

BAMBURGH RESEARCH PROJECT

BAMBURGH HOUSE BAMBURGH NORTHUMBERLAND



REPORT ON TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Compiled for Mr Sam Morton by The Bamburgh Research Project: Commercial Projects Section

BRP 19/03b

May 2019

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SUMMARY

This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) for Mr Sam Morton during May 2019 and details the results of the trial trench evaluation undertaken at Bamburgh House, Bamburgh, Northumberland during April.

The work was undertaken in compliance with a WSI prepared by BRP in April 2019 and in order to fulfil a requirement for an archaeological evaluation in advance of the consideration of the planning application. The present study represents the first phase in a process of archaeological assessment and is intended to assess the need for additional work to be conducted, prior to the submission and determination of a planning decision. The NCC planning reference is 1900027/PREAPP and the OASIS reference is bamburgh1-350888.

The proposed development area lies in the central southern part of Bamburgh Village, which is 7km east of Belford in north east Northumberland. It is within a garden to the immediate south of Bamburgh House, centred on grid reference NU 18033 34830 (Figures 1 and 2).

The Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER) for the vicinity of the site, to a radius of 1km, shows some seventy nine entries. Fifty six of the seventy nine entries are of post-medieval date, including numerous listed buildings and World War II defensive items. Six items are of prehistoric date, including evidence for Mesolithic activity, Bronze Age burial and probably Iron Age cropmarks, indicative of a settled landscape. With the exception of two, undated features, the remaining fifteen items are of early medieval and medieval date, underlining the importance of Bamburgh in the medieval period. Bamburgh is known from documentary evidence to have been the site of an early medieval vill and a medieval borough.

The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trial trenches, all intended to be 1m square but Trench 3 was excavated as more of a rectangle due to the constraints of the border area available (Figure 3).

Subsoil (102) within the trench was exposed 0.5m below ground level and was a medium red-brown silt with some sand. This layer was likely glacial in origin and closely resembles the subsoil recently encountered within the village during trial trenching adjacent to Bamburgh House. A small test pit excavated to 0.95 m below ground level also revealed that as with the subsoil at Bamburgh House it was banded in layers and darkened with depth. This was overlain by a layer of buried soil (101), comprising a dark red-brown silt with sand and some crushed sandstone fragments and rare charcoal that was up to 0.2m thick. This layer contained a single sherd of glazed whiteware of late post-medieval date. This layer was sealed by topsoil (100) a dark grey-brown sandy silt with rare very small stones up to 0.3m thick (Plate 1).

Subsoil (202) within the trench was exposed 0.5m below ground level and was a medium red-brown silt with some sand. This was overlain by a layer of buried soil (201), comprising a dark red-brown silt with sand and some crushed sandstone fragments and rare charcoal that was up to 0.25m thick. This layer contained a single sherd of glazed brownware of late post-medieval date. This layer was sealed by topsoil (200) a dark grey-brown sandy silt with rare very small stones also 0.25m thick (Plate 2).

Within Trench 3 subsoil (307) within the trench was exposed 0.7m below ground level and was a medium red-brown silt with some sand. This was overlain by a layer of buried soil (306), comprising a dark red-brown silt with sand and some crushed sandstone fragments and rare charcoal that was up to 0.35m thick. It contained four sherds of glazed whiteware of late post-medieval date. A stone structure, comprising a single square cut masonry block (303), some 0.4m

by 0.35m by 0.16m and aligned broadly north to south, was very likely cut into layer 306. Though the cut itself (308) was not seen its presence can be inferred as the block was set on a bedding of rubble (304). A further layer (305), a medium grey-brown sandy silt deposit with substantial rubble and crushed stone fragments lay against and over the masonry block (303) and was up to 0.15m thick. The rubble bedding (302), 0.16m thick, for a further wall (301) comprised of squared dressed masonry blocks, up to 0.48m by 0.4m by 0.15m, on a broadly east to west alignment lay at the northern side of the trench and was the front wall of the now demolished sun house. Topsoil (300) lay against its face and comprised a dark grey-brown sandy silt with rare very small stones (Plates 3 and 4).

Subsoil was somewhat variable and likely of glacial origin and sealed by a fairly thick layer of buried soil throughout. This is not surprising given the site appears to have been a garden from the time of the 1st Edition OS. The presence of the sherds of post-medieval pottery within all three trenches, and recovered from just above the subsoil level, does suggest that the layers and structural features encountered were all of post medieval date. The more extensive and later stone wall base (301) was clearly the remains of the previous sunhouse and overlay the single masonry block that survived within the trench from an earlier structure. The limited border space and the fact that all paving was concreted down beyond the borders meant that the trench could not be extended even a small amount to follow this structure, which, as a result, remains rather enigmatic at this time. The smooth finish of the block would suggest a later post-medieval date consistent with the limited pottery assemblage.

There are no features or finds to indicate prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity in the area of the trenches and although the site lies within the assumed limits of the medieval borough this should perhaps not be surprising given the distance back from the street frontage and the relatively short period during which the borough is known to have prospered prior to its relative impoverishment during the Border Wars that started in AD 1296. The presence of the foundations of the previous sunhouse within Trench 3 is not surprising but the presence of an earlier, though still likely later post-medieval, stone feature was unexpected. This feature would have extended north to south and potentially a little further to the east, though not it seems further into the area of the foot print of the proposed new development.

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REPORT ON
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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) for Mr Sam Morton during May 2019 and details the results of the trial trench evaluation undertaken at Bamburgh House, Bamburgh, Northumberland during April.
- 1.0.2 The work was undertaken in compliance with a WSI prepared by BRP in April 2019 and in order to fulfil a requirement for an archaeological evaluation in advance of the consideration of the planning application. The present study represents the first phase in a process of archaeological assessment and is intended to assess the need for additional work to be conducted, prior to the submission and determination of a planning decision. The NCC planning reference is 1900027/PREAPP and the OASIS reference is bamburgh1-350888.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The proposed development area lies in the central southern part of Bamburgh Village, which is 7km east of Belford in north east Northumberland. It is within a garden to the immediate south of Bamburgh House, centred on grid reference NU 18033 34830 (Figures 1 and 2).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.0.1 The Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER) for the vicinity of the site, to a radius of 1km, shows some seventy nine entries. Fifty six of the seventy nine entries are of post-medieval date, including numerous listed buildings and World War II defensive items. Six items are of prehistoric date, including evidence for Mesolithic activity, Bronze Age burial and probably Iron Age cropmarks, indicative of a settled landscape. With the exception of two, undated feature, the remaining fifteen items are of early medieval and medieval date, underlining the importance of Bamburgh in the medieval period.

