

**FINAL REPORT FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

carried out at

**St Cuthbert's RC Primary School  
Ropery Lane  
Chester-le-Street  
Co. Durham DH3 3PH**

Commissioning client:

**Burridge,  
Units 8 & 9 Wesley Way,  
Benton Square Industrial Estate,  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 9TA**

Prepared for:

**Durham County Council Archaeology Team**

Contract No: 11016

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## NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

During January 2007, Ian Farmer Associates carried out a watching brief during the excavation of a footprint for a new class room block within the grounds of St Cuthbert's RC Primary school, Ropery Lane, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham DH3 3PH.

No archaeological discoveries are known from the immediate area of the school, however with the well known roman fort of *Concangis* less than 1Km to the north of the school, it was considered expedient that at least a watching brief be maintained during intrusive ground works.

It was subsequently discovered that no archaeological either existed prior to the construction of the late nineteenth century school or they had been removed during the levelling of the site for the school buildings. In most instances the school yard and buildings had been built onto natural clay and gravel.

One sample section was drawn of the west section of the building footprint., on the western boundary of the site The surviving stratigraphy showed the ground to be composed of made up deposits of soil and clay, together with a gravel path possibly associated with the construction of the school. These deposits sealed a land drain which had cut into the natural clay – the drain is probably early nineteenth century and is possibly associated with field drainage when the area was under agriculture.

There were no other features of note. However it is recommended that any future intrusive groundwork's in the school area should at least have an archaeological watching brief attaché as a condition.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Ian Farmer Associates Archaeological Services carried out an Archaeological Watching Brief at St Cuthbert's RC Primary School, Ropery Lane, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham DH3 3PH, NGR NZ 2770 5089 over a number of days between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2007.
- 1.2 The investigation was commissioned and funded by Burridge and specifically related to archaeological observations that were to be carried out during groundwork's for a new classroom block at the above site.
- 1.3 The requirement for the archaeological work followed advice given by Central Government as set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (PPG16) issued by the DoE in 1990, and the specification of the planning archaeologist, Lee White, which is included in Appendix 1.
- 1.4 The specification took into account the planning archaeologist's comments on the proposed scheme on (date) which stated;
- "3.1 The Roman fort of Chester-le-Street, otherwise known as Concangis (SMR 2153), is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 105). The boundary of the SAM is outside the development to the north.*
- 3.3 A recent desk based assessment (DBA) has been on behalf of Park View School..... The DBA indicates that there is a high potential for archaeological remains to be found outside the fort boundaries. What is currently not understood is how large this area may extend*
- 3.5 There are no recorded archaeological remains within the development area"*
- 1.5 Given the above information corpus of archaeological data for the environs, it was considered that the proposed development would damage or destroy any potential archaeological remains that may be present on site, and that a reasonable archaeological response to the threat would be a watching brief during the excavation of the new building footprint associated with the scheme. This would include a strategy for the recovery and analysis of palaeo-environmental evidence devised by Mrs Jaqui Huntley of English Heritage.
- 1.6 At the request of Lee White, the planning archaeologist, IFA *Archaeological Services* carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring archaeological monitoring in January 2006.
- 1.7 This report summarises the topographical, geological, archaeological and historical setting of the site, and presents the results of the watching brief.

## **2.0 DEFINITION AND PURPOSE OF A WATCHING BRIEF**

2.1 An archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (ref. 14.1) as;

- "... a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during an operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive."

2.2 The purpose of a watching brief is;

- "To allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, their presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
- To provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching brief archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard" (ref. 14.1)

2.3 The results of a watching brief are used to;

- produce a record of the location, nature and date of any archaeological remains encountered on the site and
- add to the knowledge about the previous history of activity on the current site and its surroundings and
- provide information to influence future planning decisions in the area. (ref. 14.1)

## **3.0 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

3.1 The site is located within the grounds of St Cuthbert's RC Primary School, Ropery Lane, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham DH3 3RP. The national grid reference to the centre of the site is NZ 2770 5089.

3.2 Details of the geology underlying the site have been obtained from the British Geological Survey Map sheet 21, 'Sunderland', solid and drift edition, 1:50,000, published in 1978.

3.3 The geological map indicates the site to be underlain by superficial deposits of late Devensian glacial sands, clays and gravels over a bedrock of Carboniferous middle coal measures.

- 3.4 The topography of the site has been previously truncated by the construction of previous school buildings. However the general overall topography of the area suggests a gentle slope eastwards towards the river Wear, less than 1Km distant.
- 3.5 The height of the site is between 17 and 19m above sea level. An Ordnance Survey bench mark, value 18.25m above sea level is located within the grounds of the school, on the south east corner (east face) of the principal school building.
- 3.6 The nearest surface watercourse is the river Wear, less than 1Km east of the site
- 3.7 Location plans and site plans are included in Appendix 2, Figures A2.1 and A2.2, and A2.3.

#### **4.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SETTING**

- 4.1 There are no recorded archaeological remains within the school grounds.
- 4.2 A rope walk is attested, to the south of the site in the mid nineteenth century according to 1st edition Ordnance Survey maps. The rope works now survive as a name of a street – Ropery lane.
- 4.3 The roman fort, *Concangis* (SMR 2153) is located less than 1Km north of the site. It is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 105). The fort may have been a cavalry fort established circa AD216. Further excavation in 1990 at Church Chare and again in 1993 at Park View in Chester-le-Street identified an earlier 2<sup>nd</sup> century timber fort
- 4.4 The watching brief took into consideration the above facts whilst intrusive ground works were taking place, i.e. the excavation of the new building footprint.

