

on behalf of Gentoo Homes

Nine Acres Hart Hartlepool

# archaeological desk-based assessment

report 4901 November 2018



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### 1. Summary

### The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological desk-based assessment, conducted in advance of a proposed development at Nine Acres, Hart, Hartlepool. The assessment included a search of pertinent documentary and cartographic records, records of archaeological interventions, the Historic Environment Record, and a site walk-over survey.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Gentoo Homes and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

### The archaeological resource

- 1.3 There is no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the study area, but the presence of activity in the surrounding vicinity, indicates some potential for an unidentified resource to exist.
- 1.4 Recent archaeological works, artefactual finds, architectural fragments, human remains and documentary records indicate that Hart was at the centre of an important early medieval estate. There is potential for settlement remains relating to this period of occupation to survive within the proposed development area.
- 1.5 The proposed development site would have been part of the common fields of Hart during the medieval period and was still in agricultural use in the post-medieval period. Evidence relating to farming activities of medieval and post-medieval date has the potential to survive within the site boundary.
- 1.6 Remains of farm buildings associated with a series of small holdings established in the 1930s are present in the south-west corner of the site and western field boundary.

### Impact assessment

1.7 The proposed development has the potential to impact upon any archaeological resource that may be present through ground reduction and the construction of foundations and associated services.

### Recommendations

1.8 It is recommended that the potential of the archaeological resource is evaluated through geophysical survey and excavating a series of trial trenches across the site in order to establish the nature and extent of any archaeological resource present which may be impacted upon.

### 2. Project background

### Location (Figures 1 & 2)

2.1 The site is located at Nine Acres, Hart, Hartlepool (NGR centre: NZ 4658 3490). It is irregular in plan, and covers an area of approximately 3.09 ha. There is agricultural land to the north and west, Palace Row is to the south, and a residential property to the east.

### **Development proposal (Figure 3)**

2.2 A residential development with associated services, access and greenspace is proposed.

### Objective

2.3 The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the nature, extent and potential significance of any surviving archaeological resource within the proposed development area, so that an informed decision may be made regarding the nature and scope of any further scheme of archaeological works that may be required in relation to the proposed development.

### **Methods statement**

2.4 The works have been conducted in accordance with standard Archaeological Services' procedures for assessments. The works included the study of pertinent cartographic and other historical sources, records of previous archaeological interventions, sites listed in the Historic Environment Record (HER) within 1km of the proposed development area, and a site walk-over survey. HER references are given in brackets throughout the text of this report, and are listed in the Appendix.

### **Planning guidance**

2.5 This assessment and its recommendations are a considered response to the proposed development in relation to Government policy, as it is set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework*.

### Dates

2.6 The field visit took place on 2nd November 2018. This report was prepared for November 2018.

### Personnel

2.7 Research was conducted and this report prepared by Catrin Jenkins, with graphics by David Graham and Janine Watson. The Project Manager was Daniel Still.

### OASIS

2.8 Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS project (OASIS). The OASIS ID number for this project is archaeol3-334196.

## 3. Landuse, topography and geology

### Landuse

3.1 At the time of this assessment, the proposed development area comprised a former arable field, now overgrown.

### Topography

3.2 The land of the proposed development area slopes down from 100m OD in the south to 96m OD in the north. The proposed development area is in Natural England's Durham Magnesian Limestone Plateau (15) National Character Area. The area is an open agricultural landscape defined by the limestone escarpment to the west and the coast to the east. The rivers Wear and Skerne cut across the area. Rural land comprises arable and pasture. The area has been shaped by industry in particular coal mining and quarrying. Settlements range from large urban conurbations to ex-mining communities and scattered traditional villages (Natural England 2013).

### **Geology and soils**

3.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Permian period dolostone of the Roker Formation, which are overlain by Devensian diamicton till formed in the Quaternary (British Geological Survey 2018).

### 4. Site description

Walk-over survey (Photographs 1-6)

- 4.1 A walk-over survey was conducted, to help ascertain the potential of the proposed development area to contain any archaeological resource. The visit noted site topography, earthworks and areas of modern overburden, modern services, boundaries, buildings and other upstanding remains. A *pro forma* recording sheet was completed. Photographic locations are shown on Figure 2.
- 4.2 The field of the proposed development area slopes down from the south along Palace Row to a small stream along the northern side of the field. The field is bounded by hedgerows and wooden fencing and there are trees along the eastern boundary. A large deposit of concrete is apparent in the western field boundary. Two lines of overhead power lines cross the field and there are several pylons in the field.
- 4.3 Along the eastern edge of the field a pipeline has recently been dug in the field.

### 5. Geotechnical investigations

- 5.1 Geotechnical investigations were conducted over the site by Patrick Parsons, comprising eighteen trial pits and six boreholes (Patrick Parsons 2018).
- 5.2 No made-ground was observed across the site and nothing of archaeological pertinence was noted. The topsoil generally comprised soft dark brown, slightly silty slightly sandy organic clay with numerous rootlets. It was measured to a depth of 0.2m in all but four of the boreholes and pits. In a borehole and trial pit in the southwestern corner of the site, and in a trial pit and borehole on the northern side of the site adjacent to the watercourse, topsoil was also 0.4m thick.

