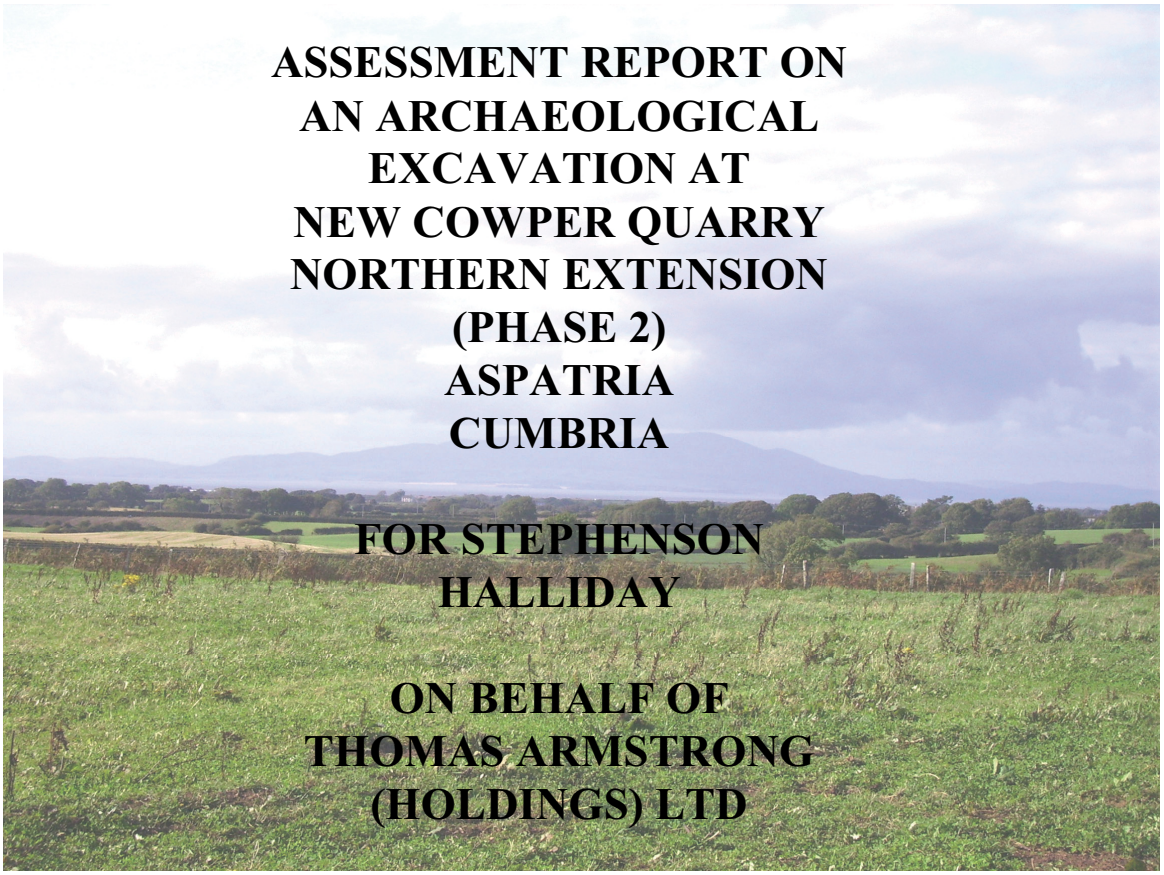
Client Report No. CP/162/04



ASSESSMENT REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION AT NEW COWPER QUARRY NORTHERN EXTENSION (PHASE 2) ASPATRIA CUMBRIA

FOR STEPHENSON HALLIDAY

ON BEHALF OF THOMAS ARMSTRONG (HOLDINGS) LTD

NY 115 459
Planning Application Ref: 2/03/9022

Gareth Davies BA MA
North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre
Nenthead
Alston
Cumbria CA9 3PD
Tel: (01434) 382045
Fax: (01434) 382294
Mobile07979617882
Email: g.davies @nparchaeology.co.uk

22 December 2008

Page

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Page

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2005 North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Stephenson Halliday, acting on behalf of Thomas Armstrong (Holdings) Ltd, to undertake an archaeological excavation in advance of mineral extraction at the northern extension of New Cowper Quarry, Aspatria, Cumbria. The archaeological excavation comprised an open area measuring 10,000 square metres in size.

Six spatially grouped pits and postholes were discovered, and should perhaps be interpreted as the remnants of some kind of structural feature. The dating of the features is uncertain. but this small cluster of features did produce Neolithic pottery, a flint blade and a fragment of polished stone axe suggesting that these features date to the Neolithic period. Potentially Neolithic features are rare in Cumbria.

A curvilinear ditch was discovered and is interpreted as a palisade ditch due to the presence of apparently burnt in situ posts. The function of the ditch is uncertain but the palisade feature, judging by a radiocarbon date of Cal BC 830 to 740, is Late Bronze Age in date. It is possible that the palisade ditch is part of an enclosure framing either an area of Prehistoric settlement or, just possibly, a ritual zone to its south. The presence of a possible constricted entrance perhaps hints at some ritual practice. The morphology of the palisade ditch is similar to a further ditch to the south.

The possible palisade enclosure of Late Bronze Age date, potentially associated ditches and, as yet, undated postholes, suggest that the Bronze Age is the first period where there was extensive land-use focussed on the site. These features may represent a settlement or a putative causewayed enclosure of less tangible ritual function. A fuller consideration of the feature fills (combining radiocarbon dating and environmental and stratigraphic analysis) would help provide evidence of both functional and/or chronological distinctions.

A field boundary, although undated, is probably late prehistoric in date. Similarly aligned field boundaries have been recognised during the NCF-A excavation, and identified by aerial photography a kilometre to the north-east at Overby, where a later prehistoric date has been suggested. A number of postholes were also observed truncating the Late Bronze Age enclosure. Finally, a number of undated pits infilled with similar industrial/domestic firing/oven related waste were identified. The radiocarbon date obtained from one pit (Cal AD 20-260) suggests that the pits are Late Iron Age-Romano-British in date. The pits are further indications of settlement related activity.

In the Iron Age/Romano-British period, therefore, land-use appears to continue on site, possibly in the form of a field boundary, structures of an undetermined nature and pits containing burnt waste. A fuller consideration of the pit fills (combining radiocarbon dating and environmental and stratigraphic analysis) would help provide evidence of both functional and/or chronological distinctions.

Seventeen pits and thirteen undated postholes may possibly be attributed to the Bronze Age period or earlier, perhaps representing pits containing domestic/cremation waste and structural post-holes respectively. Further analysis of the ecofact assemblages and radiocarbon dating is of paramount importance.

In this report the site is presented and assessed, a statement of potential for further study is compiled, and an updated project design is provided that would enable this site to be published at monograph level in association with the other phases of excavation at New Cowper Quarry.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Nick Edwards of Stephenson Halliday for commissioning the project, and for his assistance throughout the fieldwork. Thanks are also extended to Frank Harkness and the staff of New Cowper Quarry (Thomas Armstrong Aggregates Ltd.) for their assistance throughout the fieldwork.`

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service for his assistance during the project. Sue Stallibrass, English Heritage Science Advisor, North West Region, and David Jordan, Terra Nova Ltd., are also thanked for their advice and recommendations during this project. Mark Brennand (OAN) is also thanked for his interpretative comments and observations during a site visit.

