



Archaeological Services
University of Durham

Tynedale Hotel, Corbridge

archaeological evaluation

on behalf of

Nicholson Nairn Architects

ASUD Report 1181

November 2004

***Archaeological Services
University of Durham***

South Road

Durham DH1 3LE

Tel: 0191 334 1121

Fax: 0191 334 1126

archaeological.services@durham.ac.uk

www.durham.ac.uk/archaeologicalservices

Tynedale Hotel, Corbridge

archaeological evaluation

ASUD Report 1181

November 2004

Archaeological Services University of Durham

on behalf of

Nicholson Nairn Architects

Bishop's Court, Rectory Lane, Whickham, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE16 4PA

Contents

1. Summary	1
2. Project background	2
3. Landuse, topography and geology	2
4. Historical and archaeological background	3
5. The evaluation trenches	3
6. The finds	4
7. Recommendations	4
8. Sources	4
Appendix 1: Context data	6
Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrices	7
Appendix 3: Project Brief	8

1. Summary

The project

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation conducted in advance of a proposed development at land to the rear of the former Tynedale Hotel, Corbridge. The evaluation comprised the excavation of two trial trenches.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Nicholson Nairn Architects, and conducted by Archaeological Services University of Durham.

Results

- 1.3 Two trial trenches, each measuring 2m by 2m, were opened on the terraced garden at the rear of the former Tynedale Hotel. The trenches were excavated to natural subsoil. Modern layers of dumped material and garden soil overlay the natural. The foundations of a crude garden wall were recorded in test pit 1.

Recommendations

- 1.4 There are no recommendations for further work on the proposed development area.

2. Project background

Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located at land to the rear of the former Tynedale Hotel, Market Place, Corbridge (NGR: NY 9875 6445). The site comprises an area of c.675sq. metres, bounded by adjoining properties to the north and south, a car-park to the east and a riverbank footpath to the west.

Development proposal

- 2.2 The proposal is to construct a house on the terraced gardens.

Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the scheme of works was to assess the nature, extent and potential significance of any surviving archaeological features 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 advance of development.

Methods statement

- 2.4 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a Project Design provided by Archaeological Services (Ref. RA04.194) and brief from Northumberland County Council Conservation Team (Appendix 3; Ref. T13/5; 3630).

Dates

- 2.5 Fieldwork was undertaken between 26th and 28th October 2004. This report was prepared between 25th November and 1st December 2004.

Personnel

- 2.6 Fieldwork was conducted by Graeme Attwood and Matt Claydon. This report was prepared by Matt Claydon, with illustrations by David Graham. The Project Manager was Richard Annis.

Archive

- 2.7 The project/site code is **CTH04**, for Corbridge, Tynedale Hotel 2004. The site archive will be transferred to the Northumberland County Sites and Monuments Record at the completion of the project (Oasis ref. archaeol3-5283)

3. Landuse, topography and geology

- 3.1 At the time of the evaluation the proposed development area comprised several terraces extending downhill from the car-park at the rear of the former Tynedale Hotel to a footpath along the bank of the River Tyne. The terraces were contained by stone-built revetment walls. Trenches were opened on the second and third terraces down from the car-park. The upper terrace had a mean elevation of c.35m OD, and the lower terrace had a mean elevation of c.36.75m OD.