3.1 The prehistoric period (8,000 BC to 1st century AD)

- 3.1.1 The earliest human activity in the Bamburgh area dates from the Mesolithic period (8,000 BC to 4,000 BC) that followed the end of the last ice age. The population during this early period is usually perceived as small numbers of hunter-gatherers occupying temporary camps, often to be found by the sea and along river or stream courses. At Howick, however, 17km south of Bamburgh, recent excavation has uncovered a circular, sunken-floored house of Mesolithic date, proving that permanent settlements could also exist (Waddington 2003, 394-6). A similar house has also recently been discovered near Dunbar.

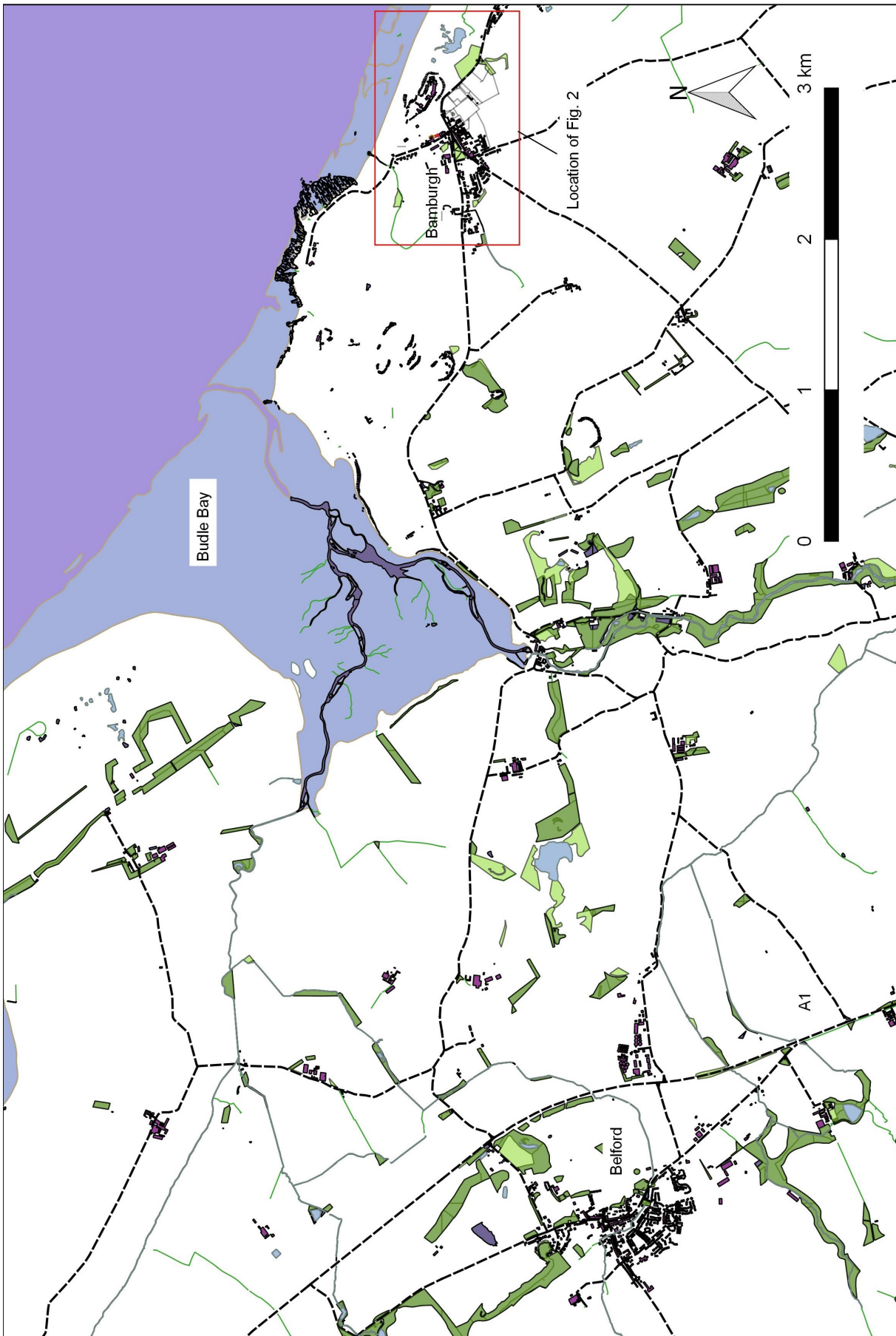


Figure 1: Location plan

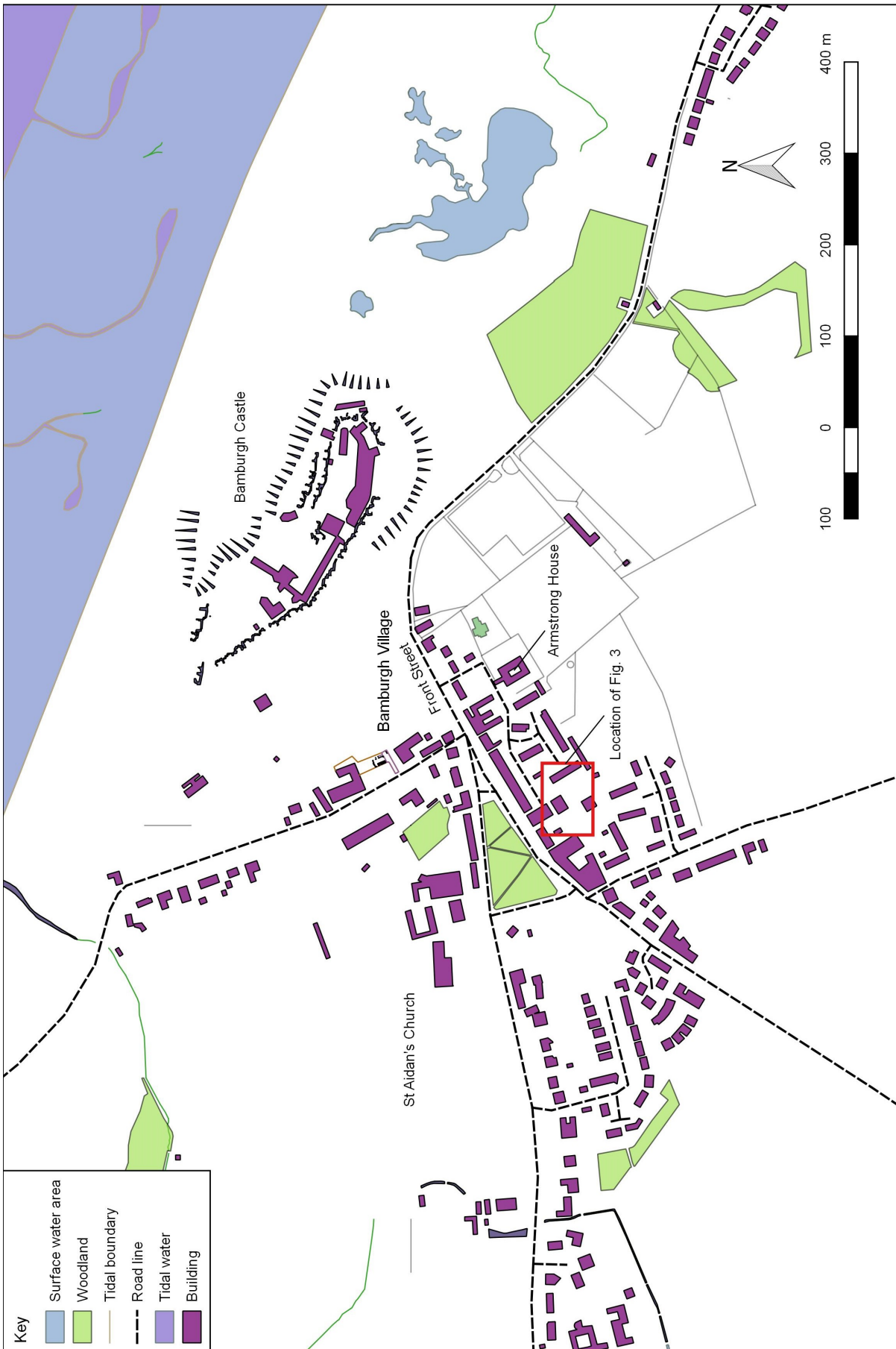


Figure 2: Location of the development area in Bamburgh Village

- 3.1.2 Finds of flints of Mesolithic date have been identified at two find spots near Budle, one of which comprised over 300 flints, and also on Brada Hill, west of the village. Mesolithic activity can be demonstrated within the village envelope by a finds of such flints immediately south of the castle site (HER 5092 and HER 5095) (Figure 3).
- 3.1.3 The Neolithic period (4,000 BC to 2,500 BC) marked the introduction of farming together with the production of pottery and many more permanent settlements. Finds of Neolithic date within the area are not common and are represented by an axe head found near to Budle during the cutting of a trench and a further fragment of a shale axe identified immediately south of Glororum. It is far from certain that a settlement would have existed in the area of Bamburgh Village at this early time, but the rich farmland of the coastal plain of Northumberland would have been extensively exploited from that time. Evidence for early farming activity may well underlie the area of the present village.
- 3.1.4 Finds of Bronze Age date (2,500 BC to 800 BC) within the area comprise the discovery of a arrowhead at Budle and part of a stone mould for a rapier discovered just north of Hoppen Hall. At Bamburgh, the presence of a putative round barrow (HER 5251) - a scheduled ancient monument attests to a Bronze Age presence in the village area of some status. The 'barrow' was investigated during the 19th century, when