

PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SHEPHERD'S HOUSE

Halton, Northumberland

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

July 2016



Prepared for Sir Hugh Blackett by:

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Site Name: Shepherd's House, Halton, Northumberland

Proposed Development: Redevelopment of house and conversion of adjacent agricultural buildings for single domestic property

Client: Sir Hugh Blackett

NGR: NY 999 678

Site Code: SHH16 (Shepherd's House, Halton 2016)

Planning Ref: Pre Application

OASIS ID: alanwill1-259290

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SUMMARY

Archaeological evaluation, to establish the likely impact of a proposed residential development at Shepherd's House, Halton, Northumberland, was carried out by Alan Williams Archaeology for Sir Hugh Blackett in June 2016. The proposed development area (PDA) comprises Shepherd's House and an adjacent range of stone agricultural buildings, all set around a central yard, with an attached modern agricultural building to the east. It lies within the shrunken medieval village of Halton, the core of which is a scheduled monument. Although the area around Shepherd's House is scheduled, the footprint of the buildings, as is commonly the case, is excluded from this designation.

Three trenches and four test pits were excavated across the PDA, of which five (two trenches north of the agricultural range, one test pit within the range and two test pits within the yard) contained no archaeological remains. Of the remaining two areas of investigation, a test pit within the agricultural range cut into the burial of a pig, probably marking the disposal in fairly modern times of a diseased animal. Significant archaeology was only seen in Trench 1 to the north of Shepherd's House and west of the agricultural range in an area proposed for new construction to link both blocks.

Archaeological features seen in the trench included remains of walls, floors and a stone conduit, as well as stratigraphic build-up of deposits over subsoil. No artefactual material was recovered to securely date the remains, although given the context of the area within a former late-medieval settlement, the remains may date to this period, and are certainly earlier than the standing structures of Shepherds House and adjacent ranges.

Provisional recommendations provided are for:

- Archaeological excavation to subsoil of the area around Trench 1 which would be impacted by construction of a new link block;*
- An archaeological watching brief to accompany the initial reduction of ground level in and to the north of the stone agricultural range to identify and excavate any archaeological features in the area cutting into subsoil;*
- A watching brief to accompany the removal of the concrete floor slab of the modern agricultural building at the east of the ranges which may reveal underlying archaeological features.*

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1 Planning Application

A planning application is to be deposited with Northumberland County Council by Sir Hugh Blackett for developments at the Shepherd's House, Halton, Northumberland which forms a discrete smallholding at the east end of the hamlet, encompassing a disused house and adjacent agricultural ranges set around a cobbled yard.

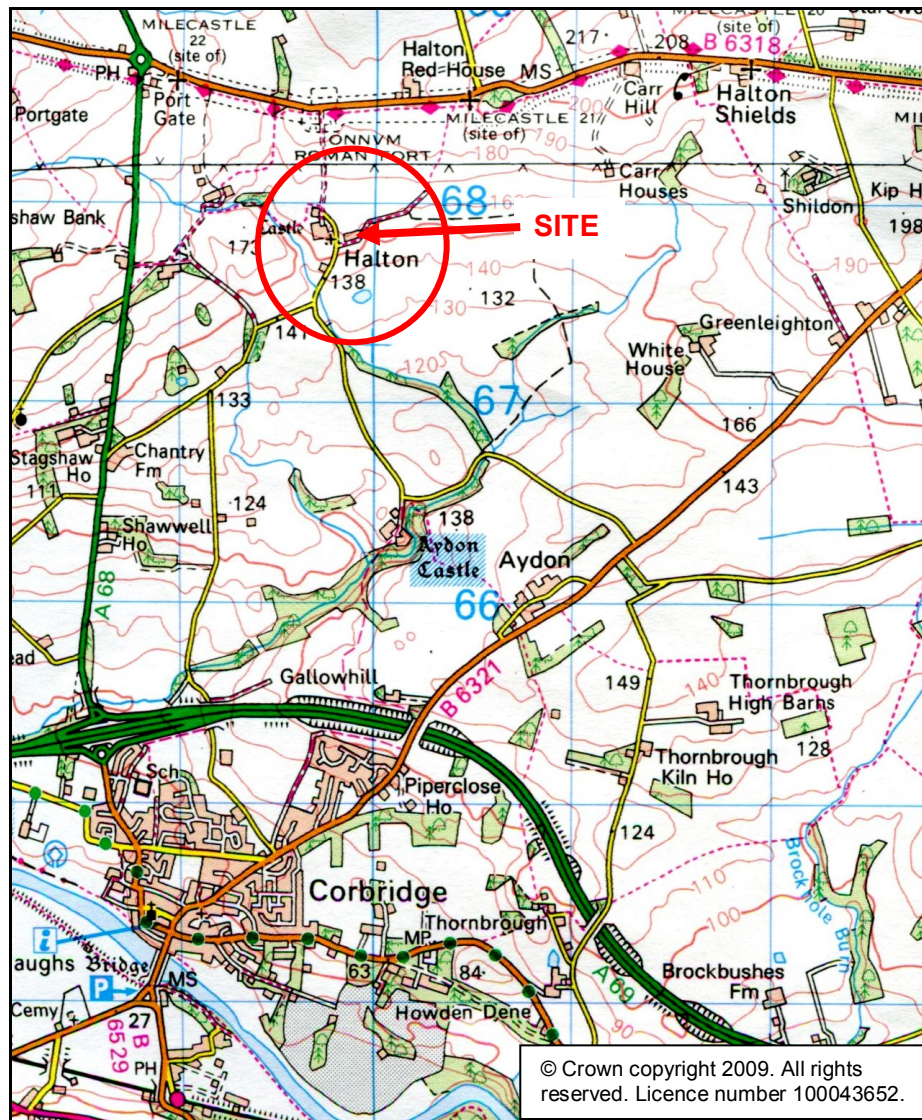


Figure 1: Location of Halton and Shepherd's House (settlement circled in red and property arrowed) south of Hadrian's Wall and north of Corbridge.

1.2 Development Proposals

Proposals are for the single domestic use of the property by the present owner. This would involve extensive refurbishment of the current house (A on figure 2), the demolition of the rear offshot block B and its rebuilding on a slightly expanded

footprint, linking it with building **C** to the north; conversion of the stone agricultural range to the north (**C**) to domestic use; and for the demolition of the modern agricultural shed (**D**) at the eastern end of the property and removal of its underlying concrete base. Re-arrangement of access arrangements would also be required. Requirements for service arrangements have not as yet been finalised.

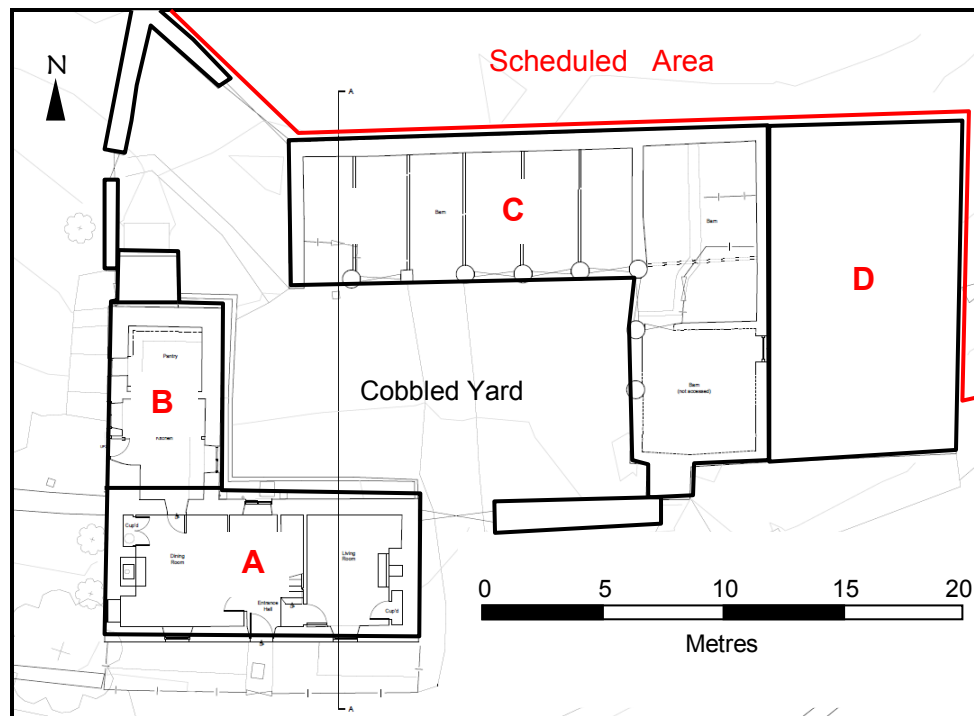


Figure 2: The Shepherd's House and adjacent ranges at Halton: A. Shepherd's House; B. Offshot; C. Stone-built agricultural range; D. Modern livestock shed.

1.3 Historical Development of the Area

An historical background to the area can be found in Appendix 3 of this report. In summary, the site lies within an historic landscape on the eastern edge of the small settlement of Halton, in the civil parish of Whittington, Northumberland. Hadrian's Wall and the attached fort of *Onnum*, both scheduled monuments (the latter SM No. 1010624), lie to the north. More immediately, the property lies within the area of the substantial medieval village of Halton, its form still expressed physically by earthworks marking lanes and properties now well beyond any occupation, as well as by bordering earthworks of curving ridge and furrow cultivation, most markedly to the north of the present settlement. The core of this medieval settlement (but excluding groups of presently standing structures) is a scheduled monument (NHL No. 1006406). Today, the settlement of Halton consists of the grade I listed Halton Castle (a 14th century tower and attached late 17th century house) and a number of adjacent

ranges. The church (a former chapel of ease) lies to the south-east of Halton Castle. The Shepherd's House and an adjacent domestic property both lie a little way to the east of the castle and church beyond a gentle north-south dip.

1.4 Geology

Solid geology around Halton consists of bedded deposits of Carboniferous sandstone, limestone, shale and some interleaving thin coal seams. Solid geology is overlaid with Boulder Clay.

1.5 Requirement for Archaeological Evaluation

As mentioned above, the PDA is bordered on all sides by scheduled monument NHL No. 1006406. Proposals for archaeological evaluation of the non-scheduled part of the site, within and immediately around the building ranges, were discussed with Karen Derham of NCC. In accordance with paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy, a written scheme of investigation (see Appendix 1) was prepared by AWA including recommendations for evaluation. Evaluation within the scheduled area (discussed with Mike Collins, Inspector for Historic England) required scheduled monument consent (SMC) which was received during June 2016.

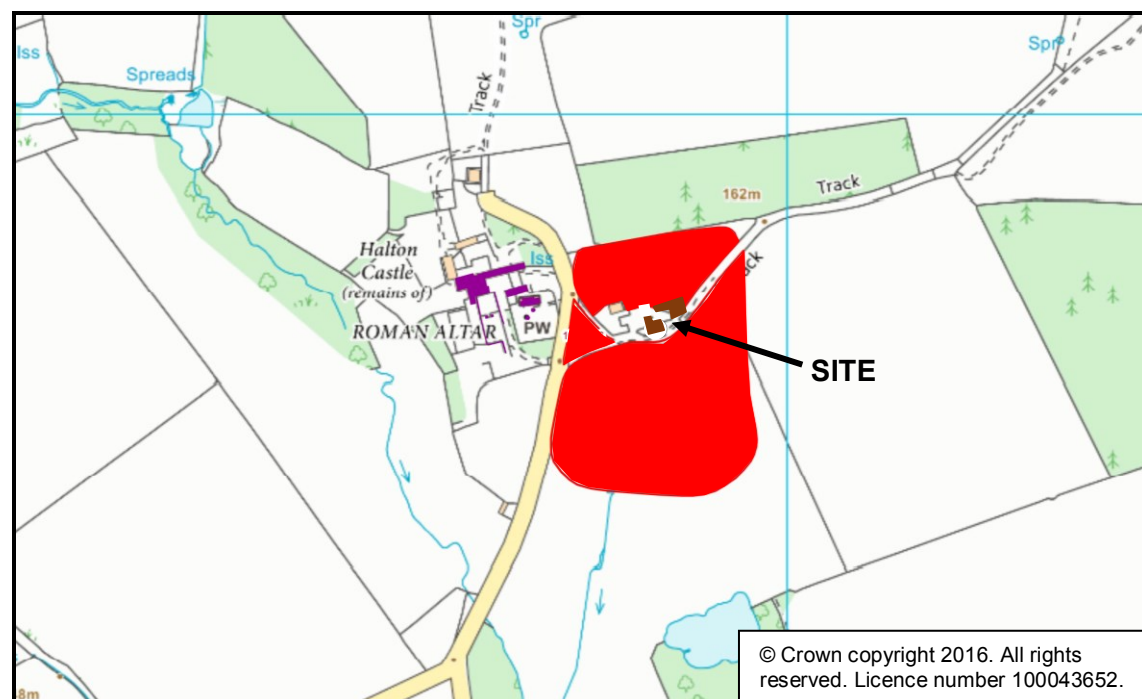


Figure 3: The proposed development area arrowed and its buildings in brown. The red block shows the extent of Scheduled Monument No. 1006406: Halton Shrunken Medieval Village. Listed buildings are shown in purple.³

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF THE DEVELOPMENT AREA

2.1 Status of the Site

The PDA is encompassed by but is not within scheduled monument ND620 (NHL entry 1006406); Halton Shrunken Medieval Village. There are no listed buildings within the site.

2.2 Evidence from Earlier Investigations

No previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the proposed development area or in its near vicinity to test its potential. Archaeological monitoring was continued during the excavation in 1999 of a trench to the north at Haltonchesters within the area of potential Roman occupation (HER Event No. 184) but no archaeological excavation has been carried out within Halton itself to provide any useful understanding of the early layout of the settlement or of its archaeological potential. Most information has been gained from non-invasive survey including the Hadrian's Wall NMP and Lidar survey (see Appendix 1).

