

Sockburn Hall, County Durham

Report on an Archaeological Evaluation



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## Report on an Archaeological Evaluation

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation at Sockburn Hall, County Durham. The evaluation was required by both Historic England and Durham County Council in advance of proposed development within gardens to the south-west of the Grade II\* listed Sockburn Hall (NHLE 1116156), and immediately north of the scheduled medieval and post-medieval settlement at Sockburn (NHLE 1002340). This evaluation was required to understand the presence and character of the archaeological resource within the area of the garden.*

*Five 2 m x 10 m targeted evaluation trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision, and any features were further investigated and excavated with hand tools.*

*In contrast with the previous archaeological evaluation, which did not continue to a sufficient depth to characterise the nature of geological deposits within this area, the natural sand and gravel substrate was identified at the base of two trenches and a broad deposit sequence identified across the site. This sequence comprised early soil formation, alluviation, followed in turn by further soil formation into the present-day garden soils.*

*No settlement remains were identified within the evaluation trenches, and this work has characterised the area as having been generally wet and used for agricultural cultivation, suggesting a reason why the medieval settlement did not extend towards the north.*

*Remnants of medieval agricultural cultivation in the form of ridge and furrow ploughing along with an associated boundary ditch were identified surviving in the subsoil of the trenches in the northern portion of the proposed development area. This would suggest that the area was part of the outfield for the settlement and largely given over to agricultural cultivation during the medieval or post-medieval periods. To the south, the remains of a palaeochannel was identified along with associated alluvial deposits which contained fragments of animal bone and pottery sherds of medieval date. It is likely that this would have formed a wetland boundary, running east to west, between the settlement to the south and the agricultural activity to the north until the area was landscaped and drained in the course of landscaping for the current hall.*

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

This report has been prepared by Solstice Heritage LLP on behalf of Mr Gary Hughes to document the results of an archaeological evaluation. The evaluation was required by both Historic England and Durham County Council in advance of proposed development within gardens to the south-west of the Grade II\* listed Sockburn Hall (NHLE 1116156), and immediately north of the scheduled medieval and post-medieval manors at Sockburn (NHLE 1002340). This evaluation was required to understand the presence and character of the archaeological resource within the area of the garden to potentially inform the design of the project and best strategy going forwards.

## 1.2 SITE LOCATION

The proposed development area was situated to the south-west of Sockburn Hall, in a garden immediately north of a north-east to south-west aligned avenue adjacent to the scheduled medieval and post-medieval settlement, centred on National Grid Reference NZ 34885 07155. The garden is surrounded by established mature trees on all sides. Some potential for the presence of subsurface archaeological features was identified through geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2021).

The archaeological works undertaken comprised the excavation of five 2 m x 10 m targeted evaluation trenches (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 significance in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.” (ClfA 2020a, 4).

The overarching aim of the evaluation was:

- To gain information about the presence, character, and condition of the potential archaeological resource within the area of the garden to the south-west of Sockburn Hall.

The objectives of the evaluation were:

- To attempt to establish the condition and character of any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits that would be impacted by the proposed development works.
- 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) (2021) and the *ClfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (2020a) and the *Standards for all Archaeological Work in County Durham and Darlington* (DCCAS 2021).
- To ensure compliance with the WSI.



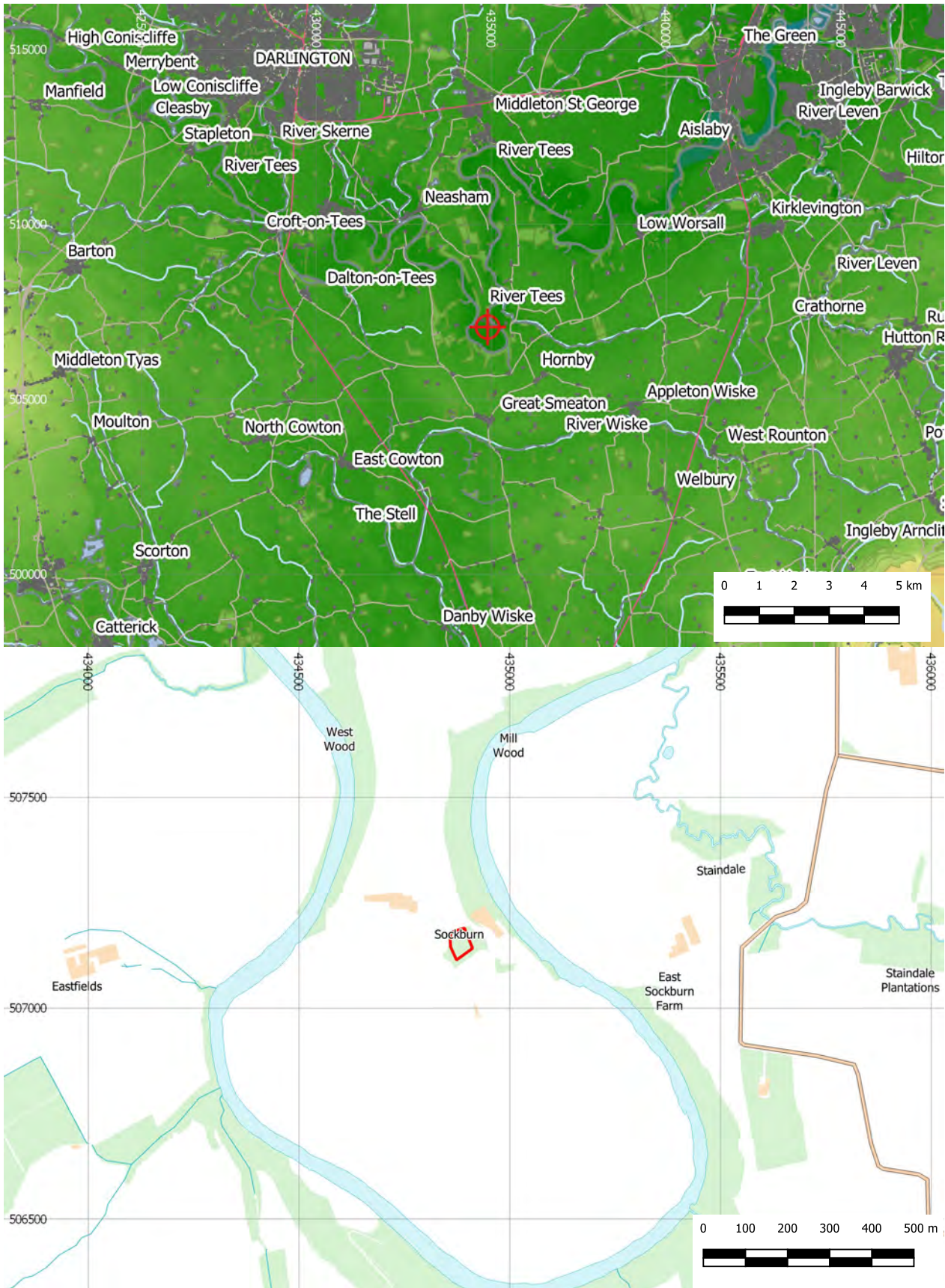
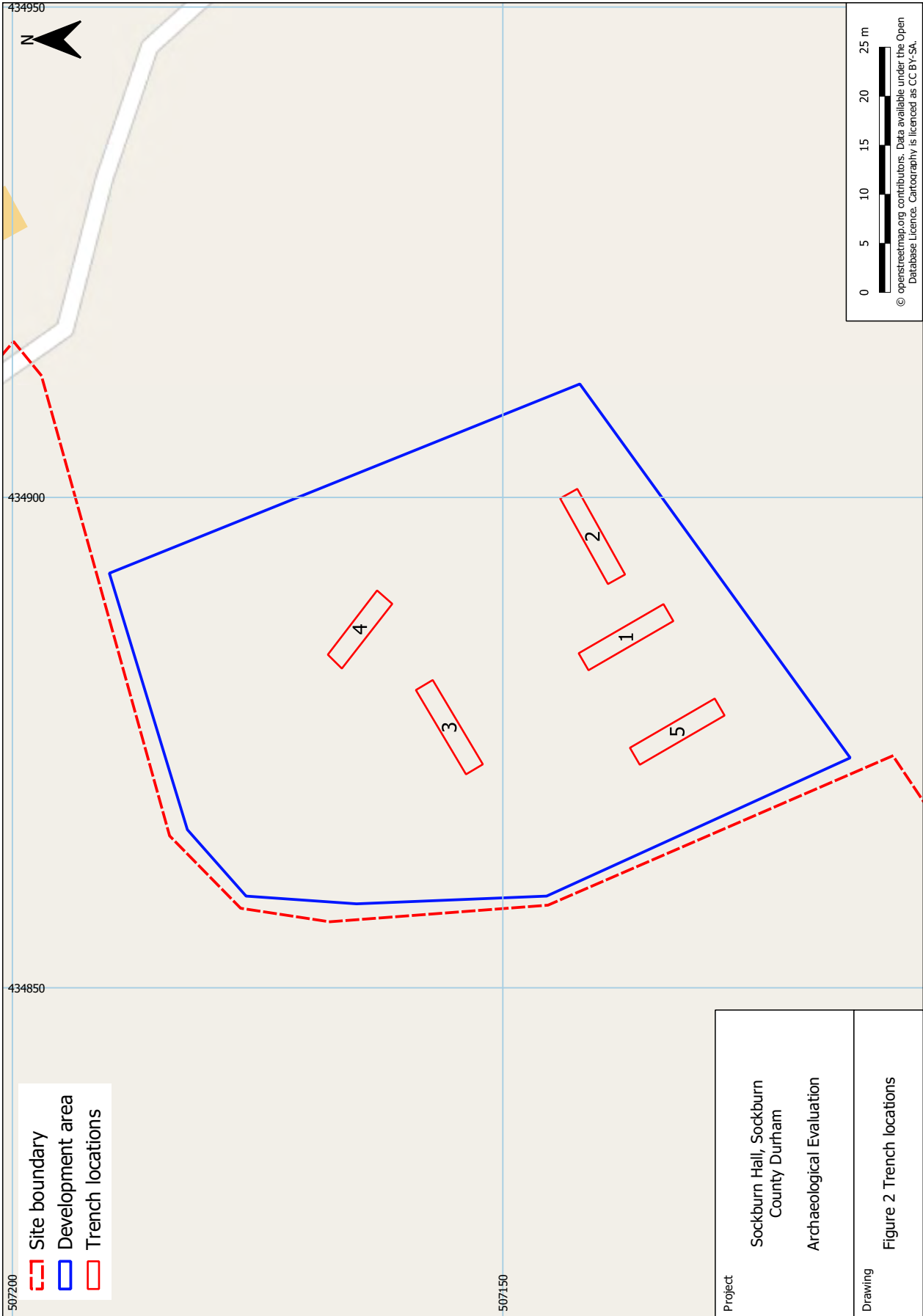


