

FRENCHMANS ROW HARD-STANDING

HEDDON, NORTHUMBERLAND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF DURING GROUNDWORKS
AT BUS STOP WITHIN SCHEDULED MONUMENT No.1010616

April 2015



Prepared for Stewart Naylor, Northumberland County Council by:

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was carried out under scheduled monument consent by Alan Williams Archaeology for Northumberland County Council during the replacement of an area of hardstanding at a bus stop on the south side of the B6528 (Hexham Road) between Throckley and Heddon-on-the-Wall at Frenchmans Row on 30th April 2015.

The refurbishment works were carried out adjacent to the line of Hadrian's Wall which in this area runs under the middle of the B6528 (north of the bus stop), and within scheduled monument No.1010616 in Wall Mile 11.

No archaeological deposits were seen during groundworks for the project which involved the removal of the existing hardstanding and limited excavation over an area of 4m by 1m. Excavation stopped at a depth of c 0.2m above a deposit of compacted gravel and sand, possibly sub-base for the previous surfacing. Therefore, the results do not conclusively show an absence of Roman remains in the area.

1. THE PROJECT

Northumberland County Council (Place Group) applied in January 2015 for Scheduled Monument Consent to replace an area of hardstanding at a Bus Stop along the south side of Frenchmans Row (the B6528 Hexham Road) between Throckley and Heddon-on-the-Wall.

