

Prudhoe

Northumberland Extensive Urban Survey



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CONTENTS

PART ONE: THE STORY OF PRUDHOE

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Project Background
- 1.2 Location, Topography, Geology
- 1.3 Brief History
- 1.4 Documentary and Secondary Sources
- 1.5 Cartographic Sources
- 1.6 Archaeological Evidence
- 1.7 Protected Sites

2 PREHISTORIC AND- ROMAN

3 EARLY MEDIEVAL

4 MEDIEVAL

- 4.1 Context of the Settlement
- 4.2 Prudhoe Castle
- 4.3 Bridge
- 4.4 Chantry of St Thomas
- 4.5 Ford and Ferry
- 4.6 Village
- 4.7 Collieries

5 POST MEDIEVAL AND NINETEENTH CENTURY

- 5.1 Village
- 5.2 Buildings
- 5.3 Places of Worship
- 5.4 Schools
- 5.5 Kiln
- 5.6 Mill
- 5.7 Ford and Ferry
- 5.8 Bridge
- 5.9 Road and Railway
- 5.10 Collieries
- 5.11 Brick and Tile Works

PART TWO: ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF PRUDHOE

6 RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

- 6.1 Prehistoric and Roman Potential
- 6.2 Early Medieval Potential
- 6.3 Medieval Potential
- 6.4 Post-Medieval and 19th Century Potential

PART THREE: ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE PLANNING PROCESS

7 ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE PLANNING PROCESS

- 7.1 Planning Policy statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5)
- 7.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- 7.3 Listed Buildings
- 7.4 Conservation Areas
- 7.5 Archaeological Sites without Statutory Designation
- 7.6 Development Plan Policies
- 7.7 Pre-Application Discussion
- 7.8 Archaeological Planning Conditions

7.9 Unexpected Discoveries

8 SOURCES

Bibliography
Documentary Sources

APPENDIX 1: LISTED BUILDINGS

APPENDIX 2: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVENTS

APPENDIX 3: HISTORIC MAPS

APPENDIX 4: STRATEGIC SUMMARY

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Location
Figure 2: Study Area
Figure 3: Prehistoric Prudhoe
Figure 4: Early Medieval Prudhoe
Figure 5: Medieval Prudhoe
Figure 6: Post-medieval and 19th century Prudhoe
Figure 7: Armstrong's map of Northumberland 1769
Figure 8: First Edition Ordnance Survey 1860
Figure 9: Second Edition Ordnance Survey 1897
Figure 10: Third Edition Ordnance Survey 1920
Figure 11: Prudhoe areas of archaeological sensitivity

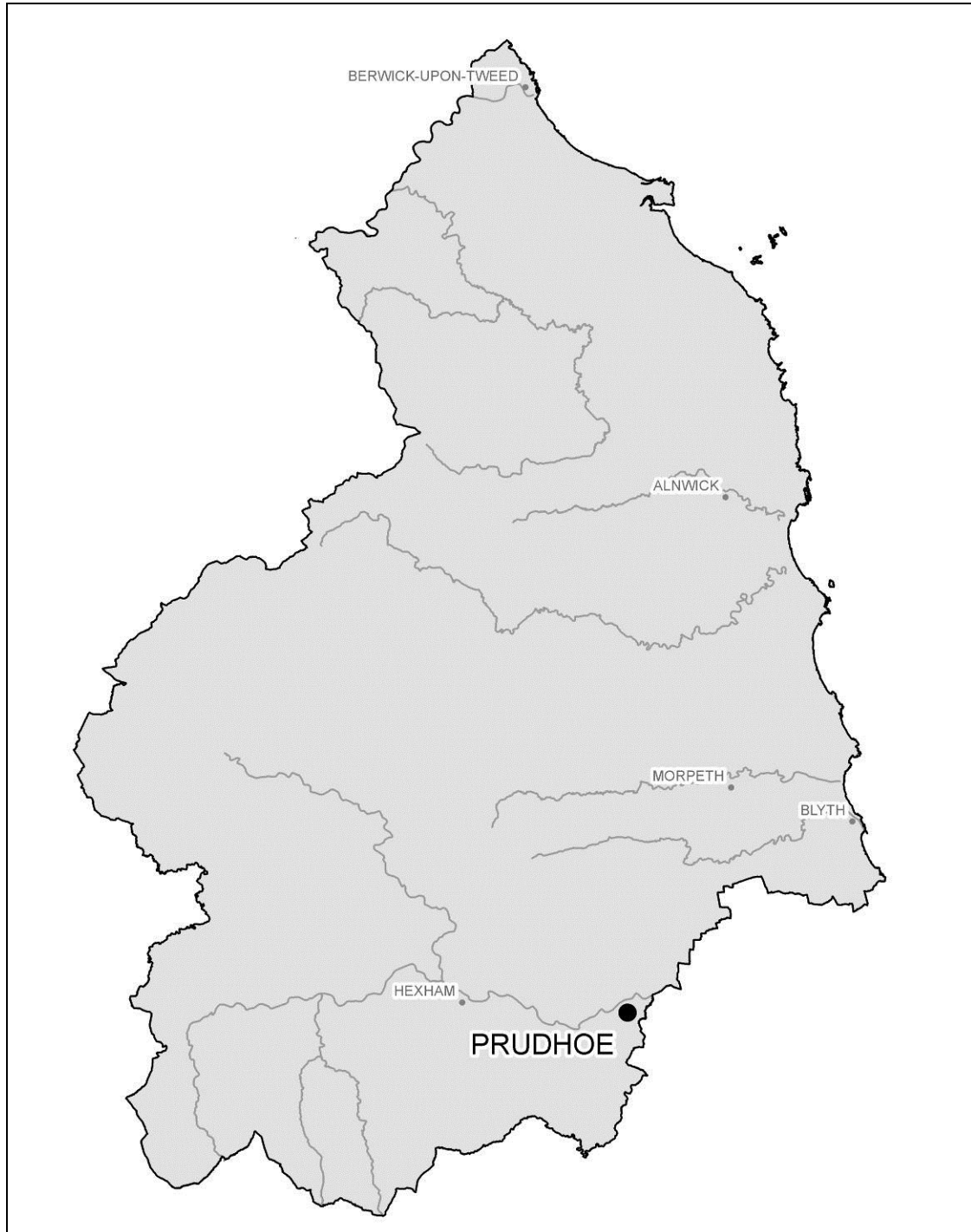


Figure 1: Location

PART ONE: THE STORY OF HALTWHISTLE

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

Towns and villages have been the focus of settlement in this country for many hundreds of years. Beneath our workplaces, beneath our houses and gardens, streets and shops – beneath our feet – there lies archaeological remains which can tell us how these settlements were once organised and how people went about their lives. Awareness and appreciation of this resource can enhance our sense of place and identity and help us understand how the past has directly shaped our present and how we can benefit from it in the shaping of our future. To ensure that evidence for our urban past is not needlessly lost during development local and national government have put in place a range of statutory designations and policies to make sure that valuable remains are protected, preserved and understood.

In 1992, English Heritage published a national policy to help planners and developers deal with urban archaeology and any issues that might arise during the planning process (*Managing the Urban Archaeological Resource*). This led to the Extensive Urban Survey programme, where funds were made available to individual planning authorities to prepare material to explain how archaeology fits into the planning process and how issues raised can be best resolved. Prudhoe is one of 20 towns in Northumberland to have been reviewed, the results appearing in the following report which is divided into three main parts:

Part 1 summarises the development of Prudhoe using documentary, cartographic and archaeological sources, and examines the evidence for the survival of archaeological remains in the town.

Part 2 assesses the detailed archaeological potential of the town of Prudhoe and how development could, potentially, impact on significant archaeological resources which are of both national and local significance.

Part 3 looks at the national and local planning process with regard to archaeology and is designed to give the developer, planner, and general public, the framework within which development in an historic town will normally proceed.

The area covered by this survey (fig 2) encompasses the historic core of the town of Prudhoe. Material within this report includes information available on the Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER) at the time this report was updated. Information on the HER is constantly being updated and should be used as the primary source for historical and archaeological information.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

The town of Prudhoe lies on the steep slopes of the south bank of the River Tyne around 10 miles east of Hexham and a similar distance west of Newcastle (NZ 09 62). It is bisected by the B6395, part of an historic east-west route (now the A695) along the south side of Tyne. Prudhoe is, today, Tynedale's largest town with a population of around 11,500. But it has expanded from its roots as a village only since the second half of the 19th century when coal mining and associated industries in the area massively increased in scale. Today it still has a number of major industries including Kimberly-Clark and Hammerite Products along the riverside, but it is largely a post-industrial town. The main historic component of the town, Prudhoe Castle, lies strategically on a promontory jutting out from the valley side, overlooking the east-west route between Newcastle and Carlisle and commanding the ancient ford which crossed the river at this point.

