

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Wylam Hall, Wylam, Northumberland



Wylam Hall, Wylam, Northumberland

ARS Ltd Report 2012/71
September 2012

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2012 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Mr D Furniss to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a new flue and wood burning stove at Wylam Hall, Wylam, Northumberland. The new flue and stove were installed in the ground floor hallway of Flat 1 of Wylam Hall.

The drilling works proceeded according to the proposed design and no alterations to the agreed programme of works were necessary. The works did not impact upon the original 15th century fabric of the building, or the lime-wash/plaster adhering to it. Drilling was undertaken through a layer of modern concrete and brick used to block the flue of previous 19th and 20th century inserted fireplaces. The works therefore impacted upon 19th and 20th century work only. This was outlined in the project brief as an acceptable loss from an archaeological perspective.

The identified phasing consisted of an original 15th century vault and window embrasure. This was blocked and hidden by the construction of a brick skin on the internal face dated to c.1820 in the Listed Building Description. This brick skin used the blocked window embrasure as the side walls of a fireplace and a flue was tunnelled up through the ceiling, to the now demolished upper levels and roof of the structure. This fireplace was then partially infilled with 20th century brick, as a new smaller fireplace was constructed and the flue was lined with brick. The east wall of the building was then moved westwards after 1960 to lie adjacent to the fireplace and this was most likely when the eastern portion of the vault was removed. The flue was then blocked with modern concrete and brick.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In September 2012 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) were commissioned by Mr D. Furniss to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a new flue and wood burning stove at Wylam Hall, Wylam, Northumberland. The new flue and stove were installed in the ground floor hallway of Flat 1 of Wylam Hall. The Hall is a Grade II* listed structure which probably originates from the medieval period. Major alterations were carried out in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, however. The tunnel-vaulted ground floor indicates that the building may have been a former bastle or tower house (Rich 1913).

1.2 The archaeological watching brief, as requested by Northumberland Conservation Team, monitored the works as they had the potential to impact upon the historic fabric of the building. A basic phasing of the affected part of the building has been identified by the client and comprises an 18th century brick wall built against the original building wall and vaulted ceiling curve, blocking an original window opening. The opening was probably used as a flue for an 18th century fireplace, which was then blocked and replaced by a smaller fireplace, possibly dating to the 20th century. All voids seem to have been blocked by modern concrete that was poured down from the first floor.

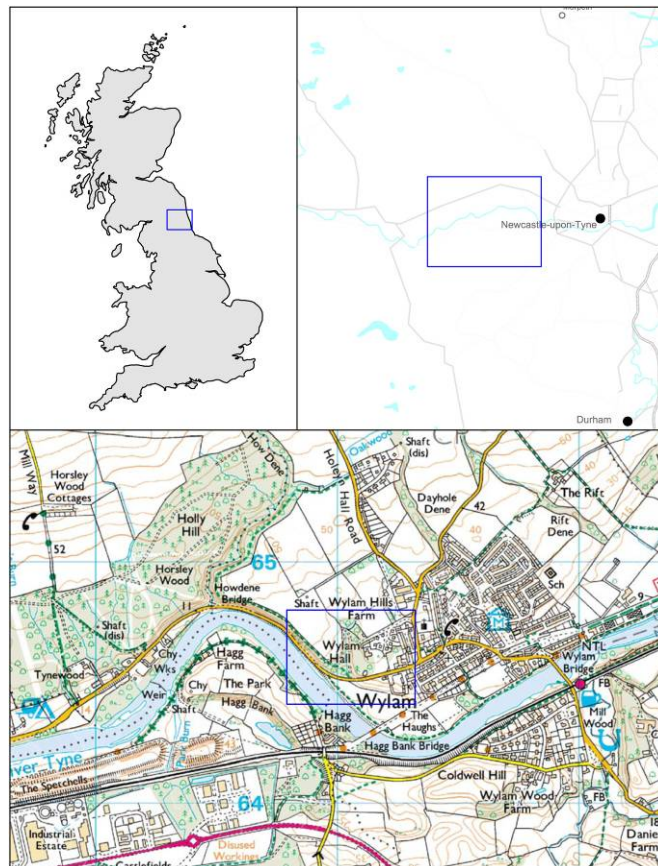


Figure 1. Location of site.
Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by
permission, Licence no. 100045420

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 The installation of the flue and wood burning stove involved the drilling through of the modern concrete that had been poured into the void, adjacent to a 20th century fireplace. This then allowed for a flue to be connected to the wood burning stove that was to sit in front of the existing fireplace. Northumberland Conservation Team predicted that this work would impact upon the 20th century fireplace and a section of the 18th century fireplace. While this in itself was not deemed a great enough loss, from an archaeological perspective, to require detailed recording, continued monitoring was required in the event that the agreed approach needed to be amended.

2.2 An archaeologist was present throughout the proposed work as an advisory measure and to consult Northumberland Conservation should there be any changes to the proposed work, or impacts on the original building fabric.

2.3 A photographic record of the works was undertaken using digital photography and black-and-white print. A context register and photographic register were compiled (see Appendix I and II).

3. HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Wylam Hall is thought to have been originally constructed in the medieval period, although it underwent major alterations in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The tunnel-vaulted ground floor suggests that the building may have been a former bastle or tower house (Rich 1913).

3.2 It is mentioned in historic records that the priory of Tynemouth was granted Wylam Manor before 1120 and an Ecclesiastical Court was held there in 1264. The manor was supposedly destroyed in the 14th century by the Scots but was then restored between 1393 and 1413. During renovations in 1912-13, a 15th century chamber, with a blocked-up doorway and window, was discovered at the core of the house and it was thought that the surviving structure therefore dated to the early 15th century (Rich 1913).

