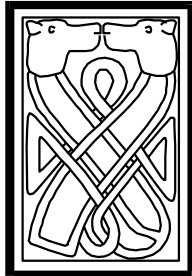


BAMBURGH RESEARCH PROJECT



LAND AT TRANWELL WOOD, MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND

REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Compiled for Kevin Hutchinson by The Bamburgh Research Project: Commercial Projects Section

BRP 12/01b

March 2013

Contents:

SUMMARY	3
1.0 INTRODUCTION	4
2.0 THE SITE	4
2.1 Location	4
2.2 Archaeological background	4
3.0 METHODOLOGY	5
3.1 Monitoring during excavation	5
3.2 General standards	5
4.0 RESULTS	6
4.1 Monitoring during excavation	6
5.0 CONCLUSIONS	7
REFERENCES	8
APPENDIX I WSI	12

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Location and plan of proposed development

Plate 1: Topsoil stripping prior to foundation excavation, facing north

Plate 2: Section of the foundation cut, facing north-east

SUMMARY

This report describes the archaeological monitoring programme carried out by the Bamburgh Research Project during the topsoil stripping and excavation of construction trenches for a new dwelling at Tranwell, Northumberland. The work occurred on the 25th February 2013. No features of archaeological interest were uncovered during the monitoring process and no finds of any date were recovered. It seems clear that no archaeological site lay either on site nor within the immediate vicinity.

**LAND AT TRANWELL WOOD,
MORPETH,
NORTHUMBERLAND**

**REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MONITORING AND RECORDING**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This report has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project, Commercial Section for Kevin Hutchinson. The document sets out the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks associated with the foundations excavation of a new building at White House, Tranwell, Northumberland.
- 1.0.2 This work was undertaken by the Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) on 25th February 2013. The work was undertaken in compliance with a Written Schedule of Investigation compiled by the Bamburgh Research Project in January 2012 in response to a brief issued by the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team. The Northumberland County Council Conservation Team number is: CM15/1: 11212, the planning number is: CM/20100318 and the OASIS record number is: bamburgh1-145575.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The development site lies within a small clearing on the east side of Tranwell Wood, which is 1.2km south-south-west of the settlement of Tranwell, which itself lies to the south of the B6524, where it passes under the A1 and (NGR NZ 1815 8230) (Figures 1 and 2).

2.2 Archaeological background

- 2.2.1 A substantial cropmark has been identified in the field to the east of the proposed development site (Northumberland HER 11287) and the cropmark is described as a *'Complex enclosure consisting of a rectilinear inner enclosure with entrance to east, enclosed by an irregular curvilinear enclosure and with additional ditches radiating off to the east. ...Rectilinear enclosure with large irregular enclosure around it. Cropmark photographed in 1977.'* The dating of cropmark sites is problematic in the absence of excavation or fieldwalking information but similar, excavated, sites in the region have proved to be Iron Age or Romano-British in date.

2.2.2 Tranwell was part of the manor of Mitford in the medieval period, with ten tax payers present at the settlement in 1312. The plantation is present on the first edition of c.1860 and the first buildings recorded on the site area are depicted on the third edition, with additional buildings added in the vicinity after the second World War.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Monitoring during excavation

3.1.1 A suitably experienced archaeologist, familiar with the archaeological background to the site, was present to record any items of interest that were revealed. All work was carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2000) and followed the IFA Standards for Watching Briefs (IFA 2008). The work undertaken conformed to the methodology listed below.

3.2 General standards

3.2.1 All archaeological features identified during the monitoring, would be sample excavated according to their type and form:

50% of all discrete features.

50% of waterlogged deposits.

25% of stratified deposits.

25% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill

10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a uniform fill

3.2.2 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample would be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.

3.2.3 Secure contexts would be sampled for dating where appropriate, whether on site or as sub samples of bulk samples.

3.2.4 Pottery and Animal Bone would be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts would be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. All finds would be recorded and processed according to the BRP system and submitted for post-excavation assessment. Finds recovery and storage strategies were in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995 and IFA Guidelines for Finds Work). Had artefacts of gold or silver been recovered they would be treated in accordance with the 1996 Treasure Act and appropriate procedures would be followed.

3.2.5 In the event of Human burials being revealed they would be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner. Consultation with the County Archaeological Officer would be sought to determine further action.

