

**HARTON QUAYS,  
SOUTH SHIELDS,  
TYNE AND WEAR**

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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION REPORT**

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**MARCH 2021**

PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

## Harton Quays, South Shields, Tyne and Wear

Site Code: HQS21

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**HARTON QUAYS, SOUTH SHIELDS, TYNE AND WEAR**

**EVALUATION REPORT**

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## **1. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology were commissioned by Prospect Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Ryder Architecture Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land at Harton Quays, South Shields, centred at National Grid Reference NZ 3594 6691 (Figure 1). This work was undertaken in advance of a planning application associated with a commercial development for a new office building with basement car parking.
- 1.2 The area under investigation involved the footprint of the proposed new office building located within the northern part of the overall development site (Figure 1 & 2). At the time of writing the area under investigation was situated within an area of hardstanding that formed the surface of a former car parking area.
- 1.3 The aim was to identify if heritage assets were present and to establish the significance of any such assets. Specifically, the archaeological interest for the site is for the medieval and post-medieval industrial periods. Although St Hilda's Church is located c. 130 north-east of the proposed development, the known boundary of its churchyard extended into the northern extent of the site. The site also lies within the area of the medieval town however the form and extent of any development for the medieval period is unknown. Therefore, there was potential for the survival of post-medieval and/or medieval burials, and medieval occupation at the site. The 18th-century Cookson's Glassworks was located to the west of the site, however, two glass ovens were constructed in the northern part the site in the 19th century. An earlier phase of archaeological work involving the monitoring of geotechnical test pits encountered structural remains in the southern part of the overall proposed development that probably represent elements of the 19th-century glassworks.
- 1.4 The trial trenching evaluation comprised two trial trenches (Trenches 1 & 2) sited within the footprint of the proposed new office building. The trenches had dimensions of c. 6m x 10m to allow stepping to achieve safe excavations at depth.
- 1.5 Three phases of activity were encountered: Phase 1: Superficial Geology; Phase 2: Undated levelling activity and Phase 3: Modern No features or deposits of archaeological significance were identified during the evaluation.

## **2. INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Project Background**

- 2.1.1 This report details the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken on land at Harton Quays, South Shields, Tyne and Wear (NZ 3594 6691). The archaeological work was undertaken between 24th –26th February 2021 in association with a proposed planning application for a new office building and basement car parking (Planning Ref. ST/1070/20/LAA).
- 2.1.2 At the time of writing the area under investigation, comprising the location of the footprint of the proposed new office building, was within an area of hard standing within the northern part of the overall proposed development (Figure 1 & 2). The archaeological investigation was commissioned by Prospect Archaeology Ltd on behalf of Ryder Architecture Ltd and undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA).
- 2.1.3 The scope of works for the archaeological evaluation was set out in a WSI produced by Prospect Archaeology (Prospect Archaeology 2021) and approved by the Tyne and Wear Archaeological Services prior to commencement of work. The aim of the evaluation was to clarify the presence, nature, date, extent and significance of any archaeological remains that might be present in the areas of proposed impact. Two trenches (Trenches 1 & 2) were mechanically excavated.
- 2.1.4 The Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigation (OASIS) reference number of the project is preconst1-417668.

### **2.2 Site Location and Description**

- 2.2.1 The proposed development area is located between the streets known as Mill Dam and Harton Quays at central NGR NZ 3594 6691 (Figures 1). The overall site is irregularly shaped and bounded by the Harton Quay to the north & west and by a brick wall & Mill Dam to the south & east (Figure 2). The site comprises an area of rough grass to the south and an area of gravel and concrete hard standing to the north, totalling c. 0.5 hectares. The lower portion of a former chimney is located within the southern end of the site and an electricity sub-station is located on the western boundary centrally. The area under investigation was the northern portion of the overall site within the footprint of the proposed new building.

### **2.3 Geology and Topography**

- 2.3.1 The solid geology of the site is mudstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation. Superficial deposits predominantly consist of Claciolacustrine Devensian clay and silt (British Geological Survey website).
- 2.3.2 The area under investigation was flat and level, occurring at maximum and minimum heights of 62.96m AOD and 61.49m AOD, respectively.

- 2.3.3 The ground slopes from c. 10.50m AOD in the northeast down to c. 5.50m AOD to the southwest. A grassy mound lies to the east of the substation. Concrete blocks prevent vehicular access and a number of rocks have been piled up adjacent to the entrance and the sub-station.

## **2.4 Planning Background**

- 2.4.1 The requirement to undertake the archaeological investigation is in line with planning policy at a national level, as set out in the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF) (Department for Communities and Local Government 2019). Chapter 16 of the NPPF 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment' describes, in paragraph 185, how LPAs should '...set out in their Local Plan a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment' and details, in paragraph 189, that '*In determining applications, LPAs should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum, the relevant [Historic Environment Record] HER should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed included or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, LPAs should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and where necessary [the results of] a field evaluation*'.
- 2.4.2 Paragraph 199 of the NPPF also states that: '*Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted*'.
- 2.4.3 In accordance with paragraph 189 of the National Planning Policy Framework the Local Planning Authority required the applicant to provide further information about the heritage asset that will be impacted by the proposed works. An archaeological trial trench was required in order to inform a decision about whether further archaeological work will be required in relation to the proposed works.
- 2.4.4 Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service has responsibility for archaeological development control in relation to the historic environment. The scope of works for the archaeological evaluation were set out in a WSI compiled by Prospect Archaeology Ltd and approved by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service prior to commencement of work.

