

An Archaeological Evaluation at Sadberge School, Darlington



Excavation of Trench Five

ARS Ltd Report No. ARS 36
June 2007

OASIS no. archaeol5-27516

Compiled By:

Claire Carey and Dan Amat
Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Baltic Business Centre
Saltmeadows Road
Gateshead
Tyne and Wear
NE8 3DA

Checked By:

Dr. Richard Chatterton
Tel: 0191 447 5111
Fax: 0191 447 7687
admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

An Archaeological Evaluation at Sadberge School, Darlington

ARS Ltd Report 2007 36

June 2007

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Contents

	Executive summary.....	5
1.	Introduction.....	6
	1.1. Location and scope of work.....	6
	1.2. Geology and soils.....	6
2.	Methodology.....	8
3.	Historical background.....	8
4.	Results.....	10
5.	Conclusion.....	22
6.	Publicity, confidentiality and copyright.....	22
7.	Statement of indemnity.....	22
8.	Acknowledgements.....	22
9.	References.....	23

Appendix I: Harris matrices
Appendix II: Context register
Appendix III: Photograph register
Appendix IV: Specification

List of Figures

1.	Location of site.....	6
2.	Site plan and location of trenches.....	7
3.	Section drawings of Trenches One, Two and Three.....	12
4.	Section drawings of Trenches Four, Five and Six.....	13
5.	Trench One.....	16
6.	Trench One north-east facing section.....	16
7.	Trench Two.....	17
8.	Trench Two north-west facing section.....	17
9.	Trench Three.....	18
10.	Trench Three north-west facing section.....	18
11.	Trench Four.....	19
12.	Trench Four south-west facing section.....	19
13.	Trench Five.....	20
14.	Trench five south-east facing section.....	20
15.	Trench Six.....	21
16.	Trench Six south-west section.....	21

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2007 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by New Forest Design Solutions Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Sadberge School, Darlington. The work was carried out prior to the development of sixteen residential dwellings on the site.

There is evidence for human activity in the area of Sadberge dating back to the Iron Age and the church of St. Stephen, built in the 1830's replaced an earlier Anglo-Saxon church. The area has seen continuous human activity through to the present day and there was potential for archaeological remains to be encountered on the site as old Ordnance Survey mapping suggested that the area remained open fields until the school was built in the 1960's. The investigation however, revealed that the building and demolition of Sadberge School had truncated the natural clay level throughout the majority of the site and any archaeological remains which may have existed had been removed during this process.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

- 1.1.1 In June 2007 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by New Forest Design Solutions Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Sadberge School, Sadberge, Darlington (Fig. 1).

