

Hallington Mill
Hallington
Northumberland

archaeological watching brief
written scheme of investigation 20334

on behalf of
Mr Robert Wiggins

1. Introduction

1.1 A small-scale tourism development consisting of construction of a multi-functional events venue in replacement of an existing Hay Shed, conversion of an historic Threshing Barn into a small holiday home, construction of footbridge over a watercourse, and associated access, car parking, services and landscaping works is proposed on buildings to the north and land to the west of Hallington Hall, Hallington (Figures 1-3; NGR Centre: NY 98260 74394; planning application 20/02786/FUL.). Archaeological Services have already completed an archaeological desk-based assessment¹ for the development. A condition has been attached to the planning permission for a programme of archaeological works:

Condition 24

A programme of archaeological work is required in accordance with NCC Conservation Team (NCCCT) Standards for Archaeological Mitigation and Site Specific Requirements document (dated 7/12/2020). The archaeological scheme shall comprise three stages of work. Each stage shall be completed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before it can be discharged.

a) No development or archaeological mitigation shall commence on site until a written scheme of investigation based on NCCCT Standards and Site Specific Requirements documents has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

b) The archaeological recording scheme required by NCCCT Standards and Site Specific Requirements documents must be completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation.

c) The programme of analysis, reporting, publication and archiving if required by NCCCT Standards and Site Specific Requirements documents must be completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation.

Reason: The site is of archaeological interest, in accordance with Policy BE1 of the Tynedale Core Strategy, Policies BE28 and BE29 of the Tynedale District Local Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

¹ Archaeological Services 2020 *Hallington Mill, Hallington, Northumberland: archaeological desk-based assessment*. Report 5269

- 1.2 This document comprises a written scheme of investigation for a watching brief on the site to be submitted with respect to Part A of the condition.

Previous archaeological work

- 1.3 The results of the desk-based assessment are summarised below.
- 1.4 There is no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the proposed development area. The post-medieval development of the site may have removed evidence from earlier periods.
- 1.5 The mill race for Haddington Mill crossed through the centre of the site and the mill dam was on the north-eastern edge of the site. These are not visible as earthworks within the site.
- 1.6 Landscaping in the modern period may have impacted or truncated any evidence from earlier periods.
- 1.7 The stone barn surrounded by modern extensions probably dates from the early 19th century and was associated with the mill farm.

2. Capability statement

- 2.1 Archaeological Services Durham University specialises in the provision of services associated with planning permission in the north-east region. We have an established record of working with developers, architects, major industrial firms, and local and central government bodies. Archaeological Services incorporates a range of in-house services including palaeoenvironmental archaeology, artefact conservation, geophysical survey and historic building recording.
- 2.2 Archaeological Services is a leading service provider in the northern region, where we conduct over 300 projects annually, and undertake in excess of 70 watching briefs on similar projects each year.

Standards

- 2.3 Archaeological Services project personnel will abide by the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2014), and conduct the works in accordance with the CIfA's *Standard and Guidance* (2014), and the *Yorkshire, the Humber and the North-East: A Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process* (SYAS 2019).

Personnel

- 2.4 The project will be managed by Matthew Claydon BA, Senior Archaeologist with Archaeological Services, who has considerable experience of archaeological projects of this type gained in northern England over the last twenty years. Suitably qualified and experienced members of our field team will be assigned to conduct the watching brief.

Insurance

- 2.5 Durham University is a member of UM Association Limited and maintains the following covers:
- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| • Employer's liability | £50,000,000 | Cert. no. Y016458QBE0119A/050 |
| • Public & products liability | £50,000,000 | Cert. no. UM050/00 |
| • Professional indemnity | £10,000,000 | Cert. no. UM050/00 |

Health and safety

- 2.6 Archaeological Services abides by the 1974 Health and Safety Act, its subsequent applicable statutory amendments, including the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 the 2015 Construction Design and Management Regulations, RIDDOR 2013, and the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2012. Archaeological Services is accredited by the CQMS Safety Scheme.
- 2.7 Archaeological Services provides health and safety training for all our field personnel in first aid, manual handling, cable detection, site safety and risk assessment. Archaeological Services ensures that all personnel pass the CITB Construction Skills Health and Safety Test and subsequently become CSCS card-carriers (Construction Skills Certification Scheme).
- 2.8 Archaeological Services will provide qualified First Aiders and first aid supplies at all times during work. All personnel are supplied with appropriate safety clothing and equipment.