Figure 1 Site location



## 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 (Went and Jecock 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.

A geophysical survey was undertaken within the area of the garden (Magnitude Surveys 2021). Whilst a degree of magnetic disturbance along the boundaries limited the confidence in the results, several magnetic anomalies suggestive of possible archaeological features were identified. These anomalies were identified as possibly relating to the use of the area as a garden (historically and currently), or to the Scheduled medieval and post-medieval settlement located immediately to the south.

### 2.2 RELEVANT RESEARCH AGENDA

The archaeological evaluation had 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 southern boundary of the proposed development area (Figure 2 to Figure 4), aligned north-west to south-east, to investigate both weak and strong geophysical anomalies aligned along a north-north-east to south-south-west orientation. This trench measured 10 m x 2 m in plan and excavated to a maximum depth below ground level of c. 2.4 m.

The trench was initially excavated through the turf and topsoil (100), comprising dark brown clay silt, which was thickest at the northern end of the trench, extending to a maximum thickness of 0.23 m. This topsoil (100) overlaid the subsoil (101), a firm mid-orange brown sandy clay containing inclusions of small to medium-sized rounded pebbles, which measured c. 0.21 m in thickness. Two sherds of medieval pottery, both dating to between the late 13<sup>th</sup> century and 15<sup>th</sup> century, were recovered from this layer: a body sherd of green glazed reduced ware and the rim with flange from the lid of an oxidised gritty ware vessel. In addition, a fragment of cattle bone which featured butchery marks was also recovered from this deposit.

This subsoil (101) sealed alluvial layer (102), composed of firm, fine mottled grey-brown clayey silt which contained frequent iron panning and infrequent inclusions of small, rounded pebbles. Alluvial layer (102) measured on average 0.2 m thick. Below alluvial layer (102), a buried subsoil (103), similar in composition to the upper subsoil (101), was identified. This buried subsoil (103) comprised mid-grey brown sandy clay, which contained inclusions of small to medium well-rounded pebbles. This subsoil measured c. 0.38 m in thickness and contained a body sherd from an oxidised gritty ware vessel dating to between the late 13<sup>th</sup> century to 15<sup>th</sup> century.

At the southern end of Trench 1, a sondage measuring 3.6 m by 2 m was excavated to identify the depth of the natural substrate (104)—a mid-yellow brown sand and gravel which contained varying mid- to small-sized subangular and rounded pebbles—which was sealed by the overlying buried subsoil (103). Within the sondage, the remains of the southern edge of a palaeochannel [106], aligned east to west with a visible extent which measured 2.02 m by 2 m, was identified within the natural substrate (104). The visible profile of the palaeochannel [106] was characterised by a gradual break of slope at its top and gently sloping concave sides, leading to a concave base at an excavated depth of 0.62 m. The palaeochannel [106] contained accumulated mottled grey-brown alluvial silt (105), which contained frequent inclusions of small, well-rounded pebbles, but otherwise contained no other material. During excavation, the slot dug in the palaeochannel in Trench 1 filled with water and ceramic land-drains were noted in section (Figure 4).

### 3.2 TRENCH 2

Trench 2 was located close to the south-eastern boundary of the proposed development area, north-east of Trench 1 (Figure 2, Figure 5 and Figure 6), perpendicular to it along a north-east to south-west alignment, to investigate a differently aligned geophysical anomaly within the south-east of the garden. This trench measured 10 m x 2 m in plan and excavated to a maximum depth below ground level of c. 0.9 m.

The trench was initially excavated through the turf and topsoil (200), comprising a dark brown clay silty loam, extending to a maximum thickness of 0.25 m. This topsoil (100) overlaid the subsoil (101), a firm mid orange-brown sandy clay containing substantial inclusions of small to medium-sized rounded pebbles, which measured c. 0.25 m in thickness. This deposit (201) sealed a thin alluvial layer (202) similar to that identified in Trench 1 detailed above. The alluvial layer (202) was composed of firm, fine mottled grey-brown clay silt which measured on average 0.2 m thick.

Below this alluvial layer (202), a buried subsoil (203), similar in composition to the upper subsoil (201), was identified. This buried subsoil (203) comprised mid brown sandy clay, which contained inclusions of small to medium well-rounded pebbles and measured c. 0.2 m in thickness. In addition, a body sherd from an oxidised gritty ware vessel dating to between the late 13<sup>th</sup> century to 15<sup>th</sup> century was recovered from this deposit.

The buried subsoil (203) overlaid the upper surface of a fine mottled grey-brown alluvial silt (204), similar in composition to the accumulated material of the palaeochannel (105) identified in Trench 1. No further archaeological finds or features were identified aside from the pottery sherd derived from the subsoil (203).

