



Lindisfarne: The Holy Island Archaeology Project

Updated Project Design 2025



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Updated Project Design

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Purpose of document

This document has been prepared as an Updated Project Design the Lindisfarne, Holy Island project. The purpose of this document is to provide an updated outline of work to be undertaken in 2024, including aims and objectives of the work, and methodology to be employed.

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Project summary

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The project is managed for DigVentures by Brendon Wilkins with Lisa Westcott Wilkins in the role of Project Executive. The project is supported by Dr David Petts from Durham University, who jointly directs the fieldwork with Nat Jackson, DigVentures. The project is funded primarily by voluntary contributions from the public, so final thanks must go to our community of Venturers, without whom this work would never have taken place:

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Executive summary

This document is submitted in support of continued fieldwork on the Lindisfarne research project on Holy Island, carried out by DigVentures in partnership with Durham University, Northumbria County Council and Northumbria Coast National Landscape. The purpose of the document is to provide an Updated Project Design on reflection of the assessment results, providing recommendations and directions for the fieldwork to be undertaken in Year 10 of the Lindisfarne, Holy Island, project. The planned fieldwork will take place between 6th September and 3rd October 2025 and will comprise a community-based archaeological investigation at Sanctuary Close, immediately east of the Priory church.

A MORPHE/PRINCE2 compliant document has been produced outlining key archaeological research questions, roles, procedures, stages, and outputs. The overarching aim of this fieldwork is to provide baseline information to contribute to the future management, research, and presentation of the site – creating multiple educational and participatory learning experiences for community participants. This will be achieved through a community-based archaeological research project designed to:

- define the results of previous non-invasive surveys, refining the chronology and phasing of the site with a programme of trenching; and
- understand the site's archaeological and palaeoenvironmental conditions.

This Updated Project Design builds on the previous excavations to outline a proposal for work to be undertaken in 2025. This includes a proposed methodology, key sources and activities required to support the delivery of the proposal's outcomes, identifying responsibilities of individual project staff members and outlines the tasks and programme. The Updated Project Design provides an outline of methodology and planned intervention to complete:

Targeted excavation

This will consist of the excavation of three archaeological trenches within Sanctuary Close, immediately east of the Priory church. Trenches 2, 9 and 11 will be reopened, with Trench 2 reduced in size and Trenches 9 and 11 expanded. Trench 2, 18m x 12m, will continue the investigation of the stone structures, cemetery and large ditch. Trench 9, 20m x 7m, located 50m south of Trench 2, will be reopened with the aim of further investigating a wall discovered in 2024 and of catching the ditch uncovered in Trench 2 West. Trench 11, 6m x 6m, is in the north west of the field. It will investigate a structure identified in 2024 and target the ditch discovered in Trench 2 West.

Public engagement

The project is supported by a comprehensive learning, engagement, and activity plan. An innovative digital recording system will be used to enable volunteers to record and publish on smartphones or tablets in the field; specifically developed learning materials will be used to deliver schools sessions, with a dedicated project website, underpinned by a digital and audience building strategy.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project summary

- 1.1.1 DigVentures, in partnership with Durham University, were invited to undertake a crowdfunded community-based archaeological research project at Lindisfarne (hereafter 'the Site' – Figure 1). The project has been designed in collaboration with Dr David Petts, Durham University, using a MoRPHE framework (Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment - 2006). The project is a multi-staged and multi-disciplinary field research project, incorporating geophysical survey, archaeological evaluation and excavation, and geoarchaeological landscape analysis. The community-focused project was initiated in 2016 and fieldwork will run until 2025.
- 1.1.2 This document provides an Updated Project Design following initial post-excavation assessment following archaeological evaluations undertaken in Year 9, undertaken during 2024 (Jackson et al. forthcoming). This document builds on the aims and objectives articulated in the original Project Design (Wilkins and Petts 2016) and subsequent Updated Project Designs (Casswell et al. 2017, 2018, 2020 and 2021; Jackson et al. 2022 and 2023).

2 RESEARCH AIMS AND OBJECTIVES REVISITED

2.1 Background

- 2.1.1 The principle purpose of the research was first defined in the Project Design (Wilkins and Petts 2016) and was articulated as four overarching aims. These were to define and characterise the physical extent of the site through a programme of non-intrusive (Aim 1) and intrusive excavation (Aim 2), obtaining baseline data that would facilitate the future management of the site (Aims 3 and 4). Following subsequent excavations the project aims have been refined and expanded, with an additional aim introduced to expand community engagement and participation (Aim 5) (Casswell et al. 2017).

2.2 Aims and objectives

- 2.2.1 The following aims and questions are based on those outlined in the initial Project Design (Wilkins and Petts 2016) and refined following excavation in successive Updated Project Designs (Casswell et al. 2017-2020, Jackson et al. 2021-24). They reflect on the results and recommendations for further work outlined in the initial Post-Excavation Assessment of the 2024 excavations (Jackson et al. forthcoming) and incorporate new research strands developed to consider the broader landscape environs of the site:
- 2.2.2 Aim 1 – Define and establish the precise physical extent and condition of the Site with a programme of remote sensing and metric survey
- Q1: Can the layout of the site and associated sub-surface archaeology be established by remote survey?
- 2.2.3 Aim 2 – Characterise the results of non-invasive survey, refining the chronology and phasing of the site with a programme of trenching



- Q2: What can we say about the scale and nature of any structural remains? Can we fully characterise the nature of the wall discovered in the east of Trench 2 and is this wall associated with any other structural remains seen on site?
- Q3: Can we fully characterise the large ditch seen in Trench 2 and considering the early 7th century radiocarbon dates is it possible to obtain further datable material to corroborate this?
- Q4: Can we fully characterise the drain seen in Trench 2? How does this feature relate to other remains seen on site?
- Q5: Can we corroborate chronological phasing for the site, including the presence of earlier and later features and structures, as defined in Aim 1?
- Q6: Is there any evidence for the ditch seen in Trench 2 (West) in Trenches 9 and 11?
- Q7: Given that no burials were observed in Trench 11 can the expanded trench reveal the limit of the cemetery?
- Q8: Can we characterise and phase the wall discovered in Trench 9?
- Q9: Can we fully characterise and phase the structure uncovered in Trench 11?

