SMR 5958

Northern Archaeological Associates

DARLINGTON WEST PARK, COUNTY DURHAM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

UNDERTAKEN ON BEHALF OF

BULLEN CONSULTANTS

FOR

BUSSEY AND ARMSTRONG PROJECTS LTD

NAA 01/07

February 2001

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DARLINGTON WEST PARK, COUNTY DURHAM

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Summary

An archaeological evaluation, comprising a programme of trial trenching, was undertaken on the site of the proposed development on land near Faverdale, Darlington. The work was undertaken in order to investigate the archaeological potential of the area and was targeted on a series of anomalies identified by geophysical survey.

The evaluation confirmed the existence of a sub-rectangular enclosure, dating probably to the Iron Age or Romano-British period, immediately north of the southern development site boundary, in the area between Mount Pleasant Farm and the waste heaps associated with the former chemical plant. The enclosure site was defined on three sides by a ditch which appeared to be linked to a field system or possibly an annex to the east. The interior of the enclosure was found to be devoid of occupation features such as pits, post holes or ring gullies, although slag and daub were recovered from the ditch fills. It seems likely that the site has been severely truncated by later ploughing as this would account for the lack of internal features and the absence of any evidence of the ditch which would have formed the west side of the enclosure. Samples taken from the excavated ditch sections suggest some domestic and low level industrial activity on the site, however, there was little evidence (in the form of carbonised grain) to suggest the processing and storage of agricultural produce. Sufficient material was recovered to suggest that it would be possible to obtain radiocarbon dating of certain deposits if this was required.

The evaluation also identified the remains of former medieval/post-medieval cultivation. Although ploughed down, the remains of furrows and occasional field boundaries were identified in many of the evaluation trenches as predicted by the geophysical survey. These features are the remains of pre-enclosure arable fields within Cockerton parish and pre-date the fields shown on the 1856 1st edition Ordnance Survey map.

On the basis of the evaluation, the Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure site appears to be relatively poorly preserved. Nevertheless, such sites should be considered to be of regional significance. In accordance with national planning guidance and local plan policies, consideration should be given in the first instance to preserving archaeological remains in-situ. However, given the poor level of preservation of the enclosure site, if preservation was not a feasible option, development of the site should be acceptable subject to the implementation of an appropriate scheme of investigation. A project design for such an investigation is included as an appendix to this report which would need to be agreed in writing with the Archaeological Officer, Durham County Council. Ideally, such a programme of work should be undertaken in advance of construction. No further investigation of the medieval/post-medieval field systems is recommended.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document presents the results of a second phase of archaeological evaluation for an area of proposed development at Faverdale, Darlington, County Durham centred on NZ 268 167 (Figure 1). The work was undertaken for Bullen Consultants on behalf of Bussey and Armstrong Projects Ltd.

1.2 No known archaeological features were identified within and immediately adjacent to the proposed development area in a desktop study by Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA 00/40). However, Durham County Council Archaeology Section require evaluation in circumstances where large scale development is proposed for areas where no archaeological information is available or has been previously recorded. An initial evaluation was therefore undertaken comprising geophysical survey. This identified a number of features of archaeological potential including a substantial sub-rectangular enclosure. The results of this survey are set out in the geophysical survey report (GSB 2000/110) and summarised below.

1.3 This report presents the results of a programme of trial trenching undertaken to evaluate the results of the geophysical survey and to provide additional information in order that the archaeological implications of the proposed development can be adequately assessed.

2.0 SURVEY RESULTS

Gradiometer Surveys

2.1 Gradiometer scanning was undertaken within five fields, totalling some 22ha within the development area. The remaining areas could not be surveyed due to the presence of a waste heap and foundations and surfaces associated with previous development. Few areas of archaeological potential were identified by the scanning, but one possible area was identified lying at the southern end of the development area. An area of high ground towards the northern end of the development area, associated with a scatter of brick and tile, produced a heightened response, while isolated small scale responses were noted in two other areas. Based upon the results of the scanning detailed gradiometer survey was undertaken in four areas totalling 4.5ha to investigate all the scanned anomalies.

2.2 Survey Area A identified an area of increased response associated with brick and tile debris in the northwest corner of the survey block. A field barn set in the field boundary is recorded in this area on early Ordnance Survey maps from 1856 and this is likely to be the origin of this material. Some isolated anomalies were also identified but any archaeological interpretation is very tentative. Area B was found to contain similar isolated anomalies and two weak trends which might be agricultural or archaeological in origin. Area C contained stronger evidence of potential archaeology comprising a series of linear features underlying ridge and furrow and some rectilinear trends at the southern end of the area. (These features are shown in detail in Fig. 7 of the GSB report).

2.3 The survey of Area D identified a probable enclosure, measuring approximately 30m by 50m, defined on three sides by a series of ditches. The western side of the enclosure was not readily apparent and could have been substantially ploughed out. There was evidence of part of a field system attached to the northeast corner of the enclosure and of a number

of individual pit-type features within the enclosure. A second group of individual pit-type features were also identified some 100m to the west but their archaeological context was uncertain. (These features are shown in detail in Fig. 9 of the GSB report).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

3.1 A series of 50m by 3.5m excavation trenches were machine excavated at Faverdale in accordance with the Project Design document (NAA00/72). Each trench was positioned in order to investigate areas of archaeological potential identified by geophysical survey (GSB 2000/110) or else deliberately located in zones not examined in that survey in order to sample 'blank'areas (Figure 2). It was, however, only feasible to examine 9 of the 10 trenches specified as the field containing the 10th trench was flooded.

3.2. All trenches were stripped by a 360-degree mechanical excavator under archaeological supervision, and excavation in this manner was terminated when either archaeological deposits or natural drift geology was encountered.

