
**ROAD SIGN INSTALLATION
AT HARLOW HILL,
NORTHUMBERLAND**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



SEPTEMBER 2023

**The Archaeological
Practice Ltd.**



REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF FOR THE INSTALLATION OF NEW ROAD SIGN AT HARLOW HILL, NORTHUMBERLAND



Frontispiece: View towards northwest showing installation of new road sign in progress.

Report title:	<i>Road Sign Installation at Harlow Hill, Northumberland. Archaeological Watching Brief.</i>
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Grid reference:	<i>NGR: NZ 07869 68308</i>
Client:	<i>Northumberland County Council</i>

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Prepared by The Archaeological Practice Ltd., June 2023 for Northumberland County Council

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SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was conducted on September 18th 2023, to mitigate the impact of groundworks associated with the installation of a new single 114mm diameter signpost to accommodate an interactive speed sign & solar power unit in the south-western verge opposite the centre of the access to The Stables on the B6318 at Harlow Hill, Northumberland (centred on NGR: NZ 07869 68308, see illus. 01-03).

Since the proposed work site is located within the area of a scheduled monument—Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site (HADRIAN'S WALL AND VALLUM BETWEEN THE MARCH BURN AND OATENS BANK, HARLOW HILL IN WALL MILES 13,14 AND 15; Scheduled Monument No: SM 26040, HA 1010618), a Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC-HE ref: S00244086) for the groundworks was granted by Historic England with Conditions requiring archaeological monitoring of groundworks.

The groundworks involved monitoring the excavation of an approximately 0.40m by 0.40m sub-square trench with a depth of 0.80m for the concrete foundation for the signpost.

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

No significant finds or features were revealed by the groundworks. Therefore, it was concluded that no significant remains of cultural heritage value were impacted by the works.

Given the potential archaeological sensitivity of the site within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, specifically the possibility of discovering preserved sub-surface features associated with Hadrian's Wall, it is recommended that any further works in the vicinity should be considered on their own merits with regard to potential archaeological intervention.

1. PURPOSE OF THE WATCHING BRIEF

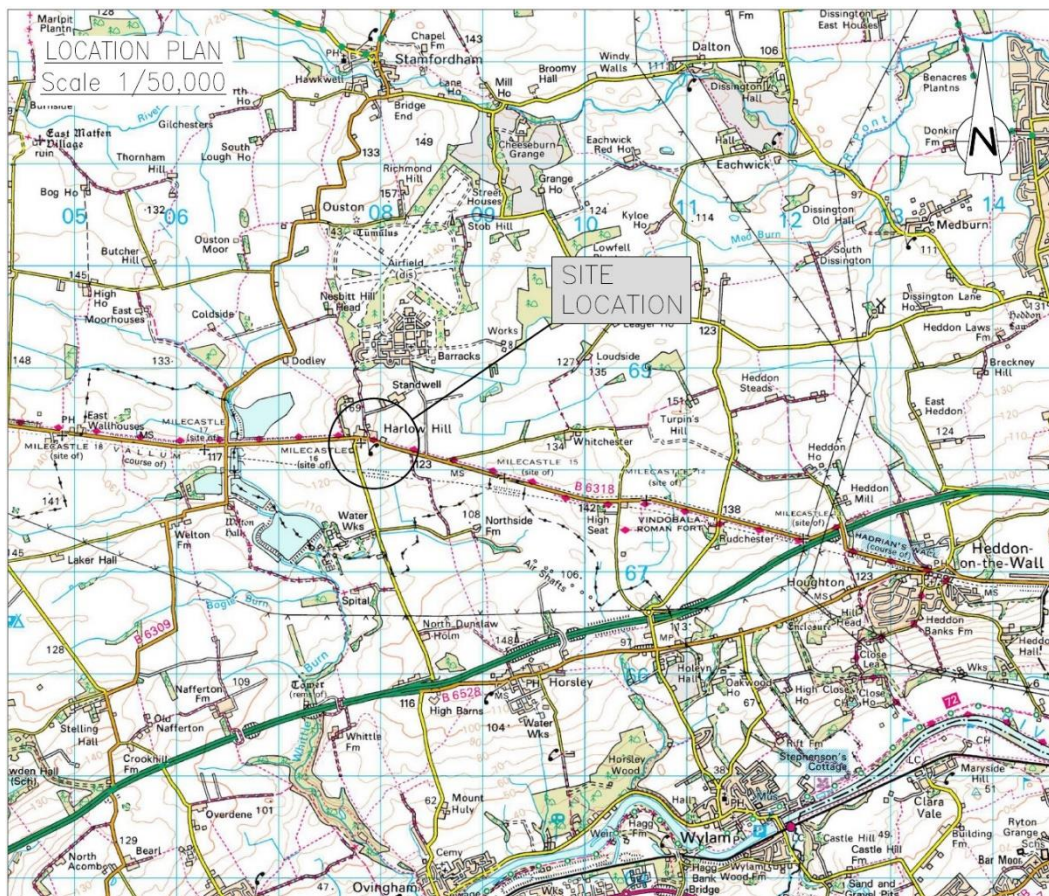
1. Introduction

This document, prepared by the Archaeological Practice Ltd. for Northumberland County Council, reports on a process of archaeological monitoring conducted in September 2023 to mitigate the impact of groundworks associated with the installation of a new signpost at Harlow Hill, Northumberland (*centred on NGR: NZ 07869 68308*) (see *Illus. 01 & 02*).

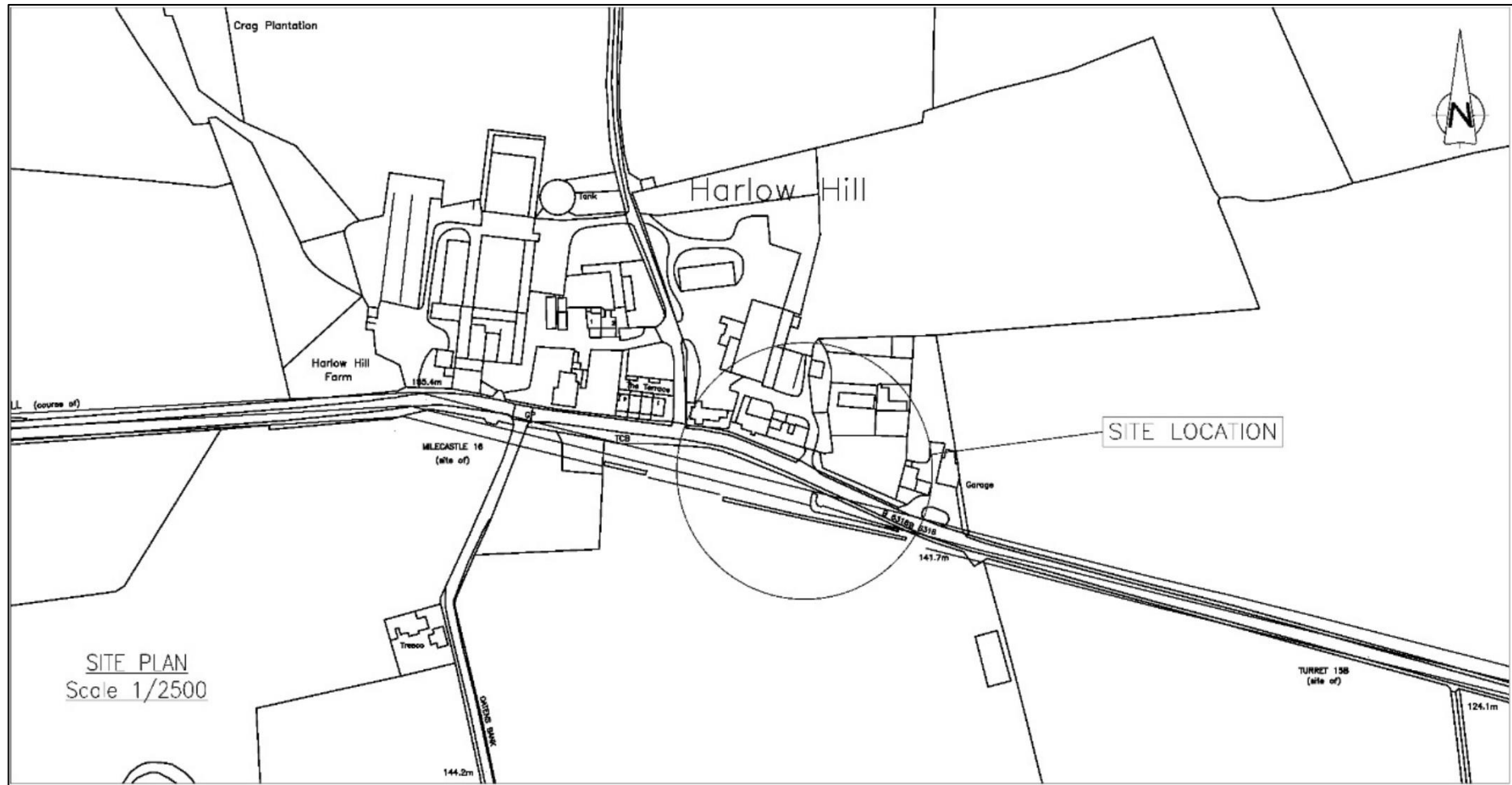
The site is located within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site (*HADRIAN'S WALL AND VALLUM BETWEEN THE MARCH BURN AND OATENS BANK, HARLOW HILL IN WALL MILES 13,14 AND 15; Scheduled Monument No: SM 26040, HA 1010618*) along the Military Road (B6318) at Harlow Hill (Illus. 02).