This phase of NPA excavations at New Cowper (NCF-B) was directed by Gareth Davies, supervised by Matthew Hobson, excavated by Dave Bonner, Jon Cousins, Patricia Crompton (environmental sampling), Mark Dodd, Richard Hewitt and Kevin Mounsey, and kindly assisted by volunteer Jennifer Kinsman. Alan James kindly assisted with both excavation and metal detecting. The surveying was undertaken by Richard Hewitt.

This assessment report was written by Gareth Davies. Sections of the stratigraphic narrative (Appendix 3) were written by Mark Dodd. The digitised drawings were produced by Nicola Gaskell and Gareth Davies. Specialist reports were contributed by Dr. Carol Allen, Beta Analytic Ltd., and Patricia Crompton. The project was managed by Gareth Davies, Project Officer, NPA Ltd and overseen by Frank Giecco, Technical Director, NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Matthew Town.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 In February 2005, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Stephenson Halliday, acting on behalf of Thomas Armstrong (Holdings) Ltd, to undertake an archaeological excavation in advance of mineral extraction at the northern extension of New Cowper Quarry, Aspatria, Cumbria.

1.1.2 This scheme (Planning Application No. 2/03/9022) affected an area of known archaeological interest, as identified by a desk-based assessment (LUAU 1999), an archaeological geophysical survey (WYAS 2003) and field evaluation of the site (Clapperton 2004), and an archaeological excavation in the field immediately to the south (Jones 2003, see Background section below).

1.1.2 The excavation area was located just under 800m north-west of the present farmstead of New Cowper at NGR 115 459 (Fig 1), and consisted of an area totalling 10,000 square metres (NCF-B) (Fig 1 and 2).

1.1.3 The NCF-B area was excavated during September-October 2005.

1.1.4 This assessment report sets out the results of the excavations in the form of a document, outlining their initial findings and assessing their potential. This is followed by a fully quantified recommendation for the potential for further work.

1.1.5 It is intended that all phases of work at New Cowper can eventually be amalgamated into a final report.

2. DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in response to a request by Stephenson Halliday for an archaeological excavation of the study area, in accordance with a brief prepared by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Services (CCCHES). Following acceptance of the project design, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA), and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 METHODOLOGY

2.2.1 The archaeological excavation comprised an open area measuring 10,000 square metres in size. The excavation was undertaken in order to achieve the following:

- to preserve by record the archaeological evidence contained within the site and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site;
- to contribute to an understanding of prehistoric settlement, subsistence and agricultural practices, and environmental conditions on the west coast of Cumbria;
- to inform wider regional, national and period based research frameworks.

2.2.2 The work was undertaken under the direction of Gareth Davies BA MA, NPA Project Officer. All staff were fully briefed on the project background, made aware of the work required under the specification, and understood the projects aims and methodologies.

2.2.3 Topsoil was removed using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and removed from the site. All machine work was carried out under direct archaeological supervision. Large areas of the site were cleaned by hand and base plans were produced at an appropriate scale. The limits of the site and initial pre-excavation planning were surveyed using a Total Station (a Geodimeter 440 TST, working with a Sokkia SDR33 data logger) and the captured data was transferred into AutoCAD software for manipulation.

2.2.4 All identified archaeological features within the stripped area were excavated by hand to the depth of natural deposits.

2.2.5 A detailed record of the stratigraphic sequence was made, according to the conventions written in the NPA Excavation Manual (Giecco 2001), and in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologist (IFA) and English Heritage guidelines.

2.2.6 The sampling strategy comprised: 100% excavation of pits and structural remains, 50% excavation of isolated postholes and 10% excavation of linear features (such as ditches).

2.2.7 All topsoil was scanned by a metal detector to facilitate artefact recovery.

2.2.8 All written records utilised the NPA pro-forma record sheets.

2.2.9 Plans and sections were drawn on water resistant permatrace. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, and sections at 1:10 or 1:20 The captured data was digitised using AutoCAD software (see 2.3 below).

2.2.10 A site diary was maintained detailing the nature of the work undertaken each day.

2.2.11 Specialist advice on sampling for scientific dating, analysis of technological residues (including domestic industrial activities), and worked stone was provided during the excavation by Sue Stallibrass, English Heritage Regional Science advisor (Northwest region). Specialist advice on environmental analysis was provided during the excavation by Patricia Crompton (NPA Ltd). Specialist advice on ceramics was provided during the excavation by Dr. Carol Allen. Specialist advice on geoarchaeology, geology and soil science was kindly provided during the excavation by David Jordan (Terra Nova Ltd.).

2.2.12 Finds were managed by Gareth Davies, NPA Project Officer and Frank Giecco, NPA Technical Director. North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook first aid conservation. Further conservation and assessment was carried out by the relevant appropriate artefact specialists (see 2.3 below).

2.2.13 All finds belong to the landowner, but were initially taken to the NPA Ltd. premises at Nenthead for assessment.

2.3 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

2.3.1 This document is the *post-excavation assessment* of the second phase of excavation at the northern extension of New Cowper Quarry (NCF-B) A post-excavation assessment includes an initial finds and environmental assessment and a review of site data.

2.3.2 Key features of this report include:

- a site location plan related to the national grid (Figs 1 and 2);
- dates on which the project was undertaken;
- a concise non-technical summary of the data;
- a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and an outline of results obtained;
- plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing the locations and positions of deposits and finds;
- a list of, and spot dates for, any finds recovered and a description of the deposits identified and a description of any environmental or other specialist work.
- an updated project design including recommendations for further work.

2.3.3 A number of specialists have provided assessment reports for the excavated material from the New Cowper quarry northern extensions:

- Prehistoric pottery was assessed by Dr Carol Allen.
- Lithics were assessed by Mark Dodd (NPA Ltd).
- Environmental processing took place under the direction of Patricia Crompton (NPA Ltd). Further environmental input was provided by Sue Stallibrass, English Heritage Regional Scientific Adviser. Samples were processed according to current English Heritage guidelines.
- Radiocarbon dating was carried out by Beta Analytic Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, Miami, Florida, USA

2.4 ARCHIVE

2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design, and in accordance with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage guidelines (1991). The paper and digital archive will eventually be deposited in the Tullie House Museum, Carlisle under the unique identifier NPA-04 NCF-B.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

3.1.1 The site is situated at NGR 115 459, within the modern civil parish of Holme St Cuthbert, c.3km south east of Silloth and roughly 800m north west of the farmstead of New Cowper (NGR NY 11854 45989). This area falls within the North Cumbrian Plain; a relatively low lying area (below c. 200m AOD) located to the north and west of the Lake District Massif.

3.1.2 The excavation area is immediately south of a landscape zone known as the Abbeytown Ridge. The Abbeytown Ridge is a relatively narrow tract of land stretching from Salta Moss at the western extent of the north-west Cumbrian coastal plain, to Wedholme Flow, some 20km to the north-east. The Abbeytown Ridge reaches heights of c.40m AOD and forms a significant topographic feature, defining the southern boundary of the Solway Plain (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).

3.1.3 The excavation area lies in an undulating area of low ridges (steeper at the western extent of NCF-B), approximately 35m AOD, and is currently used as pasture, with some arable further south. This is typical of the Abbeytown Ridge, where the land-use is dominated by pasture but includes significant elements of arable. The land-use has not changed since 1997 when much of the assessment area was surveyed as part of the English Heritage-funded North West Wetlands Survey (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 85).

3.1.4 The solid geology underlying the excavation area consists of Triassic Sherwood Sandstone, with Triassic Mudstone present to the north (Dunham 1969). The solid geology is masked by a drift geology of Devensian tills of the Clifton and Brickfield Associations (coarse-grained sands). The predominating Clifton soil type is seasonally waterlogged (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 85).

3.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.2.1 ***Introduction:*** this historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources, and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments around the study area.

