

**AD049**

**Springville,  
East Sleekburn,  
Northumberland**

**Archaeological Evaluation**



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<b>Commissioned by</b>	Dysart Developments
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

*AD Archaeology was commissioned by Dysart Developments to undertake an archaeological trenching evaluation in advance of a proposed development of land at East Sleekburn village (centred at NGR NZ 2237 7778).*

*The evaluation trenches have established that the network of linear anomalies identified by the earlier geophysical survey of the site (AD Archaeology 2013b) were caused by cuts associated with field drainage rather than features of archaeological interest such as ditches or gullies.*

*The truncated remains of furrows identified within several of the trenches (T.2, 3, 4, and 7) probably represent a remnant of ridge and furrow originating from the medieval period. No other features of archaeological significance were recorded within any of the trenches and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological mitigation is required prior to any proposed development within the site.*

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 The Project**

1.1.1 AD Archaeology was commissioned by Dysart Developments to undertake an archaeological trenching evaluation of a field at East Sleekburn, Northumberland, in advance of a proposed development.

1.1.2 Prior to the evaluation a rapid desk-based assessment (AD Archaeology 2013a) and a geophysical survey of the site (AD Archaeology 2013b) have been undertaken.

1.1.3 The evaluation, consisting of 11 trenches, was carried out in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 3).

### **1.2 Location, Land-use and Geology (Figs 1, 2)**

1.2.1 The site, known as Springville, is centred at NGR NZ 287 836 and consists of one field of pasture adjoining the northwest side of the village of East Sleekburn, Northumberland (fig 1).

1.2.2 The field occupies a total area of 1.4 hectares, and is bounded to the south by the village; to the east by Brock Lane; to the north and west by a small plantation that lies alongside Brock Lane and a slip road to the A189 respectively.

1.2.3 The underlying bedrock geology of East Sleekburn is formed by Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation, Mudstone, Siltstone and Sandstone from the Carboniferous Period. The bedrock is masked by Quaternary glacial deposits of Devensian Till (British Geological Survey).

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Fig 1)**

2.1 Although there is no direct evidence for prehistoric activity on the site, there is widespread archaeological evidence elsewhere of settlement across the Northumberland Coastal plain indicative of a relatively high density of occupation during the later prehistoric period (Hodgson, McKelvey and Muncaster 2013). Many of these sites are characterised by enclosed settlements rectilinear in plan that were typically established in the period around 200 BC (Hodgson *et al.* 2013, 189). One such site (HER23393) shows as a well-defined cropmark near Sleekburn Grange Farm, 75m south of Sleek Burn. The possibility was raised that the geophysical anomalies identified by the survey (AD Archaeology 2013b) may represent ditches or gullies associated with settlement from this period. The evaluation has shown that the features instead represent modern field drainage.

2.2 Whilst there is no direct evidence of early medieval activity at East Sleekburn, Sleekburn (Scliceburn) was one of the dependencies of Bedlingtonshire, a pre-

Conquest estate, purchased by Cutheard last Bishop of Lindisfarne and first of Chester le Street (AD900-915) (Hodgson 1832, 349, Aird 1997, 37). Very little is known of the nature and extent of settlement during this period and therefore the possibility of evidence of activity cannot be excluded, particularly due to the sites location on the periphery of the medieval village of East Sleekburn.

2.3 East Sleekburn formed a vill or township in the medieval period and it is likely that the present village lies on the site of a shrunken medieval village. An indication of the earlier village layout can be inferred from later mapping, and the distinctive pattern of tofts associated with individual plots can be discerned clearly on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (AD Archaeology 2013a, fig. 3). Aerial Photography (OS67306\_024, 1967; RAF/58/2657\_99,1958) shows widespread cropmarks of ridge and furrow, that probably originated from open field agricultural system during the medieval period, across many of the fields surrounding the village, including the Springville site itself which probably lay beyond the limits of the medieval village.

2.4 A track is shown across the site on the Second Ordnance Survey edition map of 1898 joining the village with West Sleekburn Farm, the site of West Sleekburn deserted medieval village (HER11762) in the neighbouring vill, 1.25km to the west.

2.5 The township of East Sleekburn remained largely unchanged despite development of the surrounding area, including the construction during the twentieth century of the massive Cambois Power Station to the east (now demolished).

