

ART. VII. *Fieldwalking in the Solway Plain, 1983-84*

By IAN CARUANA

**T**HIS is the second report on the results of fieldwalking done by the Society's Carlisle Regional Group in an attempt to obtain dating evidence for some of the numerous crop mark sites in the Solway Plain. General background and methods used can be found in the first report (CW2, lxxxv, 250-62) and are not repeated here. The present report covers the second and third years' work, 1983 and 1984, which actually involved three rather than four seasons' walking, since other archaeological needs intervened to prevent walking in the spring of 1984. Since our first report appeared, R. H. Bewley, who initially requested the Group's help in carrying out this work, has also published some of the results of his programme of survey and excavation devoted to the same ends (Bewley 1986).

The main thrust of the work has been towards those crop mark sites listed by Higham and Jones (1975). However, fields with crop marks were not always available at the required time. Several fields peripheral to known sites were, therefore, walked sometimes, but not always, with interesting results. The discovery of good quality flints south of Cummersdale village in the field at NY 391526, apparently independent of the crop mark (CW2, lxxxv, 260), was made by Alan James in casual walking and followed up by the Group in systematic walking. Despite this we feel that it is important to continue to work, where possible, within a defined framework of objectives otherwise the project becomes dissipated in a series of random discoveries.

Sites as defined by crop marks are listed by name. Fields not known to contain crop mark sites are listed by an Ordnance Survey grid reference. Even where significant numbers of flints have been recovered this practice has been maintained since sites, as such, have still not been identified.

**Fingland V** (NY 253 574)

(Bowness parish. OS 1:2500, 1970, Field No. 2638)

Higham and Jones 1975, S.III.

The field containing the crop mark was walked casually by one person for less than two hours in May 1983. Finds were selectively collected.

*Flint.* By C. I. Fell

1. One flake of good quality translucent grey/brown flint. Obtuse angle striking platform. Both edges show utilization. Some trimming at the tip possibly for use as an awl. Hinge fracture at tip on ventral side. (Fig 3.)

*Medieval Pottery*

2. One sherd of late medieval reduced ware (cf. CW2, lxxxv, 255 Fabric 4).

Further work on this field in spring 1986 did not produce any further ancient finds.

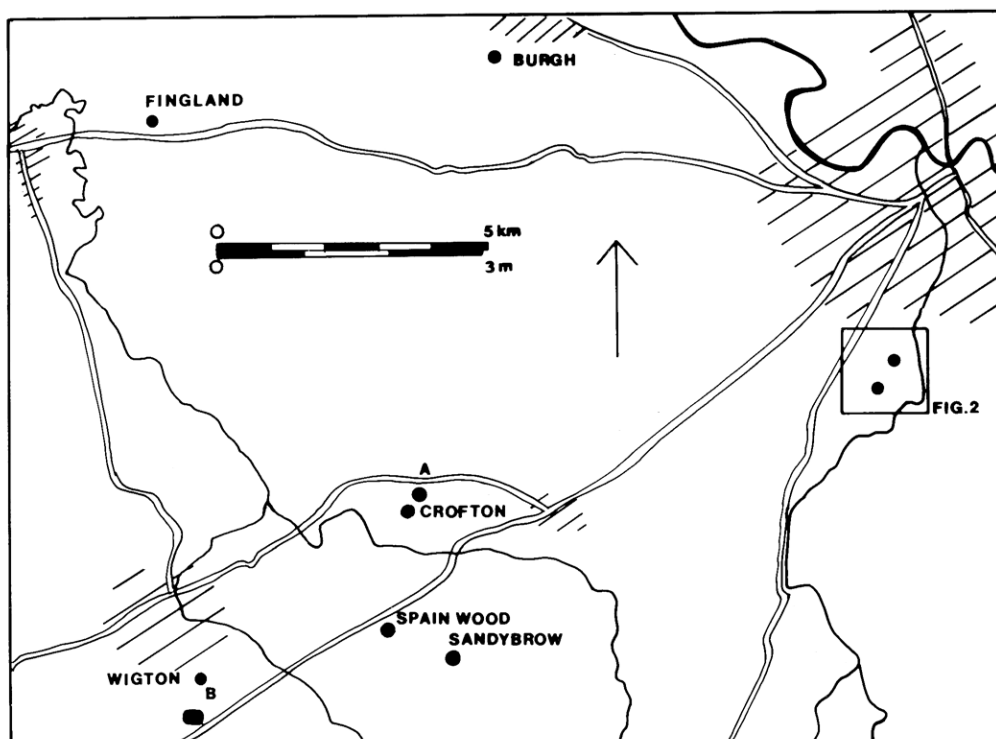


FIG. 1. Location Map of Sites.

**NY 393 533 (Fig. 2)**

(Cummersdale parish. OS 1:2500, 1971 Field No. 0006)

This field, close to the centre of Cummersdale, falls from west to east from 45 m to 30 m OD immediately above the River Caldew. The field has no known crop mark. Walking was in strips on a dull, showery day in March 1983; about half the field was covered (c. 1.25 acres).

*Flint.* By C. I. Fell

1. Broken leaf-shaped arrowhead of unpatinated red/brown flint. High grade pressure flaking on both sides. The tip has been snapped off from both edges leaving an even point. It belongs to Green's Type 3A or 4A, most common in the third millennium b.c. (Green, 1980). This type of flint is not available locally and may have come by trade or exchange. 22 × 18 mm. SF1. (Fig. 3)

*Medieval Pottery.*

137 sherds of medieval pottery were found. This represents over 20% of the total finds pick-up and by far the largest proportion of archaeologically significant material for any field walked by the Group. Of this total over 80% of the sherds are in fabrics in the Northern Gritty Ware tradition (CW2, lv, 86 No. 2; CW2, lxxxv, 255 Fabric 1) dated from mid-12th to mid-13th century. Some variation in density of grits was recognized and some sherds had glaze surviving (Fig. 7.1-16).

