WALBOTTLE CAMPUS, HAWTHORN TERRACE, WALBOTTLE, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE



WATCHING BRIEF REPORT CP. No: 802/09 12/11/2010

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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 Muhammad Rehan of Newcastle City Council, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on land at Walbottle Campus, within the village of Walbottle, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear (NGR: NZ 165 669). 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 Walbottle, the course of Hadrian's Wall runs adjacent to the modern road where it is possible there are subsurface remains. A Turret (9b), which was excavated between 1926-1928 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 over five days, on the 2nd April 2009 and between the 15th September and the 18th September 2009. The groundworks comprised a single trench along the projected line of Hadrian's Wall, which measured over 30m in length and which was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m. No significant archaeological finds or features were noted.

As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks on land at Walbottle Campus, 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 Muhammad Rehan, Newcastle City Council, 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 the staff at the Walbottle Campus site, for their help during this project.

The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Jocelyn Strickland and David Jackson. 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

- In April 2009, North Pennines Archaeology were invited by Muhammad Rehan, of Newcastle City Council, to maintain an archaeological watching brief within the village of Walbottle, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear (NGR: NZ 165 669; Figure 1), during groundworks on land at Walbottle Campus. 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 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 project design provided by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (Town 2009) 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 Newcastle City Council 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 ground reduction. 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 within the Hadrian's Wall Scheduled Area was undertaken over five days; on the 2nd April 2009 and between the 15th September and the 18th September 2009.
- 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, WCN/A, CP 802/09.
- 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 Walbottle is 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 and south, and the large urban centre of Newcastle to the east. Specifically, Walbottle is a small-urbanised village, approximately 1km east of Throckley. Walbottle is situated astride Hawthorn Terrace (B6528), along the line of Hadrian's Wall. The area is 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 area.
- 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 stone wall 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 3.2.4 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*).
- 3.2.6 The Vallum: shortly after work on the wall had been completed a large 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).
- 3.2.7 Within Walbottle, the course of Hadrian's Wall runs adjacent to the modern road where it is possible there are subsurface remains. Turret 9b lies under the road, which was excavated between 1926-1928. 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.

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 over five days; on the 2nd April 2009 and between the 15th September and the 18th September 2009, during the excavation of a service trench on land at Walbottle Campus within the immediate vicinity of the projected course of Hadrian's Wall.
- 4.1.2 The trench was mechanically excavated and was subsequently investigated and recorded fully. The results of the archaeological work are outlined below.

4.2 RESULTS

- 4.2.1 A service trench was excavated on the northern edge of Hawthorn Terrace, at the junction with the access road to Walbottle Campus (Figure 2). The trench was aligned northwest to southeast and measured approximately 31m in length and between 0.5 and 1.9m in width. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m revealing a deposit of grey silty clay (205), which measured over 0.3m in depth. The silty clay deposit (205) was sealed by a deposit of red brick and yellow sandstone fragments (204)/(210), which measured c.0.6m in depth. This was further below a c.0.1m deposit of dark brown silty sand (203) and c.0.3m of hardcore (212) and tarmac surface (100). This sequence of deposits remained relatively consistent throughout the trench, apart from a deposit of dark brown/black silty clay (207), which was noted at approximately 9m northwest along the trench. The dark silty clay deposit (207) measured over 0.3m in depth and contained numerous shards of bottle glass, as well as several complete glass bottles, suggesting that the area was used as a dumping ground during the late 19th/early 20th century.
- 4.2.2 No evidence of Hadrian's Wall or its associated features were noted during the watching brief.

4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING

- 4.3.1 No finds were retained during the watching brief.
- 4.3.2 All deposits were deemed unsuitable for environmental analysis, therefore no samples were retained.



Plate 1: View southeast of the service trench



Plate 2: View southeast of trench showing deposit (107)

5 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusions

- 5.1.1 The Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken over five days, on the 2nd April 2009 and between the 15th September and the 18th September 2009. The groundworks comprised a single trench along the projected line of Hadrian's Wall, which measured over 30m in length and which was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m.
- 5.1.2 No evidence of Hadrian's Wall or its associated features were noted during the watching brief. All of the deposits encountered were modern.

5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.2.1 As this archaeological watching brief was conducted as part of a recommendation to observe groundworks on land at Walbottle Campus, 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.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Description
100	Deposit	Tarmac
101	Geological	Natural Substrate
102	Structure	Brick Support
103	Structure	Concrete Lining
201	Deposit	Flagstones
202	Deposit	Sand
203	Deposit	Dark Soil
204	Structure	Red Brick
205	Deposit	Grey Silty Clay
206	VOID	VOID
207	Deposit	Dark Brown/Black Soil
208	Deposit	Glass Bottles
209	VOID	VOID
210	Structure	Yellow Bricks
211	Deposit	Topsoil
212	Deposit	Hardcore
213	Deposit	Kerbstone
214	Deposit	Ceramic Tile Covering
215	Deposit	Service Cables

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

APPENDIX 2: FIGURES

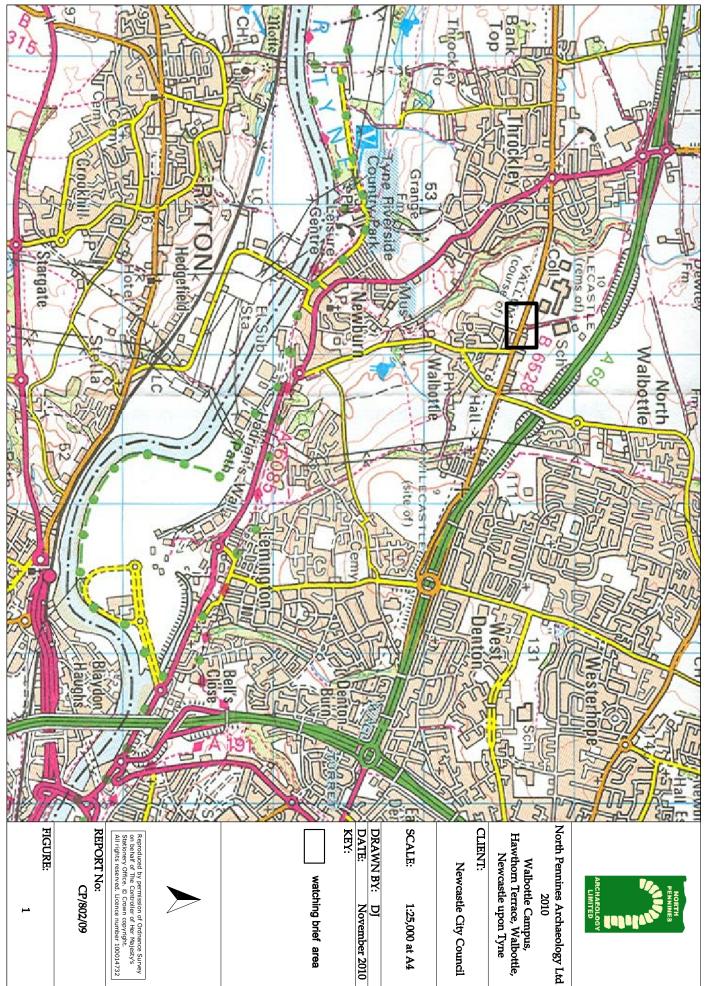


Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Location of watching brief