# Land south of the Old Smithy, Widdrington, Northumberland. An Archaeological Evaluation



West facing elevation and footings of sandstone wall (103).

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# **ARS Ltd Report 2017/91**July 2017

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#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Project Name: An Archaeological Evaluation at Old Smithy, Widdrington,

Northumberland Site Code: WIDD17

Planning Authority: Northumberland County Council

Geology: Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation comprised mudstone, siltstone and

sandstone; superficial deposit of Devensian Till – Diamicton

NGR: NZ 25489 95823

Date of Fieldwork: June 2017 Date of Report: June 2017

In May 2017 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Mr S. McLachlan (the client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site south of Old Smithy, Widdrington (NGR NZ 25489 95823). The evaluation was carried out at the pre-determination stage of a planning application (16/02756/FUL) to construct two new dwellings.

A Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment completed in November 2016 at the client's request established that a number of buildings associated with Widdrington village and the Widdrington estate were present within the proposed development area (hereafter 'PDA') in the later 18th century, and that the locations of three of these buildings comprising two cottages and a slaughter house corresponded with the footprints of the two proposed new dwellings. The possibility that evidence of settlement activity dating back to the medieval period could be present has also been highlighted, and evidence for possible Late Iron Age and/or Romano-British settlement activity has also been identified on this ridge. It was concluded that the archaeological potential of the PDA was high. The local authority curatorial archaeologist therefore recommended that an initial phase of intrusive archaeological works was undertaken which comprised evaluation trenching to assist in the determination of the planning application.

The archaeological evaluation consisted initially of one machine-excavated T-shaped trench composed of a 15m x 2m north-south leg (Trench T1W) positioned at the centre of the footprints of the proposed buildings and a 5m x 2m east-west leg (Trench T1E) running perpendicular and adjacent to it.

A north-south aligned sandstone wall (103) extended along the length of Trench 1W and matched the location of a boundary wall, annotated as forming the eastern edge of a kitchen garden, on a survey of the estate compiled in 1768. Dated to the late 17th century boundary wall (103) survived up to five courses high and was supported by a levelling foundation course and extended beyond the northern limit of Trench 1. Following inspection by the local authority an additional 1m x 1m test pit (Trench 2) was excavated beyond the southern limit of Trench 1W in order to determine the extent of the boundary wall within the footprint of the proposed buildings. Excavation of Trench 2 confirmed that the wall continued to the south beyond the house plots limits.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2017 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by Mr S. McLachlan (the client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site south of Old Smithy, Widdrington (NGR NZ 25489 95823). The evaluation was carried out at the pre-determination stage of a planning application (16/02756/FUL) to construct two new dwellings.
- 1.2 Previously the client had commissioned a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) (Brown 2016). This identified a number of buildings associated with Widdrington village and the Widdrington estate that had been present within the proposed development area (hereafter 'PDA') and within the footprint of the proposed new dwelling in the later 18th century.
- 1.3 The DBA identified that these three 18th century buildings comprised two cottages and a slaughterhouse. However, in addition, the DBA identified the potential for the PDA to contain unknown buried archaeological remains relating to the medieval village of Widdrington, as well as Late Iron Age and/or Romano-British settlement activity that has also been identified on this ridge.

#### 2. SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 The 'red line boundary' of the PDA is outlined in Figure 1, and is c.2.83 ha in area. It is bounded to the north by the curtilages of Old Smithy and the other properties off Garth Lane, to the south by a hedgerow, fence line and the graveyard wall of the Church Of The Holy Trinity, to the east by a fence line lined with trees. The western boundary of the PDA is unbounded, opening out onto the adjacent field.
- 2.2 The topography of the south-eastern half of the PDA was generally flat at around 37m above Ordnance Datum (AOD), whilst the north-western half of the PDA slopes down gently to the north-west corner at c.35m AOD.

The underlying solid geology of the RLB comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation, and this is overlain by a superficial deposit of Devensian Till – Diamicton (BGS 2017).

2.3 The soils of the study area are classified and mapped as belonging to the DISTURBED SOILS 3 Soil Association (92c), which are mineral soils with a distinct surface horizon formed in at least 40cm of artificially displaced material (SSEW 1983b, 5). These soils form over Carboniferous shale and sandstone and associated drift, and are characterised as 'Restored opencast coal workings. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged compacted fine loamy and clayey disturbed soils. Often stony with thin topsoils. Risk of water erosion (SSEW 1983b, 21). However, as the PDA itself has not been subject to opencast mining activity, any soils present are more likely to belong to the DUNKESWICK Soil Association (711p) which are typical stagnogley soils (SSEW 1983a). These soils form over Till from Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sandstone and shale and are characterised as 'Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey soils associated with similar clayey soils' (SSEW 1983b, 16).

#### 3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The following historical and archaeological background has been summarised from the Written Scheme of Investigation which was produced in May 2017 (Holgate 2017) and is included as an appendix, Appendix IV, in this report.

#### **Prehistoric and Romano-British Periods**

- There is no definitive evidence for prehistoric activity within the study area. However, excavations in the area immediately to the to the east of Widdrington Castle in 1996 revealed a curvilinear gulley that was interpreted by the excavator as belonging to a possible Late Prehistoric or Romano-British roundhouse (HER Event 13114).
- 3.3 The cropmark of a rectilinear enclosure, thought to be of Iron Age or Romano-British date, has been recorded within the study area, c.720m to the south-west of the PDA (HER 25324). The cropmarks of a rectilinear enclosure c.2km to the north of the PDA, at East Chevington, are thought to represent the remains of a Romano-British settlement (HER 11891; HER 11886).

#### **Medieval Period**

- The place-name Widdrington is thought to derive from the Old English for 'TŪN 3.4 of Wuduhere's people', which attests to the likely early medieval origins of the settlement here (Ekwall 1960, 517). However, the earliest documentary evidence for the place-name dates to 1160 when it was recorded in the Feodarium Prioratus Dunelmensis, or Survey of the Estates of the Prior and Convent of Durham (Ibid.). Further to this however, a John de Widdrington is stated to have been witness to documents in 1139-40 which is the earliest reference to the Widdrington family who were lords of the manor throughout the medieval period (Hodgson 1832, 231). In 1341 Edward III granted 'Licence for Gerard de Wodryngton to crenellate his dwelling-place of Wodryngton and impark his woods of Wodryngton, Stanlegh, Legh Leghflat and Hamstokis' (Lyte 1900, 289). The NHLE entry for the castle describes how the original pele tower had an extension added to the north in the 16th century, and by 1592 it comprised three parts: the original pele tower at the south, the 16th century great hall to the north of this and a second tower to the north of the great hall. The castle remained the ancestral home of the Widdrington family throughout the medieval period, but the extent of medieval settlement at Widdrington is unknown (HER 11888).
- 3.5 The Church of the Holy Trinity (NHLE 1371045) which is sited c.18m to the south of the PDA has a late 12th century nave which was remodelled and extended in the mid-14th century, contemporary with the construction of the pele tower to the east. In a deed of 1307, Sir John de Widdrington made a grant of lands to the maintenance of a chaplain at the chapel of Widdrington. Likewise, in 1341 Edward III issued a 'Licence for the alienation in mortmain by Gerard de Wodryngton of 7 marks of rent out of his towns of Eschyvynton, Wodryngton and Dririgge, co. Northumberland, said to be held in chief, to a chaplain to celebrate divine service daily in the chapel of Wodryngton for his good estate in life, for his soul after death and for the souls of his ancestors; and of 40s. of rent out of the same towards the support of another chaplain celebrating divine service as above' (Lyte 1900, 289).

#### **Post-Medieval Period**

- 3.6 The NHLE entry for Widdringon Castle states that at some point between 1592 and the Civil War the great hall was rebuilt and heightened, and projecting wings to the north and south were added to the two towers between 1653 and 1676. This latter work was carried out by William, second Baron Widdrington, who also laid out an enclosed forecourt and walled garden. William, third Lord Widdrington, took part in the Jacobite Rising of 1715, and consequently the Widdrington Estate was confiscated by the Crown. The York Buildings Company purchased the Castle in 1720 and described it as 'a large antient building ... in a very ruinous condition, and in danger of falling, and uninhabitable, save only a small part for the use of the steward of the estate' (Hodgson 1832, 245).
- 3.7 The Widdrington estate was purchased by Thomas Revel in about 1750, and subsequently passed to Sir George Warren by marriage (Hodgson 1832, 239). Warren commissioned a survey of the estate in 1768, which provides a detailed snapshot of both the castle and town of Widdrington at this time. The following provides a detailed description of the properties which were located in the southern part of the town, a number of which were situated within the PDA. "In front of the Castle towards the East is a Green Court, on the North side whereof there is a Double Stable (A) for 28 horses (just now repaired) with Lofts or Chambers above, which Lofts by permission, not of right contained in their Leases, are in possession of Jacob Wilkinson and John Annet. At the East end of the these Stables is a Coach House (B) for 2 carriages with a Dwelling over it which also by permission is in the possession of Jacob Wilkinson, and at the West end are two Cottages (C) in possession of Robert Storey. On the South side of the Castle and Green Court is the Great Garden which is surrounded with a Great Brick Wall well planted with fruit trees. Rejoining on the West side is the Ladies private Garden walled on all sides with Brick and planted with Fruit Trees. On the West side of the Ladies Garden and Chapel yard is the Wilderness, full of Large old Trees chiefly Ash and Sicamore. On the North end of the Wilderness cross the Castle Bank Lane lies what was formerly the Kitchen Garden now used as a Nursery for raising young Trees and Quicksets. On the East side of the Great Garden cross the Park Lane lies the Stallion Close which is a Copy of Rich Land well walled about formerly used for Grassing a Stone Horse as the name imparts. On the North side lies the Gardeners Ground. Besides the premises already mentioned which are or ought to be in the possession of Sir George Warren his Steward of Bailiff except Robert Storey's Cottage for they are not entered in the Rental there is a Good Pigeon house well stocked with pigeons and several Cottages for some of which the Bailiff receives rent for his own use, and also oblige the tenants to reap for him in time of Harvest, a sort of Boon work, upon a farm he holds in another Manor all of which will be particularly mentioned in the following part of this Description. At the North-West corner of the Castle is a Cottage (D) in possession of Jesse Gordon, who pays for this, a Smithy and another Cottage which will be mentioned by and by 1 pound and four shillings per annum. Adjoining to this is another Cottage and Smithy (E) in possession of Jacob Williamson. The next building on the north side of the Castle Bank is a common oven (F) for the use of the tenants and next to it is a Cottage (G) belonging to John Annet. Then follows a Cottages and Smithy (H) belonging to Jesse Gordon before mentioned. The next building is a common Slaughter House (I) which completes this row. Then turning to the East is a Cottage (K) in the possession of

Jacob Denning with a shed adjoining on the North side used by Thomas Storey as a Cowhouse for which he pays rent to the Bailiff. To this joins another Cottage (L) in the possession of Jacob Wilkinson and to this also joining a shed used by Jesse Gordon as a Stable. Then follows two other Cottages (M) one in possession of Elizabeth Dobson the other of Jacob Calder for which they pay rent to the Bailiff. The next are two Cottages (N) in possession of John Annet which finishes this row, cross the end of the last mentioned buildings towards the east is another row the South End of which is a Stable (O) of four Stalls formerly appendant to the Castle but now by permission in the Occupation of Jacob Wilkinson, adjoining to this are 2 Stables (P) for 4 Horses each which as the last, John Annet is permitted to occupy, and to these join a new Erected Cottage (Q) in possession of John Cowburn, near to these is the pigeon house (R) before mentioned. At a Little distance from the Pigeon house towards the North is a Cottage (S) out of repair and empty one that has been usually let by the Bailiff. To the West is a Cottage (T) in possession of Widow Chisholme for which she pays 12 shillings a year. And this brings us to the House and Homestead belonging to John Annet's Farm which consists of a Dwelling House (U) and Parlour on the Ground floor, with Lodging rooms over them in Good repair Stone and Tiles, adjoining the House by way of this is the Milk house which is also Stone and Slated in Good repair, at the North end of the house is his Back Kitchen (V) an old Stable (W) and further in the same line is (X) a Cottage, and cross the north end of his yard are two Cottages (Y) these last mentioned buildings are Stone and Thatched, and but in bad repair, on the West side of the yard is (Z) Henhouses, Hogstys etc Stone and Thatched in good repair. Next to these are (a) two double Byars for 20 Cattle Stone and Tiled in good repair, further to the South is (b) his Barn Stone and Tiled in good repair, with his Garden and Stack Yard adjoining."

