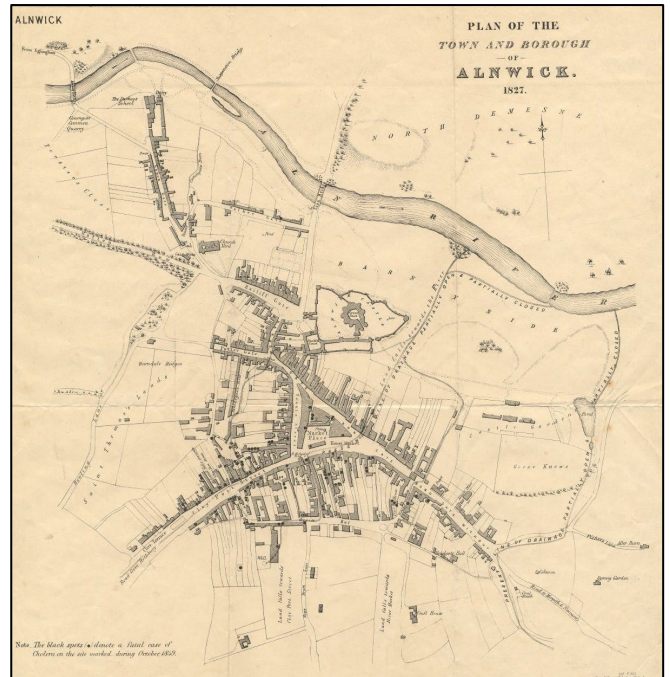


An Archaeological Evaluation at St Andrew's Hall, New Row Alnwick



General Inspectors of the Board of Health 1849 Map of
Alnwick - Cholera Outbreak

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In June 2007 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Gentoo PLC to undertake an archaeological evaluation at St Andrew's Hall, New Row, Alnwick. The work was carried out prior to the development of seventeen residential dwellings on the site.

Heavy rainfall during proceeding weeks had waterlogged the ground. During the opening of the trenches, the poor condition of the soil, being saturated with water, caused extensive collapse as the trenches were opened. In addition the area around the trench edges became exceptionally unstable and dangerous to approach. These factors made it difficult to properly document and photograph the trenches.

The large alterations in street level between surrounding properties and the changing depth of made ground across the site showed that extensive ground works had been undertaken in this area. No features of archaeological significance were revealed during the groundworks, and any previously surviving archaeology was probably removed when the levelling of the site took place in the early twentieth century.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

- 1.1.1 In June 2007 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Gentoo PLC to undertake an archaeological evaluation at St Andrew's Hall, Alnwick (Fig. 1).

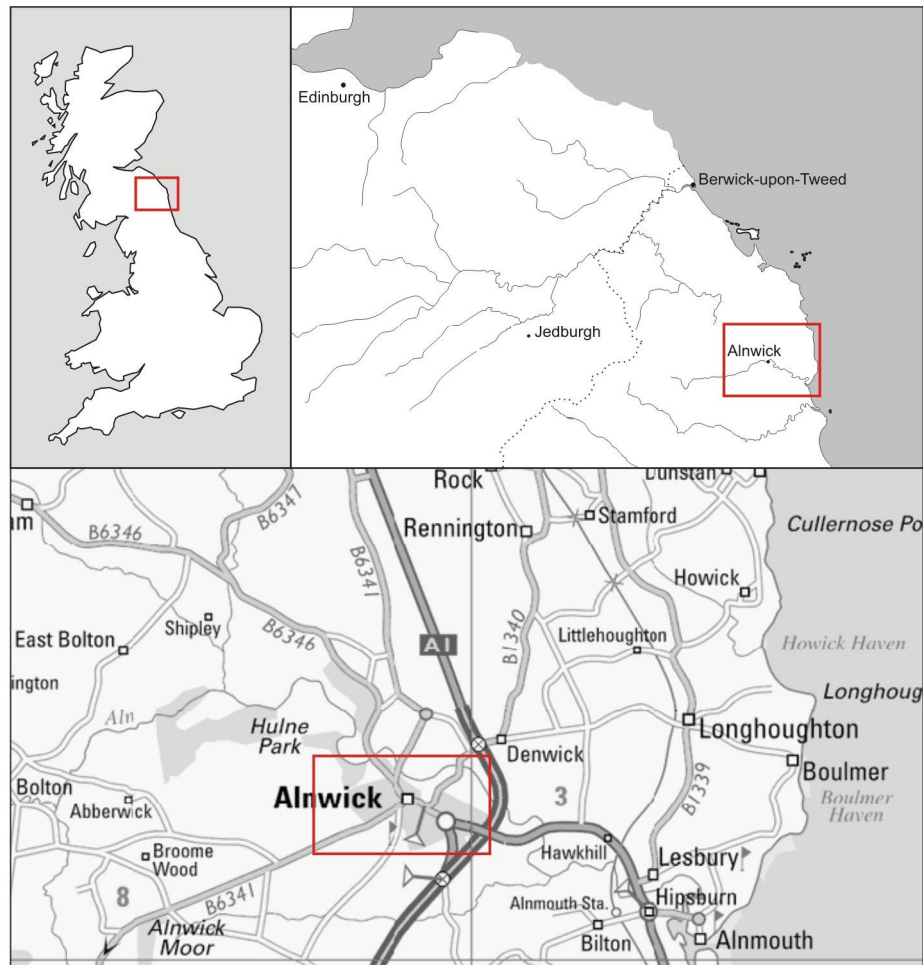


Fig. 1 Location of Site. Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420

- 1.1.2 The site is located in the town of Alnwick, centred at NU184133, at the junction between Stonewell Lane and Lagney Street. The site is on land which is gently sloping downwards from south to north and is at approximately 60m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The site covers approximately 1973m².