#### **5.0 METHODOLOGY**

##### **5.1 Burr ridge (development contractors)**

- 5.1.1 This stage of the development required the demolition of a former 'temporary' class room followed by the excavation of a new building footprint.
- 5.1.2 The building footprint measured a total of 450 square metres in area and at least 1m deep.
- 5.1.3 The excavation involved the removal of services and the removal of any concrete, tarmacadam or topsoil etc. The work was undertaken with appropriate tracked 360 degree excavator. The excavated material was removed from site by a series of dump trucks.
- 5.1.4 The excavation was to proceed to a predetermined depth and then backfilled with appropriate hardcore/packing material which was to be compacted prior to construction works taking place.

## **5.2 Ian Farmer Associates Archaeological Services**

- 5.2.1 Ian Farmer Associates Archaeological Services comply with the guidelines set out in the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations, ref. 14.1, and the Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2), ref. 14.2.
- 5.2.2 An archaeologist was on site during the intrusive work to observe all groundwork associated with the development for the purpose of identifying and recording any archaeological deposits and artefacts present.
- 5.2.3 In addition, any changes in stratigraphy were noted and were logged at appropriate locations in the excavated footprint to illustrate the principle stratigraphic characteristics of the deposits encountered.
- 5.2.4 A photographic record, consisting of black & white and colour prints together with colour transparencies and digital images was maintained to illustrate the principal features and finds discovered. This record also included working shots to demonstrate the general nature of the development operations. Extracts of the photographic record are included in Appendix 5

## **6.0 RESULTS**

- 6.1 A stratigraphic matrix was compiled for the sample section, see Appendix 3. In addition a drawn section was made of the sample section (Appendix 4), elsewhere the stratigraphy had been removed by the construction of the school
- 6.2 Development excavations revealed no visible archaeological features of any significance.
- 6.3 From observations in the field it was clearly seen that the area under observation had undergone significant truncation in at least two separate phases. The first during the construction of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century school and its associated playground and secondly by a later classroom block which had just been demolished.
- 6.4 Services, such as water pipes and electricity cables had been laid down under the access paths to school buildings and adjacent grass verges. This also had an impact on the limited surviving stratigraphy.
- 6.5 The Topsoil (1) encountered on site was limited to small areas of shrubs and grass verges. This had been introduced during former landscaping works around the school building, these overly natural glacial deposits (11) in these areas.
- 6.6 Where the tarmac paths and school playing yard (12) was removed, this found to be circa.0.25m thick. This as expected overlay a compacted hardcore (13) comprising of imported crushed ceramic building material (CBM). This deposit had been compacted directly down on to the natural clay (11)



- 6.7 In the area of the former demolished school building, the concrete raft base, (14) was situated directly on top of the natural clay which had been landscaped and levelled to accommodate the building.
- 6.8 One sample section was recorded, on the west section of the excavated building footprint, See Appendix 2, Figure A2.3 for sample section location.
- 6.9 This part of the section was located because it was the only area of reasonably intact stratigraphy that survived. This was because there was a grass verge between the former class room block and the boundary fence of the school.
- 6.10 The sample section stratigraphy comprises of the following (in descending order):
- (1) Imported topsoil
  - (2) Blue/grey clay and brown soil mix interpreted as made up ground of recent date
  - (3) Black/Brown soil accumulation with occasional pebble and brick material
  - (4) Lens of blue/grey clay within context (3)
  - (5) Possible gravel path contemporary with school?
  - (6) Black/brown soil – Pre School?
  - (7) Mixture of clay , gravel and soil
  - (8) Loose clay/soil/gravel mix – backfill of field drain cut (9)
  - (9) Cut for field drain
  - (10) Weathered/stained clay horizon
  - (11) Natural clay
- 6.11 This was the only area where a pre school stratigraphic horizon could be examined and even then the stratigraphy was cut by a land drain (9).
- 6.12 The indications are that the pre school land was formerly waterlogged land that was subsequently drained by field drains. These were aligned E-W towards the river Wear. The field drain backfill was covered over by remnants of deposits left over from the excavation of the field drain trench, context (7).
- 6.13 A soil layer was allowed to accumulate over the field drain, context (6), with the possible gravel path (5) associated with the construction of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century school?

6.14 After this, the remainder of the stratigraphy comprised of layers of made up ground, contexts (2), (3) and (4) with a final capping of imported topsoil (1) – all of which were contemporary with the school.

6.15 In conclusion therefore, the pre school stratigraphy was dominated by artificially drained fields until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when the school was built. If there were any archaeological deposits these had been removed during the levelling of the site which was gently sloping to the east

## **7.0 FINDS**

7.1 Development excavations revealed no artefacts or ecofacts

## **8.0 CONCLUSIONS**

8.1 The watching brief has indicated that the school site has significantly truncated the area. This reduced the likelihood of finding significant archaeological deposits.

8.2 Although the watching brief has provided an opportunity to examine the principle stratigraphic and physical characteristics of deposits in this area, the investigation has yielded no new archaeological evidence to enhance our understanding of the history of the area.

## **9.0 THE WIDER RESEARCH CONTEXT**

9.1 During the report preparation, the North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF), ref. 14.3, was consulted which outlines the history of archaeological investigation on the roman fort(s), see p. 51. Roman Resource Assessment.

9.2 Little if anything is known however regarding the civilian settlement, a *Vicus*, which would have been located near the fort. The watching brief was undertaken, bearing in mind the possibility of outlying traces of settlement or activity associated with the roman fort being discovered.

9.3 In light of the above research context, this watching brief unfortunately has not revealed evidence of such activity. Whether any evidence was destroyed during the construction of the school or whether there was any evidence originally is unknown.

## **10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER WORK**

10.1 In the light of the lack of discoveries during the watching brief and the truncated nature of the ground surface it is recommended that no further archaeological investigation be undertaken during this project.

