

Site of St. Aidan's Church, South Shields
An Archaeological Assessment

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Housing development is proposed on a plot of land formerly occupied by St. Aidan's Church at St. Aidan's Road, South Shields. The following study assesses the likelihood of archaeological remains surviving on the site and their likely significance. The study site lies 300m south-east of the Roman Fort of Arbeia at South Shields, which forms part of the Hadrian's Wall Military Zone World Heritage Site as designated by UNESCO in 1987 and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The study site is part of an archaeological notification zone which defines an area of potential archaeological importance surrounding the scheduled ancient monument of Arbeia Roman Fort in the South Tyneside Unitary Development Plan. The environs of the Roman Fort site contain the remains of a surrounding Roman vicus (civilian settlement), cemeteries, and the unlocated site of a port. Previous excavations and finds in the vicinity of the proposed development strongly suggest that the present study site lies within the area of Roman occupation, although the full extent of the Roman settlement is presently uncertain. It seems likely that any archaeological deposits will have been removed or heavily truncated within the area of the footprint of the church, which was built in 1887-8. However, it is possible that archaeological deposits of Roman date survive both to the north and south of this area of disturbance. It is recommended that a series of evaluation trenches are excavated in order to establish the presence, nature, extent and informative potential of surviving deposits.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Project

- 1.1.1 This report has been commissioned in response to a proposal to build twenty apartments on the site of the plot of land formerly occupied by St. Aidan's Church. The Church, which was constructed in 1877-8 was demolished in 2005. This desk-based assessment has been prepared by the Archaeology Department of Tyne and Wear Museums in order to provide the archaeological information necessary to make an informed planning decision. The report contains an assessment of the likely impact of the scheme on the archaeological and cultural heritage of the area.

1.2 Location and Land Use

- 1.2.1 The site consists of the a plot of land 50m by 35m formerly occupied by the church on the southern side of St. Aidan's Road, NGR NZ 6760 3680.

1.3 Geology

- 1.3.1 Across the area in which the site lies is a blanket of tough brown glacial boulder clay 12m in thickness dipping downwards from the land towards the Tyne. Included within the boulder clay are sundry lenses of sand and gravel that may have been deposited by streams in between the successive glacial periods when the clay itself was deposited. Elsewhere along the North Sea coast there exists a layer of peat above the boulder clay, representing the ground surface of a large birch forest dating to perhaps 6,000 years ago, which stretched over land currently occupied by the North Sea; a similar deposit was found in the last century nearby and may be present close to the Roman site.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Desk-based Assessment

- 2.1.1 The following organisations and sources were consulted during the compilation of the desk-based assessment:

Durham Records Office, County Hall

Newcastle City Library, Princess Square

Tyne and Wear Specialist Conservation Team, Civic Centre,

Newcastle upon Tyne (Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, Sites and Monuments Record).

Tyne and Wear Archives Service, Blandford Square (Deposited Building Plans, Ordnance Survey maps).

Tyne & Wear Museums Archaeology Department (Excavation archive, publications, maps and plans).

South Tyneside Central Library, South Shields (unpublished documents and maps).

Specific texts are listed in the bibliography.

2.2 Site Condition

- 2.2.1 The site was visited on the 11th May 2006. The Church had been demolished to ground level the area of the site being covered by grass and weeds.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Prehistoric Period

- 3.1.1 Human settlement on the headland occurred considerably before the Roman period. Recent excavations within the area of the Roman fort have revealed evidence of continual occupation from the Mesolithic period to the Pre-Roman Iron Age.
- 3.1.2 It is possible that some evidence of prehistoric activity may be recovered from the site. Although no prehistoric layers or features were identified a number of flints were recovered from excavations at Morton Walk (Snape, 1994, 43), located 280m to the west of the site.

3.2 Romano-British Period (Figs. 16-17)

- 3.2.1 The area of proposed development lies 300m from the south-eastern defences of the known Roman fort, and can therefore be deemed to lie within its environs. It should be emphasised that the high-grade archaeological importance of South Shields fort does not stop at the perimeter of the Scheduled site, but extends throughout its environs.
- 3.2.2 The history and chronology of the fort has been established from archaeological work undertaken between 1875 and the present day: the most recent summary of this work being Bidwell and Speak

1994.

- 3.2.3 Beyond the fort ditches four main components of the Roman settlement should be expected: the civilian settlement (*vicus*), cemeteries, port and (possibly) a fort or forts earlier than that already known. Remains of the *vicus* and the cemetery are known to lie beneath the streets and houses surrounding the Fort Park. The location and form of the port are unknown.

- 3.2.4 The extent of the civilian settlement adjacent to the fort and its cemeteries appears to have been very considerable. Buildings and chance finds of Roman artefacts have been recorded on all four sides of the fort in the area defined to the west by Mile End Road and to the south by Coston Drive and St. Aidans Road, amounting to some 25 ha (60 acres). A detailed gazetter of all finds and excavations is held at South Shields Roman Fort and can be consulted in the HER (Appendix 1). Rather than replicate this information this report will focus on interventions and finds within the immediate vicinity of the site.

- 3.2.5 Previous observations have established that an extensive cemetery lay immediately to the west of Baring Street. Excavations at Morton Walk in 1993-4 (H) 280m to the west of the site located cremations and inhumations of Roman date. There are also numerous finds associated with the cemetery including the Victor Tombstone, RIB 1064 (10 and 11) and the Regina tombstone RIB 1065 (14) and graves (15, 17 and 18) located within 100m radius of the Morton Walk site. Other observations in close proximity include the location of Roman gullies at 67 Baring Street (11) (210m west of the site) and chance finds of Roman pottery during the construction of Baring Street (12).

- 3.2.6 It should be noted that there is strong evidence that an undiscovered Roman Fort of late-first or early-second century date pre-dated the known fort that was not built until c. 160 (Bidwell and Speak 1994). Although the site of the putative early fort has not been discovered it should be noted that it was certainly not on the site of the known fort, and quite possibly lay further south on the highest part of the Lawe Hill, that is considerable closer to the present study site. The remains of a *vicus*, roads, or other features associated with the early fort could possibly have lain within the study site.

- 3.2.7 It seems highly likely that the site lay within the area of Roman occupation surrounding the known fort of the second to fourth centuries. Given the distance from the fort it seems unlikely that the area of the site would have been the focus for a dense concentration of *vicus* structures, although without archaeological evaluation it is impossible to categorically rule out major occupation

extending this far.

- 3.2.8 It is possible that the cemetery identified to the west of Baring Street extended into this area, or that a discrete cemetery lining another route leading to the fort may have been situated near or on the study site.
- 3.2.9 It is possible that a steep north-south scarp in this area, probably running through the study site, depicted on a map of 1838-46 (Fig.6), may have delineated the southern edge of the main vicus occupation south of the fort. This does not mean, however, that no archaeology of the Roman period should be expected on the site. A south facing slope this distance from the fort would be eminently suitable for cultivation terraces (as at Housesteads on Hadrian's Wall). If the scarp was precipitous it would have been a typical site for a rubbish dump for refuse from the fort or vicus, so there is a possibility of rich deposits of midden material.
- 3.2.10 There is also a possibility that linear features leading to the fort such as roads or tracks might be encountered. Two separate aqueducts are known to have reached the Roman fort and it is these must have originated on higher ground, possibly to the south of the present Ocean Road, crossing the valley by means of an inverted siphon; such aqueduct lines may have passed close to or through the study site.

3.3 Early-Medieval period

- 3.3.1 There is no archaeological evidence for activity dating to this period within the study site. Evidence of post-Roman occupation has been excavated at *Arbeia* (Bidwell and Speak 1994). Excavation within the fort since 1983 has revealed traces of activity post-dating AD 400. These are mainly in the form of burials and a possible church on the site of the *principia* (Bidwell and Speak 1994, 103), the south-west gate and the courtyard house situated in the south-east quadrant of the fort (*ibid.* 45-6). This suggests a definite change in the nature of the occupation of the fort, but the implications of this change for the area outside the defences of the fort are not understood. An assemblage of 7th-9th century artefacts recovered from later levels within the fort indicate occupation activity on the site during the Anglo-Saxon period. Leland, writing in the sixteenth century, recorded the tradition that the future King Oswin was born at *Caer Urfa* (*Arbeia*?) in the early-seventh century (*ibid*).
- 3.3.2 Antiquarian and historical accounts of South Shields suggest that there was a substantial settlement near to South Shields during this period. The earliest extant reference to the area is thought to be Bede's statement that St Cuthbert stayed at a convent of nuns on

the mouth of the Tyne, probably the nunnery founded by St Hilda, which is believed to have occupied a site at or near the present St Hilda's Church.

3.4 Medieval Period

- 3.4.1 There seems to have been no occupation on the site of the fort from the early medieval period until after 1875. In the medieval period agriculture was the main land-use in the area of the Lawe Top.
- 3.4.2 There is little mention of activity within the fort or its environs in early histories, the town of South Shields being mainly confined to the riverside.
- 3.4.3 The area of the Lawe in which the site lies was known in later medieval times as Shele Heugh or Shieldheugh; there being a document describing its enclosure in 1489 (Halmote Court held at Pitlington on 4 November; transcription in Miss Flagg's notes, South Shields Central Library).

3.5 Post-medieval Period

- 3.5.1 In 1643 a Civil War fort was built on the Lawe. Its position is described as not far from the Roman fort and close to the beacon. Maps, such as Armstrong's map of 1769 show it as being located in the northeastern corner of the headland, and hence well away from the site. It is possible though that material of this period may be encountered.

3.6 The Eighteenth Century

- 3.6.1 A plan of the estate of Rob. Stote dated to 1768 (Fig. 3) shows the headland as open ground, with the area to the east of Mile End Road being labelled 'Fairles's Ground'. A windmill is illustrated in a central position, noted as belonging to the Corporation of Newcastle. However, no structures are depicted in the vicinity of the site on this map.
- 3.6.2 Fryer's map, from a survey made in 1772, shows the layout of the town along the riverside (Fig. 4). This is first plan to show a structure immediately to the west of the area of the site. This structure is referred to as Field House on later sources and is likely to have represented a farm house on the basis of its groundplan and its landscape setting within a series of large rectangular fields.

3.7 The Nineteenth Century

- 3.7.1 Murphy's plan of 1827 (Fig. 5) shows a ballast railway running east-

west across the Lawe to the north of the site. The site lies immediately to the east of Field House and The Cottage.

- 3.7.2 A map, dated 1838-1846 (Fig. 6), shows houses with gardens developing to the east of Baring Street. The structures to the west of the site are referred to as "Fairles Cottage" and "Shields Field Heugh." This map is significant in showing a steep north-south scarp running east-west across the area of the site. It is likely that this scarp was present in the Roman period and was a determining factor in the use of the site in pre-modern periods. By the time of this map a workhouse had been constructed to the south of the site and a structure referred to as Bath House lay immediately to the south-east.
- 3.7.3 The Ordnance Survey 6" – 1 mile map of 1862 (Fig. 7) (surveyed 1855) shows little change from the map of 1838-46.
- 3.7.4 By 1875 the need for cheap housing in the town led to the remaining fields upon the Lawe being sold by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to the Corporation of South Shields. The Lawe was divided up into four parcels of land, with Fort Street and Baring Street forming the cruciform divide. The south-eastern quadrant, which contains the site, had rows of terraced streets built, containing mainly two-up-two-down style 'Tyneside' flats. The 2nd edition Ordnance Survey of 1898 (Fig. 8), shows the headland almost completely covered with grid-iron pattern streets. The map shows St Aidan's Church constructed by this time.

