
North Pennines Archaeology Ltd

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT HALTON EAST FARM, NORTHUMBERLAND

on behalf of

**ALSTON MURPHY
ASSOCIATES**

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SUMMARY

Between November 2005 and August 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. undertook archaeological monitoring at Halton East Farm, Halton Shields, Northumbria, at the request of the client, Alston Murphy Associates. This work was undertaken during the development of the site, which included alterations and extensions to existing buildings, and associated works including the provision of services.

The farm is located on the course of Hadrian's Wall, and much of the development falls within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Hadrian's Wall and Vallum. Previous archaeological evaluations at the site have successfully located Hadrian's Wall and the Roman Military Way.

Groundworks at the site revealed a number of archaeological features, which were recorded as part of the archaeological watching brief. These included two possible sections of Hadrian's Wall, which were located close to the modern ground surface.

A number of post-medieval features were recorded, including a substantial yard surface and several boundary walls. The yard contained the foundations of a 20th century barn, which has since been demolished. All of the finds recovered during the project were post-medieval or modern.

Given the apparent proximity of Hadrian's Wall to the ground surface, it is recommended that the possible remains of the Wall and the post-medieval yard are preserved *in situ*, and that any future groundwork in this area should also be subject to archaeological monitoring. Further archaeological excavation would be required in order to establish whether the two observed sections of wall were indeed parts of Hadrian's Wall.

North Pennines Archaeology is grateful to the owners and contractors at Halton East Farm for facilitating the project, and to Mike Collins (English Heritage), Karen Derham (Northumberland County Council) and Jenny Green (Tynedale District Council).

1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION (*Figure 1*)

- 1.1 Between November 2005 and August 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd, commissioned by Alston Murphy Associates, undertook an archaeological watching brief at Halton East Farm, Halton Shields, Northumbria. This was conducted during a development at the site, which involved the conversion and extension of farm buildings into three residential units (Units 1-3), the conversion of a garage block, and associated works including the provision of services (NCCCT ref T51/2; 3151, planning ref: 20040292).
- 1.2 The site is situated at Halton Shields, which is located 2.5km southeast of Great Whittington, on the route of the B6318. The development area is situated on the east side of Halton East Farm.
- 1.3 The property is located on the course of Hadrian's Wall and although much of the development area is not scheduled (falling under Northumberland County Councils remit), the eastern and southern parts of the development are located within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Hadrian's Wall and Vallum. Previous archaeological investigations have successfully located Hadrian's Wall, the Roman military Way and a range of other features thought to belong to the Roman period (The Archaeological Practice 2000b, 2001).
- 1.4 The most important remains, including the Wall itself, are considered to be archaeological remains of national significance, and as a consequence, it is considered that their preservation must be ensured within the development. Following detailed discussions, it has been possible to vary the layout and design of the development to enable the most important archaeological remains to be preserved *in situ*. This has been achieved through the use of shallow strip and raft foundations, and the provision of services at a specified depth in areas where they are less likely to impact on significant archaeological remains.
- 1.5 This watching brief was conducted in accordance with a project design and written scheme of investigation produced by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. (Ref. CP 242/05), a brief supplied by Karen Derham, Assistant County Archaeologist, Northumberland County Council (Ref # T51/2; 3151), and in consultation with Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist, English Heritage
- 1.6 Fieldwork was conducted by Marc Johnstone, Kevin Mounsey and Martin Sowerby between 22nd November 2005 and 21st August 2006. Post-excavation work was conducted by Patricia Crompton and Kevin Mounsey. This report was prepared and illustrated by Martin Railton (Project Officer) between 4th and 8th September 2006.

2 LANDUSE, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY (Figure 2)

2.1 Landuse

2.1.1 At the time of the watching brief, the proposed development area comprised approximately 0.25ha of land, bounded by the B6318 road to the north, drystone walls to the south and east, and Halton East Farm to the west (Figure 2). The development area contained two ranges of former farm buildings, with a yard between them. A small garden/paddock was located to the south of these buildings.

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The site was predominantly level, with a mean elevation of 197m OD. The ground sloped downhill slightly to the south. However the natural topography has been obscured in this area due to a build up of garden soil at the southern boundary of the site.

