

**AXWELL PARK,
BLAYDON,
GATESHEAD,
TYNE AND WEAR**



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
REPORT
CP. No: 1296/10
12/01/2011**

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: Axwell Park, Blaydon, Tyne and Wear
DOCUMENT TYPE: Archaeological Evaluation Report
CLIENT: DARE (Northern) Ltd.
CP NUMBER: 1296/10
SITE CODE: AXP-A
PLANNING APP. NO: –
OASIS REFERENCE: northpen3-91090
PRINT DATE: 12/01/2011
GRID REFERENCE: NZ 1907 6203

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:	Kevin Mounsey		
POSITION:	Project Supervisor		
DATE:	12/01/2011		
EDITED BY:	Matt Town		
POSITION:	Project Manager		
DATE:	12/01/2011		
APPROVED BY:	Martin Railton		
POSITION:	Project Manager		
DATE:	12/01/2011		

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

SUMMARY	5
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	7
1 INTRODUCTION	8
1.1 Circumstances of the Project.....	8
2 METHODOLOGY	9
2.1 Project Brief.....	9
2.2 The Field Evaluation.....	9
2.3 The Archive.....	10
3 BACKGROUND	11
3.1 Location and Geological Context.....	11
3.2 Historical Context	11
3.3 Cartographic Analysis.....	13
3.4 Previous Work.....	13
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS	16
4.1 Introduction.....	16
4.2 Results.....	16
5 FINDS	24
5.1 Finds Assessment.....	24
6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	25
6.1 Conclusions.....	25
6.2 Recommendations.....	26
7 BIBLIOGRAPHY	27
7.1 Primary Sources	27
7.2 Secondary Sources	27
APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE	29
APPENDIX 2: PROJECT SPECIFICATION	31
APPENDIX 3: FIGURES	38

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES (APPENDIX 3)

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION

FIGURE 2: LOCATION OF EVALUATION

FIGURE 3: FIRST EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1856

FIGURE 4: SECOND EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1897

FIGURE 5: THIRD EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1919

FIGURE 6: FOURTH EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP, 1939

FIGURE 7: PLAN OF EXCAVATED FEATURES

FIGURE 8: SOUTH FACING SECTION TRENCH 1

FIGURE 9: EAST FACING SECTION TRENCH 2

FIGURE 10: SECTION AND ELEVATION OF SOUTHERN END OF TRENCH 3

FIGURE 11: ELEVATIONS OF WALLS (103), (128) AND (146) IN TRENCH 2

PLATES

PLATE 1: TRENCH 1 (LOOKING WEST-SOUTHWEST)	16
PLATE 2: TRENCH 1, YELLOW SANDSTONE WALL (102) (LOOKING NORTHEAST).....	17
PLATE 3: TRENCH 2 AFTER CLEANING (LOOKING SOUTH-SOUTH WEST).....	18
PLATE 4: TRENCH 2, YELLOW SANDSTONE WALL (103) (LOOKING NORTH-EAST)	19
PLATE 3: TRENCH 2 POST EX OF SOUTH END OF TRENCH (LOOKING SOUTH WEST)	21
PLATE 4: TRENCH 3 AFTER CLEANING (LOOKING NORTH)	21
PLATE 5: OBLIQUE OF WEST FACING SECTION, SOUTH END OF TRENCH 3 (LOOKING SOUTH WEST)	23

SUMMARY

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by DARE (Northern) Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Axwell Park, Blaydon, Tyne and Wear (NGR NZ 1907 6203). This work follows a planning application for the conversion of Axwell Hall into 23 apartments and for the erection of a new development comprising one coach apartment, terraced block of 18 houses and nine apartments with garages, parking and landscaping to the west of the hall. The Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team granted planning consent for the development, on the condition that an Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken prior to groundworks.

The work was required as a house known as 'White House' was located within the park before the present Axwell Hall was built. It is thought to have been 16th to 17th century in date. The White House is shown on plans dating to 1720 and 1740 as well as a plan of Sir T.J. Clavering's lands in 1823. It is recorded within the documentary record that the White House was demolished prior to the construction of Axwell Hall. It is also thought that the earlier house was most probably located to the west of Axwell Hall, on land now proposed for the enabling development of new houses, which identified the site to be of archaeological interest.

The Archaeological Evaluation was undertaken over 10 consecutive working days between 29th November and 10th December 2010. The evaluation involved the excavation of three trenches, totalling 192m² of excavation in total. Archaeological remains were identified in all three trenches. The majority of the area trenched was sealed by a layer of reinforced concrete through which ran the outline of demolished red brick buildings. These were associated with the development of the site by the Newcastle Ragged School which occupied the hall between 1922 and 1981. Classrooms and workshops for what was essentially a Borstal or Approved School stood on the site. Sealed under the reinforced concrete were the concrete foundations and the lower courses of redbrick structures associated with the school. A number of yellow sandstone built walls with associated steps and floor surfaces were also present. These were believed to have related to an east-west range of ancillary buildings, including a possible stable block, which are known to have existed since at least 1856 and thought to be associated the standing Axwell Hall constructed in 1762.

As this archaeological evaluation was conducted as part of a condition in association with the conversion of Axwell Hall and the new building development, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the

high archaeological potential of the area, it is recommended that any future development be subject to a similar programme of archaeological investigation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank DARE (Northern) Ltd, for commissioning the project, and for all assistance throughout the work. NPA Ltd would also like to thank Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team, and Jennifer Morrison, Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer, for all their assistance throughout the project.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Peter James, Site Manager and all staff at Axwell Hall, for their help during this project.

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Kevin Mounsey, Angus Clark, Sean Johnson, Sue Thompson, Helen Noakes and Cat Jenkins. The report was written by Jocelyn Strickland and Kevin Mounsey and the drawings were produced by Angus Clark. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Project Manager for NPA Ltd, who also edited the report.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In October 2010, North Pennines Archaeology were invited by DARE (Northern) Ltd, to undertake an archaeological evaluation at Axwell Park, Blaydon, Tyne and Wear (NGR NZ 1907 6203; Figure 1). The work followed a planning application for the conversion of Axwell Hall into 23 apartments and for the erection of a new-build enabling development comprising one coach apartment, terraced blocks, 18 houses and nine apartments, with garages, parking and landscaping, to the west of Axwell Hall. The proposed works lie within the immediate vicinity of a 16th to 17th century house known as the White House, demolished prior to the construction of Axwell Hall. The White House is thought to be located to the west of the present Axwell Hall. As a result, Jenifer Morrison of Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team requested a programme of archaeological investigation prior to the new development. This archaeological programme forms part of a condition on planning consent and is in accordance with guidance given in Planning Policy Statement 5 (Planning for the Historic Environment) 2010.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008), and were consistent with the specification provided by Jennifer Morrison (2005 Appendix 2) and generally accepted best practice.
- 1.1.3 This report outlines the archaeological evaluation work undertaken on-site, the subsequent programme of post-fieldwork analysis, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT BRIEF

2.1.1 A brief for the archaeological evaluation was prepared by Jennifer Morrison, Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project brief 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 FIELD EVALUATION

2.2.1 The evaluation consisted of the excavation of three trenches covering 192m² of the proposed development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity. The evaluation trenches were located in a manner that would maximise the potential to sample any sub-surface archaeological features, as well as avoiding the large amounts of spoil and building materials that were present on the site. All work was conducted according to the recommendations of the Institute for Archaeologists (2008).

2.2.2 In summary, the main objectives of the field evaluation were:

- to establish the presence/absence, nature, extent and state of preservation of archaeological remains and to record these where they were observed;
- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
- to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.

2.2.3 Concrete was removed by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. The trial trenches were subsequently cleaned by hand and all features were investigated and recording according to the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd standard procedure as set out in the Excavation Manual (Giecco 2003).

2.2.4 All finds encountered were retained, including those from excavated topsoil, and were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of F.Giecco (NPA Ltd Technical Director).

- 2.2.5 All deposits encountered were deemed unsuitable for environmental sampling, and therefore no samples were retained.
- 2.2.6 The three evaluation trenches were backfilled, following excavation and recording.
- 2.2.7 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the Management of Archaeological Projects (2nd Edition, 1991).

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, with copies of the report sent to the Tyne and Wear Historic Environment Record, available for viewing upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier NPA10, AXP-A, CP 1296/10.
- 2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology, and Tyne and Wear Specialist 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.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

- 3.1.1 Axwell Park lies within the widespread urban and industrial development of the Tyne and Wear Lowlands approximately ten kilometers northeast of Newcastle upon Tyne. The Tyne and Wear Lowlands lies between the Magnesium Limestone Plateau to the south and east and the Durham Coalfield Pennine Fringe to the west (Countryside Commission 1998). The site lies at a height of approximately 50m AOD. Axwell Park is centred on the northwestern side of the Derwent valley close to the point where the Derwent River meets the flood plain of the River Tyne (Figure 1).
- 3.1.2 Axwell Hall is approached from the A694, crossing a small ornamental bridge that leads up the former carriage drive. Axwell Hall is located within the statutory Green Belt and the Axwell Park Conservation Area, and partially within the Derwent Valley wildlife corridor.
- 3.1.3 The solid geology of the area is of Coal Measures of Upper Carboniferous age. The underlying rocks are overlain by glacially derived till deposited during the last glaciations (*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 *Prehistoric (up to 43 AD)*: a number of prehistoric burials have been recorded within Axwell Park. In 1763 a probable burial cist that contained an urn and skull were discovered within the grounds of the park. In 1934 a further burial associated with a Beaker was discovered in a quarry at Axwell Park. In 1968 a food vessel and partially polished stone axe were found in a sand pit at Axwell. A possible burial mound was also recorded in 1952, although no longer visible (OAN 2004, TWM Archaeology 2005).
- 3.2.3 *Roman (43AD-410)*: there is no direct evidence of Roman activity within the immediate area of Axwell Park, although activity dating to this period is well known within Gateshead (OAN 2004).
- 3.2.4 *Medieval (410AD- 1485)*: the earliest reference to Axwell was in 1223, although this probably refers to the original Axwell that was located to the east (Watts 2002 as cited in OAN 2004). It is considered likely that an original village of Axwell was present in the area at the time although this was most probably located to the south of the River Derwent (OAN 2004).

