



**HIGH SHAW WIND TURBINE
EAST WINDBURN, NORTHUMBERLAND**

Archaeological Impact Assessment

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HIGH SHAW WIND TURBINE EAST WOODBURN, NORTHUMBERLAND

Archaeological Impact Assessment

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**HIGH SHAW WIND TURBINE
CITY, COUNTY****Archaeological Impact Assessment****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Knight Frank on behalf of Empirica Energy to undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed construction of a single wind turbine within land southwest of High Shaw Farm, East Woodburn, Northumberland (hereafter 'the Site').

Known heritage assets are located within a 1km study area of the Site and characterise the area as having potential for archaeological remains dating from the Prehistoric to Modern period.

There is one possible prehistoric field system, and a Romano-British redeposited findspot and rock carving site known within the Study Area. As the Roman findspot is not within its original context, and that both Roman sites are isolated, it is considered that there is low potential for encountering archaeological remains dating to these periods.

No known Medieval artefacts or sites are listed in NHER within the Study Area, although satellite imagery suggests ridge and furrow extends into the Study Area from the north. This does not extend into the proposed development area. There is, therefore, a low potential for encountering archaeological remains dating to this period.

The Site occupies an area known to have functioned as part of the Post-Medieval industrial landscape. Within 700m of the Site is the Scheduled Monument of Ridsdale Ironworks, which would have utilised the surrounding landscape for raw materials. A quarry directly next to the development area was not operational when the ironworks was and it is likely that the quarry was utilised by a landowner or farmer to generate income through the export of a raw-product, most likely limestone. It is highly likely that the development will physically impact upon archaeology of the quarry.

In accordance with regional and national planning policy, further archaeological work is likely to be required in order to allow any undesignated/unidentified heritage assets that survive to be identified and recorded prior to their loss. Future archaeological work will include a watching brief during groundworks.

The scope and nature of any further work should be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist at Northumberland County Council and undertaken in line with a Written Scheme of Investigation, produced in advance of any Site works.

HIGH SHAW WIND TURBINE EAST WOODBURN, NORTHUMBERLAND

Archaeological Impact Assessment

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Knight Frank, on behalf of Empirica Energy, to undertake an Archaeological Impact Assessment of the proposed construction of a single wind turbine within land southwest of High Shaw Farm, East Woodburn, Northumberland (hereafter 'the Site').

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology.

- 1.2.1 The Site is located within agricultural land approximately 1.5km to the east of the villages of West Woodburn and East Woodburn and approximately 8km east of the town of Bellingham. The development consists of a single wind turbine to be erected 0.4km southwest of High Shaw Farm (NGR 393901 585488).
- 1.2.2 The solid geology of the Scheme is the Tyne Limestone formation with superficial deposits of Devensian Till and Alluvium (BGS 1980: sheet 013). The site sits at approximately 230m above Ordnance Datum.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims and scope

- 2.1.1 The aim of this assessment is to identify the potential direct physical impact the development may have on archaeological remains.

2.2 Study Area

- 2.2.1 This assessment will identify known archaeological remains (both above and below ground), built heritage and elements of the historic landscape within a radius of 1km of the development area in order to assess the character of the development area, as well as the likelihood for known or unknown archaeological remains to exist within the development physical impact zone.

2.3 Sources

- 2.3.1 A number of publicly accessible sources of primary and synthesised information were consulted. A brief summary of the sources consulted is given below.

Historic Environment Record

- 2.3.2 The Northumberland Historic Environment Record (NHER) is a database of all recorded archaeological sites, findspots, and archaeological events within the administrative areas, and was consulted in November 2012. Information from the HER, along with that from additional sources, has been reviewed

and synthesised in this report, and the data is provided in gazetteer form in **Appendix 1**.

Legislative and Planning Documents

- 2.3.3 The Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East of England (NEA 2008) and the Tynedale Local Development Framework Core Strategy (TDC 2007) were consulted for information on development controls and additional planning guidance relating to the cultural heritage resource. This Archaeological Impact Assessment was prepared in line with national guidelines including National Planning Policy Framework, Section 12; Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment (DCLG 2012)

Documentary Sources

- 2.3.4 A search of relevant primary and secondary sources was carried out for both published and unpublished archaeological reports relating to excavations and observations within the development area.

Cartographic Sources

- 2.3.5 A search of Ordnance Survey maps was carried out. All maps consulted in the preparation of this document are listed in References.

