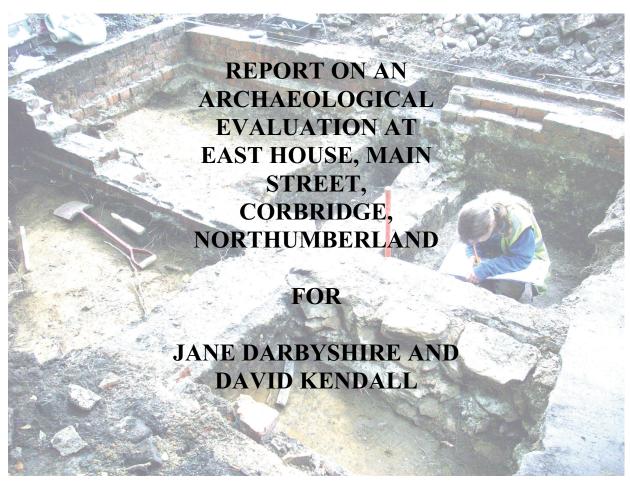
NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In September 2008, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land adjacent to East House, Main Street, Corbridge, Northumberland (NY 9908 6435).

The work followed an application for the construction of a new extension to the rear of East House, which affects an area considered to have a high archaeological potential. East House dates from the late 16th / early 17th century, with alterations dating from the 18th century and is classified as a Grade II Listed Building. The building is located within the medieval core of Corbridge and within an area clearly derived from a medieval burgage plot. Recent archaeological evaluation to the rear of the adjacent property (Jones 2004a) identified structural remains, boundary ditches and other cut features, medieval pottery assemblages and a possible corn-drying kiln. More recently, excavations to the rear of the Angel Inn (Liddell 2007), also on Main Street, recorded further structural remains of medieval date, including lower courses of medieval walls. Significantly, these excavations also recovered a number of human inhumation burials, also of medieval date. This site is very close to the medieval street frontage and therefore retains a higher potential for the recovery of significant archaeological deposits. Although the proposed development will, in part, involve the construction of a new extension within the footprint of an existing development, the results of the work noted above makes clear that significant archaeological deposits can survive below later buildings. It was therefore considered that the proposed development had the potential to impact or destroy significant archaeological deposits. As a result of this potential, and in accordance with guidance given in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning), a programme of archaeological work was required in order to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains and their nature, extent and state of preservation.

The evaluation consisted of two trenches covering an overall area of 20m^2 within the proposed development area. Trench 1, measuring 2m by 2m was located within the proposed building extension to the north of East House and Trench 2, measuring 4m by 4m was located within the footprint of the proposed garage to the east of East House. The excavation of Trench 1 revealed nothing of archaeological interest, but the excavation of Trench 2 revealed the footprint of a set of modern outbuildings along with a potentially earlier structure, possibly a cellar below. The presence of a rim sherd of medieval pottery within a service cut also indicated the potential of medieval archaeology in the very near vicinity.

It is recommended on the strength of the potential post-medieval remains of a cellar as well as the presence of medieval pottery (though disturbed from its original context) that if any further archaeological works are to take place, they should take the form of a watching brief to monitor the ground works.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to offer thanks to Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Nick Best, Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council.

The field evaluation was undertaken by Tony Liddell and Frances Wood. The report was written by Tony Liddell and the illustrations produced by Tony Liddell. The project was managed by Matt Town, Project Manager. The report was edited by Matt Town and Martin Railton, NPA Project Manager.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In September 2008, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Jane Darbyshire and David Kendall to undertake an archaeological field evaluation on land at East House, Main Street, Northumberland prior to the construction of a new proposed garage and building extension (NY 9908 6435) (Figure 1).
- The work follows an application (NCCCT Ref: 20080707; 20080709) for the 1.1.2 construction of a new extension to the rear of East House, which affects an area considered to have a high archaeological potential. East House dates from the late 16th / early 17th century, with alterations dating from the 18th century and is classified as a Grade II Listed Building. The building is located within the medieval core of Corbridge and within a plot clearly derived from a medieval burgage plot. Recent archaeological evaluation to the rear of the adjacent property (Jones 2004a) identified structural remains, boundary ditches and other cut features, medieval pottery assemblages and a possible corn-drying kiln. More recently, excavations to the rear of the Angel Inn, also on Main Street, recorded further structural remains of medieval date, including lower courses of medieval walls (Liddell 2007). Significantly, these excavations also recovered a number of human inhumation burials, also of medieval date. These deposits were sealed below existing modern overburden, including modern extensions to the rear of the property which were demolished in advance of the excavation. The survival of these deposits within urban contexts clearly demonstrated the potential for similar remains to survive elsewhere within the core of the town. The present application concerns an area immediately behind and adjacent to the existing property on Main Street. This site is very close to the medieval street frontage and therefore retains a higher potential for the recovery of significant archaeological deposits. Although the proposed development will, in part, involve the construction of a new extension within the footprint of an existing development, the results of the work noted above makes clear that significant archaeological deposits can survive below later buildings. It is therefore considered that the proposed development has the potential to impact or destroy significant archaeological deposits.
- 1.1.3 As a result of this potential, and in accordance with guidance given in Planning Policy Guidance Note 16 (Archaeology and Planning), a programme of archaeological work was required in order to establish the presence/absence of archaeological remains and their nature, extent and state of preservation (Best 2008). This was undertaken in accordance with a written scheme of investigation submitted to and approved by NCCCT (Town 2008). The work consisted of the excavation of two trial trenches, located within the footprint of the proposed development.
- 1.1.4 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook the archaeological evaluation between the 16th and 17th of September 2008. The work was undertaken according to IFA guidelines (2002) and generally accepted best practice. This report outlines the results the archaeological works.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 The evaluation brief was produced by Nick Best, Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland County Council (see Appendix 2).
- 2.1.2 North Pennines Archaeology Limited produced a project design based upon the brief which set out the methodology for the field evaluation (Town 2008). The project design was approved by NCCCT prior to the commencement of the work.