Archaeological Services
University of Durham

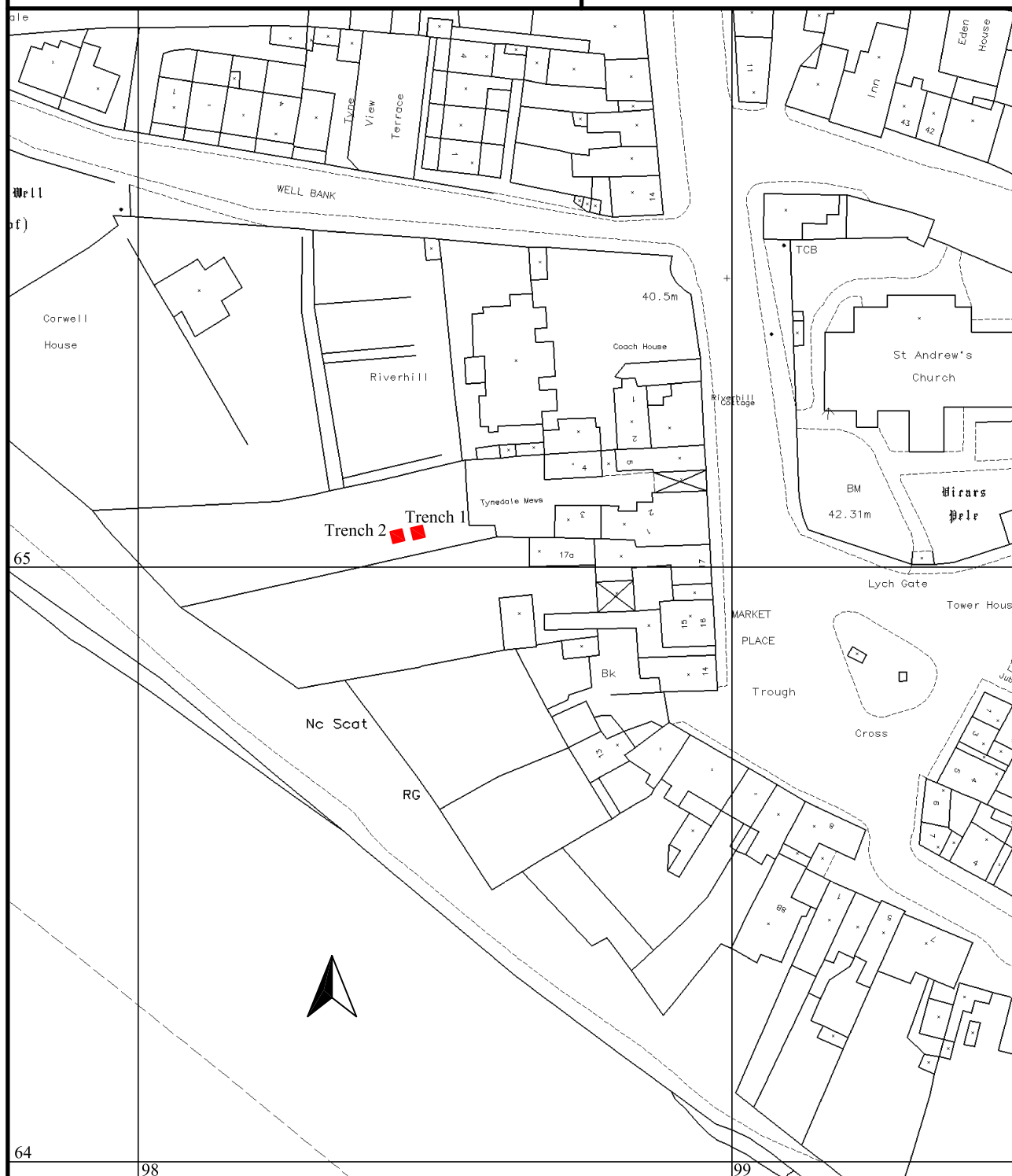
**Tynedale Hotel, Corbridge,
Northumberland
archaeological evaluation
report 1181**

Figure 1

Location of the trenches

on behalf of
Nicholson Nairn Architects

0 50m
scale 1:1000 - for A4 plot



- 3.2 The solid geology of the site is dominated by Carboniferous deposits of the Millstone grit series, overlain by glacial sands and gravels. The overlying soil consisted of thick dark brown silt. The site was overgrown with weeds and ivy. The neighbouring plots comprised similar terraced gardens.
- 3.3 The shape of the development site, and those of neighbouring properties, indicates its former use as a medieval burgage plot.