1.2 Geology and Soils

- 1.2.1 The solid geology consists of Tournaisian and Viséan carboniferous Limestone from the Paleozoic period with an Igneous intrusion of Basalt dolerite, camptonite and other allied types. The drift geology consists of glacial sands and gravels interspersed with till (British Geological Survey 2007). The study area consisted of deposits of fluvio-glacial sediments.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 A historic and map regression exercise was carried out in order to ascertain the archaeological significance of the site. This exercise narrowed down the area within the proposed development site where archaeology remains, in particular those of the Medieval period, may have survived. An archaeological evaluation was carried out in order to determine whether any archaeological remains within the proposed development area survived. The map regression allowed the specific targeting of archaeological remains within the site by five evaluation trenches which were placed to give the most complete and comprehensive study of the area in question, based upon the results of the map regression exercise.
- 2.2 A total of five trenches were proposed for excavation and evaluation. After excavating Trenches Two to Five and following consultation with both the client and the County Archaeologist it was deemed unnecessary to open and excavate Trench One.
- 2.3 The trenches were targeted at:
- Trench 1 – survival of burgage plot shown on 1769 map
 - Trench 2 – level of truncation caused by Iron Foundry building, survival of burgage plot shown on 1769 map, survival of town wall
 - Trench 3 – level of truncation caused by Iron Foundry building, survival of burgage plot shown on 1769 map, survival of burgage plots shown on 1827 map survival of town wall
 - Trench 4 – level of truncation caused by Iron Foundry building, survival of burgage plots shown on 1827 map survival of town wall
 - Trench 5 – level of truncation caused by Iron Foundry building, survival of burgage plot shown on 1769 map, survival of burgage plots shown on 1827 map, survival of town wall
 - Two 1.8m by 1.8m test pits will be located as close as possible to the foundations of the present structure to the east of the site to assess levels of truncation associated with this building.

The overall aim of the trial trenching was:

- 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 In plan at the base the dimensions of the trenches were to be as follows:

Trench One: 10m by 1.8m
Trench Two: 10m by 1.8m
Trench Three: 10m by 1.8m
Trench Four: 10m by 1.8m
Test Pit1: 1m by 1.8m
Test Pit2: 1m by 1.8m

- 2.5 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 from Archaeological Research Services Ltd in order to assess whether any significant archaeological features were exposed during the process. In the case of trenches three, four and five it was not possible to expose the natural for the full length of the trench as the depth of excavation and subsidence of the site posed a significant risk.
- 2.6 The site was extremely water-logged and the trench sides collapsed as they were being excavated. The dangerous nature of the site meant that the trenches could not be entered, therefore recording was done as best as possible during the excavation.
- 2.7 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).
- 2.8 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 where the ground was not subsiding and a section drawing was completed at scales of 1:50, cross sections of the test-pits were drawn at 1:20. It was not possible to obtain accurate drawings of the trench sections as the sides were prone to subsidence and sketch drawings had to be made at some distance from the trench edges.

Trench location fig 2

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 *Prehistory*

A number of Bronze Age finds are known from the area, including stone lined graves, and fragments of a rare Bronze Age ring were found in 1850 near to the railway station to the south of the town (SMR 4502). Although there have been several burials uncovered from this era no trace of a settlement has been found in the area. Several Iron Age homesteads were found in Alnwick including the prominent stone ramparts and evidence of structures at Alnwick Moor Camp (SMR 4494).

3.2 *Roman*

A single indicator of Roman presence was a roman coin found close to the river Aln (SMR 12189) to the north of Alnwick near to the Lion Bridge

3.3 *Early Medieval*

The place name Alnwick means the 'settlement by the Aln' and indicates that the town of Alnwick probably originates in the Early Medieval period, though it is not recorded in the literary sources until around 1160 (SMR 12982). No evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation is known from Alnwick (Keys to the Past).

3.4 *Medieval*

In 1464 Henry VI granted Alnwick some tolls to 'make and repair their church' (Pevsner *et al* 2002). Externally, all that can be seen of the original church is the small west window of the north aisle, a trefoiled lancet very close to the nave; this and adjacent masonry prove a former narrow aisle of c. 1300. The ruins of St Leonard's hospital chapel founded between 1193 and 1216 (SMR 4490). The Norman lord Gilbert de Tesson inherited Alnwick following the Norman Conquest. When he joined a rebellion against the English king, William Rufus, he was forced to give up his lands to Yvo de Vescy, who began to build Alnwick castle in 1096 (Pevsner *et al* 2002).

