



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING

Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd

Marwood House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle

Co. Durham
DL12 8BN

t: 01833 690800

f: 01833 690801

e: oc@naa.gb.com

w: www.naa.gb.com

REPLACEMENT GAS MAIN

GLOUCESTER ROAD

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

on behalf of

Northern Gas Networks

Project No.: 1252

Text: Jeff Lowrey

Illustrations: Catherine Chisman and Kate Chapman

NAA 15/78
July 2015

NAA Document Authorisation

Project name		Westgate Road and Roman Way Junction		Project number	
Report title		Replacement Gas Main, Gloucester Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne: Archaeological Monitoring		1252	
Report No.		15/78			
Revision	Date	Filename	NAA_1252_Rpt_15-78_WB.pdf		
v.1	July2015	Description	Archaeological Monitoring Report		
			Prepared by	Edited by	Approved by
		Name	Jeff Lowrey	Oliver Cooper	Sarah Parker

This document has been approved for release by: *SP*

REPLACEMENT GAS MAIN, GLOUCESTER ROAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Summary

This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring during the replacement of a small section of gas main on the corner of Westgate Road and Gloucester Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. At this junction, Westgate Road follows the course of Hadrian's Wall.

The archaeological work was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd for RSK Group plc on behalf of Northern Gas Networks between 29 June and 9 July 2015.

The development was within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site (WHS), comprising the Wall and adjacent ditch, the Military Way and the Vallum, various sections of which are protected as Scheduled Monuments.

The area of archaeological monitoring comprised an 18.8m section of trenching along the east side of Gloucester Road, close to the predicted line of Hadrian's Wall.

Throughout the trench two successive layers of natural boulder clay were encountered, overlain by loose dark grey/black modern levelling material, with tarmac of the modern road completing the profile.

The monitoring did not identify an evidence of the remains of Hadrian's Wall or any associated defences or settlement, and no artefacts were observed.

The road was a 'pinch point' for services, and their associated backfills, so that the underlying deposits had experienced considerable previous disturbance. The northern limit of the trench was around 10m from the junction with Westgate Road, so it is possible that the wall lay further to the north.

REPLACEMENT GAS MAIN, GLOUCESTER ROAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring during the replacement of a small section of gas main on the corner of Westgate Road and Gloucester Road, Newcastle upon Tyne (NZ 23324 64250; Figure 1). At this junction, Westgate Road follows the course of Hadrian's Wall.
- 1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with The work was undertaken in accordance with a brief prepared by David Heslop, Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist. A Written Scheme of Investigation produced by RSK Group (RSK 2105) determined that, although the renewal works were of a small scale, they could produce significant new data that might contribute to the overall knowledge of Hadrian's Wall and its ongoing management.
- 1.3 The archaeological work was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd for RSK Group plc on behalf of Northern Gas Networks between 29 June and 9 July 2015.

2.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 Westgate Road is the principal road leading westwards from the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne (Figure 1). Gloucester Road runs south-eastwards from Westgate Road some 2km west of the city centre. The monitored excavations were located approximately 10m to the south of the junction on the eastern side of Gloucester Road (Figure 2).
- 2.2 Westgate Road ascends a relatively steep slope, rising from c. 30m OD in the city centre to a high point of approximately 125m OD at Benwell. Gloucester Road slopes gently down from Westgate Road at c. 102m OD.
- 2.3 The solid geology of the area consists of Carboniferous coal measures, with sandstone outcropping to the south of Benwell, and coal occurring at or near the surface for some distance to the west (BGS 1981). With the exception of the river terraces, comprising alluvium and sands and gravels, the drift geology consists of boulder clay (BGS 1977). The soils within the built-up areas are unmapped, but to the north-west there are slowly permeable fine loams of the Duneswick 1 association (Jarvis *et al.* 1984, 165–8).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The following is a summary taken from the WSI (RSK 2015). The development was within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site (WHS), comprising the wall and adjacent ditch, the Military Way and the Vallum, various sections of which are protected as Scheduled Monuments. Hadrian's Wall was constructed in the early 2nd century on a line between the Tyne and the Solway and represented, at various times, the northern frontier of Roman Britain.

3.2 The wall was a composite military barrier that, in its final form, comprised several separate elements: a stone wall fronted by a V-shaped ditch, and a number of purpose-built stone garrison fortifications such as forts, milecastles and turrets. A large earthwork and ditch, built parallel with and to the south of the wall (the Vallum), and a metalled supply road linking the garrison forts, known as the 'Roman Military Way' were also integral to the defensive system.

4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 The aims of the archaeological monitoring were to identify and record the presence and condition of any surviving archaeological features or deposits.