- 10.2 However this should not preclude any watching briefs being undertaken during future building operations within the school grounds.

## **11.0 ARCHIVE**

- 11.1 The site archive was prepared according to Institute of Field Archaeologist's guidelines, ref. 14.4, and is currently held at the offices of Ian Farmer Associates Archaeological Services.

- 11.2 The site archive consists of a number of black and white and colour prints, colour transparencies and digital .jpg images, together with context sheets, and a photographic register. There is also a drawn sample section Arrangements will be made to deposit the archive with the relevant receiving authority within 12 months following the submission of this report.

- 11.3 Copies of the watching brief report will be deposited with:

**Archaeology Team, Adult & Community Services, Culture & Leisure, Durham County Council, The Rivergreen Centre, Aykley Heads, Durham DH1 5TS**

**Burridge (Property Maintenance and Small Works Division), Units 8 & 9, Wesley Way, Benton Square Industrial Estate, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 9TA(2 copies)**

## **12.0 OASIS**

- 12.1 Ian Farmer Associates Archaeological Services support the Online Access to Index Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. The overall aim of the OASIS Project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeologically grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork.

- 12.2 The online OASIS form has been completed and is awaiting validation thus placing the information into the public domain at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. A summary is included in Appendix 6.

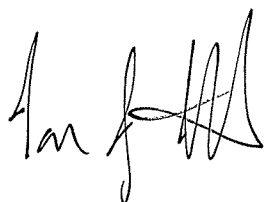
## **13.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 13.1 Archaeological Services would like to thank Burridge for their assistance throughout the course of the investigation, and the planning archaeologist for curatorial advice.

## 14.0 REFERENCES

- 14.1 IFA, 1994 rev. 1999, *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief*, Institute of Field Archaeologists, Reading
- 14.2 English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects*, Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, London.
- 14.3 Petts, D. and Gerrard, C., 2006, *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*, Durham County Council, Durham
- 14.4 Brown, D.H., 2007, *Archaeological Archives – A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*, IFA on behalf of AAF, Reading

For and on behalf of Ian Farmer Associates (1998) Limited



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**APPENDIX 1**  
**SPECIFICATION**

**SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF:  
St Cuthbert's RC Primary School  
Ropery Lane, Chester-le-Street  
Co. Durham**

**1.0 Site Location**

- 1.1 The site of St Cuthbert's Roman Catholic Primary School, Chester-le-Street, is located some 270m south of the Roman fort of Concangis which is centred beneath Park View School and St. Cuthbert's C of E parish Church. The school is centred on NGR NZ 27705089.
- 1.2 The development is located between Lindisfarne Avenue to the north, Eardulph Avenue to the east, Ropery Lane to the south and the old County Cricket grounds to the west. The site is within the centre of Chester-le-Street town.
- 1.3 The development site is a working school. Most of the site is currently developed or within access drives/garden (see Figure 1 below).

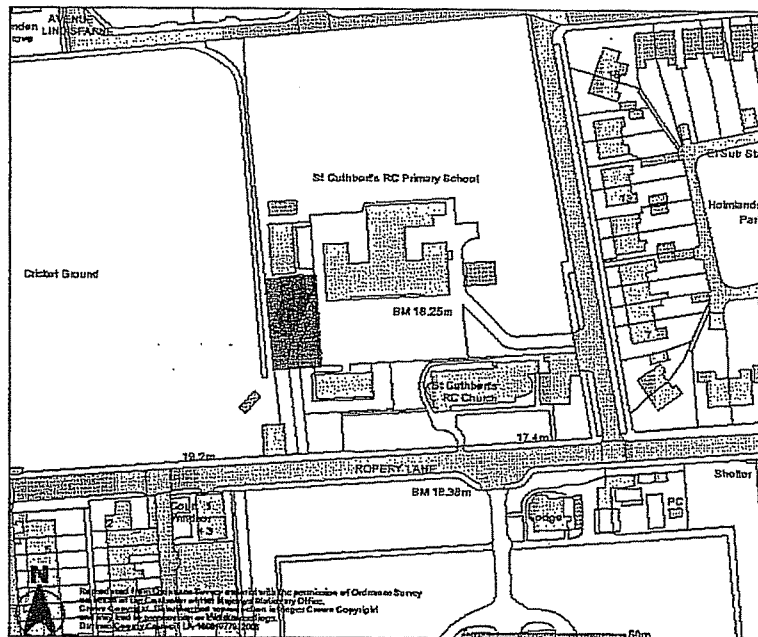


Figure 1: Showing approximate location of development site in red (© Durham County Council)

**2.0 The Development**

- 2.1 The client for the work is David Darbyshire Architects on behalf of the school. Planning permission has been granted for extension works to the school.
- 2.2 The works will involve for the most part, work within the main school buildings. However, the new



infants block (Reception to year 2) has the potential to disturb previously unrecorded archaeological deposits on the west side of the school site.

### 3.0 Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The Roman fort of Chester-le-Street, otherwise known as *Concangis* (SMR 2153), is a scheduled ancient monument (SAM 105). The boundary of the SAM is outside the development to the north.
- 3.2 The Roman fort of *Concangis* is believed to have been a cavalry fort founded circa A.D.216. Excavation in 1990 at Church Chare and again in 1993 at Park View school identified an earlier clay and timber fort belonging to the first half of the second century AD.
- 3.3 A recent desk-based assessment (DBA) has been conducted on behalf of Park View School and this document may be consulted in the SMR prior to tendering (SMR 8917). The DBA indicates that there is a high potential for archaeological remains to be found outside of the fort boundaries. What is currently not understood is how large this area may extend.
- 3.4 Ropery Lane to the south of the site is so named due to the road being a rope walk (recorded on 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map).
- 3.5 There are no recorded archaeological remains within the development area.

