NAA

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

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BARFORTH GRANGE, GAINFORD, CO. DURHAM

prepared for

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on behalf of

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Summary

This document presents the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken in advance of the construction of two pig nursery sheds with associated below ground storage tanks on land at Barforth Grange, near Gainford, Co. Durham (NZ 1650 1550). The excavation was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) during October and November 2011 for Simpson and Allinson (S and A) Ltd acting on behalf of Paul Westgarth.

The excavation was undertaken in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation that had been approved by the Durham County Council Archaeology Team and is required in support of a planning application. The work was informed by a geophysical survey and trial trench evaluation that identified a series of ditches dating to the medieval period.

Archaeological investigations undertaken on land at Barforth Grange identified the continuation of the features recorded during the evaluation. These included three ditches, two pits and a series of plough furrows. The remains dated to the medieval and post-medieval periods and displayed a shifting pattern of field system, as opposed to an enclosure as postulated during the evaluation. The finds assemblage comprised sherds of locally produced medieval pottery.

The results of the investigations have in part provided an insight into the fluid nature and chronology of the medieval agricultural landscape within the hinterland of the now deserted settlement of Barforth. The medieval pottery and the written, drawn and photographic record will be deposited at the appropriate museum. The palaeoenvironmental remains can be discarded.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document presents the results of an archaeological excavation undertaken in advance of development on land at Barforth Grange, near Gainford, Co. Durham (Fig. 1; NZ 1650 1550). The site of the development was located approximately 200m to the north of Barforth Grange Farm and was 50m x 50m in size. The development comprises the construction of two pig nursery sheds with associated below ground storage tanks.

1.2 The excavation accorded to a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (NAA 2011a), approved by the Durham County Council Archaeology Section in response to a planning condition placed on the development. The work was informed by a geophysical survey (Fig. 2; GSB 2011) and trial trench evaluation (NAA 2011b).

1.3 The geophysical survey recorded a linear anomaly of potential archaeological origin and a series of trends which were interpreted as possibly forming a 'D'-shaped enclosure. The subsequent evaluation appeared to support this interpretation and yielded artefactual material which dated the features to the 13th to 15th centuries. However, the results of the current phase of work do not support this interpretation. During the excavation three ditches, two pits and a series of plough furrows were investigated (Fig. 2) which appear to represent restructuring of the local field system within the medieval and post-medieval periods.

1.4 The excavation was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) at the request of Simpson and Allinson (S and A) acting on behalf of Paul Westgarth during late October and early November 2011.

2.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 Barforth Grange is located on the southern side of the River Tees and at the southern edge of County Durham (Fig. 1). It lies approximately 650m to the south of the deserted medieval village of Barforth which was located on the opposite bank of the river from Gainford. The development is situated approximately 200m to the north of Barforth Grange Farm, in what is currently arable farmland.

2.2 The development is located on land that slopes gently down toward Chapel Gill to the north. The site is situated at approximately 120m AOD at the south-eastern side and approximately 115m AOD at the north-western side. Chapel Gill is surrounded by a belt of deciduous woodland which borders the development to the north. A crushed stone road is located to the west of the site that provides access from Barforth Grange.

2.3 The solid geology of the development area is Namurian limestone, sandstone and mudstone (the 'Millstone Grit Series') of the Yoredale Group from the

Carboniferous (Institute of Geological Sciences 1978) overlain by boulder clay (Institute of Geological Sciences 1977). The soils in the study area comprise loam and clay belonging to the Brickfield 3 Association (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 and Jarvis *et al*. 1984).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The following summary discussion of the archaeological and historical background of the site is drawn from the Archaeological Evaluation Report (NAA 2011b) which recorded a total of 23 heritage assets within a 1km study area centred on the development area. Those of relevance to the results of the current phase of the project are detailed below.

Previous archaeological interventions

3.2 As part of this project the development area has been subject to geophysical survey (GSB 2011) and trial trench evaluation (NAA 2011b). The survey was 0.38ha in extent, which is larger than the proposed development area, so that the micro-siting of the nursery sheds could be considered. The survey revealed one anomaly with the potential to have an archaeological origin (located within the northern corner of the development), a number of anomalies of uncertain origin and a series of trends. When considered together the responses recorded by the survey appeared to suggest the presence of a small enclosure contained mostly within the boundary of the development.

3.3 The evaluation appeared to confirm the results of the geophysical survey by identifying a ditch within four of the excavated trenches which contained sherds of medieval pottery that dated from the 13th to 15th centuries. However, the results of the current phase of works do not support interpretation of the ditches as an enclosure.

Designated Heritage Assets

3.4 There are three scheduled monuments within the study area. These all relate to the deserted medieval village of Barforth which is located approximately 650m to the north of the development. The scheduled monuments are the deserted village, the surviving remains of St Lawrence's Chapel and the medieval Chapel Bridge over Black Beck, just south-west of the deserted village.

3.5 There are three listed buildings within the study area. These are the remains of St Lawrence's Chapel (grade II*), Chapel Bridge (grade II*) and a late 16th to early 17th century dovecote (grade II*) located to the north of St Lawrence's Chapel. The proposed development will have no impact on these listed buildings.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

Prehistory

3.6 There is no known evidence for early prehistoric activity within the study area. The nearest evidence comes in the form of the findspot of a stone perforated hammer of probable Neolithic date found somewhere in Gainford, approximately 1.5km to the north-east.

Iron Age / Romano-British settlement and landscape

3.7 The site sits within a landscape which contains abundant evidence for Iron Age or Romano-British settlement and is situated at a distance of *c*.3km to the north-west of the major Iron Age settlement of Stanwick. The Stanwick hinterland contains numerous rectilinear and curvilinear settlement enclosures that were surrounded by ditches or palisades (Clack and Haselgrove 1983). A number of these sites have been identified within the study area from historic maps and as cropmarks by aerial photography. The location of two of these settlements is recorded approximately 110m to the north of the development area.

Romano-British

3.8 Aside from the possibility that the enclosures noted above date from the Romano-British period, there is no known evidence for activity of this date within the study area. Slightly further afield a terracotta mask of Medusa was found in Gainford which is believed to date from AD 250 – AD 300.