2.2.4 Aim 3 – Understand the site’s archaeological and palaeoenvironmental conditions

- Q10: What is the current state of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental material across the site?
- Q11: Can the palaeoenvironmental data recovered from sampling in the trenches inform us about farming, food processing, industrial or medical activities? Can samples be recovered from the layers associated with the earliest activity so far exposed at the site?
- Q12: Can we increase our understanding of the local environment in the medieval period?
- Q13: How well do the deposits survive, and how deeply are they buried?

2.2.5 Aim 4 – Making recommendations, analysis and publication

- Q14: In light of the evidence recovered from this and previous work, can we articulate a link between the multi-phased use of the site and its different areas?
- Q15: Formulate recommendations for further archaeological and palaeoenvironmental analysis at Lindisfarne based on Aims 1-3 and implement a programme to publish and disseminate the results.

2.2.6 Aim 5 – Creating opportunities for people and communities

2.2.7 Public Engagement is central to the Holy Island Archaeology Project, from the initial project set up through to dissemination and beyond. The project offers a range of opportunities for local community members, school children and visitors to the area to get involved and learn more about the archaeology of Lindisfarne. Working closely with the wider project team and Durham University, participation opportunities will include excavation, finds processing, photogrammetry and social media.

2.2.8 Volunteers will be invited to join the excavations and will be trained in archaeological skills, co-producing the archaeological archive using DigVentures unique Digital Dig Team software. Results will be recorded directly onto the project microsite, providing live updates of both technical data and social media.



3 BUSINESS CASE

- 3.1.1 The 2025 Updated Project Design outlined here fits within the remit of the business case provided within the original Project Design (Wilkins and Petts 2016, Section 12.0) and subsequently revisited in the 2017 Integrated Post-Excavation Updated Project Design (Casswell et al. 2017, Section 9.0). Emphasis is placed on fulfilling the priorities articulated in the North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF) (Petts and Gerrard 2006), Holy Island Extensive Urban Survey (Finlayson and Hardie 1995-7 revised 2010), and SHAPE Strategic Framework for Historic Environment Activities and Programmes in England Heritage (Historic England 2008), and Historic England Action Plan 2015-18, (superseded and revised by the Corporate Plan 2020-23, Historic England 2020). The work will be carried out to contribute to the ambitions of the Northumberland Coast National Landscape.

4 INTERFACES

- 4.1.1 This project will interface with a series of other projects, stakeholders, and initiatives, summarised in the table below:

Interfaces	Description
Remote sensing team	Initial geophysical survey has been carried out by Archaeological Services Durham University, with plans for further survey by Dr Brian Buchanan (Durham University). This was supported with an Aerial photogrammetry survey completed by Adam Stanford (Easter Island Project; Stonehenge Riverside Project; Marden Henge Project) ensuring that multidisciplinary approach was at the forefront of current remote sensing research.
Academic Advisory Board	An informal academic advisory group of subject area experts (in Early Ecclesiastical and Monastic Archaeology) is being formed to ensure that the project remains pertinent to relevant research questions and agendas, interfacing with other teams working in similar landscapes in the UK. These include Professor Rosemary Cramp (Durham University), Dr Sarah Semple (Durham University), Dr Rob Young (independent researcher) with others to be appointed.
Core Project Team	The core project team and specialist staff have consulted widely during the project planning and previous execution stages and will continue to build on this as the project develops, forging strong links with local, national and international professionals and institutions actively engaged in a broad range of ecclesiastical sites.
Heritage at Risk	The only Heritage Risk monument within the study area is the Chapel and associated building on St Cuthbert's Isle. The project will liaise with Historic England, Holy Island of Lindisfarne Community Development Trust (the landowners) and HLF Peregrini concerning planning and timing of planned survey and recording work to ensure subsequent rapid consolidation of any eroding features. The site is a Scheduled Ancient

Interfaces	Description
	Monument so Scheduled Monument Consent is required from HE – an initial enquiry has been made to the Inspector (Case Ref. PA00425505).
Local Stakeholders	The key local stakeholder is the owner of the land on which the fieldwork will take place. Sanctuary Close is owned by the Crossman Estate and Mr J. Patterson the tenant farmer. The Holy Island of Lindisfarne Community Development Trust own St Cuthbert's Island and the Heugh. The ruins of the Priory are owned by English Heritage and the church and churchyard of St Mary's are owned by the Diocese of Newcastle. Contacts have been made with all landowners and their local representatives and appropriate permissions have been secured. Major community projects engaging with heritage, natural history and geology were being run on the island as part of the HLF Peregrini Landscape Partnership – the community archaeology programme was contracted out to the Archaeological Practice, Newcastle. The project liaised with management of HLF Peregrini (Helen Griffiths; David Suggett) and with Richard Carlton (Archaeological Practice).

