

## An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Friarage, Hartlepool



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## **Contents**

	List of Figures	
	Executive Summary.....	2
1.	Introduction.....	3
2.	Location and Geology.....	3
3.	Background.....	4
4.	Methodology.....	5
5.	Results.....	5
6.	Discussion.....	13
7.	Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright.....	13
8.	Statement of Indemnity.....	13
9.	Acknowledgments.....	13
10.	References.....	13

## List of Figures

1	Site location.....	3
2	Detailed Site location.....	4
3	Test Pit 1 showing stone wall.....	6
4	Test Pit 1 after excavation.....	6
5	Test Pit 1 showing detail of wall.....	6
6	Test Pit 2 showing the brick foundations.....	7
7	Test Pit 3 after excavation.....	8
8	Test Pit 4 after excavation.....	9
9	Test Pit 5 after excavation.....	10
10	Site plan showing test pit and borehole locations.....	11
11	Test Pit 1 plan.....	12

## ***Executive Summary***

*In November 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Galliford Try to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Friarage, Hartlepool, during geotechnical works in advance of the redevelopment of land surrounding The Friarage building. The work involved monitoring the excavation of a series of geotechnical test pits and boreholes*

*The site includes the remains of a former Franciscan Friary and a later 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion that succeeded it. The Friary has been partly excavated, revealing evidence of the robbed out walls of the Friary Church, cloister range and a number of human burials within it. Anglo-Saxon features, including buildings and boundary ditches have also been recorded.*

*A total of five geotechnical test pits and four boreholes were excavated across the site. A section of sandstone wall was encountered running across test pit 1. Not enough of the wall was exposed to determine its form or function. Three sections of brick-built wall foundation were encountered in test pit 2. It is thought that the brick remains are associated with the 19<sup>th</sup> century hospital that once stood on the site.*

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1. In November 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Galliford Try to undertake an archaeological watching brief at The Friarage, Hartlepool (Figure 1). The site contains the remains of a Franciscan Friary and a later 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion. The Friary has been partly excavated, revealing evidence of the robbed out walls of the Church and cloister range. A number of human burials were discovered within it. Anglo-Saxon features, including buildings and boundary ditches have also been recorded.
- 1.2. The proposed development includes restoring the 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion and constructing new houses on the land adjacent to it.

