

AD011

**The Bungalow,
Harlow Hill,
Northumberland
Archaeological Excavation**



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A small archaeological excavation was undertaken by AD Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Northumbrian Water Ltd (NWL), to enable the connection of a new residential supply from the existing water main within the roadside to The Bungalow, Harlow Hill, Northumberland. The line of Hadrian's Wall is scheduled at this point (Monument no. 26040, HA1010618). Scheduled Monument Consent was granted for the works subject to conditions which specified that no nationally important archaeological remains would be destroyed by the work, and that NWL would not proceed with any excavations that threaten such remains.

No deposits or features associated with Hadrian's Wall were encountered within the trench. The only feature of interest was a shallow cut (104) identified at the northern end of the trench that appeared to be aligned with the existing road to the south. Its position along the frontage of the property boundaries of the village suggest it may be an associated gully running along this line. The stony layer (102) underlying the path and extending on top of the silted cut (104) may have been associated with a surface associated with the farm, predating the tarmac path and road surface.

1 Introduction

1.1 An archaeological excavation was undertaken by AD Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Northumbrian Water Ltd (NWL) in order to enable the connection of a new residential supply from the existing water main in the roadside immediately outside The Bungalow, Harlow Hill, Northumberland (fig. 1). The line of Hadrian's Wall is scheduled at this point (Monument no. 26040, HA1010618). Scheduled Monument Consent was granted for the works subject to conditions which specified that no nationally important archaeological remains would be destroyed by the work, and that NWL would not proceed with any excavations that threaten such remains.

2 Site location and scope of works (figs. 1, 2; plates 1, 2)

2.1 The site is situated within the hamlet of Harlow Hill which lies on the summit of a hill, 5km west of Heddon-on-the-Wall. The trench lay within the verge, path and northern edge of the B6318 road immediately south of the boundary wall of The Bungalow, Harlow Hill (NGR NZ 0796 6829). The trench was necessary to make a connection to the water main which ran along the northern edge of the road in this location.

2.2 The trench was situated on the northern periphery of a scheduled area (Monument no. 26040, HA1010618) north of the line of the Wall Ditch, associated with Hadrian's Wall (Wall Mile 15).

3 Archaeological Background

3.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 2 of this report) contains a detailed summary of the archaeological background of the site (section 3).

4 Methodology

4.1 The trench measured up to 0.68m wide by 3m in length and between 0.57-1.02m deep. It was excavated by NWL employees who utilised a breaker to cut through the path and road surface under constant archaeological supervision.

5 Results (figs. 2-4; plate 3)

5.1 Natural subsoil consisting of yellow sandy clay (107) was observed at a minimum depth of 0.26m below ground level. At the northern end of the trench the subsoil (107) was cut by a feature (104) which extended beyond the edge of the trench. Only the southern side of cut 104 was visible, which appeared to be orientated northwest-southeast following the same orientation as the road and the property boundaries of the village (fig. 2). In profile it was moderately sloped with a flattish base and measured 0.20m in depth. No dating evidence was recovered from the feature which was filled with greyish brown clayey sand (103).

5.2 The fill (103) was overlain by a stony layer (102) that extended throughout the northern portion of the trench where it lay directly on top of the clay

subsoil (107). Layer 102 consisted of mainly rounded sandstone fragments and may represent an earlier post-medieval surface associated with this lane. The surface of layer 102 was overlain by the tarmac path surface (101) and a turf layer (100) within the verge. Elsewhere, within the road surface to the south the natural subsoil was disturbed by cuts associated with modern services (106) overlain by the existing tarmac road surface (105).

5 Discussion

5.1 No deposits or features associated with Hadrian's Wall were encountered within the trench which lay to the north of the projected line of the Wall Ditch that runs along the north side of the Wall itself (fig 2). The only feature of interest was an undated shallow cut (104) identified at the northern end of the trench that appeared to be aligned with the existing road to the south. It may represent a gully associated with the frontage of village plots alongside the road or simply a roadside gully. The stony layer (102) underlying the path and extending on top of the silted cut (104) may have been associated with a surface predating the tarmac path and road surface.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Description
100	Turf
101	Tarmac path
102	Stony layer/ surface?
103	Fill of cut 104
104	Cut
105	Tarmac road surface
106	Service Trench
107	Natural clay subsoil

APPENDIX 2: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Excavation for a new connection to the water main at The Bungalow, Harlow Hill, Northumberland, within Wall Mile 15.

