



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
REPORT v.2

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BARFORTH GRANGE,
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prepared for

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on behalf of

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BARFORTH GRANGE, GAINFORD, COUNTY DURHAM
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Summary

1.0	Introduction	1
2.0	Location, topography and geology	1
3.0	Archaeological and historical background	2
4.0	Aims and objectives	7
5.0	Methodology	7
6.0	Excavation results	9
7.0	Discussion	12
8.0	Recommendations	13
	References	14
	Appendix A: Known heritage assests within the study area	16
	Appendix B: Context catalogue	18
	Appendix C: Pottery report	19
	Appendix D: Finds report	21
	Appendix E: Assessment of the palaeobotanical remains	22

BARFORTH GRANGE, GAINFORD, COUNTY DURHAM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Summary

This document presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation 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). It also includes a detailed archaeological and historical background in order to set the results into context. The evaluation was undertaken by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) during June 2011 for Simpson and Allinson (S and A) Ltd acting on behalf of Paul Westgarth.

The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (NAA 2011) 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 (GSB 2011) which suggested the presence of a small enclosure, and comprised the excavation of five trial trenches.

The evaluation confirmed the results of the geophysical survey, with a possible 'D'-shaped enclosure measuring c.25m x c.75m being identified in four of the excavated trenches. The enclosure ditch had generally been re-defined once and contained sherds of medieval pottery which dated from the 13th to 15th centuries. No features were identified within the internal area of the enclosure and the fills of the ditches yielded little artefactual or palaeobotanical material, so therefore the function of the enclosure remains unknown. It is possible it served as a stock enclosure and was associated with the deserted medieval settlement of Barforth located 650m to the north.

No further work is recommended on the artefactual assemblage or palaeobotanical remains. The medieval pottery should be retained with the site archive and deposited at the appropriate museum. The remaining finds and the palaeobotanical remains may be discarded.

It is recommended that archaeological monitoring (strip, map and record) be undertaken during removal of the topsoil and subsoil from the development area prior to construction of the pig nursery sheds. The extent of further archaeological investigations should be provided in a detailed project design and should be agreed with the local planning authority in consultation with the Durham County Council Archaeology Team.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document presents the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation undertaken in advance of development on land at Barforth Grange, near Gainford, Co. Durham (NZ 1650 1550). It also includes a detailed archaeological and historical background in order to set the results into context. The site is approximately 200m to the north of Barforth Grange Farm and covers an area of approximately 0.38ha. The proposed development would comprise the construction of two pig nursery sheds with associated below ground storage tanks.
- 1.2 The evaluation accorded to a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (NAA 2011) that had been approved by the Durham County Council Archaeology Team in support of a planning application. The work was informed by a geophysical survey (GSB 2011) and comprised the excavation of five trial trenches (from an allotted seven), which aimed to investigate a linear anomaly of potential archaeological origin and a series of trends recorded within the development area.
- 1.3 The evaluation 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 June 2011.

2.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1 Barforth Grange is located on the southern side of the River Tees. 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 proposed 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 It was agreed with the Assistant Archaeology Officer for Durham County Council that a separate desk-based assessment was not required for this scheme but that a detailed archaeological and historical background be included within this report in order to set the results of the evaluation into context.
- 3.2 The data for the archaeological and historical background was collected from the County Durham Historic Environment Record, the National Monuments Record, published and unpublished sources and the internet. For the purposes of this report a study area of 1km, centred on the proposed application area, was set in order to identify known heritage assets and assess the potential for previously unknown assets.
- 3.3 A total of 23 heritage assets are recorded within the study area. Those of relevance to the project are detailed below (prefixed with HA). The assets are also listed in Appendix A and their locations are illustrated on Figure 2.

Previous archaeological interventions

- 3.4 As part of this project the proposed development area has been subject to geophysical survey (GSB 2011; Fig.3). 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, which when combined apparently form a possible curvilinear enclosure throughout the perimeter of the survey area.
- 3.5 There have been no previous archaeological interventions within the application area. Within the wider study area the only other archaeological projects have been associated with a management plan for the historic structures at Barforth Hall; namely St Lawrence's Chapel, a dovecote and Chapel Bridge (Countryside Consultants and Associates 2009). Following on from the management plan some minor archaeological work, building recording, earthwork survey and some test pitting was undertaken in order to assist with the consolidation of the monuments (Liddell 2010a; Liddell 2010b). The scope of this archaeological work was specific to those monuments. However the management plan produced in 2009 does contain a desk-based assessment which includes a history of the development of Barforth and the wider area based on the known evidence (Countryside Consultants and Associates 2009, 9-24)

Designated Heritage Assets

- 3.6 There are three scheduled monuments within the study area. These all relate to the deserted medieval village of Barforth (**HA 1**) which is located approximately 650m to the north of the proposed development. The scheduled

monuments are the deserted village, the surviving remains of St Lawrence's Chapel (**HA 2**) and the medieval Chapel Bridge (**HA 3**) over Black Beck, just south-west of the deserted village. There will be no impact on these scheduled monuments by the proposed development, which is shielded from view by the wooded Barforth Whins.

- 3.7 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*; **HA 4**) located to the north of St Lawrence's Chapel. The proposed development will have no impact on these listed buildings.
- 3.8 There are no Registered Parks and Gardens or Registered Battlefields within the study area.

Non-designated Heritage Assets

Prehistory

- 3.9 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

- 3.10 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 as cropmarks by aerial photography.
- 3.11 Two recorded settlements are located approximately 110m to the north of the proposed development, one either side of Chapel Gill. The one on the west side (**HA 5**) is recorded in the HER as Barforth Grange Iron Age settlement and is listed as a rectilinear enclosure containing two circular features. The enclosure (**HA 6**) east of the gill is recorded on a map by MacLauchlan published in 1849 as a surviving rectilinear earthwork approximately 45m by 36m that he labelled as 'Embankment' (Fig. 4). The embankment is still partially visible on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1857. By the time of the second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1895 the only evidence for this earthwork was a sporadic row of trees along the line of the southern side of the enclosure. All trace of this earthwork has now gone (Plate 1).
- 3.12 As part of this study, cropmark evidence for three previously unknown rectilinear enclosures have been identified from aerial photographs within the study area. Approximately 380m to the north of the proposed development, the

western portion of an enclosure (**HA 7**) has been located on the west side of Barforth Whins. This enclosure was 65m wide and at least 60m long, although the western side bowed outward. To the west and approximately 500m north-west of the proposed development a further enclosure (**HA 8**) has been identified. This measured 80m by 74m (0.59ha) and had a possible entrance on the east side. Approximately 120m of a linear cropmark (**HA 9**) is also visible running north-west to south-east to the south of the enclosure. Another cropmark of a more squared enclosure (**HA 10**) is visible approximately 650m west of the proposed development and measures roughly 80m square (0.64h). A further linear cropmark (**HA 11**), approximately 110m long and orientated north-east to south-west, has been identified in the field between **HA 8** and **HA 10**.

- 3.13 It is possible that two other enclosures were located within the study area, although the evidence for them is not as strong. One of these (**HA 12**) is visible as a possible cropmark on aerial photographs 420m to the south of the proposed development. This sub-rectangular enclosure measured approximately 70m by 55m and along its west side is a more convincing linear cropmark with north-east to south-west alignment. A possible double-ditched enclosure (**HA 13**) is located approximately 800m to the east of the development and this consisted of an outer ditch measuring roughly 120m by 100m, and an inner ditch that was 68m by 60m.
- 3.14 Approximately 1.1km to the south of the proposed development the earthworks of an 'Ancient Camp' (**HA 14**) are illustrated on an 1848 map by MacLauchlan (MacLauchlan 1849, 213). The earthworks were still visible on the first edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1857, where it was recorded as 'site of camp'. This had disappeared by the 1895 second edition Ordnance Survey map. It is likely that this was the remains of an Iron Age or Romano-British settlement, however the possibility exists that it is of a later date, perhaps related to the early medieval dyke (Scot's Dyke) which MacLauchlan recorded as running along the east side of the camp. Approximately 1.2km to the north-east of the site the cropmarks of two further enclosures (**HA 15**) have been recorded overlooking the River Tees at Black Scar.
- 3.15 Without fieldwork it is unclear if any of these enclosures existed simultaneously or were related to the linear features. Where larger landscapes are being investigated through developer funded work within the region it is becoming increasingly clear that in some instances separate enclosures were linked via trackways and field systems, such as West Brunton (Tyne and Wear). In addition, where excavated many enclosed settlements appear to have a preceding unenclosed phase which covers an area in excess of the later enclosures; it is usual for the enclosure ditch to be the only visible cropmark to indicate the presence of a settlement site.

