5.1 A Level II Historic Building Record was undertaken by AB Heritage at Bedlington Station High School. The work was undertaken to satisfy a pre-planning application request relating to the demolition of the current school buildings, which range in date from the early to late 20th century, in favour of a new school building complex (AB Heritage 2014c).

4.5.2 The earliest phase of the school buildings were constructed in 1925. These all have a similar design and both interior and exterior architectural details. The buildings have some interesting

early art deco features including a mixture of smooth arches and dramatic straight lines. The design of the original school buildings is a clear reflection of the social and economic environment in Britain during the mid 1920's.

- 4.5.3 A single wooden prefabricated building survives from the phase between 1938 and 1960.
- 4.5.4 The group of buildings located on the east side of the complex were all constructed c. 1974 and all have a similar design and construction with modern interiors.

5. RESULTS

5.1 Summary results

5.1.1 In total 9 trenches (1-9) were excavated within the proposed development area between 17th and 20th February 2015 (Figure 9). The linear features identified in the geophysical survey were confirmed to be present and represent agricultural activity in the form of plough furrows.

5.1.2 A possible enclosure identified during the geophysical survey was investigated and a shallow gully and a coal deposit were identified. No finds or other datable material was recovered from the trenches although a 1902 Copper King Edward VII Coronation Medal was recovered from the topsoil (BSEN14:001:001).

5.2 Trench records

5.2.1 The trial trenches can be summarised as follows:

Table 1: Summary of Trial Trenches

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Features identified
1	50	1.8	0.50	NNW-SSE	Topsoil: Mid-brown silty clay Subsoil: Grey Brown clay Natural subsoil: Orangey yellow clay	Agricultural plough furrows
2 (Plate 3)	50	1.8	0.42	NNW-SSE	Topsoil: Mid-brown silty clay Subsoil: Grey Brown clay Natural subsoil: Orangey yellow clay	Linear gully [006]
3	50	1.8	0.50	NNW-SSE	Topsoil: Mid-brown silty clay Subsoil: Grey Brown clay Natural subsoil: Orangey yellow clay	Agricultural plough furrows
4	50	1.8	0.48	NNW-SSE	Topsoil: Mid-brown silty clay Subsoil: Grey Brown clay Natural subsoil: Orangey yellow clay	Agricultural plough furrows

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Features identified
5	50	1.8	0.45	NNW-SSE	Topsoil: Mid-brown silty clay Subsoil: Grey Brown clay Natural subsoil: Orangey yellow clay	Agricultural plough furrows
6	50	1.8	0.44	NNW-SSE	Topsoil: Mid-brown silty clay Subsoil: Grey Brown clay Natural subsoil: Orangey yellow clay	Agricultural plough furrows
7 (Plate 4)	50	1.8	0.43	NNW-SSE	Topsoil: Mid-brown silty clay Subsoil: Grey Brown clay Natural subsoil: Orangey yellow clay	Agricultural plough furrows
8	65	1.8	0.42	NNW-SSE	Topsoil: Mid-brown silty clay Subsoil: Grey Brown clay Natural subsoil: Orangey yellow clay	Agricultural plough furrows
9	50	1.8	0.48	NNW-SSE	Topsoil: Mid-brown silty clay Subsoil: Grey Brown clay Natural subsoil: Orangey yellow clay	Agricultural plough furrows

5.3 Trial Trench evaluation

- 5.3.1 All of the trenches were orientated NNW-SSE and were 50 m in length except for one (Trench2) which was 65 m long.
- 5.3.2 A number of linear features were identified in all the trenches running east-west across the site and were interpreted as being related to agricultural activity.
- 5.3.3 A linear feature [004] was identified in Trenches 1 to 5 which differed slightly from the agricultural linear features. It was wider and deeper and showed evidence at the base of being water laden. It is possibly an old water channel and most likely geological in nature.

- 5.3.4 The main focus of the evaluation was a possible enclosure identified during the geophysical survey.
- 5.3.5 Upon investigation of this anomaly a shallow linear rectangular gully [006] was identified in Trench 2. The shallow gully had steeply sloping sides and a concave base. It measured 0.60 m wide by 0.20 m deep. It contained a single fill (007) of sterile greyish brown clay. It cut through a coal deposit (008) which was 4.90 m and 0.10 m deep (Figure 9; Plate 4).

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Archaeological Field Evaluation

- 6.1.1 A single feature of anthropogenic origin was identified in Trench 2, a shallow linear gully which ran for 13 m north-south before turning east-west. The sterile nature of the fill provides no evidence as to its function.
- 6.1.2 A number of the trenches were located in the south of the evaluation area to investigate specific linear geophysical anomalies but upon excavation all of the anomalies identified turned out to be related to agricultural activity.
- 6.1.3 The entire site had been levelled at some point, most likely when the school was originally being constructed and this can be seen as a layer of dark grey clay with inclusions of early modern pottery and coal beneath the topsoil (Plate 5).
- 6.1.4 Overall it seems the site has been the focus of agricultural activity since at least the 17th century (as mapping evidence suggests) but there is no evidence to suggest settlement or other activity of archaeological significance arising from the DBA, geophysical survey or evaluation trenching.

