# THROCKLEY, WALBOTTLE AND DENTON BURN, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, TYNE AND WEAR



WATCHING BRIEF REPORT CP. Nos: 955/09 & 956/09 12/11/2010

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre, Nenthead, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3PD

> Tel/Fax: (01434) 382045/043 WWW.NPARCHAEOLOGY.CO.UK



# NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

**DOCUMENT TITLE:** Throckley, Walbottle and Denton Burn,

Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear

**DOCUMENT Type:** Watching Brief Report

CLIENT: Northumbrian Water

**CP Number:** CP/955/09 & CP/956/09

SITE CODE: TWB/A & DBL/A

Oasis Reference: northpen3-86140

**PRINT DATE:** 12/11/2010

Grid Reference: Walbottle/Throckley (centered on) NZ 165 668

Denton Burn (centered on) NZ 193 655

#### 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.

REVISION SCHEDULE				
	01	02	03	
PREPARED BY:	David Jackson			
Position:	Project Supervisor			
DATE:	12/11/10			
EDITED BY:	Matt Town			
Position:	Project Manager			
DATE:	12/11/10			
APPROVED BY:	Frank Giecco			
Position:	Technical Director			
DATE:	12/11/10			

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd is a wholly owned company of North Pennines Heritage Trust (Company Registration No. 4847034; VAT Registration No. 817 2284 31). All rights reserved.

#### Disclaimer

No part of this report may be copied or reproduced, stored or transmitted by any means without prior written permission from North Pennines Archaeology Ltd, or the client for whom the work was carried out. The report has been produced specifically for the client's usage, and no other party may use, make use of or rely on the contents of the report; any person or party using or relying on this document for such purposes agrees, and with such use or reliance be taken to confirm their agreement, to indemnify NPA Ltd for all loss or damage resulting from their action. No liability is accepted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd for any use of this report other than the use and purpose for which it was originally intended. Information contained in this report is provided by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd using due care and diligence and no explicit warranty is provided as to its accuracy. No independent verification of any information provided to North Pennines Archaeology Ltd has been made.

# **CONTENTS**

SUM	MARY	5
ACK	NOWLEDGEMENTS	7
	TRODUCTION	
1.1		
	ETHODOLOGY	
2.1	Project Design	
2.2	The Watching Brief	
2.3	The Archive	
3 BA	CKGROUND	
3.1	Location and Geological Context	
3.2	Historical Context	
3.3	Previous Work	
4 AR	CHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF	15
4.1	Introduction	
4.2	Results	
4.3	Archaeological Finds and Environmental Sampling	
5 CO	NCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	
5.1	Conclusions	
5.2	Recommendations	
6 BIF	BLIOGRAPHY	
6.1	Secondary Sources	
	ENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE	
	ENDIX 2: FIGURES	
AII	LINDIA 4. IIGUNES	∠0

# **ILLUSTRATIONS**

FIGURES (APPENDIX 2)
FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATIONS
FIGURE 2: LOCATION OF TRENCHES/TRIAL-HOLES, THROCKLEY (WEST END)
FIGURE 3: LOCATION OF TRENCHES/TRIAL-HOLES, THROCKLEY (EAST END)
FIGURE 4: LOCATION OF TRENCHES/TRIAL-HOLES, WALBOTTLE
FIGURE 5: LOCATION OF TRENCHES/TRIAL-HOLES, DENTON BURN (WEST END)
FIGURE 6: LOCATION OF TRENCHES/TRIAL-HOLES, DENTON BURN (CENTRAL)
FIGURE 7: LOCATION OF TRENCHES/TRIAL-HOLES, DENTON BURN (EAST END)
FIGURE 8: SOUTHWEST FACING SECTION OF SERVICE TRENCH SHOWING LIMESTONE BLOCK (124)
P <sub>LATES</sub>
PLATE 1: TRIAL-HOLE WITHIN WOODSIDE AVENUE, THROCKLEY, LOOKING SOUTH16
PLATE 2: TRENCH TO THE REAR OF HEXHAM ROAD, THROCKLEY, LOOKING EAST16
PLATE 3: VIEW OF LIMESTONE BLOCK (124), HEXHAM ROAD, THROCKLEY, LOOKING NORTH17
PLATE 4: VIEW OF LIMESTONE BLOCK (124) WITHIN DISTURBED GROUND, HEXHAM ROAD, THROCKLEY, LOOKING NORTH
PLATE 5: TRIAL-HOLE SHOWING CULVERT (136) BETWEEN BURT AND BEVERLEY TERRACES, WALBOTTLE, LOOKING SOUTH
PLATE 6: TRENCH WITHIN WEST DENTON ROAD, DENTON BURN, LOOKING EAST19
PLATE 7: FOUNDATIONS (115) WITHIN CENTRE OF EXCAVATED AREA, AVALON DRIVE, DENTON BURN, LOOKING EAST-SOUTHEAST
PLATE 8: FOUNDATIONS (115) TO THE WEST OF EXCAVATED AREA, AVALON DRIVE, DENTON BURN, LOOKING SOUTHWEST
PLATE 9: VIEW SOUTHWEST OF POSSIBLE RE-USED ROMAN STONE WITHIN EARTHEN BANK, AVALON