2.2.2 The site lies on the course of Hadrian's Wall, Military Way and Vallum. Although the Wall does not survive at ground level in the vicinity of the development, the earthworks of the Vallum are clearly visible in neighbouring fields to the southeast of the site

2.3 Geology

2.3.1 The solid geology of the area comprises Carboniferous Millstone grits overlain by glacial deposits of bolder clay (British Geological Survey 2001).

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The Prehistoric Period (up to AD 70)

3.1.1 There is no direct evidence for prehistoric activity at Halton Shields. However it is likely that the area was exploited in the Bronze Age and Iron Age. It is possible that traces of prehistoric agriculture may survive, particularly if sealed beneath Roman features. A standing stone of probable Bronze Age date is located 2km to the northeast of Halston Shields.

3.2 The Roman Period (AD 70 to 5th Century)

3.2.1 Hadrian's Wall was constructed in the early 2nd century on a line connecting the Tyne and the Solway and represented at various times the northern frontier of Roman Britain. As a whole it represents one of the best-preserved frontiers of the Roman Empire. The Wall was a composite military barrier, which in its final form, comprised several separate elements; a stone wall fronted by a V-shaped ditch, and a number of purpose-built stone garrison fortifications such as forts, milecastles and turrets. A large earthwork and ditch, built parallel with and to the south of the Wall, known as the Vallum, and a metalled supply road linking the garrison forts, which is known as the 'Roman Military Way'. The Wall begins in the east at Wallsend in Tyneside and

continues to the west terminating at Bowness-on-Solway in Cumbria, a distance of 80 Roman miles (73.5 English miles or 117 kilometres). The Wall, conceived by Hadrian was to be ten feet wide and about fifteen feet high. The front face of the wall most likely sported a crenulated parapet, behind which the soldiers patrolled along a paved rampart-walk (Bedoyere 1998).

3.2.2 Halton East Farm lies immediately south of the Military Way, and parts of the farmstead are constructed on top of both Hadrian's Wall and the Military Way (see Section 3.6 below). The B6318 overlies the defensive ditch on the north side of the Wall. The exact location of the Vallum within the development area is uncertain, but it is likely that it was situated on the south side of the Farm, aligned east-west. Haltonshields is located just to the west of Milecastle 20, which would have housed Roman soldiers whose purpose was to patrol, and control access through, the Wall.

3.3 *The Medieval Period (5th Century to 1540)*

In the medieval period the surrounding area was predominantly rural, and was occupied by a number of small agricultural villages and hamlets including Whittington and Halton. The deserted medieval village of Shildon is believed to have been located 0.5km southeast of Halton Shields. Medieval ridge and furrow earthworks have been identified to the southwest of the development area.

3.4 *The Post-medieval Period (1540 to 1899)*

3.4.1 The earliest reference to a permanent settlement at Halton Shields comes from a survey of 1524. The earliest surviving stone buildings in the hamlet are the farmhouse and outbuildings which may be 17th century in date.

3.4.2 The 1st edition Ordnance Survey map suggests that the present layout of buildings at Halton East Farm has remained largely unchanged since at least 1864. This map also shows a small enclosed yard on the south side of the north range of buildings (Unit 1).

3.4.3 During the 18th and 19th centuries farming and industry developed in the area. A number of post-medieval coal shafts can be seen in fields to the north of Halton Shields. At Halton East Farm a horse-powered engine was situated on the east side of the farmhouse. This has since been demolished (www.keystothepast.info).

3.5 *The Modern Period (1900 to present)*

3.5.1. In the early 19th century Halton Shields consisted of two rows of facing buildings. A Chapel existed to the north of Halton East Farm (www.keystothepast.info).

3.6 *Previous Archaeological Investigations*

3.6.1 A previous planning application at Halton East Farm (planning ref: 200110260) was the subject of an archaeological assessment (The Archaeological Practice 2000a), and two phases of archaeological evaluation (The Archaeological Practice 2000b & 2001). The archaeological investigations successfully located Hadrian's Wall, the Roman military Way and a range of other features thought to belong to the Roman period.