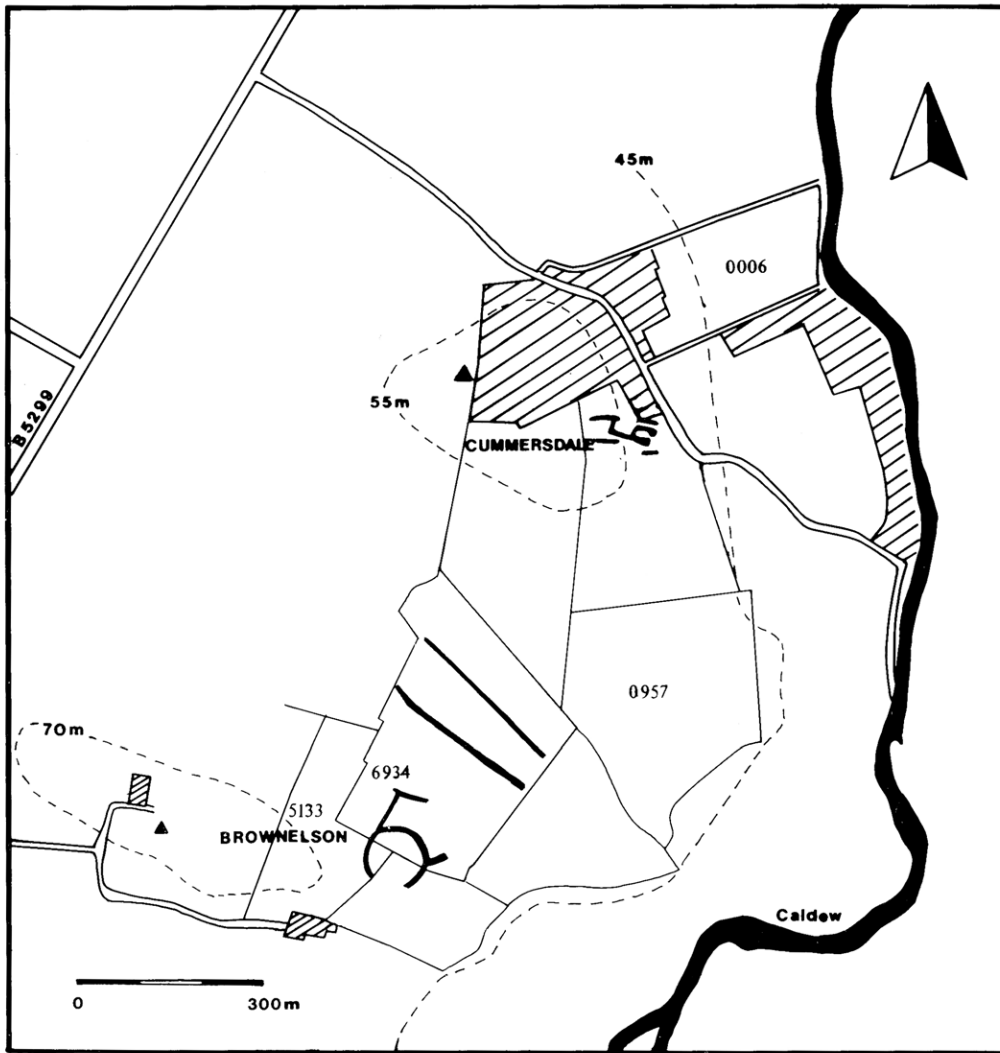


FIG. 2. Map of Cummersdale-Brownelson Area.

The remaining medieval pottery was mainly of more lightly gritty 13th and 14th century reduced wares with pale green and olive glazes among which could be recognized two jug rims (Fig. 7.17 and 7.18)

Given the rather difficult sloping terrain the field is unlikely to have held a settlement site. The arrowhead can be presumed to be a stray find. Nonetheless it can be added to the growing body of prehistoric finds from the Cummersdale area. Likewise the medieval pottery is probably a reflection of rubbish disposal from the medieval village rather than being directly derived from abandoned house sites. This field is even closer to the modern village centre than the field walked in 1982 (CW2, lxxxv, 260) and the pottery is important evidence for early medieval occupation. The ratio of 12th century to later pottery is intriguing but it would be unwise to speculate further on the reasons for it.

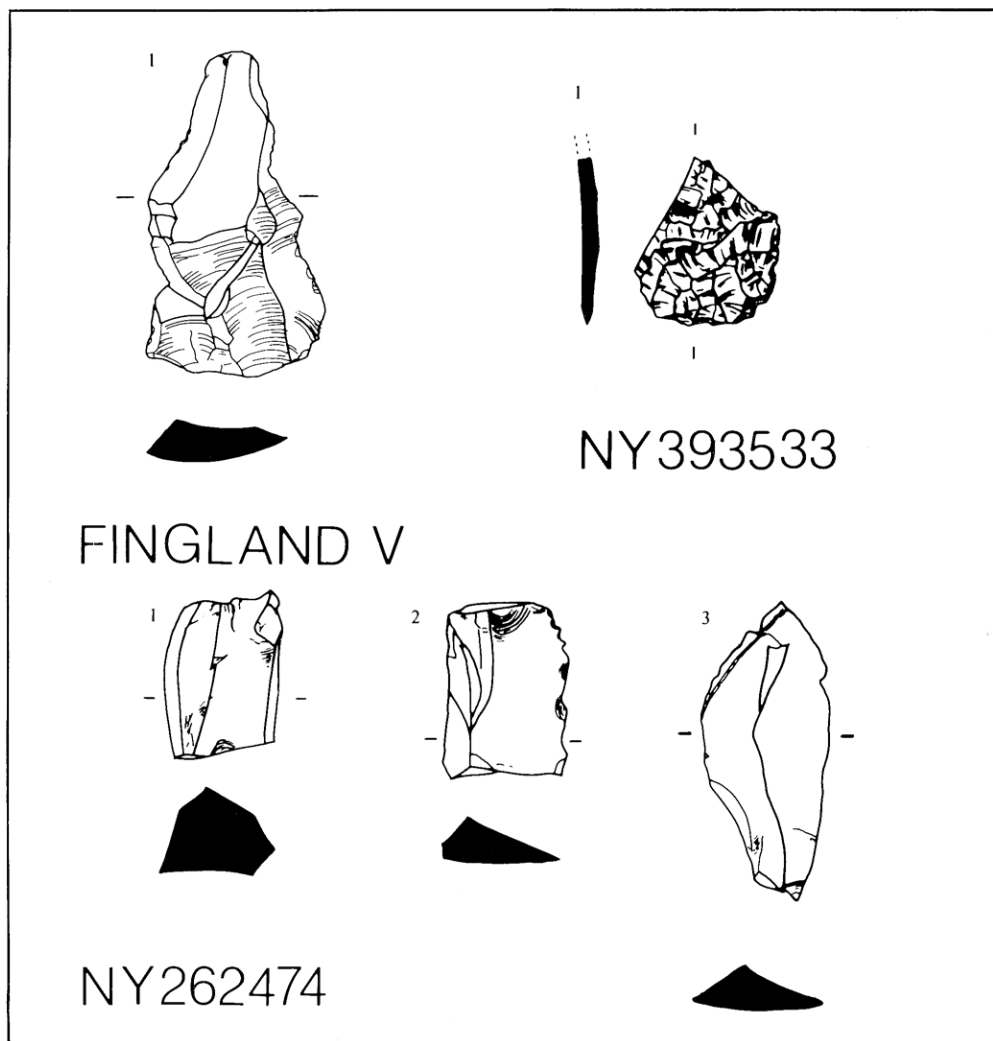


FIG. 3. Flints (Scale 1:1).

**NY 391 526 (Fig. 2)**

(Cummersdale parish. OS 1:2500, 1971, Field No. 0957)

This field is without a known crop mark. Walking was initiated by Alan James over the winter of 1982-3 (Lines 1-6 starting at the north end of the field). As a result of his finds of flint, the field was walked systematically by Group members in March 1983. On this occasion the field was divided into five blocks which were randomly walked. This strategy ensured extensive coverage of the whole field in order to try and establish the extent of the flint scatter. However, it did mean that coverage was not as intensive as that obtained by line or systematic block walking.

