

Field Evaluation

On the basis of the information provided in a Desk-Based Assessment the need for further work to test whether deposits predicted in the assessment have survived on this plot. This is usually achieved by trial excavation or geophysical survey, and is known as a Field Evaluation. This programme will also be defined by the Tyne and Wear Archaeology Service, and may employ a range of survey and analytic techniques besides excavation. The purpose of this work is quite distinct from a full-scale excavation, and aims only to record the presence or absence of remains and elucidate their character and complexity. This may require the collecting and assessment of palaeo-environmental samples, on the advice of the Historic England Regional Scientific Advisor. The report of this work may be the only record of this archaeological event, and so must be a complete account, in line with the specification, for deposition in the Historic Environment Record and possibly publication in a suitable archaeological journal.

Should nationally important remains be brought to light, for example, remains of Hadrian's Wall or medieval structures within the historic core, the preferred option would be avoidance of disturbance for example by the use of building techniques that ensure minimal disturbance of the buried remains on the site, or restriction of deep foundations to areas previously destroyed by earlier foundations or cellars.