

## An Archaeological Evaluation at West Grange on Cadger Bank, Lanchester



Excavation of the trench, looking south-east

**ARS Ltd Report No. 2009/58**  
October 2009

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## Contents

	List of Illustrations.....	
	Executive Summary.....	2
1.	Introduction.....	3
2.	Location and Geology.....	3
3.	Background.....	4
4.	Aims and Objectives.....	4
5.	Methodology.....	4
6.	Evaluation Results.....	5
7.	Discussion.....	5
8.	Conclusions.....	5
9.	Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright.....	6
10.	Statement of Indemnity.....	6
11.	Acknowledgments.....	6
12.	References.....	7
	Appendix I: Context Register.....	8
	Appendix II: Figures.....	9
	Appendix III: Photographic Register.....	13
	Appendix IV: Harris Matrix.....	14
	Appendix V: Specification.....	15

## List of Figures

1	Location map showing the development site.....	3
2	Map showing the location of the trench.....	9
3	Plan and section of trench.....	10
4	Overall shot of trench, looking north-west.....	11
5	Overall shot of trench, looking south-east.....	11
6	Trench section, looking south-west.....	12

## ***Executive Summary***

*In October 2009 Archaeological Research Services Ltd. were commissioned by Hill Construction Ltd. to undertake an archaeological evaluation at West Grange on Cadger Bank, Lanchester. The work was carried out prior to the construction of a dwelling and attached garage. The evaluation involved opening up one 20 x 2m trench to establish the presence or absence of any archaeology that may affect the approved development.*

*To the west of the development site lies the Roman fort and vicus known as Longovicium which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Due to the close proximity of the development site to the Roman fort it was thought that archaeological features or small finds dating from the Roman period may have been uncovered.*

*There were no archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds located within the trench and no further archaeological work is deemed necessary.*

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document reports the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd, commissioned by Hill Construction Ltd. at West Grange on Cadger Bank in Lanchester.