Table 1: Project interfaces

5 COMMUNICATIONS

5.1 Project team

- 5.1.1 Funding for the excavations was raised exclusively through the DigVentures crowdfunding platform, with Project Assurance undertaken by the Project Executive (Lisa Westcott Wilkins, DigVentures) who will monitor compliance against the deliverables detailed in this document, with formal and informal progress reports submitted to the HLF. The Projects Director (Brendon Wilkins, DigVentures) will act as the primary contact point for the project and ensure that stakeholders and clients are regularly updated as to progress.
- 5.1.2 The project team have all worked closely together over a number of research projects (Caerfai 2021-2023, Lindisfarne 2016-present, Sudeley Castle 2019-present and Elmswell Farm 2017-present). There will be at least four core DigVentures archaeological staff and two community archaeologists on site throughout the fieldwork. Lisa Westcott Wilkins (Managing Director) will provide oversight of the project delivery and Stephanie Duensing (Director of Operations) will undertake day-to-day management of the project. Brendon Wilkins (Projects Director) and David Petts (University of Durham) will direct fieldwork with support from Nat Jackson (Senior Project Officer). Harriet Tatton (Programme Officer) will liaise with and coordinate volunteers and visitors to the site. Carina Garland (Archaeological Supervisor) will oversee the finds and sample processing on-site and supervise volunteer activities in the finds room with support from Freddy Wannop (Community Archaeologist). Core staff will remain consistent and will be retained throughout the post-excavation phase of the project. All core staff are employed in line with ClfA guidelines, and are

practicing field archaeologists at PCIfA level or above. Senior project staff are all Members of ClfA in good standing.

- 5.1.3 The Expert team is drawn from various university departments and laboratories with a considerable range of experience in the undertaking and delivery of similar research projects. The Academic Advisory Board provides an extra layer of expertise to help advise as the project progresses.

5.2 Project management

- 5.2.1 DigVentures operates a computer-assisted project management system. Projects are undertaken under the direction of the Projects Director who is responsible for the successful completion of all aspects of the project. All work is monitored and checked whilst in progress on a regular basis, and the Projects Director / Site Director checks all reports and other documents before being issued. A series of guideline documents or manuals form the basis for all work.
- 5.2.2 The DigVentures management team are all full members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA). DigVentures is a ClfA Registered Organisation (No. 102), and fully endorses the *Code of Conduct*, the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*, and the Standards and Guidance documents of the Institute for Archaeologists. All DigVentures staff are employed in line with the Institute's Codes and will usually be members of the Institute.

5.3 Outreach and engagement

- 5.3.1 **Public participation.** As a crowdfunded and crowdsourced archaeological project, every aspect of the project is cognisant of a wider outreach agenda. Public participants will take part on site (through participation in the dig, Finds Room, and co-creation of an open-access archaeological record), and online (through interactive online events, live updates on the Dig Timeline, social media content including, and access to digital archaeological record).
- 5.3.2 **Safe Dig policies.** All projects are now planned for multiple scenarios, depending on local lockdown restrictions, including in person, reduced in person, and online only scenarios. All plans will be adapted in line with changing circumstances and postponed if necessary until it is safe to resume activity.
- 5.3.3 **Evaluation.** Impact is measured with DigVentures standard audience evaluation of all project participants (field and digital) to establish baseline data and assist with future management strategies and promotion.

5.4 Dissemination and reporting

- 5.4.1 Rapid dissemination of the results to, and involvement of, stakeholders of the project is vital throughout. This will take place through multiple channels, addressing a multitude of established and new audiences. Dissemination outlined below will all be undertaken during 2025, and will include, but not be limited to:



- Dedicated website with daily news updates on a blog and all major social media channels (Facebook, X, Google+, Flickr and Instagram) amplified through third-party coverage by the networked blogging community.
- Dedicated digital archive of the excavation data.
- Wide circulation of the project assessment and the final report, and links to the OASIS record.
- Site publication in an appropriate local/national journal commensurate with the final results.
- Wide circulation of Assessment and Final Report, Updated Project Design and links to the OASIS record.
- Final site publication in an appropriate local/national journal commensurate with the final results.

5.5 Project archive

5.5.1 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with DigVentures guidelines for Archive Preparation, following Appendix 1, P1 of MoRPHE PPN 3 (Historic England 2012), fulfilling the Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (UKIC 1990). All reports produced by the project will be openly and freely disseminated through County Council Historic Environment Record, Archaeological Data Service, OASIS portal and Scribd website. Copyright on all reports submitted will reside with DigVentures, although a third party in-perpetuity licence will automatically be given for reproduction of the works by the originator, subject to agreement in writing with Historic England.

6 PROJECT REVIEW

6.1.1 The project will be continually reviewed by the Project Executive and Project Manager, with a formal review undertaken at the end of each Stage as follows:

Stage	Description	Review Point	Completion Date
Initiation	Consideration of Project Proposal, HLF	RV1 – Assemble Project Team and liaise with stakeholders	Completed – December 2015
Stage 1	Project Start-up, finalising Project Design and definition of scope	RV2 – Sign-off on MoRPHE Project Design, and liaison with stakeholders and landowners	Completed – May 2016
Stage 2	Archaeological Fieldwork	RV3 – assemble site archive and distribute pertinent data to specialists	Completed – July 2016
Stage 3	Assessment Report & Updated Project Design	RV4 – critically review findings, making recommendations for further work or closure	Completed – October 2016
Stage 4	Archaeological Fieldwork	RV5 – assemble site archive and distribute pertinent data to specialists	Completed – July 2017



Stage	Description	Review Point	Completion Date
Stage 5	Assessment Report & Updated Project Design	RV6 – critically review findings, making recommendations for further work or closure	Completed – August 2018
Stage 6	Archaeological Fieldwork	RV7 – assemble site archive and distribute pertinent data to specialists	Completed – September 2018
Stage 7	Archaeological Fieldwork	RV8 - assemble site archive and distribute pertinent data to specialists	Completed – September 2019
Stage 8	Assessment Report & Updated Project Design	RV9 – critically review findings, making recommendations for further work or closure	Completed – August 2020
Stage 9	Archaeological Fieldwork	RV10 - assemble site archive and distribute pertinent data to specialists	Completed – September 2020
Stage 10	Assessment Report & Updated Project Design	RV11 – critically review findings, making recommendations for further work or closure	Completed – May 2021
Stage 11	Archaeological Fieldwork	RV12 - assemble site archive and distribute pertinent data to specialists	Completed – September 2021
Stage 12	Assessment Report & Updated Project Design	RV13 – critically review findings, making recommendations for further work or closure	Completed – September 2022
Stage 13	Archaeological Fieldwork	RV14 - assemble site archive and distribute pertinent data to specialists	Completed – September 2022
Stage 14	Assessment Report & Updated Project Design	RV15 – critically review findings, making recommendations for further work or closure	Completed – September 2023
Stage 15	Archaeological Fieldwork	RV16 - assemble site archive and distribute pertinent data to specialists	Completed – September 2023
Stage 16	Assessment Report & Updated Project Design	RV17 – critically review findings, making recommendations for further work or closure	Completed – Winter 2024
Stage 17	Archaeological Fieldwork	RV18 - assemble site archive and distribute pertinent data to specialists	Proposed – September 2024
Stage 18	Assessment Report & Updated Project Design	RV19 – critically review findings, making recommendations for further work or closure	Proposed – August / September 2025

