

# **NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

**Client Report No. CP/378/08**



**OASIS REFERENCE:** northpen3-37207

Tony Liddell B.Sc. (Hons)  
North Pennines Archaeology Ltd  
Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre  
Nenthead  
Alston  
Cumbria CA9 3PD  
Tel: (01434) 382045  
Fax: (01434) 382294  
Email: [t.liddell@nparchaeology.co.uk](mailto:t.liddell@nparchaeology.co.uk)

07 February 2008



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd is a wholly owned company of North Pennines Heritage Trust  
Company Registration No. 4847034

VAT Registration No. 817 2284 31

---

# CONTENTS

---

*Page*

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>IV</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....</b>	<b>V</b>
<b>1. INTRODUCTION AND LOCATION.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 LOCATION.....	1
1.2 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT.....	1
<b>2. METHODOLOGY .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 PROJECT DESIGN .....	2
2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION .....	2
2.3 ARCHIVE.....	2
<b>3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND.....	4
<b>4. EVALUATION TRENCH RESULTS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
4.1 TRENCH 1 .....	5
4.2 TRENCH 2 .....	6
<b>5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
5.1 CONCLUSIONS.....	8
5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS .....	8
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST.....</b>	<b>10</b>

---

## LIST OF PLATES, TABLES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

---

### PLATES

### Page

<i>Plate 1. Cleaning Trench 1.....</i>	<i>iv</i>
<i>Plate 2. The site prior to excavation, looking north during CAT Scan survey.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Plate 3. Trench 2 looking north-east, during topsoil and turf strip. ....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Plate 4. Trench 1, looking west. ....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Plate 5. Trench 2, looking north. ....</i>	<i>6</i>

### TABLES

### Page

<i>Table 1. List of Contexts. ....</i>	<i>10</i>
--	-----------

### FIGURES

### Page

<i>Figure 1. Location maps and plan.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Figure 2. Evaluation Trench Location. ....</i>	<i>12</i>

---

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

---

In January 2008, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Mr Colin Hill to undertake an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed redevelopment of land at 71a High Street, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees (NGR NZ 445 216).

The site lies within an area of high early-Medieval and Medieval potential, and as a result an archaeological evaluation was required by the Tees Archaeology Officer to assess the archaeological survival on the site. The work required two evaluation trenches to be excavated measuring 5m in length and 2m in width down to natural subsoil and then hand-cleaned and recorded.

Natural substrate was encountered between 19.48 - 20.49m OD. In Trench 1, the presence of a modern deposit beneath the subsoil strata indicated that the topsoil and subsoil was a modern import, and it can be assumed this took place during the building of 71A High Street. In Trench 2 the slope of the sand substrate indicates that the ground rise is natural in origin, with subsoil and topsoil build-up, perhaps enhanced by modern deposits during the building of 71A High Street. The evaluation produced no structural, environmental or archaeological remains, and due to the lack of an archaeological presence within the evaluation trenches it is recommended that no further work is required on this particular development area. The trenches were cleaned and recorded, then backfilled after inspection by the Tees Archaeology Officer.



*Plate 1. Cleaning Trench 1.*

---

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

---

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Mr Colin Hill for commissioning the project, and for his assistance throughout the work, and the tenants of 71A High Street for accommodating the works.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Tees Archaeology, in particular to Tees Archaeology Sites and Monuments Officer Peter Rowe for their assistance throughout this evaluation.

Project Supervisor Tony Liddell, assisted by Stefanie Vincent, undertook the archaeological evaluation. The report was written by Tony Liddell; the illustrations were produced by Tony Liddell. 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 AND LOCATION

---

### *1.1 Location*

- 1.1.1 The evaluation trenches were aligned north-south and east-west within the development area to the west of 71A High Street, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees (NGR NZ 445 216). A site location plan can be seen in *Figure 1*. The development site lies within an urban context within the village of Norton with the High Street (B1274) to the east and Priory Gardens to the west. 71A is occupied by residential housing and associated garden.
- 1.1.2 The current ground surface at the south end of the site lies at approximately 20.80mOD and on the slope to the north 21.94mOD.
- 1.1.3 The natural substrate of the area consists of a Permian Upper Marls, overlaid with drift deposits of boulder clay, laminated clay, littoral sand and glacial sands and gravels (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council Land Inspection Strategy 2007).