3. Method statement

Scheme summary

- 3.1 The tasks this project comprises may be summarised as:
- archaeological watching brief during groundworks
 - hand-excavation, sampling and recording of any archaeological deposits
 - post-excavation assessment and updated project design
 - production of a report on the above
 - archiving

Aims and objectives

- 3.2 The main aim of the watching brief is to record any surviving evidence for the mill race before it is impacted upon by the development.
- 3.3 Archaeological Services will complete the works within the research priorities set out in the *North-East Regional Research Framework* (NERRF) and its emergent successor. The specific research priorities which this project has the potential to address are:

Industry

ID13. All forms of leats, millraces and broader water management in the region require further research.

- 3.4 The emergent revised research agenda emphasises the rarity and importance of the identification of evidence for medieval watermills in post-medieval mills, as mills were frequently substantially repurposed in the post-medieval period (www.nerrf.net). The investigation of mills is also a focus of attention for the Mills Research Group (www.millsresearchgroup.org.uk) and is recommended by the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology².

Methods

- 3.5 Groundworks such as ground reduction, excavations for foundations, drainage and service trenches associated with the development will be monitored by an archaeologist in the vicinity of the mapped location of the mill race (Figures 2 and 3). This is likely to comprise part of the groundworks associated with part of the barn and services where they cross through this area.

² SPMA, 1988 *Research priorities for post-medieval archaeology*, Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology, London; II, 1.1, i, v, 1.2, ii.

- 3.6 Where possible topsoil and overburden will be removed by a back-acting mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket, under close archaeological supervision. Any identified areas of archaeological interest will then be cleaned and recorded and archaeological deposits will be sample excavated. Some stoppage time may be required to enable the archaeological recording works to be completed.
- 3.7 Where possible excavation of any archaeological deposits identified will proceed by hand, using standard archaeological procedures in accordance with our *Recording Manual* (v.5.5 2020). Trenches where no archaeological features are present will also be recorded. Suitable deposits will be subject to a palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy, as outlined below.
- 3.8 Archaeological features will be hand-cleaned, sectioned, sample excavated and recorded in plan and section. Archaeological deposits will be sampled as is necessary to establish their nature and extent, and will typically include the investigation of up to 50% of linear features, with sections dug through them at intervals, and investigation of all intersections, half-sectioning of pits and postholes, and full excavation of smaller features such as stakeholes. Where the mill race is identified, the exposed section that will be removed by the development will be recorded in its entirety.
- 3.9 If archaeological deposits are identified then the Assistant County Archaeologist will be informed. If proposed excavation works will be so shallow they will not go beyond modern made ground or modern disturbance will have removed any potential archaeological deposits then work will cease in this part of the site. If this is the case then the Assistant County Archaeologist will be informed.

Contingency

- 3.10 A contingency allowance is proposed. If archaeological remains are found which are of a greater number, extent or significance than anticipated, the Assistant County Archaeologist will be notified. An assessment will be made of the importance of the remains and of any provision for their recording as appropriate. This contingency will only be implemented with the agreement of the Assistant County Archaeologist. The contingency for this project has been set at up to 10 person-days. Further archaeologists will be provided to the site to facilitate the works as required.

Palaeoenvironmental sampling

- 3.11 Bulk palaeoenvironmental samples (typically 20 litres) will be collected from the fills of stratigraphically secure cut features, and from other secure deposits that have the potential to provide palaeoenvironmental or economic information, particularly any waterlogged deposits associated with the mill race or leat. Industrial residues and waste from craft and manufacturing processes will also be sampled appropriately. The size of sample collected and assessed (typically 100% of samples taken, unless sub-sampling can be justified) will depend on the apparent potential value of the deposits and will be agreed with the Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor where unusual sampling requirements are apparent.

Artefact recovery

- 3.12 Bulk finds such as pottery and animal bone will be collected by context. Where unusually large quantities of finds, or very small types of material are encountered (e.g. fish bones), such that recovery by hand is not practicable, soil samples may be retained for sieving in the laboratories at Durham. Artefacts will be removed from site to a secure location at the end of the working day. A discard policy may be implemented following assessment by artefactual specialists. All artefacts that are retained will be washed, marked and bagged in a manner suitable for long-term storage. If any artefacts which fall under the *Treasure Act* (1996) are discovered then the appropriate procedures will be adhered to. Treasure will be reported to the Portable Antiquity

Scheme Finds Liaison Officer within 2 weeks of excavation of treasure, or identification of it as treasure.

Conservation

- 3.13 All field personnel are trained in artefact first aid and procedures for the recovery, packing and transportation of artefacts, following *First Aid for Finds* (2nd Edition). Where delicate artefacts are uncovered, appropriate immediate measures will be taken, and the artefacts will be transferred to the Conservation Laboratory at Durham for stabilisation. Should particularly complex conservation requirements become apparent, an appropriately qualified and experienced expert will be called to site.