Drive, Denton Burn ......21

## **SUMMARY**

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Northumbrian Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief on groundworks relating to the upgrading of water services within the vicinity of Walbottle/Throckley (centered on NGR: NZ 165 668) and Denton Burn (centered on NGR: NZ 193 655), Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear. The groundworks lie within the immediate vicinity of Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, which is also a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument (Ref #26069). The World Heritage Site is comprised of a buffer zone which protects the Wall itself, the Military Way, forts, milecastles, turrets and the Vallum. As a result, Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, has granted planning consent for the works on the condition that an archaeological watching brief be undertaken during all ground works within the buffer zone of the World Heritage Site.

In Denton, the course of Hadrian's Wall follows the existing line of the modern carriageway, although the surviving extent of subsurface remains is unclear. Several extant sections of the wall survive alongside the main carriageway, as well as Turret 7B, close to Denton Hall. The site of Milecastle 7 has also been purported within the vicinity of Denton, based on measurements to other monuments. However, excavations in 1928 failed to find any trace of the milecastle, although the site of Milecastle 8 further west was excavated in that year. Several sections of the Vallum ditch and mounds have also been located within the area, through previous excavation and aerial photography. In Throckley and Walbottle, the course of Hadrian's Wall runs under the modern road where it is possible there are subsurface remains. An alleged Turret (10b) also lies under the road. There are no visible remains of either of these features. The course of the Hadrian's Wall ditch is suggested by manholes in garden drives that lead to a drain or sewer that seem to have been laid down on the course of the ditch. Well-preserved stretches of the Hadrian's Wall ditch lie in Walbottle County Secondary School playing fields and the northern gateway of Milecastle 10 is preserved in the garden of Dene House. A length of the Vallum ditch, some 21m long, and a possible fragment of the north mound, is also preserved on the east edge of Walbottle Dene.

The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken intermittently over sixty-eight days between the 11th June 2009 and 20th April 2010. The watching brief monitored groundworks carried out in Throckley, Walbottle and Denton Burn resulting from the upgrading of water main services. All of the monitored trenches and trial-holes were largely comprised of made-ground and backfill deposits below ground level. However, a single limestone block was observed at Hexham Road, Throckley, which may have related to Hadrian's Wall, although the disturbed nature of the surrounding deposits suggest that the block was not *in-situ*.

Further excavations on land between Avalon Drive and the A69 carriageway, Denton Burn, also revealed substantial sandstone foundations. However, whilst these remains could be related to Hadrian's Wall or Milecastle 8, this could not be confirmed due to the lack of dating evidence and limited excavation.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks in association with the upgrading of existing water services, 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 Mark Morris, Northumbrian Water, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. NPA Ltd would also like to thank Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist, for all his assistance throughout the project.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Fast Flow and all staff at the Walbottle/Throckley and Lemington/Denton Burn sites, for their help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Frances Wood, Nigel Cavanagh, David Jackson, Angus Clark, Jocelyn Strickland, Tony Liddell, Fiona Wooler, Don O'Meara, Kevin Mounsey, Joanne Wilkinson and Natalie Ward. The report was written by David Jackson, who also produced the drawings. The project was managed by Matt Town, Project Manager for NPA Ltd, who also edited the report.

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In June 2009, North Pennines Archaeology were invited by Mark Morris, Northumbrian Water, to maintain an archaeological watching brief at the villages of Throckley and Walbottle (centered on NGR: NZ 165 668) and the suburb of Denton Burn (centered on NGR: NZ 193 655), Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear (Figure 1), during groundworks associated with the upgrading of water mains. The proposed works lie within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, which is also a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Ref #26069). As a result, Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist for English Heritage, requested that all ground reduction within the Hadrian's Wall buffer zone 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), and its successor, PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment (Policy HE 6).
- 1.1.2 All groundworks associated with the upgrading of water mains had to be excavated under full archaeological supervision and all stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008), and were consistent with the specification provided by North Pennines Project Manager, Matt Town (Town 2009a, 2009b, 2009c) 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 was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Northumbrian Water, for an archaeological watching brief of the study area. Following acceptance of the project design by Mike Collins, Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist, 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 within the Hadrian's Wall Scheduled area during water renewal works. 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 2008).
- 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 were 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 as applicable, 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 Archaeological monitoring and supervision of groundworks associated with the scheme of water renewal works within the Hadrian's Wall Scheduled Area was undertaken intermittently over sixty-eight days between the 11th June 2009 and 20th April 2010.
- 2.2.4 The study area was excavated under close archaeological supervision. The excavated area was subsequently investigated and recorded according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2003).
- 2.2.5 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 within the Great North Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Newcastle upon Tyne, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA09, TWB-A/DBL-A, CP 955/09.
- 2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology, and English Heritage, 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 Throckley, Walbottle and Denton Burn are situated on the outskirts of Newcastle upon Tyne, approximately 8km west of the city centre. The general area is largely urbanised with outlying field systems to the north, south and west, and the large urban centre of Newcastle to the east. Specifically, Throckley is a mid-sized urban village, less than 2km east of Heddon-on-the-Wall, with the small village of Walbottle situated approximately 1km further east. Both Throckley and Walbottle are situated astride Hexham Road (B6528), along the line of Hadrian's Wall. Denton Burn is located approximately 3.5km east of Walbottle, within a heavily urbanised suburb of Newcastle. The area of Denton Burn lies between the major roads of the A69, the A1 and the A186 (West Road), along the line of Hadrian's Wall. The areas are shown on Figure 1.
- 3.1.2 The geology of the region is underlain almost entirely by Coal Measures of Upper Carboniferous age. The underlying rocks in the area are overlain by glacial clay or till (Countryside Commission 1998). Accumulations of fine silt and clay also occur locally, the result of temporary lakes which formed during the final stages of the last glacial period (*ibid*).

