

re-cut then additional samples were taken. For comparative purposes the enclosure ditch was also sampled.

Three of the flotation samples from one of the ring-ditches (Structure 1) were submitted for assessment at the University of Durham and a specialist report prepared (Appendix E). Charred plant remains were well preserved with a range of different species identified and statistically significant remains were identified at the terminals of the ring-ditch; these were of sufficient quantity to address a number of research questions relating to crop husbandry and local cultivation regimes.

5.2.2 FIELD SYSTEM AND ENCLOSURES

Although evaluation had predicted the continuation of the Romano/British rectilinear structures, already mapped and excavated within Int.2, the extent of the complex was unforeseen.

As a result of the current investigations the complex has revealed a new identity with a group of enclosures located in the northeast corner of Int.3, but mostly occupying the northern part of Int.2, and an intervening field system to the south, but which extends the full width of Int.3 (see Fig.3). Preliminary examination of the ceramic assemblage recovered from investigations in both interventions suggests that these activity areas were established at different times (B.Vyner pers.com). The enclosure system itself was apparently constructed over a number of phases, which occasionally followed the same alignment.

The western edge of the enclosure system, overlying the well drained gravels and contained within Int.3, abuts the perimeter of an extensive spread of heavy boulder clay subsoil. It is likely that the capping of boulder clay is responsible for the rectangular cropmark shadow previously identified as a potential Villa site. The only features mapped crossing the clay were a number of ditches belonging to the intervening field system.

Few internal features were discovered within either rectilinear complex. However, beyond the south end of the field system a small group of postholes is suggestive of additional land division.

5.2.3 THE CURSUS

A short incomplete length of the eastern cursus ditch was uncovered in the corner of Int.3 (see Fig.3).

The cursus was in a poor state of preservation with no upstanding earthworks visible either in plan or section. Former gravel extraction marked by a large oval pit backfilled with heavy blue-grey clay, extended from the edge of the haul road to the eastern cursus ditch; this had removed the greater part of the central avenue. In addition the cursus ditch had been truncated and wiped-out at the northern end where it could be demonstrated that a depth of topsoil and subsoil, 0.65m thick,

had previously been sliced off the surface, presumably to clear off overburden during the earlier phase of extraction.

At the southern end a small trench 9.00m long was cut across the ditch in order to confirm its identification and character, and obtain suitable dating material. The exploratory cutting contained no primary fills and the silting patterns of the ditch could not confirm the presence of external banks. However the stratigraphic evidence, observed both in plan and section, indicated that the backfilled ditch had been re-cut on at least two later occasions.

6.0 ASSESSMENT OF RESULTS INT.2 & INT.3

6.1 THE REGIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT (Blaise Vyner)

6.1.1 INTRODUCTION

The excavated areas at Scorton reveal three distinct activity areas: a group of round houses set within an enclosure at the south-western edge of Intervention 3, a complex of enclosures at the north-eastern corner of Intervention 3 but mostly occupying the northern part of Intervention 2, and an intervening field system. Preliminary examination of the finds suggests that these activity areas were established at different times. The enclosed settlement may have been established in the early Iron Age; it is at present uncertain whether or not it was ever co-terminous with the field system which developed to its north, although the Romano-British enclosure complex to the north-east almost certainly was.

The enclosed settlement to the south-west has pottery which may be consistent with occupation between the sixth to third centuries BC, a chronology which gains some support from the presence of saddle and beehive querns. By contrast, the enclosure complex to the north-east is associated with an assemblage of Romano-British pottery ranging in date from the second to the fourth century AD. The intervening field system ditches have produced a small amount of Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, so on artefactual grounds alone would seem to have been in use during the currency of the north-eastern enclosure system, while, as discussed below, their morphology suggests that the site of the south-western enclosed settlement was respected.