3.8 The next historic map to depict Widdrington in any detail is Armstrong's map of Northumberland of 1769 which shows the castle and church encircled by a road, and the village to the north, bisected by a through-road. Subsequent county maps (Fryer 1820 and Greenwood 1826) do not depict this through-road and provide little further detail. All three of these maps are at too small a scale to accurately depict the locations of buildings, and only show the extent of the village schematically. The castle was demolished soon after 1772, and Sir George Warren had another built in its place, but this burnt down whilst still under construction. Subsequently a gothic style castle was built to the south-east of the former structure, but this remained uninhabited from 1802 and was described as 'verging to decay' in 1832 (Hodgson 1932, 245-6). The 1845 tithe map depicts the castle within its parkland which is described in the tithe award as 'Pleasure ground and wilderness around Castle'. This map shows that most of the buildings that were formerly situated within the PDA had been demolished by this time, except for those located along the proposed access route off Garth Lane, and the PDA was situated within the open parkland surrounding the castle. Those buildings remaining to the north are described as 'Residue of Widdrington village' in the tithe award, attesting to the removal of much of the village. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map surveyed in 1855 depicts the 18th century castle situated atop the circular mound upon which it was constructed, prior to the demolition of the castle in 1862. The PDA is located within the parkland associated with the castle at this time, and a footpath is depicted bisecting the PDA from north-east to south-west. By the time of the OS 2nd edition map of 1897, more of the buildings within Widdrington to the north

of the PDA had been demolished and Garth Lane had been constructed, but the PDA remained unchanged.

#### **Modern Period**

3.9 Subsequent OS mapping depicts the PDA as being undeveloped, the only feature illustrated within it comprising the footpath bisecting the site. By 1994 the car park for the church had been constructed immediately to the south of the PDA, the field boundary along the western edge of the PDA was in place with an elongated triangular field beyond, and the footpath was no longer depicted. Nevertheless, the course of the footpath is still visible as a prominent ridge which separates the generally flat ground to the south-east from the land which slopes gently away to the north-west. A linear parch mark corresponding with the course of the footpath is clearly visible on historic Google Earth satellite imagery dating to 2006, suggesting that there is buried metalling present along its course.

#### 4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

#### 4.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

- 4.1.1 Research objectives identified in *North-East Regional Framework* for the later medieval period (Petts and Gerrard 2006, 169-71) considered to be the most relevant to the project include:
  - MDi Settlement
  - MDii Landscape

#### 4.2 Project Aims and Objectives

- 4.2.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation trenching was to gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about any archaeological remains existing within the area of investigation.
- 4.2.2 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation trenching were as follows.
  - To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological deposits within the area affected by invasive development.
  - To gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about the archaeological resource existing within the areas of investigation.

#### 5. METHODOLOGY

#### 5.1 Coverage

- 5.1.1 The archaeological evaluation initially comprised a T-shaped trench, measuring 15m by 2m with a 5m by 2m extension to the east.
- 5.1.2 Upon consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council it was agreed that excavation of an additional test pits (Trench 2) should be undertaken in order to establish the extent of a structure exposed within Trench T1W.

5.1.3 The archaeological evaluation consisted of two trenches (Figure 2), a T shaped trench, and Trench 2.

#### Trench 1:

Longest axis. West (T1W): 15m by 2m, aligned north to south at the northern extent of the footprints of the proposed buildings; depth: 1.31m BGL. This part of Trench 1 formed the head of the "T". The stem of the "T" extended to the east.

Shortest axis. East (T1E): 5m by 2m, aligned east to west, perpendicular extension of T1W; depth: 1.28m BGL. This part of Trench 1 formed the stem of the "T".

#### • Trench 2:

1m by 1m, hand dug at the southern extent of the proposed house plots; depth: 0.30m BGL.

#### 6. RESULTS

#### 6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The following section presents a synthetic narrative of the results of the evaluation and should be read in conjunction with the figures presented in Appendix I: The Figures. Contextual detail is presented in Appendix II: Context Summary Table.

#### 6.2 Trench 1

- 6.2.1 Trench 1 was located at the northern extent of the footprint of the proposed buildings (Figure 2). Both portions of the Trench (T1W and T1E) were dug through the topsoil (101).
- 6.2.2 The topsoil (101) overlay a poorly sorted sandstone rubble deposit (102) (Figure 4, Figure 6 and Figure 10). The rubble of (102) corresponded with the fabric of sandstone wall (103) and probably represents wall fabric displaced during and after demolition of the wall (103), representing its horizon of demolition. A copper alloy coin, along with quantities of animal bone and glass, including a possible production waste fragment, were recovered from this demolition horizon (102).
- 6.2.3 Horizon of demolition (102) in turn overlay a levelling layer or deposit of soil formation (110) to the west. This deposit, which was up to 0.62m thick and squarely abutted wall (103), overlay to the west a poorly sorted deposit (111) of large to medium size angular sandstone blocks (Figure 11 and Figure 12). In turn, deposit of stone (111) overlay a moderately sorted garden soil (112), which included within it fragments of clay tobacco pipe, animal bone and charcoal.
- 6.2.4 Deposits (102), (110), (111) all appeared to abutt a sandstone wall (103) (Figure 4) which lay upon a sandstone foundation (104) that kicked out by some 80mm from the ?external western face of Wall (103) (Figure 9 and Figure 12).
- 6.2.5 Wall (103), aligned north to south, extended the length of T1W and measured 0.96m wide (Figure 4: Plan of Trench 1) (Figure 13). Wall (103) survived to two courses (0.36m) high at the northern portion of Trench 1W and in the southern extent of the

trench it survived to a maximum five courses (0.93m) high at the southern edge of T1W (Figure 14).

- 6.2.6 This wall (103) was built of two skins of sandstone blocks, roughly dressed and faced solely on the exterior face, laid on bed to courses with angular sandstone rubble chocking or pinnings incorporated into the wall face (Figures 4, 6, 13, 17, 21) to create level courses (Figure 6). The core of the wall itself, or the hearting, was also formed of small angular sandstone nodules not laid in courses.
- 6.2.7 Wall (103) appears to have been drystone built and no evidence of mortar or other bonding material was identified. This, however, is unusual as the east and west face of wall (103) was vertical, rather than battered.
- 6.2.8 The west side of wall (103) overlay a single kicked foundation course (104) which extended out for 80mm from the western face of the wall. Foundation (104) was not present in the east facing eastern elevation.
- 6.2.9 Wall (103) and foundation (104) appears to have been trench built and sat within foundation trench [105]. However, the upper edge of [105] (the level at which the wall was constructed from) was not established with any certainty. It may be (is likely that) wall (103) was built from the level of garden soil (112), the topology of the eastern edge of rubble deposit (111) (Figure 4) markedly tipping down to abut the fabric of wall (103).
- 6.2.10 The eastern elevation of wall (103), of which 2m length was exposed within T1E (Figure 17), was cut through a sandy-clayey deposit (119) on its eastern side. This deposit is in interpreted to be the continuation of deposit (114) identified to the west of wall (103).
- 6.2.11 Garden soil (112) overlay a deposit of redeposited natural (113), in the southwest corner of T1W (Figure 3). This deposit (113) was formed of flat laid sandstone blocks 25mm thick (Figure 10) and overlay a fine textured ?garden soil (115), to the north, which contained occasional sandstone chippings, charcoal and animal bone.
- 6.2.12 Garden soil (115) itself overlay a compacted dark grey charcoal rich deposit (116) that was underlain by a clay rich deposit (114) which contained occasional charcoal and broken animal bone fragments (Figure 5: Section 3) (Figure 17). At the southern portion of the Trench 1W wall (103) was truncated by a linear cut [106] for services comprising a cast iron pipe, running east-north-east to west-south-west (Figure 15).
- 6.2.13 The sequence to the east of wall (103) comprised topsoil (101), which overlay a poorly sorted demolition deposit (117) which contained sandstone blocks and handmade bricks with traces of lime mortar (Figure 6: Section 2 and Section 4) (Figure 19, Figure 20 and Figure 21). Underlying this, a further demolition deposit (118) overlay a garden soil (109) which contained fragments of clay tobacco pipe, animal bone, sandstone chippings and charcoal fragments. Deposit (109) (Figure (6) was similar to the garden soil (112) (Figure 4) and probably equates with it. The lowest observed deposit (119) in this section (Figure 6 section 4) comprised fine textured heavy clay with charcoal.

#### 6.3 Trench 2

- 6.3.1 Trench 2 was located at the southern extent of the footprint of the proposed buildings (Figure 3).
- 6.3.2 The topsoil (201) overlay a rubble deposit (202) which may represent a continuation of deposit (102). Deposit (202) directly physically overlay sandstone wall (203/103) Figure 4: Plan of Trench 2 (Figure 21 and Figure 22). The alignment, the fabric and the construction of the wall (203) paralleled those of the wall (103) revealed within T1W, providing evidence of the continuation of the wall that extended south beyond the limit of excavation.

#### 7. SPECIALIST REPORTS

#### 7.1 Animal bone analysis

#### **Quantification and Methods**

- 7.1.1 A total of 650 grams of animal bone derived from post medieval contexts was examined.
- 7.1.2 The analysis follows guidelines and recommendations outlined by English Heritage (1991) and *Animal bones and Archaeology: Guidelines for best practice* (Baker and Worley 2013).
- 7.1.3 The bones were identified to species or taxonomic group where possible. Ribs and vertebrae (excluding the axis and atlas) and unidentifiable specimens were assigned to size class (large/medium/small). The presence of gnawing, burning were all recorded. The preservation and the location of butchery marks were recorded using a zoning system devised by Dobney and Rielly (1988). Epiphyseal fusion stages were assigned using Silver guidelines (1969). Measurements of mature specimens were taken following the standards of von den Driesch (1976). Tabulation of the results is provided in Appendix III.