4.2 Based on the scheme's location, its archaeological potential and a review of the Hadrian's Wall Research Framework (Symonds and Mason n.d.), the following outline research questions were proposed:

- Is evidence of remains of the Wall or any features associated with it observable within the pipe trench and are these remains dateable?
- Has road construction removed all traces of the Wall at this location or have any remains survived its construction?
- What impact does the replacement of existing utilities services have on the survival of archaeological remains?
- What is the state of preservation of any remains encountered?
- Is there any evidence for archaeological features related to other elements of the Hadrian's Wall complex of military defensive installations?
- Is there any observable evidence for Romano-British civilian settlement activity within the vicinity of Hadrian's Wall?

5.0 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 Initial excavations were undertaken using a small 360° excavator, with additional hand-excavation around existing services, all under archaeological supervision.
- 5.2 The monitoring archaeologist was allowed sufficient time to examine, photograph and record the excavations.
- 5.3 No artefacts or palaeoenvironmental samples were recovered.

6.0 RESULTS

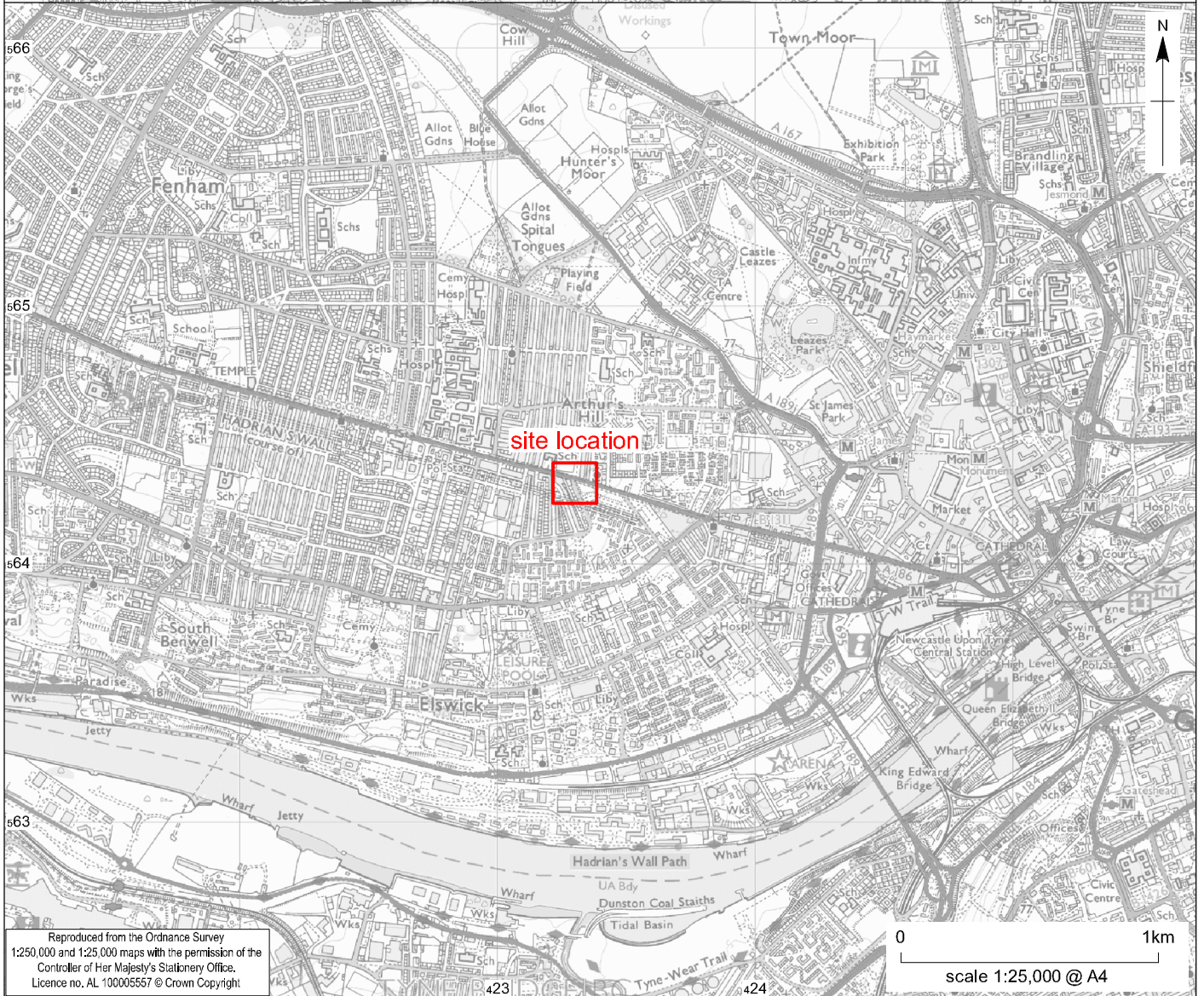
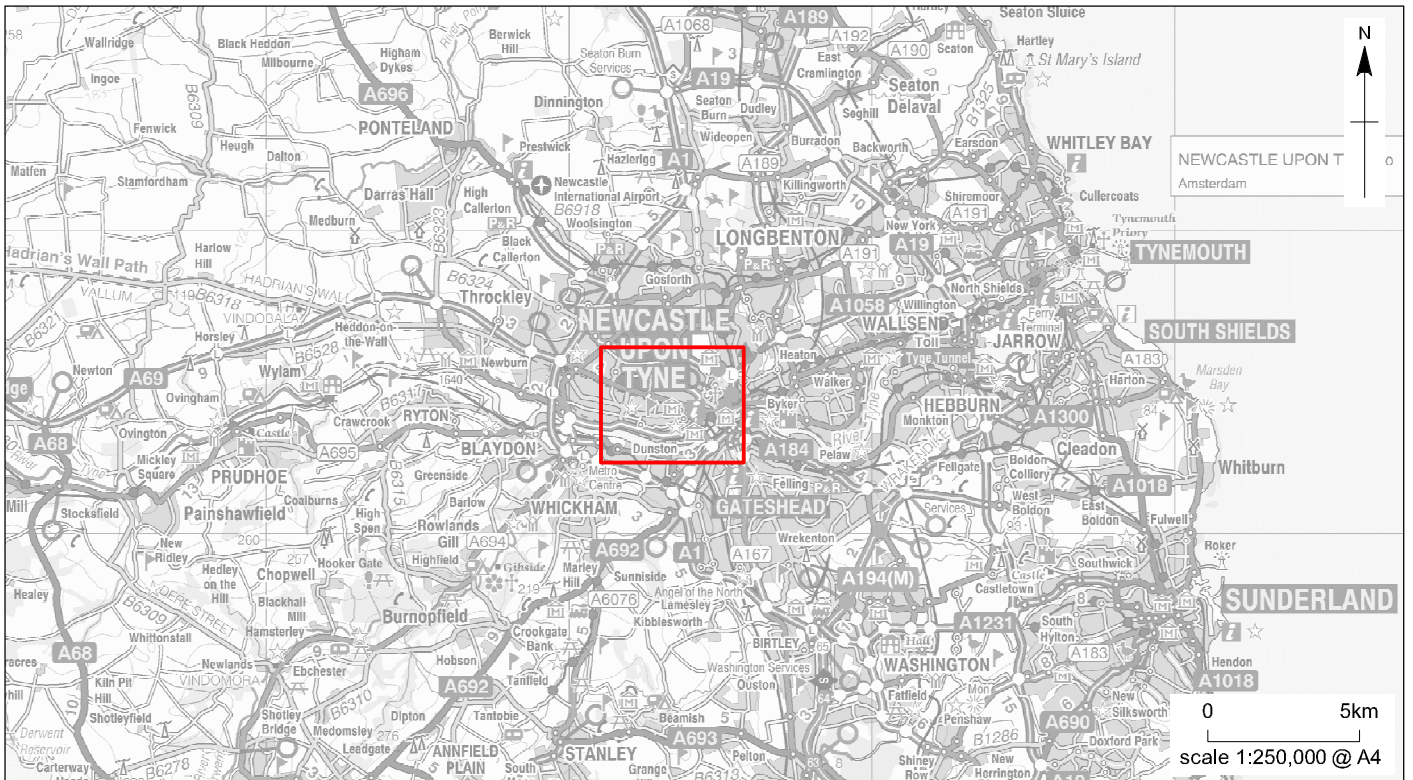
- 6.1 The area of archaeological monitoring comprised an 18.8m section of trenching along Gloucester Road, close to the predicted line of Hadrian's Wall. The trench was located on the east side of road (Plates 1 & 2) and averaged 1.9m wide and 1.62m deep and was relatively level throughout the length of the trench.
- 6.2 Throughout the trench two successive layers of natural boulder clay were encountered (Plate 3). The lower was located at a depth of 0.91m and was a mid/dark brown sandy, silty clay with frequent small angular stones, frequent flecks of orange and yellow mineralisation and very occasional inclusions of coal. The upper layer was a light brown sandy, silty clay with very little in the way of notable inclusions, located at a depth of 0.29m. Overlying this was up to 0.19m of loose dark grey/black modern levelling material, with tarmac of the modern road completing the profile. No archaeological features or artefacts were identified.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The monitoring did not identify an evidence of the remains of Hadrian's Wall or any associated defences or settlement, and no artefacts were observed.
- 7.2 The road was a 'pinch point' for services, and their associated backfills, so that the underlying deposits had experienced considerable previous disturbance. The northern limit of the trench was around 10m from the junction with Westgate Road, so it is possible that the wall lay further to the north.