### **3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

3.1 The objective of the evaluation trenching was to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains associated with geophysical anomalies identified by the survey of the site (AD Archaeology 2013b). If archaeological remains were identified the objective was to determine their nature, depth, importance and level of preservation.

### **4 METHODOLOGY**

4.1 The evaluation was carried out in compliance with all the relevant codes of practice by suitably qualified and experienced staff. The evaluation was conducted in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (appendix 3) produced by AD Archaeology and approved by Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT).

4.2 Trench 8 could not be excavated due to waterlogging. The feature investigated by this trench was identified as a modern feature by trenches 1 and 9.

## **5 RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION**

### **5.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 3)**

5.1.1 Trench 1 measured 20m by 1.8m and was oriented north northeast-south southwest. It was sited over linear geophysical anomaly (8) and a dipolar anomaly.

5.1.2 Orange clay (101) natural subsoil lay at a depth of 0.30m, 12.94mAOD, below ground level.

5.1.3 Three field drains recorded within the trench (103, 105, 107) were sealed by the topsoil (100). The linear geophysical anomaly (8) corresponded with a field drain (107) that extended east-west across the northern end of the trench. The field drains and subsoil were overlain by a 0.30m deep layer of greyish brown, silty clay topsoil (100).

### **5.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Plate 1)**

5.2.1 Trench 2 measured 16m by 1.8m and was oriented approximately north - south. It was sited over linear geophysical anomalies (7 and 13) in the south and north end of the trench respectively.

5.2.2 Orange clay (201) natural subsoil lay at a depth of 0.35m, 13.16mAOD, below ground level.

5.2.3 A furrow (203) oriented south southwest-north northeast, extended along the trench. Two sherds of pottery (appendix 2) of probable medieval date were recovered from the furrow fill (202).

5.2.4 Two field drains recorded within the trench (204, 205) at the northern and southern end of the trench corresponded with linear geophysical anomalies (13 and 7 respectively). The field drains were overlain by a 0.35m deep layer of grey-brown silty clay topsoil (200) the lower portion of which contained inclusions of brick fragments, and ash.

### **5.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Plate 2)**

5.3.1 Trench 3 measured 7m by 3m and was oriented approximately east -west. It was sited over an apparent gap along the length of linear geophysical anomaly (7).

5.3.2 Yellowish orange clay (301) natural subsoil lay at a depth of 0.30m, 13.04mAOD, below ground level.

5.3.3 The subsoil was cut by a furrow (304) along the western edge of the trench, oriented north-south.



5.3.4 Two field drains were recorded within the trench (302, 307). A third cut (306) that consisted of a 0.70m wide, vertical sided cut backfilled with clay subsoil, represents either a field drain or modern service trench. Cut 306 was overlain by an east southeast-west northwest orientated field drain (302) that extended along the centre of the trench, corresponding with linear geophysical anomaly (7) (also recorded within trench 2). Drain 307 formed a narrow, east-west orientated cut in the northwest portion of the trench. The field drains were overlain by a 0.30m deep layer of grey-brown, silty clay topsoil (300).

#### **5.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Plate 3)**

5.4.1 Trench 4 measured 16m by 1.8m and was oriented approximately northwest-southeast. It was sited over linear geophysical anomalies (7 and 14) in the south and north end of the trench respectively.

5.4.2 Yellowish orange clay (401) natural subsoil lay at a depth of 0.30m, 13.11mAOD, below ground level.

5.4.3 Two northeast-southwest aligned furrows (403, 405), with a wavelength of 7m, extended across the trench. The southern furrow may represent linear geophysical anomaly (7). The furrows were overlain by a 0.30m deep layer of grey-brown, silty clay topsoil (400).

#### **5.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 3)**

5.5.1 Trench 5 measured 10m by 1.8m and was oriented approximately east southeast –west northwest. It was sited over linear geophysical anomaly (5) and a dipolar anomaly.

5.5.2 Yellowish orange clay (501) natural subsoil lay at a depth of 0.35m, 13.02mAOD, below ground level.

5.5.3 A field drain (503) extended across the trench corresponding with the linear geophysical anomaly (5). An iron rod was recovered lying on top of the subsoil which probably caused the dipolar anomaly noted during the earlier survey. The field drain was overlain by a 0.35m deep layer of grey-brown, silty clay topsoil (500).

