

BAMBURGH RESEARCH PROJECT

CELTIC CRAFTS MARYGATE HOLY ISLAND NORTHUMBERLAND



ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Compiled for Mrs Charlotte Mundy by The Bamburgh Research Project: Commercial Projects Section

BRP 18/03b

November 2018

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SUMMARY

This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) for Mrs Charlotte Mundy during November 2018 and reports on archaeological monitoring of a site to the rear of Celtic Crafts, Holy Island, Northumberland, during groundworks associated with the construction of a new outbuilding. The work was undertaken by the Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) on 23rd October 2018, in compliance with a Written Schedule of Investigation compiled by the Bamburgh Research Project, in December 2017 as a condition for planning permission. The planning reference is 17 03176 FUL and the OASIS record number is: bamburgh1-332850.

The proposed development area lies to the rear of Celtic Crafts on the south side of the road towards the centre of Marygate, which is the main east to west road within Holy Island Village, centred on grid reference NU 1264 4197. Holy Island lies on the north east coast of northern Northumberland (Figures 1 and 2).

The village on Holy Island existed from at least the medieval period, conceivably being founded to service the early medieval monastery. Evidence for complex medieval archaeology was identified at the Castle View (Stewart and Bailey 2006) and during the Winery and Palace evaluations (NAA 2001). This indicates that stratified medieval archaeology is extensive within the village footprint. Celtic Crafts appears to be depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1870. As it is almost certain that Marygate represents a medieval street frontage the presence of medieval features, most likely those associated with a back plot, seems likely. The possibility of material remains associated with the early medieval monastery being present is conceivable if unlikely. The depth at which remains of significance are likely to be encountered is uncertain as relatively sterile late medieval and post medieval midden soils are common in the village area and are often of considerable depth.

The monitoring on the excavation of the groundworks associated with the construction of the new outbuilding was undertaken on Tuesday 23rd October 2018. What appeared to be subsoil (105) was encountered at the north-west side of the excavation at 0.65m below the ground level. It was a brown-yellow silty clay and was only seen for 0.9m on a north-south alignment (Figure 2).

The excavation area measured 7.5m north to south by 5.6m east to west and varied in depth from 0.54m to 1.4m below ground level. Three layers were seen above the subsoil (105) and all appeared to represent relatively modern disturbance and are likely the fills of the cut (104) for the insertion of the drains and drain chamber that extended to a depth of 1.4m below ground level. The earliest of these was a dark grey-brown sandy silt layer (103) with numerous large and medium sized cobbles up to 0.6m thick. Above this a further dark grey-brown sandy silt layer with few medium to small cobbles (102) was present, 0.28m thick. The final layer sealed the site and was a gravel layer with a dark grey-brown silty matrix some 0.53m thick (101).

The full extent of the excavation area was to some extent disturbed by modern cuts and fills for the numerous drains with the exception of a very modest exposure of subsoil at the north-west corner. Excavation to a depth of 1.4m occurred in the area of the existing drain chamber and the adjacent site of the new drain chamber with a much shallower excavation to the south where only the new slab for the development was to be laid. In this area the excavated depth did not exceed the depth of layer 101. No finds of a pre-modern date were

identified within the various fills suggesting an absence of early features in the immediate area even prior to the substantial modern disturbance.

**CELTIC CRAFTS
HOLY ISLAND
NORTHUMBERLAND
REPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) for Mrs Charlotte Mundy during November 2018 and reports on archaeological monitoring of a site to the rear of Celtic Crafts, Holy Island, Northumberland, during groundworks associated with the construction of a new outbuilding.
- 1.0.2 The work was undertaken by the Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) on 23rd October 2018, in compliance with a Written Schedule of Investigation compiled by the Bamburgh Research Project, in December 2017 as a condition for planning permission. The planning reference is 17 03176 FUL and the OASIS record number is: bamburgh1-332850.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The proposed development area lies to the rear of Celtic Crafts on the south side of the road towards the centre of Marygate, the main east to west road within Holy Island Village, centred on grid reference NU 1264 4197. Holy Island lies on the north east coast of northern Northumberland (Figures 1 and 2).

