

The Swaledale Project: excavation at Hagg site 101

Method statement PC11.311

on behalf of  
SWAAG

**1. Project background**

- 1.1 A programme of archaeological works is planned over the next few years as part of The Swaledale Project. One aspect of this is an evaluation trench to be excavated across house platform 03 at Hagg site 101. This document comprises a methods statement for this excavation.
- 1.2 The project is a community archaeology project run by SWAAG with professional support provided by Archaeological Services Durham University.

**2. Capability statement**  
**Archaeological Services**

- 2.1 Archaeological Services completes over 300 projects each year. We specialise in the archaeology of the northern region. We provide an integrated range of in-house specialist services and laboratories, which are regularly contracted by numerous external archaeological and environmental organisations. These comprise the Geophysical Survey Service, Topographical Survey Service, Environmental Archaeology Service, Conservation and Artefact Service, and Historic Buildings Service.
- 2.2 Archaeological Services is committed to engaging with local communities, and has an extensive programme of community projects and outreach activity, in fulfilment of the University's objectives in the region. We have conducted and funded a wide range of community projects, often in partnership with other organisations. We conduct an extensive programme of lectures to community groups, and the popular publication of these through regional media appearances, through notices and presentations. Examples of our community works include:
- The Warden Long Mound project, a programme of archaeological excavation and survey funded through Archaeological Services and conducted in conjunction with Tynedale Volunteers
  - The Wark historic town atlas project, collating the history of Wark on behalf of the local community and in conjunction with community volunteers
  - Geophysical survey training for numerous community groups, for example in Tynedale (The Historic Yew Project), in Tyne and Wear for the Friends of North Gosforth Chapel, in Teesside at Norton through Tees Archaeology, in Stockton for the Friends of Linthorpe Cemetery, in

Holystone for the Holystone History Group, in Lanchester for the Friends of Longovicium, and for the Friends of Hob Moor near York

- Conducting major community excavation projects for the Coquetdale Community Archaeology Project, at Harehaugh Long Cairn in 2005 and at Low Trehwitt Deserted Medieval Village in 2006, for the Northumberland National Park Authority
- The four year Sedgefield Community Archaeology Project based at East Park, Sedgefield, initiated and funded through Archaeological Services and conducted in partnership with Durham County Council.
- The 'Dig Bede' project, initiated and funded through Archaeological Services and conducted in partnership with Bede's World: this project was designed to engage with disadvantaged young people from the region in discovering their heritage, and incorporated a week-long programme of archaeological excavation and geophysical survey, historical research, and the reconstruction of an Anglo-Saxon pottery kiln.
- An excavation of a Bronze Age burnt mound near Catterick in conjunction with community volunteers, on behalf of Defence Estates.
- The Clennel Street excavation and survey project, conducted in conjunction with university students and local community volunteers
- The Binchester International Field School, delivering archaeological training in excavation and post-excavation to the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland as well as community archaeology groups from America over five years.
- Our Outreach Programme, which has the specific remit of engaging the local community in all aspects of our work, including archaeological works funded through development, including:
  - A series of open days run across our excavation programme
  - Work experience and placement programme
  - Over 20 talks to community organisations each year

### Standards

- 2.3 All Archaeological Services project staff will abide by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* (2008), and the British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group's *Code of Practice* (1988); all work will be conducted in accordance with the IfA's *Standard and Guidance* (2008).

### Insurance

- 2.4 Durham University is a member of UM Association Limited and maintains the following covers:
- |                               |             |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| • Employer's liability        | £25,000,000 | Cert. no. Y016458QBE0110A/050 |
| • Public & products liability | £25,000,000 | Cert. no. UM050/00            |
| • Professional indemnity      | £10,000,000 | Cert. no. UM050/00            |

### Health & Safety

- 2.5 Archaeological Services abides by the 1974 *Health and Safety Act*, its subsequent amendments, and the 2007 *Construction Design and Management Regulations*. All Archaeological Services field projects are carried out in accordance with the Federation of Archaeological Managers & Employers' *Manual of Health and Safety in Field Archaeology 2010*, and with Durham University's *Health and Safety Policy* and *Code of Practice for Safety in Fieldwork*.
- 2.6 Archaeological Services provides health and safety training for all our field personnel in first aid, manual handling, cable detection, site safety and risk assessment. Archaeological Services ensures that all personnel pass the CITB Construction Skills Health and Safety Test and subsequently become CSCS card-carriers (Construction Skills Certification Scheme).
- 2.7 Archaeological Services will provide qualified First Aiders and first aid supplies at all times during work. All personnel are supplied with appropriate safety clothing and equipment. A Risk

Assessment will be completed before works commence, and all personnel will receive an appropriate Health and Safety induction talk before starting on site.