4. Historical and archaeological background

- 4.1 Roman military and civilian occupation close to the development site is shown by the presence of the Roman town of Corstopitum located to the west of the present town. The Romans first arrived under Agricola AD79 and the town was an important supply base for his army. The remains of successive forts have been excavated at this site, probably dating to the 1st and 2nd centuries. A civilian town occupied the same site during the 3rd and 4th centuries. Corbridge controlled the crossing point over the Tyne, and Dere Street, one of two main routes into Scotland. The town also supplied the campaign of Antonine from AD139 when the fort was built of stone for the first time. The Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record provides many examples of Roman finds within the modern town.
- 4.2 An Anglo-Saxon settlement existed in the area, occupying a site adjacent to the Roman town. During the medieval period the town grew into an important market town.
- 4.3 Excavations at Bishops Garage and the adjacent Eastfield House on Main Street, some 250m to the north-east of the proposed development site, uncovered a series of pits, post-holes and gullies of medieval date. A possible corn drying kiln associated with 13-15th century pottery was also recorded.

5. The evaluation trenches

Introduction

- 5.1 Two trenches, each 2m by 2m, were hand excavated down to natural subsoil. A written, drawn and photographic record was made of the results.

Trench 1 (Figure 2)

- 5.2 This trench was located at the southern end of the upper terrace. Natural subsoil, consisting of large, medium and small rounded pebbles with an orange sand matrix [104] was reached at a depth of 0.52m on the east side of the trench, sloping to a maximum depth of 1.25m on the west side. A layer of fine silt [102] overlay the pebbles. This layer was 0.05m thick on the eastern side of the trench and 0.34m thick on the western side. Extending along the east-facing section of the pit were the remains of a dry-stone garden wall [103]. The wall stood two courses high and was constructed from roughly-hewn grey sandstone. A layer of brown silt [105], containing patches of ash and clinker, butted up to and spread over the wall. A large piece of timber lay within this deposit, pushed up against the wall line. This layer was overlain by a 0.43m-