### 4.0 Archaeological brief

- 4.1 Archaeological works involving a watching brief are required on this development.
- 4.2 The fact that a watching brief has been identified as the appropriate archaeological response indicates that although the area has some archaeological potential, the impact of the groundworks can be mitigated by the monitoring of the site and the recording of any archaeological deposits during the cable trenching process. **Should archaeological remains be found, the archaeologist must be given the opportunity of excavating and recording the remains before they are destroyed. Depending on the significance of these features, further mitigation in terms of preservation *in situ* or preservation by record may be required. This would be dealt with by a separate brief if required.**
- 4.3 The purpose of the watching brief is to record:
- as yet unknown archaeological features and deposits which may be uncovered in the course of the groundworks phase of the approved building scheme
  - remains associated with the known Roman fort and probable vicus to the north, which may enhance our current knowledge
- 4.4 It must be noted that recording work, when required, must be to the same standard as for any larger evaluation or excavation. The watching briefs must set out to identify and record any previously unknown archaeological deposits disturbed during the process of the development scheme.
- 4.5 **A continuous presence watching brief must be maintained during all excavation works carried out on the site until such time as they are completed or the site is determined to be archaeologically sterile (in consultation with DCC Archaeology Officer).**
- 4.6 **A toothless ditching bucket on a back-acting machine must be used on site during the groundworks phase if a machine is suitable for this space. In any area where evidence is observed which indicates the presence of archaeological remains, and it is considered that the normal method**



of stripping and excavation would be inappropriate, the technique and type of machine being employed may be varied so as to ensure that an adequate record is made of the archaeological remains. Final on-site methodology must be confirmed with the DCC Archaeology Section prior to work commencing.

- 4.7 Due to the nature of watching briefs, the archaeological working practice must be accommodated within the development timetable of the client's scheme. A clear working practice must be agreed in advance and cover the following points.
- 4.7.1 The archaeological contractor must be made aware in advance of scheme timetables and when their presence will be required on site. Adequate notice must be given to the archaeological contractor by the client. The anticipated extent of the work must be confirmed with the client in advance of tendering.
- 4.7.2 The line of communication on-site between the client and/or his representative and the archaeological contractor must be clearly stated in advance. This is especially important with regards to who must be advised of any necessary stoppage time required.
- 4.7.3 It must be clearly agreed before the site works begin that the archaeological contractor has access to all appropriate areas on site and can ask for stoppage time to allow for adequate archaeological recording to take place.
- 4.7.4 The on-site contractor's method statement, including Health and Safety requirements, must be circulated in advance to the archaeological contractor. This is to ensure archaeological best practice.
- 4.7.5 The machine used by the on-site contractor must be equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. This is to minimise the impact on potential archaeological deposits. Should ground conditions dictate otherwise, this must be agreed with the DCC Archaeology Section.
- 4.7.6 The on-site machine operator must have a valid ticket which is available for inspection by the archaeological contractor when on site. This is to ensure compliance with health and safety requirements.
- 4.8 **It must be noted that archaeological finds remain the property of the landowner.** They must not be removed from site unless previously arranged by agreement with the landowner. It is the client's responsibility to ensure that such an agreement is sought in advance of work commencing on site if the client is not the landowner.

## 5.0 Recording

- 5.1 A sufficient sample of exposed archaeological features and deposits will be excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner to fulfil the purpose of the project. The complete excavation of all features is not a necessity, especially where these continue into sections or below the maximum depth of excavation.
- 5.2 Any human remains encountered must be accurately recorded, including *in-situ* examination by a palaeo-pathologist, but not removed from site until a Section 25 licence has been obtained from the Department of Constitutional Affairs. Both the client and the DCC Assistant Archaeology Officer must be informed if human remains are found.
- 5.3 A full record of excavated features must be made using a single context planning system. All archaeological features will be photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale. Sections must be drawn at 1:10, and plans at 1:20. All levels will be tied into Ordnance Datum and the trenches





accurately located with the National Grid. Photographic records must use black and white prints and colour slide. **Suitable digital images for inclusion on the Keys to the Past website must be included with the report (these may be general site images or images of specific features or finds).**

- 5.4 Pottery and animal bone must be collected as bulk samples by context. Significant small finds must be three dimensionally located prior to collection. All finds must be processed to MAP2 standards and subject to specialist assessment. Palaeo-environmental samples must also be taken where appropriate. If necessary conservation of finds must be appraised to allow for specialist study (see section 6.0 Specialist Services below).
- 5.5 Scientific dating techniques such as archaeo-magnetism and radio-carbon ( $C^{14}$ ) must be applied where appropriate. X-ray photography of metal objects must be used where appropriate.
- 5.6 **All relevant procedures relating to artefacts which fall under the Treasure Act (1996) must be adhered to must any such finds be discovered in the course of the watching brief.**
- 5.7 Following the completion of recording the site must be left in a condition to be agreed with the client.

## **6.0 Specialist Services and Reports**

- 6.1 The vast majority of sites where excavation takes place will require the input of archaeological specialists for dating, artefact analysis, palaeo-environmental sampling and conservation. Contingency sums must be set aside for all of these areas and clearly indicated in any tender documents. In the instance of palaeo-environmental remains and conservation, policies as follows must be adopted. In each case the specialist involved must be kept informed of the start date and progress of sites so that sampling and necessary on site conservation needs can be timetabled
- 6.2 Specialist advice regarding the need for palaeo-environmental sampling, appropriate sampling techniques and research questions for specific sites must be identified in advance. The successful contractor must make contact with, and ensure that any proposed sampling strategy includes the input of Jacqueline Huntley, The English Heritage Science Advisor for the NE, University of Durham, Archaeology Department, Biological Sciences Laboratory, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE. The contractor's environmental specialist must be named in the project design/WSI.
- 6.3 Specialist conservation advice and services must be budgeted for in all tenders along with other specialist services. A contingency amount must be identified for the appraisal of the conservation needs of artifactual material excavated on site and for the initial stabilisation of such finds where needed so that they may be studied as part of the post-excavation for the project. In the first instance for sites within County Durham advice must be obtained from Jennifer Jones, Conservation Laboratory, Department of Archaeology, University of Durham, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE. If contractors intend to use a different source of advice then the specialist must be named in advance.

