

**BAMBURGH RESEARCH PROJECT**  
**TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**  
**AND HISTORIC BUILDING INVESTIGATION**  
**LORD CREWE ARMS HOTEL**  
**BLANCHLAND**  
**NORTHUMBERLAND**



**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING AND BUILDING**  
**INVESTIGATION REPORT**

Compiled on behalf of The Lord Crewe's Charity by the Bamburgh Research Project: Commercial Projects Section

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## SUMMARY

*This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project Limited (BRP) for the Lord Crewe's Charity during April 2021 and comprises a report on archaeological trial trench evaluation and historic building investigation undertaken at The Lord Crewe Arms Hotel, Blanchland, Northumberland. The work has been undertaken in line with the Written Scheme of Investigation compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project during January 2021 and based on the brief issued by the County Council Conservation Team. The Northumberland County Council planning reference number is: 20/01344/FUL and the OASIS reference no. is: bamburgh1-418646.*

*The proposed development at the Lord Crewe Hotel lies in the central part of Blanchland Village, which is on the B6306 road some 12km south of Corbridge in south-west Northumberland. The hotel lies to the north of the village square to the north of the river. The development area lies to the immediate south-east of the hotel, centred on grid reference NY 9663 5034 (Figures 1 and 2).*

*Blanchland Abbey was one of approximately 31 abbeys of the Premonstratensian Order in medieval England. Only around a dozen remain substantially preserved to the present day, and this adds to the importance of Blanchland as an example of such a site. It is one of only a handful of such sites where the west and south cloistral ranges survive to any extent. The greatest importance of the site, however, for which it is justly famous, is the completeness with which the whole precinct plan survives and can be seen in the modern village layout. The monastic buildings were taken over in the years after the Dissolution to make a complete village and the monastic church became the parish church, the cloisters became the manor house and the outer court became the village square surrounded by the villagers' cottages. The area of the scheduling itself, to the north of the development area, contains some of the least disturbed features and deposits relating to the monastery, notably part of the church, cloisters and burial ground.*

*The monastery was initially dissolved in 1536 only to be reformed by King Henry VIII in 1537 before being finally dissolved in 1539. The site passed through secular hands and was acquired by the Forster family in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. By this time or soon after, the cloister had become the core of the mansion, parts of which survive today as the Lord Crewe Arms Hotel, a Grade II\* Listed Building. The row of buildings to the rear (south) of the Hotel, one of which is included in the current development plans, are not part of the scheduled area.*

*Gowland's Cottage, 15 The Square, that forms part of the development site is a Grade II listed building and thought to be part of the southern outer court. It is a multiphase structure but its phasing and the date of the various phases are difficult to identify as much is obscured by rebuilding and refacing of the walls. Whilst this building is in the right area to be a continuation of the east range of the abbey its alignment is a little off a perpendicular alignment with the other elements. As such it has been suggested that it represents a court building for a monastic official, of 15<sup>th</sup> century date, with the northern part being a 17<sup>th</sup> century addition incorporating some lower courses of medieval masonry, subsequently much altered in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century (Ryder 2019). The area of the site to the east of the listed building has not been subject to any previous investigation, so the presence or absence of archaeological material below ground in this area has yet to be determined. In addition privies to rear of 13-14 and Gowland's Cottage are grade II listed in their own right and have been identified as 18<sup>th</sup> century in date.*

The investigation of the historic building was undertaken on the 25<sup>th</sup> March to gain an understanding of the potential impact that the refurbishment of the building has to impact on the historic fabric of the structure and to provide information so that any detrimental impact can be avoided or mitigated.

The refurbishment of the building will require alterations and updates to services, fire safety, ventilation and lighting and all of this work has the potential to impact on the ground floor ceiling and most particularly the timber structures that could be of some historic significance. Inspection of the timber and ceilings of the ground floor strongly indicates that the ceilings of Rooms A and C are constructed from square cut supporting timbers supporting plaster board and above this are very uniform floor boards. These boards and timbers have a very modern, fresh, appearance and are neatly and accurately machine cut. As such it seems highly likely that they are of no earlier than 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. Room B has a very different ceiling structure with very large timber tie beams extending between the walls with smaller, but still substantial joists extending at right angles to the beams. The tie beams are octagonally shaped and show the clear sign of having been trimmed to shape using axe or adze and therefore seem almost certainly to be of medieval or early post-medieval date. Care should be taken to avoid any substantive impact on the tie beams and joists of the ceiling of Room B during the refurbishment (Plate 1).

A spiral stair case is to pass through the ceiling to allow access from Room A on the ground floor to Room D on the first floor. The type of stair selected requires no fixing to the ceiling of Room D so the impact is only on the ceiling of Room A and the floor boards of Room D. All of the supporting timber for the Room A ceiling, as described earlier, are of modern appearance as are the floor boards where seen by the removal of the ceiling plasterboard from below and the stripping back of the carpet above (Plates 2 and 3).

A substantial timber beam was known to be present to the west of the fireplace in the south wall of Room C. A cupboard obscured the same area to the east of the fireplace where the installation of an en-suite bathroom was proposed. As the beam was very substantial and showed axe or adze dressing of a similar kind to that seen in the ceiling of Room B and was likely also of medieval or early post-medieval date it was important to identify if the beam was actually present there. Consequently the plaster board false ceiling within the cupboard and a small section of the plasterboard wall to the side of the cupboard was removed to allow for this. The timber beam was seen to be present across the full extent of the alcove and to be of similarly early date to that seen within the alcove to the west. It will be important therefore to preserve this beam in situ.

The stripped area of plaster on the north wall of the proposed Bedroom 4 (Room E), revealed a wall of irregularly coursed sandstone blocks of very variable size, from larger squared blocks, likely to be re-used from early structures, to small rubble fragments. No obvious medieval elements are present within the wall structure (other than the potential for the re-use of individual blocks). In addition the wall was seen to butt against the external wall down its full length and therefore appears to be a later insert and not contemporary to the original build phase.

A total of six trial trenches were sited to investigate the area of the development. Trenches 1, 2 and 3, were each 6m by 1.5m and located along the line of the proposed new services. Trench 4, was 2.5m by 1.5m, and Trench 5, 5m by 1.5m, and both were sited close the new stub walls to be inserted in the garden area. Trench 6, was 1.2m by 0.8m, was sited in the confined area of path immediately east of the building wall to investigate the area where a

service line will pass along to enter the building.

In Trench 1, subsoil (119) that comprised a medium yellow-brown silty clay was seen at the base of the trench 1.13m below ground level (236.72m OD). A very disturbed sandstone wall (111) was present in the south-west corner of the trench. It survived up to 0.4m in height and was sealed by a series of soil layers (110), (109) and (106). This was in turn cut by a pit (104) that contained a layer of sandstone rubble (103) (Figure 5 and Plates 8 and 9). The layers showed no sign of being early in date and the trench had been highly disturbed by the presence of three service trenches.

In Trench 2 subsoil (215) was seen at the base of the trench and comprised a red-brown silty clay with some stones. It lay between 0.7m and 1.0m below ground level (232.32m and 232.04m OD) and was cut by a stone wall (210) at the west end of the trench. The wall survived only one course high and was formed from two faces of square cut medium sized sandstone blocks with a rubble core. It was silt bonded and was disturbed at the south end where it appeared to have been robbed out as it did not extend to the section (Figure 5 and Plate 10). The wall and subsoil was sealed by a series of soil layers (209), (208), (207), (206) and (205). Two mortar layers (204 and 203), sealed layer (208) and it was unclear if these layers represent a crudely laid mortar surface or a dump deposit. They were sealed by a layer of very dark grey-brown silt (202) and by a pebble surface (200) laid on a thin silt layer (201).

Trench 3 revealed the presence of a service pipe within its cut (303) that itself appeared to be cut into a made-up ground (301). The service pipe was sealed by the pebble hard standing layer (300) that formed the ground surface (Figure 5 and Plate 11). Trenches 4 and 5 contained no features of interest and Trench 6 contained a single thickness stone right-angled linear (602) that may have been a very crude wall. The feature was of unknown date but had the appearance of being a garden feature (Figure 5 and Plate 14).

Two wall lines can be identified within both Trench 1 and Trench 2 and, although both are substantially disturbed and robbed, they do appear to respect alignments that are likely derived from the abbey's medieval structural arrangements. In the case of Trench 1 the alignment is clearly marking the same alignment as the excavated structures to the north and that of the cottage wall line to the south (Figure 6). Trench 2 wall-line is mirrored by the standing post-medieval outhouses (Listed Buildings) and may indicate that these respect an earlier boundary alignment. As dating evidence and preserved early layers are very rare, to absent, within the trial trenches, dating is problematic and so the walls could easily be post-medieval and simply respect the planning alignments carried over from the medieval period.