3.8 St Aidan's Church

- 3.8.1 The foundation stone for St Aidan's Church was laid by Alderman John Readhead on 19th March 1887 and the church completed and consecrated the following year. It was built of stone by J.H. Morton in the later Early English Style. Hodgson describes it as having a 'chancel, clerestory, nave of five bays, aisles, organ chamber, and narthex at the west end. The chancel is divided from the nave by a moulded arch with clustered columns and carved capitals' (Hodgson 19). Deposited building plans have been recovered for the church dating to 1886, which show its original form and layout (Figs 11 and) (TWAS T229/51/3184).
- 3.8.2 It was designed to hold more than 600 people and was built at a cost of £4,710. Owing to the severe sloping of the ground the adjoining back street to the south of the church is approximately 15 feet below the floor surface of the church. This provided the church with basement space which was utilised as a parish room, choir and clergy vestries. (Figs 11). Despite utilising the existing slope it seems certain that the terracing in of the floor of the vestry space beneath the church, not to mention the foundations associated

with a building of this scale will have heavily disturbed or removed archaeological deposits beneath the area of its footprint.

- 3.8.3 St Aidan's was formed into an Ecclesiastical District in November 1885 from the parishes of St Hild's, St Stephen's and St Thomas'. The original boundaries of St Aidan's parish being St Stephen's Street to the north, Ocean Road to the south, Baring Street to the west and the sea to the east.
- 3.8.4 In the early 20th century the parish room, originally situated underneath the chancel, was replaced by the Parish Hall and Institute built to the south-east of the church and adjoining the south wall of the chancel. The building plans recovered for this building dated to 1902 (Fig. 12 TWAS T229/51/6023). The hall is depicted on both the 3rd (1921) and 4th editions (1941) of OS mapping.
- 3.8.5 Although the church was designed to seat more than 600 people, the congregation had dwindled to a mere 50 by the 1990's. This, and the fact that the church was in such proximity to its "sister" church of St. Stephen's, meant that St Aidan's was, in effect, superfluous. It was closed in 1995 and demolished in 2005.
- 3.8.6 No documentary or cartographic evidence was located to suggest the presence of a graveyard at St. Aidan's Church. A search was made in the Ecclesiastical Parish Records, held at the Durham County Record Office, for recorded burials at St Aidan's. No such entries were found and other documentary sources have linked St Aidan's with its 'sister' church of St Stephen's, which has an extensive graveyard.

4 CATALOGUE OF HISTORIC FEATURES

4.1 World Heritage Sites

- 4.1.1 The Roman Fort at South Shields is part of the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site, as designated by the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO in 1987.

4.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

- 4.2.1 The Roman Fort at South Shields is a Scheduled Ancient Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1972, Section 2 (County Monument No. 2; NGR NZ 365678).
- 4.2.2 The site lies outside of the currently scheduled area, but does lie

within a zone of notification defined in the South Tyneside Unitary Development Plan as being of potential archaeological importance.

4.3 Listed Buildings

4.3.1 There are no listed buildings within the immediate area of the site.

4.4 The potential for archaeological features within the study area

4.4.1 The extent, character and state of preservation of Roman remains previously located across the Lawe hilltop shows the enormous archaeological potential of the area. Archaeological deposits associated with the Roman fort(s), their vici, cemeteries and other outworks may be encountered in the area of the development, and are elaborated above in Section 3.2.

4.4.2 The significant developments within the study area since the Roman period are:

4.4.3 **Agriculture.** It is presumed that land-use on the headland reverted to agriculture sometime in the medieval period. Ploughsoils of this date were encountered above the Roman levels both within the fort and across the area of the Lawe Top.

4.4.4 **Post -medieval development.** The building of terraced streets on the Lawe Top, from 1875 onwards, began a new phase of land-use which continued until the mid-1960s. Similar streets, built over the site of the Roman fort, were found to have quite shallow foundations which did not disturb the Roman layers. Further, none of the houses had cellars. However, sewage pipes and street drainage was constructed to considerable depths and damage to archaeological deposits has occurred along the line of these services. A search of deposited building records showed that the Church, although built to utilise the existing slope, would have had deep foundations, which would have impacted heavily on archaeological levels within the area of its footprint. The Hall constructed in 1902 did not appear to have such deep foundations and is less likely to have impacted on archaeological deposits. A sizeable proportion of the site, principally to the south of the Church appears to have been undisturbed by development. Archaeological deposits may survive in this area and also in a narrow corridor to the north of the footprint of the Church.

5 IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Impact Assessment

- 5.1.1 The remains of the Roman vicus and its cemetery must be considered to be of exceptional significance, given the quality of material and artefactual evidence recovered thus far.
- 5.1.2. The Conservation Statement of the Roman fort acknowledges the need to seize every opportunity to establish the limits of the extra-mural occupation. The remains in this area have the potential to provide further important information on the following:
- the nature of the vicus
 - the date of its usage
 - the extent and development of the vicus
 - artefactual evidence recovered has the potential to provide information on beliefs, practices and values in the Roman period.
 - prehistoric activity on the Lawe Top
 - the topography in the Roman and prehistoric periods
- 5.1.3 Any groundwork on the site could have a severe adverse impact on any archaeological features present. This includes disturbance typically associated with machine stripping of topsoil as well as excavation of foundations and the removal of 'soft' fill below structural members.

5.2 Recommendations for mitigation

- 5.2.1 The proposed development is likely to directly adversely affect potentially important archaeological evidence of the Roman *vicus*. In the light of the potential importance of these features archaeological evaluation is recommended to allow an informed planning decision to be made.
- 5.2.2 Owing to the amount of demolition rubble covering the site, geophysical survey may not be as useful in this case as it would have been when surveying a less complex area. Archaeological evaluation trenches would allow a clearer assessment of the complexity and extent of archaeological features and deposits within the area of the proposed works. It is therefore recommended that a number of evaluation trenches 15m by 1.5m in size are excavated prior to any development work on the site to establish the nature, condition and preservation of archaeological deposits. Five trenches have been proposed principally in the areas to the south of the footprint of the Church (Fig.15)

- 5.2.3 It must be emphasised that an evaluation exercise is based upon the results of the assessment phase of work and is designed to furnish the County Archaeologist with sufficient information to enable informed planning decisions to be made. It may be that a further exercise subsequent to the evaluation is necessary.

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Appendix 1 : Roman finds in area of vicus

FINDS FROM THE VICUS AT SOUTH SHIELDS

(From results of a documentary survey carried out by P T Bidwell and J Lunn in 1983, updated in the later 1980s by A T Croom, final update by M E Snape in 1994. Tyne and Wear Museums Archaeology Department)

Note: Further work. Check Hooppell's coin list and the hoard in the file of cuttings.

AA 3 ser 20, obituary for Blair

1. 'Paved road'

'... in the course of the excavations necessary to make Baring Street'

[Running North-South across Baring Street, between the junctions of Trajan Street and of Vespasian Street. Positions c, c on plate VI of the following.]

Hooppell, *Nat. Hist. Trans. Northumbria, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne*, VII (1887), 4, pl V.

2. Sculpture and stone trough

'Close beside it [the road, no.1 above] a striking sculptured stone, which was conjectured with great probability to have been connected with some funeral monument. Near it also were the remains of a shallow stone trough.'

Hooppell, *Nat. Hist. Trans. Northumbria, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne*, VII (1878), 4-5.

3. Brigantia altar, *RIB* 1053, *CSIR* 233

- a) 'at the corner of Baring and Trajan Street, about 100 yards due south of the south west angle of the Roman Station'

Blair Album, p148, 8 April 1895.

- b) *Academy*, 10 April 1895 (Blair Album, p132).

- c) Blair Album, p130, April 1895.

- d) *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newcastle*, 2 ser, 7 (1895), 44-6.

4. Coin of Constantine, skull and human remains

'at the crossing of Trajan Street and Roman Road ... [found] whilst laying gas pipe'

Blair Album, p96, 24 August 1892.

5. Julius Verax altar, RIB 1057

- a) 'building operations on the east end of Vespasian Avenue'
Proc. Soc. Antiq. London, 17 (1897-9), 37 (CHECK ? 1st ser)
- b) '... a little to the south of the Roman camp. It was dedicated to some god, whose name would come after that of the dedicator but is broken away, by Julius Verax, a centurion of the sixth legion.'
Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newcastle, 2 ser 8 (1898), 110.

6. 'Wall of Roman tiles'

- a) Found on the north side of Livingstone Street between Baring Street and James Mather Street, two thirds along length to the west.
Blair Album, plan opp p5.

7. Female skeleton, grave goods (and a previous similar find)

'a day or 2 ago a man engaged in levelling the east end of Livingstone street ... uncovered the remains of a female with whom had been buried 5 bronze bracelets of different patterns and small bronze ring ... a discovery of similar objects was made near the same spot a few months ago'
Shields Daily News, May 1880 (Blair Album, p122).

8. Two parallel pavements or roads

- a) 'A cross section of a road running the Roman fort at the Lawe on a line nearly parallel with Baring Street, but tending a little to the westward ... it consisted of two parallel pavements or roads ... and on the crown of the hill were not more than six inches below the tiled surface'
G. B. Hodgson, *The Borough of South Shields*, 1903, 29.
- b) *Daily Journal*, 19 February 1876 (Blair Album, p85).
- c) *South Shields Gazette*, 8 February 1961.

9. Linen smoother and mortarium

- a) Found in Cleveland Street c1877
Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newcastle, 4 ser 6 (1933-4), 355-7

- b) L. Allason-Jones and R. Miket, *The catalogue of small finds from South Shields Roman fort*, 1984, 280-1, no. 4.54.

- 10. **Victor tombstone, RIB 1064, CSIR 248**
 - a) 'the remaining portion, the pediment top having been found about three years ago, though at the same street [Cleveland Street]. Yet at a distance of more than 100 yards'
Proc. Soc. Antiq. London, 10 (1883-5), 195 (CHECK)
 - b) '... removing the sand and other loose material ... at the intersection of James Mather Street and Cleveland Street'
Archaeol. Aeliana, 2 ser 10 (1885), 311-8.

- 11. **Gable of Victor tombstone, RIB 1064**
 - a) 'digging the foundations of a house at the east end of Cleveland Street'
South Shields Gazette and Daily Telegraph, 27 January 1881.
(Blair Album p127)
 - b) '... found in Cleveland Street ...'
Archaeol. Aeliana, 2 ser 10, 248-9.

