

# NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Client Report No. 430/06



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## **NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

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In December 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were requested by Dunwoodie Architecture and Design Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to the Carville Hotel, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear (NGR NZ 2980 6610). The work was requested to take place prior to housing development of the area.

The work required the excavation of two trenches to test the potential for archaeological activity within the development area. The evaluation produced no archaeological finds, environmental samples, deposits or structures, with most of the area appearing to have been truncated through the construction of the turning circle for the hotel.

No further archaeological monitoring should be required.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL) would like to thank Laura Ruxton of Dunwoodie Architecture and Design Ltd for commissioning the project and Michael McPherson, Turning Points Developments, for his assistance on site. NPAL would also like to thank David Heslop, Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist for Newcastle City Council for his support during this evaluation. Les Smith and Ian McMullen of North Tyneside Council are also thanked for allowing access to the land, and for funding the work.

The fieldwork was directed by Matthew Town and undertaken by Tony Liddell and Cat Peters. The machining was ably undertaken by Patterson Plant Hire of Wallsend. The report and drawings were produced by Tony Liddell and were edited by Matthew Town. The project was managed by Matthew Town, Senior Project Officer for NPAL.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

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### 1.1 Location

- 1.1.1 The evaluation trenches were centred at NGR NZ 2980 6610. A site location plan can be seen in *Figure 1*.
- 1.1.2 The site lies within an urban context, surrounded to the north by the Carville Hotel, to the east by Carville Road and to the south and west by modern housing. It is separated from the surrounding terraced housing by modern brick walls. The current use of the site is as a turning area for vehicles, and also as part of vehicular access to the back (west) of the Carville Hotel Harry's Bar. The area of the site that is not tarmac road forms grass semi-circular fringes to the road. On the grass section to the north, picnic tables are placed, presumably a 'beer garden' for Harry's Bar.
- 1.1.3 The natural subsoil of the area consists of a glacial drift of boulder clay, the Lodgement Till, which overlies carboniferous rocks and, at a depth of around 50m, the coal-measures lie, which were intensively exploited to the south of the site during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (Richardson 1923, 226-240; Oram et al 1998, 143-4).

### 1.2 Circumstances of the Project

- 1.2.1 In December 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were invited by by Dunwoodie Architecture and Design Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation prior to building works at Carville Hotel, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear.
- 1.2.2 The site is of potential archaeological importance, in that it lies circa 100m north-west of Segedunum Roman Fort, which is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 28(1)) and part of the Hadrian's Wall Unesco World Heritage Site.
- 1.2.3 A Desk-Based Assessment by NPA Ltd (Peters 2006) located 53 archaeological sites from the HER and other sources, within 0.5km of the site. These include: the Roman fort of Segedunum, associated civilian vicus and various associated findspots; a medieval or post-medieval Hall, Carville Hall; and well preserved post-medieval and early modern remains of the internationally famous Wallsend Colliery. Due to the significant number of important archaeological remains within the vicinity of the development site, the development had the potential to directly impact on an area of archaeological sensitivity; recent archaeological work, for example, at 52 Carville Road uncovered a Roman structure to the north of the Roman Fort (The Archaeological Practice 2006).
- 1.2.4 Because of the archaeological sensitivity of this site two trenches measuring 7.5m by 1.7m were required to be excavated in the development area, in order to inform the Planning Authority of the character of the archaeological deposits on the site.

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 *Project Design*

- 2.1.1 A project design was prepared in response to a brief issued by David Heslop, Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist for Newcastle City Council, for a programme of work.
- 2.1.2 This included a detailed specification of works to be carried out, which consisted of a Total Station Survey, the excavation of two evaluation trenches as well as a programme of post excavation and reporting.
- 2.1.3 All fieldwork methodology was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.
- 2.1.4 All fieldwork was done in accordance with the Project Specification produced by David Heslop, Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist for Newcastle City Council.

### 2.2 *TST Survey*

- 2.2.1 A measured survey was undertaken to accurately locate the positions of the trenches with respect to cartographic evidence (see *Figure 1*). The survey was undertaken using a Trimble 3605 Reflectorless Total Station (RTS).