#### **5.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 4; Plate 4)**

5.6.1 Trench 6 measured 20m by 1.8m and was oriented east -west. It was sited over linear geophysical anomalies (5 and 9) in the west and east end of the trench respectively.

5.6.2 Yellowish orange clay (601) natural subsoil lay at a depth of 0.30m, 12.84mAOD, below ground level.

5.6.3 Two field drains were recorded within the trench (603, 605) at the western and eastern ends of the trench which corresponded with the linear geophysical anomalies (5 and 9 respectively). The field drains were overlain by a 0.30m deep layer of grey-brown silty clay topsoil (600).

## **5.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 4; Plate 5)**

5.7.1 Trench 7 measured 16m by 1.8m and was oriented approximately east southeast –west northwest. It was sited over linear geophysical anomaly (11) at the east end of the trench.

5.7.2 Yellowish orange clay (701) natural subsoil lay at a depth of 0.30m, 12.74mAOD, below ground level.

5.7.3 Two north-south aligned furrows (703, 705), with a wavelength of 5m, extended across the trench.

5.7.4 A field drain at the eastern end of the trench (708) corresponds with the linear geophysical anomalies (11). A further field drain (709) was recorded at the western end of the trench. The field drains were overlain by a 0.30m deep layer of grey-brown silty clay topsoil (700).

## **5.8 Trench 8**

5.8.1 Trench 8 was sited over a gap along the length of linear geophysical anomaly (8) and measured 7m by 3m. The trench could not be excavated due to waterlogging. Anomaly 8 was investigated in trenches 1 and 9 where it was demonstrated to represent a field drain.

## **5.9 Trench 9 (Fig. 4; Plate 6)**

5.9.1 Trench 9 measured 10m by 1.8m and was oriented approximately northeast–southwest. It was sited over two linear geophysical anomalies (8 and 9) in the east and west end of the trench respectively.

5.9.2 Orange clay (901) natural subsoil lay at a depth of 0.30m, 12.74mAOD, below ground level. The subsoil was overlain by a 0.30m deep layer of grey-brown, silty clay topsoil (900).

5.9.3 The subsoil was cut by two field drains (903, 905) at the western and eastern end of the trench which corresponded with the linear geophysical anomalies (9 and 8 respectively).

## **5.10 Trench 10 (Fig. 4; Plate 7)**

5.10.1 Trench 10 measured 12m by 1.8m and was oriented approximately north–south. It was sited over two linear geophysical anomalies (10) in the north and south ends of the trench.

5.10.2 Orange clay (1001) natural subsoil lay at a depth of 0.40m, 12.88mAOD, below ground level.

5.10.3 Two field drains were recorded within the trench (1003, 1005) at the western and eastern ends of the trench. Drain 1003 corresponded with linear geophysical anomaly (10). The field drains were overlain by a, 0.15m thick, mixed layer (1006) of topsoil and clay containing occasional fragments of brick, wood, concrete. Layer 1006 was sealed by a 0.25m deep layer of grey-brown, silty clay topsoil (1000).

## **5.11 Trench 11 (Fig. 2)**

5.11.1 Trench 11 measured 16m by 1.8m and was oriented approximately east – west. It was sited over a large dipolar geophysical anomaly.

5.11.2 Orange clay (1101) natural subsoil lay at a depth of 0.60m, 12.82mAOD, below ground level.

5.11.3 The subsoil was overlain by a 0.10m thick buried soil layer (1102) consisting of orangey brown silty clay. Layer 1102 was overlain by a mixed layer (1103) of topsoil and clay containing occasional fragments of brick, pipe fragments, similar to layer 1006 in trench 10. Layer 1103 was sealed by a 0.30m deep layer of grey-brown silty clay topsoil (1100).

## **6 DISCUSSION**

6.1 The evaluation trenches have established that the network of linear anomalies identified by the earlier geophysical survey of the site (AD Archaeology 2013b) were caused by cuts associated with field drainage rather than features of archaeological interest such as ditches or gullies.

6.2 The truncated furrows identified within several of the trenches (T.2, 3, 4, 7) had a wavelength between them of 5 to 7m suggesting that they represent a remnant of medieval ridge and furrow. Two sherds of medieval pottery were recovered from the furrow within trench 2 (appendix 2). Aerial Photography (AD Archaeology 2013b) shows cropmarks of ridge and furrow across many of the fields surrounding the village including the site itself (refer 2.3).

