**BAMBURGH RESEARCH PROJECT** 

# GARDEN HOUSE FELTON NORTHUMBERLAND



# REPORT ON TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Compiled for Mr Glen Mewett by The Bamburgh Research Project: Commercial Projects Section

BRP 19/05b

August 2019

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### SUMMARY

This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) for Mr Glen Mewett during August 2019 and details the results of the trial trench evaluation undertaken at Garden House, Felton, Northumberland during August 2019.

The work was undertaken in compliance with a WSI prepared by BRP in May 2019 in order to fulfil a requirement for an archaeological evaluation in advance of the consideration of the planning application. The present study represents the first phase in a process of archaeological assessment and is intended to assess the need for additional work to be conducted, prior to the submission and determination of a planning decision. The NCC planning reference is 17/00128/PREAPP and the OASIS reference is bamburgh1-364179.

The proposed development area lies in the western part of Felton Village, which is 15km north of Morpeth in east Northumberland and some 1km east of the A1. The site is within a garden to the immediate south of St Michael's Church, centred on grid reference NU 18240 00163 (Figures 1 and 2).

Mesolithic flint tools have been found at Felton Park and these represent the earliest activity in the vicinity of Felton. Neolithic finds include pottery, from a midden pit in the north-west of the village and stone axes. Evidence of activity in the area is also present for the Bronze Age in the form of a stone axe-hammer and a metal axe. There is no clear evidence of farming and settlement from these periods the sites for which remain to be discovered.

Until recent discoveries the early medieval settlement pattern for the Felton area was equally enigmatic, however the discovery of numerous post-holes and gulleys from an unenclosed settlement in the north east of the village in 2016-17 suggests at least one settlement offset from the core if the later medieval village. Dating suggests the settlement flourished in the early to mid Anglo-Saxon period. In the later medieval period the township of Felton contained three recorded settlements, Felton, Old Felton and Acton and was a constituent part of the barony of Mitford (Hodgson 1904, pg 230). I was at Felton that the rebellious barons of Northumberland paid homage to Alexander King of Scots in defiance of King John in 1215. In response to this John reduced the village to ashes soon after during his campaign in the north. Later records demonstrate that it comprised some 1076 acres (IBID, pg 229). Felton bridge dates from medieval times and represents the crossing of the Coquet by the Great North Road between Newcastle and Berwick. The church of St Michael and All Saints that lies directly north of the development site and is also a medieval foundation. The church was in existence by the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century as it was granted by William Bertram of Mitford, who died in 1199, to the canons of Brinkburn Priory. The earliest fabric present is of 13<sup>th</sup> century date. The location of the church well to the west of the line of the river crossing and the core of the medieval village and it can be speculated that this offset was due to the origins of the church as a private chapel for the Bertram family rather than as a village church.

Speed's map of 1610 depicts Felton only in schematic terms and can offer no insight beyond the presence of the village. Armstrong's Map of 1769 (Figure 3) depicts Felton and the adjacent park area in general terms showing the layout of the village along the great North Road and the church to the west of the village core. An estate plan of 1777 shows the church and lands to the south in the area of the proposed development. Here the eastern part of the development appears as wooded. Fryer's Map of 1810 (Figure 4) adds little to our knowledge of the site as does the Tithe Award of 1847, beyond confirming the absence of structures on the development area at that time. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey (c. 1860) (Figure 6) depicts the area in detail as woodland by the river as does the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (c. 1894) and the Land Evaluation of 1910.

Within Trench 1 subsoil (103) was exposed 0.3 to 0.4m below ground level, which was  $\underline{c}$ . 53.8m OD and was a yellow-brown sand. This was overlain towards the last 2m of the west end of the east-west leg of the trench by a layer of medium grey-brown sandy silt that contained numerous sandstone fragments (102), that was up to 0.2m thick. Over the rest of the trench a light red-brown sandy silt layer (101), up to 0.18m thick, was present between the subsoil and topsoil. A modern metal pipe was present on an east to west alignment. The trench was sealed by topsoil (100) a medium grey-brown sandy silt with rare very small stones up to 0.25m thick (Plate 1).