#### 3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- 3.2.1 *Introduction:* this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study areas.
- 3.2.2 *Hadrian's Wall:* Hadrian's Wall is probably the most complex and best preserved of the frontiers of the Roman Empire (Austen and Young 2002). The World Heritage Site (WHS) comprises a visual envelope between 1km and 6km from the site in order to serve as a buffer zone to protect the site and its immediate landscape from development detrimental to the visual amenity of the site (*ibid*). The WHS is centred on the military installations constructed from AD 122 on the orders of the Emperor Hadrian. The WHS also includes other Roman sites and structures which predate Hadrian's Wall, such as the arrangement of forts along the Cumbrian Coast between Bowness-on-Solway and Ravenglass, and incorporates a wealth of pre-Roman and post-Roman sites and landscapes (*ibid*). Hadrian's Wall was constructed in the early 2nd century on a line connecting the Tyne and the Solway and represented, at various times, the northern frontier of Roman

- Britain. The northern military boundary was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1987.
- 3.2.3 Begun in AD 122, the wall was a composite military barrier, which in its final form, comprised a stonewall fronted by a V-shaped ditch, and a number of purpose-built stone garrison fortifications such as forts, milecastles and turrets. A large earthwork and ditch, built parallel with and to the south of the Wall, known as the Vallum, and a metalled road linking the garrison forts, which is known as the 'Roman Military Way' completed the northern military boundary. The Wall begins in the east at Wallsend in Tyneside and continues to the west terminating at Bowness-on-Solway in Cumbria, a distance of 80 Roman miles (73.5 modern miles or 117 kilometres). The wall conceived by Hadrian was to be ten feet wide and about fifteen feet high. The foundations of Hadrian's ten-foot wide wall were laid from Newcastle upon Tyne eastward for 23 Roman miles to Chesters in Northumberland, but thereafter, apart from a few short lengths further west, the wall is reduced to eight or sometimes, six feet in width. The westernmost 31 miles of the wall was initially constructed of turf from the River Irthing to the Solway. The few sections of the turf wall which survive suggest that it was constructed with laid turfs, possibly retaining a steep batter at the front, while the back, at first vertical, continued at a more gentle slope. The western section of the wall was eventually rebuilt in stone toward the end of Hadrian's reign, approximately 15 years after its initial construction (Breeze & Dobson 1984).
- Between each milecastle were two smaller turrets, equidistant from each other and the milecastles to either side. They were of a uniform pattern, about 20 feet square, recessed into the wall and built-up above the height of the wall. In the original plan, the wall was to be garrisoned and patrolled from the milecastles and there was no requirement for any large forts to be built on the wall itself. The wall was to be reinforced when needed, from the forts already in existence along the Stanegate, which runs parallel to the rear of the wall. This format was to prove inadequate however, and the wall was soon modified by the inclusion of several auxiliary forts along its length. These garrison forts were of a standard 'playing-card' profile, but varied in size between 3 and 5 acres, depending on the type of unit it was built to house. In the infantry forts, the wall itself generally formed the northern defences of the camp, which projected wholly to the south, as is the case with the milecastles and turrets. In the cavalry forts, or those of partmounted units, the forts were generally built across the line of the wall with three of its major gates opening out onto its northern side, part of the wall having to be demolished in order to accommodate the fort. In some cases

- forts were sited on top of milecastles, which had to be demolished, as at Bowness-on-Solway (Bedoyere 1998).
- 3.2.5 The original concept of the Wall fulfilled what Hadrian's biographer wrote; that he 'drew a wall along the length of eighty miles to separate barbarians and Romans' (Birley 1976). This concept reflected the form of the German Raetian *limes* in that the wall relied on the forts of the Stanegate defensive system further south for reinforcements in case of need. Its main purpose was probably to control movement in and out of the Province, as well as forming a base for military activity on or north of the frontier, and was never intended to be a defensive feature (*ibid*).
- The Vallum: shortly after work on the wall had been completed a large 3.2.6 earthwork was constructed a short distance to the south, which followed along the full length of the wall. This earthwork, known as the Vallum, consisted of a continuous steep-sided trench, with a flat-bottom. Unlike the ditch fronting the wall to the north, which had a normal Roman military Vshaped profile, this flat-bottomed ditch, twenty Roman feet (5.9m) wide and 20 feet deep, was flanked by 10 feet (3m) high and 20 feet wide mounds, positioned 30 feet (8.9m) away on either side. Combined, these features created a 120-foot (35m) wide system of earthworks. The Vallum usually diverts around forts, therefore it is probably safe to assume that it was created after work on the wall had commenced. The Vallum may have formed part of the original plan but was perhaps not scheduled to be constructed until Hadrian's Wall was substantially completed. The purpose of the Vallum has been much debated. However, the most probable reason for the earthwork was to demarcate the southern limit of the military zone, providing protection from the south and funneling trans-wall traffic into easily policed channels (Bedoyere 1998, Shotter 1996).