- 3.2.5 In 1362 Axwell is recorded as a see of Durham held by William de Birtley (MacKenzie and Ross 1834 as cited in OAN 2004). In Bishop Hatfield's Survey (1345-1381) Axwell is recorded as being owned by Hugh de Redhaugh and by 1411 it had passed to Roger Thornton (Greenwell 1857 and MacKenzie and Ross 1834 as cited in OAN 2004).
- 3.2.6 *Post-medieval and Modern (1485-Present)*: the manor was eventually passed to the Hodgson and Selby families who divided the manor in 1632. The area of the present Axwell Park fell into the half of the manor owned by the Selby's. Within this area was a house known as Whitehouse or Winlton Whitehouse that was set in a park of some 30 acres (TWM Archaeology 2005).
- 3.2.7 Early plans show that the Whitehouse had a T-shaped plan. Early elevations show this as consisting of a single storey building of symmetrical design with a hipped gable roof, central doorway and single chimney. Another elevation shows a similar symmetrical window of two storeys with a plain string course, a hipped roof with coping, two chimneys and a doorway with a square surround. It is not known which of these two drawings was the most accurate. Referring to Whitehouse in 1896 '*the father Mr. Ralph Norton, the late agent to the Axwell estate, was present at the demolition of the old hall, after which the site was planted with trees*' (OAN 2004). According to Bourn (1896), Whitehouse was located one hundred yards to the west of the present Hall, although Surtees claimed that Whitehouse was located a half mile west of the present Hall (TWM Archaeology 2005).
- 3.2.8 In 1758 Sir Thomas Clavering commissioned James Paine to design the mansion at Axwell Park (Green 2005). The Hall was built by John Bell of Durham to Paine's specifications with many alterations suggested by Clavering. Paine was so distressed by the alterations that Clavering made that Paine stated that the '*out-offices belonging to this house were not designed by the author, nor had he any concern in the greatest part of the finishings of the house*' (OAN 2004). Presumably the out-offices were within the vicinity of the main Hall, possibly the buildings to the west of the Hall. John Dobson made additional alterations to the Hall in 1817, although what these alterations were specifically was not recorded. Further alterations were carried out throughout the 19th century (OAN 2004).
- 3.2.9 In the 20th century the fortunes of the Clavering family collapsed and the Hall was put up for sale in 1920. This estate was purchased by a syndicate of Newcastle businessmen. Various parts of the estate were then sold off for various purposes (*ibid*). In 1922 the Hall became the new home for the Newcastle Ragged School. At this time, alterations, to the building included the addition of a new kitchen block, a schoolmaster's house, workshops, a sanitary block, boiler house and laundry, and staff dining area (*ibid*). Stobbs

stated in his 2005 assessment that to the west of the hall is where the former school classrooms and workshops were located (TWM Archaeology 2005).

- 3.2.10 In 1976-1978 a new facility was built for the school, close to the Hall, known as Clavering House. With this the Hall closed in 1981. The hall and surplus land were sold in 1986 to a private company and plans were put into place to convert it to residential use.

3.3 CARTOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

- 3.3.1 *First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1856 (Figure 3)*: the First Edition mapping shows Axwell Hall in good detail. To the west of the hall were ancillary buildings of unknown purpose that formed an L-shape. To the north of this area was a well. Further west of these were the stables and House Farm.
- 3.3.2 *Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1897 (Figure 4)*: there were no changes to the buildings to the west of the Hall by the time of the Second Edition mapping. In addition to the well, to the north of this area was now a sand pit, well and ice house.
- 3.3.3 *Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1919 (Figure 5)*: the buildings to the west of the Hall have retained the same shape. There were now four further buildings to the west of this. A photograph from the 1920s shows what looks to be a stone-built wall at the back of the Hall. To the west of the Hall were two storey buildings, one of which can just be seen in the photograph (located within the *isee Gateshead* image library, Ref. No. GL001071).
- 3.3.4 *Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1939 (Figure 6)*: by the time of the Fourth Edition mapping, these buildings to the west of the Hall may have been the site of the school classrooms and workshops. Although on this map the outline of the buildings retained the same shape as in all previous mappings, the only difference is that there was an elevated footpath and an additional small square-shaped building to the north of these ancillary buildings.
- 3.3.5 Aerial photographs taken by Wardell Armstrong Ltd for DARE (Northern) Ltd shows the footprint of these former buildings, still in the L-shape, to the west of the Hall.

3.4 PREVIOUS WORK

- 3.4.1 Numerous excavations and investigations have occurred in the immediate area within and around Axwell Park, including an archaeological building investigation of Axwell Hall undertaken in 2004 by Oxford Archaeology North. This involved a detailed survey of the building in order to provide an outline of its form, development and phases of alteration. The report concluded that the majority of changes and alterations made to the Hall

were most probably implemented following the sale of the house in the 1920s and its subsequent conversion into a school. Recommendations for further investigation were made including further investigation of the rear wing and terrace (OAN 2004).

- 3.4.2 Following this, a second phase of investigation was instigated in which the rear wing was the specific area of interest. Due to health and safety only an external investigation was completed. The survey became an exercise in improving the existing archive for the exterior of both the toilet block and annexe as they were deemed unsafe to enter (OAN 2006).
- 3.4.3 Oxford Archaeology North also undertook a building investigation and landscape survey of the walled gardens with a subsequent archaeological watching brief being maintained during structural works in 2006. The watching brief did not find any archaeological finds or features with the exception of a manhole and several drains to the east of the smaller walled garden (OAN 2007).
- 3.4.4 This was followed by a survey of the roof in 2007. The survey of the roof revealed that the present structure is unlikely to represent the original 18th century roof. However, the style of carpentry, the use of timber pegs and the method of preparing the timbers suggested that the major timbers of the roof were the 18th century originals. The stripping of the floors and walls gave an insight into the original layout and construction techniques that were applied to the Hall (OAN 2010).
- 3.4.5 In 2004 an archaeological assessment of Axwell Park was undertaken. This research found that the Axwell Park estate was created by Sir James Clavering in the late 17th century following his purchase of the smaller Whitehouse estate from the Selby Family. The present Hall was built in the 18th century by Clavering. The estate was sold in 1920 with the Hall becoming a special school. In the 1980s, Clavering House was built at the northern end of the former estate in the northwestern end of the former walled gardens, leaving the Hall empty ever since (TWM Archaeology 2005).
- 3.4.6 In 2005 an evaluation of the historic landscape associated with Axwell Park was undertaken. The research noted that the Palladian-style villa was designed in 1758 by James Paine for Sir Thomas Clavering. The landscaped park was developed during the same period that included a walled garden and serpentine lake. John Dobson made alterations to the house and designed a new garden temple in 1817 for Sir Clavering. This evaluation concluded with a number of recommendations that included the conservation and restoration of the historic design and fabric, raising standards of care and maintenance, and ensuring that the development

proposals do not impact detrimentally on the historic landscape (Green 2005).

- 3.4.7 In 2007 an archaeological watching brief was undertaken for a site located within the grounds of Axwell Hall. The depth of excavation was so shallow that any subsurface archaeological remains would have remained *in situ* (TWM Archeology 2007).
- 3.4.8 In 2009 another archaeological watching brief was undertaken within the Axwell Park Conservation area, inside the parkland of Axwell Hall. No archaeological features were noted (Welsh 2009).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The evaluation was undertaken over ten working days between 29th November and 10th December 2010. A total of three evaluation trenches were excavated covering 192m² of the development area. The trenches intersected each other and were excavated by a 3CX mechanical excavator using a concrete pecker and a ditching bucket. The area of development was on made ground which was between 0.60m and 0.70m higher than the road to the immediate south of the site.

4.2 RESULTS

4.2.1 *Trench 1:* Trench 1 was aligned west-southwest to east-northeast and was located in the central part of the development area (Figure 2). The reinforced concrete layer (100) was pecked and removed by a 3CX mechanical excavator. The trench was mechanically excavated to a maximum depth of 1.60m revealing a natural substrate (101) of yellowy brown sand (Plate 1). A number of modern features were observed in the trench ranging from concrete foundations and brick walls along with a variety of service pipes and associated inspection chambers (Figure 7).



Plate 1: Trench 1 (looking west-southwest)

4.2.2 The stratigraphy at the south-west end of the trench consisted of c.0.25m of demolition rubble (114) lying over the sandy natural substrate (101) (Figure 8). Context (114) was sealed by a c.0.18m layer of concrete (153) which in turn was sealed by c.0.20m of red brick rubble (134). Above this was c.0.20m of reinforced concrete (100). At a distance of c.25m to c.33.50m east of the west, south-west end of the trench the sandy natural substrate (101) was overlain by a c.0.15m bedding layer of cobbles and grit (118). This was sealed by a c.0.07m surface of black asphalt (117) above which was c.0.08m of yellow bedding sand (115). Above this was the reinforced concrete surface (100). At a distance of c.40m east of the south-west end of the trench the natural sandy substrate (101) was again sealed by c.0.15m of cobbles and grit (118). Above this was c.0.07m of asphalt (119) sealed by a lower, c.0.25m layer of concrete (154) which in turn was sealed by the reinforced concrete (100). At the east, north-east end of the trench a single course of red bricks (155) measuring c.3.00m in length was revealed lying on the black asphalt (117). The bricks were sealed by the two layers of concrete (154) and (100).



Plate 2: Trench 1, Yellow Sandstone Wall (102) (looking northeast)

4.2.3 Crossing Trench 1, perpendicular to its main axis were several modern features. At the west-southwest end of the trench was a modern ceramic drain inspection chamber (107) set in a concrete foundation and surrounded by c.0.38m of mixed backfill (109). Associated with the inspection chamber was a ceramic standpipe (110). Immediately to the east of the inspection

chamber was a modern north-south brick wall **(108)** set on a concrete foundation.

- 4.2.4 At a distance of *c.*7.50m from the west end of the trench, aligned north-south, was a yellow sandstone wall **(102)**. The wall measured *c.*1.10m wide and consisted of one course of roughly hewn sandstone slabs measuring *c.*0.20m in depth (Plate 2). The wall was set into the natural substrate **(101)** to a depth of *c.*0.12m and seemed to be clay bonded. The natural was overlain by a *c.*0.20m deposit of black sandy silt **(156)**. This was sealed by *c.*0.10m of concrete **(135)** over which was *c.*0.20m of redbrick rubble **(134)** sealed by *c.*0.20m of reinforced concrete **(100)**.
- 4.2.5 At a distance of *c.*11.00m from the south-west end of the trench was another modern redbrick wall **(133)** set on a concrete foundation. At a distance of *c.*21.50m from the south-west end of the trench was a second, modern, brick built inspection chamber **(112)**. This had been backfilled by mixed rubble **(113)** to a depth of *c.*0.82m.
- 4.2.6 *Trench 2:* Trench 2 was aligned north-northeast to south-southwest (Figure 2). The reinforced concrete layer **(100)** was pecked and removed by a 3CX mechanical excavator. The trench was mechanically excavated to a maximum depth of 1.10m revealing a natural substrate of yellowy brown sand **(101)** (Plate 3).



Plate 3: Trench 2 after cleaning (looking south-south west)

- 4.2.7 The stratigraphy of the trench at the northeast end consisted of c.0.15m of dark grey gravel (127) lying above the sandy natural substrate (101). Above the gravel was c.0.30m of redbrick rubble (126). This was sealed by c.0.20m of yellow bedding sand (115) on which lay c.0.20m of reinforced concrete (100). (Figure 9)
- 4.2.8 Across the trench at the northeast end, on a north-south axis ran the cut [106] for a modern concrete foundation (104). Embedded in this were the remains of three upright steel girders. Observed in section, on top of the concrete, was a modern redbrick wall (105). This was sealed by the c.0.20m layer of reinforced concrete (100). On the eastern side of the red brick wall was the remains of a gravel backfill deposit (125).
- 4.2.9 At a distance of c.7.20m from the southwest end of the trench a yellow sandstone wall (103) was observed crossing the trench in an east-west direction. On the northern side of the wall was the cut [122] for the wall foundation trench and its backfill of re-deposited natural (123).



Plate 4: Trench 2, Yellow Sandstone Wall (103) (looking north-east)

- 4.2.10 Set in the sandy natural substrate (101) the wall had a width of c.0.82m and a maximum height of c.0.53m. The wall was constructed of irregular shaped yellow sandstone blocks bonded with a lime mortar. Five courses were exposed. The southern edge of the wall was flat and even constructed of blocks with one straight edge whereas the northern side was much more irregular. This may suggest that the wall was a retaining wall for ground on the north side. The wall was sealed by a c.0.15m cobble and grit bedding

layer **(118)** to the south, a c.0.38m yellow sandy layer **(121)** to the north and a c.0.20m demolition layer **(120)** immediately above it. These deposits were in turn sealed by c.0.10m of black asphalt **(117)** and **(124)**, c.0.08m of yellow bedding sand **(115)** and c.0.20m of reinforced concrete **(100)**.

