

Sockburn Hall, County Durham

Report on an Archaeological Evaluation



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# Sockburn Hall, County Durham

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## Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Solstice Heritage LLP would like to thank Mr Gary Hughes for commissioning this evaluation work. Thanks are also expressed to Lee McFarlane, Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England for her assistance with the project. Where map data has been used in the preparation of the accompanying figures, this is derived from Ordnance Survey Opendata and is crown copyright all rights reserved unless otherwise attributed.



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation at Sockburn Hall, County Durham based upon the Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Solstice Heritage LLP (Moore 2019). The evaluation was required by Historic England in advance of spoil removal and reinstatement works on the Scheduled Monument of Sockburn Hall following its non-permissioned use for the storage of building materials and machinery.*

*The evaluation was required to understand the level of damage that had been done to the Monument by this, and also the non-permissioned stripping of the topsoil, dumping of hardcore and rutting by heavy machinery, and to inform the best strategy to manage this and minimise further damage.*

*One trench measuring 2 m x 18 m was excavated by mechanical excavator, intersecting the area most affected by the non-permissioned works, under archaeological supervision, and any features were further investigated and excavated with hand tools.*

*The evaluation noted that, prior to the stripping of topsoil and dumping of modern construction rubble within this area of the scheduled monument, the site appears to contain a roughly N-S aligned trackway or bank, roughly centrally positioned within a lower area, also aligned N-S. Given that the trackway or bank aligns with the existing gateway into the field, it is postulated that it represents a later raised trackway, perhaps post-medieval in date, positioned centrally within an earlier sunken trackway, or hollow way, which might be medieval in date. The accumulation of colluvium to either side of the raised trackway certainly suggests that it is of some age, and that a raised trackway would have been desirable in this otherwise damp ground. Unfortunately, no finds were recovered to securely date any of the deposits or features within the trench. The presence of pantiles within a possible field boundary ditch at the western extent of the trench suggest that such a feature is likely to be post-medieval in date.*

*The evaluation showed that the non-permissioned works at the site appear to have taken the form of the partial stripping of topsoil from an area of the site. Within this area, modern construction rubble was imported to fill two low-lying areas either side of a pre-existing raised bank or trackway, characterised in the evaluation trench by a capping layer of pebbles. The maximum depth of modern infill was c. 0.4 m.*

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This report has been prepared by Solstice Heritage LLP on behalf of Mr Gary Hughes to outline the results of an archaeological evaluation. The design of the scheme of evaluation was based upon a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Solstice Heritage LLP (Moore 2019). The evaluation was required by Historic England in advance of spoil removal and reinstatement works on the Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1002340) at Sockburn Hall following its non-permissioned use for the storage of building materials and machinery. This evaluation was required to understand the level of damage that has been done to the monument by this, and also the non-permissioned stripping of the topsoil, dumping of hardcore and rutting by heavy machinery, and to inform the best strategy to repair the area to prevent further damage. The evaluation works were the subject of Scheduled Monument Consent (ref. S00232831).

## 1.2 SITE LOCATION

The affected area is situated to the south of Sockburn Hall, in an area to the west of All Saints Church, centred on NGR NZ 34884 07075, directly east of a north-south farm track running between the Scheduled Monument and an arable field. The affected area contains banks and ditches forming the western side of a probable medieval building platform. These banks were notably stony, according to the English Heritage survey report (EH 2007), which suggested that these banks may relate to a license to fortify a manor house issued in 1470 and may in fact be walls. The site is generally at an elevation of approximately 27 m aOD.

The archaeological works undertaken comprised the excavation of one 2 m x 18 m evaluation trench intersecting the area most affected by the non-permissioned works (Figure 2).

## 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” (CIfA 2014, 2).

The overarching aim of the evaluation was:

- To gain information about the damage to the archaeological resource by non-permissioned works in order to assess its survival to inform the approach to subsequent spoil removal and reinstatement.

The objectives of the evaluation were:

- To attempt to establish the level of damage done to archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits, including the depth of modern made-ground present on this area of the site.
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the archaeological resource.
- The formulation of a strategy to mitigate the threat to the archaeological resource.
- The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation, if required.
- 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) (2019) and the CIfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2014a).
- To produce a report on the results of the evaluation.



Figure 1 Site location



## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 LANDSCAPE AND GEOLOGY

The underlying superficial geology of site is mapped as sand and gravel river terrace deposits. The bedrock geology is recorded as Sherwood Group sandstone (BGS 2020). Online mapping provided by the UK Soil Observatory (2020) characterises the soils across the area as “slowly permeable seasonally wet slightly acid but base-rich loamy and clayey soils”.

### 2.2 PREVIOUS WORK

An archaeological survey was undertaken of the Scheduled Monument by English Heritage in 2007 as well as a geo-physical survey (EH 2007). The archaeological remains were seen to define a post-medieval mansion and garden and perhaps an earlier medieval hall. These remains are clearly visible on the ground as earthworks.

