

NORTHERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES
THE BLACK GATE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
NEGATIVE WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

Site name: The Black Gate, Newcastle **Grid reference:** NZ 2503 6391

Parish: **District:** Newcastle upon Tyne **County:** Tyne and Wear

Administrative authority: Newcastle upon Tyne City Council

Development: Investigation of existing gas main

Client: Northern Gas Networks

Planning application reference:

Site supervisor: Greg Speed

Project manager: Richard Fraser

Date: 5 June 2013

NAA project number: 1148

Site code: BGN13

Reasons for watching brief: Required under Scheduled Monument Consent (Ref. 500060098). The works were located within SM1020126 Newcastle upon Tyne Roman fort, Anglo-Saxon cemetery, motte and bailey castle and tower keep castle.

Results: The trench was located within the granite-sett roadway running southwards below the railway viaduct from the southern end of the (existing) timber-decked access to the southern side of The Black Gate (Figs. 1 and 2; Plate 1). The northern end of the trench was located 1.3m from the end of the timber deck (Plate 2), and it ran for 5.65m along the centre-line of the roadway. All excavation was undertaken by the gas contractors. The setts and an underlying concrete skim were removed in a c.1m wide strip to a depth of c.0.2m. Below this, the trench was excavated for a width of 0.6m to a maximum depth of 0.60m below modern ground level (bgl.). The top of the gas main lay at a depth of 0.50m bgl. (Plate 3).