3.2.6 Any archaeological features encountered would be hand-cleaned, excavated and recorded:

1. A photographic record of the site was taken using black and white print, colour slide film at 35mm format. In addition a digital photographic record was compiled.
2. A written description of features was compiled using the BRP *pro forma* context recording system.

3.2.8 Arrangements will be made with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive within 6 month of the completion of the post-excavation report.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Monitoring during excavation

4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken on Monday 25th February 2013. The The topsoil was stripped over the extent of the development area prior to the excavation of the building foundations to a depth of c. 0.8m below ground level as it lay following the topsoil strip. No indications of any archaeological remains were uncovered during the course of this work despite quite an extensive surface area being uncovered. In addition no finds were recovered, even of modern date.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.0.1 The exposure of undisturbed subsoil extensive over the development area and the absence of any recovered finds would indicate that no archaeological activity was present in the site area.

Text: Graeme Young
Illustrations: Graeme Young

BRP 12/01b

March 2013

REFERENCES

Published and unpublished sources

BRP. Finds Manual, 2000

BRP. Health and Safety Document

English Heritage *Management of Archaeological Projects 2*, 1991.

English Heritage *A strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds*. Ancient Monuments Laboratory, 1995.

IFA 2000. Code of Conduct, 2000.

IFA 2001. Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation, 2008.

APPENDIX I

LAND AT TRANWELL WOOD, MORPETH, NORTHUMBERLAND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF WRITTEN SCHEDULE OF INVESTIGATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This Written Schedule of Investigation has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project, Commercial Section for Kevin Hutchinson. The document sets out the project design for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during groundworks associated with the construction of a new dwelling on land at Tranwell Wood, Morpeth, Northumberland. Planning reference number is: CM/20100318 and the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team number is: CM15/1: 11212.
- 1.0.2 The Written Schedule of Investigation details the proposed scheme of works for the watching brief. The document has been prepared in order to fulfil a requirement for the planning application, as laid out in the brief issued by The Northumberland County Council Conservation Team.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The development site lies within a small clearing on the east side of Tranwell Wood, which is 1.2km south-south-west of the settlement of Tranwell, which itself lies to the south of the B6524, where it passes under the A1 and (NGR NZ 1815 8230) (Figures 1 and 2).

1.0 Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 A substantial cropmark has been identified in the field to the east of the proposed development site (Northumberland HER 11287) and the cropmark is described as a '*Complex enclosure consisting of a rectilinear inner enclosure with entrance to east, enclosed by an irregular curvilinear enclosure and with additional ditches radiating off to the east. ...Rectilinear enclosure with large irregular enclosure around it. Cropmark photographed in 1977.*' The dating of cropmark sites is problematic in the absence of excavation or fieldwalking information but similar, excavated, sites in the region have proved to be Iron Age or Romano-British in date.
- 2.2.2 Tranwell was part of the manor of Mitford in the medieval period, with ten tax payers present at the settlement in 1312. The plantation is present on the first edition of c.1860 and the first buildings recorded on the site area are depicted on the third edition, with additional buildings added in the vicinity after the second World War.

2.3 Impact of the development

1. The development will comprise the demolition of the present structures and the construction of a new building, and separate garage, on the site. The building is broadly rectangular in plan with an annexe attached to its south-east corner. The main building measures 35m east to west by 36m north to south. The garage building lies to the immediate north of the main building and is L-shaped, 20m east to west by 13m north to south. The foundations for the main building will be excavated to an approximate depth of 0.9m below ground level and are expected to be in the region of 0.8m wide (Figure 2).

2. The proposed scheme of works would indicate potential to impact on undisturbed archaeological material, should it be present beneath the site.
3. The location of the development close to an identified prehistoric cropmark feature indicates a clear prospect that the development could impact on preserved archaeological material.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 In the light of the potential for the construction works to impact upon preserved archaeological remains it is proposed that a continuous watching brief be conducted during the intrusive ground work. Provision will be made for the archaeological consultant to suspend works to allow for the rapid investigation and recording of objects or features encountered. Should archaeological material be encountered the consultant will keep the Assistant County Archaeologist informed.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Watching brief during excavation

1. During all excavation activity a suitably experienced archaeologist, familiar with the archaeological background to the site, will be present to record any items of interest that area revealed by these excavations. All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and should follow the IFA Standards for Watching Briefs. This watching brief will conform to the following methodology.

- 4.1.2 A contingency of up to 20 person days of investigation can be invoked following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist, the client and the monitoring archaeologist.

