

An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
at the Queen's Head Hotel Public House,
Birtley Lane, Birtley, Gateshead



Walkers map of Birtley 1839

Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Report No. 2009/10
February 2009

OASIS no. archaeo15-56067

Compiled By:
Daniel Amat
Archaeological Research Services Ltd
Baltic Business Centre
Saltmeadows Road
Gateshead
Tyne and Wear
NE8 3DA

Checked By:
Ben Johnson
Tel: 0191 447 5111
Fax: 0191 447 7687
admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

**An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
at the Queen's Head Hotel Public House, Birtley Lane, Birtley,
Gateshead**

Archaeological Research Services Ltd Report 2008/10

February 2009

Archaeological Research Services Ltd

Contents

List of Figures.....	3
Executive Summary.....	4
1. Introduction.....	5
2. Methodology.....	6
3. Archival research.....	6
4. Map regression.....	9
5. Site visit.....	11
6. Summary of Archaeological investigations proximal to the study area.....	11
7. Overview and Discussion.....	12
8. Assessment of Potential.....	12
9. Recommendations.....	12
10. Publicity, confidentiality and copyright.....	13
11. Statement of indemnity.....	13
12. Acknowledgements.....	13
13. References.....	13

Appendix I: Historic Environment Record Register

Appendix II: Map Regression & Figures

Appendix III: Specification

List of Figures

1.	Site location.....	5
2.	Site plan.....	15
3.	Plan of conservation area.....	16
4.	Saxton's map of 1576.....	17
5.	Speed's map of 1611.....	18
6.	Speed's map of 1713.....	19
7.	Gibson's map of 1788.....	20
8.	Greenwood's map of 1820.....	21
9.	Walkers's map of 1839.....	22
10.	Tithe plan of 1846.....	23
11.	1 st edition OS map of 1854.....	24
12.	1 st revision OS map of 1893.....	25
13.	2 nd revision OS map of 1906.....	26
14.	3 rd revision OS map of 1924.....	27
15.	Queens Head west elevation.....	28
16.	Queens Head north elevation.....	28
17.	Two phases of construction.....	28
18.	Queens Head east elevation.....	29
19.	Brick built sheds to the east of the building.....	29
20.	Small window on the south elevation.....	29
21.	Internal ground floor ceiling.....	30
22.	Seating within bar area.....	30
23.	Refurbished bar area.....	30

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2009 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) were commissioned by Leybourne Associates on behalf of M.K. Builders to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of the Queen's Head Hotel Public House, Birtley Lane, Birtley, Gateshead

Birtley has grown and developed largely due to the industries which started there around the early 19th century. The Iron industry was the predominant source of jobs and commerce in the area from the early 1800's. The original settlement of Birtley was irregular in that the main hub of the houses and businesses were set back away from the main road (Durham Road) present at the time.

By using the map regression, in particular the old OS maps it was possible to see the growth of Birtley and particularly the area which surrounded the Queen's Head from as early as 1846. Although it is not listed as a public house on the early plans, it would appear that the western elevation existed from as early as 1846 possibly as a large dwelling later to be converted into a public house to meet the demands of the growing population at the time.

The Queen's Head is in a state of disrepair. An extensive refit would be necessary to make the spaces within usable. There is a potential that while doing this work, original features, mouldings etc. may be uncovered, particularly so in the first floor rooms, and the main bar area on the ground floor. It is therefore recommended that modifications to the building (e.g. removal of porch area or stripping of walls/ceilings) be monitored by a qualified archaeologist in order to record anything exposed.

Externally there is a potential that any ground works within the car park area to the north may uncover remains of the early 18th century building which originally appeared on the Tithe plan of 1846. It is therefore recommended that an evaluation trench be placed in this area prior to any ground works taking place.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Scope of work

1.1.1. In February 2009 Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) were commissioned by Leybourne Associates on behalf of M.K. Builders to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of the Queen's Head Hotel Public House, Birtley Lane, Birtley, Gateshead (Fig. 1).