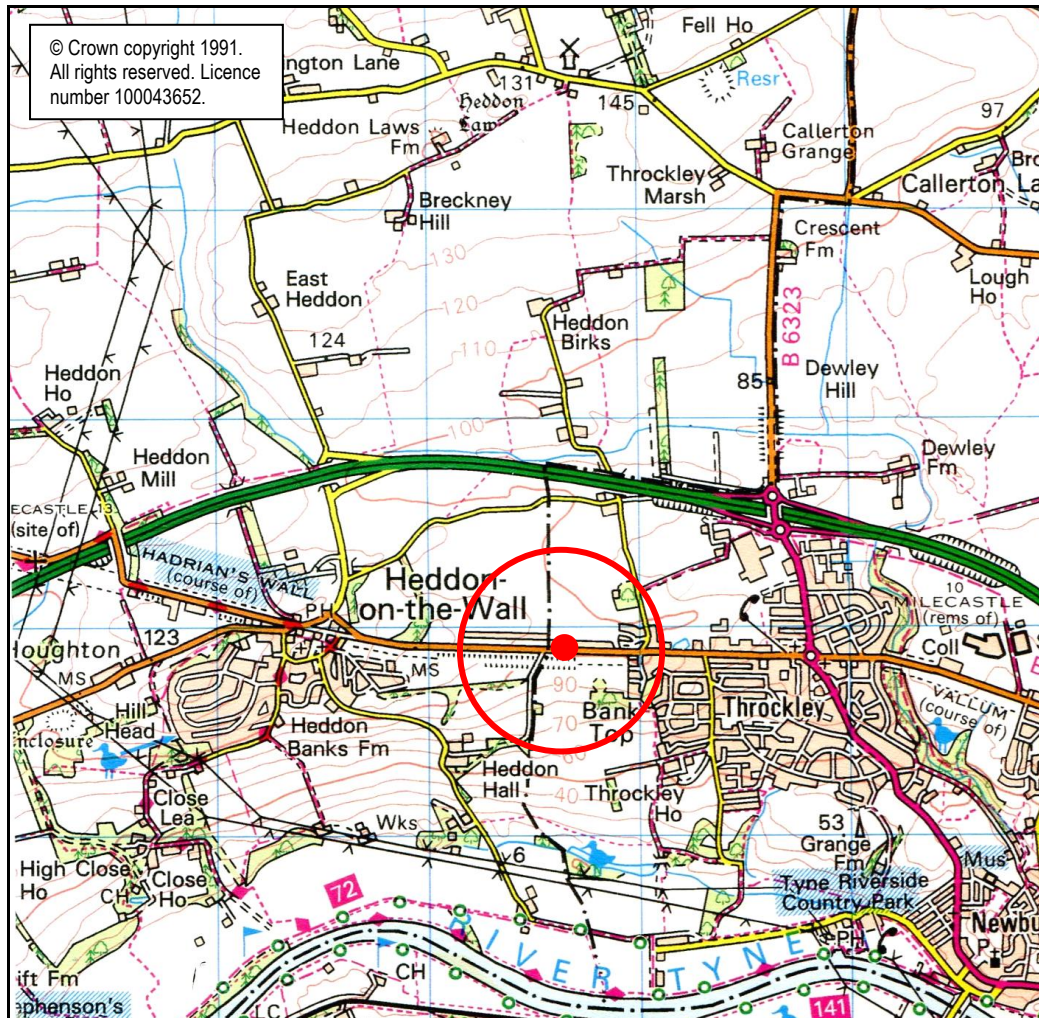


Figure 1: Location of Frenchmans Row, to the west of Throckley and Development Site along Hadrian's Wall, circled and dotted in red. Earthworks of the Vallum lie to the south.

Consent for the works was granted on 25th February 2015 (English Heritage ref: S00102130; See Appendix 2 this report) with the proviso that an archaeological watching brief should accompany the development works. See WSI (Appendix 1 in this report) for approved methodology.

Development works involved the removal of existing pre-cast concrete flags; new kerbing around the perimeter of the hardstanding (4m along the road by 2m wide), excavation within

the area to c. 0.2m and installation of sub-base and surfacing layers to form new hardstanding.

2. HADRIANIC FRONTIER

The development lies along Hadrian's Wall and within scheduled monument No.1010616 in Wall Mile 11. Within the eastern part of this section, which includes the current development area, the Roman Wall lies underneath the middle of the present B6528, Hexham Road. The Wall was exposed in 1926 during road-works. It was of Broad construction. In the western part of the section, at Heddon, the Wall runs clear of the road. Here, an upstanding stretch of Wall, 255m in length, survives to a maximum height of 1.7m.

Appended structures along the line of the Wall at Frenchmans Row include Turret 11b which was identified in 1928 (Breeze 2006, 165). Turret 11a has not been located but is thought to lie in the vicinity of the former Royal French Arms public house a little way to the west of the current development. In 1879, a hoard of over 5000 Roman silvered coins was found just to the south of the Wall, within the current road line and in the vicinity of the presumed location of Turret 11a.

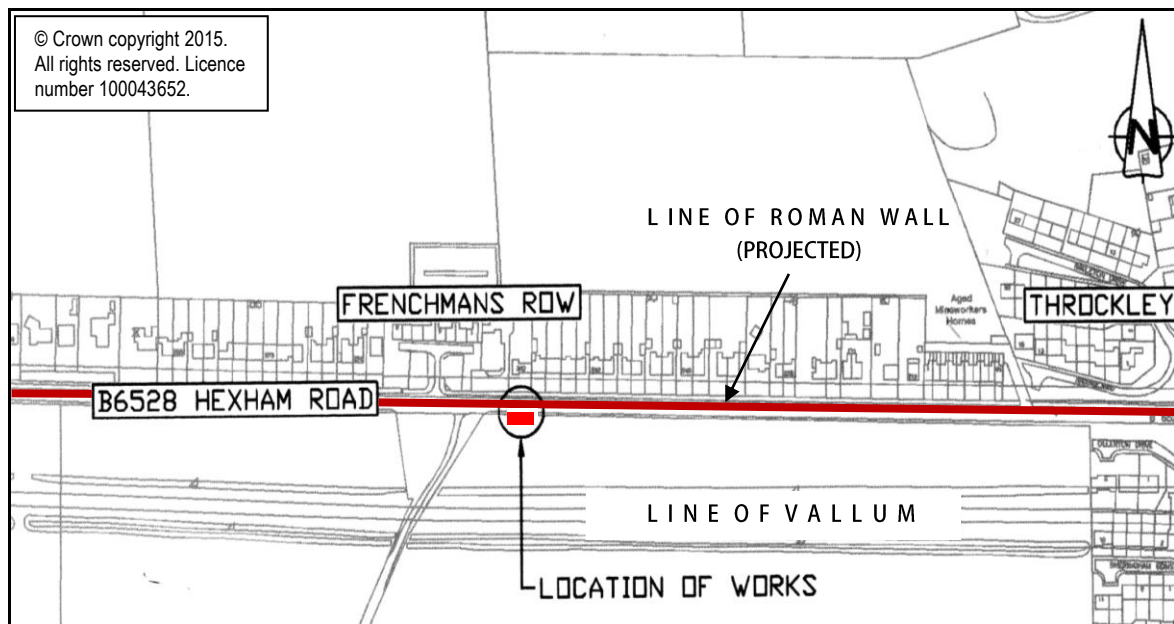


Figure 2: Location of the development works on the south verge of the B6528 Hexham Road west of Throckley.

