

THE FORMER AUCTION MART, GILSLAND, NORTHUMBERLAND

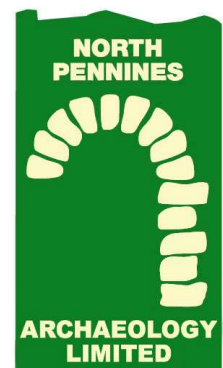


WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned E.C. Ridley & Son, Builders and Contractors, to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks relating to the housing development at The Former Auction Mart, Gilsland, Brampton, Cumbria (NGR NY 63658 66326). Lancaster University Archaeological Unit undertook an archaeological evaluation of the area in 1999. The results of this evaluation were subsequently used to inform the detailed layout of the housing development enabling areas of highest archaeological potential to be avoided by the development. The evaluation identified that the site had been subject to significant levels of truncation in the modern period; archaeological horizons had been almost wholly removed within the southern area of the evaluation site, with only a discreet area in the south-eastern corner of site identified as containing archaeological deposits. The evaluation report correctly identified that there remained some potential for the survival of significant 'cut' features (such as pits or ditches) within the development area, and in order that such archaeological features were not impacted or destroyed without first being recorded an archaeological watching brief with provision for localised excavation be undertaken in association with this development. As a result, the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team granted planning consent for the development (Planning Ref. No: 20070366), on the condition that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken during the groundworks associated with the housing development. The watching brief was required as the site lies partially within the boundary of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and Scheduled Monument and is therefore within an area of considerable archaeological sensitivity, which identified the site to be of archaeological interest.

The watching brief monitoring was undertaken in two key phases. The first phase commenced on 16th June 2010 and continued for four days until 22nd June 2010. The second phase took place on 14th July 2010. The first phase related to the controlled stripping of the area of the site to the east of the Station hotel, and the excavation of the foundation trenches for four houses and the site boundary wall. Phase two comprised the excavation of Trench 4, in which a stone culvert of later post-medieval date was uncovered.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the development of a new housing development, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the high archaeological potential of the area, it is recommended that any future work be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank John Ridley, Manager of E.C. Ridley and Son, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. NPA Ltd would also like to thank Northumberland County Council Conservation Team, for all their assistance throughout the project.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to the site staff of E.C. Ridley and Son for their help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Natalie Ward. Natalie Ward wrote the report and the drawings were produced by Natalie Ward. The project was managed by Frank Giecco, Project Manager for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Frank Giecco, Project Manager for NPA Ltd. Final edits were completed by Megan Stoakley.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In June 2010, North Pennines Archaeology were invited by E.C. Ridley and Son, to maintain an archaeological watching brief at the site of The Former Auction Mart, Gilsland, Northumberland (NGR NY 63658 66326; Figure 1), during groundworks associated with the housing development. The proposed works lie partially within the boundary of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and Scheduled Monument and is therefore within an area of considerable archaeological sensitivity. A previous archaeological evaluation had been undertaken by Lancaster University Archaeological Unit in 1999, which identified that the site had been subject to significant levels of truncation in the modern period; archaeological horizons had been almost wholly removed within the southern area of the evaluation site, with only a discreet area in the south-eastern corner of site identified as containing archaeological deposits. The evaluation report correctly identified that there remained some potential for the survival of significant 'cut' features (such as pits or ditches) within the development area, and in order that such archaeological features were not impacted or destroyed without first being recorded an archaeological watching brief with provision for localised excavation be undertaken in association with this development. As a result, the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team requested that all ground reduction be subject to a programme of archaeological observation and investigation. This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16).
- 1.1.2 All groundworks associated with the housing development had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2002), and were consistent with the specification provided by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. (Giecco 2010) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the monitoring works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by E.C. Ridley, for an archaeological watching brief of the study area. Following acceptance of the project design by Northumberland County Council Conservation Team, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (IfA 2002).

2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
- to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
- to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
- to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
- to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital, 35mm colour slide and monochrome formats as applicable, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;
- to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage

1991) and MoRPHE standards (English Heritage 2006).