### 3.3 TRENCH 3

Trench 3 was located close to the western boundary of the proposed development area (Figure 2, Figure 7 and Figure 8), aligned north-east to south-west, to investigate strong geophysical anomalies identified within the northern area of the garden. This trench measured 10 m x 2 m in plan and excavated to a maximum depth below ground level of c. 0.5 m.

The trench was initially excavated through the topsoil (300), comprising dark brown silty loam, which was thickest at the northern end of the trench, extending to a maximum thickness of 0.25 m. A fragment of cattle bone was recovered from this deposit. This topsoil (300) overlaid the subsoil (301), a firm mid-orange brown sandy clay containing substantial inclusions of small to medium-sized rounded pebbles, which measured c. 0.23 m in thickness. This in turn sealed the natural substrate (302), a mid-yellow brown sand and gravel which contained varying mid to small sized subangular and rounded pebbles.

Within the subsoil (301), the remains of a linear feature [305], which measured 1.60 m wide, were located across the width of Trench 3 in its southern portion and aligned north-east to south-west (Figure 9). The profile of the linear [305] was characterised by gently-sloping sides and a concave base at a depth of 0.18 m. The linear [305] contained an accumulated fill (304), comprising a mid-brown clayey silt which contained frequent inclusions of small rounded pebbles. This was interpreted as the remains of a medieval or post-medieval plough furrow.

### 3.4 TRENCH 4

Trench 4 was located close to the northern boundary of the proposed development area (Figure 2, Figure 10 and Figure 11), and initially aligned north-north-west to south-south-east to investigate a strong geophysical anomaly and a blank area in the north of the garden. However, due to existing planting, the trench was moved slightly to the west and realigned north-west to south-east to retain the strong geophysical anomaly. This trench measured 10 m x 2 m in plan and excavated to a maximum depth below ground level of c. 0.3 m.

The trench was initially excavated through the topsoil (400), comprising a dark brown clayish silt, which extended to a maximum thickness of 0.3 m. This topsoil (400) overlaid the subsoil (401), which was a firm mid brown clayey silt containing a high-concentration of small to medium-sized rounded pebble inclusions. The upper surface of subsoil (401) formed the limit of excavation for Trench 4.

Two parallel linear features [403] and [405], both aligned north-east to south-west across Trench 4, were identified cut into the subsoil (401). The northernmost linear [403], characterised by a shallow profile with gradual, sloping sides, measured 1.30 m in width and featured a broad, flat base at 0.15 m depth (Figure 12). The linear [403] contained an accumulated fill (402) of mid brown clayey silt and in combination with this material as well as its characteristic profile was accordingly interpreted as a medieval or post-medieval plough furrow.

The southernmost linear [405], located c. 2 m south of the plough furrow [403], was much larger—measuring c. 2.5 m in width and 0.4 m deep (Figure 13). This linear [405] was characterised by steeper, sloped sides and a concave base and contained accumulated mid brown clayey silt fill (404), from which was obtained several fragments of animal bone including specimens derived from cattle and equine species (see below). Based on its more substantial profile and dimensions, the larger, southernmost linear [405] was interpreted as a medieval or post-medieval field boundary ditch.

### 3.5 TRENCH 5

Trench 5 was located near the south-western boundary of the proposed development area to the south-west of Trench 1 (Figure 2, Figure 14 and Figure 15), aligned north-west to south-east, to investigate an area masked by magnetic disturbance. This trench measured 10 m x 2 m in plan and excavated to a maximum depth below ground level of c. 0.75 m.

The trench was initially excavated through the turf and topsoil (500), comprising mid brown clayey loam, extending to a maximum thickness of 0.28 m. This topsoil (500) overlaid the subsoil (501), a firm mid orange-brown sandy clay containing substantial inclusions of small to medium-sized rounded pebbles, which measured c. 0.22 m in thickness.

At the southern end of this trench, a sondage that measured 3 m by 2 m was excavated in order to investigate the full deposit sequence, which identified the natural substrate (502), a mid-yellow brown sand and gravel which contained varying mid to small sized subangular and rounded pebbles, at a depth of 0.5 m, sealed by the subsoil (501). No archaeological finds or features were identified within this trench.



Figure 3 Overview of Trench 1, looking north-east. Scale 2x1 m



Figure 4 South-west facing section of palaeochannel [I06] in Trench 1. Scale 1x1 m



Figure 5 Overview of Trench 2, looking north-east. Scale 2x1 m



Figure 6 North-west facing representative section of Trench 2. Scale 1x1 m



Figure 7 Overview of Trench 3, looking north-east. Scale 2x1 m



Figure 8 South-east facing representative section of Trench 3. Scale 1x1 m





Figure 9 South-east facing section of plough furrow [305]. Scale 1x1 m



Figure 10 Overview of Trench 4, looking north-west. Scale 2x1 m



Figure 11 South-west facing representative section of Trench 4. Scale 1x1 m



Figure 12 Overview and south-west facing section of medieval plough furrow [403]. Scale 1x1 m



Figure 13 Oblique overview and south-west facing section of medieval ditch [405]. Scale 1x1 m



Figure 14 Overview of Trench 5. Scale 2x1 m



Figure 15 North-east facing representative section of Trench 5. Scale 1x1 m

## 4. FINDS ASSESSMENT

David Griffiths and Hannah Russ

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

Pottery and animal bone (14 fragments weighing 418.1g) were recovered via hand collection during an archaeological evaluation at Sockburn Hall, Darlington, County Durham, by Solstice Heritage LLP in 2021 (SOCK21). This assessment includes quantification of the assemblage, identification where possible, an assessment of significance, and recommendation(s) for any further work.

### 4.2 METHODS

The pottery was quantified by count and weight (g) and identified as far as possible to ware type, function, and date of production, in line with published standards and guidelines (Barclay et al. 2016; ClfA 2020b). Animal bone was assessed in line with Historic England guidelines (Baker and Worley 2019). This assessment was completed with reference to a written scheme of investigation (Williams 2021), a heritage impact assessment (Scott and Snowden 2020), and the current archaeological research framework for the region (Petts and Gerrard 2006). Results were recorded in an electronic proforma in Microsoft Excel.

### 4.3 RESULTS

In total, 14 items weighing 418.1g, were recovered from five contexts across four trenches during the archaeological works at Sockburn Hall (Table 1). The assemblage comprised four sherds of pottery from Trenches 1 and 2 and ten bone fragments from Trenches 1, 3 and 4.

Trench	Context	Pot	Bone	Total
1	101	2	1	3
	103	1		1
2	203	1		1
3	300		1	1
4	404		8	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>

Table 1 Summary of all finds from Sockburn Hall by context and material, count

### 4.4 POTTERY

In total, four sherds of pottery weighing 23.0g were recovered from three contexts in Trenches 1 and 2 (Table 2). All four sherds of pottery were consistent with vessels produced during the later medieval period, between the late 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The pottery comprised a glazed fragment of reduced ware from context 101 and three sherds of oxidised gritty ware from contexts 101, 103 and 203 (late 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> century). The vessel form for the green-glazed sherd and the gritty ware sherds from context 103 and 203 could not be identified as these were body sherds with no diagnostic features. The gritty ware sherd from context 101 was from a lid.

Trench	Context	Count	Weight (g)	Ware	Part	Form	Date
1	101	1	1.2	Green glazed reduced ware	Body sherd	Unidentified	Late 13th – 15th century
		1	13.5	Oxidised gritty ware	Rim with flange	Lid	Late 13th – 15th century
	103	1	2.9	Oxidised gritty ware	Body sherd	Unidentified	Late 13th – 15th century
2	203	1	5.4	Oxidised gritty ware	Body sherd	Unidentified	Late 13th – 15th century
<b>Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>23</b>				

Table 2 Summary of pottery from Sockburn Hall, count.

