0.68m in width and 0.20m deep, although it appears to be located just outside of the main ring of the roundhouse house its proximity suggest it may have functioned as some part of the main structure. The two large intercutting pits (3164/3166 and 3135/3133) could well be located either side of an east facing entrance to the roundhouse.

The rest of the features forming RH2 were made up of well formed and defined post-holes. A few exceptions were noted but these appear to have been heavily truncated. The remaining post-holes of the structure varied between 0.09-0.56m in length, 0.75-0.0.50m in width and 0.28-0.14m in depth. No finds were recovered from any of the features that formed the outer ring of the roundhouse.

A total of seven features were identified within the interior of the roundhouse. Two intercutting features were located fairly centrally and could have formed a central support post for a roof (Fig. 4, S.1063). The initial feature 3153 was a deep post-hole 0.74m in length and 0.47m in width and 0.46m in depth. This in turn was cut by 3151 a smaller post-hole 0.60m in length, 0.46m in width and 0.30m in depth, the single fill 3150 contained a lens of charcoal, defining the northern side of the post-hole. The presence of the charcoal could be the result of a raised brazier or perhaps occupational debris falling into the hole during renewal or adding of a supporting post. No finds were recovered from either of the two features. The remaining internal features were also post-holes ranging in length from 0.80-0.50m, width from 0.70-0.45m and 0.26-0.24m in depth. Only post-hole 3160 contained evidence of a post-pipe with all other post-holes contained just a single fill. No finds were recovered from any of the internal features.

Roundhouse 3 *(Figs 2 and 5; Plates 3 and 4)*

Roundhouse 3 (RH 3) was located at the south-western corner of the site, with only approximately two thirds of the structure visible within the stripped area and appeared to be almost D-shaped in plan. The roundhouse was defined by a broken shallow gully approximately 20m in circumference and ranging in depth from 0.20-0.01m. The western side of the structure had a further break in the gully which was occupied by a post-hole (3207), that was rough circular with a diameter of 0.75m and 0.14m deep with a single fill. To the north of post-hole the roundhouse gully (3174) contained another post-hole (3176). There was no visible relationship between the post-hole and the gully fill, though the post-hole did contain packing stones along the same alignment of the gully suggesting both features are contemporary (Fig. 5, S.1074). The northern portion of the gully was not well defined and may have been completely truncated. The eastern part of the roundhouse gully (3187) followed the pattern of its counterpart on the western side in that it was deeper at its southern point becoming progressively shallower along its course (0.18-0.01m). The gully 3187 contained slight depressions along the base which may have been formed by stake-holes or small post-holes. A clearly defined post-hole (3185) was located within the confines of the eastern gully and was 1.10m in length, 0.51m wide and 0.46m in depth. No finds were

recovered from the fill of post-hole 3185, but numerous packing stones were visible. The environmental sample also recovered oak charcoal fragments.

Post-hole 3199 (Fig. 5, S.1086) was located tangentially to the roundhouse gully but did not have any discernable relationship with it. The post-hole was 1.0m in length, 0.62m in width and 0.37m in depth. A single fill was observed within post-hole 3198, from which a flint end scraper was recovered. The proximity of the post-hole to the roundhouse gully suggest they are probably related and 3199 may have acted as support post for the structure.

Three internal features were also recorded, the easternmost post-hole (3203) was 0.52m in length, 0.52m in width and 0.12m deep. It contained a single fill (3202) from which a single piece of flint was recovered. Located 1.20m to the west was a further post-hole (3205) which was 0.45m in length, 0.40m in width and 0.15m in depth. Again a single fill (3204) was recorded, from which no finds were recovered. An additional feature was also located 0.80m to the west. This linear feature (3123/3125) was fairly irregular and poorly defined, trailing off to the north from this feature was a slight depression approximately 2.50m in length. The orangey fill is suggestive of a natural feature.