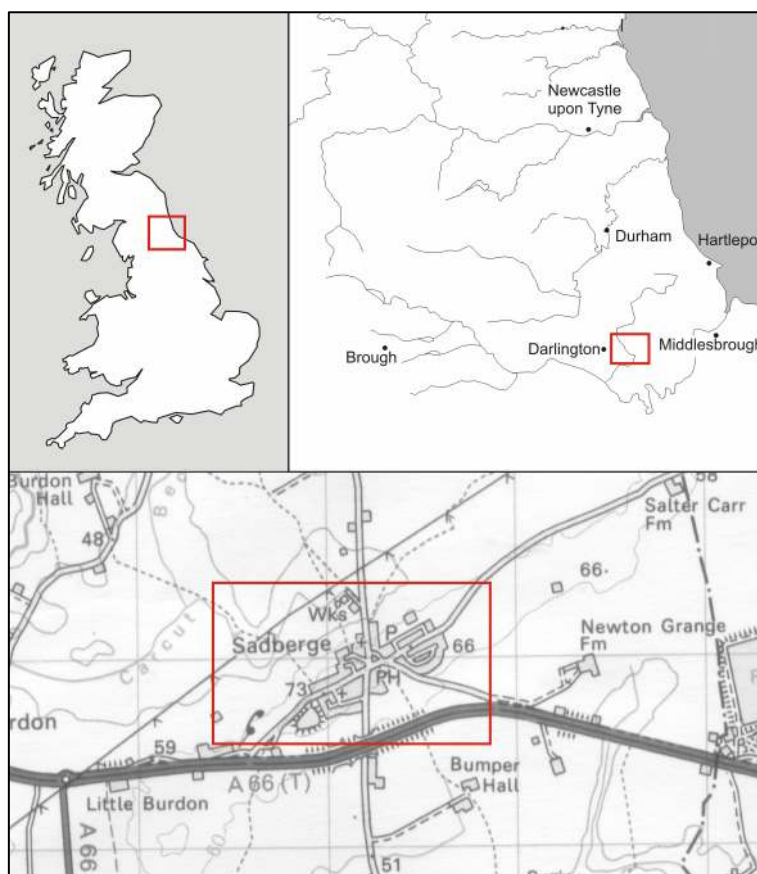


Fig. 1 Location of site. Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420

- 1.1.2 The village of Sadberge stands between Darlington and Stockton and the site is located at the former Sadberge School, centred at NZ34417. It lies within the north-east area of Sadberge Village approximately half a kilometre north of the A66, on land approximately 60m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The site covers approximately 4000 square metres (Fig. 2).

1.2. Geology and soils

- 1.1.1. The solid geology consists of Permian Mudstone from the Paleozoic period. The drift geology consists of glacial sands and gravels interspersed with Lacustrine deposits of clay (British Geological Survey 2007). The study area consisted of clay deposits only.

Fig 2 site plan

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1. An archaeological evaluation was carried out in order to determine whether there were any archaeological remains within the proposed development area. A minimum area of 120m² of trial trenching was laid out in accordance with a trenching plan previously agreed with the Durham County Council archaeologist. The exact trench locations are illustrated in Figure 2.
- 2.2. In plan at the base the dimensions of the trenches were as follows:
- Trench One:* 20m by 1.5m
Trench Two: 10m by 1.5m
Trench Three: 10m by 1.5m
Trench Four: 10m by 1.5m
Trench Five: 10m by 1.5m
Trench Six: 20m by 1.5m
- 2.3. The trenches were opened up by machine using a toothless ditching bucket and the earth was removed in level spits until the natural level was exposed. This process was monitored by an archaeologist in order to assess whether any significant archaeological features were exposed during the process.
- 2.4. Each separate layer encountered was given a unique context number (a Harris matrix can be found in Appendix I and a full context register can be found in Appendix II) and the whole trench was then cleaned using hand tools in order to expose any potential archaeological features or deposits.
- 2.5. The trenches were photographed using colour transparency film, black and white print and digital formats (a photograph register is shown in Appendix III). The trenches were recorded with above ordnance datum (aOD) levels and a section drawing was completed at a scale of 1:50.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1. *Prehistory*
The earliest known activity in the study area dates from the Iron Age. The evidence was found during a geophysical survey carried out prior to road building to the south-west of the site on Middleton Road. The survey revealed traces of a roundhouse surrounded by small fields (SMR 3341) (Keys to the Past 2007).
- 3.2. *Romano-British*
A former Roman road known as Cade's Road (SMR 8220) is thought to run through Sadberge. The route is a conjectured route put forward by George Cade in 1785 who suggested that it linked York and Newcastle east of Dere Street. No actual remains of the road have yet been discovered and at present the main evidence for Roman activity is confined to Sedgefield where a non-military occupational site has been discovered (Hewitt & Waddington forthcoming). The lack of any other discoveries along Cade's road is most likely due to the lack of archaeological investigations and not a lack of remains. The possibility of Roman

occupation in the area of Sadberge is supported by a fragment of Roman altar was discovered in the gardens of the Rectory of St. Andrew's, the village church (SMR 5669) (Keys to the Past 2007). On the second edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1899 the area directly to the north of the study area is marked 'ROMAN CAMP *site of*', but by the third edition of 1923 the area is marked as 'earthwork'. The street now known as Hill-House Lane is thought to be an old Roman Road named Ryknield Street (Keys to the Past 2007).

3.3. *Early-Medieval*

The name 'Sadberge' is of Viking origin derived from 'Setberg', meaning 'flat topped hill'. This is an accurate description of the location of the village which commands good views of the surrounding countryside. The name 'Setberg' also occurs in Norway and in Viking settled Iceland.

Sadberge is a small village today but was once the capital or 'Wapentake' of the Viking settled area north of the Tees known as the Earldom of Sadberge which stretched from Hartlepool to Teesdale. 'Wapentakes' were found in the areas of England which were settled by the Danes and continued to be important administrative centres in medieval times. The word 'wapentake' literally means 'Weapon Taking' and refers to the way in which land was held in return for military service to a chief.