## **7.0 OASIS**

- 7.1 The Durham County Council Archaeology Section supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork.
- 7.2 The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> within 3 months of completion of the work. Contractors are



advised to ensure that adequate time and costings are built into their tenders to allow the forms to be filled in.

- 7.3 Technical advice must be sought in the first instance from OASIS ([oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk](mailto:oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk)) and not from Durham County Council Archaeology Section.
- 7.4 Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the SMR, Durham County Council Archaeology Section will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website.
- 7.5 The archaeological consultant or contractor must indicate that they agree to this procedure within the specification/project design/written scheme of investigation submitted to Durham County Council Archaeology Section for approval

## 8.0 Health and Safety Policy

- 8.1 Contractors are expected to abide by the *1974 Health and Safety Act* and its subsequent amendments. Appropriate provision of first aid, telephone and safety clothing as described in the *SCAUM* manual on archaeological health and safety must be followed. Each site must have a nominated safety officer.
- 8.2 The undertaking of a risk assessment prior to the commencement of works is strongly recommended. Extra care and attention must be taken in areas where foundation excavation goes below 1.20m.

## 9.0 Publication

- 9.1 All assessments, evaluations and watching briefs which do not progress to further excavation and research (with the relevant post-excavation and publication scheme and costs), must have a time and budget allocation identified for publication. This must be to a minimum standard to include a summary of the work, findings, dates, illustrations and photographs and references to where the archive is lodged.
- 9.2 Editors of regional journals, either the *Durham Archaeological Journal* or *Archaeologia Aeliana* must be contacted for information on outline publication costs, fuller figures may be worked out on completion of the watching brief. As the final note is largely unpredictable in advance a contingency sum must be set aside at the outset of work in the tender.
- 9.3 County Durham Archaeology Section will be producing an annual publication every March which will highlight the archaeological work conducted in the county over the previous 12 months. To this end, it is now a requirement of every specification that a précis of archaeological works conducted in the county as a result of PPG16 must be submitted to the DCC Archaeology Section.
- 9.4 The précis must be no more than 500 words in length and it would be appreciated if JPEG or TIFF images of 300dpi are also included. The summary must be sent to the County Archaeologist by the beginning of December of the same year in which the work was conducted.
- 9.5 Where publication is required, conditions will not be discharged until County Durham Archaeology Section have received written agreement from the contractor that publication will be funded by the client.

## 10.0 The Report



10.1 The watching brief report must include the following:

- executive summary
- a site location plan to at least 1:10,000 scale with at least an 8 figure central grid reference
- **OASIS reference number**
- contractor's details including date work carried out
- nature and extent of the proposed development, including developer/client details
- description of the site location and geology
- a site plan to a suitable scale and tied into the national grid so that features can be correctly orientated
- discussion of the results of field work
- context & feature descriptions
- features, number and class of artefacts, spot dating & scientific dating of significant finds presented in tabular format
- plans and section drawings of the features drawn at a suitable scale
- recommendations regarding the need for, and scope of, any further archaeological work
- bibliography

10.2 A report synthesising the results of the watching brief must be produced for the client. This must include a site location plan with NGR references, and also be accompanied by additional plans/map extracts to display noted and recorded archaeological features as appropriate. At least 2 copies must be prepared for the client and a further one including a digital PDF copy sent to the SMR at County Hall.

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

10.4 The report must seek to identify any deposits remaining on or associated with the site that will remain following the completion of the watching brief.

## 11.0 The Tender

11.1 Tenders for the work must include a method statement, day rates and the following:

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

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

11.4 Details concerning proposed methods of recording and source material.

11.5 Statement agreeing to complete the OASIS forms on completion of the watching brief.

11.6 An estimate of how long the work will take broken down by time and cost in terms of data collection and report production (the anticipated extent of the work must be confirmed with the client in advance). The tender must include a breakdown of costs attributable to:



- travelling and subsistence
- fieldwork at a daily rate
- finds analysis
- report production
- administration
- other

11.7 Contingency sums must be clearly allocated for the following:

- conservation of finds
- environmental sampling
- archiving and publication
- post-ex assessment
- other

## 12.0 Submission of Report

12.1 This watching brief must be considered as a project in its own right and not necessarily the first stage of any further work. **A final paper copy and PDF on CD-Rom of the report, the précis and digital images of the site for the *Keys To The Past* website** must be sent to the Archaeology Section, Durham County Council for inclusion into the County Durham Archaeological Archive (SMR) at

Archaeology Team, Adult & Community Services, Culture & Leisure, Durham County Council, The Rivergreen Centre, Aykley Heads, Durham, DH1 5TS

## 13.0 The Archive

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

## 14.0 Notice

14.1 The County Archaeologist must be given two weeks notice in writing of the commencement of evaluation works. During such works the County Archaeologist or her nominated representative must be allowed access to the site and excavations at all reasonable times.

