

# **BAMBURGH RESEARCH PROJECT**

## **CAR PARK EXTENSION BAMBURGH CASTLE NORTHUMBERLAND**



## **REPORT ON TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

Compiled for Bamburgh Castle Estate by The Bamburgh Research Project: Commercial Projects Section

BRP 19/03b

August 2019

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## SUMMARY

*This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) for Bamburgh Castle Estate during August 2019 and details the results of the trial trench evaluation undertaken on ground immediately to the west of the current castle car park, Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland. The work was undertaken in compliance with a WSI, prepared by BRP in August 2019, to provide evidence, from an archaeological evaluation in order to consider the appropriate response as part 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, as part of the planning decision. The NCC planning reference is 17/03200/FUL and the OASIS reference is bamburgh1-365079.*

*The proposed development area lies to the immediate south of Bamburgh castle and to the west of the present castle car park, towards the eastern extent of Bamburgh Village, which is 7km east of Belford in north east Northumberland. It is within an overgrown area of ground containing a mound and is centred on grid reference NU 18489 34930 (Figures 1 and 2).*

*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.*

*The area of the present car park was investigated by topographical survey by Hope-Taylor in 1959 and this was followed up by a trench excavated into one of the mounds, one each side of the exit road from the car park, that Hope-Taylor thought were likely artificial and therefore potentially related to burial or the castle siege mound described as being constructed during the siege of the castle in 1095. His trench identified two layers that produced finds evidence, one of mixed 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century and modern date, suggesting a disturbed or dumped deposit, and an earlier one of 12<sup>th</sup> century date. This effectively ruled out both the theory that the mounds were early burial mounds and also made it too late to be the 11<sup>th</sup> century siege mound. A section of this trench was preserved within the Hope-Taylor archive and confirms that the 12<sup>th</sup> century layer lies some 1.5m below ground level close to the edge of the mound. There are problems with interpreting the Hope-Taylor archive however as converting his contour survey to metric does not seem to match his own section and his location plan for the trench shows a shorter trench than the section depicts, suggesting it is schematic rather than an accurate depiction.*

*Speed's map of 1610 depicts Bamburgh only in schematic terms and can offer no insight beyond the presence of the village. Armstrong's Map of 1769, Fryer's Map of 1820 and Greenwood's Map of 1828 offer a little more detail but lack the definition to add any information of note. The Tithe Award map of 1846 does depict a path down to the road from the area of the current car park but this seems to lie on a different alignment to the exit route from the car park that we see today. A variation of this route appears on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey altered to join the road in the general area of the current exit and it is not until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, after the First World War that we see the road we are familiar with.*

*The objective of the evaluation is to investigate the archaeological potential of the development area by the excavation of a single trial trench to a depth of 2.4m. The trench is to be located on the summit of the mound in the area to be disturbed to the greatest depth by the proposed development. It will measure at least 4m wide by more than 6m long at the surface in order to*

allow for shallow battering of the sides to enable safe access to a depth of 2.4m though a mound known to be predominately sand in make-up.

The excavation of the trench was undertaken over two days, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Trench 1 measured 15m east to west by 10m north to south at its top and was stepped in twice in order to reach the required depth of excavation safely. The mound consisted of yellow sand (102) that is almost certainly aeolian in origin. This was excavated to a depth of 3.27m (24.88m OD) below ground level as measured from the top of the mound (28.15m OD). The top of the mound was sealed by a grey-yellow sand and silt topsoil (100) up to 0.4m thick. This contained a small number of late post medieval finds that comprised glass bottles and two large fragments of cream glazed earthenware, both likely of late 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

Whilst it was not possible to locate the Hope-Taylor trench from 1961 with absolute certainty due to the rather schematic nature of its location plan, it was possible to identify its general area. His section shows the slope of the mound down to a relatively flat surface at the mound base. This is reinforced by Hope-Taylor's text which describes excavating into the mound from the base on one side (Hope-Taylor 1961, pg 5). He identified two surfaces separated by a shallow depth of aeolian sand. The upper of these consisted of medieval pottery and animal bone with more modern finds, suggesting a disturbed layer. He appeared to regard the lower surface as genuinely medieval and this was reported as some 5ft (1.52m) below the ground surface. A point at the base of the mound, close to where this trench had been excavated, lay at a height of 24.69m OD which would suggest that the medieval surface lay approximately 23.24m OD.