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Northumbrian Water Ltd (NWL) proposes to undertake an archaeological excavation to enable the connection of a new residential supply from the existing water main at the roadside verge immediately outside The Bungalow, Harlow Hill, Northumberland, under a Class Consent. The line of Hadrian's Wall is scheduled at this point (Monument no. 26040, HA1010618) and Scheduled Monument Consent has been granted for the works subject to certain conditions. These include that an archaeological excavation is undertaken to the depth of the proposed works (indicated on figure 1) for which this document represents the Written Scheme of Investigation.

1.2 If significant archaeological deposits are encountered then all excavation, other than that to allow the cleaning and characterization of those deposits, will cease and English Heritage will be informed and a consultation arranged between representatives of NWL and English Heritage. **It should be noted that English Heritage has indicated that any consent issued will be granted on the basis that no nationally important archaeological remains will be destroyed by the work, other than for initial cleaning and characterization purposes, and that NWL will not proceed with any excavations that threaten such remains.**

2 Site Location and Scope of Works

2.1 The site is situated within the hamlet of Harlow Hill on the summit of the hill, 5km west of Heddon-on-the-Wall. The area of the proposed work lies within the verge along the northern edge of the B6318 road immediately south of the boundary wall of a dwelling known as The Bungalow, (NGR NZ 0796 6829), where Northumbrian Water intend to make a connection to the water main by means of excavating a single trench of 1 to 2 m by approximately 4m in length by up to 1.1m deep.

2.2 The line of Hadrian's Wall within Wall Mile 15 is scheduled at this point (Monument no. 26040, HA1010618) (refer Section 3).

2.3 Throughout the work the relevant bodies responsible for Hadrian's Wall will be kept informed, principally Mr M. Collins, English Heritage's, Inspector of Ancient Monuments (Hadrian's Wall).

3 Archaeological Background

Prehistoric

3.1 Harlow Hill occupies a prominent position that would have represented an attractive site for prehistoric activity, funerary or settlement. Evidence of this is

suggested by the possible Neolithic long mound recorded in the 19th century on Harlow Hill and now lost to quarrying (Keys to the past N10029).

Roman

3.2 The area of the proposed work falls within the area of Wall Mile 15 (which is the sector running from Milecastle 15, a surviving earthwork south of the B6318 road, situated east of a stream to Harlow Hill (the site of Milecastle 16, on the crest of the hill). The site lies 3.3km west of Rudchester Roman Fort. Hadrian's Wall formed part of the defensive system of the northern frontier of the Roman Empire in Britain between the early second and the early fifth centuries AD, and the general history, development, form, and function of the Wall is adequately summarised in Breeze and Dobson (2000), while a description of the remains is provided by Daniels (1978), Breeze (2006), and more recently Hodgson (2009). The Wall and associated features including the Wall Ditch, Vallum, turrets, and milecastles is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, and together these features are recognised as part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

3.3 The Wall consisted of a wall up to 3m in width, with an estimated height of between 3.60m and 4.50m. Along its length milecastles (effectively small garrisoned fortlets) were situated a Roman mile apart from each other and between each of these were two smaller turrets (effectively watchtowers).

3.4 At a distance of approximately 6m to the north of the Wall lay a V-profiled ditch, c.3m in depth and 8 - 12m in width, known as the Wall Ditch. Between the Wall Ditch and the Wall lies a flat area known as the berm. Recent work at the eastern end of the wall at Wallsend (Bidwell and Griffiths 1999), Throckley (Frain 2003a; Frain, McKelvey and Bidwell 2005) and Byker (McKelvey and Bidwell 2005) has established the existence of an additional defensive feature in the form of pits forming settings for an entanglement (known as *cippi*: Bidwell 2005).

3.5 Further, traces of Roman agricultural activity, to the north of the Wall Ditch, has been found in two locations at Wallsend (Griffiths 1993), while at Birdoswald buildings were noted north of the Wall during geophysical survey (Biggins and Taylor 2004, 167-8).

