

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Lyncroft, Hill Street, Corbridge



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Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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Executive Summary

In October 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Mr. and Mrs. Joyce to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the demolition of a former farm building to the rear of Lyncroft, Hill Street in Corbridge, Northumberland. The work involved the archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with a new development of a rear kitchen extension over the footprint of the pre-existing building, including excavation for the provision of services, foundations and any groundworks associated with ground clearance and substantial landscaping.

The historic building recording of the former farm workshop has provided a comprehensive record of its form and character, and shown the changes which had taken place to the building over time. The building was clearly agricultural in character, possibly functioning as a cart shed or workshop and dated to the mid-late 19th century.

No archaeological finds or were encountered during the watching brief.

1. Introduction

1.1 In October 2013 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd.) was commissioned by Mr and Mrs Joyce to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the demolition of a former farm building to the rear of Lyncroft, Hill Street in Corbridge, Northumberland (Figure 1), as required in accordance with the brief provided by Northumberland Conservation (NC ref T13/24; 15857 dated 26/6/2013). The work was carried out following the approval of a planning application (ref. no. 12/03478/FUL) for the demolition of the current building and its replacement with a new rear kitchen extension.

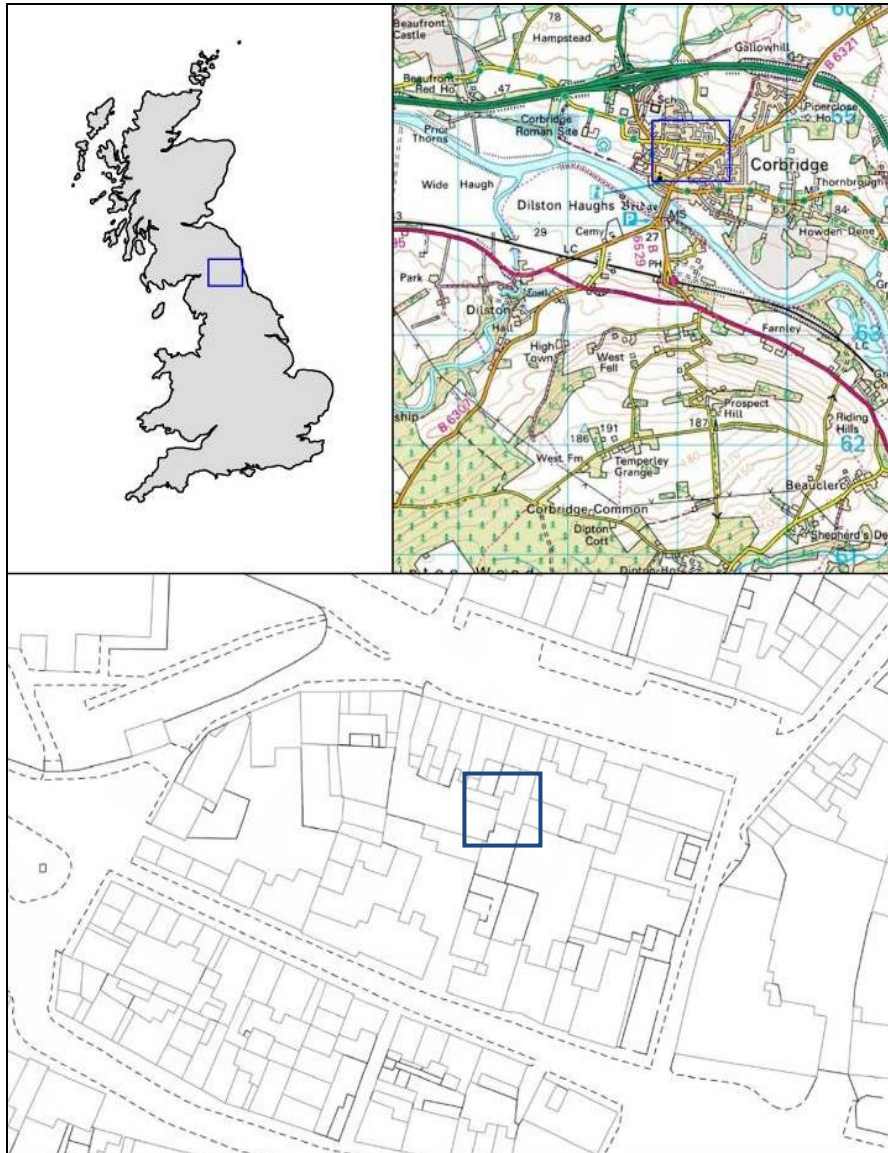


Figure 1: Site Location. (Ordnance Survey data Copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence No. 100045420).