- 3.6.2 The locations of previous evaluation trenches are shown in Figure 2. As a direct consequence of these investigations it has been possible to vary the layout and design of the development to enable the most important archaeological remains to be preserved *in situ*.
- 3.6.3 Hadrian's Wall was successfully located in Evaluation Trench 5a at a depth of 0.5m below ground level. This lay below a sandstone yard surface and a layer of clayey silt. The lowest course of the wall was 3.15m wide, with large faced external stones and a roughly hewn stone and clay core (The Archaeological Practice 2001). Hadrian's Wall was also identified in Trench 1, but was less well preserved (The Archaeological Practice 2000b).
- 3.6.4 A surface composed of large sandstone slabs and believed to be the Roman Military Way was detected in Trench 2B (The Archaeological Practice 2000b). The possible remains of the north mound of the Vallum were revealed in Trench 6 although there was no dating evidence to substantiate this. An undated structure in Trench 5b consisted of a crudely constructed wall, and was interpreted as being medieval or Roman (The Archaeological Practice 2001).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

4.1.1 A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. The aims of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- To observe and record archaeological remains should they occur within the defined watching brief area;
- To establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains as far as possible within the remit of the archaeological watching brief condition;
- To recover artefactual material, especially where useful for dating purposes;
- To recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives;
- To prepare a report for the Client setting out the salient conclusions;
- Depending upon the results of the work, to prepare a report for publication;

4.2 Site Specific Aims

4.2.1 The following scheme of works produced by Northumberland County Council were designed to ensure that the most important archaeological remains on the site are protected during this development and that any other located remains are properly recorded prior to destruction as part of an archaeological watching brief. The groundworks associated with this development were designed to retain previously

identified archaeological remains *in situ*. The levels listed below will be adhered to in order to ensure the protection of the important archaeological remains on this site. The agreed groundworks comprise:

- The garage block to the west of Unit 1 will be constructed on raft foundations which will not exceed 0.35m below current ground level.
- The foundations for the extension to the east of Unit 2 will not exceed 0.85m below current ground level.
- The traditional dry-stone wall connecting Units 1 and 2 will have vestigial foundation that will not exceed 0.35m below current ground level.
- Any excavations for floor levels within Units 1, 2 or 3, the Unit 2 extension and garage block will not exceed 0.35m in depth below current ground level.
- Water, surface water and foul water pipes will be laid across the yard through the line of Hadrians Wall using the site of Evaluation Trench 1 (see Figure 2). The location of the trench must be accurately located on the ground prior to the commencement of water provision, to ensure that this route can be accurately followed. Groundworks will not exceed a depth of 0.35m.
- The proposed oil tanks will be constructed on concrete bases at ground level and will not involve groundworks exceeding 0.35m below current ground level.
- New foul water drainage pipes connecting to the water treatment plant to the south will be laid along the line of existing foul drainage and will not involve groundworks exceeding 0.35m below current ground level.
- Landscaping and the provision of access and parking will not exceed 0.35m below current ground level.
- Any further service provision will require the submission and acceptance by the local planning authority of a service plan showing location and depths. The above restrictions on location and depth will apply to any such further service provision works.

4.2.2 Site-specific aims of the watching brief were therefore defined as follows:

- To ensure that depths and location of disturbance that form part of the planning permission are kept to. The monitoring archaeologist has the power and the duty to suspend groundworks without prior consultation should depths and locations specified in the planning consent be exceeded.
- To monitor, as per specifications and project design, all groundworks within the watching brief area;
- To detect, if possible, any surviving evidence of Roman activity within the watching brief area;
- To define the location, character, extent and state of preservation of Hadrian's Wall, Military Way and the Vallum, or any other significant archaeological

remains, should these be encountered in the development area, and protect them from impact by the development works;

- To prepare a report for our client detailing the results of the watching brief, and providing recommendations for any future archaeological work that may be deemed necessary.

4.3 *Watching Brief Methodology*

4.3.1 All archaeological features discovered were investigated and recorded according to the NPA standard procedure as set out in the company Excavation Manual (Giecco 2003).

4.3.2 A Photographic record of all aspects of the archaeological watching brief was made using Pentax K1000 and Pentax P30 Single Lens Reflex (SLR) manual cameras. A photographic record of all contexts was taken in colour transparency and black and white print and included a graduated metric scale. Digital photographs were also taken where applicable.

4.3.3 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (IFA 1994).

4.3.4 All references to cardinal directions refer to site grid north, aligned approximately with Ordnance Survey (OS) grid north.

4.4 *Archive*

4.4.1 The full archive has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the current English Heritage guidelines set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991). The archive currently resides with North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. and will be deposited with The Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle, in due course. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier **NPA 06, HFE-A**.