6.1.2 THE ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT

While the ceramic evidence suggests an earlier Iron Age date for the enclosed settlement, it is closely comparable with other sites in the region, the best known and most extensively excavated being Thorpe Thewles, Cleveland. The enclosed settlement appears to be a type site of the Iron Age in the north-east, where increasing numbers have been discovered through air photography over the past twenty years. Typically, little evidence for internal organisation or activity is revealed through the cropmarks which are usually generated only by the main enclosure ditch and

occasionally by a ditch surrounding a principal round house. The excavation at Thorpe Thewles showed that the initial phase enclosure with single large round house developed into a more extensive settlement which outlived, and extended beyond, the original confining enclosure. The Scorton enclosed settlement would seem to echo the central phases of the development at Thorpe Thewles, apparently always being confined by the enclosing ditches. The absence of Romano-British pottery from this part of the excavated area suggests that the life of this settlement did not extend into the Roman period, indeed, on current understanding of the pottery it may well have been abandoned some considerable time beforehand. Abandonment may not have meant failure, however, but as can be suggested at other sites, may simply have involved a move to a location more appropriate to changing social and subsistence strategies.

Although it is tempting to associate this settlement with the field system which lies immediately to its north, the evidence does not support this. The field system would appear to have been laid out after the settlement enclosure had been established, and quite possibly after the settlement had actually gone out of use, since there are no obvious links between the two. The pottery examined so far also supports this interpretation.

6.1.3 THE ENCLOSURE COMPLEX

The north-eastern enclosure complex can be interpreted as a series of small paddocks which may, given the amount of pottery recovered from this area, have been tofts with buildings, although there seems little evidence for structures. The complex bears some similarities to the so-called Romano-British villa at Wharram le Street, East Yorkshire, which has produced pottery of second to fourth-century date, and the later phase of the ditch layout at Ingleby Barwick, in the lower Tees Valley, also suggested to be of Romano-British date.

Whether this enclosure complex was associated with the field system is also at present an open question; several of the east-west boundaries appear to be cut by the smaller enclosure boundaries in a way which suggests that they were not used in the new arrangement, yet some pottery in the field system ditches is contemporary with pottery associated with the enclosure complex. The explanation may be that only parts of the field system remained in use throughout the Romano-British period.

6.1.4 THE FIELD SYSTEM

The relationship between the field system and the enclosed settlement and the enclosure complex has been discussed above; further examination of the archaeological evidence should refine understanding of the relationships. Although field systems of varying extent are known from the northern part of the Vale of York and the Tees Valley, the chronology of their development is still uncertain. Where excavation has taken place, as at Norton-on-Tees and Hemlington, near Middlesbrough, Romano-British pottery is present in the ditch fills, although this does not preclude their original establishment in the Iron Age, as has been suggested for the curvilinear elements of

the Ingleby Barwick field system. In this area, however, it would seem that field systems were not a dominant feature of the lowland landscape until the Romano-British period. In contrast early systems seem to be much more in evidence in the southern part of the Vale of York and areas of the north midlands; at Rossington, south of Doncaster, an extensive field system is cut by a Roman road.

This note has been prepared on the basis of a brief overview of the ceramic and other finds assemblages and without detailed reference to the stratigraphic record; it is therefore subject to revision in the light of the necessary more detailed review of the excavated evidence. Additionally, it is anticipated that information on Iron Age settlements excavated recently at Easingwold, Catterick and Rawcliffe will become available for comparison within the next few months.

6.2 STRATEGY FOR FULL POST-EXCAVATION ANALYSIS (A.Copp, B.Vyner)

The recent excavations at Scorton quarry (Int.2 and Int.3) have uncovered a large ancient agricultural landscape, composed of a nucleated settlement from the Iron Age and an extensive field system and enclosure pattern of the Romano-British period. The establishment of this landscape marked a significant change in the exploitation of the gravels which had previously, during the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age, been the focus of ritual and funerary activity over a considerable period of time. Although the cropmark sites suggest that the activity was extensive and focused upon the cursus monument, the evidence indicates that the later settlement and field system was situated only on the periphery of this complex.