Stage	Description	Review Point	Completion Date
Stage 19	Archaeological Fieldwork	RV20 – assemble site archive and distribute pertinent data to specialists	Proposed – September / October 2025
Stage 20	Assessment Report	RV21 – critically review findings and making recommendations for further analysis	Proposed – Summer 2026
Stage 21	Closure and Analysis Report	RV22 – final publication sign-off, and prepare archive for accession, or continue to further excavation	Proposed – Spring 2027

Table 2: Project review stages

7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

7.1.1 DigVentures will undertake the works in accordance with Health and Safety requirements and a Health and Safety Plan. This document will take account of any design information pertaining to above and below ground hazards. DigVentures will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with its company Health and Safety Policy, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974*, and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and in accordance with the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) health and safety manual *Health and Safety in Field Archaeology* (1996).

8 PROJECT TEAM STRUCTURE

8.1 Team and responsibilities

8.1.1 DigVentures' Project Team is outlined in Table 3. A summary CV, setting out the skills and expertise of DigVentures core team members, with CVs for the wider specialist team available on request.

Name	Initials	Project Role	Key Responsibility
Lisa Westcott Wilkins	LWW	Project Executive	Overall project responsibility, budget responsibility and project assurance
Brendon Wilkins	BW	Projects Director	Overall responsibility for the direction of the project
David Petts	DP	Archaeological Site Director	Archaeological co-direction (on-site), liaison with project team, partners and Stakeholders. Reporting.
Maiya Pina-Dacier	MPD	Director of Engagement	Developing content management strategy

Name	Initials	Project Role	Key Responsibility
Stephanie Duensing	SD	Director of Operations	Project staffing, on-site fieldwork
Nat Jackson	NJ	Senior Project Officer	Directing on-site fieldwork, reporting.
Harriet Tatton	HT	Programme Officer	On-site fieldwork, trench supervisor
Ben Swain	BS	Community Archaeologist	On-site fieldwork, trench supervisor
Darcey Spenner	DS	Community Archaeologist	On-site fieldwork, trench supervisor
Maggie Eno	ME	Content Manager	On-site fieldwork and creation of content
Anna van Nostrand	AvN	Community Archaeologist	On-site fieldwork
Carina Garland	CG	Community Archaeologist	On-site fieldwork and finds processing
Freddy Wannop	FW	Community Archaeologist	On-site fieldwork and finds processing
Jasmine Tomys	JT	Programme Officer – Post excavation	Post-excavation finds processing and liaising with specialists

Table 3: Team and responsibilities

9 METHODOLOGY

9.1 Introduction

- 9.1.1 The methods reflect the project Stages set out above (Section 6), and a task list, with allocation of staff time and team members in Section 10 below, setting out a provisional programme. Detailed method statements relating the specific techniques or approaches can be found in Appendix A and the initial Project Design (Wilkins and Petts 2016).

9.2 Stage 18 - Updated Project Design

- 9.2.1 A Project Design (this document) has been prepared (Review Point 17).

9.3 Stage 19 - Archaeological Fieldwork

- 9.3.1 Stage 19 fieldwork (scheduled from 6th September – 3rd October) will comprise the tenth fieldwork stage required to meet Aims 1 and 2, and will entail a combination of 3D photogrammetry survey and targeted trenching. It will aim to answer the following research questions:

- Q1: Can the layout of the site and associated sub-surface archaeology be established by remote survey?
- Q2: What can we say about the scale and nature of any structural remains? Can we fully characterise the nature of the wall discovered in the east of Trench 2 and is this wall associated with any other structural remains seen on site?
- Q3: Can we fully characterise the large ditch seen in Trench 2 and considering the early 7th century radiocarbon dates is it possible to obtain further datable material to corroborate this?
- Q4: Can we fully characterise the drain seen in Trench 2? How does this feature relate to other remains seen on site?
- Q5: Can we corroborate chronological phasing for the site, including the presence of earlier and later features and structures, as defined in Aim 1?
- Q6: Is there any evidence for the ditch seen in Trench 2 (West) in Trenches 9 and 11?
- Q7: Given that no burials were observed in Trench 11 can the expanded trench reveal the limit of the cemetery?
- Q8: Can we characterise and phase the wall discovered in Trench 9?
- Q9: Can we fully characterise and phase the structure uncovered in Trench 11?

- 9.3.2 Specific archaeological intervention will include the re-opening Trenches 2, 9, and 11. Trench 2, measuring 18m x 12m, will be reopened over the footprint of the 2023 excavation area and reduced by 2m in the south. The trench will continue investigation of the cemetery, the ditch, and walls. Trench 9, measuring 20m x 7m, will be reopened and extended by 3m to the south. It will investigate a wall discovered in 2024 and is hoping to reveal a continuation of the ditch seen in Trench 2. Trench 11 will be reopened in the northwest of the field and will be extended by 4m to the south, now measuring 6m x 6m. The trench is also targeting the ditch discovered in Trench 2 and structure identified during the 2024 excavations.



