

Archaeological sites and finds in vicinity of proposed Barmoor Wind Power Station

Extracted by John A. Ferguson

1. A barrow on Ford Common 14ft in diameter, 1-1/2ft high and made of earth and stones contained three burials by cremation. One of the burials was with an urn and four jet beads. The urn and beads are now in the British Museum. Ford Common has been considerably quarried and no visible traces of the barrow appear to have survived. ALSO the site of another barrow which contained cremations an urn and jet beads. No surface remains now survive.
2. Site of Tumulus. A cist examined in 1863 contained the scattered remains of a burnt body, a flint knife and a small fragment of (unclassified) pottery. The cist was sited on the highest part of a field just east of Ford Common. There was no appearance of a tumulus, though this may have been destroyed by long continued ploughing. Knife and sherd in British Museum. The site falls in a pasture field scarred by disused coal workings, and there are no visible traces of the barrow. ALSO a Bronze Age cist containing a cremation and a flint knife was found here. No trace of a barrow survives.
3. Hill Fort. Blackchester. An earthwork roughly circular in plan with multiple ramparts enclosing approximately 1/2 acre. This fort is correctly delineated, though it has been considerably damaged by old coal-workings. The site falls steeply to the north where there is only one rampart, whilst the entrance, appears to have been in the south-west quadrant. Listed as a probable pre-Roman multivallate earthwork. Field inspection not possible, due to almost impenetrable afforestation.
4. Bronze Age socketed axe, a surface find, c.1878, at Barmoor South Moor, presented to the Society of Antiquaries, Newcastle.
5. Cropmarks of a circular enclosure with two opposed entrances, possibly a henge, was recorded from the air, situated three miles north-west of Wooler and 1/2 mile west of Ewart Park.
6. Deserted Medieval Village at Ford Moss.
Site status: Site of Special Scientific Interest Ford Moss;
7. Worked flint found in unstratified surface context, Found by I Hewitt.
8. The standing and buried remains of Ford Colliery on Ford Moss. The colliery was worked from at least the mid 17th century through to 1914 and the visible remains represent multi-phase mining activity stretching over nearly 3 centuries. Listed Building **Grade II**; Site of Special Scientific Interest; Scheduled Monument.
Structure, Chimney, Earthwork, Colliery.
9. Milepost 1/2 mile west of Dunsall. **Grade II** listed. Early to mid 19th century.
10. Round Barrow, Bronze Age. Project dates 1858. Excavation

11. Goatscrag (Site A); Ford;
Cave, Prehistoric. Cremation Cemetery, Early Bronze Age

12. Goatscrag (Site B); Ford;
Pit, Mesolithic. Post Hole, Mesolithic. Drain, Mesolithic. Rock Shelter, Mesolithic.

13. An incense cup with a cremation burial found at Broom Ridge Ridge. The cup is now in the British Museum.

14. North-westward, nearly a mile from Routing Linn on a high ridge on Hunter's Moor (Broom Ridge) are two rock surfaces bearing incised markings dating to the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age. One rock has 14 figures of various types, whilst the other, 100 yds westward from the first rock, has 11 traceable figures. Scheduled under cup and ring markings.

Rock 'A' is the better of the two groups, with markings consisting of cups and rings and concentric circles; whilst rock 'B' has only cups.

15. Site of Tumuli, six shown.

Tumulus (Urn and ornaments found here). One mile south-east of Ford on the southern slopes of the hills north of the Till, close to two cup-marked rocks (NT 93 NE 14) numerous barrows, two of which were excavated in 1858.

The largest was 16ft in diameter, 3ft high, and was evidently the remains of a cairn. Inside, was a cist containing an upright urn, whilst outside the cist were slight indications of 6 or 7 cremations with one complete urn and fragments of others. A flint arrowhead and a bone pin were also found. The second barrow, almost identical in shape and size as the first, was situated about 100 yds north of it. This contained evidence of cremation, but no complete urn. Potsherds and flints were also found.

Pottery and flints now in the British Museum. Classified as Neolithic.

16. An urn containing bones, with a second, smaller urn inverted as a cover, recovered from a barrow at Broom Ridge. Both urns now in the British Museum .

17. An Early Bronze Age rock shelter cemetery was discovered at Goatscrag during excavations in 1967-8 to find evidence of occupation under the crag. The cemetery consisted of four cremation burials, two in inverted Enlarged Food Vessel urns, amidst abundant pits and 'post holes'. In the topsoil above the cemetery several pieces of flint were found including some tools. Excavations at a second site further to the west along the crag revealed four pits each containing quantities of charcoal in their lower fill. Twenty-one small pieces of flint were found scattered in the topsoil above the site.