2.3 Prehistoric to Roman

No evidence for prehistoric or Roman occupation had been located within or immediately around the PDA. The extra-mural settlement or vicus at Haltonchesters extended to the south of the fort, as did the cemetery, but there was little reason to think that they ran as far as the PDA

2.4 Late-Medieval to Post Medieval

The core of the medieval settlement of Halton township has been designated a scheduled monument (ND 620, NHL entry 1006406), indicating its national importance. The extent of the monument, avoiding standing structures at Halton, is a reflection of the listing process, not an indication that sub-surface deposits - and potentially structural remains - do not lie across the PDA. Any development works beyond the northern wall of building **C** and the northern and eastern walls of building **D** would encroach directly on the scheduled monument.

The extent of the medieval settlement at Halton has been at least broadly established through recent survey for the NMP Hadrian's Wall Mapping Project and by LIDAR survey (Appendix 3). It remains unclear as to the exact nature and function of some of the earthworks around the PDA.

3. RESULTS OF EVALUATION

As per discussions with Karen Derham (NCC) and Mike Collins (HE), evaluation was carried out in order to establish the archaeological potential of the site prior to any planning determination. As per the WSI (Appendix 2), three trenches (1, 6 and 7) and four test pits (2, 3, 4 and 5) were excavated, amounting to c.1.5% of the overall development area, but c.5% of the area which would be impacted by substantial groundworks for terracing within existing structures or during the extension of the western range. Each test pit or trench addressed specific questions. The evaluation was carried out between the 21st and 23rd of June 2016 by Alan Williams. A mini-excavator with ditching blade was used to excavate modern deposits in trenches 1, 4, 6 and 7. Test pits 2, 3 and 5 were manually excavated.

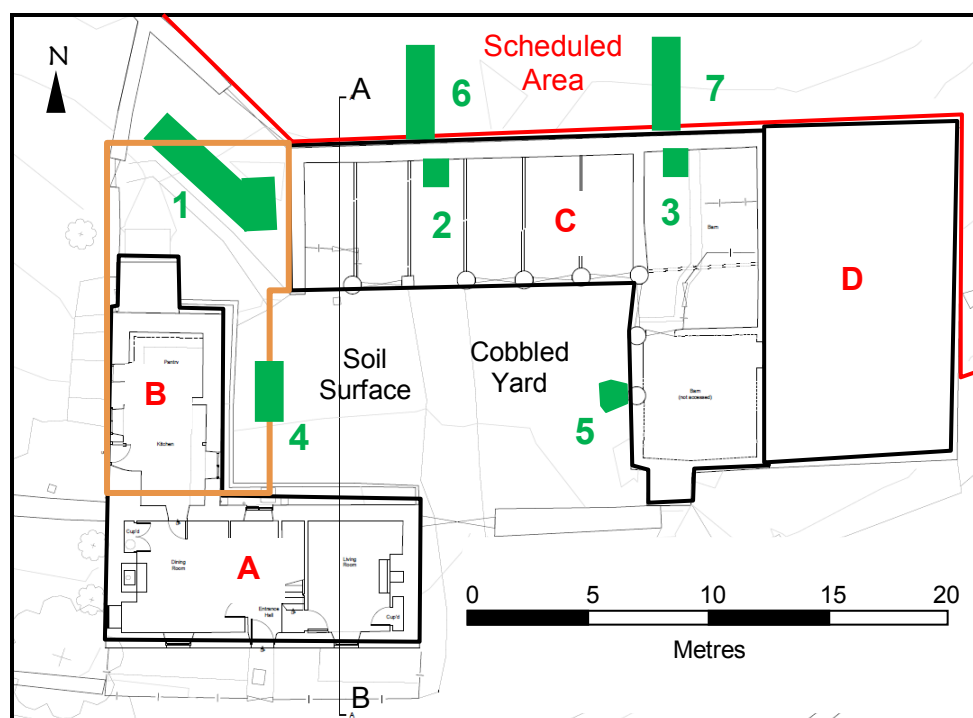


Figure 4: The proposed development area encompassing buildings A to D. Evaluation Trenches and Test Pits (1 to 7) in green. Orange outline shows the proposed footprint of the western arm of the development. The scheduled area is demarcated by a red line. Doonan Architects Drawing No.1088 E1.

Trench 1 (6.7m by max.1.9m wide and max. 0.5m deep) This trench was positioned to establish the survival of archaeological deposits beyond standing structures and within the northern part of the footprint of the proposed new western range. The trench was positioned as shown on figure 4, to the north of the present northern offshot of Shepherd's House, west of agricultural building C and within an

area of grass. Topsoil [1], across the trench, was stripped off using a mini-excavator with a 1m wide ditching blade. This lay above a layer of hearth ash [2] which also extended across the trench. Below the ash, and covering all but the eastern

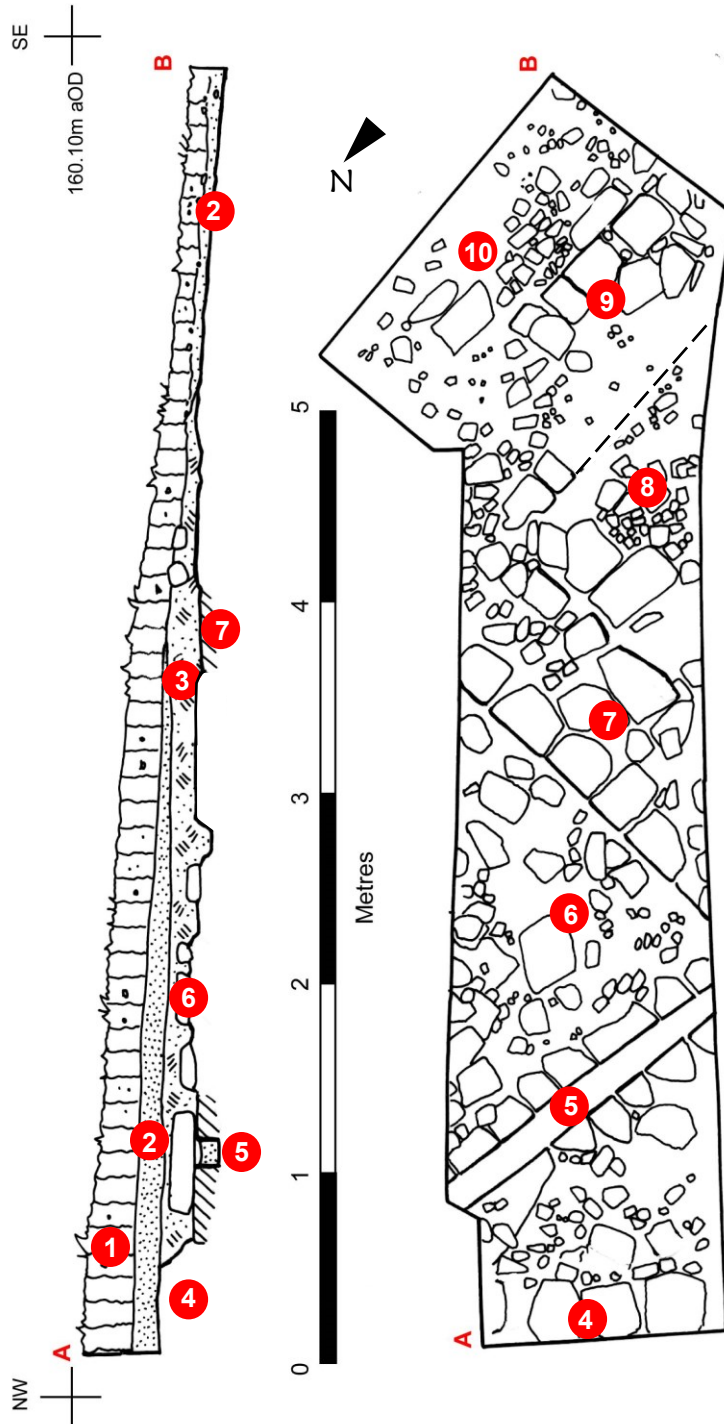


Figure 5: Trench 1, plan and section. See figure 4 for location. Context numbers are within red circles (see text and Appendix 1). 1:40 scale. The location of section A-B is marked on the plan.

end of the trench, was a layer of yellow clay [3], above, or in the case of stone slabs [4], abutting, a number of stone structures and floors. The structures included two lengths of sandstone wall, [7] and [9], possibly part of the same feature. Both survived as only the lowest course of facing stones. Neither wall was mortar bonded. Towards the western end of the trench and presumably running under wall [7] was a stone lined conduit [5]. This had lost most of its capstones but an example was visible in the northern section. The conduit was completely filled with a khaki-brown silt. A line of stones at the north end of the trench [4] either represented a truncated wall or the remnants of a slab floor. Other fragmentary floors, or bases of floors ([6], [8] and [10]) composed of disturbed blocks and fragments of sandstone, flanked walls [7] and [9]. No artefactual material was located below topsoil to determine the chronology of the structural remains. Clays subsoil was reached at c.159.30m aOD.

Test Pit 2 (0.9m square by 0.6m deep) This was located within Building C (figure 4) to establish the extent of terracing within the western part of the stone structure which is set into land falling to the south; whether any archaeological deposits survived below this terracing, and to determine the foundation depth of the north wall of the building.

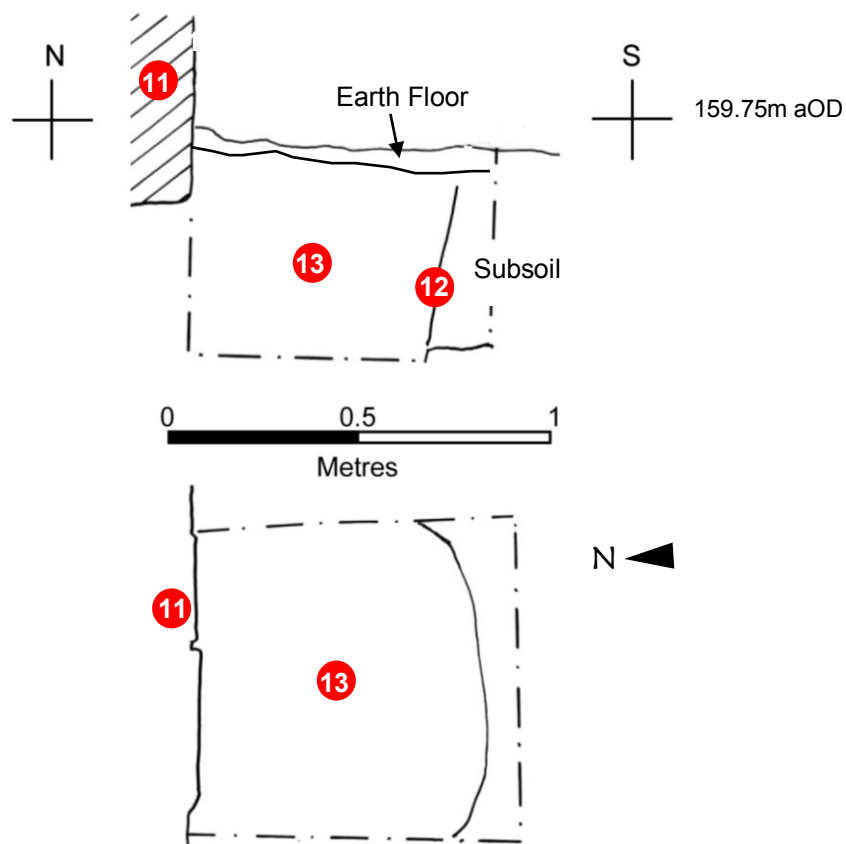


Figure 6: Test Pit 2. Section and plan. 1:20 scale.

The pit was manually excavated against the interior (south) face of the north wall [11] of the building. Foundations of the wall continued to a depth of only 0.25m below floor level. Yellow clay subsoil was seen at the south edge of the pit immediately below a shallow earth floor. It was also seen to the south of the pit in areas where this floor had been eroded. However, much of the area of the excavation was taken up by a feature [12] which had been cut against the wall. Edges of this feature to north, east and west were not established. It was filled with a grey-brown clay loam which became increasingly wet and was waterlogged at 0.6m deep. At this point, the semi-articulated bones of a pig were disturbed. No further excavation was carried out. It would seem likely that the feature is relatively modern and was cut for the burial of a diseased animal.

Despite the disturbance caused by feature [12], clay subsoil was identified as lying directly below a thin earth floor in the area around and on the south edge of the pit at a height of 159.65 aOD. The base of the wall lay at 159.50m aOD.

