**AD356**

# Land to the east of 33 Stannington Station Road

# Northumberland

## Archaeological Evaluation

| | |
|---|---|
| **Author** | Jonathan McKelvey |
| **Commissioned by** | Langly Estates Ltd |
| **Project Number** | 356 |
| **OASIS Number** | adarchae1-506971 |
| **Date** | May 2022 |

*For further information please contact:*

**AD Archaeology Ltd**

South Shields Business Works,
Henry Robson Way,
South Shields,
NE33 1RF
Office: 0191 603 0377
Email: info@adarchaeology.co.uk

## TABLE OF CONTENTS


| | |
|---|---|
| Executive Summary | 4 |
| 1. Introduction | 5 |
| 2. Archaeological and Historical Background | 6 |
| 3. Aims and Objectives | 8 |
| 4. Methodology | 8 |
| 5. Results of the Evaluation | 9 |
| 6. Discussion | 11 |
| 7. Bibliography | 12 |


### APPENDICES


| | |
|---|---|
| Appendix 1: Context List | 13 |
| Appendix 2: Written Scheme of Investigation | 14 |


### LIST OF FIGURES


Figure 1 Site Location
Figure 2 Trench location plan


### LIST OF PLATES


Plate 1 Trench 1 looking south
Plate 2 Trench 2 looking east
Plate 3 Trench 3 looking north-east
Plate 4 Trench 4 looking west
Plate 5 Trench 5 looking south-west
Plate 6 Trench 6 looking north-east

***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

*AD Archaeology was commissioned by Langly Estates Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land to the east of 33 Stannington Station Road prior to the construction of a proposed housing development. Two evaluation trenches were excavated in December 2020, with four further trenches being excavated in May 2022. No former ploughsoils or buried soils survived, the site having been cleared and utilised as a compound for an adjacent building site. No significant archaeological deposits or features were located in either phase of trenching. In view of these negative results no further archaeological work would be appropriate at the site.*

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 The Project

1.1.1 AD Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Langly Estates Ltd to undertake evaluation trenching in advance of a proposed housing development on land to the east of 33 Stannington Station Road, Northumberland. The archaeological works were undertaken in two phases, the first in week commencing 7th December 2020, with the second in week commencing 23rd May 2022.

## 1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site consists of part of a field to the east of 33 Stannington Station Road. The site is centred on NGR NZ 2159 8156 and is 0.35ha in area.

1.2.2 The bedrock geology of the site comprises Pennine Lower Coal Measures, formation mudstone, siltstone and sandstone. Sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 309 to 312 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. The bedrock is overlain by superficial deposits of Devensian glacial till formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period (BGS 2020).

## 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

## 2 Archaeological and Historical Background

### 2.1 Prehistoric and Romano/British Periods

2.1.1 There is a density of known and suspected prehistoric settlements within the immediate area, with a cluster of well-defined rectilinear enclosures centred on an area 500m to the south-east of the site (HER 11700). These were initially observed by MacLauchlan in 1867. At a distance of 400m south of the level crossing the railway line passes through a rectilinear enclosure, 90m by 70m in size. To the north-east of this are two others at 50m and 100m distant, the former is 40m by 40m, the latter 60m by 60m. Due east of the latter at 330m distance is a fourth, 90m square with attached annexe to the east. When these were first observed by MacLauchlan each enclosure had a rampart and ditch. An additional site was identified by Jobey in the 1960s. However, these earthworks have been greatly reduced by ploughing in the 20th Century and now are only partially visible as superficial ditches. The two best preserved enclosures have the sub-rectangular form and general proportions of late prehistoric (Iron Age/ Romano-British) rectilinear enclosures, together with the characteristic east-facing entrance. The other three enclosures are more poorly preserved and less distinct, but it seems reasonable to assume that they are probably contemporary, and that the complex represents an extensive settlement.

2.1.2 In 2005 a pipeline route was cut in between this complex of enclosures. Subsequent to a desk –based assessment (TWM 2003) and an evaluation (TWM 2004) a route was determined that would minimise the impact to the grouping of prehistoric enclosures. A number of ditches and gullies associated with the prehistoric activity were identified and recorded probably forming elements of late prehistoric/Romano-British field systems. A stone quern was also recovered from the topsoil dating from the Iron Age/Romano-British period. Subsequently a watching brief was carried out along the pipeline route for the Stannington Water Treatment Works in April 2005. A concentration of archaeological features was identified at the northern end of the route.