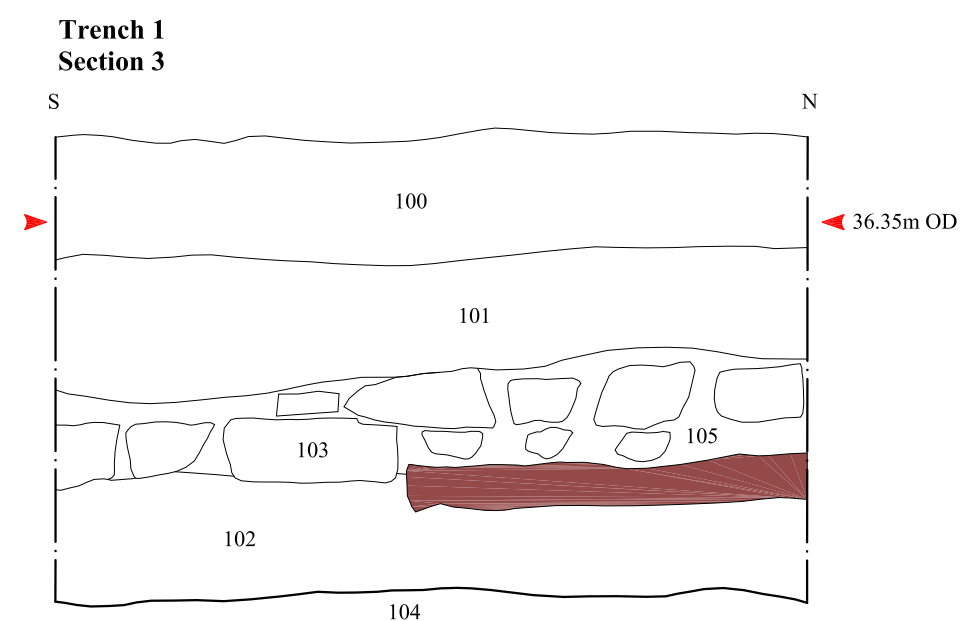
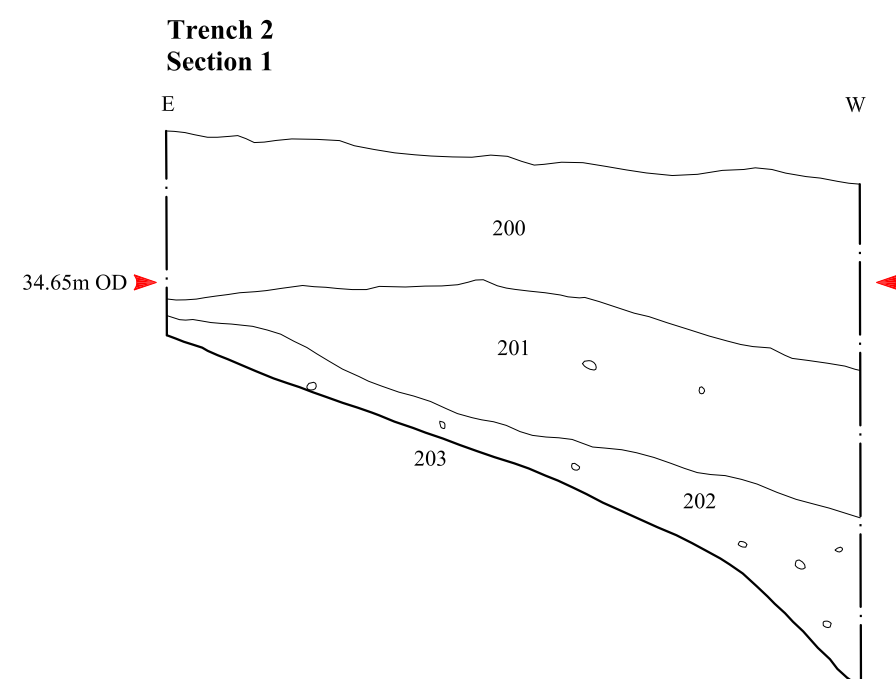
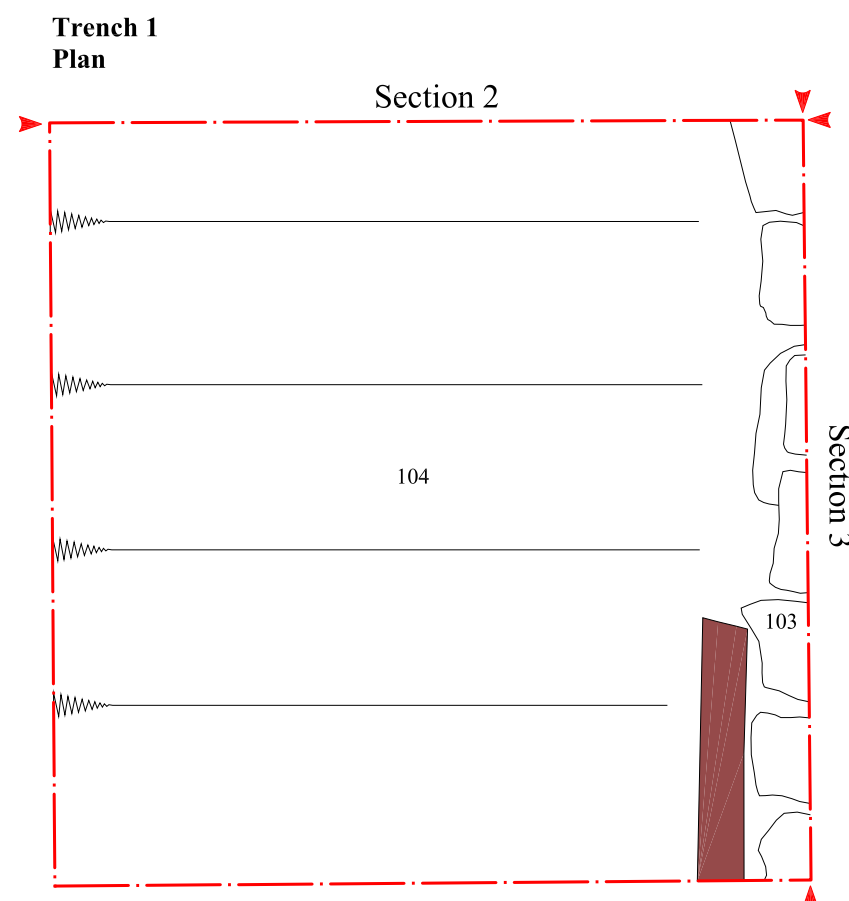
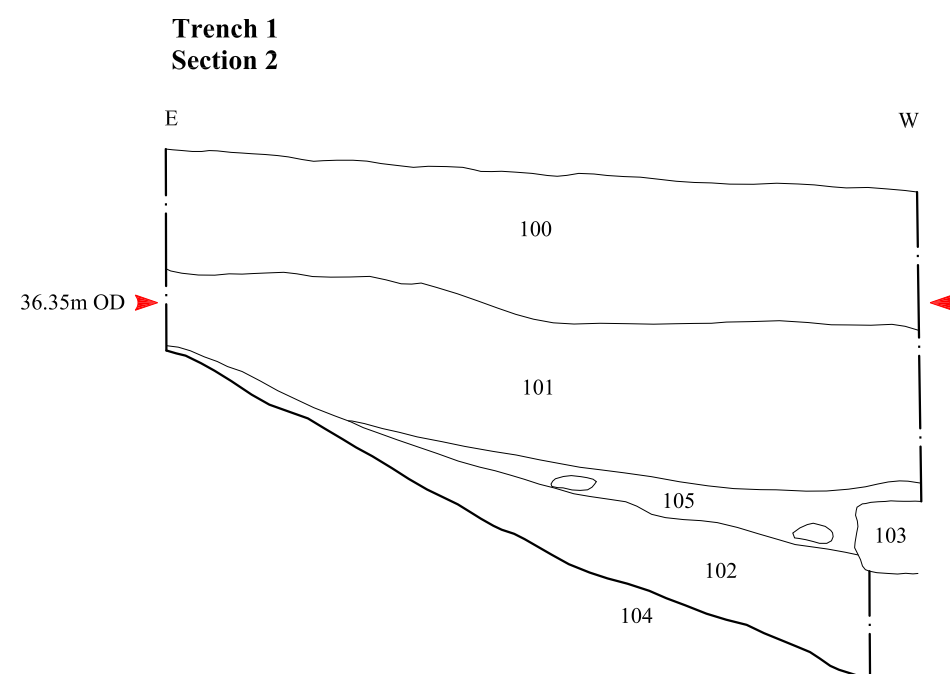
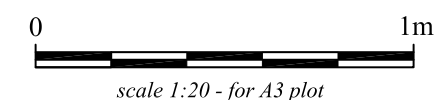
**Tynedale Hotel, Corbridge,
Northumberland**