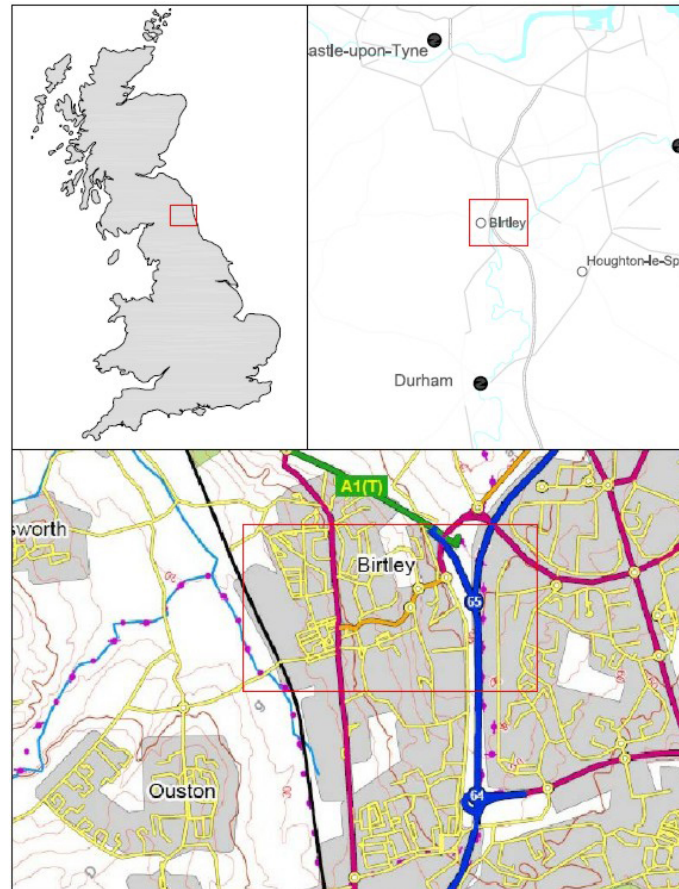


Fig. 1 Site location Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420

1.2. Location and topography

1.1.2. The site is centred at NZ274557 (Fig. 2) just to the west of the A1. It lies approximately 14 kilometres from the east coast and 8 kilometres south of the River Tyne. The site lies within the Birtley conservation area (Fig. 3) and therefore an archaeological desk-based assessment has been undertaken in order to assess the archaeological and historical importance of the site.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1. The information within this report has been gathered from a number of sources, both primary and secondary, in accordance with the project specification.

2.2. *Historic Environment Record (HER)*

The HER held at Jesmond Old Cemetery, Newcastle Upon Tyne was consulted in order to obtain information on the location of all designated sites and areas of historic interest, as well as findspots, monuments, listed buildings and conservation areas. A list of these sites can be found in Appendix I. Short reports on previous archaeological investigations close to the study area were also consulted in order to help assess the level of preservation and for the potential for archaeological remains to survive within the study area.

2.3. *Archives Services*

The Tyne & Wear Archive Service, the Northumberland Archive at Woodhorn and the Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections was consulted in order to study historic documents specific to the development area. Historic maps of the area were studied, along with building control plans and trade directories relating to the use and development of buildings within the study area. The Durham Records Office was also consulted but revealed nothing relevant to the study area.

2.4. *Gateshead Library Local Studies Section & Birtley Library*

The Local Studies Section currently held at Gateshead Library, was consulted along with the local studies of Birtley Library in order to obtain further cartographic, documentary and pictorial sources.

2.7. *Web sources*

All of the web sources listed in the specification were consulted for this investigation. Those that provided information relevant to the study area are listed below:

Magic Maps: <http://www.magic.gov.uk/>

Archaeological Data Service: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/>

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

Tyne and Wear HER: <http://www.twsitelines.info>

3. ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

3.1. The HER documents a large number of sites, monuments and find spots within the vicinity of the study area. Only those within close proximity have been recorded in this investigation and a full list can be found in Appendix I. The site lies within the Birtley conservation area (Fig. 3). The Name Birtley derives from the Old English *beorbhtan leage*, meaning 'bright clearing'.

3.2. Prehistoric Period

- 3.2.1. Stray finds discovered during the extraction of clay for the Birtley Brick and Tile works indicate prehistoric activity in proximity to the study area, although no settlement has yet been found. The finds included a Bronze Age spear head (HER 656) and a Bronze Age winged axe (HER 655/4). Flint blades, scraper and cores were also discovered in the same area (HER 650, 651, 652, 653).

3.3. Romano-British

- 3.3.1. There is no evidence of Roman activity within the study area.

3.4. Medieval

- 3.4.1. The first documented reference to Birtley was in 1099 when Ranulph Flambard, Lord Bishop of Durham, gave the manor of Birtley to his nephew William (Letch 1970). Birtley is later referred to in the Boldon Buke compiled in 1188 where it is stated 'Birtley and Tribley pay 20 shillings and attend the Great Chase with two greyhounds'
- 3.4.2. Birtley is noted again in Bishop Hatfield's Survey of 1318, mention is made that 'Lord Neville and Gilbertus Eglyne hold the tenancy of Birtley and they go into the Great Chase with three hare hunters and return after a year to collect twenty shillings'. The lands of Birtley at this time were mainly used for farming and pasture, with no mention of any other industrial processes in the area until the early 19th century.