2. Location and Geology

2.1 The building is located in the centre of Corbridge, Northumberland and the site is centred at NGR NY 98921 64387. The solid geology of the area consists of Sandstone of

the Stainmore Formation, overlain by glacio-fluvial deposits of undifferentiated sand and gravels (BGS 2014).

2.2 The building is not listed, but is located within Character Area 1 of the Corbridge Conservation Area (Tynedale Council 2009).



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 Corbridge began as the Roman garrison town of Corstopitum which grew up at a crossing point of the River Tyne. This crossing point would doubtless have been an important focal point in the landscape prior to the Roman period, however, and there have been a relatively large number of finds of prehistoric date around the town. The Roman fort was established by Agricola on the western outskirts of the present town. It was one of the largest stations in the north of England and became an important supply base for the Roman military frontiers along Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall. This function attracted a significant civilian settlement in the later period and whilst little is known of the immediate post-roman period in the area, there have been burials of fifth to sixth century date discovered within the area of the previous Roman settlement, testifying to some continuity of settlement in the area (NCC and EH 2008, 5-6).

3.2 The subsequent medieval village of Corbridge was established around half a mile to the east of the Roman fort, in the area of the present town. The development site is located within this area in a block where buildings will have fronted Hill Street to the north and Middle Street to the south with narrow burgage plots to the rear (NCC brief see Appendix 1). The village developed into an important market town and by the 13th century it was

second only to Newcastle in terms of its population size and wealth. It was affected by Border conflict in the 13th and 14th centuries, when the Black Death also affecting towns and villages across the county. It appears that the village then went into a long period of decline and in the 17th century the medieval bridge is recorded as being in a state of disrepair and the market had failed (NCC and EH 2008, 5-6).

3.3. During the 19th century the town was revived through tourism, industry and the arrival of the railway. The railway station was established on the south side of the river which prompted development and expansion of the town beyond the limits of the previous medieval settlement (NCC and EH 2008, 5-6).

3.4. The development site has the potential to impact upon remains of medieval date, and has a lesser potential to impact upon remains of Roman date. The most likely remains to be encountered would be medieval burgage plots which had a variety of uses from industrial activity to garden use and rubbish disposal. To date, the only archaeological investigation to the rear of a property on Hill Street involved an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundations to a depth of c.0.6m below current ground level. The groundworks did not exceed the depth of 19th century garden soils and as a result did not provide more detailed information about the nature, extent, density or significance of surviving archaeological remains in this area (NCC brief, see Appendix 1).

4. Methodology

4.1 The watching brief area comprised one trench measuring 3m in length x 1.45m in width and a maximum depth of 0.85m (Figure 3).

4.2 All relevant groundworks were undertaken with a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket and where necessary, hand dug by the onsite contractors. All digging was carried out under archaeological supervision.

4.3 The deposits were recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. Each context was recorded on pro-forma records which included the following: character and contextual relationships; detailed description (dimensions and shape; soil components, colour, texture and consistency); interpretation and phasing as well as cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers.

4.4 The trench was planned at 1:20. Trench sides were also drawn in section at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record was maintained including photographs of the trench. All photographs were of digital format.

5. Results

5.1 The trench measured 3m in length, 1.45m in width and had a maximum depth of 0.85m. It was dug on a north-south orientation and was situated between the existing outhouse and the new extension at Lyncroft. The trench was dug in order to facilitate the installation of new drainage for the extension being built.

5.2 A concrete layer (001) had previously overlain the excavation area. Context (001) had a maximum thickness of 0.08m and been removed prior to excavation although it was still evident in the trench sides (Figure 3).

5.3 Directly below (001) was a light greyish yellow sandy, slightly silty deposit with a high frequency of large to medium (50mm to 200mm), sub rounded cobbles (002). This deposit was 0.27m in thickness and is likely to represent a bedding layer for the concrete surface (001) (Figure 3). Context (001) was excavated to a width of 1.45m.