3.2.2 **Palaeolithic:** no material dating to the time of the Pleistocene glaciations has ever been recovered from the county of Cumbria, probably because the scouring of the latest glaciation, the Devensian, has removed so much of the evidence from previous periods. Towards the end of the Devensian, some time after 13,000 BP, Late Upper Palaeolithic societies returned to Britain. Evidence of occupation in the northwest at this date is extremely scarce, but includes finds of Late Upper Palaeolithic blades at Lindale Low cave, near Grange-over-Sands, and at Bart's Cave, Aldingham, on the Furness peninsula (Chamberlain & Williams, 2001).

3.2.3 No Palaeolithic material has been located within a 1 km radius of New Cowper Quarry.

3.2.4 **Mesolithic**: by around 8,000 BP, the last of the major ice sheets had retreated. Rising sea levels submerged the land-bridge between Britain and continental Europe, an event that traditionally marks the beginning of the Mesolithic, or middle stone age period. Mesolithic hunter gatherer populations were active on the Cumbrian coast, for example at Eskmeals (Cherry and Cherry 1987), and St Bees (Cherry and Cherry 1983 *a* and *b*).

3.2.5 Palaeoecological research has used the changing patterns of pollen contained within soil cores as evidence that there may have been some human exploitation of the landscape around the New Cowper Quarry area during the Mesolithic period. However, it is most likely that activity was concentrated on the coast further to the west (Bewley 1994, 54; Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 106-110).

3.2.6 During the North West Wetlands Survey, systematic fieldwalking in the available arable land located a fragment of worked flint debitage of Mesolithic/early Neolithic date just over 3km north of the northern extent of the New Cowper Quarry area (CU7, Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 110, Fig 34).

3.2.7 The relative lack of Mesolithic material from the north Cumbrian plain is perhaps best explained by the poor visibility of the archaeological remains, rather than an absence of activity (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000,110). The presence of Mesolithic activity has been better evidenced on the Scottish side of the Solway through the coastal erosion of raised beach deposits; depositional conditions that are absent on the Cumbrian coast. The presence of Mesolithic/early Neolithic worked flint debitage in the environs of the New Cowper Quarry area does, however, suggest some exploitation of the land at this early date.

3.2.8 ***Neolithic*:** the succeeding Neolithic period is characterised by increased density of occupation, which may be the result of the gradual adoption of a settled agricultural lifestyle.

3.2.9 There was certainly a human presence in the north Cumbrain plain from the early Neolithic period. Unfortunately, there is only a small amount of excavated evidence, and even fewer stratigraphically secure assemblages directly related to Neolithic occupation (Hodgson and Brennand 2004, 7). Indeed, most of the cropmark sites identified in the area have traditionally been assigned an Iron Age or Romano-British date (Bewley 1994). However this imbalance has been partially redressed by Bewley's work at Plasketlands, 2km north-west of Overby, (Bewley 1993, CHER 607), where the excavation of a cropmark site uncovered part of a post built palisade, probably associated with a ditched enclosure, that has been radiocarbon dated to 3970-2535 cal BC and 4032-3720 cal BC. No datable artefacts were recovered from this excavation, and it is likely that there are other similar sites awaiting detection, at present assumed to be of later date (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 111).

3.2.10 By the Later Neolithic, the distribution of artefacts such as polished stone axes, indicates widespread settlement throughout Cumbria. Polished stone axes from the Langdale mines in the Cumbrian mountains were traded extensively

throughout the British Isles, and it is likely that by the 3rd millennium BC, Neolithic inhabitants of Cumbria were part of an extensive trans-European trading network. Over one hundred stone axeheads have been located on and around the North Cumbrian Plain, suggesting that wetlands/coastal areas, and sometimes the plain itself, was occupied at this time (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).

3.2.11 The later Neolithic and earlier Bronze Ages are also characterised by increasing social sophistication best reflected by the construction of large monuments, like the stone circles of Long Meg and Her Daughters near Penrith, or Birkrigg, near Ulverston. These monuments have no obvious practical explanation, and are probably best seen as public works central to complex religious or spiritual practices.

3.2.12 There are a number of Neolithic finds indicative of settlement that have been located in the environs of New Cowper Quarry. During the North West Wetlands Survey, systematic fieldwalking in the available arable land identified a number of Neolithic flints around the Overby quarry area (e.g. CU11, Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 177), 1km east of New Cowper Quarry. A kilometre south of the Overby quarry area a small group of nine Neolithic flints, including two blades and a piece of burnt bone were located (CU4, Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 177).

3.2.13 A single piece of Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flint was recovered from the permitted quarry area at High House, 1km east of New Cowper Quarry (CU5, Hodgkinson et al 2000, 177). The importance of this single find is enhanced by the presence of a number of undated cropmarks which could be of Neolithic period in date (Higham and Jones 1975). It is highly likely that parts of the Overby/High House Quarry areas were farmed, and perhaps even settled upon, during the Neolithic period.

3.2.14 Closer to New Cowper Quarry itself, there are two findspots of stone axe heads within a 1km radius of the proposed extraction area (CHER 637 and 18964) including, an important findspot of a Neolithic axe, at Chapel Moss (CHER 637, NY 11580 45320). In addition, there are four North West Wetland fieldwalking finds within 1km of New Cowper Quarry (CU 8 *collection of Prehistoric flints*, CU9 *single unretouched PH flake*, CU11 *three worked flints Neo/B Age*, CU32 *B. Age worked flint pebble,* Hodgkinson *et al*. 2000, Fig.3) all indicative of settlement in and around the New Cowper area.

3.2.15 ***Bronze Age:*** in the Bronze Age, human society continued to change and develop. Early metalwork finds are rare in Northern England, and metal production and ownership may have been the sole province of a privileged few. Environmental studies have identified cereal pollen dating from c2000 BC, clearly demonstrating the presence of agriculture in the North Cumbrian Plain by the Bronze Age (Hodgkinson *et al*, 2000).

3.2.16 By the beginning of the second millennium BC, social change is reflected most clearly by the adoption of new burial practices. Cist burial, the practice of burying the dead in stone chambers dug into the ground and covered by slabs, seems to have become common at around this time throughout upland Northern England. Though cist burials are often found in isolation, it is suspected that they

represent the surviving remnants of a long vanished, or hitherto undetected, Bronze Age agricultural landscapes.

3.2.17 Another burial practice attributable to the Bronze Age is cremation burial. Sometimes cremation burials are associated with barrow mounds. The ploughed out remains of twenty or so barrows have been identified in Cumbria by aerial photography, and these may date to the Bronze Age (Bewley 1994). It is often unclear whether the contrasting practices of cist burial and cremation burial represent events of contrasting chronology or contrasting social practice. At Ewanrigg, c.8km south west of New Cowper Quarry, fieldwalking discovered prehistoric pottery, and a series of subsequent excavations identified a total of 29 cremation burials and a single cist burial. Radiocarbon dates (2470 cal BC - 1520 cal BC) suggest that burials were being interred over a period of about 940 years during the Bronze Age. The relationship between the excavated cemetery at Ewanrigg, and an adjacent, unexcavated, settlement site (identified from aerial photographs) is unclear (Bewley 1986).

3.2.18 Settlement sites dating to the Bronze Age are seldom identified, although aerial photography of the coastal plain, particularly on the Abbeytown Ridge around the Overby quarry assessment area, has identified a number of sites that are yet to be tested by excavation (Bewley 1986, 37, Davies 2006).