3.3 A sample of exposed features and deposits considered to be of archaeological significance were excavated by hand in a stratigraphically controlled manner in order to fulfil the aims of the evaluation. It was not considered necessary to completely excavate those features selected for intensive examination, although a sufficient sample was excavated in order to fully understand the stratigraphic sequence in each down to natural subsoil.

4.0 EXCAVATION RESULTS

4.1 A brief description of the archaeological features identified in each of the trenches is presented below. Features deemed to be of low archaeological significance, such as recent field boundaries and the remains of medieval cultivation furrows, were encountered in the majority of the excavation trenches. Although the character and positions of these were recorded in the field, they are of little consequence to this report and, accordingly, the descriptives provided below are not accompanied by illustrative material. Where significant archaeological remains were examined, appropriate detailed plan and sectional information is included.

4.2 TRENCH 1

4.2.1 Trench 1 was located in the northernmost section of geophysical survey Area A. Upon the removal of the topsoil (001) a yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (100) was revealed. This contained an assortment of pebbles of various sizes, and its surface was scarred by modern ploughing. No features of archaeological significance were noted.

4.3 TRENCH 2

4.3.1 Trench 2 was established at the north-western extremity of geophysical survey Area B3. Topsoil (002) was removed to expose a subsoil (200) exhibiting natural banding which varied between a firm, yellowish brown silty clay to grey-brown boulder clay. Natural

inclusions of pebbles up to 50mm were apparent and modern plough scarring evident on the surface of the subsoil(s). No features of archaeological significance were noted.

4.4 TRENCH 3

4.4.1 Trench 3 was situated within geophysical survey Area B2. Topsoil (003) overlay a deposit of firm yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (300) containing pebbles up to 50mm. The surface of this clay exhibited recent plough marking and was cut by a number of field drains. A further cut feature, c.0.7m in width [301], containing a mid-brown silty fill (302) crossed Trench 3, aligned almost N-S, in the western half of the trench. This feature was not detected in the geophysical survey but corresponds to the line of a former boundary depicted on recent Ordnance Survey maps and is therefore likely to be the remains of a recent boundary. No other features of archaeological interest were noted.

4.5 TRENCH 4

4.5.1 Trench 4 was positioned outwith any of the geophysical survey areas, and re-orientated from its proposed position in order to investigate a low ridge that would otherwise have remained un-examined. Topsoil (004) was removed and a natural subsoil composed of a firm orangey brown silty clay exposed. This contained a relatively low concentration of small pebbles less than 50mm in diameter, and its surface was heavily scarred by modern ploughing and was further disrupted by the insertion of field drains. One medieval plough furrow [401] containing a mid-brown silty fill (402) was noted. This cut across the trench almost NW-SE near its northernmost extremity and appears to have been associated with a further cut [403] and fill (404) which traversed the trench on a similar orientation c. 10m to the south. This latter feature was situated at the crest of the ridge and may well represent the remains of an associated field boundary. No further furrows were noted to the south of [403], and neither furrow nor boundary appear to be on an orientation corresponding with later field boundaries depicted on 19th century Ordnance Survey maps.

4.6 TRENCH 5

4.6.1 Trench 5 was established in the western extremity of geophysical survey Area B1. After topsoil (005) removal, a fairly compact silty clay subsoil (500), exhibiting some variation in colour from grey-yellow to yellowish brown was uncovered. This contained a variety of pebbles up to 50mm with the occasional larger stone up 150mm. Its surface was scarred by recent agricultural activity and further affected by the insertion of field drains. A meandering cut, [501], containing a mid-brown silty fill (502) was noted in the westernmost 20m of the trench. This almost certainly represents the remains of a recently grubbed out field boundary since the line of [501] corresponds broadly with the known position of such a feature in the recent past (op.cit.). No other features of archaeological significance were noted.

4.7 TRENCH 6

4.7.1 Trench 6 was established on the western edge of geophysical survey Area C1. Upon the removal of topsoil (006), a firm light yellowish brown silty subsoil (600) was revealed. This contained a small quantity of assorted pebbles up to 50mm and a few larger stones

up to 150mm. The surface of the subsoil was scarred by recent ploughing, and field drain trenches orientated approximately north-south, were also clearly visible. These latter features probably account for the north-south linear features detected by geophysical survey. Two medieval plough furrows [601] and [605] and their fills (603) and (606) were observed running perpendicularly to the trench. These probably gave rise to the east-west linear anomalies detected by geophysical survey. A further broader feature, [602] and its attendant fill (604) cut across the line of the trench at a slight angle approximately 20m south of its northern extremity. This feature is almost certainly concomitant with a linear feature noted in the same area by geophysical survey, and corresponds broadly with the known position of a recent field boundary (op. cit.)

4.8 TRENCH 7

4.8.1 Not examined due to flooding

4.9 TRENCH 8

4.9.1 Trench 8 was situated on the western edge of geophysical survey Area C2. The topsoil (008) was removed down onto a firm, silty clay subsoil varying in colour from yellowish brown to rusty orange. This contained an assortment of small pebbles up to 50mm and its surface was scarred by recent plough action. A solitary band of silty ploughsoil (802), probably medieval in origin, occupied a broad (c. 3.5m) shallow depression (801), aligned E-W, probably the remains of a plough furrow situated 40m from the northern limits of the trench. No other features of archaeological significance were noted.

4.10 TRENCH 9

4.10.1 Trench 9 was situated within geophysical survey Area D1 in order to evaluate a number of potential archaeological anomalies detected in that area. A relatively thin topsoil (009) overlay a firm boulder clay subsoil (900) varying in colour from yellowish brown to grey-brown. This deposit contained a high concentration of an admixture of pebbles, large stones, and rocks up to c. 550mm. Many of these were of igneous and metamorphic origin, and their close proximity to the surface in this area undoubtedly gave rise to the anomalies detected in the geophysical survey. None of the larger stones showed any signs of having being worked or dressed in any way and no features of archaeological significance were encountered.