#### **Results**

- 7.1.4 A total assemblage of 15 refitted disarticulated fragments of animal bone was analysed. The surface preservation of the bone was moderate (102) to good (112; 115).
- 7.1.5 The assemblage comprised of exclusively domesticated species that included sheep/goat (102), cattle (102) and unidentified large mammal specimens. The most abundant skeletal element was metapodium (metatarsal or metacarpal) and humerus, those parts first discarded following slaughter and butchery.
- 7.1.6 The recorded epiphyseal fusion stage of all the observable elements indicate that none of the *bovid* specimens were derived from very young individuals. On the one hand this may suggest either that the animals were not bred on site or that it was only more mature individuals that were a slaughtered, butchered and jointed.
- 7.1.7 Nearly all elements retrieved from context (102) and (115) presented butchery marks including predominant dismembering cuts. Weathering, gnawing and trampling marks were visible on some elements from deposit (102) suggesting that specimens were not sealed immediately after their disposal.

7.1.8 Metric data obtained for sheep/goat and cattle fragments were consistent with the measurements obtained from other post-medieval British assemblages (ABMAP).

#### Discussion

- 7.1.9 The small sample size retrieved and examined precludes being able to draw any firm conclusions, although the high frequency of butchery marks suggests, not unsurprisingly that these animals were either slaughtered and/or butchered/jointed in the vicinity of the site.
- 7.1.10 This animal bone assemblage has little potential for further analysis and can therefore be discarded or retained and incorporated into a teaching collection.

#### 7.2 The Clay Tobacco Pipe

- 7.2.1 Three clay tobacco pipe stem fragments representing three separate pipes were recovered from context (109). A further two fragments derived from deposit (112).
- 7.2.2 The clay pipe fragments from garden soil (109) weighed 18.1g, whereas the fragments retrieved from garden soil (112) weighed 7.4g. As no diagnostic features were present, they have been dated by established stem bore guidelines (Oswald 1975) to the mid-17th to the late 17th century, although this is intended only as a general guide.

#### 7.3 The Coins

- 7.3.1 A complete struck or hammered copper alloy coin (Figure 24), 19.6mm in diameter and weighing 2.1g, was found in deposit (102), which is interpreted as the horizon of demolition of wall (103).
- 7.3.2 The obverse of the coin bears a crown above 'CR II' (Carolus Rex II) and the Latin inscription '(...)AR.D.G.(...)' that should read 'CAR.D.G.SCOT.ANG.FRA.HIB.R'. The reverse shows a thistle and the Latin inscription '(...)E.LACESSET' which would originally read NEMO.ME.IMPVNE.LACESSET. The coin represents a tuppence piece, issued under Charles II between 1663-1668 (Portable Antiquities Scheme).

#### 7.4 The Worked Stone

#### Robin Holgate MCIfA, FSA

- 7.4.1 A ground and polished stone axehead (Figure 25 Figure 30) possibly fabricated using stone originating from Great Langdale, dating to the Neolithic period, was recovered from an unstratified context. The axehead has faceted sides and, measuring 118mm long, 74mm wide and 30mm thick, is an example of a relatively short axehead. The way in which it tapers towards a butt end suggests it may have initially been a longer axehead which broke and was then reshaped so that it could be re-hafted. Whilst axes were used for working wood, a number of axes were also deposited as votive offerings. The axehead probably attests to activity of some description on or in the immediate vicinity of the site.
- 7.4.2 This axehead has potential for further analysis, e.g. petrological analysis, and should therefore be retained and archived.

#### 8. DISCUSSION

- 8.1 Sandstone wall (103/203) is likely to exceeded 26m in length and, at 1.2m wide, it is likely that it was a wall of some pretension and stood to height.
- 8.2 The apparent drystone construction technique of wall (103/203) would appear to be somewhat anachronistic. The wall (103) has kicked or stepped foundations (104), usually a construction technique associated with a foundation trench and below ground foundation course(s) and the external faces of the wall are not battered. The batter on a drystone wall ensures its solidity by increasing the friction, through downward pressure, between the individual blocks. Through stones are usually used to bond the external faces together and rubble is used to form the heart work or wall core.
- 8.3 Wall (103) did not have through stones and it incorporated chocking into what remained of its external face. The use of chocking or pinnings on the external face inherently creates instability in drystone wall construction (Post, 2005. 38). The incorporation of chocking in the external faces of wall (103) might imply that they were retained in place by the backfull of the foundation trench, even though an upper edge to any foundation trench was not recorded. It is unlikely, nay improbable, given the sequence observed on the site, that wall (103) and wall foundations (104) were built directly onto the ground surface.
- The garden soils (109) and (112) identified on the eastern and western sides of the wall (103/203) probably form the level from which wall (103) was built.
- 8.5 The 1768 survey, commissioned by Sir George Warren (Figures 8 and 9), demonstrates the existence of a boundary between a kitchen garden, situated to the west, and small scale industrial structures and cottages to the east.
- 8.6 According to the 1768 survey the eastern boundary wall of the kitchen garden also formed the western external wall of a slaughterhouse (I), a cottage and a smithy (H) (Figure 7, and see Section 3.6).
- 8.7 Clay pipe fragments, dated by established stem bore guidelines, may confirm a construction date of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century for wall (103/203). The coin, which was minted between 1663-1668 and derives from horizon of demolition (102) is [probably residual but may lend some background support for a later 17th century construction date for sandstone wall (103/104).
- 8.8 The Widdrington estate was confiscated by the Crown in 1715 and it is possible that parts of the estate suffered a degree of neglect (see Section 3.5). Finally, at the time of Warren's survey in 1768 brick is recorded as being the principle fabric of the garden walls raised to the south and west of the castle.
- 8.9 Major works were undertaken on the Widdrington estate between 1653 and 1676. These included adding projecting wings to the castle and laying out an enclosed forecourt and walled garden. It is therefore likely the wall (103/104) was constructed during the works carried out under William, second Baron Widdrington in the second half of the 17th century.
- 8.10 The location of the western elevation and the alignment of the extant Old Smithy visible on 1897 map (Figure 9), which was erected prior to the 1855-1859 survey, maintains the alignment and orientation of wall (103/203), which is no longer

depicted. This suggests that by the mid-19th century survey wall (103/203) had been partially demolished and while no longer extant to the south elements of its extent to the north had been incorporated as an external wall into the Old Smithy.

- 8.11 The excavation of Trench 1 revealed a depositional sequence which can be read in one of two ways, depending on ones interpretation of the level from which wall (103/203) and foundation (104) were built.
- 8.12 The excavator records wall and foundation (103/203; 104) as having been built free standing. If one accepts that wall (103/203; 104) was built as a free standing drystone construction, then the sequence in Trench 1 may be interpreted as demonstrating two demolition events. The earliest demolition event represented by deposits (111) and (118), and a later event represented by (117?/?102) which involved the destruction of buildings constructed from mortared hand-made bricks. The latter event seems to have been limited to the eastern side of the wall 103/203 and possibly represents the early 19th to the mid-19th century (see Section 3.7) demolition of cottages, slaughterhouse and smithy formerly abutting wall (103) to the east.
- 8.13 Alternatively, if one accepts that wall and foundation (103/203; 104) were probably built from the upper level of (112), then rubble deposit (111) may represent the remains of building material for the initial construction of wall and foundation (103/203; 104) as well as the by-products of stone preparation on site. This scheme of interpretation would then see the deposition of (117?/?102) as representing the horizon of demolition on both wall (103/203) and the buildings which abutted it to the east.
- 8.14 Finally, though not retrieved from a stratified context, it is worth noting that the presence of a Great Langdale axehead within the PDA probably attests localised prehistoric occupation.

### 9. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

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

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- 10.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards.
- 10.2 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.

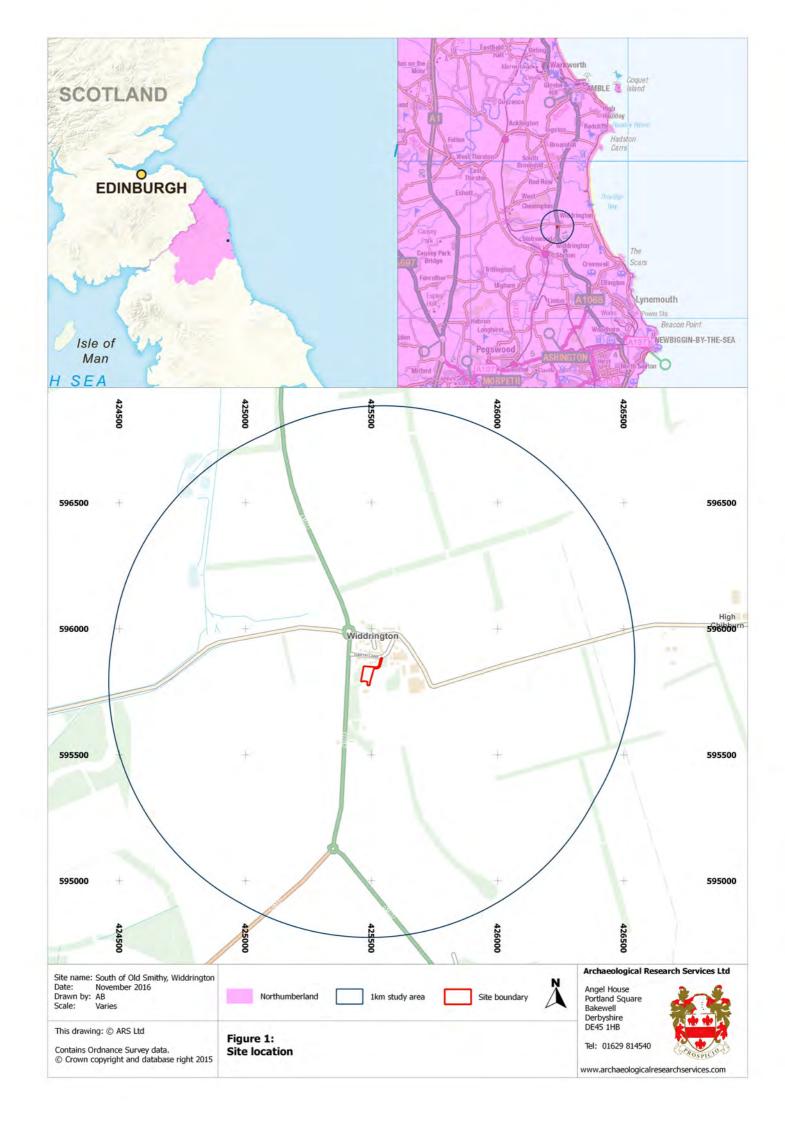
#### 11. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with this work, in particular Steve McLachlan and Nick Best, Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council, for his advice and guidance.