- 2.8 All SWAAG members participating in the fieldwork will be given a site induction talk and instruction in the safe use of the equipment.

### **3. Previous works and existing knowledge**

- 3.1 An earthwork survey of the site had been conducted by SWAAG as part of a wider scheme of survey conducted by SWAAG as the Fremington Project and produced as SWAAG Archaeological Report No. 1 (July 2010); it is on this work that this document has been based. The survey of site 101 has been reproduced here (attached). The report concludes that the site is one of 9 separate farmstead settlements within a contemporary co-axial fieldsystem, probably of later prehistoric / Romano-British date. The report acknowledges that there may be chronological depth to the landscape and that dating verification by excavation is required.
- 3.2 In summary, the report describes Site 101 (also called Barn Field Settlement) as a triangular shaped enclosure of lynched banks containing seven sub-circular semi-scooped platforms measuring up to 7m by 9m in plan; the boundaries and entrances link the settlement into the surrounding field and settlement system. Stonework is visible in places within the enclosure banks and the banks of platform 03; a possible entrance into this platform is also visible as an earthwork. Because of the quality of the visible earthwork here (a photograph is reproduced in the SWAAG report), this platform has been selected for excavation. The excavation comprises one trench positioned across the centre of the platform, incorporating both the possible entrance and the wall / bank on the opposite side of the platform.
- 3.3 A geomagnetic survey of the site was conducted during October 2011, and the resulting greyscale image is reproduced here (attached). The lynched banks are visible as positive anomalies (dark), which may reflect the build up of ploughsoil. Within the enclosure a number of groups of anomalies broadly correspond with the external shapes of the platforms recorded on the earthwork survey, providing greater linear definition in places. The enclosure area is characterised by a spread of dipolar anomalies (dark and light pairs) which reflect high magnetic readings, typically caused by ferrous items or areas of burning. The deposition of modern material to the immediate south of the barn will have obscured archaeological features in this area. The track from the barn to the field gate is visible in the data as a string of dipolar anomalies. Other anomalies outside the enclosure may also indicate further archaeological features, some of which are indicated by the earthwork survey. The interpretation of the geophysical data can be validated by evaluation trenching.

### **4. Aims**

- 4.1 The overarching aim of the project is to confirm and characterise the nature of the earthworks at the site as recorded by the earthwork and geophysical survey.
- 4.2 The project intends to address the following research aims:  
Is the earthwork a hut site as anticipated?  
How much survives within the ground, and in what condition?  
What were the forms of the structures on the site?  
What are the dates of the structures on the site?  
What material culture assemblage is associated with the site?  
Is there evidence for more than one phase of building on the site?  
What is the cause of the dipolar anomalies on the geophysical survey?

- 4.3 It is anticipated that we may be able to contribute to the following aims;  
What further works as part of the project should take place within the Hagg sites to support / refute the current interpretations?  
If the site is Iron Age/Romano-British, how might it relate to the wider contemporary human settlement landscape in Swaledale?  
What is the relationship if any between the site and the nearby co-axial field system?  
What potential does the site offer for further investigation?

## 5. Fieldwork methods

- 5.1 The trench location is shown on the earthwork survey plan (attached). The trench is 9m by 3m, and is positioned to take in the putative entrance, the centre of the platform and the north bank / wall. By sampling these areas it is anticipated that the nature and extent of the platform will be identified.
- 5.2 The trench will be excavated and backfilled by hand. Turf will be stored to one side and reinstated on completion of the works. Plastic sheeting will be used for the storage of spoil during the course of the works.
- 5.3 Following the removal of topsoil, the trench will be hand-cleaned for the identification of archaeological deposits. It is not the intention to excavate all the deposits within the trench to natural subsoil; depending on the nature and extent of deposits encountered, they will be sampled as appropriate. Small-scale extensions of the trench may take place where this is likely to significantly enhance understanding of the archaeological record within timetable constraints.
- 5.4 Archaeological features that are exposed will be recorded in accordance with the *Archaeological Services' Recording Manual* (v.5.3 2011). Areas where no archaeological features are present will also be recorded. Plans will be drawn at 1:20 and sections at 1:10; trench sections will also be drawn. The stratigraphic matrices will be established on site during the course of the works. A Leica Viva total station theodolite will be used to tie in the excavations to the site boundary and to provide accurate levelling, relative to an OS datum. Bracketed 35mm monochrome prints and colour slides will be taken, together with digital photographs. A site diary will be maintained.

### Palaeoenvironmental sampling

- 5.5 Sampling and subsequent assessment and analysis will be conducted under the supervision of our in-house Environmental Archaeology Service, managed by Dr Charlotte O' Brien. It is Archaeological Services' policy to collect bulk samples from the fills of all cut features, and from any other deposits that have the potential to provide environmental or economic information. Industrial residues and waste from craft and manufacturing processes are also routinely sampled. Sample size will depend on the apparent potential value of the deposits, but the minimum volume collected from a context will be 20-40 litres or 100% of the available material: assessment of the potential value of the samples will be made during post-excavation. The English Heritage Regional Science Advisor will be advised should any unusual sampling requirements become apparent.