### 2.3 *Archaeological Evaluation*

- 2.3.1 The evaluation consisted of two trial trenches, each measuring 7.5m long by 1.7m wide as requested in the brief. The location of the trenches were finalised through a consultation process with Dunwoodie Architecture and Design Ltd, following a site visit by Cat Peters. Both trenches were excavated to natural clay by mechanical digger, and then cleaned by hand and recorded.
- 2.3.2 In summary, the main objectives of the evaluation were:
- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were 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 survived in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.
- 2.3.3 Trench 2 was moved to the southern corner of the tarmac cul-de-sac in order to avoid the east-west aligned main sewer pipe observed running through the development area.

## 2.4 *Project Archive*

- 2.4.1 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, 2nd Ed. 1991). The archive will be deposited within an appropriate repository, and a copy of the report given to the County Historic Environment Record, where viewing will be available on request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA WAL-B.



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### 3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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#### 3.1 *Historical and Archaeological Background*

- 3.1.1 *Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic* (450,000BC-1,800BC): evidence of the reworking of flint implements during the Neolithic period recovered inside the perimeter of the Roman fort at Wallsend show that the potential for Paleolithic remains in the vicinity is present (c. 450,000BC- 12,000BC). The flint assemblages studied in 1975-84 and again in 1997-8 also indicate that the area may have been used on a seasonal basis during the Mesolithic (c. 12,000BC- 4,000BC) period (Hodgson 2003, 23, 34-6). The same assemblages also present evidence of both an early and late Neolithic (c. 4,000BC- 1,800BC) presence in the area, with the potential of farming communities.
- 3.1.2 *Bronze Age* (c.1,800BC- 600BC): aerial photography and various programmes of fieldwork in vicinity suggests that this area was heavily exploited in the later prehistoric era. Some of the lithics discovered from within the fort at Wallsend, during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, dated to the early Bronze Age period (Hodgson 2003).
- 3.1.3 *Iron Age* (c. 600BC- AD 43): numerous likely Iron Age features/settlements are present in the vicinity, identified through cropmarks, aerial photography and fieldwalking. Many of these settlements also continued in use well into the Roman period (Jobey 1982, 1-23; Higham 1986, 186-97). Within the Roman fort itself, widespread evidence for cultivation which pre-dated the construction of the fort (Hodgson 2003, 23-36) was discovered, meaning that a settlement for these workers must be present nearby.
- 3.1.4 *Romano-British* (c. AD 43- AD 410): the development site lies just 100m to the north of the Roman fort of *Segedunum*. Archaeological recording work at the fort began in 1912 with observations and limited excavation (Proceedings of the Society of Newcastle upon Tyne 1912; Site 56). The recently formed North of England Excavation Committee then began a full programme of excavation in 1929, beginning with on the section of Hadrian's Wall at the west gate of the fort. The masonry revealed on the wall, compared with that on the south tower of the gate, showed that they had been constructed at the same time suggesting that the fort was part of the original Wall plan. The Committee also excavated the front gardens of houses on the south side of Buddle Street to confirm this. The ditch and berm on all four sides of the fort were also revealed and details in the gatehouses were discovered for all four gates, including the position of the central pillar dividing the gateway entrance into two. They also attempted to locate the Headquarters Building of the fort and uncovered some foundations and column bases.
- 3.1.5 In the 1970s, development plans to pull down the existing houses on the site of the fort and construct new housing and an industrial estate led to a further series of archaeological work. Between 1975 and 1984, Charles Daniels of Newcastle University undertook a series of excavations, with further work during the late 1990s and early 2000s. This later work revealed that the barracks and cavalry stables appeared to have been combined, backing on to one another, a process seen on the Continent, particularly