References

- British Geological Survey (1977) *Geological Survey Ten-Mile Map, North Sheet Quaternary Edition* Geological Map
- British Geological Survey (1981) *1:250,000 Solid Edition, Tyne-Tees Sheet 54N 02W.* Geological map
- Jarvis, R.A., Bendelow, V.C., Bradley, R.I., Carroll, D.M., Furness, R.R., Kilgour, I.N.L. and King, S.J. (1984) *Soils and Their Use in Northern England.* Soil Survey of England and Wales Bulletin no. **10**
- RSK Group (2015) *Westgate Road and Roman Way Junction, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.* RSK report **P660580**
- Symonds, M. and D.J.P. Mason (Eds) (n.d.) *Frontiers of Knowledge: A Research Framework for Hadrian's Wall, Part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site.*

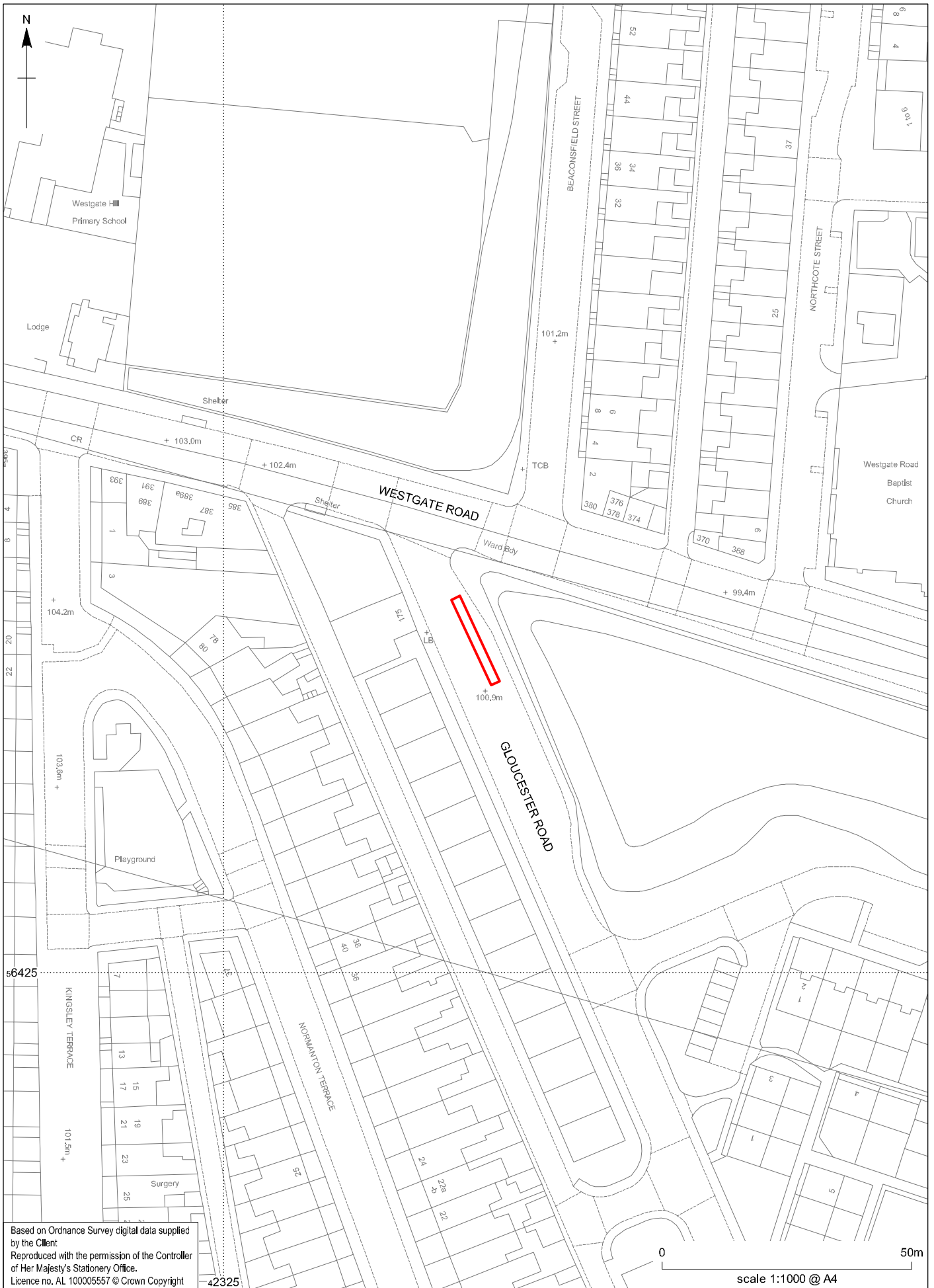


Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey
1:250,000 and 1:25,000 maps with the permission of the
Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
Licence no. AL 100005557 © Crown Copyright

©NAA 2015

Gloucester Road, Newcastle upon Tyne: site location

Figure 1



Based on Ordnance Survey digital data supplied by the Client
 Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
 Licence no. AL 100005557 © Crown Copyright

42325

©NAA 2015

Gloucester Road, Newcastle upon Tyne: trench location

scale 1:1000 @ A4

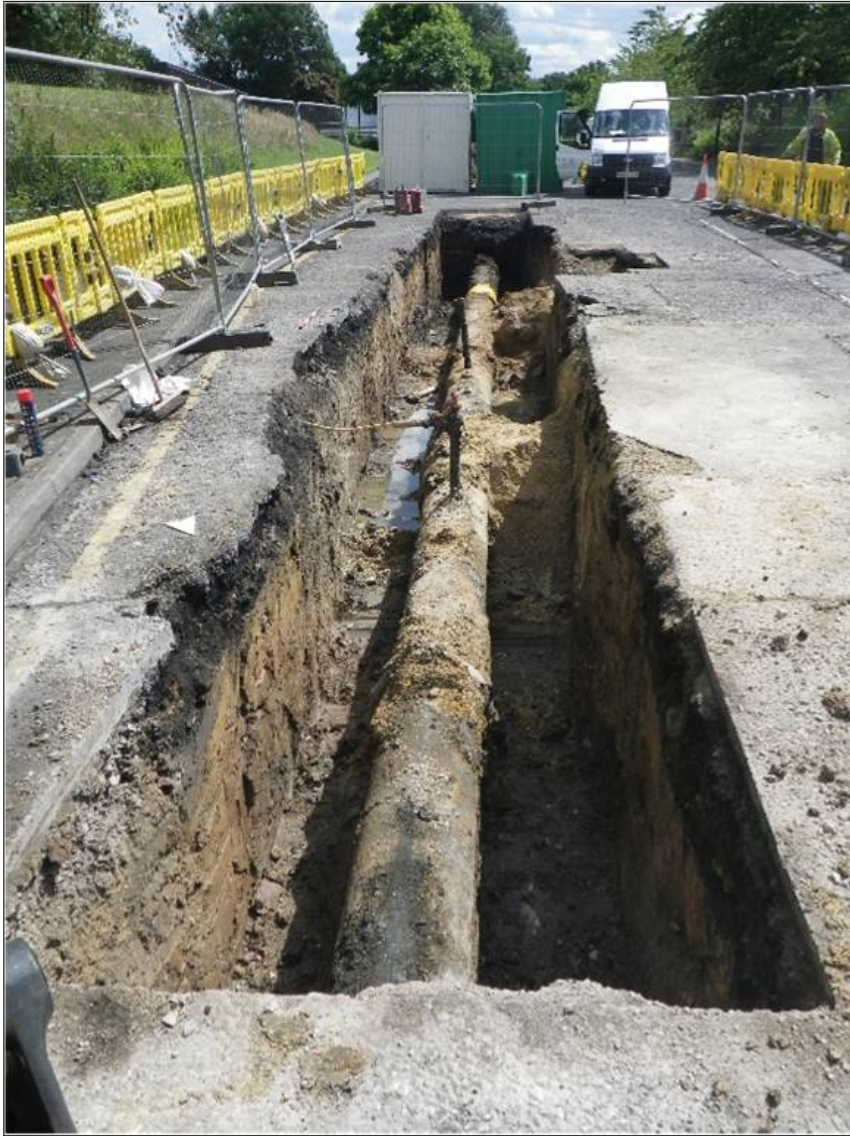
Figure 2



©NAA 2015

*Gloucester Road, Newcastle upon Tyne: north-west facing
section of the trench side*

Plate 3



©NAA 2015

Gloucester Road, Newcastle upon Tyne: south-west facing view of the trench Plate 1



©NAA 2015

Gloucester Road, Newcastle upon Tyne: north-east facing view of the trench Plate 2