

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Proctor & Gamble Ltd. Avenue Road,  
Seaton Delaval, Northumberland.**



Area of Watching Brief at Proctor & Gamble Ltd

**ARS Ltd Report 2009/38**  
May 2009

Oasis Ref: archaeo15-60291

**Compiled By:**

Dan Amat  
Archaeological Research Services Ltd  
Baltic Business Centre  
Saltmeadows Road  
Gateshead  
NE8 3DA  
admin@archaeologicalresearchservices.com  
www.archaeologicalresearchservices.com

**Checked By:**

Dr. Richard Chatterton  
Tel: 0191 477 5111  
Fax: 0191 477 7687

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at  
Proctor & Gamble Ltd. Avenue Road, Seaton Delaval,  
Northumberland.**

**ARS Ltd Report 2009/38**

May 2009

**Archaeological Research Services Ltd**

---

**Contents**

List of Figures.....	3
Executive Summary.....	4
1. Introduction.....	5
1.1. Location and Scope of Work.....	5
1.2. Geology and preservation.....	6
2. Methodology.....	6
3. Historical and archaeological background.....	6
4. Results.....	7
5. Conclusion.....	7
6. Publicity, confidentiality and copyright.....	9
7. Statement of indemnity.....	9
8. Acknowledgements.....	9
9. References.....	9

Appendix I: Figures  
Appendix II: Harris Matrix  
Appendix III: Registers  
Appendix IV: Specification

## List of Figures

1.	Site location.....	5
2.	Site plan with layout of watching brief trenches.....	10
2.	Area 1.....	11
3.	Area 2 showing brick lined drain.....	11

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*In May 2009 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Proctor & Gamble to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Proctor & Gamble site, Seaton Delaval. The work was carried out during groundwork for the construction of the personnel walkway, canopy, dry pallet store building and associated building works.*

*The watching brief revealed an area which had been heavily disturbed by previous building and excavation on the site. There were no surviving in-situ archaeological remains of significance in the areas of the watching brief.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Location and scope of work

1.1.1. In May 2009 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Proctor & Gamble Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief at the Proctor & Gamble site, Seaton Delaval (Fig. 1). A watching brief was requested due to the findings of previous work performed on the site, and through the analysis of aerial photography. The work was carried out during groundwork for the construction of the personnel walkway, canopy, dry pallet store building and associated building works.