## 2.5 Archaeological and Historical Background

2.5.1 Information in this section has been extracted from the desk Based Heritage Assessment undertaken by Prospect Archaeology Ltd (Prospect Archaeology 2020). The research and writing of those responsible is acknowledged.

### Prehistoric (before c. AD 70)

2.5.2 No prehistoric finds are recorded within the study area although there are records of prehistoric material from within the area of the Roman fort, including Mesolithic flints, Neolithic structures, Bronze Age artefacts and an Iron Age roundhouse, indicating the headland was attractive to communities from the earliest times.

2.5.3 The antlers and bones of an extinct Irish Elk were found in peat at a depth of 4 metres from current ground level at the former Swinburn Company Brickworks 360m to the east of the site. Although undated, they have been interpreted as probably prehistoric (HER 866).

### Romano-British (AD 70 – AD 410)

2.5.4 A fort known as *Arbeia* was established on the headland called The Lawe c. 700m to the north east of the application site in c. AD 160. It is protected as part of the World Heritage site 'Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Hadrian's Wall)' (WHS 1000098) for its military role of protecting the mouth of the River Tyne and as a supply base for the 17 forts along Hadrian's Wall (<http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/arbeia/about-us.html>). The World Heritage Site Buffer Zone around the fort also protects the later civilian settlement (*vicus*) and cemetery that extend south and west from the fort. The full extent of the *vicus* and the location of a possible port / harbour are not known but the majority of Roman activity found in South Shields has been located further north on the headland.

2.5.5 The Roman road, known as *Wrekendyke*, connecting the fort to the main north-south route from Chester-le-Street to the Tyne, is shown passing nearby to the east, crossing Barrington Street, Chapter Row and East Street on a NE-SW alignment (HER 277). However, a series of water worn boulders were recorded on the corner of Oyston Street and Waterloo Vale and have been interpreted as a possible Roman ford (HER 1902) which would suggest the Roman road may pass further east.

2.5.6 A number of reused Roman stones along Corporation Road and decorating the roundabout may indicate the former presence of significant Roman activity in the vicinity (HER 5189 & 5190). These stones have 'lewis' holes in them indicating they were lifted by an early crane system as well as chisel facing and drill holes. A single 4th century coin is the only other definite Roman find within the search area (HER 1903), although a pottery vessel of unknown provenance may have a Roman origin (HER 922) and an undated stone bearing Greek inscriptions may also date from that period (HER 940).

### Post-Roman – Medieval (5th – 16th centuries)



- 2.5.7 The Roman fort appears to have continued to be occupied up to the 7th century (HER 915) with an Anglo-Saxon spear (HER 938) and 5th century burials (HER 916) providing further evidence for continuity after the Roman period ended. From the 7th century onwards, the focus for settlement appears to have moved south. Hild (later St Hild) was given a hide of land in 'Werhale' in 648 where she lived under monastic rule for a year before moving to Hartlepool where she became abbess. The 9th century historian Bede recorded that St Aidan gave St Hilda land to the north of the River Tyne and "a monastery lying towards the south, not far from the mouth of the river Tyne, at that time consisting of monks, but now inhabited by a noble company of virgin, dedicated to Christ..." (HER 274). The most likely location of the early monastery is on or near the current St Hilda's Church (HER 8078). No other records of this establishment exist and it is likely that it was largely destroyed by the Danes in the 9th century. The parish of Westoe, of which Shields was initially an appendage, was in the possession of the Prior and Convent of Durham in the late 11th / early 12th century.
- 2.5.8 The remains of two Viking boats are alleged to have been found within South Shields, one at Mile End Road (HER 1804) and the other at Denmark Street (HER 943). The provenance of these two discoveries is unproven.
- 2.5.9 The establishment of the monastery seems to coincide with the abandonment of the fort as the centre of settlement at South Shields. The focus shifted to the Mill Dam (HER 2591), a tidal inlet, and the riverside area, whilst the area of the fort became open fields until the 19th century. The Mill Dam is believed to have extended from the current riverside area up as far as the Fowler Street / Keppel Street junction, therefore lying within the southern part of the proposed development site and provided a head of water to power a watermill (HER 947) which is believed to have lain in the immediate vicinity of the Site. The Mill Dam was located during excavations on Coronation Street (Archaeological Services 2006) and described as 'the foundations of a substantial industrial structure with contaminated ground water at a depth of 0.8m below ground level'. Documentary records identify the watermill as Westoe Mill from at least 1347.
- 2.5.10 Shields was a borough town by 1235 century, known at that time as *Suthseles*. Disputes are recorded between South Shields and Newcastle over trading rights (Turner & Townsend 2009). Sea and river fishing are also recorded in the 12th century, although the precise location of fisheries is unknown (HER 4485). Despite an order being made between the town of Newcastle and the Prior and Convent at Durham in the 13th century that South Shields should have no quays and no ships berthing there, by the 15th century there were numerous fish-houses and staithes constructed (HER 945).
- 2.5.11 The town continued to grow through the medieval period. 17th century maps show the layout of the town extending north and south along the riverbank from the Mill Dam and eastwards along the Dam, with a windmill located on the hillside to the east of the town (Gardner 1654, reproduced in HER 945). This probably broadly reflects the medieval layout

