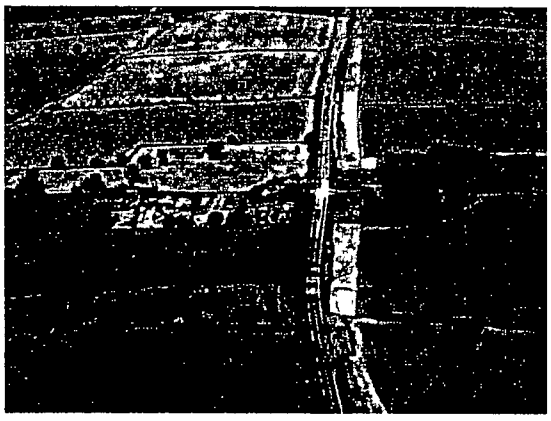

A66 (Package A) Road Improvement Scheme,

Greta Bridge to Scotch Corner

Archaeological Archive Report

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Balfour Beatty Atkins

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY

The Highways Agency has improved the A66 in two sections between Greta Bridge, Co Durham, in the west, and Scotch Corner, North Yorkshire, in the east, producing an all-purpose dual carriageway This included the construction of a new 7 3in wide carriageway, with 1m wide marginal strips, adjacent to the existing A66 single carriageway, over a distance of approximately 5km, between the Greta Bridge bypass (NZ 0890 1307 (408900 513070)) and the top of Stephen Bank (NZ 1280 1034 (412800 510340)), and for a distance of approximately 6km between Carkin Moor (NZ 1622 0827 (416220 508270)) and the Scotch Corner A1 Interchange (NZ 2140 0530 (421400 505300)) The 4km of road between these two sections remains as single carriageway and was not subject to the present scheme

In July 1998, BHWB Environmental Design and Planning was commissioned to review and update the archaeological information gathered for this road improvement scheme, and to carry out a condition survey of the various route options A programme of Stage 3 detailed evaluation works, comprising geophysical survey by GeoQuest Associates and trial trenching by Northern Archaeological Associates (NAA), was then initiated to assess the archaeological potential and the impact of the scheme, in accordance with the requirements of the Department of Transport's (DOT's) *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11 Environment Assessment* (DOT 1994)

The programme of archaeological investigations reported on here was undertaken in 2006-7 by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) on behalf of Balfour Beatty Atkins, a Construction Joint Venture company employed to design and build the new road This was in accordance with the *Scheme Specific Archaeological Design*, produced by the Contractor in order to fulfil the Employer's Requirements, which are set out in *Annex 11/1 Volume 3A of the Employer's Requirements* This design identified the requirement for various levels of archaeological works, including geophysical survey and evaluation of sites where the archaeological potential was uncertain, open-area excavations and photographic/topographic surveys, targeting the archaeologically sensitive sites identified by the earlier desk-based assessment and trial trench evaluation, and watching briefs monitoring the topsoil stripping in advance of road construction

The sites of principal archaeological interest investigated and recorded during the course of the project included, *inter alia*, the hand-excavation of interventions in two Scheduled Monuments Carkin Moor Roman fort (SM28289/02, site SCA2) and the Scots Dyke (SM26946, SCA10), the open-area excavation of an Iron Age settlement at Rock Castle, west of Melsonby Crossroads (SCA8), and the open-area excavation of extensive late Iron Age/Romano-British enclosures and settlement remains between Sedbury Home Farm and Scotch Corner (SCA13 and SCA15) This report also includes the results of several watching briefs undertaken during the course of the project, including those that took place after the main phase of fieldwork had been completed in April 2007

The earliest recorded human activity was of late mesolithic-neolithic date, represented by a few residual or unstratified flint artefacts recovered from several sites, and two radiocarbon determinations from pestholes at SCA10 A pit containing early Bronze Age pottery was exposed at SCA13, a carbonised accretion adhering to some of the

pottery yielded an early Bronze Age date, and another radiocarbon determination with an identical date range to that from the SCA13 pit was obtained from a posthole at SCA10 The open-area excavation adjacent to the known Iron Age settlement at Rock Castle (SCA8) exposed part of a roundhouse, enclosure ditches and other settlement features of Iron Age date, and extensive late Iron Age-early Romano-British settlement remains were investigated at SCA15, these included several roundhouses and a large number of field boundary/enclosure ditches, many of which yielded early Romano-British pottery, including a considerable number of imported Roman vessels Perhaps most significantly of all, the investigations resulted in the redating of the investigated section of the Scots Dyke at SCA10, from (as was previously thought) the early medieval period (*c* sixth-seventh century AD) to, in all probability, the early-middle Iron Age (*c* 800-100 BC) Part of a ditch of probable Roman date, identified at SCA2, is likely to have formed part of the defensive system for the Roman fort at Carkin Moor

With the exception of a few scattered artefacts, mostly potsherds, no good evidence for medieval activity was found, as expected, given the rural nature of the road corridor, though many features associated with the post-medieval agricultural landscape, including field boundaries, traces of ridge and furrow, and extensive systems of land drains, were recorded Evidence for post-medieval stone quarrying, in the form of small, disused quarries and quarry-pits, was recorded at several sites, as were bridges, culverts and other articles of road furniture associated with the A66 A small assemblage of post-medieval pottery was also recovered during the course of the investigations

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) wishes to thank Balfour Beatty Atkins for commissioning the work, and ultimately the Highways Agency (HA) for funding the project Eric Moreland and Sean McCready from Balfour Beatty deserve especial thanks for their help and co-operation, as do all the other engineers and construction workers who assisted Rob Sutton set up and monitored the project for Atkins Ltd, and is thanked for ensuring the archaeological works dovetailed neatly with the engineering programme and for delivering the project successfully, he received valuable assistance from Katie Rees-Gill and Gareth Talbot Ed Dennison, representing Mouchel Parkman, designed and championed the project, providing quality assurance for the HA and support for the on-site team The work could not have been completed without the assistance of Neil Campling, then of North Yorkshire County Council, and Neil Redfern and Jacqui Huntley of English Heritage

The following external specialists are gratefully acknowledged for their invaluable contributions to the project Ian Bailiff (OSL dating), Jeremy Evans (late Iron Age and Romano-British pottery), Scott Gramger (OSL dating), Mark Hounslow (archaeomagnetic dating), Vassil Karloukovski (archaeomagnetic dating), Richard Macphail (sedunent micromorphology), Blaise Vyner (prehistoric pottery) and Tim Young (metalworking residues) Blaise Vyner also provided aerial photographs for Rock Castle and useful advice when he visited the site Gordon Cook is thanked for his advice concerning the radiocarbon dates Gareth Talbot and Rob Sutton undertook the survey of the street furniture and field walls and authored the resulting report The OA North specialist team (Andy Bates (anunal bone), Sandra Bonsall (charred plant remains (CPR)), Caroline Bulcock (worked flint and stone), Denise Drice (charred plant remains and pollen)), Chris Howard-Davis (metalwork, glass, ceramic building materials, other artefacts and medieval and later pottery) and Elizabeth Huckerby (charred plant remains and pollen)) is thanked in equal measure Thanks are also due to Wendy Smith for helping with some of the CPR identifications

Norman Smith is thanked for his assistance in undertaking the metal-detector surveys, and Dora Thornton, Curator of Renaissance Collections at The British Museum, identified the silver spoon recovered during these Blaise Vyner is grateful to Terry Manby for discussing the early prehistoric pottery and for providing information of other assemblages

For OA North, the fieldwork project was managed by Alan Lupton and directed by Fraser Brown, who also managed the post-excavation assessment The programme of post-excavation analysis was managed by Murray Cook The archive report was written by John Zant, Fraser Brown and Chris Howard-Davis, and was edited by Murray Cook and Rachel Newman The illustrations were prepared by Anne Stewardson, Adam Parsons, and Christina Robinson

In addition to the above, the OA North field team should be thanked for their hard work and enthusiasm during the excavations Andy Bates, Jeremy Bradley, Ralph Brown, Caroline Bulcock, Ged Callaghan, Aigi Castle, Kelly Clapperton, Paul Clark, Jason Clarke, Steve Clarke, Pascal Eloy, Mark Gibson, Gavin Glover, Aaron Goode, John Griffiths, Chris Healey, Vix Hughes, Katherine Johnson, Laura MacCalman, Tom Mace, Janice McLeish, Paul Leader, Richard Lee, Kathryn Levey, Sam Oates,

Rebekah Pressler, Christma Robinson, Emma Rouse, Marc Storey, Karl Taylor and David Tonks

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCES (NGRS) AND RADIOCARBON DETERMINATIONS

Throughout this report, where co-ordinates have been provided, they have been given in 12-figure notation as eastings and northings, for example, 408000 513000 This corresponds to the numbers annotating the grid lines on the accompanying figures The scheme lies within National Grid Reference 10km squares NZ 01, NZ 10, NZ 11 and NZ 20 At an accuracy of 1m, easting 408000, northing 513000 corresponds to National Grid Reference NZ 08000 13000 A conversion matrix is available from the Ordnance Survey website (Ordnance Survey 2007 (July))

All radiocarbon dates are cited in the following form, for example.

2559-1950 cal BC	(3370	±70 BP,	GU5167)
calibrated date range (to two sigma)	uncal date	standard deviation	lab code

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1 1 1 This document is the post-excavation Archive Report for a scheme of archaeological fieldwork carried out in advance of (and, in some instances, alongside) constmction works undertaken on the behalf of the Highways Agency (HA) to upgrade, to a dual carriageway, two sections of the A66 between Greta Bridge, Co Durham, in the west, and Scotch Comer, North Yorkshire, in the east (Fig 1) The work was undertaken in 2006 and 2007 by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) on behalf of Balfour Beatty Atkins, a Constmction Joint Venture company employed to design and build the new road This was in accordance with the *Scheme Specific Archaeological Design* (Atkins 2006), produced by the Contractor in order to fulfil the Employer's Requirements, which are set out in *Annex 11/1 Volume 3A of the Employer's Requirements* (HA 2005)

1 1 2 Previous archaeological investigations (summarised in volume 2, part 3 (Cultural Heritage) of the 2002 *Environmental Statements* (BHWB 2002a, 2002b)) had identified a number of archaeologically sensitive areas along the road scheme If preservation *in situ* was not possible, a programme of archaeological investigation was designed to ensure that the extent of any archaeological remains was determined and that they were appropriately investigated and characterised This programme is detailed in *Annex 11/1, Volume* 3A *of the Employer's Requirements* (HA 2005) and the *Scheme Specific Archaeological Design* (Atkins 2006) Individual site-specific designs were also produced in response to the archaeological requirements that arose during the constmction programme, and various reports were produced in the course of the works as part of the certification process A full list of these reports and the accompanying drawings is held by Balfour Beatty Atkins (and, therefore, they are not referenced in the bibliography of this report)

1 1 3 The Improvement Scheme targeted two sections of the A66, between Greta Bridge, Co Durham, in the west, and Scotch Comer, North Yorkshire, in the east (Fig 1) The western stretch measured approximately 5km, between the existing Greta Bridge bypass (NZ 0890 1307 (408900 513070)) and the top of Stephen Bank (NZ 1280 1034 (412800 510340)) The eastern stretch was approximately 6km in length, between Carkin Moor (NZ 1622 0827 (416220 508270)) and the Scotch Comer A1 Interchange (NZ 2140 0530 (421400 505300)) The 4km of road between these two sections will remain as single carriageway, and was not subject to constmction works during this programme

1 1 4 The A66 occupies a narrow corridor of land with very little space between the carriageway and the current highway boundary The scheme therefore required the purchase of additional land outside this corridor, the majority of the archaeological works were undertaken adjacent to the existing carriageway, within this Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) boundary (PI 1) As well as within the footprint of the new carriageway, work was also undertaken within

areas required for balancing ponds, compounds for the construction workers, and access tracks for the farms and settlements adjacent to the road

1 1 5 ***The western tranche: Greta Bridge to Stephen Bank*** the condition survey report for the western part of the road corridor (BHWB 1998a) recommended a variety of strategies to mitigate the impact of the scheme on the historic landscape At an early stage, 13 separate areas, covering some 6ha in total (Fig 2), were subjected to geophysical survey (GeoQuest Associates 1999a) In general, the results showed little of archaeological interest, some areas of possible archaeological potential were recognised, but all lay outside the finalised road corridor, and thus none was tested by excavation Subsequent to the geophysical survey, seven evaluation trenches were dug along this section of the route, in three separate areas (NAA 2000a), sampling a total area of 354m² The trenches were either placed at random or tested geophysical anomalies, but none revealed any archaeological remains The modern-day A66 was, however, identified as having the potential to seal deposits that might relate to its Roman predecessor

1 1 6 Geotechnical test pits, dug along the south side of the extant road, within the existing grass verge, were monitored as part of the project (NAA 1999) With the possible exception of one test pit on Stephen Bank, at the extreme eastern end of the scheme, no archaeological remains were noted, and no trace of the Roman road was found (NAA 2000a)

1 1 7 ***The eastern tranche: Carkin Moor to Scotch Corner*** in this part of the scheme (Fig 3), there were two linked phases of geophysical survey, Phase 1 concentrated on its eastern end, between Melsonby Crossroads and Scotch Corner, whilst Phase 2 considered the area to the west of Melsonby, as well as some extensions to the Phase 1 areas In all, some 21ha were surveyed, divided between 28 separate fieldwork areas (GeoQuest Associates 1999b) The location and extent of individual survey areas were determined by the base scheme and the eight route options that were under consideration at the time Magnetic anomalies, thought to indicate significant archaeological features, were recorded in almost all of the areas surveyed

1 1 8 The condition survey report (BHWB 1998b) had recommended that the earthwork sites affected by the scheme, Gatherley Moor quarries at Melsonby Crossroads and a disused quarry to the south-east of Sedbury Home Farm, should be the subject of detailed topographic survey, and these were carried out by Oxford Archaeology North as part of the main project (***Section 4***) A subsequent realignment of the route obviated the need for survey in an area of ridge and furrow earthworks at Sedbury Home Farm

1 1 9 It was also recommended that the stretch of the Scots Dyke (***Section 2***) on the north side of the A66 should be surveyed, to identify any variations in topography which might represent the ploughed-out remains of the bank and ditch comprising the monument A topographic survey, undertaken in September 1999, recorded a shelf or terrace, approximately 2m wide, just to the west of the ditch, which was already visible as a cropmark (BHWB 2002b) It is thought that this terrace could mark the former position of a bank

which had been removed or levelled, on the south side of the A66, the bank can still be seen as an earthwork some Im high and 10m wide

1 1 10 In total, 35 evaluation trenches were excavated, m 11 separate areas, along this section of the route, sampling, m total, an area of 1950m² (NAA 2000b) Agam, they were placed either at random, or to test geophysical anomalies As was the case m the western section of the route, the results of the trial trenchmg were largely mconclusive, and many of the geophysical anomalies selected as bemg of potential archaeological mterest proved to be natural features As a result, it was established that the archaeological potential of the proposed road corridor was less than had been thought, and thus that the proposed works would have less archaeological impact than origmally predicted (*ibid*)

1 1 11 There were, however, three areas identified as bemg of particular archaeological significance the vicinity of Rock Castle, land adjacent to the Scots Dyke, and around Scotch Comer (Fig 3) A fourth site, to the east of Sedbury Home Farm, was also suggested as havmg some potential These four areas (respectively, SCA8, SCA10, SCA15 and SCA13, *Sections 2* and *3*) were mvestigated by open-area excavation m advance of the constrnction of the new road (Pl 1) Sites SCA8 and SCA15 were thought likely to contam archaeological remams relatmg to known Iron Age/Romano-British agricultural landscapes and settlement, both of which had already been explored archaeologically (see, for SCA8, Fitts *et al* 1994, for SCA15, Abramson 1995, Casey *et al* 1995) Agam, the modern-day A66 was identified as havmg the potential to seal deposits that might relate to a Roman precursor