3.2.19 During the North West Wetlands Survey, systematic fieldwalking in the available arable land identified a number of Bronze Age flints on the north Cumbrian plain. There are four North West Wetland fieldwalking finds within 1km of New Cowper Quarry (CU 8 *collection of Prehistoric flints*, CU9 *single unretouched PH flake*, CU11 *three worked flints Neo/B Age*, CU32 *B. Age worked flint pebble*, see Hodgkinson et al, 2000 Fig.3) all indicative of settlement in and around the New Cowper area. There are a number of undated cropmarks within the area which could possibly be of Bronze Age in date (Higham and Jones 1975).

3.2.20 ***Iron Age:*** During the Iron Age the impression nationwide is of a major expansion in population as evidenced by an abundance of settlement sites. There is also clear evidence for a growing social complexity and hierarchy, as demonstrated by high status burials and contrasting settlement sites, for example hillforts compared to small farmsteads.

3.2.21 In Cumbria, however, settlement sites and burials attributable to the early and middle Iron Age are hard to identify. Once again, a number of unexcavated settlement sites identified by aerial photography may date to this period (Bewley 1994); for example, an enclosure at Wolsty Hall that continues in use into the Romano British period (Blake 1959). Two hillforts are known at the southern end of the northern coastal plain at Carrock Fell and Swarthy Hill (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000). Possible Iron Age crouched burials have been excavated at Crosby Garrett (Hodgson and Brennand eds. 2004).

3.2.22 Although settlements are hard to locate, environmental studies for lowland Cumbria have shown a dramatic drop in tree pollen during the later Iron Age, suggesting that large tracts of forest were cleared for agricultural activity (Hodgkinson *et al.* 2000, 114-6).

3.2.23 No Iron Age material has been located within a 1 km radius of New Cowper Quarry quarry, although a 'British' settlement, visible as an earthwork site, was noted by Collingwood towards Hangingshaw Moss (CHER 584).

3.2.24 ***Romano-British:*** the Roman advance on the northwest during the 70s and 80s AD may have been launched from bases in the northwest Midlands such as Wroxeter and Little Chester, proceeding north via the valleys of the Eden and Lune. By 72 AD the earliest timber fort was constructed at Carlisle (Philpott ed. 2004), and the campaigns of Agricola, governor of Britain AD 78-84 consolidated the Roman hold on the North. During the Roman period there was certainly a heavy military presence in Cumbria. Hadrian's Wall, perhaps begun in 122 AD, was built to define the northern limit of the Roman Empire and a network of military roads, forts and settlements soon sprung up around the focus of Hadrian's Wall (Breeze and Dobson 1976). Until recent decades, the Roman military sites of Cumbria are also those that have received the most attention from archaeologists and as a result the nature of rural settlement during the Roman period is poorly understood (Philpott ed. 2004).

3.2.25 Although rural settlement is poorly understood, environmental studies suggest that woodland clearances begun in the Iron Age continued apace, implying large scale cultivation of land (Philpott ed. 2004). As with preceding periods, a large percentage of the potential Romano-British rural sites have only been identified by aerial photography; rectangular field systems have also been identified (Bewley 1994). Where rural sites have been excavated, the traditional Iron Age building form, the roundhouse, continues in use into the Roman period, for example at Silloth Farm (Higham and Jones 1985). By the late third century roundhouses were being superseded by rectangular timber buildings, for example at Crosshill (Higham and Jones 1983).

3.2.26 The few recorded Roman burials from rural Cumbria suggest that Late Iron Age native practice, such as the use of crouched inhumation, continued into the Roman period, whereas burials from Carlisle and the fort at Brough display great variety, such as respectively coffin burial and cremation (Philpott ed 2004). Roughly three kilometres north west of New Cowper Quarry on the west Cumbria coast lies the Roman cemetery of Beckfoot, which exhibits a variety of cremation and inhumation practices (CHER 591). North of the cemetery lie the fort and associated vicus of Beckfoot (CHER 625, 626); these have both been identified by aerial photography. The larger fort of Maryport lies approximately 7km south west of the study area (Philpott ed. 2004).

3.2.27 No Romano-British material has been located within a 1 km radius of New Cowper quarry. However, undated cropmarks in the surrounding area could possibly be of a Romano-British date (Higham and Jones 1975).

3.2.28 ***Early Medieval:*** evidence for Early Medieval activity in North Cumbria is extremely limited, the end of the Roman economy depriving the archaeologist of diagnostic artefactual evidence on all but a small minority of sites (Higham 1986). As a result, archaeologists have been forced to look at other classes of evidence beyond the traditional domain of excavation and field survey data; these include place-name evidence, stone sculpture and early stone buildings.

3.2.29 Work in recent decades has shown that the 'Romans' did not leave behind them a cultural vacuum, and archaeology has begun to fill the gap between the 'Dark Ages' and the colour of, for example, such histories as the Northumbrian monk, The Venerable Bede's, *Historia Ecclesiastica* written in the early Eighth century.

3.2.30 The discovery of early medieval settlement sites in the region is rare, but a number of putative Romano-British rural sites excavated more than forty years ago may have had late phases that could have been observed with the use of radiocarbon dating. Recent excavations at Stainmore in Cumbria have produced evidence for rectangular post-built buildings and sunken-feature buildings perhaps dating to the 7th or 8th centuries AD (Newman ed. 2004).

3.2.31 Environmental studies focussing on pollen remains have indicated a continuing arable economy in Cumbria during the Early Medieval period (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).

3.2.32 New Cowper Quarry lies within the modern civil parish of Holme St Cuthbert, which was a township within the historic parish of Holme Cultram. The Holme element in the parish name of Holme Cultram is also Old Scandinavian, holmr meaning 'island in the marshland'. The Cultram element may refer to an older community of 'Culterham' (OE), which has been linked with an estate of the same name belonging to the See of Lindisfarne in AD 854 (Mills, 2003, 175).

3.2.33 The name Cowper may derive from the Old Scandinavian *kaupa* (Mills 2003,93), meaning purchased (land), or possibly from the Old English *cupe* (*ibid*, 94), meaning the place by the coops or baskets (for catching fish). This latter explanation could be plausible given the location of the settlement close to the Dub stream and the surrounding marshes.

3.2.34 There are no early medieval finds located within a 1km radius of New Cowper quarry

3.2.35 ***Later Medieval:*** in the eleventh century the political situation in Cumbria was volatile, with the emergent kingdom of Strathclyde to the north and the growing power of England to the south competing for political control (Kirkby 1962). Much of the modern county of Cumbria remained outside Norman control (thus not being included in Domesday Book of 1086) until 1092 when William II marched north to Carlisle and drove out one Dolfin.

3.2.36 During the 12th century many settlements started to emerge and population throughout the area increased. Certainly the parish of Holme Cultram was largely fossilised by this time.

3.2.37 The Abbeytown Ridge, immediately north of New Cowper quarry, is endowed with possibly the most comprehensive assemblage of documentary material relating to the Late Medieval and Post-medieval exploitation and enclosure of the lowland mosses for the whole of Cumbria (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 137). This is largely due to the foundation of the Abbey of Holme Cultram, c.4km north of the assessment area, by Prince Henry, son of King David of Scotland in c. 1150; a grant of land confirmed by Henry II when the area came under English control (LUAU 1999, 9).

