# NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

# Client Report No. CP/113/06



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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In November 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Mr Chris Humble to undertake an archaeological desk based assessment and building recording in advance of a proposed redevelopment of the site of Stublick Colliery, Langley, Northumberland (NGR NY 83374 60382). This will comprise the archaeological component of a feasibility study into the conversion of the colliery buildings into an art gallery, bunkhouse and studio.

The study involved the examination of all pertinent documents and cartographic sources held in the County Records Office held at Woodhorn, Northumberland, and of the Local Studies section of the library at Hexham and the consultation of the Historic Environment Record (HER) of Northumberland based in Morpeth, Northumberland. The HER includes the locations and settings of Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Parks and Gardens and other, non-designated archaeological remains. The Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineering, Newcastle upon Tyne, was also visited regarding this project. In addition, the Durham Mining Museum, Hexham Local History Society, The Border Library, Hexham, Tyne and Wear Archives and the Durham Record Office were all contacted regarding their archives, or their online catalogues were searched. In addition, a number of published sources were consulted to provide background information and several relevant web sites.

The desk-based assessment located a total of 14 sites from the HER in close proximity to the development site. These include a late prehistoric stone circle (Site 7), three deserted medieval villages (Sites 5, 8 and 9), the Langley and Blaghill lead smelt mills (Site 3), a linear earthwork (Site 6), Stublick Bog Mound Shafts (Site 10), Stublick Colliery (Site 4), the Langley Barony Fireclay Company Brickworks (Site 14) and a former Wesleyan Chapel at Langley (Site 11). Four listed buildings are also located within 1.5km of the site, and included in the HER totals.

The building recording survey and photography revealed that the buildings that survive at Stublick Colliery are mainly constructed of high quality, ashlar masonry with architectural details such as arched window and door heads and coping stones. The Smithy and Lamp Room are both constructed of poorer quality masonry, and may be later additions. No machinery remained *in-situ* within the interior of the buildings, although it was not possible to access the saw mill building, or smaller engine house, at the time of survey. At least some of the buildings appear to have been used for agricultural purposes since the colliery closed.

Any development has the potential to directly impact on a number of archaeological sites, including earlier colliery workings likely to survive sub-surface, and the potential for remains of Stublick Medieval Deserted Village. In addition, the Development Site lies within a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

It is therefore recommended that a programme of archaeological evaluation is undertaken prior to any proposed development of the site.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to offer thanks to Chris Humble for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Sarah MacClean, Northumberland Conservation Team, and all the staff at Northumberland Record Office. Thanks are also extended to Jennifer Kelly, librarian of the archives held at the Mining Institute, Newcastle upon Tyne, and the staff at Hexham Library Local Studies Section, for their help during this project.

The desk-based assessment was undertaken by Cat Peters. The archaeological building recording and photography was undertaken by Fiona Wooler and Frances Wood. The report was written by Cat Peters and Fiona Wooler, and the drawings were produced by Cat Peters. The project was managed by Matt Town, Senior Project Officer for NPA Ltd, and Frank Giecco, Technical Director for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Matt Town.

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1** CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 A feasibility study into the conversion of the colliery buildings at the former Stublick Colliery, Langley, Northumberland (NGR NY 83374 60382) (Figure 1) into an art gallery, bunkhouse and studio is being prepared. This desk-based assessment and building recording comprises the archaeological component of this programme of work. This is deemed necessary due to the buildings being Grade II\* Listed and being located in an area designated by English Heritage as a Scheduled Ancient Monument though the buildings themselves are not scheduled. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Chris Humble to undertake the required archaeological desk-based assessment of the general area around the former colliery site, and an archaeological building recording of the buildings themselves.
- 1.1.2 The desk-based assessment comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Historic Environment Record (HER) in Morpeth, Northumberland County Record Office at Woodhorn, The Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers Archives in Bolbec Hall, Newcastle upon Tyne and the local studies section of the library at Hexham, as well as a search of the archives and library held by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. In addition, the on-line catalogues of Durham University's collections, and the collections held at Durham Record Office were checked, as well as those held at Tyne and Wear Archives, and enquiries were made to the Durham Mining Museum, Hexham Local History Society and The Border Library, Hexham, for further assistance and information.
- 1.1.3 The principal objective of this assessment was to undertake sufficient work in order to identify and characterise the archaeological constraints associated with the development area, in order to assess the archaeological and historical potential of the development site.
- 1.1.4 The purpose of the archaeological building recording was to compile a full photographic record of the structures as existing, as well as an accompanying detailed description of the history of the building, with the structural sequence as observed during the fieldwork.
- 1.1.5 This report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential of the area, an assessment of the impact of the proposed development, and recommendations for further work.

### **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 Chris Humble for an archaeological desk-based assessment and building recording of the study area. Following acceptance of the project design, 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 of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.