1.2 GEOLOGY, TOPOGRAPHY AND SOILS

1 2 1 ***Geology*** the geomorphology and topography of the study area were described m the *Environmental Statements* for the scheme (BHWB 2002a, 2002b) They are closely related, with surface expression (topography and superficial deposits) bemg a result of the recent geological history and surface deposition Between Greta Bridge and Stephen Bank, deposits of river gravels occur at Thorpe Farm, Newsham Grange and Smallways, gravels of glacial origm also exist Glacial till, a furn sandy gravelly clay, occurs over much of this area, present beneath the more recent river gravels and alluvium Alluvium, comprismg sand, silt and clay, occurs as a surface deposit over a limited area associated with Smallways Beck and its floodplam, where glacial deposits of dense gravel and cobbles, with lammated clay and sand beneath, occur at depths of up to 25m Between Carkm Moor and Scotch Corner, superficial deposits comprise glacial till over much of the route, with bedrock at a shallow depth The glacial till is a firm sandy gravelly clay, with the sand and gravel content varymg considerably

1 2 2 Over the entire scheme, the underlymg solid geology is of the Carboniferous Limestone series (British Geological Survey 1995, 1997), present as sandstone, limestone or mudstone (Fig 4) At Thorpe Farm, at the western end of the scheme, weak black mudstone is present, whilst limestone bedrock is present on Stephen Bank, at a shallow depth In the east of the scheme,

sandstone is present at the surface to the west of Winston crossroads and outcrops at Black Hill and Gatherley Moor

1 2 3 The groundwater levels are high in the vicinity of Smallways Beck and Lanehead Lane in the west Although the area of Stephen Bank is under-drained by the limestone bedrock and the eastern section of the route is under-drained by sandstone bedrock, perched water tables are present

1 2 4 ***Topography*** The study area falls at the junction of three separate character areas, as defined by the Countryside Commission (now Natural England) in ***The Character of England*** (Countryside Commission 1996) To the south and east, Character Area 24, the Vale of Mowbray, is a low-lying agricultural area characterised by thick overlying glacial drift deposits To the north, Character Area 23, the Tees Lowlands, is very similar, with gently undulating glacial drifts being the main influence on landform and land use To the west, the A66 runs through and parallel to Character Area 22, the Pennine Dales Fringe, a long narrow zone marking the change from the upland landscape of the Yorkshire Dales to the west and the low-lying fertile landscape of the Vale of York to the east The underlying geology is predominantly Millstone Grit, which, modified by various glacial processes, has created characteristic features such as cut-off crags on valley sides, wide U-shaped valleys and minor landform variations, resulting from glacial deposits on the valley floors The transitional landscape is both hilly and grassy, with considerable variation between the open exposed plateaux and shoulders of the hills, the small and enclosed valleys, and the broad river valleys A strong rural character unifies the varied, diverse landscape

1 2 5 The A66 follows the natural contours, running along an undulating ridge of higher ground at 130-170m aOD, between Greta Bridge and Stephen Bank, and at 146-196m aOD between Carkin Moor and Scotch Corner, the highest point occupies a rise in the middle of the eastern section In the western section, the ridge is bisected by the River Greta at the western end of the scheme, and the valley of Smallways Beck (upstream also known as Nor Beck) further east In the eastern section, the ridge extends parallel to the steep-sided valley of Gilling Beck to the south The agricultural landscape has an open aspect, offering wide-ranging views over the valleys of the River Tees and the Greta, and, to the south, the Nor and Gilling becks The Pennines form a dominant backdrop to views to the south and west In the eastern section, these contrast markedly with the more enclosed, wooded parkland associated with Sedbury Hall, to the east To the north, the landscape is flatter, with localised ridges

1 2 6 ***Soils*** the heterogeneous nature of the glacial drift deposits over most of the region has resulted in considerable local variation in soil texture and drainage (van der Veen 1992, 8) Most of the soils in the river valleys and on the coastal plain are either well-drained and moderate Brown Earths, or less well-drained Stagnogleys The uplands are covered with Stagnopodzols, Stagnohumic Gley Soils, or peat (*ibid*)

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1 3 1 ***History and archaeology*** the ancient east to west route over the Stainmore Pass has a history stretching back long before the Roman period (Vyner 2001a), and is likely to have had a major influence on the area's character since early times Though evidence is sparse, it seems likely that the route adopted by the Romans was an established line of communication and focus for settlement in the pre-Roman period, whilst the supposed 'tribal capital' of the Brigantes lies less than 3km to the north, at Stanwick (Haselgrove *et al* 1990a, 1990b)

1 3 2 The Roman road, which extended from its junction with Dere Street near Scotch Corner west over the Stainmore Pass to the Eden Valley (Margary 1973, 433-66), was probably established in the late first century AD (Casey and Hoffmann 1998, 144), though it has not been dated archaeologically It continued in use throughout the period of Roman occupation and became a focus for military and, to some extent, civilian settlement Its importance is reflected by the fact that it features in *Iter II* and *Iter V* of the Antonine Itinerary (Rivet and Smith 1981, 157-60, 162-4), a listing of places along the roads of the Roman Empire, which is believed to have been compiled initially during the early third century AD (*op cit*, 152) While many of settlements in the vicinity of the road have been identified from aerial photographic evidence, some have also been subject to archaeological investigation, for instance, the extramural settlement at Greta Bridge was investigated in 1972-4 in advance of road improvements (Casey and Hoffmann 1998) In the eastern section, there were investigations in the area of Rock Castle (Fitts *et al* 1994) and Scotch Corner (Abramson 1995, Casey *et al* 1995) To the west, road improvements on the A66 over the Stainmore Pass in the late 1980s were also preceded by a major archaeological recording project, which investigated many sites of all periods (Vyner 2001a) Further road improvements were also undertaken in the early 1990s to the west of Stainmore and east of Brough (Dmry 1998)

1 3 3 There are several Scheduled Monuments (SMs) in the vicinity to the Scheme The Roman fort (SM32721/01) and extramural settlement (SM32721/02-03) at Greta Bridge he at its north-western extremity There is a putative Roman fort (SM28289/02) and Iron Age settlement (SM28289/01) at Carkin Moor, and a linear monument, the Scots Dyke (SM26946), east of Melsonby Crossroads

1 3 4 The existing A66, to the east of Greta Bridge, is thought more or less to follow the alignment of the Roman road Margary (1973, 434) considers that the slight bends at Smallways, Newsham Grange, and near to Greta Bridge are features of the original road, although the modern Ordnance Survey (OS) maps depict the alignment running to the north of Newsham Grange and Grove House In the eastern section of the route, the existing A66 between Carkin Moor and the former Kirklands Garage is also thought to follow the alignment of the Roman road The alignment to the east of Kirklands Garage is unknown

1 3 5 Prior to the commencement of the A66 Project, several small-scale archaeological excavations had been undertaken on the line of the Roman road

itself, through none was located within the development area West of the Pennines, a short stretch of the road metalling was excavated at Temple Sowerby, in Cumbria (Zant 2009), where it was found to he immediately north of the modem carriageway The road has also been investigated east of the fort at Brough (Robinson 2001, 87), near the fortlet at Maiden Castle, on the westem approach to the Stainmore Pass (*ibid*), and at several locations on Stainmore itself (*op cit*, 87-9)

1 3 6 To what extent the road continued to be significant in post-Roman Britain is not known, and there have been no recorded archaeological finds along it dating to the immediate post-Roman period Eric Bloodaxe, the Viking king of York, was reputedly killed, and possibly buried, on Stainmore (Bailey 2001) in AD 954, probably whilst leading an army over the pass By implication, therefore, the road remained important at this time, and the medieval Gough Map suggests it was still in use during the fourteenth-century (*cf* Hindle 1977, fig 2) The Scots Dyke linear earthwork was thought to date to the sixth/seventh centuries AD, however, the results of an excavation that sampled the Dyke as part of the A66 Project (*Section 2 3 18*), indicate that the investigated section of the Scots Dyke ditch was already silting by *c* 100 BC, and the entire monument may, therefore, be much older than was considered hitherto

1 3 7 No medieval settlements are recorded immediately adjacent to the route east of Bowes village, although some evidence from the recent excavations (*Section 4 3 8*) might suggest certain of the land allotment boundaries that survive today may have Iron Age/Romano-British origins, and are therefore likely to have continued in use into the medieval period. By implication, however, the route was still important at this time, since castles were built at Bowes (Pl 2) and Church Brough (in Cumbria), almost certainly policing the trans-Pennine crossing and emphasing its continued significance (Drury 1998) The next major period of settlement along the road was during the post-medieval period, with the enclosure of fields, the establishment of new farmsteads and stagmg inns, and the quarrying of sandstone and limestone (*Section 4*) The route was tumpiked in the mid-eighteenth century, having been described in the first Tumpike Act of 1742-3 as being in a dangerously minous condition (*op cit*, 121), which led to a marked improvement in the road

1.3 8 Although the area is sparsely populated, some properties he adjacent to the existing road, including the A66 Motel, Smallways Country Inn, the Scotch Comer Hotel and The Vintage Hotel Many of the older of these properties were built in the vernacular style using local sandstone or limestone Rokeby Park, Thorpe Grange, Greenbrough House, Newsham Grange, Sedbury Lodge and Gatherley Moor Farm (also known as Grenton) are all Grade II listed buildings, with Thorpe Farm being Grade II*

1.4 Fieldwork and Post-Excavation Methodologies

1 4 1 On the basis of the previous archaeological investigations, a phased archaeological strategy was developed and instigated This is set out within the

Volume 2, part 3 (Cultural Heritage) of the 2002 *Environmental Statements* (BHWB 2002a, 2002b) and further explicated in *Annex 11/1 Volume 3A of the Employer's Requirements* (HA 2005) and the *Scheme Specific Archaeological Design* (Atkins 2006)

1 4 2 The strategy comprised five separate phases of work, the results of each phase influencing and establishing the parameters for the next In summary, these phases comprised

- Phase 1 detailed evaluation Initial and intensive walkover survey, geophysical survey, earthwork survey, trial trenching and initial building assessment as appropriate, leading to the detailed assessment of unpact and recommendations for mitigation (Phase 3),
- Phase 2 pre-construction investigation Detailed excavation and architectural recording of those sites identified during the previous phase to be of significant archaeological or architectural importance and for which no appropriate mitigation measures can be sought,
- Phase 3 watching brief during construction Investigation and recording of those sites identified during Phases 1 and 2 as not warranting prior investigation, as well as the recording of sites which may be exposed during the course of development,
- Phase 4 post-excavation assessment Assessment of the results of the archaeological investigations and the potential of the data for analysis, leading to recommendations, timetable and costings for subsequent detailed analysis, publication, storage and deposition,
- Phase 5 post-excavation analysis and publication Data analysis, report preparation, including a review of the archaeological ruethodologies employed during the project, and publication, followed by deposition of the archive and artefacts, and all other materials associated with the investigations, with the appropriate institution, for long-term storage and curation

1 4 3 During engineering or archaeological works, attempts were made, wherever possible, to minimise ground disturbance within any of the archaeological sites identified or archaeologically sensitive areas, thus preserving the archaeology *in situ* This was particularly true of the areas between the new-build carriageway and the existing A66

1 4 4 The geophysical surveys, test pits and trial trenching undertaken during Phase 1 were designed to establish whether further phases of archaeological work were necessary and, if so, what level of mitigation was appropriate The trial trenches and test pits were excavated by OA North, either by hand or by machines under archaeological supervision and control The geophysical (magnetometer) survey was undertaken by Stratascan Ltd, under the direction of OA North, using a fluxgate gradiometer in accordance with standards set out by English Heritage (1995)

1 4 5 Photographic and topographic surveys, undertaken as part of Phase 2, were the principal means of recording upstanding archaeological remains Recording of

the earthworks was carried out to a Level 2 standard as defined by the former RCHME (1999) Photographic surveys of two culverts on the existing A66 were carried out in accordance with the recommendations outlined by the former RCHME (1996) and English Heritage (2006)

1 4 6 The Phase 2 open-area excavations at SCA8 (Rock Castle), SCA10 (Scots Dyke), SCA13 and SCA15 were undertaken using a staged approach Firstly, the areas were mechanically stripped under archaeological control, planned and sample-excavated to characterise the nature of the archaeology A *Further Archaeological Works Design* (FAWD) was then produced, summarising the findings, updating the research objectives and suggesting a mitigation strategy that was best suited to fulfill the requirements of the revised objectives The excavation of the remains then proceeded in accordance with this design, generating an archive of primary archaeological data Constmction works were only able to commence within a site after a *Completion Statement* had been produced and certified These statements included an interim plan and description of the archaeology and an assessment of its importance

1 4 7 Where watchmg briefs were undertaken during Phase 3, the stripping of the area was not usually subject to archaeological control, in terms of the machines and methodology employed, although it was subject to archaeological supervision The archaeologists maintained a constant presence on site and were on hand to record and excavate any archaeology that was uncovered Where there was a risk that cross-carriageway works (such as new drainage or other buried services) could expose preserved former road surfaces of Roman or later origin, and where it was possible and practicable to do so, constmction works were undertaken in a way that would expose any archaeological remains and allow for their appropriate recording

1 4 8 The Phase 4 post-excavation assessment was completed by OA North in November 2008 (OA North 2008) The present report represents the principal outcome of Phase 5, which encompasses post-excavation analysis and publication, followed by deposition of the project archive with the relevant receiving bodies

1.5 Sites Investigated

1 5 1 In total, 31 sites were subject to some form of archaeological investigation during the course of the main A66 Project, of which 11 generated archaeological data (Table 1, Fig 5) The other 20 sites (Table 2) yielded nothing of archaeological significance and are not considered further, beyond a brief summary of methodologies and results (*Section 4 5 28*) Sites in the western (Greta Bridge to Stephen Bank) section of the route are prefixed 'GBA', whilst those in the eastern (Carkin Moor to Scotch Corner) section are prefixed 'SCA'

Site	Work undertaken	Description	NGR
Thorpe Farm (cross-carriageway trenches A-D)	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Possible route of Roman road	409414 512653 centred 409454 512629 centred 409208 512816 centred 409158 512866 centred
GBA12	Topographic and photographic survey (Phase 2)	Ridge and furrow earthworks, road culvert	411000 511400 centred
GBA21	Photographic survey (Phase 2)	Limestone quarry, adjacent to A66/New Road junction	412150 510730 centred
SCA2	Test pit excavation (Phase 1/2), watching brief (Phase 3), photographic survey	Carkin Moor Roman fort and adjacent prehistoric settlement, road culvert	416250 508270 centred, 416050 508210 centred
SCA8	Open-area excavation (Phase 2)	Iron Age field system, west of Melsonby crossroads, north of A66	418170 506970-419160 506590 linear
SCA9	Photographic and topographic survey (Phase 2)	Gatherley Moor quarries, Melsonby crossroads	419200 506570 centred
SCA10	Open-area excavation (Phase 2)	Section of the Scots Dyke, east of Melsonby crossroads	419450 506415 centred
SCA1	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Roman road, Carkin Moor to Kirklands Garage	419930 506110 centred
SCA13	Open-area excavation (Phase 2)	Iron Age/Romano-British occupation and field system, Black Plantation	420430 505780 centred
SCA14 and SCA14a	Topographic and photographic survey (Phase 2)	Disused quarry, south-east of Sedbury Home Farm	420430 505700 centred 420450 505740 centred

Site	Work undertaken	Description	NGR
SCA15	Open-area excavation (Phase 2), watching brief (Phase 3)	Iron Age/Romano-British enclosures and field system, The Bungalow	420890 505350 - 421390 505300 linear