4. RESULTS

4.1 The watching brief was undertaken whilst drilling was in progress for the installation of the new flue for a wood burning stove in the ground floor of the north wall of Wylam Hall. Plaster had been removed from the internal face of the wall, exposing a length of c.2.5m of brick walling (001), covering a section of original 15th century vaulting (003) and showing evidence of two inserted fireplaces and a flue (002), blocked with modern concrete (004) (Figure 2). The phasing of this section of the wall was much as described by the client upon initial investigation and is outlined in more detail below.

4.2 The drilling works proceeded according to the proposed design and no alterations to the agreed programme of works were necessary. The works did not impact upon the original 15th century fabric of the building, or the plaster adhering to it. Drilling

was undertaken through a layer of modern concrete and brick used to block the flue of previous 19th and 20th century inserted fireplaces. The works therefore impacted upon 19th and 20th century work only. This was outlined in the project brief as an acceptable loss from an archaeological perspective (see Appendix III).

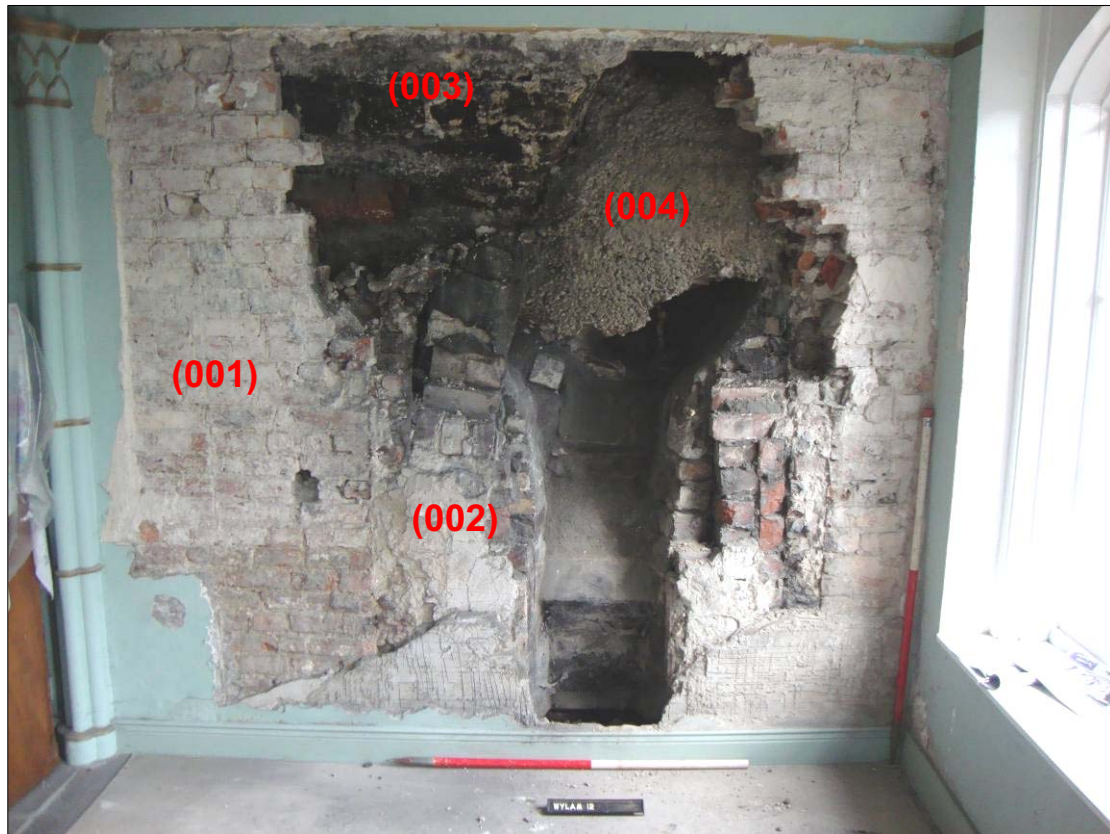


Figure 2. Overview of the area exposed, looking north (scale = 2x1m)

4.3 Context (001) consisted of a brick-built skin placed in front of the original vault and covered with plaster bearing decorative pilasters and ribs (Figure 3). This was constructed using handmade bricks measuring 9”x 2½” x 3¼” laid to English Garden Bond. The top of the wall was one skin thick where it abutted the vault, however this thickness increased to three skins lower down, where the void between the vault and the brick skin (caused by the curvature of the vault) was at its greatest. Between the brick skin and the vault there was also a rivetted iron pipe of unknown purpose, possibly acting as a flue or hot air vent for one of the inserted fireplaces. The brick skin contained a fireplace, 1.35m in length, that blocked an original window opening of the 15th century. Timber fixings were visible in the brickwork 0.9m up the wall, these were most likely associated with a fire surround and mantle.

This brick walling is dated to c.1820 in the Listed Building Description for this structure. Although it made the room narrower, its purpose was to give the appearance of more height within the chamber, as the original springing for the vault was c.1m below its present height caused by the insertion of the brick skin.