2.4 Chronology

- 2.4.1 Where mentioned in the text, the main archaeological periods are broadly defined by the following date ranges:

- Modern 1900-present
- 19th century 1800-1900
- Post-medieval 1500-1799
- Medieval AD1066-1499
- Saxon AD410-1066
- Post-Roman AD410-650
- Romano-British AD 43-410
- Iron Age 700 BC- AD 43
- Bronze Age 2400-700 BC
- Neolithic 4000-2400 BC
- Mesolithic 8500-4000BC
- Palaeolithic 500000-10000BP

2.5 Assumptions and Limitations

- 2.5.1 Data used to compile this report consists of secondary information derived from a variety of sources, only some of which have been directly examined for the purposes of this Study. The assumption is made that these data, as well as those derived from other secondary sources, is reasonably accurate.
- 2.5.2 The records held by NHER are not a record of all surviving elements of the cultural heritage resource, but a record of the discovery of a wide range of archaeological and historical components of the cultural heritage. The information held within it is not complete and does not preclude the subsequent discovery of further elements of the historic environment that are, at present, unknown.

2.6 Copyright

- 2.6.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 There is national legislation and guidance relating to the protection of, and proposed development on or near, important archaeological sites or historical buildings within planning regulations as defined under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. In addition, local authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system.
- 3.1.2 The following section provides details of the national, regional and local planning and legislative framework governing the treatment of archaeological remains within the planning process.

3.2 National Legislation and Planning Guidance

National Planning Policy Framework

- 3.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in March 2012, replacing Planning Policy Statement 5.
- 3.2.2 NPPF Section 12: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment sets out the principal national guidance on the importance, management and safeguarding of heritage assets within the planning process.
- 3.2.3 The aim of NPPF Section 12 is to ensure that Regional Planning Bodies and Local Planning Authorities, developers and owners of heritage assets adopt a consistent and holistic approach to their conservation and to reduce complexity in planning policy relating to proposals that affect them.
- 3.2.4 To summarise, government guidance provides a framework which:
- requires applicants to provide proportionate information on the significance of designated and non-designated heritage assets affected by the proposals and an impact assessment of the proposed development on that significance;
 - takes into account the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and their setting;
 - places weight on the conservation of designated heritage assets (which include World Heritage Sites, Scheduled monuments, Listed Building,

Protected Wreck Sites, Registered parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or Conservation Areas);

- requires developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publically accessible.

3.3 Local Planning Guidance and Policy

- 3.3.1 The Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East of England (NEA 2008) and Tynedale Local Development Framework Core Strategy (TDC 2007) policies govern and control development across the local area, including planning policies and guidance relating to both designated and undesignated heritage assets.

Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East (NEA 2008)		
POLICY NO.	TITLE	POLICY TEXT
32 a) and d)	Historic Environment	<p>Strategies, plans and programmes and planning proposals should seek to conserve and enhance the historic environment of the Region by:</p> <p>a) clearly identifying and assessing the significance of any heritage assets and their vulnerability to change;</p> <p>d) seeking to preserve, in situ, archaeological sites of national importance and, where appropriate, other archaeological remains of regional and local importance.</p>

Tynedale Local Development Framework Core Strategy (TDC 2007)		
POLICY NO.	TITLE	POLICY TEXT
BE1	Principles for the built environment	Conserve and where appropriate enhance the quality and integrity of Tynedale's built environment and its historic features including archaeology, giving particular protection to listed buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas.

4 BASELINE RESOURCE

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 A consideration of the context of the Study Area is an important element of establishing the potential of cultural heritage resources within the Site. The following section provides a brief synthesis of the archaeological and historical development of the Study Area, compiled from the sources

detailed above. The aim of the synopsis is to establish the known resource within the Site and to provide a context for the identification and understanding of any potential cultural heritage resource which may survive.

- 4.1.2 A gazetteer of the heritage assets referred to in the text is provided in **Appendix 1**. Sites are numbered from 01-07 with a WA prefix for ease of reference. An overall illustration showing sites in the gazetteer is provided in **Figure 2**.

4.2 Previous Studies

- 4.2.1 The adjacent wind farm at Green Rigg has been subject to Desk Based Assessments (NAA 2006 and 2011). These reports identified areas of archaeological interest which have subsequently been added to NHER and are included in the text below (section 4.3).

