

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Bradley Farm, Henshaw, Northumberland



View of DMV left of the road

ARS Ltd Report 2009/14

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Archaeological Research Services Ltd

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2009, Archaeological Research Services Ltd was commissioned by British Telecom to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Bradley Farm, Northumberland. A watching brief was carried out for work undertaken to lay telecom ducting along the roadside between the military road (B 6318) and Grandys Knowe (Bradley farm). The proposed route along side the C road to Bradley farm is adjacent to scheduled monument SAM (28584) a deserted Medieval village (Brandon mill). Hadrian's Wall corridor is within eyesight of the proposed work area so there was the potential for both Medieval and Roman archaeology to be present in this area.

No archaeology was detected in the trenches excavated during this watching brief due to the shallow depth of the trench and the modern disturbance caused by the building of the C road. Earthworks can clearly be seen in the fields west of the road yet no archaeology was detected within the bounds of the carriageway.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Scope of work

1.1.1. In February 2009, Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by British Telecom to undertake an archaeological watching brief near Bradley Farm, Henshaw, Northumberland (Fig. 1). The work was carried out during groundwork for the installation of underground ducting and the removal of seven telegraph poles. The ducting will carry telecommunications cable from an existing jointing chamber, to an existing telegraph pole opposite to the entrance to Bradley Farm. The works also included the burial of approximately 420m of plastic duct from Grandy's Knowe to Military Road and the installation of a prefabricated jointing chamber, together with the recovery of a further nine telegraph poles.

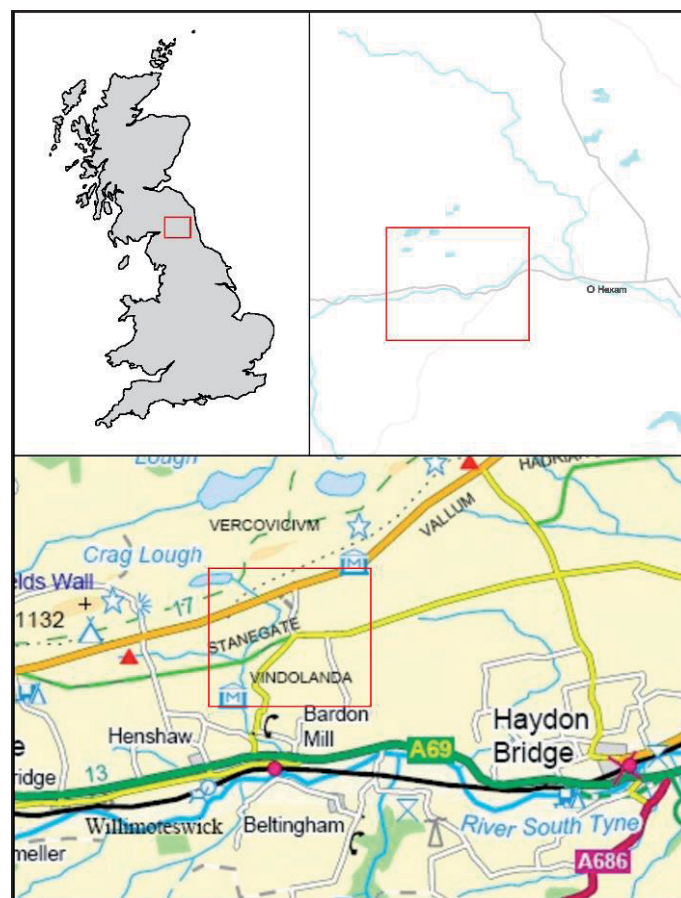


Fig. 1 Site Location

1.2. Location and topography

1.2.1. The site is centred at NY 78111 67706 (Fig. 2) and lies to the immediate north-east of Bradley Hall. Hadrian's Wall corridor runs to the south, with Vindolanda Roman fort positioned approximately 2km to the south-west, and Housesteads Roman fort approximately 2km to the north-east. The deserted Medieval village of Brandon Mill lies to the immediate north of the site and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 28584).

- 1.2.2. The site is located at approximately 230m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and lies on a south facing slope that grades down to the South Tyne River to the south.
- 1.2.3. The solid geology of the site comprises Carboniferous limestone, which is overlain by drift deposits of peat (British Geological Survey 2008).