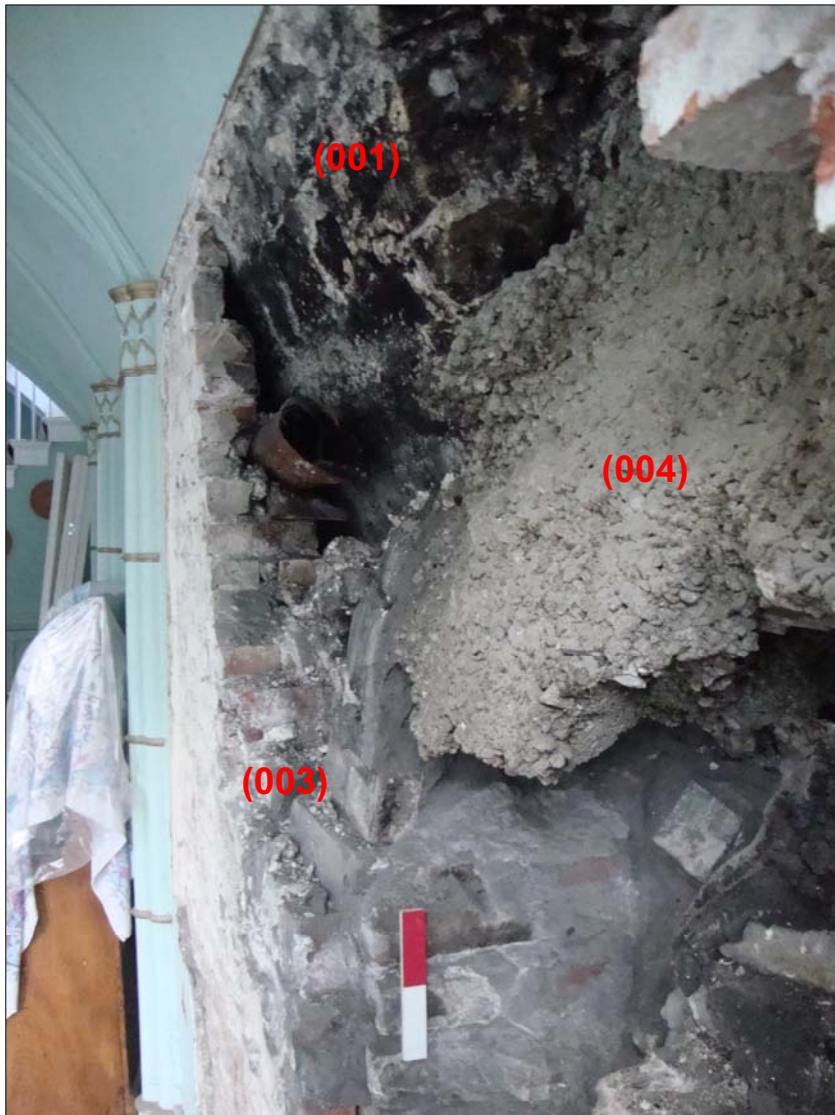


Figure 3. Profile of the brick skin (001) with pilasters, in front of the original vault (003), looking west (scale = 0.2m)

4.4 Context (002) consisted of a brick infill of the fireplace in (001) resulting in the insertion of a smaller fireplace, 0.45m in length, within the larger earlier opening (Figure 4). The bricks used to infill the earlier fireplace measured 9"x3"x4¹/₄" and were laid both header and stretcher to fill the required space. The external face of these bricks showed evidence of having been plastered over. The smaller fireplace was lined with cut sandstone and used the same flue as the earlier fireplace, although it appears that the flue was lined with bricks during this phase. These bricks showed signs of burning on the inside face, showing that they were used to line the flue, rather than as part of the blocking of the flue which came later (004).

The bricks used in this phase of work were of modern construction and most likely date to the 20th century. A plan of the structure, completed in 1912 does not show this smaller fireplace opening (Rich 1913, 46), suggesting that it post-dates 1912.



Figure 4. Profile of the brick infill and inserted small fireplace (002), looking north (scale = 0.2m)

4.5 Context (003) consisted of the original 15th century vault and pointed arched window of the medieval portion of Wylam Hall. The continuation of the vault was exposed behind the inserted brick skin (001) and was constructed of well-coursed limestone masonry bonded with lime mortar. The stonework showed some signs of having been lime-washed or plastered, although this may have been simply excess build-up of mortar between the stonework and the timber framing used to form the curve of the vault during construction. Original stonework was only visible on the west side of the inserted fireplaces and flue (001, 002). On the east side the vault must have been removed, either when the fireplaces were inserted, or when the eastern portion of the vaulted chamber was removed due to structural necessity after 1960. The present east wall is of modern construction and lies c.2.25m west of the original extent of the structure. The stonework of the vault was fire-blackened most likely due to the presence of the inserted fireplaces in this location.

The fireplaces clearly block an original pointed arched, 15th century window, visible on the external face of the north wall (Figure 5). This was constructed of punch-dressed

limestone and was splayed internally and showed evidence of an external shutter and bar holes. The window was blocked with rubble masonry. No evidence of the window opening was noted on the internal wall face, however it is possible that the break in the vault, that corresponds to the location of the flue of the inserted fireplaces, was originally a break to accommodate the window. Not enough of the masonry was exposed to confirm this however.



Figure 5. Original 15th century window (003) blocked by the insertion of the brick skin wall and fireplace (001), looking south (scale = 0.2m)

4.6 Context (004) consisted of modern concrete and brick used to block the flue of the inserted fireplaces. This appeared to have been poured from above to fill the voids. It is likely that this was conducted when the eastern portion of the building was removed due to structural weaknesses after 1960, when the east wall was rebuilt immediately adjacent to the fireplace.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 The identified phasing (Figure 6) consisted of an original 15th century vault and window embrasure (003). This was blocked and hidden by the construction of a brick skin on the internal face dated to c.1820 in the Listed Building Description (001). This brick skin used the blocked window embrasure as the side walls of a fireplace and a flue was tunnelled up through the ceiling, to the now demolished upper levels and roof of the structure. This fireplace was then partially infilled with 20th century brick, as a new smaller fireplace was constructed and the flue was lined with brick (002). The east wall of the building was then moved westwards after 1960 to lie adjacent to the fireplace and this was most likely when the eastern portion of the vault was removed. The flue was then blocked with modern concrete and brick (004).