#### 2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 Several sources of information were consulted, in accordance with the project brief and project design. The study area consisted of a broad overall history of this area of Northumberland, with an additional detailed c. 0.5 km diameter area, centred on the proposed development area, which was studied in more depth. The principal sources of information were the Historic Environment Record (HER), maps and secondary sources.
- 2.2.2 *Historic Environment Record (HER):* the HER in Morpeth, a database of archaeological sites within the county, was accessed. This was in order to obtain information on the location of all designated sites and areas of historic interest and any other, non-designated sites within the study area, which included monuments, findspots, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas. A brief record including grid reference and description was obtained for the various sites within the study area, and was examined in depth. Aerial photographs of the area were also studied. They also hold details and reports of previous archaeological work carried out in the area.
- 2.2.3 *Northumberland Record Office (NRO):* the newly opened County Record Office at Woodhorn was visited. This holds antiquarian and old O.S. Maps of Northumberland, as well as deposited building plans, correspondence and records, and general county histories relevant to Northumberland.
- 2.2.4 *Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineering (IMME):* the Archives held by the Mining Institute at Newcastle upon Tyne were searched for information on the study area. In particular, a search was made of relevant mining records including documentary and cartographic evidence held within their collections.
- 2.2.5 *Hexham Library Local Studies Section:* various old maps of the Hexhamshire area are held in the local studies section of the library. In addition, various local publications and documents outlining local history are held within the collections.
- 2.2.6 *North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (NPAL):* various publications and unpublished reports on excavations and other work in the region are held within the North Pennines Archaeology library and any undeposited archives of the sites themselves were examined. An electronic enquiry was also made of English Heritage's National

Monuments Record and the website of the Archaeology Data Service. This was in order to enhance and augment the data obtained from a search of the appropriate repositories.

#### 2.3 **PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY**

2.3.1 A full photographic record has been compiled of the structures as surviving; in colour, black and white print and digital format with a graduated metric scale in order to provide a definitive record of the site prior to development. Features of archaeological interest were identified and photographed. In addition, overall photographs were taken showing the exterior elevations. The structural evidence observed and noted during this fieldwork is outlined in Section 5.

#### **2.4 ARCHIVE**

2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design, and in accordance with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage guidelines (1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Northumberland HER, Morpeth.

### **3 BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1** LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The development site lies within a rural context close to the village of Langley (c. 600m to the south), c. 750 m south of Haydon Bridge and c. 1 km to the west of Hexham (Fig 1). It is located on an elevated position, close to the B6295 road (Fig 2).
- 3.1.2 The site is a former colliery site, and is currently disused and derelict. The mine closed in 1926, and the buildings were used as farm buildings for a period following the closure.
- 3.1.3 In the south-western part of Northumberland, the rocks outcropping the surface are of the Carboniferous Series, composed of Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit and Coal Measures, in decreasing order of age. It is the Carboniferous Limestone that occurs most frequently, and they are composed of alternating beds of limestone, sandstone, shale and thin coal seams (Storey 1973, 9).
- 3.1.4 "The Westphalian outcrop occupies an area of 5,963 hectares (3%) of the surface area of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is limited to its margins. The Westphalian rocks of the Durham and adjacent coalfields were laid down in a single depositional basin, which occupied the area between the Southern Uplands High, in Scotland, and the Wales-Brabant High to the south. Only rocks of the Lower Coal Measures (Westphalian A) are present. In the east the lowest beds of the Coal Measures are exposed at the westernmost edge of the Durham coalfield. In the north, portions of the Midgeholme, Plenmeller and Stublick coalfields, small faulted outliers of Coal Measures rocks, fall within the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and in the south-west the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty includes portions of the small Stainmore Coalfield. The Midgeholme, Plenmeller and Stublick coalfields are mostly elongated east-west and consist of southwarddipping Coal Measures rocks, which terminate abruptly against faults to the south. The faults form part of the Stublick-Ninety Fathom fault system, an important regional structural lineation, and were exposed during the excavation of the Plenmeller Opencast Coal site" (Our Geological Heritage 2004, 40).

#### **3.2** HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 This historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments around the study area.
- 3.2.2 **Late Prehistoric (c. 4000BC- AD 43):** the earliest known archaeological site located in the vicinity of the development area dates to the Late Prehistoric period. This site is a stone circle (Site 7). It consists of three rings of stones, two of which are circular and equally spaced of between 6 and 10 metres in diameter. The third comprises of four substantial stones, equally spaced, forming part of a circle measuring 26m in diameter. Three stones within this formed a circle of 17m diameter. The majority of stone circles in Britain were constructed between 2500

and 1500 BC (Manley 1989, 76). Stone circles tend to be concentrated in certain areas of Britain, e.g. the Mendips, Wiltshire, Derbyshire, Cornwall and Cumbria, so a stone circle in Tynedale is rare. Of the 55 stone circles known from northern England, 44 are located in Cumbria, with 11 in the North East. The majority of the large stone circles from these two regions occur in Cumbria, with those in the North East being small circles (Annabel 1987, 106). It has been suggested that the smaller examples of stone circles, could be later in date, and could represent an extended family, or smaller community, marking out their own territory or ritual area (Burl 2000). It has also been suggested that many of the smaller stone circles could have fulfilled a funerary function (Annabel 1987, 106). Many of these smaller stone circles are located in different locations to their larger counterparts, in elevated and less accessible uplands, and often amongst areas of cairns. Their construction is very much associated with the success of agriculture, and the presence of a stone circle close to the development site, suggests also the presence of Later Prehistoric farmsteads in the vicinity. Because Bronze Age houses are "unspectacular affairs" (Harding 2000, 22), all that tends to survive archaeologically are clusters of pits and post-holes, or cooking places distinguishable by an accumulation of fired stones.