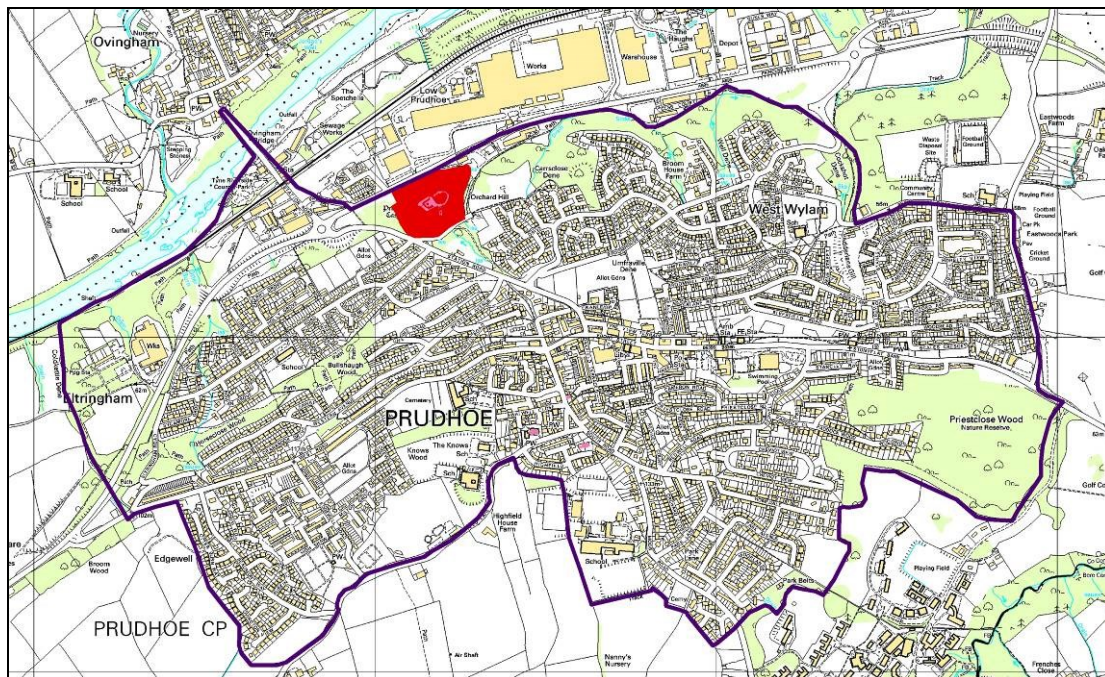


Figure 2: Study Area (purple boundary), Prudhoe Castle Scheduled Monument (red), Listed Buildings (pink).

Geologically, the Prudhoe area coincides with the outcrop of the complex Stublick Fault System, a belt of faulting which delimits the northern margin of the North Pennines. The area is everywhere underlain by a solid geology of sedimentary rocks of Carboniferous age. These comprise a repetitive succession of limestones, sandstones and shales, locally with thin coals, and a small number of mineral veins. Most of these rocks belong to the Middle or Upper Limestone Groups, although several small areas of Coal Measures rocks are preserved as faulted inliers along the line of the Stublick Fault System. Prudhoe lies within the North Eastern Coalfield and coal mining has played an important role in the economy of the area from the 18th century. Superficial geology includes postglacial gravels formed into terraces with later sands

and clays in the valley bottom forming haugh lands.

1.3 Brief History

The earliest evidence of human activity in the Prudhoe area, found during archaeological fieldwalking to the east of the town, is scatters of worked flints, probably of Mesolithic date. A few other prehistoric objects found in the vicinity indicate an early human presence in the area but give no clues as to the whereabouts of settlements. The plateau of land above the River Tyne at Broomhouse Lane has provided the first evidence of in-situ human activity in the form of a Bronze-Age burial ground, found whilst ploughing in the later 19th century. It is possible that there was an associated settlement in the area although modern archaeological investigation failed to find any evidence (Event No 13596).

Placename evidence suggests Prudhoe may have an Anglian origin and that an earlier defended settlement may have been located on the hill which became the site of the later castle.

Neighbouring places suggest that there may have been a Viking presence in the vicinity.

Following the Norman Conquest, lands which were to become the preserve of the barony of Ovingham or Prudhoe or the Barony of Umfraville were confiscated by William Rufus after the revolt of Robert de Mowbray in 1095 and granted to the Umfraville family by Henry I (1100-35).

A stronghold was built at Prudhoe and became the seat of the Umfravilles and successfully withstood sieges by the army of King William of Scotland in 1173 and 1174. The village of Prudhoe grew up in association with the castle and was, until the middle of the 19th century, strongly agricultural in character, with three farms situated on the main street of the village. The rich coal seams in the Tyne valley are known to have been worked in the area from the 14th century onwards but it was not until the second half of the 19th century that the coal resources of the area began to be intensively exploited and Prudhoe and nearby villages rapidly expanded. By the turn of the 19th century Prudhoe was a busy mining town and shops developed along Front Street to serve the growing community. Modern expansion has increased the size of Prudhoe to such an extent that it is the largest town in Tynedale.

1.4 Documentary and Secondary Sources

Research on the town in this survey began with a review of information held in the county's Historic Environment Record (HER). For Prudhoe, this was restricted largely to antiquarian discoveries and much attention is paid to the castle. As additional sources were examined during this survey new entries were added to the HER and are noted throughout the report. The documented history of Prudhoe begins after the Norman Conquest and records how the Umfraville family came to be given lands at Prudhoe and Ovingham. The Barony of Prudhoe was granted to Robert Umfraville by Henry I (1100-35) and remained in the Umfraville family until 1398 when it passed by marriage to Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland (Hunter Blair 1944, 153). Prudhoe is recorded in the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1296 and there are several medieval rental lists which document holdings in the town. In the early post-medieval period the Stockdale

Survey of 1586 provides a detailed description of the castle and associated buildings and provides a very useful source of information. There are documentary sources relating to the coal industry in the area, particularly Blackett and Ord family records. Further research covering a wider area would be needed to provide a more detailed picture of this aspect of Prudhoe's history.

1.5 Cartographic Sources

Prudhoe is marked as "Pruddo Castle" on Speeds' map of Northumberland of 1610, near the road between Hexham and Newcastle, and also appears on Armstrong's 1769 map of the county. The castle is sketched some way to the north of the settlement, which is shown as a double row of buildings; both castle and settlement are named 'Pruddoe'. The cartographic sources for the town from the late 18th century and 19th century are quite comprehensive. The ZAN Bell collection in Northumberland Record Office provides 19th century surveys and copies of 18th century surveys of the town, many of which are detailed and can be correlated with modern maps. Some of these are undated but show the town at a similar stage of development to the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of about 1860. The Second Edition Ordnance Survey of 1897 shows the town's expansion to the east and west.

1.6 Archaeological Sources

Bronze Age cist burials were discovered by found close to the ground surface in the later 19th century whilst ploughing at Broomhouses (HER 10119). Archaeological excavations in 1974 recorded below ground remains of buildings within the castle precincts indicating the preservation of important remains immediately below modern ground surface. In 1994, field walking in the area of Broomhouse Lane, close to the castle, recovered a number of flint artefacts possibly of Mesolithic date (HER 10146 and 10147). Archaeological work at Broomhouse Lane in the late 1990s has involved geophysical survey (Event Nos 12811 and 12995), evaluation (Event No 13596) and a watching brief (Event No 13393). The evaluation discovered a number of archaeological deposits that contained fragments of Roman and medieval pottery. There have been no archaeological interventions in historic core of the town and there is therefore an absence of data on which the depth, character or degree of preservation of below ground archaeological deposits in the town can be assessed.

1.7 Protected Sites

The study area includes Prudhoe Castle (HER 11018) which is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (no. 23228) and a number of Listed Buildings. Prudhoe has no Conservation Area.

2 PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN (figure 3)

The earliest record of human activity in the Prudhoe area has come from fieldwalking at Broomhouse Lane, where numbers of flint artefacts were found and have been provisionally identified as Mesolithic in date (HER 10146 and 10147). A number of later prehistoric finds have also been discovered in or near Prudhoe and include: a cup and ring marked stone at Prudhoe Castle (HER 10118), which was found reused in the foundations of a later medieval building; a gritstone adze from minor landscaping works in the back garden of Kepwell Cottage, Bank Top (HER 10151); a large perforated Bronze Age axe hammer found at Edgewell to the south-west of Prudhoe (HER 10128); and four Bronze Age cists at Broomhouses (HER 10119). These cists may imply nearby settlement or other burials, either originally within earthworks (now ploughed out) or as part of a larger cemetery unmarked at ground level. Their location on a slight rise overlooking the Tyne Valley is typical of high status burials during the Bronze Age and the possibility of further associated burials remains.

Evidence for Romano-British activity is scant with only a carved stone head, thought likely to be of Romano-British date, lying in the chapel over the gateway of Prudhoe Castle (HER 10118). However, following the identification of a number of anomalies by geophysical survey at Broomhouse Lane in the late 1990s, an evaluation was undertaken here in 1998. A series of gullies containing a piece a Roman mortarium was found in one trench and a shallow ditch containing a sherd of medieval pottery in another.

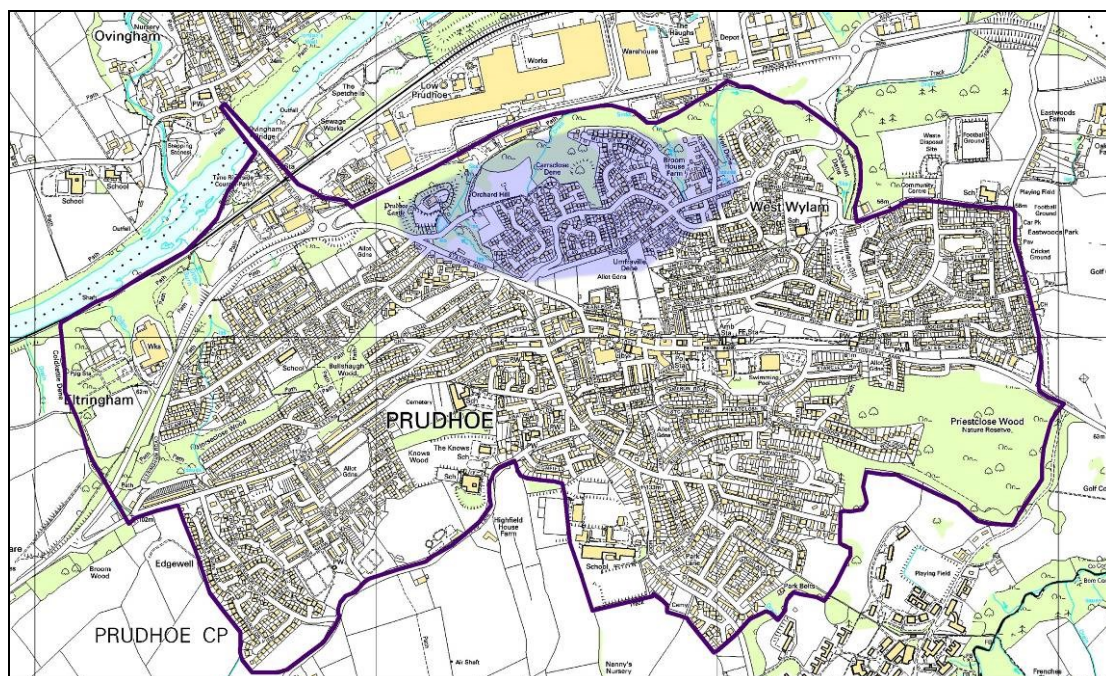


Figure 3: The broad extent of Prehistoric and Roman finds in the area of Prudhoe (blue)

3 EARLY MEDIEVAL (figure 4)

Although no direct evidence of early medieval settlement has been found at Prudhoe a number of factors suggest that remains of this date may exist here. Placename evidence suggests that 'Prudhoe' may derive from 'Pruda's Hill' – an Anglian personal name (Mawer 1920, 161), which in turn may indicate the presence of an early medieval settlement; the most likely place for such a settlement would be the hill on which the medieval castle stands.