Roundhouses 4, 5 and 6

Additional groupings of post-holes that may also represent roundhouses were recorded in the north-eastern corner of the site. Three potential groups of features can be identified and may form part of a settlement in an unenclosed landscape.

Roundhouse 4 *(Figs 2 and 6)*

Roundhouse 4 (RH 4) was located against the northern excavation baulk and is represented by six by post-holes (3325, 3321, 3317, 3367, 3360 and 3397). These features form a rough semi-circle 9m in diameter, with perhaps half of the structure exposed. Confirmation of the structure as a roundhouse will have to wait until the later phases of exaction when hopefully the other half will be revealed. The four clearly defined post-holes (3325, 3321, 3317 and 3367) ranged in diameter from 0.21-0.45m and 0.3-0.08m in depth, with all four having indications of a post-pipe. The eastern side of this possible roundhouse was defined by two pits (3360 and 3397), both of which contained clear evidence of them being post-holes in the form of packing stones, with 3397 also having a post-pipe. No finds were recovered from any of the post-holes forming RH 4, although hazel nut fragments were recovered from post-hole 3360.

Roundhouse 5 *(Figs 2 and 6)*

Roundhouse 5 (RH 5) was located directly south of RH 4 and was formed by an array of five post-holes (3331, 3333, 3335, 3351 and 3353) whose distribution is barely suggestive of a roundhouse and is only given credibility by the existence of the two larger features (3349 and 3355) which may represent an entrance. The five small post-holes varied in diameter from 0.30-0.70m and measured 0.08-0.27m in depth. Two larger post-holes/pits were located at the

southern end of the group and may represent a type of porch. Feature 3349 was 0.80m in length, 0.45m wide and 0.22m deep and contained a single fill from which a flint fragment was recovered. Feature 3355 was again oval in shape 0.70m in length, 0.58m wide and 0.22m deep. Packing stones were present at the south side of the feature and Iron Age or native Romano-British pottery was recovered from the fill along with hazel charcoal.

Roundhouse 6 *(Figs 2 and 6)*

Directly south-east of Roundhouse 5 was an additional grouping of post-holes (3374, 3376, 3378, 3374, 3399 and 3401) represent Roundhouse 6 (RH 6) with a diameter of 9m. Here again two large pits (3372 and 3380) defined a probable south porch or doorway. The two pits had a similar profile with a deeper northern end sloped up towards the south. The post-ring comprised of six well defined post-holes and a very shallow depression that was only recorded in plan. The features ranged in length from 0.38-0.67m, in width from 0.35-0.50m and in depth from 0.10-0.24m.

No post-holes were visible in the north-eastern side of the supposed roundhouse. This maybe a product of more acute truncation in this area, an idea supported by the heavily truncated post-hole (3521) to the north. Alternatively, deep post-holes may not have been required in this area due to the presence of the bedrock, which would have resulted in a lack of any archaeological remains. Hand-made pottery fragments, dating to the pre-Roman Iron Age or Romano-British period, and hazel nut shell fragments, were recovered from post-hole 3372, one of the porch post-holes.

Ditch 1 *(Figs 2 and 7; Plate 3)*

Ditch 1 was a 88m long east-west orientated linear feature located to the east of the trackway Ditch 5, which it articulated with. A total of 18m were excavated to provide a 20% sample. Most slots were 2m in length with the exception of a slot located at the intersection with the trackway, Ditch 5, where a 12m slot was excavated. The gully was between 0.50-0.70m in width and between 0.12-0.23m in depth. The northern side of the gully was in most cases the deepest (Fig. 7, S.1046). The natural limestone along the course of the feature was noticeably worn and smooth, which may be a product of the gully having been left open for a period of time or just natural weathering of the upper layers of the limestone. Excavation of the intersection between Ditch 1 and Ditch 5 demonstrated that the gully (Ditch 1) had been cut by the trackway, (Ditch 5; 3193), with the cut for Ditch 1 continuing on for a further 0.60m to the west of the trackway ditch. A single pottery fragment was recovered from the eastern terminal end of Ditch 1 and a single burnt flint fragment was recovered from the intersection slot at the western end of the feature. The pottery dates to the pre-Roman Iron Age / Romano-British period.