9.4 Stage 20 – Assessment Report & Updated Project Design

9.4.1 This Stage will address Aim 3, culminating in Review Point 19, and focusing on answering the following research questions:

- Q10: What is the current state of the archaeological and palaeoenvironmental material across the site?
- Q11: Can the palaeoenvironmental data recovered from sampling in the trenches inform us about farming, food processing, industrial or medical activities? Can samples be recovered from the layers associated with the earliest activity so far exposed at the site?
- Q12: Can we increase our understanding of the local environment in the medieval period?
- Q13: How well do the deposits survive, and how deeply are they buried?
- Stage 20 – Closure or continuation to next stage

9.4.2 Years 1-9 have helped to clarify some of the questions originally set out in the Project Design (Wilkins and Petts 2016) and refined following excavation in successive Updated Project Designs (Casswell et al. 2017-2020, Jackson et al. 2021-24). This has been built on in subsequent excavation seasons, and it is now envisaged that fieldwork excavations will cease after the completion of the 2025 excavations, this will be the culmination of ten seasons of fieldwork.

9.4.3 Addressing Aim 4, this is the main reporting and recommendation stage of the project, culminating in Review Point 22 will occur following the completion of all fieldwork, and will focus on the following research questions:

- Q14: In light of the evidence recovered from this and previous work, can we articulate a link between the multi-phased use of the site and its different areas?
- Q15: Formulate recommendations for further archaeological and palaeoenvironmental analysis at Lindisfarne based on Aims 1-3, and implement a programme to publish and disseminate the results.

10 STAGES, PRODUCTS AND TASKS

10.1 Methodological Linkages

10.1.1 It is anticipated that the 2025 work will be undertaken in four stages. These are set out in the table below and are set against the project aims and questions that will be met at each stage, the products that will be produced and the tasks undertaken.

Stage	Description	Project Aims/ Questions	Products	Task & ID Number
Stage 18	Assessment report and updated project design	Aims 1-5 Q1-16	1. Permissions (planning application & stewardship derogations) 2. Finalised UPD & Risk Log 3. Educational Plan & Information Pack 4. Digital Communication Plan 5. Risk Assessment & Health and Safety Plan	1. Consult with wider project team and stakeholders to define milestones and delivery timetable. 2. Core Archaeology Team Meeting. 3. Design project database. 4. RV19 – Sign off on MoRPHE
Stage 19	Archaeological Fieldwork	Aim 1 Q1 Aim 2 Q2-10 Aim 5	6. Field Archive 7. Survey Archive 8. 3D Survey Archive	8. Site Preparation 9. Fieldwork (remote sensing, survey & excavation) 10. RV20 – assemble site archive & distribute to specialists
Stage 20	Assessment Report	Aim 3 Q10-13	9. Stratigraphic & Assessment Report	13. Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental assessments 14. Integrated assessment report 15. RV21 – critically review findings and making recommendations for further analysis
Stage 21	Closure and Analysis Report	Aim 1-4 Q1-15	10. Final report 11. Publication 12. Completed and accessioned archive	18. Specialist analysis 19. Finalise report and publication 20. Prepare data and archive for deposition 21. RV21 and RV22 – final sign-off 22. Closure

Table 4: Methodological Linkages

11 OWNERSHIP

- 11.1.1 The Copyright on all reports submitted will reside with DigVentures, although a third party in-perpetuity licence will automatically be given for reproduction of all products, subject to agreement with DigVentures. The original copyright holder will retain copyright in pre-existing data.

12 RISK LOG

Risk number	1	2	3	4
Description	Inclement weather - prolonged periods of rain	Exceptional weather (drying exposed archaeology)	Absence of core team member	Absence of specialist team member
Probability	Medium	Medium-low	Low	Low
Impact	Delay programme of work	Slow progress	Delay programme of work	Delay programme of work
Countermeasures	Provision of site hut, and planned indoor archiving tasks with flexible programme	Provision of water bowser + spray	Reallocate responsibilities or appointment of alternative	Reallocate responsibilities or appointment of alternative
Estimated time/cost	3 Days	None	Minimal if done by adjustment	Minimal if done by adjustment
Owner	BW/MF/NJ	BW/MF/NJ	BW/MF/NJ	BW/MF/NJ
Risk number	5	6		
Description	Equipment theft/breakages	Serious site injury		
Probability	Medium	Medium		
Impact	Delay programme of work	Delay programme of work		
Countermeasures	Removal of finds material and digital equipment from site	Detailed H&S Risk Assessment + daily safety briefing		
Estimated time/cost	3 days	3 days		
Owner	BW/MF/NJ	BW/MF/NJ		