#### 3.3 Previous Work

- 3.3.1 Serious investigations of Hadrian's Wall and its associated structures and features have taken place for well over 150 years. Two of the most detailed investigations of the Hadrian's Wall complex undertaken in recent years include:
  - an extensive survey of the entire Hadrian's Wall complex undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) undertaken during 1988 to 1993, in order to update the existing Ordnance Survey Linear File which had been compiled in the mid-1960's and;

 a programme of aerial photography undertaken during 2002 to 2008, as part of English Heritage's National Mapping Programme. The aims of the project were to interpret and transcribe all archaeological features from the prehistoric period through to the 20th century visible on air photographs, including the entire length of the Hadrian's Wall complex.

## 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

#### 4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken intermittently over sixty-eight days between the 11th June 2009 and 20th April 2010. The watching brief monitored groundworks carried out in Throckley, Walbottle and Denton Burn resulting from the upgrading of water main services.
- 4.1.2 The excavtions comprised both trenching and trial pitting and were subsequently investigated and recorded fully. The results of the archaeological work are outlined below.

#### 4.2 RESULTS

4.2.1 Throckley: a total of 68 trenches and trial-holes were monitored during the groundworks within Throckley, which were spread across Hexham Road and several adjoining roads including Hadrian Place, Newburn Road, Vallum Road, Callerton Road, Portland Road, and Woodside Avenue. All of the monitored excavations were within the Hadrian's Wall buffer zone, some of which being located within the immediate vicinity of the projected line of Hadrian's Wall and the Vallum (Figures 2 and 3). However, as the excavations were located within the vicinity of existing water mains, all of the monitored trenches and trial-holes were largely comprised of madeground and backfill deposits below ground level (Plates 1 and 2). The only notable observation was the discovery of a substantial limestone block (124), located within the north corner of a northwest to southeast-aligned trench, which was located approximately 4m south of No. 16 Hexham Road (Figure 3, Plate 3). The squared limestone block (124) measured over 0.62m in height, 0.51m in length and over 0.23m in width, and was observed at a depth of c.1m below ground level. However, although the bottom of the block was not visually observed, further exploration was unable to locate any additional blocks. Furthermore, the limestone block (124) had been encased within a mixed clay backfill deposit (123), which contained sherds of modern pottery (Figure 8, Plate 4). Whilst the block (124) was in the right location and was of the correct form to be associated with Hadrian's Wall, the excessive disturbance within the immediate vicinity suggests that it was not in-situ. No further archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief within Throckley.



Plate 1: Trial-hole within Woodside Avenue, Throckley, looking south



Plate 2: Trench to the rear of Hexham Road, Throckley, looking east



Plate 3: View of limestone block (124), Hexham Road, Throckley, looking north



Plate 4: View of limestone block (124) within disturbed ground, Hexham Road, Throckley, looking north

4.2.2 *Walbottle:* a total of 20 trial-holes were monitored during the groundworks within Walbottle, which were located between Beverley Terrace and Burt Terrace. A single trial-hole was located within the immediate vicinity of the projected line of Hadrian's Wall, whilst the remaining trial-holes were located immediately to the north (Figure 4). All of the trial-holes were excavated to a maximum depth of 1m at which point an existing water main

was reached. The trial-holes were largely comprised of firm yellow sand (138) below black industrial waste (137) and silty sand backfill (135). This was further below hardcore (134) and tarmac (100). A redbrick culvert (136) was also noted within the central most trial-hole at a depth of c.0.6m (Plate 5). No significant archaeological features or deposits were noted during the watching brief within Walbottle.