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & MITIGATION

7.1 Known Heritage Resource

- 7.1.1 The HER holds no records for prehistoric activity within the Site.
- 7.1.2 Forty-four sites of known importance lie within the historic town of Bedlington and the 18th century and later industrial town of Bedlington Station (Appendix 6)

7.2 Potential Archaeological Resource and significance

- 7.2.1 Geophysical survey of the proposed development site revealed a number of linear features of archaeological potential. The subsequent evaluation has demonstrated that the majority of the linear features that were identified during the geophysical survey were agricultural in nature. One sterile shallow linear ditch was identified. This feature has been deemed to have a low baseline value in terms of archaeological significance.
- 7.2.2 Overall the results of geophysical survey and evaluation trenching would suggest that the proposed development site is of low potential to contain archaeological remains besides those associated with the farming of the land there

7.3 Predicted Impact of Proposed Development

- 7.3.1 The previous assessment report concluded that there may be an impact on the sub-surface remains of sub-surface archaeological remains. The impact would be through the intrusive nature of groundworks for building, landscaping and utilities.
- 7.3.2 Given the low baseline value of the identified features it is considered that the impact of the development on archaeology is negligible

7.4 Outline Recommendations

- 7.4.1 It is recommended that no further archaeological works are required in relation to the proposed development.
- 7.4.2 Please note that all recommendations are subject to consultation with and approval by the Northumberland County Council Historic Environment Team.

8. REFERENCES

AB Heritage 2014a *Bedlington School, Northumberland, Geophysics Report*. Unpublished report for Galliford Try Ltd.

AB Heritage 2014b *Bedlington School, Northumberland, Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpublished report for Galliford Try Ltd.

AB Heritage 2014c *Bedlington School, Northumberland, A Level II Historic Building Record*. Unpublished report for Galliford Try Ltd.

BGS (British Geological Society) 2013. *Geology of Britain viewer*. <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>.

The Archaeological Practice Ltd, 2014, *Bedlington Station School Site, Northumberland – Archaeological Assessment*.

9. APPENDIX 1 ARCHIVE STATEMENT

The site archive is comprised of the following materials:

Item	Quantity
Trenching and field recording sheets	12
Plans	1 Digital
Sections	3
Photographs	25
Registers (Context, finds, drawing, sample, photo)	4

The archive material is contained within one box.

The archive is currently stored in the offices of Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd.

10. APPENDIX 2 PHOTO REGISTER

Photo No.	Direction Facing	Description
1	NNW	Pre-excavation view of features in Trench 2
2	NNW	Pre-excavation view of features in Trench 2
3	SSE	View of Trench 1 – NNW end
4	SSE	View of Trench 1 – SSE end
5	SSE	View of Trench 2
6	SSE	View of Trench 3
7	SSE	View of Trench 4
8	SSE	View of Trench 5
9	SSE	View of Trench 6
10	SSE	View of Trench 7
11	SSE	View of Trench 8
12	SSE	View of Trench 9
13	NW	Working Shot
14	NNW	Working Shot
15	NNW	Working Shot
16	WSW	Mid-excavation view of [004] in Trench 1
17	WSW	Mid-excavation view of [004] in Trench 1
18	SSE	Mid-excavation view of [006] in Trench 2
19	ENE	Mid-excavation view of [006] in Trench 2
20	SSE	Mid-excavation view of [006] in Trench 2
21	SSE	View of section through coal deposit (008)
22	WSW	View of the section face in Trench 2
23	NNW	View of [006] in Trench 2
24	WSW	View of [006] in Trench 2
25	NNW	View of [006] and (008) in Trench 2

11. APPENDIX 3 CONTEXT REGISTER

Context no.	Trench no.	Type	Fill of:	Filled by:	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
1		Deposit	-	-	-	-	0.18-0.29	Mid-brown silty clay	Topsoil
2		Deposit	-	-	-	-	0.25	Orangey yellow clay	Clay redeposit located sporadically across the site, most likely used to level the green area.
3		Deposit	-	-	-	-	0.20-0.40	Dark blackish grey clay containing post-med/modern pottery and coal	Deposit located across the entire site, most likely a deliberate attempt to level the area
4	1, 2, 3 and 4	Cut	-	005	Unknown	2.70	0.26	Linear in plan with gradually sloping sides and a concave base.	Linear feature identified across 4 trenches with evidence of water laden clay at the base.
5	1, 2, 3 and 4	Deposit	004	-	Unknown	2.70	0.26	Firm greyish brown clay	Fill of [004]
6	2	Cut	-	007	Unknown	0.45-0.60	0.19	Rectangular linear with steeply sloping sides and a U-shaped base.	Cut shallow narrow gully truncating a coal deposit (008)
7	2	Fill	006	-	Unknown	0.45-0.60	0.19	Firm greyish brown clay	Fill of [006]
8	2	Deposit	-	-	4.90	Unknown	0.10	Black coal deposit	Shallow coal deposit
9				-				Orangey Yellow clay	Natural subsoil