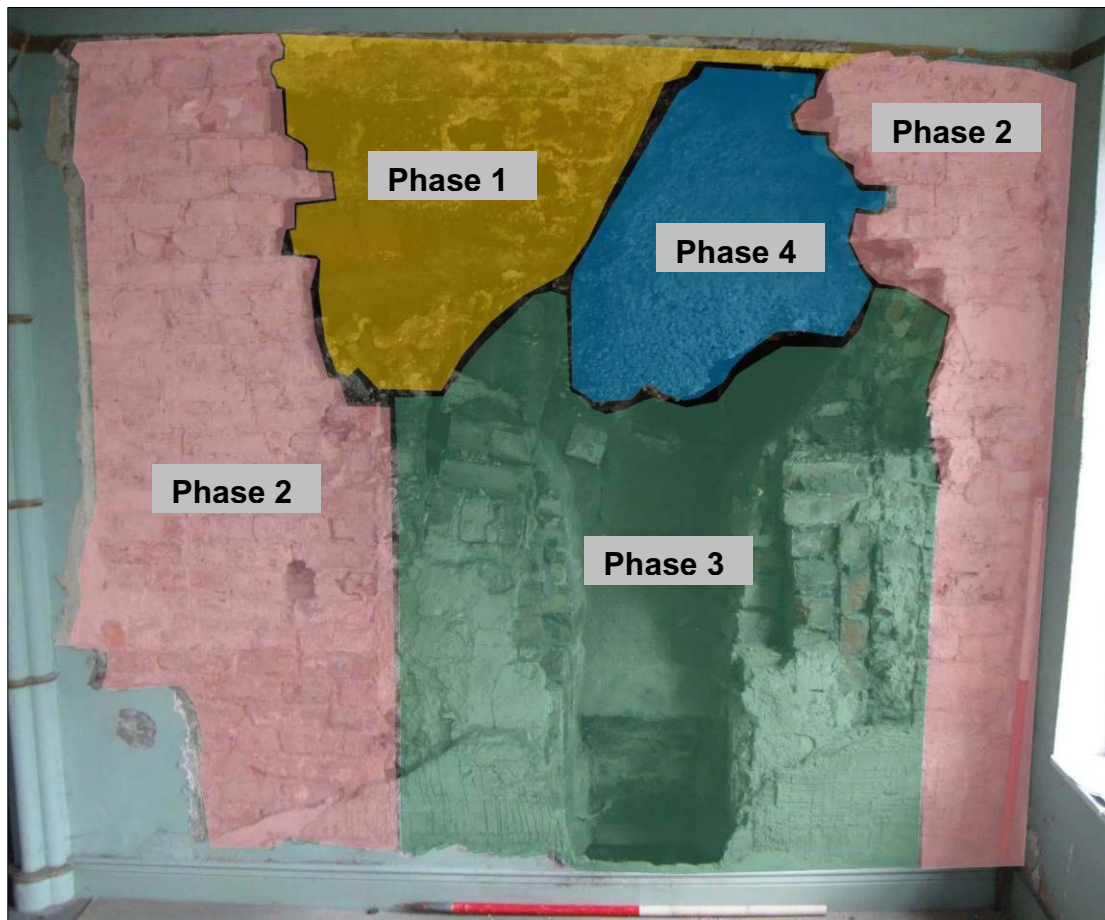


Figure 6. Phased photograph of the exposed area, looking north (scale=2x1m).

5.2 Drilling took place through the 20th century concrete and brick blockage (004) and necessitated the removal of some of the modern bricks on the east side of the inserted fireplace (002). The spoil from the drill was inspected and was found to contain only bricks and concrete. The drilled hole for the new flue was located 0.09m east of the surviving 15th century vault and did not impact on this original fabric (Figure 7).