A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared and agreed with Historic England by The Archaeological Practice in June 2023 prior to the commencement of works. This provided a methodology for carrying out archaeological mitigation work to satisfy the terms of planning conditions on consent for the proposed works.

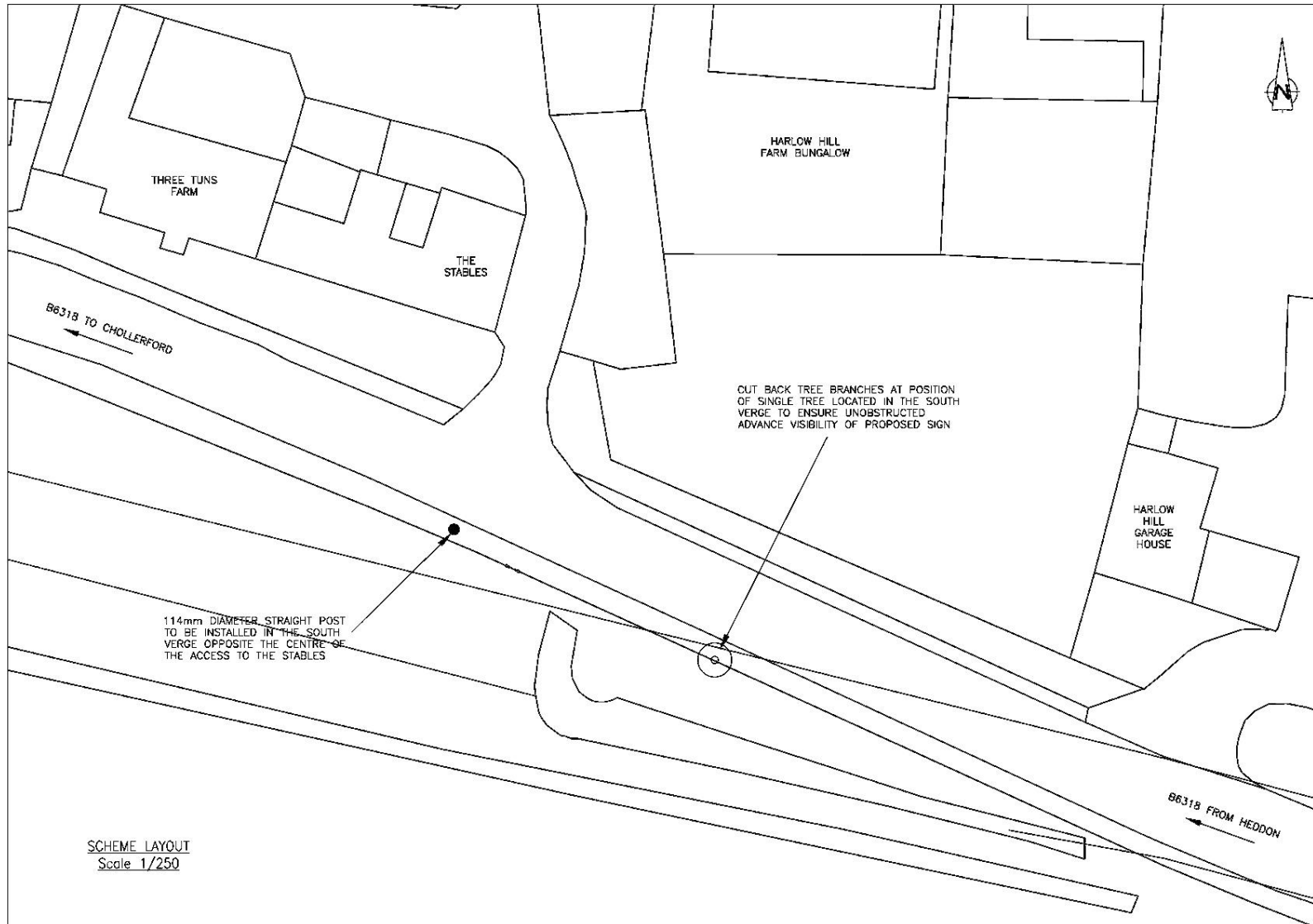
The hand-excavated pit was located in the turfed south-western verge opposite the centre of the access road to The Stables on the B6318 at Harlow Hill, Northumberland, and measured approximately 0.4m long, 0.40m wide and 0.80m deep.



Illus. 01: Location plan of the watching brief site (circled in black) at Harlow Hill, Northumberland (plan provided by Northumberland County Council).



Illus. 02: Site plan showing the location of the watching brief site (circled) along B6318 at Harlow Hill, Northumberland, and its relation to the sites of Milecastle 16 and Turret 15B (plan provided by Northumberland County Council).



Illus. 03:
Scheme layout plan showing the location of the watching brief site (black dot) in the south-western verge of the B6318 at Harlow Hill (map provided by Northumberland County Council).