Ditches 2 and 3 *(Figs 2 and 7; Plate 5 and 7)*

Two ditches articulated with the western side of trackway Ditch 4. Both were fairly shallow and oriented north-west to south-east.

The southern ditch (Ditch 2) was 32m in length and was investigated by means of two slots (a total of 6.5m) excavated through it to provide a 20% sample. Each slot contained a single fill with the ditch cut being between 0.68-0.70m in width and 0.24-0.25m in depth (Fig. 7, S.1117). No finds were recovered from the fills of either slot. The intersection with the trackway ditch appears to show that Ditch 4 cuts through Ditch 2. In plan the gully turned slightly to the south before it was truncated by the trackway ditch, which suggests that the gully may have been part of a more extensive, earlier field or enclosure system that originally followed an identical alignment to the trackway ditches or had been appended to it before ultimately being replaced by a later phase of trackway ditch.

The northern ditch (Ditch 3) was approximately 57m in length and was investigated and was investigated at four locations (a total of 12m of the ditch) to provide a 20% sample. The excavated intersection between the ditch and the western trackway (Ditch 4) indicated the presence of two phases of Ditch 3 (Fig. 3). The shallowest phase of ditch (3495), turned to the south and was 1.22m wide and 0.35m deep and quickly disappeared as a separate cut 2m to the west of the intersection. The other ditch cut (3466), however, turned to the north and was 0.82m wide and 0.40m deep. This change in direction suggests a change the emphasis from one side of the ditch to the other. There is no archaeological evidence within the enclosed areas to suggest what this focus may have been, so a field system function seems most likely. Ditch 4 also contained two phases of ditch with a terminal located in the northern aspect a terminal (3467), possibly relating to one of the phases of ditch, most likely 3495. Due to the homogenous nature of the fills in all the cuts it was not possible to establish stratigraphic relationships with any degree of certainty.

The four additional slots excavated through Ditch 3 were between 0.60-0.45m in width and 0.28-0.17m in depth. All contained a single fill with an abundance of sub-angular limestone inclusions, which varied in size from 0.02-0.10m (Fig. 7, S.1256). No finds were recovered from any of these slots which makes dating and phasing the features problematic. The stratigraphic relationships with Ditch 4 suggest that Ditches 2 and 3 are most likely to represent field boundaries of either pre-Roman Iron Age / Romano-British in date, being part of a field system appended to an earlier phase of the trackway.

Western Trackway Ditch (Ditch 4) *(Figs 2,3 and 7; Plate 3, 6 and 7)*

The trackway feature investigated comprised two clearly defined ditches in the western margins of the site that ran from the south-west corner to the northern edge of excavation. The western trackway ditch was 121m in length and a total of 11 slots, totalling 24.2m, were excavated through it at regular intervals. Along the course of the ditch its width varied greatly from 1.55-0.49m, the depth of the ditch also varied from 0.60-0.17m. The northern portion was notably thinner and shallower, perhaps indicative of differing rates of survival and truncation. Several of the slots produced evidence for at least two distinct phases, either as clear re-cuts or in the form of terminals within the ditch that had been cut through.

Ditch slot 3272 contained a potential re-cut, or feature cut into the ditch. The section contained a deposit (3273), which was notably darker in colour than the main ditch fill. Deposit 3273 was 0.60m deep and appeared to be contained within a steep sided, 0.48m wide cut (3274). The steep sides perhaps suggest it is a large pit or post-hole or some other intrusive element. Finds recovered from deposit 3273 consisted of two flint scrapers which are likely to be residual.