2.1.3 Three possible cropmarks have been identified from aerial photography in the vicinity of Moor Farm Estate (HER 13866; HER 13867 and HER 13868) immediately to the north and west of the development site. A rectilinear enclosure (HER 28634) is visible on aerial photographs 200m north of the site cut by the North East Mainline railway line. The western side and parts of the north and south side can be seen, the eastern part of the enclosure is likely to have been destroyed during the construction of the railway line.

2.1.4 A rectilinear enclosure with possible internal round house and a ditch to the south (HER 28633) are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs 250m south-west of the site. These features are located in a field to the immediate south of

Stannington Station Road and east of Furrow Grove. The enclosure measures approximately 51x49m, the possible round house gully has a diameter of approximately 9m.

2.1.5 A rectilinear enclosure (HER 28635) south-west of Clifton Lane Farm has been identified on an aerial photograph 900m north-west of the site. This enclosure measures 61x57m. A rectilinear enclosure and possible field boundary (HER 28691) are also visible as cropmarks on air photos at this location.

2.1.6 A rectilinear enclosure (HER 22750) has been identified on the basis of aerial photography 600m south-west of the site.

2.1.7 A small ditch (HER 29085) was discovered during evaluation trenching on land east of 63 Stannington Station Road 450m east of the site. It was oriented NNW-SSE and a 5m length was exposed. It measured 1.1m wide with an average depth of 0.45m and had a pale grey fill and is thought likely to be of prehistoric origin.

2.2 Medieval Period

2.2.1 The study site lies 2km north of Stannington village, which was probably the main medieval settlement in the immediate area. At a distance of 600m to the north of the site is the deserted medieval village of Hepscott (HER 11710). To the east of the site was the medieval village of Twisle, first referred to in the Boldon Book of 1183. In view of this density of medieval settlements it is probable that the study site was under arable usage during this period and not built upon.

2.3 Post-Medieval and Victorian Periods

2.3.1 Armstrong's map (1769) is the first to show the study area in some detail. The site lies to the east of East Moor Farm which is shown in the area of modern Stannington Station. The First Ordnance Survey (1866) shows the area of the site in greater detail. The North-Eastern Railway Line (HER 27519) has been constructed by this time and the railway line runs 300m to the east of the site. The Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey 1961 shows the rapid development of the village of Stannington Station during the mid-twentieth century. Terraces and a range of houses and structures are depicted on either side of Station Road, both to east and west of the railway line.

## 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 County Archaeology Officer and was undertaken in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation. Two trenches 17m by 1.8m in size and 14m x 1.8m were excavated in December 2020 (green on Fig. 2). Four further trenches (20m by 1.8m in size) in the western and southern sectors of the site were excavated in May 2022 (blue on Fig. 2), following the removal of cabins and spoil heaps.

## 5 RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION

### 5.1 Trench 1 (Fig. 2; Plate 1)

5.1.1 Trench 1, which was 17m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-south and located in the northern sector of the site. The natural subsoil (101) consisted of a yellow sandy clay and was located at a depth of 0.49m BGL (60.39mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a 0.49m deep black loam topsoil (100). In the central area of the trench was a 2m wide brick and concrete foundation (102) from a modern outbuilding. The outbuilding was constructed on a 0.10m deep concrete plinth with north and south brick walls surviving up to 2 courses in height. No significant archaeological features were located in the trench.

### 5.2 Trench 2 (Fig. 2; Plate 2)

5.2.1 Trench 2, which was 14m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the north-eastern corner of the site. The natural subsoil (201) consisted of a yellow sandy clay and was located at a depth of 0.32m BGL (60.05mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a 0.32m deep black loam topsoil (200). No significant archaeological features were located in the trench.

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

5.3.1 Trench 3, which was 20m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the south-western corner of the site. The natural subsoil (302) consisted of a yellow-brown sandy clay and was located at a depth of 0.55m BGL (60.25mAOD). The natural subsoil was overlain by a black loam topsoil (300), containing modern building debris, up to 0.55m in depth. In the northern half of the trench overlying the natural subsoil (302) was a 0.30m deep layer of compacted gravel, brick fragments and sandstone fragments (301), representing a former compound surface. No significant archaeological features were located in the trench.