### 6. Historical and archaeological development Previous archaeological works

- 6.1 While no previous archaeological works have been identified within the proposed development area, there have been numerous schemes conducted at Hart.
- 6.2 An excavation in a field directly to the north of the proposed development area and south of Burns Close recorded various features interpreted as the remains of early medieval settlement (HER 964).
- 6.3 To the south of the proposed development area a heritage assessment was conducted on Palace Row (HER 1287). Also to the south, a geophysical survey on Glebe Farm recorded farming related features and modern material (HER 1274). An assessment at the farm on Palace Row recorded earthwork ridge and furrow and recommended further archaeological works, whilst taking into account the results of the geophysical survey (HER 1279). The subsequent trial trenching recorded a possible medieval agricultural boundary ditch and recovered medieval pottery (HER 1280). Another geophysical survey on land at Palace Row to the east of Glebe Farm detected post-medieval ridge and furrow and a field boundary (HER 1297). Also on Palace Row and to the east of the proposed site, a watching brief recorded little of archaeological interest (HER 625).
- 6.4 On Front Street trial trenching to the rear of Hart Farm recovered medieval pottery and concluded that earlier activity had been truncated by 18th and 19th century farmyard activities (HER 529). Further trial trenching on land at Hart recorded a range of features of medieval to 19th century dating relating to agriculture, boundary delineation and clay extraction (HER 966).
- 6.5 In the centre of the village, a watching brief at the Raby Arms recovered a sherd of medieval pottery (HER 437). A geophysical survey to the rear of the public house recorded former ploughing and earthwork features (HER 917), while earthwork survey detected ridge and furrow and platforms (HER 918). An assessment on the land recommended further archaeological investigations (HER 919). The ensuing geophysical survey at the site confirmed the previous survey results (HER 920). A watching brief to the south of the area also recorded ridge and furrow earthworks and recovered medieval pottery (HER 1268).
- 6.6 Several archaeological works are recorded at the site of Hart Primary School in the village. A watching brief at the school recorded evidence for post-medieval farming, outbuildings and other undated features (HER 170). Later watching briefs at the school in 2004 and 2010 did not expose any archaeological deposits (HERs 171 & 818).
- 6.7 Excavations at Hart Manor Farm in the 1960s and 1970s recorded archaeology dating to the Saxo-Norman period with timber buildings, enclosures, and stone manorial buildings exposed which appeared to have been abandoned in the Tudor period (HER 1356). Trial trenches at Manor House Farm in 2002 recorded undated walls and a gully, possibly relating to the manor house along with a modern posthole (HER 6). A watching brief during the demolition of a house at the farm observed a vaulted cellar and modern features (HER 7). To the north of Manor House Farm, a geophysical survey in the graveyard of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene detected a track, the church foundations and extant structures (HER 983).

- 6.8 On the north-eastern side of the village, a watching brief at Otterington Close recorded no features or finds of archaeological interest (HER 5). A desk-top assessment in the same area, north of Voltigeur Drive, was undertaken in 2014 (HER 1142). A subsequent geophysical survey at the site recorded ploughing and modern disturbance (HER 1143).
- 6.9 At the eastern end of Hart an assessment on land at Milbank Close recommended further works due to the site's proximity to the historic village core (HER 1138). A subsequent geophysical survey recorded features including ridge and furrow, a possible palaeochannel, ditches and gullies (HER 1139). Trial trenching at the site confirmed the presence of ditches and gullies and also exposed pits, postholes and early medieval human burials (HER 1339). Further trial trenching recorded linear features and further human burials (HER 1140). Radio-carbon dating was undertaken at the site (HER 1388).
- 6.10 A series of works have been carried out in fields just south-east of Hart. A magnetometry geophysical survey in the field referred to as Kirkfield recorded archaeological activity including curvilinear features, former ploughing and a possible prehistoric barrow (HER 889). A subsequent resistivity geophysical survey in the field proved many of the anomalies (HER 890). Later trial trenching in the field recorded disarticulated human remains, a robbed out wall and an Anglo-Saxon pillow stone (HER 1286). A geophysical survey on land at Kirkefield Stables to the west of Kirkfield detected a possible wall and ditch (HER 1358).
- 6.10 On the northern periphery of the study area at Nelson Farm, a geophysical survey recorded modern disturbance (HER 1105). The following scheme of trial trenching recorded natural features (HER 1106). To the west of Nelson an assessment for Sheraton Windfarm is recorded in the study area (HER 893).
- 6.11 To the south-west of the proposed development area on land off Worset Lane a desk-based assessment was undertaken at Home Farm (HER 1141). A geophysical survey on part of the land (HER 1294) detected nothing of archaeological significance. Another desk-based assessment is recorded south-west of Worset Lane, which identified a cropmark enclosure (HER 390).
- 6.12 Several watching briefs in the study area have recorded little of archaeological significance. These include works on Front Street (HER 155), at Manor Cottage on Butts Lane (HER 416) and at Chare House (HER 440)
- 6.13 Other archaeological works recorded in the study area include: an assessment for listing of White Cottage on Front Street (HER 1417); building recording at the late 17th century Home Farm on Front Street (HER 396); and a heritage assessment at Hart Farm (HER 1296).

### The prehistoric period (up to AD 70)

6.14 The earliest evidence for occupation in the study area dates to the Neolithic period and is denoted by a polished Langdale greenstone axe (HER 5533) found in a field to the north-east of the village. Flint tools and worked flints of prehistoric date have been found during fieldwalking around Hart (HERs 1683—4 & 1686, 2868). Excavations at Burns Close just to the north of the proposed development area, recovered two prehistoric flints (HER 992). The finds indicate activity in the period,

and a single piece of struck flint observed during the walkover survey in the proposed development area adds to the evidence.