*Flint.* By C. I. Fell

1. Flake of pale grey/green tuff, fine-grained and similar to Group VI axe material. Some of the fractures are natural.  $68 \times 24 \times 8$  mm. SF27 line 2. Fig. 4
2. Broken lump of dark grey/green tuff of Borrowdale volcanic series. Thick chalky white weathering characteristic of this material occurs on the unbroken surfaces. SF20 WC Block. Not drawn.
3. Flake of fine grained dark grey/green tuff similar to No. 2. This is a struck flake.  $17 \times 20$  mm. SF22. Fig. 4.
4. Triangular piercer of opaque buff coloured flint. Secondary retouch creating a sharp point.  $28 \times 19$  mm. SF1 Line 6. Fig. 4.
5. Large curved flake of fine quality translucent light brown flint. Both ends truncated. One edge notched like a saw. Some cortex on the dorsal side. Possible trace of gloss. Flint not likely to be of local origin.  $67 \times 27$  mm. SF2 Line 6. Fig. 4.
6. Blade of translucent flint like No. 5. Blunted back for use as knife. Hinge fracture at bulbar end.  $28 \times 15$  mm. SF8 WC Block. Fig. 4
7. Broken blade of flint like No. 5. Narrow parallel flake scars on dorsal side.  $15 \times 8$  mm. SF10 S Block. Fig. 4.
8. Flake of poor quality banded and mottled opaque flint in colour varying from black to brown. Some retouch on dorsal side suggests use as a scraper.  $27 \times 28$  mm. SF3 Line 3. Fig. 4.
9. Long narrow flake of good quality opaque brown flint. Edges show some utilization. SF28 NW Block Fig. 4.
10. Chip of translucent flint like No. 5. SF7 NE Block. Not drawn
11. Flake of translucent brown flint struck from a pebble with chalky cortex.  $11 \times 20$  mm. SF9 WC Block. Not drawn.
12. Broken flake of opaque brown flint.  $12 \times 15$  mm. SF23 Line 6. Not drawn.
13. Core trimming flake of grey-brown mottled flint of not very good quality.  $33 \times 17$  mm. SF29 NW Block. Not drawn.

There were also eight pieces of unworked flint (SF6, 12, 16, 17, 19, 21, 25, 26).

The finds from this field show the use of flint of varying quality and colour and also of tuff of the Borrowdale Volcanic Series similar to that used in stone axe manufacture in the third and early second millennium b.c. Finished tools suggest a neolithic date, possibly in the third millennium b.c. Characteristic of that period are a fine piercer (No. 4), a large curved flake-knife with notched teeth on part of one edge (No. 5), a flake-knife with blunted back (No. 6), and a broken blade (No. 7). These last three and a chip (No. 10) are probably imported flint.

A broken lump of tuff (No. 2) is of the same rock type as the struck flake (No. 3). A long flake of paler tuff (No. 1) is very like Group vi (Great Langdale) of the stone axe classification. It is possible that it is from a broken implement though some of the fractures are natural. A roughout axe, probably Group vi, was found west of High Cummersdale and a shaft-hole adze of Group xviii (Whin Sill) was found in the same general area. (Hogg 1953, 202-5, fig. 1, 1 and 7). (The roughout axe is No. Cu 244 and the shaft-hole adze No. Cu 138 (162C144) of the forthcoming petrological survey).

*Medieval Pottery.*

Thirty-one sherds of medieval pottery were identified covering Fabrics 1-4 of 12th to 16th century date (CW2, lxxxv, 255). The pottery was spread fairly evenly through fabrics of each century and did not show the preponderance of twelfth century gritty wares present nearer the centre of the Cummersdale village (see above NY 393 533 and CW2, lxxxv, 260). The drawn pottery shows a cooking pot in Fabric 1 (Fig. 17.19); a jar and jug in Fabric 2 (Fig. 17.20 and

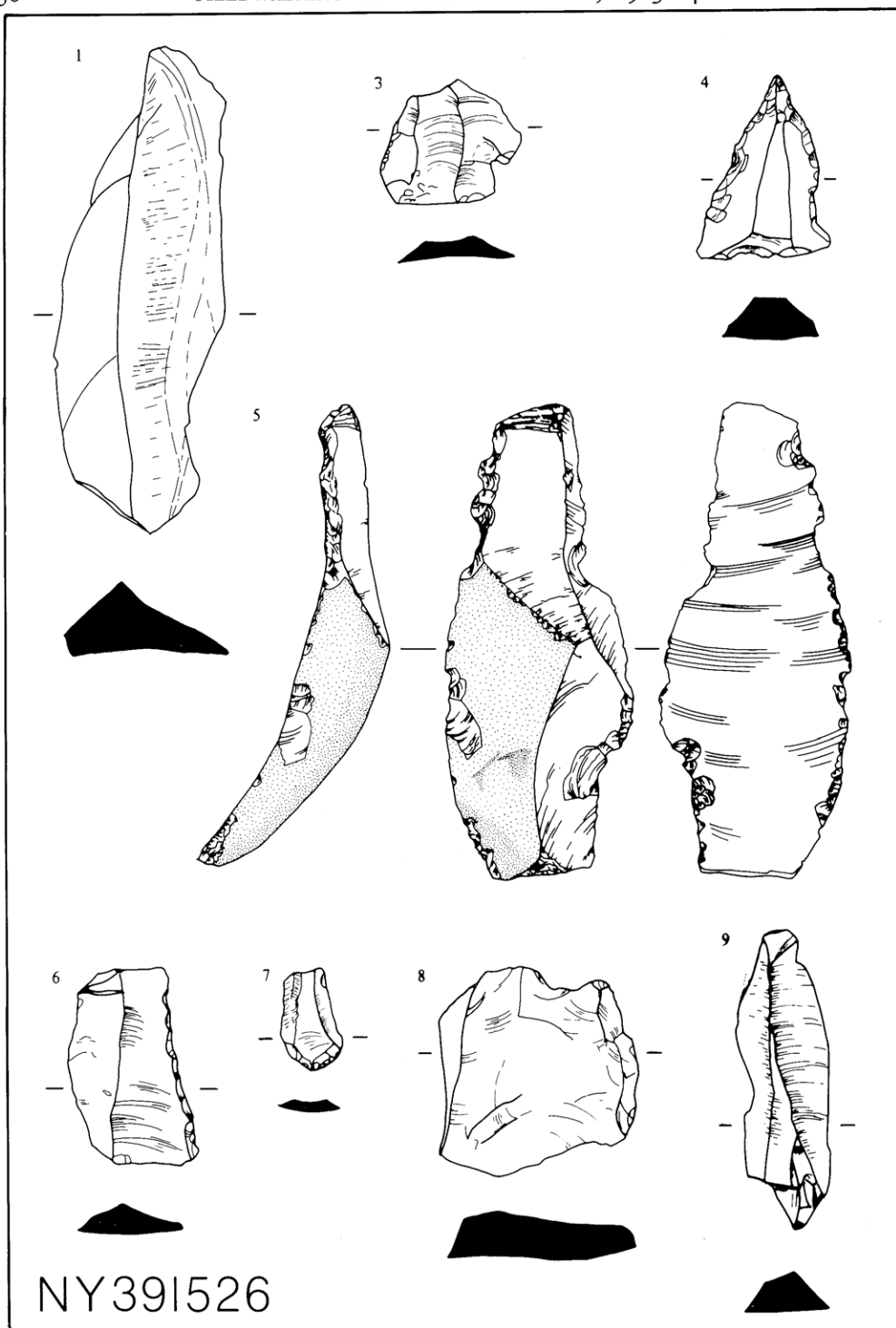


FIG. 4. Flints (Scale 1:1).

