
NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Client Report No. 227/05

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION ON LAND AT CARROW FARM, NORTHUMBERLAND

**For
MR J DODDS**

NGR NY 849 710

C J Jones BA, MA, AIFA
North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre
Nenthead
Alston
Cumbria CA9 3PD
Tel: (01434) 382045
Fax: (01434) 382294
Mobile: 07979 617882
Email: c.jones@nparchaeology.co.uk

29th July 2005



CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
List of Figures.....	ii
List of Plates.....	iii
Non-Technical Summary.....	iv
Acknowledgements	v
1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION.....	1
2 PREVIOUS WORK AND BACKGROUND	1
3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY.....	2
4 RESULTS.....	2
4.4 Trench 1	2
4.5 Trench 2	2
4.6 Trench 3	3
5 THE FINDS	3
6 CONCLUSIONS	3
7 BIBLIOGRAPHY	4
Secondary Sources.....	4
8 APPENDIX 1 – INDEX OF CONTEXTS	5
9 APPENDIX 2 – ILLUSTRATIONS.....	6
10 APPENDIX 2 – PLATES.....	9

LIST OF FIGURES

	<i>Page</i>
Figure 1	Appendix 2
Figure 2	Appendix 2

LIST OF PLATES

	<i>Page</i>
Plate 1	Appendix 3
Plate 2	Appendix 3
Plate 3	Appendix 3

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In July 2005 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological field evaluation on land at Carrow Farm, Northumberland. This was in response to a brief prepared by Mike Collins, English Heritage Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist, following an application for scheduled monument consent to provide new vehicular access and one new agricultural access to land to the south of the B 6318 Military Road.

The work involved the excavation of three trial trenches in order to assess the presence/absence, extent, nature and state of preservation of archaeological deposits across the development site. Each trench was mechanically excavated to the natural substrate, which was observed at a depth of between 0.35 and 0.50m below ground level.

No significant archaeological remains were revealed during the evaluation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the following people and institutions for their help, advice and communication provided throughout the project: Mike Collins of English Heritage, Austin and Jeremy Dodds. The fieldwork was directed by Chris Jones BA, MA, AIFA who was assisted by Leon Field, Richard Hewitt and Alan James.

The report was written by Chris Jones and edited by Juliet Reeves BA. The project was managed by Chris Jones.

1 INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION

- 1.1 In July 2005 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook an archaeological field evaluation on land at Carrow Farm, Northumberland on behalf of Mr Jeremy Dodds. The work was required in a brief provided by Mike Collins of English Heritage (English Heritage 2005) in order to inform an application for scheduled monument consent to provide one new vehicular access and one new agricultural access to land to the south of the B 6318 Military Road.
- 1.2 The site is situated within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, between the fort of *Viroconium* (Housesteads) and the Mithraic temple of *Brocolitia* (Carrowburgh). The site itself lies on the project line of Hadrian's Wall, within the scheduled area. An earthwork immediately west of the site probably constitutes the remains of the Wall in this area, with the wall ditch underneath the Military Road. The Vallum is also visible to the south of the site. The area is shown in figure 1.
- 1.3 The purpose of the fieldwork was to evaluate the site in order to define the presence or absence of archaeological remains. The fieldwork was undertaken in a single phase lasting two days.
- 1.4 The site archive has been prepared to full MAP2 standard and is located in the archive of North Pennines Archaeology Ltd under the unique project identifier NPA 05 CAF-A.

2 PREVIOUS WORK AND BACKGROUND

- 2.1 There has been no previous work undertaken on the site.
- 2.2 Hadrian's Wall was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1987 and forms the most complex and best preserved of the frontiers of the Roman Empire (English Heritage 2002). The World Heritage Site comprises a visual envelope between 1km and 6km from the site in order to serve as a buffer zone to protect the site and its immediate landscape from development detrimental to the visual amenity of the site (Ibid.).
- 2.3 The WHS is centred on the military installations constructed from AD 122 on the orders of the Emperor Hadrian. The WHS also includes other Roman sites and structures which predate Hadrian's Wall, such as the arrangement of forts along the Cumbrian Coast between Bowness-on-Solway and Ravenglass, and incorporates a wealth of pre and post Roman sites and landscapes (Ibid.).

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The work undertaken consisted of a field evaluation. This consisted of the excavation of three trial trenches which measured 2m², 2m x 1m and 3m x 1m, in order to produce a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains.
- 3.2 In summary, the main objectives of the excavation were:
- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they are observed;
 - to establish the line of Hadrian's Wall in relation to the development site;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes.
- 3.3 The trenches were mechanically excavated to the natural substrate, owing to the lack of archaeological deposits. The trenches were then manually cleaned and recorded according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd standard procedure, as set out in the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd Excavation Manual. Photography was undertaken using a Canon EOS 300V and Canon EOS 100 Single Lens Reflex (SLR) manual camera. A photographic record was made using 200 ISO colour print, colour slide and digital formats.
- 3.4 All work was undertaken in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (IFA 1994).