The Wall Ditch is thought to survive as a buried feature below the gardens of houses along the north side of the B6528. This area is not scheduled. To the west of the houses, the Ditch survives as an earthwork and is a part of the scheduled area. The Vallum, about 50m to the south of the Wall, survives as an earthwork with associated flanking mounds to north and

south. In 2002, a stretch of metalling was exposed to the north of the probable location of Milecastle 11 during archaeological monitoring works during a water mains insertion scheme (TWM 2002). Also in 2002, during archaeological monitoring of the same scheme, a series of pits (*cippi*) was located along the berm between Wall and Wall Ditch between the presumed location of Milecastle 11 and Turret 11b.

3. REQUIREMENT FOR WATCHING BRIEF

Given the potential archaeological sensitivity and significance of the area to be impacted by the development, but in mind of the relatively discrete scale and nature of the works, an archaeological watching brief was required by English Heritage to monitor groundworks for the installation of new hardstanding as described above.

4. RESULTS

Replacement of the hardstanding at the bus stop was carried out on 30th April 2015 by Northumberland County Council works staff. Existing concrete slabs were removed by machine excavator with a toothless bucket and sub-base removed to a depth of c. 0.15m adjacent to the road (this brought the area just marginally deeper than the road surface) and 0.25m deep along the south edge of the bus stop where modern topsoil rose up by about 0.15m from the level of the road surface. Kerbing was removed but required no appreciable further excavation.

The archaeological watching brief was carried-out to the terms set out in the WSI (Appendix) The stripped area (4m along the road by 1m wide) was shovel-scraped by the monitoring archaeologist. Exposed deposits at the base of the trench consisted of a compacted gravelly-sand, quite possibly a modern levelling deposit. Adjacent to the bus-stop pole were fragments of concrete slab set into this material, perhaps earlier settings for poles.

5. CONCLUSIONS

No archaeological deposits were exposed during the works. Depths of excavation were minimal. It is possible that significant archaeological remains may lie below modern deposits exposed during the present works.

6. PLATES



Plate 1: Looking east. Footprint of the new area of hardstanding stripped. Compacted sand and gravel exposed at base with a number of concrete fragments set in this deposit. 2m ranging rod.



Plate 2: Looking west showing section to south of the stripped area formed of modern topsoil.



Plate 3: *Clearing the site. Excavations extended only marginally deeper than the current road surface*

7. SOURCES

Breeze, D.J. (2006) *Handbook to the Roman Wall*

Tyne and Wear Museums (2002) *Hexham Road Water Mains, Throckley: Excavation Report*
unpublished archaeological report

APPENDIX 1: Written Scheme of Investigation

FRENCHMANS ROW HARD-STANDING HEDDON, NORTHUMBERLAND

(NZ 1430 6684)

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF DURING GROUNDWORKS AT BUS STOP

March 2015

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Prepared for Northumberland County Council by:

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1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Northumberland County Council Place Group applied in January 2015 for Scheduled Monument Consent to replace an area of hardstanding at a Bus Stop along the south side of Frenchmans Row (the B6528 Hexham Road) between Throckley and Heddon-on-the-Wall. The site sits immediately to the east of the junction with a minor road from the south and on the ridge of a bank falling to the south. The road verge elsewhere is of turf.

The development lies within Scheduled Monument No. 1010616: Hadrian's Wall and Vallum from Throckley to East Town House, Heddon-on-the-Wall in Wall Mile 11. Consent for the works was granted on 25th February 2015 (English Heritage ref: S00102130) with the proviso that an archaeological watching brief should accompany the development works to a methodology included within a written scheme of investigation (WSI) approved by the English Heritage Inspector for Hadrian's Wall, Mike Collins. The following document, prepared by Alan Williams Archaeology (AWA) forms this WSI. It was submitted to Mike Collins on March 25th 2015.