2. CULTURAL HERITAGE BACKGROUND

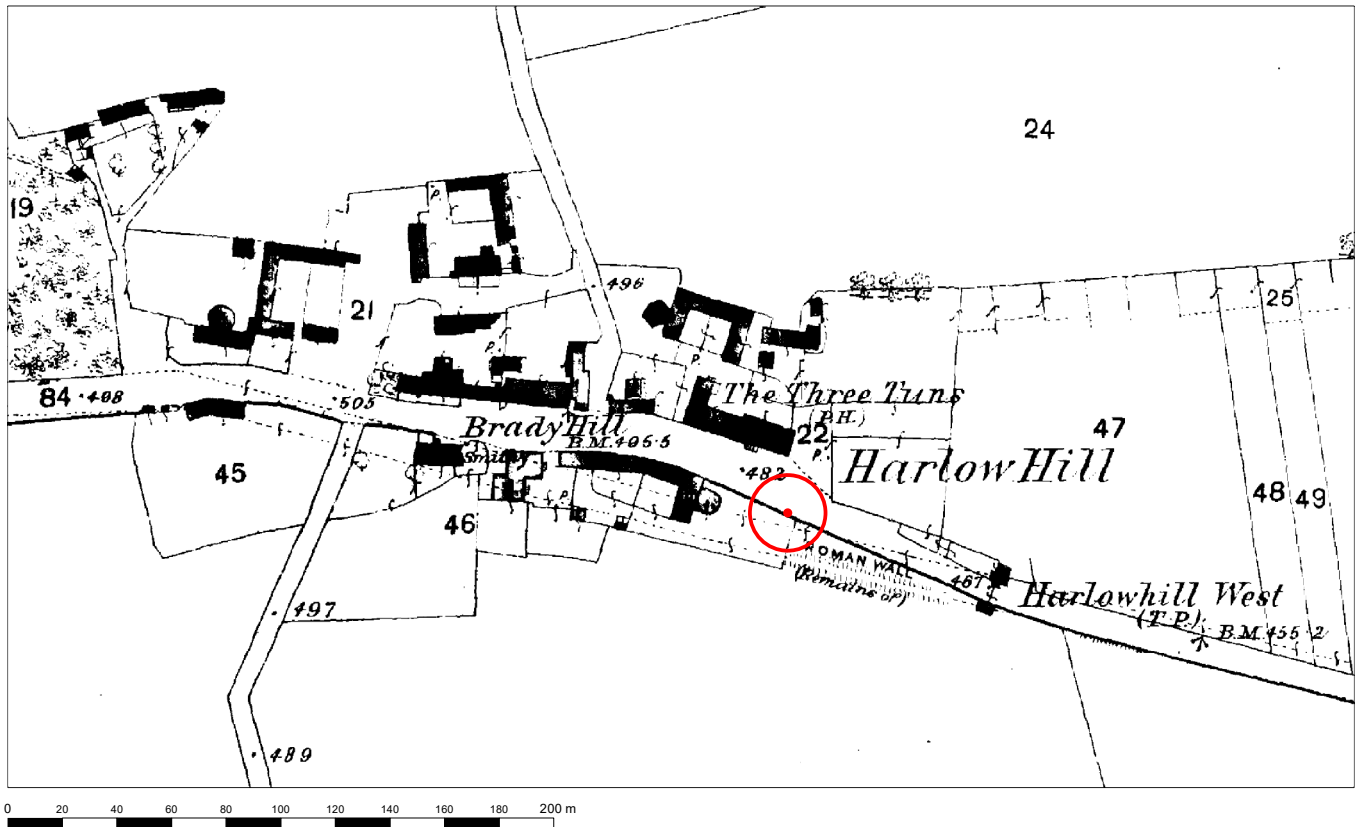
2.1 *Hadrian's Wall Transnational World Heritage Site*

The UNESCO Transnational World Heritage Site Frontiers of the Roman Empire consisted of the Wall and its component parts including the Vallum, Ditch and Military Way. Hadrian's Wall stretched for approximately 73.5 miles between Wallsend in Tyne and Wear and Bowness-on-Solway in Cumbria. Its eastern part consisted of a stone wall with ditch on the north side; forts, milecastles and turrets to accommodate the garrison; a substantial ditched and embanked earthwork known as the Vallum to the south; and a service road, the Military Way, located between the Wall curtain and Vallum (sometimes running along the top of the Vallum north mound), which formed a later (mid-2nd century) addition to the scheme. Building began c. 122-126, and the system was abandoned at the end of the 4th or early in the 5th century. The monument is divided into many separate scheduled sites, each of which is protected as a nationally important monument, while the monument as a whole is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.

2.2 The current works fall within the section of Hadrian's Wall and vallum between the March burn and Oaten's Bank, Harlow Hill, in Wall Miles 13, 15 & 15. It is specifically located immediately adjacent to the 18th-century Military Road, which was constructed over the course of Hadrian's Wall, between possible sites of Milecastle 16 and Turret 15B (*Illus. 02*).

2.3 Examination of historic Ordnance Survey mapping (*see Illus. 04-07*) indicates that no alterations to the site have been made from the mid-19th century to present day.

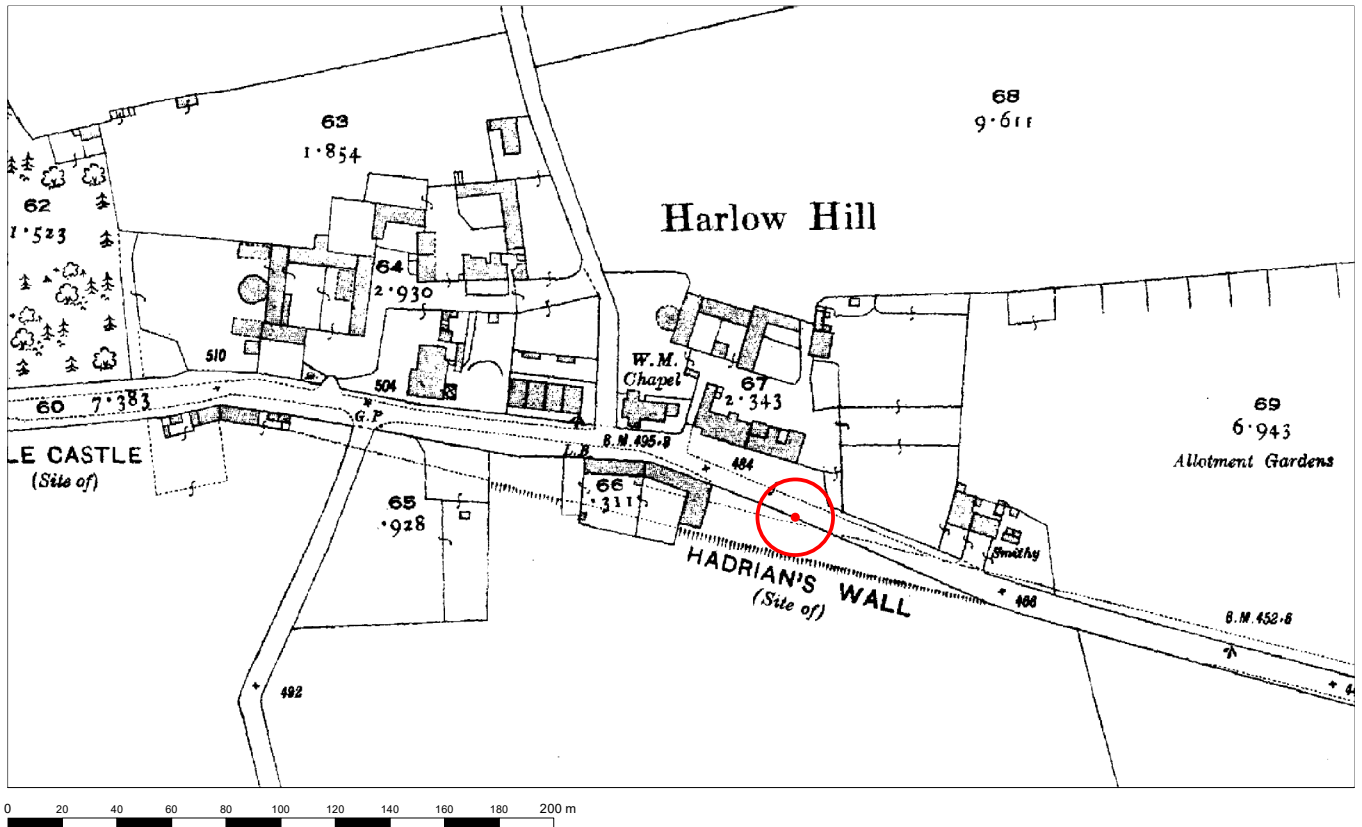
2.4 No previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the current work site. However, several archaeological watching briefs have been conducted in the vicinity but with no recorded evidence for Hadrian's Wall or any significant archaeological remains (Heritage Gateway 2023).