4.11 TRENCH 10 (Figures 3 & 4)

4.11.1 Trench 10 was established in geophysical survey Area D2 and deliberately sited to bisect the substantial 3 sided enclosure clearly detected by that survey. The trench was intended to sample the interior of the enclosure and to investigate the position of the western side of the enclosure, not detected by geophysical survey.

4.11.2 Upon the removal of the topsoil (010), a dense yellowish brown silty clay subsoil was exposed. The remains of 7 medieval plough furrows and their respective fills were observed cutting almost perpendicularly across the trench at c.7.5m (between centres) intervals. The remains of the eastern enclosure ditch were almost completely obscured by the fill (1004) of a plough furrow [1003]. Trench 10 was therefore extended northwards to

investigate the course of the ditch to its north-eastern angle. The ditch was continuous throughout the section observed, contrary to the interpretation of the results of the geophysical survey which suggested the presence of some discontinuities or possible entrances.

4.11.3 The stratigraphy of the ditch was sampled in three sections, two across the north-south arm (section 1 and section 2), a third (section 3) across the northern east-west arm. The stratigraphy of sections 1 and 2 were, as might be expected broadly similar. A cut [1015] contained a primary fill of a yellow grey silt with occasional flecks of charcoal (1017) and a secondary deposit yellow brown silty sand (1016). The ditch had subsequently been substantially recut [1005] slightly to the east of its original line. The recut survived to a width in excess of 3m and depth of 1.5m. and its primary fill was composed of a heavy yellow grey clay silt containing lenses of grey clay (1014). A secondary deposit of light grey clay silt (1008) partially sealed this in both sections. In section 1, a layer of orange brown silty sand (1029), almost certainly natural subsoil which had slumped from the eastern flank of the ditch, partially overlay (1008). This deposit was absent in section 2. Sealing (1029) in section 1, and partially covering (1008) in section 2 was a deposit of dark grey silt (1007). This was overlain by a deposit of dark grey-brown sandy silt containing some clay lenses (1013). The uppermost fill in both sections was composed of a further deposit of dark grey brown silt (1006). The top of this deposit been cut by the plough furrow [1003], containing a mid brown sandy silt (1004) which in turn was overlain by topsoil (010).

4.11.4 The stratigraphy of the ditch in both sections 1 and 2 was subsequently damaged by the insertion of a field drain [1018]/(1019) at a later date. In the case of section 2, this event obscured the western edge of the section.

4.11.5 The ditch as examined in section 3 was different to that in sections 1 and two. A single cut [1020] survived to a width of 1.9m and a depth of 0.85m. Its primary fill consisted of a thin layer of light yellow brown silty clay, (1028) probably eroded natural, which lined the entire profile of the ditch. Partially sealing this deposit, a layer of pale yellowish grey silty clay (1027) essentially similar to (1014), the primary fill of [1005] in sections 1 and 2. A deposit of mid grey silty clay (1025) had slumped over the northern half of (1027). A deposit of dark grey silt (1026) partially overlay (1025). This deposit was essentially similar to (1007) encountered in sections 1 and 2. A further slump of light yellowish brown silty clay (1023) sealed (1025). A deposit of dark grey brown silty clay (1024) containing lenses of orange brown silty clay sealed (1023). The majority of this deposit lay below a dark grey brown sandy silt (1022) which was similar in character to (1013) encountered in sections 1 and 2. The uppermost fill consisted of a deposit of clean light yellowish brown slightly silty clay (1021) and this deposit lay directly below topsoil (010).

4.11.6 Two additional features were noted on the exterior of the ditch. A sub-rectangular pit, [1009] contained a single undifferentiated fill of dark brown silty clay (1010) and a small circular cut (1030), possibly a post hole, contained a similarly undifferentiated fill (1031) of similar character to (1010). Several other putative post holes were noted in the same area but these features were severly truncated. No features of archaeological significance were identified within the interior of the enclosure. The postulated western north-south arm of the enclosure was similarly not identified.

5.0 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.

5.1 *The Pottery*

5.1.1 A very small assemblage of pottery was recovered during the course of the assessment. Only 12 sherds, with a total weight of 63g were noted, many of these from topsoil contexts.

5.1.2 The topsoil of Trench 3 (003) yielded two very abraded sherds Tees Valley B ware, datable to the late 13th or 14th centuries. The topsoil of Trench 8 (008) yielded a further two sherds of the same pottery type in a similar condition, as did the fill of a Medieval plough furrow (402) in Trench 4. No glaze survived on any of the above sherds.

5.1.3 A single sherd of Medieval Gritty Ware was recovered from the topsoil (009) of Trench 9, and two sherds of Buff Ware encountered in the topsoil (010) of Trench 10 none of which provided diagnostic characteristics that would enable a more precise chronology to be offered.

5.1.4 In Trench 10, one sherd of 16th century green glazed pottery was recovered from the fill of a Medieval plough furrow (1002) and two sherds of late 13th or 14th century Reduced Green Ware from the fill of another furrow (1004). One sherd of Samian Ware, a slightly abraded fragment of the footring of either a dish (Dressel type 15 or 17) or bowl (Dressel type 31), dating to the 1st or 2nd centuries, was also recovered from the latter context.

5.1.5 No pottery was recovered from any of the stratified deposits encountered during the course of the partial excavation of the enclosure ditch [1005]/[1015]/[1020] located in trench 10.

5.2 *Other finds*

5.2.1 In keeping with the volume of pottery recovered from the site, the number of other finds encountered at Faverdale was similarly low.

5.2.2 A decorated clay pipe bowl, of late 18th century date, was recovered from the topsoil (001) of Trench 1 and a single iron key or key bow of indeterminate date was found in the topsoil (002) of Trench 2.

