

SITE ADJACENT TO THE WHITE HOUSE
HARBOTTLE
NORTHUMBERLAND

Project Design an Archaeological Strip Map and Sample

Prepared by

The Archaeological Practice Ltd.



March 2014

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION
2. FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY
4. EXECUTION OF THE SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
4. TIMETABLE AND STAFFING

ILLUSTRATIONS

Cover: View from the south-east across the proposed development site adjacent to the White House.

Illus. 01: Site Location, showing the site of evaluation trenches excavated in 2006.

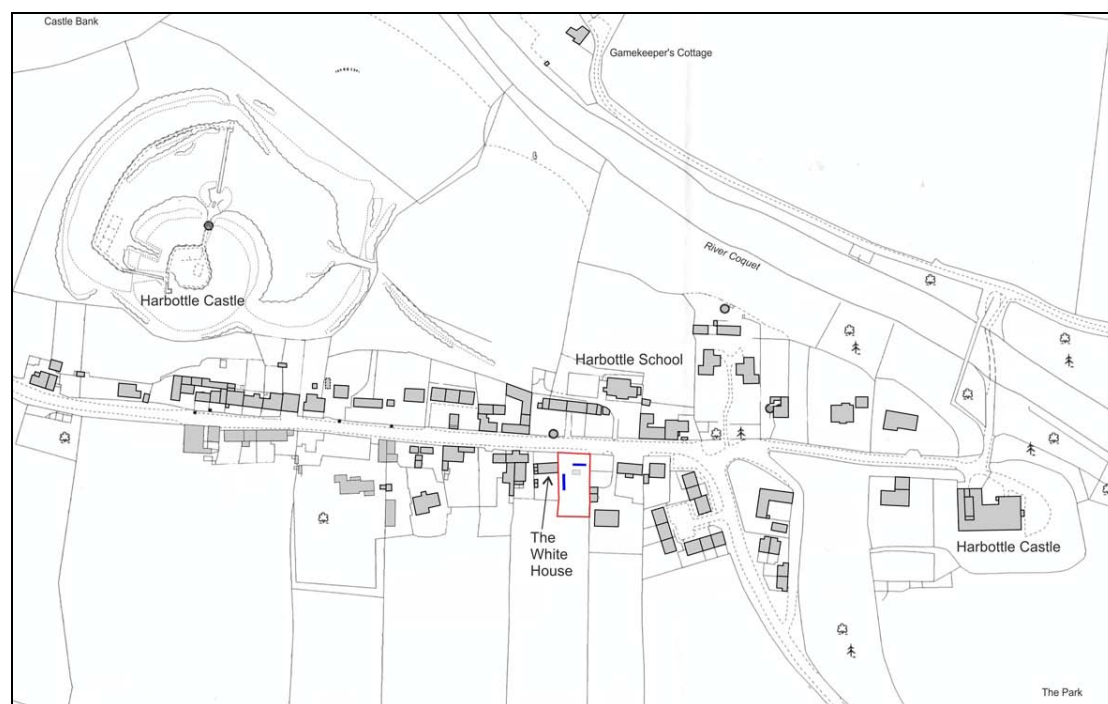
Illus. 02: Extract from the 1817 Harbottle Inclosure Map, with site boundary transposed.

Illus. 03: Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey plan (c1860), with site boundary transposed

Illus. 04: Evaluation Trenches 1 (below) and 2 (above) excavated on the site in 2006.

1. INTRODUCTION

The following represents a project design for a programme of archaeological investigation to mitigate the impact of proposed development works on land adjacent to The White House in Harbottle, Northumberland. It is based upon the advice of the NNPA Historic Environment Officer in line with Policy 18 of the NNPA Local Development Framework and established best practice.