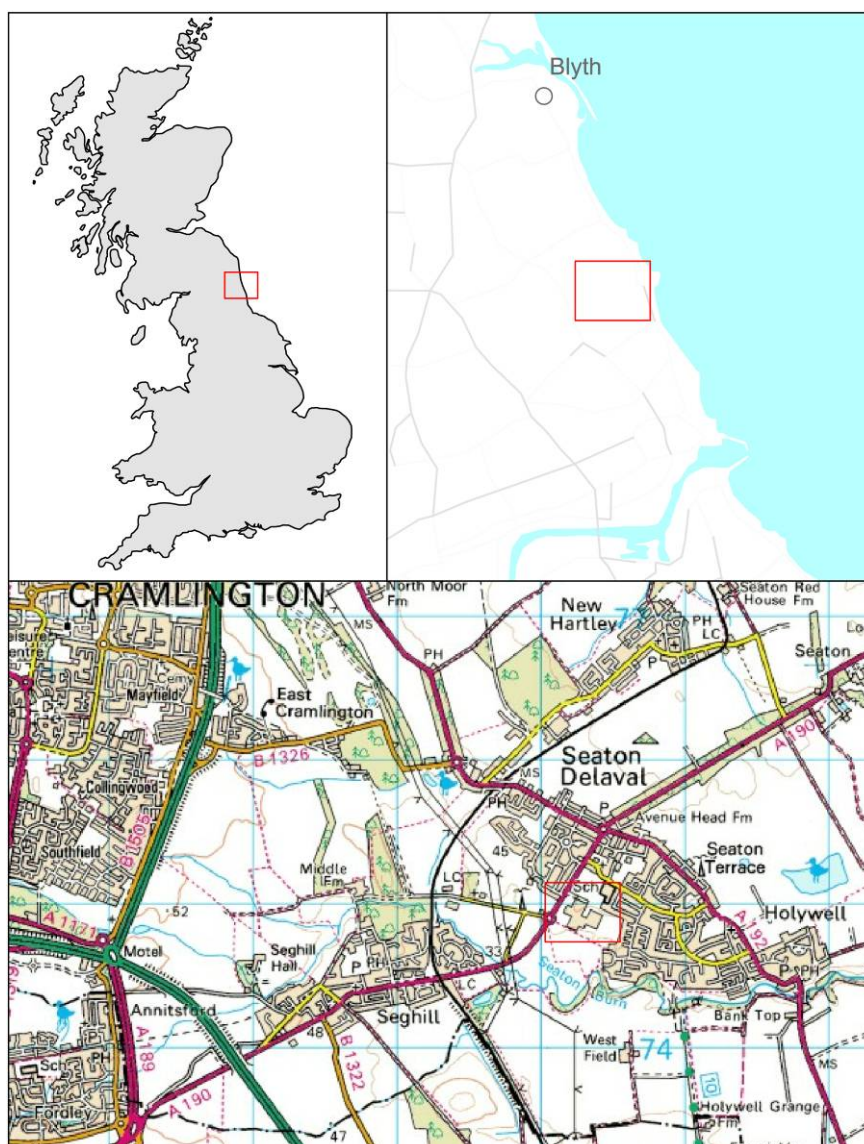


Fig. 1 Site location

Ordnance Survey data copyright OS, reproduced by permission, Licence no. 100045420

### 1.2 Location and topography

1.2.1 Proctor & Gamble is located on Avenue Road, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland at NZ 306748 (Fig. 2). The landscape is gently undulating and a mixture of

agricultural and urban in character, lying to the north of the major conurbation of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The building complex is situated at 42m aOD. The bedrock geology of the area consists of Westphalian Coal Measures and the superficial geology is made up of glacial till deposits (British Geological Survey 2007).

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

- 2.1 The specification required that a watching brief should be carried out to observe any ground works taking place for the proposed development, in order to identify any potential archaeological remains.
- 2.2 Initial groundworks were undertaken by machine, using a back-acting toothless ditching bucket under continuous archaeological supervision. The machine removed the modern overburden in level spits until the limit of necessary excavation was reached.
- 2.3 A single context recording system was employed. Each layer encountered was given a unique context number and a full written description (a Harris matrix is shown in Appendix I and a full context register is shown in Appendix II). Photographs were taken in black and white print and colour transparency in order to record the ground work. A photographic register can be found in Appendix III.

## **3. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **3.1. Prehistoric**

Aerial photography of this site shows cropmarks indicating a possible oval enclosure surrounded by medieval ridge and furrows. Within the oval a number of hut circles can be seen. An archaeological watching brief, was carried out on the site in 2001-2 in advance of redevelopment in the east of the site. This revealed the partial remains of the enclosure ditch, the northern part of the entranceway, two drainage gullies and a possible annexe to the east. A 28m length of the enclosure ditch was uncovered which was c.5m wide and was up to 2m deep. Although no datable pottery was found it is likely that the enclosure is Iron Age in date given its form and the similarity to dated Iron Age enclosures in this area. A cup marked stone was uncovered in the ditch terminal, the deposition of which may have had a ritual significance.

### **3.2. Romano-British**

There is no evidence of Romano-British occupation within the immediate vicinity of the study area.

### **3.3. Medieval**

A Norman chapel dedicated to Our Lady was constructed around 1102. Today it retains several Norman features in the nave, choir and presbytery. It was the private chapel of the Delaval family as well as members of the household and manor.