Table 1 Sites yielding archaeological data

Site	Work undertaken	Description	NGR
GBA2	Evaluation trial trenching (Phase 1), watching brief (Phase 3)	Roman burial (site of earlier discovery)	409050 512950 centred
Thorpe Farm	Evaluation (Phase 1)	Possible route of Roman road	409410 512690 centred
GBA3i	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Service trench across A66 at extreme westem end of route	408970 513035
ACC01	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Access track in field to south of A66	408715 512780-409000 512745 linear
GBA4b	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Possible ridge and furrow earthworks	409400 512600 centred
Greenbrough	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Possible route of Roman road	410190 512140 centred
Drainage works, Zetland Lodge	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Possible route of Roman road	411350 511200-411754 511000 linear
Smallways Compound	Open-area excavation (Phase 2)	In advance of construction workers' compound	411430 511210 centred
GBA9/GBA9b	Evaluation trial trenching (Phase 1) and watching brief (Phase 3)	Section of Roman road, Greenbrough to Stephen Bank	411690 511020 centred
Cross-carriageway trench, Rokeby	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Possible route of Roman road	411855 510940 centred
ACC04	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Possible route of Roman road	411905 510970-412716 510445 linear

Site	Work undertaken	Description	NGR
SCA1i	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Service trench cut across A66, east of Carkin Moor fort	416325 508210
SCA3	Geophysical survey and evaluation trial trenching (Phase 1), watching brief (Phase 3)	Potential Roman extramural settlement, east of Carkin Moor Roman fort	416400 508130 centred
SCA7	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Iron Age settlement and field system, south of A66	419155 506515 centred
SCA1iii, drainage and cross-carriageway trenches	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Possible route of Roman road	419240 506510 centred
Melsonby Compound	Watching brief (Phase 3)	In advance of construction workers' compound	419570 507550 centred
SCA1iv	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Service trench cut across A66 at extreme western end of route	419960 506160
SCA12	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Roman road (course of), east of Kirklands Garage (12a) and east of access track at Black Plantation (12b)	12a 420110 506080-420340 505870 linear 12b 420275 505990-420750 505820
Acceleration lane, Sedbury Home Farm	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Roman road (course of), south of A66	420140 506060-420290 505880 linear
Vintage Hotel, telephone cable and cross-carriageway trenches	Watching brief (Phase 3)	Iron Age/Romano-British enclosures and field system, south of A66	420985 505265 - 421310 505285 linear

Table 2 Sites yielding no archaeological data

1 5 2 In the western section of the scheme, Phase 1 evaluation trial trenching and Phase 3 watching briefs were undertaken, but no significant buried archaeological remains were identified The only Phase 2 work to take place in

this section was photographic and topographic survey The majority of the archaeological work undertaken during the project was, therefore, within the eastern section of the route This included Phase 1 geophysical survey and evaluation trial trenching, and Phase 2 photographic and topographic survey, together with open-area excavation (at SCA8, SCA10, SCA13 and SCA15), targeting the archaeologically sensitive areas identified by the NAA trial trenches (NAA 2000b), as well as a number of Phase 3 watching briefs

1 5 3 ***Summary of sites yielding archaeological data*** *Thorpe Farm cross-carriageway trenches* no fieldwork had previously been undertaken in the area as part of this project (Figs 6 and 7) Four trenches (A-D) were sited at elevations of 130-133m aOD, centred on NGR 409414 512653 (Trench A), NGR 409454 512629 (Trench B), NGR 409208 512816 (Trench C), and NGR 409158 512866 (Trench D, Table 2), all approxunately 20 x 2m, varying in depth from 1 5m to 3in, and were cut across the northern carriageway of the existing A66, at right-angles to the road None of the trenches contained any archaeology; instead layers of tarmac and asphalt, deriving from recent phases of road constmction or repair, sealed the natural geology However, a manhole pit (3 x 3m) excavated in the grass verge immediately north of Trench C (Table 1) revealed deposits that possibly related to an early road surface (*Section 3 2 1*)

1 5 4 *GBA12* GBA12 was centred on NGR 410980 511415, at an elevation of 134m aOD (Table 1) It lay to the east of Grove Farm, and was entirely contained within land owned by that property (Fig 8) No fieldwork had previously been undertaken there as part of the project The site was bounded to the west by farm buildings and to the east by Smallways Beck, which flowed beneath the A66 through a culvert named Smallways New Bridge The fields were under pasture at the time of survey, and grazing sheep were present Some tree clearance had already taken place and several stumps were visible

1 5 5 In advance of road constmction, photographic and topographic surveys were undertaken of post-medieval agricultural earthworks within two fields situated immediately north of the current A66 (*Section 4 3 2*), Smallways New Bridge was also recorded by a photographic survey (*Section 4 5 2*) The northern boundary of the survey area was artificially defined and cut across the larger, western field but, for completeness, the whole of the field up to the northern post and wire field boundary was surveyed

1 5 6 *GBA21* GBA21 was a limestone quarry centred on NGR 412147 510733 (Table 1), at an elevation of 158m aOD, opposite the A66 New Road junction (Fig 9), on the south side of the existing A66 No fieldwork had previously been carried out there as part of the project A photographic survey was undertaken in order to compile a record of the quarry workings, since they lay within the footprint of the new carriageway A second quarry lay in a field 50m to the south-east but, as the development did not impact on it, it was not recorded

1 5 7 *SCA2* the evaluation at SCA2 was centred on NGR 416250 508270 (Table 1), at the western end of the Carkin Moor to Scotch Corner section The site lay

within the boundary of the putative Roman fort at Carkin Moor (SM28289/02, Fig 10), and no fieldwork had previously been undertaken there The fort survives above ground as a square earthwork with rounded corners, occupying a slight plateau on the crest of a hill, at 151m aOD (Pl 3), and is bisected by the present-day A66 It has been interpreted as a Roman fort on morphological grounds, but had not previously been investigated archaeologically Cropmarks north-west of the site are thought be the remains of an enclosed settlement of late prehistoric date, which is also a Scheduled Monument (SM28289/01)

1 5 8 In order to inform an application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC), necessary to enable any engineering work on the site, three test pits (Trenches 13-15) were excavated within the eastern part of the scheduled area, inside the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) boundary These were positioned in a line (37m in length) along the existing road cutting, just to the north-east of a hedge marking the south-western edge of the field (*Section 3 2 2*) In consultation with English Heritage, the results of the test pit excavations were used to determine the engineering and archaeological strategy for the tie-in between the new carriageway and the existing carriageway at this point

1 5 9 The test pits, each measuring 4 x 2m, were located by GPS in positions that would sample any defensive ditch and rampart on the south-east side of the putative fort (Trench 13), as well as the rampart (Trench 14) and the fort interior (Trench 15) The test pits were deturfed and hand-excavated using mattocks, shovels and trowels, the spoil being checked for finds and upcast into heaps adjacent to the trenches Glacial tills were detected at varying depths in all three pits, in Trenches 14 and 15, these were excavated to a depth of 1 2m below modern ground level in small sondages 1m square, in order to determine whether the correct level had been reached, and remove the possibility that this material had been redeposited by human agency This was not necessary in Trench 13, where the partial excavation of a substantial ditch, to a depth of 2 2m below ground level, performed a similar function This feature may have formed part of the defensive system for the putative fort (*Section 3 2 4*)

1 5 10 Subsequently, a watching brief was maintained during drainage works within the verge to the north of the existing A66 Cloven Hill bridge, a modern bridge/culvert running beneath the A66, *c* 95m east of Carkin Moor fort (NGR 416350 508216, Fig 10), was subjected to a photographic survey, in order to compile a record of the feature before it was modified and/or disturbed by the road scheme, and a stone trough, identified *in situ* at the junction between Warrener Lane and the A66, was also photographed

1 5 11 *SCA8 (Rock Castle)* the open-area excavation at SCA8, centred on NGR 418830 506760 (Table 1), was located 3km west of the Scotch Corner roundabout, extending west of Gatherley Moor Quarry (Fig 11) Cropmarks indicating enclosure ditches and possible settlement remains were known from aerial photographs in the fields to the north and south (Pl 4), and some of these features appeared to extend into the site This was confirmed by the results of geophysical survey and evaluation trenching, respectively undertaken by Geoquest Associates (1999b) and NAA (2000b) The evaluation revealed

archaeological features in four trial trenches (*ibid*), though no finds were recovered, apart from a fragment of flint On the crest of a hill, 50m south of the western part of SCA8, an Iron Age/Romano-British settlement is known as Rock Castle (Fig 11), and was investigated in 1987 (Fitts *et al* 1994) It was thought likely that the features within SCA8 were of similar date to this settlement and were likely to be related to it For this reason, it was decided to undertake an open-area excavation prior to the construction of the new carriageway

1 5 12 The site occupied a 1 6ha linear area, within the footprint of the new carriageway, north of the existing A66 (PI 5) The eastern end was at an elevation of 186m aOD, rising up to a high point of 196m aOD in the central-western part of the site, the western end lay at *c* 194m aOD Before work commenced, the site was mainly under an arable crop, although several fields at the extreme western end of the site were under pasture After topsoil stripping was completed, large numbers of scattered archaeological features were revealed, including ditches, pits, pestholes and the remains of at least one roundhouse, representing what appeared to be a multi-phased agricultural and settlement landscape The excavation demonstrated that much, perhaps all, of this activity occurred during the Iron Age (*Section 2 3 4*)

1 5 13 *SCA9* SCA9 was centred on NGR 419267 506607 (Table 1), at an elevation of 185m aOD It was situated immediately east of SCA8, west of the junction between the A66 and Moor Road, and north of the existing A66 (Fig 11) No fieldwork had previously been undertaken there as part of the project A post-medieval quarry was visible on both sides of the road, and part of this was subjected to a topographic and photographic survey, in order to compile a record of the quarry workings prior to these being disturbed by the road scheme The work was restricted to an area west of Moor Road and south of the working quarry at Gatherley Moor In addition to surveying all the visible features, a profile across the site at approximately 0 5m centres was compiled

1 5 14 *SCA10 (Scots Dyke)*· the open-area excavation at SCAI0, centred on NGR 419450 506415 (Table 1), was at the centre of the Carkin Moor to Scotch Corner section of the route, immediately east of Gatherley Moor quarry, on the north side of the current A66 (Fig 11) The site was linear, covering 0 5ha within the footprint of the new carriageway, and sloped gently west to east, from *c* 186m to 180m aOD

1 5 15 A 25m wide section of the Scots Dyke, a Scheduled Monument (SM26946), extended through the eastern part of the site (*Section 2 3 15*), both north and south of the existing A66 carriageway Previously, the site and the surrounding area had been investigated by a programme of geophysical survey (GeoQuest Associates 1999b), topographical survey (BHWB 2002b) and trial trenching (NAA 2000b) The geophysical survey focused on the area just to the north of the excavation area and, except for the Scots Dyke, there was little correspondence between the results of the survey and those of the subsequent excavations Of the three NAA evaluation trenches, the positions of two were not evident during the subsequent excavation, but the trench that sampled the Scots Dyke (*ibid*) was located

1 5 16 The site was stripped of topsoil and subsoil by machine, with extra care being taken within the area of the Scheduled Monument, which was stripped of overburden to reveal the Scots Dyke ditch, no evidence of any bank survived A 1 5m high topsoil ramp was initially constmcted across the entire width of the scheduled area, which was used as a 'cushion' to avoid damaging the monument when topsoil was removed from the site by dumper tmcks The principal result of the work was the identification and excavation of the ditch (*Section 2 3 16*), though a few other features, ranging in date (on the evidence of radiocarbon determinations) from the early neohthic period, early Bronze Age and middle Iron Age, were found (*Sections 2 3 19-20*) Several small, post-medieval quarry-pits (*Section 4 4 7*) were also investigated

1 5 17 *SCA1* a watching brief was maintained in advance of the constmction of a balancing pond at SCAI, within the eastem part of the Carkin Moor to Scotch Comer section of the route (Fig 12) The site was centred on NGR 419930 506110 (Table 1), south of the existing carriageway and the former site of Kuklands Garage It was sub-rectangular, covering 0 4ha, and lay at an elevation of 171m aOD Although no trial trenching or geophysical survey had been undertaken there, the *Environmental Statement* (BHWB 2002b) and *'Annex 11/1 Volume 3A of the Employer's Requirement* (HA 2005) had identified the site as having archaeological potential It was thought that the area could have been the site of Iron Age activity and might contain the line of the postulated Roman road

1 5 18 Prior to work commencing, the land was primarily under pasture Machine stripping revealed an area largely devoid of archaeology, with the exception of a large, curvilinear ditch of uncertain date (*Sections 3 3 1-2*) and a number of post-medieval field drains (*Section 4 3 8*)

1 5 19 *SCA13 (including SCA14 and SCA14a)* the 0 5ha open-area excavation at SCA13, centred on NGR 420430 505780 (Table 1), was situated near to Sedbury Home Farm, 1 5km west of the Scotch Comer roundabout (Fig 12) The site was linear, on a south-east/north-west axis, parallel to the A66 and to the north of the existing carriageway, and lay within the footprint of the new carriageway It sloped gradually from west to east, from *c* 173m aOD to 167m aOD Two extant field boundaries crossed the site, aligned north-east/south-west, the south-eastem boundary defining the extent of the site in this direction

1 5 20 Prior to work commencing, the land was under pasture Two disused sandstone quarries lay within the site (SCA14/14a, *Section 4 4 8,* Fig 12) These were recorded by photographic survey before the site was stripped, and SCA14a, which was accessible, was also subjected to a topographic survey

1 5 21 Previously, geophysical anomalies had been identified in the fields to the immediate north (GeoQuest Associates 1999b), and these were subsequently investigated by trial trenching (NAA 2000b) The trial trenches were not always identifiable in the excavated area, but several were located However, it did not prove possible to make any meaningful conespondence between the results of the trial trenching and the features recorded during the excavation

1 5 22 Machine stripping of modern overburden revealed numerous archaeological features cutting the natural geology Notably, most were sited on the higher ground at the western end of the site The eastern end of the site (beyond the SCA14a quarry) was at a lower elevation, and was more prone to waterlogging, which may explain the lack of archaeology in this area Most of the excavated features seemingly related to agricultural and settlement activity of probable Iron Age date (*Section 2 3 21*), but a single early Bronze Age pit (*Section 2 2 6*) and some features associated with the period of post-medieval agricultural enclosure (*Section 4 3 8*) were also recorded A metal-detector survey conducted to the north of the site recovered a number of finds of Roman, medieval and post-medieval date (*Sections 3 3 3* and *4 3 7*)

1 5 23 *SCA15* the open-area excavation at SCA15, centred on NGR 421300 505400 (Table 1), was situated on the north side of the A66, just to the west of Scotch Corner (Fig 13) Prior to work commencing, the land was mainly under pasture, except for an area in the centre of the site where a twentieth-century bungalow stood within a concrete yard, to the rear of which were two barns of similar date The site sloped gently west to east from 161m to 147m aOD Archaeologically, it proved to be the most complex site found during the project and, at 1 15ha, was also the second largest in area It was linear in shape, following the sweep of a bend in the existing A66 (Pl 6), tapering towards Scotch Corner With the exception of a sub-square extension to the northern part of the site, which corresponded to the position of a proposed balancing pond, the site lay entirely within the footprint of the tie-in for the new road

1 5 24 Prior to the excavation commencing, several test pits were dug on the site by a JCB in order to locate buried services This work was monitored by an archaeologist, but no archaeological features or deposits were observed In order to facilitate the construction timetable, SCA15 was excavated in four phases from west to east, each investigating a contiguous subdivision of the overall area However, these subdivisions were in no way archaeologically significant Certain areas were also subjected to watching brief during the construction process, though the results of these have been subsumed into the general stratigraphic narrative for the site An area (*c* 20 x 20m) in a northern extension of the site, within the area of the balancing pond, could not be investigated due to the presence of Japanese Knotweed