and the Site lay entirely within the medieval town. Salt panning was a major industry during the medieval period and would have required a waterside location (HER 946).

- 2.5.12 Ridge and furrow seen near the Church of St Hilda provides evidence that the area east of the riverside was largely agricultural in the early medieval / post-medieval periods (HER 12734). A 13th century record detailing an Inn and brewers at Shields has been linked to the field name 'Beer Brewers Well' on the 1768 Richardson map (HER 4486). The HER records a brewers well to the east of the Market Place (HER 4598) but it is thought this may be a misplaced location as it also mentions that it was rediscovered during the reconstruction of the Mechanics Arms Inn on Waterloo Vale in 1900. This would place the medieval brewery east of Waterloo Vale where the Mechanic's Arms Inn, marked on the 1896 Ordnance Survey, was preceded by a Brewery on the 1858 map. There is no indication of such an establishment being present on the earlier maps where, as described above, Beer Brewers Well is marked to the south of Mill Dam.
- 2.5.13 A medieval bone ring with *fleur de lys* design was probably a chance loss near the waterfront (HER 941).
- 2.5.14 In addition to the water mill at Mill Dam, 16th century records indicate the presence of a windmill nearby and in the same ownership (HER 948). Again, this would have been in the immediate vicinity of the Site.

Post-medieval (17th – 18th century)

- 2.5.15 JPost-medieval and modern development and reclamation have removed all trace of the early layout and altered the topography. The Ballast Hills to the east of the medieval town (HER 4483, 4484) are shown on 18th century maps. Chalk, shingle and sand were frequently transported north in ships retuning from taking coals to London to provide stability to the cargo-free vessels. This material was then dumped near the docks to allow the next cargo of coal to be loaded. Richardson's 1768 map shows these are 'Rubbish Hills' south of the Mill Dam and 'Ballast Hills' to the north. North of the Mill Dam inlet, a court record of 1670 refers to a ballast quay (HER 4487) on the opposite side of the bridge to the water mill, believed to be in the location of the later Cookson's Quay and therefore in the immediate vicinity of the Site.
- 2.5.16 The post-medieval and modern development of South Shields is largely industrial in nature. Salt panning was an important local industry, with saltpans labelled on the 1774 Trinity House Map, but through the 18th century, glass manufacturing developed on the river front from 1707 (HER 2340). The first glasshouse was established by Onesiphorus Dagnia (of the Ouseburn Glassworks in Newcastle) in 1707 and in 1757 was mortgaged to John Cookson, whose father, Isaac, had set up a glasshouse for him 1737. John Cookson and his partner, Thomas Jeffries, made crown glass at the glass house on Bill Quay, South Shields. In addition to glass, the family had interests in salt pans and a ballast quay ([https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/John\\_Cookson\\_\(1712/13-1783\)](https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/John_Cookson_(1712/13-1783))).

- 2.5.17 The marketplace was established by the Prior and Convent of Durham in 1767, to replace a street market that had been held in the town for many years (HER 4593). The Old Town Hall was constructed by Durham at this time to provide a market hall, manorial court and offices but incorporates an earlier market cross (HER 4597). Certainly, the cross is depicted on Richardson's 1768 Plan of South Shields and Westoe (reproduced in HER 945). It is unknown whether there was centralised planning elsewhere in the town at this time, although it is clear the focus for industrial activities such as glassmaking and salt panning relied heavily on a waterfront location. There was also a need for access to shipping for the distribution of coals from the County Durham mines. Newcastle attempted to restrict South Shields' trading capabilities throughout the post-medieval period but the town had a monopoly of salt production on the east coast. In fact, much of the trouble with trading on the Tyne was a result of Newcastle's lack of action to make the river navigable for larger ships, which allowed the Wear to dominate until after it was significantly improved in the 1860s (<https://theses.ncl.ac.uk/dspace/bitstream/10443/192/2/ross82v2.pdf>).
- 2.5.18 During the 17th century, there are numerous references to a bridge across the Mill Dam (HER 4599). This bridge, possibly called Deanbridge, may have replaced the earlier ford (HER 1902). It is described as built in timber and only just wide enough for a single vehicle. The Mill Dam and bridge separated the town into 'over-' and 'under-dammers', with the area to the north known as Fishergate and that to the south as Panngate, emphasising the importance of different industries in different parts of the town.
- 2.5.19 Also shown on 18th century maps were a windmill (HER 7833) and brickyard (HER 7834), both located south of Mill Dam and east of the 'Rubbish Hills'. North of Mill Dam, a tilery (HER 2590 / 7832) and Mr Thompson's timber yard (HER 4590) were present. All had gone by the early 19th century. The South Shields Pottery was a going concern in 1790 but no other details are available (HER 8490).