a cist containing a human burial was discovered. A further putative barrow was investigated by the Bamburgh Research Project in 2003 and found to be a geological feature. It is quite likely therefore that the scheduled barrow is also of geological origin, but that it became the focus of Bronze Age cist burial due to its barrow-like appearance. Some degree of settlement activity, of Bronze Age date, is likely, though the focus of such activity may lie on the defensible rock plateau now occupied by the castle.
- 3.1.5 The discovery of pottery of Iron Age date (800 BC to 1st century AD) during excavation undertaken within the West Ward of Bamburgh Castle demonstrates that the castle site represented the focus of settlement activity at Bamburgh from at least that time if not earlier (Hope-Taylor 1960, 11). No further finds of Iron Age date are known from the village area.
- 3.1.6 The dating of cropmark sites, or those identified by geophysical survey, is an uncertain art. Nevertheless, the reported presence of a hut circle on Brady Crag and of a number of cropmark enclosures identified in the Bamburgh area, including one located in a field to the immediate south-west of the village (HER 5381, 14935 and 24161), would indicate that the Bamburgh environs were a settled landscape during the later prehistoric period, and therefore that features and sites of such a date could be present beneath the village properties.
- 3.1.7 The discovery of a small number of potentially worked flints within test pits, dug by the Bamburgh Research Project, at the western end of the village (HER 22024) provides further evidence for prehistoric activity within the village envelope (BRP 2003, 7).

3.2 The Roman period (1st century AD to 5th century AD)

- 3.2.1 Pottery of Romano-British date was recovered during the excavations by Dr Hope-Taylor within Bamburgh Castle, demonstrating occupation of this site in the Romano-British period. Although Bamburgh does not appear in the documentary record from this time it seems likely that native rulers or client chiefs occupied the fortress for at least part of this period. The presence of a wider settlement landscape at Bamburgh for this period can be predicted, but clear evidence for such activity is currently lacking (Hope-Taylor 1960, 11).