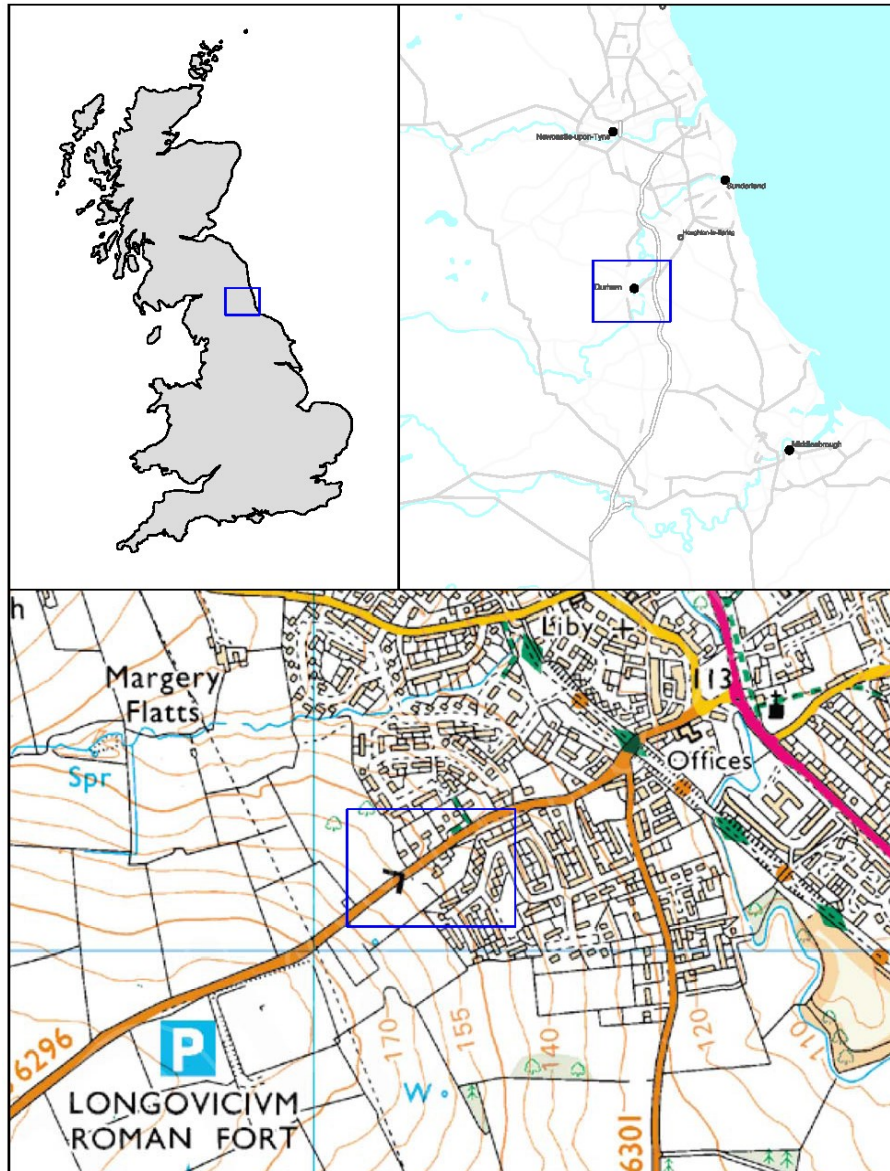


Fig. 1 Location map of the development site.

## 2. Location and Geology

- 2.1 The site is situated on the western edge of Lanchester, centred at NZ1623547144, approximately 8 miles to the north west of Durham. The area covers approximately 2047sqm. The geology of the area is Lower Carboniferous sandstone and mudstone overlain by drift sandstone and mudstone deposits.

### **3. Background**

#### **3.1 Prehistoric**

3.1.1 There has been no evidence of Prehistoric activity discovered within the study area.

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

3.2.1 The site of the Roman fort and vicus, Longovicium, lies to the west of the development site. The fort was rectangular in shape and had four gates and a ditch surrounding it. Previous archaeological work has uncovered remains of the headquarters, bathhouse and barracks. The fort was built in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD and was occupied through the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries. The fort and its associated buildings are a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The main Roman road in the north east, Dere Street, linked many of the forts in the area including Lanchester, Corbridge and Ebchester.

#### **3.3 Medieval**

3.3.1 The Roman fort of Longovicium developed into the Medieval village of Lanchester. Other medieval villages around the study area include that of Tanfield, and Deserted Medieval Villages are said to have existed at Colepike Hall and Newbiggin, although no evidence survives there now.

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

3.4.1. Lanchester continued to develop into the Post-Medieval period as a railway, and a number of shops, houses and farms were built. Many of these buildings still survive today and are now listed.

### **4. Aims and Objectives**

4.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological features and deposits within the area of proposed development, and to record any features or deposits at an appropriate level.

### **12. Methodology**

5.1 The archaeological evaluation took the form of a single evaluation trench. The trench measured 20 x 2m and ran from north-west to south-east.

5.2 The trench was opened by machine using a toothless ditching bucket in level spits until the natural was reached, at which point the trench was examined and cleaned by hand. All machine excavation was carried out under careful archaeological supervision.

5.5 The deposits were recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. Each context was recorded on pro-forma records which included the following: character and contextual relationships; detailed description (dimensions and shape; soil components, colour,

texture and consistency); interpretation and phasing as well as cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers.

- 5.6 The trench was planned at a scale of 1:50. Trench sides were also drawn in section at a scale of 1:20. All deposits and the base of each trench were levelled and heights are expressed in metres above Ordnance Datum.
- 5.7 A photographic record was maintained including photographs of the trench. All images were taken in black and white print, colour print and digital format, and contain a graduated photographic scale.