2.2.3 The watching brief was undertaken in two key phases; the mechanical stripping of turf, topsoil and subsoil was monitored over a period of four days between 16th to 22nd June 2010. Phase two of the watching brief, undertaken on 14th July 2010, comprised the monitoring of foundation trenches for site boundary walls. A stone culvert of later post-medieval date was uncovered in Trench 4. No archaeological remains were observed. A summary of the findings of the watching brief is included within this report.

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2007). The archive will be deposited at Woodhorn Archives, Northumberland, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Morpeth, Northumberland, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA10, GIL-A, CP 01160/10.

2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology, and Northumberland County Council, support the **Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS)** project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project. The unique OASIS identification number for this archive comprises northpen-169788.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 The site of the Former Auction Mart is on the eastern edge of the village of Gilsland. The village of Gilsland lies on the county border between Northumberland and Cumbria, on the watershed between two major river systems. The River Irthing flows through the village from the Northumberland National Park to the north-east and eventually flows out into the River Eden, and the Tipalt Burn runs through the village of Haltwhistle 8.6km to the east of Gilsland (Countryside Commission 1998). The village of Gilsland lies approximately 30km east of Carlisle and 34km west of Hexham, within a narrow, but distinctive, lowland corridor, between the North Pennines AONB to the south and Spadeadam Forest to the north (Countryside Commission 1998). To the north of the village is an area of land known as Bewcastle Waste, characterised by upland moorland, with mixed heather, rough grasslands, blanket bog and a network of small streams and mosses. The site lies at a height of approximately 140m AOD. The site of the proposed housing development has previously been occupied by structures belonging to an Auction Mart. The land to the east of the development area is occupied by houses and to the west by the former Station Hotel. The development area forms a block of land to the east and south of the former Station Hotel, and consists of an area of waste ground, partly covered in concrete and tarmac, partly overgrown with grass and vegetation, and partly used for the grazing of sheep. The remains of the Auction Mart that originally occupied the site have since been demolished. The area is shown in Figure 2.
- 3.1.2 The underlying geology consists of sedimentary rocks of the Carboniferous age, a repetitive succession of limestones, sandstones and shales belonging to the Upper Limestone Groups (Countryside Commission 1998). The overlying soils consist of melt out debris and fluvio-glacial deposits dating from the Devensian period, predominantly boulder clay and till (SSEW 1984).

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 Introduction: this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area.
- 3.2.3 Roman: Since at least the 19th century there has been much interest in the Roman period remains situated around Gilsland, including most notably

Hadrian's Wall, the Vallum and the Stanegate. The Stanegate, a stone military road that linked Roman forts at Carlisle and Corbridge, made the most of the areas natural topography, passing through the natural gap formed by the river valleys of the Tyne and Irthing Rivers. Initially it was not a frontier road being built c. AD 71-74, with the Roman frontier not moving south to the Tyne-Solway isthmus until AD 105 (Shotter 1997). A number of forts were built along the road, at one day marching intervals to protect the movement of troops and supplies. Within the Gilsland area there are two of these forts, Vindolanda to the east and Nether Denton to the west (Breeze and Dobson 2000).

- 3.2.4 Once the Stanegate had become the Northern Frontier of the Empire the number of forts along the Stanegate was increased, with forts being placed between existing forts, meaning that forts now existed within half a days march of each other. There are many of these forts within the Gilsland area, including Newborough, Haltwhistle Burn, Carvoran, Throp and Brampton Old Church. It has been suggested that in order to maintain effective border control a number of watchtowers would have been essential, with five possible watchtower sites within the Gilsland area, at Pike Hill, Birdoswald, Walltown Crag, Mains Rigg and Barcombe. The forts and watchtowers were originally built of wood, but as the frontier system established its permanence along the line the forts were rebuilt of stone c. AD 103-105 (ibid).
- 3.2.5 Work on the construction of Hadrian's Wall was commenced under the direction of the Roman governor of Britain Aulus Platorius Nepos between AD122 and AD 126 (Margry 1973; Collingwood Bruce 1978). It is not clear when the wall was completed other than it was complete by the end of the reign of Emperor Hadrian. As well as the defence of the stone wall itself, a defensive Roman Military V-shaped ditch was constructed along the front of the wall. The original plan was to keep the forts of the Stanegate, despite the fact that the wall was some miles to the north of the military road, and only secure the wall itself with Turrets and Milecastles. The still visible remains of the Poltross Burn Milecastle are less than a mile from the site of the Former Auction Mart in Gilsland (LUAU 199a). By AD 124 the plan had been changed and 12 new forts were built along the wall at fairly regularly 12km intervals, some replacing existing milecastles or turrets (Breeze and Dobson 2000). The section of the Wall that extends through Gilsland itself was probably removed to assist with the construction of Thirlwall castle in the medieval period, although a short section of wall remains visible in the vicarage garden and a section surviving to the west of Gilsland is one of the best preserved sections in the whole of Cumbria (LUAU 1999a, Collingwood Bruce 1978).