- 12. **'Numerous pieces of Samian ware'**
 - a) 'In the course of excavations necessary to make Baring Street ... (near (b) on the General Plan, Plate V, and at many other points)'
[Just over half way down Baring Street from its junction with Fort Street - near Fairles Street. Position *b* on plate V of the following.]
Hooppell, *Nat. Hist. Trans. Northumbria, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne*, VII, 1878, 4, pl V.

- 13.i) **Several graves, one complete stone lined grave, with skeleton.**
 - a) 'In digging for sand ... About seven or eight graves have been noticed. In one of them a nearly-perfect skeleton was found. It was contained in a cist formed of rough pieces of sandstone.'
Archaeologia, 46 (1880) 167-8.
 - b) skull 'taken out of a grave formed of stone slabs in the graveyard about 300 yards to the south west of the Roman camp.... about 40

years ago'

Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newcastle, 3 ser 5 (1911-12), 137-8.

- c) 'and a Roman grave with its occupant *in situ* ... This latter was found near *d*, on the General Plan, Plate V.'

'... The soil above and below is sand.'

Hooppell, *Nat. Hist. Trans. Northumbria, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne*, (1878) 17, 42, pls V, XII.

- d) 'way to north of Bath Street'
Blair Album, p74; 5 April 1875, sketch.

ii) Graves and urns

- a) 'while labourers were engaged digging for sand in a field about 300 yards from the south west corner of the station at the Lawe here, and about the supposed line of the militaryway

... they came upon several skeletons, which, on exposure to the air, crumbled to pieces. The bodies were lying north-east and south west, and had been placed in cists rudely built of flat pieces of sandstone. No monuments of any description were found with the remains. A fragment, however, of a tombstone was fortunately exhumed in the immediate neighbourhood ... sketch enclosed [does not survive], which though much defaced ...'

Hand written notice, Blair Album, p44

Proc. Soc. Antiq. London, 2 ser, 1, 19 (CHECK)

(see also 15i and 16 below)

- b) 'many others were found thus buried [inhumations in stone lined graves] in this place: many urns also, with calcined ashes within, and marks of fire around'

[Position *d* on Plate V of the following.]

Hooppell, *Nat. Hist. Trans. Northumbria, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne*, VII (1878) 42, pl V.

iii) Bronze coin in urn [illegible: ? Domitian]

- a) 'found in an urn near Bath Street'
Archaeol. Aeliana, 2 ser 10 (1884), 277.

14. Regina tombstone, RIB 1065, CSIR 247

- a) 'digging ... in Bath Street ... stone, lying on the ground'
Shields Daily News, Oct/Nov 1878 (Blair Album, p92).

- b) 'for foundations of garden wall ... not far from the supposed line of the Rekendyke'
Letter from R. Blair to C. Roach Smith, 2 October, stuck in *Collectanea Antiqua*, VII, between pp 104-5, C. Wannes, Maidstone Museum.
- c) 'excavating for foundation of a wall in connection with Mr J. Grieve's soda water manufactory, Bath Street'
[Directory for 1878 puts the manufactory in Ingham Street, just to south of Bath Street]
N. Journal, 22 October 1878.
- d) *Academy*, 2 November 1878.
- e) Blair Album, p123.
- f) *Shields Gazette and Daily Telegraph*, 18 November 1878.
- g) *The Times*, 25 November 1878.
- h) unknown, Blair reported by W. Wright, 3 December 1878.
- i) *Athenaeum*, no date.
- j) *Arch. J.*, 34 (1888), 489-95 (CHECK)

15.i) Two graves formed of stone slabs, with no remains. One grave of slabs of stone, bottom, sides and top, with human remains

- a) 'in ground belonging to Mr James Pollard, builder, situated near to the end of Bath St ... two graves formed of stone slabs which did not contain any bones or other remains ... a third grave which was found to contain human remains was come upon ... the grave which is situated about 120 yards south west of the paved way leading into the Roman station, lay north and south, the depth from the top of the cover to the surface of the grave being 2ft 6in and the length of the grave about 6 ft ... construction bottom, sides and top of sandstone and limestone slabs. After removing the top, which was composed of 2 or 3 irregular layers, the sand, in which the remains were completely embedded was carefully removed ... the skull with teeth ... bones of the arms, thighs and legs of a person of about average size ... remains removed ... to free library'
Daily Journal, 19 February 1876 (Blair Album, p85).

ii) Three graves (? one female, two male), stone at head and feet

only.

- a) 'The site of the cemetery attached to the castrum is now being excavated to uniform depth of 3 feet for building purposes. Within the last seven days three graves have been disturbed. The bodies seem to have been simply buried in the ground, with a stone at the head and another at the feet. One of them, a female, had four bracelets on her right wrist, and near were discovered five or six small beads of various colours, which may have formed a necklet; a fragment of bone, which probably is a portion of a comb, was also found with this body. With the other bodies apparently of strong well-made men, there was no trace of anything being buried. The locus in quo is not many from the place where the Palmyrene tombstone was unearthed some time ago'
[i.e Regina, no.14 above]
J. Brit. Arch. Assoc., **36** (1880), 113-114 (CHECK UNI LIBRARY)

16. IVL tombstone, RIB 1063

(NB See also Bruce AA 2 ser 10 (1885) 244 with fig. NB Tombstone to son of Lucius Arruntius RIB 1062 – found SW of fort)

- a) 'found in the sandhill in which the graves [no.15.i above] were found'
Daily Journal, 19 February 1876 (Blair Album p85).
- b) 'B. Whittaker says the monument referred to in the *Daily Journal and Chronicle* (CHECK) for August 3rd, 1876 ... found on Mr Pollard's ground is the fragment with DM in the triangle. [This is, in fact, incorrect]. He says local tradition has it the house on the corner of the site at the junction of
Pollard Street and the back lane was the find-spot'
South Shields Fort Excavations Day Book, 18 November 1983
- c) 'Many graves and skeletons have been disclosed. One tombstone, very like our own modern gravestones, has also come to light. Its description, beyond "D.M." is hardly legible.'
Hooppell, *Nat. Hist. Trans. Northumbria, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne*, VII (1878), 16.

17. Grave with inscribed slab

- a) 'On Monday the most remarkable grave yet found at the Roman Remains, was dug out out of Mr Pollard's ground. A monument composed of seven upright stones, which had been dovetailed together, standing about 18" high, was at the head of the grave. This was covered with a slab bearing an inscription, but this was taken

away ...'

Shields Gazette and Daily Telegraph, 3 August 1876 (CHECK)

- b) see also *South Shields Fort Excavations Day Book*, 18 November 1983 [quoted above, 16(b)].

18. Grave and skeleton

- a) 'this morning while some workmen were engaged in laying water pipes, at the south end of Baring Street ... they uncovered a stone coffin, which contained a skeleton in perfect condition'
Shields Gazette, 5 February 1880

19. Silver coin of Titus

'... found at the back of Hedley Street'
Archaeol. Aeliana, 2 ser 10 (1884), 276.

20. Gold coin of Magnus Maximus

- a) 'a seven foot deep trench for drainage on the Palatine Street building site, between Mile End Road and Baring Street ... some 2 foot below the surface'
[Palatine Street does not lie between these two roads]
Museums Accessions
- b) *Newcastle Evening Chronicle*, 13 September 1976

21. Mars altar, RIB 1055, CSIR 198

- a) 'a little to the west of the Roman station at South Shields by men digging a trench for pipes'
Tyne Mercury, 30 April 1887.
- b) 'digging a trench for pipes in Cockburn Street ... a new street recently formed and a little to the west of the castrum there'
Blair Album, p149, 27 April 1877 [must be 1887].
- c) *Academy*, 30 April 1887.
- d) *Academy*, 7 May 1887.
- e) *Shields Gazette and Daily Telegraph*, 30 November 1887,

(Blair Album, p130). [Date must surely be wrong; text says altar found 'about a week ago']

- f) *Arch. J.*, **45** (1888), 171 (CHECK UNI LIBRARY]

22. 'Mortar' - 18" stone slab with smoothed out hollow

- a) 'area for new foundations ' of the South Shields Boat Angling Club
in Wapping Street'
Shields Gazette, 1 July 1974.

23.i) Samian ware, MASCILLIO

- a) 'in St. Stephen's church yard'
Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newcastle, 2 ser, 6, (1893), 140 (CHECK)
- b) Blair Album, p163.

ii) Coins

- a) Coins of Gallienus and Marcus Aurelius found in digging a grave in
St. Stephen's churchyard at a depth of 4'
Blair Album, p95, April 1899.
- b) First brass of Lucius Verus, 'in St. Stephen's churchyard'
Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newcastle, 3 ser 1 (1903), 49.
- c) 'A first brass Roman coin of the Empress Faustina the Younger' 'it
was dug up in St. Stephen's churchyard ... while grave making, on 9
August last'
Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newcastle, 3 ser 1 (1904), 258.

iii) Amphora handle, Samian stamped Jus

- a) 'both from St. Stephen's churchyard
Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newcastle, 3 ser 1 (1904), 270.

24. Samian dish, Dr 31, stamped GENITOR

'found a little to the south of Green's Terrace'
Blair Album, p116, 18 February 1876.

25. Samian dish

- a) of large size and nearly perfect, was found in excavating for the cellar of a house ... at a depth of seven feet below the surface ... higher up the rising ground, the foundations of walls ... might be uncovered'

South Shields Gazette and Daily Telegraph, 20 February 1875
(Blair Album, p32).

- b) 'at a depth of about seven feet ... a beautiful patera of samian ware, perfect, except for one piece which has been broken out of the side, showing the potter's mark, and a scratched inscription'

[Position a on Plate V of the following.]

Hooppell, *Nat. Hist. Trans. Northumbria, Durham and Newcastle upon Tyne*, VII (1878), 5, pl V.

26. Pottery, walls

'a trench for new services ... dug along Green's Place from its junction with Baring Street to the large Georgian House'

South Shields Fort Excavations Day Book, 16 and 27 March 1984.

27. Drain of tiles two inches thick

'repairs to the sea wall opposite the Pilot Office, Green's Place. Some 25 feet below the modern street level' - early months of 1937
K. A. Steer *The Archaeology of Roman Durham*, 1938

28. Hypocaust and gold coin

- a) [Quoting Surtees' *History of Durham*, vol II, p101]: 'On this same Lawe Hill in 1798, some workmen employed on the grounds of Nicholas Fairles, Esq., struck on the evident remains of a Roman hypocaust. A sketch taken at the time is in Mr. Fairles's possession, with some fragments of the masonry, which consisted of brick and dressed freestone intermingled; the lowest course was of rough whinstone, evidently brought from the shore, as the barnacles (*Patella vulgata*) were still adhering to them. Mr. Fairless also possesses a beautiful gold coin of Marcus Aurelius, and several small brass from Claudius Gothicus to Valentinian. The buildings which it [the sketch] represents are all outside the station at its north-eastern corner. They stand upon the edge of the Lawe ... The buildings seem to have been of a mixed character, some Roman, others of a later date.'

Archaeol. Aeliana, 2 ser 10 (1884), 230.

