

East Street, Whitburn, Tyne and Wear

Archaeological Evaluation

Planning Ref: ST/0741/17/FENQ

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the results of a programme of evaluation trenching undertaken on land to the rear of 12 and 12a East Street, Whitburn, South Tyneside as a requirement of planning permission for the development of four new dwellings and a gym. The trenching was undertaken in order to characterise the potential effects of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

One trench of 6.50 m x 2.20 m was excavated by machine under archaeological supervision, and any features were further investigated and excavated with hand tools. All recording was undertaken to standards as set out in the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance and in accordance with the brief provided.

The evaluation has characterised the underlying substrate as being uniform, consisting of a mid- brown silty clay present across the entirety of the excavated evaluation trench. This is in line with the glacially derived clay typical of the area.

The evaluation also uncovered two wall foundations which seem certain to belong to a building shown on historic Ordnance Survey mapping of the site. The dates of historic mapping showing the building, and the nature of the foundations uncovered, suggest the building was constructed, presumably as a dwelling, in the second half of the 19th century. The building was presumably demolished in the mid-to-late 20th century, given the nature of the clean stone imported to presumably level the site afterward. No other archaeological features or deposits were present.

It is considered that the results of the programme of evaluation trenching are sufficient to inform a planning decision in respect of the archaeological potential of the proposed development site. No further archaeological work is recommended.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This report has been prepared by Solstice Heritage LLP on behalf of Mr P. Afzal to outline the results of a programme of preliminary archaeological evaluation. The evaluation was required by Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service as a condition of planning permission (ST/0741/17/FENQ) for the erection of four dwellings and a gym to the rear of 12 and 12a East Street, Whitburn, South Tyneside.

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The proposed development site is situated to the eastern side of East Street and western side of Adolphus Street, centred at grid reference NGR NZ 40840 61921 (Figure 1). The location of the single evaluation trench is shown on Figure 2 below.

1.3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Archaeological field evaluation is defined as:

“A limited programme of non-intrusive and/or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate” (ClfA 2014, 2).

The overarching aim of the evaluation was:

- To assess, through a programme of intrusive trenching, the potential direct effect of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

The objectives of the evaluation were:

- To determine (where possible) the nature, depth, extent, significance and date of buried archaeological remains that may be located within the proposed development area
- To determine the condition or state of preservation of any archaeological deposits or features encountered
- To determine the likely range, quality and quantity of artefactual and environmental evidence present
- To answer any relevant research questions
- To inform the scope of archaeological mitigation works if required
- To produce a report on the findings at the site.

Figure 1 Site Location



Figure 2 Site plan showing trench location

2. POLICY AND GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK

2.1 LEGISLATION

National legislation that applies to the consideration of cultural heritage within development and the wider planning process is set out in Table 1 below.

Title	Key Points
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (amended by the National Heritage Act 1983 and 2002)	Scheduled Monuments, as defined under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979), are sites that have been selected by a set of non-statutory criteria to be of national significance. Where scheduled sites are affected by development proposals there is a presumption in favour of their physical preservation. Any works, other than activities receiving class consent under The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1981, as amended by The Ancient Monuments (Class Consents) Order 1984, which would have the effect of demolishing, destroying, damaging, removing, repairing, altering, adding to, flooding or covering-up a Scheduled Monument require consent from the Secretary of State for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport.
Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Buildings of national, regional or local historical and architectural importance are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Buildings designated as 'Listed' are afforded protection from physical alteration or effects on their historical setting.
Hedgerows Regulations 1997	The Hedgerow Regulations (1997) include criteria by which hedgerows can be regarded as historically important (Schedule 1 Part III).

