
WALWICK COTTAGE & CAMBERWICK
WALWICK, HUMSHAUGH
NORTHUMBERLAND

~ ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ~

MARCH 2019



Prepared for: <i>Mr. Trevor Erskine-Meade</i>	By: <i>The Archaeological Practice Ltd.</i>
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WALWICK COTTAGE & CAMBERWICK,
WALWICK, HUMSHAUGH,
NORTHUMBERLAND

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Prepared by:

The Archaeological Practice Ltd.



Frontispiece: *A retaining boundary wall on the west side of the Walwick Cottage plot, illustrating a substantial variance in ground level relative to the neighbouring plot of Walwick Hall, evidence of significant landscaping in the 18th-19th century.*

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Date of fieldwork: 11th March 2019

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Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief
Prepared by The Archaeological Practice Ltd. February 2019.

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SUMMARY

A programme of archaeological mitigation work was carried out in March 2019, to satisfy the terms of a planning condition for development proposals at Walwick Cottage & Camberwick, located in the village of Walwick, near Chollerford in south Northumberland. The development includes a barn conversion to create a granny annexe and gym, with linkway access to Camberwick; creation of a new drive with access to Camberwick from the B6318; and enlargement of the porch of Walwick Cottage.

The site is located in an archaeologically sensitive location on the projected line of Hadrian's Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and lies 900m to the west of Chesters Roman Fort (Cilurnum). Additionally, the site may form part of the sunken medieval village of Walwick, which is thought to have extended further to the west.

The groundworks required were relatively limited and largely located in areas which have been subject to previous groundworks associated with the levelling of the site and the provision of retaining walls and surfacing. Nevertheless, the archaeological remains that originally crossed the site are not only substantial but also of national significance. Given the possibility that truncated remains could survive on the site, the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland recommended that a programme of archaeological monitoring be carried out during groundworks required for development.

The results of the subsequent watching brief concluded that no archaeological levels or remains of any sort were impacted upon by the present developments at Walwick Cottage. The shallow excavations required for the development revealed only modern layers of topsoil and gravel before reaching natural sandy-clay and bedrock. It was evident that the site had experienced a greater extent of landscaping than previously assumed. Whilst the west end of the plot had been subject to deeper landscaping in modern times, the east side has also been truncated to natural levels and bedrock, probably during the construction of the Walwick Cottage complex in the 18th/19th century. The only area where natural ground was not seen, was at foundation level of the demolished southern boundary wall, which does retain some limited potential for the survival of archaeological levels beneath. However, depths exceeding this level were not reached during the current development, and it is likely that this area of wall-line was also subject to landscaping prior to its construction.

No further archaeological monitoring is required as part of the current development works at Walwick Cottage & Camberwick. Whilst significant landscaping activities have truncated all pre-modern layers within the plot, it is recommended that any future groundworks in the area of the southern boundary wall that exceed depths of its current foundation (approx. 0.20 m below ground level), and of the verge immediately south of it, should be subject to archaeological monitoring.

1. BACKGROUND TO THE EXCAVATION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This document, prepared by the Archaeological Practice Ltd. and commissioned by Mr Trevor Erskine-Meade, reports on a programme of archaeological mitigation work to satisfy the terms of a planning condition for development proposals at Walwick Cottage & Camberwick, located in the village of Walwick, near Chollerford in south Northumberland (*see Illus. 01-03*).

The development includes the following works: conversion of an outbuilding to create a granny annexe and gym, and creation of linkway access to Camberwick; creation of a new access road to Camberwick from the B6318; and enlargement of the porch of Walwick Cottage.

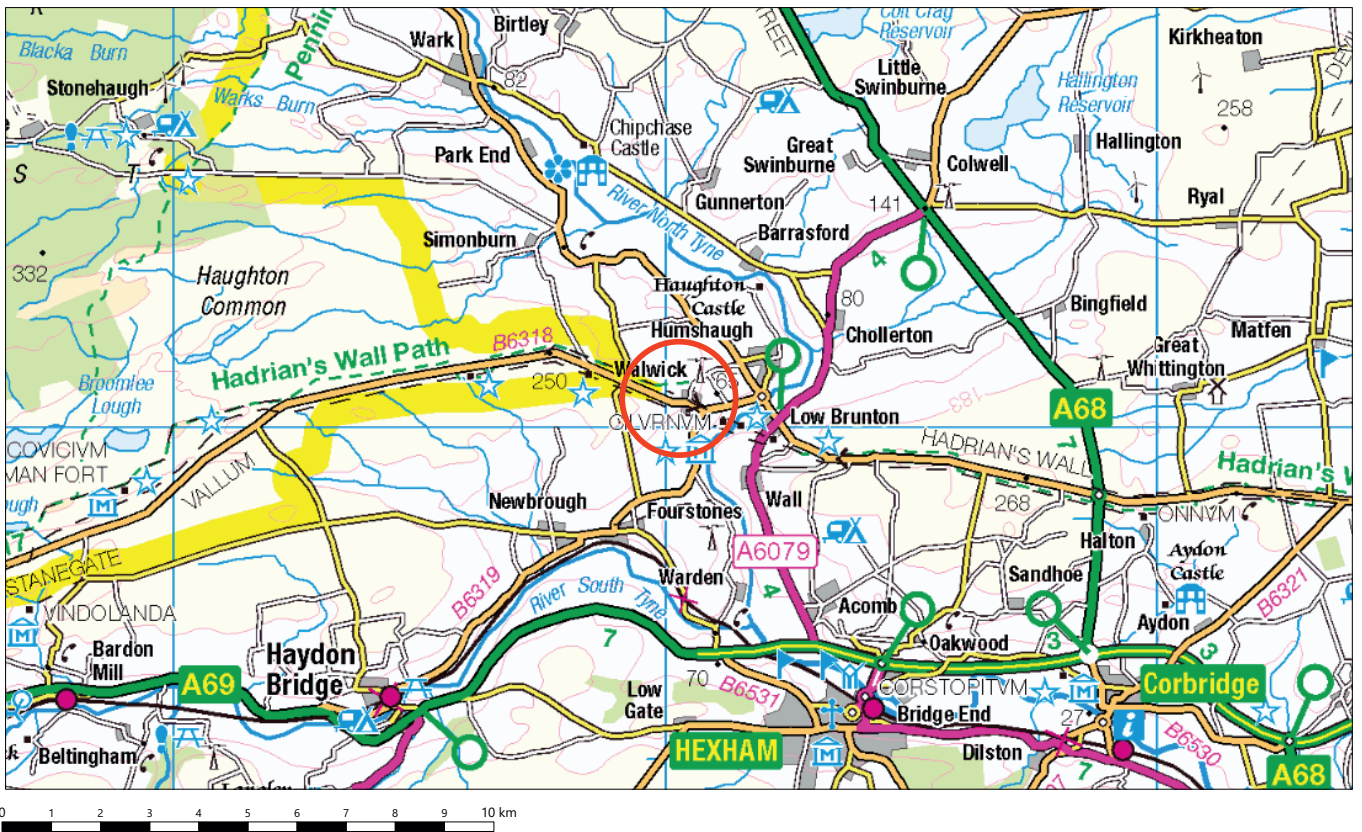
In response to the planning application for the development proposals (18/03052/FUL), the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland noted that the site is located in an archaeologically sensitive location on the line of Hadrian's Wall. She stated that whilst the curtilage of properties along Hadrian's Wall are frequently excluded from scheduling, nationally important remains still have the potential to extend into these areas.

The groundworks required are relatively limited and largely located in areas which have been subject to previous groundworks associated with the levelling of the site and the provision of retaining walls and surfacing. Nevertheless, the archaeological remains that originally crossed the site are not only substantial but also of national significance. Therefore, given that there remains the possibility that truncated remains could have survived on site, it was recommended that a programme of archaeological monitoring work be carried out during groundworks required for development.

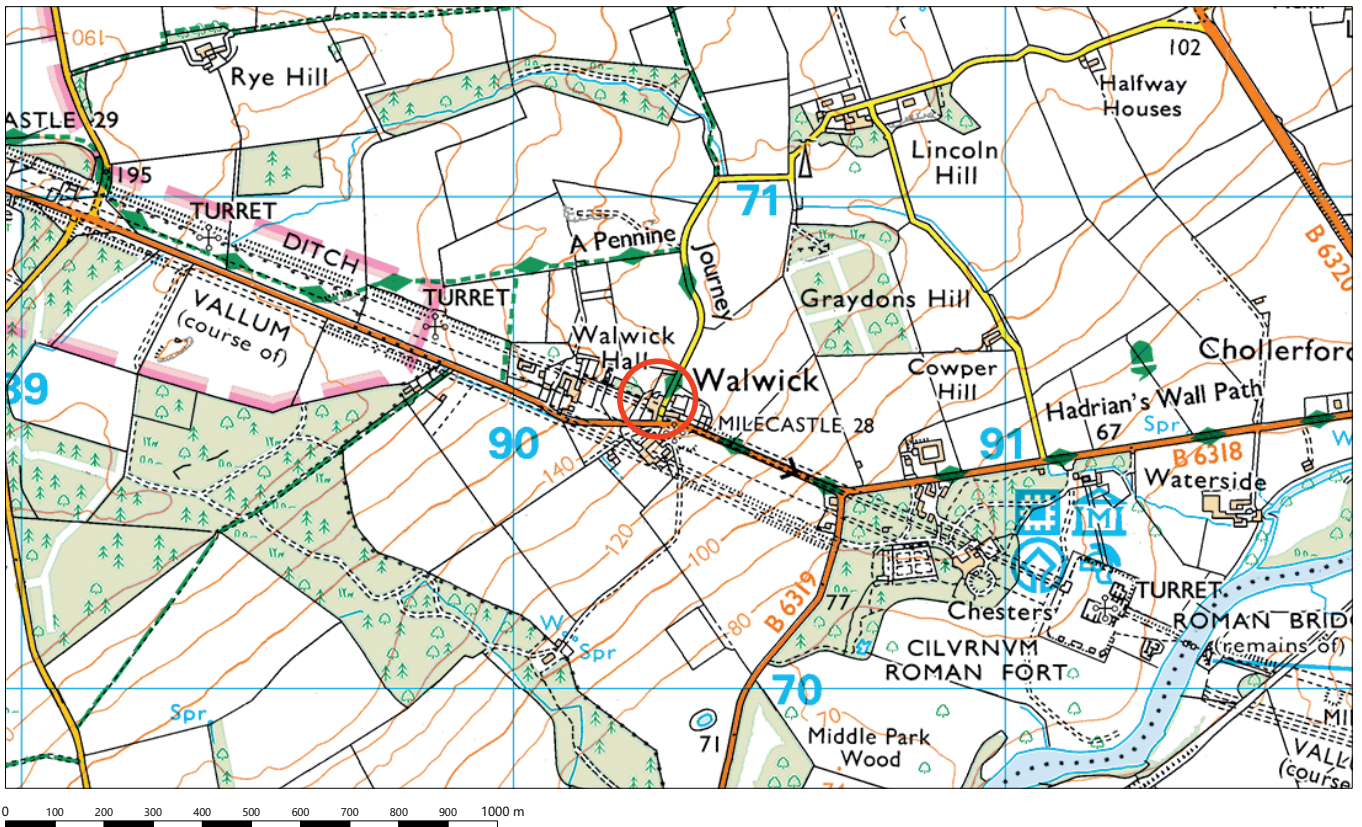
1.2 CULTURAL HERITAGE BACKGROUND

The dispersed settlement of Walwick within the parish of Humshaugh, lies along both sides of the B6318 Military Road, just over a mile to the west of the bridging point of the North Tyne at Chollerford, three and a half miles north of Hexham and on a prominent and exposed east-west ridge with broad views to the south-east over the North Tyne Valley and south over Warden Hill.

