

**LIZARDS FARM,
LANCHESTER,
CO. DURHAM**



WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

CP. No: 671/09

23/06/2009

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Quality Assurance

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

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SUMMARY

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Harvey and Hazel Whitfield to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks relating to the erection of a steel framed agricultural building at Lizards Farm, Lanchester, Co. Durham (NGR NZ 157 483). The area of Lanchester is well known for its Roman occupation and also its association with the Roman road of Dere Street. A number of other historic structures and features have been identified within the area of Lanchester. As a result, Durham County Council granted planning consent for the development (Planning App No: 1/2007/0982), on the condition that an Archaeological Watching Brief be undertaken during all groundworks. The watching brief was required as the site lies in close proximity to Dere Street Roman road, visible on aerial photographs heading north-west from *Longovicium* Roman fort. There was therefore potential for archaeological remains to exist along the length of the road, thus identifying the site to be of potential archaeological interest.

The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken over two days between the 16th and the 17th of June 2009. The watching brief monitored the stripping of topsoil to a depth of 0.35m. No archaeological remains were noted. As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the development of a new steel framed agricultural building, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the high archaeological potential of the area, it is recommended that any future work be subject to a programme of archaeological investigation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Harvey and Hazel Whitfield for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. NPA Ltd would also like to thank Lee White, Assistant Archaeology Officer of Durham County Council, for all her assistance throughout the project.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks all staff at the site, for their help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Angus Clark. The report was written by Frances Wood and the drawings were produced by Matt Town. The project was managed by Matt Town, Project Manager for NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Matt Town, Project Manager for NPA Ltd.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In March, 2008, North Pennines Archaeology were invited by Harvey and Hazel Whitfield to maintain an archaeological watching brief at Lizards Farm, Lanchester, Co. Durham (NGR NZ 157 483); Figure 1), during groundworks associated with the erection of a steel framed agricultural building. The proposed works lie within the immediate vicinity of the Roman road known as Dere Street. Because of this, Lee White of Durham County Council requested that all ground reduction be subject to a programme of archaeological observation and investigation. This is in line with government advice as set out in the DoE Planning Policy Guidance on Archaeology and Planning (PPG 16).
- 1.1.2 All groundworks associated with the development of the steel framed agricultural building had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2002), and were consistent with the specification provided by North Pennines Archaeology (Town 2008) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the monitoring works undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design (Appendix 2) was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Harvey and Hazel Whitfield, for an archaeological watching brief of the study area. Following acceptance of the project design by Lee White of Durham County Council, 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 for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 The works involved a structured watching brief to observe, record and excavate any archaeological deposits from the development site. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (IfA 2002).

2.2.2 The aims and principal methodology of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
- to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
- to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
- to sample environmental deposits encountered as required, in line with English Heritage (2002) guidelines;
- to produce a photographic record of all contexts using colour digital, 35mm colour slide and monochrome formats, each photograph including a graduated metric scale;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful of dating purposes;

- to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE standards (English Heritage 2006).

2.2.3 An area of approximately 377m² was stripped of soil (topsoil and subsoil), which was removed from the site. The topsoil strip formed a square that measured approximately 22.70m x 16.6m. The topsoil strip was taken to the required formation level of 0.35m. Archaeological monitoring and supervision of groundworks associated with the stripping commenced on Wednesday the 17th June 2009. A summary of the findings of the watching brief is included within this report.

2.3 THE ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2007). The archive will be deposited at The Bowes Museum at Barnard Castle, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Durham County Hall, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA08 CP671/08 LIZ-A.

2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology, and Durham County Council, 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.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 Lizards Farm lies within the valley of the River Browney in Co. Durham, approximately 850m to the northwest of the town of Lanchester, and 1700m east of Dere Street. The site itself is to the south of the farm and Lizards Cottage. The site lies at a height of approximately 137m AOD and is positioned in agricultural land (Countryside Commission 1998). The development area forms a block of land in the northeast corner of a field. The area is shown in Figure 2.
- 3.1.2 The underlying solid geology is Pennine Lower Coal Measures (British Geological Survey North Sheet, Third Edition Solid 1979) with overlying boulder clay (British Geological Survey North Sheet, First Edition Quaternary, 1977). The overlying soils consist of glacio-fluvial or river terrace drift.