3.5 In 1172 and 1174 the King of Scotland, William the Lion besieged the castle. During the second siege the English ambushed William's forces and the king was captured. The castle continued to be the focus of warfare and conflict in the region and in 1297 it fought off an attack from William 'Braveheart' Wallace. The following year the last surviving member of the De Vescy family died, and the castle was put in the care of the Bishop of Durham who sold it to Henry Percy in 1309. The town increasingly developed under the Percys and in 1494 they built walls around the town. The town walls acted as a further defence against raiding from Scotland. Little survives of the 15th century fortifications apart from the town gates. Bondgate Tower (SMR 4830) was the principal gate into the town, which was heavily rebuilt in the 18th century. The circuit of the town walls has yet to be found dating from this period, but literary sources state it was 20ft high and six feet wide in places. The earliest available map evidence at a large enough scale illustrates the boundaries of the town in 1769. Two boundaries run north-south along the west side of the town perhaps respecting the old Medieval town wall.

3.6 As well as high status buildings such as the church of St Michael (SMR 4517) and the Medieval chantry, the Medieval town contained many domestic shops and

houses around the Market and the surrounding streets with narrow plots of land called burgage plots. These burgage plots often continued in use well after the Medieval period and the 1769 map of Alnwick shows several boundaries of these burgage plots still existing across the development site.

In the 16th and 17th centuries the Earls of Northumberland ceased to live in the castle, and it fell into disrepair. However, Algernon, 7th Duke of Somerset, one of the descendants of the Earls of Northumberland, whose line died out in 1670, returned to Alnwick Castle in the early 18th century.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Consultation of Historic Mapping

A number of maps were consulted in order to chart the history of the site. Speed's 1610 map of Northumberland, Fryer's 1820 map of Northumberland and Greenwood's 1828 map show Alnwick at a scale too large to be included in the map regression and are shown in Figures 3 to 5 below. The maps included in the map regression are as follows. These are illustrated in the Figures 6 to 14.

- Armstrong's map of the county of Northumberland dating from 1769
- J, Wood's map of Alnwick dating to 1827
- T, Bell's tithe map of Alnwick dating to 1846
- A map dating to 1827 published by the General Inspectors of the Board of Health in 1849 showing cholera outbreaks in Alnwick, is a duplicate of J, Wood's 1827 map
- First edition OS map 1863
- Second edition OS map 1898
- Third edition OS map 1920
- Fourth edition OS map 1956

- 4.1.1 The earliest known map which shows the area is Speed's 1610 map of Northumberland. The map does not show any detail of the town of Alnwick plan but shows that the town was already an established stronghold in Northumberland by this date (Fig. 3)
- 4.1.2 Fryer's 1820 map of Alnwick shows the town area but not at a scale useful enough to reproduce for the map regression exercise. The major roads into the town, Bondgate approaching from the east, Clayport from the south-west and Fenkle Street, to the east of the Market, are clearly visible with a thin strip of housing on each. The market to the east of the site is still the central focus of the town and Alnwick Castle lies to the north (Fig. 4).
- 4.1.3 Greenwood's 1828 map of Northumberland shows the town area with the main roads of Bondgate, Clayport, Fenkle Street and the triangular area of the market. Although the map is at a large scale it can be observed that Dispensary Street is now visible and has housing on either side. The town appears to have expanded to the west and south from Fryer's map of 1820. (Fig. 5).