Walwick Hall (HER 21533) the grade II listed building bordering the property to the west, is predominantly of eighteenth century date but with some earlier fabric and extended in the nineteenth century. It lies within gardens and woodland to the north of the B6318 and immediately to the west of a dog-leg in the course of this road. Other listed components of the hall (both grade II) are the gate piers and attached walls along the B6318 (HER 21534) and a stone sundial in the forecourt to the south of the Hall (HER 21535).



Illus. 01: Regional view, showing the location of Walwick (circled in red), near Hexham in southern Northumberland.



Illus. 02: Village view, showing the location of Walwick Cottage (circled in red) on the north side of Walwick.



Illus. 03: Site view, showing the location of the watching brief site (shaded in purple) at Walwick Cottage & Camberwick, with the line of Hadrian's Wall (shaded in blue) and the extent of the scheduled monument (shaded in red).

In 2008, an archaeological evaluation (Archaeological Practice 2008) in the grounds of Walwick Hall, uncovered well preserved remains of the Military Way, the Roman road flanking Hadrian's Wall, beneath shallow topsoil and slightly to the north of its projected course as shown on the OS map.

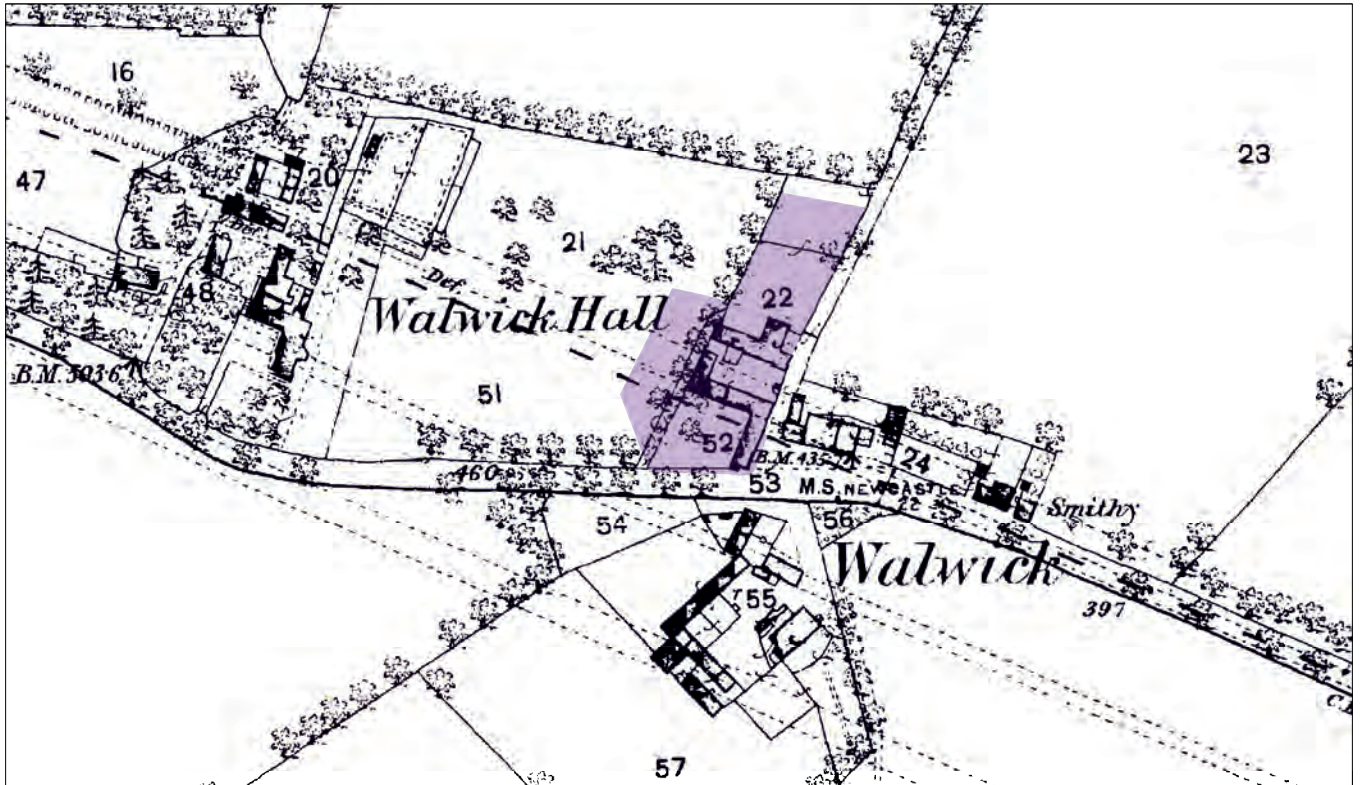
Walwick Cottage lies some 900m to the west of Chesters Roman Fort (Cilurnum) and on the projected line of Hadrian's Wall (*see Illus. 03*). The Wall line crosses the area to the west of Walwick Cottage and the south of the farm buildings, while the ditch to the north of Hadrian's Wall runs parallel to and north of the line of the Wall, broadly in the area of the farm buildings.

The yard/car parking area to the west of Walwick Cottage and the footprint of Walwick Cottage and farm buildings appear to have been subject to significant previous groundworks including ground reduction across much of the site.

The surrounding ground level slopes down from west to east and as a result the previous groundworks to the west are likely to be greater than the groundworks to the east. The higher ground to the rear of the western retaining wall and adjacent to the road appear to have been subject to less disturbance.

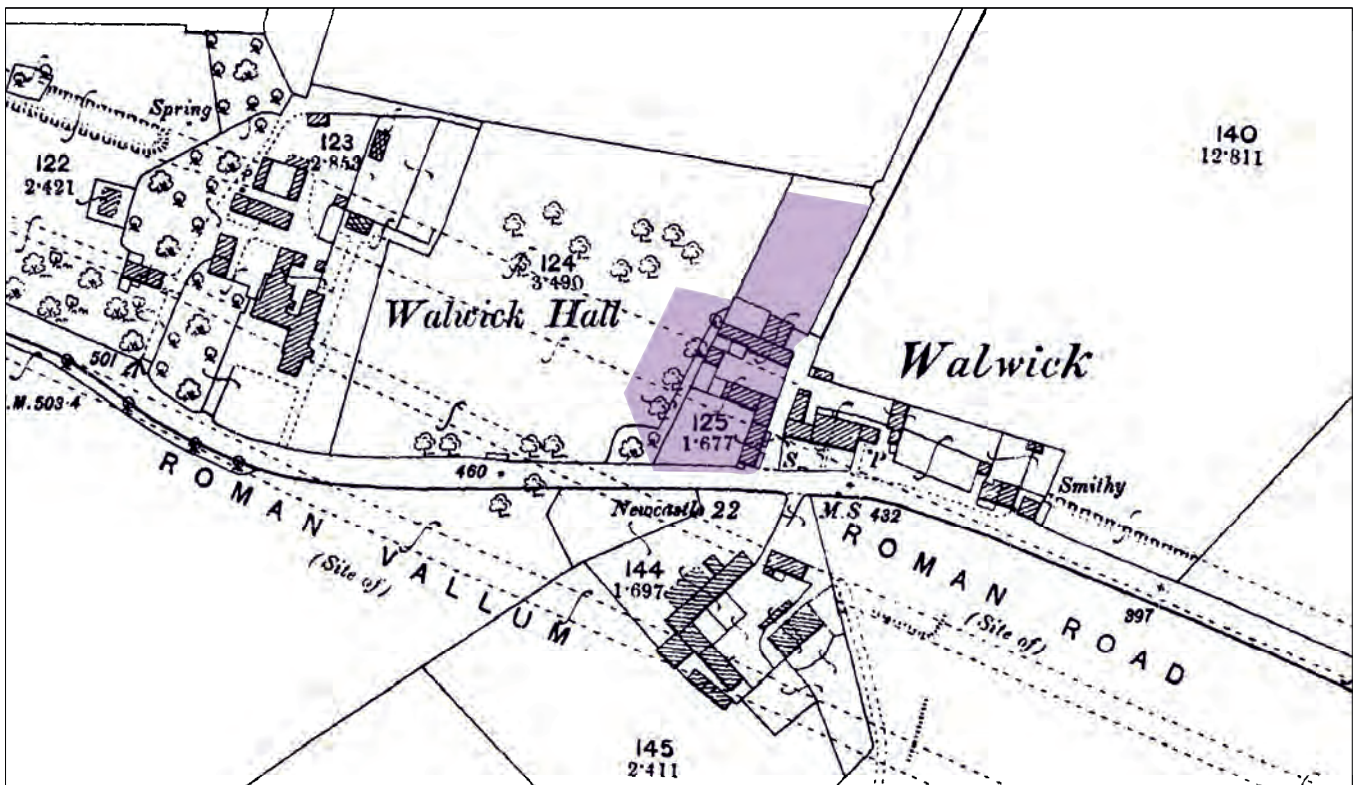
In addition to the site's location on the line of Hadrian's Wall and associated remains, the Northumberland County Historic Environment Record also indicates that the site form part of the sunken medieval village of Walwick which is thought to have extended further to the west.

The medieval village and manor of Walwick (HER 9318), a member of the Liberty or Franchise of Tynedale seems to have extended over a greater area than the modern settlement (Walwick is classed as a shrunken medieval village in Wrathmell 1975) and probably some way to the west of modern properties clustering around the junction of the B6318 with the minor road running north then east to Humshaugh. There are however, no surviving earthworks to positively identify the extent of the medieval village.