3.2.3 *Medieval (c. AD 1066- AD 1485):* the area of Stublick lay within the Barony of Langley. Bulmer (1886) states that:

"The manor of Langley was in feudal times an important member of the great barony of Tindale, and at a later period, it gave the title of viscount and baron to the Radcliffes, earls of Derwentwater. In the reign of Henry I, otherwise Beauclere, it was held by Adam de Tindale by the service of one knight's fee, but, after one descent it passed in marriage to Adam de Boltby; in which family it descended through several generations until the line terminated in daughters, by one of whom this manor was conveyed in marriage to Thomas de Multon. The mother of this Thomas was Alice de Lucy, daughter and coheiress of Richard de Lucy, Lord of Egremont, and Thomas subsequently assumed the name and arms of his maternal ancestors. His son, Thomas, enjoyed the manor after his mother's death, and on his demise, it passed to his son, Anthony, Lord Lucy, who, in 1323, seized, by order of Edward II, Andrew de Harcla, Earl and Governor of Carlisle, whose fidelity was suspected by his royal master. For this important service he was appointed governor of the castles of Carlilse, Appleby and Egremont, and the following year he obtained a grant in fee, of the castle and honour of Cockermouth, for which, as also for this manor, he procured the privilege of free warren. Langley manor he bequeathed to his son Thomas, who in his turn was succeeded by his son Anthony. Anthony left issue an only child a daughter, Joan, who died in her infancy, and the manor then came into the possession of his sister Maud, then wife of Gilbert de Umfraville, Earl of Angus, whom she survived, and afterwards married Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland, on whom his and her heirs she settled all her estates on condition that the arms of the two families should be united. The earl took a leading part in the dethronement of Richard II, and the placing of the crown on the head of Henry, Duke of Lancaster, as Henry IV; but a few years afterwards he fell at the battle of Braham Moor fighting against the king, in whose cause he had once been a conspicuous champion, and his honours were forfeited to the Crown. Langley

was given by the king, to John Neville, Marquis of Montacute, who held it six years, and then resigned it to Sir Henry Percy, Lord Poynings, son of the valiant Hotspur, to whom all the Percy honours were restored. In 1632 the barony became by purchase the property of the Radcliffes of Dilston, and gave, as already stated, the title of Viscount and Baron Langley to Sir Francis Radcliffe, who was created Earl of Derwentwater by James II in 1668. On the attainder of the last earl, this manor, with all the other estates belonging to the unfortunate nobleman, was given to the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital" (Bulmer 1886, 602-4).

- 3.2.4 Interestingly, the three medieval sites within the 0.5 km study area are all deserted medieval village sites. The closest, which may well encroach upon the development site is the medieval village of Stublick (Site 9). The others, Langley medieval village (Site 5) and Nilston Rigg medieval village (Site 8) are located c. 1.2km north-north west and c.1km north-west-west respectively, from the Development Site. Interestingly, none of these three medieval villages are included in Beresford and Hurst's gazetteer of medieval villages (Beresford and Hurst 1989, 182-212). The presence of such similarly spaced small medieval hamlets in the landscape suggests that agriculture in the region remained important since the Bronze Age. It has been estimated that there are at least three thousand examples of deserted medieval villages throughout England (Rowley and Wood 1985, 5). The term village, in medieval terms, could refer to a small hamlet or group of houses, or even to a small town. Settlement history has shown how fluid and tempestuous living in nucleated rural communities has been through the ages, and how dependent the success of any settlement is upon various factors.
- 3.2.5 It is generally accepted that the population of Britain underwent a decline in the late-Roman and post-Roman period, but that it prospered again between about AD 700 and 1300 (ibid, 10). Between c. 1100 and 1250 wasteland and surviving woodland was being cleared due to population pressure. The building of a castle often stimulated settlement in the close vicinity, and villages grew up around such bastions. Langley would be a good example of such a settlement. In the 1296 Lay Subsidy, 17 taxpayers were recorded at Langley, and this would have included several of its neighbouring hamlets. A plan of 1365 recorded the manor comprised a castle, a free husbandland and a croft, whilst a plan of 1736 showed the castle with three houses (Wrathmell 1975). Now only the castle and one farmstead remain. This decline could be partly explained by the Scottish raids in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, which extended into the North of England and had guite an effect on settlements in the region. In 1218 they destroyed 140 villages in Yorkshire alone (Rowley and Wood 1985, 14). Some of the settlements that had been established during the highest point of population pressure had been established on unpromising land. As tenancies in these settlements became vacant, as the land could no longer provide a stable income, peasants were able to move from marginalised lands into better lands and took long leases under favourable terms. These meant fewer people living in the same settlement. Villages whose lands were poorer or where the terms on which the tenants farmed were harsh, declined during the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- 3.2.6 It can be argued that the villages that are deserted are in many cases, atypical (Roberts 1976, 259). The Deserted Medieval Villages in nearby County Durham

tended to be those in lay hands, in contrast to the very large proportion of successful villages that were found within ecclesiastical estates (ibid). It seems that the Manor and Township of Langley was never part of an estate of a great-archive creating family nor under the direct control of the Church and accordingly, the documentary evidence for its history seems to be scanty and scattered across a great many sources (Tolan-Smith and Smith 1997, 57). The village of Stublick is rarely documented at all, prior to the establishment of the colliery. The Boldon Buke entry for Langley is simply; "Acto, the steward, has Langley as much for the service which he did for the Lord Henry, Bishop of Winchester, of good memory, as for that which he did for the Lord Hugh, Bishop of Durham, half of which the same Lord Bishop bought with his own money and gave to the same Acto with the service of the other half and he pays half a mark for it, however" (Austin 1982, 47).

