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KELLY'S YARD  
FOUNDRY LANE, OUSEBURN  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

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FEBRUARY 2023



Prepared for: <i>Modo Bloc Ltd</i>	By: <i>The Archaeological Practice Ltd.</i>
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**KELLY'S YARD, FOUNDRY LANE,  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE:**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

*Prepared by*

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**Frontispiece:** A view of the interior of the Kelly's Yard site, looking north-west, towards Byker Bridge, the Metro bridge and the Ouseburn railway viaduct.

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## SUMMARY

*This report constitutes a desk-based cultural heritage assessment commissioned to accompany an application for development Kelly's Yard, Foundry Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne. It is a updated version of a report previously completed in November 2006, the revision having been requested by the planning authority, Newcastle City Council, on the advice of the Tyne & Wear Archaeological Officer, to consider the implications of a number of archaeological interventions located within the vicinity of the proposed development area including, most notably the excavations at Norris House, where the remains of a Roman turret and other features were recently identified. This discovery has potential to impact our understanding of the alignment of Hadrian's Wall. The original report included consideration of the area to the north of Kelly's Yard, formerly Stephen Easten's Yard, which has since been redeveloped as the Farm View residential apartment blocks. It also included photographic recording of the buildings still standing in 2006, associated with the final industrial phases of the site, including the fish curing associated with Shiells Kipper House. This has been excluded from this updated version, but the results of the evaluation trench excavated by the Archaeological Practice Ltd on the site in March 2010 have been incorporated along with a review of other post 2006 archaeological interventions, as indicated above.*

*The assessment undertaken by The Archaeological Practice Ltd. incorporates an audit of both discrete and more extensive historical landscape components and presents a synthesis of the overall chronology of the defined area in order to identify potential cultural heritage constraints within the area of the proposed development and provide recommendations regarding work required to mitigate the potential impact of the proposed scheme of development.*

*The report collates evidence from a wide range of sources, including historic maps, secondary historical works, excavation reports and the Heritage Environment Record (HER). A site visit was also undertaken. This has resulted in the identification of a total of 77 sites and monuments within or in the vicinity of the proposed development site which provide contextual information regarding the archaeological and historical development of the area.*

*The principal findings of the assessment relate to frontier monuments of the Roman period and industrial remains of the modern era, which represent the most significant remains considered potentially likely to survive within the assessment area. The precise route taken by Hadrian's Wall (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) across the valley of the Ouse Burn remains to be established, but there are strong grounds for believing that it traversed the assessment area. The assessment site was a peripheral zone on the boundary between township communities during the medieval period, but the beginning of coal mining in Ouseburn is documented during this period. Industrial activity intensified in the lower Ouseburn valley during the 16th and 17th centuries, but it only becomes possible to chart the development of the assessment area in detail, however, from the mid-18th century onwards, when the first detailed map evidence becomes available. The earliest phase of occupation in this period which can be substantiated is the village referred to by Bourne and depicted on Donkin's map of 1767. This presumably accommodated the workforce of the collieries and other early industrial activities located along and adjacent to the Ouse Burn. The 'banks, gardens, yards and houses' appear to have extended over the area of both the present yards. The large complex of the Ouseburn Pottery occupied the area of Stephen Easten's yard from at least the early 19th century up until the demolition of the complex c. 1878. Kelly's yard was occupied by another smaller pottery by the mid-19th century. By the end of the 19th century this smaller pottery had been replaced by the Shiells Kipper House. Fish curing continued up until the 1970s, after which the site housed first plant hire and*

*then road haulage businesses. Following the construction of the Byker Road Bridge and the demolition of the Ouseburn Old Pottery, the area of Stephen Easten's yard remained largely unoccupied until the establishment of the builder's yard some time between 1916 and 1942. The site has been developed for residential blocks since 2010.*

*Previous archaeological investigations both within and immediately adjacent to the current site have illustrated the survival of industrial buildings and remains a short way beneath the modern surface. These have largely been equated with the Old Pottery works. Any building works on the site should therefore expect to encounter such remains, which should be archaeologically recorded. The high water table and groundwater levels encountered within the previous investigations should also be borne in mind – as should the possibility of contaminants within these levels.*

*The exact location of Hadrian's Wall in this precise area still remains something of a best guess, but given the closest known locations to the east and the west, it remains likely that it runs to the immediate north of the current site – potentially masked between accumulated silts and makeup of 2m depth or more. It is therefore seen as less likely that The Wall itself would be encountered on the Kelly's Yard site, but it does remain a possibility.*



## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 Purpose of Assessment

This assessment, prepared by The Archaeological Practice Ltd., has been commissioned to accompany an application for development of land at Kelly's Yard, Foundry Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne. The land has been cleared of its previous buildings and is currently unused, save for the presence of bee hives belonging to Ouseburn Farm in the centre of the site. The purpose of the assessment is to inform the planning process regarding cultural heritage significance of the site and the likely or potential impact upon the cultural heritage resource of the proposed development. The study represents the first stage in a programme of archaeological work which may subsequently include evaluation and mitigation works.

### 1.2 Planning Background

The *National Planning Policy Framework – NPPF (MHCLG 2019)* enables planning authorities to request assessments of archaeological potential in order to ascertain the nature and extent of any remains likely to be impacted by development, and inform upon appropriate mitigation measures. At the heart of the National Planning Policy Framework is a presumption in favour of sustainable development (NPPF – see *MHCLG 2019, 5*), which effectively means that local planning authorities should positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area; and will tend to favour granting planning permission to developments which meet this criteria, unless any adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits.

NPPF states that:

*“Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset’s conservation and any aspect of the proposal” (MHCLG 2019, Note 190).*

The NPPF makes it clear that the significance of a heritage asset derives not only from its physical presence and historic fabric but also from its setting. Although consideration of setting is somewhat subjective and necessarily a matter of informed judgement, guidance is provided to assist decision-making by ensuring it takes place within a clear framework and is as transparent and consistent as possible.

Points to be considered include the following:

- *Intervisibility* - Some archaeological or historic landscape features were intended to be seen from other historic sites, and any modern development should respect this intervisibility
- *Vistas and sight-lines* - designed landscapes (such as, in the present case, the Battle of Flodden memorial and visitor trail) often involve key vistas, panoramas and sight-lines, or the

highlighting of topography to aid interpretation. The location of turbines should avoid such key views.

The present assessment, carried out in advance of a formal planning application, has been guided by advice from the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer, who, working within the context of the new NPPF, has noted that an archaeological assessment is desirable in the present case particularly because of the position of the site in an area of known high archaeological potential.

### **1.3 Methodology**

The assessment will include an *Assessment of Heritage Significance* and an *Assessment of Impact*. Specifically it will:

- Define the principal sources of information available for archaeological assessment (Section 3).
- Present a catalogue (Section 4) and chronological synthesis (Section 5) of archaeological data derived from various sources. Accompanying base maps will locate established structures and features within, or in close proximity to, the development site.
- Provide an assessment of archaeological potential with respect to the development site (Section 6).
- Provide conclusions with respect to the known and potential archaeological significance of the development site (Section 7).
- Recommend further work, if required to define more clearly the nature of the archaeological record and facilitate management or mitigation of this asset (Section 8).



*Figure 1: Location of Byker on the east side of Newcastle.*

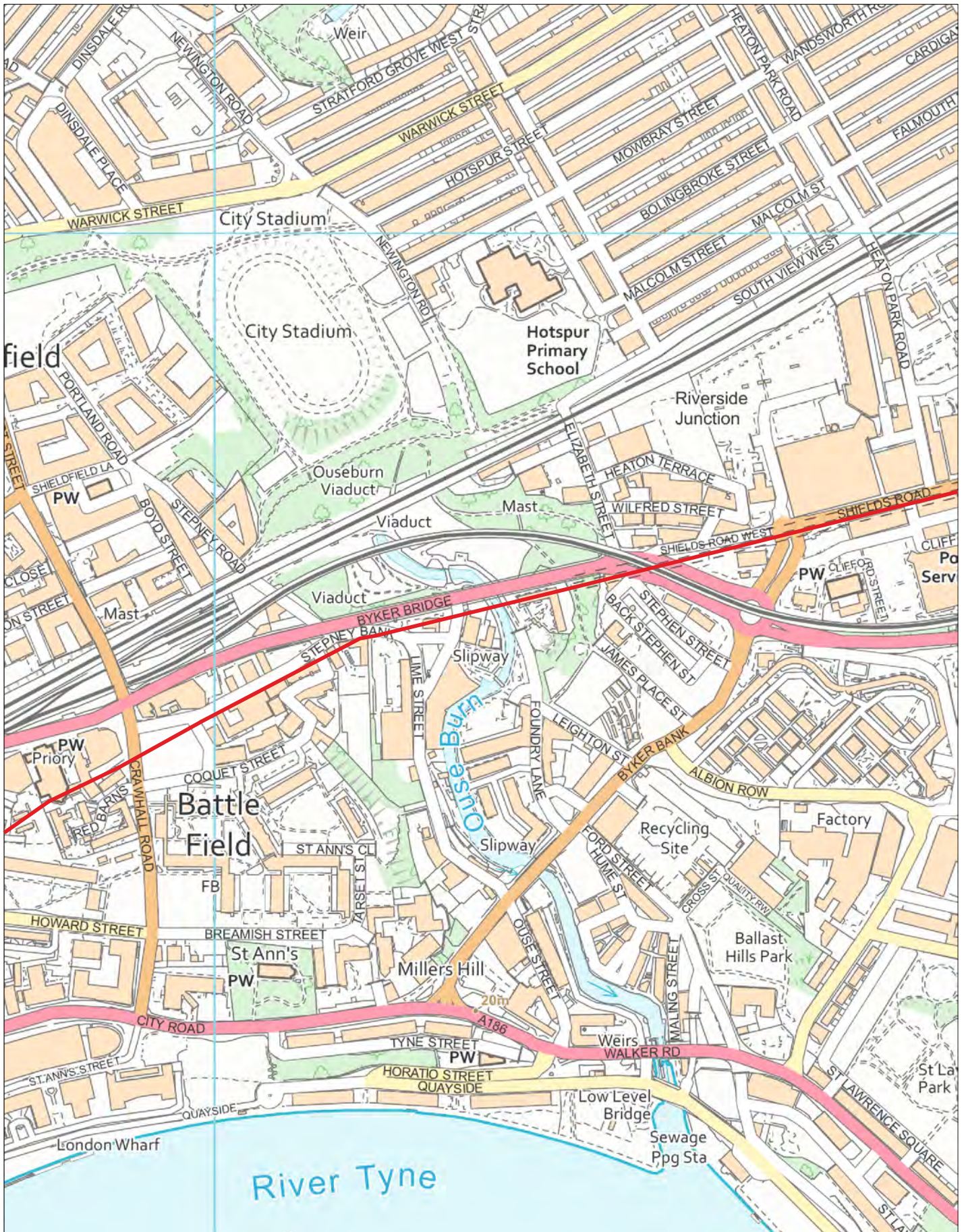
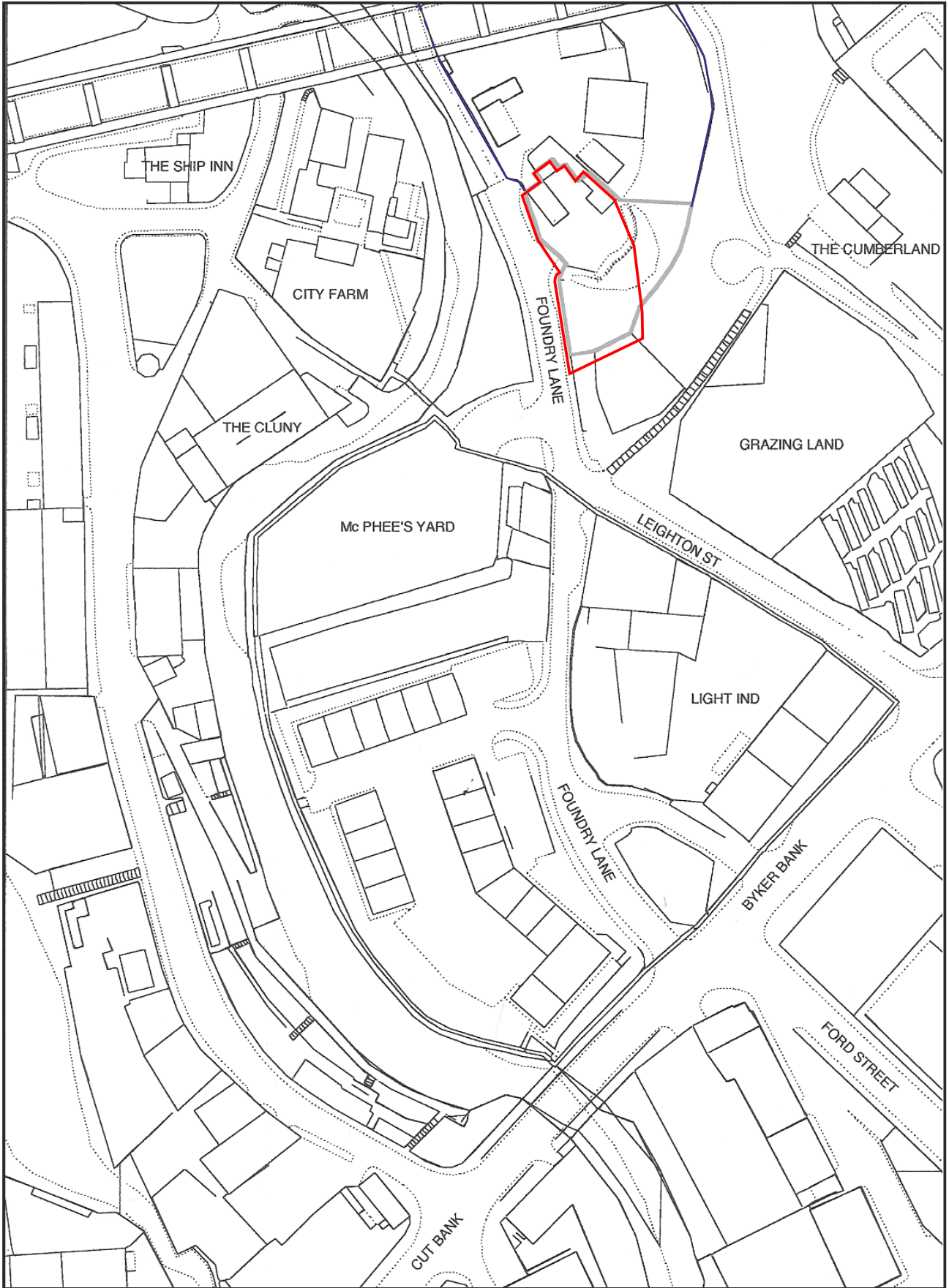


Figure 2: The line of Hadrian's Wall shown in red on modern OS plan 1:5000



**Figure 3:** Plan showing Kelly's Yard development site (outlined in red) in the Lower Ouseburn original scale 1:1250

## 2. ASSESSMENT CONTEXT

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### 2.1 Location and Extent of the Assessment Area (*Illus. 01-02*).

The assessment focuses on an area of land in Byker known as Kelly's Yard, currently undeveloped. The site extends along the east side of Foundry Lane close to the east bank of the Ouse Burn, opposite the Ouseburn Farm, and is located approximately 2 km east of the centre of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The development site falls within in the Lower Ouseburn Conservation Area which extends from the River Tyne in the south to Warwick Street in the north. This is an area of considerable historic and industrial archaeological importance as it formed one of the cradles of the Industrial Revolution, with industries (including potteries, and lead, glass, lime, soap and chemical works) operating in the valley from the 17th century until their decline in the early/mid-20th century.

The scope of the report extends beyond the immediate development area included within the footprint to embrace a wider zone that potentially may be subject to visual impacts. Consideration of this broader zone provides contextual information regarding those individual sites or historic landscape components that might potentially be physically impacted by the proposed scheme. It also ensures that any site or landscape component which might be more indirectly (e.g. visually) affected is incorporated in the site catalogue.

### 2.2 Geology and Topography

The development site is situated in the Lower Ouseburn Valley, a post-glacial river channel running from Callerton (approximately 7km to the northwest of Newcastle), to the point where it flows into the River Tyne. Glacial clays of the Quaternary period, which overlie Middle Carboniferous coal measures, are cut by the burn to form a steep sided valley, however, sections of this valley were culverted, and infilled with waste during the late 19th and early 20th centuries resulting in made up ground in some areas (north of the development area) up to 20m thick.

The two yards occupy level ground on the east side of the Ouse Burn. To the east and south of the two yards, valley side, which partially falls within the designated assessment area, climbs upward very steeply. The existing ground profile may conceivably reflect considerable modification over time, particularly as a result of past industrial activity. There is clear evidence that the SE end of Kelly's Yard has been quarried into the slope of the valley side to increase the available area of level ground. It is also possible that the slope has in part been modified by dumping industrial debris such as kiln waste from the numerous potteries in the area. Evidence for this process has been encountered higher up the bank during excavations on Stephen Street in 1995 and elsewhere in the Ouseburn Valley (TWM 2005a, 15).

### 2.3 Previous Archaeological Investigations

A number of discrete episodes of archaeological and cultural heritage assessment, investigation and recording have previously been carried out in the Lower Ouseburn Valley, for example recent assessments at Byker Farm 2002 (HER 2002/13) and Byker Buildings/Stephen Street 2005 (HER 2005/19), evaluations at Stepney Bank in 2004 and 2005 (HER 2004/11 & 2005/66), an evaluation

and watching brief at Byker City Farm 2002 (HER 2002/49 & 2002/77) and an assessment and recording undertaken by the Archaeological Practice Ltd at 26 Lime Street August 2004 (AP 04/15).

An archaeological desk based assessment covering Kelly's Yard and Stephen Easten's Yard was produced by The Archaeological Practice Ltd. in 2006 (Archaeological Practice 2006).

The principal findings of the assessment related to frontier monuments of the Roman period and industrial remains of the modern era, which represent the most significant remains considered potentially likely to survive within the assessment area. The precise route taken by Hadrian's Wall (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) across the valley of the Ouse Burn remains to be established, but there are strong grounds for believing that it traversed the area of the former Stephen Easten's yard immediately to the north of Kelly's Yard.

The assessment site was a peripheral zone on the boundary between township communities during the medieval period, but the beginning of coal mining in Ouseburn is documented during this period. Industrial activity intensified in the lower Ouseburn valley during the 16th and 17th centuries, but it only becomes possible to chart the development of the assessment area in detail, however, from the mid-18th century onwards.

The earliest phase of occupation in this period which can be substantiated is the village referred to by Bourne and depicted on Donkin's map of 1767. This presumably accommodated the workforce of the collieries and other early industrial activities located along and adjacent to the Ouse Burn. The 'banks, gardens, yards and houses' appear to have extended over the area of both the present yards. The large complex of the Ouseburn Pottery occupied the area of Stephen Easten's yard from at least the early 19th century up until the demolition of the complex c. 1878. Kelly's Yard was occupied by another smaller pottery by the mid-19th century. By the end of the 19th century this smaller pottery had been replaced by the Shiells Kipper House. Fish curing continued up until the 1970s, after which the site housed first plant hire and now road haulage businesses. Following the construction of the Byker Road Bridge and the demolition of the Ouseburn Old Pottery, the area of Stephen Easten's yard remained largely unoccupied until the establishment of the builder's yard some time between 1916 and 1942.