Medieval settlement

3.9 Barforth, along with Gainford across the River Tees, had Anglo-Saxon origins. The name Barforth derives from the Old English for 'barley ford' which perhaps refers to a ford used at harvest time and Gainford is also derived from Old English and is likely to refer to 'gegn – ford' or direct road ford (Beckensall 1979). The ford itself was called Barforth Wath, a 'wath' being an Anglo-Scandinavian derived word for a ford.

3.10 Gainford is first mentioned by Simeon of Durham in relation to Bishop Eegred, who in the *c*.AD 840's donated the church and village he had founded at 'Geiforde' to the church of St Cuthbert (Stevenson 1885, 653). Around AD 1010 Bishop Aldun transferred (for a period) a number of villages to the Earl of Northumberland, including 'Gegenford' (Gainford) and 'Bereford' (the earliest reference to Barforth; *op. cit.* 675). Barforth is listed as 'Bereford' in the 1086 Domesday Book, with three carucates of land (approximately 360 acres of plough land), although part of Barforth, or a separate village with the same name, was located on the Durham side of the river (Page 1914). Within the 13th century Barforth may well have had a market as it contained a 'Marketesgath' (*op. cit.*). The Victoria County History for the North Riding of Yorkshire and the HER entry for Barforth both record documentary references

dating from the 13th to 15th centuries. However by 1517 the village, called 'Brierforde' was depopulated and by the late 16th century St Lawrence's Chapel had fallen out of use as a church. The village is now deserted, except for Barforth Hall which contains remains dating to the 15th and 16th century, the ruins of the 12th century St Lawrence's Chapel, the 14th century Barforth Bridge and the late 16th to early 17th century dovecote (probably built for Barforth Hall).

Medieval landscape

3.11 Historic mapping dating to 1848 (MacLauchlan 1849) illustrates an entrenchment running north to south approximately 350m east of the development, which is noted as the possible course of an ancient dyke, now known as the Scot's Dyke, which ran from the River Swale at Richmond to the River Tees at Barforth. Within the study area this is recorded as an earthwork bank and ditch, thought to be early medieval in date. The bank and ditch survived to be illustrated on the 1954 Ordnance Survey map although all that survives today is a low bank and ditch now forming a field boundary, much reduced in length from 1848. At Richmond and near Aldbrough St John, North Yorkshire, elements of this monument are designated as a scheduled monument indicating its national importance. Other linear embankments are recorded in the vicinity of the development area but it is unclear if these are related to the Scot's Dyke.

3.12 Away from the core of the medieval villages there would have been a network of roads and open fields of ridge and furrow, with perhaps outlying dispersed settlements, such as farmsteads. Earthworks of medieval ridge and furrow are clearly seen on an aerial photograph dating to 1940 (RAF/4E/UK679/2326/22-Nov-1940) in the field of the proposed development, but not in the area of the site, and in the field to the east as well as the field on the west side of Chapel Gill.

Post-medieval and modern

3.13 Barforth Grange is shown on the 1857 Ordnance Survey map, where it was named Pond House; the historic mapping shows that it became Barforth Grange sometime after 1954 but before 1975. The existing pond, located approximately 150m west of Barforth Grange, was the extraction pit for the adjoining mid-19th century Barforth Tile Sheds. Historic mapping shows the tilery was disused by 1893 and an associated wind pump was removed by the 1970's. The surviving building is now called Pond Cottage.

3.14 It is likely that the fields around Barforth Grange have been intensively cultivated throughout the 20th century and many of the smaller enclosure fields seen on the early mapping and aerial photographs from the 1940's have now been amalgamated to form larger agricultural units. This intensive agricultural regime had caused truncation of the surviving archaeological remains on the site. Further evidence for this truncation comes from a 1940

aerial photograph that shows earthworks of ridge and furrow which are now completely gone.

3.15 Historically, Barforth was within Forcett Parish, North Yorkshire and by the 18th century was known as Old Richmond. Barforth became a parish within County Durham during the 20th century.

4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 The archaeological monitoring of groundwork and the recording and investigation of the exposed archaeological features sought to preserve the remains by record.

4.2 The objectives of the archaeological work were:

- to provide a detailed record of archaeological remains in advance of their loss through construction works;
- to more fully understand the extent, nature and date of the archaeological remains recorded by field evaluation; the period of occupation and the relationships between the various periods of human activity;
- to recover and assess any associated structural, artefactual and environmental evidence to help inform an understanding of the layout, date, function, phasing, development and economic basis of each area of activity;
- to undertake a programme of investigation which will contribute to the relevant regional research priorities;
- to prepare an illustrated report on the results of the archaeological investigations to be deposited with the County Durham Historic Environment Record and the National Monuments Record; and
- to publish the results in a local, regional or national journal, as appropriate and a summary within Archaeology County Durham magazine.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

Machine excavation

5.1 The initial site works comprised the stripping of topsoil and non-archaeological subsoil across the entire site using a back-acting tracked excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. The excavator removed overburden down to a level at which significant archaeological deposits were identified (the natural subsoil deposits) and care was taken not to damage archaeological features and deposit through

excessive machining of the site. All mechanical excavation was performed under direct archaeological supervision.

Archaeological excavation

5.2 Following soil stripping of the site and selective cleaning of the archaeological features an initial pre-excavation site plan was compiled using sub-centimetre GPS. The complete excavation of all archaeological features within the stripped area was not regarded as necessary, although a sufficient sample was excavated to understand the full stratigraphic sequence of deposits down to natural subsoil.

5.3 The excavated sections constituted a minimum 50% sample of the potential domestic and settlement related features (pits) and a minimum 10% sample of the overall length of uniform linear features (ditches). Each sample section was not less than 1m in length. The deposits at junctions of linear features were sufficiently excavated for the relationships between components to be established.

Recording

5.4 The NAA project number is 1015. The NAA site code is BGG11.

5.5 A drawn record of all archaeological features was made at an appropriate scale. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Drawings were located within the site and the National Grid using sub-centimetre GPS and included appropriate data on levels relative to the Ordnance Datum.

5.6 Written descriptions of archaeological features and deposits were recorded on NAA *pro forma* context sheets, which employ standard archaeological recording conventions.