- 6.15 Bronze Age activity in the study area is also represented by finds of artefactual material. During excavations at Hart Manor Farm to the east of the church, Early Bronze Age pottery (HER 1486) was found (Austin & Thoms 1973). The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) records a Bronze Age knife (PAS: DUR-4C0E6E) from the area. A possible prehistoric barrow which could be of Neolithic/Bronze Age date was recorded during a geophysical survey in Kirkfield as well as curvilinear features (HER 889). The cropmark of an enclosure (HER 1086) is visible on aerial photography near Elwick Bypass *c*.380m to the south-east of the proposed site. The enclosure is possibly indicative of prehistoric settlement.
- 6.16 There have been several finds of later prehistoric and Romano-British date from the area, which indicate some level of exploitation in the periods. The unfinished top stone of an Iron Age beehive quern (HER 680) is built into a garden wall of a house in Hart. Iron Age and Romano-British pottery (HERs 1762 & 1764) was recovered during the fieldwalking scheme at Hart. The PAS records an Iron Age scabbard (PAS: DUR-4D6E01) and a Late Iron Age to Roman brooch (PAS: YORYM-5B7291) from the area found by metal detectorists.
- 6.17 Although there is no direct evidence for prehistoric activity in the proposed development area, the surrounding area contains evidence for exploitation, which may have extended into the area.

### The Roman period (AD 70 to 5th century)

6.18 While there are no recorded Roman period sites in the study area, Roman artefacts from the area indicate a presence during the period. The 20th century excavations at the site of Hart manor house recovered Samian pottery (HER 148; Austin & Thoms 1973). The PAS also records a Roman coin hoard (PAS: NCL-637911) from the Hart area. The hoard dates to between AD 321 to 333 and was found during a controlled archaeological excavation.

### The early medieval period (5th century to 1066)

- 6.19 Recent archaeological works add to documentary evidence for Hart as a significant early medieval administrative centre and settlement within a royal estate of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria. The earliest evidence for occupation at Hart in the period derives from two Anglo-Saxon Small-Long brooches (PAS: YORYM-2093A2 & PAS: YORYM-1FD1E1). These date to the 5th or 6th centuries AD and were found by a metal detectorist and recorded on the PAS.
- 6.20 In the 7th century the monastery of *Heruteu* was established on the Hartlepool headland to the east of Hart. The foundation has been suggested as having been within the *Heorternesse* estate, located close to its principle settlement at Hart and drawing on the estate's revenues (Austin 1976; Daniels 2012). The monastery was a royal foundation; these were typically sited within royal estates and this is contributory evidence to indicate that *Heorternesse* was a royal estate, with Hart as the administrative centre from the 7th century or earlier (Daniels 2012).
- 6.21 *Heorternesse* is first documented in the 9th century *Historia de Sancto Cuthberto* (AD 830-845) when Bishop Ecgred of Lindisfarne built the *vill* of Billingham here. The

place-name derives from the combination of the Old English *heorot*, meaning hart (deer), and *gehernes*, meaning a jurisdiction or district (Austin 1976) and translates as the area administered by Hart (Daniels 2012). Watts (2002) further proposes that the *heorot* element of the place-name, may symbolise royalty with early medieval texts using 'stag' to represent a hall. By the 9th century the *Heorternesse* estate probably extended from Hart in the north to the Tees, including the late medieval parishes of Streatham, Greatham, Billingham and possibly Elwick Hall (Austin 1976).

- 6.22 It has been suggested that the core of the early medieval settlement (HER 666) would have been to the south of the Church of St. Mary Magdalene (HER 667; LB 1249898). However, archaeological work at Burns Close to the north-west of the village centre and just north of the proposed development recorded features consistent with early medieval settlement (HER 992). The evaluation trenches recorded the remains of probable wooden structures and ditched boundary features. Although the features did not contain dating material, the aceramic deposits and nature of the features were indicative of an early medieval date. Daniels (2012) suggests the site may have been part of a manorial complex in the early medieval period and a precursor to the planned medieval village.
- 6.23 A scheme of archaeological works has been conducted and is ongoing on land to the east of Millbank Close, where the remains of a substantial early medieval cemetery have been recorded. Initial assessment and geophysical survey recommended further work, and during the ensuing two phases of trial trenching, ditches, gullies, a possible water course and several inhumations were found (Archaeological Services 2015 & 2017; HER 1139). The east to west aligned burials (HER 8706) contained only iron nails, with some having quartz pebbles; these may be early medieval Christian burials. Palaeoenvironmental sampling of the archaeological features (HER 8705) recovered rich organic deposits, well-preserved animal and fish bone, and charred seaweed and cereal grains typical of the early medieval period. Also found was a 9th century Northumbrian styca (HER 8894). An enclosure (HER 8893) was found in association with the site which may be related and is of early medieval date. Disarticulated human remains (HER 8892) found at the site were perhaps disturbed during medieval ploughing. Radiocarbon dating confirmed early medieval activity of 7th to 10th century date at the site.
- 6.24 Further archaeological trenching (HER 1286) at Kirkfield to the south of Milbank
  Close and south-east of the village centre found disarticulated human remains (HER 8869), a robbed out wall (HER 8871) and an Anglo-Saxon pillow stone (HER 8870). It is inferred that the cemetery may have continued into the area.
- 6.25 The early medieval settlement would have contained a church, perhaps linked to the monastery at Hartlepool (Daniels 2012). The 12th century Church of St. Mary Magdalene (HER 667; LB 1249898) contains fragmented Anglo-Saxon sculptural stone (HER 1265) which date from the 8th to the 11th centuries. Much of the stonework was found during 19th century renovations to the church and built into its fabric. The west wall of the south aisle of the church contains early medieval grave slabs (HER 4464). The earliest 8th century stonework is comparable to that from the monastery, with the later 9th to early 10th century stones having a Scandinavian influence. This influence may date to the period when the Viking Raegnald took shares by conquest in the lands of the Cuthbert community (Daniels 2012). The medieval church may have been on the site of an earlier foundation

(*Ibid*). A survey of the church conducted by Peter Ryder indicated that the nave may be pre-Conquest in origin (HER 667). Also the medieval church boundary wall (HER 6439; LB 1249899) is reputed to lie on a Saxon foundation. The 12th century chancel arch in the church cuts through an earlier arch and there is a Saxon style window above, although Daniels (2012) refutes the supposition that the church is early medieval. Another possible location for an earlier church is in the field labelled as 'Old Kirk' south-east of the village centre. A burnt fragment of an Anglo-Saxon 'Ansate' brooch (HER 6211; PAS: YORYM-20B337) was recorded in the field, which may have been associated with a cremation. The field name, combined with the discovery of a 9th century cross head (HER 3479), brooch and human remains may point to a church in the vicinity.