### 2.3 RELEVANT RESEARCH AGENDA

The evaluation has the potential to provide information to address the following gaps in knowledge identified in *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (Petts and Gerrard 2006):

- *MDi*. Settlement – Contributing to the understanding of settlement archaeology and architecture in the Medieval period.



### 3. RESULTS

#### 3.1 TRENCH 1

Trench 1 was located close to the north-western corner of the scheduled monument, at the widest point of the area affected by the recently undertaken non-permissioned works (Figure 6, Figure 7). The trench was aligned approximately east-west and measured 18 m x 2 m in plan (Figure 3). The trench was excavated to a maximum depth below existing ground level of c. 0.52 m. The trench was initially excavated through a deposit of mixed brick and stone rubble in a silty topsoil matrix (101), which was thickest at the eastern end of the trench, extending to a maximum thickness of 0.4 m (Figure 4). This modern layer was considered to be the result of the most recent levelling works to have taken place in this area. This modern levelling deposit (101) overlay a deposit of dark grey silt (102), which was observed to be lying within a low area between an embanked earthwork immediately beyond the eastern end of the trench and a low bank or trackway close to the centre of the trench, which was capped by pebble layer (103). Deposit (102) had a maximum thickness of 0.24 m and was interpreted as a layer of accumulated colluvium within this lower area at the eastern end of the trench between two raised earthworks.

Partly overlain at its eastern extent by colluvium (102), a layer of small rounded river pebbles (103) was observed close to the centre of the trench (Figure 5). The pebble layer (103) had a maximum thickness of 0.17 m and a total width of 2.9 m, and was observed to be overlying a raised bank or trackway, aligned roughly N-S, which appeared to line up with the modern gateway into the field at this north-western corner of the scheduled area. Beneath (103) was a mid-brown silt subsoil (104), which appeared to be devoid of any modern disturbance. As this layer was apparently undisturbed, and extended across almost the entire trench, excavation was ceased at the upper surface of this deposit as the aim of the evaluation works, namely to characterise the nature of the damage caused by the recent non-permissioned works on the site, was considered to have been achieved.

At the western end of the trench a discrete area of further rubble infill was encountered (105). This deposit (105) was composed of small river pebbles, angular sandstone fragments and fragments of pantile, distinctly different in character from the demonstrably modern rubble deposit (101). This deposit was not excavated but was considered to possibly represent the fill of a ditch (105) or lower area at the field margin. The deposit had a maximum width within the trench of 1.4 m.





Figure 3 Trench 1, looking west. Scale 2 x 1 m



Figure 4 North-facing section of Trench 1. Note modern rubble (IO1), overlying grey colluvium (IO2). Scale 1 x 1 m





Figure 5 South-facing section of Trench 1. Note pebble capping (103) partially overlain by grey colluvium (102) at right. Scale 1 x 1 m

## 4. DISCUSSION

### 4.1 GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

The evaluation did not continue to a sufficient depth to characterise the nature of geological deposits within this area.

### 4.2 MEDIEVAL/POST-MEDIEVAL

The evaluation noted that, prior to the stripping of topsoil and dumping of modern construction rubble within this area of the scheduled monument, the site appears to contain a roughly N-S aligned trackway or bank, roughly centrally positioned within a lower area, also aligned N-S. Given that the trackway or bank aligns with the existing gateway into the field, it is postulated that it represents a later raised trackway, perhaps post-medieval in date, positioned centrally within an earlier sunken trackway, or hollow way, which might be medieval in date. The accumulation of colluvium (102) to either side of the raised trackway certainly suggests that it is of some age, and that a raised trackway would have been desirable in this otherwise damp ground. Unfortunately, no finds were recovered to securely date any of the deposits or features within the trench. The presence of pantiles within a possible field boundary ditch at the western extent of the trench suggest that such a feature is likely to be post-medieval in date.

### 4.3 MODERN

The evaluation showed that the non-permissioned works at the site appear to have taken the form of the partial stripping of topsoil from an area of the site. Within this area, modern construction rubble (101) was imported to fill two low-lying areas either side of a pre-existing raised bank or trackway, characterised in the evaluation trench by a capping layer of pebbles (103). The maximum depth of modern infill was c. 0.4 m.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 CONFIDENCE, CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS**

There were no constraints which affected the scope of the planned work, and the work was carried out as intended. As such, a high degree of confidence is placed within the results reported.

### **5.2 RESEARCH POTENTIAL**

Whilst the wider site has clear potential to contribute significantly to the regional research agenda, the limited work undertaken here, which was focussed on later disturbance of the site only, is not considered to have contributed meaningfully to the aims of the agenda.

### **5.3 POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE**

The results of the evaluation indicate that only limited damage appears to have been done to the archaeological resource within the area of non-permissioned works. The lack of evidence of deep rutting or significant groundworks within the area affected suggests that the removal of the recently dumped overburden and its replacement with clean topsoil can be affected without significant further damage to the surviving archaeology in this area.