Table 1 Legislation relating to cultural heritage in planning

2.2 POLICY

2.2.1 NATIONAL

The principal instrument of national planning policy within England is the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (CLG 2012) which outlines the following in relation to cultural heritage within planning and development:

Paragraph	Key Points
7	Contributing to protecting and enhancing the historic environment is specifically noted as being a part of what constitutes 'sustainable development' – the "golden thread" which, when met, can trigger presumption in favour.
17	A core planning principle is to "conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for the contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations".
128	During the determination of applications "local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting". This information should be proportionate to the significance of the asset and only enough to "understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance".
129	Paragraph 129 identifies that Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise.
132	It is noted that significance – the principal measure of inherent overall heritage worth – can be harmed or lost through development within its setting. Heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and any adverse effects require "clear and convincing justification" relative to the significance of the asset in question.

135	At paragraph 135 it states that the effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. 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.
139	At paragraph 139 it states that non-designated heritage assets of archaeological interest that are demonstrably of equivalent significance to scheduled monuments, should be considered subject to the policies for designated heritage assets.
141	In paragraph 141 amongst other matters it states that planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

Table 2 Key passages of NPPF in reference to cultural heritage (archaeology)

2.2.2 LOCAL

Under planning law, the determination of an application must be made, in the first instance, with reference to the policies of the local development plan. For the proposed development this is represented by the South Tyneside Local Development Framework (LDF) (2007) and its associated development management policies, which remains the principal tool of local development management until the implementation of the new Local Plan:

Policy	Key Points
DM6	<p>"We will support development proposals that protect, preserve and where possible enhance the historic, cultural and architectural character and heritage, visual appearance and contextual importance of our heritage assets and their settings, including:</p> <p>A; the following Scheduled Ancient Monuments/World Heritage Sites: i) Arbeia Roman Fort (and Vicus as part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site); ii) Marsden Lime Kilns; and iii) St. Paul's Monastery and the site of the former Village of Jarrow.</p> <p>B; the following Conservation Areas, including their historic settlement cores, distinctive open spaces and boundary walls: i) Cleadon; ii) Cleadon Hills; iii) East Boldon; iv) Hebburn Hall; v) Mariners' Cottages; vi) Mill Dam; vii) Monkton Village; viii) St. Paul's, Jarrow; ix) West Boldon; x) Westoe Village; and xi) Whitburn;</p> <p>C; listed buildings and structures, non-listed buildings and structures included on the council's list of locally significant heritage assets, significant landscape features of local heritage and archaeological value and archaeological deposits and remains.</p> <p>Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Conservation Areas are shown on the Proposals Map.</p> <p>Archaeological deposits and remains, below ground and on the surface should be recorded, and where possible, preserved in situ. Proposals for built development on: i) previously undeveloped sites; or ii) previously developed sites where archaeological interest has been established by a previous find recorded in the Historic Environment Record; will not be determined until the potential impact of the proposed development on archaeological deposits and remains has been adequately assessed and evaluated, and any adverse impacts will be avoided, minimised or mitigated, or in the absence of adequate information, will be refused.</p> <p>Planning permission will be refused if the impact of development on heritage assets and archaeological remains is unacceptable. Where appropriate, we will use Article 4 directions, planning conditions and planning obligations to secure mitigation measures to ensure that development is acceptable in planning terms.</p>

Table 3 Local planning policy

2.3 GUIDANCE

2.3.1 NATIONAL

During the evaluation and preparation of this document, the following guidance documents have been referred to, where relevant:

Document	Key Points
National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) (CLG 2014)	The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) released the guidance to NPPG in March 2014 in a 'live' online format which, it is intended can be amended and responsive to comment, particular as case law develops in relation to the implementation of NPPG. In relation to cultural heritage the NPPG follows previous guidance in wording and 'keys in' with, in particular, extant English Heritage guidance documents. The NPPG references many similar terms to the previous PPS5 Practice Guidance.
Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (HE 2008)	This sets out the guiding principles of conservation as seen by Historic England and also provides a terminology for assessment of significance upon which much that has followed is based.
Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (ClfA 2014)	This document represents non-statutory industry best practice as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. The evaluation work has been undertaken to these standards, as subscribed to by Solstice Heritage LLP.