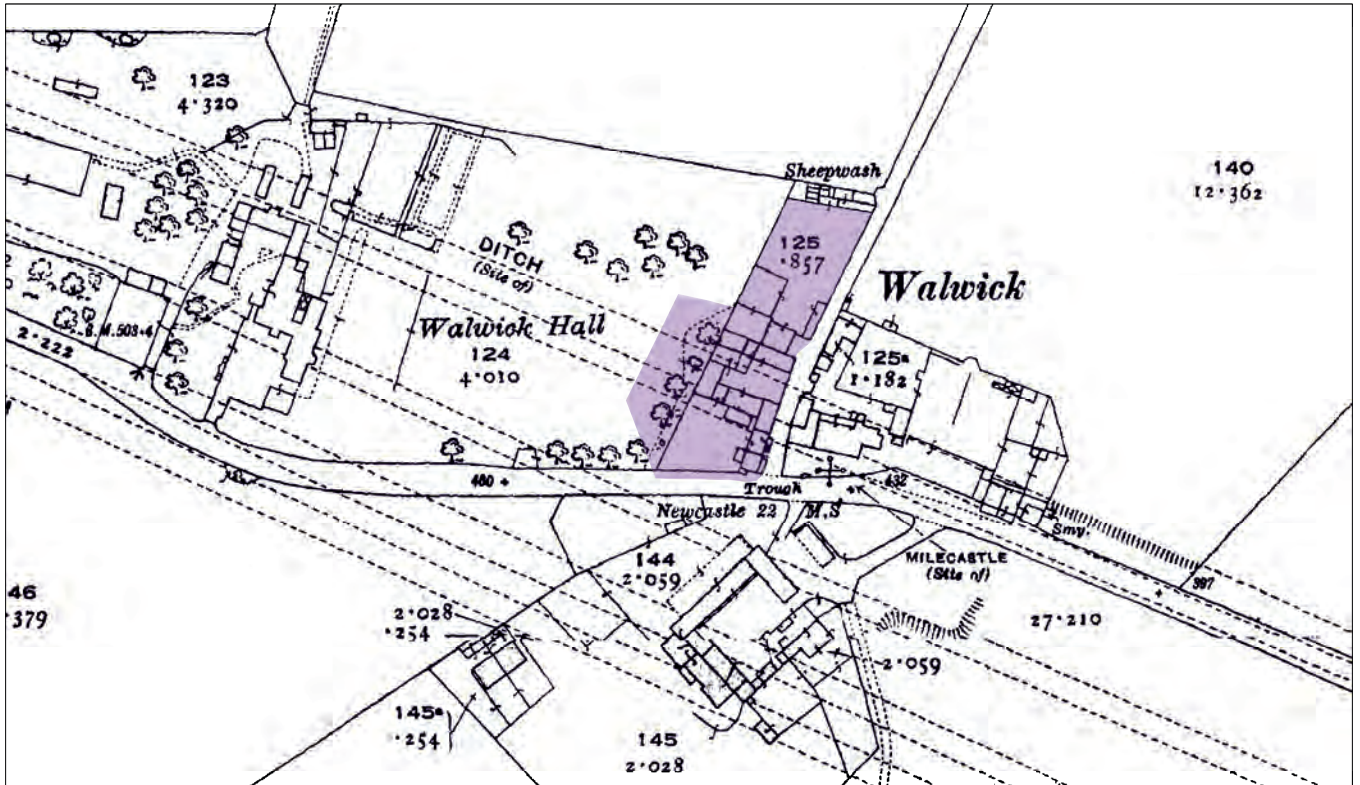
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Illus. 04: Extract from the c.1884 Ordnance Survey Plan 1:2500 series, showing the watching brief site at Walwick Cottage (highlighted in purple).

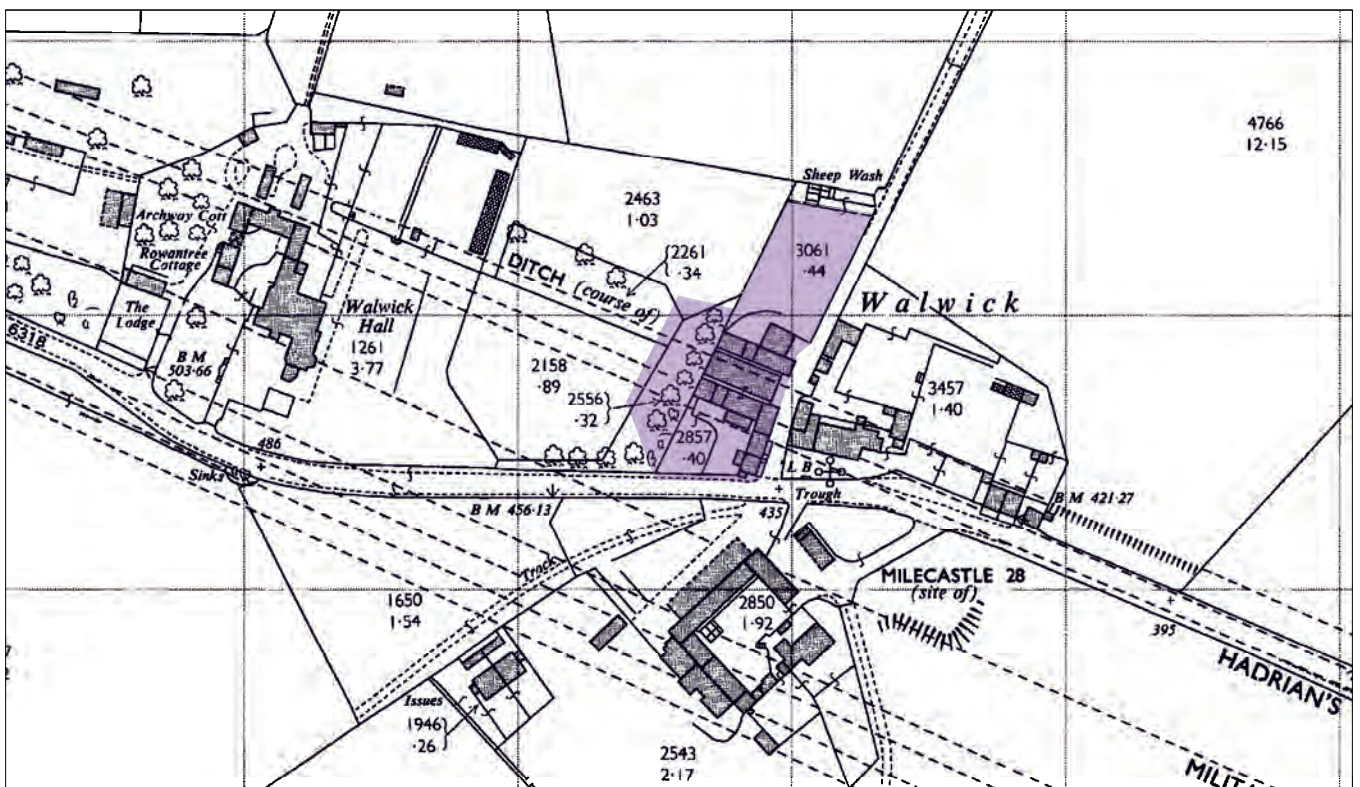


0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200 m

Illus. 05: Extract from the c.1896 Ordnance Survey Plan 1:2500 Series, showing the watching brief site at Walwick Cottage (highlighted in purple).



Illus. 06: Extract from the c.1922 Ordnance Survey Plan 1:2500 series, showing the watching brief site at Walwick Cottage (highlighted in purple).



Illus. 07: Extract from the c.1965 Ordnance Survey Plan 1:2500 Series, showing the watching brief site at Walwick Cottage (highlighted in purple).

2. FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

A Written Scheme of Investigation was approved by the Assistant County Archaeologist prior to the commencement of groundworks for the project, and specified the watching brief to monitor:

- Rebuilding of the retaining wall and the walls separating the two properties
- Any ground reduction
- Re-surfacing
- Installation of new stone gate posts and new access in the south of the site
- Ground reduction within the farm buildings exceeding the depth of current flooring
- Any service or drainage connections

It was noted by the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland that, in line with paragraph 199 of the NPPF, archaeological monitoring work can be reduced or stopped in areas where it can be categorically shown on site that previous disturbance exceeds the depth of the proposed groundworks.

The aims of the watching brief were to record any archaeological features exposed during groundworks on the site and to undertake sufficient intrusive excavation to enable their date, character, form, stratigraphic relationships and state of survival to be understood. The process typically involves significantly less intrusive excavation than would be required under full excavation conditions.

The archaeological watching brief was carried out in accordance with:

The current North East Regional Research Framework (NERRF)

<http://www.nerrf.net/>

Northumberland County Council (NCC) Conservation Team

Standards for Archaeological Mitigation Work 2018 - Watching brief.

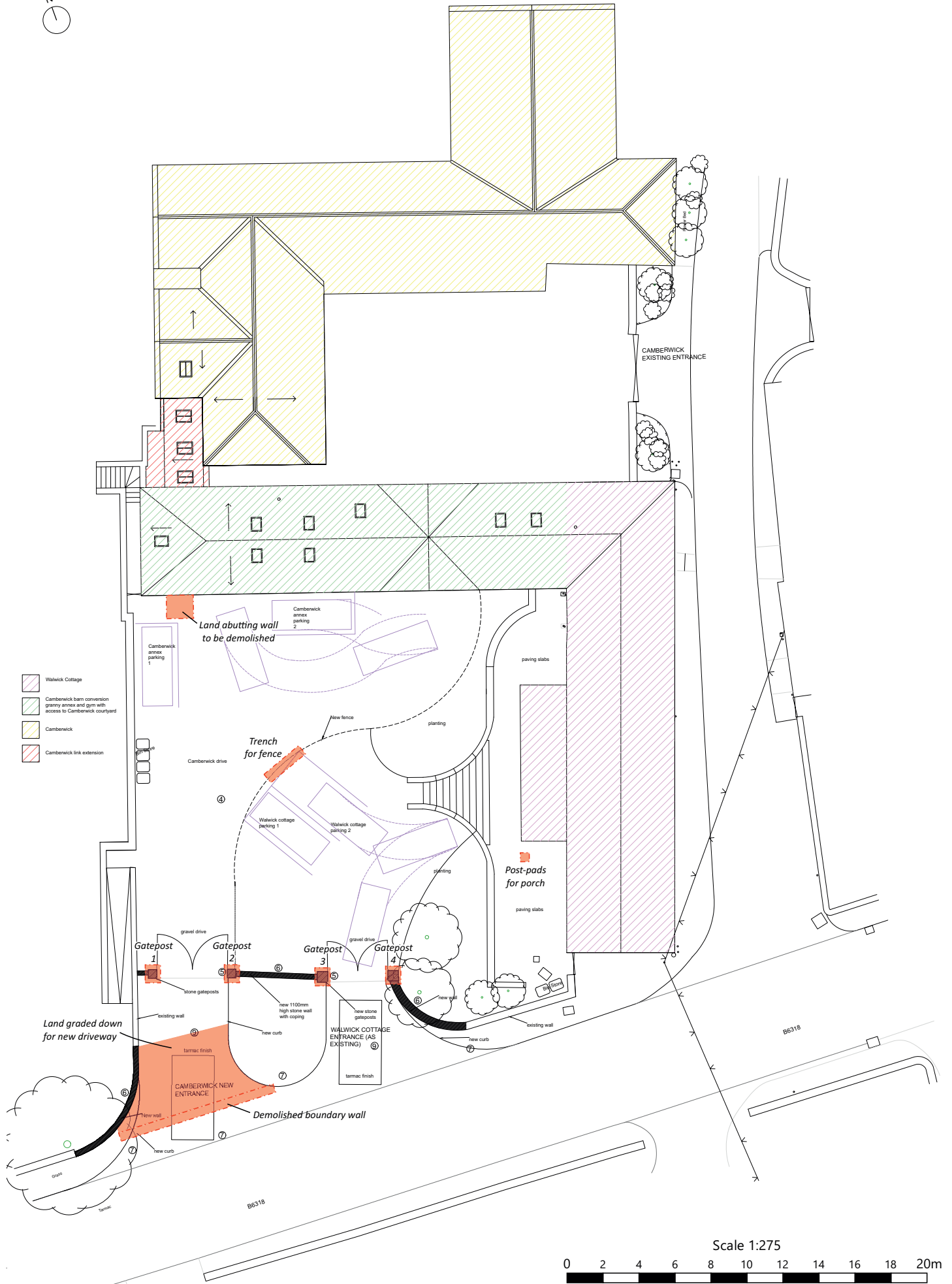
All archaeological staff were suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. Before commencement of work they were been made aware of what work is required under the specification and they understood the aims and methodologies of the project.