Within Trench 2 subsoil (202), a yellow sand, was exposed within the trench between 0.95m and 0.3m below ground level as the trench sloped very considerably down towards the west. This was overlain by a layer of buried soil (201), comprising a dark red-brown sandy silt up to 0.3m thick. This layer contained two fragments of thick-stemmed clay pipe and a fragment of stoneware of late post-medieval date. This layer was sealed by topsoil (200), a dark grey-brown sandy silt with rare very small stones also 0.25m thick (Plate 2). Two plastic water pipes crossed the trench on broadly north to south alignment.

Subsoil was somewhat variable and likely of glacial origin. It was sealed over much of the site area by a buried soil layer and then topsoil. These layers gained in thickness towards the west as the subsoil sloped downwards. Most noticeably within Trench 2. A rubble deposit was seen at the west end of Trench 1 and as it was not contained in a cut was likely the result of dumping. No early features were present and the few finds and their late date suggests that the site lies some distance from the focus of the early settlement.

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### GARDEN HOUSE FELTON NORTHUMBERLAND REPORT ON TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

# 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) for Mr Glen Mewett during August 2019 and details the results of the trial trench evaluation undertaken at Garden House, Felton, Northumberland during August 2019.
- 1.0.2 The work was undertaken in compliance with a WSI prepared by BRP in May 2019 in order to fulfil a requirement for an archaeological evaluation in advance of the consideration of the planning application. The present study represents the first phase in a process of archaeological assessment and is intended to assess the need for additional work to be conducted, prior to the submission and determination of a planning decision. The NCC planning reference is 17/00128/PREAPP and the OASIS reference is bamburgh1-364179.