1 5 25 The *Environmental Statement* (BHWB 2002b) and *Annex 11/1 Volume 3A of the Employer's Requirements* (HA 2005) had identified SCA15 as having good archaeological potential This judgement was based on the results of previous archaeological works in the area, including programmes of geophysical survey (Casey *et al* 1995, GeoQuest 1999b), carried out at Violet Grange Farm, north-west of the site, and trial trenching in fields to the north (NAA 2000b) A small excavation had also been undertaken at the Scotch Corner Hotel, little more than 150m south-east of the main open-area excavation at SCA15, and only *c* 60m south of the eastern end of the area investigated within the road easement (Abramson 1995) These had identified the presence of buried Iron Age/Romano-British archaeology that was considered likely to extend into the area of SCA15 In the event, this proved to

be the case, and it therefore seems highly probable that the archaeological remains excavated at SCA15 and at the Vintage Hotel formed part of the same settlement complex, together with the largely unexcavated features revealed by geophysical survey and trial trenching to the north The extensive settlement remains in this area probably owed their existence to the close proximity of Dere Street, the major Roman road that is followed by the modem A1 The settlement lay just to the south of the presumed junction between Dere Street and another Roman road, which, further to the west, was followed by the A66 (NAA 1997)

1 5 26 Machine stripping of modem overburden revealed a large number of archaeological features cutting the natural subsoils over the greater part of the site Excavation demonstrated that most of these related to what was probably a multi-phase mral settlement of late Iron Age/early Roman date (*Section 3 3 4*), though a few post-medieval agricultural features were also recorded (*Section 4 3 9*)

1 5 27 During and after the main phase of excavation, in advance of the relocation of an electricity pylon and prior to a drain being laid, areas adjacent to the site but outside its boundary were stripped under archaeological supervision, and the features within these areas were excavated, the results of these works have been integrated with those of the open-area excavation (*Sections 3 3 4* and *4 3 9*) An area at the extreme eastem end of the site contained a number of live services, and open-area excavation was not deemed practical However, this part of the site was subsequently subjected to a watching brief, the results of which have also been integrated with those of the main excavation

1 5 28 ***Summary of sites yielding no archaeological data*** *GBA2* the evaluation at this 0 5ha site was centred on NGR 409047 512944 (Table 2) and occupied an elevation of 133m aOD It lay within a field that was adjacent and to the south of the existing road, which there mns north-west/south-east, occupying a narrow strip of land, 170m in length (Fig 6) No fieldwork had previously been undertaken in this area as part of the road scheme but, during road widening operations in 1966, a Roman cist burial (DSMR 10325) was found in the vicinity of the site, less than 1km south-east of the Greta Bridge Roman fort This discovery raised the possibility that a roadside cemetery associated with the fort's extramural settlement could have extended into the project area

1 5 29 Eight trial trenches, each measuring 10 x 2m and covering a total area of 160m^2, were excavated along the route of a proposed bridleway and within the footprint of a balancing pond The trenches were regularly and evenly distributed, and were alternately orientated west-north-west/east-south-east and north-north-west/south-south-east, in order to achieve optunum coverage The only feature recorded was a probable nineteenth-century field boundary, visible as a low stone bank, representing the northwards extension of a surviving, though defiinct, boundary to the south

1 5 30 In all the trenches, modem topsoil, 0 2-0 35m deep, covered subsoils 0 1-0 6m in depth, which probably represented buried ploughsoils of medieval/post-medieval date A few sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery were recovered from the topsoil, together with two joining fragments of a thick,

heavily worn floor tile, probably of medieval date (*Section 5 7 1*), and a fragment from a late eighteenth/early nineteenth-century glass vessel (*Section 5 9 1*) The tile may tentatively suggest the presence of a relatively high-status medieval building in the vicinity

1 5 31 Subsequently, a watching brief was maintained during stripping of the overburden and the excavation of the underlying natural glacial deposits, to a depth of approximately 2m below the modern surface No archaeological features or deposits were recorded during this phase of work

1 5 32 *Thorpe Farm* this site was centred on NGR 409415 512690 (Table 2), at an elevation of 131m aOD, and was situated towards the western end of the Greta Bridge to Stephen Bank section (Fig 6), in a paddock in the corner of a field east of and adjacent to Whorlton Lane No fieldwork had previously been undertaken, but it was planned that a balancing pond would be constructed in this area to the north of the present-day A66, and a trial trench was therefore excavated in the hope of ascertaining the whereabouts of the Roman road at this point The trench measured 25 x 2m and was orientated north-east to south-west, perpendicular to the A66 With the exception of two modern field drains, no features were located, though a late medieval green-glazed potsherd, some post-medieval pottery, and the bases of two onion-shaped wine bottles were recovered from modern topsoil or a buried medieval/post-medieval cultivated sod (*Sections 5 6* and *5 9*) It is conceivable that these artefacts derived from occupation at nearby Thorpe Farm

1 5 33 *GBA31* this watching brief was centred on NGR 408970 513035 (Table 2), at 133m aOD (Fig 6), and comprised a trench dug across the width of the existing carriageway at the western end of the road scheme The trench measured 55 x 1 80m and was dug to a depth of 1 20m through tarmac, hardcore and made-up ground for the existing carriageway Unfortunately, the trench was cut before it could be observed by archaeological personnel, so the presence or absence of archaeological deposits could not be determined

1 5 34 *ACC01* a watching-brief was maintained on an access track between NGR 408715 512780 and NGR 409000 512745 (Table 2), at 150m aOD (Fig 6), covering 0 175ha in total It lay approximately 200m south-west of the A66, following an extant field boundary The topsoil was stripped to a depth of no more than 0 1m, but the ground was found to have been disturbed and no archaeology was detected

1 5 35 *GBA4b* this watching brief was centred on NGR 509400 512600 (Table 2), at 134m aOD, and covered a total of 0 9ha (Fig 6) It lay to the west of Thorpe Grange cottages, in a field to the south of the existing A66 A drystone wall was removed from the area and the modern overburden was stripped, but no archaeology was observed anywhere within this area

1 5 36 *Greenbrough* a watching brief was maintained during the excavation of an electricity service trench, 25m long, 0 3m wide and 1m deep, on the north side of the existing A66, west of Greenbrough (centred on NGR 410115 512200, Table 2, Fig 7) No archaeology was observed in the area exposed

1 5 37 *Drainage works, Zetland Lodge* a watching brief was undertaken on drainage trenches cut through the central reservation and the southern carriageway of the present-day A66 (between NGR 411350 511200 and NGR 411754 511000, Table 2, Fig 8), since it was considered possible that deposits relating to the Roman road survived under the carriageway In total, 520m of trenching were watched, the trenches being up to 2in wide and 1 5-3 5m deep No archaeology was, however, observed

1 5 38 *Smallways compound* this site was centred on NGR 411430 511215 (Table 2), at an elevation of aOD 138m, and covered an area of *c* 0 12ha (Fig 8) No fieldwork had previously been undertaken there as part of the project, and the area was of unknown archaeological potential Located on the north side of the existing A66, opposite Zetland Lodge and west of Lanehead Lane, the site was stripped under archaeological supervision in advance of the constmction of a workers' compound An area of hard-standing to the west of the compound was the site of a former garage, whilst the remainder of the area was long, rough grass on the roadside verge The geophysical survey (in area G8W, Geoquest Associates 1999a) had, however, detected a weak and diffuse linear anomaly, which it was tentatively suggested could have been the remains of the ploughed-out Roman road As such, it was possible that the Roman road, followed by the A66 at this point, or activity associated with it, may have survived within the site However, following removal of the modern overburden, it became clear that, with the exception of a few modern features, no archaeological stratigraphy lay within the site

1 5 39 *GBA9/GBA9b* the evaluation at GBA9 was centred on NGR 411690 511020 (Table 2, Fig 8), to the south of the A66, at an elevation of 138m aOD No fieldwork had previously been undertaken in this area Two evaluation trenches (Trenches 9 and 10), each measuring 10 x 2in, were excavated, aligned nearly perpendicular to the present-day road Undisturbed natural deposits were encountered at depths of 0 8in in Trench 9 and 1 15m in Trench 10, Trench 10 was stepped because of the depth of the deposits This trench contained a post-medieval ceramic land drain, and a few undated alluvial deposits of probable natural origin Subsequently, a watching brief (GBA9b) was maintained on a hnear area of *c* 0 6ha situated on the north side of the existing A66, east of Lanehead Lane, opposite the area previously evaluated (Fig 8) The area had not been subject to any previous archaeological works, but it was suspected that the Roman road may have mn through it, and that there may have been some activity adjacent to the beck that flowed through the site However, when the site was stripped of overburden to the level of the natural geology, it was clear that there were no archaeological features within it

1 5 40 *Cross-carriageway trench at Rokeby* a watching brief was maintained on a drainage trench excavated through the existing A66 carriageway, centred on NGR 411855 510940 (Table 2, Fig 9), to check for the presence of deposits relating to the Roman road The trench measured 10 6 x 0 7m, and was excavated through modern make-up deposits to a depth of 1 45m, with natural deposits being reached in the south of the trench No archaeologically significant features or deposits were encountered

1 5 41 *'ACC04* a watching brief was maintained on topsoil stripping of two access tracks constmcted on either side of the junction with New Road, to the north of the A66 (Fig 9) The tracks ran between NGR 411905 510970 and NGR 412716 510445, and, in total, the stripped area covered 0 63ha (Table 2) No archaeology was detected within these stripped areas

1 5 42 *SCA1i* a watching brief was maintained on a trench cut across the existing A66 carriageway, 100m east of the Carkin Moor fort (centred on NGR 416326 508210, Table 2, Fig 10) It was only possible to monitor the southern half of the trench, as the northern half had been excavated without archaeological supervision The work necessarily took place during the night, and was concerned with recovering any evidence that might survive of earlier phases of roadway beneath the modern A66 In the event, a cutting filled with hardcore and other deposits, which probably related to constmction works undertaken on the road in the 1960s, had destroyed any earlier deposits that might once have existed

1 5 43 *SCA3* SCA 3 was centred on NGR 416400 508120, at an elevation of 147m aOD (Table 2, Fig 10) It lay to the south of the existing A66, 130in east of Carkin Moor fort (SM28289/02), at the western end of the Carkin Moor to Scotch Corner section It had not previously been possible to evaluate or survey the site, and there was potential for the remains of an extramural settlement and/or a burial ground associated with the fort extending into the site, together with the possibility of prehistoric activity Since a balancing pond associated with the new road was to be constmcted, which would have an impact upon any archaeology that was present, the site was subjected to an evaluation by geophysical survey and targeted trial trenching prior to the commencement of constmction works

1 5 44 Stratascan Ltd (on behalf of OA North) undertook a programme of geophysical survey over approximately 0 75ha of the site The survey detected some linear anomalies and trends meriting further investigation However, the excavation of ten trial trenches, each measuring 30 x 2m and positioned to sample the geophysical anomalies, failed to locate any archaeological features other than late post-medieval land drains and a small, undated pit The drains included unlined examples filled with silt, others filled with stones, and some containing ceramic pipes, a sample of each type was excavated Subsequently, a watching brief was maintained during the constmction of a footpath to the south of the A66 and west of Warlener Lane (NGR 416490 508095), and also during the excavation of a drainage trench in the south verge of the A66 (NGR 416345 508185), but no archaeology was recorded in either of these areas

1 5 45 *SCA7* a watching brief took place during the constmction of an access track behind Granary Cottage and Gatherley Moor Farm, south of the A66 west of Hargill, centred on NGR 419155 506515 (Table 2, Fig 11) Topsoil and subsoil deposits were stripped over an area covering 0 2ha but no archaeological features or deposits were encountered Specifically, there was no trace of the Iron Age settlement evidence recorded at SCA8 to the north-west (*Section 2 3 4*), or the post-medieval quarrying at SCA9 to the north (*Section 4 4 5*)

1 5 46 *SCA1iii* at Melsonby Crossroads, a watching brief was maintained during the excavation of three trenches across the existing A66 carriageway These were centred on (west to east) NGR 419160 506550, NGR 419263 506490 and NGR 419288 506480 (Table 2, Fig 11) The smallest, western, trench measured 5 x 1 5m, whilst the other two were *c* 15 x 0 5m, all were excavated to depths of between 0 8m and 1 8m A drainage ditch, joining the south side of the middle trench and extending westwards for 45m to the opposite side of Hargill, was also watched during its excavation, as was another area, 8 x 1m and 0 32m deep, centred on NGR 419215 506518, this was within the carriageway adjacent to Granary Cottage No archaeological deposits relating to the Roman road, or to any other form of ancient activity, were recorded in any of these trenches

1 5 47 *Melsonby compound.* this site was centred on NGR 419570 507550 (Table 2), at an elevation of 170m aOD, and covered an area of 0 6ha (Fig 14) It lay approximately 1km north of the A66 and 0 5km south of Melsonby, in a field adjacent to, and west of, Moor Road No fieldwork had previously been undertaken there as part of the project It was stripped under archaeological supervision prior to the constmction of a workers' compound

1 5 48 The archaeological potential of this area was unknown prior to these works However, as it lay in close proximity to the Scots Dyke (which is thought to lie 65m further to the east), there was the potential for remains associated with this monument to be present, and if the Dyke had deviated from its projected line, there was a small possibility of it being within the site In the event, approximately three-quarters of the site was not stripped of modem overburden to the level of the natural subsoil, which meant that any features that may have been present in these areas were not visible However, of the rest of the site, which was stripped to the natural geology, nothing other than a single post-medieval land drain was recorded

1 5 49 *SCA1iv* This site was centred on NGR 419960 506160 (Table 2), at 188m aOD (Fig 12), and comprised a trench, 15 x 1 5m and 1 2m deep, cut across the full width of the existing A66 carriageway towards the eastem end of the scheme Unfortunately, the trench was cut before it could be observed archaeologically, so the presence or absence of archaeological features could not be determmed

1 5 50 *SCA12* SCA12 comprised a watching brief that was maintained at two different locations on the north side of the A66. SCA12a (Table 2), which comprised the clearance and stripping of a linear area of *c* 0 9ha (centred on NGR 420250 505980) opposite Sedbury Home Farm (Fig 12), adjacent to, and broadly parallel with, the existing A66, and SCA12b, another area of topsoil stripping along an access track located further north, extending north-west to south-east from NGR 420275 505990 to NGR 420750 505820

1 5 51 SCA12a had previously been investigated by geophysical survey (GeoQuest Associates 1999b) and trial trenching (NAA 2000b) The watching brief there took place in two phases firstly, the eastem end of the site, east of a farm access track and adjacent to the westem end of SCA13 (Fig 12) was stripped by bulldozers fitted with grading blades, revealing no archaeological deposits

Later, the trees were grubbed out of the area to the west of the access track and stripping commenced with a mechanical excavator using a toothed bucket It soon became clear that there was no possibility of recognising archaeological features using this method, due to the depth of material being removed by the machine in every bucket load Consequently, and in accordance with the *Scheme Specific Archaeological Design* (Atkins 2006), the watching brief was terminated

1 5 52 The access track at SCA12b was 575m long and 4-6m wide. In the south, it extended east to west for 30m, then turned to north to south for 70m, and then resumed an east to west alignment for a further 475m The first 100m of the route was stripped to a depth of 0 15m, but no archaeological stratigraphy was revealed, although the surface of the natural geology was not exposed at this depth The 475m long east to west section was stripped to depths of 0 3-0 75m, exposing natural deposits, but no archaeological features were encountered

1 5 53 *Acceleration lane, Sedbury Home Farm* a watching brief was maintained during the construction of an acceleration lane for the A66 between NGR 420140 506060 and NGR 420290 505880 (Table 2), south of the former line of the road (Fig 12) This was 250m in length and covered 0 1ha in total The overburden was stripped to a depth of 0 4-0 6m, but any remains of the Roman road that may have survived in this area were not revealed at this depth