12. APPENDIX 4 DRAWING REGISTER

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Scale	Description
1	1	1:20	ENE-facing section of [004]
2	1	1:10	ENE-facing section of [006]
3	1	1:10	N-facing section of [006]

13. APPENDIX 5 FINDS REGISTER

Find no.	Material	Description	Spot date / identification
BSEN14:001:001	Copper	A Copper King Edward VII Coronation Medal, issued in 1902 to mark the coronation of King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, who both appear in profile on the obverse. The poor condition of the medal prevents closer identification within the group, with the reverse of the medal extremely worn.	1902

14. APPENDIX 6 SITES RECORDED IN THE NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD (HER)

Site 01: NRO. ref. 11752; Watermill; NGR NZ 2777 8222.

A water mill erected by R Delaval on the south bank of the River Blyth formed the subject of a decree in 1637. It stood on the ground afterwards occupied by the Bedlington Ironworks near the existing bridge. The area once occupied by the Bedlington Ironworks is distinguished by a series of old foundations, now partly overgrown, none of which show any traces of antiquity. There are no traces of a mill race or any other remains in this area that can be identified with this mill.

SITE 02: NRO ref. 11767; Bebside Viaduct

Steel girders with lattice parapet carried on nine openwork piers with cross bracing.

Site 03: NRO. ref. 11769; Bedlington Ironworks.

Fragmentary remains of an 18th and 19th century ironworks site founded in 1736. Reputed to have had a blast furnace by 1760. Some massive masonry walls of a blowing engine house(?) on the main site to the south of Furnace Bridge. Also a kiln for ore roasting (or lime burning?) with two blocked draw arches. To the north of the bridge, east of the river is a quay by former locomotive building shops. Traces of a wagonway to staithes at NZ 282823 (west of present road bridge), from site - blocked arch in west bridge abutment of Furnace Bridge. Possibly on the site of an earlier cornmill. In 1839 the works comprised: a steam engine manufactory, iron and brass foundries, copper and smiths shops, warehouse, gasworks, wharves, houses, stables, granary, stone dams and weir across the river and a bridge. Also, a forge worked by water wheel and steam engine, rolling mills, anchor shops, testing machines, quay, crane and railway. The works were at their peak in 1850 producing rails and forgings for the Crimean War effort.

Site 04: NRO. ref. 11770; Stable block, possibly associated with Bedlington Ironworks; Grid Reference: NZ277819.

Site 05: NRO. ref. 11777; Anti aircraft battery; Grid Reference: NZ28328191.

An anti aircraft battery is visible on aerial photographs of 1945 and 1960, removed by 1971.

Site 06: NRO. ref. 11780; Waggonway; Grid Reference: NZ27658292

Netherton Company waggonway and staith at Sleekburn Gut, mid-19th century.

Site 07: NRO. ref. 11795; West Bedlington to Bedlington Staith waggonway; Grid Reference: NZ27558300.

Operative before 1787, perhaps by 1776.

Site 08: NRO. ref. 11798; Waggonway linking Doctor Pit (NZ28SE 55) to the main Bedlington Colliery complex; Grid Reference: NZ261822 LIN

Site 09: NRO. ref. 11799; Bedlington Colliery (shaft); Grid Reference: NZ27428295 FCE

Site 10: NRO. ref. 11807; Bedlington Station Station; Grid Reference: NZ27648296 FCE

Site 11: NRO. ref. 11829; Waggonway in use in 1837 but not visible on the 2nd edition OS map; Grid Reference: NZ28168232.

Site 12: NRO. ref. 11830; Bedlington Colliery; Grid Reference: NZ27398293 FCE

Bedlington Colliery Complex including "A Pit", a school and three terraces of colliery houses. Pit marked on Gibson's map of 1787, later known as Bedlington Colliery. In 1849, cottages were built for 300 colliers and their families. Demolished c.1960.

Site 13: NRO. ref. 11831; Staith; Grid Reference: NZ28198234

Staith on the bank of the river Blyth at the end of a waggonway (NZ 28 SE 90) from Bedlington Colliery (NZ 28 SE 91), named as Netherton Spouts and Barrington Main Colliery Spouts on 1837 Map. No physical remains of this staith survive.

Site 14: NRO. ref. 11832; Wagonway; Grid Reference: NZ27618200

An historically significant waggonway as the first line to use Malleable iron rails patented by John Birkshaw at Bedlington Ironworks. The waggonway can be seen on Greenwood's 1828 map of the County,

Site 15: NRO. ref. 11840; Crane; Grid Reference: NZ27748217.

On the south bank of the river Blyth close to the Iron Works.

Site 16: NRO. ref. 11841; Puddler's Row; Grid Reference: NZ27688247

Terraced Housing, now demolished.

Site 17: NRO. ref. 11842; Keelman's Row; Grid Reference: NZ27788229

Terraced Housing, now demolished.