5.7 A detailed photographic record of the site and the archaeological features was produced during the work. Photographs were taken as high resolution digital shots, black and white prints and 35mm colour slides.

Finds retrieval and processing

5.8 Archaeological artefacts were collected as bulk finds that were appropriately recorded and processed using the NAA system. They were then submitted for post-excavation assessment, the results of which are included as Appendix B.

5.9 All recovered finds have been appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions. Finds recovery and storage strategies are in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995; Watkinson and Neal 1998).

Environmental

5.10 Forty-litre bulk palaeoenvironmental samples were taken from ditch fills and twenty-litre bulk palaeoenvironmental samples were taken from pit fills and were submitted to the named specialist for assessment of their environmental potential. Recovery and sampling of environmental remains was in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 2002 and 2003). The results are included as Appendix C.

6.0 EXCAVATION RESULTS

6.1 Soil stripping of the site exposed the remains of two pits, three re-cut ditches and a series of plough furrows (Figs. 2 and 3). The features were cut into natural subsoil which varied from boulder clay to clay (41).

6.2 Pit 65 was located within the eastern area of the site and was discrete from the other activity. It was oval and was quite irregular measuring 1.8m x 0.4m x 0.17m. The pit fill (66) contained numerous rounded to sub-rounded cobbles and small quantities of charcoal identified as oak.

6.3 Pit 67 was located within the central western area of the site and was oval measuring 0.6m x 0.3m x 0.15m (Plate 1). No finds were recovered from its fill. Pit 67 was cut to the east by another pit 59 (Plate 1). Pit 59 was sub-circular with a diameter of 1.1m and a depth of 0.12m. It contained two fills which yielded no artefactual material. The upper fill (61) contained moderate amounts of charcoal identified as oak. Pit 59 was cut by a plough furrow which formed part of furrow group 64 (discussed below).

6.4 Ditch 69 was located within the north-western corner of the site and was the earliest feature within a series of three (Fig. 2 and 4; Section 1). It was recorded at the western trench edge only and terminated 0.22m into the trench. It is possible that this feature represented a pit, as it was not identified within the evaluation Trench 3 excavated to the west. It was 0.75m wide with a 'V'-shaped profile to a depth of 0.62m. Its fill contained no finds. Ditch 69 was truncated by ditch 76.

6.5 Ditch 76 was aligned south-west to north-east and was exposed for a distance of 17m. It displayed a sharp turn to the north-west at the northern trench edge and continued beyond the extent of the excavated area to the north (Plate 2). Ditch 76 continued to the west of the stripped area and was identified as ditch 11 within the previously excavated evaluation Trench 3. It was up to 1.45m wide with a 'V'-shaped profile to a depth of 0.77m. One of the fills (12) of the ditch yielded abraded sherds of 13th to 14th century pottery. Ditch 76 had been re-defined for its full length by ditch 75.

6.6 Ditch 75 continued for the full length of ditch 76 and also turned to the north-west at the northern trench edge. It was up to 1.25m wide and 0.33m deep

with a profile that varied from 'V' to 'U'-shaped. The fills (17, 22 and 56) of the ditch contained sherds of locally produced 12th to 15th century pottery.

6.7 Ditch 77 was located within the southern area of the site (Fig. 2) and was the earliest ditch within a sequence of three which adhered to the same south-west to north-east alignment (Fig. 4; Section 2). The overall feature was recorded for a distance of 37m and continued beyond the extent of the stripped area. Ditch 77 was 0.75m wide with a 'V'-shaped profile to a depth of 0.53m. The fills of the ditch contained no artefactual material. Ditch 77 had been re-defined by ditch 78.

6.8 Ditch 78 appeared to act as a replacement for ditch 77 for its full length. It was 1.7m wide and 0.25m deep with a rounded concave profile. Its fill (29) contained a fragment of animal bone. Ditch 78 was cut by a series of plough furrows 64 and had been later re-defined by ditch 79.

6.9 Plough furrow group 64 contained the remains of four individual features. The furrows were aligned west-north-west to east-south-east and were consistently aligned to a ditch (80) located to the north. They were spaced 5m – 6m part and were up 2.5m wide. The furrows were generally shallow having a depth no greater than 0.16m with irregular concave profiles. The fills (32 and 63) of two of the furrows contained sherds of locally produced 13th to 15th century pottery. Two of the plough furrows were cut by ditch 79 to the south.

6.10 Ditch 80 was located within the north-eastern part of the development area (Fig. 2 and 4; Section 3). It was aligned consistently to the plough furrow group (64) and was recorded for a distance of 32m. The ditch continued beyond the extent of the excavated area to the east but petered out to the west as though truncated by ploughing. The ditch was up to 1.75m wide with a rounded 'V'-shaped profile to a depth of 0.62m (Fig. 3; Section 3). It became much narrower and shallower down-slope to the west. The secondary fill (42) contained a sherd of locally produced 13th to 15th century pottery.

6.11 Ditch 79 represented the final phase of ditch within the southern south-west to north-east aligned series of ditches (Fig. 4: Section 2). It was 1.4m wide and 0.35m deep with a rounded concave profile. The ditch represented the final re-definition of this field boundary ditch. It was filled by a much darker material than the preceding features and contained a fragment of post-medieval glass from fill 50.

6.12 The archaeological features were sealed by thin subsoil 39 that was overlain by *c*.0.35m of modern plough soil (40) which contained sherds of post-medieval pottery, glass and ceramic building material.

7.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Archaeological investigations undertaken on land at Barforth Grange identified three re-cut ditches, two pits and a series of plough furrows. The remains

represent activity within the medieval and post-medieval period and are the result of a shifting pattern of field system.

7.2 The earliest phase of activity appears to be the excavation of three pits (59, 65 and 67) and the earliest phases of the field boundary ditch 77 (including redefinition by ditch 78) to the south. Unfortunately this earlier phase has remained undated although it presumably had it origin within the medieval period.