1 5 54 *Vintage Hotel, telephone cable and cross-carriageway trenches* north and west of the Vintage Hotel, which lies on the south side of the A66, a trench for a British Telecom cable was excavated in the verge (Table 2) This extended for 250m between NGR 420990 505260 and NGR 421235 505270, ending at the Sedbury Layby in the west (Fig 13) It was no greater than 1m wide, did not extend beyond 1 5m in depth, and no archaeological material was identified during its excavation, since the ground had been disturbed by existing services Directly opposite the Vintage Hotel, two further trenches, 18 5m and 14 5m in length, were excavated across the existing carriageway for drainage and electricity cables (Fig 13) These were centred on NGR 421245 505285 (for the western trench) and NGR 421310 505285 (for the eastern trench) Both were less than 1m wide and up to 1 5m deep, and neither contained any features or deposits of archaeological significance

1.6 THE PROJECT ARCHIVE

1 6 1 The project archive, comprising all artefacts, and digital and paper records, has been deposited with the Richmondshire Museum, Richmond, North Yorkshire Most of the environmental soil samples were discarded after analysis and prior to final archive deposition, but otherwise the material archive comprises all finds recovered during the project

2. THE PREHISTOIRC PERIOD

2.1 INTRODUCTION

2 1 1 For the most part, limited activity within the road corridor in the earlier prehistoric period (the late mesolithic/early neolithic period to the late neolithic/early Bronze Age) was characterised by the recovery of small assemblages of residual or unstratified flint artefacts from several of the sites investigated (Fig 15) However, the best indication of human activity during this period was provided by radiocarbon determinations of neolithic and early Bronze Age date obtained from four features, all located in the Carkin Moor to Scotch Corner section of the route (*Section 7 1 3*) These comprised three probable postholes at SCA10, and a small pit at SCA13 The latter feature also contained pottery of probable early Bronze Age date (*Section 5 1 1*)

2 1 2 Incontrovertible evidence for early-middle Iron Age occupation came from SCA8, SCA10 and SCA13 (Fig 15) By far the most significant prehistoric feature recorded during the A66 investigations is the Scots Dyke, part of which was excavated at SCA10 Though believed to be of early medieval origin prior to the commencement of the project (English Heritage 2007), scientific dating demonstrated that the ditch segment excavated at SCA10 was receiving its primary silts in the first millennium BC, probably in the period *c* 970-100 BC In all likelihood, therefore, this part of the monument, at least, was constructed some time during the early-middle Iron Age, though a date in the late Bronze Age cannot be ruled out However, in view of the lack of dating evidence from the rest of the 14km-long monument, together with any proof that it was constructed as a single entity, it would be unwise, on the evidence of one small intervention, to conclude that the entire dyke was built during this period That the excavated section of the Scots Dyke ditch remained partially open into the early medieval period was also demonstrated by scientific dating of its upper fills Though no evidence for refurbishment or redefinition of the monument at this time was found, the possibility that the Dyke was utilised as a territorial boundary during the sixth-seventh century AD cannot be discounted

2 1 3 In addition to the Scots Dyke, SCA10 also contained a small metalworking hearth, located only a short distance west of the Dyke, securely dated by radiocarbon assay to the middle Iron Age An almost identical date range was obtained from a small pit in SCA13, and a ditch there also yielded an early-middle Iron Age date At SCA8, unmediately adjacent to the known Iron Age settlement at Rock Castle (*Section 1 1 1*), two features provided radiocarbon determinations of certain or probable early-middle Iron Age date, whilst two others, including one obtained from a charred accretion adhering to a sherd of 'native'-type pottery, lay within the late Iron Age or early Roman period (*Section 3 1 2*)

2 1 4 Ceramic evidence (*Sections 5 1 9-10*) strongly suggests that the *floruit* of the enclosed settlement at SCA15 (Fig 15) lay in the period from the immediate pre-Roman Iron Age to the early Roman period (*Section 3 3 6*) Whilst this

chronology is consistent with the dating provided by no less than ten radiocarbon determinations obtained from the site, the date ranges for two of the samples are slightly earlier, spanning the middle-late Iron Age, so it is possible that the origins of the settlement lie somewhat earlier than the bulk of the evidence suggests

2.2 THE EARLY PREHISTORIC PERIOD

2 2 1 ***The flint artefacts***: in the western section of the road corridor (Greta Bridge to Stephen Bank), a flint core-reduction flake of probable mesolithic date was recovered by fieldwalking from a field situated immediately south of site GBA21 (Fig 15), which was a post-medieval limestone quarry on the south side of the A66 (*Section 4 4 2*) This was the only evidence for early prehistoric activity recorded from the western part of the route

2 2 2 Further east, between Carkin Moor and Scotch Corner, flint artefacts were found at SCA8 (Rock Castle), SCA10 (Scots Dyke) and SCA15, though features certainly pre-dating the Iron Age were recorded only at SCA10 (*Section 2 3 9*) At SCA8 (Fig 15), the assemblage comprised an unstratified neolithic or early Bronze Age end and side scraper, a similarly dated secondary flake that occurred residually in a later ditch (*11120*, *Section 2 3 12*), and a flint blade of late mesolithic or neolithic date that came from an undated posthole (*11201*, *Section 2 3 12*) Two unstratified crested flint blades of mesolithic or neolithic date were retrieved during the machine-stripping of SCA10 (Fig 15), and another implement of this type was unstratified at SCA15 (Fig 15) This site also yielded an unstratified neolithic or early Bronze Age end scraper, whilst a broken blade of late mesolithic or neolithic date came from an undated (but possibly late Iron Age/Romano-British) pit at the western end of the site (*14197*, *Section 3 3 20*) Two quartzite pebbles, smoothed almost to a polish, were also unstratified at SCA15, and it is possible that these were also prehistoric artefacts

2 2 3 ***The features*** the earliest dated activity recorded anywhere during the A66 Projectroject were two unrelated features at SCA10 (Fig 16) Feature *12055* (Fig 17) formed part of what appeared to be a north-east- to south-west-aligned row (feature group *12059*) of four postholes or small pits (*12040, 12042, 12055, 12077*), located 32m east of the Scots Dyke (Fig 16, *Section 2 3 15*) These were all sub-oval, 0 35-0 65 x 0 3-0 6m and 60-180mm deep Although the row seemingly shared (approximately) the alignment of the adjacent part of the Dyke, this was presumably coincidental, since a sample of fragments of charred hazelnut shell from the fill (*12056*) of *12055* yielded a radiocarbon determination of 3970-3790 cal BC (5100±35 BP, SUERC-27609, *Section 7 1 3*), placing it firmly in the early neolithic period

2 2 4 Although it could be argued that the hazelnut shell fragments within *12055* were residual within a much later feature, this argument carries less weight when it is realised that another very early neolithic date was also obtained from pit/posthole *12087* on the same site (*Section 7 1 3*) This feature, which formed part of a possible feature group (*12057*) towards the western end of SCA10 (Fig 16), over 160m north-west of posthole *12055*, contained oak

charcoal, from which a date of 4240-3990 cal BC (5285±35 BP, SUERC-27608) was obtained A somewhat later date, of 2290-2030 cal BC (3745±40 BP, SUERC-27607, *Section 7 1 3*) came from oak charcoal recovered from a third pit/posthole on the site (*12075*, Fig 17), this time associated with a group of features (*12058*) located towards the centre of the area investigated, *c* 100m south-east of group *12057* and *c* 70m north-west of group *12059* (Fig 16)

2 2 5 Feature group *12057* comprised a cluster of six shallow, sub-oval or sub-circular features (*12010, 12048, 12078, 12083, 12087, 12089*, Fig 17), possibly postholes, each *c* 0 2-0 4 x 0 15-0 4m and 0 1-0 2m deep However, these formed no discernible pattern, and may not have represented part of a coherent structure They were all filled with similar deposits of mid-grey-brown silty clay, though numerous charcoal fragments, mostly of oak (*Section 6 5 8*), were apparent in feature *12087* Feature-group *12058* (Fig 16) consisted of three very shallow postholes or small pits (*12065, 12067, 12075*, Fig 17) These were sub-circular or sub-oval, *c* 0 3-0 6 x 0 2-0 4m and 50-150mm deep, and were all filled with mid-grey-brown silty clay They were also seemingly arranged in a north-west- to south-east-aligned row, 2 15m long Two other postholes lay 4m east of the cluster and were not certainly associated with them

2 2 6 The small pit at SCA13 (*13049*) was located towards the north-western end of the area investigated (Fig 18) It was roughly 0 55m square and up to 0 2m deep, with steeply sloping, rounded sides and a rounded base (Pl 7) It was filled with mid-grey-brown silty clay (*13048*), which yielded a quantity of pottery from two vessels, including a decorated example that appears to be in the early Bronze Age Food Vessel tradition (*Section 5 1 6*) Following this find, an additional 20 x 20m area was stripped to the north of the pit, to determine if it was associated with any other features, but none were identified A sample from a carbonised residue adhering to the inside of one of the putative Food Vessel sherds yielded a radiocarbon determination of 2290-2030 cal BC (3755±30 BP, SUERC-26250, *Section 7 1 3*), placing it firmly in the early Bronze Age It is noteworthy that the calibrated date range for this material is identical to that obtained from oak charcoal recovered from posthole *12075* at SCA10 (*Section 2 2 4*), which was over 1km to the north-east

2.3 THE EARLY-MIDDLE IRON AGE

2 3 1 Unequivocal evidence for early-middle Iron Age occupation was found at SCA8 and SCA10 (Fig 19) The western end of SCA8 was situated close to the known Iron Age settlement at Rock Castle, which occupies the crest of a hill *c* 50m to the south, and was subjected to excavation in 1987 (Fitts *et al* 1994) Cropmarks suggestive of enclosure ditches and possible settlement remains were also known from aerial photographs in the fields north and south of SCA8, and, indeed, from the area of the site itself, whilst geophysical survey and trial trenching had also established the existence of significant archaeological features on and in the vicinity of the site *(Section 1 5 11)*

2 3 2 At SCA10, scientific dating of the primary sediments within the Scots Dyke ditch (*Section 7 4*) indicated that they probably began accumulating at some time in the period 970-100 BC In all likelihood, therefore, this part of the Dyke, at least, was early-middle Iron Age in origin Elsewhere, the only definite evidence for early Iron Age (or, at the latest, early middle Iron Age) activity was provided by two radiocarbon determinations obtained from charred material recovered from ditches at SCA8 and SCA13 (*Sections 2 3 8* and *2 3 25*) However, the fact that the feature at SCA13 was seemingly spatially contemporary with another ditch that contained Romano-British pottery (*Sections 3 3 3* and *5 5 3*) suggests either that the dated early Iron Age material was residual, or that the feature remained at least partly open into the Roman period

2 3 3 Also within SCA10, a probable metalworking hearth, located close to the Scots Dyke, yielded a middle Iron Age radiocarbon date However, this feature was not obviously related to any others on the site and, with the exception of the Scots Dyke itself, and the three earlier prehistoric postholes (*Sections 2 2 3-5*), none of the other features are dated

2 3 4 ***SCA8*** machine-stripping revealed three areas of particular archaeological importance one located towards the western end of the site (though archaeological features were generally absent from the extreme western end), one at its centre, and another towards the eastern end In both the western and the eastern areas, extensive quarrying had taken place, probably in the post-medieval period (*Sections 4 4 3-4*) However, Iron Age features, including enclosure ditches, pits, postholes (some of which formed possible structures) and a roundhouse, did survive Archaeological features occurred less densely in the 250m-long central area, even though this part of the site had not been quarried, but several Iron Age features were nevertheless recorded there

2 3 5 The topography of the site, and the underlying geology, both of which varied across the area investigated, seemed to have influenced human activity In places where the sandstone bedrock outcropped (notably towards the west, on the crest of the hill occupied by the Rock Castle settlement, and at the eastern end of the site), settlement evidence was generally more intensive than in the central-eastern area, where the sandstone was covered by boulder clays That the clay inhibited drainage on this part of the site, thereby making it less attractive for settlement, was suggested by the presence of many more post-medieval land drains in this area than elsewhere (*Section 4 3 6*) However, the sandstone outcrops were themselves obvious targets for post-medieval quarrying, which had resulted in the destruction of many of the earlier archaeological remains in these areas

2 3 6 Towards the western end of the site, an isolated, roughly V-profiled ditch (*11382*, Fig 20), up to 1 75m wide and 0 5m deep, was recorded (Fig 21) This extended into the excavated area from the south-west for 7 5m, before terminating in a rounded butt-end This may have marked the position of a causeway or entrance, as geophysical survey evidence suggested that the line of the ditch continued north-eastwards, beyond the limits of the investigation (Fig 20) The fill contained no dating evidence, but the ditch did not align with any of the extant field boundaries in the vicinity and was similar in character

to Iron Age features, recorded elsewhere on the site (*Section 2 3 10*) It has, therefore, been tentatively assigned an Iron Age date With the exception of a few small pits/hollows, some of which may have been of natural origin, and two or three small quarry-pits of probable post-medieval date (*Section 4 4 3*), no other archaeological remains were recorded at the westem end of the site

2 3 7 Approximately 180m from the westem end of the site (*c* 100m south-east of ditch *11382*), on the top of the plateau and *c* 60m north of the superunposed sub-rectangular palisaded and ditched enclosures recorded during the Rock Castle excavations (Fitts *et al* 1994), was a roundhouse (*11083*, Fig 20) defined by a ring gully (*11337/11340/11371*, Fig 22), 0 5-0 8m wide and 0 3-0 4m deep Only the northem half of the building lay within the area excavated, but it appeared to measure approximately 10m in diameter No break in the gully was recorded within the site, suggesting that the entrance into the building may have lain to the south A substantial posthole (*11368*), 0 5m in diameter and 0 82m deep, cut the gully and three others (*11334*, *11353*, *11357*) lay within its interior A patchy deposit of compacted clay and small stones (*11372*), 1 15 x 0 8in and 0 Im thick, also in the interior, may have been the remnants of a floor A charred cereal grain from a fill (*11339*) within the ring gully yielded a radiocarbon determination of 750-390 cal BC (2405±35 BP, SUERC-26662, *Section 7 1*) A sherd of 'native'-type Iron Age/Romano-British pottery was also retrieved from posthole *11368* (*Section 5 1 18*)

2 3 8 To the east of the roundhouse (Fig 23) was a south-east- to north-west-orientated ditch (*11124*), up to 0 8m wide and 0 15-0 35m deep, with a flat-bottomed, U-shaped profile (Fig 21) This extended into the site from the south-east for 19m, but terminated a little over 5m east of the roundhouse, there were no similar ditches on the north or west sides of the stmcture and thus it is uncertain whether the roundhouse stood within an enclosure Approximately 4m from the point where the ditch extended south-east beyond the site, a second 'arm' (*11326*), 0 68m wide and 0 28m deep, branched off from it to the north-west (Fig 23), almost perpendicular to the line of the principal feature No finds were recovered from either of these ditches, but a fill (*11235*) of feature *11124* yielded a sample of charred spelt wheat glumes, from which a middle Iron Age date of 370-170 cal BC (2185±30 BP, SUERC-27049) was obtained (*Section 7 1*)

2 3 9 North of the roundhouse was a cluster of small pits and postholes Most of these formed no discernible pattern, but in the north-westem part of the area, four similar stone-packed postholes (*11288*, *11305*, *11322*, *11323*, Fig 22) appeared to represent the remains of a 'four-post' stmcture 3 5m square (*11082*, Fig 23), of a type commonly found on Iron Age sites in Britain, where they are conventionally interpreted as granaries or storehouses (*eg* Cunliffe 2005, 412, fig 16 2) The postholes were all roughly cucular, *c* 0 5-0 55m in diameter and 0 25-0 4m deep, with vertical sides and flat bases