6.3 No features of archaeological significance were recorded within any of the trenches and it is therefore recommended that no further archaeological mitigation is required prior to any proposed development within the site.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AD Archaeology 2013a *Land at East Sleekburn and Guidepost, Northumberland Rapid Desk-Based Assessment* (unpublished client report)

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**APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS**

Context	Trench	Description
100	1	Topsoil
101	1	Natural subsoil
102	1	Fill of field drain
102	1	Cut of field drain
104	1	Fill of field drain
105	1	Cut of field drain
106	1	Fill of field drain
107	1	Cut of field drain
200	2	Topsoil
201	2	Natural subsoil
202	2	Fill of furrow
203	2	Cut of furrow
204	2	Field drain
205	2	Field drain
300	3	Topsoil
301	3	Natural subsoil
302	3	Field drain
303	3	Fill of furrow
304	3	Cut of furrow
305	3	Fill of 300
306	3	Cut of service/field drain
307	3	Field drain
400	4	Topsoil
401	4	Natural subsoil
402	4	Fill of furrow
403	4	Cut of furrow
404	4	Fill of furrow
405	4	Cut of furrow
500	5	Topsoil
501	5	Natural subsoil
502	5	Fill of field drain
503	5	Cut of field drain
600	6	Topsoil
601	6	Natural subsoil
602	6	Fill of field drain
603	6	Cut of field drain
604	6	Fill of field drain
605	6	Cut of field drain
700	7	Topsoil
702	7	Natural subsoil
703	7	Fill of furrow
704	7	Cut of furrow

705	7	Fill of furrow
706	7	Cut of furrow
707	7	Fill of field drain
708	7	Cut of field drain
709	7	Field drain
900	9	Topsoil
901	9	Natural subsoil
902	9	Fill of field drain
903	9	Cut of field drain
904	9	Fill of field drain
905	9	Cut of field drain
1000	10	Topsoil
1001	10	Natural subsoil
1002	10	Fill of field drain
1003	10	Cut of field drain
1004	10	Fill of field drain
1005	10	Cut of field drain
1006	10	Mixed layer
1100	11	Topsoil
1101	11	Natural subsoil
1102	11	Buried soil
1103	11	Mixed layer

## APPENDIX 2: FINDS LIST

Context	Quantity	Type	Description	Date
202	1	Pottery	Reduced Green Glaze, body sherd	Medieval
202	1	Pottery	Unglazed red coloured, body sherd	Medieval?

### **APPENDIX 3: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

# **WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT SPRINGVILLE SITE, EAST SLEEBURN, NORTHUMBERLAND**

## **1 Introduction**

1.1 This written scheme of investigation represents a methods statement for undertaking an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed residential development at East Sleekburn village. The site, known as Springville, is centred at NGR NZ 287 836 and consists of one field of pasture adjoining the northwest side of East Sleekburn, Northumberland. The Site as defined on the attached figure occupies a total area of 1.4 hectares.

1.2 Dysart Developments commissioned AD Archaeology to carry out a rapid desktop assessment and a geophysical survey (magnetometry) of land at East Sleekburn in advance of a planning application for a proposed housing development (AD Archaeology 2013a, 2013b). The fieldwork for the geophysical survey was carried out in December 2013. The geophysical survey identified a series of linear anomalies in the southern portion of the site. The origin of these linear positive anomalies, which may represent ditches or gullies, remains uncertain.

1.3 The National Planning Policy Framework states that “Where a site on which a development proposal includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation” NPPF page 128. Following on from a geophysical survey a trenching field evaluation is necessary to provide sufficient information to properly assess the archaeological impact of this application. This Written Scheme of Investigation relates to the field evaluation stage of the project.

## **2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

2.1 An increasing body of evidence indicates that the Northumberland Coastal plain contains a relatively high density of occupation during the later prehistoric period. Many of these sites are characterised by enclosed settlements rectilinear in plan that were typically established in the period around 200 BC (Hodgson, McKelvey and Muncaster 2013). One such site (HER23393) shows as a well-defined cropmark near Sleekburn Grange Farm, 75m south of Sleek Burn.

2.2 Whilst there is no direct evidence of early medieval activity at East Sleekburn, Sleekburn (Scliceburn) was one of the dependencies of Bedlingtonshire, a pre-Conquest estate (AD Archaeology 2013a). Very little is known of the early nature and extent of settlement from this period and therefore the possibility of evidence of activity cannot be excluded, particularly due to the sites location on the periphery of the medieval village of East Sleekburn.