1.3. Impact of works

- 1.3.1. The proposed works were located just south of Bardon Mill deserted Medieval settlement and are therefore located within an archaeologically sensitive area. The works have the potential to impact on archaeological remains associated with Medieval and Post-Medieval domestic, agricultural, and industrial activity. Any archaeological remains in this area would have had the potential to provide important information about the development of the village from the Medieval period onwards, the different range of activities that took place, and the life of the people who lived there.
- 1.3.2. Given the close proximity to Hadrian's Wall corridor and its associated forts, the presence of Roman archaeological remains was also a possibility.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on all the groundwork's within the scheduled area near Bradley farm. The groundwork's included two crossings of the carriageway, one near the junction by the military road (B6318) where the ducting was to run at right angles across the road from an existing pole to a new junction box directly opposite. The other crossing was cut in the carriageway at the southern extent of the scheduled area on an angle heading for another junction box which was originally on the opposite side of the road but moved due to the fear of subsidence to the carriageway.
- 2.2 A total of four holes for junction boxes were excavated as part of the watching brief, which were 1.2m in length by 0.70m in width and 0.70m deep on average. The remainder of watching brief involved observing the cut for telecom ducting between these junction boxes, 450m approximately in length.
- 2.3 The ducting trench was excavated by a mini digger with a toothless six inch bucket to an average depth of 0.30m. The trench cut, which ran along side the carriageway was observed along its entire length for any archaeological features and cultural remains.
- 2.4 Archaeological features uncovered were cleaned by trowel, photographed and recorded to IFA and English Heritage standards and guidelines and any cultural material collected was examined by experts and put into an archaeological context.

3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1. Prehistoric

3.1.1. A polished axe-head fragment found at the nearby village of Thorngrifton revealed that the area was occupied as far back as the Neolithic period. There also a number of Bronze Age barrows in the region as well as a Bronze Age stone circle found to the south of Greenlee Lough. The earliest settlements in the area have been dated to the Iron Age. Two possible settlements have been found, one at Little Shield that comprises a number of circular stone huts with a stone enclosure, and another to the south of Greenlee Lough where a stone enclosure has been discovered adjacent to a field system. Evidence for farming practices within the parish includes examples of cord-rig and earth banks marking out earlier field systems.

3.2. Romano-British

3.2.1. Roman activity in the vicinity can still be seen in the area by Hadrian's Wall. Built in 122 AD under the Emperor Hadrian, it is the largest archaeological monument in the parish. This section of the wall includes several small turrets and Milecastles 37 and 38. The well preserved Roman fort of Housesteads, (Vercovivium), is located approximately 2 km to the north-east of the study area, and the fort of Vindolanda is located approximately 2km to the south-west of the study area. Excavations around Housesteads have recovered a large civilian settlement outside the fort with its own cemetery and temples. It is likely that the fort would have been abandoned at the end of the 4th century following the Roman withdrawal from Britain.

3.3. Early-Medieval

3.3.1. Virtually nothing is known about the area during the Early-Medieval period, but many of the place names have Anglo-Saxon origins. For example, Thorngrifton means 'farm by the thorn copse' in Old English (Keys to the Past 2008). Many of the place names also indicate a Viking presence in the area. For example, the name 'Henshaw' is associated with the Old Norse name of 'Hethin'.

3.4. Medieval

3.4.1. In the Later-Medieval period the area suffered from invasions during the Border Wars between England and Scotland. This led to the construction of many fortified farmsteads known as bastles. Bastles are widely spread across the parish and are often in isolated positions, suggesting that most people lived in small isolated farms rather than villages. The deserted Medieval village of Bardon Mill is therefore one of a small number of villages across the parish. The villages may have consisted of only one or two farms with the other inhabitants living in outlying houses.

3.4.2. The deserted village includes the remains of a Medieval and Post-Medieval settlement situated on a south facing triangle of land on the left bank of the Bradley Burn and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 28584). The core of the Medieval settlement is situated at the centre of the monument and is visible

as the earthwork remains of a series of rectangular and square enclosures, and what are considered to be several rectangular house platforms. The largest enclosure lies at the centre of the Medieval settlement and is sub-rectangular in shape measuring 30m across within walls 1.3m wide and 0.6m high. The remains of what are thought to be the foundations of two houses lie immediately east of the enclosure and the foundations of a third rectangular building lie immediately to the west. South-east of these remains are further enclosures, including a sub-rectangular feature measuring 40m by 16m containing a smaller rectangular building, which are also considered to be part of the Medieval settlement. A hollow way at the western edge of the monument, some 0.4m deep, is also thought to be Medieval in origin.

