

CFA Archaeology Ltd

archaeological consultants

Advice on Archaeology & Planning

Environmental Impact Assessment

Interpretation, Design & Display

Finds/ Environmental Analysis

Field Evaluation & Excavation

Historic Building Recording


Site & Landscape Survey


Geophysical Survey

**Land South West of Newbiggin Hall,
Blanchland,
Northumberland**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3540

 0131 273 4380

 0131 273 4381

 info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk

 www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

The Old Engine House
Eskmills Business Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian
EH21 7PQ

Tel: 0131 273 4380
Fax: 0131 273 4381
email: info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
web: www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Author	Katie Sludden MA BFA
Illustrator	Shelly Werner BSc MPhil PhD MCIfA
Approver	Melanie Johnson MA PhD FSA Scot MCIfA
Commissioned by	Meldrum Construction
Date issued	April 2017
OASIS No.	Cfaarcha1-283046
Version	1
Grid Reference	NY 95106 49694 (centred)
Planning Reference	16/02020/FUL

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd
standard operating procedures.

**Land South West of Newbiggin Hall, Blanchland,
Northumberland**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 3540

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	3
2.	Working Methods	4
3.	Archaeological Results	4
4.	Conclusion	5
5.	References	6

Appendices

1.	Digital Photograph Register	7
2.	Context Register	7
3.	Drawing Register	8

Figures (bound at rear)

Fig. 1	Site plan with location of archaeological features
Fig. 2	General shot of [004] wall with (006) track way and deposit (007) from the south east
Fig. 3	General shot of track way (006) from the west
Fig. 4	Close up of stones (005) in wall [004], also showing (007) silty rubble
Fig. 5	Ordnance Survey 1898-9 edition Durham Sheets XVI.NE and IX.SE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological mitigation works carried out by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) between 21st March 2017 and 31st March 2017 for Meldrum Construction, in relation to the construction of a new lodge building at land south-west of Newbiggin Hall, Blanchland (NY 95106 49694 centred), Northumberland (See Fig. 1).

Northumberland Conservation had advised that a watching brief was necessary in order to fully mitigate the potential archaeological impacts of the proposed development. A Written Scheme of Investigation, prepared by CFA for ITP Energised and dated 22 December 2016, was agreed in advance of works by Northumberland Conservation.

1.2 Background

NCCCT advised that their records indicated that the site of the deserted medieval settlement of Newbiggin is located in the area around Newbiggin Hall. There are documentary references to a settlement from 1262. A survey in 1608 recorded ten tenements while Armstrong's map of 1769 suggested an extensive settlement. Little remained of the settlement by the mid-19th century and the precise location and extent of the settlement is not known.

The area of the proposed development is relatively flat and located c.60m west of Newbiggin Hall. There are a number of earthworks in the area surrounding the proposed development area which are more likely to relate to landscaping associated with the construction of buildings to the north-east and the gardens. There is the potential that medieval and later settlement remains may continue into the development area.

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of the archaeological works were to conduct an appropriate programme of archaeological investigation (watching brief) during all groundbreaking works to record any features or deposits of archaeological interest uncovered and produce a report on these, and if necessary undertake post-excavation analysis and produce a publication report.

2. WORKING METHODS

CFA follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs. Recording of all elements followed established CFA methods. All work complied with the requirements of Northumberland Conservation.

2.1 Watching Brief

A full watching brief was undertaken during ground reduction works onsite. Excavations to remove topsoil and overburden down on to natural subsoil were undertaken with a mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth-bladed ditching bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. All discoveries, including soil profiles and subsoil characteristics, were recorded using standard CFA recording forms and digital photography.

The access road was floated and therefore a watching brief did not take place here.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

3.1 General

Context numbers are in bold and are fully described in Appendix 2.

The area stripped of topsoil for the proposed building is depicted on Fig. 1. The topsoil consisted of up to 0.3m of dark brown silt overlying up to 0.3m of mottled brown silty subsoil (**002**). The natural substrate (**003**) comprised orange-brown sandy clay with areas of degraded yellow sand, sandstone gravel and bedrock. A concentration of lime and shattered limestone was recorded within the subsoil in the north-west part of the stripped area.