#### **Early Modern Period (19th – early 20th century)**

- 2.5.20 The early modern period is best discussed with closer reference to the specific site as detailed maps and documentary records are available and the potential is better understood without reference to the wider environs. The following discussion is therefore limited to those sites that have specific bearing on the Site's potential. A detailed account of the early modern development of the Site is provided in the Map Regression below.
- 2.5.21 A report on the state of the town in 1845 notes that the Mill Dam area was mainly occupied by glass-makers and further states *"The town consists generally of a long irregular street running parallel with the river and close to it. From this street, a number of lanes and narrow streets branch off, on the one side leading to the river, on the other, to a range of low hills, which extend the whole length of the town in a direction parallel to the river. These hills, with the exception of that part of the range which is nearest to the sea, are artificial, consisting either of accumulations of ashes and refuse from the salt-pans which formerly existed in the*

- place, or of heaps of gravel brought hither as ballast by the colliers”* (The Commissioners 1845).
- 2.5.22 The Cookson Glassworks remained in the Cookson family until the mid-19th century when it passed to R W Swinburne and Company. A wagonway, later known as the Ballast Railway, was constructed in c. 1832 to carry glass waste away from, and coarse sand, used for grinding, to the glassworks (HER 2427). It was powered by a stationary steam engine (located at Derby Terrace) on the lower section and horses in the upper section until locomotives were introduced in 1879. The arrangement of the glassworks in 1858 shows there to have been two cones within the northwestern part of the Site, and in the southern area were a variety of ancillary structures including the Flattening House, a cratemakers workshop, timber house, an office, laboratory, smithies, a picking house, a store house and four chimneys. This area of chimneys and the Flattening House were accessed via a lane called Mill Dam Place that entered from the south. The main entrance to Swinburne’s Glassworks on New Road (already present running north-south through the centre of the site in 1827) had the offices to the south and a porter’s lodge to the north. To the east of this road, in the area formerly occupied by the cemetery, was a stone yard. The Site also appears to take in the eastern edges of the Crown Glass House and Furnaces & Blowing House
- 2.5.23 Swinburne’s supplied half the glass for the Crystal Palace constructed for the Great Exhibition of 1851 but the business closed in 1865. It was rescued in 1868 by Charles Mark Palmer and traded as the Tyne Plate Glass Co until it finally closed in 1891, the site to be taken over by the Harton Coal Co who demolished much of the work ([https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/R.\\_W.\\_Swinburne\\_and\\_Co](https://www.gracesguide.co.uk/R._W._Swinburne_and_Co)). The surviving chimney (HER 4983) is dated to 1865, the year in which Swinburne’s Glassworks closed. It is a locally listed building and sits within the Mill Dam Conservation Area.
- 2.5.24 The closure of the Tyne Plate Glass Company in 1891 and sale of the site to the Harton Coal Co, resulted in the demolition of most of the buildings on the site sometime after 1896 when the glass works is labelled ‘disused’ on the Ordnance Survey map. Staith House (HER 5677), was constructed to provide washing and locker facilities for the engine drivers and coal handlers. This locally listed building was demolished in 2016, having fallen into serious disrepair, but the brick façade on Mill Dam has been retained as a significant feature within the Conservation Area.
- 2.5.25 The Harton Coal Company’s interest in the site was for direct access to shipping from the colliery. The Harton Low Staiths (also called Harton Colliery Staiths (New)) were opened in 1904, providing a unique facility loading coal into ships by steam cranes. In 1914 electrically powered conveyor belts were introduced.
- 2.5.26 St Hilda’s Churchyard (HER 16513) expanded following the infilling of the Mill Dam and raising of ground levels in 1816-1818. However, the increasing population resulted in further problems of capacity and strict rules were implemented to limit the number of burials per

grave and ensure a reasonable depth of burial (no less than 4½ feet). Burials other than in existing family plots were curtailed from 1st July 1855. Archaeological interventions to the south of the current cemetery have recovered remains of 18th and 19th century burials on the north side of Coronation Street (Archaeological Services 2006, OA North 2011, PCA 2019). In addition to the burials, the eastern church yard wall was recorded and a cobbled surface beyond that, suggesting that by the 19th century, at least, there was no burial beyond the churchyard to the east. The early 19th century ground-raising deposits were seen to have been truncated by the realignment of Coronation Street in the 1970s. The upper burial horizon identified was at c. 6.36m OD (top of grave slab), although as the land slopes down towards the river, this is likely to drop. Excavations south of Coronation Street and in the roundabout did not extend to this depth and encountered no archaeology other than the ground levelling deposits (PCA 2019).