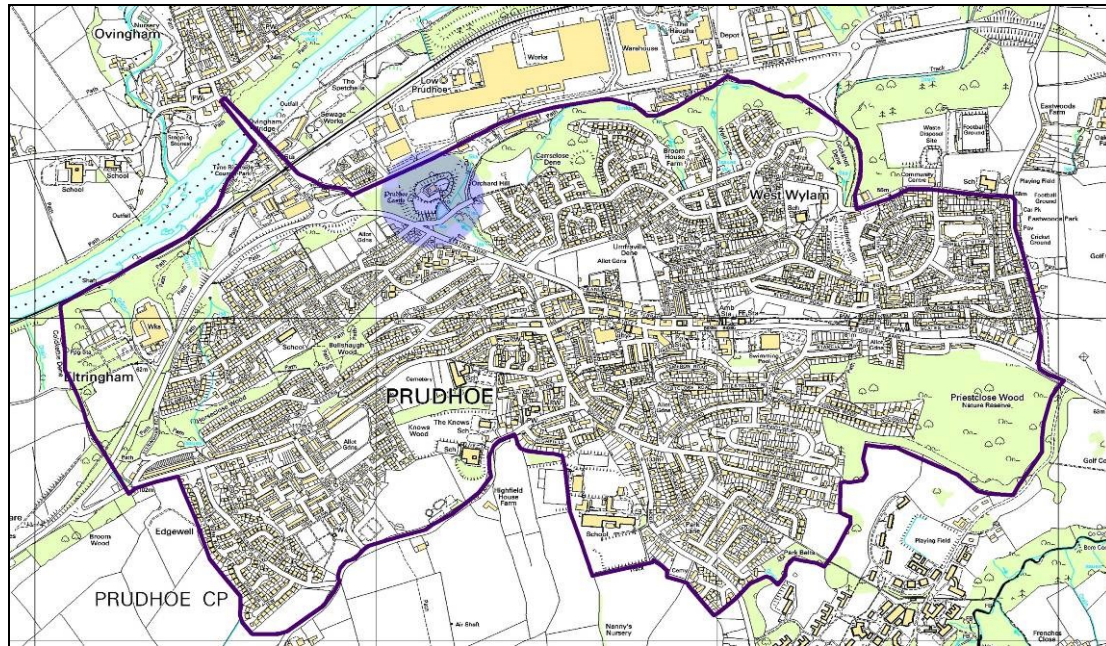


Figure 4: Early medieval Prudhoe

4 MEDIEVAL (figure 5)

4.1 Context of the Settlement

Much of the land belonging to the barony of Prudhoe was thickly wooded but there appears to have been a *vill* or settlement associated with the castle from at least the 13th century (Dodds 1926, 178-81). The earliest documents which relate to this civil settlement are the charters of Richard de Umfraville 1195-1226 which mention land in Prudhoe which he granted to Hexham Priory and is documented in the later rental of 1379 (Dodds 1926, 153). Documentary evidence indicates that the village did not alter substantially throughout the medieval period although its prosperity fluctuated due to Anglo-Scottish warfare. Prudhoe appears in the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1296 and 11 people are listed as liable for tax (Dodds 1926, 154). In 1307, after the death of Gilbert Umfraville II, there were: “120 acres of arable land; a wood; 40 bondages; 16 cottages; 2 watermills, a pool, a fishery in the Tyne....” (Dodds 1926, 154). It was reported soon afterwards, presumably due to the wars, that the “12 cottages ... lie in waste, uncultivated by their tenants” (Dodds 1926, 155).

4.2 Prudhoe Castle (HER 10118, Scheduled Ancient Monument 23228)

Prudhoe Castle is a tower keep castle and comprises two baileys, or courtyards, with the keep and other buildings, a gatehouse, barbican and curtain wall, and outer defensive ditches. Built by the barons of Prudhoe, the Umfravilles, it commanded the middle stretch of the Tyne valley and controlled one of the principal north-south routes across the river, a ford, making it an obstacle to Scottish armies invading England. The castle stands on a natural hill protected by a river cliff and a steep-sided dene and would originally have had a timber palisade. The earliest parts of the gatehouse show that stone had begun to replace the timber defences by AD1100. The castle is a well preserved and typical example of a small, powerful Border castle of the tower keep variety. Its importance lies not only in the excellent preservation of its standing remains, in particular its curtain walls which largely survive to their full height, but also in a number of rare architectural details and wide range of ancillary features which survive both as upstanding and buried features within its two baileys. Equally important are its associations with the de Umfravilles and the Percys, two of the most important families in English medieval history.

A number of post-medieval and later documents provide information about the castle. They include the Stockdale Survey of 1586, Buck's view of the castle in 1728 (NRO ZAN M 20/1), Grimm's views of 1776 (NRO M 542 and NRO ZMD 163/7-8), a plan made before alterations to the castle in the period 1808 to 1818 (Dodds 1926, 120), The Border Holdings of Northumberland (Bates 1891), and an examination in 1912 when some clearance and repair work was carried out (Knowles 1912).

Archaeological investigations have been limited, but in 1974 excavations in the outer ward found medieval layers surviving just below present ground surface and confirmed the below ground preservation of structural remains of various building including a hall dating to the 13th or early 14th century (Keen 1976, 206-8; Pevsner 1992, 546). More recently, tree-ring analysis of the castle gates has dated them to the mid-15th century (Arnold et al 2002; Dower et al 2004).

4.3 Bridge

There was no bridge over the River Tyne at Prudhoe until the 19th century. A small bridge over the burn to the south of the castle is believed to be one of the earliest in the north (Tomlinson 1888, 96-7). It seems to be of two periods, both medieval, since one side has a steeply pointed single chamfered arch, while the other has a chamfered round arch (Pevsner 1992, 547). This bridge is part of the Scheduled Monument of Prudhoe Castle and is shown on the 19th century plan of the castle (NRO ZAN Bell 9/8).

4.4 Chantry of St Thomas (HER 10122)

There is no medieval parish church at Prudhoe and the population must have made use of the Chantry Chapel of St Thomas. The early history of the chantry is obscure and its site

debateable. Originally a house called Prudhoe Grange, but now divided, the houses called Grange and West Grange on South Road are thought to occupy the site of the chantry and to be built from its remains (Simmons 1903, 9-10). The walls are over a metre thick and there is a 13th century doorway in the south wall. This may be a fragment of the chantry (Bates 1891, 216) but it may have been removed from Ovingham (Pevsner 1992, 546-7). Other medieval masonry can be seen in the interior, including a blocked window and a wood lintel. Documentary evidence suggests a chantry for two priests was founded in 1340 but its location is not mentioned and the chantry in Prudhoe seems to have had only one priest (Dodds 1926, 76-7; Handcock 1939, 148-218).

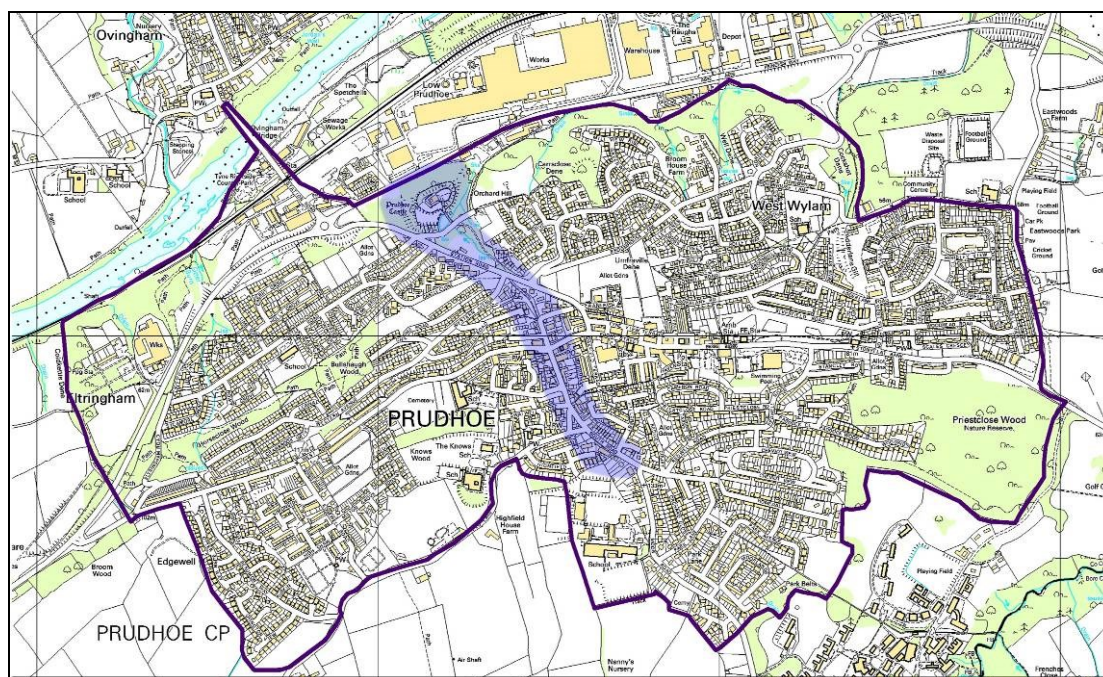


Figure 5: Medieval Prudhoe

4.5 Ford (HER 10163) and Ferry (HER 10164)

A ferry is mentioned only once in the various rentals and inquisitions on Prudhoe, in 1434/5, and may have been of little importance. The ford on the other hand was much used in the medieval period and later and there are records of a ford west of Ovingham being watched by two men from Prudhoe in 1552 (Dodds 1926, 161).