7.3 These features were then overlain by a series of plough furrows that were contained within a field defined by ditch 80 to the north. These features show a re-ordering of the agrarian landscape within the medieval or late medieval period. The ploughing regime contained by this new field boundary was aligned consistently with that recorded within fields to the west of Chapel Gill (west-north-west to east-south-east) as visible on a aerial photograph dated 1940 (NAA 2011b, fig. 5) and was also consistently aligned to the southern circuit of a rectangular enclosure recorded *c*.150m to the north-east of the development area (*op. cit.*, HA 6). Ditch 76, although stratigraphically unrelated, may have acted to drain water away from the foot of the series of plough furrows toward Chapel Gill stream situated to the north-west of the site.

7.4 The final phase of activity was the excavation of ditch 79 upon the same course as the earliest phase ditch 77. This corrected the field system back to its original alignment, which was maintained until the second half of the 20th century when many boundaries were removed and the fields were open into larger units.

7.5 The results of the investigations have in part provided an insight into the fluid nature and chronology of the medieval agricultural landscape within the hinterland of the now deserted settlement of Barforth. The medieval pottery and the written, drawn and photographic record will be deposited at the Bowes museum. The palaeoenvironmental remains can be discarded.

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Appendix A:

CONTEXT CATALOGUE

Context	Group no.	Interpretative description	Relationships	Trench	Notes, finds and samples
1	-	Topsoil	-	1	2 x post-medieval pottery
2	-	Subsoil	-	1	-
3	-	Natural	-	1	-
4	-	Secondary fill of culvert 06	-	1	-
5	-	Primary fill of culvert 06	-	1	-
6	-	Cut of culvert	Cuts 9	1	-
7	-	Secondary fill of ditch 09	-	1	-
8	-	Primary fill of ditch 09	-	1	-
9	80	Cut of ditch	Cut by 6	1	-
10	-	Natural	-	3	-
11	76	Cut of ditch	Cut by 21	3	-
12	-	Primary fill of ditch 11	-	3	2 x medieval pottery; AAx4
13	-	Subsoil	-	3	-
14	-	Topsoil	-	3	-
15	-	Topsoil	-	7	1 x modern glass fragment
16	-	Subsoil	-	7	-
17	-	Fill of ditch re-cut 24	-	7	2 x medieval pottery
18	-	Fill of ditch 19	-	7	-
19	76	Cut of ditch	-	7	-
20	-	Natural	-	7	-
21	75	Ditch re-cut	Cuts 11; below 23	3	-
22	-	Fill of ditch re-cut 21	-	3	2 x medieval pottery; AAx4
23	-	Stony deposit overlying ditch fill	Above 21	3	-
24	75	Ditch re-cut	-	7	-
25	-	Natural	-	2	-
26	77	Cut of ditch	Cut by 28	2	-
27	-	Fill of ditch 26	-	2	AAx4
28	78	Cut of ditch	Cuts 26; cut by 37 and 31	2	-
29	-	Fill of ditch 28	-	2	1 x animal bone
30	-	Fill of ditch 37	-	2	-
31	64	Cut of possible plough furrow	Cuts 28	2	-
32	-	Fill of possible plough furrow 31	-	2	1 x medieval pottery
33	-	Topsoil	-	2	1 x modern glass frag.
34	-	Topsoil	-	4	1 x CBM
35	-	Subsoil	-	4	-
36	-	Natural	-	4	-
37	79	Cut of ditch	Cuts 28	2	-
38	-	NOT USED	-	-	-
39	-	Subsoil	Same as; 2, 13, 16, 35	Open area	-
40	-	Topsoil	Same as; 1, 14, 15, 33, 34, 40	Open area	1x post-medieval pottery
41	-	Natural subsoil	Same as; 3, 10, 20, 25, 36	Open area	-
42	-	Secondary fill of ditch 44	-	Open area	1 x medieval pottery
43	-	Primary fill of ditch 44	-	Open area	AAx4
44	80	Cut of ditch	-	Open area	-
45	77	Cut of ditch	Cut by 47	Open area	-
46		Fill of ditch 45	-	Open area	-
47	78	Cut of ditch	Cuts 45; cut by 49	Open area	-
48	-	Fill of ditch 47	-	Open area	-
49	79	Cut of ditch	Cuts 51 and 47	Open area	-

Context	Group no.	Interpretative description	Relationships	Trench	Notes, finds and samples
50	-	Fill of ditch 49	-	Open area	1 x post-medieval glass frag.
51	64	Cut of plough furrow	Cut by 49	Open area	-
52	-	Fill of plough furrow 51	-	Open area	-
53	76	Cut of ditch	Cuts 59; cut by 55	Open area	-
54	-	Fill of ditch 53	-	Open area	-
55	75	Cut of ditch	Cuts 53	Open area	-
56	-	Fill of ditch 55	-	Open area	1 x medieval pottery
57	80	Cut of ditch	-	Open area	-
58	-	Fill of ditch 57	-	Open area	-
59	-	Cut of pit	Cuts 67; cut by 62	Open area	-
60	-	First fill of pit 59	-	Open area	-
61	-	Second fill of pit 59	-	Open area	AAx1, ABx1
62	64	Cut of plough furrow	Cuts 59	Open area	-
63	-	Fill of plough furrow 62	-	Open area	1 x medieval pottery
64	-	Group no. for plough furrows	-	Open area	Component parts; 31, 51, 62
65	-	Cut of pit	-	Open area	-
66	-	Fill of pit 65	-	Open area	AAx1, ABx1
67	-	Cut of pit	Cut by 59	Open area	-
68	-	Fill of pit 67	-	Open area	-
69	-	Cut of ditch	Cut by 53	Open area	-
70	-	Fill of ditch 69	-	Open area	-
71	76	Cut of ditch	Cut by 73	Open area	-
72	-	Fill of ditch 71	-	Open area	-
73	75	Cut of ditch	Cuts 71	Open area	-
74	-	Fill of ditch 73	-	Open area	-
75	-	Group no. for first ditch within SW-NE feature.	Cuts 76	Open area	Component parts; 24, 55, 73 and 21
76	-	Group no. for second ditch within SW-NE feature.	Cut by 75	Open area	Component parts; 19, 53, 71 and 11
77	-	Group no. for third SW-NE aligned field boundary	Cut by 78	Open area	Component parts; 26, 45
78	-	Group no. for second SW-NE aligned field boundary	Cuts 77, cut by 79	Open area	Component parts; 28, 47
79	-	Group no. for first SW-NE aligned field boundary	Cuts 78	Open area	Component parts 37, 49
80	-	Group no. for NW-SE aligned field boundary	-	Open area	Component parts; 9, 44, 57

APPENDIX B:

MEDIEVAL AND LATER POTTERY REPORT

C. G. Cumberpatch

Introduction

The pottery assemblage from Barforth Grange, Gainford, County Durham was examined by the author on 11th July 2011 and 8th December 2011. It consisted of thirteen sherds of pottery weighing eighty grams and represented a maximum of thirteen vessels. All of the sherds were heavily abraded suggesting that they had been exposed to movement, possibly in plough soils before their incorporation into the deposits from which they were recovered. The data are summarised in Table B1 below.

