

Scrub and Vegetation Clearance at Portgate, Northumberland 2019

By Kerry Shaw and Kathryn Murphy

Site name: Hadrian's Wall and vallum between the track to Portgate Cottage and the field boundary east of milecastle 24 in wall miles 22 and 23, Northumberland (SM reference – 1010626).

Site location: The site was located at NY 97590 68866, 1.2km west of A68/B6318 roundabout.

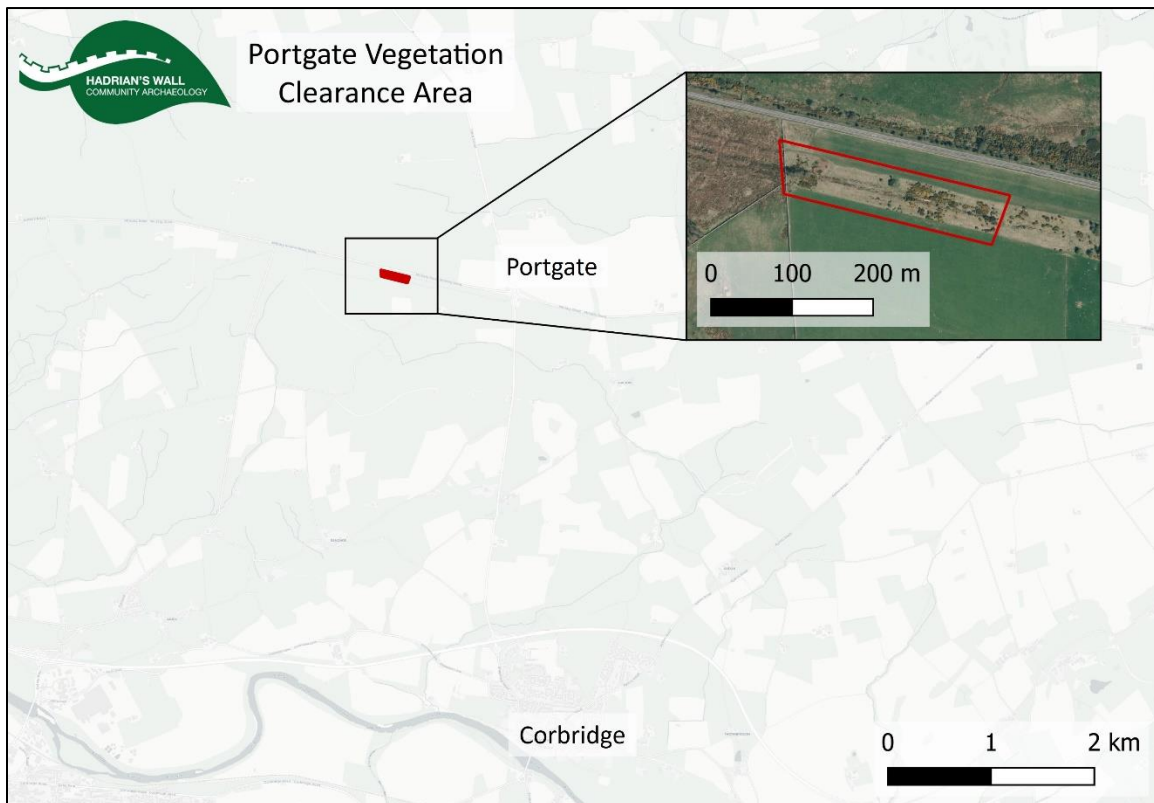


Figure 1: Site location

Reason(s) for inclusion in Heritage at Risk register:

Taken from Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register (Historic England 2017, 21):

Principal vulnerability: Plant growth.

Condition: Generally unsatisfactory with major localised problems.

Trend: Declining



Aim: To remove the overgrowth of vegetation within the scheduled monument in order to stop damage to the monument through the growth of root systems.

When: 9th & 10th December 2019

Participants: 10 WallCAP volunteers, 4 corporate volunteers from Northumbrian Water, 1 National Trail Ranger and 3 WallCAP staff

Activity: Scrub removal was undertaken using hand tools (bow saws, loppers and pruning saws) by WallCAP volunteers, under supervision of the WallCAP Community Archaeologist. All cut material (gorse and small trees) was chipped and spread on rough pasture in the northwest corner of field (with permission from Historic England).



Figure 2: Site before scrub clearance



Figure 3: Site after scrub clearance

Key reference:

Historic England (2017) *Heritage at Risk: Northeast Register*. London.