2.2 FIELD EVALUATION

- 2.2.1 The field evaluation consisted of the excavation of two trial trenches, the first measuring 2m by 2m and the second 4m by 4m in order to provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relevant importance against known development proposals. The evaluation formed 20m² of trial trenching area. This trench specification differed from that originally requested in the evaluation brief in order to avoid as much as possible known services: these changes were approved by NCCCT prior to the fieldwork commencing.
- 2.2.2 Prior to excavation, the evaluation area was examined thoroughly by CAT scan, and the location, strength and form of service signals recorded. The trenches were excavated by a 3-tonne tracked machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket to either the top of archaeological deposits, or the natural substrate, whichever was observed first, unless prevented from doing so by the presence of services.
- 2.2.3 The trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recorded according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd standard procedure as set out in the Excavation manual (Giecco 2003).
- 2.2.4 All work was undertaken following the standards and guidance for evaluations set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (2002).
- 2.2.5 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data, the process being adopted as set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991).
- 2.2.6 All finds were recorded and retained by context, and are detailed in Section 5.
- 2.2.7 All relevant COSHH guidelines were followed during the use of plant on site.
- 2.2.8 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd Health and Safety Statement conform to the provisions of the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (SCAUM) Health and Safety Manual. Field projects are undertaken according to the SCAUM Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (SCAUM 1986) and according to the North Pennines Heritage Trust Standard Safety Procedure. Risk assessments are undertaken prior to any fieldwork taking place and staff are fully briefed regarding on site hazards and safe working procedure. Full consideration will be given to health and safety issues during all fieldwork for this project.
- 2.2.9 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 are 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 survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes;
- to maintain a photographic record of all contexts in colour slide and black and white print, and including a graduated metric scale.

2.3 PROJECT ARCHIVE

- 2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, the recommendations in *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Brown 2007) and in line with current UKIC (1990), English Heritage Guidelines (1991). The archive will be deposited within an appropriate repository, and a copy of the report deposited at the Northumberland Sites and Monuments Record, where viewing will be available on request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA08, EHO-A, CP774/08.
- 2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology and the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team support the Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project. The unique identifier for this project is **northpen3-48855**.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 Corbridge lies 18 miles west of Newcastle upon Tyne in the county of Northumberland. The development site lies within an urban context on Main Street to the south east of the medieval centre of Corbridge, Northumberland (NGR NY 9908 6435). The site lies at approximately 39m above sea level.
- 3.1.2 The geology of the immediate area consists of stepped alluvial terraces which have been created by the River Tyne and its changing course. The underlying geology consists of the Stainmore Group of limestone and sandstone which contain thin coal seams overlain by glacial sands, gravel and boulder clay (Lovell 1981, 3-4).

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 developments around the development area in order to put the evaluation area within its historical context.
- 3.2.2 *Early Medieval*: the period immediately following the end of Roman administration from the 5th century is little understood. The location of the development of early-medieval Corbridge could have been due to the collapse of the Roman Bridge and its replacement by a fording point further to the east, or it could have been the need to found a new settlement for religious purposes (3.2.7). Craster indicates that it is likely that the bridge had fallen into disrepair by 1130 (Craster 1914, 14). The old Roman settlement was certainly robbed of its stone for the building of the new settlement. The location of the new settlement retained its importance as being at the junction of two major roads, the Stanegate and Dere Street. The Stanegate survived into the early medieval period when it was known as Carelgate and it led east to Tynemouth (Harding 2001, 23). Dere Street was the main route southwards to York.
- 3.2.3 The earliest documentary evidence for Corbridge dates to 786 and is found in the Northumbrian Annals where it is referred to as Et Corabrige. It is in this document that a monastery at Corbridge is mentioned. Thus the new positioning of Corbridge may have been based on the need for a new religious foundation based on Christianity, and thus wishing to distance itself from the 'pagan' Roman settlement, yet usurp its power by robbing its building materials. The Church of St. Andrew in Corbridge may have its origins in the 7th century, based on architectural features and similarities with the churches at Jarrow and Monkwearmouth.
- 3.2.4 *Later Medieval*: the settlement of Corbridge had clearly become a successful one by the 12th century, when the fayre at Stagshawn had become legendary from as far afield as Newbiggin-on-the-Sea, Northumberland, a place surely closer to market towns such as Newcastle and Hexham. The border disputes which plagued the area between the 14th and 17th centuries seem to have had a detrimental effect on the town.
- 3.2.5 The areas of settlement on Fryer's 1777 map include buildings on the street frontages and linear plots extending to the rear. These were called burgage plots, and are characteristic features of settlement of the medieval period.

- 3.2.6 The street names of medieval Corbridge indicate a settlement divided into area of specialised industrial function. Hill Street was known as Fishmarketgate, Horsemarket Street and Hidemarket. The discovery of tan pits and lime-burning confirms the latter use of the area. The iron industry was of particular importance to the town, as it was the most numerous commodity available at the local Stagshaw Fair. There were at least four forges at one stage of the town's development, but their precise location is not known. Main Street was formerly known as Smithgate, or Smithygate due to the number of iron working shops that were located there, so it is likely that evidence for these must survive sub-surface (Corbridge Village Trust 1983). A document of 1352, states that "Thomas Fayt of Corbrig, to Thomas Crissar and Agnes his wife, daughter of the said Thomas Fayt, conveyance of a tenement in Corbrig in the Smithygat between a tenement of Sir Hugh de Roghsted, chaplain, and a tenement of Sir Gilbert de Mynsteracres, perpetual vicar of Bywell' (Dixon 1912, 69). This is early proof of the street name usage of Smithygate, and is also interesting in that it refers to the properties either side of the land spoken of in the deed, as being owned by religious men.
- 3.2.7 **Post-Medieval:** a register document dating to 1676 mentions Charles Cutter. The descendants of Charles Cutter continued to reside in Corbridge until the beginning of the 18th century. They were smiths, and are known for carrying out work on the church. Old records show that the vane on the church tower, made of iron with brass bushes, was made by them in 1767 (Dixon 1912, 69). The Cutter family held a freehold in the village, until 'The Division', or Act of Inclosure passed in 1776 and implemented by 1779 (Forster 1881, 43), after which they held a portion of land on Corbridge South Common. It is likely that the Cutters resided on Main Street, as that was where the smiths in that period resided.
- 3.2.8 By the mid 18th century, Corbridge had become quite unsanitary. Hutchinson, in 1765 or 1766 described the settlement as follows, "though the town makes a pretty appearance at the foot of the vale where you see it from Hexham, it disappoints the traveller greatly on his entrance to find it dirty and disagreeable" (in Forster 1881, 71). Hodgson similarly describes a visit to the town, "Corbridge, 6th May 1830, the town (for such its antiquity demands that it be styled) is dirty, and in all the streets except that through which the Newcastle and Carlisle Road passes, is filthy with middens and pigsties.... The population seem half fed; the women sallow and thin armed, the men flabby, pot bellied and tender-footed; but still the place bears the appearance of being ancient. Many of the houses, even in the back streets, are large and should be carefully examined for arms etc." (in Forster 1881, 69). By 1821 there were 230 houses in Corbridge and 1254 inhabitants. Many were employed in industry, particularly shoe-making, by this time having taken over in importance from ironworking.
- 3.2.9 East House holds Listed Building status as a Grade II Building.