Table 4 National guidance documentation consulted

2.3.2 REGIONAL

Archaeological work within Tyne and Wear is often required to comply with *Yorkshire, The Humber and The North East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process* (SYAS 2011). The key principles in relation to the evaluation undertaken are summarised in the table below:

Principle	Key Points
2	Archaeological work should be undertaken by professionally qualified and appropriately experienced archaeologists and organisations.
3	All archaeological work will have a scope agreed in advance with the archaeological curator (this document), and any changes to the scope or methodology will be agreed in writing with the archaeological curator.
4	Monitoring of archaeological work by the local archaeological curator will be the norm, and reasonable notice of commencement of fieldwork will be given.
5	Archaeological work will be undertaken in accordance with the best practice guidance of Historic England and ClfA.
6	The local Historic Environment Record should be consulted prior to the commencement of fieldwork.
7	Archaeological work in the planning process should have regard to national and local published research agenda (see section 4.2 below)
9	Reports and required data will be submitted to the archaeological curator and local HER in a timely fashion and in accordance with the agreed WSI.
10	Any comments made by the archaeological curator on reports and outputs will be made within a reasonable timetable of receipt.
11	Where appropriate significant archaeological findings will be submitted for publication in a suitable journal or journals.
12	Any archive produced will be deposited in an ordered and acceptable fashion within a reasonable timetable, the details of which will be given in the report.
13	During the course of archaeological work arrangements will be made, where possible, for disseminating information about the site to the general public.

Table 5 Key principles of the Regional Statement of Good Practice

3. **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

3.1 **LANDSCAPE AND GEOLOGY**

The proposed development site sits within the 'Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau' National Character Area (NCA). This landscape is defined as 'an is an open, agricultural landscape with sharply defined boundaries in the form of a steep limestone escarpment to the west and a dramatic coast of limestone cliffs, headlands and bays to the east' (NE 2013, 3).

The site sits on the dolostone of the Roker Formation - (BGS 2018). In terms of determinant factors on the archaeological remains of the site, however, the more dominant geological influence is that of the overlying superficial deposits. The site sits within an area of glacially derived clay, known as the Pelaw Clay Member (*ibid.*).

Online mapping provided by the UK Soil Observatory (2018) characterises the soils across the development site as 'slowly permeable, seasonally wet, slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils'.

3.2 **PREVIOUS WORK**

There has been no previous archaeological work carried out on this site.

3.3 **POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

Any potential evidence relating to the medieval settlement of Whitburn would likely be of low to medium significance.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 FIELDWORK

The one evaluation trench was laid out within the general location specified in the brief provided and adjusted in size to fit the available area suitable for excavation. Excavations were undertaken and completed on the 23rd February 2018. The work was undertaken by Chris Scott of Solstice Heritage LLP. The position and size of the trench was altered due to thick vegetation at the margins of the site, previous areas of disturbed ground and areas of hardstanding preventing excavation in the planned location.

All mechanical excavation (through overburden and non-anthropogenic levelling layers) was undertaken with a back-acting, toothless ditching bucket under constant supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist. The trench consisted of 1 no. 6.5 m x 2.2 m trench.

Where archaeological features and deposits were encountered, these were recorded to the standards outlined in the agreed WSI and the relevant ClfA Standard and Guidance. All features and deposits were recorded on *pro forma* record sheets, drawn in plan and section at a suitable scale, and photographed. In addition to any specific features or deposits, a general record of the trench stratigraphy was made on *pro forma* record sheets, a plan and section of each trench was made at a suitable scale and photography was completed. A detailed methodology was outlined in the brief provided for the work, and this has been included as Appendix 2 below.