Ditch slot 3278 provided the best evidence for incremental development (Fig. 7, S1120). A terminal (3278) was identified within the section along the western side of the ditch, which had a truncated width of 0.55m and a depth of 0.50m. This had been cut through by a continuous ditch cut, 0.85m wide and 0.40m deep, located on the eastern side of the slot. The fill of the re-cut contained fewer inclusions than the fill of the terminal ditch, and provided a clear contrast between the fills. No finds were recovered, again making it difficult to establish any dating for these two phases.

Finds from the trackway ditch include two spreads of pottery, one from 3463, the upper fill of ditch slot 3467, located at the intersection of Ditch 3 and Ditch 4. A further spread of pottery from the single fill (3472) of ditch slot 3473. Much of the pottery is Romano-British in date and is located in the upper fill or the fill of the re-cuts.

Also worthy of note is the discovery of a possible Neolithic stone axe head (SF12) from the upper fill (3497) of ditch slot 3498. The axe head further attests to the earlier prehistoric activity on the site. Although some questions remain over its authenticity it is, however, a notable find (see Brooks below).

Eastern Trackway Ditch (Ditch 5) *(Figs 2, 3 and 7; Plates 3,6 and 8)*

The eastern trackway ditch was formed by a succession of shallow gullies, with three separate gullies being visible at one location (Fig. 7, S.1247).

Fourteen slots were excavated at regular intervals along the course of Ditch 5. Seven of these revealed evidence of two distinct gullies running in parallel or intercutting (e.g. Fig. 3, S.1218). The only clear evidence for a relationship between the two gullies was visible between slots 3469 and 3470. In this section the eastern gully 3469 appeared to cut the western gully 3470 which was on a slightly different alignment.

Where two cuts were recorded along the course of Ditch 5,the eastern gully always was noticeably shallower and measured between 0.69-0.30m in width and 0.28-0.12m in depth. Finds from the eastern gully include pottery and flint, the pottery coming from the fill of cut 3458.

In comparison the larger western gully of Ditch 5 measured in comparison between 0.98-0.62m in width and 0.30-0.19m in depth. Pottery was recovered from deposit 3299 within cut 3300 and consisted of two sherds of Crambeck grey ware

Two slots excavated in the northern part of Ditch 5 varied from the normal pattern of the two gullies. One showed the clear presence of three gullies (3488, 3486 and 3484) all running in parallel with each other. Again just like the other slots excavated it was not possible to identify any relationship between the gullies. Gully 3484, however, was a terminal cut and appears to be the extra gully. It was 0.53m in width and 0.17m in depth and produced both pre-Roman Iron Age and Romano-British pottery.

The northernmost slot only revealed the presence of a single gully (3500) 0.85m in width and 0.27m in depth, when considered in plan it appears that the three gullies identified to the south had converged on the same alignment. No finds were recovered from slot 3500.

Ditch 5 also intersected with several different features. To the south it intersected with a short gully (3211), that was 8.5m in length 0.73m in width and 0.16m deep. This gully was located 4m to the north-west of Roundhouse 2 and could be associated with it or possibly Ditch 1. Alternatively it maybe an earlier fragment defining the eastern side of the trackway. This segmented nature is also respected in the terminals immediately to the north (3193 and 3255).

The southern terminal (3193) was larger and was 0.90m wide and 0.38m deep, where as the northern terminal (3255) was 0.62m in wide and 0.17m in deep. This particular break in ditch maybe the result of Ditch 5 respecting a pre-existing bank that was part of Ditch 1. Pottery, flint and animal bone, were recovered from the single fill of the terminal (3255) with no finds recovered from the southern terminal fill.

In places the eastern trackway ditch represents at least three phases of construction. The dating evidence for each phase cannot be determined at present and the whole maybe broadly attributed to the pre-Roman Iron Age / Romano-British period, although this is based on a very limited amounts of pottery.