3.2.38 Before Holme Cultram Abbey was founded, much of the Abbeytown Ridge seems to have been neglected by the 'post-conquest surge in the colonisation of the marginal lands taking place in the rest of Cumbria' (Winchester 1987, 38). The Abbey was probably responsible for the initiation of the permanent settlement and exploitation of the fringes of the wetlands on the Solway Plain in the twelfth century (Hodgkinson *et al*, 2000, 137). The initial land granted to the Abbey would have included the New Cowper quarry area, as the bounds described in the charter state that the southern boundary was Home Dub, falling into Black Dub (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000), which are the streams to the south of New Cowper. At the time of the Abbey's foundation, most of Holme Cultram was described as a waste forest ground (LUAU 1999). Documentation suggests that by 1175, five grange farms had been established in the area. Dykes (earthwork banks in this case) were also created to demarcate the monastic possessions (*ibid.*). So, by the end of the 12th century, the New Cowper area fell under the jurisdiction of Holme Cultram Abbey. The farming of sheep, as is the case in the present day, was an important industry in this area along with the salt production and peat cutting.

3.2.39 When the monasteries were suppressed during the dissolution, the lands of Holme Abbey were leased out to tenant farmers. At the time of Elizabeth I there were no freeholders in the lordship (LUAU 1999, 9). The manor of Holme Cultram was retained in crown hands until after the Restoration of Charles II, and in 1732 it was purchased by the Stephenson family (Nicolson and Burn 1777 183-4).

3.2.40 There are no Medieval finds located within a 1km radius of New Cowper quarry. It can be assumed that much of the land around the excavation area was used for pasture. Although approximately 1km to the south of New Cowper Quarry the place name Chapel Moss alludes to the site of a chapel of probable medieval (CHER 10162).

3.2.41 ***Post-Medieval:*** in 1732, Holme Cultram manor was purchased from a William Burton Esquire of South Luffington, Suffolk, by Edward Stephenson Esquire, of London (Lysons and Lysons 1816, 114). It was passed onto John Stephenson, and was in the hands of his heir in 1777 (Nicholson and Burn 1777, 183-4).

3.2.42 The origins of the settlement of New Cowper, or Cowper as it was called in the 19th century (Whellan 1860, 236), are not known, but it was in existence in the 16th century (CROC PR/122/34). Tithe accounts from 1759 do not include mention of New Cowper for the payment of 'Tithes Bigg', or barley tithes (CROC PR/122/34), and it may be that most of the land was used for pasture (LUAU 1999).

3.2.43 From the end of the 18th century onwards, the land around Overby farmstead becomes far more visible largely through the cartographic evidence. An enclosure map of 1814 suggests that much of assessment area was enclosed agricultural land by this date (CROC SRDBW/1).

3.2.44 By the nineteenth century tithe apportionment (CROC DRC8/93), a full breakdown of land ownership is possible. This shows the predominance of agricultural holdings in the New Cowper area.

3.2.45 There are four post-medieval HER sites recorded within a 1km radius of New Cowper quarry. This includes a congregational chapel (CHER 10324), a sundial (CHER 10401), the Farm Barns of New Cowper itself (CHER 40284) and a WWII decoy site at West Newton (CHER 19986).

3.2.46 It can be assumed that much of the land around the excavation area was used for pasture or agricultural production. There is further evidence for earlier quarrying to the immediate south east of the assessment area, where a sandpit was recorded in the 19th century at Mealrigg (CHER 10400)..

3.3 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD (HER)

3.3.1 ***HER:*** there are **25** HER records within a 4km² study area centred around the New Cowper Quarry excavation areas. These include 4 entries of prehistoric date, and 13 entries of unknown date identified by aerial photography.

3.3.2 There are **14** known HER sites within a 1km radius of the New Cowper Quarry excavation areas, although none occur within the area itself. These include four cropmark sites (CHER 3193, 3194, 3196 and 3237), one prehistoric earthwork site (CHER 584), two known finds of prehistoric stone axeheads (CHER 637 and 18963) and six other HER sites (CHER 10162, 10324, 10400, 10401 and 19986). There are also four North West Wetland Survey finds (CU 8, 9, 11 and 32 on Fig 3, see background for discussion) (see Davies 2006 for a fuller consideration of the HER sites).

3.4 CARLISLE RECORD OFFICE: CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

3.4.1 The Cumbria Record Office in Carlisle (CROC) was consulted to collate maps for initial regression analysis of the study area. Information from primary and secondary sources, including archaeological or historical journals, has been incorporated into the historic background (*Section 3.2*).

3.4.2 A search of relevant documents noted a number of maps , the earliest being the tithe map of 1850. By the time of the tithe map and award in 1850, the agricultural land within the assessment. area was owned by a number of people, and leased out to five separate tenants (CROC DRC/8/93). The field boundaries were the same as those shown on modern maps, plus one or two sub-divisions, and the scarp slope in the south- west corner was fenced off. Presumably, this was because it was a steep slope suitable only for pasture, whilst all the other fields in the assessment area were potentially used for arable production (CROC DRC/8/93/1).

3.4.3 Most of the fields within the assessment area are not named in the 1850 tithe award, apart from West Field, which is a simple locational name, and Cross Hill. Cross Hill may be a reference to the site of a wayside cross, but there is no documentary or cartographic evidence to support this, or it may refer to a sandhill which juts out, into an area of moss (LUAU 1999).

3.5 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

3.5.1 The area around New Cowper quarry is particularly rich in aerial photographic evidence. This takes the form of cropmarks that evidence a number of different archaeological features. There are **13** cropmark sites within the environs of New Cowper (see Davies 2006).

3.5.2 These cropmark sites on the Abbeytown Ridge were first identified in the dry summer of 1975, and this led to an article by Higham and Jones (1975) that suggested that these cropmarks represented a buried late-prehistoric landscape. The cropmarks have been further discussed by Bewley (1994) and by the Cumbria North West Wetland Survey (Hodgkinson et al 2000, 87, Fig 37). This work has shown that the North Cumbrian plain as a major area of prehistoric activity and one of the few areas of Cumbria susceptible to aerial photography.

3.5.3 Around Overby quarry, 1km north east of New Cowper Quarry, features originally interpreted in 1975 as an annex to a large co-axial field system, have been re-identified as a possible sub-circular enclosure with associated small boundaries and possible ring-ditches (Davies 2006). The morphology of this enclosure is similar to prehistoric enclosures identified by Bewley (1994) and attributed to the later prehistoric period. However, excavations in 1998 by the Carlisle Archaeological Unit at Scotby Road, Durranhill, Carlisle (McCarthy, unpublished) have suggested that this type of sub-circular enclosure could actually date to the Bronze Age or Neolithic periods

3.5.4 Immediately, around the New Cowper quarry site there are a number of cropmarks recorded on the County Historic Environment Record. These include four to the north of the assessment area, two of which (at NY 11790 45890 and NY 11900 46300, Fig 3) appear to relate to former field systems and possible settlement features. The other two sites (at NY 11010 46290 and NY 11900 46500 Fig 3) appear to be rectangular enclosures. These sites are situated on the drier, higher land above the mosses around the Dub watercourse to the south of new Cowper quarry.

3.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

3.6.1 In addition to aerial photographic reconnaissance (Higham and Jones 1975, Fig 4) and fieldwalking by the North West Wetlands Survey (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000), a number of archaeological investigations have taken place at New Cowper Farm since 1999, in advance of mineral extraction. These works have included:

- **Land at New Cowper Farm, Aspatria, Cumbria**. *Archaeological Assessment Report, Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, 1999*: a desk based assessment identified Neolithic, Iron Age/Romano British earthworks, cropmark sites and two post-medieval sites in the vicinity of the proposed extraction area. NWWS flint finds were also noted. The assessment area was part of the Holme Cultram Abbey estate by 1150 AD. It was noted that there was considerable potential for prehistoric activity in the area.