4.6 The Village (HER 10183)

There is no direct evidence of the form or extent of the village in the medieval period but its post-medieval linear form along the road which led south from the castle may well have been established in the medieval period and is suggested as the historic core of the village. Apart from the castle complex, the only other above ground medieval remains are those of a probable chantry at the Grange and West Grange as described above. Map evidence from later times

(see below) does not indicate that the village was ever laid out to a systematic plan in the medieval period.

4.7 Collieries

The coal resources of the area were exploited from the medieval period onwards. Coal mines in Prudhoe are first mentioned in the bailiff's account for 1434/5 and others are mentioned in the early post-medieval Stockdale Survey of 1586 (see below).

5 POST MEDIEVAL AND NINETEENTH CENTURY (figure 6)

5.1 The Village

The post-medieval form of the village is well recorded cartographically. Following the Stockdale Survey of 1586, which gives a detailed description of the castle and associated buildings, the earliest detailed survey of the town is in 1766 by J Thompson (Bell NRO ZAN Bell 41/7). It shows the form of the settlement, with properties to each side of the north-south road which leads to the castle. By the time that the First Edition Ordnance Survey was prepared in the 1860s, these buildings have gaps between them and the street is not completely built up. While the buildings face onto the street front and some have linear plots to their rear there is not a uniform pattern of plots, suggesting that there may have been some organic growth rather than the village being laid out in a "planned" fashion. Also some of the properties are farm complexes rather than cottages with garths behind. The southern end of the street runs into a footpath through common land and the properties at the southern end of the village follow the edge of the common. An east-west route crosses the main street with a junction towards the middle of the village and at the time of this survey there were no buildings along this route.

A survey by Casson, dated 1800, shows part of the main street in Prudhoe had not been fully built, but does not show the extent of the settlement (NRO ZAN Bell 41/8). However, a survey from December 1851 by J and B Green is very detailed and can be directly compared with modern mapping (NRO ZAN Bell 41/14). This map shows individual properties in good detail including, at the north and south ends of the village, North East Farm (HER 10172) and South East Farm (HER 10174), together with another farm (HER 10173) all of which appear to have gingangs. Additional buildings and outbuildings are apparent when compared with the earlier surveys, although the 1851 survey is clearly more detailed and direct comparison should be approached with caution. The main street was still not completely built up although the widening at its southern end had been infilled with a triangular plot which included a school building (HER 10176). The main north-south road which was reduced to a footpath to the south has now become a road. The form of the village does not alter by 1860. Whellan's Directory of 1855 describes Prudhoe as consisting of "*4 farms, 2 inns, several workshops and a considerable number of cottages*" (1855, 786). Three of these farms, as already mentioned, were located on

the main street of the village and the fourth is presumably the Castle Farm (HER 10175) located immediately to the east of the castle and shown on Bell's plans of Prudhoe Castle in about 1800 (NRO ZAN Bell 9/8) (Figure 9).

The character of the village began to change from about 1860 as collieries and associated industries developed in the area and houses for the new workforce were built. This caused a dramatic growth in the population and the village expanded along the east-west route along Front Street and West Street. The settlement form changed from one linear row to a cross-shape. There are few examples of post-medieval buildings in the town and historic plot boundaries frequently appear to have been ignored when modern development has taken place, although below ground remains of earlier buildings may remain *in situ*. At the end of the century the Second Edition Ordnance Survey shows the increasing ribbon development of the village east-west along West Street and Front Street and shows the development of areas behind the main north-south street frontage. Development continued over the 20th century and the modern town has expanded to the extent that it now merges with other nearby settlements.

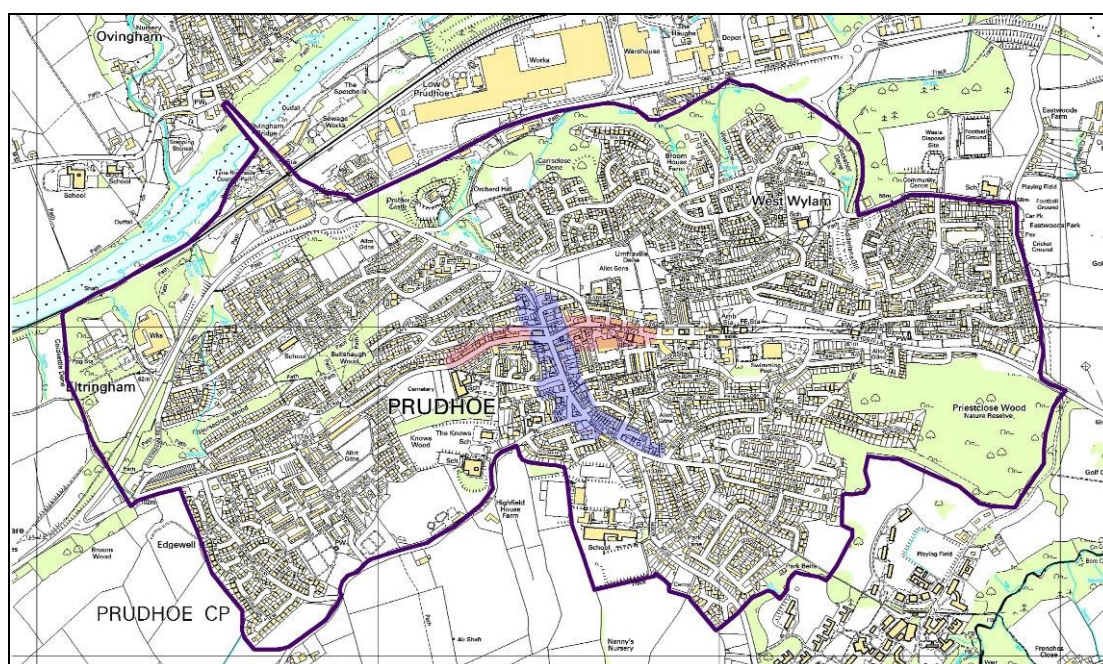


Figure 6: Post-medieval (blue) and late 19th century (pink) Prudhoe

5.2 Buildings

There appear to be few buildings in Prudhoe which were constructed prior to the 19th century and the post-medieval character of the village is thus no longer represented in the standing buildings. An exception to this is Prudhoe House (HER 10160) in South Road, built in 1700 and altered in the 19th and 20th centuries. Originally a house, and later offices, its interior retains original features. Some of the early 19th century miners' terraces are still standing, for example at Gordon Terrace. Shops established at the time of expansion along Front Street have been

greatly altered and modern façades have destroyed any historic character.

5.3 Places of Worship

There is no evidence of a medieval or post-medieval church in Prudhoe. John Wesley visited Prudhoe on a number of occasions and his influence is seen in the two Wesleyan Methodist Chapels built here. One was established in 1796 (HER 10178) and is listed in the tithes of 1843 (Dodds 1926, 160). It is shown on the 1851 plan of the village (NRO ZAN Bell 41/14) and First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1860. Another Wesleyan Methodist Chapel is shown on West Road on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey of 1897 (HER 10179). In 1880, the Church of St Mary Magdalene, was erected. The Roman Catholic **Church of Our Lady and St Cuthbert** (in some sources St Joseph) (HER 10158) was built at Prudhoe Hall in 1891 and moved here in 1904.

5.4 Schools

A schoolroom was built by subscription in 1823 (Parson and White 1828, 603). A school is shown on the 1851 map (NRO ZAN Bell 41/14) in St Martin's Lane and on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1860 (HER 10176). On the modern map a building on the west side of St Martin's Lane is described as The Old School House (HER 10182) and this building is currently used as a Community Church. Further research is required to fully establish the history these school buildings in Prudhoe.

5.5 Kiln

The Stockdale Survey of 1586 states that "*There is under the moat on the north sidean old kiln and kiln-house all which were builded and repaired by Thomas Bates in xxth year of the Queen's reign*" (Dodds 1926, 135). A specific location for this kiln is not known but it presumably lies within the Scheduled area of the castle.

5.6 Mill

There is no specific evidence for medieval mills at Prudhoe. Two of the three burns which flow into the Tyne near the castle were dammed to form a mill pond lying on the neck of the land which forms the approach to the castle (Dodds 1926, 121). A mill is recorded in the Stockdale Survey of 1586 which states that "*there is also within the precincts of the site [of the castle] a little milne [mill] standing at the castle gate*" (Dodds 1926, 135). A 19th century plan of the castle (NRO ZAN Bell 9/8, detail from plan 9/2 which dates from about 1800) marks a building lying immediately south-east of the gatehouse as a mill and remains of this building are still standing. This plan also shows the detail of the mill pond, dam and mill race all of which lie within the Scheduled area of the castle. The First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1860 shows a mill (HER 10180) located immediately to the south of the castle.

5.7 Ford and Ferry

After the Reformation, when the two chapels in the castle and the chantry in the village had been

suppressed, it would have been of increased local importance to establish a secure and regular means of crossing the river to the church at Ovingham and the regular ferry recorded in Stockdale's Survey of 1586 probably came into being as a result "*Wigert Stobbert holds at the lor's will the passage of the water between Prudhoe and Ovingham*" (Dodds 1926, 161). In 1608 the ferry was held by Thomas Stobbert along with a ferry house. Later, in the 17th century the ferryman moved to Ovingham but Ovingham Boathouse was swept away in the great flood of 1771. The ferry remained the only means of crossing until the opening of a bridge in 1883 (Dodds 1926, 162). The path from Ovingham ford which ran to Prudhoe Castle is marked on a plan of about 1800 (NRO ZAN Bell 9/8) and the ford and ferry are marked on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1860 very close to the point where the later bridge was built. The First Edition Ordnance Survey also marks a boathouse (HER 10167) on the south bank of the river.

5.8 Bridge

Ovingham Bridge (HER 10145), over the River Tyne, was built in 1883. It is of steel construction with eight spans, stone abutments, and piers of steel tube pylons grouped in fours and cross-braced.