Discreet features

A total of 66 discrete features, excluding those that form structures were identified across the site. Many of the features identified and excavated were either post-holes or pits. Many were isolated but some were found in cluster arrays such as in the north-eastern corner of the site and in an area immediately east of the trackway. A selection of these features are described below, these being of the more interesting ones that either produced artefacts or contained interesting aspects to their content. The finds recovered allow them to be resolved into two broad chronological groups; Bronze Age and Romano-British. Many, however, did not produce any finds and these are, at this stage, un-datable. The features described below are arranged in perceived chronological order.

Bronze Age Features

A group of features located in the north-eastern corner of the site are attributed a Bronze Age date. Pits 3329 and 3357 and post-holes 3323 and 3340 contained dark brown deposits that produced an abundance of finds. These features were located within close proximity to each

other and formed the southern side of a broadly rectangular grouping of post-holes (3347, 3342, 3345, 3388, 3390, 3392, 3386, 3384 and 3403). The four main features picked out and described below appear to reflect the focal point of activity within this grouping. These four features produced pottery and flint objects consistent with them belonging to the Bronze Age.

Pit 3329 (Fig. 7, S.1160) was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.60m in length, 0.55m in width and 0.2m in depth. A total of three fills were recorded within the pit, the primary fill (3328) was a yellow brown silty clay and formed the initial lining of the pit. Bronze Age pottery and a broken flint side scraper were recovered from the deposit. The secondary fill (3327) was a distinct 0.05m thick layer of charcoal and contained an abundance of charred material. The upper fill of the pit (3326) was a heavily mixed deposit of charcoal and burnt clay, an abundance of daub and heat affect clay was also recovered from the upper fill. This feature may have been a small oven or fire pit used for cooking.

Pit 3357 was roughly circular, measured 0.55m in diameter and was 0.35m deep. The two fills recorded showed an indication of having been burnt, although this did not appear to have been *in situ.* All the finds were recovered from the upper fill (3356) and consisted of a nutshell, pottery and animal bone. Two flint artefacts were also recovered, one of which was a side-end scraper and the second was a small plano-convexed knife, suggesting this pit is of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date.

Post-hole 3323 was located 1m to the north east of Pit 3329 and was 0.1m in diameter, although only 0.05m in depth the single fill of included an abundance of charcoal. The fill 3322 also contained a lot of flint fragments. With no evidence of local burning it seems possible that the deposit is the remains of a nearby hearth.

Post-hole 3340 was a small post-hole located 1m to the south-west of Pit 3357 and was 0.34m in length, 0.25m in width and 0.27m in depth. A thin layer of burnt material was recorded at the surface of the fill, where a number of flints were recovered. The remainder of the fill consisted of an orange brown silty clay that contained an abundance of heat affect stone.

Two other features produced Bronze Age pottery, both seemingly isolated from their contemporary features, described above.

Pit 3454 was located in the northern central part of the site. It and was circular in plan, 0.44m in diameter, and 0.13m deep. The single fill (3453) showed indications of it having been burnt; fragments of a Bronze Age collared urn were also recovered from the fill. The pit now appears to have been completely isolated, but due to its shallow depth, any other associated features may well have since been truncated.

Pit 3508 was located along the western side of the stripped area to the south of Ditch 3. This feature was circular, 0.95m in diameter and 0.30m deep. The single fill showed some evidence of burnt material. Bronze Age collared urn fragments were recovered from the fill.

Two post-holes (3510 and 3514) were also located in close proximity. These too may well be associated with Bronze Age activity.

Late Iron Age and Romano-British Features

Several features produced exclusively pre-Roman Iron Age pottery and are therefore thought to date to this period. Although the nature of the pottery can not rule out a later date.

A cluster of pits and post-holes 30m to the east of Ditch 5 form a interesting group indicating pre-Roman Iron Age or Romano-British crop drying or processing. The group of features consists of features 3419, 3421, 3423, 3425, 3432, 3442, 3462, 3474, 3476 and 3480. The features identified with the evaluation Trench 26 might also be considered part of this group. The environmental evidence from the evaluation (Williams and Roberts 2008) identified cereal grains from Pit 272 within Trench 26 and suggested that they may relate to crop drying or processing. The environmental evidence form the group of features lasted above also suggests a similar function with the clearest evidence demonstrated by the T-shaped corn dryer 3430.