Romano-British

- 3.16 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 AD250 – 300.

Medieval Settlement

- 3.17 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 (**HA 16**), a 'wath' being an Anglo-Scandinavian derived word for a ford.
- 3.18 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; *ibid*, 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' (*ibid*). 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 (**HA 2**), the 14th century Barforth Bridge (**HA 3**) and the late 16th to early 17th century dovecote (**HA 4**; probably built for Barforth Hall).
- 3.19 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.

Medieval Landscape

- 3.20 In 1848 MacLauchlan mapped an entrenchment running north to south approximately 350m east of the development, which he notes as the possible course of an ancient dyke, now known as the Scot's Dyke (**HA 17**; Fig. 2 and 4), which ran from the River Swale at Richmond to the River Tees at Barforth. Within the study area he recorded this as an earthwork bank and ditches, thought to be early medieval in date. He notes traces of this dyke running from High Close (now High Close Cottage) to Boat House (now gone but located at

Boat Scar) on the south side of the River Tees (Fig. 2 and 4). It is thought that the Scot's Dyke was built to consolidate territorial and economic units during the 6th to 7th centuries. The bank and ditches survived to be illustrated on the 1954 Ordnance Survey map although all that survives 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. When Crawford visited the site in 1935 he noted a perpendicular bank on the west side (**HA 18**) which ran to the Scot's Dyke, and turned northward adjacent to it, although he noted no connection. Crawford recorded this as a medieval enclosure bank composed of earth and boulders, but it is likely that MacLauchlan had interpreted this to be part of Scot's Dyke with the perpendicular bank as nothing more than a field boundary, as he has illustrated it on Figure 4.

- 3.21 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. MacLauchlan records a linear embankment (**HA 19**) approximately 420m south of the proposed development, and this may correspond to the western side of **HA 12** mentioned above (Fig. 2 and 4). Traces of an embankment (**HA 20**) were also recorded by MacLauchlan approximately 600m north-east of the development. MacLauchlan has drawn this embankment connecting with the east side of the embankment of Scot's Dyke and Boat Lane to the east.
- 3.22 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 (Fig. 5).
- 3.23 A medieval stone cross (**HA 21**) was situated on the Scot's Dyke and although this has now gone it gave its name to the field called Cross Close (Fig. 4).

Post-Medieval and Modern

- 3.24 Barforth Grange (**HA 22**) 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 approximately 150m west of Barforth Grange was the extraction pit for the adjoining mid-19th century Barforth Tile Sheds (**HA 23**). Historic mapping shows the tilery was disused by 1893 and an associated wind pump was removed by the 1970s. The surviving building is now called Pond Cottage.
- 3.25 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 1940s have now been amalgamated to form larger agricultural units. This intensive

agricultural regime is likely to have truncated the remains of any surviving archaeology on the site. Evidence for this truncation comes from a 1940 aerial photograph (Fig. 5) that shows earthworks of ridge and furrow which are now completely gone.

4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 The main aim of the evaluation was to determine the presence or absence of unrecorded archaeological remains within the proposed development area. The trial trenching also aimed to confirm the location, extent, nature, preservation and significance of any such remains so that an informed assessment of the impact of the development could be undertaken and a suitable mitigation strategy agreed.

4.2 The objectives of the evaluation were to:

- examine the potential archaeological anomalies identified by the geophysical survey and validate the results;
- sample the intervening blank areas to determine to what extent the geophysical anomalies were likely to be representative of the location and full extent of archaeological remains within the footprint of the proposed development area;
- establish the extent, nature, preservation and significance of any archaeological remains within the site;
- provide a detailed record of any such remains;
- recover and assess any associated artefactual and environmental evidence;
- determine a suitable archaeological mitigation strategy through consultation with Simpson and Allinson Ltd and the Durham County Council Archaeology Team; and
- prepare an illustrated report on the results of the evaluation to be deposited with the County Durham Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Monuments Record (NMR).

5.0 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The programme of archaeological works ultimately included the excavation of five trial trenches within the proposed development area (Trenches 1-4 and 7; Fig. 3). The evaluation was comprised of two stages. The first stage was the excavation of Trenches 1-4 with an allowance of a further three trenches

(Trenches 5-7) forming the second stage. Only one of the additional trenches was excavated (Trench 7).

- 5.2 The trenches were all located with reference to anomalies detected by the geophysical survey and areas shown as 'blank'. Trenches 1-4 measured 2m x 30m and Trench 7 measured 2m x 15m.
- 5.3 The trenches were set out using GPS and tied into the geophysical survey baseline. The information has been transferred to AutoCAD software and reproduced for incorporation within this report. All levels have been tied in to Ordnance Datum.
- 5.4 All mechanical excavation was undertaken using a JCB type excavator with a toothless bucket that operated under direct archaeological supervision at all times. The excavator removed topsoil and subsoil down to a level at which significant archaeological deposits were identified or down to natural subsoil deposits, whichever was encountered first. Topsoil was removed to the edge of each trench and was kept separate from subsoil.
- 5.5 Machined surfaces were cleaned by hand within areas that contained archaeological remains. Hand excavation was then undertaken to the exposed features in order to characterise the archaeological remains and to ensure the recovery of any artefactual and environmental evidence to enable dating and an assessment of the archaeology to be achieved. In particular, excavation concentrated on the relationships between features to help determine the phasing of the site.
- 5.6 The excavation strategy adopted comprised:
- 50% sample excavation of each individual domestic, industrial, or settlement-related feature;
 - sample excavation of up to 20% of the overall length of linear features within the trenches; and
 - investigation of any intersections of features to help determine phasing.

Site recording

- 5.7 The NAA project number is 1015. The NAA site code is BGG11.
- 5.8 A drawn record of all archaeological features was made at an appropriate scale. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10 and their location accurately identified on the appropriate trench plan. Trench plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All drawings included appropriate data on levels relative to the Ordnance Datum.

- 5.9 A written description of all archaeological features and deposits was recorded on NAA *pro forma* context sheets which employ standard archaeological recording conventions.
- 5.10 A photographic record of the site was taken using digital photography, monochrome prints and colour slides at a minimum format of 35mm.

Finds recording

- 5.11 All finds processing, conservation work and storage was carried out in compliance with guidelines issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008). Pottery and animal bone were collected as bulk samples. Finds have been appropriately recorded and processed using the NAA system and were submitted for post-excavation assessment.
- 5.12 All finds recovered have been appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions. Finds recovery and storage strategies were in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995; Watkinson and Neal 1998).
- 5.13 Metal detecting was undertaken of the site which included the scanning of topsoil and spoil heaps. All metal detecting was undertaken under archaeological supervision and was in accordance with the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (HMSO 1996, revised 2002).

Environmental sampling

- 5.14 Forty-litre bulk palaeoenvironmental samples were taken from appropriate deposits and were submitted to the relevant specialist for assessment of their environmental potential. This included the recovery and assessment of any charcoal, animal bones, cereal grains, pollen, molluscs and artefactual material. Recovery and sampling of environmental remains was in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 2002, 2003). The results are included as Appendix E.

6.0 EXCAVATION RESULTS

Trench 1 (Figs. 3 and 6)

- 6.1 Trench 1 crossed the northern quarter of the development area on a south-south-west to north-north-east alignment. It was located to investigate a linear anomaly of archaeological interest which appeared to form part of a wider enclosure type response and a number of anomalies of uncertain origin and trends.
- 6.2 Removal of topsoil and subsoil exposed very variable boulder clay (3) at a depth of 0.36m below ground level. The boulder clay was cut by a ditch (9).

- 6.3 Ditch 9 was aligned west-north-west to east-south-east and corresponded in both its location and alignment to the linear anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey. It was 1.67m wide with a 'V'-shaped profile to a depth of 0.56m and was exposed for a distance of 2m. The ditch was filled by stoney mid-grey clayey silt (8) which was overlain by mid-brown grey silty clay (7). None of the fills contained artefactual material. The ditch was sealed by a 0.07m thick deposit of mid-yellow brown sandy silt subsoil (02) which was cut by a stone filled drain (6) and a ceramic field drain. Both drains had cut, and caused significant disturbance to the underlying ditch (9). The subsoil and drains were sealed by 0.3m of mid-brown silt topsoil (1) which contained two sherds of 18th to 19th century pottery (Appendix D).