- at Dormagen and Oberstimm in Germany. a Roman pottery kiln, the Roman Quay, the Bathhouse and various deposits of human bone was also found.
- 3.1.6 A permanent military presence was established at Wallsend in AD120 during the construction of Hadrian's Wall. Its establishment has traditionally been seen as part of an alteration of the original plan, to extend the wall from Newcastle towards the coast, when garrison forts were moved onto the line of the wall in AD 122 (Daniels 1989, 77).
- 3.1.7 The word, '*Segedunum*', means 'strong fort', or 'victory fort' (Rivet and Smith 1981, 452-3) and the fort had an internal area of 1.6 hectares (4 acres) (Snape and Bidwell 1994), and was designed to accommodate about 600 soldiers, including about 120 cavalry in six infantry barracks and four cavalry 'stable-barracks' (Hodgson 2003, 13). Later Roman activity on the site has been largely destroyed by later activity such as agricultural use in the medieval and post-medieval periods followed by 19<sup>th</sup> century housing.
- 3.1.8 Little is known about Roman civilian settlements before the third century. In 2000, Breeze and Dobson came to the conclusion that civilian buildings had been found to the north of the fort at Wallsend, and a recent archaeological evaluation in March-April 2006 (The Archaeological Practice 2006b; 4.6.7) encountered structures of a building outside the fort defences, on Carville Road. Prior to this, the only civilian archaeological remains known from the era lay to the south and the south-west of the fort (e.g. Birley 1961, 452-3).
- 3.1.9 *Early Medieval* (c. 410 AD- 1066): by the 8<sup>th</sup> century, *Segedunum* (by then in ruins) was visible from across the River at Jarrow, recorded as such by the Venerable Bede from St Paul's Monastery. A roadway led through Wallsend to Howdon and a ferry across the Tyne to Jarrow. The Wall became an excellent quarry for stone for building during the Medieval period and later.
- 3.1.10 *Later Medieval* (c. AD 1066- AD 1485): in the mid 12<sup>th</sup> century, the Church of the Holy Cross was built, the Parish Church for Wallsend for six centuries. During the medieval period, Wallsend and Willington formed part of the Manor of Westoe. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century the Black Death is said to have killed two thirds of the population of Wallsend.
- 3.1.11 At the time of the Reformation the Borough of Wallsend contained seven farms, and Willington contained eight.
- 3.1.12 The earliest maps call the area of Wallsend, 'Wawson'. The area of the development site seems to have remained as agricultural fields for the village, with no evidence for development until the 1800s. Evidence for ridge and furrow was recorded in the natural clay subsoil to the west of the Wallsend 'B' pit shaft during excavation in 1997 (Oram et al 1998, 117). Plough soil was also observed overlying Roman remains in the north of the fort in 1975-6. It is not clear whether these discoveries were medieval or post-medieval in origin, but it further adds to the likelihood of agricultural use of the development area during the medieval and post-medieval periods, and suggests that evidence for this land-use may still survive on the site.
- 3.1.13 *Post-Medieval* (c. AD 1485- 1900): during this period, important industries were salt, shipbuilding, mining and glass. Horsley observed (Horsley 1732, 135): '*the ruins of romanisation and town at this place are still very discernable, tho' it has all been ploughed and is now a very rich meadow*'. This shows that, at least until the mid 18<sup>th</sup>

century, the area around the fort including the development site remained in agricultural use.