5.9 Road and Railway

Communications between Prudhoe and the rest of the region were improved with the construction of the Gateshead to Hexham turnpike road in the late 17th century. Road traffic was eased by the coming of the railway, which was built between Blaydon and Hexham in 1835 and continued to Carlisle in 1838 (Dodds 1926, 160). The footbridge at the station dates from the later 19th century (HER 10162).

5.10 Collieries

The history of early coal extraction in the vicinity is poorly understood and there is some confusion as to the location of the earliest pits. In 1738, among the collieries on the Tyne were Prudhoe Moor, and Hagg, which is described as 5 miles from the river, although this cannot have been the same as the later Hagg pit which was on the south bank of the river and worked in connection with Wylam colliery (Dodds 1926, 163-5). Dukeshagg Wood Colliery lies to the south-east of Prudhoe, outside the study area, where many old shafts are shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey and may be the site of these early workings. However, further research covering an extensive area around the town of Prudhoe is required to fully document the early coal industry in this area.

There appears to be little evidence of coalmining local to Prudhoe in the early 19th century. But by about 1860 the collieries of the neighbourhood had been developed by Matthew Liddle of the Mickley Coal Co. The company had obtained a lease to the Duke of Northumberland's mining rights in 1847 (Dodds 1926, 163-5). In 1850, an indenture between Robert Capper and William Johnson of Prudhoe, shows that Capper agreed to lease Johnson all the seams of coal and clay

in the township of Prudhoe for 42 years,

a seam of coal and all those seams of beds and fine and other clay immediately connected therewith cropping up at the site of the present furnaces lately erected.... Also all the other seams of coal and beds of fine and other clay cropping up in the wood at about a distance of 80 yards north of the turnpike road leading from Prudhoe to Hexham
(NRO ZNI 13).

The Mickley Coal Company bought Robert Capper's large estate in Prudhoe in 1862.

Prudhoe Colliery, also owned by the Mickley Coal Company, was in operation from 1860, and nearby West Wylam colliery from 1869 (Bulmer 1886, 490). Prudhoe Colliery was located on the hill immediately to the west of the railway station (Dodds 1926, 153). The First Edition Ordnance Survey marks Mickley Colliery immediately to the west of Prudhoe (and this is presumably Prudhoe Colliery?) (HER 10168). Two shafts (HER 10169 and 10170) and some pit houses (HER 10171) closer to Prudhoe also are shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey. Further research, over a wider area would allow a clearer and more detailed history of the collieries to be recorded.

5.11 Brick and Tile Works

Large quantities of clay were obtained from the same seams as the coal and were utilised for brick making at both Wylam and Edgewell Collieries, both owned by John Johnson of Prudhoe (Bulmer 1886, 490). Johnson's lease for the working of coal seams is very specific in also mentioning that the lease covers all the associated clay (NRO ZNI 13). Whellan's Directory lists William Johnson of Prudhoe Hall as having extensive fire-brick works in the township (1855, 786). A "*Brick Works and Tile Shades*" is marked on an undated Plan of Township of Prudhoe (19th century, before 1835) (NRO ZAN Bell 41/12). The First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1860 also shows a tile and brick works at Edgewell (HER 10165) and a Firebrick Manufacturers (HER 10166).

PART TWO: ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF PRUDHOE

6 RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

This section deals with the possibility of discovering archaeological remains within Prudhoe in the course of development and to what extent these remains can contribute to the understanding of the past of the town and the country as a whole. To be meaningful, any archaeological input in Prudhoe should be weighed against the value of the likely returns. The most useful way of assessing this value is for it to be set against locally and nationally agreed research agendas which will allow relevant work to be planned and delivered to best value. Developer-funded archaeological work within Northumberland will always refer to these national and local research frameworks.

Historic towns represent one of the most complex and important forms of archaeological evidence, some having been occupied over two millennia (English Heritage 1992, 13). As well as information about the overall development of urban settlement and its planning, towns can also provide information on defence, ecclesiastical organisation, crafts, commerce, industry and the environment as well as about the individual occupants of a town and how they lived and died. As more work is carried out in our urban centres because of archaeological intervention in the planning process, more information is being accumulated. It is important that this information is synthesized and made accessible publicly, enabling archaeologists and other researchers to analyse this material to create a national picture of urban settlement change. Prudhoe, with its medieval origins, its location at a strategic crossing point in the Tyne Valley, plus its industrialisation in the 19th century, will have a useful role to play in this research.

This assessment has suggested that the most likely areas to contain archaeological remains will be along the road leading south from Prudhoe Castle.

6.1 Prehistoric and Roman Potential

The prehistoric finds and sites discovered in Prudhoe – from possible Mesolithic flint artefacts to four Bronze Age cists at Broomhouse Lane, suggests that there may be both settlements and further burials nearby. Evidence from archaeological work at Broomhouse Lane in the 1990s, which discovered a series of gullies containing a piece of Roman pottery, also suggests that there may have been Romano-British activity in the area.

6.1.1 Research Agenda:

- What was the nature of prehistoric activity in the Prudhoe area?
- What was the nature of Romano-British activity in the Prudhoe area?

6.2 Early Medieval Potential

Although there is a circumstantial evidence of early medieval settlement in Prudhoe, based on its placename, insufficient archaeological fieldwork has as yet been carried out to establish this with certainty. The putative location of this settlement, on the hill where the medieval castle is located, is protected by its status as a Scheduled Monument and as such it is unlikely to be the subject of development.

6.2.1 Research Agenda:

- What was the nature and extent of any early medieval settlement in Prudhoe?

6.3 Medieval Potential

Although Prudhoe is a medieval foundation, insufficient archaeological fieldwork has as yet been carried out to determine either the full extent of the occupation or its nature. We can say, however, that it is highly probable that the medieval village stretched southwards from the castle, in a linear form, along the road now known as South Road. Any development in this area would have a high potential to impact on medieval remains. Within these areas, archaeological recording may be required depending on the scale of development, either before the determination of a planning application, or as a mitigating measure as part of a planning permission. The castle is exceptionally well-preserved and protected as a Scheduled Monument thereby making any development in its immediate environs unlikely.

6.3.1 Research Agenda

- What was the extent and character of the medieval settlement?
- Is there any evidence of formal village planning?
- What evidence is there of earlier building remains in apparently later buildings?

6.3.2 Archaeological Priorities

The possible extent of medieval Prudhoe is shown on figure 5. In order to explore these areas of potential, the County Archaeologist will consider the investigation of the historic core of Prudhoe to be a high priority and specifications for archaeological work will:

- seek to explore the evolution and extent of the town from the medieval period: in particular, to examine the area along South Road
- as the opportunity arises, properties along South Road should be examined for evidence of earlier building fabric contained within later façades.

6.4 Post-Medieval and Nineteenth Century Potential

The post-medieval linear form of the village reflected a small agricultural community. This character changed from the mid 19th century with the rise of coalmining when the village began to expand in an east-west direction along West Street and Front Street. Although few pre-19th century buildings are apparent, remains of earlier buildings may survive beneath properties on

West Street, Front Street and South Road.

6.4.1 Research Agenda

- What was the character and nature of buildings in the town before the 19th century?
- Can detailed building recording and analysis add to our understanding of the development of domestic properties in the town?
- What is the earliest evidence of mills in the Prudhoe area?

6.4.2 Archaeological Considerations

The extent of post-medieval and 19th century Prudhoe is shown on Figure 6 and within these areas, archaeological briefs and specifications will direct archaeological contractors working in Prudhoe to consider:

- the usefulness of building recording in assessing the development of homes and the changing use of space within them
- the potential for excavation within the historic core to reveal evidence of smaller industries

PART THREE: ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE PLANNING PROCESS

7. THE EXISTING FRAMEWORK

The protection and management of archaeological remains in England is achieved through a combination of statutory and policy based measures. For what are considered to be the most important sites, those of national significance, statutory protections are conferred. For many other sites, those which are considered to be of regional or local significance, protection is provided through planning legislation and policy guidance. An indication of best practice for the protection and management of all archaeological sites is provided by Planning Policy Statement 5 issued by the Government.

7.1 Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (PPS5) was published in 2010 and replaces Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning (PPG16) and Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (PPG15). PPS5 is supported by a companion Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide endorsed by Communities and Local Government, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and English Heritage. The practice guide contains general and specific advice on the application of the PPS.

PPS5 recognises a heritage asset as a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape positively identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions. It recognises that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource which should be conserved and enjoyed for the quality of life they bring to this and future generations. It indicates that planning decisions should be made based on the nature, extent and level of significance investigated to a degree proportionate to the importance of the heritage asset (para 7). It establishes the principle that nationally important heritage assets and their settings, whether scheduled or not, should be preserved except in exceptional circumstances (HE9 and 10).

Policies HE6 and 8 require that local planning authorities should ensure that sufficient information on the significance of any heritage assets accompanies all applications with assessment being carried out by appropriate experts. In the case of archaeological assets, this may require desk-based assessment and where an assessment is insufficient to properly assess the situation, field evaluation may be required. Assessment and evaluation should be proportionate to the importance of the known or potential asset and no more than is required to understand the impact of the proposal on the significance of the asset. Where assessment and evaluation is required this needs to be undertaken prior to the submission of an application and included within the required Design and Access Statement (HE6 and 8). Pre-application discussion with the Local Planning Authority (LPA) is recommended (HE8), in particular Northumberland Conservation, who provide planning advice to the local authority on heritage

issues.

Where the loss of part or all of the asset is justified, LPAs should require the developer to record and advance an understanding of the heritage asset before it is lost. Such actions can be secured by condition. The extent of mitigation requirements should be proportionate to the significance of the asset (HE12). These procedures are examined in more detail in section 7.7 and 7.8 below.

7.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

The most important sites in the country are protected under the terms of section 1 of the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)*. For any works carried out on or in the vicinity of these sites consent must be granted by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), who take advice on these matters from English Heritage (EH). Scheduling is in many ways unsuited to widespread application in urban areas. It is not designed to protect extensive areas, but rather protects well-defined and easily identifiable monuments. Nor does it adapt well to protecting archaeological remains where the precise nature of deposits is not known. It is therefore necessary to protect many urban archaeological remains through the planning process and if necessary by controlling or reducing sub-surface interference through an Article 4 direction under the *Town and Country Planning General Development Order 1988*.