More recently, investigative works have been carried out within Stephen Easten's Yard to the north of Kelly's Yard. An evaluation was undertaken by Tyne and Wear Museums in 2008. The following year, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. carried out a watching brief during geotechnical investigations within the same yard.

The 2008 evaluation saw the excavation of four trenches, none of which revealed any deposits associated with Hadrian's Wall, although it was acknowledged that the lowest recorded deposits may relate to flood-plain material from the Ouseburn and may seal further archaeological levels. Extensive remains of the Ouseburn Pottery Works were however located on the site up to 1.5m in depth and displaying a number of phases.

The watching brief undertaken in 2009 in the former Stephen Easten's Yard revealed that as well as later industrial archaeological remains, subsurface obstructions to the coring may represent denuded remains of Hadrian's Wall between 2.5-6m in depth. An additional borehole along the assumed line of the Wall also located a sandstone block at 6m. The nature of the investigations, i.e. the use of

50mm cores, means that the subsurface obstructions can not be definitely identified as part of the Wall.

A single evaluation trench was excavated by the Archaeological Practice within the current site in 2010. Both parts of Trench 1 revealed evidence of considerable disturbance as a result of modern industrial activity. A drain exposed in the northern part of Trench 1a might be contemporary with the pottery shown on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey and perhaps other 19th-century maps, but no remains of that building were encountered which were of a more significant nature. The historic maps show the pottery as a long rectangular building running across the northern part of the area of Kelly's Yard, roughly on a NNE-SSW alignment, with additional buildings attached to the north and north-west of it by the time of OS 1st edition. The possibility cannot therefore be excluded that traces of the structures might survive elsewhere in the yard, perhaps a little beyond the northern limit of Trench 1a.

No evidence for the preservation of any Roman features associated with Hadrian's Wall was revealed. The trenches were excavated down to natural levels despite the relentless influx of ground water on the site. Natural levels were encountered at lesser depth (1.0-1.2m) than was the case in Stephen Easten's Yard. These deposits may in part be alluvial (particularly in Trench 1b where a possible stream channel was exposed) and could conceivably mask earlier cultural deposits. It should be noted that Kelly's Yard – particularly the southern half of the yard where the trenches were located – lies close to the natural scarp of the Ouseburn valley. Indeed the southern end of the yard has actually been quarried into the bedrock of the slope. The shallower depth of modern overburden encountered on the site may be related to this proximity to slope of the valley side.

More recent work to the west of the site has further helped to pin down the location of Hadrian's Wall in this area. An excavation at Norris House, Crawhill Road (PCA, 2022) located the truncated and collapsed remains of Hadrian's Wall, along with the location of Turret 3a, the line of the Wall Ditch, and a number of berm obstacle pits between the Wall and the Ditch.

## **2.4 Nature of Proposed Developments**

The proposed development comprises the erection of a five-storey, mixed-use, short-term let 28no. bed aparthotel, with 2 commercial units to ground floor and associated parking and infrastructure at the former Kelly's Yard, Foundry Lane, Newcastle Upon Tyne.



### 3. SOURCES FOR ASSESSMENT

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#### 3.1 Archival Material and Secondary Sources

The report collates evidence from a wide range of published, documentary and cartographic sources consulted in the following archival repositories:

- *The Archaeological Practice archive (AP)*
- *Newcastle City Council's Contaminated Land Specialists (NCCCLS)*
- *Tyne and Wear Archives (T&W)*
- *Newcastle Library Local Studies Section (SL)*
- *Gateshead Library (GL)*
- *Tyne and Wear Historic Environment Record (HER)*
- *Literary & Philosophical Society Library (L&P)*

#### 3.2 Types of Information

Included amongst the various kinds of information used from each of the above sources to assess the significance of the assessment area are the following:

##### 3.2.1 HER and Listed Buildings Records

###### ***UNESCO World Heritage Sites***

The corridor of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site traverses the study area, encompassing the northern half of the proposed development site at Kelly's Yard. This is part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire transnational cultural World Heritage Site, with other elements including the German Limes (inscribed 2005) and the Antonine Wall (inscribed 2008).

###### ***Scheduled Ancient Monuments***

The Scheduling of a site by the Secretary of State denotes it is of at least national significance and provides statutory protection over a defined area. There are no scheduled ancient monuments within the present assessment site, the nearest being stretches of Hadrian's Wall which lie out of visible range of the site to the ENE (SM 1000098, next to the western end of Shields Road). Further stretches of the Wall in wall mile 4 lie to the SSW between Crawhall Road and Jubilee Road (HE List Entry no. 1003512).

### **Listed Buildings**

Listing of structures by the Secretary of State denotes historical or architectural interest but does not necessarily include all buildings of significance or local importance. There are no listed buildings within the site itself, however there are four within a 1.5 km radius of the site which may be affected visually by the proposed development works, the closest being the Cluny warehouse complex standing on the opposite bank of the Ouseburn to the west (List Entry: 1355264) and the former flour mill immediately to the south (List Entry: 1024834).

### **Conservation Area**

The proposed development site at Kelly's Yard falls entirely within the Lower Ouseburn Conservation Area.

### **Sites Appearing on the Tyne and Wear Historic Environment Records (HER)**

The County HER has been accessed for entries within and in close proximity to the assessment area that may be impacted by proposed developments. Consideration of sites outside the defined area enables better evaluation of its archaeological and historical context, highlighting the nature of potential remains within the assessment area. There are no entries located in or on the border of the assessment area. 77 sites were identified either within a 1.5 km radius of the proposed development site or in the immediate environs of that zone and deemed to be relevant to its understanding..

#### **3.2.2 Primary documentary sources**

The majority of documents relating to the medieval and post-medieval history of the site have been incorporated in synthetic accounts of the history of the city. No additional relevant documents for the medieval or later periods were encountered in the county archives.

#### **3.2.3 Secondary and Published Information**

Published works which shed general contextual light upon the assessment area or upon particular aspects of its archaeology or history were consulted, and cited where relevant in the synthesis included in the full assessment report. Pevsner's Buildings of England series (Pevsner et. al. 1992) was consulted for additional information on buildings of note and their urban context. Particularly are the results of a number of archaeological investigations which have taken place in the Lower Ouseburn Valley in recent years following the introduction of PPG 16. These shed light upon, or may be used to assess, the depth, character and degree of preservation of archaeological deposits. The following have been consulted for the purposes of the present study:

- *AD Archaeology, 2017, Crawhall Road, Byker, Newcastle upon Tyne: Archaeological Recording (HER 2017/69)*
- *Northern Archaeological Associates, 2015, Hadrian's Wall, Crawhall Road, Ouseburn, Newcastle upon Tyne: Archaeological Evaluation (HER 2016/140)*
- *Northern Archaeological Associates, 2021, Norris House, Crawhall Road, Newcastle upon Tyne: Negative Watching Brief Report (HER 2021/12)*

- Northern Counties Archaeological Service, 2002, Byker Farm, Lower Ouseburn: Archaeological Assessment (HER 2002/13)
- North Pennines Archaeology Ltd. 2009 Foundry Lane, Ouseburn: An Archaeological Watching Brief
- Pre-Construct Archaeology, 2022, Norris House, Crawhall Road, Ouseburn, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear: Archaeological Post-excavation Assessment Report (HER 2022/27)
- The Archaeological Practice, 2004, 26 Lime Street, Newcastle upon Tyne: An Archaeological Assessment & Photographic Recording (AP 04/15)
- The Archaeological Practice, 2010, Foundry Lane, Ouseburn, An Archaeological Evaluation
- Tyne & Wear Museums Museum's Service 1997 Stepney Bank Development: An Archaeological Assessment (HER 1997/55)
- Tyne & Wear Museums Archaeology Department, 2002, Byker City Farm: Evaluation and Photographic Survey (HER 2002/49)
- Tyne & Wear Museums Archaeology Department, 2002, Byker City Farm: Watching Brief (HER 2002/77)
- Tyne & Wear Museums Archaeology Department, 2003, Quay Timber Site, Hume Street, Tyne and Wear: Archaeological Assessment and Photographic Survey
- Tyne & Wear Museums Archaeology Department, 2004, Stepney Bank, Newcastle, An Archaeological Evaluation (HER 2004/11)
- Tyne & Wear Museums Archaeology Department, 2005, Stepney Bank, Newcastle, An Archaeological Evaluation (HER 2005/66)
- Tyne & Wear Museums Archaeology Department, 2005, Byker Buildings/Stephen Street, Byker : An Archaeological Assessment (HER 2005/19)
- Tyne and Wear Museums, 2008, Stephen Easten's Yard: An Archaeological Evaluation
- Wardell Armstrong, 2003, 7-17 Lime Street, Newcastle: An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment for H. J. Banks and Co. Ltd.

### **Trade Directories**

The following trade directories listing Ouseburn or Foundry Lane were consulted:

Ward 1871-2	Ward 1934
Christie 1874-5	Kelly 1947
Ward 1889-90	Kelly 1953
Kelly 1894	Kelly 1962
Ward 1915-6	Kelly 1968

### **3.2.4 Map Evidence (see Illus. 03-10)**

Newcastle is comparatively rich in both the quantity and quality of map evidence surviving from as early as the early 17th century, the bulk of it held by Tyne & Wear Archive Services, Newcastle Central Library and published synthetically by Graham (1984). However, as the Ouseburn fell outside of the jurisdiction of Newcastle until 1835, it is not included on many early plans of the city, with the first detailed plan of the area being that of Donkin dating to 1767. The study of these early maps provide invaluable evidence for understanding the history of the area and compiling the catalogue of sites and monuments. The following were examined as part of the assessment:

*Hutton's plan of 1770, (Figure 19)*

*Horsley's map of Hadrian's Wall, 1732 (Figure 18)*

*Donkin's Survey of lands lying at Byker belonging to Sir Henry Lawson Bart 1767 (NRO ZAN MSM 8b) (Figure 14)*

*Wood's Map of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1827 (Figure 4)*

*Oliver's Map of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1831 (Figure 5)*

*Oliver's Map of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1844 (Figure 6)*

*Oliver's Map of Newcastle upon Tyne, 1851 (Figure 7)*

*First Edition Ordnance Survey, 1859, Northumberland, 25" (Figure 15)*

*Second Edition Ordnance Survey, 1898, Northumberland, 25" (Figure 8)*

*Third Edition Ordnance Survey, 1916, Northumberland, 25" (Figure 9)*

*Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey, 1942, Northumberland, 25" (Figure 10)*

*[NB. Many of these maps have been given interpretative masks and labels to indicate the extent of assessment area.]*

### **3.2.5 Site Inspection**

A site visit was made by Alan Rushworth of The Archaeological Practice for the purposes of this report on 7 February 2023. A number of photographs were taken to illustrate the present appearance of the site and its setting within the lower Ouseburn valley surrounded by historic former industrial buildings and more recent developments.

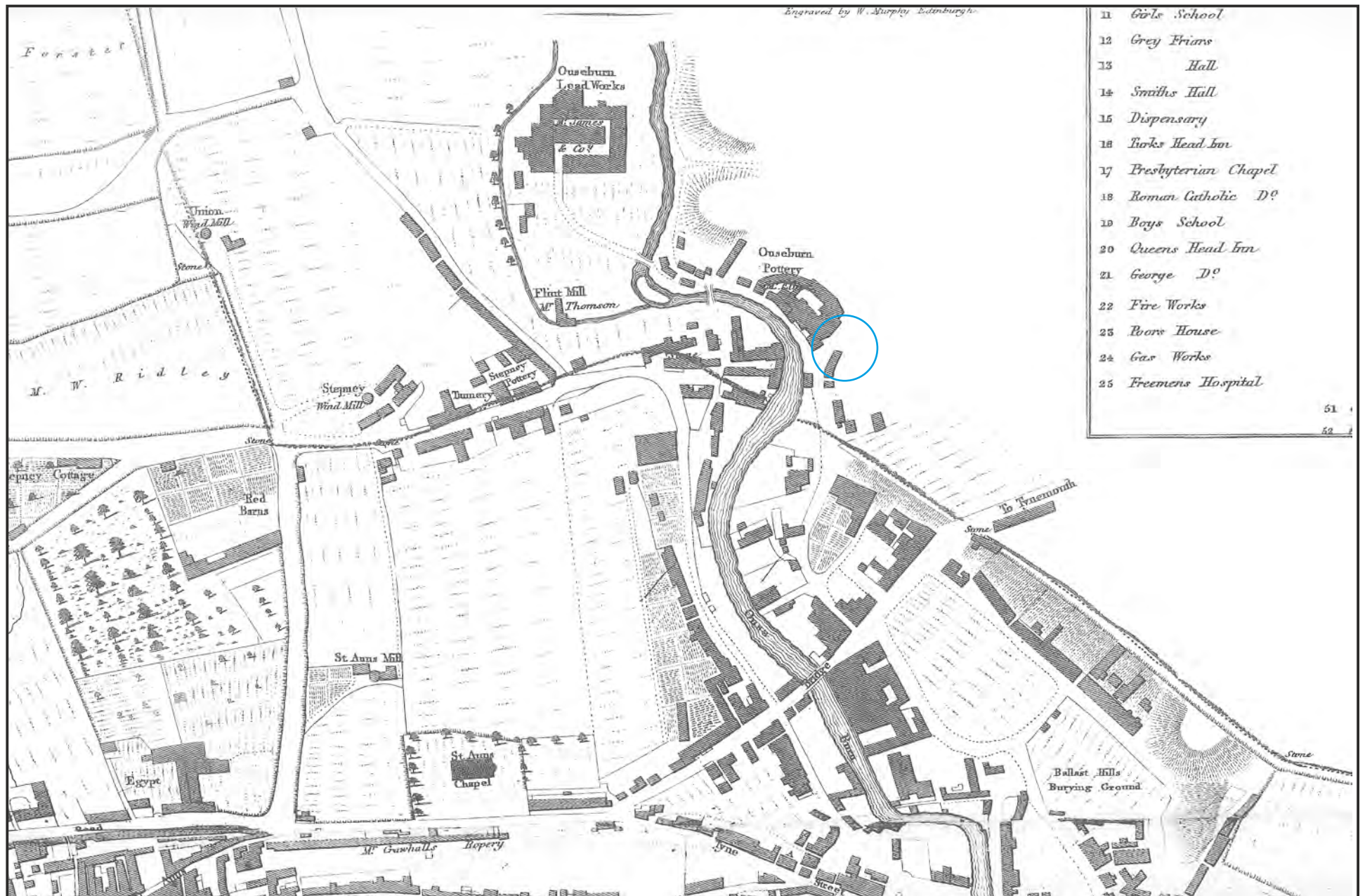
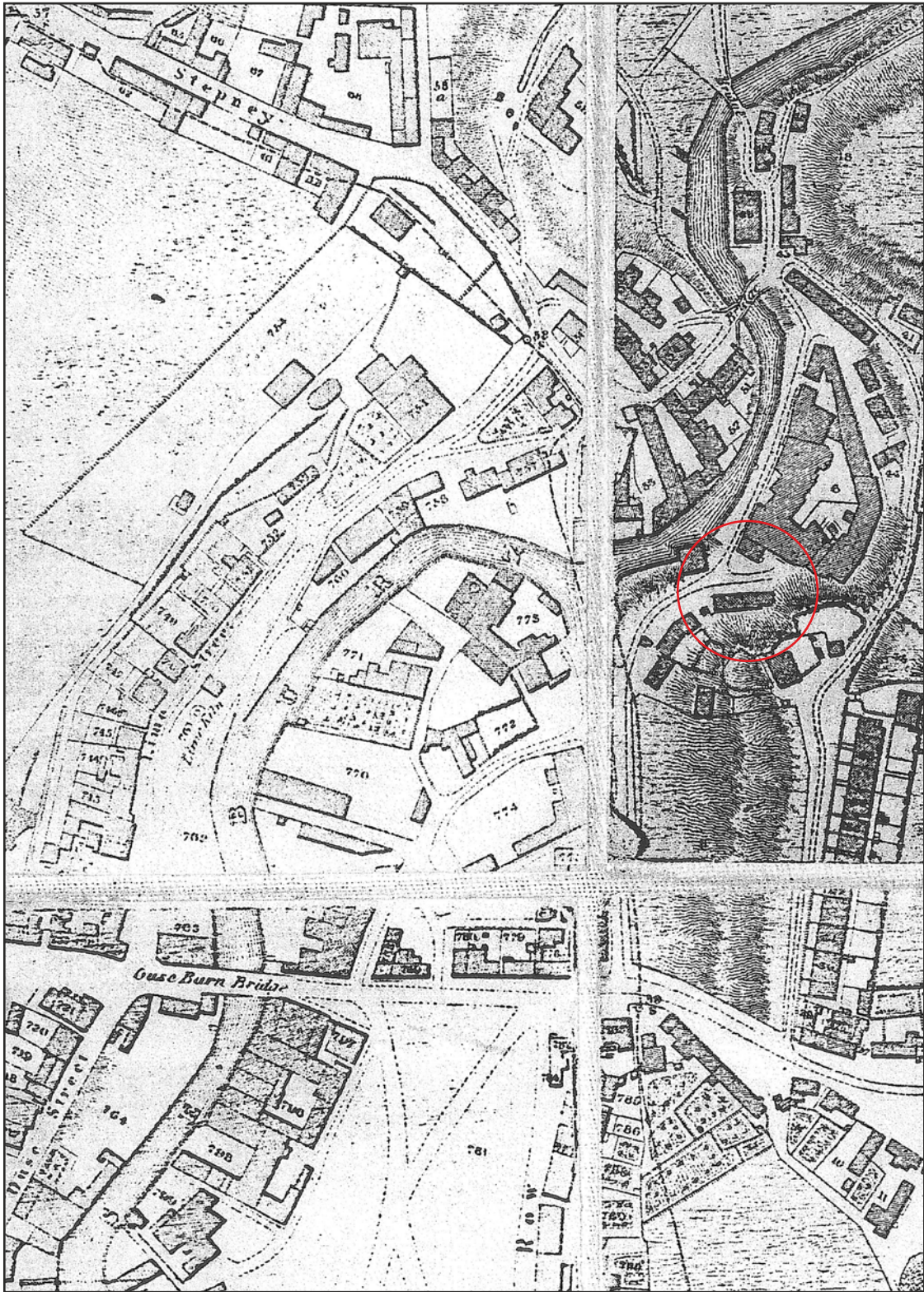


Figure 4: Wood's plan showing the Lower Ouseburn area, 1827, approximate location of assessment area is circled in blue