- 3.1.14 Mining came to the region in the mid 17th century (Richardson 1923, 226-240; Oram et al 1998, 143-4), with the first exploratory shaft sunk in 1778. In 1781, a new shaft was sunk to the west of the fort at Wallsend. In the following year, another pit was sunk just to the north of Hadrian's Wall, exploiting the High Main Seam. Waggonways were constructed across the North East to transport coal from the mines to the sea, or rivers to be transported. Two such waggonways, the Coxlodge Waggonway and the Wallsend Waggonway lie close to the development area, the Coxlodge one passing approximately 200m to the west of the site. It was not until the last quarter of the 18th century that coal-mining in Wallsend took on its height of importance. The High Main Seam at the Carville pit was six foot six in thickness, revealing coal of the highest quality; 90% of its output was large coal, making it a high standard to match. If other collieries had comparable coal, it was called Wallsend Coal, to indicate its quality. It was this product that made Wallsend Coal famous throughout this, and neighbouring countries. The 'B' pit was excavated in 1997 by Tyne and Wear Museums, and was found to be in a good state of preservation (Oram et al 1998), and the remains have since been consolidated and displayed, and are located to the south of the development site. Although it did not extend into the development area, any developments on site could have a visual impact upon the consolidated remains.
- 3.1.15 By the early 19th century, the pits became the focus for a small village community, Carville. In 1812, Carville Chapel was erected, popularly known as the Colliery Chapel. In 1853, MacLaughlin surveyed the area around the fort and colliery. The map shows the location of the development site, and Carville Road, but with no buildings on the western side of the road. In 1854, the Colliery closed. The village suffered for a while after the closure of the colliery, but was saved by the rise of the shipping industry, which occurred around 1870, and which transformed the village into an important industrial town. The rise of the railway occurred at a similar time, with the railways replacing the waggonways. The NER Tynemouth Branch passed approximately 50m to the north of the development site. Carville Station lay on Buddle Street, 100m to the south-east of the development site and opened on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1841 as part of the Riverside Line. The Riverside Line closed in July 1973. The Old Carville Chapel site was enfranchised and the chapel remodelled to accommodate the growth in local population. In 1886, the site at *Segedunum* was put up for sale by The Buddle Atkinson Trustees for £680, and although attempts to buy it for preservation were undertaken by William Boyd, the site was sold to builders. Wallsend Colliery was re-opened in 1892.
- 3.1.16 *Modern* (1900- present): by 1901, the output of coal at Wallsend had reached 168,000 tonnes per year and in 1922 this had risen to 874,592. The 1930s depression saw the closure of three of the four pits in Wallsend, with only the Rising Sun colliery, sunk in 1906, surviving (it eventually closed in 1969). In 1901 came the Incorporation of the Borough of Wallsend. In 1906 there was the erection of the new Carville Chapel and Institute, with the old chapel being demolished. In the year 1938, voluntary work by the parishioners of Carville Chapel created the formation of a series of Roman Wall Rock Gardens (Giles 1938). The land on which the old and new Carville Chapels stood contained a portion of Hadrian's Wall, lying beneath the Church foundations. To the near east is the site of *Segedunum*, from the south-east corner of which the wall ran

down to the termination at the river. The location of the Carville Chapels was on Plantation Road, close to the junction with Sharpe's Road to the south-west of the development site. The Wallsend Corporation made attempts to save the history of the site of *Segedunum* by installing appropriate stones to mark out the limits of the site. In 1951 these could still be seen at Buddle, Leslie and Davis Streets (A Brief History of Wallsend Churches).

- 3.1.17 The Carville area of Wallsend also had a Power Station, established in 1904 making it quite an early example. By 1927, there were only three such sites in the whole of the north east making it quite an important centre for electricity. It was these three who gave the North East coast their electricity supply, supplying for as far north as Alnwick to as south as Darlington (General Meeting of Newcastle upon Tyne Meeting, 1927). In 1900, the Newcastle upon Tyne Electric Supply Company (NESCo) presented a Bill to Parliament in an attempt to supply electricity to both sides of the Tyne, which was accepted (Hannah 1979, 29). Perhaps this was the precursor for the construction of the Power Station at Carville opened four years later.
- 3.1.18 These developments in industry, gradually expanding from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, led to the spread of terraced housing in the form of Tyneside flats and other housing. The fort, and the area between the fort and the High Street was built over at this time, Spain and Simpson give the date as 1884 (Spain and Simpson 1930, 488). This spread of housing can be seen as a direct cause of the rise in shipbuilding in the area, which had replaced mining as the principal employer in Wallsend (The Archaeological Practice 2006a). No buildings were established on the site until some time between the First and Second Editions of the Ordnance Survey mapping, i.e. between 1878 and 1897. A photograph taken of the Carville Hotel in the 1930s depicts two two-storey buildings with shop fronts in the foreground, situated upon the development site (Hutchinson 2005, 91; Plate 3). They share the same front alignment as the hotel, and are presumably the same buildings that appear on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, published only twenty years later.
- 3.1.19 The Carville Hotel was apparently built as 'a first class hotel, especially adapted for the accommodation of visitors' (Hutchinson 2005, 90). Ward's Trade Directory of 1916 again includes a listing for the Carville Hotel, but Kelly's Directory of 1886 does not, again concurring with 1892 as the correct date for proposal, and 1893 for completion of the building. It is likely that the building on the site date to a similar time because of the information gleaned from the early Ordnance Survey maps. This might suggest that the spread of terraced housing for shipworkers, started closer to the riverbank and gradually spread northwards. Ward's Trade Directory of 1926 revealed two hotels on Carville Road, the other being the Commercial Hotel, both owned by J. Deuchar Ltd. The Carville Hotel seems to have stayed the same, revealed by plans dating to May 1930 proposing a sign to be erected outside (TWAS MB.WA/4/2821; Plate 2), with the back entrance leading to the development site. Unfortunately the surrounding buildings are not depicted on the location plan. Later plans dating to 1968 were unavailable (TWAS MB.WA/4/8244).
- 3.1.20 From the detailed search of old photographs and local history books, it is clear that many old and poorer housing areas in Wallsend were demolished in the 1960s and 1970s to make way for more modern cleaner dwellings, to the north and north-east of the fort (The Archaeological Practice 2006a). It is likely that the buildings on the development