October 2006  
L White



**APPENDIX 2**  
**SITE SETTING**



**IAN FARMER  
ASSOCIATES**

Geotechnical & Environmental Specialists

St Cuthberts RC Primary School Ropery Lane, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, DH3 3PH

Contract No. 11016

**Site Location Maps**

REPRODUCED FROM ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP WITH PERMISSION

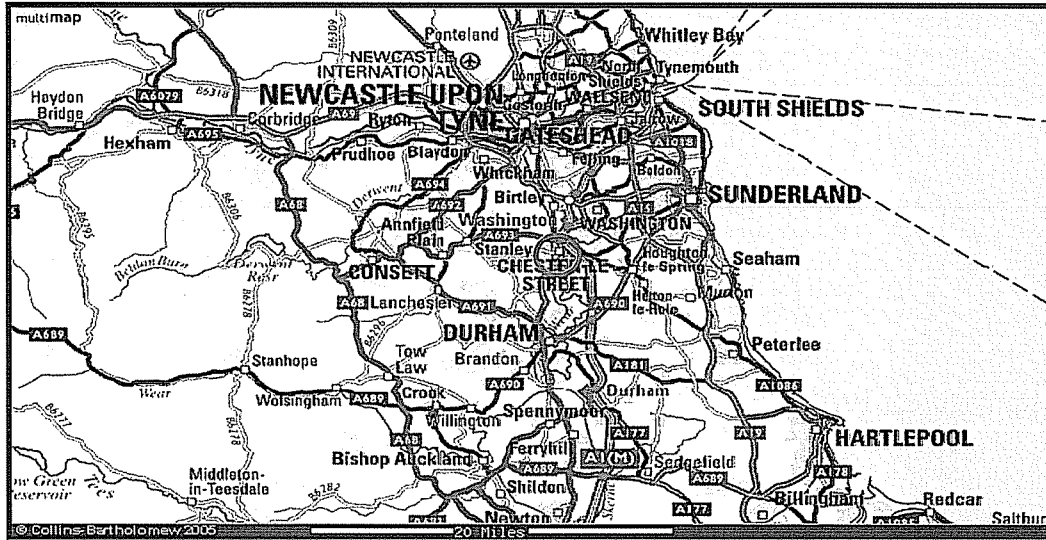


Fig.A2.1: Location of Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham

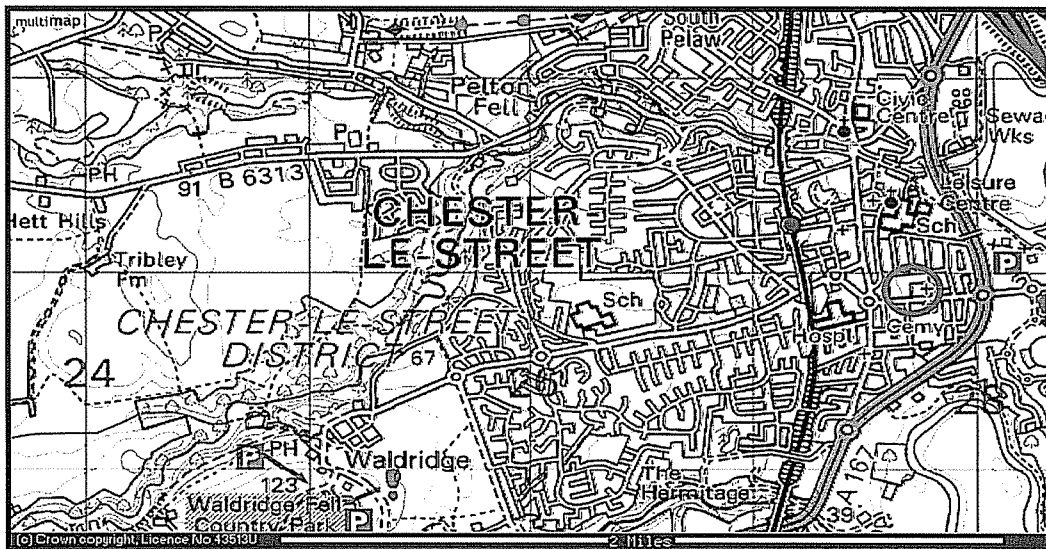
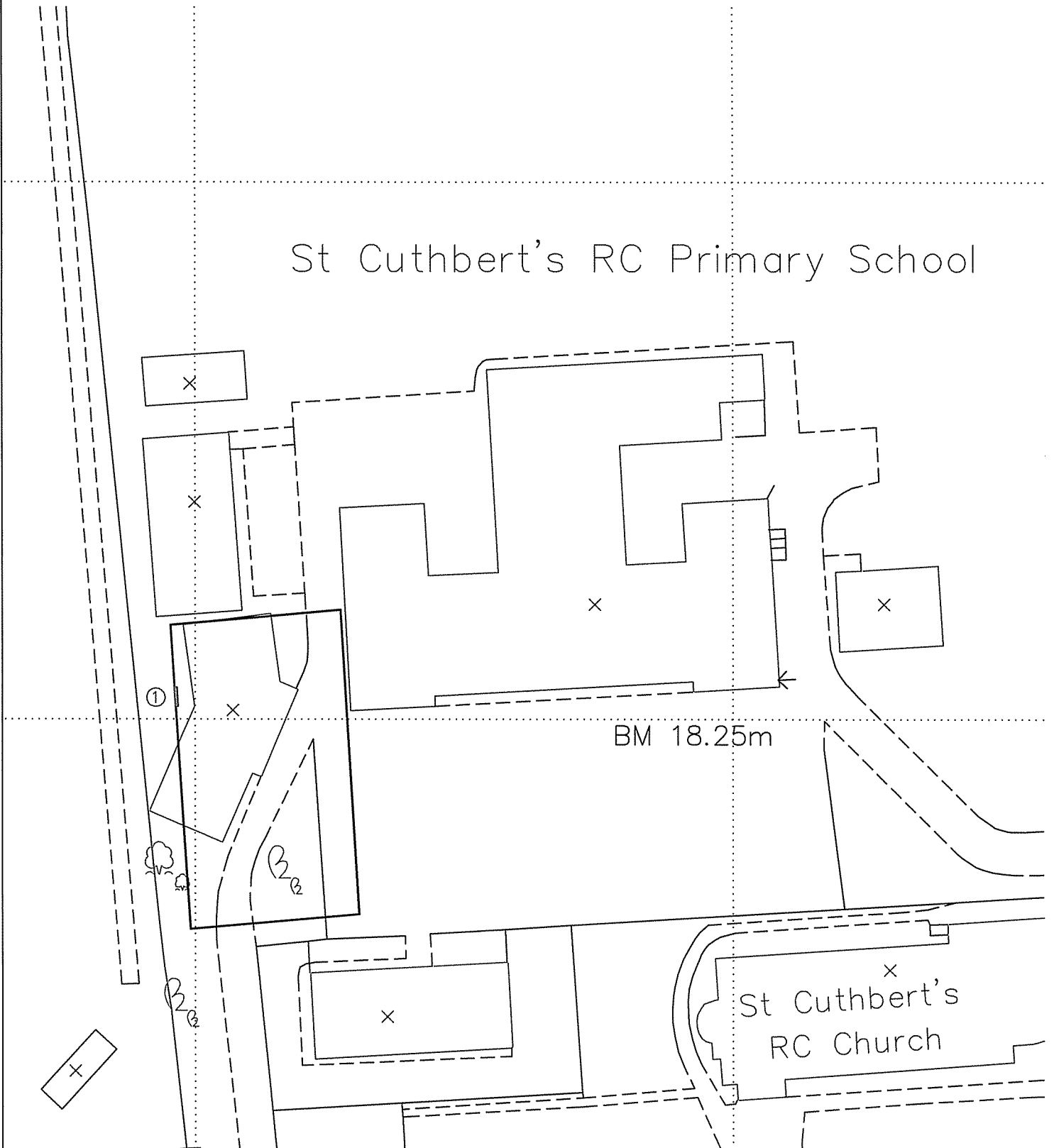