- 3.2.7 The success of Hexham as a growing urbanised market town with industrial processes, particularly tanning, of immense importance, may have had a part to play in the migration of villagers to the town for work, particularly those from the more marginalised and less fertile agricultural lands. The growth of farming in the area was paralleled by the emergence of an urban focus at Hexham (Storey 1973, 23).
- *Post-Medieval (c. AD 1485- 1900):* by the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Border Warfare had ceased, 3.2.8 at least of the 'official variety' (Butlin 1867, 160). The resulting comparative stability in the area led to the occurrence of agrarian change and agriculture at such unprecedented pace, that much of the superior quality land had been enclosed before the Hanoverian period of enclosure by statute began (1714 onwards) (*ibid*). If the villages of Stublick, Langley and Nilston Rigg had not been deserted in the preceding period, the impact of Inclosure could have been the trigger cause. With the inclosure of large tracts of land, it became more convenient for the farmsteads to be located at the centre of the holdings, rather than clustered together in villages (Tolan-Smith and Smith 1997, 53). Some of the surviving farmsteads occupied much older sites within what formerly would have been the larger village settlements, whilst other farmsteads are comparatively recent in date, having moved away from these settlements to occupy the centre of the newly formed land division system. Some of the Listed Buildings in the vicinity of the Development Site probably date to this period of change in social organisation and land use (e.g. Sites 12 and 13), whereas others may date to the earlier period (e.g. Sites 1 and 2). The Acts of the Division of Commons in the County of Northumberland, Section 14: Langley South Common, was dated 1793 (NRO 691/61/29). This document stated that it was the Commissioners and Governors of the Royal Hospital for Seaman at Greenwich, Kent, that were the Lords of the Barony or Manor of Langley. It estimated that the common, moor or trust of land totalled 2,600 acres. No plan accompanied the Award.
- 3.2.9 Although mining in the north-east of England began in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, it remained sporadic until the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, when markets were developed in London and other towns around the North Sea basin (House 1964, 103). The earliest pits were for domestic coal and were sunk close to the banks of the lower Tyne and Wear, within short waggonway distances of the coaling staithes. From about 1720 onwards, waggonways were driven further into the Hinterland, particularly the north-west Durham plateau (House 1964, 103). By about 1825 the waggonways

were being replaced by railway, and during the 1840s, the railway network was extended with the opening of many new collieries, particularly in the steam-coal areas of southern Northumberland.

- 3.2.10 The forfeit of the estates of the Earl of Derwentwater occurred in 1715, after the rebellion of that year (Mulcaster 1795). From 1735 onwards, the Commissioners of the Greenwich Hospital for Seaman, held the lands (Linsley 1993, 1). These estates included a great part of Tynedale and Alston Moor, where there were a number of scattered mines. The policy of the Greenwich Hospital Commissioners was to offer for public tender, the separate lease of each mine in their area (Raistrick 1988, 12). A document, dated to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1736, was a proposal by Amos Barnes and Los Lavburn for taking the colliery, paying a sum of £20 per year for a term of 21 years, "providing that the commissioners would grant us liberty to build a house on the common and take in about 6 acres of ground" (Barnes 1736). It is not clear whether this offer was accepted or not, because only Barnes' records survive, but the date matches the evidence that mines on the estates were put out to tender at this time. By the 1740s and 1750s this policy proved expensive and unsatisfactory and, with the building of Langley lead smelt-mill in 1768 (Linsley 1993, 1), it is thought that the Stublick Colliery was taken into hand. Stublick Colliery (Site 4) produced the coal to fuel the Langley lead smelt-mill (Site 3). The exact date of the foundation of the colliery is not known. Armstrong's map of 1769 does not depict a colliery, though it clearly denotes High Stublick and Low Stublick, and does show the lead works to the south of Langley (Fig 4). It is known that the mines had been begun by this date, however.
- 3.2.11 The Stublick Fault (fault: extended break in rock outcrop), located just to the south of the Development Site and south of Langley lead smelt-mill, resulted in small pockets of coalfield being brought to the surface to the south and east of Hexham, such as the tiny Planmellor and Stublick coalfields (Atkinson 1974, 22). Three collieries seem to have utilised these outcrops on the Stublick coalfields; Low Stublick Colliery (Lancaster University Archaeological Unit 1996), Stublick Hill Colliery (Lancaster University Archaeological Unit 1995) and Stublick Colliery (Site 4). The siting of these coal outcrops and collieries had an impact on the positioning of lead smelt-mills in the area. Stublick Colliery was certainly in full production by 1774, when J. Barnes visited the site on 27<sup>th</sup> June of that year (Barnes 1774, 186-7). By this time two pits were being worked. Intriguingly the letter seems to refer to longevity of working at the mines, for he writes, "this colliery appears to have been an old working colliery" (Barnes 1774, 186). He also refers to one level now being in ruins and gives a calculation of only 3 acres coal left to be won before the mine is finished, unless a way is found for water to be pumped into the higher levels. It seems that the mine was originally created to fuel the Langley lead smeltmills, for even in this document, an amount of the total coal won in a year is attributed to the lead mills, before the rest is taken into account (*ibid*, 187). It was not only the coal that was utilised from the Stublick Colliery, but also the water that was pumped out was used to power it, as it was less likely to freeze (Linsley 1993, 1). Improvements, made after the 1774 suggestions (Barnes 1774, 186), to drainage brought lower strata into production and the colliery continued to be well able to supply coal for the Hospital's own smelting requirements as well as for land sale (Linsley 1993,1).