- **New Cowper Quarry, Aspatria, Cumbria**. *Results of an Archaeological Investigation, by Elizabeth Jones for Headland Archaeology, 2003*: open area excavation and sample trenching at the southern end of the mineral extraction area, identified a concentration of plough truncated cut features of possible late prehistoric date. These features included a possible trackway, ditches, a square open-sided enclosure, a pit and post alignment, and other isolated pits and post-holes. Dateable finds were restricted to a possible worked flint and two sherds of possible late prehistoric pottery. Further reporting was recommended and this material awaits fuller assessment.

- **New Cowper Farm near Aspatria, Cumbria**. *Geophysical survey by West Yorkshire Archaeological Services for Headland Archaeology, 2003*: a geophysical (fluxgate gradiometer) survey covering 6 hectares of a proposed northern extension to the mineral extraction area identified a large ne-sw aligned ditch, a curvilinear anomaly, and other less prominent features. The report suggested that the low magnetic susceptibility of the soils in the study area made detection of surviving archaeological features difficult.

- **New Cowper Quarry, Cumbria - Northern Extension.** *Results of an Archaeological Evaluation,by Kelly Clapperton, 2004:* an evaluation of the northern extension to the mineral extraction area identified several ditches, small pits (including one with late prehistoric pottery) and a post-hole. Later prehistoric pottery was recovered from a small pit in the southern part of field 1 (NCF-A), and evidence of prehistoric cereal cultivation was also recovered across the site. The small number of pits and post-holes were probably representative of later prehistoric occupation. It was suggested that this area represented the northern limit of the prehistoric settlement identified in excavations to the south.

- **The Geoarchaeology of Deposits at New Cowper Farm**, *by David Jordan of Terra Nova Ltd*. 2005: soil samples from features at the New Cowper farm excavations (Phase 1, see above) were examined for magnetic susceptibility and it was concluded that the difficulties experienced by previous magnetic gradiometry mapping could be attributed to the low magnetic susceptibility of the soils at New Cowper.

- **New Cowper Quarry Northern Extension Excavations: Phase 1 NCF-A**. *by Chris Jones for North Pennines Archaeology Ltd, 2005*: excavations by NPA in February 2005 (Phase 1) identified a number of archaeological features of prehistoric date. Phase 1 uncovered an important pit group containing early Neolithic pottery that was radiocarbon dated to 3650-3510 cal BC. This pit group may have been associated with a number of undated ditched boundary features. Also uncovered was an early cist burial containing a charcoal rich fill that was radiocarbon dated to 2400-2380 cal BC and 2360-2140. This feature may have been associated with a number of undated features of Bronze Age or Iron Age date. This material is currently being assessed (NPA, forthcoming).

3.6.2 At Overby and High House quarries, 1km north east of the New Cowper quarries, a desk-based assessment, geophysical survey and walk over survey has recently been undertaken in advance of mineral extraction (Davies 2006). This desk-based assessment, which included a detailed reappraisal of available aerial photographs, identified a number of cropmark features which were located in the assessment area. These features, of probable prehistoric date, were originally identified by aerial photography in the 1970's, and were plotted and reinterpreted for the purposes of this assessment..

3.6.3 Potential for sub-surface archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period was extremely high and included a single piece of Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flint recovered from the High House permitted extraction area during the North West Wetland Survey, and numerous cropmark features throughout the proposed extraction area. These undated cropmarks seemed to represent the multi-phase remains of fields, settlement foci and possibly ritual sites dating to the prehistoric period.

3.6.4 Soil coring was also undertaken at Overby quarry to help assess the reliability of geophysical survey techniques for the evaluation of the archaeological potential of the proposed extraction areas (Jordan 2005b). An assessment of the geoarchaeology at New Cowper Quarry will appear in the NCF-A assessment report (Jordan 2005a, in Railton, forthcoming). A pilot geophysical survey of Overby Quarry (Bartlett, in Davies 2006) experimented with a range of mapping techniques, but had limited success.

4 ASSESSMENT RESULTS: STRATIGRAPHIC DATA

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The results from the Phase 2 (NCF-B) excavations, undertaken during September-October 2005), are now summarised. For ease of analysis the archaeological features are grouped. Features have initially been grouped on both spatial and morphological grounds, although final post-excavation reporting, informed particularly by further radiocarbon and environmental analysis, will undoubtedly alter these initial interpretations. Where features have been grouped for ease, but where there is no obvious relationship between them, it is stated.

4.1.2 The features from Phase 2 (NCF-B) are discussed below. Deposits of interest are highlighted, but a full stratigraphic narrative is provided as Appendix 3.

4.1.3 **New Cowper Quarry Northern extension, Phase 2 (NCF-B)**: As Figure 3 shows, machine stripping of the mid brown silty sand topsoil (0.4m deep) [115] and subsequent hand cleaning, revealed a number of sub-surface archaeological features cutting into the pink-orange natural sand and gravel [116]. The features can be divided into two broad phases of land-use; *prehistoric* (including probable prehistoric features) and *post-medieval*, although a single Medieval feature, pit [270], was also observed.

4.1.4 ***Prehistoric features***: a number of probable prehistoric features were observed including at least six lengths of linear ditch, 29 pits, and 47 pit/post-holes. The grouped features and are outlined below, and fully discussed in Appendix 3.

4.1.5 ***Group 1*: *Pit Cluster at the northeast extent of NCF-B (Fig 7)***: a cluster of seventeen circular, sub-circular and double-circle ('kidney' shaped) pits were located extending over an area of 14 metres (north-south) by 8 metres (east-west) towards the northeast extent of NCF-B excavation area. It was evident that a number of the features had been severely truncated by ploughing. North-south aligned post-medieval furrows observed at the west and east of the pit cluster may have truncated further pit features (see Fig.3).

4.1.6 The pits ranged in diameter from 0.18m ([102]) to 1.17m ([117]), in depth from 0.04m ([141]) to 0.51m ([117), and had profiles ranging from steep sided with a concave/flat base ([100], [104], [107], [119], [122], [125], [135]) to gradual-moderately sloping sides with a concave base ([102], [111], [113], [117], [127], [129], [133], [139], [141], [143]). No discernable patterning could be observed in either the dimensions or the profile of the pit cuts. The identification of some of the features as pit cuts was somewhat tentative; two pits may represent natural treeboles ([127], [133]) and eight pits had a diameter and profile indicative of postholes ([100], [102], [107], [122], [129], [139], [141], [143]). The two possible treeboles contained highly demineralised fills, suggesting an early date. The presence of eight possible postholes mean that the interpretation of parts of this pit cluster as structural elements cannot be completely eliminated. Indeed, fill [105] (cut [104]) contained a large granite stone (0.3m by 0.2m in size) similar to possible packing

stones that were observed more frequently further to the south of the site (for example, see *Group 6* below).