3.3 The early medieval period (5th century AD to 12th century AD)

- 3.3.1 Bamburgh like Edinburgh and Dumbarton is believed, from documentary evidence, to have formed a focus to a British kingdom in the immediate post-Roman period. Anglo-Saxon settlement is thought to have begun at Bamburgh in the mid 6th century (H.E., 562). By the 7th century Bamburgh had become the pre-eminent centre of the Anglo-Saxon dynasty that came to dominate Northumbria.
- 3.3.2 It is clear from archaeological and documentary sources that an early medieval site of international importance lies beneath the castle. It is also highly probable that an early medieval site also lies in the area of the modern village. While references to Bamburgh in pre-conquest documents use the Latin term *urbs* (walled city) to denote the residence of the kings, Bede notes the existence of a separate but closely linked settlement nearby. St. Aidan is stated as having died within a church in a royal *vill* (*villa regis*) near to the *urbs* of Bamburgh. Royal *vills* were the centres of extensive estates, to which the local populace owed service and taxes (Campbell 1979, 44). The present parish church at Bamburgh (HER 5257) is unique as the only known medieval dedication to St. Aidan. This, together with its position, strongly suggests that the church in which St. Aidan died was the predecessor of the present parish church, and that a royal *vill* or estate centre lies under the present village (Cambridge 1995, 136-8).
- 3.3.3 Aidan and his successors used the various royal *vills* as centres for missionary work (Bede, H.E., 262), and in many, groups of non-monastic priests are believed to have been established (Cambridge 1984, 79-80). Early medieval church sites are often of substantial scale such that it is entirely possible, even likely, that the early church occupied a wider perimeter than the present church yard. It is possible therefore that the early medieval church site could be extensive over the northern part of the area occupied by the present village. Indeed it is possible to speculate that a large, broadly rectangular, enclosure is present on the 1st Edition OS and Tithe maps, extending to the west of the church and potentially including part of the area of the market garden site. Whilst the antiquity of such an enclosure cannot be certainly demonstrated from cartographic evidence, there is an established tendency for friary sites to be sited within vacant ground and on the periphery of urban centres. If this is assumed to be the case at Bamburgh, then the position of the Dominican Friary, immediately to the west of this putative enclosure, can be taken as evidence for its existence as a boundary in the mid 13th century (Figure 5). A substantial ecclesiastical establishment is also consistent with the tradition, reported by Aired of Rievaulx, that a monastery was present at Bamburgh during the Anglo-Saxon period (Bateson 1893, 73).
- 3.3.4 In addition to a potentially large ecclesiastical presence, the royal *vill* settlement is likely to have covered an extensive area. The potential scale of which is testified to by Bede's use of the terms *urbs* and *civitas* to describe the royal centres at Bamburgh. The combination of the two terms is used only rarely to describe sites of the importance of London and Canterbury (M. Welsh, 1992, 24-5). The excavated site at Yeavinger covered an area in excess of 350m by 250m, while cropmarks at Milfield (which may have been in use longer) covered an area 1100m by 450m, including apparent clusters of rectangular sunken-featured-buildings (Hope-Taylor 1977, fig. 12, Tinniswood and Harding 1991, 96; Scull and Harding 1990, 3). By their size, the Yeavinger and Milfield sites would cover the majority of Bamburgh village. No evidence for such a settlement has emerged during the limited archaeological interventions within the village area to date, however, such sites, though extensive in area, contain ephemeral structures, notoriously difficult to identify within small trenches, and substantial open spaces.

3.4 The medieval period (12th century AD to 16th century AD)

- 3.4.1 A number of medieval features and sites are known to have been present in and around the site of the present village. The church of St Aidan located at the west side of the village (HER 5257) contains structural work of the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries. Masonry believed to be a part of The Master of Bamburgh's Tower, first noted in AD 1415, is preserved within the east wall of the churchyard (HER 5258). A cell of Augustinian canons was founded at Bamburgh in AD 1121. According to a legend preserved by Aelred of Rievaulx, all of the ecclesiastical property at Bamburgh was in the possession of one 'Algar the priest' in the post-Conquest period (Raine 1864, 55). This would represent the possession of the church of St Aidan in Bamburgh village, the chapel within the castle, and both their associated lands. This property was granted to the Priory of Nostell, an Augustinian order, in 1121 by Henry I. The first grant is somewhat obscurely worded and does not mention the two churches - St Oswald's and St Aidan's - but the later confirmation does clarify this (Bateson 1893, 74). The condition of the grant was that it should occur after the death of Algar. The church properties at Bamburgh were wealthy and ranked highly in the Priory's properties (Rollason 1995, 173–4). Masonry remains now built into the farm buildings adjacent to Bamburgh Hall are noted as possibly representing part of the monastic buildings (HER 24160). If this is the case then it clearly demonstrates that, as postulated for the early medieval church site, the boundary of St Aidan's in the medieval period was substantially larger than the present churchyard.
- 3.4.2 Two further ecclesiastical sites were present at Bamburgh during the medieval period. A Dominican friary (HER 5353), founded in AD 1265, lay some 300m west of St Aidan's church at Friars Farm. The original land holding was not recorded but Henry III granted an additional seven acres to the friars in the year of its foundation (Bateson 1893, 138-142). Six additional acres 'in the old mill pond of Bamburgh' and four more in the 'Greenwellflat' were granted in 1266. Parts of the medieval fabric of the main friary buildings survived and were incorporated into the post medieval Friary Farm and elements are extant to the present day. In a survey of c.1715 mention was made of a 'Friary with a church in ruins, length 42 (yards), breadth 7 (yards)' (Hodgson, 4). A sketch made c.1780, and now held by the Bodleian Library, show the structure of the friary church as a substantial ruin.
- 3.4.3 The third site, that of the Hospital of St Mary Magdalene, in existence by AD 1256 and defunct by AD 1326, cannot be located with great accuracy. It is known from documentary evidence to have shared a common boundary with the Dominican friary site, or a property of the friary. Traditionally, the hospital is equated with a low hill called Mizen Head at the south-west edge of the village, the name postulated to be a corruption of the Norman French *Maison Dieu* 'House of God' (Bateson 1893, 137). In addition, the upper part of the Mill Burn, north-west of Mizen Head hill, was called the Spitalburn as late as AD 1774. Geophysical survey and limited trial trenching by the Bamburgh Research Project over the fields either side of Lucker Road, on the village perimeter, identified a number of features of interest, but failed to identify a strong candidate for the hospital site. The HER notes that place name evidence from a 17th century survey and an 18th century map, place the site some distance to the west of the village between the friary and Dukesfield (HER 5254), also the site of a deserted medieval village. The leper hospital site is marked on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map as having lain in a field off Ingram Road. It is unclear what evidence this identification is based on, but it is as good a candidate as any. Wherever its location, a survey dated AD 1376 stated that the (by then ruined) hospital contained a chapel, hall, pantry, kitchen and other chambers, in an enclosed site (*ibid*, 136-7). Although one set of indicators would place the hospital potentially close to the development site it is unlikely even in this case that it would be extensive enough to extend as far as Bamburgh House.