Test Pit 3 (0.9m square by 0.4m deep) This was located to establish the extent of terracing within the eastern end of Building C; whether any archaeological deposits survived below this terracing, and to determine the foundation depth of the north wall

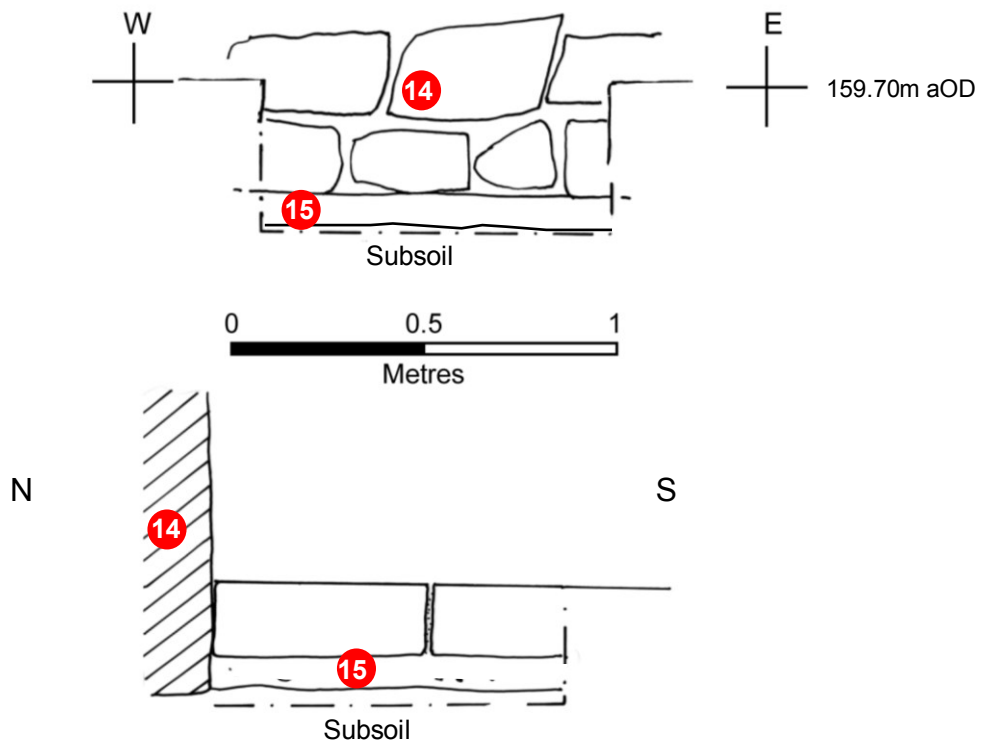


Figure 7: Test Pit 3. Sections. 1:20 scale.

of the building. The concrete floor in the stable block overlay a compacted layer of dark grey-brown clay loam [15]. Both concrete floor and layer [15] butt against the south face of the north wall [14]. The north wall [14] and layer [15] sat over the truncated surface of mottled grey-clay subsoil which lay at 159.30m aOD. The base of the wall lay at 159.45m aOD.

Test Pit 4 (2m long by 1m wide and 0.7m deep) was positioned within the courtyard to the north of Shepherd's House (figure 4) to establish the presence and nature of archaeological deposits beyond standing structures within the yard, specifically along the eastern edge of the footprint of the proposed new western range.

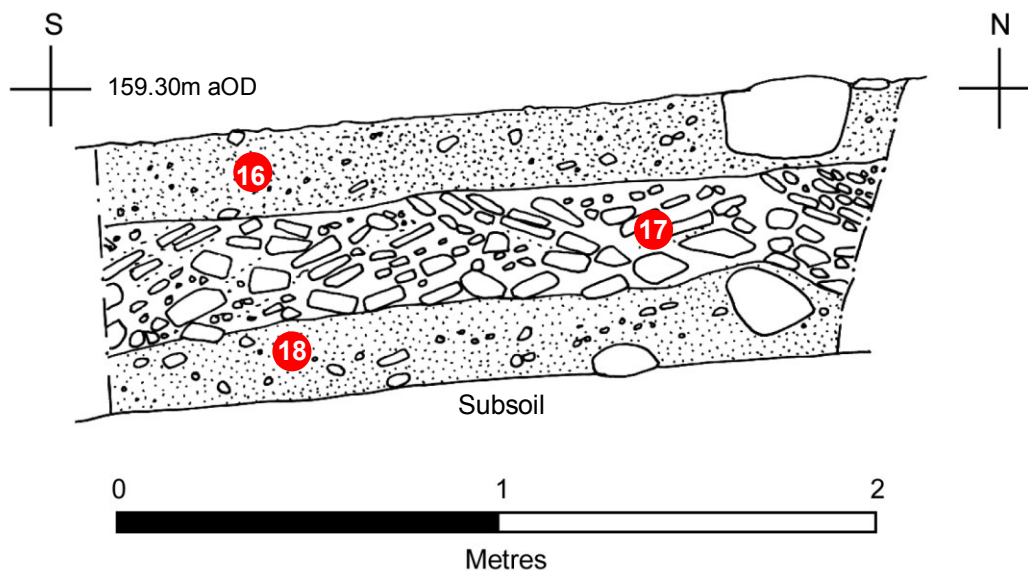


Figure 8: Test Pit 4. East-facing section. 1:20 scale.

The surface of the western part of the yard, as seen in test pit 4, was formed of a layer of fairly loose dark grey-brown gritty and ashy loam with infrequent cobbles [16]. This sat over a substantial dump of sandstone fragments [17] in which there were very clear tip lines. Beneath this layer, and overlying mottled yellow and grey clay subsoil, was a medium to dark brown clay loam with a few regular and rounded sandstones [18]. This contained a number of sherds of C19 glazed whitewares. There was no gradation of layer [15] over subsoil which would appear to have been truncated prior to its formation. The surface of subsoil at the northern end of the test pit was 158.60m aOD.

Stratigraphy in test pit 4 was of relatively recent formation: [18] sat over truncated subsoil and contained pottery of 19th century date. It is likely that this evident cutting back of deposits is related to the construction of the Shepherd's House, or more probably of the northern extension of the house.

Test Pit 5: This was located to establish the extent of terracing associated with the construction of the south-eastern end of Building C and whether any archaeological deposits survived below this terracing. It was originally intended to locate the test pit within the south room of the east wing of the building. Access problems meant that it was re-positioned against the west face of the wing as shown on figure 4.

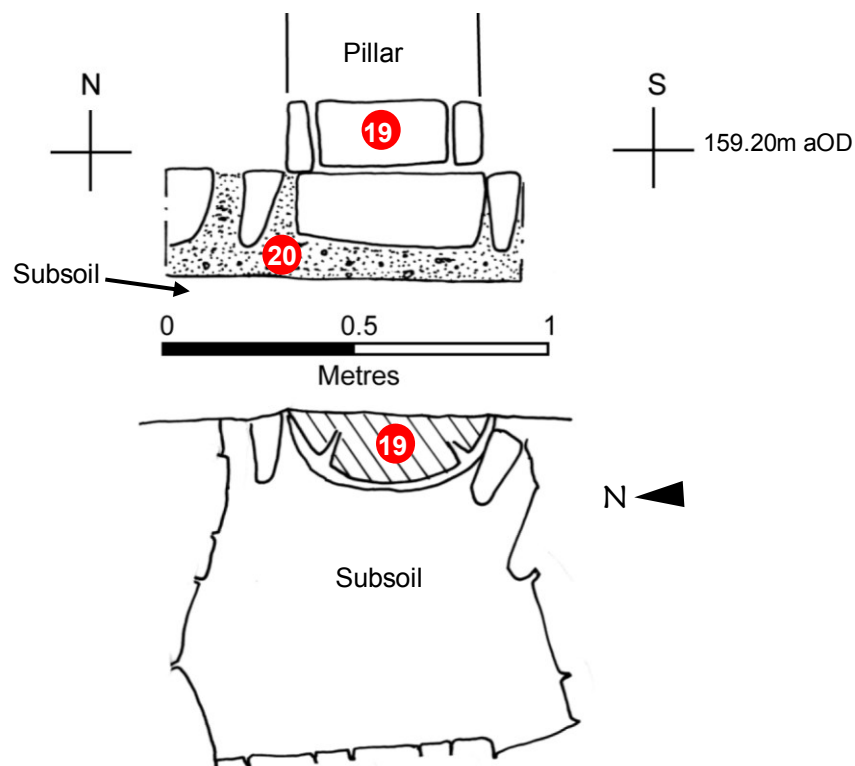


Figure 9: Test Pit 5. West facing section and plan. 1:20 scale.

Stratigraphy in the test pit was very simple. Pillar [19], one of two which formed the original open west face of the east wing, was constructed at the same time as the cobbled yard surface, set on a single large foundation block. Foundation and yard cobbles were set in a dark brown clay loam [20] which lay over truncated mottled yellow-grey clay subsoil.

Deposits and structures over truncated clay subsoil date to no earlier than the formation of the east wing of building C and the associated cobbled yard.

Trenches 6 and 7 both lay within Scheduled Monument ND620 and extended at right-angles from the north face of Building C. They were located to establish the presence and nature of archaeological deposits and the impact of the building on any deposits in an area which would be cut back for remedial works.

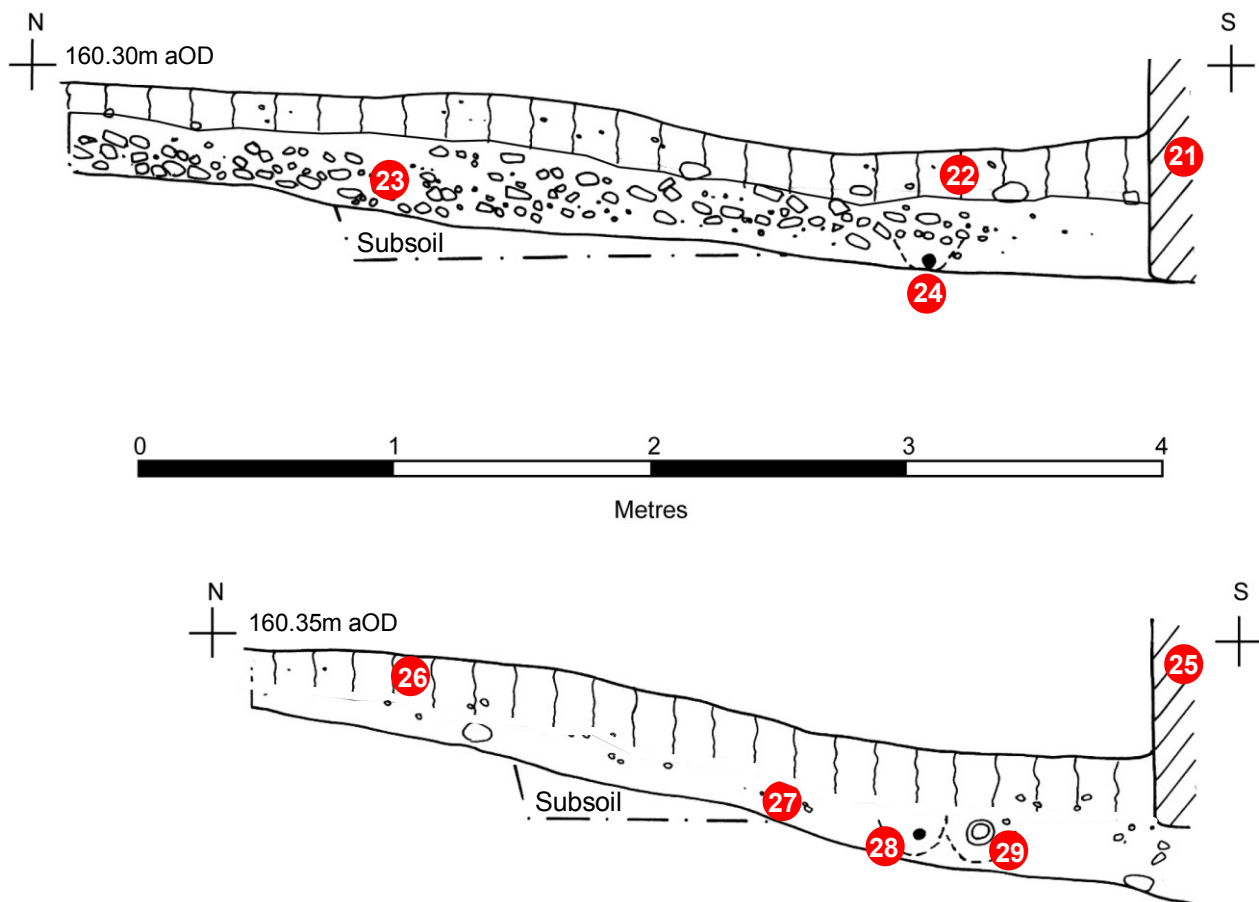


Figure 10: West facing sections of Trenches 6 (top) and 7.

Trench 6 Medium grey-brown gritty loam topsoil [22] overlay a substantial tip or spread of sandstone fragments and small cobbles in a soil matrix very similar to topsoil [23]. Both [22] and [23] contained frequent sherds of C19 pottery: the area was probably used as a dump for waste from the house. The relationship between the north wall of building C, [21] and layers [22] and [23] was not securely established as no foundation cut for the wall was visible. It would seem likely that reworking of both layers subsequent to deposition had obscured any cut. A modern

waterpipe [24] ran just under 1m from and parallel with the north wall of building C. Mottled yellow-grey clay subsoil lay directly below [23]. The foundation of the north wall of building C ran 0.5m below present ground surface, its base at 159.40m aOD.

Trench 7 had a similar stratigraphy to Trench 6 other than the lack of stone dump [23]. Medium grey-brown gritty loam topsoil [26] overlay a more consolidated layer [27]. Both layers contained sherds of C19 pottery. [27] lay above mottled yellow-grey subsoil. No cut was visible for the north wall [25] of building C. Cuts were visible in [27] for a modern waterpipe [28] and an earlier tile land-drain [29]. The foundation of the north wall of building C ran 0.4m below present ground surface, its base at 159.50m aOD.

4. CONCLUSIONS

4.1 Five of the seven areas sampled during the evaluation contained no archaeological remains: Trenches 6 and 7, on the northern flank of building C, contained topsoil and dump deposits with pottery of 18th and 19th century date. No earlier artefacts, deposits or structural remains were seen. Test Pit 4, within the western half of the yard, showed that subsoil in the area had been truncated - possibly when the offshot to Shepherds House was constructed - and recent deposits introduced above it, Test Pit 5, also within the yard and against the west face of the south arm of building C, showed that any deposits overlying clay subsoil had been removed when the cobbled yard and contemporary pillars for the wall had been established. To the north, and within the east arm of building C, Test Pit 3 showed a similar picture, with early deposits over clay subsoil having been stripped away before construction of the building.

4.2 Only in Test Pit 2 and Trench 1 were discrete features seen. In Test Pit 2, although deposits over clay subsoil had again been stripped away, a negative feature – a pig burial, probably a diseased animal – had been cut alongside the north wall. The date of this burial was not established, although it was later than the building.