2.3 East Sleekburn formed a vill or township in the medieval period and it is likely that the present village lies on the site of a shrunken medieval village. An indication of the earlier



village layout can be inferred from later mapping, and the distinctive pattern of tofts associated with individual plots can be discerned clearly on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (AD Archaeology 2013a, fig. 3). The site itself lies on the periphery of the village and is likely to have lain beyond the extent of the village tofts.

2.4 The geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2013b) produced good results and it has been possible to distinguish anomalies relating to modern disturbance from other magnetic anomalies of possible archaeological origin. The geophysical survey has identified a series of linear anomalies (anomalies 5-14) of possible archaeological interest in the southern portion of the site that do not coincide with any cartographic evidence from Ordnance Survey maps investigated during the earlier Rapid Desk-Based Assessment (AD Archaeology 2013a). The origin of these linear positive anomalies, which probably represent ditches or gullies remains uncertain. Similar enclosures and subdivisions have been identified associated with Iron-Age settlement elsewhere in Northumberland such as Pegswood (Proctor 2009) or Blagdon Park 1 (Hodgson et al. 2012).

### **3 Recommended Course of Action**

3.1 The Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (NCCCT) has agreed to an initial trenching sample strategy of 2% (280m<sup>2</sup>) of the development area (1.4ha), equivalent of 155.5m (1.80m width) of trenching. Eleven trenches of varying length will be excavated targeted upon geophysical anomalies (see attached figure): 2 x 20m length; 4 x 16m length; 1 x 12m length; 2 x 10m length; 2 x 7m by 3m length.

3.2 Any variation or alteration to this scheme would require approval by NCCCT. Contingency trenching on a scale yet to be agreed can be undertaken, if necessary, following discussions and agreement between the client and NCCCT. If significant archaeological features are identified, but their extent is not fully understood based on the initial trenches, it may be necessary to excavate some additional trenches subsequent to a meeting between the client and NCCCT. However, minor expansions to trenches to clarify features can be undertaken in advance of a meeting so long as the client is kept informed. Any variation or alteration to this scheme would require approval by NCCCT.

3.2 During the course of the trenching it may become apparent that variation is required, dependent on the nature, extent and importance of archaeological remains uncovered. It also may become apparent during the course of the operation that some areas where trenches have been sited are inappropriate for potential archaeological activity or due to logistical or practical reasons. Trenches can only be moved with the approval of NCCCT.

### **4 General Standards**

4.1 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IfA)<sup>1</sup> and will follow the IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation<sup>2</sup>. All work will be in compliance with the Regional Statement

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<sup>1</sup> Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2000, Code of Conduct

<sup>2</sup> Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation

of Good Practice (Yorkshire, The Humber and the North-East (25 November 2009).

## **5 Pre-site work preparation**

5.1 All staff will familiarise themselves with the archaeological background of the site, and the results of any previous work in the area, prior to the start of work on site. All staff will be briefed in the work required under the specification and the project aims and methodologies.

5.2 The relevant museum will be contacted to discuss archiving, prior to work commencing.

5.3 An environmental sampling strategy in accordance with the previous advice of the English Heritage North East Regional Science Advisor (see 8 below) will be followed.

## **6 Fieldwork**

6.1 Each evaluation trench will be accurately survey and related to the National Grid, using a Total Station Theodolite or GPS system, and located on a map of the area at an appropriate scale.

6.2 Topsoil and unstratified modern material will be removed mechanically by a machine using a wide toothless ditching 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 faces of the trenches that require examination or recording will be cleaned sufficiently to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains, particularly the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil. All subsequent deposits will be hand-excavated.

6.5 In the event that small discrete archaeological features are revealed including but not limited to postholes and pits, during machining or subsequent cleaning of the trench, the trench will be expanded either side of the feature by a machine bucket width as standard. If further additional trench expansion is required this should be carried out following discussions with the Assistant County Archaeologist and at that stage the contingency allowance can be used.

6.6 The archaeology will be investigated sufficiently to establish its nature, extent and date, unless it is deemed of sufficient importance to require total preservation in situ. This will be achieved by excavation of the following samples of all exposed features.