3.6 To the south of the Wall, and parallel with it, ran an access/link road, known today as the 'Military Way', consisting of a stone founded road, some 6.00m in width. The distance from the curtain Wall to this road varies along the line of the Wall, however, its precise location in this sector is believed to be immediately to the north of the north mound of the Vallum.

3.7 A further feature of the Wall system is the Vallum (which usually consist of a flat-bottomed ditch 6.50m wide and 3m deep, with the upcast spoil resulting from the digging of this ditch was formed into a continuous bank on either side, commonly referred to as the north and south mounds).

3.8 Wall Mile 15

3.8.1 Within Wall Mile 15 all of the attendant structures attached to the Wall have been located. The site of Milecastle 15 lies approximately 1.35km to the east of the proposed work; while that of Milecastle 16 (Harlow Hill) lies approximately 0.24km to the west its exact location not yet established with certainty. Trenching in 1961 failed to identify its position (Birley 1961). The site may be indicated by a slight platform in the corner of a field south of the B6318 at the Ordnance Survey published position although an English Heritage field investigator (Mark Bowdon, 1989) suggested that its shape raises doubts as to whether it represents such a monument. The two turrets, 15a and 15b, were located in 1931, and lie approximately 835m and 300m, respectively, to the west of the proposed work.

3.8.2 The Curtain Wall, for most of the length of Wall Mile 15 lies beneath the B6318 road, except a short length at the western end where its line lay to the south of the road and is visible as a mound. Various widths have been recorded for the Curtain Wall in this area: 2.23m (7 ft 4 in) in the nineteenth century and 2.79m (9ft 2in) in 1929 (Breeze 2006, 173). The narrower widths may relate to narrowing during construction or later repairs (*ibid.*).

Medieval

3.9.1 Harlow Hill is the site of a shrunken medieval village which in AD1297 was the property of the Lords of Prudhoe (Keys to the past N10026).

4 Impact Assessment

4.1 The trench will not go beyond the level of excavation required to characterise Roman archaeological deposits which will not be disturbed during this proposed work. It is possible that highly significant archaeological deposits may exist:

- The line of the Curtain Wall runs south of the B6318 road, and will therefore not be impacted by the work.
- The line of the Wall ditch runs along the southern edge and to the south of the B6318 road. Although it is likely that if present an associated counterscarp mound built on the north side of the ditch will lie beyond the limit of the work, there remains a possibility that it may extend within the area of the work.
- Prehistoric layers and features may exist close to the proposed work, as it is becoming increasingly evident from excavations along the length of the Wall that deposits of prehistoric date have been preserved beneath Hadrian's Wall and its earthworks, such as the plough marks found beneath the Wall at West Denton (Bidwell & Watson 1996,8-17).
- Features and deposits associated with the medieval village may be present.

4.2 The archaeological potential, listed above, and the location of the work within a Scheduled Ancient Monument area requires the archaeological excavation of any proposed ground disturbance to ensure that all archaeological deposits are adequately recorded.

5 Research Questions

5.1 The proposed work is not extensive enough to offer an outstanding opportunity for research into the Northern Military Frontier; however, it offers the possibility of establishing the depth and survival of stratigraphy in this area.

6 Fieldwork Methodology for the Excavation

Any excavation work must be undertaken by an archaeologist or under close archaeological supervision.

Specific

6.1 The proposed methodology is as follows:

- i) Excavate a trench approximately 4m in length by less than 2m by up to 1.1 m in depth to the level of the existing water main.
- ii) Carry out connection to the existing water main.
- iii) Backfill trench and reinstate ground.

6.2 Compacted modern material such as the path or road surface can be initially removed mechanically using a toothed bucket provided care is made not to damage underlying deposits. Other unstratified modern material can be removed mechanically by a machine using a toothless blade. This machine stripping will be carried out under continuous archaeological supervision

6.3 The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed in successive level spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil, whichever is encountered first.