The present trench evaluation has revealed that the area of the current car park is made up of a deep and developed aeolian dune that extends to a considerable depth. Hope-Taylor's trench of 1961 appears to indicate that the base of the dune lies at approximately 23.24m OD and that it accumulated from the later medieval period to the present. This is consistent with the study of the dune system in the area from Lindisfarne south to Beadnell. The current scheme of works for the construction of the new car park indicates a depth of disturbance from the top of the mound to some 2.4m below ground level, which is well within the depth of the aeolian sand deposit suggesting little chance of disturbance of any layers of archaeological significance.

**CAR PARK EXTENSION  
BAMBURGH CASTLE  
NORTHUMBERLAND**

**REPORT ON  
TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.0.1 This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) for Bamburgh Castle Estate during August 2019 and details the results of the trial trench evaluation undertaken on ground immediately to the west of the current castle car park, Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland.
- 1.0.2 The work was undertaken in compliance with a WSI prepared by BRP in August 2019 in order to provide evidence, from an archaeological evaluation to inform the appropriate response as part 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, as part of the planning decision. The NCC planning reference is 17/03200/FUL and the OASIS reference is bamburgh1-365079.

**2.0 THE SITE**

**2.1 Location**

- 2.1.1 The proposed development area lies to the immediate south of Bamburgh Castle and to the west of the present castle car park, towards the eastern extent of Bamburgh village, which is 7km east of Belford in north east Northumberland. It is within an overgrown semi-wild mound, centred on grid reference NU 18489 34930 (Figures 1 and 2).

**3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.0.1 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.
- 3.0.2 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 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