Mesolithic flints found at Goatscrag, Wooler. Finds held by C Burgess.

One microlith and two scrapers found at Goats Crag.

ALSO: A series of rock shelters and overhangs along the fell sandstone crag lines at Goatscrag. Excavations were undertaken at several locations in 1967-8. At one site (Goatscrag A) were five Early Bronze Age cremations, two of them contained in Enlarged Food Vessels, within an area containing numerous pits and postholes. A number of Mesolithic flints were also found. Mesolithic flints were also found at another site, Goatscrag B, along with some undated pits and stake holes. Zoomorphic rock carvings of probable prehistoric or Romano-British date have also been found here.

18. A finely worked barbed and tanged bronze age arrowhead of honey coloured flint was found on the surface in plough soil.

19. An outcrop of rock bearing linked cup motifs (like horseshoes). Difficult to find as they are in high bracken. Outcrop with cups and rings. Difficult to see, clear figures at north and south ends.

20. Flint flake found in unstratified surface context at Broomridge. Found by I Hewitt.
21. Milepost c.40 yards east of Red Lion Inn, B6353. **Grade II** listed building. Early to mid 19th century.
22. Watchlaw Farmhouse. **Grade II** listed building. 18th century
23. Disused engine house, 19th century. A substantial stone structure comprising a beam engine house with a probable winding engine house alongside. There is a depression in the ground adjacent to the building which may be the location of a pit shaft - possibly the Moss Pit. Sketch plan. Scheduled Monument; Site of Special Scientific Interest.
24. A water mill has been identified at Ford Hill by the North East Mills Group. The present condition of this feature is unknown.
25. Between 30 and 40 bell pits are scattered between NT 990375 and NT 996373. The depressions are on average about 4m across by up to 1.5m deep, each surrounded by a bank of up-cast about 1m to 2m wide. The ground is sandy with stone in places and contains small particles of coal.
26. Broom Ridge millstone quarry.
27. Urn found near Bowsden Hollins in 1800 .
An area of arable and pasture land with no indications of antiquity. Type and location of urn not ascertained.
28. A cist was uncovered when a large stone was removed, after it had been revealed by ploughing, by Mr J Wilson on Bowsden West Farm in 1963. The cist was 4ft long, 3ft wide and 3ft deep, and was constructed of sandstone slabs. It contained a little clay soil and fragments of pottery in its south-east corner. Reconstruction of the pottery fragments revealed two incomplete Early Bronze Age food vessel urns. There was no evidence of inhumation or cremation within the cist. The incomplete food vessel urns were deposited in Alnwick Castle Museum.
29. Bowsden was a member of the barony of Muschamp (Wooler). 1296: 12 taxpayers. 1377 Poll Tax return: 51 adults. 1580 Border Survey: 12 tenants. Hearth Tax 1665: 28 householders. Described as a 'large village' by Warburton in early 18th century. 1733: common lands enclosed. Armstrong's map of 1769 shows a two row village. Present village has similar form and layout and is the presumed site of the medieval village.
30. A small discrete late 19th to early 20th century sandstone quarry with an in-situ crane (now collapsed) and a counter balance structure. There are numerous uncharged shot holes, both circular and triangular in plan, with lines of regularly spaced vertical shot hole scars up to 3m deep on the quarry face. The quarry also contains the remains of a corrugated hut, corrugated roof from a collapsed hut and the well preserved remains of a portable bellows, probably used in conjunction with a portable smithy for sharpening tools, though no evidence of the latter survives. The quarry exhibits a good range of technological features and is well preserved. It is untouched by later development, which illustrates the blasting techniques and crane technology of the late 19th and early 20th century. It is of national importance in view of the well preserved machinery, landscape context and amenity value and is recommended for scheduling.
31. The sites of at least two bronze age tumuli.
32. Earthwork remains of an Iron Age hillfort damaged by coal working and forestry.