One redundant metallic service pipe was encountered running east to west, truncating deposits along the northern section of the stripped area.

3.2 Watching Brief

A portion of a trackway (**006**) was encountered during ground works (Figs 2-3). This comprised yellow and grey sandstone gravel, running roughly east to west and curving northwards at its west side. It measured up to 35m long by 3.5 to 4.5m wide by up to 0.35m deep. A 4m by 0.5m section of its southern edge appeared to be kerbed with the same sandstone material but largely the track survived in a poor condition, having been truncated by a 20th century service for a significant portion of its length.

Immediately to the south of the trackway, a section of wall foundations [**004**] was encountered (see Figs 1, 2 and 4). This measured 4m by up to 0.9m wide by up to 0.3m in height, orientated north-west to south-east and comprising a single layer of yellow sandstone blocks (**005**) lying directly on natural (**003**). The wall was

surrounded by deposit **007** and appeared to be truncated by trackway (**006**) at its north-west end.

Deposit **007** was encountered along the northern half of the stripped area. A machine slot measuring 2m wide by 3m long by 0.25m deep was excavated along its north-east side where it was truncated by trackway **006** and a hand-dug slot measuring 0.5m by 1.2m by 0.25m was excavated where it met wall **004**. It proved to be homogenous, comprising dark grey silty rubble measuring up to 12m in diameter by 0.22m in depth. It appeared to surround wall **004** and could be a demolition deposit. Otherwise little else can be said of this deposit as no datable artefacts were recovered from it.

No other features or artefacts were recovered from these ground works.

4. CONCLUSION

An archaeological watching brief was carried out at land south-west of Newbiggin Hall, Blanchland, Northumberland during the construction of a lodge. A trackway and a small section of wall and associated demolition deposit were recorded, but there were no other features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological significance identified.

The development plot lies within the curtilage of Newbiggin Hall. The Ordnance Survey map from 1865 shows the development site as being within a wooded area with a formal garden within a walled enclosure, with a path running NE-SW. This general area has been re-developed by the 1899 map, with additional buildings to the north-east of the development site, new trackways and a different layout to the planting. The OS six inch 1899 mapping shows the trackway recorded in the watching brief, curving around the cluster of buildings to the west of Newbiggin Hall (Fig. 5).

There is little evidence to ascribe a date or function for the other remains found during these works, but they are likely to be garden features.

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, maps and reports, will be deposited with Great North Museum and copies of reports will be lodged with the Northumberland Council Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

5. REFERENCES

5.1 Bibliography

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014a, *Code of Conduct*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014b, *Standards and Guidance for archaeological watching briefs*.

Petts, D and Gerrard, C 2006 *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham County Council.

http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/Planning-and-Building/Conservation/Archaeology/Shared_Visions_NERRF.pdf

5.2 Cartographic

Ordnance Survey 1865 Northumberland CVIII (includes: Hunstanworth; Shotley High Quarter). 6" to 1 mile.

Ordnance Survey 1899 Durham Sheet IX SE. 6" to 1 mile.

APPENDIX 1: Digital Photograph Register

Image No.	Summary description of subject	Taken from
1	Pre-excavation shots of area	S
2	Pre-excavation shots of area	W
3	Possible surface / track edging	SE
4	Possible wall line or track edge	SE
5	Possible wall line or track edge	SE
6	General working shot	NE
7	Subsoil (002) showing lime deposits	W
8	Wall fragment	SW
9	Trackway from west	W
10	Lime deposit	N
11	Trackway from east	E
12	Working shot (006) track in NE corner	NW
13	Post-ex with (006)	NW
14	Post-ex with (006) looking NW	SE
15	Sample section in the southern corner	NE
16	Sample section in the southern corner oblique	ENE
17	General shot (006) track	W
18	General shot (006) track	W
19	General shot of wall [004]	SE
20	General shot of wall [004]	SW
21	General shots of wall [004] and track (006) with (007)	SE
22	General shots of wall [004] and track (006) with (007)	SE
23	General shots of wall [004] and track (006) with (007)	SE
24	Working shot of south corner by temp road	NW
25	Along north edge of site	W
26	Profile / SE facing section of wall [004] / (005)	SE
27	Profile / SE facing section of wall [004] / (005)	SE
28	Profile / SE facing section of wall [004] / (005)	SE