The ceiling area of Room B does appear to be historically sensitive and any new additions or alterations here will need to be carefully considered to allow for minimum impact. There is little evidence that the insertion of the spiral stair would impact on any early structural features as the ceiling and floor structures in this area appear to be of mostly 20<sup>th</sup> century date, with the possibility of some limited 19<sup>th</sup> century material. A substantial timber beam of likely medieval, or possibly early post-medieval date is present above the false ceiling within the cupboard to the east of the fireplace in Room C. The area of wall between Rooms D and E that is to be reduced is not an original part of the building's structure, as it butt jointed to the external wall, and is also constructed from a very mixed fabric.

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.0.1 This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project Limited (BRP) for the Lord Crewe's Charity during April 2021 and comprises a report on archaeological trial trench evaluation and historic building investigation undertaken at The Lord Crewe Arms Hotel, Blanchland, Northumberland.
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## **1.1 Location**

- 1.1.1 The proposed development at the Lord Crewe Hotel lies in the central part of Blanchland Village, which is on the B6306 road some 12km south of Corbridge in south-west Northumberland. The hotel lies to the north of the village square and to the north of the river. The development area lies to the immediate south-east of the hotel, centred on grid reference NY 9663 5034 (Figures 1 and 2).

## **1.2 Archaeological Background**

- 1.2.1 Blanchland Abbey was one of approximately 31 abbeys of the Premonstratensian Order in medieval England. Only around a dozen remain substantially preserved to the present day, and this adds to the importance of Blanchland as an example of such a site. In addition the site at Blanchland has several features which distinguish it from other monasteries of this order and these include an example of a roofed Premonstratensian church. It is also one of only a handful where the west and south cloistral ranges survive to any extent. The greatest importance of the site, however, for which it is justly famous, is the completeness with which the whole precinct plan survives and can be seen in the modern village layout. The monastic buildings were taken over in the years after the Dissolution to make a complete village and the monastic church became the parish church, the cloisters became the manor house and the outer court became the village square surrounded by the villagers' cottages. Even today the village consists of few buildings beyond this core. The area of the scheduling itself, to the north of the development area, contains some of the least disturbed features and deposits relating to the monastery, notably part of the church, cloisters and burial ground ([historicengland/org.uk](http://historicengland/org.uk)).
- 1.2.2 The monument, as it survives today, comprises the site of the nave, south transept, cloister garth, east cloistral range and part of the monastic graveyard. In addition there is a 12<sup>th</sup>/early 13<sup>th</sup> century standing cross west of the church tower. The Abbey

was founded for the Canons of the Order of Premonstre (the Premonstratensians) by Walter de Bolbeck in 1165. Although never a very large house, it was visited by Edward III in 1327 following its burning by Scots raiders. The monastery was initially dissolved in 1536 only to be reformed by King Henry VIII in 1537 before being finally dissolved in 1539. The site passed through secular hands and was acquired by the Forster family in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. By this time or soon after, the cloister had become the core of the mansion, parts of which survive today as the Lord Crewe Arms Hotel, a Grade II\* Listed Building. The row of buildings to the rear (south) of the Hotel, one of which is included in the current development plans, are not part of the scheduled area, though the ground beneath is included. In fact the area of the scheduling comprises only part of the former monastic precinct and many features of the abbey are not included and these include the parish church and the present parochial graveyard east of the parish church. Also the remains of the west and south ranges of the cloister and buildings which originally formed four sides of the monastic outer court, including the precinct gatehouse, survive in part and have been converted in various ways into dwellings and shops (Historic England website).

- 1.2.3 Gowland's Cottage, 15 The Square, that forms part of the development site is a grade II listed building and thought to be part of the southern outer court. It is a multiphase structure but its phasing and the date of its various phases are difficult to identify as much is obscured by rebuilding and refacing of the walls. Whilst this building is in the right area to be a continuation of the east range of the abbey its alignment is a little off a perpendicular alignment with the other elements. As such it has been suggested that it represents a court building for a monastic official, of 15<sup>th</sup> century date, with the northern part being a 17<sup>th</sup> century addition incorporating some lower courses of medieval masonry, subsequently much altered in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century (Ryder 2019),
- 1.2.4 The area of the site to the east of the listed building has not been subject any previous investigation, so the presence or absence of archaeological material below ground in this area has yet to be determined. It is however known that a scooped pit was recorded some 30m to the east of the property in December 2013 and produced an ingot of lead or pewter and this has been proposed as indicating melting down of material taken from the monastery after the dissolution.
- 1.2.5 In addition privies to rear of 13-14 and Gowland's Cottage are grade II listed in their own right and have been identified as 18<sup>th</sup> century in date.