After the Romans left Britain, Sadberge became the centre of Saxon administration between the rivers Tyne and Tees. "The Manor and Wapentake of Sadberge", as it was then known, was part of Deira (the southern half of Northumbria). The church of St. Andrew stands on the site of a previous Anglo-Saxon church which may have stood on the site of one of the castles of the King of Deira (Keys to the Past 2007).

The original church dates from 1266 and was located at the highest point of land in the village. It stood until 1825, when a Darlington builder demolished it for the sum of £10. The Church of St. Andrew was built in 1831, six yards to the north of the old church and included some of the carved stone from the old building. Two weathered stones are present in the church porch – one depicting Christ trampling on Satan and the other Adam and Eve with the serpent. The village was still considered an area of importance in the Medieval period and the building which is today the Three Tuns Pub, served as the courthouse. Trials were held in Sadberge until 1457 (Keys to the Past 2007).

3.4. *Medieval*

In early Norman times the Earldom of Sadberge, though north of the River Tees, was not part of Durham and was not initially under the rule of Durham's Prince Bishops. Instead, the district formed an outlying part of the county of Northumberland by virtue of the fact that it had been part of the old Earldom of Northumbria. To add further confusion Northumberland was given to Scotland by King Stephen of England in 1139, so that the Tees actually became the southern boundary of the kingdom of Scotland. This situation continued for eighteen years until Northumberland was repossessed for England by King Henry II in 1157 (Keys to the Past 2007).

During the 12th century, King Richard I sold the Manor and Wapentake of Sadberge to Bishop Hugh Pudsey to raise money for the Crusades. With the Manor went the title Earl of Sadberge and this is how the Bishops of Durham became known as “Prince Bishops”. In 1189 Hugh Pudsey, Prince Bishop of Durham, added the ‘earldom’ to Durham’s Prince Bishops and despite its fall in status after this date, Sadberge retained a degree of independence and continued to be administered as an almost separate county until 1576. There are references from as late as the nineteenth century to ‘the Counties of Durham and Sadberge’. In 1836 the revenues of the Bishopric of Durham including Sadberge passed to the Crown (Keys to the Past 2007).

The deserted Medieval Village is still visible today as a series of earthworks and is thought to overlie a previous Roman fort.

An archaeological evaluation undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates in 1993 on the former site of Town Farm in the south-west area of Sadberge Village. The assessment indicated that the site lay close to the centre of an area thought to contain the Medieval court of Sadberge and may also have contained evidence of earlier Danish Settlement. A number of archaeological features were discovered in the trenches and each was located between 0.4 to 0.6m below the present ground level. The features included two post-in-trench alignments and a large number of shallow trenches which may have been structural or related to plot boundaries. A small pottery assemblage was recovered which suggested activity on the site between the 12th century to the present day.

4. RESULTS

- 4.1. The stratigraphy of the site was made up from various layers (Figures 3 and 4). They were as follows:

Topsoil (001)

The topsoil (001) was present across all areas of the site which were not covered by tarmac. It consisted of fine, sandy brown earth with no inclusions and measured between 0.15m and 0.40m deep across the site.

Tarmac (013), (014) and (021)

A layer of tarmac covered two areas of the site, a car park to the north-east and a children’s playground to the south-west. It measured between 0.15m and 0.24m deep across the site.

Made-ground (014) and (022)

A layer of made-ground was present across the areas of the site which were covered with tarmac. This layer was directly below the tarmac and consisted of coarse building rubble and medium gravel. It measured between 0.32m and 0.36m deep across the site.

Redeposited clay (002), (007), (015), (019) and (023)

A layer of redeposited clay was present across most of the site apart from in the north-east corner where Trench Six was located. The redeposited clay was deposited during the levelling of the site and consisted of very fine, mid-brown

material with modern brick and charcoal inclusions. It measured between 0.30m and 1.06m deep across the site.

Buried vegetation (016)

A layer of buried vegetation (016) existed in the north-west corner of the site where Trench One was located. This would have been the previous ground level prior to being buried by the redeposited clay during the levelling of the site. It consisted of very dark brown organic material with no inclusions and measured between 0.20m and 0.30m deep.

Natural clay (003), (008), (017), (010), (020) and (024)

The natural clay existed across the whole site at differing levels due to the levelling of the site. It consisted of very fine, mid-brown material with small stone inclusions of approximately 5mm to 3cm in diameter.