4.3 Archaeological and Historical Context

Prehistoric and Roman

- 4.3.1 The earliest archaeology from within the Study Area is represented by an entry in the HER for possible Bronze Age cord rig located 650m to the northeast of the Site (**WA01**). It is also possible that the earthworks noted relate to ridge and furrow associated with the medieval settlement at East Woodburn.
- 4.3.2 Artefactual evidence from the Roman period area has been found within the Study Area, in a rockery at Parkhead Farm, West Woodburn (**WA02**). At least 16 fragments of Roman stone and a piece from an altar may have come from a religious building or shrine, although no foundations or in-situ structures have been unearthed. Therefore, the provenance of the material is unknown and it is possible that the stones may have originated from outside of the Study Area. The NHER has two entries for the same material at slightly different locations.
- 4.3.3 No known Roman settlements are listed within the Study Area. Dere Street (the main route to Scotland during the Roman period) runs approximately north-south c.1.5km west of the development.
- 4.3.4 Approximately 750m to the northwest of the Site, and with the Study Area, is the carved figure of Robin of Risingham (**WA03, SM 13433**), dated to the Roman period. The figure, carved into parent rock in relief, is depicted as wearing a tunic and holds a bow in its right hand and a hare in its left. There was a panel above it and a rectangular block, probably an altar, to its right. The bow and the hare would associate the figure with hunting and the depiction has been identified as the Roman deity Silvanus, god of woodland, in the guise of the Celtic god Cocidius.
- 4.3.5 The rock carving is located in an alcove formed by a retaining wall on a steep incline below a south westerly spread of spoil from Woodburn Quarries. It is the only known example of a figure dating to the Roman period cut into solid rock in Northumberland. This carving illustrates well the process of syncretism (the combining of similar native and Roman deities in attempt to aid assimilation and command) as practised in the frontier region of northern England during the Roman occupation. In 1819, the figure, originally standing to a height of approximately 4ft, was mutilated by the land

owner who was upset with the high numbers of people trespassing on his land to view the figure.

Medieval

- 4.3.6 No known Medieval artefacts or sites are listed in NHER within the Study Area, although satellite imagery suggests ridge and furrow extends into the Study Area from the north. This does not extend into the proposed development area.

Post Medieval and Modern

- 4.3.7 The post-medieval era witnessed the depopulation of rural areas in favour of the newly industrialised towns. This was facilitated by the mechanisation of agricultural practices and systematic enclosure of open fields and commons under the Inclosure Acts and Commons Acts of 1773 and 1882. The landscape changed in nature to a landscape of isolated farmsteads and large enclosed fields, as visible today.
- 4.3.8 Ridsdale Iron Works is located c.700m to the southeast of the Site (**WA04; SM 587**; CNAU 1997, and NAA 2006 and 2011). Ridsdale Ironworks was established in 1836, probably by Messrs Bigge, Cargill and Johnson, utilising local sources of ironstone. The site consisted of three furnaces next to the engine house, which contained two beam blowing engines in parallel chambers with an adjoining boiler house. Nearby were coke ovens and calcining kilns, with reservoirs on the opposite side of the A68 road. A network of tramways linked the site with nearby sources of ironstone, limestone and coal.
- 4.3.9 The works were taken over by Foster and Co in 1848, by which time the furnaces were seldom in blast and the arrival of the Border Counties Railway through Redesdale in 1862 came too late to revive the fortunes of the geographically isolated iron industry in Northumberland. W G Armstrong acquired the site and in 1864 two of the furnaces were dismantled and transferred to his Elswick works near Newcastle upon Tyne. However, Armstrong did take advantage of the railway to extract ironstone from the source used by the Ridsdale works (Chesterhope Common) about 1.6km to the south west of the works (2.2km southwest of the Site), as is evidenced by the construction of calcining kilns at this point, probably dating from 1876. Even this usage must have ceased before 1896 when the Elswick works closed, thus drawing to a conclusion the largely unsuccessful history of the 19th century Northumberland iron industry.
- 4.3.10 The Ironworks complex survives relatively intact with the coke ovens, calcining kilns, tramways, reservoirs and boiler house displayed as stable earthworks in an area now used as pasture. Consolidation works carried out in 1996, included rebuilding of the wall tops, repointing, structural works and consolidation of plaster. In association with the repairs a full photogrammetric survey of the engine house was commissioned and a comprehensive programme of archaeological recording was carried out by the City of Newcastle Archaeology Unit (1997).
- 4.3.11 The engine house is constructed of coursed mortared rubble with ashlar quoins and opening surrounds, jointed with a coarse lime mortar with small coal inclusions; all the ashlar shows signs of dressing. Originally there would

have been two floors and a basement level – the lower two floors lit by round headed arched windows, the upper floor by square windows. Internally, each floor was recessed from the below it by 50mm-100mm. The original height of the engine house would have been about 9m. It is rectangular in plan and measures 17.5m by 13m and is divided into two equal compartments. The external walls are 1m thick, while the internal dividing wall is nearly 1.5m thick. A chimney is built on to the south west corner of the building, the upper part is a rebuild; the rest of the building appears to be of one build.

