

# Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service

## Specification for Archaeological Trial Trenching at land to the north of the A1290, Sunderland

Planning reference: Pre-application

TWAS reference: MON18340

Date of issue: 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023

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### Introduction

The principles of this specification apply to archaeological fieldwork in Tyne and Wear including evaluation by trial trenching, excavation and archaeological monitoring (watching brief).

### **A Written Scheme of Investigation is not required for this work.**

All fieldwork should be carried out to the relevant standards and guidance produced by the [Chartered Institute for Archaeologists](#), and with reference to the wide range of specialist guidance produced by [Historic England](#), in particular guidance on [Archaeological Science](#) and [Surveying and Recording Heritage](#). An A-Z of Historic England guidance was [published in 2018](#). Projects likely to involve the potential for environmental sampling and other scientific investigation should be discussed with the Historic England [science advisor for the North East](#). If you are unsure which guidance applies, please contact the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer.

In addition, all fieldwork should be carried out in accordance with *Yorkshire, the Humber & the North East: a Regional Statement of Good Practice for Archaeology in the Development Process* (2019, available on request).

This specification is for the archaeological trial trenching at land located to the north of the A1290, Sunderland, NZ 32840 58839.

Archaeological trial trenching is required in advance of determination of future planning application associated with the development of this site in order to understand the potential

impact of the proposal on the significance of any heritage assets with archaeological interest, in accordance with paragraph 194 of the National Planning Policy Framework.



The proposed development area is associated with various archaeological assessments which provide broad overviews of the archaeological potential of a much wider area. One of these assessments comprises of an Aerial Photo and Lidar assessment (Event 4801). In the assessment the presence of possible medieval ridge and furrow, post medieval ridge and furrow, narrow ridge and furrow and field boundaries are identified. In addition to a number of pits and or hollows of possible post medieval origin and a Second World War camp, searchlight battery and anti-landing trenches which were visible on the earlier air photos. A possible Iron Age or Roman enclosure was identified beyond the western boundary of the survey area.

The south-east extent of the proposed development area has previously been subject to a geophysical survey (Event 4708) and archaeological evaluation trial trenches (Event 5155). The geophysical survey was undertaken across 60ha, part of the survey was undertaken within the proposed development area. The survey results showed a series of possible soil-filled features in addition to field boundaries and traces of ridge and furrow. Subsequently trial trenching was undertaken in 2021. A total of six trial trenches were excavated. Plough soil and a series of shallow post-medieval furrows were identified in all six trenches. In the report no further archaeological work is recommended in association with the development of the site.

The remaining site was incorporated into a geophysical survey which was undertaken across a wider area in 2022 by Wardell Armstrong (see 1 below). The geophysical survey was undertaken across c.36ha of arable land. A series of anomalies of possible archaeological origin which may represent cut and infilled pits or pit clusters, and a group of anomalies that appeared to include a penannular form in addition to evidence of probable palaeochannels. The results of the survey also provided evidence of ridge and furrow cultivation, probable former field boundaries and two historic boundaries which are shown on historic Ordnance Survey maps. Archaeological evaluation trial trenches are required to further evaluate the proposed development area.

The appointed contractor must review the following reports before commencing.

1. Wardell Armstrong, 2022, IAMP One Phase 2 Site Extension: Magnetic Gradiometer Survey Report (a copy of this report must be obtained from the developer)
2. Event 4201, 2014/99, Northern Archaeological Associates, Site south of Newcastle Road (A184) and west of A19, West Boldon - Archaeological Assessment
3. Event 4801, 2018/86, Alison Deegan, Air Photo and Lidar Mapping and Interpretation, IAMP TWO, Sunderland
4. Event 4709, 2017/124, Archaeological Services Durham University, IAMP, Phase 1, Sunderland - Geophysical Survey
5. Event 5155, 2021/24, AD Archaeology, Land at West Moor Farm, Usworth, IAMP one Phase 2, Sunderland: Archaeological Evaluation.