## **6. Evaluation Results**

- 6.1 The stratigraphy of the trench consisted of dark brown/grey (10yr 4/2) silty sandy topsoil (001) with small stone inclusions to a depth of 0.1m. Below this was a subsoil (002) consisting of dark brown/black (10yr 2/2) sandy clay soil with small stone inclusions with a depth of 0.4m. Approximately half way along the trench a layer of hardcore (003) consisting of angular gravel was encountered that measured between 0.05m and 0.2m in depth. The hardcore was black in colour (10yr 2/1) and was very coarse. It had presumably been laid when there were stables on the site and the land had been levelled. The layer of hardcore lay just beneath the turf and above the soil of the topsoil (001). The natural (004) initially consisted of orange/brown (10yr 4/6) sand formed from the underlying degraded sandstone bedrock which was outcropping in the trench. However, towards the south-eastern end of the trench a very dark brown/black (10yr 2/2) glacial clay deposit (011) overlay the regolith. The natural continued beyond the limits of the excavation. Towards the south-eastern end of the trench a dark rectangular feature (005) was discovered measuring approximately 1 x 0.6 m with a depth of 0.08m. The fill of the feature consisted of black silty clay (10yr 2/1) containing shale and small gravel inclusions and some pieces of modern pottery were recovered from the fill. Two field drains also crossed the trench from east to west (007 and 009). The trench did not reveal any significant archaeological features and there were no small finds recovered.

## **7. Discussion**

- 7.1. The close proximity of the Roman fort of Longovicium to the development site meant that the possibility of encountering Roman remains was quite high. However, the area of undeveloped garden was on a slight slope and had at some point been levelled when stables had been built on the site. The close proximity of the bedrock to the surface and the heavy, waterlogged nature of the clay would have meant the site was not attractive to previous occupation of the site during the Roman or other periods. Additionally the ground levelling works will have extensively damaged or destroyed any potential archaeological features located in this area.

## **8. Conclusions**

- 8.1. The location of the site on a hill slope and the underlying bedrock and heavy clay deposits are not considered to be likely to hold archaeological remains. Additionally, previous groundworks have heavily truncated the deposits on the site. There were no archaeological features, deposits, buried land surfaces or small finds located within the trench and it is

therefore recommended that no further work of an archaeological nature is required on site prior to development.

## **9. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright**

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

## **10. Statement of Indemnity**

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

## **11. Acknowledgements**

- 11.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those involved with this work, in particular Lee White, Assistant Archaeology Officer for County Durham, Neil Hill of Hill Construction Ltd and Nicholson Nairn Architects.



## 12. References

Websites:

Keys to the Past: *www.keystothepast.info*

British Geological Survey: *www.bgs.ac.uk*

**APPENDIX I – CONTEXT REGISTER**

Context No.	Trench	Description
001	1	Topsoil with turf
002	1	Dark brown/black subsoil
003	1	Hardcore
004	1	Sand natural
005	1	Rectangular feature
006	1	Cut of (005)
007	1	Fill of channel for field drain
008	1	Cut of (007)
009	1	Fill of channel for field drain
010	1	Cut of (009)
011	1	Boulder Clay natural

**APPENDIX II – FIGURES**

Fig 2.

Fig.3



Figure 4: Overall shot of trench, looking south-east (scale = 2m)



Figure 5: Overall shot of trench, looking north-west (scale = 2m)



Figure 6: Trench section, looking south-west (scale = 0.25m)