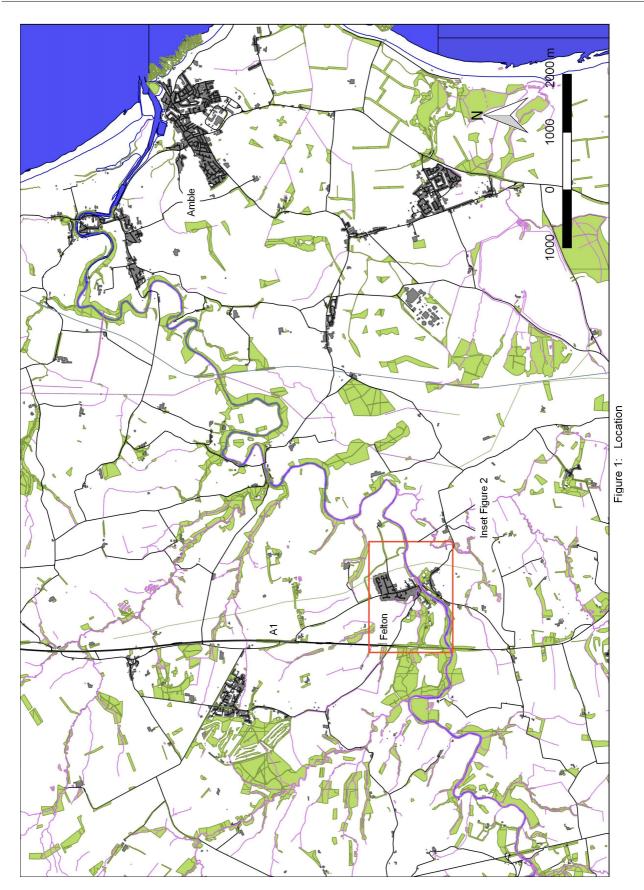
### 2.0 THE SITE

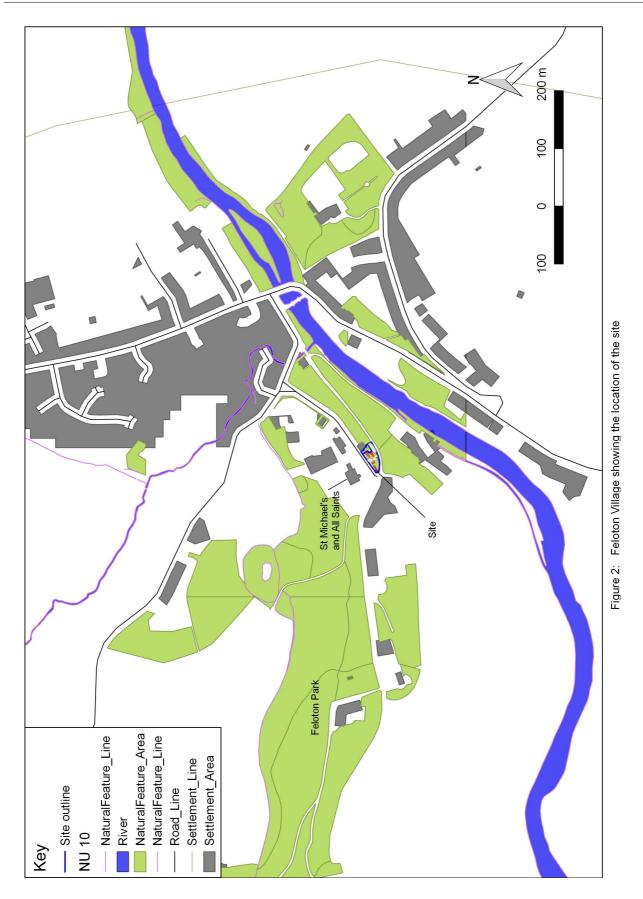
### 2.1 Location

2.1.1 The proposed development area lies in the western part of Felton Village, which is 15km north of Morpeth in east Northumberland and some 1km east of the A1. The site is within a garden to the immediate south of St Michael's Church, centred on grid reference NU 18240 00163 (Figures 1 and 2).

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.0.1 Mesolithic flint tools have been found at Felton Park and these represent the earliest activity in the vicinity of Felton. Neolithic finds include pottery, from a midden pit in the north-west of the village and stone axes. Evidence of activity in the area is also present for the Bronze Age in the form of a stone axe-hammer and a metal axe. There is no clear evidence of farming and settlement from these periods the sites for which remain to be discovered.
- 3.0.2 Iron Age and Roman period finds and settlements are even more enigmatic than the Bronze Age and Neolithic but logically should be present in the area awaiting discovery.
- 3.0.3 Until recent discoveries the early medieval settlement pattern for the Felton area was equally enigmatic, however the discovery of numerous post-holes and gulleys from an unenclosed settlement in the north east of the village in 2016-17 suggests at least one settlement offset from the core if the later medieval village. Dating suggests the settlement flourished in the early to mid Anglo-Saxon period.





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3.0.4 In the later medieval period the township of Felton contained three recorded settlements, Felton, Old Felton and Acton and was a constituent part of the barony of Mitford (Hodgson 1904, pg 230). I was at Felton that the rebellious barons of Northumberland paid homage to Alexander King of Scots in defiance of King John in 1215. In response to this John reduced the village to ashes soon after during his campaign in the north. Later records demonstrate that it comprised some 1076 acres (IBID, pg 229). Felton bridge dates from medieval times and represents the crossing of the Coquet by the Great North Road between Newcastle and Berwick. The church of St Michael and All Saints that lies directly north of the development site and is also a medieval foundation. The church was in existence by the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century as it was granted by William Bertram of Mitford, who died in 1199, to the canons of Brinkburn Priory. The earliest fabric present is of 13<sup>th</sup> century date. The location of the church well to the west of the line of the river crossing and the core of the medieval village and it can be speculated that this offset was due to the origins of the church as a private chapel for the Bertram family rather than as a village church.

# 3.1 Cartographic evidence

3.1.1 Speed's map of 1610 depicts Felton only in schematic terms and can offer no insight beyond the presence of the village. Armstrong's Map of 1769 (Figure 3) depicts Felton and the adjacent park area in general terms showing the layout of the village along the great North Road and the church to the west of the village core. An estate plan of 1777 shows the church and lands to the south in the area of the proposed development. Here the eastern part of the development appears as wooded. Fryer's Map of 1810 (Figure 4) adds little to our knowledge of the site as does the Tithe Award of 1847, beyond confirming the absence of structures on the development area at that time. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey (*c*. 1860) (Figure 6) depicts the area in detail as woodland by the river as does the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (*c*. 1894) and the Land Evaluation of 1910.

