

AD342

**Land at Seaside Lane,
Easington,
County Durham**

Archaeological Evaluation



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|------------------------|-------------------|
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| Commissioned by | Esh Construction |
| Project Number | 342 |
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AD Archaeology was commissioned by Esh Construction to undertake evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development of land to the north of Seaside Lane, Easington, Durham.

This evaluation trenching follows on from a rapid desk-top-assessment, a geophysical survey and an earlier phase of evaluation trenching in the western half of the site. No significant archaeological features were located in this earlier phase of works.

The eastern half of the site, the subject of the present phase of evaluation trenching had been utilised as an army firing range in the 20th Century. No significant archaeological features were located in the trenches in the eastern half of the site and therefore no further archaeological work would be appropriate at the site.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Project

1.1.1 AD Archaeology was commissioned by Esh Construction to undertake evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development at the site at Seaside Lane, Easington. The archaeological works were undertaken in week commencing 2nd December 2019. This trenching follows a rapid desk-based assessment and geophysical survey (AD Archaeology, 2016) and evaluation trenching of the western half of the site (AD Archaeology 2017).

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is situated to the north of Seaside Lane between the villages of Easington and Easington Colliery. The western half of the site slopes toward the south and east, levelling out at its northern end. The eastern half of the site is relatively flat and low-lying. The site is centred on NGR NZ 4197 4370 and has a total area of 2.67ha.

1.2.2 The bedrock geology of the site comprises of Roker Formation Dolostone from the Permian Period, overlain by superficial deposits consisting of Devensian glaciofluvial deposits (BGS 2019).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Prehistoric

2.1.1 Whilst there are no known sites within the development site, two possible prehistoric sites have been identified within the vicinity of the site through the examination of aerial photographs. A rectilinear enclosure (HER 3061) which is likely to be of Iron Age date is located close to Holme Hill Farm 400m north-east of the site. A rectilinear cropmark has been identified near Glenhurst Farm to the south-east of the site. As more prehistoric settlement sites come to light there is an increasing awareness of the density of the prehistoric settlement pattern in the North-East, particularly in the Iron Age period.

2.2 Romano-British Period

2.2.1 There are no known Roman military sites recorded within the area of site. However, it is worth noting (with reference to the enclosures sites above) that many of the local native settlements would have continued into the Romano-British period.

2.3 Early-Medieval Period

2.3.1 The HER does not record any known features of early-medieval date on the development site itself. Easington is Old English for “farmstead of Esi’s people” and it is clear that the village had an Anglo-Saxon origin. An Anglo-Saxon cemetery was located at Andrew’s Hill (HER 51). This is one of the few pagan Anglian settlements north of the Tees, with grave-goods of 6th-7th Century date being recovered. Remains of an Anglo-Saxon building (HER 3866) consisting of a posthole, foundations and an earth bank were recorded during works at the 13th Century rectory at Seaton Holme. The church of St. Mary (HER 248) is probably of Anglo-Saxon origin. The extant church has a Norman tower and 13th century buttresses, the rest of the building being restored in the 19th Century. The original church was demolished in the 12th Century, but a late Saxon relief cross is built into the base of the present tower’s west wall.

2.3.2 The first documentary reference to Easington Village (HER 4370) is 1050 in the Historia de S. Cuthbert. The village is listed in the Boldon Book of in 1183 and there is a record of a sacking of the village by the Scots in the 14th Century.

2.4 Medieval Period

2.4.1 The focus of medieval settlement lay to the west of the site the village being centred on the area around the church and village green, the area of the site

falling within agricultural fields during this period. Easington Village was of some size and regional importance through the medieval period.

2.4.2 A number of features of medieval date listed in the HER are located in Easington Village to the west of the site. Seaton Holme Manor House, Chapel and Vicarage (HER 66, HER 3685 and HER 35466) were built in the 13th Century for Bishop Fareham. Following the Reformation the manor house became the chief residence of the Archdeacon of Durham. A farmhouse and barn (HER36129) may originally have been an oratory connected with Seaton Holme. Evidence of 15-16th settlement activity was located at Low Row (HER 249).