**archaeological evaluation
report 1181**

Figure 2

Plan and sections of Trenches 1 and 2

on behalf of
Nicholson Nairn Architects



thick deposit of brown silt garden soil [101], which was in turn overlain by a 0.4m-thick layer of brown silt topsoil [100].

Trench 2

- 5.3 This trench was located at the southern end of the lower terrace. Natural subsoil, consisting of large, medium and small rounded pebbles with an orange sand matrix [203] was reached at a depth of 0.54m on the east side of the trench, sloping to a maximum depth of 1.30m on the west side. A layer of fine silt [202] overlay the pebbles. This layer was 0.08m thick on the eastern side of the pit and 0.43m thick on the western side. This layer was overlain by a 0.43m-thick deposit of brown silt garden soil [201], which was in turn overlain by a 0.4m-thick layer of brown silt topsoil [200].

6. The finds

Pottery

- 6.1 Contexts [100] and [101] both provided sherds of 19th and 20th century pottery. They consisted of earthenware storage pots and porcelain plates.

Clay pipe

- 6.2 Contexts [100], [101], [200], [201] and [202] contained clay-pipe stems, context [201] also contained a pipe bowl. The pipe stems probably date from the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The bowl is complete with spur, has fluting up each side, and pairs of leaves up the seams. The style is of 19th century date.

Glass

- 6.3 A fragment of modern vessel glass was recovered from context [100], and the neck of a beer bottle was recovered from context [101].

Iron objects

- 6.4 A piece of a bone handled knife was recovered from context [101]. The blade was broken and the metal was highly corroded; the handle had carved decoration all over it. The knife is of 19th or 20th century date.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 The evaluation did not uncover any deposits of significant archaeological importance. Clay pipe found within the majority of deposits suggest the terracing of the embankment occurred during the 19th century.
- 7.2 No further archaeological investigation is considered necessary on the site.