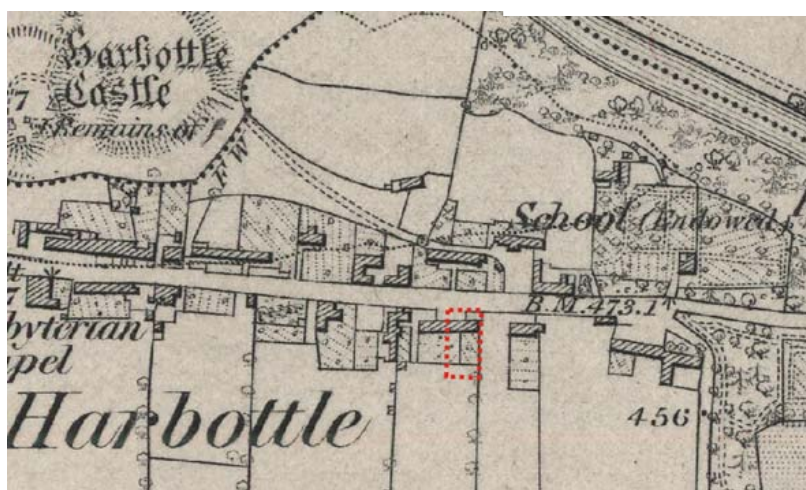
Illus. 01: Site Location, showing the site of evaluation trenches excavated in 2006.

In 2006, a programme of archaeological evaluation trenching was conducted on the site to inform a proposal for the construction of a residential property on the east side of the White House (TAP 2006 Site Adjacent to the White House, Harbottle, Northumberland: Report on an Archaeological Evaluation – unpublished report for Mr Andrew Davison). Previous documentary work had provided contextual information regarding the archaeological and historical development of the area, demonstrating the likelihood that it was the focus of intensive human activity in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. The trenching was devised to determine the precise impact of the proposed scheme on the cultural heritage of the site.

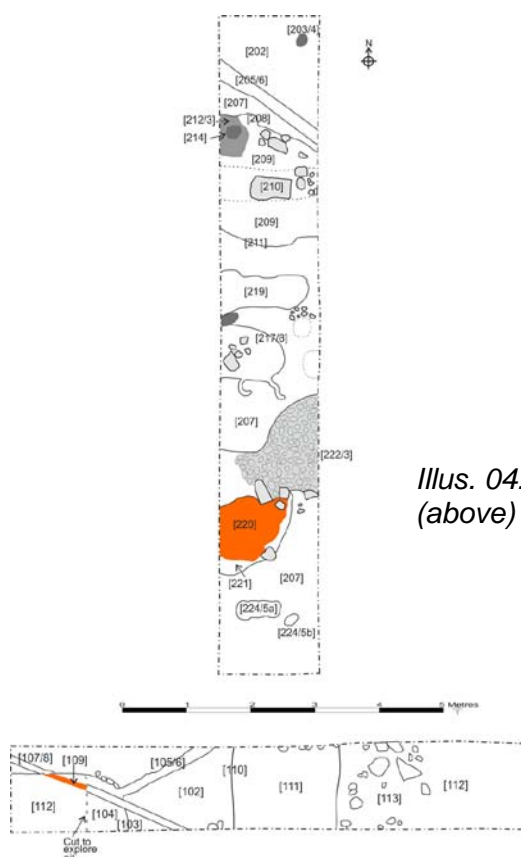
The investigation of the site by archaeological trenching revealed structural remains associated with medieval pottery at depths between 0.5 and 0.8m below the present ground surface. In the roadside trench (Trench 1) a shallow ditch and possible wall or remains of a surface were found. These insubstantial remains were not diagnostic of any particular activity, although it is likely on the basis of historic map evidence and remains found in Trench 2 that the south row of the medieval settlement crossed this area. In the southern trench (Trench 2) various features were recorded, some associated with medieval pottery, including a substantial ditch, postholes, pits, a cobble-filled soakaway, and a substantial oven base. Such features are indicative of activities likely to have occurred in the back-plots of a medieval settlement.



Illus. 02: Extract from the 1817 Harbottle Inclosure Map, with site boundary transposed.



