

ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
DURHAM UNIVERSITY

on behalf of  
Acorn Diary

Garthorne Farm  
Archdeacon Newton  
Darlington

archaeological monitoring

report 4111  
June 2016

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## **1. Summary**

### **The project**

- 1.1 This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief conducted during a development at Garthorne Farm, Archdeacon Newton, Darlington, County Durham. The works comprised the monitoring of a topsoil strip prior to the construction of a new cattle shed.
- 1.2 The works were commissioned by Acorn Dairy and conducted by Archaeological Services Durham University.

### **Results**

- 1.3 Ridge and furrow, the remains of medieval ploughing, were recorded throughout the trench, cutting into the subsoil. The profile of these is retained *in situ* beneath the development.
- 1.4 A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil.

### **Recommendation**

- 1.5 No further works on the archaeological resource identified is recommended.

## 2. Project background

### Location (Figure 1)

- 2.1 The site is located at Garthorne, Farm, Archdeacon, Darlington, County Durham (NGR centre: NZ 25474 17381). It covers an area of approximately 0.2ha. Farm buildings were immediately to the west and south, with agricultural land to the north and east. The development was within a scheduled monument, a deserted manorial settlement (Monument no: 1015841).

### Development

- 2.2 The proposed development comprises the construction of an agricultural building.

### Objective

- 2.3 The objective of the monitoring programme was to identify and record any archaeological features or artefacts uncovered during groundworks.
- 2.4 The regional research framework (Petts & Gerrard 2006) contains an agenda for archaeological research in the region, which is incorporated into regional planning policy implementation with respect to archaeology. In this instance, the scheme of works was designed to address agenda items MDi: Later medieval settlement, and MDI Later medieval Landscape.

### Specification

- 2.5 The works have been undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation provided by Archaeological Services Durham University (reference DS16.37r). Scheduled Monument Consent had been granted for the works (ref no. 500125432).

### Dates

- 2.6 Fieldwork was undertaken between 8th and 15th March 2016. This report was prepared for June 2016.

### Personnel

- 2.7 Fieldwork was conducted by Alan Rae and Patricia Voke. This report was prepared by Patricia Voke, and edited by Peter Carne, with graphics by Janine Watson. Specialist reporting was conducted by J Jones (ceramics). The Project Manager was Daniel Still.

### Archive/OASIS

- 2.8 The site code is **DAN16**, for **Darlington Archdeacon Newton 2016**. The archive is currently held by Archaeological Services Durham University and will be transferred to Bowes Museum in due course. Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS** project (**OASIS**). The OASIS ID number for this project is **archaeol3-256149**.

## 3. Landuse, topography and geology

- 3.1 At the time of archaeological monitoring, the proposed development area comprised one field of pasture.

- 3.2 The area was predominantly level with a mean elevation of approximately 62m OD. Ridge and furrow earthworks, oriented approximately east-west, were present across much of the site, with a low earthen bank oriented north-south in the east.
- 3.3 The underlying solid geology of the area comprises Late Permian dolostone of the Ford Formation, which is overlain by Devensian till (BGS 2015).

## **4. Archaeological and historical background**

### **Previous archaeological works**

- 4.1 Archaeological Services have completed several schemes of archaeological work at Archdeacon Newton. Most recently archaeological monitoring was conducted directly east of the site for a cable trench which identified no archaeological features (Archaeological Services 2015a). Geomagnetic and earth electrical resistance surveys were conducted on site (Archaeological Services 2015b) the results of which detected agricultural features associated with the manorial settlement of Archdeacon Newton.
- 4.2 Geomagnetic surveys have previously been conducted 500m to the east of the site in 2010 and 2015 (Archaeological Services 2010, 2015c); extensive ridge and furrow was detected. It is probable that the area was utilised in the medieval and post-medieval periods as agricultural land by the settlement at Archdeacon Newton.