3.2.6 Shortly after the construction of Hadrian's Wall had commenced a large earthwork, known as the Vallum, was constructed along the full length of the Wall a short distance to the south. This earthwork consisted of a continuous steep-sided trench, 3m deep and 6m wide and a flat base measuring 2.4m wide. This flat-bottomed ditch was flanked on both sides at a distance of 3m by a bank of earth and turf that stood 6m wide and 3m high. The overall dimension of this entire construction is 36m (Collingwood Bruce 1978). The Vallum is thought to have been constructed at the same time or shortly after the decision was taken to move the forts from the Stanegate to the Wall as in respects the line of the forts, and leaving the ditch uncut and a causeway between the banks to allow a road to reach the forts and milecastles for access, although the numbers of these causeways was rapidly reduced in number from 79 to 14 (ibid; Breeze and Dobson 2000).

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

3.3.1 There have been numerous excavations and investigations in the immediate area around Gilsland from the 19th century to the present day. However, not many of these investigations have been fully published and most excavations were confined to Birdoswald fort approximately 2km west of Gilsland, excavations took place in 1987 to 1992 and 1997 to 1999 (Wilmott 1997). However, a number of investigations have occurred within Gilsland, with one investigation on the actual site of the Former Auction Mart itself. These investigations are outlined below.

3.3.2 A large scale excavation, close to Gilsland was undertaken in 1910 on the Stanegate fort at Throp (Simpson 1913; Birley 1961; Collingwood Bruce 1978). The fort had similar dimensions to the fort at Haltwhistle Burn, having entrances on the north-east and south-east-sides, the latter leading to the Stanegate approximately 80m away. Based on the pottery assemblage found inside the fort, it was thought that the fort is Hadrianic in date, presumably fitting with the Stanegate construction. The line of the Stanegate was also examined in 1910 (Simpson 1913). A crossing point was discovered over Poltross Burn east of Throp fort, and the road was traced for 75 feet (22.5m). Excavations near to the burn revealed that the outer edge of the road had been levelled up with clay, upon a foundation of large stones. The line postulated by Simpson is the line currently marked on the present day Ordnance Survey (OS) map.

3.3.3 A geophysical survey and archaeological evaluation was undertaken on the site of the Former Auction Mart, Gilsland by the University of Lancaster Archaeological Unit in 1999 in advance of the proposed housing development. This land is to the south of the Station Hotel, and to the north of Hadrian's Wall (LUAU 1999a). At the southern area of the site a small

-
- amount of evidence was uncovered for the northern counterscarp of Hadrian's Wall, but it was found that the Auction Mart structures had destroyed most of the archaeological evidence in the area (LUAU 1999a).
- 3.3.4 Archaeological works prior to the opening of the long distance Hadrian's Wall Footpath saw a number of watching briefs undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North (OAN), formally LUAU, at Gilsland. The watching briefs showed that no archaeological remains relating to the Wall were visible, however the work only concerned the excavation of small holes for the insertion of fences, kissing gates and signposts (e.g. LUAU 1999b).
- 3.3.5 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken on land at Eastwood Villa in Gilsland, in 2004 by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. (Jones 2004). Although the site was within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, no significant archaeological features or deposits of the Roman period were encountered during these excavations, although a straight-sided narrow feature containing wood and fragments of 19th and 20th century pottery was discovered at the east of the trench.
- 3.3.6 Oxford Archaeology North carried out an evaluation on land to the south of Gilsland in 2004, across the course of the Vallum and the supposed line of the Stanegate. In total, four trenches were excavated. It showed that whilst the majority of the proposed development area had been truncated by ploughing or been deliberately destroyed, a number of archaeological features survived. Trench 4 uncovered a large bank of re-deposited natural gravel approximately 5m across. This was tentively identified as the south mound of the Vallum. Trench 2, uncovered a large compacted stone/cobble surface, which could possibly be the line of the Stanegate, however further examination of the surface would be required to confirm this (Town 2004).
- 3.3.7 An archaeological watching brief was carried out in 2006 by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. at Crantock House, Gilsland, an area of land located within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, between Hadrian's Wall to the north and Hadrian's Wall Vallum to the south, and within the Roman Military zone, with the predicted line of a Roman road lying just to the south of the watching brief area (Sowerby 2006). However, despite monitoring all foundation trenches no archaeological deposits were encountered.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The watching brief monitoring was undertaken in two key phases. The first phase commenced on 16th June 2010 and continued for four days until 22nd June 2010. The second phase took place on 14th July 2010. The first phase related to the controlled stripping of the area of the site to the east of the Station hotel, and the excavation of the foundation trenches for four houses and the site boundary wall. Phase two comprised the excavation of Trench 4, in which a stone culvert of later post-medieval date was uncovered.