Trench 2 (Figs. 3 and 6)

- 6.4 Trench 2 was situated in the southern central area of the proposed development on a south-south-west to north-north-east alignment. It was located to investigate trends, including a faint anomaly at its southern end which appeared to form part of a linear response that was consistently aligned to a former field boundary whose location is recorded by an aerial photograph taken in 1940.
- 6.5 Topsoil was removed down to the natural boulder clay (10) at a depth of 0.35m which exposed four intercutting ditches (Plate 2). All the ditches appeared to be aligned west-south-west to east-north-east and were located at the southern end of the trench. They corresponded to the faint linear anomaly.
- 6.6 Ditch 26 was the earliest feature. It was 1.15m wide with a 'V'-shaped profile to a depth of 0.42m and was filled by mid-yellow brown clayey silt (27). Ditch 26 was cut to the north by ditch 28.
- 6.7 Ditch 28 was 1.7m wide and 0.25m deep with a concave profile. It was filled by mid-grey brown silt (29) which contained a fragment of animal bone (Appendix E). When filled ditch 28 was cut centrally by ditch 37 and to the north by a shallow ditch or possible plough furrow (31).
- 6.8 Ditch 37 was cut entirely within the fill of the earlier ditch (28). It was 1.1m wide with a concave profile to a depth of 0.15m. The ditch was filled by loose mid-brown silt (30) which contained three fragments of sandstone that had been laid flat at the base of the ditch. These stone fragments were only identified at the western section and did not appear to be continuous throughout the length of the ditch. It seemed likely that this ditch represented the later phase of the former field boundary visible on Figure 5, as its fill (30) was significantly less compact than those within the other ditches.
- 6.9 A possible plough furrow (31) formed the northern edge of the overall feature group. The furrow was 1.65m wide with an irregular 'U'-shaped profile to a depth of 0.14m. It was filled by mid-orange brown clayey silt (32) that contained a sherd of medieval pottery which dated from the 13th to 15th

centuries (Appendix D). This feature may equally have represented a different phase of the field boundary.

- 6.10 The fills of the features were overlain by the topsoil (33) which contained a fragment of modern glass (Appendix E).

Trench 3 (Figs. 3 and 7)

- 6.11 Trench 3 crossed the western half of the site on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment. It was located across trends, including a faint linear anomaly which appeared to form part of a wider enclosure type response, and blank areas.
- 6.12 Clearance of the topsoil and subsoil exposed the natural boulder clay (10) at a depth of 0.3m. The natural had been cut by a ditch and ditch re-cut (Plate 3). The features were identified at the western end of the trench and corresponded to the faint linear anomaly.
- 6.13 Ditch 11 was exposed for a distance of 2.2m on a south-south-west to north-north-east alignment. It was 1.45m wide with a 'V'-shaped profile to a depth of 0.55m. The ditch was filled by mid-grey brown clayey silt (12) which contained two sherds of medieval pottery that dated from the 13th to 14th centuries (Appendix D). Ditch 11 was cut centrally by ditch 21.
- 6.14 Ditch 21 adhered to the same alignment and was cut into the fill of ditch 11. It was 0.85m wide and 0.3m deep with a 'V'-shaped profile. It was filled by mid-brown grey sandy silt (22) that contained two sherds of medieval pottery which dated from the 13th to 15th centuries (Appendix D).
- 6.15 The fill (22) of ditch 21 was overlain by a 0.1m thick deposit of quite stoney mid-brown sandy silt (23). This material appeared to have been deposited over the two ditches at a time when they survived as earthworks rather than being an actual fill of the later ditch. A thin deposit of subsoil (13) was identified away from the area of the ditches which, along with deposit 23, was sealed by 0.3m of topsoil (14).

Trench 4 (Fig. 3)

- 6.16 Trench 4 was situated in the south-eastern quarter of the proposed development on a west-north-west to east-south-east alignment. It was located across an anomaly of uncertain origin and trends.
- 6.17 The trench was excavated to a depth of 0.4m below ground level which exposed very stoney boulder clay (36) and patches of bedrock. No archaeological features were identified; a modern field drain was located at the eastern end of the trench. The natural was overlain by up to 0.1m of mid-yellow brown sand silt subsoil and 0.3m of mid-brown silty topsoil which contained a fragment of post-medieval hand-made brick (Appendix E).

- 6.18 It seemed likely that the anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey within Trench 4, and also the increased magnetism displayed within the western part of the survey area (the higher ground), were the result of the variable nature of the natural geology and the increased stoniness of the overlying boulder clay.

Trench 7 (Figs. 3 and 7)

- 6.19 Trench 7 was situated within the northern central area of the site on a north-west to south-east alignment. It was located across faint linear anomalies which appeared to form part of a wider enclosure type response and trends.
- 6.20 Topsoil and subsoil were removed down to the natural boulder clay (20) at a depth of c.0.35m which exposed a ditch and ditch re-cut. The features were located slightly to the north of the centre of the trench and corresponded to one of the faint linear anomalies.
- 6.21 Ditch 19 was exposed for a distance of 2.2m on a south-west to north-east alignment. It was 0.86m wide and 0.32m deep with a 'V'-shaped profile and was filled by mid-brown grey clay silt (18). Ditch 19 was cut centrally by ditch 24.
- 6.22 Ditch 24 adhered to the same alignment, and was cut into the fill of ditch 19. It was 0.65m wide with a concave profile to a depth of 0.16m and was filled by mid-grey clay silt (17) that contained two undiagnostic sherds of medieval pottery (Appendix D). The fills of ditches 19 and 24 were almost identical to the fills of ditches 11 and 21 as investigated within Trench 3; therefore it seems likely they represented the same features.
- 6.23 The ditches were overlain by thin subsoil (16) that was overlain by 0.3m of topsoil (15) which contained a fragment of modern glass (Appendix E).

7.0 DISCUSSION

- 7.1 A total of five trenches were excavated during the trial trench evaluation undertaken at Barforth Grange, near Gainford, Co. Durham. The site was situated within a landscape of cropmark enclosures which have been interpreted by form as dating from the Iron Age or Romano-British periods and was located 650m to the south of the deserted medieval village of Barforth.
- 7.2 The evaluation followed an earlier geophysical survey whose results, although faint and difficult to interpret, provided a reasonably reliable indication of the presence and absence of below ground remains. The survey had suggested the existence of a ditched enclosure located around the perimeter of the survey area. This was confirmed by trial trenching.
- 7.3 The investigations undertaken during the evaluation, when considered with the geophysical survey, have identified a possible curvilinear or 'D'-shaped enclosure measuring approximately 25m x 75m that was identified in four of

the excavated trenches. The enclosure ditch had generally been re-defined once and contained sherds of medieval pottery which dated from the 13th to 15th centuries. No archaeological features were identified within Trench 4 suggesting any return of the enclosure ditch was located beyond the edge of the development area to the east.

- 7.4 Four intercutting ditches were located within the southern end of Trench 2 which were consistently aligned to a pre-existing post-medieval field boundary recorded on the first edition Ordnance Survey map (1857). It is interesting to note that this boundary is not recorded on MacLauchlan's map of 1848 (Fig. 4) although it is clearly visible on an aerial photograph taken in 1940 (Fig. 5). Within this photograph the boundary divides the area of the proposed development from a field of upstanding ridge and furrow (located to the south), suggesting the boundary was in use during the medieval period. The aerial photograph also records extensive fields of upstanding ridge and furrow, but none within the field containing the development area. This suggests the area of development served a function other than arable farmland within the medieval period.
- 7.5 The ditch (9) within Trench 1 remained undated and displayed slightly different characteristics, both during excavation and upon the results of the geophysical survey, to the other investigated features. Therefore it is considered that there is the potential for a different phase of activity to be represented within the development area.
- 7.6 No archaeological features were identified within the internal area of the enclosure and its function remains unknown due to the low quantities of artefactual and ecofactual material that was recovered from the ditch fills. The enclosure may have functioned as a stock control feature, although it seems unlikely that any such enclosure would have existed in isolation, therefore it is considered that there is the potential for further medieval remains to be located within the development area. It seems likely that the enclosure was associated with an isolated farmstead or the deserted medieval settlement of Barforth located 650m to the north.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 No further work is recommended on the artefactual assemblage or palaeobotanical remains. The medieval pottery should be retained with the site archive and deposited at the appropriate museum. The remaining finds and the palaeobotanical remains may be discarded.
- 8.2 It is recommended that archaeological monitoring (strip, map and record) be undertaken during removal of the topsoil and subsoil from the development area prior to construction of the pig nursery sheds. The extent of further archaeological investigations should be provided in a detailed project design for the works and this should be agreed with the local planning authority in consultation with the Durham County Council Archaeology Team.

