

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of  
Thirteen Housing Group

Amberley and Harrogate Street  
Sunderland  
Tyne and Wear

archaeological statement

report 5506  
May 2022

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## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report comprises an archaeological statement prepared in relation to a proposed development at Amberley and Harrogate Street, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear. The works were conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.
- 1.2 There is no evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the study area.
- 1.3 The site is likely to have been used as agricultural or grazing land for much of the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 1.4 By the mid-19th century, the site was located on the outskirts of Sunderland, with industrial activity occurring at the south of the site and to the east. In the latter part of the 19th century the site was completely built over by terraced housing. This was demolished in the 21st century.
- 1.5 Geotechnical works recorded demolition rubble up to 0.85m deep in the western part of the site. This may extend across the proposed development area.
- 1.6 No archaeological resource has been identified or is likely to be present. No archaeological works are recommended in relation to this development.

## 2. Project background

### Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located at Amberley and Harrogate Street, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear (NGR centre: NZ 40241 56309). It is irregular in plan and covers an area of approximately 3.07 ha.

### Development proposal (Figure 2)

- 2.2 A residential development is proposed.

### Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the statement is to outline the nature any archaeological resource that may be present on the site which may be impacted upon by the proposed development.

### Dates

- 2.4 This report was prepared for May 2022.

### Personnel

- 2.5 This report was prepared by Rebekah Walsh, with graphics by David Graham.

### OASIS

- 2.6 Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online AccesS** to the **Index of archaeological investigationS** project (**OASIS**). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-416735**.

## 3. Site description

### Geology and soils

- 3.1 The underlying bedrock geology of the area comprises Permian dolostone of the Roker Formation, overlain by Devensian glaciolacustrine deposits of clay and silt across most of the site, with Devensian till recorded in the north-western corner ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).
- 3.2 Geotechnical investigations were conducted on the western edge of the site by Dunelm Drilling Co., comprising four boreholes. These identified a layer of demolition rubble 0.7m to 0.85 deep, with natural deposits below ([www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)).

### Satellite images

- 3.3 Satellite images were viewed on Google Earth. Images dating to 2001 show houses standing along the western edge of the site, facing onto Salem Street, and at the central point of the southern edge. The latter had been demolished by 2005, with the houses to the west demolished between 2012 and 2014. There were no other visible changes to the site.

### Site as existing

- 3.4 The proposed development area slopes gently from north to south, from an elevation of approximately 31m OD down to around 27m OD. The River Wear runs just over 1km to the north, with the North Sea c.770m to the east. The site is bounded by Salem Street to the west, Ward Court to the south, a doctor's surgery with Suffolk Street beyond to the east, and residential housing to the north.

## 4. Historical and archaeological development

### Previous archaeological works

- 4.1 No previous archaeological works have been identified within the proposed development area or the near vicinity.

### The prehistoric and Roman periods (up to 5th century)

- 4.2 Prehistoric activity has been recorded within the wider area of Sunderland, but there is no evidence of occupation from this period within the proposed development area or the immediate vicinity (Archaeological Services 2020b).

- 4.3 Several Roman artefacts have been found in Sunderland, but as yet there is little definitive evidence of Roman occupation in the city. It is unlikely that the proposed development area will contain any evidence of activity from this period (*ibid.*).

### The medieval period (5th century to 1540)

- 4.4 The villages of Wearmouth and Ryhope both have early medieval origins, and expanded throughout the medieval period (Archaeological Services 2020a; 2020b). The proposed development area lay between the two villages at this time, and may have been used for agriculture or grazing.

### The post-medieval period (1541 to 1899)

- 4.5 Sunderland grew into a commercial town over the 16th and 17th centuries, though it did not extend as far south as the proposed development area until well into the 19th century.
- 4.6 A rope walk (HER 2856) is recorded on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1862 (Figure 3), along the southern edge of the site. Approximately 220m east of the site was a brick field (HER 2859). The majority of the site appears to be open ground on the outskirts of Sunderland, though the area to the north is becoming more built up, with some houses recorded in the north-western part of the site. The immediate vicinity is clearly in use for industrial activity.
- 4.7 The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1897 (Figure 4) shows the site completely built over by rows of terraced housing on Salem Street, Amberley Street and Harrogate Street. Mowbray Road runs east/west through the southern part of the site, though further housing is located to the south of this, following the same alignment as the streets named above. An inn is marked at the southern extent of the site. This development reflects the vast expansion of Sunderland in the later part of the 19th century.

### The modern period (1900 to present)

- 4.8 No further changes are recorded on the site until the 21st century, when satellite imagery shows the terraces have been demolished.

## 5. The potential archaeological resource

- 5.1 There is no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the study area. Activity is recorded in the wider vicinity of Sunderland, but the lack of nearby evidence indicates a resource is unlikely to be present on the site.

- 5.2 The site may have been in use as agricultural or grazing land for much of the medieval and post-medieval periods.
- 5.3 By the mid-19th century, the site was located on the outskirts of Sunderland, with industrial activity occurring at the south of the site and to the east. In the latter part of the 19th century the site was completely built over by terraced housing. This was demolished in the 21st century.
- 5.4 Geotechnical works recorded demolition rubble up to 0.85m deep in the western part of the site. This is likely to extend across the proposed development area.

## 6. Impact assessment

- 6.1 The proposed development is unlikely to impact on any archaeological resource.

## 7. Recommendations

- 7.1 No further work is recommended in relation to this development.