3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* The majority of the sites and finds of archaeological interest in this area are Roman, however, activity has also been recorded from other periods.
- 3.2.2 *Prehistoric:* the earliest evidence of activity comprise of the discovery of flint tools, from Hollybush Farm and Red House in the Lanchester area. The leaf shaped flint arrowhead found at Hollybush Farm is believed to date from the Neolithic period.
- 3.2.3 *Roman:* the main features from this period in Lanchester, are the Roman road known as Dere Street, and the fort called Longovicium with its associated vicus. Dere Street was a major Roman road that ran from York to Lothian, in Scotland. The road joined Co. Durham at Piercebridge, before running north through Binchester, and to Lanchester. From Lanchester it carried on north via Corbridge. Longovicium is a comparatively well-preserved Roman fort with ramparts, a vicus and evidence of a related cemetery. The results of excavations suggest an Antonine date for the first phase of the fort, with the restoration of the headquarters and further work; such as the construction of a bathhouse and basilica being set in the mid third century (Petts and Gerrard 2006).
- 3.2.4 *Medieval:* a Viking hoard, known as the "Hurbuck Hoard" was recovered from Lanchester, which included two swords and an axe. These are now

kept at The British Museum (Shetelig 1940, 74 cited in *Shared Visions: The North East Regional Framework for the Historic Environment*).

- 3.2.5 *Post-medieval and Modern*: the Church of All Saints was built in the 12th Century; however, by the 15th Century the church was in ruins. It has since been restored. A small drift mine was located on the edge of the village, which was closed down in the 1970's.

3.3 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.3.1 Numerous excavations and investigations have occurred in the immediate area around Lanchester, including an Archaeological Evaluation carried out Derecroft, Low Woodside Farm (Ian Farmer Associates Ltd, 2007). This archaeological evaluation consisted of two trenches. The second trench located two ditches, which were interpreted as being the ditches lining Dere Street. However, there was some doubt cast over this as a result of bioturbation in the area, and a failure to identify a road surface in any of the trenches.
- 3.3.2 A geophysical survey was undertaken by Archaeological Services Durham University (2008), over the North Vicus at Longovicium. The survey revealed the line of Dere Street and associated ditch features, along with medieval features such as ridge and furrow cultivation marks. Previous geophysical surveys in the area of the fort have uncovered traces of the vicus, an aqueduct, and a cemetery to the southwest of the fort.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The watching brief monitoring began on the 16th of June 2009 and was completed on the 17th of June 2009. This is included all groundworks required for erection of the steel framed agricultural building (Figure 2).

4.2 PHASE 1: THE WATCHING BRIEF

4.2.1 The Watching Brief covered all the groundworks carried out on site during this development (Figure 2).



Plate 1: Site after topsoil (100) strip.

4.2.2 The turf was stripped by a JCB with a back-hoe and a toothless wide ditching bucket to reveal the topsoil. The topsoil (100) comprised a light brown-grey sandy loam with infrequent inclusions of small stones (<0.02m in size), and was present across the site to a depth of 0.35m. Beneath the topsoil, the subsoil (101) was just visible. This consisted of a light browney-orange sandy clay with yellow inclusions and frequent small stones of the same dimensions as those found in (100). The subsoil was not removed or truncated. No archaeological features or natural were noted.



Plate 2: Section facing northeast.

4.2.3 A cut for a modern water main was observed. This was visible as a filled trench crossing the site diagonally east west but the pipe remained undisturbed by the groundworks. The cut (102) created for the water pipe was 22.50m long, with a width of 0.60m and was filled by (103), which was a compacted yellow clay.



Plate 3: Showing cut (102) and fill (103)

4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

- 4.3.1 19th century and modern pottery was found from (100); no environmental samples were taken.

