
*DUNSTANBURGH CASTLE,
EMBLETON,
NORTHUMBERLAND*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



OCTOBER 2023

*The Archaeological
Practice Ltd.*



DUNSTANBURGH CASTLE,
EMBLETON,
NORTHUMBERLAND

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



Frontispiece: View looking southwest from Gull Crag towards Dunstanburgh Castle in October 2023, with the north fence-line visible, inset atop the headland cliffs.

Report title:	<i>Dunstanburgh Castle, Embleton, Northumberland. Archaeological Watching Brief.</i>
Stage:	<i>Final</i>
Project code:	<i>AP 23/31</i>
Compiled by:	<i>Marc Johnstone</i>
Control:	<i>Alan Rushworth</i>
OASIS ID:	<i>thearcha2-520452</i>
Date of fieldwork:	<i>26th October 2023</i>
Date Issued:	<i>6th November 2023</i>
SMC-HE Ref:	<i>S00244554</i>
Grid reference (NGR):	<i>NU 25609 21956; NU 25685 21992; NU 25804 22072</i>
Client:	<i>English Heritage Trust</i>

CONTENTS

SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION
2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES
3. METHODOLOGY
4. RESULTS
5. CONCLUSIONS
6. REFERENCES

APPENDIX 1:

Dunstanburgh Castle, Embleton, Northumberland: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.

By The Archaeological Practice Ltd, October 2023.

Assumptions and Limitations

Data and information obtained and consulted in the compilation of this report has been derived from a number of secondary sources. Where it has not been practicable to verify the accuracy of secondary information, its accuracy has been assumed in good faith. Any information accessed from external databases (e.g., NLHE, HERs) represents a record of known assets and their discovery and further investigation. Such information is not complete and does not preclude the future discovery of additional assets and the amendment of information about known assets which may affect their significance and/or sensitivity to development effects. All statements and opinions arising from the works undertaken are provided in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

Copyright

The Archaeological Practice Ltd. will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988). The client and any relevant HERs or other curatorial/archival bodies will be granted licence to use the report for its purposes, which may include photocopying.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Front Cover: View from the east curtain wall of Dunstanburgh Castle, looking southeast towards the Great Gatehouse, in October 2023.

Frontispiece: View looking southwest from Gull Crag towards Dunstanburgh Castle in October 2023, with the north fence-line visible, inset atop the headland cliffs.

- **Illus. 01:** Regional view, showing the location of Dunstanburgh Castle (circled in red), near Alnwick, on the Northumberland Coast.
- **Illus. 02:** District view, showing the location of Dunstanburgh Castle (circled in red), to the north-east of Alnwick.
- **Illus. 03:** Villages view, showing the location of Dunstanburgh Castle (circled in red), north of Craster and east of Embleton.
- **Illus. 04:** Castle view, showing an Ordnance Survey location plan of the Dunstanburgh Castle site.
- **Illus. 05:** English Heritage plan showing the extent and finds from 20th century excavations at Dunstanburgh Castle.
- **Illus. 06:** English Heritage phased plan of the Dunstanburgh Castle site, showing the approx. locations of excavation.
- **Illus. 07:** Detailed plan, showing the location of the excavation for a new safety sign, in relation to Lilburn Tower.
- **Illus. 08:** Detailed plan, showing the location of Test Pit 1, along the north fence-line.
- **Illus. 09:** Detailed plan, showing the location of Test Pit 2, along the north fence-line at Gull Crag.

Photographic Record:

- **Photo 1.** Approaching Dunstanburgh Castle from the northwest, view looking towards Lilburn Tower and the western battlements.
- **Photo 2.** Wide view of Lilburn Tower, looking SSW.
- **Photo 3.** View looking SSW during excavations for a new safety sign on the north side of Lilburn Tower.
- **Photo 4.** View looking southwest during excavations on the north side of Lilburn Tower.
- **Photo 5.** View looking northwest during excavations on the north side of Lilburn Tower.
- **Photo 6.** View looking SSW at completed excavation on the north side of Lilburn Tower.
- **Photo 7.** Detailed view looking south at completed excavation on the north side of Lilburn Tower.
- **Photo 8.** Detailed view looking northwest during excavations on the north side of Lilburn Tower.
- **Photo 9.** View looking northwest at newly erected safety sign on the north side of Lilburn Tower.
- **Photo 10.** View looking southwest at newly erected safety sign on the north side of Lilburn Tower.
- **Photo 11.** View looking ENE during deturfing for Test Pit 1, inside the existing north fence-line.
- **Photo 12.** View looking northeast during excavations through a layer of Whinstone scree [02] in Test Pit 1.
- **Photo 13.** View looking northeast during final stages of excavation for Test Pit 1.

- *Photo 14. View looking northeast at completed excavation for Test Pit 1.*
- *Photo 15. View looking west at completed excavation for Test Pit 1.*
- *Photo 16. Detailed view looking west at completed excavation for Test Pit 1, with bedrock exposed.*
- *Photo 17. South facing section of excavated Test Pit 1.*
- *Photo 18. View looking WSW during excavation of Test Pit 2 along the inside of the north fence-line on Gull Crag.*
- *Photo 19. View looking NNE at excavated Test Pit 2.*
- *Photo 20. View looking northwest at excavated Test Pit 2.*
- *Photo 21. Detailed view looking southwest at excavated Test Pit 2.*
- *Photo 22. Southeast facing section of excavated Test Pit 2.*

SUMMARY

An archaeological watching brief was conducted in October 2023, to mitigate the potential impact of groundworks associated with excavations for a new safety sign north of Lilburn Tower, and for two test pits, positioned along the existing North Cliff fence line, to ascertain ground conditions ahead of a proposed fencing rebuild at Dunstanburgh Castle, Northumberland.

In response to predictions of coastal erosion and a significant cliff fall along North Cliff, English Heritage Trust are proposing to move the fence line at North Cliff (also known as Gull Crag) and Queen Margaret's Cove inland by up to 5 metres. Approximately 280 m of fence line will therefore have to be moved, at a date yet to be determined.

Dunstanburgh Castle is a Grade I Listed Building and Scheduled Monument – a building of national historic significance dating to the high-medieval period of the 14th century. In addition to remains of the medieval castle, the site contains an earlier settlement dating to the Romano-British period. Accordingly, consultation was made with the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England prior to the works, and Scheduled Monument Consent was applied for. SMC was duly granted, but with specified conditions, including the production of a Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1), followed by Archaeological Watching Brief, associated Report and Digital Archiving through the Oasis website.

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.

The results of archaeological monitoring concluded that no significant finds or features of any kind were revealed by the current excavations in October 2023. Therefore, it is concluded that no significant remains of cultural heritage value were impacted by the works.

The test pits positioned along the North Cliff fence line, encountered dolerite bedrock at depths of 0.26 m (TP1) and 0.50 m (TP2) below ground level. Additionally, it was noted that bedrock could be seen outcropping to surface levels in areas between the two test pits.

Given the shallow stratigraphy demonstrated within the test pits positioned along the North Cliff fence line, the potential for archaeological remains to survive elsewhere along its course, must be regarded as low. Nevertheless, it is recommended that, in view of the historic context of the broader site, and the undulating nature of the stratigraphy, it is feasible that pockets of archaeological remains may survive in parts, and therefore any future works proposed should be subject to further archaeological watching brief. However, monitoring will not be necessary in specific areas once bedrock is reached.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Purpose of the Watching Brief*

1.1.1 This document, prepared by the Archaeological Practice Ltd. for English Heritage Trust., reports on a process of archaeological monitoring conducted in October 2023, to mitigate the potential impact of groundworks associated with excavations around two existing fence posts (located approx. NU 25685 21992 and NU 25804 22072) to ascertain the nature of their footings, along with an excavation for a new safety sign, positioned to the north of Lilburn Tower (located approx. NGR: NU 25609 21956) at Dunstanburgh Castle, Northumberland (*see Illus. 01-05*).

1.1.2 In response to predictions of coastal erosion and a significant cliff fall along North Cliff, English Heritage Trust are proposing to move the fence line at North Cliff (also known as Gull Crag) and Queen Margaret's Cove inland by up to 5 metres. Approx. 280 m of fence line will therefore have to be moved, at a future date.

The two test pits to the existing fence were along the North Cliff fence line as shown on Illus. 06. The test pits were to be excavated as deep as necessary to establish the depth and construction of the existing fence; with only previously disturbed ground affected by the proposals.

The new 'sheer drop' sign required only 300mm deep footings to the north of Lilburn Tower to protect visitors from the cliff just outside the west curtain wall.