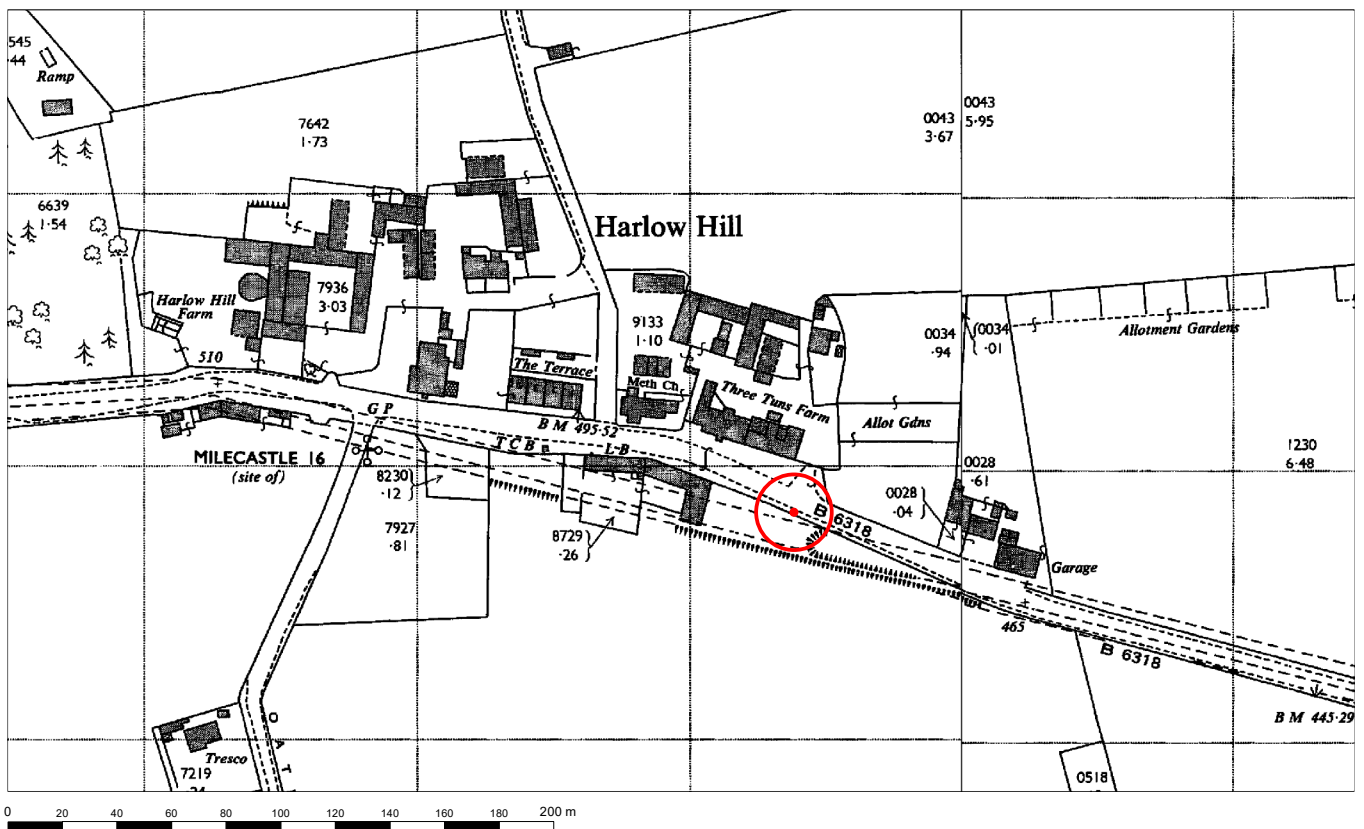
Illus. 04: Extract of the First Edition Ordnance Survey Plan of Northumberland (25-inch series, c.1859), showing the watching brief site (highlighted in red) at Harlow Hill, Northumberland.



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Illus. 07: Extract of the c.1963 Edition Ordnance Survey Plan of Northumberland (25-inch series), showing the watching brief site (highlighted in red) at Harlow Hill, Northumberland.

3. WATCHING BRIEF

The watching brief took place during groundworks in September 2023 and involved monitoring the hand excavation of a c.0.40m by 0.40m sub-circular pit on the south-western side of the Military Road (B6318), to a depth of 0.80m (*Illus 03*).

The concrete foundation work was carried out by hand and the entire excavation process was closely monitored by a trained and experienced archaeologist from the Archaeological Practice Ltd.

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

4. RESULTS

4.1 Location and Dimensions (*Illus. 03, Photos 01, 02, 06, 07*):

The watching brief was located on the south-western verge opposite the centre of the access road to The Stables along the Military Road (B6318) at Harlow Hill. The excavation comprised of a c.40m long and 0.40m wide sub-circular pit, monitored to a maximum depth of 0.80m.

4.2 Stratigraphy and Interpretation (*Photos 03 to 08*):

The excavation produced no significant finds or features but a modern utility pipe at the bottom of the concrete foundation pit. The soil sequence is summarised as follows:

Underneath the turf surface was 0.13m thick friable very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) very clayey and slightly gravelly silt with frequent roots and a moderate amount of building debris (red tiles), stones and boulders [01].

It was followed by a fill layer consisting of a 0.13 to 0.69m thick firm dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) slightly gravelly silty clay [02], with occasional modern floor tiles.

A 0.11m thick loose gravel layer [03] was recorded at about 0.69m from ground surface below context [02]. This was the backfill material for the pipe trenching found at the bottom of the pit (trench cut not visible within the pit) (*Photo 04*).

At the bottom of the foundation pit a NW-SE aligned modern plastic utility pipe [04] was identified at about 0.80m (limit of excavation) from ground surface (*Photo 05*). The utility pipe was left in situ and the excavation stopped at this level.

No significant features or finds were revealed during excavations within the watching brief area.

4.3 Context List:

- [01] Turf topsoil; 0.13m thick friable very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) very clayey and slightly gravelly silt with frequent roots and moderate amount of building debris (red tiles), stones and boulders.
- [02] Fill layer consisting of a 0.13 to 0.69m thick firm dark greyish brown (10 YR 4/2) slightly gravelly silty clay, with occasional chunks of modern floor tiles and one modern iron fragment.
- [03] A 0.11m thick loose gravel layer below context [02]. This was the backfill material for the pipe trenching found at the bottom of the pit.
- [04] A NW-SE aligned modern plastic utility pipe identified at about 0.80m (limit of excavation) from ground surface, packed with gravel [03].

4.4 Site Photographs



Photo. 01: General view of site at the south-western verge of the Military Road (B6318) at Harlow Hill, looking southeast.



◀ *Photo. 02:
Pre-ex photo showing the location of the proposed foundation pit (centred on the white spray paint), looking southwest.*



◀ *Photo. 03: Hand excavating foundation pit in progress, looking southwest.*



◀ *Photo. 04: Top of gravel layer [03], looking southwest.*



◀ *Photo. 05:*
Top of plastic utility pipe [04], packed with gravel [03], looking southwest.



◀ *Photo. 06:*
NEFS, looking southwest.



◀ *Photo. 07:*
Post-ex plan-view photo, looking northeast.