3.5. Post-Medieval to Present

- 3.5.1. The Birtley estate was sold by the Crown in 1645, several of the estates going to William Carr and Robert Catchside. Birtley Old Hall (south of the study area) was constructed in 1692 by John Emmerson.
- 3.5.2. Birtley Iron Works (HER 3919) were established in 1827 which became the major employer for the area during the 19th century. The Pelaw Wagon Way (HER 4122, present on Walker's map of 1839) supplied the iron works with coal. Edward Moseley Perkins, who resided in Birtley Hall, was a partner in the Birtley Iron Company. After his death in 1871 a statue (HER 8217) was erected on Stock Hill (directly outside the Queen's Head).
- 3.5.3. During the First World War 5000 Belgian Refugees came to live in a custom built town known as Elisabethville (HER 8628), which existed just west of the study area.

3.5. Listed Buildings

- 3.5.1. Although the Queen's Head public house (and grounds) are not in direct contact with any listed buildings, there are 13 listed in the local vicinity as shown below:

Local Listings:

- HER 7400, Field House is a 19th century dwelling.
- HER 7401, Early 20th century Masonic hall on Birtley Lane.
- HER 7402, Royal Catholic Church of St. Joseph and Presbytery, dating to around 1843.
- HER 7403, Talbot cottages, numbers 1-6, built by the Birtley Iron Company in the 19th century to house its officials.
- HER 7449, No. 54 (Lloyd's TSB Bank) Located on Durham Road is a 19th century building.
- HER 7450, The Railway Hotel, located on Durham Road was built in the 19th century.
- HER 7614, Primitive Methodist Church located on Station Lane dates to the late 19th century.
- HER 7626, No27 Rockville, 19th century dwelling located on 'The Avenue'.
- HER 7664, Birtley War memorial located on Durham Road built after the First World War and rededicated after the Second World War.

Listed Grade II Buildings:

- HER 8218, School House situated on Birtley Lane built of sandstone around 1860.
- HER 8219, Co-Operative Society headquarters of Birtley built around 1901.
- HER 8344, Church of St. John the Evangelist located on Birtley Lane, built around 1849

3.6. Building Control Plans

- 3.6.1. There was no building control plans found for the immediate study area, or within the conservation area.

3.7. Trade Directories

A number of trade directories were consulted in both Durham Palace Green Library (local studies section) and the Tyne and Wear Archives.

3.7.1. The Directory for Durham & Northumberland 1827

This directory combines both Chester-le-Street and Birtley and although it contained a listing for a Queen's Head Inn (and posting house) owned by a Thomas Burn, it was listed as being in Chester-le-Street.

3.7.2. Whellan & Co Directory of 1856

A foreword to Birtley in this directory states 'Birtley consists of extensive iron works and collieries'. Although there is a list of public houses within Birtley, which includes, the Three Tuns and the Coach and Horses, there is no listing for the Queen's Head.

3.7.3. Directory of Durham 1873, 1878, 1906, 1925

These directories each have a listing for the Queen's Head at Birtley. Starting with the earliest date it has been owned by Robert Gibson (1873), Margaret Chapman (1878), Philip Potter (1906) and James Waldron (1925).

3.7.4. *Kelly's Directory of 1894*

This lists the Queen's Head as being owned by John McAvoy.

3.7.5. *Kelly's Directory of 1938*

This directory lists the Queen's head as being owned by Herbert Davidson.

4. MAP REGRESSION

4.1. The following section discusses the developments specifically within the study area. The information has been taken from primary sources such as maps, plans and trade directories.

4.2. *Saxton's map of Durham 1576 (Fig. 4)*

Birtley is present on the map, as represented by a single building, but due to the scale, no useful information can be gained other than its approximate location and that it exists.

4.3. *Speed's map of Durham 1611 (Fig. 5)*

As with Saxton's map of 1576 no great detail is shown on this map although Birtley is now represented as having a church.

4.4. *Speed's map of Durham 1713 (Fig. 6)*

Birtley is represented in this map as it was in Speed's earlier map of 1611. A major road now runs north-south just to the west of Birtley.

4.5. *Gibson's map of Durham 1788 (Fig. 7)*

In this map Birtley is shown in greater detail. Rows of buildings are represented as black rectangles of which there are four. There is also now a clear road system.

4.6. *Greenwood's map of Durham 1820 (Fig. 8)*

In this map Birtley is shown as a sizable community. Many buildings line a central road (although the scale is too small to give any great detail about the buildings). Birtley hall is now present on the map just south of Birtley.

4.7. *Walker's map of Durham 1839 (Fig. 9)*

As with Greenwood's map of 1820 but with some new inclusions. Birtley North Side is now shown just north of Birtley's centre. The Three Tuns public house is now shown along the main road to the north, and Birtley Iron Works are shown to the south west. Train lines are now shown running through Birtley.