Discussion

The pottery assemblage fell into two broad groups; early modern to recent wares from context 1 (Topsoil) and medieval wares from the fills of the ditches (contexts 12, 17, 22, 42 and 56) and from the fill of plough furrows (contexts 32 and 63). One sherd of mid to late 19th century Jackfield ware was recovered from context 40 (Topsoil).

The medieval pottery appeared to be of a local type and the regular co-occurrence of quartz grains and soft rounded red inclusions implied a common or at least a geologically similar, source for the clay. Although the Tees Valley is known to have had an important medieval pottery industry (producing a distinctive range of types known under the collective name of Tees Valley ware) it remains poorly understood in terms of the range of types and the chronological and spatial links between the types defined to date. The suggested date ranges are based on the characteristics of the pottery and the known date range of the local industry and while indicative should not be considered definite. The poor condition of the sherds suggests that they were incorporated into the fills of the features some time after their initial deposition suggesting a late medieval or even post-medieval (*c*.1450 – *c*.1700) date for filling of the features.

Conclusion

Although small in size and in poor condition, the current state of pottery studies in the Tees Valley means the sherds should be archived in the Bowes museum where they will be available for further study as part of any future investigation of the medieval pottery industry of the area. They are currently dry, stable and appropriately bagged although they are unmarked. They do not appear to require any attention from conservators.

Table B1: Summary of pottery data

Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
1	URE	1	1	1	Flake	Hollow ware	U/Dec	LC18th - C19th	
1	YGCW	1	48	1	Base	Pancheon/bowl	White slip internally under clear glaze	C18th - C19th	Footed base, glaze splashes ext; abraded
12	Local Fine Sandy ware	2	2	2	BS	Hollow ware	Dark green glaze ext	?C13th - C14th	Heavily abraded; a very fine dull orange sandy fabric w/ sparse fine quartz up to 0.2mm
17	Local Gritty ware	2	6	1	BS	U/ID	U/Dec	?C12th - C13th	Heavily abraded; common sub-angular quartz grit up to 1mm, occasionally 2mm, sparse soft round red grains up to 1.5mm, mainly finer
22	Local Reduced Sandy ware	1	3	1	BS	Hollow ware	Pale green gaze ext; flaked	?C13th - C15th	Abraded; a very fine grey reduced fabric w/ abundant fine quartz up to 0.2mm
22	Local Sandy ware	1	2	1	BS	Hollow ware	Thin pale green glaze ext; flaked	?C13th - C14th	Heavily abraded; fine cream to pale grey sandy fabric w/ sparse/moderate sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm, soft red grains up to 1.5mm
32	Local Buff Sandy ware	1	5	2	BS	Hollow ware	Rilled body w/ bright green glaze ext	?C13th - C15th	Fine pale cream sandy body w/ abundant well-sorted sub-rounded quartz up to 0.5mm, occasionally up to 1mm; finer than Tees Valley type ware
40	Jackfield ware	1	3	1	BS	Hollow ware	Relief moulded design ext; shiny black finish int & ext	M – LC19th	
42	Local Buff Sandy ware	1	5	1	Rim	Jar	U/Dec	?C13th - C15th	Fine buff sandy fabric w/ abundant, well-sorted sub-angular quartz up to 0.5mm; everted flat-topped rim
56	Local Buff Sandy ware	1	4	1	Rim	?Jug	Thin grey slip ext; slightly inturned rim w/ groove on top	?C13th - C15th	Fine buff sandy fabric w/ abundant, well-sorted quartz & red grit up to 0.5mm
63	Local Buff Sandy ware	1	1	1	BS	Hollow ware	Rilled profile	?C13th - C15th	Light buff to white fabric ext w/ grey int; abundant quartz & red grit up to 1mm; heavily abraded
Total		**13**	**80**	**13**					

APPENDIX C:

ASSESSMENT OF THE PALAEOBOTANICAL AND CHARCOAL REMAINS

Lynne Lowrie

Introduction

Five bulk environmental samples were taken during the course of an excavation at Barforth Grange, Gainford, County Durham. This report presents the results of the assessment of the palaeobotanical and charcoal remains and is undertaken in accordance with English Heritage 1991.

Methodology

The five bulk environmental samples were processed at the NAA offices. The colour, lithology, weight and volume of each sample was recorded using standard NAA *pro forma* recording sheets. The samples were processed with 500 micron retention and flotation meshes using the Siraf method of flotation (Williams 1973). Once dried, the residues from the retention mesh were sieved to 4mm and the artefacts and ecofacts removed from the larger fraction and forwarded to the relevant specialists. The smaller fraction was not examined and has been retained.

The flot, plant macrofossils and charcoal were retained and scanned using a stereo microscope (up to x50 magnification). Any non-palaeobotanical finds were noted on the *pro forma* recording sheet.

A sub-sample of ten percent of the charcoal was taken from each of the samples (AA and AB) from context 61 for identification purposes. This was due to the abundance of charcoal in the samples.

The plant remains and charcoal were identified to species as far as possible, using Cappers *et al*. (2006), Hather (2000), Jacomet (2006) and Schoch *et al.* (2004). Nomenclature for plant taxa followed Stace (2010).

Results

No plant remains or charcoal were found in sample 43 AA.

The two samples (AA and AB) from context 61 yielded a collective weight of 64g of charcoal. This was identified as oak (*Quercus* sp.)

Sample 66 AA contained six weed seeds of three different species. These were uncharred and identification was not carried out as they are not likely to be ancient as they would not have survived the aerobic soil conditions and presumably are present due to bioturbation. One charred fragment of acorn shell was found and a possible charred stem of heather (*Calluna vulgaris*). Three pieces of oak charcoal (from the combined samples AA and AB) were present.