Site 18: NRO. ref. 11847; Timber jetties; Grid Reference: NZ28358232

A 50m length of mudflat is littered with upright and semi-upright rotting timbers. These are the remains of timber jetties for access to the River Blyth that were still used in 1991 but are derelict today.

Site 19: NRO. ref. 11848; Wagonway; Grid Reference: NZ28448230

Gibson's Map of 1787 shows a waggonway running to the north bank of the River Blyth from a pit called Bedlington

Site 20: NRO. ref. 12817; Bedlington waggonway tunnel; Grid Reference: NZ28078235.

A vaulted sandstone tunnel, running on a north west to south east alignment, which carried a 19th century waggonway towards the river bank. The waggonway connected the Bedlington Glebe, or Willowbridge Colliery, with the ironworks and then ran to the riverside.

Site 21: NRO. ref. 13260; Waggonway; Grid Reference: NZ27568195.

This waggonway ran along the north bank of the River Blyth and was probably an internal ironworks line. It is not clear when it opened although the staiths at its terminus are thought to have existed before the Bedlington Waggonway (see 11832).

Site 22: NRO. ref. 13261; Abutments of first Bebside Viaduct; Grid Reference: NZ27948231

A timber predecessor of the Bebside viaduct was built in the 1850s and lay slightly to the west of the present structure.

Site 23: NRO. ref. 13262; Old staith at Bedlington; Grid Reference: NZ27988230.

Not shown on the second edition map. There are no traces of this staith in the river bank.

Site 24: NRO. ref. 13263; Sandstone revetting wall, near Kitty Brewster Bridge; Grid Reference: NZ28228234.

A revetting wall of substantial tooled sandstone blocks lies immediately east of the north abutment of Kitty Brewster Bridge. It runs parallel to the river and is backed by an infill of ash and clinker. The nature and full surviving extent of the structure is masked by considerable undergrowth. It may be part of a staith wall.

Site 25: NRO. ref. 13264; Hardstanding by River Blyth at Bedlington; Grid Reference: NZ28398232.

An overgrown area, marked by low unconsolidated walls on the river side that define an area 35m long by a maximum 8m wide. It may have served as a raised working area for maintenance of small craft or even as a low quay wall.

Site 26: NRO. ref. 15269; Kitty Brewster Farm Prisoner of War Camp; Grid Reference: NZ28388209.

A German working camp is recorded as having been built at Kitty Brewster Farm in World War II.

Site 27: NRO. ref. 18341; East Sleekburn Ford; Grid Reference: NZ2863483397

Ford specifically named in the early mapping of the area (1).

Site 28: NRO. ref. 18344; Spring; NZ2869483241.

Spring noted in early mapping of the area Grid Reference:

Site 29: NRO. ref. 18345; Milepost on railway; Grid Reference: NZ2719483224

Milepost on railway noted in early mapping of the area; inscribed with the distances for Morpeth and the Tyne

Site 30: NRO. ref. 18346; Signal post on railway; Grid Reference: NZ2720583219

Signal post on railway noted in early mapping of the area

Site 31: NRO. ref. 18352; Well; Grid Reference: NZ2780782389

Well noted in early mapping of the area.

Site 32: NRO. ref. 18353; Signal post on railway; Grid Reference: NZ2786782459.

Signal post on railway noted in early mapping of the area

Site 33: NRO. ref. 18354; Well southwest of Mount Pleasant; Grid Reference: NZ2894382552.

Well noted in early mapping.

Site 34: NRO. ref. 18360; Spring near Kitty Brewster's Farm; Grid Reference: NZ282638219

Spring noted in the early mapping of the area.

Site 35: NRO. ref. 18361; Milepost on railway; Grid Reference: NZ2808481934

Milepost on railway noted in the early mapping of the area (1); inscribed with the distances for Morpeth and the Tyne.

Site 36: NRO. ref. 18362; Signal post on railway; Grid Reference: NZ2800082088

Signal post on railway noted in the early mapping of the area (1).

Site 37: NRO. ref. 18363; Old Coal Shaft; Grid Reference: NZ2791782216

Shaft specifically noted for coal, and as old, in early mapping of the area

Site 38: NRO. ref. 18364; Weir across the River Blyth; NZ2753281910

Weir noted in early mapping of the area Grid Reference:

Site 39: NRO. ref. 18366; Well above Bedlington Iron Works; Grid Reference: NZ2756082142

Well noted in early mapping of the area.

Site 40: NRO. ref. 20824; Site of Bedlington Station Brickworks; Grid Reference: NZ2782682524.

Brickworks of 1894.

Site 41: NRO. ref. 23393; Square enclosure, 180m north-east of Sleekburn Grange Farm; Grid Reference: NZ2862983163

A square ditched enclosure is visible as a cropmark on Google Earth aerial photographs. It has rounded corners and there is no apparent break for an entrance.

Site 42: NRO. ref. 24392; Crash site of Junkers Ju88 A-4, Bedlington; Grid Reference: NZ2734583405.