4.8. *Tithe plan 1846 (Fig. 10)*

This is the first map/plan to show individual buildings in detail. Although the Queen's head is not listed a rectangular building occupies the same position. Another building also occupies the site slightly to the north. This building does not remain today.

4.9. *1st edition OS map 1854 (Fig. 11)*

This first edition OS map clearly shows a rectangular building on the site of the Queen's Head (although not listed as a public house at this time). The Dun Cow is listed just south of the building and Birtley House is situated to the west (being

surrounded at this time by trees. A large building exists just north-east of the study area (marked plot 62 on the map).

4.10. *1st revision OS map 1893 (Fig. 12)*

The rectangular building which first appeared on the Tithe map of 1846 is now clearly labelled as being the Queen's Head Inn. The building has been extended to the east and there is now a separate building to the south. A statue is shown opposite the inn to the west. The large building which appeared to the north on the 1st edition OS map of 1854 (within plot 64) has now been replaced by a row of cottages. These cottages (HER 7430) were built by the Birtley Iron Company for its officials. The cottages bear the initials and family crest of Augustus Henry Hunt and are locally listed. Birtley House stands to the west although the majority of the wooded area has been removed. Two schools have been constructed (on the land between the Queen's Head and St. Johns Church). Housing has increased in the surrounding area.

4.11. *2nd revision OS map 1906 (Fig. 13)*

Further development has taken place by the time of this maps publication. The Queen's Head has had further expansions to the east; this now matches the present day design of the building. A small rectangular building has appeared east of the Queen's Head. This building survives today as a garage. To the south – east on what used to be a field system is now a 'Church Institute' consisting of a large rectangular building and a series of grave yards running south. There is now more housing to the east at 'The Avenue', and Birtley House has been replaced by a row of terraced housing.

4.12. *3rd revision OS map 1924 (Fig. 14)*

There is no change to the Queen's Head or its immediate vicinity on this map. A further increase in housing is present to the east and west, and the schools shown on the 1st and 2nd revision maps now have a new layout.

4.8. **DISCUSSION OF MAP REGRESSION**

4.8.1. Although the pre Ordnance Survey maps give information of the approximate location of Birtley from as early as 1576, detail about the town (including scale and layout) cannot be learned until Gibson's map of 1788. This map shows the emergence of a road layout and the amount of buildings in Birtley at the time. Greenwood's map of 1820, and Walker's map of 1839 do show Birtley in greater detail, indicating the expansion of the town, although because of the scale individual building detail cannot be established.

4.8.2. The tithe map of 1846 is the first to show the location of the Queen's Head hotel. Although it is not labelled as such a building matching its size and shape (a long rectangle) occupies the site. The first edition OS (1854) also shows this same building without a label, this time in greater detail and by comparing this map with the 1st revision OS map (1893) we can conclude that, although it has not always been listed as the Queen's Head public house, the western elevation which looks onto Birtley Lane has certainly existed from around 1846.

- 4.8.3. The building immediately south of the public house appeared on the first revision OS map of 1893. This building exists today as a large house. The building immediately north of the public house, present from as early as 1846 (Tithe plan) is no longer extant, the area now serving as a car park to the Queen's Head. Remains of this building may still remain beneath the tarmac layer of the car park.

5. Site visit

- 5.1. Surveying the external elevations of the Queen's Head, it is clear to see that it consists of various phases of construction (consistent with the expansions seen in the map regression mentioned previously). The main western elevation (Fig. 15) is of the earliest construction and made of red brick. The windows, including two bay windows have decorative wooden mouldings/cills. The ground floor windows on all elevations have been replaced by modern UPVC but the sash windows on the first floor have been retained.
- 5.2. The central entrance to the western elevation has a modern porch extension built in a style sympathetic to its surroundings. The northern elevation (Fig. 16) is of later construction, with a clear join between it and the western elevation (Fig. 17). The eastern elevation (Fig. 18) is of the same construction style of the northern elevation. Detached from this elevation is a row of brick-built sheds (Fig. 19) which are in a state of considerable disrepair. The southern elevation has no remarkable features but is part of the original construction and has a small, sandstone lined window to the ground floor (Fig. 20)
- 5.3. Internally the building is in a considerable state of disrepair. The ceilings both to the ground and first floors are rotting and unstable (Fig. 21) with large amounts of damp. The bar and seating areas of the ground floor have undergone a modern refurbishment masking or removing any original features.
- 5.4. Much like the ground floor, the first floor rooms have been refurbished. Although the sash windows remain, other features of the rooms have been modernised with modern artex ceilings and polystyrene coving.
- 5.5. The fireplaces to the ground floor are modern replacements in keeping with the bar areas refurbishment. The fireplaces to the first floor on the other hand are of an earlier, more robust style and are possibly original to the building and its extensions although there is no documentary evidence of this.

6. SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS PROXIMAL TO THE STUDY AREA

- 6.1. In 2006 an archaeological assessment was performed by the Lancaster University Archaeological Unit. The assessment was on an empty plot of ground adjacent to Birtley Lane, south of the study area and concluded that although its study area was outside of the known early settlement there was the possibility for preservation of archaeological deposits due to the field conditions.

7. OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- 7.1. Birtley has grown and developed largely due to the industries which developed there around the 18th century. The Iron industry was the predominant source of jobs and commerce in the area from the early 1800's. The original settlement of Birtley was irregular in that the main hub of the houses and businesses were set back away from the main road (Durham Road) present at the time.
- 7.2. By using the map regression, in particular the old OS maps it was possible to see the growth of Birtley and particularly the area which surrounded the Queen's Head from 1846. Although it is not listed as a public house on the early plans, it would appear that the western elevation existed from as early as 1846 possibly as a large dwelling later to be converted into a public house to meet the demands of the growing population at the time.
- 7.3. The site visit confirmed the various phases of construction of the Queen's Head. With the original western elevation extensions were made to the east between 1854 & 1924.

8. ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL

- 8.1. The Queen's Head is in a state of disrepair. An extensive refit would be necessary to make the spaces within usable. There is a potential that while doing this work, original features, mouldings *etc.* may be uncovered, particularly so in the first floor rooms, and the main bar area on the ground floor.
- 8.2. Externally there is a potential that any ground works within the car park area to the north may uncover remains of the early 18th century building which originally appeared on the Tithe plan of 1846. This building was of a reasonable size but its form and function are unknown.
- 8.3. If any alterations were made to the west elevation porch area it is possible that the original entrance way, or evidence of it, may still exist.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1. Cartographic and documentary sources used for this desk based assessment suggest that there is a possibility that, within the car park area to the north of the Queen's Head, remains may still exist of an early 18th century building. It is therefore recommended that an evaluation trench be placed in this area (Fig. 2) prior to any ground works taking place.
- 9.2. As stated above of the Queens Head, original features may remain, masked by the modern refurbishment. It is therefore recommended that modifications to the building (e.g. removal of porch area or stripping of walls/ ceilings) be monitored by a qualified archaeologist in order to record anything exposed.

10. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

- 10.1. Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 10.2. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988).

11. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

- 11.1 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.

12. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 12.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank our client, Mr J. Khan, and Leybourne Associates for facilitating our work. Thanks are also expressed to Jennifer Morrison at Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team, and all those at the consulted archives.

13. REFERENCES

Greenwell, W (ed). 1852. *Boldon Buke*, Surtees Society

Greenwell, W (ed). 1856. *Bishop Hatfield's Survey*, Surtees Society

Letch, H. 1970. *Gleanings from the History of Birtley*, Newcastle

Mawer, A. 1920 *The Place Names of Northumberland and Durham*, Cambridge press

APPENDIX I: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT REGISTER

HER no.	Grid Ref.	Description	Period
650	NZ265558	Flint found at Birtley	Mesolithic
651	NZ265558	Flint Cores	Mesolithic
652	NZ265558	Flint flakes	Mesolithic
653	NZ265558	Flint Scrapers	Mesolithic
654	NZ2655	Bronze axe	Bronze Age
655	NZ2655	Perforated hammer	Prehistoric
670	NZ274557	Birtley Village	Medieval
3919	NZ27085515	Birtley Iron Works	19 th Century
4122	NZ27916016	Pelaw wagon way	19 th Century
7400	NZ27255602	Field House	19 th Century
7401	NZ27375571	Masonic Hall	Early 20 th Century
7402	NZ27255602	Royal Catholic Church of St. Joseph	19 th Century
7403	NZ27395585	Talbot Cottages	19 th Century
7449	NZ2716578	No. 54 Durham Road	19 th Century
7450	NZ27195579	The Railway Hotel	19 th Century
7614	NZ27085581	Primitive Methodist Church	19 th Century
7626	NZ27345582	No. 27 Rockville	19 th Century
7664	NZ27205595	Birtley War memorial	Early 20 th Century
8217	NZ27405580	Statue of E. M. Perkins	19 th Century
8218	NZ27395564	School House on Birtley Lane	19 th Century
8219	NZ27225567	Co-Operative Society HQ	19 th Century
8344	NZ27445562	Church of St. John	19 th Century
8628	NZ2656	Elizabethville, Birtley	Early 20 th Century