### **Modern Development**

- 2.5.27 In the later 20th century, the Site continued in use for the coal wagons into the 1980s, only being cleared of rail lines in the 1990s. From the middle of the first decade of the 21st century, the northern part of the Site was used as a surface car park. In the early 2010s the same area was used as a compound for the redevelopment of Harton Low Staiths. It has since been left undeveloped and unused for any formal purpose.

### **3. PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES**

#### **3.1 Project Aims**

3.1.1 The primary aim of the programme of works was to determine the absence/presence of archaeological remains. The archaeological work will identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains observed during the evaluation. The results will be used to inform decisions regarding further archaeological mitigation measures that may be required at the site prior to determination and commencement of development.

3.1.2 The objective of trial trench evaluation as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) is to 'determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices' (CIfA 2014a).

#### **3.2 Research Objectives**

3.2.1 Archaeological work provides potential opportunities to address key research objectives as set out in *shared Visions: The North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF) (Petts & Gerrard 2006)*. The NERRF highlights the importance of research as a vital element of development-led archaeological work. It sets out key research priorities for all periods of the past so that all elements of commercial archaeological work can be related to wider regional and national priorities for the study of archaeology and the historic environment.

3.2.2 The NERRF Research Strategy for the post-medieval Period has identified key research themes which address a range of archaeological topics. Of relevance to this project are:

- MD1. Settlement;
- MDii. Landscape;
- MDvi. Death and burial;
- MDvii. Medieval ceramics and other artifacts;
- PMii. Industrialisation;
- PMviii. Industrial intensification.

3.2.3 An appropriate level of reporting on the work was required, including, if necessary, full analysis and publication of any notable archaeological findings upon completion of the evaluation. Thus, the results of the work constitute the preservation by record of any archaeological remains encountered and subsequently removed during the course of works. The full scheme of archaeological work is described in the following section.

## 4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

### 4.1 Fieldwork

- 4.1.1 The fieldwork was undertaken in compliance with the codes and practice of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and the relevant ClfA standard and guidance document (ClfA 2014 a & b). PCA is a CIFA 'Registered Organisation'. All fieldwork and post-excavation was carried out in accordance with the Yorkshire, the Humber & The North East: Regional Statement of Good Practice (SYAS 2011).
- 4.1.2 The project was managed in line with principles set out in Historic England's *'Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment'* (MoRPHE) published in 2006.
- 4.1.3 All archaeological staff involved in the project were suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. The project was overseen for PCA by Aaron Goode, Project Manager at PCA's Durham Office. All relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice were respected. PCA's Health and Safety (H&S) Policy is the starting point for managing H&S at all locations where PCA carries out its operations.
- 4.1.4 The scope of the works for the archaeological evaluation was set out in a WSI prepared by Prospect Archaeology Ltd (prospect Archaeology 2021) and approved by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service prior to commencement of work. The archaeological evaluation comprised the mechanical excavation of two trenches that had dimensions of c. 6m x 10m (Figure 2).
- 4.1.5 The archaeological evaluation was carried out between 24th – 26th February 2021. The trial trenches were sited to target the footprint area of the proposed new office building. The trench was set-out using a Leica Viva Smart Rover Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), with pre-programmed co-ordinate data determined by an office-based CAD operative. Trench 2 was moved to the west to avoid a water monitoring station.
- 4.1.6 Ground level in the trench was reduced using a 13-tonne mechanical excavator utilising toothless ditching bucket. Successive spits of no more than 100mm depth were removed until either the top of the first archaeological horizon or the top of superficial geological deposits was reached. All ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision.
- 4.1.7 The investigation of archaeological levels was by hand, with cleaning, examination and recording both in plan and in section, where appropriate. Investigations within the trench followed the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation and were conducted in accordance with the methodology set out in the field manual of PCA (PCA 2009) and the Museum of London Site Manual (Museum of London 1994).
- 4.1.8 Masonry, deposits and cut features were individually recorded on the *pro-forma* 'Trench Recording Sheet' and 'Context Recording Sheet'. All site records were marked with the unique-number HQS21 (site code).

4.1.9 The height of all principal strata and features was calculated in metres above Ordnance Datum (m AOD). A detailed photographic record of the evaluation was prepared using SLR digital photography. All detailed photographs included a legible graduated metric scale. The photographic record illustrated both in detail and general context archaeological exposures and specific features in the trench.

## **4.2 Post-excavation**

4.2.1 The stratigraphic data for the project comprises written and photographic records. A total of 7 archaeological contexts were defined within the trench (Appendix 2). Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts and phasing the stratigraphic data. A written summary of the archaeological sequence was then compiled, as described in Section 5.