In general the mapped agricultural landscape is not the best preserved but it is an important regional example. The association of significant quantities of pottery and other datable finds, with a series of interrelated activity areas provides an important opportunity to establish the detail of landscape development in the first Millennium BC and later. A situation which has hitherto been rarely available in the northern part of the Vale of York. The results of excavations on similar sites elsewhere shows a geographic imbalance with a strong emphasis towards southern England with important research programmes and fieldwork published for sites in the southern Midlands, on the fringes of East Anglia and notably along the Thames Valley (eg Pryor 1984, Miles 1984, Miles 1986, Fulford & Nicholls 1992).

The proposals presented below for the production of a full excavation report will be based upon the analysis of data sets held in the excavation archive of Int.2 and Int.3, (see Table 2) and will include, where possible, a review of previous excavations at the quarry. Following production of the report, it is anticipated that, with the agreement of the client, a publication report should be produced.

The cost of the full excavation report is given below (Table 5).

- Production of specialist reports for different species of finds

Pottery: examination and identification of the fabric types, vessel forms; and their comparison with data from other sites. This will provide data required to establish date, location of production and the range of vessels used, and will establish a firm chronology for the site and enable it to be placed within its regional context. It will also throw light on the chronological development of the site and the function of the various excavated structures.

Quernstones: examination and identification of the petrology and identification of their form. This will provide data to establish relative date and possibly the source of manufacture.

Metalwork: Full conservation of the metal objects is required to conserve the artefacts for safe, long term storage. Analysis of typological form is necessary to establish date, function and style.

Environmental bulk samples: processing and specialist sorting of selected flotation samples, a maximum of 15 samples, in order to identify ancient seeds of cultivation and weed seeds. This will provide data required to establish crop husbandry regimes for phases of the Iron Age settlement.

- Drawings of selected species of finds to illustrate forms and to allow comparisons with published assemblages from other sites.
- A study of sequence of phases indicated by the excavation results (the site record) in order to understand the growth and development of the site; and the correlation of specialist report findings with the excavated data, for example, the distribution of ceramic fabric types and forms with the activity areas, associations of types and forms with roundhouse structures etc.
- A review of comparative sites to enable the site to be placed within both its regional and national context.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

SCORTON QUARRY: ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION SOUTH OF THE GRANGE ARCHAEOLOGICAL BRIEF FOR PHASE 5

INTRODUCTION

The recommendations and strategy outlined here are based on the evidence gathered from previous archaeological interventions. These proposals concern the development of the field lying immediately south of The Grange farm at NGR 42390/50090. The land was under a grass crop (April 1995) and was used for growing cereals the previous summer. The ground is flat with a ploughsoil 0.30-0.40m deep composed of a sandy silt/clay loam (Sizer and Brignell 1993, Fig.1). A large subsoil spoilheap is situated along the western edge of the field with a volume of over 32,000m³ (Sizer and Brignell 1993, Table 2). In total the field covers an area of approximately five hectares. The proposed development involves stripping off the topsoil and subsoil deposits prior to sand and gravel extraction.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The field lies between two distinct zones of known cultural activity, to the east is the site of the Romano-British farmstead with its rectilinear enclosures, and to the west lies the prehistoric landscape containing the Scorton cursus.

We can predict that many of the gullies from the farmstead will continue across the track into the new field. Some of these are visible on the aerial photograph (CUC DQ 77). A network of rectilinear enclosures and shorter gullies cover almost the full width of the field and at least one sub-circular ring-ditch is visible at the south end. A stretch of the Scorton cursus survives in the southwest corner of the field.

Archaeological intervention has determined the survivability of features in the terrain, truncation of negative features cut into the subsoil was measured to a depth of 0.40-0.45m. Except for the very abraded cultural material in the ploughsoil all surviving archaeological remains will only be present in the subsoil. Exceptionally, bank material may survive along the back of the cursus. Previous excavators have recorded the survival of a bank 0.32m high along the cursus (Topping et al 1982,12). If this deposit sat above an old ground surface there is clearly potential to study the ancient soil horizon.