4.4.2 One copy of the project report will be deposited with the Northumberland County County Historic Environment Record, where viewing will be available on request. The project is also registered with the **Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS)**.

5 THE WATCHING BRIEF

5.1 Watching Brief Results (Figures 2 & 3)

5.1.1 Summary results of the watching brief are presented below. Excavation was undertaken by the client's contractor, using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket. Archaeological monitoring was maintained during all groundworks within the watching brief area; this included the excavation of several service trenches (Figure 2). Archaeological features were recorded in six areas of the development (Areas 1-6), and are located in Figure 3. A list of contexts is produced in Appendix I.

5.2 Service Trenches

5.2.1 A 0.6m-wide trench for a water pipe was excavated by machine to a depth of 0.75m. This trench ran from the proposed garage next to Unit 1, across the yard to Unit 3 and was located within the footprint of the evaluation Trench 1. The ground in the area of the garage was also excavated to a depth of 0.35m. No archaeological features or deposits were identified.

5.2.2 A 0.5m-wide trench for a wastewater pipe was excavated and ran south from the southeast corner of Unit 2 towards the southern field boundary. The depth of this trench varied from 0.5m at the north end, to 0.2m at the south end. Two parallel trenches were excavated on the east and west sides of Unit 3. All were filled with modern made ground. No artefacts were recovered from these trenches.

5.2.3 A trench for an electricity cable was excavated on the west side of the site within the footprint of three of the evaluation trenches: Trench 2a, Trench 2b and Trench 7, thus reducing the possible archaeological impact. This trench was excavated to a depth of 0.4m bgl, being 0.5m wide for most of its length. At the south end the trench passed outside of the development area, through a field boundary, and ran west to meet a telegraph pole. The natural orange sandy clay was revealed beneath the topsoil in the southern part of this trench, at a depth of 0.3m. North of the field boundary, a greater depth of garden soil was revealed containing post-medieval pottery and glass. No archaeological features were revealed in this part of the trench.

5.2.4 In the electricity cable trench, between Trench 7 and Trench 2a, a surface was revealed comprising a layer of randomly placed sandstone pieces. This appeared to form a track surface and was most likely post-medieval in date.

5.3 Building Interiors

5.3.1 Excavation for new floors within the buildings did not exceed 0.35m, the agreed depth of excavation. No archaeological features or deposits were identified.

5.4 Area A (Figure 4)

5.4.1 Excavation in Area A was undertaken to provide a 1m-wide foundation trench for the extension to Unit 2. The ground surface was observed to have a substantial gradient in this area, being lower in the south. This meant that the excavation reached a depth of 1.5m on the north side of the area, exceeding the agreed maximum depth of 0.85m.

This was deemed necessary by the client in order to provide adequate foundations for the building.

5.4.2 Natural orange clay [104] was reached on the north side of this trench at a depth of 1m below ground level (blg). Beneath this, in the base of the trench, was a layer of natural clay with iron pan [105]. Above the natural clay was a 0.5m-deep layer of grey-brown clayey silt containing large pieces of stone. Above this layer on the west side, was a 0.4m-deep mixed deposit of grey-brown clayey silt containing mixed gravels and sandstone pieces [102]. The top of this trench was filled by a 0.6m-deep deposit of brown-grey lime mortar and pea gravel [101]. This contained patches of concrete and tarmac, and was interpreted as a modern deposit associated with the farm buildings. No finds were recovered from this trench.

5.5 *Area B (Figure 5)*

5.5.1 Excavation in Area B was for a walkway on the north side of Unit 2. An area measuring 6m by 2m was excavated to a depth of 0.6m blg. The excavation revealed a stone surface [224], which was cleaned and recorded before work continued. The excavation was subsequently extended to an area measuring 3m wide and 0.8m deep revealing a second sandstone surface in part of the trench. A section through these features is shown in Figure 5.

5.5.2 The lower of the two surfaces [233] was located on the north side of the trench and was made of rough sandstone blocks. This was located at a depth of 0.8m blg and was only partly uncovered by the excavation. Above this surface was a 0.5m-deep layer of brown clayey silt [232], in which was embedded a second sandstone surface [224], being 0.3m thick. This surface was 0.6m below ground level. These deposits were cut by a 0.5m-wide pipe trench [F226], containing a ceramic drainpipe [228] and rubble backfill [227]. On the south side of the excavated area, the sandstone surface was covered by a 0.4m-wide dumped deposit of burnt material, probably from a bonfire. This was overlain by a 0.4m-deep layer of made-ground, containing a mixture of brick and sandstone building rubble [225]. This layer contained a variety of finds including roof tile, glass, pottery, iron objects and animal bone (see Section 6 below), all of which could be dated to the post-medieval period or later. This layer also sealed the foundation trench [F229] for Unit 2, which was filled by brown clay [230] and the foundation stones of the building [F221].