Illus. 03: Extract from the 1st edition Ordnance Survey plan (c1860), with site boundary transposed



Illus. 04: Evaluation Trenches 1 (below) and 2 (above) excavated on the site in 2006.

It is likely that remains similar to those encountered during the evaluation excavations occur elsewhere on the site and in other parts of Harbottle village where post-medieval disturbance has been light, particularly on the south side of the road where the topography facilitates settlement and presumed medieval plot divisions survive.

On the basis of historic map evidence and the excavations carried out, it was concluded that the north part of the site has been disturbed by the construction and later demolition of the former extension to the present White House, the eastern part of which formerly extended into this area. The south part of the site appears to be less disturbed, although upstanding features such as the suggested oven and boundary features appear to have been truncated. It was recommended on the basis of the evaluation excavations and supporting historical information that a recording strategy should be implemented to mitigate the impact of the intended development.

Accordingly, the Northumberland National Park Archaeologist has advised that a programme of archaeological 'strip, map and sample' be undertaken to mitigate the impact of development works associated with the construction of a new residential development and associated servicing and landscaping works on the site. The purpose of archaeological 'strip, map and sample' is to expose and plan any features on the site considered to be of archaeological significance, then to excavate a sample of these in order to fully understand the character, date and phasing of those archaeological remains.

This project design responds to the advice of the Northumberland National Park Archaeologist and has been prepared for the developer and NNPA indicating how it is proposed to investigate and record any remains of archaeological significance found to survive within the site.

2. SCHEME OF STRIP AND RECORD WORKS

A programme of evaluation fieldwork sufficient to establish the character and quality of any surviving archaeological features, such as those identified above, is described below. It is proposed to carry out this investigation by archaeological 'strip, map and sample', opening the areas to be subject to invasive development works at or below the top of the underlying sub-soil in order to determine the character and state of survival of any archaeological features found to exist there.

Given the nature of archaeological remains found on the site during evaluation works in 2006, the NNPA Archaeologist has advised that a wider area than the foundation trenches should be investigated to allow for the proper interpretation of features in context. It is also possible that remains within the footprint of the building (particularly organic remains) will be subject to compression and/or drying due to changes in the hydrology of the site caused by the proposed development, leading to a preference for recording them prior to their damage or destruction. Strip, map and sample is an established method of recording archaeological remains without recourse to full scale open area excavation.

2.1 Location of Map, Strip and Sample

It is proposed to investigate the footprint of the building as well as drain runs and other areas subject to the removal of topsoil down to sub-soil level. The location of the parcel of land subject to groundworks is shown highlighted on *Illus 01*, but only that part of the site subject to construction or drainage works should be subject to archaeological 'strip, map and sample'.

2.2 Aims of Strip, map and sample

The aim of the strip, map and sample programme is to record all and any archaeological features present on the site, sufficient to establish the date, character, form, stratigraphic relationships and state of survival of archaeological features to be understood, and to preserve by record. This process will typically involve significantly less intrusive excavation than would be required under full excavation conditions but potentially more than would be required for a watching brief. The strip, map and sample process is considered proportionate when dealing with archaeological remains of limited significance, in order to record these in full. However, this process is not considered appropriate to fully record features of high importance revealed in abundance over a wide area.

3. METHOD OF INVESTIGATION

3.1 General

3.1.1 The Field Investigation will be carried out by means of Archaeological Excavation following the standard procedure known as 'strip-map recording'. Strip map recording and sampling is a method of archaeological excavation applied to preserve archaeological remains by record in the face of development threat. It involves machine stripping of an area, plotting observed features onto a site plan and then excavating a sample of any such features in order to determine their character and state of survival.

3.1.2 Any remains of importance found to exist within the development area during the first phase of archaeological work will be exposed and recorded

appropriately. The process of recording will include excavation if the features exposed are limited in extent and can be excavated within a reasonable timescale.

