

Report on the Watching Brief on Land Adjacent to the Tankerville Arms, Eglington, Northumberland

(September , 2004)

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Planning Application No.:	A/2004/0341
OASIS Reference No.:	bibliore1-5683

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1. Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the land adjacent to the Tankerville Arms in Eglingham, Northumberland (National Grid Reference NU 1076 1947, elevation 96 metres OD), in fulfilment of planning stipulations made by Northumberland County Council. This work was conducted on behalf of Mark Swindle, the owner and developer of the land, in advance of the erection of an house with a garage on this property. As the footings for the structure were dug by the mechanical digger, signs of archaeological deposits were sought. In total, ten footing trenches were dug: three measuring 10 metres in length; two measuring 13 metres in length; one 11 metres long, one 4 metres long, another 7 metres long, one 8 metres long, and a final one measuring 6 metres. All of the trenches were 0.60 metres wide. No archaeological features were observed in any of the trenches. As the topsoil had already been removed from this site, the stratigraphic succession consisted of a thick clay layer that extended to a depth of 500 mm. below the surface. In one locale, it was possible to observe that the clay continued to a depth of at least 102 cm. The only exception to this general succession lay in the southernmost trench, which impinged on the course of an old drainage pipe. Surrounding the pipe was relatively modern fill, but immediately below this the clay again became apparent.

2. Introduction

This watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the written scheme of investigation approved by the Assistant County Archaeologist at the Northumberland County Council (herein reproduced in the appendix). The watching brief comprised the archaeological monitoring and recording of the trenches dug during the excavation of footing trenches by a mechanical digger. The topsoil had already been removed, so before the commencement of the digging an investigation of the surface was undertaken to determine whether any features were apparent. This investigation revealed nothing of archaeological interest, and work on the trenches commenced. No features or deposits of any archaeological significance were observed in any of the footing trenches, so a representative section was recorded.

3. Archaeological and Historical Background

The village of Eglingham lies in North Northumberland, roughly 11 km northwest of the town of Alnwick. No evidence of prehistoric settlement is known from Eglingham itself. Nevertheless, the surrounding hills are replete with sites and features that extend back to at least the Neolithic. A large number of cairns, probably belonging to the Late Neolithic or earlier Bronze Age, are known from the surrounding moors; furthermore, a rock art site of Hunterheugh

I, lying south of the village, has recently been excavated (Waddington, Mazel & Johnson, *forthcoming*). Other rock art sites are known from the vicinity, but these are restricted to the higher elevations (Mazel, *personal communication*). A mound was excavated at Cheviot Walk Wood, north of Eglingham, in 1857 when a pit was sunk into the feature resulting in the discovery of a stone cist and silver coins. The whereabouts of the coins are not known. This mound was excavated anew in 1984 affording human remains, ceramic material and lithic implements belonging to the Beaker Culture period of the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age (Stopford *et al.* 1985: 117 – 125).

3.2 Little is known of the origins of the village, but the name suggests that it was first settled in the Saxon era, meaning the ‘settlement of Eglin’s people’ (Ekwall 1947: 155). The earliest historic references to Eglingham derive from the twelfth century, when an anonymous historian from Durham states that the vill was included in a grant by King Ceolwulf to the monastery of Lindisfarne. In this document, it is also stated that the church was consecrated by Bishop ‘Esred’, who has sometimes been identified as Egred, the ninth century bishop of Lindisfarne. Another possibility is that Esred may have been an eighth century bishop, but not of Lindisfarne. Nevertheless, based on architectural intimations in the church, it is possible that it existed sometime before its consecration.

3.3 The land and church were both lost by the see of Durham, for there exists a reference to the land as being part of an estate granted to Tynemouth Priory between AD 1106 – 1116. The charter by Richard I to Tynemouth in 1189 also mentions Eglingham. Records in the Priory Survey of 1378 indicate that the settlement consisted then of three bond tenements, three cottages, two freeholds, a watermill, and a fulling mill. This was apparently ‘all laid waste since the first pestilence’. The next mention of Eglingham was in a petition by the local vicar William Colt in 1467 that complains of the miserable living conditions caused by the misfortune of the campaigns waged against Margaret de Anjou and the Lancastrians, which was resolved by the defeat of these forces at nearby Hedgeley Moor in Wooperton. In 1596 a Scottish raid on Eglingham resulted in minor casualties, but substantial looting. The squire of Eglingham during the Civil War was Henry Ogle, a staunch supporter of the parliamentary forces, and it is reputed in tradition that Oliver Cromwell spent a night at the hall as his guest (Dodd 1935: 359ff.).