### 5.4 Trench 4 (Fig. 2; Plate 4)

5.4.1 Trench 4, which was 20m by 1.8m in size, was oriented east-west and located in the western sector of the site. The natural subsoil (402) consisted of a yellow-brown sandy clay and was located at a depth of 0.37m BGL (60.57mAOD). The natural subsoil (402) was overlain by a 0.37m deep layer of compacted gravel, brick fragments and sandstone fragments (400), representing a former compound surface. At the western end of the trench was the remnant of an east-west stone plinth (401) 0.30m in width for a modern brick garden or yard wall. No significant archaeological features were located in the trench.

### 5.5 Trench 5 (Fig. 2; Plate 5)

5.5.1 Trench 5, which was 20m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the north-western corner of the site. The natural subsoil (501) consisted of a yellow-brown sandy clay and was located at a depth of 0.20m BGL (60.63mAOD). The natural subsoil (501) was overlain by a 0.20m deep layer of compacted gravel, brick fragments and sandstone fragments (500), representing a former compound surface. No significant archaeological features were located in the trench.

### 5.6 Trench 6 (Fig. 2; Plate 6)

5.6.1 Trench 6, which was 20m by 1.8m in size, was oriented north-east/south-west and located in the south-eastern area of the site. The natural subsoil (601) consisted of a yellow sandy clay and was located at a depth of 0.50m (60.07mAOD)-0.90m BGL. The natural subsoil (601) was overlain by a 0.50-0.90m deep layer of black loam topsoil (600) containing building debris with concentrations of brick rubble. No significant archaeological features were located in the trench.

## 6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Two evaluation trenches were excavated in December 2020, with four further trenches being excavated in May 2022. No former ploughsoils or buried soils survived, the site having been cleared and utilised as a compound for an adjacent building site. No significant archaeological deposits or features were located in either phase of trenching. In view of these negative results no further archaeological work would be appropriate at the site.

## 7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AD Archaeology 2015 (McKelvey, J.) Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land at Station Road, Stannington Station

BGS 2020 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain viewer

**APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS**

| Context | Depth | Description |
|---|---|---|
| 100 | 0.49m | Trench 1- Topsoil |
| 101 | - | Trench 1-Natural subsoil |
| 102 | 0.10m | Trench 1 -Modern brick and concrete foundation |
| 200 | 0.32m | Trench 2- Topsoil |
| 201 | - | Trench 2-Natural subsoil |
| 300 | 0.55m | Trench 3- Topsoil |
| 301 | 0.30m | Trench 3- Compound surface |
| 302 | - | Trench 3- Natural subsoil |
| 400 | 0.37m | Trench 4- Compound surface |
| 401 | 0.20m | Trench 4- Modern garden/yard wall foundation |
| 402 | - | Trench 4- Natural subsoil |
| 500 | 0.20m | Trench 5- Compound surface |
| 501 | - | Trench 5- Natural subsoil |
| 600 | 0.90m | Trench 6- Topsoil |
| 601 | - | Trench 6- Natural subsoil |

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION OF LAND TO THE EAST OF 33 STANNINGTON STATION ROAD, NORTHUMBERLAND**

## 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 to the east of 33 Stannington Station Road, Northumberland.

1.2 The site consists of part of a field to the east of 33 Stannington Station Road. The site is centred on NGR NZ 2159 8156 and is 0.35ha in area.

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 (NPPF 2018). The Framework identifies that the planning system should perform 'an environmental role', contributing to and protecting the built and historic environment and that the pursuit of 'sustainable development' includes seeking improvements to the built, natural and historic environment.

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 the understanding of the asset to be lost in a manner appropriate to the significance of the asset. The evidence (and any archive) generated as part of the plan making process should be made publically accessible; copies of the evidence generated should be deposited with the relevant Historic Environment Record and archives with the relevant museum.

1.5 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". This Written Scheme of Investigation relates to the field evaluation stage of the project.