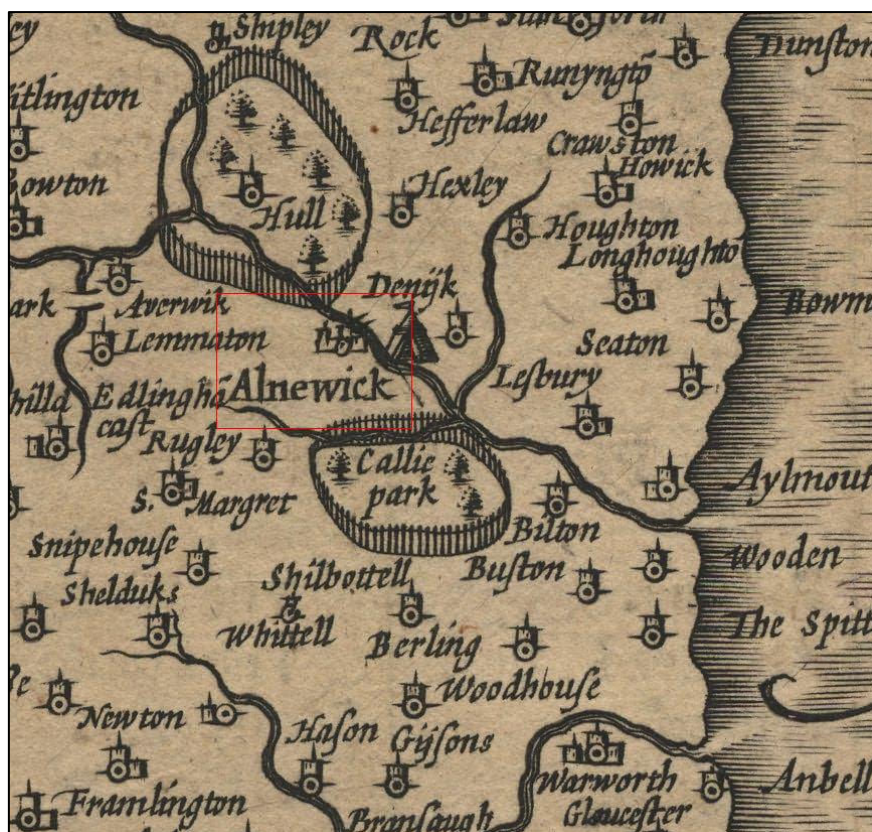


Fig. 3 Speed's 1610 Map of Northumberland, Alnwick outlined in red

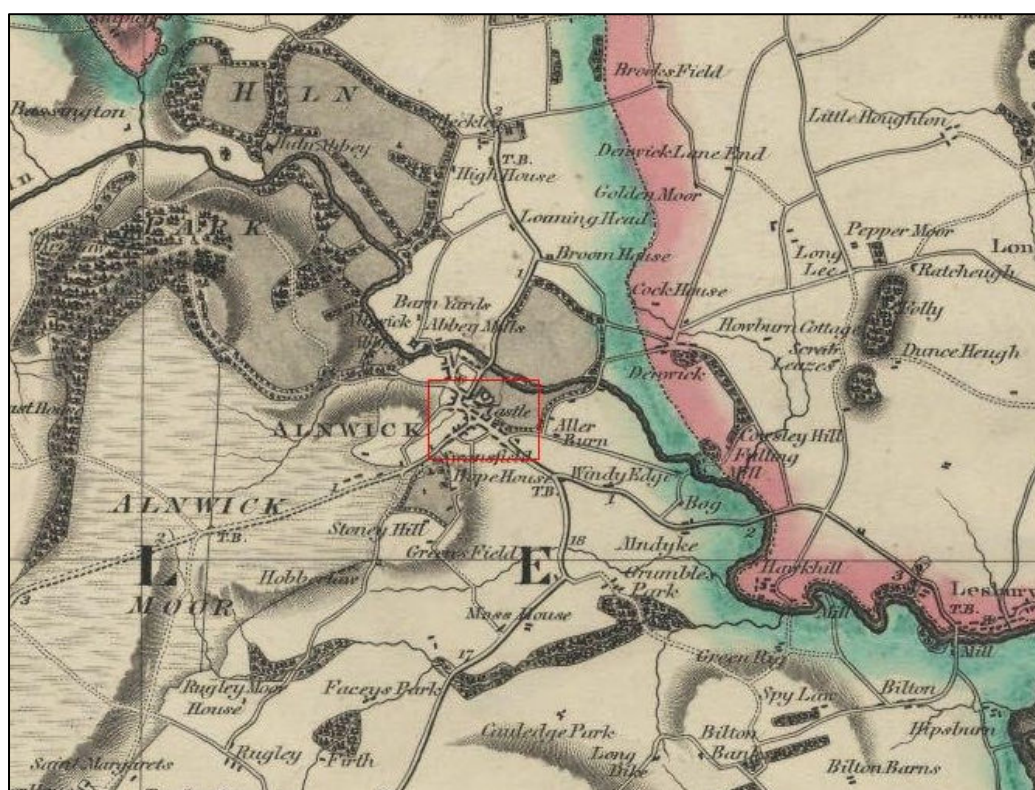


Fig. 4 Fryer's 1820 Map of Northumberland, Alnwick is outlined in red

- 4.2.3 Bell's map of 1846 does not show any detail of the site itself but illustrates the boundary of the town of Alnwick at this date (Fig. 8) This map has been included as it may suggest the whereabouts of the Medieval wall.
- 4.2.4 A map dating to 1827 published by the General Inspectors of the Board of Health in 1849 shows cholera outbreaks and drainage in Alnwick (Fig. 9) and is almost identical to J Wood's 1827 map. The drainage ditch, which is a new addition, follows the course of the 1827 burgage plots. The drainage ditch runs north to south along the west side of the burgage plot which enters the site from the north, continuing westward around the burgage plot which enters the site from the east and follows the course of Dispensary Road. The conjectured Medieval wall taken from the Extensive Urban Survey (draft) seems to follow the course of the 1849 drainage ditch very closely.
- 4.2.5 The First edition OS map dated to 1863 illustrates that the burgage plots are no longer in use (Fig. 10). Covering the site and respecting the modern boundaries of St Andrew's Hall development site is an area of parkland set out in the *parterre* manner with uniformly placed trees. A single building has been built in the north-east of the site under the standing building at the east end of St Andrew's Hall development site. Housing is also present for approximately 80 percent of the proposed car park development to the west of the site.
- 4.2.6 The Second edition OS map dated 1898 shows the area under St Andrews hall as being undeveloped, no other details are shown (Fig. 11). The building in the north-east of the site still stands. The building which stood in the area of the proposed car park has been removed.
- 4.2.7 The Third edition OS map of 1920 shows several changes. The parkland is no longer visible, and in the western end of St Andrew's Hall development site an iron foundry has been built. The small structure at the north-east of the site has had a very small extension westward (Fig. 12).
- 4.2.8 The Fourth edition OS map of 1956 shows the Iron Foundry still standing and further developments to the east of the site. The buildings and extensions have been consolidated into a slightly larger square building and a second larger rectangular building has been built in the south. A boundary now runs between these two buildings (Fig 13).
- 4.2.9 The modern map shows the Iron Foundry has been removed and the adjacent buildings to the east. Two larger buildings cover the site with no further development in the car park to the west (Fig. 14).