site fell foul of these times. The whole area to the west of the Carville Hotel has been built over with a modern housing estate, including the pre-existing back lane, and it is probable that the development site was not built upon when the rest was, to retain vehicular access to the back of the Carville Hotel, and perhaps to provide it with a car parking facility.

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## 4. EVALUATION TRENCHING RESULTS

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### 4.1 Trench 1

- 4.1.1 The trench was excavated by a mechanical excavator to the dimensions of 7.5m x 1.7m, and down to undisturbed natural clay, then cleaned by hand. The trench was cut to a depth of 0.82m.
- 4.1.2 A plan and section of this trench can be seen in *Figure 2*.
- 4.1.3 A stratigraphic matrix of this trench can be seen in *Figure 4*.
- 4.1.4 A list of all contexts within this trench can be seen in *Appendix 1*.
- 4.1.5 It was found that beneath the shallow turf and topsoil [100] (depth of c.0.2m) there was a c.0.26m thick mixed disturbed clay deposit [105] which showed signs of levelling with [102], a sandy orange clay, and [103], a yellow-brown sand with small clay content. This was interpreted as disturbance and subsequent landscaping associated with the modern housing. Below this was another deposit of sand [104], with undisturbed clay natural beneath this.
- 4.1.6 No archaeological features were found during the excavation.
- 4.1.7 No artefactual or environmental remains were recovered during the excavation.
- 4.1.8 Photographic plates can be seen in on *page 11*.

### 4.2 Trench 2

- 4.2.1 The trench was excavated by a mechanical excavator to the dimensions of 7.5m x 1.7m, and down to undisturbed natural clay, then cleaned by hand. The trench was cut to a depth of 0.96m.
- 4.2.2 A plan and section of this trench can be seen in *Figure 3*.
- 4.2.3 A stratigraphic matrix of this trench can be seen in *Figure 4*.
- 4.2.4 A list of all contexts within this trench can be seen in *Appendix 1*.
- 4.2.5 The trench consisted of three contexts: [106], the modern tarmac surface (c.0.26m), beneath which was [107], the dolomite packing for the tarmac (c.0.20m). [107] was bedded into natural clay [101], but on the northern extent shows signs of previous excavation as mechanical excavator teeth marks are clearly visible (see *plate 4*).
- 4.2.6 No archaeological features were found during the excavation.
- 4.2.7 No artefactual or environmental remains were recovered during the excavation.
- 4.2.8 Photographic plates can be seen in on *page 12*.

### 4.3 Finds Analysis

- 4.3.1 No finds or artefacts of an archaeological nature were discovered during this evaluation.

#### *4.4 Environmental Analysis*

- 4.4.1 No deposits of an archaeological nature were discovered during this evaluation, so no environmental analysis was required.



*Plate 1. Trench 1, looking east.*



*Plate 2. Oblique shot across Trench 1, looking south.*





*Plate 3. Trench 2, looking north-north west.*



*Plate 4. Oblique shot across Trench 2, looking north.*

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## 5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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### 5.1 *Conclusion*

- 5.1.1 The fieldwork produced a location plot of the evaluation trenches as requested in the brief produced by David Heslop, Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist for Newcastle City Council.
- 5.1.2 The evaluation produced no archaeological artefacts, environmental remains or archaeological deposits or features.
- 5.1.3 The evaluation trenches indicated that if any archaeology had once been within the confines of the areas trenched, then said archaeology was removed and the ground landscaped during the construction of the turning circle for the Hotel, when the buildings were removed down to firm clay.