Table 5: Risk log

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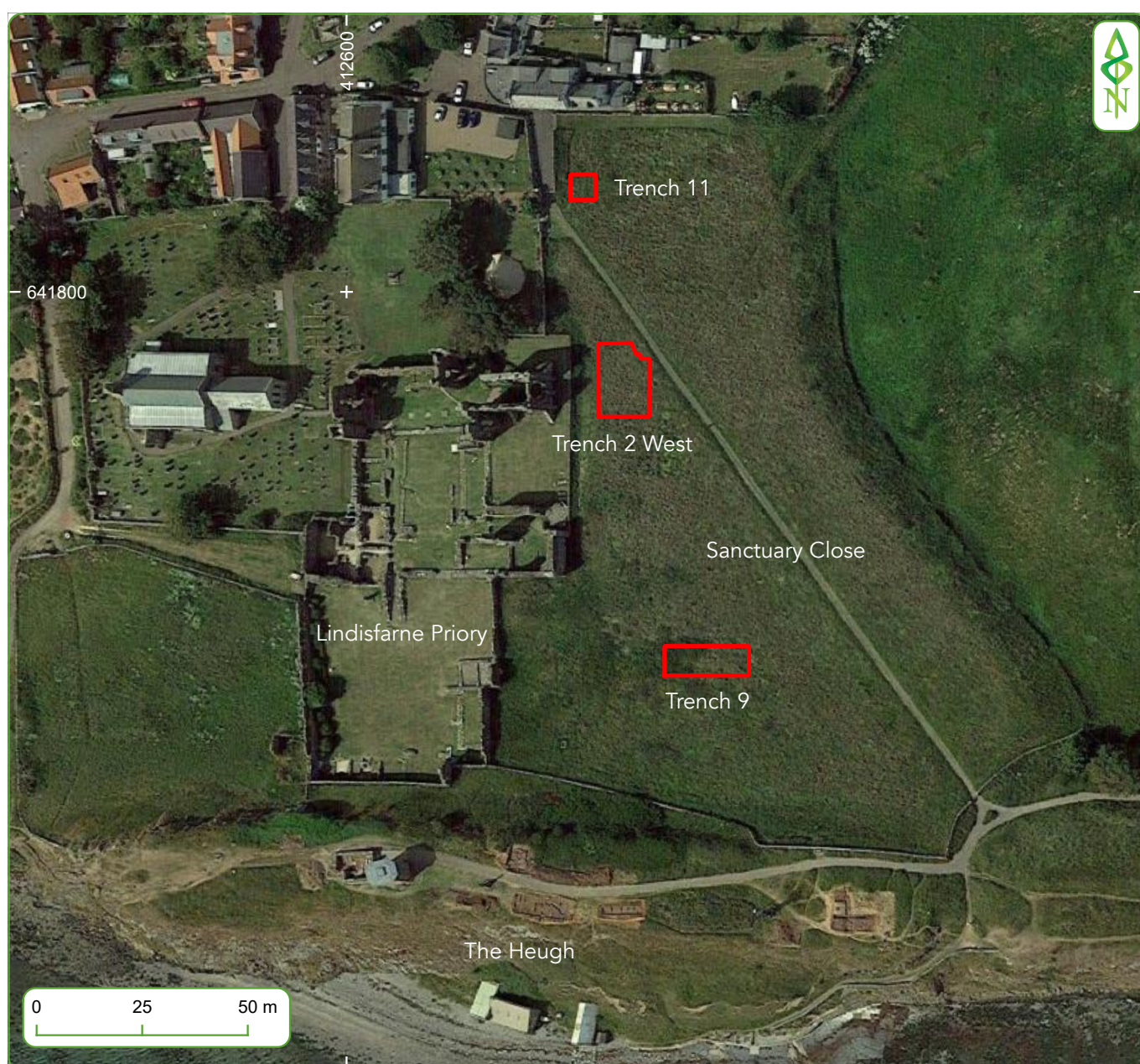
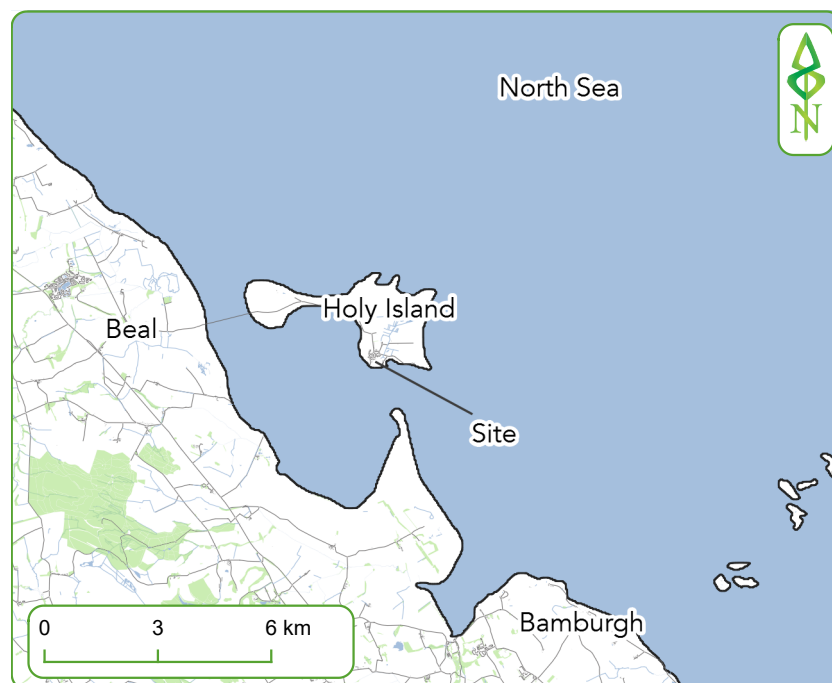


Figure 1. Site location

Appendix A: Method statements

The methods for the proposed project will involve a combination of Lidar survey, geophysical survey (resistivity and ground penetrating radar) GIS modelling, archaeological excavation, sampling, palaeoenvironmental sampling and assessment. The methods are linked directly to the project aims and objectives (see Table 6) and detailed below.

Key Questions and Objectives	Archaeological Excavation	Sampling	Environmental Assessment	Finds Assessment	Synthesis and Data integration
Q1	✓				
Q2	✓	✓	✓		
Q3	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Q4	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Q5	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Q6	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Q7	✓	✓	✓		
Q8	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Q9	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Q10	✓	✓	✓		
Q11	✓	✓	✓		
Q12		✓	✓		
Q13		✓	✓	✓	
Q14			✓	✓	✓
Q15			✓	✓	✓

Table 6: Linking methods with objectives

Photogrammetry survey

Photogrammetry survey will utilise Agisoft PhotoScan 3D Modelling software to detect the feature points of the structure, and match these in different images to create a point cloud. The camera positions will be calculated automatically by the software and a dense reconstruction or geometric model will be built to create a DSM. The resulting model can then be. The resulting DSM can be manipulated for viewing from any angle using a variety of artificial light and shading techniques to highlight certain features, or overlaid or draped with the original photographs for true colour representation.