3.3 Previous Archaeological Works

- 3.3.1 Several archaeological investigations have been undertaken in Corbridge in recent years, revealing the high sub-surface archaeological potential of the area. The following is a summary of these works:
- 3.3.2 In 1999, a number of Roman remains were found by Northern Archaeological Associates in Orchard Vale (NY 986 645). The material excavated included iron and glass slag, pottery and the remains of a marble gaming board (Hexham Courant 1999).
- 3.3.3 In 1999, The Archaeological Practice (TAP) unearthed human remains during sewerage works by No. 41 Hill Street. The remains lay c.1m below ground level and the trench was reported to be 'pitted with bones and skulls.' (TAP 1999)
- 3.3.4 In 2000, cabling work being undertaken by Northern Electric in Coopers Yard/St. Helen's Street uncovered a large portion of a human skull, approximately 2m below the ground surface. The remaining cabling work was then observed by The Archaeological Practice under watching brief conditions, but no further remains were discovered (*Pers Comm*, L Willis, September 2000).
- 3.3.5 In May 2001 Archaeological Services at the University of Durham undertook a field evaluation at Duke's Cottages in advance of a residential development. The work revealed archaeological features including a shallow gully and also recovered fragments of medieval pottery (ASUD 2001).
- 3.3.6 In September 2003 Tyne and Wear Museums Archaeology Department maintained a watching brief during the upgrading and extending of existing water services within Corbridge at Well Bank, Town Farm Fields and West Terrace. The work revealed a number of undated surfaces surviving beneath the road surface and modern disturbance and concluded that there is a strong possibility of surviving archaeological remains throughout medieval Corbridge (TWM 2003a).
- 3.3.7 In October 2003, the Archaeological Practice undertook a field evaluation on land at 2 Princes Street, Corbridge. The work revealed the presence of a shallow linear ditch filled medieval pottery of 13th and 15th century date and extensive potential for environmental sampling (TAP 2003).
- 3.3.8 Also in 2003, in December, Tyne and Wear Museums Archaeology Department maintained a watching brief on behalf of Integrated Utility Services of groundworks to the north and south of the bridge. The work revealed an undated cobble surface beneath the road surface and modern disturbance (TWM 2003b).
- 3.3.9 In August 2004 North Pennines Archaeology undertook two archaeological field evaluations on land behind Eastfield House, Corbridge, Northumberland (Giecco and Jones 2004; Jones 2004a). The work revealed a number of archaeological features within the south of the site. These included a circular stone built structure interpreted as a corn drying kiln with a flagged sandstone floor, a possible robber trench surviving as a shallow linear feature filled with stone fragments, a linear ditch of probable medieval date, linear features, pits and post holes of probable medieval origin. A number of fragments of 13th-15th century pottery and glass were also recovered.

- 3.3.10 In November 2004, North Pennines Archaeology maintained an archaeological watching brief on works at Sunnybrae, Stagshaw Road, Corbridge, Northumberland. A heavily truncated grave was observed, with only a fragment of pelvis and right and left femur exposed, the remainder of the lower skeleton continued under the section. The grave was aligned east west and was probably part of the medieval cemetery, where similar burials have been dated to the 13th century (Jones 2004b).
- 3.3.11 In May 2005, Alan Williams Archaeology undertook a watching brief in St. Andrews Churchyard during groundworks necessary to construct a new public toilet within the churchyard. The watching brief uncovered the remains of eight skeletons and a charnel pit within c.0.40m of the surface (Liddell *pers comm*).
- In January 2007, a watching brief being undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology 3.3.12 resulted in a full excavation at the site of the Angel Inn Corbridge. Two burials were encountered, as well as several wall footings, showing medieval occupation of the area (Liddell 2007). Also in 2007 Pre-Construct Archaeology undertook an excavation on St. Helen's Street, Corbridge where they found evidence for a large rectilinear building along the street frontage (Aaron Goode pers. comm.). Pre Construct Archaeology have also been undertaking an archaeological watching brief on works associated with electricity cabling in Corbridge, predominantly along Main Street from October 2007. The deposits generally consisted of a previously disturbed mixed backfill, associated with previous service pipes in the area, but at the corner of Main Street and Princes Street, in the pavement in front of the Angel Inn, a feature was observed. Due to the nature of the trenching, the extent of the feature was never uncovered, but the archaeologist on-site suggested a pit or trench could be represented. Several pieces of medieval pottery were encountered within this feature, which have yet to be analysed (Aaron Goode pers. comm.).
- 3.3.13 Between November 2007 and April 2008, North Pennines Archaeology undertook monitoring of a sewer refurbishment scheme undertaken by Northumbrian Water Plc. This encountered several post medieval drains and a small revetting wall, in areas heavily disturbed by pipes and services in modern times (Peters and Sowerby 2008).

4. FIELD EVALUATION

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The evaluation consisted of two trenches covering an overall area of 20m² within the proposed development area. Trench 1, measuring 2m by 2m was located within the proposed building extension to the north of East House, and Trench 2, measuring 4m by 4m, was located within the footprint of the proposed garage to the east of East House.
- 4.1.2 Both trenches were scanned by CAT scan, located using a TST and were then mechanically excavated down to the surface of the natural substrate where possible, then cleaned and recorded by hand. The trenches were then tied to the Ordnance Datum and National Ordance Grid.
- 4.1.3 A full methodology can be found in *Section 2.2* (Page 2).

4.2 TRENCH 1



Plate 1: trench 1 looking west towards the modern porch.

- 4.2.1 Trench 1, measuring 2m by 2m, was located 0.86m to the north of East House, 1.44m east of the modern porch extension. The trench was located in this area to evaluate the potential archaeological remains within the proposed new residential extension. The precise location of the trench can be seen on Figure 3, and on Plate 1.
- 4.2.2 A section of Trench 1 can be seen on Figure 4, demonstrating the deep stratigraphy north of East House, as well as the depths of services, both live and dead in this area.
- 4.2.3 The excavation of the trench revealed the natural substrate to be sand (101), which was located at 38.29m OD, 1.43m below the current ground surface. Above the natural

substrate was a layer of dark brown friable sandy clay subsoil (105), measuring an average of 0.68m thick. Over this was a c.0.67m thick deposit of dark brown sandy clay topsoil (104) with heavy root activity which also contained a small amount of post-medieval pottery (see Section 5) as well as a number of services with no visible cut (see 4.2.4). The modern tarmac surface (100) covered this topsoil strata across the extent of the trench to a varying depth averaging at 0.08m thick.