3.1.3 In the event of the discovery of remains which in the opinion of the site archaeologist are of greater importance, number and extent than can be dealt with properly within the above timescale, then work will cease and a representative of the developer and the NNPA notified. The Historic Environment Officer will advise on the nature of further archaeological recording work or preservation in situ required to mitigate the impacts of development. Any further work requested will be undertaken in line with a supplemental or updated WSI, which would be approved by the NNPA Archaeologist, but will not exceed the period of up to 50 days additional to the strip map record as allowed for in the contingency requested by the NNPA Archaeologist.

3.1.4 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and will follow the IFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations.

3.1.5 All archaeological staff will be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. Before commencement of work they will have been made aware of what work is required under the specification and they will understand the aims and methodologies of the project.

3.2 Soil-stripping

3.2.1 The setting out of the evaluation site will be undertaken by the developer.

3.2.2 All areas subject to evaluation will be surface-stripped by machine in spits, under close archaeological supervision, to the maximum depths agreed as part of the works schedule. Excavation, recording and sampling procedures will be undertaken using the strategies indicated below. All mechanical excavation will be supervised by, and all manual excavation carried out by archaeologically competent staff.

3.2.3 Topsoil and unstratified modern material will be removed mechanically down to the first significant archaeological horizon in shallow, level spits **using an appropriate machine with a wide toothless ditching blade**, under close archaeological supervision. No machinery will be allowed to track over areas that have previously been stripped. During this process careful inspection of the material being removed and surfaces revealed will be made for any features or small finds revealed.

3.2.4 It is anticipated that the topsoil stripping subject to monitoring will only relate to the area where the ground level is to be reduced. However, should the fill area to the north, where the spoil is to be deposited, or any other parts of the development site be subject to preparatory engineering/groundworks, which might potentially intrude below the current ploughsoil horizon, then these areas too will be subject to monitoring and, if necessary, follow-on excavation of the kind detailed in section 3.3 below.

3.3 Recording and excavation

3.3.1 On completion of machine excavation to the required depth, the faces and floors of the excavated area will be inspected and, where appropriate, cleaned using appropriate hand tools. The full nature and extent of archaeological features and deposits will be exposed and areas containing archaeological features and deposits

will be recorded on a pre-excavation plan within the Strip and Record area. A limited sampling of the archaeological features revealed may also be undertaken for the purposes of record and to assess their character, extent, survival and age. Any sampling procedure associated with the process of recording will take place over a period of up to 2 days, but will not replace the requirement to carry out a second phase of excavation within the 50 person day contingency stipulated by the NNPA Archaeologist. No other development or earthmoving will be undertaken before consent has been granted by the NNPA Archaeologist.

3.3.2 In the event that stratigraphic relationships or artefactual dating evidence cannot be recovered from archaeological features via the initial sampling process, limited supplemental targeted excavation may be required. Any such work will be subject to agreement between the developer and the NNPA Archaeologist. A contingency allowance of 50 days has been stipulated by the NNPA Archaeologist for any additional work required under these circumstances.

3.3.3 Any features of potential archaeological significance revealed by the process of stripping will be planned, photographed and cleaned. All excavation of archaeological horizons will be carried out by hand.

3.3.4 Sufficient of any archaeological features and deposits identified will be excavated by hand through a sampling procedure to enable their date, nature, extent and condition to be described. Pits and postholes will normally be sampled by half-sectioning although some features may require complete excavation. This process will typically require, as a maximum, the following level of sampling:

- 50% of every discrete feature and features of particular interest
- 10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill
- 5% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a uniform fill

No archaeological deposits will be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable.

3.3.5 Archaeological stratigraphy revealed by excavation will be recorded by the following means:

3.3.6.1 Written descriptions. Each archaeological context will be recorded on a pro-forma sheet. Minimum recorded details will consist of the following: a unique identifier; an objective description which includes measurements of extent and details of colour and composition; an interpretative estimate of function, clearly identified as such; at least one absolute height value; the identifiers of related contexts and a description of the relationship with such contexts (for preference, executed as a mini Harris matrix); references to other recording media in which representations of the context are held (plans, sections, photographs).