2 3 10 On a declivity, approximately 130m south-east of roundhouse *11083*, was a seemingly random cluster of seven small pits or postholes (*11283*, Fig 24), one of which (*11240*, Fig 25) yielded a sherd of 'native'-type Iron Age/Romano-British pottery (*Section 5 1 18*) With the exception of a few

small quarry-pits of probable post-medieval date (*Section 4 4 4*), and a handful of shallow pits/hollows and possible gullies, all of which are undated, nothing of archaeological importance was found for a distance of *c* 200m south-east of *11283* However, at this point, in the central part of the site, a substantial ditch (*11234*), extending north-east to south-west across the full width of the excavation, was recorded (Fig 26) This V-profiled feature, 2m wide and up to 0 8m deep, contained no finds but shared the alignment of a linear cropmark that crossed the site This was itself aligned perpendicular to a number of other linear cropmarks that were probably associated with the Rock Castle settlement, and it is therefore possible that ditch *11234* was similarly related to the occupation of that site

2 3 11 Some 18m east of ditch *11234* was a cluster of six postholes (*11068*, *11081*, *11085*, *11086*, *11087*, *11116*, Fig 27) associated with a curvilinear gully (*11071/11111*) that extended beyond the site to the north It is possible that these represented the remains of a small, sub-rectangular structure (*11119*) extending north of the site, and measuring in excess of 6 5 x 5m wide, but this is far from certain Small quantities of Iron Age pottery were recovered from one of the postholes (*11085*) and from gully *11111* (*Section 5 1 18*)

2 3 12 Activity at the eastern end of the site was characterised principally by a number of possible enclosure ditches, together with a scatter of pits and possible postholes (Fig 26) Approxunately 80m south-east of putative structure *11119* was a U-profiled, curvilinear ditch (*11122*, Fig 28), up to 1 75m wide and 0 2-0 35m deep (Fig 29), which was traced for 40m, though it also extended north of the excavated area It could conceivably have defined the southern edge of a curvihnear enclosure (Enclosure 1), the greater part of which lay north of the site, but this is not certain Around 10m east of the northern excavated end of this feature was a second ditch (*11118*, Fig 28) that had been recut on the same line (*11120*) after it had silted up This may have been part of a second, possibly rectilinear enclosure (Enclosure 2), which also extended beyond the excavation to the north Feature *11118* was 1m wide and 0 25m deep (Fig 29), it extended into the site from the north on a north-west to south-east ahgnment, but then turned south-east, and was traced for 28m before it was destroyed by an area of post-medieval quarrying (*11126*, *Section 4 4 4*) What may have been a continuation, represented by a short, curving ditch segment 4 5m in length (*11117*), was recorded east of the quarry The northern end of this clearly termmated short of the northern site boundary, suggesting the position of a possible causeway A short distance beyond the western end was a substantial oval posthole (*11201*), 0 87 x 0 8m and 1m deep, which may or may not have been associated with it The recut ditch (*11120*) was 0 8m wide and 0 25-0 32m deep, with a flat-bottomed, V-shaped profile (Fig 29) Both *11118* and *11120* yielded small amounts of Iron Age pottery, and a single sherd of the same date came from the basal fill of ditch *11122* to the west (*Section 5 1 18*) However, the two radiocarbon determinations obtained from features associated with Enclosure 2 are suggestive of slightly later activity, probably during the late Iron Age The earliest, at 160 cal BC-cal AD 60 (2025±30 BP, SUERC- 27048), came from charred wheat grains in a fill (*11190*) of ditch *11117* Whilst a date in the later middle Iron Age is possible for this material, the other sample, from a

carbonised accretion adhering to a sherd of Iron Age pottery recovered from fill *11036* in ditch *11120*, is dated to 60 cal BC-cal AD 80 (2000±30 BP, SUERC-27047), and is therefore unequivocally late Iron Age to early Roman in date

2 3 13 No features were recorded within either of the enclosures, but pits and postholes were clustered in the area between the arc of ditch *11122*, the boundary of Enclosure 1, on the west, and the south-western corner of Enclosure 2 on the east (Fig 28) Feature *11200*, a small oval pit, 0 8 x 0 7m and 0 13m deep, located adjacent to the outer lip of ditch *11122*, yielded a small amount of Iron Age pottery from its fill (*11199*, *Section 5 1 18*) Although some of the postholes in this area were quite substantial, they did not obviously form the remains of a building or buildings

2 3 14 A scatter of shallow pits and hollows, many probably naturally formed and none of any great significance, was recorded towards the eastern end of the site, together with a single, north-east- to south-west-aligned ditch (*11129*, Fig 26) This was *c* 1m wide and 0 5m deep, but was traced for only around 10m, since it had been destroyed to the south by a post-medieval quarry-pit (*11132*, *Section 4 4 4*) and extended north of the excavated area

2 3 15 ***SCA10*** a 21m-wide section of the Scots Dyke (SM26946) was present in the eastern part of SCA10 (Fig 19, Pl 8) On the south side of the A66, the monument survives as a visible earthwork, extending for *c* 250m south of the carriageway towards Kirklands Farm (NAA 1997, 4) There, it comprises a bank, up to 1 5m high and 10m wide, with a ditch, 7m wide and 1m deep, to the east (*ibid*) On the east side of the ditch, both in this section of the monument and elsewhere (Haselgrove *et al* 1990a, 8), traces of a counterscarp bank *c* 5m wide are also visible Within SCA10, however, no trace of either bank survived, nor were these features evident in the field north of the road, though a slight shelf that may have marked the position of the main bank was visible there Aerial photographic evidence shows that the Dyke doglegs markedly just north of the site, turning to the north and west (Fig 30), although the reason for this sharp change of direction remains unclear No good dating evidence had ever previously been retrieved from the monument, which extends for over 14km, supposedly from the River Swale to the River Tees, and its relationship to the Roman road was not well understood, though it was speculated that it might have dated to the sixth-seventh century AD (*ibid*)

2 3 16 The Scots Dyke ditch (*12035*) was traced on a north-east to south-west alignment across the eastern end of the site (Fig 30), though only a single trench, *c* 3m wide, was excavated across it, in accordance with Scheduled Monument Consent, to facilitate the construction of a drainage ditch associated with the new carriageway (Fig 31) The remainder of the monument was preserved *in situ* The ditch had also been subjected to an archaeological field evaluation in 1999 (NAA 2000b), but, under the terms of that Scheduled Monument Consent, it could only be excavated to a depth of 0 5m below the modern surface at that time (*op cit*, 8)

2 3 17 As it survived, the ditch was 5 6 m wide and 1 27m deep, with sloping sides and a fairly flat base (Fig 32, Pl 9) No other archaeological features

potentially associated with the monument were found, and no stratigraphic relationship between ditch *12035* and the other features at SCA10 could be demonstrated The base of the ditch was filled to a depth of 0 2m with a grey-brown sandy silt (*12094*) containing many angular and sub-angular sandstone fragments, 1-200mm in size These presumably derived from erosion of the bedrock forming the edge of the ditch cut Overlying the primary fill was 0 25m of fine, brown sandy silt (*12095*), which contained far fewer stones than *12094* The character of this deposit suggested that it may have been water-lain It was sealed by a layer of fine, grey-brown sandy silt loam (*12096*), up to 0 15m thick, which was interpreted as a possible buried soil horizon that formed slowly within the ditch after it had stabilised

2 3 18 Integrated analysis of all the scientific dating evidence obtained from this sequence of deposits in the lower half of the Scots Dyke ditch (*Section 7 4*) suggests that filling of the feature commenced sometime during the first millennium BC, probably during the Iron Age and, in all likelihood, before *c* 100 BC The next deposit in the stratigraphic sequence, a fine, brown sandy silt loam up to 0 2m thick (*12097*) appears to have been deposited predominantly from the south-east (Fig 32) Dating evidence (*Section 7 4 8*) suggests that it may have accumulated over a prolonged period, perhaps from the late Iron Age/Roman period into the early post-Roman period, it was overlain by deposits of certain post-Roman date, that had seemingly filled the upper part of the ditch completely by the mid-fourteenth century (*Section 4 2 2*) None of the earlier fills yielded any finds, charred plant remains, or other palaeoenvironmental evidence, though a soil monolith sample taken through the sequence of infilling did contain pollen (*Section 6 3 6*)

2 3 19 Excluding the Scots Dyke itself, and any features of certain or probable post-medieval date (*Section 4 4 7*), a sparse scatter of discrete features was recorded across SCA10 (Fig 30) Given the truncated and ambiguous character of many of these, it is possible that some were of natural origin, perhaps tree-throws or depressions in the geology However, on morphological grounds, others would certainly seem to be pits or postholes Three of these yielded early prehistoric radiocarbon dates, two in the early neolithic period and one in the early Bronze Age (*Sections 2 2 3-4* and *2 2 6*), but the rest remain undated

2 3 20 Additionally, two pit-like features were excavated, one (*12020*) towards the western end of the site, the other (*12106*) close to the centre, *c* 70m west of the Scots Dyke (Fig 30) Feature *12020* had an irregular, sub-rectangular plan, 1 5 x 0 45m and 0 17m deep, with steep sides and a flat base It was filled with red-brown sandy silt (*12021*) containing some burnt sandstone fragments and charcoal flecking, but there was no evidence for *in situ* burning By contrast, the upper fill (*12073*) of feature *12106* contained a considerably larger quantity of compacted, burnt orange-red clay, some dark grey-black, charcoal-rich material, and several lumps of what appeared to be iron-working debris (Pl 10) Consequently, feature *12106* may have been the remains of a smithing hearth, though its primary fill had not been heat-affected and contained very little charcoal It extended north beyond the excavated area, but was perhaps sub-rectangular (Fig 33), in excess of 0 6 x 0 4m and 0 35m deep Feature *12020* remains undated, but a sample of charred cereal chaff obtained from the

upper fill (*12073*) of possible smithmg hearth *12106* yielded a radiocarbon determmation of 400-200 cal BC (2255±30 BP, SUERC-26249), placmg it firmly m the middle Iron Age (*Section 7 1*)

2 3 21 *SCA13:* the principal features recorded at SCAI3 were a pair of parallel, north-west- to south-east-aligned, U-profiled ditches (*13003* and *13040*), set *c* 18m apart (Fig 34) The northemmost ditch (*13003*) was traced for 75m, whilst a 47m stretch of *13040* lay withm the area mvestigated However, both extended beyond the excavation to the north-west, *13003* also contmued beyond the site to the south-east, whilst the southem end of *13040* terminated a few metres short of an area of post-medieval quarrying (SCA14a, *13042*, *Section 4 4 8*), and did not reappear south of the quarry In the best-preserved sections, *13003* was up to 1 25m wide at the hp and 0 55m deep (Fig 35), elsewhere, it was as little as 0 55m wide and 0 1m deep However, *13040* was only 0 45m wide and 0 12m deep as it survived (Fig 35) The two features are likely to be contemporary, and it is possible they defmed the edges of a trackway (Trackway 1, Fig 34), or, m view of its size, a drove route

2 3 22 Extendmg north-east from ditch *13003*, and roughly perpendicular to it, was another ditch (*13077*), located *c* 60m south of the north-westem end of the site (Fig 34) A second north-east- to south-west-aligned ditch (*13037*) was recorded *c* 35m further south, but this seemed to have been cut across by *13003* Ditch *13077* was 0 57m wide and 35m deep, with a V-shaped profile It was traced north-eastwards from *13003* for *c* 12m, but extended beyond the site m that direction Feature *13037* was of similar size, though with a U-shaped profile (Fig 35), and was traced for *c* 10m It too extended north-east of the site, but to the south-west it termmated m a rounded butt-end The spatial relationship between *13077* and ditch *13003* suggested that the two were at least broadly contemporary, whilst *13037* certamly pre-dated *13003*

2 3 23 North-east of ditch *13003* was an irregular cluster of small, mostly square postholes (*13033*, Fig 36), the majority of which measured *c* 0 15-0 3 x 0 15-0 3m and were 0 1-0 25m deep Although undated and not readily mterpreted as any form of stmcture, they could have been associated with the ditch, as four of the postholes formed a Ime, 6m m length, adjacent and parallel to it A number of small pits m the area also mdicated some form of activity Most of these were undated, but a small, roughly circular pit (*13076*), 0 6m m diameter and 0 27m deep (Fig 35), located adjacent to ditch *13003*, was dated by radiocarbon assay to the middle Iron Age (*Section 7 1*)

2 3 24 Immediately west of ditch *13040* (Fig 34), an elongated pit (*13084*), 2m long, east to west, Im wide and 0 45m deep, had been filled with a layer of deliberately laid sandstone fragments up to 0 2m thick (*13083*, Fig 37, PI 11) The care with which the stones had been laid, together with the size and shape of the pit, were suggestive of a grave In view of the acidic character of the local soils, imburnt human bone would not have survived, but there were no further mdications that the feature had been used for burial

2 3 25 No 'native'-type pottery was recovered from SCAI3, but ditch *13077* and pit *13076* have been dated to the early-middle Iron Age by radiocarbon assay In the case of the ditch, charred cereal grams from one of its fills (*13052*) yielded

a date of 730-390 cal BC (2395±30 BP, SUERC-2625 *Section 7 1*), seemmgly placmg the feature firmly m the early Iron Age, or (at the latest), the early mıddle Iron Age The grey sılty clay fill (*13075*) of pıt *13076* yıelded a sample of alder charcoal, from whıch a mıddle Iron Age date of 410-200 cal BC (2285±35 BP, SUERC-27610) was obtamed

2 3 26 The only other datmg evıdence from the sıte was a small group of 12 Romano-Brıtısh pottery sherds, probably from a smgle everted-rım jar (Evans 2007), whıch came from fill *13056* m dıtch *13040* Spatıally, thıs dıtch appears to have been contemporary wıth all the others recorded on the sıte, mcludmg *13077*, from whıch the early-mıddle Iron Age date was obtamed One possıble explanatıon for thıs ıs that the materıal dated by radıocarbon assay was resıdual wıthm *13077* Followmg thıs hypothesıs, the pottery from dıtch *13040*, whıch may date to the second century AD (Evans 2007), should be taken at face value, and a Roman date ascrıbed to the whole complex of dıtches recorded on SCAI3 However, m vıew of the total absence of Romano-Brıtısh pottery elsewhere on the sıte, and the mıddle Iron Age date obtamed from pıt *13076*, ıt seems more lıkely that the dıtches dıd mdeed orıgmate durmg the early-mıddle Iron Age If so, the pottery m dıtch *13040* could have been deposıted ın a feature that had remamed partly open for several centurıes

3. THE LATE IRON AGE/ROMAN PERIOD

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3 1 1 Activity broadly attributable to the late Iron Age/early Roman period within the road corridor (Fig 38) can be divided into two main categories that pertaining to 'native' settlement of the area, and that directly associated with the conquest and occupation of northern England by the Roman army from the late first century AD Evidence for Roman military activity was confined to the limited investigations undertaken on the putative Roman fort at Carkin Moor (SCA2), although the possible early road surface adjacent to the modern A66 at Thorpe Farin could conceivably have formed part of the Roman military road (if the recorded deposits were not considerably later)

3 1 2 Elsewhere, the main evidence for 'native' settlement came from SCA15 at the extreme eastern end of the road corridor, near Scotch Corner, a single late Iron Age/early Roman radiocarbon date was obtained from SCA8 and a few sherds of Romano-British pottery came from a single ditch fill in SCA13, but the main occupation at both of these sites is likely to have occurred somewhat earlier (*Section 2*) A single abraded potsherd of possible Iron Age/early Roman date also came from an otherwise undated enclosure ditch at SCA1, though the precise status of this feature is uncertain