- 4.3.12 The furnace house survives as a private dwelling, and has Grade II listed status (**WA04**).
- 4.3.13 Immediately adjacent to the east boundary of the development is a quarry site, depicted on the first edition OS, dated 1866 (**WA05**). The quarry may have been associated with Ridsdale Ironworks (**WA04**), however, cartographic evidence suggests that the quarry was not operational at the same time as the Ironworks. It is possible that the quarry exported stone via the Wansbeck Section of the North British Railway (**WA06**). The quarry was possibly utilised by a landowner or farmer to generate income through the quarrying and export of a raw-product, most likely limestone. The small size of the quarry in comparison to the larger adjacent works (Chesterhope Common Quarry, Stiddlehill Colliery and Woodburn Quarry) suggests that it may have been short lived and the result of an opportunistic farmer, rather than the systematic working seen in the nearby Woodburn and Chesterhope quarries.
- 4.3.14 Approximately 1km to the east of the Site lies the remains of the coalworkings at Stiddlehill (**WA07**). The extant remains at the colliery comprise of a shaft, now in an area of rough ground and surrounded by a stone wall; a blocked drift mine entrance; a stone chimney, presumably for ventilation; and a short length of railway running northward to the north east of the existing farm. The colliery retains no trace of associated buildings or pit machinery. The colliery is marked on early Ordnance Survey maps and apparently operated between 1873 and 1920. However, the Second edition Ordnance Survey (1895) marks the colliery as closed.
- 4.3.15 The Wansbeck Section of the North British Railway (**WA06**) was constructed in 1863 and was in operation until the 1960s. The remains of the line run from east to west through the study area c.550m north of the site. The railway skirted the old quarry at Woodburn, which was depicted on the First edition OS and abandoned at a similar time to the railway. The line of the old railway now forms part of a walk from the National Trust office at Scot's Gap - The Wannie Line Walk.
- 4.3.16 A study of the historic OS maps of the Study Area reveals that little boundary changes have occurred since at least the 1860s.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 In line with current planning guidance and policy, a description of the heritage assets, based on the current level of available information, is

presented below. For the purpose of this assessment the significance of heritage assets are evaluated in line with criteria laid out in **Appendix 2**. Significance is expressed as **International, National, Regional, Local**, or **Negligible**.

5.2 Designated Heritage Assets

5.2.1 Two nationally designated heritage assets are located in the study area (two Scheduled Monuments, one of which contains a Grade II listed building). These include the Roman carving known as Robin of Risingham as well as the Post-Medieval Ridsdale Ironworks and furnace house. No part of the development will physically impact upon these assets.

5.3 Undesignated and Potential Heritage Assets.

5.3.1 The Site is situated adjacent to a former quarry, depicted as operational on the 1st edition OS map of 1866, but abandoned (old quarry) on a subsequent map of 1895. The quarry is likely to be physically impacted upon by the western edge of the development.

5.3.2 There is the potential for the development to physically impact upon as yet unknown archaeological remains relating to Prehistoric or Medieval/Post-Medieval land use. However, earthworks identified on satellite imagery that relate to the above do not extend into, or exist within the immediate area surrounding, the development area.

5.3.3 Analysis of the existing knowledge provides an indication of the potential risk of encountering unknown heritage assets within the Site. This potential is expressed in the following table as **High, Moderate, Low**, or **Negligible**.