**Figure 5:** The Lower Ouseburn on Oliver's survey of 1831, approximate area of assessment circled in red.

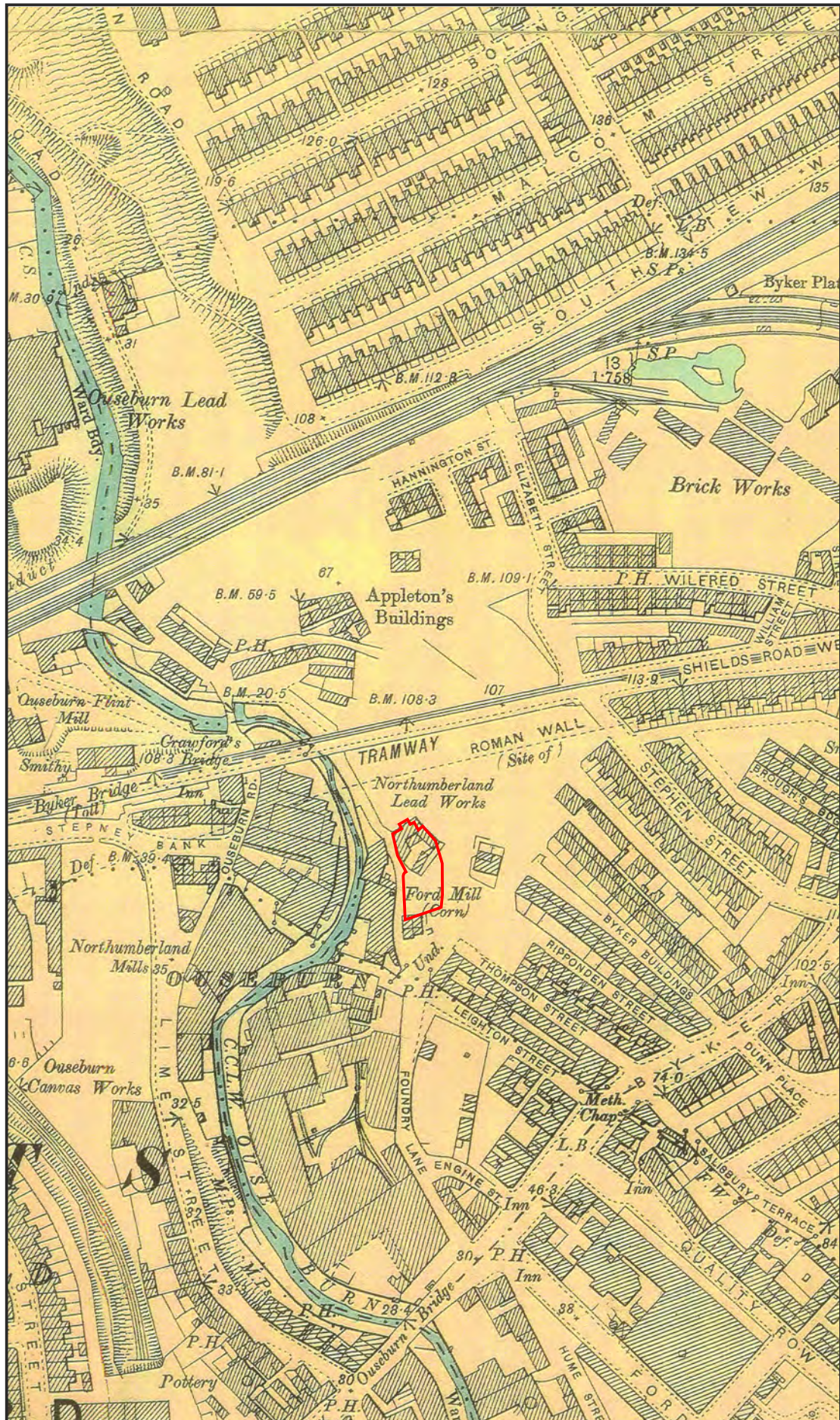


Figure 6: Extract from Oliver's plan of Newcastle, 1844, the approximate site of the assessment area circled in red.

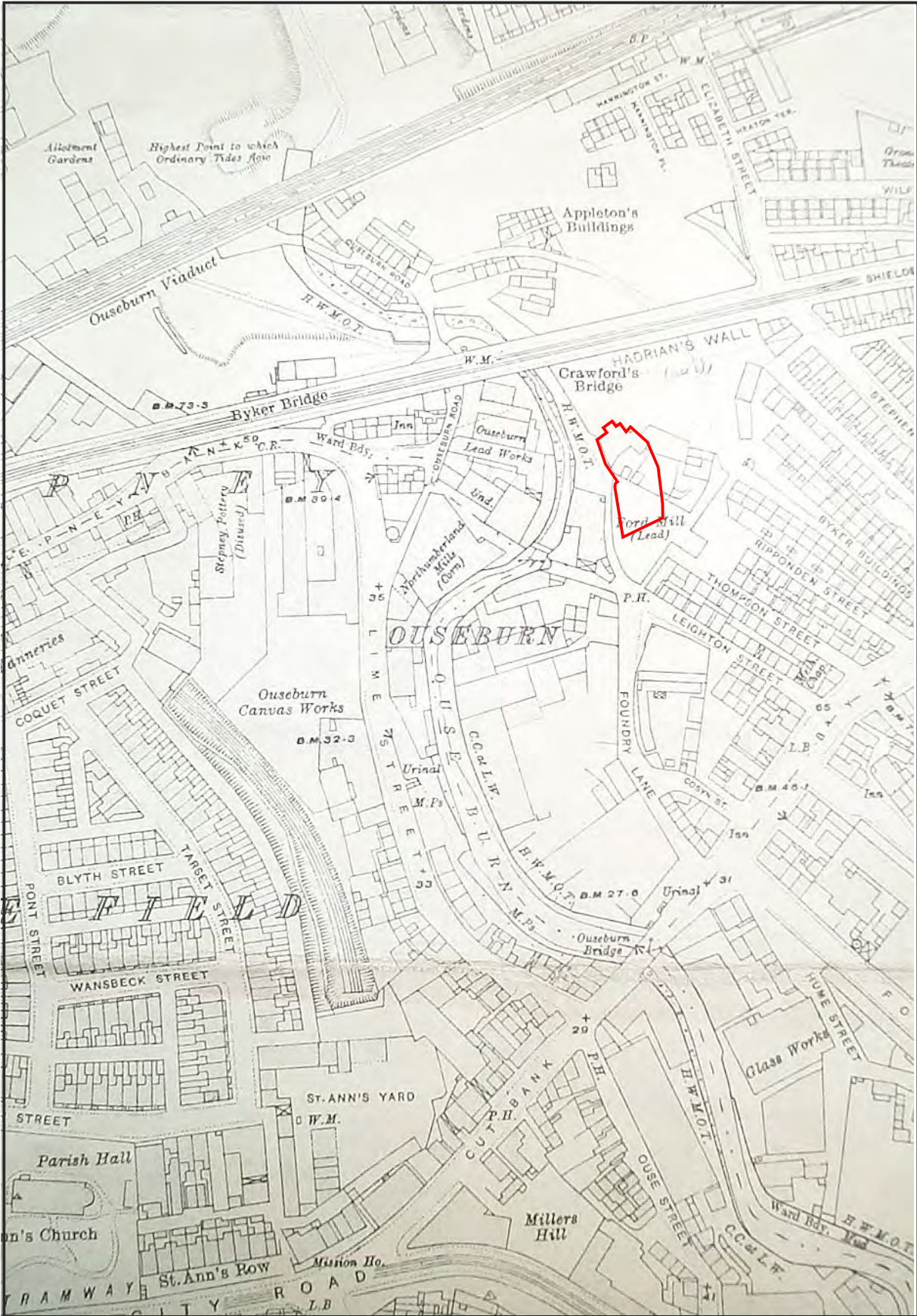


**Figure 7:** The Lower Ouseburn shown on Oliver's survey, 1851, approximate location of assessment site is circled in red.





**Figure 8:** Extract from Second Edition Ordnance Survey plan, 1898, approximate extent of Kelly's Yard is outlined in red.



**Figure 9:** Extract from Third Edition Ordnance Survey plan, 1916, approximate extent of Kelly's Yard is shown in red.

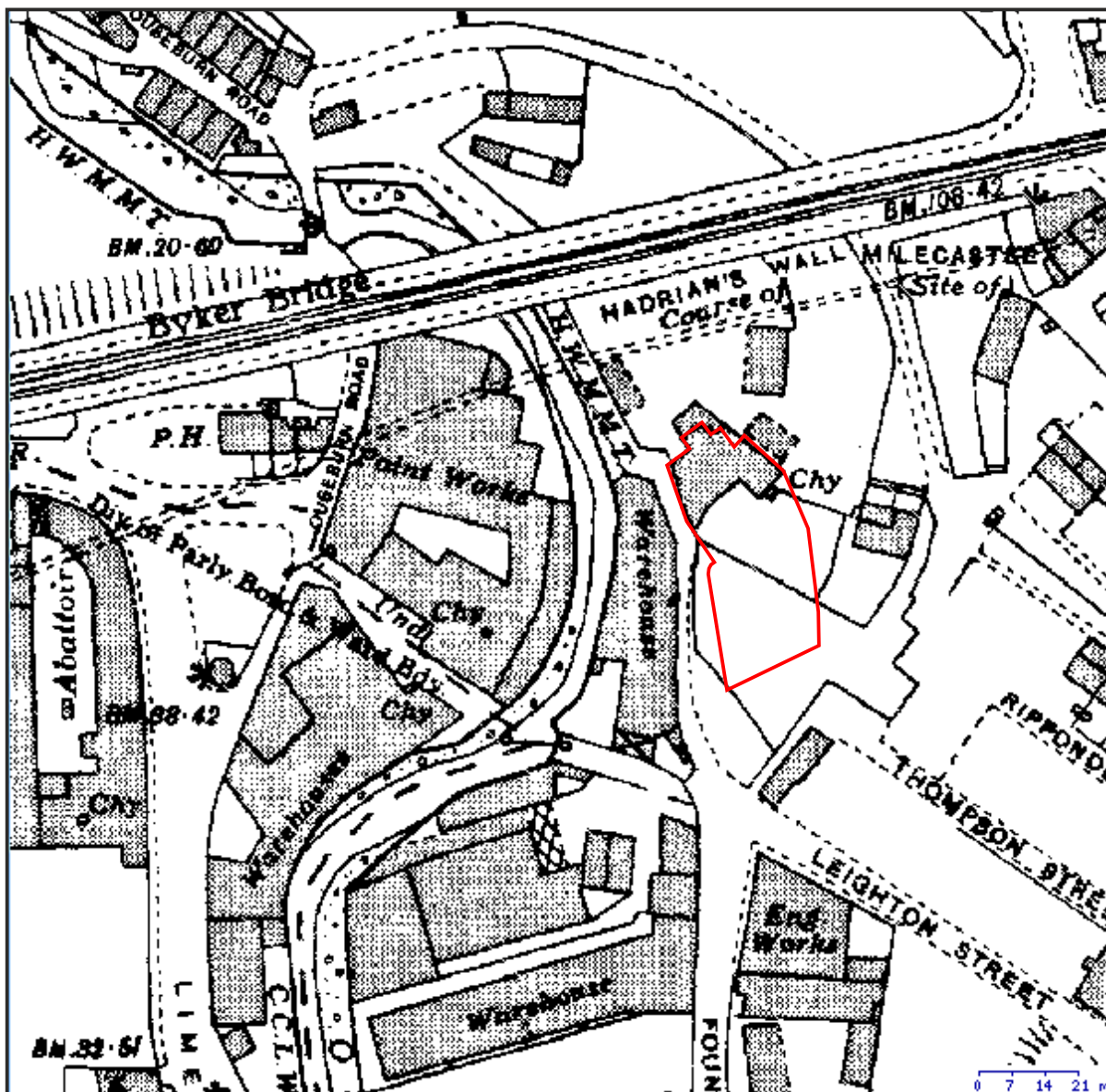
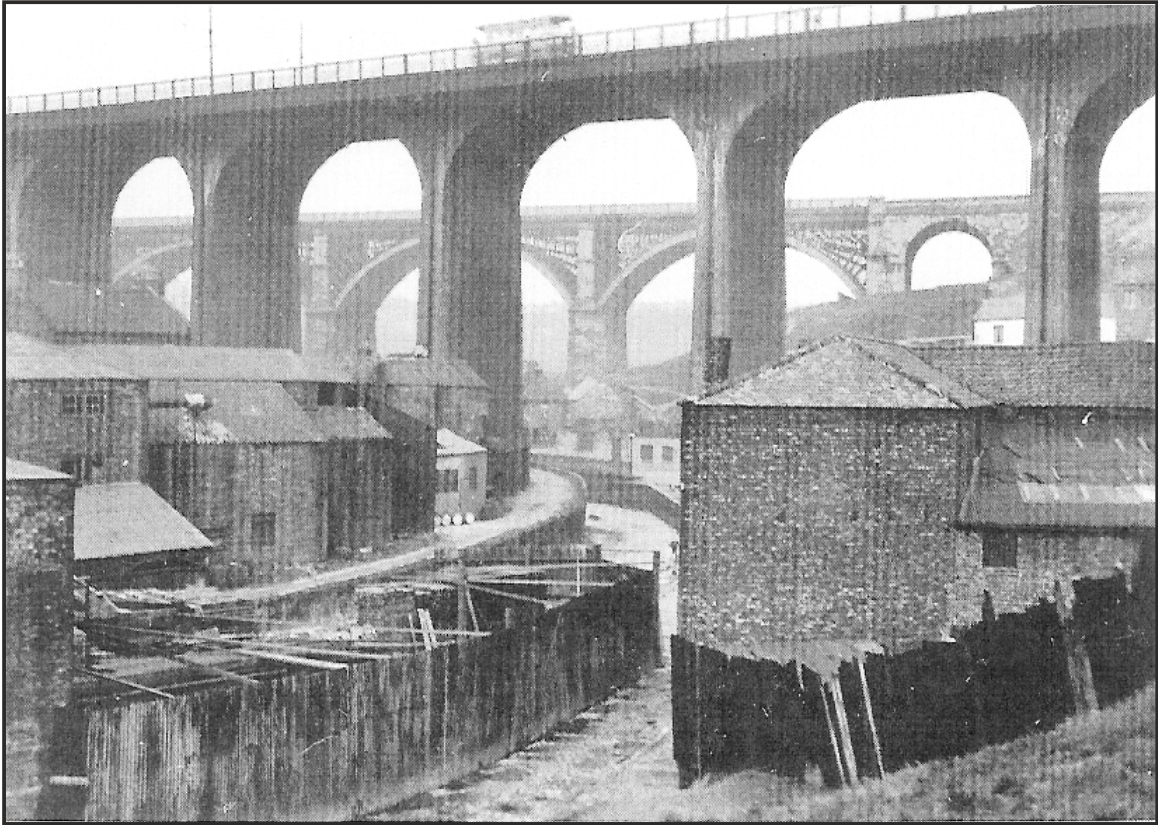


Figure 10: Extract from Fourth Edition Ordnance Survey plan, 1942, approximate extent of Kelly's Yard is shown in red.



**Figure 11:** A photograph c. 1920 by C.J.Young showing the Byker Bridge and Ouseburn Viaduct (after Foster 1995)



**Figure 12:** View of Foundry Lane looking north towards Kelly's Yard, 1963 (NL Acc.63084)

## 4. SITE CATALOGUE

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The catalogue below provides a listing of the sites within the proposed development area and those in the wider vicinity which may be visually impacted or which may provide contextual information regarding the historical development of the area. The catalogue is derived from consultation of the sources noted in section 3. Cross referencing is provided to the relevant HER, Listed Building and Scheduled Ancient Monument identifiers.

Particularly well-represented in the surrounding area are remains of post medieval and later industrial remains, and their associated infrastructure and domestic remains.

Archaeological assessment requires consideration both of the area likely to be materially affected by developments and sites in the immediate vicinity which may be visually affected. Catalogue numbers are keyed to *Figure 13*.

### 4.1 Sites of interest listed in the HER within the vicinity of the proposed development area

**[1] Shiells Kipper House, Byker.** HER ref 5575; NGR NZ 2631 6463

*Site of kipper factory operating from at least the early 1890s up until the 1970s. Tall wooden smoke house is no longer standing, however small brick office building survives. Site of a pottery shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS (1859).*

**[2] The Three Stones, Byker.** HER ref 5224; NGR NZ 262 646

*Stones photographed c.1880 supposedly marking the spot where Hadrian's Wall crossed the Ouseburn. Examined in 1928 by the North of England Excavation Committee who concluded they were modern dressed stones. Area now overgrown.*

**[3] Ouseburn Old Pottery.** HER ref 4677; NGR NZ 263 646

*Shown on Wood's Map of 1827, and successive maps up to and including the 1st edition OS map. Demolished by 1898 (2nd edition OS).*

**[4] Byker Road Bridge.** HER ref 1945; NGR NZ 2626 6464

*Constructed in 1878 to overcome the need to descend and ascend the steep sides of the valley. Toll charged until 1895.*

**[5] Chimney, Lime Street, Byker.** HER ref 1840; NGR NZ 2621 6456

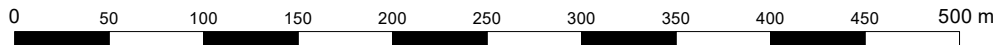
*Part of the Cluny Warehouse complex, former steam operated flax mill.*

**[6] Northumberland Lead Works, Byker.** HER ref 4337; NGR NZ 2625 6461

*Site of the Northumberland Lead Works now occupied by the City Farm. Parts of masonry structure surviving (including date stone on 1871) within the City Farm, and excavation in 2002 revealed archaeological deposits associated with the lead works and adjacent flax mill surviving.*



Scale 1:4000



*Fig. 13: HER map, showing sites of cultural heritage value within 0.5 km diameter (large red circle) of, or relevant to the study area (purple area at centre).*

**[7] Upper Steenberg's, Byker.** HER ref 5582; NGR NZ 2617 6453

Large scale warehouses of this yard dominating Lime Street. Was state of the art slaughter house built by the Co-operative Society. Now converted into residential flats, workshops, Ouseburn Partnership Office and an indoor riding ring for Stepney Bank Stables

**[8] Copperas Works, Byker.** HER ref 4676; NGR NZ 2615 6448

Site of copperas works marked on Oliver's map of 1844, and listed in a directory of 1821-2 as Angus Caleb & Co. Works disappeared by 1855, however one kiln shown as remaining in the yard on the 1st Edition OS map.

**[9] Ouseburn Canvas Works.** HER ref 5284; NGR NZ 2619 6446

Building first shown on the 1st Edition OS map, and as the Ouseburn Canvas Works on the 2nd Edition OS map.

**[10] Lime Street Mission Room.** HER ref 5578; NGR NZ 2624 6439

Listed in Ward's Directory of 1892 at 24 Lime Street, and shown on 2nd Edition OS Map. Adjoining buildings were houses and the Newcastle Arms Public House. A brick wall survives fronting onto Lime Street.

**[11] Lime Street Pottery.** HER ref 5456; NGR NZ 2624 6436

Marked on the 2nd Edition OS map (1898). By 1942 a Roman Catholic Church occupied the site.

**[12] 3 & 5 Lime Street Coal Merchants.** HER ref 5574; NGR NZ 2626 6435

Detached three story building on the corner of Lime Street and Cut Bank. Acquired by the Potts family in 1898, previously listed as Montague Coal Depot.