## 8. Sources

### Cartographic sources

Ordnance Survey 1st Edition, 1862  
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition, 1897  
Ordnance Survey 3rd Edition, 1919  
Ordnance Survey 1939 edition  
Ordnance Survey 1955 edition

### Other sources

Archaeological Services 2020a *South Ryhope, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear: archaeological desk-based assessment*. Report **5250**, Archaeological Services Durham University

Archaeological Services 2020b *Vaux West, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear: archaeological desk-based assessment*. Report **5364**, Archaeological Services Durham University

### Websites

[www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk)  
[www.naturalengland.gov.uk](http://www.naturalengland.gov.uk)  
<http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>  
<http://www.twsitelines.info>  
<http://www.dur.ac.uk/picturesinprint/>

### Satellite imagery

Satellite imagery on Google Earth was consulted; these images dated to 2001, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2020.

## Appendix 1: Historic Environment Record

The tables include sites recorded within the vicinity of the proposed development area (within an approximate radius of 300m from the site).

### Historic Environment Record and designated heritage assets



(PRN = Public Record Number, Designation - LB=Listed building)


PRN	Designation	Description	Grade	Date
2856		Hendon, Rope Walk		19th century
2859		Hendon, Brick Field		19th century
7207	LB	Hendon, Suffolk Street, Church of St. Ignatius	II	19th century



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-  site boundary
-  HER site

0  1km  
scale 1:20 000 for A4 plot



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Figure 2: Proposed development



0 100m  
scale 1:2000 for A4 plot

site boundary





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Figure 3: Extract from the 1st  
edition Ordnance Survey map,  
1862

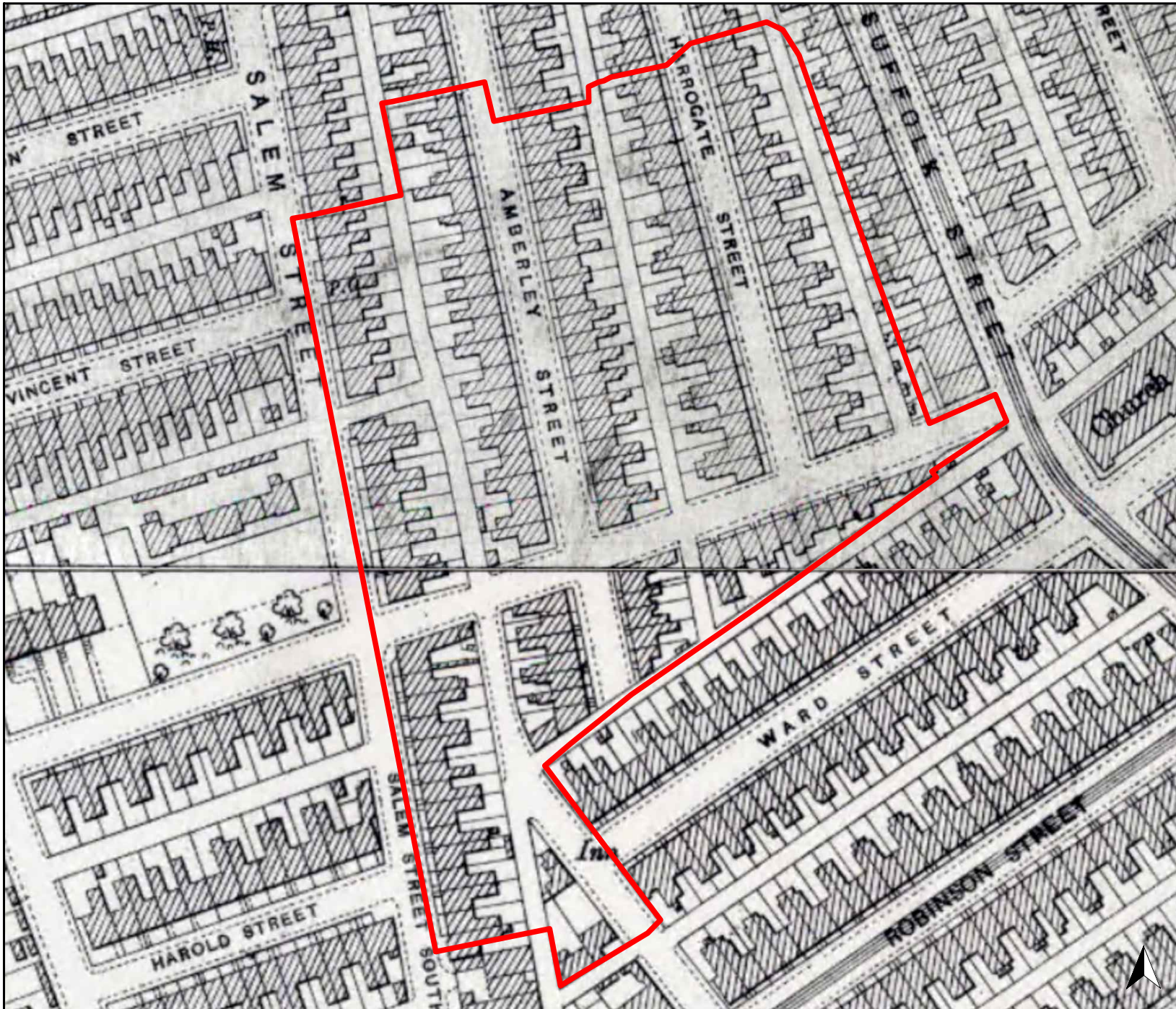
0 250m  
scale 1:5000 for A4 plot



site boundary







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Figure 4: Extract from the 2nd  
edition Ordnance Survey map,  
1897

0 80m  
scale 1:1600 for A4 plot

 site boundary