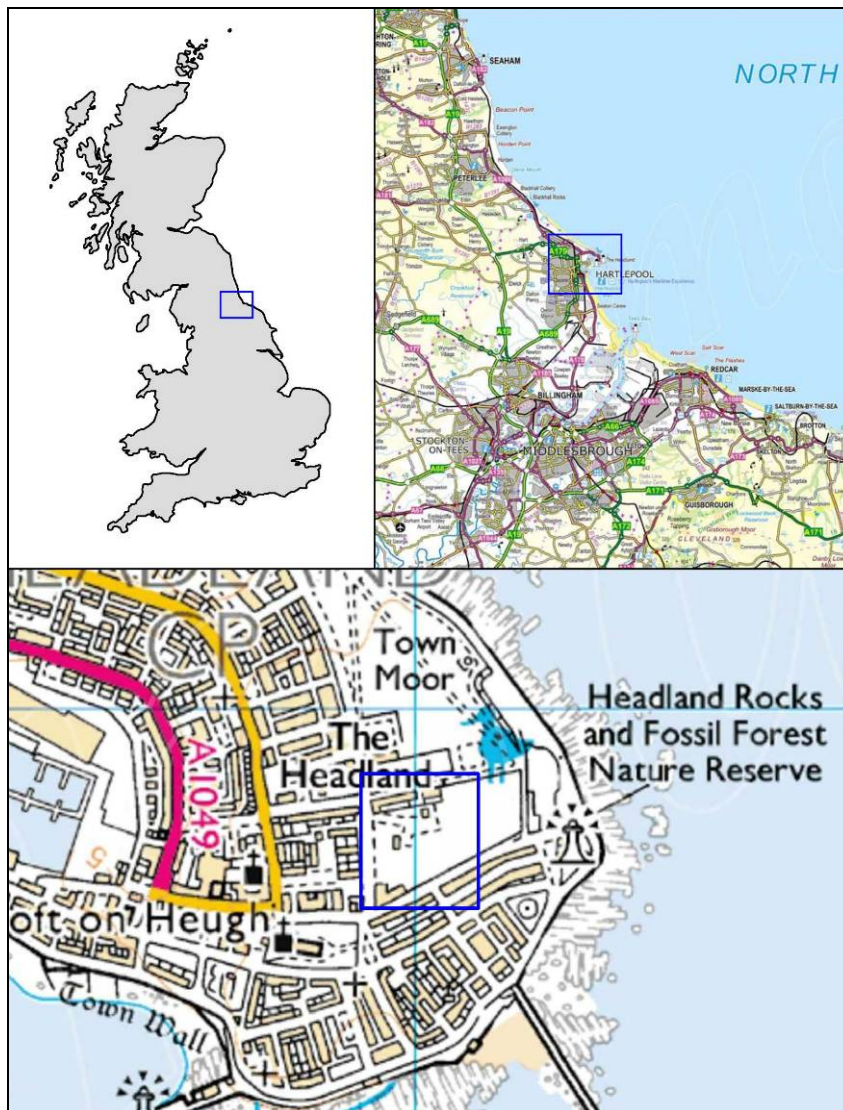


Figure 1: Site location Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420

## 2 Location and Geology

- 2.1 The watching brief took place on land adjacent to the 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion. The site lies approximately 200m to the west of The North Sea coast, approximately 100m to the south of Hartlepool Town Moor (Figure 2) and is centred at NZ 52970 33789.

- 2.2 The local geology is made up of Dolostone, of the Roker Formation. No drift geology for the area is recorded on the British Geological Survey website (BGS 2013).

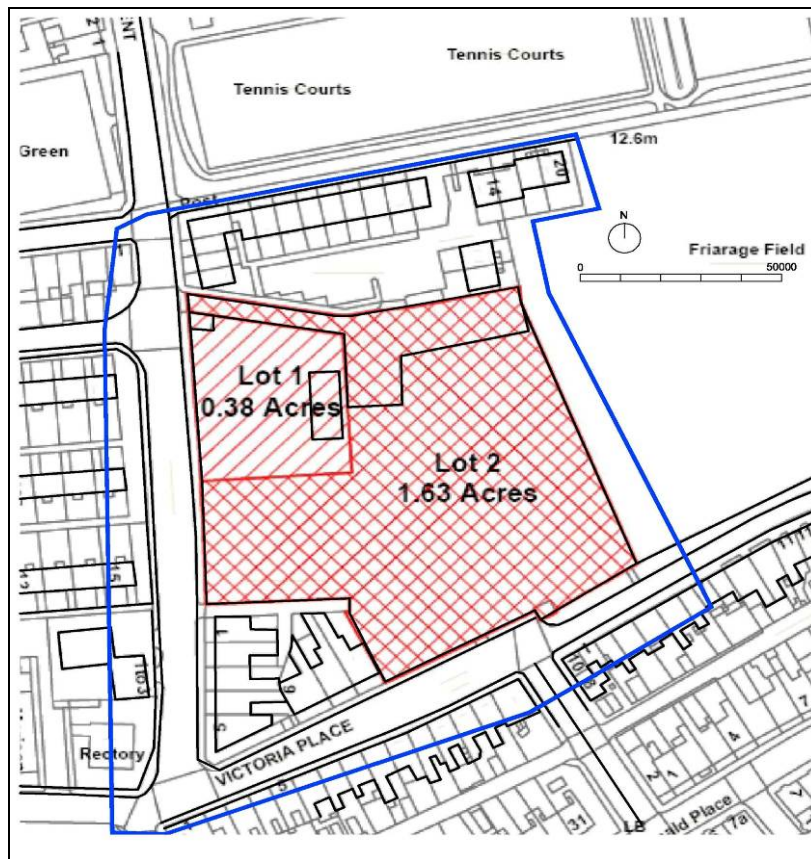


Figure 2: Detailed site location. Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420

### 3 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The town of Hartlepool has its origins in the medieval period, when it succeeded an Anglo-Saxon Monastery and settlement. The development site includes the archaeological remains of a former Franciscan Friary and a later upstanding 17<sup>th</sup> century Mansion that was constructed once the friary ceased to be in use.
- 3.2. Limited archaeological excavations of The Friary have been carried out in the past. Although the excavations only uncovered parts of the Friary, they revealed evidence to indicate that the Friary church walls had been robbed out. The cloister range was also excavated and a number of human burials were discovered within it. Anglo-Saxon features, including buildings and boundary ditches, have also been recorded on the site.
- 3.3 In the 19<sup>th</sup> century a hospital was established but was demolished in the mid 1980s. It is known that basements from the hospital are present, particularly in the south-west corner of the proposed development site.

