

**Former General  
Hospital, Newcastle  
Upon Tyne**

**Historic Environment  
Desk Based Assessment**

Client: Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS  
Trust

AB Heritage Project No:60343

Date:17/10/2018

## Former General Hospital, Newcastle Upon Tyne Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1** AB Heritage Limited (hereinafter AB Heritage) has been commissioned by Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust to produce a Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment covering a proposed mixed-use development at the former General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 6BE.
- 1.1.2** This report includes a collation of previous archaeological investigations carried out in relation to previous proposals for development at the site since 2000. The evidence from existing reports of work, both within the development site boundaries and immediately to the south on the pavement and carriageway of Westgate Road, has been used to demonstrate the low potential for archaeological remains on the site.
- 1.1.3** This report also includes a high-level Historic Building Recording and discussion of the group of existing buildings constructed during the 1930s to the 1960s, which are still present at the site.
- 1.1.4** This approach was agreed with the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer before the work commenced.

### **1.2 Site Location & Description**

- 1.2.1** The proposed development site is located at the Centre for Ageing and Vitality (former General Hospital), Westgate Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 6BE. The site, which is centred at NGR: NZ 22866476, is located on the northside of Westgate Road (Fig. 1).
- 1.2.2** The site occupies a large area consisting of green spaces, car parks and various hospital buildings. The area of the site is approximately 12 hectares (Fig 2).
- 1.2.3** In the wider context, the site lies 2km to the west of the City Centre, in an area predominantly characterised by terraced housing.

### **1.3 Geology & Topography**

- 1.3.1** The site slopes across its length, standing on a relatively level site (at c. 108m OD) in its southern limits, before falling away progressively to c. c. 104 m OD at its northern boundary.
- 1.3.2** The underlying solid geology is that of Pennine Middle Coal Measures, overlain by superficial deposits of Devensian Till (Boulder Clay (BGS, 2018)). Overlying the natural geology archaeological work has identified deep deposits of made ground across the southern half of the site (PCA 2005 & 2011)

### **1.4 Proposed Development**

- 1.4.1** The Newcastle Hospitals NHS Trust is proposing to develop the site for mixed use. Details of the proposed site layout have not been made available.

## **2. AIMS & METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Aims of Work**

- 2.1.1** Early consultation on the results of cultural heritage research and consideration of the implications of proposed development are the key to informing reasonable planning decisions.
- 2.1.2** The aim of this report is to facilitate such a process by understanding the historical and planning development of the application site and the likely impact upon any surviving archaeological resource or historic building resulting from the proposed development, devising appropriate mitigation responses where necessary.

### **2.2 Consultation & Study Area**

- 2.2.1** Consultation with Jennifer Morrison of the Tyne and Wear Archaeological Service was carried out by Daniel Dodds (Principal Heritage Consultant, AB Heritage) on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018. During this conversation Mr Dodds asked Ms Morrison her requirements for presenting the works, given the number of previous archaeological reports covering the site and immediate vicinity.
- 2.2.2** Ms Morrison advised that, as the site had been subject to so many previous archaeological desk-based assessments (DBA) that she would prefer a summary report, bringing the existing information together into a simpler, overarching document, including the results from any relevant archaeological fieldwork within or in proximity to the site (see list in section 2.3.1).
- 2.2.3** Ms Morrison added that she would require the recording of the external features of Building 26 (referred to here as 'The New hospital Building'), and any other contemporary buildings (these are identified in Section 6, below), she added that this need not include interior recording.
- 2.2.4** This consultation was followed by an email from Mr Dodds to Ms Morrison, dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018, in which these requests were confirmed.

### **2.3 Methodology of Works**

- 2.3.1** This work is a collation of known and readily available archaeological investigations and interventions carried out in and around the site of the former General Hospital since the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. The reason for this report is that several different development proposals have been put forward for the site, generating a quantity of reports provided by different heritage and archaeology companies. The reports examined were:
- CgMS, 2004 Newcastle General Hospital, Westgate Road: Archaeological DBA
  - Hodgson, N 2018 Hadrian's Wall 1999 – 2009
  - TWM, 2005 West Road and Westgate Road, Archaeological Watching Brief
  - PCA, 2005 Archaeological Investigations at Newcastle General Hospital, Westgate Road
  - PCA, 2008 An Archaeological Evaluation at Newcastle General Hospital, Westgate Road
  - PCA, 2010 An Archaeological Evaluation on Westgate Road, Newcastle General Hospital

- PCA, 2011 An Archaeological Evaluation at the Junction of Westgate Road and Grainger Park Road
- PCA, 2011 Historic Building Recording: The Former Union Workhouse Buildings, Newcastle General Hospital
- PCA, 2018 An Archaeological Evaluation at the Junction of Westgate Road and Brighton Grove

**2.3.2** Further to the collation of previous archaeological work, this report provides a high-level description of a group of existing General Hospital buildings built from the 1930s to the 1960s.

**2.3.3** This work has been carried with reference to the advice and guidance for the collection and review of archaeological data provided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (January 2017).

**2.3.4** This assessment includes information contained in various statutory requirements, national, regional and local planning policies and professional good practice guidance, including:

- Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act, 1979
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
- The National Planning Policy Framework, 2018

**2.3.5** The information contained within this report was supported by examination of data from a wide range of other sources, principally:

- The Heritage Gateway ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk)) for information from Historic England National Monuments Record, Keys to the Past; and other research resources;
- The Historic England website pages, including the National Heritage List for England;
- A site-walk over was undertaken on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July & 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018;
- A visit to the Tyne and Wear Archive on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018;
- Examination of sources at the Literary and Philosophical Society Library in Newcastle upon Tyne on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August 2018; and
- Additional documentary and online sources, including those listed above in para 2.3.1.

#### Assessing Potential & Significance

**2.3.6** This desk-based assessment contains a record of the known heritage resource of the area. It also assesses the potential cultural heritage resource of the site, using the following scale:

- No Potential - Clear evidence of past impacts / site sterilisation
- Low - Very unlikely to be encountered on site
- Medium - Features may occur / be encountered on site
- High - Remains almost certain to survive on site

- 2.3.7** In relation to buried archaeological remains, where a site is known, or there is a medium or above potential for archaeology to survive, full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 2.3.8** There is currently no standard adopted statutory or government guidance for assessing the importance of an archaeological feature and this is instead judged upon factors such as statutory and non-statutory designations, architectural, archaeological or historical significance, and the contribution to local research agendas. Considering these criteria each identified feature can be assigned to a level of importance in accordance with a five-point scale (Table 1, below).

**Table 1: Assessing the Importance of a Cultural Heritage Site**

SCALE OF SITE IMPORTANCE	
<b>NATIONAL</b>	The highest status of site, e.g. Scheduled Monuments (or undesignated assets of schedulable quality and importance). Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings. Other listed buildings that can be shown to have exceptional qualities in their fabric or historical associations not adequately reflected in the listing grade. Conservation Areas containing very important buildings. Undesignated structures of clear national importance. Extremely well preserved historic landscape, whether inscribed or not, with exceptional coherence, time depth, or other critical factor(s).
<b>REGIONAL</b>	Grade II Listed Buildings or other designated or undesignated archaeological sites (in addition to those listed above), or assets of a reasonably defined extent and significance, or reasonable evidence of occupation / settlement, ritual, industrial activity etc. Examples may include areas containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character, burial sites, deserted medieval villages, Roman roads and dense scatter of finds.
<b>LOCAL</b>	Evidence of human activity more limited in historic value than the examples above, or compromised by poor preservation and/or survival of context associations, though which still have the potential to contribute to local research objectives. Examples include sites such as 'locally designated' buildings or undesignated structures / buildings of limited historic merit, out-of-situ archaeological findspots / ephemeral archaeological evidence and historic field systems and boundaries etc.
<b>NEGLIGIBLE</b>	Assets with very little or no surviving archaeological interest. Examples include destroyed antiquities, structures of almost no architectural / historic merit, buildings of an intrusive character or relatively modern / common landscape features such as quarries, drains and ponds etc.
<b>UNKNOWN</b>	Insufficient information exists to assess the importance of a feature (e.g. unidentified features on aerial photographs).

- 2.3.9** The importance of already identified cultural heritage resources is determined by reference to existing designations. Where classification of a receptor's value covered a range of the above possibilities or for previously unidentified features where no designation has been assigned, the value of the receptor was based on professional knowledge and judgement.
- 2.3.10** For some types of finds or remains there is no consistent value and the importance may vary, for example Grade II Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. For this reason, adjustments are occasionally made, where appropriate, based on professional judgement.