### **5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is considered that the proposed scheme of reinstatement works, which will involve the careful removal of the dumped material and its replacement with a layer of new, clean topsoil, undertaken under archaeological supervision, will be appropriate to partially recover the former profile of the monument in this area, as well as reduce the likelihood of further erosion of the archaeological remains present.

### **5.5 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. Given the lack of archaeological interest identified during this limited scheme of work, it is considered that this report is sufficient to serve as the archive for this project.

## 6. SOURCES

### 6.1 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014a. *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

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### 6.2 WEBSITES

British Geological Survey (BGS). 2019. *Geology of Britain Viewer*. Available from: <<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geology-ofbritain/home.html>>. [11th January 2020].

UK Soil Observatory (UKSO). 2019. *UK Soil Observatory map viewer*. Available from: <http://www.ukso.org/mapviewer.html>. [11th January 2020].

## APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT REGISTER

Context Number	Type	Description	Probable Date
101	Deposit	Dumped rubble in soil matrix	Modern
102	Deposit	Dark grey silt	Post-Medieval
103	Deposit	Pebble Surface	Medieval/Post-Medieval
104	Deposit	Mid-brown subsoil	Medieval/Post-Medieval
105	Fill	Rubble in silt matrix	Post-Medieval
106	Cut	Assumed cut of possible ditch	Post-Medieval

Table 1 Context Register



## APPENDIX 2 – POLICY AND GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK

### LEGISLATION

National legislation which applies to the consideration of cultural heritage within development and the wider planning process is set out in Table 2 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 which have been selected by a set of non-statutory criteria to be of national importance. 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.

Table 2 Legislation relating to cultural heritage in planning

### GUIDANCE

#### NATIONAL

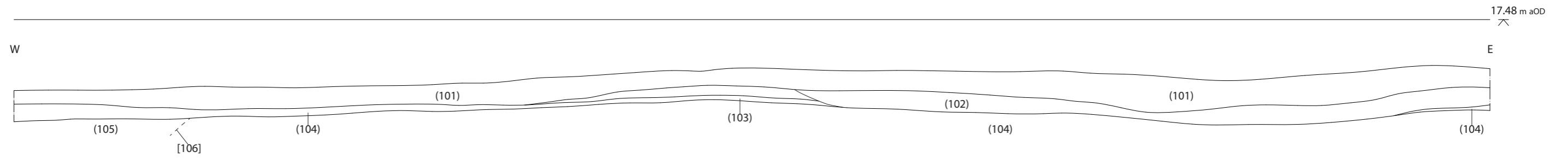
During the assessment and preparation of this document, the following guidance documents have been referred to, where relevant:

Document	Key Points
Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (Historic England 2008)	This document sets out the guiding principles of conservation as seen by English Heritage 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 3 National guidance documentation consulted

## APPENDIX 3 – TRENCH PLAN AND SECTION

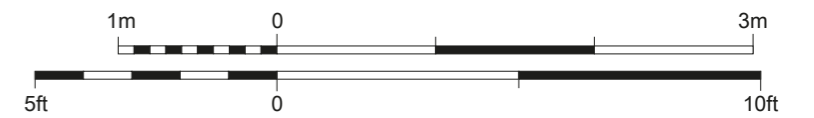




Sockburn Hall  
County Durham  
NZ 34884 07075



Fieldwork: CS, JB January 2020  
Drawn: SW January 2020  
Drawing Version: 1.0



Trench 1 - plan and south facing section

This drawing is for planning purposes and is not considered to be a construction drawing.  
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## APPENDIX 4 – METHODOLOGY

### FIELDWORK

One trench was excavated across the area most damaged by the un-permissioned works, as set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Moore, 2019) The excavations were undertaken and completed on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The work was undertaken by Chris Scott MCIfA and Jim Brightman MCIfA of Solstice Heritage LLP. The trench was excavated by machine under archaeological supervision, and any features were further investigated and excavated with hand tools. All mechanical excavation was undertaken with a back-acting, toothless ditching bucket under constant supervision of a suitably qualified archaeologist.

Where archaeological features and deposits were encountered, these were recorded to the standards outlined in the agreed WSI and the relevant CIfA Standards 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 was made at a suitable scale and photography was completed. A detailed methodology was outlined in the agreed WSI, and this has been included as Appendix 5 below.

### 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 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. 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 archive will be compiled and deposited.

### 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 70
- Roman/Romano-British: AD 70 – 410
- Early medieval/Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Scandinavian: AD 410 – 1066
- Medieval: AD 1066 – 1540
- Post-medieval: AD 1540 – 1900
  - » Tudor: AD 1485 – 1603
  - » Stuart: AD 1603 – 1714
  - » Georgian: AD 1714 – 1837
- Industrial: 1750 – 1900
  - » Victorian: AD 1837 – 1901
- Modern: AD 1900 – Present

### 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). The project has been managed by Chris Scott, who is a fully accredited member of CIfA (MCIfA level).