4.2.2 During the evaluation, no artefactual material was recovered from the deposits encountered.

4.2.3 The complete Site Archive, in this case comprising only the written, drawn and photographic records (including all material generated electronically during post-excavation) will be packaged for long term curation. In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown 2007) will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker, UKIC 1990) and the most recent ClfA publication relating to archiving (ClfA 2014c).

4.2.4 At the time of writing the Site Archive was housed at the Durham Office of PCA, The Rope Works, Broadwood View, Chester-le-Street, County Durham, DH3 3AF. When complete, the site Archive will be deposited at an appropriate repository, under the site code HQS21.



## 5. RESULTS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

During the archaeological investigation, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual context numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example [123]. The context numbers have been assigned per trench therefore contexts from Trench 1 are in the 100s and contexts from Trench 2 in the 200s etc. The archaeological sequence is described by placing stratigraphic sequences within broad phases, assigned on a site-wide basis in this case. An attempt has been made to add interpretation to the data and correlate these phases with recognised historical and geological periods. The figures can be found in Appendix 1 with the context index and stratigraphic matrix located in Appendix 2 and 3 respectively. A selection of plates can be found within Appendix 4.

### 5.1 Phase 1: Superficial Geology

5.1.1 Phase 1 represents superficial geological deposits that were observed within Trenches 1 & 2. The geological material comprised compact light greyish yellow sand (Trench 1 (102) & Trench 2 (2032)). The superficial geological deposits were encountered c. 3.50m below present ground level in Trench 1 and c.3.60m below present ground level in Trench 2.

5.1.2 The table below summarises the depth below ground level and metres above Ordnance Datum (AOD) height of geological deposits within the trenches. The highest level at which natural substratum was encountered was 30.75m in Trench 5 at the southernmost extent of site. The lowest level was 29.74m AOD in Trench 1 at the northernmost extent.

No.	Context	Depth (below ground level)	Maximum Thickness	Height (m AOD)
Trench 1	(102)	3.50m	2.00m	5.40m AOD
Trench 2	(203)	3.60m	1.10m	6.10m AOD

*Summary of superficial geology depths and levels*

### 5.2 Phase 2: Undated levelling activity

5.2.1 Phase 2 represents undated levelling activity at the site.

5.2.2 A single levelling deposit comprising compact dark grey sandy silt (101) up to 3.20m thick was recorded extending across Trench 1, encountered at maximum and minimum heights of 8.67m AOD and 8.09m AOD, respectively. It contained brick and concrete rubble.

5.2.3 Two levelling deposits (202) & (201) were recorded extending across Trench 2. The earliest levelling deposit comprised friable mid pinkish grey silty sand (202) up to 1.10m thick that was overlain by a c. 2.10m thick compact dark grey clayey silt (201) deposit. The uppermost levelling deposit was encountered at maximum and minimum heights of 9.87m AOD and 9.30m AOD, respectively.

5.2.4 Although no datable material was recovered from any of the levelling deposits, they all contained varying quantities of brick and concrete rubble suggesting a 20th century origin.

### **5.3 Phase 3: Modern**

- 5.3.1 Phase 3 represents the current surface that extends across the northern part of the site. In Trench 1 the current surface comprised c. 0.30m thick strongly cemented light yellowish grey stone within a sandy matrix (100) and in Trench 2 the current surface comprised c. 0.40m thick strongly cemented light yellowish grey stone within a sand matrix (200). The current surface within the area investigated occurred at maximum and minimum heights of 80.39m AOD and 10.27m AOD, respectively.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 Conclusions**

6.1.1 The archaeological investigations undertaken on land at Harton Quays, South Shields comprised the excavation of two trenches. Geological deposits, undated but probably 20th century levelling deposits and modern surfaces were encountered. This activity was assigned to three phases of activity:

- Phase 1: Superficial geological deposits comprising sand was encountered within all trenches;
- Phase 2: Levelling deposits likely dating from the 20th century period was encountered in all trenches.
- Phase 3: Modern surfaces associated with a former car parking area within the northern part of the overall proposed development.

6.1.2 No features of archaeological significance were recorded within any of the evaluation trenches.

### **6.2 Recommendations**

6.2.1 No further work is required on the information recovered during the evaluation, with the Site Archive (including this report), forming the permanent record of the strata encountered.

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### 7.2 Online Sources

The **British Geological Survey** website: [www.bgs.ac.uk](http://www.bgs.ac.uk). This was consulted for information regarding the geology of the study area.