- b) 'In 1798 a Hypocaust, a gold coin and other remains were uncovered near the Lawe House'
[coin of M. Aurelius]
Shields Gazette and Daily Telegraph, 1 March 1875 (Blair Album, p32).
- c) '... a rough plan made about 1770 or 1780 ...'
Proc. Soc. Antiq. Newcastle, 2 ser 9 (1901), 214-5.
- d) original ms. plan by N Fairless in Blair Album.

29. Buildings 'apparently villas'

'On the strip of level land between the eastern wall and the seaward edge of the Lawe'
G. B. Hodgson *The Borough of South Shields*, 1903, 17.

30. Pine cone sculpture (CSIR 251) and gold coin

- a) 'found in the burial ground of the South Shields station'
Archaeol. Aeliana, 2 ser 10 (1884), 250; (1885), 312.
- b) a fir cone, sculptured, and fixed upon a pedestal. Along with it a gold coin was also unearthed'. Found 'in the course of making the roads'
Chronicle, 4 March 1875 (Blair Album, p34).
- c) CSIR 251 (p93, pl 69).

31. Quern

'within the vicinity of the Roman Remains at the Lawe'
Tyne Mercury, 9 April 1881.

32. Coins, including one of Maximian (286-308)

- a) 'south of the railway in Haddock Street, and therefore near the position of Cade's Quay'
G. B. Hodgson *The Borough of South Shields*, 1903, 29-30.
- b) *Archaeol. Aeliana*, 2 ser 10 (1884), 298 (CHECK)

33. Three bronze coins, one of Vespasian and one of Domitian

'about eight feet below present surface near Thornton Street and a little to the east of the road leading to Tyne Dock'
Archaeol. Aeliana, 2 ser 10 (1884), 276-7.

NB Look at this on map

34. ? Ford - 'series of water worn boulders evidently placed ... by human agency

'where an old house at the corner of Waterloo Vale and Oyston Street was pulled down in 1875, to make room for the building of St. Hilda's Young Wives' Institute'
Shields Gazette, 23 March 1955.

35. Altar, CSIR 301

- a) 'Two other altars have been found at this place [north-west corner of station], one ... built up in a quay wall'
 Horsley, *Britannia Romana* (1732), 286.
- b) 'several other altars have been built up in the quay at this place'
Shields Gazette and Daily Telegraph, 1 March 1875.

36. Preservers altar, RIB 1054, CSIR 182

- a) 'upon the bank of the Tine'
 Lister, Gibson's edition of Camden's *Britannia* (1695).
- b) 'two other altars have been found in this place'
 Horsley, *Britannia Romana* (1732), 286.

37. Raised 'pavement'

- a) 'at the west end of South Shields'
 Letter from Dr Hunter to Roger Gale, 17 May 1735.
Surtees Society, 76, 139
- b) *Shields Gazette and Daily Telegraph*, 1 March 1875.

38. Coin of Valentinian I

- a) 'found in soil in the area of the Pigeon Lofts off River Drive'
[Now site of new houses on ballast hill behind Metro, between
Salem St and Palatine St.]
Museum enquiry, 3 September 1982.

Finds from South Shields Society excavations at Beacon Street***CSIR 199***

Statue of bearded figure wearing cuirass

CSIR 302

Altar to IOM

ssessment

TYNE AND WEAR SPECIALIST CONSERVATION TEAM

Specification for an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment of the site of St Aidan's Church, St Aidan's Road, South Shields

Introduction

St. Aidan's Church has recently been demolished. A planning application has been submitted for 20 apartments with car parking, new vehicular access and landscaping on the site.

The site may lie within the former extent of the vicus (civilian settlement) which surrounded Arbeia Roman Fort. The fort is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and part of the Hadrian's Wall Unesco World Heritage Site. The vicus forms the setting of the WHS (Hadrian's Wall Management Plan 2002-2007).

Roman archaeological remains may therefore be present on the site.

Did the church have a graveyard?

In accordance with PPG16 and UDP policy ENV8/3 a Desk Top Assessment is required to appraise the likelihood that important archaeological deposits survive on the site, and assess the impact on those deposits by construction work associated with the proposed development. It will make recommendations for further archaeological work required.

The assessment must be carried out by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeological organisation. The purpose of this brief is to obtain tenders for this work. The report must be the definitive record for deposition in the Tyne and Wear HER.

Archaeological Brief

1. The Assessment must inform the planning authority of the archaeological and historical importance of the site.

2. All relevant documentary (such as local history books, journals, papers, documents, county histories, trade directories, census returns, council minutes, court rolls, wills, newspaper cuttings, historic photographs and postcards, prints and engravings etc.) and cartographic records (including historic mapping, archive plans, surveys, estate plans, tithe maps and OS mapping) relating to the vicinity must be consulted and synthesised.

The archaeological consultant is expected to consult:

Tyne and Wear Archives at Blandford House, Blandford Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 4JA (tel. 0191 2326789)

Durham Record Office, County Hall, Durham DH1 5UL (tel. 0191 3833253)

Newcastle City Library local studies section, Princess Square, Newcastle upon Tyne NE99 1DX (tel. 0191 2774116)

Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections, Palace Green Section, Durham DH1 3RN (tel. 0191 3342932)

South Shields Local Studies, Central Library, Prince Georg Square, South Shields NE33 2PE (tel. 0191 4271818 ext. 7860)

National Monuments Record, Kemble Drive, Swindon SN2 2GZ (tel. 01793 414600)

and any other local resource with relevant information.

Geological bedrock and drift mapping for the area must be analysed.

The County Historic Environment Record housed at the West Chapel, Jesmond Old Cemetery must be consulted. *Archaeological contractors are advised that there is a search fee payable for consulting the HER (Access and Pricing Policy available on request). Contractors visiting the HER in person and conducting their own research will be charged the basic search fee of £25 plus photocopying costs.*

Any relevant Building Control Plans for the site must be consulted at Tyne and Wear Archives to provide information on the location of cellars or basements or other features which may have destroyed or truncated archaeological deposits. The location of the cellars or areas of disturbance must be marked on a plan in the finished report.

The County Industrial Archaeologist, Ian Ayris must be consulted on any industrial aspects of the Assessment (tel. 0191 2777190 or email ian.ayris@newcastle.gov.uk)

Information on adjacent listed buildings and Conservation Areas must be included and is available from Chris Matten, Senior Planner at South Tyneside Council (0191 4247407).

3. The Assessment must describe the land-use history of this part of South Shields and assess the probability that archaeological deposits survive on this plot

4. The Assessment must describe the geology, topographic position, soil type and drainage of the site, using geological and soil survey maps. The report must make reference to the anticipated preservation conditions likely to be encountered on the site, especially relating to variables affecting the preservation of biological or organic remains.

5. The archaeological contractor must make at least one site visit and the finished Assessment will briefly describe the current condition of the site. A site photograph(s) should be included in the finished report.

6. The archaeological contractor will assess the impact of the proposed development on archaeological deposits by analysing the plans and foundation designs (where available) for the proposed new building. The commissioning client will provide copies of available plans.

The Assessment Report

The Assessment report must contain and synthesise the results of the analysis of all the sources mentioned above. As far as possible, all maps shown should

be at the same scale, to assist in comparing maps of different date and scale, ideally as overlays on a modern base-map, although highlighted enlargements may be used to facilitate the addition of extra annotation.

The report must include a catalogue of features and buildings of archaeological or historical interest within or close to the study area (to aid HER enhancement). Their location must be shown on a site plan. This must include all sites of interest, not just those currently included in the HER.

A final section of the report should consist of recommendations (in the opinion of the consultant, after assessing all evidence available at the present time) about the type, scale and location of any future archaeological work needed to locate and record historic buildings or archaeological deposits suspected on the site. If evaluation is recommended then the finishing report will include a site plan showing the scale and location of suggested trial trenches.

The report must have the following features:-

1. Site location plan and grid reference
2. List of all sources consulted, and their location
3. Details of field visits undertaken by the consultant
4. Photographic prints
5. A card cover with title, date, author, consultant organisation and commissioning client
6. Some form of binding which allows easy copying of the report

Four paper copies of the report need to be submitted, one for the commissioning client, one for the planning authority, one for Mike Collins, English Heritage's Hadrian's Wall Archaeologist (Bessie Surtees House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 3JF) and one for deposition in the County HER. A digital copy of the report on CD is also required by the HER – to be sent with the paper report in a plastic case but not attached to it. *The report and CD for the HER must be sent by the archaeological consultant directly to the address below.*

OASIS

The Tyne and Wear County Archaeologist supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index/access to the large and growing body of archaeological grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded fieldwork.

The archaeological contractor is therefore required to register with OASIS and to complete the online OASIS form for their desk based assessment at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Please ensure that tenders for this work takes into account the time needed to complete the form.

Once the OASIS record has been completed and signed off by the HER and NMR the information will be incorporated into the English Heritage Excavation Index, hosted online by the Archaeology Data Service.

The ultimate aim of OASIS is for an online virtual library of grey literature to be built up, linked to the index. The unit therefore has the option of uploading their grey literature report as part of their OASIS record, as a Microsoft Word document, rich text format, pdf or html format. The grey literature report will

only be mounted by the ADS if both the unit and the HER give their agreement. The grey literature report will be made available through a library catalogue facility.

Please ensure that you and your client understand this procedure. If you choose to upload your grey literature report please ensure that your client agrees to this in writing to the HER at the address below.

For general enquiries about the OASIS project aims and the use of the form please contact: Mark Barratt at the National Monuments Record (tel. 01793 414600 or oasis@english-heritage.org.uk). For enquiries of a technical nature please contact: Catherine Hardman at the Archaeology Data Service (tel. 01904 433954 or oasis@ads.ahds.ac.uk). Or contact the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer at the address below.