## APPENDIX 5 – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION



# Sockburn Hall, County Durham

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## Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared for:	Mr Gary Hughes Sockburn Hall Sockburn Lane Neasham Darlington DL2 1PH
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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This Written Scheme of investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Solstice Heritage LLP on behalf of Mr. Gary Hughes to allow the agreement of a scope of works of an archaeological evaluation. The evaluation, that requires Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC), is required by Historic England in advance of spoil removal and reinstatement works on the Scheduled Monument of Sockburn Hall following its non-permissioned use for the storage of building materials and machinery. This evaluation is required to understand the level of damage that has been done to the Monument by this, and also the non-permissioned stripping of the topsoil, dumping of hardcore and rutting by heavy machinery and to inform the best strategy to manage this and minimise further damage.

## 1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

The affected area is situated to the south of Sockburn Hall, in an area to the west of All Saints Church, centred on National Grid Reference NZ 34884 07075, directly east of a north-south farm track running between the Scheduled Monument and an arable field. The affected area contains banks and ditches forming the western side of a probable medieval building platform. These banks were notably stony, according the English Heritage survey report (2007), which suggested that these banks may relate to a license to fortify a manor house issued in 1470 and may in fact be walls. The evaluation trench will be positioned to intersect the area of most disturbance to help clarify the level of this damage and the survival of archaeological features or deposits in this area.

The evaluation requiring SMC will comprise:

- The excavation of one trench measuring 2 m x 18 m across the area of disturbance.

## 1.3 CHRONOLOGY

Where chronological and archaeological periods are referred to in this WSI, 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: 2000–700 BC
- Iron Age: 700 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
  - » Tudor: AD 1485–1603
  - » Stuart: AD 1603–1714
  - » Georgian: AD 1714–1837
- Industrial: AD 1750–1900
  - » Victorian: AD 1837–1901
- Modern: AD 1900–Present

## 1.4 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 Sections 3-4 below. The project will be managed by Chris Scott who is a fully accredited member of the CIfA (MCIfA level). A statement of competence for Chris Scott is attached as Appendix 2 to this document.

## **1.5 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS**

Data and information obtained and consulted in the compilation of this WSI 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 WSI 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.

The inherent uncertainties of archaeological investigation mean that the working methodologies and sampling strategies may be required to change should unexpectedly extensive and/or significant remains be discovered. This has been highlighted in the relevant sections below and any such change will be agreed with the client and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