Figure 3. West facing view of cobble deposit (002).

5.4 Immediately below (001) was a light greyish yellow slightly sand, with occasional small fragments of broken brick, with a maximum depth of 0.22m (002) and a maximum width of 0.54m, (Figure 4). It is possible that this deposit was a bedding layer for (001).

5.5 Immediately below (002) was a dark orangey brown, slightly silty subsoil (003) which contained occasional, sub angular stones. This deposit was 0.36m in depth and 0.54m in width (Figure 5).

5.6 At the extreme northern end of the trench was a late 19th century, early 20th century ceramic drainage pipe (004) (Figure 6). Context (004) is the existing drainage pipe for Lyncroft and was to be removed, with a new drainage system being added. The cut of the pipe was evident [005] and it appeared that the drainage was cut through existing layers. Context [005] was filled with a re-deposited layer (006), which was a light orangey brown, slightly silty soil with occasional small fragments of broken modern brick.



Fig 4. South west facing view of the trench.



Fig 5. South facing view of Trench 1.



Fig 6. South facing view of trench. Ceramic pipe (004) evident at northern extent of trench.

6. Discussion

6.1. The watching brief at Lyncroft did not encounter any archaeological finds or features. The drainage channel described above was the only part of the groundworks for the extension that were observed by an archaeologist.

7. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

7.1. Any publicity will be handled by the client.

7.2. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

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 Nick Best, Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland.

10. References

NCC and EH. 2008. *Corbridge Extensive Urban Survey*. Northumberland County Council and English Heritage.

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

<http://www.pastscape.org.uk/>

www.transportheritage.com

LYNCROFT, HILL STREET, CORBRIDGE, NORTHUMBERLAND

Brief for an Archaeological Watching Brief

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A planning application has been submitted for a proposed single storey rear extension following demolition of the existing outbuilding, Lyncroft, Hill Street, Corbridge, Northumberland (Fig 1).
- 1.2 The site is located within the medieval settlement of Corbridge in a block where buildings will have fronted Hill Street to the north and Middle Street to the south with narrow burgage plots to the rear. The application area includes the area to the immediate rear of Lyncroft. To date, the only archaeological investigation to the rear of a property on Hill Street involved an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundations to a depth of c.0.6m below current ground level. The groundworks did not exceed the depth of 19th century garden soils and as a result did not provide more detailed information about the nature, extent, density or significance of surviving archaeological remains in this area.
- 1.3 Archaeological investigations across the county and within Corbridge have shown that medieval burgage plots were used for a variety of activities range from industrial activity to garden use and rubbish disposal. This variety of uses can vary on a plot by plot basis with the build-up of later deposits also varying significantly between plots. Archaeological investigations have also shown the frequent presence of successive plot boundaries and sub-divisions over the centuries.
- 1.4 Previous archaeological investigations in Corbridge have revealed evidence of a medieval corn-drying kiln, industrial activity, plot divisions and sub-divisions and medieval buildings in the burgage plots behind the street frontage to the north of Main Street. Evidence for ironworking has also been found to the rear of the Angel Inn c.25m east of the boundary of this site. The proposed development is therefore located in an area of definite archaeological potential.

1.5 National Policy Background

- 1.5.1 Policy relating to the assessment and mitigation of impacts to the heritage resource within the planning system is set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework*. The Framework identifies that the planning system should perform 'an environmental role', contributing to and protecting the built and historic environment¹ and that the pursuit of 'sustainable development' includes seeking improvements to the built, natural and historic environment.²
- 1.5.2 The Framework further clarifies that, in circumstances where heritage assets will be damaged or lost as a result of development, Local Planning Authorities should

¹ NPPF Paragraph 7

² NPPF Paragraph 9

require developers to record and advance the understanding of the asset to be lost in a manner appropriate to the significance of the asset. The evidence (and any archive) generated as part of the plan making process should be made publically accessible; copies of the evidence generated should be deposited with the relevant Historic Environment Record and archives with the relevant museum.³

1.6 Archaeological mitigation of development impact

1.6.1 Having assessed the potential impact of the development on the archaeological resource, Northumberland Conservation has advised Northumberland County Council (NCC) Development Management Team (Western Area) that should permission be granted, a condition should be attached to the permission requiring a programme of archaeological mitigation consistent with the objectives of paragraphs 141; 176; 203-206 of the *National Planning Policy Framework*.