Fig 6

Fig 7

Fig 8

Fig 9

Fig 10

Fig 11

Fig 12

Fig 13

Fig 14

Fig 15

4.3 Evaluation Trenches

Heavy rainfall during proceeding weeks had waterlogged the ground. During the opening of the trenches, the poor condition of the soil, being saturated with water, caused extensive collapse as the trenches were opened. In addition the area around the trench edges became exceptionally unstable and dangerous to approach. These factors made it difficult to properly document and photograph the trenches.

4.3.1 Trench One:

After consultation with the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team, it was deemed that Trench One was unnecessary, as the depth of development in this area would not affect any archaeology remains.

4.3.2 Trench Two:

Trench Two was located in the south-west corner of the proposed development site, centred on NU418465613328 and was orientated north-south. It was positioned on a level area of ground at 59.40m aOD. The trench was excavated to a total depth of 1.8m. The stratigraphy consisted of three deposits (Fig. 16). The uppermost deposit was a layer of concrete (015), which measured 0.11m in depth. Directly beneath this was a deposit of made up ground (016), which consisted of dark brown silty sand with modern brick and tile inclusions, which measured 1.63m in depth. A undisturbed natural deposit (017), a fine dark yellowish-brown sandy-silty clay with a few stone inclusions was revealed at the base of the trench. This evaluation trench produced no features of archaeological importance.

4.3.3 Trench Three:

Trench Three was located in the south-east corner of the development site centred on NU418478613335 and was orientated north-south. It was positioned on ground which rose up from the north end of the trench at 59.57m aOD to the south end at 59.93m aOD. The waterlogged conditions on site meant that this trench could only be opened up to a length of 7.8m. The trench was excavated to a total depth of 2.2m. The stratigraphy consisted of two deposits (Fig. 17). The uppermost deposit was made ground (006), which consisted of dark brown silty sand with modern brick and tile inclusions, which measured 2.2m in depth at the northern end and 1.4m at the southern end. Lying below this deposit was the natural (007), which consisted of fine dark yellowish-brown sandy-silty clay with a few stone inclusions. This evaluation trench produced no features of archaeological importance.

4.3.4 Trench Four:

Trench Four was located in the north-east corner of the development site centred on NU418480613352 and was orientated east-west. This trench was continually collapsing and presented a serious health and safety risk, due to the waterlogged conditions and it was only excavated to a length of 8.5m. This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.7m. The stratigraphy consisted of a single

deposit of made ground (008), which consisted of dark brown silty sand with modern brick and tile inclusions, with additional inclusions of iron slag in the upper surface. This deposit measured 2m in the west of the trench and 2.7m in the east. This evaluation trench produced no features of archaeological importance.

4.3.5 Trench Five:

Trench Five was located in the north-west corner of the proposed development site centred on NU418468613344 and was orientated east-west. It was positioned on level ground. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.05m. The stratigraphy consisted of two deposits (Fig 18). The upper deposit was made ground (012), which consisted of dark brown silty sand with a few stone inclusions and modern brick. This deposit measured 1.6m in depth in the east end of the trench and 2.05m in depth at the west end of the trench. Lying below this deposit in the eastern end of the trench was the natural (013), a fine dark yellowish-brown sandy-silty clay with a few stone inclusions.

4.4 Test-pits

4.4.1 Test-pit One

Test-pit One was located in the south-east of the site, abutted against the western wall of the standing building. It was centred on NU418485613346, at 59.75m aOD. The test-pit was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m. The stratigraphy consisted of three deposits in the trench. The deposits consisted of made ground (001), the natural (003) and the concrete foundations (011) which appeared in the west facing section. The upper deposit of the west facing section was the concrete foundations (011) of the standing building to the west of the site. This deposit measured between 1.0 to 1.1m in depth. Lying below this deposit was the made ground (001), which consisted of dark greyish brown, fine sandy-silty clay with no inclusions. This deposit measured 0.4m in depth. Lying below this deposit was the natural (003) which consisted of fine dark yellowish-brown sandy-silty clay with a few stone inclusions (Fig. 19 and 21). No archaeological features were discovered.

4.4.2 Test-pit Two

Test-pit Two was located in the north-east of the site, abutted against the western wall of the standing building. It was centred on NU418485613346 at 59.62m aOD. The test-pit was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.03m. The stratigraphy consisted of two deposits. The upper deposit of the west facing section was the concrete foundations (011) of the standing building to the west of the site. This deposit measured approximately 1.21m in depth. Lying below this deposit was made up ground (005), which consisted of dark brown silty sand with a few stone inclusions and modern brick. This deposit measured 0.62m in depth within the trench. The trench continued beyond 2m but due to the waterlogged ground conditions on site, the test-pit was not excavated any further (Fig. 20 and 21). The natural was not found in this trench.



Fig. 16 Trench Two, East Facing Section.



