

Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service

Specification for Archaeological Trial Trenching at South Tyneside College, St.George's Avenue/Grosvenor Road, South Shields

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Author: Sophie Laidler

Email: Sophie.Laidler@newcastle.gov.uk

Telephone: 0191 277 7102

Address: Newcastle City Council, Planning, 9th Floor, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QH

Website: <https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/planning-building-and-development/tyne-and-wear-archaeology>

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Introduction

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

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

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

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

This specification is for the archaeological trial trenching at South Tyneside College, St Georges Avenue/Grosvenor Road, South Shields located at NZ 37377 65947.



Archaeological trial trenching is required in advance of determination of planning application ST/1191/21/FENQ in order to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of any heritage assets with archaeological interest, in accordance with paragraph 194 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

The proposed development area is associated with a series of Historic Environment Records (HER). The northern extent of the proposed development area includes the southern extent of Westoe Village (HER 951) and includes land which was originally part of the common fields of the village (see Event 3134). Medieval and or post medieval ridge and furrow has been identified within the proposed development area on vertical photographs from the 1940s (HER 11719). The proposed development area is associated with Westoe Farm (HER 17260) which is also known as South Farm and Colley's Farm. The farm was first shown on the tithe plan of 1841 and was one of the last of the nine farms of Westoe. The farm was demolished in July 1952. The building of Eastgarth (HER 17261) was also located within the site's redline boundary (c.1897) and is known to have been used as a military billet in WWII but was subsequently demolished in 1955. The site has also been identified as being the location of a WWII barrage balloon (HER11724).

South Tyneside College is the location of St George's Avenue Planetarium (HER 14435). The college was formed through the merger of Hebburn Technical College and the Marine Technical College. The latter was founded in 1861 on Ocean Road by the trust of Dr Thomas Winterbottom, a former surgeon-general who had worked in Sierra Leone. The college remains one of the largest merchant navy training colleges in the United Kingdom and attracts students from across the world to study marine education. The planetarium and observatory equipment were later relocated to Stockton's Wynyard Planetarium & Observatory in Teesside.

The proposed development area has previously been subject to an archaeological desk-based assessment (Event 3134, 2008/206) produced by the Archaeological Practice. In the desk-based assessment it is identified that the proposed development area has some

archaeological potential for prehistoric and medieval archaeology, and it is recommended that archaeological trial trenches should be undertaken to further assess the site.

In the desk-based assessment report it is identified that the majority of the site has been disturbed by the construction of 19th to 20th century buildings but there may be pockets of relatively undisturbed areas which could contain archaeological deposits, most notably in the eastern part of the assessment area.

The appointed contractor must review the Archaeological Practices' archaeological assessment, South Tyneside College, Westoe Campus, South Shields (October 2008) reports before commencing works.

Aims

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

The project should be carried out with reference to the relevant research agendas of the [North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment \(NERRF\)](#) (2006). The NERRF is [currently being revised](#).

Hadrian's Wall is a [World Heritage Site](#) and has a specific Research Framework, *Frontiers of Knowledge* ([Vol 1](#) [Vol 2](#)). This summarizes and assesses the existing knowledge base for Hadrian's Wall, and identifies and prioritises an agenda of key themes and a strategy for future research.

Monitoring by Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service

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

Health and Safety

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

Methodology

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

Trial Trenching – 17 trial trenches should be excavated, as shown on the attached plan. Three of the trenches should measure 1.5m by 10m at base. Fourteen of the recommended trenches should measure 1.5m by 20m at base.

If site conditions constrain the trial trenching, the location or size of the trenches may be varied in consultation with the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Officer.

Trenches:

Trench 1 is to measure 20m x 1.5m at base. This trench is located at the site of HERs 951 and 17261.

Trench 2 is to measure 20m x 1.5m at base. This trench is located at the site of HER 951.

Trench 3 is to measure 10m x 1.5m at base. This trench is located at the site of HER 17261

Trench 4 is to measure 10m x 1.5m at base. This trench is located at the site of HER 17262.

Trenches 5-6 and 10-14 are to measure 20m x 1.5m at base. These trenches are located at the site of HERs 11719 and 15791.

Trenches 7-9 are to measure 20m x 1.5m at base. These trenches are located at the site of HERs 15791, 11719 and 11724.

Trenches 15-16 are to measure 20m x 1.5m at base. These trenches are located at the site of HER 11719.

Trench 17 is to measure 10m x 1.5m at base. This trench is located at the site of HER 17260. The location of this trench may need to be adjusted to avoid trees.

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

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

Sampling

All fills and deposits should be assessed for their potential for environmental sampling and scientific dating, and samples taken accordingly. Archaeological deposits may have the potential for the preservation of a wide range of environmental evidence, as discussed in the [Historic England guidance](#), and specialist advice should be sought prior to and during all projects. Consideration should be given to the nature of the site and the potential for

preservation by factors such as waterlogging. Scientific dating is particularly important for sites with little or no artefactual evidence.

Recording

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

Digital photographs should be taken using a high-resolution DSLR camera with sensors exceeding 10 Mega Pixels, producing either TIFF files or RAW files which must be converted to TIFF before archive deposition. The photographs should be recorded in an index recording the image number, subject, any scales used, direction facing, date the picture was taken and who took it.

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

Finds

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

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

Human Remains

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

The excavation of human remains requires a licence from the [Ministry of Justice](#). Where human remains are found unexpectedly, a licence must be obtained before proceeding with

excavation. If human remains are known to be present a licence should be obtained in advance of fieldwork.

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

Treasure

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

Post-fieldwork assessment, analysis and reporting

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

The report must contain the following sections as a minimum:

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

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

Publication

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

Archive

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

- Great North Museum: Hancock for Hadrian's Wall and the medieval town of Newcastle (contact Keeper of Archaeology andrew.parkin@newcastle.ac.uk).
- Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums for the rest of Tyne and Wear (Gateshead, outer Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Sunderland) (contact Alex Croom at Arbeia Roman Fort 0191 4544093).

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

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

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

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

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