Fig.A2.2: Location of St Cuthbert's Primary School Chester-le-Street, (NZ 27705089)

# St Cuthbert's RC Primary School



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KEY:

-  = EXCAVATED BUILDING FOOT PRINT
-  = LOCATION OF SAMPLE SECTION



**IAN FARMER ASSOCIATES**

Geotechnical & Environmental Specialists

PROJECT TITLE  
St Cuthbert RC Primary School

CLIENT  
Burridge

ENGINEER  
Archaeological Services

SCALE 1:500 A4	DRAWN BY OS / IJS	JOB NO 11016
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DATE 20.01.07	REV 19.09.07	DRAWING NO A1.3
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**APPENDIX 3**

**STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX FOR SAMPLE SECTION 1**





**IAN FARMER  
ASSOCIATES**

Geotechnical & Environmental Specialists

Contract Name: St Cuthberts, Chester-le-Street

Contract No: 11016

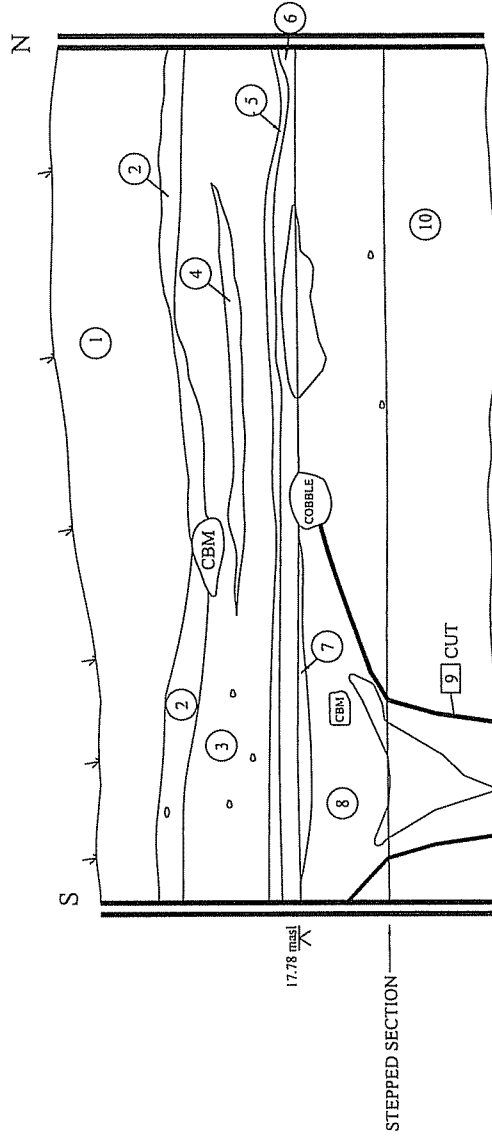
Stratigraphic Matrix : Sample Section

Feature/s	Context	Event / Date	Period
Deposit	1	Imported Topsoil	
Deposit	2	Made up ground	
Deposit	3	Soil accumulation	<b>Post Class room block (20th cent)</b>
Deposit	4	Clay lens	
Deposit	3	Soil accumulation	
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
Deposit	5	Gravel path/surface	
Deposit	6	Soil accumulation	<b>Early school phase (19th-20th cent.)</b>
Deposit	7	Occupation debris	
<hr style="border-top: 1px dashed black;"/>			
Deposit	8	Land drain backfill	
Cut	9	Land drain	<b>Pre School phase</b>
Deposit	10	Weathered natural clay	
Deposit	11	Natural clay	