Corn drier 3430, (Fig. 2; Plate 9) was identified at the northern edge of the site. The corn drier was T-shaped in plan and had been heavily truncated. The feature was oriented north-south with the cross of the T at the south. This alignment followed that of the trackway ditches. The feature was 3.30m in length, with the T being 1.64m in width. Across the flue the width was between0.40-0.64m. The deposit excavated was very thin at 0.13m thick, perhaps indicating the heavy level of truncation and plough damage.

The corn drier contained two distinct fills (3428 and 3429). The former was located in a slight bowl at the northern end of the drier. This end was the primary burning area of the drier, the limestone also showed indications of having been heat affected. A sample of the fill produced a lot of burnt carbonised material. No clear relationship was established between the deposits located within the main flue and the firing bowl at the northern end as both parts of were no deeper than 0.13m. Deposit 3429 represented the main bulk fill in the remainder of the corn drier. This deposit was yellowish brown and contained abundant charcoal, burnt clay and stones. No finds were recovered from either of the corn drier deposits, but the form of the feature is common during the Roman period and more than likely dates to this period.

Pit 3442 (Fig 7; S.1223, Plate 10) was located with a cluster of pits and post-holes 25m to the east of corn drier 3430. The pit was roughly circular, 0.90m in diameter and 0.57m deep. The pit had an asymmetrical profile with a deeper step located towards the western side. The initial fill of the pit (3448) was made up of a yellow brown clay, and formed a lining to the pit. Pottery and flint were recovered from this deposit, as well as charred organic material identified as wheat and barley seeds. The additional three deposits identified within the pit (3460, 3441 and 3459) also contained large amounts of charred material, with 3441 producing hazel nutshells. The fills also contained a large amount of heat affected clay that had an orange colour. Finds recovered included pottery daub, and charred organic remains.

The upper fill (3459) sat upon a thin lens of burnt orange clay, possibly the remains of a later burning event, and also contained an abundant amount of pottery. As well as fragments of a Bronze Age collared urn, the pit also yielded Iron Age hand made pottery.

Pit 3432 (Fig. 7, S.1219) was located within the same cluster as Pit 3442, east of Ditch 5, along the northern edge of the site. Bronze Age pottery was recovered from its fill but due to this close proximity to Pit 3442, which also contained Bronze Age pottery and pre-Roman Iron Age pottery, it might be safer to assume a later date. The pit was an irregular oval, 0.70m in length, 0.60m in width and 0.18m in depth. The eastern and western side of the pit also contained a grouping of stake-holes. Two deposits were contained within the pit; the primary fill (3431) contained abundant charcoal and areas of heat affect clay, where as the upper fill of the pit (3447) was a dark brown black silty clay which was coloured due to the high frequency of charcoal and charred remains within it.

Pit 3407 was located at the northern edge of the site and appears to be a single isolated feature. The pit was cut into a large clay band that ran from the north to the south. The pit itself was well formed, being 0.94m in length, 0.80m in width and 0.14m in depth. The single fill (3406) contained a high quantity of burnt material including charcoal and burnt stones. The environmental sample contained indeterminate charred seeds and wood charcoal. In the base of the pit were two stake-holes (3435 and 3436), both in the northern half of the pit. Pottery from the pit is potentially pre-Roman Iron Age or native Romano-British, although some scraps could be Bronze Age. The stake-holes could represent some sort of structure associated with the pit, and when considered with the charred seeds this feature might be viewed as having had a crop drying of function.

Select Un-dated Features

Pit 3104 was an irregularly shaped pit located in the western part of the stockpiling area at the eastern extremity of the site. The pit itself was an irregular oval with a straight southern side. The pit measured 1.21m in length, 1.20m in width and 0.17m in depth. The limestone on the southern side had clear evidence of having been burnt *in situ*. The single fill (3103) contained abundant oak charcoal fragments, but no other finds. Pit 3104 was an isolated feature and its relationship with the other features in the stockpiling area is at this stage not clear.