Junkers Ju88 was on a bombing raid to attack Newcastle on the night of the 1st/2nd September 1941 when it was intercepted by a British nightfighter a short distance off the Northumberland coast.

Site 43: NRO. ref. 24503; St John's Church, Bedlington Station; Grid Reference: NZ27838312.

An Edwardian church.

Site 44: NRO. ref. 24695; Blyth and Tyne Railway; Grid Reference: NZ27838312

The Blyth and Tyne Railway ran from Morpeth to Bedlington and on to Tynemouth and Newcastle. The name Blyth and Tyne was first recorded in 1847 and was a private railway, not incorporated until 1853.

N

Legend

School Site

Area of proposed development

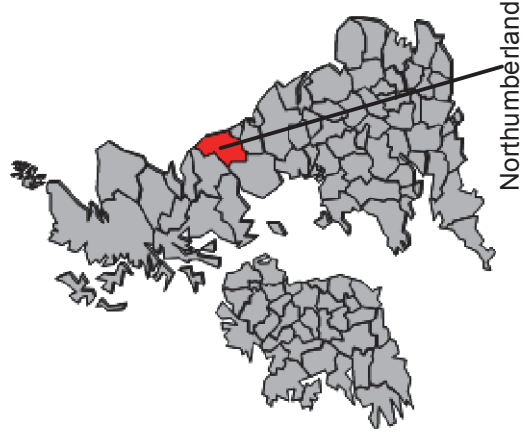


Figure 6: Site Location

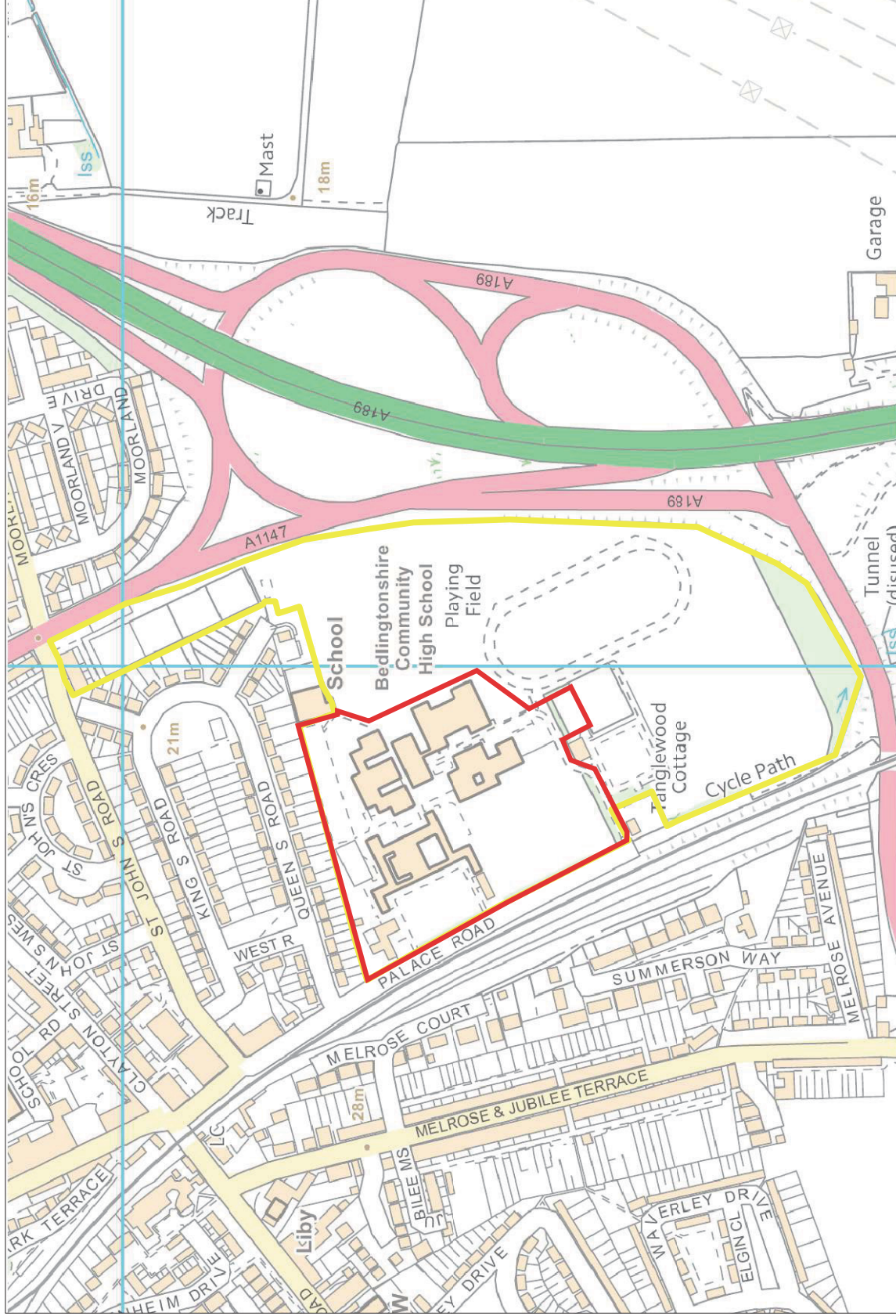
Project: Bedlington School

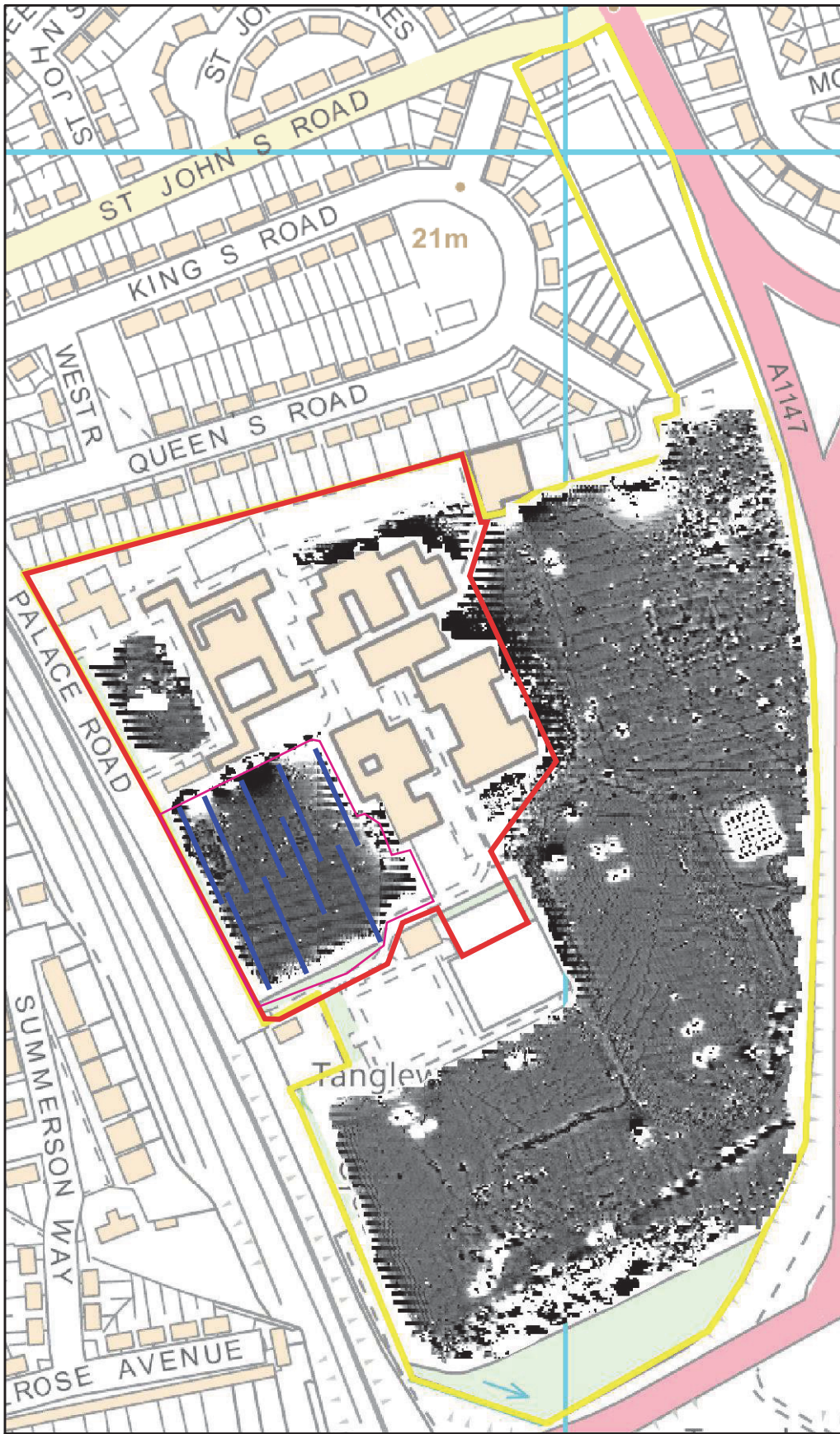
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Job number: 10452

Drawn by: ZE

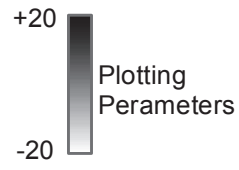
Approved by: GR





Legend

- School site
- Area of proposed development
- Proposed trenches
- Areas available for evaluation