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Appendix A:

KNOWN HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Heritage assets (HA) recorded within the study area are listed within the table below and are shown on Figure 2 (unless marked “NI”). Sites are identified by a unique reference number and by their County Durham Historic Environment Record number (HER) and/or their National Monuments Record (NMR) Unique Identifier (UI). A central grid reference (or start to finish for the linear assets) is provided for most sites and a description and date are given for all sites. The site locations are shown on Figure 2.

The significance of all heritage assets has been assessed and grades have been applied to denote whether they are considered to be of national (grade 1), regional (grade 2), county (grade 2/3) or local (grade 3) importance. Where buildings are listed the grading is indicated (e.g. LB II).

HA no.	HER no.	NMR no.	NGR grid ref.	Description	Period	Grade
1	1593	U21734	NZ 164 162	Barforth. Deserted Medieval Village 11th-17th century (SM32729) containing St Lawrence’s Chapel and dovecote	Medieval	SM
2	1597	U21807	NZ 1640 1616	St Lawrence’s Chapel – ruined 12th-13th century chapel. SM Legacy DU116, now part of SM32729. List entry number 111594	Medieval	SM, LBII*
3	1596	U21802	NZ 1635 1612	Chapel Bridge – 14th century bridge over Black Beck. SM130 (SM Legacy DU130). List entry number 111593	Medieval	SM, LBII*
4	1592	U21810	NZ 1642 1626	Dovecote – doomed stone-built pigeon house. List entry number 111595	Late Medieval/Post-medieval	LBII*
5	366	U58000	NZ 164 156	Cropmark: Barforth Grange 1. Earthwork remains of an enclosure	Iron Age/Roman	2/3
6	1585	U21787	NZ 1651 1558	Possible Enclosure: Barforth Grange 2. rectilinear enclosure recorded on MacLaughlan’s map of 1848	Iron Age/Roman	2/3
7			NZ 1633 1589 centre	Cropmark: Possible sub-rectilinear enclosure, at least 60m by 64m – three sides visible on Google Earth (image 5-Nov-2009); the east side is obscured by rough ground adjacent to Chapel Gill wood. Also visible on NZ1615/1 BXV 13130/00 4-July-1989 and NZ1615/11 BXV 166697/05 4-August-1996	Iron Age/Roman	2/3
8			NZ 1601 1584 centre	Cropmark: Rectangular enclosure 80m by 74m - viewed on Google Earth (image 5-Nov-2009). Also viewed on NZ 1615/3-6 NMR 12533/88-91 13-Jul-1994. A WNW/ESE linear is visible to the south of the enclosure on the Google Earth image.		2/3
9			NZ 1598 1580 to NZ 16084 1577	Cropmark: Linear feature possibly a ditch, aligned north-west to south-east south of HA 8. Viewed on Google Earth (image 5-Nov-2009)	?Iron Age/Roman	3
10			NZ 1574 1552 centre	Cropmark: Squared enclosure 80m by 80m - viewed on Google Earth (image 27-Nov-2006)	Iron Age/Roman	2/3

HA no.	HER no.	NMR no.	NGR grid ref.	Description	Period	Grade
11			NZ 1588 1571 to NZ 1579 1565	Cropmark: Linear feature possibly a ditch, aligned north-east to south-west, between HA 8 and HA 9. Viewed on Google Earth (image 5-Nov-2009)	?Iron Age/Roman	3
12			NZ 1651 1504 centre	Possible cropmark: curvilinear enclosure, 70m by 55m with NE/SW linear along west side – visible on Google Earth (image 5-Nov-2009). The linear is also visible on NZ1615/1 BXV 13130/00 4-July-1989	?Iron Age/Roman	2/3
13			NZ 1734 1562 centre	Possible cropmark: double ditched rectangular enclosure with outer ditches 120m by 100m, inner 68m by 60m. However may just be elements of previous boundaries. Viewed on Google Earth (image 5-Nov-2009)	?Iron Age/Roman	2/3
14			NZ 1662 1434	Site of 'Ancient Camp' marked on MacLauchlan's map dated 1848 and visible on Google Earth (image date 1-Jan-1945)	?Iron Age/Roman	2/3
15		U579999	NZ 173 162	Cropmarks: Barforth 1 and 2 Rectilinear and curvilinear enclosures	Iron Age/Roman	2/3
16		U21705	NZ 1664 1649	Barforth Wath. Ford across the Tees	Medieval	3
17		U625308	NZ 1678 1589 to NZ 1692 1535	Scot's Dyke. Remains of early medieval bank and ditch surviving in part as a field boundary	Medieval	1
18	1587	U21749	NZ 1656 1573 to NZ 1678 1575 to NZ 1675 1596	Embankment. Enclosure bank of earth and cobbles recorded by Crawford in 1935	Medieval	3
19	1586	U21790	NZ 1654 1512 to NZ 1660 1497	Embankment shown on MacLauchlan's map of 1848 and cropmark. Possibly east side of potential enclosure HA12	?Iron Age/Roman or medieval	3
20	1588	U21757	NZ 1704 1575 to NZ 1675 1596	Traces of embankment shown on MacLauchlan's map of 1848 and noted on Crawford AP 7068-9 18-Aug-1931	?Medieval	3
21	1584	U21784	NZ 1675 1597	Site of stone cross marked on the 1857 Ordnance Survey map.	Medieval	3
22			NZ 1639 1519	Barforth Grange. Late 18th or early 19th century farm complex. Previously Pond House until the middle of the 20th century	Post-medieval	3
23			NZ 1609 1528	Barforth Tile Sheds. Mid 19th century tiling with wind pump and extraction pit (now pond). Building now called Pond Cottage	Post-medieval	3

Appendix B:
CONTEXT CATALOGUE

Context	Interpretative description	Relationships	Trench	Findings and sample information
1	Topsoil	-	1	2 x post-medieval pottery
2	Subsoil	-	1	-
3	Natural	-	1	-
4	Secondary fill of culvert 6	-	1	-
5	Primary fill of culvert 6	-	1	-
6	Cut of culvert	Cuts 9	1	-
7	Secondary fill of ditch 9	-	1	-
8	Primary fill of ditch 9	-	1	-
9	Cut of ditch	Cut by 6	1	-
10	Natural	-	3	-
11	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	Cut of ditch	-	7	-
20	Natural	-	7	-
21	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	Ditch re-cut	-	7	-
25	Natural	-	2	-
26	Cut of ditch	Cut by 28	2	-
27	Fill of ditch 26	-	2	AAx4
28	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	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 fragment
34	Topsoil	-	4	1 x CBM
35	Subsoil	-	4	-
36	Natural	-	4	-
37	Cut of ditch	Cuts 28	2	-

Appendix C:
POTTERY REPORT

C.G. Cumberpatch

Introduction

The pottery assemblage from Barforth Grange, Gainford, County Durham (BGG11) was examined by the author on 11th July 2011. It consisted of nine sherds of pottery weighing 67 grams and represented a maximum of eight 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 is summarised in the table 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 (12, 17 and 22) of the ditches (11, 14 and 21) and from the fill (32) of a possible plough furrow (31).

The medieval pottery appeared to be of local type and the regular co-occurrence of quartz grains and soft rounded red inclusions implied a common or at least 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 absolute. 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 appropriate local museum or regional archive facility 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.