- 4.2.4 Excavation through topsoil (104) and extensive CAT scanning revealed the location of a live mains electricity cable and three potentially live gas pipes. The location and orientation of these services are illustrated in Figure 4. The old gas pipes (102) lay at c.39.63m OD (0.22m below the current surface) and the modern PVC gas pipe (103) at 39.43m OD (0.45m below the current surface). The electricity cable was roughly located in plan, but as it was just outside the trenched area, the depth remains unknown. Due to health and safety issues, the trench was not excavated beneath the service pipes and cables.
- 4.2.5 The trench did not reveal any archaeological features or deposits within the extents of the excavation.





Plate 2: trench 2 looking east.

- 4.3.1 Trench 2, measuring 4m by 4m, was located 1.86m to the east of East House. The trench was located in this area to evaluate the potential archaeological remains within the proposed new garage extension. The precise location of the trench can be seen on Figure 3.
- 4.3.2 Before the trench could be excavated, the concrete footing for a modern building had to be removed by the mechanical excavator. This concrete footing (100) was up to

- 0.20m thick and was bounded by tarmac. This marked a potentially recent demolition within the area to be evaluated: mapping data provided by the client compared to data present in NPA archives from 2007 showed the presence of three outbuildings within the proposed extension area, presumably demolished prior to the current client gaining ownership of the property. The location of the outbuildings can be seen in Figure 6.
- 4.3.3 The outbuildings also left their mark on the stonework of the east-facing wall of East House, as seen in Plate 3 below. The brick foundations of the outer walls of these outbuildings can clearly still be seen butting up against the base of the wall.



Plate 3: east-facing wall of East House, showing repairs to sandstone wall after demolition of modern outbuildings.



Plate 4: east-facing wall showing modern extension foundations butting against the base of the standing wall.

4.3.4 A plan and section of Trench 2 can be seen on Figure 5, demonstrating the modern and potentially post-medieval features cutting into the natural substrate.

- 4.3.5 Natural sand (101) lay at 39.07m OD, c.0.74m below the current ground surface at its highest point.
- 4.3.6 The south-eastern segment of the trench was bounded by a modern brick foundation (wall (107/121/122) up to four courses high (highest point at 39.62m OD), two running east-west and one north-south. These can be interpreted as the base of the modern foundations to the outbuildings seen in the mapping data from 2007 (Figure 6). These walls were built on a thin brick and stone rubble deposit (120) which was visible beneath the east and south walls. The southern-bounding brick wall (116) continued west along the extent of the trench, disappearing into the east-facing section though surface trace could plot the wall to butting against East House. A lead water pipe was also located running beneath this structure, running from beneath wall (122) north-west beneath wall (107). This is visible in Plate 5.
- 4.3.7 Beneath the modern brick structure was the remains of an earlier structure. Though the precise nature of this structure could not be ascertained, it can be surmised to be a cellared area. The western extent of this structure lay outside the evaluation trench, but the southern wall (118), lying directly under modern wall founds (116), comprised of rough dressed mortared sandstone stood at 0.72m in depth before hitting a stone shelf (top of shelf at 38.69m OD). The wall then continued below this, but the overall depth was not ascertained during the course of the evaluation. The eastern boundary of the potential cellar, wall (111), lay 1.10m from the western section and stood at 39.04m OD and measured at 0.36m in width. The makeup of this wall was the same as (118) and stood 0.69m in depth before hitting a 0.12m wide stone shelf. The wall continued below this level but its fullest extent was not found during the evaluation. northern boundary of the structure, wall (108), was 0.26m in width and ran east-west 1.05m from the western section. Like (111) and (118), this wall was constructed from rough mortared sandstone, and stood at 39.27m OD. The structure void was filled with rubble deposit (115), comprised of broken brick and sandstone, rounded river cobbles, sandy clay soil and nearer the surface, fragments of broken concrete.
- 4.3.8 A roughly dressed and mortared sandstone wall (110), orientated north-south divided the trench roughly mid-way and stood to at least 0.54m and 0.36m in width, with its full depth on its western face not being encountered during the course of the evaluation. Between wall (110) and wall (111) (detailed above in 4.3.7) was a narrow slot, 0.27m in width and 1.44m in length, filled with sandy brown soil and a heavy concentration of river cobbles (109). This can be interpreted as a potential drain to take water away from the eastern edge of the potential cellared area. Plate 5 demonstrates the relationship between the potential cellar and the slot (109).
- 4.3.9 In the north-western section of the evaluation area lay the modern brick footings of one of the western-most small outbuilding (112) represented on Figure 6. The top of wall (112) lay at 39.53m OD and was measured at 0.30m in width and 1.26m in length, orientated east-west. The eastern wall of this building (123), again constructed of brick, measured 0.20m in width, 1.05m in length and was orientated north-south at right angles to wall (112). The southern footing was comprised of broken stone rubble (124), 0.16m in width at 39.27m OD. Rubble (124) butted up directly against the north face of the earlier structure wall (108).

4.3.10 Excavation in the north-eastern section of the trench showed that the eastern-most small outbuilding represented on Figure 6 had almost been completely destroyed and removed during the demolition of the outbuildings c.2007. All that remained was 0.14m wide and 1.35m long strip of concrete floor, butting up against the east face of wall (123). This area also revealed the presence of main drain cut [113] for large ceramic drain (114), the top of which was found at 39.11m OD, c.0.51m below the current ground level. In the backfill for the cut was a small fragment of 14th century pottery, indicating the potential of a medieval feature in close proximity to the site that the drain cut through on its construction. An old gas pipe (117) was also located in this area (presumably one of the pipes located in Trench 1) at 39.49m OD, c.0.13m below the current surface. A further potential gas pipe was located in the area through CAT scan, as was a mains electricity cable. All services are marked on Figure 5.



Plate 5: graded scale on wall (110), looking east.

4.3.11 The evaluation trench was topped by a c0.08m thick layer of concrete and tarmac (100). Bar the small sherd of medieval pottery found in cut [113], no finds were uncovered during the excavation of Trench 2.