Jennifer Morrison
Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer
West Chapel
Jesmond Old Cemetery
Jesmond Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE2 1NJ
Tel (0191) 2816117
jennifer.morrison@newcastle.gov.uk

Ref: MON4082
Planning Application: ST/1334/06/FUL
May 2006

For HER use only:
Quality control

Sources used:

- ☐ Northumberland Record Office
- ☐ Tyne and Wear Archives
- ☐ Newcastle City Library Local Studies
- ☐ Durham Record Office
- ☐ local library
- ☐ Special collections, Palace Green
- ☐ HER
- ☐ Building Control Plans
- ☐ Goad Insurance plans
- ☐ Conservation Officer
- ☐ APs

Report content:

- ☐ site location plan
- ☐ grid reference
- ☐ use of documentary sources (books/journals/papers/county histories/trade directories/court rolls/census returns/documents etc)
- ☐ use of cartographic sources (estate maps/tithe/archive plans/OS)
- ☐ land-use history
- ☐ historic photographs/drawings/engravings
- ☐ geology
- ☐ anticipated preservation conditions
- ☐ evidence of site visit and site photograph
- ☐ listed buildings and Conservation Areas
- ☐ map regression
- ☐ plan of cellars/areas of disturbance
- ☐ catalogue and plan

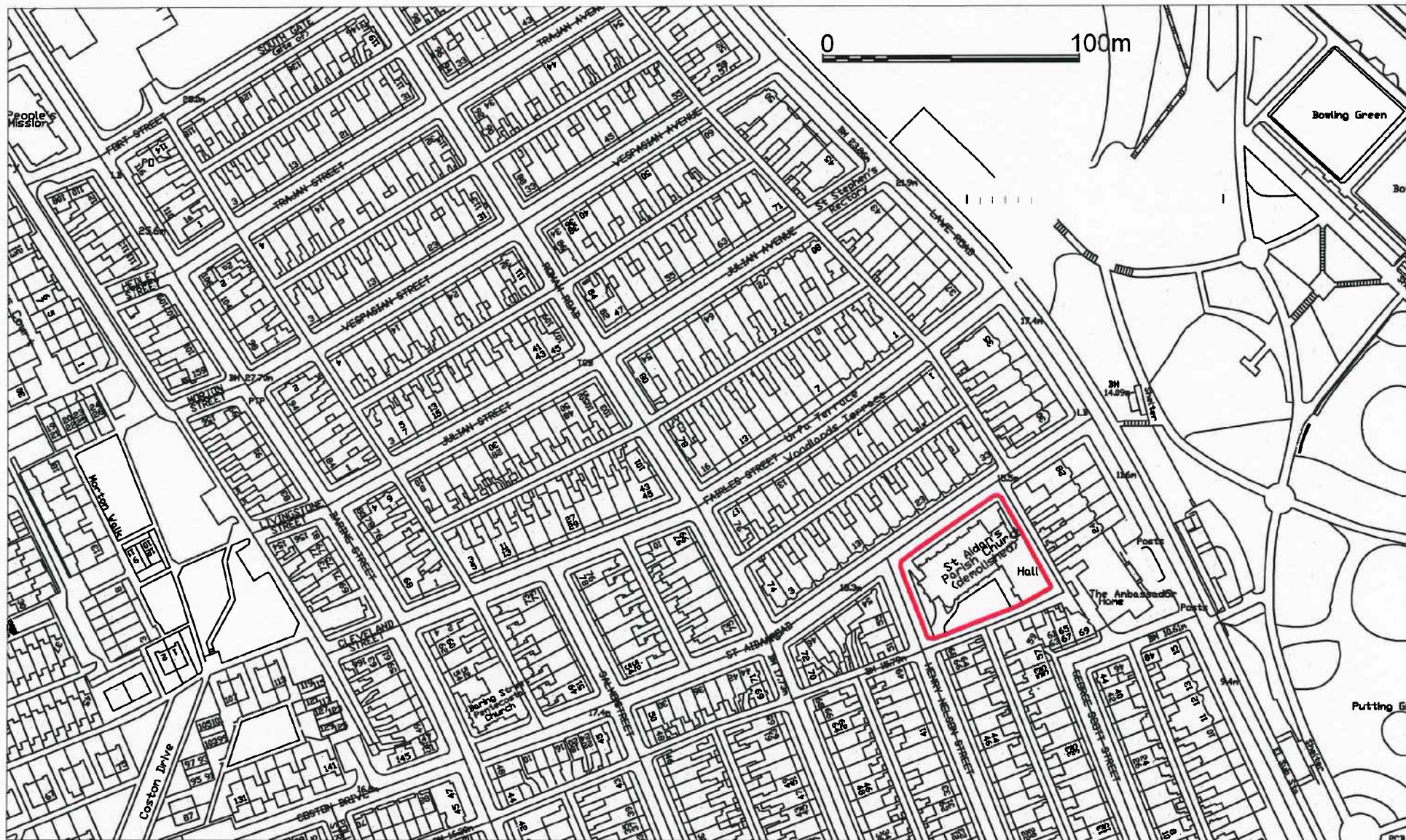


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Not to Scale
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Figure 1: General location of site
(shown in yellow)

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Figure 2: Location of Site

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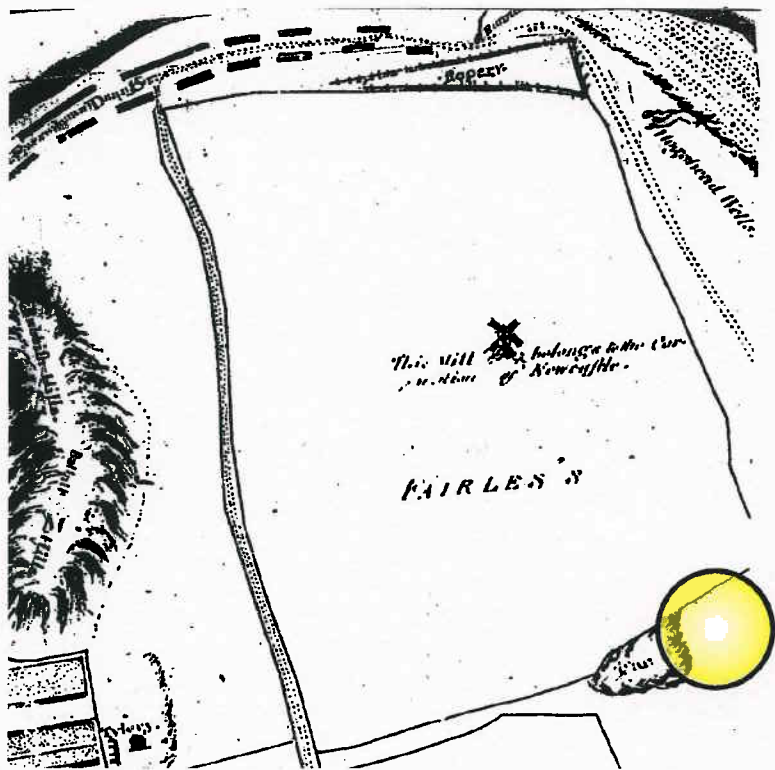


Figure 3

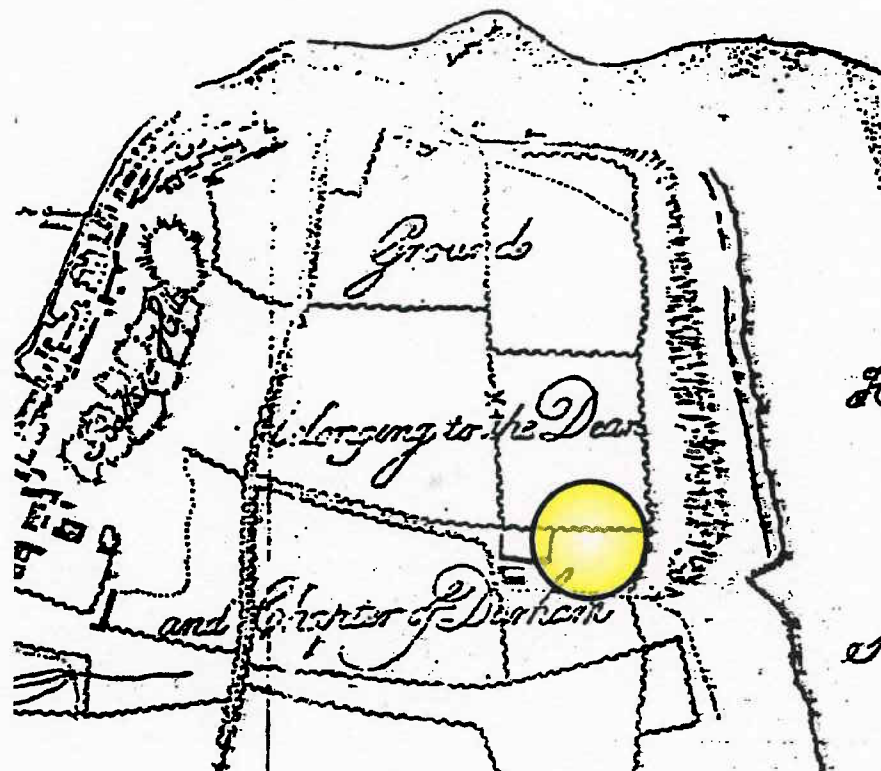


Figure 4

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Figure 3: Stote 1768
Figure 4: Fryer 1772

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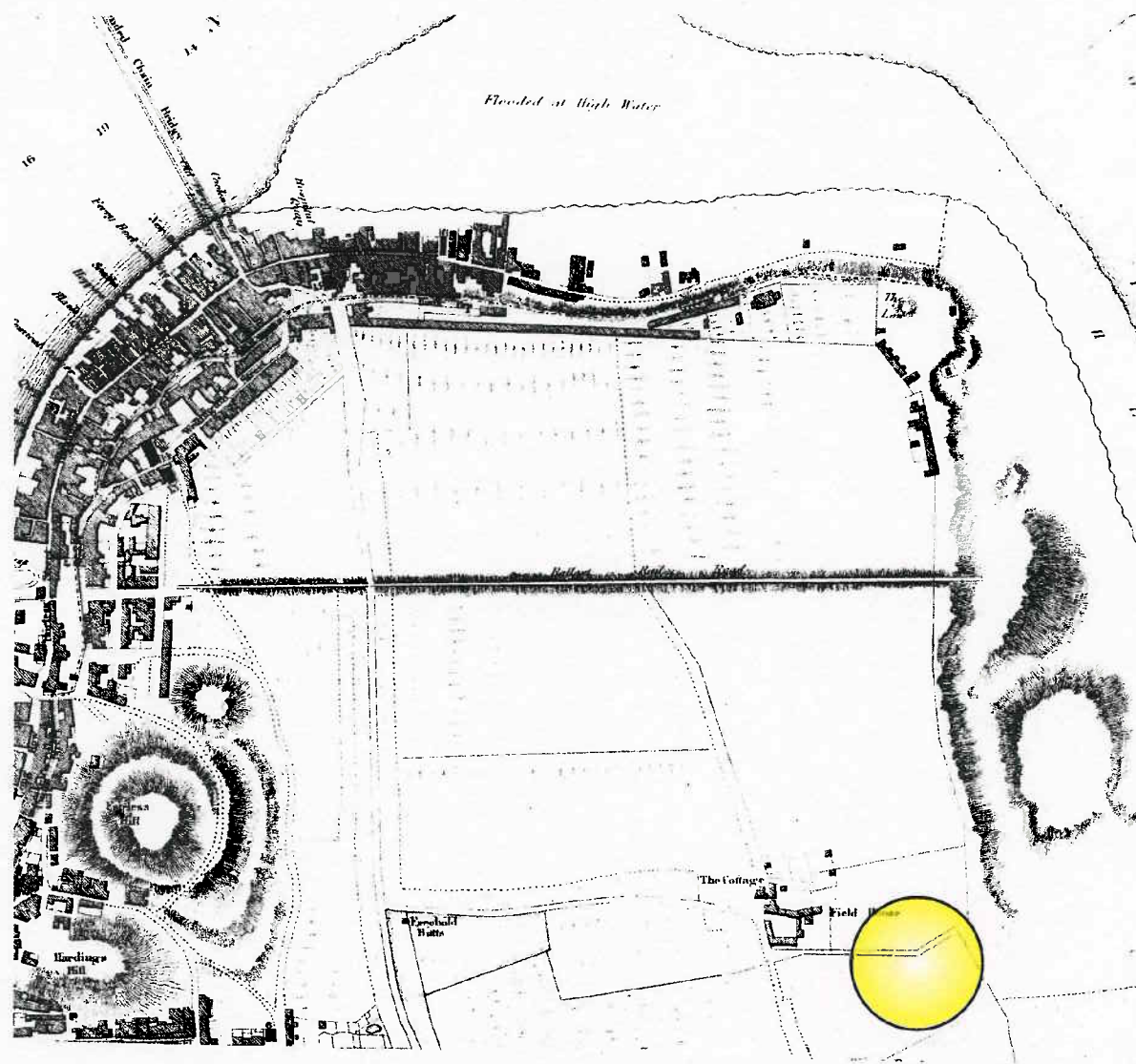


