

**Woodside Avenue,
Throckley,
Newcastle upon Tyne**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

An archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken by AD Archaeology on behalf of Newcastle City Council, at the junction of Woodside Avenue and Hexham Road, Throckley. The line of Hadrian's Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Scheduled Ancient Monument, is known to lie beneath the southern carriageway of Hexham Road. It was suggested that sandstone fragments recorded during an earlier evaluation immediately below the tarmac road surface may have been associated with Hadrian's Wall with another stone layer representing the Military Road. A similar layer of sandstone fragments was observed during the watching brief, which were probably associated with the modern road and of no archaeological significance.

AD ARCHAEOLOGY SHORT REPORT / ADVICE NOTE

Site:	Junction of Woodside Avenue and Hexham Road, Throckley, Newcastle upon Tyne. SAM Tyne & Wear No. 28 (21): HA 1003796
NGR	NZ 146 668
Reason for intervention:	Installation of kerb line associated with traffic calming measures.
Dimensions of trenches:	20.20m x 0.40m-0.70m x 25m deep.
Method of Excavation:	Excavated by Machine, under archaeological observation.
Results:	<p>Natural subsoil consisting of yellow clay (1) was observed at two locations along the north-south length of trench at a depth of 0.30m below ground level (plate 1). A small sondage excavated by hand to a depth of 0.30m through the deposit confirmed that it was natural in origin rather than a redeposited layer. The subsoil (1) was overlain by fragments of sandstone (2) that formed a coherent tightly packed layer of mainly pitched stones particularly within the eastern portion of the east-west length of the trench (plate 2). The stones were laid amongst a matrix of mainly fine ash and clinker.</p> <p>Layer (2) was overlain by a road bedding layer (3), composed of stone chippings and tar. This deposit extended throughout the trench and was cut by a service trench (4). A layer of reinforced concrete (5) was visible along the northwest edge of the trench running under Hexham Road. The main body of the trench was cut through the existing tarmac road surface (6).</p>
Finds:	-

Conclusions:	The watching brief established that the sandstone fragments and possible metallurgy identified within the earlier evaluation trench (Welch 2013), and recorded as layer (2) within the watching brief, were unlikely to be associated with Hadrian's Wall. They extended beyond the Wall's projected line (fig 2) established during the insertion of a sewer pipe along the southern carriageway of Hexham Road in 1980 (Bennett 1983 p30). Layer (2) probably represented 19th/20th century bedding associated with the construction of Hexham Road and the later Woodside Avenue. The stony layer (2) remained undisturbed during the watching brief (Plate 2) with the exception of a small sondage excavated through the southern edge of the deposit (Plate 1). The clay deposit recorded within the evaluation trench and watching brief represents insitu natural clay subsoil.
Recorded by:	Warren Muncaster
Date of Observation:	26 th June 2013.

Bibliography

Bennett J. 1983 'The Examination of Turret 10A and the Wall and Vallum at Throckley, Tyne and Wear, 1980' *Archaeologia Aeliana* 11, p27-60

Welch J. 2013 Report on 2013 Evaluation, Woodside Avenue, Throckley, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne NE159BJ, NZ1610866843 (unpublished report for Newcastle City Council)

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Description
01	Natural clay subsoil
02	Sandstone bedding layer
03	Bedding for road
04	Service Trench
05	Reinforced concrete layer
06	Tarmac road surface