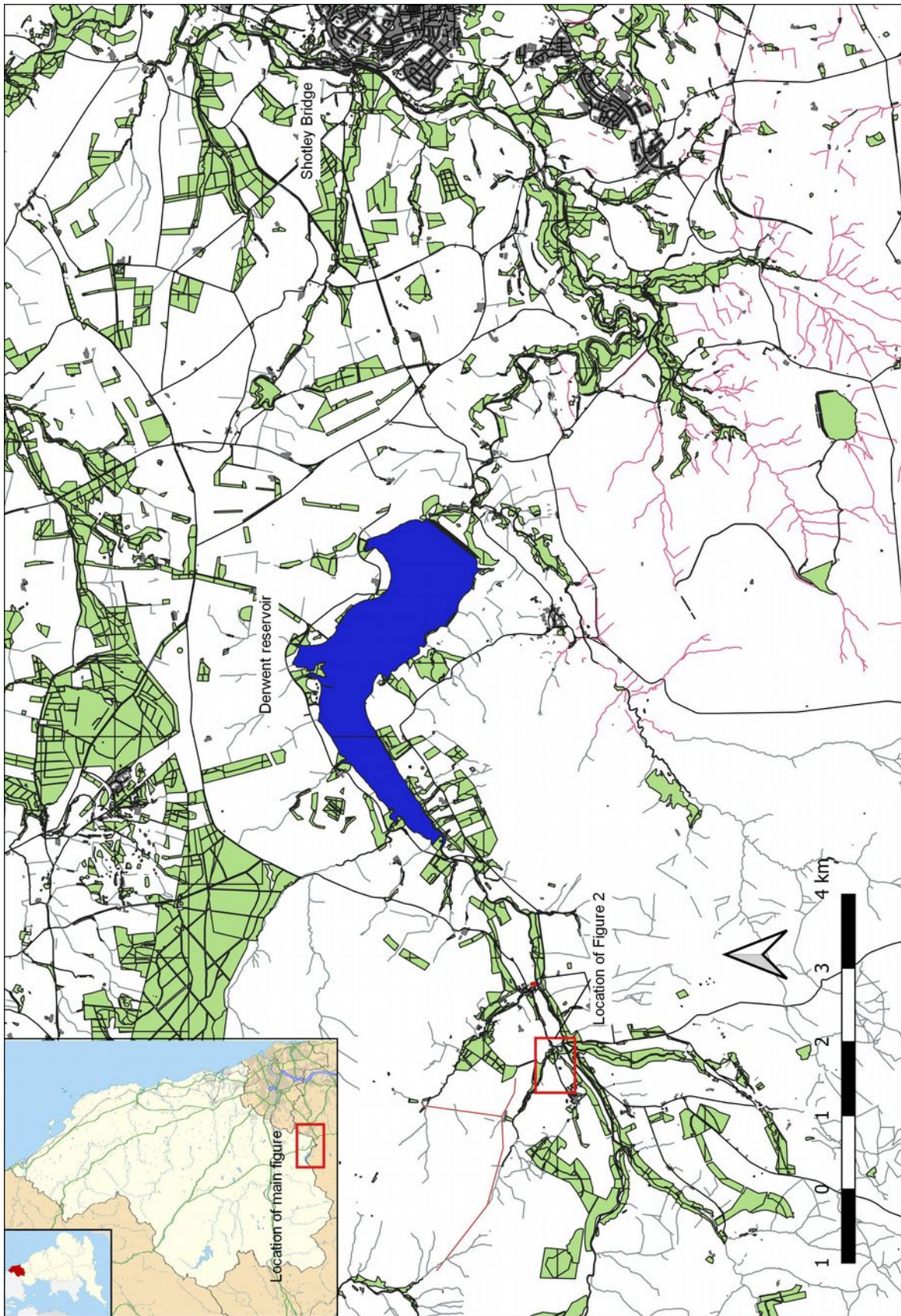


Figure 1: Location plan



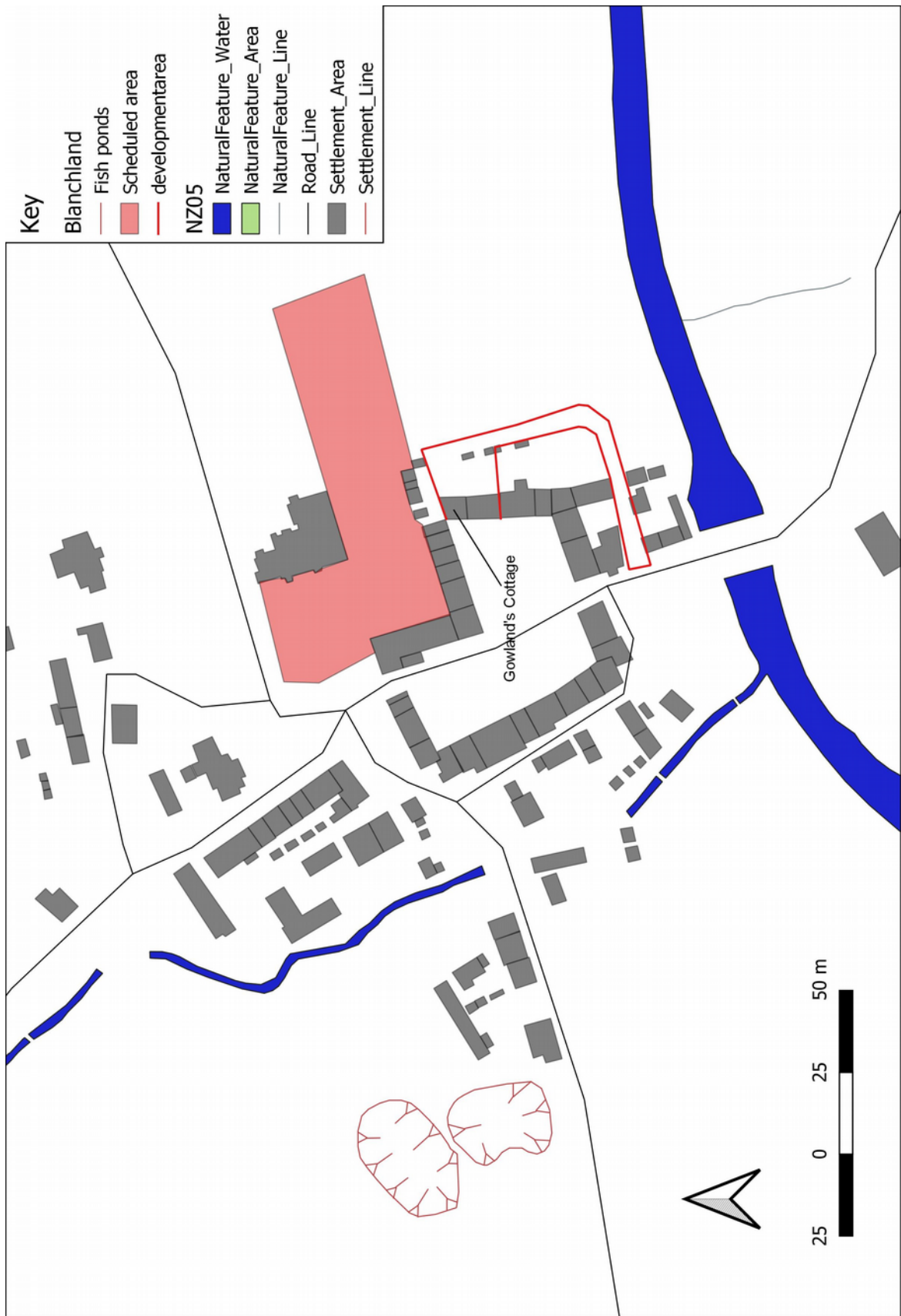


Figure 2: Blanchland Village and development area

## **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Historic building investigation**

- 2.1.1 The building investigation will be undertaken in line with the generic brief issued by Northumberland County Council Conservation Team and will conform, as far as possible, with the Historic England Guidelines for building recording (HE 2016).
- 2.1.2 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the certified Institute of Field Archaeologists (ClfA 2014) and will comply with the ClfA Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (ClfA 2014) as well as the aforementioned Historic England standard.

### **2.2 Elements of building investigation and recording**

- 2.2.1 The building investigation will evaluate the archaeological potential and significance of the buildings in the development area and will include in some instances stripping of modern materials and coverings to expose at risk elements of the ancient structure (shown by label on Figure 4). As the stripping and investigation will involve a degree of disturbance of the fabric of a historic building, it is important that it is extensive enough to provide sufficient information to inform the consent but no more than is needed. It is proposed therefore that a meeting will be undertaken on site with the appropriate contractors to provide the detailed information required with particular reference to and the WSI suitably updated:

#### ***Ground floor:***

- There will be a requirement to demonstrate that the ceiling is not impacted by the development and that any services, fire safety, ventilation and lighting will need to avoid impact. If such impact appears necessary then dendrochronology dates will need to be taken to fully understand the potential impact and so that informed decisions can be made.
- The proposed spiral staircase that is intended must be demonstrated to impact only on 19<sup>th</sup> century elements. In this case the timbers appear to be sawn timber contrasting with the axe/adze dressed timber main beams. Stripping of paint over two sections of the impacted timbers should confirm their later date, but if it is not the case then dendrochronology dates will be taken to prove this. In addition the stripping will expose the ceiling elements between the beams to aid in confirming its date of construction (Plate 1 and Figure 4).
- The proposed ground floor en-suite to Bedroom 3 at the southern end of the property extends into an existing cupboard to the east of the fireplace in which the original walls and ceiling are not visible. As a result it needs to be demonstrated that no large and early beam is present there as one is present to the west of the fireplace. In addition the south-east exterior wall is not square and so it is important to establish that no early fabric is present here to be impacted. This would require the removal of the cupboard and false ceiling within it and exposure of the stone at the back wall of the cupboard. The complete structure appears to be of relatively late date and so total

removal (and will be required for the development) to establish this should not be problematic (Plate 2 and Figure 4).

### **First floor**

- As with the ground floor there will be a requirement to demonstrate that the ceiling is not impacted by the development and that any services, fire safety, ventilation and lighting will need to avoid impact. If such impact appears necessary then dendrochronology dates will need to be taken to fully understand the potential impact and so that informed decisions can be made.
- The north wall of the proposed Bedroom 4 is substantial and may be therefore be medieval. There is a proposal to recess an area of the wall to form a cupboard. This area is on the opposite side of an existent cupboard and require paint stripping within the cupboard and plaster stripping on the opposite side to confirm the date and if this structure could represent an older entrance (Plate 3 and Figure 4).

2.2.2 The detailed recording will follow Level 2 of the Historic England guidelines with additional elements as listed below:

1. A written account.

- Precise details of the location of the building.
- The National Grid reference of the building and details of listing or scheduling
- The date when the record was made and the name of the recorder

2. Drawn Record

- A scale plan of all floors as existing, showing the form and location of any structural features of historic significance that are examined and the location of photographic records made (below).

2. Photographic Record

- A photographic record will be taken using a digital SLR and should include a clearly visible metric scale in each frame.
- General views of the exterior and interior of the building, from all angles
- Detailed photography of the structural elements that were exposed to reveal the presence of historic fabric.
- Locations of any dendrochronology samples that were deemed necessary.

## 2.3 Archaeological trial trenching

- 2.3.1 The evaluation will comprise the investigation of 34.4m<sup>2</sup> of the site area within six trial trenches. Four at 5m by 1.4m, one, 3.5m by 1.4m (in the more confined lawn area) and a final trench adjacent to the building at 1.5m by 1m. Located to investigate the areas most likely to be impacted by the footprint of the groundworks and services and also distributed to provide a representative sample of the site area.
- 2.3.2 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of conduct of the Certified Institute for Archaeologists (CifA 2014) and will follow their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation (CifA 2014).
- 2.3.3 Topsoil and unstratified modern material will be removed mechanically by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket, under direct supervision of an appropriate member of the archaeological staff. Machine excavation will be undertaken in successive shallow spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon or to the natural subsoil. Once significant archaeological deposits or subsoil is encountered the trench, including all relevant sections, will be cleaned to an archaeological standard so that features can be identified. All further excavation will be conducted by hand.