**[13] Ouseburn Bridge.** HER ref 4157; NGR NZ 2630 6438

Site of bridge over the Ouseburn for the Newcastle to North Shields turnpike road, and shown on Hutton's map of 1773, where it is labelled the New Bridge. Now occupied by a minor modern bridge.

**[14] Lower Steenberg's Yard Cattle Sanatorium.** HER ref 4685; NGR NZ 263 643

Structures remaining from the cattle quarantine site built in the late 1800's (opened 1876-77).

**[15] Ouseburn River Walls.** HER ref 4688; NGR NZ 263 643

River walls surviving from the early 1800's and shown on Oliver's map of 1838. Some sections possibly shown on Hutton's map of 1770 (associated with a now demolished corn mill).

**[16] Newcastle Ford Pottery.** HER ref 4968; NGR NZ 264 642

Site of the Ford Street pottery opened by the Maling family in the mid-19th Century (c. 1859).

**[17] Ouseburn Bottle Works, Hulme Street, Byker.** HER ref 1916; NGR NZ 263 643

Remains of structures associated with the bottle works and glass manufacturing in the Ouseburn.

**[18] Ouseburn Bridge Pottery.** HER ref 4967; NGR NZ 262 643

Site of pottery established by Robert Maling in 1815 and superseded by the Ford Pottery in 1859 (HER 4968). Site then sold to Bell Brothers who opened the Albion Pottery on the site.

**[19] Register Street Saw Mill and Timber Yard.** HER ref 5454; NGR NZ 2587 6456

Saw mill and timber yard shown on the 1st Edition OS map.

**[20] Ouseburn Iron Works, Byker.** HER ref 5572; NGR NZ 2628 6446

Shown on 2nd Edition OS map. J. Spencer & Sons are listed as having a forge on Foundry Lane in Ward's Directory of 1892. Locomotive built here for the Lambton Waggonway in 1815.

**[21] Ouseburn Engine Works.** HER ref 5283; NGR NZ 2627 6446

Shown on the 1st Edition OS map. Established in 1853.

**[22] Phoenix Pottery, Byker.** HER ref 5282; NGR NZ 2627 6452

Site of pottery shown on Oliver's map of 1844.

**[23] Ouseburn Chemical Works.** HER ref 5573; NGR NZ 2626 6453

Shown on the 2nd Edition OS map. J. Cook is listed as chemical manufacturer on Foundry Lane in Ward's Directory of 1892.

**[24] Stonyford, Ouseburn, Byker.** HER ref 5223; NGR NZ 2627 6455

Site of a ford across the Ouseburn. Earliest mention in 1549 when it formed part of the Newcastle-Byker boundary. Probably much earlier.

**[25] Mill, Byker (corn).** HER ref 4338; NGR NZ 2631 6457

Late-19th-century Flour Mill, later becomes a Lead Mill.

**[26] Lime Street Slipway.** HER ref 5577; NGR NZ 2622 6447

Slipway down to Ouseburn still retaining original floorscape of granite sets. Used by carts to load goods onto boats. Shown on Oliver's map of 1840.

**[27] Tyne Drysaltery, Byker.** HER ref 5576; NGR NZ 2621 6450

Tyne Drysaltery and Packing Company (soap manufacturers) listed at this site in Ward's Directory of 1892. The original building was replaced with the present structure in 1926, which reuses an eighteenth century datestone in its southern gable end.

**[28] Lime Street Flour Mill.** HER ref 5149; NGR NZ 262 645; LB no. 1024834

Large flour mill built c.1870 standing next to the John Dobson designed flax mill. Now converted into the Centre for Children's Book.

**[29] Lime Street Flax Mill (Cluny Warehouse).** HER ref 5161; NGR NZ 2623 6455; LB no. 1355264

Flax Mill built in 1848 to a design by John Dobson for Plummer and Cooke. Originally steam powered, with the adjacent freestanding chimney forming part of the complex. Later used as a whiskey store, and now divided and used as craft workshops and as a bar/music venue..

**[30] World War 2 Road Block, Shields Road.** HER ref 5802; NGR NZ 264 645

Site of concrete defensive road block constructed during the Second World War.



**[31] Hadrian's Wall, Tunstall Avenue to Stephen Street (Wall Mile 3).** HER ref 201; HE List Entry no. 1000098; NGR NZ 280 652

SAM 28 (5, 8, 9) Wall remains excavated on the south side of Shields Road in 2001 on the site of a new public square in front of the swimming baths.

SAM 28 (5) Curtain 50m south of Shields Road and one-time supposed site of MC 3.

SAM 28 (8) Curtain south side of Fossway to Union Street, recently partly built over.

**[32] Roman Altar find spot.** HER ref 1414; NGR NZ 264 646

Roman Altar found in 1884, deity name illegible.

**[33] Crawford's Bridge, Byker.** HER ref 1946; NGR NZ 262 646; LB no. 1024785

Earliest bridge surviving crossing over the Lower Ouseburn built in the early to mid-18th Century.

**[34] Ouseburn Flint Mill, Byker.** HER ref 4328; NGR NZ 261 646

Site of flint mill associated with Stepney Pottery built mid-19th Century (not on 1st Edition OS map, but marked on the 2nd Edition).

**[35] Ouseburn Viaduct.** HER ref 4327; NGR NZ 261 647; LB no. 1120788

Wrought iron railway viaduct built to replace the timber structure in 1837-9. The stone piers used also carried the original timber bridge.

**[36] Ouseburn Viaduct Toll House.** HER ref 5144; NGR NZ 260 647

Site of toll house for a footpath that ran alongside the railway over the viaduct before the opening of Byker Road Bridge in 1882. Building demolished in 1977.

**[37] Mills, Byker.** HER ref 4329; NGR NZ 261 645

Mills (at least 1) shown on the 2nd Edition OS map.

**[38] John Wood's Stepney Pottery, Stepney Bank, Byker.** HER ref 5280; NGR NZ 261 645

Pottery mentioned in directories of 1877 to 1912 at 36 Stepney Bank.

**[39] Stepney Tannery, Stepney Bank, Byker.** HER ref 5455; NGR NZ 260 645

Shown on 1st Edition OS map.

**[40] Stepney Bank New Pottery, Byker.** HER ref 5281; NGR NZ 260 646

Operated from the late 18th Century, and mentioned in directories from 1790 and 1852-60. Demolished in 1875 to make way for the Byker Bridge.

**[41] Windmill, Stepney Bank, Byker.** HER ref 5451; NGR NZ 259 645

Site of windmill, (possibly designed by Smeaton), listed in an 1858 directory as a sand miller. Demolished for the building of the Byker Bridge.

**[42] Brickfield, Byker.** HER ref 4156; NGR NZ 261 644

A brickfield with clay pits marked on the 1st Edition OS map, but out of use by 1895. Mill at the west end of Stepney Bank used to drive a pump (possibly site HER 5451).

**[43] Ballast Hills Graveyard, Byker.** HER ref 1597; NGR NZ 265 643

Most important non-conformist burial ground in Newcastle during the 17th to 19th Centuries. Last burial entry September 18th 1853, and the site is now used as a playground/open space, with most headstones used as paving.

**[44] Hadrian's Wall, Stephen St. to Dean St (Wall Mile 4).** HER ref 202; NGR NZ 2640 6466

Known and projected course of Hadrian's Wall. List Entry no. 1000098 (ex SAM no. 28) & part of World Heritage Site.

SAM 28 (9): Wall identified at St Dominic's Church

HE List Entry no. 1003512: Wall identified between Crawhall Road and Jubilee Road.

**[45] Stepney Road School** HER ref. 6234; NGR NZ 2597 6475

Shown on 2nd edition OS map.

**[46] North Eastern Railway, Tynemouth Branch** HER ref.1186; NGR NZ 2472 6383

The line between Pilgrim Street and North Shields including the Ouseburn viaduct opened in 1839. In 1904 it became the first line in the country to operate electric trains.

**[47] Jesmond Vale Mill Race** HER ref.5757; NGR NZ 2611 6465

Site of mill race which ran from the weir (HER 5786) to Jesmond flint mill (HER 4142) and to the Ouseburn flint mill (HER 4328)

**[48] Flint mill bridge** HER ref.5581; NGR NZ 256166471

Early modern stone bridge next to site of flint mill.

**[49] Stepney Bank Stables** HER ref.5473; NGR NZ26036457

Early modern stables established 1897 for Global Parcel Express Company. Only working urban stables in Newcastle.

**[50] Victoria Tunnel** HER ref.4091; NGR NZ 2636 6410; LB

Built between 1839 and 1842 to get coal from Spital Tongues colliery to the River Tyne. It was closed between 1860 and 1939 until it opened again as an air raid shelter. Part of it is now a sewer and it is a listed building.

**[51] St. Ann's Yard** HER ref.5584; NGR NZ2616 6430

The yard was part of John Scott and Sons Haulage Yard and Stables, built in 1886-7 and used until 1968. It is a rare survival of such a haulage yard and it lies about Victoria Tunnel (HER 4091)

**[52] Byker Buildings** HER ref.7991; NGR NZ 2639 6460

Site of a street of tenement housing constructed in 1858 with the Cumberland Arms at the western end. The buildings were demolished by the 1960s.

**[53] Byker Bank Smithy** HER ref.7986; NGR NZ 2652 6465

Site of smithy on Byker Bank. One of two smithy's at top of Byker Bank, shown on 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map.(See also site 56)

**[54] Wolseley Street, Plough Inn** HER ref.7985; NGR NZ 2654 6458

Site of the Plough Inn shown on 2nd edition OS map.

**[55] Brewery Bank, Methodist Chapel** HER ref.7984 NGR NZ 2641 6450

Site of Methodist Chapel shown on 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map, by the 2nd edition Brewery Bank renamed Leighton Street.

**[56] Byker Bank Smithy** HER ref.7987 NGR NZ 2653 6468

Site of smithy on Byker Bank. One of two smithy's at top of Byker Bank, shown on 2nd edition OS map.(See also site 53)

**[57] Byker Buildings, Cumberland Arms** HER ref.7989 NGR NZ2639 6460

Public House at the western end of tenement housing (HER 7991 cat. No. 52). In the late 19th century the building was enlarged to incorporate nos 2 & 3 James Street, the plan remains largely unchanged today.

**[58] Byker Bank Minerva/Imperial cinema** HER ref.7990 NGR NZ2652 6465

Site of the Minerva cinema opened in August 1910 renamed the Imperial in 1918.It closed in 1963 and became a warehouse before being demolished in 1985. Shown on the 3rd edition OS map.

**[59] Ouseburn Tile Kiln** HER ref.8005 NGR NZ2608 6465

Shown on Donkin's survey of lands at Byker belonging to Sir Henry Lawson Bart 1767.

**[60] St. Ann's Mill** HER ref.8006 NGR NZ 2597 6434

Shown on Wood's plan 1827. Unnamed buildings are shown on this site on 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map.

**[61] Ford A pottery, tunnel** HER ref.7057 NGR NZ 2643 6435

The tunnel was built to link the pottery on the east side of Ford Street built in 1859 and a warehouse on the west side of the street built in 1868. The tunnel may still exist.

**[62] Quayside Branch Line** HER ref.4326 NGR NZ 2642 6414

Railway along quayside from Swing Bridge to Ouseburn opened in 1870 and closed in 1969 due to reduced river trade. The northern portal was removed with construction of the metro in the 1970s.

**[63] Balast Hill** HER ref.4154 NGR NZ 2660 6436

Site of ballast hill based on map evidence.

**[64] Byker Ropery** HER ref.4163 NGR NZ2678 6432

Site of ropery based on map evidence.

**[65] Newcastle to North Shields Turnpike** HER ref.1191 NGR NZ 3648 6903

The turnpike was superseded by the Newcastle to North Shields railway in 1839. It is not known when it opened.

**[66] Thomas Thompson House** HER ref.1593 NGR NZ2654 6473

At centre of Conservative Working Mens Club is sandstone ashlar two storey house. It may overlie an earlier structure as it is at a significant point on the turnpike road (HER 1191 see above)

**[67] Moor Pit** HER ref.17168 NGR NZ262647

Shown on an 18th-century plan of Heaton Estate. Its precise location is unknown. Closed by 1815. Used to try to rescue the trapped miners of the Heaton Main Colliery disaster May 1815.

**[68] Shields Road, WW2 Roadblock** HER ref.5802 NGR NZ264645

Site of WW2 concrete roadblocks. Constructed 1940-1, now destroyed.

**[69] Byker Tavern, Byker Bank** HER ref.15852 NGR NZ265646

Known as the 'Police Bar' when it was managed by a former policeman. It closed in 1970.

**[70] Bay Horse Public House, Byker Bank** HER ref.15851 NGR NZ265646

Knocked down to make way for the Shields Road bypass.

**[71] Ouseburn, Lime Street, No. 51, 'Wire Horses'** HER ref.11017 NGR NZ26196450

2002 by Daniel Reed. Galvanised steel wire frame horses emerging from the wall. The building is the riding arena for Stepney Bank Stables. Commissioned by the Ouseburn Trust.

**[72] Ouseburn, Cumberland Arms, 'Seats with a View'** HER ref.11016 NGR NZ26426462

A circle of seats and stone blocks telling story fragments by Chris Bostock and Malcolm Green, storytellers based at the Cumberland Arms.

**[73] Byker, Leighton Street, Phoenix Tavern** HER ref.15846 NGR NZ263645

Opened a new club room in 1893. From 1921 it was a Calder's pub. Lost its licence in 1931.

**[74] Ouseburn, Brown Kiln/New Flax Mill Public House** HER ref.15841 NGR NZ2621364489

The Brown Kiln was renamed the New Flax Mill in the late 1840s when John Dobson's new mill opened nearby. It closed in 1873.

**[75] Ouseburn, Lime Street, Lime Kiln** HER ref.5453 NGR NZ26246441

Lime kiln shown on Oliver's plan of 1830. Not shown on Oliver's 1844 plan or 1st ed OS. The lime kiln was built into the bank of the Ouseburn and was served by keels for lime and coal.

**[76] Byker Bank, Byker House Public House** HER ref. 15850 NGR NZ26446452

On the corner of Ripponden Street. Small free house known locally as 'Jack Charlton's' after its licensee from 1900. Jack Charlton died in 1928. Lost its licence 1929, demolished 1931.

**[77] Stepney Bank, Samian Bowl.** HER ref: 11949; NGR: NZ 2596 6452

Fragments of a Roman Samian Ware bowl found by school boy c.1950 in Stepney Bank by demolished house near Mark Toney's ice-cream factory. In Museum of Antiquities.

#### **4.3 Archaeological events. (cf. also 6.1)**

The following interventions and other events are recorded in the Tyne & Wear County HER database:

**[01] HER Event 43 Fno 985; NGR: NZ 2593 6450**

Biblio: Spain, G. R. B. (1929) second report of the North of England Excavation Committee: 1926-28.



Scale 1:4000

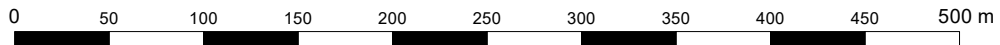


Fig. 14: HER map, showing archaeological events within 0.5 km diameter (large red circle) of, or relevant to the study area (purple area at centre).

Excavations on west side of Ouseburn at Messers Elders, Walker and Co's Works, Messers Currie and Co's Yard, and Messers Hardy Bros Yard on the North side of Stepney Bank. Nothing found.

**[02] HER Event 49 Fno 985; NGR: NZ 2591 6449**

*Biblio: Spain, G. R. B. (1929) second report of the North of England Excavation Committee: 1926-28. Excavation of V shaped ditch believed to be associated with Hadrian's Wall 80 Yards south of St Dominic's Priory. Found in the yard of the High Level Brand Co. on the east side of Crawhall Road at the west end of Stepney Bank. (NCH section 1).*

**[03] HER Event 3488 - DBA at Foundry Lane, 2006 by The Archaeological Practice; NGR: NZ2632864598**

*DBA and photographic recording of Foundry Lane, Ouseburn. The principal findings of the assessment were related to Hadrian's Wall, which may traverse the northern part of the assessment area.*

**[04] HER Event 3374 - Evaluation at Foundry Lane, 2010 by The Archaeological Practice; NGR: NZ 264646**

*One evaluation trench excavated in the former Kelly's Yard. No Roman features were revealed. A 19th century drain was exposed but no evidence for any buildings.*

**[05] HER Event 2764 – DBA for Stephen Easten's Yard, 2007 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ26316463**

*Assessment concludes that the line of Hadrian's Wall is likely to run through it. The site was later occupied by a 19th-century pottery works. IA recommendation is made for evaluation in advance of decisions on a mitigation strategy for the site.*

**[06] HER Event 3018 - Evaluation at Stephen Easten's Yard, 2008 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ26316463**

*Four trenches excavated. No deposits associated with Hadrian's Wall were identified although these may be sealed beneath the 2+ metres of material of Ouseburn flood plain deposits. Extensive remains of the Ouseburn Pottery Works were located surviving up to 1.5m in depth.*

**[07] HER Event 4441 – Watching Brief at Stephen Easten's Yard, 2016 by AAG Archaeology; NGR: NZ 26319 64632**

*No trace of Hadrian's Wall crossing the site but post-medieval and later industrial remains, evidence of quarrying and a ventilation shaft or well were discovered.*

**[08] HER Event 3405 – Watching Brief at Stephen Easten's Yard, 2010 by North Pennines Archaeology; NGR: NZ 2631 6463**

*19th/20th-century sandstone walls and a modern brick building identified which was still standing on arrival. These appear to relate to the 19th/20th-century industrial use of the site.*

**[09] HER Event 2902 - Evaluation at Foundry Lane, 2007 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 262 646**

*In advance of a new sewer. Three trenches excavated. In trench 2 a post med sandstone culvert was recorded 2.15m below present ground level, above which were layers of rubble forming the base for a sandstone and brick floor, probably the Ford Lead Works. In the NE corner of trench a brick-lined flue cut through the floor. Trench 3 recorded a sandstone wall and brick surface of late 19th-century date probably the rear wall of the lead works.*

**[10] HER Event 3148 – Watching Brief for Lower Ouseburn CSO's Project, 2008 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 26302 64473**

Four watching briefs undertaken during sewerage works. 1) Jesmond Vale Footbridge (4.5m x 4.5m x 3.5m deep). No in-situ remains were noted 2) Foundry Lane North (1.8m x 1.8m x 3m deep). No archaeological features were observed. 3) Foundry Lane South (4.45m x 3.5m deep) No archaeological features relating to Hadrian's Wall were encountered. 4) Steenberg's Yard (4.5m x 3m x 3m deep). No remains of industrial buildings were visible.

**[11] HER Event 1945 - Evaluation at Byker City Farm, 2002 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 2625 6460**

Photographic record of former lead works buildings and trial trenching in advance of remediation work to remove contaminated land. Trenches revealed complex foundations of lead works. No trace of Hadrian's Wall, but trenches only 2m deep.