1.7 Northumberland Conservation Charging Policy

1.7.1 Northumberland Conservation operates a charging policy. Charges are calculated to recover the costs of staff time and travel associated with the preparation and monitoring of archaeological assessment and mitigation work in the planning context.

1.7.2 A copy of the current charging policy can be viewed via the Northumberland County Council website⁴.

1.7.3 This is an application for a Householder development. **Fees as set out in the charging document will apply for this type of application (Table 1).**

1.8 Purpose of the Brief

1.8.1 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'.**

1.8.2 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 Written Scheme of Investigation/Project Design/Method Statement to Northumberland Conservation for approval prior to work commencing. **The mitigation brief is tied directly into the planning condition and as a result there will be no charge for the production of a mitigation brief.**

1.9 Purpose of the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)

1.9.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)/Project Design/Method Statement should be produced in line with the detailed requirements laid out in the brief or following detailed discussion with the Assistant County Archaeologist.

1.9.2 The WSI should be based on a thorough study of all relevant background

³ NPPF Paragraph 141 and footnote 30

⁴ <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1627> Charging Policy document

information, in particular any assessment or evaluation reports or, in their absence, data held or referenced in Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER). *Contractors should therefore ensure that they have made provision to consult the HER as part of any required tender submissions or project costings. **The results should be included in the written scheme of investigation.***

- 1.9.3 The developer should discuss the extent of the development, the nature of the works and their intended scope of works with their archaeological contractor **prior to the production of a WSI**, in order that an appropriate programme of archaeological monitoring can be **agreed and confirmed within the WSI**.
- 1.9.4 The archaeological contractor will need to confirm if they intend to use digital or slide and print photography. Contact should be made with the relevant Archives (see sections 3.4 and 4.1) to discuss their requirements **prior to the production of the WSI. Details of these requirements should be included in the WSI for approval.** *Contractors should therefore ensure that they have made provision for any associated fees as part of any required tender submissions or project costings.*
- 1.9.5 In line with part (a) of the planning condition, work cannot commence on site until the WSI has been submitted to NCC Development Management Team (Western Area) and approved in writing on the advice of Northumberland Conservation. Northumberland Conservation now charges for this service. The current costs laid out in the charging document will apply for a Householder application (Table 1 point 9).⁵

2 Method of work

- 2.1 The purpose of this work is to ensure that important archaeological remains are not destroyed without first being adequately recorded.
- 2.2 The proposed development has the potential to disturb important archaeological remains associated with medieval and later settlement remains and back plot activity. It is considered that in this case a watching brief is the appropriate archaeological response. The watching brief should cover the following groundworks for the development:
- Groundworks associated with the construction of the extension
 - Excavations for the provision of services
 - Any groundworks associated with site clearance or significant landscaping
- 2.3 Should the groundworks not exceed modern disturbance or equally should they exceed the depth at which archaeological remains are present, Northumberland Conservation should be contacted in order to establish whether the watching brief need continue in these specific areas.

⁵ <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1627> Charging Policy document

2.4 General Standards

2.4.1 All work should be carried out in compliance with the Regional Statement of Good Practice⁶ and the codes of conduct of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA)⁷ and should follow the IfA Standards for Watching Briefs⁸.

2.4.2 All staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles.

2.4.3 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.

2.4.4 Pre-site work preparation

- i) A specification in line with this brief must be submitted and approved by Northumberland Conservation **prior** to work commencing.
- ii) As required by Paragraph 128 of the *National Planning Policy Framework*, the appointed contractor must consult the Historic Environment Record as part of the site assessment process. Contractors should therefore ensure that they have made provision to consult the HER as part of any required tender submissions or project costings. The results should be included in the written scheme of investigation.
- iii) **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).**
- v) **The Great North Museum, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and ADS (if digital photography is being used) should be contacted to discuss archiving prior to work commencing.**

2.4.5 Fieldwork

- i) This observation shall involve the systematic examination and accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and artefacts identified.
- ii) **If archaeological remains are uncovered, the archaeologist should be given the opportunity of excavating and recording the remains before they are destroyed.**
- iii) 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.