2.5 Post-Medieval and Modern Periods

2.5.1 To the east of the site Easington Colliery was constructed in the early 20th Century and continued producing coal until 1993. Accommodation for the miners developed into an associated settlement that spread westwards to merge with Easington Village. Features listed in the HER associated with Easington Colliery include wooden houses (HER 7916) and church (HER 7918) and Easington Colliery Schools (HER35627-8). A social club was constructed on the southern part of the site. The Old Drill Hall consisting of two buildings was constructed in the 1930s on the southern frontage of the site. The westernmost building was demolished in the early 21st Century with the long thin building to the east of the site currently being used as a car repair garage. The field to the rear was used by the Territorial Army as a firing range and there is evidence of levelling with low mounds being formed around the perimeter of the field.

2.5.2 A geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2016) was undertaken at the site. The survey identified a small number of responses that may have low archaeological potential. The geophysical survey identified a ridge and furrow system within the western field, with limited evidence of a second east-west orientated system in the northern portion of the field. The magnetic disturbance encountered in the easternmost field reflects its former use by the Territorial Army as a firing range. Evaluation trenching (AD Archaeology 2017) in the western half of the site located no significant archaeological features.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objective of the evaluation trenching was to establish the presence or absence of archaeological features on the site and to determine their nature, depth, importance and level of preservation.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 General Methodology

4.1.1 The evaluation was carried out in compliance with all the relevant codes of practice by suitably qualified and experienced staff.

4.2 Excavation and Recording

4.2.1 The evaluation trench strategy was agreed with the DCC Archaeology Section and was undertaken in accordance with an approved trench plan and written scheme of Investigation (Appendix 2). There were a few minor alterations to the positioning of a number of trenches necessitated by ground conditions and obstacles.

5. RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION

5.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2; Plate 2)

5.1.1 Trench 1, which was 17m by 1.6m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the north-west corner of the field. The natural subsoil consisting of a yellow sandy clay (101) was located at a depth of 0.31m BGL (102.60m AOD) and was overlain by a grey loam topsoil (100), 0.31m in depth.

5.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 2; Plate 3)

5.2.1 Trench 2, which was 20m by 1.6m in size, was oriented NNW-SSE and located in the northern sector of the field. The natural subsoil consisting of a brown sandy clay (202) was located at a depth of 0.70m BGL (102.18m AOD). It was overlain by a grey-brown silty clay (201), 0.40m in depth and a 0.30m deep grey loam topsoil (200).

5.3 Trench 3 (Fig. 2; Plate 4)

5.3.1 Trench 3, which was 20m by 1.6m in size, was oriented ENE-WSW and located in the north-eastern sector of the field. The natural subsoil (303) consisting of a yellow sandy clay was located at a depth of 0.92m BGL (101.79m AOD). It was overlain by a grey-brown silty clay (302), 0.62m in depth, a 0.12m deep spread of yellow clay (301) containing gravel and brick fragments and a 0.18m deep grey loam topsoil (300). A 0.80m wide modern service cut aligned north-east/south-west was located at the eastern end of the trench.

5.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 2; Plate 5)

5.4.1 Trench 4, which was 20m by 1.6m in size, was oriented ENE-WSW and located in the northern half of the field. The natural subsoil consisting of a yellow sandy clay (401) was located at a depth of 0.30m BGL (102.60m AOD) and was overlain by a 0.30m deep grey loam topsoil (400).

5.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 2; Plate 6)

5.5.1 Trench 5, which was 20m by 1.6m in size, was oriented NNW-SSE and located in the northern half of the field. The natural subsoil consisting of a brown clay (503) was located at a depth of 0.80m BGL (101.91m AOD). It was overlain by a grey-brown silty clay (502), 0.42m in depth, a 0.16m deep spread of yellow clay (501) mixed with gravel and sandstone fragments and a 0.22m deep grey loam topsoil (500).