6.26 Supplementary evidence for early medieval occupation derives from several artefacts. The PAS records a copper alloy pin (PAS: YORYM-54E0412) from the Hart area, and an 8th century silver styca (HER 6997) of Alhred and a 9th century silver styca (HER 6998) of Aethelred II. Another possible pre-Conquest grave slab (HER 4465) is purported to have been built into the wall of the vicarage. The De Brus Wall (HER 960; LB 1250029; SAM 1018945) to the south-west of the church and part of the later medieval manorial complex has also been suggested as being of early medieval origin.

#### The later medieval period (1066 century to 1540)

- 6.27 Following the Norman Conquest the Hartness (*Heorternesse*) estate was granted to the de Brus family, possibly as part of Robert de Brus' large northern fee in around 1106 (Austin 1976). The extent of the estate was recorded as a consequence of a land dispute in 1149/50 between the priories of Guisborough and Tynemouth. The estate included the *vills* of Hart, Thorp, Elwick, Dalton, Stranton Tunstall, Seaton and Oughton (Daniels 2012). The desmense (manorial land) of each manor of the Hartness estate was also listed in the document, with 501½ acres at Hart and 108 acres in the lands of Hart held by Roger de Camera (Austin 1976).
- 6.28 The Hart manor had passed to the lords of Annandale in 1141 and there are numerous disagreements over the manor's tenancy-in-chief in the subsequent years. In 1306 King Edward I granted the manor to Robert de Clifford, following the attainder of Robert de Brus VII for the murder of John Comyn and his assumption of the Scottish throne (Surtees 1823).
- 6.29 The medieval manor house (HER 668) occupied by the de Brus and Clifford families between the 12th and 16th centuries was partially excavated in the 1960s and 1970s (HER 1482). The earliest phase of activity at the site dated to the 10th and 11th centuries and comprised timber buildings and enclosures. The complex was surrounded by an enclosure ditch which contained timber uprights. The subsequent phase of occupation was defined by the construction of stone buildings and several enclosures or gardens which dated from the 11th to the mid-13th century. By the late 13th century the stone manor house had been laid out and was added to through the 14th century. A moat was also probably dug in the 14th century and a lime kiln (HER 1483) added to the site. The lack of later medieval artefactual remains was interpreted as reflecting a decline of the site, with the old hall being abandoned around 1450 and another hall possibly built to the south. The manor declined in the 16th century and the site was taken over by manor farm. The de Brus wall (HER 960; LB 1250029; SAM 1018945), which was part of the manor, survives above ground,

with the main hall located to its north. Finds recovered during the excavations include a 14th century gold ring with a garnet (HER 1484). A small building, Chare House (HER 6282), located just south-west of the churchyard, was built in the 19th century, possibly with stone from the manor house.

- 6.30 To the north of the manorial complex are the remains of two fishponds (HER 677; SAM 1018947), preserved as earthworks and linked by a leat. The traces of a watercourse (HER 8785) are visible on Google Earth images in fields to the east of the fishponds. The sites were probably associated with the manorial complex.
- 6.31 The religious focus in the period was to the east of the manor house and while there is some suggestion that the Church of St. Mary Magdalene (HER 667; LB 1249898) may be of pre-Conquest origin, the building largely dates to the 12th, 13th and 15th centuries. The churches of Hart and Stranton were granted to the Priory of Gusibrough by Robert de Brus in the 12th century. The grant was later confirmed by Bishop Hugh de Puiset (Surtees 1823). Several medieval grave slabs (HER 4463) survive in the church. The medieval churchyard (HER 4462) was thought to have been rectangular in form with the churchyard boundary walls built on rubble foundations. The walls on the west side of the churchyard incorporate the remains of buildings.
- 6.32 Medieval documents record the size of the village, land and manorial possessions. The Inquisition post mortem (IPM) of Robert de Clfford in 1344 accounts for several freeholds at Hart, with Guisborugh Priory holding four oxgangs and seven cottages in the village (Austin 1976). Another IPM of 1389 notes that the Hart desmesne comprised 204 acres of arable, 24 acres of outlying land, 33 acres of meadow and an orchard which were let out to 25 husbandland farmers. Also recorded were a separate pasture area, a desmesne windmill and bake house, and 35 cottagers (*Ibid*).
- 6.33 In the early 15th century 30 messuages, 10 cottagers, 400 acres of arable, 6 acres of meadow and 300 acres of moor were noted at Hart (*Ibid*). For a short period in the mid-15th century the manor was held by the Bishop of Durham (Laurence Booth 1457-76) when a survey was produced and rents collected by the Bishop before being returned to the Cliffords (*Ibid*). By 1495 there were 43 cottages in Hart, of which 13 were waste and only one had land attached (*Ibid*).
- 6.34 The medieval village appears to have been located to the south of the church and manor house and remnants of the settlement have been identified. On the eastern side of the village were three rows, two either side of Hart Beck and another on the south side of Front Street. The settlement also included Burns Close, Palace Row and Madeline Drive (HER 666). A pair of small rectangular enclosures or platforms (HER 679) in a field to the south of the Raby Arms on Front Street may relate to the medieval settlement. Rescue excavations in 1971 to the east of the church (later Otterington Close and Voltigeur Drive) recorded toft boundaries, a trackway and the double bank and ditch of a field system (HER 1485). The tofts extended along the main road and a mid-14th to late 15th century house was excavated within one plot (Austin & Thoms 1973). The area was suggested as a planned extension to the medieval settlement (*Ibid*). At the east end of Front Street, earthwork enclosures and linear banks (HER 1487) were recorded. Low platforms at the site represented buried building foundations. A well-defined trackway was also recognised at the site. A series of medieval features (HER 5214) found to the south of Hart Primary School,

may also be part of the settlement. Further out from the known core of medieval settlement, an archaeological evaluation at Glebe Farm directly to the south of the proposed site found a medieval ditch (HER 8867) and pottery. Austin (1976) identifies the land immediately to the east of the proposed development area as a site of medieval settlement.