## 8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND CREDITS

### Acknowledgements

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### PCA Credits

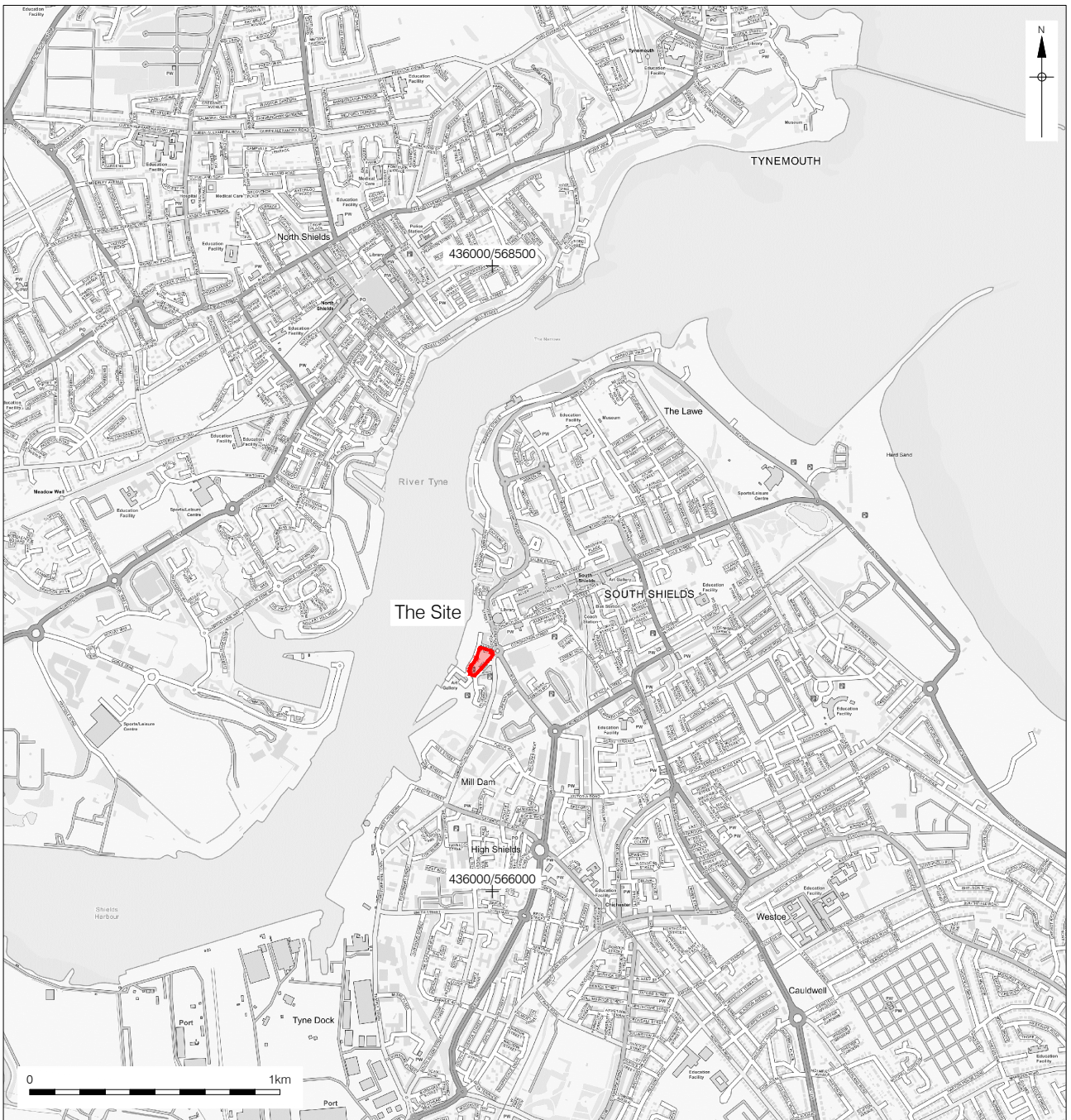
*Fieldwork:* Aaron Goode (Project Manager) and Clare Henderson