Plate 1: Stone surface [224] in Area B, looking southwest

5.6 *Area C (Figure 6)*

- 5.6.1 Excavation was undertaken on the west and north sides of Unit 3 to a maximum depth of 0.6m. Natural clay [217] was revealed at the centre of the trench at a depth of 0.3m. Cutting this was the foundation trench [F219] for a wall [F218], which was aligned north-south. Above the wall was a 0.3m-deep deposit of brown clay [220], on top of which were the foundation stones of the building [F221]. At the west end of the excavation was a layer of re-deposited topsoil [216], above which was modern made-ground [222]. A modern sandstone wall [F223] was located to the north of Area C.



Plate 2: Wall running beneath Unit 3 in Area C, looking south

5.7 *Area D and Area E (Figure 6)*

5.7.1 South of the garage was a layer of modern made ground [210], covered by road chippings [209]. This varied in depth between 0.35m and 0.05m, and was removed by machine to reveal two areas of stone wall; Area D and Area E. A 1m-long section of wall [F211] was detected in Area E, with three pieces of stone making up the north face. This was located at a depth of 195.3m OD. Area E contained a section of wall [F206] measuring 2.5m in length, consisting of undressed sandstone with a wall face on the north side. The wall was located at depths of between 195.4m and 195.5m OD. No finds were recovered from these areas.



Plate 3: Section of wall [F211] in Area D, looking south



Plate 4: Wall section [F206] in Area E, looking southwest

5.8 *Area F (Figure 7)*

- 5.8.1 A layer of stone hardcore [200] covered the north side of the farmyard, to the south of Unit 1. Immediately beneath this, on the south side of Unit 1 was a sandstone surface [201]. Following machine excavation, this surface was cleaned and recorded by hand. The northern part of this surface was drawn and is reproduced in Figure 7. The surface continued to the south of this area, but only a representative sample of the surface was drawn. This surface was cut through by Trench 5a at the eastern end.
- 5.8.2 The surface [201] was constructed from course sandstone pieces and was bedded in orange-brown clayey silt [215]. The surface was bounded on the south side by a sandstone wall [F204] and to the east by a similar wall [F202]. A later wall [F203] overlay this and was aligned approximately north-south, being 0.65m wide.
- 5.8.3 Two rows of rounded concrete bases [F213] were set into the yard surface at intervals, aligned east-west. These contained holes that would have supported uprights for a building. Two square concrete bases [F214] were located on the south side of Area F with the same alignment, and were probably part of the same structure.
- 5.8.4 Three pieces of sandstone were revealed on the east side of Area F, forming the southern face of a possible wall [F207]. These stones were bedded in a layer of orange-brown clayey silt [215].



Plate 5: Stone yard surface [201] in Area F from the east

5.9 *Interpretation*

- 5.9.1 The sections of wall revealed in Area D and Area E, are on the same alignment as the projected course of Hadrian's Wall, and the sections of wall discovered in the evaluation trenches: Trench 1 and Trench 5a. This evidence suggests that these remains may be parts of Hadrian's Wall, and that the Wall survives to a greater height in this area than the evidence from the evaluation suggested.

- 5.9.2 The three stones, forming the south face of a wall in Area F are on a similar alignment, and correspond to the south face of the Wall revealed in Trench 5a. However these stones were bedded in a layer of clay silt, detected in the evaluation trench at a higher stratigraphic level than the remains of Hadrian's Wall. The stones are also 0.5m higher than the uppermost course detected in the evaluation. It is therefore doubtful that these stones are part of Hadrian's Wall, and they may form part of a later structure.
- 5.9.3 The majority of the features detected were post-medieval in date, including the stone surface in Area F. The location of this surface corresponds to an enclosed yard shown on the 1864 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.
- 5.9.4 The stone surface [224] in Area B also appears to be post-medieval and is cut by a post-medieval drain. The lower surface was only partially excavated and did not provide any dating evidence, however it is also likely to be post-medieval. The stonewall in Area C is earlier than, the present buildings may be post-medieval or medieval in date.
- 5.9.5 A date of 1945 was inscribed into one of the concrete bases, which were inserted into the yard surface in Area F in order to support a roof. This was presumably to convert the yard into a covered building, probably a barn. The wall to the east of this area [F203] was a later boundary wall, which had stood until recently