# 4.0 IMPACT OF THE DEVELOPMENT

- 4.0.1 It is by no means certain that the medieval settlement of Felton extended into the area of the proposed development beyond the presence of the medieval church to its immediate north. As the relationship between the church location and the village itself is not well understood and further research would be needed to understand this.
- 4.0.2 Later cartographic evidence would suggest that the site area, in the post medieval to the present time, was enclosed but not settled ground often with a substantial woodland content.
- 4.0.3 It is clear, due to the historic nature of the area that the new development will have the potential to impact on preserved archaeological remains and that the proposed trial trenching evaluation will advance our understanding of the potential impact of the development and further aid the formation of a mitigation strategy.

# 5.0 METHODOLOGY

# 5.1 Trial Trench Evaluation

5.1.1 The evaluation will comprise the investigation two trial trenches representing 25m<sup>2</sup> in area (approximately 10% of the site area), located to investigate the areas most likely to be impacted by the footprint of the building and also distributed to provide a representative

sample of the site. This represents a reduction from the WSI following an update of the area of potential area that may be impacted by the development.

- 5.1.3 All work was to be carried out in compliance with the codes of conduct of the Certified Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and will follow their Standard and Guidance for Excavation (CIfA 2014) and Field Excavation (CIfA 2014).
- 5.1.4 The excavation of the trenches was undertaken by machine under archaeological supervision for the removal of the topsoil and overburden to the first sensitive archaeological horizon after which all excavation would be undertaken by hand.

### 5.2 General standards

5.2.1 All archaeological features identified will be sample excavated according to their type and form.

50% of all discrete features. 25% of the area of a linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill. 10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a uniform fill.

- 5.2.2 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample will be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 5.2.3 Secure contexts will be sampled for dating where appropriate, whether on site or as sub samples of bulk samples. Any concentrations of charcoal or other carbonised material recovered on site will usually be retained.
- 5.2.4 Pottery and animal bone will be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. All finds will be recorded and processed according to the BRP system and submitted for post-excavation assessment. Finds recovery and storage strategies will be in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995 and Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials CifA 2014). Should artefacts of gold or silver covered by the 1996 Treasure Act be recovered, appropriate procedures will be followed.
- 5.2.5 In the event of Human burials being revealed they will be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner. After consultation with the County Archaeological Officer, if excavation is required, work will comply with the relevant home Office regulations.
- 5.2.6 Any archaeological features encountered will be hand-cleaned, excavated and recorded:
  - 1. A digital photographic record will be compiled and provision made for deposition with the ADS as part of the site archive.
  - 2. A written description of features will be recorded using the BRP *pro forma* context recording system.
  - 3. All features will be drawn at an appropriate scale using pre-printed permatrace. Plans will normally be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10.
- 5.2.7 All archaeological features and horizons will be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.

5.2.8 Arrangements will be made with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive within 6 month of the completion of the post-excavation report.