- 50% of every discrete feature (e.g. pits, post-holes)
- 25% of the area of linear/curvilinear features (e.g. ditches, gullies) with a non-

uniform fill

- 10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features (e.g. ditches, gullies) with a uniform fill

6.7 Within the constraints of the site, the excavations will be maintained in a manner that allows quick and easy inspection without any requirement for additional cleaning.

6.8 Deposits will be assessed for their potential for providing environmental or dating evidence. Sampling will be in line with the strategy agreed with English Heritage Regional Science Advisor and NCCCT.

6.9 In the event of human burials being discovered, they will be left *in situ*, covered and protected and the coroners' office will be informed. If removal is essential, work will comply with relevant Home Office regulations.

6.10 Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation will be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.

6.11 The drawn record from the site will include a representative selection of long sections from the excavations that clearly allow the nature and depth and any significant changes in the deposits recorded to be demonstrated. If there is any uncertainty, advice will be sought from the Assistant County Archaeologist as to which sections may be appropriate for inclusion within the site record.

6.12 During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts will be 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).

## **7 Archaeological 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.

7.2 The stratigraphy of all trenches will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

7.3 All archaeological deposits and features, the current ground level and base of each trench will be recorded with an above ordnance datum (aOD) level.

7.4 A photographic record of all archaeological features will be taken, both in detail and in a wider context. These will be in colour transparency and black and white print and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept.

7.5 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled

## **8 Environmental Sampling and Scientific Dating Strategy**

8.1 This sampling strategy is intended to provide sufficient data to characterise the nature and informative potential of the deposits and features observed in the evaluation. This will fulfil the aim of both informing any further archaeological work and creating a record of deposits where no further work is required. Because of the speculative nature of this work and the wide range of features likely to be encountered, this strategy is best set out as a series of principles. These are:

- 10-30l samples should be taken from structural, occupational and industrial features, as well as pits and ditch fills. Other features should be sampled to help to characterise the deposits on the site. Priority should be given to processing samples from identifiable, dated features, or to those undated features which have potential for other forms of dating (e.g. radiocarbon dating)
- Bulk sample residues should be checked for the presence of industrial waste (e.g. slags, hammer scale) and small faunal remains (e.g. fishbones, small mammal/avian bones) as well as for plant material.
- The potential of buried soils and ditch fills to provide dated (using radio-carbon dating) pollen cores or Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating of sediments should be considered, although this type of sampling would normally be undertaken in consultation with the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor.

8.2 In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens are identified, provision will be made to collect at least one archaeo-magnetic date to be calculated from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwellings a minimum of one per building identified). Where applicable, samples to be collected from the site and processed by a suitably trained specialist for dating purposes. In the event that such deposits or structures are identified NCCCT should be contacted to discuss an appropriate response.

## **9 Monitoring**

9.1 The County Archaeologist will be informed on the start date and timetable for the evaluation in advance of work commencing.

9.2 Reasonable access to the site will be afforded to the County Archaeologists or his/her nominee at all times, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological evaluation.

9.3 Regular communication between AD Archaeology, the County Archaeologist and other interested parties will be maintained to ensure the project aims and objectives are achieved.

9.4 If appropriate, specialists will be contacted and allowed access to the site to help inform any detailed study / information retrieval depending upon the nature of the archaeological features being revealed.

## **10 Post excavation work, archive, and report preparation**

### **10.1 Finds**

10.1.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in compliance with the IfA Guidelines for Finds Work<sup>3</sup> and those set by UKIC.

10.1.2 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and recipient museum prior to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides to retain artefacts, adequate provision will be made for recording them. Details of land ownership will be provided by the developer.

10.1.3 All retained artefacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

### **10.2 Site Archive**

10.2.1 The archive and the finds will be deposited in the appropriate local museum, within 6 months of completion of the post-excavation work and report.

10.2.2 Archiving work will be carried out compliance with the IfA Guidelines for Archiving<sup>4</sup>.

10.2.3 Before fieldwork, contact will be made with the landowners and with the appropriate local museum to make the relevant arrangements. Details of land ownership will be provided by the developer.

10.2.4 NCCCT will require confirmation that the archive had been submitted in a satisfactory form to the relevant museum.

### **10.3 Report**

10.3.1 This evaluation is the third stage in a potential multi-staged programme of archaeological work and has been requested to inform the determination of a planning application. The National Planning Policy Framework, paragraph 128 states that “Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation”.