The survival of artefacts, including environmental remains is determined by the character of the soil and the vigour of post-depositional processes (Table 1). Survival of organic material will be poor and may depend upon local conditions - some bone and teeth were discovered from the gullies of the rectilinear enclosures, but no bone was visible from the central pit of the barrow excavated in 1977 (Greenhalf 1977,9). Organic deposits may be recovered as decay products. In 1977 the central burial pit also contained the remains of a coffin visible as a rectangular charred stain (ibid.). Minerals survive although artefacts may only be recoverable in the form of a decay

product. For example the pair of trumpet brooches found during the 1994-1995 investigations were almost completely composed of green corrosion products (Spriggs 1995). Soil pollen is not preserved but there is potential to study environmental sequences in deposits containing burnt and charred remains.

Further archaeological works should complement all previous investigations in the area. The archaeological rewards can be specified and will be the criteria by which features are selected for excavation,

- complete recording the geometry and growth of the native Romano-British field system
- investigate the character of the ring-ditches and any domestic structures
- characterize the components of the ritual landscape
- assess the relationship of the Romano-British occupation with the prehistoric landscape
- record and sample the makeup of the cursus and any buried ancient soils

STRATEGY

Different methods of detection are available to record the archaeological remains (Table 2). Horizon definition and mapping will produce the largest yield of features. From the potential prehistoric sequence this will include quarry ditches, ring-ditches, postholes, pits, burials, hearths etc., and from the Romano-British sequence the pattern of gullies, postholes and pits. The preferred method will complement the normal stripping routine employed at the quarry. From an archaeological point of view stripping operations are more successfully carried out when the ground is damp, when the contrast in colours on the subsoil surface is pronounced, and when the dust generated by the machinery is reduced. These conditions conflict with the successful operation of the heavy plant machinery and the recommendations of the environmental consultants (Sizer and Brignell 1993, Section 5).

SPECIFIED WORKS

In general the works will involve the following set of operations,

- a) supervision of topsoil stripping
- b) sample metal detection
- c) mapping the geometry of all archaeological remains
- d) area excavation and sampling of archaeological remains

- e) post excavation assessment and selected finds analysis
- f) archive and summary report production
- g) deposition of the archive in an appropriate museum

The topsoil will be stripped using a mechanical box-scraper pulled by a tracked caterpillar tractor, and a 360° tracked back-acting excavator fitted with a wide grading or toothless bucket. Topsoil will be stripped to a depth not greater than 0.30m using the box-scraper, the remaining 0.10-0.15m of topsoil will only be removed with the back-acting excavator. A reserved area 20.0 x 50.0m in the southwest corner of the field will only be stripped by back-acting excavator. During stripping with the back-acting excavator spoil will be transported using tipper trucks which are not to travel over stripped areas. The stripping operation will be supervised by an archaeologist experienced in this procedure to ensure the recovery of any archaeological remains.

An area not greater than 10% of the total area will be metal detected after the first 0.30m of topsoil is removed and the same area detected again following the horizon definition. All ferrous and non-ferrous readings will be accurately located and all targets will be retrieved, at least in the first sweep to a depth not greater than the surface of the subsoil.

All archaeological features will be mapped in relation to nearby fixed structures at an appropriate scale. Where important or well-preserved deposits and structures are encountered these will be subject to area excavation by hand on 100% sampling basis. Features of lesser importance such as ditches and postholes will be sample excavated in proportion to their form, function and numbers.

Where important or well-preserved deposits are encountered environmental flotation samples will be recovered and processed using a sampling strategy agreed with a specialist environmental archaeology unit and the County Archaeologist. If ancient buried soils are discovered soil micromorphology samples should be taken to record the structure of the ancient soil profile.

After the site has been excavated and all necessary records completed, the finds and stratigraphic information will be assessed for their potential for further analysis. A preliminary report will be produced summarising the fieldwork and assessing what further work is required to properly understand the remains.

With the agreement of Tilcon and the County Archaeologist the final stage of works will involve finds analysis, archive preparation and the production of a final summary report.

All works will be carried out following the procedures outlined in Management of Archaeological Projects (second edition) and IFA guidelines where appropriate.

APPENDIX B

REPORT ON THE WATCHING BRIEF INT.15

A watching brief was carried out in the field south of The Grange Farm by Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd on the 26th March 1996 to monitor a number of exploratory pits which being cut to investigate the nature and extent of the local geological strata (Fig.A).