33. A Late Bronze Age bronze socketed axe was found on the surface in circa 1878 at Barmoor South Moor, and was presented to the Society of Antiquaries, Newcastle.
34. A cremation with an incense cup was found on Broom Ridge.
35. Two Bronze Age cup-and-ring marked rocks (in situ). One of the rocks has 14 figures of various types and the other has 11 traceable figures.
36. The site of a Neolithic round cairn excavated by William Greenwell in 1858. He described the mound as being roughly 16 feet in diameter and 3 feet high, and largely comprising stones. Beneath the mound, he found a layer (circa 2 inches thick) of burnt earth and charcoal occurring in patches "with embedded calcined bones...and containing an extraordinary quantity of potsherds" plus worked flints. The number of individuals represented by the calcined bones is unclear. Associated finds include several Neolithic bowl sherds, flint polished axe fragments, flint scrapers and a laurel leaf point. A single sherd of Bronze Age pottery was also found. The cairn concerned appears to have been one of small group of "tumuli" recorded by the Ordnance Survey around NT 9650 3705. By 1964, there were no visible traces of these 6 tumuli on the ground. NB another cairn was previously described as part of this monument record. It has now been recorded separately.
37. The cropmark of a length of ditch which appears to form the northern side of an enclosure of unknown date and function.
38. Roughting Linn Cup and Ring Marked Stone, Prehistoric.
Large rock bearing about sixty cup and ring markings.
The rock slopes to the east. Part of it has been quarried away, and there is a big wedge of it missing. There is great variety of carving which makes it one of the best known rocks in the north. There are random cups, cup clusters, designs based on cups and grooves, and some unusual designs - delicate stems and flower-like shapes.
Large expanse of sandstone like a whaleback. Varied motifs. It was in danger of being quarried away, evidenced by places where the rock is missing.
39. 'Neolithic Axe of felstone 4-1/2ins x 2-1/2ins, polished with broad butt, shaped like the cutting edge, but blunt, sides sharp, found in the parish of Lowick'. Local enquiries regarding the discovery and present location of this find proved negative.
40. A pre-Roman multivallate fort situated on a riverine spur. The main defences form the arc of a circle with ends resting on the natural scarps. Traces of an outer counterscarp curves into the entrance. Scheduled.
A well-preserved promontory fort, with a maximum of five ramparts, and an inturned entrance on the north.
41. Flint knife from Roughting Linn. Neolithic. In Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle.
42. Milepost c.1/4 mile west of junction with B6525. **Grade II** listed. Early to mid 19th century.
43. An early Bronze Age barbed and tanged flint arrowhead with a slightly asymmetrical outline was found on the surface of a ploughed field at Kemping Moss close to the Coal Burn and c.200 yards from the Berwick Road. The arrowhead is in the possession of Mr Brown of Kemping Moss.
44. Cropmarks of a possible Romano-British settlement were recorded from the air at NU 012388. Cropmarks of an enclosure were recorded from the air in 1977 at NU 012388. NU 01243877. Lowick possible hillfort or circular defended settlement crop mark. Aerial

photographs indicate a crop mark double-ditched circular enclosure apparently with opposed entrances in the west and east ditches have diameters of c.100m and c.75m. The site would appear to be defensive, no indication of internal occupation on aerial photographs.

NU 012388. Aerial photographs show crop marks of two parallel pit alignments running north from the above enclosure.

45. Barmoor Moss limekiln; Mound, c.4m-6m high x 50m long x 12m wide, in area marked 'Old Quarries' on 2nd edition 6 inch OS map. Some stonework visible at north end.

46. Lowick; deserted medieval village. Documentary references: 1254, 1296, 1313, 1336, 1337, 1580. The tithe map of Lowick shows the village had a regular layout of tofts. There are a number of buildings set back from the road suggesting a broad street or green. There was considerable coal and lime extraction in the township in 1830; four collieries were recorded.

47. Farmbuildings c.20 yards west of Lowick High Steads Farmhouse, listed building **Grade II**. Shelter sheds, dovecote and byre. Mid-18th century. Two ranges at right angles, long range has central square dovecote tower. Round entry with wooden screen and ledges and six holes. Pyramidal roof to tower. Dovecote tower and henhouse, converted into dwelling.

48. Milepost c.1/4 mile south of Moss Hall, B6525. **Grade II** listed. Early to mid 19th century.

49. White House and wall attached, B6525 (east side off). **Grade II** listed building. Dated 1728; later 18th and early 19th century alterations.