2.2 Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 Mesolithic activity on the island is demonstrated by the presence of midden deposits at Ness End, on the northern side of the island, adjacent to Jenny Bell's Well and in the vicinity of the Fort on the Heugh. Neolithic activity within the village is indicated by a ¹⁴C date for a single post-hole identified off Marygate, an un-provenanced find of a Neolithic axe near to St Cuthbert's Square and a rock carving from The Palace.
- 2.2.2 The Anglo-Saxon monastery on Lindisfarne was founded in AD 635 as a daughter house to the Monastery of Iona, in Scotland. The focus of the monastery almost certainly lay beneath the later medieval priory site, but the monastic enclosure would originally have been much more extensive. O'Sullivan has proposed the line of Marygate as the northern boundary to the site. The ceramic structural remains identified during the evaluation of the Winery site by Northern Archaeological Associates in 2000 are likely, in part, to be early medieval in date and would support this hypothesis as they are more likely to be monastic than secular (NAA 2001). The site, proposed for development, lies some 100m to the east of the Winery site, and within the speculative boundary of the monastic perimeter, as proposed by Deidre O'Sullivan (O'Sullivan and Young 1995).
- 2.2.3 The village on Holy Island existed from at least the medieval period, conceivably being founded to service the early medieval monastery. Evidence for complex

medieval archaeology was identified at the Castle View (Stewart and Bailey 2006) and during the Winery and Palace evaluations (NAA 2001). This indicates that stratified medieval archaeology is extensive within the village footprint.

- 2.2.4 Celtic Crafts appears to be depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1870. As it is almost certain that Marygate represents a medieval street frontage the presence of medieval features, most likely those associated with a back plot, seems likely. The possibility of material remains associated with the early medieval monastery being present is conceivable if unlikely. The depth at which remains of significance are likely to be encountered is uncertain as relatively sterile late medieval and post medieval midden soils are common in the village area and are often of considerable depth.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Monitoring during excavation

- 3.1.1 During all excavation activity a suitably experienced archaeologist, familiar with the archaeological background of the site, will be present to record any items of interest that are revealed. All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of conduct of the Certified Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and will follow their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA 2014) and Field Excavation (CIfA 2014).

- 3.1.2 Topsoil and unstratified modern material will be removed mechanically by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket, under direct supervision of an appropriate member of the archaeological staff. Machine excavation will be undertaken in successive shallow spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon or to the required depth. The following works are to be subject to archaeological monitoring:

- demolition of standing walls and structures (at or below ground level only)
- groundworks associated with the site clearance
- excavation of new services
- excavation of foundation trenches

- 3.1.3 A 'toolbox talk' briefing the building contractor and subcontractors on the archaeological objectives and mitigation strategy will be conducted by the archaeological contractor prior to any activity on site. The briefing will include the potential features, deposits and finds that might be expected to be encountered during the work and will be repeated for any new subcontractors joining the team. The intention of the briefing is to ensure that all site operatives understand the scope of the archaeological mitigation and the implication of its obligations.

3.2 General standards

- 3.2.1 An appropriate level of excavation that will be sufficient to enable the date, character,

form and stratigraphic relationships of features to be identified and recorded is proposed. All excavation will be by hand and will include a maximum of:

- 50% of all discrete features
- 25% of the area of a 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 will be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.

3.2.3 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.

3.2.4 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 Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials CifA 2014). Should artefacts of gold or silver covered by the 1996 Treasure Act be recovered, appropriate procedures will be followed.

3.2.5 In the event of Human burials being revealed they will be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner. After consultation with the Conservation Team, if excavation is required, work will comply with the relevant home Office regulations.

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

1. A photographic record will be taken using a digital format and provision made for deposition with the ADS as part of the site archive.
2. A written description of features will be recorded using the BRP *pro forma* context recording system.
3. 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.