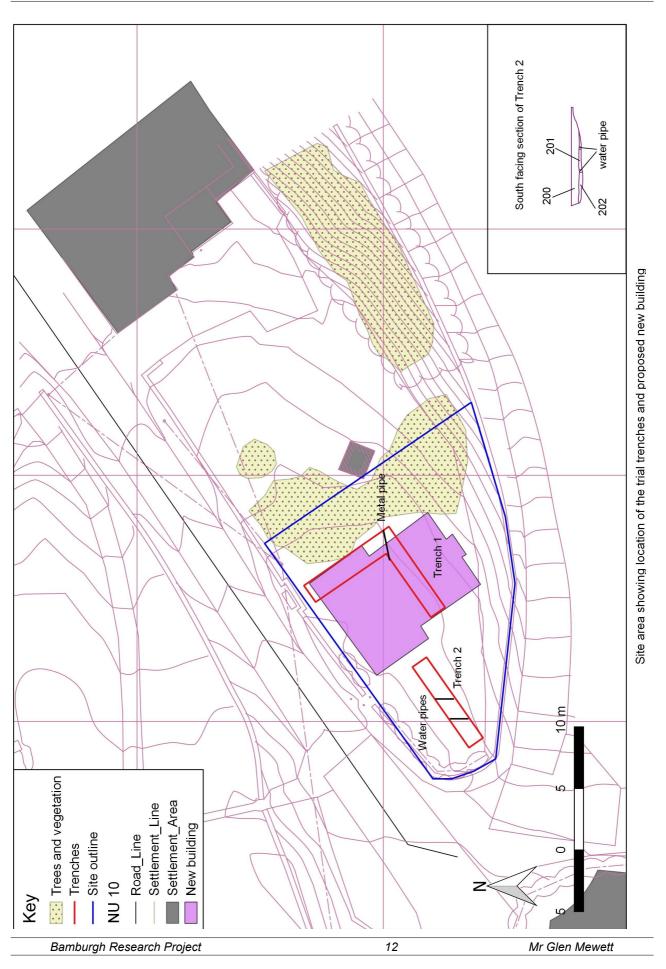
# 6.0 EXCAVATION RESULTS

# 6.1 Trench 1

6.1.1 Subsoil (103) within the trench was exposed 0.3 to 0.4m below ground level (which was c. 53.8m OD) and was a yellow-brown sand. This was overlain towards the last 2m of the west end of the east-west leg of the trench by a layer of medium grey-brown sandy silt that contained numerous sandstone fragments (102), that was up to 0.2m thick. Over the rest of the trench a light red-brown sandy silt layer (101), up to 0.18m thick, was present between the subsoil and topsoil. A modern metal pipe was present on an east to west alignment. The trench was sealed by topsoil (100) a medium grey-brown sandy silt with rare very small stones up to 0.25m thick (Plate 1).



Plate 1: Trench 1, north leg on left, facing south and south leg facing east on the right



# 6.2 Trench 2

6.2.1 Subsoil (202), a yellow sand, was exposed within the trench between 0.95m and 0.3m below ground level as the trench sloped very considerably down towards the west. This was overlain by a layer of buried soil (201), comprising a dark red-brown sandy silt up to 0.3m thick. This layer contained two fragments of thick-stemmed clay pipe and a fragment of stoneware of late post-medieval date. This layer was sealed by topsoil (200) a dark grey-brown sandy silt with rare very small stones also 0.25m thick (Plate 2). Two plastic water pipes crossed the trench on broadly north to south alignment.



Plate 2: Trench 2, facing east

# 7.0 DISCUSSION

7.0.1 Subsoil was somewhat variable and likely of glacial origin. It was sealed over much of the site area by a buried soil layer and then topsoil. These layers gained in thickness towards the west as the subsoil sloped downwards. Most noticeably within Trench 2. A rubble deposit was seen at the west end of Trench 1 and as it was not contained in a cut it was likely the result of dumping. A metal pipe was present at the base of Trench 1 extending east to west and two plastic pipes were present on a north to south alignment across trench 2. No early features were present and the few finds, and their late date, suggests that the site lies some distance from the focus of the early settlement.

# 8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.0.1 There are no features or finds to indicate prehistoric, Roman or medieval activity in the area of the trenches. Although close to the medieval church, this lay well to the west of the main focus of the medieval village and it seems that it had at earlier times stood in some isolation from the main settlement.

Text and illustrations: Graeme Young BRP 19/05b

August 2019

# REFERENCES

### Published and unpublished sources

BRP 2000	Finds Manual, 2000		
BRP 2013	Health and Safety Document		
CifA 2014	Codes of Conduct		
CifA 2014	Standard and Guidance for Excavation.		
CifA 2014	Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation		
CifA 2014	Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation,		
	conservation and research of archaeological materials		
English Heritage	1991 Management of Archaeological Projects 2, 1991.		

English Heritage 1995 *A strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds*. Ancient Monuments Laboratory.

Historic England 2015 Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide

Hodgson, J. C. 1904 *History of Northumberland, Volume VII, the parish of Edlingham, the parish of Felton, the parish of Brinkburn.* 

Petts, David & Christopher Gerrard. 2006. *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham: Durham County Council.

#### APPENDIX I:

#### **Ceramic finds**

Two small fragments of clay pipe stem were recovered from context 202 along with a single plain sherd of stoneware.

The two clay pipe stems measured 57mm by 9mm in diameter and 40mm by 11mm in diameter respectively. Neither displayed any stamp or decoration.

