

NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES LTD
MINSTER QUARTER, SUNDERLAND
Negative Watching Brief Report

Site name: Minster Quarter, Sunderland **Grid reference:** NZ 3927 5711
District: Bishopwearmouth **County:** Tyne and Wear
Administrative authority: Tyne and Wear **Development:** Road construction
Client: negative watching brief report **Contractor:** ESH Construction
Planning application reference: N/A
Site supervisor: Eddie Dougherty **Project manager:** Matthew Town
Fieldwork Date(s): 01/03/2019 **NAA project number:** 1451 **Site code:** MQS18
NAA report number: 19-28 **Report date:** 01 April 2019
OASIS number: northern1-344859

Reasons for watching brief

Due to the proximity of known prehistoric, Roman and medieval remains, archaeological monitoring was required during ground disturbance associated with the building of a new road between Eden Street West and St. Mary's Boulevard, Sunderland (Fig. 1) (TWAS 2018). The archaeological monitoring was carried out during the building of a new road between Eden Street West and St Mary's Boulevard, after the demolition of a redundant building neighbouring Gilbridge House Police Station. This segment of the scheme of works involved the reinforcing a bell mouth leading from St Mary's Boulevard to an existing carpark at the rear of the decommissioned Gilbridge House Police Station.

Results

A single irregular shaped trench was machined- excavated to a fairly, shallow depth within the area of investigation. Of the features and deposits present within the trench all where of a modern date. No significant archaeological features or deposits were encountered or disturbed.

The trench itself was conical in plan measuring 14.50m in length and 5.70m in width increasing to 9.00m, to a maximum depth of 0.60m. It was located in the northern part of the investigation

area between Wear View House and Gilbridge House Police Station. Within the trench, the natural geology was not observed at finished depth of 0.60m bgl. The earliest deposit within the trench comprised of firm dark grey silty clay which was only noticed in the southern extent of the trench (Plate 1). This was in-turn overlain two different sequences of activity. In the southern part of the trench, this material was covered by several deposits used to raise the ground level varying in composition from silty clay to dolomite. These deposits were subsequently cut by modern features, which comprised of a centrally positioned brick and concrete man-hole, neighboured by various service trenches, in which were contained utility pipes and ducting. These service-related features were in-turn sealed by a level spread of silty clay material. Cutting the surface of this material, to a shallow depth, was a temporary dolomite footpath aligned northeast-southwest. In comparison, the northern extent of the sequence consisted of tarmacadam sub-base followed by two overlying modern road surfaces (Plate 2). The upper of these two was in-turn sealed by a deposit of type 1 dolomite and firm silty clay. These two deposits were then overlain by features which make-up the present-day ground levels a modern flagged footpath and a bordering grass verge. No archaeological features were encountered, and no finds were recorded.