## 2.4 General standards

- 2.4.1 All archaeological features identified will be sample excavated according to their type and form:
- 50% of all discrete features.
  - 25% of the area of a linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill.
  - 10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a uniform fill.
- 2.4.2 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample will be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 2.4.3 Secure contexts will be sampled for dating where appropriate, whether on site or as sub samples of bulk samples. Any concentrations of charcoal or other carbonised material recovered on site will usually be retained.
- 2.4.4 Pottery and animal bone will be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. All finds will be recorded and processed according to the BRP system and submitted for post-excavation assessment. Finds recovery and storage strategies will be in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995 and Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials CifA, 2014). Should artefacts of gold or silver covered by the 1996 Treasure Act be recovered, appropriate procedures will be followed.
- 2.4.5 In the event of Human burials being revealed they will be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner. After consultation with the County Archaeological Officer, if excavation is required, work will comply with the relevant home Office regulations.
- 2.4.6 Any archaeological features encountered will be hand-cleaned, excavated and recorded:

1. A photographic record will be taken using a digital SLR (Canon EOS 550D) and provision made for deposition with the ADS as part of the site archive.
2. A written description of features will be recorded using the BRP *pro forma* context recording system.
3. All features will be drawn at an appropriate scale using pre-printed permatrace. Plans will normally be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10.

2.4.7 All archaeological features and horizons will be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.

2.4.8 Arrangements will be made with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive within 6 month of the completion of the post-excavation report.

## **2.5 Post-excavation work, archive and report compilation**

2.5.1 On completion of the excavation an assessment of the site records will be undertaken undertaken in accordance with English Heritage (1991) guidelines and with reference to Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide (HE 2015). This will include:

- description of the results of the Standing Building Recording
- compilation of a report
- An assessment of the potential impact of the proposed alterations to the historic elements of the building will be made

2.5.2 On completion of the trial trench excavation an assessment of the site records and finds will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage (1991) guidelines. This will include:

- collation of all site records
- compilation of a report
- production of context, photographic, finds and illustration databases
- analysis of the finds assemblage by relevant specialists
- environmental assessment of selected bulk samples

2.5.3 The assessment report, with each page and paragraph numbered and with cross referenced illustrations, will include:

- summary of the project background
- site location
- methodology
- results of the watching brief
- site location plans and illustrations of results at appropriate scales
- interpretation of the results in an appropriate context



- post-excavation assessment of the site archive
  - catalogue and assessment of the artefactual archive
  - catalogue and assessment of the faunal remains
  - catalogue and assessment of the palaeoenvironmental samples recovered
  - appendix containing a list and summary of each recorded context
- 2.5.4 A copy of the report should be submitted by the archaeologist to the commissioning client, and the County Council Conservation Team within 15 working days of completion of the work. A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and an article will be submitted to a local or national journal if appropriate.
- 2.5.5 The site archive will be prepared to the standard specified in the Management of Archaeological Projects, appendix 3 (HBMC 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). A summary account of the context record will be included and written by the supervising archaeologist. The archive will be deposited at the specified museum within 6 months of completion of the work on site.
- 2.5.6 An online OASIS form will be completed for the project as part of the post-excavation assessment process.

## **RESULTS**

### **3.0 Historic building investigation**

3.0.1 The investigation of the historic building was undertaken on the 25<sup>th</sup> March to gain an understanding of the potential impact that the refurbishment of the building has to impact on the historic fabric of the structure and to provide information so that any detrimental impact can be avoided or mitigated.

#### **3.1 Potential impact on the ground floor ceilings**

3.1.1 In order to aid discussion each room within the building has been assigned a letter code for identification purposes within the text (Figure 3).

3.1.2 The refurbishment of the building will require alterations and updates to services, fire safety, ventilation and lighting and all of this work has the potential to impact on the ground floor ceiling and most particularly the timber structures that could be of some historic significance. Inspection of the timber and ceiling of the ground floor strongly indicates that the ceilings of Rooms A and C are constructed from square cut supporting timbers supporting plaster board and above this are very uniform floor boards. These boards and timbers, where paint is not obscuring the timber, have a very modern, fresh, appearance and are neatly and accurately machine cut. As such it seems highly likely that they are of no earlier than 20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

3.1.3 Room B has a very different ceiling structure with very large timber tie beams extending between the walls with smaller, but still substantial joists extending at

right angles to the beams. The tie beams are octagonally shaped and show the clear sign of having been trimmed to shape using axe or adze and therefore seem almost certainly to be of medieval or early post-medieval date. The joists are smaller and less obviously adze trimmed, but are certainly not of a uniform size and do not appear to be machine cut and therefore are likely of some historic significance. Care taken to avoid any substantive impact on the tie beams and joists of the ceiling of Room B during the refurbishment (Plate 1).

### **3.2 Potential impact on the insertion of the spiral stair**

- 3.2.1 A spiral stair case is to pass through the ceiling to allow access from Room A on the ground floor to Room D on the first floor. The type of stair selected requires no fixing to the ceiling of Room D so the impact is only on the ceiling of Room A and the floor boards of Room D. All of the supporting timber for the Room A ceiling, as described earlier, are of modern appearance as are the floor boards where seen by the removal of the ceiling plasterboard from below and the stripping back of the carpet above (Plates 2 and 3).

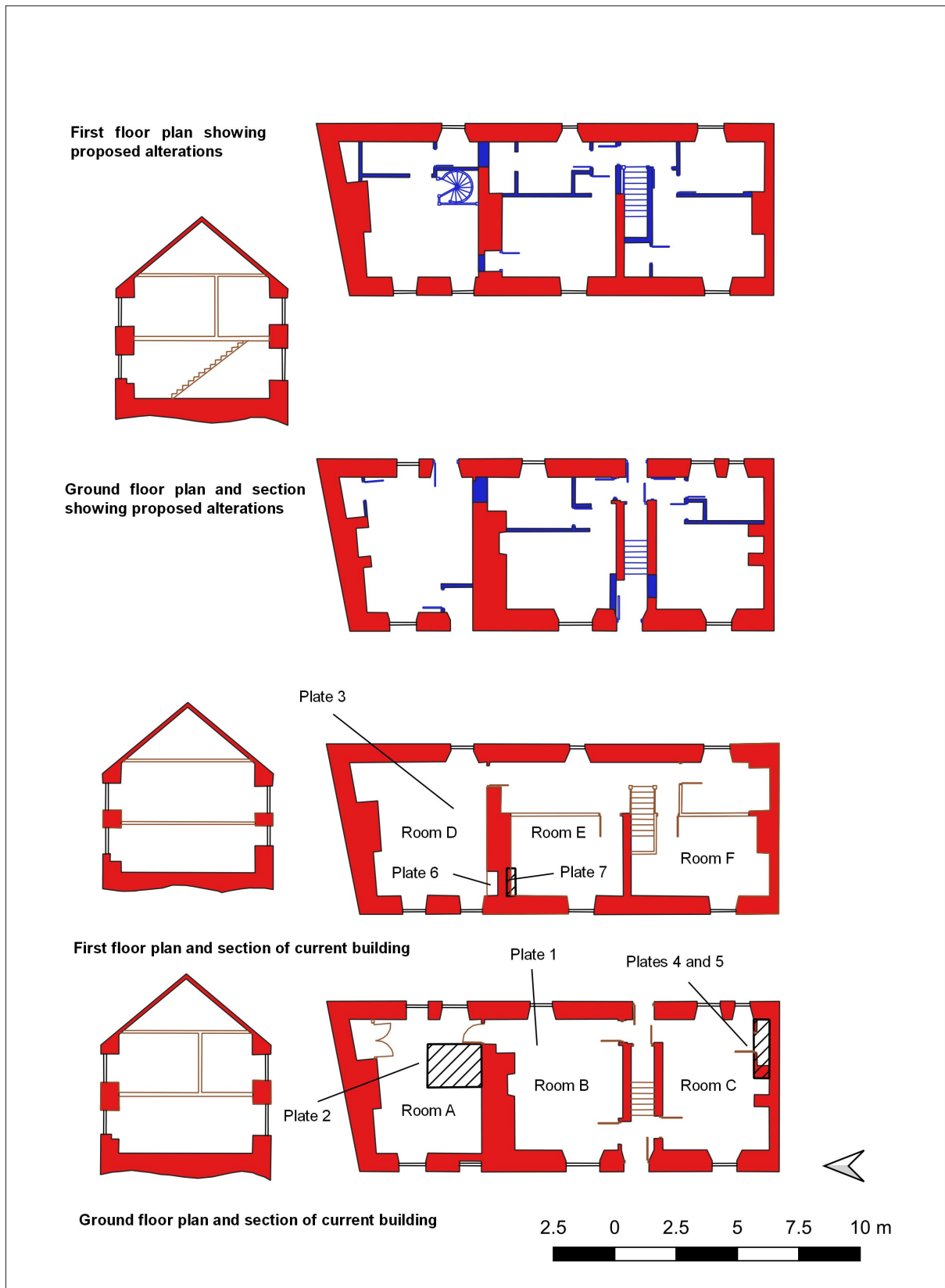


Figure 3: Plan and sections of the building and results of investigation



*Plate 1: Ceiling structure of Room B, looking south-west*



*Plate 2: Area of ceiling to be impacted by the insertion of the spiral stair with plasterboard removed showing timber and floor boards to be modern, looking south*



Plate 3: Floor boards in Room D to be impacted by insertion of spiral stair showing two groups of modern boards, facing south

### 3.3 Investigation of the ground floor cupboard

3.3.1 A substantial timber beam was known to be present to the west of the fireplace in the south wall of Room C. A cupboard obscured the same area to the east of the fireplace where the installation of an *en-suite* bathroom was proposed. As the beam was very substantial and showed axe or adze dressing of a similar kind to that seen in the ceiling of Room B and was likely also of medieval or early post-medieval date it was important to identify if the beam was actually present there. Consequently the plaster board false ceiling within the cupboard and a small section of the plasterboard wall to the side of the cupboard was removed to allow for this. The timber beam was seen to be present across the full extent of the alcove and to be of similarly early date to that seen within the alcove to the west. It will be important therefore to preserve this beam *in situ*.