5.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 2)

5.6.1 Trench 6, which was 20m by 1.6m in size, was oriented NNW-SSE and located in the southern half of the field. The natural subsoil consisting of a brown sandy clay (601) containing sandstone fragments was located at a depth of 0.28m BGL (102.66m AOD) and was overlain by a 0.28m deep grey loam topsoil (600).

5.7 Trench 7 (Fig. 2; Plate 7)

5.7.1 Trench 7, which was 20m by 1.6m in size, was oriented ENE-WSW and located in the southern half of the field. The natural subsoil consisting of a brown clay (703) was located at a depth of 1.60m BGL (101.05 AOD). The natural subsoil (703) was overlain by a brown sandy clay (702), 0.61m in depth, a 0.30m deep spread of yellow clay (701) mixed with gravel, bricks and sandstone fragments and a grey loam topsoil (700), 0.29m in depth.

5.8 Trench 8 (Fig.2)

5.8.1 Trench 8, which was 13m by 1.6m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the south-eastern sector of the field. The natural subsoil (802) consisting of brown clay was located at a depth of 1.50m BGL (101.24m AOD). This was overlain by a grey silty clay (801), 1.10m in depth, and a grey loam topsoil (800), 0.40m in depth.

5.9 Trench 9 (Fig. 2; Plate 8)

5.9.1 Trench 9, which was 20m by 1.6m in size, was oriented ENE-WSW and located in the south-western corner of the field. The natural subsoil consisted of a brown sandy clay (902) containing sandstone fragments and degraded sandstone and was located at a depth of 0.65m BGL (102.67m AOD). The natural subsoil (902) was overlain by a brown sandy clay (901), 0.30m in depth and a grey loam topsoil (900), 0.35m in depth.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 This phase of evaluation trenching follows on from a rapid desk-top-assessment, a geophysical survey and an earlier phase of evaluation trenches in the western half of the site. No significant archaeological features were located in this earlier phase of works.

6.2 The eastern half of the site, the subject of this phase of evaluation trenching had been utilised as an army firing range in the 20th Century. The eastern field had been terraced and levelled with low mounds formed around its perimeter. No significant archaeological features were located in the trenches in the eastern half of the site and therefore no further archaeological work would be appropriate at the site.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

AD Archaeology 2016 Geophysical Survey and rapid desk based-assessment -Land at Former Social Club, Seaside Lane, Easington Colliery

AD Archaeology 2017 Evaluation trenching -Land at Former Social Club, Seaside Lane, Easington Colliery

BGS 2019 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain viewer

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

| Context | Depth | Description |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 100 | 0.31m | Trench 1-topsoil |
| 101 | - | Trench 1-natural subsoil |
| 200 | 0.30m | Trench 1 –topsoil |
| 201 | 0.40m | Trench 2-buried soil |
| 202 | - | Trench 2-natural subsoil |
| 300 | 0.18m | Trench 3-topsoil |
| 301 | 0.12m | Trench 3-modern levelling deposit |
| 302 | 0.62m | Trench 3-buried soil |
| 303 | - | Trench 3-natural subsoil |
| 400 | 0.30m | Trench 4-topsoil |
| 401 | - | Trench 4-natural subsoil |
| 500 | 0.22m | Trench 5-topsoil |
| 501 | 0.16m | Trench 5-modern levelling deposit |
| 502 | 0.42m | Trench 5-buried soil |
| 503 | - | Trench 5-natural subsoil |
| 601 | 0.28m | Trench 6-topsoil |
| 602 | - | Trench 6-natural subsoil |
| 700 | 0.29m | Trench 7-topsoil |
| 701 | 0.30m | Trench 7-modern levelling deposit |
| 702 | 0.61m | Trench 7-buried soil |
| 703 | - | Trench 7-natural subsoil |
| 800 | 0.40m | Trench 8-topsoil |
| 801 | 1.10m | Trench 8- buried soil |
| 802 | - | Trench 8-natural subsoil |
| 900 | 0.35m | Trench 9-topsoil |
| 901 | 0.30m | Trench 9-ploughsoil |
| 902 | - | Trench 9-natural subsoil |

