



POST-EXCAVATION ASSESSMENT  
REPORT

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**NORTH STOBWOOD  
REVISED, NORTHUMBERLAND**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EXCAVATION**

prepared for

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# NORTH STOBWOOD REVISED, NORTHUMBERLAND

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

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#### **Summary**

*This document presents a summary of the results of an archaeological excavation and watching brief at the site of a coal and fireclay extraction area at the North Stobwood Revised site, Northumberland (NZ 2290 9480). The site had been the subject of a programme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation, the previous stages of this programme comprised a Desk-Based Assessment, a geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching.*

*The groundworks were undertaken in two stages. The first of these comprised the investigation of the excavation area followed by archaeological monitoring of all topsoil and subsoil removal within the area of the watching brief during preliminary site clearance. The second phase of groundworks was undertaken immediately after the excavation area had been stripped, thus the archaeological investigation of both areas was carried out simultaneously.*

*Archaeological remains investigated included a truncated stone and earth mound, post-medieval field boundaries and a considerable number of discrete features. Most of these discrete features were found to be natural in origin and included tree throws and root boles. However, eleven widely dispersed kiln bases or fire-pits, possibly relating to medieval charcoal burning, were recorded.*

*The post-excavation assessment has established that there is no potential for further analysis on the site archive or artefactual record and that the preservation by record of the archaeological remains encountered is deemed sufficient to mitigate against their loss during the course of the extraction.*

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This document presents a summary of the results of an archaeological excavation and watching brief at the site of a coal and fireclay extraction area at the North Stobswood Revised site, Northumberland (NZ 2290 9480). The site had been the subject of a programme of archaeological evaluation and mitigation, the previous stages of this programme comprised a Desk-Based Assessment, a geophysical survey and archaeological trial trenching.
- 1.2 The Desk-Based assessment was undertaken in February 2003 (Tyne and Wear Museums (TWM) 2003) and highlighted the potential for the survival of archaeological remains within the area of the development. A scheme of works to mitigate the potential loss of these remains was agreed with the Archaeological Officers of Northumberland County Council. It included a programme of fieldwalking, geophysical survey and evaluation by trial trenching.
- 1.3 The geophysical survey, comprising a gradiometer survey of nine hectares, was undertaken in August 2003 (TimeScape Surveys 2003). This identified a number of anomalies which may have represented archaeological features, although many of these were considered to be equivocal at the time.
- 1.4 Subsequently a total of 58 trial trenches, representing a 2% sample of the development area, were excavated across the site in March, April and May 2004. These groundworks were carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (NAA 2004a) and in consultation with the Archaeological Officers of Northumberland County Council. A number of archaeological features of probable prehistoric date were recorded within the western section of the site, which were considered to be of sufficient importance to warrant excavation in advance of groundworks associated with the development. A larger area around these was considered to have the potential to contain previously unrecorded archaeological remains and was subjected to a watching brief during soil removal, undertaken at the same time.

## **2.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY**

- 2.1 The excavation and watching brief areas were located within the westernmost field of the development area. It was situated to the north of the Stobswood Surface Mine some 9km to the north of Morpeth, Northumberland (Figure 1). The area of the development lay between the village of Stobswood, to the east and Middle and West Stobswood, to the west and was delimited by a road to the south-west and the East Coast Main railway line to the north-east.

- 2.2 The bedrock geology of the area is composed of Westphalian coal measures of the Carboniferous period (IGS 1979). The drift geology is composed of boulder clay and morainic drift (IGS 1977). This was overlain by the soils of the Dunkeswick association, comprising fine loamy topsoils with clayey subsurface horizons (Jarvis *et al* 1984, 165).

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Desk-Based Assessment did not identify evidence of any archaeological sites dating to the prehistoric, Roman and early medieval periods within the area of the development or its immediate vicinity (TWM 2003, 9). Evidence for the medieval and post-medieval periods was largely restricted to relict agricultural features. There were no early historic references to Stobswood and early cartographic evidence was somewhat limited.
- 3.2 However, the results of the assessment suggested that the three hamlets of East, Middle and West Stobswood may have had their origins in a single, larger, settlement. A site inspection identified a total of three areas of archaeological potential, thought to relate to medieval or post-medieval remains. The putative line of a former watercourse was also identified in aerial photographs of the site.
- 3.3 The geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies that potentially represented archaeological features.
- 3.4 A programme of trial trenching was undertaken in accordance with a methodology agreed by the Archaeological Officers of Northumberland County Council (NAA 2004a) the results of which are summarised below.
- 3.5 In total, fourteen of the 58 excavated trenches excavated contained significant archaeological remains (NAA 2004b). The western part of the development appeared to be the main focus of potentially prehistoric activity. More recent archaeological remains were encountered in two fields near the centre of the area. Remains attributable to past agricultural regimes were present in practically half of the trenches and nineteen trenches contained exclusively agricultural remains. The remainder of the trenches did not contain any significant archaeological activity.
- 3.6 In order to effect the preservation, by record, of those archaeological remains present in the western field, it was recommended that a further programme of archaeological investigation be undertaken.

#### **4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

4.1 The aim of excavation was to continue the staged approach to the investigation and recording of the archaeological features present at the site in order to effect their preservation by record and mitigate against their loss during the course of the extraction. This took the form of an open area excavation and archaeological monitoring of selected areas in advance of the development.

4.2 The main objectives of the excavation were:

- to establish the form, nature, extent, and date of the archaeological activity (as identified within Trench 44) present within Field 6.
- to establish the potential for the preservation of environmental evidence within the site, in particular to identify the possibility of waterlogged remains
- to prepare a report on the results of the excavation to be submitted to the Northumberland Historic Environment Record in order to provide a permanent record of the archaeological remains encountered. Furthermore the report will be published in a local, regional or national journal if this is deemed appropriate.

4.3 The principle objectives of the monitoring were:

- to provide a detailed record of any archaeological features identified during the monitoring of groundworks.
- to establish the date, extent, degree of preservation, significance and location of any remains encountered
- to recover any archaeological finds and appropriate samples from the exposed features
- to prepare a report on the results of the above work

#### **5.0 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 The programme of archaeological works was undertaken in two stages. The first of these comprised the investigation of the excavation area (Figure 2) followed by archaeological monitoring of all topsoil and subsoil removal within the area of the watching brief (Figure 2) during preliminary site clearance. The second phase of groundworks was undertaken immediately

after the excavation area had been stripped, thus archaeological investigation of both areas was carried out simultaneously.

- 5.2 Both areas were stripped using a mechanical tracked excavator with a toothless ditching bucket, and soils were moved to bunds in dump trucks. Soil stripping commenced along the south-eastern edge of the excavation area and was extended to the north and west. Once this was completed, soil removal commenced at the southern corner of the watching brief area and continued until the entire area for extraction was cleared. Dump trucks followed pre-defined routes to and from the areas of soil bunding and these routes were selected to minimise rutting damage. Topsoil was kept separate from subsoil where this needed to be removed. The mechanical excavator operated under archaeological supervision at all times and removed soils down to a level at which significant archaeological deposits were first identified (Plate 1).
- 5.3 Stripped surfaces were cleaned by hand within those parts of the excavation areas where archaeological features were identified. Features were then planned and photographed. All archaeological remains were hand-excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to meet the aims and objectives of the project.
- 5.4 Hand excavation of archaeological features was undertaken in order to investigate form, dimensions and character, and to ensure recovery of sufficient artefactual and environmental evidence to enable determination of their date and function.

### **Archaeological recording**

- 5.5 The location of each feature was surveyed using a Leica GPS900 system, and tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Information was downloaded onto the site laptop and converted into AutoCAD 2004 format. Levels were tied in to Ordnance Survey Datum.
- 5.6 All archaeological features were photographed and recorded at an appropriate scale, as features of special interest, the fire-pits (see below) were stratigraphically excavated in plan, with a running section and a sequence of plans being drawn. Sections were drawn at a scale of 1:10. Archaeological features were planned at a scale of 1:20 although some of the smaller pits were recorded at a scale of 1:10.
- 5.7 A written description of features was recorded on *pro forma* sheets using the NAA context recording system.
- 5.8 The site code was SNN07.

- 5.9 A photographic record of the site was taken using monochrome prints and colour slide at a format of 35mm, supplemented by digital photography where appropriate.
- 5.10 Bulk palaeoenvironmental samples were taken from appropriate deposits (such as primary ditch, pit and fire-pit fills) and submitted for assessment. These were normally forty-litre samples or comprised the entire deposit. Particular attention was paid to the recovery of samples from charred deposits. Recovery and sampling of environmental remains was in accordance with guidelines prepared by the English Heritage (2002).
- 5.11 Secure contexts were sampled for radiocarbon dating as appropriate (whether on site or as sub-samples of processed bulk samples). Concentrations of charcoal and other carbonised material encountered during excavation were appropriately packaged on site as separate samples in order to reduce the chance of contamination.
- 5.12 All artefacts were retained for processing and analysis except for unstratified 20th-century material, which was noted and discarded. Pottery and animal bone were collected as bulk samples whilst significant artefacts were recorded three-dimensionally prior to recovery. Finds were recorded, processed and submitted to specialists for post-excavation assessment.
- 5.13 All finds recovered were appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions. Finds recovery and storage strategies were in accordance with published guidelines (English Heritage 1995; Watkinson and Neal 1998) and the finds were stabilised and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the receiving museum.