The single sherd of stoneware displayed a broad curve of a substantial but otherwise straight sided vessel. Three shallow ribs formed a decoration and it was glazed inside and out, with a metallic green glaze exterior. The size was too small and the sherd too plain to be dated, but it is likely to be post-medieval

#### **APPENDIX II:**

#### GARDEN HOUSE FELTON NORTHUMBERLAND

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION WRITTEN SCHEDULE OF INVESTIGATION

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.0.1 This document has been compiled by The Bamburgh Research Project (BRP) for Mr Glen Mewett during May 2019 and comprises a Written Schedule of Investigation for the trial trench evaluation of a site at Garden House, Felton, Northumberland, currently proposed for a single house development.
- 1.0.2 The document has been prepared in order to fulfil a requirement for an archaeological evaluation in advance of the consideration of the planning application, and in order to inform the decision. The present study represents the first phase in a process of archaeological assessment. It will provide evidence to inform the design process and also to assess the need for additional work to be conducted, prior to the submission and determination of an application.

#### 2.0 THE SITE

#### 2.1 Location

2.1.1 The proposed development area lies in the western part of Felton Village, which is 15km north of Morpeth in east Northumberland and some 1km east of the A1. The site is within a garden to the immediate south of St Michael's Church, centred on grid reference NU 18240 00163 (Figures 1 and 2).

#### 1.2 Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 Mesolithic flint tools have been found at Felton Park and these represent the earliest activity in the vicinity of Felton. Neolithic finds include pottery, from a midden pit in the north-west of the village and stone axes. Evidence of activity in the area is also present for the Bronze Age in the form of a stone axe-hammer and a metal axe. There is no clear evidence of farming and settlement from these periods the sites for which remain to be discovered.
- 2.2.2 Iron Age and Roman period finds and settlements are even more enigmatic than the Bronze Age and Neolithic but logically should be present in the area awaiting discovery.
- 2.2.3 Until recent discoveries the early medieval settlement pattern for the Felton area was equally enigmatic, however the discovery of numerous post-holes and gulleys from an unenclosed settlement in the north east of the village in 2016-17 suggests at least one settlement offset from the core if the later medieval village. Dating suggests the settlement flourished in the early to mid Anglo-Saxon period.
- 2.2.4 In the later medieval period the township of Felton contained three recorded settlements, Felton, Old Felton and Acton and was a constituent part of the barony of Mitford (Hodgson 1904, pg 230). I was at Felton that the rebellious barons of Northumberland paid homage to Alexander King of Scots in defiance of King John in 1215. In response to this John reduced the village to ashes soon after during his campaign in the north. Later records demonstrate that it comprised some 1076 acres (IBID, pg 229). Felton bridge dates from medieval times and represents the crossing of the Coquet by the Great North Road between Newcastle and Berwick. The church of St Michael and All Saints that lies directly north of the development site and is also a medieval foundation. The church was in existence by the end of the 12<sup>th</sup> century as it was granted by William Bertram of Mitford, who died in 1199, to the canons of Brinkburn Priory. The earliest fabric present is of 13<sup>th</sup> century date. The location of the church well to the west of the line of the river crossing and the core of the medieval village and it can be speculated that this offset was due to the origins of the church as a private chapel for the Bertram family rather than as a village church.

#### 2.3 Cartographic evidence

2.3.1 Speed's map of 1610 depicts Felton only in schematic terms and can offer no insight beyond the presence of the village. Armstrong's Map of 1769 (Figure 3) depicts Felton and the adjacent park area in general terms

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showing the layout of the village along the great North Road and the church to the west of the village core. An estate plan of 1777 shows the church and lands to the south in the area of the proposed development. Here the eastern part of the development appears as wooded. Fryer's Map of 1810 (Figure 4) adds little to our knowledge of the site as does the Tithe Award of 1847, beyond confirming the absence of structures on the development area at that time. The 1<sup>st</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey (*c*. 1860) (Figure 6) depicts the area in detail as woodland by the river as does the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (*c*. 1894) and the Land Evaluation of 1910.