- 3.4.4 A borough is known from documentary sources to have been present at Bamburgh during the medieval period. A burgess, noted as paying a fine in AD 1170, confirms its presence at that time, but a royal charter was not issued till AD 1255. The names of six streets within the town are mentioned by these records. Spitalgate was a major thoroughfare that extended beyond the legal limits of the borough. A linear earthwork to the north of the County Council car park, that aligns with South Victoria Terrace, has been proposed as the former line of Spitalgate since the 19th century (*ibid.* 113), an interpretation reinforced by Stewart Ainsworth during the Time Team investigations of 2010 (Ainsworth *pers comm*). It correctly identified it adds some substance to the identification of the hospital as having occupied the enclosure on the west side of the village, as demarked on the 2nd Edition OS. The further streets named in the documentation are: Ratonrawe, Pestethgate, Southgate, Headrow and Northrawe (*ibid.*, 127-30). Ratonrawes are common medieval street names whose derivation is a matter of some debate. The origin of the name has been suggested as deriving from the presence of rats in a run down area, from the Anglo-Saxon *hrother* (cattle), indicating cattle driving or butchery, or from the Norman French *roi* (kings or royal road). In the case of Bamburgh Ratonrawe is known to have been in close proximity to the *cucking stole* that must have stood in the market square, almost certainly in the area of the modern village green. This would be consistent with the line of the modern Church Street and Radcliffe Road and favour the cattle or royal road derivation, being one of the principal streets of the town. A further unnamed road described, in a grant of 1413, as 'off Pestethgate to the sea' must have been located in the east side of the borough, probably to the north, as must Pestethgate itself. Northrawe and Southgate are likely to be secondary streets to the main thoroughfares and their position speculatively assigned along with Headrow, at the 'head' of the market.
- 3.4.5 Further features known to be present within the medieval borough include the Marketstead and three wells, Wyndewell, Edynwell and Maudelynsweil, the later named as the principle source of the stream that turned the kings mills. The mills themselves, two are mentioned, must have lain along the Mill Burn, and the ponds seen on the 1st Edition OS are our only potential clues to their location. Maudeleynswell lay on a boundary shared by the Dominican friary and the hospital and could be the well marked on the 2nd Edition OS, assuming the friary owned lands within the village, which seems to be the case. In addition to the numerous streets of the town, reference is made to properties in *La Baille* of the castle (*ibid.*, 129). While this may refer to one of the wards within the castle, it may signify an outer bailey, in the area of the present castle car park. Excavation in this area in 1961 revealed two medieval occupation layers, one of late 12th / early 13th century date, the other of 14th or 15th century date, both covered by large quantities of wind-blown sand (Hope-Taylor 1962, 5-6).
- 3.4.6 The borough may have originally had a port located to the north of the castle. However by the mid 13th century documentary evidence notes the foundation of a harbour for the borough at Warenmouth, modern Newtown (Bateson 1893, 193-5). The outbreak of fairly continuous warfare between England and Scotland at the end of the 13th century resulted in the decline of Bamburgh as an urban centre during the latter part of the medieval period. In both the early 14th and early 15th centuries, pleas were made to the king for tax relief, and in the latter case, the townsfolk stated that the borough had been depopulated as a result of Scottish raids. The decline was accelerated by the great siege of the castle in AD 1464, and by the time of a survey in AD 1575, the town was stated as being in advanced decay, with few houses and the abandonment of the burgage-plot arrangement in large areas (*ibid.*, 123-5, 132-3, 152-4).

3.5 The post medieval period (16th century to the present)

- 3.5.1 The post-medieval history of the village is dominated by its ownership by a series of great estates beginning with the purchase of the castle and village by Nathaniel Crewe, Bishop of Durham, in the early 18th century. Lord Crewe's death prompted the foundation of the Bamburgh Trust, which functioned as an experiment in social welfare, providing opportunities for education for the local community and administering payments to the poor. By the later 19th century the roll of the trust had been to a large extent taken over by national legislation. It was purchased by the first Lord Armstrong in 1888 and remains in the ownership of the Trustees of Lord Armstrong to the present.
- 3.5.2 The village remained modestly populated during the period of administration by the Lord Crewe Trust. The Parliamentary Enclosure Act of 1774 mentions many of the fields that are shown on the 1846 Tithe Map. Numerous of the field names from these documents, and from a 17th century survey of Friars Farm contain the element 'close' (an enclosed piece of land), implying that the original medieval open field system was being gradually divided and enclosed for some time before 1774 (Field 1993, 20-1).

3.6 Cartographic evidence

- 3.6.1 Speed's map of AD 1610 depicts Bamburgh in a stylised fashion and is unable to contribute any information regarding the layout of the village. Armstrong's map of AD 1769 is the first to depict the village with any detail, showing the triangular plan of the village green and an indication of houses along the main streets together with the church. It does not seem to indicate the presence of Bamburgh House at this time. This is repeated on Fryers map of AD 1820. Greenwood's map of AD 1828 depicts the village in somewhat greater detail, but again it does not seem to indicate the presence of Bamburgh House.
- 3.6.2 Bamburgh appears on a number of aerial photographs, and numerous earthworks can be plotted within the fields to the north, south and east of the village. Bamburgh House is present on the Tithe map of 1846 and on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. This also shows what appears to be narrow burgage style plots to the east of Bamburgh House but not certainly in the block of the village to the rear of Front Street in which Bamburgh House lies. Though it is likely that such arrangement did once exist in this area and the development may well therefore contain urban elements of the former medieval borough.