Sections 1 2 3

Sections 4 5 6

4.2. Trench One

Trench One (Figures 5 and 6) measured 20m by 1.5m at the base and was oriented northwest-southeast. A layer of tarmac (013) covered the whole of the trench as it was located in the previous school playground at the west end of the site. This layer (013) measured 0.17m deep at the south-east end and 0.18m deep at the north-west end. Directly below was a layer of made-ground (014) which consisted of coarse building rubble of mainly modern brick. This measured 0.32m deep at the south-east end and 0.36m deep at the north-west end. Below the made-ground was a layer of redeposited natural clay (015) which appeared to have been removed from the area to the north of the trench in order to level the ground for a football pitch. The earth removed during this process appeared to have been redeposited to the south, building up a bank with a north-west facing slope in the north-west area of the study area. The redeposited clay (015) measured 0.40m deep at the south-east end and 1.06m deep at the north-west end. A thin lens of tarmac (014) measuring 0.10m deep was located approximately 3m in from the north-west end. The tarmac (014) sat 0.18m into the level of the redeposited clay (015). Directly below the redeposited clay (015) was a buried level of vegetation (016). This appeared to have been the previous ground level prior to the building up of the bank with the redeposited clay (015). The buried vegetation (016) measured 0.20m deep at the south-east end and 0.30m deep at the north-west end. Directly below lay the natural clay (017) which continued beyond the depth of excavation. Cut into the natural clay (017) approximately 8.60m in from the south-east end of the trench lay a modern field drain (018) which was oriented northeast-southwest and measured 0.5m in diameter. There were no other features of archaeological interest in this trench.

4.3. Trench Two

Trench Two (Figures 7 and 8) measured 10m by 1.5m at the base and was oriented northeast-southwest. Tarmac (013) covered the trench at the south-west end for 0.89m and measured 0.24m deep. This was part of the playground at the west end of the site. The remaining 9.11m of the trench was covered with topsoil (001) which measured 0.28m deep. The topsoil (001) lay directly over redeposited clay (019) which measured 0.30m deep at the north-east end and 0.35m deep at the south-west end, and had been deposited during the levelling of the site. The natural clay (020) lay directly below and continued beyond the depth of excavation. There were no features of archaeological interest in this trench.

4.4. Trench Three

Trench Three (Figures 9 and 10) measured 10m by 1.5m at the base and was oriented northeast-southwest. The topsoil (001) measured 0.15m deep and existed across the whole trench. Directly below was a layer of redeposited clay (002) which measured 0.40m deep. This lay above the natural clay (003) which continued beyond the depth of excavation. Cut into the natural clay (003) were three modern field drains. Two (004 and 006) ran parallel to each other and were oriented northeast-southwest, and the third (005) was oriented northwest-southeast. There were no features of archaeological interest in this trench.

4.5. Trench Four

Trench Four (Figures 11 and 12) measured 10m by 1.5m at the base and was oriented northwest-southeast. The topsoil (001) existed across the whole trench and measured 0.16m deep. Below lay redeposited topsoil (007) which measured 0.30m deep at the north-west end. The depth increased until 6m in from the north-west end it measured 0.80m deep. The depth gradually decreased towards the south-east end where it measured 0.43m deep. The natural clay (008) lay below and continued beyond the depth of excavation. Cut into the natural clay (008) were the foundations for the old school (009). The foundations existed 6.75m in from the north-west end of the trench and formed an 'L-shape' running northeast-southwest and northwest-southeast. The foundations consisted of concrete and modern brick. There were no other features of archaeological interest in this trench.

4.6. Trench Five

Trench Five (Figures 13 and 14) measured 10m by 1.5m at the base and was oriented northeast-southwest. A layer of topsoil (001) covered the north-east end of the trench for 1.60m and measured 0.18m deep. A layer of tarmac (021) covered the remaining 18.40m in the south-west end of the trench. The tarmac (021) formed part of the former car park for the old school and measured 0.15m deep. Directly below the tarmac (021) lay a deposit of made-ground (022) which consisted of gravel and building debris. This measured 0.32m deep and was only present beneath the tarmac (021). Directly below the topsoil (001) at the north-east end of the trench was a layer of redeposited clay (023). The made-ground (022) cut into the redeposited clay (023). A thin layer of redeposited clay (023) which measured 0.38m deep was visible beneath the made-ground in the south-west end of the trench. It measured 0.60m deep at the north-east end. The natural clay (024) lay beneath and continued beyond the depth of excavation but was visible in the trench for 0.13m. There were no features of archaeological interest in this trench.