Plate 4: The old timber beam revealed above the plasterboard false ceiling within the cupboard, facing south



Plate 5: The timber beam extending eastwards to the external wall, facing east

### **3.4 Area of wall to be recessed to form a cupboard in Room E first floor**

- 3.4.1 The north wall of the proposed Bedroom 4 (Room E) is substantial and had the potential to be medieval. The proposal to recess an area of the wall to form a cupboard therefore had the potential to impact on this early fabric. As a result the

area of the wall to be removed has had the plaster stripped from it to enable the identification of any early fabric.

- 3.4.2 The stripped area of plaster revealed a wall of irregularly coursed sandstone blocks of very variable size, from larger squared blocks, likely to be re-used from early structures, to small rubble fragments. No obvious medieval elements are present within the wall structure other than the potential for the re-use of individual blocks. In addition it was seen to butt against the external wall down its full length and therefore appears to be a later insert and not contemporary to the original build phase. Examination of the wall within the cupboard on the other side of the wall was consistent with the above.



*Plate 6: Area of wall within Room E to be recessed to allow for a new wardrobe, facing north*

### **3.5 Potential impact on the first floor ceiling**

- 3.5.1 As with the ground floor the refurbishment of the building will require alterations and

updates to services, fire safety, ventilation and lighting to the first floor as well and all of this work has the potential to impact on the first floor ceiling. Inspection of the ceilings of the first floor shows some of the tie beams and roof timbers, that are clearly part of an old roof structure do extend below the ceiling level into the rooms. Impact on these should clearly be avoided where at all possible. The general ceiling area is of a uniform smooth surface, however, in one area within the hallway at the top of the stairs to the side of Room E some of this modern plasterboard has fallen to reveal small timber laths and traces of older plaster beneath it. This appears to represent an earlier ceiling later covered but there is no indication that this earlier ceiling material is of particularly great age (Plate 7).



*Plate 7: Earlier laths and plaster seen beneath the modern plaster board, hall ceiling first floor, facing west*

#### **4.0 Trial trenching**

4.0.1 A total of six trial trenches were sited to investigate the area of the development. Trenches 1, 2 and 3, were each 6m by 1.5m and located along the line of the proposed new services. Trench 4, was 2.5m by 1.5m, and Trench 5, was 5m by 1.5m, and were sited close the new stub walls to be inserted in the garden area. Trench 6, was 1.2m by 0.8m, was sited in the confined area of path immediately east of the building wall to investigate the area where the new service line will pass along to enter the building.

#### **4.1 Trench 1**

4.1.1 Subsoil (**119**) that comprised a medium yellow-brown silty clay was seen at the base if the trench 1.13m below ground level (236.72m OD). A very disturbed sandstone wall (**111**) was present cut into subsoil in the south-west corner of the trench. It survives partially intact, disturbed by a number of features but appears to have been constructed on a rubble foundation on which square cut dressed sandstone blocks had been laid. It was silt bonded and may have been partially robbed. It survived up

to 0.4m in height and was sealed by a soil layer (**110**), a stony very dark brown clay silt over which a less stony layer of grey-brown silty clay was present (**109**), further covered by a thin layer of dark near black silt (**106**). This was in turn cut by a pit (**104**) that contained a layer of sandstone rubble (**103**) and a medium yellow-brown sandy silt (**102**) (Figure 5 and Plates 8 and 9).

- 4.1.2 The trench contained three service trenches. The largest of these (**114**) extended along the trench on an east to west alignment and contained a gravel fill (**113**) and had truncated wall **111**. This was cut on its north side by a further service trench (**116**) that contained a narrow metal pipe and also cut at the east end of the trench by a service cut (**108**) for a soil pipe that extended across the trench on a south-east to north-west alignment. The services were sealed by topsoil (**101**), two paving slabs (**105**) and this in turn sealed by gravel (**100**) that formed the hard standing in the area.



Figure 4: The site area showing the proposed new structures and trial trench location