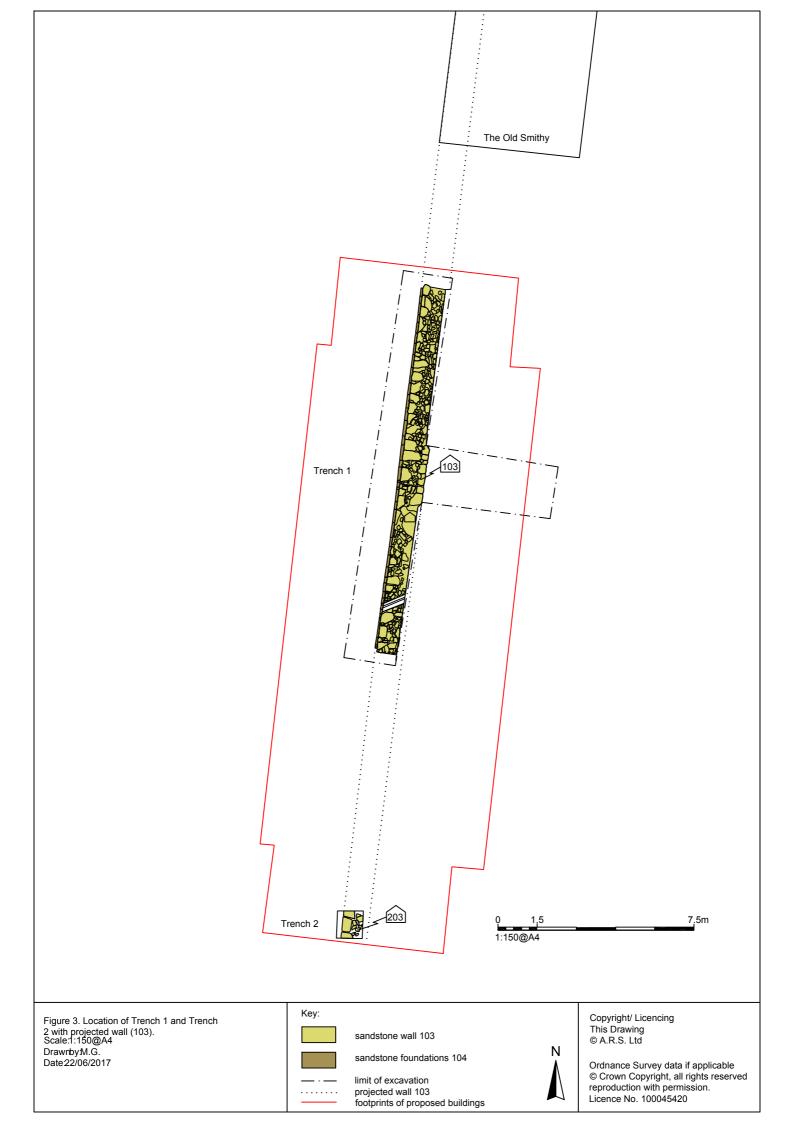
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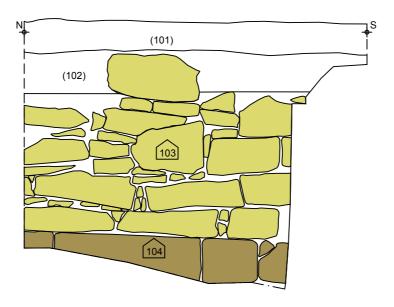
# **APPENDIX I: THE FIGURES**







Section 1a. West facing elevation of wall (103) and levelling course (104).



Section 1b. South-west corner section of Trench 1W.

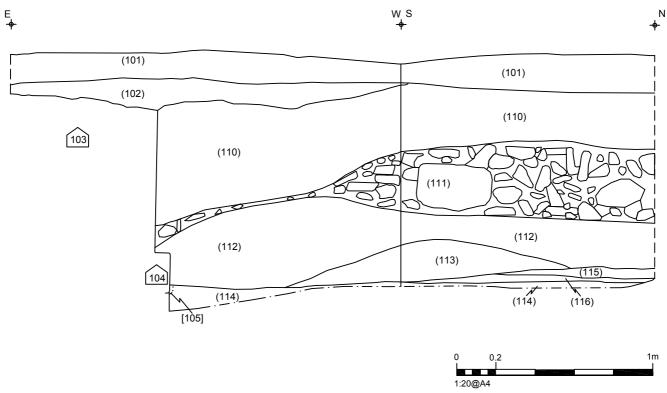
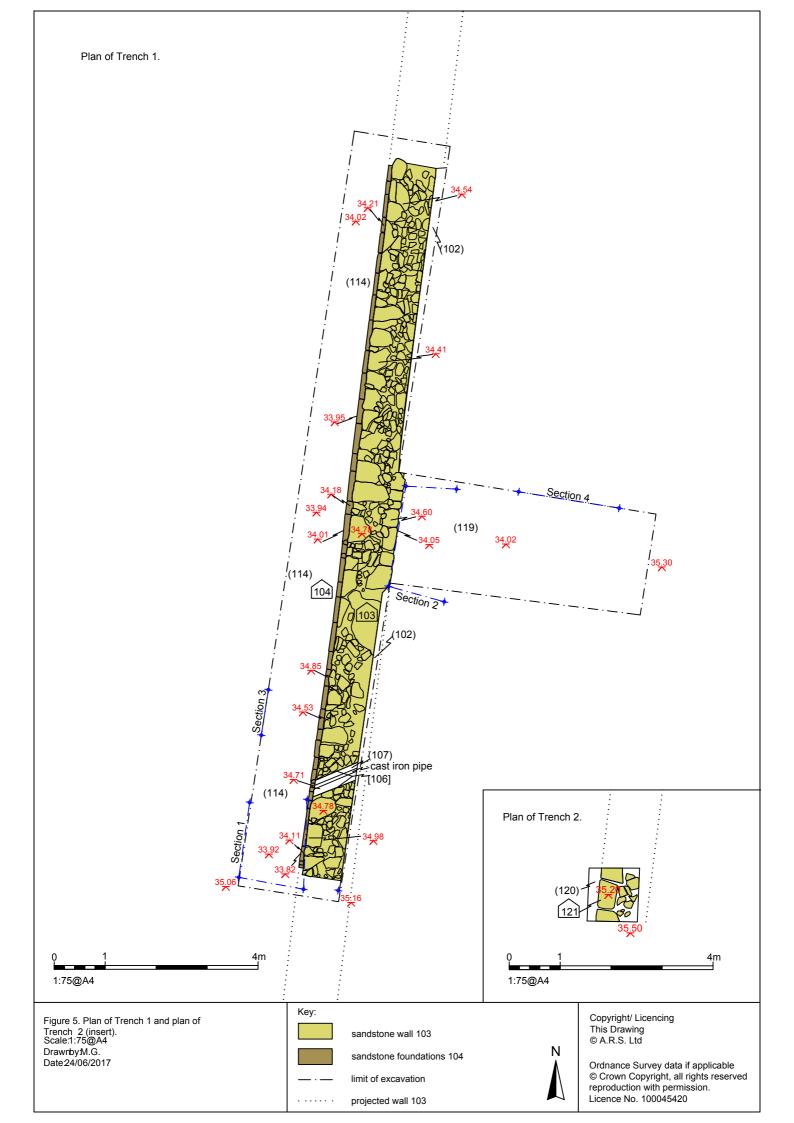


Figure 4. West facing elevation of wall (103) at southern edge of Trench 1. Scale:1:20@A4
Drawn by: M.G.
Date:22/06/2017

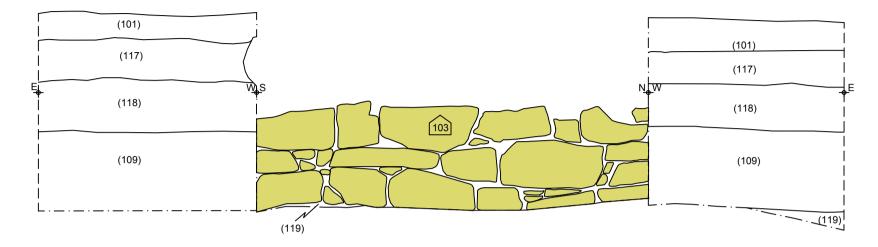
Key:
sandstone wall 103
sandstone foundations 104

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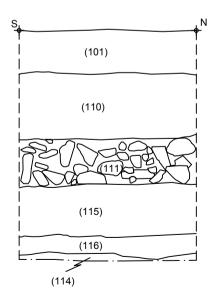
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Section 2. East facing elevation of wall (103).



Section 3. East facing representative section of T1W.



Section 4. South facing representative section of Trench T1E.

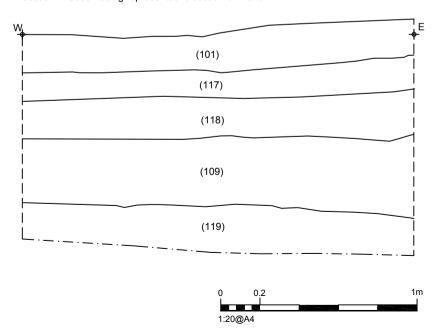


Figure 6. East facing elevation of wall (103) and representative sections of Trench 1. Scale:1:20@A4 DrawrbytM.G. Date:21/06/2017

Key:



sandstone wall 103

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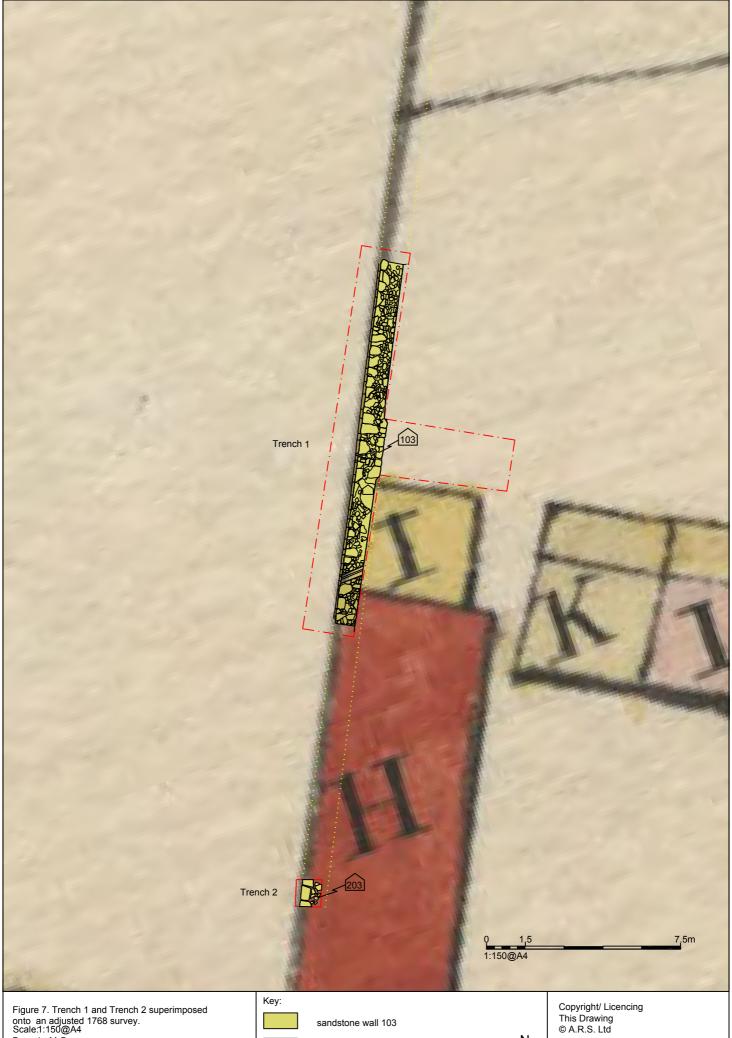