## **1.6 COPYRIGHT**

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

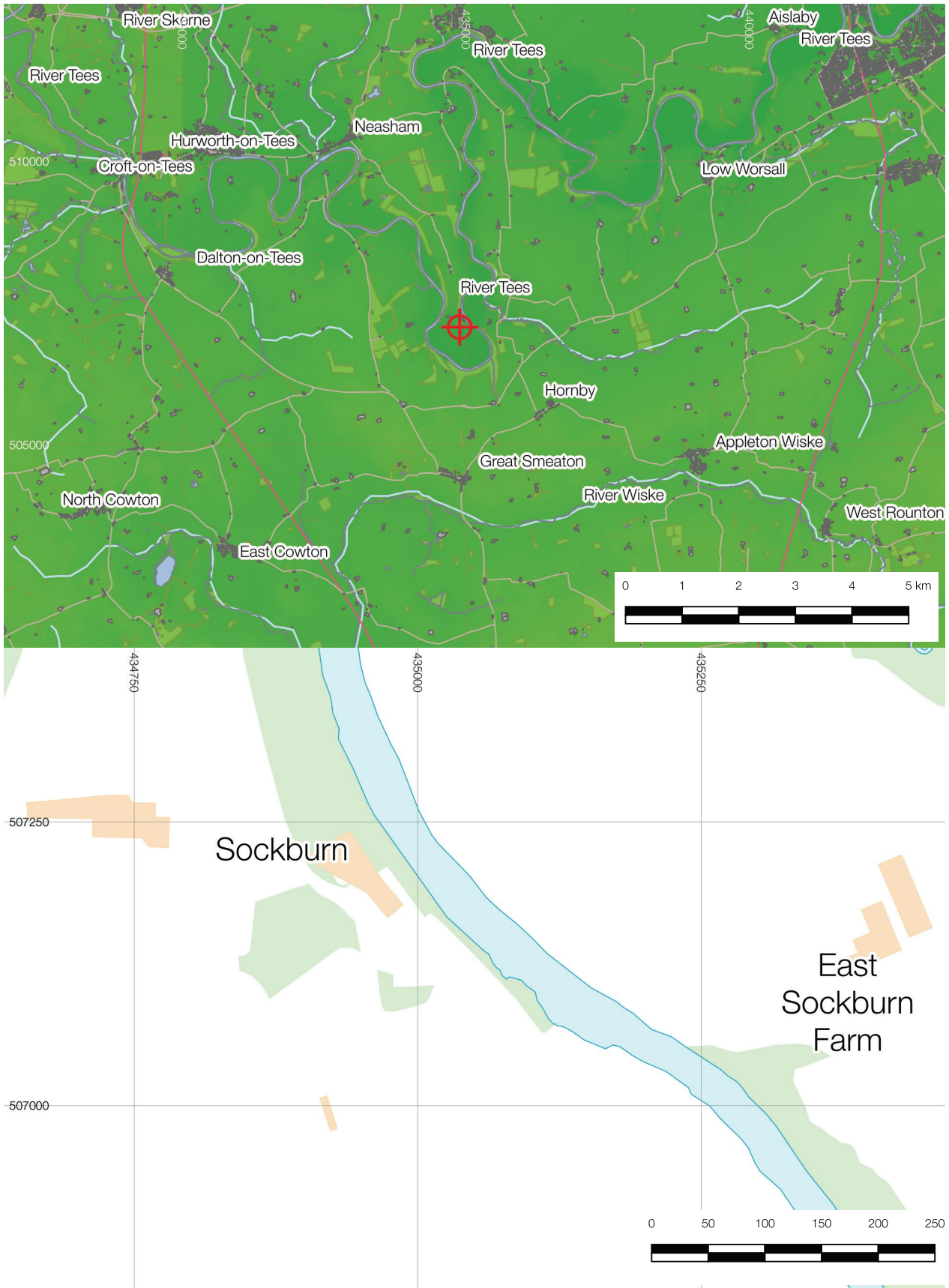


Figure 1 Site Location





## 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 PREVIOUS WORK

An archaeological survey was undertaken of the Scheduled Monument by English Heritage in (2007) as well as a geophysical survey. The archaeological remains were seen to define a post-medieval mansion and garden and perhaps an earlier medieval hall. These remains are clearly visible on the ground as earthworks.

### 2.2 RELEVANT RESEARCH AREA

The monitoring has the potential to provide information to address the following gaps in knowledge identified in *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (Petts and Gerrard 2006):

- *MDi. Settlement* – Contributing to the understanding of settlement archaeology and architecture in the Medieval period.



### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 3.1 EVALUATION

An 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 significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.” (ClfA 2014a, 4).

The overarching aim of the evaluation is:

- To gain information about the damage to the archaeological resource by non-permissioned works in order to assess its survival to inform the approach to subsequent spoil removal and reinstatement.

The objectives of the evaluation are:

- To attempt to establish the date, character and significance of any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits, including in relation to other similar features within the area.
- The formulation of a strategy to ensure the recording, preservation or management of the archaeological resource.
- The formulation of a strategy to mitigate the threat to the archaeological resource.
- The formulation of a proposal for further archaeological investigation, if required.
- 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 (ClfA) (2019) and the ClfA *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2014a)
- To ensure compliance with the WSI (this document).

## 4. METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 TRENCH LOCATION

The evaluation will comprise 1 no. archaeological evaluation trench. The location of the proposed trench is shown on Figure 2.

Trench 1 will measure 2 m x 18 m in plan and is positioned to intersect the area most affected by the non-permissioned works undertaken on the Scheduled Monument.

### 4.2 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Initial excavation will be undertaken with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision, to remove imported and disturbed material to the top of the first coherent archaeological deposits or features. A section will be drawn showing the depth of the disturbed layers and how they relate to the archaeological layers below, showing the degree to which archaeological features and deposits have been damaged by the non-permissioned work.

### 4.3 RECORDING METHODOLOGY

All archaeological features will be recorded on pro-forma sheets, creating a primary written record that will be accompanied by drawn and photographic records. A site diary giving a summary of each day's monitoring will also be maintained including overall interpretive observations.

A drawn record will be compiled of all features, including plan and section/profile illustrations at a suitable scale (usually 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50) depending on the complexity and significance of the remains.

The photographic record will be undertaken in high-resolution digital format. Photographs will be taken of all archaeological and palaeoenvironmental features in addition to general site photography locating the individual features in their wider context.

The trench will be located and tied to the National Grid at a scale of 1:2500 or 1:1250 as practical. All features will be located accurately within this area and their height also accurately recorded above Ordnance Datum. The same level of accuracy will be applied to measuring the respective heights of the top and base of excavations.

### 4.4 SMALL FINDS

All small finds will be initially retained and bagged by context for assessment at the post-fieldwork stage. Small finds will be handled, packed and stored in accordance with the guidelines in *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998). In the event that finds of 'treasure' are uncovered, then the local Coroner will be informed, and the correct procedures will be followed as outlined under the *Treasure Act 1996*.

### 4.5 HUMAN REMAINS

In the event of human remains being uncovered, including evidence of cremations, these will be initially left *in situ*, protected and covered from view. Should removal of the remains be deemed necessary then a licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) prior to excavation proceeding. Exhumation of human remains will proceed in accordance with the MoJ licence and all health and safety regulations and guidance.