#### 4.5 ANIMAL BONE

The animal bone from Sockburn Hall comprised equid (*Equus* sp. Horse/donkey/mule) and cattle (*Bos taurus*) remains (Table 3–10 fragments weighing 395.1g). These species are typically found on archaeological sites across Britain, being two of the main domestic livestock animals kept for transport and traction (equid) and meat (cattle), with domestic cattle appearing in the Neolithic period, followed by domestic horse in the Bronze Age (Baker and Worley 2019, 3).

A fragment of a right cattle femur shaft from context 101 had cut marks indicative of removal of meat from the bone either pre or post cooking. A cattle metacarpal shaft was the only bone recovered from Trench 3 (context 300). Animal bone recovered from Trench 4, context 404, included two fragments of a cattle metatarsal from an animal younger than 27–36 months at death (unfused distal epiphysis), three fragments of a metatarsal from an equid, and three fragments that could not be identified to element or any specific species, but that were consistent with large-sized mammal. The equid bone had evidence of carnivore gnawing to the distal end and the shaft.

Context	Cattle	Equid	Large mammal	Total
101	1			1
300	1			1
404	2	3	3	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>

Table 3 Summary of animal bone from Sockburn Hall, count.

#### 4.6 DISCUSSION

The small assemblage likely represents discard from domestic activity, with the pottery indicating activity between the late 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. The animal bone may also result from this period of activity but may also represent earlier and/or later activity at the site. The assemblage is too small to make further comment on the nature of the remains or any further interpretation of human activity at the site.

#### 4.7 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ANALYSIS AND DISSEMINATION

No further work is recommended. The assemblage may be discarded on completion of the project.

This report and associated data should be integrated into any site-wide grey literature or publication reporting and retained within the site archive.

## 5. DISCUSSION

In contrast with the previous archaeological evaluation, which did not continue to a sufficient depth to characterise the nature of geological deposits within this area, the natural sand and gravel substrate was identified at the base of Trenches 1 and 5 and a broad deposit sequence was identified across the site. This sequence comprising the formation of buried soil, alluviation, followed in turn by further soil formation into the present-day garden soils.

The palaeochannel, located definitively in Trench 1 and by its upper surface in Trench 2, is most likely to be late glacial in date. There are other similar relict watercourses elsewhere in the vicinity of Sockburn—a substantial channel to the south of the proposed development area has been identified on aerial photographs (Went and Jecock 2007, 5 and 29). No archaeological finds or features were identified in this material further reinforcing a likely prehistoric date for this watercourse.

The presence of broadly contemporary medieval pottery recovered from the upper and the lower subsoils separated by an intervening alluvial deposit is suggestive of a relatively substantial episode of flooding between the late 13<sup>th</sup> century and 15<sup>th</sup> century. Notably this alluvial layer was focused along the route of the palaeochannel, no corresponding material was identified in Trench 5 or its sondage, which were located immediately to the south-west of Trench 1, thus it is likely that this alluvial material settled within the lower lying topography of the palaeochannel and survived subsequent reclamation and horizontal truncation.

Prior to landscaping and concerted land drainage efforts during the post-medieval period, the area of the palaeochannel would probably have remained waterlogged which would have created a wetland boundary, running east to west, between the medieval settlement to the south and the agricultural activity identified to the north. It is worth highlighting that during excavation, the slot dug in the palaeochannel in Trench 1 gradually filled with water and a concentration of ceramic land-drains were noted in both Trenches 1 and 2.

To the north of the palaeochannel, remnants of ridge and furrow ploughing were identified in the subsoil in Trenches 3 and 4, which appear to be contemporary with the upper subsoils identified in Trenches 1 and 2. These aligned north-west to south-east and appear to broadly correspond to those identified south of the medieval settlement in the previous English Heritage field survey (Went and Jecock 2007, 25-28).

The remains of the more substantial boundary ditch in Trench 4 may indicate that the northern portion of the proposed development area would have been given over to agricultural cultivation during the medieval or post-medieval period.

No settlement remains were identified within the evaluation trenches, and this work has characterised the area as having been generally wet and used for agricultural cultivation, suggesting a reason why the medieval settlement did not extend towards the north. It is possible, however, that the settlement may extend towards the east, west, or south.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 CONFIDENCE, CONSTRAINTS AND LIMITATIONS**

All trenches were excavated as intended, except Trench 4 which, due to existing planting, was moved slightly to the west and realigned north-west to south-east to retain the strong geophysical anomaly it was intended to investigate. As such, a high degree of confidence is placed within the results reported.

### **6.2 RESEARCH POTENTIAL**

This archaeological evaluation has characterised the area as one of agricultural cultivation during the medieval period defining the likely limit of the medieval settlement to the south. As noted in the Discussion above, it is possible that it may extend to the east, west, or south. Whilst this scheme of archaeological evaluation might not be considered to have contributed significantly to the aims of the regional research agenda, it has defined potentially more fruitful avenues of exploration across the wider site which might make more meaningful contributions.

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

The results of the evaluation indicate the survival of medieval or post-medieval cultivation activity across the northern portion of the site. Dependent on the below-ground impact of the proposed development, this could substantially affect the survival of this surviving archaeology in this area.

### **6.4 RECOMMENDATIONS**

As noted above, there is survival of medieval or post-medieval cultivation activity within the proposed development area which would be impacted by groundworks. Depending on the nature of the impact, this could be mitigated by an archaeological watching brief on substantial below-ground works.

### **6.5 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.



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## APPENDIX 1 – CONTEXT REGISTER

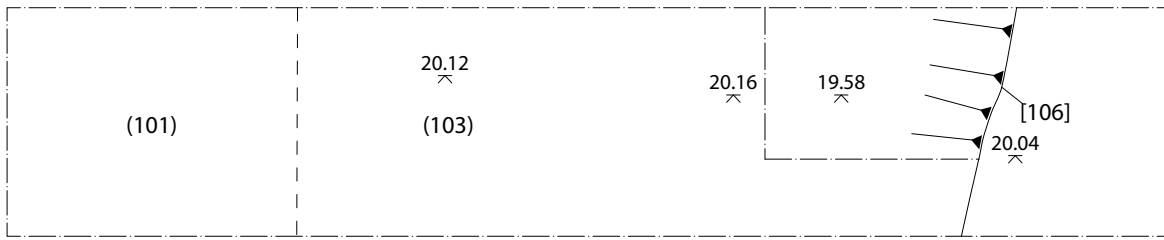
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100	Deposit	Turf and topsoil	Modern
101	Deposit	Upper subsoil	Medieval—Post-medieval
102	Deposit	Alluvial layer	Medieval
103	Deposit	Lower, buried, subsoil	Medieval
104	Deposit	Sand and gravel natural substrate	Glacial
105	Cut	Palaeochannel	Prehistoric
106	Fill	Accumulation within palaeochannel	Prehistoric
200	Deposit	Turf and topsoil	Modern
201	Deposit	Upper subsoil	Medieval—Post-medieval
202	Deposit	Alluvial layer	Medieval
203	Deposit	Lower, buried, subsoil	Medieval
204	Deposit	Alluvial accumulation within palaeochannel	Glacial
300	Deposit	Turf and topsoil	Modern
301	Deposit	Subsoil	Medieval
302	Deposit	Sand and gravel natural substrate	Glacial
303	VOID		
304	Fill	Accumulation of plough furrow [305]	Medieval – post-medieval
305	Cut	Plough furrow	Medieval – post-medieval
400	Deposit	Turf and topsoil	Modern
401	Deposit	Subsoil	Medieval
402	Fill	Accumulation within plough furrow [403]	Medieval – post-medieval
403	Cut	Plough furrow	Medieval – post-medieval
404	Fill	Accumulation within boundary ditch [405]	Medieval – post-medieval
405	Cut	Boundary ditch	Medieval – post-medieval
500	Deposit	Turf and topsoil	Modern
501	Deposit	Subsoil	Medieval
502	Deposit	Sand and gravel natural substrate	Glacial