#### **4. Methodology**

- 4.1 The watching brief involved the archaeological monitoring of geotechnical test pits and boreholes. All machine stripping was monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. All machine stripping was carried out using a toothless bucket.
- 4.2 All test pits were cleaned by hand sufficiently to allow the identification and planning of archaeological features. Where archaeological features were absent, sufficient work will be done to demonstrate this. Each trench was planned at an appropriate scale; 1:20 where complex deposits were present or 1:50 in areas of lesser complexity (omitted if the trench was completely blank). One representative long section of each trench was produced, at an appropriate scale, if necessary. Sections and profiles of each feature sampled were drawn at 1:10 or 1:20, depending on the size of the feature.

#### **5. Results**

##### **5.1. Test Pit 1**

- 5.1.1. Test Pit 1 was dug just slightly to the northwest of the Friarage. The pit was dug through the modern topsoil and turf (001), which had a depth of 0.18m, on to a layer of made ground consisting of demolition material (002). The made ground was 0.13m deep and consisted of dark brown, finely textured clayey silt containing brick and stone rubble. At this level, a ceramic pipe encased in concrete (003) was encountered in the southwest corner of the pit. Directly beneath the upper layer of made ground (002) was a paler layer of made ground (005), also consisting of demolition material. This contained crushed sandstone and mortar dust.
- 5.1.2. A sandstone wall was discovered within the layer of made ground (005). Initial investigation of the wall revealed blocks of un-bonded sandstone rubble. Further excavation found that the wall had survived much better at a lower level, however. The wall was running from north to south and was constructed of roughly faced sandstone blocks bonded with lime mortar. It appeared that the wall consisted of two rows of bonded sandstone blocks running parallel to each other. It is possible that the void in between would have originally been in-filled with rubble. The blocks of sandstone had an average size of 0.2m x 0.17m. Due to the limited size of the test pit it was not possible to determine anything more about the wall, such as form or function. No finds were recovered from the vicinity of the wall. A thin layer of concrete was found lying directly above the wall in the northern side of the trench. Further excavation of the trench revealed that the concrete was encasing another ceramic pipe (006). It appears that the wall had been partially demolished in order to lay the two ceramic pipes and this would account both for the rubble that was encountered during initial investigations and the lime mortar dust that was seen within the made ground (005). The wall had been built into the natural yellow sand (014) that sat beneath the made ground. The foundations were quite deep and substantial but unfortunately, due to the depth of the trench, further investigations were deemed too unsafe.
- 5.1.3. The test pit was dug through the natural sand (014) and excavation was terminated when the bedrock (012) was reached. At this point the trench had an overall depth of approximately 2.5m.





Figure 3: Test Pit 1 showing stone wall. Scale = 1m



Figure 4: Test Pit 1 after excavation.



Figure 5: Test Pit 1 showing detail of wall. Scale = 0.25m.



## **5.2. Test Pit 2**

- 5.2.1. Test Pit 2 was dug towards the southwest corner of the site. The pit was excavated through the modern turf and topsoil (001). Directly beneath the topsoil, a large concrete slab (007) was encountered. The trench was moved slightly to the east, in order to avoid the concrete slab, where three lines of brick foundations (008, 009 and 010) were uncovered. The brick foundations were within a layer of made ground (005) which consisted of grey-brown sandy silt with crushed sandstone. The foundations were running in a southwest-northeast direction and each was constructed of typically Victorian 9-inch, unfrogged, red engineering bricks measuring 0.11m x 0.23m x 0.07m and bonded with a cement mortar. Once the foundations had been recorded, an attempt was made to remove them using the mechanical digger. This was unsuccessful, however, so excavation of the trench was abandoned.



Figure 6: Test Pit 2 showing the brick foundations. Scale = 1m.

## **5.3. Test Pit 3**

- 5.3.1. Test Pit 3 was dug towards the centre of the development site. The pit was dug through the modern turf and topsoil (001) and down through made ground (002) that was 0.13m deep and consisted of dark brown, finely textured clayey silt containing brick and stone rubble. Beneath the made ground was a layer of very dark material consisting of ash, clinker and slag (011). This has been interpreted as a dump of industrial waste material. Beneath this layer was the natural yellow sand (014) sitting above the bedrock (012). No archaeological finds or features were found within this pit.



Figure 7: Test Pit 3 after excavation. Scale = 1m.

#### **5.4. Test Pit 4**

- 5.4.1. Test Pit 4 was located towards the southern extent of the site. The pit was dug through the modern turf and topsoil (001) and down through made ground (002) that was 0.13m deep and consisted of dark brown, finely textured clayey silt containing brick and stone rubble. Beneath the made ground was a layer of very dark material consisting of ash, clinker and slag (011). This has been interpreted as a dump of industrial waste material. Beneath the very dark layer was a layer of red/brown clay (013) that had a depth of 0.15m. The red/brown clay was sitting directly on top of the natural yellow sand (014) which in turn was sat on top of the bedrock (012).