Images will be captured perpendicular to the structure using telescopic mounted cameras, to deliver optimum results requiring little or no rectification. All images are taken with a 16 megapixel Nikon D7000 digital camera (unless other cameras are specified) with a variety of standard and other lenses and are captured in RAW format for later processing into high resolution JPG and TIF files, and downloaded directly on to the hard disk of the laptop.

Where vehicular access is possible Aerial-Cam can be used to record the larger areas of a structure using perpendicular positioning, as well as going to a greater height to provide general overview and context aerial perspectives. Surface boards will be laid down where necessary to minimise surface impact. Where access is restricted the Pole-Cam operated in the space of a single person, can be used for perpendicular positioning and for close up detailed images of masonry features etc. The methods used to generate raw data in advance of DSM processing are detailed below.

Interventions

All machine excavation will be carried out under constant archaeological supervision using a toothless bucket and will include visually scanning spoil for artefacts. As soon as archaeological deposits or features are recognised, machining will be stopped and trenches excavated by hand. Each trench will be cleaned by hand where appropriate, planned and photographed prior to any hand-excavation. A representative section, not less than 1m in width, of the entire deposit sequence encountered will be recorded.

If complex stratigraphy and/ or significant remains (e.g. structural remains, artefact scatters, remains clearly of a funerary nature etc.) are encountered, following consultation with HE, these may only be excavated to the minimum requirement in order to satisfy the project objective, to avoid compromising the integrity of remains that may be either (a) preserved in situ, or (b) excavated in detail during any next phase of research excavation. Interventions will focus on feature intersections in order to establish relative chronologies, and 'clean' sections to maximise retrieval of stratigraphically secure dating evidence and environmental samples.

Full written, drawn and photographic records will be made of each trench and test pit, even where no archaeological remains are identified. A plan at an appropriate scale (1:50 or 1:100) will be prepared, showing the areas investigated and their relation to more permanent topographical features, and the location of contexts observed and recorded in the course of the investigation. Plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits will be drawn as necessary at an appropriate scale (normally 1:20, or 1:10 for complex features). Drawings will be made in pencil on permanent drafting film.

Written records will be made using pro forma record sheets for each trench or test pit, following the DigVentures single context recording system. Digital photography will be used for all photography of significant features, finds, deposits and general site working. The photographic record will illustrate both the detail and the general context of the principle features and finds excavated, and the Site as a whole.



Palaeoenvironmental sampling

All deposits with good palaeoenvironmental potential will be sampled; bulk samples shall be taken from the section as appropriate, under advisement from the project specialist. Context specific samples will be taken by the most appropriate means (kubiena tins, contiguous columns, incremental block, bulk etc.) for multi-disciplinary analysis. All aspects of the collection, selection, processing, assessment and reporting on the environmental archaeology component of the evaluation shall be undertaken in accordance with the principles set out in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (Historic England 2012) and with reference to the *Association for Environmental Archaeology's Working Paper No. 2, Environmental Archaeology and Archaeological Evaluations* (1995).

Bulk sampling strategy

Bulk samples will usually be 60 litres in size, depending on the likely density of macrofossils. Ten litre samples will only be used for the recovery of plant macrofossils from waterlogged contexts. Samples will be stored in ten litre plastic buckets with lids and handles. A waterproof label will be fixed to the bucket and will record site code, context number and sample number and number of buckets in comprising the sample. A duplicate label will be retained inside the bucket. Samples will be protected from temperatures below 5° and above 25° Celsius and will be prevented from either wetting or drying out.

- Bulk samples selected for processing shall be wet-sieved/floated and washed over a mesh size of 250 microns for the recovery of palaeobotanical and other organic remains, and refloated to maximise recovery;
- Non-organic residues shall be washed through a nest of sieves of 10mm, 5mm, 2mm, 1mm and 250 micron mesh to maximise finds recovery;
- Both organic and non-organic residues shall be dried under controlled conditions;
- The dried inorganic fractions shall be sorted for small finds or any non- buoyant palaeoenvironmental remains, and scanned with a magnet to pick up ferrous debris such as hammerscale;
- The dried organic fractions shall be sorted under a light microscope to identify the range of species or other material on a presence/absence basis, the degree of preservation of the bio-archaeological material and the rough proportions of different categories of material present;
- In the event that waterlogged deposits are identified and sampled, further processing shall be undertaken as appropriate and agreed, including paraffin flotation to recover insect remains. Any such remains shall be scanned to identify and assess their potential;
- Selection of other types of sample for processing and the methods to be used for processing and assessment shall be undertaken on the advice of the relevant specialist and shall be agreed with the Consultant before implementation.

Contexts that are well stratified and potentially datable are all of value, so a systematic approach to selecting samples for processing and assessment will be taken. These will be divided into three categories:

- Category A (always sampled): contexts where the composition of the sediments are likely to inform us of the use of a particular structure or feature or if the deposits are waterlogged. These will include: *in situ* occupation deposits and fills/layers

associated with particular activities; hearths; destruction deposits; basal pit/slot trench fills; waterlogged deposits, cesspits or latrines.

- Category B (always sampled, though discretion should be exercised): deposits identified as containing material that could yield information regarding their origin or the process that produced them. These will include: dumps, middens, upper pit fills with evidence for charred material, shell, bone and industrial waste.
- Category C: deposits containing material which is not necessarily related to the function of the feature to which they are related, but which can characterise deposits from different areas of the site. These will include: secondary and tertiary fills, postholes, levelling deposits, spreads etc.

Category A and B deposits should always be sampled, and Category C deposits sampled on a random basis (such as 1 in 5). These samples can help to characterise the background noise of a site, so as to highlight spatial or temporal trends and provide material that can be directly compared with those from Category A and B. All samples will be taken in large white 10 litre tubs, with labels placed inside with the deposit and attached to the bucket. All samples will be processed on site in a dedicated floatation and wet sieving area.