Figure 7. Trench 1 and Trench 2 superimposed onto an adjusted 1768 survey. Scale1:150@A4 DrawrbyM.G. Date 27/06/2017

sandstone foundations 104 limit of excavation projected wall 103

Ν

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Drawn by: M.G. Date: 24/06/2017

limit of excavation

projected wall 103

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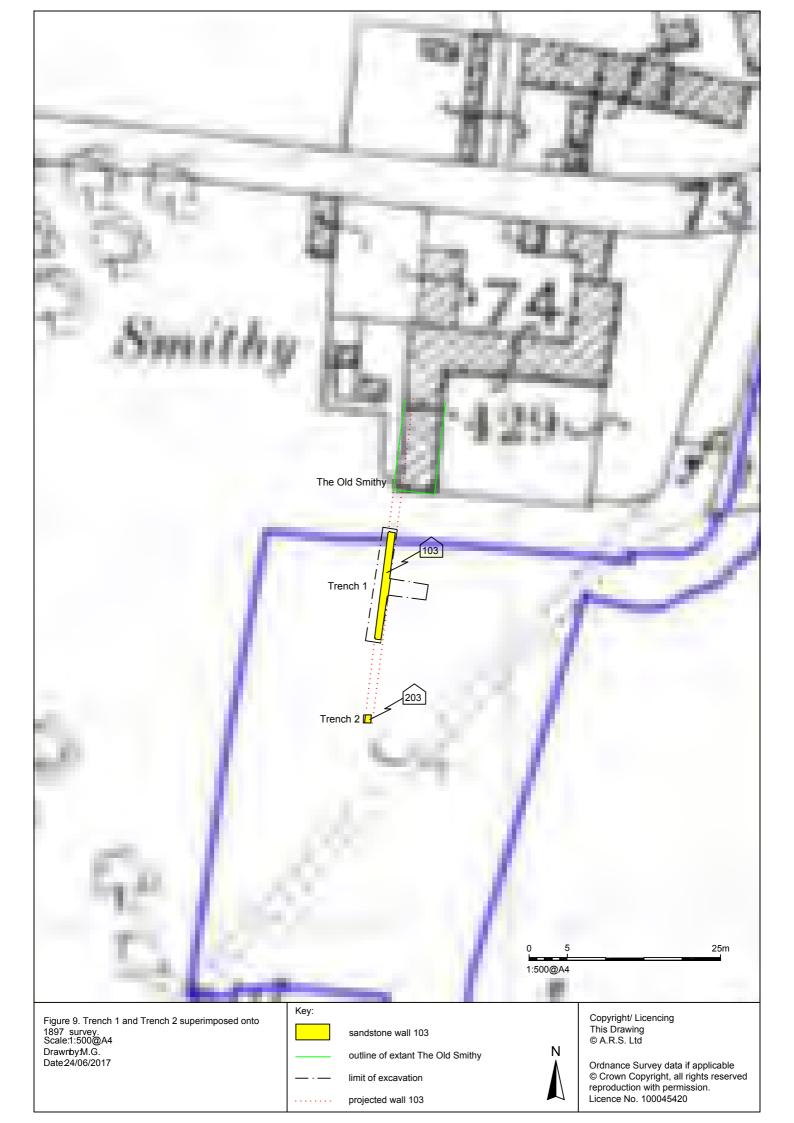




Figure 10: North facing section of Trench 1W. Scale = 2 x 1m in 0.5m gradations.



Figure 11: Oblique view of north and east facing section of Trench 1W, showing garden soils (112) and (115) and a demolition layer (111). Scale =  $2 \times 1m$  in 0.5m gradations.



Figure 12: East facing section of Trench 1W, showing garden soils (112) and (115) and a demolition layer (111). Scale =  $2 \times 1m$  in 0.5m gradations.



Figure 13: Western elevation and footings (104) of a sandstone wall (103), showing irregularly coursed sandstone blocks with interstitial stones. Scale =  $1 \times 1$ m in 0.5m gradations.



Figure 14: Trench 1W view from south, showing a sandstone wall (103). Scale =  $1 \times 1$ m in 0.5m gradations.



Figure 15: Trench 1W view from south-south-west, showing western elevation and footings (104) of a sandstone wall (103). Scale =  $2 \times 1m$  in 0.5m gradations.



Figure 16: Sandstone wall (103) viewed from the top, showing two-skin and rubble structure, shot taken from north. Scale =  $1 \times 1$ m in 0.5m gradations.



Figure 17: Eastern elevation of a sandstone wall (103), viewed from Trench 1E. Scale =  $2 \times 1$ m in 0.5m gradations.



Figure 18: East facing section of Trench 1W, showing occupation layer (116) and sandy-clay deposit (114). Scale =2 x 1m in 0.5m gradations.



Figure 19: Oblique view of north and east facing section of Trench 1E, showing garden soil (109), demolition deposits (117) and (118) and a sandstone wall (103). Scale =  $2 \times 1 \text{m}$  in 0.5m gradations.



Figure 20: North east facing section of Trench 1E, showing garden soil (109) and demolition deposits (117) and (118). Scale  $=2 \times 1m$  in 0.5m gradations.



Figure 21: Oblique view of east and south facing section of Trench 1E, showing garden soil (109), demolition deposits (117) and (118) and a sandstone wall (103). Scale  $= 2 \times 1 \text{m}$  in 0.5m gradations.



Figure 22: Trench 2 viewed from north, showing a sandstone wall (203). Scale =2 x 1m in 0.5m gradations.



Figure 23: Sandstone wall (203), showing two-skinned and rubble structure. Scale = 0.20m (1cm graduations).



Figure 24: Obverse and reverse of Charles II Scottish copper Turner or Bodle, twopence, (102). Scale = 2cm (graduations = 1mm).



Figure 25: Flat side of a Great Langdale axehead, blade edge to the right. Scale = 10cm.



Figure 26: Flat side of a Great Langdale axehead, blade edge to the left. Scale = 10cm.



Figure 27: Side of a Great Langdale axehead, blade edge to the left. Scale = 10cm.



Figure 28: Side of a Great Langdale axehead, blade edge to the right . Scale = 10cm.



Figure 29: Blade edge of a Great Langdale axehead. Scale =  $10 \, \text{cm}$ .



Figure 30: Butt of a Great Langdale axehead. Scale = 10cm.

# **APPENDIX II: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE**

# An Archaeological Evaluation at Land south of Old Smithy, Widdrington, Northumberland

Context	Type/Interpretation	Description / Processual Interpretation	Thickness/extent (feature =	Depth to top (BGL)
			length x width x depth) (m)	
101	Topsoil	Dark brown sandy soil	0.20/PDA	0.0
102	Disuse deposit	Poorly sorted rubble with silt with animal bone, copper coin and glass fragments	0.20/15.0 x 2.0	0.11
103	Sandstone wall	N-S aligned yellow sandstone wall	25.5 x 0.96 x 0.93	0.22
104	Levelling course	Single levelling course for wall 103	15.0 x unk x 0.22	1.02
105	Foundation cut	Indiscernible foundation cut for wall 103 and 104	?15.0 x 1.05 x 0.05	?1.23
106	Cut for services	ENE-WSW oriented linear cut for post-medieval services for cast iron pipe, backfilled with (107)	2.30 x 0.30 x 0.45	0.28
107	Backfill of services	Poorly sorted backfill of cut [106], Industrial period	2.30 x 0.30 x 0.45	0.20
108	Void	Void		
109	Garden soil deposit	Moderately sorted dark brown sandy silt with charcoal, animal bone and clay pipes and occasional angular cut as well as flat sandstone fragments; late 17 <sup>th</sup> century	5.00 x 2.00 x 0.46	0.61
110	Levelling deposit	Dark brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal, sandstone chippings, animal bone	15.00 x 1.00 x 0.60	0.26
111	Demolition deposit	Rubble of large to medium size cut angular sandstone	15.00 x 1.00 x 0.40	0.45
112	Garden soil deposit	Moderately sorted dark brown sandy silt with animal bone, charcoal, clay pipe fragments; late 17 <sup>th</sup> century	6.00 x 1.0 x 0.44	0.70
113	Demolition deposit	Rubble of flat yellow sandstone blocks	0.85 x 0.60 x 0.20	0.91
114	Sandy clay deposit	Fine textured heavy yellow sandy clay with charcoal and occasional animal bone	15.00 x 1.0 x 0.07	0.90
115	Garden soil deposit	Fine textured mid brown sandy silt with occasional sandstone chippings, charcoal and animal bone	14.00 x 1.00 x 0.26	0.78
116	Occupation layer	Compacted dark grey heavy clay, frequent charcoal	7.00 x 1.00 x 0.20	1.13
117	Demolition deposit	Poorly sorted deposit with rubble (80%) composed of red hand-made brick with white lime mortar and sandstone blocks with brown silt (20%), occasional charcoal	5.00 x 2.00 x 0.20	0.12
118	Demolition deposit	Poorly sorted deposit with rubble (80%) composed of angular cut sandstone blocks with light brown sandy silt (20%), occasional charcoal	5.00 x 2.00 x 0.27	0.33
119	Sandy clay deposit	Fine textured heavy yellow sandy clay with charcoal and occasional animal bone	5.00 x 2.00 x 0.29	0.96

# **APPENDIX III: ANIMAL BONE CATALOGUE**

# An Archaeological Evaluation at Land South of Old Smithy, Widdrington, Northumberland

Context	Element(Side)/Taxon/Zone (Z) /Ageing (epiphyseal fusion)	Butchery/Gnawing	Wgt (g)	Measurement
	(Reilly and Dobney, 1988)			(mm)
				(Driesch 1976)
102	MTT (R)/Cattle/Z:1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8/ >2.5y	Cuts: distal articulation	171.0	Bd:50.93
				Bp:48.78
102	MTT (R)/Cattle/Z:2,6,8	Longitudinal split;	63.0	n/a
		Cuts: proximal articulation		
102	Femur/LM/shaft	Cuts	23.1	n/a
102	Rib/LM/Z: 3	-	17.4	n/a
102	Humerus (L)/LM/Z:7,8	Cuts:Z8	131.3	n/a
102	Unid	Cuts x 6	1.4	n/a
102	Scapula (L)/Sheep/goat/Z: 1,2,3,4,5/ >6mo	Hack	5.3	BG:20.68
102	MTC (L)/Sheep/goat/Z: 1,2,5,6,7,8/ > birth	-	15.3	Bp:23.46
102	Humerus (R)/Sheep/goat/Z: 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11/ >10mo	Cuts: distal metaphysis and articulation aspect;	23.0	Bd:29.74
		Gnawed proximal end		
102	Radius (L)/Sheep/goat/ Z: 1,2,5,6,7,8/>10mo	-	18.3	Bp:34.70
112	Rib/LM	-	12.2	n/a
112	Rib/MM	-	4.4	n/a
115	Thoracic vertebra/LM	Multiple horizontal cuts on spine	31.5	n/a
115	Rib/MM	-	2.6g	n/a
115	Scapula/LM	Chop	9.9g	n/a