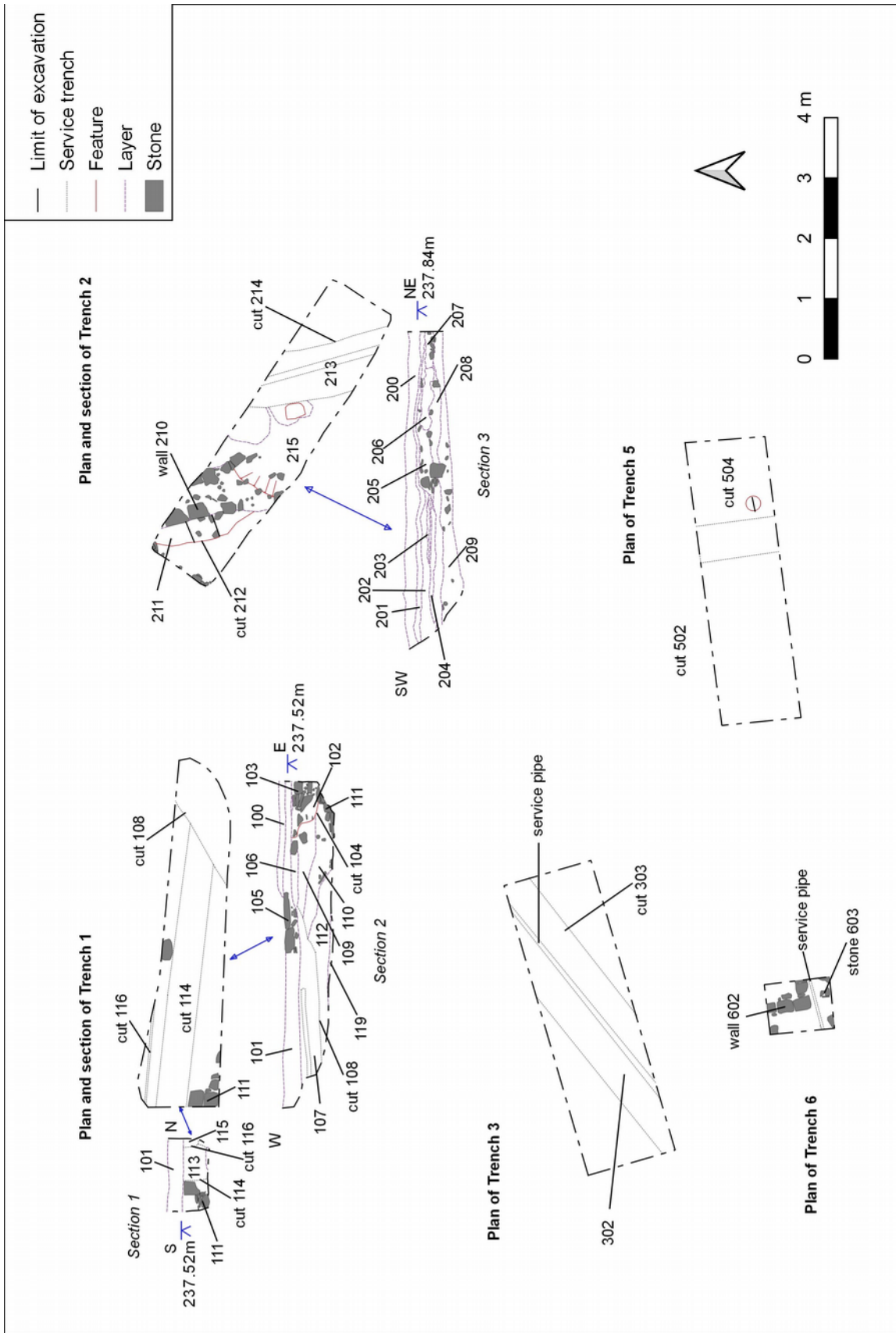


Figure 5: Plans and sections of the trial trenches

## 4.2 Trench 2

- 4.2.1 Subsoil (**215**) was seen at the base of the trench and comprised a red-brown silty clay with some stones. It lay between 0.7m and 1.0m below ground level (232.32m and 232.04m OD) and was cut by a stone wall (**210**) at the west end of the trench that may have been contained within a rather ephemeral shallow cut (**212**). The wall survived only one course high, was formed from two faces of square cut medium sized sandstone blocks with a rubble core. It was silt bonded and was disturbed at the south end where it appeared to have been robbed out as it did not extend to the section (Figure 5 and Plate 10).
- 4.2.2 The wall and subsoil was sealed by a layer (**209**) of dark grey-brown stony sandy silt which in turn was covered by a grey-brown sandy silt with pebbles (**208**). At the east end of the trench these layers were overlain by a stony dark silt layer (**207**) and a stony mortar spread (**206**) and a dark grey-brown stony layer (**205**) that also contained a substantial mortar content. Both layers had the appearance of being derived from demolition rather than being in any way structural. In addition a number of masonry blocks within the west end of these layers, and the central part of the section, are in the correct place to represent rubble from the robbing of wall **210**. Two mortar layers (**204** and **203**), separated by a thin silt lens were present in the east part of the trench sealing layer **208**. It was unclear if these layers represent a crudely laid mortar surface or a dump deposit. They were sealed by a layer of very dark grey-brown silt (**202**) with a substantial stone content. The trench was covered by a pebble surface (**200**) laid on a thin silt layer (**201**).



Plate 8: Trench 1 showing the fragmentary stone wall at the far end of the trench and the service cuts, facing west



Plate 9: Trench 1 showing the fragmentary stone wall truncated by the service trench and rubble filled pit, facing south-east





*Plate 10: Trench 2 showing the partially surviving stone wall and intrusive service, facing north-west*



*Plate 11: Trench 3 containing made-up ground and modern service, facing north-west*

### **4.3 Trench 3**

- 4.3.1 Trench 3 revealed the presence of a service pipe within its cut (**303**) that appeared to be cut into a made-up ground (**301**). The service pipe was sealed by the pebble hard standing layer (**300**) that formed the ground surface (Figure 5 and Plate 11).

### **4.4 Trench 4**

- 4.4.1 The trench located in the garden area of Gowland's Cottage contained no features of interest with subsoil (**401**), a yellow-brown clay with some stone, being seen to be sealed by the topsoil and turf (**400**) (Plate 12).

### **4.5 Trench 5**

- 4.5.1 Subsoil (**505**) a yellow-brown clay with some stone and the same as seen in Trench 4 was seen at the base of the topsoil and turf (**500**). The subsoil had been cut by a single very small circular feature (**504**), some 20cm in diameter and only 2cm deep that contained a topsoil-like fill (**503**). The only other feature present was a linear cut for a modern service (cut **502** and fill **501**) that extended on a north to south line (Figure 5 and Plate 13).

### **4.6 Trench 6**

- 4.6.1 Subsoil (**606**) was seen at the base of the trench 0.45m below ground level and was the same yellow-brown clay with some stone seen in Trenches 4 and 5. A single course, and single thickness, stone right-angled linear (**602**) that may have been a very crude wall was seen on a north to south alignment set on the subsoil and covered by a soil layer (**601**), a dark grey-brown silt with some clay and stone content. The feature was of unknown date but had the appearance of being a garden feature. At the south end of the trench two or three small split sandstone flags (**603**) were seen to lie on the subsoil to the south of the wall. A water service pipe (cut **604** and fill **605**) had been cut in at the south end of the trench above the level of the slabs. The trench was covered by pavement slabs (**600**) that formed the ground surface (Figure 5 and Plate 14).





*Plate 12: Trench 4, facing north*



*Plate 13: Trench 5 showing the small feature (504) and service cut (502), facing south*





*Plate 14: Trench 6 showing the stub wall (602), facing south*

## 5.0 DISCUSSION

- 5.0.1 Two wall lines can be identified within both Trench 1 and Trench 2 and, although both are substantially disturbed and robbed, they do appear to respect alignments that are likely derived from the abbey's medieval structural arrangements. In the case of Trench 1 the alignment is clearly marking the same alignment as the excavated structures to the north and that of the cottage wall line to the south (Figure 6). Trench 2 wall-line is mirrored by the standing post-medieval outhouses (Listed Buildings) and may indicate that these respect an earlier boundary alignment. As dating evidence and preserved early layers are very rare to absent within the trial trenches, dating is problematic and so the walls could easily be post-medieval and simply respect the planning alignments carried over from the medieval period.
- 5.0.2 The area of the present Gowland's Cottage garden shows no certain early features and the crude wall line in Trench 6 is most likely a post medieval garden feature. Again little in the way of dating evidence recoverable.
- 5.0.3 The ceiling area of Room B does appear to be historically sensitive and any new additions or alterations here will need to be carefully considered to allow for minimum impact.
- 5.0.4 There is little evidence that the insertion of the spiral stair would impact on any early structural features as the ceiling a floor structures in this are appear to be of mostly 20<sup>th</sup> century date, with the possibility of some limited 19<sup>th</sup> century material.
- 5.0.5 A substantial timber beam of likely medieval, or possibly early post-medial date is present above the false ceiling within the cupboard to the east of the fireplace in Room C. Consideration will need to be made to how it is safely preserved during the installation of the new *en suite* within Room C.
- 5.0.6 The area of wall between Rooms D and E that is to be reduced is not an original part of the building's structure as it is butt jointed to the external wall and constructed from a very mixed fabric.