17.21); a jar in a well gritted pale buff fabric with orange slip inside a red-brown outside (Fig. 17.22).

Four glass beads were found but all judged to be modern.

Flint was found in all parts of the field with no noticeable concentrations or obvious gaps.

### **Brownelson (N) (NY 388 525) (Fig. 2)**

(Dalston parish. OS 1:2500, 1971, Field Nos. 6934 and 7753)

The site at Brownelson was recorded from the air by J. K. St. Joseph in 1949 (Cambridge photograph DS51). The crop mark shows a large circle at the intersection of three fields. Because the site appears in three fields, finds were labelled, as appropriate, Brownelson N/SW/SE. The fields covering the site have been under grass for many years, possibly since soon after St. Joseph's record, but were ploughed up in 1983.

Walking was done on two warm days in April 1983. On the first occasion a single row of 30 metre quadrats was walked at the south end of the field (c. 7,000 sq.m.). Subsequently three rows of similar quadrats were walked, including a repeat walk over the first row of quadrats (c. 21,000 sq.m.). The origin point of the grid was in the south-east corner.

#### *Flint.* By C. I. Fell

1. Broken scraper of good quality translucent brown flint with fine flat flaking on dorsal side. Some white cortex. 20 × 10 × 5 mm. SF6 B6. (Fig. 5)
  2. Broken thick blade of dark brown mottled flint. Bulbar end missing; distal end trimmed steeply. When complete could have been a tool like one recorded from Crofton East Park (CW2, lxxxv, 258 no. 2). 15 × 9 × 6 mm. SF10 A7. (Fig. 5).
  3. Utilized flake of good quality translucent brown/grey flint. 34 × 16 mm. SF2 B3. (Fig. 5).
  4. Broken utilized flake of flint similar to no. 3. 17 × 14 mm. SF7 C8. (Fig. 5).
  5. Broken grey/white utilized flint flake. 18 × 12 mm. SF12 B1. (Not illustrated).
  6. Large core-trimming flake of rich toffee coloured mottled flint. Two small areas of chalky cortex remain. 43 × 23 × 20 mm. SF3 C1. (Fig. 5).
  7. Flake struck from a pebble of brown flint. Chalky cortex on convex pebble surface. 16 × 19 mm. SF4 A6. (Not illustrated).
  8. Struck flake of red/brown flint similar to the broken arrowhead from NY 393 533 (see above). 16 × 13 mm. SF5 C7.
  9. Broken flake of translucent light brown flint. 10 × 10 mm. SF9 A7. (Not illustrated).
- There were also five pieces of unworked flint (SF8, 11, 13, 14, 15) and five of chert (SF16, 17, 18, 21, 22).

There is a wide variation in quality and colour of the flint used and in addition a mottled and banded grey chert was available. No evidence was found for the use of tuff. All the more interesting pieces are possibly late Neolithic.

#### *Roman Finds.*

10. Glass bangle fragment in opaque white glass. L. 17 mm. External dia. 80 mm. Type 3A (Kilbride-Jones 1938, 377). Second century A.D. SF1 A5. (Fig. 6).
11. Fragment of flange possibly from a Roman *tegula* but the fabric looks modern. A5.

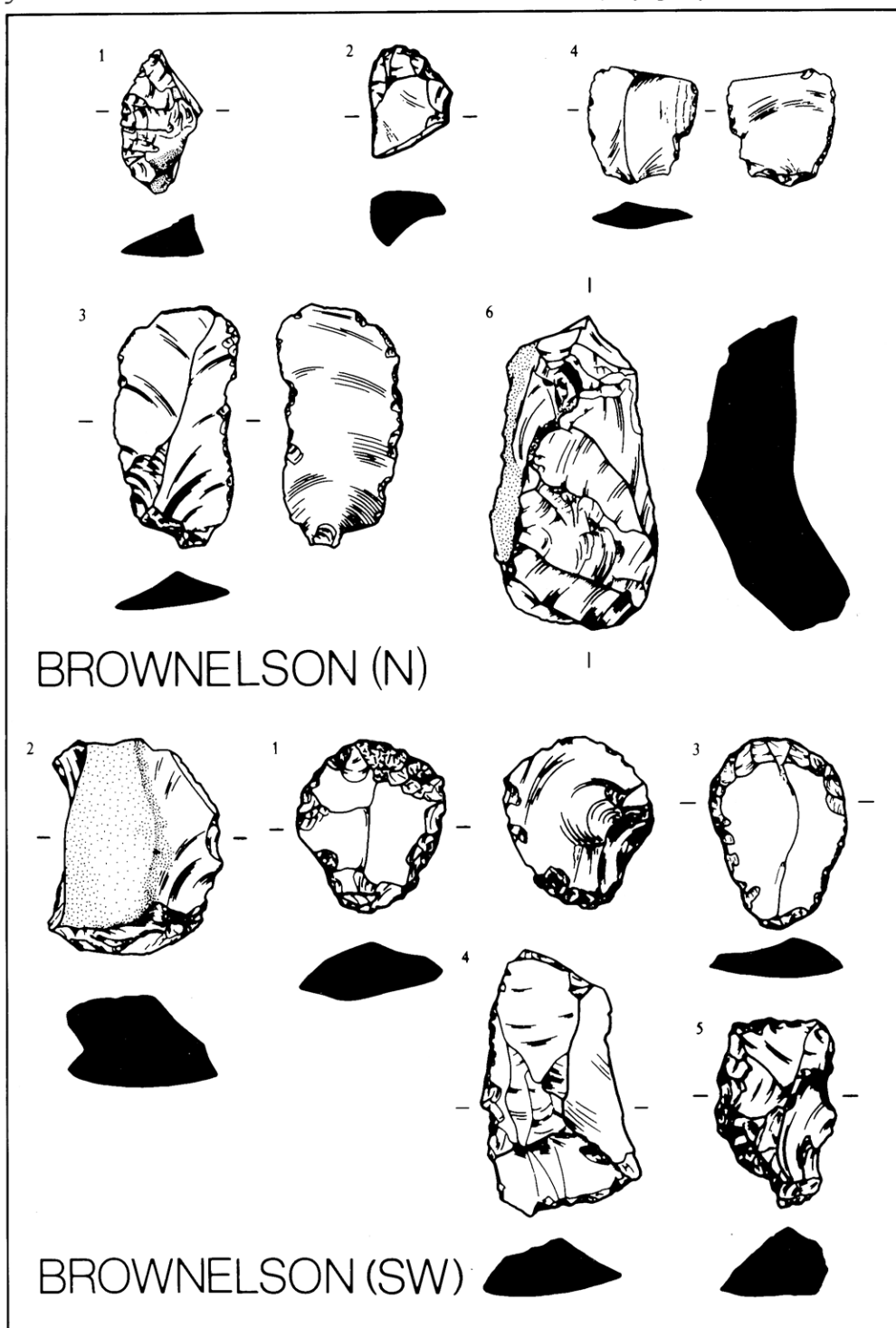


FIG. 5. Flints (Scale 1:1).