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1.1 *The Watching Brief*: the site was stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision. No archaeological remains were noted.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.2.1 As this watching brief was conducted as a condition of groundworks associated with the development of an agricultural building, no further archaeological work is deemed necessary. However, given the site's location in relation to the Roman road, Dere Street, and the fort of Longovicium at Lanchester, it is recommended that any work conducted in the future be subject to a similar programme of archaeological investigation.

6 BIBLIOGRAPHY

6.1 SECONDARY SOURCES

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UKIC (1990) *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage*
www.keystothePast.info

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT AND MATRIX TABLES

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Topsoil
101	Deposit	Subsoil
102	Cut	Cut of service trench
103	Fill	Fill of service trench (102)

Table 4: List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief

100
103
102
101

Table 5: Matrix of Contexts

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

PROJECT DESIGN NO 671/08

PROJECT DESIGN FOR
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF AT
LIZARDS COTTAGE,
LANCHESTER
CO. DURHAM

HARVEY AND HAZEL WHITFIELD



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27th March 2008

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4 PUBLICATION	22
5 ARCHIVE, OWNERSHIP AND STORAGE OF FINDS	22
6 HEALTH AND SAFETY	23

1 Introduction and Location

- 1.1 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. have been invited by Harvey and Hazel Whitfield to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Lizards Cottage, Lanchester, Co. Durham. Planning consent has been granted by Derwentside District Council for the erection of a steel framed agricultural building at the site (Planning Application No: 1/2007/0982); The site lies in close proximity to Dere Street Roman road, visible on aerial photographs heading north-west from *Longovicium* Roman fort. There is therefore potential for archaeological remains to exist along the length of the road.
- 1.2 All ground reduction, and the foundations and service trenches of the proposed development, have the potential to impact on the remains to some extent, and therefore the Assistant Archaeology Officer for Durham County Council recommended a watching brief during the course of all ground works relating to this project, as it is possible that important archaeological remains survive within the site, which would be disturbed by the proposed works.

2 The Watching Brief

- 2.1 The proposed work will consist of an archaeological watching brief. A watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons, on a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2002). Reasonable access to the site for the purposes of monitoring the watching brief will be afforded to DCC.
- 2.2 The watching brief will conform to the following standard: the work shall be subject to observation by the archaeologist. This observation shall involve the systematic examination and accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and artefacts identified.
- 2.3 If significant archaeological deposits are revealed during this project, DCC would be consulted over the character and significance of any potential archaeology features exposed, and full agreement obtained on the best way to proceed.
- 2.4 The aims of the watching brief can be summarised as follows:
 - to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record them;
 - to carry out further excavation and recording work in adequate time, if intact archaeological remains are uncovered during the project;
 - to accurately tie the area watched by the archaeologist into the National Grid at an appropriate scale, with any archaeological deposits and features adequately levelled;
 - to sample environmental deposits encountered as required. The recommended sample sizes for dry deposits being 30-60 litres and for wet deposits the sample sizes should be approximately 5 litres;

- to maintain a photographic record of all contexts in colour transparency and black and white print, and including a graduated metric scale;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes. To aid finds recovery a metal detector will be used to scan all spoil from the groundworks.
- to prepare a report for the Client setting out the salient conclusions;
- depending upon the results of the work, to prepare a report for publication;
- **any contingency costs would only be utilised with full agreement of all parties.**

2.5 This process will culminate in the production of a bound client report with each page and paragraph numbered, following the guidance set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, 1991), including:

- A site location plan, electronically related to the national grid.
- The dates on which the project was undertaken.
- A concise, non-technical summary of the results
- A description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and results obtained.
- Plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing the position of deposits.
- A list of, and spot dates for, any finds recovered and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified.
- A description of any environmental or any other specialist work undertaken and the results obtained.
- A table summarising the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and any spot dating of significant finds.
- Recommendations for further analysis if applicable.

2.6 Two paper copies and one digital copy of this report will be sent out to DCC within three months of the completion of all fieldwork, and two copies will be provided to the client.