5. FINDS

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 All finds in Trench 1 were recovered from context (104), the buried topsoil layer beneath the modern tarmac.
- 5.l.2 The finds from Trench 2 were produced from deposit (114), the backfill of drain cut [113] and also deposit (115), the rubble infill of the potential cellar.
- 5.1.3 The following comprises a description of the material found, categorised by type:

5.2 POTTERY

- 5.2.1 All pottery recovered was fragmented and dated to the post-medieval period, specifically the mid-19th century, apart from one sherd dating to the medieval period. The assemblage consisted of 32 sherds. *Table 1* below summarises the forms of pottery found, and below is a brief description of the form types:
 - Yellow Slipware: consisted of glazed red earthenware with a white slip-coated interior (3 sherds).
 - *Heavy Duty Ware*: consisted of glazed red earthenware with dark brown glaze (4 sherds).
 - White Earthenware: consisted of glazed white earthenware with 'willow-pattern' transfer print (24 sherds).
 - *Medieval pottery*: consisted of reduced green glaze rim sherd (1 sherd)

5.3 GLASS

5.3.1 Only 4 fragments of window glass were uncovered from the potential cellar backfill (115). No dating could be ascertained for the glass based on the assemblage.

5.4 CLAY PIPE

5.4.1 The 3 clay pipe stem fragments all contained the same stem bore diameter (1.8mm), indicating use between the 17th-19th centuries. No stamps on the stems or decoration on the pipe bowl recovered could be seen.

5.5 DISCUSSION

As a whole, the finds assemblage represents standard domestic use in the mid 19th-century. The medieval pottery sherd from backfill (114) is likely to indicate a potential medieval deposit in the nearby vicinity having been disturbed by the excavation of the drain trench.

Context	Category	Quantity (sherds)
U/S	Post-medieval pottery: White Earthenware jar	1
104	Post-medieval pottery: White Earthenware with transfer decoration	22
104	Post-medieval pottery: Yellow Slipware	3
104	Post-medieval pottery: Heavy Duty Ware	4
104	Clay Pipe: unstamped stem fragments	3
114	Medieval pottery: 13 th -14 th century	1
115	Window glass	4
115	Post-medieval pottery: White Earthenware	2

 Table 1: finds by context.

6. CONCLUSIONS

6.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 The excavation of Trench 1 revealed nothing of archaeological interest, but the excavation of Trench 2 revealed the footprint of a set of modern outbuildings along with a potentially earlier structure, possibly a cellar below. The presence of a rim sherd of medieval pottery within a service cut also indicated the potential of medieval archaeology in the very near vicinity.
- 6.1.2 In view of the surviving remains of post-medieval buildings on the site, the potential for post-medieval archaeological remains lying undisturbed within the footprint of further groundworks remains high.
- 6.1.3 The potential for medieval archaeological remains lying undisturbed within the footprint of further groundworks also remains high, as, though only limited excavation was possible, previous excavations within the vicinity have uncovered medieval archaeology at similar depths, and outside of the building footprint truncation of deposits is unlikely.

6.2 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.2.1 It is recommended on the strength of the potential post-medieval remains of a cellar as well as the presence of medieval pottery (though disturbed from its original context) that if any further archaeological works are to take place, they should take the form of a watching brief to monitor the ground works.

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APPENDIX 2: EVALUATION CONTEXT LIST

Context	Description	Trench
100	Modern surface: tarmac and concrete	1 and 2
101	Natural substrate: sand	1 and 2
102	Service pipe	1
103	Service pipe	1
104	Dark brown sandy clay topsoil	1
105	Dark sandy clay subsoil	1
106	Sandstone rubble	2
107	Modern brick wall footing	2
108	Sandstone wall	2
109	Cobble drain fill	2
110	Sandstone wall	2
111	Sandstone wall	2
112	Modern brick wall footing	2
113	Cut for main drain	2
114	Fill of main drain	2
115	Rubble infill of potential cellar	2
116	Modern brick wall footing	2
117	Service pipe	2
118	Sandstone wall	2
119	Modern concrete (same as 100)	2
120	Rubble layer	2
121	Modern brick wall footing	2
122	Modern brick wall footing	2
123	Sandstone wall	2
124	Rubble wall footing	2

Table 2: evaluation Context List.

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT BRIEF

Planning ref: 20080707; 20080709

NCCCT ref: T13/24: 8705

LAND TO THE REAR OF EAST HOUSE, CORBRIDGE, NORTHUMBERLAND

Brief for an Archaeological Evaluation

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A planning application has been submitted for the construction of a new extension to the rear of East House, Corbridge. East House dates from the late 16th / early 17th century, with alterations dating from the 18th century and is a Grade II listed building. The building is located within the medieval core of Corbridge and within plot clearly derived from a medieval burgage plot.
- 1.2 Recent archaeological evaluation to the rear of the property identified structural remains, boundary ditches and other cut features, medieval pottery assemblages and a possible corn-drying kiln¹,². More recently, excavations to the rear of the Angel Inn, also on Main Street recorded further structural remains of medieval date, including lower courses of medieval walls³. Significantly, these excavations also recovered a number of human inhumation burials, also of medieval date. These deposits were sealed below existing modern overburden, including modern extensions to the rear of the property which were demolished in advance of the excavation. The survival of these deposits within urban contexts clearly demonstrates the potential for similar remains to survive elsewhere within the core of the town.
- 1.3 The present application concerns an area immediately behind the existing property on Main Street. This site is much closer to the medieval street frontage and therefore retains a higher potential for the recovery of significant archaeological deposits. Although the proposed development will, in part, involve the construction of a new extension within the footprint of an existing development, the results of the work noted above makes clear that significant archaeological deposits can survive below later buildings. It is therefore considered that the proposed development has the potential to impact or destroy significant archaeological deposits. In order to further inform the archaeological potential of the site, and, if necessary, inform a detailed mitigation response, it will be necessary for the applicant to commission an archaeological evaluation of the proposed development site.
- 1.4 Northumberland County Council Conservation Team has advised Tynedale District Council that the archaeological potential of the site should be further investigated prior

¹ Report on Archaeological Field Evaluation on Land to the Rear of Eastfield House, Corbridge, Northumberland. North Pennines Archaeology (2004)

² Report on Archaeological Field Evaluation on Land at Bishops Garages Car Park, Corbridge, Northumberland. North Pennines Archaeology (2004)

³ Archaeological Watching Brief and Excavation of Land at the Angel of Corbridge, Main Street, Corbridge, Northumberland. North Pennines Archaeology (2007)

- to the determination of this planning application. In this instance, it has been agreed that this should take the form of an archaeological evaluation.
- 1.5 This brief constitutes Northumberland County Council Conservation Team's justification for the investigation, its objectives and the strategy and procedures to apply to the archaeological evaluation. The results of this work will be used to inform the planning decision.
- 1.6 This brief does not constitute the 'written scheme of investigation'. It is intended to establish the project parameters to enable an archaeological consultant or contractor to tender for the work and once commissioned to prepare and submit an appropriate Method Statement, Project Design or Specification to the Conservation Team for approval prior to work commencing. The project design/specification should be based on a thorough study of all relevant background information, in particular any assessment or evaluation reports or, in their absence, data held or referenced in Northumberland Historic Environment Record Office (HER).
- 1.7 The extent of the development (Fig 1) has been taken from plans attached to the planning application. The archaeological consultant or contractor will need to confirm the extent of the development and the nature of the works with the developer as part of the specification.