## 2 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.1 Prehistoric and Romano/British Periods

2.1.1 There is a density of known and suspected prehistoric settlements within the immediate area, with a cluster of well-defined rectilinear enclosures centred on an area 500m to the south-east of the site (HER 11700). These were initially observed by MacLauchlan in 1867. At a distance of 400m south of the level crossing the railway line passes through a rectilinear enclosure, 90m by 70m in size. To the north east of this are two others at 50m and 100m distant, the former is 40m by 40m, the latter 60m by 60m. Due east of the latter at 330m distance is a fourth, 90m square with attached annexe to the east. When these were first observed by MacLauchlan each enclosure had a rampart and ditch. An additional site was

identified by Jobey in the 1960s. However, these earthworks have been greatly reduced by ploughing in the 20th Century and now are only partially visible as superficial ditches. The two best preserved enclosures have the sub-rectangular form and general proportions of late prehistoric (Iron Age/ Romano-British) rectilinear enclosures, together with the characteristic east-facing entrance. The other three enclosures are more poorly preserved and less distinct, but it seems reasonable to assume that they are probably contemporary, and that the complex represents an extensive settlement.

2.1.2 In 2005 a pipeline route was cut in between this complex of enclosures. Subsequent to a desk –based assessment (TWM 2003) and an evaluation (TWM 2004) a route was determined that would minimise the impact to the grouping of prehistoric enclosures. A number of ditches and gullies associated with the prehistoric activity were identified and recorded probably forming elements of late prehistoric/Romano-British field systems. A stone quern was also recovered from the topsoil dating from the Iron Age/Romano-British period. Subsequently a watching brief was carried out along the pipeline route for the Stannington Water Treatment Works in April 2005. A concentration of archaeological features was identified at the northern end of the route.

2.1.3 Three possible cropmarks have been identified from aerial photography in the vicinity of Moor Farm Estate (HER 13866; HER 13867 and HER 13868) immediately to the north and west of the development site. A rectilinear enclosure (HER 28634) is visible on aerial photographs 200m north of the site cut by the NE Mainline railway line. The western side and parts of the north and south side can be seen, the eastern part of the enclosure is likely to have been destroyed during the construction of the railway line.

2.1.4 A rectilinear enclosure with possible internal round house and a ditch to the south (HER 28633) are visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs 250m south-west of the site. These features are located in a field to the immediate south of Stannington Station Road and east of Furrow Grove. The enclosure measures approximately 51x49m, the possible round house gully has a diameter of approximately 9m.

2.1.5 A rectilinear enclosure (HER 28635) south-west of Clifton Lane Farm has been identified on an aerial photograph 900m north-west of the site. This enclosure measures 61x57m. A rectilinear enclosure and possible field boundary (HER 28691) are also visible as cropmarks on air photos at this location.

2.1.6 A rectilinear enclosure (HER 22750) has been identified on the basis of aerial photography 600m south-west of the site.

2.1.7 A small ditch (HER 29085) was discovered during evaluation trenching on land east of 63 Stannington Station Road 450m east of the site. It was oriented NNW-SSE

and a 5m length was exposed. It measured 1.1m wide with an average depth of 0.45m and had a pale grey fill and is thought likely to be of prehistoric origin.

2.2 Early-Medieval Period

2.2.1 The HER does not record any known features of early-medieval date on the development site itself. The place names of Stannington, Bedlington, Cramlington all include the Old English-ingastun element, which is suggestive of a Middle Saxon (7th-8th Century) origin.

2.3 Medieval Period

2.3.1 The study site lies 2km north of Stannington village, which was probably the main medieval settlement in the immediate area. At a distance of 600m to the north of the site is the deserted medieval village of Hepscott (HER 11710). To the east of the site was the medieval village of Twisle, first referred to in the Boldon Book of 1183. There is also documentary evidence for a manorial settlement at Plessey dating from 13th-14th Century with a mill (HER 11446) and Chapel (HER 11430). Hartford Bridge was also a centre of medieval settlement.

2.3.2 In view of this density of medieval settlements it is probable that the study site was under arable usage during this period and not built upon. Evidence of ridge and furrow agriculture of medieval and post-medieval date has been identified at a number of sites (HER 22756; HER 22748; HER 22749 and HER22750) within 1km of the site.