Figure 5: Murphy 1827

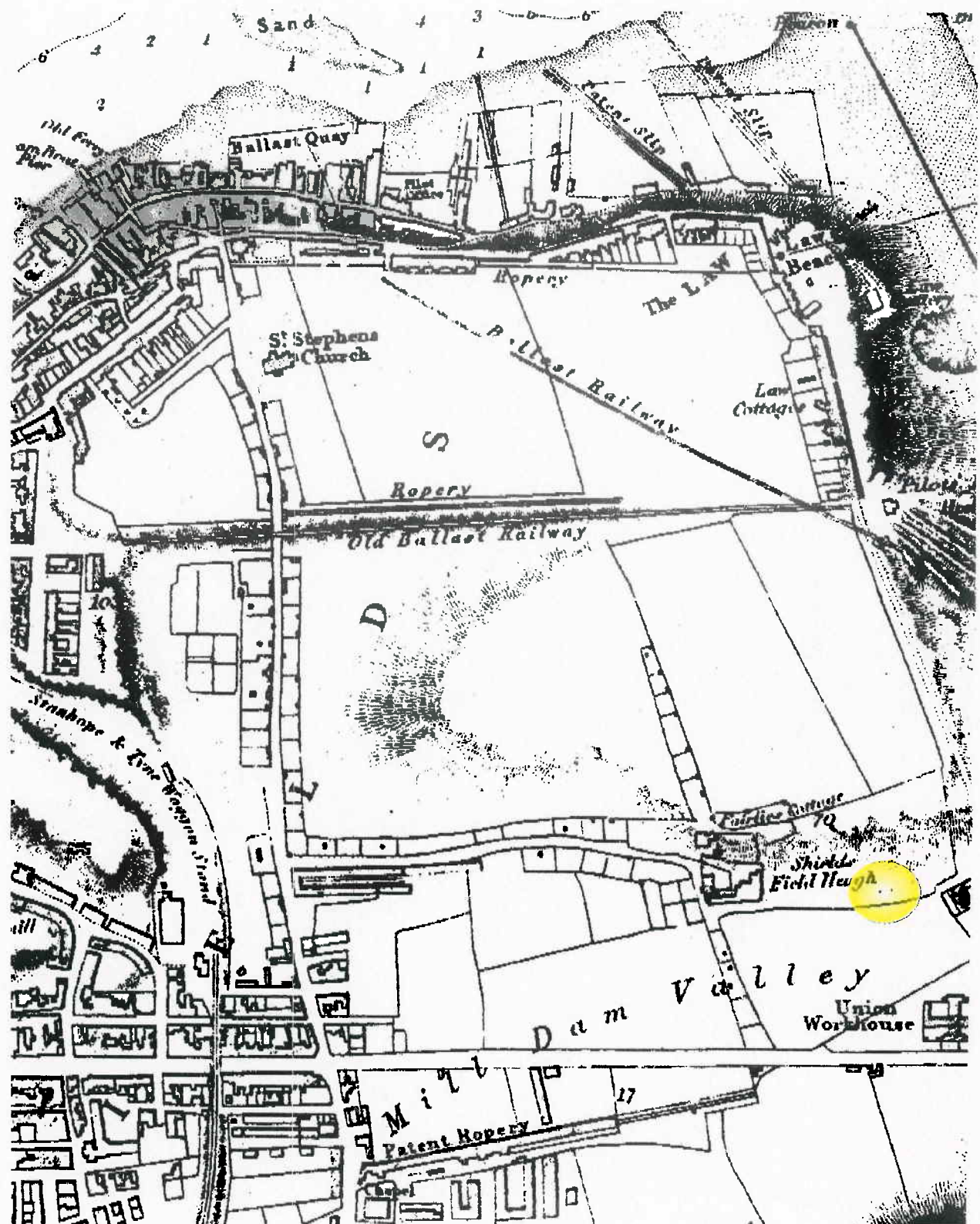


Figure 6: Entrance to the Tyne, 1838-46.
Scale approximately 1:5000

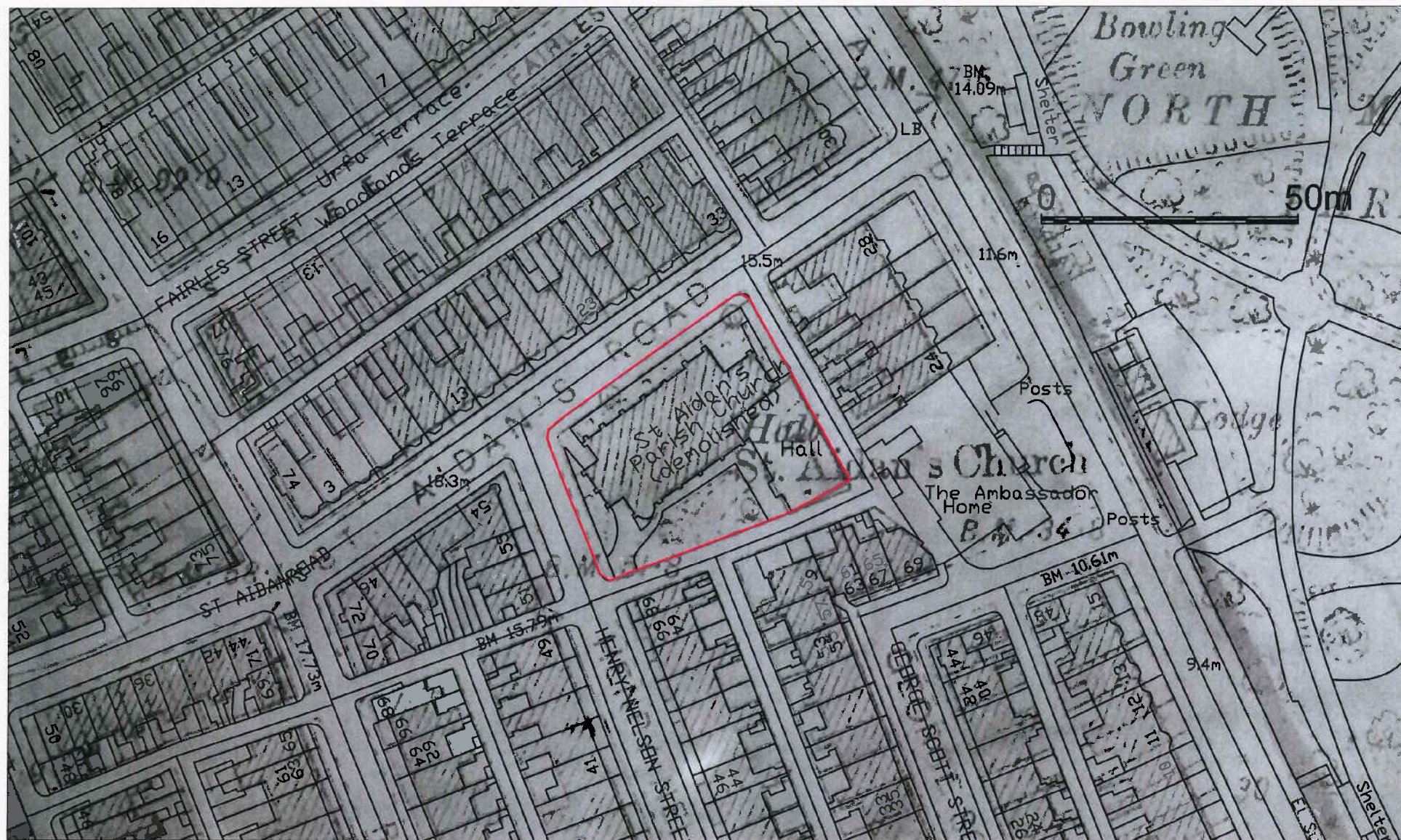


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Figure 7: Showing first edition O.S. mapping, 1862-5

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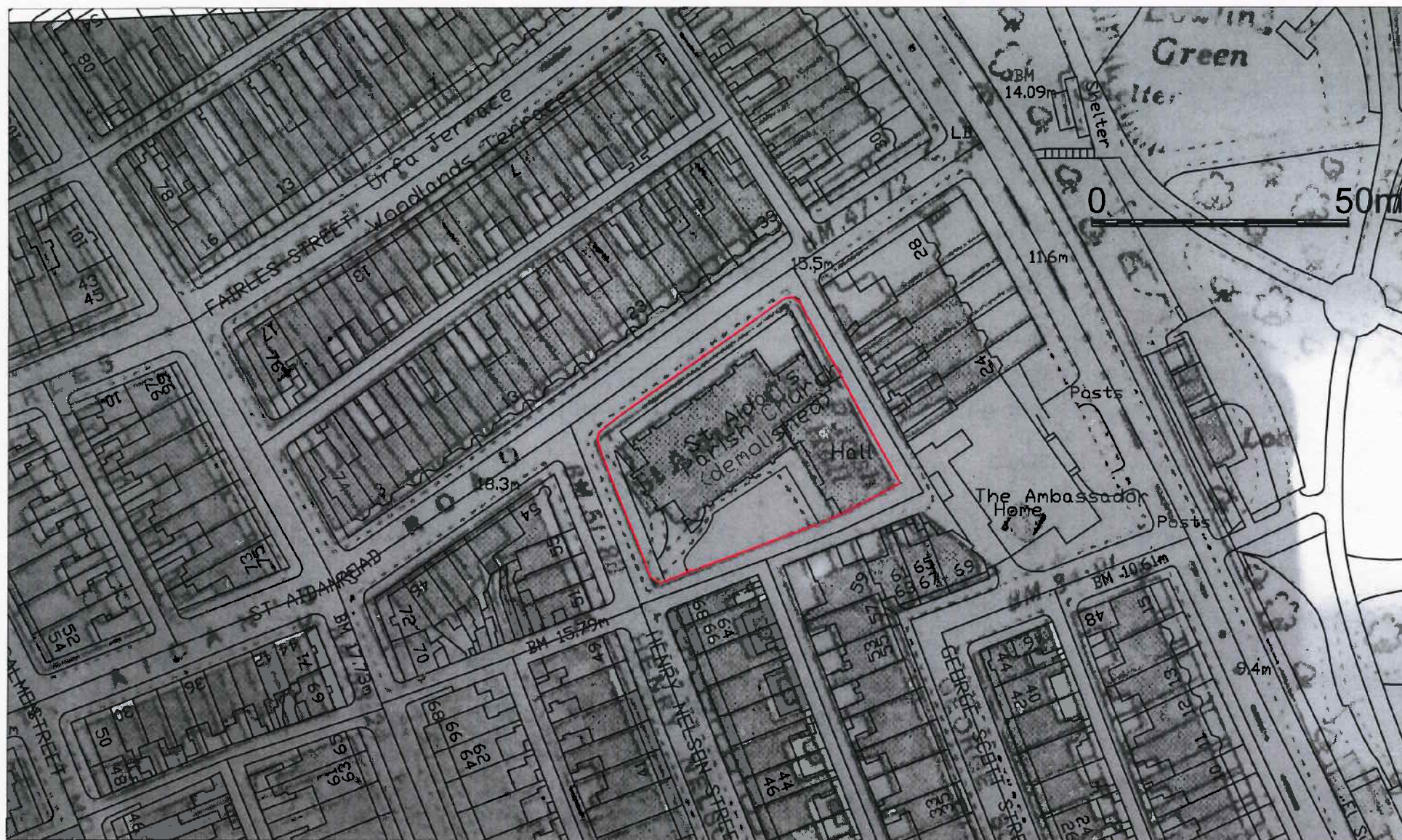