- 6.35 The medieval village would have been surrounded by common agricultural land. Aerial photographs from 1948 and 1952 record the pattern of medieval town fields bordering the settlement. The proposed development area was covered by two systems of ridge and furrow cultivation which were aligned east to west on the eastern side of the field and north to south on the western side of the field (Austin 1976). Further ridge and furrow earthworks (HER 978) of medieval date were recorded in a field to the south of the Front Street and would also have been part of the town fields. This site was archaeologically excavated and medieval pottery, perhaps deriving from manuring, was recovered (Archaeological Services 2016). Fieldwalking around Hart has also recovered medieval pottery (HERs 1776-7), perhaps relating to agricultural practice.
- 6.36 In the wider study area are further remains pertaining to the period. At North Hart Farm, located just to the north of the village, are a series of low earthworks (HER 4678). These have been suggested as possibly being part of the medieval settlement or fishponds. Undated linear features (HER 3426) recorded on aerial photography to the east of the farm may also to relate this occupation. Additional medieval field systems (HERs 3411 & 3629) are recorded to the east of the farm.
- 6.37 Further remains of the medieval field systems (HER 979) survive adjacent to Keeper's Cottage south-east of the village core (HER 1052). Another medieval field system (HER 1534) is recorded at Hart reservoir just south of Keeper's Cottage, which is no longer extant.
- 6.38 To the north-east of Hart a medieval settlement existed at Nelson from the 12th to the 15th century. Aerial photography dating to 1952 recorded a rectangular earth-embanked enclosure, with a sunken trackway entering the site from the south-east. The field has since been ploughed, although fieldwalking has recorded quantities of 12th to 14th century pottery. The freehold *vill* of Nelson was a small manorial or hall-garth complex which was abandoned around 1403, when it was lasted noted in documentary records.
- 6.39 There are numerous medieval finds recorded in the study area which attest to the settlement at Hart. At Hart School, a silver Long Cross coin of Alexander II (1249-1285) (HER 1224) was found and a probable 14th century, moulded limestone base (HER 2846) is built into a wall here: it may derive from the church or manor house. Another stone built into the garden wall of a house on Front Street may be a cross base (HER 1499). From Hart Farm numerous lead spindle whorls are recorded (HER 1475), together with one from Mill Farm (HER 137), suggestive of a concentration of industry. In a field to the south of the quarry at Hart, the copper alloy strap-end of a buckle (HER 1463) was found.
- 6.40 Metal detecting has also added to the artefactual record at Hart. The finds perhaps reflects the importance of the settlement as an administrative, trade, and industrial centre, and perhaps a passing place on a pilgrimage route. The finds include: three

seal matrices (PASS: YORYM-EBCCF1, YORYM-C3AB42, YORYM-4AACF3); three ampulla (PAS: YORYM-44F62E, YORYM-44C9BB, YORYM-3652FE); a papal bulla (PAS: YORYM-49D002); two strap-ends (HERs 6519 & 6996); two brooches (HER 6973, PAS; NCL-D1AF46); part of a medieval ecclesiastical frieze (HER 6995; PAS: NCL-A5B105); a die (PAS: YORYM 359150); two buckles (PAS: YORYM-350201, YORYM-345070); two pendants (PAS: YORYM-33B62A, DUR-B12E87); a lead pinhead (HER 6999; PAS: NCL-D4BF12); a ring (PAS: DUR-2BD1B5); and a jetton (PAS: YORYM-5485B0).

### The post-medieval period (1541 to 1899)

- 6.41 The manor of Hart remained with the Clifford family until 1580 when it was sold to Robert Petrie and John Morley who in 1587 leased it to the Lumleys (Austin 1976). Saxton's map of 1576 (Figure 4) records the village at Harte (sp.) with a church, and the town of Hartlepool to the east. In the surrounding landscape are smaller settlements. The HER records one 16th century parish record, noting the burial of Ellen Thomson 'fornicatrix' (HER 4748) to the east of church outside churchyard.
- 6.42 Enclosure probably took place at Hart between 1638 and 1725 by the will of the Lord, prior to which the fields were farmed as common (Austin 1976). A 17th century farmstead (HER 4961; LB 1249900) is recorded on Front Street, probably relating to early land enclosure. A granary (HER 4954) and a stable (HER 4962; LL) were later added at the farm. There are several other 17th century records for Hart. A blacksmith's workshop (HER 684) is recorded at Hart and a beacon (HER 678) is referred to at Hart in correspondence relating to the preparations for Dutch naval raids in 1666. The beacon site was probably where the later windmill was located south of the village. The draining of a pond near Palace Garth led to the discovery of a 17th century sword (HER 683). A post-medieval musket ball (PAS: DUR-854AF4) has been recorded on the PAS.
- 6.43 By the 18th century the village was generally laid out along the main east to west road of Front Street. Andrew Armstrong's map of the County Palatine of Durham in 1769 (Figure 5) records this arrangement of the village, with the church depicted to the north. A vicarage (HER 8133; LL) was built on Butts Lane in the 18th century and various other structures added to the village. Armstrong's map records the surrounding rural area containing small hamlets and farms, with Hartlepool to the east as a major settlement and port.
- 6.44 The Lumley family retained the Hart estate until 1770 when it was sold to the Milbanks (Austin 1976). The sale catalogue for the auction of the manor of Harte on Saturday July 21, 1770 provides a detailed record and maps of the land. The catalogue recorded fifteen leasehold farms and four holdings farmed by tenants, with 35 cottages in the village (Austin 1976). The map which concerns the proposed development area is titled 'plan of two farms in Hart' (Figure 6). The field of the proposed site retains similar boundaries to the north, south and west as those currently existing, probably dating from enclosure; the field is labelled South Bourn Close. To the south is an enclosure recorded as Palace Garths, and to the west is Jerrison's Close. A post-medieval field system (HER 8872) has been recorded on Palace Row.
- 6.45 The main village thoroughfare in the post-medieval period, Front Street, was added to in the 18th and 19th century with properties (HER 6440; LB 1263523, HER 6441; LB 1250035, HER 8955), barns (HERs 6442 & 8134; LL, ), stables (HER 6443) and a