4.2 POST-FIELDWORK

The primary site archive comprises site records and digital photography on CD. This has been used to compile this report, all of which will be deposited with a local repository museum in digital and paper format as the principal record of the evaluation work. The physical archive comprises primary field records and finds, particularly medieval pottery, and advice will be sought on the detailed requirements for retention and deposition. An OASIS record has been completed for this work, including a digital version of this report, the reference for which is **solstice1-310575**. Deposition of the physical archive has been delayed until a determination is made on the need for, and scope of, any further work. In this instance then a single comprehensive archive will be compiled and deposited.

4.3 CHRONOLOGY

Where chronological and archaeological periods are referred to in the text, the relevant date ranges are broadly defined in calendar years as follows:

- Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age): 1 million – 12,000 BP (Before present)
- Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age): 10000 – 4000 BC
- Neolithic (New Stone Age): 4000 – 2400 BC
- Chalcolithic/Beaker Period: 2400 – 2000 BC
- Bronze Age: 2000 – 700 BC
- Iron Age: 700 BC – AD 43
- Roman/Romano-British: AD 43 – 410
- Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Scandinavian: AD 410 – 1066
- Medieval: AD 1066 – 1530
- Post-medieval: AD 1530 – 1750
- Industrial: AD 1750 – 1900
- Modern: AD 1900 – Present

4.4 **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

Solstice Heritage LLP commits all fieldwork and post-fieldwork assessment, analysis, reporting and dissemination to be undertaken to the standards stipulated by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) as is outlined in Appendix 2 below. The project has been managed by Chris Scott, who is a fully accredited member of CIfA (MCIfA level).

4.5 **ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS**

Data and information obtained and consulted in the compilation of this report has been derived from a number of secondary sources. Where it has not been practicable to verify the accuracy of secondary information, its accuracy has been assumed in good faith. All statements and opinions arising from the works undertaken are provided in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of this report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

4.6 **COPYRIGHT**

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5. RESULTS

5.1 TRENCH 1

Trench 1 was excavated close to the north-eastern corner of the proposed development site, within an open grassed area (Figure 4). The planned size and position of the trench was altered due to thick vegetation at the margins of the site, previous areas of disturbed ground and areas of hardstanding preventing excavation in the planned location.

The trench measured 6.5 m x 2.2 m in plan and was excavated through a mid-brown silty loam topsoil (004), with a maximum thickness of 0.05 m (Figure 3). This topsoil overlay a clean layer of imported, compacted yellow dolomite stone (005), which had a maximum thickness of 0.1 m. Beneath (005) was a layer of disturbed dark-brown silty soil (006), which contained inclusions of broken brick fragments, slate and mortar. This deposit (006) had a maximum thickness of 0.15 m and was found to directly overlie the mid-brown natural silty clay substrate (002), which was encountered at a depth of 0.3 m below existing ground level.

Within the southern half of the trench, aligned E-W and sitting directly on the natural clay substrate (002), was a wall foundation (001) (Figure 4). The foundation (001) was constructed of angular, faced fragments of local limestone on a compacted brick and stone rubble base bonded with a cementitious mortar. The foundation (001) had a width of 0.5 m, a thickness of 0.25 m and was exposed within the excavation for a total length of 6.5 m. At the southern side of foundation (001), a further N-S aligned wall foundation (003) was noted to abut it. This foundation (003) was similarly constructed to (001) and also measured 0.5 m in width (Figure 5). Both wall foundations were overlain by (006), suggesting that this deposit, and those above it, were spread over them following the demolition of the building they previously supported. No other archaeological features or deposits were noted within the excavation.



Figure 3 South-facing section of Trench 1, looking north. Scale 1x1 m



Figure 4 Trench 1, facing east. Scale 1x2 m

Figure 5 Plan and Section of Trench 1

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

The evaluation has characterised the underlying substrate as being uniform, consisting of a mid- brown silty clay present across the entirety of the excavated evaluation trench. This is in line with the glacially derived clay typical of the area.