- 4.2.11 Located in the southern extent of the trench were two sandstone walls **(128)** and **(146)**, both aligned east west, which are believed to be contemporary with one another as well as the previous wall **(103)** and are likely the remains of an ancillary building associated with Axwell Hall. The first wall **(128)** remained standing to a height of 0.64m and was faced on its north facing side, some tooling marks were apparent on the faced blocks. The second wall **(146)** remained standing to a height of 0.50m and was bound with lime mortar along with evidence for it having been plastered at one time on its southern faced edge (Figure 11). The wall has been truncated to the north by a ceramic drain.
- 4.2.12 Between the two walls was a concrete floor surface **(149)** and a set of associated brick and sandstone steps **(129)**. A brick structure **(147)** was also present, visible only in the east facing section. It measured 0.60m by 0.54m and stood six courses high and was bonded with mortar. It is possible that it is the remains of a wall constructed to block up a gap between the sandstone wall **(146)** and the steps **(129)**, if this is the case then it appears to be the last constructed structure in the sequence.
- 4.2.13 Capping the structures were a number of modern backfill/demolition layers. Above the steps **(129)** was 0.30m of a loosely mixed grey mortar layer **(148)** that contained concrete fragments and sub-angular stones. Above this was a dark grey silt and gravel deposit **(131)** which contained frequent red brick and concrete fragments. Sealing the brick wall **(147)** and the sandstone wall **(146)** was a loosely mixed deposit **(131)** of tarmac, sand, gravel and mortar, measuring 0.38m thick. This was in turn capped by a tarmac deposit **(130)**. All these deposits were capped by 0.28m of a red brick and mortar layer **(116)**, which sat below the sand and cobble bedding layer **(115)** for the concrete surface **(100)** sealing the site.



Plate 3: Trench 2 post ex of south end of trench (looking south west)

4.2.14 **Trench 3:** Trench 3 was aligned north to south (Figure 2). This trench could not be excavated to the full extent due to access problems for the machine; the trench was excavated to a length of 23m. The reinforced concrete layer **(100)** was pecked and removed by a 3CX mechanical excavator. The trench was mechanically excavated to a maximum depth of 1.60m revealing a natural substrate of yellowy brown sand **(101)** (Plate 4).



Plate 4: Trench 3 after cleaning (looking north)

- 4.2.15 At the southern end of the trench three sandstone walls **(139)**, **(138)** and **(143)** were recorded, it is believed they are continuations of the walls uncovered in Trench 2. The Wall **(143)** was aligned east west, along the same line as a wall **(103)** in trench 2 and sat above the natural sand **(100)**. The wall was constructed from roughly shaped sandstone blocks with a rubble infill and was faced on either side. Only one course of the wall remained and it stood to a height of 0.20m. Sandstone wall **(138)** stood in the southern extent of the trench to a height of 0.86m and was faced on either side, mortared together and with a rubble core; the south facing face held the remains of plaster, the other side was faced but not plastered. Wall **(136)** was another wide sandstone construction, built from large blocks and was faced on both the inner and outer sides and again in-filled with rubble. It measured 0.73m in width and stood 0.59m in height. (Figure 10)
- 4.2.16 A concrete floor surface **(137)** was present at the southern extent of the trench, between wall **(136)** and another, later, concrete surface **(140)**. Floor **(137)** measured 2m in length and is likely to be the same concrete surface **(149)** uncovered in Trench 2. Sat above surface **(137)** was another surface **(140)** which was the base for steps **(139)** both structures were built from bricks and skimmed with concrete. The steps **(139)** butted up to sandstone wall **(138)** on their north side and to the south a white brick wall **(141)** was present as part of the construction, standing one brick wide and 11 courses high (Figure 10). A separate brick structure of unknown purpose **(151)** stood in the south east corner of the concrete surface **(137)** and butted up to the north face of sandstone wall **(136)**. The brick structure **(151)** stood 0.61m high and consisted of 6 courses of white 'Lilly' bricks constructed on a brick base and forming a small alcove.
- 4.2.17 The structures in the southern extent of the trench were all sealed by a loosely compacted rubble backfill **(142)** consisting of white bricks, dark grey silty soil and other rubble fragments, this deposit measured 1.3m maximum in depth where it filled the void between walls **(136)** and **(138)**. At the southern end of the trench the rubble layer was capped by a red brick and mortar layer **(116)** measuring 0.28m in depth. Both these rubble backfill layers were sealed by 0.08m of sand/ cobble bedding layer **(115)** for the concrete surface **(100)** which sealed the site.



Plate 5: Oblique of west facing section, south end of Trench 3 (looking south west)

4.2.18 The northern end of Trench 3 was excavated to an average depth of 0.50m and revealed 0.05m of natural light brown soft sand (101), which was capped by 0.15m of mid brown silty sandy clay, which was below the sandy concrete bedding layer (115) and they were all capped by the concrete surface (100) that covered the site.

4.2.19 Two service cables were detected at the northern end of the trench, and a modern east west aligned concrete footing was also noted, along a similar alignment to the one recorded within Trench 2.

5 FINDS

5.1 FINDS ASSESSMENT

- 5.1.1 A total of one find from one context was recovered during the evaluation. This was an iron horse shoe recovered from the mixed ceramic building material, mortar rubble, layer **(119)** immediately above the walls and floor uncovered at the southern end of Trench 2. Heavily corroded the shoe measured 115mm in diameter and had a thickness of 7mm. Nail-holes were spaced right around the shoe and in some holes broken nails remained. There were no signs of a fuller groove, although this may have been masked by corrosion. Retention of broken nails may suggest the shoe was casually lost. The horseshoe typology suggests a post 18th century date or later.
- 5.1.2 The find was not retained as little could be gained from further analysis.

Context	Trench	Material	Quantity	Weight (kg)	Period
119	2	Horseshoe	1	0.192	Post Medieval

Table 1: Finds Table of Artefacts Recovered from the Evaluation.

6 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1.1 During the archaeological field evaluation at Axwell Park, three trenches were excavated, covering 192m² of the proposed development area. The purpose of the evaluation was to establish the nature and extent of below ground archaeological remains within the vicinity, the evaluation trenches being located to provide a representative sample of the development area. All trenches were excavated down to the top of the natural substrate.
- 6.1.2 All three trenches contained archaeological features. Much of the archaeology provided clear evidence of a predominantly redbrick structure built on concrete foundations. The services associated with this building were clearly evident in the form of ceramic drains, cast iron and lead water pipes and cable conduits. These features can be attributed to the Newcastle Ragged School which took over the use of Axwell Hall and its associated buildings in 1922. In 1933 the school became an Approved School or Borstal.
- 6.1.3 The first edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map 1856 clearly shows an L-shaped range of buildings immediately to the west of Axwell Hall. It seems likely that the yellow sandstone walls and associated floors and steps, recorded in the southern sections of Trenches 2 and 3, are the remains of the east-west wing of this building. The north-south, yellow sandstone wall observed in Trench 1 forms the western end of this building. The two northern yellow sandstone walls uncovered in Trenches 1 and 2 were the northern wall of a raised walkway immediately to the north of the east-west building. This wall is also shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey 25 inch map and still appears to be in existence on the fourth edition Ordnance Survey map of 1939, although with some minor alterations. The raised walkway to the north of the range may account for the existence of steps leading down to floors which were at ground level on the south side of the building.
- 6.1.4 There was a paucity of finds from the archaeological evaluation. Only one find, an iron horse shoe of post medieval date was recovered. This was retrieved from the rubble layer sealing the range of ancillary buildings revealed on the southern side of the development area.
- 6.1.5 The function of the east-west range of ancillary buildings was probably primarily that of a stable block. The Oxford Archaeology North, Archaeological Building Investigation of Axwell Hall states that, " by 1856 a complex arrangement of buildings were associated with the hall including stables and a Home and that, "the stable block was demolished in the late

1960s and replaced in 1970 with new classrooms and workshops". Stobbs referring to Anderson and Garland 1920 states that, "to the west of the hall were stables, with a coachman's house and a groom's bothy above, and a garage for three cars".

- 6.1.6 No archaeological evidence was found within the excavated trenches to suggest the existence of an earlier hall building.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.2.1 The archaeological field evaluation followed a specification set out by Jennifer Morrison, Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer. Its aim was to establish the nature and extent of below ground remains, within the proposed development area, immediately to the west of Axwell Hall. This had particular relevance to establishing whether or not an earlier hall known as the "Whitehouse", had existed in this area. As no evidence for this was present within the evaluation trenches, no further work is deemed necessary. However, given the significance of Axwell Hall and the surrounding parkland, it is recommended that any future invasive work be subject to an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation.

7 BIBLIOGRAPHY

7.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1856

Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1897

Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1919

Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1939

7.2 SECONDARY SOURCES

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 2: North-east - The character of England's natural and man-made landscape*. Cheltenham.

DCLG (2010) *PPS5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PolicyHE6)*. Department for Communities and Local Government.

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

Giocco, F O (2003) *North Pennines Archaeology Limited Excavation Manual*, North Pennines Archaeology Unpublished Document

Green, F. (2005) *Appraisal of Designed Landscape at Axwell Park, Blaydon, Gateshead*. Grey Literature publication by Fiona Green for Wardell Armstrong on behalf of DARE (Northern) Ltd.

IfA (2008) *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations*. Reading: Institute for Archaeologists.

Morrison, J. (2010) *Specification for Preliminary Evaluation Work to Record Suspected Archaeological Deposits at Axwell Hall, Blaydon, Tyne and Wear*. Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team.

Oxford Archaeology North (OAN) (2004) *Axwell Hall, Blaydon, Tyne and Wear: Archaeological Building Investigation*. Grey literature publication by OAN for DARE (Northern) Ltd.

OAN (2006) *Axwell Hall, Gateshead, Phase 2: Archaeological Building Investigation*. Grey literature publication by OAN for DARE (Northern) Ltd.

OAN (2007) *Axwell Hall, Blaydon, Gateshead: Archaeological Landscape Survey and Watching Brief*. Grey literature publication by OAN for DARE (Northern) Ltd.

OAN (2010) *Axwell Hall, Blaydon, Tyne and Wear: Archaeological Roof Survey and Watching Brief*. Grey literature publication by OAN for DARE (Northern) Ltd.

Tyne and Wear Sites and Monument Report (SMR Number: 4994) (2001) *Axwell Park*. Newcastle City Council.

TWM Archaeology (2005) *Axwell Park, Blaydon-on-Tyne, Tyne and Wear: An Archaeological Assessment*. Grey literature publication by TWM Archaeology for Wardell Armstrong on behalf of DARE (Northern) Ltd.

TWM Archaeology (2007) *33 Axwell Park Road, Blaydon, Gateshead: An Archaeological Watching Brief*. Grey literature publication by TWM Archaeology for Mr. Tony Matues.