- 3.2.12 By the late 1700s the Northern Estates, owned by the Greenwich Hospital, were flourishing. It is likely that the French Wars (which began in 1793) led to a demand for lead, and so did the Wedgewood Potteries, which were well-established by this time (Newell 1984, 111). Increased competition from the Cornish Mines meant that the price of lead had fallen. In 1793 the smelting of lead and silver in the Northern Estates of the Greenwich Hospital cost £3,000. This was still profitable, and added with the royalties from the London Lead Company, 'metallic minerals' made a clear profit of £10,000. The Langley Smelt Mill (Site 3) was a very large and important lead smelt-mill. It was built in 1768 by Greenwich Hospital and extended in the 1770s to include two refining furnaces, a reducing furnace and a slag hearth. There is a case of a complainant at this time. Mrs Down, the tenant of Langley Farm stated that her horses were dying from 'the poisonous quality of lead mill smoke and the contaminated stream' (quoted in Newell 1984, 111). The General Court agreed that the Greenwich Hospital should take back the land surrounding the stream and plant trees along the bank. Mrs Brown was granted a reduction of £15 a year from her annual rent of  $\pm 110$  for the land (*ibid*, 112). The land in the area must have been heavily contaminated. Langley lead smelt-mill closed in 1887 (Atkinson 1974, 246), with much of the works being demolished by 1896. The success of the lead smeltmill at Langley during the 1800s produced high demand for coal to fuel the furnace to be supplied from local sources, to keep prices competitive.
- 3.2.13 The Greenwich Hospital visitation of 1805 to Langley, found that Stublick Colliery was at this time employing a manager and sixteen workers, and was still supplying the required amount of coal and most of the water needed to work the mills (Linsley 1993, 2). At the same time there were concerns over possible future shortages. This was avoided by the construction of a reservoir at Nilston Rigg. This gave the colliery a longer life, as a document deed, by the Commissioners of Greenwich Hospital to Mr Robert Shield, 13<sup>th</sup> May 1833, claimed a lease of Stublick Colliery and Stublick Small Farms in the Township of Haydon in the Parish of Warden in the County of Northumberland for 14 years from 12<sup>th</sup> May 1833 (NRO ZNI.12). The colliery at Stublick is quoted as being owned by an M. Stobart, who lived at Tower Road, Rotherhithe, London, in 1896 (Hedley 1896).
- 3.2.14 Greenwood's map of 1828 (Fig 5) clearly depicts coal pits to the east of 'Old Stublick'. A Smithy is also depicted close to the site. It is interesting that it is now known as 'Old Stublick', perhaps suggesting it was once a village. The First Edition Ordnance Survey Mapping of 1865 (Fig 6) labels the Development Site as including old shafts, a smith and an engine house and saw mill. This is a relatively late phase of the running of the colliery when it had reached its largest size.
- 3.2.15 *Modern (1900- present):* Stublick Colliery, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, seems to have been run contemporaneously with the Langley Barony Fireclay Company Brickworks (Site 14). This brick and tile works, superseded the Langley Lead smelt-mill after its collapse in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and was built on the north bank of an artificial lake, still a prominent feature (Ryder 2004, 16). The lake itself had been constructed to power the waterwheels of the lead works. According to the letterheads of the company, the Langley Barony Fireclay Company was patented in 1905. A section of a letter written by Henry Armstrong, Engineer, on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1909

to Walter Smith Esq., entitled, Stublick Colliery Report (Armstrong 1909) reads as follows:

"in accordance with your instructions I have examined the mineral field which you hold from the Lords of the Admiralty, and Lord Allendale, and have obtained such information as was available to enable me to advise you whether, in my judgement, the mines can be successfully worked in conjunction with your fireclay works;... these two royalties, the former of which was previously held by Mr. Stobbart, form part of the true Coal Measures and are situated 2.5 miles south of the village of Haydon Bridge and within easy access of the North Eastern Railway Company's Branch line between Hexham and Allendale Town".

- 3.2.16 The letter approves of the two companies being run together, due to the quality of fireclay found beneath the coal. A further letter dated to the following year, 26<sup>th</sup> February 1910 from Henry Armstrong, Mining Engineer, to the Langley Barony Coal and Fireclay Company Ltd, Langley on Tyne entitled *'report on the progress made in the development'* (Armstrong 1910), comments on the improvements made over the last year. These include the purchase of a New Lancashire Boiler, bought second hand for £240, the erection of a chimney in connection with the Boiler, which the author deemed of sufficient capacity for a second boiler, and further new erections which included a store, a joiners, a blacksmiths, a managers office and a weigh machine house, where a weigh table was fixed.
- 3.2.17 The mine closed in 1926. Unfortunately, with mining history, sometimes the records relating to a colliery are destroyed when the mine closes (Jennifer Kelly *pers. comm.*). This might explain the lack of plans of the mines. The Development Site had not been altered on the Ordnance Survey mapping, as shown by the First Edition of 1865 (Fig 6) and revealed by the 1957 Edition (Fig 7). The only difference between the two, despite the near 100 years time-gap, is that the buildings are no longer individually identified on the later map, explained by the fact that the buildings were empty at this time.

### 4 ASSESSMENT RESULTS

#### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The assessment results are based on primary documents, most notably maps, and on the secondary sources used in *Section 3.2*. The results are presented according to the archive from which they were consulted. There are 14 HER records for the study area immediately around the site, defined as a 1.5km radius, centred on the site. A full list of the sites identified by the assessment is given in the Gazetteer in *Appendix 1*.

#### 4.2 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

- 4.2.1 *HER:* there were 14 HER records within the study area, which is defined as a c.
  0.5km radius around the site (Fig 3). These include 1 entry of Late Prehistoric date, 3 entries of Medieval date, 8 entries of Post Medieval date and 2 entries of Early Modern date. A full summary can be found in *Appendix 1*.
- 4.2.2 *Listed Buildings:* the listed building records show that several listed buildings exist within a 0.5km radius of the site. As Listed Buildings are part of the same catalogue as other sites in the HER, they have been included in the date totals above (4.2.1). They include: a range of farm buildings to the north-west of Monk Farmhouse, Grade II listed (Site 1), a range of farm buildings situated 20m north of Westside Farmhouse Grade II listed (Site 2), Beacon Rigg Farmhouse, Grade II listed (Site 12) and a barn situated 10m north-west of Beacon Rigg Farmhouse, Grade II listed (Site 13). The two latter sites date to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, with the two former sites dating to the Post Medieval period.