The development works are as set out in Northumberland County Council Place Group drawings HE141312-01-10-01 and HE1413-02-01-02 (Figure 3 for the engineering layout) and are to replace the present surfacing and kerbing at a bus stop. They involve the removal of existing pre-cast concrete (PCC) flags; excavation of a slot 0.225m deep and 0.2m wide to accommodate new kerbing around the perimeter of the new surfaced area, running for a total of 6m; excavation of the area within the kerbing to 0.17m and installation of sub-base and surfacing layers as specified to form the new hardstanding.

2. HISTORIC BACKGROUND

2.1 Hadrianic Frontier

The development lies along Hadrian's Wall and within Wall Mile 11, scheduled monument No.1010616. Within the eastern part of this section, which includes the current development area, the Roman Wall lies underneath the middle of the present B6528, Hexham Road. The Wall was exposed in 1926 during road-works. It was of Broad construction. In the western part of the section, at Heddon, the Wall runs clear of the road. Here, an upstanding stretch of Wall, 255m in length, survives to a maximum height of 1.7m. Appended structures along the line of the Wall at Frenchmans Row include Turret 11b which was identified in 1928 (Breeze 2006, 165). Turret 11a has not been located but is thought to lie in the vicinity of the former Royal French Arms public house a little way to the west of the current development. In 1879, a hoard of over 5000 Roman silvered coins was found just to the south of the Wall, within the current road line and in the vicinity of the presumed location of Turret 11a. The Wall Ditch is thought to survive as a buried feature below the gardens of houses along the north side of the B6528. This area is not scheduled. To the west of the houses, the Ditch survives as an earthwork and is a part of the scheduled area. The Vallum, about 50m to the south of the Wall, survives as an earthwork with associated flanking mounds to north and south. In 2002, a stretch of

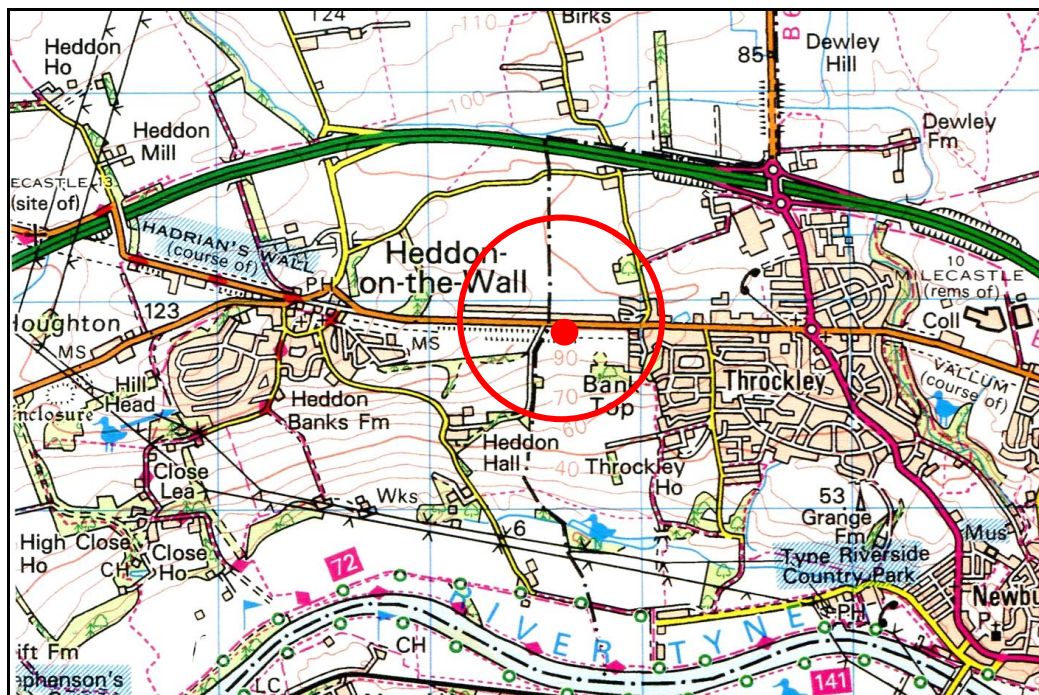


Figure 1: Location of Frenchmans Row, to the west of Throckley and Development Site along Hadrian's Wall, circled and dotted in red. Earthworks of the Vallum lie to the south.

metalling was exposed to the north of the probable location of Milecastle 11 during archaeological monitoring works during a water mains insertion scheme (TWM 2002). Also in 2002, during archaeological monitoring of the same scheme, a series of pits (*cippi*) was located along the berm between Wall and Wall Ditch between the presumed location of Milecastle 11 and Turret 11b.