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

Welsh, J. (2009) *Report of an Archaeological Watching Brief: 22 Berkley Avenue, Blaydon*. Grey literature publication by AAG Archaeology for Mr. Les J. Yare.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

Context Number	Context Type	Trench Number	Description
100	Deposit	1,2,3	Grey, Reinforced Concrete
101	Deposit	1,2,3	Yellow / Brown, Sandy Natural Substrate
102	Structure	1	North-South, Yellow Sandstone Wall
103	Structure	2	East-West, Yellow Sandstone Wall
104	Structure	2	Grey, Concrete Foundation Fill of [106]
105	Structure	2	Redbrick Wall
106	Cut	2	Cut For Concrete Foundation (104)
107	Structure	1	Drain Inspection Chamber
108	Structure	1	North-South, Grey, Concrete, Wall Base
109	Deposit	1	Yellowish / Brown, Mixed Backfill
110	Cut	1	Cut For Ceramic Service Pipe
111	Void	Void	Void
112	Structure	1	Brick Building Remains
113	Deposit	1	Mid / Dark Grey, Mixed Backfill
114	Deposit	1	Dark Grey, Stone Rubble Layer
115	Deposit	1,2,3	Yellow Bedding Layer
116	Deposit	2,3	Redbrick and Mortar Rubble Layer
117	Deposit	1,2	Black Asphalt Layer
118	Deposit	1,2	Mid Grey, Cobble and Grit, Bedding Layer
119	Deposit	2	Light Grey Rubble Layer
120	Deposit	2	Mid Grey, Mortar and Sand, Demolition Layer
121	Deposit	2	Yellow / Brown, Silty / Sand Layer
122	Cut	2	Cut Of Foundation Trench For Wall (103)
123	Fill	2	Yellow / Brown, Sandy Backfill of [104]
124	Deposit	2	Black, Sandy , Asphalt
125	Deposit	2	Mid Grey, Coarse Gravel Layer
126	Deposit	2	Red / Brown, Brick Rubble Layer
127	Deposit	2	Dark Grey, Gravel Layer
128	Structure	2	East-West, Yellow Sandstone, Wall
129	Structure	2	Yellow Brick And Yellow Sandstone, Steps
130	Deposit	2	Black Asphalt, Demolition Material
131	Deposit	2	Dark Grey, Demolition Layer
132	Deposit	2	Dark Grey, Mixed Material, Levelling Layer
133	Structure	1	Cream / Pale Grey, Brick Wall
134	Deposit	1	Redbrick Rubble Layer
135	Deposit	1	Grey Concrete Layer
136	Structure	3	Yellow Sandstone Wall
137	Structure	3	Grey Concrete Floor
138	Structure	3	East-West, Yellow Sandstone Wall
139	Structure	3	Brick and Concrete Steps
140	Structure	3	Brick and Concrete Floor
141	Structure	3	White Brick Wall
142	Deposit	3	White / Grey, Brick Rubble Infill
143	Wall	3	East-West, Yellow Sandstone Wall
144	Cut	2	Cut For Ceramic Service Pipe
145	Fill	2	Yellow /Brown, Silty / Sandy Backfill of [144]
146	Structure	2	East-West, Yellow Sandstone Wall
147	Structure	2	North-South, Hand Made, Redbrick Wall / Pillar
148	Deposit	2	Grey / Black, Demolition Levelling Layer
149	Deposit	2	Dark Grey, Concrete Layer

Context Number	Context Type	Trench Number	Description
150	Deposit	2	Possible Stone Step
151	Structure	3	Small Brick Structure North of (136)
152	Structure	3	White / Yellow Brick Walls
153	Deposit	1	Concrete
154	Deposit	1	Concrete
155	Deposit	1	Red brick layer
156	Deposit	1	Black sandy silt infill

Table 2: List of Contexts issued during Evaluation

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT SPECIFICATION

**SPECIFICATION FOR PRELIMINARY EVALUATION WORK TO RECORD
SUSPECTED ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS AT AXWELL PARK, BLAYDON,
TYNE AND WEAR**

INTRODUCTION

Planning permission has been granted for the conversion of Axwell Hall to 23 apartments and for the erection of a new-build enabling development comprising 1 coach apartment, terraced blocks of 18 houses and 9 apartments, with garages, parking and landscaping, to the immediate west of the Hall.

The appointed archaeological contractor **must** consult the previous archaeological reports for the site before starting work – these reports are an archaeological assessment of Axwell Park (Tyne and Wear Museums, January 2005), Appraisal of Designed Landscape of Axwell Park (Fiona Green, February 2005) and building recording of Axwell Hall (Oxford Archaeology North, December 2004).

There was a house called "The White House" within the park before the present Axwell Hall was built. It is likely to have been sixteenth to seventeenth century in date. The White House is shown on plans dating to c1720 and 1740 and a plan of Sir T.J. Clavering's lands in 1823. The historian Bourne said that the White House was demolished before Axwell Hall was built. The earlier house probably lay to the west of Axwell Hall, on land now proposed for the enabling development of new houses.

Subsurface remains of the White House may survive. In recent years there were school buildings on the site.

Three evaluation trenches are needed to inform the Planning Authority of the character of archaeological deposits on this site. The evaluation must be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeological organisation. The work will record and environmentally sample any archaeological deposits of importance found on the plot. The purpose of this brief is to obtain tenders for this work. The report must be the definitive record for deposition in the Tyne and Wear HER, and it must contain recommendations for any further work needed on this site before development destroys any archaeological remains.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BRIEF

The work can be split into two sections;

- 1) evaluation of archaeologically sensitive deposits
- 2) post-evaluation analysis and report production including recommendations for further work on the site, if appropriate

1) Archaeological evaluation

The trenches are shown on the accompanying plan. The locations can be adjusted where necessary to avoid services etc. The dimensions of the three trenches are:

Trench one 2m x 20m
Trenches two and three 2m x 40m
in plan.

Trench positions should be accurately surveyed prior to excavation and tied in to the national grid. The trenches should be excavated to the depth of natural subsoil. The trenches can be widened in order to step the sides to reach depths greater than 1.5m if required.

Tasks

Hand excavation, recording and environmental sampling (as stipulated below) of deposits down to the depth specified above. Any modern overburden or levelling material can be machined-off under strict archaeological supervision and the remaining deposits are to be excavated by hand. Excavation is to be carried out with a view to avoid damage to any archaeological features which appear to worthy of preservation in-situ. Excavation is to be carried out by single context planning and recorded on *pro forma* context sheets. Features over 0.5 m in diameter can be half sectioned.

The spoil can be kept close-by and rapidly backfilled into the trenches at the conclusion of this work.

Fieldwork - General Conditions

1. The Archaeological Contractor will provide an outline methodology of excavation and provide details of recording procedures employed. Stratigraphy shall be recorded even when no archaeological features have been recognised.
2. Environmental samples (bulk soil samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected by the excavator from suitable (i.e. uncontaminated) deposits. It is suggested that a large number of samples be collected during evaluation from which a selection of the most suitable (uncontaminated) can be processed. All tenders will quote for the full analysis, report production and publication of 6 samples.

The following information should be provided with the environmental samples to be processed – brief account of nature and history of the site, aims and objectives of the project, summary of archaeological results, context types and stratigraphic relationships, phase and dating information, sampling and processing methods, sample locations, preservation conditions, residuality/contamination etc.

Laboratory processing of samples shall only be undertaken if deposits are found to be reasonably well dated, or linked to recognisable features and from contexts the derivation of which can be understood with a degree of confidence.

Advice on the sampling strategy for environmental samples and samples for scientific dating etc. must be sought from Jacqui Huntley, English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (0191 3743643) **before** the evaluation begins.

Scientific investigations should be undertaken in a manner consistent with "The Management of Archaeological Projects", English Heritage 1991 and with "Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions: Best Practice for Curators and Commissioning Archaeologists", English Heritage, 2003.

A range of features, and all phases of activity, need to be sampled for charred plant remains and charcoal. Aceramic features should not be avoided as the plant remains from these features may help to date them. Deep features should be sampled in spits to pick up changes over time. Part, or all of each of the contexts should be processed. In general samples should be processed in their entirety. All flots should be scanned, and some of the residues.

Aims of environmental sampling – to determine the abundance/concentration of the material within the features and how well the material is preserved, to characterise the resource (the site) and each phase, to determine the significance of the material and its group value, what crop processing activities took place on the site? What does this tell us about the nature of the site? Is there any evidence for changes in the farming practice through time? How did people use this landscape? Can we place certain activities at certain locations within the site? Function and date of individual features such as pits, hearths etc. Are the charred assemblages the result of ritual deposition or rubbish? Is the charcoal the result of domestic or industrial fuel?

Pollen samples can be taken from features such as lakes, ponds, palaeochannels, estuaries, saltmarshes, mires, alluvium and colluvium, and from waterlogged layers in wells, ditches and latrines etc. Substances such as honey, beer or food residues can be detected in vessels. Activities such as threshing, crop processing and the retting of flax can be identified. When taken on site, pollen samples should overlap. Your regional science advisor can advise on the type of corer or auger which would be most appropriate for your site. Samples need to be wrapped in clingfilm and kept dark and cool. Make a description of the sediments in which the pollen was found, and send this with the sample to be assessed.

Coastal or estuary sites (even those which are now well drained) are suitable for sampling for foraminifera. Diatoms can also be found on marine sites, but also in urban settings (sewers, wells, drains, ditches etc). They only survive in waterlogged conditions. These aquatic microfossils are used as proxy indicators of the former aquatic ecological conditions on site, changes in sea levels and temperature, salinity, PH and pollution. Forams are taken from cores, monolith tins or bulk samples. Diatoms are cut from monolith tins or cores or taken as spot samples.

Insects, which are useful as palaeoenvironmental indicators, survive best in waterlogged deposits such as palaeochannels and wells. They can provide information on climate change and landscape reconstruction as some species are adapted to particular temperatures, habitats or even particular trees. Certain insects can indicate the function of a feature or building (eg. Weevils, which were introduced by the Romans, often indicate granary sites, parasites will indicate the presence of particular animals such as sheep or horse, latrine flies survive in the mineral deposits in latrines, or in the daub of medieval buildings etc). Samples need to be sealed (eg. in a plastic box).

3. Where there is evidence for industrial activity, macroscopic technological residues should be collected by hand. Separate samples should be collected for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical droplets). Guidance is available in the English Heritage "Archaeometallurgy" guidelines, 2001.
4. Buried soils and sediment sequences should be inspected and recorded on site by a recognised geoarchaeologist. Procedures and techniques in the English Heritage document "Environmental Archaeology", 2002 should be followed.
5. Sampling strategies for wooden structures should follow the methodologies presented in "Waterlogged wood. Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood" R. Brunning, 1996. If timbers are likely to be present on your site, contact a wood specialist beforehand. Pre-excavation planning – determine questions to ask, agree on a sampling strategy, allocate reasonable time and budget. Soil samples should be taken of the sediments surrounding the timber. Keep the timbers wet! Record them asap on-site – plan, photograph, record the size and orientation of the wood (radial, tangential, transverse), any toolmarks, joints, presence of bark, insect damage, recent breaks, and if another piece of wood was on top of or below the piece sampled. Both vertical and horizontal positioning of wattling must be recorded. Wood samples can provide information on woodland management such as medieval coppicing, type of taxa (native or foreign), conversion technology (how the wood was turned into planks), building techniques and type of tools used.
6. Waterlogged organic materials should be dealt with following recommendations in "Guidelines for the care of waterlogged archaeological leather", English Heritage and Archaeological Leather Group 1995.
7. Animal bone assemblages should be assessed by a recognised specialist.
8. Human remains must be treated with care and respect. Excavators must comply with the relevant legislation (essentially the Burial Act 1857) and local environmental health concerns. If found, human remains must be left in-situ, covered and protected. The archaeological contractor will be responsible for informing the police, coroner and County Archaeologist. If it is agreed that removal of the remains is

essential, the archaeological contractor will apply for a licence from the Home Office and their regulations must be complied with. The final placing of the remains after scientific study and analysis will be agreed beforehand. The remains will be recorded in-situ and subsequently lifted, washed in water (without additives). They will be marked and packed to standards compatible with "Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains", McKinley and Roberts, 1993. Site inspection by a recognised specialist is desirable for isolated burials and essential for cemeteries. Further guidance is available in "Church Archaeology: its care and management", Council for the Care of Churches, 1999 and in "Human Remains from Archaeological Sites...", English Heritage, 2002.