2 Site Specific Requirements

- 2.1 The evaluation work proposed here is designed to ascertain whether there are any archaeological constraints that may affect the planned development. The purpose of trial excavation is to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains, their quality, depth and preservation.
- 2.2 The proposed development will involve the demolition of the existing extension and the construction of a new build, partially within the footprint of the existing extension. The present evaluation requirement has been designed in order to establish the extent to which historic ground surfaces, and archaeological deposits, have been truncated by subsequent disturbance.
- 2.3 The evaluation should take the form of 2 trenches measuring 2m by 5m, in total an area of 20 square m. Should changes to the trench dimensions be necessary these should be discussed with the Assistant County Archaeologist and approved prior to work commencing on site. The trenches should be located to investigate:
 - The footprint of the proposed garage to the east of the existing building
 - The footprint of the proposed extension to the rear of the property
- 2.4 Access arrangements, especially for mechanical excavation equipment, should be confirmed with the person or body commissioning the work, and where appropriate also with the land owner. Utility information should be requested prior to work commencing on site, so that the utilities can be avoided.

3 General Standards

- 3.1 All work should be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) ⁴ and will follow the IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.⁵ Archaeological contractors must be able to prove that they have appropriate excavation experience and current insurance to undertake excavations.
- 3.2 The contractor should provide an indication of the resources they are proposing to use on the site, expressed where appropriate as a number of person days for each grade.
- 3.3 All staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. Short CVs/relevant career histories should be provided in the specification for all site staff of supervisor or higher grade as well as any specialists involved in the project either in the field or during the post excavation phase. Details must also be supplied for office based staff involved in the management and direction of the project.

3.4 Pre-site work preparation

- i. A specification in line with this brief must be submitted and approved by Northumberland County Council Conservation Team prior to work commencing.
- ii. An appropriate environmental sampling strategy is a mandatory part of this project. Advice on such a strategy must be obtained from the English Heritage Scientific Advisor for North-East England, Dr Jacqui Huntley, Department of Archaeology, University of Durham, Science Laboratories, South Road, Durham. The sampling strategy should be included in the specification and submitted to the County Archaeologist for approval.
- iii. The relevant museum should be contacted to discuss archiving, prior to work commencing.
- iv. All staff must familiarise themselves with the archaeological background of the site, and the results of any previous work in the area, prior to the start of work on site. All staff must be aware of the work required under the specification, and must understand the projects aims and methodologies.

3.5 Fieldwork

- i. Topsoil and unstratified modern material may be removed mechanically by a machine using a wide toothless ditching blade. This must be carried out under continuous archaeological supervision.
- ii. The topsoil or recent overburden should be removed in successive level spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil, whichever is encountered first.
- iii. All faces of the trench that require examination or recording must be cleaned sufficiently to establish the presence or absence of archaeological remains
- iv. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural subsoil must be cleaned sufficiently to allow for its inspection for features.
- v. All subsequent deposits must be excavated by hand

⁵ Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2001, Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation

⁴ Institute of Field Archaeologists, 2000, Code of Conduct

- vi. The archaeology must be investigated sufficiently to establish its nature, extent and date, unless it is deemed of sufficient importance to require total preservation *in situ*. All features exposed should be sample excavated. This would typically comprise:
- vii. 50% of every discrete feature
- viii. 25% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill
 - ix. 10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a uniform fill
 - x. Within the constraints of the site, the excavations should be maintained in a manner that allows quick and easy inspection without any requirement for additional cleaning.
 - xi. Deposits should be assessed for their potential for providing environmental or dating evidence. Sampling should be in line with the strategy agreed with Jacqui Huntley and the Conservation Team
- xii. In the event of human burials being discovered, they should be left *in situ*, covered and protected and the coroners' office should be informed. If removal is essential, work must comply with relevant Home Office regulations.
- xiii. Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation must be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.
- xiv. The drawn record from the site must include a representative selection of long sections from the excavations that clearly allow the nature and depth and any significant changes in the deposits recorded to be demonstrated. If there is any uncertainty, advice should be sought from the Assistant County Archaeologist as to which sections may be appropriate for inclusion within the site record.
- xv. During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts must be stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this should include controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material).

3.6 Contingency

- 3.6.1 In some circumstances a programme of evaluation may, in answering the questions posed, also raise others of an unexpected nature. Every attempt should be made to deal with the problem by agreed modification of the specification while fieldwork is in progress.
- 3.6.2 A contingency sum should be allowed for the excavation of an additional 5 linear metres of trench to answer particular issues that may arise during fieldwork. Failure to make this allowance, where appropriate, may necessitate further evaluation work being recommended to the local authority and a delay in the decision making process.
- 3.6.3 The activation of the contingency must only be undertaken after discussion with, and with the agreement of the County Archaeological Officer. A representative of the developer/owner etc should be present at such discussions.

3.7 Recording

- 3.7.1 The evaluation trenches should be accurately related to the National Grid and located on a 1:2500 or 1:1250 map of the area.
- 3.7.2 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic as appropriate) should be made for all work, using pro forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to

- the work. Accurate scale plans and section drawings should be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate
- 3.7.3 The stratigraphy of all trenches should be recorded even where no archaeological deposit have been identified
- 3.7.4 All archaeological deposits and features, the current ground level and base of each trench must be recorded with an **above ordnance datum (aOD)** level.
- 3.7.5 A photographic record of all contexts should be taken in colour transparency and black and white print and should include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs should be kept
- 3.7.6 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix should be compiled.

4 Post excavation work, archive, and report preparation

4.1 Finds

- 4.1.1 All finds processing, conservation work and storage of finds must be carried out in compliance with the IFA Guidelines for Finds Work and those set by UKIC.
- 4.1.2 The deposition and disposal of artefacts must be agreed with the legal owner and recipient museum prior to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides to retain artefacts, adequate provision must be made for recording them. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer.
- 4.1.3 All retained artefacts must be cleaned and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum.