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Figure 8: Showing second edition O.S. mapping, 1898

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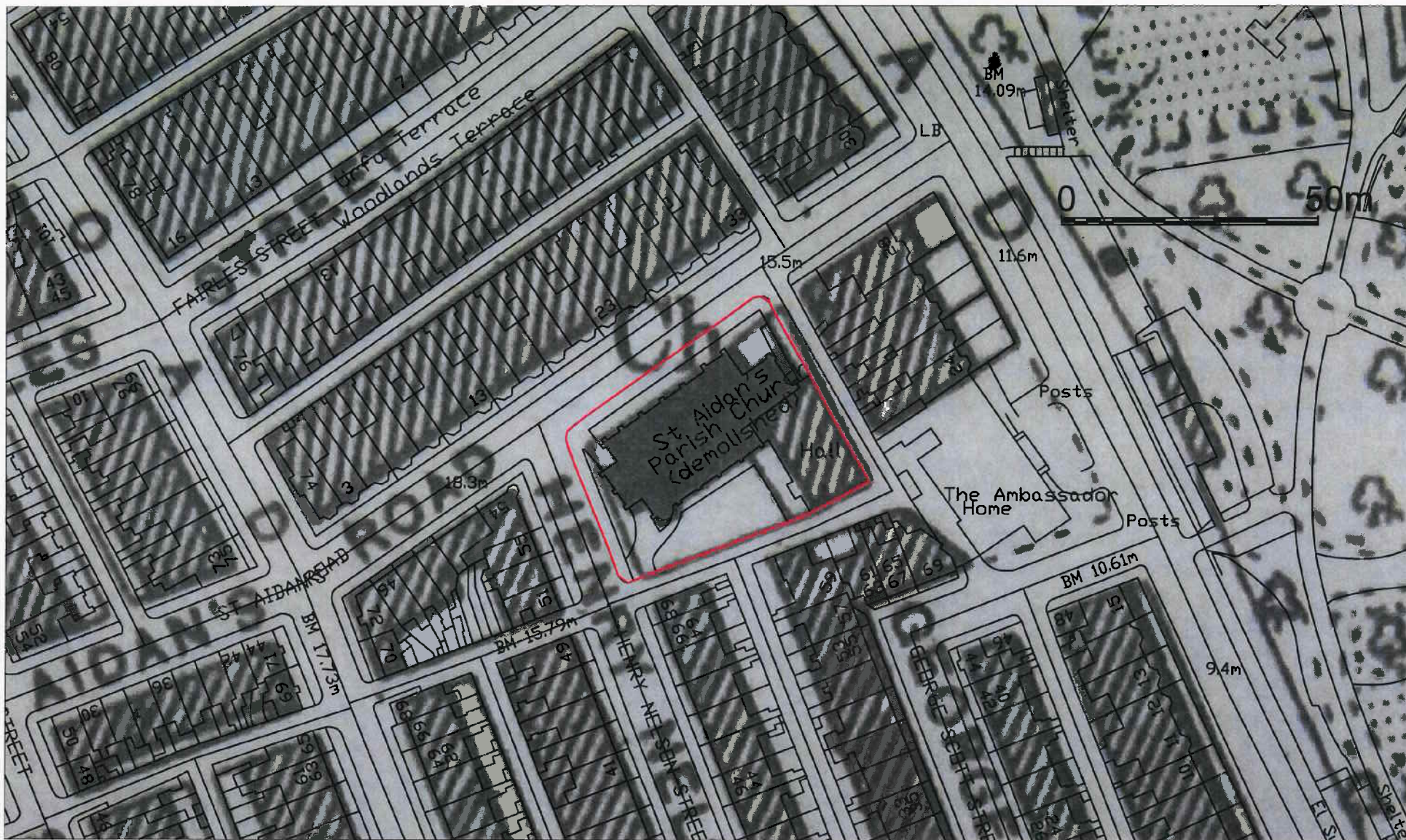


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Figure 9: Showing third edition O.S. Mapping, 1921

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Figure 10: Showing fourth edition O.S. Mapping, 1941

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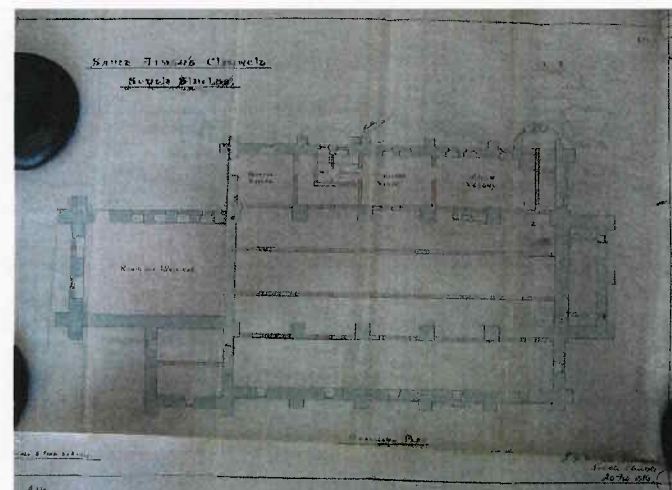
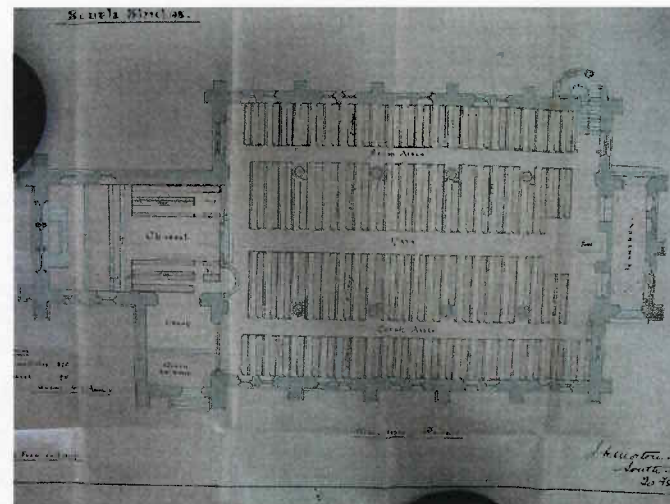
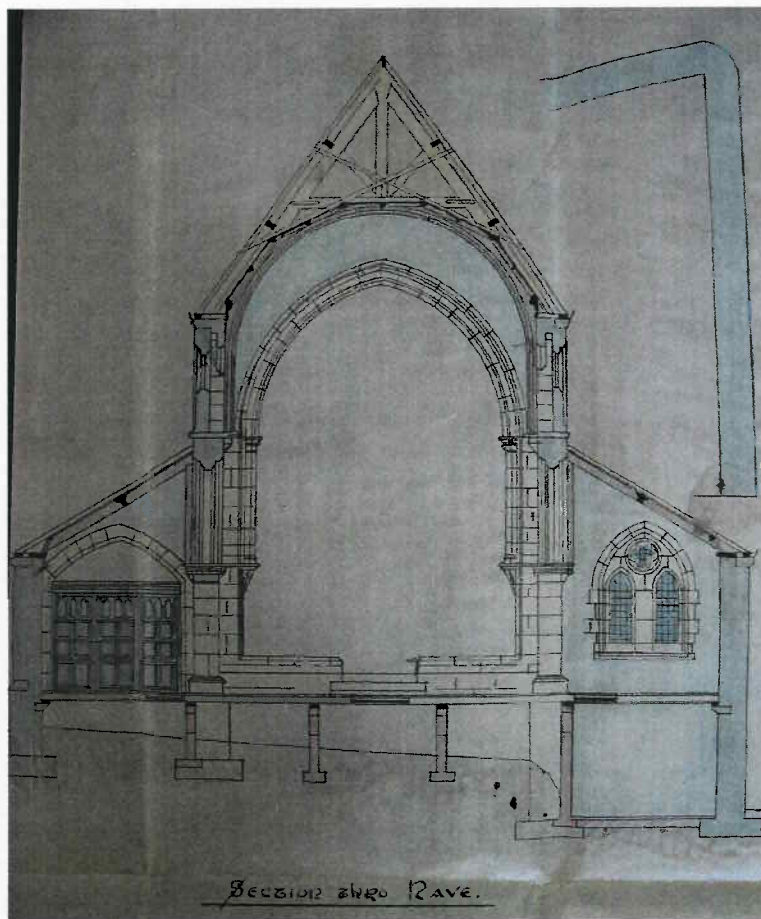


Figure 11: Plans of St. Aidan's Church (TWAS T229/51/3184). Plans approved 14th October 1888