Discussion and statement of potential

The samples from 43 AA, 66 AA and 66 AB have no value.

The samples from 61 AA and 61 AB contained a single species. It may have corresponded with *in situ* burning for the removal of a tree stump of clearing for agricultural improvements.

Recommendations

No further work is required.

All residues can be discarded unless required by other specialists.

All plant remains, charcoal and flots can be discarded.

Archive

The paper archive, associated with the environmental samples, is currently held with NAA.

Table C1: Information from the pro forma recording sheets.

Key: C-context, SC-sample code, TQ-tub quantity, TP-quantity processed, P- processed, S- sorted

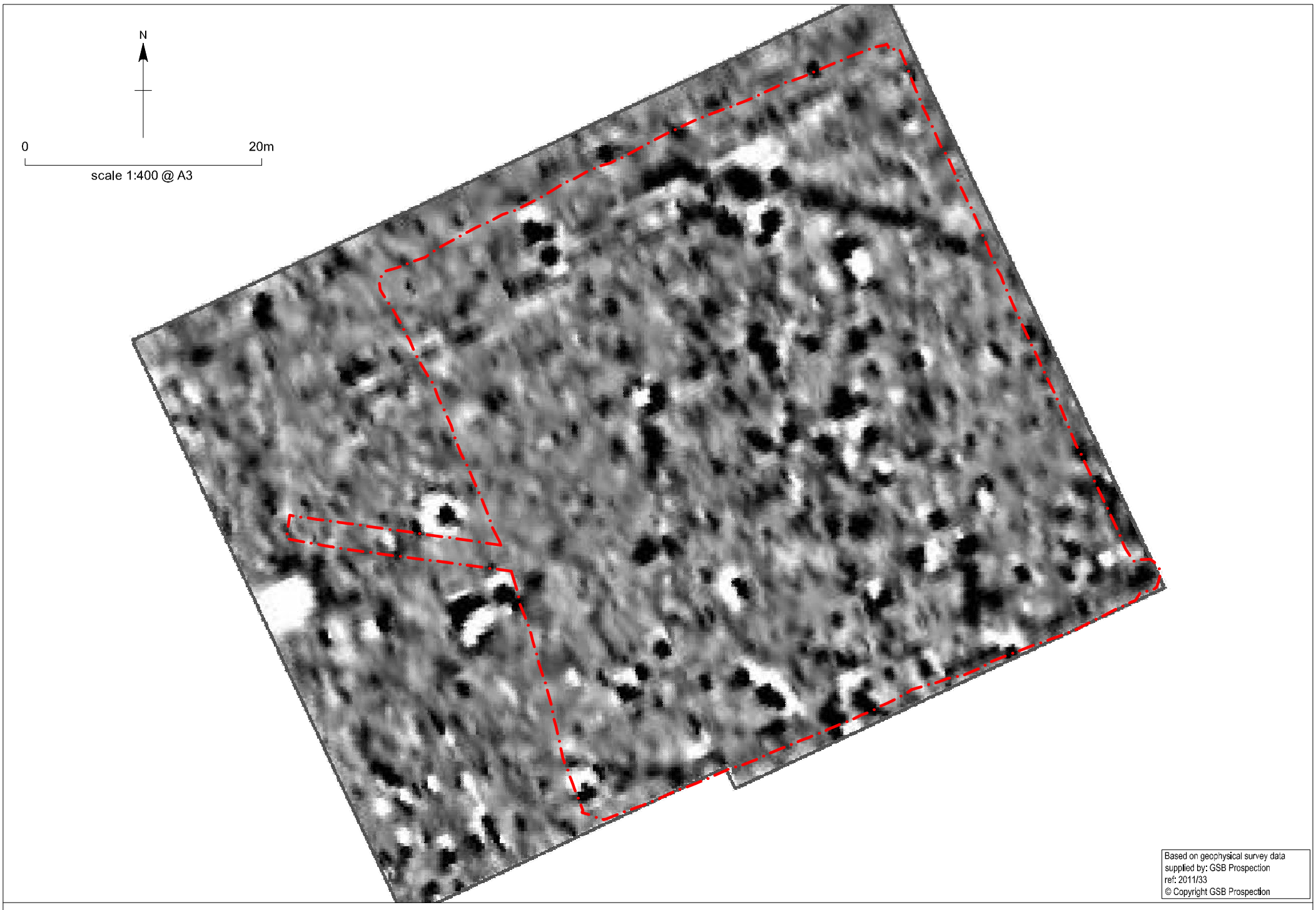
C	SC	TQ	TP	Colour (P)	Texture (P)	Matrix (P)	Weight P (kg)	Volume P (l)	Colour (S)	Texture (S)	Components (S)	Sorted weight (g)	Sorted volume (ml)	>4mm weight (g)	>4mm volume (ml)
43	AA	4	All	Brown	Sticky but crumbly	Sandy clay	48	33	Pale greyish brown	Loose	Stone>1cm 30%: stone<1cm 40%: sand 30%	11807	8000	6545	4100
61	AA	1	All	Greyish brown	Slightly sticky	Sand	9	7	Grey	Loose	Stone>1cm 50%: stone<1cm 20%: sand 30%	4034	3000	3053	2400
61	AB	1	All	Greyish brown	Crumbly	Silty sand	12	9	Greyish brown	Loose	Stone>1cm 40%: stone<1cm 40%: sand 20%	5451	4000	3609	2400
66	AA	1	All	Yellowish brown	Slightly sticky	Sandy clay	10	7	Greyish brown	Loose	Stone>1cm 40%: stone<1cm 40%: sand 20%	3623	2400	2470	1600
66	AB	1	All	Yellowish brown	Slightly sticky	Sandy clay	12	9	Greyish brown	Loose	Stone>1cm 40%: stone<1cm 30%: sand 30%	5288	3600	3515	2200

Table C2: Information from the plant assessment.