**[12] HER Event 1881 – DBA for Byker City Farm, 2002 by NCAS; NGR: NZ 26263 64613**

Assessment in advance of remediation work on former lead works site. Site crossed by presumed line of Hadrian's Wall. The 19th-century Northumberland Lead Works are of industrial interest.

**[13] HER Event 2696 - Evaluation at Cumberland Arms site, 2006 by Archaeological Research Services; NGR: NZ 263 646**

Two small evaluation trenches excavated on the projected line of Hadrian's Wall uncovered no remains of archaeological significance.

**[14] HER Event 1444 - Evaluation at Stephen Street, 1995 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 26431 64643**

Evaluation on line of Hadrian's Wall. No trace of the Wall was noted, but ground levels had been raised by 3.5m in the late 19th century. A dump of Maling pottery kiln waste was found.

**[15] HER Event 1475 - Evaluation at 4-36 Shields Road, 1985 by CEU; NGR: NZ 2642 6467**

Trial trench in advance of the proposed bypass road. Two trenches were excavated between the former 4 and 36 Shields Road. Only 19th-century waste was found. No indication of Roman levels.

**[16] HER Event 1476 - Evaluation at 36-78 Shields Road, 1987 by CEU; NGR: NZ 2647 6468**

Four trial trenches. No sign of the Wall or ditch were found.

**[17] HER Event 1917 - Evaluation at Shields Road West, 2001 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 26515 64698**

Evaluation to north of line of Hadrian's Wall. No archaeological deposits revealed. Land had been artificially raised.

**[18] HER Event 1952 – Desk based assessment of Shields Road Phase 2, 2002 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 2680 6480**

Assessment of area in Hadrian's Wall corridor. Hadrian's Wall may survive as little as 200mm below the modern surface as it did 358m to the east.

**[19] HER Event 1418 – Watching Brief at Stepney Bank, 1999 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 263 647**

Watching brief during erection of CCTV camera and mast. Site is within Hadrian's Wall corridor. No evidence of pre-modern material.

**[20] HER Event 1413 – Evaluation at Byker Bridge, 1999 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 2618 6463**

Evaluation beneath Byker Bridge in advance of the construction of a carpark. No evidence of Hadrian's Wall was found. Linear cut features which possibly represent portions of the wall ditch were identified in both trenches.

**[21] HER Event 1412 – Watching Brief at Byker City Farm, 1999 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 2615 6467**

Watching brief during construction of a pond measuring 13m x 9.2m. No significant archaeological deposits were encountered. A layer of fragments of machine made brick was seen and demolition material, possibly part of Ouseburn flint mill.

**[22] HER Event 2813 – Watching Brief at Stepney Bank, 2007 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 2619 6460**

A watching brief undertaken during excavation of service trenches to Bruvver's Theatre uncovered no archaeological remains of significance since they did not penetrate deposits of 19th-century origin.

**[23] HER Event 1422 – Desk based assessment of Stepney Bank, 1997 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 26145 64551**

Hadrian's Wall crosses development area. Also area of industrial importance.

**[24] HER Event 2490 – Building Recording of Wood's Pottery, 2005 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 262 647**

Recording of Wood's Pottery and Steenberg's Warehouse prior to conversion.

**[25] HER Event 2332 – Evaluation at Stepney Banks/Wood's Pottery, 2004 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 2618 6463**

Four trenches excavated on the line of Hadrian's Wall. The ground had been artificially built up through infill and tipping. Trench one may have found the Roman ditch. Trench 3 found the foundations of former pottery buildings and the copperas works.

**[26] HER Event 2762 – Building Recording of Canvas Works, Lime Street, 2007 by North Pennines Archaeology; NGR: NZ 26182 64462**

Canvas works in Lime Street which seems to have been developed from the early 19th century, although existing remains on the site are mid-19th-century or later.

**[27] HER Event 3004 – Building Recording of Ouseburn Valley Homing Society, 2008 by Ian Farmer Associates; NGR: NZ 262 644**

A photographic recording of pigeon lofts and the prefabricated clubhouse of the Ouseburn Homing Society prior to their demolition.



**[28] HER Event 2159 – Evaluation at Shields Road, Nos 8 and 40-42, 2002 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 266 647**

*Evaluation of two trial pits within existing shops on Shields Road frontage to look for Hadrian's Wall. No evidence of the Wall was found in No. 8. In Nos. 40-42 the foundation course of the Roman Wall was found. Natural subsoil was not reached in this trench.*

**[29] HER Event 2520 – Evaluation at Shields Road 2b, 2005 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 2664 6471**

*Two trenches across line of Hadrian's Wall. In Trench 1, the Wall foundation and core material survived along with the southern side of the Wall ditch. To the south of the Wall was a compacted surface of sandstone fragments - could represent a trackway. This in turn was overlain by another stony layer of uncertain date. In Trench 2 a robber trench showed the former position of the Wall, the southern side of the ditch and three rows of cippi pits. Hadrian's Wall survived 0.47m below present ground surface.*

**[30] HER Event 2721 – Excavation of Shield Road Phase 2b, 2006 by Tyne and Wear Museums; NGR: NZ 266 647**

*The excavation recorded a series of inter-cutting ard marks of pre-Roman origin immediately south of the line of Hadrian's Wall. The wall itself was represented by a 15.5m section of wall foundation some 0.71 below present ground levels, set within a construction trench some 0.42m deep. Immediately south of the wall were patches of metalling interpreted as hard standing associated with episodes of repair to the wall, rather than as part of a service trackway. On the berm north of the wall were 68 pits arranged in rows, sub-oval in shape and between 0.4-0.8m long. Several phases were apparent in the arrangement of pits, the innermost of which were some 1.5m north of the wall.*

**[31] HER Event 4497 – Evaluation at Crawhall Road, Byker, 2016 by Northern Archaeological Associates; NGR: NZ 2596 6449**

*Five trenches were excavated. These showed that the defensive ditch survives crossing the northern edge of the site from west-southwest to east-northeast. No in-situ remains of Hadrian's Wall were revealed, although two deposits of rubble were encountered sitting roughly on the projected line of the Wall. These have been interpreted as the robbed out and disturbed remains of the rubble core material of Hadrian's Wall. Also recorded were two undated features, one of which could conceivably be a Roman 'cippi' pit, part of the Wall's defensive system. These archaeological remains were sealed across the area investigated by 1.00-1.80m of overburden, a buried agricultural ploughsoil horizon overlain by a sequence of 19th-century make-up deposits. Greater depths of overburden mainly occurred above the infilled hollow of the defensive ditch, while least overburden occurred above the rubble deposits representing the robbed remains of the Wall-core.*

**[32] HER Event 5312 – Post Excavation Assessment of Norris House Crawhall Road, 2021 by PCA; NGR: NZ 25958 64497**

*This excavation comprised an L-shaped trench targeting the remains of Hadrian's Wall on the site of the previously demolished Norris House. The trench was targeted on the presumed alignment of Hadrian's Wall across the width of the site (aligned NE-SW), and at right angles to this across the defensive ditch to the north of it.*

*The eastern part of the trench identified the heavily truncated remains of Hadrian's Wall, including the previously unlocated Turret 3a, and pits interpreted as cippi within the berm to the north. The turret had collapsed following its abandonment and the walls were robbed for stone. The Wall extended for a short distance to the west of the turret. Beyond this it had been truncated by late*

*19th- and 20th-century development. Archaeological remains survived beyond the limit of excavation to the north-east and south-east of the trench.*

*The north-western part of the trench identified the Wall Ditch which was excavated to its full depth of 2.34m. The earliest deposits were two natural silting deposits overlain by three deposits of a dark peaty material. The uppermost 1.82m of fills were interpreted as 19th-century backfill deposits.*

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## 5. SYNTHESIS

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### 5.1 Prehistory

The nature and density of settlement within this lowland area during the prehistoric and Roman periods is unknown and no direct evidence can be presented for human activity within the bounds of the assessment area from these periods. It is likely, however, that the Ouseburn Valley running southwards into the Tyne would have been exploited as a sheltered, resource-rich environment by groups of Mesolithic hunter-gatherers and that the immediate environs were at least periodically settled and farmed later on. This view is supported by discovery in the 1820s of a number Bronze Age burials a short distance further up the valley in Jesmond (Miket 1984, 36). Moreover traces of pre-Roman agriculture have been found c. 0.75 km to the north-east of the development, during excavations on Shields Road in 2000-2002 (TWM 2005a, 10). More extensive evidence for Iron Age cultivation has been uncovered at Wallsend inside and outside the Roman fort (*cf.* Hodgson 2003, 23-36).

### 5.2 Roman Period

The evidence for a Roman military and civilian presence in the city of Newcastle is well known and includes Hadrian's Wall, a Roman fort, bridge and *vicus* (civilian settlement). The Lower Ouseburn conservation area includes a section of Hadrian's Wall (cat no. 31 HER 201, SAM 28) with the suggested site of a milecastle (Milecastle 3) approximately 100m north-east of the development site.

It is generally accepted that the section of Wall running eastward from Newcastle to Wallsend was an addition to the original scheme. Generally eight Roman feet (2.44m = 7ft 3in) in width, it was thus built to a narrower gauge than the Broad Wall found on the west side of the city and evidently represents an extension associated with the construction of the fort at Wallsend (often termed the Lort Burn Extension).

Archaeological excavations on the south side of Shields Road in advance of development work uncovered sections of Hadrian's Wall curtain, along with three rows of pits on the berm, between the Wall and the defensive ditch, which were probably designed to hold defensive timber stakes or entanglements (McKelvey 2003, 12-13). This has provided firm evidence for the orientation of the Wall on the east side of the Ouseburn. However, although the Ordnance Survey mark the line of the Wall crossing the Ouseburn next to Stephen Easten's Yard, this assumption has never been proven, and stones that were supposedly from the Roman bridge (cat no. 27 HER 5224) were examined by the North of England Excavation Committee in 1924 and found to be 19th-century blocks.

Recent excavations to the west of the site (PCA, 2022) uncovered the Wall, Ditch, Turret 3a, and a series of pit obstacles on the berm between the Wall and the Ditch. This work pinpointed the position of the Wall and Ditch on the immediate west of the Ouseburn as lying to the immediate south of the line of Stepney Bank.

The evidence for the course of the Wall is discussed in greater detail in Section 6 below.

### 5.3 Early Medieval

The nature, location and extent of any Anglo-Saxon presence in Newcastle is still poorly understood, but is assumed on the grounds of the advantageous situation of Newcastle at a bridging point, and the known early medieval occupation in the wider region. Traditionally, it was argued that Bede's *Villa Regia ad Murum*, should be located near the Pandon Burn, west of Ouseburn, but more recent opinion has placed the site of this Northumbrian royal estate centre, at Walbottle (certainly part of a royal estate in the 11th/12th centuries), or perhaps Heddon-on-the-Wall. The late Saxon settlement of Monkchester was probably located in the city centre, perhaps near the castle where a pre-Conquest cemetery has been uncovered. However, there is no direct documentary or archaeological evidence for pre-Conquest settlement within the bounds of or adjacent to the site of the proposed development.

### 5.4 The Medieval Period

The earliest reference to Byker comes from the late 12th Century, when the lands as far west as the Pandon Burn formed part of the Sergeanty of Byker held by William Escolland (William of Byker). Although first mentioned in 1198, the sergeanty was probably established during the reign of Henry I (1100-1135), like the vast majority of Northumbrian baronies and lordships. The Manor of Byker formed the core holding of the sergeanty, but it also encompassed the neighbouring villis of Pandon (*Pampeden*) and Shieldfield (*Selingfeld*), until 1299 when Pandon was absorbed by the borough of Newcastle and the boundary was shifted eastward to the Swirle Burn. Ouseburn fell within Byker township, however it is unlikely there was any settlement along the burn at this stage. The nucleated medieval village settlement of Byker, a typical rural farming community, lay on a high point in the centre of the township, well to the east of the Ouseburn gorge. During the Middle Ages this was probably the only settlement of any note within the township, though there were also the two isolated chapels of St Lawrence's (see below) and St Ann's.

During the late 13th Century the Ouseburn is referred to for the first time as *Jhesam*, and in 1293 it figures as *Yese* (Dodds 1930, 265). A little earlier (in 1278) the chapel of St Lawrence, located beside the Tyne just east of the mouth of the Ouse Burn, was endowed a chantry, and although the chantry only survived for about a hundred years the chapel continued to be used until at least the Reformation when it was granted (along with its lands) to the mayor and burgesses of Newcastle (*ibid*, 265).

In 1357 the manor of Byker was purchased by John Coupland, and after his death in 1362 it passed to Sir Richard Arundel who in turn mortgaged it to the Percys. The manor was forfeited by the Percy's in 1403 for their part in a rebellion, before being restored in 1416. The manor was again lost in 1462, but was apparently restored once more before passing to the Crown with the death of the 6th Earl of Northumberland in 1537. In 1543 the manor was sold to James Lawson of Newcastle, and although the estate was restored to the 7th Earl of Northumberland in 1557, the Lawson's continued to hold part of it, perhaps as tenants.

There is no specific documentary reference to the development site during this period. Land-use in the surrounding area was doubtless predominantly agricultural. Documents as early as the 13th century show that the burgesses of Newcastle were permitted to mine coal along the Ouse Burn (TWMS 1997, 2). Outcropping seams were perhaps evident on the valley sides. Moreover the slopes

down to the burn may in places have been too steep to plough conveniently and could well have formed common grazing or woodland.

By the mid-16th century the Ouseburn must have already become a focus of economic activity as in 1549 the Newcastle Corporation extended the town boundaries east to include the lower Ouseburn in order to reap the profits made through the dumping of ballast (Dodds 1930, 264). This extension from the previous town boundary set on the Swirle included the Ouseburn from its confluence with the Tyne to 'Stonyford', a ford (cat no. 24, HER 5223) situated just SW of the proposed development site, between the present Cluny warehouse and the Eco-Centre. At this stage the Ouseburn was described as '*another small stream, running also into the said river of Tyne, called Owsburn*' (Welford 1885). Boundary stones were set along the town's new limits. However the area of the proposed development remained just outside these limits, lying a short distance north of the ford.

#### **5.4 Post Medieval and Modern Periods**

By the 17th century the Ouse Burn was beginning to play an increasingly prominent role in Newcastle's economy as large-scale industrial production was established along the lower valley. A survey of Newcastle carried out in 1649 confirms that *Biker* marks the eastern limit of the city, and specifies the '*Eurs Burn*' lay in this area (Gray 1970, 30). At this time the majority of the Byker estate was held by the Lawson family who developed their mining interests in the valley and surrounding lands (NCAS 2002, 10). As early as 1619 glasshouses had been established on the eastern bank of the mouth of the Ouseburn, near the 'Glasshouse Bridge' (HER 4686). The glass industry flourished in the Ouseburn due to the abundance of sand (brought as ballast) and quantities of coal (timber was reserved for shipbuilding) required to fire the kilns, and by the 1620s the monopoly for glass production had been granted to Mansell. This hold on the market resulted in the construction of three glasshouses (HER 1913, 1914, 1915) producing between 6000 and 8000 hundred weight of glass every year, however the end of the Civil War brought an end to the monopoly held by Mansell, and the introduction of other glass producers in the valley. Many of these new producers originated from the Low Countries and Scotland, and by 1736 the Henzey, Tyzack, Tittery partnership held six out of the seven glasshouses on the east bank of the Ouseburn. The other major activity in the area around the burn was coal working. In 1736 the Ouseburn settlement was described by Bourne as '*a large village occasioned by the coal-works of Richard Ridley and Matthew White Esqs.*' (Bourne 1736, 153). Donkin's map of Sir Henry Lawson's Byker estate in 1767 would suggest that this village occupied both sides of the burn and extended northwards into Lawson's estate as well.

In conjunction with this nascent industrial growth was the improvement of transport and communications in the Ouseburn area. From the 1640s Newcastle Corporation was leasing land for buildings, keelrooms (berths) and coal staiths in the valley (NCAS 2002, 10). There is no clear indication where these facilities lay, but the Ouse Burn was tidal at least as far upstream as the Kelly's Yard assessment site so, in principle, keels and other shallow draft craft could have gained direct access to this area. The earliest bridges across the Lower Ouse Burn were Glasshouse Bridge, close to the mouth of the watercourse, and Crawford's Bridge located just around the upstream bend from the assessment site. Crawford's Bridge is shown on Donkin's 1767 plan of Sir Henry Lawson's Byker estate (Fig 14) whilst Glasshouse Bridge figures on Hutton's map of Newcastle in 1770. Also shown on the latter with the label 'New Bridge' is Ouseburn Bridge, at the bottom of Byker Bank, which formed part of the turnpike road from Newcastle to North Shields. A waggonway is also attested running through the valley as early as 1738, bringing coal from pits in Jesmond to the Tyne. The northern stretch of Foundry Lane, running along the east side of the burn past the

assessment area, also figures on Donkin's map. Its southern continuation does not appear until Wood's map of 1827, however. A number of later iron foundries in this area were presumably responsible for giving the lane its present name, which is documented cartographically by the time of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey, 1898 (Fig 8).

The dramatic industrial development of the first half the 19th century can be traced on a series of maps including Wood's map of Newcastle (1827) (Fig 4), Oliver's surveys and plans of 1830, 1831, 1844 and 1851 (Figs 5-7), and culminating in the 1st edition Ordnance Survey (Fig 15). This process occurred with such apparent rapidity that Mackenzie, writing in 1827, could describe the settlement along the Lower Ouse Burn as 'a considerable village' whereas previously there had only been 'a few wretched hovels' (1827, I, 186) and commented that:

*from below the Ouseburn-bridge up to where the tide flows, each side of the water is covered with extensive and important manufactories, consisting of corn steam-mills, foundries, potteries, a flax-mill and other works...* (Mackenzie 1827, I, 214).

The glass industry that had been so important to the Lower Ouseburn in the 17th and 18th centuries started to falter in the opening years of the 19th century, and the introduction of machine rolled glass production in the following years resulted in the demise of the Byker glass tradition. However, as the glass industry faded, the pottery industry which had operated in the valley in a small way since the middle of the 18th century, started to undergo rapid expansion. Most famous of these were the various Maling works downstream of the assessment area. Maling's first Ouseburn pottery was constructed in 1815 on a site at the bottom of Byker Bank between the Ouseburn and Ford Street, having moved from North Hylton Pot Works on Wearside. The Ouseburn Bridge Works (cat no. 18 HER 4967) had its first firing on 28 June 1817, and by 1859 demand was so great the company had to move production to a new mechanised works on a 2 acre site located on the opposite side of Ford Street, known as the 'Ford Pottery', later the Ford A Pottery (cat no. 16 HER 4968). This new site contained 13 kilns producing about 750,000 items a month (mainly jam and marmalade pots) until its closure in 1926, during the general strike. A third Maling factory (the Ford B site) had opened in 1878 at Walker Road about half a mile away, and this continued up until final closure in 1963. Of greater relevance for this assessment, however, was Mr Elliot's Ouseburn Pottery which occupied the site of Stephen Easten's yard and figures clearly on Wood's map of 1827 and successive maps thereafter including the 1st edition Ordnance Survey where it is described as 'Ouseburn Old Pottery'. By the end of the 19th century the pottery had closed and virtually all the buildings associated with it had been demolished, as revealed by the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey.