### *1.2 Circumstances of the Project*

- 1.2.1 Tees Archaeology were consulted regarding a planning application submitted for a proposed development located on land at 71A High Street, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees. The proposed development is for the construction of flats to replace the existing residential building and occupy the current garden area.
- 1.2.2 The site lies within the extent of Norton's medieval village, and previous archaeological work within the area has produced substantial Anglo-Saxon remains (inhumation cemetery and non-related burials). As a result, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by the developer, Mr Colin Hill, to undertake an archaeological evaluation of the site based on a Brief produced by the Tees Archaeology Officer.
- 1.2.3 This report sets out the results of the fieldwork in the form of a short document outlining the findings of the evaluation, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential and recommendations for the area.

---

## 2. METHODOLOGY

---

### 2.1 *Project Design*

- 2.1.1 A project design was prepared by North Pennines Archaeology Limited in response to a brief issued by the Tees Archaeology Officer for a programme of work. The trenches were to be machine-excavated, cleaned by hand and fully recorded, with a programme of post-excavation and reporting as necessary.
- 2.1.2 All fieldwork methodology was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.
- 2.1.3 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the Project Specification produced by the Tees Archaeology Officer.

### 2.2 *Archaeological Evaluation*

- 2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of two evaluation trenches, measuring 5m in length by 2m in width, aligned north-south and east-west as illustrated in *Figure 2*, and excavated to the depth of the natural substrate. Trench 1 targeted an area of the proposed building, whilst Trench 2 focussed on a proposed courtyard and parking area.
- 2.2.2 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 *Archive*

- 2.3.1 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 08 HSN-A.
- 2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology support the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature created as a result of developer-funded archaeological fieldwork. As a result, details of the results of this assessment will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.



***Plate 2.** The site prior to excavation, looking north during CAT Scan survey.*



***Plate 3.** Trench 2 looking north-east, during topsoil and turf strip.*

---

### 3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

---

#### 3.1 *Historical and Archaeological Background*

- 3.1.1 Norton has Anglo-Saxon origins, and was known to be an important administrative centre during that period. There is also the presence of a 6<sup>th</sup> century cemetery, and Norton was mentioned in 994AD, though it is uncertain if the reference to a village or merely an estate. The village was resettled in the 12<sup>th</sup> century under the aegis of the Bishopric of Durham.
- 3.1.2 The Harrying of the North in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century left the area of Norton potentially uninhabited.
- 3.1.3 Between 1985-86, the full extent of a 6<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-Saxon cemetery was excavated at Mill Lane (to the north east of the current development site) revealing 120 inhumations and also evidence of cremations (CBA research reports Report 82).
- 3.1.4 In 1993, Durham Archaeological Service undertook the excavation of four trial trenches in the centre of Norton in the hope of locating the probable Anglo-Saxon settlement site. Unfortunately, the postholes and gullies found were un-dateable, and in three of the trenches the ground was too disturbed by modern intrusion to find anything useful.
- 3.1.5 In 1994, archaeological excavation of a partial skeleton, found in house foundations was undertaken by Tees Archaeology at 'Freshfields', to the north east of the current development area. The find is recorded on the Archaeological Data Service as being of uncertain date, though two other burials were also discovered within the Freshfields site, one of which was radiocarbon dated to AD330-545 (Tees Archaeology 1994).
- 3.1.6 At Bishopmill School, Norton, thirteen skeletons dated to the medieval period were discovered during building work and excavated by Tees Archaeology in 1994. This was interpreted as the remains of an inhumation cemetery (Cleveland County Council Archaeology Section 1994).
- 3.1.7 The present structure and layout of the village itself probably dates to the 11th or early 12th century AD, with the current development site lying within the boundaries of Norton's medieval village (HER 4848).

---

## 4. EVALUATION TRENCH RESULTS

---

### 4.1 Trench 1



*Plate 4. Trench 1, looking west.*

- 4.1.1 The trench was excavated by machine under archaeological observation to a length of 5m and a width of 2m, down to natural subsoil and to a maximum depth of 1.32m.
- 4.1.2 The trench was orientated west to east, parallel to and beneath the southern row of the potential development.
- 4.1.3 The stratigraphy consisted of the turf and topsoil (**100**), a fairly loose dark grey-brown sandy soil to a depth of 0.60m. Below the topsoil was a compact dark grey brown sandy clay subsoil (**102**) to a depth of 0.96m, below which was a thin modern deposit, 0.04m thick containing pieces of brick, degraded stone and modern pottery. This modern strata was observed running 1.95m into the trench from the eastern end. The natural substrate (**101**), mixed banded sand with manganese inclusions lay below this, at 19.48m OD.