- 3.4.3. To the south of the core of the Medieval settlement are the remains of an associated field system. The field system is visible as a series of long, narrow fields running down the gentle slopes to the Bradley Burn. The fields are separated by earthen banks and scarps or lynchets. The remains of ridge-and-furrow cultivation are clearly visible within some of the fields. The furrows are up approximately 7m apart and end in a prominent headland immediately above the steep slopes of the Bradley Burn. The Medieval settlement and its field system are enclosed on the north and eastern sides by a prominent stone and earth bank standing 0.6m high.
- 3.4.4. The Medieval settlement is thought to be associated with Bradley Hall, incorporated within the present farm of the same name which is situated immediately adjacent to the settlement on the right bank of the Bradley Burn. In 1306, Edward I stayed at Bradley Hall on his way to Carlisle during his final Scottish campaign and the hall was certainly occupied in the 16th and early 17th centuries. Stone foundations of a bastle exist at the north-eastern corner of the monument. The bastle has maximum dimensions of 14.3m east to west by 6.3m north to south. The walls of the bastle stand to a maximum height of 0.8m.
- 3.4.5. A circular corn drying kiln built into the steep slope above the Bradley Burn, stands up to 1m internally and is 1m wide. This feature is thought to be late 17th century in date and indicates that occupation of the settlement continued into Post-Medieval times. The telegraph poles, which cross the monument, are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath these features is included.

4. RESULTS

- 4.1. All four junction box holes were observed to the required depth of around 0.70m and no archaeological features were unearthed or detected within these holes, only an undisturbed mid brown silty clay subsoil or natural bedrock was observed.
 - 4.1.1. Both carriageway crossings (Fig. 2) were observed and both cuts revealed that there was no archaeology immediately below the metalling of the carriageway, only bedrock at the b6318 junction and compacted silty clay natural at the diagonal crossing. There were also no cultural remains within the removed fill of the cuts.

- 4.1.2. The cut for the telecom duct (Fig. 3) was observed along its entire length and no archaeological features were uncovered. The trenches revealed an undisturbed mid brown subsoil in most places and was still within the topsoil in places due to root activity and roadside build-up. The topsoil itself was a dark brown/black silty loam with occasional large lumps of carboniferous limestone within it but without structure or context. No cultural material or archaeological artefacts were recovered from the spoil from the cut.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The lack of archaeological remains during this watching brief was mainly due to the fact that the cut for the duct was so close to a modern carriageway, only modern road build up was observed and in many places the cut was still within the topsoil layer. The large stones observed in the trench fill were most likely tumble from the existing road boundary wall as they were within the topsoil, also most likely any cultural remains from any Medieval contexts concerning the deserted Medieval village were removed when the road was constructed.

6. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT

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

7. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY

- 7.1. All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved in this project, in particular Ali McClean of BT Openreach and Mike Collins of English Heritage.

9. REFERENCES

Allen, J.R.M and Huntley, J.P. 2004. *An Iron Age or Romano-British enclosure at South Heddon, Northumberland*. London: English Heritage. Archaeological Investigation Report I/5/2005

Forde-Johnston, James L. 1978. *Hadrian's Wall*. London: Michael Joseph


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 Saltmeadows Road
 Gateshead
 NE8 3DA

Site Code: BRA09
 Drawing Ref: Report Fig. 2
 Date: 18 February
 Drawn: DA
 Scale: 1:3000 at A4

Title:
 Figure 2: Area of watching brief

Key:
 Area of watching brief

Notes:

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 This Drawing
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Fig. 2 Carriageway crossing