4.2 PHASE 1: AREA OF LAND TO THE EAST OF THE STATION HOTEL

4.2.1 Phase 1 of the watching brief covered the controlled stripping of deposits on the area of land to the east of the Station Hotel. In some areas this involved the stripping of turf and topsoil, and in other areas it involved the stripping of concrete and sub-base or tarmac (Figure 2). This work was carried out over 4 days, between 16th June 2010 and 22nd June 2010.

4.2.2 *Days One – Four:* The topsoil and turf was stripped by a JCB 3cx with a back-hoe, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket 0.90m wide. The topsoil (100) comprised loose, dark brown, silty clayey sand with frequent inclusions of cobbles, pebbles and modern rubbish, and was present across the site to an average depth of 0.25m, although the exact depth varied across the site. Beneath the topsoil was subsoil (102), a mid-brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of cobbles and pebbles, its depth varied across site but was on average 0.30m deep. Below the subsoil the natural drift geology (101), a loose, reddish brown, sandy gravel, was visible. No archaeological features were noted.



Plate 1: Topsoil stripping on day one, looking east

4.2.3 The concrete **(105)**, sub-base **(104)** and tarmac **(106)** were stripped by a JCB 3cx with a back-hoe, fitted with a pecker and then with a toothed ditching bucket 0.90m wide. Beneath these modern surfaces mixed topsoil **(100)** was visible, with natural substrate **(101)** below the topsoil.



Plate 2: Area of concrete partly broken up and lifted to reveal sub-base on day two

- 4.2.4 After the completion of the surface strip of the area work began on the excavation of the foundation trenches for the four, two-storey, three bedroom terrace houses that will occupy this area of the site, and for the boundary wall surrounding the site. This was undertaken with a JCB 3cx with a back-hoe, fitted with a toothed ditching bucket 0.60m wide.
- 4.2.5 Trench One was excavated for the site boundary wall, it followed the natural curve of the site dictated by the modern road corner opposite The Samson Inn and the existing houses, and was approximately 40.0m long, 0.90m wide and on average was 0.25m deep (See Figure 3). This trench cut through topsoil (**100**), revealing the natural substrate (**101**) below. No archaeological features were noted.



Plate 3: Trench One looking south on day one

4.2.6 Trench Two was excavated on the higher ground immediately to the west of Trench One. For the shape of this trench please refer to Figure 3. This trench was 0.60m wide, and 0.90m deep, and covered an area 12.75m long and 8.10m wide. Trench Two cut through topsoil (**100**), revealing the natural substrate (**101**) below. The only feature observed was a stone drain/ culvert in the east facing section of the west side of the trench. This was only observed in section, not in plan, and had fragments of post-medieval and modern pottery associated with it.



Plate 4: Western edge of Trench Two looking north on day three



Plate 5: Stone drain/culvert observed in east facing section of western edge of Trench Two on day three

4.2.7 Trench Three was excavated on the lower ground opposite The Samson Inn and the existing houses. This trench was the same shape in plan as Trench Two, but its dimensions varied slightly. This trench was 0.60m wide and 0.30m deep, and covered an area 12.45m long and 8.10m wide (See Figure 3). Trench Three cut through topsoil (**100**), revealing the natural substrate (**101**) below. No other archaeological features were observed.