public house (HER 8135; LL) built along its frontage. Hart Farm (HER 5196; LL) on the south side of Front Street and the Hart Culvert (HER 5201) to the rear, which channels a small watercourse, also date from the 18th century. Further remains of 18th or 19th century buildings (HER 5213) were found during a watching brief at Hart School.

- 6.46 Further farms were established in the 19th century, including the farm at North Hart (HERs 8184-5), formed from two smaller farms. A windmill (HER 623; LB 1263429) was also built in the early 19th century, south of the village. An evaluation close to the windmill recorded earthwork banks and a holloway (HER 88) leading from the village to the windmill. Christopher Greenwood's map of 1820 (Figure 7) depicts the windmill and records the growth of the village; no detail is provided for the proposed development area on the map.
- 6.47 By the date of the tithe plan in 1840 (Figure 8) the proposed development area was part of Peacock Farm. The farm was in the possession of the Duke of Cleveland, William Henry Vane, and farmed by George Blakelock. The field boundaries are little altered since the sale of 1770.
- 6.48 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1861 (Figure 9) provides an accurate depiction of Hart and the proposed development area to the west. There has been no alteration in the boundaries to the area and the watercourse is shown extending along the north side of the field. The village remains focused along Front Street with a post office in the centre of the village and the church and the old hall labelled to the north. In the surrounding landscape, areas of extraction are recorded with a gravel quarry (HER 4502) north-west of Hart, a limestone quarry (HER 4503) to the east of the windmill into the floor of which was a lime kiln (HER 4505), and another limestone quarry (HER 4504) south of the windmill. A clay pit (HER 4506) is shown on the map to the north of Hart, with tile sheds south-west of the village. Hart Mill Farm (HER 8245) is recorded to the north-west of the windmill and another farm, later referred to as Brewery Farm (HER 8261), is depicted at the east end of the village. The map also notes a building (HER 818) later referred to as 'kennels' south-east of Hart village.
- 6.49 The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1898 (Figure 10) records no alteration to the proposed development area. To the south of the site Glebe Farm (HER 8186) is shown on the map with a series of buildings and enclosures. There has been some minor developments in Hart village, including a blacksmith shop (HER 4596), two public houses and a school off Front Street.

### The modern period (1900 to present)

- 6.50 The proposed development area remained unaltered into the 20th century and continued to be used for agriculture.
- 6.51 In 1914 during the First World War the German Navy bombarded Hartlepool killing 130 people. The coast had been defended against attacks and World War I rifle butts (HER 8465) are recorded at the east end of Hart parish within the study area.
- 6.52 By the 1920s there had been some infilling in Hart village and another post-office (HER 8948) was built in the early 20th century which is shown on the 3rd edition

Ordnance Survey map of 1923 (Figure 11). The proposed development area is recorded as unchanged on the map.

- 6.53 In the 1930s economic depression had a significant impact on the area. In 1938 Durham County Council built smallholdings at Burns Close, Nine Acres and The Fens in Hart for former miners to sustain themselves and their families. Each tenancy was provided with between 6.8 and 9.1 acres of land, piggeries, hen houses, cold glass houses, pigs and chickens (Daniels 2010). The Ordnance Survey map of 1947 (Figure 12) records the small holdings at Nine Acres on the western edge of the proposed development area. A building probably relating to the development is located within and towards the south-west corner of the proposed site. The concrete observed during the walkover survey may relate to the structure following its demolition, which appears to have been in the last two decades of the 20th century. The structure may have been a piggery or a henhouse. The 1947 map records little alteration to Hart village.
- 6.54 The north-eastern area was again subject to invasion during the Second World War and a series of stop lines defences were set up along the coasts and inland. Hart was a defensive point at this time. These stop lines included pillboxes with one (HER 994) is recorded in the study area to the rear of the Raby Arms. A prisoner of war camp (HER 8960) was also established during the war to the west of Hart church and was identified from aerial photography.
- 6.55 Following the war, residential housing estates were added in the village on the north side of Front Street and Palace Row. The 1960s edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 13) records the changes to the village. No alteration is recorded on the map to the proposed development area, although the field is labelled Manor Farm (smallholdings) suggesting the county scheme was still in place. In the mid-1960s and 1970s further housing was built on the site of Hart Manor house and rescue excavations recorded extensive medieval remains. Additional residential estates continued to be constructed in the village in the later 20th century and early 21st centuries.

### The buildings

6.56 There are four Grade II, one Grade I and one Grade II\* listed buildings within the village (Appendix): these are unlikely to be affected by the proposed development.

### Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other Designated Heritage Assets

6.57 There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the proposed development area. There are two scheduled sites in Hart village; fishponds 70m north of St. Mary Magdalene's Church (SAM 1018947) located 283m to the north-east and the great house 50m west of St. Mary Magdalene Church (SAM 1018945) some 295m east of the proposed site.

### 7. The potential archaeological resource

7.1 There is no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the study area, but the presence of activity in the surrounding vicinity, indicates some potential for an unidentified resource to exist.

- 7.2 Recent archaeological works, artefactual finds, architectural fragments, human remains and documentary records indicate that Hart was at the centre of an important early medieval estate. There is potential for settlement remains relating to this period of occupation to survive within the proposed development area.
- 7.3 The proposed development site would have been part of the common fields of Hart during the medieval period and was still in agricultural use in the post-medieval period. Evidence relating to farming activities of medieval and post-medieval date has the potential to survive within the site boundary.
- 7.4 Remains of farm buildings associated with a series of small holdings established in the 1930s are present in the south-west corner of the site and western field boundary.

### 8. Impact assessment

8.1 The proposed development has the potential to impact upon any archaeological resource that may be present through ground reduction and the construction of foundations and associated services.

### 9. Recommendations

9.1 It is recommended that the potential of the archaeological resource is evaluated through geophysical survey and excavating a series of trial trenches across the site in order to establish the nature and extent of any archaeological resource present which may be impacted upon.

### 10. Sources

### **Cartographic sources**

Saxton, C, 1576 Dunelmensis episcopatus Armstrong, 1768 A map of the county palatine of Durham Greenwood, C, 1820 Map of the county palatine of Durham Ordnance Survey 1st edition, 6" Durham sheet XXXVII, 1861 Ordnance Survey 2nd edition, 6" Durham sheet XXXVII.NW, 1898 Ordnance Survey 3rd edition, 6" Durham sheet XXXVII.NW, 1923 Ordnance Survey 1947 edition, 6" Durham sheet XXXVII.NW Ordnance Survey 1960s edition Ordnance Survey 1980s edition

### Other sources

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DUL XLL 553.2 BEL Plan of the Hartlepool coal district in the county of Durham, including part of the Wear district in the same county, being the first of a series of plans of the great northern coal field Bell, J. T. W 1843

DDR/EA/TTH/1/112 31 March 1841. Hart township (Hart parish). Agreement with plan dated 1840, scale 8 chains

DUL BAK 13/64 Plan of two farms to the south of Hart. Lot 7, 1770

### Websites

www.bgs.ac.uk www.naturalengland.gov.uk http://kepn.nottingham.ac.uk/ http://www.british-history.ac.uk http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk http://www.magic.gov.uk http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list http://ads.ahds.ac.uk http://www.pastscape.org.uk/ http://digimap.edina.ac.uk/lidar http://www.dur.ac.uk/picturesinprint/ http://www.durhamrecordoffice.org.uk/ https://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/ http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/ https://finds.org.uk/

#### Aerial photographs and LiDAR data

Aerial photos were viewed in journal Archaeologia Aeliana 5th series Vol. II (RAF vertical 540/965 1952) and on-line http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/ and GoogleEarth. Satellite images were viewed at GoogleEarth. LiDAR data for the area was not available.

### **Appendix: Historic Environment Record**

The tables include sites recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development area (within an approximate radius of 1km from the site).

#### Historic Environment Record and designated heritage assets

(PRN = Public Record Number, Designation - SAM = Scheduled Ancient Monument, LB=Listed building, LL=Local List)

PRN	Designation	Description	Grade	Date
137		Spindle whorl		medieval
623	LB	Windmill	П	19th century
666		Village		early medieval/
				medieval
667	LB 1249898	Church of St. Mary Magdalene	I	early medieval/
				medieval
668	Listed II Scheduled	Manor House		early medieval
672		Nelson - deserted settlement		medieval
677	SAM 1018947	Fishponds north of church		medieval
678		Beacon		post-medieval
679		Earthwork – platforms/enclosures		medieval
680		Beehive guern		Iron Age
683		Sword		17th century
684		Blacksmith's workshop		17th century
804		Quarry - sand pit		19th century
888		Earthworks		post-medieval
960	LB 1250029			medieval Anglo-Saxon
500	SAM 1018945	De Brus wall at Manor House	П	incule val / ingle saken
978	5/10/1010545	Field system		medieval
979		Field system		medieval
992		Settlement		prehistoric/
552		Settlement		early medieval
994		Pillbox		20th century
1053		Field system		medieval
1033		Enclosure/ring ditch		prehistoric
1080		Coin of King Alexander III (1249-1285)		medieval
1224		Fragments of sculptured stone		early medieval
1265				medieval
		Strap-end from buckle		
1475		Spindle whorls		medieval
1482		Excavation of Hart Manor		medieval
1483		Lime kiln		medieval
1484		Gold ring		medieval
1485		Excavation of toft boundaries, trackway		medieval
1 100		and field system		
1486		Pottery sherds		Bronze Age
1487		Earthwork enclosures and linear banks		medieval
1499		Cross base		medieval
1534		Field system		medieval
1683		Artefact – flint scraper		prehistoric
1684		Artefact - flint		prehistoric
1686		Artefact – flint core		prehistoric
1762		Pottery sherd		Romano-British
1764		Pottery scatter		Iron Age, Romano-British
				and medieval
1776		Pottery scatter		medieval
1777		Pottery scatter		medieval
2846		Sculptural stone		medieval
2868		Artefact - flint		prehistoric
3411		Field system		medieval
3426		Linear features		uncertain
3479		Stone crosshead		early medieval
3629		Field system		medieval