3 1 3 At SCA15, ceramic evidence and scientific dating clearly indicate that the *floruit* of the settlement, which appears to have been focused on a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure containing a roundhouse, occurred during the late Iron Age-early Roman period (first century BC-first century AD) However, the scientific dating also hints at the possibility of slightly earlier activity on the site, perhaps beginning during the later middle Iron Age The presence of comparatively large quantities of unported pottery, including samian and Mediterranean amphorae, suggests that the inhabitants were able to obtain 'exotic' imports from the Roman world in the years prior to the arrival of the Roman army in the region in the AD 70s It is of note, perhaps, that no trace of the Roman road was found in the vicinity of this site, although it is possible that it was close by, to the north

3 1 4 There was limited ceramic evidence for continued occupation of SCA15 after the turn of the first/second centuries AD This comprised a few second-century coarseware sherds (*Section 5 5*), and four Central Gaulish samian sherds (probably representing four separate vessels) of Hadrianic-early Antonine date (*Section 5 2*) A single sherd of possible Severn Valley ware might indicate continued activity into the early third century at least Elsewhere, very little Romano-British pottery of any kind was found, the latest material, a single sherd of probable Nene Valley ware, dating to after *c* AD 160, came from the vicinity of Carkin Moor fort, at SCA2

3.2 ROMAN MILITARY ACTIVITY

3 2 1 ***The possible Roman road (Thorpe Farm cross-carriageway trenches)*** nothing of archaeological significance was found in the four trenches dug

across the northern carriageway of the existing A66 in the vicinity of Thorpe Farm (*Section 1 5 32*) However, a sequence of potentially significant deposits was recorded in section in a 3in-square manhole-pit in the adjacent grass verge (Fig 39), even though all deposits in the southern part of the pit had been destroyed by the modern A66 The earliest surviving layer, lying directly above the natural subsoil, was a compact dark greyish-black silt (*10382*), up to 0 4in thick, perhaps the remnants of a buried turf layer This was sealed by a 0 4m-thick deposit of compacted, angular sandstone fragments (*10381*), all approximately 50mm in size, which appeared to rise up and peter out to the north The precise character and significance of this material could not be determined within the small area available for investigation, and no dating evidence was recovered However, the Roman road is marked in this position on the First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map (1857a), and it is therefore possible that *10381* represents a surviving fragment of Roman road metalling, though it might equally have been of post-Roman (medieval or post-medieval) date It was overlain by 0 3in of grey silt (*10380*) that was itself sealed by 0 5in of modern topsoil

3 2 2 ***Carkin Moor fort (SCA2)*** the putative Roman fort at Carkin Moor (SM28289/02) survives as a square earthwork with rounded corners, enclosing an area of approximately 1ha (*c* 2 5 acres) It occupies a slight plateau on the crest of a hill at 151m aOD, and is bisected by the modern A66 (PI 12) The site has been interpreted as a Roman fort on morphological grounds but had not previously been investigated In order to inform an application for Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC), necessary to enable engineering works to take place on the site, three test pits (Trenches 13-15) were excavated within the eastern part of the scheduled area (Fig 40) These were positioned to investigate the defences and interior at the south-east corner of the fort

3 2 3 Within the interior, no deposits of archaeological significance were recorded in Trench 15 There, the natural subsoil was directly overlain by a probable medieval/post-medieval ploughsoil 0 15in thick, which lay beneath 0 25m of modern topsoil In Trench 14, which was excavated *c* 8in to the south-east, what appeared to be an external surface (*10111*), comprising sub-angular cobbles *c* 50-100mm in size, lay duectly above the natural geology (PI 13) This deposit covered the whole area of the french (4 x 2m), but had been badly disturbed, probably by ploughing, and was sealed by the same depth of buried ploughsoil and modern topsoil as was recorded in Trench 15 No finds were retrieved from the surface but it could conceivably have been associated with the fort

3 2 4 Trench 13 was placed *c* 16in south-east of Trench 14, and was excavated to investigate the putative southern defences, at a point close to its south-east corner At a depth of 1-1 2m below the modern surface, the southern edge of a north-east- to south-west-aligned ditch (*10106*), was encountered (Fig 41, PI 14), which directly cut the natural subsoil Since only a very small part of this feature could be exposed, its full dimensions and precise character could not be determined However, it was in excess of 1 4in wide at the hp and over 0 95in deep (Fig 41), with a near-vertical southern edge The earliest excavated fill comprised redeposited natural material (*10107*), in excess of

0 6m thick and possibly confined to the southern edge of the cut, that may have accumulated as the sides of the ditch eroded Above this was an upper fill of mottled grey silty clay (*10105*), in excess of 0 8m thick, containing infrequent small stones The ditch was sealed by up to 0 6m of colluvial deposits (*10104* beneath *10103*, Fig 41), which were in turn overlain by a buried ploughsoil sealed beneath modern topsoil The colluvium comprised fine, mid-grey-brown clay silts, containing occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded stone inclusions, ranging between 50mm and 0 30m in size Both deposits were thicker to the north-west, within the upslope part of the trench No artefacts were recovered from the ditch fills themselves, but colluvial deposit *10104*, which directly sealed the ditch, yielded several small sherds of abraded Romano-British pottery and ten small fragments of a Romano-British lava quern (*Section 5 10 1*) The ceramic assemblage comprises two amphora body sherds, possibly from a Richborough 527-type vessel of first-early second-century AD date (Peacock and Williams 1986, Class 13, *Section 5 3*), a probable Nene Valley beaker datable to after *c* AD 160, and four reduced ware sherds (Tyers 1999, *Section 5 5*) There is thus nothing to suggest that this is not a small Roman military installation, although the precise dates of its occupation remain unclear

3.3 'NATIVE' SETTLEMENT

3 3 1 ***SCA1***. a U-profiled ditch (*10312*, Fig 42), 1 3m wide and 0 43m deep, was exposed in the south-east corner of SCA1 (Fig 38) This extended on a curving north-west to south-east alignment for 40m, from the southern limit of the investigation to the eastern edge, but continued beyond the stripped area in both directions It may have represented the north-western boundary of a curvilinear enclosure (Enclosure 3), the greater part of which lay outside the site (Fig 42), though if this was the case, no archaeological features were found within it A 1m-wide trench was excavated through the ditch for characterisation purposes, the rest of the feature being preserved *in situ* The main fill (*10310*) was interleaved with a deposit of charcoal-rich material tipping in from the east (*10309*)

3 3 2 The dating and precise significance of the putative enclosure ditch remain unclear A single abraded pottery sherd, of Iron Age or Roman date, was recovered from its fill (*10310*), together with a fragment of burnt clay, possibly from a hearth base (*Section 5 1 22*) However, charcoal deposit *10309* proved to be composed wholly or largely of broom/gorse roundwood fragments (*Section 6 5 5*), a species recorded in no other archaeological deposit during the A66 Project The primary context record also casts some doubt on the antiquity of the ditch, initially, it was interpreted as the remains of a gimbbed-out hedge line of presumed late post-medieval date, but this interpretation was later amended, and the feature was reinterpreted as a possible enclosure ditch

3 3 3 ***SCA13*** with the exception of the probable second-century AD reduced-ware sherds recovered from ditch *13040*, which, it has been argued (*Section 2 3 26*), were probably deposited within an early-middle Iron Age feature that had remained partly open into the Roman period, no material of Roman date was

recovered from SCA13 (Fig 38), and there is no evidence for occupation on the site during the Roman period However, that activity did occur in the vicinity was indicated by a metal detector survey undertaken in the field immediately north of the site, which recovered several Romano-British metal objects (*Section 5 8 1*) These comprised a silver *denarius* of the emperor Vespasian (AD 69-79) and three copper-alloy items a dress fastener of likely late first- or second-century date; a steelyard weight, and part of the foot for a large vessel, the latter being probably, rather than certainly, Roman

3 3 4 ***SCA15*** the principal focus of activity at SCA15 (Fig 38, PI 15) appears to have been a sub-rectangular ditched enclosure (Enclosure 7, Fig 43) containing a roundhouse and a large number of other features, though, with the exception of the roundhouse itself, no other definite buildings were recorded To the west and east of the enclosure were large numbers of other features, principally ditches, but also pits, possible postholes and several other certain or possible roundhouses The ditches appear to have defined a series of rectilinear enclosures and/or fields associated with possible ditched trackways, all presumably related to, and contemporary with, the principal enclosure However, these features were seen in too limited an area within the road corridor to be characterised adequately, and their precise purpose and extent therefore remain uncertain

3 3 5 Beyond the main enclosure itself, parts of three putative ditched enclosures or fields (Enclosures 4, 5, and 6) and two possible ditched trackways (Trackways 2 and 3) were recorded, all west of Enclosure 7 Additionally, many more ditches were recorded, on both sides of Enclosure 7, that may well have been the boundaries of further enclosures/fields, but these were invariably seen in too restricted an area for their purpose to be determined Excluding the 'main' roundhouse in Enclosure 7, a second certain roundhouse was recorded, within Enclosure 5 to the west, and three other possible roundhouse gullies were also found Two of these were located west of the main enclosure, within Enclosure 4, and cutting the boundary ditch of the same enclosure, whilst the third lay towards the eastern end of the site

3 3 6 Ceramic evidence (Evans 2007) clearly indicates that the great majority of the archaeological features recorded at SCA15 were late Iron Age or early Romano-British Although some late Iron Age/Romano-British 'native'-type gritty wares were recovered, and two middle-late Iron Age radiocarbon dates were obtained (*Section 7 1 3*), most of the pottery was clearly early Romano-British, and eight of the ten radiocarbon determinations from the site spanned the period from the first century BC to the first century AD It therefore seems likely that the main phase of occupation dates to this period, though limited activity may have occurred both earlier and slightly later Significantly, most of the 'Romanised' pottery was of first-century date, and included some diagnostically pre-Flavian material, though a few sherds dating to the second quarter of the second-century AD were also present, together with a single fragment that may date no earlier than the early third century The stratigraphic evidence indicates that there was more than one phase of activity on the site, but there was little evidence for spatial differentiation across the site as a whole Rather, it seems likely that occupation represented a

continuum, with relatively minor modifications and additions to the layout of the settlement being undertaken in a piecemeal fashion throughout its lifetime

3 3 7 Large numbers of ditches, probably principally field boundaries and enclosure ditches, were exposed, within which two principal alignments were evident (Fig 43) In the eastern and central areas, the main axis of most of the linear features excavated was, broadly, north-north-west to south-south-east and east-north-east to west-south-west Within the western part of the site, the alignment was quite different, being markedly north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west However, there was no good evidence to suggest that the two alignments related to chronologically distinct phases of activity, though this remains a possibility

3 3 8 *The western area* the principal feature in the western part of the site was a probable south-east- to north-west-aligned trackway (Trackway 2), *c* 8 5m wide (Fig 44), defined by a pair of parallel ditches (*14006* to the north-east and *14012* on the south-west) A stretch of this feature, *c* 35m long, lay within the site, but it extended north and south of the area investigated At the point where ditch *14006* disappeared beneath the southern edge of the site, it seemingly turned north through approximately 90° to extend north-eastwards for a distance of approximately 25m before continuing beyond the limit of the investigation in that direction Both ditches were of similar size and shape, the western arm of *14006* was 2-2 15m wide at the hp and 0 75-0 9m deep, with a steep, U-shaped profile, the eastern arm was up to 1 3m wide and 0 75m deep, whilst *14012* measured 1 85 x 0 95m, with a slightly rounded, V-shaped profile

3 3 9 One of the uppermost fills of ditch *14006* (*14183*) yielded a single sherd from an oxidised-ware flagon of early Roman date, whilst a deposit (*14205*) in the middle of the sequence of fills in ditch *14012* contained a Dragendorff 18R or 18/31R samian dish/bowl of *c* AD 120-200 (*Section 5 2 3*) A tiny fragment of fired clay came from a secondary fill (*14089*) in ditch *14006*, and a small fragment of lead sheet was found in a secondary fill (*14367*) in ditch *14012* (*Section 5 8 2*) However, a sample of charred cereal chaff from a primary fill (*14202*) in ditch *14012* yielded a radiocarbon determination of 180 cal BC-cal AD 10 (2065±30 BP, SUERC-26255, *Section 7 1*) This material, if not residual, might indicate that at least some of the activity within SCA15 may have commenced during the mid-late Iron Age, though occupation clearly continued into the second half of the first century AD

3 3 10 It is noteworthy that the alignment of Trackway 2 was followed precisely by an extant field boundary, marked by a tree-lined bank and a ditch (*14015*, *Section 4 3 9*) This post-medieval feature was located unmediately inside (*ie* west of) *14006*, the ditch defining the north side of the trackway The concordance in the alignment of these features is unlikely, perhaps, to have been entirely fortuitous, which implies either that elements of the Iron Age/Romano-British enclosure system were still visible in the post-medieval period, and exerted some influence upon the pattern of land division at that time, or that certain features and alignments within this early landscape retained their significance for many centuries, and were, perhaps, periodically redefined throughout the post-Roman and medieval periods

3 3 11 The north-east- to south-west-aligned arm of ditch *14006* may have formed the south-eastern boundary of a rectilinear enclosure (Enclosure 4) situated on the north side of Trackway 2, which formed the enclosure's south-western edge (Fig 44) Within the excavated area, which may have occupied the south-west corner of the putative enclosure, a narrower ditch (*14005*), up to 0 85m wide and 0 3m deep, with near-vertical sides and a flat base, extended north-east, at right-angles from ditch *14006*, seemingly separating off the extreme south-east corner of Enclosure 4 from the rest of the area The smaller 'inner enclosure' thus created was probably rectangular in plan, though it extended north of the site, *c* 12-15in wide and in excess of 27m long

3 3 12 The 'inner enclosure' appears to have contained a roundhouse, marked by a curvilinear gully (*14001*), up to 0 7m wide and 0 2in deep (Figs 44 and 45, Pl 16) The western end of this feature terminated immediately adjacent to the northern edge of the site, whilst further east it became less well defined and petered out However, it appears to have enclosed an area *c* 9-10in in diameter Inside the gully, three small, seemingly randomly distributed postholes (*14164*, *14216*, *14218*) were the only features recorded, all were located towards the eastern side of the structure Over most of its excavated length, the principal fill of the gully was an organic, dark brown/black silt containing much charcoal (*14106/14144/14194*) An uregular gully (*14011*), 0 65m wide and 0 25m deep, extended north-east from the eastern surviving end of gully *14001*, but stratigraphically pre-dated that feature This is significant, since one of the upper fills of *14011* (*14731*) yielded five sherds of Romano-British pottery, including two fragments from a first-century Dragendorff 29 samian bowl and from an oxidised, flanged-rim bowl (*Section 5 2 1*) The primary fill (*14732*) also contained five coarse potsherds of probable late Iron Age-early Roman date, and another three fragments of this type came from fills elsewhere in the feature (one from *14105* and two from *14172*) The roundhouse gully itself yielded only a single sherd of gritty pottery (from fill *14623*), but the Roman pottery in gully *14011* demonstrates conclusively that the roundhouse was built during the Roman period rather than earlier (*Section 5 5 12*)

3 3 13 The south-eastern arm of ditch *14006* was cut by a segment of a curvilinear gully (*14002*), up to 0 8in wide, 0 8m deep (though generally far shallower) and approxunately 6m long (Fig 45. Pl 17) This feature cut the south-eastern (outer) edge of the ditch, and therefore lay essentially outside Enclosure 4, rather than within it The significance of the gully is unclear, since it did not describe a complete (or at least substantially complete) circle, so it was not certainly the 'eaves-drip' gully or wall foundation trench for a roundhouse, though such an interpretation seems likely If it did represent the poorly preserved remains of a structure, it would indicate that at least one roundhouse post-dated the filling of ditch *14006*, and was therefore probably later in date than both the trackway and Enclosure 4 to the north A charred cereal grain from one of the fills (*14123*) of this feature yielded a radiocarbon determination of 40 cal BC-cal AD 130 (1940±35 BP, SUERC-26661, *Section 7 1*)