*Other Finds*

12. Modern gun flint of brown/grey translucent flint. Signs of use.  $20 \times 17 \times 5$  mm. Similar to those produced commercially at Brandon. (SF20 D6) (Not illustrated).

*Medieval Pottery*

Seventeen sherds mainly of lightly gritted 13th-14th century fabrics but including one cooking pot rim in gritty orange fabric (Fig. 7.23) and a strap handle in pale grey fabric with pale pink surface, red-brown slip and pale green glaze.

**Brownelson (SW) (NY 386 523) (Fig. 2)**

(OS 1:2500, 1971, Field No. 5133)

This field contains one quadrant of the crop mark (see above) at its east corner. Walking took place on three days in April and May 1983. On the first occasion 4 squares of approximately 30 metres were walked in the corner containing the crop mark. Subsequently the whole field was walked. Initially the east half of the field was covered in 30 metre blocks. The west side was then divided into large blocks 60 metres square or more. In all about 35,000 square metres was covered, part of the south-west corner being too muddy to walk. This strategy was adopted to ensure that the whole field was covered in the available time. The first two days of walking had produced a number of flints and it was decided to make sure that the extent of the flint spread was determined.

*Flint.* By C. I. Fell

1. Disc scraper of mottled brown/grey flint. Flat retouch all round dorsal side. Oblique striking platform.  $24 \times 20 \times 6$  mm. SF1 A2. (Fig. 5).
2. Large thick flake of good quality black flint struck from a pebble. Cortex on dorsal side. Trimmed as a side scraper.  $31 \times 21 \times 12$  mm. SF3 A5. (Fig. 5).
3. Well made end-scraper made on a flake of toffee brown flint similar to Brownelson North No. 6.  $26 \times 18 \times 4$  mm. SF4 C4. (Fig. 5).
4. Flake knife of toffee brown flint similar to No. 3. Bulbar end broken. Creamy patina on two sides. Distal end retouched.  $35 \times 20 \times 7$  mm. SF18 D3. (Fig. 5).
5. Fragment of mottled toffee brown flint. The curved edge has some retouch for use as a scraper.  $14 \times 27 \times 7$  mm. SF21 D1. (Fig. 5).
6. Thin struck of translucent brown flint with darker mottling. Edge opposite bulb suggests utilization.  $18 \times 17 \times 1$  mm. SF7 B4. (Not illustrated).
7. Broken blade of mottled black ? pitchstone.  $10 \times 7$  mm. SF9 B3. (Not illustrated).
8. Very thin broken flake of translucent grey/brown mottled flint. Some of the fractures are thermal. No retouch.  $20 \times 16 \times 2$  mm. SF24 A4. (Not illustrated).
9. Struck flake of opaque toffee brown flint. No secondary working.  $17 \times 20 \times 3$  mm. SF19 D3. (Not illustrated)

There were also 4 chips of flint (SF5, 10, 22, 23), 1 of red ? jasper (SF13), and 10 unworked pieces of flint and chert (SF6, 8, 11, 12, 14 - burnt, 17 - burnt, 25, 26, 27, 28).

There is again variation in the colour and quality of the flint used and includes a chip of red-brown flint (SF5) also noted at Brownelson North and at NY 393 533, dark grey chert and pitchstone. Although the identification of the Brownelson piece has not been confirmed, the use of pitchstone in Cumbria was first recorded at the Blackfriars St., Carlisle, excavations (Thorpe

and Thorpe 1984). The three scrapers and the flake knife seem contemporary with the flints from Brownelson North.

*Jet.* By C. I. Fell

10. Broken fragment of a jet bead of barrel shape, drilled from both ends. Probably early Bronze Age. SF15 E4. (Fig. 6)

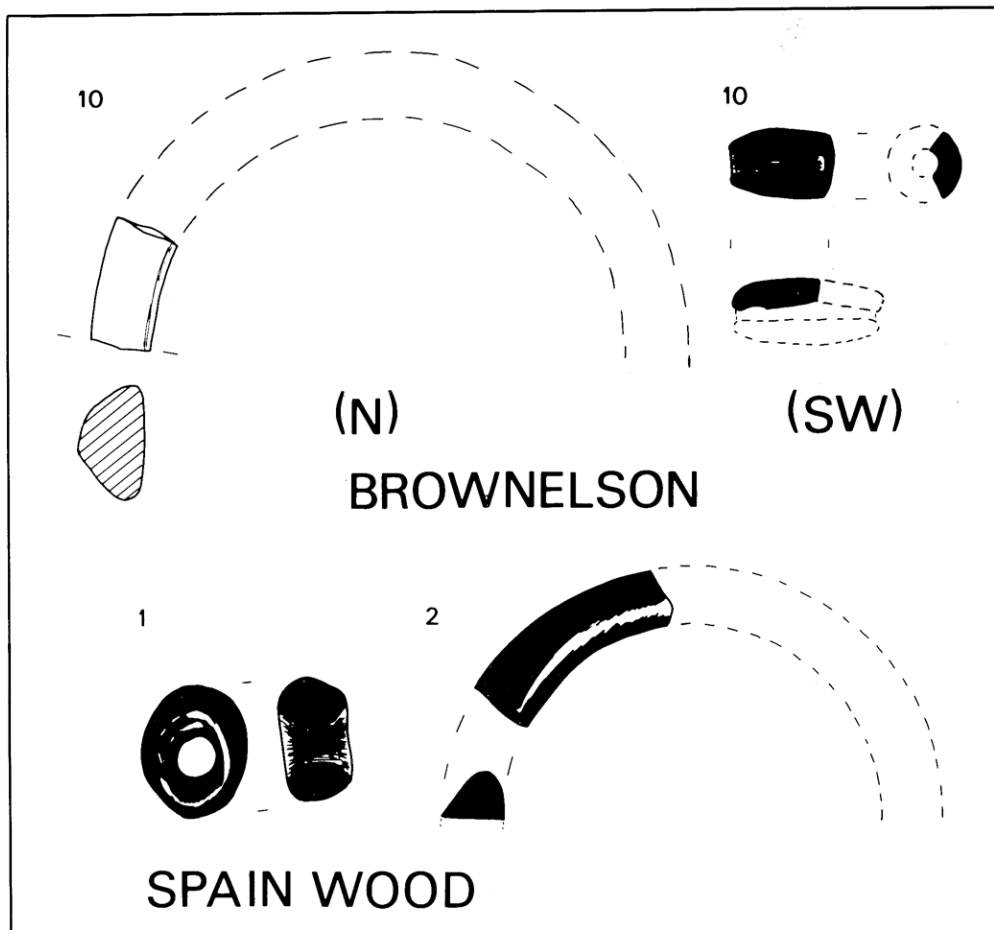


FIG. 6. Bangles and Beads (Scale 1:1).