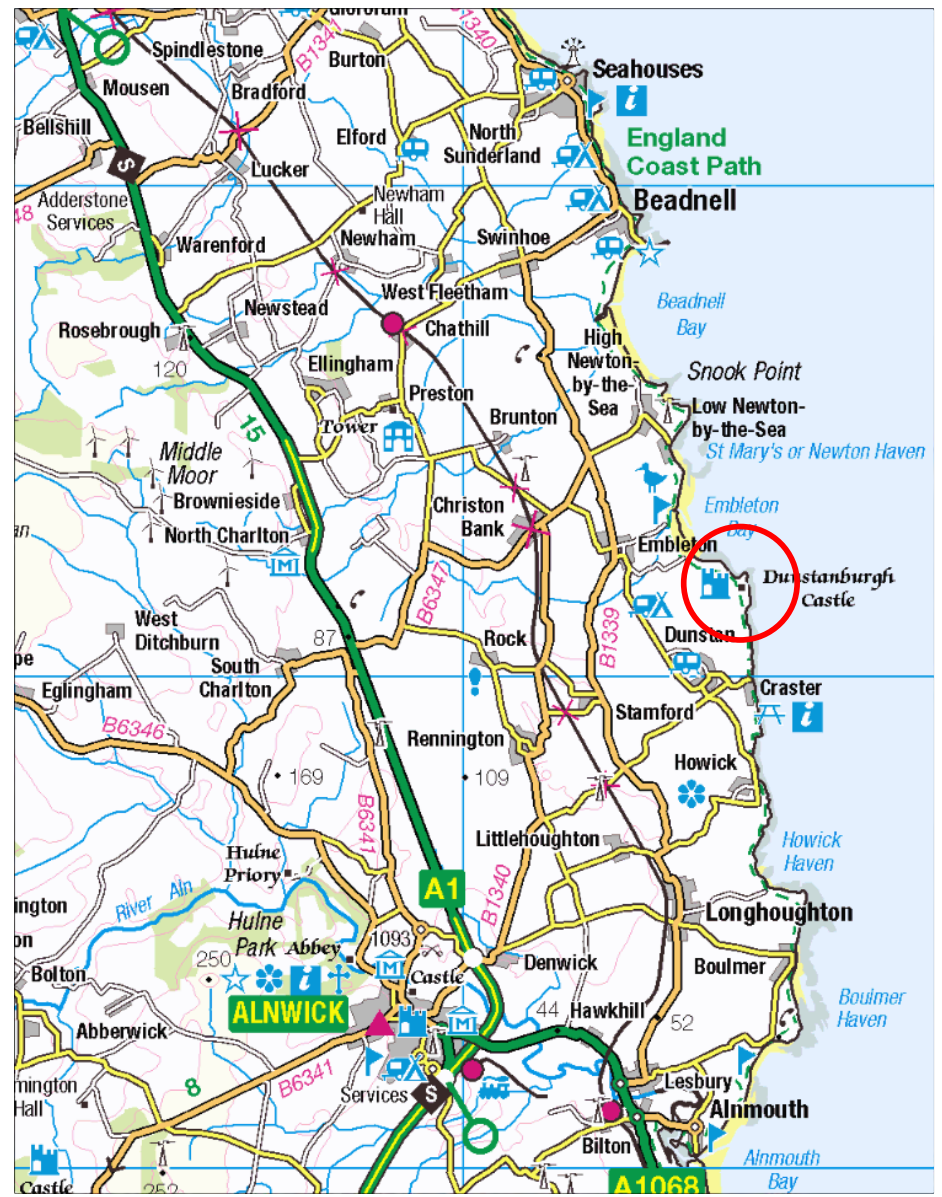
Overall, the potential harm resulting from the test pits and the visual intrusion of the new sign is regarded to be outweighed by the public benefit to the safety of visitors and the welfare of the site staff. The proposed movement of the fence line will help to maintain the security of the monument and safeguard it for future generations.

1.1.3 Prior to the commencement of groundworks, the developer (English Heritage Trust), consulted with Historic England's Inspector of Ancient Monuments, who advised that an application for Scheduled Monument Consent would be required for the project. Consent for the works was duly granted (SMC-HE ref: S00244554) with attached conditions stipulating that the work must be conducted under terms agreed in advance with Historic England, and followed by an archaeological report and OASIS record. Specifically, the conditions require that the developer has engaged the services of a professional archaeologist and that they will permit access for the purposes of monitoring the excavations and for the archaeologist to investigate and record any features, finds or items of interest observed. Furthermore, the appointed archaeologist had to liaise with Historic England and the NCC archaeologist should any significant features or finds be observed, and produce a report for submission within 3 months of the completion of the monitoring work.

1.1.4 A written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1) was prepared by The Archaeological Practice Ltd., prior to the commencement of works, and provided a methodology for carrying out archaeological mitigation work to satisfy the terms of consent for the proposed works, as specified in the SMC.



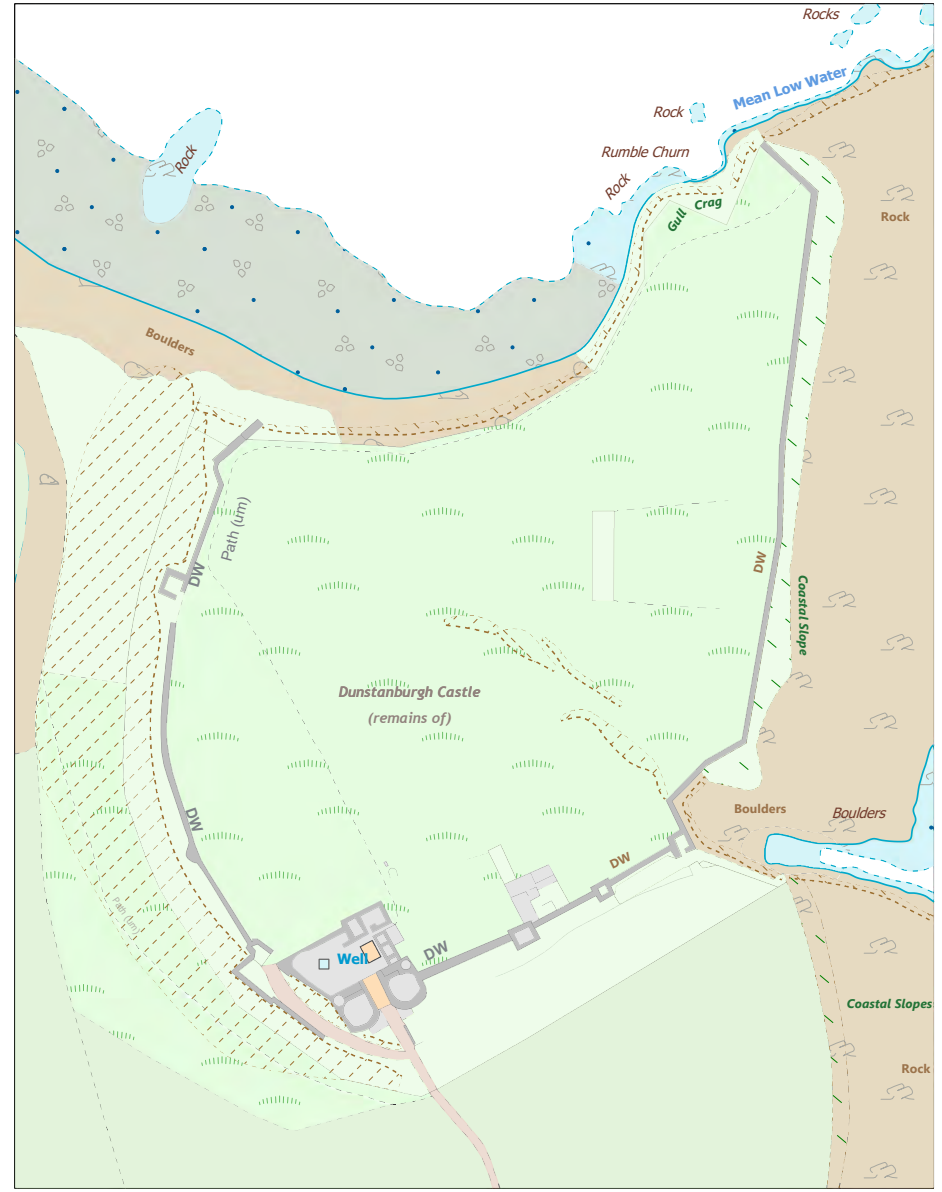
Illus. 01: Regional view, showing the location of Dunstanburgh Castle (circled in red), near Alnwick, on the Northumberland Coast.



Illus. 02: District view, showing the location of Dunstanburgh Castle (circled in red), to the north-east of Alnwick.



Illus. 03: Villages view, showing the location of Dunstanburgh Castle (circled in red), north of Craster and east of Embleton.



Illus. 04: Castle view, showing an Ordnance Survey location plan of the Dunstanburgh Castle site.