Pottery data

Context	Type	No	Wt	ENV	Part	Form	Decoration	Date range	Notes
1	Unglazed Red Earthen Ware	1	1	1	Flake	Hollow ware	Undecorated	LC18th - C19th	-
1	Yellow Glazed Course Ware	1	48	1	Base	Pancheon / bowl	White slip internally under clear glaze	C18th - C19th	Footed base, glaze splashes external; abraded
12	Local Fine Sandy Ware	2	2	2	Body sherd	Hollow ware	Dark green glaze ext	?C13th - C14th	Heavily abraded; a very fine dull orange sandy fabric with sparse fine quartz up to 0.2mm
17	Local Gritty Ware	2	6	1	Body sherd	Unidentified	Undecorated	Medieval	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	Body sherd	Hollow ware	Pale green external glaze; flaked	?C13th - C15th	Abraded; a very fine grey reduced fabric with abundant fine quartz up to 0.2mm
22	Local Sandy Ware	1	2	1	Body sherd	Hollow ware	Thin pale green external glaze; flaked	?C13th - C14th	Heavily abraded; fine cream to pale grey sandy fabric with sparse/moderate sub-rounded quartz up to 1mm, soft red grains up to 1.5mm
32	Local Sandy Ware	1	5	1	Body sherd	Hollow ware	Bright green external glaze; flaked	?C13th - C15th	Fine pale cream sandy body with abundant well-sorted sub-rounded quartz up to 0.5mm, occasionally larger; finer than Tees Valley type ware

**Appendix D:
FINDS REPORT**

Gail Hama

Introduction

Only four finds of glass, ceramic building material and animal bone were recovered during an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Barforth Grange, near Gainford. The finds are packaged appropriately and a detailed catalogue has been compiled as an Access database for the archive. The report is in accordance with English Heritage MAP2 guidelines (1991).

Discussion

Two sherds of window glass came from topsoil 15 and 33, both are of recent manufacture. The fragment from context 15 is modern float glass of post-1960 date. It is completely clear with no tint and has a perfectly plain surface with no distortion. The glass from context 33 has a slight greenish tint and a ribbed surface so that nothing can be viewed through the window pane. Again, it is of 20th century date.

A fragment of non-diagnostic post-medieval handmade brick came from topsoil 34. A possible cattle rib was found in ditch fill 29.

Statement of potential and recommendations

The finds are of limited potential and, with the exception of context 29, derive from topsoil. No further work is required on the assemblage and the finds can be discarded.

Appendix E:
ASSESSMENT OF THE PALAEOBOTANICAL REMAINS

Lynne Lowrie

Introduction

Three bulk environmental samples were taken during the course of an archaeological evaluation at Barforth Grange, Gainford, County Durham. This report presents the results of the assessment of the palaeobotanical remains in accordance with English Heritage (1991). The results are summarised in the table below.

Methodology

The three bulk environmental samples were processed at NAA. The colour, lithology, weight and volume of each sample were 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 and plant macrofossils were retained and scanned using a stereo microscope (up to x50 magnification). Any non-palaeobotanical finds were noted on the *pro forma* recording sheet.

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

Results

12 AA

Eight uncharred seeds of common orache (*Atriplex patula*) were found in the flot. Their presence could be attributed to bioturbation due to the presence of rootlets and earthworm capsules.

22 AA

The flot yielded five uncharred seeds of common orache. The flot matrix was mostly fine rootlets. Earthworm capsules were also present.

27 AA

Common orache was present in the flot. The matrix was similar to the previous flots.

Discussion

Common orache, present in all the samples, is a native plant that is found on disturbed and waste ground. The rootlets and earthworm capsules in the flot suggested that the seeds are not contemporaneous with the sediment and is likely to be a modern contaminant.

Statement of potential and recommendations

There are no plant remains suitable for AMS dating.

All flots and residues can be discarded.

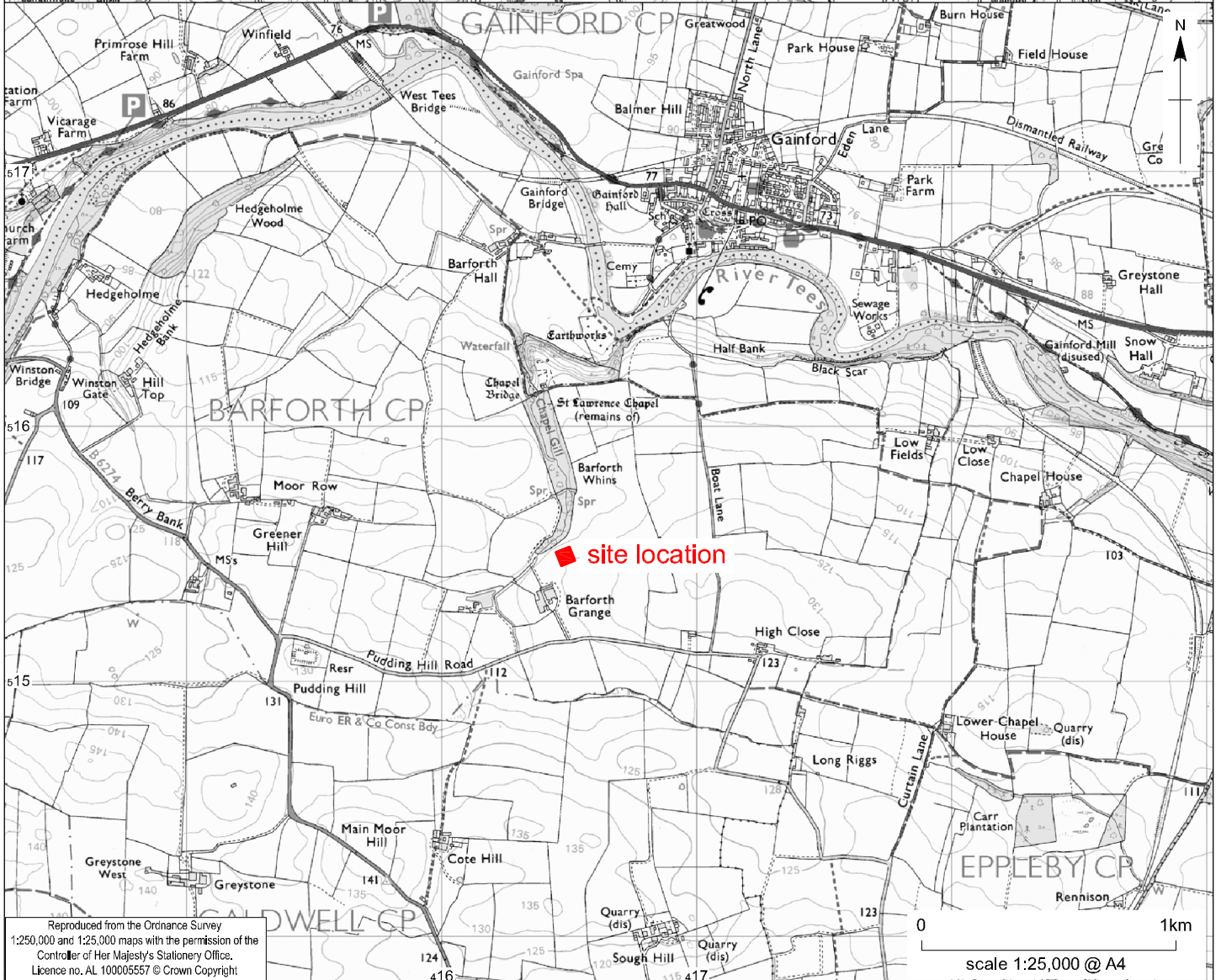
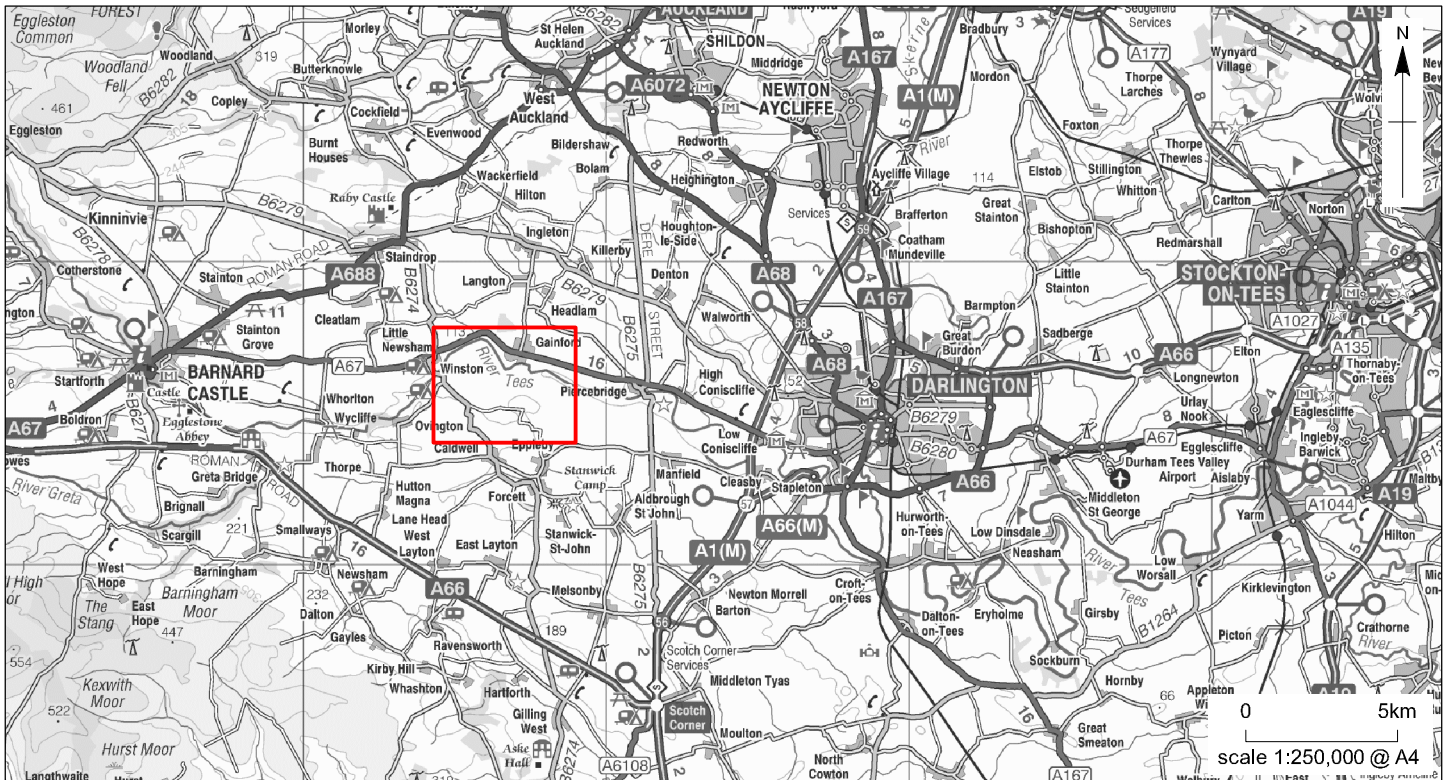
Archive