Plate 5: Trial-hole showing culvert (136) between Burt and Beverley Terraces, Walbottle, looking south

Denton Burn: a total of 122 trenches and trial-holes were monitored during the groundworks within Denton Burn, which were largely centered between the projected lines of Hadrian's Wall and the Vallum and included excavations within South View, The Ramparts, Southway, Wallington Drive, Northlea, St. Vincent's Close, Falstone Avenue, Avalon Drive, Claremont Avenue, West Denton Road, West Denton Close, Norwood Road, Sandringham Road, and Roman Way (Figures 5-7). The monitored excavations were largely comprised of made-ground and backfill deposits below ground level (Plate 6). However, excavations between the northern half of Avalon Drive and the A69 revealed sandstone foundations, which were possibly related to the Hadrian's Wall complex (Plates 7 and 8). The crudely worked yellow sandstone foundations (115) were revealed below topsoil (104) at a depth of c.0.3m within four separate trenches, which were excavated along an east-southeast to west-northwest aligned grass verge immediately south of the A69 carriageway (Figure 6). The foundations measured over 0.4m in width and, based upon the distance between the four

trenches, extended to over 85m in length. However, whilst these remains could be related to Hadrian's Wall, the projected line of which is approximately 16m further north, or Milecastle 8, which has previously been located within the immediate vicinity, this could not be confirmed due to the lack of dating evidence and limited excavation. Further yellow sandstone blocks were also noted within a small test-pit within the north face of an earthen bank, approximately 2m further south of the foundations (115). Three courses of the crudely worked sandstone blocks were revealed, measuring 0.54m in height and sloping southwards toward the top (Plate 9). However, whilst these blocks could have been related to the Hadrian's Wall complex, it is more probable that they were re-used to provide additional support to the earthen bank within which they were encased. Based upon the discovery of the sandstone foundations (115), all further excavations within the area were located approximately 5m further south. No further archaeological features or deposits were noted within the Denton Burn section of the watching brief.



Plate 6: Trench within West Denton Road, Denton Burn, looking east



Plate 7: Foundations (115) within centre of excavated area, Avalon Drive, Denton Burn, looking east-southeast



Plate 8: Foundations (115) to the west of excavated area, Avalon Drive, Denton Burn, looking southwest



Plate 9: View southwest of possible re-used Roman stone within earthen bank, Avalon Drive, Denton Burn

## 4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

- 4.3.1 All archaeological finds observed during the watching brief were classified as modern and discarded on site.
- 4.3.2 All deposits were deemed unsuitable for environmental analysis, therefore no samples were retained.

#### 5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Conclusions

- 5.1.1 The watching brief monitored groundworks carried out in Throckley, Walbottle and Denton Burn resulting from the upgrading of water main services within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site buffer zone.
- 5.1.2 All of the monitored trenches and trial-holes were largely comprised of made-ground and backfill deposits below ground level. However, a single limestone block was observed at Hexham Road, Throckley, which may have related to Hadrian's Wall, although the disturbed nature of the surrounding deposits suggest that the block was not *in-situ*.
- 5.1.3 Further excavations on land between Avalon Drive and the A69 carriageway, Denton Burn, also revealed substantial sandstone foundations. However, whilst these remains could be related to Hadrian's Wall or Milecastle 8, this could not be confirmed due to the lack of dating evidence and limited excavation.

#### 5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 As this watching brief was conducted as a condition of groundworks associated with the installation of new water mains, no further archaeological work is deemed necessary. However, given the site's location in relation to the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, it is recommended that any further work conducted in the future be subject to a similar programme of archaeological investigation.

#### **6 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

#### 6.1 SECONDARY SOURCES

Austen, P. and Young, C. (2002) *Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site Management Plan* 2002-2007, English Heritage

Bedoyere, G. (1998) Hadrian's Wall, History and Guide, Tempus, London

Birley, A. R. (1976) Lives of the Later Caesars, London

Breeze, D.J. and Dobson, B. (1984) Hadrian's Wall, Penguin Books, Middlesex

Brown, D.H. (2007) Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation. Archaeological Archives Forum

Countryside Commission (1998) Countryside Character Volume 1: North-east - The character of England's natural and man-made landscape. Cheltenham

DoE (1990) Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16: Archaeology and Planning. Department of the Environment

English Heritage (1991) Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2). London: English Heritage

English Heritage (2006) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*. London: English Heritage

Giecco, F. O. (2003) *North Pennines Archaeology Excavation Manual*, North Pennines Heritage Trust, Unpublished Document

IfA (2008) Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists

Shotter, D. (1996) The Roman Frontier in Britain, Carnegie Publishing: Preston.

Town, M. (2009a) *Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Hexham Road, Throckley, Tyne and Wear,* unpublished document, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd.

Town, M. (2009b) *Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief During Proposed Works at Walbottle, Hexham Road, Newcastle upon Tyne,* unpublished document, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd.

Town, M. (2009c) Project Design for an Archaeological Watching Brief During Proposed Works at Denton Burn, West Road Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, unpublished document, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd.