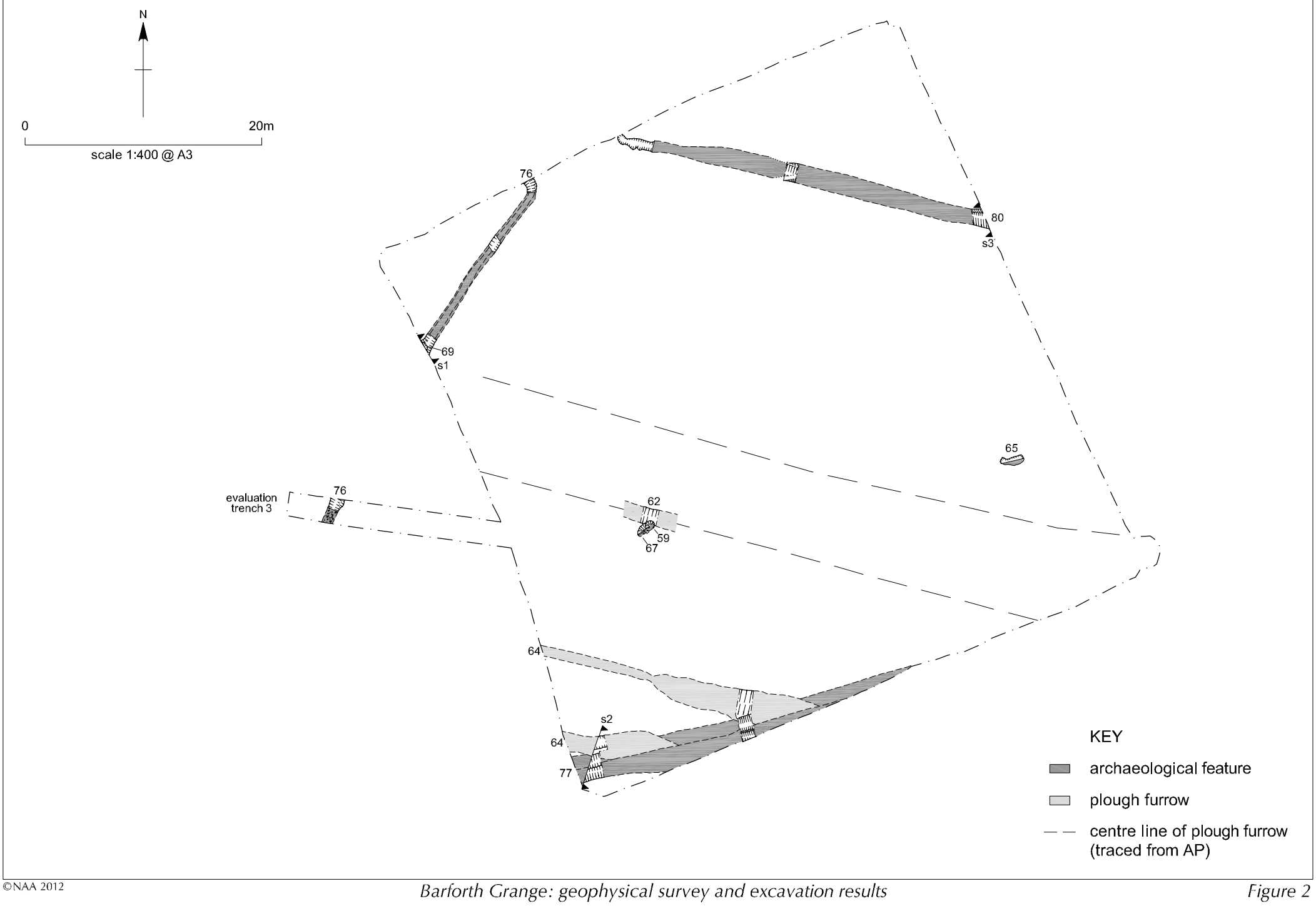
Key: C-context, SC-sample code, TQ-tub quantity, TP-quantity processed, P- processed, S- sorted, R?- residues remain, AMS?- suitable for dating, uc-uncharred

Context	SC	Wt proc (kg)	Vol proc (l)	R?	Wt flot (g)	Identifiable plant remains	AMS?	Charcoal id	Comments
43	AA	48	33	yes	24	-	-	-	Fine rootlets 95%: coal 1%, comminuted charcoal <1%: EWC x 4
61	AA	9	7	yes	1.7	-	-	*Quercus*	Very fine rootlets 50%: charcoal 45%: sand 4%
61	AB	12	9	yes	1.7	-	-	*Quercus*	Fine rootlets 50%: charcoal 45%: sand 5%
66	AA	10	7	yes	1.2	uc weed seeds present x 3 sp.	-	*Quercus*	Very fine rootlets 60%: sand 35%: charcoal 5%
66	AB	12	9	yes	1	-Charred acorn shell fragment	-	*Quercus: ? Calluna vulgaris*	Very fine rootlets 50%: sand 45%: charcoal 4%: beetle x 1, EWC x 2