8. Sources

Archaeological Services University of Durham 2001 *The Chains, Corbridge: archaeological evaluation ASUD Report 730*

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd 2004 *Archaeological Field Evaluation on land to the rear of Eastfield House, Corbridge, Northumberland*
CP/139/04 (draft)

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd 2004 *Archaeological Field Evaluation on land at Bishops Garages Car Park, Corbridge, Northumberland*
CP/145/04 (draft)

Appendix 1: Context data

Summary list of contexts. The • symbols in the columns at the right indicate the presence of finds of the following types: P pottery, B bone, M metals, C clay-pipe, S slag, O other materials.

Trench 1

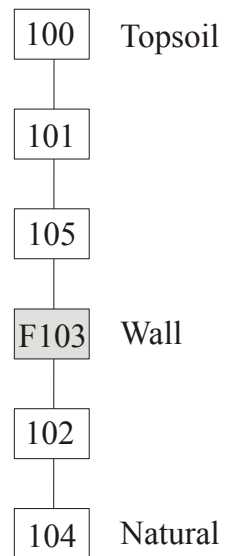
No	Description	P	B	M	C	S	O
100	Topsoil	•		•	•		•
101	Garden soil	•			•		•
102	Dusty silt layer						
103	Wall						
104	Natural subsoil						
105	Brown silt with ash						

Trench 1

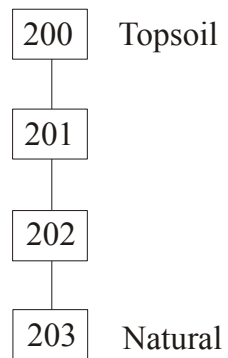
No	Description	P	B	M	C	S	O
200	Topsoil				•		
201	Garden soil				•		
202	Grey fine silt layer				•		
203	Natural subsoil						

Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrices

Trench 1:



Trench 2:



Appendix 2: Project brief

Planning ref: 20040822
NCCCT ref: T13/5; 3630
Grid ref: NY 9872 6440

LAND TO THE REAR OF TYNE DALE HOTEL. MARKET PLACE, CORBRIDGE, NORTHUMBERLAND

Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A planning application has been submitted for the construction of a dwelling on land to the rear of Tynedale Hotel, Market Place, Corbridge (Fig 1). The proposed development is located within a medieval burgage plot for a property fronting the market place, which has been a settlement focus since the medieval period. Recent excavations in burgage plots across the county are increasingly revealing a number of medieval and later features which are providing an insight into the form and use of the land parcels associated with medieval and later settlement. A recent archaeological evaluation to the rear of 2 Princes Street, Corbridge has identified features of medieval date, containing deposits which when environmentally sampled produced a wealth of information about the use of the site and the diet of the people who occupied this area in the medieval period.
- 1.2 Northumberland County Council Conservation Team has advised Tynedale District Council that the archaeological potential of the site should be further investigated prior to the determination of this planning application. In this instance, it has been agreed that this should take the form of an archaeological evaluation.
- 1.3 This brief constitutes Northumberland County Council Conservation Team's justification for the investigation, its objectives and the strategy and procedures to apply to the archaeological evaluation. The results of this work will be used to inform the planning decision.
- 1.4 **This brief does not constitute the 'written scheme of investigation'**. It is intended to establish the project parameters to enable an archaeological consultant or contractor to tender for the work and once commissioned to prepare and submit an appropriate Method Statement, Project Design or Specification to the Conservation Team for approval prior to work commencing. The project design/specification should be based on a thorough study of all relevant background information, in particular any assessment or evaluation reports or, in their absence, data held or referenced in Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record Office (SMR).
- 1.5 The extent of the development (Fig 1) has been taken from plans attached to the planning application. The archaeological consultant or contractor will need to confirm the extent of the development and the nature of the works with the developer as part of the specification.

2 Site Specific Requirements

- 2.1 The evaluation work proposed here is designed to ascertain whether there are any archaeological constraints that may affect the planned development. The purpose of trial excavation is to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains, their quality, depth and preservation.

