

ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of
Morrison Telecom Services

Markham Cottage
Haltwhistle
Northumberland

archaeological monitoring

report 5223
January 2020

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1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of archaeological monitoring conducted during the removal and replacement of a telegraph pole.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Morrison Telecom Services and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

Results

- 1.3 No archaeological resource was identified during the works.

Recommendations

- 1.4 No further scheme of archaeological works is required in relation to this development.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located near Markham Cottage, Haltwhistle, Northumberland (NGR centre: NY 7077 6585). It covers an area of approximately 3 sq m. The site lies at the junction of B6318 'Military Road' and a minor road leading to Markham Cottage (180m to the north), with Leeshall on the opposite side of the junction. North of the site are large enclosed fields of pasture, and south is rougher moorland. The site is around 580m south of the Vallum, and is included within the World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall, which lies approximately 1km to the north. It is also within the south-west corner of Scheduled Monument 1010933, which comprises Markham Cottage Roman temporary camps 1 and 2 (320m to the north), a section of the Stanegate Roman road (80m to the north), a further length of Roman road extending north between the Stanegate and Great Chesters Roman fort, and two Roman cemeteries, one west of the camps and the other to the north.

Development

- 2.2 The works comprised the replacement of an existing BT telegraph pole. The site lies within a Scheduled Monument and World Heritage Site and the works were granted Scheduled Monument consent. The Scheduled Monument consent number is S00225431.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the monitoring programme was to identify and record any archaeological features uncovered during groundworks.

Research Objectives

- 2.4 The work has the potential to address priorities set out in two research agendas for the region. In 'Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment' (Petts & Gerrard 2006) these include agenda items:

Roman

Rii Roads and communication
Riii The Roman Military Presence
Rviii Burial

In 'Frontiers of Knowledge: A research Framework for Hadrian's Wall' (Symonds & Mason 2009) these include agenda items:

S.3 The pre-Hadrianic Frontier from the Tyne-Solway Isthmus to the Stanegate
S.4 The Wall
S.4.3 Reassessment of Camps
S.8 Life and Society
S.8.4 Investigation of cemeteries

Written Scheme of Investigation

- 2.5 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation provided by Archaeological Services Durham University (reference DS19.539) and approved by the planning authority.

Dates

- 2.6 Fieldwork was undertaken on 20th November 2019. This report was prepared for January 2020.

Personnel

- 2.7 Fieldwork was conducted by Alan Rae. This report was prepared by Alan Rae, with illustrations by Janine Watson. The Project Manager was Daniel Still.

Archive/OASIS

- 2.8 The site code is **HMC19**, for **Haltwhistle Markham Cottage 2019**. The archive is currently held by Archaeological Services Durham University and will be transferred to the Great North Museum in due course. 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 **archaeol3-374617**.

3. Landuse, topography and geology

- 3.1 At the time of these works the site comprised a grassed verge on the north side of the B6318 'Military Road'.
- 3.2 The area was predominantly level with a mean elevation of approximately 190m OD.
- 3.3 The underlying bedrock geology of the area comprises the Carboniferous Stainmore Limestone Formation overlain by Devensian glacial till.

4. Historical and archaeological background

- 4.1 The Scheduled Monument comprises Markham Cottage Roman Temporary Camps 1 and 2, two Roman cemeteries, a stretch of the Stanegate Roman road, and part of the Roman road that connects the fort at Great Chesters with the Stanegate. Both of the temporary camps, the eastern section of the Stanegate, and part of the southern cemetery to the south survive as upstanding earthworks with buried sub-surface features.
- 4.2 Camp 1 is the largest camp in the locale, and survives best at the north end of the east side. The outer rampart was cut at its north-east corner by the smaller but better preserved Camp 2.
- 4.3 Two Roman cemeteries are located on the western margin of Camp 1. The Four Laws cemetery is to the west of Camp 1, along a stretch of plateau on the north side of the Stanegate. It includes the remains of at least fifteen upstanding burial mounds, with more identified from early Ordnance Survey maps and aerial photographs from the 1930s onwards. The mounds are surrounded by shallow circular or sub-circular ditches and outer banks that give them the form characteristic of Roman barrow cemeteries from the northern frontier area. To the north of Camp 1 is Wall Mill cemetery, which is known to occupy the area from the old watermill west along the north scarp of the tributary, and probably along the line of the Roman road to the fort at Great Chesters.

- 4.4 The Stanegate Roman road crosses the south part of Camp 1, with the eastern part surviving as a series of earthworks. The barrow cemetery at Four Laws is located to the north of the Stanegate, in and around Camp 1.
- 4.5 Encroaching the western edge of Camp 1 is the course of the Roman road that linked Great Chesters with the Stanegate. This is overlain by the present track from Great Chesters Farm to Markham Cottage. The Wall Mill Roman cemetery is associated with this road.