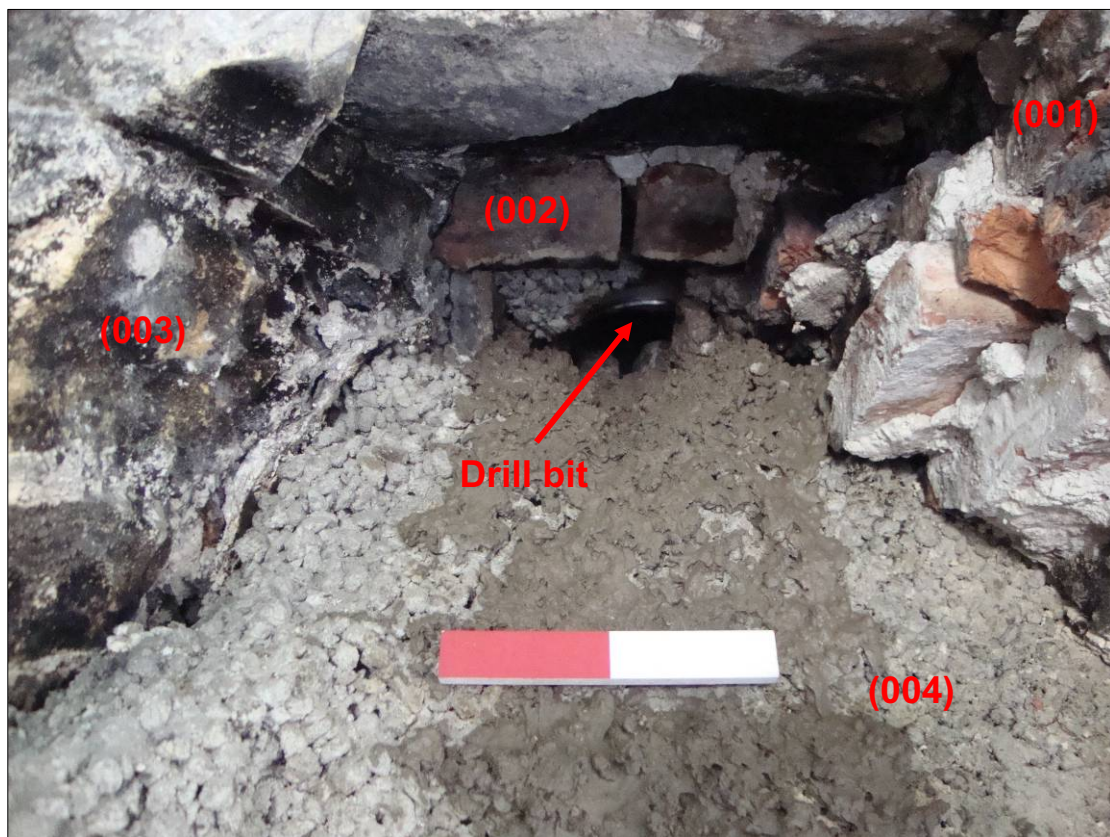


Figure 7. Hole drilled for the flue of the new wood burning stove, from below (scale=0.2m)

6. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

- 6.1. Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 6.2. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

7. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

7.1. All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved in this project, in particular Mr D Furniss, Karen Derham and Philip Smith of Smith Marston Chartered Building Surveyors.

9. REFERENCES

Rich, R. 1913. Wylam Hall, Northumberland, *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*. 3rd series. Vol. 6, 45-8.

Websites

British Geological Survey <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/index.htm>

APPENDIX I: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context	Description
001	Brick-built skin and inserted fireplace-19 th century English Garden Bond
002	Brick infill and inserted fireplace-20 th century
003	Stone-built vault and pointed arched widow-15 th century well coursed limestone
004	Brick and concrete blockage of inserted flue-20 th century

APPENDIX II: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Shot No.	Direction	Description	Scale
1	N	Exposed area	2x1m
2	N	Exposed area	2x1m
3	N	Exposed area	2x1m
4	N	Exposed inserted flue	0.2m
5	W	Detail of vault and brick-built skin wall	0.2m
6	W	Detail of vault and brick built kin wall	0.2m
7	E	Detail of the east side with no surviving vault	0.2m
8	N	Detail of partial blocking of inserted fireplace	0.2m
9	N	Detail of the inserted flue	0.2m
10	N	Possible sign of the blocked window opening?	0.2m
11	N	Exposed area	2x1m
12	NE	Exposed area within the room	1m
13	NW	Staircase	1m
14	S	External view of blocked window	1m
15	SW	External view of blocked window	1m
16	S	External view of blocked window	1m
17	S	External view of blocked window	1m
18	S	External view of blocked window	1m
19	N	Detail of plaster on the vault	0.2m
20	S	Detail of blocked window	0.2m
21	S	Detail of blocked window	0.2m
22	N	Detail of drilling from above	0.2m
23	N	Detail of drilling from above	0.2m
24	N	Detail of completed drilling from below	0.2m

FLAT 1, WYLAM HALL, CHURCH ROAD, WYLAM, NORTHUMBERLAND

Brief for Archaeological Monitoring

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A planning application has been submitted for the construction of a first floor balcony and associated replacement window with double door and widening of one window on east elevation and the provision of a flue and wood burning stove in the ground floor hallway, Flat 1, Wylam Hall, Church Road, Wylam (Fig 1). The grade II* listed Wylam Hall has 15th century origins but was altered in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Wylam Manor was granted to the Priory of Tynemouth some time before 1120, and in 1264 an Ecclesiastical court was held here. The house was destroyed by the Scots in the 14th century and restored between 1393 and 1413. A dovecote and a ruined chapel are mentioned in the 16th century but no trace of these buildings has so far been found. A 15th century chamber, with blocked-up doorway and window was discovered during renovations in 1912.
- 1.2 The building has been subject to a number of further alterations in the late 20th century. The provision of a first floor balcony and associated replacement window, and the construction of a chimney stack and widening of a window on the east elevation will all impact on areas which have already been subject to 20th century alterations. No archaeological work will be required in those specific areas.
- 1.3 The main archaeological issue with this application has been the provision of a flue for a new woodturning stove through an existing blocked up fireplace in the ground floor hallway and its potential impact on historic fabric. Following discussions with the applicant, the blocked fireplace was revealed and small section of loose brickwork removed in order to gain a better understanding of the phasing of the building in this area. This limited work revealed the continuation of the original vaulted ceiling curving down behind the later 18th century brick wall with an opening, presumably relating to the blocked-up window visible on the exterior of the building. That opening was presumably blocked-up and partially utilised as the flue for the 18th century fireplace. Although plaster can be seen adhering to the original stonework, it is not clear whether this represents original wall plaster or relates to the later flue. The 18th century fireplace and wall sealed the earlier, wall and opening and in turn were blocked by a smaller fireplace which is probably of 20th century date. Modern concrete appears to have been poured down from the first floor, blocking all earlier voids.
- 1.4 It has been agreed that a hole for a flue can be drilled through the modern concrete to connect with a wood burning stove outside the fireplace in the corner of the room. While this work is likely to impact on both the 20th century fireplace and a section of the 18th century fireplace and wall, this is an acceptable loss from an archaeological perspective and should not require a detailed record to be made prior to its removal. There is, however, the possibility that once a builder is appointed or when work is underway, it may become apparent that this approach may need to be amended. Any amendments should not impact on the original stone structure but if this is unavoidable, any impact should be kept to a minimum and recorded to an appropriate level, following discussion with Northumberland Conservation.