### **3.4. Post-Medieval**

The area has seen considerable development largely due to the growth in coal mining in the region. The Seaton colliery opened in 1838 and with the influx of workers came the expansion of housing and the inclusion of a train station. By the 1960's both the railway and the colliery were closed.

## **4. RESULTS**

4.1 Six small trenches were excavated measuring 0.50m in width by 3.5m in length in order to create two 'U' shaped foundation trenches for the construction of the walkway, at either side of the compound (Figs. 2 & 3).

### *4.2 Modern surfaces (001)*

The upper surface of each excavation trench consisted of concrete a road surface to a depth of 0.2m.

### *4.4 Hardcore (002)*

Beneath the concrete (001) existed a layer of mixed red/ yellow hardcore.

### *4.5. Natural Clay (003)*

Beneath the hardcore layer (002) existed a layer of natural orange/ brown clay (003) which had a depth beyond that of the excavation.

4.6. Both areas of excavation had been disturbed prior to this work taking place. Area 1 (Fig. 3) had clearly been excavated in the past for the construct of the building which until recent partial demolition occupied the site. Area 2 (Fig. 4) had been extensively disturbed with the construction of service drains and sewage outlets, the modern works cutting into the natural clay (003)

## **5. CONCLUSION**

5.1 The watching brief revealed an area which had been heavily disturbed by previous building and excavation on the site. There were no surviving *in-situ* archaeological remains of significance in the areas of the watching brief.

## **6. PUBLICITY, CONFIDENTIALITY AND COPYRIGHT**

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

## **7. STATEMENT OF INDEMNITY**

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

## **8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 8.1. Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to express special thanks to Graeme Erwin of STP Construction, Proctor & Gamble, and Karen Derham, Assistant County Archaeologist of Northumberland County Council.

## **9. REFERENCES**

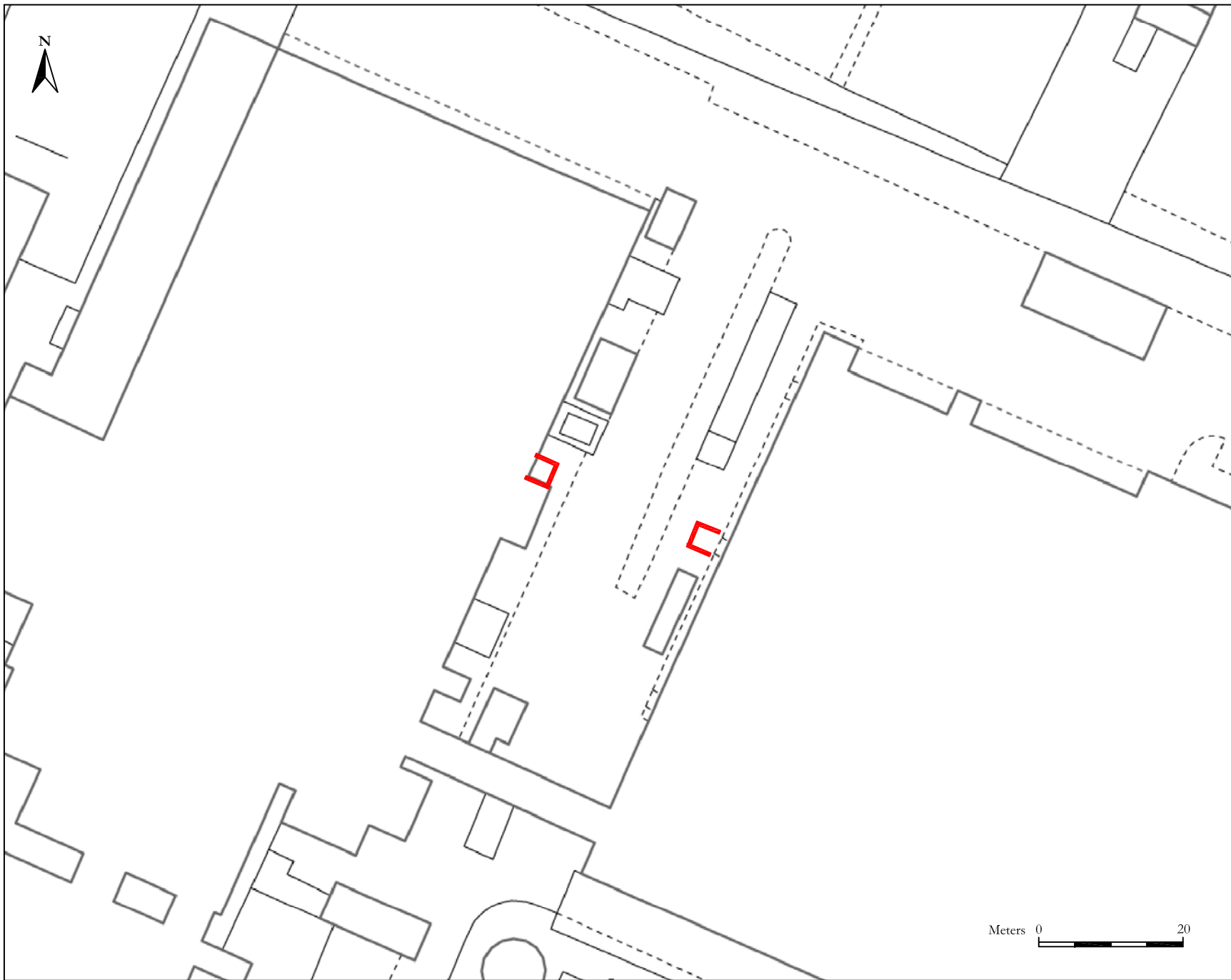
British Geological Survey 1979. *Geological Survey 1:50000 Map*. Third Edition (Solid). Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