Significant archaeology was seen in Trench 1. This included structural remains including walls, floors and a stone conduit, as well as stratigraphic build-up of deposits over subsoil. Unfortunately, no artefactual material was recovered from these layers and structures to date the remains. However, given the context of the area within a former late-medieval settlement, it would seem feasible that the

remains are of this period. They are certainly earlier than the standing structures of Shepherds House and adjacent ranges.

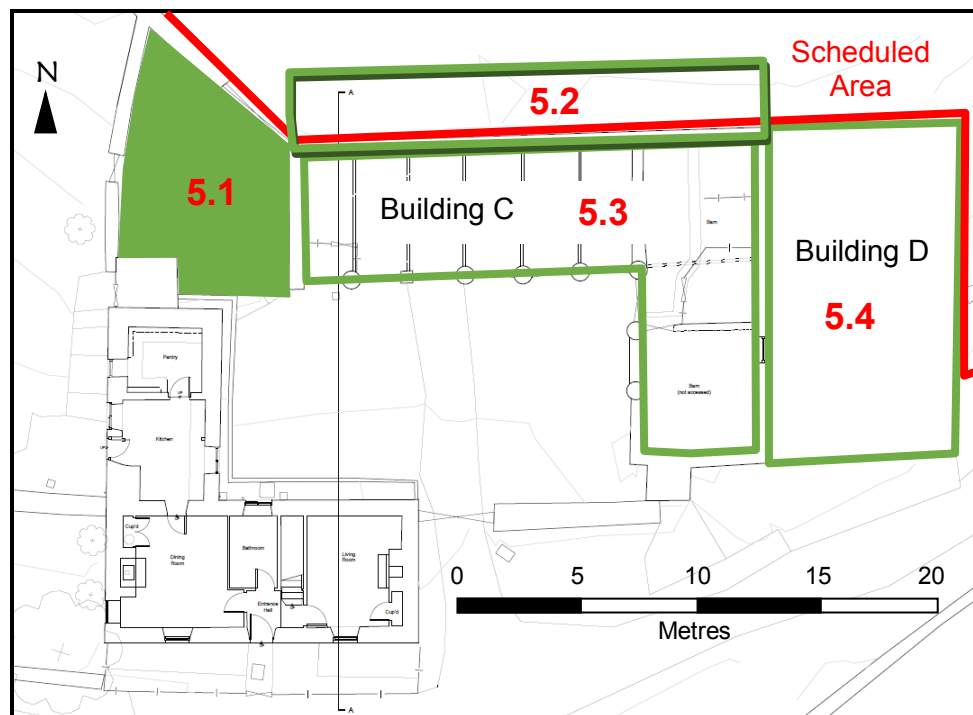


Figure 11: Recommended archaeological mitigation works. Numbers in red refer to tasks listed in section 5 of this report. Area 5.1 in solid green marks area of excavation; Areas 5.2 to 5.4 outlined in green, indicate areas recommended for watching briefs.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Significant archaeological remains potentially extending across the area shown in green on figure 11 would be impacted by the proposed development. Given the discrete extent and depth of these remains as seen in trench 1, it is recommended that they should be fully archaeologically excavated prior to any development taking place.

5.2 Although no archaeological remains were seen in trenches 6 and 7 to the north of building C (within the scheduled area at Halton) it is possible that negative features, cutting into subsoil, such as pits, could still lie within the area. Therefore, initial ground reduction to allow remedial works on the north wall of the building should be accompanied by an archaeological watching brief to identify and excavate, if necessary, any such archaeological features cutting below the surface of subsoil.

5.3 An archaeological watching brief should accompany the reduction of ground level in building C to identify and excavate any negative archaeological features in the area cutting below the surface of subsoil such as was seen in Test Pit 2.

5.4 An archaeological watching brief should accompany the removal of the concrete floor slab in building D which may reveal archaeological features below the slab. These would be recorded in plan but would only need to be excavated if level reduction was continued.

5.5 Any archaeological works carried out during development would require SMC from Historic England if within the scheduled area of Halton medieval village and planning consent from Northumberland County Council to the terms of a WSI if outside the scheduled monument.

6. SOURCES

Breeze, DJ (2006) *Handbook to the Roman Wall* 14th Edition

Craster HHE (1914) *Northumberland County History: Corbridge* vol 10

Pevsner *et al* (1992) *The Buildings of England: Northumberland*

Taylor, JA, Robinson, J and Biggins, JA (2000) 'Report on geophysical survey of the vicus at Halton Chesters Roman fort, Northumberland' AA XVIII

HER records provided May 15th 2016 by Northumberland Conservation

7. PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking south along the line of conduit [5]. 2m scale.



Plate 2: Trench 1 looking north-west along the trench wall [7] in the foreground. 2m scale.



Plate 3: Trench 1 looking south across the eastern end of the trench. 2m scale.



Plate 4: Trench 1. Stone-lined conduit [5] running obliquely across the trench. 1m scale.



Plate 5: Test Pit 2, against the inner face of the north wall of building C. Looking north-west. 1m scale



Plate 6: Test Pit 2. Looking north, showing depth of wall foundation and fill of pit [12]. 1m scale.



Plate 7: Test Pit 3, against the inner face of the north wall of building C in the eastern stable block. The 1m scale is standing on clay subsoil.



Plate 8: Test Pit 3, against the inner face of the north wall of building C, showing the depth of foundations of the wall and clay subsoil within the pit. 1m scale.



Plate 9: Test Pit 4 towards the western edge of the yard and building B. The banded stratigraphy is all fairly modern lying over truncated subsoil C. 2m scale



Plate 10: The east-facing section of Test Pit 4. The arrow locates a large sherd of glazed-whiteware pottery. 2m scale.



Plate 11: Test Pit 5, against the outer face of the wall of building C fronting the east side of the yard. The cobble surface and pillar base sit directly over grey clay subsoil 1m scale.



Plate 12: Test Pit 5. Pillar base and cobbles set in shallow make-up layer above grey clay subsoil.. 10cm divisions on scale.



Plate 13: Trench 6, running at right-angles from the north wall of building C
2m and 1m scale.



Plate 14: Trench 6, looking at east-facing section. Stone dump layer [23]
Is prominent. 2m and 1m scale.



Plate 15: Trench 6. Foundations of the north wall of building C. 1m scale.



Plate 16: Trench 7, running at right-angles from the north wall of building C showing the east-facing section. 2m and 1m scales.



Plate 17: Trench 7. Foundations of the north wall of building C.
1m scale.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

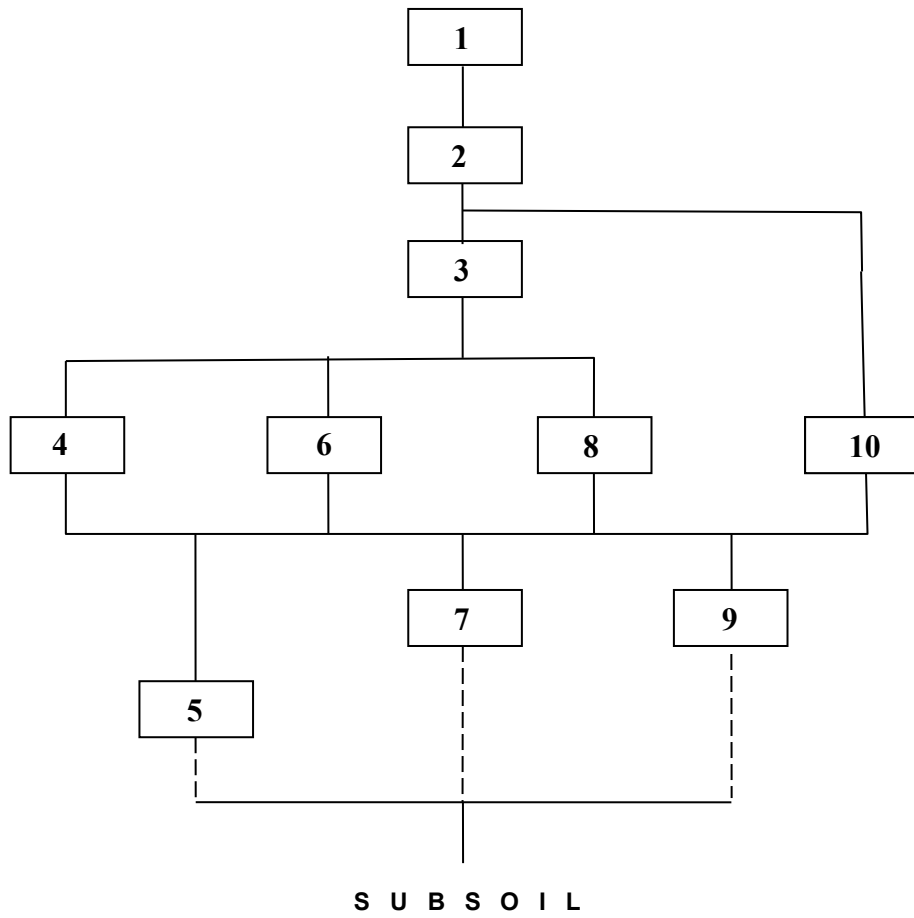
Context No.	Type	Description	Relationships	Finds
TRENCH 1				
1	Topsoil	Medium to dark, grey-brown gritty loam with occasional stone fragments	Above [2].	Sherds of blue-patterned whiteware and slip-glazed bowls C19.
2	Layer	Medium to pale grey hearth ash with occasional stone fragment.	Below [1], over [3].	-
3	Layer	Yellow-grey clay with some small stone fragments.	Below [2], above [6]	-
4	Floor/Wall?	Line of 4 sandstone slabs at west end of trench. Possibly remnant of floor or wall.	Abutted by [3]	-
5	Conduit and fill	Stone-lined conduit running north-south across west end of trench. Filled with medium khaki-brown slightly clay silt. Cap stone visible in north trench section. 0.12m wide by 0.08m deep.	Below [3]	-
6	Floor?	Area of sandstone blocks, fragments. Remnants of floor or possibly base of floor.	Below [3], abuts [5] and [7].	-
7	Wall	Base course of sandstone wall running east-west across trench. Facing blocks with irregular core, no obvious bonding. C. 0.6m wide, south face disturbed.	Below [3], abutted by [6] and [8]. Possibly = [9].	-
8	Floor?	Area of sandstone blocks, fragments. Remnants of floor or possibly base of floor.	Below [3].	-
9	Wall	Base course of disturbed length of wall running north-south at east end of trench.	Below [3], abutted by [8].	-
10	Floor?	Area of sandstone blocks, fragments. Remnants of floor or possibly base of floor.	Below [3], abuts [9].	-
TEST PIT 2				
11	Wall	North wall of Building C. Foundations extend 0.25m below earth-floor level in building.	Same as [14], [21] and [25].	-
12	Cut for pit/ animal burial	Cut for pit [13]. Steep south edge exposed in test pit. Uncertain extent. North edge not seen below [11].	Above subsoil. Later than [11]?	-
13	Fill	Grey brown clay loam. Sticky, becoming wet and then waterlogged at 0.6m. Excavation ceased at 0.6m	Fill of [12].	Bones, some articulated

		below floor level.		of a pig at 0.6m from ground surface.
TEST PIT 3				
14	Wall	North wall of Building C. Foundations extend 0.3m below level of concrete floor in building.	Same as [11], [21] and [25].	-
15	Layer	Dark grey-brown compacted clay-loam with a few small fragments of stone and flecks of charcoal. Build-up/residue of topsoil, below concrete floor within stable block (east wing) of Building 3.	Below [14] and concrete floor of stable block. Directly overlying clay subsoil.	
TEST PIT 4				
16	Layer	Surface layer of western part of yard. Dark grey-brown gritty and ashy loam with occasional stone fragments. One large cobble.	Above [17].	-
17	Layers	Tip lines of sandstone fragments in matrix of sand/friable loam with some mortar towards base of layer.	Below [16] above [18].	-
18	Layer	Medium to dark brown slightly clay loam. Sits directly over truncated yellow clay subsoil. Does not appear to be original developed topsoil.	Below [17], above subsoil.	Two sherds of C19 glazed whiteware.
TEST PIT 5				
19	Pillar	Stone pillar. One of two forming original west face of east wing of Building C. Stone walls later inserted between pillars.		
20	Layer/surface	Dark brown clay loam with cobbles set into matrix.	Cobbles and pillar base slab are set into matrix [20]. Sits directly over the stripped surface of clay subsoil.	-
TRENCH 6				
21	Wall	North wall of Building C.	Abutted by [22] and [23] = [11], [14] and [25].	-
22	Topsoil	Medium grey-brown gritty loam.	Abuts [21], above [23].	Frequent sherds of C19 domestic fabrics including transfer printed

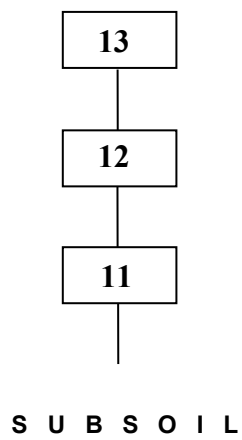
				plates and slip-glazed bowls.
23	Layer	Dump of sandstone frags and occasional small cobbles within a matrix of medium grey-brown gritty loam.	Below [22], abuts [21], cut by [24].	Frequent sherds of C19 domestic fabrics including transfer printed plates and slip-glazed bowls.
24	Trench for water pipe	Cut and fill of trench for modern alkathene water pipe running across the trench parallel with wall [21].	Cuts [23] and probably [22]. = [28].	Some residual C19 pottery from layers [22] and [23].
TRENCH 7				
25	Wall	North wall of Building C.	Abutted by [26], sits over [27].	-
26	Topsoil	Medium grey brown sandy gritty loam.	Above [27], abuts [25].	Some C19 pottery sherds.
27	Layer	Medium grey brown sandy, gritty loam. Variant of or very similar to topsoil but denser and less friable.	Below [26]. Grades into variegated yellow and grey clay subsoil.	-
28	Trench for water pipe	Cut and fill of trench for modern alkathene water pipe running across the trench parallel with wall [25].	Below [26], cuts [29]	-
29 with	Trench for land drain	Cut and fill of trench for C19 land drain running across trench and parallel with wall [25].	Cut by [28].	-