Appendix II: Map Regression and figures



Fig. 15 Queen's Head west elevation



Fig. 16 Queen's Head north elevation

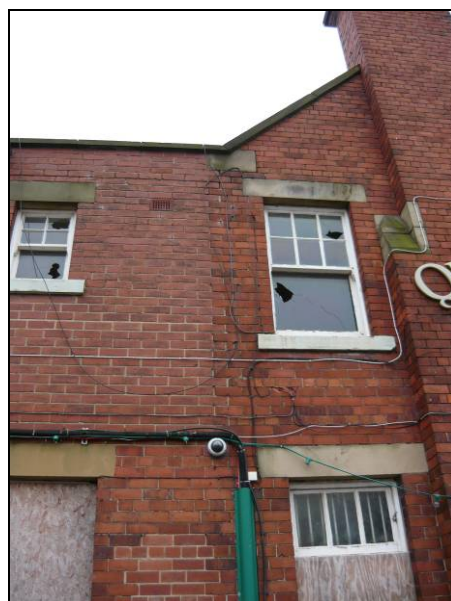


Fig. 17 Two phases of construction



Fig. 18 Queen's Head east elevation



Fig. 19 Brick built sheds to the east of the building



Fig. 20 Small window on the south elevation



Fig. 21 Internal ground floor ceiling



Fig. 22 Seating within bar area



Fig. 23 Refurbished bar area

APPENDIX III: SPECIFICATION

TYNE AND WEAR SPECIALIST CONSERVATION TEAM

Specification for an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment and Photographic Record of the Queen's Head Hotel Public House, Birtley Lane/Fell Bank, Birtley, Gateshead

Introduction

An archaeological desk based assessment is required to accompany a planning application for the conversion of the public house to residential use and for 4 new houses in the grounds.

The site lies within Birtley Conservation Area (HER 11878) Designated on 28th July 1976. A Character Statement was approved in August 1994. The Conservation Area was revised and extended on 21st February 2003. The Birtley Conservation Area covers the historic core (HER 670) and extends up Fell Bank to Grange Farm. With the coming of salt extraction and the iron works in the late 18th century the agricultural village was expanded into a town by the end of the 19th century. Shops and urban amenities were built on Durham Road. Two churches (St. Joseph's RC church HER 7402 and St. John's Anglican church HER 8344), a school and a school house (HER 8218) were built. There were large villas for the employing class and terraces for the working class such as Fell Bank. A high proportion of the buildings in the village core are sandstone. The extensive grounds of the villas have been retained, old stone boundary walls and the curves of the road. The Grove (HER 8627), set back across parkland from Birtley Lane is of dignified and austere design. The Masonic Hall (HER 7401) was built in 1936. On Fell Bank there is an attractive group of farm buildings (Grange Farm) and five terraces including Daisy Cottages with rubble façade. The Conservation Area was extended north to include The Croft, Hexham Villa, Egton Terrace, Highborn, Tofthill House and Ingleside. These are detached early twentieth century houses in large gardens with mature tree cover. Egton Terrace has interesting architectural detail. Several of these properties have links with the Blythe and Swinburne brick-making families. The Conservation Area was extended to the west to include the memorial garden (HER 7664) and pavilions, The Avenue, Holyoake Gardens and Ruskin Road. Most of the buildings on Durham Road are late 19th or early 20th century in date and built of stone or brick (e.g. the Co-op, HER 8219). The Avenue includes a number of large detached and semi-detached early 20th century houses in modest gardens with original windows and doors. There is a stone boundary wall along the line of the Pelaw Main Waggonway which is worthy of conservation.

An inn is shown at this location on the second edition Ordnance Survey map.

The site lies within the presumed extent of Birtley medieval village. Medieval or post medieval archaeological deposits may be present.

HER 670 Birtley Village

The earliest, if unenlightening, reference is in Boldon Buke, - "Birtley and Tribley render 20s, and attend the great chase with 2 greyhounds". According to Surtees the Birtleys held the manor of Birtley for several generations, but by the time of Hatfield's

Survey the vill was held by Lord Nevill, and Gilbert Eglyne, who had married a Birtley heiress, on the same terms as above. It was not, at that time, an important centre and was listed under Kibblesworth. The village lay close to and parallel with the east side of the old Great North Road, a rather curious situation. Roberts and Austin describe it as having an irregular two-row plan with green.

The public house lies next to Field House (HER 7400) which is on the Local List.

The site must be visited by the appointed archaeologist and the public house photographed inside (if safe to access and if electricity supply is switched on) and outside. The photographic record will be taken using a digital camera (using a camera of 4 megapixels or more, set to the largest image size with least compression, for maximum quality use the RAW setting) and will include photographs of exterior elevations, close ups of doors and windows, pub frontages, signage, chimneys etc, photos of each room, close up shots of any interesting detail such as fireplaces or staircases etc. A selection of images will be printed in the finished report and all of them submitted as JPEGs or similar on a CD.