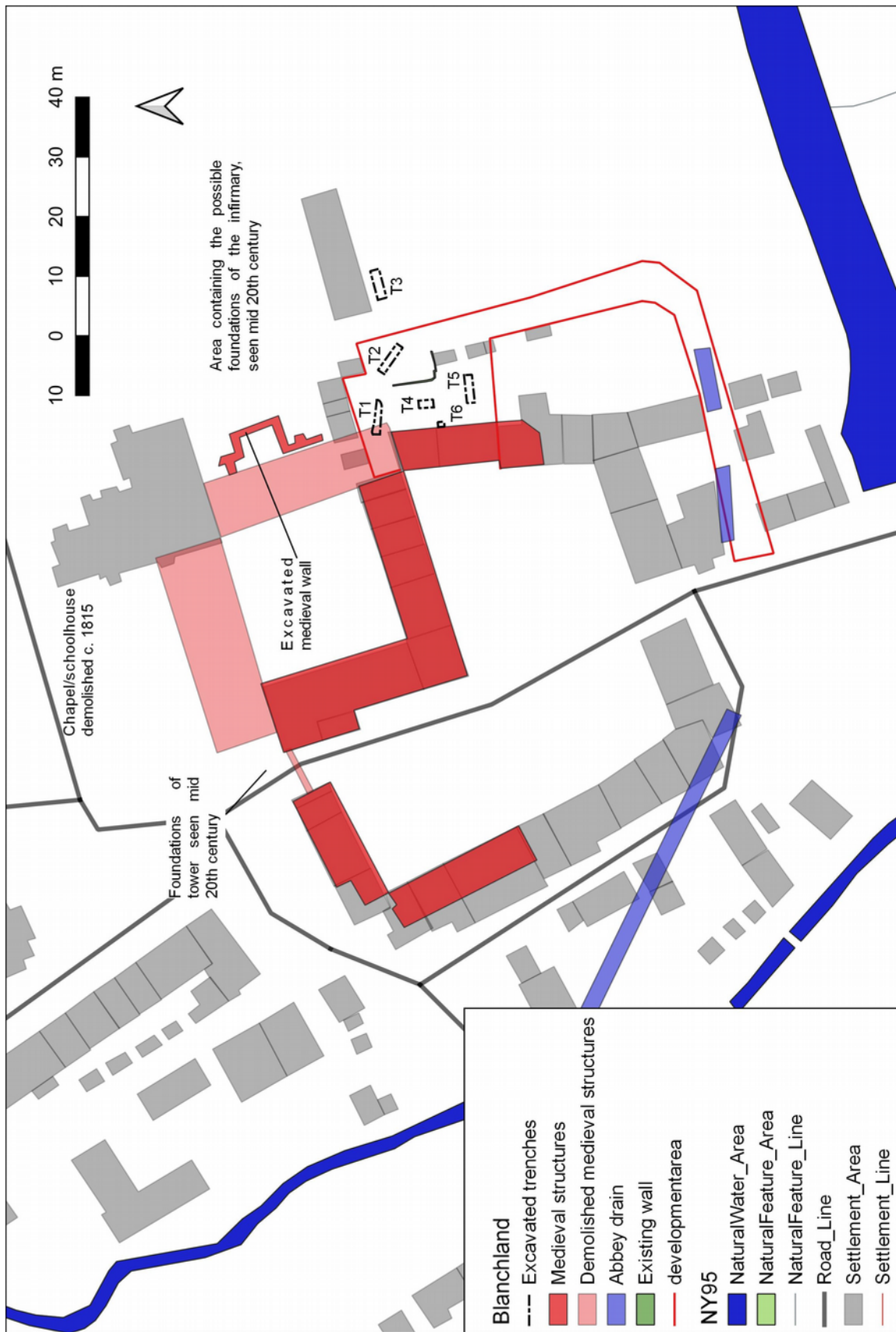


Figure 6: Location of the known medieval structures of the abbey

## 6.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.0.1 Trenches 1 and 2 have revealed that traces of early wall lines are present in the development area. Although very disturbed by modern activity, some further evidence of the wider medieval alignments may well be preserved between the modern service disturbance.
- 6.0.2 There is no evidence for occupation in the garden area nor clear evidence for disturbance. The general absence of animal bone and pottery bear this out. It seems likely then that wall lines that are preserved in this area may indicate a close or yard area and not occupied buildings.
- 6.0.3 The ceiling within Room B seems to preserve elements of some antiquity but there is little to no evidence for pre-modern elements in the two other rooms and this is significant for Room A where the spiral stair is to be inserted. There is a timber beam of some age present in the area in which the *en suite* is to be inserted east of the fireplace in Room C and this has implications that needs to be addressed in mitigation. There is no indication that the plan to recess an area of wall in Room E would impact on any fabric of significance or interest.

## REFERENCES

### Published and unpublished sources

- BRP 2000 *Finds Manual, 2000*
- BRP 2013 *Health and Safety Document*
- CifA 2014 *Codes of Conduct*
- CifA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Excavation.*
- CifA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*
- CifA 2014 *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*
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- English Heritage 1995 *A strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds.* Ancient Monuments Laboratory.
- Historic England 2015 *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*
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accessed 09/12/20

## **APPENDIX I**

### **LORD CREWE ARMS HOTEL BLANCHLAND NORTHUMBERLAND**

#### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCHING AND HISTORIC BUILDING INVESTIGATION WRITTEN SCHEDULE OF INVESTIGATION**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.0.1 This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project Limited (BRP) for Lord Crewe Arms Hotel during December 2020 and comprises a Written Schedule of Investigation for archaeological trial trenching and the investigation of some elements of the historic building fabric that may be impacted by the enlargement of the Lord Crewe Arms Hotel, including the change of use of one residential dwelling adjacent to the Lord Crewe Arms Hotel, Blanchland, Northumberland.
- 1.0.2 The document has been prepared in order to fulfil a requirement for archaeological mitigation prior to and during construction work, following the determination of the planning application.

## **2.0 THE SITE**

### **2.1 Location**

- 2.1.1 The proposed development at the Lord Crewe Hotel lies in the central part of Blanchland Village, which is on the B6306 road some 12km south of Corbridge in south-west Northumberland. The hotel lies to the north of the village square to the north of the river. The development area lies to the immediate south-east of the hotel, centred on grid reference NY 9663 5034 (Figures 1 and 2).

### **2.2 Archaeological Background**

- 2.2.1 Blanchland Abbey was one of approximately 31 abbeys of the Premonstratensian Order in medieval England. Only around a dozen remain substantially preserved to the present day, and this adds to the importance of Blanchland an example of such a site. In addition the site at Blanchland has several features which distinguish it from other monasteries of this order and these include an example of a roofed Premonstratensian church. It is also one of only a handful where the west and south cloistral ranges survive to any extent. The greatest importance of the site, however, for which it is justly famous, is the completeness with which the whole precinct plan survives and can be seen in the modern village layout. The monastic buildings were taken over in the years after the Dissolution to make a complete village and the monastic church became the parish church, the cloisters became the manor house and the outer court became the village square surrounded by the villagers' cottages. Even today the village consists of few buildings beyond this core. The area of the of the scheduling itself, to the north of the development area, contains some of the least disturbed features and deposits relating to the monastery, notably part of the church, cloisters and burial ground.
- 2.2.2 The monument, as it survives today, comprises the site of the nave, south transept, cloister garth, east cloistral range and part of the monastic graveyard. In addition there is a 12<sup>th</sup> /early 13<sup>th</sup> century standing cross west of the church tower. The Abbey was founded for the Canons of the Order of Premonstre (the Premonstratensians) by Walter de Bolbeck in 1165. Although never a very large house, it was visited by Edward III in 1327 following its burning by Scots raiders. The monastery was initially dissolved in 1536 only to be reformed by the King Henry VIII in 1537 before being finally dissolved in 1539. The site passed through secular hands and was acquired by the Forster family in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. By this time or soon after, the cloister had become the core of the mansion, parts of which survive today as the Lord Crewe Arms Hotel, a Grade II\* Listed Building. The row of buildings to the rear (south) of the Hotel, one of which is included in the current development plans, are not part of the scheduled area, though the ground beneath is included. In fact the area of the scheduling comprises only part of the former monastic precinct and many features of the abbey are not included and these include the parish church, the present parochial graveyard east of the parish church. Also the remains of the west and south ranges of the cloister and buildings which originally formed four



sides of the monastic outer court, including the precinct gatehouse, survive in part and have been converted in various ways into dwellings and shops (Historic England website).

- 2.2.3 Gowland's Cottage, 15 The Square, that forms part of the development site is a grade II listed building and thought to be part of the southern outer court. It is a multiphase structure but its phasing and the date of its various phases are difficult to identify as much is obscured by rebuilding and refacing of the walls. Whilst this building is in the right area to be a continuation of the east range of the abbey its alignment is a little off a perpendicular alignment with the other elements. As such it has been suggested that it represents a court building for a monastic official, of 15<sup>th</sup> century date, with the northern part being a 17<sup>th</sup> century addition incorporating some lower courses of medieval masonry, subsequently much altered in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 2.2.4 The area of the site to the east of the listed building has not been subject any any previous investigation, so the presence or absence of archaeological material below ground in this area has yet to be determined. It is however known that a scooped pit was recorded some 30m to the east of the property in December 2013 and produced an ingot of lead or pewter and this has been proposed as indicating melting down of material taken from the monastery after the dissolution.
- 2.2.5 In addition privies to rear of 13-14 and Gowland's Cottage are grade II listed in their own right and have been identified as 18<sup>th</sup> century in date.

### **2.3 Impact of the development**

- 2.3.1 There is clear evidence that the site is within the medieval Premonstratensian abbey and therefore archaeological features, above and below ground, have the potential to be impacted by development activity. The development of Gowland's Cottage, whilst it will leave the main structural elements intact has the potential to impact on some ancient structural elements. It is important therefore that a proportionately detailed examination of the building prior to alteration is needed to identify any areas that are at risk such that appropriate mitigation can be agreed. In addition the groundworks associated with new access-ways and services will have the potential to impact on below ground archaeological remains and trial trenching is intended to inform on this potential impact.

### **3.0 OBJECTIVES**

- 3.0.1 In the light of the potential for the construction works to impact upon the building and with with the potential for any below ground disturbance to impact on preserved archaeological remains of some importance a scheme of archaeological mitigation including trial trenching and building inspection and recording is proposed. The trenching will provide evidence of the presence of archaeological remains, its date, depth and state of preservation that will inform any future mitigation strategy.
- 3.0.2 In addition as there are to be alterations to a structure that is very likely to have elements dating back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century some areas that may be altered will need investigating to establish their sensitivity. Some elements of this investigation may include intrusive investigation to reveal timbers so that they can be evaluated. All elements that are subject to alteration will need to be understood before the mitigation can be agreed.

### **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

#### **4.1 Historic building investigation**

- 4.1.1 The building investigation will be undertaken in line with the generic brief issued by Northumberland County Council Conservation Team and will conform, as far as possible, with the Historic England Guidelines for building recording (HE 2016).
- 4.1.2 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the certified Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and will comply with the CIfA Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (CIfA 2014) as well as the aforementioned Historic England standard.