4.7. Trench Six

Trench Six (Figures 15 and 16) measured 20m by 1.5m at the base and was oriented northwest-southeast. The topsoil (001) covered the whole trench and measured 0.30m deep at the north-west end and 0.48m deep at the south-east end. Directly below lay the natural clay (010) which continued beyond the depth of excavation but was visible in the trench for 0.10m. A modern field drain (011) was cut into the natural clay (010) 5.70m in from the south-east end of the trench and was oriented north-south. At the far north-west end of the trench lay a modern telephone cable which was oriented northeast-southwest. There were no other features of archaeological interest in this trench.



Fig. 5 Trench One facing south-east, scale 2m



Fig. 6 Trench One north-east facing section, scale 2m



Fig. 7 Trench Two facing south-west, scale 2m x 2



Fig. 8 Trench Two north-west facing section, scale 2m (red area is 0.50m)



Fig. 9 Trench Three facing south-west, scale 2m x 2



Fig. 10 Trench Three north-west facing section, scale 2m (white and silver area are 0.50m)



Fig. 11 Trench Four facing north-west, scale 2m x 2



Fig. 12 Trench Four south-west facing section, scale 2m (red area is 0.50m)



Fig. 13 Trench Five facing north-east, scale 2m x 2



Fig. 14 Trench Five south-east facing section, scale 2m (red area is 0.50m)



Fig. 15 Trench Six facing south-east, scale 2m x 2



Fig. 16 Trench Six south-west facing section, scale 2m (red area is 0.50m)

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1. There were no features of archaeological interest in any of the six trenches excavated. Trenches Two, Three, Four and Five all contained a layer of redeposited clay (002), (007), (019) and (023) which overlay the natural clay (003), (008), (020) and (024). The natural clay in these trenches would have been truncated during previous levelling of the site when the school was constructed and again when it was demolished. It is likely that any archaeology that may have been present in these trenches would have been removed during this process. Trench One at the north-west end of the site contained a thick layer of redeposited clay (015) over a buried layer of vegetation (016). This appeared to be the previous ground surface prior to the levelling of the area to the north of the site where the ground had been cut away and the spoil placed in the north-west area of the site in the location of Trench One. As the original ground surface had been buried by this process the natural clay (017) in Trench One remained in tact beneath the buried vegetation layer. There was potential for archaeology to remain but no features were encountered. Trench Six at the south-east end of the site contained a layer of topsoil (001) directly overlying the natural clay (010). There was no layer of redeposited clay, suggesting that the natural level had not been truncated during previous levelling. There was potential for archaeology to remain but the investigation revealed that no features were present.

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 New Forest Design Solutions Ltd and Lee White at Durham County Council Archaeology Section.

9. REFERENCES

Institute of Field Archaeologists. 1995. *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation.*

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2000. *Code of Conduct.*

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001. *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*

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

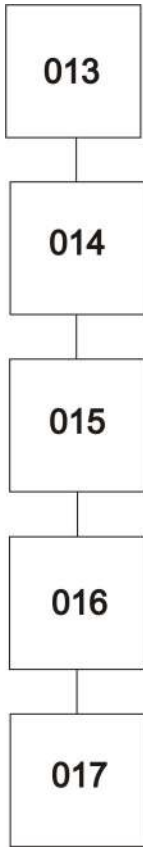
UKIC (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation). 1990. *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage.*