All the flots and palaeobotanical remains, along with the paper archive associated with the environmental samples are currently held with NAA.

Summary of palaeobotanical remains by context

Context	Sample code	Wt proc (kg)	Vol proc (l)	R?	Wt flot (g)	Identifiable plant remains	Comments
12	AA	43	38	yes	1.6	Atriplex patula (5)	Most of the flot consisted very fine rootlets with a small amount of sand and coal. EWC seen
22	AA	42	34	yes	3.2	Atriplex patula (4)	Similar to 12 AA
27	AA	33	30	yes	1.6	Atriplex patula (8)	Mostly fine rootlets with minute coal fragments. EWC seen

Quantity of seeds in brackets. EWC =earthworm capsules

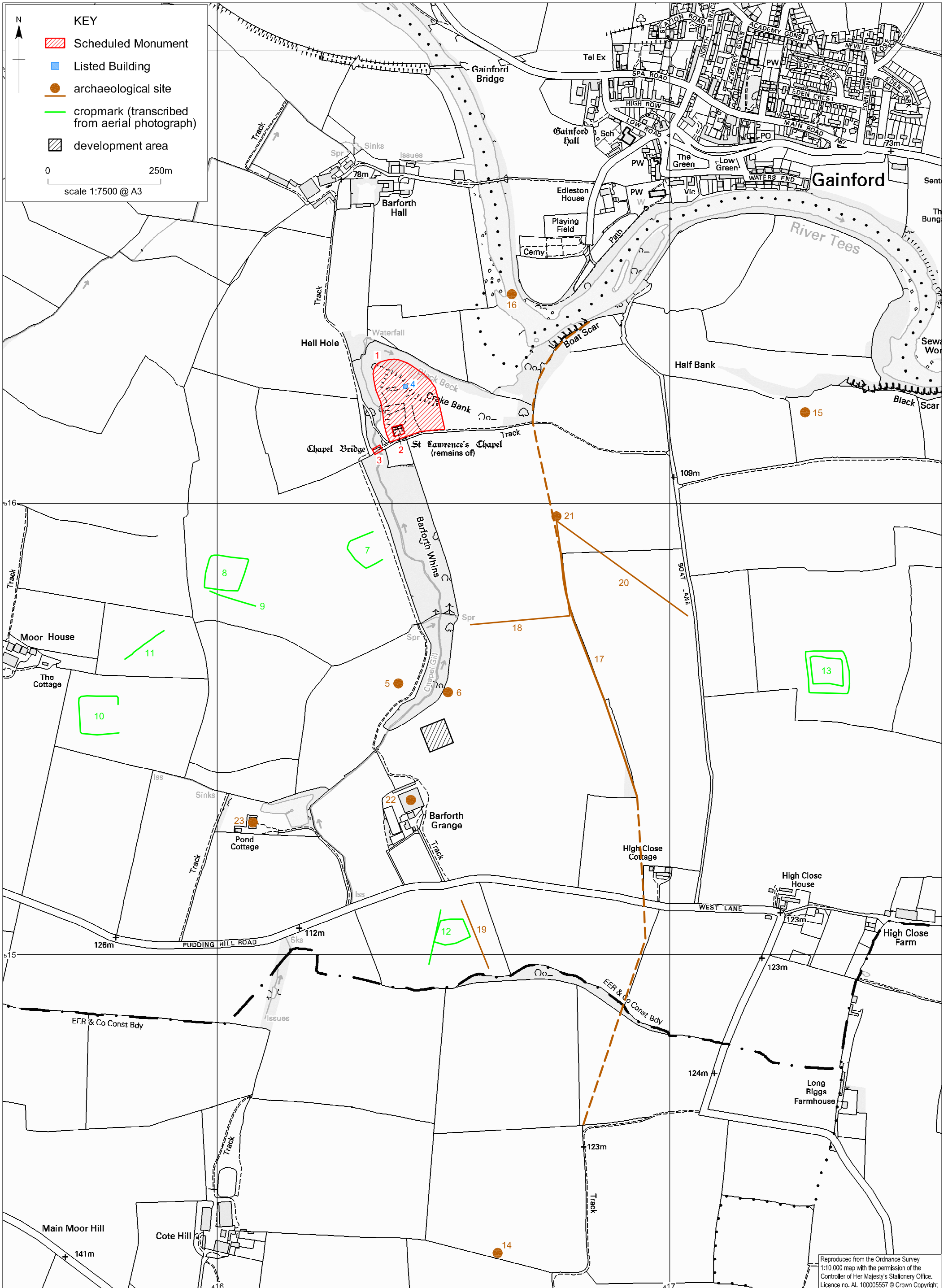


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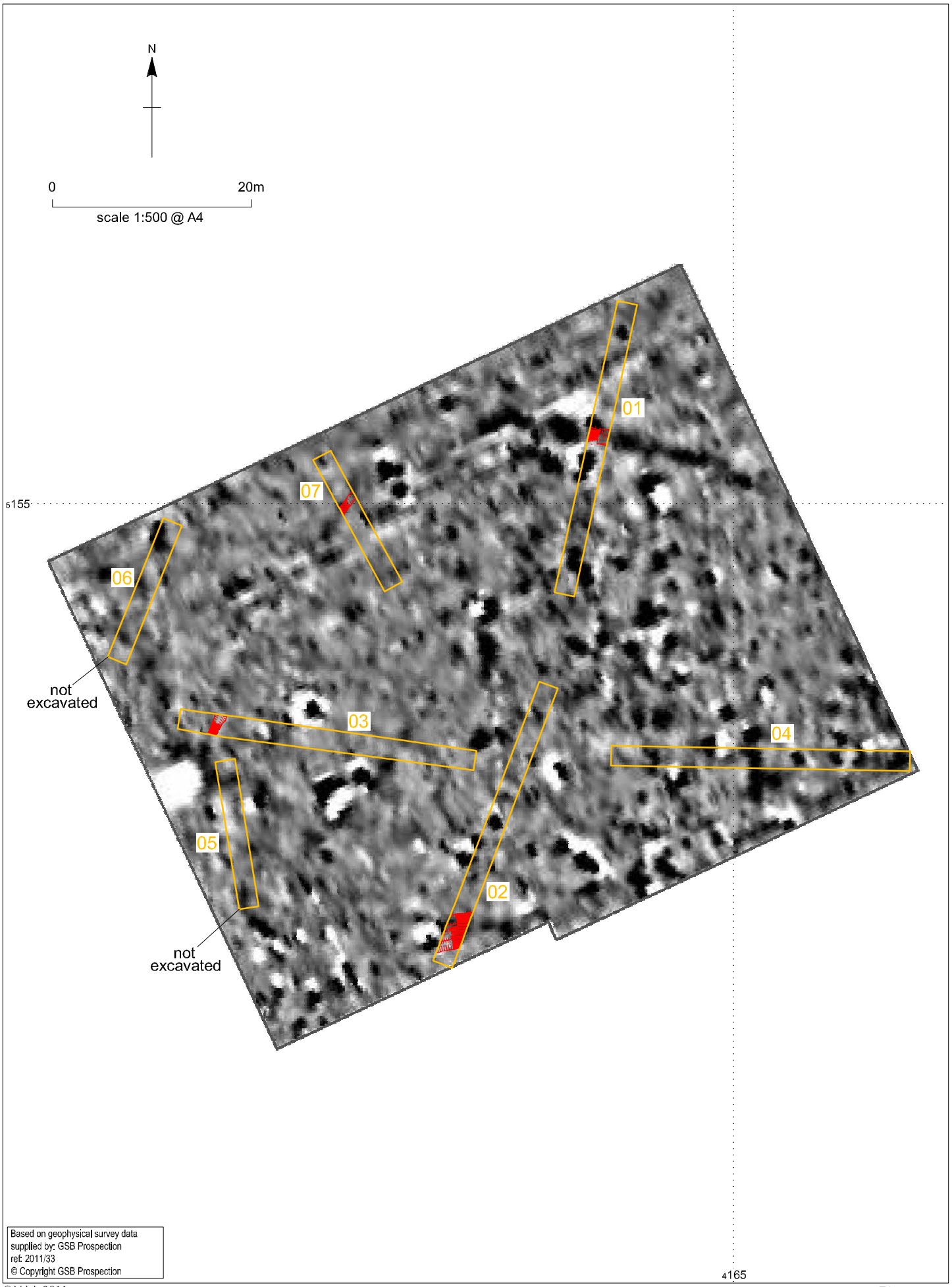
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Barforth Grange: site location

Figure 1



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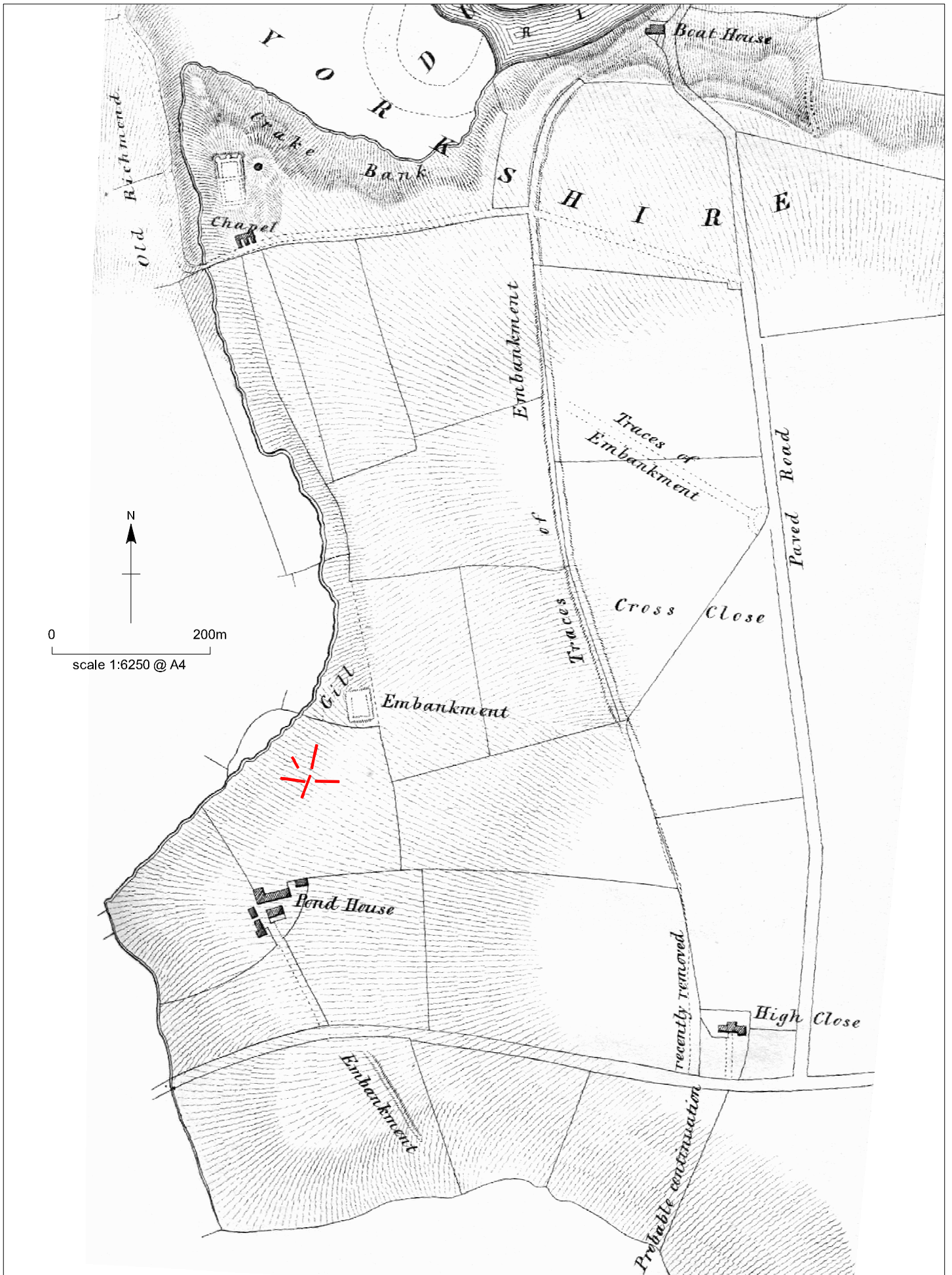