Barforth Grange: site location *Figure 1*

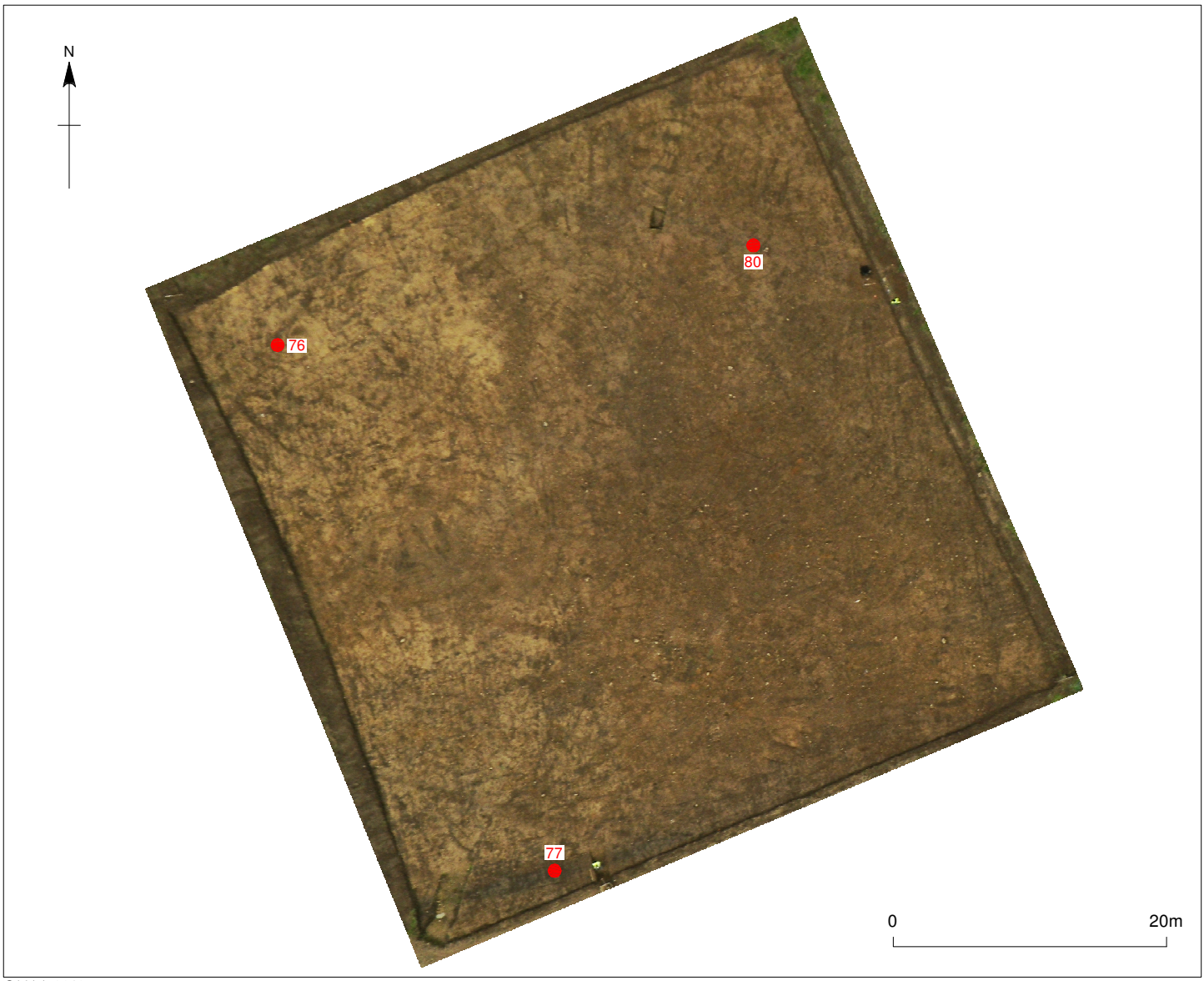


Based on geophysical survey data
supplied by: GSB Prospection
ref: 2011/33



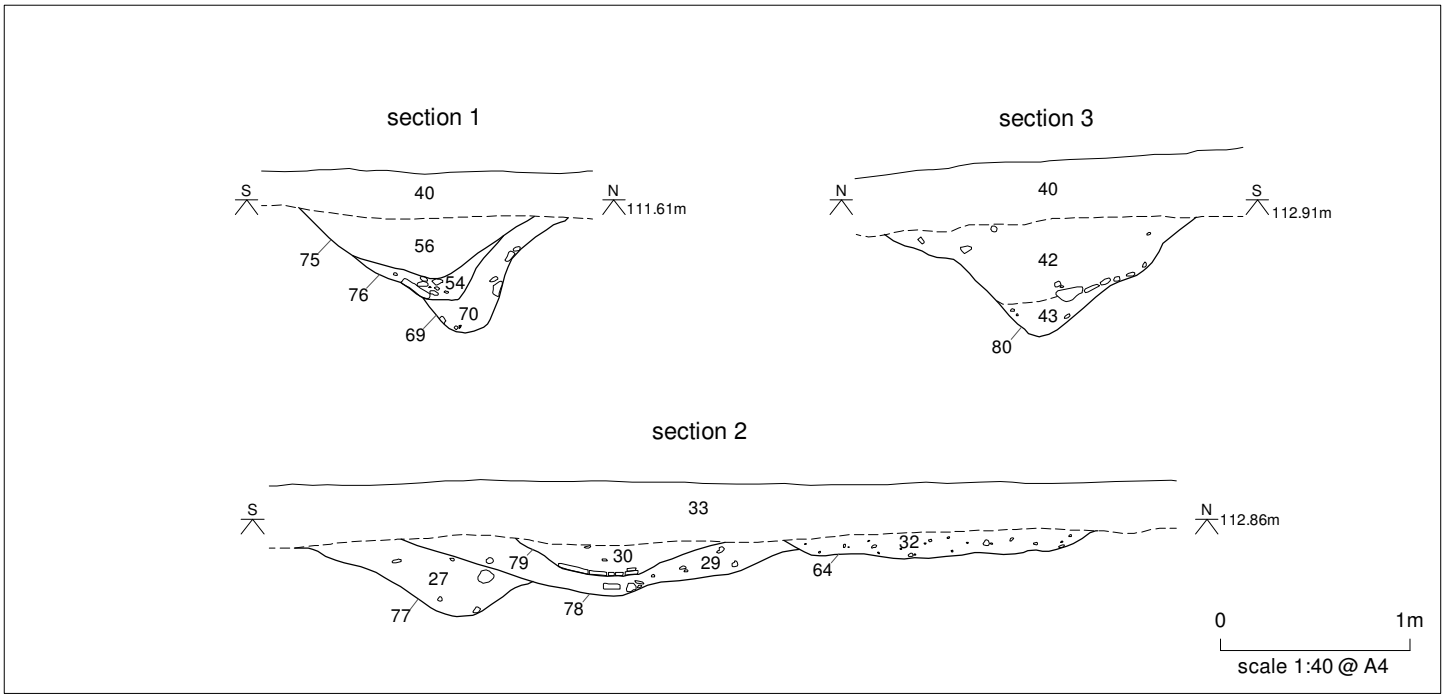
Barforth Grange: geophysical survey and excavation results

Figure 2



Barforth Grange: aerial view showing ditch group locations

Figure 3



Barforth Grange: sections

Figure 4

Barforth Grange: section through pits 67 and 59

Plate 1

Barforth Grange: section of ditch 76 and ditch re-cut 75 at north-western trench edge

Plate 2