**APPENDIX III – PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER**

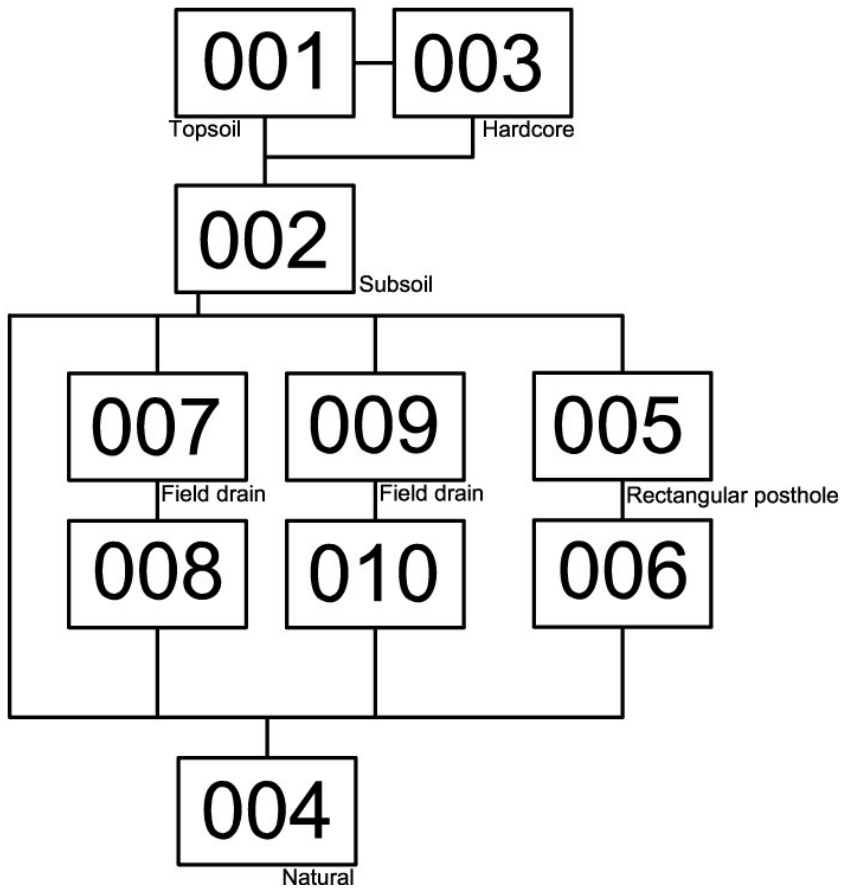
**FILM ONE: BLACK AND WHITE PRINT**

<b>Shot No.</b>	<b>Direction</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Taken By</b>
1	SE	2m	Overall trench	PC
2	NW	2m	Overall trench	PC
3	SW	0.25m	Trench section	PC

**FILM TWO: COLOUR PRINT**

<b>Shot No.</b>	<b>Direction</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Taken By</b>
1	SE	2m	Overall trench	PC
2	NW	2m	Overall trench	PC
3	SW	0.25m	Trench section	PC

APPENDIX IV – HARRIS MATRIX





**APPENDIX V: Brief  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:  
At West Grange  
Cadger Bank  
Lanchester  
DH7 0HE**

**1.0 Site Location**

1.1 This specification is for archaeological evaluation of an approved development site at West Grange, Cadger Bank, Lanchester.

1.2 The site is centred at NZ1623547144 on the west side of the village of Lanchester. County Durham.

1.3 The proposed development site covers c.2047sqm. It is currently undeveloped garden belonging to West Grange. It is bounded on the south and east by residential development, to the north by Cadger Bank road and to the west by the Roman Fort a Scheduled Ancient Monument known as Longovicium Fort and Vicus (DU22 and H1850).

**2.0 The Development**

2.1 Planning permission was granted by the former Derwentside District Council (1/2008/0883/DMFP) on 27th February 2009 for the erection of one dwelling and detached garage.

2.2 The agent and main contact for the works will be Grant Paton of Nicholson Nairn Architects on behalf of the developer.

2.3 The approved development is towards the NE corner of the site with a new access just north-west of the existing dwelling. A copy of the approved site plan can be found on the former district council's planning website (<http://www.derwentside.gov.uk/planningsearch/> - search for the planning application). Alternatively copies can be requested from the agent Nicholson Nairn Architects.