## **Aims**

The overall aim of the project is to understand the significance of the archaeology and inform future planning decisions. The project should investigate the extent, character and chronology of the archaeological features present on the site, in order to understand and interpret them with reference to comparable sites.

The project should be carried out with reference to the relevant research agendas of the revised [North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment \(NERRF\)](#) (2023) such as but not exclusive to the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age Agenda, Medieval research agenda of the published NERRF which includes key research priorities such as La3: How can improve our understanding of late prehistoric landscapes in north-east England?, MD21: How can we better understand medieval field systems? which may be addressed in part by this project. Other relevant research frameworks can be found at the [Research Frameworks Network](#).

## **Monitoring by Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service**

The fieldwork will be monitored by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer. The Archaeological Contractor must give as much written notice as possible of the start of fieldwork, and keep the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer informed of progress, so that a site visit can be arranged if required.

## **Health and Safety**

The appointed contractor must produce a risk assessment, or RAMS (Risk Assessment and Method Statement) if required by a main contractor, in line with legislative requirements and industry best practice. Health and Safety will always take priority over archaeological requirements. If any elements of the fieldwork cannot be completed due to health and safety issues, this should be clearly stated in the report.

## **Methodology**

The archaeological fieldwork must be undertaken by professional archaeologists with proven experience of undertaking similar projects, and with appropriate skills and experience to undertake work to the highest professional standards.

**Trial Trenching** - The appointed archaeological contractor is to produce a proposed trench layout which is to be approved by the Tyne and Wear archaeological officer prior to the commencement of works. The number of trenches should be equivalent to c.42 trial trenches measuring 1.5m by 25m in plan (or c.1% of the proposed development area which has not been previously subject to trial trenching). If site conditions constrain the trial trenching, the location or size of the trenches may be varied in consultation with the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer.

Removal of topsoil or overburden by machine to the level of archaeological deposits or natural subsoil must be carried out using a toothless ditching bucket, except when ground conditions make a toothed bucket necessary. Machine work must be supervised by an archaeologist. Exposed archaeological deposits and structures must be cleaned by hand.

Trial trenching – Larger features should be sampled at 50% and smaller features at 100%, unless they may be so significant as to merit preservation *in situ*. All stratigraphic relationships should be investigated where it is possible to do so within the confines of the trench. Where related features extend outside trenches, consideration should be given to extending trial trenches. Burials should be recorded and left in place unless they are known to be under threat of imminent disturbance such as planned geotechnical site investigation.

## **Sampling**

All fills and deposits should be assessed for their potential for environmental sampling and scientific dating, and samples taken accordingly. Archaeological deposits may have the potential for the preservation of a wide range of environmental evidence, as discussed in the [Historic England guidance](#), and specialist advice should be sought prior to and during all projects. Consideration should be given to the nature of the site and the potential for preservation by factors such as waterlogging. Scientific dating is particularly important for sites with little or no artefactual evidence.

## **Recording**

The written record of archaeological features, stratigraphy, finds and samples should be undertaken using *pro forma* indices and record sheets, according to industry standards. Drawings (plans, sections and elevations) should be produced at standard scales as appropriate (1:10, 1:20, 1:50, 1:100 etc.). References to cardinal directions should use the [standard 16 point system](#) with no further subdivision. All site survey and the site location should be tied in to the British National Grid, and heights recorded relative to ordnance datum.

Digital photographs should be taken using a high-resolution DSLR camera with sensors exceeding 10 Mega Pixels, producing either TIFF files or RAW files which must be

converted to TIFF before archive deposition. The photographs should be recorded in an index recording the image number, subject, any scales used, direction facing, date the picture was taken and who took it.

All photographs should be in focus, with an appropriate use of depth of field; they should be adequately exposed in good natural light, or where necessary well-lit by artificial means (not by camera-triggered electronic flash). The use of a tripod is recommended, particularly for the interior of buildings.