Planning Reference PRE28/1902231

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION AT LAND AT SEASIDE LANE EASINGTON, COUNTY DURHAM

1 Introduction

1.1 This written scheme of investigation represents a methods statement for undertaking an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed housing development on land fronting onto Seaside Lane between the villages of Easington and Easington Colliery. The site is centred on NGR NZ 4197 4370 and is 2.67ha in area.

1.2 A Geophysical Survey (AD Archaeology 2016) has been undertaken in advance of the proposed development. Trial trenching was undertaken in the western half of the site in 2017 (AD Archaeology 2017).

1.3 Policy relating to the assessment and mitigation of impacts to the heritage resource within the planning system is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. The Framework identifies that the planning system should perform an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment (NPPF 2018, para 8, page 5).

1.4 The Framework further clarifies that, in circumstances where heritage assets will be damaged or lost as a result of development. Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible (NPPF 2018, para 199, page 56).

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 Whilst there are no known sites within the development site, three possible prehistoric sites have been identified within the vicinity of the site through the examination of aerial photographs. A rectilinear enclosure (HER 3061) which is likely to be of Iron Age date is located close to Holme Hill Farm 400m north-east of the site. A series of circular cropmark features (HER 8592) 390m west of the site are likely to belong to a prehistoric settlement. A rectilinear cropmark has been identified near Glenhurst Farm to the south-east of the site. As more prehistoric settlement sites come to light there is an increasing awareness of the density of the prehistoric settlement pattern in the North-East, particularly in the Iron Age period.

2.2 Romano-British Period

2.2.1 There are no known Roman military sites recorded within the area of site. However, it is worth noting (with reference to the enclosures sites above) that many of the local native settlements would have continued into the Romano-British period.

2.3 Early-Medieval Period

2.3.1 The HER does not record any known features of early-medieval date on the development site itself. Easington is Old English for “farmstead of Esi’s people” and it is clear that the village had an Anglo-Saxon origin. An Anglo-Saxon cemetery was located at Andrew’s Hill (HER 51). This is one of the few pagan Anglian settlements north of the Tees, with grave-goods of 6th-7th Century date being recovered. Remains of an Anglo-Saxon building (HER 3866) consisting of a posthole, foundations and an earth bank were recorded during works at the 13th Century rectory at Seaton Holme. The church of St. Mary (HER 248) is probably of Anglo-Saxon origin. The extant church has a Norman tower and 13th century buttresses, the rest of the building being restored in the 19th Century. The original church was demolished in the 12th Century, but a late Saxon relief cross is built into the base of the present tower’s west wall.

2.3.2 The first documentary reference to Easington Village (HER 4370) is 1050 in the *Historia de S. Cuthbert*. The village is listed in the *Boldon Book* of in 1183 and there is a record of a sacking of the village by the Scots in the 14th Century.

2.4 Medieval Period

2.4.1 The focus of medieval settlement lay to the west of the site the village being centred on the area around the church and village green, the area of the site falling within agricultural fields during this period. Easington Village was of some size and regional importance through the medieval period.

2.4.2 A number of features of medieval date listed in the HER are located in Easington Village to the west of the site. Seaton Holme Manor House, Chapel and Vicarage (HER 66, HER 3685 and HER 35466) were built in the 13th Century for Bishop Fareham. Following the Reformation the manor house became the chief residence of the Archdeacon of Durham. A farmhouse and barn (HER36129) may originally have been an oratory connected with Seaton Holme. Evidence of 15-16th settlement activity was located at Low Row (HER 249).