Whilst the pottery industry was expanding other industries were also set up the area. Among the first were the steam corn-mill belonging to John Beckington on the site now occupied by the Byker Eco-Centre, opposite the assessment area, and the white lead factory of James and Co., further to the NE, both of which were established by 1801. Both industries flourished throughout the 19th century, with four other corn millers recorded operating in Ouseburn by 1828-9. Between 1823 and 1827 these industries were joined by flax production in the form of the Northumberland Flax Spinning-Mill of Clarke, Plummer & Co. (cat no. 4 HER 5161), located immediately to the south of the steam corn mill. In 1848 a new flax mill, comprising a large building designed by John Dobson, was erected for Clarke, Plummer & Co., to the east of the old ford. The original Ouseburn Flax Mill was incorporated in the expanded works which were collectively known as the Northumberland Mill.

The 2nd edition OS bears witness to the growth of settlement and industry in the Lower Ouseburn over the second half of the 19th century. The Flax Mill has expanded, James and Co's Ouseburn Lead Works is still functioning and has been joined by the Northumberland Lead Works of Ismay & Co. which has replaced Beckington's steam corn mill in 1871. On the opposite bank of the river, the Ouseburn Engine Works (cat no. 21 HER 5283), the Ouseburn Iron Works (cat no. 20 HER 5572) and the Ouseburn Chemical Works (cat no. 23 HER 5573) have swallowed up the land between Foundry Lane in the east and the Ouseburn in the west.

The same map also shows the Byker Road Bridge (cat no. 29 HER 1945) which was built in 1878 to overcome the need to descend and ascend the steep valley situated to the north of the site, over the area occupied by the lead works. The bridge was subsequently widened from 30ft to 50ft in 1899. Prior to its construction the only high level crossing of the burn was the Ouseburn Viaduct (cat no. 35 HER 4327) slightly further north, built in 1837 to carry the Newcastle to North Shields railway line.

The gradual development of terraced housing to accommodate the Ouseburn's industrial workforce is evident from the 1830s onwards. By the end of the century much of the valley side to the east of the assessment area was covered by terraced streets.

The early 20th century saw some of the industries that had occupied the Lower Ouse Burn for the previous 150-200 years beginning to wither away, although the final collapse did not occur until the 1960s. By the time of the 3rd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1916 (fig 9), the valley to the north of the viaduct had been infilled, following the construction of the Ouseburn Culvert (HER 5046), covering the site of the former Ouseburn Lead Works.

By the latter half of the 20th century the industries that had made the Ouseburn a thriving centre had almost totally disappeared, leaving only the semi-derelict buildings as reminders of past glory. Attempts to regenerate the area began in the 1970s with the decontamination of the Northumberland Lead Works site and the establishment of the Byker City Farm there, and the construction of a number of small industrial units. In the past few years the area has witnessed a rapid transformation with the conversion of former industrial buildings into offices, community areas and leisure facilities, including the replacement of the Byker Farm by an Eco-Centre. This process is continuing, and by adapting old buildings to new uses where appropriate will hopefully ensure the continued survival of the important industrial heritage of this valley.

## **5.5 Kelly's Yard and Stephen Easten's Yard – 1700-2000**

The earliest accurate depiction of the assessment area is provided by Donkin's plan of 1767 (NRO ZAN MSM 8b) which shows a number of buildings laid out around enclosed yards and open greens on the east side of the burn, north of Stonyford and the boundary stones erected by Newcastle Corporation. A small yard at the south end of the side probably roughly corresponds to the present area of Kelly's Yard, whilst the larger yard to the north may be equated with the area of Stephen Easten's Yard. To the north a further unwall'd yard or green is closed off by more buildings. Together these buildings demarcate the basic perimeter of the later Ouseburn pottery site, but there is no indication that a pottery was operating on the site at this date. Instead, under no. 5 in the associated listing, the area is described as '*banks, gardens, yards and houses on east side of the burn*'. These probably formed part of the large colliery village mentioned by Bourne in 1736. A lane (the later Foundry Lane) runs along the west side of the area right beside the burn, just as it does today.

By the time of Wood's 1827 plan (fig 4) the assessment area had largely been absorbed by Mr Elliot's Ouseburn Pottery, particularly the area of Stephen Easten's Yard to the north. The pottery represented a substantial complex of buildings comprising several ranges enclosing an internal yard. To the south, another building, which was not necessarily part of the pottery, is shown standing within the approximate area of Kelly's Yard. On the west side of the lane, standing right on the bank of the burn, another small building might represent a corn mill (this site was certainly occupied by a mill later on). This is located just outside the area of the proposed development. Both these same buildings are shown on subsequent early to mid-19th-century maps such as Oliver's surveys of 1831 and 1844 (figs 5-6). By the middle of the century additional building ranges are shown on the Kelly's Yard site, all grouped around a small yard (see Oliver's 1851 map of Newcastle and the 1859 OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition; figs 7 & 15). This group of buildings is labelled 'pottery' on the OS 1st edition, but may have been a separate establishment from the Ouseburn Pottery. The latter still figures on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey in 1859, and by that stage incorporated a flint mill in its SE corner. It is identified as the 'Ouseburn Old Pottery' on the map, perhaps to distinguish it from Maling's newer Ouseburn Pottery further south and the Phoenix Pottery on the south side of the ford. Virtually all trace of this large complex has vanished on the 2nd edition OS map (fig 8), at the end of the century. The closure of the Old Pottery probably coincided with the construction of the Byker Bridge in 1878, when many other buildings in the area surrounding the construction site were also cleared.

The 2nd edition OS also identifies the Ford Corn Mill, on the west side of Foundry Lane, opposite the Kelly's Yard site. By the 3rd edition OS (1916) this had apparently been converted into a lead mill. However Ward's trade directory for 1915-16 still lists the Ford Mill as a flour mill run by John Hume & Son.

Trade directories from the 1870s do not list Foundry Lane specifically, but trades in the area at the time include potters, cartmen and cloggers. The name Foundry Lane first appears on the 2nd edition OS although the lane itself is much older, as noted above. The Shiells family, who ran the Kipper House situated in the present Kelly's Yard, were operating on Foundry Lane from at least the 1890s. John Shiells is listed as fish curer on Foundry Lane in Kelly's Directory for 1894, where his premises are specified as being on the north side of the lane. Ward's trade directory 1889-90 also records one J. Thompson as a fish curer on Foundry Lane. Thompson does not figure in Kelly's 1894 Directory, however, and it is therefore possible that the Shiells took over an existing fish curing business.

The 2nd Edition OS 1898 depicts a few small buildings distributed around the edges of the Kelly's yard site, most of which were already present on the 1st edition. The L-shaped structure shown towards the north end of the yard was a survivor from the pottery marked on the earlier map. The Shiells family presumably used these buildings to begin running their fish-curing business on the site. The building depicted on the north side of the Kelly's Yard site on the 3rd edition, published in 1916, has roughly the same form as group previously depicted on the 2nd edition, but does not show the divisions between separate building components which figure on the earlier map. Consequently it is uncertain to what extent the complex depicted in 1916 preserved elements of the buildings shown on the 2nd and 1st editions, although the L-shaped structure probably was incorporated. No photographs have been identified showing how the structures of the Kipper House were arranged, but it reportedly included a tall L-shaped wooden smokehouse in which the herring were attached to high racks for smoking. Off the yard there were sheds for carts and a ramp to the stables above (Ouseburn Heritage 2002, 12). The smokehouse may have stood along the east and north side of the yard as a chimney is marked at the SE corner of the complex on the 4th OS edition, 1942 (Fig 10).



The trade directories from 1916 onwards list the fish curers along with other businesses, e.g. mattress manufacturers, auto repairs and food importers and distributors. At some stage between the mid-1930s and the 1940s the plot immediately north of the Kipper House, which had been vacant since the demolition of the Ouseburn Old Pottery, was occupied Stephen Eastern's Builders Yard. The 4th edition Ordnance Survey (1942) shows buildings associated with builder's yard, some of which still stand in a derelict state. Shiells Kipper House closed during World War II when fish supplies became difficult to obtain, but was reopened by John Shiells after the War. The business was finally sold following John Shiells' death in the 1970s and the site was taken over firstly by Kelly Plant Hire, and then by a road haulage company. By 2006, the remaining buildings on the site were derelict, before being demolished by 2012. By 2015, the areas to the immediate north of the proposed development site of Kelly's Yard (formerly the site of Stephen Easten's Yard) were redeveloped as Farm View, two residential blocks linked in an L-plan arrangement, comprising 42 one-bedroom apartments for Tyne Housing Association. Kelly's Yard remains undeveloped, occupied only by the bee hives belonging to Ouseburn Farm.



**Figure 15:** Plans of lands at Byker.... Belonging to Sir Henry Lawson Bart, by Donkin, 1767, the approximate location of the assessment site is circled in red. (NRO SANT/MPD/2/3/2/3)



Figure 16: Extract from First Edition Ordnance Survey plan, 1859, assessment site outlined in red.

## 6. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL & IMPACTS

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### 6.1 Impacts on the Survival of Archaeological Remains

#### 6.1.1 The location of Hadrian's Wall

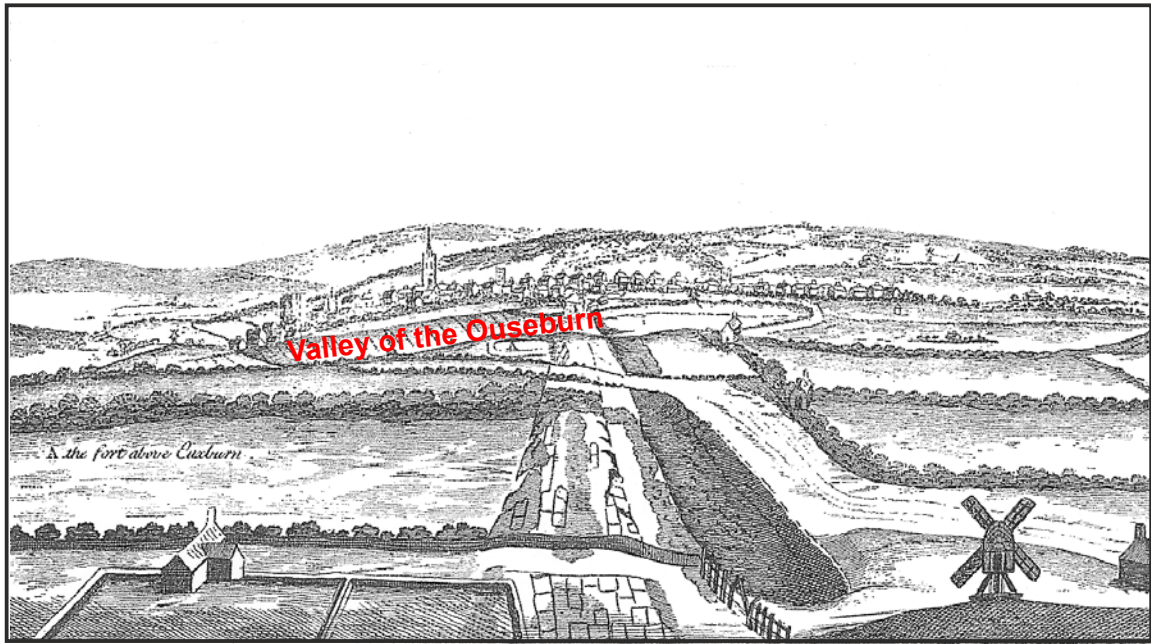
Recent discoveries have done much to clarify the precise route of Hadrian's Wall through Byker, but despite the excavation of a very considerable number of evaluation trenches over the previous quarter of a century, particularly on the west side of the Ouse Burn, the precise course of Hadrian's Wall in the base of the valley of the Ouse Burn is still uncertain. A reasonable judgment regarding its likely location can, however, be made, based on the available evidence which has been subjected to detailed reconsideration by two earlier assessments (NCAS 2002; TWM 2005a), supplemented by more recent discoveries (eg. PCA, 2022).

The evidence principally consists of the following:

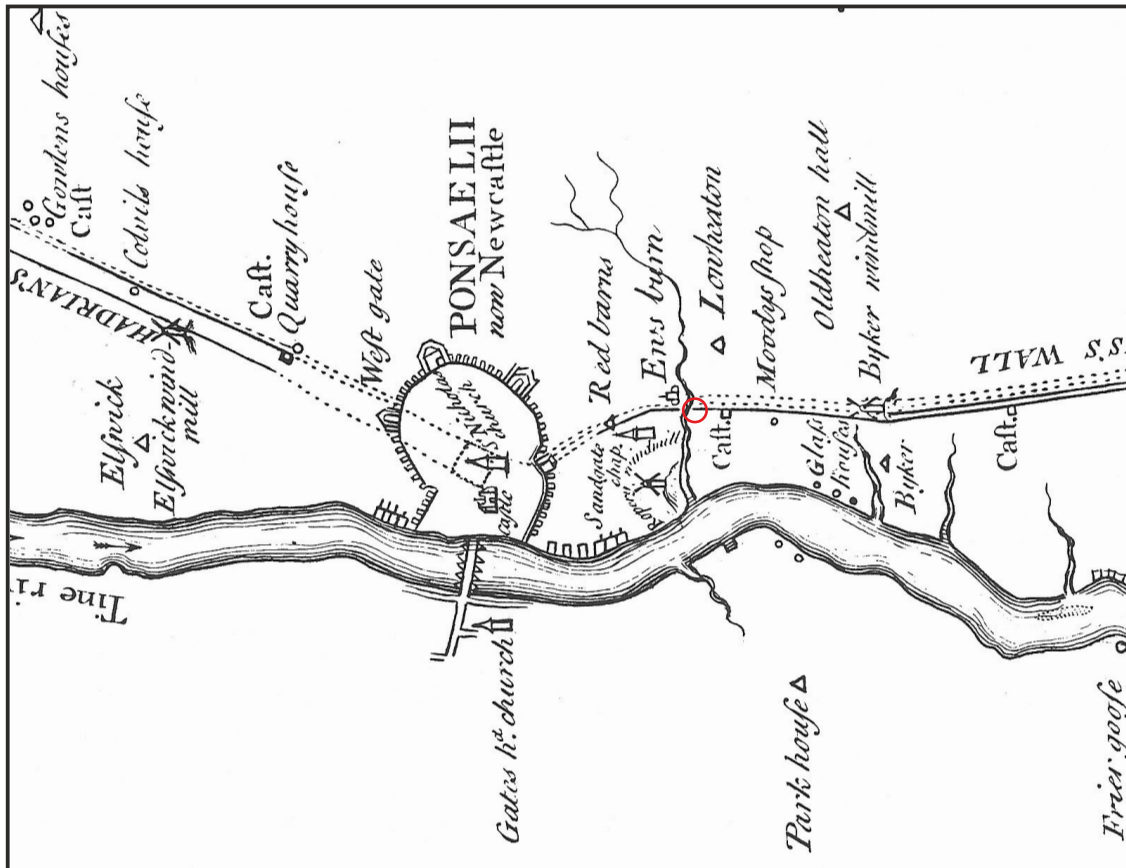
- Antiquarian descriptions by Stukeley, Horsley, Brand, Lingard, Bruce and others. These include a very useful map by Horsley and a view by Stukeley.
- Archaeological investigations by the North of England Excavation Committee in the 1920s designed to trace the line of the Wall.
- Programmes of archaeological evaluation trenching and watching briefs undertaken from the 1970s onwards.

#### ***Hadrian's Wall west of the Ouse Burn***

The course of the Wall was evident in the 18th century and was described by successive antiquarians. Its course was mapped by Horsley (1732) (Fig 18) and sketched by Stukeley in 1725 (Stukeley 1776, 66) (Fig 17). Unfortunately Horsley's map does not incorporate sufficient background detail to enable the Wall's line to be accurately positioned on a modern map base, whilst Stukeley's view down Shields Road from Byker Mill Hill, with Newcastle in the distance, does not show the crossing of the Ouse Burn which is obscured by the valley. However both sketch and map imply that the Wall followed broadly the same alignment on both sides of the burn. The most precise indication from this period is provided by Hutton's map of Newcastle in 1770, where the Wall's course is reflected in the pattern of hedge-lines, boundaries and watercourses between Garth Heads and Stepney Bank to the west of the Ouse Burn (see Fig. 19). Particularly noticeable is the abrupt deviation in the channel of the Swirle Burn. This was evidently interrupted by a major obstacle such as the Wall would have constituted, which resulted in the burn flowing westward for a short distance, presumably along the Wall ditch, before breaking through to resume its southward route towards the river. The line traced by this combination of features corresponds very closely to the course of the Wall traced by the work of the North of England Excavation Committee in the 1920s (Spain *et al.* 1930), which has been confirmed and further pinned down by more recent excavations, notably the 1981 CEU trial trenches at St Dominic's Priory next to Crawhall Road and the trench at Melbourne Street excavated by ASUD (Bennett 1998, 22-3; SCT 2003, 22). On this basis the line of the Wall can be traced with considerable precision from Garth Heads eastward as far as the top of Stepney Bank, where the Wall ditch was found in the yard of the High Level Brand Co. in 1929 (Spain *et al.* 1930, 497), and adjacent on the same plot of land by PCA (2022), along with the remains of the Wall itself and Turret 3a. Prior to the 2022 excavations however, it was assumed that the Wall itself here ran parallel to the Ditch at a fairly



**Figure 17:** View from Byker Hill looking west along the line of Hadrian's Wall c. 1725, by William Stukeley. Milecastle 3 can be seen on the east scarp of the Ouseburn valley, masked by the letter A.



**Figure 18:** Horsley's map of Hadrian's Wall in Britannia Romana (1732). The approximate location of the assessment site is marked by a red circle.