◀ *Photo. 08:*
Installation of signpost in progress, looking southwest

5. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 No significant finds or features were revealed by the excavation of the concrete foundation pit required for the installation of a new road sign along the Military Road at Harlow Hill. It is concluded, therefore, that no significant remains of cultural heritage value were impacted by the works.

5.2 Given the potential archaeological sensitivity of the site within the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, specifically the possibility of discovering preserved sub-surface features associated with Hadrian's Wall, it is recommended that any further works in the vicinity should be considered on their own merits with regard to potential archaeological intervention.

6. REFERENCES

Archaeological Practice Ltd. 2023a, *Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief for the Extension of a Residential Property at Wall End Farm, Greenhead, Northumberland.*

Archaeological Practice Ltd. 2023b, *Installation of New Road Sign at Harlow Hill, Northumberland: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

Heritage Gateway. 'NMR Excavation Index'. English Heritage Archive [online] (nd.). Available at https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Application.aspx?resourceID=304. Accessed 19.09.23.

APPENDIX 1:

INSTALLATION OF A NEW ROAD SIGN AT HARLOW HILL, NORTHUMBERLAND: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.

Prepared by The Archaeological Practice Ltd., June 2023

For Mr Carl Hinde, Northumberland County Council, Highways Design Section, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF.

INSTALLATION OF NEW ROAD SIGN AT HARLOW HILL:

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.

Prepared by The Archaeological Practice Ltd., June 2023

For Mr Carl Hinde, Northumberland County Council, Highways Design Section,
County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF.

(cc Mike Collins, Team Leader (Development Advice) - mike.collins@HistoricEngland.org.uk)

SUMMARY

Limited groundworks are proposed at Harlow Hill for the installation of a single 114mm diameter sign post to accommodate an interactive speed sign & solar power unit. The works will involve excavation approx. 1.000m x 1.000m square x 1.050m depth for the concrete foundation for the sign post, as detailed a proposals document provided by the developer, Northumberland County Council, to Historic England (see HO220103/04/B6318/01/01 Scheme Proposals).

Since the proposed development falls within the area of a scheduled monument (HADRIAN'S WALL AND VALLUM BETWEEN THE MARCH BURN AND OATENS BANK, HARLOW HILL IN WALL MILES 13,14 AND 15; Scheduled Monument No: SM 26040, HA 1010618) consent for the groundworks has been sought from Historic England by roads engineer Mr Carl Hinde on behalf of Northumberland County Council.

The Scheduled Monument Consent subsequently granted (Ref: S00244086) for work at the above site remains subject to the certain conditions (see below).

1. BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

1.1 The following represents a project outline for a programme of archaeological watching brief in order to mitigate the potential impact of groundworks for the erection of a single 114mm diameter sign post to accommodate an interactive speed sign & solar power unit. The works will involve excavation approx. 1.000 m x 1.000 m square x 1.050 m depth for the concrete foundation for the sign post, as detailed a proposals document provided by the developer. The position of the works (see *Illus. 01*, below) is considered archaeologically sensitive due to its location within a Scheduled Monument Since - HADRIAN'S WALL AND VALLUM BETWEEN THE MARCH BURN AND OATENS BANK, HARLOW HILL IN WALL MILES 13,14 AND 15; Scheduled Monument No: SM 26040, HA 1010618 – thus requiring Scheduled Monument consent for the groundworks.

1.2 The Scheduled Monument Consent subsequently granted (Ref: S00244086) by Historic England to Northumberland County Council remains subject to the following conditions:

(a) This consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England. At least 4 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Mike Collins, Historic England, Bessie Surtees House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3JF, 07771388308, mike.collins@historicengland.org.uk, in order that an Historic England representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.

(b) No works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work before and/or during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by Historic England.

(c) All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the applicant that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.

(d) Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument or ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.

(e) A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the County Historic Environment Record and to Mike Collins at Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).

(f) The contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.

1.3 Accordingly, this document specifies the methodology by which a watching brief will be undertaken in order to mitigate any potential impacts on surviving archaeological features by ensuring they are properly recorded during the groundworks.

1.4 Cultural Heritage Background

Hadrian's Wall stretched for 73 ½ miles between Wallsend (Tyne and Wear) in the east and Bowness-on-Solway (Cumbria) in the west. Its eastern part consisted of a stone wall with ditch on the north side; forts, milecastles and turrets to accommodate the garrison; a substantial ditched and embanked earthwork known as the Vallum to the south; and a service road, the Military Way, located between the Wall curtain and Vallum (sometimes running along the top of the Vallum north mound), which formed a later (mid-2nd century) addition to the scheme. Building began c. 122-126, and the system was abandoned at the end of the 4th or early in the 5th century. The monument is divided into many separate scheduled sites, each of which is protected as a nationally important monument, while the monument as a whole is a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The current works fall within the section of Hadrian's Wall and vallum between the March burn and Oaten's Bank, Harlow Hill, in Wall Miles 13, 15 & 15.

2. FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

2.1 Watching Brief

2.1.1 The work will be undertaken by archaeologically monitoring the area subject to groundworks in the position outlined (see red outline on *Illus. 01*, above), carried out for the purpose of installing foundation legs for the new panel. All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and will follow the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations.

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

2.1.3 The developer will allow the archaeological team access to the site and, in turn, the archaeological contractor will keep the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer and HE Inspector of Monuments apprised of the timing of the works and any significant discoveries made. Unless otherwise agreed, monitoring will be required until the groundworks are completed or an agreed stage in the project has been reached, such as the pouring of concrete for foundation trenches.

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

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

2.1.6 In the event of the discovery of archaeological remains which are of greater significance than anticipated, work will cease and the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer, HE Inspector of Monuments and a representative of the developer will be notified. An assessment will be made of the importance of the remains and a mitigation strategy for recording or preservation *in situ*, as appropriate, will be agreed upon by all the parties.

2.1.7 Should additional staff time and resources be deemed necessary by the archaeological contractor to excavate, record and sample revealed archaeological features, a contingency should be allowed for additional excavation.

2.1.8 In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens (of whatever period, date or function) are identified during the watching brief, the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer and HE Inspector of Monuments will be contacted to discuss the appropriate response.

2.1.9 In the event of human burials being discovered, the archaeological contractor will procure and comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Burial Act 1857. Where any part of a human burial is disturbed the whole burial will be archaeologically exhumed.

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

2.2 Recording

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.3 Finds Processing

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2.4 Environmental Sampling and Dating

The following strategy for environmental sampling has been confirmed with Don O'Meara, Historic England Science Advisor (0191 2691250).

2.4.1 If significant archaeological deposits are encountered, selective sampling will be carried out in a manner consistent with Historic England's *Environmental Archaeology Guidelines* (English Heritage 2011).

2.4.2 Deposits/fills with potential for environmental evidence will be assessed by taking up to two bulk samples of 30 litres from any context selected for analysis by the excavator from suitable (i.e. uncontaminated) deposits. Deposits/fills totalling less than 30 litres in volume will be sampled in their entirety. Samples will be taken from all deposits/fills containing charcoal, unless the contexts are evidently subject to modern contamination.

2.4.3 Deposits will only be sampled for material that is pertinent for our understanding of the past human activity on the site. The preservation at this area is likely to not favour waterlogging, and the types of material which might be sampled will be mindful of this.

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

2.4.5 Due to the location of the ground works, and the proposed depth the dating of the deposits is likely to be restricted to artefactual dating. If any deposits or material are encountered which might require specialist dating this will be discussed with the Historic England Science Advisor, Newcastle City Council Archaeological Team, and the Client.