These pits, the second in a series of geological prospection at the site, were located within a 40m wide corridor down the centre of the field, across an area containing a deposit of heavy clay subsoil (Fig.A). Previous archaeological evaluation of the field suggested that the pits would cross a possible Roman villa settlement, identified as a dark cropmark on a number of aerial photographs.

A total of twenty-six small sub-rectangular pits, were opened by machine using the back-acting arm of a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. In each of these pits the topsoil was removed, then the subsoil surface machine cleaned, to an average depth of 0.35m, and finally one of each of the trench faces was cleaned in section. None of the pits contained any recognisable archaeological deposits, an observation later confirmed by total area stripping, and no finds were recovered. The position of each pit was located on the site grid using a Total Station Theodolite.

(Andrew Copp)



Location of test pit holes, Int.15

0 50m



Fig. A

APPENDIX C

SCORTON QUARRY INTERVENTION INDEX				
INT No.	ACTIVITY	REFERENCE	ORIGINATOR	DATE
1	Fieldwalking	OS field 0004	FAS	27/07/94
2	Excavation	OS field 0004	FAS	25/08/94
3	Excavation	OS field 8200	FAS	13/09/95
4	Watching brief	OS field 0004	FAS	31/10/95
5	Aerial reconnaissance	DQ 73-77	CUCAP	10/07/49
6	Aerial reconnaissance	AAB 17	CUCAP	13/07/59
7	Aerial reconnaissance	ACB 33	CUCAP	19/07/60
8	Aerial reconnaissance	BDE 50-52	CUCAP	11/07/70
9	Aerial reconnaissance	BTY 52-55	CUCAP	05/07/75
10	Aerial reconnaissance	540/567 1218	NMR	29/07/51
11	Aerial reconnaissance	540/755 1262	NMR	25/05/52
12	Magnetometer survey		Bradford University	1977
13	Excavation		David Greenhalf	1977
14	Excavation		Peter Topping	1978
15	Watching Brief		FAS	13/03/96
16	Excavation	Tancred quarry	FAS	19/09/96
17	Metal-detection		FAS	Sept. 1995
18	Excavation	OS field 211	Shirley Thubron	1975
19	Excavation		Shirley Thubron	1976
20	Excavation		Schadla-Hall	1976
21	Watching Brief		Paul Chadwick	1977
22	Watching Brief		Neil Campling	1992
23	Aerial photography	58/3173 2101	NMR	21/08/59
24	Aerial photography	106G/LA/286 3720	NMR	12/05/45
25	Aerial photography	MAL/71177 6024	NMR	14/11/71
26	Aerial photography	MAL/73037 7988	NMR	08/07/73
27	Aerial photography	MAL/74058 8031	NMR	16/09/74
28	Aerial photography	MAL/77006/8885 6&9	NMR	28/02/77
29	Aerial photography	OS/80120 9627	NMR	21/08/80
30	Aerial photography	OS/69348 11067	NMR	14/07/69
31	Aerial photography	NMR1678 157-8	NMR	22/08/79
32	Aerial photography	BXV14757 23-27	NMR	01/01/92
33	Aerial photography	NMR966 198-9	NMR	14/07/76
34	Aerial photography	ALP2907 5&8	NMR	06/07/76

APPENDIX D

THE ARCHIVE STRUCTURE

All the records gathered during the term of a project constitute the project archive. Records concerning the creation, administration, funding and history of the project are contained in a series of binders, the PROJECT FILE. Records of data acquired by intervention on or in the ground constitute the FIELD FILE. Records of analyses, hypotheses, comparative studies, methodologies and reports generated on the basis of data collected in the Field File or otherwise are known collectively as the RESEARCH FILE.

The contents of all files which constitute the Project Archive are pre-structures.

Only the contents of the FIELD FILE, which contains records of new archaeological evidence, are presented to the regulatory authorities.