10.3.2 NCCCT require one bound paper copy and one digital copy (in Word or PDF format) of the report.

10.3.3 The report will include the following as a minimum:

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<sup>3</sup> Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (October 2008)

<sup>4</sup> Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (October 2008)

Each page and paragraph will be numbered within the report and illustrations cross-referenced within the text.

The report will include the following as a minimum:

- Planning application numbers, NCCCT reference, OASIS reference numbers and an 8 figure grid reference
- The nature and extent of the proposed development and client information
- A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
- A location plan showing trench locations within the site. This will be at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Sites and Monuments Record
- Plans and sections of main trench axes and excavated features located at a recognisable planning scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate)
- Period based discussion of the known and potential archaeological sites within the proposed development area
- A summary statement of the results
- A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds
- A description of the geology on the site
- Discussion of the physical impact of the proposed development on known and potential archaeological sites
- A copy of the NCCCT brief for the evaluation and its checklist

10.3.4 Any variation to the above requirements will be approved by the planning authority prior to work being submitted

#### 10.4 OASIS

10.4.1 NCCCT support the Online Access to 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.

10.4.2 The archaeological consultant or contractor will therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. If the contractors are unfamiliar with OASIS, they are advised to contact Northumberland SMR prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Northumberland HER will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website. The archaeological consultant or contractor will indicate that they agree to this procedure within the specification/project design/written scheme of investigation submitted to NCCCT for approval

#### 10.5 Publication

10.5.1 A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted to Liz Williams, Northumberland HER Officer, by December of the year in which the work is

completed.

10.5.2 A short report of the work will also be submitted to a local journal if appropriate.

## **Bibliography**

AD Archaeology 2013a *Land at East Sleekburn and Guidepost, Northumberland. Rapid Desk-Based Assessment* (unpublished client report)

AD Archaeology 2013b *Springville, East Sleekburn, Northumberland. Archaeological Geophysical Survey* (unpublished client report)

Hodgson N. McKelvey J. and Muncaster W. 2013 *The Iron Age on the Northumberland Coastal Plain: Excavations in advance of development 2002-2010*, Tyne and Wear Museums

National Planning Policy Framework 2012

Proctor, J. 2009 *Pegswood Moor, Morpeth: a later Iron Age and Romano-British Farmstead settlement*, London





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1:25000



Figure 1: General location of site (red hatch)