### 4.6 SCIENTIFIC AND PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING STRATEGY

#### 4.6.1 AIM OF THE SAMPLING STRATEGY

Given the uncertainty of the presence or level of archaeological remains likely to be encountered as part of this evaluation, the general aim of the scientific and palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy is:

- To provide information on the nature of human activity and the past environment in the immediate area, in relation to the archaeological deposits uncovered during the project.



#### 4.6.2 OVERVIEW

Sampling levels and feature-specific approaches will vary in accordance with the characteristics and potential of individual features to address the aims and objectives outlined above. Should it be deemed necessary to excavate intact archaeological deposits or features, in consultation with the Inspector, a feature-specific sampling strategy will be agreed with the client and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments. Sampling and assessment methodologies will follow best practice as set out in relevant guidance documents, including Environmental Archaeology (Campbell *et al.* 2011).

#### 4.7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

All archaeological work will be undertaken in a safe manner in compliance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*. A full risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of the commencement of work, a copy of which will be available on site for the duration of the fieldwork. Solstice Heritage LLP has a full Safety, Health and Environment Policy which can be supplied upon request.

#### 4.8 EXTENSIVE REMAINS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT FINDS

In the event of discovery of archaeological remains that are more extensive and/or significant than could reasonably have been anticipated then the following procedure will be followed:

- The archaeological remains will be delimited and no machinery or contractors other than project archaeologists will operate in the area.
- The client, Inspector of Ancient Monuments and any other key stakeholders will be informed, and an agreement will be reached on any amendments to the methodology and project scope.
- Where required, a modified WSI or addendum to this document will be prepared and agreed with all stakeholders.

## 5. POST-FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

### 5.1 SMALL FINDS PROCESSING

All finds will be processed and catalogued in line with standard guidance documents including *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998) and the *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (ClfA 2014b).

### 5.2 SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

After processing, artefacts and ecofacts will be quantified and assessed to provide an overview of their potential to meet the aims and objectives of the project. This will be undertaken, where necessary, by a relevant specialist, as set out below, and will include a statement on the potential and requirement for further analysis. Where extensive analysis is recommended and justified by the potential of the assemblage or sample then this will be undertaken after agreement with the client and Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

### 5.3 REPORTING

Following completion of any specialist assessment and analysis, all information will be synthesised in a project report, which will include as a minimum:

- Planning application number, OASIS reference number and site grid reference
- A non-technical summary of results
- Introduction
- Aims and method statement
- Legislative, policy and guidance framework
- Summary of data outlining all archaeological deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts and spot dating of significant finds
- Specialist reports (where necessary)
- Discussion of results
- Illustrative photography
- Location plan of the site of at least 1:10000 scale
- Extent plan of the area of monitoring at a suitable and recognised scale positioning all archaeological and palaeoenvironmental features and deposits in relation to the national grid
- Plans and section of all archaeological trenches and features at a suitable scale (see section 4.2 above)
- Above Ordnance Datum (aOD) levels on plans and incorporated into the text
- A copy of this WSI as an appendix

Any variation to the minimum requirements above will be approved in advance and in writing by the Inspector of Ancient Monuments. One bound hard copy and one digital copy will be supplied to the client and to the Inspector of Ancient Monuments upon completion.

### 5.4 ARCHIVING

Within 6 months of the completion of all post-fieldwork stages of the project, a full archive will be compiled and deposited with a local recipient museum. The archive will be compiled in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (ClfA 2014c). The archive and all material contained in it will be compiled according to the guidelines of the recipient museum, and will include as a minimum:

- A list of archive contents, by box if required
- Hard copies of all relevant project documentation
- Digital material created for the project



- Artefacts and ecofacts for which there is a reason for retention (e.g. inherent significance, potential for future analysis).

Digital material will also be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) in accordance with the *Standards for all Archaeological Work in County Durham and Darlington*. Should there be no material archive arising from the project then, as a minimum, the project report will be submitted to the County Durham HER in bound hard copy and digital format, and project details and a copy of the report will be made available through OASIS (see below).

## 5.5 OASIS

Solstice Heritage LLP is registered with the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project and fully supports all project documentation and records being made available through the OASIS website. Within six months after completion of the post-fieldwork reporting and archiving, an OASIS record will be completed, and a copy of the project report will be uploaded.

## 5.6 PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

In the event that formal publication and/or wider dissemination is deemed necessary, then a suitable format will be agreed with the client and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments. This may include a digital download document made freely available or publication in a local, regional or national journal.

## 5.7 EXTENSIVE REMAINS AND/OR SIGNIFICANT FINDS

In the event of discovery of archaeological remains which are more extensive and/or significant than could reasonably have been anticipated then this will require a more detailed post-fieldwork approach. Should this be required, a suitable and proportionate post-fieldwork methodology will be agreed with the client and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments upon completion of fieldwork, including a suitable level of publication and/or dissemination as noted above.