THE PROJECT FILE

The Project File, stored in blue binders, does not follow pre-determined fields because every site generates different kinds of records. The following table gives a guideline to the categories generally employed:

CODE	DESCRIPTION
XO	Index to project files
X1	List and map of interventions
X2	Work programmes and schedules
X3	List of reports and publications
X3.0	Report artwork and design
X4	Index of contributors
X4.0	Authors
X4.1	Participants
X4.2	Collaborators
X4.3	Sponsors
X4.4	Students/volunteers
X4.5	Mailing list
X5	Project history
X5.0	Office diary
X5.1	Financial records
X5.2	Scrapbook - press cuttings
X5.3	Publicity, guides and brochures
X6	Site management and presentation
X6.0	Ownership
X6.1	Permissions/licences

X6.2	Access
X6.3	Presentation
X6.4	Constitution of associated bodies
X6.5	Personnel and management
X7	General administration and correspondence

THE FIELD FILE

The Field File, stored in black binders, is a collection of all records generated by field work on a particular site. The categories are pre-determined as shown in the following table and the files are stored by category and by intervention within each category.

CODE	DESCRIPTION	CODE	DESCRIPTION
Indices		Features	
Y00	Index to field file	Y3	.0 Feature Record
Y01	Index of notebooks		.1 Auger Record
Y02	Index of contexts		
Y03	Index of features	Y4	Structure Record
Y04	Index of structures		
Y05	Index of drawings	Site drawing	
Y06	.0 Index of photographs	Y5	.0 Legend
	.1 Index of film processing		.1 Plans
Y07	.0 Index of finds		.2 Maps
	.1 Index of finds by context		.3 Sections
	.2 Index of finds by grid square		
	.3 Sample Register	Photographs	
	.4 Artefact Register	Y6	.0 Black and white negatives
	.5 Finds Storage Register		.1 Colour negatives
Y08	Index of geophysical data files		.2 Colour slides
Y09	.0 Index of survey stations		.3 Colour enprints
	.1 Index of co-ordinate files		.4 Black and white prints
	.2 Index of topographic files		
Y010	Index of interventions	Finds	
		Y7	.0 Finds Location Record
Y1	Notebooks		.1 Artefact Record
Contexts		Y8	Record of geophysical data files
Y2	.0 Context Record		
	.1 Skeleton Record	Topography	
	.2 Coffin Record	Y9	.0 Record of .RAW data file
	.3 Masonry Record		.1 Record of .FLD data file
	.4 Timber Record		.2 Surface Reconnaissance Record

THE RESEARCH FILE

The Research File, stored in red binders, is generally compiled during the post- excavation phase and should follow the categories shown in the following table:

CODE	DESCRIPTION
ZO	Index to research
ZO1	Index to site analyses and studies
ZO2	Index to environmental studies
ZO3	Index of comparative archaeology and regional studies
ZO4	Index of site assessment and evaluation
ZO5	Index to surface monuments
ZO6	Index of documentary sources
ZO7	Bibliography
ZO8	Index to methodology, replication and experiment
ZO9	Index to research designs, studies of synthesis
Z1	Site analyses and studies
Z2	Environment and resources
Z3	Comparative archaeology and regional surveys
Z4	Site assessment and evaluation
Z5	Surface monuments
Z6	Documentary sources
Z7	Bibliography
Z8	Methodology, replication and experiment
Z9	Research designs, studies of synthesis

APPENDIX E

SCORTON QUARRY, NEAR CATTERICK:SC96 ASSESSMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES (J.P.HUNTLEY)

INTRODUCTION

Excavation of a late prehistoric to Romano British settlement site at Scorton Quarry, near Catterick, North Yorkshire (NGR: NZ 239009) in advance of proposed quarry extension, was undertaken by Andrew Copp of the University of York. Within a rectangular, ditched enclosure lay the remains of at least four round-houses with associated field boundaries/linear features covering a considerable area outside the enclosure. The soil was a gravelly loam, very free draining and the stratigraphy relatively shallow except within the ditches. Bulk samples were taken for palaeoenvironmental assessment in terms of the degree of preservation, or not, of material indicating crop husbandry etc..