UKIC (1990) Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage

# APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context	Context	Description
Number	Type	Description
100	Deposit	Tarmac (Grey)
101	Geological	Natural Substrate
102	Deposit	Grey Silty Clay
103	Deposit	Clinker Material
104	Deposit	Dark Soil
105	Deposit	Silty Clay Backfill
106	Deposit	Clay
107	Deposit	Black Gritty Material
108	Deposit	Yellow Clay
109	Deposit	Grey sand
110	Deposit	Crushed Brick and Soil Backfill
111	Deposit	Tarmac (Red)
112	Deposit	Crushed Brick
113	Deposit	Yellow Hardcore
114	Deposit	Grey Gravel Backfill
115	Deposit	Hardcore
116	Deposit	Buried Tarmac Surface
117	Deposit	Buried Tarmac Surface
118	Deposit	Topsoil
119	VÖID	VOID
120	VOID	VOID
121	VOID	VOID
122	VOID	VOID
123	Deposit	Clay Backfill
124	Deposit	Limestone Block
125	Deposit	Silty Clay Backfill
126	Deposit	Clayey Silt
127	Deposit	Service Gravel Bed
128	Deposit	Yellow Sandstone Hardcore
129	Deposit	Topsoil
130	Deposit	Modern Backfill
131	Deposit	Slate Hardcore
132	Deposit	Loose Soil
133	Deposit	Natural Substrate
134	Deposit	Yellow Sandstone
135	Deposit	Silty Backfill
136	Strucure	Redbrick Culvert
137	Deposit	Black Industrial Waste
138	Deposit	Yellow Sand Backfill
139	Deposit	Silty Clay Backfill

Table 1: List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief at Throckley and Walbottle

Context	Context	D. a. anim ti a a	
Number	Туре	Description	
100	Deposit	Tarmac	
101	Geological	Natural Substrate	
102	Deposit	Silty Clay Backfill	
103	Deposit	Gravel	
104	Deposit	Topsoil	
105	Deposit	Silty Clay	
106	Deposit	Loose Shale	
107	Deposit	Coal	
108	Deposit	Red Ash	
109	Deposit	Coal	
110	Deposit	Hardcore	
111	Deposit	Black Silt	
112	Deposit	Sandstone Blocks	
113	Deposit	Orange Sand	
114	Deposit	Sandstone Rubble	
115	Deposit	Sandstone Foundations	
116	Cut	For T.V. Cable	
117	Deposit	Grey Clay	
118	Deposit	Black Silt	
119	Deposit	Tarmac Path	
120	Deposit	Hardcore Bedding	
121	Deposit	Sandstone Rubble	
122	Deposit	Modern Brick	
123	Deposit	Concrete	
124	Deposit	Re-used Sandstone Blocks?	