Scientific dating

- 3.14 Samples of material suitable for scientific dating techniques including AMS C14 dating (for example, charred seeds from palaeoenvironmental samples), archaeomagnetism (for example, *in situ* substantively burnt clay from appropriate contexts that are otherwise undated) or thermoluminescence will be collected where appropriate. Recommendations for dating may be made in the assessment report. Advice on dating will be sought from the Historic England Regional Science Advisor as appropriate.

Human remains

- 3.15 It is considered unlikely that human remains will be encountered at this site. If such finds are made the remains will not be removed unless this is absolutely necessary. Where it is necessary to excavate the remains, the appropriate licence will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice. The client and the Assistant County Archaeologist will be informed.

Monitoring

- 3.16 The works may be subject to monitoring by the Assistant County Archaeologist (who will be given as much notice of the start of works as possible) at any reasonable time given sufficient advance notice. Up to 2 site visits are anticipated.

4. Post-excavation assessment, reporting and archiving

Post-excavation assessment

- 4.1 At the end of the work on site, assessments of the excavated material will be made, following the recommendations of *MoRPHE (Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment – Historic England 2015)*. Each class of artefact recovered from the site will be examined to determine the potential of the material for further analysis, and to establish any conservation requirements. Assessment reports will state the potential of each class of artefact or ecofact, in accordance with MoRPHE; they will also set out the storage and conservation requirements of the assemblage, and make recommendations for a discard policy if this should be appropriate.
- 4.2 The following specialists may be called on, as necessary, to examine, process and assess any excavated material. In the first instance the artefact assemblage will be assessed by the Archaeological Services post-excavation manager and then other specialists may be employed by Archaeological Services to assess material as required.

- medieval /post-medieval pottery Dr Chris Cumberpatch
- Roman pottery Alex Croom
- prehistoric pottery Dr Rob Young
- animal bone Dr Louisa Gidney
- medieval / post-medieval artefacts Alejandra Gutierrez

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| • coins and tokens | Richard Brickstock |
| • other artefacts | Jennifer Jones |
| • post-excavation manager | Jennifer Jones |
| • fuel residues | Jennifer Jones |
| • palaeoenvironmental remains | Dr Charlotte O'Brien |
| • wood identification | Dr Charlotte O'Brien |
| • conservation | Vicky Garlick |
| • human bone | Dr Anwen Caffell |

The report

4.3 The report will be prepared in a form suitable for use by the client and the planning authority. Draft reports or interim statements can be provided on request. Reporting will adhere to the reporting requirements for Northumberland County Council. This will include the deposition of a pdf copy with the Historic Environment Record (HER). The report will include:

- Location plan of excavation area and grid reference of site
- Site narrative – interpretative, structural and stratigraphic history of the site
- Plans showing features and deposit spreads, by phase if possible, and section/elevation locations
- Sections / photographic elevations to scale (mOD)
- Artefact and ecofact assessment reports
- Tables and matrices summarising features, artefacts, and sequences
- Descriptions of contexts, grouped by phase where appropriate
- Photographs of archaeological features
- A consideration of the results of the fieldwork within the wider research context (ref. NERRF)
- Recommendations for further works on the material recovered if appropriate

The report will be based on the following format:

1. Summary
 2. Project background
 3. Archaeological background to the site
 4. Landuse, topography and geology
 5. Excavation sequence
 6. Artefact assessment
 7. Ecofact assessment
 8. The archaeological resource
 9. Recommendations
 10. Sources
- Appendix 1: Data tables
Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrices

Archive

4.4 The project archive will be prepared to the standard specified in MORPHE and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The archive will be deposited with the Great North Museum and ADS in accordance with Northumberland County Council archiving policy. Deposition is likely to take place on completion of any further phase of works on the wider site, and the archive will be held by Durham University in the meantime. In the event that the watching brief is wholly negative then no material archive will be deposited.

OASIS

4.5 Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online AccseS** to the **Index of archaeological investigationS** project (**OASIS**). An OASIS form will be completed for this project, and copies of the report and illustrations will be provided in pdf format to the HER.

Publication

4.6 Following completion of the works (including any further schemes of works), a report may be submitted for publication to a regional archaeological journal. The nature and extent of the publication will be dependent on the results of the work.

Copyright

4.7 This project is copyright. Copyright in the project report will rest with Archaeological Services Durham University unless specific arrangements are made for its assignment elsewhere.