Fig. 17 Trench Three, East Facing Section



Fig. 18 Trench Five, North Facing Section



Fig. 19 Test-pit One, west facing section, looking east



Fig. 20 Test-pit two, west facing section, looking east

Fig 21

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 Neither the evaluation trenches, nor the test-pits, produced archaeological features. The depth of made ground increased across the site from south to north, and given the large changes in street level between surrounding properties, it is apparent that extensive ground works have previously been undertaken in this area removing any traces of previous activity on the site.
- 5.2 Test-pits One and Two showed that the concrete foundations of the building penetrated into the made ground (001) by 1.1m. The natural lay at least 0.4m below the limit of the concrete foundations, but the natural was not found in Test-pit Two.

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 Gentoo PLC and Karen Derham at Northumberland County Conservation Team.

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British Geological Survey www.bgs.ac.uk

Keys to the Past www.keystothepast.info

APPENDIX I: HARRIS MATRICES

Evaluation Trench Two

015	Concrete
016	Made Ground
017	Natural

Evaluation Trench Three

006	Made Ground
007	Natural

Evaluation Trench Four

008	Made Ground
-----	-------------

Evaluation Trench Five

012	Made Ground
013	Natural

Test-pit One

011	Concrete
001	Made Ground
003	Natural

Test-pit Two

011	Concrete
005	Made Ground

APPENDIX II: CONTEXT REGISTER

Context no.	Trench	Finds	Description
001	Test pit 1	-	Dark black medium to coarse made up ground containing modern bricks and ceramic inclusions.
003	Test pit 1	.-	Fine dark yellowish brown sandy silty clay with a very small amount of stones.
005	Test pit 2	-	Medium to coarse dark brown silty sand with inclusions of bricks and tiles
006	Trench 3	-	Medium to coarse dark yellow silty sand with inclusions of bricks and tiles.
007	Trench 3	-	Fine dark yellowish brown sandy silty clay with a small amount of stone inclusions.
008	Trench 4	-	Medium dark brown silty sand with modern bricks and tiles
011	East section Test pit 1 and 2	-	Concrete building foundations
012	Trench 5	-	Medium dark brown silty sand with sandstone inclusions
013	Trench 5	-	Fine dark yellowish brown sandy silty clay with a small amount of stones
015	Trench 2	-	Concrete building foundations.
016	Trench 2	-	Medium to coarse dark brown silty sand with inclusions of bricks and tiles.
017	Trench 2	-	Fine dark yellowish brown sandy silty clay with a small amount of stone inclusions.

APPENDIX III: PHOTOGRAPH REGISTER

Film One: Black and White

Shot Number	Photograph Content
1	North end of trench 3 south facing section
2	West end of trench 5 North facing section
3	North end of trench 2 south facing section
4	North end of trench 2 south facing section
5	East end of trench 2 West facing section
6	North end of trench 3 south facing section
7	West end of trench 5 east facing section
8	East end of trench 5 west facing section
9	West end of trench 5 east facing section
10	North end of trench 5 south facing section
11	East end of Test pit 1 west facing section
12	East end of test pit 2 west facing section
13	General shot of site
14	General shot of site
15	General shot of site
16	General shot of site
17	General shot of site
18	General shot of site
19	General shot of site
20	General shot of site
21	General shot of site
22	Trench 4 looking east

Film Two: Colour Slide

Shot Number	Photograph Content
1	North end of trench 3 south facing section
2	West end of trench 5 North facing section
3	North end of trench 2 south facing section
4	North end of trench 2 south facing section
5	East end of trench 2 West facing section
6	North end of trench 3 south facing section
7	West end of trench 5 east facing section
8	East end of trench 5 west facing section
9	West end of trench 5 east facing section
10	North end of trench 5 south facing section
11	East end of Test pit 1 west facing section
12	East end of test pit 2 west facing section
13	General shot of site
14	General shot of site
15	General shot of site
16	General shot of site
17	General shot of site
18	General shot of site
19	General shot of site
20	General shot of site
21	General shot of site
22	Trench 4 looking east

APPENDIX IV: Levels Register

Level no.	T.B.M	B.S	F.S.	Corrected	Description
1	59.01	1.55	1.83	58.73	O.S Bench Mark, New Row
2	58.73	2.88	2.22	59.39	Trench 2 north end
3	58.73	2.88	2.14	59.47	Trench 2 south end
4	58.73	2.88	1.68	59.93	Trench 3 south end
5	58.73	2.88	2.04	59.57	Trench 3 north end
6	58.73	2.88	1.88	59.73	Test pit 1 north end
7	58.73	2.88	1.80	59.81	Test pit 1 south end
8	58.73	2.88	2.82	58.79	Bottom of concrete test pit 1
9	58.73	2.88	3.35	58.26	Bottom of test pit 1
10	58.73	2.88	1.98	59.63	Test pit 2 north end
11	58.73	2.88	2.00	59.61	Test pit 2 south end
12	58.73	2.88	3.20	58.41	Bottom of concrete test pit 2
13	58.73	2.88	4.02	57.59	Bottom of test pit 2
14	58.73	2.88	2.24	59.37	Trench 5 east end
15	58.73	2.88	2.46	59.15	Trench 5 west end

APPENDIX V: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Written Scheme of Investigation: Land at St Andrews Hall, New Row, Alnwick, Northumberland

Planning ref: A/2007/0016

NCCCT ref: A4/11; 6790

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A planning application has been submitted for the creation of 17 flats and 7 car spaces (on-site) and 8 car parking spaces (off-site) at St Andrews Hall, New Row, Alnwick. This written scheme of investigation details the works to be undertaken during an archaeological evaluation at the site in accordance with the brief prepared by the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council, and telephone and email communications between the client, Archaeological Research Services Ltd and the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council
- 1.2 The proposed development site is situated at OS grid reference 4184861334, and lies at c.60m aOD. There have been no previously recorded archaeological works on this site.