- 4.1.4 No structures or deposits of archaeological interest or value were discovered during the excavation of this evaluation trench. A bronze keyhole, one small section of tobacco clay pipe stem (late 19<sup>th</sup> century), two fragments of animal bone (one cow rib, one goat rib) and a sherd of late 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery was found in topsoil (**100**).

#### 4.2 Trench 2



*Plate 5. Trench 2, looking north.*

- 4.2.1 The trench was excavated by machine under archaeological observation to a length of 5m and a width of 2m, down to natural subsoil and to a maximum depth of 1.45m.
- 4.2.2 The trench was orientated north to south, at right angles to the proposed development and within the area of the proposed courtyard.
- 4.2.3 The trench was cut into a slope, and the stratigraphy consisted of the turf and topsoil (**100**), a fairly loose dark grey-brown sandy soil to a depth of 0.47m on the slope, thinning to 0.15m on the flat (with the slope running down west to east). Below the topsoil was a compact dark grey brown sandy clay subsoil (**102**), to a depth of 0.85m within the slope and thinning to 0.40m deep on the flat. Below this was the natural substrate (**101**), mixed banded sand with manganese inclusions. A modern cut [**103**]

was observed in the west facing section, with fill **(104)**, a dark grey clay containing modern plastic and sherds of plant pot. The natural substrate was found at 20.49m OD.

- 4.2.3 No structures or deposits of archaeological interest or value were discovered during the excavation of this evaluation trench. An iron key and one small section of tobacco clay pipe stem (late 19<sup>th</sup> century) was found in topsoil **(100)**.

---

## 5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

---

### 5.1 *Conclusions*

- 5.1.1 Although the evaluation trenches produced no archaeological structures or deposits, the potential for early-medieval archaeology in the surrounding area remains high due to its proximity to Anglo-Saxon cemetery remains to the north east.
- 5.1.2 Natural substrate was encountered between 19.48 - 20.49m OD. In Trench 1, the presence of a modern deposit beneath the subsoil strata indicates that the topsoil and subsoil is a modern import, and it can be assumed this took place during the building of 71A High Street. In Trench 2 the slope of the natural indicates that the ground rise is natural in origin, with subsoil and topsoil buildup, perhaps enhanced by modern deposits during the building of 71A High Street.

### 5.2 *Recommendations*

- 5.2.1 Due to the lack of an archaeological presence within the evaluation trenches it is recommended that no further work is required on this particular development area.
- 5.2.2 However, due to the potential for early-medieval activity in the surrounding area, it is recommended that further evaluation takes place on any other groundworks outside the current development area.

---

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

- ANNIS, R. 1994. "Group of Human Burials from Bishopmill School, Norton, Cleveland" Cleveland County Council, Archaeology Section
- DANIELS, R. *"Brief for archaeological evaluation at: - Land to rear of 71a High Street, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees"* Tees Archaeology.
- DANIELS, R. 1996. *"Human Burials at 'Freshfields', Norton, Stockton-on-Tees"* Tees Archaeology.
- TOWN, M. 2007. *"Project Design: - Archaeological Evaluation on Land to the Rear of 71A High Street, Norton, Teesside"* North Pennines Archaeology Limited.
- STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL "Stockton on Tees Borough Council Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy" 2007
- ADS ArchSearch <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>
- CBA research reports Report 82