Table 4 Context Register

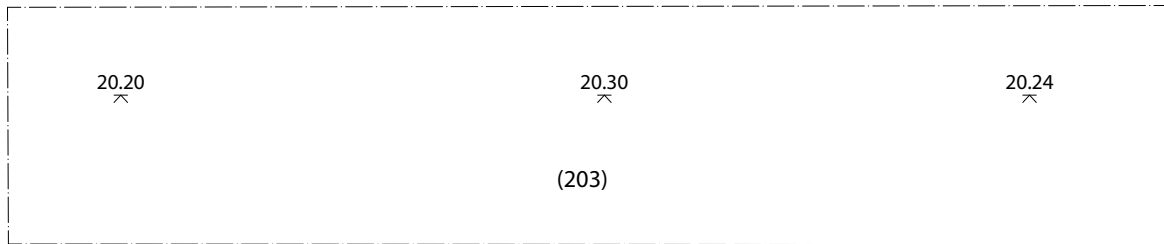
## APPENDIX 2 – TRENCH PLANS AND SECTIONS



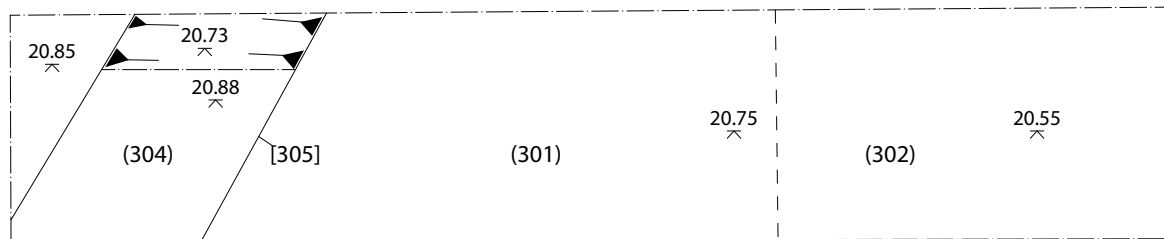
Trench 1



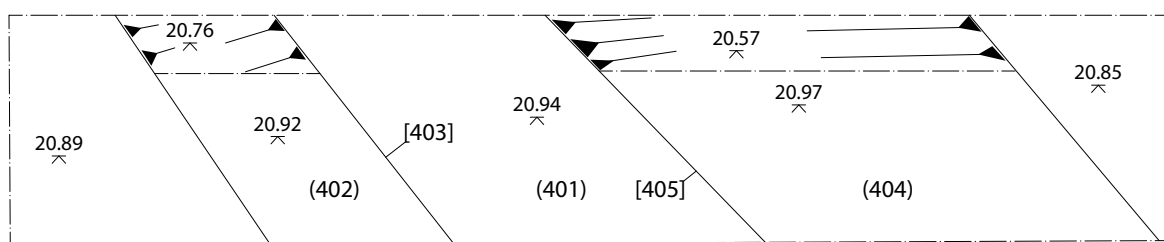
Trench 2



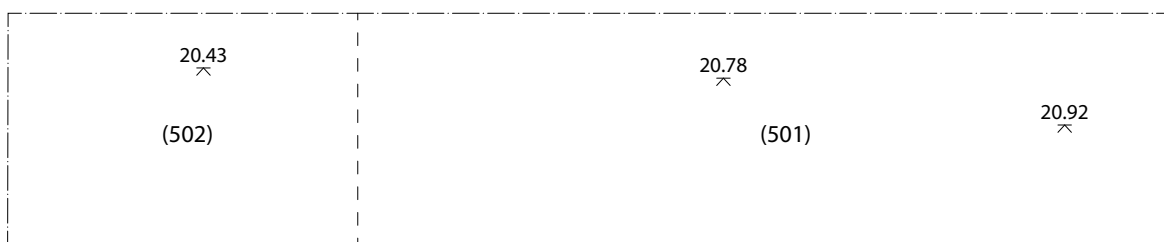
Trench 3



Trench 4



Trench 5



Sockburn Hall, County Durham  
NGR NZ 34885 07155



Fieldwork: NB, DC, CS  
Drawn: SW  
Drawing Version: 1.0

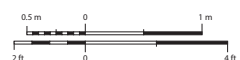
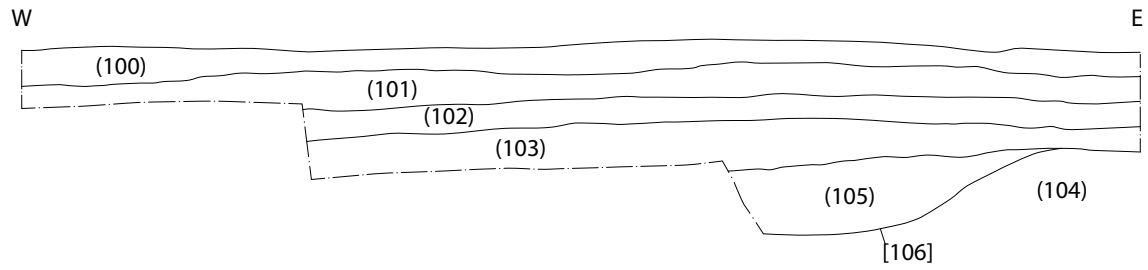


Figure 16 Trench plans

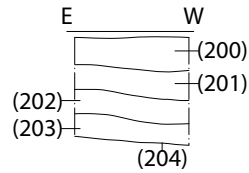
All elevations are given in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD)

This drawing is for planning purposes and is not considered to be a construction drawing. Do not scale to this drawing. All dimensions are to be checked on site prior to commencement. This drawing is copyright Solstice Heritage.

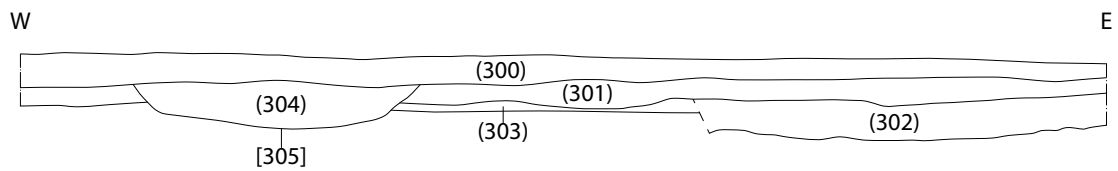
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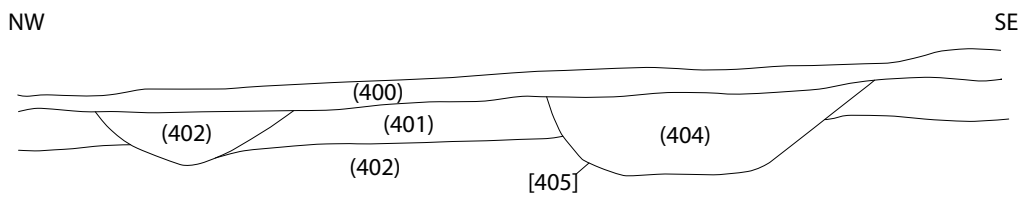
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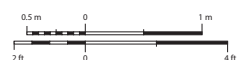
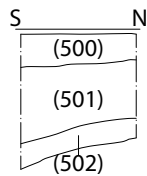
Trench 3



Trench 4



Trench 5



## APPENDIX 3 – POLICY AND GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK

### 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 5 Legislation relating to relevant cultural heritage in planning

### POLICY

The principal instrument of national planning policy within England is the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (MHCLG 2021), which outlines the following in relation to cultural heritage within planning and development:

Paragraph	Key Points
8	Contributing to protecting and enhancing the historic environment is specifically noted as being a part of one of the key objectives contributing to sustainable development.
194	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".
195	Paragraph 190 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.
199	'Great weight' should be given to the conservation of a designated heritage asset irrespective of the level of 'harm' of a proposed development. However, the more important the asset, the greater the weight given.
200	'Harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage assets...should require clear and convincing justification'. In terms of the levels of designated heritage assets, substantial harm to Grade II listed buildings and parks and gardens should be exceptional, and to all other (the highest significance of) designated assets wholly exceptional.
201	Substantial harm to a designated heritage asset will be refused unless it is outweighed by substantial public benefits.