### Artefact recovery

- 5.6 Archaeological Services operates a 100% finds collection policy, including post-medieval, 19th century and modern material. Bulk finds such as pottery and animal bone will be collected by context. Where unusually large quantities of finds, or very small types of material are encountered (e.g. fish bones), such that recovery by hand is not practicable, soil samples will be

retained for sieving in the laboratories at Durham. Finds will be removed from site to a secure location at the end of each working day. A discard policy will only be implemented following quantification, assessment and recommendation from artefactual specialists. All finds that are retained will be washed, marked and bagged in a manner suitable for long-term storage. If any artefacts which fall under the *Treasure Act* (1996) are discovered then the appropriate procedures will be adhered to.

### **Conservation**

- 5.7 All field personnel are trained in artefact first aid and procedures for the recovery, packing and transportation of artefacts, following *First Aid for Finds* (2nd Edition) and UKIC's *Conservation Guidelines No. 2*. Where delicate artefacts are uncovered, appropriate immediate measures will be taken, and the artefacts transferred to the Conservation Laboratory at Durham for stabilisation. Should particularly complex conservation requirements become apparent, an appropriately qualified and experienced expert will be called to site to excavate and package the object.

### **Scientific dating**

- 5.8 Samples of material suitable for scientific dating techniques including AMS C14 dating, archaeomagnetism (for example, charred seeds or *in situ* burnt clay from appropriate contexts) or thermoluminescence will be collected where appropriate. Recommendations for dating may be made in the assessment report. It may be that the submissions for dating are made later on during the overall project.

### **Human remains**

- 5.9 It is considered unlikely that human remains will be encountered at this site. If such finds are made the remains will not be removed unless this is absolutely necessary. Where it is essential that the bones are lifted, appropriate permissions will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice before any work is begun. The client, the Coroner and the County Archaeologist will be informed. Excavation of human remains may require an extended programme and the presence of additional archaeologists on site.

### **Training**

- 5.10 Two supervisors will be provided by Archaeological Services. Up to 15 SWAAG members will be participating at any one time, to whom training opportunities for all activities that take place will be provided, including excavation and recording. The project manager for Archaeological Services will be Peter Carne.

## **6. Post-excavation assessment, reporting and archiving**

### **Post-excavation assessment**

- 6.1 Excavated finds will be removed to the Archaeological Services laboratories for cleaning and re-packaging. Assessments of the excavated material will be made, following the recommendations of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991). Each class of artefact recovered from the site will be examined to determine the potential of the material for further analysis, and to establish any conservation requirements. Assessment reports will state the potential of each class of artefact or ecofact, in accordance with MAP2 Appendix 4; they will also set out the storage and conservation requirements of the assemblage, and make recommendations for a discard policy if this should be appropriate.
- 6.2 Specialists will be called on, as necessary, to examine, process and assess the excavated material. Specialists who may be called upon, depending on the types of material recovered, include:

• medieval ceramics	Dr Chris Cumberpatch
• Romano-British ceramics	Dr Jeremy Evans
• prehistoric pottery	Blaise Vyner
• animal bones	Louisa Gidney
• macrofossils	Dr Charlotte O'Brien
• conservation	Jennifer Jones
• coins and tokens	Richard Brickstock
• industrial residues	Jennifer Jones
• glass & clay pipe	Jenny Vaughan
• human bones	Dr Anwen Caffell

### **Project report and archive**

6.3 The report will be prepared in a form suitable for use by SWAAG. A further copy and a digital version in pdf format will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER). The report will be illustrated with copies of plans, sections, and photographs and will be based on the following format:

1. Summary
2. Project background
3. Archaeological and historical background
4. Landuse, topography and geology
5. The evaluation trenching
6. Discussion
7. Updated project design
8. Sources

Appendix 1: Context data

Appendix 2: Stratigraphic matrices

### **Archive**

6.4 The project archive will be prepared to the standard specified in Appendix 3 of *MAP2* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The archive will be deposited in accordance with standard North York Moors National Park Archiving policy, with the appropriate local repository, on completion of the overall project.

### **OASIS**

6.5 Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online AccsS** to the **Index of archaeological investigationS** project (**OASIS**). An OASIS form will be completed for this project. It is understood that after validation by the HER, and with the agreement of all the parties concerned, the project report may become a publicly accessible document.

### **Publication**

6.6 Recommendations for publication will be made if required following completion of the works (including any further schemes of works): this may include a submission to a regional archaeological journal. The nature and extent of the publication will be dependent on the results of the work.