British Geological Survey www.bgs.ac.uk

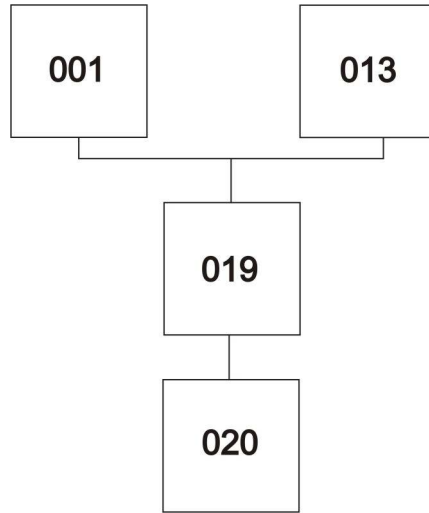
Keys to the Past www.keystothepast.info

APPENDIX I: HARRIS MATRICES

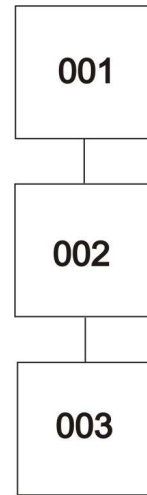
Trench One



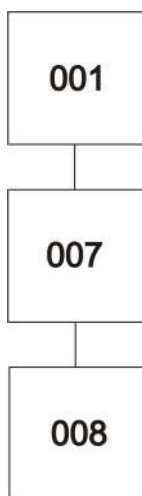
Trench Two



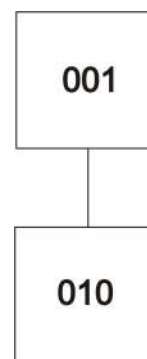
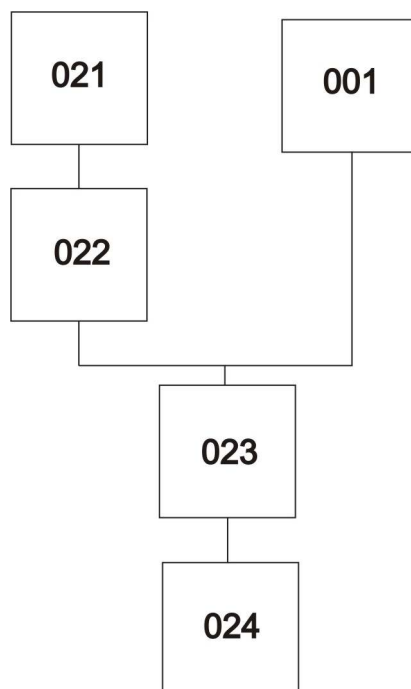
Trench Three



Trench Four



Trench Five



APPENDIX II: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context number	Trench	Finds	Description
001	2, 3, 4, 5 and 6	-	Topsoil
002	3	-	Made ground/ Re-deposited Clay
003	3	-	Natural clay
004	3	-	Modern pipe
005	4	-	Modern drain pipe
006	5	-	Modern pipe
007	4	-	Re-deposited clay
008	4	-	Natural clay
009	4	-	Modern drainage pipe
010	6	-	Natural clay
011	6	-	Modern drain
012	6	-	Modern telephone cable
013	1, 2,	-	Tarmac
014	1	-	Building rubble
015	1	-	Re-deposited clay
016	1	-	Dark organic layer
017	1	-	Natural clay
018	1	-	Modern pipe
019	2	-	Re-deposited clay
020	2	-	Natural clay
021	5	-	Tarmac
022	5	-	Made ground/ gravel
023	5	-	Re-deposited clay

024	5	-	Natural clay
-----	---	---	--------------

APPENDIX III: PHOTOGRAPH REGISTER

Film One: Black and White

Film Number	Photograph content
1	General shot of Trench 3, scale 2m
2	General shot of Trench 4, scale 2m
3	General shot of Trench 6, scale 2m
4	South West facing section of Trench 6, scale 2m
5	South West facing section of Trench 4, scale 2m
6	North West facing section of Trench 3, scale 2m
7	General shot of Trench 1, scale 2m
8	West facing section of Trench 1, Scale 2m
9	General shot of Trench 2, scale 2m
10	North West facing section of Trench 2, scale 2m
11	General shot of Trench 5, scale 2m
12	South East facing section of Trench 5, scale 2m

Film Two: Colour Transparency

Film Number	Photograph content
1	General shot of Trench 3, scale 2m
2	General shot of Trench 4, scale 2m
3	General shot of Trench 6, scale 2m
4	South West facing section of Trench 6, scale 2m
5	South West facing section of Trench 4, scale 2m
6	North West facing section of Trench 3, scale 2m
7	General shot of Trench 1, scale 2m
8	West facing section of Trench 1, Scale 2m
9	General shot of Trench 2, scale 2m
10	North West facing section of Trench 2, scale 2m
11	General shot of Trench 5, scale 2m
12	South East facing section of Trench 5, scale 2m