⁶ Yorkshire, The Humber and the North-East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process (25 November 2009)

⁷ Institute for Archaeologists, 2008, *By-Laws: Code of Conduct* (23 October 2008):

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

⁸ 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>

- Where skeletons are encountered, they should be recorded by photography and the use of pro forma skeleton recording sheets.
- iv) 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. All archaeological deposits and features and at the top and base of all groundworks must be recorded with an **above Ordnance Datum (aOD)** level.
 - v) A photographic record of all contexts 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. **If the archaeological contractor would prefer to use digital photography as standard, the digital photographs will need to be submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) for long-term archive storage. ADS will need to be approached prior to the production of the Written Scheme of Investigation (see section 1.7.1) and the digital archiving details included in that document. Contact details can be provided by Northumberland Conservation on request.**
 - vi) In the event of human burials being discovered, the archaeologist will procure and comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Burial Act 1857.
 - vii) **Where any part of a human burial is disturbed, the whole burial must be archaeologically excavated.**
 - viii) 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.
 - ix) 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 10 person-days.
- 3.3 In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens (of whatever period, date or function) are identified during the watching brief, provision should be made to collect at least one archaeo-magnetic date to be calculated from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwellings sites a minimum of one per building identified). Where applicable, samples to be collected from the site and processed by a suitably trained specialist for dating purposes. In the event that such deposits or structures are identified, the Conservation Team should be contacted to discuss the appropriate response. This specific aspect of the sampling strategy should also be discussed in advance with English Heritage as per 'General Standards' above.

3.4 Site monitoring and visits

- 3.4.1 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.
- 3.4.2 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.
- 3.4.3 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.
- 3.4.4 Northumberland Conservation has identified that 1 site visit may be required for the mitigation programme. Site visits are chargeable – the fees set out in the current fee structure document will apply (Table 1, points 11 & 12)⁹ at the standard hourly rate plus mileage. Any additional visits requested by the developer will be charged for at the rate stated in the charging document. Visits estimated that do not occur, will not be charged for. Site visits will be charged on the basis of return mileage from County Hall to the site.

4 Post-excavation work and reporting

4.1 Finds

- 4.1.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds must be carried out in compliance with the IfA Guidelines for Finds Work¹⁰ and those set by UKIC.
- 4.1.2 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 retain artefacts adequate provision must be made for recording them. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer.
- 4.1.3 All retained artefacts must be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

4.2 Site Archive

- 4.2.1 Paragraph 141 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* clarifies that Local Planning Authorities should make evidence gathered as part of archaeological mitigation exercises, including any archive, publically accessible. Copies of the primary report should be deposited with the Historic Environment Record and the archive deposited with an agreed local museum.
- 4.2.2 Archiving work must be carried out in compliance with the IfA Guidelines for

⁹ <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1627> Charging Policy document

¹⁰ 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>

Archiving ¹¹.

- 4.2.3 The archive and the finds must be deposited in the Great North Museum, within **6 months** of completion of the post-excavation work and report.
- 4.2.4 Before the commencement of fieldwork, contact should be made with the landowners and with the Great North Museum to make the relevant arrangements. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer.
- 4.2.5 *If the archaeological contractor would prefer to use digital photography as standard, the digital photographs will need to be submitted to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) for long-term archive storage within 6 months of completion of the post-excavation work is and the report.***
- 4.2.6 Northumberland Conservation will require confirmation that the archive had been submitted in a satisfactory form to the relevant depository before recommending to the local planning authority that the condition should be fully discharged.**

4.3 Report

- 4.3.1 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.
- 4.3.2 Northumberland Conservation requires one bound paper copy and one digital copy (in Word or PDF format) of the report.
- 4.3.3 Each page and paragraph should be numbered within the report and illustrations cross-referenced within the text.
- 4.3.4 The report should include as a minimum the following:
- i) Planning application number, Northumberland Conservation reference, OASIS reference number, Archive reference and an 8 figure grid reference
 - ii) A summary statement of the results
 - iii) A copy of this brief
 - iv) A copy of the 'check-list' appended to this brief
 - v) A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds
 - vi) Above Ordnance Datum levels and levels below current ground level in the text
 - vii) A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
 - viii) A location plan of the extent of the watching brief within the site. This must be at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Historic Environment Record
 - ix) Plans and sections of archaeology located at a recognisable planning scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate)
 - x) Above Ordnance Datum (aOD) levels included on plans and sections
 - xi) Both aOD levels and depth below current ground level to be included within