Plate 6: Bases of a modern barn [F213] overlying the post-medieval yard surface, looking east

6. The Finds

6.1 Contexts

6.1.1 Finds from the project were processed at North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. on 5th September 2006, under the direction of Frank Giecco, NPA Finds Manager. They were recovered from two contexts on the north side of the development area. The first context was a modern hardcore layer used to level the site [200]. The second context was a layer of made-ground [225] resulting from barn construction. A list of the finds appears in Appendix 2.

6.2 Pottery

6.2.1 A total of 59 fragments of pottery were recovered during the watching brief. The majority of these consisted of plain white, cream and brown glazed domestic wares that could be dated to the 19th and 20th centuries.

6.2.1 Context [200] produced 5 sherds from a single 19th century coarse lime green glazed washbowl, and a single sherd from a similar cream glazed washbowl.

6.2.2 The pottery from context [225] comprised a series of sherds from a range domestic vessels including: a 19th century cream glazed washbowl, a 19th century grey glazed beer bottle, 20th century white glazed tea cups, 20th century plain white-glazed bowl, a 19th/20th century grey slipware bowl, and a range of 19th/20th century blue and white decorated domestic plates, saucers and cups.

6.3 Clay Pipe

6.4.1 Two short unmarked sections of pipe stem were recovered from context [200].

6.4 Metal

6.5.1 A range of corroded iron and lead objects were recovered from both contexts, which could be ascribed to 19th/20th centuries and consisted of a mixture of agricultural and domestic objects.

6.5.2 The metal from context [200] included a short section of lead drainpipe, a range of iron bolts, nails, plates, screws, hooks and spikes, and a 20th century bicycle break pad. Also recovered was a single iron horse shoe measuring 0.15m by 0.15m.

6.5.3 Context [225] produced two iron bolts, a piece of a drive shaft from an agricultural machine and a rusted hinge. Also recovered were two pieces of window lead.

6.5 Glass

6.6.1 The majority of the glass recovered comprised unmarked bottle glass. 4 sherds of clear bottle glass and a single sherd of brown bottle glass were recovered from context [200]. 28 sherds of bottle glass were retrieved from context [225] comprising fragments from a range of clear, green and brown bottles of 19th and 20th century date. Also recovered from this context were two pieces of window glass.

6.6 *Ceramic Building Material (CBM)*

6.7.1 Ceramic building materials collected from context [200] consisted of a range of brick and plain, unglazed tile fragments including a single piece of ceramic drain pipe. Five pieces of ceramic tile and drainpipe were recovered from context [225], along with a piece of stone roofing tile.

6.7 *Animal Bone*

6.7.1 The bone was assessed by Patricia Crompton, Environmental Manager at North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. Both contexts produce animal bone, which was very fragmentary. The table below lists the amounts and types of bone recovered with context numbers. The number of pieces of each occurs in brackets after the initial defining the type of bone.

Context number	Cattle	Sheep	Pig	Small mammal	Weight
200	H(1), R(2)	V(2), P(1), R(2), H(1)	T(1)	None	135g
225	T(1)	R(1)	None	H(1)	41g

Key: H = humerus, R = rib, U = unknown, P = phalange, T = teeth.

6.7.2 Bone remains recovered from context [200] included a part of a cattle humerus with evidence of butchering at both ends. There were also 2 cattle ribs present. Sheep remains consisted of 2 vertebrae, 2 partial ribs and a partial humerus. There was no evidence of butchery on any of these fragments. The only pig remains comprised a very worn tooth, in which both the enamel and dentine could be seen. It was probably from an old animal. The bone recovered from context [225] was not as prolific. Only 1 cattle tooth was recovered and the partial rib of a sheep. A small mammal bone was also found as the humerus from a rat

6.7.3 The animal bone assemblage was consistent with the domestic waste one would expect to find in a farming settlement, and does not justify further analysis.