The bead is likely to date from the first half of the second millennium b.c. It is of a type used in the attractive crescentic jet necklaces with multiple strings of such beads between spacer plates. (Cf. Evans 1897, 456-63; Howarth 1899, 59-63).

#### *Other Finds*

11. Gun flint of translucent grey/brown flint. 20 × 23 × 5 mm. SF16 E6. (Not illustrated).

*Medieval Pottery*

Unlike the fields nearer to Cummersdale villages this field produced pottery mainly of a 13th-14th century date. From a total of 42 medieval sherds only four were of the early Northern Gritty ware (Fabric 1: Fig. 7.24). Slightly more than half the sherds (23) were in Fabric 2, including a jar rim (Fig. 7.25) and two handles (Fig. 7.26 & 7.27). There were also eight sherds of grey sandy reduced fabrics (Fabric 4) of late medieval date.

The medieval pottery was not abundant but evenly distributed with increasing concentrations near Low Brownelson farm. Brownelson is first attested as a placename in 1285 (EPNS Cumb. I, 131).

**Crofton (NY 299 502)**

(Thursby parish. OS 1:2500, 1970, Field Nos. 0026 & 0049)

Higham and Jones 1975, S. 154; CW2, lxxxv, 253-5 & Fig. 2.

This site was extensively walked in 1982 with inconclusive results. In autumn 1983 the field was fairly wet but in October it was possible to walk part of the field. The areas covered, in four large blocks, was approximately 150 m (N-S) by 110 m in the south-west corner of the field. The site nucleus was under the north-east of the blocks. Since our first visit in 1982 the field boundary between Field Nos. 0026, containing the crop mark, and 0049 had been removed.

*Roman Pottery.* By J. G. Taylor

1. Mortarium. Hammer-head. Mancetter-Hartshill fabric. A.D. 210-320. Block C. (Fig. 8)
2. Amphora sherd. Block C.

*Medieval Pottery*

Base sherd of a large jar in a gritty bright orange and grey fabric (A) and one sherd of Northern Gritty ware (D).

One land drain fragment dated 1832 was also found.

In 1984 most of a strip 30 m wide at the south end of the field was walked including the area where the Romano-British bangle fragment was found (CW2, lxxxv, 255 no. 6) but with poor results. No pre-medieval finds were recovered.

*Medieval Pottery*

One sherd of Northern gritty ware (c. 1150-1250); 3 sherds of lightly gritted reduced wares (c. 1250-1400); 1 sherd of reduced ware (c. 1350-1600).

**NY 301 507 (A on Fig. 1)**

(Thursby parish. OS 1:2500, 1970, Field Nos. 0070 & 0060)

This field, on the old Crofton Estate, was walked at the end of October 1983 in the absence of available fields with known crop mark sites. It lies between two major site complexes, Crofton Bank Wood (above) and Crofton East Park (CW2, lxxxv, 258) in a

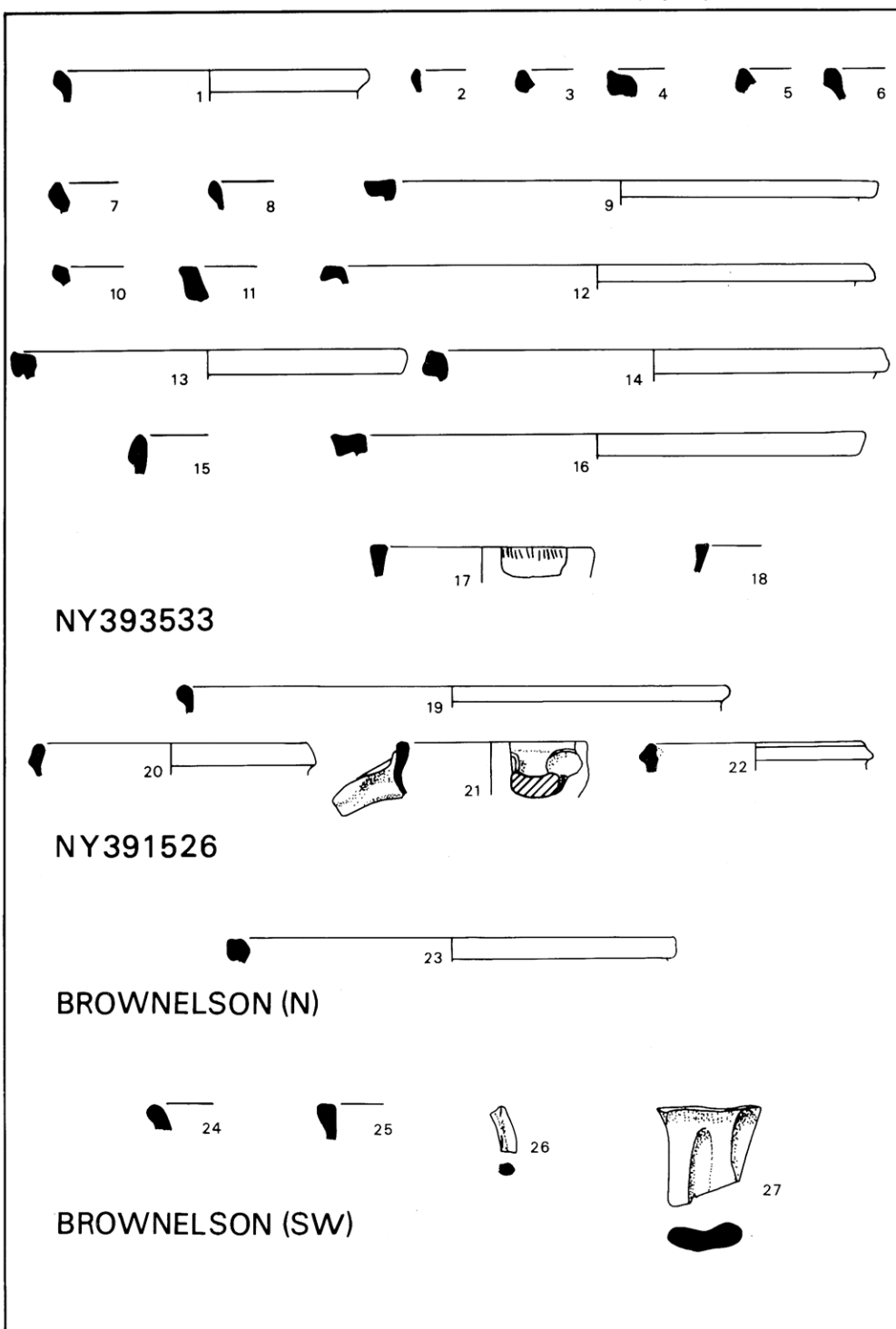


FIG. 7. Medieval Pottery (Scale 1:4).