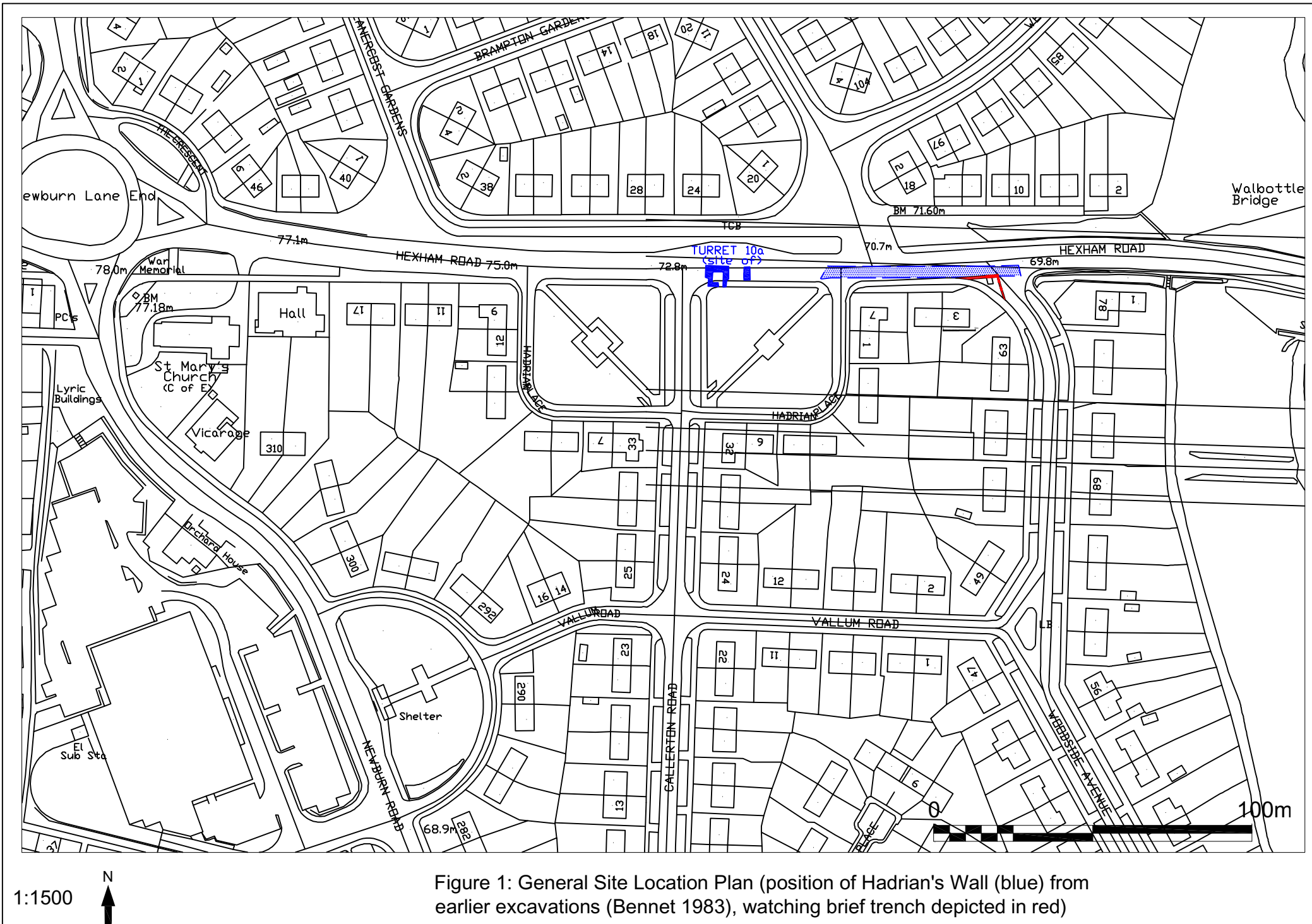


Figure 1: General Site Location Plan (position of Hadrian's Wall (blue) from earlier excavations (Bennet 1983), watching brief trench depicted in red)

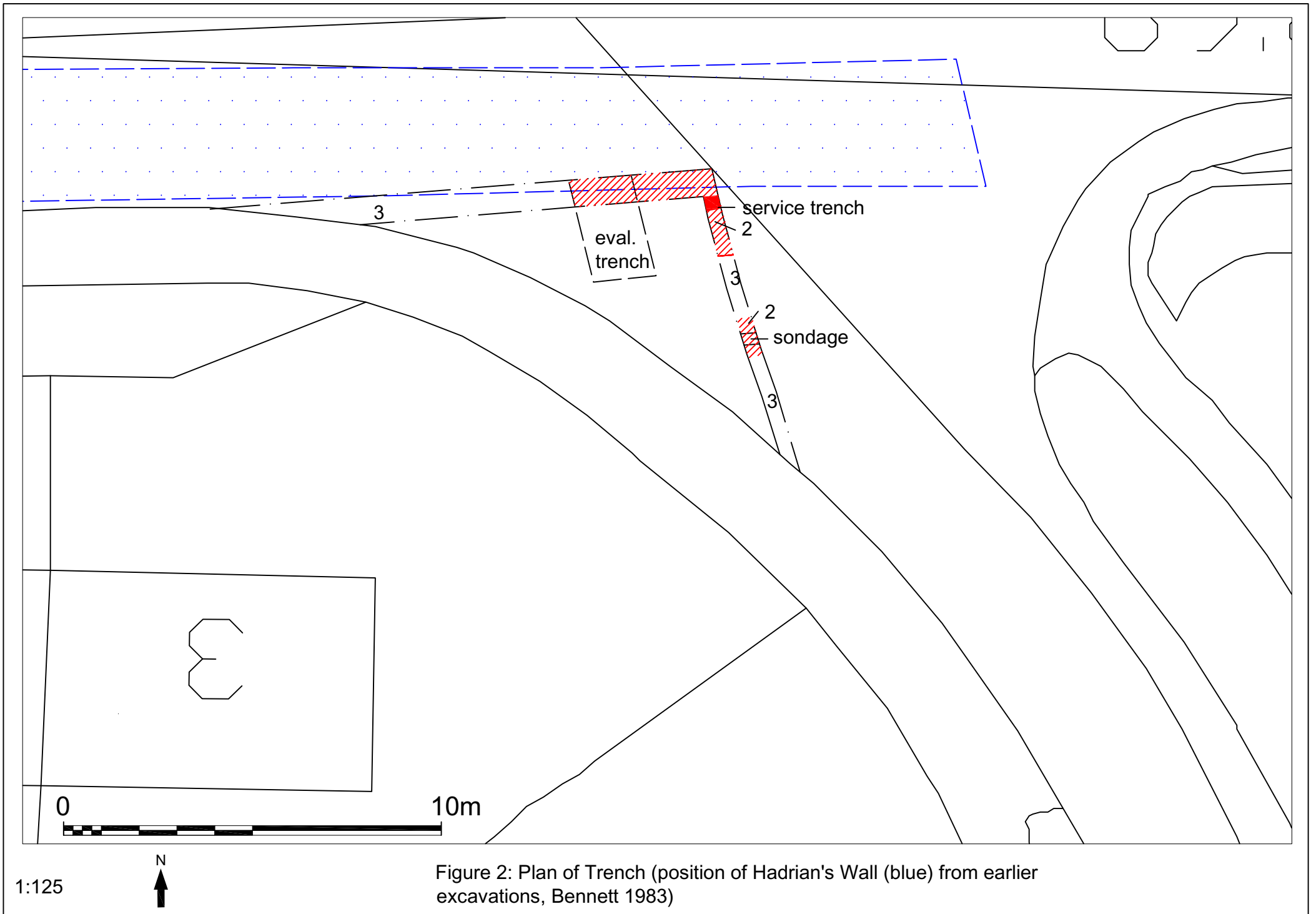


Figure 2: Plan of Trench (position of Hadrian's Wall (blue) from earlier excavations, Bennett 1983)



Plate 1



Plate 2

Plate 1: North-South length of trench, facing north

Plate 2: East-West length of trench showing stone bedding layer (3), facing west



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