## 6. RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

### 6.1 FIELDWORK STAFF

The project will be managed by Chris Scott of Solstice Heritage LLP. Chris holds full accredited professional membership of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) at MCIfA level. It is anticipated that the fieldwork will be undertaken by Chris Scott MCIfA and Ben Moore MCIfA of Solstice Heritage LLP, though in the event of a change, details of fieldwork staff will be confirmed in writing to the Inspector of Ancient Monuments prior to commencement.

### 6.2 POST-FIELDWORK STAFF

The post-fieldwork reporting and archiving will also be managed by Chris Scott. Details of any other post-fieldwork or reporting staff will be confirmed in writing to the Inspector of Ancient Monuments prior to commencement.

### 6.3 SPECIALIST INPUT

Should specialist input be required for assessment and analysis at post-fieldwork stage, then it is intended that the following specialists be used:

Specialism	Specialist	Company/Institution
Lithics	Spencer Carter	TimeVista Archaeology
Prehistoric pottery	Jim Brightman	Solstice Heritage LLP
Romano-British Pottery	Dr David Griffiths	Independent specialist
Roman brick/tile	Alex Croom	Tyne and Wear Archives & Museums
Early glasswork	Dr Hilary Cool	Barbican Research Associates
Medieval/Post-medieval pottery	Dr Chris Cumberpatch	Independent specialist
Archaeometallurgy	Dr Gerry McDonnell	Independent specialist
Clay pipe	Dr Susie White	University of Liverpool
Industrial/later glasswork	Jim Brightman	Solstice Heritage LLP
Industrial/later metalwork	Chris Scott	Solstice Heritage LLP
Medieval/later CBM	Jim Brightman	Solstice Heritage LLP
Conservation of artefacts	Jennifer Jones	Archaeological Services Durham University (ASDU)
Botanical macrofossils	Dr Charlotte O'Brien	ASDU
Pollen	Dr Charlotte O'Brien	ASDU
Human remains	Malin Holst	York Osteoarchaeology
Faunal remains	Dr. Hannah Russ	Independent specialist
All dating techniques	Dr Gordon Cook	Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC)

Table 1 Proposed specialist input to post-fieldwork stages

This list is subject to change depending on individual availability of specialists and the specific requirements of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains uncovered during the course of fieldwork. Liaison will also be undertaken with the relevant Historic England Scientific advisor, as appropriate.



#### **6.4 FIELDWORK PROGRAMME**

It is currently intended that the groundworks be undertaken during January 2020. A minimum of two weeks' notice of commencement of groundworks will be given to the Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

#### **6.5 POST-FIELDWORK PROGRAMME**

The post-fieldwork process will commence immediately upon completion of the fieldwork. Unless a more in-depth post-fieldwork process has been agreed as an addendum to this document, then a report will be compiled within two months, subject to any required specialist input. An OASIS record will be completed, and any archive will be deposited within six months of the completion of the post-fieldwork phase.

#### **6.6 MONITORING**

The Historic England contact for monitoring of the project will be:

Lee McFarlane  
Inspector of Ancient Monuments, North East  
Historic England  
Bessie Surtees House  
41-44 Sandhill  
Newcastle Upon Tyne  
NE1 3JF  
Direct Line: 0191 2691239  
Mobile phone: 07774331422  
E-mail: [lee.mcfarlane@historicengland.org.uk](mailto:lee.mcfarlane@historicengland.org.uk)

## 7. SOURCES

### 7.1 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2019. *Code of Conduct*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014a. *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014b. *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014c. *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014d. *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*. Reading, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Durham County Council. 2019. *Standards for All Archaeological Work in County Durham and Darlington*. Durham, Durham County Council.

English Heritage (EH). 2007. *Sockburn Hall, Darlington: an archaeological investigation of the medieval and post-medieval manors and the setting of the pre-Conquest church*. Research Department Reports 82/2007, English Heritage.

English Heritage (EH). 2008. *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance*. London, English Heritage.

English Heritage (EH). 2011. *Environmental Archaeology: A guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (Second edition)*. London, English Heritage.

Petts, D. and Gerrard, C. 2006. *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham, Durham University and Durham County Council.



## APPENDIX 1 - POLICY AND GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK

### LEGISLATION

National legislation which applies to the consideration of cultural heritage within the proposed project 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 which have been selected by a set of non-statutory criteria to be of national importance. 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.

Table 2 Legislation relating to relevant cultural heritage in planning

### GUIDANCE

#### NATIONAL

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

Document	Key Points
Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (Historic England 2008)	This document 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 revised 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 3 National guidance documentation consulted

## APPENDIX 2 – STATEMENT OF COMPETENCE





**Chris Scott**  
BA (Hons), MA, MCI(A)

Archaeologist and Heritage Consultant



Solstice Heritage is an independent heritage consultancy and archaeological practice based in North Yorkshire and Tyne and Wear, and working across Britain. Chris Scott is a professional archaeologist and historic environment consultant with over a decade's experience in undertaking and supervising planning-led archaeology, research and conservation management, and community projects.