#### 4.3 NORTHUMBERLAND RECORD OFFICE

4.3.1 The Northumberland County Record Office has recently been reopened in its new location at Woodhall. It was consulted for maps for regression analysis of the study area, as well as County Histories and Trade Directories and Local History Books. In addition a search of the online search engine, Access to Archives was undertaken.

#### 4.4 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- 4.4.1 A search of maps recording Langley was carried out. Only those that reveal the area around the development site, and of direct relevance have been included.
- 4.4.2 *Armstrong's plan of Northumberland, 1769 (Fig 4):* this plan does not show a colliery in the area of the Development Site. The Development Site lies just to the east of a settlement known as High Stublick. The lead mills are depicted to the north-west of the Development Site.
- 4.4.3 *Greenwood's plan of Northumberland, 1828 (Fig 5):* this plan shows coal pits in the vicinity of the Development Site, and a smithy just to the north. Nilston Rigg Reservoir is also depicted to the north-west of the Development Site.

- 4.4.4 **Ordnance Survey Map 1865, First Edition, 25" to 1 mile, sheet XCIII.14, (Fig 6):** the First Edition Ordnance Survey mapping of 1865 shows the Development Site clearly with the individual buildings of a smithy, an engine house, and a saw mill labelled. Old shafts are also depicted to the north and west.
- 4.4.5 **Ordnance Survey Map 1896, Second Edition, 25" to 1 mile, sheet XCIII.14**: the Second Edition Ordnance Survey mapping reveals the same building layout as the First Edition of 1865, but there are no individual labels for the buildings.
- 4.4.6 **Ordnance Survey Map, 1912 Third Edition, 6" to 1 mile, sheet 99:** the Third Edition Ordnance Survey mapping reveals the same overall layout as the Second Edition, but there is a further 'old shaft' identified just to the east of the Development Site.
- 4.4.7 Ordnance Survey Map, 1957- Provisional Edition, 6" to mile, sheet NY 86 SW (Fig 7): the Provisional Edition Ordnance Survey mapping of 1957, reveals the same site layout as the earlier editions, with no individual labelling of buildings. The surrounding area is labelled, with an Old Quarry depicted to the north-west, Old Drifts to the north-west and stake holes to the west. The 'Old Shaft' first depicted on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey mapping is still annotated.

#### 4.5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

4.5.1 Aerial photographs pertaining to the study area were studied at the Historic Environment Record Office at Morpeth, Northumberland. None of these showed any new features in close proximity to the site.

#### 4.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

4.6.1 The development site itself has not yet been subjected to archaeological investigation. Various areas close to the site have been studied previously, and below is a summary:

LOCATION	CONTRACTOR	TYPE OF INVESTIGATION
Branch End Farm,	Lancaster University	Archaeological
Stublick, Langley	Archaeology Unit	Assessment
Branch End Farm,	Lancaster University	Archaeological
Stublick, Langley	Archaeology Unit	Evaluation

4.6.2 As the above sites are both located c. 200m to the east of the development site, on the opposite side of the Stublick Coalfield, and they have concentrated on Branch End Farm, they are of little relevance to the Development Site, and do little to inform us of the likelihood of sub-surface archaeological survival within the Development Site.

### **5 BUILDING RECORDING RESULTS**

#### 5.1 **INTRODUCTION**

5.1.1 The buildings at Stublick Colliery survive as a well-preserved group on an elevated position which dominate the skyline south-east of Langley (Plate 1). The buildings consist of two engine-houses with chimneys, one is marked on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map as a 'Saw Mill' and has a lamp-room constructed against its north elevation, the larger engine-house has a single-storey range against its east elevation (Figure 8). To the north-east there is a small single-storey structure which is marked on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map as a 'Sawty' (Figure 6).



Plate 1 – Stublick Colliery buildings as seen from the west

#### 5.2 **Results**

- 5.2.1 <u>The Smithy</u>
- 5.2.1.1 The smithy is located to the north-east of the main buildings beside the track into the site (Figure 8). This is a roofless single-storey structure of coursed, squared masonry with dressed quoins measuring approximately 6.60 metres in length by 4.80 metres wide externally. The masonry of this building is not of the same high quality as that of the other buildings on the site, and has no features of architectural detail. In both the north-east and south-west elevations there is a large doorway and a window (Plates 2 and 3). There are the remains of a fireplace in the western internal corner (Plate 4).