4.2 Site Archive

- 4.2.1 The archive and the finds must be deposited in the appropriate local museum, within 6 months of completion of the post-excavation work and report.
- 4.2.2 Before the commencement of fieldwork, contact should be made with the landowners and with the appropriate local museum to make the relevant arrangements. Details of land ownership should be provided by the developer. Details of the appropriate museum can be provided by the Assistant County Archaeologist.
- 4.2.3 Northumberland County Council will require confirmation that the archive had been submitted in a satisfactory form to the relevant museum.

4.3 Report

- 4.3.1 The evaluation is the first stage in a potential multi-staged programme of archaeological work and has been requested prior to the determination of planning permission.
- 4.4 Due to the strict deadlines laid out in the planning system, the archaeological contractor or consultant should submit copies of the report to Northumberland County Council Conservation Team and their client within 14 working days of completing the fieldwork, unless agreed in advance with all relevant parties.

- 4.4.1 The Conservation Team require two copies of the report (one bound and one unbound)
- 4.4.2 Each page and paragraph should be numbered within the report and illustrations cross-referenced within the text.
- 4.4.3 The report should include the following as a minimum:
 - i. Planning application number, Northumberland County Council Conservation Team reference, OASIS reference number and an 8 figure grid reference
 - ii. A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale of at least 1:10 000
 - iii. A location plan showing trench locations within the site. This must be at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid, to allow the results to be accurately plotted on the Sites and Monuments Record
 - iv. Plans and sections of archaeology located at a recognisable planning scale (1:10, 1:20, 1:50 or 1:100, as appropriate)
 - v. A summary statement of the results
 - vi. A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds
 - vii. Any variation to the above requirements should be approved by the planning authority prior to work being submitted

4.5 OASIS

- 4.5.1 Northumberland County Council Conservation Team and HER support the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork.
- 4.5.2 The archaeological consultant or contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/. If the contractors are unfamiliar with OASIS, they are advised to contact Northumberland HER prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, Northumberland HER will validate the OASIS form thus placing the information into the public domain on the OASIS website. The archaeological consultant or contractor must indicate that they agree to this procedure within the specification/project design/written scheme of investigation submitted Northumberland County Council Conservation Team for approval

4.6 Publication

- 4.6.1 A summary should be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and submitted to Liz Williams, Northumberland HER Officer, by December of the year in which the work is completed.
- 4.6.2 A short report of the work should also be submitted to a local journal if appropriate.

5 Monitoring

- 5.1 The County Archaeologist must be informed on the start date and timetable for the evaluation **in advance** of work commencing.
- Reasonable access to the site will be afforded to the County Archaeologist or his/her nominee at all times, for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological evaluation
- 5.3 Regular communication between the archaeological contractor, the County Archaeologist and other interested parties must be maintained to ensure the project aims and objectives are achieved.

6 Further Guidance

Any further guidance or queries regarding the provision of a specification should be directed to:

Nick Best

Assistant County Archaeologist Northumberland County Council County Hall Morpeth Northumberland NE61 2EF