1.2 Cultural Heritage Background

1.2.1 Introduction to Dunstanburgh Castle

Dunstanburgh Castle stands on an exposed promontory 2km north of the village of Craster, Northumberland. The castle occupies an impressive position overlooking the rocky shore with a long sloping approach to the south and sheer basalt cliffs to the north. The monument consists of the ruined remains of a large enclosure castle built on a massive scale by Thomas, earl of Lancaster between 1313 and 1316. The outer ward of the castle encloses an area of around 5.5ha, making Dunstanburgh the largest castle in Northumberland. The inner ward of the castle is entered via the great gatehouse, the principal feature of Dunstanburgh.

Running east of the great gatehouse is a well-preserved length of curtain wall with a distinctive stepped plinth course on the outer face. This incorporates the Constable's Tower and ends at the Egyncleugh Tower, overlooking Queen Margaret's Cove. The Egyncleugh Tower was once an alternative entrance to the castle (possibly used by pedestrians based on its size) and was furnished with a gate and drawbridge which spanned the dry rock-cut ditch that skirts the southern side of the castle. The curtain wall continues north along the foreshore and includes a postern and a number of garderobes. This length of wall has been soft capped. On the north western side of the outer ward is the Lilburn Tower, named after John de Lilburn, who became constable after the execution of Thomas of Lancaster in 1322.

The castle's setting on the Great Whin Sill headland and within the Northumberland Coast AONB contributes to the landscape value of the building and wider site. The Scheduled Monument Area overlaps with both the Northumberland Shore and Castle Point to Cullernose Point SSSIs.

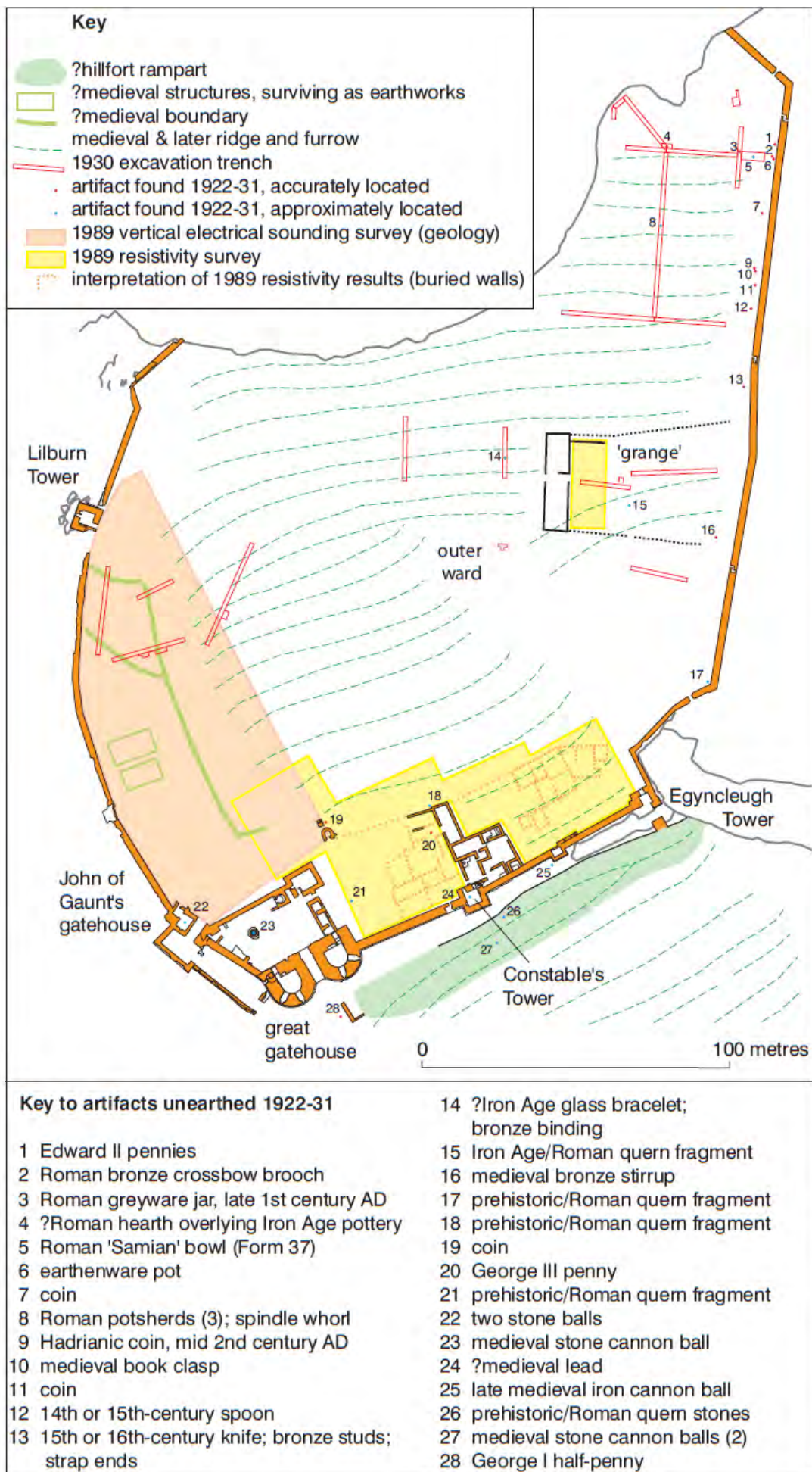
1.2.2 Lilburn Tower and North Cliff

As described above, Lilburn Tower (completed in c. 1325) stands towards the north end of the west curtain wall. It was a three-storey building, with tall corner turrets projecting above its flat roof. The square shell of Lilburn Tower is complete except for its south-east corner, and has several 2-light windows, a square-headed doorway to the wall-walk extending northwards, 2 corbelled-out garderobes on the west side, and taller embattled angle turrets. A fragment of curtain wall on the north side contains a pointed sallyport arch. It is a significant survival from the castle's 14th century heyday. A trench was excavated to the south as part of archaeological investigations by Robert Bosanquet in 1930-31, but the only significant find in this area was a sherd of prehistoric pottery.

The north curtain wall (never particularly substantial) has been lost, having been greatly damaged by the action of the sea as early as 1543. Today, the curtain wall is truncated at both its northern ends where it meets Gull Crag, indicating that some degree of erosion has certainly taken place. Archaeological investigations and analysis have been carried out across the site (see references), but the area adjacent to North Cliff is not particularly revealing, perhaps because many of the archaeological layers have been lost to erosion.

The North Cliff is a natural defence, and contributes to the castle's picturesque setting. Lilburn Tower and North Cliff form one of the most dramatic views of Dunstanburgh Castle, looking south from Embleton Bay, or from Bamburgh Castle further north. North Cliff also sits on the boundary of two SSSIs, as detailed above. These nature conservation sites are designated for the large number of rare seabird species which use the cliffs in this area for nesting and raising their chicks.

Illus. 05 shows the extent and finds from 20th century excavations at Dunstanburgh.



Illus. 05: English Heritage plan showing the extent and finds from 20th century excavations at Dunstanburgh Castle.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Definition of Archaeological Watching Brief

An archaeological watching brief is defined as:

“...a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, intertidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive” (CIfA 2020a, 4).

2.2 Aims of the Watching Brief

The overall aim of the project is to record archaeological remains impacted during site development works. More specifically, the work aimed to investigate the extent, character and chronology of any archaeological features present on the site, in order to understand and interpret them with reference to comparable sites.

2.3 Objectives of the Watching Brief

- To record, excavate and environmentally sample any archaeological deposits of significance observed during the groundworks.
- To establish the date, character and significance of any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental deposits, including in relation to other similar features within the area.
- To ensure there is a permanent record of the work undertaken deposited with the local Historic Environment Record (HER) and made available online.
- To ensure all work is undertaken in compliance with the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) (2021), the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs (2020a), and Yorkshire, the Humber & the North East: a Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process (2019).
- To ensure compliance with the project Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1).

2.4 Research Agendas

The three excavated trenches were located at Dunstanburgh Castle, a Grade I Listed Building and Scheduled Monument – a building of national historic significance dating to the medieval period (*see Sec 1.2 above*). Additionally, within the curtilage of the castle walls, is the site of an earlier settlement dating to the Romano-British period.