APPENDIX 2: SEQUENCE DIAGRAMS

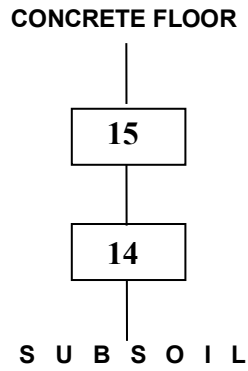
TRENCH 1 (Provisional)



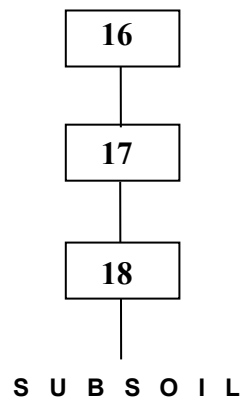
TEST PIT 2



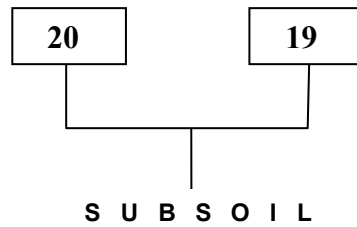
TEST PIT 3



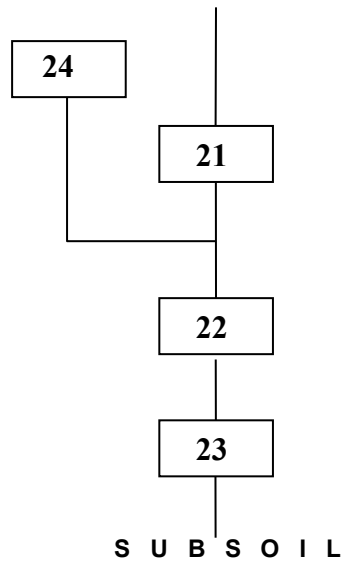
TEST PIT 4



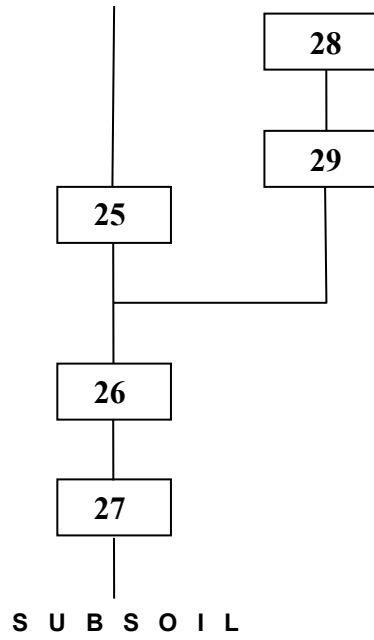
TEST PIT 5



TRENCH 6



TRENCH 7



APPENDIX 3:

PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

SHEPHERD'S HOUSE

Halton, Northumberland

(NY 999 678)

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

May 2016



Prepared for Sir Hugh Blackett by:

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Tel: 0191 218 9838

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1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1 Planning Application

A planning application is to be deposited with Northumberland County Council by Sir Hugh Blackett for developments at the Shepherd's House, Halton, Northumberland which forms a discrete smallholding at the east end of the hamlet, encompassing a disused house and adjacent (and also disused) agricultural ranges set around a cobbled yard.

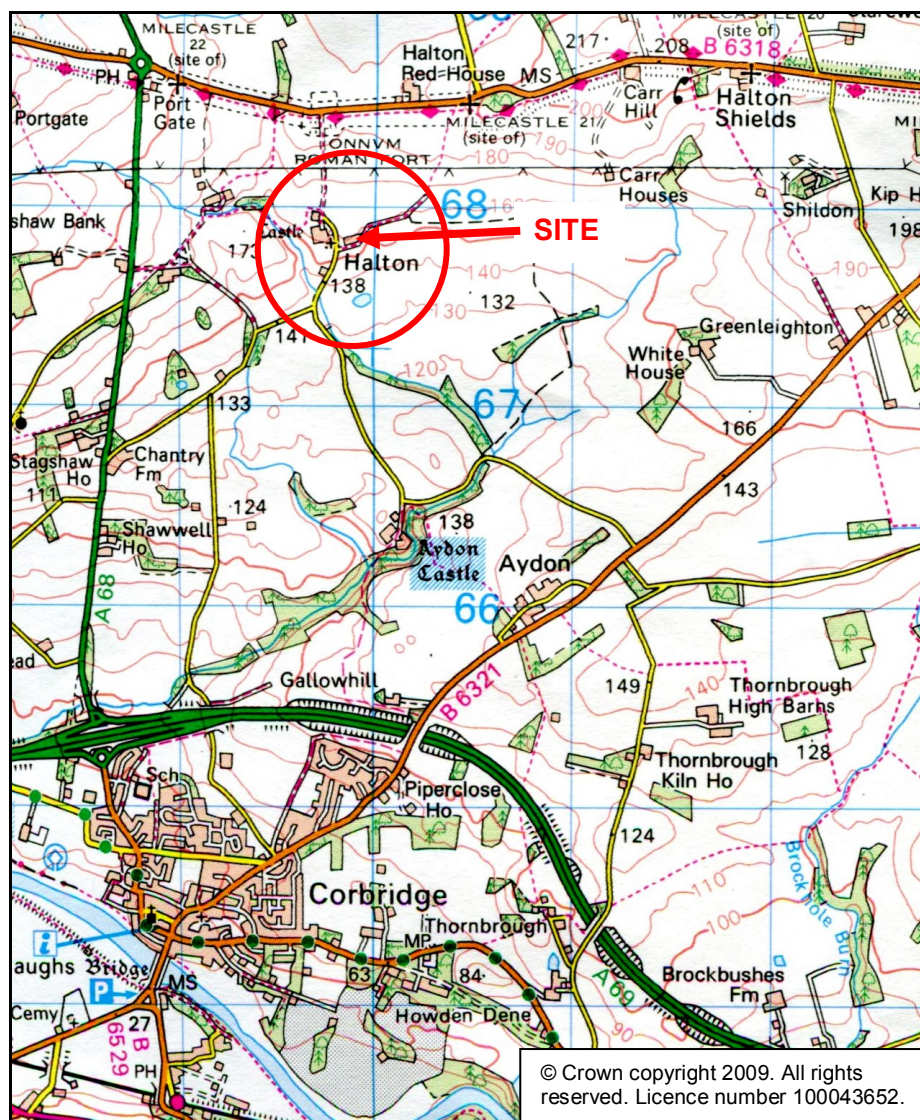


Figure 1: Location of Halton and Shepherd's House (settlement circled in red and property arrowed) south of Hadrian's Wall and north of Corbridge.

1.2 Development Proposals

Development proposals are for the single domestic use of the property by the present owner. This would involve extensive refurbishment of the current house (A on figure

2 and plate 1 and see Appendix 2 for development proposals), the demolition of the rear offshot block **B** (plates 1 and 3) and its rebuilding on a slightly expanded footprint and linking with building **C** to the north; conversion of the stone agricultural range to the north (**C**) to domestic use (plates 4 and 5); and for the demolition of the modern agricultural shed (**D**) at the eastern end of the property and removal of its underlying concrete base. Limited re-arrangement of access arrangements would also be required. Requirements for service arrangements have not as yet been finalised.

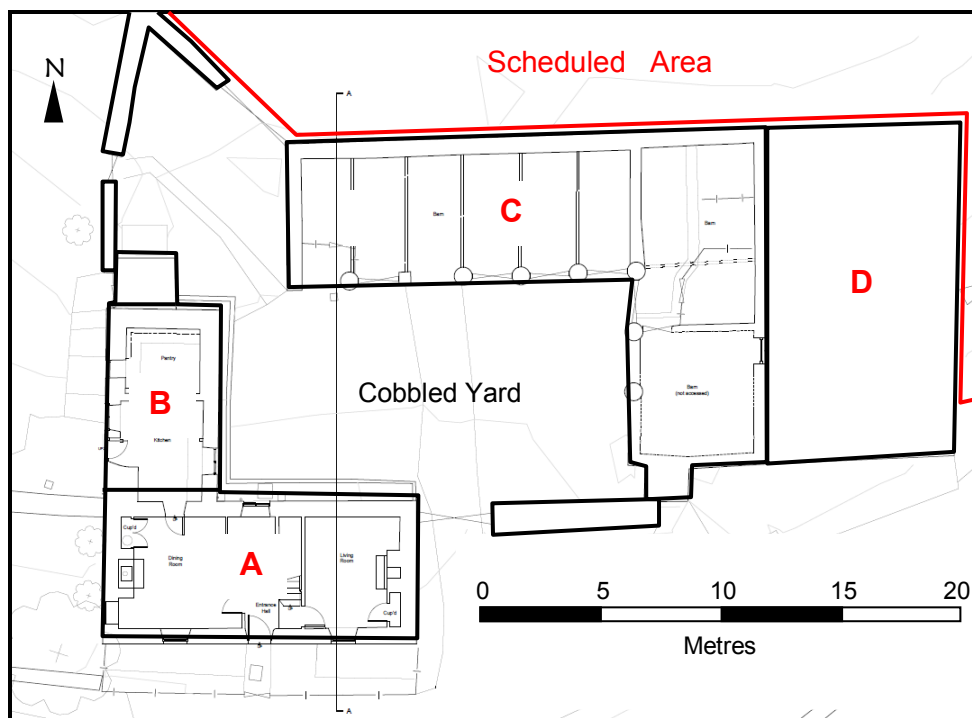


Figure 2: The Shepherd's House and adjacent ranges at Halton: A. Shepherd's House; B. Offshot; C. Stone-built agricultural range; D. Modern livestock shed.

1.3 The Setting

The application site lies within an historic landscape on the eastern edge of the small settlement of Halton, in the civil parish of Whittington, Northumberland. Hadrian's Wall and the attached fort of *Onnum*, both scheduled monuments (the latter SM No. 1010624), lie to the north. More immediately, the property lies within the area of a substantial medieval settlement, its form still expressed physically by earthworks marking lanes and properties now well beyond any occupation, as well as by bordering earthworks of curving ridge and furrow cultivation, most markedly to the north of the present settlement. The core of this medieval settlement (but excluding groups of presently standing structures) is a scheduled monument (NHL No.

1006406). Today, the settlement of Halton consists of the grade I listed Halton Castle (a 14th century tower and attached late 17th century house) and a number of adjacent ranges. The church (a former chapel of ease) lies to the south-east of Halton Castle; it is copiously dedicated to St Oswald, St Cuthbert and King Alfwald and is also listed grade I. The Shepherd's House and an adjacent domestic property both lie a little way to the east of the castle and church beyond a gentle north-south dip.

1.4 Site Visit

The site was visited by AW on Wednesday 18th May 2016. Proposals for archaeological evaluation were discussed with the client, Kevin Doonan and Jenny Greveson of Doonan Architects, and Karen Derham, Assistant Archaeological Officer for Northumberland County Council (NCC).

1.5 This Document

As noted above, proposals for archaeological evaluation beyond the area of the scheduled monument were discussed during the site visit with Karen Derham of NCC. In accordance with paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework (see below), the NCC Conservation Team requested that a written scheme of Investigation (this document) should be prepared by AW setting out an evaluation strategy to establish the archaeological potential of the site prior to any planning determination:

Planning Policy Framework Paragraph 128

In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

Evaluation within the scheduled area will require scheduled monument consent (SMC). This has been discussed with Lee McFarlane and Mike Collins, Inspectors of Ancient Monuments with Historic England. This report will act as the primary document for approval of evaluation with NCC and as supporting material for an SMC application to Historic England.

2. SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The proposed development area lies on the south-east edge of the small settlement of Halton on the edge of pasture and plantation woodland falling towards the River Tyne two and a half miles to the south at Corbridge. The B3618 Military Road, and Hadrian's Wall, the latter appended with Haltonchesters Wall fort, lie 600m to the north. The north-south A68, a little way to the west, follows the line of the Roman trunk road of Dere Street. Halton is accessed by a narrow road branching from the A68 at Stagshaw House. This road splits just south of Halton, the eastern fork passing immediately to the south of Shepherd's Cottage as a surfaced track. This dwindles to a footpath which continues on to the Military Road a little way to the east of Halton, the presumed site of Milecastle 21.