5. The monitoring

Introduction

- 5.1 Archaeological monitoring was conducted during the replacement of a telegraph pole. This included re-drilling the posthole and the insertion of a new pole. This was conducted using a rotary auger mounted on a tracked utility vehicle under close archaeological supervision.

Telegraph pole

- 5.2 This post hole measured 0.3m in diameter and was drilled to a depth of 1.7m below ground level (BGL). Natural subsoil, an orange grey boulder clay [2], was identified at a depth of 0.3m BGL. Overlying the boulder clay was a brown clay silt topsoil [1]. No features of archaeological significance were identified.

6. The artefacts

- 6.1 No artefacts were recovered.

7. The palaeoenvironmental evidence

- 7.1 No material suitable for palaeoenvironmental assessment was identified during the works.

8. The archaeological resource

- 8.1 No archaeological resource was identified during the work.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 No further scheme of archaeological works is required in relation to this development.

10. Sources

- Petts, D, & Gerrard, C, 2006 *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham
- Symonds, M F A, & Mason, D J, 2009 *Frontiers of Knowledge, a research framework for Hadrian's Wall, part of the frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site*. Durham

Websites

BGS 2015 online *Geology of Britain* viewer available from:

<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

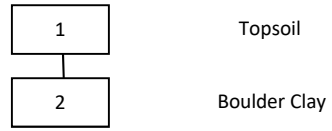
Appendix 1: Data table

Table 1.1: Context data

No	Area	Description
1	Posthole	Topsoil
2	Posthole	Boulder Clay

Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrix

Telegraph pole



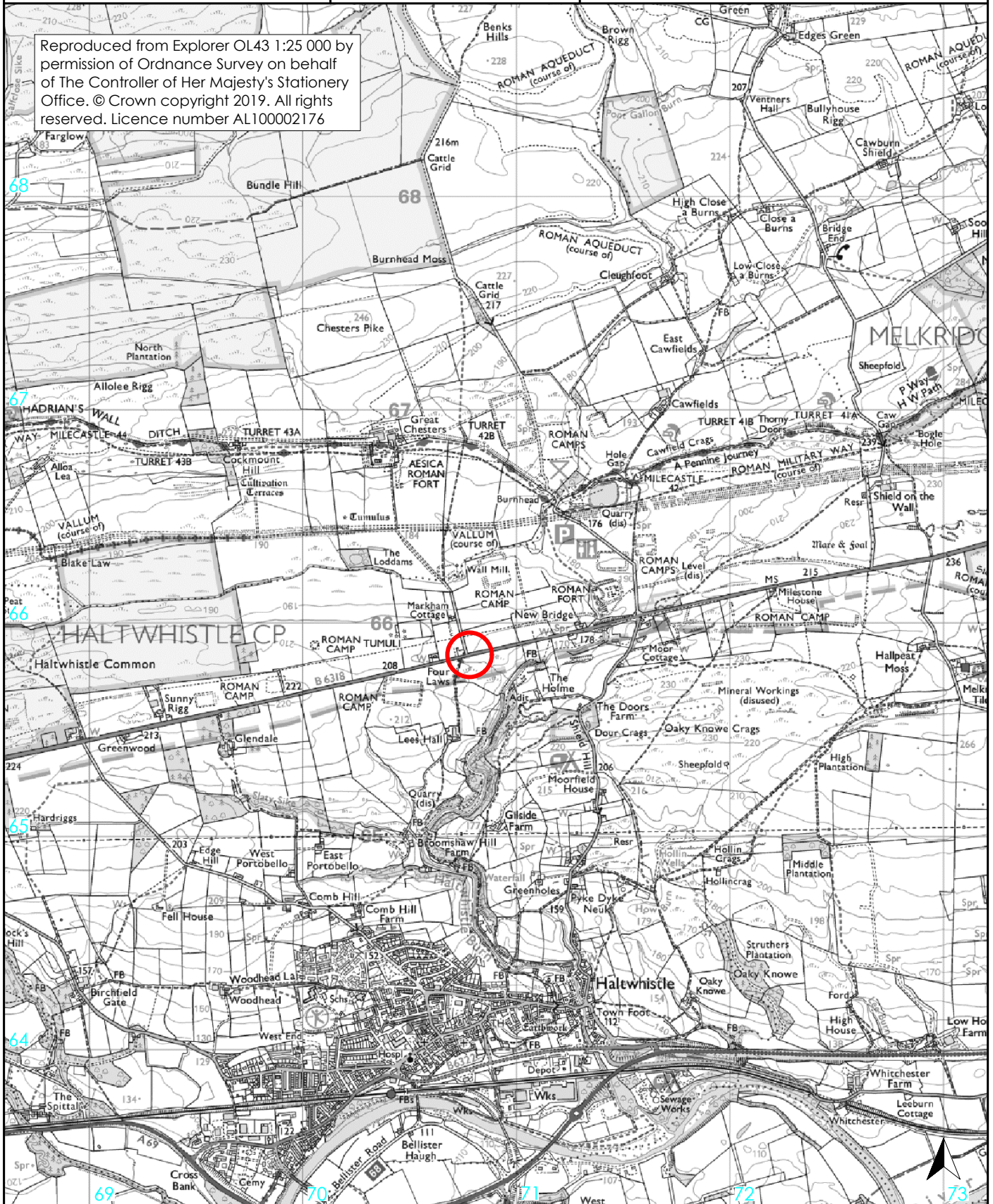


Photograph 1: Telegraph post hole, looking east

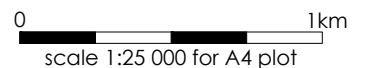


Photograph 2: Telegraph post hole after excavation with auger, looking east

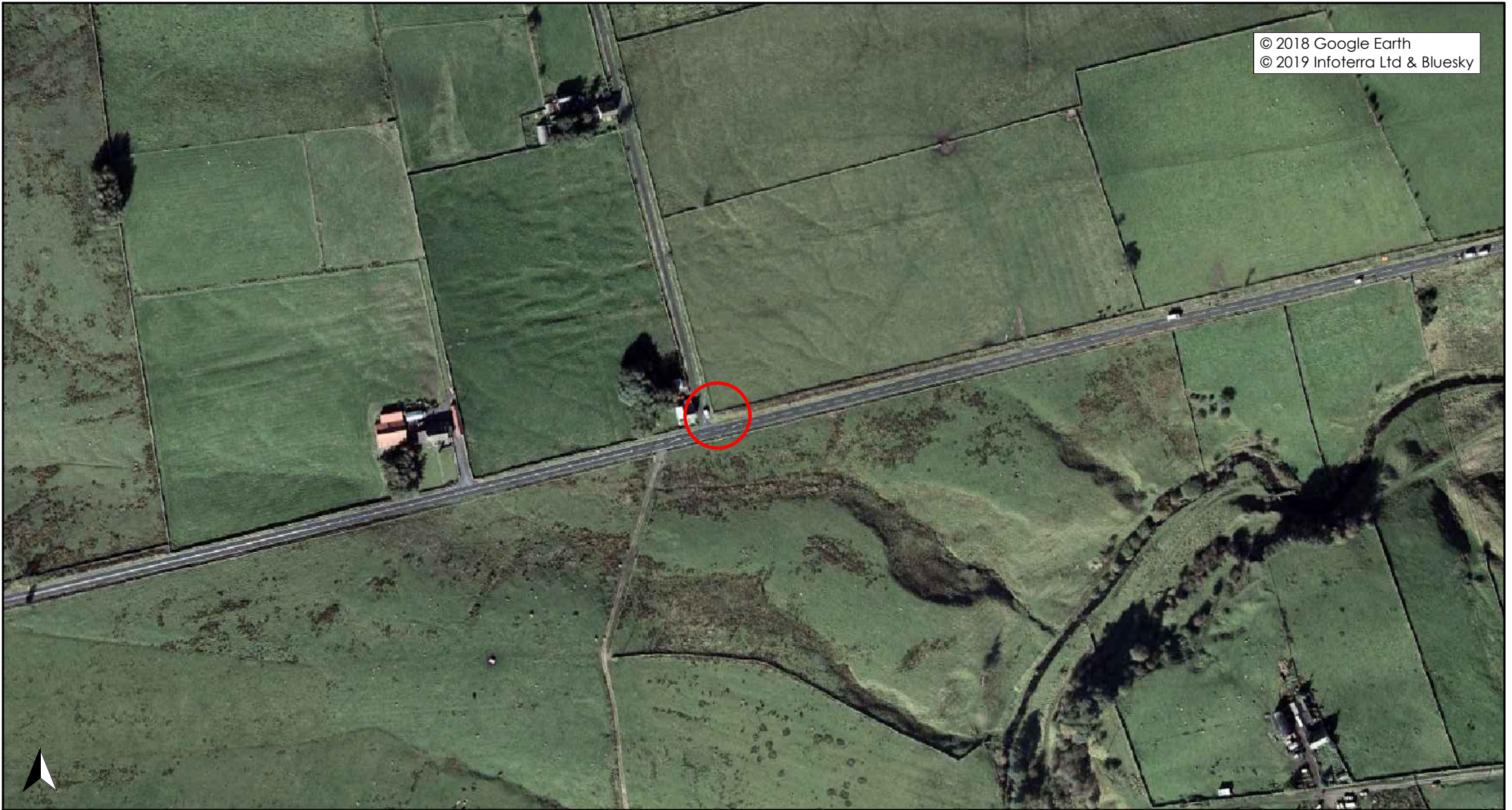
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site location



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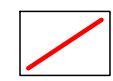
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Figure 2: Location of monitoring



location of monitoring

0 150m
approximate scale 1:3000 for A4 plot