

Burgham Park Golf Club
Felton
Northumberland

archaeological mitigation
written scheme of investigation 23071

on behalf of
Cussins Limited

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Planning permission (20/02094/FUL) has been granted subject to conditions for the removal of the greenkeepers' compound and the construction of 48 dwellings, plus the upgrading of the access road, electric substation, SUDs, domestic package treatment works and domestic gas storage at the above site (Figure 1; NGR Centre: NZ 1703 9681). A heritage impact assessment, geophysical survey, and trial trench evaluation have already been undertaken for the site. Condition 21 outlines a programme of archaeological mitigation works that is now required:

Condition 21

A programme of archaeological work is required in accordance with NCC in accordance with the following requirements:

- Conservation Team (NCCCT) Standards for Archaeological Mitigation and Site-Specific Requirements document (dated 01/10/11). 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

Reason

The site is of archaeological interest.

- 1.2 This document comprises a written scheme of investigation for the scheme of work.

Historical and archaeological background

- 1.3 A detailed heritage impact assessment has been completed for the proposed development¹, the results of that assessment are summarised below.
- 1.4 There are no known heritage assets of prehistoric or Roman date within the site or study area. In the wider surrounding area, flint knapping waste was discovered at West Moor Farm and Thirston. Two Neolithic stone axes were found near Felton and near Thirston, and a potentially Bronze Age or Iron Age barrow was excavated, while a series of enclosures noted as cropmarks on aerial photographs may be Iron Age settlements.
- 1.5 A deserted medieval village has been recorded at Burgham, although no features associated with the villiage are visible above ground. The surrounding area is clustered with traces of former settlements. Eshott Castle, to the north-east of the study area, was built in the medieval period. It presumably had a settlement clustered around it, to provide housing for the owner's estate workers. A medieval pottery kiln near the castle would have provided goods to the surrounding settlements. It is a rare example in North East England outside of a town.
- 1.6 A field boundary recorded on the first edition ordnance survey map of 1866 crosses the site. This former boundary is not visible within the geophysical data. Burgham Park is first noted on Armstrong's Map of Northumberland from 1769 as Burgham Farm, which was depicted as two structures referred to as Buckham, while on Greenwoods Map of 1828 it is referred to as Birgham. By 1975 Burgham Farm appeared slightly expanded with little other change. The golf course was established in the 1990s, and Burgham Farm consequently demolished. A small residential development of approximately 20 dwellings replaced the farm buildings in the early 1990s.

Geophysical survey

- 1.7 Subsequent to the heritage assessment, a geophysical survey² was conducted across the site. The geophysical survey detected magnetically weak curvilinear and linear anomalies that may be agricultural or natural in origin. Other anomalies detected reflect a former plough regime and areas of modern rubble.

Trial trench evaluation

- 1.8 A subsequent archaeological evaluation was undertaken comprising 19 trenches across the site³. Archaeological deposits comprising a shallow gully in trench 6, and a pit and a possible posthole in trench 11. The gully contained a charred palaeoenvironmental assemblage typical of the Iron Age/Romano-British periods. However, the dating evidence for the features is inconclusive. These features did not correspond to anomalies detected in the geophysical survey interpretation.
- 1.9 These features are of archaeological significance and therefore further mitigation is required. Two areas (Figure 2) around the features will therefore be subject to strip map and record excavation.

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

¹ Buschmann, A. 2020 *Burgham Park, Northumberland, Heritage Impact Assessment*. Wardell Armstrong

² Teale, K 2021 *Burgham Park, Northumberland, Archaeological Geophysical Survey*. Wardell Armstrong

³ Archaeological Services 2021 *Burgham Park, Northumberland, archaeological evaluation*. Report 5587

palaeoenvironmental archaeology, artefact conservation, geophysical survey and historic building recording.

- 2.2 Archaeological Services is a leading service provider in the region, where we conduct over 300 projects annually.

Standards

- 2.3 All Archaeological Services project personnel will abide by the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists’ (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014). The works will be conducted in accordance with the CIfA’s Standard and Guidance (2014) and 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 Natalie Swann BSc MA who has considerable experience of archaeological projects of this type gained in northern England over the last 20 years. Suitably qualified and experienced members of our field team will also be assigned to the project.

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. Y016458QBE0122A/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:
- monitoring of soil strip of 2 defined areas
 - mapping of any features/deposits
 - hand-excavation, sampling and recording of archaeological deposits
 - post-excavation assessment and updated project design
 - production of a report on the above
 - archiving

Aims and objectives

- 3.2 Archaeological Services will complete works within the research priorities set out in The updated regional research framework *North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (NERRF 2.0) (<https://researchframeworks.org/nerf/> accessed 16-03-2023). This

project has been designed to address these specific research agendas:

Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Agenda

La2: How can we improve our understanding of late prehistoric settlement and settlement patterns?

La3: How can improve our understanding of late prehistoric landscapes in north-east England?

Roman Agenda

R1: How can we better understand the transition from the Iron Age to the Roman period in NE England?