4 RESULTS

- 4.1 The evaluation was undertaken by Chris Jones BA, MA, AIFA, Project Archaeologist, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. He was assisted by Richard Hewitt, Leon Field and Alan James.
- 4.2 Three trial trenches were excavated within the proposed development site.
- 4.3 All references to cardinal directions refer to site grid north. Heights refer to the depth below current ground level.
- 4.4 Trench 1**
- 4.4.1 Trench 1 was located at the centre of the site and measured 2m x 2m. The natural substrate was observed at a depth of 0.35m and consisted of light brown boulder clay (101), sealed by a clay loam topsoil (100).
- 4.4.2 No archaeological deposits were observed within this trench.
- 4.5 Trench 2**
- 4.5.1 Trench 2 was located at the east of the site and measured 2m x 1m. The natural substrate was observed at a depth of 0.75m and consisted of light brown boulder clay (101). Context 101 was sealed by a series of layers of rubble which comprised sandstone fragments of various sizes (102, 107). Context 107 was sealed by a clay loam topsoil (100). Both rubble layers (102 and 107) contained

fragments of late 19th and early 20th century pottery and are highly unlikely to represent in-situ tumble from Hadrian's wall.

- 4.5.2 Context 101 was cut by two 19th century ceramic field drains (103) and (105). No archaeological deposits were observed within this trench.

4.6 Trench 3

- 4.6.1 Trench 3 was located at the west of the site and measured 4m x 1m. The trench originally measured 3m in length but was extended in order to investigate a possible feature. The natural substrate was observed at a depth of 0.35m and consisted of interleaving boulder clay (101) and coarse textured sand (111).

- 4.6.2 Two linear features were observed and investigated, each cut into context 101 (109, 114). Feature 109 consisted of a shallow linear slot which measured 0.20m wide x 0.30m deep and upon investigation demonstrated to be a cut for a field drain, filled with a mixed clay and loam (110). Feature 114 consisted of a wide, shallow, straight-sided linear slot also interpreted as a cut for a drain, filled by redeposited clay loam topsoil (115).

- 4.6.3 A small, ill-defined, sub-circular pit was observed within this trench (112). Pit 112 measured approximately 0.50 in diameter x 0.05m deep, and was filled by a redeposited sand (113). The feature produced no finds. All features were sealed by a clay loam topsoil (100).

5 THE FINDS

- 5.1 There were few artefacts recovered from any of the trenches, and all consisted exclusively of late 19th and 20th century material. None of the finds were retained.

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No significant archaeological deposits were observed within any of the trenches. The natural substrate was observed at an average depth of 0.40m and was cut by a number of 19th century or later field drains. With the exception of a possible pit of unknown date or function, no archaeological features were revealed by the work.
- 6.2 The absence of well defined archaeological remains, along the same line as an earthwork reputed to be the remains of Hadrian's Wall in the area, suggest that the site had been extensively disturbed and all traces of the Wall removed by later activity. The total absence of medieval or early post-medieval activity also suggests that this disturbance took place in the 19th century or later.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Secondary Sources

- Collins, M. (2005) *Brief for an Archaeological Field Evaluation on land at Carrow Farm, Northumberland*. English Heritage.
- English Heritage (1991) *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*. London: English Heritage.
- English Heritage (2002) *Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site Management Plan*.
- Giecco, F.O. (2001) *North Pennines Heritage Trust Excavation Manual*. Unpublished: North Pennines Heritage Trust. Unpublished.
- IFA (1994) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*. Reading: Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- Ferguson, RS, (1890) *A History of Cumberland, London*
- Jones, C.J. (2005) *Project Design for an Archaeological Field Evaluation on land at Carrow Farm, Northumberland*. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. Project Design No. 227. Unpublished.