Prior to the commencement of groundworks, discussions were held between the appointed archaeologist and the client, Mr. Trevor Erskine-Meade, during which it was agreed that several features of the development would not to be excavated any deeper than their existing predecessors, thereby negating much of the requirement for archaeological watching brief within those areas. These included: replacement wall foundations for part of the western retaining wall; the west end of the southern boundary wall fronting the Military Road verge; the replacement paving within the cottage; additionally, provision of new services will utilise existing lines and ducts.

Subsequent to this clarification, watching brief monitoring was carried out upon the following stages of groundworks:

- Demolition of western end of southern boundary wall fronting the Military Road verge and grading of adjoining land to the north to sufficient depth for new driveway/access.
- Excavation of four small pits for the provision of new stone gateposts.
- Area of resurfacing and proposed fence subdividing the driveway/car parking plots.
- NW corner of plot, adjoining the barn conversion area.
- Post-pads for enlargement of porch area.

A detailed site plan of all the works can be seen in *Illus. 08*.



Illus. 08: Site plan, showing proposed renovations at Walwick Cottage and Camberwick; supplied by Kevin Doonan Architects, with annotations to show watching brief excavations in March 2019.

3. RESULTS

Watching brief monitoring in five areas (see *Illus. 08*) produced the following results.

3.1 Demolition of western end of southern boundary wall fronting the Military Road verge and grading of adjoining land to the north to sufficient depth for new driveway/access (*Photos 1-4*).

Works commenced demolishing a 10 meter long stretch of the main southern boundary wall of the Walwick Cottage plot that fronts on to the Military Road verge. Within the plot, the west end of this wall connects to the curving south end of the western retaining wall – which stands almost 2m in height and illustrates a substantial variance in ground level relative to the neighbouring plot of Walwick Hall, evidence of significant landscaping – probable levelling of the site in the 18th-19th century. The south boundary wall comprises of roughly dressed sandstone rubble with cement mortar bond and rounded coping. It measured approximately 0.50m in width and the base of its foundation course was reached at a depth of approximately 0.20m below the verge. From the lowest point of this line, the ground was graded to the north for a distance of approximately 5-6 meters, a sufficient incline to drain water from the plot and resurfacing to be laid. The stratigraphy revealed was of a rich, firm, mid reddish-brown silty-loam with very few inclusions and of entirely modern origin. No further horizons were reached during this stage of works and no archaeological remains were observed. Additionally, an examination of the stones constituting the body of the boundary wall was made subsequent to its demolition; however no architectural fragments suggestive of possible reuse were evident.

3.2 Excavation of four small pits for the provision of new stone gateposts (*Photos 5-12*).

These four sondage pits were positioned over the locations for proposed stone gateposts near the entrance to the site. Each pit measured 1m (length) x 0.85m (width) and was excavated down to natural sandy bedrock – a depth of 0.30-0.40m for the pair of western pits (Gateposts 1 and 2) and 0.50m for the eastern (Gateposts 3 and 4). The stratigraphy for the western pits demonstrated a shallow, negligible layer of modern loamy-topsoil before a natural coarse sandy/stony matrix sitting above fractured and crumbly sandstone bedrock. The eastern pits had a greater depth of rich silty-loam topsoil, as witnessed at the southern boundary wall (see 3.1), of a depth approx. 0.30-0.40m before reaching natural levels. Again, this topsoil was clean and of modern origin. No archaeological remains were observed.

3.3 Area of resurfacing and proposed fence subdividing the driveway/car parking plots (*Photos 13-16*).

The area proposed for new driveway resurfacing is to be divided into two separate plots, with a railed fence to be set up as the boundary. A portion of trench was positioned mid-way along this fenceline and excavated down to natural levels. The trench measured 2.50m (length) x 0.85m (width) x 0.25m (depth). The stratigraphy of the trench comprised of the following layers: [01] existing driveway gravels, observed to a depth of 0.08m; [02] yellow dolomite, observed to a depth of 0.12m; [03] oily mixed clay and modern gravel, observed to a depth of 0.20m; with [04] natural

sandy-clay thereafter with common sandstone fragments throughout. No archaeological levels or remains were observed.

3.4 NW corner of plot, adjoining the barn conversion area (*Photos 17-18*).

Prior to the watching brief, a large tree-bowl had been removed from the northwest corner of the plot, which had significantly damaged the outer skin of the west end of the south wall belonging to the barn structure proposed for conversion. The remaining fabric of the wall, at the end of the barn, was to be removed and a new way-through created. The demolition would not go deeper than the base of the existing concrete plinth, which was observed to a depth of 0.28m below the wall foundation. A trench measuring 1.50m (length) x 1.30m (width) x 1.05m (depth below the barn door-hatch), was excavated abutting the east side of the concrete plinth and the south wall of the barn, and the composition of its stratigraphy recorded. It became evident that more significant landscaping had occurred in modern times at this end of the site, with the base of the existing barn foundations sitting approximately 0.20m above the present ground level. Under the barn-hatch door, the foundation rubble could be seen for a depth of approximately 0.40m before reaching the natural sandy and fractured sandstone mix, as elsewhere. All archaeological horizons predating the barn have been truncated in this area and no remains were observed.

3.5 Post-pads for enlargement of porch area (*Photos 19-20*).

Shallow slots for post-pads were scraped into the modern gravel/hardcore surface surrounding the porch, a depth of no more than a few centimetres. No archaeological levels were reached and no remains observed.

4. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

No archaeological remains of any sort were impacted upon by the present developments at Walwick Cottage and monitored by watching brief. The relatively shallow excavations required for the development revealed only modern layers of topsoil and gravel before reaching natural sandy-clay and bedrock. The watching brief effectively confirms the statement by the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland, discussed in planning document (18/03052/FUL), that the plot has largely been subject to previous groundworks associated with the levelling of the site and the provision of retaining walls and surfacing. The extent of this landscaping is greater than previously assumed. Whilst the west end of the plot had experienced deeper landscaping excavations in modern times, the east side has also been truncated by landscaping down to sandy natural levels and bedrock, probably associated with the construction of the Walwick Cottage complex in the 18th/19th century. The only area where natural ground was not seen, was at foundation level of the demolished southern boundary wall, which does retain some limited potential for the survival of archaeological levels beneath. However, depths exceeding this level will not be reached during the current development, and it is likely that this area of wall-line was also subject to landscaping prior to its construction.

No further archaeological monitoring is required as part of the current development works at Walwick Cottage & Camberwick. Whilst significant landscaping activities have truncated all pre-modern layers within the plot, it is recommended that any future groundworks in the area of the southern boundary wall that exceed depths of its current foundation (approx. 0.20m below ground level), and of the verge immediately south of it, should be subject to archaeological watching brief.

5. REFERENCES

Breeze, D J, 2006 (ed) *J Collingwood Bruce's Handbook to the Roman Wall*, 14th edn. Newcastle upon Tyne: The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The Archaeological Practice Ltd, August 2008. *Archaeological Evaluation at Walwick Hall, Walwick, Northumberland*. Grey Literature Report for Mr G Wylie.

The Archaeological Practice Ltd, February 2019. *Walwick Cottage & Camberwick, Walwick, Humshaugh, Northumberland. Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief*.



Photo 1. View looking east during demolition of the southern boundary wall, fronting on to the Military Road verge.



Photo 2. View looking west during demolition of the southern boundary wall, fronting on to the Military Road verge.



Photo 3. View looking west after demolition and removal of southern boundary wall and shallow grading of the surface for new driveway in.



Photo 4. View looking north after demolition and removal of southern boundary wall and shallow grading of the surface for new driveway in.



Photo 5. View looking west-northwest at small trench for Gatepost 1.



Photo 6. View looking north-northeast at small trench for Gatepost 1.



Photo 7. View looking east-southeast at small trench for Gatepost 2.



Photo 8. View looking north-northeast at small trench for Gatepost 2.



Photo 9. View looking west-northwest at small trench for Gatepost 3.



Photo 10. View looking south at small trench for Gatepost 3.



Photo 11. View looking east-southeast at small trench for Gatepost 4.



Photo 12. View looking south-southwest at small trench for Gatepost 4.



Photo 13. View looking west-southwest during excavation of portion of property boundary fenceline trench and driveway area.



Photo 14. View looking west-southwest along of portion of property boundary fenceline trench and driveway area.



Photo 15. South-southeast facing section of portion of property boundary fenceline trench and driveway area.



Photo 16. North-northwest facing section of portion of property boundary fenceline trench and driveway area.



Photo 17. SSW facing elevation of damaged walling at west end of barn, to be demolished.



Photo 18. SSW facing section of small trench excavated immediately east of damaged wall area to be demolished at west end of barn.



Photo 19. View looking east-southeast at post-pad location for new porch timber.



Photo 20. View looking north-northeast at post-pad location for new porch timber.

APPENDIX 1:

Walwick Cottage & Camberwick, Walwick, Humshaugh, Northumberland.

Project Design for Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared by The Archaeological Practice Ltd. February 2019.

WALWICK COTTAGE & CAMBERWICK
WALWICK, HUMSHAUGH
NORTHUMBERLAND

Project Design for Archaeological
Watching Brief

Prepared by

The Archaeological Practice Ltd.

21st February, 2019

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7. EXECUTION OF THE SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
8. TIMETABLE AND STAFFING

1. INTRODUCTION

This document, prepared by the Archaeological Practice Ltd. and commissioned by Mr Trevor Erskine-Meade, provides a methodology for carrying out archaeological mitigation work to satisfy the terms of a planning condition for development proposals including the following: conversion of an outbuilding to create a granny annexe and gym, and creation of linkway access to Camberwick; creation of a new access road to Camberwick from the B6318; enlargement of the porch of Walwick Cottage.

The archaeological condition relates to the mitigation of impacts to the archaeological resource and requires that:

Prior to commencement of development a programme of archaeological work shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The archaeological scheme shall comprise three stages of work. Each stage shall be completed and approved in writing by the Mineral Planning Authority before it can be discharged.

a) *No development or archaeological mitigation shall commence on site until a written scheme of investigation based on NCCCT Standards and Site Specific Requirements documents has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

b) *The archaeological recording scheme required by NCCCT Standards and Site Specific Requirements documents must be completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation.*

c) *The programme of analysis, reporting, publication and archiving if required by NCCCT Standards and Site Specific Requirements documents must be completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation.*

This document (the 'Written Scheme of Investigation'), setting out a programme of archaeological mitigation works, has been submitted to satisfy the requirements of the Condition.

2. SITE LOCATION

The proposed development site is located in the village of Walwick, near Hexham in south Northumberland (*Illus. 01 - 03*).

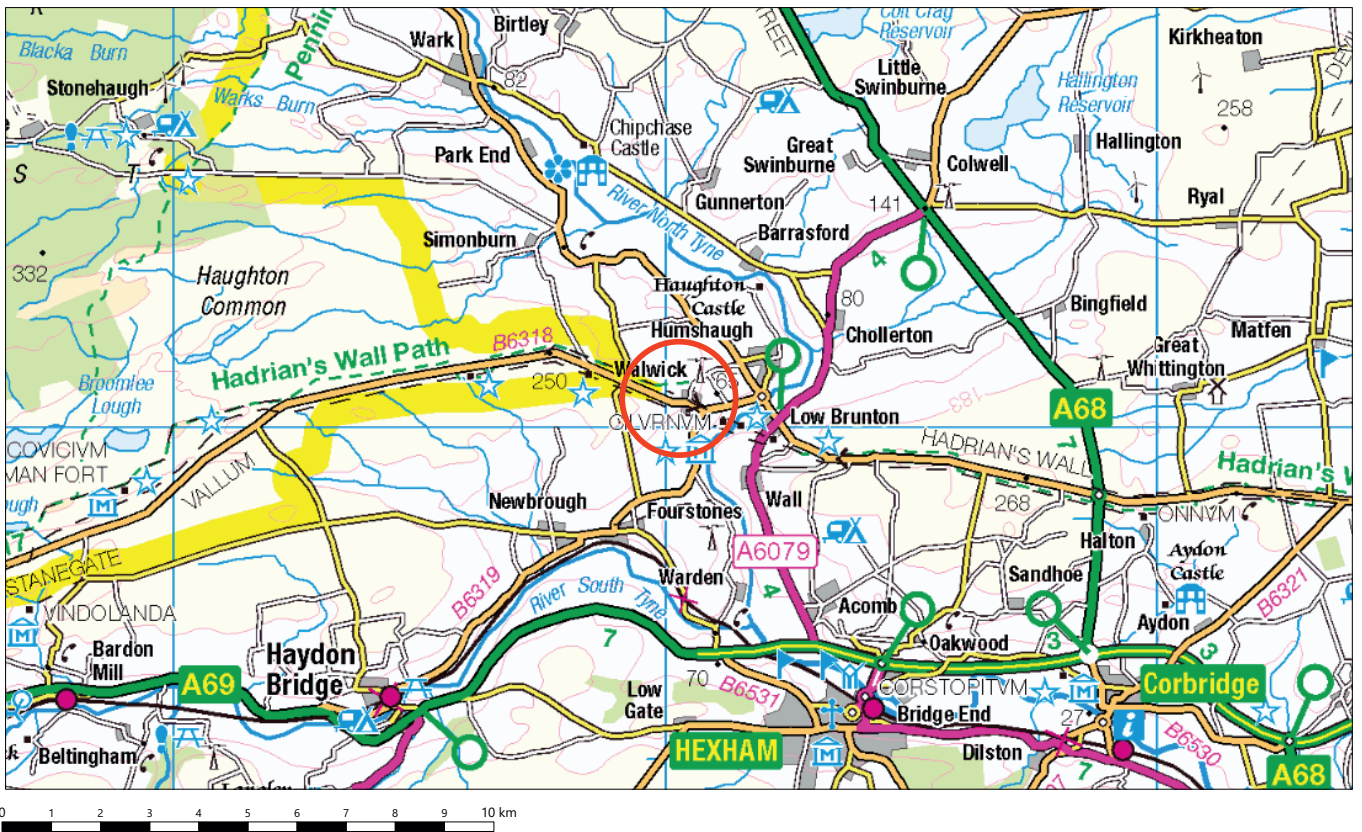
3. NATURE OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS

The WSI responds to a brief written by The Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland, who made the following comments in relation to each of the specific development proposals:

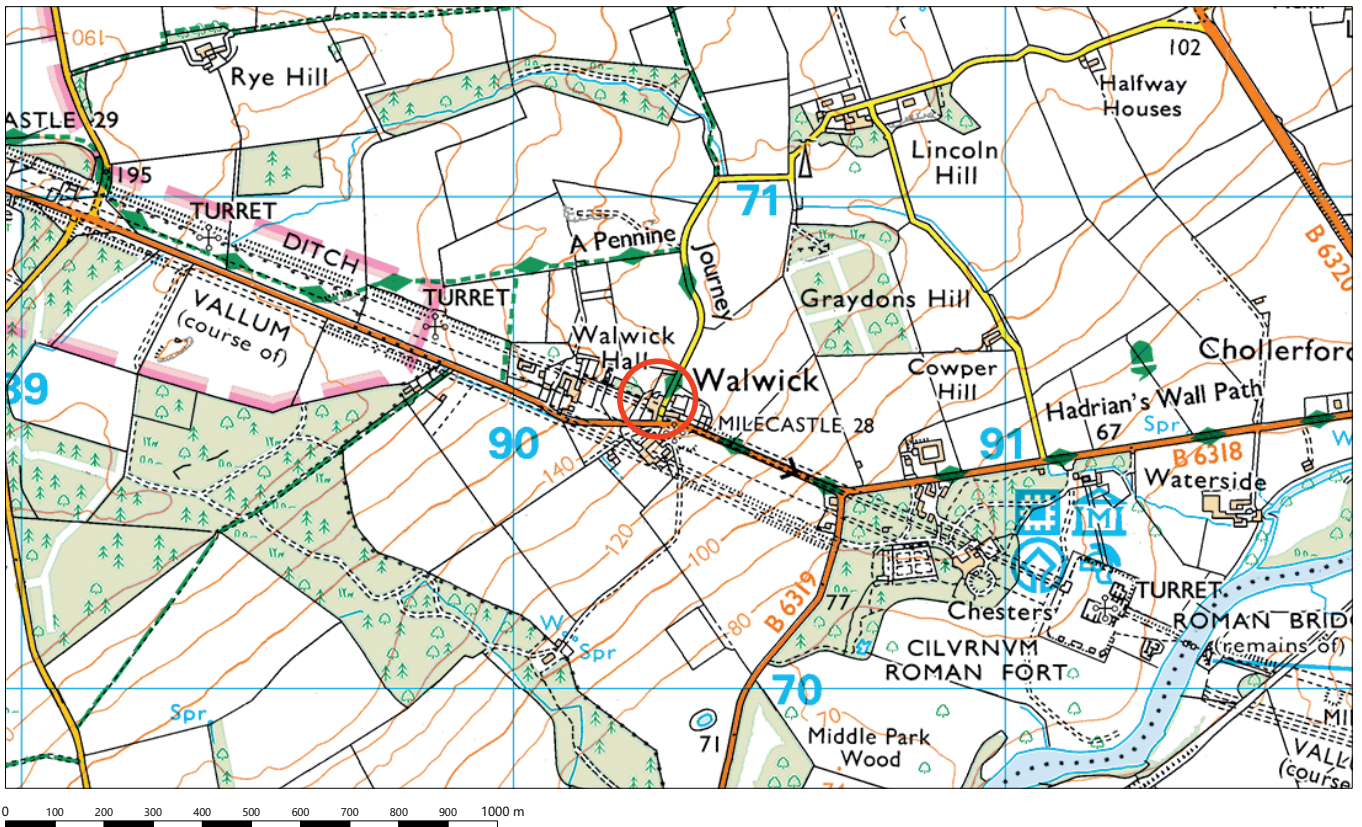
Walwick Cottage

- *Alterations to the fabric of the building including windows, doors and internal works.* No objections to the proposed alterations.
- *Construction of a new wooden overhang to existing porch.*

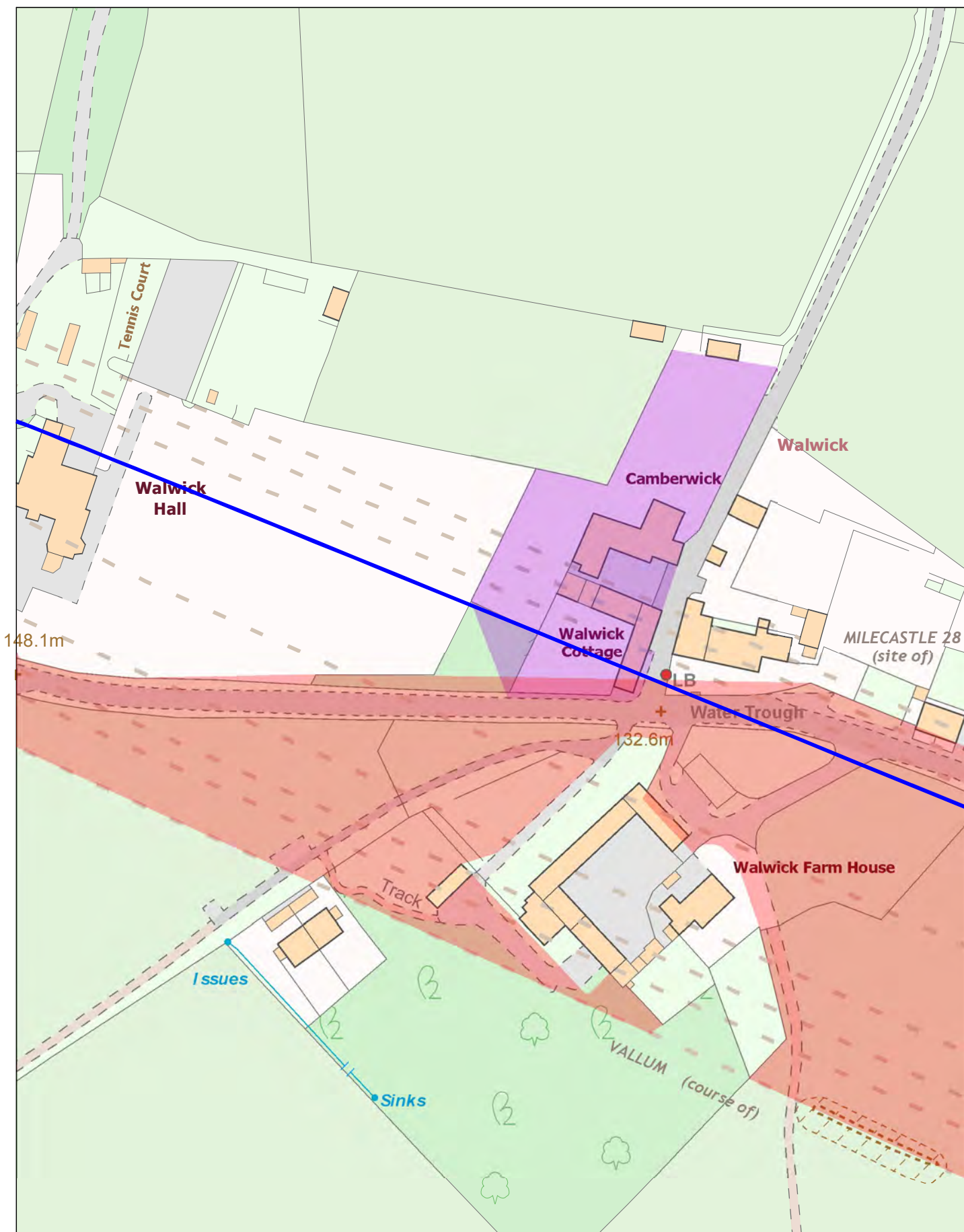
Previous disturbance in this area makes it unlikely that the limited groundworks required will impact on significant archaeological remains.



Illus. 01: Regional view, showing the location of Walwick (circled in red), near Hexham in southern Northumberland.



Illus. 02: Village view, showing the location of Walwick Cottage (circled in red) on the north side of Walwick.



Scale 1:1500
 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100 m

Illus. 03: Site view, showing the location of the watching brief site (shaded in purple) at Walwick Cotage & Camberwick, with the line of Hadrian's Wall (shaded in blue) and the extent of the scheduled monument (shaded in red).

- *Installation of new stone gate posts and gates within the scheduled area in the south of the site.*

Unlikely to have a significant impact on archaeological remains. However scheduled monument consent will be required within the scheduled area, so confirmation will need to be sought from Historic England to confirm the extent of the scheduled area.

- *Resurfacing and any service or drainage connections.*

This area is likely to have been subject to a level of previous disturbance and/or build-up of deposits associated with previous levelling and surfacing.

Camberwick

- *Proposed alterations and new openings in the existing historic building.*

No objections to the proposed alterations.

- *Rebuild the western gable end of the farm buildings and construct a new retaining wall broadly on the line of the exit gnm retaining wall.*

The proposals are unlikely to have a significant impact on potential remains of the ditch to the north of Hadrian's Wall.

- *New link building to the north of Camberwick.*

Groundworks will be limited and located in an area likely to have been subject to previous groundworks associated with the levelling of this area.

- *Install new insulated concrete floors.*

Excavation for the new concrete floors will be 200mm-300mm in depth. The depth of the existing flooring in this building is likely to be a comparable depth.

- *Installation of new stone gate posts and gates within the scheduled area to the south of the building and resurfacing.*

Unlikely to have a significant impact on archaeological remains. However scheduled monument consent will be required within the scheduled area so confirmation will need to be sought from Historic England to confirm the extent of the scheduled area.

- *New wall and railings separating Camberwick from Walwick Cottage including a new 1100mm high stone wall and 500mm high stone wall.*

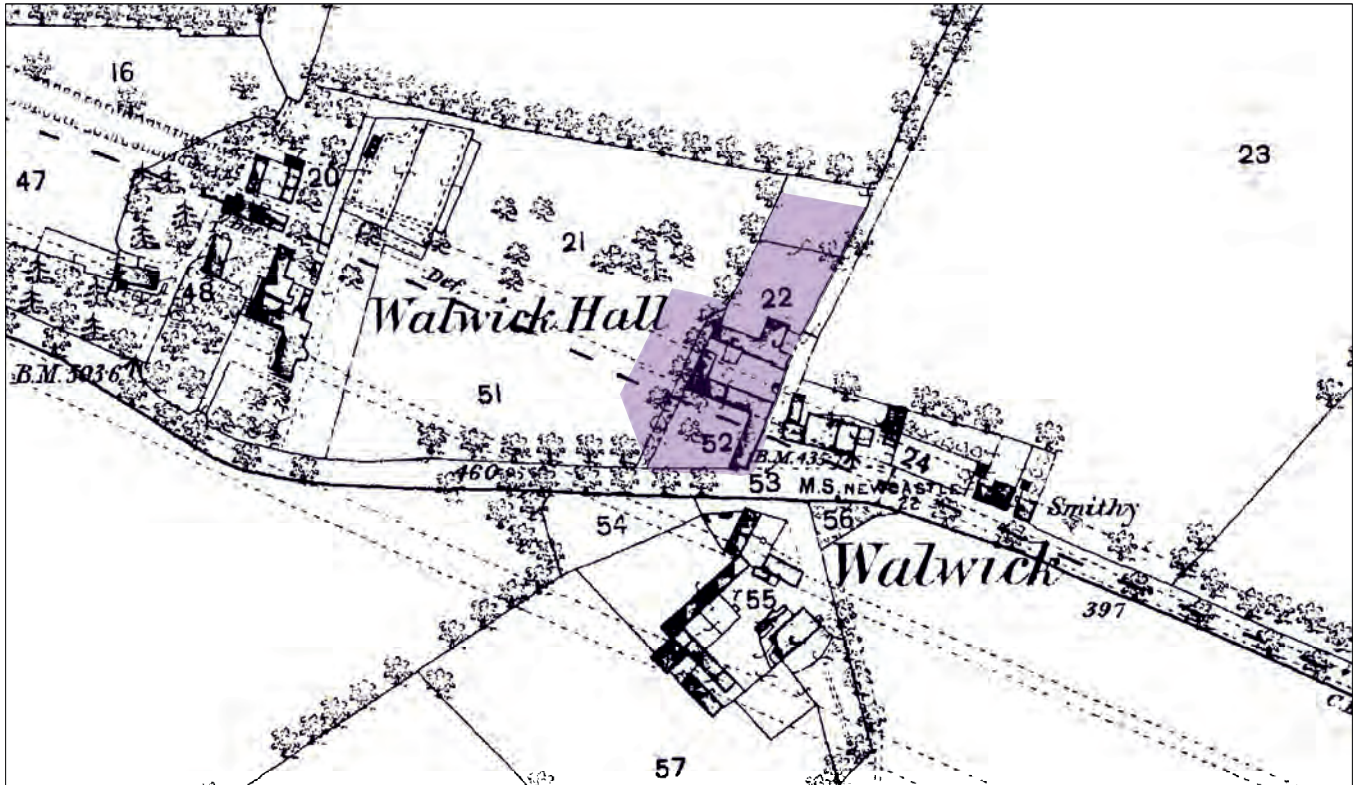
Located in an area which has been the subject of groundworks associated with the previous levelling of the area but it will cross the line of Hadrian's Wall.

The Assistant County Archaeologist goes on to state that the groundworks required are relatively limited and largely located in areas which have been subject to previous groundworks associated with the levelling of the site and the provision of retaining walls and surfacing. Nevertheless, the archaeological remains that originally crossed the site are not only substantial but also of national significance. Therefore, given that there remains the possibility that truncated remains could have survived on site, the Assistant County Archaeologists has recommended that a programme of archaeological monitoring work is carried out on site during groundworks required for development.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND AND PREVIOUS WORK

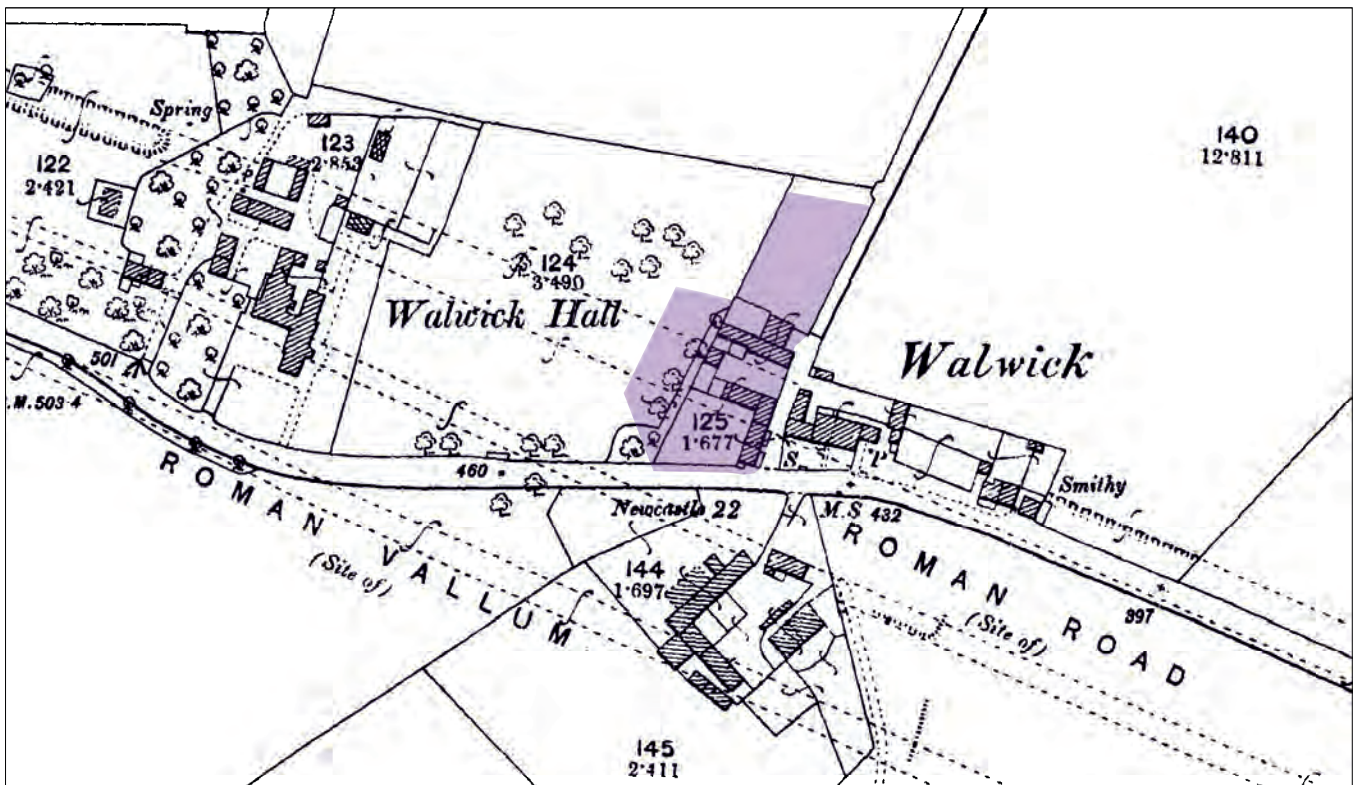
The site is located in an archaeologically sensitive location on the line of Hadrian's Wall. The curtilage of properties along Hadrian's Wall are frequently excluded from scheduling, although nationally important remains still have the potential to extend into these areas.