APPENDIX 2: Context Register

Context no.	Fill of	Description
001		Dark grey silty topsoil, average 0.3m deep.
002		Mixed light brown silt subsoil, patchy, not always present under topsoil. Exists in hollows or lower parts of site. Average of 0.3m deep.
003		Natural. Orange brown sandy clay and sand with areas of degraded yellow sandstone gravel and bedrock.
004		Cut for wall. 0.7 m-0.9m wide by at least 3.5m-4m long. Heavily disturbed. Only a segment remains. NW to SE orientation.
005	004	Yellow sandstone wall. Each facing stone is 0.3m by 0.4m by 0.2m-0.3m average size and clearly worked. Each inner stone averages at 0.15m by 0.15m by 0.15m. Truncated at NW end by (006) track. No mortar bonding or finds recovered. Stones sit directly upon natural subsoil. NW to SE orientation.
006		Yellow sandstone and rough gravel track way. Very disturbed. A 4m length of kerbing is visible along its southern edge but otherwise the track survives poorly. Service truncate its NW end. It is orientated east to west, averaging 3.5m wide but up to 4.5m wide at its east end and 0.25m -0.35m.
007		A shallow area of 12m in diameter of rubble and dark grey silt. Cut by 20 th century services. Truncated by [004] wall and (006) track way. Only 0.2m deep. Heavily disturbed.

APPENDIX 3: Drawing Register

Dwg No	Sheet No.	Scale	Plan / Section	Description/contexts
1	1	1:20	P	Plan of [004] / (005) wall
2	1	1:50	P	Plan of (006) track and {004} wall
3	1	1:20	S	SE facing section / profile of wall [004]



Key:

- Watching Brief Area
- Trackway
- Deposit 007
- Wall 004

Reproduced with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, © Crown copyright. CFA Archaeology Ltd, Old Engine House, Eskmills Park, Musselburgh EH21 7PQ AL100034785

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
T: 0131 273 4380
F: 0131 273 4381
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Title:
Site plan with location of archaeological features

Project:
Land South-west of Newbiggin Hall, Blanchland, Northumberland

Archaeological Watching Brief

Client:
Meldrum Construction

Scale at A3:
1:1,250

Drawn by: SW	Checked: MJ	Date: 4/19/2017
Report No: 3540		Fig. No: 1

The copyright in this document (including its electronic form) shall remain vested in CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) but the Client shall have a licence to copy and use the document for the purpose for which it was provided. CFA shall not be liable for the use by any person of this document for any purpose other than that for which the same was provided by CFA. This document shall not be reproduced in whole or in part or relied upon by third parties for any use whatsoever without the express written authority of CFA.



Fig. 2 - General shot of [004] wall with (006) in the background and depo9sit (007) from the south-east

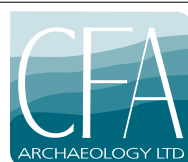


Fig. 3 - General shot of track way (006) from the west



Fig. 4 - Close up of stones (005) in wall [004], also showing (007) silty rubble

Project:
Land South-west of Newbiggin Hall, Blanchland, Northumberland: Archaeological Watching Brief



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
T: 0131 273 4380
F: 0131 273 4381
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Client:
Meldrum Construction

Drawn by: SW	Checked: MJ	Date: 19/04/17
Report No: 3540		Fig. No: 2 - 4



Title:
Ordnance Survey 1898-9 Editions Durham Sheets XVI.NE and IX.SE

Client:
Meldrum Construction



CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD
The Old Engine House
Eskmills Park
Musselburgh
East Lothian, EH21 7PQ
T: 0131 273 4380
F: 0131 273 4381
info@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk

Project:
Land South-west of Newbiggin Hall, Blanchland, Northumberland
Archaeological Watching Brief

Scale at A4:
1:4,000

Drawn by:
SW

Checked:
MJ

Date:
19/04/2017

Report No:
3540

Fig. No:
5