5.2.3 All of the other finds originated in stratified deposits in Trench 10. A sandstone disc, 7cm in diameter was recovered from one of the fills of the recut [1005] of the enclosure ditch. This may represent a pot lid or stopper of a type recognised in other archaeological contexts (e.g. Harry and Morris. 1997.68).

5.2.4 A fragment of daub or kiln/furnace lining was also found in (1007), and a further fragment in (1026), which in itself was considered to be equivalent to (1007). Other fragments of similar material, too small to be wholly diagnostic were also recovered from (1008).

5.3 *Paleozoological material*

5.3.1 An extremely small assemblage of animal bone was recovered from four of the stratified deposits within Trench 10. The soil conditions on the site were not particularly conducive to the good preservation of skeletal material as evidenced by the generally poor overall condition of the bones recovered, with mineral leaching evidenced by splintered long bone shafts or poor surface condition. All of the animal teeth recovered were beginning to disintegrate with the enamel flaking from the dentine. None of the assemblage contained obvious evidence of butchery or dog gnawing marks.

5.3.2 Context (1007) produced the greatest number of finds. Excavation of this deposit yielded one bovine mandibular and one bovine maxilliary tooth row, almost certainly from the same skull, of a young adult individual. The same deposit yielded a single identifiable fragment of burnt sheep/goat scapula and a number of indeterminate fragments of bone, some of which had also been subjected to burning.

5.3.3 The fused distal end of a cattle tibia was recovered from (1014) and a further fragment of cattle tibia (midshaft) was recovered from (1017). This latter context also yielded the distal end of a horse scapula, the size and form of which being suggestive of a pony sized animal.

5.3.4 A single sheep/goat maxilliary tooth was recovered from (1026).

Table 1. Animal bone assessment.

Context	Species	Comment
1007	Cattle	Mandibular tooth row, P3 and P4 erupting, M1 and M2 in wear, M3 slight wear, M1 disintegrating. Two incisors.
1007	Cattle	Maxillary tooth row, dp4 in wear, P4 unerupted, M1 and M2 in wear.
1007	Sheep/Goat	Scapula. Fragment, glenoid, burnt.
1007	Indet.	Fragments in poor condition, some burnt.
1014	Cattle	Tibia, distal end fused, shaft disintegrating.
1017i	Cattle	Tibia, midshaft, surface worn.
1017ii	Horse	Scapula, small, fused, blade disintegrating.
1026	Sheep/Goat	Maxillary tooth, in wear, disintegrating.

5.4 *Paleobotanical material.*

5.4.1 Sixteen soil samples from stratified deposits within the ditch and its recut in Trench 10 were submitted for environmental assessment.

5.4.2 Eight samples from the eastern ditch (segments 1 and 2) and eight from the northern ditch (segment 3) were manually floated and sieved through 500μm mesh. The residues were retained and the contents described. The flots were dried slowly, then scanned at x40 magnification for waterlogged and charred botanical remains. Plant macrofossils were identified by comparison with modern reference material held in the Environmental Laboratory at Archaeological Services, University of Durham. The abundance of each waterlogged species was noted and total counts of charred species were logged.

5.4.3 All of the samples produced low volumes of flot, composed of charcoal, burnt daub, mammal bone and roots. The contexts were not waterlogged, therefore large quantities of waterlogged seeds were not present and occasional single waterlogged seeds found were probably not contemporary to the contexts. A full set of results for segments 1 and 2, from the eastern enclosure ditch is detailed in Table 2 while the results for segment 3, the northern enclosure ditch are contained within Table 3.

Sections 1 and 2

5.4.4 Contexts 1006 and 1008, from fills of recuts of the eastern enclosure ditch, each contained a single charred unidentifiable cereal grain in the flot and small volumes of charcoal. The degraded state of the grain suggests that conditions prior to or during burial were not suitable for the preservation of charred macrofossils. Context 1007, from the fill of a recut, contained a single charred oat grain. Oats were commonly used in north-west England during the Romano-British period, but lesser so in the north-east (Huntley & Stallibrass 1995). The presence of only one grain however provides no indication as to the extent of oat consumption or whether the species was cultivated or an exploited wild resource.

5.4.5 Contexts 1013, 1016 and 1029 produced small volumes of flot of a similar composition, containing burnt daub and charcoal. Charred botanical remains, however, were not found in the flots. Context 1014, also produced a small volume of flot with a low proportion of charcoal and no charred cereal grain. These four contexts therefore were not subjected to the deposition of agricultural or domestic waste.

5.4.6 Context 1017, the primary fill of the eastern enclosure ditch, contained no charred material, however, mammal bone was found in both residue and flot, while slag was also found in the residue. The results suggest that low quantities of waste have accumulated within the context.

Section 3

5.4.7 Contexts 1025 and 1027, from different levels within the stratigraphy of the northern enclosure ditch, each contained a single charred cereal grain in the flot. The grains were too degraded to enable identification, indicating that conditions within the context either prior to or following deposition, were not suitable for preservation.

5.4.8 Contexts 1021, 1022, 1024 and 1026 from the northern enclosure ditch all provided similar flots, comprising charcoal and burnt daub, evidence for human activity. Contexts 1023 and 1028 also contained charcoal but in lower quantities. None of these contexts had charred plant macrofossils within the flots.