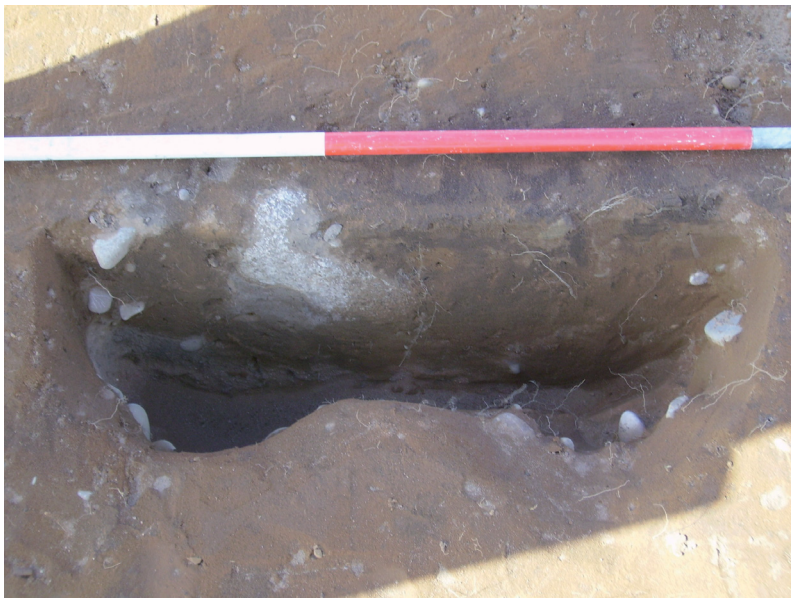


Plate 1: Pit Cut [104]. Mid exc. Looking North

4.1.7 The infilling pattern within the pit cuts ranged from a single naturally silted infilling event (e.g. fill [128] within [127]), to three fills (e.g. cut [107]) consisting of a primary silt (e.g. [108]), a possibly deliberately backfilled secondary deposit (e.g.[109]) and a naturally silted tertiary fill (e.g. [110]). The single naturally silted fills and primary silts were typically a mid-dark brown to grey brown silty sand/ sandy silt (e.g. [106] or [112]). The possibly deliberately backfilled deposits included both primary (e.g [114]) and secondary fills (e.g. [106]) and were typically homogenous dark grey to dark grey-brown sandy silts. A number of the deliberately backfilled deposits contained significant quantities of charcoal (fills [101], [103], [106], [110], [112], [114], [121], [123], [124], [132] and [126]), and some of these fills also contained burnt bone ([101], [110], [112] and [114]). All fills were environmentally sampled, and a number of fills have provided suitable quantities of charcoal for radiocarbon dating (see environmental section below and Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

Plate 2: Pit Cut [127]. Mid exc. Looking West.

4.1.8 The infilling patterns (deliberately backfilled deposits), and particularly the quantities of charcoal and burnt bone that were observed within a number of the pit (or posthole) features, seem to argue against a structural function. It seems more likely that the pits were dug and then rapidly backfilled to perform either a domestic, or unknown ritual function; no evidence for the *in situ* decay of posts (post-pipes) was observed. Fill [121] appeared to represent the rake-out from a fire, and may hint at nearby contemporary domestic hearth or cremation activities.

4.1.9 A fuller consideration of the pit fills at a later date is clearly necessary, combining radiocarbon dating, environmental and stratigraphic analysis. However, at this stage it can be noted that there is a distinction, be it functional or chronological, between the pit features with only clean sterile fills, and pit features containing charcoal rich fills. In some cases, it is possible that the charcoal may have inadvertently arrived within the fills as a result of nearby settlement related activity. However, where the charcoal rich fills are *also* those fills that are deliberately backfilled, then there is unquestionably a deliberate association between the backfilling event and the presence of burnt material. Interestingly, the four pits that produced burnt bone (cuts [100], [111], [113], [107]) are all in close spatial association at the centre-north of the pit cluster, hinting at some zoning by function or chronology.

4.1.10 None of the seventeen features identified in this group produced any dateable artefacts. However, the homogenous and demineralised nature of a number of the fills and the ephemeral and weathered nature of a number of the cuts, may suggest a prehistoric date. Indeed, these features are perhaps some of the earliest to be observed in the northern part of the NCF-B excavation area.

4.1.11 ***Group 2: Northeast to Southwest aligned ditch at northern extent of NCF-B (Fig 7)*:** A large northeast to southwest aligned ditch was observed running over a length of 109 metres at the northwest extent of the excavation area. The full length of the ditch feature was not observed, as it ran beyond the northern and western limits of the excavation area. The upper fills of the ditch had evidently been truncated in

places by ploughing and three north-south aligned post-medieval furrows (see Fig 3).

4.1.12 Seven slots were excavated across the ditch feature (from north to south, cuts [149], [145], [153], [156], [192], [167] and [185]). The ditch had a maximum width of 2.73m, a maximum depth of 1.01m, a minimum width of 1.15m and a minimum depth of 0.67m. In general the ditch cut had a moderately sloping to steeply sloping profile and in places the base of the ditch cut was very steep (e.g. cut [149]).

Plate 3: Ditch Cut [153]. Looking North.

4.1.13 The northeast to south west aligned ditch typically contained two fills (e.g. cut [192], fills [193] and [196]), although up to six fills were present (cut [185]) consisting of interleaving naturally silted deposits (e.g [191]) and slumping deposits (e.g. [190]). Where two fills were present, they most frequently consisted of a naturally silted mid reddish brown coarse sand primary silt (e.g [150] in cut [192]) and a naturally accumulated secondary fill of a reddish brown silty sand, possibly windblown, deposit (e.g. [151] in cut [192] and [147] in cut [145]). The sterile nature of the main secondary infilling phase suggests that this ditch was some distance from an area of concentrated human activity during this infilling phase.

4.1.14 In some of the excavated slots (e.g. cut [153], fills [154] and [155]), the two observed fills consisted of a mid brown silty sand primary silt formed by a combination of natural silting and weathering of the sides of the ditch cut [155], and a humic mid-dark grey sandy silt secondary fill, which was naturally silted from the contemporary topsoil [154]. These humic fills (e.g. [154] and [152]) represent a final infilling phase, which seem to suggest that agricultural cultivation was taking

place during this infilling phase (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.1.15 A fuller consideration of the ditch fills at a later date is clearly necessary, combining environmental and stratigraphic analysis. At this stage it can be suggested that some parts of the ditch, particularly towards the northern extent of its observed length, infilled more rapidly than other areas. All observed fills seemed to represent various types of naturally accumulated deposit, and there was no evidence for the recutting or prolonged maintaining of the ditch feature.

4.1.16 This linear ditch presumably represents an agricultural field boundary. Although the ditch is undated, the demineralised fills from the two initial phases of infilling do suggest a prehistoric date for the feature. Similarly aligned field boundaries have been recognised during the NCF-A excavation, and identified by aerial photography a kilometre to the north-east at Overby, where a later prehistoric date has been suggested (Davies 2006). This ditch aligns well with a feature originally identified by the WYAS geophysical survey and interpreted as a large NE-SW aligned ditch (WYAS, 2003).

4.1.17 ***Group 3: Isolated Features at northern extent of NCF-B(Fig 7):*** Seven further isolated and unrelated features were identified in the northern half of the NCF-B excavation area. These features consisted of one small pit or posthole [159], one pit [148], 3 postholes [162], [164] and [170], a possible stakehole [172] and a treebole [182]. All features were undated, but the morphology of pit [148] may suggest an Iron Age/Romano-British date for the feature. The features are now discussed from north to south.

4.1.18 Posthole [162] was located in close proximity to the Group 2 Northeast to Southwest aligned ditch, 78m south of the northern extent of the NCF-B excavation area. It is possible that the features are related in some way. Posthole [162], 0.48m in diameter and 0.12m in depth, contained a single naturally silted fill, [142] (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information). Fill [142] contained no dateable artefacts but did contain frequent charcoal inclusions and was environmentally sampled (<26>) (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.1.19 Treebole [182] was an irregularly shaped soil feature (at the nw extent of the NCFB excavation area), 1m in width, 0.23m in depth and upon investigation was interpreted as a natural feature. Fill [183] contained no dateable artefacts, but was environmentally sampled (<37>) (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.1.20 Pit cut [148] was a regular ovoid shape in plan (1.35m in width), and was located in the centre-north portion of the NCF-B excavation area, 32m south of the northern extent of the site. Upon excavation, pit [148] was found to contain eight fills (fills [175], [176], [177], [178], [179], [180] and [181]) and had a maximum depth of 0.56m. Primary and secondary fills [175] and [176] are interpreted as naturally silted sandy fills, whilst the overlying fill, [178] is interpreted as a deposit representing the collapse of the western side of the cut. Overlying these naturally infilled deposits were four deposits, [178], [169], [179] and [181], which all represented deliberately backfilled events, or naturally silted deposits, derived from charcoal rich material. Deposits [181] and [180] contained fragments of burnt bone.