Plate 6: Trench Three looking west on day four



Plate 7: Trench Three looking north-east on day four

4.2.8 **Day Five:** On day five turf, topsoil (101) and subsoil (102) was stripped by mechanical excavator in a strip approximately 3.50m wide and 25.0m long, along the length of the current boundary wall on the east of the site adjacent to the road. Within this stripped area Trench Four was excavated (Plate 8). Trench Four was added to join the southern end of Trench One. This trench was of the same depth and width as Trench One, as it was excavated for the same purpose, for the foundations of the new site boundary wall. Trench Four was to be approximately 25.0m in length. However, approximately 4.0m from the proposed end of Trench Four a stone lined culvert was encountered directly in the path of where Trench Four was to be excavated, so excavation had to be halted (Plate 9). The stone culvert was constructed of roughly shaped sandstone blocks, five courses high with a flagstone base covered in what appeared to be bitumen and capped with sandstone flagstones. The culvert was 0.92m wide and 0.63m deep (Plate 10). Modern pottery found associated with the culvert suggested it was of no great age and date to the Late 19th or Early 20th Century. No other archaeological features were observed.



Plate 8: Trench Four looking south on day five



Plate 9: Stone lined culvert encountered on day five during the excavation of Trench Four



Plate 10: Stone lined culvert encountered on day five during the excavation of Trench Four

4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

4.3.1 No archaeological finds were recovered, and no environmental samples were retained during the groundworks.

5 CONCLUSIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

5.1.1 The watching brief monitoring was undertaken in two key phases. The first phase commenced on 16th June 2010 and continued for four days until 22nd June 2010. The second phase took place on 14th July 2010. The first phase related to the controlled stripping of the area of the site to the east of the Station hotel, and the excavation of the foundation trenches for four houses and the site boundary wall. Phase two comprised the excavation of Trench 4, in which a stone culvert of later post-medieval date was uncovered.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 As this watching brief was conducted as a condition of groundworks associated with the development of seven dwellings and associated garages, no further archaeological work is deemed necessary. However, given the site's location in relation to the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, it is recommended that any work conducted in the future be subject to a similar programme of archaeological investigation.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Natural substrate
102	Deposit	Sub-soil
103	Deposit	Medium to coarse red-orange sand
104	Deposit	Sub-base
105	Deposit	Concrete
106	Deposit	Tarmac

Table 4: List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

Project Design No. 1160/10

**PROJECT DESIGN FOR
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
PROGRAMME OF
STRIP AND RECORD
AT
The former Auction Mart,
Gilsland,
Northumberland**

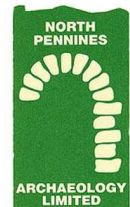
FOR

**E C Ridley and Son
Planning Ref# 20070366**

Frank Giocco BA (hons) Dip Arch, MIFA
North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre,
Nenthead,

10/03/2014

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INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

- 1.1 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. have been invited by E C Ridley and Son, to undertake an archaeological programme of Strip and Record at the former Auction Mart, Gilsland, Northumberland. Planning permission (Planning Ref # 20070366) has been granted for the erection of seven dwellings and associated garages with a condition that a programme of archaeological mitigation is implemented.
- 1.2 The site is located partially within the boundary of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and Scheduled Monument and is therefore within an area of considerable archaeological sensitivity. In recognition of the archaeological potential of the wider development site, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 1999. The results of this evaluation were subsequently used to inform the detailed layout of the present proposal enabling areas of highest archaeological potential to be avoided by the development.
- 1.3 This application site was previously occupied by the Gilsland Auction Mart and has been subject to significant levels of truncation in the modern period. The earlier evaluation exercise (Lancaster University Archaeological Unit 1999) indicated that archaeological horizons had been almost wholly removed within the southern area of the evaluation site, with only a discreet area in the south-eastern corner of site identified as containing archaeological deposits. Nevertheless, as the evaluation report correctly identifies, there is some potential for significant 'cut' features (such as pits or ditches) to survive within the application area. In order to ensure that any such archaeological features are not impacted or destroyed by the development without first being recorded, a programme of archaeological mitigation work (comprising a 'strip and record' watching brief with provision for localised excavation) should be undertaken in association with this development.
- 1.4 Northumberland County Council Conservation Team has requested that a condition should be attached to the planning consent requiring a staged programme of archaeological mitigation work prior to groundwork associated with the development commencing on site. The first stage being a detailed topographical survey has already been undertaken and the results will be appended to the main fieldwork report. As elements of the site are protected as a scheduled ancient monument, the results of the topographical survey were used to define a new fence site to cordon off the scheduled elements of the site. This has been agreed between the Client and Mike Collins of English Heritage and does not form part of this scheme.
- 1.5 This project design is for the programme of strip and record over the development site, and was written in accordance with a 'Brief for a Programme of Staged Archaeological Mitigation Work', provided by NCCCT (dated 25th May 2007), and with the recommendations of English Heritage *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd ed. 1991.

AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The following work programme is submitted in line with the objectives of the archaeological brief detailed above. The fieldwork programme will be followed by an assessment of the data, the process being adopted as set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, 1991).
- 2.1.2 The project will comprise an archaeological programme of Strip and Record , in order to provide information regarding the potential for buried archaeological remains and ecofacts at the site, including their quality, depth and preservation.
- 2.1.3 The archaeological fieldwork will need to be completed prior to the commencement of groundworks required for the proposed development. It may be possible for construction to start on parts of the site where the archaeological fieldwork has been completed while archaeological work continues in other areas; however this must be agreed with NCC Conservation Team, the archaeological contractor and the developer prior to commencement of works.

Strip and Record

- 3.1 The monitoring will comprise a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during a phased programme of ground reduction that will be undertaken over the development area. Reasonable access to the site for the purposes of monitoring will be afforded to the archaeologist(s). The work will be undertaken in accordance with the Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001).
- 3.2 The soil strip shall be undertaken using a mechanical tracked excavator with toothless ditching bucket, and shall be subject to observation by the archaeologist(s). This observation shall involve the systematic examination and accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and artefacts identified. This work shall also involve the archaeologist advising the on-site earthmoving contractors as to when archaeological deposits have been encountered and requesting the stripping operations cease to allow better examination of such deposits, either by the monitoring archaeologist or as an open-area investigation (Section 4). The archaeological areas identified shall be demarcated by fencing to prevent damage to the deposits.
- 3.3 The aims of the monitoring can be summarised as follows:
- To assess the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them; if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project, adequate time will be given to carry out further excavation and recording work within the area that will be disturbed

by the works. This may require open area excavation, or if the remains are small and isolated, the monitoring archaeologist will record the remains without hindering the progress of the strip.

- The area watched by the archaeologist should be accurately tied into the national grid using a total station or GPS at an appropriate scale, and any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
- All archaeological deposits will be sampled and assessed for their environmental potential. The recommended sample sizes for dry deposits being 30-60 litres and for wet deposits the sample sizes should be approximately 5 litres. Artefactual material suitable for dating the features and deposits will be retained;
- A photographic record of all contexts will be taken in colour transparency and black and white print and will include a graduated metric scale.

Archaeological Excavation:

- 4.1 Once the natural substrate or the first archaeological horizon has been encountered, and **if archaeological features are uncovered which are densely concentrated and/or extend over a considerable area**, all subsequent excavation will be by hand, undertaken by a team of archaeologists. All features encountered will be investigated and recorded according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd standard recording procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2001). All fieldwork will be carried out in accordance with codes and practices outlined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists regarding archaeological excavations (IFA 2001). A Harris matrix will be compiled for stratified deposits to provide a detailed record of the stratigraphic sequence will be made, according to the conventions written in the NPA Excavation Manual and in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologist (IFA) and English Heritage guidelines. A contingency for this project has been set at **up to 30 person-days**.
- 4.2 In summary, the main objectives of the excavation will be:
- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they are observed;
 - to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
 - to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.
- 4.3 The sampling of the features shall relate to the excavation of: 100% of ritual or ceremonial features, 50% of domestic and settlement related features, and 20% of linear features, with particular reference being made to examining intersections. Other features and deposits will be excavated as appropriate. All written records will utilise the NPA pro-forma record sheets. Plans and sections will be drawn on water resistant permatrace. Plans will be drawn to a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. A

combination of multi and single context planning will be utilised. A full photographic record in monochrome, colour slide, and digital formats will be maintained. All electronic survey work will be undertaken using a TST and will be transferred into a CAD environment. The site will be levelled with respect to the Ordnance Datum, and the features will be tied into the National Grid.