### **Websites**

British Geological Survey     [www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/index.htm](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/index.htm)

Keys to The Past     [www.keystothepast.info](http://www.keystothepast.info)





Archaeological Research Services Ltd  
Baltic Business Centre  
Saltmeadows Road  
Gateshead  
NE8 3DA

Site Code: Proct09  
Drawing Ref: Report Fig. 2  
Date: 02 June 2009  
Drawn: DA  
Scale: 1:750 at A4

Title:  
Figure 2: Trench locations

Key:

Notes:

Copyright/ Licencing  
This Drawing  
© A.R.S. Ltd  
Ordnance Survey data if applicable  
© Crown Copyright, all rights reserved  
reproduction with permission. Licence No. 100045420

Meters 0 20

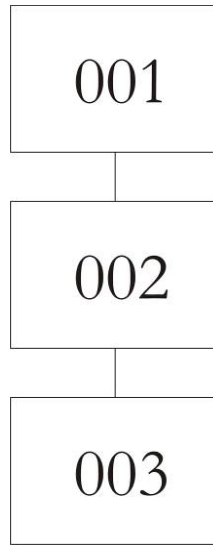


Fig. 3 Area 1 excavation.



Fig. 4 Area 2 excavation showing course of brick lined drain.

**APPENDIX II: HARRIS MATRICES**



**APPENDIX III: REGISTERS**

**Context Register:**

Context No.	Trench	Description
001	All	Modern concrete road surfaces
002	All	Hardcore building layer
003	All	Natural clay

**Photographic Registers:**

**Film One: Black and white print**

Shot Number	Photograph Content
1	General shot of excavation area 1
2	General shot of excavation area 1
3	General shot of excavation area 1
4	General shot of excavation area 2
5	General shot of excavation area 2
6	General shot of excavation area 2

**Film One: Colour transparency**

Shot Number	Photograph Content
1	General shot of excavation area 1
2	General shot of excavation area 1
3	General shot of excavation area 1
4	General shot of excavation area 2
5	General shot of excavation area 2
6	General shot of excavation area 2

## **APPENDIX IV: SPECIFICATION**

### **Written Scheme of Investigation: Archaeological Watching Brief, Proctor & Gamble Ltd, Avenue Road, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland**

Planning ref: 09/00059/FUL

NCCCT ref: BV6/6; 9299

#### **1. Introduction**

A planning application has been submitted for the construction of personnel walkway, canopy, dry pallet store building and associated building works. Proctor and Gamble Limited, Avenue Road, Seaton Delaval. An aerial photograph taken in 1947 identified a rectilinear enclosure on this site with an entrance on the east side. The western side of the enclosure was not visible on the aerial photograph.

The proposed development is situated at OS grid reference NZ 304752. An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the site in 2001-2 in advance of redevelopment in the east of the site. The watching brief revealed the partial remains of the enclosure ditch, the northern part of the entranceway, two drainage gullies and a possible annexe to the east. A 28m length of the enclosure ditch was uncovered which was c.5m wide and was up to 2m deep. No datable pottery was found but it is likely that the enclosure is Iron Age in date given its form and the similarity to dated Iron Age enclosures in this area. A cup marked stone was uncovered in the ditch terminal, the deposition of which may have had a ritual significance. This written scheme of investigation details the works to be undertaken during an archaeological watching brief at the site in accordance with the brief prepared by Karen Derham, Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland.

#### **2. Site Specific Requirements**

- 2.1. The client for this work is STP Construction, on behalf of Proctor & Gamble. The nature and extent of the works has been confirmed with the client.
- 2.2. The work to be undertaken is an archaeological watching brief which aims to ascertain whether there are any archaeological constraints which may affect the proposed development. This will be done by establishing the presence or absence of archaeological remains, their quality, depth and preservation. The overall aim of the watching brief will be:
  - to establish the presence/absence, nature, depth and character of any possible archaeological features
  - to make suggestions, where possible, about further mitigation which may be necessary to preserve archaeological features *in situ*, or
  - to make suggestions to preserve archaeological features by record, where necessary
  - to determine if further archaeological interventions are required

- 2.2. Should archaeology be discovered a course of action will be discussed with Nick Best, Assistant County Archaeologist and approved prior to further work being undertaken on the site.
- 2.3. In the event of the discovery of archaeological remains which are of a greater number or extent than anticipated, work will cease and NCC Conservation Team and a representative of the developer will be notified. An assessment will be made of the importance of the remains and any provision for their recording or preservation in situ as appropriate.
- 2.4. The contingency for this project has been set at up to 30 person-days.

### **3. Project Management and Standards**

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

### **4. Methods**

- 4.1. Unstratified modern material will be removed by a machine using a 1m wide, toothless ditching bucket, under continuous archaeological supervision. The topsoil or recent overburden will be removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits. No machinery will track over areas that have been stripped.
- 4.2. The trenches will be cleaned using appropriate hand tools in order to expose surviving archaeological features and deposits.
- 4.3. All archaeological features and deposits will be recorded on a pre-excavation plan before excavation, sampling and recording.
- 4.4. All features exposed will be excavated by hand. Sampling will typically comprise 50% of every discrete feature; 25% of linear/curvilinear features with non-uniform fill and 10% of linear features with a uniform fill.
- 4.5. In the event of human burials being discovered, they will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected and the coroners' office informed. If removal is essential, work will comply with relevant Home Office regulations.

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

## **5. 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 the Assistant County Archaeologist 10 working days (or less if so agreed) notice of the commencement of fieldwork.
- 6.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will afford access to the Assistant County Archaeologist or their representative at all times, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological evaluation.
- 6.3 Archaeological Research Services Ltd will maintain regular communication with the Assistant County Archaeologist 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. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.
- 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 within 6 months of the fieldwork 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 within fourteen working days of the completion of the fieldwork. Each report will be bound with each page and paragraph numbered and will include as a minimum the following:

- executive summary
- 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.*