¹¹ 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>

- the text
- xii) **Any variation to the above requirements should be approved by the planning authority prior to work being submitted**

4.4 Approval of report

- 4.4.1 In line with the planning condition, the report will need to be submitted to NCC Development Management Team (Western Area) and approved in writing before the condition can be discharged. Approval of the report will be on the advice of Northumberland Conservation.
- 4.4.2 There will be a fixed charge for approving the report submitted at the post-excavation phase, including (if appropriate) interim and final reports. This cost has been based on the estimated time required to complete this activity. **Details are set out in the published Fee Structure (Table 1 point 14).**¹²

4.5 OASIS

- 4.5.1 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.
- 4.5.2 The archaeological consultant or contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://oasis.ac.uk/>. 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**

4.6 Publication

- 4.6.1 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.
- 4.6.2 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

¹² <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=1627> Charging Policy document

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 622655
Fax: 01670 533409
e-mail: Karen.derham@northumberland.gov.uk

26/6/13

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		
Archive reference		
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:

Lyncroft, Corbridge, Northumberland

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief



Archaeological Research
Services Ltd

1. Introduction

1.1 A planning application (ref. no. 12/03478/FUL) outlining the proposed demolition of a former farm building and erection of a single-storey extension, located to the rear of Lyncroft, Corbridge (centred NGR: NY 98921 64387), has been approved by Northumberland County Council (NCC).

1.2 This document is a written scheme of investigation (WSI) confirming the nature of the archaeological watching brief to be undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd), on behalf of Mr and Mrs Joyce, for approval by Nick Best, Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland.



Figure 1: Location plan of Former Farm building to the rear of Lyncroft, Corbridge. (Ordnance Survey data Copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence No. 100045420).

2. Objectives

- 2.1. The purpose of the watching brief is to ensure that important archaeological remains are not destroyed without first being adequately recorded
- 2.2. The watching brief will cover the following groundworks for the development:
 - Groundworks associated with the construction of the extension
 - Excavations for the provision of services
 - Any groundworks associated with site clearance or significant landscaping

3. Background

3.1. The site is located within the medieval settlement of Corbridge in a block where buildings will have fronted Hill Street to the north and Middle Street to the south with narrow burgage plots to the rear. The application area includes the area to the immediate rear of Lyncroft. To date, the only archaeological investigation to the rear of a property on Hill Street involved an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of foundations to a depth of $\approx 0.6\text{m}$ below current ground level. The groundworks did not exceed the depth of 19th century garden soils and as a result did not provide more detailed information about the nature, extent, density or significance of surviving archaeological remains in this area.

3.2. Archaeological investigations across the county and within Corbridge have shown that medieval burgage plots were used for a variety of activities range from industrial activity to garden use and rubbish disposal. This variety of uses can vary on a plot by plot basis with the build-up of later deposits also varying significantly between plots. Archaeological investigations have also shown the frequent presence of successive plot boundaries and sub-divisions over the centuries.

3.3. Previous archaeological investigations in Corbridge have revealed evidence of a medieval corn-drying kiln, industrial activity, plot divisions and sub-divisions and medieval buildings in the burgage plots behind the street frontage to the north of Main Street. Evidence for ironworking has also been found to the rear of the Angel Inn $\approx 25\text{m}$ east of the boundary of this site. The proposed development is therefore located in an area of definite archaeological potential.

3.4. The Corbridge Extensive Urban Survey (Finlayson and Hardie 2010) synthesises the information held in the Northumberland HER and provides significant background information on the site and its wider environs. The site archaeologist will be fully apprised of archaeological and historic background to the site and the potential below ground archaeology that may be encountered during the watching brief.

4. Fieldwork Methodology

- 4.1. All relevant groundworks will be undertaken by a suitable mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. If significant archaeological features are identified, NCC, will be notified and a decision taken as to the best method of proceeding.
- 4.2. ARS Ltd will provide a suitably qualified archaeologist at all times during any ground works on the site to undertake a watching brief. The on-site archaeologist will be fully apprised of the archaeological potential of the site. The archaeologist will be given the opportunity to stop site work in order to investigate potential archaeological features and adequate time will be allowed for

recording any such features.