2.4.6 Information on the nature and history of the site, aims and objectives of the project, summary of archaeological results, context types and stratigraphic relationships, phase and dating information, sampling and processing methods, sample locations, preservation conditions, residuality/contamination, etc. will be provided with each sample submitted for analysis.

2.4.7 Laboratory processing of samples shall only be undertaken if deposits are found to be reasonably well dated, or linked to recognisable features and from contexts the derivation of which can be understood with a degree of confidence.

2.4.8 Human remains will be treated with care, dignity and respect, in full compliance with the relevant legislation (essentially the Burial Act 1857) and local environmental health concerns. If found, human remains will be left in-situ, covered and protected, and the police, coroner and County Archaeologist informed. If it is agreed that removal of the remains is essential, the Archaeological Practice Ltd, will apply for a licence from the Ministry of Justice. As any burials are likely to relate to the Christian period in Britain guidelines will follow the 2017 Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England.

2.4.9 If anything is found which could be Treasure, under the Treasure Act 1996, it is a legal requirement to report it to the local coroner within 14 days of discovery. The Archaeological Practice Ltd. will comply with the procedures set out in The Treasure Act 1996. Any treasure will be reported to the coroner and to The Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer, Andrew Agate (0191 2085031 or andrew.agate@twmuseums.org.uk) for guidance on the Treasure Act procedures.

Treasure is defined as the following:

- Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10% by weight of metal is precious metal and that is at least 300 years old when found
- Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find
- All coins from the same find provided that they are at least 300 years old when found, but if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least ten
- Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, another object that is Treasure

- Any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. Only objects that are less than 300 years old, that are made substantially of gold or silver, that have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown will come into this category

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

2.5 Production of Site Archive

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

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

2.6 Production of Final Report

2.6.1 The report will be bound, with each page and paragraph numbered. It will include as a minimum the following:

- Planning application number, SMC reference, OASIS reference number, Archive reference and an 8 figure grid reference
- A copy of the HE SMC Conditions.
- A summary statement of methodologies used.
- A location plan of the site at an appropriate scale and a location plan of the extent of the watching brief at a recognisable planning scale, and located with reference to the national grid.
- Plans and sections of all features located and recorded at a recognisable and appropriate planning scale.
- Both above Ordnance Datum (aOD) levels and levels below current ground levels in the text and aOD levels included on plans and sections

- ❑ A summary statement of results.
- ❑ A table summarizing the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds.
- ❑ Conclusions
- ❑ Recommendations

2.6.2 Copies of the report will be provided within two months of the completion of fieldwork to the developer, Historic England and Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer. One bound paper copy and digital copy (in pdf format) will be submitted to Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer/HER.

2.7 Publication of Results of Archaeological Works

2.7.1 The Contractor will, at the request of HE and/or the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer, prepare a short report on the work for publication in an agreed journal.

2.8 OASIS

2.8.1 The Archaeological Contractor will complete the online form for the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations Project (OASIS), following consultation with the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer. The Contractor agrees to the procedure whereby the information on the form will be placed in the public domain on the OASIS website, following submission to or incorporation of the final report (see 2.6) into the County HER

3. EXECUTION OF THE SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

3.1 The Developer has appointed The Archaeological Practice Ltd. as a professionally competent Archaeological Contractor, on agreed terms, to execute the scheme as set out in the terms of the SMC document.

3.2 The present WSI must be submitted for approval and, if necessary, modification by the HE Inspector of Monuments before work on-site can proceed.

3.3 The Developer will allow the HE Inspector of Monuments, Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer and the appointed contractor all reasonable access to the site for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological scheme, subject only to safety requirements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.8 At or before the commencement of the scheme the Developer, the appointed Archaeological Contractors, the HE Inspector of Monuments and/or the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer and other appropriate parties will agree arbitration procedures to be followed in the event of any unresolvable difficulties or disputes arising from the scheme

3.9 Careful assessment has led to the definition of a number of research objectives which identify with a high degree of likelihood the kind of archaeological deposits which the investigation will encounter. Nevertheless, it is possible that discoveries will be made which could not reasonably have been foreseen on the basis of all the information currently available. Any difficulties arising from unforeseen discoveries will be resolved by discussion between all the parties involved. There will be a presumption, the investigation having been carried out in accordance with the schedule set out in this document, and to the satisfaction of the HE Inspector of Monuments, and all other considerations being equal, that no executive or financial obligation shall attach to any particular party in the event of unforeseen discoveries being made, and that the executive and financial responsibility for dealing with such unforeseen discoveries shall rest outside the currently agreed scheme of investigation.

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

4. TIMETABLE AND STAFFING

The work will be carried out following planning approval according to the construction timetable which should be made available to the HE Inspector of Monuments and Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer.

Personnel:

Archaeological Practice

PM: Project Manager:

Richard Carlton

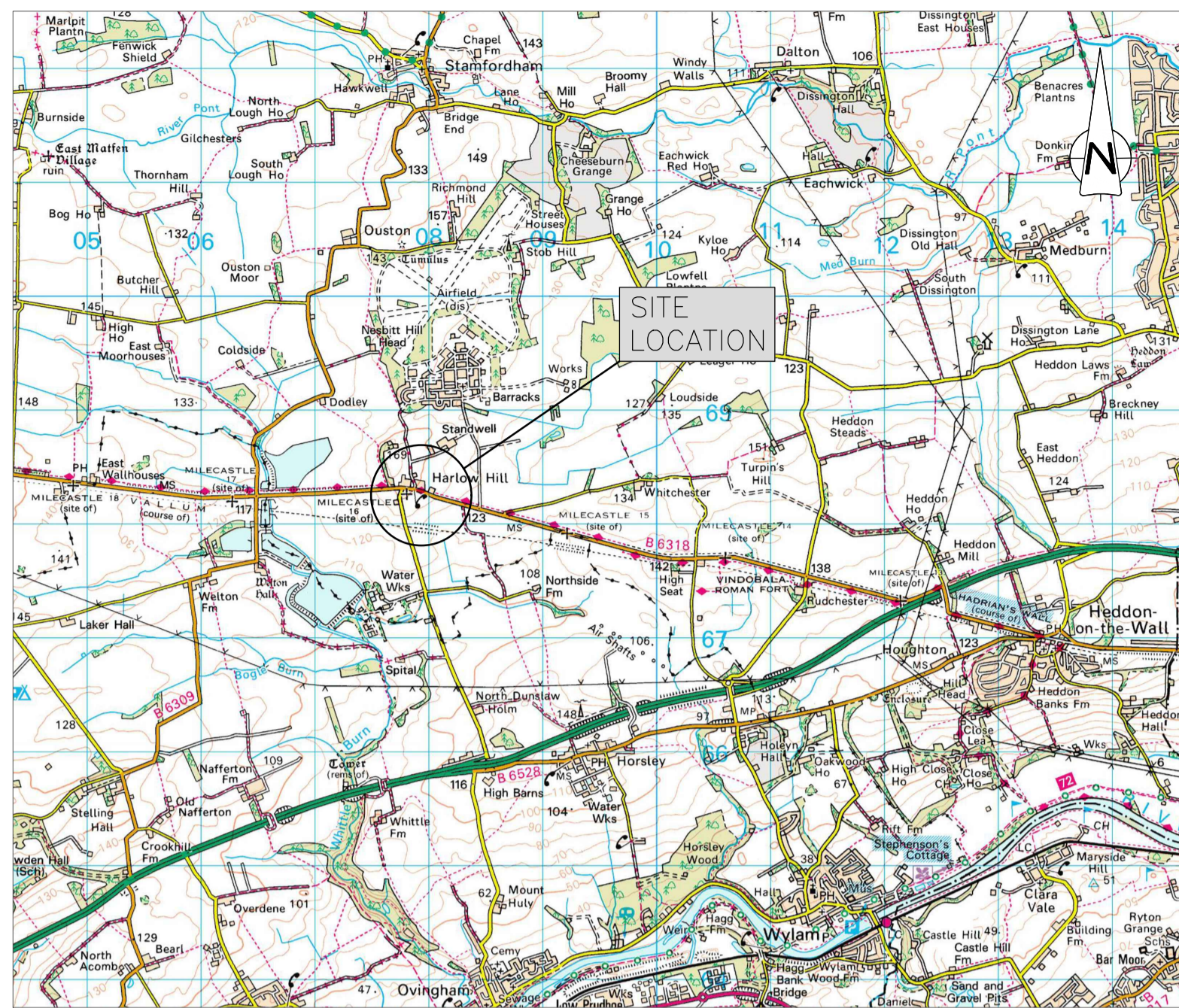
PO: Project Officer:

Marc Johnstone

Sub-Contractors

ASDU: Environmental Analysis

Alex Croom: Roman finds

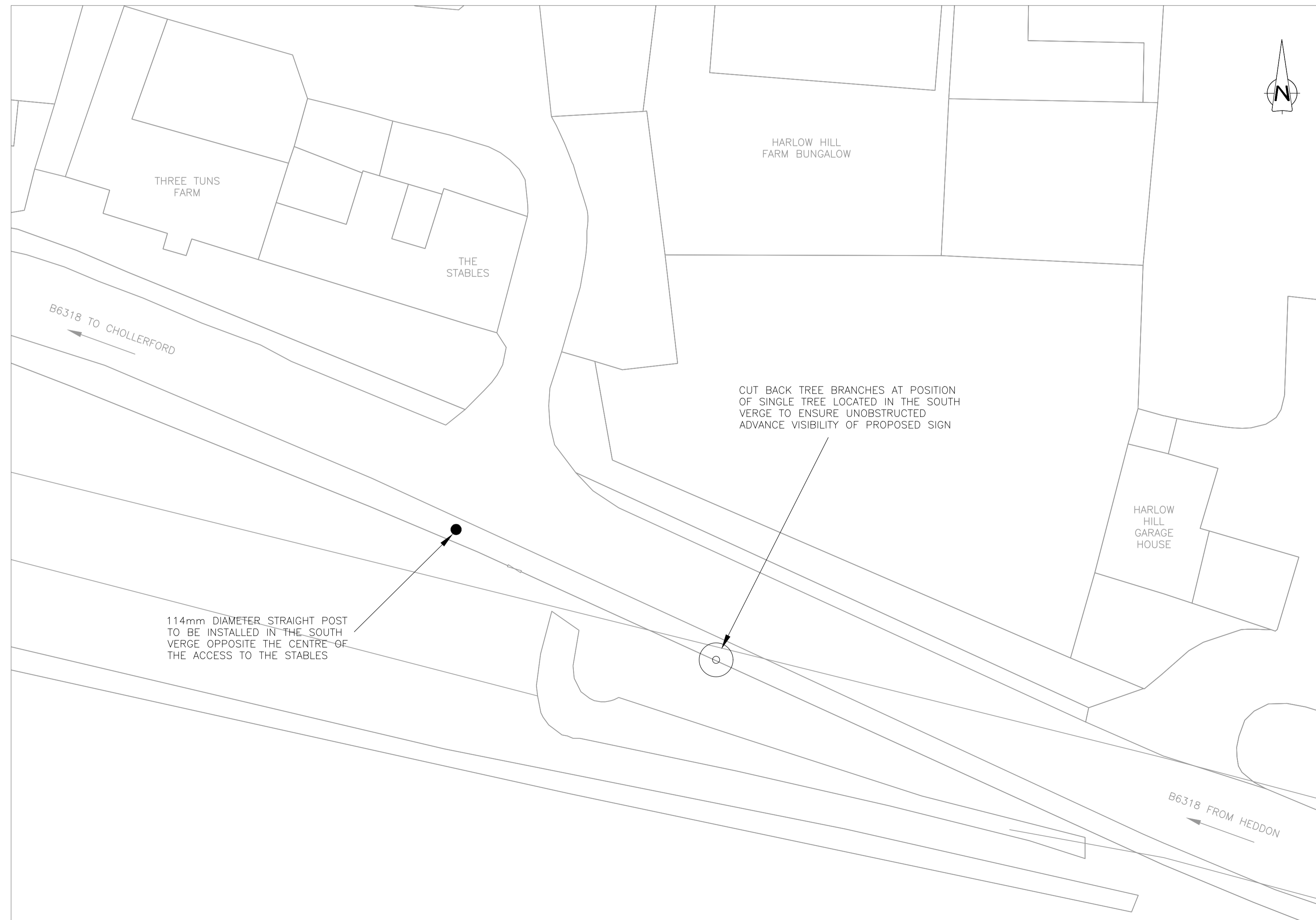


LOCATION PLAN
Scale 1/50,000

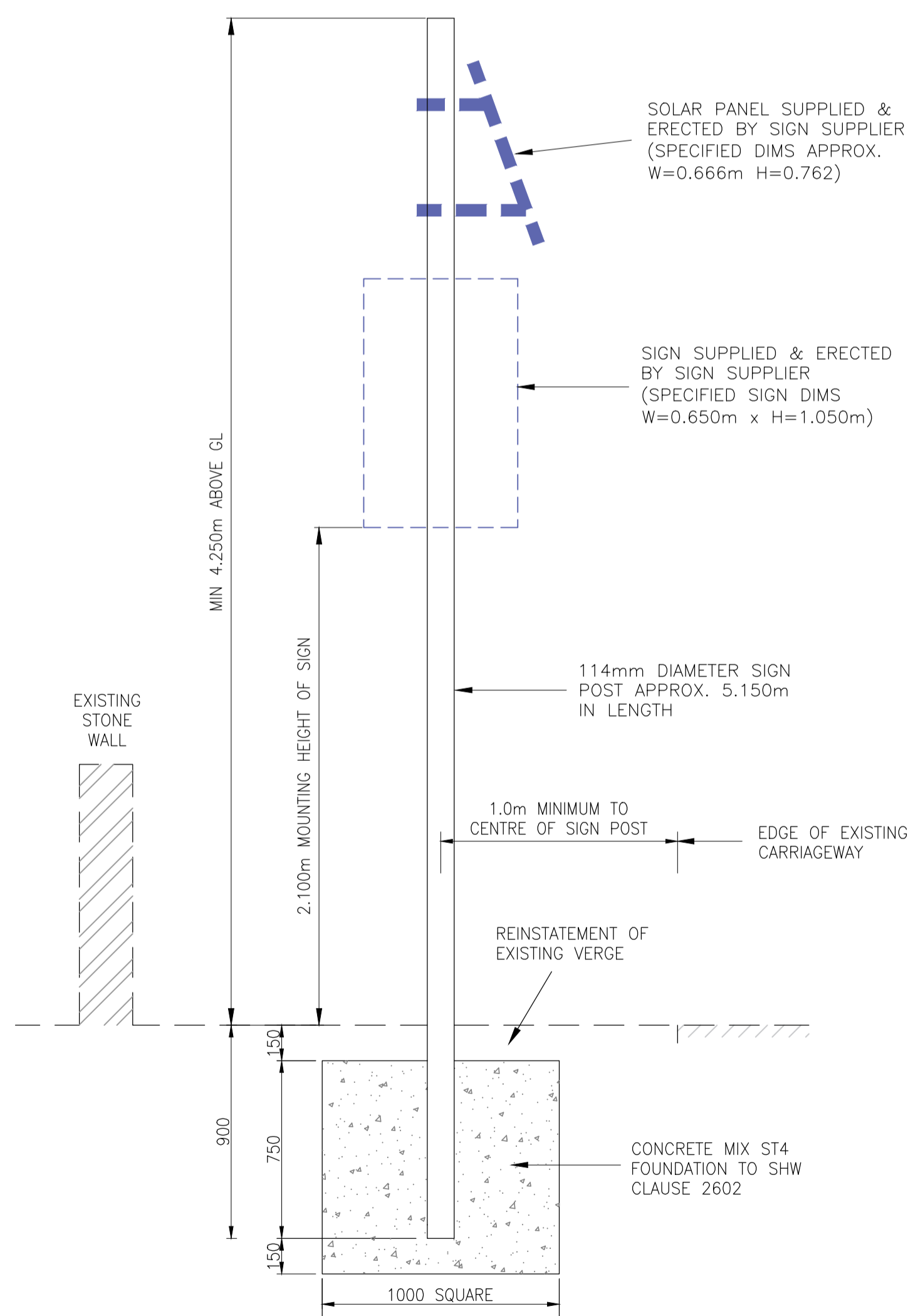
APPENDIX



SITE PLAN
Scale 1/2500



SCHEME LAYOUT
Scale 1/250



SIGN POST DETAIL - 114mm DIAMETER POST
Scale 1/20

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NOTES:

1.0 GENERAL

- 1.1 ALL DIMENSIONS ARE SHOWN IN MILLIMETRES (mm) UNLESS STATED OTHERWISE.
- 1.2 REFER TO HIGHWAYS ENGLAND MANUAL OF CONTRACT DOCUMENTS FOR HIGHWAY WORKS (MCHW) VOLUME 1: SPECIFICATION FOR HIGHWAY WORKS (SHW).
- 1.3 WORKS REQUIRED IS INSTALLATION OF 1 No. SIGN POST ONLY.
- 1.4 INTERACTIVE SIGN AND SOLAR PANEL ARE TO BE INSTALLED BY SIGN SUPPLIER AND BE ARRANGED BY OTHERS.

2.0 HISTORIC ENGLAND

- 2.1 SITE IS LOCATED WITHIN HISTORIC ENGLAND WORLD HERITAGE SITE 1000098 - FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE & SCHEDULED MONUMENT 1010618 - HADRIAN'S WALL & VALLUM BETWEEN THE MARCH BURN & OATENS BANK.
- 2.2 SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT IS REQUIRED.

3.0 TRAFFIC SIGN POST

- 3.1 POST IS TO BE 114mm DIAMETER STRAIGHT POST, APPROX. 5.150m TOTAL LENGTH (4.250m ABOVE GROUND LEVEL).
- 3.2 SIGN POST TO BE INSTALLED AT 1.0m OFFSET FROM THE EDGE OF THE CARRIAGEWAY TO THE CENTRE OF THE POST (THIS WILL ENSURE THE SIGN & SOLAR PANEL ARRANGEMENT HAVE A MINIMUM OF 0.5m CLEARANCE FROM THE EDGE OF THE CARRIAGEWAY).
- 3.3 UTILITIES RECORDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO THE CONTRACTOR AS PART OF THE WORKS INFORMATION PACK.
- 3.4 THE CONTRACTOR SHALL ENSURE THAT THE POST LOCATION IS CHECKED FOR UTILITIES / SERVICES PRIOR TO EXCAVATION.

KEY

- PROPOSED INTERACTIVE SPEED SIGN POST

Revised: _____
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Drawing Status: **DETAILED DESIGN**

Client: NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
 COUNTY HALL, MORPETH
 NORTHUMBERLAND, NE61 2EF

Job Title: B6318 HEDDON-CHOLLERFORD-GREENHEAD-GILSLAND (MILITARY ROAD)
 HARLOW HILL INTERACTIVE SPEED SIGN POST

Drawing Title: **SCHEME PROPOSALS**

Scale(s): AS SHOWN

Drawn: CH Date: APR 2023 Checked: RWDD Passed: CM

Drawing Number: H0220103/04/B6318/01/01

Revision: _____

Oracle Number: H0220103

APPENDIX 2:

SMC-HE ref. S00244086. 3rd March 2023. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2 control of works Application for Scheduled Monument Consent. By Mike Collins (Historic England) on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.



Mr Carl Hinde
Northumberland County Council
Highways Design Section
Technical Services, County Hall
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 2EF

Direct Dial: 0191 4031632

Our ref: S00244086

3 May 2023

Dear Mr Hinde

**Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2
control of works
Application for Scheduled Monument Consent**

**HADRIAN'S WALL AND VALLUM BETWEEN THE MARCH BURN AND OATENS
BANK, HARLOW HILL IN WALL MILES 13,14 AND 15
Scheduled Monument No: SM 26040, HA 1010618
Our ref: S00244086
Application on behalf of Northumberland County Council**

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport to advise you of the decision regarding your application for Scheduled Monument Consent received 12 April 2023 in respect of proposed works at the above scheduled monument concerning Installation of a single 114mm diameter sign post to accommodate an interactive speed sign & solar power unit. Works will involve excavation approx. 1.000m x 1.000m square x 1.050m depth for the concrete foundation for the sign post. The works were detailed in the following documentation submitted by you:

- HO220103/04/B6318/01/01 Scheme Proposals

2. In accordance with paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State is obliged to afford you, and any other person to whom it appears to the Secretary of State expedient to afford it, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed for that purpose. This opportunity was offered to you by Historic England and you have declined it.