**3.0 Historical Background**

3.1 During the Roman period Lanchester became the site of the Roman fort (H1851) known as Longovicium. It was rectangular in shape and had four gates. A ditch surrounded it; in some places a second ditch was also dug. Archaeologists have found the remains of the headquarters buildings, a bathhouse and some barrack buildings. It was built in the mid 1st century AD and was in use through the 2nd and 3rd centuries AD. The remains of the large stone walls can still be seen in places.

3.2 The remains of the vicus for Lanchester Roman fort can be seen on a geophysical survey of this area. The plan clearly shows a rectangular street grid and house foundations to the east of the fort. Possible foundations may also be seen to the south of the fort, although the findings are more ambiguous. Other unclear earthworks to the north of the fort may also be a continuation of the site. There is a large scatter of Roman pottery to the north and south of the fort that may show how far the vicus spread.

3.3 An archaeological excavation found the remains of a Roman cemetery (H2179). It was used from the mid 2nd century to the late 3rd century. The remains of at least 12 stone

lined burials and 29 cremations were found here. It was probably where the civilians who lived near the Roman fort were buried.

3.4 In the Anglo-Saxon period it is possible that the Roman fort was re-used. The name of the village included part of the name of the fort 'Longovicium' as well as the word 'ceastre', which is Old English for 'Roman Fort'. In the Viking (9th-11th centuries) period a hoard (H1833) of eighteen iron objects were found here in 1861. Objects found include two swords, four axes, four scythes, a pickaxe and parts of a buckle.

3.5 This church of All Saint's in Lanchester was built in the 12th century, but by the early 15th century the church was ruined. However, it has since been restored. The 19th century lead roof of the church has pictures of shoes carved into it.

#### **4.0 The Archaeological Brief**

4.1. This brief sets out which archaeological works are required in order to evaluate the site, and how they must be carried out. Any further works required to mitigate the impact of the proposed development may be dealt with under a separate brief as a condition of future detailed planning permission. The report on the current works must be submitted in support of the current planning application.

4.2. There are no recorded archaeological remains within the development site. But given the site's location, there may potentially be Prehistoric or Roman activity on the site.

4.3. In order to evaluate the archaeological potential for remains of any period the site a programme of archaeological trenching will be employed.

4.4. A sampling strategy employing one 20m long trench within the footprint of the approved dwelling must be subject to evaluation with a contingency for up to a further c.15sqm (either 2 x 5m or 1 x 10m trenches) of the site to be allocated in the tender document. The location of the trenches will be confirmed after a site visit is made by the appointed contractor.

4.5. The 15sqm contingency is to be used to answer any questions of an unexpected nature which may be raised by the evaluation. It is more suitable in the long term to be able to answer questions of this nature whilst the archaeological team is still in the field. The contingency budget can only be utilised after a consultation meeting between the client, the contractor and the Durham County Council Archaeology Section.

4.6. The final trench layout plan must be agreed with the Durham County Council Archaeology Section before excavation commences on site.

4.7. The overall aim of the trial trenching will be:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, depth and character of any possible archaeological features
- to make suggestions, where possible, about further mitigation which may be necessary to preserve archaeological features *in situ*, or
- to make suggestions to preserve archaeological features by record, where necessary
- to determine if further archaeological interventions are required

4.8. The appointed archaeological contractor must provide detailed research aims in relation to the *North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (NERRF – Petts and Gerrard 2006).

4.9. Following the completion of trenching, the site must be left in a state as agreed with the client.

4.10. If further work is required in order to ensure a full record is made of any potential archaeological resources which may be disturbed by the ensuing development, a separate specification will be issued.

4.11. This brief does not constitute the “written scheme of investigation” which must be submitted by the appointed contractor for approval by Durham County Council Archaeology Section prior to work commencing.

## **5.0 OASIS**

5.1 The Durham County Council Archaeology Section supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork.

5.2 The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> within 3 months of completion of the work. Contractors are advised to ensure that adequate time and costings are built into their tenders to allow the forms to be filled in.

5.3 Technical advice should be sought in the first instance from OASIS ([oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk](mailto:oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk)) and not from Durham County Council Archaeology Section.