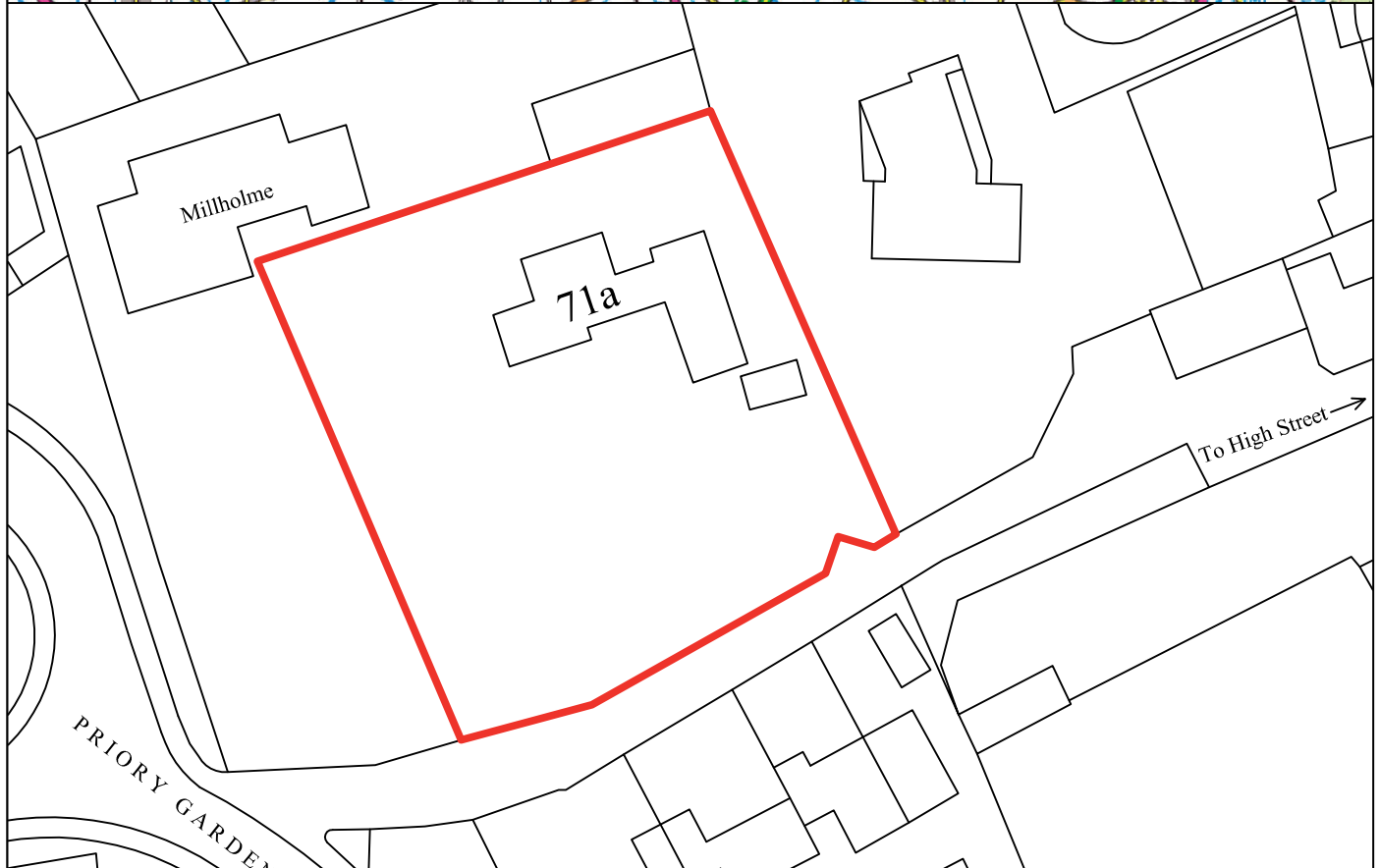