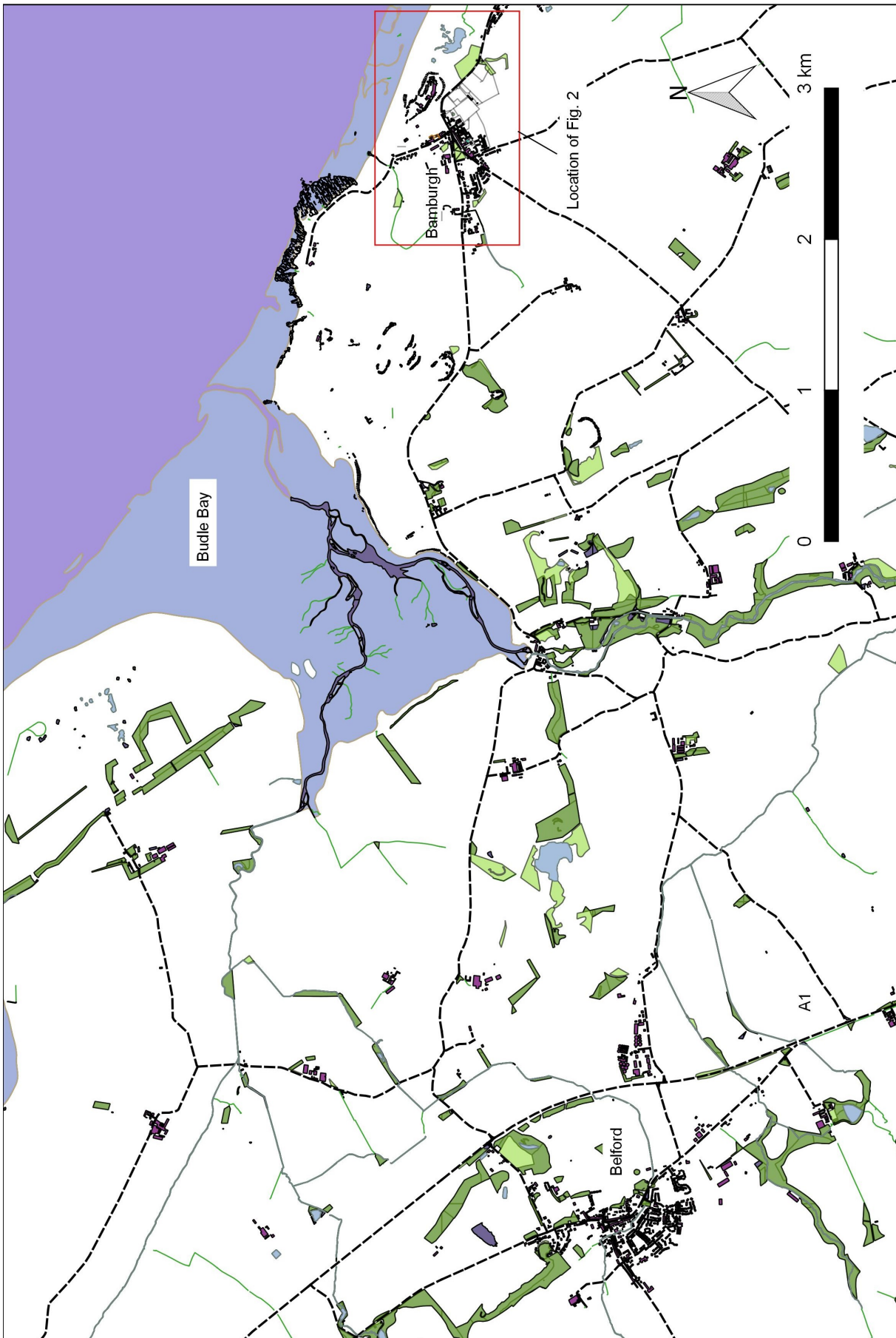


Figure 1: Location

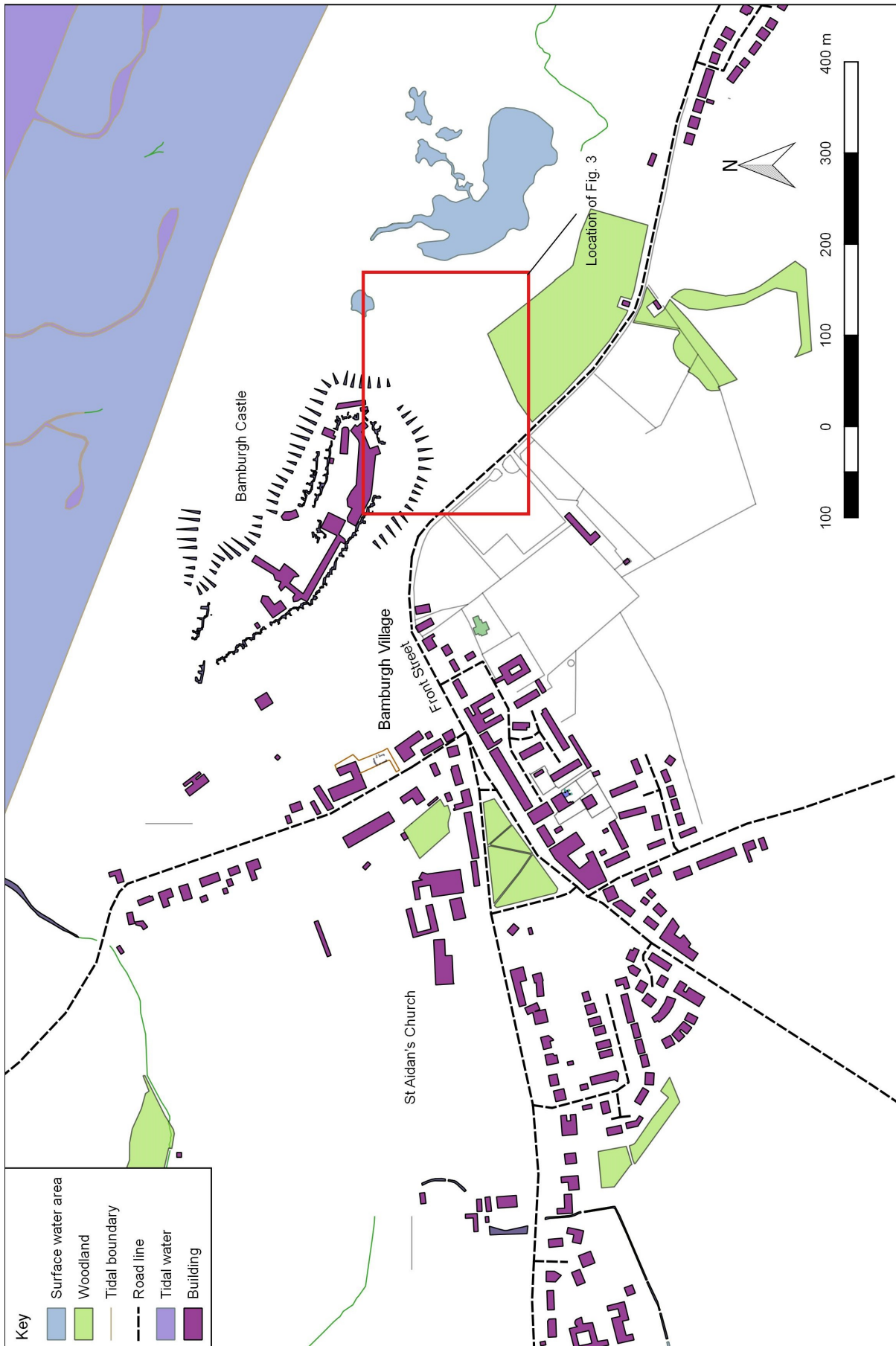


Figure 2: Location of the development area in Bamburgh Village

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.

- 3.0.3 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS. 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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.
- 3.0.4 The area of the present car park was investigated by topographical survey by Hope-Taylor in 1959 and this was followed up by a trench excavated into one of the mounds, one each side of the exit road from the car park, that Hope-Taylor thought were likely artificial and therefore potentially related to burial or the castle siege mound described as being constructed during the siege of the castle in 1095. His trench recovered finds from two layers the upper being a mixed assemblage of 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century and modern date, indicating a disturbed deposit. The earlier one of 12<sup>th</sup> century date appears to have been considered genuinely medieval. This effectively ruled out both the theory that the mound was an early burial mounds and also made it too late to be the 11<sup>th</sup> century siege mound. A section of this trench was preserved within the Hope-Taylor archive and confirms that the 12<sup>th</sup> century layer lies some 1.5m below ground level close to the edge of the mound. There are problems with interpreting the Hope-Taylor archive however as converting his contour survey to metric does not seem to match his own section and his location plan for the trench shows a shorter trench than the section depicts, suggesting it is schematic rather than an accurate depiction.

### **3.1 Cartographic evidence**

- 3.1.1 Speed's map of 1610 depicts Bamburgh only in schematic terms and can offer no insight beyond the presence of the village. Armstrong's Map of 1769, Fryer's Map of 1820 and Greenwood's Map of 1828 offer a little more detail but lack the definition to add any information of note. The Tithe Award map of 1846 does depict a path down to the road from the area of the current car park but this seems to lie on a different alignment to the exit route from the car park that we see today. A variation of this route appears on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey altered to join the road in the general area of the current exit and it is not until the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, after the First World War that we see the road we are familiar with.