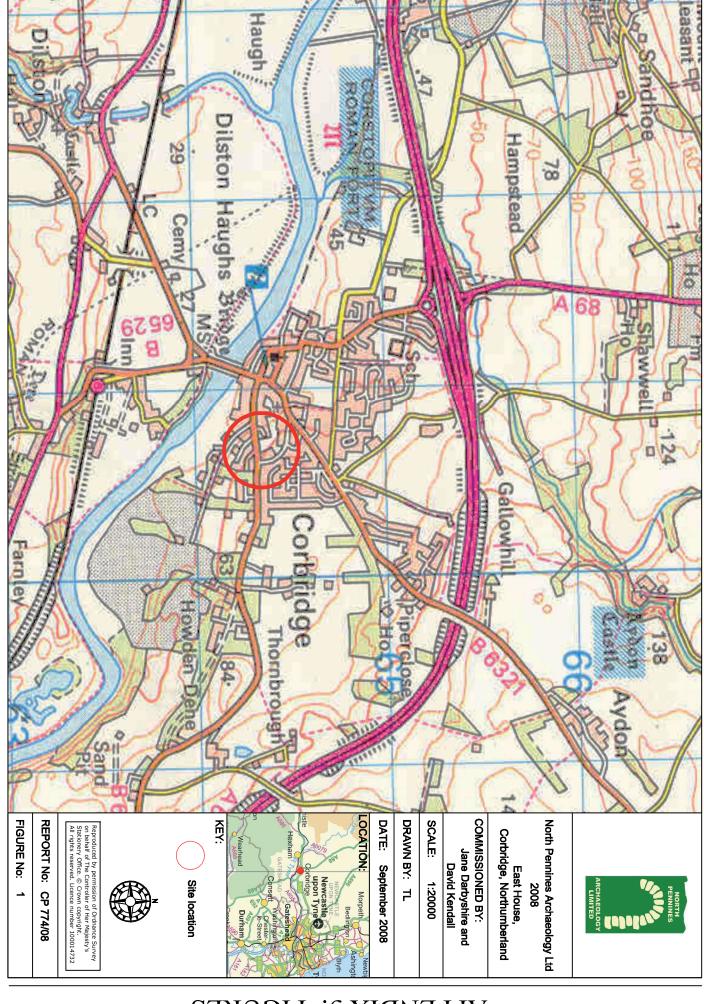
Tel: 01670 534095 Fax: 01670 533086

e-mail: nbest@northumberland.gov.uk

15/08/08

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APPENDIX 3: FIGURES



Vbbendix 3: Eignber

Figure 2: Location of development area within Corbridge

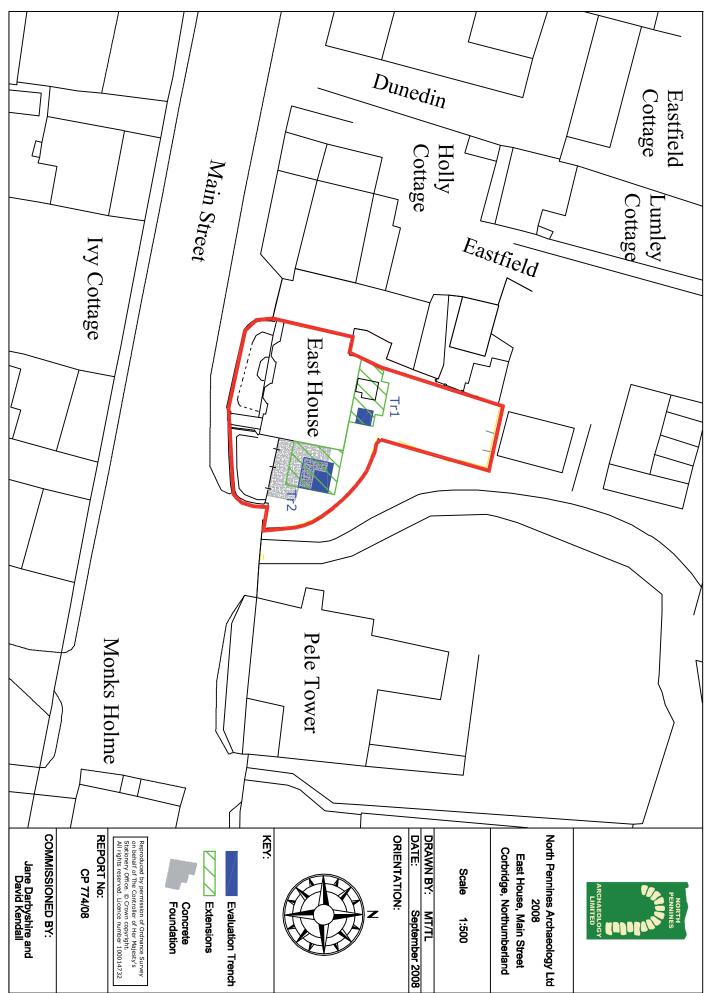


Figure 3: Trench location plan within the development area

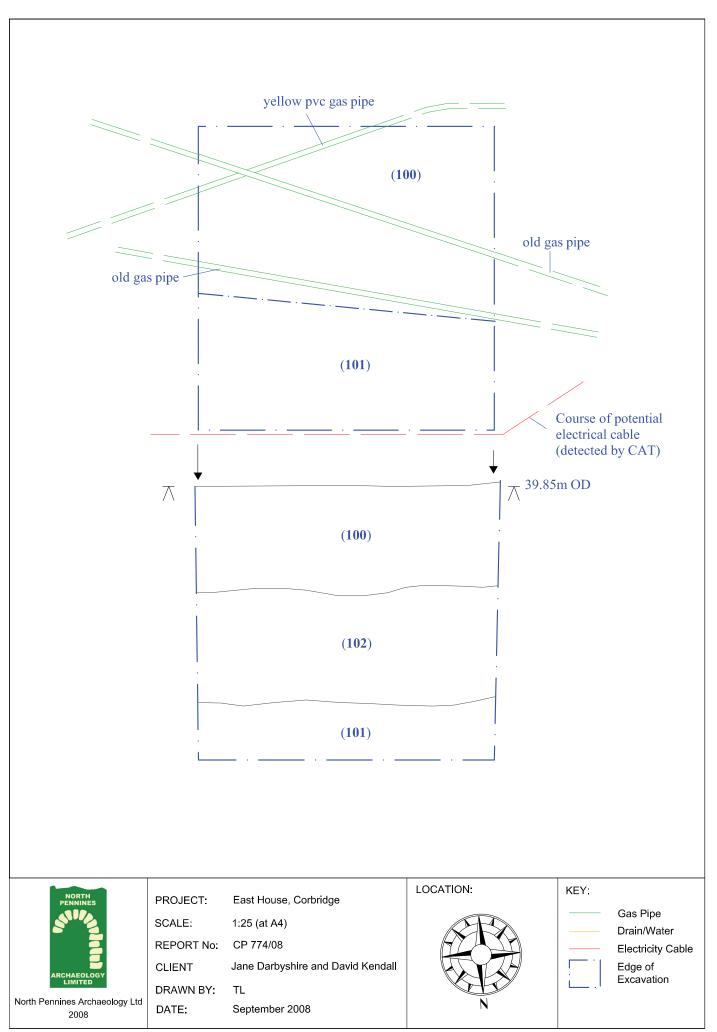


Figure 4: Plan and Section of Trench 1

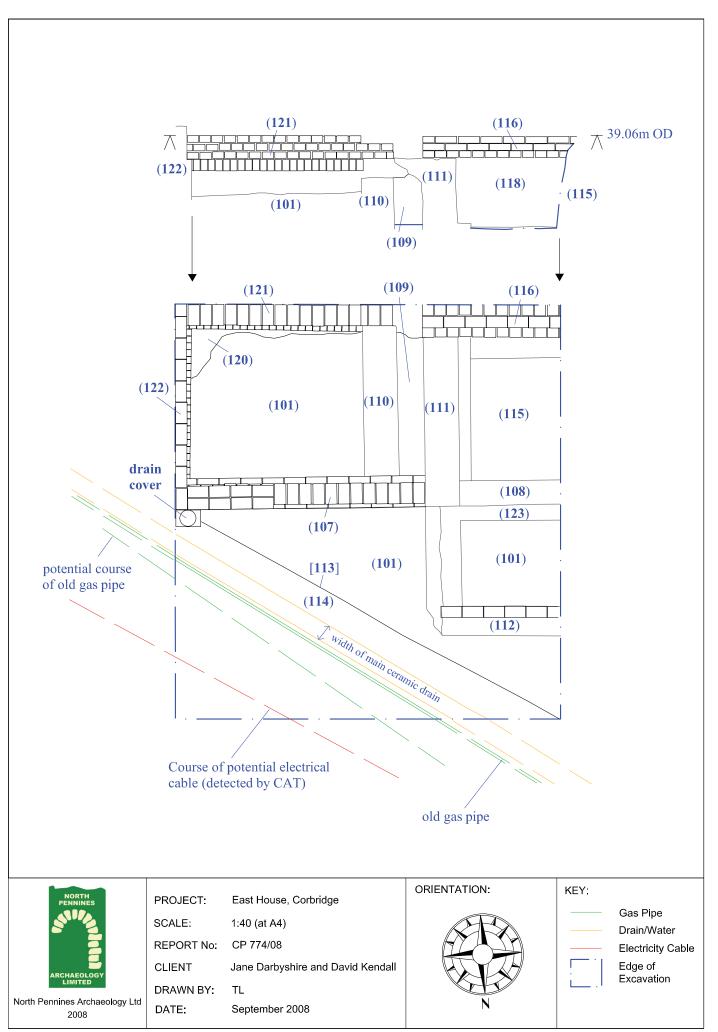


Figure 5: Section and Plan of Trench 2