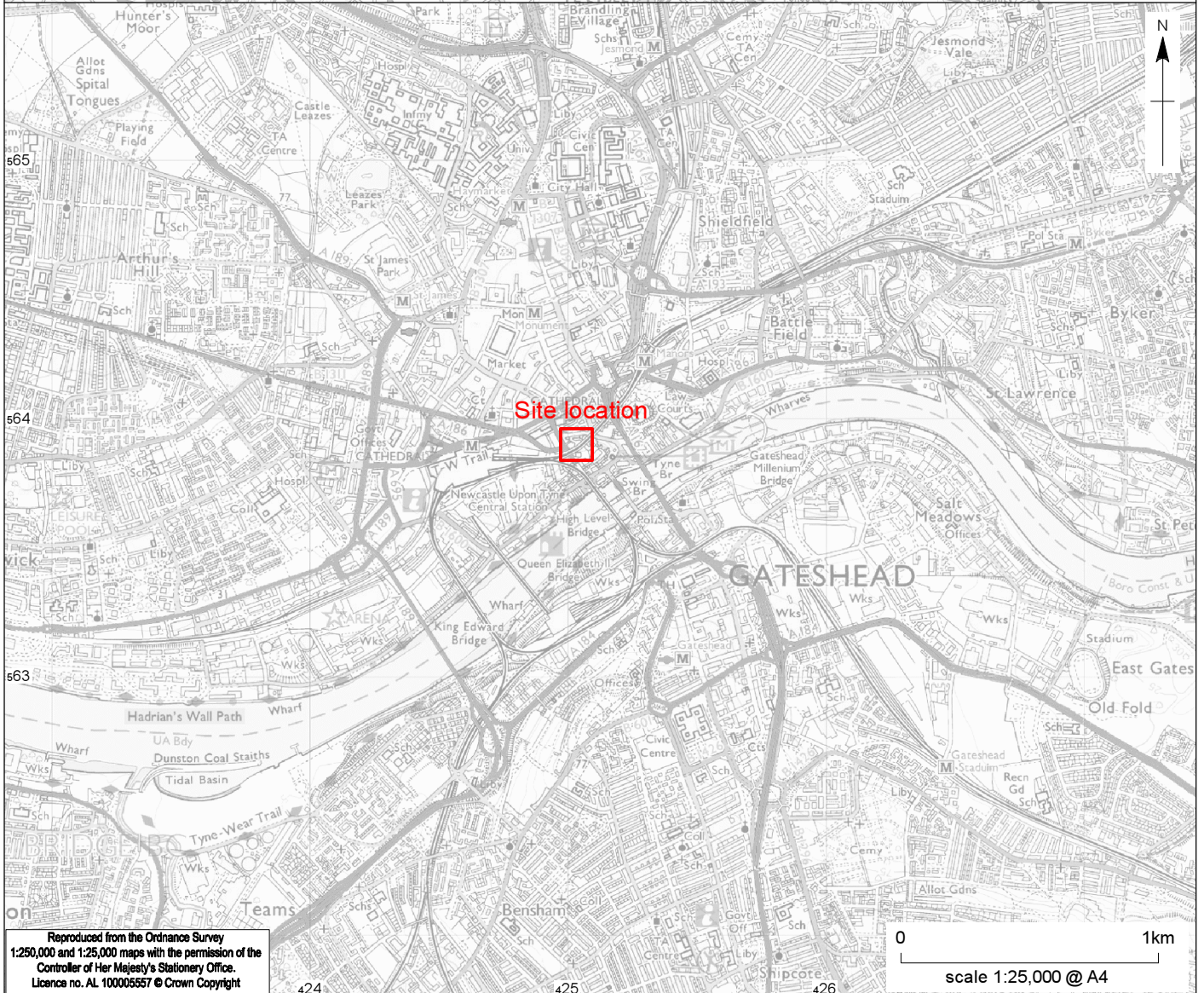
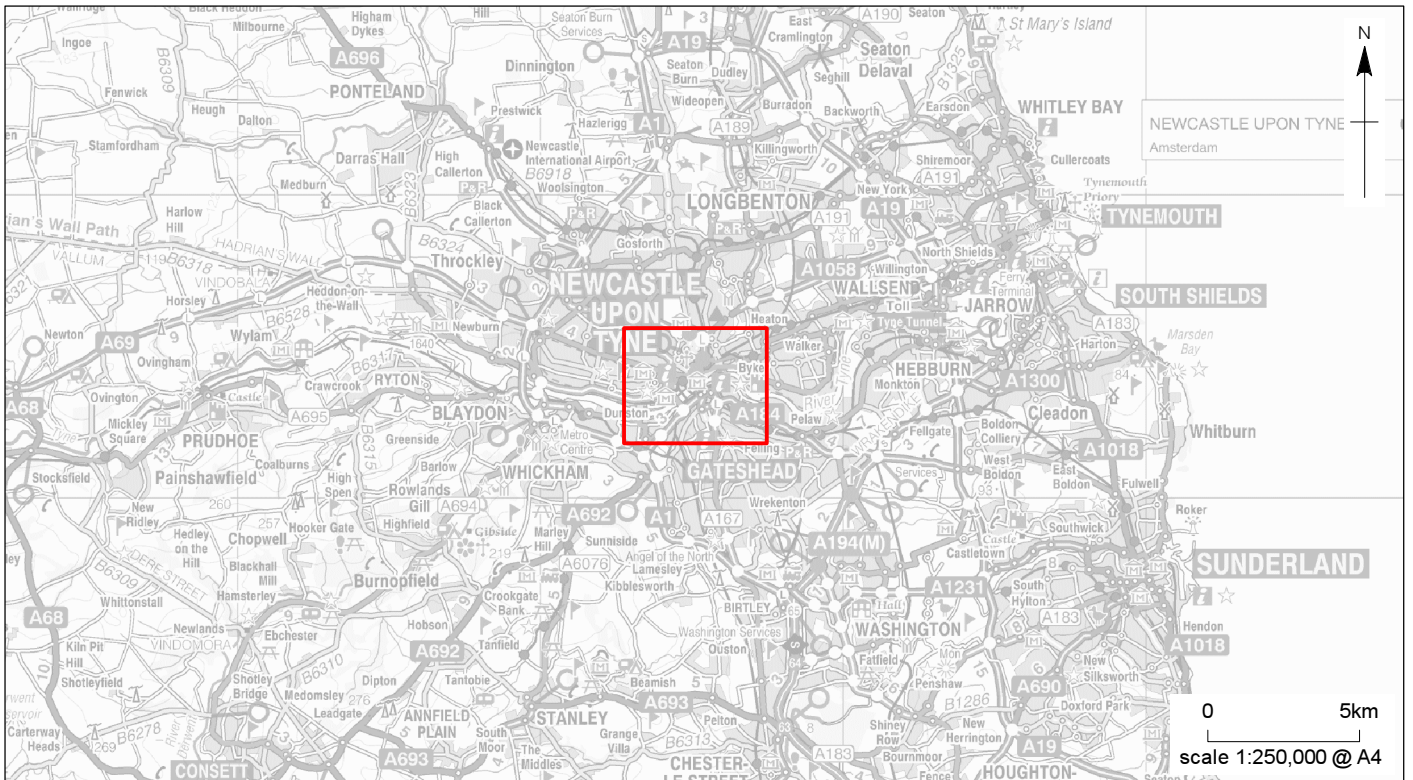
As a result of previous repairs and modifications, the existing pipe was plastic at either end of the trench with several short sections of older iron pipe between; these modifications were reflected in the overlying backfill materials. The plastic sections to either end were covered with sandy small yellow-brown gravel containing post-1970s litter (Coke cans, polystyrene cups etc). The older central sections were covered by a mixed deposit of very dark greyish brown gritty silty sand containing spade-dug lumps of light brown clay and fragments of machine-made brick. The sides of the original construction cut for the gas main were not encountered. The material forming the base of the trench below the pipe was similarly mixed; however, there appears to be a water main laid (presumably) at a lower level in this area, and this material was probably the

backfill above that service. Screening of the arisings from the work did not identify any pre-20th century artefacts.