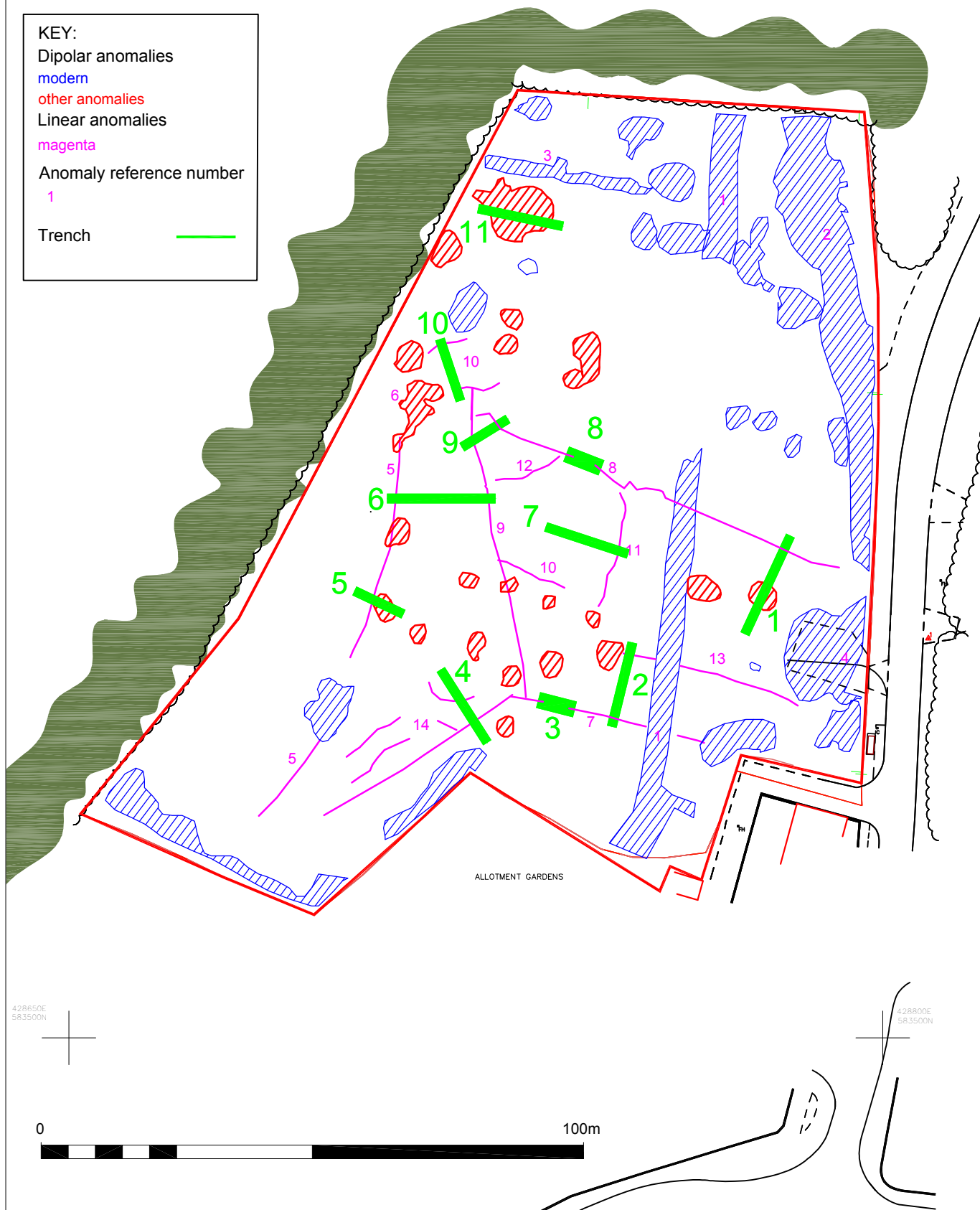




428650E  
583700N

428800E  
583700N

KEY:  
Dipolar anomalies  
modern  
other anomalies  
Linear anomalies  
magenta  
Anomaly reference number  
1  
Trench



428650E  
583500N

428800E  
583500N

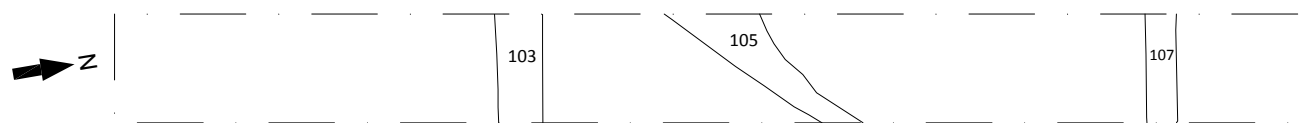
0 100m

1:1000

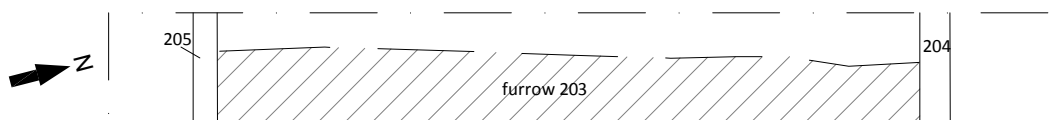


Figure 2: Trench location plan showing geophysical survey

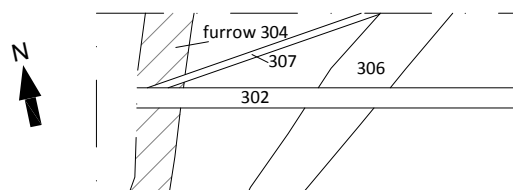




Trench 1



Trench 2



Trench 3



Trench 4



Trench 5

0 5m

A scale bar with a black and white checkered pattern, labeled '0' at the start and '5m' at the end.



Trench 6



Trench 7



Trench 9



Trench 10





Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3



Plate 4

Plate 1: Overall view of trench 2 facing south

Plate 2: Overall view of trench 3 facing west

Plate 3: Overall view of trench 4 facing northwest

Plate 4: Overall view of trench 6 facing east







Plate 5



Plate 6



Plate 7

Plate 5: Overall view of trench 7 facing east

Plate 6: Overall view of trench 9 facing northeast

Plate 7: Overall view of trench 10 facing north





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