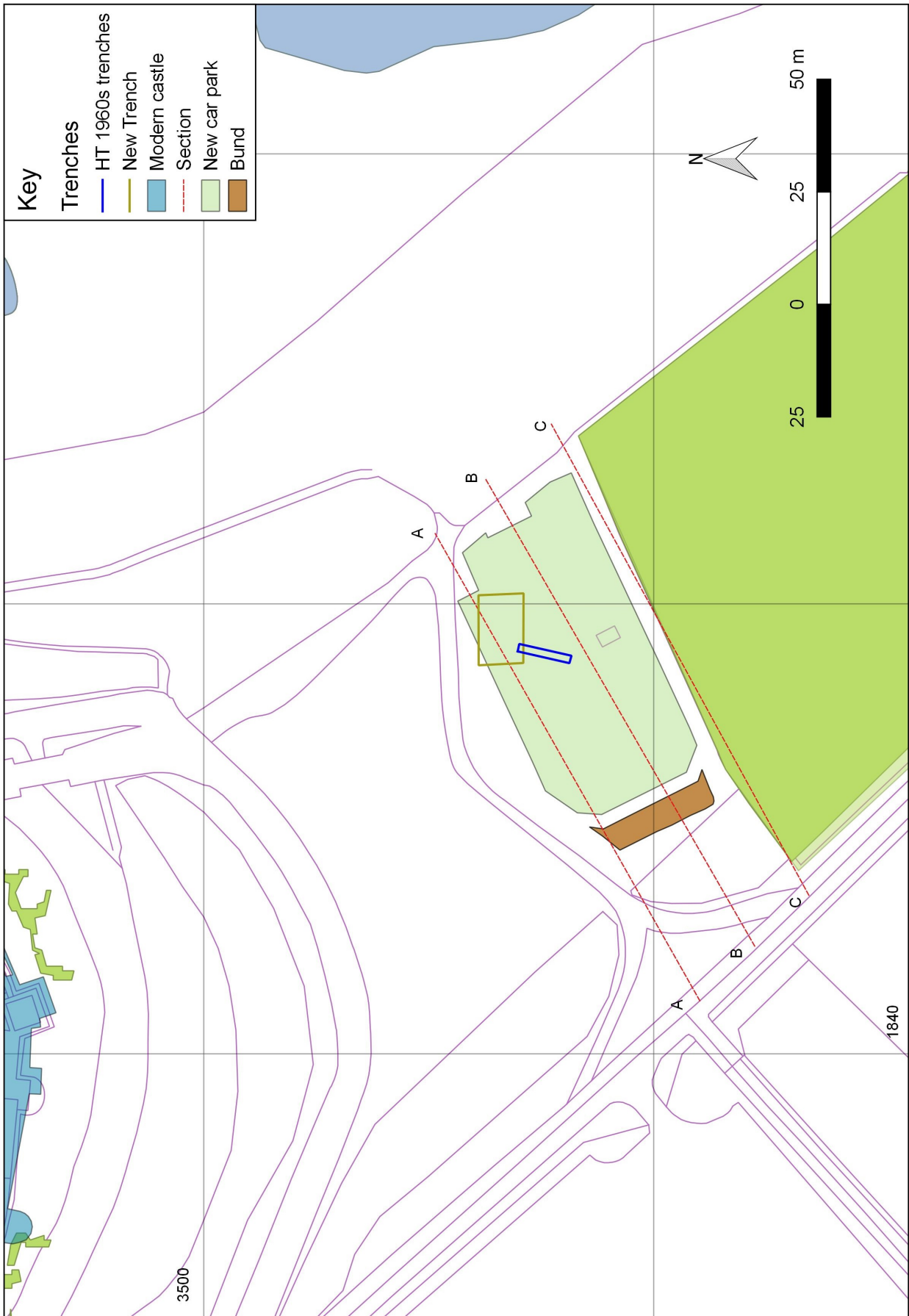


Figure 3: Plan of new car park extension and bund depicting the location of the Hope-Taylor and new evaluation trench