Pit 3452 was located in close proximity to the northern extent of the eastern trackway ditch (Ditch 5). The pit was 0.52m in length, 0.33m wide and 0.26m deep. The single fill contained numerous calcined bone fragments, these were too small to identified, although two sheep/goat carpals were noted. The deposit also produced an abundance of hazel nutshells which may have been processed here or consumed in association with the animal remains. The burnt nature of this deposit suggests it could be the remains of a cooking hearth or even perhaps a cremation. Further analysis of the bone is required to resolve this.

6 Artefact Record

Pottery by Blaise Vyner

Assemblage significance

There are two principal components to this assemblage. The earliest material belongs to the Beaker and Early Bronze Age period and probably represents the result of attrition of burial mounds during agricultural improvements of the early 19th century, as well as damage by agricultural activities extending back to the medieval period. Perhaps more important, given the fairly limited amount of recent archaeological excavation around the southern fringes of the North York Moors, is pottery associated with extended agricultural settlement of the Late Iron Age and Romano-British period.

Chronology

There is fragmentary material from the Beaker period and Early Bronze Age present, with Beakers and Collared Urns represented. A number – perhaps up to around a dozen, vessels are represented, but in most cases a very limited number of sherds is present (Table 1). The larger part of the assemblage appears to be Late Iron Age or Romano-British in date.

The Iron Age/native Roman pottery component is difficult to date on the basis of the present assemblage. One vessel has traces of indented fingerprint decoration along the rim, but this is not a chronologically diagnostic feature. The presence of some quantity of Romano-British material at the site suggests that the Iron Age or native component may be relatively late, and this suggestion would be reinforced by the presence of a sherd of possible briquetage, or salt container, noted further below. The material first appears in assemblages of latest Iron Age date.

Vessel fabrics

In view of the limited representation of the pottery from the Early Bronze Age it is not possible to draw any conclusions from the fabrics present.

The pre-Roman Iron Age or native style pottery is present with a range of fabric types (Table 2):

Fabric 1: exterior and interior surfaces dark grey, fabric dark grey, with numerous cavities from which calcitic grits have leached, the exterior surface sometimes having the remnants of a thin buff or orange-buff outer surface.

Fabric 2: similar to Fabric 1 in colour but with additional small and medium-sized milky quartz grits.

Fabric 3: exterior surface varying from dark grey to mid-brown, fabric dark grey, sparse small and medium-sized sedimentary quartz grits, a few large and very large angular sedimentary and granitic grits.

Fabric 4: dark grey surfaces and fabric, smooth hard slightly sandy fabric, no obvious grits.

The proportion of fabrics present is skewed by the large quantity of Fabric 4 in context 3483, and there are few meaningful conclusions which can be drawn.

Vessel types

The Early Bronze Age ceramics comprise fragments from Beakers and Collared Urns, and this material would be consistent with damaged or destroyed funerary contexts. There has been considerable agricultural attrition of the moorland fringes, especially since agricultural improvement began around the beginning of the 19th century. In the area to the west and north of Pickering it is clear that agricultural encroachment onto areas which had previously not been subject to intensive arable agriculture has taken place at least from medieval times, with a clear pattern of strip fields extending northwards from Pickering and, especially, from Middleton to the west. It is unlikely that the Newbridge Quarry area escaped early agricultural use which would have eroded and finally removed any Early Bronze Age burial mounds. Some confirmation of this suggestion is provided in the record of the excavation of two barrows at Blandsby Park in 1961, both of which were found to have been considerably damaged by ploughing (Rutter 1973). Barrow 1 (NGR SE814865) contained sherds of a corded Beaker and probably two Collared Urns, while Barrow 2 (NGR SE814866) contained sherds of Collared Urn.