2.5 Post-Medieval and Modern Periods

2.5.1 To the east of the site Easington Colliery was constructed in the early 20th Century and continued producing coal until 1993. Accommodation for the miners developed into an associated settlement that spread westwards to merge with

Easington Village. Features listed in the HER associated with Easington Colliery include wooden houses (HER 7916) and church (HER 7918) and Easington Colliery Schools (HER35627-8).

2.5.2 The first edition Ordnance Survey of 1861 shows the site as lying within two fields 230m to the east of Easington Village. The second edition Ordnance Survey of 1898 shows little alteration to the surrounding area, although the development site falls within a single field. The third edition of 1922 shows no alteration within the site, although by this time the spread of Easington Colliery to the east is apparent. The 1953 Ordnance Survey shows the rapid spread and development of both Easington Village and Easington Colliery.

2.6 A geophysical survey (AD Archaeology 2016) was undertaken at the site. The survey identified a small number of responses that may have low archaeological potential. The geophysical survey identified a ridge and furrow system within the western field, with limited evidence of a second east-west orientated system in the northern portion of the field. The magnetic disturbance encountered in the easternmost field reflects its former use by the Territorial Army as a firing range. Evaluation trenching (AD Archaeology 2017) in the western half of the site located no significant archaeological features.

3 Aims and Recommended Course of Action

3.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation is to establish the presence or absence of significant archaeological features and/or deposits. Should significant deposits and/or features be located the aim of the evaluation is to determine the nature, extent, date and state of preservation of the deposits in order to inform potential subsequent stages of mitigation.

3.2 'Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment' by David Petts with Christopher Gerrard, 2006 notes the importance of research questions as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. It sets out key research priorities for all periods of the past allowing commercial contractors to demonstrate how their fieldwork relates to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment. The aim of NERRF is to ensure that all fieldwork is carried out in a secure research context and that commercial contractors ensure that their investigations ask the right questions.

3.3 Whilst there are no known archaeological features on the site, there is a growing awareness of the density of prehistoric settlement activity. In recent years development control-led archaeological investigation in the area has contributed significantly to our knowledge of the density of settlement and activity in this area during the prehistoric period (North East Regional Research Framework, Petts & Gerrard, 2006).

Recent excavations have begun to challenge established models of prehistoric settlement morphology. It is therefore important for any evidence of prehistoric settlement to be studied in order to establish more firm chronologies. Also needed is the study of site function and the social role of settlements in the landscape (NERRF Research Priority Iii).

Evidence of prehistoric burial activity would also be of importance (NERRF Research Priority NBiii).

Evidence of medieval agricultural activity on the site would be of lesser archaeological significance but would require some form of archaeological recording.

There are still very few excavated sites from the medieval period and it is essential that all opportunities are taken to further our knowledge of medieval settlement and agriculture. (NERRF Research Priority MD ii).

3.4 A trenching strategy consisting of 9 trenches 20m by 1.8m in size has been designed to test for the presence/absence of archaeological feature, representing a 4% sample (324 sqm) of the undisturbed (0.81) eastern area of the site. The trench plan is designed to provide sample coverage across the eastern field.

3.5 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 (for instance lying entirely within the line of a furrow) or due to logistical or practical reasons. Trenches can only be moved with the approval of the DCC Archaeology Section.

3.6 Contingency will be allowed for the excavation of up to 1% area of the site. This would mean up to an additional 81sqm in area beyond that excavated in the initial trenches) if it becomes apparent during the evaluation that further investigation is required of any features or areas of archaeological interest encountered. If the full 1% contingency were required then the total sample of the site would be 5%. The implementing of contingency would require approval by DCC Archaeology Section and the client.