## **6.0 EXCAVATION RESULTS (FIGURE 3)**

- 6.1 During the excavation and watching brief, archaeological remains investigated included a truncated stone and earth mound, post-medieval field boundaries and a considerable number of discrete features. Most of these discrete features were found to be natural in origin and included tree throws and root boles. However, a number of widely distributed kiln bases or fire-pits were recorded during the investigation.
- 6.2 The features were assigned to three broad phases of activity by artefacts found within their fills or by their general form. Phase I comprised the truncated mound of earth and stone and the features beneath. The dispersed burnt pits comprised Phase II and a post-medieval field system and remnants of ridge and furrow ploughing comprised Phase III.



### **Phase I (Figures 4 and 5)**

- 6.3 A mound of orange brown sandy silt (4133) containing many large stones and boulders (Figure 4, Plate 2)) was recorded in the fork created by the courses of two former streams (Figure 3). Nine possible pits of varying dimensions (4136, 4144, 4150, 4152, 4154, 4156, 4160, 4163 and 4164) were recorded beneath the mound (Figure 5, Plate 3).
- 6.4 The pits measured between 2.8m by 1.7m by 0.28m deep (4150) to a mere 0.58m by 0.68m by 0.04m deep (4156), and all except pit 4150 were filled with large stones and a mid greyish brown silty clay. Pit 4150 had two fills, a primary fill of shattered stone (4176) and an upper fill (4151) of very firm light grey mottled clay containing charcoal and/or coal fragments. No finds were recovered from any of these features and it is possible that they represent natural hollows or tree throw holes.
- 6.5 The mound (4133) was spread over an area of 14.2m by 15.6m and survived to a height of 0.24m high. It was cut by several of the Phase III plough furrows and the material of the mound seemed to have been spread downhill in the direction of this ploughing (Figure 3). A single fragment of fired clay was recovered from within the mound. It is possible that this feature represents the ploughed out remains of prehistoric field clearance.

### **Phase II (Medieval, Figures 3 and 6)**

- 6.6 Eleven shallow circular fire-pits or kiln bases (4006, 4014, 4066, 4102, 4167, 4177, 4184, 4191, 4198, 4205 and 4208) and two pits containing dumped fire-waste (4192 and 4180) were allocated to Phase II due to their similarity (Figure 3). These features were dispersed across the entire area of the excavation and watching brief and some were cut by the Phase III furrow remnants.
- 6.7 An approximately circular fire-pit (4184) was located close to the southern limit of the site. It measured 1.47m in diameter by up to 0.15m deep and the natural deposits beneath the pit had been discoloured by heating (4188) up to a depth of 0.02m. A crust of fired clay (4187) some 0.005m thick had formed in patches in the base of the fire-pit. The feature contained a primary fill of mid brownish grey sandy silt (4185) up to 0.05m thick. This was overlain by a 0.1m thick deposit of dark grey brown sandy silt (4186) containing charcoal. The upper fill of fire-pit 4184 was cut by one of the Phase III furrows.
- 6.8 A shallow pit (4180) was located c. 62m to the north-north-west of feature 4184. It was sub-circular in plan measuring 1.13m by 1.28m by up to 0.13m deep. The primary fill of pit 4180 was a 0.08m thick dark black brown deposit of sandy charcoal (4183). A thin remnant of a dark green grey sandy silt (4182) overlay deposit 4183, but only survived to a depth of 0.05m. The natural

deposits beneath the pit exhibited patches of discolouration probably caused by deposit 4183 being back-filled into the pit whilst hot.

- 6.9 Another fire-pit (4167) was recorded some 95m north-north-east of pit 4180. It was oval in shape, measuring 1.08m by 1.2m by up to 0.12m deep. The natural deposits beneath the pit had been discoloured by heating (4166) up to a depth of 0.05m. A crust of fired clay (4168) some 0.09m thick had formed in patches in the base of the fire-pit. The feature contained a deposit of dark grey black silty charcoal (4169) measuring some 0.4m across by 0.06m thick. This was overlain by a mid grey clay silt (4170) containing charcoal flecks measuring a maximum of 0.07m thick. The upper fill of this feature was a 0.05m thick layer of mid greenish brown sandy silt (4171).
- 6.10 A third fire-pit (4208) was recorded some 50m to the west of feature 4167 at the north-western limit of the extraction area. It measured over 1.00m by 1.16m by up to 0.12m deep, and extended beyond the area of excavation, probably forming a circle of diameter 1.16m. The natural deposits beneath the pit had been discoloured by heating (4210) up to a depth of 0.045m. A crust of fired clay (4209) some 0.015m thick had formed in patches in the base of the fire-pit. The feature contained a 0.12m deposit of dark grey black charcoal and silt (4211).
- 6.11 The largest of the fire-pits (4102; Figure 6, Plan 139) was located approximately 65m to the north-east of feature 4167. It measured 1.4m in diameter by up to 0.22m deep and the natural deposits beneath the pit had been discoloured by heating (4129) up to a depth of 0.08m (Plate 4). A crust of fired clay (4114) some 0.015m thick had formed in patches in the base of the fire-pit (Plate 5). The feature contained a deposit of dark grey black silty charcoal (4103) which measured up to 0.22m thick. Charcoal from deposit 4103 was submitted for radiocarbon dating, the age of the sample was measured as cal. AD 860 - cal. AD 1030 (SUERC-15906, 1095 ± 40 BP) at a probability of 95.4%.
- 6.12 Another fire-pit (4006; Figure 6, Plan 106) was recorded some 90m to the south-east of fire-pit 4102. It was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.2m by 1.3m by up to 0.06m deep. The natural deposits beneath the pit had been discoloured by heating (4005) up to a depth of 0.06m. A crust of fired clay (4004) some 0.03m thick had formed in patches in the base of the fire-pit. The feature was filled with a dark black grey silty sand containing charcoal (4003).
- 6.13 A further 45m to the south-east, on the opposite side of a palaeochannel, another fire-pit (4014) was recorded. It was approximately circular in plan, measuring 1.16m by 1.22m by up to 0.11m deep. The natural deposits beneath the pit had been discoloured by heating (4029) up to a depth of 0.07m. A crust of fired clay (4015) some 0.02m thick had formed in patches in the base of the

- fire-pit. The feature was filled with a dark grey/black brown silty clay (4016) which was up to 0.12m thick.
- 6.14 On the other side of the excavated area, some 80m to the north-east of feature 4102, another fire-pit (4066) was recorded. It measured 0.75m by 0.88m by a mere 0.03m deep and was fairly irregular in shape compared to the other fire-pits. However this could have been due to the level of truncation the feature had been subjected to. The natural deposits beneath the pit had been discoloured by heating (4065) up to a depth of 0.08m and the feature was filled with a dark grey black deposit of silty charcoal (4064).
- 6.15 Another fire-pit (4198) was located a further 45m to the north-east. It was oval in shape, measuring 1.32m by 1.1m by up to 0.05m deep. The natural deposits beneath the pit had been discoloured by heating (4200) up to a depth of 0.03m. A very thin crust of fired clay (4199), less than 0.01m thick, had formed in patches in the base of the fire-pit. The feature was filled with a dark greenish brown sandy silt (4201) containing charcoal.
- 6.16 Feature 4177 was located approximately 75m to the south-east of fire-pit 4198, it was sub-circular in plan measuring 1.46m by 1.4m by up to 0.1m deep. It was identified as another fire-pit by the heat-affected natural deposits (4179) which were recorded beneath the pit up to a depth of 0.05m. The fire-pit was filled with a dark grey black deposit of sandy charcoal (4178).
- 6.17 Fifty seven meters to the north of feature 4177, another fire-pit (4191) was recorded. It was circular in shape, measuring 1.34m in diameter and up to 0.045m deep. The natural deposits beneath the pit had been discoloured by heating (4197) up to a depth of 0.055m. A crust of fired clay (4196) some 0.02m thick had formed in patches in the base of the fire-pit. The feature was filled with a dark black grey ashy charcoal deposit (4195).
- 6.18 A pit containing dumped fire-waste (4192) was located 30m to the north-east of fire-pit 4191. It was sub-circular in shape, measuring 2.1m by 2m by up to 0.12m deep. A primary fill of grey back charcoal and silt (4194) was recorded within the pit and was up to 0.05m thick. This was overlain by a light grey clay silt containing charcoal (4193) which was up to 0.1m thick. Small patches of discolouration in the natural deposits beneath the pit were recorded during excavation. These patches were not extensive enough to have been caused by *in-situ* burning within the pit, and as with pit 4180, were probably caused by hot fire waste being dumped into the feature. A radiocarbon date from charcoal recovered from within deposit 4194 was measured as cal. AD 1030 - cal. AD 1210 (SUERC-15907,  $910 \pm 40$  BP) at a probability of 95.4%.
- 6.19 The final fire-pit (4205) recorded during the excavations was located approximately 17m north-west of pit 4192. It was circular in shape, measuring 1.4m in diameter by up to 0.15m deep. The natural deposits beneath the pit

had been discoloured by heating (4204) up to a depth of 0.05m. The feature had two fills, the primary being a dark grey black deposit of silty charcoal (4203) some 0.14m thick. This was overlain in the centre of the pit by a 0.1m thick deposit of mottled light grey orange sandy silt (4202) containing charcoal.