9. Should gold or silver objects or coin hoards etc be found, then the Archaeological Contractor must comply with the procedures set out in The Treasure Act 1996. Any treasure must be reported to The Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer, Philippa Walton (07769 911278 or p.l.walton@ncl.ac.uk) who can provide guidance on the Treasure Act procedures.

10. The Archaeological Contractor must detail measures taken to ensure the safe conduct of excavations, and must consult with the client's structural engineers concerning working in close proximity to the foundations of the surrounding buildings. The Client may wish to see copies of the Archaeological Contractor's Health and Safety Policies.

11. The Archaeological Contractor must be able to provide written proof that the necessary levels of Insurance Cover are in place.

12. The Archaeological Contractor must maintain a Site Diary for the benefit of the Client, detailing the nature of work undertaken on a day by day basis, with full details of Site Staff present, duration of time on site, etc. and contact with third parties.

13. All staff employed by the Archaeological Contractor shall be professional field archaeologists with appropriate skills and experience to undertake work to the highest professional standards.

Finds Storage

The Archaeological Contractor will process and catalogue the finds in accordance with Museum and Galleries Commissions Guidelines (1992) and the UKIC Conservation Guidelines, and arrange for the long term disposal of the objects on behalf of the Client. A catalogue of finds and a record of discard policies, will be lodged with the finds for ease of curation.

Finds processing, storage and conservation methods must be broadly in line with current practice, as exemplified by the IFA "Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials", 2001. Finds should be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication "First Aid for Finds" (Watkinson and Neal 1998). Proposals for ultimate storage of finds should follow the UKIC publication "Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage" (Walker 1990). Details of methodologies may be requested from the Archaeological Contractor.

2) Post-excavation and report production

1. The Archaeological Contractor must produce an interim report of 200 words minimum, two weeks after the completion of the field-work, for the Client and the Planning Authority, with a copy for information to the County Archaeologist. This will contain the recommendations for any further work needed on site.

2. The production of Site Archives and Finds Analysis will be undertaken according to English Heritage Guidelines (Managing Archaeological Projects 2nd Edition).
3. A full report with the following features should be produced within six months of the completion of the field-work. All drawn work should be to publication standard.
 - Location plans of trenches and grid reference of site
 - Plans showing major features and deposit spreads, by phase, and section locations
 - Sections of the two main trench axes and through excavated features
 - Colour photographs of trenches and any important archaeological features
 - Tables and matrices summarising feature and artefact sequences.
 - Archive descriptions of contexts, grouped by phase (not for publication)
 - Deposit sequence summary (for publication/deposition)
 - Descriptions and illustrations of artefacts
 - Laboratory reports and summaries of environmental data, with collection methodology.
 - A consideration of the results of the field-work within the wider research context.
4. Three bound and collated copies of the report need to be submitted, one for the commissioning Client, one for the planning authority, and one for deposition in the County HER at the address below. A digital copy of the report on CD is also required by the HER – to be sent with the paper report in a plastic case (**not attached to the report please**).
5. If significant archaeological features are found during the evaluation, the results may also warrant publication in a suitable archaeological journal. The tender should therefore include an estimated figure for the production of a short report of, for example 12 pages, in a journal such as *Archaeologia Aeliana*. This is merely to give the commissioning client an indication of potential costs.

OASIS

The Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index/access to the large and growing body of archaeological grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded fieldwork.

The archaeological contractor is therefore required to register with OASIS and to complete the online OASIS form for their evaluation at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Please ensure that tenders for this work takes into account the time needed to complete the form.

Once the OASIS record has been completed and signed off by the HER and NMR the information will be incorporated into the English Heritage Excavation Index, hosted online by the Archaeology Data Service.

The ultimate aim of OASIS is for an online virtual library of grey literature to be built up, linked to the index. The unit therefore has the option of uploading their grey literature report as part of their OASIS record, as a Microsoft Word document, rich text format, pdf or html format. The grey literature report will only be mounted by the ADS if both the unit and the HER give their agreement. The grey literature report will be made available through a library catalogue facility.

Please ensure that you and your client understand this procedure. If you choose to upload your grey literature report please ensure that your client agrees to this in writing to the HER at the address below.

For general enquiries about the OASIS project aims and the use of the form please contact: Mark Barratt at the National Monuments Record (tel. 01793 414600 or [oasis@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto: oasis@english-heritage.org.uk)). For enquiries of a technical nature please contact: Catherine Hardman at the Archaeology Data Service (tel. 01904 433954 or [oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk](mailto: oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk)). Or contact the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer at the address below.

THE TENDER

Tenders for the work should contain the following:-

1. Brief details of the staff employed and their relevant experience
2. Details of any sub-contractors employed
3. A quotation of cost, broken down into the following categories:-
 - Costs for the excavation, incl. sub-headings of staff costs on a person-day basis, transport, materials, and plant etc.
 - Post-excavation costs, incl. storage materials
 - Cost of Environmental analysis of 6 samples
 - Estimated cost for full publication of results in an archaeological journal
 - Overheads
4. An indication of the required notification period (from agreement to start date) for the field-work; the duration of fieldwork and the expected date for completion of the post-excavation work (a maximum of 6 months after completion of the fieldwork)

MONITORING

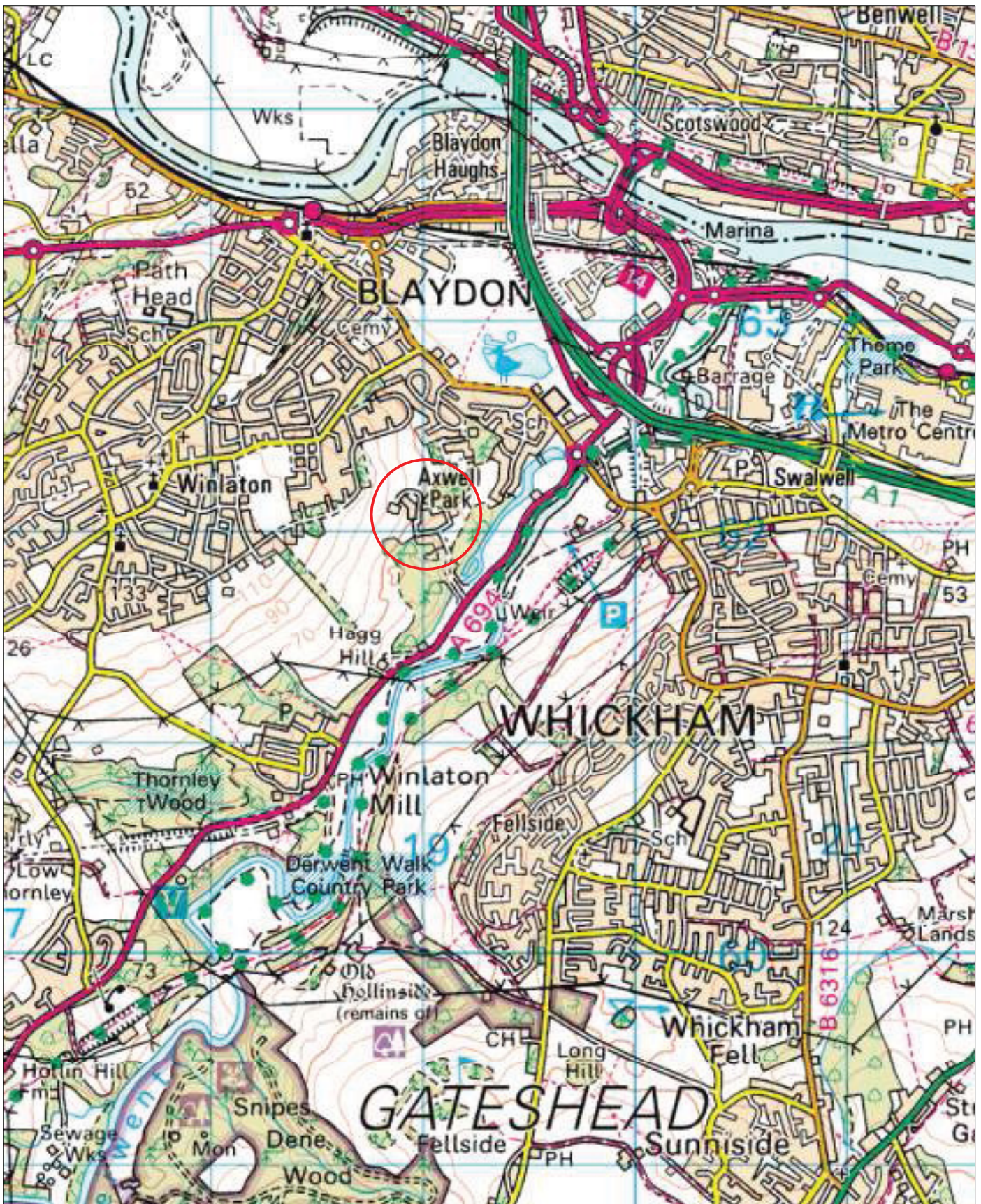
The Archaeological Contractor will inform the County Archaeologist of the start and end dates of the excavation to enable the CA to monitor the work in progress.

Should important archaeological deposits be encountered, the County Archaeologist must be informed. If further archaeological evaluation is required on this site, then the archaeological contractor must submit a written scheme of investigation for approval by the CA before extending the size of the trenches.