3 Staffing and Methodology

3.1 The work will be undertaken under the overall direction of Matthew Town, BA MA, NPA Project Manager. Day-to-day work will be undertaken by Tony Liddell, Project Supervisor. All staff are highly experienced archaeologists with significant experience of both urban and rural sites throughout Co. Durham.

3.2 Specialist Services which may be utilised:

Prehistoric Pottery Carol Allen, Archaeological Consultant

Roman Pottery	Louise Hird, Archaeological Consultant.
Medieval Pottery	Cathy Brookes, Archaeological Consultant.
Post-Medieval Pottery	Jenny Vaughn, Archaeological Consultant
Metalwork	Philip Cracknell, Archaeological Consultant
Environmental analysis	Patricia Shaw, NPA Environmental.
Human Bone	Rachel Horn, Palaeopathologist.
Conservation	Archaeological Services, University of Durham

3.3 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd is the archaeological contracting division of North Pennines Heritage Trust, a registered charity. The company has a fully staffed professional field team and is highly experienced in the assessment and recording of archaeological sites and monuments throughout the north of England and south-west Scotland. Based in Nenthead, Cumbria, the company has considerable experience extending over more than twelve years of archaeological investigation.

3.4 The North Pennines Heritage Trust (NPHT) has been actively engaged in conservation and interpretation works at sites throughout the North Pennines since its formation in 1987. The Trust maintains an active role in the care and conservation of the historic buildings and industrial remains within the Scheduled Ancient Monument of the Nenthead Mines lead mining complex; NPA is actively involved in the Trust's numerous other projects, such as measured survey on the Alston Arches railway viaduct at Haltwhistle.

4 Publication

4.1 Depending on results, the findings of the evaluation will be published in summary form in either *Durham Archaeological Journal* or *Archaeologia Aeliana*. Costs will be levied for this. A section will be included the annual review of archaeological work in Durham.

4.2 The project will be registered with the **Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS (OASIS)**. <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>

5 Archive, Ownership and Storage Of Finds

5.1 All finds belong to the landowner, but initially they will be transferred to the North Pennines Heritage Trust's premises at Nenthead. Agreement will be sought on the final deposition of finds prior to the fieldwork commencing.

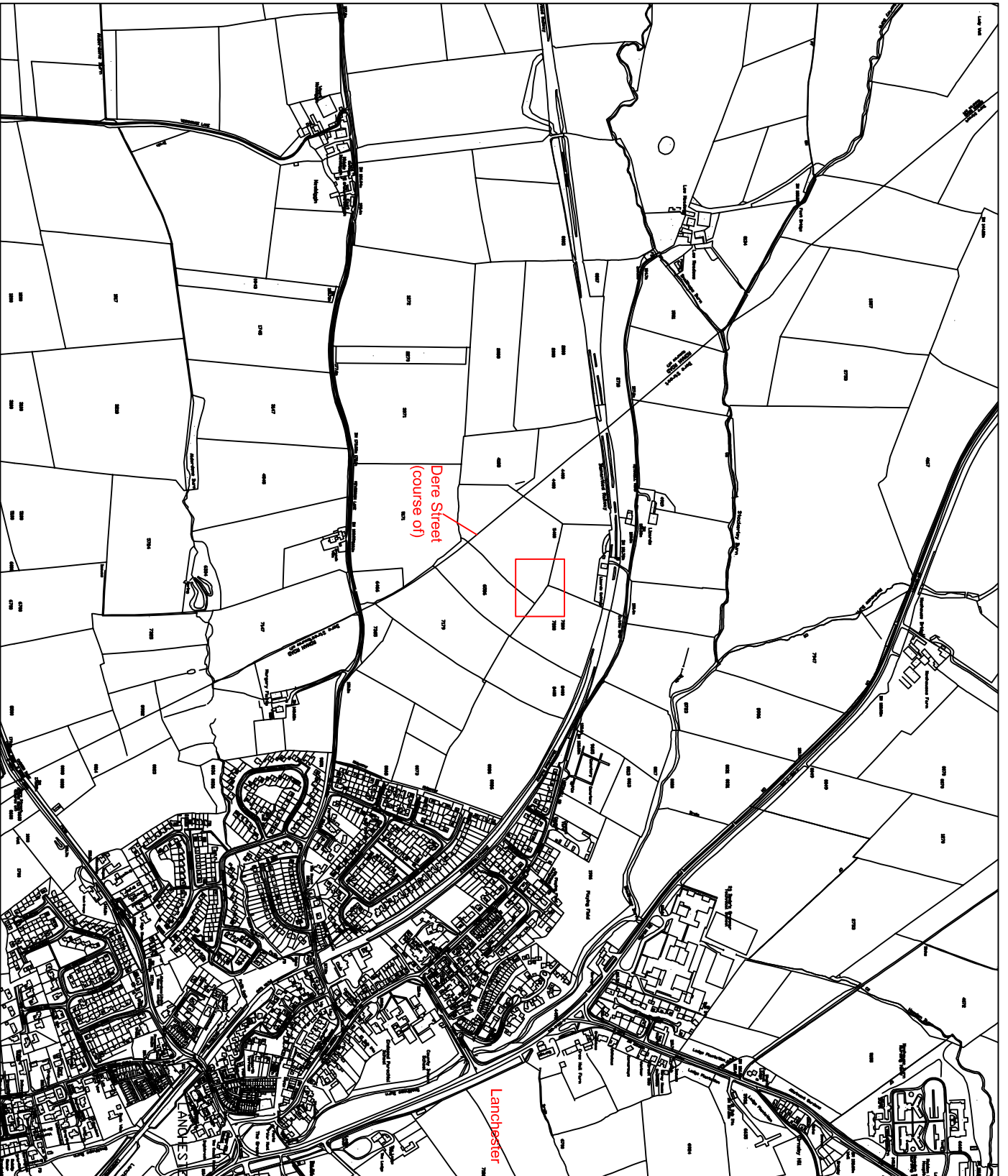
5.2 During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts will be stored in the appropriate conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this will include controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conversation of vulnerable materials). All work will be carried out in compliance with IFA Guidelines for Finds Work and those set by UKIC.