### **Phase III (post-medieval, Figure 3)**

- 6.20 Features allocated to this phase included field boundary ditches, the remnants of ridge and furrow ploughing, a large pit (4046) and a posthole (4147).
- 6.21 Two field boundary ditches were recorded forming a T-shaped land division. These ditches were shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1860. A single segment was excavated across each boundary; the north-east to south-west ditch was recorded as 4068. It measured 2.8m wide by 0.36m deep and had a shallow U-shaped profile with a steeper slope along its north-western edge. The ditch had two fills, the lower fill being a dark red brown clay silt (4069) up to 0.36m thick. The upper fill (4076) was mid greyish brown clay soil up to 0.2m thick. The north-west to south-east boundary was discovered to comprise two parallel ditches (4117 and 4119), however there was no visible relationship between them. Ditch 4117 measured 0.6m wide by 0.18m deep, ditch 4119 was 0.5m wide by 0.12m deep. Both were filled with a mid grey brown silty clay (4118 and 4120 respectively). Part of an articulated sheep skeleton and a few fragments belonging to a lamb were recovered from within the fill (4120) of ditch 4119.
- 6.22 Four separate sets of plough furrow remnants were noted during the watching brief (not illustrated). They were distinguishable by their spacing and alignment and seemed to roughly correspond to the Phase III field boundaries. A single context number (4067) was used for finds recovered from within the furrow remnants.
- 6.23 The Phase III boundary ditches split the excavated area into three fields and two sets of furrows were recorded within the south-eastern field. The furrows to the south of this field were aligned south-west to north-east and were 5m apart, but to the north-west of the palaeochannel the lands were aligned north-west to south-east. In the field to the north-west of ditch 4068, the furrow remnants were again 5m apart and were aligned parallel to the ditch, running in a more westerly direction. The final set of furrows was located to the north of ditches 4117 and 4119 and were 3.5m apart, running north-west to south-east.
- 6.24 A large pit (4046) was recorded to the north-west of the Phase I mound (Figure 4). It was oval in plan, measuring 2.4m by 1.54m by 0.87m deep and was filled with ten deposits (4047, 4048, 4049, 4050, 4051, 4052, 4053, 4054, 4055 and 4056) representing visible episodes of backfilling. A small piece of

19th century pottery and a few fragments of ceramic building material were recovered from within the fills of the pit.

- 6.25 A circular posthole, measuring 0.28m in diameter by 0.2m deep, (4147) that cut the Phase I mound was included within Phase III as it contained what seemed to be fragments of a modern wooden post.

### **Undated discrete features**

- 6.26 In the process of the excavation a large number of other discrete features were investigated. A total of 44 of these were recorded, the unrecorded features being entirely natural in origin. However, only 14 of the recorded discrete features were potentially caused by human activity, the others represented tree-throw holes and root boles. The 14 'real' features comprised seven postholes (4007, 4009, 4011, 4042, 4044, 4057 and 4083), seven pits (4021, 4030, 4037, 4062, 4088, 4096 and 4099). Unfortunately no dateable artefacts were recovered from these features and their disparate nature meant that they remain unphased. A heavily truncated ditch (4017) also could not be placed within any of the Phases of activity.
- 6.27 A small sub-circular feature (4083) was recorded to the south-west of the Phase I mound. It measured 0.58m by 0.54m by 0.27m deep, and was interpreted as a possible posthole. It had fairly steep sides and a flat base and was filled with a mid red brown clay silt (4084). A sub-circular pit (4062) was recorded 55m to the north-east, it measured 1.44m by 1.2m by up to 0.3m deep. Pit 4062 was fairly regular in shape with gently sloping sides and a flat base. It had two fills, the primary being a 0.08m thick mid grey brown sandy clay (4063) deposited against its eastern edge. The main fill of the pit was a compact mid grey brown sandy clay (4093) containing charcoal flecks and approximately 50% of this deposit comprised large sub-rounded stones up to 0.3m in size.
- 6.28 Approximately 40m to the north-east of pit 4062 a heavily truncated ditch (4017) extended into the excavated area for nearly 15m before it had been completely ploughed out. Two sections were excavated through this feature which was between 1.3m and 1.0m wide and a maximum of 0.2m deep. It was filled with a mid brown grey silty clay (4018 and 4034) which was very similar to the topsoil. This feature may represent the remnant of a boundary ditch, a line of gorse bushes seemed to follow its course beyond the excavated area to the south-east. However, as this boundary does not correspond with any shown on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map, it remains undated.
- 6.29 A collection of four features comprising three postholes (4042, 4044 and 4057) and a pit (4037) was located approximately 62m west of ditch 4017. Posthole 4042 was oval in plan, measuring 0.45m by 0.6m by 0.15m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It was filled with a mid grey brown clay silt (4043) containing one large stone. To the west was a second possible posthole (4044)

measuring 0.8m by 0.92m by up to 0.25m deep. It was slightly irregular in shape and the base of the feature had a deeper section at its south-eastern edge. The fill of posthole 4044 was a mid grey brown silty clay (4045) which contained a few small stones. The third possible posthole (4057) measured 0.8m by 1.1m by up to 0.38m deep, but was slightly irregular in shape. Pit 4037, which was cut by a Phase III furrow, was sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.12m in diameter by up to 0.32m deep. It was filled with mid grey brown sandy clay (4038) containing frequent concentrations of charcoal and a high proportion of sub-angular stones up to 0.3m in size.

- 6.30 Approximately 48m north-north-east of these four features an irregular shaped pit (4088) was recorded. It was oval in shape, measuring 0.7m by 0.7m by 0.16m deep, and was filled with a dark grey brown clay silt (4089) containing some sub-rounded stones up to 0.15m in size.
- 6.31 Another possible pit (4096) was recorded approximately 34m north-west of pit 4088, on the opposite side of the Phase III ditch 4068. Pit 4096 was approximately circular in plan, measuring 1.16m in diameter by up to 0.27m deep. It was filled with a mid grey brown sandy silt (4097) containing some large sub-angular stones up to 0.2m in size.
- 6.32 A second cluster of features, comprising three possible postholes (4007, 4009 and 4011) and two pits (4021 and 4030), was recorded some 35m east of pit 4096. Posthole 4007 measured 0.38m by 0.3m by 0.22m deep and had a U-shaped profile. It was filled with a mid orange brown clay sand (4008) containing charcoal flecks and few stones. The remaining two postholes in this cluster were located next to each other, separated by a mere 0.06m. Posthole 4009 was shallow, measuring 0.34m by 0.3m by 0.1m and was filled with a light orange grey clay sand (4010). Posthole 4011 measured 0.4m by 0.32m by up to 0.2m deep and had two fills. The primary fill was a mid yellow brown silty sand (4012) which was up to 0.15m thick. This was sealed by a 0.05m thick deposit of light yellow grey clay sand containing a very large proportion of small sub-angular stones (4013). Pit 4021 was oval in shape, measuring 0.84m by 0.74m by 0.3m deep. It had a primary fill of dark brown red clay sand (4022) some 0.1m thick, containing charcoal flecks. This was sealed by a 0.2m thick deposit of mid yellow grey silt sand (4023) also containing charcoal flecks. The second pit (4030) was approximately circular in plan, measuring 0.66m by 0.68m by 0.24m deep. It had a single fill (4031) comprised of a mid brown grey sand silt containing charcoal flecks.
- 6.33 The final undated archaeological feature was the shallow remnant of a possible pit or posthole (4099), located to the east of evaluation Trench 40 (Figure 3). It measured 0.36m by 0.37m by 0.1m deep and was sub-circular in plan. The fill of this feature was a grey black deposit of backfilled fire waste (4098).

## **7.0 DISCUSSION**

- 7.1 The archaeological remains encountered on site were not of a significant nature and consisted of a truncated stone and earth mound, post-medieval field boundaries and a considerable number of discrete features. Most of these were found to be natural in origin and included tree throws and root boles. However, eleven widely distributed kiln bases or fire-pits dated to the medieval period were recorded during the investigation.
- 7.2 The truncated mound (4133) was potentially of a prehistoric date, however only a single fragment of fired clay was recovered from within the mound material and the features recorded beneath it were probably of natural origin.
- 7.3 The Phase II features comprised the remnants of some form of industrial activity carried out repeatedly across the whole of the excavated area. The eleven heavily truncated fire-pits were almost identical in shape and form and were widely dispersed. The extent of discolouration of the natural deposits around them suggested that they were subjected to a high temperature or repeated use. The fills of the features were devoid of slag or other industrial by-products, and there was no evidence of structural remains associated with them either in the form of flues, stones or kiln-wall material. The most likely interpretation of the scant evidence is that the features represent the truncated remnants of small-scale medieval charcoal burning. Circumstantial evidence that supports this theory exists in the possibility of a nearby medieval village and the name of Stobswood.

## **ASSESSMENT OF THE SITE ARCHIVE**

- 8.1 As part of the assessment of the site records the initial archive analysis has been undertaken. Initial dating from the recovered artefacts has been integrated into the site information in order to allow the site to be divided into chronological phases. Plans and sections were checked against context record sheets to ensure full cross-referencing. Catalogues of context and illustration records and digital, slide and print photographs have been input onto a computerised database.

**Table 1: Primary archive inventory**

Context descriptions	212
Plans	77
Sections	76
Digital photographs (blocks)	7
Colour slides (films)	7
Black and white photographs and negatives (films)	6

### **Recommendations for further analysis**

- 8.2 No further work needs to be carried out on the site archive.

### **Storage and curation**

- 8.3 The finds, written, drawn and photographic records are currently held by NAA. Provisional analysis of the palaeoenvironmental samples to assessment level has been undertaken by Palaeoecology Research Services (PRS). The environmental samples and artefacts will be discarded.
- 8.4 The site archive will be transferred to the Museum of Antiquities, Newcastle Upon Tyne. All material would be appropriately packaged for long-term storage in accordance with both national guidelines and to the requirements of the recipient museum.