### **The prehistoric period (up to AD 70)**

- 4.3 There is no direct evidence of prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the works but there is evidence from this period in the wider area, including a Bronze Age barrow at Carlbury to the south-west.

### **The Roman period (AD 70 to 5th century)**

- 4.4 Archdeacon Newton lies to the west of the Roman fort and bridge at Piercebridge. There are no known Roman sites or recorded find spots within the immediate vicinity of the site.

### **The medieval period (5th century to 1540)**

- 4.5 The development area is part of the scheduled area for the site of Archdeacon Newton Moated site (Monument No: 1015841). The site includes the remains of a medieval settlement, a moated manorial site and ridge and furrow. The remains of Archdeacon of Durham's manor are contained within an irregularly-shaped enclosure. The enclosure measures 365m north to south and 210m east to west and is bounded by a bank and remnants of an outer ditch. Several extensive earthworks, building remains and a section of medieval ridge and furrow cultivation can be found upstanding at the site (Historic England 2015).

### **The post-medieval to modern period (1541 to present)**

- 4.6 In 1894, the land at Archdeacon Newton was owned by the Church Commissioners, and the population had dwindled to 52, from 72 in 1801. The village is now split between Hall Farm in the south and Townend Farm and Acorn Dairy complex to the west and north. A terrace of four late 19th-century houses stands in the centre, to the west of a small green. The surrounding land has remained as agricultural land since the medieval period.

## **5. The archaeological monitoring (Figures 2-5)**

- 5.1 The trench measured approximately 50m by 36m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1m. The excavation was undertaken using a 360° backhoe excavator and a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The site was excavated in two sections, with the western half excavated first followed by the eastern. Topsoil was stripped to reveal a series of parallel plough ridges and furrows at a depth of 0.4m. The profiles of the ridge and furrow were preserved *in situ*, and then covered in terram and stoned up.
- 5.2 Natural subsoil, an orange boulder clay [2], was identified as a depth of 0.4m throughout the length of the trench. Cut into the natural subsoil was a series of parallel, unevenly spaced linear plough furrows from former ridge and furrow cultivation [F3: 1m wide, depth 0.4m], spaced approximately 5-7m apart. The furrows were approximately 19m in length and aligned broadly east/west. The eastern extent of the furrows was defined by a shallow earthen bank oriented north/south, with the bank continuing outside the trench to the east. The furrows were filled with a dark grey-yellow-brown silty clay loam [4]. The furrows were beneath the topsoil [1: 0.4m deep], a dark grey-brown clay loam.
- 5.3 A single sherd of pottery was recovered from the topsoil [1] and was identified as medieval.

## **6. The artefacts**

### **Pottery**

#### **Results**

- 6.1 A single body sherd (<5g wt) was recovered from context [1]. This is medieval and unglazed, with oxidised pale orange/buff outer and pale grey inner surfaces. The edges are rather abraded, indicating movement within the burial environment.

#### **Recommendation**

- 6.2 No further work is recommended.

## **7. The palaeoenvironmental evidence**

- 7.1 No material suitable for palaeoenvironmental assessment was identified during the course of the works.

## **8. The archaeological resource**

- 8.1 Ridge and furrow, the remains of medieval ploughing, were recorded throughout the trench, cutting into the subsoil.
- 8.2 A single sherd of medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil.
- 8.3 The regional research framework (Petts & Gerrard 2006) contains an agenda for archaeological research in the region, which is incorporated into regional planning policy implementation with respect to archaeology. In this instance, the archaeological resource address agenda items MDi: Later medieval settlement, and MDI Later medieval Landscape.

## 9. Recommendations

- 9.1 No further works on the archaeological resource identified is recommended.