The monitoring work associated with the present excavations had the potential to uncover remains dating predominantly to the medieval period, with the additional possibility of finding artefacts of Romano-British origin. Any information provided could potentially address the following gaps in knowledge identified in Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for The Historic Environment (2006), also available online at <https://researchframeworks.org/nerf/medieval-and-post-medieval-agenda/> and <https://researchframeworks.org/nerf/roman-agenda/>

Medieval:

- *MD8: How can we better understand medieval ceramics?*

- *MD9: How can artefactual assemblages help us understand individual, local, regional and national identities?*
- *MD14: How can we better understand the castles beyond viewing them as defensive sites?*
- *MD15: How can we better understand decline and afterlife of castles?*
- *MD18: How can environmental archaeology help us better understand medieval life?*

Roman:

- *R1: How can we better understand the transition from the Iron Age to the Roman period in NE England?*
- *R4: How does archaeology shed light on the lives of civilians and natives in NE England in the Roman period?*
- *R5: How can we better frame our understanding of Roman and native material culture in NE England?*
- *R6: How does archaeology help us better understand trade, exchange and production in NE England?*
- *R9: How can we better understand the landscape and environment of NE England?*
- *R10: How can we better understand the transition from the Roman period to the early middle ages in NE England?*

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1 The watching brief, which took place on 26th October 2023, involved archaeological monitoring of the areas subject to groundworks in the positions outlined (*see Illus. 05, 07-09*), carried out for the purposes of new signage and for ascertaining ground conditions ahead of new fencing proposals. All work was carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and followed the CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations.

3.2 The two test pits to the existing fence were positioned along the North Cliff fence line and were excavated as deep as necessary to establish the depth and construction of the existing fence; only previously disturbed ground was affected. The new 'sheer drop' sign required only 300mm deep footings to the north of Lilburn Tower to protect visitors from the cliff just outside the east curtain wall. The excavation process was monitored by an archaeologist to observe and record the presence or absence of any archaeological remains. If archaeological remains were identified the groundworks would be instructed to stop, to allow the excavation and recording of any remains found. All archaeological features within the trenches were to be fully excavated.

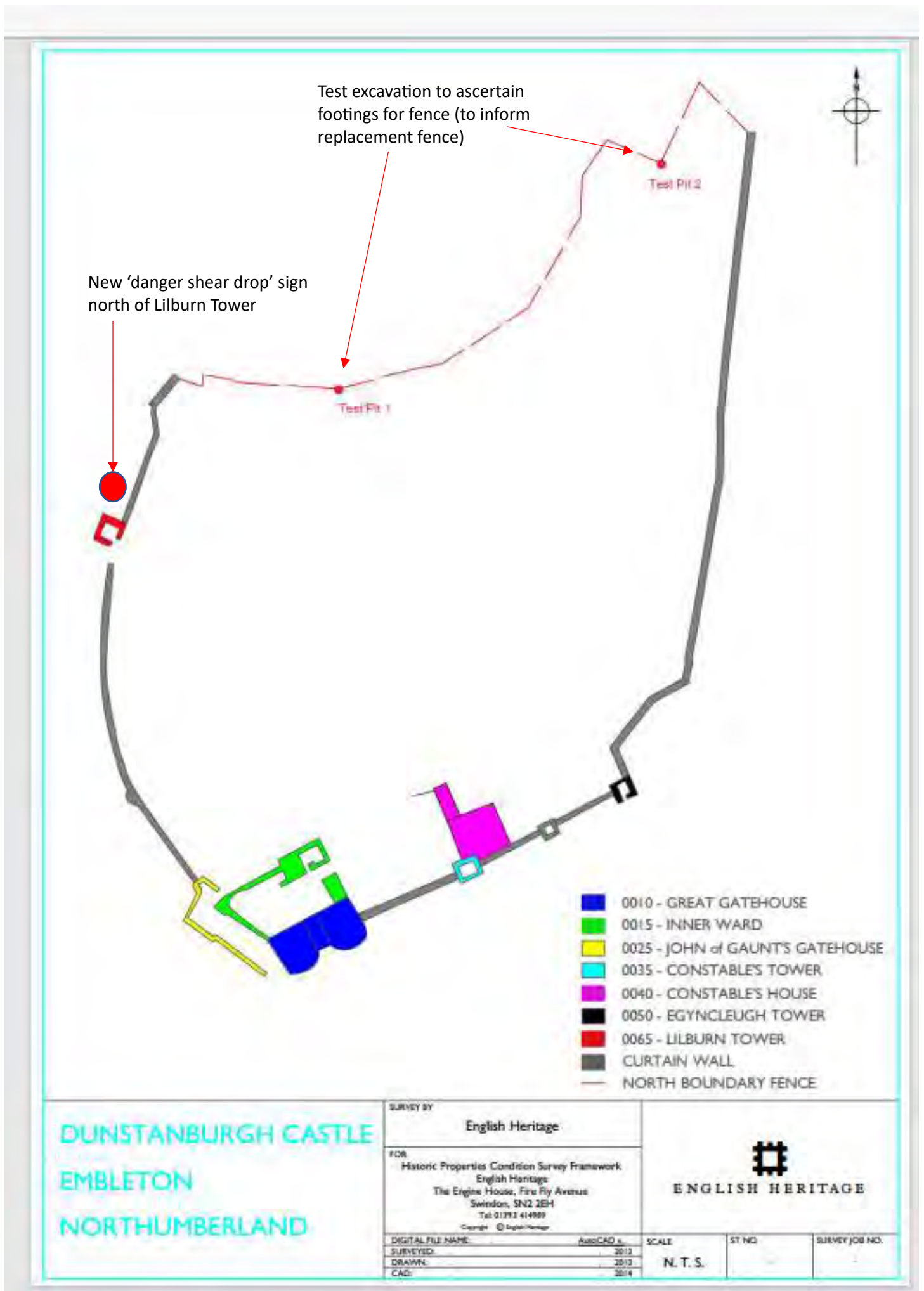
3.3 Accordingly, all excavations were closely monitored, or conducted by, a suitably trained and experienced archaeologist from The Archaeological Practice Ltd. The excavation work was carried out exclusively by hand.

3.4 Following the excavations, the watching brief area was recorded by measured survey, and digital photography (*Photos 1-22*) and the stratigraphic make-up of the sub-surface levels reported upon (*see Section 4*).

The photographic record of the monitoring was undertaken in high-resolution digital format with a minimum resolution of 14 megapixels. Photographs were taken of all archaeological and palaeoenvironmental features in addition to general site photography locating the individual features in their wider context.

All areas of groundworks were located and tied to the National Grid at a scale of 1:2500 or greater. All archaeological features were to be located accurately within the specified area and, where possible, their height accurately recorded above Ordnance Datum. The same level of accuracy would be applied to measuring the respective heights of the top and base of excavations if features were discovered.

3.5 The Field Investigation was carried out by means of an Archaeological Watching Brief; all work was undertaken in compliance with the *Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists* (CIfA) (2021), the *CIfA Standard and Guidance for Watching Briefs* (2020a), *Yorkshire, the Humber & the North East: a Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process* (2019), and the project Written Scheme of Investigation – (Appendix 1).



Illus. 06: English Heritage phased plan of the Dunstanburgh Castle site, showing the approx. locations of excavation.

4. RESULTS

4.1 *Excavation for Safety Sign*

4.1.1 *Location and Dimensions (see Illus. 06-07; Photos 1-10)*

This small slot, excavated to accommodate a new safety sign, warning of the 'sheer drop' along the western cliffs of the castle site, was positioned 9.70 m north of Lilburn Tower and 1.25 m west from the curtain wall (external face).

The dimensions of the excavated slot were as follows:
0.32 m (length) x 0.28 m (width) x 0.30 m (depth).

4.1.2 *Stratigraphic Description and Interpretation*

Below the turf and topsoil [01], was a natural clean boulder-clay [02], observed to the maximum depth of excavation. No significant finds, features or diagnostic archaeological material was revealed within this very small excavation.

4.1.3 *Context List*

- [01] Turf and topsoil, comprising of mid reddish-brown sandy/silty, fine, topsoil with occasional pebble inclusions. Observed to a depth of approx. 0.18 m below ground level (bgl).
- [02] Natural boulder-clay, sterile, comprising of firm, grey-brown and yellow, sandy boulder-clay with very few inclusions. Observed from 0.18 m (bgl) to the maximum depth of excavation (0.30 m bgl).

4.2 *Test Pit 1*

4.2.1 *Location and Dimensions (see Illus. 06, 08; Photos 11-17)*

This test pit was positioned 1.30 m west from a kink in the fence along the North Cliff fence line, and was excavated directly inside and abutting the fence line itself.

The dimensions of the test pit were as follows:
0.90 m (length E-W) x 0.68 m (width N-S) x 0.42 m (max depth).

4.2.2 *Stratigraphic Description and Interpretation*

Below the turf and topsoil [01], were patchy layers of natural boulder-clay [04] and dolerite scree [02], observed above the dolerite bedrock [03] from depths of 0.26 m below ground level. No significant finds, features or diagnostic archaeological material was revealed within this small excavation.