APPENDIX IV: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This written scheme of investigation details the works to be undertaken during an archaeological evaluation at the site of the former Church of England Sadberge Primary School in accordance with the brief prepared by the Assistant Archaeology Officer for Durham County Council.
- 1.2. The proposed development site is situated at OS grid reference NZ 344171, covers approximately 4047sqm. and lies at c.66m AOD, to the east of the scheduled ancient monument of Sadberge shrunken medieval village (SAM 20971). There have been no previously recorded archaeological works on this site.
- 1.3. The remains of Sadberge shrunken Medieval village (SMR 6872; SAM 20971), survives as earthworks in pasture fields to the north-west of the proposed development site. Other potential archaeological features within the development area include, but are not necessarily limited to; the Roman period 'Cades Road', or other Roman archaeology associated with the fragment of a Roman altar was found in the gardens of the Rectory (SMR 5669); archaeology associated with the Viking capital of the Earldom of Sadberge; archaeology of other periods. The proposed development site was previously in use as a Church of England primary school. The school appears to have been constructed sometime between 1980-1994 and has since been demolished and the site levelled.

2. Site Specific Requirements

- 2.1. The client for this work is New Forest Design Solutions Ltd and they are proposing to develop the site for residential use. A planning application has not yet been submitted as these works are required in order to support one. The client has provided a preliminary plan of the layout of the potential units and location of the access roads which has been consulted to determine trench locations (Fig. 1).
- 2.2. The work to be undertaken is an archaeological evaluation which aims to ascertain whether there are any archaeological constraints which may affect the planned development. This will be done by establishing the presence or absence of archaeological remains, their quality, depth and preservation.
- 2.2. The evaluation will comprise a series of targeted evaluation trenches to sample a minimum of 120 square meters within the proposed development area. This will be achieved by the excavation of six trenches, with two measuring 20m by 1.5m, and four measuring 10m by 1.5m. The trenches will be located as suggested in the brief to investigate the potential for archaeological remains.
- 2.3. The overall aim of the trial trenching will be:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, depth and character of any possible archaeological features

- to make suggestions, where possible, about further mitigation which may be necessary to preserve archaeological features *in situ*, or
 - to make suggestions to preserve archaeological features by record, where necessary
 - to determine if further archaeological interventions are required
- 2.4. Should any changes in the trench dimensions or location become necessary, they will be discussed with the County Archaeologist and approved prior to work commencing on the site.
- 2.5. Access arrangements for mechanical excavation equipment have been confirmed with the client. Utility information will be requested prior to work commencing on site, so that the utilities can be avoided.
- 2.6. The Sadberge area has significant research potential, as highlighted in the North-East Regional Research Framework (Petts and Gerrard 2006). Later Bronze Age and Iron Age archaeology has been found in the form of weapons hoards at Sadberge and these may fit into the wider landscape context of carrs and wet lowlands that surround the Sadberge area, where other votive deposits have been recovered. The understanding of the Roman communication network in the region is poorly understood and an understanding of its development is a research priority. There is scant evidence for Early Medieval urbanism in the region, although towns such as Darlington are assumed to have pre-Conquest origins. The origins of administrative centres, such as Viking wapentakes, is not known, but there is a strong possibility that evidence for such occupation surviving within modern rural settlements. It is also clear from the placename evidence that there is a difference between the Viking influence to the north and south of the Tees, and the site of Sadberge lies only 5km to the north of the river, in a potentially significant location for uncovering evidence for the reasons for such division.
- 2.7. Following the completion of trenching the site will be left in a state as agreed with the client.

3. Project Management and Standards

- 3.1. The project will be carried out in compliance with the codes of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) (2000) and will follow the IFA Standard and Guidance for Excavations (1995).
- 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 area surrounding the site 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 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.