PRN	Designation	Description	Grade	Date
4462		Churchyard of St. Mary Magdalene		medieval
4463		Grave slab		medieval
4464		Grave slab		early medieval
4465		Grave slab		early medieval
4502		Gravel pit		19th century
4503		Limestone quarry		19th century
4504		Limestone quarry		19th century
4505		Lime kiln		19th century
4506		Brickearth pit		19th century
4596		Blacksmith's workshop		19th century
4678		Earthworks		medieval
4748		Human burial		16th century
4954		Home Farm - granary		18th century
4961	LB 1249900	Home Farm		17th century
4962	LL	Home Farm - barn		18th century
5196	LL	Hart Farm - farmstead		18th century
5201		Hart Culvert - bridge		18th century
5213		Building		18th/19th century
5213		Archaeological feature-pit/ditch		medieval
5533		Polished stone axehead		Neolithic
6211		Brooch		early medieval
6282		Chare House - building		19th century
6439	LB 1249899		*	early medieval/
0439	LB 1249899	Boundary wall	П.	medieval
C 1 1 0	10 1202522	Clavesste haves		
6440	LB 1263523	Clevecote - house		19th century
6441	LB 1250035	Stable - Voltigeur Cottage		18th century
6442		Barn		18th century
6443		Stable		18th century
6519		Strap-end		medieval
6915		Cistern		19th century
6973		Silver brooch		medieval
6995		Architectural freize fragment		medieval
6996		Strap-end		medieval
6997		Coin – silver styca of Alhred (AD 765- 774)		early medieval
6998		Coin - silver styca of Athelred II (AD 844-862)		early medieval
6999		Lead pinhead		medieval
8133	LL	Vicarage		18th century
8134	LL	Barn		18th century
8135		Public house - The White Hart		19th century
8136		Boundary walls		18th/19th century
8184		Farmstead		19th century
8185		Farmstead		19th century
8185		Farmstead		
				19th century
8188		House		19th century
8245		Farmstead		19th century
8261		Farmstead		19th century
8337		Architectural fragments		uncertain
8465		Rifle butts		20th century
8705		Archaeological features – watercourse, ditches and gullies		early medieval
8706		Human burials		early medieval
8785		Watercourse		medieval
8867		Boundary ditch		medieval
8869		Human burials		early medieval
8870		Pillow-stone grave marker		early medieval
8871		Wall		, Anglo-Saxon
8872		Field system		post-medieval
8892		Human burials		early medieval
8893	+	Enclosure		early medieval

PRN	Designation	Description	Grade	Date
8894		Coin – styca of Wigmund Archbishopof		Early Medieval
		York (AD c.837-c.850)		
8948		Post Office		20th century
8955		White Cottage - house		18th century
8960		Prisoner Of War Camp		20th century

### Previous archaeological interventions

PRN	Description
5	Geophysical survey: 2 Otterington Close, Hart
6	Trial trenching: Manor Farm House, Hart
7	Watching brief: Manor Farm House, Hart
155	Wyndways, Front Street, Hart
170	Watching brief: Hart Primary School
171	Watching brief: Hart Primary School
390	Desk-top survey: Whelly Hill Farm, Hart
396	Building recording: Home Farm, Hart
416	Manor Cottage, Butts Lane, Hart
437	Raby Arms, Hart
440	Chare House, Hart
529	Trial trenching: Rear of Hart Farm
625	3 Palace Row, Hart
818	Watching brief: Hart Primary School
889	Geophysical survey: Kirkfield, Hart
890	Geophysical survey: Kirkfield Hart
893	Sheraton Windfarm
917	Geophysical survey: Raby Arms, Hart
918	Earthwork survey: Raby Arms, Hart
919	Excavation: Raby Arms, Hart
920	Geophysical survey: Raby Arms, Hart
964	Excavation: Burns Close, Hart - Area 8
966	Trial trenching: Land at Hart
967	Desk-top survey: Hart Bypass
968	Trial trenching: Church of St Mary Magdalene, Hart
969	Trial trenching: Hart Farm
983	Geophysical suvrey: St Mary Magdalene Church, Hart
1105	Geophysical survey: Nelson Farm
1138	Desk-top survey: MIIIbank Close, Hart
1139	Geophysical survey: MIllbank Close, Hart
1140	Trial trenching: MIIIbank Close, Hart
1141	Desk-top survey: Power Station Field, Home Farm, Hart
1142	Desk-top survey: Land north of Voltigeur Drive, Hart
1143	Geophysical survey: Land north of Voltigeur Drive, Hart
1268	Watching brief: Hart
1274	Geophysical survey: Glebe Farm, Palace Row, Hart Village
1279	Desk-top survey: Glebe Farm, Palace Row, Hart Village
1280	Trial trenching: Glebe Farm, Palace Row, Hart Village
1286	Trial trenching: Kirkfield, Hart Lane, Hart, Hartlepool
1287	Desk-top survey: Palace Row, Hart Village
1294	Geophysical survey: Worsett Lane, Hartlepool
1296	Desk-top survey: Hart Farm Stackyard and Farm Buildings, Hart
1297	Geophysical survey: Land at Palace Row, Hart Village
1339 1356	Trial trenching: Land east of Milbank Close, Hart Excavation: Hart Manor
	Geophysical survey: Land at Kirkefield Stables, Hart Lane, Hart
1358 1388	Radio-carbon dating: Millbank Close, Hart
1388	Site visit: White Cottage
141/	



Photograph 1: View along the southern boundary, looking north-east



Photograph 2: View along the western boundary, looking north



Photograph 3: View across the centre from the west, looking east



Photograph 4: View along the southern boundary, looking east



Photograph 5: View along the eastern boundary, looking north



Photograph 6: View from the south-east corner of the field, looking north-west



