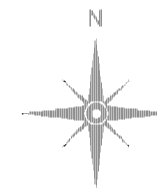
**7. Programme**

7.1 Fieldwork is scheduled from October 31<sup>st</sup> for 7 working days, excluding weekends. An interim report will be produced for December 2011.

Peter Carne  
Manager  
17th October 2011

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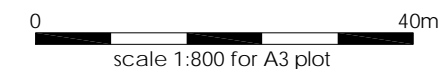
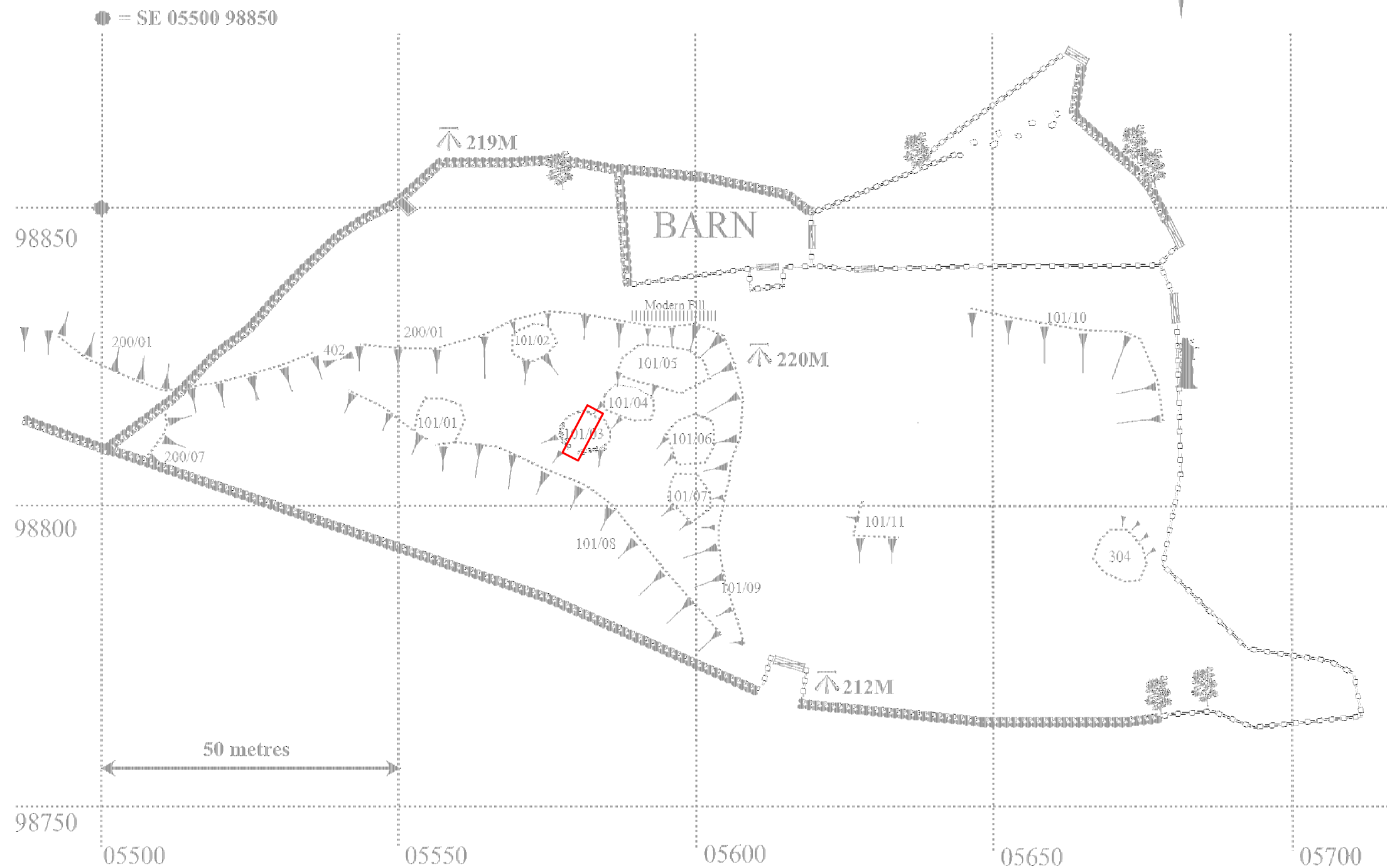
Hagg Farm Survey  
OS Field No. 6181  
SWAAG Site 101



on behalf of  
SWAAG

Hagg Farm  
geophysical survey

Figure 1: Earthwork Survey with proposed trench location



trench





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Hagg Farm

geophysical survey

Figure 2: Hagg Farm site 101  
geomagnetic survey greyscale