## **9.0 SPECIALIST FINDS ASSESSMENTS**

### **Finds assessment (Gail Hama)**

#### ***Archaeological potential***

- 9.1 A small quantity of material was recovered during the excavation and monitoring. The assemblage consists of post-medieval pottery, fired clay, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe fragments and flint. The material



is of limited potential with the majority of finds being derived from post-medieval plough furrows.

### ***Recommendations***

- 9.2 No further work is required in this assemblage and no illustrations are required. The material should be discarded.

### **Environmental assessment (Alexandra Schmidl and Deborah Jaques)**

#### ***Archaeological potential***

- 9.3 Ancient biological remains recovered from the environmental samples was restricted to fairly large quantities of unidentified fine charcoal, presumably fuel waste. In general, the charcoal was silted and deformed and, overall, the preservation was too poor to allow wood species determinations; though a few larger pieces could be partially identified as ash/oak (*Fraxinus/Quercus*). No human food plant remains or waste from human activities (e.g. crop processing) were in evidence. Most of the deposits (the exceptions being Contexts 4015 and 4151) gave sufficient charcoal for radiocarbon dating to be attempted (via accelerator mass spectrometry). However, the material would be far from ideal for this purpose – as neither the wood species nor the age of the wood prior to charring could be determined and so any date returned would contain an unknown error (most likely to manifest as an artificially early date).
- 9.4 The only vertebrate remains recovered from the site were those of an adult sheep and a few fragments of a young animal, probably a lamb, from within the fill (4120) of ditch 4119. This may represent a fairly recent modern burial. Certainly, the size of the bones of the adult animal suggested a large individual more consistent with livestock of post-medieval and later date.

### ***Recommendations***

- 9.5 No further study of the current material is warranted.

## **10.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 Archaeological remains encountered during the excavation were not of a significant nature, being largely natural in origin or relating to post-medieval agriculture and land division. The Phase II features, although remnants of

medieval industrial activity, were neither well preserved nor worthy of further analysis.

- 10.2 The excavation has demonstrated that potential limited prehistoric activity was present in the form of a largely ploughed-out stone and earth mound. During the medieval period, the area was subject to limited and dispersed industrial activity, possibly charcoal burning. No archaeological remains of settlement activity or artefacts relating to the possible medieval village of Stobswood existed in the excavated area.
- 10.3 The post-excavation assessment has established that there is no potential for further analysis on the site archive or artefactual record and that the preservation by record of the archaeological remains encountered is deemed sufficient mitigation against their loss during the course of the extraction.

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**APPENDIX A**  
**CONTEXT AND FINDS CATALOGUE**

Context	Description	bone	cbm	clay pipe	fired clay	flint	pot
4000	topsoil						
4001	agricultural subsoil						
4002	natural deposits						
4003	fill of fire-pit 4006						
4004	fired clay layer in fire-pit 4006						
4005	heat-affected natural under fire-pit 4006						
4006	cut of fire-pit						
4007	cut of posthole						
4008	fill of posthole 4007						
4009	cut of posthole						
4010	fill of posthole 4009						
4011	cut of posthole						
4012	primary fill of posthole 4011						
4013	secondary fill of posthole 4011						
4014	cut of fire-pit						
4015	fired clay layer in fire-pit 4014						
4016	fill of fire-pit 4014						
4017	cut of ditch						
4018	fill of ditch cut 4017						
4019	cut of natural feature						
4020	fill of natural feature 4019						
4021	cut of pit						
4022	primary fill of pit 4021						
4023	secondary fill of pit 4021						
4024	void						
4025	cut of natural feature						
4026	fill of natural feature 4025						
4027	cut of natural feature						
4028	fill of natural feature 4027						
4029	heat-affected natural under fire-pit 4014						
4030	cut of pit						
4031	fill of pit 4030						
4032	cut of natural feature						
4033	fill of natural feature 4032						
4034	fill of ditch cut 4017						
4035	cut of natural feature						
4036	fill of natural feature 4035						
4037	cut of pit						
4038	fill of pit 4037						
4039	cut of natural feature						
4040	fill of natural feature 4039						
4041	burnt spread						
4042	cut of posthole						
4043	fill of posthole 4042						
4044	cut of posthole						
4045	fill of posthole 4044						
4046	cut of pit						
4047	primary fill of pit 4046						
4048	primary fill of pit 4046						
4049	secondary fill of pit 4046						
4050	tertiary fill of pit 4046						

Context	Description	bone	cbm	clay pipe	fired clay	flint	pot
4051	quaternary fill of pit 4046						
4052	quinary fill of pit 4046						
4053	senary fill of pit 4046		1				1
4054	septenary fill of pit 4046						
4055	octonary fill of pit 4046		1				
4056	nonary fill of pit 4046						
4057	cut of posthole						
4058	fill of posthole 4057						
4059	cut of natural feature						
4060	fill of natural feature 4059						
4061	cleaning layer over mound					1	
4062	cut of pit						
4063	primary fill of pit 4062						
4064	fill of fire-pit 4066						
4065	heat-affected natural under fire-pit 4066						
4066	cut of fire-pit						
4067	fill of furrows			3			29
4068	cut of ditch						
4069	fill of ditch 4068						
4070	void						
4071	void						
4072	cut of pit						
4073	fill of pit 4072						
4074	cut of pit						
4075	fill of pit 4074						
4076	upper fill of ditch 4068						
4077	cut of pit						
4078	fill of pit 4077						
4079	cut of natural feature						
4080	fill of natural feature 4079						
4081	cut of natural feature						
4082	fill of natural feature 4081						
4083	cut of posthole						
4084	fill of posthole 4083						
4085	fill of fire-pit 4087						
4086	heat-affected natural under natural feature 4087						
4087	cut of natural feature						
4088	cut of pit						
4089	fill of pit 4088						
4090	animal skeleton	100					
4091	cut of natural feature						
4092	fill of natural feature 4091						
4093	secondary fill of pit 4062						
4094	cut of natural feature						
4095	fill of natural feature 4094						
4096	cut of pit						
4097	fill of pit 4096						
4098	fill of posthole 4099						
4099	cut of posthole						
4100	cut of natural feature						
4101	fill of natural feature 4100						
4102	cut of fire-pit						
4103	fill of fire-pit 4202						
4104	cut of natural feature						
4105	fill of natural feature 4104						
4106	cut of natural feature						
4107	fill of natural feature 4106						

Context	Description	bone	cbm	clay pipe	fired clay	flint	pot
4108	cut of natural feature						
4109	primary fill of natural feature 4108						
4110	void						
4111	secondary fill of natural feature 4108						
4112	void						
4113	void						
4114	fired clay layer in fire-pit 4102						
4115	cut of natural feature						
4116	fill of natural feature 4115		3				
4117	cut of ditch						
4118	fill of ditch 4117						
4119	cut of ditch						
4120	fill of ditch 4119						
4121	void						
4122	void						
4123	cut of natural feature						
4124	fill of natural feature 4123						
4125	cut of natural feature						
4126	fill of natural feature 4125						
4127	cut of natural feature						
4128	fill of natural feature 4127						
4129	heat-affected natural under fire-pit 4114						
4130	cut of natural feature						
4131	void						
4132	fill of natural feature 4130						
4133	mound material		3		1	3	
4134	cut of natural feature						
4135	fill of natural feature 4134		4				
4136	cut of possible pit						
4137	fill of possible pit 4136						
4138	cut of natural feature						
4139	fill of natural feature 4138						
4140	cut of natural feature						
4141	fill of natural feature 4140						
4142	cut of natural feature						
4143	fill of natural feature 4142						
4144	cut of natural feature						
4145	fill of natural feature 4144						
4146	fill of posthole 4147						
4147	cut of posthole						
4148	void						
4149	void						
4150	cut of pit						
4151	fill of pit 4150						
4152	cut of pit						
4153	fill of pit 4152						
4154	cut of possible pit						
4155	fill of possible pit 4154						
4156	cut of possible pit						
4157	fill of possible pit 4156						
4158	fill of possible pit 4159						
4159	cut of possible pit						
4160	cut of pit						
4161	fill of pit 4160						
4162	fill of pit 4163						
4163	cut of pit						
4164	cut of pit						

Context	Description	bone	cbm	clay pipe	fired clay	flint	pot
4165	fill of pit 4164						
4166	heat-affected natural under fire-pit 4167						
4167	cut of fire-pit						
4168	fired clay base of fire-pit 4167						
4169	primary fill of fire-pit 4167						
4170	mid fill of fire-pit 4167						
4171	upper fill of fire-pit 4167						
4172	cut of natural feature						
4173	fill of natural feature 4172						
4174	cut of natural feature						
4175	fill of pit 4174						
4176	upper fill of pit 4150						
4177	cut of fire-pit						
4178	fill of fire-pit 4177						
4179	heat-affected natural under fire-pit 4177						
4180	cut of pit						
4181	heat-affected natural under pit 4180						
4182	upper fill of pit 4180						
4183	primary fill of pit 4180						
4184	cut of fire-pit						
4185	lower fill of fire-pit 4184						
4186	upper fill of fire-pit 4184						
4187	fired clay layer in fire-pit 4184						
4188	heat-affected natural under fire-pit 4184						
4189	cut of natural feature						
4190	fill of natural feature 4189						
4191	cut of fire-pit						
4192	cut of pit						
4193	fill of pit 4192						
4194	fill of pit 4192						
4195	fill of fire-pit 4191						
4196	fired clay layer in fire-pit 4191						
4197	heat-affected natural under fire-pit 4191						
4198	cut of fire-pit						
4199	fired clay layer in fire-pit 4198						
4200	heat-affected natural under fire-pit 4198						
4201	fill of fire-pit 4198						
4202	upper fill of fire-pit 4205						
4203	primary fill of fire-pit 4205						
4204	heat-affected natural under fire-pit 4205						
4205	cut of fire-pit						
4206	cut of natural feature						
4207	fill of natural feature 4206						
4208	cut of fire-pit						
4209	fired clay layer in fire-pit 4208						
4210	heat-affected natural under fire-pit 4208						
4211	fill of fire-pit 4208						
		<b>100</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>30</b>

**APPENDIX B**  
**FINDS ASSESSMENT**

*Gail Hama*

**Introduction**

A small quantity of material was recovered as a result of an excavation and watching brief at the North Stobswood Revised site. The assemblage consists of post-medieval pottery, fired clay, ceramic building material, clay tobacco pipe fragments and flint.