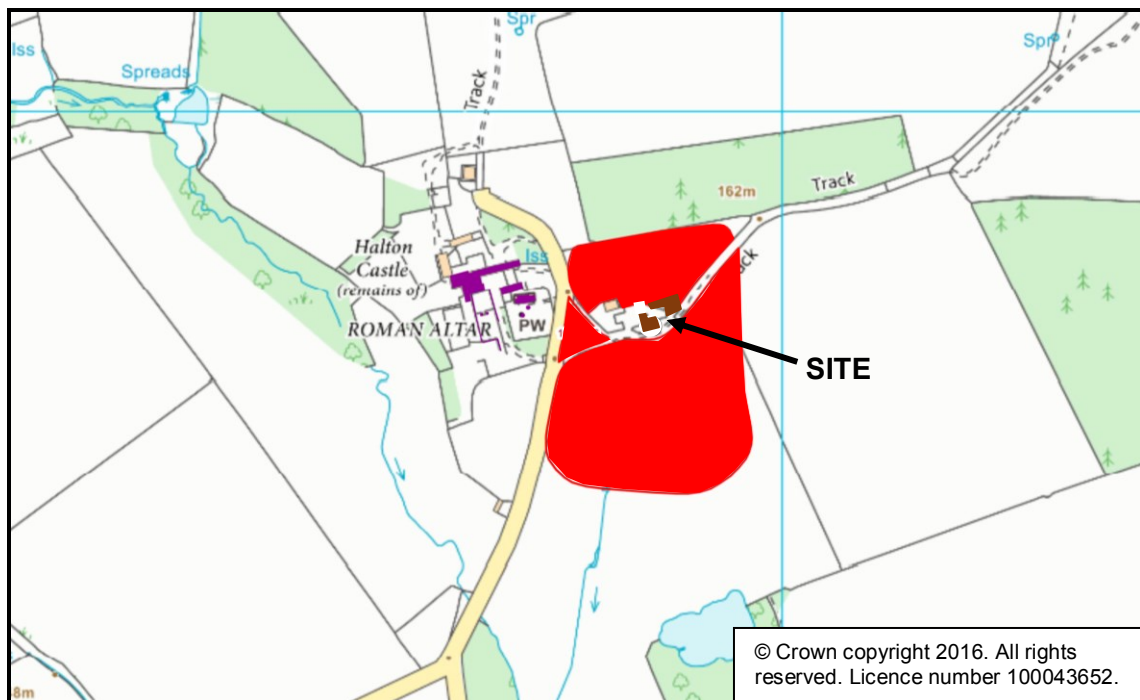


Figure 3: The proposed development area arrowed and its buildings in brown. The red block shows the extent of Scheduled Monument No. 1006406: Halton Shrunken Medieval Village. Listed buildings are shown in purple.

Shepherd's House and adjacent farm ranges form a discrete holding set around a cobbled yard on the eastern edge of the settlement. It is flanked to north, south and east by pasture fields and to the west by a domestic property. The area slopes markedly from north to south across the ranges and gently to the east. The ranges consist of the house (**A**), a two storey sandstone structure, probably of early 19th century date set immediately north of an east-west track; a single storey northern offshot (**B**) forming a narrow western range which is terraced substantially into the

slope. Fronting the yard to north is a stone-built byre (**C**), its southern and western faces supported on stone columns, now with infilled panelling or stonework between. As with **B**, this structure has been terraced into the slope, but not as substantially. Appended to the east of **C** is a large, modern livestock-shed (**D**), built of timber and set on a substantial concrete base. There are no obvious earthworks immediately to the north of building **B** within the scheduled monument. A low mound and bank sits a little way to the north of both buildings B and C beyond the PDA, classified as an agricultural earthwork in the NMP survey (1451619).

Solid geology around Halton consists of bedded deposits of Carboniferous sandstone, limestone, shale and some interleaving thin coal seams. Solid geology is overlaid with Boulder Clay.

3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Prehistoric

The only evidence for prehistoric activity in the close vicinity of Halton is a bronze axe which was found just to the north at Haltonchesters in the late 19th century (HER 8666). More widely within the parish of Whittington, the earliest evidence for human activity is a cup and ring marked stone of Neolithic date which was found at Hallington (HER 9253), some distance to the north. Bronze-Age burial cairns have been found at Cheviot Farm (HER9250) and at Grindstone Law (HER10293). The earliest local settlement remains, probably of Iron-Age date, lie at Hallington (HER 9253) and an enclosure at Grindstone Law (HER10292). There are also possible Iron-Age agricultural terraces on Bingfield Fell a little way to the north (HER 9353).

3.2 Roman

There is much more local evidence for Roman activity. Hadrian's Wall, and Haltonchesters Fort (*Onnum*) lie 600m to the north. The fort straddles the Wall and is, unusually, 'L' shaped, with an extension at the south-west constructed in the third century (Breeze 2006, 179). There was a civilian settlement outside the fort, extending to the south and east. Parts of it have been traced by geophysical prospection (Taylor *et al*, 2000, 37-46). There is also evidence for a cemetery, including a surviving barrow and a number of recovered grave stones (Breeze 2006, 183). It lay south of the fort but its extent is not certain although there is no evidence to suggest that it ran as far south as the settlement at Halton. Dere Street, an important Roman trunk road, its line now taken up by the A68, ran through the Wall at Port Gate.

3.3 Medieval to Post-Medieval

The earthworks of an extensive medieval settlement (scheduled monument No 1006406; HER 8672), the township or vill of Halton, extend around the modern hamlet. Halton Tower of 14th century date, and remnants of an earlier house (HER 8663 and listed grade I including the attached 17th century house), and the church to the south (in origin Norman but extensively altered in the 16th and 17th centuries, also listed grade I) are the only remaining structures from this period.

Documents show that in the 13th century, the manor and lordship of Halton was held in tenure by the Halton family. An Inquest Post Mortem of 1287 recorded that there were ten and a half bondages (or holdings) each with 30 acres of arable land and a cottage. Twelve years later, the number of bondage holdings had doubled. In 1296, the township only had six taxpayers. In 1385, the Lordship of Halton was destroyed by the Scots (HER8672). There is no evidence to suggest that the township ever

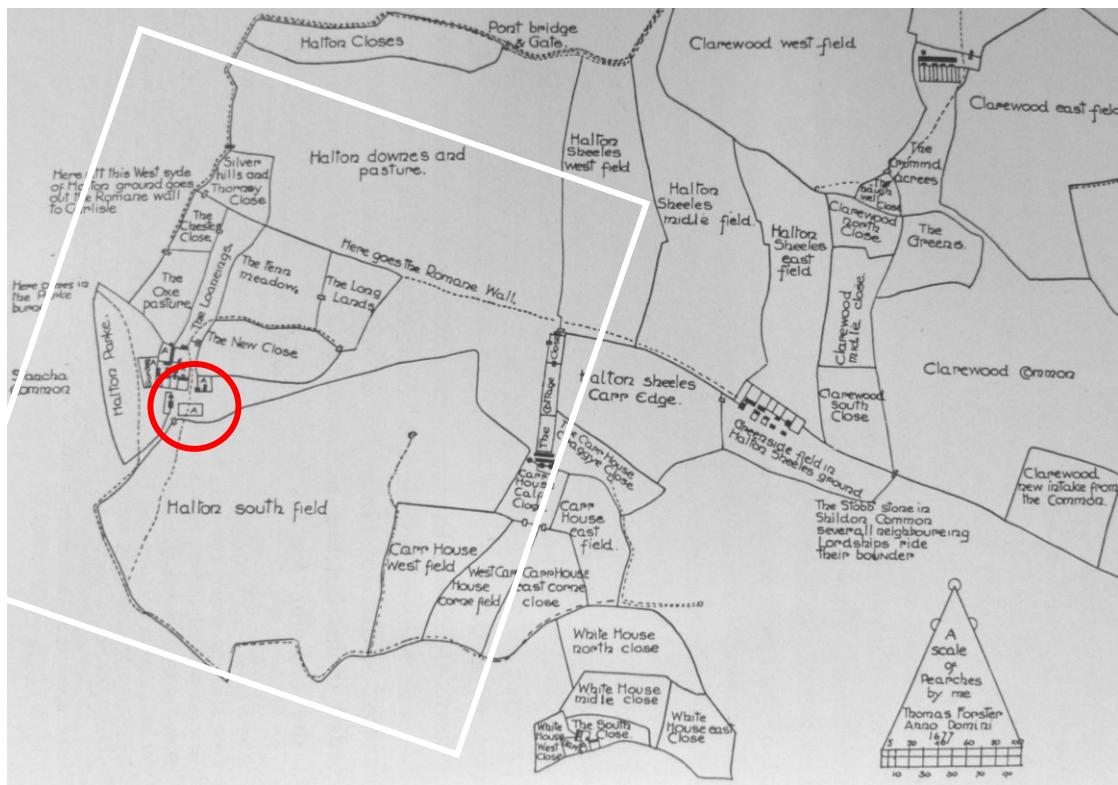


Figure 4: Thomas Forster's 1677 survey of lands belonging to William Carnabye Esqr. including the township of Halton. White outline indicates extent of figure 5. The approximate location of the proposed development area is circled in red.

developed again as a substantial settlement. Certainly, as recorded in the Hearth Tax of 1666, there were only four houses.

The earthworks of the medieval settlement include house platforms, hollow-ways and field systems. They have been recorded as part of the National Mapping Programme for Hadrian's Wall (information accessed via the Northumberland HER) which used aerial photographs to map earthwork remains of all periods within a 15 kilometre wide corridor along the World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall (Appendix 1, figure A). Earthworks of the medieval settlement can also be seen on Lidar mapping of the area (Appendix 1, figures B and C).

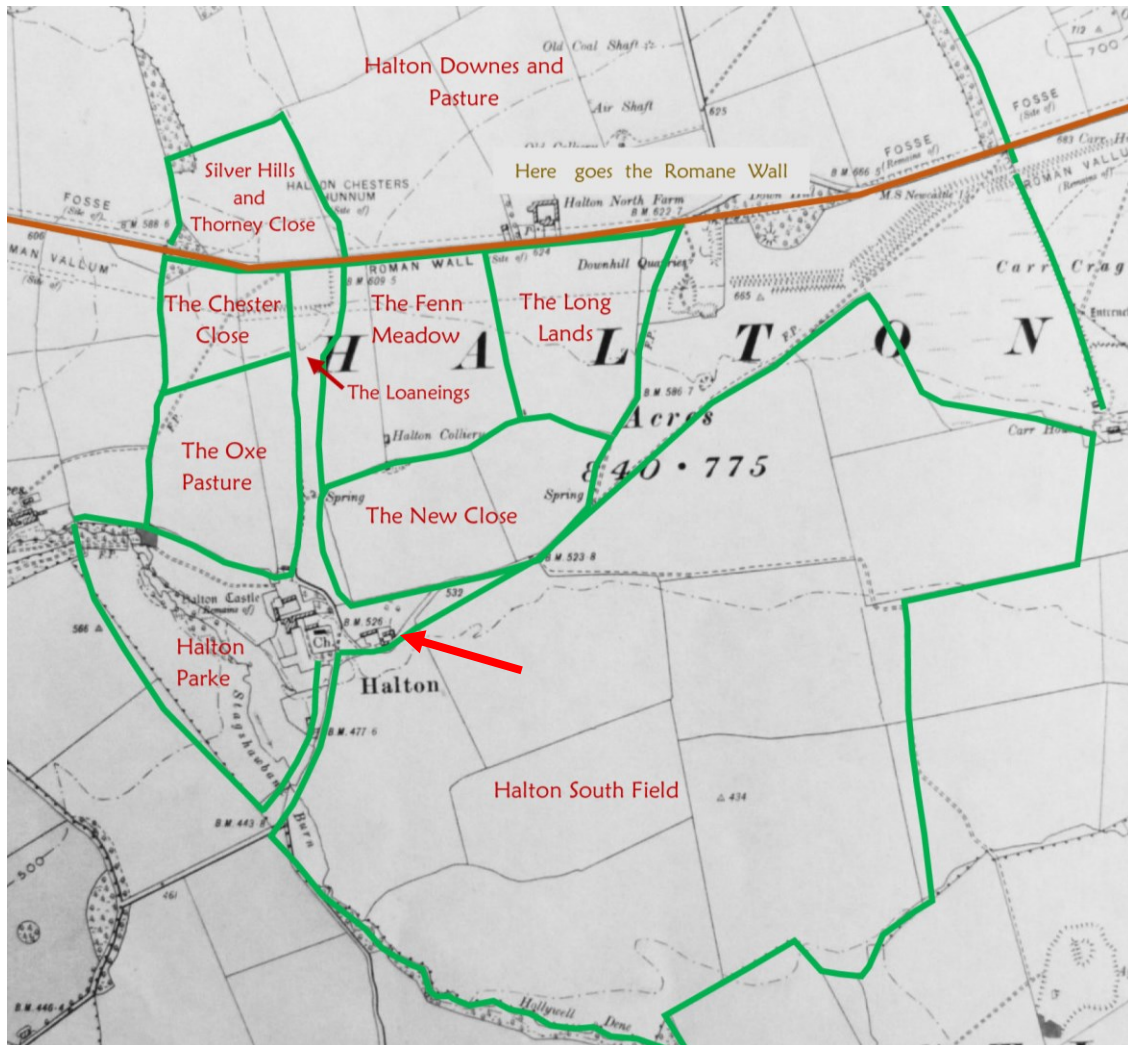


Figure 5: Second Edition Ordnance Survey base transcribed with the boundaries and field names on Thomas Forster's 1677 survey of lands belonging to William Carnaby Esq. including the township of Halton. Shepherd's House is arrowed in red.

Both surveys can be compared with historic maps of the area, most notably a plan prepared in 1677 for the owner of Halton, William Carnaby (figure 4, as per a transcription in volume 10 of the Northumberland County History (Craster 1914, fp 389). An Ordnance Survey base (figure 5) has been used to transcribe the field

patterns from the 17th century plan which in great part must fossilize the picture from the Middle Ages, with new enclosures or closes beginning to subdivide the two open fields, the Downes and Pasture and the South Field. At its greatest extent, the medieval settlement would appear to have run from Stagshaw Bank Burn in the west, eastwards along a series of hollow-ways, with the Shepherd's House lying just about central within the township. Discrete holdings, and as mentioned, what are probably house platforms, can be made out in a number of places.

3.4 Post-Medieval to Modern

The picture of Halton provided by the 1677 plan has not changed markedly since. This is certainly the case as far as the extent of settlement. A house was attached to Halton Tower in 1696 by John Douglas. Only two storeys high, it sits remarkably well with the four storey tower. Later and also listed structures (grade II) around the tower, including the carriage house, the stable and groom's cottage, as well as garden terrace walls and ornamental gate piers have all added to the setting.

Shepherd's house and the adjacent property to the east were developed at some time over the first half of the 19th century, but no exact date has been established. The 1677 map shows an empty, rectangular enclosure in approximately the same location as the current buildings, lying to the south of New Close.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF THE DEVELOPMENT AREA

4.1 Status of the Site

The PDA is encompassed by but is not within scheduled monument ND620 (NHL entry 1006406); Halton Shrunken Medieval Village. There are no listed buildings within the site.