### 5.2 *Recommendations*

- 5.2.1 No further work is required to allow for the development to go ahead, based on the negative nature of the evaluation results.
- 5.2.2 It must be noted however that the area itself is still holds extremely high potential for archaeological activity and if further development work in the area is required (outside of the current evaluation area) it should be subject to archaeological investigation under the guidance of David Heslop, Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist for Newcastle City Council.

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**APPENDIX 1**

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<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Trench</b>
100	Topsoil	Topsoil and Turf. Dark grey-brown poor quality loam. Depth of c.0.20m.	1
101	Natural	Undisturbed natural. Brown/orange firm compact clay.	1&2
102	Deposit	Disturbed firm sandy orange-brown clay, up to 0.08m deep.	1
103	Deposit	Yellow-brown sand with slight clay content, up to 0.12m deep.	1
104	Deposit	Yellow-brown sand, up to 0.10m deep.	1
105	Deposit	Disturbed dirty grey-brown clay, up to 0.28m deep.	1
106	Deposit	Modern tarmac road surface, up to 0.26m deep.	2
107	Deposit	Dolomite packing for modern tarmac road surface, up to 0.20m deep.	2

***Table 1.** List of Contexts*





*Figure 1. Site and Trench Locations.*

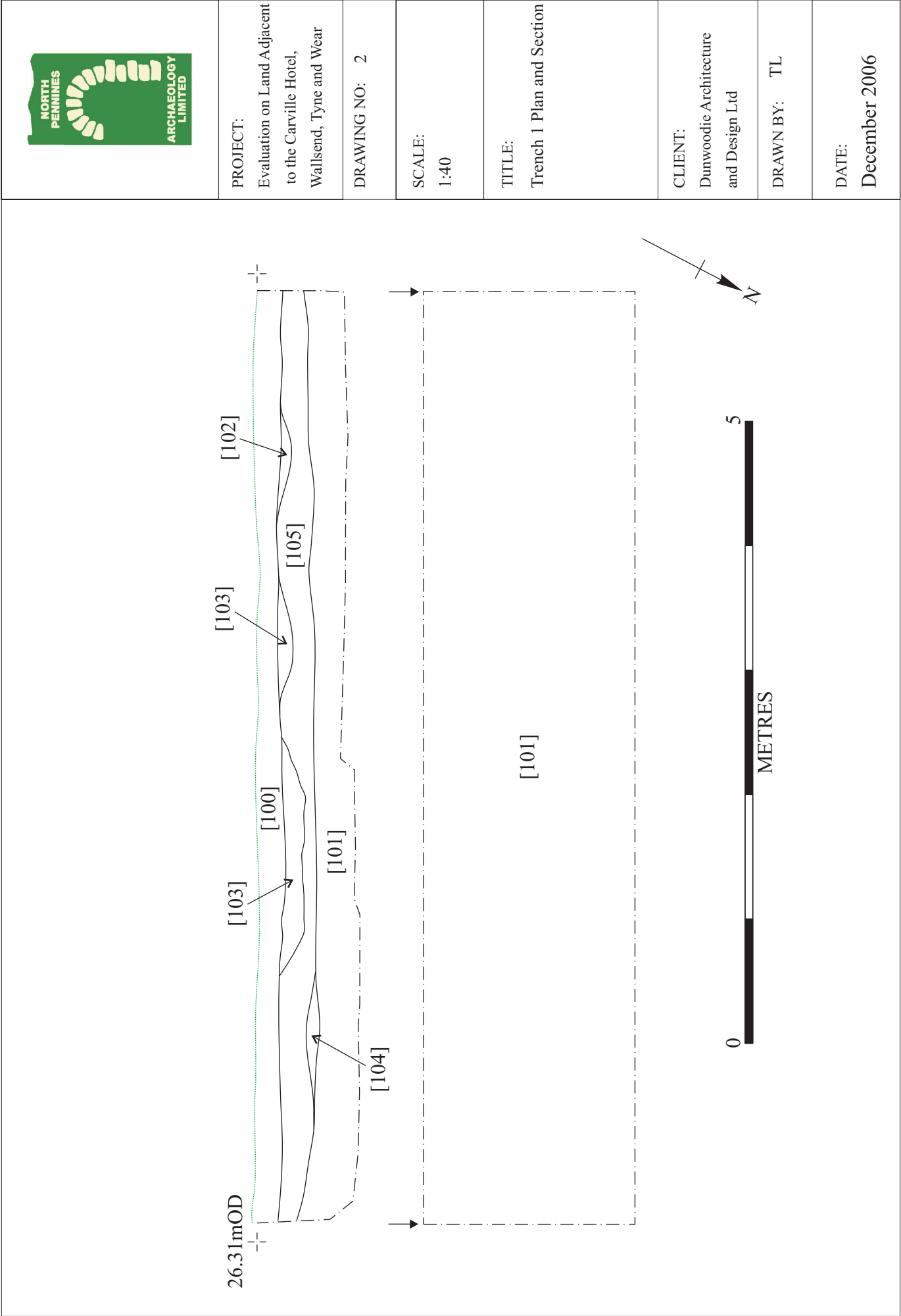


Figure 2. Plan and section of Trench 1

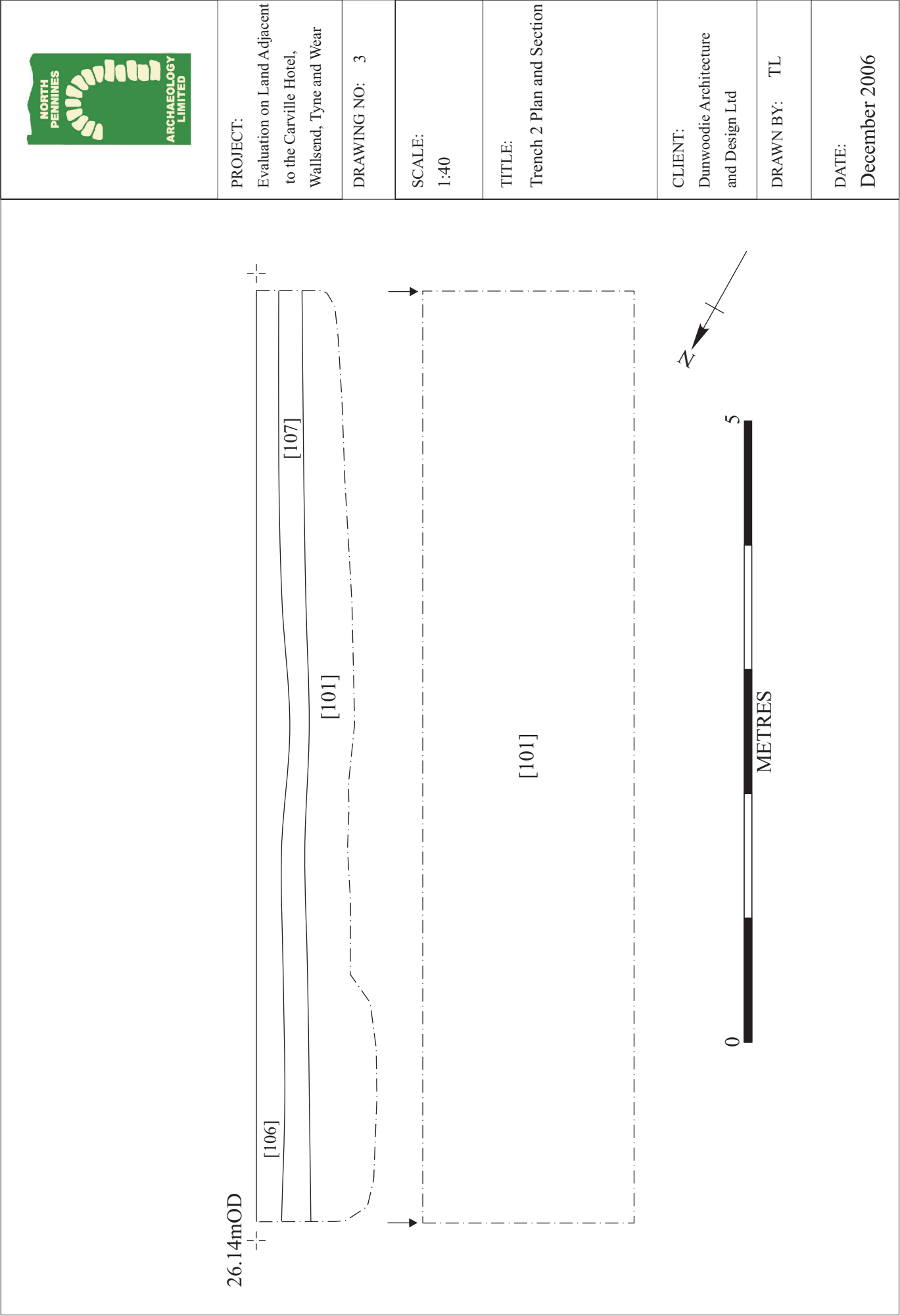
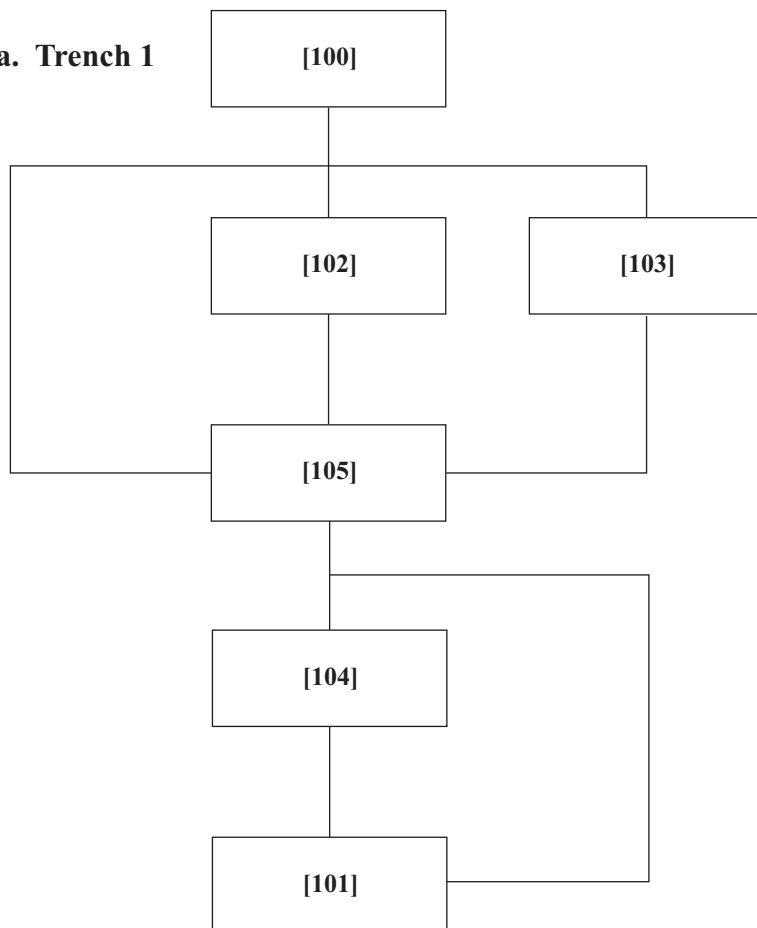


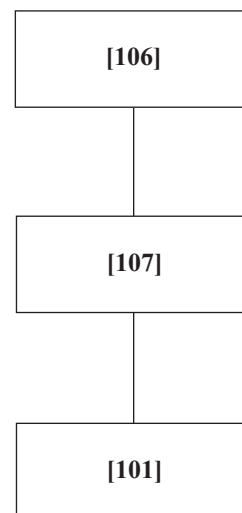
Figure 3. Plan and section of Trench 2



**a. Trench 1**



**b. Trench 2**



PROJECT: Land Adjacent to the Carville Hotel, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear  
DRAWING NO: 4  
SCALE: NA  
TITLE: Trenches 1 and 2 Matrices (See *Appendix 1* for Context Descriptions).  
CLIENT: Dunwoodie Architecture and Design Ltd  
DRAWN BY: TL  
DATE: December 2006

**Figure 4.** *Trench 1 and 2 Matrices.*