Fig. 3 Trench cut for ducting

APPENDIX II: SPECIFICATION

Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Watching Brief at Bradley Farm, Henshaw, Tynedale, Northumberland.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. British Telecom has been granted Scheduled Monument Consent for work at Bradley Farm, Henshaw, Northumberland. The work will include the installation of 18m of 50mm underground ducting from an existing jointing chamber to an existing telegraph pole, which is opposite the entrance to Bradley Farm. Seven existing telegraph poles will also be removed. The work will also include the burial of approximately 420m of 100mm plastic ducting from Grandy's Knowe to the Military Road, and the installation of a prefabricated jointing chamber, together with the recovery of nine telegraph poles. This project design details the works to be undertaken during an archaeological watching brief at the site.
- 1.2. The proposed development is situated at OS grid reference NY 78111 67706 (centred) and lies just to the south of the deserted Medieval settlement of Bardon Mill, which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 28584).
- 1.3. Place names suggest that the area was occupied during the Early-Medieval period by Anglo-Saxons and later in the 10th and 11th centuries by Viking invaders. During the Medieval period the area was predominantly agricultural but the area suffered badly during the Border Wars between England and Scotland, which led to the construction of many fortified farmsteads known as bastles. These buildings are widely spread across the parish and are often in isolated positions, suggesting that most people lived in small isolated farms rather than villages. The deserted Medieval village of Bardon Mill is therefore one of a small number of villages across the parish. The villages may have consisted of only one or two farms with the other inhabitants living in outlying houses.
- 1.4. The Scheduled Ancient Monument includes the remains of a Medieval and Post-Medieval settlement situated on a south facing triangle of land on the left bank of the Bradley Burn. The core of the Medieval settlement is situated at the centre of the monument and is visible as the earthwork remains of a series of rectangular and square enclosures, and what are considered to be several rectangular house platforms. The largest enclosure lies at the centre of the Medieval settlement and is sub-rectangular in shape measuring 30m across within walls 1.3m wide and 0.6m high. The remains of what are thought to be the foundations of two houses lie immediately east of the enclosure and the foundations of a third rectangular building lie immediately to the west. South-east of these remains are further enclosures, including a sub-rectangular feature measuring 40m by 16m containing a smaller rectangular building, which are also considered to be part of the Medieval settlement. A hollow way at the western edge of the monument, some 0.4m deep, is also thought to be Medieval in origin.
- 1.5. Surrounding the core of the Medieval settlement on the south are the remains of an associated field system. The field system is visible as a series of long, narrow fields running down the gentle slopes to the Bradley Burn. The fields are separated by earthen banks and scarps or lynchets. The remains of ridge-and-

furrow cultivation are clearly visible within some of the fields. The furrows are up to 7m apart and end in a prominent headland immediately above the steep slopes of the Bradley Burn. The Medieval settlement and its field system are enclosed on the north and eastern sides by a prominent stone and earth bank standing 0.6m high.

- 1.6. The Medieval settlement is thought to be associated with Bradley Hall, incorporated within the present farm of the same name which is situated immediately adjacent to the settlement on the right bank of the Bradley Burn. In 1306, Edward I stayed at Bradley Hall on his way to Carlisle during his final Scottish campaign and the hall was certainly occupied in the 16th and early 17th centuries. Stone foundations of a bastle exist at the north-eastern corner of the monument. The bastle has maximum dimensions of 14.3m east to west by 6.3m north to south. The walls of the bastle stand to a maximum height of 0.8m. There is an entrance through the western end of the south wall with part of the door frame intact. Immediately to the north, there are the slight earthwork remains of an associated rectangular structure. The bastle is attached to a large roughly rectangular enclosure containing the remains of Post-Medieval ploughing. The site of a ruined bastle in this location is named on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1866 as 'Greenbyer'. The stone foundations of what are thought to be a second bastle lie some 30m to the east of the first. They measure 7.6m east to west by 5.5m with walls standing up to 0.3m high.
- 1.7. A circular corn drying kiln built into the steep slope above the Bradley Burn, stands up to 1m internally and is 1m wide. This feature is thought to be late 17th century in date and indicates that occupation of the settlement continued into Post-Medieval times. The telegraph poles which cross the monument are excluded from the scheduling, although the ground beneath these features is included.
- 1.8. The proposed works will be located just south of Bardon Mill deserted Medieval settlement and are therefore located within an archaeologically sensitive area. The works have the potential to impact on archaeological remains associated with Medieval and Post-Medieval domestic, agricultural, and industrial activity. Any archaeological remains in this area have the potential to provide important information about the development of the village from the Medieval period onwards, the different range of activities that took place, and the life of the people who lived there.

2. Site Specific Requirements

- 2.1. The client, British Telecom, is proposing to install telecommunications ducting and remove existing telegraph poles. The client has provided a plan of the layout of the proposed ducting.

- 2.2. The work to be undertaken is an archaeological watching brief which will monitor all ground works located within the Scheduled Monument area of Bradley Farm. The aim of the work will be to record any significant archaeological remains if they are encountered, particularly those associated with the Medieval settlement and field system located to the NE of Bradley Hall (NMR 28584).
- 2.3. The client will provide necessary plant and ensure access arrangements.

3. Project Management and Standards

- 3.1. The project will be carried out in compliance with the codes of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) (2000) and will follow the IFA Standard and Guidance for Excavations (1995).
- 3.2. All staff employed on the project will be suitably qualified and experienced for their respective project roles and have practical experience of archaeological excavation and recording. All staff will be made aware of the archaeological potential of the area surrounding the site and will be fully briefed on the work required by this specification. Each member of staff will be fully conversant with the aims and methodologies and will be given a copy of this written scheme of investigation to read. All members of staff employed by Archaeological Research Services Ltd are fully qualified and experienced archaeologists, this will ensure that appropriate decisions regarding environmental and dating sampling will be made in the field.