Paragraph	Key Points
202	Where there is 'less than substantial harm' to a designated heritage asset, the decision will weigh this harm against the public benefit of the proposal 'including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use'.
203	For decisions affecting 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'.

Table 6 Key passages of NPPF in reference to cultural heritage (archaeology)

## 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 *Borough of Darlington Local Plan (2001)* and the *Core Strategy (2011)*. It should also be noted that there is currently also an emerging local plan undergoing consultation. Within the *Local Plan* and the *Core Strategy*, the following are key policies with reference to cultural heritage and the nature of the proposed development:

Policy	Key Points
CS14	<p>Promoting Local Character and Distinctiveness</p> <p>The distinctive character of the Borough's built, historic, natural and environmental townscapes, landscapes and strong sense of place will be protected and, where appropriate, enhanced by:</p> <p>E. Protecting, enhancing and promoting the quality and integrity of Darlington's distinctive designated national or nationally significant built heritage and archaeology as well as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11. buildings, their settings and features of historic and archaeological local importance in Conservation Areas;</li> <li>12. buildings, features and landmarks on the local list;</li> <li>13. buildings and features that reflect Darlington's railway, industrial and Quaker heritage; and</li> <li>14. buildings on the local 'at risk' register.</li> </ul>

Table 7 Key local planning policies with reference to cultural heritage

## GUIDANCE

### 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) (MHCLG 2019)	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 Archaeological Field Evaluation (ClfA revised 2020a)	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 8 Guidance documentation consulted

## APPENDIX 4 – METHODOLOGY

### FIELDWORK

The archaeological excavation works involved the excavation of up to five trenches, all measuring up to 10 m x 2 m, which were located to investigate areas of impact by the proposed development and evaluate the character of subsurface anomalies identified through geophysical survey. All trenches were excavated as intended, except Trench 4 which, due to existing planting, was moved slightly to the west and realigned north-west to south-east to retain the strong geophysical anomaly it was intended to investigate.

The excavation was undertaken with a back acting mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision, to the first archaeological horizon. Following initial excavation, the trenches were cleaned and recorded to specified standards as set out below by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

### RECORDING METHODOLOGY

All archaeological features were recorded on *pro forma* sheets, creating a primary written record accompanied by drawn and photographic records. The drawn record comprised 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 of the monitoring was undertaken in high-resolution digital format. Photographs were taken of all archaeological and palaeoenvironmental features in addition to general trench photography locating the individual features in their wider context.

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

### FINDS

Given the relatively small size of the area to be monitored, all finds were initially retained and bagged by context for assessment at the post-fieldwork stage. Finds were 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’ were uncovered then the local Coroner was to be informed and the correct procedures were to be followed as outlined under the Treasure Act 1996. In the event of human remains being uncovered, including evidence of cremations, these were to be initially left in situ, protected, and covered from view. Should removal of the remains be deemed necessary then a licence was to be obtained from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) prior to excavation proceeding. Exhumation of human remains would then proceed in accordance with the MoJ licence and all health and safety regulations and guidance.

### SCIENTIFIC AND PALAEOENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING STRATEGY

Given the uncertainty of the presence or level of archaeological remains likely to be encountered as part of the monitoring, the general aim of the scientific and palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy was: ‘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’.

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

All archaeological work was undertaken in a safe manner in compliance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. A full risk assessment was undertaken in advance of the commencement of work, a copy of which was available on site for the duration of the fieldwork.

### FINDS PROCESSING

All finds were 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 2020b).





## SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

After processing, artefacts and ecofacts were to be quantified and assessed to provide an overview of their potential to meet the aims and objectives of the project. This was to be undertaken by a relevant specialist as agreed in the WSI and include a statement on the potential and requirement for further analysis. Where extensive analysis was recommended and justified by the potential of the assemblage or sample, then this was to be undertaken after agreement with the client and Historic England.

## ARCHIVING

The lack of material archive arising from the monitoring works means that this report is submitted to the County Durham HER as the primary record of the work undertaken. This report will also be made available as part of an OASIS record for the project under the OASIS ID **solstice1-503147**.

## 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
Prepared by:	Scott Williams BSc (Hons), PhD, MCIfA Solstice Heritage LLP Crabtree Hall Little Holtby Northallerton North Yorkshire DL7 9LN
Project Reference:	SOL2122-36
Document Reference:	DOC2122-35
Date of Document:	August 2021
Document Version:	1.2



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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 is required by both Historic England and Durham County Council in advance of proposed development within gardens to the south-west of the grade II\* listed Sockburn Hall (NHLE 1116156), and immediately north of the scheduled medieval and post-medieval manors at Sockburn (NHLE 1002340). This evaluation is required to understand the presence and character of the archaeological resource within the area of the garden to potentially inform the design of the project and best strategy going forwards.

## 1.2 SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

The proposed development area is situated to the south-west of Sockburn Hall, in a garden immediately north of a north-east to south-west aligned avenue adjacent to the scheduled medieval and post-medieval manors, centred on National Grid Reference NZ 34885 07155. The garden is surrounded by established mature trees on all sides. There is some potential for the presence of subsurface archaeological features, as identified through geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2021)

The evaluation will comprise:

- The excavation of five targeted trenches measuring 2 m x 10 m (Figures 2 and 3).

## 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 3 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, Durham County Council Historic Environment Record Officer, 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).