6.4 All of the intrusive work (6.1, 6.2, 6.3 above) **will be undertaken under the direction of an archaeologist who will maintain a continuous archaeological presence. If considered necessary due to potential archaeological sensitivity the archaeologist can hand-excavate deposits during the works.**

6.5 **Enough time will be allowed by Northumbrian Water and their Contractor to enable any archaeological deposits revealed during the work to be adequately investigated and recorded. However, in line with NWL's Scheduled Monument Consent, if intact Roman archaeological remains are encountered, these will need to remain *in-situ*, and the proposed works would need to be undertaken around them. English Heritage shall be informed of any *in-situ* Roman remains and consulted before any mitigation to the initial proposal of works is implemented. This is to ensure that the correct and necessary protection of the remains is considered and applied to any revised scheme of works.**

6.6 All archaeological work will be carried out by AD Archaeology Ltd. staff to the general methodology given below (6.6 onwards). Backfilling of the trench

and subsequent reinstatement will be carried out by NWL and their Contractors but not under archaeological supervision.

6.7 Where there is an opportunity to sample any significant and sealed deposits samples up to 30 litres in volume will be taken, and selected 5-litre samples will be submitted to a recognised specialist for micro- and macro-fossil analysis. This general sampling strategy has been discussed previously on similar projects with Dr Jacqui Huntley, Advisor to English Heritage North-Eastern Region.

General

6.8 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and will follow the IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.

6.9 AD Archaeology will provide copies of current insurance certificates for undertaking archaeological work on demand

6.10 All staff will be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles with practical experience of excavating Roman and prehistoric sites. Curriculum Vitae available on request.

6.11 All staff will familiarise themselves with the results of previous assessments, watching briefs and excavations in the immediate area prior to the start of work. All staff must be aware of the work required under the specification, and must understand the project aims and methodologies. This will involve the systematic examination and accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and artefacts identified.

6.12 AD Archaeology will be made aware in advance of scheme timetables and when their presence will be required on site. A clear line of communication will be established between the NWL, their Contactor, and AD Archaeology.

7 Recording

7.1 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings will be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate. A plan of the trench will be tied into the national grid.

7.2 All deposits and features encountered as well as the base of the post settings will be adequately levelled. The depth at which the highest point of each context will be recorded both in terms of above Ordnance Datum and depth beneath present ground level, and a table showing this data will be included in the report.

7.3 A photographic record of all contexts will be taken in colour digital format and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale.

8 Report Preparation

8.1 On the completion of the fieldwork an Archive Report will be prepared, which will be submitted by the archaeologist to English Heritage and to the Northumberland County SMR/HER within three months of completion of the work. The Archive Report will detail the stratigraphical history of the site and will contain a full textual account setting out the significance of the structural, artefactual and paleoenvironmental evidence.

8.2 The report shall be bound with each page and paragraphs numbered, and include as a minimum the following:

- A location plan of the site
- A location plan of the trenching within the site. This must be to a suitable scale, and located with reference to the National Grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Sites and Monuments Record.
- Plans, sections and photographs of archaeology located
- A summary statement of the results
- A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds.
- Photographs of all features of interest and general photographs to illustrate conditions under which work took place.

8.3 If required a brief note on the work should be prepared for submission to *Archaeologia Aeliana* within one year of completion of the fieldwork. This Publication Report should contain results of further analysis of material evidence from the site as deemed appropriate by English Heritage and the County Archaeologist.

8.4 A short report of the work shall also be submitted to a local or national journal if appropriate.

8.5 Information about projects carried out in Northumberland is normally submitted to the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork. TWM Archaeology will complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER and NMR, the information will also be incorporated into the English Heritage Excavation Index, hosted online by the Archaeology Data Service.

9 Finds / archive policy

9.1 Any finds, including any such items affected by the Treasures Act, will remain the property of the landowner (in this case, Northumberland County Council, Highways). A formal request to the relevant landowner will be made once the fieldwork commences recommending that the material be deposited with the GNM-Hancock for eventual curation, storage and archiving upon the completion of the project. There will be no charge for this facility. Artefacts will

be submitted for specialist analysis only on the basis of an instruction from the Mr Mike Collins and English Heritage.

9.2 The site archive will consist of all paper, photographic and digital records created during the project. A copy will be retained by AD Archaeology and a copy presented to the Sites and Monuments Records/Historic Environment Record of Northumberland.

10 Storage

10.1 During and after the excavation, any objects will be temporarily stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this will include controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material).