**Methodology**

The assemblage was quantified by count and weight. The data was entered onto an Access database and reproduced in Table B1. All the finds were in a stable condition and packaged accordingly for long-term storage, if required.

**Table B1**

<b>Material</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Weight (g)</b>
Pottery	30	346
Ceramic building material	12	33
Fired clay	1	7
Clay tobacco pipe stems	3	7
Flint	4	46

**Discussion**

A single sherd of white ware came from context 4053, one of the fills of large pit 4046, and is 19th or early 20th century in date. A total of 29 sherds weighing 343g came from the Phase III plough furrows (4067). All can be dated to between the 18th and early 20th century. Stoneware; glazed earthenware; blue and white transfer printed ware made up the majority of the assemblage.

A total of 12 fragments of ceramic building material were retrieved. All were chips or flakes and non-diagnostic. They came from Phase III pit 4046 (fills 4053, 4055) and natural features 4115 and 4134 (fills 4116, 4135). Two fragments came from Phase I mound 4133 but are likely to be re-deposited from post-medieval plough furrows.

Three tobacco pipe stem fragments came from plough furrow remnants (4067). Two plain stems have bore diameters of 4/64th and 6/64ths giving a date range of mid to late 18th century. A fragment with floral decoration running along the stem has a bore diameter of 4/64th and is dated to the late 18th century.



A fragment of fired clay (4133 AA) came from the Phase I mound (4133) and was found in association with three fragments of flint. The flints were subsequently identified as natural, as was the single piece from topsoil 4061 (Peter Rowe pers. comm.).

**Statement of potential and recommendations**

The assemblage is of limited potential with the majority of finds being derived from post-medieval plough furrows. No illustrations are required and the material should be discarded.

**APPENDIX C**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS**

*Alexandra Schmidl and Deborah Jaques*

**Introduction**

The washovers and organic remains recovered from the residues from twelve sediment samples ('GBA'/'BS' sensu Dobney *et al.* 1992) processed by NAA, together with a very small quantity of hand-collected bone, were submitted to Palaeoecology Research Services Limited (PRS), County Durham, for an evaluation of their bioarchaeological potential.

**Methods**

*SEDIMENT SAMPLES*

The sediment subsamples were processed by NAA prior to delivery to PRS, and the unsorted 'flots' (hereafter termed washovers) and residues submitted for evaluation. The weights and volumes of the subsamples were recorded before being placed onto 500 micron nylon mesh in a sieving tank. The light organic fraction was washed over into a 500 micron sieve to collect the washovers.

The washovers and residues were scanned for biological remains (using a low power binocular microscope where necessary) and the presence of these, and of other remains, recorded on paper. Nomenclature for plant species follows Stace (1997) and charcoal identifications follow Schoch *et al.* (2004).

*HAND-COLLECTED VERTEBRATE REMAINS*

For the hand-collected vertebrate remains, subjective records were made of the state of preservation, colour of the fragments, and the appearance of broken surfaces ('angularity'). Other information, such as fragment size, dog gnawing, burning, butchery and fresh breaks, was noted, where applicable.

Fragments were identified to species or species group using the PRS modern comparative reference collection. The bones that could not be identified to species were described as the 'unidentified' fraction. Within this fraction, fragments were grouped into a number of categories: large mammal (assumed to be cattle, horse or large cervid), medium-sized mammal (assumed to be caprovid, pig or small cervid) and totally unidentified.

## **Results**

### *SEDIMENT SAMPLES*

The 12 washovers and material sorted from 11 of the residues from the processed samples produced small assemblages of ancient plant remains preserved by charring – mostly poorly preserved unidentified charcoal. In addition, most contained rootlets and uncharred seeds/fruits which were almost certainly modern intrusions or contaminants.

Details of the results of the examinations are presented in Table C1.

### *HAND-COLLECTED VERTEBRATE REMAINS*

Hand-collected bone was recovered from just one deposit, Context 4090, which was contained within another fill, Context 4120, of Ditch 4119. A small collection of bone, amounting to 100 fragments was recovered from this deposit. The material was in a fairly poor condition, with surface damage visible on many of the fragments. In general though, most of the bones were quite robust despite their battered appearance, with just a few being brittle and somewhat fragile; fresh breakage damage was extensive.

The bulk of the bones represented part of the skeleton of a sheep. No pieces of the skull or mandibles were present, but there were bones from both fore legs (two scapulae, two humeri, two radii and two ulnae) and part of the hind legs (two femora, one tibia and fragments of pelvis representing both left and right sides). Although both metacarpals were present and the right metatarsal, the smaller terminal limb elements were poorly represented by only a single calcaneum and an astragalus (both from the right side of the skeleton), two carpals and seven phalanges (five first phalanges and two second phalanges). In addition, there were 19 vertebrae and 33 rib fragments, together with two pieces of sternum. All of the skeletal elements present were fused, including the vertebrae; this suggests that the animal was an adult individual of at least five years old – no tooth wear data was available to provide an upper age limit, so the animal could have been significantly older.

Two other fragments were identified; a humerus and an ulna of a juvenile individual, possibly a lamb.

## **Discussion and statement of potential**

Ancient biological remains recovered from the sediment samples were restricted to fairly large quantities of unidentified fine charcoal, presumably fuel waste. In general, the charcoal was silted and deformed and, overall, the preservation was too poor to allow wood species determinations; though a few larger pieces could be partially identified as ash/oak (*Fraxinus/Quercus*). No human food plant remains or waste from human activities (e.g. crop processing) were in evidence.

Those plant macrofossils present which were not charred were all probably modern intrusions or contaminants (see Table C1).

Most of the deposits (the exceptions being Contexts 4015 and 4151) gave sufficient charcoal for radiocarbon dating to be attempted (via accelerator mass spectrometry). However, the material would be far from ideal for this purpose – as neither the wood species nor the age of the wood prior to charring could be determined and so any date returned would contain an unknown error (most likely to manifest as an artificially early date).

The only vertebrate remains recovered from the site were those of an adult sheep and a few fragments of a young animal, probably a lamb, from Context 4090. This may represent a fairly recent modern burial. Certainly, the size of the bones of the adult animal suggested a large individual more consistent with livestock of post-medieval and later date.

### **Recommendations**

No further study of the current material is warranted.

### **Retention and disposal**

Unless required for purposes other than the study of the biological remains, all of the material reported here and any additional sediment samples may be discarded.

### **Archive**

All material is currently stored by Palaeoecology Research Services (Unit 8, Dabble Duck Industrial Estate, Shildon, County Durham), along with paper and electronic records pertaining to the work described here.

### **Acknowledgements**

The authors are grateful to Gail Hama, Gavin Robinson, Paul Johnson and Claire French, of Northern Archaeological Associates, for providing the material and the archaeological information.

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**Table C1. Notes on organic remains recovered from sediment samples processed by NAA from excavations at North Stobswood, Northumberland.**  
**Key: 'CN' = context number; 'Ph' = phase.**

CN	Ph	Context description	Amount processed kg/litres	Washover (WO) notes	WO wt /g	Organics from residue (OFR) notes	OFR rootlets wt /g	OFR charcoal wt /g
4003	II	fill of Fire-pit 4006	9.5/10	mostly silted, deformed charcoal (to 30 mm; deciduous wood), with a few modern rootlets; two earthworm egg capsules, one achene of knotweed ( <i>Persicaria</i> ), two achenes of meadow/creeping buttercup ( <i>Ranunculus acris</i> L./ <i>R. repens</i> L.), two fruit stones of blackberry/raspberry ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> L. agg./ <i>R. idaeus</i> L.) – all uncharred and modern	226	mostly silted, deformed charcoal (to 15 mm) – probably ash/oak ( <i>Fraxinus/Quercus</i> ) and modern rootlets	3	130
4015	II	fired clay layer in Fire-pit 4014	4/3	mostly modern rootlets, with a little sand and a few small fragments of unidentified charcoal (to 5 mm)	1	not submitted	-	-
4016	II	fill of Fire-pit 4014	20/15	mostly modern rootlets and silted, deformed charcoal (to 15 mm; deciduous wood), one earthworm egg capsule, four fruit stones of blackberry/raspberry ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> L. agg./ <i>R. idaeus</i> L.), two seeds of orache/goosefoot ( <i>Atriplex/Chenopodium</i> ) and one nut of sedge ( <i>Carex</i> ) – all uncharred and modern, many resting bodies (sclerotia) of the soil-dwelling fungus <i>Cenococcum</i>	46	mostly silted, deformed charcoal (to 20 mm) – probably ash/oak ( <i>Fraxinus/Quercus</i> ) and modern rootlets	<1	47
4049	III	secondary fill of Pit 4046	6/4	silted, deformed and unidentifiable charcoal (to 10 mm)	<1	mostly silted, deformed charcoal (to 30 mm) – ash/oak ( <i>Fraxinus/Quercus</i> ) and modern rootlets	1	15
4064	II	fill of Fire-pit 4066	5/4	mostly silted deformed and unidentifiable charcoal (to 15 mm), with some modern rootlets, one earthworm egg capsule	7	mostly silted deformed charcoal (to 20 mm; deciduous wood)	<1	11
4098	?	fill of Posthole 4099	3/3	mostly modern rootlets and silted, deformed charcoal (to 15 mm), one earthworm egg capsule, one seed of orache/goosefoot ( <i>Atriplex/Chenopodium</i> ) – uncharred and modern, many resting bodies (sclerotia) of the soil-dwelling fungus <i>Cenococcum</i> .	3	mostly silted deformed charcoal (to 20 mm; deciduous wood) – some of them orange-coloured, and modern rootlets	2	12