## 2.4 Impact Assessment Criteria

- 2.4.1** The magnitude of impact upon the archaeological and heritage resource, which can be considered in terms of direct and indirect impacts, is determined by identifying the level of effect from the proposed development upon the baseline conditions of the site and the cultural heritage resource identified. The criteria for assessing the magnitude of impact are set out in Table 2 (below).
- 2.4.2** In certain cases it is not possible to confirm the magnitude of impact upon a cultural heritage resource, especially where anticipated buried deposits exist. Where possible a professional judgement as to the scale of such impacts is applied to enable the likely 'Significance of Effects' to be established; however, a magnitude level of 'uncertain' is included for situations where it is simply not appropriate to make such a judgement at this stage of works.

**Table 2: Criteria for Determining Magnitude of Impact**

IMPACT LEVEL	DEFINITION
HIGH	Changes to most or all of the key archaeological or key heritage baseline elements, or comprehensive changes to the setting of such key features that lead to total or almost complete alteration of a features physical structure, dramatic visual alteration to the setting of a heritage asset, or almost comprehensive variation to aspects such as noise, access, or visual amenity of the historic landscape.
MEDIUM	Changes to many key archaeological materials/historic elements, or their setting, such that the baseline resource is clearly modified. This includes considerable visual change to many key aspects of the historic landscape, noticeable differences in noise or sound quality, and considerable changes to use or access changes to key historic landscape elements
LOW	Detectable impacts which alter the baseline condition of an archaeological or heritage receptor to a slight degree – e.g. a small proportion of the surviving heritage resource is altered; slight alterations to the setting or structure, or limited changes to aspects such as noise levels, use or access that results in limited changes to historic landscape character.
NEGLIGIBLE	Barely distinguishable change from baseline conditions, where there would be very little appreciable effect on a known site, possibly because of distance from the development, method of construction or landscape or ecological planting, that are thought to have no long term effect on the historic value of a resource.
UNCERTAIN	Extent / nature of the resource is unknown and the magnitude of change cannot be ascertained.

- 2.4.3** The overall Significance of Effects from the proposed development upon the Cultural Heritage Resource is determined by correlating the magnitude of Impact against value of the Cultural Heritage resource. Table 3 highlights the criteria for assessing the overall Significance of Effects. Where effects are moderate or above these are classified as significant.

**Table 3: Significance of Effects**

IMPORTANCE	MAGNITUDE			
	HIGH	MED	LOW	NEG
NATIONAL	Severe	Major	Mod	Minor
REGIONAL	Major	Mod	Minor	Not Sig.
LOCAL	Mod	Minor	Minor	Not Sig.
NEGLIGIBLE	Minor	Not Sig.	Not Sig.	Nt.

**Not Sig. = Not Significant; Nt. = Neutral; Mod = Moderate**

## 2.5 Limitations

- 2.5.1** It should be noted that the report has been prepared under the express instruction and solely for the use of Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust, and any associated parties they elect to share this information with. Measurements and distances referred to in the report should be taken as approximations only and should not be used for detailed design purposes.
- 2.5.2** All the work carried out in this report is based upon the professional knowledge and understanding of AB Heritage on current (September 2018) 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 the client's or associated parties of the facts or implications of any such changes in the future.
- 2.5.3** This report has been prepared utilising factual information obtained from third party sources. AB Heritage takes no responsibility for the accuracy of such information. It should also be noted that this report represents an early stage of a phased approach to assessing the archaeological and cultural heritage resource of the application site to allow the development of an appropriate mitigation strategy, should this be required. It does not comprise mitigation of impacts in itself.

### **3. PLANNING & LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1** The following section highlights the key planning and legislative framework relevant to this project, including legislative framework, national planning policy and relevant sector guidance.

#### **3.2 Statutory Protection for Heritage Assets**

- 3.2.1** Current legislation, in the form of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, provides for the legal protection of important and well-preserved archaeological sites and monuments through their addition to a list, or 'schedule' of archaeological monuments by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. This necessitates the granting of formal Scheduled Monument Consent for any work undertaken within the designated area of a Scheduled Monument.
- 3.2.2** Likewise, structures are afforded legal protection in the form of their addition to 'lists' of buildings of special architectural or historical interest. The listing of buildings is carried out by the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990. The main purpose of the legislation is to protect buildings and their surroundings from changes that would materially alter the special historic or architectural value of the building or its setting. This necessitates the granting of formal Listed Building Consent for all works undertaken to or within the designated curtilage of a Listed Building. This legislation also allows for the creation and protection of Conservation Areas by local planning authorities to protect areas and groupings of historical significance.
- 3.2.3** The categories of assets with some form of legal protection have been extended in recent years, and now include Registered Parks and Gardens, and Historic Battlefields. While designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site is not a statutory designation under English planning law, such a designation is regarded as a material consideration in planning decisions, and World Heritage Sites are in practice protected from development that could affect any aspect of their significance including settings within the Site and a buffer zone around it.

#### **3.3 National Planning Policy**

- 3.3.1** The NPPF sets out government policy on the historic environment, which covers all elements, whether designated or not, that are identified as 'having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest'.
- 3.3.2** One of the over-arching aims is to 'conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations'. To achieve this, local planning authorities can request that the applicant describe "the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting". The level of detail required in the assessment should be "proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance". It goes on to say that "where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest,

local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.”

- 3.3.3** A key policy within the NPPF is that “when considering the impact of a proposed development on the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset’s conservation. The more important the asset, the greater the weight should be.
- 3.3.4** With regard to non-designated heritage assets specific policy is provided in that a balanced judgement will be required having due regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset affected.
- 3.3.5** Paragraph 194 states that ‘Significance can be harmed or lost through alteration or destruction of a heritage asset or development within its setting. Substantial harm to or loss of a Grade II listed building, park or garden should be exceptional, while substantial harm to or loss of designated heritage assets of the highest significance, should be wholly exceptional’.
- 3.3.6** Paragraphs 195 & 196 explain that ‘where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss.
- 3.3.7** It also advises that where a proposal involve less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

#### **3.4 Core Strategy & Urban Core Plan for Gateshead and Newcastle 2010 – 2030**

- 3.4.1** The Core Strategy and Urban Core Plan for Gateshead and Newcastle upon Tyne 2010 – 2030 (Adopted 2015 (incorporating Benwell and Scotswood Area Action Plan 2009) forms the first part of the Local Plans for Gateshead and Newcastle and was adopted in 2015. This document details the Core Strategy Policies and the Urban Core Strategies that relate to those areas. The CSUCP also includes Urban Core Policies from the Benwell and Scotswood Area Action Plan that was adopted in 2009.

- 3.4.2** Policy **UC14 Heritage** relates to the Historic Environment.

*To respect the historical legacy, varied character and appearance of the historic environment development will:*

- 1. Maximise opportunities to sustain and enhance the significance of heritage assets and their setting.*
- 2. Deliver high quality in the design of new buildings and conversions reflecting the rich historic fabric.*
- 3. Include opportunities for the contemporary interpretation of heritage assets including Hadrian’s Wall and associated features.*



### **3.5 Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site (WHS)**

- 3.5.1** The southern part of the proposed development site abuts the UNESCO World Heritage Site Buffer Zone for Hadrian's Wall (Fig 6; [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk)). All World Heritage Sites are provided with a Buffer Zone around the site – in the case of Hadrian's Wall this is a linear zone for the curtain wall.
- 3.5.2** Hadrian's Wall has been inscribed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site (WHS) since 1987. It is now a component part of a much larger and more ambitious Site: The Frontiers of the Roman Empire (FRE). This is a 'transnational' Site: the result of the German Limes being added in 2005, and the Antonine Wall (between the Forth and the Clyde, in Scotland) in 2008. (Hadrian's Wall Management Plan, 2018)
- 3.5.3** A mapped and clearly defined extent of the Site itself was agreed during the development of the first Hadrian's Wall Management Plan in 1996. This included parts of the Wall and other key components protected as scheduled monuments under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, such as forts and milecastles.
- 3.5.4** Some other features known to be associated with Hadrian's Wall, are not scheduled and have not been formally included in the WHS, but nevertheless remain protected through the Town and Country Planning system, NPPF and Local Policies. They all lie in the Buffer Zone (see above).
- 3.5.5** The buffer zone itself is not a recognised statutory designation but is treated as a material consideration in planning.