4.3. A written, drawn and photographic record will be maintained during the watching brief plus all significant archaeological remains will be recorded and/or retrieved. All excavations will be recorded in accordance with normal principles of archaeological evaluation and the relevant Institute for Archaeologists guidance upon pro forma context sheets (this will include at a minimum trench record sheets, an accurate site plan and record photography where no archaeological features are present).

4.4. Where archaeological features and/or deposits are identified during the watching brief, then a sufficient quantity of the said features will be investigated by hand to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascribed. All features thus investigated will be recorded in plan and section and significant archaeological finds recovered will be retained for analysis. Any archaeological features identified will be photographed and drawn in plan at a scale of 1:20 and in section at a scale of 1:10. The stratigraphy, where relevant and apparent, will be recorded. All significant archaeological features will be photographed (with scale) *in situ* and their location recorded on a plan of the site.

4.5. For brick structures, the record will include details of brick dimensions and type (handmade/machine-made, plain/frogged), mortar (colour, composition, hardness) and the extent of structures (number of courses, thickness in skins). Brick samples will be taken for structures likely to pre-date the mid 19th century.

4.6. Site photography will be in 35mm b/w print film, duplicated by high resolution (7 megapixel or greater) colour DSLR photography. Should the watching brief be wholly negative digital photography only will be provided to illustrate the report. Photography will include general site shots, shots of the excavation area and shots of individual features and groups of features. All photographs will include a suitable photographic scale (where appropriate) and will be recorded on a photographic register with the subject and direction of each shot.

4.7. A plan of the excavated areas will be maintained, features noted and section lines recorded. All drawings will be carried out at an appropriate scale and all contexts will be recorded using a single context recording system. Sample representative levels will be taken to record the maximum depth of excavation and /or natural should no archaeological features be uncovered. The site archive will include plans and sections at an appropriate scale, a scale photographic record, and full stratigraphic records on recording forms/context sheets or their electronic equivalent. Should archaeological features be present then the locations and height AOD of the features will be accurately fixed, surveying in either the planning baselines or the features themselves.

4.8. The watching brief will be undertaken in accordance regional guidance from the Yorkshire, The Humber and the North-East *Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process* (2009) and in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists *Code of Conduct* (2008) and *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2008).

4.9. Any human remains discovered will initially be left *in-situ* and, if removal is deemed necessary, this will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations and in discussion with DCC.

4.10. ARS Ltd will ensure that heavy plant or machinery will not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded. Contractors and plant operators will be notified that any observations of archaeological remains must be reported immediately to the archaeologist on site.

4.11. A risk assessment will be undertaken before commencement of the work and health and safety regulations will be adhered to at all times.

5. Artefact and Ecofact collection and Recording

5.1. Artefact collection policy will be concerned with the provision of adequate samples for meeting the objectives of the work. All finds of 19th century and earlier date will be collected as a matter of course. All retained finds and palaeo-environmental samples will be treated in accordance with the EH guidance document *A strategy for the care and investigation of finds (1995)*. Discarded artefactual materials will be described and quantified through assignment to broad categories in the field. Analysis of finds will be undertaken, as necessary, by suitably qualified specialists. Retained finds will be cleaned, marked, catalogued and packed in materials, as appropriate, for long term storage (see 9 Archive Deposition below).

5.2. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives or are of particular intrinsic interest. Finds of 'treasure' will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (1996).

5.3. Collection and policies for structural remains and industrial residues have been set out by the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA, 1993). The presence of such materials within a context will be recorded even where comprehensive retention is not considered appropriate.

5.4. The representative from ARS Ltd will inspect and monitor the upcast spoil from the site investigations, and unstratified pottery will be retained only if it is of 19th century date, or earlier.

5.5. If significant waterlogged deposits are found, which are judged to be of palaeoenvironmental significance in relation to archaeological deposits, then contingency will be set aside to allow for retrieval and assessment of such samples.

6. Monitoring Arrangements

6.1. The watching brief will be undertaken during all groundworks associated with the construction of the new building, and NCC will be informed of the start date. Should complex archaeological features be discovered, requiring detailed recording, a contingency will be required. The allocation of this contingency will be agreed with the client and NCC. Consultation between the client, ARS Ltd and NCC will be required at the end of the archaeological watching brief to ensure that all the below ground archaeology has been adequately recorded.