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

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 monitoring of the excavation of the groundworks associated with the construction of the new outbuilding was undertaken on Tuesday 23rd October 2018. What appeared to be subsoil (105) was encountered at the north-west side of the excavation at 0.65m below the ground level. It was a brown-yellow silty clay and was only seen for 0.9m on a north-south alignment (Figure 2 and plates 1 and 2).
- 4.1.2 The excavation area measured 7.5m north to south by 5.6m east to west and in depth from 0.54m to 1.4m below ground level. Three layers were seen above the subsoil (105) and all appeared to represent relatively modern disturbance and are the fills of the cut (104) for the insertion of the drains and drain chamber that extended to a depth of 1.4m below ground level. The earliest of these was a dark grey-brown sandy silt layer (103) with numerous large and medium sized cobbles up to 0.6m thick. Above this a further dark grey-brown sandy silt layer with few medium to small cobbles (102) was present, 0.28m thick. The final layer sealed the site and was a gravel layer with a dark grey-brown silty matrix some 0.53m thick (101).
- 4.1.3 The full extent of the excavation area was to some extent disturbed by modern cuts and fills for the numerous drains with the exception of a very modest exposure of subsoil at the north-west corner. Excavation to a depth of 1.4m occurred in the area of the existing drain chamber and the adjacent site of the new drain chamber with a much shallower excavation to the south where only the new slab for the development was to be laid. In this area the excavated depth did not exceed the depth of layer 101. No finds of a pre-modern date were identified within the various fills suggesting an absence of early features in the immediate area even prior to the substantial modern disturbance.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.0.1 No indication of anything of archaeological interest was seen and there was a general absence of any finds material that could have been derived from disturbed early features. The site was extensively disturbed by modern drain cuts and the cut for the drain chamber. The only identified item of any interest was the presence of what appeared to be subsoil at a depth of 0.65m in the north-west corner of the excavation.

Text and illustration: Graeme Young
BRP 18/03b

December 2018

REFERENCES

Published and unpublished sources

- BRP 2000 *Finds Manual, 2000*
- BRP 2013 *Health and Safety Document*
- CifA 2014 *Codes of Conduct*
- CifA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Excavation.*
- CifA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*
- CifA 2014 *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
- English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects 2, 1991.*
- English Heritage 1995 *A strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds.* Ancient Monuments Laboratory.
- Historic England 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*
- O'Sullivan, D. and Young, R. *Lindisfarne, Holy Island.* English Heritage 1995.

APPENDIX I: WSI

**LAND TO THE REAR OF
CELTIC CRAFTS
MARYGATE
HOLY ISLAND
NORTHUMBERLAND**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
WRITTEN SCHEDULE OF INVESTIGATION**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project Limited (BRP) for Charlotte Mundy during December 2017 and comprises a Written Schedule of Investigation for the archaeological monitoring of construction work for a building extension at the rear of Celtic Crafts, Marygate, Holy Island Village, Holy Island, Northumberland.
- 1.0.2 The document has been prepared in order to fulfil a requirement for archaeological mitigation during construction work, following the determination of the planning application.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The proposed development area lies to the rear of Sally's Cottage on the south side of the road towards the centre of Marygate, the main east to west road within Holy Island Village. Holy Island lies on the north east coast of northern Northumberland, centred on grid reference NU 1264 4197 (Figures 1 and 2).

1.2 Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 Mesolithic activity on the island is demonstrated by the presence of midden deposits at 'Ness End, on the northern side of the island, adjacent to Jenny Bell's Well and in the vicinity of the Fort on the Heugh. Neolithic activity within the village is indicated by a ¹⁴C date for a single post-hole identified off Marygate, an un-provenanced find of a Neolithic axe near to St Cuthbert's Square and a rock carving from The Palace.
- 2.2.2 The Anglo-Saxon monastery on Lindisfarne was founded in AD 635 as a daughter house to the Monastery of Iona, in Scotland. The focus of the monastery almost certainly lay beneath the later medieval priory site, but the monastic enclosure would originally have been much more extensive. O'Sullivan has proposed the line of Marygate as the northern boundary to the site. The ceramic structural remains identified during the evaluation of the Winery site by Northern Archaeological Associates in 2000 are likely, in part, to be early medieval in date and would support this hypothesis as they are more likely to be monastic than secular (NAA 2001). The site, proposed for development, lies some 100m to the east of the Winery site, and within the speculative boundary of the monastic perimeter, as proposed by Deidre O'Sullivan (O'Sullivan and Young 1995).
- 2.2.3 The village on Holy Island existed from at least the medieval period, conceivably being founded to service the early medieval monastery. Evidence for complex medieval archaeology was identified at the Castle View (Stewart and Bailey 2006) and during the Winery and Palace evaluations (NAA 2001). This indicates that stratified medieval archaeology is extensive within the village footprint.
- 2.2.4 Sally's Cottage appears to be depicted on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of c.1870. As it is almost certain that Marygate represents a medieval street frontage the presence of medieval features, most likely those associated with a back plot, seems likely. The possibility of material remains associated with the early medieval monastery being present is conceivable if unlikely. The depth at which remains of significance are likely to be encountered is uncertain as relatively sterile late medieval and post medieval midden soils are common in the village area and are often of considerable depth.