3.3.6.3 Measured illustrations. Detail plans and sectional profiles of archaeological features will be at appropriate scales (1:20 or 1:10). Archaeological contexts will be referenced by their unique identifiers. All illustrations will be properly identified, scaled and referenced to the site survey control.

3.3.6.4 Photographs. Digital photographs will be taken for purposes of record. Any features of archaeological note will also be recorded on colour film stock. A system will be used for identifying the archaeological features photographed.

3.3.7 An appropriate control network for the survey of any archaeological remains revealed in excavation will be established.

3.3.8 The survey control network will be related to the OS grid.

3.3.9 The survey control network and the position of recorded structures, features and finds will be located on a map of an appropriate scale (1:2500 or 1:500)

3.3.10 At least one absolute height value related to OD will be recorded for each archaeological context.

3.3.11 All processing, storage and conservation of finds will be carried out in compliance with the relevant IFA and UKIC (United Kingdom Institute of Conservation) guidelines.

3.3.12 Portable remains will be removed by hand; all artifacts encountered will be recovered.

3.4 Environmental Sampling and Scientific Dating

3.4.1 The investigations will be undertaken in a manner consistent with “The Management of Archaeological Projects”, English Heritage 1991 and with “Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions: Best Practice for Curators and Commissioning Archaeologists”, English Heritage, 2003. The following strategy for environmental sampling will be confirmed with Jacqui Huntley, English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (0191 3341137 or 07713 400387) before the excavation begins.

3.4.2 Deposits/fills with potential for environmental evidence will be assessed by taking up to two bulk samples of 30 litres from any context selected for analysis by the excavator from suitable (i.e. uncontaminated) deposits. Deposits/fills totalling less than 30 litres in volume will be sampled in their entirety. Six of the collected samples which are judged to be most suitable on grounds of being derived from uncontaminated and reasonably well-dated deposits and/or recognisable features will be selected for full analysis, reporting and publication.

3.4.3 Deposits will be sampled for remains of pollen, food residues, microfossils, small boned ecofacts (e.g. fish & insects/micro-fauna), industrial residues (e.g. micro-slugs - hammer-scale and spherical droplets), cloth and timber. Flotation samples and samples taken for coarse-mesh sieving from dry deposits will be processed at the time of fieldwork wherever possible.

3.4.4 Any significant ecofactual assemblages will be assessed by a recognised specialist.

3.4.5 Deposits will be assessed for their potential for radiocarbon, archaeo-magnetic and Optically Stimulated Luminescence dating. As well as providing information on construction techniques, timbers will be assessed for their potential for dendrochronology dating, in which case sampling will follow procedures in *Dendrochronology: guidelines on producing and interpreting dendrochronological dates* (Hillam 1998) and *Guidelines on the recording, sampling, conservation and curation of waterlogged wood* (R. Brunning 1996). A maximum of 5 samples of material suitable for dating by scientific means (e.g. Radiocarbon, Luminescence, Remnant Magnetism, etc.) will be collected.

3.4.6 In the event that hearths, kilns or ovens (of whatever period, date or function) are identified, provision will be made to collect at least one archaeo-magnetic date to

be calculated from each individual hearth surface (or in the case of domestic dwellings sites a minimum of one per building identified). Where applicable, samples will be collected from the site and processed by a suitably trained specialist for dating purposes. In the event that such deposits or structures are identified, the NNPA Archaeologist will be contacted to discuss the appropriate response.

3.4.6 Information on the nature and history of the site, aims and objectives of the project, summary of archaeological results, context types and stratigraphic relationships, phase and dating information, sampling and processing methods, sample locations, preservation conditions, residuality/contamination, etc. will be provided with each sample submitted for analysis.

3.4.7 Laboratory processing of samples shall only be undertaken if deposits are found to be reasonably well dated, or linked to recognisable features and from contexts the derivation of which can be understood with a degree of confidence.