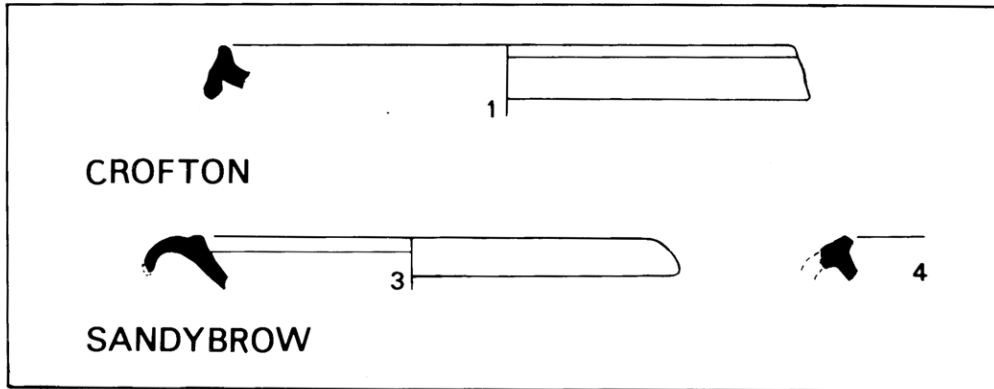


FIG. 8. Roman Pottery (Scale 1:4).

position not dissimilar to that of Crofton East Park. The southern third of the field, next to Crofton farm, is flat but the ground falls away steeply to the north to Whinnow Beck. All except the north-west part of the field was walked.

#### *Medieval Pottery*

The only pre-modern finds were 140 sherds of medieval pottery. Of these 121 (86%) were in the Northern Gritty ware (Fabric 1) dating to the 12th-13th century. Fourteen of these sherds had some glaze present. The rim forms of the jars/cooking pots are shown in Fig. 9.1-9.5. Four other rims, not illustrated, were similar to Fig. 9.3. The remaining sherds were divided almost equally between Fabrics 2/3 of 13-14th century date, including the jar (Fig. 9.6) and the handle (Fig. 9.7), and late medieval reduced grey sandy wares (Fabric 4).

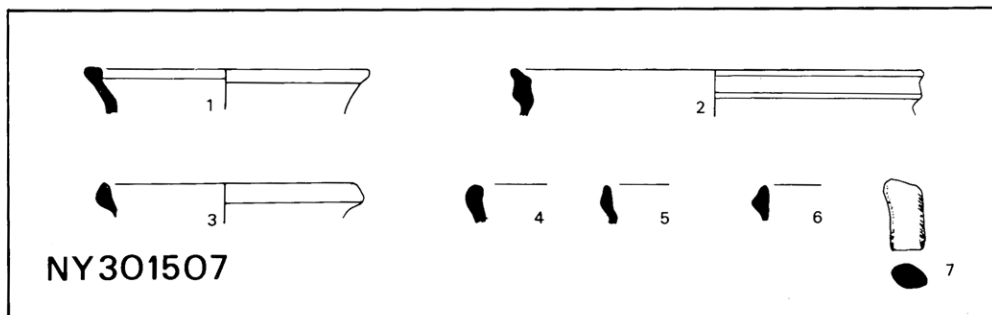


FIG. 9. Medieval Pottery (Scale 1:4).

**NY 262 474** (B on Fig. 1)

(Wigton parish)

The field, on a small plateau at 55 m OD, above Wiza Beck lies a little less than a kilometre north of Old Carlisle Roman fort. Although no site is known in the field,

local information reports an old road running centrally through the field in a north-south direction.

Most of the field was walked on a dull day in September 1984 using 30 metre quadrats starting in the south-west. Two strips on the east side were unavailable because of the presence of crops. The total area walked was about 7,000 sq.m.

#### *Flints* By C. I. Fell

A large proportion of this material (32 pieces) is unworked white, or heavily patinated, flint or chert, with a few pieces of grey and brown flint.

1. A small prismatic core of white, or heavily patinated, flint. SF3. (Fig. 3)
2. Broken serrated blade of white, or heavily patinated, flint. The type had a long life from the later Mesolithic to Neolithic. SFB. (Fig. 3)
3. Flake of white, or heavily patinated, flint. SF4. (Fig. 3)

There was obviously prehistoric activity here.

#### *Roman Pottery*

4. One scrap of Central Gaulish samian.

There was no medieval pottery.

#### **Sandybrow** (NY 307 474)

(Westward parish. OS 1:2500, 1972, Field No. 7044)

Higham & Jones 1975, S. 158; CW2, lxxxv, 258.

This extensive site was walked on a dull day in May 1983 with the crop just sprouting. Three rows of 30 metre quadrats (c. 23,500 sq.m.) at the south end of the field were set out to cover the major part of the crop mark, including the putative house site. The origin was in the south-east corner. Squares A1, B1, and C1 were not walked.

#### *Roman Pottery.* By J. G. Taylor

1. Central Gaulish samian. Worn body sherd. Second century.
2. Central Gaulish samian. Worn rouletted base sherd. Second century. B6.
3. Fairly hard sandy orange fabric. Flange fragment from 2nd century mortarium, probably locally produced. C7. Fig. 8.
4. Fairly hard white sandy fabric. Mortarium flange fragment. Midland product probably Mancetter-Hartshill (cf. Hemsley 1961, Fig. 4 no. 17). 140-210 A.D. Casual find. Fig. 8.
5. Fine hard orange fabric. Worn bodysherd with possible trituration grit. If so probably from a mortarium produced in the Verulamium region and imported into the area during the late 1st and early 2nd century. A4.
6. Hard sandy white fabric. Body sherd. Possibly from a mortarium of Midland origin. c. 140-370. B6.
7. Soft fine sandy orange-brown fabric. Worn body sherd. Probably Roman. C4.
8. Fine soft sandy fabric. Worn body sherd. Probably Roman. C6.
9. Fairly soft fine sandy brown fabric. Probably Roman. B7.
10. Fairly hard, slightly micaceous grey sandy fabric. Body sherd with distinct internal turning marks. Roman. B8.

11-17. Seven body sherds of Roman amphora. B6, B7, C6, C7, C7, C7, C7.

18. Tile fragment. B4.

The quantity of Roman finds is now sufficient to make it clear that this site is of Roman date. The flints recorded in 1982 (CW2, lxxxv, 259-60) cannot be related to the crop mark.

In 1985, following up the conclusions from the field walking a short metal detecting survey was carried out on small areas of the crop mark site, centred on the putative settlement nucleus, in order to test for the presence of Roman metalwork in the plough soil. The brooch was the only Roman object found. It was too scrappy to be worth drawing and has, unfortunately, been lost since the following report was written.