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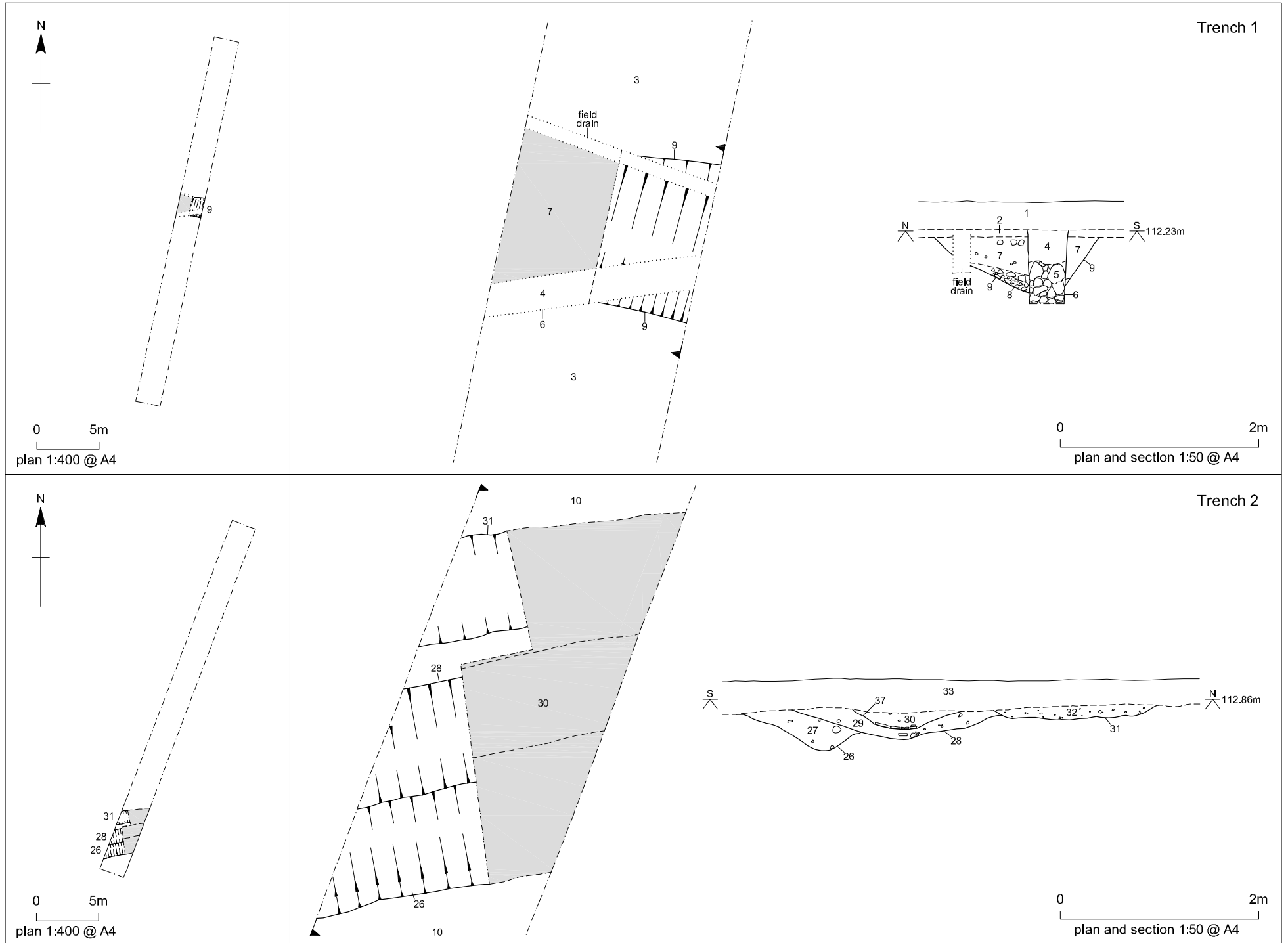
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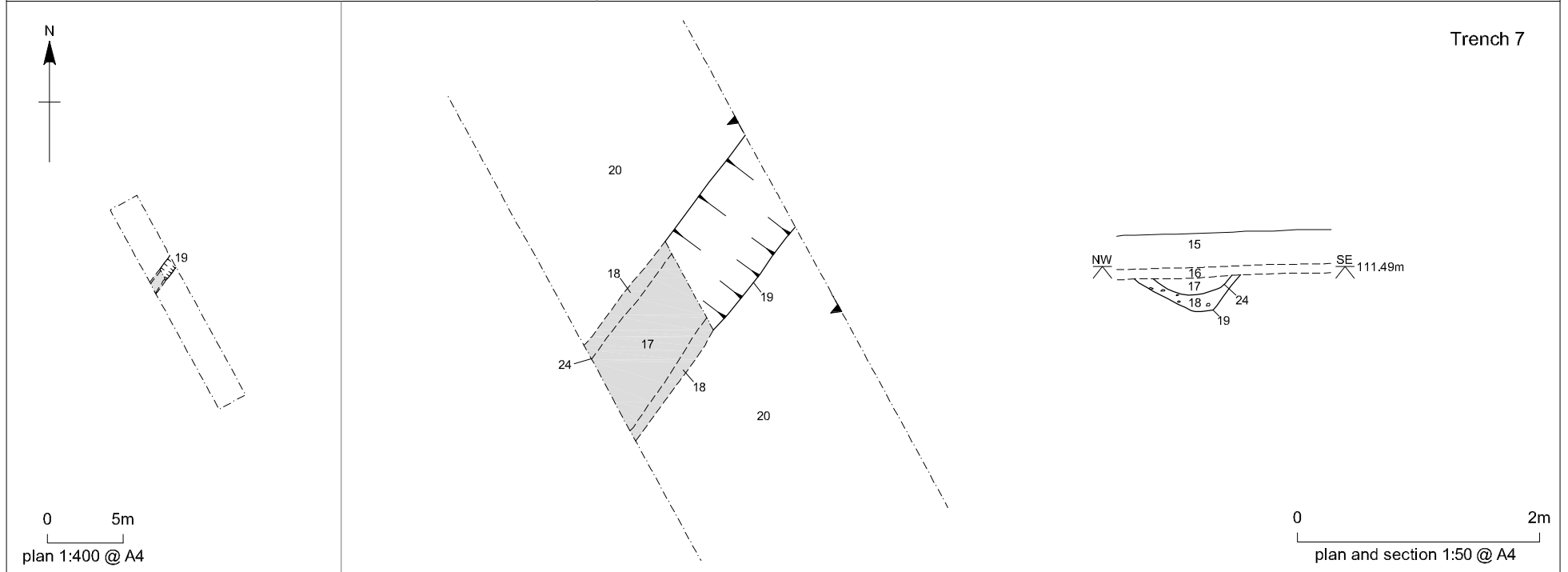
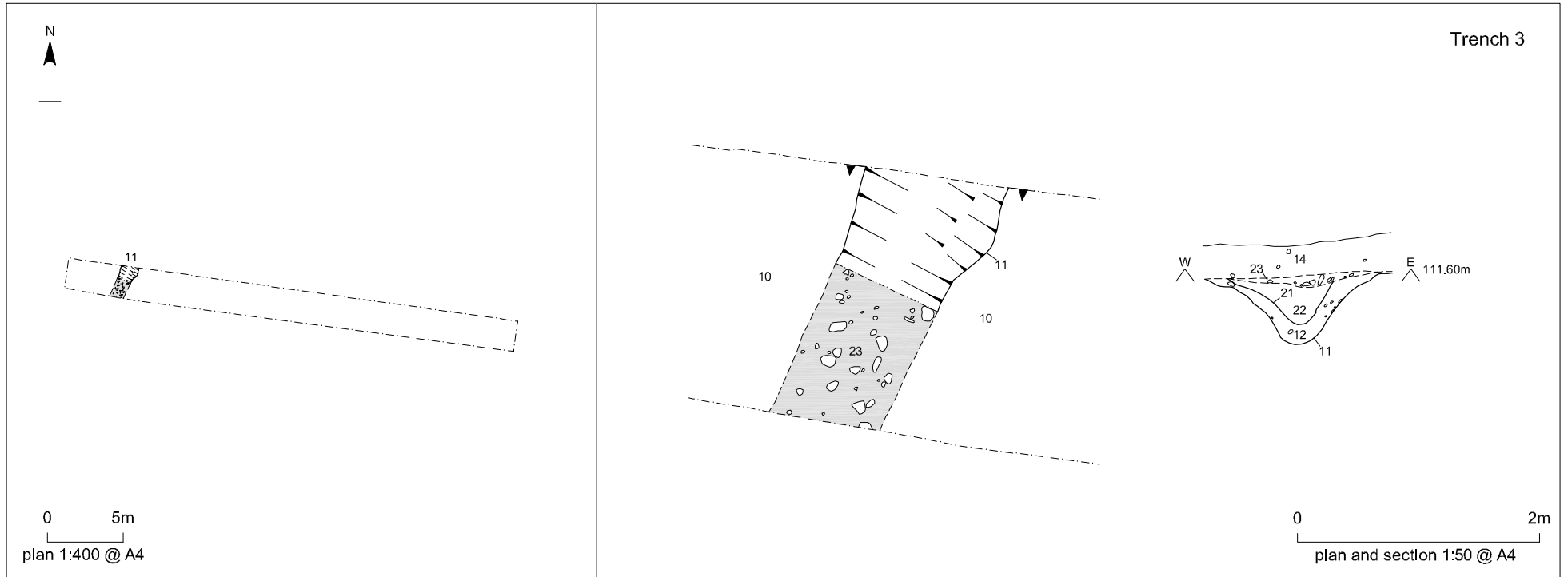
Barforth Grange: trench locations overlain on
geophysical survey results

Figure 3











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Barforth Grange: view of H6 from proposed development area, looking north-east

Plate 1



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Barforth Grange: ditches 26, 28, 37 and possible plough furrow 31, Trench 2

Plate 2



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Barforth Grange: ditches 11 and 21, Trench 3

Plate 3