- 5.3 Ultimately it is recommended that the curation of both finds and the site archive should be vested in Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle.
- 5.4 Finds will be managed by F.Giecco. The company will undertake first-aid conservation, but if further stabilisation is required there will be consultations with staff from the University of Durham, any additional costs for conservation will be incurred by the client.
- 5.5 Finds or soil samples requiring specialist work will be assessed, and recommendations for analysis will be made in consultation with Jacqui Huntley at the University of Durham.
- 5.6 The site archive will be prepared to the standard specification in the Management of Archaeological Projects, appendix 3 (HBMC 1991), and Brown, DH, 2007, *Archaeological Archives A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*.

6 Health and Safety

- 6.1 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd is fully compliant with HSE guidance and legislation. It is the duty of all personnel, under the Health and Safety at Work Act etc 1974, to take reasonable care for the health and safety of him/herself and other persons who may be affected by his/her acts or omissions at work. He/she must also co-operate with the Technical Director regarding any duty or requirement imposed on the Technical Director or any other person by or under any of the relevant statutory provisions so far as it is necessary to enable that duty or requirement to be performed or complied with. Any personnel contravening relevant statutory provision may be prosecuted in a Sheriff Court (Scotland) or Magistrates' Court. All personnel taking part in fieldwork have a responsibility to adhere to sensible standards of behaviour. Personnel are made aware that fieldwork activities have inherent hazards which staff members minimise with appropriate safety precautions. However, the potential dangers make it imperative that personnel co-operate by behaving responsibly in order to reduce the risk of accidents.
- 6.2 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.