6.8 *Interpretation*

6.8.1 All of the finds recovered during the project could be ascribed to the post-medieval or modern periods. The majority of the pottery sherds were of a late 19th early 20th century domestic wares. Given the nature of the contexts from which they were recovered, the finds were essentially from unstratified deposits and therefore held very limited potential for further study. The finds were discarded at the end of the project.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 Three fragmentary sections of wall were detected, which correspond to the alignment of Hadrian's Wall. Two of the wall sections (in Area D and Area E) may be surviving sections of the Wall. This evidence suggests that the Wall survives at a higher elevation than was suggested by the previous evaluation. Further archaeological excavation would be required in order to establish whether these remains are indeed part of Hadrian's Wall.
- 5.2 A number of post-medieval features were detected during the watching brief, including a substantial stone surface, which corresponds to the position of an enclosed yard shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map. Stonewalls, which originally bounded this yard on the east and south sides were also revealed. Further stone surfaces were detected to the south of this area, along with the remains of a post-medieval drain and wall. A barn was constructed over the yard in the 20th century. This building has since been demolished.
- 5.4 No archaeological remains were detected during the excavation of service trenches or within the existing buildings. All finds from the project were recovered from areas of made ground, and were dated to the post-medieval and modern periods.
- 5.5 Given the apparent proximity of Hadrian's Wall to the present ground surface, it is recommended that any further ground disturbance at the site is subject to archaeological monitoring. The sections of wall revealed in Area D and Area E should be preserved *in situ*. It is recommended that the yard surface in Area F be preserved within the development, as this will help to protect the remains of Hadrian's Wall.

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APPENDIX I – CONTEXTS

Context	Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Building Mortar
102	Deposit	Made-ground
103	Natural	Natural Orange-brown Clayey Silt
104	Natural	Clay
105	Natural	Iron-pan
200	Deposit	Hardcore Levelling
201	Structure	Stone Yard Surface
F202	Structure	North-South Stone Wall
F203	Structure	North-South Stone Wall
F204	Structure	East-West Stone Wall
F205	Structure	North-South Stone Wall
F206	Structure	East-West Stone Wall (North Face of Hadrian's Wall)
F207	Structure	East-West Stone Wall (South Face)
208	Structure	Wall Core Material
209	Deposit	Road Scalpings
210	Deposit	Road Scalpings
F211	Structure	East-West Stone Wall (North Face of Hadrian's Wall)
F212	Structure	Wall Core Material (Hadrian's Wall)
F213	Structure	Circular Concrete Piles of Building
F214	Structure	Rectangular Concrete Piles of Building
215	Deposit	Orange Brown, Clay Silt
216	Deposit	Made up Topsoil
217	Natural	Natural Yellow Orange Clay
F218	Structure	North-South Stone Wall
F219	Cut	Cut for Fill [220]
220	Fill	Orange Brown Clay
F221	Structure	Unit 2
222	Deposit	Yellow Crushed Stone
F223	Structure	Modern East-West Wall
224	Structure	Stone Surface
225	Deposit	Demolition Layer
F226	Cut	Cut for Fill [227]
227	Fill	Trench Backfill
228	Structure	Post-Medieval Land Drain
F229	Cut	Cut for Fill [230] (Foundation Trench)
230	Fill	Brown Clay
231	Deposit	Blackened Rubbish Material
232	Deposit	Brown Silt
233	Structure	Stone Surface

APPENDIX II – FINDS

Context	Material	Quantity	No. bags	Weight (kg)
225	Roof Tile	1	1	0.341
225	Glass (Window)	2	1	0.021
225	Metal (Fe)	1	1	0.006
225	Glass (Bottle)	4	1	0.014
225	Bone	3	1	0.042
225	Glass (Bottle)	28	1	0.559
225	CBM	5	1	0.783
225	Metal (Fe)	4	1	1.087
225	Post Med. Pottery (19th & 20th C.)	53	1	1.113
225	Metal (Pb)	2	1	0.196
200	Clay Pipe	2	1	0.006
200	Bone	11	1	0.132
200	Glass (Bottle)	5	1	0.087
200	Metal (Pb)	1	1	0.088
200	Metal (Fe)	1	1	0.671
200	CBM	14	1	0.449
200	Metal (Fe)	18	1	0.973
200	Post Med. Pottery (19th C.)	6	1	0.471

APPENDIX III – ILLUSTRATIONS