#### 2.4 Impact of the development

- 2.4.1 It is by no means certain that the medieval settlement of Felton extended into the are of the proposed development beyond the presence of the medieval church to its immediate north. As the relationship between the church location and the village itself is not well understood and further research would be needed to understand this.
- 2.4.2 Later cartographic evidence would suggest that the site area in the post medieval to the present time was enclosed but not settled ground often with a substantial woodland content.
- 2.4.3 It is clear, due to the historic nature of the area that the new development will have the potential to impact on preserved archaeological remains and that the proposed trial trenching evaluation will advance our understanding of the potential impact of the development and further aid the formation of a mitigation strategy.

#### 3.0 OBJECTIVES

- 3.0.1 The objective of the evaluation is to investigate the archaeological potential of the development area by the excavation of five trial trenches, totalling 35m in length by 2m, and representing 70m<sup>2</sup> in area. As no information is available at present to define the build area in any detail the trenches are to be located to provide a wide coverage of the development area, with an emphasis on the level central area most likely to be impacted by the new structures and access arrangements (Figure 7).
- 3.0.2 The excavation of the trial trenches will identify the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the development area. Any archaeological material encountered will be sampled in order to establish the location, extent, date and nature of any areas of archaeological activity and the degree of preservation of any remains encountered.
- 3.0.3 The results of the evaluation will enable the impact of the proposed development on any deposits of archaeological significance to be more accurately assessed in order that an appropriate mitigation strategy can be devised.

#### 4.0 METHODOLOGY

#### 4.1 Watching brief during excavation

- 4.1.1 The evaluation will comprise the investigation of 70m<sup>2</sup> (approximately 5%) of the site area within two trial trenches, located to investigate the areas most likely to be impacted by the footprint of the building and also distributed to provide a representative sample of the site.
- 4.1.3 All work will be carried out in compliance with the codes of conduct of the Certified Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014) and will follow their Standard and Guidance for Excavation (CIfA 2014) and Field Excavation (CIfA 2014).
- 4.1.4 Topsoil and unstratified modern material will be removed mechanically by a machine using a toothless ditching bucket, under direct supervision of an appropriate member of the archaeological staff. Machine excavation will be undertaken in successive shallow spits down to the first significant archaeological horizon or to the natural

subsoil. Once significant archaeological deposits or subsoil is encountered the trench, including all relevant sections, will be cleaned to an archaeological standard so that features can be identified. All further excavation will be conducted by hand.

#### 4.2 General standards

4.2.1 All archaeological features identified will be sample excavated according to their type and form.

50% of all discrete features. 25% of the area of a linear/curvilinear features with a non-uniform fill. 10% of the area of linear/curvilinear features with a uniform fill.

- 4.2.2 A 40 litre bulk palaeoenvironmental sample will be taken from all features recognised as suitable for the preservation of palaeoenvironmental remains.
- 4.2.3 Secure contexts will be sampled for dating where appropriate, whether on site or as sub samples of bulk samples. Any concentrations of charcoal or other carbonised material recovered on site will usually be retained.
- 4.2.4 Pottery and animal bone will be collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts will be three-dimensionally recorded prior to processing. All finds will be recorded and processed according to the BRP system and submitted for post-excavation assessment. Finds recovery and storage strategies will be in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995 and Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials CifA 2014). Should artefacts of gold or silver covered by the 1996 Treasure Act be recovered, appropriate procedures will be followed.
- 4.2.5 In the event of Human burials being revealed they will be left *in situ* and treated in an appropriate manner. After consultation with the County Archaeological Officer, if excavation is required, work will comply with the relevant home Office regulations.
- 4.2.6 Any archaeological features encountered will be hand-cleaned, excavated and recorded:
  - 1. A photographic record will be taken using black and white print, colour slide film at 35mm format. In addition a digital photographic record will be compiled and provision
  - 2. made for deposition with the ADS as part of the site archive.
  - 3. A written description of features will be recorded using the BRP pro forma context recording system.
  - 4. All features will be drawn at an appropriate scale using pre-printed permatrace. Plans will normally be drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at a scale of 1:10.
- 4.2.7 All archaeological features and horizons will be accurately tied into the Ordnance Survey grid. All levels will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.
- 4.2.8 Arrangements will be made with the appropriate museum for the deposition of the site archive within 6 month of the completion of the post-excavation report.

