
BEDE HOUSE JARROW

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

December 2015



<i>Prepared for:</i> <i>Mr and Mrs Thurston</i>	<i>By:</i> <i>The Archaeological Practice Ltd.</i>
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Prepared by:

The Archaeological Practice Ltd.



Frontispiece:

View of the rear (North) side of the old stables building during internal groundworks.

PROJECT:	Archaeological watching brief at a Development Site
LOCATION:	Bede House, Jarrow
CLIENT:	Mr & Mrs Thurston
SITE GRID REF:	NZ 3212 6375
FIELDWORK:	November 2015
OASIS REF:	thearcha2-345145

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Frontispiece: View of the rear (North) side of the old stables building during internal groundworks.

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SUMMARY

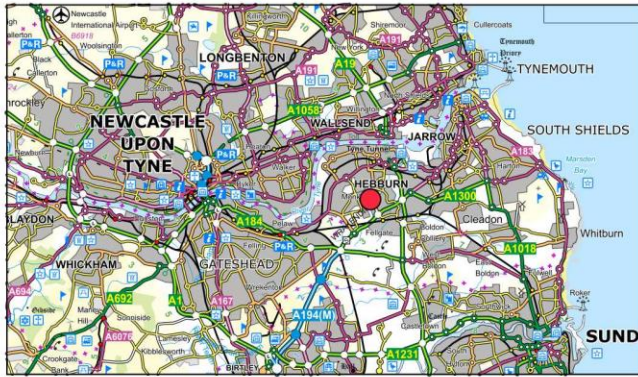
Groundworks carried out during ground reduction and within the former stable to Bede House, Jarrow, were monitored over the course of five days in November, 2015.

The excavations revealed no archaeologically significant remains.

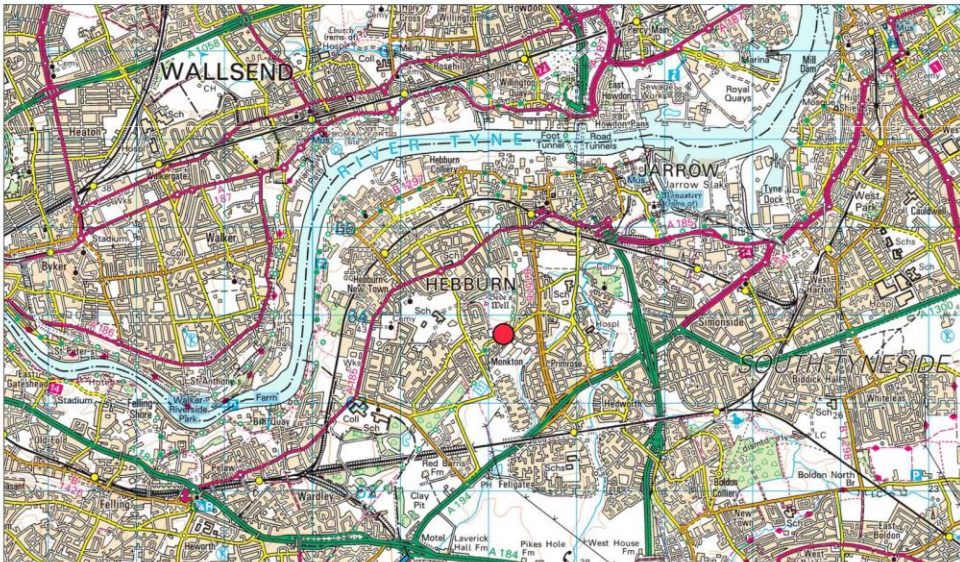
The results of monitoring indicate that no significant archaeological remains were damaged or destroyed during the groundworks associated with redevelopment of the property, but any future works in the locality should be considered on their own merits with respect to potential archaeological intervention.

1. PURPOSE OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

1.1 The Archaeological Practice was instructed by Mr and Mrs Thurston to carry out an archaeological watching brief at Bede House in order to mitigate the potential impact of ground reduction works being carried out within the stable block to Bede House, Jarrow.



*Illus. 01 - 03:
The Location of Bede
House (red dot) in
Monkton, Jarrow,
South Tyneside*



1.2 Bede House (formerly Bede Cottage), a structure externally of 17th-century character, stands on the north side of the village street of Monkton, near Jarrow (NGR: NZ 3212 6375). The house is abutted on the east by the larger Monkton Farmhouse, dated '1740' which until recently formed part of the same dwelling. In a detailed published account¹ what was then Bede Cottage was seen as of 16th century date, remodelled with the insertion of the majority of its present architectural features in the mid-to-late 17th century. The block adjoining the house on the west was described as a stable, and ascribed 'constructional characteristics of a much later period', although replacing an earlier addition; it was omitted from the published plans and drawings. It is this block which was subject to the groundworks with which this report is concerned.

1.3 It was considered that a watching brief would be appropriate during ground investigations within the site since it is of known historic importance and sub-surface archaeological remains, potentially including refuse dumps and indications of industrial activity could survive within it.

1.4 It is now a standard practice to request that any archaeological deposits which are likely to be disturbed and/or destroyed by development are recorded, either in advance of, or during, development. This is in line with the historic environment policies within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), issued by the Department of Communities & Local Government (March 2012), and the earlier Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide. In view of the potential for groundworks associated with this development to impact on surviving archaeological remains, the Planning Authority, acting on the advice of Humber Archaeology Partnership, has stipulated that an archaeological watching brief should be maintained during the excavation works associated with the scheme to ensure that any archaeological remains found to exist on the site are appropriately recorded to determine their character and state of survival.