Archaeological works

Strip, map and record

- 3.3 It is proposed that a programme of strip, map and record excavations comprising two areas is undertaken (Figure 2); this will be centred on the archaeological features identified during the trial trench evaluation in trenches 6 and 11 and includes the area within 10m of the archaeological features:

Area A

This area will measure 400m² and will be positioned in order to follow the projected course of the identified linear gully in trench 6, and the area around.

Area B

This area will measure 600m² and will centre on the two features recorded in trench 11, and the area around.

- 3.4 The SMR excavation sizes and locations may be subject to change if health and safety or other restrictions become apparent on site; if this is the case the Assistant County Archaeologist will be informed.

Contingency

- 3.5 If archaeological deposits/features are identified which go beyond the limits of the SMR excavations then the excavation areas may have to be expanded to identify the extent of the features, typically such that the excavation area extends 10m beyond any significant archaeological features taking into consideration constraints on site such as hedgerows and services. Any such expansion will only be undertaken following discussion and agreement with the client and the Assistant County Archaeologist.
- 3.6 Should significant archaeological remains be shown to continue beyond this 10m buffer, a contingency area of (up to) an additional 20m should be stripped. The extent to which this contingency should be used should be discussed and agreed with the LPA, if necessary, once the initial 10m buffer strips have been completed. Any archaeological remains identified during the process should be excavated and recorded in line with an agreed specification.

Excavation, recording and sampling methodology

- 3.7 Topsoil and overburden will be removed by a back-acting mechanical excavator using a toothless ditching bucket under close archaeological supervision. Any areas of archaeological features will then be cleaned by hand and mapped.
- 3.8 Excavation of any archaeological deposits identified will proceed by hand, using standard archaeological procedures in accordance with our *Recording Manual* (v.5.5 2020). Areas where no archaeological features are present will also be recorded. All suitable deposits will be subject to a palaeoenvironmental sampling strategy, as outlined below.

- 3.9 Archaeological features will be hand-cleaned, sectioned, sample excavated and recorded in plan and section. This will typically comprise up to 20% of linear features, and 50% of discrete features, subject to agreement of any unusual requirements with the Assistant County Archaeologist.
- 3.10 The stratigraphic matrices will be established on site during the course of the works. Trench location, the 3-D provenancing of artefacts, identification of the levels of features and sections, and planning of features will be conducted via a Leica GS15 global navigation satellite system (GNSS) with real-time kinematic (RTK) correction. Hand-drawn plans will be drawn at a scale of 1:20, sections at a scale of 1:10.
- 3.11 Photography will be digital; images may be included in the report as appropriate. Digital images will be captured at a minimum resolution of 10 mega-pixels and saved in an appropriate format for long term storage in accordance with Digital Image Capture and File Storage (Historic England 2015).

Palaeoenvironmental sampling

- 3.12 Bulk palaeoenvironmental samples 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. Industrial residues and waste from craft and manufacturing processes will also be sampled appropriately. The size of sample collected and assessed will depend on the apparent potential value of the deposits, and the size of the feature, typically varying between 5 and 60 litres.

Artefact recovery

- 3.13 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

- 3.14 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

- 3.15 Samples of material suitable for scientific dating techniques including AMS C14 dating (for example, charred seeds from palaeoenvironmental samples) and archaeomagnetism (for example, *in situ* substantively burnt clay from appropriate contexts that are otherwise undated) 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 if necessary.

Human remains

3.16 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 for Northumberland will be informed.

Liaison and monitoring

3.17 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 two site visits may be required.

4. Reporting and archiving

Post-excavation assessment

4.1 At the end of the work on site assessment of the excavated material will be made, following the recommendations of *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* guidance (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 the excavated material. In the first instance the artefactual assemblage will be assessed by the Archaeological Services post-excavation manager and following this other specialists employed by Archaeological Services may be called on 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	Chris Howard-Davies
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	Emily Williams
human bone	Dr Anwen Caffell

The report

4.3 A report will be prepared in a form suitable for use by the client, the planning authority, and Northumberland County Council. A digital copy will be provided in pdf format. Reporting will adhere to the reporting requirements for the Council. All drawn work will be to publication standard. 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 of features / 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 at the Great North Museum 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.

OASIS

- 4.5 Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigationS project (OASIS)**. An OASIS form will be completed for this project. The project report will be uploaded to OASIS within three months of finalisation of the report and will become a publicly accessible document.

Publication

- 4.6 Recommendations for publication will be made if required following completion of the works (including any further schemes of works). 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. Northumberland County Council will have permission to use the report for the purposes of the HER. This may include photocopying by third parties.

Programme

- 4.8 The project can be completed to the following programme:
- following agreement of the WSI the fieldwork can start at anytime, subject to the local planning authority and their archaeological advisors being given sufficient notice
 - it is anticipated that following the completion of fieldwork the project assessment report can be provided within four months
 - an alternative timetable can be arranged


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March 2023

Figure 1: Site location

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 site boundary

0  1km
scale 1:20 000 for A4 plot

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES





DURHAM UNIVERSITY

Burgham Park Golf Course
Felton
Northumberland

archaeological strip, map and record
WSI 23071

Figure 2: Proposed excavation area

0 250m
scale 1:5000 for A3 plot

-  site boundary
-  trench
-  feature
-  proposed excavation areas