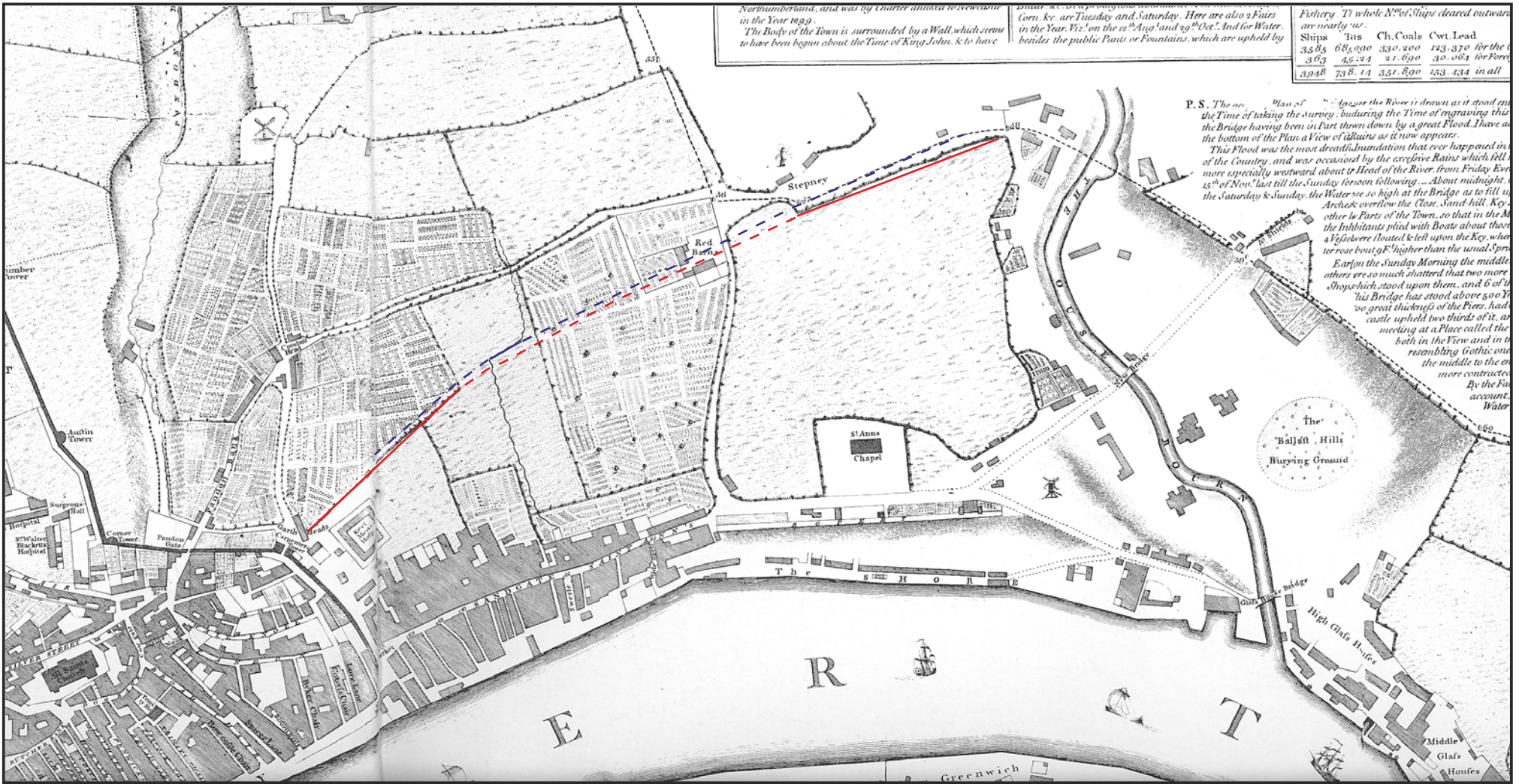


Figure 19: Extract from Hutton's plan of 1770 showing line of Hadrian's Wall (red) and ditch (blue), (reproduced from Graham 1984)

standard 6m to the south; and projections of the Wall line were made accordingly. The PCA 2022 excavation however showed the Wall to be a much greater 11m to the south, which therefore necessitates an adjustment to any projections.

### ***Hadrian's Wall east of the Ouse Burn***

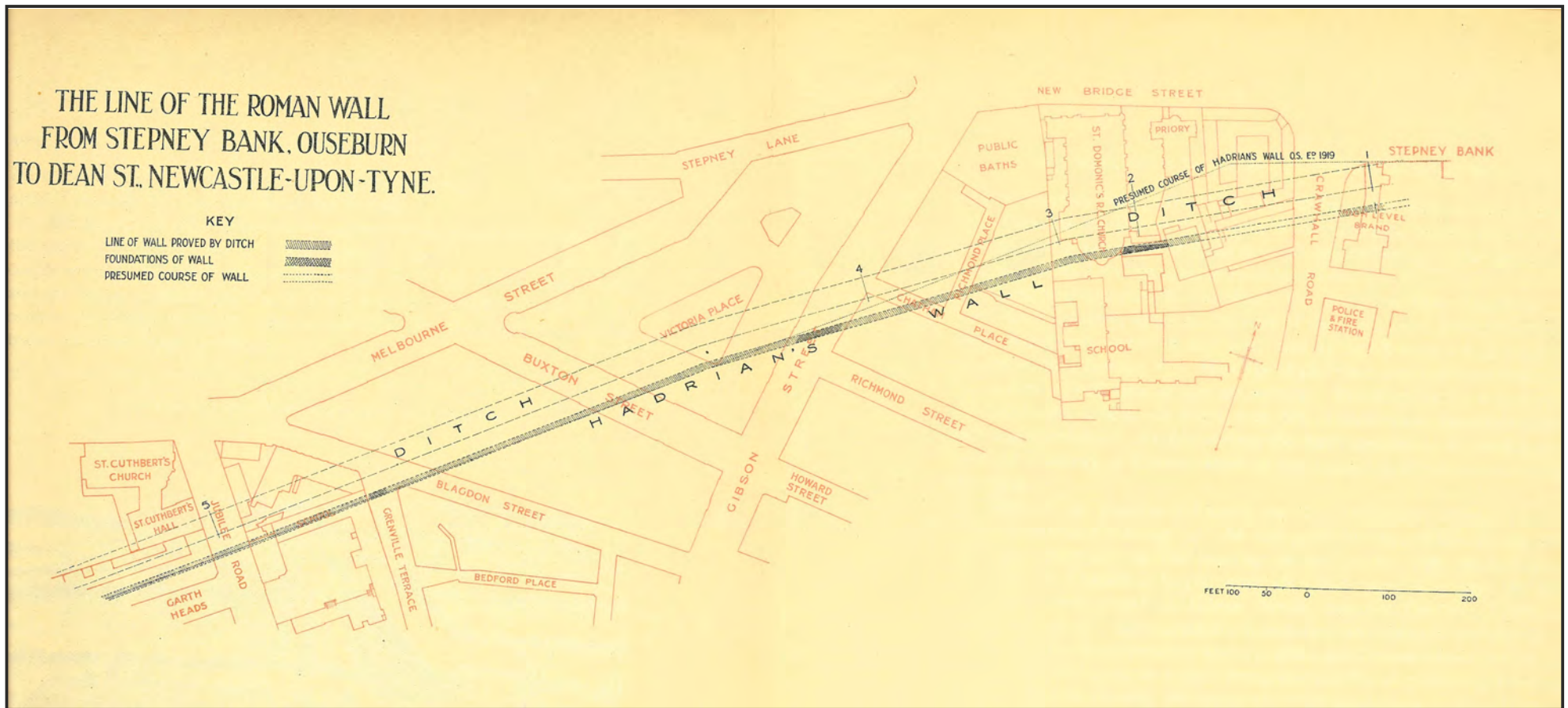
In the early 18th century, the course of Hadrian's Wall through Byker was still clearly visible, with part of its line adopted as the northern boundary of the township. The antiquarian Stukeley, who toured the Wall in 1725, sketched its appearance looking west from Byker Hill towards Newcastle down what would become Shields Road. Even Milecastle 3 was visible in the distance at this stage. This can be correlated with the remains shown on the map of the Wall that Horsley included in his *Britannia Romana* (1732). By the end of the 19th century, however, all visible trace of the Wall had been lost to Victorian development, except on the Fosseway where its ditch was still visible in 1930. It was not until the 21st century that its course along Shields Road was rediscovered, with two stretches there being excavated (one on display in front of Byker Library). The 2001 excavations of a 29-metre-long stretch of 2.5-metre-wide Wall foundations along Shields Road also revealed additional defences on the berm between the Wall and the ditch in front, in the form of *cippi* pits for spikey thorn bush entanglements.

Milecastle 3, also depicted by Stukeley, has not yet been traced. It must be located at the bottom (W) end of Shields Road, overlooking the gorge of the Ouse Burn, perhaps on or near the site of the Cumberland Arms. The inscribed altar, RIB 1314, found in 1884 at the east end of Byker Bridge, may derive from the milecastle site. It reads: *Iul(ius) Max(imus) sac(erdos) / dei I[...] / O [...] pe[c(unia) sua] / cu[ravit] / ...* – Julius Maximus, priest of the god I[...], at his own expense undertook ...

### ***The Wall alignment across the Ouse Burn***

#### *Archaeological evidence*

Thus on either side of the Ouseburn the broad orientation of the Wall is now well established. However the exact course of the Wall within the gorge of the Ouse Burn and the point where it crossed the burn has not been determined. In the previous 50 years numerous evaluations have been undertaken in the vicinity of the Ouse Burn, the majority on the west side of the burn (see Table 6.1 and Fig. 21). Apart from the trenches on Shields Road none of these have identified traces of the Wall curtain. Moreover, only one evaluation programme have identified any remains which could even tentatively be identified as part of the defensive ditch fronting the Wall. Excavations by Tyne and Wear Museums beneath two of the arches of the Byker Bridge in 1999 yielded slight evidence for 'linear cut features continuing beneath the limit of excavation, which may form part of the Wall Ditch'. It is quite conceivable that disturbance resulting from post-medieval industrial activity, has completely removed the remains of the Wall curtain at many locations in Ouseburn. However it is more difficult to remove all trace of the Wall ditch which was originally between 8-12m wide and up to 3m deep. Evidence of this substantial feature would be expected to survive as a linear cut in the natural subsoil. Geophysical test pitting in the former Stephen Eastern's Yard to the immediate north of the current site in 2009 (NPA, 2009) did reveal 'subsurface obstructions' at a depth of 2.5 to 6m which were interpreted as possibly representing the line of Hadrian's wall.



**Figure 20:** The North of England Excavation Committee's work to establish the line of Hadrian's Wall east of Newcastle, from Garth Heads to Stepney Bank, (reproduced from Spain et. Al. 130, between pages 496 & 497). Compare with the line which can be restored on Hutton's map (fig 19).



**Table 6.1 Evaluations / Watching Briefs undertaken in the vicinity of the Ouse Burn**

Date	Organisation	Location	Results
1974		Traditionally accepted site of Milecastle 3	No Roman remains revealed
1985	CEU	4-36 Shields Road (CEU Site 347)	Line of Wall or ditch not located. Trenches probably intersected the line of the ditch, but natural subsoil not reached – made ground composed of industrial waste found to a depth of 3m. Trenches were too shallow to locate the ditch.
1987	CEU	36-78 Shields Road (CEU Site 65)	Likeliest site for MC3. No trace of Wall or milecastle found. Natural boulder clay located immediately below surface. Extensive disturbance in this area may have removed remains of Wall & milecastle.
1980	CEU	260-282 Shields Road (CAS Site 187)	Line of Wall or ditch not located
1989/90	CEU	Trench A - 25m W of City Farm Trench B -15m W of Farm	Revealed cellar infill over natural clay, no subsoil cut features occurred.
1995	TWM	Stephen Street, 30m SE of Milecastle 3	Failed to locate evidence for line of Wall or Milecastle 3. This excavation was south of 1985 CEU trench. Report suggested that earlier ground surface may survive at c.3m beneath 19th-century dumping.
1998	TWM	Upper Steenberg's Yard, S side of Stepney Bank	4 Evaluation trenches and 2 test pits revealed no significant archaeological features or deposits.
1999	TWM	N side of Stepney Bank under 2 arches of Byker Bridge & N of Ship PH	The evaluation under the Bridge located slight evidence for linear cut features- possibly part of the Wall Ditch. The small evaluation pit near The Ship revealed a natural hillslope of boulder clay below ground level overlain by PM demolition rubble.
2000	TWM	Junction of Shields Road & Warkworth St.	A section of Hadrian's Wall and defensive pits on the berm were located on the south side of the road. This is the only modern identification of the Wall line in Shields Road.
2002	TWM	40-42 Shields Road	Hadrian's Wall foundation course revealed.
2002	TWM	Byker City Farm (Evaluation)	None of the 4 trenches penetrated below post-medieval levels, therefore no trace of Hadrian's Wall was found.

2002	TWM	Byker City Farm (Watching Brief)	A watching brief undertaken at City Farm revealed no trace of Hadrian's Wall. Well persevered structural elements of industrial buildings were preserved.
2004	TWM	Stepney Bank Evaluation Phase 1	4 evaluation trenches were dug. All of the trenches revealed evidence for made-up ground through tipping etc. One revealed natural sub-soil & one in warehouse on Stepney Bank, revealed a deposit thought to represent the fill of the Wall ditch.
2005	TWM	Stepney Bank Evaluation Phase 2	The above mentioned warehouse was subsequently demolished and a second evaluation took place. The result was that the deposit found in the previous phase was not the Wall ditch.
2007	TWM	Breamish Street, Newcastle	Evaluation by means of a single trench on a site close to that of a medieval chapel and the later St Anne's Church, revealed no archaeological remains of significance, confirming that the church cemetery did not extend into this area.
2007	TWM	Foundry Lane	Three trenches were excavated. Trench one recorded a river flood deposit of blue-grey clay with water washed stones. At a depth of 1.40m below present ground level water ingress prevented further excavation. In trench 2 a post medieval sandstone culvert was recorded 2.15m below present ground level. Trench 3 recorded a blue-grey clay similar to trench 1 at a depth of 3m. Overlying this were post-medieval deposits associated with the pottery works and later lead works. If Hadrian's Wall does survive then it is deeply buried under these post medieval deposits.
2007	TWM	Ice Factory, Maling Street	4 evaluation trenches and 7 test pits. Well preserved remains of the 19th-century corn mill including a possible fly-wheel pit were recorded. Structural remains probably relating to pottery buildings were also recorded. Dumped ship's ballast (sand with inclusions of gravel and mollusc shells) was the earliest deposit recorded. Above this was a series of layers of sand, ash and silt containing 17th-century pottery and clay pipe. The uppermost of these layers was cut by a pit with vertical sides. In its soft sandy fill were a number of horn cores, suggesting that the pit related to horn working. In the north-east part of the site

			a sandstone wall with occasional hand pressed bricks was recorded. Adjacent to the Ouseburn, test pit 6 contained a dump of discarded Maling pottery.
2008	Mike Griffiths & Associates	Allan House	Watching brief associated with the redevelopment concluded that the site had previously been heavily disturbed. (It probably also lies on a ballast hill - RJC)
2008	TWM	Shields Road, Byker	Excavation undertaken to record defensive pits on the north side of Hadrian's Wall previously identified by evaluation. A total of 10 pits were excavated in this recording phase of archaeological works (some containing fuel waste).
2008	TWM	Stephen Easten's Yard (now Farm View)	Four trenches were excavated. No deposits associated with Hadrian's Wall were identified although these may be sealed beneath the Ouseburn flood plain deposits. The Wall may exist on the site although it will be sealed beneath 2+ metres of material. Extensive remains of the Ouseburn Pottery Works were located surviving up to 1.5m in depth.
2008	Mike Griffiths & Associates	Allan House	An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the excavation of a new electricity service trench for the Allan House development, Ouseburn, Newcastle. The 85m long trench ran from Allan House to the substation on City Road. No archaeological deposits were recorded.
2008	TWM	Stepney Bank	An evaluation test pit and watching brief for an electricity cable. No archaeological deposits were observed during the works.
2009	TWM	Shields Road, Byker	A watching brief was maintained over a 580m sq. area between June and December 2008 on Shields Road, Byker due to the known presence of Hadrian's Wall and associated features. Natural clay was observed within piling pits at depths between 0.7 - 0.85m. Reduction of the ground surface did not reach greater depths than 0.4m through demolition rubble. No archaeological features were noted.
2009	TWM	Lower Ouseburn CSO's Project	Four watching briefs were undertaken during sewerage works in the Lower Ouseburn area: 1) Jesmond Vale Footbridge. A considerable depth of made ground of post-medieval date was noted which may contain demolition material of flintmill. 2) Foundry Lane North (1.8m x 1.8m x 3m

			<p>deep). No archaeological features were observed, a grey silty clay was observed in the trench at a depth of 2m. Natural subsoil was not established.</p> <p>3) Foundry Lane South (4.45m x 3.5m deep) No archaeological features relating to Hadrian's Wall were encountered. A thick deposit of silty clay which pre-dates the later post-medieval development of the area was noted. This alluvial deposit suggests that the Valley was at one time a wider flood plain. A sample from this trench contained clay pipe and post-medieval pottery confirming that the majority of this material was deposited in the post-medieval period. Natural clay was not reached.</p> <p>4) Steenberg's Yard (4.5m x 3m x 3m deep). No remains of industrial buildings were visible. River gravels were observed at the base of the trench.</p>
2009	North Pennines Archaeology	Foundry Lane	<p>An archaeological watching brief during geotechnical investigations in the former Stephen Easten Depot. As well as remains of an industrial nature, cores taken along the line of the Hadrian's Wall did reveal subsurface obstructions which may represent remains of the wall between 2.5m and 6m in depth. The remains of a brick structure, probably part of the pottery, was located. An additional borehole, outside the watching brief remit, also located a sandstone block on the proposed line of the wall at 6m.</p>
2010	TWM	Clifford St Police Station	<p>An archaeological watching brief was carried out during the erection of new fencing and barrier gates around the car park at Clifford Street police station. No archaeological features were encountered.</p>
2010	The Archaeological Practice	Foundry Lane	<p>One evaluation trench was excavated on Foundry Lane, in the former Kelly's Yard ahead of redevelopment. No Roman features were revealed. A 19th-century drain was exposed but no evidence for any buildings which are known to have existed on the site. A watching brief is recommended during further works.</p>
2010	The Archaeological Practice	90-92 Shields Road	<p>An archaeological watching brief on the line of Hadrian's Wall. The excavation of foundations of a new two storey extension were monitored but revealed no archaeological features.</p>
2010	North	Foundry Lane	<p>An archaeological watching brief was</p>

	Pennines Archaeology		maintained during groundworks relating to the development of the former Stephen Easton Depot, Foundry Lane. Archaeological remains were identified in the form of 19th/20th-century sandstone walls and a modern brick building which was still standing on arrival. These appear to relate to the 19th/20th-century industrial use of the site.
2011	The Archaeological Practice	Heaney Building, Ouseburn	Four evaluation trenches excavated within the Heaney Building revealed structural and depositional remains of industrial character between 0.3-2.5m bgl.
2011	The Archaeological Practice	Former Heaney Garage Site	A watching brief on a plot of land formerly occupied by the Heaney car bodywork garage. Two phases of monitoring were carried out. It was concluded that the excavations had had minimal impact upon the cultural heritage of the site.
2012	The Archaeological Practice	Maynard's Toffee Factory, Ouseburn	An archaeological watching brief and building recording within the former Maynard's Toffee Factory. The removal of overburden from 'the cottage' interior exposed floor slabs and hearths in both of its rooms. The front part of the Northern Range was demolished. The report concludes that the partial demolition of the 'cottage' and 'northern building' revealed some historic features from a building with some local interest.
2013	TWM	New Water Main, Stepney Bank	A single trench was excavated in advance of the insertion of a new water mains supply on Stepney Bank. There was no evidence of Hadrian's Wall although natural subsoil was not visible for most of the length of the trench suggesting that the Wall or other features may lie beneath the level of excavation (0.85m bgl at max depth).
2014	Archaeological Research Services	The Malings, Ouseburn	Archaeological excavation on the site of the former glassworks and ice factory, The Malings, ahead of redevelopment. Features were identified relating to the earlier potteries including a large stone built flue. Other early features such as a brick floor and stone walling had been incorporated into later buildings and re-used as the Ouseburn bottleworks.
2015	Allan Williams Archaeology	Coquet Street Development	Watching brief during groundworks for a student residential development. The site was largely taken up by a 19th-century clay pit which had then been infilled in the 1860s and