In accordance with PPG16 and Gateshead Council's UDP (July 2007) policies ENV21 and ENV22 a Desk Top Assessment is required to appraise the likelihood that important archaeological deposits survive on the site, and assess the impact on those deposits by construction work associated with the proposed development. It will make recommendations for further archaeological work required.

The assessment must be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeological organisation. The purpose of this brief is to obtain tenders for this work. The report must be the definitive record for deposition in the Tyne and Wear HER.

Research Aims and Objectives

The assessment should make reference to Regional and Thematic Research Frameworks.

The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (2006) notes the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. It sets out key research priorities for all periods of the past allowing commercial contractors to demonstrate how their fieldwork relates to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment. The aim of NERRF is to ensure that all fieldwork is carried out in a secure research context and that commercial contractors ensure that their investigations ask the right questions.

See <http://www.algao.org.uk/Association/England/Regions/ResFwks.htm>

Ideally and where possible the evaluation should cross-reference its aims and objectives to national priorities, defined in SHAPE (Strategic Frameworks for Historic Environment Activities and Programmes in English Heritage), and the English Heritage Research Agenda 2005-2010.

Where appropriate note any similar nationwide projects using ADS, internet search engines, ALSF website, HEEP website, OASIS, NMR excavation index.

All work must be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists and must follow the IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk Based Assessment, revised September 2001

www.archaeologists.net

Archaeological Brief

1. The Assessment must inform the planning authority of the archaeological and historical importance of the site.
2. All relevant documentary (such as local history books, journals, papers, documents, county histories, trade directories, census returns, council minutes, court rolls, wills, newspaper cuttings, historic photographs and postcards, prints and engravings etc.) and cartographic records (including historic mapping, archive plans, surveys, estate plans, tithe maps and OS mapping) relating to the vicinity must be consulted and synthesised within the report (and images copied if copyright allows this).

The archaeological consultant is expected to consult:

Northumberland Museum and Archives at Woodhorn, Queen Elizabeth II Country Park, Ashington NE63 9YF (open Wed-Sun) 01670 528041

Tyne and Wear Archives at Blandford House, Blandford Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4JA (tel. 0191 2326789 ext 407)

Durham Record Office, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL (tel. 0191 3833253)

Gateshead Library, Prince Consort Road, Gateshead NE8 4LN (tel. 0191 4773478)

Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections, Palace Green Section, Durham DH1 3RN (tel. 0191 3342932)

Birtley Library

National Monuments Record, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ (tel. 01793 414600)
www.english-heritage.org.uk/NMR

www.pastscape.org.uk

and any other local resource with relevant information.

Useful websites:

www.twsitelines.info – online HER - **not** to be used instead of visiting the HER in person because it is only updated every six months and does not include event data

<http://local.live.co.uk> – aerial photographic coverage

<http://museums.ncl.ac.uk/archive/index>

www.sine.ncl.ac.uk

www.beamishcollections.com – photographic collection – includes 371 photos of Birtley

www.helm.org.uk

www.wellinever.info

www.tynesidelifeandtimes.org.uk

www.magic.gov.uk/website/magic/

www.tomorrows-history.com

www.dur.ac.uk/picturesinprint/

www.nemlac.co.uk – North East Museums Libraries & Archives Council

www.collectbritain.co.uk/galleries - Grimm's sketches of C18 Northumberland and Durham

www.newcastle.gov.uk/SOPNE - images of the NE region

www.neemark.com - collection of mining archives based at Murray Library, Sunderland University

Geological bedrock and drift mapping for the area must be analysed.

The County Historic Environment Record housed at the West Chapel, Jesmond Old Cemetery must be consulted. *Archaeological contractors are advised that there is a search fee payable for consulting the HER (Access and Pricing Policy available on request). Contractors visiting the HER in person and conducting their own research will be charged the basic search fee of £50 plus photocopying costs.*

Any relevant Building Control Plans for the site must be consulted at Tyne and Wear Archives, to provide information on the location of cellars or basements or other features which may have destroyed or truncated archaeological deposits. The location of the cellars or areas of disturbance must be marked on a plan in the finished report.

The County Industrial Archaeologist, Ian Ayris must be consulted on any industrial aspects of the Assessment (tel. 0191 2777190 or email ian.ayris@newcastle.gov.uk)

Information on nearby listed buildings and Conservation Areas must be included and is available from the HER.