4.0 IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT

- 4.0.1 Bamburgh is noted within the North East Region Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Petts and Gerrard 2006, 61) as a site of national as well as regional importance. It is problematic that the extent of the urban settlement in the early medieval period can only be speculated upon, using analogy with comparable sites within the region, as no direct evidence for early medieval Bamburgh has been identified, within the village, to date. Such potential raises the possibility that such material could be present within the proposed development. The ephemeral and distributed nature of such sites would make the identification of such material problematic even with trial trenching.
- 4.0.2 The available evidence provides a quite compelling argument that medieval Bamburgh was more extensive, and potentially more densely settled, than the present village. The clear implication of this is the potential for archaeological material, of importance, to be present within the site, and vulnerable to development activity. It is not certain that this is the case though, as much rides on the identification of burgage plots preserved as land boundaries on

the 1st Edition OS, which is by no means certain.

- 4.0.3 It is clear, due to the historic nature of the area that the new development will have the potential to impact on preserved archaeological remains and that the proposed trial trenching evaluation will advance our understanding of the potential impact of the development and further aid the formation of a mitigation strategy.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Trial Trench Evaluation

- 5.1.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of three trial trenches, all intended to be 1m square but Trench 3 was excavated as more of a rectangle due to the constraints of the border area available (Figure 3).
- 5.1.3 All work was 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 Excavation (CifA 2014) and Field Excavation (CifA 2014).
- 5.1.4 The excavation of the trenches was undertaken by hand, in controlled spits, until features of archaeological interest were encountered or subsoil reached.

5.2 General standards

- 5.2.1 All archaeological features identified will be sample excavated according to their type and form.

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.

- 5.2.2 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample will be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 5.2.3 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.
- 5.2.4 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.
- 5.2.5 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.
- 5.2.6 Any archaeological features encountered will be hand-cleaned, excavated and recorded:

1. 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 and provision
 2. made for deposition with the ADS as part of the site archive.
 3. A written description of features will be recorded using the BRP *pro forma* context recording system.
 4. 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.
- 5.2.7 All archaeological features and horizons will be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.
- 5.2.8 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.

6.0 EXCAVATION RESULTS

6.1 Trench 1

- 6.1.0 Subsoil (102) within the trench was exposed 0.5m below ground level and was a medium red-brown silt with some sand. This layer was likely glacial in origin and closely resembles the subsoil recently encountered within the village during trial trenching adjacent to Bamburgh House. A small test pit excavated to 0.95 m below ground level also revealed that as with the subsoil at Bamburgh House it was banded in layers and darkened with depth. This was overlain by a layer of buried soil (101), comprising a dark red-brown silt with sand and some crushed sandstone fragments and rare charcoal that was up to 0.2m thick. This layer contained a single sherd of glazed whiteware of late post-medieval date. This layer was sealed by topsoil (100) a dark grey-brown sandy silt with rare very small stones up to 0.3m thick (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Trench 1, facing west

6.2 Trench 2

- 6.2.1 Subsoil (202) within the trench was exposed 0.5m below ground level and was a medium red-brown silt with some sand. As with Trench 1 a small test pit was excavated through the subsoil to a depth of 0.96m below ground level. This was overlain by a layer of buried soil (201), comprising a dark red-brown silt with sand and some crushed sandstone fragments and rare charcoal that was up to 0.25m thick. This layer contained a single sherd of glazed brownware of late post-medieval date. This layer was sealed by topsoil (200) a dark grey-brown sandy silt with rare very small stones also 0.25m thick (Plate 2).



Plate 2: Trench 2, facing north

6.3 Trench 3

- 6.3.1 Subsoil (307) within the trench was exposed 0.7m below ground level and was a medium red-brown silt with some sand. Again this was test-pitted to a depth of .96m below ground level to be certain that is was subsoil. This was overlain by a layer of buried soil (306), comprising a dark red-brown silt with sand and some crushed sandstone fragments and rare charcoal that was up to 0.35m thick. It contained four sherds of glazed whiteware of late post-medieval date. A stone structure, comprising a single square cut masonry block (303), some 0.4m by 0.35m by 0.16m and aligned broadly north to south, was very likely cut into layer 306. Though the cut itself (308) was not seen its presence can be inferred as the block was set on a bedding of rubble (304). A further layer (305), a medium grey-brown sandy silt deposit with substantial rubble and crushed stone fragments lay against and over the masonry block (303) and was up to 0.15m thick. The rubble bedding (302), 0.16m thick, for a further wall (301) comprised of squared dressed masonry blocks, up to 0.48m by 0.4m by 0.15m, on a broadly east to west alignment lay at the northern side of the trench and was the front wall of the now demolished sun house. Topsoil (300) lay against its face and comprised a dark grey-brown sandy silt with rare very small stones (Plates 3 and 4).



Plate 3: Trench 3, facing north



Plate 4: Trench 3, facing east

7.0 DISCUSSION

- 7.0.1 Subsoil was somewhat variable and likely of glacial origin, its colouring and composition consistent with evidence from the Armstrong House site to the east, where it was extensively exposed and investigated with machine trenches. It was sealed by a fairly thick layer of buried soil throughout. This is not surprising given the site appears to have been a garden from the time of the 1st Edition OS. The presence of the sherds of post-medieval pottery within all three trenches, and recovered from just above the subsoil level, does suggest that the layers and structural features encountered were all of post medieval date. The more extensive and later stone wall base (301) was clearly the remains of the previous sunhouse and overlay the single masonry block that survived within the trench from an earlier structure. The limited border space and the fact that all paving was concreted down beyond the borders meant that the trench could not be extended even a small amount to follow this structure, which, as a result, remains rather enigmatic at this time. The smooth finish of the block would suggest a later post-medieval date consistent with the limited pottery assemblage.