3.4 A survey in 1608 which records four freeholders; this was followed by a record made for the Hearth Tax of 1665, which refers to twenty householders in the village. A map of Eglingham made by Armstrong in 1760 shows two rows of

houses along the main road. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of the village (1860) shows that the land was not built on, and in recent years it has served as an allotment for the growing of vegetables.



Figure 1: Location of investigation area at a national (A), regional (B), and local (C) scale

4. Method Statement

The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the methods stated by the *Institute of Field Archaeologists* in their publication *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2001). Since the topsoil had already been removed, a survey of the land surface for indications of archaeological features was conducted before the digging of any of the footing trenches commenced. A series of photographs were then taken to record the land surface before any work began. As there were no indications of archaeological features, the digging of the footing trenches by a digging machine commenced. This work was supervised throughout to permit the identification of features and deposits that might be exposed. Once the excavation had concluded, a representative section photographed and drawn at a scale of 1:10; thereafter context sheets describing the stratigraphic succession were written. Finally, a plan of the trenches was produced at a scale of 1:20.



Figure 2: The Development Area Before the Commencement of Groundworks, Facing Southwest



Figure 3: The Groundworks in Progress

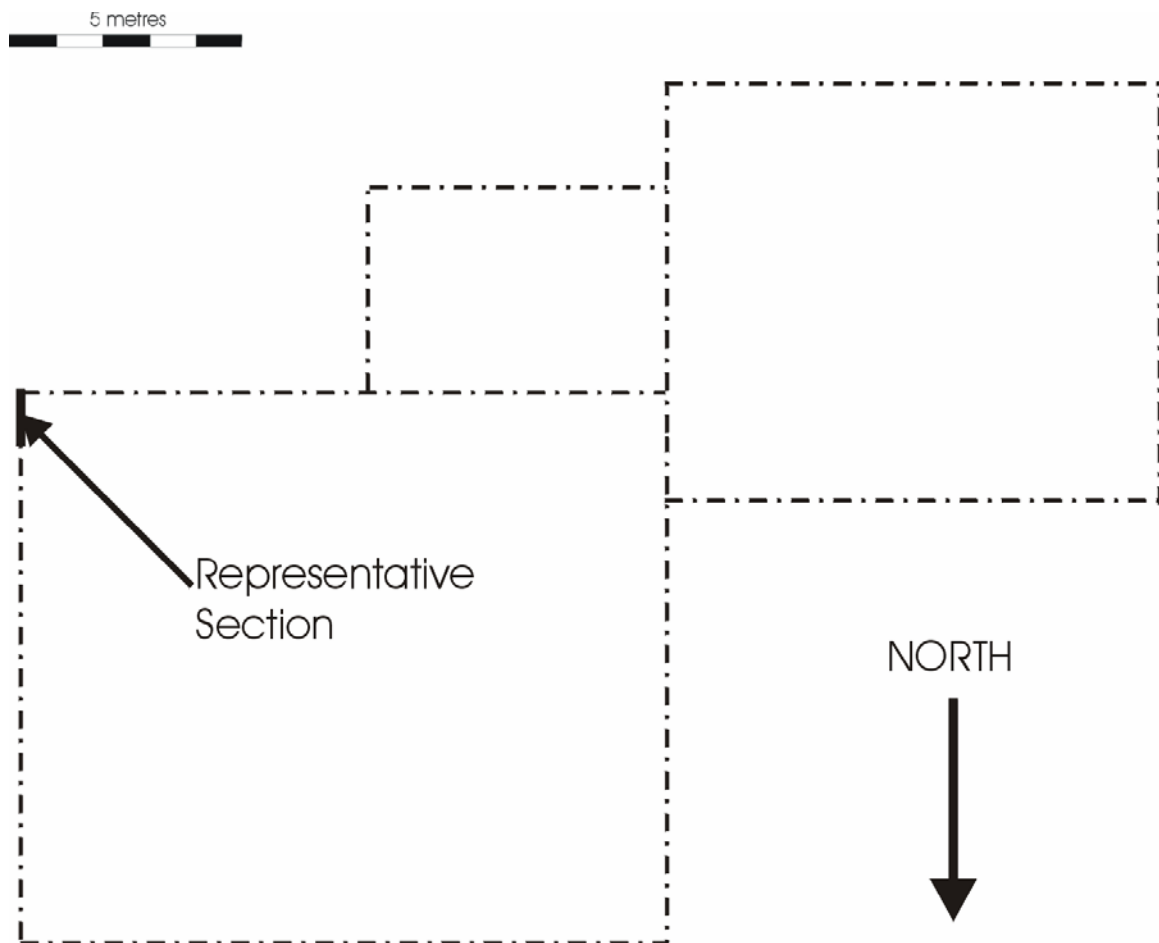


Figure 4: Plan of Groundworks at Eglingham with Situation of Representative Section Indicated

5. Stratigraphic Succession

The stratigraphic succession in the representative section consisted of a deposit that constituted the fill of a trench containing a drainage pipe. This deposit was *ca.* 20 cm thick through the section; beneath it was a clay deposit of indeterminate thickness. This clay continued through the section to the maximum depth of the footing trench and was an homogeneous deposit. It is typical of the sedimentary sequence in the vicinity of Eglingham and is probably of Late Glacial origin.



Figure 5: The Representative Section

6. Conclusions

No archaeological features were encountered during the excavation of footing trenches on this site. The site afforded little apart from a thick and undifferentiated deposit of clay, with the only intrusion being relatively modern drainage pipes being dug into this material. An inspection of some of the topsoil that remained on site in a spoil heap was also undertaken, to determine whether there might be diagnostic artefacts in this deposit, but nothing was forthcoming from this apart modern glass, tile, and porcelain that probably was no older than the fore half of the twentieth century.

7. Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Mark Swindle for commissioning this watching brief and for his assistance whilst in the field. We also wish to thank Karen Derham, the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland, for her advice and patience with many inquiries before the commencement of this work. Finally, we would like to thank Averill Robson at the Museum of Antiquities, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne for her assistance in collecting some of the archival documents that the section outlining the historic background to the village is based.

8. References

- Dodd, Madeleine Hope (editor). 1935. *A History of Northumberland Volume XIV: Parishes of Alnham, Chatton, Chillingham, Eglingham, Ilderton, Ingram and Whittingham. The Chapleries of Lowick and Doddington*. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Andrew Reid & Company.
- Ekwall, Eilert. 1947. *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, University of Oxford.
- Stopford, Jennifer, Joan Weyman, Bill Ford & Roger Miket. 1985. Two Cemeteries of the Second Millennium B.C. in Northumberland. *Archaeologia Aeliana* (5th Series) 13: 117 - 131
- Waddington, Clive, Aron Mazel & Benjamin J. Johnson. *Forthcoming*. Excavation of a Cup and Ring Marked Rock at Hunterheugh Crag, Northumberland. *Archaeologia Aeliana*

9. Appendix: Archaeological Specification for a Watching Brief on the Land Adjacent to the Tankerville Arms in Eglingham, Northumberland

Planning ref: A/2004/0341
NCCCT ref: T14/1; 3593
Grid ref: NU 1076 1947

LAND TO THE EAST OF TANKERVILLE ARMS, EGLINGHAM, NORTHUMBERLAND

Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief

Introduction

A planning application has been submitted for a development comprising the construction of a single dwelling and garage on land to the east of the Tankerville Arms, Eglingham (Fig 1). There has been a settlement at Eglingham since the medieval period. It was part of the estate granted to Tynemouth Priory 1106-16. The Priory Survey of 1378 records three bond tenements, three cottages, two freeholds, a watermill, a fulling mill, 'all laid waste since the first pestilence'. By 1608 a survey records four freeholders and the 1665 Hearth Tax recording 20 householders. Armstrong's map of 1769 shows two rows of buildings fronting the main street.

The proposed development is located at the eastern end of the village in area which is likely to have formed part of the medieval settlement. Maps from the First Edition Ordnance Survey map (c.1860) onwards indicate that this plot of land has not been built on since that date. It is therefore likely that any remains associated with medieval or early post-medieval buildings fronting the main street will have survived later development in this area.