- 2.2 Maps showing sufficient detail indicate that the site has not been built on from at least 1841 onwards, although it does appear to have been terraced. At this stage it is not known whether the terracing involved cutting or filling to produce a series of four level areas. As a consequence it is not possible to establish whether the archaeological remains in this area survive beneath a build-up of deposits or have been truncated or removed.
- 2.3 The evaluation should comprise five hand-dug test pits measuring 2m square. **These test pits can be mechanically excavated if machine access is possible.** The test pits should be located to investigate:
- Four terraces on the footprint of the proposed building
 - The line of the proposed services.
- 2.4 Should changes to the test pit dimensions be necessary these should be discussed with the Assistant County Archaeologist and approved prior to work commencing on site.
- 2.5 Access arrangements, especially for mechanical excavation equipment, should be confirmed with the person or body commissioning the work, and where appropriate also with the land owner. Utility information should be requested prior to work commencing on site, so that the utilities can be avoided.

3 General Standards

- 3.1 All work should be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) ¹ and will follow the IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.² Archaeological contractors must be able to prove that they have appropriate excavation experience and current insurance to undertake excavations.
- 3.2 The contractor should provide an indication of the resources they are proposing to use on the site, expressed where appropriate as a number of person days for each grade.
- 3.3 All staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. Short CVs/relevant career histories should be provided in the specification for all site staff of supervisor or higher grade as well as any specialists involved in the project either in the field or during the post excavation phase. Details must also be supplied for office based staff involved in the management and direction of the project.

3.4 Pre-site work preparation

- i) A specification in line with this brief must be submitted and approved by Northumberland County Council Conservation Team prior to work commencing.
- ii) An appropriate environmental sampling strategy is a mandatory part of this project. Advice on such a strategy must be obtained from the English Heritage Scientific Advisor for North-East England, Dr Jacqui Huntley, Department of Archaeology, University of Durham, Science Laboratories, South Road, Durham. The sampling strategy should be included in the specification and submitted to the County Archaeologist for approval.
- iii) The relevant museum should be contacted to discuss archiving, prior to work commencing.

¹ Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2000, Code of Conduct

² Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001, Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation

- iv) All staff must familiarise themselves with the archaeological background of the site, and the results of any previous work in the area, prior to the start of work on site. All staff must be aware of the work required under the specification, and must understand the projects aims and methodologies.

3.5 Fieldwork

- i) Topsoil and unstratified modern material may be removed either by hand or, if possible, mechanically by a machine using a **wide toothless ditching blade**. This must be carried out under continuous archaeological supervision
- ii) The topsoil or recent overburden should be removed in successive level spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil, whichever is encountered first.
- iii) All faces of the test pit that require examination or recording must be cleaned sufficiently to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains
- iv) The top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil must be cleaned sufficiently to allow for its inspection for features.
- v) All subsequent deposits must be excavated by hand
- vi) The archaeology must be investigated sufficiently to establish its nature, extent and date, unless it is deemed of sufficient importance to require total preservation *in situ*. All features exposed should be sample excavated. This would typically comprise:
 - i) 50% of every discrete feature
 - ii) 25% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill
 - iii) 10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a uniform fill
- vii) Within the constraints of the site, the excavations should be maintained in a manner that allows quick and easy inspection without any requirement for additional cleaning.
- viii) Deposits should be assessed for their potential for providing environmental or dating evidence. Sampling should be in line with the strategy agreed with Jacqui Huntley and the Conservation Team
- ix) In the event of human burials being discovered, they should be left *in situ*, covered and protected and the coroners' office should be informed. If removal is essential, work must comply with relevant Home Office regulations.
- x) Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation must be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.
- xi) The drawn record from the site must include a representative selection of long sections from the excavations that clearly allow the nature and depth and any significant changes in the deposits recorded to be demonstrated. If there is any uncertainty, advice should be sought from the Assistant County Archaeologist as to which sections may be appropriate for inclusion within the site record.
- xii) During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts must be stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this should include controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material).

3.6 Contingency

- 3.6.1 In some circumstances a programme of evaluation may, in answering the questions posed, also raise others of an unexpected nature. Every attempt should be made to

4.2.3 Northumberland County Council will require confirmation that the archive had been submitted in a satisfactory form to the relevant museum.