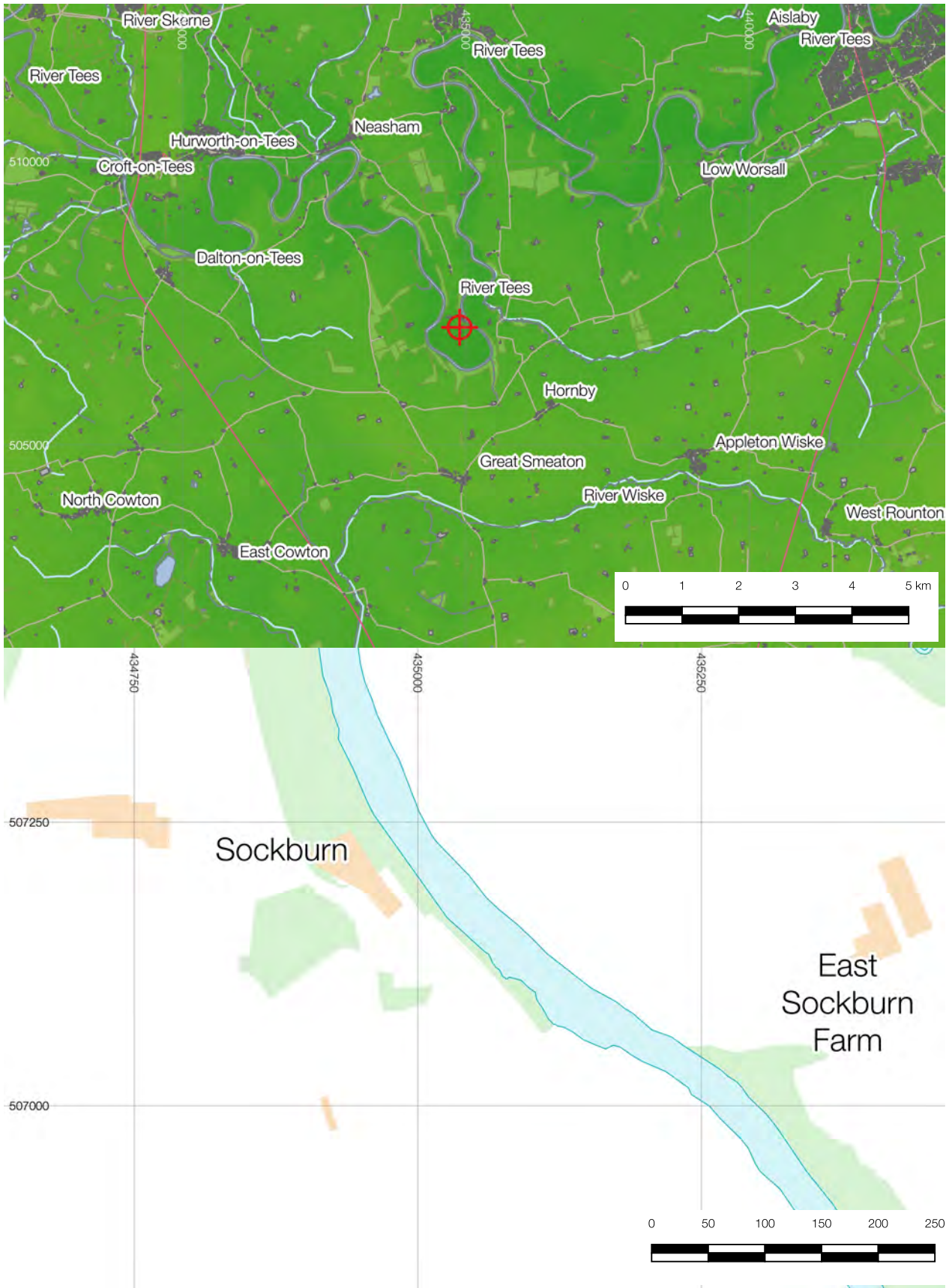


Figure 1 Site Location





## 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.

A geophysical survey was undertaken within the area of the garden (Magnitude Surveys 2021). Whilst a degree of magnetic disturbance along the boundaries limited the confidence in the results, several magnetic anomalies suggestive of possible archaeological features were identified. These anomalies may relate to the use of the area as a garden (historically and currently), or to the Scheduled medieval and post-medieval manors located immediately to the south.

### 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 presence, character, and condition of the potential archaeological resource within the area of the garden to the south-west of Sockburn Hall.

The objectives of the evaluation are:

- To attempt to establish the condition and character of any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits that would be impacted by the proposed development works
- 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* (2020a) and the *Standards for all Archaeological Work in County Durham and Darlington* (DCCAS 2021)
- To ensure compliance with the WSI (this document)

## 4. METHODOLOGY

Where not otherwise stated, the DCC standard will apply (DCCAS 2021).

### 4.1 TRENCH LOCATION

The evaluation will comprise 5 no. archaeological evaluation trenches measuring 2 m x 10 m with a 1% contingency retained should it be required. The proposed trenches, shown on Figures 2 and 3, have been located to investigate areas of impact of the proposed development to best evaluate the character of the subsurface anomalies identified through geophysical survey.

- Trench 1 is aligned north-west to south-east to investigate both weak and strong anomalies aligned along a north-north-east to south-south-west orientation
- Trench 2 is aligned perpendicular to Trench 1 to investigate a differently aligned anomaly within the south-east of the garden.
- Trench 3 is aligned north-north-east to south-south-west over strong anomalies within the northern area of the garden
- Trench 4 is aligned north-west to south-east to investigate a strong anomaly and a blank area in the north of the garden
- Trench 5 is aligned north-west to south-east to investigate an area that was masked by magnetic disturbance

### 4.2 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

Initial excavation will be undertaken with a back acting mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision, to the first archaeological horizon. Where standing structures are encountered, their full extent within the trench will be exposed and recorded. Where cut features are exposed, they will be cleaned and delimited as much as is practicable within the area of the trench and investigated using the sampling strategy outlined in the table below. Where cut features contain material culture or palaeoenvironmental remains of significance then they will be subject to a more rigorous sampling strategy, usually including 100% excavation of fill material and palaeoenvironmental sampling as detailed in section 4.6 below. All intersections of features will be investigated in a manner appropriate to ascertain their stratigraphic relationship.

The evaluation trenching will continue in a controlled manner until natural substratum has been reached, in order to ensure that all archaeological features and strata are adequately characterised. Given the topographical and geomorphological setting of the proposed development site, it is not anticipated that there will be a need for a 'second strip' to remove alluvial or colluvial sediment units that may have buried earlier remains.

Size/Nature of Feature	Minimum percentage of fill excavated and sampled	Maximum percentage of fill excavated (where justified by nature and contents deposit)
Cut feature less than c.1m in diameter or equivalent area	50%	100%
Cut feature greater than c.1m in diameter or equivalent area	25% or until form, function and date can be adequately characterised	100%
Linear features	10% in 1m slots evenly spaced along the length of the features though focussing on junctions and relationships with other features where present. Minimum sample of 2m where the linear feature is less than 20m in total length. Sufficient slots will be excavated up to the maximum of 50% until form, function and date can be adequately characterised	50%

Table 1 Sampling strategy for investigation of cut features

#### 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 work 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 of the monitoring 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.

All trenches 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 FINDS

All finds will be initially retained and bagged by context for assessment at the post-fieldwork stage. 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 Durham County Council Historic Environment Record Officer, a feature-specific sampling strategy will be agreed with the client and the Durham County Council Historic Environment Record Officer. Sampling and assessment methodologies will follow best practice as set out in relevant guidance documents, including *Environmental Archaeology* (English Heritage 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, Durham County Council Historic Environment Record Officer, 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 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* (CIfA 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, Durham County Council Historic Environment Record Officer, 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, Durham County Council Historic Environment Record Officer, 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 an appropriate repository. The archive will be compiled in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (CIfA 2020c) and the *Standards for all Archaeological Work in County Durham and Darlington* (DCCAS 2021, 18–19).

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
- All born 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).

All born 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* (DCCAS 2021, 18–19), 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 web-site. 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 Durham County Council Historic Environment Record Officer. 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 Durham County Council Historic Environment Record Officer 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 Nathan Berry 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 Local Authority Historic Environment Officer and 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	Independent specialist TimeVista Archaeology
Prehistoric pottery	Jim Brightman	Solstice Heritage LLP
Romano-British Pottery	Alex Croom	Tyne and Wear Archives & Museums
Roman brick/tile	Alex Croom	Tyne and Wear Archives & Museums
Early glasswork	Dr Hilary Cool	Barbican Research Associates
Medieval/Post-medieval pottery	Paul Blinkhorn	Independent specialist
Archaeometallurgy	Dr Gerry McDonnell	Independent specialist
Clay pipe	Dr Susie White	University of Liverpool
Industrial/later glasswork	Chris Howard-Davies Jim Brightman	Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) Solstice Heritage LLP
Industrial/later metalwork	Chris Scott	Solstice Heritage LLP
Industrial/later metalwork Medieval/later CBM	Jim Brightman	ARS Ltd 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	Louisa Gidney	ASDU
All dating techniques	Dr Gordon Cook	Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC)

Table 2 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 anticipated that the groundworks be undertaken during September 2021. A minimum of two weeks' notice of commencement of groundworks will be given to the Local Authority Historic Environment Officer and 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 Durham County Council Archaeology Service contact for monitoring of the project will be:

Nick Boldrini  
Historic Environment Record Officer  
Archaeology Section  
Environment & Design,  
Environment,  
Neighbourhoods and Climate Change  
Durham County Council  
County Hall  
Durham  
DH1 5UQ

Direct Line: 03000 267008  
E-mail: [nick.boldrini@durham.gov.uk](mailto:nick.boldrini@durham.gov.uk)

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

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

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Magnitude Surveys. 2021. *Geophysical Survey Report, Sockburn Hall, Darlington, County Durham*. Unpublished Report Ref: MSNZ965.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). 2019a. *National Planning Policy Framework*. London, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

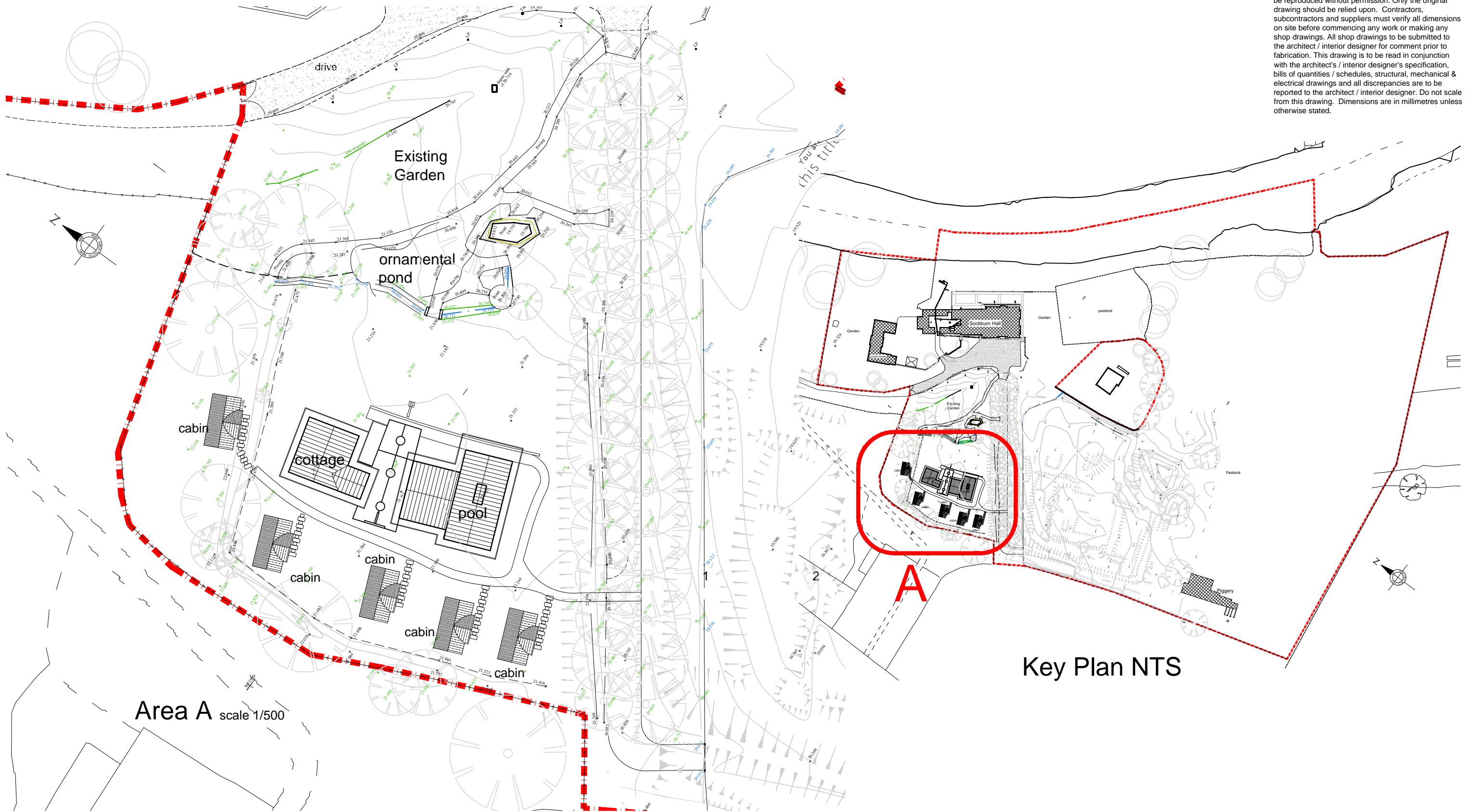
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). 2019b. *National Planning Practice Guidance*. London, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

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 - PROPOSED SITE PLANS



Copyright. All rights reserved. This drawing must not be reproduced without permission. Only the original drawing should be relied upon. Contractors, subcontractors and suppliers must verify all dimensions on site before commencing any work or making any shop drawings. All shop drawings to be submitted to the architect / interior designer for comment prior to fabrication. This drawing is to be read in conjunction with the architect's / interior designer's specification, bills of quantities / schedules, structural, mechanical & electrical drawings and all discrepancies are to be reported to the architect / interior designer. Do not scale from this drawing. Dimensions are in millimetres unless otherwise stated.



Key Plan NTS

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interior design  
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admin@cardesign.co.uk



C	Foot path amended	12/11/20
B	Parking between trees removed	10/11/20
T0	ISSUED FOR	
rev	amendments	date by

project  
Sockburn Hall Neasham  
Site levels

drawing title  
Proposed Site Plans

scale @ A3  
1/500

client  
Mr G Hughes  
Sockburn Hall  
Neasham

drawing status  
Planning

job no.  
1918

drawing no.  
SP-100-01

revision  
**C**

## APPENDIX 2 - POLICY AND GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK

### LEGISLATION

National legislation which applies to the consideration of cultural heritage within the proposed project is set out in Table 3 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 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.

Table 3 Legislation relating to relevant cultural heritage in planning

### POLICY

#### NATIONAL

The principal instrument of national planning policy within England is the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (MHCLG 2019a) which outlines the following in relation to cultural heritage within planning and development:

Para.	Key Points
8	Contributing to protecting and enhancing the historic environment is specifically noted as being a part of one of the key objectives contributing to sustainable development.
189	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".
190	Paragraph 190 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.
193	'Great weight' should be given the conservation of a designated heritage asset irrespective of the level of 'harm' of a proposed development. However, the more important the asset, the greater the weight given.
194	'Harm to, or loss of, the significance of a designated heritage assets...should require clear and convincing justification'. In terms of the levels of designated heritage assets, substantial harm to Grade II listed buildings and parks and gardens should be exceptional, and to all other (the highest significance of) designated assets wholly exceptional.
195	Substantial harm to a designated heritage asset will be refused unless it is outweighed by substantial public benefits.
196	Where there is 'less than substantial harm' to a designated heritage asset, the decision will weigh this harm against the public benefit of the proposal 'including, where appropriate, securing its optimum viable use'.
197	For decisions affecting 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'.

Table 4 Key passages of NPPF in reference to cultural heritage (archaeology)



## 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 Borough of Darlington Local Plan (2001) and the Core Strategy (2011). It should also be noted that there is currently also an emerging local plan undergoing consultation. Within the Local Plan and the Core Strategy, the following are key policies with reference to cultural heritage and the nature of the proposed development:

Policy	Text
CS14	<p>Promoting Local Character and Distinctiveness</p> <p>The distinctive character of the Borough's built, historic, natural and environmental townscapes, landscapes and strong sense of place will be protected and, where appropriate, enhanced by:</p> <p>E. Protecting, enhancing and promoting the quality and integrity of Darlington's distinctive designated national or nationally significant built heritage and archaeology as well as:</p> <p>11. buildings, their settings and features of historic and archaeological local importance in Conservation Areas;</p> <p>12. buildings, features and landmarks on the local list;</p> <p>13. buildings and features that reflect Darlington's railway, industrial and Quaker heritage; and</p> <p>14. buildings on the local 'at risk' register.</p>

Table 5 Summary of relevant local planning policy

## GUIDANCE

### 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) (MHCLG 2019b)	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 (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 Watching Briefs (ClfA revised 2020a)	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 6 National guidance documentation consulted

## APPENDIX 3 – 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).
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- 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.