Table 2: Results of segments 1 and 2

Context	**1006**	**1007**	**1008**	**1013**	**1014**	**1016**	**1017**	**1029**
Volume processed (ml)	12,000	10,000	9,000	11,800	10,500	10,000	12,000	9,900
Volume of flot (ml)	20	5	15	25	20	25	15	10
Volume of flot assessed	20	5	15	25	20	25	15	10
Residue contents								
Mammal Bone							✓	
Slag							✓	
Burnt daub				✓				
Flot matrix (relative abundance)								
Burnt daub				3		2		2
Charcoal	3	2	1	3	2	3		2
Coarse sand	3	4	3	3	4	3	4	3
Mammal bone							2	
Modern roots	1		2	1		2		1
Charred Remains (total counts)								
Cerealia indeterminate	1	1	1					
Oat		1						
Waterlogged remains (relative abundance)								
(g) Clover							1	
(g) Grass								1

[g-grassland]
Relative abundance is based on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

Table 3. Results of segment 3

Context	**1021**	**1022**	**1023**	**1024**	**1025**	**1026**	**1027**	**1028**
Volume processed (ml)	13,000	11,200	10,000	11,600	11,000	11,100	10,000	11,000
Volume of flot (ml)	30	40	20	25	10	50	10	10
Volume of flot assessed	30	40	20	25	10	50	10	10
Residue contents								
Burnt daub				✓		✓		
Flot matrix (relative abundance)								
Burnt daub	3	3		2		3	2	
Charcoal	1	2	1	2	3	3	3	1
Coal						1		
Coarse sand	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3
Modern roots		2	3		2		2	2
Charred Remains (total counts)								
Cerealia indeterminate					2		2	
Waterlogged remains (relative abundance)								
(a) Knotgrass				1				
(a) Orache				1				
(t) Bramble					1			

[a-arable weed, t-tree/shrub]
Relative abundance is based on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 This evaluation has identified two principal phases of archaeological activity within the site. The earliest of these is represented by the remains of the ditched enclosure identified by the geophysical survey and confirmed by the work undertaken in trench 10. The later phase of activity relates to medieval/post-medieval field systems.

6.2 The sub-rectangular enclosure potentially dates to the late Iron Age or Romano-British period on the basis of size and form (Haselgrove 1984). A number of rectilinear enclosure sites have been identified in the lower Tees valley using aerial photography (Still & Vyner 1986), but such sites are relatively rare and should be considered to be regionally significant. The enclosure site was defined on three sides by a ditch which appeared to be linked to a field system or possibly an annex to the east. The interior of the enclosure was found to be devoid of occupation features such as pits, post holes or ring gullies, although slag and daub were recovered from the ditch fills. It seems likely that the site has been severely truncated by later ploughing as this would account for the lack of internal features and the absence of any evidence of the ditch which would have formed the west side of the enclosure. Samples taken from the excavated ditch sections suggest some domestic and low level industrial activity on the site, however, there was little evidence (in the form of carbonised grain) to suggest the processing and storage of agricultural produce. Sufficient material was recovered to suggest that it would be possible to obtain radiocarbon dating of certain deposits if this was required.

6.2 The enclosure ditch was demonstrably earlier than at least one example of a group of features belonging to a second phase of activity at Faverdale. A single, heavily truncated, plough furrow, containing 2 sherds of 13th or 14th century pottery and a single sherd of Samian ware, clearly residual, lay directly over the north-south arm of the enclosure ditch. This was one of a group of seven plough furrows encountered in trench 10, others being noted in other trenches, characteristic of medieval cultivation practices. In association with these, a number of old field boundaries or other demarcation devices were encountered. Many of these probably had their origins in the same period but their positions may have become fossilised and continued in use until relatively recently since they broadly correspond with the locations of known field boundaries. One exception to this general rule was observed in trench 4, where a single furrow, and associated boundary were not aligned in relation to any known enclosure system, but have an orientation similar to that of the A68.

6.3 On the basis of the evalation, the Iron Age / Romano-British enclosure site appears to be relatively poorly preserved as a result of plough truncation, with no evidence of occupation features surviving within the interior. The ridge and furrow features are the remains of pre-enclosure arable fields within Cockerton parish and are only of local significance. They were cut into subsoil and with the exception of the enclosure site did not overlie or mask any earlier deposits.

7.0 MITIGATION

7.1 In accordance with national planning guidance (PPG16) and local plan policies (E34), consideration should be given in the first instance to preserving archaeological remains

in-situ. However, on the basis of the existing evidence, the enclosure site would not appear to be well preserved and if preservation was not a feasible option, development of the site should be acceptable subject to the implementation of an appropriate scheme of investigation. The attached appendix sets out a project design for such an investigation which should be agreed in writing with the Archaeological Officer, Durham County Council. Ideally, such a programme of work should be undertaken in advance of construction. No further investigation of the medieval/post-medieval field systems is recommended.

NAA 01/07
Project 331
February 2001
Text: P.G. Johnson
Illustrations J. Godfrey
Edited by R.Fraser

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Maps

Lax, W. 1847. Plan of the Township of Cockerton in the Parish of Darlington in the County of Durham. *Univ. Durham Special Collection.*

Ordnance Survey. 1856 1st Edition 6" Map.

APPENDIX 1

ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT DESIGN

1.1 This section sets out a project design for a programme of excavation for the enclosure site identified to the east of Mount Pleasant Farm, Faverdale, Darlington centred on .

1.2 The site of the proposed development lies in an area identified as containing evidence for a previously unrecorded enclosure of Iron Age/Romano-British date. The site is currently under stubble.

1.3 This project design has been prepared on behalf of Bussey and Armstrong projects Ltd, in order that an archaeological excavation can be undertaken to record the site prior to development taking place. The work which is outlined below forms the final stage of mitigation and should be agreed with the Archeological Officer, Durham County Council.

Aims and Objectives

1.4 The aim of the investigation would be to expose, excavate and record the archaeological features present within the area of the enclosure in order to preserve the site by record. The objectives of this work would be to:

- confirm the nature and extent of the Iron Age / Romano-British enclosure site and any associated agricultural landscape
- confirm the nature and extent of any other activity
- establish, where possible, absolute and relative chronologies for the various activities and features represented at the site

2.0 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Adequate time and flexibility should be allowed within the soil stripping programme to enable monitoring and any necessary archaeological excavation and recording to be undertaken to the requirements of this scheme of works. The area of investigation should comprise the site of the enclosure as identified from the geophysical survey and evaluation together with a surrounding margin of 20m to this area.