## **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 from the work undertaken by Hope-Taylor provides a quite compelling argument that medieval surfaces were present in the area of the castle car park. The clear implication of this is the potential for archaeological material, of some importance, to be present within the development area, and vulnerable to development activity depending on depth of distances.
- 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 objective of the evaluation is to investigate the archaeological potential of the development area by the excavation of a single trial trench to a depth of 2.4m. The trench is to be located on the summit of the mound in the area to be disturbed to the greatest depth by the proposed development. It will measure at least 4m wide by more than 6m long at the surface in order to allow for shallow battering of the sides to enable safe access to a depth of 2.4m though a mound known to be predominately sand in make-up.
- 5.1.3 All work was to 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).
- 5.1.4 The excavation of the trenches was undertaken by machine under archaeological supervision for the removal of the topsoil and overburden to the first sensitive archaeological horizon after which all excavation would be undertaken by hand.

### **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 digital photographic record will be compiled 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.
- 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**

- 6.1.1 The excavation of the trench was undertaken over two days, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Trench 1 measured 15m east to west by 10m north to south at its top and was stepped in twice in order to reach the required depth of excavation safely. The mound consisted of yellow sand (102) that is almost certainly aeolian in origin. This was excavated to a depth of 3.27m (24.88m OD) below ground level as measured from the top of the mound (28.15m OD). The top of the mound was sealed by a grey-yellow sand and silt topsoil (100) up to 0.4m thick. This contained a small number of late post medieval finds that comprised glass bottles and two large fragments of cream glazed earthenware, both likely of late 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century in date (Figures 3 and 4 and Plate 1).
- 6.1.2 Whilst it was not possible to locate the Hope-Taylor trench from 1961 with absolute certainty due to the rather schematic nature of its location plan, it was possible to locate it in its general area. His section shows the slope of the mound down to a relatively flat surface at the mound base. This is reinforced by Hope-Taylor's text which describes excavating into the mound from the base on one side (Hope-Taylor 1961, pg 5). He identified two surfaces separated by a shallow depth of aeolian sand. The upper of these consisted of medieval pottery and animal bone with more modern finds, suggesting a disturbed layer. He appeared to regard the lower surface as genuinely medieval and states it lay some 5ft (1.52m) below the ground surface. A point at the base of the mound, close to where this trench had been excavated, lay at a height of 24.69m OD which would suggest that the medieval surface lay approximately 23.24m OD.