5. Programme

- 5.1 The project can be completed to the following programme:
- following agreement of the WSI the fieldwork can start at anytime
 - it is anticipated that the project report will be completed within 3 weeks of the end of fieldwork

Matthew Claydon BA
Senior Archaeologist
April 2021

Figure 1: Site location

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 site boundary

0  1km
scale 1:20 000 for A4 plot

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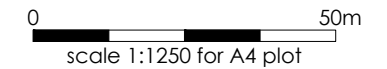
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

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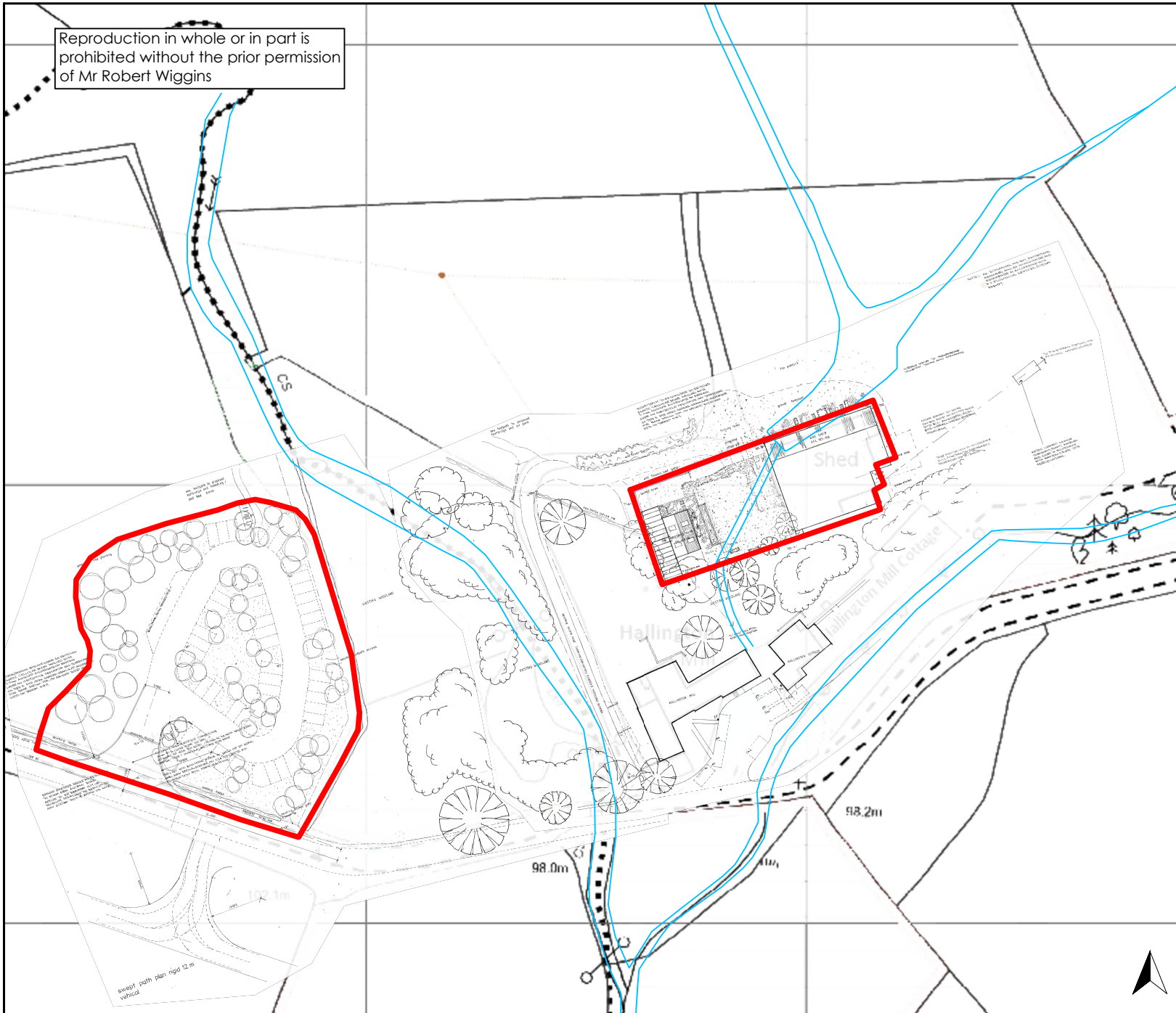
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Figure 2: Location of proposed development and approximate location of mill race (from Ordnance Survey map, 1920)



-  site boundary
-  approximate location of mill race



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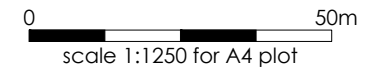
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Figure 3: Location of proposed groundworks and approximate location of mill race (from Ordnance Survey map, 1920)



 approximate location of mill race