**Fig. A3.1** Stratigraphic matrix of sample section

**APPENDIX 4**  
**DRAWING OF SAMPLE SECTION 1**

SAMPLE SECTION



CONTRACT NAME / No. St Cuthberts, Chester le Street, 11016

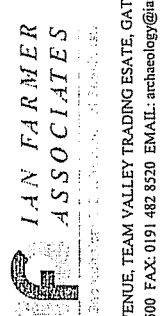
NOTES: SAMPLE SECTION  
 CBM = CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL  
 [X] = CUT CONTEXT NUMBER  
 (X) = DEPOSIT NUMBER

DRAWN BY / DATE: IJS, 16th January 2007

CHECKED BY / DATE: IJS, 25th January 2007

DEPT. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES:

DRAWING No. / SCALE: A4.1, 1:10 @ A3



IAN FARMER ASSOCIATES  
 2000 RUSHBURY ROAD, CHESTER LE STREET, LEEDS, LS2 9PL, UK  
 JNTT 1, BAMBURGH COURT, 1ST AVENUE, TEAM VALLEY TRADING ESATE, GATESHEAD, TYNE & WEAR, NE11 0TX  
 TELEPHONE : 0191 482 8500 FAX: 0191 482 8520 EMAIL: archaeology@ianfarmerassociates.co.uk

**APPENDIX 5**  
**PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**



**IAN FARMER  
ASSOCIATES**

Geotechnical & Environmental Specialists

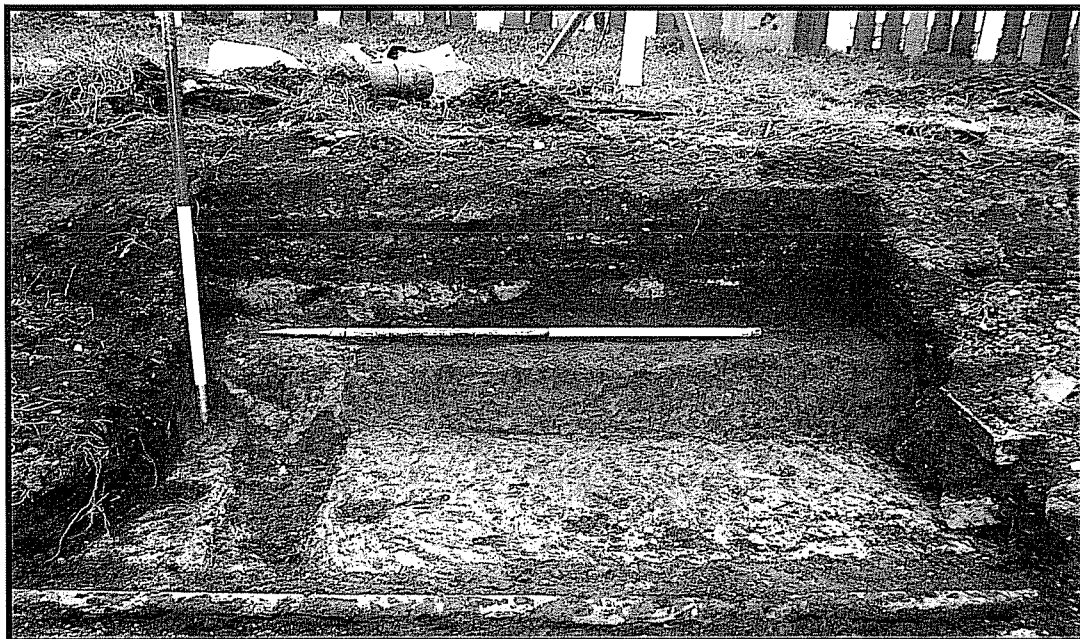
Contract Name: St Cuthberts, RC Primary School,  
Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham DH3 3PH

Contract No.:11016

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD



**Fig. A5.1 General view of excavated building footprint looking North**



**Fig. A5.2 Detail of sample section looking West, 1m scales**

**APPENDIX 6**

**OASIS**

# OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

[List of Projects](#) | [Search Projects](#) | [New project](#) | [Change your details](#) | [HER coverage](#) | [Change country](#) | [Log out](#)

**Printable version**

**OASIS ID: ianfarme1-33065**

## Project details

Project name St Cuthberts RC Primary School, Chester-le-Street DH3 3PH

Short description of the project A watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a new building footprint within a primary school yard. It was subsequently found that the original ground surface had been truncated and there was no evidence of archaeological deposits other than 19th century field drains.

Project dates Start: 01-02-2007 End: 28-02-2007

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes 11016 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes 06/00291/FUL - Planning Application No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Community Service 1 - Community Buildings

Monument type SCHOOL Modern

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Planning condition

## Project location

Country England

Site location DURHAM CHESTER LE STREET CHESTER LE STREET St Cuthberts, RC Primary School

Postcode DH3 3PH

Study area 150.00 Square metres

Site coordinates NZ 2770 5089 54.8519526316 -1.568518614840 54 51 07 N 001 34 06 W Point

Height OD Min: 17.00m Max: 19.00m

## Project creators

Name of Ian Farmer Associates

## Organisation

Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body

Project design originator Durham County Council

Project director/manager Ian James Stewart

Project supervisor Ian James Stewart

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Burridge

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Durham CC Archive

Digital Archive ID 11016

Digital Contents 'other'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography','Text'

Paper Archive recipient Durham CC Archive

Paper Archive ID 11016

Paper Contents 'other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Correspondence','Map','Matrices','Photograph','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title A watching brief at St Cuthberts Primary School, Chester-le-Street DH3 3PH

Author(s)/Editor(s) Ian J Stewart

Other bibliographic details 11016

Date 2007

Issuer or publisher Ian Farmer Associates

Place of issue or publication Team Valley, Gateshead

Description A4, spiral bound, laminated covers with logos, word processed with maps, drawings



and colour photograph prints,

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Entered on 30 October 2007

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