5.4 Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, Durham County Council Archaeology Section will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.

5.5 The archaeological consultant or contractor must indicate that they agree to this procedure within the specification/project design/written scheme of investigation submitted to Durham County Council Archaeology Section for approval

## **6.0 The Report**

6.1 This report may be first stage of a phased programme of archaeological works. The client has commissioned it to be submitted in support of the planning process and as such it will be used by the local planning authority to help determine the planning permission. Based on the results of the assessment and evaluation further archaeological works may be required.

6.2 The evaluation report must include the following:

- executive summary
- a site location plan with NGR references at an appropriate scale to show both the site location within the wider area and specifically/detailed site location
- planning application reference number
- OASIS reference number
- Site code
- 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
- brief discussion of the known and potential archaeological sites within the development area and its immediate surroundings
- discussion of potential impacts of the development on known and potential archaeological sites
- suggestions regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work
- copies of historical maps cross-referenced to the text
- a trench/SI pit location plan to a suitable scale with height in mAOD 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; sections of all trenches including those with negative results
- sections drawings must be cross-related to trench plans and include geographical orientation and height in mAOD
- additional plans/map extracts to display noted and recorded archaeological features as appropriate
- suggestions regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work, including publication
- suggested mitigation strategy
- references
- bibliography

6.3 The report must be presented in an ordered state and contained within a protective cover/sleeve or bound in some fashion (loose-leaf presentation is unacceptable). The report must contain a title page listing site/development name, district and County together with a general NGR, the name of the archaeological contractor and the developer or commissioning agent. The report must be page numbered and supplemented with sections and paragraph numbering for ease of reference. All maps, figures and photographs must be cross referenced to the text.

## 7.0 Publication

7.1 All assessments, evaluations and watching briefs which do not progress to further excavation and research (with the relevant post-excavation and publication scheme and costs), should have a time and budget allocation identified for publication. This must be to a minimum standard to include a summary of the work, findings, dates, illustrations and photographs and references to where the archive is lodged.

7.2 Editors of regional journals, either the *Durham Archaeological Journal* or *Archaeologia Aeliana* should be contacted for information on outline publication costs, fuller figures may be worked out on completion of the watching brief. As the final note is largely unpredictable in advance a contingency sum should be set aside at the outset of work in the tender.

## 8.0 The Tender

8.1 Tenders for the work must include the following information set out in a clearly understood fashion.

8.2 Brief details of the organisation and the number of staff who are proposing to carry out the work including any relevant specialisms or experience.

8.3 The earliest date at which the work can be commenced and the amount of notice required to initiate the assessment.

8.4 Statement agreeing to complete the OASIS forms on completion of the assessment.

8.5 An estimate of how long the work will take broken down by time and cost in terms of data collection and report production. The tender should include a breakdown of costs attributable to:

- travelling and subsistence
- fieldworks
- report production
- administration
- archiving
- other

8.6 Contingency sums must be clearly allocated for the following:

- Additional 7.5sqm trenching
- conservation of finds
- scientific dating
- **publication costs if required**
- other

## **9.0 Submission of Report**

9.1 A final bound copy and **a digital PDF copy** of the report must be sent to the Archaeology Section, Durham County Council for inclusion into the County Durham Archaeological Archive (SMR):

The County Archaeology Officer, Archaeology Section, Regeneration & Economic Development, Durham County Council, The Rivergreen Centre, Aykley Heads, Durham, DH1 5TS.

9.2 Additionally three bound copies of the report must be submitted to the client for planning purposes (or more if required by client).

## **10.0 The Archive**

10.1 The site archive comprising the original paper records and plans, photographs, negatives etc, must be deposited in the appropriate museum at the completion of post-excavation. This must be in accordance with the Durham County Council Archaeological Archive policy, a guidance note on which can be obtained from the Durham County Council Archaeology Service.

*24th July 2009*

*L. White*

*Assistant Archaeology Officer*

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