Area Identification

Approximate Area Boundaries are shown in green

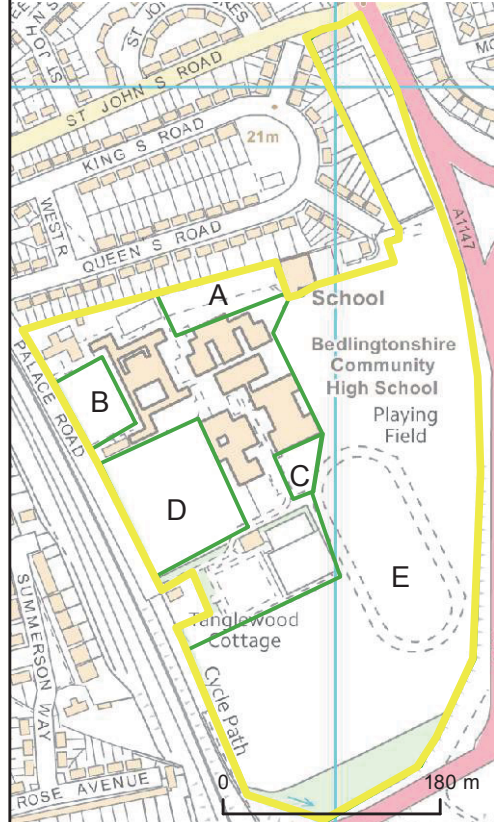


Figure 7: Trench plan, overlying geophysical survey results

Project: Bedlington School

Date: 18/03/15 Job Number: 10452

Drawn by: ZE Approved by: GR



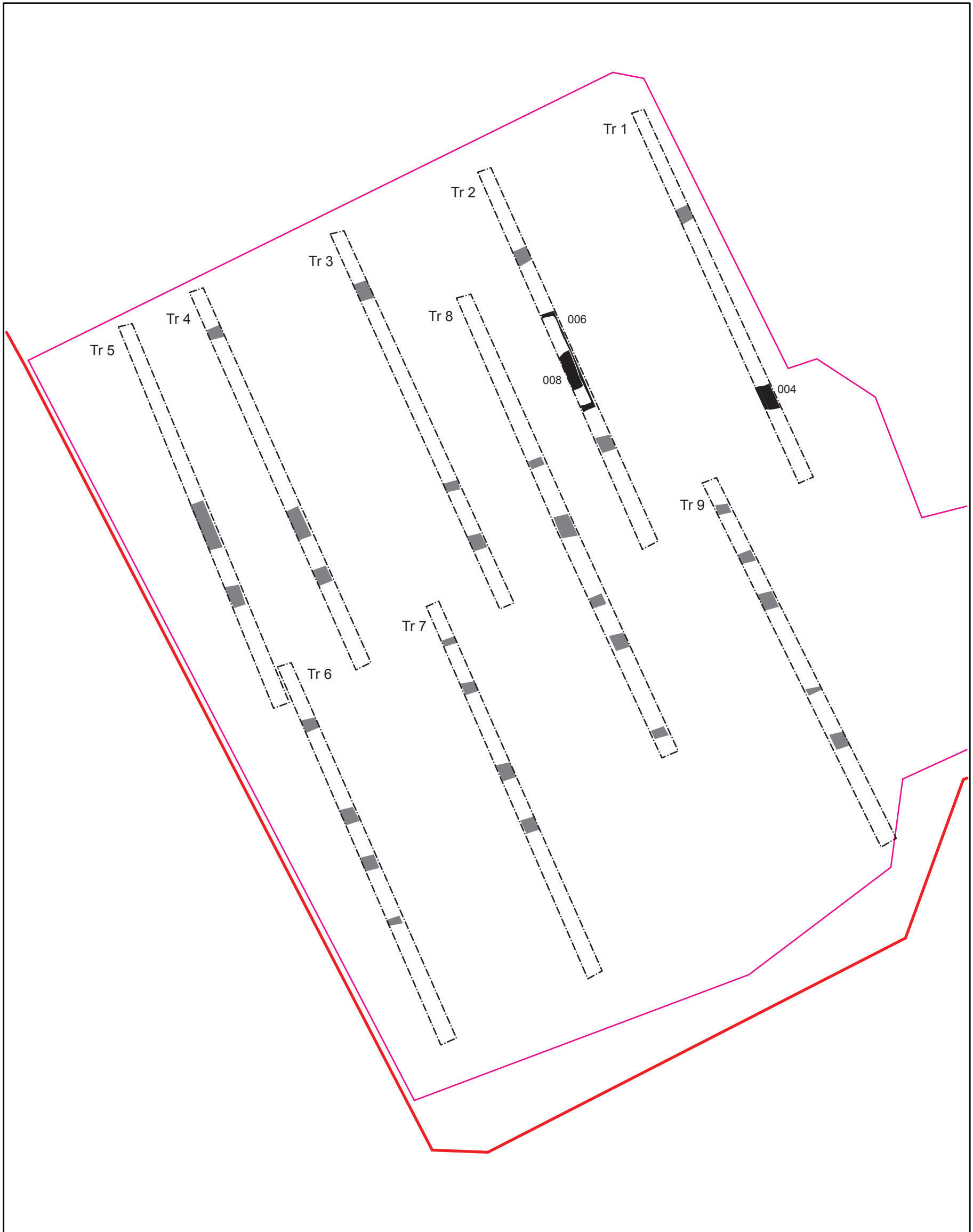


Figure 8: Excavated trenches and identified archaeology.		KEY Development extent Area available for evaluation Trench extent Archaeological feature Agricultural activity	N 0 25 m
Project: Bedlington School			
Date: 18/03/15	Job Number: 10452		
Drawn by: JMM	Approved by: GR		