1.5 The programme of works comprises archaeological observation during ground-works within the area of proposed development to allow the recording of archaeological deposits whilst causing minimal delay to the development programme. Specifically, the archaeological watching brief covered the following groundworks:

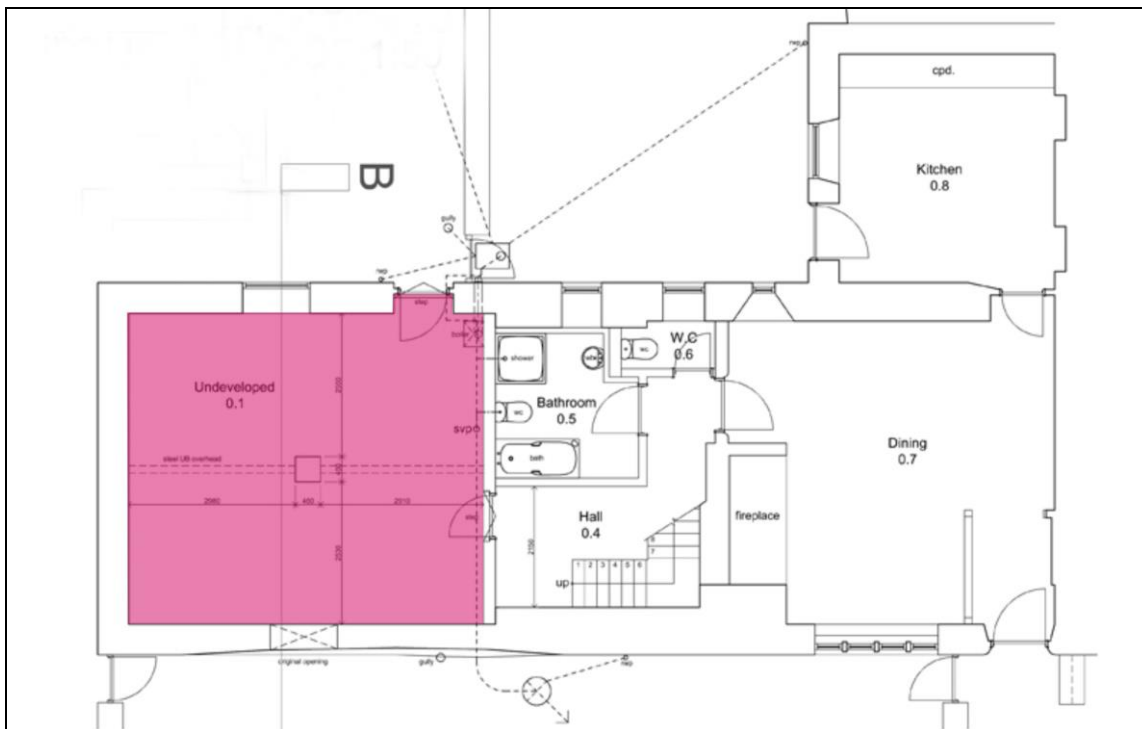
- Groundworks associated with internal ground reduction operations.

¹ D.C.Kear I (1984) *Archaeologia Aeliana* 5th ser, 12, 181-208.



Illus. 04-07:

Extracts from Historic Ordnance Survey Plans of Bede House in Monkton.
(clockwise from top left – 1870s, 1890s, 1940s & 1970s).



Illus. 08: Plan of Bede House in Monkton, showing the location and extent of the area (shaded) subject to archaeological monitoring during ground reduction works.

2. THE WATCHING BRIEF

2.1 Given the potential archaeological sensitivity of the site it was stipulated that a watching brief should be carried out during the works in order to record any archaeological remains of importance revealed during the excavations.

2.2 The aims of the watching brief were to determine whether archaeological features or deposits were present on the site, and to make an appropriate record of any such finds by photographic and other means.

2.3 Accordingly, site works were attended over the course of two days in order to monitor and record the results of groundworks carried out in November, 2015, variously undertaken using a mechanical mini-excavator and by hand.

2.4 The works carried out in November 2015 comprised the excavation of a trench around the inner perimeter of the space, followed by reduction of the central part of the area. The work was accomplished by machine with surfaces cleaned by hand, as appropriate, to allow photographic recording.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Excavation was carried out by machine to a depth of 0.60 m within the interior space of the workshop (see *Illus. 09-11*).



Illus. 09: View of interior excavations from the South-west.



Illus. 10: View of interior excavations from the South, showing clay in the south-facing section.

The excavation revealed sterile, reddish silty clay immediately below the modern surface containing no archaeological remains of any kind, including structures, other built features or artifacts. It was considered likely that the reddish sterile ground exposed by excavation comprised the original sub-soil upon which the structure was built, but it is equally possible that it represents a highly-compacted made deposit.



Illus. 11: View of interior excavations from the South-east.

A cross-incised stone of unknown provenance was noted in a lower course of the south face of the workshop building. It was unclear whether the cross was the result of deliberate working or accidental abrasion, but the former is considered most likely. Its date of origin, however, is unknown.



Illus. 12: The position of a cross-incised stone of unknown provenance in the south face of the workshop building.



Illus. 13 cross-incised stone of unknown provenance in the south face of the workshop building.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The groundworks monitored in November 2015 at Bede House produced no results of archaeological interest.

4.2 Any further groundworks on the site should be considered on their own merits with respect to potential archaeological intervention.

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