4.2 General standards

- 4.2.1 All archaeological features identified during the monitoring will be recorded and sample excavated according to their type and form.
- 4.2.2 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample will be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 4.2.3 Secure contexts will be sampled for dating where appropriate, whether on site or as sub samples of bulk samples. Any concentrations of charcoal or other carbonised material recovered on site will usually be retained.
- 4.2.4 Pottery and Animal Bone will be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. All finds will be recorded and processed according to the BRP system and submitted for post-excavation assessment. Finds recovery and storage strategies will be in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995 and IFA Guidelines for Finds Work). Should artefacts of gold or silver covered by the 1996 Treasure Act be recovered, appropriate procedures will be followed.
- 4.2.5 In the event of Human burials being revealed they will be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner. After consultation with the County Archaeological Officer, if excavation is required, work will comply with the relevant home Office regulations.
- 4.2.6 Any archaeological features encountered will be hand-cleaned, excavated and recorded:
 - A photographic record will be taken using black and white print, colour slide film at 35mm format. In addition a digital photographic record will be compiled.

- A written description of features will be recorded using the BRP pro forma context recording system.
- All features will be drawn at an appropriate scale using pre-printed permatrace. Plans will normally be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10.

4.2.7 All archaeological features and horizons will be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.

4.2.8 Arrangements will be made with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive within 6 months of the completion of the post-excavation report.

5.0 MONITORING

5.1 Access will be made available at all reasonable times to the archaeological representatives of the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team to inspect the excavation site.

5.2 Access to the site will be on the basis of prior notification and subject to any relevant health and safety considerations.

6.0 POST-EXCAVATION WORK, ARCHIVE AND REPORT COMPILATION

6.1 On completion of the excavation an assessment of the site records and finds will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage (1991) guidelines. This will include:

- collation of all site records
- compilation of a report
- production of context, photographic, finds and illustration databases
- analysis of the finds assemblage by relevant specialists
- environmental assessment of selected bulk samples

6.2 The assessment report, with each page and paragraph numbered and with cross referenced illustrations, will include:

- summary of the project background
- site location
- methodology
- results of the watching brief
- site location plans and illustrations of results at appropriate scales
- interpretation of the results in an appropriate context
- post-excavation assessment of the site archive
- catalogue and assessment of the artefactual archive
- catalogue and assessment of the faunal remains
- catalogue and assessment of the palaeoenvironmental samples recovered
- appendix containing a list and summary of each recorded context

6.3 A copy of the report should be submitted by the archaeologist to the commissioning client, and the County SMR, together with a PDF copy, within 2 months of completion of the work. A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and an article will be submitted to a local or national journal if appropriate.

6.4 The site archive will be prepared to the standard specified in the Management of Archaeological Projects, appendix 3 (HBMC 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation

Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). A summary account of the context record will be included. The archive will be deposited at the specified museum within 6 months of completion of the work on site.

- 6.5 An online OASIS form will be completed for the project as part of the post-excavation assessment process.

7.0 PERSONNEL

- 7.1 The designated project manager Graeme Young, is one of the five directors of the Bamburgh Research Project. A graduate of Newcastle University, with 23 years of experience in field archaeology including directing a number of excavations of urban medieval sites in Newcastle and Durham. He is an Associate Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

- 7.2 Additional field staff, with appropriate archaeological experience, will be engaged as required.

8.0 SUB-CONTRACTED SPECIALISTS

- 2.1.1 Although it is not possible to predict the range of artefacts that may be recovered provision has been made for the analysis of the most common artefacts.

Material	Specialist
Medieval pottery	Jenny Vaughan
Post-medieval pottery	Jenny Vaughan
Prehistoric pottery	Blaise Vyner
Roman Pottery	Blaise Vyner
Animal bone	Durham University Archaeological Services
Palaeoenvironmental Conservation	Durham University Archaeological Services Karen Barker

9.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.0.1 The Bamburgh Research Project complies with the 1974 Health and Safety Act and its subsequent amendments in all its operations. The SCAUM manual and the Bamburgh Research Project Health and Safety Policy Document is followed for all site works. A designated and appropriately trained first aider is present at all times during working hours. A First Aid kit, Accident Book and telephone are provided for each project. Safety footwear is mandatory on all excavation sites. Where required safety helmets and reflective jackets are provided. It is policy for a vehicle to be present at an excavation and staff must be appropriately equipped for bad weather.
- 9.0.2 All staff undergo a safety induction prior to commencing work on site. A written risk assessment is undertaken specific for each site. The safety assessment is reviewed on a daily basis and changes to the working conditions monitored continually during adverse weather conditions.