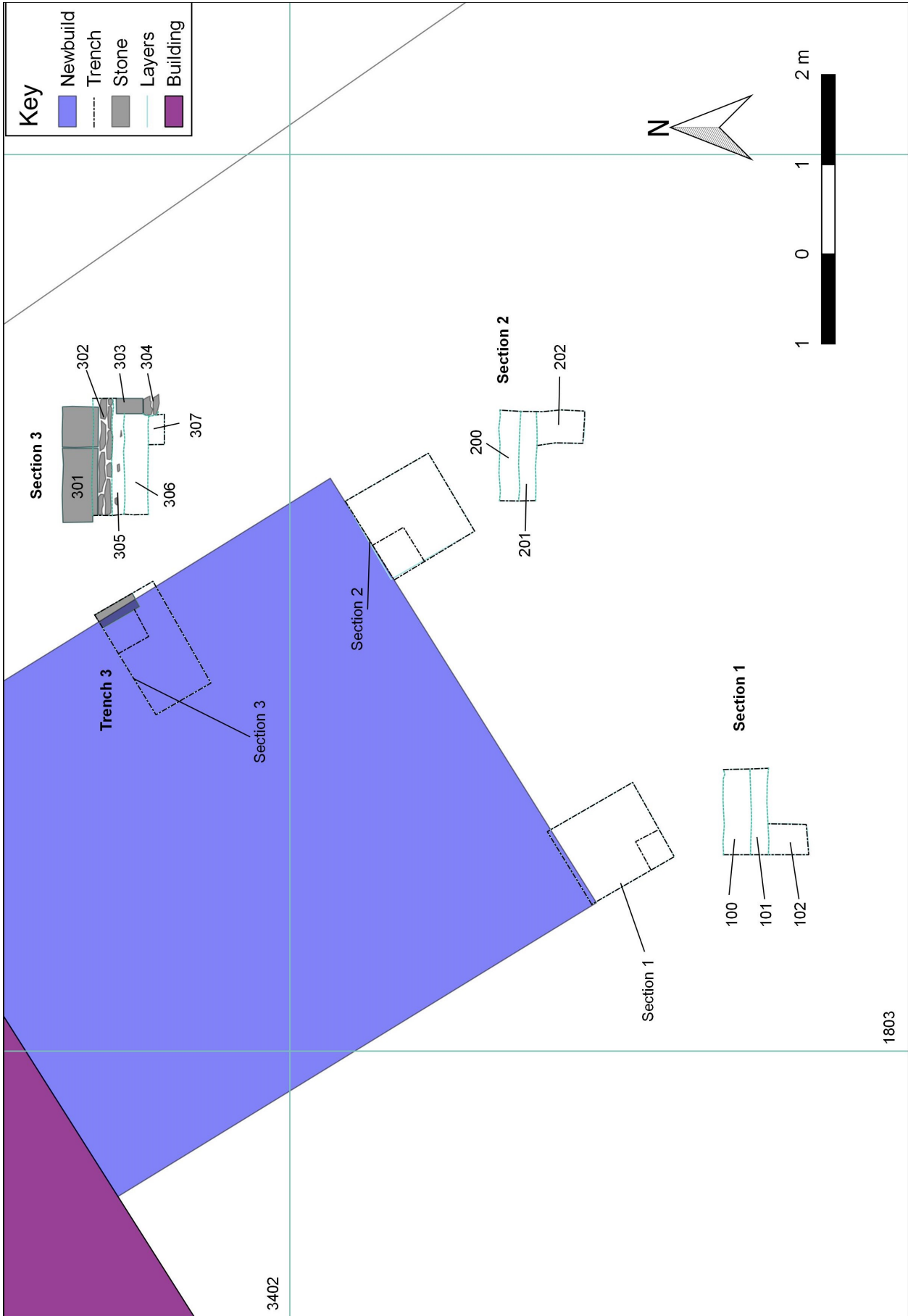


Figure 3: Trenches and sections

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 8.0.1 There are no features or finds to indicate prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity in the area of the trenches. Although within the assumed limits of the medieval borough this should perhaps not be surprising given the distance back from the street frontage and the relative short period during which the borough is known to have prospered prior to the relative impoverishment the borough during the Border Wars that commenced in AD 1296.
- 8.0.2 The presence of the foundations of the previous sunhouse within Trench 3 is not surprising but the presence of an earlier, though still likely later post-medieval, stone feature was unexpected. This feature would have extended north, south and potentially a little further to the east, though not it seems further into the area of the foot print of the proposed new development.

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APPENDIX I:

POTTERY REPORT

A total of six fragments of pottery was recovered from three contexts all of post-medieval date. The majority was glazed whitewares (later 18th century to modern) and a single sherd of glazed brownware (made from the 18th century to the 20th).

Context 100

A single sherd of glazed whiteware. A thin walled, well fired buff fabric with no inclusions.

Context 201

A single sherd of glazed brownware. A well fired, grey brown fabric without inclusions and an internal cream glaze.

Context 306

Four sherds of glazed whiteware. Same fabric as Context 100.

**APPENDIX II:
BAMBURGH HOUSE
BAMBURGH
NORTHUMBERLAND**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION
WRITTEN SCHEDULE OF INVESTIGATION**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) for Sam Morton during April 2019 and comprises a Written Schedule of Investigation for the trial trench evaluation in advance of a domestic development at Bamburgh House, Bamburgh, Northumberland, currently proposed for a new garden room to replace a previous room that has been demolished.
- 1.0.2 The document has been prepared in order to fulfil a requirement for an archaeological evaluation in advance of the consideration of the planning application, and in order to inform the decision. The present study represents the first phase in a process of archaeological assessment. It will provide evidence to inform the design process and also to assess the need for additional work to be conducted, prior to the submission and determination of an application.

2.0 THE SITE

2.1 Location

- 2.1.1 The proposed development area lies in the central southern part of Bamburgh Village, which is 7km east of Belford in north east Northumberland. It is within a garden to the immediate south of Bamburgh House, centred on grid reference NU 18033 34830 (Figures 1 and 2).