4. Methods

- 4.1. Topsoil and unstratified modern material will be removed by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits. No machinery will track over areas that have been stripped.
- 4.2. Features will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools in order to expose surviving archaeological features and deposits.
- 4.3. All archaeological features and deposits will be recorded on a pre-excavation plan before excavation, sampling and recording.
- 4.4. All features exposed will be excavated by hand. Sampling will typically comprise 50% of every discrete feature; 25% of linear/curvilinear features with non-uniform fill and 10% of linear features with a uniform fill.
- 4.5. In the event of human burials being discovered, they will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected and the coroners' office informed. If removal is essential, work will comply with relevant Home Office regulations.

- 4.6. Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation will be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasures Act 1996.
- 4.7. Deposits that have the potential for providing environmental or dating evidence will be assessed while the work is in progress. An environmental sampling strategy has been agreed with the English Heritage Scientific advisor for North-East England, Jacqui Huntley. The sampling strategy comprises the following:
 - All intact archaeological contexts will be sampled. Small pit features will be 100% sampled while bulk samples of 40 litres will be taken from larger feature contexts, such as linear ditch fills.
 - Any samples recovered will be floated on site in graduated sieves with the smallest being 500µm and the flots and residues collected. Samples will be analysed by B Johnson of Archaeological Research Services Ltd and an assessment report prepared in accordance with Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (HBMC 1991).
- 4.8. During and after the work, all recovered artefacts and environmental samples will be stored in appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this will include controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions and immediate selection for conservation of valuable material).

5. Recording

- 5.1. The site will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area.
- 5.2. A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings will be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate.
- 5.3. The stratigraphy of the trenches will be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.
- 5.4. All archaeological deposits and features will be recorded with above ordnance datum (AOD) levels.
- 5.5. A photographic record of all contexts will be taken in colour transparency and black and white print and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept.
- 5.6. Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled.

6. Access

- 6.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will give Mike Collins at English Heritage at least 4 weeks notice (or less if so agreed) notice of the commencement of fieldwork.

- 6.2. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will afford access to Mike Collins and the Northumberland County Council Conservation team at all times, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological evaluation.
- 6.3. Archaeological Research Services Ltd will maintain regular communication with Mike Collins to ensure that the project aims and objectives are met.

7. Finds Processing and Storage

- 7.1. All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds will be carried out in compliance with the IFA guidelines for Finds Work (2001) and those set out by UKIC (1990).
- 7.2. Artefact collection and discard policies will be appropriate for the defined purpose.
- 7.3. 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.
- 7.4. All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged (e.g. lithics in self-sealing plastic bags and ceramic in acid-free tissue paper). Vulnerable objects will be specially packaged and textile, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated. Prehistoric pottery will not be cleaned or be subject to any abrasion or loss of adhering residues.
- 7.5. 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.
- 7.6. The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and the Museum of Antiquities prior to the work taking place. All finds except treasure trove are the property of the landowner.
- 7.7. All retained artefacts and ecofacts will be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

8. Site archive

- 8.1. The archive will be compiled in an orderly fashion to the standards and format set out in Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (HBMC 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). The archive will be deposited with the Museum of Antiquities once all post-excavation work is completed and the final report produced.

9. Report

9.1. One copy of the report will be submitted to the client, and two hard copies (one bound and one unbound) and one digital copy will be submitted to the Northumberland SMR. One bound copy of the report will be submitted to Mike Collins at English Heritage. Each report will be bound with each page and paragraph numbered and will include as a minimum the following:

- executive summary
- a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale with 10 figure central grid reference
- contractor's details including date work carried out
- nature and extent of the proposed development, including developer/client details
- description of the site location and geology
- trench plans to a suitable scale and tied into the national grid so that features can be correctly orientated
- discussion of the results of field work
- context & feature descriptions
- features, number and class of artefacts, spot dating & scientific dating of significant finds presented in tabular format
- plans and section drawings of the features drawn at a suitable scale
- additional plans/map extracts to display noted and recorded archaeological features as appropriate
- recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work, including publication
- bibliography

11. OASIS

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

12. Dissemination/Publication

12.1. A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted to Sarah MacLean by the beginning of December of the year in which the work is completed.

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

13. References

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

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

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

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