2. Historic background and map regression

- 2.1 Alnwick has previously been the subject of a number of desk-based assessments and an extensive urban study in recent years, which have built up a good understanding of the available information on the town's development, including the area of the proposed development. For this reason, Northumberland County Council (NCC) Conservation Team has advised Alnwick District Council that a programme of trial trenching should be carried out across the site prior to the determination of planning. In lieu of a desk-based assessment, this written scheme of investigation includes a brief archaeological background placing the site in its archaeological and historic context, as well as comprehensive historic map regression focussing on both archaeological potential and more recent areas of potential disturbance. This data has been used to inform the trench locations (Fig. 1) .
- 2.2 *Prehistory*
The earliest evidence for human activity in the area of Alnwick is evidenced by a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead, found in 1939. In the Bronze Age there is evidence for occupation shown by two Bronze Age burials found during road building in 1820 and 1861. Fragments of a rare Bronze Age ring were found in 1850 near to the railway station. Although burials from this period have been uncovered, no traces of any settlements have yet been found. Iron Age homesteads, such as Alnwick Moor Camp, a circular enclosure 50m in diameter where remnants of the surrounding stone ramparts can be seen, show evidence for later prehistoric settlement in the area.

2.3 *Romano-British*

A Roman coin, found close to the River Aln to the north of the castle, is the only evidence for Romano-British period activity in the areas.

2.4 *Early Medieval*

The name of the town means 'settlement by the Aln' and it most likely developed during the early medieval period, although the first record of Alnwick is dated to 1160. It has been suggested the town grew up at a point where a number of trackways crossed the river. At present no evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation is known from Alnwick.

2.5 *Medieval*

The central part of Alnwick has been subject to a number of desk-based assessments and an extensive urban study which is in the process of being updated. Much of the proposed development area is located at the back of medieval burgrave plots associated with properties fronting Fenkle Street. It is possible that this area may have had a similar use in the early medieval period. Medieval burgrave plots are a rich archaeological resources that have been investigated in both Alnwick and elsewhere in the County, such as Berwick-upon-Tweed, and they often reveal refuse pits or middens, traces of industrial activity or evidence of medieval horticultural activity. Information derived from these deposits can inform our understanding of local medieval diets and may also testify to various craft or commercial practices formerly undertaken on the site. Where such deposits do survive, they can provide a valuable insight into the social and economic history of a settlement.

2.6 In addition, and perhaps more significantly, the available evidence indicates that the putative line of the medieval town wall ran to the rear of the burgrave plots in this area and therefore potentially crossed the proposed development site. The 15th century town wall has been referred to as originally being 6ft thick and 20ft 6ins high in places. The wall fell out of use in the post-medieval period when the union between England and Scotland made it unnecessary as a form of military defence. It appears to have been quarried for building stone in many places, however there is very likely to be some evidence, potentially surviving foundations, remaining below ground level.

2.7 A number of maps were consulted in order to chart the history of the site, looking in particular at burgrave plots still in use in the 18th century. Speed's 1610 map of Northumberland, Fryer's 1820 map of Northumberland and Greenwood's 1828 map show Alnwick at a scale to large to be included in the map regression. The maps included in the map regression are as follows. They are illustrated in the Figures 2 to 9.

- Armstrong's map of the county of Northumberland dating from 1769
- J Wood's map of Alnwick dating to 1827
- T Bell's tithe map of Alnwick dating to 1846
- A map dating to 1827 published by the General Inspectors of the Board of Health in 1849 showing cholera outbreaks in Alnwick. This is a duplicate of J Wood's 1827 map
- First edition OS map 1863

- Second edition OS map 1898
 - Third edition OS map 1920
 - Fourth edition OS map 1956
- 2.8 The earliest known map which shows the area is Speed's 1610 map of Northumberland. The map is produced at too large a scale to show any detail of the town's plan, but shows that the town of Alnwick was well established by this date.
- 2.9 Fryer's 1820 map of Alnwick shows the town area, but not at a scale useful enough to reproduce for this WSI. The major roads into the town, Bondgate approaching from the east, Clayport from the south-west and Fenkle street, to the east of the Market are clearly visible with a thin strip of housing on each. The market to the east of the site, still the central focus of the town with Alnwick castle to the north, are clearly visible.
- 2.10 Greenwood's 1828 map of Northumberland shows the town area with the main roads of Bondgate, Clayport, Fenkle Street and the triangular area of the market. Although the map is at a large scale Dispensary Street can be seen, with housing on either side. The town appears to have expanded to the west and south from Fryer's map of 1820.
- 2.11 The earliest map (Fig. 2) used in the map regression is that of Armstrong's map of the county of Northumberland (Sheet 9) which dates to 1769. The map shows the outlines of buildings and main roads, but importantly the still existing burgage plots, running from Fenkle street through the site, are clearly visible. The site is at this point undeveloped. What will become Stonewell Lane marks the southern limit of two burgage plots. One terminates at the east of the site and the other continues west from this. The western burgage plot seems to not have an associated building, and to the north is a similar sized plot, also with no associated building. The eastern burgage plot appears to be attached to a property on Fenkle Street and terminates under the modern standing building to the east end of St Andrew's Hall development site. A further two burgage plots project westward from properties on Fenkle Street and continue into the eastern end of the site terminating under the same standing building.
- 2.12 J Wood's map of Alnwick, dated 1827 (Fig. 3), shows a large burgage plot running west from a building set back from the Fenkle Street frontage and immediately north of Stonewell Lane. A further burgage plot is situated immediately north of this and a further two run down from the north. All the plots converge towards the centre of the development area. The layout of these plots is different to those shown in Armstrong's 1769 map.
- 2.13 T Bell's map of 1846 (Fig. 4) does not plot any of the structures within the development site.
- 2.14 A map showing the cholera outbreak, dated 1849 (Fig. 5), shows the same layout of burgage plots as Wood's map of 1827.
- 2.15 The 1st Edition OS map of 1863 (Fig. 6) shows a very similar layout of plots to that of Wood's 1827 map.