## **4. CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE BASELINE**

### **4.1 Known Cultural Heritage Assets**

#### *Within the Proposed Development Site*

- 4.1.1** The line of Hadrian's Wall and the associated UNESCO World Heritage Site 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire' Buffer Zone are not recorded as falling within the site limits. However, the Wall Ditch, which have originally run parallel to the north of the Wall, is shown on various sources as extending through the very southern limits of the site (Fig. 6). This provides some level of archaeological potential, when unmodified by later development.
- 4.1.2** In addition, buildings existing from the 1930s to the 1960s, and identified by the Planning Archaeologist for review, comprise:
- The New Hospital Building;
  - The Operating Theatre; and
  - The Casualty Department.

#### *Close to the Proposed Development Site*

- 4.1.3** As mentioned above, the hospital site lies a short distance (c. 5 – 10m) to the north of the buried line of Hadrian's Wall, which is thought to survive under the line of what is now the Westgate Road; it should be noted that the remains of the Wall are not Scheduled in the vicinity of the hospital frontage.
- 4.1.4** In addition to this, the site immediately abuts the designated Buffer Zone of the UNESCO World Heritage Site 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire' (Fig. 6).

### **4.2 Previous Works at the Site**

- 4.2.1** In 2005 an archaeological investigation was carried out within the site boundaries. The works included a single archaeological evaluation trench located on the grassed area in front of the hospital. This trench revealed no features or deposits of archaeological significance. Made ground which included modern building materials was up to 0.6m thick (PCA, 2005).
- 4.2.2** The investigation also included the monitoring of seven test pits. Again, no archaeological features, finds or deposits were encountered (Fig. 3).
- 4.2.3** In 2008 an archaeological evaluation was carried out along the southern edge of the site. The evaluation consisted of six trenches within shrubbery borders (PCA, 2008). These trenches were all sited and aligned to cover the potential for archaeological remains, particularly to test for the presence of the Wall ditch. No archaeological features or deposits of significance were encountered and modern made ground was an average of 0.7m thick (Fig. 4).
- 4.2.4** In 2011 an Historic Building Recording survey was carried out in advance of the demolition of some of the former Union Workhouse buildings at the SE part of the site. This work was to provide context for the Union Workhouse buildings that would not be demolished, while preserving by record those that would be demolished (PCA, 2011).

### 4.3 Archaeology & History Background

#### The Prehistoric Period (c. 500, 000 BC – AD 43)

- 4.3.1 No prehistoric finds have been recorded from within, or in the 100m surrounding the General Hospital site.

#### The Roman Period (c. AD 43 – AD 410)

- 4.3.2 During the Roman period, and specifically from around AD117, the site of what is now the former General Hospital lay immediately adjacent to the line of Hadrian's Wall, which is thought to lie c. 10m to the south of the site (Fig. 6). The Wall was constructed to define and control the north western limit of the Roman Empire.
- 4.3.3 The Wall was built between Wallsend and Carlisle for c. 80 Roman miles and comprised the curtain wall (in stone for the eastern section as far as Birdoswald and stone/turf and turf only for the western section to Carlisle), a deep ditch and bank to the north (the Wall ditch), Forts, Milecastles and Turrets and great ditch with flanking banks (The Vallum) to the south.
- 4.3.4 The presence of gateways in the Milecastles and Forts suggest that the Wall served as control for access for goods and people into and out of the empire (Breeze & Dobson, 2000).
- 4.3.5 The section of the Wall under the Westgate Road, adjacent to the former General Hospital, runs between Benwell Fort c. 1.2km to the west, and Newcastle Fort c. 2.3km to the south east. This section of the curtain wall is not a designated Scheduled Monument, although it is part of the WHS and associated Buffer Zone.
- 4.3.6 The southern limits of the proposal site, while not containing the line of the Wall itself, are thought to contain what would have been the line of the original north Wall Ditch, its bank and counterscarp. Excavations elsewhere in Newcastle and at Wallsend have revealed a further defensive measure between the Wall and the Wall ditch – namely series of pit alignments, which are thought to have held branches or small tree trunks that would have formed a barrier or entanglement. However, despite previous archaeological works within the site boundaries, there has been no evidence of these features, Roman activity, or indeed any other archaeological evidence.
- 4.3.7 Furthermore, archaeological investigations immediately beyond the southern limits of the site, at Grainger Park Road (c. 80m to the west of the proposal site), at Brighton Grove (c. 170m east of the development site), as well as along the footpaths and carriageway of Westgate Road (c. 10m south of the development site), have also failed to uncover any form of evidence of Hadrian's Wall or other Roman remains.

#### The Medieval Period (AD 410 – AD 1536)

- 4.3.8 Late Saxon evidence is known from around the general site of the former Roman fort at Newcastle, c. 2.3km south east of the development site (Bidwell & Snape, 2002); however, the precise location and extent of this early Medieval settlement in the area is unknown.
- 4.3.9 No comparably early medieval evidence is known within 1km of the development site.

- 4.3.10** During the later Medieval period, the site lay within the township of Elswick, within the parish of St. John. At this time Elswick was granted to Tynemouth Priory in 1120 and held until the Dissolution in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Evidence of field names from medieval rentals of the manor suggest that agricultural land was being created through woodland clearance until a relatively late date. References mentioning mineral mining 'in the field of Elswick' exist dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and in 1378 'the coal pits with way and staiths' were valued at £40 per annum.
- 4.3.11** However, despite the above information, no known archaeological evidence of medieval date has been found within 1km of the site (PCA, 2010).

*The Post Medieval Period (AD 1537 – AD 1800)*

- 4.3.12** Construction of the Military Road - on the same alignment as the ancient Roman route westwards out of Newcastle, began after the Jacobite Rebellion of 1745. The Newcastle to Carlisle Military Road was one of the later elements of a long-running programme of road improvement works implemented by Field Marshal George Wade (1673-1748), who began constructing roads in the Highlands of Scotland in 1725 after being sent there on a military mission for George I. It is recorded that the Military Road was partly built over Hadrian's Wall (Breeze, 2006).
- 4.3.13** An archaeological evaluation undertaken along Westgate Road, between c. 10m south and c. 200m west of the former Newcastle General Hospital in June 2010, exposed possible remains of this 18<sup>th</sup> century Military Road. In the easternmost trench excavated as part of the works, a stone surface, with remnants of a sandstone block surface treatment, was recorded at a depth of c. 1m below pavement level. A distinct silty layer above the surface produced two scraps of post-medieval pottery and two scraps of ceramic building material of uncertain date.

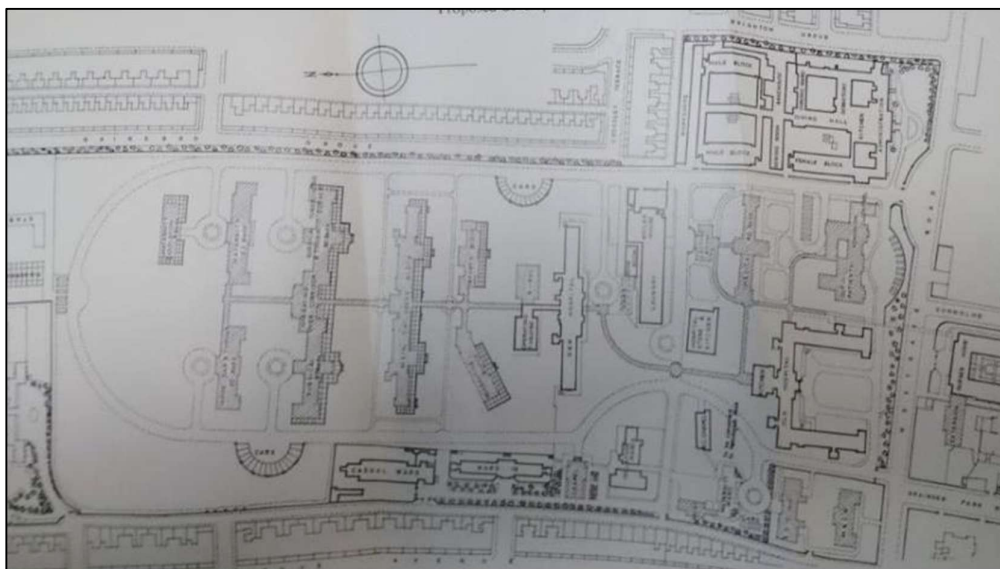
*The Modern Period (AD 1801 – present)*

- 4.3.14** In 1839 a new, purpose-built and extensive 'Union Workhouse' was constructed by the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Board of Guardians on Westgate Road, in the south-eastern portion of the present hospital grounds. This replaced four parish workhouses, with the new build including: an administration block; laundry; dining hall; workshops; bakehouse; school; various wards; and a lunatic asylum. The overall complex is shown in some detail on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map from 1864 (Plate 1) - located in the southern part of the current site, in the areas now grassed and put over to car parks.
- 4.3.15** At this time the south-westernmost corner of what are now the hospital grounds was occupied by a large dwelling, annotated as 'Elswick Grange', with what appeared to be a relatively formal garden set out in front of it, to the south, on Westgate Road.
- 4.3.16** In the late 1860s, an Infirmary was constructed in the southern central portion of the site – in the area of what is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1<sup>st</sup> Edition map as containing two buildings, possibly a farmhouse and an L-shaped range of outbuildings (beneath the word Grange on Plate 1). All these additions are shown on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map from the 1890s (not shown).