CN	Ph	Context description	Amount processed kg/litres	Washover (WO) notes	WO wt /g	Organics from residue (OFR) notes	OFR rootlets wt /g	OFR charcoal wt /g
4103	II	fill of Fire-pit 4102	16.5/14	modern rootlets and very silted, deformed charcoal (to 13 mm), one earthworm egg capsules, nine seeds orache/goosefoot ( <i>Atriplex/Chenopodium</i> ) – uncharred and modern, many resting bodies (sclerotia) of the soil-dwelling fungus <i>Cenococcum</i>	66	mostly slightly silted, deformed, unidentified charcoal (to 10 mm) – some of them orange-coloured and modern rootlets	4	24
4151	?	fill of Pit 4050	8.5/8	mostly modern rootlets and a few fine fragments of unidentified charcoal (to 2 mm)	1	mostly slightly orange-coloured unidentified charcoal (to 10 mm), modern rootlets	1	3
4178	II	fill of Fire-pit 4177	10/8	(from Sample ?/AA) mostly modern rootlets and a few small fragments of unidentified charcoal (to 15 mm), some resting bodies (sclerotia) of the soil-dwelling fungus <i>Cenococcum</i> . A separately submitted bag labelled as charcoal consisted entirely of charred root fragments (34 g).	6	mostly silted, deformed, unidentified charcoal (to 20 mm), modern rootlets	4	18
4183	II	primary fill of Pit 4180	9/9	mostly modern rootlets and unidentified charcoal (to 15 mm), six earthworm egg capsules, a few resting bodies (sclerotia) of the soil-dwelling fungus <i>Cenococcum</i>	40	mostly silted charcoal (to 15 mm) – probably ash/oak ( <i>Fraxinus/Quercus</i> ) and modern rootlets	<1	88
4194	II	fill of Pit 4192	9/8	mostly modern rootlets and charcoal (to 24 mm; deciduous wood) – some of the latter silted and orange-coloured	116	mostly silted, deformed, orange-coloured charcoal (to 20 mm; deciduous wood), with some modern rootlets	3	162
4195	II	fill of Fire-pit 4191	7.5/7	mostly very silted deformed unidentified charcoal (to 15 mm), with some modern rootlets, one fruit stone of blackberry/raspberry ( <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> L. agg./ <i>R. idaeus</i> L.) – uncharred and modern, a few resting bodies (sclerotia) of the soil-dwelling fungus <i>Cenococcum</i>	118	mostly silted, orange-coloured charcoal (to 15 mm; deciduous wood), with some modern rootlets	1	29

**APPENDIX D**  
**RADIOCARBON DATING**

*G. Cook*

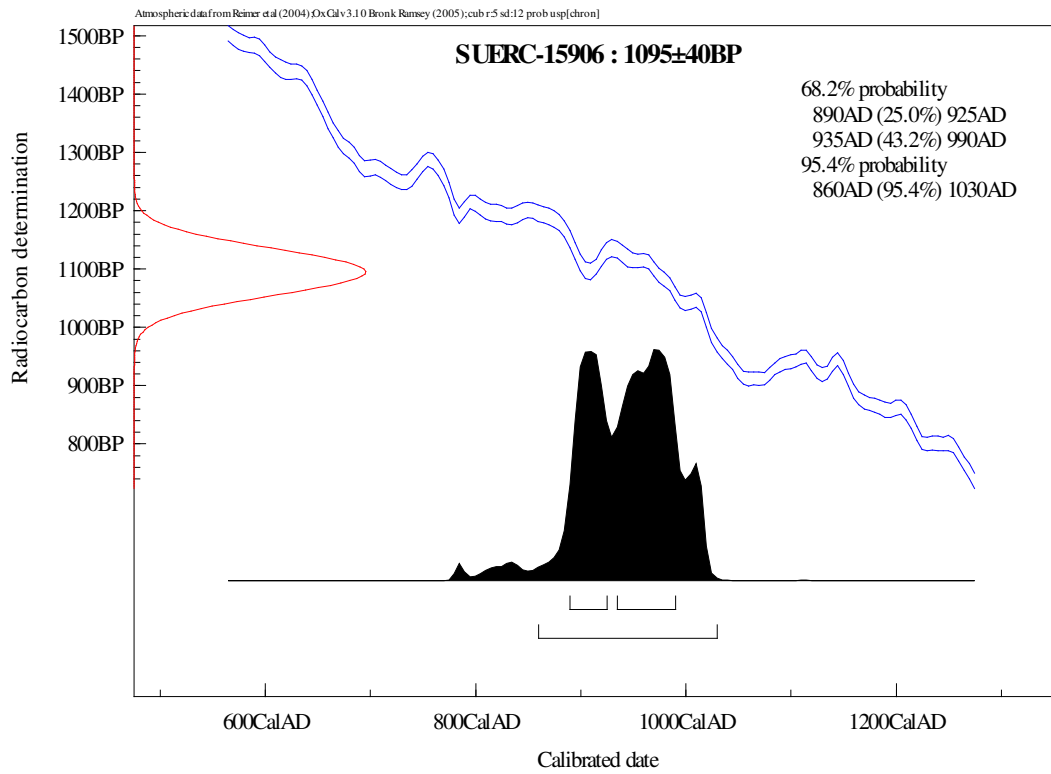
**Introduction**

Two samples of charred material were sent to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre for dating by radiocarbon assay. The samples were selected from material highlighted as suitable for dating purposes during the environmental assessment, but also from deposits that could answer specific questions relating to the interpretation of the site. The results are shown in Tables D1 and D2

A sample of charcoal from deposit 4103, the fill of fire-pit 4102, was submitted to date the Phase II industrial features. The deposit contained unidentified and deformed charcoal, which, although not ideal for dating purposes due to the old wood effect, was the only material available. Therefore the radiocarbon date achieved should be taken as a broad date that is potentially artificially early. The age of the sample was measured as cal. AD 860 - cal. AD 1030 (SUERC-15906,  $1095 \pm 40$  BP) at a probability of 95.4%.

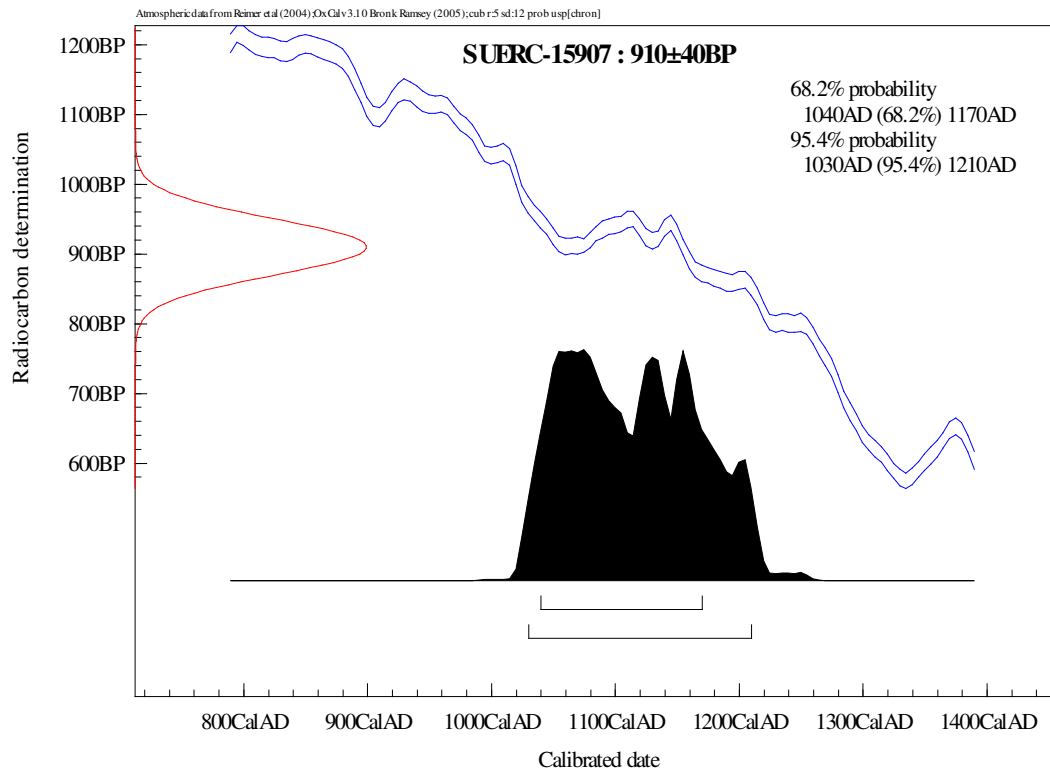
The second sample was similarly comprised of unidentified and deformed charcoal. It was taken from the primary fill (4194) of a pit (4192). The age of the sample was measured as cal. AD 1030 - cal. AD 1210 (SUERC-15907,  $910 \pm 40$  BP) at a probability of 95.4%.