4.2.3 *Context List*

- [01] Turf and topsoil, comprising of mid reddish-brown sandy/silty, fine, topsoil with occasional pebble inclusions. Observed to a depth of approx. 0.16 m below ground level (bgl) on its north side and 0.10 m on its south side.
- [02] Layer of dolerite scree, comprising of shattered whinstone shaley pieces forming a friable layer, observed to a depth of approx. 0.30 m (bgl).

- [03] Dolerite bedrock, comprising of an undulating, but solid base of whinstone, observed from 0.26 m and 0.30 m (bgl) at the south and west sides of the test pit.
- [04] Natural boulder-clay, sterile, observed beneath the scree [03], exclusively in the east side of the test pit from 0.30 m (bgl) to the limit of excavation (approx. 0.42 m bgl).

4.3 Test Pit 2

4.3.1 Location and Dimensions (see *Illus. 06, 09; Photos 18-22*)

This test pit was positioned 2.80 m north of a right-angled turn in the fence along the north fence line at Gull Crag, and was excavated directly inside and abutting the fence line itself.

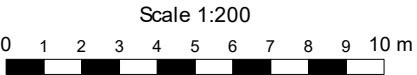
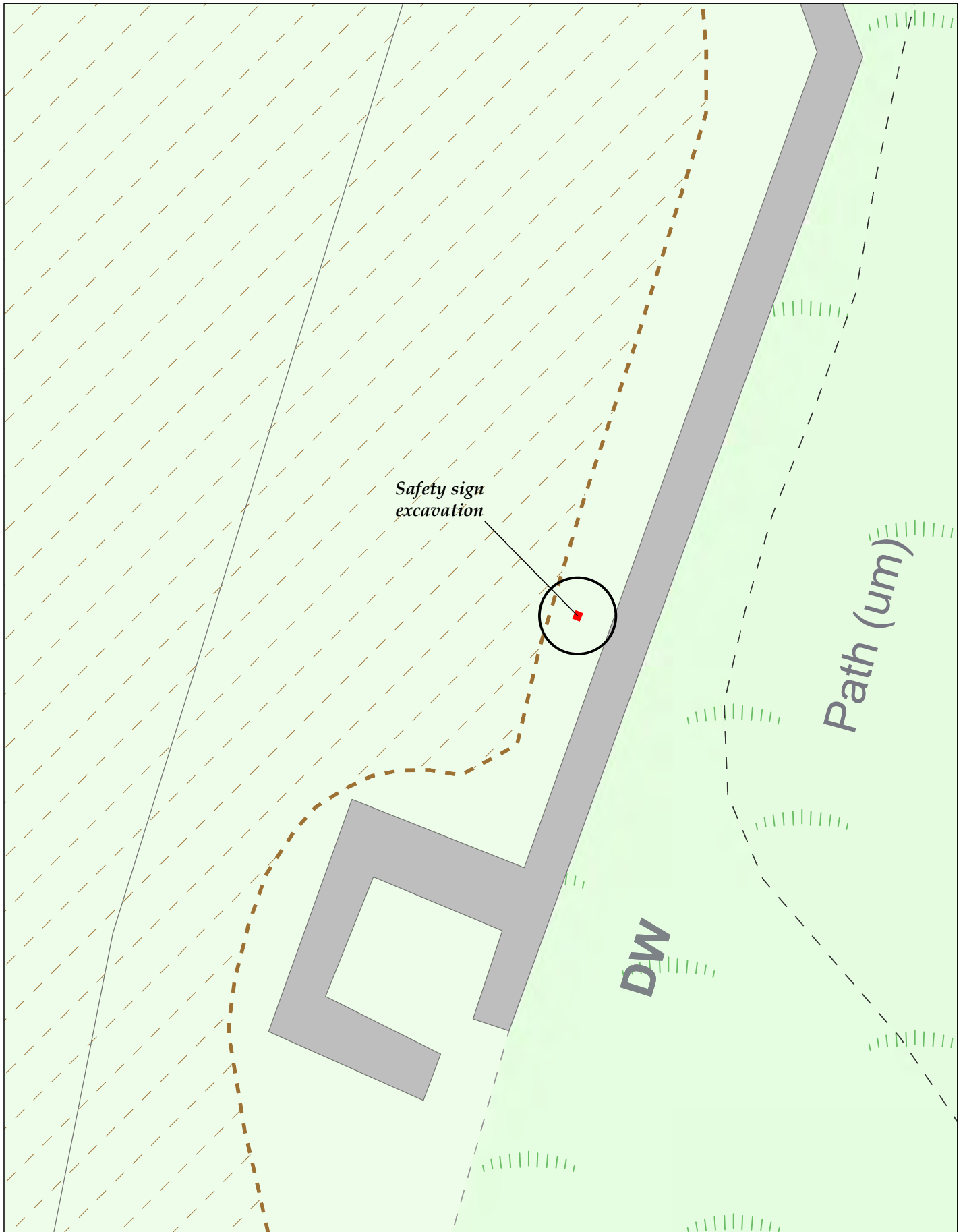
The dimensions of the test pit were as follows:
0.82 m (length N-S) x 0.75 m (width E-W) x 0.50 m (depth).

4.3.2 Stratigraphic Description and Interpretation

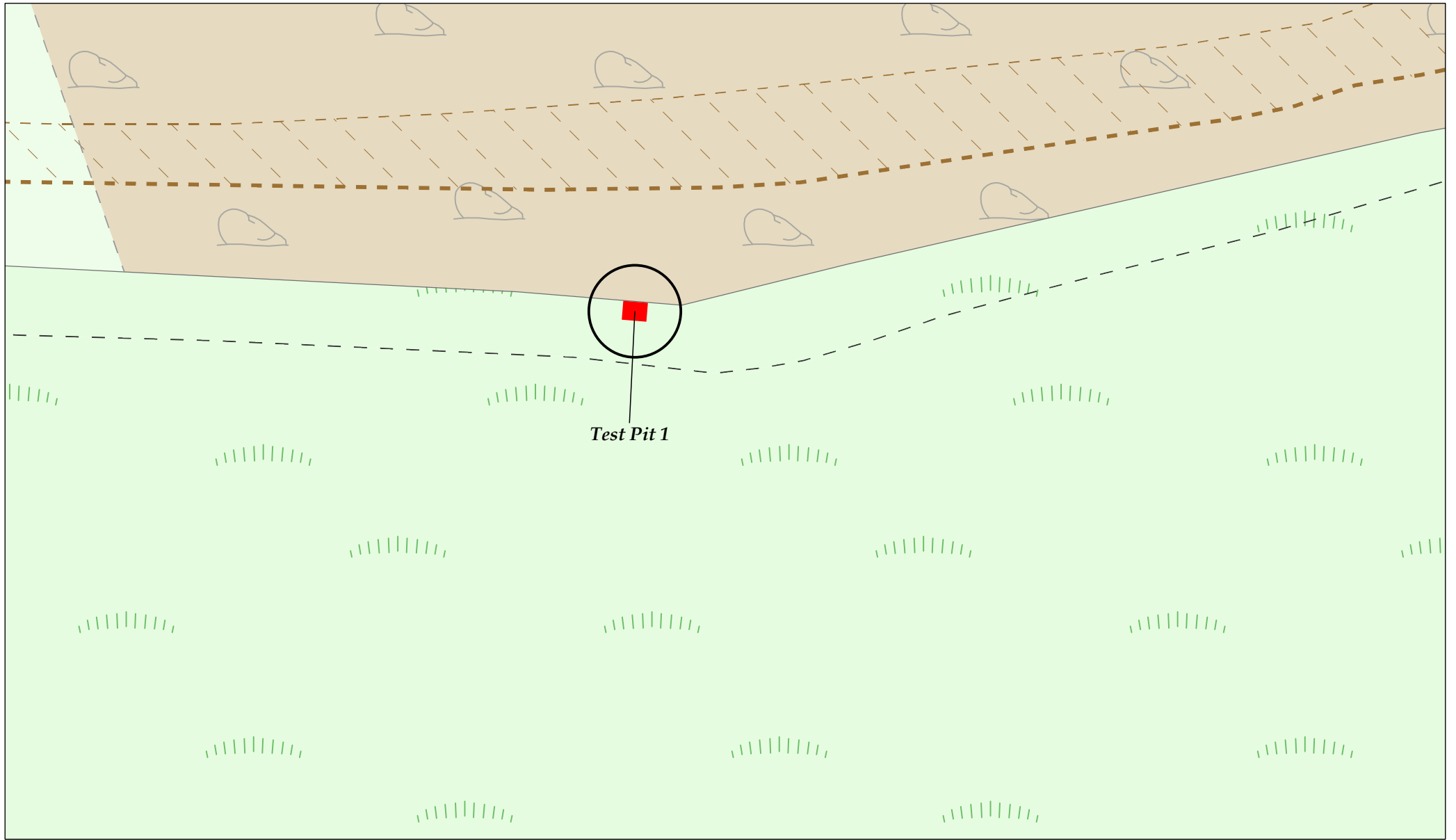
Below the peaty topsoil [01], was a natural boulder-clay [02], observed to 0.50 m below ground level, before reaching dolerite bedrock [03]. No significant finds, features or diagnostic archaeological material was revealed within this small excavation.