Plate 1. Extract 1<sup>st</sup> Ed. OS 1864. Courtesy of National Library of Scotland

- 4.3.17** By the 1930s the workhouse complex was no longer in use and the workhouse infirmary was handed over by the Board of Guardians to the City Council and its name was changed to Newcastle General Hospital. Furthermore, by this time the hospital complex had extended northwards. Plate 2 shows the plan of the hospital in 1936, specifically existing buildings and additions proposed for development.



**Plate 2. Plan of General Hospital 1936. Westgate Road to the right**

**4.3.18** By the mid-1960s the hospital site had been further developed, with the site becoming ever busier. By this time several new units had been added including a Casualty unit parallel to the eastern length of the ring road, with an X-Ray unit, Radio Therapy and Neurology Units all added to the services provided (Plate 3).



**Plate 3. 1966 Block Plan of General Hospital. Westgate Road to the right**

**4.3.19** In the 1990s all buildings within the central part of the site were demolished. Today, any remaining 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings are limited to the south eastern part of the hospital grounds and are the remains of the Union Workhouse.



#### **4.4 Site Visit**

**4.4.1** A site visit was undertaken by Daniel Dodds (Principal Heritage Consultant, AB Heritage) on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018. The purpose of this visit was to gain a greater understanding of the existing land use and past impacts within the current site limits, along with an appreciation for the potential survival of below ground archaeological deposits.

**4.4.2** The existing site can be divided into four areas (see Fig. 5), generally discussed from south to north. These are:

- Westgate Road to the 1930s 'New Hospital' building;
- Area within the existing hospital ring road;
- Land alongside west of site;
- The current campus for Ageing & Vitality.

##### *Westgate Road to the 1930s 'New Hospital' Building*

**4.4.3** The Westgate Road to New Hospital area is dominated by the open grassed spaces and car parking created by the demolition of hospital buildings during the 1990s. An example of this area, which has been subject to previous archaeological investigation (see 4.2, above), can be seen in Photo 1.

##### *Area within the existing Hospital Ring Road*

**4.4.4** The bulk of the former General Hospital includes the area from the New Hospital up to the access road, at the north end of the site. This includes currently derelict hospital buildings, such as the former 1930s New Hospital and the Casualty building, as well as the multi-storey buildings and others still in use. This area predominately contains buildings present during the 1930s, as well as modern buildings and extensions from the 21<sup>st</sup> century (e.g. Photo 2 – 7, Model 1 – 7 & Fig. 5).

##### *The current Campus for Ageing & Vitality*

**4.4.5** The Institute for Ageing and Health is a new unit that occupies the very northernmost part of the site; it lies immediately adjacent to the east of St Nicholas Church and cemetery. This area has not been examined as it is not subject to any known proposals for change or development.

##### *Land alongside west of site*

**4.4.6** A large cleared / gravelled area, occupying the western side of the site, approximately parallel to the 1930's 'New Hospital' Building and running northwards. This area was formerly covered by a number of hospital buildings, the function of which were unknown. These were demolished, and the area landscaped at some point in the recent past, judging by the appearance of the site.

Summary

- 4.4.7** The site as a whole, over the course of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, has been subject to various phases of construction, expansion and demolition. This resulted in some areas with densely packed and large buildings across the limits of the site. A number of these buildings, particularly those over two storeys, may have been constructed on substantial foundations, and some may have been provided with basements and/or subterranean service passages.
- 4.4.8** The scale and density of building work is likely to have had a major adverse impact on any underlying archaeological deposits that may have survived within the limits of the site. This is best seen on the now cleared southern section of the site, between Westgate Road and the New Hospital building, where archaeological investigations (see section 4.2) have shown significant depths of made ground, but no surviving archaeological deposits.



## **5. CULTURAL HERITAGE POTENTIAL & MITIGATION**

### **5.1 Known Cultural Heritage Resource**

- 5.1.1** While the line of Hadrian's Wall Ditch has been postulated to extend through the very southernmost limits of the site neither this, nor any other archaeological remains of any period, have been identified within the site during previous archaeological works.

### **5.2 Past Impact Within the Site Boundary**

- 5.2.1** The construction, enlargement and subsequent partial demolition of the Union Workhouse and the former General Hospital is considered to have caused high levels of direct adverse impact to any potential archaeological deposits that may once have survived within the limits of proposed development.
- 5.2.2** Indeed, deep deposits of Made Ground have been found during all intrusive archaeological fieldworks previously undertaken within the site limits, demonstrating the levels of past impact that the site has been subject to associated with the various phases of construction, extension and demolition.

### **5.3 Potential Archaeological Resource**

- 5.3.1** As mentioned above, previous archaeological work, particularly focused at the southern boundary of the development site, where potential for archaeological survival would normally be considered to be greatest, has in fact shown no surviving archaeology due to the construction and later demolition of the Union Workhouse and the former General Hospital. Given the evidence from archaeological investigations, which suggests that archaeological remains do not exist within the development site, there is concluded to be no potential for the recovery of complex / significant archaeology, and this report will not proceed with an Archaeology Impact Assessment.

### **5.4 Outline Recommendations**

- 5.4.1** No further archaeological investigations or works are recommended for this site.
- 5.4.2** This recommendation is subject to the approval of the from the Local Planning Archaeologist.

## **6. THE EXISTING BUILDINGS OF THE EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

### **6.1 Introduction**

- 6.1.1** As described above, the site of the former General Hospital has been subject to several phases of development including construction, extension and demolition. This has resulted in a range of building types being currently extant on the site.
- 6.1.2** The following is a description of the various buildings identified during the site visit for discussion, all of which survive from a period of development between the mid-1930s and the mid-1960s. These buildings were visited on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2018, although complete access was not available in all cases, as the site contains many locked gates that prohibit general access for health & safety and security reasons.
- 6.1.3** The buildings identified and discussed below are shown on the 1936 Plan of Proposed Developments (Plate 2) and the 1966 Regional Hospital Board's Block Plan (Plate 3) reproduced from the History of the General Hospital, written by George Hurrell and published by Newcastle General Hospital in 1967. The copy consulted was held at the Literary and Philosophical Society Library in Newcastle upon Tyne.

### **6.2 Development of the General Hospital 1930s to 1960s**

- 6.2.1** After the infirmary that serviced the Union Workhouse was re-created as the Wingrove Hospital in 1921, the New Local Government Act of 1929 saw Wingrove Hospital handed to the City Council and re-named The General Hospital. Buildings existing from this period are:
- The New Hospital (later known as Wards 17-21); and
  - The Operating Theatre.
- 6.2.2** The period after 1930 saw a plan drawn up by the City Architect, Mr R.G. Roberts. This plan included a ring road around the site, together with a 'collection of buildings in the course of erection and others that were proposed' (Hurrell, 1967). This plan is shown on Plate 2. According to Hurrell, of the buildings originally planned, by 1936 the following were completed:
- The ring road;
  - The X-Ray Department;
  - The V.D. Clinic;
  - The Mortuary (in the Pathological Institute);
  - The Children's Block; and
  - The Maternity Department.
- 6.2.3** Of these buildings the following are still extant:
- The ring road (not described here); and

- The Children's Block.

**6.2.4** Another period of development occurred in the mid-1960s, and the buildings from that period are shown on Plate 3, and include:

- The Casualty Department.

### **6.3 Description of Existing Buildings**

#### *The New Hospital Building (pre-1936 Construction)*

**6.3.1** This building faces south towards Westgate Road, and is currently the first substantial building encountered upon entering the site from the public car parks. This building is generally of three storeys, although the third storey and roof of the west and east wings appear to be later additions (Photo 1).