*Report:* Aaron Goode

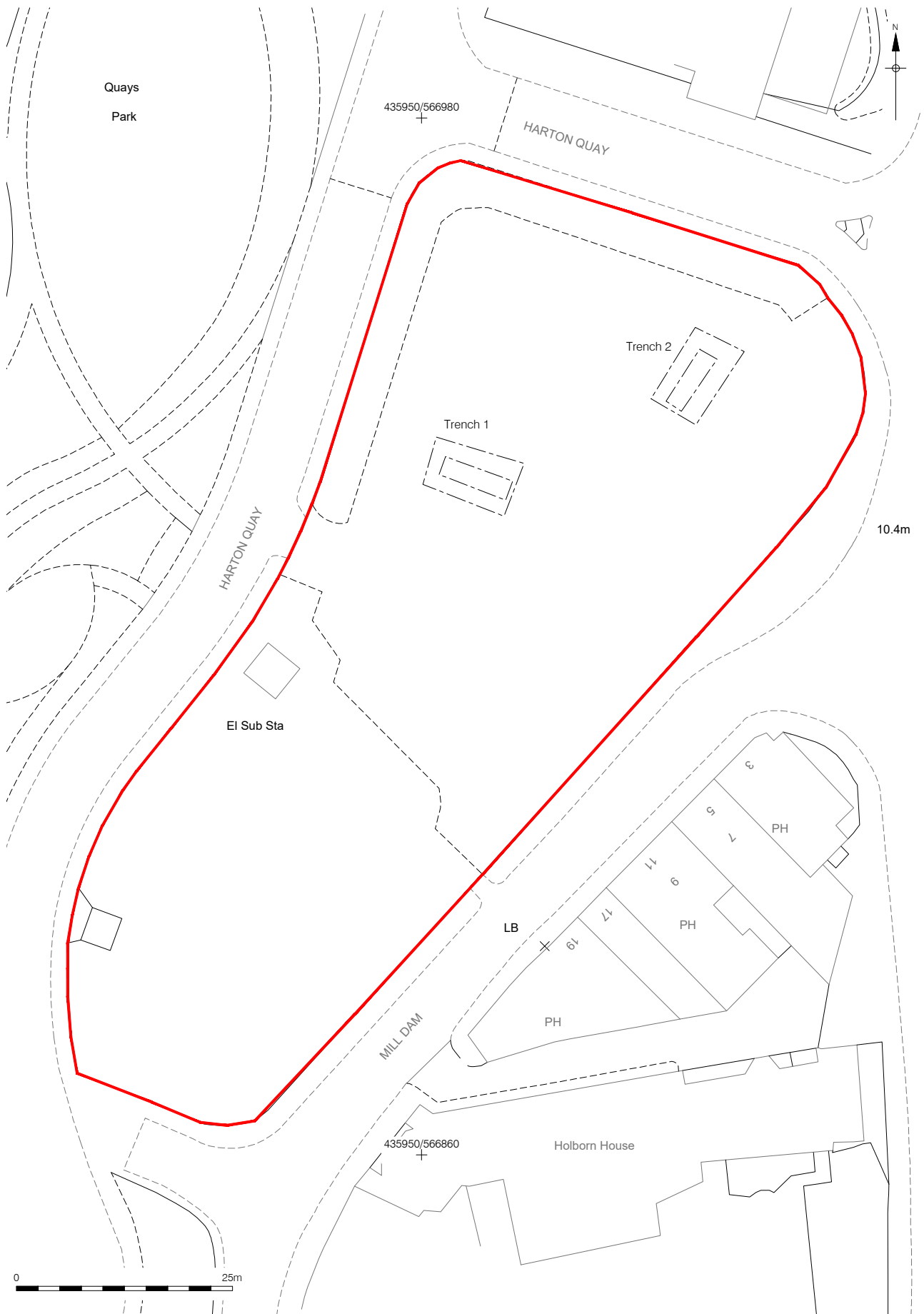
*Project Manager:* Aaron Goode

*CAD:* Diana Valk

## **APPENDIX 1: FIGURES**



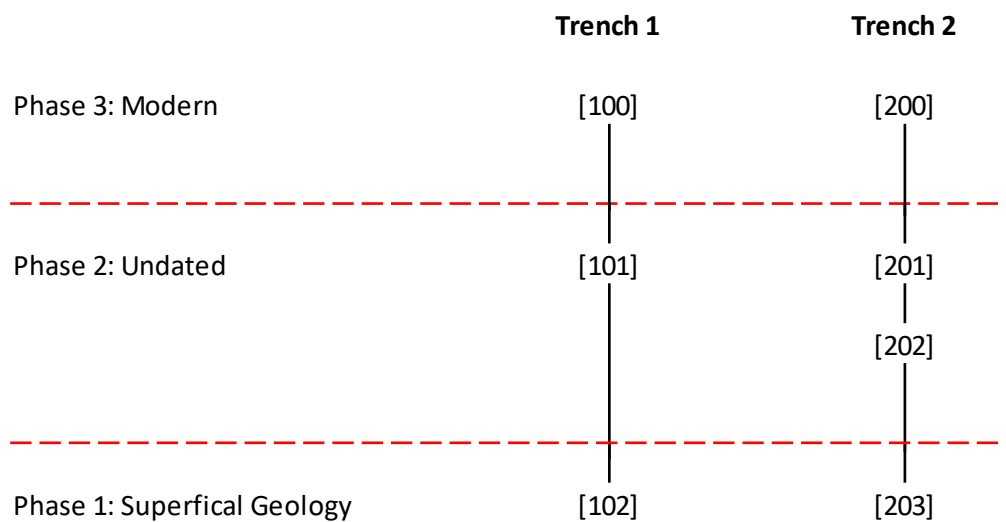




## APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

<b>Context</b>	<b>Phase</b>	<b>Type 1</b>	<b>Type 2</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
Trench 1					
[100]	3	Deposit	Layer		Surface
[101]	2	Deposit	Layer		Levelling deposit
[102]	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial Geology
[200]	3	Deposit	Layer		Surface
[201]	2	Deposit	Layer		Levelling deposit
[202]	2	Deposit	Layer		Levelling deposit
[203]	1	Deposit	Layer		Superficial Geology

### APPENDIX 3: STRATIGRAPHIC MATRIX



## APPENDIX 4: PHOTOGRAPHIC PLATES

*Plate 1: Trench 1 overview: view north-west, scale: 2m*



*Plate 2: Trench 2 overview: view north-east, scale: 2m*



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