2.1 Previous Archaeological Input in the Area

As briefly noted above, there have been a number of archaeological investigations in the area which have identified the presence of Roman features. In the first half of the 20th century. The Wall was seen below the surface of Hexham Road in 1926. Stretches around Turret 11b were removed in 1926 (Breeze 2006, 165). It was seen to be of the same Broad specification (2.8m to 3m) as in the upstanding stretch at Heddon to the west. Turret 11b was identified in 1928 but only by the presence of pottery and occupation earth (*ibid*).

In more recent times, monitoring works by Tyne and Wear Museums accompanying the installation of water mains within properties along Frenchmans Row north of Hexham Road in 2002 (TWM 2002) located *cippi* pits between the Wall and the Wall Ditch for a distance of around one kilometre (between the putative location of Milecastle 11 and Turret 11b). The same works identified a concentration of Roman pottery, perhaps discarded from Turret 11b; a metalled road surface probably running north from Milecastle 11 as well as prehistoric ard marks, ditches and gullies (McKelvey 2003, 12). Most of the features lay at around 1m below modern ground surface (Archaeological Practice 2005, 3). In 2006, a trench monitored by PCA along the north verge of the road at Frenchmans Row identified subsoil, a loose, orange brown sand, at 0.6m below ground surface (PCA 2006).

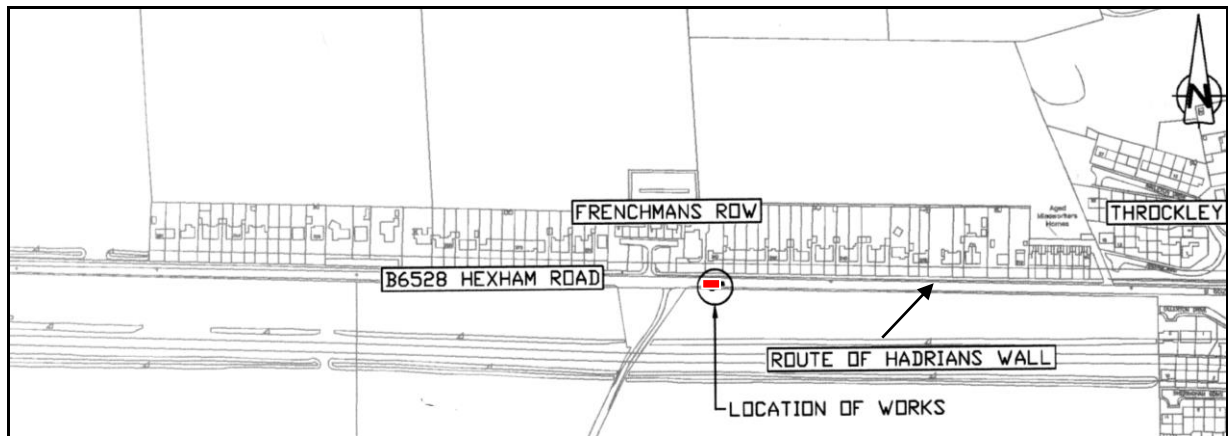


Figure 2: Location of the development works on the south verge of the B6528 Hexham Road west of Throckley.

3. REQUIREMENT FOR WATCHING BRIEF

3.1 The development area lies within scheduled monument No. 1010616 (Wall Mile 11).

3.2 The development works lie immediately to the south of the line of Hadrian's Wall which has been identified as lying below the road make-up in the vicinity. Whether the Wall survives adjacent to the development is not known.

3.3 Given the potential archaeological sensitivity and significance of the area to be impacted by the development, but in mind of the relatively discrete scale and nature of the works, an archaeological watching brief will monitor the groundworks for the installation of new hardstanding as described above.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL INPUT

4.1 Any pottery, worked stone and metalwork recovered will be retained and located by context indicated on the section and plan of each test pit. Modern material will be discarded subsequent to the completion of fieldwork. Finds of significance will be deposited with the GNEM as agreed with Mr Andrew Parkin.