2.2 Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 The Northumberland HER for the vicinity of the site, to a radius of 1km, lists eighty entries. Fifty six of these are of post-medieval date, including numerous listed buildings and World War II defensive items. Five items are of prehistoric date, including evidence for Mesolithic activity, Bronze Age burial and probably Iron Age cropmarks, indicative of a settled landscape. With the exception of one undated feature the remaining thirty eight items are of early medieval and medieval date, underlining the importance of Bamburgh in the Middle Ages.
- 2.2.2 It is clear from archaeological and documentary sources that an early medieval site of international importance lies beneath Bamburgh Castle. It is also highly probable that an early medieval site also lies in the area of the modern village, but no evidence has so far emerged. A number of medieval features and sites are known to have been present in and around the site of the present village. The church of St Aidan located at the west side of the village (HER 5257) contains structural work of the 12th, 13th and 14th centuries. Masonry believed to be a part of The Master of Bamburgh's Tower, is preserved within the east wall of the churchyard (HER 5258). A cell of Augustinian canons was founded at Bamburgh in AD 1121. Masonry remains, now built into the farm buildings adjacent to Bamburgh Hall, are noted as possibly representing part of the monastic buildings (HER 24160). Two further ecclesiastical sites were present at Bamburgh during the medieval period. A Dominican friary (HER 5353), founded in AD 1265, lay some 300m west of St Aidan's church at Friars Farm. The third site, that of the Hospital of St Mary Magdalene, in existence by AD 1256 and defunct by AD 1326, cannot be located with great accuracy.
- 2.2.3 A borough is known from documentary sources to have been present at Bamburgh during the medieval period. A burgess, noted as paying a fine in AD 1170, confirms its presence at that time, but a royal charter was not issued till AD 1255. The names of six streets within the town are mentioned by these records. Spitalgate was a major thoroughfare that extended beyond the legal limits of the borough. A linear earthwork, to the north of the County Council car park, that aligns with South Victoria Terrace, has been proposed as the former line of Spitalgate since the 19th century, an interpretation reinforced by Stewart Ainsworth during the Time Team investigations of 2010 (Ainsworth pers comm.). If correctly identified it adds some substance to the identification of the hospital as having occupied the enclosure on the west side of the village, as demarked on the 2nd Edition OS. The present site lies some 100m north-east of the centre of the area proposed for the hospital and therefore almost certainly beyond its perimeter. The post-medieval history of the village is dominated by its ownership by a series of great estates beginning with the purchase of the castle and village by Nathaniel Crewe, Bishop of

Durham, in the early 18th century. It was purchased by the first Lord Armstrong in 1888 and remains in the ownership of the Trustees of Lord Armstrong to the present.

- 2.2.4 Bamburgh appears on a number of aerial photographs, and numerous earthworks can be plotted within the fields to the north, south and east of the village. Bamburgh House is present on the Tithe map of 1846 and on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map. This also shows what appears to be narrow burgage style plots to the east of Bamburgh House but not certainly in the block of the village to the rear of Front Street in which Bamburgh House lies. Though it is likely that such arrangement did once exist in this area and the development may well therefore contain urban elements of the former medieval borough.

2.3 Impact of the development

- 2.3.1 Bamburgh is noted within the North East Region Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Petts and Gerrard 2006, 61) as a site of national as well as regional importance. It is problematic that the extent of the urban settlement in the early medieval period can only be speculated upon, using analogy with comparable sites within the region, as no direct evidence for early medieval Bamburgh has been identified, within the village, to date. Such potential raises the possibility that such material could be present within the proposed development. The ephemeral and distributed nature of such sites would make the identification of such material problematic even with trial trenching.
- 2.3.2 The available evidence provides a quite compelling argument that medieval Bamburgh was more extensive, and potentially more densely settled, than the present village. The clear implication of this is the potential for archaeological material, of importance, to be present within the site, and vulnerable to development activity. It is not certain that this is the case though, as much rides on the identification of burgage plots preserved as land boundaries on the 1st Edition OS, which is by no means certain.
- 2.3.3 It is clear, due to the historic nature of the area that the new development will have the potential to impact on preserved archaeological remains and that the proposed trial trenching evaluation will advance our understanding of the potential impact of the development and further aid the formation of a mitigation strategy.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objective of the evaluation is to investigate the archaeological potential of the development area by the excavation of three trial trenches, totalling 1m in length by 1m, and representing 3m² in area and c. 15% of the footprint of the new development. The trenches are to be located to provide a wide coverage of the development area, where access permits, with an emphasis on the area most likely to be impacted by the new structure (Figure 3).
- 3.2 The excavation of the trial trenches will identify the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the development area. Any archaeological material encountered will be sampled in order to establish the location, extent, date and nature of any areas of archaeological activity and the degree of preservation of any remains encountered.
- 3.3 The results of the evaluation will enable the impact of the proposed development on any deposits of archaeological significance to be more accurately assessed in order that an appropriate mitigation strategy can be devised.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Trial trench excavation

- 4.1.1 The evaluation will comprise the investigation of 3m² (approximately 15%) of the site area within two trial trenches, located to investigate the areas most likely to be impacted by the footprint of the building and also distributed to provide a representative sample of the site.
- 4.1.3 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 Excavation (CIfA 2014) and Field Excavation (CIfA 2014).
- 4.1.4 Excavation will be conducted by hand by an appropriate member of the archaeological staff. Excavation will be undertaken in successive shallow spits down to natural subsoil or to a maximum depth of 0.95m. Once significant archaeological deposits or subsoil is encountered the trench, including all relevant sections, will be

cleaned to an archaeological standard so that features can be identified.

4.2 General standards

4.2.1 All archaeological features identified will be sample excavated according to their type and form.

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.

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 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.

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:

1. A photographic record will be taken using digital photography 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.

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 the excavation of an additional 1m by 1m of trenches, in order to answer particular issues that may arise during fieldwork. This additional work will be undertaken after discussion with, and with the agreement of the client and the Assistant County Archaeological Officer.

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 evaluation
 - 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
- 7.3 A copy of the report should be submitted by the archaeologist to the commissioning client, and the County Council Conservation Team within 15 working days 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.
- 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

- 8.1 The designated project manager Graeme Young, is one of the five directors of the Bamburgh Research Project. A graduate of Newcastle University, with 30 years of experience in field archaeology including directing a number of excavations of urban medieval sites in Newcastle and Durham.
- 8.2 The excavation of the trial trenches will be undertaken over a period of four working days. Additional field staff, with appropriate archaeological experience, will be engaged as required. Resources have been allocated for a site supervisor and a site assistant with provision of a second site assistant for four days should they be required. An additional five person days has been set aside should additional trenching be 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/ John Dore
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.