Plate 2 – North-west elevation of smithy



Plate 3 – South-east elevation of smithy



Plate 4 – Fireplace, interior of smithy

- 5.2.2 The Saw Mill and Lamp Room
- 5.2.2.1 The saw mill and lamp room are located to the west of the site, with part of the lamp room straddling the boundary wall of the enclosure in which the buildings are situated (Figure 8). The saw mill, or smaller engine-house, is constructed of coursed square ashlar masonry of high quality. The roof is of Welsh Slate and the gables have coping stones which terminate at eaves level with carved masonry blocks which provide architectural detail to the building (Plate 5). In the south facing elevation is a window (Plate 5); in the west, a cart doorway with segmental arched head and possible blocked window above, and a large sliding doorway which may be a later addition (Plate 6). The north elevation has a doorway and a small window, or aperture for former machinery (Plate 7). The west elevation faces into the adjacent field; there is a blocked window to the northern end and a curious circular or oval shaped blocking to the southern end, close to the chimney stack (Plate 8). It was not possible to access the interior of this building at the time of survey.
- 5.2.2.2 To the west of the saw mill building is the smaller of the two chimneys on the site. The chimney, which tapers towards the top, is also constructed of squared and coursed ashlar masonry with a chamfered base (Plate 9). There are blocked apertures close to the base of the eastern elevation of the chimney, with a corresponding one in the western wall of the saw mill, suggesting that some pipe work formerly ran from the building to the chimney carrying the steam (Plate 10).
- 5.2.2.3 The lamp room was constructed against the northern elevation of the saw mill and is of poorer quality masonry (Plate 7). Clear construction breaks between the two buildings show that the lamp room is a later addition. There is doorway in the

eastern elevation and a further doorway in the western elevation (Plate 8), which presumably gave access to the mine shafts in the adjacent field. Internally, the northern wall of the lamp room still retains seven recesses for the miners lamps constructed of brick (Plate 11).



Plate 5 – South elevation of saw mill



Plate 6 – East elevation of saw mill



Plate 7 – North elevation of saw mill with one of the walls for the lamp room to the right



Plate 8 – West elevations of saw mill and lamp room to the left



Plate 9 – The smaller of the two chimneys located to the west of the saw mill



Plate 10 – East elevation of chimney showing blocked aperture (Scale = one metre)



Plate 11 – Northern wall of lamp room showing recesses for lamps

- 5.2.3 <u>The Large Engine House</u>
- 5.2.3.1 The large engine house is located on the eastern side of the site (Figure 8). This building with its associated chimney forms the most dominant part of the site. This structure would have been used to house the boiler and beam engine for pumping water from the mine; one of the shafts was located on the northern side of the engine house (Figure 8). The engine house, like the saw mill, is constructed of squared, coursed ashlar masonry with the same coping stones and architectural detail at termination of the coping at eaves level, suggesting that both the large engine house and saw mill (or smaller engine house) are contemporary. In the north elevation there is a cart entrance at ground level, with a round-headed opening at the upper level which presumably relates to winding gear, as the pumping shaft is located immediately below this aperture (Plate 12). There is a round-headed doorway at ground level (Plate 13).
- 5.2.3.2 The west elevation has a doorway at mid-height, and at the northern end of the elevation is a buttress which presumably is necessary to compensate for the thrust of the roof on the eastern side, as the pitches are different on each side of the roof (Plate 13). On the southern side of the engine house is the larger of the two chimneys (Plate 14). This chimney is constructed in the same manner as the smaller, with a chamfered base and tapering towards the top. At the base on its northern side was an opening, which corresponds to an opening in the wall of the engine house (Plate 15). It was possible to observe that the interior of this chimney was brick-built all the way up its length, and that there was a blocked opening in the south wall with arched head (Plate 16). The east facing elevation of the chimney shows that there was originally a further opening which has subsequently been brick-up. This elevation also provides evidence for a retaining wall which



continued from the south of the chimney (Plate 17). In the east elevation of the main engine house building are two windows, one above the other (Plate 18).

Plate 12 – North elevation of large engine house, showing retaining wall to the right



Plate 13 - North and west elevations of large engine house with fenced-off shaft to the front



Plate 14 – Chimney on the southern side of engine house



Plate 15 – Opening in north side of large chimney, with corresponding opening in south wall of large engine house visible to the left (Scale = one metre)



Plate 16 – Interior of large chimney, showing blocked opening in opposing wall and brick-built interior



Plate 17 – East elevation of chimney showing blocked opening and remains of former retaining wall to the left



Plate 18 - East elevations of large engine house and single-storey range

- 5.2.3.3 Against the east elevation of the large engine house is a single-storey range aligned roughly east-west (Plates 18 and 19). This building is constructed of squared, coursed ashlar masonry, the same as the large engine house and saw mill, with the same coping stones. The Welsh slate roof has two chimney stacks, one on the east gable end and the other located in the middle of the ridge (Plate 19).
- 5.2.3.4 Along the north elevation is a large doorway (which may not be an original feature) and a window (Plate 20). The east elevation is featureless apart from the chimney already mentioned; however the detail of the stonework of the end of the coping stones was best observed here (Plate 21). On the southern elevation of this building is a doorway with a window on either side, and a blocked doorway at the western end (Plate 22). The unblocked doorway provides access to a room, to the left of this doorway was an internal stone wall which divides the range into two (access to the western room possible via the large doorway on the northern elevation.
- 5.2.3.5 The unblocked doorway on the south elevation provides access to a room, to the left of this doorway was an internal stone wall which divides the range into two (access to the western room possible via the large doorway on the northern elevation). Inside this room were the remains of a fireplace and chimney breast in the eastern wall (Plate 23) with a small niche set in the wall to the right-hand side (possibly used to house an oil lamp or candle). In the northern wall are three rectangular niches (Plate 24), the window and a shelving area (Plate 25). The interior walls of this room have been lime-washed reflecting its more recent use as an agricultural building; however it is possible it was originally used as an office for the colliery.