10.2 All storage will have appropriate security provision.

11 Finds Processing

11.1 Any finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in compliance with the IfA Guidelines for Finds Work and those set by UKIC (1990).

11.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be fit for the defined purpose.

11.3 Any bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged and boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

11.4 All small finds will be recorded as individual items. All small finds will be appropriately packaged. Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged, and textiles, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.

11.5 Assessment and analysis of artefacts and environmental samples will be carried by an approved named specialist listed below:

Roman Pottery – Alex Croom/Paul Bidwell

Medieval Pottery – Ann Jenner (YAT)

Prehistoric Pottery – Clive Waddington (ARS) or Ray McBride (former TWM Archaeology)

Animal bone – Louisa Gidney (former Univ. of Durham)

Environmental material – Duncan Hale (ASUD)

Conservation – TWAM

Any other classes of artefact will be dealt with by appropriate specialists approved in writing by English Heritage.

12 Site Archive

12.1 The site archive will be prepared to the standard specified in Management of Archaeological Projects, appendix 3 (HBMC 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). This will include the indexing, ordering, quantification and checking for consistency of all original context records, object records, bulk find records, sample records, skeleton records (if recovered), photographic records, drawing records, photographs, drawings, level books, site note-books, spot-dating records and conservation records. It will be ensured that all artefacts and ecofacts recovered and retained from the site are packed and stored in the appropriate materials and conditions and that all their associated records are complete. This will be completed by the end of the field work. A summary account of the context record will be included and written by the supervising archaeologist.

12.2 The archive will be submitted to the County SMR/HER within 6 months of the end of the fieldwork. The location of artifacts will be stated in the archive.

13 Monitoring

13.1 Reasonable access during proposed work for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological scheme will be afforded to English Heritage's Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist and/or the County Archaeologist or their nominees at all times.

14 Staff

14.1 Overall project Management of the scheme will be undertaken by Mr. J. McKelvey, while the field staff will be professionally qualified field staff of AD Archaeology: *Curricula vitae* available on request.

15 Health and Safety

15.1 All staff are provided with protective headgear and footwear, gloves and face-masks as appropriate and high-visibility clothing, as appropriate.

15.2 The Team Leader is supplied with a mobile telephone.

15.3 The Team will be equipped with a First Aid kit.

15.4 The generic Risk Assessment for staff and the AD Archaeology Ltd., Safety and Risk assessment polices are available for inspection.

15.5 The closest hospital is:

Hexham General Hospital
Hexham,
NE46 1QJ

Tel: 01434 655388

15.6 The staff agrees to comply with any Health and Safety regulations required by the English Heritage and their appointed Contractor.

16 Further Information

16.1 This specification may be varied by agreement with the Northumbrian Water Ltd and the English Heritage's Inspector of Ancient Monuments (Hadrian's Wall) (who can supply further information on situations where this may be required).