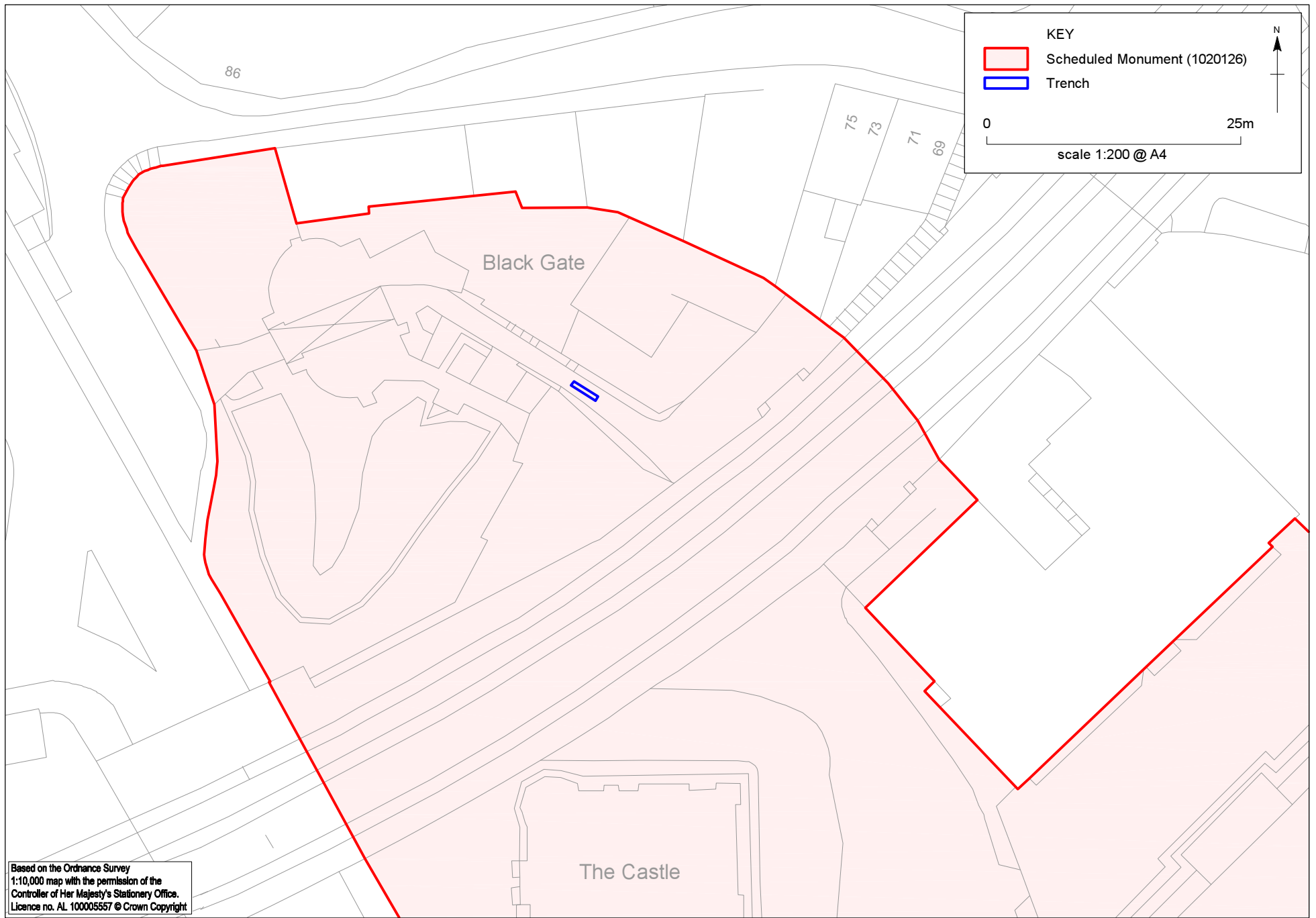
Documentation: Appended location figures and plates.

Archive deposition: Retained internally at NAA

Report number: NAA 13/77
Report date: June 2013



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 10000557 © Crown Copyright





©NAA 2013

*The Black Gate, Newcastle: view of trench location (yellow fence) Plate 1
in relation to the Black Gate, facing north-west*



©NAA 2013

*The Black Gate, Newcastle: the north-western end of the trench Plate 2
in relation to the wooden deck, facing north*



©NAA 2013

The Black Gate, Newcastle: the finished trench, facing north-west Plate 3