- 1.5 Northumberland Conservation has therefore advised Northumberland County Council (NCC) Development Management Team (West Area) that, should permission be granted, a condition should be attached to the permission relating to the potential need for a programme of archaeological monitoring during development work on the historic fabric of Wylam Hall.
- 1.6 **Archaeological monitoring work will only be required if the work associated with the construction of the flue and wood burning stove impacts on the original stone fabric of the building or the plaster adhering to it. The requirements are set out below:**
- i) The developer and/or their building contractor will need to provide Northumberland Conservation with confirmation of the method of flue construction prior to work commencing on site. This will indicate whether the proposed work has the potential to impact on significant historic fabric. A decision can therefore be made about whether the developer needs to commission an archaeological contractor to undertake monitoring work.
 - ii) Where archaeological monitoring work is required, the developer should commission an archaeological contractor to provide a written scheme of investigation prior to work commencing in this specific area.
 - iii) There remains the possibility that significant archaeological remains could be revealed during the construction of the flue. As a result, the developer and/or their building contractor should remain in contact with Northumberland Conservation throughout the process of flue construction. If it becomes apparent that archaeological monitoring work is required, work should cease in that specific area and the developer should commission an archaeological contractor as soon as possible to investigate and record the historic fabric.
- 1.7 This brief constitutes Northumberland Conservation's justification for the investigation, its objectives and the strategy and procedures to apply to the programme of archaeological recording. **This brief does not constitute the required 'written scheme of investigation'.**
- 1.8 The brief is intended to establish the project parameters to enable an archaeological consultant or contractor to tender for the work and once commissioned to prepare and submit an appropriate Method Statement, Project Design or Specification to Northumberland Conservation for approval prior to work commencing. The project design should be based on a thorough study of all relevant background information, in particular any assessment or evaluation reports or, in their absence, data held or referenced in Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 1.9 The archaeological consultant or contractor, when required, will need to confirm the extent of the development and the nature of the works with the developer as part of the specification. **Monitoring work is not required where fabric is categorically 18th - 20th century in date with no possibility of earlier fabric being present.**

2 Method of work

2.1 Every attempt has been made to avoid significant historic fabric for the provision of the flue and wood burning stove. If the plans need to be amended either in advance of work commencing or during the construction process, Northumberland Conservation should be contacted immediately to discuss the amendments and establish whether archaeological monitoring work is required. Every attempt should be made to avoid an adverse impact on significant historic building fabric.

2.2 This brief relates to archaeological monitoring of significant remains anticipated in advance of work commencing or revealed during construction.

2.3 The purpose of this work is to ensure that important historic building fabric is not affected by the proposed development. If this is unavoidable, any impact should be kept to a minimum and recorded to an appropriate level following detailed discussions with Northumberland Conservation. This work should encompass:

- Sufficient investigation in the area affected by the proposed works
- Detailed drawn, written and photographic record

2.4 Should construction work not impact on significant remains predating the 18th century, no monitoring work should be required. If there is any uncertainty about the significance of remains, Northumberland Conservation should be contacted in order to establish whether monitoring work is required.

2.5 General Standards

- i) All work should be carried out in compliance with the codes of conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) ¹ and should follow the IfA Standards for Watching Briefs² and archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures³ and English Heritage standards⁴.
- ii) All work should be carried out in compliance with the Regional Statement of Good Practice. ⁵
- iii) All staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles.
- iv) All staff must familiarise themselves with the archaeological background of the site, and the results of any previous work in the area, prior to the start of work on site. All staff must be aware of the work required under the specification, and must understand the projects aims and methodologies.

¹ Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *By-Laws: Code of Conduct* (23 October 2008):

http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/code_conduct.pdf

² Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (28 October 2008):

<http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/watch2.pdf>

³ Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *Standard and Guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*: <http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/build2.pdf>

⁴ English Heritage, 2006, *Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice*. (available as pdf. files in three parts at the address listed below):

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/Understanding_Historic_Buildings_1.pdf

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/Understanding_Historic_Buildings_2.pdf

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/upload/pdf/Understanding_Historic_Buildings_3.pdf

⁵ Yorkshire, The Humber and the North-East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process (25 November 2009)

- v) **The archaeological contractor should note that the formulation of an appropriate environmental sampling strategy is a mandatory part of this project. Advice on such a strategy must be obtained from the English Heritage Scientific Advisor for North East England, Dr Jacqui Huntley, English Heritage Offices, Bessie Surtees' House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 3JF(Tel. 0191 269 1250 or Mobile (preferred contact): 077134 00387).**
- vi) This observation shall involve the systematic examination and accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and artefacts identified.
- vii) **If archaeological remains are uncovered, the archaeologist should be given the opportunity of investigating and recording the remains before they are destroyed or covered up.**
- viii) A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) should be made for all work, using pro forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings should be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate.
- ix) The area watched by the archaeologist should be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area with **above Ordnance Datum (aOD)** levels as appropriate.
- x) A photographic record should be taken in colour transparency and black and white print and should include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs should be kept.
- xiii) Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation must be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.
- xiv) During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts must be stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this should include controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material).

3 Contingency arrangements

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

3.2 The contingency for this project has been set at **up to 25** person-days.

3.3 Finds

3.3.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds must be carried out in compliance with the IfA Guidelines for Finds Work⁶ and those set by UKIC.

3.3.2 The deposition and disposal of artefacts must be agreed with the legal owner and recipient museum **prior** to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides to

⁶ Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (28 October 2008): <http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/Finds2008.pdf>

retain artefacts adequate provision must be made for recording them. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer.