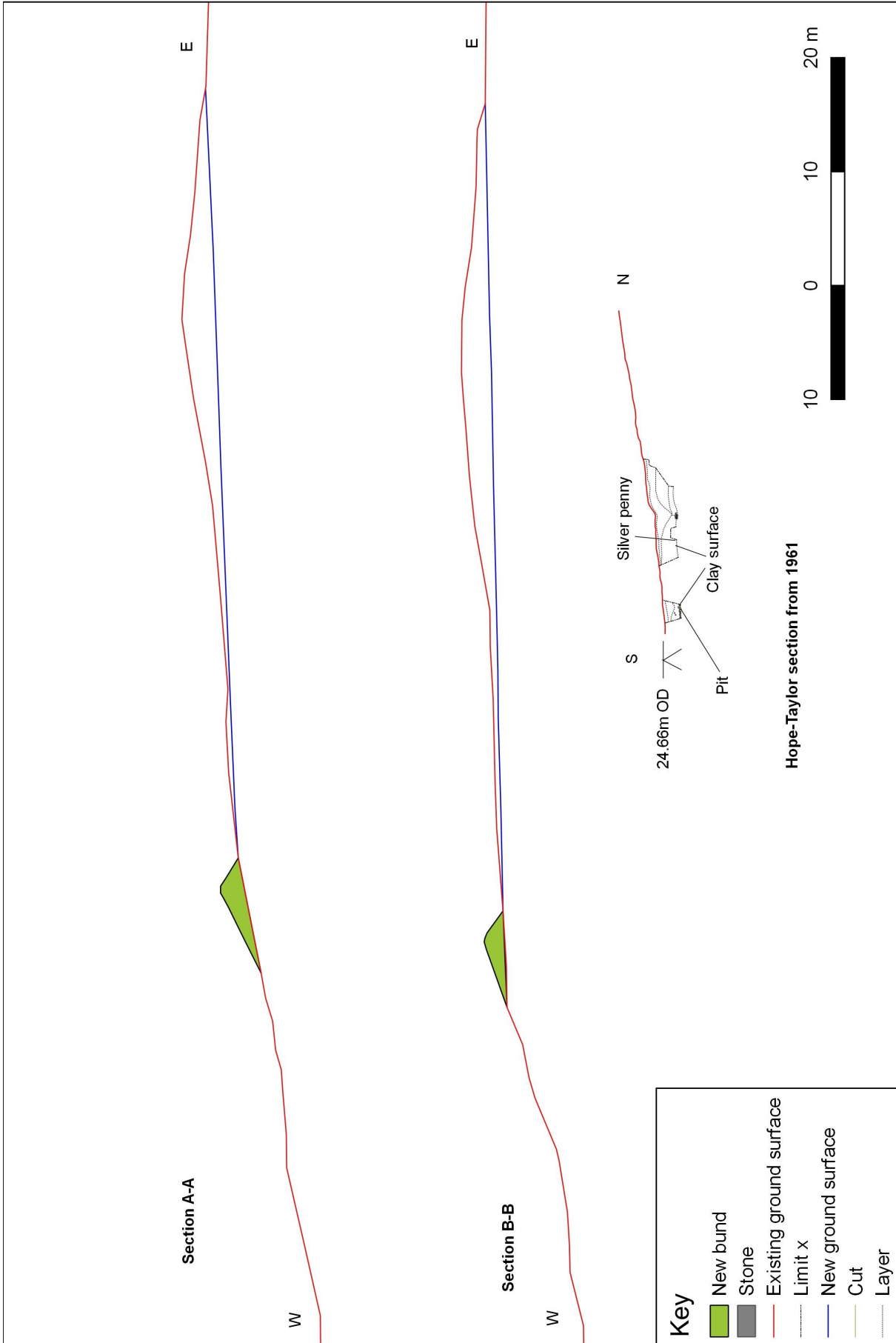


Figure 4: Sections A-A and B-B through the area of the proposed new car park extension together with the Hope-Taylor trench



*Plate 1:       Deepest excavation within the trench showing the extent of the aeolian sand deposits, facing north*

## **7.0 DISCUSSION**

- 7.0.1 The present trench evaluation has revealed that the area of the current car park is made up of a deep and developed aeolian dune that extends to a considerable depth. Hope-Taylor's trench of 1961 appears to indicate that the base of the dune lies at approximately 23.24m OD and that it accumulated from the later medieval period to the present. This is consistent with the study of the dune system in the area from Lindisfarne south to Beadnell. The current scheme of works for the construction of the new car park indicates a depth of disturbance from the top of the mound to some 2.4m below ground level, which is well within the depth of the aeolian sand deposit suggesting little chance of disturbance of any layers of archaeological significance (Figure 4).

## **8.0 CONCLUSIONS**

- 8.0.1 There are no features or finds to indicate any pre-modern activity within the area of the trial trench. All indication from the current work and the evaluation of the 1961 trial trench would indicate that the proposed works for the car park extension will not impact on any sensitive layers.