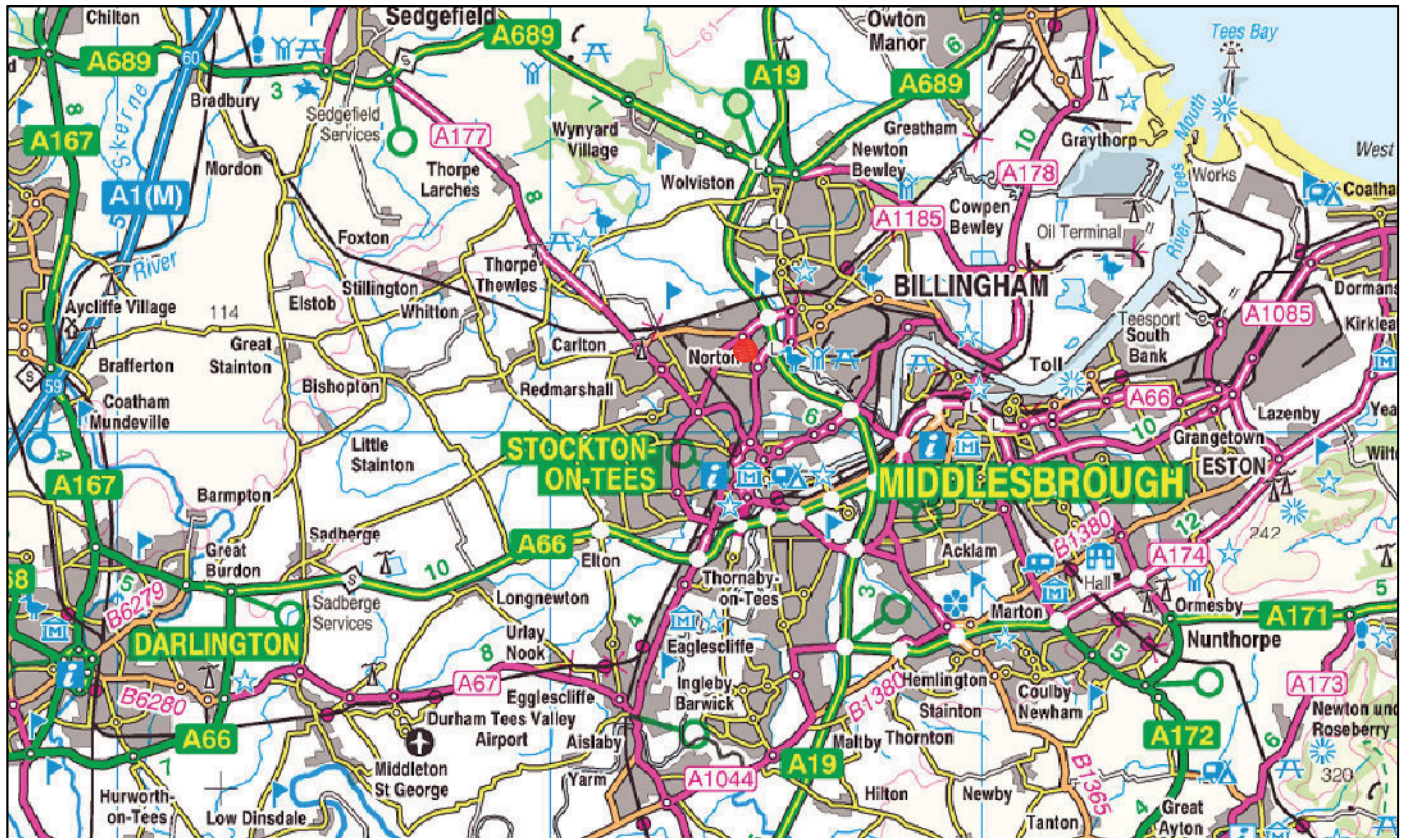
---