			70s. Once the clay pit was levelled industrial buildings were constructed on the site. Two tanning pits and the remnants of a third survive on the site.
2016	AAG Archaeology	Stephen Easten Yard (now Farm View)	The monitored work involved machining further into the slope to clear the footprint of a new building. There was no trace of Hadrian's Wall crossing the development area but post-medieval and Victorian industrial remains, including possible reused Roman stonework were recorded.
2016	AAG Archaeology	Stephen Eastern Yard (Farm View)	The monitored work involved machining to check the condition of the bedrock forming the river cliff of the Ouseburn Valley. There was no trace of Hadrian's Wall crossing the site but post-medieval and later industrial remains, evidence of quarrying and a ventilation shaft or well were discovered.
2016	Northern Archaeological Associates	Crawhall Road, Byker	Located on the line of Hadrian's Wall and its accompanying ditch. Five trenches were excavated within the proposed development area. These showed that the defensive ditch survives crossing the northern edge of the site from west-southwest to east-northeast. No in-situ remains of Hadrian's Wall were revealed, although two deposits of rubble were encountered sitting roughly on the projected line of the Wall. These have been interpreted as the robbed out and disturbed remains of the rubble core material of Hadrian's Wall. Also recorded were two undated features, one of which could conceivably be a Roman 'cippi' pit, part of the Wall's defensive system. These archaeological remains were sealed across the area investigated by 1.00-1.80m of overburden, a buried agricultural ploughsoil horizon overlain by a sequence of 19th-century make-up deposits. A number of brick, stone and concrete structures relating to various phases of a late 19th-century sawmill were also preserved below the floor-slab of the existing warehousing which was constructed in the 1930s.
2017	AD Archaeology	Crawhall Road	The archaeological recording was undertaken following the excavation of a service trench at Crawhall Road without an archaeologist being present. A line of sandstones was visible in the eastern facing section of the trench just to the

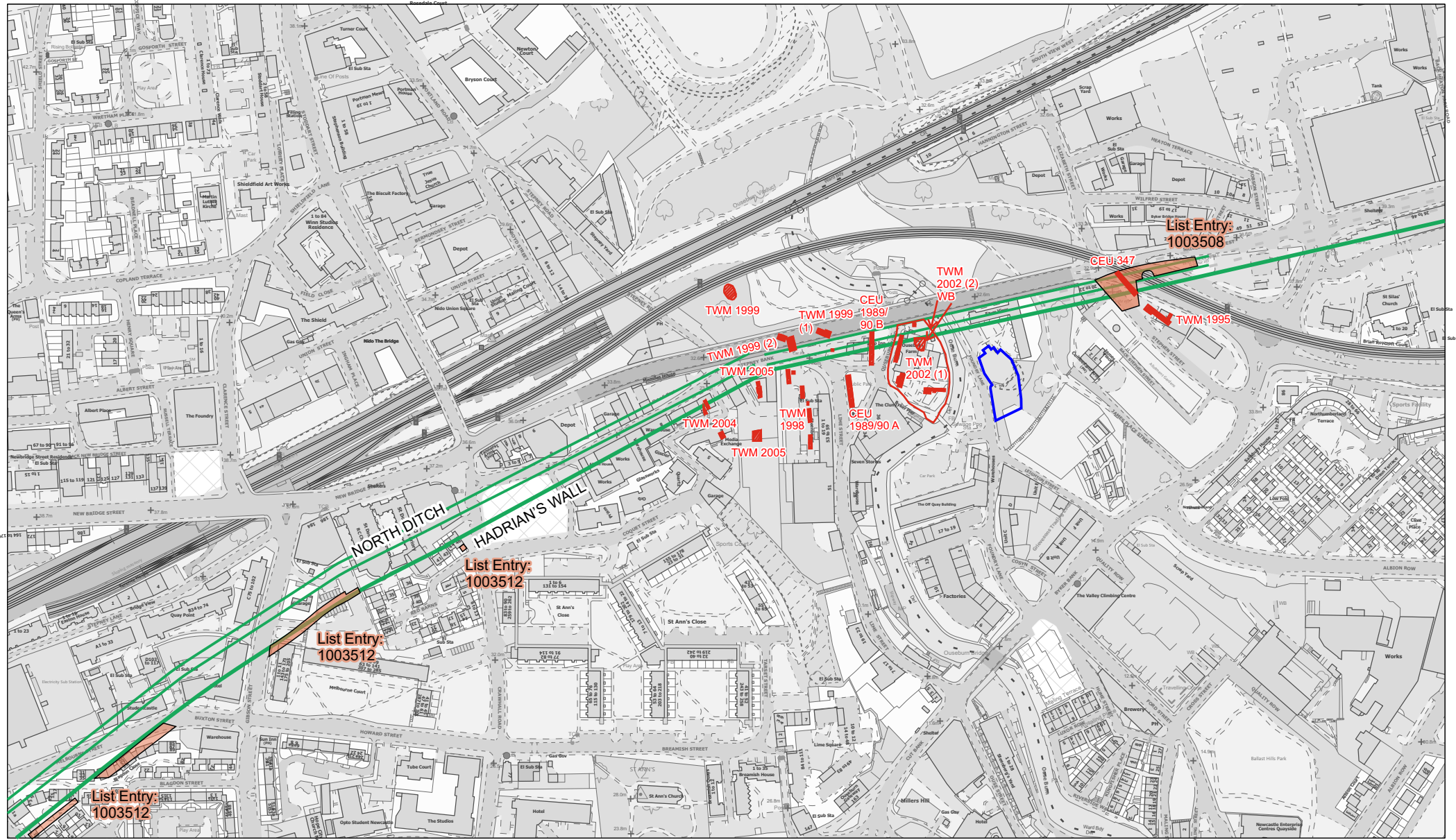
			south of the known line of Hadrian's Wall. Cleaning established that the sandstones did not form part of the in-situ foundation of Hadrian's Wall. It is most likely that the sandstones derive from Hadrian's Wall being either tumble and/or discarded rubble spread about after the robbing of Wall stones during the medieval or early post medieval periods.
2017	The Archaeological Practice	Sounds Alarming, Stepney Bank	Evaluation adjacent to the projected line of Hadrian's Wall. The excavations revealed no archaeological remains of any kind and it is concluded that sub-soil encountered at the base of the trench is of natural origin.
2019	Archaeological Research Services	Melbourne Road	Archaeological watching brief to monitor the excavation of six launch and receive pits (area of 11.31m <sup>2</sup> and a maximum depth of 0.92m) and a 51m open cut fibre optic cable trench. Within the test pits modern levelling and backfill deposits and utilities trenches were identified. Test pit four contained what was interpreted as being the foundation of a late 19th century or early 20th century road or pavement. The main trench measured 51m x 0.40m x 0.45m, no significant archaeological deposits or structures were identified. The report concludes that the site has been subject to modern truncation related to the installation of services during the 20th century.
2021	Northern Archaeological Associates	Norris House, Crawhall Road	Watching brief was carried out during the removal of the foundations of Norris House, following the demolition of the building. No archaeological remains predating the 19th century were identified.
2021	The Archaeological Practice	Quay Timber, Ouseburn	The trial trenching consisted of six trenches across the lower western (adjacent to the Ouseburn) and upper eastern (adjacent to Hume Street) yards. The three trenches in the lower yard (1-3) exposed a reinforced concrete floor at 1.60-1.80m below ground level and modern brick walls overlain by rubble. In the upper yard, Trench 4 exposed a stone wall probably belonging to the former Hawk Inn, and massive concrete foundations, below deep infill deposits of rubble. Trench 5 exposed a concrete shuttered wall and concrete floor surfaces dating to the 20th century, below brick and concrete rubble. Trench 6 exposed

			<p>the upper roofs of two brick-built, vaulted chambers, part of a larger group built against the south stone wall of the Hawk Inn.</p> <p>Photographic recording was carried out prior to demolition and ground reduction works, focused in the north part of the lower yard. Archaeological monitoring was carried out during these works.</p> <p>No features related to industrial glass-making at the former Liddell-Henzell Bottle Works were identified.</p>
2022	Pre-Construct Archaeology	Norris House Crawhall Road	<p>This excavation comprised an L-shaped trench targeting the remains of Hadrian's Wall on the site of the previously demolished Norris House. The trench was targeted on the presumed alignment of Hadrian's Wall across the width of the site (aligned NE-SW), and at right angles to this across the defensive ditch to the north of it.</p> <p>The eastern part of the trench identified the heavily truncated remains of Hadrian's Wall, including the previously unlocated Turret 3a, and pits interpreted as cippi within the berm to the north. The turret had collapsed following its abandonment and the walls were robbed for stone. The Wall extended for a short distance to the west of the turret. Beyond this it had been truncated by late 19th- and 20th-century development. Archaeological remains survived beyond the limit of excavation to the north-east and south-east of the trench.</p> <p>The north-western part of the trench identified the Wall Ditch which was excavated to its full depth of 2.34m. The earliest deposits were two natural silting deposits overlain by three deposits of a dark peaty material. The uppermost 1.82m of fills were interpreted as 19th-century backfill deposits.</p>

*Antiquarian evidence*

The 2022 discovery of the Wall line at the top of Stepney Bank (PCA 2022) has allowed the earlier work in this area (Spain, *et al*, 1930) to be refined and the location of the Wall and Ditch to be precisely mapped up to this point on the western side of the Ouse Burn. Further evidence regarding the location and alignment of the Wall is provided by the antiquarian evidence. This has been analysed in detail by two assessments (NCAS 2002, 6-7; TWM 2005a, 11-12) and may be briefly





Scale 1:4000  
 0 50 100 150 200 250 300 350 400 450 500 m

Fig. 21: The location of previous archaeological interventions (red) in the vicinity of the assessment area (blue), shown in relation to the suggested line of Hadrian's Wall (green), and Scheduled Areas (orange).

summarised here. Both Stukeley's view and Horsley's map suggest that the Wall continued on a fairly direct course on both sides of the burn. Both Stukeley (1776, 66) and Brand (1789, 138) report that the ditch had become a stream where it descended the east side of the Ouse Burn gorge, Brand noting it lay on the north side of a hedge, and Stukeley probably saw traces of the Wall climbing this side of the valley (though he confuses the matter by apparently mixing up his east and west). Bruce follows Lingard in stating that the Wall crossed the Ouse Burn very near the ancient bridge (the Crawford Bridge - cat no. 33, HER 1946) and concurs with Mackenzie in reporting that the Wall was found during the construction of Mr Beckington's steam mill in 1801 (Bruce 1851, 119; Mackenzie 1827). The latter is shown clearly on Oliver's map (Fig. 5, building plot no.52) and the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map (Fig 15), for example.

### ***Conclusions***

On this basis, it can be concluded that the Wall alignment recorded along Shields Road was continued westward across the Ouse Burn. To reach the next known point where the Wall ditch has been found, in the yard of the High Level Brand Company / Crawhall Road at the top of Stepney Bank, there would have to be a turn in the alignment of the Wall towards the bottom of the bank. A projection of the Wall and Ditch line as found in the recent 2022 work could result in the Ditch being to the immediate north of the line of Stepney Bank (with the current road here effectively running along the line of the berm), and the Wall itself being to the south of the road. It was previously thought that the Wall might have lain beneath the building frontages on this side of the road, but given the wider than average (11m) berm now known to exist here, the Wall line itself must be further to the south than was previously thought.

### *Hadrian's Wall in the assessment area*

With respect to the assessment area itself, these conclusions regarding the Wall's overall course imply that it ran through the northern part of the site, specifically through the former Stephen Easten's yard rather than Kelly's Yard. Figure 21 shows one possible alignment, continuing the line of Shield's Road, but it is possible that the line may have lain slightly further to the south if it did pass through the site of Mr Beckington's steam corn mill as Mackenzie and Bruce suggest. Even so it would still have lain well within Stephen Easten's yard.

Although the above remains the most likely interpretation, the possibility cannot be entirely excluded that the Wall descended the sides of the Ouse Burn at an oblique angle forming a re-entrant in order to achieve a gentler descent of the slopes. In this case it is conceivable that the Wall could pass through Kelly's Yard. It should be emphasised, however, that there is no specific evidence to support such a hypothesis, whereas there is antiquarian and archaeological evidence to suggest that the Wall made a direct crossing of the Ouse Burn valley. The east side of the valley next to the assessment site slopes very steeply down to the burn, but it is unclear how closely this reflects the original natural ground profile. Evidence for widespread dumping of industrial debris, such as kiln waste from the numerous potteries in the area, has been encountered higher up the bank during excavations on Stephen Street in 1995 and elsewhere in the Ouseburn Valley (TWM 2005a, 15). More intriguing is the possibility that the historic ford across the burn, known as Stonyford, which was located immediately to the south-west of the assessment area, was utilised by the Roman service road, the Military Way.

The remains of the Ouseburn's industrial past form the dominant cultural heritage aspect of the valley, with the result that the archaeology of the medieval and earlier periods has either been removed or masked. The two yards have different histories but four main phases of post-medieval activity can be identified in each:

1. 18th-century village – 'gardens, yards and houses' (Stephen Easten's Yard & Kelly's Yard).
2. Early 19th century (?) -1878: Ouseburn Pottery (Stephen Easten's Yard).  
Early 19th century-1890s: small-scale operations inclu. mid-19th-century pottery (Kelly's Yard).
3. 1890s-1970s: Shiells Kipper House (Kelly's Yard).  
1878: Pottery demolished and Byker Road Bridge constructed. 1878-early/mid-20th century: area disused (Stephen Easten's yard).
4. 1970s– plant hire and road haulage (Kelly's Yard).  
1916/1942–present: builder's yard, now derelict (Stephen Easten's yard).

The present yards occupy only a fraction of the area of earlier industrial complexes, basically comprising all the level ground beside the burn. Some buildings of the earlier complexes were presumably terraced into the steep slope on the east side of the Ouseburn valley.

The south-east corner of Kelly's Yard is quarried into the hillside. Any pre-modern archaeological remains are likely to have been removed in this area.

## 7. CONCLUSIONS

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### 7.1 Historical development

#### 7.1.1 Prehistoric

Little is known about the nature or density of human settlement in the assessment area during prehistory. The nearest evidence for prehistoric activity in the Ouseburn valley is found further north in Jesmond. Traces of Iron Age agriculture have been found in and around Wallsend Roman fort, but, even if the steep slopes of the valley were suitable for such cultivation, there is no certainty that comparable evidence would have survived the intensive industrial activity in the Ouseburn from 1700 onwards.

#### 7.1.2 Roman – Hadrian’s Wall

The precise route taken by Hadrian’s Wall across the valley of the Ouse Burn remains to be established, but there are strong grounds for believing that the Roman frontier barrier traversed the area immediately to the north of the Kelly’s Yard assessment site, specifically the site of the former Stephen Easten’s yard, now occupied by the Farm View apartments.

#### 7.1.3 Medieval

The history of landholding in assessment area can be documented from the 12th century onwards. Rather than being a major focus of settlement the lower Ouse Burn formed the boundary between a number of township communities during the medieval period, the assessment area itself being located on the periphery of Byker township. However the development of coal mining along the Ouseburn valley is documented from the 13th century.

#### 7.1.4 The modern era – industrial development

Industrial activity intensified in the lower Ouseburn valley during the 16th and 17th centuries with the establishment of the glass industry and further development of coal mining. It only becomes possible to chart the development of the assessment area in detail, however, from the mid-18th century onwards, when the first detailed map evidence becomes available. The following activity can be identified within the area of Kelly’s Yard and Stephen Easten’s Yard/Farm View:

1. The earliest of these is the village settlement which is mentioned by Bourne and depicted on Donkin’s map of 1767, and presumably accommodated the workforce of the collieries and other early industrial activities located along and adjacent to the Ouse Burn. The ‘gardens, yards and houses’ appear to have extended over the area of both the present yards.
2. The large complex of the Ouseburn Pottery occupied the area of Stephen Easten’s yard and the land to the north from at least the early 19th century up until the demolition of the complex c. 1878. Kelly’s yard was occupied by another smaller pottery by the mid-19th century.

3. By the end of the 19th century the smaller pottery had been replaced by the Shiells Kipper House. Fish curing continued up until the 1970s, after which the site housed first plant hire and then road haulage businesses.

Following the construction of the Byker Road Bridge and the demolition of the Ouseburn Old Pottery, the area of Stephen Easten's yard remained largely unoccupied until the establishment of the builder's yard some time between 1916 and 1942.

## **7.2 Significance of known or potential extant archaeological remains**

The most significant remains which it is considered may potentially survive within the assessment area are those of the Roman period and industrial remains of the modern era. Such have been shown to survive during previous evaluation trenching on the site (Archaeological Practice, 2010).

The assessment area is traversed by the corridor of Hadrian's Wall, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Any surviving remains of Hadrian's Wall and its associated component – curtain, ditch and other defensive outworks (pits/entanglements) and Military Way – would thus possess national and international significance. Their identification would, furthermore, serve an important purpose in clarifying the line of the Wall across Ouseburn.

The lower Ouseburn valley was one of the key centres of early industrial development in Newcastle and the North-East. Within the assessment area pottery manufacturing is particularly well attested in along the well-known fish-curing business. Any surviving remains of these and other activities would thus have considerable significance shedding light on the industrial history of this part of Ouseburn.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

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Following completion of the original desk-based assessment in November 2006, an evaluation trench was excavated in March 2010, which resulted in a recommendation for mitigation by means of a watching brief during construction groundworks. A final determination on the form of mitigation or the requirement for further evaluation will be made by the Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist. The following constraints should be noted:

- ❖ *The height of the water table in relation to level at which natural subsoil and potential Roman features are encountered. Excavation of the 2010 evaluation trench encountered rapid water seepage which was difficult to control even with the aid of pumping equipment.*
- ❖ *The bee hives currently occupying the centre of the site could be disturbed by excavation and would need to be relocated prior to any further evaluation.*
- ❖ *In view of the potential depth of overburden and other constraints, it is not considered that geophysical survey in advance of excavation is likely to provide useful data.*



*Photo 1: View of the interior of the Kelly's Yard site, looking north, with the new Farm View apartment blocks, Byker Bridge and the Metro Bridge beyond.*



*Photo 2: View of the Kelly's Yard site, looking south from its northern end.*



*Photo 3: The southern end of the level part of the site showing the brick retaining wall and the quarried face cut into the slope of the valley side.*



*Photo 4: The steeply sloping southern part of the site, looking north.*





*Photo 5: A view looking south along Foundry Lane towards the Kelly's Yard site.*



*Photo 6: The northern part of the site viewed from the west.*



*Photo 7: The steeply sloping southern part of the site, viewed from the south-west.*



*Photo 8: A view looking SSW from the north end of Kelly's Yard towards the Ouse Burn and the historic industrial buildings on its west bank - the Dobson-designed flax mill of 1847-8, now the Cluny music venue.*



*Photo 9: A view of the Kelly's Yard site from the west bank of the Ouseburn showing the site's proximity to the channel of the Ouse Burn.*

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