Zooarchaeology

If large deposits of bone or marine shell are encountered advice of the project zooarchaeologist (Hannah Russ) will be sought as regards further sampling. If large deposits of bone or marine shell are encountered the project zooarchaeologist advice will be sought as regards further sampling. If articulated groups of bones are encountered they will be surveyed, recorded in situ, (including digital photography and planning), and then excavated to retain the group's integrity. Bones from each articulated limb will be bagged separately. If inhumations or cremation burials are encountered and excavated the surrounding soil will be sampled to retrieve any loose teeth or bone fragments.

All hand collected animal bones and bones from processed samples will be assessed, following English Heritage Environmental Archaeology guidelines (2002). If warranted by the size of the recovered assemblage, it will be assessed using two different quantification methods to determine the most suitable for full analysis, taking into account methods used in comparative assemblages. The assessment will not distinguish between certain taxonomic groups, for example equids (horse and donkey); full speciation should be carried out as part of any recommended analysis, using a vertebrate comparative collection. In addition to quantification of domestic species and occurrence of wild species, the assessment will consider the number of articulated bone groups, and the prevalence of aging, sexing and osteometric data available for full analysis, following standard published conventions. The assessment report will comment on the potential of the assemblage, particularly in the context of the excavation's research questions and current understanding of comparative assemblages. It will also provide recommendations for any necessary future analysis.

Human osteoarchaeology

In the event of the discovery of human remains (inhumations, cremations and disarticulated fragments) they should be left in situ, covered and protected, until the English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments has been informed. If a decision is taken to remove them, they will be fully recorded and excavated in compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence. The excavation of human remains will be carried out in accordance with the procedures detailed in the document Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed human remains (McKinley and Roberts 1993, IFA Technical Paper 13). Significant

assemblages of human remains will be subject to an assessment of DNA preservation to establish potential familial relationships.

Inhumations will be scanned with a metal detector prior to excavation, and the position of possible metallic grave goods will be noted. Wherever possible, each burial will be excavated within a single working day, particularly with regard to visible grave goods. To minimise unauthorised disturbance of human remains, partially exposed remains will be covered overnight, though in such a way as to not draw undue attention, using loose excavated spoil.

Excavation of inhumations will be undertaken using a trowel, plasterer's leaf, plastic spoon and paintbrush as appropriate depending on the condition of the bones. When lifted the bones will be bagged by skeletal area (skull, axial, upper and lower limbs) with separate bags for the left and right side. A standard series of samples will be taken from each inhumation burial to ensure full recovery of any remaining osseous tissues or small artefacts. Once human remains are removed from inhumation graves, any soil residue remaining at the base of the grave will be retrieved for bulk processing.

Inhumations and cremations will be drawn at a scale of 1:10 and photographed prior to lifting. They will be recorded on Skeleton Record Sheets that form an integral part of the site pro forma recording system. The recording will include condition, completeness, articulation, orientation and posture. Fragile objects found within graves will be lifted with appropriate care and handling to minimise breakage. This may include subsequent controlled excavation under laboratory conditions. A trained conservator will be employed on the site if necessary.

All cremation burials and cremation-related contexts will be excavated and sampled in quadrants to ascertain the distribution of any archaeological components within the fills, with division into spit also if appropriate. Cremation-related features other than burials may be subject to more detailed sub-divisions, the appropriate strategy being developed by a specialist as the size and nature of the remains becomes clear. Undisturbed and slightly disturbed, but largely intact, urned cremation burials will be lifted *en masse* for excavation under laboratory conditions. The urns will be wrapped in crepe bandages and securely boxed for transportation. Where a vessel has been crushed, thereby disrupting any original internal deposition of the cremated remains, it will be lifted *en masse* after separate recovery of displaced sherds. All cremation-related contexts will be subject to whole-earth recovery from the point at which any cremated bone or other pyre debris is observed. If deposits of placed human bone are encountered in features, these may be excavated in spits if appropriate. The soils from these features will be bulk sampled.

Finds

Finds will be treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the *Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2008), excepting where statements made below supersede them. All artefacts will be retained from excavated contexts, except features or deposits undoubtedly of modern date. In these circumstances sufficient artefacts will only be retained to elucidate the date and function of the feature or deposit. All artefacts from the evaluation works will, as a minimum, be washed, marked, counted, weighed and identified. Any stratified ironwork will be X-rayed and stored in a stable condition along with other fragile and delicate material. X-rays of objects and other conservation needs will be undertaken by appropriately qualified conservation specialists. Suitable material, primarily the pottery and non-ferrous metalwork, will be scanned to assess the date range of the assemblage.

Conservation

Artefacts will be recovered as a matter of routine during the excavation. When retrieved from the ground finds will be kept in a finds tray or appropriate bags in accordance with First Aid for Finds (Walker 1990). Where necessary, a conservator may be required to recover fragile finds from the ground depending upon circumstances.

After the completion of the fieldwork stage, a conservation assessment will be undertaken which will include the X-radiography of all the ironwork (after initial screening to separate obviously modern debris), and a selection of the non-ferrous finds (including all coins). A sample of slag may also be X-rayed to assist with identification and interpretation. Wet-packed material, including glass, bone and leather will be stabilised and consolidated to ensure their long-term preservation. All finds will be stored in optimum conditions in accordance with First Aid for Finds and Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-Term Storage (Walker, 1990).

The conservation assessment report will include statements on condition, stability and potential for further investigation (with conservation costs) for all material groups. The conservation report will be included in the updated project design prepared for the analysis stage of the project.

Scientific dating

Where uncontaminated deposits are recorded which are able to inform understanding of the research aims (in particular, relating to the construction of the banks and ditches), appropriate samples will be taken. Radiocarbon dating will be appropriate for clarifying and linking aspects of archaeological and environmental chronologies, and a strategy for this will be agreed following discussion with HE Science Advisor and the relevant specialists.

Synthesis and data integration

The results of the project will be integrated and synthesised with those from the previous investigations and other relevant work within the region and further afield (see Section 1 and 2 above). This will include a literature review of other pertinent sites.