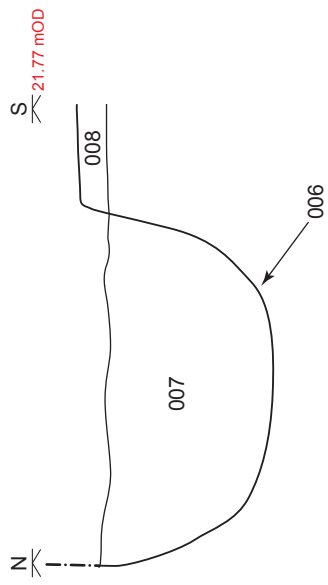


Figure 9 - North-facing section of [006]

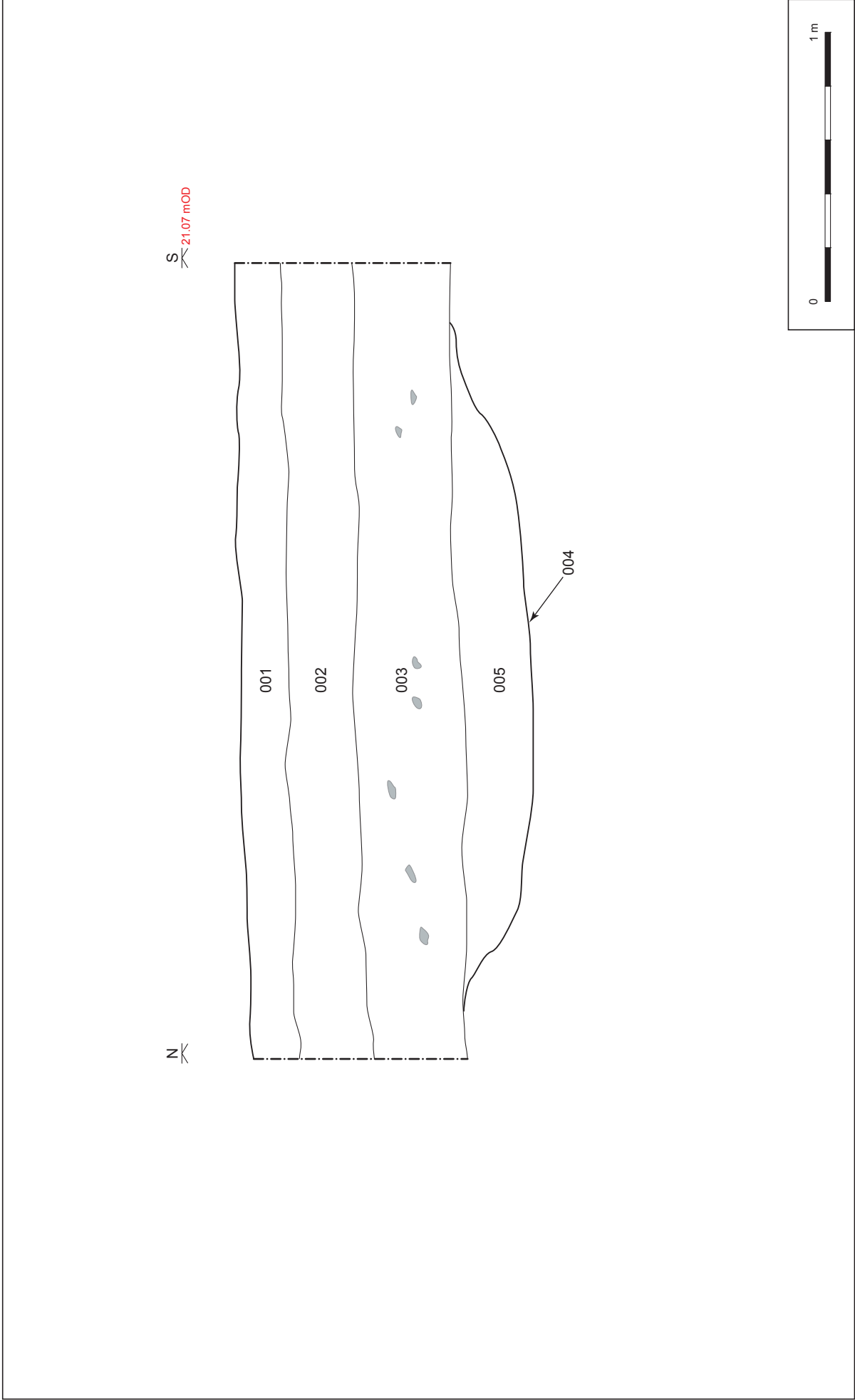


Figure 10 - East Northeast facing section of [004]



Plate 2 - View of Trench 2, facing SSE



Plate 3 - View of Trench 7, facing SSE



Plate 4 - View of linear feature [006] with coal deposit (008) in background



Plate 5 - View of Section face of Trench 2, facing WSW



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