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

3.4 Site Archive

- 3.4.1 Archiving work must be carried out in compliance with the IfA Guidelines for Archiving⁷.
- 3.4.2 The archive and the finds must be deposited in the appropriate local museum, within **6 months** of completion of the post-excavation work and report.
- 3.4.3 Before the commencement of fieldwork, contact should be made with the landowners and with the appropriate local museum to make the relevant arrangements. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer. Details of the appropriate museum can be provided by Northumberland Conservation.
- 3.4.4 Northumberland Conservation will require confirmation that the archive had been submitted in a satisfactory form to the relevant museum before recommending to the local planning authority that the condition should be fully discharged.**

3.5 Report

- 3.5.1 The archaeological consultant or contractor must submit a copy of the report to their client and Northumberland Conservation within 2 months of completion of the work.
- 3.5.2 Northumberland Conservation requires one bound paper copy and one digital copy (in Word or PDF format) of the report.
- 3.5.3 Northumberland Conservation will need to approve the report before discharging the condition on the planning permission
- 3.5.4 Each page and paragraph should be numbered within the report and illustrations cross-referenced within the text.
- 3.5.5 The report should include as a minimum the following:
- iv) Planning application number, Northumberland Conservation reference, OASIS reference number and an 8 figure grid reference
 - v) A summary statement of the results
 - vi) Detailed discussion and Interpretation of the historic fabric encountered and dating of any finds
 - vii) Above Ordnance Datum levels as appropriate in the text
 - viii) A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
 - ix) A location plan of the extent of the monitoring within the site. This must be at a

⁷ Institute for Archaeologists, 2008. *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (October 2008):
<http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/inPages/docs/codes/Archives2009.pdf>

- recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Historic Environment Record
- x) Plans and sections of archaeology located at a recognisable planning scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate)
 - xi) Photographs including both general and detailed photographs of significant fabric
 - xii) An appendix comprising a register of all colour transparencies and black and prints
 - xiii) **Any variation to the above requirements should be approved by the planning authority prior to work being submitted**

3.6 OASIS

- 3.6.1 Northumberland Conservation and HER support the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork.
- 3.6.2 The archaeological consultant or contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. If the contractors are unfamiliar with OASIS, they are advised to contact Northumberland HER prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Northumberland HER will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website. **The archaeological consultant or contractor must indicate that they agree to this procedure within the specification/project design/written scheme of investigation submitted to Northumberland Conservation for approval**

3.7 Publication

- 3.7.1 A summary should be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted to Liz Williams, Northumberland HER Officer, by December of the year in which the work is completed.
- 3.7.2 A short report of the work should also be submitted to a local journal if appropriate and agreed with Northumberland Conservation. If publication is a requirement, the publication report will need to be approved by Northumberland Conservation before discharging the condition on the planning permission

4 Monitoring

- 4.1 The Assistant County Archaeologist dealing with this application must be informed on the start date and timetable for the watching brief **in advance** of work commencing.
- 4.2 Reasonable access to the site for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological scheme will be afforded to the Assistant County Archaeologist or his/her nominee at all times.
- 4.3 Regular communication between the archaeological contractor, the Assistant County Archaeologist and other interested parties must be maintained to ensure the project aims and objectives are achieved.

5 Further Guidance

- 5.1 Any further guidance or queries regarding the provision of a specification should be directed to:

Karen Derham
Assistant County Archaeologist
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Tel: 01670 534057
Fax: 01670 533409
e-mail: karen.derham@northumberland.gov.uk

6/10/10

FOR COPYRIGHT REASONS, ALL MAPS SUPPLIED BY NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL MUST BE RETURNED TO THEM ON COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT

Archaeological Watching Brief Report Check List

Site name:

Archaeological Contractor:

Check List	Contractor	Northumberland Conservation (NC)
Copy of report checklist		
Planning ref.		
Northumberland Conservation ref.		
OASIS ref.		
Confirmation that all OASIS sections completed incl. submission of grey literature		
8 figure grid reference		
Results		
Summary statement of the results		
Table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds		
Plans and sections		
Location plan at scale of at least 1:10000		
Plans showing location of archaeological work at recognisable planning scale		
Plans showing location of archaeological work with reference to national grid		
Detailed plans and sections at recognisable planning scale		
Above Ordnance Datum levels and levels below current ground level in the text		
Above Ordnance Datum levels included on plans and sections		
Any variation approved by NC prior to work commencing		

Contractor checked:

NC Officer checked:

Date:

Date:

**Flat 1, Wylam Hall, Church Road, Wylam,
Northumberland**

**Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological
Watching Brief**



**Archaeological Research
Services Ltd**

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This scheme of works relates to a proposal to install a flue and wood burning stove in the ground floor hallway of Flat 1, Wylam Hall, Church Road, Wylam, Northumberland. The work is to be carried out by appointed building contractors. The Hall is a grade II* listed structure, probably originating in the medieval period but with major alterations in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Its tunnel-vaulted ground floor suggests it being a former bastle or tower house. Historic records mention that the priory of Tynemouth was granted Wylam Manor some time before 1120, and an Ecclesiastical Court was held there in 1264. The manor is recorded as being destroyed by the Scots in the 14th century and restored between 1393 and 1413. A 15th century chamber, with a blocked-up doorway and window was discovered at the core of the house during renovation in 1912-13 (Rich 1913, 45-8).
- 1.2 The archaeological monitoring has been requested by Northumberland Conservation (NC) as the provision of a flue for the new wood burning stove, through an existing blocked-up fireplace in the ground floor hallway, has a potential to impact upon the historic fabric of the building. Discussion between the applicant/owner and NC has identified a course of action to enable the flue to be installed, and established that during the development work a programme of archaeological monitoring will be in place.
- 1.3 NC and the applicant/owner have identified a basic phasing of the affected part of the building, which consists of an 18th century brick wall built against the original building wall and vaulted ceiling curve, along with an opening that aligns with a blocked window visible within the original wall. That opening was probably used as a flue for an 18th century fireplace, which in turn was blocked and replaced by a smaller fireplace of possible 20th century date. Modern concrete was seen to have been poured down from the first floor, blocking all earlier voids.
- 1.4 This document is a written scheme of investigation (WSI) confirming the nature of the archaeological monitoring to be undertaken during a watching brief by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) at Flat 1, Wylam Hall, in accordance with the guidance from Northumberland Conservation's Assistant County Archaeologist.