Table 2: List of Contexts issued during Watching Brief at Denton Burn

# **APPENDIX 2: FIGURES**

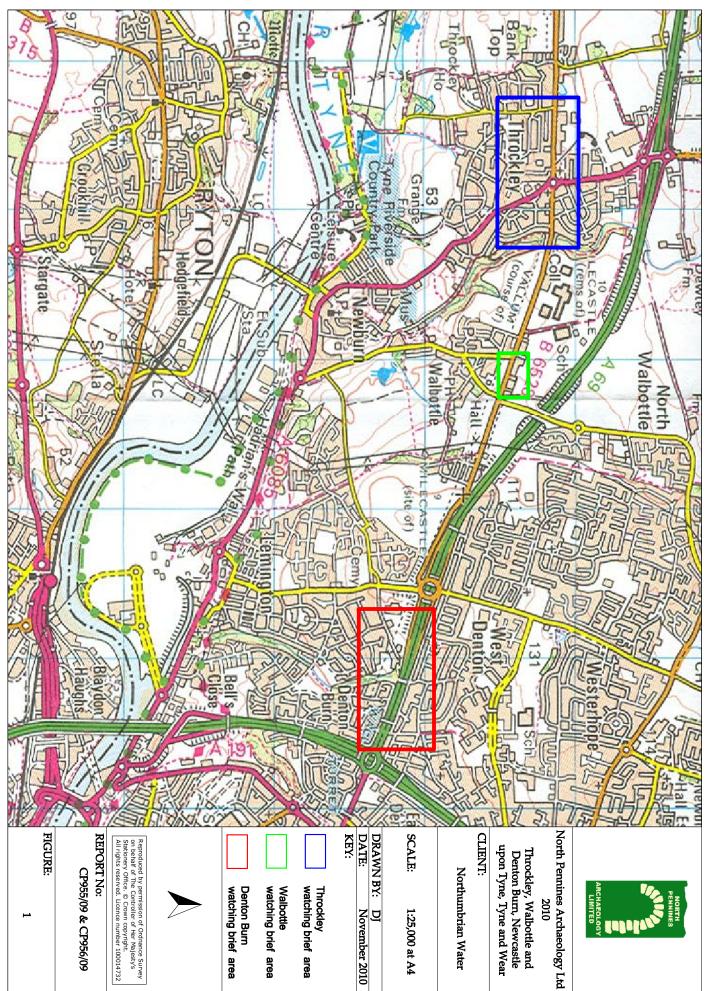


Figure 1: Site Locations

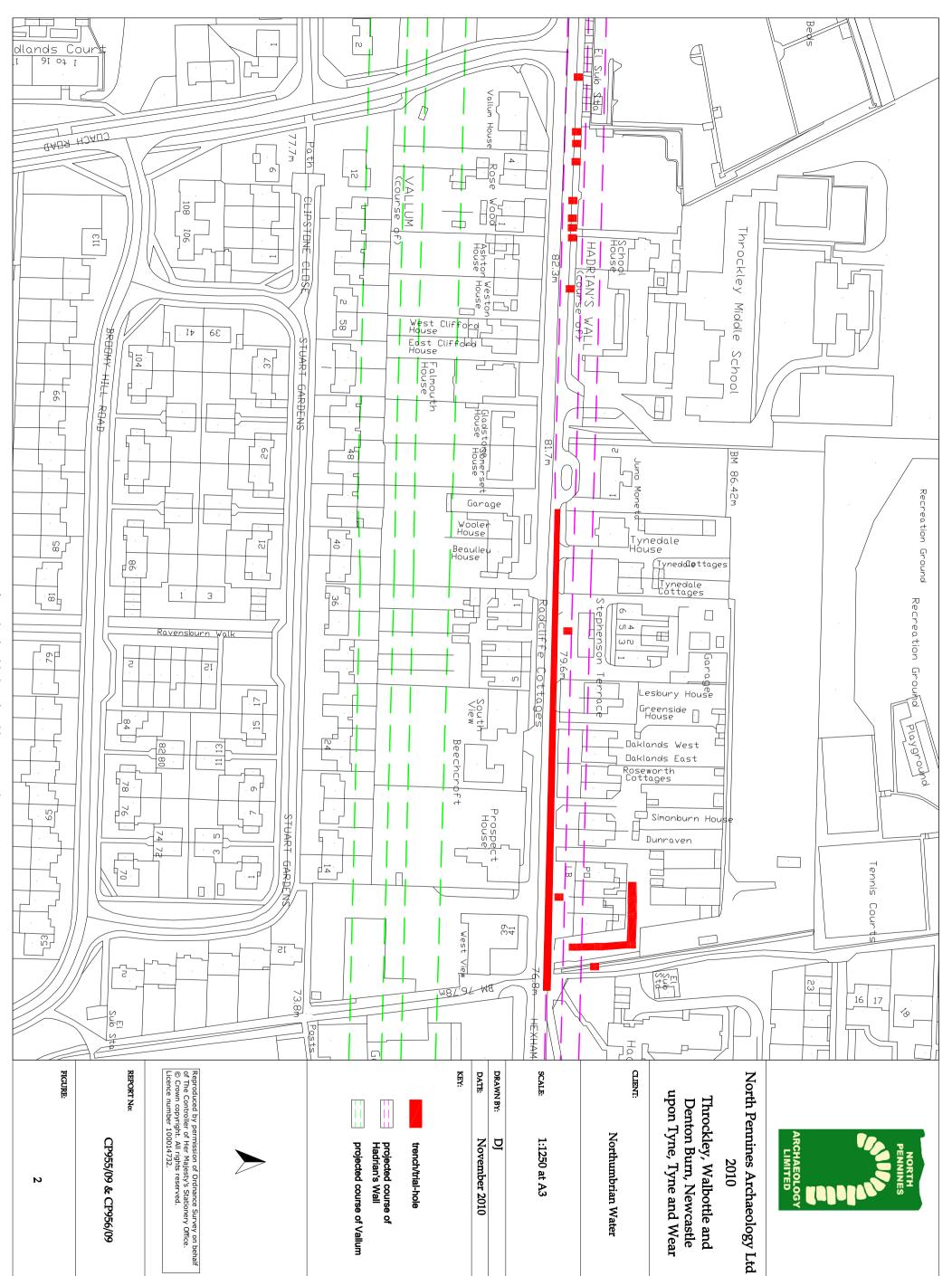


Figure 2: Location of trenches/trial-holes, Throckley (west end)

Figure 3: Location of trenches/trial-holes, Throckley (east end)