Figure 8: Test Pit 4 after excavation. Scale = 1m.

## 5.5. Test Pit 5

- 5.5.1. Test Pit 5 was located slightly to the east of the Friarage building. The test pit was dug through topsoil and turf (001) which was overlying a thin layer of dark material consisting of ash, clinker and slag (011). Beneath this was a layer of made ground (005) containing crushed sandstone with a depth of 1m. Amongst the made ground were two sections of concrete (016 and 017) which, it was presumed, encased ceramic drains. The test pit was only extended down to the bedrock in between the two blocks of concrete. Beneath the made ground was the natural sand which was sitting directly on top of the bedrock.



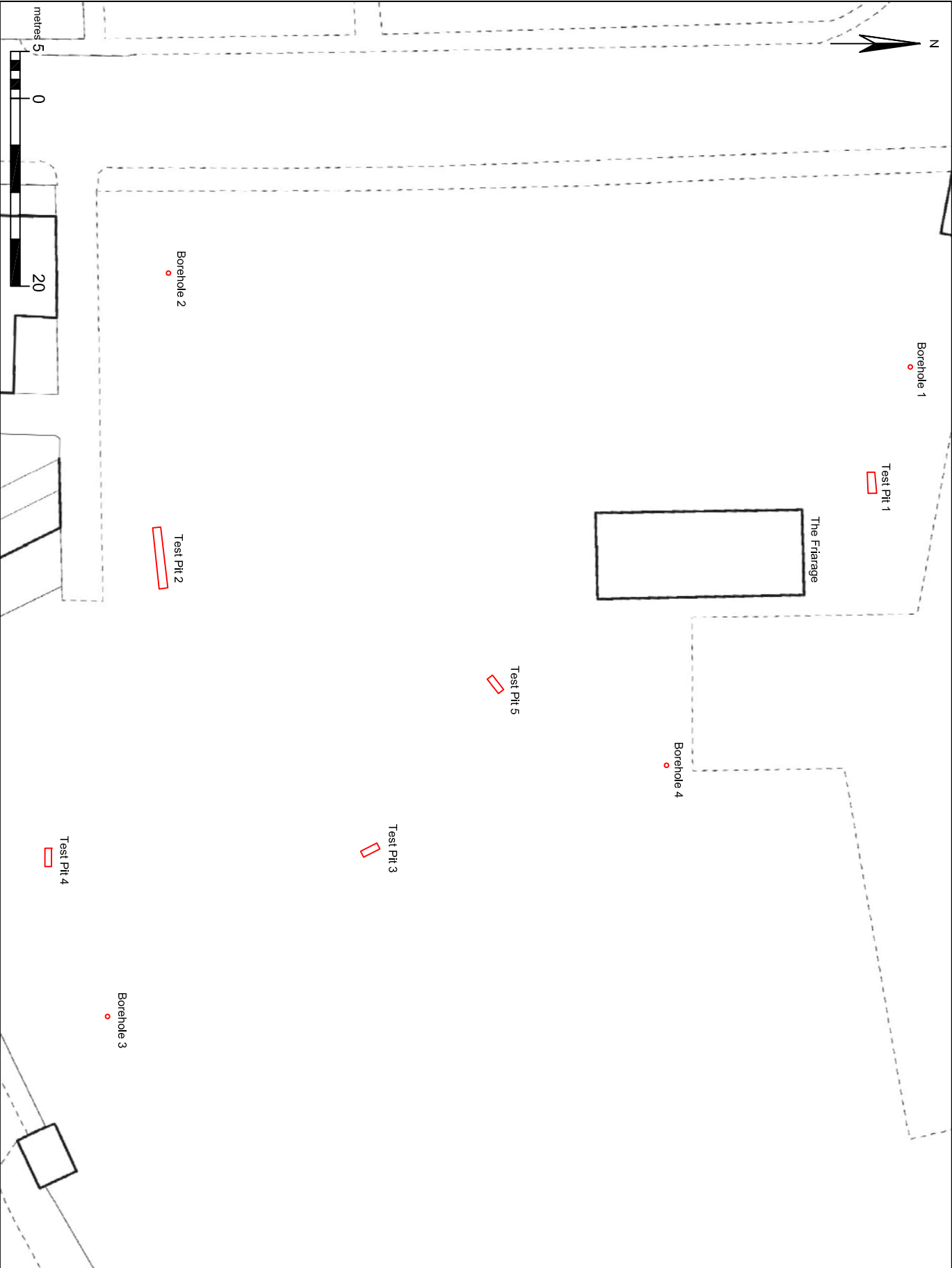


Figure 9: Test Pit 5 after excavation. Scale = 0.25m.