## **4.2 Elements of building investigation and recording**

4.2.1 The building investigation will evaluate the archaeological potential and significance of the buildings in the development area and will include in some instances stripping of modern materials and coverings to expose at risk elements of the ancient structure (shown by label on Figure 4). As the stripping and investigation will involve a degree of disturbance of the fabric of a historic building, it is important that it is extensive enough to provide sufficient information to inform the consent but no more than is needed. It is proposed therefore that a meeting will be undertaken on site with the appropriate contractors to provide the detailed information required with particular reference to and the WSI suitably updated:

### **Ground floor:**

- There will be a requirement to demonstrate that the ceiling is not impacted by the development and that any services, fire safety, ventilation and lighting will need to avoid impact. If such impact appears necessary then dendrochronology dates will need to be taken to fully understand the potential impact and so that informed decisions can be made.
- The proposed spiral staircase that is intended must be demonstrated to impact only on 19<sup>th</sup> century elements. In this case the timbers appear to be sawn timber contrasting with the axe/adze dressed timber main beams. Stripping of paint over two sections of the impacted timbers should confirm their later date, but if it is not the case then dendrochronology dates will be taken to prove this. In addition the stripping will expose the ceiling elements between the beams to aid in confirming its date of construction (Plate 1 and Figure 4).
- The proposed ground floor en-suite to Bedroom 3 at the southern end of the property extends into an existing cupboard to the east of the fireplace in which the original walls and ceiling are not visible. As a result it needs to be demonstrated that no large and early beam is present there as one is present to the west of the fireplace. In addition the south-east exterior wall is not square and so it is important to establish that no early fabric is present here to be impacted. This would require the removal of the cupboard and false ceiling within it and exposure of the stone at the back wall of the cupboard. The complete structure appears to be of relatively late date and so total removal (and will be required for the development) to establish this should not be problematic (Plate 2 and Figure 4).

### **First floor**

- As with the ground floor there will be a requirement to demonstrate that the ceiling is not impacted by the development and that any services, fire safety, ventilation and lighting will need to avoid impact. If such impact appears necessary then dendrochronology dates will need to be taken to fully understand the potential impact and so that informed decisions can be made.
- The north wall of the proposed Bedroom 4 is substantial and may be therefore be medieval. There is a proposal to recess an area of the wall to form a cupboard. This area is on the opposite side of an existent cupboard and require paint stripping within the cupboard and plaster stripping on the opposite side to confirm the date and if this structure could represent an older entrance (Plate 3 and Figure 4).

4.2.2 The detailed recording will follow Level 2 of the Historic England guidelines with additional elements as listed below:

1. A written account.
  - Precise details of the location of the building.
  - The National Grid reference of the building and details of listing or scheduling
  - The date when the record was made and the name of the recorder

## 2. Drawn Record

- A scale plan of all floors as existing, showing the form and location of any structural features of historic significance that are examined and the location of photographic records made (below).

## 2. Photographic Record

- A photographic record will be taken using a digital SLR and should include a clearly visible metric scale in each frame.
- General views of the exterior and interior of the building, from all angles
- Detailed photography of the structural elements that were exposed to reveal the presence of historic fabric.
- Locations of any dendrochronology samples that were deemed necessary.

### 4.3 Archaeological trial trenching

- 4.3.1 The evaluation will comprise the investigation of 34.4m<sup>2</sup> of the site area within six trial trenches. Four at 5m by 1.4m, one, 3.5m by 1.4m (in the more confined lawn area) and a final trench adjacent to the building at 1.5m by 1m. Located to investigate the areas most likely to be impacted by the footprint of the groundworks and services and also distributed to provide a representative sample of the site area.
- 4.3.2 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of conduct of the Certified Institute for Archaeologists (CifA 2014) and will follow their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation (CifA 2014).
- 4.3.3 Topsoil and unstratified modern material will be removed mechanically by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket, under direct supervision of an appropriate member of the archaeological staff. Machine excavation will be undertaken in successive shallow spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon or to the natural subsoil. Once significant archaeological deposits or subsoil is encountered the trench, including all relevant sections, will be cleaned to an archaeological standard so that features can be identified. All further excavation will be conducted by hand.

### 4.4 General standards

- 4.4.1 All archaeological features identified will be sample excavated according to their type and form.
- 50% of all discrete features.
  - 25% of the area of a linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill.
  - 10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a uniform fill.
- 4.4.2 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample will be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 4.4.3 Secure contexts will be sampled for dating where appropriate, whether on site or as sub samples of bulk samples. Any concentrations of charcoal or other carbonised material recovered on site will usually be retained.
- 4.4.4 Pottery and animal bone will be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. All finds will be recorded and processed according to the BRP system and submitted for post-excavation assessment. Finds recovery and storage strategies will be in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995 and Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials CifA, 2014). Should artefacts of gold or silver covered by the 1996 Treasure Act be recovered, appropriate procedures will be followed.
- 4.4.5 In the event of Human burials being revealed they will be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner. After consultation with the County Archaeological Officer, if excavation is required, work will

comply with the relevant home Office regulations.

- 4.4.6 Any archaeological features encountered will be hand-cleaned, excavated and recorded:
1. A photographic record will be taken using a digital SLR (Canon EOS 550D) and provision made for deposition with the ADS as part of the site archive.
  2. A written description of features will be recorded using the BRP *pro forma* context recording system.
  3. All features will be drawn at an appropriate scale using pre-printed permatrace. Plans will normally be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10.
- 4.4.7 All archaeological features and horizons will be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.4.8 Arrangements will be made with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive within 6 month of the completion of the post-excavation report.

## **5.0 CONTINGENCY**

- 5.0.1 A contingency has been allowed within the evaluation program to allow for the excavation of an additional 10m of trenches, in order to answer particular issues that may arise during fieldwork. This additional work will be undertaken after discussion with, and with the agreement of the client and the Assistant County Archaeological Officer.

## **6.0 MONITORING**

- 6.0.1 Access will be made available at all reasonable times to the archaeological representatives of the Northumberland County Council Conservation Team to inspect the excavation site.
- 6.0.2 Access to the site will be on the basis of prior notification and subject to any relevant health and safety considerations.

## **7.0 POST-EXCAVATION WORK, ARCHIVE AND REPORT COMPILATION**

- 7.0.1 On completion of the excavation an assessment of the site records will be undertaken undertaken in accordance with English Heritage (1991) guidelines and with reference to Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide (HE 2015). This will include:
- description of the results of the Standing Building Recording
  - compilation of a report
  - An assessment of the potential impact of the proposed alterations to the historic elements of the building will be made
- 7.0.2 On completion of the trial trench excavation an assessment of the site records and finds will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage (1991) guidelines. This will include:
- collation of all site records
  - compilation of a report
  - production of context, photographic, finds and illustration databases
  - analysis of the finds assemblage by relevant specialists
  - environmental assessment of selected bulk samples

7.0.3 The assessment report, with each page and paragraph numbered and with cross referenced illustrations, will include:

- summary of the project background
- site location
- methodology
- results of the watching brief
- site location plans and illustrations of results at appropriate scales
- interpretation of the results in an appropriate context
- post-excavation assessment of the site archive
- catalogue and assessment of the artefactual archive
- catalogue and assessment of the faunal remains
- catalogue and assessment of the palaeoenvironmental samples recovered
- appendix containing a list and summary of each recorded context

7.0.4 A copy of the report should be submitted by the archaeologist to the commissioning client, and the County Council Conservation Team within 15 working days of completion of the work. A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and an article will be submitted to a local or national journal if appropriate.

7.0.5 The site archive will be prepared to the standard specified in the Management of Archaeological Projects, appendix 3 (HBMC 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). A summary account of the context record will be included and written by the supervising archaeologist. The archive will be deposited at the specified museum within 6 months of completion of the work on site.

7.0.6 An online OASIS form will be completed for the project as part of the post-excavation assessment process.

## **8.0 PERSONNEL**

8.0.1 The designated project manager Graeme Young, is one of the four directors of the Bamburgh Research Project. A graduate of Newcastle University, with 32 years of experience in field archaeology including directing a number of excavations of urban medieval sites in Newcastle and Durham.

8.0.2 Additional field staff, with appropriate archaeological experience, will be engaged as required.

## **9.0 SUB-CONTRACTED SPECIALISTS**

9.0.1 Although it is not possible to predict the range of artefacts that may be recovered and provision has been made for the analysis of the most common artefacts.

<b>Material</b>	<b>Specialist</b>
Medieval pottery	Jenny Vaughan
Post-medieval pottery	Jenny Vaughan
Prehistoric pottery	Blaise Vyner
Roman Pottery	Blaise Vyner
Animal bone	Durham University Archaeological Services
Palaeoenvironmental	Durham University Archaeological Services
Conservation	Karen Barker

## **10.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

10.0.1 The Bamburgh Research Project maintains current appropriate insurance and complies with the 1974 Health and Safety Act and its subsequent amendments in all its operations. The SCAUM manual and the Bamburgh Research Project Health and Safety Policy Document is followed for all site works. A designated and appropriately trained first aider is present at all times during working hours. A First Aid kit, Accident Book and telephone are provided for each project. Safety footwear is mandatory on all

excavation sites. Where required safety helmets and reflective jackets are provided. It is policy for a vehicle to be present at an excavation and staff must be appropriately equipped for bad weather.

- 10.0.2 All staff undergo a safety induction prior to commencing work on site. A written risk assessment is undertaken specific for each site. The safety assessment is reviewed on a daily basis and changes to the working conditions monitored continually during adverse weather conditions.

Text and illustrations: Graeme Young.

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