METHODOLOGY

Three samples were submitted for initial assessment. They were manually floated with both flot and residues retained upon 500 μ mesh. After drying the residues were scanned for presence of artefactual material and the flots for the nature of the matrix and the quality/quantity of identifiable plant remains present. The flots were examined at magnifications of up to X40 and any plant material identified by comparison with modern reference material held in the Durham Biological Laboratory in the Department of Archaeology.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The three samples all came from the same feature (205), a curvilinear ring ditch, but from different areas of it. Sample A was from the southernmost butt end where the ditch formed a regular "U" shape with a flat bottom. Sample C was from the adjacent northern butt end, opposite A, whereas B came from the extreme western end.

CONTEXT 1217 (A):13.8 litres of brown loam were processed. A moderate (10-15ml) flot of charcoal fragments and modern roots was produced with the occasional fragment of silvery grey metallic looking industrial waste. Some considerable quantities of charred plant remains were recovered (Table 1). Hulled barley and hexaploid wheat (probably spelt) grains were present and oats were recorded although these may have been either the wild or the cultivated since no diagnostic chaff was present. By far the most common item was spelt glume bases about half of which were sufficiently well preserved to be measurable. In addition a selection of weed seeds was present and would provide indications of soil regimes. All of the >2mm fraction was completed but only about 5% of the finer fractions. Given a total of about 50 items from the finer fractions full analysis would clearly provide a statistically viable dataset.

CONTEXT 1217 (B):15.5 litres of brown loam were processed. a moderate (10-50ml) flot of modern leaf and wood fragments was produced which contained a few fragments only of charcoal. A few

fragments of cereal grain were present in the >2mm fraction as well as half a charred *Prunus spinosa* (sloe) fruit stone. A few glume bases were present in the <1mm fraction but no other chaff or weed seeds.

CONTEXT 1217 (C): 15.5 litres of brown loam were processed. The moderate sized flot consisted of rather silty charcoal and some modern roots. A selection of charred seeds (Table 1) was present and similar to those from A although not as abundant. Neither oats nor wheat grain were recorded although spelt chaff was again the most common item. Only 2 of the 7 glumes were measurable, the rest being broken at one edge.

Table 1: plant remains recorded (counts of items, not all flot recorded)

		1217A	1217C
- proportion sorted overall		10%	40%
Cerealia indet.	indet. cereal grains	5	2
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (hulled)	6-row hulled barley	10	4
<i>Hordeum</i> undiff	barley grains		1
<i>Triticum</i> (hexaploid)	spelt/bread wheat	8	
<i>Avena</i>	oat grain	2	
<i>Bromus</i> spp.	brome grass	5	5
<4mm legume	vetch/tare	1	
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> -type	docken	3	2
<i>Galium aparine</i>	cleavers	2	
culm node	straw	1	
<i>Polygonum convolvulus</i>	black bindweed	1	
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i> pod	radish pod	1	
>4mm Gramineae	large grass	2	
2-4mm Gramineae	medium grass	1	1
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	fathen	2	
<i>Sieglingia decumbens</i>	heath grass	1	3
<i>Triticum spelta</i> glume base	spelt chaff	36	7
<i>Triticum</i> glume	wheat chaff	2	
<i>Triticum</i> brittle rachis	wheat chaff	3	3