4.3.3 Context List

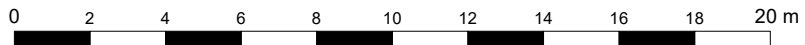
- [01] Turf and topsoil, comprising of a darker reddish-brown, peaty topsoil with sandy banding. Observed to a depth of approx. 0.16 m below ground level (bgl).
- [02] Natural sandy boulder-clay, sterile, observed from 0.16 m to 0.50 m (bgl).
- [03] Shelf of dolerite bedrock, forming a solid flat surface throughout.



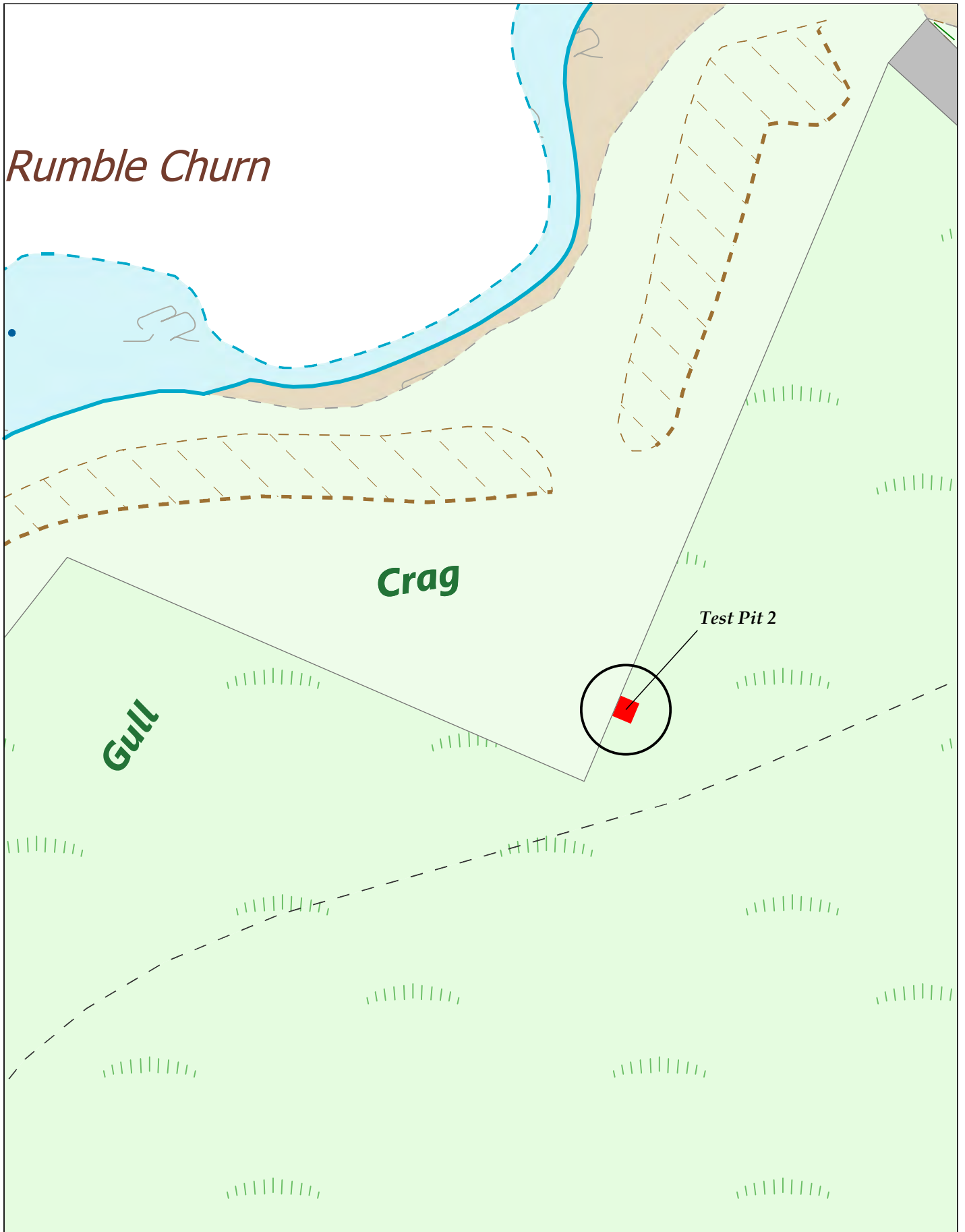
Illus. 07: Detailed plan, showing the location of the excavation for a new safety sign, in relation to Lilburn Tower.



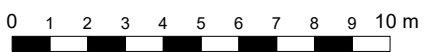
Scale 1:200



Illus. 08: Detailed plan, showing the location of Test Pit 1, along the north fence-line.



Scale 1:200



Illus. 09: Detailed plan, showing the location of Test Pit 2, along the north fence-line at Gull Crag.

5. CONCLUSIONS

5.1 No significant finds or features of any kind were revealed in the excavation works at Dunstanburgh Castle in October 2023. Therefore, it is concluded that no significant remains of cultural heritage value were impacted by the works.

5.2 The test pits positioned along the north cliff fence line to assess ground conditions ahead of a proposed fence line rebuild, encountered dolerite bedrock at depths of 0.26 m (TP1) and 0.50 m (TP2) below ground level. Additionally, it was noted that bedrock could be seen outcropping to surface levels in areas between the two test pits.

5.3 Given the shallow stratigraphy demonstrated within the test pits positioned along the north cliff fence line, the potential for archaeological remains to survive elsewhere along its course, must be regarded as low. Nevertheless, it is recommended that, in view of the historic context of the broader site, and the undulating nature of the stratigraphy, it is feasible that pockets of archaeological remains may survive in parts, and therefore any future works proposed should be subject to further archaeological watching brief. However, monitoring will not be necessary in specific areas once bedrock is reached.

6. REFERENCES

The Archaeological Practice Ltd., 2023. *Dunstanburgh Castle, Embleton, Northumberland: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

Al Oswald, Jeremy Ashbee, Katrina Porteous and Jacqui Huntley, 2006. *Dunstanburgh Castle, Northumberland: archaeological, architectural and historical investigations.*

Historic England, *National Heritage List Online*

Ashbee, J and Oswald, A. 2007. *Dunstanburgh Castle, English Heritage Guidebook*



Photo 1. Approaching Dunstanburgh Castle from the northwest, view looking towards Lilburn Tower and the western battlements.



Photo 2. Wide view of Lilburn Tower, looking SSW.



Photo 3. View looking SSW during excavations for a new safety sign on the north side of Lilburn Tower.



Photo 4. View looking southwest during excavations on the north side of Lilburn Tower.



Photo 5. View looking northwest during excavations on the north side of Lilburn Tower.



Photo 6. View looking SSW at completed excavation on the north side of Lilburn Tower.



Photo 7. Detailed view looking south at completed excavation on the north side of Lilburn Tower.



Photo 8. Detailed view looking northwest during excavations on the north side of Lilburn Tower.



Photo 9. View looking northwest at newly erected safety sign on the north side of Lilburn Tower.



Photo 10. View looking southwest at newly erected safety sign on the north side of Lilburn Tower.



Photo 11. View looking ENE during deturfing for Test Pit 1, inside the existing north fence-line.



Photo 12. View looking northeast during excavations through a layer of Whinstone scree [02] in Test Pit 1.



Photo 13. View looking northeast during final stages of excavation for Test Pit 1.



Photo 14. View looking northeast at completed excavation for Test Pit 1.



Photo 15. View looking west at completed excavation for Test Pit 1.



Photo 16. Detailed view looking west at completed excavation for Test Pit 1, with bedrock exposed.



Photo 17. South facing section of excavated Test Pit 1.



Photo 18. View looking WSW during excavation of Test Pit 2 along the inside of the north fence-line on Gull Crag.



Photo 19. View looking NNE at excavated Test Pit 2.



Photo 20. View looking northwest at excavated Test Pit 2.



Photo 21. Detailed view looking southwest at excavated Test Pit 2.



Photo 22. Southeast facing section of excavated Test Pit 2.

APPENDIX 1:

Dunstanburgh Castle, Embleton, Northumberland: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.

By The Archaeological Practice Ltd, October 2023.