Jennifer Morrison
Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer
West Chapel
Jesmond Old Cemetery
Jesmond Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 1NJ
Tel (0191) 2816117
[jennifer.morrison@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto: jennifer.morrison@newcastle.gov.uk)

Ref: Axwell Park evaluation
September 2005

APPENDIX 3: FIGURES



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010

PROJECT: Axwell park, Gateshead
 SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4
 REPORT No: CP1296
 CLIENT: DARE (Northern) Ltd
 DRAWN BY: AC
 DATE: December 2010
 FIGURE: 1

KEY:



Site location



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey
on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's
Stationery Office. © Crown copyright.
All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732

Figure 1: Site location

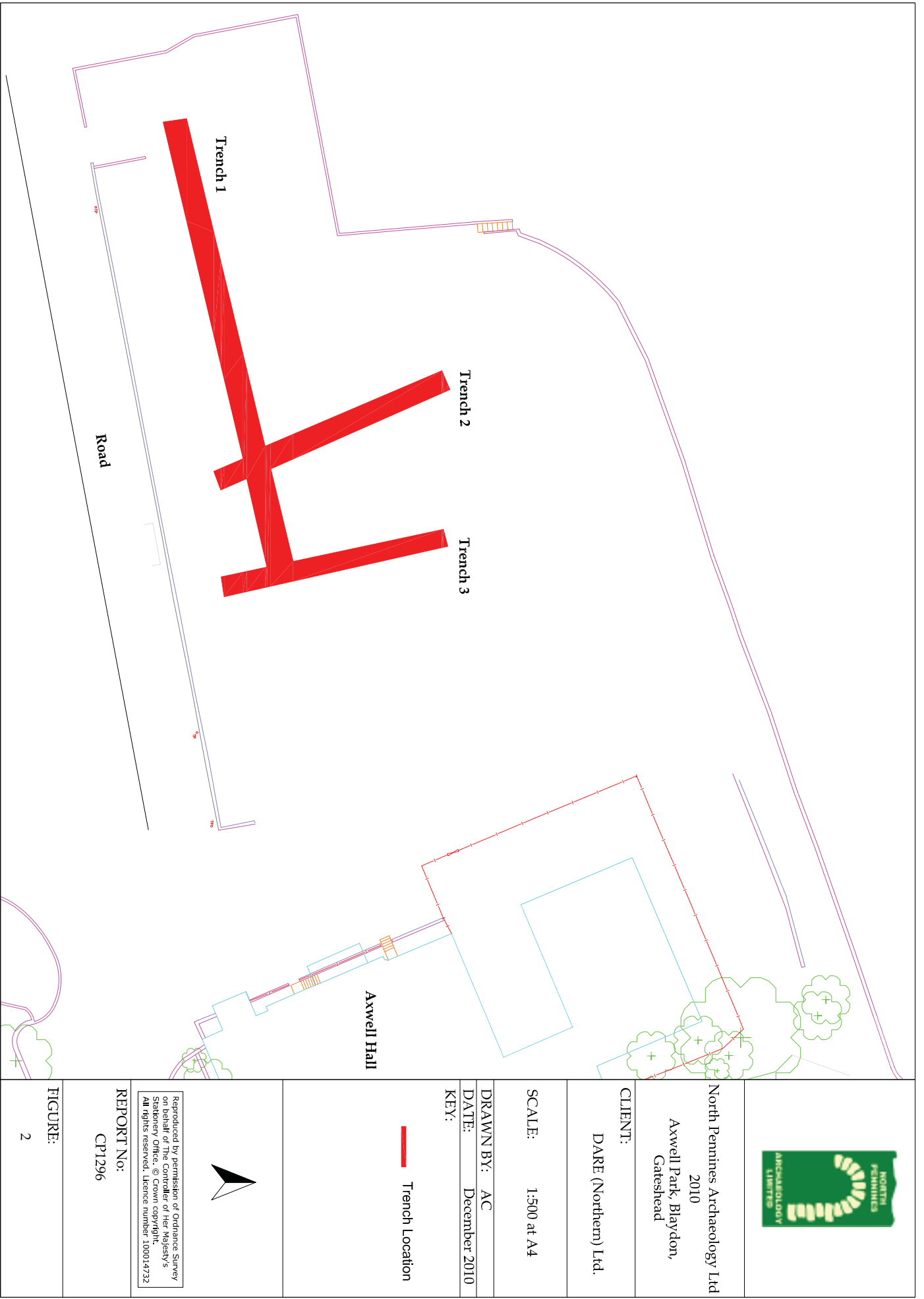
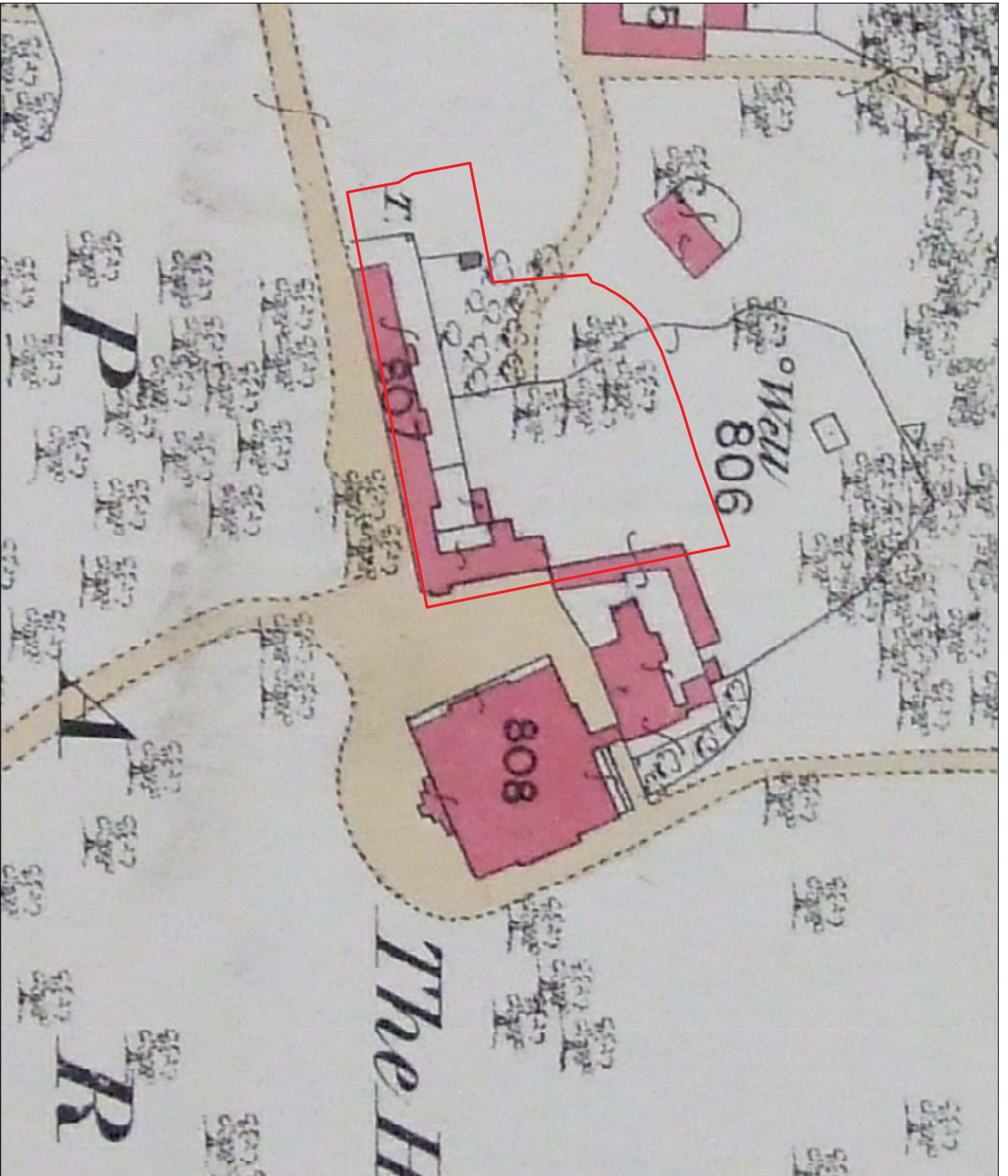


Figure 2 : Locations of the evaluation trenches



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010

Axwell Park, Blaydon,
Tyne and Wear

CLIENT:

DARE (Northern) Ltd.

SCALE: 1:1,000 at A4

DRAWN BY: JS

DATE: October 2010

KEY:

— Outline of proposed
development area

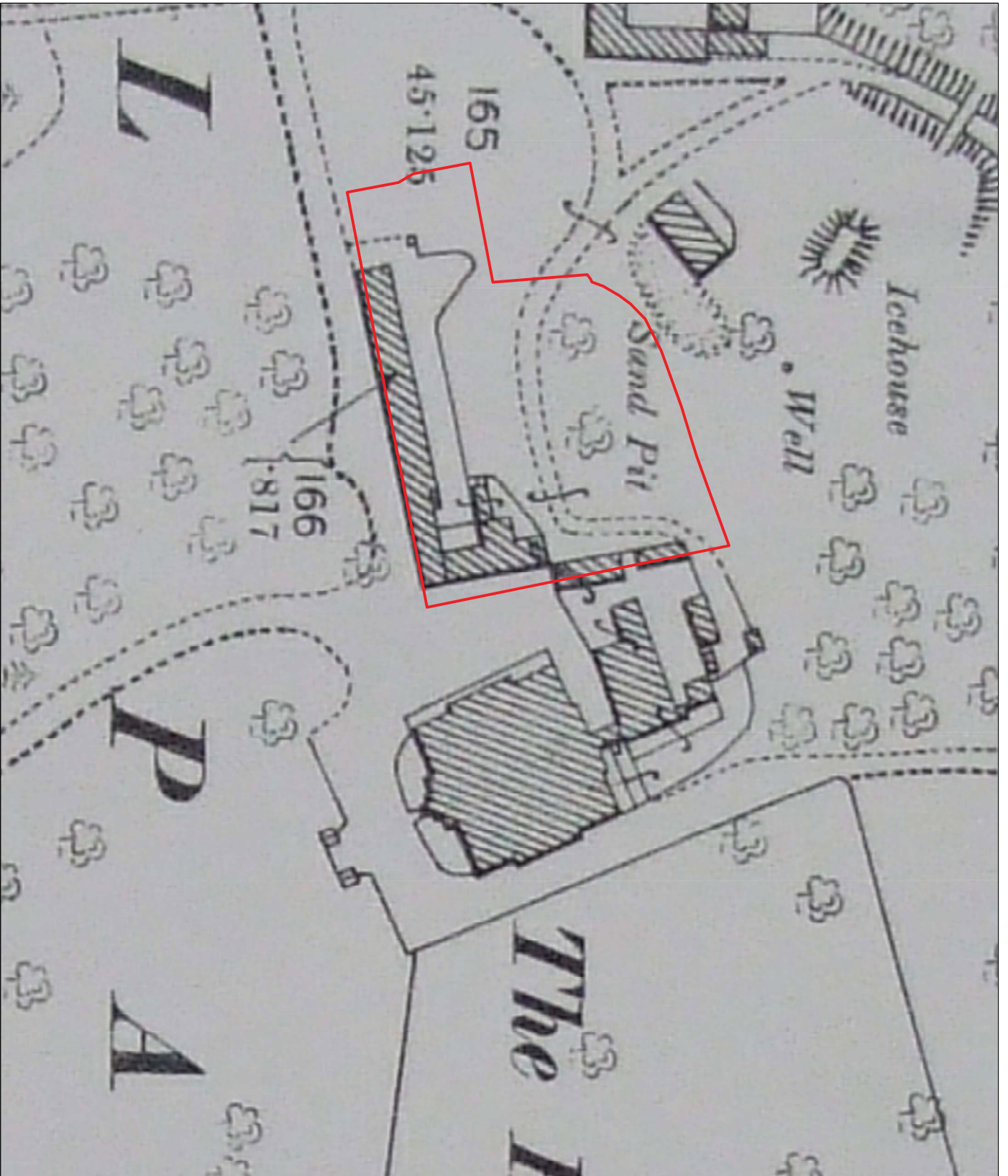


Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey
on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's
Stationery Office. © Crown copyright.
All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732

REPORT No:
CP 1295/10

FIGURE:
3

Figure 3: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1856




North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010
Axwell Park, Blaydon,
Tyne and Wear

CLIENT:
DARE (Northern) Ltd.