#### 5.0 CONTINGENCY

5.0.1 A contingency has been allowed within the evaluation program to allow for the excavation of an additional 5m by 2m of trenches, in order to answer particular issues that may arise during fieldwork. This additional work will be undertaken after discussion with, and with the agreement of the client and the Assistant County Archaeological Officer.

#### 6.0 MONITORING

- 5.1 Access will be made available at all reasonable times to the archaeological representatives of the Northumberland County council Conservation Team to inspect the excavation site.
- 5.2 Access to the site will be on the basis of prior notification and subject to any relevant health and safety considerations.

#### 6.0 POST-EXCAVATION WORK, ARCHIVE AND REPORT COMPILATION

- 6.1 On completion of the excavation an assessment of the site records and finds will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage (1991) guidelines. This will include:
  - collation of all site records
  - compilation of a report
  - production of context, photographic, finds and illustration databases

- analysis of the finds assemblage by relevant specialists
- environmental assessment of selected bulk samples
- 6.2 The assessment report, with each page and paragraph numbered and with cross referenced illustrations, will include:
  - summary of the project background
  - site location
  - methodology
  - results of the watching brief
  - site location plans and illustrations of results at appropriate scales
  - interpretation of the results in an appropriate context
  - post-excavation assessment of the site archive
  - catalogue and assessment of the artefactual archive
  - catalogue and assessment of the faunal remains
  - catalogue and assessment of the palaeoenvironmental samples recovered
  - appendix containing a list and summary of each recorded context
- 6.3 A copy of the report should be submitted by the archaeologist to the commissioning client, and the County Council Conservation Team within 15 working days of completion of the work. A summary will be prepared for 'Archaeology in Northumberland' and an article will be submitted to a local or national journal if appropriate.
- 6.4 The site archive will be prepared to the standard specified in the Management of Archaeological Projects, appendix 3 (HBMC 1991) and in accordance with the Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990). A summary account of the context record will be included and written by the supervising archaeologist. The archive will be deposited at the specified museum within 6 months of completion of the work on site.
- 6.5 An online OASIS form will be completed for the project as part of the post-excavation assessment process.

#### 7.0 PERSONNEL

- 7.1 The designated project manager Graeme Young, is one of the five directors of the Bamburgh Research Project. A graduate of Newcastle University, with 30 years of experience in field archaeology including directing a number of excavations of urban medieval sites in Newcastle and Durham.
- 7.2 The excavation of the trial trenches will be undertaken over a period of four working days. Additional field staff, with appropriate archaeological experience, will be engaged as required. Resources have been allocated for a site supervisor and a site assistant with provision of a second site assistant for four days should they be required. An additional five person days has been set aside should additional trenching be required.

#### 8.0 SUB-CONTRACTED SPECIALISTS

8.0.1 Although it is not possible to predict the range of artefacts that may be recovered provision has been made for the analysis of the most common artefacts.

Material	Specialist
Medieval pottery	Jenny Vaughan
Post-medieval pottery	Jenny Vaughan
Prehistoric pottery	Blaise Vyner
Roman Pottery	Blaise Vyner/ John Dore
Animal bone	Durham University Archaeological Services
Palaeoenvironmental	Durham University Archaeological Services
Conservation	Karen Barker

#### 9.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 9.0.1 The Bamburgh Research Project complies with the 1974 Health and Safety Act and its subsequent amendments in all its operations. The SCAUM manual and the Bamburgh Research Project Health and Safety Policy Document is followed for all site works. A designated and appropriately trained first aider is present at all times during working hours. A First Aid kit, Accident Book and telephone are provided for each project. Safety footwear is mandatory on all excavation sites. Where required safety helmets and reflective jackets are provided. It is policy for a vehicle to be present at an excavation and staff must be appropriately equipped for bad weather.
- 9.0.2 All staff undergo a safety induction prior to commencing work on site. A written risk assessment is undertaken specific for each site. The safety assessment is reviewed on a daily basis and changes to the working conditions monitored continually during adverse weather conditions.

Text: Graeme Young. BRP 19/05a

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Bamburgh Research Project