Plate 19 – Single-storey range, east side of large engine house



Plate 20 – North elevation of single-storey range



Plate 21 – Detail of coping stones, single-storey range



Plate 22 – South elevation of single-storey range



Plate 23 – Remains of fireplace and chimney breast, interior of single-storey range



Plate 24 – Niches, north wall of single-story range



Plate 25 – Recess for shelving? Interior of single-storey range

- 5.2.3.6 The interior of the large engine house could be accessed via the arched cart doorway on the northern elevation (Plate 12) at the lower level, or via the smaller doorway at the upper level, beside the pump shaft (Plate 13). At the lower level the room is partly open to the roof at the southern end. No machinery remains *in-situ*, although it is possible that this is where the boiler was housed, as the aperture in the southern wall which corresponds with the chimney, is visible at ground level (Plate 26). The upper level consists of two floors, the second of which could be accessed by a ladder through a hatch in the floor. At this level, the ashlar masonry of the walls were observed internally, however it would appear that there has been a former cross wall dividing the building as shown by the rough stonework shown on Plate 27).
- 5.2.3.7 On the northern side of the large engine house is a masonry retaining wall with the remains of stone stairs (Plate 28).

![](_page_35_Picture_2.jpeg)

Plate 26 – View looking south, lower level interior of large engine house

![](_page_35_Picture_4.jpeg)

Plate 27 – Difference in stonework, interior of north wall of large engine house (the arched window to the left is the opening for the winding gear located above the pump shaft)

![](_page_36_Picture_2.jpeg)

Plate 28 – Retaining wall and remains of stairs, north side of large engine house

### **6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### 6.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

- 6.1.1 The potential for Prehistoric archaeological remains is low. Although a stone circle (Site 7) does survive c. 125m to the east of the Development Site, the likelihood of encountering remains relating to prehistoric settlement remains low.
- 6.1.2 The potential for Medieval archaeological remains surviving on the development site is medium. The site lies within what is thought to be the boundary of Stublick Deserted Medieval Village. Traces of medieval settlement therefore, could still survive sub-surface.
- 6.1.3 The potential for Post Medieval archaeological remains surviving on the development site is high. The site lies within the boundary of a scheduled ancient monument, relating to the Post Medieval Mining compound. Evidence for these earlier remains are thought to survive sub-surface.
- 6.1.4 The potential for Early Modern or Modern archaeological remains surviving subsurface is high. The extant Colliery buildings date to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are listed Grade II. It is likely that traces of colliery workings of a similar date also survive in the area.

#### 6.2 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.2.1 On the evidence presented above there is a medium to high potential for the survival of archaeological deposits on the site. As the Development Site lies within a designated scheduled ancient monument site, it is advisable that a form of archaeological mitigation is undertaken on this development site to avoid any detrimental affects to archaeology there. Archaeological features, particularly in the form of evidence of post-medieval and modern workings at Stublick Colliery, are likely to survive sub-surface.

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Site No.	HER No.	Site	Grid Reference (NY)	Period
1	7344	Range of buildings to north-west of Monk Farmhouse, Grade II listed	78340 56540	Post Medieval
2	7345	Farmbuildings 20m north of Westside Farmhouse, Grade II listed	79008 57301	Post Medieval
3	7649	Langley and Blaghill Lead Smeltmills, Flue and Chimney	83020 61510	Post Medieval
4	7652	Stublick Colliery	83310 60410	Post Medieval
5	7657	Langley Deserted Medieval Village	83400 62600	Medieval
6	7662	Linear Earthwork, possible associations with Stublick Colliery drainage system	84300 60600	Post Medieval
7	7663	Stone Circle	84600 60300	Late Prehistoric
8	7664	Nilston Rigg Deserted Medieval Village	82600 60700	Medieval
9	7667	Stublick Deserted Medieval Village	83300 60400	Medieval
10	7676	Stublick Bog Shaft Mounds	83800 60600	Post Medieval
11	7682	Former Wesleyan Chapel at Langley	82820 61190	Post Medieval
12	15227	Beacon Rigg Farmhouse, Grade II listed	83345 59894	Early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
13	15228	Barn, 10m north-west of Beacon Rigg Farmhouse, Grade II listed	83332 59905	Early 19 <sup>th</sup> century
14	20865	Langley Barony Fireclay Company Brickworks	82748 61162	Post Medieval

# **APPENDIX 1: GAZETTEER OF SITES**

# **APPENDIX 2: RECORDS FOR STUBLICK**

Below is a summary table of the Records mentioning Stublick revealed by an on-line search of Durham Mining Museum's catalogue.

Year	Code	Description	Location
1901	Abandoned mines: Stublick	Stone Coal level, abandoned 28 <sup>th</sup> March 1900	The Coal Authority, Mansfield
1919	Abandoned mines: Stublick	Bounder, Three Quarter, Main, Little levels, abandoned 1919	The Coal Authority, Mansfield
1926	Abandoned mines: Stublick	Little Coal, Three Quarter Main, Yard, Stone Coal, abandoned 1926	The Coal Authority, Mansfield
1882	List of Mines: Stublick	Manager: M. Stobart	Mining Museum, Newtongrange
1896	List of Mines: Stublick	Manager: J.W. Stobart	Mining Museum, Newtongrange
1902	List of Mines: Stublick	Manager: J.W. Stobart	Mining Museum, Newtongrange
1914	List of Mines: Stublick	Manager: J.W. Stobart	Mining Museum, Newtongrange
1921	List of Mines: Stublick	Manager: J.W. Stobart	Mining Museum, Newtongrange
1923	List of Mines: Stublick	Manager: J.W. Stobart	Mining Museum, Newtongrange
1924	List of Mines: Stublick	Manager: J.W. Stobart	Mining Museum, Newtongrange
1925	List of Mines: Stublick	Manager: J.W. Stobart	Mining Museum, Newtongrange

# **APPENDIX 3: FIGURES AND PLATES**