Potential	Period and Description		Significance
High	Post-medieval to Modern	The Site appears to have been used as quarry from at least the 1860's to 1890's and the development will physically impact upon the quarry. The Study Area appears to have been used for agricultural purposes since at least the post-medieval period therefore evidence of post medieval or earlier agricultural practices and landscape management may be encountered.	Negligible
	Medieval	The Scheme lies within an agricultural area where there is potential for evidence of medieval agricultural practices.	
Low	Roman	The Scheme lies within an area of possible travel although stonework found at Parkhead Farm suggests the potential for structural remains.	Regional

	Prehistoric	The Scheme lies within an agricultural area where there is potential for evidence of prehistoric agricultural practices.	Regional
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6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Statement of Physical Impact

6.1.1 Investigations within and around the Study Area have revealed limited earthwork sites as well as findspots dating from the prehistoric to modern periods.

6.1.2 There is one possible prehistoric field system, as well as a Roman redeposited findspot and rock carving site known within the Study Area. The Roman evidence derives from elements that are not within their original context or are part of an isolated site. There is, therefore, a **Low** potential for encountering archaeological remains dating to these periods. Any remains which may be encountered would be considered to be of **Regional** significance.

6.1.3 There is no physical evidence for early medieval occupation within the Study Area. The only evidence possible dating to the Medieval period within the Study Area, although can be attributed to the Post-Medieval period, relates to ridge and furrow earthworks. There is, therefore, a **Low** potential for the development to encountering archaeological remains dating to these periods. Any remains which may be encountered would be considered to be of **Local** significance

6.1.4 The Site occupies an area known to have formed part of the Post-Medieval industrial and agricultural landscape and will impact upon a Post Medieval quarry site. The likelihood for encountering archaeological remains of this date is, therefore, considered to be **High**. Any remains which may be encountered would be considered to be of **Negligible** significance

6.2 Recommendations

6.2.1 In accordance with regional and national planning policy, further archaeological work will be required in order to assess the potential survival of archaeological remains and, if necessary, to allow any undesignated/unidentified heritage assets that survive to be identified and recorded prior to their loss.

6.2.2 Future archaeological work could take the form of a watching brief during groundworks. If archaeological remains are encountered mitigation strategies should be put in place in order to ensure they are dealt with appropriately.

6.2.3 The scope and nature of any further work should be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist at Northumberland County Council and undertaken in line with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), produced in advance of any Site works.

7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliography

The City of Newcastle Council Archaeology Unit 1997, Ridsdale Engine House Survey. Unpublished Report

Northern Archaeological Associates 2006, Green Rigg Wind Farm: cumulative review of landscape and visual and archaeological issues. Unpublished Report

Northern Archaeological Associates 2011, Green Rigg Wind Farm, Northumberland: grid connection route options archaeological appraisal. Unpublished Report

7.2 Planning Guidance and Policy

Department for Communities and Local Government, 2012, National Planning Policy Framework

North East Assembly, 2008, Regional Spatial Strategy for the North East of England

Tyndale District Council, 2007, Tyndale Local Development Framework Core Strategy