4.3 Report

4.3.1 The evaluation is the [specify] stage in a potential multi-staged programme of archaeological work and has been requested prior to the determination of planning permission.

4.3.2 Due to the strict deadlines laid out in the planning system, the archaeological contractor or consultant should submit a copy of the report to Northumberland County Council Conservation Team and their client within [X] working-days of completing the fieldwork.

4.3.3 The Conservation Team require two copies of the report (one bound and one unbound)

4.3.4 The report should be bound, with each page and paragraph numbered

4.3.5 The report should include the following as a minimum:

- i) Planning application number, Northumberland County Council Conservation Team reference, OASIS reference number and an 8 figure grid reference
- ii) A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
- iii) A location plan showing test pit locations within the site. This must be at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Sites and Monuments Record
- iv) Plans and sections of archaeology located at a recognisable planning scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate)
- v) A summary statement of the results
- vi) A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds
- vii) **Any variation to the above requirements should be approved by the planning authority prior to work being submitted**

4.4 OASIS

4.4.1 Northumberland County Council Conservation Team and SMR support 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.

4.4.2 The archaeological consultant or contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Contractors are advised to contact Northumberland SMR prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, Northumberland SMR will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website. The archaeological consultant or contractor must indicate that they agree to this procedure within the specification/project design/written scheme of investigation submitted to Northumberland County Council Conservation Team for approval

deal with the problem by agreed modification of the specification while fieldwork is in progress.

3.6.2 A contingency sum should be allowed for the excavation of an additional 2m square test pit to answer particular issues that may arise during fieldwork. **Failure to make this allowance, where appropriate, may necessitate further evaluation work being recommended to the local authority and a delay in the decision making process.**

3.6.3 The activation of the contingency must only be undertaken after discussion with, and with the agreement of the County Archaeological Officer. A representative of the developer/owner etc should be present at such discussions.

3.7 Recording

- i) The test pits should be accurately related to the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area.
- ii) A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) should be made for all work, using pro forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings should be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate
- iii) The stratigraphy of all test pits should be recorded even where no archaeological deposit have been identified
- iv) All archaeological deposits and features, the current ground level and base of each test pit must be recorded with an **above ordnance datum (aOD)** level.
- v) A photographic record of all contexts should be taken in colour transparency and black and white print and should include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs should be kept
- vi) Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix should be compiled

4 Post excavation work, archive, and report preparation

4.1 Finds

- 4.1.1** All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds must be carried out in compliance with the IFA Guidelines for Finds Work and those set by UKIC.
- 4.1.2** The deposition and disposal of artefacts must be agreed with the legal owner and recipient museum **prior** to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides to retain artefacts, adequate provision must be made for recording them. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer.
- 4.1.3** All retained artefacts must be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

4.2 Site Archive

- 4.2.1** The archive and the finds must be deposited in the appropriate local museum, within **6 months** of completion of the post-excavation work and report.
- 4.2.2** Before the commencement of fieldwork, contact should be made with the landowners and with the appropriate local museum to make the relevant arrangements. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer. Details of the appropriate museum can be provided by the Assistant County Archaeologist.

4.5 Publication

- 4.5.1 A summary should be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted to Liz Williams, Northumberland SMR Officer, by December of the year in which the work is completed.
- 4.5.2 A short report of the work should also be submitted to a local journal if appropriate.

5 Monitoring

- 5.1 The County Archaeologist must be informed on the start date and timetable for the evaluation **in advance** of work commencing.
- 5.2 Reasonable access to the site will be afforded to the County Archaeologist or his/her nominee at all times, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological evaluation
- 5.3 Regular communication between the archaeological contractor, the County Archaeologist and other interested parties must be maintained to ensure the project aims and objectives are achieved.

6 Further Guidance

- 6.1 Any further guidance or queries regarding the provision of a specification should be directed to:

Karen Derham
Assistant County Archaeologist
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Tel: 01670 534057
Fax: 01670 533086
e-mail: kderham@northumberland.gov.uk

19/7/04

FOR COPYRIGHT REASONS, ALL MAPS SUPPLIED BY NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL MUST BE RETURNED TO THEM ON COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT