

The Archaeological Practice Ltd.



LAND EAST OF RUDCHESTER FARM HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL NORTHUMBERLAND

~ ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF ~

MAY 2021



Prepared for: <i>Mr Richard Pettersson</i>	By: <i>The Archaeological Practice Ltd.</i>
---	--

<i>Project code:</i> AP 21/08	<i>Stage:</i> Final	<i>Compiled by:</i> MJ & AR	<i>Control:</i> RJC	<i>Completion date:</i> 05/05/21
----------------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------------

LAND EAST OF RUDCHESTER FARM
HEDDON-ON-THE-WALL
NORTHUMBERLAND

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

Prepared by:

The Archaeological Practice Ltd.



Frontispiece: View looking ESE during excavation for the base-footing of a new barn, in May 2021. The watching brief site was located in the field to the east of Rudchester Farm.

Grid Reference: NZ 11347 67438
Client: Mr Richard Pettersson
Date of Fieldwork: May 2021
Project Code: AP 21/08
Historic England Ref. S00240817
Oasis Number: thearcha2-434175

CONTENTS

SUMMARY

- 1. PURPOSE OF THE WATCHING BRIEF**
- 2. CULTURAL HERITAGE BACKGROUND**
- 3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY**
- 4. RESULTS**
- 5. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS**
- 6. REFERENCES**

APPENDIX 1:

Rudchester Roman Fort, Associated Civil Settlement and a Section of Roman Wall and Vallum in Wall Mile 13, Northumberland. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief during construction of a new barn.

Prepared by: The Archaeological Practice Ltd., 8 April 2021.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Front Cover: View looking west across the finished excavation area.

Frontispiece: View looking ESE during excavation for the base-footing of a new barn, in May 2021.

Location Maps and Plans:

Illus. 01: Regional view, showing the location of Rudchester (circled in red), in south-east Northumberland.

Illus. 02: Village view, showing the location of Rudchester Farm (circled in red), in south-east Northumberland.

Illus. 03: Farm view, showing the proposed location of new build (highlighted in red) within the field to the east of Rudchester Farm, Northumberland.

Illus. 04: Detailed view, showing the proposed location of new build (highlighted in red) within the field to the east of Rudchester Farm, Northumberland.

Historic Maps & Documents:

Illus. 05: Extract from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Northumberland, 1:2500, c.1859, showing Rudchester Farm and the proposed watching brief site (highlighted in red).

Illus. 06: Extract from the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Northumberland, 1:2500, c.1897, showing Rudchester Farm and the proposed watching brief site (highlighted in red).

Illus. 07: Extract from the 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Northumberland, 1:2500, c.1919, showing Rudchester Farm and the proposed watching brief site (highlighted in red).

Illus. 08: Extract from the c.1963 Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Northumberland, 1:2500, showing Rudchester Farm and the proposed watching brief site (highlighted in red).

Photographic Record:

Photo 01: View looking NNW across the watching site at the beginning of excavations.

Photo 02. View looking south-west across the watching brief site during excavation.

Photo 03. View looking south-west after further excavation progress across the watching brief site.

Photo 04. View looking WSW across the southern part of the watching brief site during excavation.

Photo 05. View looking SSW along the finished excavation area subject to watching brief (scales visible = 2 x 2m).

Photo 06. View looking NNE along the finished excavation area subject to watching brief (scales visible = 2 x 2m).

Photo 07. NNE facing section of the finished excavation area subject to watching brief (scales visible = 2 x 2m).

Photo 08. WNW facing section of the finished excavation area subject to watching brief (scales visible = 2 x 2m).

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was conducted in May 2021, to mitigate the impact of groundworks associated with the construction of a new metal-framed hay-barn, located to the south of the B6318 ('the Military Road'), in the field located on the east side of the lane from Rudchester Farm. It was situated c.45m to the south-east of Vindobala Roman fort.

This location lies within the statutorily protected envelope of Scheduled Monument No 1017533: Rudchester Roman fort, associated settlement and the adjoining Roman Wall and Vallum (Wall mile 13).

Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for the construction of the new barn was granted by the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) on the advice of Historic England.

The watching brief took place during groundworks comprising the excavation of an area measuring 11 m (length NNE-SSW) x 8 m (width ESE-WNW) x 0.30 m (depth) for the base-footing of the new barn.

The results of watching brief established that no significant finds of features of any kind were revealed by the excavation, therefore, it was concluded that no significant remains of cultural heritage value were impacted by the works.

Given the limited depth required for the footing of the new barn, only a single horizon of stony topsoil was observed beneath the turf. This contained a few sherds of glazed pottery, terracotta drainpipe, and sawn cattle bones – all of 19th-century or later date. The large quantity of stones observed within the soil, none of which were worked, were interpreted as naturally occurring through glacial action. Evidently this area of the field has never been ploughed, and used exclusively for pasture. This interpretation is supported by historic map regression of the watching brief area, which demonstrates no visible structures or archaeology of any kind throughout recorded history.

While little potential remains for the survival of significant remains within this area of the field to the east of Rudchester Farm, it is recommended that, in view of the site's proximity to the scheduled Roman fort and its associated features, any future works in the vicinity should be considered on their own merits with regard to potential archaeological intervention.

1. PURPOSE OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

1. Introduction

1.1 This document, prepared by the Archaeological Practice Ltd. for Mr Richard Pettersson, reports on a process of archaeological monitoring conducted in May 2021, to mitigate the impact of groundworks associated with the construction of a new metal-framed hay-barn (see *Illus. 01-04*).

1.2 The site of the proposed new barn lies to the south of the B6318 ('the Military Road'), in the field located on the east side of the lane which leads southwards past Rudchester Farm. It is situated c.45m to the south-east of *Vindobala* Roman fort, and east of the existing steading of the farm.

1.3 This location lies within the statutorily protected envelope of **Scheduled Monument No 1017533**: Rudchester Roman fort, associated settlement and the adjoining Roman Wall and Vallum (Wall mile 13).

1.4 Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for the construction of the new barn has been granted by the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS).

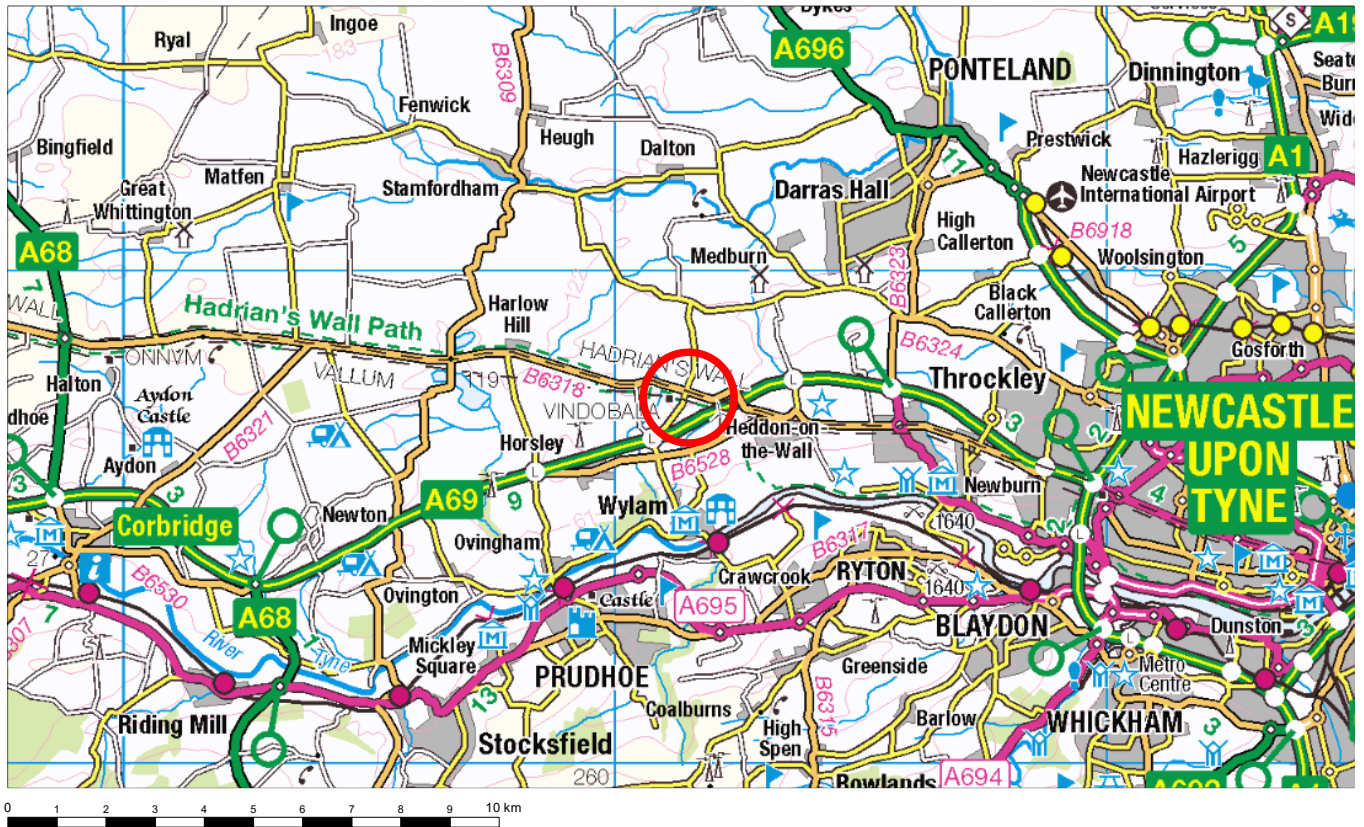
1.5 The SMC was granted on the advice of Historic England, which considered the effect of the proposed works upon the monument to be minor ground works which would alter the present condition and appearance of the monument but where restriction of levels by condition can avoid damage to its historic fabric, buried archaeological deposits and visual amenity. The effects of the works on the setting of the monument were also assessed and were not considered to be an overriding factor in this instance.

1.6 The consent for the proposed works was subject to the following conditions:

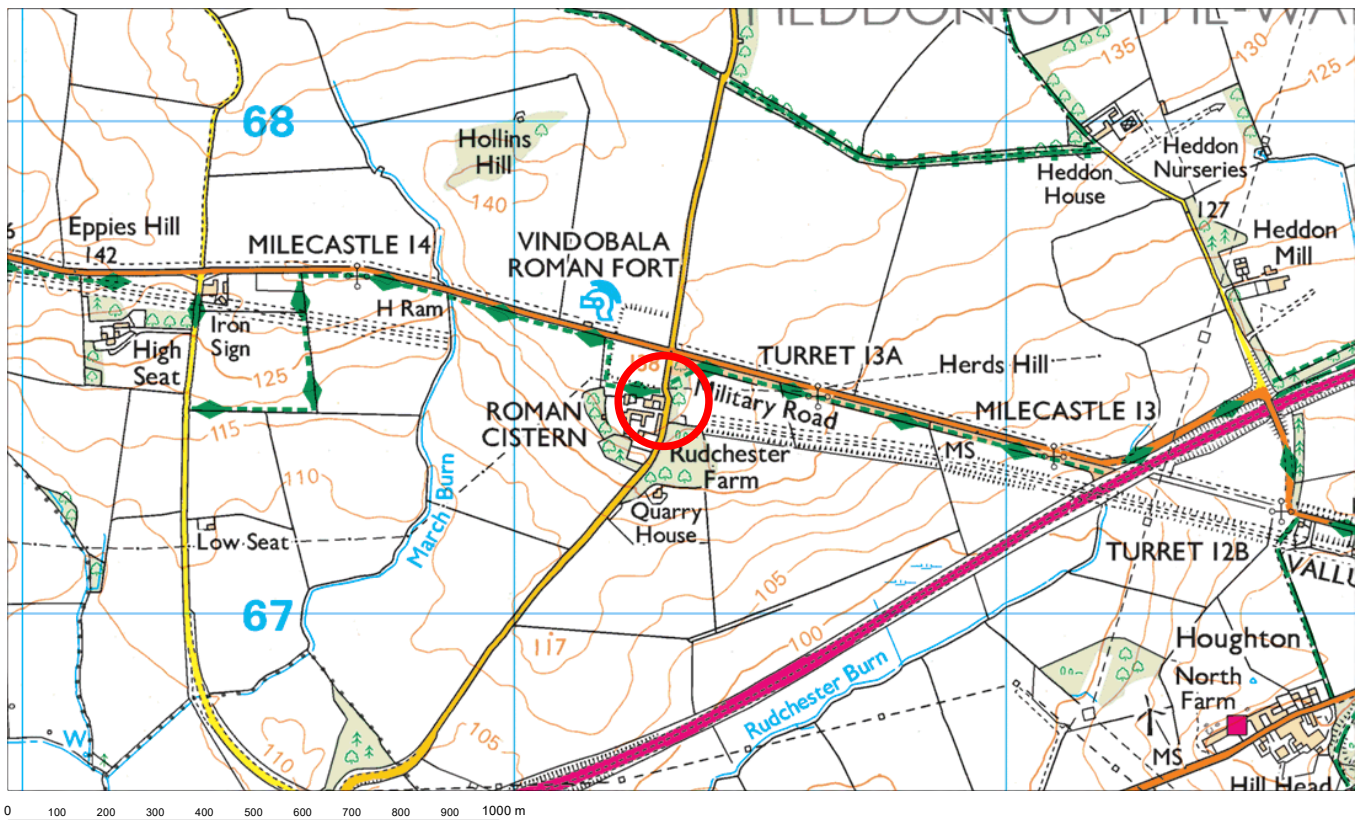
- (a) *The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England. At least 4 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Don O'Meara, Historic England, Bessie Surtees House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3JF, 07824 529245, Don.O'Meara@historicengland.org.uk in order that an Historic England representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.*
- (b) *All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the owner that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.*
- (c) *Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.*

- (d) *No ground works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work before the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by Historic England.*
- (e) *A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the County Sites and Historic Environment Record and to Don O'Meara at Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).*
- (f) *The contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.*

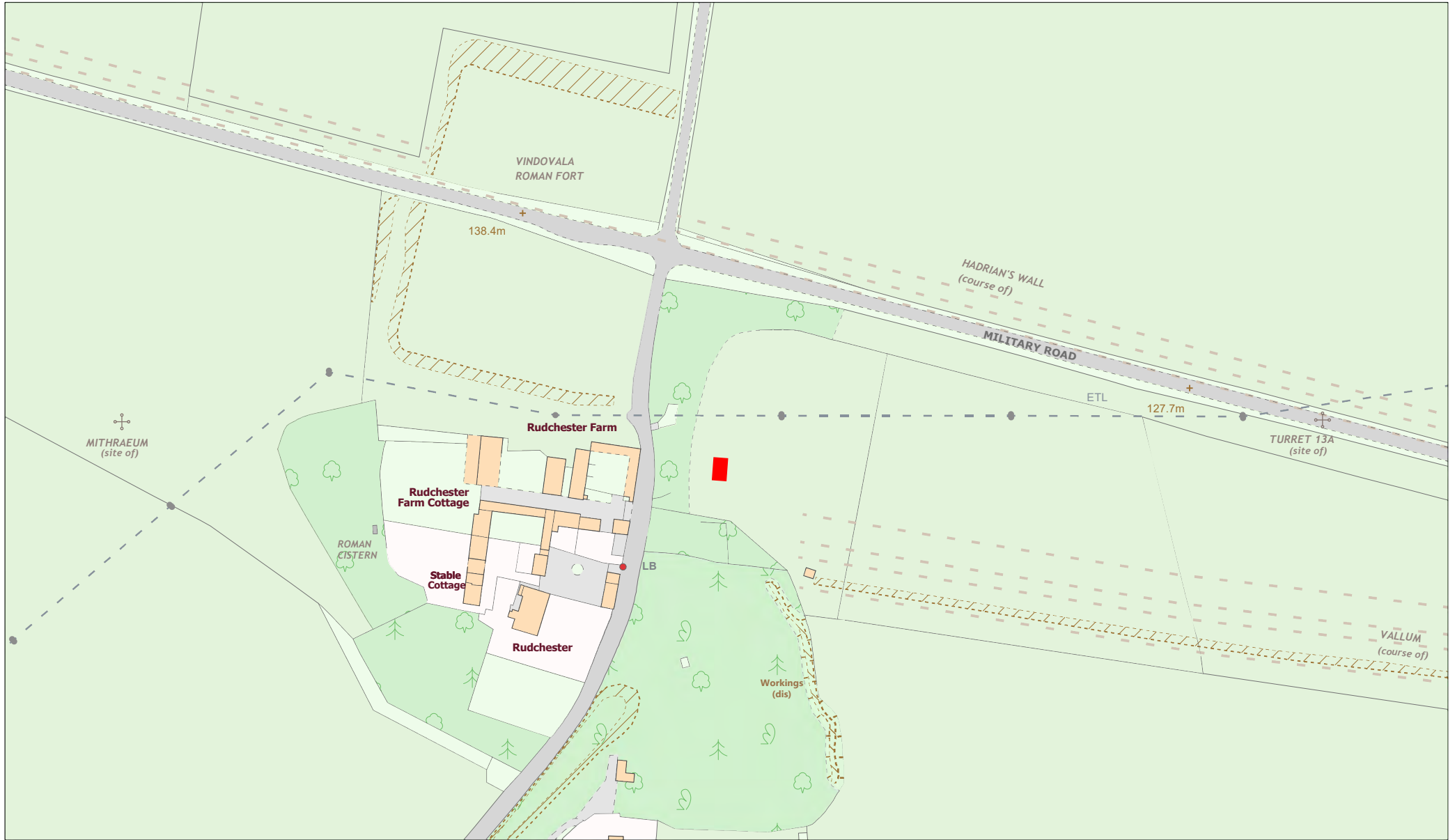
1.7 This report follows a written scheme of investigation, prepared on 8th April 2021, as justification for the investigation and approved by Historic England, as specified in point 1.6(d) above.



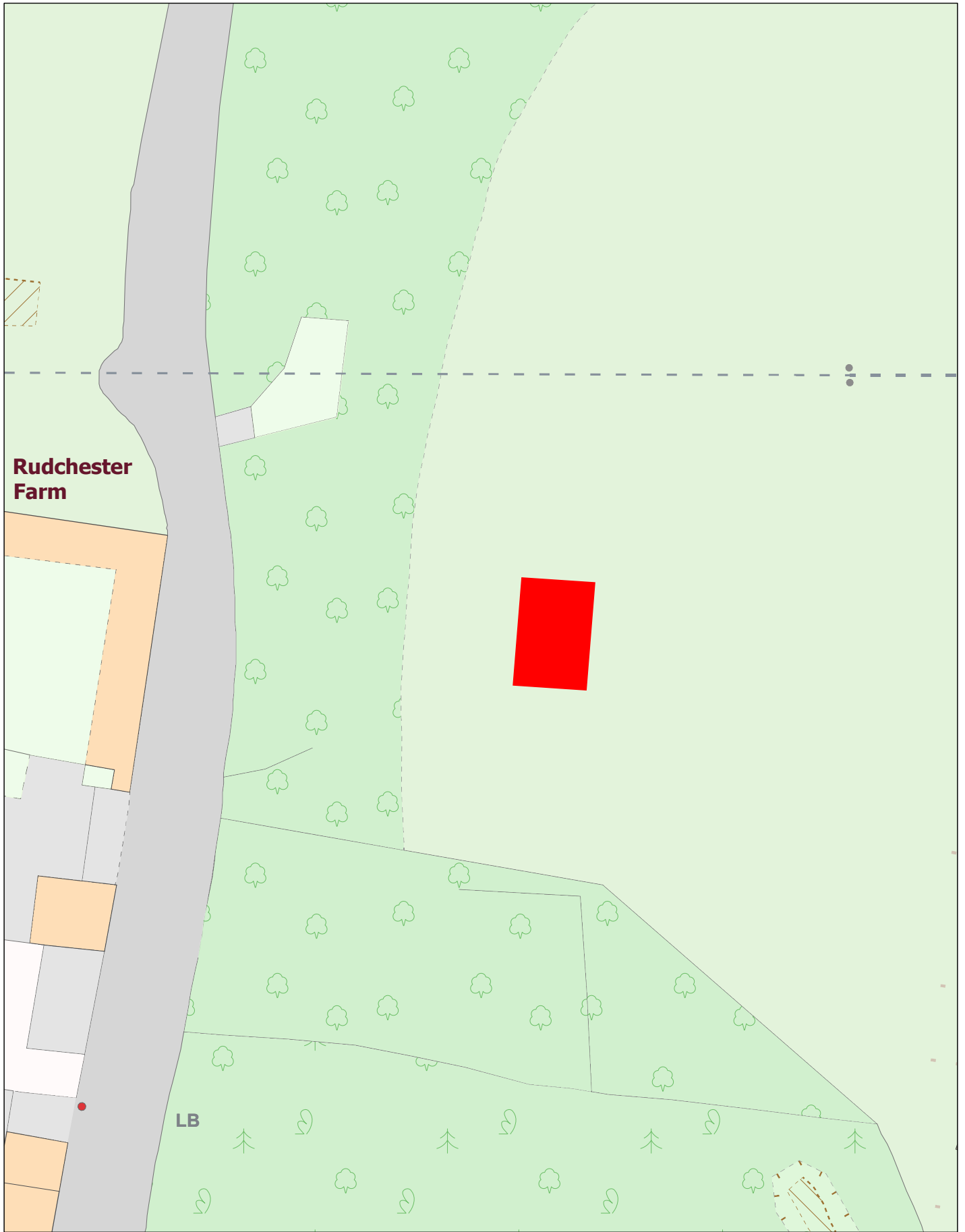
Illus. 01: Regional view, showing the location of Rudchester (circled in red), in south-east Northumberland.



Illus. 02: Villages view, showing the location of Rudchester Farm (circled in red), in south-east Northumberland.



Illus. 03: Farm view, showing the proposed location of new build (highlighted in red) within the field to the east of Rudchester Farm, Northumberland.



Scale 1:500

0 4 8 12 16 20 24 28 32 36 40 m

Illus. 04: Detailed view, showing the proposed location of new build (highlighted in red) within the field to the east of Rudchester Farm, Northumberland.

2. CULTURAL HERITAGE BACKGROUND

2.1 Roman

The Roman fort of *Vindobala* (HER 10856; SM 1017533; cf. Daniels 1978, 76-81; Breeze 2006, 168-72) occupies the field on the west side of the north-south lane and straddles the present B6318, which marks the line of Hadrian's Wall. Its south ramparts lie just to the north of the farm buildings whilst its east curtain and ramparts run along the western edge of the lane. The fort was probably garrisoned by the *cohors I Frisiavonum* in the 3rd and 4th centuries CE. The site was very well preserved until the 18th century when it was reduced by stone robbing. This was followed by ploughing and cultivation of the area, reflected in the ridge and furrow earthworks which can still be seen overlying the southern half of the fort interior.

The fort defences and interior have twice been seriously investigated on two occasions, in 1924 and 1972. The 1924 campaign focussed on the main west and south gates, plus the minor west gate, and on the buildings of the central range, where the southern part of the headquarters building (*principia*), a large single granary to the west, facing south onto the *via quintana*, and a small part of the commanding officer's house (*praetorium*) to the east were excavated. The 1972 excavations directed by J P Gillam and M Harrison (HER Event 12973) examined the area to the south of the central range where three phases of buildings were revealed, the earlier two apparently representing barrack blocks. Ard marks found beneath the earliest building and the *via quintana* suggested the area had been cultivated arable farmland before the arrival of the Roman army's builders. In 1989, seven trenches were excavated to locate a water main which crossed the fort from north to south extending from the B6318 to the farm south of the fort, while a watching brief along the course of this main was undertaken in 1991, when it was exhumed and replaced with a pipe of slightly larger bore (HER Events 13563-4). This revealed a number of walls belonging to stone buildings in the fort interior and in the area of the *vicus* immediately to the south.

The associated civil settlement (*vicus*) lay to the south and south-west of the fort, much of it covered by the farm buildings (HER 10897). The only visible feature today is a rock-cut cistern known as Giant's Grave. The Mithraeum to the south-west of the fort, was excavated by Gillam and MacIvor in 1953, after five inscribed altars were found in 1844. A series of terraces between the fort and the Mithraeum are probably representative of the *vicus*, perhaps created to form level platforms for buildings, though there is no dating evidence for the earthworks. More recently, in 2000, four trenches were excavated by the Archaeological Practice (Newcastle University) in the area south of the fort and west of the farm buildings revealing Roman deposits, ditches and gullies (HER Event 246). In Trench 1, the vallum ditch had been infilled and covered by a metalled surface with flanking banks. A number of other interventions – trial trenching or watching briefs relating to the installation and improvement of services – have identified gullies, ditches or pits of probable Roman date, most likely representing features associated with the *vicus*, at various locations beneath the farm and further south around Quarry House (e.g., HER Events 369, 13562, 15174).

The ditched and double-embanked earthwork to the rear of Hadrian's Wall, known as the vallum, approaches from the east on an alignment which, from a point near Milecastle 13, gradually diverges to the south of the fort. The site of proposed new barn to the south-east of the fort is located a little to the north of the vallum's north mound in the zone between latter and the Wall curtain. On the west side, the vallum approaches much closer before diverging sharply to the south-east to avoid the south-west corner of the fort.

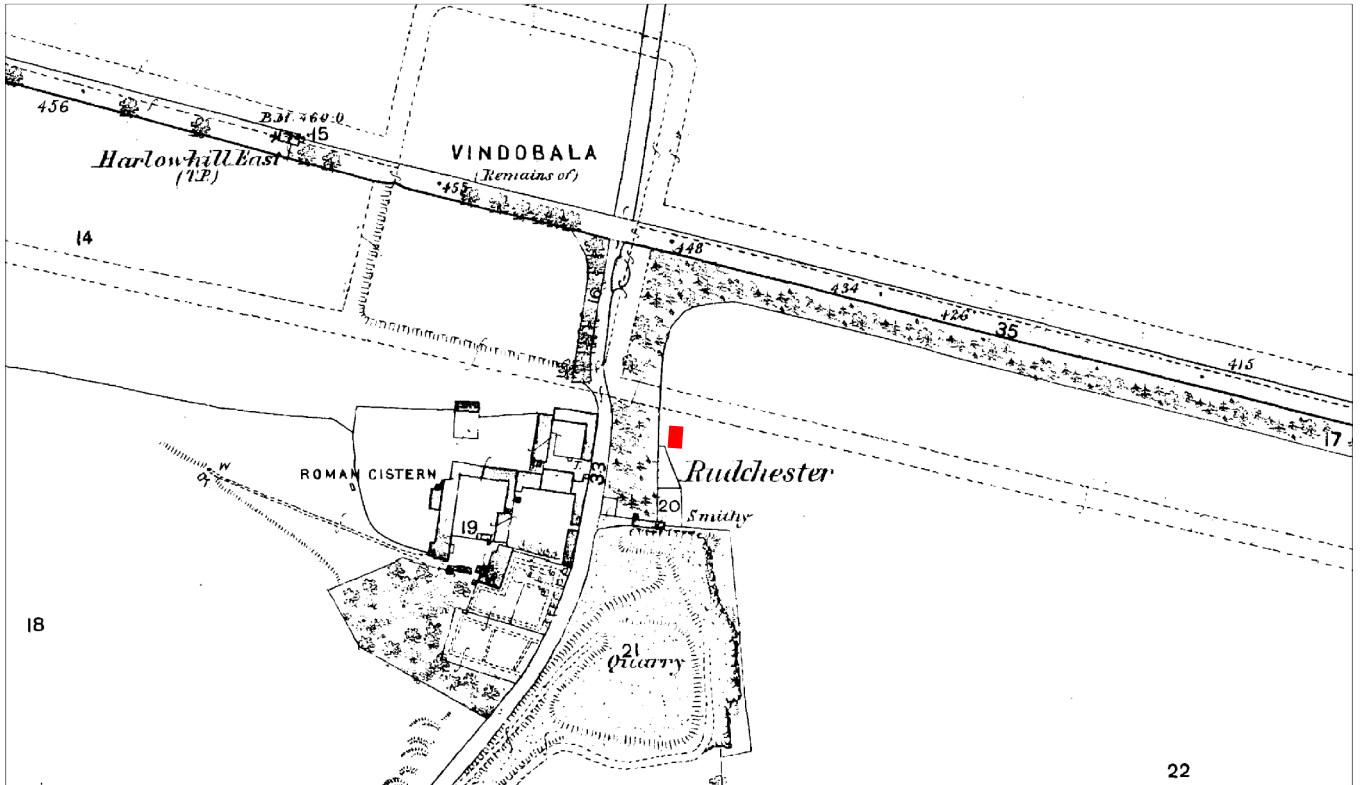
2.2 Medieval and Modern

The early medieval history of Rudchester following the collapse of Roman Britain is unknown. By the high Middle Ages Rudchester was the site of a nucleated village or hamlet settlement (HER 10878) with a manor house (HER 10874). Seven taxpayers were recorded at Rudchester in the 1296 Lay Subsidy, and these would most likely only have represented the settlement's most well-to-do inhabitants (Wrathmel 1975, 475). Seven houses are shown on the Military Road survey map of 1749, by which time the settlement may have been in decline. Armstrong's county map of 1769 shows the site as emparked and containing only the hall.

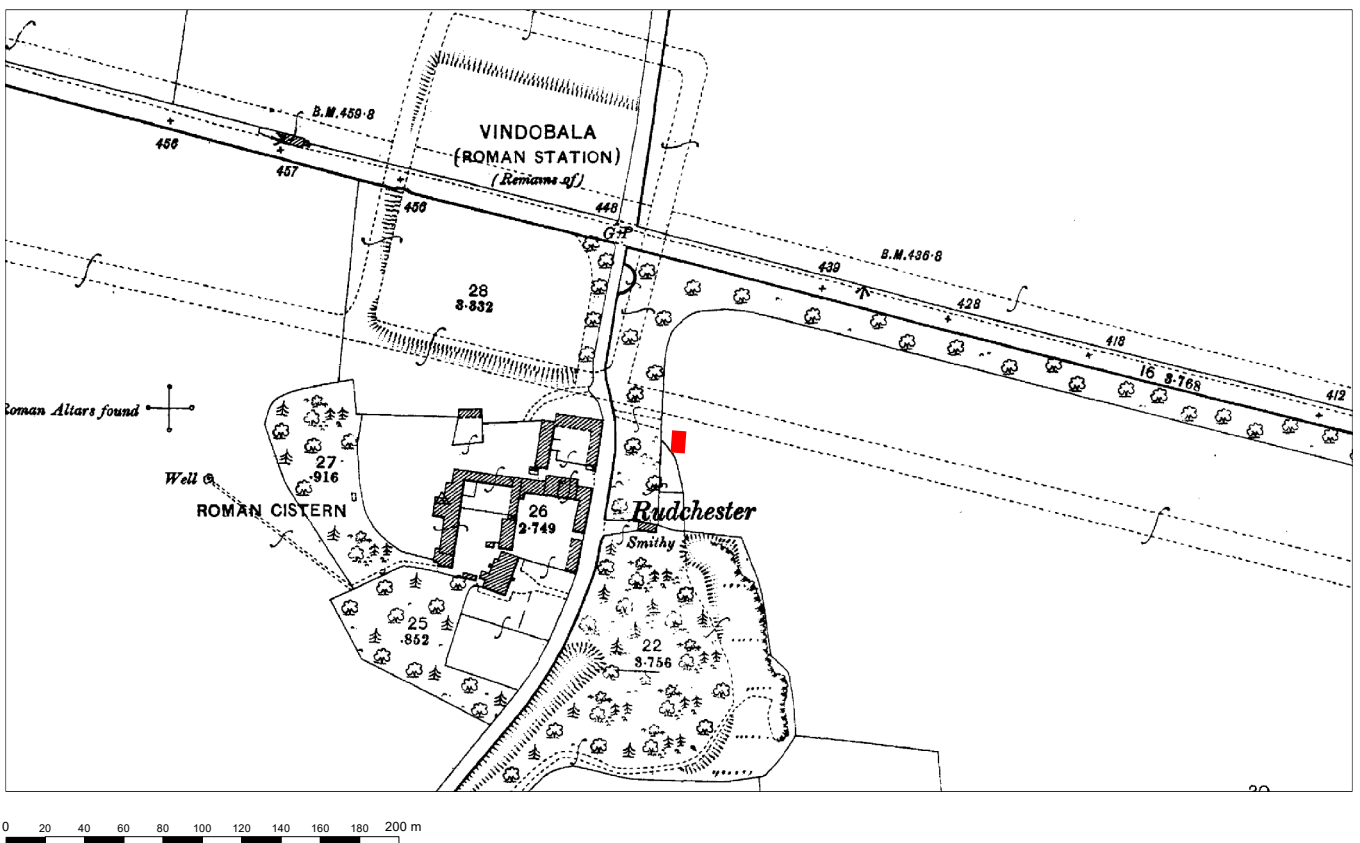
Rudchester Hall, on the south side of the farm steading, is a Grade II* Listed Building (List no. 1154705; HER 10874). Documentary evidence (cf. NCH XII (1926), 198-9) suggests that the hall was first constructed in 1285 by Simon of Rudchester (though one might suspect there was a timber predecessor to Simon's stone hall). The present building is, externally, late 18th-century Gothic in appearance, but the surviving fabric contains the remains of a medieval tower in the south-east corner, incorporating an ogee-headed window of probable 14th-century date. On the basis of its relatively small dimensions, plus the form of the window, Ryder (1994-5, 29-31) suggests this may have been a solar tower, an addition to Simon of Rudchester's original, late 13th-century (two storey?) hall house, which was probably attached to the tower's west side. Two storey hall-houses were the dominant form of northern gentry residence in the 13th century, with solar towers commonly being added from the 14th century onwards, as security in the border counties deteriorated, whilst in some cases wholesale replacement by freestanding tower houses occurred.

Rudchester farm (HER 24707) was constructed in the late 18th or early 19th century, following the removal of the last remnants of the medieval settlement. The visible, Roman remains inside the fort were also cleared in the late 18th century and the farm buildings may have been erected using the stone robbed from those structures. Certainly, when the tithes for Rudchester were sold in November 1794, the accompanying description indicates that the farm buildings were already in existence by then. The 1841 tithe map and 1860 1st edition Ordnance Survey confirm that the majority of the farm buildings had been built by those dates (*see Illus. 05*). The buildings are arranged in a regular courtyard E-plan with a U-plan courtyard to the north. However, the original farmhouse has since been largely demolished and replaced by a smaller, 20th-century, brick-built house (*see Illus. 07-08*).

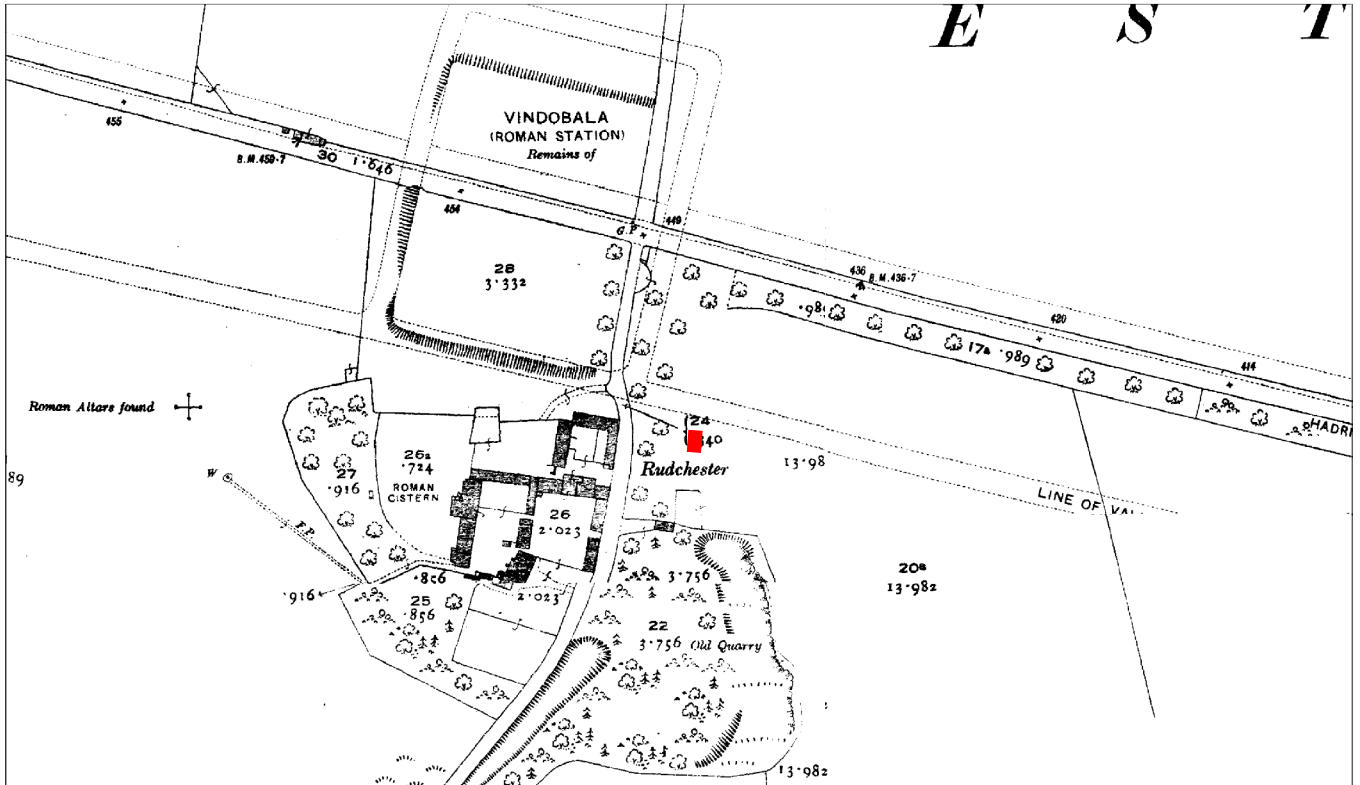
The present B6318 highway ('the Military Road') was constructed as a turnpike road in the 1750s, using the demolished Roman wall as a foundation, to promote economic development and improve strategic communications in the aftermath of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion (Lawson 1966; 1973). A roadside toll-house, associated with the turnpike, stood just to the west of the fort (HER 10893).



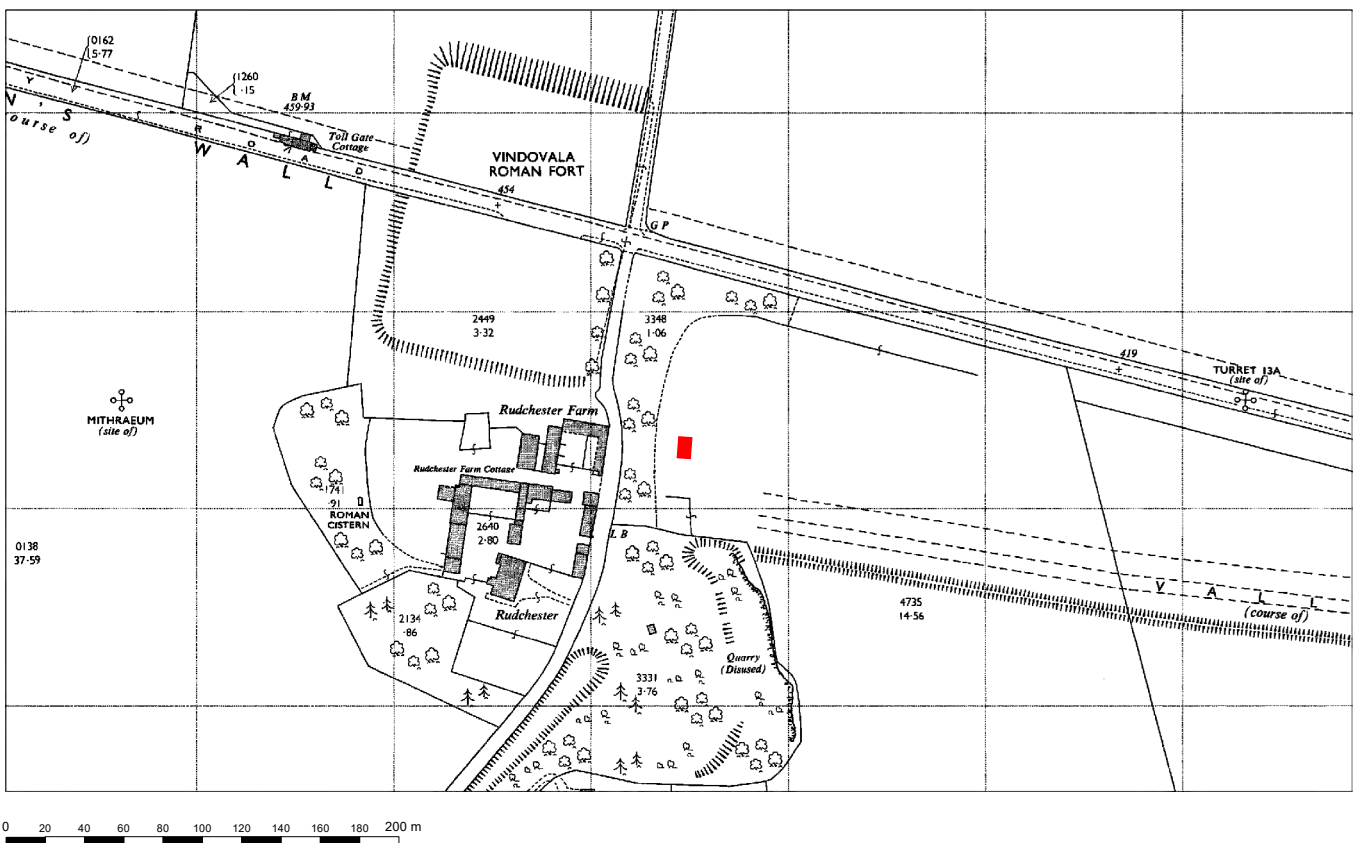
Illus. 05: Extract from the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Northumberland, 1:2500, c.1859, showing Rudchester Farm and the proposed watching brief site (highlighted in red).



Illus. 06: Extract from the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Northumberland, 1:2500, c.1897, showing Rudchester Farm and the proposed watching brief site (highlighted in red).



Illus. 07: Extract from the 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Northumberland, 1:2500, c.1919, showing Rudchester Farm and the proposed watching brief site (highlighted in red).



Illus. 08: Extract from the c.1963 Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Northumberland, 1:2500, showing Rudchester Farm and the proposed watching brief site (highlighted in red).

3. WATCHING BRIEF METHODOLOGY

The watching brief took place during groundworks comprising the excavation of an area measuring 11 m x 8 m for the base-footing of a new metal-framed hay-barn to be construction thereafter.

The aims of the watching brief were to identify and determine the character of any remains uncovered during groundworks on the site, and to make an appropriate record of such finds by photographic and other means.

Ground reduction was conducted evenly across the entire development plot by mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket. All excavations were closely monitored by a suitably trained and experienced archaeologist from The Archaeological Practice Ltd.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Location and Dimensions (*Illus. 03-04, Photos 01-04*):

The excavation area, allocated for the base-footing of a new metal-framed hay-barn, was centred upon NGR: NZ 11347 67438. It lay south of the B6318 Military Road and was located on the east side of the lane which leads southwards past Rudchester Farm, and to the east of the Roman fort and the existing steading of the farm. The excavation area was rectangular in plan, positioned on an NNE-SSW alignment, with its southwest corner 7.30 m from the current field-gate's north post, and its northeast corner 20.20 m from the same point.

The dimensions of the excavation area were as follows:

11 m (length NNE-SSW) x 8 m (width ESE-WNW) x 0.30 m (depth below ground level).

4.2 Stratigraphy

The stratigraphy of the site was reasonably consistent throughout, comprising of [01] a firm, silty topsoil with very common subrounded stones throughout, becoming more frequent towards the higher gradient to the north and east.

4.3 Context List:

[01] Topsoil. Firm, mid grey-brown silty topsoil with very common subrounded stones of small and medium size throughout, becoming more frequent towards the higher gradient to the north and east. The stones were naturally occurring, sitting loose in the topsoil, which has evidently never been ploughed. Occasional pieces of 19th-century glazed pottery were observed in the topsoil, along with three sawn cattle bones and a few small pieces of 19th-century terracotta field drain.

4.4 Interpretation:

No archaeological remains were observed within the entirety of the excavation area.

Given the limited depth required for the base-footing of the new barn, only a single horizon of stony topsoil was observed beneath the turf. This contained a few sherds of glazed pottery, terracotta drainpipe, and sawn cattle bones – all of 19th-century or later date. The large quantity of stones observed within the soil, none of which were worked, were interpreted as naturally occurring through glacial action. Evidently this area of the field has never been ploughed, and used exclusively for pasture.

No finds, features or diagnostic archaeological material of any kind were revealed.



Photo 01. View looking NNW across the watching site at the beginning of excavations.



Photo 02. View looking south-west across the watching brief site during excavation.



Photo 03. View looking south-west after further excavation progress across the watching brief site.



Photo 04. View looking WSW across the southern part of the watching brief site during excavation.



Photo 05. View looking SSW along the finished excavation area subject to watching brief (scales visible = 2 x 2m).



Photo 06. View looking NNE along the finished excavation area subject to watching brief (scales visible = 2 x 2m).



Photo 07. NNE facing section of the finished excavation area subject to watching brief (scales visible = 2 x 2m).



Photo 08. WNW facing section of the finished excavation area subject to watching brief (scales visible = 2 x 2m).

5. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 No significant finds of features of any kind were revealed by the excavation carried out in the field to the east of Rudchester Farm in May, 2021. Therefore, it is concluded that no significant remains of cultural heritage value were impacted by the works.

5.2 Given the limited depth required for the base-footing of the new hay-barn, only a single horizon of stony topsoil was observed beneath the turf. This contained a few sherds of glazed pottery, terracotta drainpipe, and sawn cattle bones – all of 19th-century or later date. The large quantity of stones observed within the soil, none of which were worked, were interpreted as naturally occurring through glacial action. Evidently this area of the field has never been ploughed, and used exclusively for pasture.

5.3 Map regression of the watching brief area (*see Illus. 05-08*), demonstrates no visible structures or archaeology of any kind throughout recorded history.

5.2 While little potential remains for the survival of significant remains within this area of the field to the east of Rudchester Farm, it is recommended that, in view of the historic context of the site, any future works in the vicinity should be considered on their own merits with regard to potential archaeological intervention.

6. 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.

Daniels, C M, (ed) 1978 *Handbook to the Roman Wall* (J C Bruce), 13th edn, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Dodds, M H, 1926 *History of Northumberland*, vol 12. Northumberland County History Committee, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Lawson, W, 1966 'The origin of the Military Road from Newcastle to Carlisle'. *Archaeologia Aeliana* 4 ser 44, 185-207

Lawson, W, 1973 'The construction of the Military Road in Northumberland 1751-1757'. *Archaeologia Aeliana* 5 ser 1, 177-93

Ryder, P F, 1994-5 *Towers and Bastles in Northumberland. 3: Castle Morpeth District*.

Wrathmell, S., 1975 *Deserted and Shrunken Villages in Southern Northumberland from the Twelfth to the Twentieth Centuries*. Unpublished PhD thesis, University of Wales, Cardiff.

APPENDIX 1:

Rudchester Roman Fort, Associated Civil Settlement and a Section of Roman Wall and Vallum in Wall Mile 13, Northumberland.

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief during construction of a new barn.

Prepared by: The Archaeological Practice Ltd., 8 April 2021.

Rudchester Roman Fort, Associated Civil Settlement and a Section of Roman Wall and Vallum in Wall Mile 13, Northumberland

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief during construction of a new barn

Prepared by: The Archaeological Practice Ltd., 8 April 2021.

Scheduled Monument No: 101753
[Historic England ref. S00240817]

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This document is provided as a written scheme of investigation, or project design, for a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Rudchester Farm, Northumberland, associated with the construction of a new metal-framed hay-barn.

1.1.2 The site of the proposed new barn lies to the south of the B6318 ('the Military Road'), in the field located on the east side of the lane which leads southwards past Rudchester Farm (*see Illus. 01-04*). It is situated c.45m to the south-east of the Roman fort, and east of the existing steading of the farm (NGR NZ 1138 6742).

1.1.3 This location lies within the statutorily protected envelope of **Scheduled Monument No 1017533**: Rudchester Roman fort, associated settlement and the adjoining Roman Wall and Vallum (Wall mile 13).

1.1.4 Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) for the construction of the new barn has been granted by the Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS).

1.1.5 The SMC was granted on the advice of Historic England, which considered the effect of the proposed works upon the monument to be minor ground works which would alter the present condition and appearance of the monument but where restriction of levels by condition can avoid damage to its historic fabric, buried archaeological deposits and visual amenity. The effects of the works on the setting of the monument were also assessed and were not considered to be an overriding factor in this instance.

1.1.6 The consent for the proposed works was subject to the following conditions:

- (a) *The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England. At least 4 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Don O'Meara, Historic England, Bessie Surtees House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3JF, 07824 529245, Don.O'Meara@historicengland.org.uk in order that an Historic England representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.*
- (b) *All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the owner that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological*

Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.

- (c) *Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.*
- (d) *No ground works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work before the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by Historic England.*
- (e) *A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the County Sites and Historic Environment Record and to Don O'Meara at Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).*
- (f) *The contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.*

1.2 The Archaeological Background

1.2.1 Roman

The Roman fort of *Vindobala* (HER 10856; SM 1017533; cf. Daniels 1978, 76-81; Breeze 2006, 168-72) occupies the field on the west side of the north-south lane and straddles the present B6318, which marks the line of Hadrian's Wall. Its south ramparts lie just to the north of the farm buildings whilst its east curtain and ramparts run along the western edge of the lane. The fort was probably garrisoned by the *cohors / Frisiavonum* in the 3rd and 4th centuries CE. The site was very well preserved until the 18th century when it was reduced by stone robbing. This was followed by ploughing and cultivation of the area, reflected in the ridge and furrow earthworks which can still be seen overlying the southern half of the fort interior.

The fort defences and interior have twice been seriously investigated on two occasions, in 1924 and 1972. The 1924 campaign focussed on the main west and south gates, plus the minor west gate, and on the buildings of the central range, where the southern part of the headquarters building (*principia*), a large single granary to the west, facing south onto the *via quintana*, and a small part of the commanding officer's house (*praetorium*) to the east were excavated. The 1972 excavations directed by J P Gillam and M Harrison (HER Event 12973) examined the area to the south of the central range where three phases of buildings were revealed, the earlier two apparently representing barrack blocks. Ard marks found beneath the earliest building and the *via quintana* suggested the area had been cultivated arable farmland before the arrival of the Roman army's builders. In 1989, seven trenches were excavated to locate a water main which crossed the fort from north to south extending from the B6318 to the farm south of the fort, while a watching brief along the course of this main was undertaken in 1991, when it was exhumed and replaced with a pipe of slightly larger bore (HER

Events 13563-4). This revealed a number of walls belonging to stone buildings in the fort interior and in the area of the *vicus* immediately to the south.

The associated civil settlement (*vicus*) lay to the south and south-west of the fort, much of it covered by the farm buildings (HER 10897). The only visible feature today is a rock-cut cistern known as Giant's Grave. The mithraeum to the south-west of the fort, was excavated by Gillam and MacIvor in 1953, after five inscribed altars were found in 1844. A series of terraces between the fort and the mithraeum are probably representative of the *vicus*, perhaps created to form level platforms for buildings, though there is no dating evidence for the earthworks. More recently, in 2000, four trenches were excavated by the Archaeological Practice (Newcastle University) in the area south of the fort and west of the farm buildings revealing Roman deposits, ditches and gullies (HER Event 246). In Trench 1, the vallum ditch had been infilled and covered by a metalled surface with flanking banks. A number of other interventions – trial trenching or watching briefs relating to the installation and improvement of services – have identified gullies, ditches or pits of probable Roman date, most likely representing features associated with the *vicus*, at various locations beneath the farm and further south around Quarry House (e.g. HER Events 369, 13562, 15174).

The ditched and double-embanked earthwork to the rear of Hadrian's Wall, known as the vallum, approaches from the east on an alignment which, from a point near Milecastle 13, gradually diverges to the south of the fort. The site of proposed new barn to the south-east of the fort is located a little to the north of the vallum's north mound in the zone between latter and the Wall curtain. On the west side, the vallum approaches much closer before diverging sharply to the south-east to avoid the south-west corner of the fort.

1.2.2 Medieval and Modern

The early medieval history of Rudchester following the collapse of Roman Britain is unknown. By the high Middle Ages Rudchester was the site of a nucleated village or hamlet settlement (HER 10878) with a manor house (HER 10874). Seven taxpayers were recorded at Rudchester in the 1296 Lay Subsidy, and these would most likely only have represented the settlement's most well-to-do inhabitants (Wrathmel 1975, 475). Seven houses are shown on the Military Road survey map of 1749, by which time the settlement may have been in decline. Armstrong's county map of 1769 shows the site as emparked and containing only the hall.

Rudchester Hall, on the south side of the farm steading, is a Grade II* Listed Building (List no. 1154705; HER 10874). Documentary evidence (cf. NCH XII (1926), 198-9) suggests that the hall was first constructed in 1285 by Simon of Rudchester (though one might suspect there was a timber predecessor to Simon's stone hall). The present building is, externally, late 18th-century Gothick in appearance, but the surviving fabric contains the remains of a medieval tower in the south-east corner, incorporating a ogee-headed window of probable 14th-century date. On the basis of its relatively small dimensions, plus the form of the window, Ryder (1994-5, 29-31) suggests this may have been a solar tower, an addition to Simon of Rudchester's original, late 13th-century (two storey?) hall house, which was probably attached to the tower's west side. Two storey hall-houses were the dominant form of northern gentry residence in the 13th century, with solar towers commonly being added from the 14th century onwards, as security in the border counties deteriorated, whilst in some cases wholesale replacement by freestanding tower houses occurred.

Rudchester farm (HER 24707) was constructed in the late 18th or early 19th century, following the removal of the last remnants of the medieval settlement. The visible, Roman remains inside the fort were also cleared in the late 18th century and the farm buildings may have been erected using the stone robbed from those structures. Certainly, when the tithes for Rudchester were sold in November 1794, the accompanying description indicates that the farm buildings were already in existence

by then. The 1841 tithe map and 1860 1st edition Ordnance Survey confirm that the majority of the farm buildings had been built by those dates (see *Illus. 06*). The buildings are arranged in a regular courtyard E-plan with a U-plan courtyard to the north. However, the original farmhouse has since been largely demolished and replaced by a smaller, 20th-century, brick-built house (see *Illus. 07-08*).

The present B6318 highway ('the Military Road') was constructed as a turnpike road in the 1750s, using the demolished Roman wall as a foundation, to promote economic development and improve strategic communications in the aftermath of the 1745 Jacobite rebellion (Lawson 1966; 1973). A roadside toll-house, associated with the turnpike, stood just to the west of the fort (HER 10893).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

2.1 Fieldwork Methods

2.1.1 Areas not subject to record excavation will be subject to monitoring during groundworks.

2.1.2 The Field Investigation will be carried out by means of an Archaeological Watching Brief, with all work carried out in line with the Institute for Archaeologists *By-Laws – Code of Conduct* (IFA 2010) and the *Yorkshire, The Humber and the North East Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process* (2009).

2.1.3 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.

2.1.4 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.

2.1.5 A constant presence will be maintained during all intrusive groundworks associated with construction of the barn.

2.1.6 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.

2.1.7 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.

2.1.8 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.

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

2.1.10 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.

2.1.11 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.

2.1.12 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.

2.2 Recording

2.2.1 A full and proper record (written, graphic and photographic, as appropriate) will be made for all work, using pro-forma record sheets and text descriptions appropriate to the work. Written descriptions should comprise both factual data and interpretative elements. Accurate scale plans and section drawings will be drawn at 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 scales as appropriate. Sections will be related to Ordnance Datum (i.e. levels will be recorded as above Ordnance Datum – aOD).

2.2.2 The stratigraphy of the excavation will be recorded even when no archaeological deposits have been identified.

2.2.3 Where stratified deposits are encountered, a 'Harris' matrix will be compiled.

2.2.4 The excavation will be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on a 1:1250 or 1:500 map of the area, using a total-station-theodolite.

2.2.5 A photographic record of all contexts will be taken in colour transparency and black and white print and will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be kept. The location of all photographs will be recorded on a plan base.

2.2.6 Drawings, photography and written records of discrete features, where deemed necessary, will be sufficient to allow interpretation of the material and the preparation of a report on the site.

2.3 Finds Processing

2.3.1 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, as specified in Watkinson, D. and Neal, V.: *First Aid for Finds* (1998) and Rescue and IFA: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (IFA 2008).

2.3.2 Artefact collection and discard policies will be fit for the defined purpose.

2.3.3 Finds will be scanned to assess the date range of the assemblage with particular reference to pottery. Artefacts will be used to establish the potential for all categories of finds, should further archaeological work be necessary.

2.3.4 All bulk finds which are not discarded will be washed and, with the exception of animal bone, marked. Marking and labelling will be indelible and irremovable by abrasion. Bulk finds must be appropriately bagged and boxed and recorded. This process will be carried out no later than two months after the end of the excavation.

2.3.5 All small finds will be recorded as individual items and appropriately packaged. Vulnerable objects must be specially packaged, and textiles, painted glass and coins stored in appropriate specialist systems. This process will be carried out within two days of the small find being excavated.

2.3.6 Assessment and analysis of artefacts and environmental samples will be carried out by an approved, named specialist.

2.3.7 The deposition and disposal of artefacts will be agreed with the legal owner and recipient museum prior to the work taking place. Where the landowner decides to retain artefacts, adequate provision will be made for recording them.

2.3.8 During and after the excavation and watching brief, all objects will be stored in the appropriate materials and storage conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this will include controlled storage, correct packaging, regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable material). All storage will have appropriate security provision.

2.4 Environmental Sampling and Dating

The following strategy for environmental sampling has been confirmed with Don O'Meara, English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science.

2.4.1 If significant archaeological deposits are encountered, selective sampling will be carried out in a manner consistent with Historic England's *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (2015) and *Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions: Best Practice for Curators and Commissioning Archaeologists* (English Heritage 2003). Don O'Meara, Historic England Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (0191 2691250), has been consulted for advice regarding a sampling strategy for dating and environmental evidence.

2.4.2 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 will be taken from all deposits/fills containing charcoal, unless the contexts are evidently subject to modern contamination.

2.4.3 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.

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

2.4.5 Deposits will be assessed for their potential for radiocarbon, archaeomagnetic 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 (eg: Radiocarbon, Luminescence, Remnant Magnetism, etc.) will be collected.

2.4.6 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.

2.4.7 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.

2.4.8 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 Ministry of Justice. 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). This may involve extending the trench to remove a whole skeleton.

2.4.9 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 2085031 or 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

2.4.10 The potential requirement for specialist analyses is an unavoidable risk in all such investigations. Although the evaluation results would suggest that the likelihood of such analyses being required in this case is relatively low, the possibility cannot be entirely dismissed, and the investigation of any features/deposits which are considered significant would be undertaken as a non-negotiable part of this specification. Any such analyses would be carried out by specialists and priced to the client on a cost-only basis.

2.5 Production of Site Archive

2.5.1 The site archive will be prepared in accordance with IFA guidelines and those given in Historic England's MoRPHE: <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/morphe-project-managers-guide/> and the Archaeology Archives Forum: D.H. Brown *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice* (2011) http://www.archaeologyuk.org/archives/aaf_archaeological_archives_2011.pdf. This will include the indexing, ordering, quantification and checking for consistency of all original context records, object records, bulk finds records, sample records, skeleton records (if recovered), photographic records, drawing records, photographs, drawings, level books, site note-books, spot dating records, and conservation records; and ensuring that all artefacts and ecofacts recovered and retained from the site are packed and stored in the appropriate materials and conditions and that all their associated records are complete. This will be completed by the end of the field work. A summary account of the context record will be included and written by the supervising archaeologist.

2.5.2 The archive will be submitted to the Great North Museum in Newcastle upon Tyne within 6 months of the end of the fieldwork. The location of artefacts will be stated in the archive.

3 ANALYSIS AND REPORTING OF RECOVERED DATA

3.1 Following the completion of the fieldwork and before any of the post-excavation work is commenced, an archive (the Site Archive) containing all the data gathered during fieldwork will be prepared (see 2.5 above).

3.2 An interim report of no less than 200 words, containing preliminary recommendations for any further work required, will be produced within two weeks of completion of the field investigation for the commissioning client and the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

3.3 Following completion of the Field Investigation, a full report will be prepared collating and synthesizing the structural, artefactual and environmental data relating to each agreed constituent part of the evaluation works.

3.4 Full provision will be made for post-excavation and reporting costs (estimated at 40% of all fieldwork costs, including any contingency fieldwork).

4. PRODUCTION OF FINAL REPORT

4.1 Copies of the report will be provided within two months of the completion of fieldwork to the Client and the Historic England Inspector of Ancient Monuments. An additional digital copy of the report will be lodged with the Northumberland County HER.

4.2 Three bound and collated 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:

A summary statement of methodologies used for historic buildings recording, excavation and monitoring.

A location plan of the site showing buildings and sites investigated, along with any significant discoveries made.

Annotated elevation drawings, phased plans and photographs linked to a key plan and written description of historic buildings recorded.

Plans, sections, photographs and written descriptions of any archaeological discoveries of note.

A summary statement of results.

Conclusions

Recommendations

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

4.3 Following completion of the analysis and publication phase of the work, arrangements will be made to deposit the Site Archive (including Finds) and the Research Archive with the designated repository within 6 months of the end of the fieldwork. Additionally, a copy shall be offered to the National Monuments Record (NMR).

4.4 Should the results of the work merit full publication, a paper on the findings of excavation will be offered to an appropriate regional or national journal, such as *Archaeologia Aeliana*, while summary reports of the project will be prepared for inclusion in the appropriate Notices, Annual Reviews, Northumberland Archaeology (the Northumberland County Council Annual Reports Series), etc.

4.5 An entry for inclusion in the Northumberland County Heritage Environment Record will be prepared and submitted.

5. OASIS

5.1 The Archaeological Contractor will complete the online form for the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations Project (OASIS), following consultation with the Northumberland County Archaeologist. 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 to or incorporation of the final report into the HER.

6. TIMESCALE & PERSONNEL

6.1 Timescale

6.1.1 Groundworks on site are currently estimated to commence on Monday 3rd May 2021.

6.1.2 Following the completion of on-site work, a further period of time, no more than 3 months in duration, will be required to produce an appropriately illustrated report on the work, as detailed above.

6.2 Personnel

Archaeological Practice Sub-Contractors

PM: Project Manager

Alan Rushworth

PO: Project Officer

Marc Johnstone

Environmental analysis: ASDU

Medieval Pottery: Jenny Vaughan, NCAS

Roman Pottery: Alex Croom

Finds analysis: Lindsay Allason-Jones

7. 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
- Daniels, C M, (ed) 1978 *Handbook to the Roman Wall* (J C Bruce), 13th edn, Newcastle upon Tyne.
- Dodds, M H, 1926 *History of Northumberland*, vol 12. Northumberland County History Committee, Newcastle upon Tyne.
- Lawson, W, 1966 'The origin of the Military Road from Newcastle to Carlisle'. *Archaeol Aeliana* 4 ser **44**, 185-207
- Lawson, W, 1973 'The construction of the Military Road in Northumberland 1751-1757'. *Archaeol Aeliana* 5 ser **1**, 177-93
- Ryder, P F, 1994-5 *Towers and Bastles in Northumberland. 3: Castle Morpeth District*.
- Wrathmell, S., 1975 *Deserted and Shrunken Villages in Southern Northumberland from the Twelfth to the Twentieth Centuries*. Unpublished PhD thesis, University of Wales, Cardiff.

The Archaeological Practice Ltd.



Westmorland House, Elswick East Terrace,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7LJ
Tel: 0191 273 0777; Fax: 0191 273 1777
Email: info@archaeologicalpractice.co.uk
Web: www.archaeologicalpractice.co.uk