Documentation: Digital photographs

Archive deposition: NAA internal archive only

References

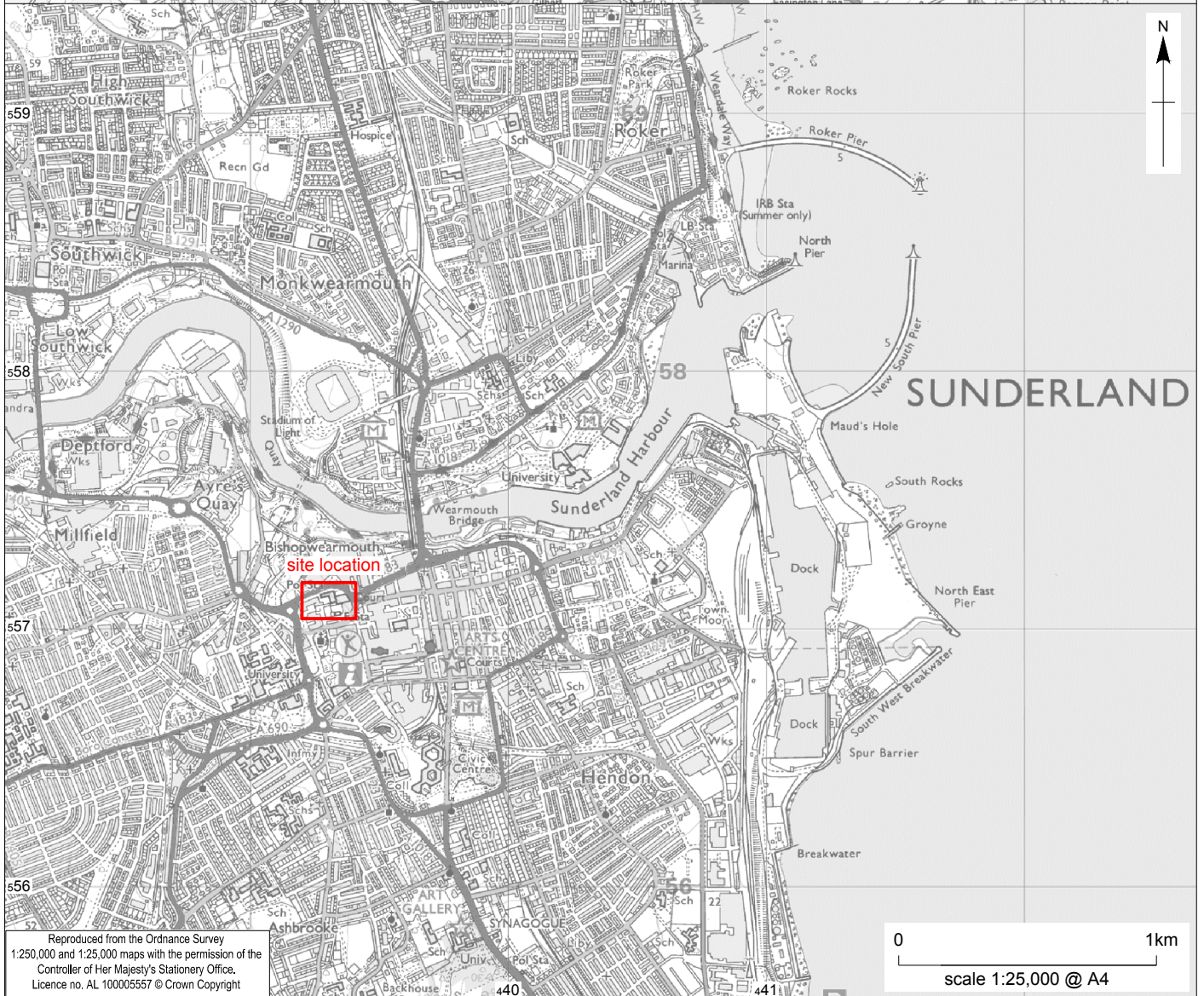
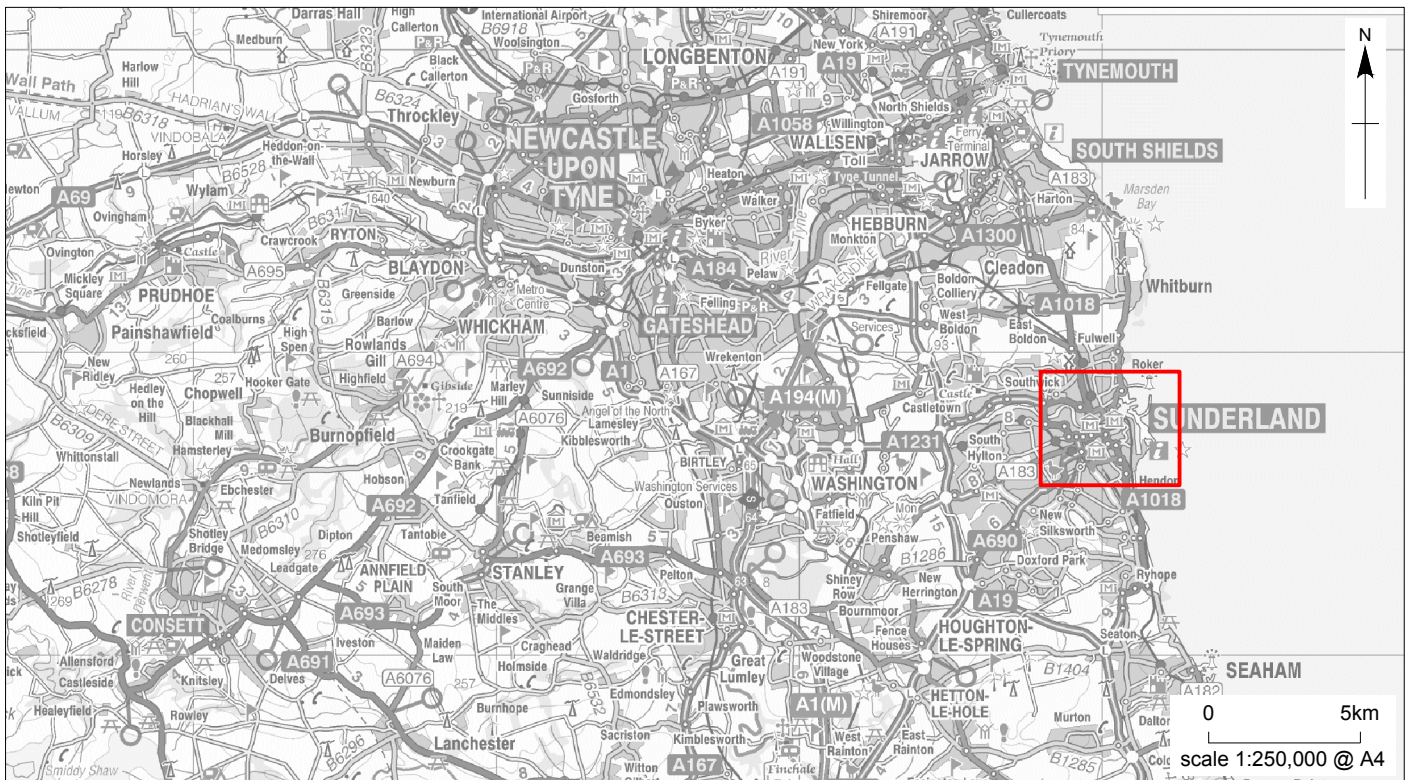
Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service (TWAS) (2018) *Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief at Garden Place and St. Mary's Boulevard, Bishopwearmouth, Sunderland*. Unpublished TWAS report.