3.4.8 Human remains will be treated with care, dignity and respect, in full compliance with the relevant legislation (essentially the Burial Act 1857) and local environmental health concerns. If found, human remains will be left in-situ, covered and protected, and the police, coroner and NNPA Archaeologist informed. If it is agreed that removal of the remains is essential, the Archaeological Practice Ltd, will apply for a licence from the Home Office. Analysis of the osteological material will take place according to published guidelines, *Human Remains from Archaeological Sites, Guidelines for producing assessment documents and analytical reports* (English Heritage 2002).

3.4.9 If anything is found which could be Treasure, under the Treasure Act 1996, it is a legal requirement to report it to the local coroner within 14 days of discovery. The Archaeological Practice Ltd. will comply with the procedures set out in The Treasure Act 1996. Any treasure will be reported to the coroner and to The Portable Antiquities Scheme Finds Liaison Officer, Rob Collins (0191 2225076 or Robert.Collins@newcastle.ac.uk) for guidance on the Treasure Act procedures. Treasure is defined as the following:

- Any metallic object, other than a coin, provided that at least 10% by weight of metal is precious metal and that is at least 300 years old when found
- Any group of two or more metallic objects of any composition of prehistoric date that come from the same find
- All coins from the same find provided that they are at least 300 years old when found, but if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least ten
- Any object, whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or had previously been together with, another object that is Treasure
- Any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. Only objects that are less than 300 years old, that are made substantially of gold or silver, that have been deliberately hidden with the intention of recovery and whose owners or heirs are unknown will come into this category

3.5 Analysis and Reporting of Recovered Data

3.5.1 Following the completion of the Field Investigation and before any of the post-excavation work is commenced, an archive (the Site Archive) containing all the data

gathered during fieldwork will be prepared. This material will be quantified, ordered, indexed and rendered internally consistent. It will be prepared according to the guidelines given in English Heritage's MAP 2 document, Appendix 3 (English Heritage 1991).

3.5.2 Following completion of the Field Investigation, a report will be prepared collating and synthesizing the structural, artefactual and environmental data relating to each agreed component part of the evaluation works.

3.6 Production of Final Report

3.6.1 Copies of the report will be provided within two months of the completion of fieldwork to the developer and the NNPA Archaeologist.

3.6.2 Three copies of the report will be provided. Each will be bound, with each page and heading numbered. Any further copies required will be produced electronically. The report will include as a minimum the following:

- Oasis and planning reference numbers.

- A summary statement of methodologies used.

- A location plan of the site and any archaeological discoveries of note.

- A summary statement of results.

- Conclusions

- Recommendations

- A table summarizing the deposits, features, classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and spot dating of significant finds.

3.6.3 The report will finish with a section detailing recommendations for further archaeological work needed to mitigate the effects of the development upon any significant deposits revealed during the evaluation or if necessary, for further evaluation. This will be drawn up in consultation with the NNPA Archaeologist.

3.6.4 Following completion of the analysis and publication phase of the work, an archive (the Research Archive) containing all the data derived from the work done during the analysis phase will be prepared. The archive will be prepared to the standard specified by English Heritage (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute of Conservation guidelines.

3.6.5 Arrangements will be made to deposit the Site Archive (including Finds) and the Research Archive with the designated curatorial authority, Northumberland NNPA/County HER, within 6 months of the end of the fieldwork. Additionally, a copy shall be offered to the National Monuments Record (NMR).

3.7 Dissemination and Publication of Results of Archaeological Works

3.7.1 An entry for inclusion in the Northumberland County Sites and Monuments Record will be prepared and submitted.

3.7.2 Summary reports of the project will be prepared, if necessary, for inclusion in the appropriate Notices, Annual Reviews, Reports, etc.

3.7.3 In particular a summary of the results of the investigation will be prepared for *Archaeology in Northumberland* and submitted to the NNPA Archaeologist and

Northumberland County Council HER Officer, by December of the year in which the work is completed.