3 3 14 Approximately 12m west of the northern excavated end of ditch *14012*, the southern boundary ditch of Trackway *2*, a substantial ditch (*14014*) was found, aligned perpendicular to the track (Fig 44) This was 2-2 35m wide at the hp and 0 75-0 85m deep, with a flat-bottomed, steep-sided U-shaped profile It presumably intersected *14012* just to the north of the excavated area, but no stratigraphic relationship was established within the site If it is assumed, as the spatial evidence might suggest, that *14014* was broadly contemporary with the track, it may have formed the north-western boundary of a rectilinear enclosure (Enclosure 5) situated on the south side of the trackway, with the track itself forming its north-eastern edge Like Enclosure 4 to the north, an internal subdivision was suggested by a U-profiled ditch (*14013*) that extended south-east from *14014*, at right-angles to it, though the end of this seems to have cut the southern edge of *14014* Ditch *14013* was 0 8m wide and 0 15m deep, and probably only its extreme north-western end lay within the area investigated It seems to have separated the north-east corner of Enclosure 5 from the rest of the area, in the same way that ditch *14005* apparently did at the south-east corner of Enclosure 4 In this case, the 'inner enclosure' thus created was also probably rectangular, *c* 35m wide (considerably wider than the 'inner enclosiue' at the south-east corner of Enclosure 4), and at least 40m long, north-west to south-east (it extended south of the excavated area)

3 3 15 As was the case to the north, the 'inner enclosure' within Enclosure 5 contained a roundhouse (*14000*, Fig 44, PI 18) This post-dated a small group of four shallow, irregular pits or pit-like features (*14234*, *14240*, *14295*, *14303*, Fig 46), some of which at least may have been tree-throws, and a short, east- to west-aligned gully (*14399*), 0 53m wide and 0 25m deep The latter had been cut by pit *14295*, which may itself have pre-dated feature *14240*, suggesting that quite a complex sequence of activity had already occurred in this area prior to the constmction of the roundhouse

3 3 16 The building itself, or at least the curvilinear gully marking its position, appeared to have three phases, though none of these intercut, so it was not possible to be certain what their precise relationship may have been However, two of the gullies, the innermost (*14397*), and the outermost (*14236/14238*), were filled with very similar deposits of quite organic, dark grey/black silty clay containing some charcoal, which might suggest that the two were contemporary If this was the case, *14397* could conceivably have marked the position of the wall of the building, whilst the outer feature might represent an 'eaves-drip', though the latter was present only on the western side of the stmcture The central gully (*14398*), filled with pale grey sandy clay containing quite a lot of redeposited natural material, may represent a different phase of constmction, but in the absence of duect stratigraphic links it is not possible to know if this was earlier or later than the other

3 3 17 Of the three gullies, only *14398* was substantially complete, though it (together with inner gully *14397*) had been destroyed on the north-east by a later pit (*14281*, *Section 3 3 19*) As it survived, *14398* was up to 0 9m wide and 0 3m deep, and enclosed an area approximately 9m in diameter, probably with an entrance on the south-east The inner feature (*14397*), set *c* Im inside *14398*, was too fragmentary for its diameter to be determined, but it was up to

0 4m wide and 0 3m deep The outer gully (*14236/14238*) was traced for approximately 3 4m on the west side of the stmcture only, *c* 0 5m outside feature *14398* It was up to 0 32m wide and 0 3m deep, a sample of charred cereal grain from one of its fills (*14235*) yielded a radiocarbon determination of 50 cal BC-cal AD 80 (1985±30 BP, SUERC-26256 *Section 7 1*) Unlike roundhouse *14021* in Enclosure 7 (*Section 3 3 29*), which was located in the central part of SCA15, *c* 190m east of roundhouse *14000*, there was no trace of postholes or stakeholes at the base of any of the gullies.

3 3 18 Intemally, a collection of seemingly randomly distributed stakeholes and possible postholes (*14267*, *14269*, *14271*, *14273*, *14276*, *14278*) were the only features recorded (Fig 46) None had any stratigraphic link with the excavated gullies, and theu significance is unclear However, it did not appear that any were centrally positioned in relation to any of the gullies, nor did they appear to represent a cucle of uprights supporting the walls and/or roof of the building

3 3 19 On the north-east, the roundhouse gullies had been removed by a later pit (*14281*, Fig 46) This had an irregular, sub-rectangular plan, and was up to 5 4m long, north-east to south-west, up to 1 2m wide and 0.35m deep It was filled with mid-grey clay-sand, up to 0 25m thick (*14280*), overlain by 0 1m of pale grey-brown sandy clay (*14279*) The primary fill yielded 13 sherds of Romano-British pottery, of which ten are first- or early second-century Rusticated ware, two are reduced ware, and one is a samian fragment, possibly from an indeterminate form of first- to mid-second-century date (*Section 5 2 3*)

3 3 20 With the exception of those associated, duectly or induectly, with roundhouse *14000*, very few other features were recorded within Enclosure 5 Approximately 5m north-west of the roundhouse (*c* 2m south of ditch *14014*) was a shallow, sub-rectangular pit (*14197*, Fig 46), *c* 1 8 x 0 9m and 0 1m deep The pale grey clay-sand fill of this (*14198*) contained numerous flecks and small fragments of charcoal, and yielded a broken flint blade of late mesolithic or neolithic date (*Section 5 10*)

3 3 21 Ditch *14014*, the north-westem boundary of Enclosure 5, may also have formed the southem edge of another rectilinear enclosure (Enclosure 6) extending to the north, of which only the extreme south-west comer lay within the excavated area (Fig 44) The west side of this enclosure was defined by a U-profiled ditch (*14223*) that extended north-west from ditch *14014*, and at right-angles to it This was 0 85m wide and 0 3m deep, and was traced for nearly 35m, but continued north-west beyond the area investigated The possibility that Enclosure 6 had a double ditch system was suggested by the discovery of an L-shaped ditch (*14224*), 0 9m wide and 0 5m deep, some 6-7m inside ditches *14014* and *14223* The two excavated arms of this feature (on the south and west) were aligned roughly parallel with the outer ditches, but in the absence of any stratigraphic links it is not possible to be certain that *14224* was duectly contemporary with the other features The arms of the ditch extended north and east of the excavated area

3 3 22 Approximately 6m west of ditch *14223*, and therefore just outside Enclosure 6, was a small, roughly circular pit (*14222*, Fig 44), 0 6m in diameter and 0 1m deep, which was filled with burnt deposits containing small quantities of calcined animal bone Whilst it is conceivable that this represented some kind of votive deposit, it could equally have been a domestic feature, since it also yielded a fragment of partially burnt coal or coke (*Section 5 11*)

3 3 23 *The central area* in the central part of the site, what was probably the greater part of a rectangular ditched enclosure (Enclosure 7) was exposed (Fig 47, Pl 19) This measured in excess of 60m north to south, internally (it extended south of the site) and *c* 50-52m east to west at its greatest extent At least two principal phases were apparent in the system of ditches on the north side of the enclosure, at its north-eastern corner, and probably also on the west, though these were not evident to the east, where only a single ditch was found On the north, north-east and west, the earliest ditch (*14716* on the north, *14018* on the east, and *14686* on the west, Fig 48) was *c* 2 5-3m wide at the hp and 0 7-0 95m deep in the best-preserved segments (*c* 1 6-2m wide and 0 4-0 6m elsewhere), with an open, generally flat-bottomed U-shaped profile (Fig 49) Feature *14686* yielded a sherd from a late first- or early second-century Dragendorff 37 samian bowl, which came from an upper fill (*14710*), whilst a samian cup, possibly Dragendorff 33 (*c* AD 120-200), came from an upper fill (*14542*) of ditch *14018* (*Section 5 2 3*) The same deposit also yielded a small piece of partially burnt coal or coke (*Section 5 11*) Ditch *14018* petered out to the south, where it was seemingly cut by a later feature (*14024*, *Section 3 3 36*) However, it also extended north from the north-east corner of the feature for at least 20m, but continued beyond the area investigated in that direction

3 3 24 Subsequently, the enclosure boundaries were redefined by the digging of a new ditch immediately outside the primary feature This was traced on all three excavated sides of the enclosure (*14030* on the north, *14017* to the east, and *14690* to the west), though ditch *14690* either terminated or petered out on the south, *c* 12m short of the edge of the site (Fig 48) Where survival was best, the new ditches were 2 5-2 7m wide (though as little as *c* 1 4m in some places) and 0 7-0 8m deep (Fig 49) That this ditch system was later than the primary ditch, rather than the two representing a double-ditch system, was demonstrated stratigraphically at the north-east corner of the enclosure, where *14030*, the new north ditch, cut across the northern extension of primary ditch *14018* (Fig 48), which had completely filled by this time As was the case with the primary eastern ditch (*14018*), the new east ditch (*14017*) extended north from the north-east corner of the enclosure to continue beyond the limit of the excavation

3 3 25 Situated between the northern arms of ditches *14017* and *14018*, and therefore located just outside the north-east corner of Enclosure 7, was a large, but shallow, sub-rectangular pit (*14580*, Fig 48), *c* 4 x 2 25m and 0 2m deep, with gently sloping sides and a somewhat uneven base This feature had no direct stratigraphic link with either of the adjacent ditches, but its stony fill yielded four sherds of early Romano-British oxidised ware (*Section 5 5 6*)

3 3 26 A primary fill (*14439*) in ditch *14017* yielded charred cereal grains and grass seeds from which a radiocarbon determination of 50 cal BC-cal AD 120 was gained (1975±35 BP, SUERC-27606, *Section 7 1*) Another primary fill (*14428*) of the same feature yielded a fragment from an early Roman oxidised flagon, whilst another deposit (*14828*), in the middle of the depositional sequence, contained two gritty sherds One of the upper fills of the ditch (*14781*) contained four potsherds, including a Dressel 2-4 'black sand' amphora fragment, production of which is believed to have been ended by the emption of Mount Vesuvius in AD 79 (Williams 2004), and a samian bowl, the latter possibly dating to the period *c* AD 120-200 (*Section 5 2 3*) Also in ditch *14017*, fill *14781* yielded two fragments of fired clay (*Section 5 11*), and a third small piece came from a secondary fill (*14779*) However, intrusive material was represented by a fragment from a late post-medieval ceramic land drain Elsewhere, one of the primary fills of feature *14690* (*14752*) yielded two fragments from the handle of a Roman amphora, perhaps of Italian origin, and a third amphora sherd, possibly a fust- or early second-century Richborough 527 form (Peacock and Williams 1986, Class 13), also came from this ditch Additionally, an upper fill (*14761*) yielded three gritty sherds of possible late Iron Age-early Roman date, and a sherd of Romano-British reduced ware (Evans 2007), whilst a Dragendorff 33 samian cup (perhaps of the period *c* AD 120-200) and a mortarium sherd came from elsewhere within the same feature (*ibid*)

3 3 27 Extending south from the northern arm of the primary enclosure ditch (*14716*, Fig 48), and stratigraphically contemporary with it, was a flat-bottomed, U-profiled ditch (*14019*), up to 2m wide and 0 4m deep (Fig 49), that continued into the interior of Enclosure 7 for 17m, dividing the northern part of the enclosure into two slightly unequal halves (Fig 47) The southern terminal of this feature is thought to have cut the east end of another U-shaped ditch (*14687*), 1 15m wide and 0 3m deep, aligned roughly east to west However, spatial considerations suggest the two may have been at least broadly contemporary, since neither extended much beyond the line of the other, and the intersection was almost exactly perpendicular If this interpretation is correct, these ditches may have formed two sides of a roughly square 'umer enclosure', *c* 20 x 18-19m, in the north-west corner of Enclosure 7 However, ditch *14687* also aligned with ditches *14689* and *14016* in the area immediately west of Enclosure 7 (Fig 47; *Section 3 3 37*), possibly indicating that it was associated with those features One of the primary fills of ditch *14019* (*14371*) yielded a Dragendorff 37 samian bowl, possibly datable to *c* AD 120-200 (*Section 5 2 3*), and nine sherds from a Black-burnished ware fabric 1 bowl (Evans 2007) The same deposit also contained part of an early Roman oxidised flagon, shattered into 28 small fragments

3 3 28 In its second phase, a rectilinear 'inner enclosure' appears to have been formed within the south-eastern part of Enclosure 7 The north and west sides of this were marked by a continuous L-shaped ditch (*14020*, Fig 48), up to 1 05m wide and 0 3m deep, whilst the east side was formed by *14017*, the main eastern enclosure ditch The south side lay outside the excavation, but this 'inner enclosure' appears to have measured in excess of 27m, north to south, by *c* 22-25m east to west, internally

3 3 29 Immediately east of the other 'inner enclosure', identified at the north-west corner of Enclosure 7 in the primary phase, and adjacent to the eastern terminal of ditch *14687*, were the well-preserved remains of a roundhouse (*14021*, Fig 48, Pl 20) In the absence of definite stratigraphic links, it was not entirely clear which phase of the enclosure this structure was contemporary with (assuming it was associated with either) However, there is a compelling stratigraphic argument for placing its construction in the primary phase of occupation, though there is no stratigraphic reason why the building could not have continued in use after the enclosure was redefined

3 3 30 The roundhouse was defined by a pair of concentric ring-ditches or gullies set 1 5-1 8m apart (Fig 50) The outermost (*14719*) was U-shaped in profile, up to 0 55m wide and 0 3in deep, with an internal diameter of *c* 9m One of the primary fills of this feature (*14413*) yielded a bodysherd from a Roman Dressel 2-4 'black sand' amphora (*Section 5 3 5*) The single fill (*14357*) of another excavated segment of the same feature yielded charred cereal grains, from which a radiocarbon determination of 60 cal BC-cal AD 80 (2000±30 BP, SUERC-26257) was obtained (*Section 7 1*) That some form of activity had occurred on the site prior to the construction of the building was suggested by the fact that, on the south, *14719* cut a circular posthole (*14356*), 0 7in in diameter and 0 4in deep Although quite a substantial feature, this was not obviously associated with any other features in the vicinity

3 3 31 The inner gully (*14720*), also U-profiled, was narrower, at 0 3m wide and up to 0 15m deep, with an internal diameter of *c* 5in No features were visible within the outer gully, which was completely filled with grey-brown sandy silt At the base of the inner gully, several of closely spaced stakeholes were recorded in some of the better-preserved segments of the feature, indicating that this had probably been the foundation trench for a wall However, at only 5m in diameter, it seems unlikely that this represented the external wall of the building, which is perhaps more likely to have been marked by the outer gully If this was the case, then the inner feature may have been the remains of an internal wall In the western part of gully *14720*, four stakeholes (*14525*, *14527*, *14529*, *14531*) were recorded in a segment of the feature 1 4in in length, and four more (*14472*, *14474*, *14476*, *14478*) were found further north, in a gully segment *e* 1in long On the south, a further seven stakeholes (*14552*, *14554*, *14556*, *14558*, *14560*, *14562*, *14571*) were present in two gully segments These features were circular or sub-circular in plan, mostly 0 1-0 15m in diameter and 50-100mm deep One of the stakeholes yielded large fragments of hazel roundwood (*Section 6 5 13*), though whether this represented the remains of the stake itself is not clear Feature *14571* was somewhat larger, at 0 26in in diameter and 0 15m deep, but this may have been due to its proximity to the south side of the building's entrance, with which it may have been associated The entrance was located on the east side of the structure, and was marked by a break in both of the ring gullies, this was 5m wide in the outermost feature, and 1 45in wide in the case of the inner gully The door itself was probably represented by two pairs of larger, but quite shallow (*c* 0 15-0 2m), postholes (*14427* and *14584* on the north, *14407* and *14571* on the south) located at the terminal ends of the inner gully The purpose of a fifth posthole (*14599*), situated adjacent to the south side of the