4 General Standards

4.1 All work will be carried out to the standards set by the DCC Archaeology Section as detailed in <http://www.durham.gov.uk/media/22749/Standards-for-Archaeological-Work-in-County-Durham-and-Darlington/pdf/StandardsForArchaeologicalWorkInCountyDurhamAndDarlington.pdf>. All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists CfA (2014a) and will follow the CfA (2014b) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation. All work will be in compliance with the Regional Statement of Good Practice (Yorkshire, The Humber and the North-East 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 An environmental sampling strategy in accordance with the previous advice of the Historic England Science Advisor (see 8 below) will be followed.

6 Fieldwork

6.1 Each evaluation trench will be accurately surveyed 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 back-acting 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 DCC Archaeology Section and the client.

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.

- Minimum 50% of every discrete feature but potentially 100% (ie post-holes)
- Up to 50% of the area of linear/curvilinear features (e.g. ditches, gullies) with 100% of feature intersections and terminals will be examined

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 Historic England Science Advisor and the DCC Archaeology Section.

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 the relevant Ministry of Justice 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 DCC Archaeology Section 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. All finds work will be undertaken in line with the standards set out "A strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds" (English Heritage 1995); "First Aid for Finds" (Wilkinson & Neal 2001); and "Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artefacts from Archaeological Sites" (UKIC 1993).

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.

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 deposits and features identified during the works. Because this is the first stage of intrusive works and there is a possibility that a wide range of features may be encountered, this strategy is best set out as a series of principles.

These are:

- 30 litre samples will 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, hammerscale) 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 radiocarbon dating) pollen cores or Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating of sediments should be considered, although this type of sampling will be undertaken in consultation with the Historic England's 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.

8.3 The selection of suitable deposits for sampling will be confirmed at site meetings with the DCC Archaeology Section. In principle palaeo-environmental samples will be taken from deposits which have clear stratigraphic relationships. Particular attention will be paid to the recovery of samples from any waterlogged samples that may be present.

9 Monitoring

9.1 The DCC Archaeology Section will be informed on the start date and timetable for the evaluation in advance of work commencing (ideally 2 weeks' notice but as a minimum 48 hours before commencement).

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

9.3 Regular communication between the archaeological contractor, the DCC Archaeology Section 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.

- Pottery and ceramic building material (Rob Young; Alex Croom; Paul Bidwell; Andy Sage)
- Bone (Louisa Gidney)
- Flint (Rob Young)
- Metal work (David Dungworth)
- Industrial debris (David Dungworth)
- Environmental micro and macro fossils (Charlotte O'Brien ASDU)
- Residue analysis (ASDU)
- Radio carbon dating (ASDU/SUERRC)
- Any other analysis identified as necessary during the fieldwork or post excavation work

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 ClfA Guidelines for Finds Work (2014c) 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 final location for the site archive is County Durham Archaeological Archives.

10.2.2 Archiving work will be carried out compliance with the ClfA Guidelines for Archiving (2014d).

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.

10.3 Report

10.3.1 The HER requires one bound paper copy and one digital copy (in PDF/A compliant format) of the report.

10.3.2 The report will include the following as a minimum:

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 Reference number
- 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 Historic Environment 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

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

10.3.4 Post-Excavation Assessment Report

10.3.5 Should a significant archaeological site be located a post-excavation assessment report will include all the information necessary to make decisions about the future direction of the project in line with Historic England's Guidelines on the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015). The report will be submitted to the Durham DCC Archaeology Section for comment and approval prior to any further analysis or publication work commencing.

10.3.6 This document will be submitted within six months of the end of fieldwork unless previously agreed with all relevant parties.

10.3.7 The archaeological contractor will submit an updated specification for full analysis and publication in line with Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. An appropriate level of publication will then be agreed with Durham DCC Archaeology Section and will be prepared in line with Historic England's Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment. A short report of the work will be submitted to a local journal if appropriate.

10.4 OASIS

10.4.1 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 contractor will therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. A pdf copy of the report will be uploaded to Oasis within 3 months of its production.