*Brooch.* By A. C. H. Olivier

Colchester Derivative (Camulodunum Type IV). Copper alloy (incomplete and very corroded).

The apparently plain bow has a low asymmetrically curved profile, and a generally D-shaped section. Although badly corroded, there are no traces of prominent mouldings on the upper surface of the bow. Much of the head is broken. The spring and pin (now missing) would originally have been attached to the brooch by means of an axial bar threaded through the centre of the spring and held in place by a central plate projecting from the underside of the head. This plate which would have had two small perforations, one for the axial bar, and one for the external chord of the spring, also projects up over the head of the brooch, forming a slight ridge; only the upper portion of this plate, together with the perforation for the chord of the spring now survives.

This developed form of Colchester Derivative brooch (distinguished, in particular, by a bi-perforated lug) remained in currency throughout the Flavian period, and has a fairly widespread distribution over much of Roman Britain.

### **Spain Wood (NY 295 483)**

(Westward parish. OS 1:2500, 1969, Field No. 3400)

Higham & Jones 1975, S.148

The nature of this site is unclear. Higham and Jones record it as 'road and enclosure?' (1975, 33). There was a wartime aerodrome in Spain Wood (Field Nos. 6400 and 7700) to the south of the field with the crop mark. Local information has it that an access road ran across our field to the Wigton Road. The field contains a high proportion of modern rubbish, particularly slag.

The east half of the site was walked on two days in November 1983 using 30 metre quadrats and beginning in the south-east corner. The potato crop had been harvested but the field had not been reploughed. Previous experience proved that such conditions are not ideal for field walking. Finds on the surface are washed clean of soil and are very visible but the overall quantities are diminished as the surface of the field levels off under the effects of weathering. The field boundary between Field Nos. 3400 and 4700 has been removed but walking was confined to Field No. 3400. Area walked was 32,400 sq.m.

### *Finds*

1. Annular jet bead with very irregular shape and splayed perforation hole. Dia. 14-16 mm. Th. 8.5-10 mm. Hole dia. 5.5-6 mm.

A group of similar, but not identical jet beads came from a fourth century grave at Colchester

(Crummy 1983, 32-33, No. 617). The shape is consistent with many Roman period glass beads but is common in other eras too. A Roman date likely but not proven.

2. Fragment of a shale or jet bangle. The bangle has spilt across its width but it seems likely to have been of D-shaped profile originally. Dia. c. 49 mm.

The date is again uncertain. Numerous jet bangles are recorded from burials in York, often having been found in position on the arms or ankles of bodies of third-fourth century date (RCHM 1962, 144). Two shale bracelets were found in third century Roman contexts at Blackfriars Street, Carlisle (Caruana forthcoming Nos. 363-4). However, glass bangles were in use among the pre-Roman population of southern Scotland (Kilbride-Jones 1938, 372) and jet was in use in the Bronze Age (see Brownelson SW no. 10 for references). On the whole a Roman and, possibly later Roman, date is likely but not certain.

### **Burgh by Sands III (Roman fort) (NY 316 586)**

The crop mark of the fort is described in *Britannia* XVI, 1985, 271-2 with a location map in *Britannia* XVII, 1986, 383.

About one-third of the field was walked on a dull day in November 1984 after the potato crop had been lifted. The area walked, approximately two-thirds acre, lay over the Roman fort recently discovered by Professor G. D. B. Jones. Besides trying to obtain dating evidence for the fort, it was hoped to compare the rate of recovery of Roman pottery from the plough soil over a Roman fort with that from rural habitation sites. Although visibility on the ground was good, post-harvest walking rarely seems to give ideal conditions for finds recovery.

There were two undiagnostic flints from the site, a white, or heavily patinated, piece (SF1) and a dark brown opaque flint (SF2).

The Roman pottery was all very small scrappy and worn fragments. This included two fragments, one probable and one possible, of samian ware; one scrap of Black Burnished ware; one amphora sherd; and one sherd in a white fabric of uncertain date.

There were 23 sherds of medieval pottery, two in Northern Gritty ware (Fabric 1) and the others 13th-14th century fabrics (Fabrics 2 & 3).

None of the finds is illustrated.

### **Conclusions**

The major results of the 1983-84 seasons lie in two areas. The site at Sandybrow has now been shown to be almost certainly of Roman date. This field, which was still visible as an impressive earthwork in 1822 (AA1 i, 132), has now produced a good range of Roman pottery dateable to the second century and possibly later. The pottery includes mainly specialist imported wares: samian, mortaria and amphorae. The site has also produced a Roman brooch. It is not yet clear what the reason is for the quality and relative abundance (for Cumbria) of this pottery. At its simplest, the reason might be that the site has only been under plough for a century and a half and the contents of the ploughsoil may still be relatively intact. However, there may also be a question of status. In 1822 a monolithic stone was visible on the site suggesting the possibility that the site was something more than just a farmstead. This is speculative but less so is the point made by Higham and Jones (1975, 25) that some of the farmsteads in the immediate



hinterland were linked by trackways to Old Carlisle. If this was so it could well carry the implication that the internal economies of such farms were more closely integrated to the fort and *vicus* economy or were more susceptible to Romanising influences by virtue of their proximity.

The second area of interest arises from the work done between Cummersdale and Brownelson. Substantial quantities of good quality worked flint has been recorded in locations which seem to be unrelated to the known crop marks. Those from Brownelson were evenly distributed on and off the crop mark. Further flints (unpublished) extend the distribution over Brownelson SE and the Cummersdale site. It is unfortunate that there is only a single Romano-British bangle from Brownelson and an ancient, but not closely dateable, glass bead from Cummersdale (CW2, lxxxv, 260). They hint at, but certainly do not prove, Roman period occupation.

The explanation offered to account for the various discoveries is to postulate two separate settlement patterns. The earlier, i.e. prehistoric one, related to the flint and axe scatters and distributed more or less evenly along the terrace of the Caldew. The absence of crop marks matching this distribution suggests, at very least, that any settlements were unditched. Then, in Roman times (or possibly earlier) settlement became concentrated within ditched enclosures at intervals along the river and taking advantage of the slightly higher ground at Brownelson and Cummersdale (Fig. 2). Such a pattern of settlements has been identified along other river margins such as the Wampool (Higham and Jones 1975, 28 & Fig. 3).

In other respects results have been inconclusive. A similar pattern of prehistoric activity alongside the Wiza may be attested by the flints at NY 262 474. The vicinity of Old Carlisle has in the past produced a number of stone axes but the evidence at the moment is tenuous. One point worth noting though is that the raw material north of Old Carlisle was of poor quality compared to the grey and brown flints from alongside the Caldew.

The quantity of Roman pottery from the fort at Burgh was disappointing and may not be typical since fieldwalking at Blennerhasset fort has produced larger quantities (information from J. Evans).

The medieval pottery has only been summarily recorded but even within the broad groups used here it is apparent that there are wide variations in date and quantities of finds. It is beyond the scope of this project to explain these distributions but it is worth stressing that there is a source of data within the modern plough soil for a study of medieval settlement and farming.

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