4.1 Evidence from Earlier Investigations

No previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the proposed development area or in its near vicinity to test its potential. Archaeological monitoring was continued during the excavation in 1999 of a trench to the north at Haltonchesters within the area of potential Roman occupation (HER Event No. 184) but no archaeological excavation has been carried out within Halton itself to provide any useful understanding of the early layout of the settlement or of its archaeological potential. Most information has been gained from non-invasive survey including the Hadrian's Wall NMP and Lidar survey (see Appendix 1).

4.2 Prehistoric to Roman

No evidence for prehistoric or Roman occupation has been found within or immediately around the PDA. The extra-mural settlement or vicus at Haltonchesters extended to the south of the fort, as did the cemetery, but there is little reason to think that they ran as far as the PDA

- **There is low potential for the site to contain archaeological deposits dating to prehistoric times.**
- **There is low to medium potential for the site to contain archaeological remains dating to the Roman period.**

4.3 Late-Medieval to Post Medieval

The core of the medieval settlement of Halton township has been designated a scheduled monument (ND 620, NHL entry 1006406), indicating its national importance. The extent of the monument, avoiding standing structures at Halton, is a reflection of the listing process, not an indication that sub-surface deposits - and potentially structural remains - do not lie across the PDA. Any development works beyond the northern wall of building **C** and the northern and eastern walls of building **D** would encroach directly on the scheduled monument.

The proposed development area lies within the core of a former medieval settlement, the extent of which has been at least broadly established through recent survey for the NMP Hadrian's Wall Mapping Project and by LIDAR survey (Appendix 1). It remains unclear as to the exact nature and function of some of the earthworks around the PDA. It is also uncertain how construction of the Shepherd's House and associated farm ranges, all terraced into a north-south slope, will have impacted on any archaeological remains within the area.

- **There is high potential for the survival of late medieval and early post-medieval remains within the site**

4.4 Modern

None of the buildings within the PDA are listed. Buildings A to C (see figure 2 and plates) form an attractive and discrete grouping of domestic and agricultural structures around a cobbled yard. They probably date to the first half of the 19th century but this has not been conclusively established. The modern livestock shed dates to the second half of the 20th century. There is no obvious indication that any of the structures contain fabric or features suggesting antecedents. The current document does not address issues of historic or structural interest regarding the buildings.

5. REQUIREMENT FOR EVALUATION

As per discussions with Karen Derham (NCC) and Mike Collins (HE), archaeological evaluation will be carried out in order to establish the archaeological potential of the site prior to any planning determination. Three trenches (1, 6 and 7 on figure 6) and four test pits (2, 3, 4 and 5) will be excavated. This amounts to c.1.5% of the overall development area, but c.5% of the area which would be impacted by substantial groundworks for terracing within existing structures or during the extension of the western range. Each test pit or trench will address specific questions:

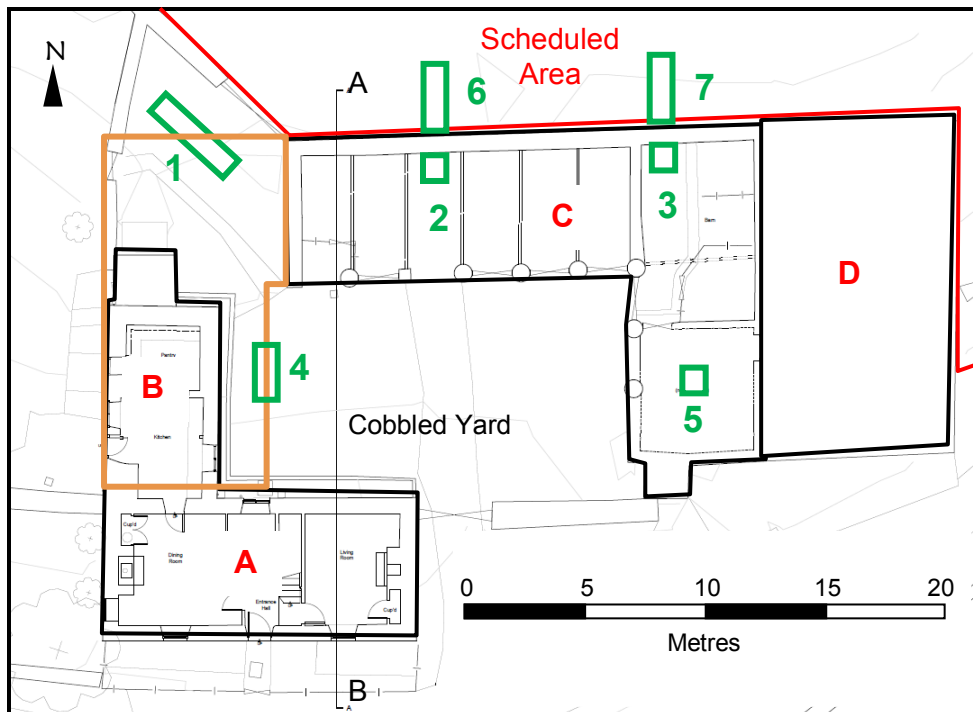


Figure 6: The proposed development area encompassing buildings A to D. Evaluation Trenches and Test Pits (1 to 5) in green. Orange outline shows the proposed footprint of the western arm of the development. The scheduled area is demarcated by a red line. Doonan Architects Drawing No.1088 E1.

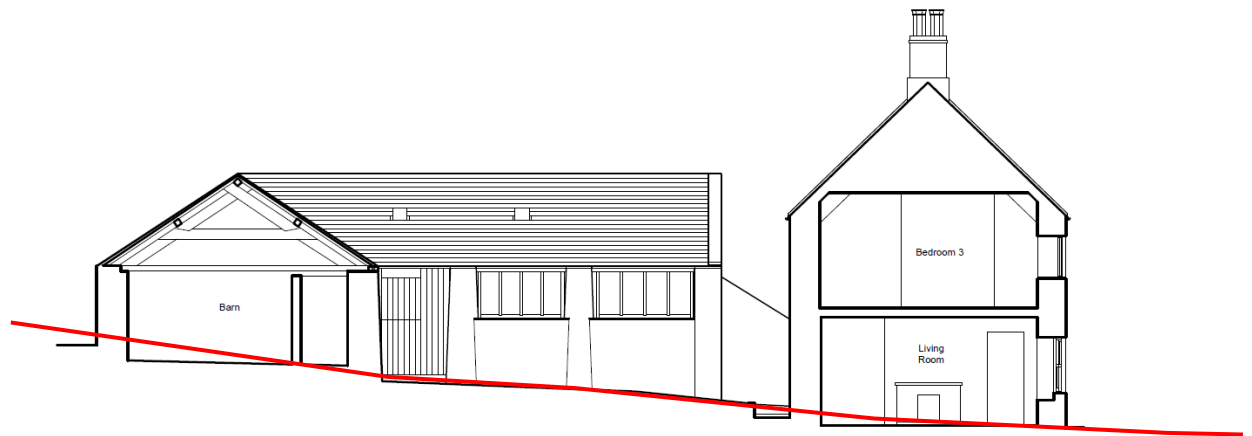


Figure 7: A north-south section through the PDA (A-B on figure 6) showing the general north-south slope of the site (highlighted in red) into which, to greater or lesser extent all the building ranges have been terraced. From Doonan Architects Drawing No.1088 E1.

Trench 1: To establish the survival of archaeological deposits beyond present structures but within the footprint of the proposed new western range. 4m long by 1m wide;

Test Pit 2: To establish the extent of terracing within the western end of Building C, whether any archaeological deposits survive below this terracing, and to determine the foundation depth of the north wall of the building. 1m square;

Test Pit 3: To establish the extent of terracing within the western end of Building C, whether any archaeological deposits survive below this terracing, and to determine the foundation depth of the north wall of the building. 1m square;

Test Pit 4: To establish the presence and nature of archaeological deposits beyond standing structures and on the edge of the footprint of the proposed rebuilt western block. 1m by 2m;

Test Pit 5: To establish the extent of terracing within the south-eastern end of Building C and whether any archaeological deposits survive below this terracing. 1m square;

Trenches 6 and 7: Within Scheduled Monument (ND620, NHL entry 1006406) and running from the north wall of Building C. To establish the presence and nature of archaeological deposits and the historic impact of Building C on any deposits in an area which would be cut back for remedial works on the building. Both 3m long by 1m wide.

6. METHODOLOGY

6.1 Trenches, and where feasible, test pits will be excavated by machine excavator

with a smooth ditching blade either to subsoil or to the first archaeological deposit. Archaeological deposits will be excavated manually. A sufficient portion of each feature will be excavated to determine the nature and if possible the chronology of the feature.

6.2 The stratigraphy of all trenches will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

6.3 A record of all features excavated will be produced using appropriate archaeological context recording. All features will have a full written and drawn record. Measurements will be expressed in metres. Plans and sections will be produced at 1:10 or 1:20 scale using repeatable control points. Photographic recording will be by digital SLR camera.

6.4 All pottery, metalwork and animal bone will be retained and located by context. Modern material will be discarded subsequent to the completion of fieldwork.

6.5 Loose architectural fragments will be treated as small finds and recorded individually (with reference to the appropriate repository standards and guidelines). The find location will be recorded three dimensionally.

6.6 Final drawings will be provided in digital format.

6.7 The potential requirement for specialist analyses is an unavoidable risk in all excavations. The scientific investigation of any features/deposits which are considered significant will be undertaken as a non-negotiable part of this programme.

In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens are identified, provision will be made to collect at least one archaeomagnetic date from each hearth or in the case of domestic structures, one per building. As appropriate, samples will be collected and processed by a suitable specialist for dating purposes.

Where such dating techniques are required NCC Conservation should be contacted to discuss the appropriate response.

6.8 Environmental samples will be taken from sealed and dateable deposits to elucidate the agricultural/ecological regime on the site over the period. Deposits/fills with potential for environmental evidence will be assessed by taking bulk samples of 30 litres from contexts selected for analysis. Deposits/fills totalling less than 30 litres in volume will be sampled in their entirety. Samples will be processed and analysed by Dr Charlotte O'Brien of Archaeological Services University of Durham.

6.9 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.

6.10 The Archaeological Officer for NCC and representatives of Historic England will be informed of the evaluation timetable and allowed access to the site at all reasonable times.

7. REPORT AND ARCHIVE

7.1 A summary report will be supplied to relevant parties on completion of the fieldwork to inform the planning determination of the application. Plans and sections within the report will be at a recognisable planning scale. Copies of the report will be sent to the client, Doonan Architects, the County HER and Historic England. The Historic England Archive will be asked if they wish to receive copies of the archive and report. The report will contain as a minimum:

- Non-technical summary
- Introductory statement
- Aims and objectives
- Methodology
- Results
- Index and location of archive
- References and bibliography
- Copy of project design

7.2 If appropriate, arrangements will be made to publish the results of the investigations through a local or national journal. A summary report will be prepared for *Archaeology in Northumberland* and submitted to Liz Williams, HER Officer by December of the year in which the work is completed.

7.3 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.

The digital archive (photographs) will be deposited with ADS. Other materials will be deposited with the GNM at Newcastle upon Tyne.

Northumberland Conservation will require confirmation that the site archive has been deposited in a satisfactory form to the designated archives/museum.

7.4 AWA supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS). 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. The online OASIS form will be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>.

8. HEALTH AND SAFETY

8.1 AWA will comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act and subsequent additions and amendments.

9. SOURCES

Breeze, DJ (2006) *Handbook to the Roman Wall* 14th Edition

Craster HHE (1914) *Northumberland County History: Corbridge* vol 10

Pevsner *et al* (1992) *The Buildings of England: Northumberland*

Taylor, JA, Robinson, J and Biggins, JA (2000) 'Report on geophysical survey of the vicus at Halton Chesters Roman fort, Northumberland' AA XVIII

HER records provided May 15th 2016 by Northumberland Conservation

10. MAPS



Figure 8: First edition Twenty Five Miles to One Inch Ordnance Survey (1860) showing the settlement at Halton. Shepherd's House and adjacent stone-built ranges are all present.

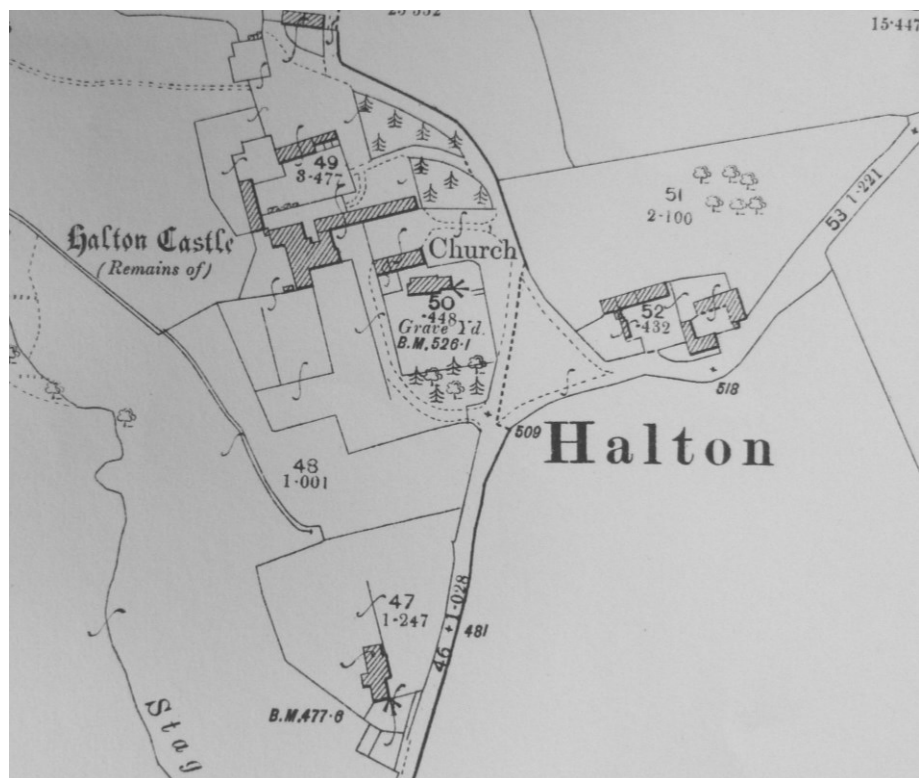


Figure 9: Second edition Twenty Five Miles to One Inch Ordnance Survey (1896) showing the settlement at Halton including Shepherd's House.