2.2 Topsoil and subsoils should be removed by 360° excavator, under the supervision of an archaeologist. Mechanical excavation should cease where deposits, features or structures are encountered which are deemed to be significant by the monitoring archaeologist.

2.3 A sufficient sample of any archaeological features and deposits revealed should be excavated by hand in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner in order to fulfil the aims of the project. The complete excavation of features is not regarded as necessary in most instances, although a sufficient sample should be excavated to

understand the stratigraphic sequence and to recover representative artefactual and environmental assemblages.

Sample excavation

2.4 The following methodology for excavation should be applied. Linear features should be sampled at a minimum level of 10%. Where there is reason to believe that the feature is part of an enclosure, this should be increased to 25%. A minimum 50% sample should be excavated of all discrete features (such as pits, postholes, gullies etc) and this should be increased to 100%, where practical and desirable. Other types of archaeological deposits such as flint scatters or isolated finds should be excavated and sampled as appropriate. Any variations in the sampling strategy should be agreed with Archaeological Officer of Durham County Council.

Recording

2.5 A full written record of features should be made using the NAA context recording system. All archaeological features should be photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale. Sections should normally be drawn at a scale of 1:10. Archaeological plans should normally be drawn at a scale of 1:20. All levels should be tied to Ordnance Datum. A photographic record of the site should be taken using colour prints and slides and black and white where necessary.

2.6 Pottery and animal bone should be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts should be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. Finds should be recorded and processed using the NAA system and submitted for post-excavation assessment in accordance with MAP2.

Palaeoenvironmental sampling

2.7 Soil sampling undertaken in the evaluation phase did produce some carbonised plant material. Bulk palaeoenvironmental samples should therefore be taken from all major features and wherever strong evidence for rubbish disposal becomes apparent. Large samples should be taken of between 30-60 litres, where appropriate, and the excavators should remain in close contact with the environmentalists since other feature types may become apparent and produce appropriate material.

2.8 Where the animal bones are well preserved, sieved bulk samples should be taken to retrieve assemblages that can be used to investigate the frequencies and identities of bird and fish bones, and to investigate the relative frequencies of bones of different species (avoiding the inevitable size-based biases in hand-recovered collections). Large bulk sediment samples in the order of 100 litres should be taken from deposits in which animal bones are well preserved and sieved (either wet or dry) through coarse mesh of approximately 5 - 10 mm diameter.

2.9 The sampling strategies should be reviewed at intervals in consultation with suitable environmental and botanical specialists.

3.0 SITE ARCHIVE

3.1 The site archive should contain all the data collected during the investigative work detailed in sections 1.0 and 2.0 above, including records, finds and environmental samples. It should be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent.

3.2 Adequate resources should be provided during fieldwork to ensure that records are checked and internally consistent.

3.3 Archive consolidation should be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork:

- the site record should be checked, cross-referenced and indexed as necessary
- all retained finds should be cleaned, conserved, marked and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum
- all retained finds should be assessed and recorded using proforma recording sheets, by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Initial artefact dating should be integrated with the site matrix
- all retained environmental samples should be processed by suitably experienced and qualified staff and recorded using proforma recording sheets.

3.4 The archive should be assembled in accordance with the specification set out in MAP2. In addition to the site records, artefacts, ecofacts and other sample residues, the archive should contain:

- site matrices where appropriate
- a summary report synthesising the context record
- a summary of the artefact record
- a summary of the environmental record

3.5 The integrity of the primary field record should be preserved. Security copies in digital or fiche format should be maintained where appropriate.

3.6 Provision should be made for the deposition of archive and artefacts in Bowes Museum. The Museum should be advised of the proposed investigation before excavation starts and the contractor should adhere to any reasonable requirements they may have regarding conservation and storage of excavated material and archive. The archive should be prepared in accordance with the guidelines published in *Guidelines for the preparation of Excavation Archives for long-term storage* (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation, 1990) and *Standards in the Museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums and Galleries Commission, 1994).

4.0 POST EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

4.1 A post-excavation assessment report should be prepared within 3 months of completion of the archaeological recording works. A project design for post-excavation analysis should be produced in the form of a report setting out the objectives, timetable and

costing for production of the research archive, detailed analytical reports and preparation of a publication report in line with MAP2, Phase 3 (appendices 4 and 5).

4.2 The report should contain:

- a summary of the project's background
- the site location
- a methodology
- a summary of the project's results including phasing and matrices as appropriate
- an interpretation of the results in relation to other sites in the region
- a post-excavation assessment of the stratigraphic and other written, drawn or photographic records
- a catalogue and post-excavation assessment of each category of artefact recovered during the excavation, including a conservation assessment where appropriate
- a catalogue and post-excavation assessment of any faunal remains recovered during the excavation
- a catalogue of soil samples collected and post-excavation assessment of the results of the soil sampling programme
- catalogues and post-excavation assessments and/or summary reports of all scientific dating procedures or other analyses carried out
- an appendix containing a list and summary description of all contexts recorded
- a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location.
- appendices and figures as appropriate
- references and bibliography for all sources used

4.3 Post-excavation assessment report preparation should be undertaken in line with MAP2, Phase 4 (appendices 6 and 7).

4.4 The post-excavation assessment report should outline the aims, timetable and scope of the proposed post-excavation analysis programme. The post-excavation analysis programme should culminate in the publication of the final report.