**Table D1. Calibration plot for sample taken from fire-pit 4102**





**Table D2. Calibration plot for sample taken from fire-pit 4192**



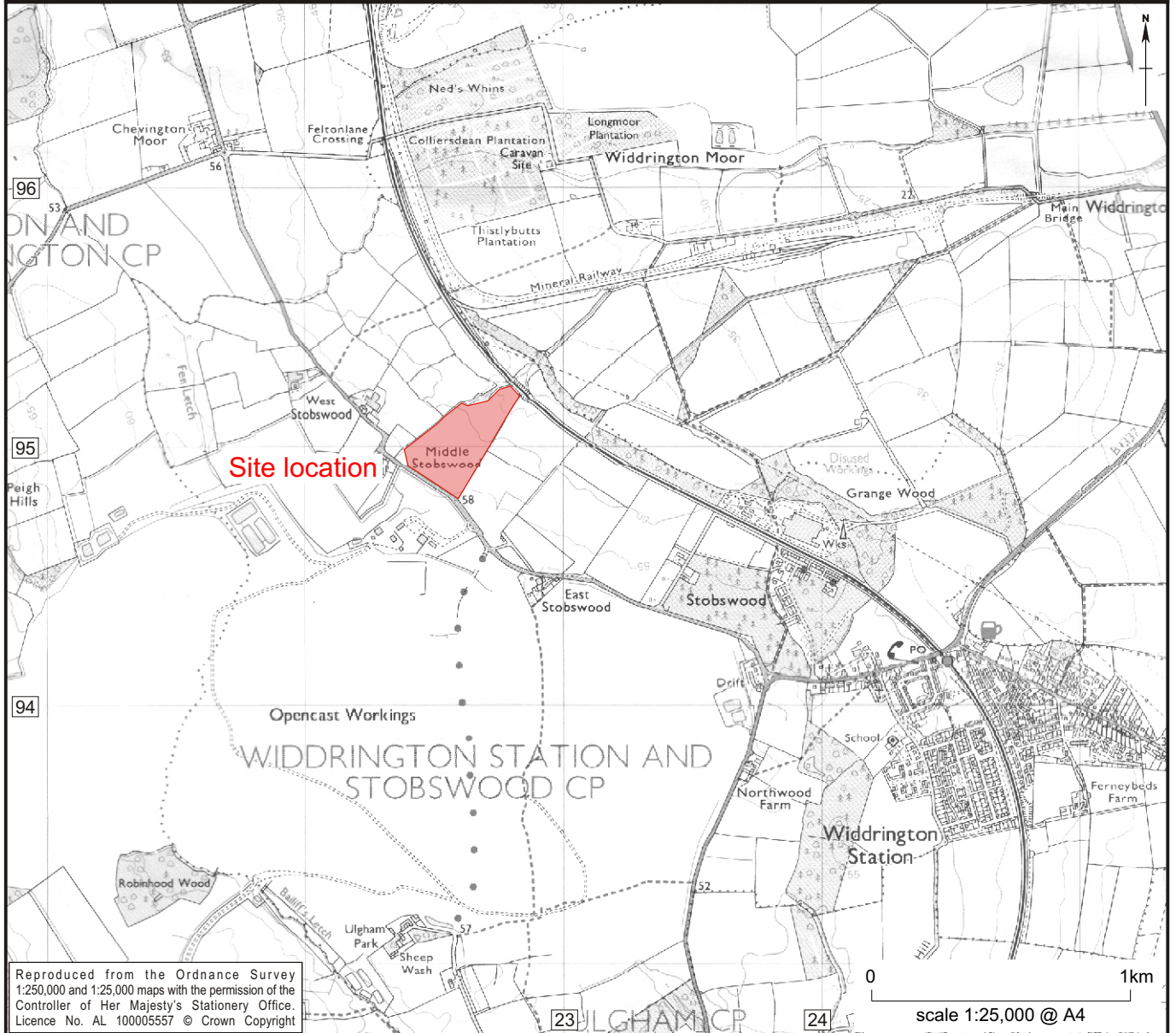
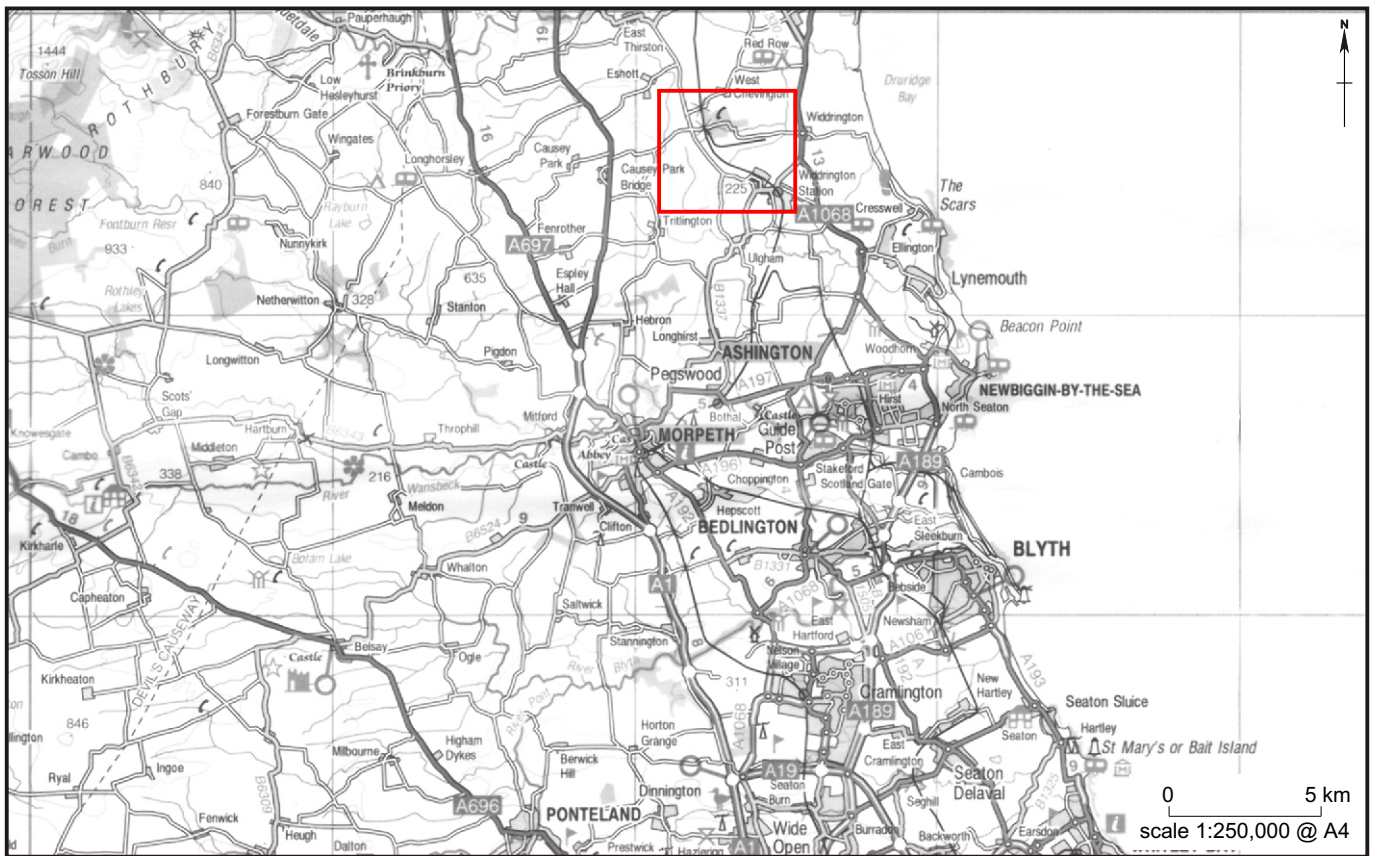
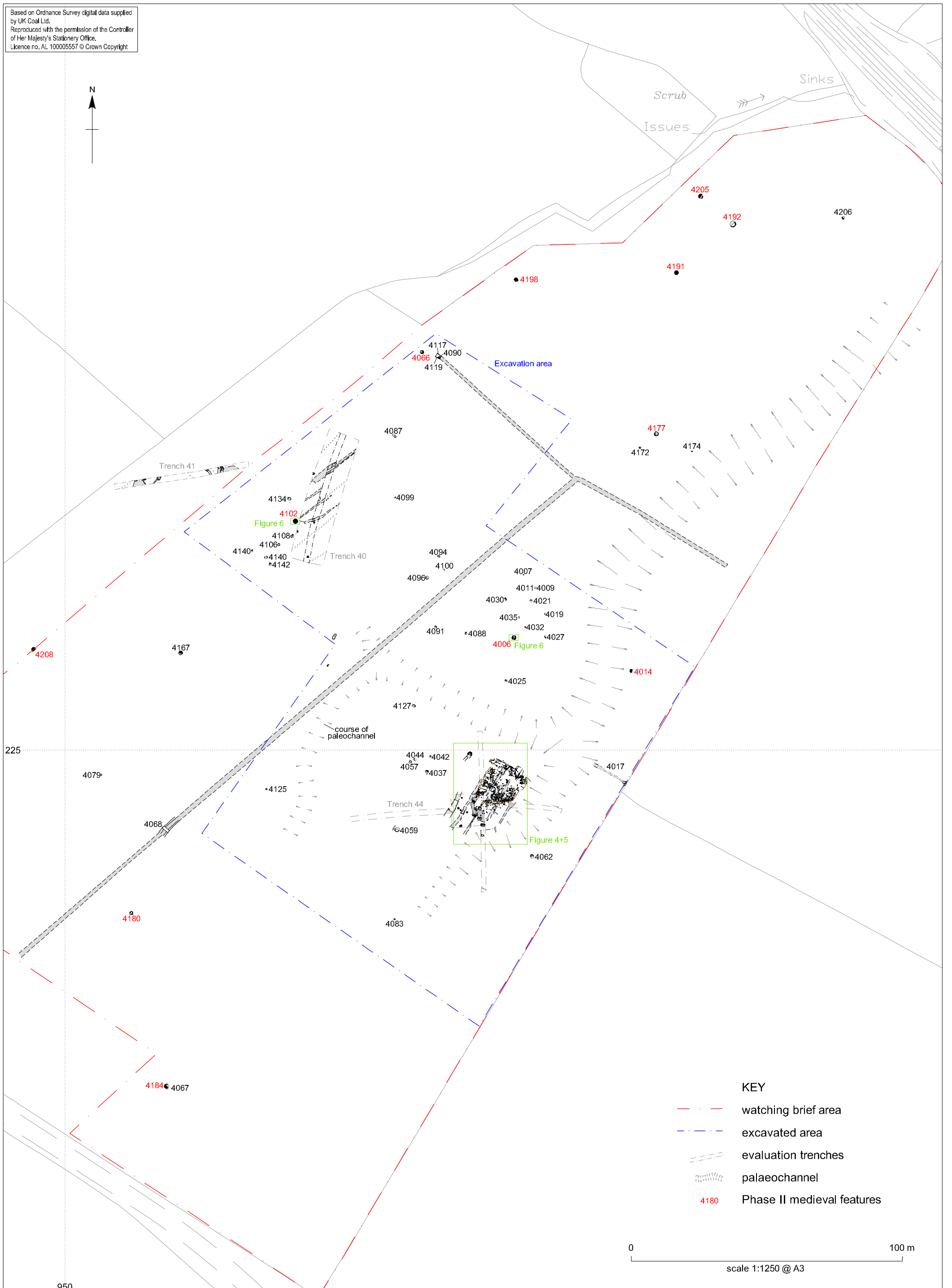
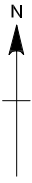