SCALE: 1:1,000 at A4

DRAWN BY: JS
DATE: October 2010

KEY:
 Outline of proposed development area

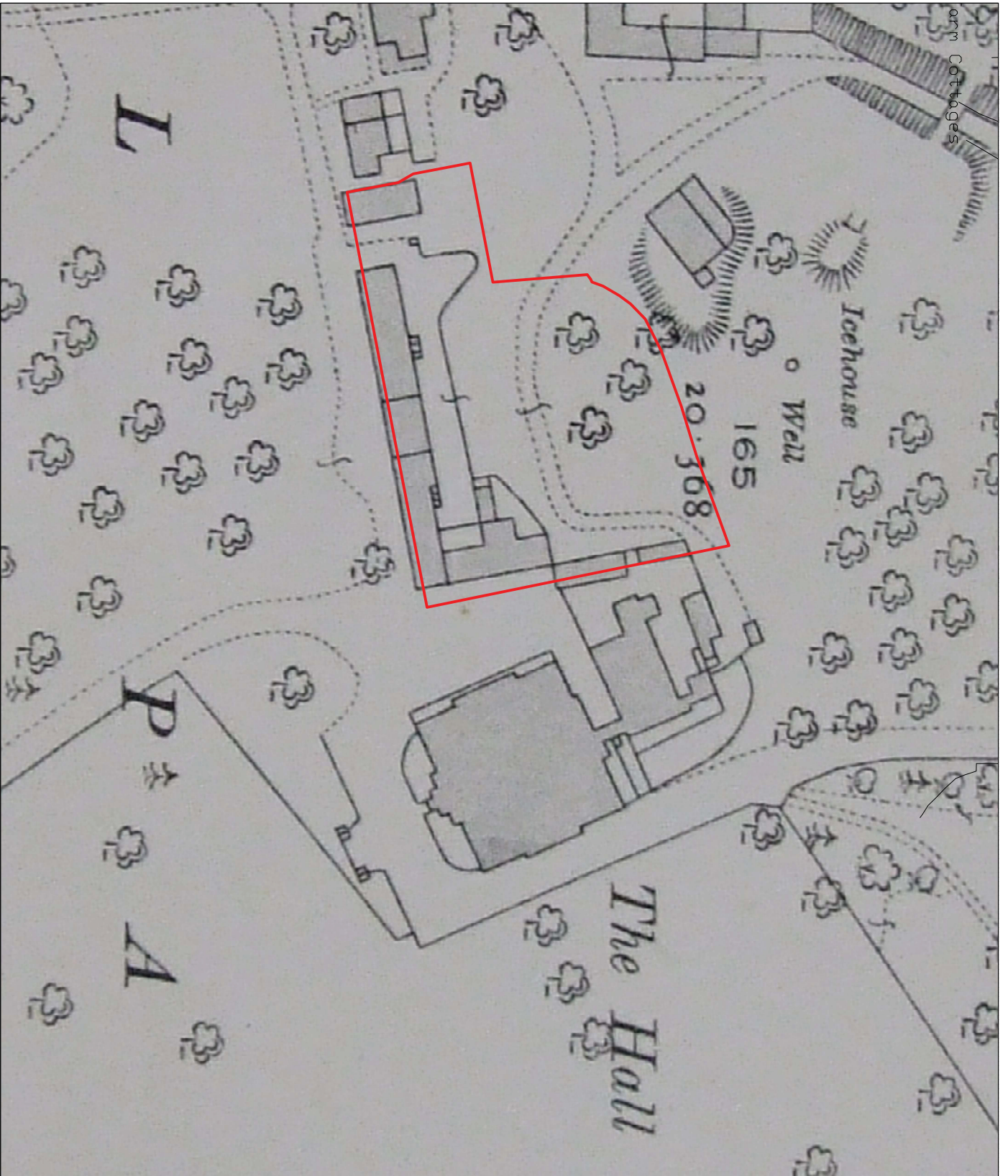


Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732

REPORT No:
CP 1295/10

FIGURE:
4

Figure 4: Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1897



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd

2010

Axwell Park, Blaydon,
Tyne and Wear

CLIENT:

DARE (Northern) Ltd.

SCALE: 1:1,000 at A4

DRAWN BY: JS

DATE: October 2010

KEY:

— Outline of proposed
development area



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey
on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's
Stationery Office. © Crown copyright.
All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732

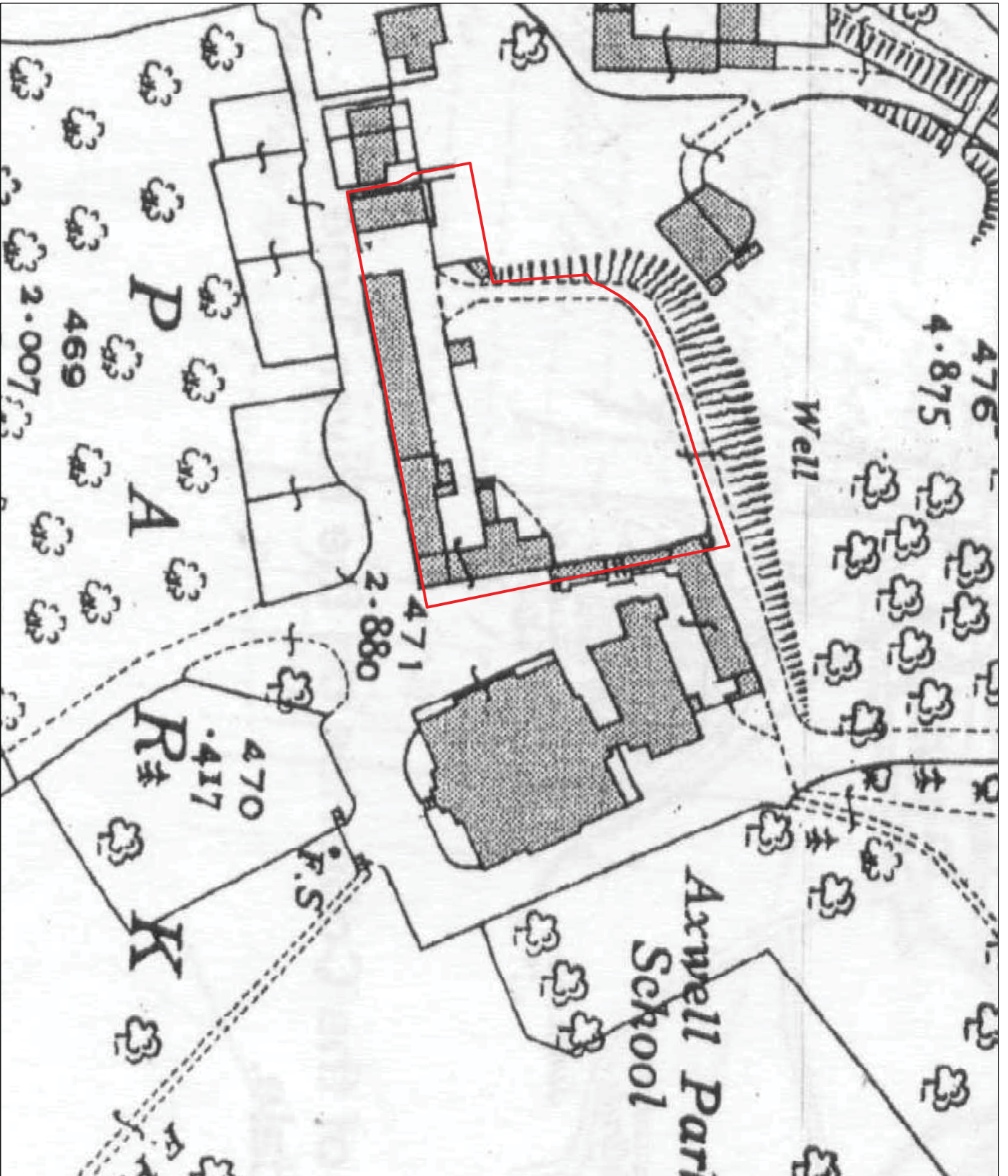
REPORT No:

CP 1295/10

FIGURE:

5

Figure 5: Third Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1919



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010

Axwell Park, Blaydon,
Tyne and Wear

CLIENT:

DARE (Northern) Ltd.

SCALE: 1:1,000 at A4

DRAWN BY: JS

DATE: October 2010

KEY:

 Outline of proposed
development area



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey
on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's
Stationery Office. © Crown copyright.
All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732

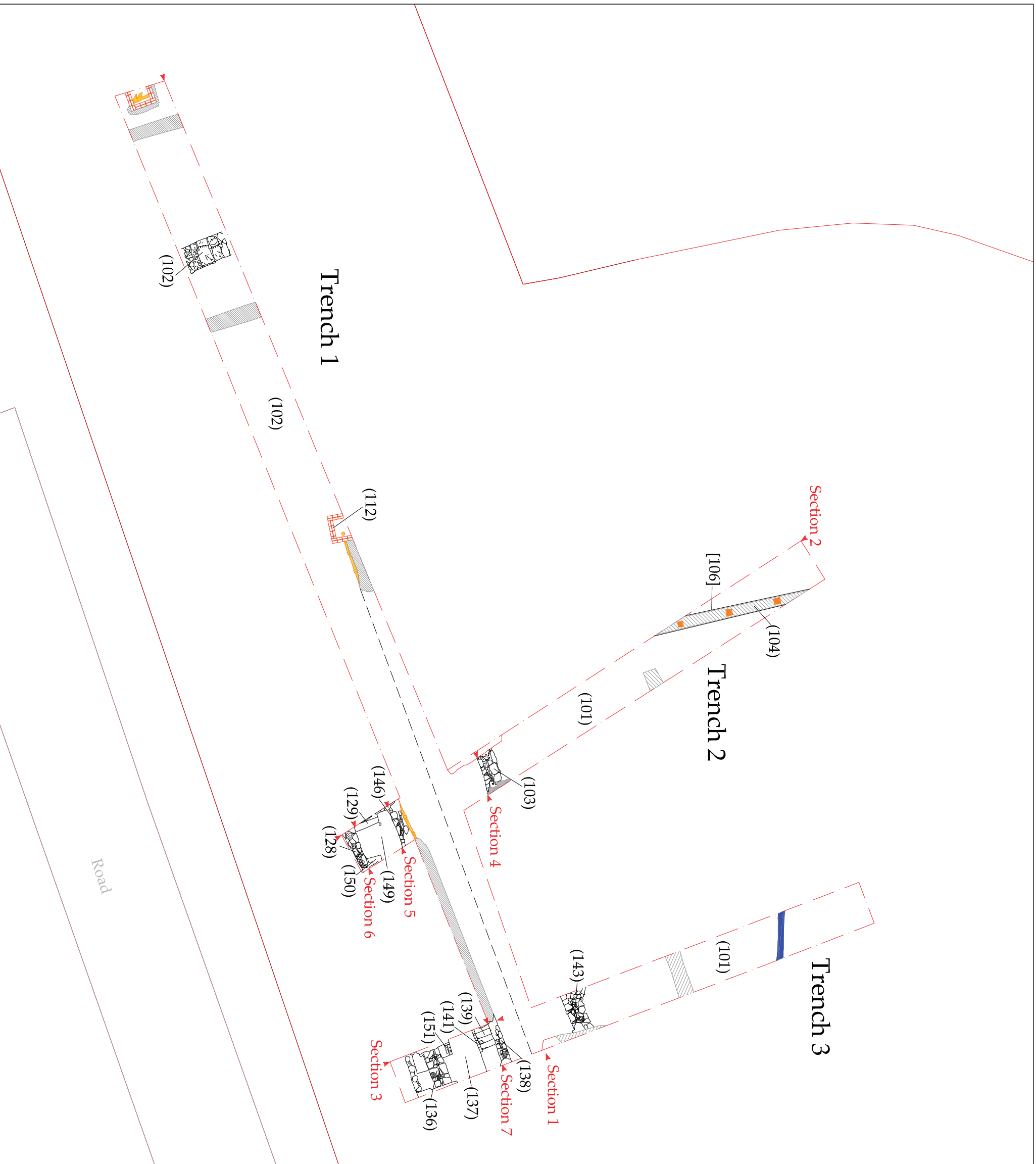
REPORT No:

CP 1295/10

FIGURE:

6

Figure 6: Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1939



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010

Axwell Park, Blaydon, Gateshead

CLIENT:

DARE (Northern) Ltd

SCALE:

1:175 at A3






DRAWN BY:

AC

DATE:

December 2010

KEY:

-  Edge of excavation
-  Concrete
-  Services
-  Drains
-  Section location

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732.