**Photo 1. Looking north to the New Hospital Building**

**6.3.2** The New Hospital Building is generally of a mottled red brick construction, with stone window sills and lintels and stone door steps. The building comprises a main central section of two bays and a wing to either side.

**6.3.3** The central section of the building contains more fenestration than the wings, although the general tripartite style of the windows is approximately similar to all. The central section has a welsh slate roof with four chimney stacks running with the ridge, and at either gable end two smaller chimney stacks perpendicular to the ridge (Photo 2).



**Photo 2. Showing features of central section of New Hospital Building**

- 6.3.4** Currently all the doorways and windows are boarded on the ground floor.
- 6.3.5** It is likely that the windows present for examination on the first floor are representative of the same on the ground floor i.e. timber framed, tripartite with six glazed panes, with the upper lights as an awning window.
- 6.3.6** The third storeys on the east and west wings are constructed of a darker reddish-brown brick. The wings are nine bays wide with a single, narrow sandstone lintel running over the larger windows.
- 6.3.7** The second floor of the wings is set back behind an iron railing over a sloping leaded roof at first floor. Each of the wings at second floor has a glazed door with side lights (Photo 3 behind the lamppost).



**Photo 3. Looking north showing east wing of New Hospital Building**

- 6.3.8** The east and west wings also show evidence of being extended or altered. Photo 3 shows a change in fenestration and a stub or brick work at gutter level on the roof at the mid-point of the wing. Each wing features a single chimney stack with ceramic pots at each gable end.



- 6.3.9** The rear of the New Hospital Building is less imposing than the front south elevation. The rear retains the tripartite window styling but maintains the simplest version of it. The rear also shows the utilitarian aspects of the building such as the guttering and downpipes, which are generally better placed on the front south elevation (Photo 4).



**Photo 4. Looking east. Showing rear of New Hospital Building**

- 6.3.10** The rear of the New Hospital Building has been the focus of extension for presumably functional areas such as washrooms, toilets and rear service stairs – as evidenced by the pipe work and risers shown in Photo 4, as well as the changes in window form.
- 6.3.11** Models 1 & 2 (below) show 3D representations of the front and rear of the New Hospital Building.



**Model 1. Looking NNE. Showing south elevation of New Hospital Building**



**Model 2. Looking S. Showing rear north elevation of New Hospital Building**

*The Operating Theatre – Pre-1936 Construction*

- 6.3.12** The Operating Theatre is located behind the New Hospital building. Access to this building was not available at the time of the site visit, this building is surrounded by several new additions, and locked behind gates to restrict public access.
- 6.3.13** The building is of two storeys and built of the same red brick as the New Hospital Building. The Operating Theatre shares the same design motifs of the stone sills and lintels and Welsh slate roof. A sky light is present on the north facing slope of the roof – this is likely an original feature. Two chimney stacks are present along the ridge of the roof.
- 6.3.14** The Operating Theatre building is notable by its width compared to its length giving a squat appearance to the whole. Models 3 & 4 below show 3D images of the building.



**Model 3. S and W elevations of Operating Theatre**



**Model 4. E and N elevations of Operating Theatre**

*The Children's Block – Post-1936 Construction*

- 6.3.15** The Children's Block is a substantial building located about halfway between the New Hospital Building and the northern limit of the ring road. The Children's Block building spans the whole width between the ring road at the west and east.
- 6.3.16** In 1936 the Children's Block comprised the main block which is still present, and the now demolished Quarantine Ward and Infants Ward which were located to the south between the New Hospital Building and the main Children's Block.
- 6.3.17** According to the 1936 Plan (Plate 2), the Children's Block was under construction at that time, and was also apparently slated for further development to the south elevations. Examination of the building in the present day does show that the south elevation has been extended at the ground floor level.
- 6.3.18** Access to the historic front or south elevation at the time of the site visit was restricted by locked gates and high railings. Should access have been available, the opportunity for good quality, wide angled photographs would have been impossible owing to the closeness of other buildings to both the south and the north. As with the buildings described above, 3D models have been provided to illustrate the building and its surroundings (Models 5 & 6).
- 6.3.19** The Children's Block is constructed of a uniform red brick rather than the mottled red brick used on the New Hospital Building. The planform of the Children's Block echoes that of the New Hospital Building with a central section flanked to either side by wings that are slightly set back from the south elevation. The long wings have distinctive staircase towers at the ends, themselves set back from the elevation of the wings (Photo 5 & Model 5).
- 6.3.20** In plan the central section forms a broad 'U' shape, with a central square area that probably originally formed the entrance hall/reception area and offices. This section of the building is topped by a Welsh Slate roof, with a ridge on the long axis and a narrow flat-topped pitched roof on the short axes (Model 5).



- 6.3.21** The original entrance to the lobby is now obscured by a modern adjoining building. There does not appear to be any other entrances on the south elevation.
- 6.3.22** The central section of the building has three bays, picked out by tripartite timber framed sash windows. The middle windows on the first and second floors are surrounded by a thick stone border though generally the windows in the Children's Block do not feature stone sills or lintels.
- 6.3.23** The ground floor of the central section has relatively small windows except for a single window to the east side, and this appears to be a replacement in a modern style.
- 6.3.24** The first and second floors have timber framed sash windows with a six light design featuring a central glazing bar.
- 6.3.25** The wings of the building feature a ground floor that is flush with the south elevation of the central section, while the first and second floors are set slightly back – echoing the design theme of the New Hospital Building.
- 6.3.26** On the ground floor, the wings have three bays marked by large windows of four lights with upper awnings. These windows have a single continuous stone string line above, which carries through from the central section.
- 6.3.27** The first and second floor of the south elevation of the wings contains square shaped stone detailing, with each square enclosing two window bays. The ends of each wing have stone detailing that is the same as the middle of the central section (Model 5).



**Model 5. Looking NNW showing south elevation of Children's Block**

- 6.3.28** Set back from the wings is a distinctive staircase tower (Photo 5 and Model 5).





**Photo 5. Looking S. West staircase tower of west wing**

**6.3.29** In front of the wings towards the ends, on the ground floor is a single storey extension which lies in front of the main building. These extensions are marked in hatch design on the 1936 Plan. They are also of red brick with simple stone detailing. The windows are of six light timber framed casements. The front of these extensions is marked by wrought iron railings. The west wing extension has itself been given an extension in the form of a small conservatory (Photo 6).



**Photo 6. Looking E. Showing GF wing extensions to Children's Block**

- 6.3.30** The rear (north elevation) of the Children's Block building including the central section and the wings is very similar to the front or south elevation, with the exception of the ground floor wing extensions not being present on the rear north elevation (Model 6).



**Model 6. Looking S. North elevation of Children's Block**

Casualty Department – Post-1966 Construction

- 6.3.31** The Casualty Department building is shown on the 1966 Block Plan. It is sited to the east end of the New Hospital Building and is orientated N-S along the east stretch of the ring road.
- 6.3.32** The Casualty Department is a long (c. 80m) building of a relatively simple design. The building appears to comprise of three distinctive sections, namely a south and a north section, with a longer central section that was the entrance and pick up and drop off place for ambulances etc.
- 6.3.33** The Casualty Department is constructed of brown bricks and roofed with concrete tiles. There are gables at the south and north.
- 6.3.34** The front elevation faces east and contained the entrance hall and the vehicular drop off spaces. The east elevation is raised above the level of the ring road on a ramp (Photo 7).



**Photo 7. Looking SSW. Showing E elevation of Casualty Department**

- 6.3.35** The east elevation is characterised on the ground floor by a series of rectangular windows (boarded) surrounded by concrete detailing. At the south and north sections, the ground floor windows have a concrete sill, and are separated by green tiles. This pattern of window, sill and tiles is repeated at the first floor (Photo 7).
- 6.3.36** The defining design feature of the Casualty Department is the convex window located to the north of the entrance door.