## EMPLOYMENT AND EXPERIENCE

### **SOLSTICE HERITAGE (JULY 2015 – PRESENT)**

Partner – I currently work as one of two Partners managing Solstice Heritage LLP. Within planning-led archaeology we provide all levels of consultancy and contracting services from initial advice through full cultural heritage input to EIA. We undertake all types of archaeological fieldwork and I am regularly sub-contracted to supervise large-scale sites where my prior experience of this kind of project can be brought to bear. Solstice have extensive experience of undertaking survey and fieldwork in remote upland areas, particularly in relation to the sensitive landscapes of National Parks. We have also worked regularly in managing and undertaking archaeological works in urban development settings, often on complex sites with particular health and safety constraints. As such I have gained the construction industry recognised Site Manager's Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS) qualification, giving clients the certainty that archaeological works managed by Solstice Heritage will be undertaken in line with recognised health and safety guidance and legislation. In addition to archaeological consultancy I also have longstanding experience in undertaking historic buildings consultancy and survey, particularly the successful re-development of Listed and/or historic buildings in the planning process. Additionally, I regularly provide technical conservation management advice to clients in relation to historic buildings, sites and landscapes.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SERVICES LTD (APR 2010 – JULY 2015)**

Projects Manager and Operations Manager – I worked for Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) as Projects Manager and Operations Manager. In this role my key responsibilities and experiences included:

- Conceiving and implementing large scale commissioned research and community heritage projects.
- Acting as the principal contact for all commercial projects, with responsibility and oversight for undertaking commercial contracts and tendering.
- Project, office, health and safety and staff management.
- Liaison with local authority curatorial archaeologists.
- Undertaking direct on-site supervision of archaeological fieldwork, working with varied size teams of archaeologists in all types of projects including survey, historic building survey and all forms of excavation and post-excavation analysis.

### **BEAMISH, THE NORTH OF ENGLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM (SEPT 2004 – APR 2010)**

Curator of Industry – This senior curatorial role involved responsibility for the care and management of all industrial collections and displays within the Museum, including their use and historical integrity. The role also required research work to support these displays and collections, as well as development projects. This position also involved project management, controlling budgets, managing volunteers, staff and contractors. Specific projects included historic landscapes and buildings. The post also involved lecturing and training other staff and students. In this role I had a number of key responsibilities:

- Acting as principal client project manager for many of the museum's development projects. Within this I had responsibility for performance against significant budgets of up to a million pounds, managing contractor's performance and the quality of work required, but also for proactively engaging with local communities to build awareness of the museum's work
- Liaison with other museums, trusts, funders and users often acting in the role of consultant between funders, the media, the museum and a wide variety of communities representing varied interests relating to local history, sites and initiatives. Negotiation with both community groups and the professional museum sector was key as this dialogue enabled a number of successful community projects which involved objects from the museum's collections, source communities and private and public funders.
- Management of large collections of industrial objects running to hundreds of thousands of individual artefacts, from super-large objects to small items. This required involvement with all issues relating to storage, logistics, safety, display and conservation of objects, including supervising large teams of museum staff and contractors, and directing work on our own site and elsewhere across the country.

## PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS AND ACCREDITATION

- Accredited full Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA).

## FURTHER EDUCATION

- MA Heritage Education and Interpretation – University of Newcastle upon Tyne (2003-04)
- BA (Hons) Archaeology – University of Newcastle upon Tyne (2000-03)

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

I have particular specialisms in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings, industrial archaeology and the archaeology of farms. I often disseminate the results of archaeological and heritage projects, both commercial and conservation or community-led, through talks to local societies and student groups. I have also been regularly involved in training and community and educational engagement in heritage and archaeology throughout my career; working with a diverse range of audiences including businesses, universities, learned societies, schools, local interest groups and communities.

## PUBLICATIONS

- Brightman, J. and Scott, C., 2015. Excavation of a Bottle Works and Earlier Potteries at The Malings, Ouseburn, Newcastle upon Tyne. *Archaeologia Aeliana* 5<sup>th</sup> ser. (44).
- Devenport, J., N. Emery, C. Rendell and C. Scott, "The Esh Winning Miner's Banner Project – conservation involvement in a community initiative", in *Textile Conservation: Advances in Practice*, edited by Frances Lennard and Patricia Ewer. 2010.
- Scott, C., 2009. "Contemporary expressions of Coal Mining Heritage in the Durham Coalfield: The Creation of New Identities" in *Folk Life, The Journal of Ethnological Studies*, Vol. 47, 2009.
- Scott, C., 2005. "The Beamish Burn; A Mechanic Stream", in Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, *Mill News*, July.

In addition to formal publications I have authored articles on excavation projects for popular archaeology magazines, and numerous 'grey literature' reports including surveys, evaluations, excavations, historic building assessments and surveys, desk-based assessments, management plans and audits, and Environmental Statement chapters.