LM – large mammal (cattle-size), MM – medium mammal (sheep-size)

# **APPENDIX IV: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION**

# Land south of Old Smithy, Widdrington, Northumberland

# Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Evaluation

May 2017



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The Eco Centre, Windmill Way, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear

www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

Prepared on behalf of: Mr S. McLachlan

Date of compilation: May 2017

Compiled by: Robin Holgate MCIfA

Planning Reference: 16/02756/FUL

Local Authority: Northumberland County

Council

Site central NGR: NZ 25489 95823

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#### 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Project and Planning Background

- 1.1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Mr S. McLachlan (the client). It details a scheme of works for archaeological evaluation which will help in determining the outcome of planning application (16/02756/FUL) for the construction of two new dwellings on the site land south of Old Smithy, Widdrington (NGR NZ 25489 95823).
- 1.1.2 The client commissioned a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment in November 2016 (Brown 2016) and this identified that This assessment identified that a number of buildings associated with Widdrington village and the Widdrington estate were present within the proposed development area (hereafter 'PDA') in the later 18th century, and that the locations of three of these buildings comprising two cottages and a slaughter house correspond with the footprints of the two proposed new dwellings. The possibility that evidence of settlement activity dating back to the medieval period could be present has also been highlighted, and evidence for possible Late Iron Age and/or Romano-British settlement activity has also been identified on this ridge.
- 1.1.3 Consequently it is concluded that the archaeological potential of the PDA is high, and further information is required to characterise the nature, date and level of survival of any archaeological remains that might be present. The Northumberland CC Assistant County Archaeologist has therefore recommended that an initial phase of intrusive archaeological works is undertaken comprising evaluation trenching prior to determination of the planning application.
- 1.1.4 Archaeology is a material consideration in the planning process within *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) Paragraph 128 (DCLG 2012).

## 1.2 Site description

- 1.2.1 The 'red line boundary' of the PDA is depicted by a red polygon on Figure 1, and is c.2.83 ha in area. It is bounded to the north by the curtilages of Old Smithy and the other properties off Garth Lane, to the south by a hedgerow, fence line and the graveyard wall of the Church Of The Holy Trinity, to the east by a fence line lined with trees. The western boundary of the PDA is unbounded, opening out onto the adjacent field.
- 1.2.2 The topography of the south-eastern half of the PDA is generally flat at around 37m above Ordnance Datum (AOD), whilst the north-western half of the PDA slopes down gently to the north-west corner at c.35m AOD.



## 1.3 Geology

- 1.3.1 The underlying solid geology of the RLB comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation, and this is overlain by a superficial deposit of Devensian Till Diamicton (BGS 2017).
- 1.3.2 The soils of the study area are classified and mapped as belonging to the DISTURBED SOILS 3 Soil Association (92c), which are mineral soils with a distinct surface horizon formed in at least 40cm of artificially displaced material (SSEW 1983b, 5). These soils form over Carboniferous shale and sandstone and associated drift, and are characterised as 'Restored opencast coal workings. Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged compacted fine loamy and clayey disturbed soils. Often stony with thin topsoils. Risk of water erosion (SSEW 1983b, 21). However, as the PDA itself has not been subject to opencast mining activity, any soils present are more likely to belong to the DUNKESWICK Soil Association (711p) which are typical stagnogley soils (SSEW 1983a). These soils form over Till from Palaeozoic and Mesozoic sandstone and shale and are characterised as 'Slowly permeable seasonally waterlogged fine loamy and fine loamy over clayey soils associated with similar clayey soils' (SSEW 1983b, 16).

#### 2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Prehistoric and Romano-British Periods

2.1 There is no definitive evidence for prehistoric activity within the study area. However, excavations in the area immediately to the to the east of the Widdrington Castle Scheduled Monument in 1996 revealed a curvilinear gulley that was interpreted by the excavator as belonging to a possible Late Prehistoric or Romano-British roundhouse, although no dating evidence was recovered to confirm the interpretation (HER Event 13114). A cropmark of a rectilinear enclosure thought to be of Iron Age or Romano-British date has been recorded within the study area, c.720m to the south-west of the PDA (HER 25324), and cropmarks of a rectilinear enclosure c.2km to the north of the PDA at East Chevington are thought to represent the remains of a Romano-British settlement (HER 11891; HER 11886).

## The Medieval Period

2.2 The place-name Widdrington is thought to derive from the Old English for 'TŪN of Wuduhere's people', which attests to the likely early medieval origins of the settlement here (Ekwall 1960, 517). However, the earliest documentary evidence for the place-name dates to 1160 when it was recorded in the Feodarium Prioratus Dunelmensis, or Survey of the Estates of the Prior and Convent of Durham (Ibid.). Further to this however, a John de Widdrington is stated to have been witness to documents in 1139-40 which is the earliest reference to the Widdrington family who were lords of the manor throughout the medieval period (Hodgson 1832, 231). In 1341 Edward III granted 'Licence for Gerard de Wodryngton to crenellate his dwelling-place of Wodryngton and impark his woods of Wodryngton, Stanlegh, Legh,



Leghflat and Hamstokis' (Lyte 1900, 289). The NHLE entry for the castle describes how the original pele tower had an extension added to the north in the 16th century, and by 1592 it comprised three parts: the original pele tower at the south, the 16th century great hall to the north of this and a second tower to the north of the great hall. The castle remained the ancestral home of the Widdrington family throughout the medieval period, but the extent of medieval settlement at Widdrington is unknown (HER 11888).

2.3 The Church of the Holy Trinity (NHLE 1371045) which is sited *c*.18m to the south of the PDA has a late 12th century nave which was remodelled and extended in the mid-14th century, contemporary with the construction of the pele tower to the east. In a deed of 1307, Sir John de Widdrington made a grant of lands to the maintenance of a chaplain at the chapel of Widdrington. Likewise, in 1341 Edward III issued a 'Licence for the alienation in mortmain by Gerard de Wodryngton of 7 marks of rent out of his towns of Eschyvynton, Wodryngton and Dririgge, co. Northumberland, said to be held in chief, to a chaplain to celebrate divine service daily in the chapel of Wodryngton for his good estate in life, for his soul after death and for the souls of his ancestors; and of 40s. of rent out of the same towards the support of another chaplain celebrating divine service as above' (Lyte 1900, 289).

#### The Post-Medieval Period

- The NHLE entry for Widdringon Castle states that at some point between 1592 and the Civil War the great hall was rebuilt and heightened, and projecting wings to the north and south were added to the two towers between 1653 and 1676. This latter work was carried out by William, second Baron Widdrington, who also laid out an enclosed forecourt and walled garden. William, third Lord Widdrington, took part in the Jacobite Rising of 1715, and consequently the Widdrington Estate was confiscated by the Crown. The York Buildings Company purchased the Castle in 1720 and described it as 'a large antient building ... in a very ruinous condition, and in danger of falling, and uninhabitable, save only a small part for the use of the steward of the estate' (Hodgson 1832, 245).
- 2.5 The Widdrington estate was purchased by Thomas Revel in about 1750, and subsequently passed to Sir George Warren by marriage (Hodgson 1832, 239). Warren commissioned a survey of the estate in 1768, which provides a detailed snapshot of both the castle and town of Widdrington at this time. The following provides a detailed description of the properties which were located in the southern part of the town, a number of which were situated within the PDA.

"In front of the Castle towards the East is a Green Court, on the North side whereof there is a Double Stable (A) for 28 horses (just now repaired) with Lofts or Chambers above, which Lofts by permission, not of right contained in their Leases, are in possession of Jacob Wilkinson and John Annet.

At the East end of the these Stables is a Coach House (B) for 2 carriages with a Dwelling over it which also by permission is in the possession of Jacob Wilkinson, and at the West end are two Cottages (C) in possession of Robert Storey.



On the South side of the Castle and Green Court is the Great Garden which is surrounded with a Great Brick Wall well planted with fruit trees.

Rejoining on the West side is the Ladies private Garden walled on all sides with Brick and planted with Fruit Trees.

On the West side of the Ladies Garden and Chapel yard is the Wilderness, full of Large old Trees chiefly Ash and Sicamore. On the North end of the Wilderness cross the Castle Bank Lane lies what was formerly the Kitchen Garden now used as a Nursery for raising young Trees and Quicksets.

On the East side of the Great Garden cross the Park Lane lies the Stallion Close which is a Copy of Rich Land well walled about formerly used for Grassing a Stone Horse as the name imparts. On the North side lies the Gardeners Ground.

Besides the premises already mentioned which are or ought to be in the possession of Sir George Warren his Steward of Bailiff except Robert Storey's Cottage for they are not entered in the Rental there is a Good Pigeon house well stocked with pigeons and several Cottages for some of which the Bailiff receives rent for his own use, and also oblige the tenants to reap for him in time of Harvest, a sort of Boon work, upon a farm he holds in another Manor all of which will be particularly mentioned in the following part of this Description.

At the North-West corner of the Castle is a Cottage (D) in possession of Jesse Gordon, who pays for this, a Smithy and another Cottage which will be mentioned by and by 1 pound and four shillings per annum.

Adjoining to this is another Cottage and Smithy (E) in possession of Jacob Williamson. The next building on the north side of the Castle Bank is a common oven (F) for the use of the tenants and next to it is a Cottage (G) belonging to John Annet.

Then follows a Cottages and Smithy (H) belonging to Jesse Gordon before mentioned. The next building is a common Slaughter House (I) which completes this row.

Then turning to the East is a Cottage (K) in the possession of Jacob Denning with a shed adjoining on the North side used by Thomas Storey as a Cowhouse for which he pays rent to the Bailiff.

To this joins another Cottage (L) in the possession of Jacob Wilkinson and to this also joining a shed used by Jesse Gordon as a Stable.

Then follows two other Cottages (M) one in possession of Elizabeth Dobson the other of Jacob Calder for which they pay rent to the Bailiff.

The next are two Cottages (N) in possession of John Annet which finishes this row, cross the end of the last mentioned buildings towards the east is another row the South End of which is a Stable (O) of four Stalls formerly appendant to the Castle but now by permission in the Occupation of Jacob Wilkinson, adjoining to this are 2 Stables (P) for 4 Horses each which as the last, John Annet is permitted to occupy, and to these join a new Erected Cottage (Q) in possession of John Cowburn, near to these is the pigeon house (R) before mentioned.



At a Little distance from the Pigeon house towards the North is a Cottage (S) out of repair and empty one that has been usually let by the Bailiff.

To the West is a Cottage (T) in possession of Widow Chisholme for which she pays 12 shillings a year.