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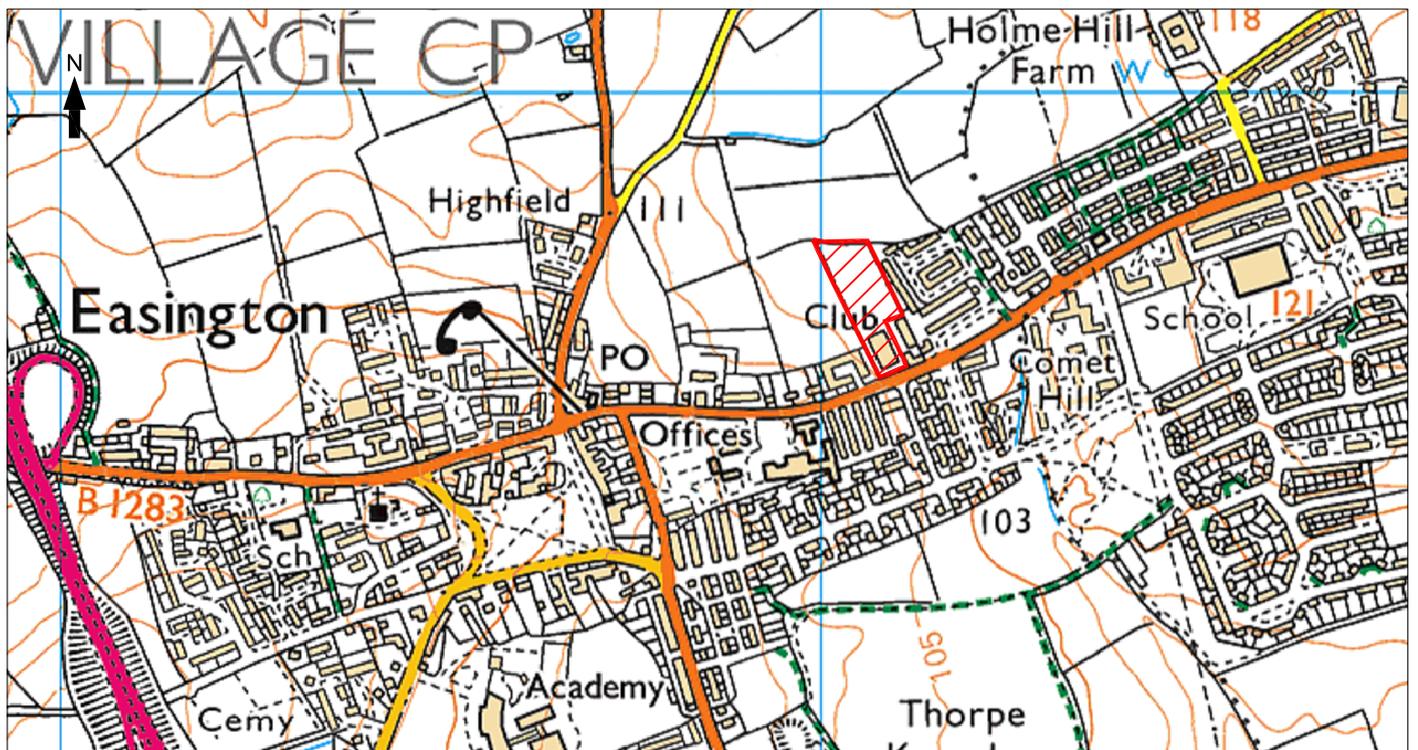