REPORT No:

CP1296

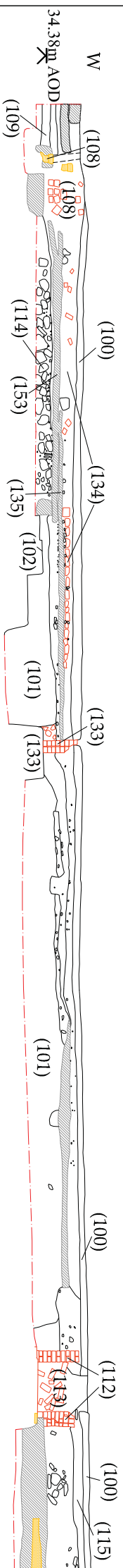
FIGURE:

7

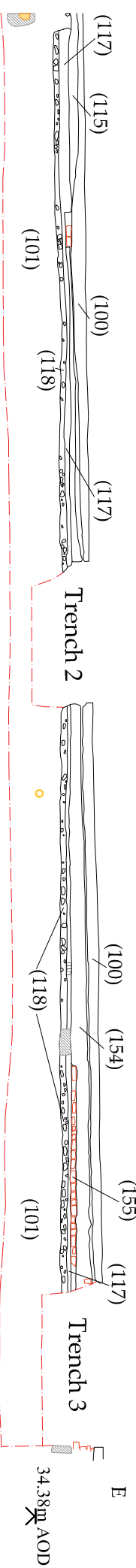
Figure 7 : Plan of excavated features

Section 1:

South Facing Section of Trench 1



continued
below
↑



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010

Axwell Park, Blaydon, Gateshead





CLIENT:
DARE (Northern) Ltd

SCALE:
1:90 at A3

DRAWN BY:
AC

DATE:
December 2010

KEY:

-  Edge of excavation
-  Concrete
-  Ceramic pipe
-  Red Bricks

REPORT No:

CP1296

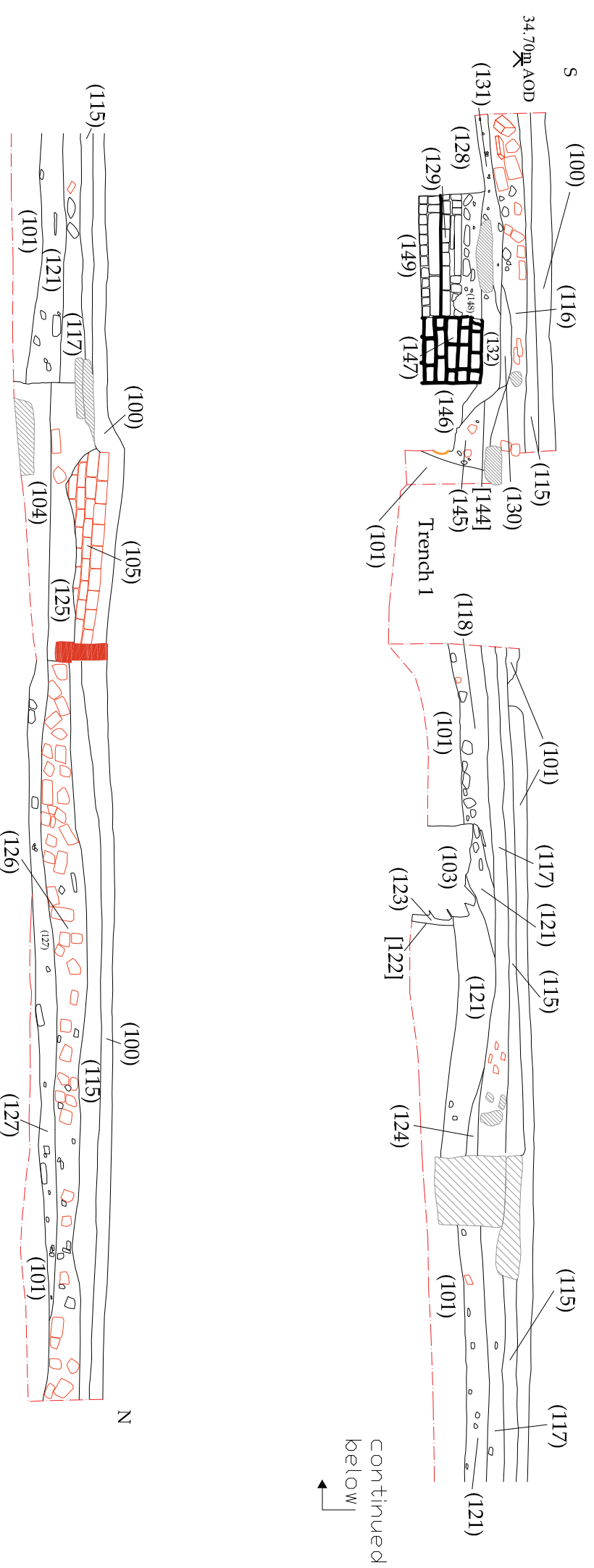
FIGURE:

8

Figure 8 : South Facing Section Trench 1

Section 2:

East Facing Section of Trench 2



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010

Axwell Park, Blaydon, Gateshead

CLIENT:
DARE (Northern) Ltd

SCALE:
1:50 at A3

DRAWN BY: AC
DATE: December 2010

KEY:

-  Edge of excavation
-  Concrete
-  Steel Girder
-  Red Bricks

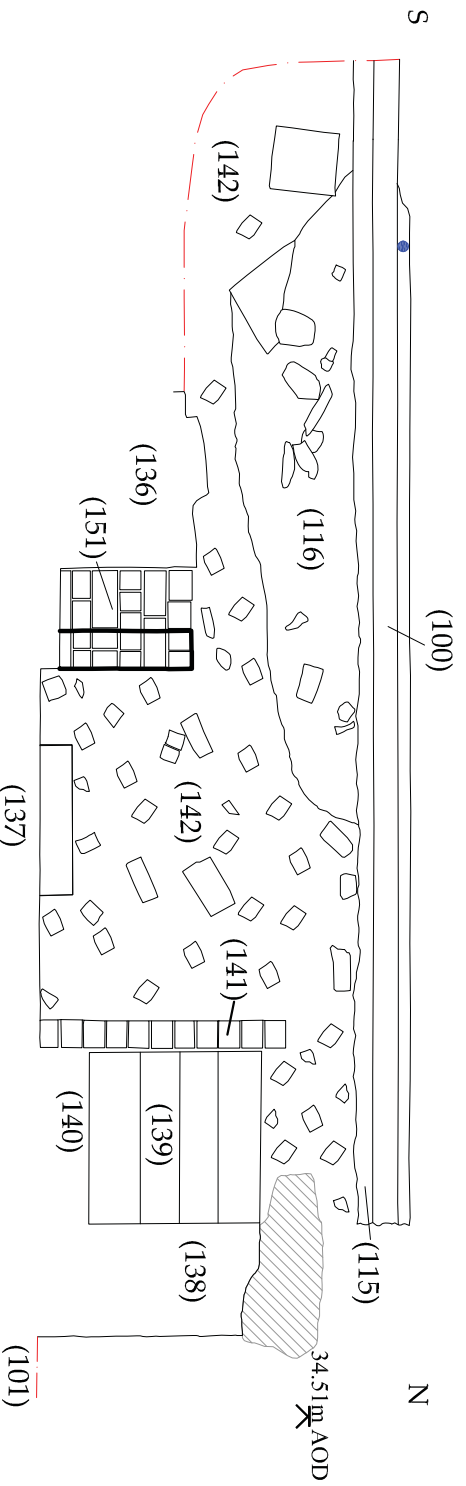
REPORT No:
CP1296

FIGURE:
9

Figure 9 : East facing section of trench 2

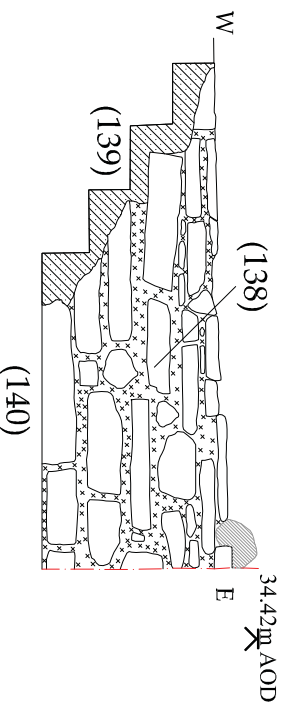
Section 3:

East facing section of south end of Trench 3



Section 7:

South facing elevation of wall (138) and stairs (139), southern end of Trench 3



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010
Axwell Park, Blaydon

CLIENT:
DARE (Northern) Ltd

SCALE: 1:30 at A4

DRAWN BY: AC
DATE: December 2010

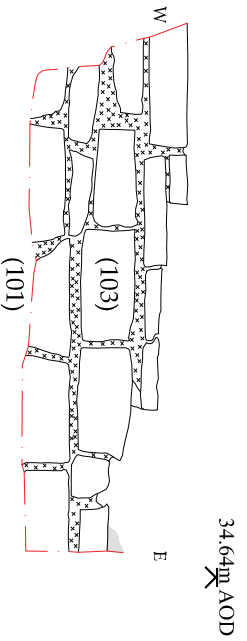
KEY:

	Edge of excavation
	Concrete
	Mortar
	Wall Plaster
	Services

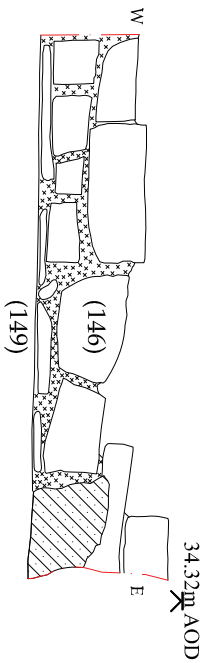
REPORT No:
CP1296

FIGURE:
10

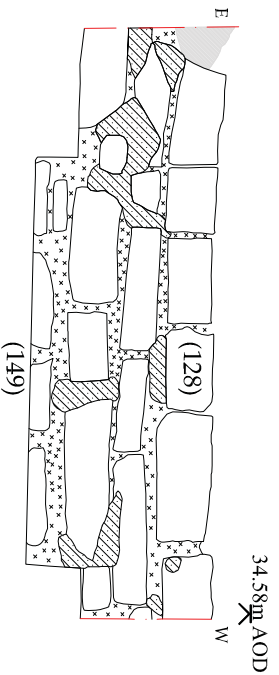
Figure 10: Section and elevation of southern end of Trench 3



Section 4:
South facing Elevation of wall (103)



Section 6:
North facing Elevation of wall (128)



Section 5:
South facing Elevation of wall (146)



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010
Axwell Park, Blaydon, Gateshead

CLIENT:
DARE (Northern) Ltd

SCALE: 1:25 at A4

DRAWN BY: AC
DATE: December 2010

KEY:

	Edge of excavation
	Mortar
	Plaster
	Concrete

REPORT No:
CP1296

FIGURE:
11

Figure 11 : Elevations of walls (103), (128) and (146) in trench 2