4.2 Although considered unlikely in the current circumstances, the potential requirement for specialist analyses is an unavoidable risk in all excavations on archaeological sites. The scientific investigation of any features/deposits which are considered significant will be undertaken as a non-negotiable part of this programme. Samples would be processed and analysed by Dr Charlotte O'Brien of Archaeological Services University of Durham.

4.3 On completion of the fieldwork, samples will be processed and artefacts cleaned, conserved, identified, labelled and packaged. An appropriate programme of analysis and publication of the results will be completed if no further archaeological investigations are to be carried out.

5. ARCHIVE AND REPORT

5.1 The site archive will be prepared to the standards specified in the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), English Heritage, 2006. Archive preparation and deposition will be undertaken with reference to the repository guidelines and standards, and where necessary the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC), United Kingdom Institute for Conservation

(UKIC) standards and guidelines.

5.2 An illustrated report will be supplied in digital format to all interested parties within three months of completion of the works. The report will contain as a minimum:

- Non-technical summary
- Aims and objectives
- Methodology
- Results
- References and bibliography
- Copy of project design

6. SOURCES

Archaeological Practice (2005) *Frenchmans Row Bus Shelter, Throckley, Northumberland*:

Archaeological Watching Brief unpublished archaeological report

Breeze, D.J. (2006) *Handbook to the Roman Wall*

McKelvey, J. (2003) 'Recent discoveries of defensive features at the eastern end of Hadrian's Wall' in *Archaeology North*, No. 21 Winter 2003 (12-13)

PCA (2006) *An Archaeological Watching Brief along the B6318 Military Road and B6528 Road at Heddon-on-the-Wall, Northumberland* unpublished archaeological report

Tyne and Wear Museums (2002) *Hexham Road Water Mains, Throckley: Excavation Report* unpublished archaeological report.

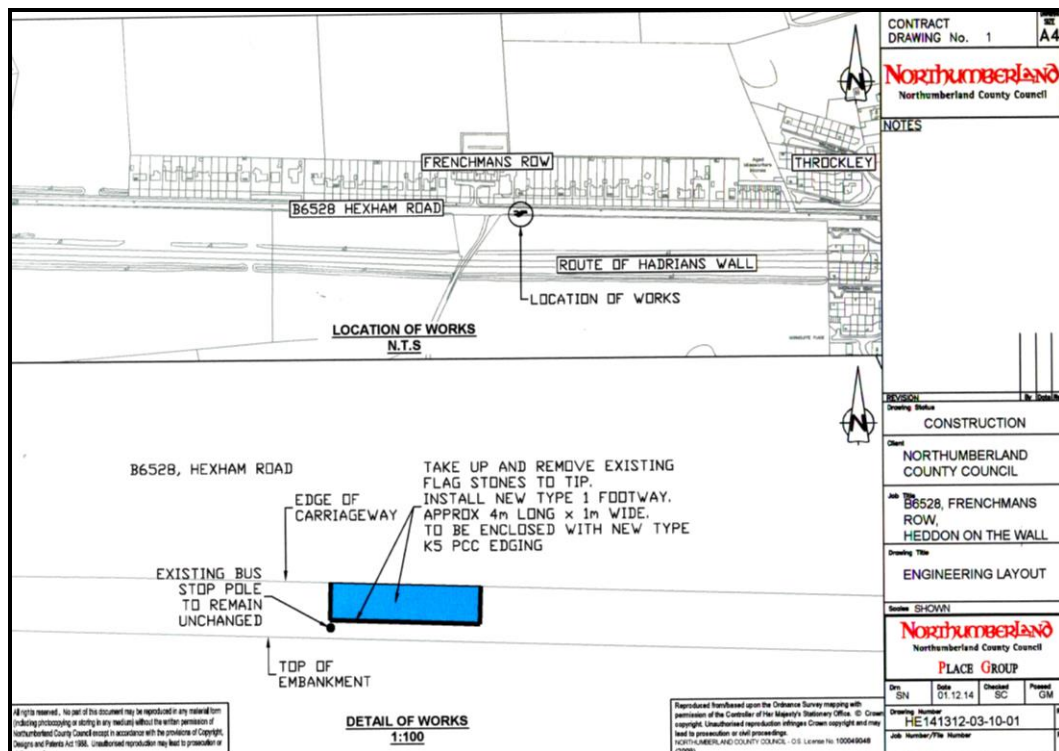


Figure 3: Engineering Layout drawing for the development works on the B6528.