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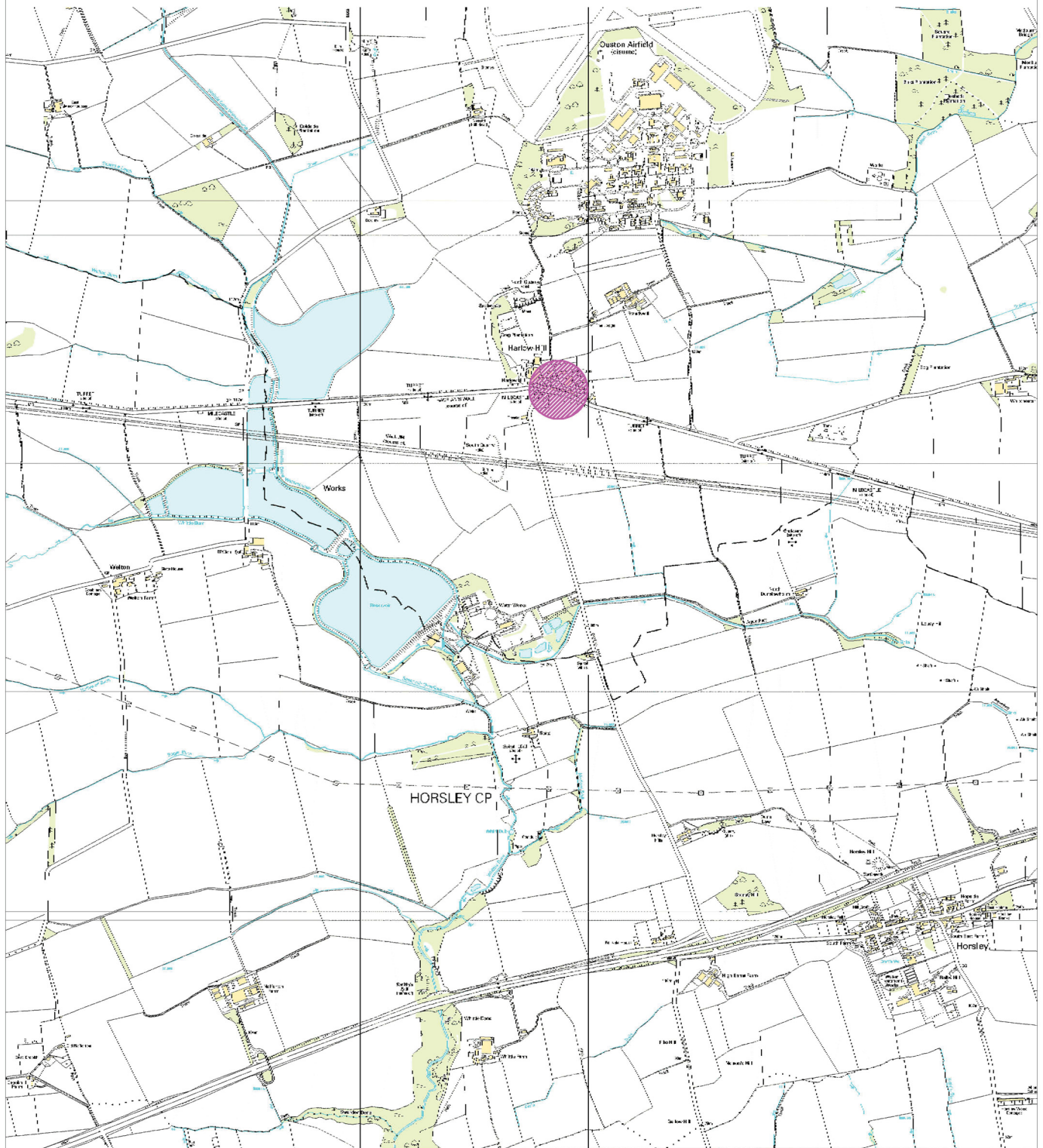
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Figure 1: Location of Site (magenta)