7.3 Listed Buildings

This is a statutory designation, the equivalent of scheduling for a building. Listed buildings can be altered, but only after due consideration to the nature of the building and its historic context. There is currently a range of listing grades: grades I and II* are protected directly by English Heritage, grade II by local authorities.

7.4 Conservation Areas

Conservation Areas are designated by the local planning authority under the terms of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Archaeological Areas) Act 1990. Conservation Areas are put in place in parts of towns which are considered to be of special architectural or historic interest, the character of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. There are more than 50 Conservation Areas in Northumberland but Prudhoe is currently not one of them.

7.5 Archaeological Sites without Statutory Designation

The majority of archaeological sites in England are not protected by statutory means. These are looked after and managed by local authorities. Measures for the protection of both known and (prior to discovery) unknown archaeological sites are set out as policies within the statutory development plan and include specific requirements as well as reference to nationally agreed planning policy guidelines and statutory obligations.

7.6 Development Plan Policies

Responsibility for the protection and management of archaeological sites and the historic environment falls upon the Local Planning Authority (LPA). To assist the LPA in preserving the built and natural environment, the statutory development plan contains a comprehensive set of planning policies. For Prudhoe, the statutory development plan comprises the *Tynedale District Local Development Framework Core Strategy* and the saved policies of the *Tynedale District Wide Local Plan*. The Regional Spatial Strategy was revoked in July 2010.

The relevant policies within the Tynedale Local Development Framework Core Strategy are:

Core Strategy Policy BE1 (extract from)

The principles for the built environment are to:

- a) Conserve and where appropriate enhance the quality and integrity of Tynedale's built environment and its historic features including archaeology, giving particular protection to listed buildings, scheduled monuments and conservation areas.*
- b) Give specific protection to the Hadrian's Wall World Heritage Site and its setting.*

The saved policies of the Tynedale District Wide Local Plan relating to the protection and management of archaeological sites and the historic environment are:

Policy BE25

There will be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation in situ of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other nationally important archaeological sites. Development, which would be detrimental to these sites or their settings, will not be permitted.

Policy BE27

Development, which would be detrimental to regionally or locally important archaeological sites or their settings, will not be permitted unless the proposed development is considered to be of overriding regional importance and no alternative site is available.

Policy BE28

Where it is not clear how important an archaeological site is, or where the impact of a development proposal on an existing archaeological site is uncertain, the developer will be required to provide further information in the form of an archaeological assessment and, where such an assessment indicates that important archaeological remains may be affected, a full archaeological evaluation.

Policy BE29

Where sites or monuments of archaeological importance would be affected by development, their preservation in situ is preferred. Where the site is not considered to be of sufficient importance to merit preservation in situ and development is subsequently permitted, planning permission will be subject to an archaeological condition, or a Planning Obligation will be sought, which will require the excavation and recording of the remains prior to or during the development. In such instances, publication of the findings will also be required.

These objectives are implemented through the planning system and through protective legislation.

7.7 Pre-Application Discussion

Early consultation with Northumberland Conservation on planning proposals is of enormous importance and is highlighted in PPS5. Where assessment and evaluation are required, this needs to be undertaken prior to the submission of an application and included within the required Design and Access Statement in line with PPS5 policies HE6 and 8.

Northumberland Conservation can provide an initial appraisal of whether known or potential heritage assets of significance are likely to be affected by a proposed development and can give advice on the steps that may need to be taken at each stage of the process.

7.7.1 Desk-Based Assessment

Information on the likely impact a proposed development will have on the remains can be estimated from existing records (including this report), historical accounts and reports of archaeological work in the vicinity, in conjunction with a number of sources which suggest the nature of deposits on the site, such as bore-hole logs and cellar surveys. This is presented in a standard format, known as a Desk-Based Assessment, prepared by an archaeological consultant on behalf of the applicant, to a specification drawn up by, or in agreement with, Northumberland Conservation, which can assist by providing a list of organisations which do work of this sort (see Policy BE28, above).

Pre-application consultation with Northumberland Conservation is vital as desk-based assessment may not be necessary in many instances but where required, it will need to be submitted with the planning application.

7.7.2 Field Evaluation

Where an assessment is insufficient to properly assess the impact of a proposed development on known or potential heritage assets, field evaluation may be required. The requirements of this stage will also be determined by Northumberland Conservation. It may require a range of survey and analytical techniques including limited excavation. An evaluation is designed to provide sufficient information about the extent, character and preservation of archaeological remains to judge what planning decision would be appropriate and, if necessary, what mitigation measures should be adopted (see Policy BE28, above).

Pre-application consultation with Northumberland Conservation is vital as evaluation may not be necessary in some instances but where required, it will need to be submitted with the planning application.

7.8 Archaeological Planning Conditions

The Planning Authority can make the appropriate decision (in the context of the Policies set out in the statutory development plan) on whether or not to give consent to the scheme, based the

information provided by the Historic Environment Record and assessment and evaluation reports, where necessary. If it is considered that an application can be consented, steps may be required to mitigate its impact on the archaeological remains. This can sometimes be achieved by simply designing the scheme to avoid disturbance, for example by the use of building techniques that ensure minimal ground disturbance. If planning permission is given and archaeological remains will be unavoidably destroyed, the developer may be required to ensure that these remains are archaeologically investigated, analysed and published. In this situation, the requirements for further work will normally be attached to the Planning Consent as conditions, such as the standard Northumberland Conservation condition detailed below:

A programme of archaeological work is required in accordance with the brief provided by Northumberland Conservation (NC ref X dated X). The archaeological scheme shall comprise three stages of work. Each stage shall be completed and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority before it can be discharged:

a) No development or archaeological mitigation shall commence on site until a written scheme of investigation based on the brief has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

b) The archaeological recording scheme required by the brief must be completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation.

c) The programme of analysis, reporting, publication and archiving if required by the brief must be completed in accordance with the approved written scheme of investigation.

7.8.1 Written Scheme of Investigation

This is a detailed document which sets out the extent and the nature of archaeological work required, including any necessary analyses and research, finds collection, conservation and deposition policies as well as likely publication requirements. This document is usually prepared by the contracting archaeologist, who will undertake the work, to a brief prepared by Northumberland Conservation.

7.8.2 The Range of Archaeological Fieldwork

The range of archaeological requirements set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation will vary. Many sites in historic urban areas will require full excavation. Frequently, though, the small-scale of disturbance associated with a development, or the low probability that archaeological remains will have once existed or survived on the site, will mean that a less intensive level of observation and recording is required. This may take the form of a Watching Brief; this is the timetabled presence of a suitably qualified archaeologist at the point when ground work on a site is underway. Any archaeological deposits encountered will be quickly recorded and any finds collected, without undue disruption to the construction work. Again, Northumberland conservation will provide the brief for the Watching Brief and the contracting archaeologist will provide a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation which complies with the brief.

7.8.3 *Building Recording*

Where historic standing buildings form a component of the archaeological resource affected by development, there may be a need to undertake building recording in advance of demolition or renovation. This requirement may apply to listed and unlisted buildings and will be dependent on the historical interest of the building; outwardly unprepossessing structures may contain important information about past communities and industries and will merit recording by qualified archaeologists or building historians to an agreed specification.

7.9 **Unexpected Discoveries**

Developers may wish to incorporate the potential for unexpected discoveries into their risk-management strategies. The PPS5 Practice Guide (paragraph 141) provides advice on the rare instances where, as a result of implementing a consent, a new asset is discovered or the significance of an existing asset is increased in a way that could not reasonably have been foreseen at the time of the application. It advises the local planning authority to work with the developer to seek a solution that protects the significance of the new discovery, so far as is practical, within the existing scheme. The extent of modifications will be dependant on the importance of the discovery and new evidence may require a local planning authority to consider reviewing its decision. Discoveries of treasure or human remains will need to be reported in accordance with the relevant legislation. English Heritage wishes to be informed if the discoveries are likely to merit designation.

The National Heritage Protection Commissions Programme Guidance on PPS5 Assistance Cases released in July 2010 indicates that English Heritage recognises that the best-planned and informed schemes can occasionally result in entirely unexpected discoveries of national significance, and therefore it may be possible to apply for funding as a last resort to ensure that a suitable record is made prior to destruction or loss of significance. English Heritage will only consider financial assistance towards the investigation, analysis or dissemination of such nationally significant discoveries if:

- The discovery is genuinely unexpected and could not have been predicted
- The asset discovered is of national significance
- The planning process set out in PPS5 has been followed
- Every effort can be demonstrated to have been made to accommodate unexpected discoveries within the available resources by prioritising the most important elements of the asset(s) being investigated

The request for funding must come from the appropriate local government heritage officer with responsibility for the case and not directly from the contractors or consultants conducting the investigation. Funding will be provided via the National Heritage Protection Commissions Programme (replacing the Historic Environment Enabling Programme in April 2011). English Heritage must be consulted at the earliest possible juncture so that they have an opportunity to

shape the response to the unexpected discoveries. English Heritage will not consider retrospective applications to cover costs already incurred when they have not been consulted on or agreed to the response and its cost implications. The first point of contact should be the North-East English Heritage offices at Bessie Surtees House, 41-44 Sandhill, Newcastle upon Tyne (0191 269 1200).