Figure 1 Location plan

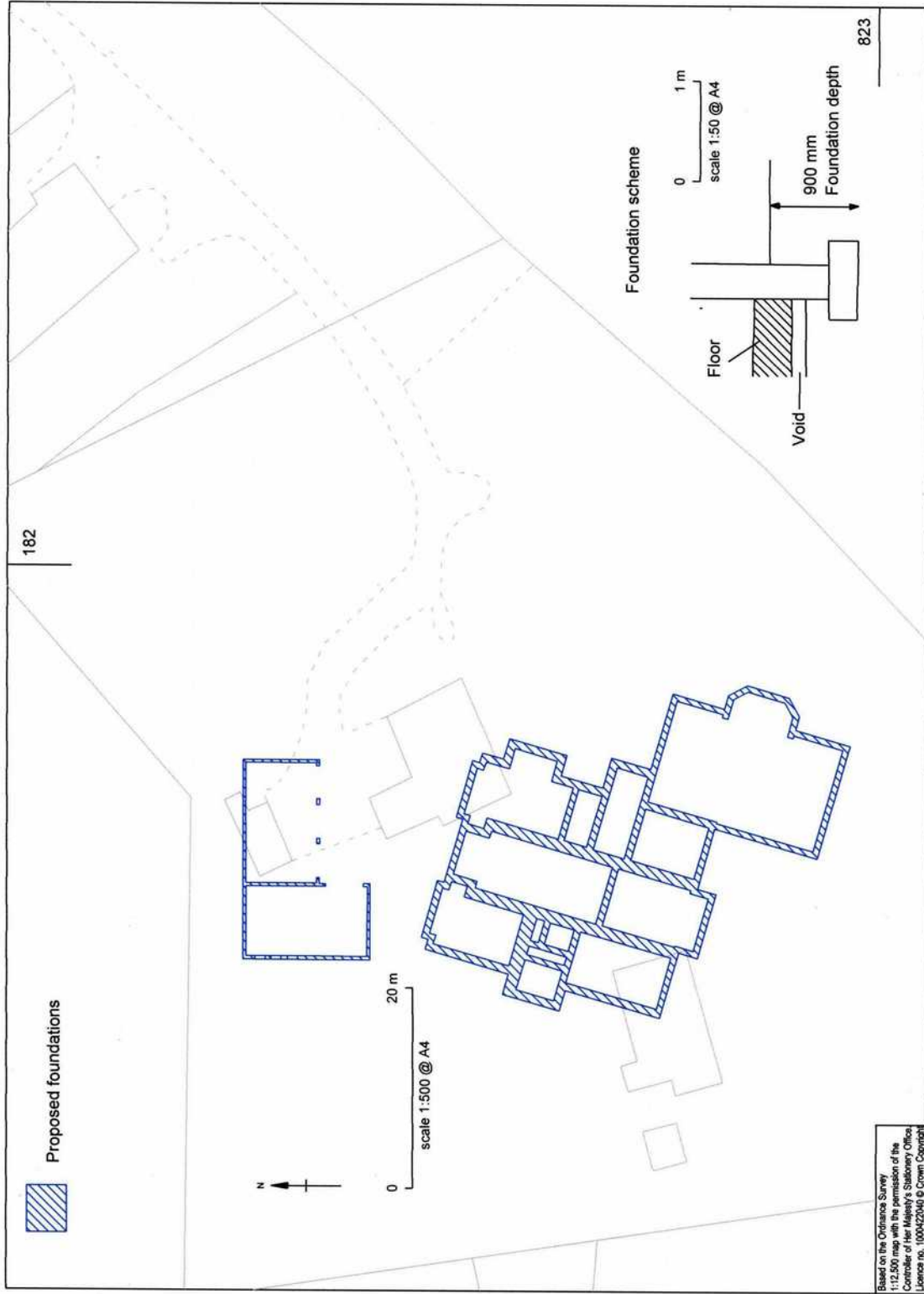


Figure 2 Location and plan of proposed development



Plate 1: Topsoil stripping prior to foundation excavation, facing north



Plate 2: Section of the foundation cut, facing north-east