APPENDIX 3: FIGURES



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2009

Lizards Farm, Lanchester

CLIENT:

Harvey and Hazel Whitfield

SCALE: 1:10,000 at A4

DRAWN BY: FW/MT

DATE: 22/06/09

KEY:



Figure 2



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FIGURE:

Figure No 1

Figure 1 : Site Location



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd

2009

Lizards Farm, Lanchester

CLIENT:

Harvey and Hazel Whitfield

SCALE: 1:500 at A4

DRAWN BY: FW/MT

DATE: 22/06/09

KEY:



Trench



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FIGURE:

Figure No 2

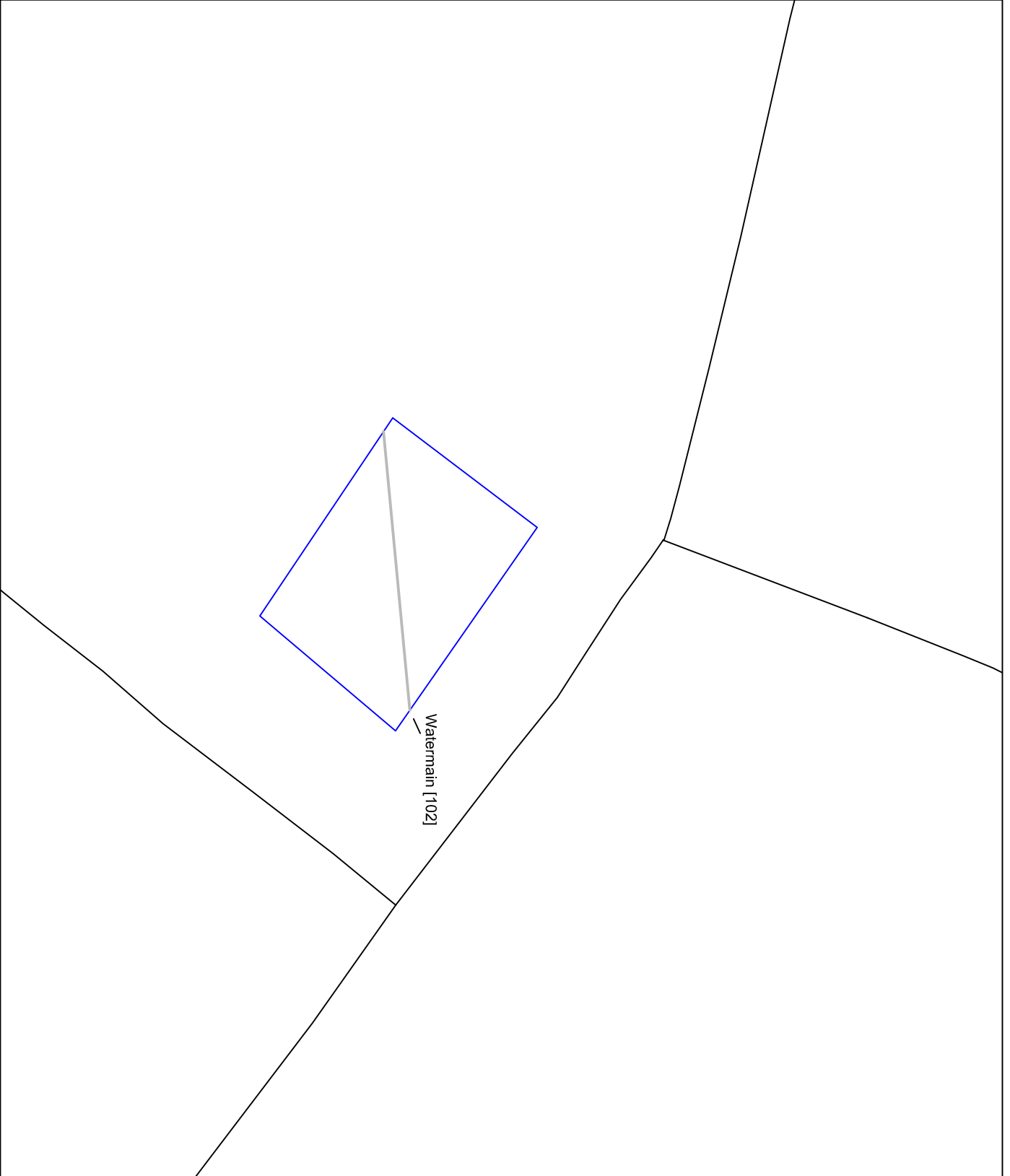


Figure 2 : Location of Watching Brief