

Cleadon Primary School, Cleadon, Tyne and Wear

Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared for:	Nicola Watson
Prepared by:	Chris Scott BA (Hons), MA, MCifA Solstice Heritage LLP Crabtree Hall Business Centre Little Holtby Northallerton North Yorkshire DL7 9LN
Checked by:	Jim Brightman BA (Hons), MLitt, MCifA
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in March 2017, monitoring groundworks in advance of the construction of a new dwelling. The monitoring was undertaken to fulfil a condition of planning permission (ST/2042/10/FUL and ST/2054/10/CAC). In order to simplify the required archaeological works, given that the permissioned site has now been divided into two and sold separately, it was agreed that the monitoring would take the form of a monitored strip of an area of 15 m x 4 m within the impact area of the proposed development. On site, this area had to be reduced to 12 m x 4 m because of space restrictions. If no archaeological deposits or features were present within this strip area, then the watching brief was to be halted at that stage.

Preceding the redevelopment works, an historic building recording was undertaken of the main school building (Scott 2012).

The archaeological monitoring undertaken indicates that the immediate area to the rear of the former primary school has seen little disturbance from previous development on the site. This may suggest that this location was not heavily settled in the medieval period or later, while its use as a playing field for the school has preserved it from more recent development until commencement of the present scheme.

Beyond the presence of a modern, machine-dug test pit for site investigation, related to the present scheme, no archaeological features or finds were noted, including any associated with the medieval settlement of Cleadon.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This report has been commissioned by Nicola Watson to outline the findings of a programme of archaeological monitoring (watching brief) on groundworks in advance of the construction of a new dwelling on Plot 2 to the rear of the former Cleadon village Primary School, Cleadon, Tyne and Wear. The monitoring was undertaken to fulfil a condition of planning permission (ST/2042/10/FUL and ST/2054/10/CAC). In order to simplify the required archaeological works, given that the permissioned site has now been divided into two and sold separately, it was agreed that the monitoring would take the form of a monitored strip of an area of 15 m x 4 m within the impact area of the proposed development. On site, this area had to be reduced to 12 m x 4 m because of space restrictions. If no archaeological deposits or features were present within this strip area, then the watching brief was to be halted at that stage.

Preceding the redevelopment works, an historic building recording was undertaken of the main school building (Scott 2012).

1.2 SITE LOCATION

The site is located in the former rear playing field of Cleadon village Primary School, Cleadon, Tyne and Wear, to the east of Sunderland Road. The development site is centred at NZ 38580 62312 (Figure 1). The development site also lies within the Cleadon Conservation Area.

1.3 POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The potential archaeological significance of the site, and hence the reason for the monitoring works, lies principally in the possible presence of remains relating to the medieval to post-medieval village of Cleadon.

1.4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

An archaeological watching brief is defined as:

“A formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, intertidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive” (CIfA 2014b, 2).

The overarching aim of the watching brief was:

- To ensure that significant archaeological remains were not destroyed without first being adequately recorded.

The objectives of the watching brief were:

- To record, excavate and environmentally sample any archaeological deposits of significance observed during the groundworks
- To establish the date, character and significance of any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits, including in relation to other similar features within the area

- To ensure there is a permanent record of the work undertaken deposited with the local Historic Environment Record (HER) and made available online
- To ensure all work is undertaken in compliance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (2014a), the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs (revised 2014b), and the Regional Statement of Good Practice (SYAS 2011).

Figure 1 Site 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

The local policies governing the conservation of the historic environment are contained within 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	Text
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 Key policies of South Tyneside Local Development Framework in relation to the current project

2.3 GUIDANCE

2.3.1 NATIONAL

During the assessment 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 NPPF 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 NPPF. 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 an Archaeological Watching Brief (CifA 2014b)	This document represents non-statutory industry best practice as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. This 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 in 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 monitoring work 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 English Heritage and the IfA.
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. METHODOLOGY

3.1 FIELDWORK

Rather than the agreed 15 m x 4 m topsoil strip, a slightly smaller 12 m x 2 m trench was undertaken, under archaeological supervision, within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling on Plot 2 on 16th March 2017. All groundworks were monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist, and a toothless ditching bucket was used for all excavations.

Where archaeological features and deposits were encountered, these were recorded to the standards outlined in the relevant CIfA Standard and Guidance (2014b). All features and deposits were recorded on *pro forma* record sheets, drawn in plan and section at a suitable scale and photographed. No deposits with palaeoenvironmental potential were noted. In addition to any specific features or deposits, a general record of the trench stratigraphy was made on a *pro forma* record sheet.

3.2 POST-FIELDWORK

The primary site archive was compiled, comprising site records and digital photography. This has been used to compile this report, which will be deposited with the local HER as the principal record of the monitoring work undertaken. If considered to be of sufficient significance following discussion with the Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist, the documentary archive will be deposited with a suitable local collections museum within six months of the submission of this report. A suitable OASIS record will be completed for this work, including a digital version of the report uploaded, within the same timescale.

3.3 CHRONOLOGY

Where chronological and archaeological periods are referred to in the report, the relevant date ranges are broadly defined 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: 2400 – BC
- Iron Age: BC – AD 70
- Roman/Romano-British: AD 70 – 410
- Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Scandinavian: AD 410 – 1066
- Medieval: AD 1066 – 1540
- Post-medieval: AD 1540 – 1750
- Industrial: AD 1750 – 1900
- Modern: AD 1900 – Present

3.4 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 the 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.

3.5 COPYRIGHT

Solstice Heritage LLP will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

4. RESULTS

4.1 GENERAL STRATIGRAPHY

The monitored excavation was located within the south-west corner of the former school playing field, to the field, to the east of Sunderland Road (Figure 2). The trench measured 12 m x 4 m (

Figure 3) and was excavated through a thin black topsoil loam (001), with a thickness of c. 0.18 m (Figure 4). The topsoil was moderately disturbed and contained occasional fragments of broken brick and small pebbles. Beneath (001) was a mid-brown silty clay till natural substrate (002). This substrate (002) contained regular yellow flecks and was clean and undisturbed (Figure 5). No *in situ* subsoil was identified.

Close to the centre and at the northern side of the trench was a roughly rectangular, north-south-aligned cut (003), approximately 0.7 m in width and 2.4 m in length. This cut (003) was filled with a heavily mixed clay and sand backfill (004), which was noticeably mixed with the topsoil horizon. This cut was interpreted as a modern site investigation pit. It had clearly been excavated by machine and so was not further investigated.

Figure 2 Trench location plan

Figure 3 Trench Plan



Figure 4 Stripped area looking east. Scale 2x2 m



Figure 5 Deposit sequence encountered on the site. Topsoil 001 overlying mid-brown clay 002 at base. Scale 2x1 m

5. DISCUSSION

The archaeological monitoring undertaken indicates that the immediate area to the rear of the former primary school has seen little disturbance from previous development on the site. This may suggest that this location was not heavily settled in the medieval period or later, while its use as a playing field for the school has preserved it from more recent development until commencement of the present scheme.

Beyond the presence of a modern, machine-dug test pit for site investigation, related to the present scheme, no archaeological features or finds were noted, including any associated with the medieval settlement of Cleadon.

6. SOURCES

6.1 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1 – SPECIFICATION

Prepared by Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team