2.3 Impact of the development

- 2.3.1 The available evidence provides a quite compelling argument that Marygate was a medieval street and that feature of likely medieval date and later could be encountered within the development area. The proposed development represents a single extension to the rear of the existing building measuring 7.6m north to south by 3.5m east to west, some 27m² in area, with the full yard area including drain alterations close to 50m² in area. The main load bearing foundations are to be rafted and the depth of foundation for this is yet to be determined. New drainage is planned for the development and their line is depicted on Figure 2. At present two new inspection chambers, excavated to a depth of some 1.4m, are planned as well as new drain lines connected to the existing services.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- 3.0.1 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 client and Assistant County Archaeologist informed.
- 3.0.2 At the present time the work is scheduled to be undertaken in two phases. Phase 1 will comprise the groundworks associated with the new drainage and is proposed for January 2018. Phase 2 will comprise the construction of the new extension itself and is currently scheduled for Autumn 2018.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Monitoring

- 4.1.1 During all excavation activity a suitably experienced archaeologist, familiar with the archaeological background of the site, will be present to record any items of interest that are revealed. All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of conduct of the Certified Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and will follow their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (CIfA 2014) and Field Excavation (CIfA 2014).
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4.2 General standards

- 4.2.1 An appropriate level of excavation that will be sufficient to enable the date, character, form and stratigraphic relationships of features to be identified and recorded is proposed. All excavation will be by hand and will include a maximum of:
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- 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 month of the completion of the post-excavation report.

5.0 CONTINGENCY

- 5.0.1 A contingency has been allowed within the evaluation program to allow for additional excavation in the event of the discovery of archaeological remains which are of a greater number or extent than can be dealt with in the normal course of the monitoring. In this instance the contingency will be for 10 person days and will be invoked after consultation by the archaeological contractor with the Assistant County Archaeologist and the developer.
- 5.0.2 In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens (of whatever period, date or function) are identified during the work, provision will be made to collect at least one archaeo-magnetic date from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwellings sites a minimum of one per building identified). Where applicable, samples are to be collected from the site and processed by a suitably trained specialist for dating purposes. In the event that such deposits or structures are identified, Northumberland Conservation will be contacted to discuss the appropriate response. This specific aspect of the sampling strategy should also be discussed in advance with Historic England.

6.0 MONITORING

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 Access to the site will be on the basis of prior notification and subject to any relevant health and safety considerations.

7.0 POST-EXCAVATION WORK, ARCHIVE AND REPORT COMPILATION

7.1 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

7.2 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 and features referenced to aOD
- 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

7.3 A copy of the report should be submitted by the archaeologist to the commissioning client, and the County Council Conservation Team within two months of completion of each phase of the work. Arrangements will be made for a final report to be compiled should the second phase of works be cancelled or postponed more than 12 months after the start of the development work. A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and an article will be submitted to a local or national journal if appropriate. In this instance the scale and nature of the journal submission will be agreed with Northumberland Conservation before discharging the condition on the planning permission

7.4 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 and written by the supervising archaeologist. The archive will be deposited at the specified museum within 6 months of completion of the work on site.

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

8.0 PERSONNEL

8.0.1 The designated project manager Graeme Young, is one of the four directors of the Bamburgh Research Project. A graduate of Newcastle University, with 29 years of experience in field archaeology including directing a number of excavations of urban medieval sites in Newcastle and Durham.