4. Methods

- 4.1. Topsoil and unstratified modern material will be removed by a machine using a wide, toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits. No machinery will track over areas that have been stripped.
- 4.2. The whole area will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools in order to expose surviving archaeological features and deposits.
- 4.3. All archaeological features and deposits will be recorded on a pre-excavation plan before excavation, sampling and recording.
- 4.4. All features exposed will be excavated by hand. Sampling will typically comprise 50% of every discrete feature; 25% of linear/curvilinear features with non-uniform fill and 10% of linear features with a uniform fill.
- 4.5. In the event of human burials being discovered, they will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected and the coroners' office informed. If removal is essential, work will comply with relevant Home Office regulations.
- 4.6. Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation will be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasures Act 1996.
- 4.7. Deposits that have the potential for providing environmental or dating evidence will be assessed while the work is in progress. An environmental sampling strategy has been agreed with the English Heritage Scientific advisor for North-East England, Jacqui Huntley. The sampling strategy comprises the following:
 - All intact archaeological contexts will be sampled. Small pit features will be 100% sampled while bulk samples of 40 litres will be taken from larger feature contexts, such as linear ditch fills.
 - Any samples recovered will be floated on site in graduated sieves with the smallest being 500µm and the flots and residues collected. Samples will be analysed by B Johnson of Archaeological Research Services Ltd and an assessment report prepared in accordance with Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (HBMC 1991).
- 4.8. During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts and environmental samples will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this will include controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions and immediate selection for conservation of valuable material).

5. Contingency

- 5.1. If the evaluation raises questions of an unexpected nature, attempts will be made to deal with the problem by agreed modification of this specification while the fieldwork is in progress.
- 5.2. A contingency sum has been provided for the excavation of an additional 15sqm of trenching to answer particular issues that may arise during fieldwork. The activation of this contingency will only be undertaken after discussion with, and with the agreement of the County Archaeological Officer or their representative. A representative of the developer will also be present at such discussions.
- 5.3. Contingency sums have also been allocated for finds conservation, scientific dating and environmental sampling, and will be activated only after discussion with and the agreement of the County Archaeological Officer or their representative. A representative of the developer will also be present at such discussions.

6. Recording

- 6.1. The site will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area.
- 6.2. 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 scale plans and section drawings will be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate.
- 6.3. The stratigraphy of all trenches will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 6.4. All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded with above ordnance datum (AOD) levels.
- 6.5. A photographic record of all contexts will be taken in colour transparency and black and white print and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept.
- 6.6. Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled.

7. Access

- 7.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will give the County Archaeologist for Durham County Council 10 working days (or less if so agreed) notice of the commencement of fieldwork.
- 7.2. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will afford access to the County Archaeologist for Durham County Council or their representative at all times, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological evaluation.

- 7.3. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will maintain regular communication with the County Archaeologist for Durham County Council 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. Assessment and analysis of artefacts and environmental samples will be carried out by:

Dr Clive Waddington, ARS Ltd - Lithics and prehistoric pottery

B Johnson, ARS Ltd – Botanical macrofossils and charcoal

Dr P Allen, ARS Ltd - Pollen/ environmental analysis

A Thornton, ARS Ltd – Human remains

J Jones, Durham University – Metalwork, glass, textiles and other organics

A Vince, Alan Vince Archaeology – Medieval pottery

A Clarke – Coarse Stone

L Gidney – Faunal material

- 8.7. The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and the Bowes Museum prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.

- 8.8. 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 Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (HBMC 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). The archive will be deposited with the Bowes Museum within 6 months of the fieldwork once all post-excavation work is completed and the final report produced.

10. Report

- 10.1 Two copies of the report will be submitted to the client, and one hard copy and one digital copy will be submitted to the Durham SMR within fifteen working days of the completion of the fieldwork. Each report will be bound with each page and paragraph numbered and will include as a minimum the following:

- executive summary
- a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale with 10 figure central grid reference
- OASIS reference number
- Site code
- contractor's details including date work carried out
- nature and extent of the proposed development, including developer/client details
- description of the site location and geology
- a trench plan to a suitable scale and tied into the national grid so that features can be correctly orientated
- discussion of the results of field work
- context & feature descriptions
- features, number and class of artefacts, spot dating & scientific dating of significant finds presented in tabular format
- plans and section drawings of the features drawn at a suitable scale
- additional plans/map extracts to display noted and recorded archaeological features as appropriate
- 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 evaluation. ARS Ltd is a registered contractor on the OASIS system and has uploaded archaeological reports before.

12. Dissemination/Publication

- 12.1 A summary will be prepared for County Durham Archaeology Section's annual publication and submitted to the County Archaeologist by the beginning of December of the year in which the work is completed.

12.2 A short article will be prepared for a local journal if appropriate.

13. References

Institute of Field Archaeologists. 1995. *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation.*

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2000. *Code of Conduct.*

Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001. *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials.*

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

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