- 2.16 The 2nd edition OS map of 1898 (Fig. 7) shows that the east-west running burgage plots have been consolidated into one large garden feature, with development immediately outside the site to the north and north-west.
- 2.17 The 3rd edition OS map of 1920 (Fig. 8) shows that the large garden area that encompassed most of the site has been rationalised to its present layout on its western end and the buildings of an Iron Foundry have been built to the east and west, leaving an area of undeveloped ground to the central western part of the site.
- 2.18 The 4th edition OS map of 1956 (Fig. 9) shows the foundry building as it appears on the 3rd edition OS map, although the eastern building appears to have been removed and replaced with a smaller building immediately to the north of Stonewell Lane.
- 2.19 The draft document of the Alnwick Extensive Urban Survey at the Northumberland HER was also consulted. This shows the potential line of the town wall. This information is replicated in Fig. 10.

3. Site Specific Requirements

- 3.1. The client for this work is Gentoo PLC who are proposing to develop the site for residential use.
- 3.2 The work to be undertaken is a series of archaeological trenches and test-pits 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.
- 3.3 The evaluation will comprise four evaluation trenches, two measuring 10m long by 1.8m wide and two measuring 15m long by 1.8m wide, targeted to ascertain what archaeological remains may survive at the site. These are specifically targeted at:

Trench 1 – survival of burgage plot shown on 1769 map

Trench 2 – level of truncation caused by Iron Foundry building, survival of burgage plot shown on 1769 map, survival of town wall

Trench 3 – level of truncation caused by Iron Foundry building, survival of burgage plot shown on 1769 map, survival of burgage plots shown on 1827 map survival of town wall

Trench 4 – level of truncation caused by Iron Foundry building, , survival of burgage plots shown on 1827 map survival of town wall

Two 1.8m by 1.8m test pits will be located as close as possible to the foundations of the present structure to the east of the site to assess levels of truncation associated with this building.

- 3.4 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
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 Access arrangements for mechanical excavation equipment have been confirmed with the client. Utility information has been requested prior to work commencing on site, so that the utilities can be avoided.

4. Project Management and Standards

- 4.1 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).
- 4.2 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.

5. Methods

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2 The trench and test-pit will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools in order to expose surviving archaeological features and deposits.
- 5.3 All archaeological features and deposits will be recorded on a pre-excavation plan before excavation, sampling and recording.

- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 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.
- 5.7 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).
- 5.8 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).

6. Contingency

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 A contingency sum has been provided for the excavation of an additional 15m x 1.8m 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.

7. Recording

- 7.1 The site will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area.

- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 The stratigraphy of the trench and test-pit will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 7.4 All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded with above ordnance datum (AOD) levels.
- 7.5 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.
- 7.6 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled.

8. Access

- 8.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will give the County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council 10 working days (or less if so agreed) notice of the commencement of fieldwork.
- 8.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will afford access to the County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council or their representative at all times, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological evaluation.
- 8.3 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will maintain regular communication with the County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council to ensure that the project aims and objectives are met.

9. Finds Processing and Storage

- 9.1. 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).
- 9.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 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.

- 9.5 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.
- 9.6 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and the Museum of Antiquities prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.
- 9.7 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

10. Site archive

- 10.1 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 Museum of Antiquities within 6 months of the fieldwork once all post-excavation work is completed and the final report produced.

11. Report

- 11.1 One copy of the report will be submitted to the client, and two hard copies (one bound and one unbound) and one digital copy will be submitted to the Northumberland SMR within fourteen 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
 - Planning Application Number, NCCCT reference number and OASIS reference number
 - a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale with 10 figure central grid reference
 - contractor's details including date work carried out
 - nature and extent of the proposed 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

12. OASIS

- 12.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will complete an on-line OASIS form for this evaluation. Archaeological Research Services Ltd is a registered contractor on the OASIS system and has uploaded archaeological reports before.

13. Dissemination/Publication

- 13.1 A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted to Sarah MacLean by the beginning of December of the year in which the work is completed.
- 13.2 A short article will be prepared for a local journal if appropriate.

14. 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*.

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