## **Finds**

Bulk finds (pottery, animal bone etc.) should be collected by context. Small finds (metal objects, worked pottery sherds, worked bone etc.) should be recorded and located individually. Finds should be packed and stored to ensure minimal deterioration before their removal from site, according to the guidance in *First Aid for Finds* (D Watkinson and V Neal, third edition 2001, RESCUE/UKIC). A new edition of *First Aid for Finds* is expected in [summer 2022](#).

For sites where large assemblages are anticipated, a selection strategy should be developed prior to fieldwork starting. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists has produced a [Toolkit](#) to assist in the production of a strategy.

## **Human Remains**

Human remains must be treated with dignity and respect by all parties on site including non-archaeological contractors, and in accordance with [Historic England advice](#). Excavation areas should be shielded from public view where necessary. Where human remains are known to be present, an osteoarchaeologist should be involved in the project from the outset.

The excavation of human remains requires a licence from the [Ministry of Justice](#). Where human remains are found unexpectedly, a licence must be obtained before proceeding with excavation. If human remains are known to be present a licence should be obtained in advance of fieldwork.

In Christian burial grounds under Church of England jurisdiction a faculty is required rather than a licence, and reburial is generally carried out following any scientific investigation. The guidance issued by the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE) regarding [best practice](#) should be followed.

## **Treasure**

Any finds which might fall under the [Treasure Act 1996](#) must be reported to the Coroner in whose district they were found within 14 days of discovery and to the [regional Finds Liaison Officer](#).

## **Post-fieldwork assessment, analysis and reporting**

Post-fieldwork assessment, analysis and reporting must be carried out to the relevant standards and guidance produced by the [Chartered Institute for Archaeologists](#), and with reference to the wide range of specialist guidance produced by [Historic England](#). All site records must be ordered, checked for internal consistency, quantified and indexed. All classes of artefacts and ecofacts must be assessed by suitably qualified and experienced specialists and consideration given to the potential for further analysis.

The report must contain the following sections as a minimum:

1. Non-technical summary
2. Introduction
3. Aims and objectives
4. Methodology
5. Results
6. Conclusions
7. Archive location
8. Appendices, including a copy of this specification
9. Illustrations
10. References and bibliography

The report must be submitted digitally as a pdf and as a bound paper report to the Tyne and Wear HER.

## **Publication**

Significant archaeological sites will require publication in a regional or national journal (such as [Archaeologia Aeliana](#), the [Durham Archaeological Journal](#), the [Arbeia Journal](#), or [Industrial Archaeology Review](#)) as appropriate. Other forms of public engagement and dissemination such as site open days, popular publications and interpretation panels may also be required for some sites.

## **Archive**

Following assessment and reporting, the physical archive including all site records and retained artefacts and ecofacts must be prepared in accordance with the [ClfA Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives](#), and with the requirements of the receiving body. For Tyne and Wear these are:

- Great North Museum: Hancock for Hadrian's Wall and the medieval town of Newcastle (contact Keeper of Archaeology [andrew.parkin@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.parkin@newcastle.ac.uk)).
- Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums for the rest of Tyne and Wear (Gateshead, outer Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland) (contact Alex Croom at Arbeia Roman Fort 0191 277 1410).

The Great North Museum: Hancock charges a fee for archive deposition as described in the [Archaeological Archive Deposition Policy](#).

The physical archive should be deposited with a second copy of the bound paper report.

The digital archive including all photographs, CAD files etc. must be submitted to the Tyne and Wear HER on an archive quality CD, and archived with the [Archaeology Data Service \(ADS\)](#). The likely cost of archiving with the ADS and their requirements for archived material should be established before tendering for the project. Proof of archiving with the ADS will be required by the Tyne and Wear HER. The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists has produced a [Toolkit](#) to help support those managing digital data.

The project must be registered with [OASIS](#) in order to signpost the project nationally, and the reference number included in the report.

**If you have any queries about this specification, require full website links or notice any broken links, please contact the officer named above.**