2. Site Specific Requirements

- 2.1. The client for this work is Mr. D. Furniss (the owner of the property). The nature and extent of the works has been confirmed with the client and NC. This involves drilling through the modern concrete that has been poured into a void adjacent to a 20th century fireplace located within the corner of the room. This would allow for a flue to be connected to the wood-burning stove that would sit in front of the existing fireplace. NC have indicated that this work is likely to impact upon both the 20th century fireplace and a section of the 18th century

fireplace, however, they accept this as an acceptable loss from an archaeological perspective, and no detailed record is required prior to its removal. However, it has been agreed that archaeological monitoring is required during the work as it may become apparent, once the work is underway, that the agreed approach needs to be amended.

- 2.2 Such amendments to the agreed work should not impact on the original stonework, unless unavoidable, and in which case should be kept to a minimum. A continual archaeological presence will be undertaken during the proposed work as an advisory measure to counter the impact to the original building structure and to produce an appropriately accurate measured and phased drawn elevation of the wall affected by the work, as well as an appropriate written and photographic record.
- 2.3 **Should the nature of the proposed work require change that would have a significant impact upon the historic fabric of the building the archaeological contractor shall halt the work so that further consultation between the applicant/owner, archaeological consultant and NC can take place.**

3. Project Management and Standards

- 3.1. The project will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and will follow the IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
- 3.2. All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified and experienced for their respective project roles and have practical experience of archaeological excavation and recording. All staff will be made aware of the archaeological importance of the building and will be fully briefed on the work required by this specification. Each member of staff will be fully conversant with the aims and methodologies of the work and will be given a copy of this written scheme of investigation to read. All members of staff employed by Archaeological Research Services Ltd are fully qualified and experienced archaeologists, this will ensure that appropriate decisions regarding environmental and dating sampling will be made in the field.
- 3.3. All staff will familiarise themselves with the archaeological background of the site, and the results of any previous work in the area, prior to the start of work on site. All staff will be aware of the work required under the specification, and will understand the project aims and methodologies. Liaison will be undertaken with the client and building recording contractor to ensure that both schemes of work form a coherent whole in respect of the site investigation.

4. Methods

- 4.1. There shall be an continuous archaeological presence by the representative of Archaeological Research Services Ltd. during the proposed work, acting in an advisory role so as to avoid, wherever possible, significant damage to the historic fabric of the building.

5. Contingency

- 5.1 In the event of the discovery of archaeological features or remains which are a greater extent or number than anticipated, work will cease and Northumberland Conservation and the

applicant/owner will be notified. An assessment will be made of the importance of the features/remains and any provision for their recording or preservation *in situ* as appropriate.

- 5.2 The contingency for this project has been set by Northumberland Conservation as **up to 25 person days**.

6. Recording

- 6.1 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate measurement and sketch annotation will be made on site in order that measured and phased elevation(s) can be produced for the final report at an appropriate scale.
- 6.2 A photographic record of all features will be taken in colour print and black and white print and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept.

7. Access

- 7.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will give the representative of Northumberland Conservation 10 working days (or less if so agreed) notice of the commencement of the watching brief.
- 7.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will afford access to the representative of Northumberland Conservation at all times, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological watching brief.
- 7.3 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will maintain regular communication with Northumberland Conservation to ensure that the project aims and objectives are met.

8. Finds Processing and Storage

- 8.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in compliance with the IFA guidelines for Finds Work (2001) and those set out by UKIC (1990).
- 8.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.
- 8.3 Bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds will be appropriately bagged, boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.
- 8.4 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated. Prehistoric pottery will not be cleaned or be subject to any abrasion or loss of adhering residues.

- 8.5 During and after the excavation all objects will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (including controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.
- 8.6 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and the GNM-Hancock prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.
- 8.7 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

9. Site archive

- 9.1 The archive will be compiled in an orderly fashion to the standards and format set out in MORPHE (2006, 31, paragraph 2.5.3) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). The archive will be deposited with Woodhorn Archives within 6 months of the fieldwork once all post-excavation work is completed and the final report produced.

10. Report

- 10.1 One copy of the report will be submitted to the client. Two additional copies will be produced, one for the Northumberland HER and one for the Northumberland archives. These will be produced within two months of the completion of the work. Each report will be bound with each page and paragraph numbered and will include as a minimum the following:
 - The planning application number, Northumberland Conservation reference, OASIS reference number.
 - Executive summary
 - A site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale with 10 figure central grid reference
 - Contractor's details including date work carried out
 - Nature and extent of the proposed work, including developer/client details
 - Description of the site location and geology
 - Detailed discussion and Interpretation of the historic fabric encountered and a dating of any finds
 - Plans and elevation drawings showing the phasing of the fabric drawn at a suitable scale
 - Photographs including both general and detailed photographs of significant fabric and/or features of the building
 - An appendix comprising a register of all colour transparencies and black and white prints.

- Recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work including publication
- Bibliography

11. OASIS

- 11.1 ARS Ltd will complete an on-line OASIS form for this watching brief. ARS Ltd is a registered contractor on the OASIS system and has uploaded archaeological reports before.

12. Dissemination/Publication

- 12.1 A short summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted to Liz Williams, Northumberland HER Officer, by December of the year in which the work is completed.
- 12.2 A short report will also be submitted to a local journal if appropriate and in agreement with Northumberland Conservation.

13. References

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2008. *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*.

Rich, R. W. 1913. *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle*. 3rd series. Vol. 6, 45-8.

UKIC (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation). 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.