3.7.4 A short report on the work will be submitted to a local academic journal if appropriate.

3.7.5 OASIS: The Archaeological Contractor will complete the online form for the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations Project (OASIS), following consultation with the NNPA Archaeologist/Northumberland HER Officer. The Contractor agrees to the procedure whereby the information on the form will be placed in the public domain on the OASIS website, following submission of the final report (see 3.6) into the Northumberland County HER.

4. EXECUTION OF THE SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

4.1 The Developer has appointed The Archaeological Practice Ltd. as a professionally competent Archaeological Contractor, on agreed terms, to execute the scheme as set out in the brief supplied by the NNPA Archaeologist.

4.2 The present project design must be submitted for approval and, if necessary, modification by the NNPA Archaeologist before work on-site can proceed.

4.3 The Developer will allow the NNPA Archaeologist and the appointed contractor all reasonable access to the site for the purposes of monitoring the archaeological scheme, subject only to safety requirements.

4.4 The archaeological contractor appointed to manage the execution of the scheme shall ensure that:

4.4.1 the appropriate parties are informed of the objectives, timetable and progress of the archaeological work

4.4.2 the progress of the work is adequately and effectively monitored and the results of this are communicated to the appropriate parties.

4.4.3 significant problems in the execution of the scheme are communicated at the earliest opportunity to the appropriate parties in order to effect a resolution.

4.5 The archaeological contractor will carry, and will ensure that other archaeological contractors involved in the scheme carry appropriate levels of insurance cover in respect of Employers Liability, Public and Third Party Liability & Professional Indemnity.

4.6 The archaeological contractor will liaise with the appointed CDM Planning Supervisor and prepare or arrange for the preparation of a Safety Plan for the archaeological work.

4.7 At or before the commencement of the scheme the Developer, the appointed Archaeological Contractors, the NNPA Archaeologist and other appropriate parties will agree arbitration procedures to be followed in the event of any unresolvable difficulties or disputes arising from the scheme

4.8 Careful assessment has led to the definition of a number of research objectives which identify with a high degree of likelihood the kind of archaeological

deposits which the investigation will encounter. Nevertheless, it is possible that discoveries will be made which could not reasonably have been foreseen on the basis of all the information currently available. Any difficulties arising from unforeseen discoveries will be resolved by discussion between all parties involved.

4.9 The Archaeological Contractor(s) appointed to execute the scheme will procure and comply with all statutory consents and licences under the Disused Burial Grounds (Amendment) Act 1981 regarding the exhumation and interment of any human remains discovered within the site, and will comply with all reasonable requirements of any church or other religious body or civil body regarding the manner and method of removal, re-interment or cremation of the human remains, and the removal and disposal of any tombstones or other memorials discovered within the site. The Developer will incur all costs resulting from such compliance.

5. TIMETABLE AND STAFFING

5.1 Phase I

It is estimated that the excavation and recording work will require an archaeological fieldworker over a period of up to 5 days, and a survey team comprising two archaeologists to record the results for an additional day.

5.2 Phase II

Following the initial phase of stripping and recording, further fieldwork time may be required to excavate some of the features revealed. Any such work will be carried out only following consultation with the NNPA Archaeologist and the developer, and will be completed within a 50 day 'contingency' period stipulated.

5.3 Reporting and analysis

Following the completion of on-site work, further time will be required to produce an appropriately illustrated report on the work.

The potential requirement for specialist analyses is an unavoidable risk in all such excavations. The scientific investigation of any features/deposits which are considered significant will be undertaken as a non-negotiable part of this programme. Any such analyses would be carried out by specialists and priced to the client on a costs only basis.

5.4 Personnel:

Archaeological Practice Sub-Contractors

PA: Project Archaeologist Environmental analysis: ASUD
(Richard Carlton)

*AA: Assistant
Archaeologist (Marc
Johnstone, Michael
Parsons & Michael
Coates)*

*Finds analysis:
RY: Rob Young
LAJ: Lindsay Allason-Jones
JV: Jenny Vaughan*