APPENDIX 2: Scheduled Monument Consent



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Mr Stewart Naylor
Northumberland County Council
Highways Design
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Direct Dial: 0191 2691212
Direct Fax: 0191 2611130

Our ref: S00102130

26 February 2015

Dear Mr Naylor

**Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2
control of works
Application for Scheduled Monument Consent**

**HADRIAN'S WALL & VALLUM FROM THROCKLEY TO EAST TOWN HOUSE,
HEDDON ON THE WALL IN WALL MILE 11, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
Scheduled Monument No: SM 26037, HA 1010616
Our ref: S00102130
Application on behalf of Northumberland County Council**

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport to advise you of the decision regarding your application for Scheduled Monument Consent dated 19 January 2015 in respect of proposed works at the above scheduled monument concerning : removal of existing PCC flags; excavation of 225(d) x 200(w) trench and installation of new PCC footway edging - approx 6 lin.m; excavation of approx. 4sq. m to 170mm deep and installation of new footway construction. The works were detailed in the following documentation submitted by you:

- Plan HE141312-01-10-01 Engineering Layout
- Plan HE141312-01-02 Standard Details

2. In accordance with paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State is obliged to afford you, and any other person to whom it appears to the Secretary of State expedient to afford it, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed for that purpose. This opportunity was offered to you by English Heritage and you have declined it.

3. The Secretary of State is also required by the Act to consult with the Historic



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English Heritage is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). All information held by the organisation will be accessible in response to an information request, unless one of the exemptions in the FOIA or EIR applies.

English Heritage will use the information provided by you to evaluate your application for Scheduled Monument Consent. Information contained in this application and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration where applicable.



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Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (English Heritage) before deciding whether or not to grant Scheduled Monument Consent. English Heritage considers the effect of the proposed works upon the monument to be works which would not significantly diminish the visual amenity of the monument but could cause significant damage to the monument's archaeological deposits or evidence, which can be acceptably mitigated by conditions to ensure archaeological supervision and recording.

I can confirm that the Secretary of State is agreeable for the works to proceed providing the conditions set out below are adhered to, and that accordingly Scheduled Monument Consent is hereby granted under section 2 of the 1979 Act for the works described in paragraph 1 above, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by English Heritage. At least 4 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Mike Collins, English Heritage, Bessie Surtees House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3JF, 0191 2691212, mike.collins@english-heritage.org.uk, in order that an English Heritage representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.
- (b) No works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by English Heritage. This will consist of an archaeological watching brief on the excavations associated with the development
- (c) All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the applicant that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.
- (d) Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in ground disturbance other than that



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English Heritage will use the information provided by you to evaluate your application for Scheduled Monument Consent. Information contained in this application and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration where applicable.



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which is expressly authorised in this consent.

(e) A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the County Historic Environment Record and to Mike Collins at English Heritage within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).

(f) The contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form upon completion.

4. By virtue of section 4 of the 1979 Act, if no works to which this consent relates are executed or started within the period of five years beginning with the date on which this consent was granted (being the date of this letter), this consent shall cease to have effect at the end of that period (unless a shorter time period is set by a specific condition above).

5. This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bye law, order or regulation other than section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

6. Your attention is drawn to the provisions of section 55 of the 1979 Act under which any person who is aggrieved by the decision given in this letter may challenge its validity by an application made to the High Court within six weeks from the date when the decision is given. The grounds upon which an application may be made to the Court are (1) that the decision is not within the powers of the Act (that is, the Secretary of State has exceeded the relevant powers) or (2) that any of the relevant requirements have not been complied with and the applicant's interests have been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply. The "relevant requirements" are defined in section 55 of the 1979 Act: they are the requirements of that Act and the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 and the requirements of any regulations or rules made under those Acts.

Yours sincerely

Mike Collins

Inspector of Ancient Monuments (Hadrian's Wall)

E-mail: mike.collins@english-heritage.org.uk

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport



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English Heritage will use the information provided by you to evaluate your application for Scheduled Monument Consent. Information contained in this application and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration where applicable.