2.4 Post-Medieval and Victorian Periods

2.4.1 Armstrong's map (1769) is the first to show the study area in some detail. The site lies to the east of East Moor Farm which is shown in the area of modern Stannington Station. The First Ordnance Survey (1866) shows the area of the site in greater detail. The North-Eastern Railway Line (HER 27519) has been constructed by this time and the railway line runs 500m to the west of the site. The Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey 1961 shows the rapid development of the village of Stannington Station during the mid-twentieth century. Terraces and a range of houses and structures are depicted on either side of Station Road, both to east and west of the railway line.

2.4.2 A number of recent evaluation exercises have been undertaken at Stannington Station Road. At Stannington and Birchwood Nurseries (HER 15951) 300m east of the site no significant archaeological features were located (ASDU 2017). Four evaluation trenches immediately to the west of the site (HER 16243) produced no significant archaeological features (ASDU 2018). Inspection of a site 400m south-west of the site that had been used as a hardstanding produced no evidence for archaeological features (HER 16266) (ASDU 2018). Evaluation trenching 200m south-west of the site (HER 16283) produced no evidence for archaeological features (Addyman Archaeology 2018). A small ditch (HER 29085) of likely prehistoric date was discovered during evaluation trenching on land east of 63

Stannington Station Road 450m east of the site (AD Archaeology 2018). Evaluation trenching 200m south-west of the site produced no evidence of archaeological features (AD Archaeology 2019). Evaluation trenching 400m to the west at 15 Stannington Station Road (AD Archaeology 2020) only produced evidence of post-medieval field boundaries, with no prehistoric features present.

## 3 Required Course of Action

3.1 The total area of the site is 0.35ha. It is proposed that 6 trenches (20m by 1.8m in size) representing a c.6% trenching sample (216sqm out of 0.35ha) are excavated as set out on the attached plan. Some on-site alteration of trenches may be required to avoid disturbing or blocking access routes, however the principle of obtaining a representative sample across the area of the site will be maintained.

3.2 Any variation or alteration to the trench scheme would require approval by NCCCT. Contingency trenching of up to a further 1% sample trenches has been defined. The contingency would only be drawn upon, following discussions and agreement 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.

3.3 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 NCCCT, although some on site alteration may be required (see 3.1).

## 4 General Standards

4.1 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (CIfA 2014a) and will follow the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2014b). 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 The Great North Museum will be contacted to discuss archiving, should significant archaeological features be recorded.

5.3 An environmental sampling strategy in accordance with the previous advice of the Historic England 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 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.

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 Historic England 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 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 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 digital photographs and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept. The photographic record will be sent to ADS York if appropriate in an approved format to be stored as part of their electronic archive.

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:

• 30l 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 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 identifed). 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 NCCCT. Analysis of environmental sampling and radiocarbon dating will be required should significant archaeological deposits be located. Costs for sampling and dating should be clearly stated as contingencies in costings for the evaluation. In principle palaeoenvironmental 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 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. Up to 2

monitoring visits will be made by the County Archaeologists or his/her nominee, any further visits will be made at the request of the client. The first site monitoring visit will be free and those after that will be charged for time and travel by NCCCT.

9.3 Regular communication between the contractor, 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 CIfA Guidelines for Finds Work (IFA 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.

**11.1 Site Archive**

11.1.1 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.

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

11.1.3 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.

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

11.2 Report

11.2.1 NCCCT requires one digital copy (in Word or PDF format) of the report.

11.2.2 The report will include the following as a minimum:

The report will include the following as a minimum:

• Planning application numbers, NCCCT reference, OASIS reference numbers and an 8 figure grid reference

• A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000. 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

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

**12 OASIS**

12.1 NCCCT supports 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.

12.2 The archaeological contractor will therefore 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, 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

**13 Publication**

13.1 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.