## **5.6. Boreholes**

- 5.6.1. A total of four boreholes were dug at various locations across the site. The holes were hand-excavated to a depth of 1.2m before being inspected and photographed. The hole was then extended down to the bedrock (012) with a drilling rig. Each borehole was dug through the topsoil and turf and through various layers of made ground containing brick and stone rubble. No archaeological finds or features were discovered in any of the four boreholes.





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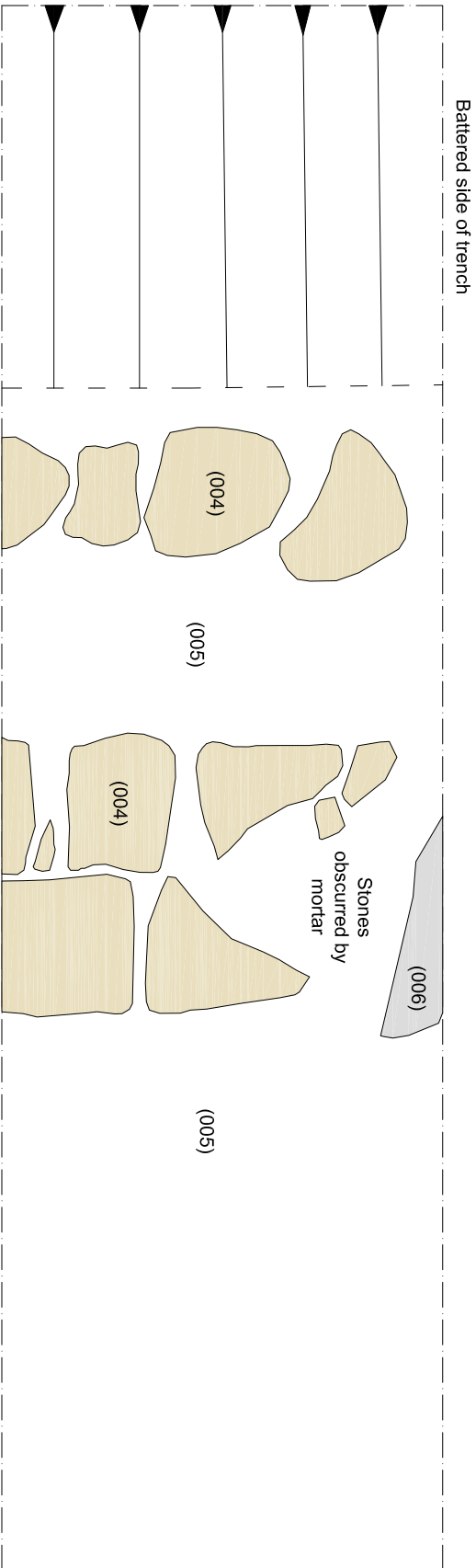
Site Code:  
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Date:  
Drawn:  
Scale:

Figure 10: Site plan showing test pit and borehole locations

Key:

Notes:

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Battered side of trench

Stones  
obscured by  
mortar

0.125 0 0.5 metres



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Site Code: FR113  
Drawing Ref:  
Date: 11.11.13  
Drawn: PC  
Scale: 1:10 at A4

Figure 11: Plan of Test Pit 1 showing  
wall remains

Key:

Notes:

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## **6. Discussion**

- 6.1. It is possible that the short length of stone wall encountered in Test Pit 1 is associated with the 17<sup>th</sup> century mansion that still stands on the site. However not enough of the structure was revealed to determine its form or function.
- 6.2. The brick foundations found in Test Pit 2 appear to relate to the 19<sup>th</sup> century hospital that once stood in the southwest part of the site. Again, however, due to the narrow width of the trench no more can be said about the remains. The made ground encountered across the site has been interpreted as demolition waste that was produced when the 19<sup>th</sup> century hospital was demolished.

## **7. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright**

- 7.1. Any publicity will be handled by the client.
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## **8. Statement of Indemnity**

- 8.1 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.

## **9. Acknowledgements**

- 9.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with this work, in particular Stephen Bell of Galliford Try, Lee Barr of Portland Consulting and Peter Rowe, development control archaeologist for Durham County Council.

## **10. References**

British Geological Survey (BGS) <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/>