It is clear that there are differences between these samples, notably between B and C/A in terms of the amounts of plant remains preserved. This seems likely to relate to their relative positions around the ditch with the richer samples being adjacent to the entrance. Material clearly was dumped or fell accidentally off the track into the enclosure. The charred remains are generally well preserved and of sufficient quality that full analysis would allow questions relating to crop husbandry and local cultivation regimes to be addressed. Native sites of this broad period with environmental samples are rare but see, for example, Bayram Hill and Allerton Grange in North Yorkshire (Huntley 1994a, 1994b). Roman military sites from the Catterick fort have charred material (Huntley 1996) which would allow comparisons between native and military sites. Further north in Cleveland there are well studied native sites (eg. Thorpe Thewles (van der Veen 1987)) and it would seem that, at this stage there are similarities between Scorton and other native sites. The presence of oats at Scorton would allow further investigations of Huntley's hypothesis that they became a crop in their own right during the first century AD in the south of the region compared with considerably later in the north on Tyneside (Huntley, in press).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Samples A and C deserve full analysis but, by themselves, would provide only a limited set of data for the site as a whole. B requires no further work and, by implication, other samples from furthest away from any entrances could probably be ignored. It is suggested that samples from adjacent to the entrances from the four or five other major roundhouses are processed in the expectation that material worth full analysis would be produced. This would be in the order of about 10 samples. Although no samples from the enclosure ditch have been assessed it is suggested that four are included in the further work, two from the area around F196 and perhaps two from adjacent to F241. If, for example, F313 was considered to be a pit, or any feature with a concentration of pottery, it too could be targeted. The aim would be to retrieve a sound dataset representing activity associated with the various roundhouses, possibly demonstrating different places for different activities. Although the above types should be targeted it is recommended that no samples are discarded until full analysis has been completed. As the site will be destroyed should further quarrying be undertaken these remain the only resource.

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APPENDIX F

X-RADIOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT OF AN IRON AGE SPIKE FROM EXCAVATIONS AT SCORTON NEAR CATTERICK (Jim Spriggs)

This is a thin iron rod object, approximately 120mm long with both ends tapering to a point. It has been radiographed at the York Archaeological Trust Laboratories using standard YAT equipment and procedures, (X-ray No.4147). The object has been packaged in an air tight container with silica gel to prevent further active corrosion.

The radiograph indicates an object made entirely of iron. There is patchy survival of the metal core with much of the tips completely mineralised for approx. 20mm at each end. The main stem of the object however still has a fair amount of metal surviving in it. Depletion of the core has resulted in several small corrosion blisters and the formation of a fairly bulky outer corrosion crust disrupting and obscuring surviving surface detail. The cross section appears to be roughly square, with the thickest section off centre, resulting in one long tapering arm and one shorter arm. It is possible that this object is a small tool such as an awl or a tanged punch, the shorter end serving as a tang for a wooden handle.

APPENDIX G

AN OVERVIEW OF THE POTTERY ASSEMBLAGE INT.3 (Blaise Vyner)

THE ENCLOSED SETTLEMENT

THE RING-DITCHES

The assemblage as a whole appears to belong to the Iron Age; there is no Romano-British material present and, at the other end of the timescale, obvious Bronze Age types, such as the carinated bowl, are also absent. A number of the vessel fabrics are the same as or very similar to, fabric types identified on Iron Age sites elsewhere in the region. At first glance less use seems to have been made of dolerite and other igneous grits, and more of ferruginous sands; this could be a reflection of chronology, function, or place of manufacture.

Narrowing down the chronology within the period from the seventh century BC to the first century AD is difficult, as the Iron Age pottery traditions in the region are notorious for their conservatism, quite apart from the fact that there are still only a few adequately published ceramic assemblages from the area. A significant feature in the present assemblage, however, appears to be the relatively large number of vessels which have finger-tip decoration on the rim, a trait which extends from the late Bronze Age into the Iron Age, with perhaps a revival later in the Iron Age. Detailed analysis of the fabric types and vessel forms should allow the chronology to be refined; for the present an Iron Age date, between the sixth and third centuries BC, seems likely. This suggestion is reinforced by the presence of fragments of two rubber stones, used for grinding wheat and barley, which precede the local introduction of the beehive quern sometime in the middle Iron Age.

Pottery from the roundhouse in the southeast corner of Int.3 is predominantly dolerite gritted, in contrast to that from the main hut group. This may reflect a different function or chronological horizon.

THE ENCLOSURE DITCHES

These seem to have a similar range of vessel types and forms, although there may be a predominance of dolerite gritted vessel sherds in this area. There is also a fragment of crucible with probable metal-working residues inside, similar pieces have been found on other Iron Age sites in the region.

THE FIELD SYSTEM AND ENCLOSURES

Pottery from various cuts into the field system includes second and third century AD Romano-British material. This raises the question of the extent to which the system can be related to the Iron Age settlement.