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

## 14 BIBLIOGRAPHY

AD Archaeology 2015 (McKelvey, J.) Archaeological Desk-based Assessment of land at Stannington Station Road

AD Archaeology 2019 (McKelvey, J.) Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to 27 Stannington Station Road

AD Archaeology 2020 (McKelvey, J.) Archaeological Evaluation of land adjacent to 15 Stannington Station Road

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists, 2014a, Code of Conduct

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists, 2014b, Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists, 2014c Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials

Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists, 2014d Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives

English Heritage, 1995 A strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds

Historic England, 2015. Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment

National Planning Policy Framework 2018

Petts D., Gerrard C., 2006 SHARED VISIONS: the North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment

UKIC ,1993 Packaging and Storage of Freshly Excavated Artefacts from Archaeological Sites

Wilkinson, D. & Neal, V. 2001 First Aid for Finds

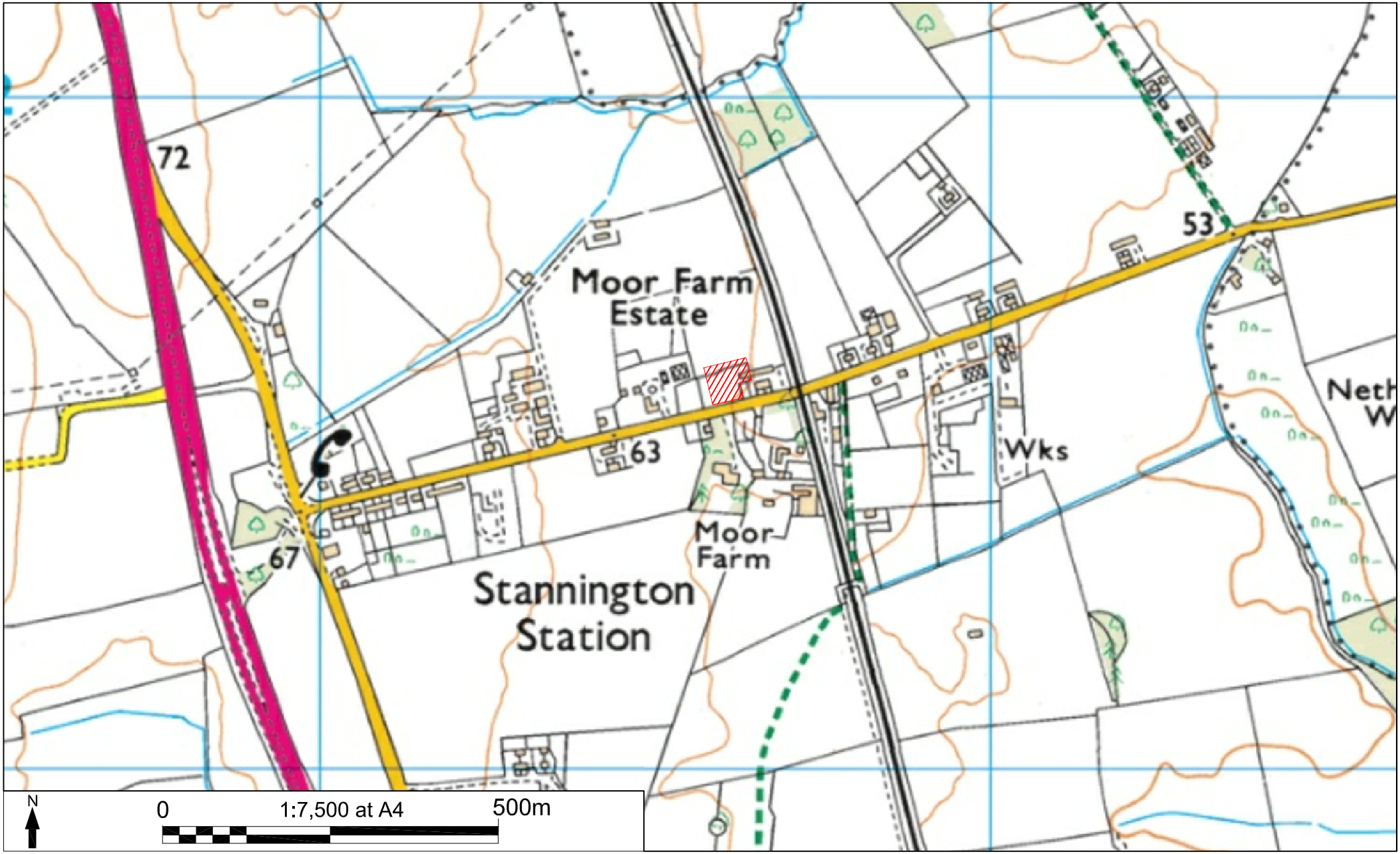


Figure 1: Site location plan

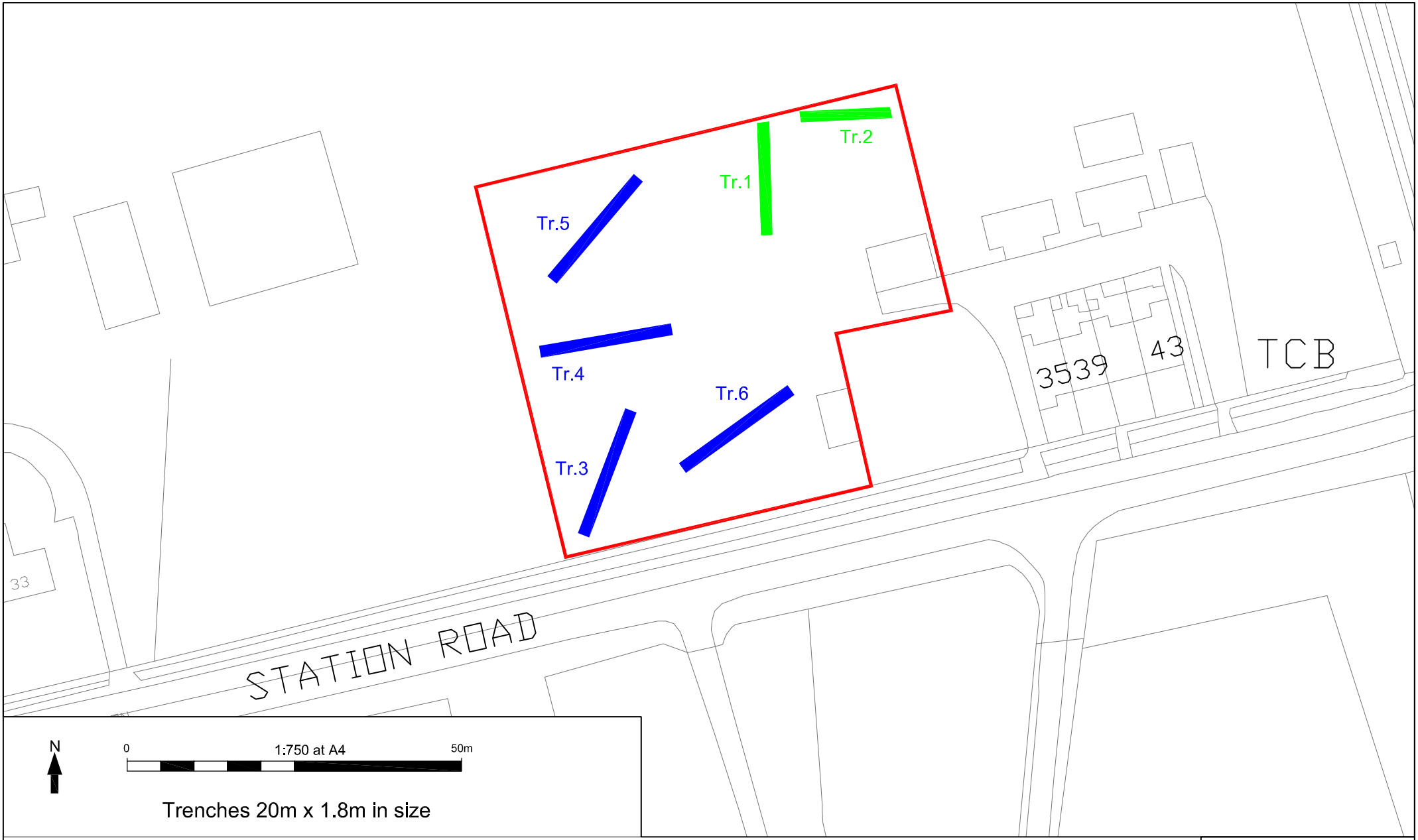




Figure 2: Trench location plan (green trenches excavated previously)

AD Archaeology Ltd


Plate 1: Trench 1 looking south

Plate 2: Trench 2 looking east

Plate 3: Trench 3 looking north-east

Plate 4: Trench 4 looking west

Plate 5: Trench 5 looking south-west

Plate 6: Trench 6 looking north-east