Plate1: Southern extent of trench showing various services cutting the earliest deposits



Plate2: Northern extent of trench showing the sequence of tarmacadam road surfaces.

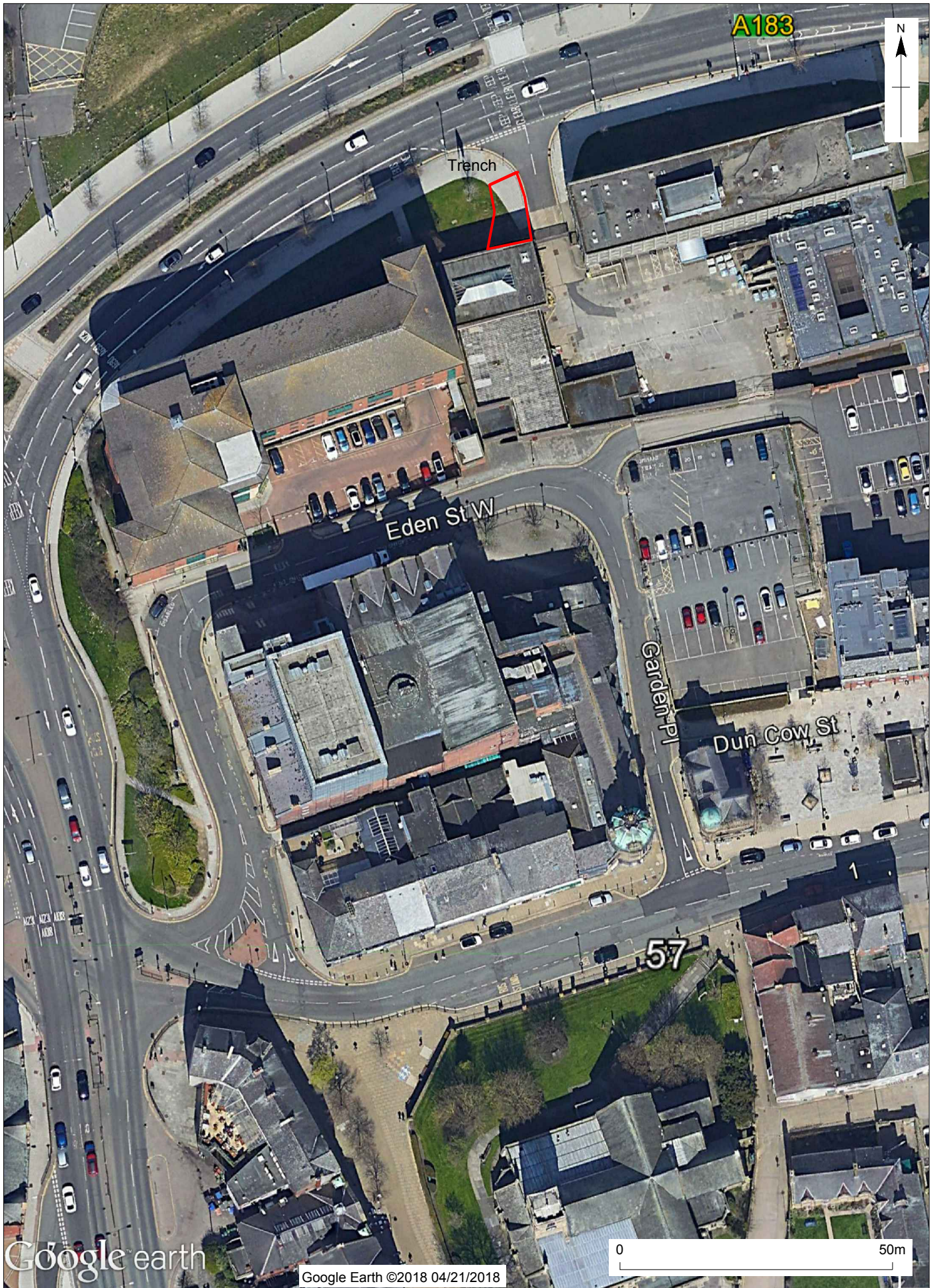


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Minster Quarter, Sunderland: site location

Figure 1



Minster Quarter, Sunderland: trench location

Figure 2