6.2 INDUSTRIAL/MODERN

The evaluation uncovered two wall foundations which seem certain to relate to a building shown on historic Ordnance Survey mapping of the site (Figure 6). The dates of historic mapping showing the building, and the nature of the foundations uncovered, suggest the building was constructed, presumably as a dwelling, in the second half of the 19th century. The building was presumably demolished in the mid-to-late 20th century. It is considered that foundation (001) marks the location of the northern external wall of the former building, with foundation (003) forming the base for an internal wall to the south.

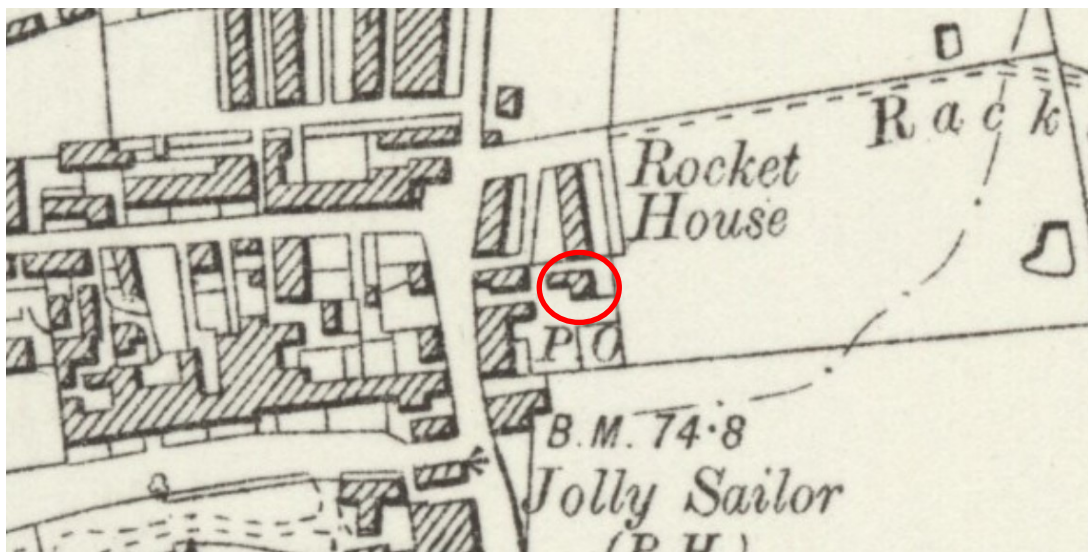


Figure 6 1895 Ordnance Survey Six Inch Map showing former building within the area of Trench 1 (outlined in red)

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 CONFIDENCE, CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS

The planned position and size of Trench 1 had to be altered due to site constraints. However, it is not considered that these constraints have affected the value or diminished the accuracy of the results of the evaluation.

7.2 RESEARCH POTENTIAL

The archaeological evaluation has not produced any findings which have the potential to contribute to the research objectives of the *North East Regional Research Framework* (Petts and Gerrard 2006).

7.3 POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE

The results of the evaluation indicate that the potential direct effect of the proposed development on the archaeological resource is likely to be negligible.

7.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is considered that the results of the programme of evaluation trenching are sufficient to inform a planning decision in respect of the archaeological potential of the proposed development site and no further archaeological work is recommended.

7.5 PROJECT ARCHIVE

The physical and digital archive for this project is currently held by Solstice Heritage LLP pending a decision on the requirement for any future work on the site. Once all phases of work have been completed, the archives will be prepared and deposited in line with the agreed WSI and ClfA Standards and Guidance.

8. SOURCES

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APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT REGISTER

Context Number	Type	Description	Probable Date
001	Deposit	E-W aligned stone and rubble foundation	Industrial/ Modern
002	Deposit	Natural brown silty clay substrate	Glacial
003	Deposit	N-S aligned stone and rubble foundation	Industrial/ Modern
004	Deposit	Topsoil (disturbed)	Modern
005	Deposit	Yellow dolomite	Modern
006	Deposit	Disturbed black silty soil	Modern

Table 6 Context Register

APPENDIX 2 – BRIEF