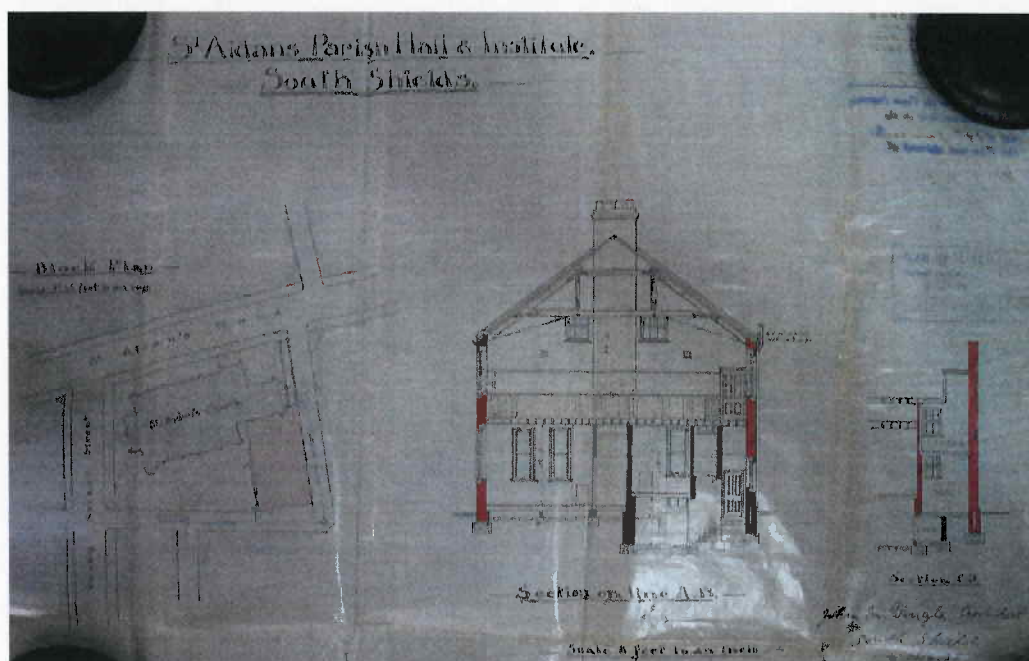
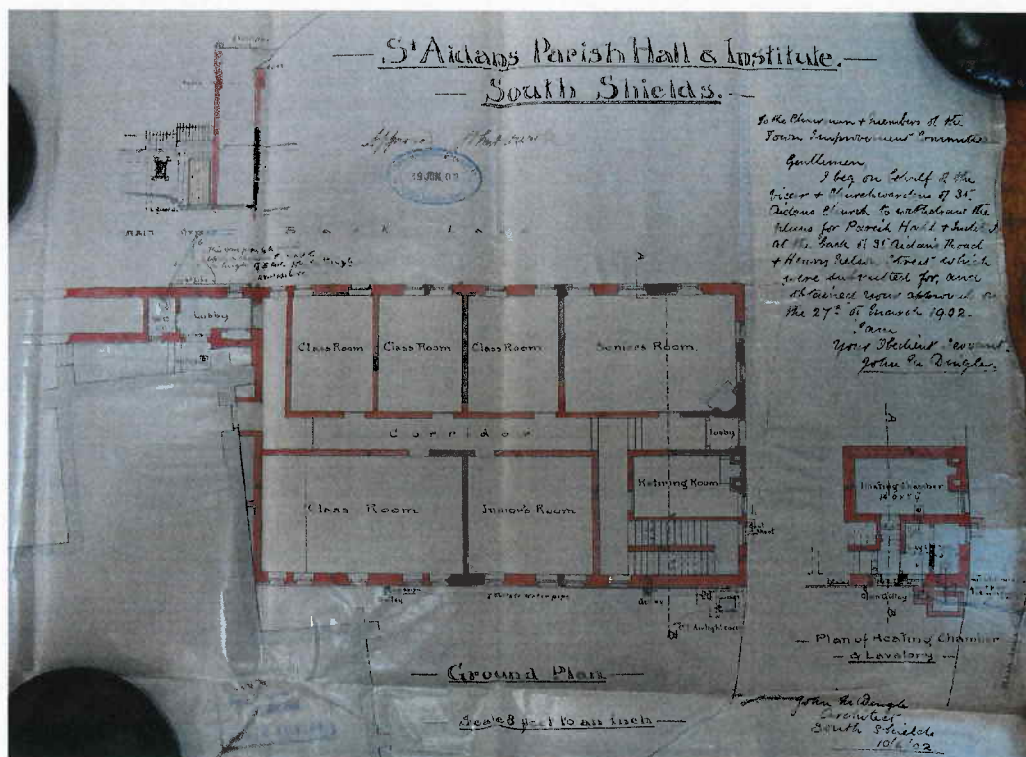


Figure 12: Plans of St. Aidan's Church Hall and Institute (TWAS T229/51/6023). Plans approved 19th June 1902

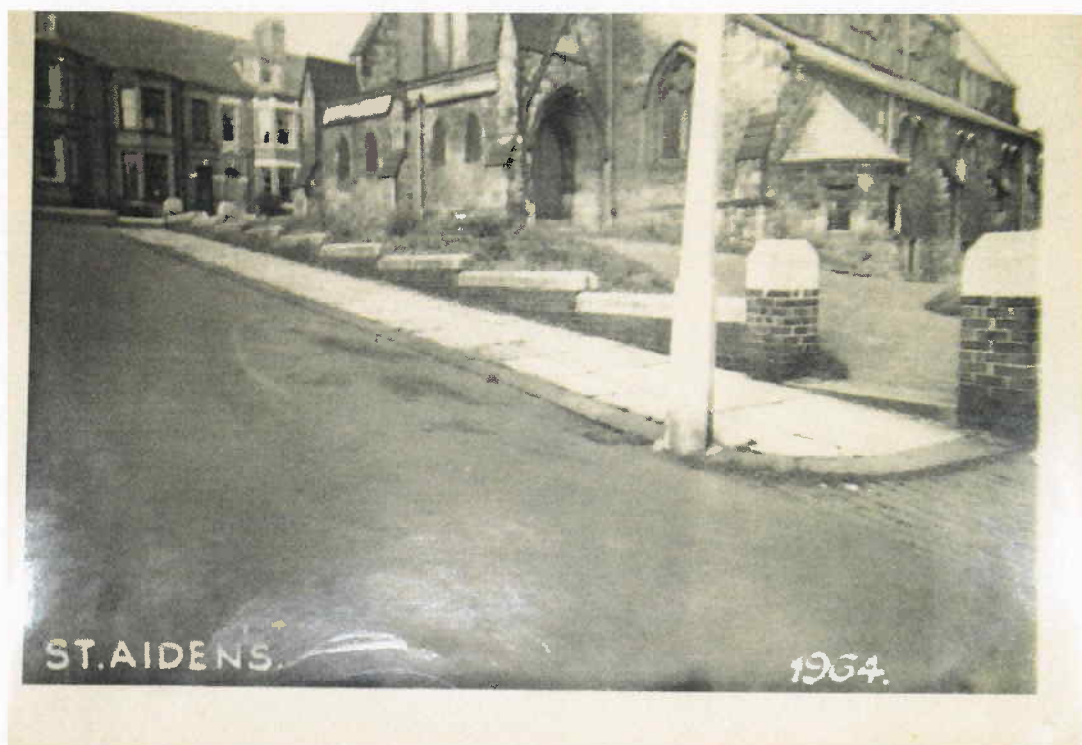


Figure 13: Views of St. Aidan's Church comparing an old photograph of the site as existing.

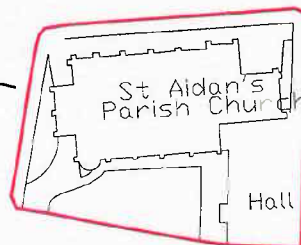


Figure 14: Views of the Site as Existing (11th May 2006)



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Figure 15: Plan of Proposed Mitigation

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Figure 16: Showing location of archaeological features.

● = HER sites

● = Roman find spots and excavations

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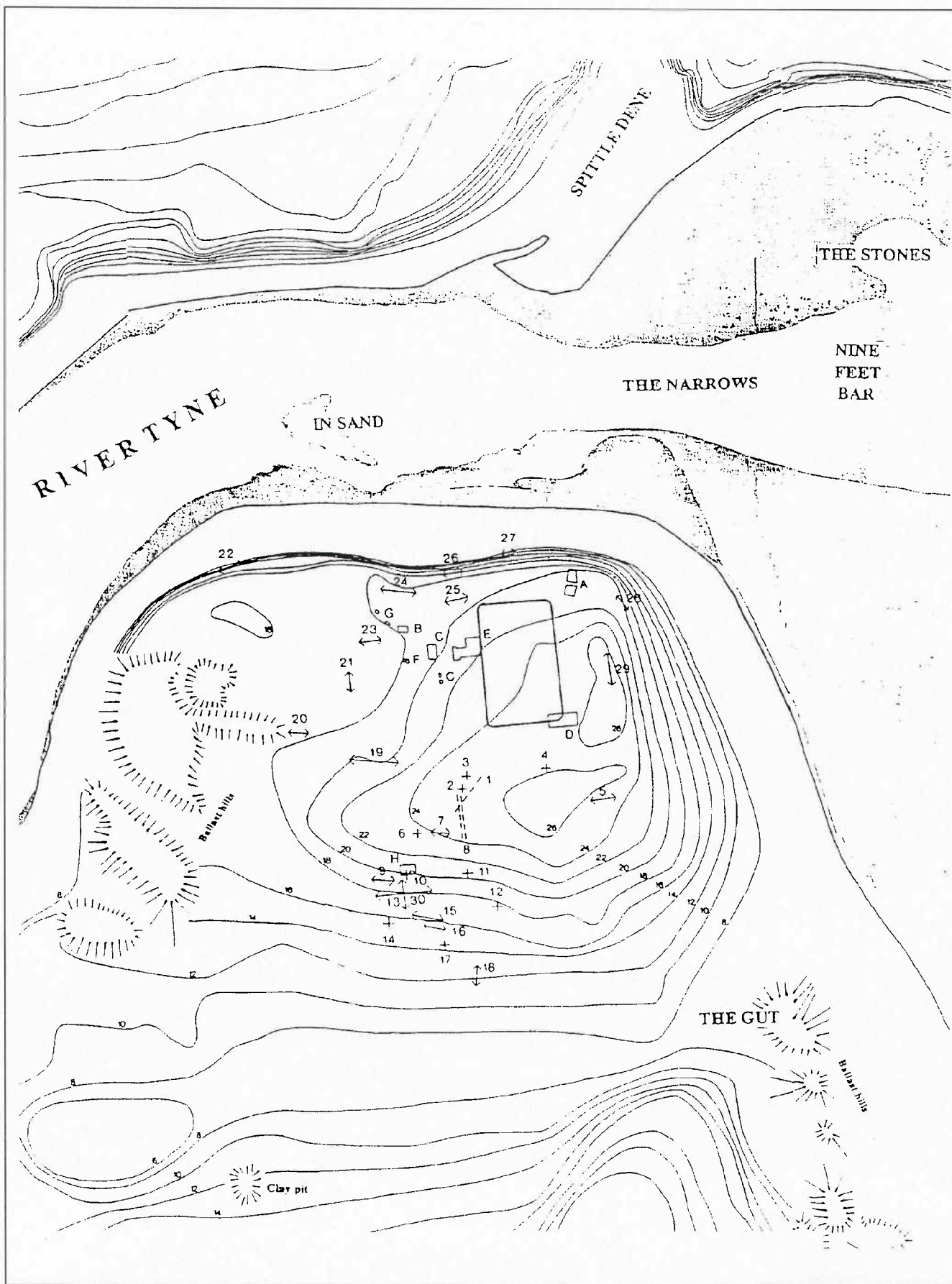


Figure 17: Plan showing the location of Arbeia Roman Fort and possible extent of vicus. Letters indicate location of excavations and numbers indicate the location of Roman finds