And this brings us to the House and Homestead belonging to John Annet's Farm which consists of a Dwelling House (U) and Parlour on the Ground floor, with Lodging rooms over them in Good repair Stone and Tiles, adjoining the House by way of this is the Milk house which is also Stone and Slated in Good repair, at the North end of the house is his Back Kitchen (V) an old Stable (W) and further in the same line is (X) a Cottage, and cross the north end of his yard are two Cottages (Y) these last mentioned buildings are Stone and Thatched, and but in bad repair, on the West side of the yard is (Z) Henhouses, Hogstys etc Stone and Thatched in good repair. Next to these are (a) two double Byars for 20 Cattle Stone and Tiled in good repair, further to the South is (b) his Barn Stone and Tiled in good repair, with his Garden and Stack Yard adjoining."

The next historic map to depict Widdrington in any detail is Armstrong's map of Northumberland of 1769 which shows the castle and church encircled by a road, and the village to the north, bisected by a through-road. Subsequent county maps (Fryer 1820 and Greenwood 1826) do not depict this through-road and provide little further detail. All three of these maps are at too small a scale to accurately depict the locations of buildings, and only show the extent of the village schematically. The castle was demolished soon after 1772, and Sir George Warren had another built in its place, but this burnt down whilst still under construction. Subsequently a gothic style castle was built to the south-east of the former structure, but this remained uninhabited from 1802 and was described as 'verging to decay' in 1832 (Hodgson 1932, 245-6). The 1845 tithe map depicts the castle within its parkland which is described in the tithe award as 'Pleasure ground and wilderness around Castle'. This map shows that most of the buildings that were formerly situated within the PDA had been demolished by this time, except for those located along the proposed access route off Garth Lane, and the PDA was situated within the open parkland surrounding the castle. Those buildings remaining to the north are described as 'Residue of Widdrington village' in the tithe award, attesting to the removal of much of the village. The 1st edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map surveyed in 1855 depicts the 18th century castle situated atop the circular mound upon which it was constructed, prior to the demolition of the castle in 1862. The PDA is located within the parkland associated with the castle at this time, and a footpath is depicted bisecting the PDA from north-east to south-west. By the time of the OS 2nd edition map of 1897, more of the buildings within Widdrington to the north of the PDA had been demolished and Garth Lane had been constructed, but the PDA remained unchanged.

#### The Modern Period

2.7 Subsequent OS mapping depicts the PDA as being undeveloped, the only feature illustrated within it comprising the footpath bisecting the site. By 1994 the



car park for the church had been constructed immediately to the south of the PDA, the field boundary along the western edge of the PDA was in place with an elongated triangular field beyond, and the footpath was no longer depicted. Nevertheless, the course of the footpath is still visible as a prominent ridge which separates the generally flat ground to the south-east from the land which slopes gently away to the north-west. A linear parch mark corresponding with the course of the footpath is clearly visible on historic Google Earth satellite imagery dating to 2006, suggesting that there is buried metalling present along its course.

#### 3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

## 3.1 Regional Research Aims and Objectives

- 3.1.1 Research objectives identified in *North-East Regional Framework* for the later medieval period (Petts and Gerrard 2006, 169-71) considered to be the most relevant to the project include the following.
  - ♦ MDi Settlement
  - MDii Landscape

## 3.2 Project Aims and Objectives

- 3.2.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation trenching is to gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about any archaeological remains existing within the area of investigation.
- 3.2.2 The objectives of the archaeological evaluation trenching are as follows.
  - To establish the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological deposits within the area affected by invasive development.
  - To gather sufficient evidence to establish, supplement, improve and make available information about the archaeological resource existing within the areas of investigation.

#### 4. METHOD STATEMENT

#### 4.1 Coverage

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation will comprise a T-shaped trench measuring 15m by 2m with a 5m by 2m perpendicular extension.
- 4.1.2 The location of the evaluation trench was agreed with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council as sufficient to cover the proposed works. However, contingency provision is to be made for up to an additional 10 linear metres of trenching, the location to be determined in consultation with the County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council.

#### 4.2 Archaeological Evaluation Trenching

4.2.1 A programme of evaluation trenching will evaluate the likely impacts on any buried archaeological remains of the proposed development. The size and location



- of the trenches has been agreed with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council (see section 4.1 above).
- 4.2.2 Any proposed changes in the siting of the evaluation trenches will be discussed and agreed with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council.
- 4.2.3 All site operations will be carried out in a safe manner in accordance with ARS Ltd's health and safety policy. Deep sections such as those across ditches or pits will be shored as necessary. A risk assessment will be prepared before commencement on site.
- 4.2.4 All elements of the archaeological evaluation will be carried out in accordance with the CIfA *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014a) and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2014b).
- 4.2.5 Hard standing, un-stratified modern material will be removed mechanically by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The recent overburden will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits. No machinery will track over areas that have previously been stripped until the area has been signed off by ARS Ltd.
- 4.2.6 The trenches will be cleaned by hand sufficiently to allow the identification and planning of archaeological features.
- 4.2.7 All identified archaeological features will be sufficiently sampled by hand excavation to allow their date, nature and degree of survival to be ascertained. All features thus investigated will be recorded in plan and section and all finds recovered retained for analysis.
- 4.2.8 Site recording will follow standard conventions outlined in the *Site Recording Manual* of Museum of London Archaeology (MoLAS) (2002).
- 4.2.9 For sealed and stratigraphically secure deposits that have the potential to provide environmental evidence relating to diet and economy, dating evidence or landuse regime, a minimum of 40 litres of sample will be taken, or 100% of the sample if smaller.
- 4.2.10 In the case of waterlogged or anaerobic deposits a minimum sample size of 20L will be taken.
- 4.2.11 Should a sequence of superimposed deposits of note be present column sampling may be considered.
- 4.2.12 In all instances sampling strategies will be in accordance with guidelines issued by Historic England's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice Methods, from sampling and recovery to post excavation* (Campbell *et al.* 2011).
- 4.2.13 Should other types of environmental deposits be encountered, appropriate specialist advice will be sought and an appropriate sampling strategy devised. Samples will be assessed by a suitable specialist with provision for further analysis as



required. Advice from the Historic England Scientific Advisor will be taken as appropriate.

- 4.2.14 Should hearths, kilns, or ovens, be encountered during the evaluation provision will be made to collect one archaeo-magnetic date to be calculated from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwelling sites a minimum of one per building identified).
- 4.2.15 In such event samples will be collected from the site and processed by a suitably trained specialist for dating purposes and at point of discovery, the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council will be contacted to discuss the appropriate response. The appropriate sampling strategy will also be discussed in advance of samples being taken with Historic England.
- 4.2.16 Any human remains encountered will initially be left *in-situ* and, if deemed necessary, removal entailing the excavation of the entire burial will be undertaken once a Coroners licence has been obtained, in accordance with the relevant Ministry of Justice regulations. Excavation of human remains will follow discussion with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council.
- 4.2.17 Finds of "treasure" will be reported to the Coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act (DCMS 2008). The Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer will also be notified.

CoronerFinds Liaison Officer17 Church StreetArchaeology SectionBerwick-Upon-TweedDurham County Council

Northumberland County Hall TC15 1EE Durham Tel No: 01289 304318 DH1 5UQ

Tel No: 03000 267 011

- 4.2.18 The Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council will also be notified and, if necessary, a site meeting arranged to determine if further investigation in the vicinity of the find spot is required.
- 4.2.19 All stratified finds will be collected by context or, where appropriate, individually recorded in 3 dimensions.
- 4.2.20 Unstratified finds of intrinsic value or which contribute to the project objectives will be collected. All pottery of 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier will be retained, whether stratified or un-stratified.
- 4.2.21 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in compliance with the CIfA *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014c).
- 4.2.22 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.
- 4.2.23 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.

- 4.2.24 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.
- 4.2.25 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.
- 4.2.26 During and after the evaluation 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.
- 4.2.27 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and the repository for the archive prior to the work taking place.

#### 5. RECORDING

- 5.1 The site and evaluation trenches will be tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area. The site will be recorded in accordance with the ARS Ltd. field recording manual.
- 5.2 The trenches will be planned at an appropriate scale; 1:20 where complex deposits are present or 1:50 in areas of lesser complexity (to be omitted if the trench is completely blank). One representative long section of the trench will be produced, at an appropriate scale, if necessary. Sections and profiles of each feature identified will be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20, depending on the size of the feature. Spot levels relative to ordnance datum in metres will be taken as appropriate.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pre-printed record sheets with text descriptions appropriate to the work.
- 5.5 A stratigraphy of the site will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 5.6 The heights above sea level will be recorded for all deposits and features in metres above Ordnance Datum (aOD).
- 5.7 A full photographic record will be maintained including photographs of all significant features and overall photographs of the trench. All images will be taken in high resolution colour digital format (minimum 7.1 megapixels). A supplementary



record of working images will be taken to demonstrate how the site was investigated and what the prevailing conditions were like during excavation.

5.8 A stratigraphic matrix will be compiled for all trenches where superimposed archaeological deposits, features or structures are encountered.

#### 6. FINDS PROCESSING AND STORAGE

- 6.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in accordance with the CIFA (2014d) *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* and the UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*.
- 6.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.
- 6.3 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.
- 6.4 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.
- 6.5 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.
- 6.6 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and the recipient museum prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.
- 6.7 All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum

#### 7. MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

7.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will give no less than 5 working days notice prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

Nick Best
Assistant County Archaeologist
Northumberland Conservation
Development Services
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth



**NE61 2EF** 

Tel: 01670 622657.

- 7.2 ARS Ltd will liaise with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council at regular intervals throughout the course of the work.
- 7.3 The client will afford reasonable access to the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council, or their representative, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological mitigation

## 8. TIMETABLE, STAFFING AND RESOURCES

- 8.1 The Project Manager for the fieldwork will be Reuben Thorpe, MCIfA, Projects Manager at ARS Ltd. The Project Officer for the evaluation trenching will be Philippa Cockburn ACIfA, Project Officer at ARS Ltd.
- 8.2 Finds analysis will be carried out by appropriately qualified specialists as detailed subject to availability.

Flint and prehistoric pottery: Dr Robin Holgate MCIfA/Dr Clive

Waddington MCIfA

Romano-British pottery: Ian Rowlandson/Paul Bidwell

Samian ware: Dr Gwladys Monteil

Romano-British small finds Lindsay Allason-Jones MCIfA

Medieval and post-medieval Dr Chris Cumberpatch/Dr Robin

pottery: Holgate MCIfA
Medieval and post-medieval glass, Mike Wood MCIfA

Plant macrofossils and charcoals: Luke Parker

Human and animal bone: Milena Grzybowska

Radiocarbon dating: Prof Gordon Cook (SUERC)

Finds conservation: Vicky Garlick (Durham University)

#### 9. REPORT

- 9.1 Following completion of the evaluation, ARS Ltd will produce a report which will include:
  - Non-technical summary
  - Introductory statement to include

metalwork and clay pipes:

- Planning application number,
- Northumberland Conservation reference,
- OASIS reference number, Archive reference and an eight figure grid reference
- 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 narrative summary of results
- Conclusions
- Supporting data tabulated or in appendices to include:
  - Specialist Reports
  - Structural and Stratigraphic details including context summary tables with depths aOD and BGS
- Index to archive and details of archive location
- References
- Statement of intent regarding publication
- Confirmation of archive transfer arrangements
- A copy of the OASIS form
- A copy of the Northumberland County Councils "check list".
- 9.2 Within the report:
  - All plans will be clearly related to the national grid.
  - All levels will be quoted relative to ordnance datum.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 One bound copy of the final report with a digital copy of the report in PDF/A format on disk will be deposited with the Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER). A copy of the report should be uploaded as part of the OASIS record.