7.9.1 *How is National Archaeological Importance Defined?*

A number of assumptions will be made when determining whether archaeological remains are nationally important or not. These have been set out by English Heritage (1992, 47):

- i) the further back in time the origins of the form the greater the interest to archaeology;*
- ii) the fewer the number of examples believed to exist the greater the interest that attaches to those places as representatives of their form;*
- iii) the greater the variation that can be perceived within any defined form the higher the archaeological interest in terms of opportunities to explore spatial and temporal variation in respect of social, economic, political, religious, and symbolic matters; and*
- iv) the more representative of the life and times of the periods during which defined forms were current the greater the archaeological interest in terms of providing insights into past lifestyles.*

These assumptions are not intended to apply to all of the town at all times. Nor will all of these assumptions be appropriate to all nationally important archaeological sites within the urban area. Instead they are used to help create a value judgement on particular archaeological remains and whether they may be nationally important or not. A number of discrimination criteria will also be applied to archaeological remains discovered during the course of development. These will relate more specifically to the remains uncovered and will include their state of survival, their potential to provide archaeological evidence, previous archaeological or historical documentation on site, their group value, diversity, and amenity value. These criteria have been developed by the Secretary of State to determine whether archaeological remains are nationally important or not.

In Prudhoe, the majority of sites considered to be of archaeological interest are medieval and 19th century in date. The castle is already recognised as being nationally important with its status as a Scheduled Ancient Monument and Grade I Listed Building. There are several Grade II listed buildings; these are buildings of special interest, which warrant every effort to preserve them.

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Plan of an estate belonging to John Ord 1781 NRO 341

Plate of Castle 1784 NRO 2648/2 p 134

Lease of coal and clay mines 1850 ZNI 13

Photos of slum clearances 1956 and earlier photos NRO 1611

Prudhoe Hall, Castle plans, leases etc. ZAN Bell 75/1-12, 14-24

Plan of Prudhoe and area, 1870 (most of the rest of this bundle is about Ovingham)

ZAN Bell 73/7

Plans of Prudhoe ZAN Bell 41/7-15a,b,c

Including

(fragile) tracing of a Plan of Prudhoe in the parish of Ovingham, 1766 surveyed by J. Thompson copied in 1839 from an original in the possession of the duke of Northumberland by CJ Bell ZAN Bell 41/7

Plan of certain grounds and houses situated in and near to the town of Prudhoe the property of Mr. _ copied from a survey by William Casson, 1800 ZAN Bell 41/8

A tracing of Plan of Township

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Plan of the village of Prudhoe, 1851 surveyed by J and B Green ZAN Bell 41/14

Plan of Prudhoe Village, n.d, (19th century, before 1835) ZAN Bell 41/15a

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Historical notes re Prudhoe	EP 45/124

APPENDIX 1: LISTED BUILDINGS**Grade I**

Prudhoe Castle (HER 10118, LB 18/139)

Grade II* - none**Grade II**

The Grange and West Grange, formerly known as Prudhoe Grange (HER 10122, LB 18/137)

Church of Our Lady and St Cuthbert, Highfield Lane (HER 10158, LB 18/134)

Prudhoe House, South Road (HER 10160, LB 340-/18/10000)

Footbridge at Prudhoe Station (HER 10162, LB 18/140)

APPENDIX 2: ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVENTS

Material within this report includes information available on the Northumberland Historic Environment Record (HER) at the time this report was updated. Information on the HER is constantly being updated and should be used as the primary source for archaeological investigations in this area.

Event No 12995

GSB Prospection, 1997. *Geophysical Survey, Broomhouse Lane, Prudhoe*

Of five areas investigated anomalies were revealed in three. They comprised possible ditches and pits.

Event No 12811

GSB Prospection, 1997. *Geophysical survey, Broomhouse Farm, Broomhouse Lane, Prudhoe.*

Three anomalies were identified. They included two pits and possible ditch.

Event No 13596

Tyne and Wear Museums, 1998. *Broomhouse Lane, Prudhoe. Archaeological evaluation*

Two trenches revealed archaeological deposits including: a series of gullies, one of which contained a sherd of Roman mortarium, and a sub-oval feature; and a shallow ditch containing a sherd of 13th/14th century pottery.

Event No 13393

Tyne and Wear Museums, 1999. *Archaeological watching brief at Broomhouse Lane, Prudhoe*

Evaluation in the area of the Bronze Age burials noted in the 19th century failed to find any evidence of these features. This suggests ploughing since the 19th century has removed all trace, or that the original report of their location was inaccurate.

Event No 13648

English Heritage, 2002. *Tree-ring analysis of timbers from Prudhoe Castle Gates, Prudhoe*

Thirteen core sample were taken from the oak beams making up the gates. The felling date range is estimated at AD1459-84.

Event No 13520

Tyne and Wear Museums, 2005. *Prudhoe Castle watching brief*

Watching brief on land adjacent and at the rear of Prudhoe Castle during installation of new sewer pipes. Natural sand and gravels were encountered 0.35-0.4m below topsoil and continued to the base of excavation.

Event No 13666

Archaeological Services University of Durham, 2005/6. *Prudhoe allotments, geophysical survey.*

Event No 13667

Archaeological Services University of Durham, 2005/6. *Prudhoe allotments, evaluation.*

APPENDIX 3: HISTORIC MAPS



Figure 8: Armstrong's map of Northumberland 1769 (NRO ZBK sheet 8)



Figure 12: First Edition Ordnance Survey 1860, Sheet 96.9

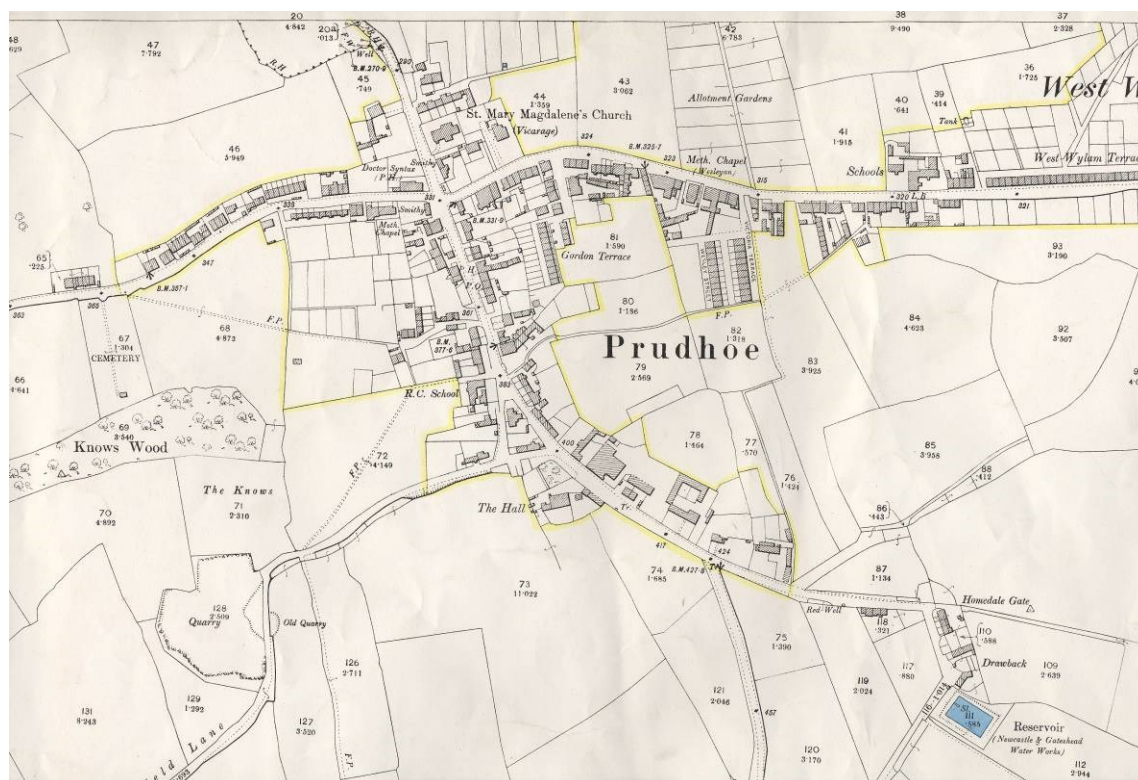


Figure 13: Second Edition Ordnance Survey 1897, Sheet 96.9



Figure 14: Third Edition Ordnance Survey 1920, Sheet 93.14

APPENDIX 4: STRATEGIC SUMMARY

PRUDHOE STRATEGIC SUMMARY

A4.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Prudhoe has been the focus of activity since prehistoric period. The Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) combined documentary and cartographic evidence with the results of recent archaeological investigations within the study area.

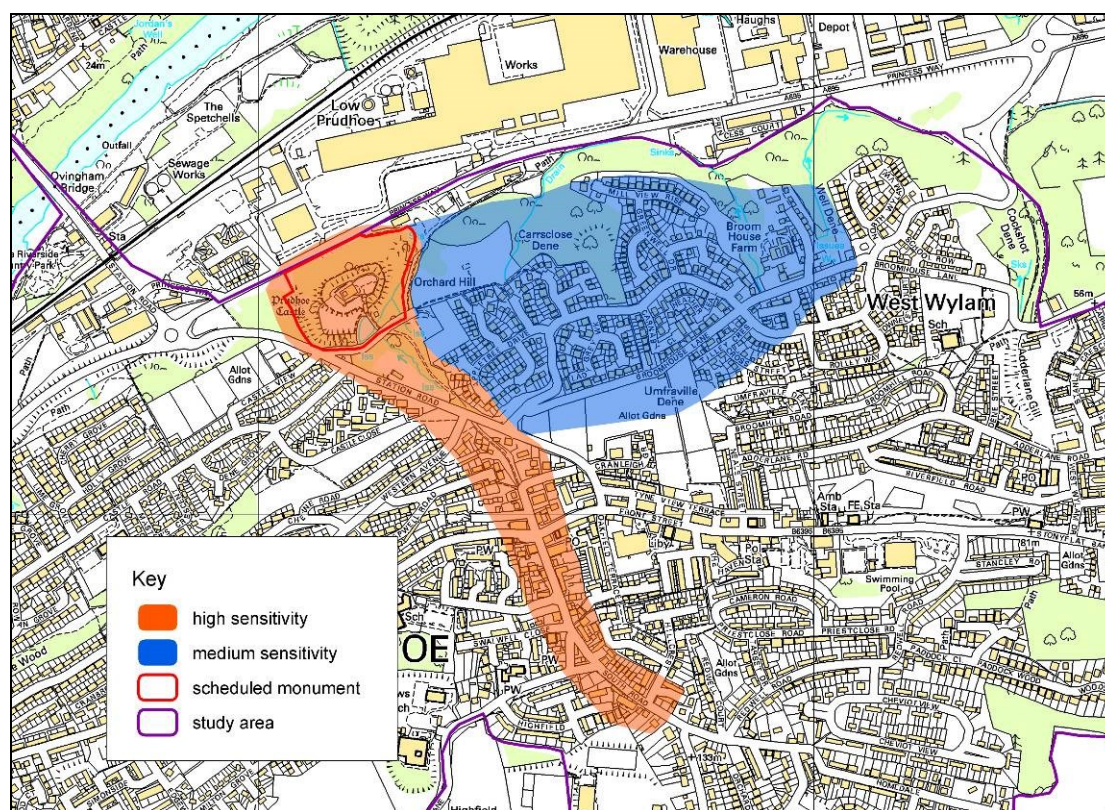


Figure 15: Prudhoe areas of archaeological sensitivity

Prehistoric and Romano-British

- A number of both prehistoric and Romano-British stray finds and stonework have been recovered from the study area or have been revealed in the fabric of Prudhoe Castle indicating some level of activity in the area from those periods.
- Recent fieldwalking in the area around Broomhouse Lane recovered a number of flint artefacts of provisional Mesolithic date. In addition, four known Bronze Age cists at Broomhouses indicate the potential for further cists and a settlement nearby.
- An archaeological evaluation at Broomhouse Lane revealed a series of gullies containing Roman pottery either indicating Romano-British activity in that area.