On this particular site, the line of Hadrian's Wall crosses the area to the west of Walwick Cottage and the south of the farm buildings, while the ditch to the north of Hadrian's Wall runs parallel to and north of the line of the Wall, broadly in the area of the farm buildings. The yard/car parking area to the west of Walwick Cottage and the footprint of Walwick Cottage and farm buildings appear to have been subject to



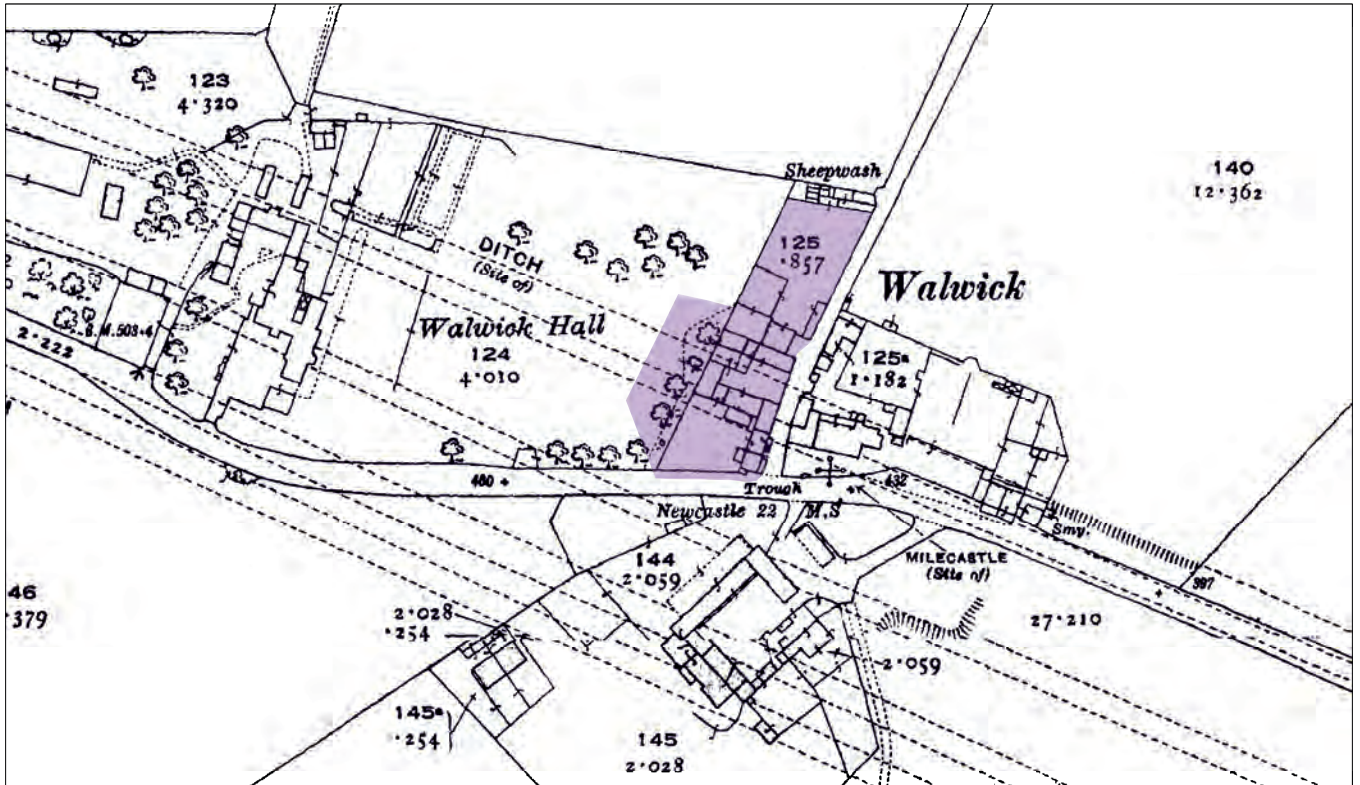
0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200 m

Illus. 04: Extract from the c.1884 Ordnance Survey Plan 1:2500 series, showing the watching brief site at Walwick Cottage (highlighted in purple).



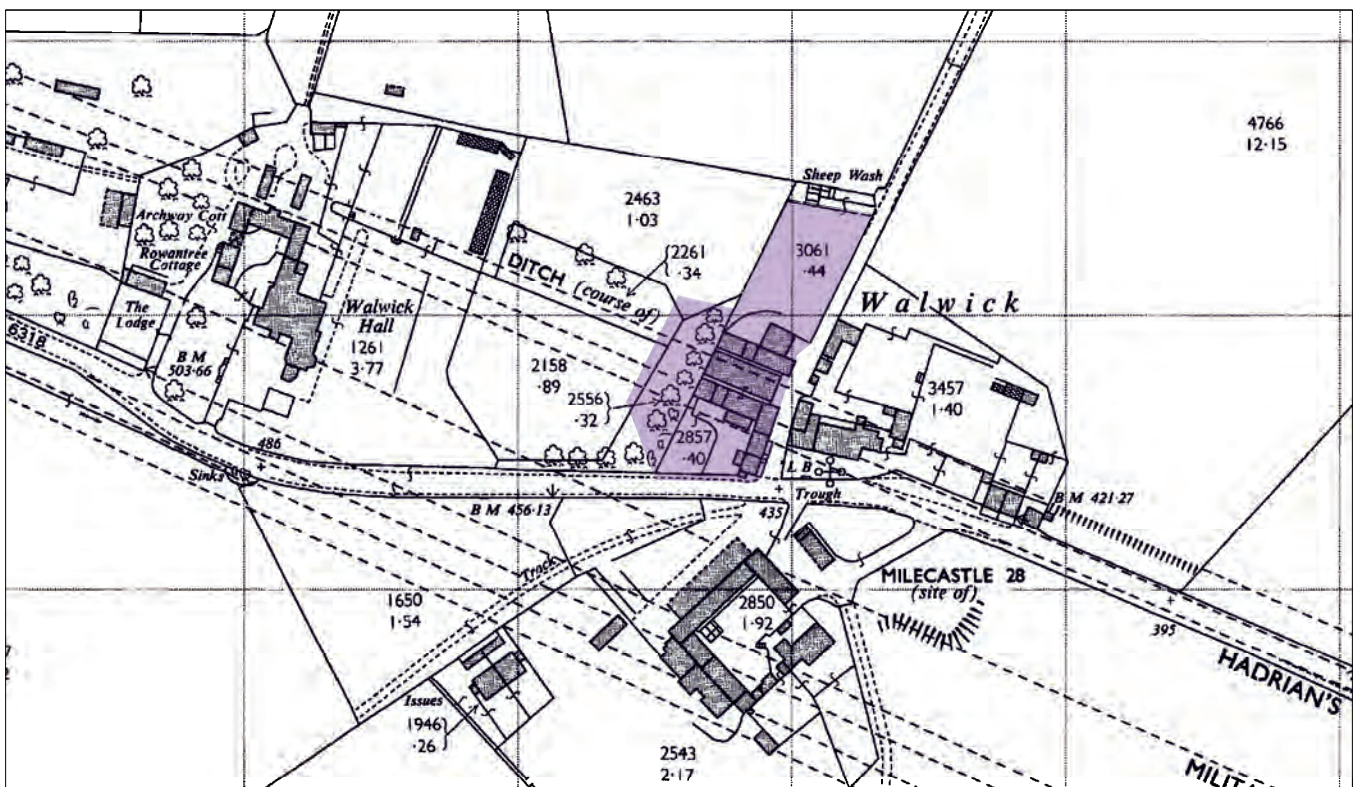
0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200 m

Illus. 05: Extract from the c.1896 Ordnance Survey Plan 1:2500 Series, showing the watching brief site at Walwick Cottage (highlighted in purple).



0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200 m

Illus. 06: Extract from the c.1922 Ordnance Survey Plan 1:2500 series, showing the watching brief site at Walwick Cottage (highlighted in purple).



0 20 40 60 80 100 120 140 160 180 200 m

Illus. 07: Extract from the c.1965 Ordnance Survey Plan 1:2500 Series, showing the watching brief site at Walwick Cottage (highlighted in purple).

significant previous groundworks including ground reduction across much of the site. The surrounding ground level slopes down from west to east and as a result the previous groundworks to the west are likely to be greater than the groundworks to the east. The higher ground to the rear of the western retaining wall and adjacent to the road appear to have been subject to less disturbance.

In addition to the site's location on the line of Hadrian's Wall and associated remains, the Northumberland County Historic Environment Record also indicates that the site form part of the sunken medieval village of Walwick which is thought to have extended further to the west.

5. MITIGATION SCHEME

5.1 WATCHING BRIEF WORKS

Archaeological mitigation within the site will take the form of an archaeological watching brief, the aims of which are to record any archaeological features exposed during groundworks on the site and to undertake sufficient intrusive excavation to enable their date, character, form, stratigraphic relationships and state of survival to be understood. This process will typically involve significantly less intrusive excavation than would be required under full excavation conditions.

The watching brief will cover the following groundworks for the development:

- Rebuilding of the retaining wall and the walls separating the two properties
- Any ground reduction
- Re-surfacing
- Installation of new stone gate posts and new access in the south of the site
- Ground reduction within the farm buildings exceeding the depth of current flooring
- Any service or drainage connections

It was noted by the Assistant County Archaeologist for Northumberland that, in line with paragraph 199 of the NPPF, archaeological monitoring work can be reduced or stopped in areas where it can be categorically shown on site that previous disturbance does not exceed the depth of the proposed groundworks.

6. METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

6.1 WATCHING BRIEF

6.1.1 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with:

The current North East Regional Research Framework (NERRF)

<http://www.nerrf.net/>

Northumberland County Council (NCC) Conservation Team

Standards for Archaeological Mitigation Work 2018 - Watching brief.

6.1.2 All archaeological staff will be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. Before commencement of work they will have been made aware of what work is required under the specification and they will understand the aims and methodologies of the project.

6.1.3 In order for the Archaeological Watching Brief to be successfully implemented, the developer will keep the archaeological contractor fully apprised of the timetable for groundworks, including any changes to the schedule and will notify the contractor when the various stages of the groundworks are about to commence so that visits can be timetabled accordingly. The archaeological contractor will, in turn, keep the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team apprised of any significant discoveries.

6.1.4 A presence will be maintained during the following intrusive works:

- Rebuilding of the retaining wall and the walls separating the two properties
- Any ground reduction
- Re-surfacing
- Installation of new stone gate posts and new access in the south of the site
- Ground reduction within the farm buildings exceeding the depth of current flooring
- Any service or drainage connections

6.1.5 The site will be examined prior to invasive works in order to identify and record any potentially significant topographic features, or other indications suggestive of sub-surface remains.

6.1.6 All sections and deposits exposed during construction operations will be systematically examined to identify, excavate, sample and record, as appropriate, any previously unidentified archaeological features which survive within the area of excavation and which are threatened by development works.

6.1.7 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded photographically. Photographic recording shall also be undertaken where no archaeological features are encountered, and include general working shots.

6.1.8 Should any archaeological features be identified, sufficient time will be allowed to investigate and record these features within practicable operational parameters.

6.1.9 In the event of the discovery of archaeological remains which are of greater significance than anticipated, work will cease and the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team and a representative of the developer will be notified. An assessment will be made of the importance of the remains and a mitigation strategy for recording or preservation *in situ*, as appropriate, will be agreed upon by all the parties.

6.1.10 In the event of human burials being discovered, the archaeological contractor will procure and comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Burial Act 1857. Where any part of a human burial is disturbed the whole burial will be archaeologically exhumed. Excavated human remains (see sections 3.2-3.5) will be treated in accordance with the guidance set out in McKinley & Roberts 1993 *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains* Institute of Field Archaeologists Technical Paper No. 13 and English Heritage/The Church of England 2005 *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* English Heritage.