Figure 1 North Stobswood, Northumberland: site location



Figure 2 North Stobswood, Northumberland: site plan



- KEY**
- - - watching brief area
  - - - excavated area
  - - - evaluation trenches
  - - - palaeochannel
  - 4180 Phase II medieval features

0 100 m  
 scale 1:1250 @ A3

Figure 3 North Stobswood, Northumberland: detailed site plan



Figure 4 North Stobswood, Northumberland: pre-excitation plan of mound incorporating evaluation results



Figure 5 North Stobswood, Northumberland: post-excavation plan of mound

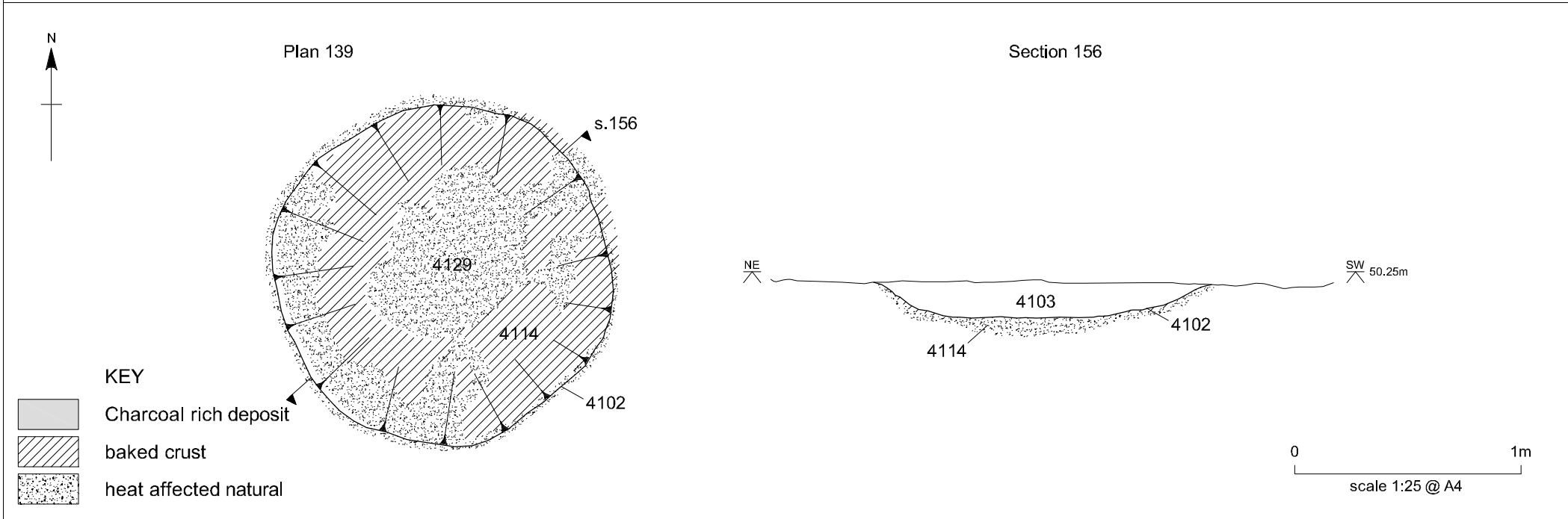
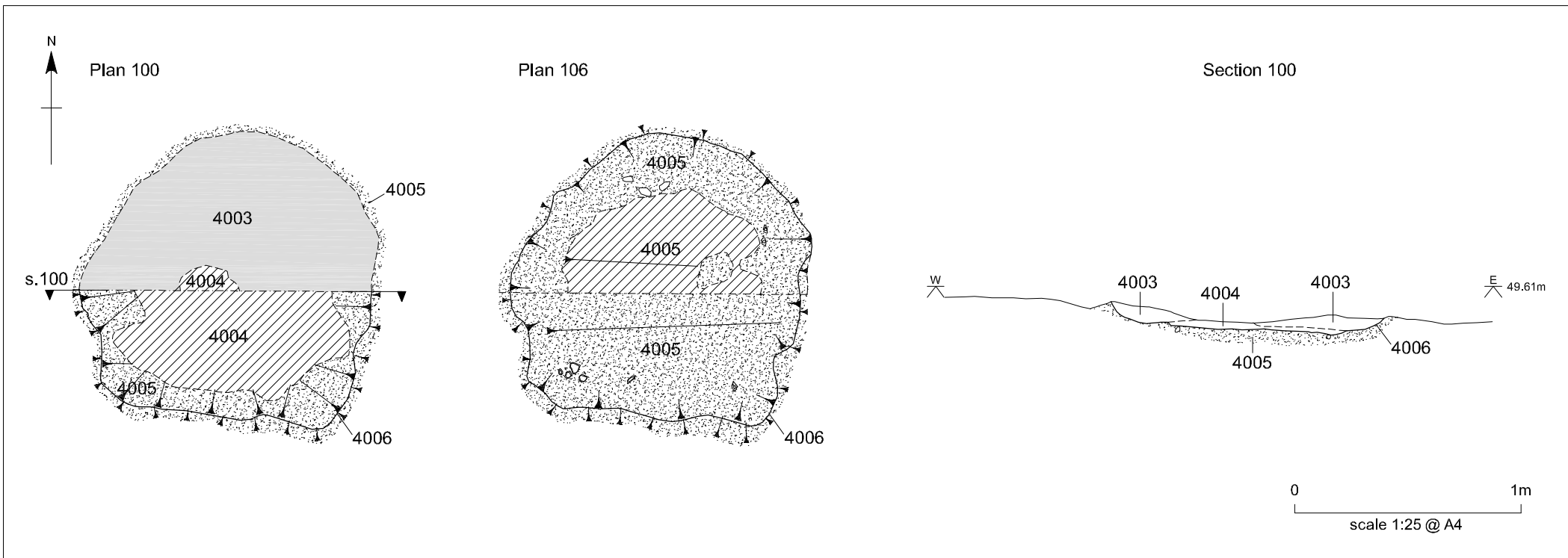


Figure 6 North Stobswood, Northumberland: Phase II features 4006 and 4102



Plate 1 North Stobswood, Northumberland: hand excavation of feature with machine stripping in the background



Plate 2 North Stobswood, Northumberland: investigation of the Phase I mound





Plate 3 North Stobswold, Northumberland: post excavation shot of mound 4133 showing pit 4150 in the foreground



Plate 4 North Stobswold, Northumberland: half sectioned fire pit 4102 showing fill 4103



Plate 5 North Stobswood, Northumberland: fire pit 4102 after excavation showing baked crust and heat affected natural