3. The Assessment must describe the land-use history of this part of Birtley and assess the probability that archaeological deposits survive on this plot
4. The Assessment must describe the geology, topographic position, soil type and drainage of the site, using geological and soil survey maps. The report must make reference to the anticipated preservation conditions likely to be encountered on the site, especially relating to variables affecting the preservation of biological or organic remains.
5. The archaeological contractor must make at least one site visit and the finished Assessment will briefly describe the current condition of the site. General site photographs must be included in the finished report. The pub will be inspected inside and out and a photographic record taken (see introduction for details). If further detailed recording is required this will be put forward as a recommendation for further work.
6. The archaeological contractor will assess the impact of the proposed development on archaeological deposits by analysing the plans and foundation

designs (where available) for the proposed new building. The commissioning client will provide copies of available plans.

The Assessment Report

The Assessment report must contain and synthesise the results of the analysis of all the sources mentioned above. As far as possible, all maps shown should be at the same scale, to assist in comparing maps of different date and scale, ideally as overlays on a modern base-map, although highlighted enlargements may be used to facilitate the addition of extra annotation. The maps must clearly show the location of the development site.

The report must include a catalogue of features of archaeological or historical interest within or close to the study area. Their location must be shown on a site plan. This must include all sites of interest, not just those currently included in the HER.

A final section of the report should consist of recommendations (in the opinion of the consultant, after assessing all evidence available at the present time) about the type, scale and location of any future archaeological work needed to locate and record historic buildings or archaeological deposits suspected on the site. If evaluation is recommended then the finished report will include a site plan showing the scale and location of suggested trial trenches.

The report must have the following features:-

1. Site location plan and grid reference
2. List of all sources consulted, and their location
3. Details of field visits undertaken by the consultant
4. Site and building photographs
5. Geology of site
6. Period by period discussion of site history and development
7. Historic map regression
8. Copies of any relevant archive plans and historic photographs
9. Brief discussion of the potential of the site in relation to NERRF, EH research agenda and other relevant agenda
10. A card cover with title, date, author, consultant organisation and commissioning client
11. Some form of binding which allows easy copying of the report
12. Copy of this specification

Three paper copies of the report need to be submitted:

- one for the commissioning client
- one for the planning authority (Gateshead Council) – to be submitted by the client with their planning application in paper form and on CD
- and one for deposition in the County HER. A digital copy of the report on CD is also required by the HER – to be sent with the paper report but not attached to it. ***The report and CD for the HER must be sent by the archaeological consultant directly to the address below. If the report is sent via the planning department, every page of the report will be stamped with the planning application number which ruins the illustrations. Also the HER is often sent a photocopy instead of a bound colour original which is not acceptable.***

OASIS

The Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index/access to the large and growing body of archaeological grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded fieldwork.

The archaeological contractor is therefore required to register with OASIS and to complete the online OASIS form for their desk based assessment at <http://www.oasis.ac.uk/>. Please ensure that tenders for this work takes into account the time needed to complete the form.

Once the OASIS record has been completed and signed off by the HER and NMR the information will be incorporated into the English Heritage Excavation Index, hosted online by the Archaeology Data Service.

The ultimate aim of OASIS is for an online virtual library of grey literature to be built up, linked to the index. The unit therefore has the option of uploading their grey literature report as part of their OASIS record, as a Microsoft Word document, rich text format, pdf or html format. The grey literature report will only be mounted by the ADS if both the unit and the HER give their agreement. The grey literature report will be made available through a library catalogue facility.

Please ensure that you and your client understand this procedure. If you choose to upload your grey literature report please ensure that your client agrees to this in writing to the HER at the address below.

For general enquiries about the OASIS project aims and the use of the form please contact: Mark Barratt at the National Monuments Record (tel. 01793 414600 or oasis@english-heritage.org.uk). For enquiries of a technical nature please contact: Catherine Hardman at the Archaeology Data Service (tel. 01904 433954 or oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk). Or contact the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer at the address below.

Jennifer Morrison
Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer
West Chapel
Jesmond Old Cemetery
Jesmond Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 1NL
Tel (0191) 2816117
jennifer.morrison@newcastle.gov.uk

Ref: Queen's Head, Birtley

28 January 2009

Planning Application: pre-application

For HER use only:
Quality control

Sources used:
Northumberland Record Office
Tyne and Wear Archives

Newcastle City Library Local Studies
Durham Record Office
local library
Special collections, Palace Green
HER
Building Control Plans
Goad Insurance plans
Conservation Officer
APs

Report content:

site location plan
grid reference
use of documentary sources (books/journals/papers/county histories/trade directories/court rolls/census returns/documents etc)
use of cartographic sources (estate maps/tithe/archive plans/OS)
land-use history
historic photographs/drawings/engravings
geology
anticipated preservation conditions
evidence of site visit and site photograph
listed buildings and Conservation Areas
map regression
plan of cellars/areas of disturbance
catalogue and plan
impact of proposed development
recommendations
trench location plan
CD
OASIS form