#### 10. ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

10.1 No later than six weeks after completion of the evaluation a digital, paper and artefactual archive, which will consist of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographs and electronic data will be submitted in a format agreed in discussion with the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County



Council and the museum curator. The Digital archive will be supplied to ADS and photographs will be supplied in uncompressed baseline TIFF format.

- 10.2 All artefacts and associated material will be cleaned, recorded, properly stored and deposited in the archive.
- 10.3 10.4 The Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council will be notified on completion of fieldwork, with a timetable for reporting and archive deposition.
- 10.5 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.
- 10.6 At the start of work (immediately before fieldwork commences) an OASIS online record <a href="http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/">http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/</a> will be initiated and key fields 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).
- 10.7 The Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council will be notified of the final deposition of the archive.

#### 11. GENERAL ITEMS

## 11.1 Health and Safety

11.1.1 All work will be carried out in accordance with The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. Specific health and safety policies exist for all out workplaces and all staff employed will be made aware of the policy and any relevant issues. The particular risks involved with this project will be assessed, recorded and relevant mitigation measures put in place as part of a full risk assessment, which will be compiled in advance of fieldwork. ARS Ltd retains Citation as its expert health and safety consultants.

#### 11.2 Insurance Cover

11.2.1 ARS Ltd has full insurance cover for employee liability (£10 million) public liability (£5 million), professional indemnity (£2 million) and all-risks cover.

#### 11.3 Changes to the Written Scheme of Investigation

11.3.1 Changes to the approved methodology or programme of works will only be made with prior written approval of the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council.

#### 11.4 Community Engagement and Outreach

11.4.1 Any opportunities for engaging the local community in any archaeological findings should be sought, for example a guided site tour and/or dissemination of information via ARS Ltd's website and local media.



#### 11.5 Publication

11.5.1 If significant archaeological remains are recorded, a summary of the project with, if appropriate, selected drawings, illustrations and photographs will be prepared for publication in online, journal or monograph form as appropriate. A summary should also be prepared for *Archaeology in Northumberland* and submitted to the Northumberland HER Officer, by December of the year in which the work is completed. Additional popular articles will also be produced for local and/or national magazines as appropriate. The final form of the publication is to be agreed with the planning archaeologist and the client dependent on the results of the fieldwork

## 11.6 Publicity and Copyright

10.6.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client. ARS Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988). Licence will be granted for the HER to use the report which may include partial dissemination to others.

#### 12. REFERENCES

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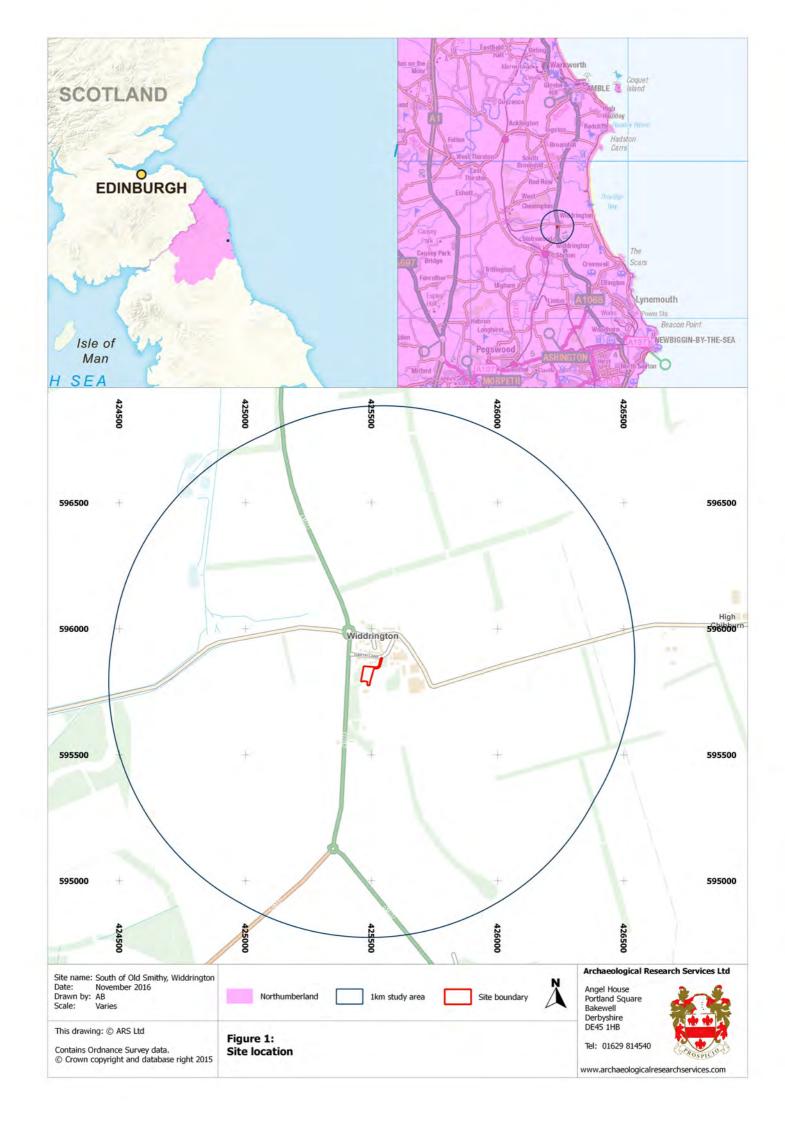


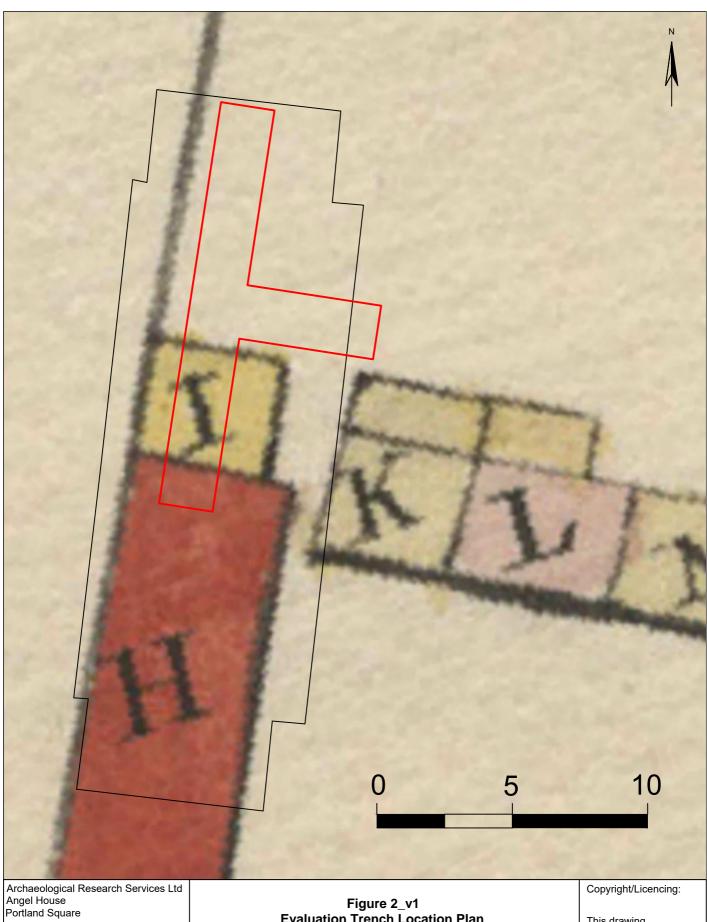
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# **FIGURES**







Bakewell Derbyshire DE45 1HB

Site Code: WOS Date: June 2017 Drawn:RD Scale: As shown

#### Figure 2\_v1 **Evaluation Trench Location Plan**

Key:

Approximate location of house plots

Evaluation trench (15m x 2m with 5m x 2m perpendicular extension)

This drawing © A.R.S. Ltd

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# **APPENDIX V: OASIS SUMMARY**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

List of Projects | Manage Projects | Search Projects | New project | Change your details | HER coverage | Change country | Log out

Printable version

OASIS ID: archaeol5-289278

#### Project details

Project name Archaeological Evaluations at Old Smithy, Widdrington, Northumberland

Short description of the project

In May 2017 Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site south of Old Smithy, Widdrington (NGR NZ 25489) 95823). The evaluation was carried out at the pre-determination stage of a planning application (16/02756/FUL) to construct two new dwellings. A Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment completed in November 2016 at the client's request established that a number of buildings associated with Widdrington village and the Widdrington estate were present within the proposed development area. The archaeological evaluation consisted initially of one machine-excavated T-shaped trench composed of a 15m x 2m north-south leg (Trench T1W) positioned at the centre of the footprints of the proposed buildings and a 5m x 2m east-west leg (Trench T1E) running perpendicular and adjacent to it. A northsouth aligned sandstone wall (103) extended along the length of Trench 1W and broadly matched the location of a boundary wall, annotated as forming the eastern edge of a kitchen garden, on a map of the estate compiled in 1768. Dated to the late 17th century boundary wall (103) survived up to five courses high and was supported by a levelling foundation course and extended beyond the northern limit of Trench 1. Following inspection by the local authority an additional 1m x 1m test pit (Trench 2) was excavated beyond the southern limit of Trench 1W in order to determine the extent of the boundary wall within the footprint of the proposed development area. Excavation of Trench 2 confirmed that the wall continued to the south beyond the PDA limits.

Start: 16-06-2017 End: 17-06-2017 Project dates

Previous/future

work

No / Not known

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Residential 1 - General Residential Monument type **BOUNDARY WALL Post Medieval** 

**AXEHEAD Neolithic** Significant Finds Significant Finds COIN Post Medieval Methods & "Sample Trenches"

techniques

Development type Rural residential

**Prompt** Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Position in the planning process Between deposition of an application and determination

**Project location** 

Country England

Site location NORTHUMBERLAND CASTLE MORPETH WIDDRINGTON Old Smithy, Widdrington,

Northumberland

Postcode NE

Study area 41 Square metres

Site coordinates NZ 25489 95823 55.255879637754 -1.598942425343 55 15 21 N 001 35 56 W Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 33.82m Max: 35.3m

#### **Project creators**

Name of

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Organisation

Project brief originator

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Project design originator

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Project

Robin Holgate

director/manager

Project supervisor Milena Grzybowska

Type of

sponsor/funding

body

Name of sponsor/funding

body

Steve McLachlan

Landowner

#### **Project archives**

Physical Archive

Northumberland SMR

recipient

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Paper Contents

"Metal","Worked stone/lithics"

Paper Media

"Context sheet","Drawing","Photograph","Plan","Report","Section","Survey

available

","Unpublished Text"

# **Project**

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