**Model 7. Looking WNW. Showing the New Hospital Building, Operating Theatre, Children's Block & Casualty Dept (within wider site)**

## **6.4 Summary**

- 6.4.1** The pre-1936 buildings of the New Hospital and The Operating Theatre are clearly of a differing scale and function from one another, but they do share certain design characteristics such as the slate roof and the stone sills and lintels at the windows.
- 6.4.2** Of the buildings that were constructed at or around the mid-1930s, the Children's Block is the only survivor. This building is of a similar scale to the New Hospital Building. The main difference between them is the change in brick type and the stone detailing which is almost of an art deco style on the Children's Block – very much of its time.
- 6.4.3** The Casualty Department building dates from the 1960s and although it differs markedly from the New Hospital and the Children's Block, it is interesting in the fact that it remains a two-storey building of a similar scale to those above, while the buildings that came after were the multi storey towers seen elsewhere on the site.
- 6.4.4** It is possible that one or two elements of other buildings may be survivals from this early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century period e.g. the maternity block, but these have been updated and apparently largely rebuilt or extended, so it is difficult to appreciate how they may have been in their original form.



## **7. CONCLUSION**

### **7.1 Overview**

- 7.1.1** AB Heritage has been commissioned by Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust to produce a Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment covering a proposed mixed-use development at the former General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 6BE, due to its position immediately to the north of the line of Hadrian's Wall.

### **7.2 Archaeology**

- 7.2.1** Hadrian's Wall is known to run beneath the Westgate Road, immediately to the south of the southern site boundary, while the postulated trajectory of the northern Wall Ditch of Hadrian's Wall has been plotted through the very southernmost limits of the site.
- 7.2.2** However, evidence from archaeological work carried out carried within the limits of the site, in response to previous proposals for development works, have shown that no archaeological remains of Roman or any other period survive within the areas tested. In fact, what was identified were relatively deep deposits of Made Ground within these areas, associated with the past construction, expansion and demolition works across the site.
- 7.2.3** Therefore, it is considered likely that the construction and demolition of the Union Workhouse, and later the General Hospital would have had a severe adverse impact upon any archaeological remains that may have once survived within the limits of the site, and no further archaeological work is recommended.

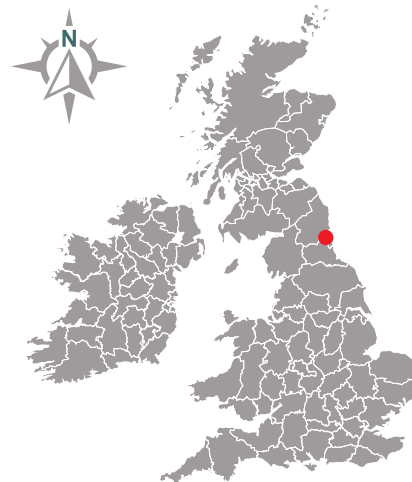
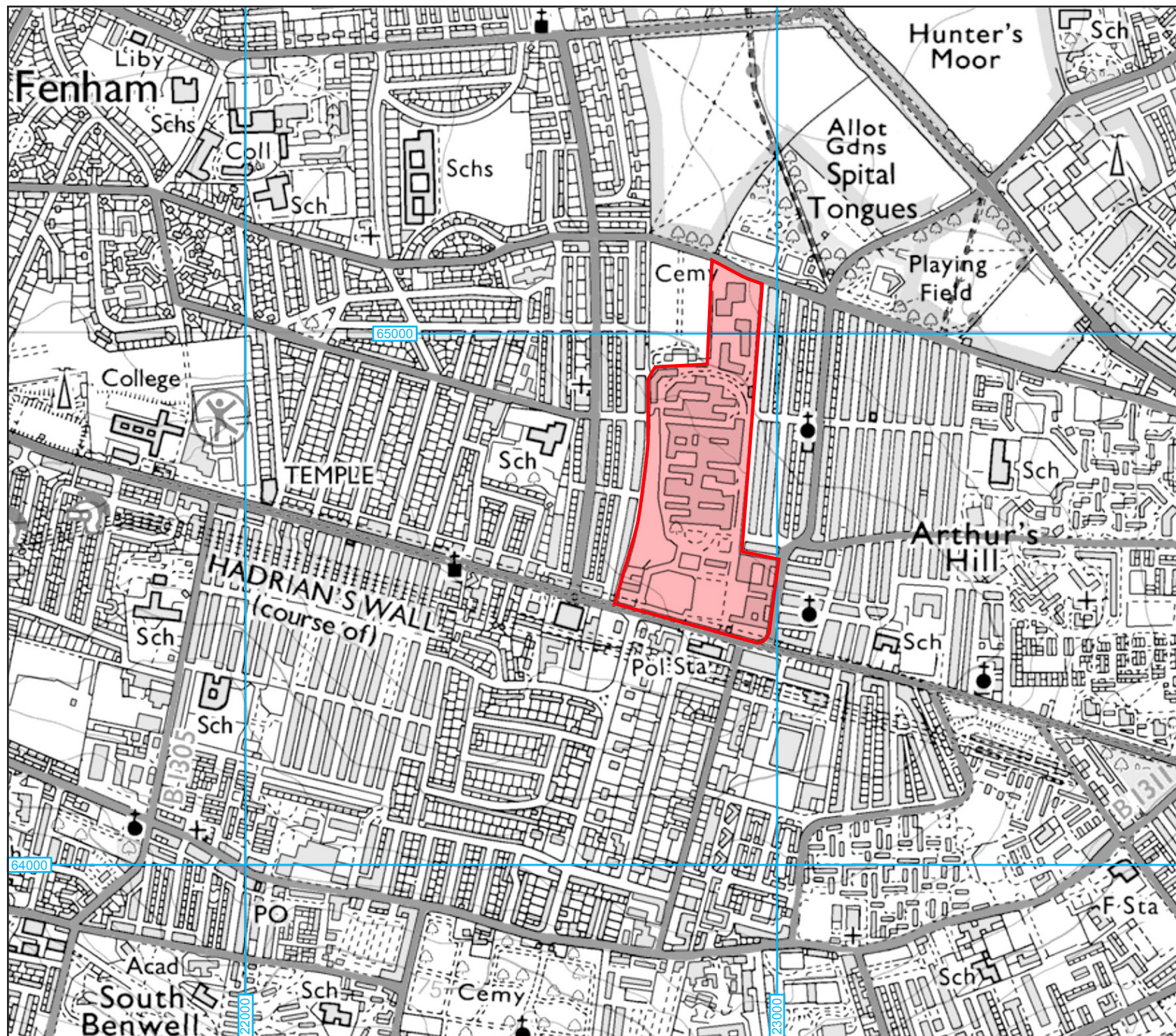
### **7.3 Extant Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Hospital Buildings**

- 7.3.1** Examination of the existing building stock at the former General Hospital concluded that there are four buildings from the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century period that still survive on site to this day and have some level of heritage interest. These were recorded above and comprise:
- The New Hospital Building;
  - The Operating Theatre;
  - The Children's Block; and
  - The Casualty Department.
- 7.3.2** These buildings have been shown to form a loose group within the wider hospital, with the architectural style of the New Hospital Building being referenced by the Operating Theatre and the Children's Block in particular.