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

9.0 SUB-CONTRACTED SPECIALISTS

9.0.1 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	Durham University Archaeological Services
Conservation	Karen Barker

10.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 10.0.1 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.
- 10.0.2 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.

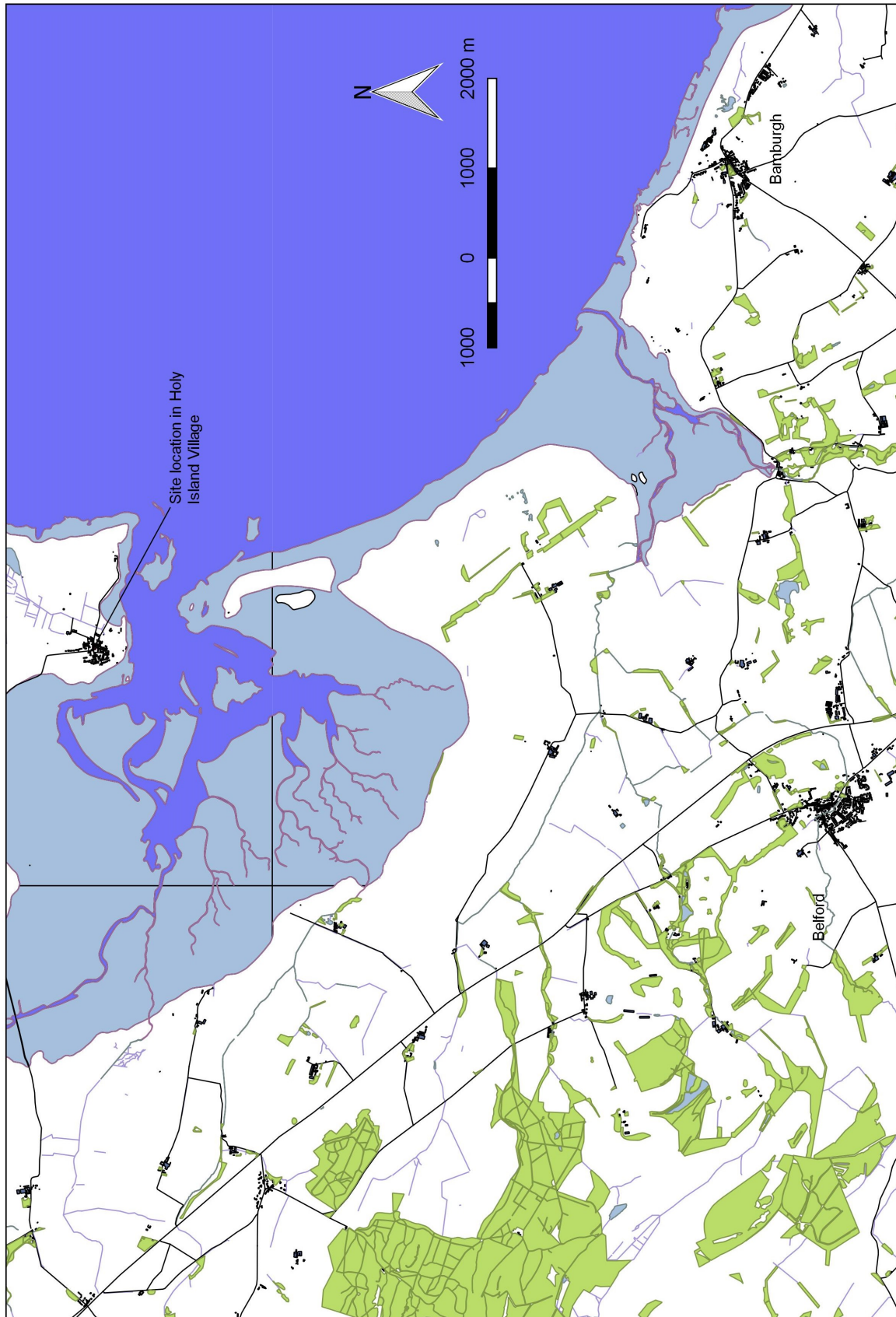


Figure 1: Location of Holy Island Village in North East Northumberland

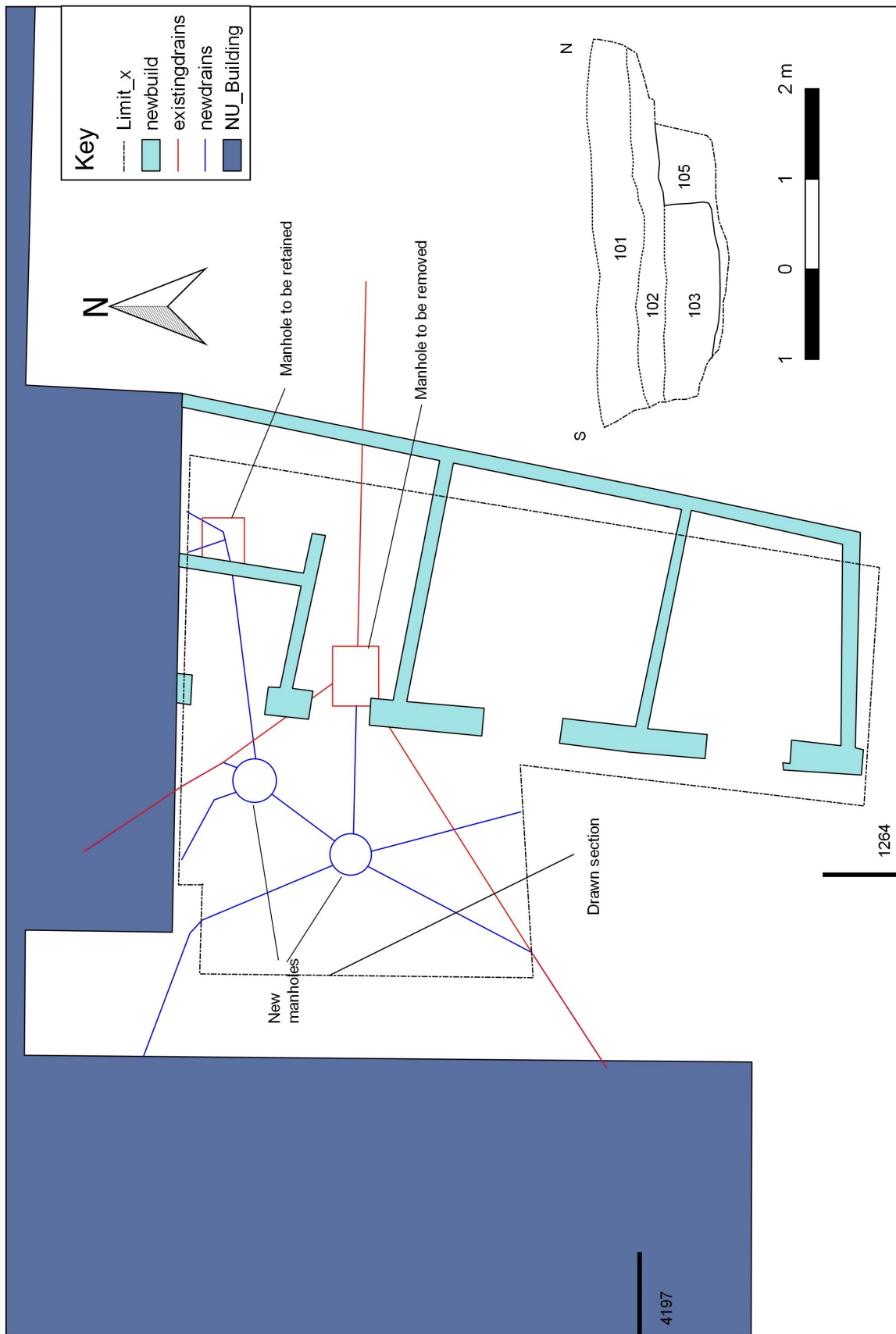


Figure 2: Location of the new building extension and drain alterations



Plate 1: Excavation of the site of the new drain chamber exposed, facing north-west



Plate 2: Excavation of the existing drain chamber and old drains, facing north-east