6.1.11 Appropriate procedures under the relevant legislation will be followed in the event of the discovery of artifacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996.

6.1.12 Contingency should be allowed in the event of the discovery of archaeological remains which are of a greater number or extent than anticipated, in which case work will cease and Northumberland Conservation and a representative of the developer will be notified. An assessment will be made of the importance of the remains and any provision for their recording or preservation in situ as appropriate.

The contingency required by NC in the Project Brief for this project has been set at up to 50 person-days.

6.2 Recording Strategy

Archaeological stratigraphy revealed by sample excavation or watching brief will be recorded by the following means:

6.2.1 Written descriptions. Each archaeological context will be recorded on a pro-forma sheet. Minimum recorded details will consist of the following: a unique identifier; an objective description which includes measurements of extent and details of colour and composition; an interpretative estimate of function, clearly identified as such; at least one absolute height value; the identifiers of related contexts and a description of the relationship with such contexts (for preference, executed as a mini Harris matrix); references to other recording media in which representations of the context are held (plans, sections, photographs).

6.2.2 Measured illustrations. Detail plans and sectional profiles of archaeological features will be at appropriate scales (1:20 or 1:10). Archaeological contexts will be referenced by their unique identifiers. All illustrations will be properly identified, scaled and referenced to the site survey control.

6.2.3 Photographs. Any features of archaeological note will be recorded using colour transparencies along with black and white film stock. Digital photographs will be taken as a backup for the entire record. A system will be used for identifying the archaeological features photographed. ADS (York) will be contacted to discuss digital archiving prior to commencement of groundworks.

6.2.4 An appropriate control network for the survey of any archaeological remains revealed in excavation will be established.

6.2.5 The survey control network will be related to the OS grid.

6.2.6 The survey control network and the position of recorded structures, features and finds will be located on a map of an appropriate scale (1:2500 or 1:500)

6.2.7 At least one absolute height value related to OD will be recorded for each archaeological context.

6.2.8 All processing, storage and conservation of finds will be carried out in compliance with the relevant IFA and UKIC (United Kingdom Institute of Conservation) guidelines.

6.2.9 Portable remains will be removed by hand; all artifacts encountered will be recovered.

6.3 Environmental Sampling and Scientific Dating

6.3.1 The investigations will 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. The following strategy for environmental sampling will be confirmed with Jacqui Huntley, English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (0191 3341137 or 07713 400387) before the excavation begins.

6.3.2 Deposits/fills with potential for environmental evidence will be assessed by taking up to two bulk samples of 30 litres from any context selected for analysis by the excavator from suitable (i.e. uncontaminated) deposits. Deposits/fills totalling less than 30 litres in volume will be sampled in their entirety. Samples which are judged to be most suitable on grounds of being derived from uncontaminated and reasonably well-dated deposits and/or recognisable features will be selected for full analysis, reporting and publication. In the event of a large number of deposits potentially being available for sampling, the advice of the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor will be sought.

6.3.3 Deposits will be sampled for remains of pollen, food residues, microfossils, small boned ecofacts (e.g. fish & insects/micro-fauna), industrial residues (e.g. micro-slugs - hammer-scale and spherical droplets), cloth and timber. Flotation samples and samples taken for coarse-mesh sieving from dry deposits will be processed at the time of fieldwork wherever possible.

6.3.4 Any significant ecofactual assemblages will be assessed by a recognised specialist.

6.3.5 Deposits will be assessed for their potential for radiocarbon, archaeo-magnetic and Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating. As well as providing information on construction techniques, timbers will be assessed for their potential for dendrochronology dating, in which case sampling will follow procedures in *Dendrochronology: guidelines on producing and interpreting dendrochronological dates* (Hillam 1998) and *Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood* (R. Brunning 1996). A maximum of 5 samples of material suitable for dating by scientific means (e.g: Radiocarbon, Luminescence, Remnant Magnetism, etc.) will be collected.

6.3.6 In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens (of whatever period, date or function) are identified during the watching brief, provision will be made to collect at least one archaeo-magnetic date to be calculated from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwellings sites a minimum of one per building identified). Where applicable, samples will be collected from the site and processed by a suitably trained specialist for dating purposes. In the event that such deposits or structures are identified, Northumberland Conservation will be contacted to discuss the appropriate response.

6.3.7 Information on the 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. will be provided with each sample submitted for analysis.

6.3.8 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.

6.3.9 Human remains will be treated with care, dignity and respect, in full compliance with the relevant legislation (essentially the Burial Act 1857) and local environmental health concerns. If found, human remains will be left in-situ, covered and protected, and the police, coroner and County Archaeologist informed. If it is agreed that removal of the remains is essential, the Archaeological Practice Ltd, will apply for a licence from the Home Office. Analysis of the osteological material will take place according to published guidelines, *Human Remains from Archaeological Sites, Guidelines for producing assessment documents and analytical reports* (English Heritage 2002).

6.3.10 If anything is found which could be Treasure, under the Treasure Act 1996, it is a legal requirement to report it to the local coroner within 14 days of discovery. The Archaeological Practice Ltd. will comply with the procedures set out in The Treasure Act 1996. Any treasure will be reported to the coroner and to The Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer, Andrew Agate (0191 208 5031 or email: andrew.agate@twmuseums.org.uk) for guidance on the Treasure Act procedures. Treasure is defined as the following:

- Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10% by weight of metal is precious metal and that is at least 300 years old when found
- Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find
- All coins from the same find provided that they are at least 300 years old when found, but if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least ten
- Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, another object that is Treasure
- Any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. Only objects that are less than 300 years old, that are made substantially of gold or silver, that have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown will come into this category

6.4 Analysis and Reporting of Recovered Data

6.4.1 Following the completion of the Field Investigation and before any of the archaeological post-excavation work is commenced, an archive (the Site Archive) containing all the data gathered during fieldwork will be prepared. This material will be quantified, ordered, indexed and rendered internally consistent. It will be prepared according to the guidelines given in English Heritage's MAP 2 document, Appendix 3 (English Heritage 1991).

6.4.2 Following completion of the Field Investigation, a report will be prepared collating and synthesizing the structural, artefactual and environmental data relating to each agreed component part of the evaluation and recording process.

6.5 Production of Final Report

6.5.1 Copies of the report will be provided within two months of the completion of fieldwork to the developer and the NCC archaeologist.

6.5.2 Three copies of the report will be provided. Each will be bound, with each page and heading numbered. Any further copies required will be produced electronically. The report will include as a minimum the following:

Oasis and planning reference numbers.

A summary statement of methodologies used.

A location plan of the site and any archaeological discoveries of note.

A summary statement of results.

Conclusions

A table summarizing the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds.

6.5.3 Following completion of the analysis and publication phase of the work, an archive (the Research Archive) containing all the data derived from the work done during the analysis phase will be prepared. The archive will be prepared to the standard specified by English Heritage (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute of Conservation guidelines.

6.5.4 Arrangements will be made to deposit the Site Archive (including Finds) and the Research Archive with the designated curatorial authority, the Great North Museum Newcastle upon Tyne, within 6 months of the end of the fieldwork.

6.6 Dissemination and Publication of Results of Archaeological Works

6.6.1 An entry for inclusion in the Northumberland County Sites and Monuments Record will be prepared and submitted.

6.6.2 Summary reports of the project will be prepared, if necessary, for inclusion in the appropriate Notices, Annual Reviews, Reports, etc.

6.6.3 In particular a summary of the results of the investigation will be prepared for *Archaeology in Northumberland* and submitted to the Northumberland HER Officer, by December of the year in which the work is completed.

6.6.4 A short report on the work will be submitted to a local academic journal if appropriate.

6.6.5 OASIS: The Archaeological Contractor will complete the online form for the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations Project (OASIS), following consultation with the Northumberland HER Officer. The Contractor agrees to the procedure whereby the information on the form will be placed in the public domain on the OASIS website, following submission of the final report (see 3.6) into the Northumberland County HER.

7. EXECUTION OF THE SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

7.1 The Developer has appointed The Archaeological Practice Ltd. as a professionally competent Archaeological Contractor, on agreed terms, to execute the scheme as set out in the brief supplied by the NCC Archaeologist.

7.2 The present project design must be submitted for approval and, if necessary, modification by the NCC Conservation Team before work on-site can proceed.

7.3 The Developer will allow the NCC Conservation Team and the appointed contractor all reasonable access to the site for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological scheme, subject only to safety requirements.

7.4 The archaeological contractor appointed to manage the execution of the scheme shall ensure that:

7.4.1 The appropriate parties are informed of the objectives, timetable and progress of the archaeological work

7.4.2 The progress of the work is adequately and effectively monitored and the results of this are communicated to the appropriate parties.

7.4.3 Significant problems in the execution of the scheme are communicated at the earliest opportunity to the appropriate parties in order to effect a resolution.

7.5 The archaeological contractor will carry, and will ensure that other archaeological contractors involved in the scheme carry appropriate levels of insurance cover in respect of Employers Liability, Public and Third Party Liability & Professional Indemnity.

7.6 The archaeological contractor will liaise with the appointed CDM Planning Supervisor and prepare or arrange for the preparation of a Safety Plan for the archaeological work.

7.7 At or before the commencement of the scheme the Developer, the appointed Archaeological Contractors, the County Archaeological Officer and other appropriate parties will agree arbitration procedures to be followed in the event of any unresolvable difficulties or disputes arising from the scheme

7.8 Careful assessment has led to the definition of a number of research objectives which identify with a high degree of likelihood the kind of archaeological deposits which the investigation will encounter. Nevertheless, it is possible that discoveries will be made which could not reasonably have been foreseen on the basis of all the information currently available. Any difficulties arising from unforeseen discoveries will be resolved by discussion between all parties involved.

7.9 The Archaeological Contractor(s) appointed to execute the scheme will procure and comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 regarding the exhumation and interment of any human remains discovered within the site, and will comply with all reasonable requirements of any church or other religious body or civil body regarding the manner and method of removal, re-interment or cremation of the human remains, and the removal and disposal of any tombstones or other memorials discovered within the site. The Developer will incur all costs resulting from such compliance.

8. TIMETABLE AND STAFFING

8.2 Fieldwork

A presence will be maintained during the intrusive works.

8.3 Reporting and analysis

Following the completion of on-site work, further time will be required to produce an appropriately illustrated report on the work.

The potential requirement for specialist analyses is an unavoidable risk in all such excavations. The scientific investigation of any features/deposits which are considered significant will be undertaken as a non-negotiable part of this programme. Any such analyses would be carried out by specialists and priced to the client on a costs only basis.

8.4 Personnel:

Archaeological Practice Sub-Contractors

PM: Project Manager
(Richard Carlton)

Environmental analysis: ASDU

PO: Project Officer
(Marc Johnstone)

Finds analysis:
RY: Rob Young
LAJ: Lindsay Allason-Jones

Excavators as required.

JV: Jenny Vaughan

The Archaeological Practice Ltd.



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