## 10. Sources

- Archaeological Services 2010 *West Park, Faverdale, Darlington: geophysical survey*. Unpublished report **2483**, Archaeological Services Durham University
- Archaeological Services 2015a *Acorn Dairy, Archdeacon Newton, County Durham: archaeological monitoring*. Unpublished report **3753**, Archaeological Services Durham University
- Archaeological Services 2015b *Archdeacon Newton, Darlington: geophysical survey*. Unpublished report **3778**, Archaeological Services Durham University
- Archaeological Services 2015c *West Park, Faverdale, Darlington: geophysical survey*. Unpublished report **3730**, Archaeological Services Durham University
- BGS 2015 online *Geology of Britain viewer* available from:  
<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> accessed 07-4-2016
- Historic England 2015 online *List entry Summary* available from:  
<http://list.historicengland.org.uk/> accessed 20-04-2016
- Keys to the Past 2015 <http://www.keystothepast.info> accessed 20-04-2016
- Petts, D, & Gerrard, C, 2006 *Shared Visions: The North-East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment*. Durham

## Appendix 1: Data table

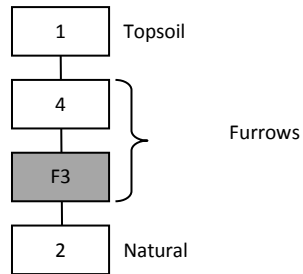
**Table 1.1: Context data**

The • symbols in the columns at the right indicate the presence of artefacts of the following types: P pottery, B bone, M metals, F flint, I industrial residues, G glass, C ceramic building material, O other materials.

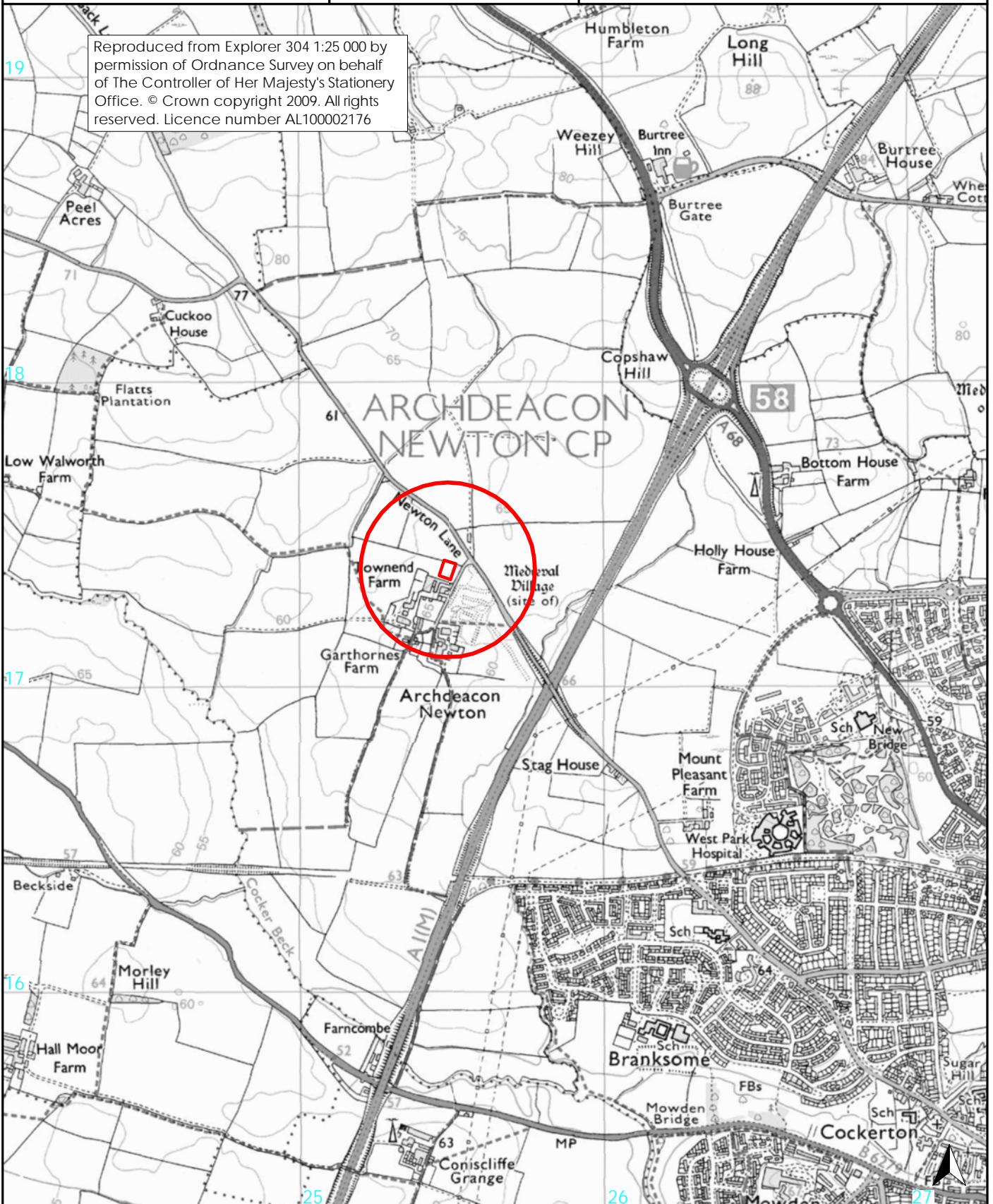
No	Area	Description	P	B	M	F	I	G	C	O
1	1	Topsoil	•							
2	1	Natural								
F3	1	Ridge and furrow								
4	1	Fill of furrow								



## Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrix



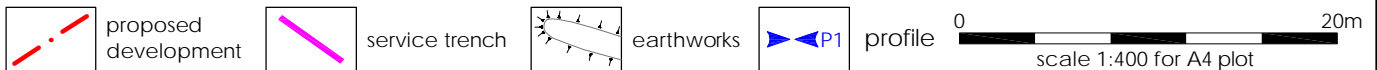
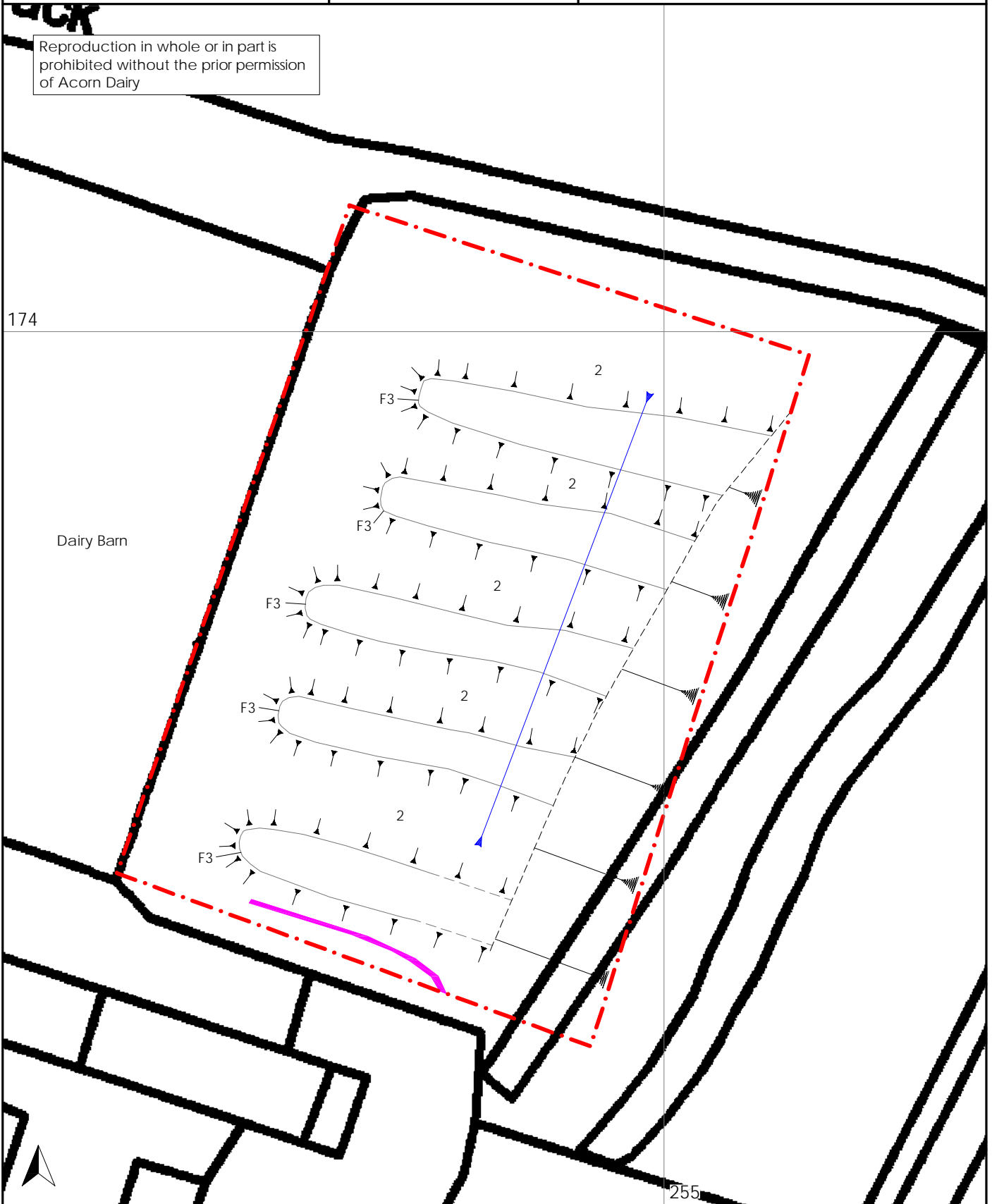
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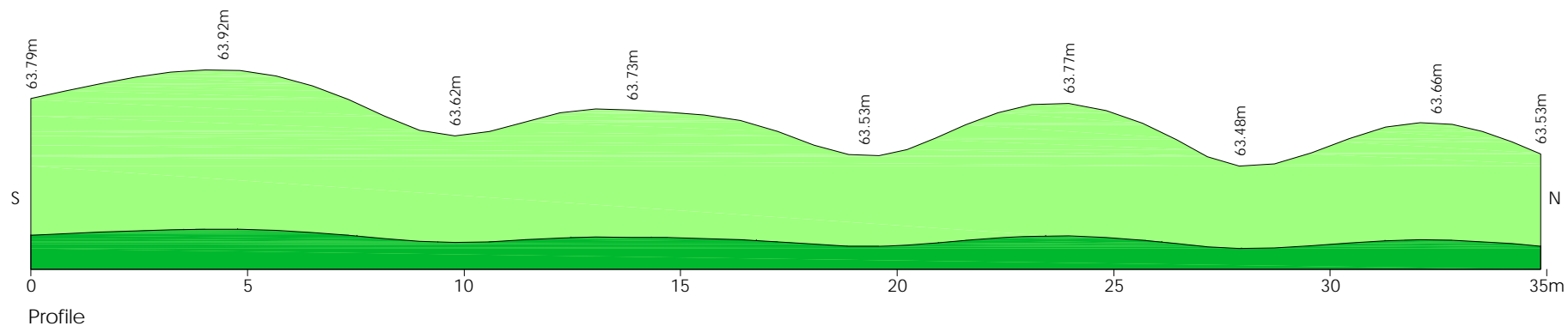


 site location

0 800m  
scale 1:17 500 for A4 plot

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Figure 3: Profile of preserved ridge and furrow



profile x1



profile x5



scale 1:150 for A4 plot



Figure 4: The western half of the site after excavation, looking north



Figure 5: The eastern half of the site after excavation, looking north