## REFERENCES

### Published and unpublished sources

- BRP 2000 *Finds Manual, 2000*
- BRP 2013 *Health and Safety Document*
- BRP 2014 *Two sites in Bamburgh Village Desk Based Assessment*
- CifA 2014 *Codes of Conduct*
- CifA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Excavation.*
- CifA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*
- 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*
- Hope-Taylor, B. 1960. Excavation committee, report for 1961, Bamburgh, University of Durham Gazette, new ser., 8(3), 5–6

**APPENDIX I:**

**Ceramic and glass finds**

Two sherds of stoneware were recovered from layer 101. One the base of a straight sided cream glazed jar and the second part a cream plate with a dark blue pattern within its glaze. Both sherds are relatively plain but appear to be late post-medieval and likely 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

Two incomplete glass bottles some 5cm in diameter were recovered, one of brown glass and the other of clear glass.

**APPENDIX II:**

**BAMBURGH CASTLE CAR PARK  
EXTENSION  
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 Bamburgh Castle Estate during August 2019 and comprises a Written Schedule of Investigation for the trial trench evaluation of the area for an extension of the car park at Bamburgh Castle, Bamburgh, Northumberland.
- 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, after the determination of an application.

**2.0 THE SITE**

**2.1 Location**

- 2.1.1 The proposed development area lies to the immediate south of Bamburgh castle and to the west of the present castle car park, towards the eastern extent of Bamburgh Village, which is 7km east of Belford in north east Northumberland. It is within an overgrown semi-wild mound, centred on grid reference NU 18489 34930 (Figures 1 and 2).

**1.2 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition OS. 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 The area of the present car park was investigated by topographical survey by Hope-Taylor in 1959 and this was followed up by a trench excavated into one of the mounds, one each side of the exit road from the car park, that Hope-Taylor thought were likely artificial and therefore potentially related to burial or the castle siege mound described as being constructed during the siege of the castle in 1095. His trench identified two layers of occupation of broadly 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century date and an earlier one of 12<sup>th</sup> century date. This effectively ruled out both the theory that the mounds were early burial mounds and also made it too late to be the 11<sup>th</sup> century siege mound. A section of this trench was preserved with the Hope-Taylor archive and confirms that these horizons are at their shallowest some 1.5m below ground level close to the edge of the mound and likely well over 2m in the main mound area. Converting his contour survey to metric does not seem to match his own section and his location plan for the trench shows a shorter trench than the section depicts, suggesting it is a little schematic rather than an accurate depiction. Understanding the Hope-Taylor records would likely benefit from more work than has been currently possible.

### **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 from the work undertaken by Hope-Taylor provides a quite compelling argument that medieval surfaces were present in the area of the castle car park. The clear implication of this is the potential for archaeological material, of some importance, to be present within the development area, and vulnerable to development activity depending on depth of distances.
- 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 a single trial trench to a depth of 2.4m. The trench is to be located on the summit of the mound in the area to be disturbed to the greatest depth by the proposed development. It will measure at least 4m wide by more than 6m long at the surface in order to allow for shallow battering of the sides to enable safe access to a depth of 2.4m though a mound known to be predominately sand in make-up.
- 3.2 The excavation of the trial trench will identify the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the development area to a depth of 2.4m below ground level. Any archaeological remains 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 a single trench to a depth of 2.4m in the area of greatest potential disturbance by the proposed development.
- 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 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 natural subsoil. 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. All further excavation will be conducted by hand until sensitive deposits are bottomed. If necessary further machine excavation will then be undertaken under close supervision.

## 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 specific contingency has not been specified as the scale of eh trench will be dependent on the depth that is required to be reached and in order to expose a sufficient area at such depth to be of value in assessing the archaeological potential. Additional widening will be undertaken as and when necessary to fulfil this.

## 6.0 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 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.

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 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.

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 28 years of experience in field archaeology including directing a number of excavations of urban medieval sites in Newcastle and Durham.

7.2 The excavation of the trial trenches will be undertaken over a period of 10 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.

## **8.0 SUB-CONTRACTED SPECIALISTS**

8.0.1 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.

<b>Material</b>	<b>Specialist</b>
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  
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.