The Iron Age or native Roman pottery comprises sherds from medium-sized and large jars, the form of which is seldom evident, but where present is barrel-shaped. Small vessels are almost entirely absent.

A single piece of possible briquetage, or salt container, is present in context 3318. This is in a somewhat harder fabric than usually found in North Yorkshire ceramic assemblages, but has traces of vegetation impressions in the outer surface, while the interior surface has indications of usual damaged, perhaps the result of attrition by salt. Following the initial identification of briquetage in assemblages of latest Iron Age date in North Yorkshire (Willis 1999, 23-26), the material has been found in a number of assemblages from the lower Tees valley, while evidence for salt manufacture has now been found at Loftus, on the coast of north-east Yorkshire (Sherlock and Vyner forthcoming).

Evidence for metal-working, in the form of crucible or mould fragments, is absent, but the presence of fired clay pieces suggests a degree of industrial activity. Several pieces have been fired to a greater extent than might be expected from a hearth or the burning of a daub wall, while one piece appears to have been moulded round a smooth rod of a kind not anticipated in the construction of a wall. The piece also has an outer edge bearing the imprint of vegetation. In the same context are two fired clay pieces, roughly formed circular pellets of unclear purpose.

Accretions

Traces of carbonised accretion are present on two sherds of Collared Urn, possibly the same vessel. Although carbonised accretions are frequently present on the upper parts of Iron Age

vessels in excavated assemblages from the Vale of Mowbray and the Tees valley, none was observed on the Newbridge Quarry pottery of this period. Carbonised material associated with pottery in contexts 3327 and 3441 may be worth considering for radiocarbon dating.

Catalogue

Contexts with Bronze Age material

1 Collared Urn 1: rim fragment, dark brown exterior surface, dark grey interior surface and fabric, occasional small cavities from which calcitic grits have leached, but few other obvious grits, wall thickness 10mm, traces of indistinct cord impression on the exterior. A further abraded sherd from a collar base may not be the same vessel. *Southern Stockpile area; Context 3099; Pit 3100*

2 Beaker 1: Nine sherds from an All Over Corded Beaker, exterior surface terracotta, interior surface and fabric dark grey, a few angular mixed sands and occasional medium-sized sands are visible, wall thickness 7mm, horizontal rings of cord impressions extend upward from the base. A small sherd with slightly rounded rim may be from this vessel. *Southern Stockpile area; Context 3110; Pit 3111*

3 Beaker 2: Rim fragment, exterior surface buff orange, interior surface and fabric dark grey, no obvious grits, wall thickness 7mm, vertical rim with raised horizontal cordon below the rim, below which is a row of indistinct diagonal twisted cord impressions. *Southern Stockpile area; Context 3110; Pit 3111*

4 Two undiagnostic sherds, exterior surface buff-orange, interior surface and fabric dark grey, occasional small milky quartz grits and cavities from which calcitic grits have leached, occasional medium-sized chunks of grog, wall thickness 8mm, no obvious decoration. One sherd has a slight external ridge and appears to be from the carination point of a vessel, perhaps the lower part of a poorly-defined collar from a Collared Urn, but in the present context more likely a Beaker fragment. *Southern Stockpile area; Context 3110; Pit 3111*

5 Collared Urn 2, sherd probably from the collar, exterior surface dark grey-brown, interior surface and fabric dark grey, numerous small and medium-sized sedimentary quartz grits, incised finger-nail decoration. *Phase 1 Extraction Area; Context 3326; Pit 3329*

6 Collared urn 3: Collar fragment from a small vessel, orange-brown exterior surface, brown-mid-grey interior surface and fabric, wall thickness 8mm, flat upper surface to rim, two rows of short diagonal cord impressions on the collar. *Phase 1 Extraction Area; Context 3328; Pit 3329*

7 Collared Urn 4: Collar fragment from a large vessel, surfaces dark grey-terracotta, fabric dark grey, numerous small and medium-sized igneous grits, wall thickness