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#### KEY

■ Site Boundary

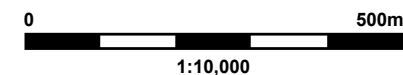


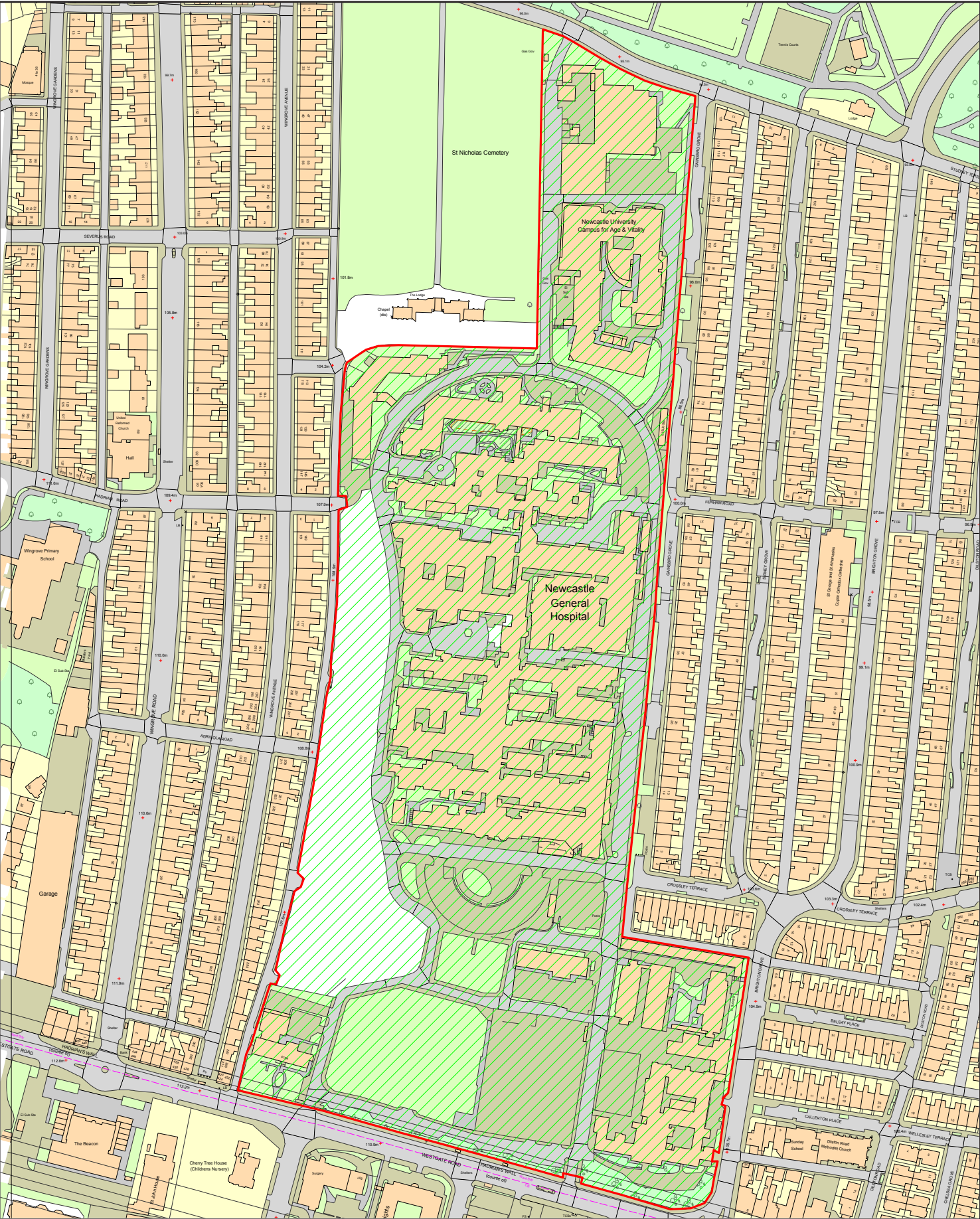
Figure 1: Site Location

Project: Former General Hospital


Date 11/09/18

Job No: 60343





**KEY**

 Site Boundary

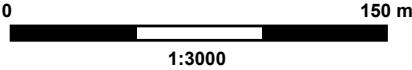
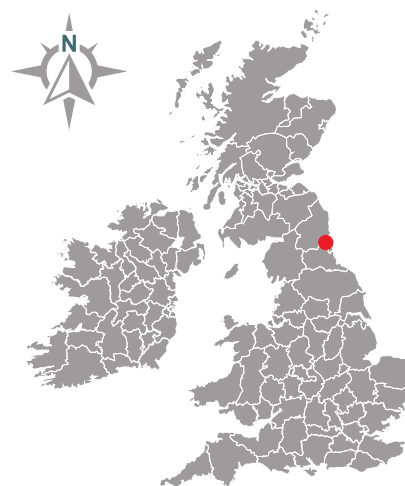


Figure 2: Existing Site Plan.