6.2. ARS Ltd will liaise with David Bull, Assistant County Archaeologist at Northumberland County Council, at regular intervals throughout the course of the work:

David Bull
Assistant County Archaeologist
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

7. Staffing

7.1. The Project Manager for the watching brief will be Chris Scott BA MA MifA, Operations Manager at ARS Ltd. The Project Officer will be Gillian Eadie BSc PhD, Projects Officer at ARS Ltd. Statements of competence for all project staff are available upon request.

7.2. Finds analysis will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed subject to availability.

- Samian ware – Felicity Wild
- Roman Small finds – Lisa Watling
- Roman Pottery – Ruth Leary
- Environmental Assessment – Laura Strafford
- Industrial Remains – Chris Scott
- Flint and Prehistoric Pottery – Dr Clive Waddington
- Clay Pipe and Victoriana – Mike Wood
- Human and Animal Bone – Kate Mapplethorpe
- Radiocarbon Dating – SUERC
- Finds conservation and environmental analysis – Durham University

8. Report

8.1. Following completion of the watching brief ARS Ltd will produce a report which will include:

- Planning application number, Northumberland Conservation reference, and archive reference (if applicable)
- Non-technical summary
- Introductory statement
- Aims and purpose of the project
- Methodology
- A location plan showing all excavated areas and any archaeological features with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads
- Illustrations of all archaeological features with appropriately scaled hachured plans and sections.
- An objective summary statement of results
- Conclusions
- Supporting data – tabulated or in appendices
- Index to archive and details of archive location
- References
- Statement of intent regarding publication
- Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements
- A copy of the NCC brief and the approved WSI
- A copy of the OASIS number

8.2. Within the report:

- All plans will be clearly related to the national grid.
- All levels will be quoted relative to ordnance datum.

8.3. If significant archaeological remains are identified the report will include:

- Detailed description and plans (at 1:50 scale) of any areas which provided significant archaeological information, all feature plans and sections (at 1:10 or 1:20 scale), select artefact illustrations, photographs and an overall site plan showing all recorded archaeological features.
- Finds quantification and assessment.
- Assessment of any palaeo-environmental samples taken.
- A summary of the extent, depth and state of preservation of archaeological deposits across the site.

8.4. Copies of the final report, bound paper copy and as a PDF, will be deposited with the DCC Archaeology Section, and will be submitted to the Senior County Archaeologist within six weeks of the completion of fieldwork. DCC will be granted copyright license to use the report for the purposes of the HER.

9. Archive Deposition

9.1. A digital, paper and artefactual archive, which will consist of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data, will be submitted to the Great North Museum, if necessary, in discussion with NCC. Should the watching brief be wholly negative; no such archive may be necessary and a summary report (1x hard copy and 1 x pdf) will provide a sufficient archive.

9.2. All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive (see above).

9.3. A full set of annotated, illustrative pictures of the site, excavation, features, layers and selected artefacts will be deposited with the archive as print images.

9.4. NCC will be notified on completion of fieldwork, with a timetable for reporting and archive deposition.

9.5. Written confirmation of the archive transfer arrangements, including a date (confirmed or projected) for the transfer, will be included as part of the final report.

9.6. An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and the watching brief data will be added to this record. Key fields will be completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the HER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included within the archive).

9.7. NCC will be notified of the final deposition of the archive.

10. Changes to Methodology or Work Programme

10.1. Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with the prior written approval of NCC.

11. Publication

11.1. If appropriate, in consultation with NCC, a summary article will be produced for *Archaeology in Northumberland*. In the event of significant remains being encountered and excavated, there may be the need for a more formal publication than in the summary form. In this instance a suitable programme and timetable for publication and dissemination will be discussed and agreed upon by all stakeholders. This may include a note or short article in an appropriate archaeological journal.

12. References

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

Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG). 2010. *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment*. London, The Stationery Office.

English Heritage, 1995. *A strategy for the care and investigation of finds*, English Heritage.

Finlayson, R. and Hardie, C. revised 2010. *Corbridge: Northumberland Extensive Urban Survey*. Northumberland County Council.

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). 2008. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists.

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) 2010. *Code of Conduct*. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists

Museum of London Archaeological Services (MoLAS). 2002. *Site Manual*. London, Museum of London.

Petts, D. and C. Gerrard. 2006. *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. English Heritage.