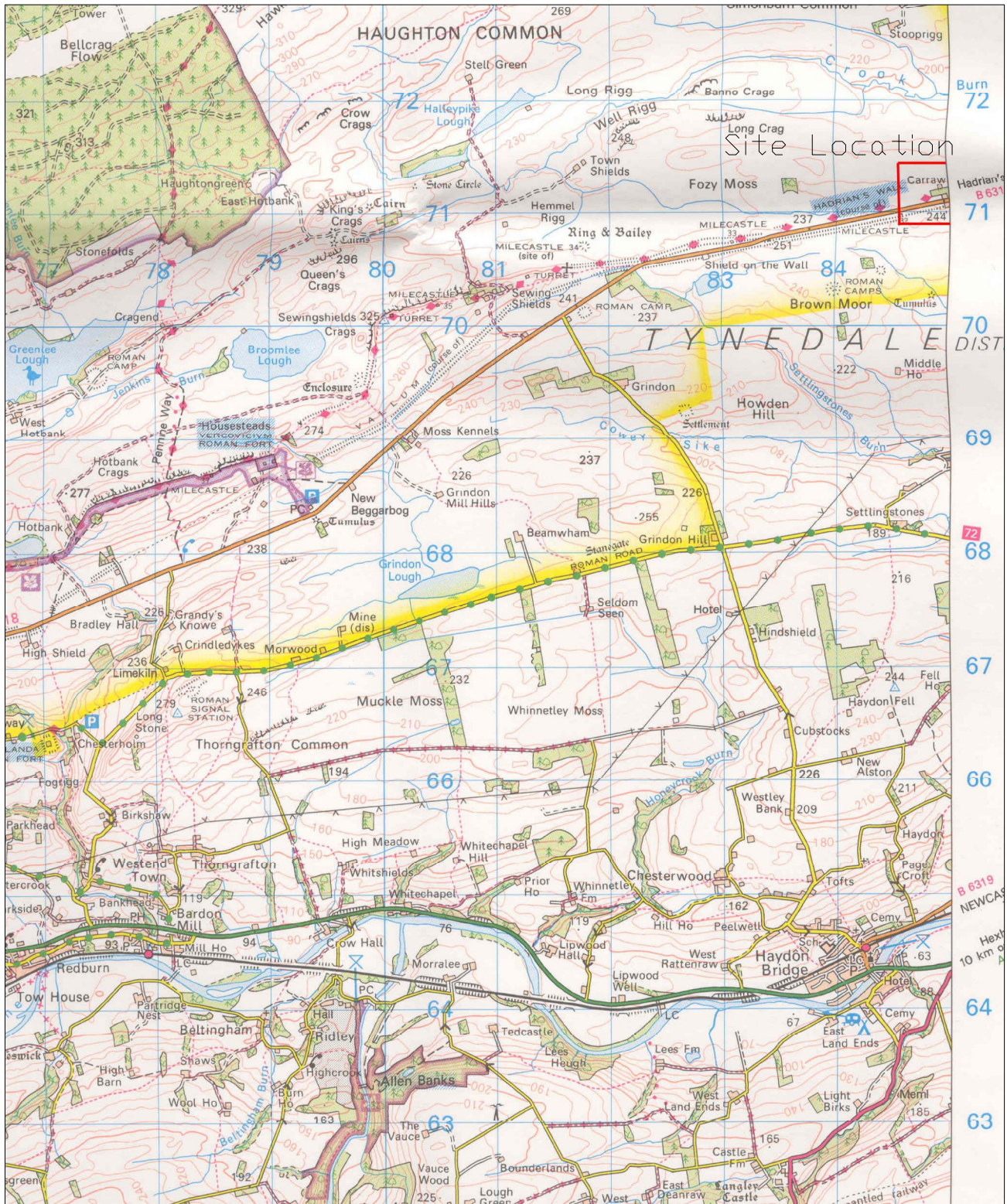
8 APPENDIX 1 – INDEX OF CONTEXTS

Context	Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Boulder Clay
102	Deposit	Rubble
103	Cut	Field Drain
104	Fill	Fill of 103
105	Cut	Field Drain
106	Fill	Fill of 105
107	Deposit	Rubble
108	Deposit	Rubble
109	Cut	Field Drain
110	Fill	Fill of 109
111	Deposit	Sand
112	Cut	Pit
113	Fill	Fill of 112
114	Cut	Slot trench/drain
115	Fill	Fill of 114

Table 2: Index of Contexts

9 APPENDIX 2 – ILLUSTRATIONS

10 APPENDIX 3 – PLATES



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
 Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre
 Nenthead, Alston
 Cumbria CA9 3PD
 Tel: (01434) 382045
 Fax: (01434) 382294
 Email: info@nparchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT: CP227 Carrow Farm
 DRAWING No: 1
 SCALE: 1:50,000
 TITLE: Site Location
 CLIENT: Jeremy Dodds
 DRAWN BY: CJ
 DATE: 28.7.05



KEY



Site Location

Figure 1 : Site Location Plan



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
 Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre
 Nenthead, Alston
 Cumbria CA9 3PD
 Tel: (01434) 382045
 Fax: (01434) 382294
 Email: info@nparchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT: CP227 Carrow Farm
 DRAWING No: 3
 SCALE: N/A
 TITLE: Trench 1 and 3
 CLIENT: Jeremy Dodds
 DRAWN BY: CJ
 DATE: 28.7.05



Trench 2



Trench 2 - Detail of Rubble



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
 Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre
 Nenthead, Alston
 Cumbria CA9 3PD
 Tel: (01434) 382045
 Fax: (01434) 382294
 Email: info@nparchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT: CP227 Carrow Farm
 DRAWING No: 4
 SCALE: N/A
 TITLE: Trench 2
 CLIENT: Jeremy Dodds
 DRAWN BY: CJ
 DATE: 28.7.05