Method of work

The purpose of this work is to ensure that important archaeological remains are not destroyed without first being adequately recorded.

The watching brief will cover the following groundworks for the development:

- Foundations for the dwelling and garage
- Excavations for the provision of services
- New access arrangements

General Standards

- i) All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA)¹ and should follow the IFA Standards for Watching Briefs.²

¹ Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2000, Code of Conduct

² Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001, Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief

- ii) All staff will be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles.
- iii) All staff will be familiar with the archaeological background of the site, and the results of any previous work in the area, prior to the start of work on site. All staff will be aware of the work required under the specification, and must understand the projects aims and methodologies.
- iv) Deposits that have the potential for providing environmental or dating evidence will be assessed while work is in progress. A contingency arrangement has been provided within the job costings to allow for any resulting specialist analysis to take place. The anticipated size of the environmental sample is not in excess of 20 litres. However, if large organic bearing deposits are encountered, the County Archaeologist's office will be contacted forthwith for further guidance.
- v) **If archaeological remains are uncovered, these will be excavated and recorded before destruction in accordance with accepted practice.** A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings should be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate. Where skeletons are encountered, they should be recorded by photography and the use of pro forma skeleton recording sheets.
- vii) The area watched (Figure 1 of the brief provided by Northumberland County Council) will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. All archaeological deposits and features and at the top and base of all groundworks will be recorded with an **above ordnance datum (aOD)** level.
- viii) A photographic record of all contexts will be taken in colour transparency and black and white print and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept.
- ix) If human burials are discovered, all statutory consents and licences required under the Burial Act of 1857 shall be procured and complied with.
- x) **Where any part of a human burial is disturbed, the whole burial will be archaeologically excavated.**
- xi) Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation will be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.
- xii) During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this will include controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material).

Contingency arrangements

In the event of the discovery of archaeological remains which are of a greater number or extent than anticipated, work will cease and the County Archaeological Officer and a representative of the developer will be notified. An assessment will be made of the importance of the remains and any provision for their recording or preservation in situ as appropriate.

The contingency for this project has been set at 10 person-days.

Post excavation work, archive, and report preparation

Finds

All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in compliance with the IFA Guidelines for Finds Work and those set by UKIC.

The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and recipient museum prior to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides to retain artefacts adequate provision must be made for recording them. Details of land ownership will be provided by the developer.

All retained artefacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

Site Archive

The archive and the finds will be deposited in the appropriate local museum, within 6 months of completion of the post-excavation work and report.

Contact has been made with the landowners and with the appropriate local museum to make the relevant arrangements. Details of land ownership have been provided by the developer.

Confirmation that the archive had been submitted in a satisfactory form to the relevant museum shall be given to Northumberland County Council.

Report

The archaeological consultant or contractor will submit a copy of the report to their client and Northumberland County Council Conservation Team within 2 months of completion of the work.

The Conservation Team will receive two copies of the report (one bound and one unbound)

Northumberland County Council Conservation Team will need to approve the report before discharging the condition on the planning permission

The report will be bound, with each page and paragraph numbered

The report should will as a minimum the following:

- i) Planning application number, Northumberland County Council Conservation Team reference, OASIS reference number and an 8 figure grid reference
- ii) A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
- iii) A location plan of the extent of the watching brief within the site. This must be at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the

national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Sites and Monuments Record

- iv) Plans and sections of archaeology located at a recognisable planning scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate)
- v) A summary statement of the results
- vi) A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds

OASIS

Northumberland County Council Conservation Team and SMR support the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. 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 archaeological consultant or contractor will therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Contractors are advised to contact Northumberland SMR prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, Northumberland SMR will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website. The archaeological consultant or contractor agrees to this procedure within the specification/project design/written scheme of investigation.

Publication

A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted to Liz Williams, Northumberland SMR Officer, by December of the year in which the work is completed.

A short report of the work will also be submitted to a local journal if appropriate.

Monitoring

The County Archaeologist will be informed on the start date and timetable for the watching brief in advance of work commencing.

Reasonable access to the site for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological scheme will be afforded to the County Archaeologist or his/her nominee at all times.

Regular communication between the archaeological contractor, the County Archaeologist and other interested parties will be maintained to ensure the project aims and objectives are achieved.