- 4.4 Significant artefacts will be three-dimensionally recorded, whilst pottery and animal bone will be collected in bulk. Finds will be managed by Frank Giocco. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd will undertake first aid conservation, but if further conservation is required there will be extensive consultation with appropriate specialists.
- 4.5 Should any human remains be encountered, the NCC Conservation Team, the client, the police and the Coroner's office will be informed immediately upon the discovery of the remains. The removal of any human remains will be done under a Section 25 Licence obtained from the Department of Constitutional Affairs and Environmental Health Regulations. The relevant English Heritage guidelines, in particular the recently published '*Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England*' (English Heritage 2005), will be adhered to at all times.
- 4.6 Any environmental evidence found during the work will be sampled in agreement with the NCC Conservation Team and under the guidance of Jacqui Huntley, and undertaken according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd standard environmental sampling procedure. Environmental samples will be processed under the direction of Don O'Mera, NPA Environmental Supervisor, who will also assess any bone recovered during the excavation. The sampling is likely to take the form of bulk samples of 40 litre volume, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines. This is in order to assess the environmental potential of deposits across the site, including the fills of ditches, gullies, pits and postholes, buried soils and occupation layers.
- 4.7 All written records will utilise the NPA pro-forma record sheets. Plans and sections will be drawn on water resistant permatrace. Plans will be drawn to a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. A full photographic record in monochrome and digital formats will be maintained. All electronic survey work will be undertaken using a Trimble 3605DR Geodimeter total station with datalogger and will be transferred into a CAD environment. The site will be levelled with respect to the Ordnance Datum, and the trenches will be tied into the National Grid.

5 Finds

5.1 Finds analysis will be under the direction of Frank Giocco. NPA Ltd will undertake first aid conservation, but if further conservation is required following the production of an assessment report, there will be extensive consultation with appropriate specialists, NCCET and representatives of the client.

5.2 Specialist services to be provided by:

Illustration	Tony Liddell, NPA Ltd
Prehistoric Pottery	Blaize Byner, Archaeological Consultant

Roman Pottery	Louise Hird, Archaeological Consultant
Medieval Pottery	Cathy Brooks, Archaeological Consultant
Post Medieval Pottery	Jo Dawson, Greenlane Archaeology
Lithics	David Jackson, NPA Ltd
Glass	Hugh Wilmott, University of Sheffield
Wood	Ian Tyers, Archaeological Consultant
Leather	Tim Padley, Tullie House Museum
Textiles	Eleanor Palmer (Cumbria Museums Service).
Conservation	Archaeological Services, University of Durham

6 Environmental Samples

- 6.1 Detailed work on environmental samples will take place at the unit's premises at Nenthead. Further specialist services will be utilised at the University of Durham, if required. Environmental samples will be processed under the direction of Don O'Mera, BSc Hons, NPA Environmental Supervisor, in consultation with Jaqui Huntley, English Heritage Regional Scientific Adviser. Patricia Shaw will also assess any animal bone recovered during the evaluation. Human remains will be assessed by Jocelyn Strickland, NPA Archaeologist.
- 6.2 Recommendations will also be made regarding the suitability of recovered organic deposits and ecofacts for radiocarbon dating. This will only be undertaken in consultation with the client and NCCCT.

7. REPORTING AND PUBLICATION

Client Report

- 7.1.1 Each stage of the fieldwork programme will be followed by the production of a client report, the process being adopted as set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, 1991). The report will include details of the planning history of the site, site geology and a summary of the archaeological and historical background, including the topographical survey undertaken by Tsada Design and Build. The report will contain a phased summary of the archaeological sequence encountered at the site, containing brief descriptions of archaeological structures, features and deposits and incorporating details of artefacts or environmental evidence (where sampled). Individual auger records will be included in the Appendix.
- 7.1.2 The report will contain illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs, as necessary. A location plan of the site, at an appropriate scale and

tied into the OS National Grid, will be included. A plan showing the location and layout of the areas of investigation, at an appropriate scale, will also be included.