3. The Secretary of State is also required by the Act to consult with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England) before deciding whether or not to grant Scheduled Monument Consent. Historic England considers the effect of the proposed works upon the monument to be works potentially detrimental to the monument, but where the public benefits of reducing road traffic speed and risk outweigh this risk, and where the use of conditions can also secure an appropriate



BESSIE SURTEES HOUSE 41-44 SANDHILL NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE NE1 3JF

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HistoricEngland.org.uk



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level of archaeological supervision and recording

I can confirm that the Secretary of State is agreeable for the works to proceed providing the conditions set out below are adhered to, and that accordingly Scheduled Monument Consent is hereby granted under section 2 of the 1979 Act for the works described in paragraph 1 above, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England. At least 4 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Mike Collins, Historic England, Bessie Surtees House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3JF, 07771388308, mike.collins@historicengland.org.uk, in order that an Historic England representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.
- (b) No works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work before and/or during the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved by the Secretary of State advised by Historic England.
- (c) All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the applicant that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.
- (d) Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument or ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.
- (e) A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the County Historic Environment Record and to Mike Collins at Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).
- (f) The contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.



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4. By virtue of section 4 of the 1979 Act, if no works to which this consent relates are executed or started within the period of five years beginning with the date on which this consent was granted (being the date of this letter), this consent shall cease to have effect at the end of that period (unless a shorter time period is set by a specific condition above).
5. This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bye law, order or regulation other than section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.
6. Your attention is drawn to the provisions of section 55 of the 1979 Act under which any person who is aggrieved by the decision given in this letter may challenge its validity by an application made to the High Court within six weeks from the date when the decision is given. The grounds upon which an application may be made to the Court are (1) that the decision is not within the powers of the Act (that is, the Secretary of State has exceeded the relevant powers) or (2) that any of the relevant requirements have not been complied with and the applicant's interests have been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply. The "relevant requirements" are defined in section 55 of the 1979 Act: they are the requirements of that Act and the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 and the requirements of any regulations or rules made under those Acts.

Yours sincerely

Mike Collins

Team Leader (Development Advice)

E-mail: mike.collins@HistoricEngland.org.uk

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

cc. Liz Williams - NCC Archaeology



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