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Figure 1: Location of site

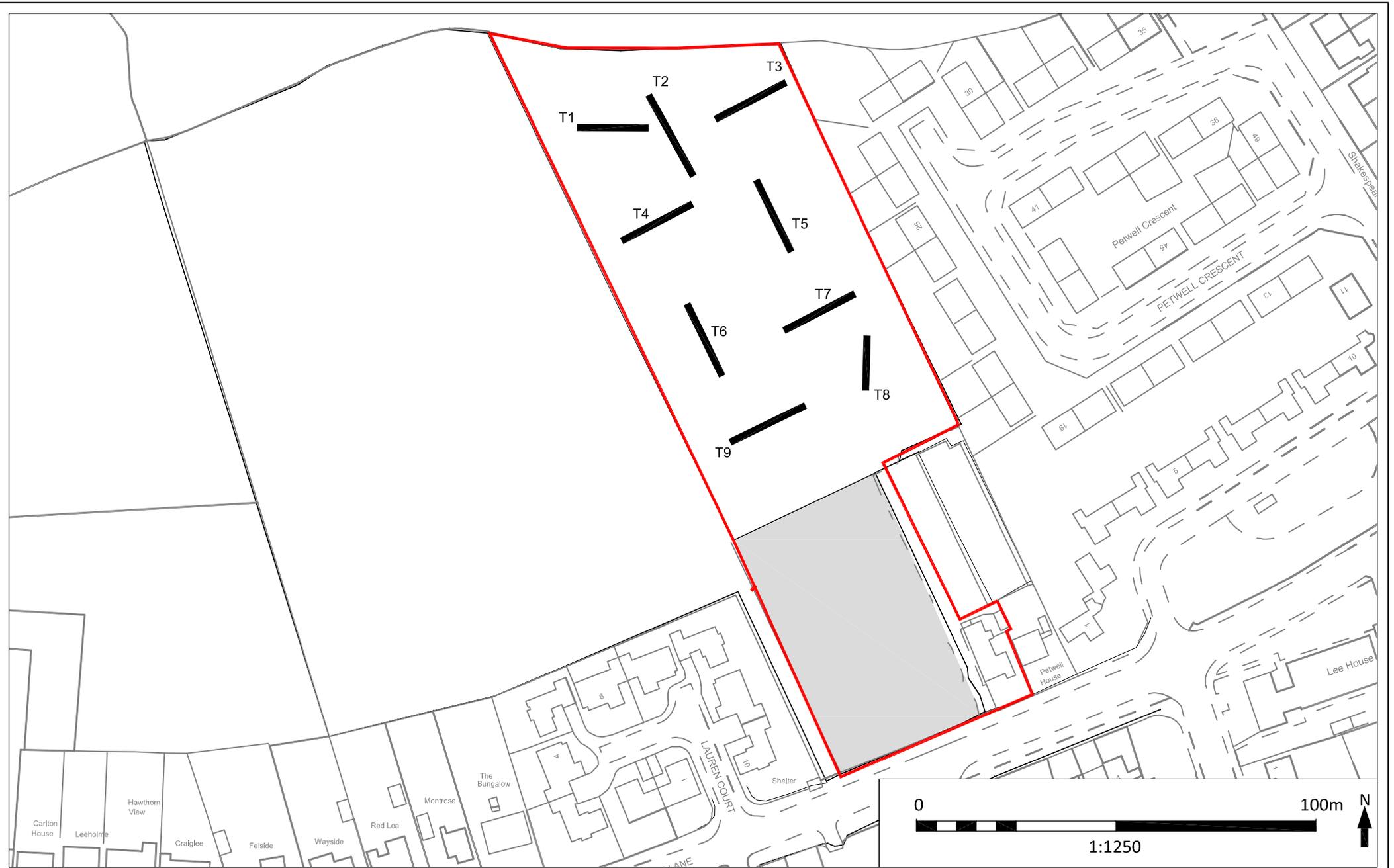


Figure 2: Trench plan at Easington WMC Site



Plate 1: Northern half of site looking south-east



Plate 2: Trench 1 looking east



Plate 3 Trench 2 looking NNW



Plate 4 Trench 3 looking ENE



Plate 5 Trench 4 looking WSW



Plate 6 Trench 5 looking NNW





Plate 7 Trench 7 looking ENE



Plate 8 Trench 9 looking ENE