4.5 On instruction from the client, following completion of the archaeological works, a copy of the site archive and/or a draft report on the findings of the works should be submitted to the County Archaeologist. Subject to any comments of any of the aforementioned parties, the report should be published in an appropriate regional or national journal or monograph.

4.6 A copy of the final report should be submitted to the appropriate Sites and Monuments Record as a public document. The project archive, including all reports, should be copied on microfilm and submitted to the National Monuments Record as a public document.

5.0 MONITORING

5.1 Access should be provided at all reasonable times to the archaeological representative of the Planning Authority to monitor the progress and results of the archaeological

investigations. A minimum of fourteen days notice should be given in writing prior to the commencement of works.

6.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

6.1 The firm should expect to comply with the 1974 Health and Safety Act and its subsequent amendments in all its operations. In this respect the SCAUM manual on archaeological health and safety should be followed for site works, and as normal practice, First Aid boxes, an Accident Book and a telephone is provided for each project. Where required, safety helmets and reflective jackets should also provided. A risk assessment should be undertaken in advance of the commencement of any archaeological works.

Site location

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey 1:25,000 map with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. Licence No. AL 853577 © Crown Copyright

0 1km

scale 1:25,000 @ A4

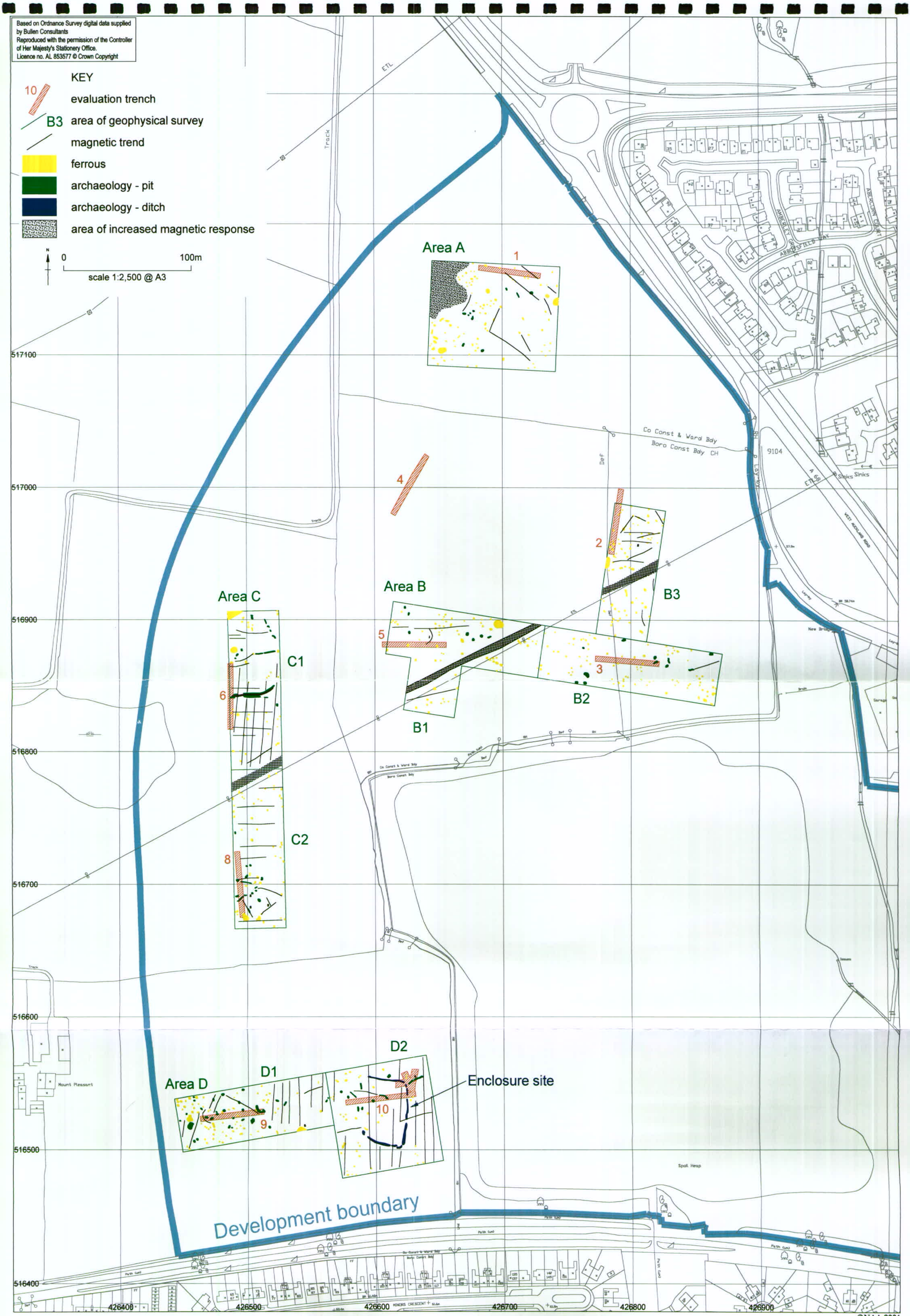


Figure 2 Darlington West Park: archaeological evaluation trench locations overlain on geophysical survey interpretation