Early Medieval

- While no direct archaeological evidence of early medieval settlement has been revealed to date, the place-name is Anglian in origin.
- It is thought that the most likely position for a settlement of that date would be on the hill on which Prudhoe Castle now stands.

Medieval

Church

- The medieval settlement does not appear to have had a parish church; instead the inhabitants probably used the Chantry Chapel of St Thomas.
- The precise location of the chapel is not known although it is thought to be located on the site of Grange and West Grange on South Road (formerly a single property called Prudhoe Grange). The standing buildings appear to utilise parts of the medieval building.

Castle

- The castle is a tower keep castle which has been designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument due to its national importance (SAM 23228). The scheduled area includes a small bridge over the burn to the south of the castle which incorporates two phases of medieval construction.

Settlement

- There is documentary evidence for a settlement at Prudhoe associated with the castle from at least the 13th century. There is no direct evidence of the nature or form of the medieval settlement. It is presumed to have been located along the road running south from the castle and later map evidence appears to show that the settlement was never laid out to a systematic plan in the medieval period.
- The River Tyne appears to have been forded from at least the medieval period until the 19th century when a bridge was constructed.
- There are also documentary sources indicating that there were coal mines in the area around Prudhoe from the medieval period onwards.

Post-Medieval

Settlement

- There is a good cartographic record of the form of the post-medieval village with properties on either side of the road south from the castle.
- As previously stated the settlement does not appear to have a uniform planned layout with some narrow linear plots interspersed with farm complexes which may indicate the organic growth of the settlement over a period of time.
- The middle of the village appears to be crossed by an east-west road with no obvious buildings along its route.
- Documentary and cartographic sources indicate the presence of a kiln and kiln house to the north of the castle moat and a mill to the south of the castle.
- The character of the village began to change from about 1860 onwards as industries, particularly coal mining developed in the area bringing with it residential expansion for the new workforce, particularly along the formerly unoccupied east-west road (Front Street and West Street).
- The collieries and brick and tile works that developed in this area utilised coal and clay from the same seams.
- There are few buildings in Prudhoe which pre-date the 19th century. Prudhoe house on South Road was, however built in 1700, although altered in the 19th and 20th centuries
- 19th century buildings include various places of worship, schools and mills

A4.2 SUMMARY OF SETTLEMENT SPECIFIC RESEARCH AGENDAS

As part of the planning process, it is important to establish the significance of surviving remains, in order to provide an appropriate and informed response for planning applications with the potential to impact on archaeological remains.

As stated in Part Two of the EUS, the most effective way of assessing the significance of archaeological remains is by comparing them with agreed national, regional and local research agendas and frameworks, particularly the North East Regional Research Framework (Petts et al, 2006).

These research agendas are discussed in detail in the EUS and summarised below:

Prehistoric and Romano-British

- The nature and extent of prehistoric activity in the area.
- The nature and extent of Romano-British activity in the area.

Early Medieval

- The presence, nature, extent and development of any early medieval settlement.

Medieval

- The presence, nature, extent and development of the medieval settlement.
- Any evidence of formal village planning.
- Any evidence of earlier fabric being incorporated into later buildings, particularly any evidence that the Chantry Chapel of St. Thomas in the fabric of Grange and West Grange on South Road.
- Any below ground remains of the Chantry Chapel of St Thomas.

Post-Medieval

- The character and nature of buildings in the town before the 19th century.
- The earliest evidence of mills in the Prudhoe area.

A4.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) has identified the areas of greatest archaeological sensitivity and potential in Prudhoe as summarised in the previous two sections. The attached plan further condenses the information into areas of high and medium archaeological sensitivity.

As stated in the EUS report, the protection and management of archaeological remains in England is achieved through a combination of statutory protection and protection through planning legislation and policy guidance. This framework is summarised in Part Three of the EUS.

There is a strong potential that archaeological work will be required by the Local Planning Authority on planning applications submitted within the areas highlighted as being of high and medium archaeological sensitivity. Areas outside the EUS area may also be of archaeological sensitivity, particularly remains associated with prehistoric and Romano-British activity. It is recommended that developers contact the Assistant County Archaeologist at Northumberland Conservation at the earliest opportunity, *prior* to the submission of a planning application, to establish if sites are of archaeological sensitivity and will require archaeological work as detailed below.

The nature and extent of archaeological work required as part of the planning process will depend on the location of the development in relation to the most archaeologically sensitive areas, the size of the development and the level of previous disturbance on the site. This could comprise one or more of the following:

Pre-application work

1. PPS5 indicates that, where assessment and/or evaluation are required on a site, the results of this work will need to be submitted in support of the planning application, and therefore will need to be completed prior to the submission of the application.
2. The EUS is used as an aid in the decision making process and helps to highlight large or particularly archaeologically sensitive sites which may require further, site specific, assessment or evaluation. In order to locate trial trenches or test pits most effectively, the commissioned archaeological contractor will need to provide a detailed project design for the agreement of Northumberland Conservation prior to work commencing. The project design will need to include:
 - i. A summary of all known archaeological remains and investigations in the surrounding area

- ii. Historic maps of the specific site indicating earlier site layouts and the location of structures and features
 - iii. Any geotechnical, test pit data or records indicating the build-up of deposits and/or modern truncation of the site
- 3. The subsequent evaluation will need to work to the parameters agreed in the project design. Where undated features and deposits are revealed environmental sampling, analysis and radio carbon dating is likely to be required. The results of the fieldwork and any necessary post-excavation analysis or assessment will need to be provided in a report submitted with the planning application to enable an appropriate decision to be made.
- 4. It is important to have a good understanding of the nature and significance of historic buildings, any surviving features, fixtures and fittings or potential re-use of earlier buildings or material prior to the building's alteration or demolition. Dependant on the specific building and the nature of the proposed works, an application may require historic building assessment to be submitted with the planning application. This will enable a decision to be made on the appropriateness of the scheme and the nature and extent of any mitigation requirements required

Post-determination mitigation

- 1. The formulation of an appropriate mitigation strategy will be required and this will be based on the results of the evaluation. The majority of these options can be dealt with as a condition of planning permission comprising one or more of the following:
 - i. Preservation *in situ* of important archaeological remains revealed during evaluation. This could have an impact on the viability of the scheme and whether planning permission should be granted
 - ii. Full excavation prior to construction work commencing for significant remains that do not necessarily warrant preservation *in situ*. This will also require post-excavation assessment, full analysis, publication of the results and long-term storage of the archive at the appropriate museum
 - iii. Strip and record prior to construction work commencing for a high density of less significant archaeological remains. The level of post-excavation work will depend on the significance of the archaeology revealed. Significant remains will require post-excavation assessment, full analysis and publication of the results. Archaeology of lesser significance may simply require an appropriate level of analysis and reporting. Long-term storage of the archive at the appropriate museum will be required
 - iv. Watching brief during construction work for a low density of less significant archaeological remains. An appropriate level of analysis, reporting and long-term storage of the archive at the appropriate museum will be required
 - v. No further work in areas where no archaeological remains are found
- 2. Small-scale development such as small extensions within the area of high archaeological sensitivity may not require pre-application evaluation and in some instances can be dealt with by an archaeological watching brief during construction. Given the high sensitivity of this area, the level of archaeological work required will very much depend on the nature, extent and depth of groundworks and the level of any previous disturbance on the site. An appropriate level of analysis, reporting and long-term storage of the archive at the appropriate museum will be required
- 3. The need for historic building recording is assessed on the significance of the building, its surviving fixtures and fittings, the potential re-use of earlier building fabric and the nature and extent of the proposed works. Sufficient information will be needed to assess the significance of the building either from existing records or the production of an historic building assessment prior to the determination of the application. An appropriate level of building recording will be identified in response to all these factors, adhering to English Heritage Guidelines
- 4. Ecclesiastical faculties involving groundwork and work on the historic fabric of the church are likely to require archaeological work of the nature detailed above.

NB The nature and extent of archaeological work is gauged for each individual site. It is therefore recommended that prospective developers contact the Assistant County Archaeologist at Northumberland Conservation at the earliest opportunity before the application is submitted to

discuss the potential requirements on development sites in Prudhoe and the surrounding area.

This document and plan have been produced based on the available evidence at the time that the EUS was produced. Our knowledge of the archaeology is continually being updated and as such this information should only be used as a broad indication of the archaeologically sensitive areas. In some instances development outside the highlighted areas may be required.

Further Guidance

Any further guidance or queries should be directed to:

Assistant County Archaeologist
Northumberland Conservation
Development & Delivery
Planning Economy & Housing
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
NE61 2EF

Tel: 01670 620305

e-mail: archaeology@northumberland.gov.uk