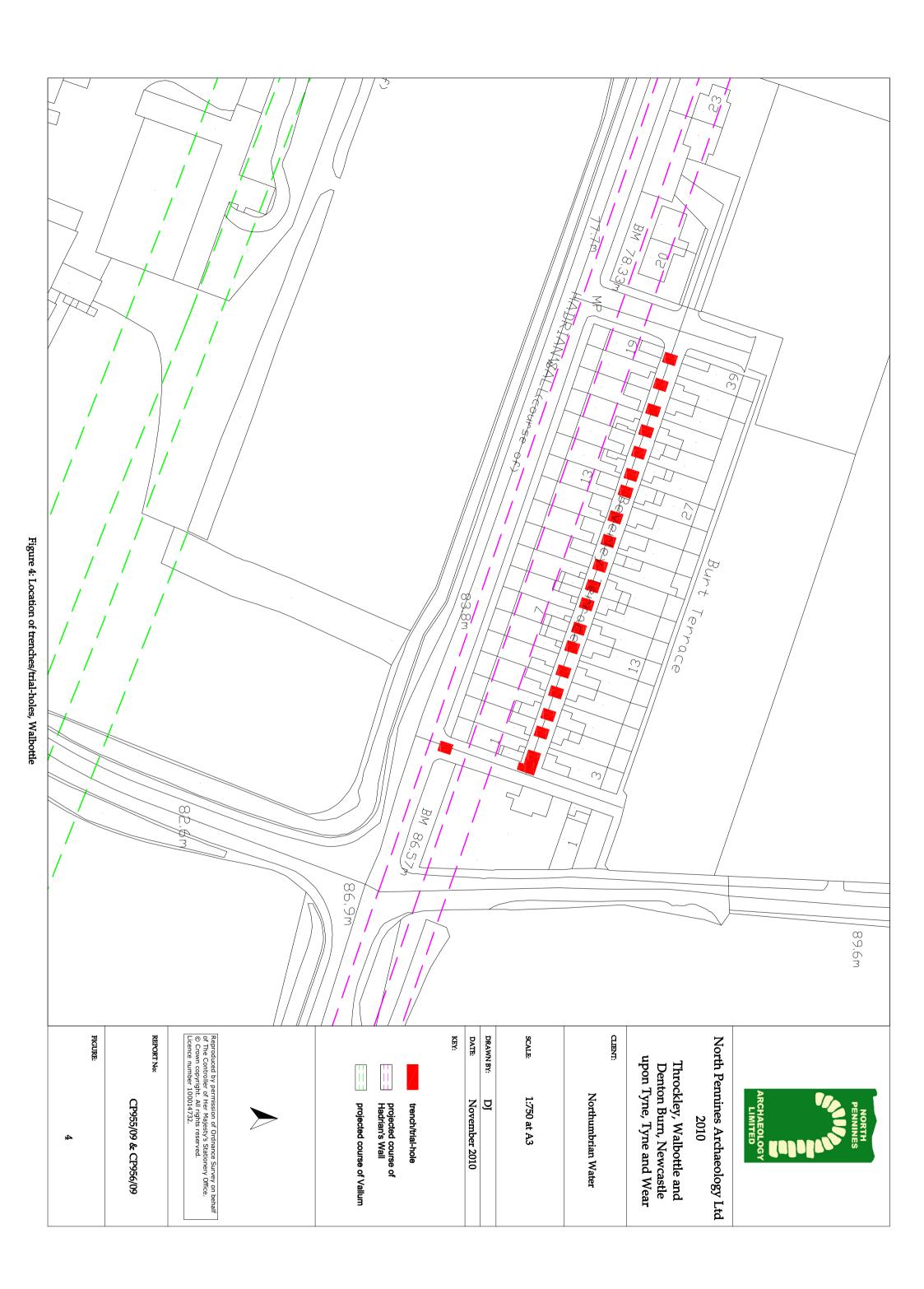


Figure 5: Location of trenches/trial-holes, Denton Burn (west end)

Figure 6: Location of trenches/trial-holes, Denton Burn (central)

Figure 7: Location of trenches/trial-holes, Denton Burn (east end)

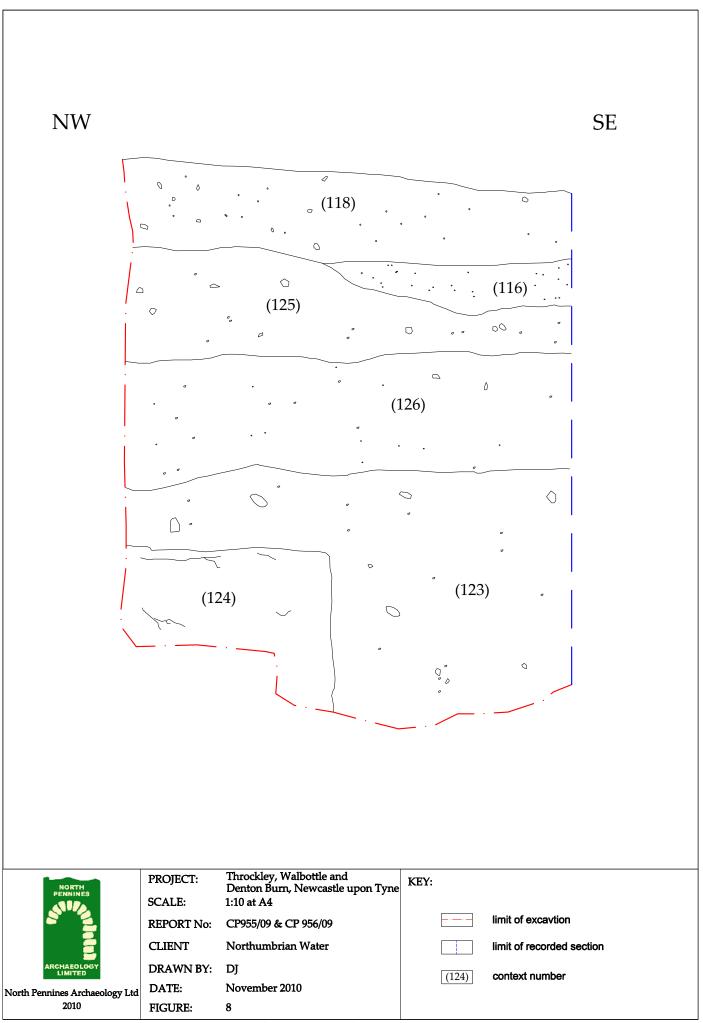


Figure 8: Southwest facing section of service trench showing limestone block (124)