11. PLATES (all photographs courtesy of Jenny Greveson, Doonan Architects)



Plate 1: Shepherd's House (A) and northern offshot (B) from the south-west.



Plate 2: Shepherd's House (A) from the south.



Plate 3: Shepherd's House to the left (A) and the east face of the northern offshot (B). Looking west across the yard.



Plate 4: The west face of stone-built agricultural range (C). Looking east across the yard. Originally open between the columns, the bays were at some point infilled with stone.



Plate 5: The south face of building (C). Looking north. Bays between columns have been infilled with timber.



Plate 6: The west gable wall of building (C). Looking east. This would be the location of Trench 1.



Plate 7: *The west gable wall of building (C) at the right. Looking east along the north face of the building, the location of trenches 6 and 7.*

APPENDIX 1: Hadrian's Wall NMP Survey and LIDAR Survey of the Halton Area

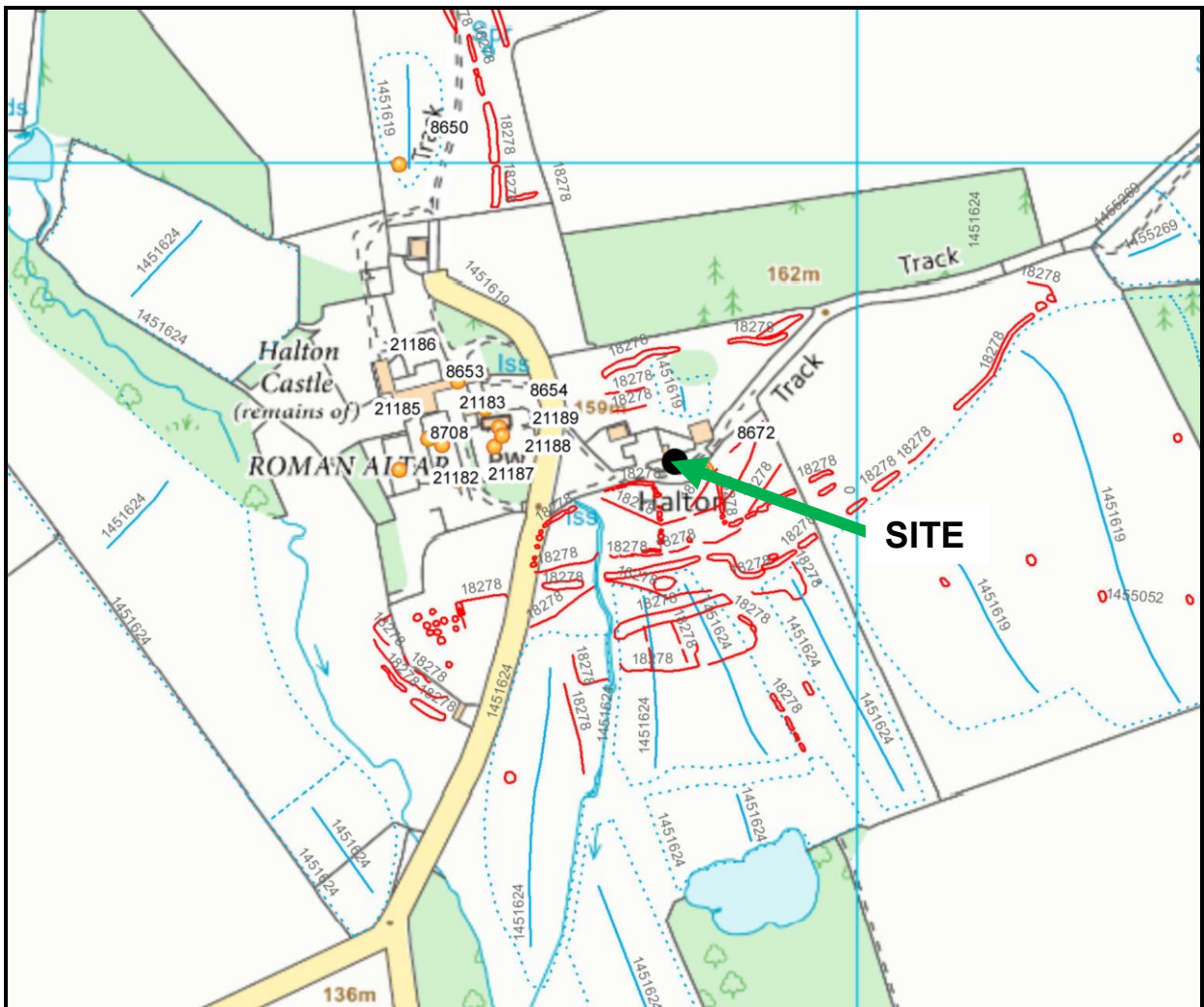


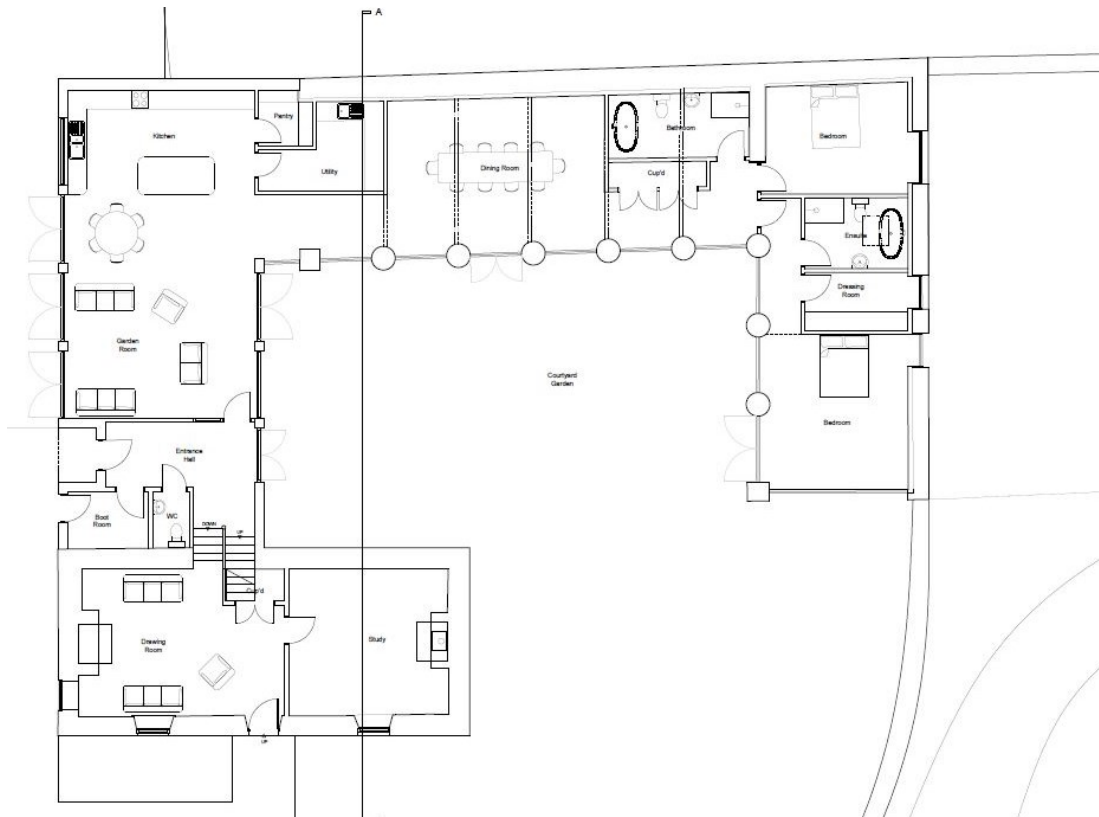
Figure A: Hadrian's Wall National Mapping Project for Halton showing earthworks, mostly relating to the medieval settlement, in red and blue line. Compare with figures B and C. HER entries are in bold. The PDA is arrowed.



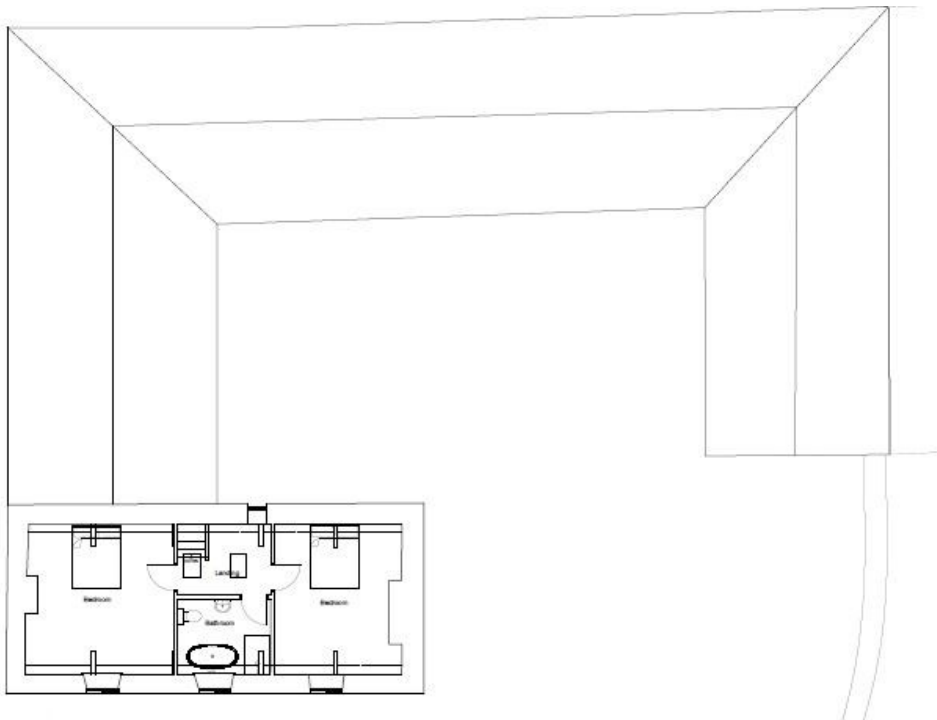
Lidar information supplied as Open Data by the Environment Agency – Copyright Environment Agency

Figures B and C: LIDAR survey of Halton, showing a clear picture of the encompassing medieval earthworks. Site circled in red on B.

APPENDIX 2: Proposed Developments at Shepherd's House (not to scale)

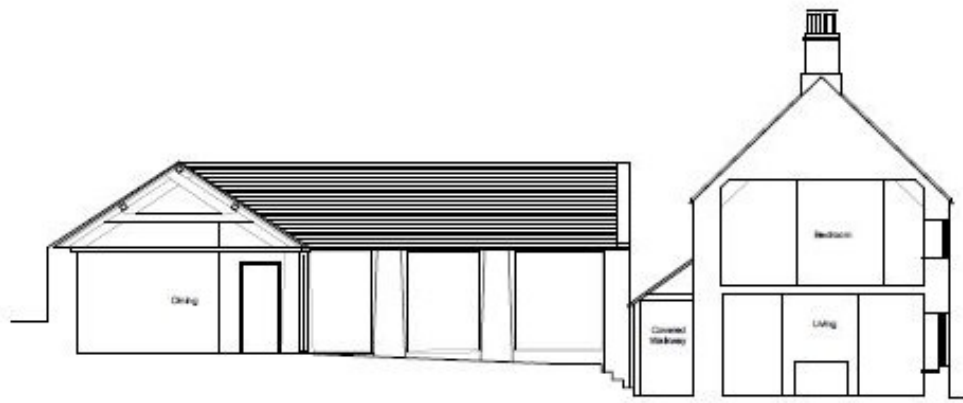


Ground Floor



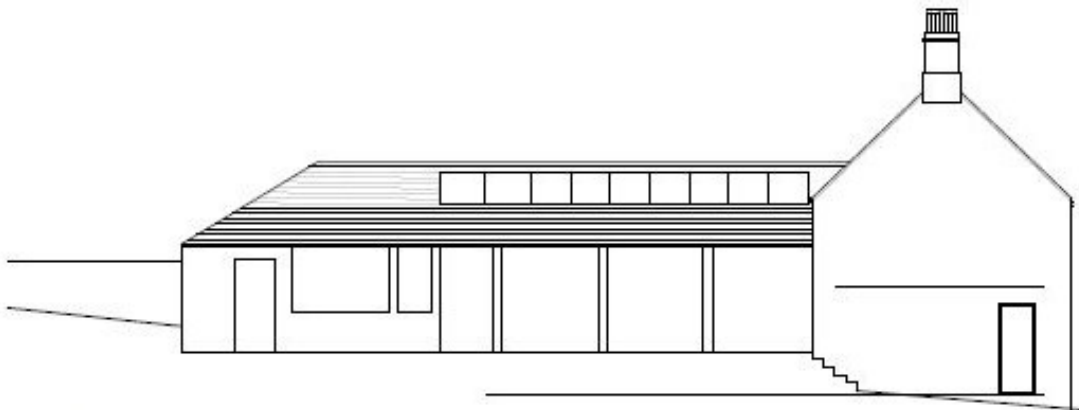
First Floor

Figure D



Section AA

North-south section through courtyard



West Elevation

Looking east at the western face of the Shepherd's House and proposed new northern arm

Figure E