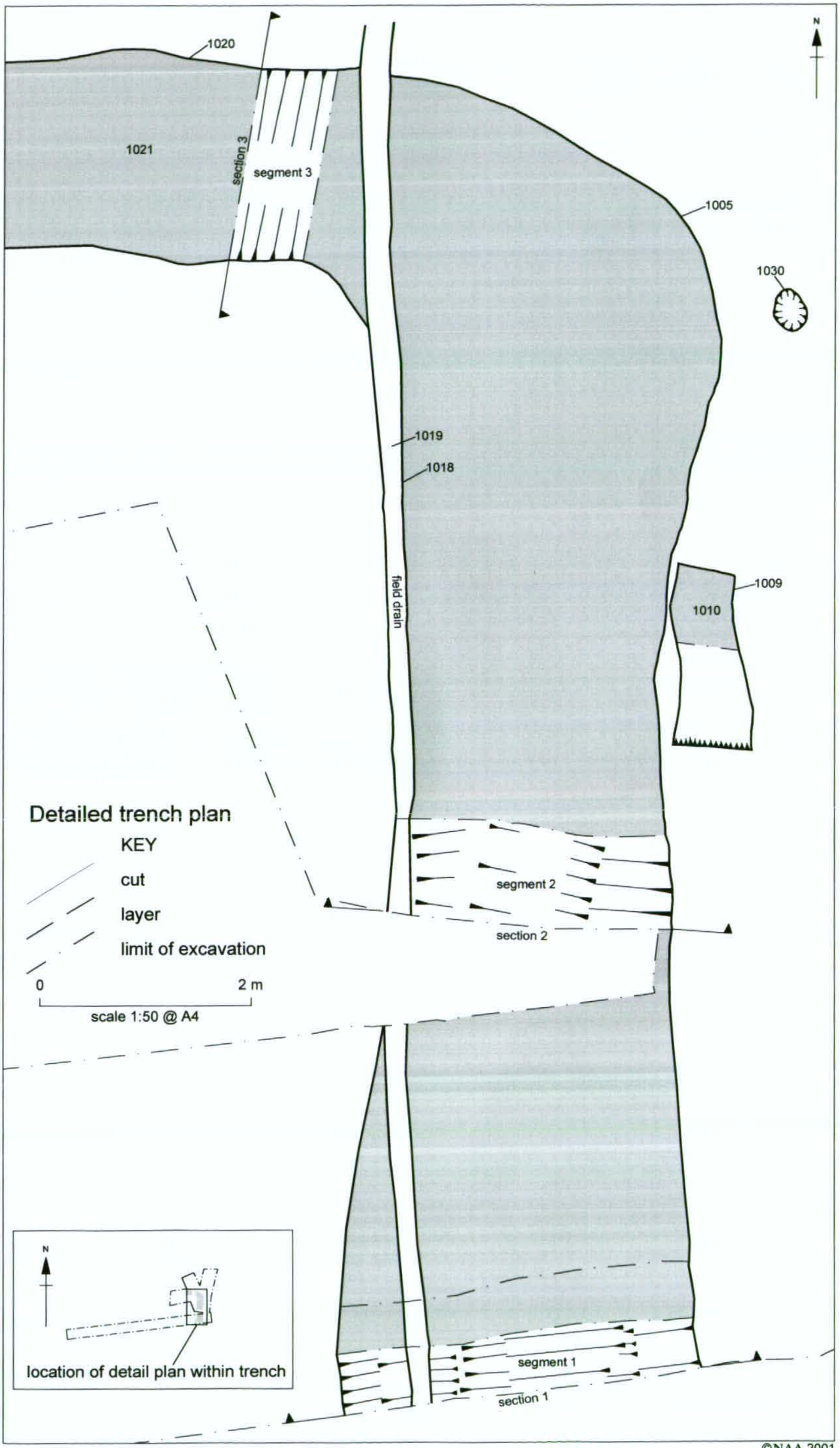
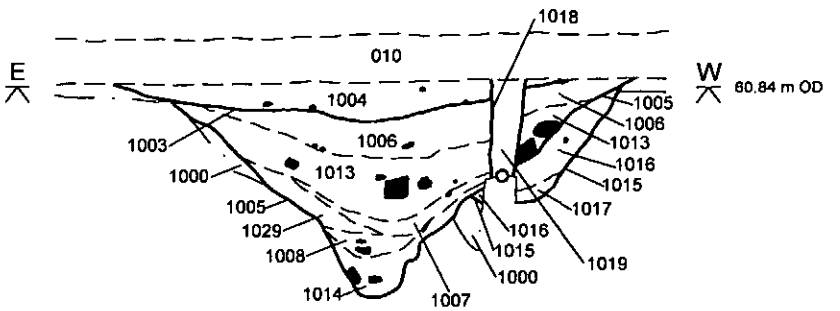
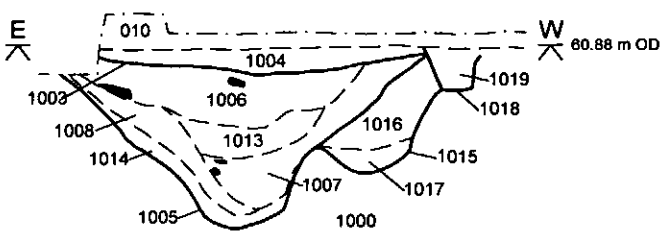


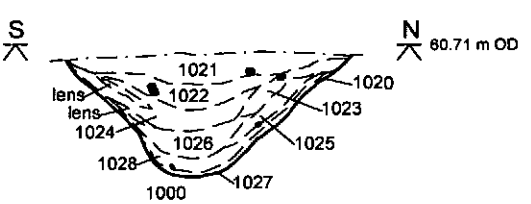
Figure 3 Darlington West Park: trench 10 plan



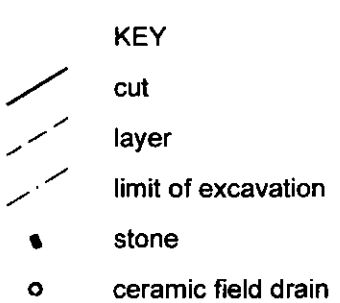
section 1 -north-facing



section 2 -north-facing



section 3 - east-facing



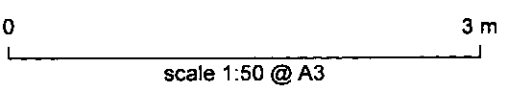


Figure 4 Darlington West Park: trench 10 sections