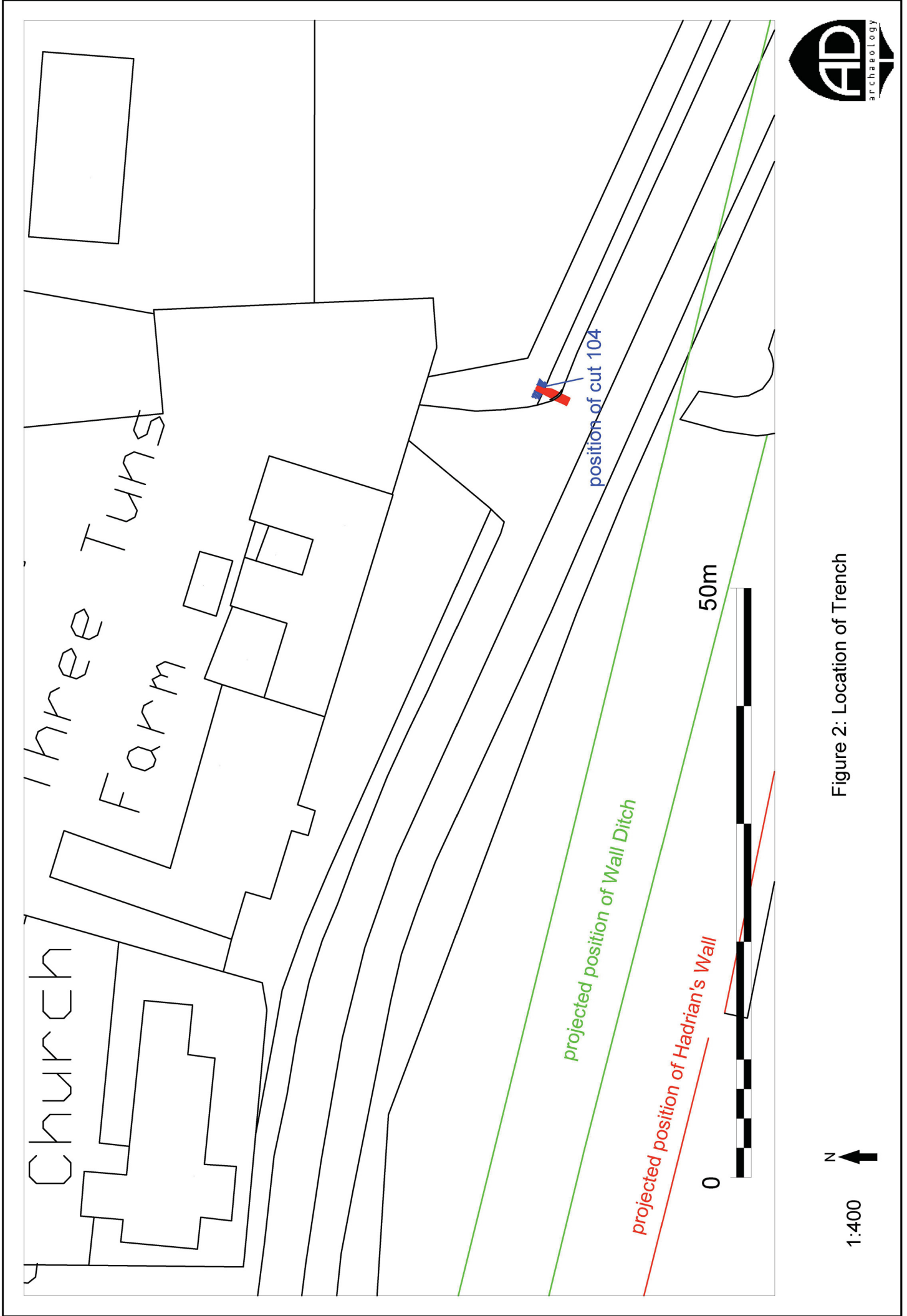


Figure 2: Location of Trench

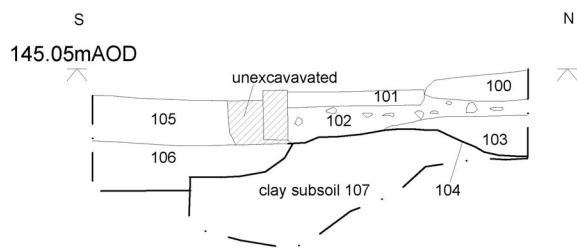


Figure 3

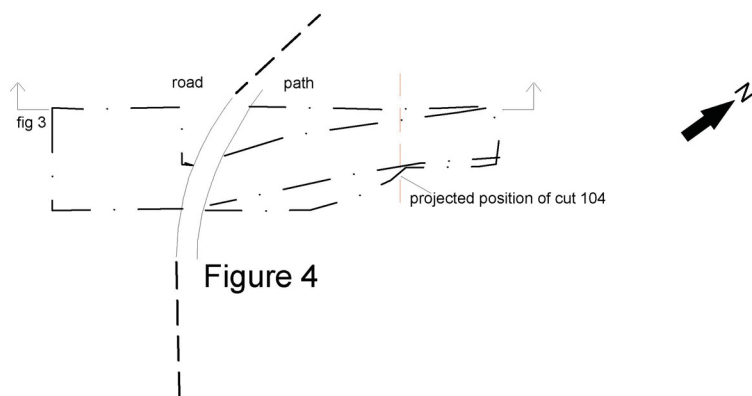


Figure 4



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Figure 3: East facing section of Trench
 Figure 4: Plan of Trench





Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3

- Plate 1: Pre-excavation view, facing north
- Plate 2: Overall view of trench location, facing west
- Plate 3: North end of trench, facing north

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