Project: Former General Hospital

Date: 13/09/18      Job No: 60343



# KEY



Trenches

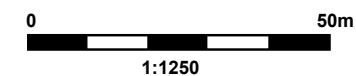


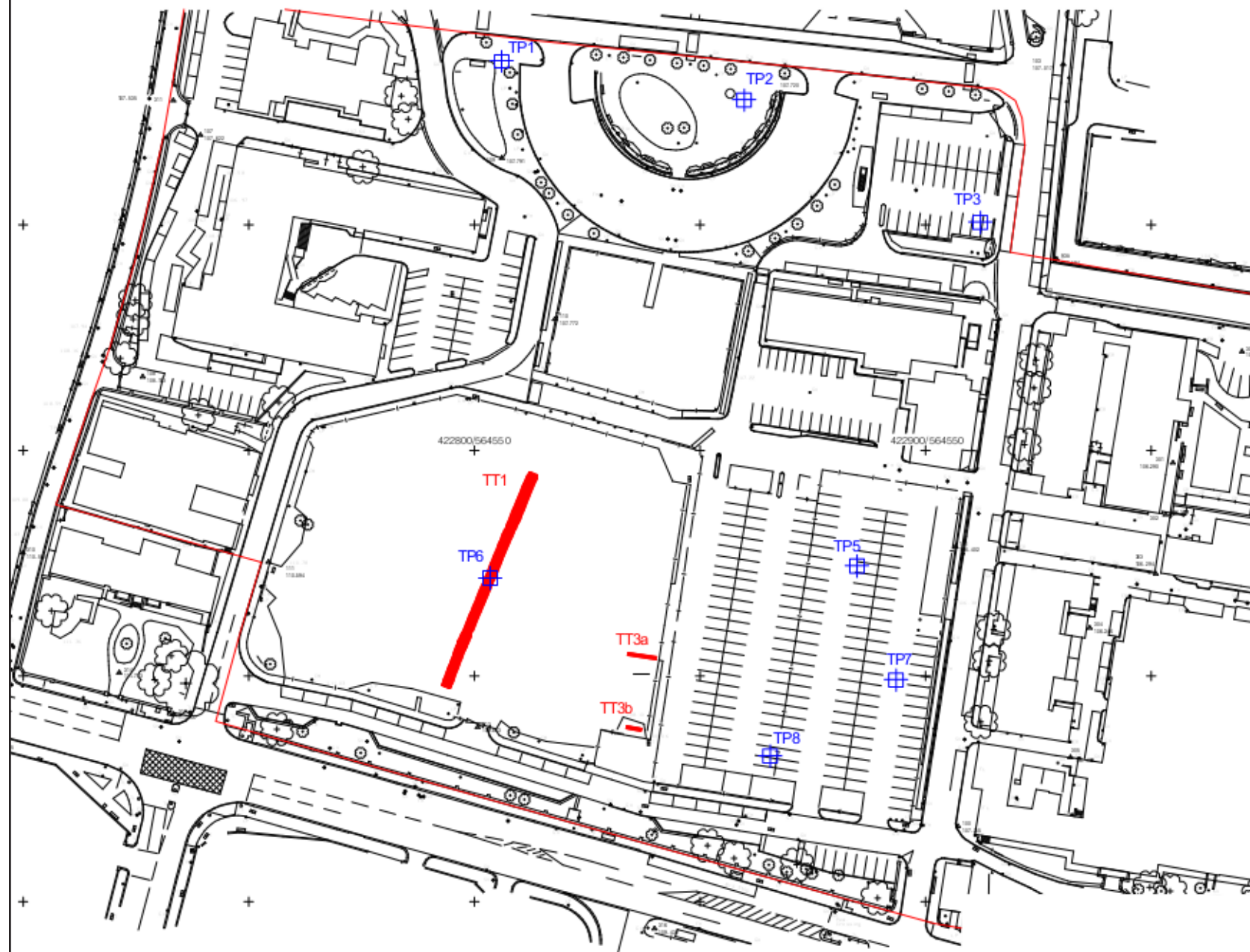
Figure 3: 2005 Trenches

Project: Former General Hospital

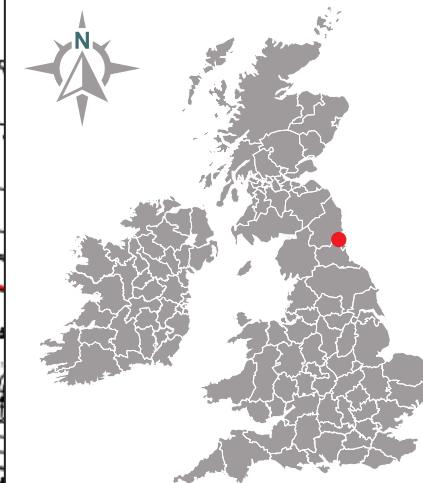
Date 11/09/18

Job No: 60343

Drawn by: Pighill







# KEY

◆ Trenches

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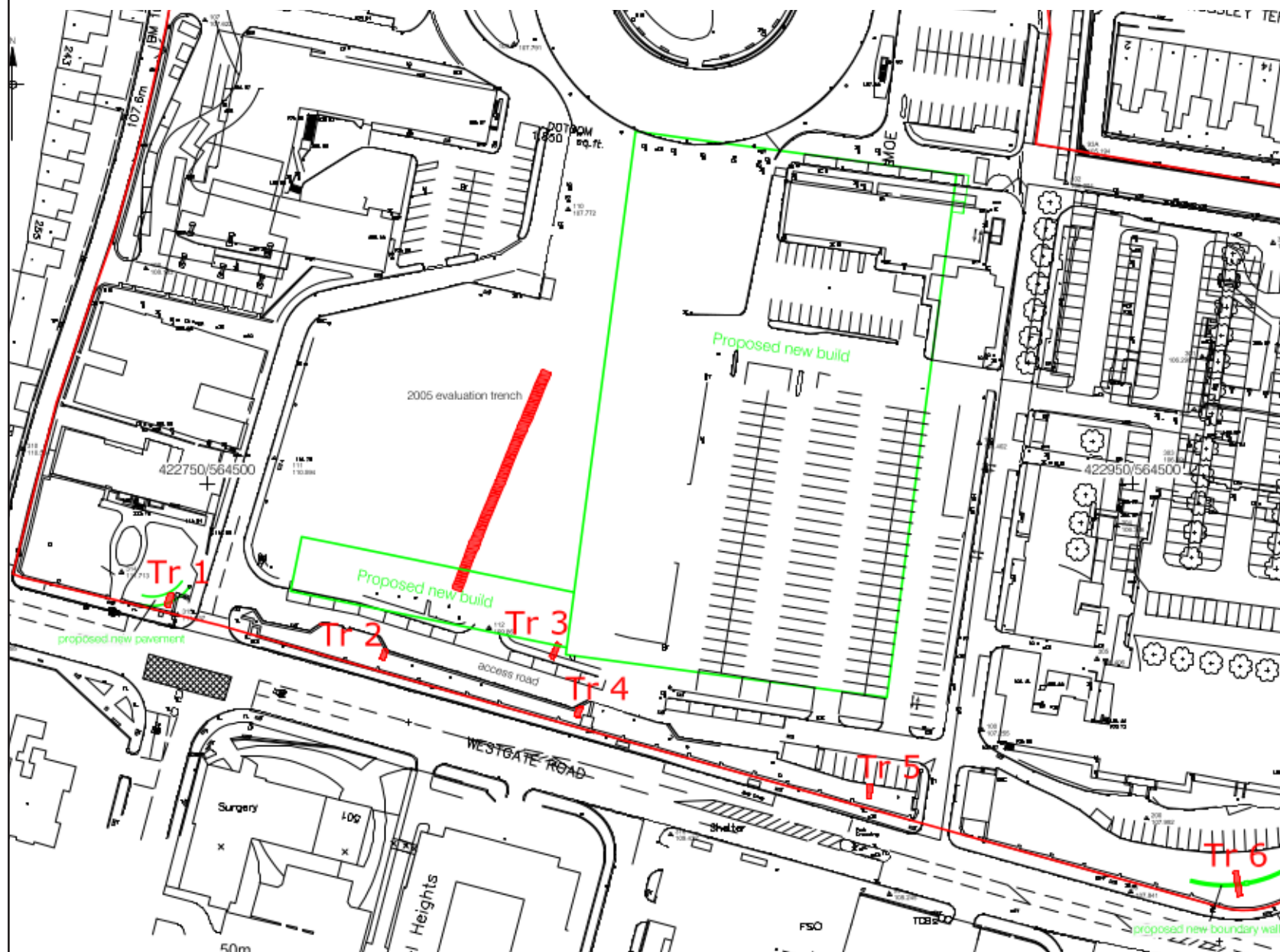
Figure 4: 2008 Trenches

Project: Former General Hospital

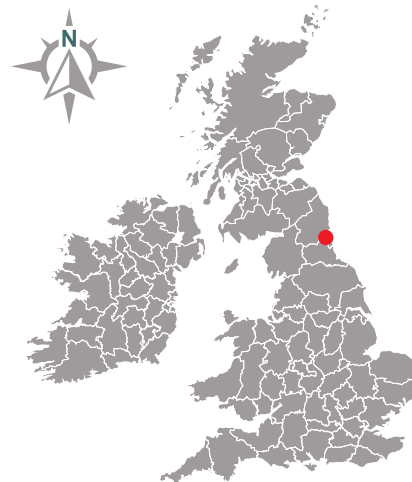
Date 11/09/18

Job No: 60343

Drawn by: Pighill







# KEY

 Site Boundary

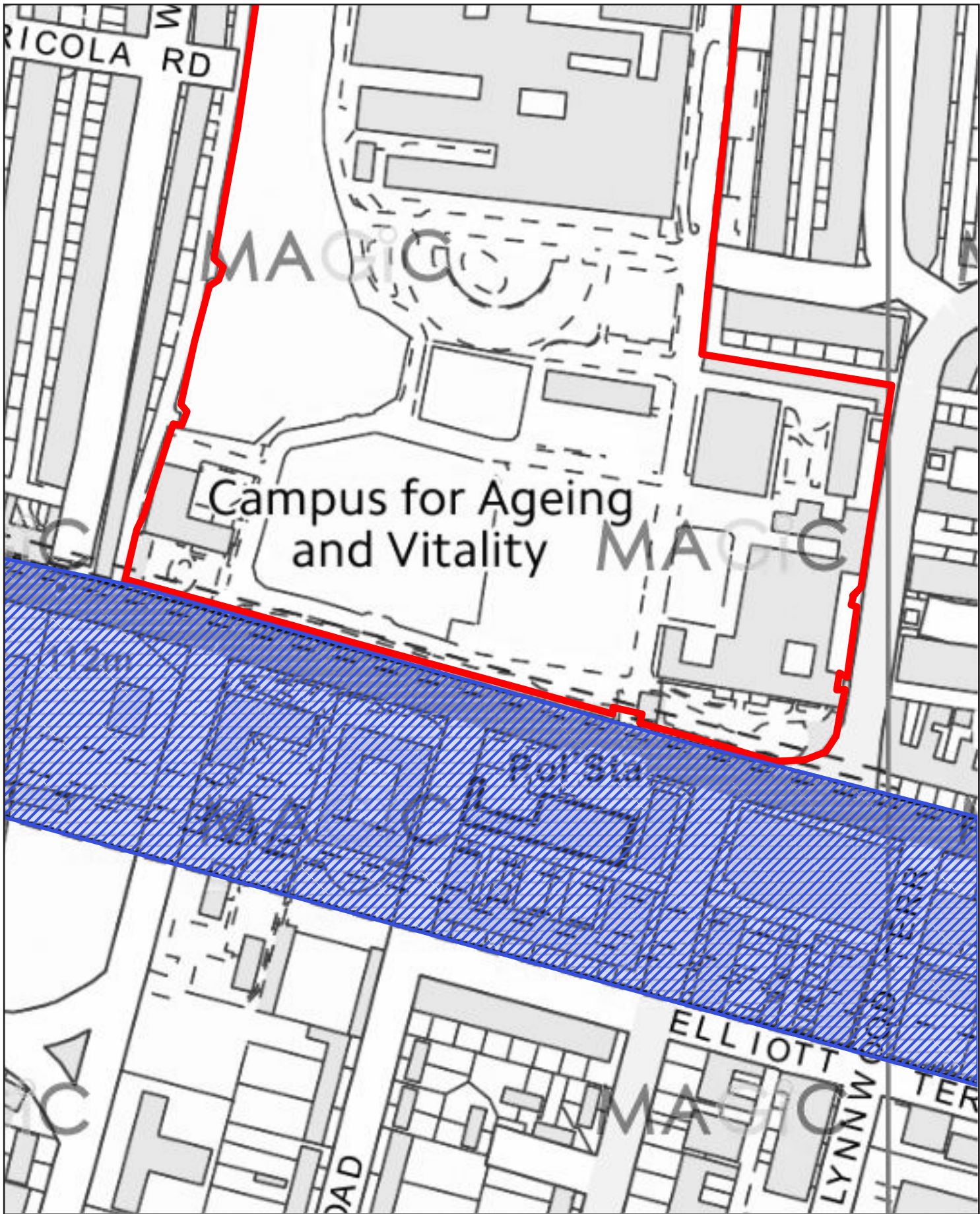
Figure 5: Early to mid-20th  
Century Buildings

Project: Former General Hospital



Date 11/09/18

Job No: 60343





**KEY**

-  Site Boundary
-  WHS Buffer Zone

Not to scale



Figure 6: World Heritage Site: Buffer Zone

Project: Former General Hospital

Date: 13/09/18      Job No: 60343



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