50. A scramasax¹ found in a limestone quarry. This may have been found in the Old Dryburn Quarries in Bowsden parish.

51. The cropmarks of a bivallate fort or defended settlement occupy sloping ground at 115m AOD. The fort is almost perfectly circular and is enclosed by two concentric ditches, 5 to 10m broad, which are set 8 to 12m apart. The overall diameter of the outer ditch is 100m north to south by 110m east to west and that of the inner ditch 75m north to south by 80m east to west. The internal area of the fort is estimated at 0.33ha. There appear to be two opposed entrances on the eastern and western sides though the break in the inner ditch on the western side is not so clear as those elsewhere. No certain traces of internal habitation are visible on any of the available aerial photographs.

52 Barmoor Castle, Lowick. Site status: Listed Building **Grade II***

Country house largely built in 1801 by Patterson of Edinburgh, but incorporating earlier masonry, building continued throughout the 19th century. The house is of ashlar with a Lakeland slate roof. The building is in castellated Tudor style. The main block is of three storeys, with three bays, and has a projecting central tower porch with diagonal corners and a single storey bow-fronted entrance between. The banquetting wing is of two storeys, with seven bays, and has a central three-bay shallow bow window and round corner towers. The list description describes the banquetting wing as roofless and decaying.

Stable block, including two cottages, adjoining Barmoor Castle, Barmoor. **Grade II** listed building. Probably by Patterson of Edinburgh in 1801.

Screen to farmbuildings c.200 yards south of Barmoor Castle, Barmoor. **Grade II** listed building. 1803 in Gothick style. Remains of a banquetting hall.

This is also the site of the deserted medieval village of Barmoor. It was first recorded in 1377. It began to decrease in size in the 17th century. In the mid-18th century, there were still two rows of houses, but by the late 18th century, there was only one row. The earthwork remains of several of

¹ The Scramasax is a European bladed weapon, vaguely resembling a butcher knife or a machete. Its blade is gently curving, usually tapering to a point, sporting a false edge on the back up to a third of the whole length

these early buildings can still be seen. An area of ridge and furrow can be seen to the south. It was the site of a small chapel founded in the 17th century. It became disused in 1746 and was pulled down in 1804. There are no remains to be seen now.

53. Area Centred NT 994421 Tumulus, levelled in 1800, about a quarter mile north of Bowsden. It contained two inverted urns with partially burnt bones.

The summit of a slight rise in pasture and arable fields. No surface indications of antiquity. Present location of the urns not ascertained.

54. Deserted Medieval Village at Gatherwick. Nothing visible on Ordnance Survey air photographs. Gatherwick originally a dependent of the manor of Bowsden. First mentioned in 1281. In the 16th and early 17th centuries it belonged to the Muschamps of Barmoor. Sold to Francis Blake of Ford in 1677, it comprised two messuages and a coalmine. Greenwood's map of 1828 shows a hamlet with coalpits to the west (same position as modern farm). Farmhouse incorporates a building 6.5m by 19.7m with walls 1.1m thick (lower courses only) and 0.9m thick above.

55. Barmoor Mill. Referred to as being destroyed in 1344-5 and again in 1360. Also probably one of the mills referred to as 'mills all in ruins' in 1427-8, and no tithes paid in 1468-9 because 'Barmore destroyed'. The mill remains as a farmstore with one pair of millstones (1964). Originally two pairs of stones.

56. Tumulus. A barrow 16ft in diameter and 2-1/2ft high excavated in 1863, contained four urns, an incense-cup, a bronze pin and a calcined bone pin. Above the urn burials, were found, separately, a beaker, an overhanging rim urn, and a flint chip. Beaker classified as 'long-necked'. Finds now in British Museum.

A flat topped circular mound 5m in diameter and 0.4m high. No ditch.

57. Earthwork. An oval-shaped camp defended on the north by two ramparts and to the south by steep natural slopes. Traces of an entrance exist on the north-east and another, with a traverse towards the brook. Listed as probably pre-Roman. Scheduled Monument. The northern arc of the inner, and a fragment of both ramparts in the south-west are the only remains. No trace of entrances, or internal structures survives.

58. An Iron Age multivallate hillfort which lies on a sloping shelf of land above Broomridge Dean. The northernmost part of the defenses survive as an earthwork under a clump of trees and the southern parts are partially upstanding in a more extensive area of woodland. However the central section is ploughed flat and shows only as a cropmark. The cropmark evidence suggests that the defenses once comprised three or four circuits of ditches.

59. A Bronze age round cairn surviving as an earthwork. Excavation uncovered a Beaker, urns and an Incense Cup.

**The source of the material is the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/index.html>**