7.3 Historic Environment Records

County SMR/HER

7.4 Cartographic Sources

1866 Ordnance Survey 6" 1:10,560 First Edition

1898 Ordnance Survey 6" 1:10,560 Second Edition

1951 Ordnance Survey 6" 1:10,560 Fourth Edition

Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales) 1:50,000 sheet 013

7.5 Online resources

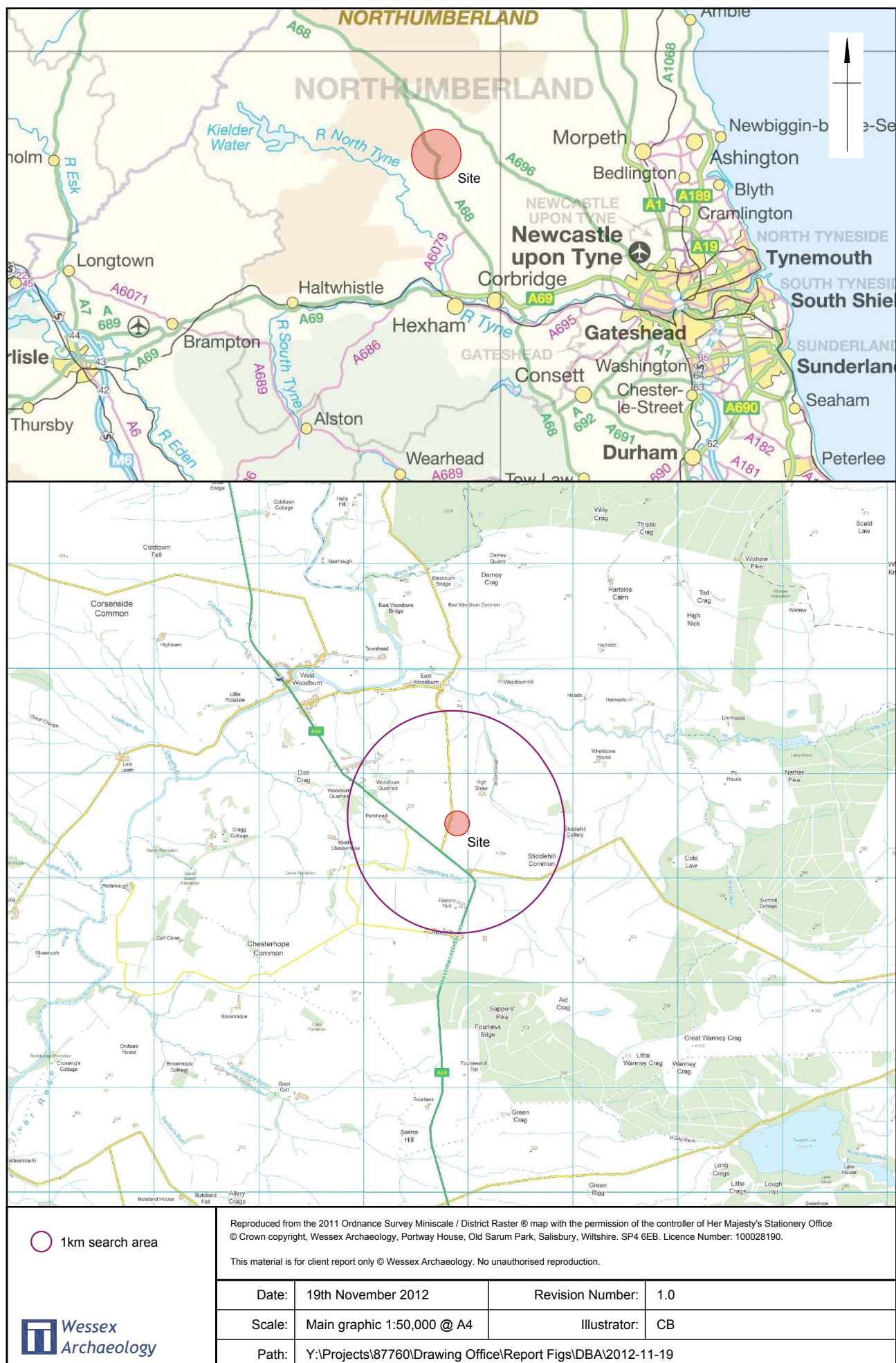
<http://www.magic.gov.uk>

<http://lbonline.english-heritage.org.uk/>

APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY NHER

WA No.	HER No.	Site Name/Type	Period	Description	Designation	Easting	Northing
01	9383	Possible Cord Rig	Bronze Age	Possible stretches of Bronze Age cord rig. However, could be medieval/post-medieval ridge and furrow.		391900	585300
02	9385 and 9386	Collection of architectural fragments	Roman	16 architectural fragments, as well as a badly weathered fragment of a Roman altar was found in a rockery at Parkhead Farm in 1993. They were excavated by L Allason-Jones and are now at the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle.		390240 390400	585540 585500
03	9368	Robin of Risingham, Carved Stone	Roman	Robin of Risingham, a figure cut in relief on a rock detached from a quarry cliff at woodburn. The figure is wearing a tunic and holding a bow in its right hand and a hare in its left. There was a panel above it and a rectangular block, probably an altar, to its right. The bow and hare would associate the figure with hunting, probably Silvanus perhaps in the guise of Cocidius.	Scheduled Monument 13433	390140	585640

WA No.	HER No.	Site Name/Type	Period	Description	Designation	Easting	Northing
04	9505	Ridsdale Ironworks	Post Medieval	Site of the former Ridsdale Ironworks, established in 1836 and closed in c.1848.	Scheduled Monument 587, Grade II Listed Building 7/54	390900	584700
05	21840	Quarry	Post-Medieval	Site of a small quarry depicted on the 1 st edition OS map of 1866		390951	585515
06	24493	Railway	Post-Medieval-Modern	The Wansbeck section of the North British Railway, constructed in 1863 and closed in the 1960's.		389971 391825	586073 585925
07	9399	Stiddlehill Colliery	Post Medieval	The remains of a coalworking site at Stiddlehill		391900	585300



Site location

Figure 1