***DUNSTANBURGH CASTLE,
EMBLETON,
NORTHUMBERLAND:***

Written Scheme of Investigation
for an Archaeological Watching Brief

[SMC-HE ref. S00244554]

[NGR (approx.): NU 25609 21956; NU 25685 21992; NU 25804 22072]



OCTOBER 2023

**The Archaeological
Practice Ltd.**



CONTENTS

SUMMARY

- 1. Introduction**
 - 1.1 Background to the Project
- 2. Cultural Heritage Background**
- 3. Fieldwork Methodology**
 - 3.1 Watching Brief
 - 3.2 Recording
 - 3.3 Finds Processing
 - 3.4 Environmental Sampling and Dating
 - 3.5 Production of Site Archive
 - 3.6 Production of Final Report
 - 3.7 Publication of Results of Archaeological Works
 - 3.8 OASIS
- 4. Execution of the Scheme of Investigation**
- 5. Timetable and Staffing**
- 6. References**

APPENDIX 1:

*SMC-HE ref. S00244554. 18th September 2023. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2 control of works Application for Scheduled Monument Consent. DUNSTANBURGH CASTLE: ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT, 14TH CENTURY, ENCLOSURE CASTLE AND HARBOUR, AND WORLD WAR II PILLBOX AND FOXHOLE
By Lee McFarlane (Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England) on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.*

Assumptions and Limitations

Data and information obtained and consulted in the compilation of this report has been derived from a number of secondary sources. Where it has not been practicable to verify the accuracy of secondary information, its accuracy has been assumed in good faith. Any information accessed from external databases (e.g., NLHE, HERs) represents a record of known assets and their discovery and further investigation. Such information is not complete and does not preclude the future discovery of additional assets and the amendment of information about known assets which may affect their significance and/or sensitivity to development effects. All statements and opinions arising from the works undertaken are provided in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

Copyright

The Archaeological Practice Ltd. will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act (1988). The client and any relevant HERs or other curatorial/archival bodies will be granted licence to use the report for its purposes, which may include photocopying.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Front Cover: View looking south-west at the proposed excavation site for a new 'danger shear drop' sign north of Lilburn Tower.

- **Illus. 01:** Regional view, showing the location of Dunstanburgh Castle (circled in red), near Alnwick, on the Northumberland Coast.
- **Illus. 02:** District view, showing the location of Dunstanburgh Castle (circled in red), to the north-east of Alnwick.
- **Illus. 03:** Villages view, showing the location of Dunstanburgh Castle (circled in red), north of Craster and east of Embleton.
- **Illus. 04:** Castle view, showing an Ordnance Survey location plan of the Dunstanburgh Castle site.
- **Illus. 05:** English Heritage phased plan of the Dunstanburgh Castle site, showing the locations of excavation (labelled).
- **Illus. 06:** English Heritage plan showing the extent and finds from 20th century excavations at Dunstanburgh Castle.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT

1.1.1 The following represents a project outline for a programme of archaeological monitoring to mitigate the potential impact of groundworks associated with excavations around two existing fence posts (located approx. NU 25685 21992 and NU 25804 22072) to ascertain the nature of their footings, along with an excavation for a new warning sign of the sheer drop, to be positioned to the north of Lilburn Tower (located approx. NGR: NU 25609 21956) at Dunstanburgh Castle, Northumberland (see *Illus. 01-05*).

1.1.2 In response to predictions of coastal erosion and a significant cliff fall along North Cliff, EHT are proposing to move the fence line at North Cliff (also known as Gull Crag) and Queen Margaret's Cove inland by up to 5 metres. Approx. 280m of fence line will be moved (under a separate SMC).

The two test pits to the existing fence will be along the North Cliff fence line as shown on *Illus. 05*. The excavations will be up to 300mm x 300mm wide and as deep as necessary to establish the depth and construction of the existing fence; only previously disturbed ground will be affected by the proposals.

The new 'danger steep drop' sign will require 600mm deep footings to the north of Lilburn Tower to protect visitors from the cliff just outside the curtain wall.

Overall, the potential harm resulting from the test pits and the visual intrusion of the new sign is regarded to be outweighed by the public benefit to the safety of visitors and the welfare of the site staff. The proposed movement of the fence line will help to maintain the security of the monument and safeguard it for future generations.

1.1.3 Prior to the commencement of groundworks, the developer (*English Heritage Trust*), consulted with Historic England's Inspector of Ancient Monuments, who advised that an application for Scheduled Monument Consent would be required for the project. Consent for the works has now been granted (SMC-HE ref: S00244554) with attached conditions stipulating that the work must be
Dunstanburgh Castle: WSI for an Archaeological Watching Brief

conducted under terms agreed in advance with Historic England, and followed by an archaeological report and OASIS record. Specifically, the conditions require that the developer has engaged the services of a professional archaeologist and that they will permit access for the purposes of monitoring the excavations and for the archaeologist to investigate and record any features, finds or items of interest observed. Furthermore, the appointed archaeologist will liaise with Historic England and the NCC archaeologist should any significant features or finds be observed, and produce a report for submission within 3 months of the completion of the monitoring work.

1.1.4 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, and subsequently reported.

2. CULTURAL HERITAGE BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction to Dunstanburgh Castle

Dunstanburgh Castle stands on an exposed promontory 2km north of the village of Craster, Northumberland. The castle occupies an impressive position overlooking the rocky shore with a long sloping approach to the south and sheer basalt cliffs to the north. The monument consists of the ruined remains of a large enclosure castle built on a massive scale by Thomas, earl of Lancaster between 1313 and 1316. The outer ward of the castle encloses an area of around 5.5ha, making Dunstanburgh the largest castle in Northumberland. The inner ward of the castle is entered via the great gatehouse, the principal feature of Dunstanburgh.

Running east of the great gatehouse is a well-preserved length of curtain wall with a distinctive stepped plinth course on the outer face. This incorporates the Constable's Tower and ends at the Egyncleugh Tower, overlooking Queen Margaret's Cove. The Egyncleugh Tower was once an alternative entrance to the castle (possible, due to its size, used by pedestrians) it was furnished with a gate and drawbridge which spanned the dry rock-cut ditch which skirts the southern side of the castle. The curtain wall continues north along the foreshore and includes a postern and a number of garderobes. This length of wall has been soft capped. On the north western side of the outer ward is the Lilburn Tower, named after John de Lilburn, who became constable after the execution of Thomas of Lancaster in 1322.

The castle's setting on the Great Whin Sill headland and within the Northumberland Coast AONB contributes to the landscape value of the building and wider site. The Scheduled Monument Area overlaps with both the Northumberland Shore and Castle Point to Cullernose Point SSSIs.

2.2 Lilburn Tower and North Cliff

As described above, Lilburn Tower (completed in c. 1325) stands towards the north end of the west curtain wall. It was a three-storey building, with tall corner turrets projecting above its flat roof. The square shell of Lilburn Tower is complete except for its south-east corner, and has several 2-light windows, a square-headed doorway to the wall-walk extending northwards, 2 corbelled-out garderobes on the west side, and taller embattled angle turrets. A fragment of curtain wall on the north side contains a pointed sallyport arch. It is a significant survival from the castle's 14th century heyday. A trench was excavated to the south as part of archaeological investigations by Robert Bosanquet in 1930-31, but the only significant find in this area was a prehistoric sherd of pottery.

The north curtain wall (never particularly substantial) has been lost, having been greatly damaged by the action of the sea as early as 1543. Today, the curtain wall is truncated at both its northern ends where it meets Gull Crag, indicating that some degree of erosion has certainly taken place.

Archaeological investigations and analysis have been carried out across the site (see references), but the area adjacent to North Cliff is not particularly revealing, perhaps because many of the archaeological layers have been lost to erosion.

The North Cliff is a natural defence, and contributes to the castle's picturesque setting. Lilburn Tower and North Cliff form one of the most dramatic views of Dunstanburgh Castle, looking south from Embleton Bay, or from further north at Bamburgh Castle. North Cliff also sits on the boundary of two SSSIs, as detailed above. These nature conservation sites are designated for the large number of rare seabird species which use the cliffs in this area for nesting and raising their chicks.

Illus. 06 shows the extent and finds from 20th century excavations at Dunstanburgh.

3. FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

3.1 Watching Brief

3.1.1 The work will be undertaken by archaeologically monitoring the three areas subject to groundworks in the positions outlined (see *Illus. 05*).

The two test pits to the existing fence will be along the North Cliff fence line. These excavations will be up to 300mm x 300mm wide and as deep as necessary to establish the depth and construction of the existing fence; only previously disturbed ground will be affected.

The new 'danger steep drop' sign will require 600mm deep footings to the north of Lilburn Tower to protect visitors from the cliff just outside the curtain wall.

All excavation work will be carried out by hand exclusively by the English Heritage Trust team.

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.

3.1.2 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.

3.1.3 The developer will allow the archaeological team access to the site and, in turn, the archaeological contractor will keep Historic England and the NCC Archaeologist 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 new posts.