- 7.1.3 The report will identify areas of defined archaeology, and an assessment and statement of the actual and potential significance of the archaeology will be made within the broader context of regional and national archaeological priorities. The research questions will take into account the themes of the North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Petts & Gerrard 2006). The report will include a discussion of the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site. The NCCCT will be sent one bound and one digital copy of the report.
- 7.1.4 *Confidentiality:* all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

8. PUBLICATION

- 8.1 Depending on results, the findings of the evaluation may be published in summary form in ‘*Archaeology in Northumberland*’.
- 8.2 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd and Northumberland County Council support the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature created as a result of developer-funded archaeological fieldwork. As a result, details of the results of this study will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd, as a part of this national project.

9 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.1 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd is fully compliant with HSE guidance and legislation. It is the duty of all personnel, under the Health and Safety at Work Act etc 1974, to take reasonable care for the health and safety of him/herself and other persons who may be affected by his/her acts or omissions at work. He/she must also co-operate with the Technical Director regarding any duty or requirement imposed on the Technical Director or any other person by or under any of the relevant statutory provisions so far as it is necessary to enable that duty or requirement to be performed or complied with. Any personnel contravening relevant statutory provision may be prosecuted in a Sheriff Court (Scotland) or Magistrates' Court. All personnel taking part in field work have a responsibility to adhere to sensible standards of behaviour. Personnel are made aware that fieldwork activities have inherent hazards which staff members minimise with appropriate safety precautions. However, the potential dangers make it imperative that personnel co-operate by behaving responsibly in order to reduce the risk of accidents.
- 9.2 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd Health and Safety Statement conform to the provisions of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) Health and Safety Manual. Field projects are undertaken according to the SCAUM Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (SCAUM 1986) and according to the North

Pennines Heritage Trust Standard Safety Procedure. Risk assessments are undertaken prior to any fieldwork taking place and staff are fully briefed regarding on site hazards and safe working procedure. Full consideration will be given to health and safety issues during all fieldwork for this project.

10. STAFFING AND COMPANY SUMMARY

- 10.1 The work will be undertaken under the overall direction of Frank Giecco BA (Hons) DipArch MifA, NPA Director. The strip and record will be undertaken by an NPA Project Supervisor, assisted by a Project Assistant (**if required**), to be confirmed; all NPA staff are experienced field archaeologists with an extensive background in the archaeology of Northern England.
- 10.2 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd is the archaeological contracting division of North Pennines Heritage Trust, a registered charity. The company has a fully staffed professional field team and is highly experienced in the assessment and recording of archaeological sites and monuments throughout the north of England. Based in Nenthead, Cumbria, the company has considerable experience extending over more than fifteen years of archaeological investigation.
- 10.3 The North Pennines Heritage Trust (NPHT) has been actively engaged in conservation and interpretation works at sites throughout the North Pennines since its formation in 1987. The Trust maintains an active role in the care and conservation of the historic buildings and industrial remains within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Nenthead Mines lead mining complex; NPA is actively involved in the Trust's numerous other projects.

11 WORK TIMETABLE

- 11.1 The project can be implemented within 5 working days after the acceptance of the project design by NCCCT.
- 11.2 The report detailing the results of the fieldwork in conjunction with suitable recommendations will be submitted to our client within approximately three weeks of completion of fieldwork.
- 11.3 Copies of this report will be deposited within Northumberland SMR and the NPA archive no later than one month following the completion of all fieldwork.

12 ARCHIVE, OWNERSHIP AND STORAGE OF FINDS

- 12.1 The site archive will be prepared to the standard specification in the Management of Archaeological Projects, appendix 3 (1991), and Brown, DH, 2007, *Archaeological Archives A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*. All finds belong to the landowner, but initially they will be transferred to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd's premises at Nenthead. Agreement will be sought on the final deposition of finds prior to the fieldwork commencing.

- 12.2 During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts will be stored in the appropriate conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this will include controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable materials). All work will be carried out in compliance with IFA Guidelines for Finds Work and those set by UKIC. Ultimately it is recommended that the curation of both finds and the site archive should be vested in Woodhorn Archives

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APPENDIX 3: FIGURES