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT LIST

---

Context	Type	Description
<b>100</b>	Deposit	Topsoil and Turf
<b>101</b>	Natural	Dark brown and yellow sands with manganese inclusions.
<b>102</b>	Natural	Dark grey brown subsoil.
<b>103</b>	Cut	Modern cut.
<b>104</b>	Fill	Fill of cut [103], modern content.
<b>105</b>	Deposit	Modern rubbish deposit.

*Table 1. List of Contexts.*




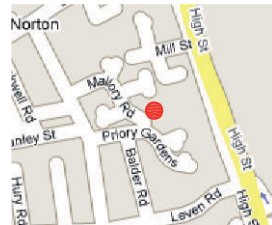

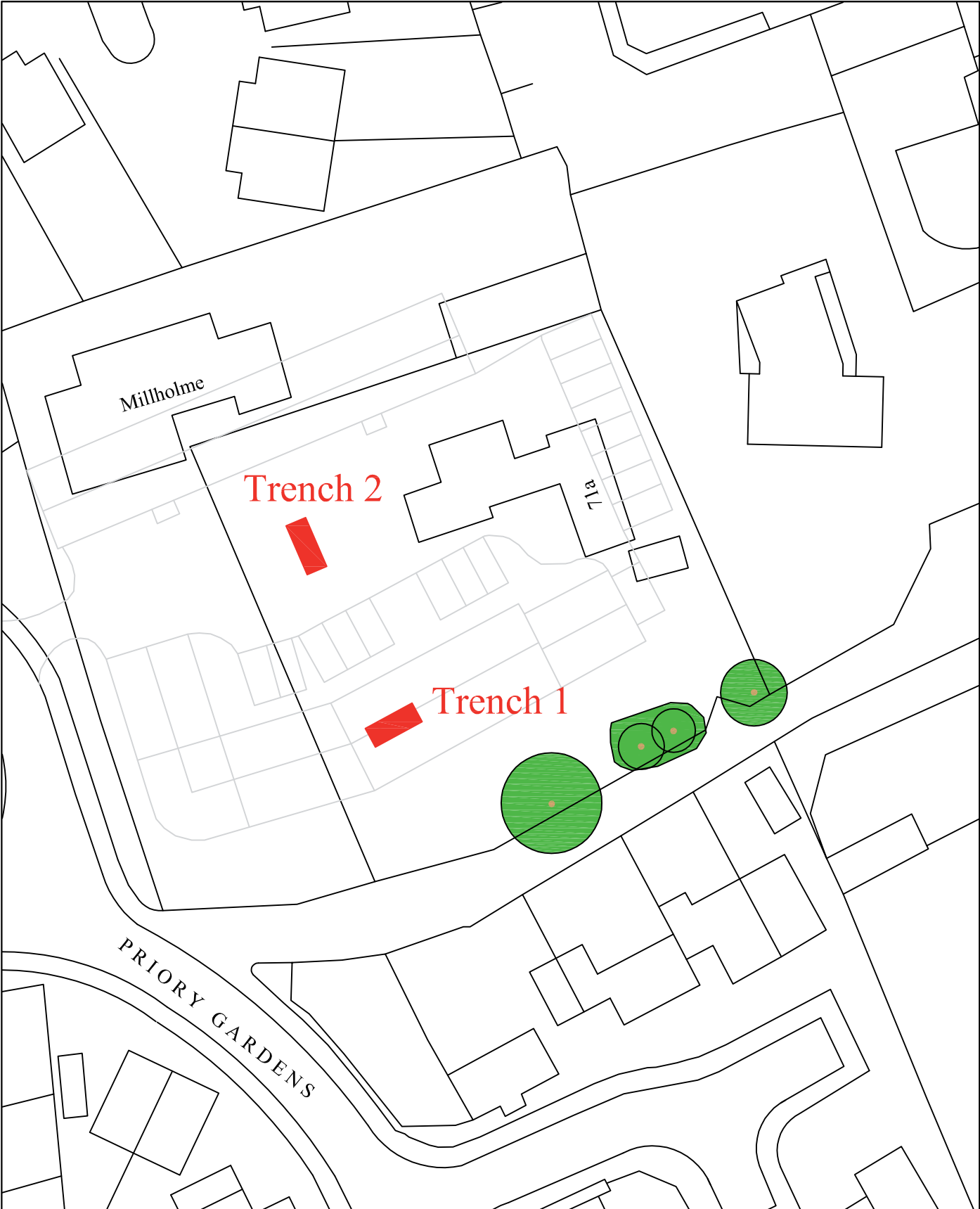
 <p>North Pennines Archaeology Ltd 2008</p>	<p>PROJECT: 71a High Street Norton Evaluation</p> <p>SCALE: 1:500</p> <p>REPORT No: CP 378/08</p> <p>CLIENT Mr. Colin Hill</p> <p>DRAWN BY: TL</p> <p>DATE: January 2008</p> <p>FIGURE No: 1</p>	<p>LOCATION:</p> 	<p>KEY:</p>  <p>Development Area</p> <p>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732</p>
--	--	---	---

Figure 1: Site Location Plan




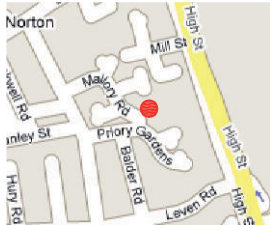



 <p>North Pennines Archaeology Ltd 2008</p>	<p>PROJECT: 71a High Street Norton Evaluation</p> <p>SCALE: 1:500</p> <p>REPORT No: CP 378/08</p> <p>CLIENT Mr. Colin Hill</p> <p>DRAWN BY: TL</p> <p>DATE: January 2008</p> <p>FIGURE No: 2</p>	<p>LOCATION:</p> 	<p>KEY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li> Proposed Development</li><li> Tree Preservation Area</li><li> Evaluation Trenches</li></ul> <p><small>Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732</small></p>
--	--	---	--

Figure 2: Trench Location Plan