3.1.4 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.

3.1.5 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.

3.1.6 In the event of the discovery of archaeological remains which are of greater significance than anticipated, work will cease and Historic England, the NCC Archaeologist 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.

3.1.7 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 up to 20 days of additional excavation, this being a standard mandatory requirement specified by NCC.

3.1.8 In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens (of whatever period, date or function) are identified during the watching brief, Historic England and the NCC Archaeologist will be contacted to discuss the appropriate response.

3.1.9 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.

3.1.10 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.

3.2 Recording

3.2.1 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).

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

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

3.2.4 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.

3.2.5 A photographic record of all contexts will be taken in digital colour transparency utilizing a digital SLR camera 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.

3.2.6 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.

3.3 Finds Processing

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

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

3.3.2 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.

3.3.3 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.

3.3.4 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.

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

3.3.6 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.

3.3.7 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.

3.4 Environmental Sampling and Dating

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

3.4.1 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).

3.4.2 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.

3.4.3 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.

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

3.4.5 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, NCC Archaeological Team, and the Client.

3.4.6 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.

3.4.7 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.

3.4.8 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 NCC Archaeological Officer 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 most-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.

3.4.9 If anything is found which could be deemed 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) (currently covered by Abigail Baker; Abigail.Baker@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

3.4.10 The potential requirement for specialist analyses is an unavoidable risk in all archaeological investigations. Although watching brief results will usually suggest that the likelihood of such analyses being required are 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.

3.5 Production of Site Archive

3.5.1 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

Dunstanburgh Castle: WSI for an Archaeological Watching Brief

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.

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

3.6 Production of Final Report

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

- Project number, OASIS reference number and site grid reference
- A non-technical summary of results
- Introduction
- Aims and method statement
- Stratigraphic description outlining all archaeological deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts and spot dating of significant finds
- Results of any specialist assessment and analysis undertaken on artefacts and ecofacts recovered through the course of the fieldwork
- Discussion of results related to previous research and fieldwork, and in the local, regional and, where relevant, national context
- Illustrative photography
- Location plan of the site of at least 1:10000 scale
- Extent plan of the site and, where necessary, individual areas of groundworks at a recognised scale positioning all archaeological and palaeoenvironmental features and deposits in relation to the national grid
- Plans and sections of all archaeological features at a suitable scale
- Above Ordnance Datum (aOD) levels on plans and incorporated into the text
- Legislative, policy and guidance framework
- A copy of this WSI as an appendix.

Any variation to the minimum requirements above will be approved in advance and in writing by Historic England or the NCC Archaeologist.

3.6.2 Copies of the report will be provided within two months of the completion of fieldwork to the developer, Historic England and NCC Archaeologist. One bound paper copy and digital copy (in pdf format) will be submitted to Northumberland County HER.

3.7 Publication of Results of Archaeological Works

3.7.1 The Contractor will, at the request of Historic England or the NCC Archaeologist, prepare a short report on the work for publication in an agreed journal.

3.8 OASIS

3.8.1 The Archaeological Contractor will complete the online form for the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations Project (OASIS), following consultation with Historic England or the NCC Archaeologist. The Contractor agrees to the procedure whereby the information on the form will be placed in the public domain on the OASIS website, following submission to or incorporation of the final report into the County HER.

4. EXECUTION OF THE SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

4.1 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 Scheduled Monument Consent (Appendix 1).

4.2 The present WSI must be submitted for approval and, if necessary, modification by Historic England before work on-site can proceed.

4.3 The Developer will allow Historic England or the NCC Archaeological Officer and the appointed contractor all reasonable access to the site for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological scheme, subject only to safety requirements.

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

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

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

4.5.3 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.

4.6 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.

4.7 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.

4.8 At or before the commencement of the scheme the Developer, the appointed Archaeological Contractors, Historic England and other involved parties will agree arbitration procedures to be followed in the event of any unresolvable difficulties or disputes arising from the scheme

4.9 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 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.

4.10 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.

5. TIMETABLE AND STAFFING

The work will be carried out in late October 2023 according to the construction timetable which should be made available to Historic England at least four weeks in advance of works or by agreement.

Personnel:

Archaeological Practice

PM: Project Manager:

Richard Carlton

PO: Project Officer:

Marc Johnstone

Sub-Contractors

- *Environmental Analysis:*
Charlotte O'Brien, Palaeo-environmental services, Durham University
- *Small finds:*
Lindsay Allason-Jones
- *Medieval pottery:*
Chris Cumberpatch
- *Roman pottery:*
Alex Croom, T&W Museums

6. REFERENCES

Al Oswald, Jeremy Ashbee, Katrina Porteous and Jacqui Huntley (2006) *Dunstanburgh Castle, Northumberland: archaeological, architectural and historical investigations.*

Historic England, *National Heritage List Online*

Ashbee, J and Oswald, A (2007) *Dunstanburgh Castle, English Heritage Guidebook*

APPENDIX 1:

SMC-HE ref. S00244554. 18th September 2023. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2 control of works Application for Scheduled Monument Consent. DUNSTANBURGH CASTLE: ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT, 14TH CENTURY, ENCLOSURE CASTLE AND HARBOUR, AND WORLD WAR II PILLBOX AND FOXHOLE

By Lee McFarlane (Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England) on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.



Historic England

Mrs Sally Wilson
English Heritage Trust
37 Tanner Row
York
Y01 6WP

Direct Dial: 0191 4031659

Our ref: S00244554

18 September 2023

Dear Mrs Wilson

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

**DUNSTANBURGH CASTLE: ROMANO-BRITISH SETTLEMENT, 14TH CENTURY ,
ENCLOSURE CASTLE AND HARBOUR, AND WORLD WAR II PILLBOX AND ,
FOXHOLE**

Scheduled Monument No: SM 23231, HA 1007507

Our ref: S00244554

Application on behalf of English Heritage Trust

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 1 August 2023 in respect of proposed works at the above scheduled monument concerning excavations around two existing fence posts to ascertain footings. Works also include a new sign warning of the sheer drop, to be added to the north of Lilburn Tower.

In response to predictions of coastal erosion and a significant cliff fall along North Cliff, EHT are proposing to move the fence line at North Cliff (also known as Gull Crag) and Queen Margaret's Cove inland by up to 5 metres. Approx. 280m of fence line will be moved (under a separate SMC).

The two test pits to the existing fence will be along the North Cliff fence line as shown on supporting documents. The excavations will be up to 300mm x 300mm wide and as deep as necessary to establish the depth and construction of the existing fence; only previously disturbed ground will be affected by the proposals. The works were detailed in the following documentation submitted by you:

- SMCApplication_DunstanburghCastle_Fencing_Investigations_July 2023_RevAug2023
- SignageManual_600mmFootings_SteepDropSign_August2023
- DunstanburghCastle_SitePlan_Fenceandsignage_May2023



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

Telephone 0191 269 1255
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

We respect your privacy and the use of your information. Please read our full privacy policy for more information

[<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/>](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/)



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 for the preservation of the monument, but necessitating unavoidable but on balance acceptable disturbance to potential buried archaeological deposits. Appropriate arrangements for excavation and recording are covered by condition.

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 Ms. Lee McFarlane, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England, Bessie Surtees House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle, NE13JF; 0191-403-1659 / 07774-331422; lee.mcfarlane@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) The specification of work for which consent is granted shall be executed in full.
- (c) This consent may only be implemented by English Heritage.
- (d) No ground works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological monitoring work 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.
- (e) Signage to be fixed into mortar joints not brick or stone.
- (f) All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by English Heritage that the land is designated as a scheduled



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

Telephone 0191 269 1255
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

We respect your privacy and the use of your information. Please read our full privacy policy for more information

[<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/>](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/)

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.

- (g) 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/ ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.
- (h) The written scheme of investigation (including analysis, post-excavation and publication proposals) for which consent is granted shall be executed in full, unless variations have been agreed under the terms of condition 1.
- (i) A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the Northumberland Historic Environment Record and to Lee McFarlane, Inspector of Ancient Monuments, at Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).
- (j) The archaeological contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <https://oasis.ac.uk/country/england/index.xhtml>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.

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



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

Telephone 0191 269 1255
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

We respect your privacy and the use of your information. Please read our full privacy policy for more information
[<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/>](https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/)



Historic England

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

Lee McFarlane

Inspector of Ancient Monuments

E-mail: lee.mcfarlane@HistoricEngland.org.uk

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

cc: Mr Nick Best, Assistant County Archaeologist, Northumberland County Council, by email



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

Telephone 0191 269 1255
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any Information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

We respect your privacy and the use of your information. Please read our full privacy policy for more information

<https://www.historicengland.org.uk/terms/privacy-cookies/>

The Archaeological Practice Ltd.



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