The final infilling of pit feature [148] was a loosely compacted dark brown silty sand [177], interpreted as either a dump of burnt material or the residue of some *in situ* burning (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

Plate 4: Pit Cut [148]. Mid Exc. Looking East.

4.1.21 The function of pit cut [148] is uncertain. During its disuse, however, the cut seems to have been left open for a reasonable period of time (as represented by fills [175], [176] and [178]), before being more rapidly infilled by both deliberate backfilling events containing charcoal/burnt bone (fills [169], [181], [180]) and natural silting events (fill [179]). The final infilling event ([177]) may represent some *in situ* burning. Although pit [148] is undated, the nature of the infilling events may suggest a later prehistoric date for the feature (as suggested by a radiocarbon date obtained from a pit (cut [217], Cal AD 20-260) with a similar infilling sequence in the southern half of the NCF-B excavation area). The infilling episodes represented by the burnt materials may suggest the close proximity of domestic industrial processes (e.g. hearths or ovens) during the time at which the pit was infilled. Alternatively, given the proximity of other features identified during the NCF-A excavation; the burnt material may conceivably represent residues derived from the undertaking of ritual processes (such as cremation). Fills [175] and [176] were environmentally sampled (<60> and <61>).

4.1.22 Stakehole [172] was a circular feature, 0.1m in diameter and 0.1m in depth, located 35m south of the northern extent of the NCF-B excavation area and possibly in association with posthole cut [170]. Stakehole [172] contained a single fill [173], interpreted as the probable rotted remains of a stake (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.1.23 Posthole [170] was a circular feature, 0.3m in diameter and 0.25m in depth, located 36m south of the northern extent of the NCF-B excavation area, and possibly in association with stakehole [172]. Posthole cut [172] contained two fills, [171] and [174]. The primary fill [171] is interpreted as deliberately backfilled material. The

secondary fill [174 is interpreted as a the remnants of a post-pipe (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.1.24 Pit/posthole [159] was located in close proximity to the Northeast to Southwest aligned ditch (Group 2, cut [156]), 43m south of the northern extent of the NCF-B excavation area. It is possible that the features are related in some way. Pit/posthole [159] was 0.34m in diameter, 0.33m in depth and contained two naturally silted fills; primary fill [161] and secondary fill [160] (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information).

4.1.25 Posthole [164] was a sub-circular feature, 0.54m in diameter and 0.32m in depth, located 78m south of the northern extent of the NCF-B excavation area. Cut [164] contained two fills, [165] and [184]. Fill [184] is interpreted as the remnants of a possible post-packing. The secondary fill [165], 0. 2m in depth, is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit. No evidence for a post-pipe was observed, perhaps because the post had been deliberately removed. It was evident that the feature had been severely truncated by ploughing (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.1.26 ***Group 4: Posthole cluster at western extent of NCF-B (Fig 6):*** a cluster of eight cut features ([201], [203], [205], [207], [209],[223],[225]) were identified towards the western edge of the middle portion of the NCF-B excavation area, covering an area of 6m (east-west) by 5.5m (north-south), and interpreted as seven circular postholes and a single irregular pit/treebole [211]. Whilst the majority of the postholes cut into the natural pink-orange sand (116), two of the features truncated the fills of a broadly east-west aligned curvilinear feature (Group 5, cuts [213] and [241]); providing one of the few stratigraphic relationships observed in the NCF-B excavation area. The posthole cluster was bounded to the east by a north-south aligned post-medieval furrow [239], which may have truncated away more posthole features (see Fig 3).

4.1.27 The circular postholes ranged in diameter from 0.22m ([205]) to 0.47m ([225]), in depth from 0.12m ([207]) to 0.45m ([201]), and all had profiles with steep/vertical sides and a concave/flat base. No discernable patterning could be observed in either the dimensions or the profile of the posthole cuts.

4.1.28 All seven of the postholes contained a single naturally silted fill, possibly formed when the posts were possibly deliberately removed. The single naturally silted fills were all of a mid-dark red-brown silty sand ([202], [204], [206], [208], [210], [212], [224], [226]). Five of the seven posthole fills ([202], [206], [210], [224], [226]) contained frequent inclusions of sub-rounded stones indicative of post-packing material (a maximum 0.2m in diameter in fill [226]). None of the posthole features provide evidence of a ‘post-pipe’ this suggests either that the posts were removed from the features once they were no longer in use (explaining the slumping of many of the packing stones) or that the posthole fills had become sufficiently de-mineralised for the evidence of any post-pipes to survive. No artefactual evidence was recovered from any of the posthole fills. All fills, with the exception of [224] and [226], were environmentally sampled (see environmental section below and Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

Plate 5: Posthole Cut [201]. Mid Exc. Looking South.

Plate 6: Posthole Cut [205]. Mid Exc. Looking South.

4.1.29 Cut [211] was an irregularly shaped soil feature (located within the centre of the NCF-B Group 4 cluster of postholes), 0.9m in width, 0.28m in depth and upon investigation was interpreted as a treebole or, just possibly, a pit. The single naturally accumulated fill, [212], was heavily demineralised and it contained a single flint microlith (SF 1), suggesting a prehistoric date. Fill [212] was environmentally sampled (<46>) (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.1.30 Although the seven posthole features discussed above vary in individual size and shape, the relatively tight spatial grouping of the features does perhaps suggest that they are in some way related. In particular, posthole cuts [201], [205] [209] and [225] form a roughly square pattern similar to posthole clusters that on other sites

have been interpreted as later prehistoric four-post ancillary structures. However, due to the lack of better stratigraphic resolution and dating evidence this observation must remain conjectural.

4.1.31 As posthole cuts [223] and [225] truncate the fills of east-west aligned curvilinear feature Group 5, cuts [213] and [241]. It may be suggested that the Group 4 features are all of a later date than this feature. However, it is also possible that postholes [223] and [225] may be related to the east-west aligned curvilinear feature (possibly representing some sort of repair to the feature) although this is thought to be less likely.

4.1.32 The probable natural treebole represented by cut [211] produced the only artefact from the area, a prehistoric microlith (SF1), despite appearing to be a naturally occurring feature. There is no evidence of a relationship between feature [211] and the surrounding posthole cluster. However, the demineralised fills within the Group 4 postholes do imply a prehistoric date, and a later prehistoric date might be suggested by the postholes' apparent relationship with east-west aligned curvilinear feature Group 5, cuts [213] and [241].

4.1.33 ***Group 5: Northern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch, central area of NCF-B(Fig 6):*** in the centre-north of the central portion of the NCF-B excavation area, machine stripping of the topsoil [115] and subsequent hand cleaning revealed a prominent ene-wsw and ne-sw aligned curved linear feature cutting into the natural sand [116]. The linear feature was observed running over a total distance of 44m. The western extent of the linear was ene-wsw aligned and ran for 19m. The feature then turned to the sw, running along a ne-sw alignment for c. 25m. The full extent of this curved linear feature was not observed; at its western extent it ran into the western limit of the excavation area, and at its eastern extent it either terminated or, more likely, had been truncated away by modern ploughing. The curved linear feature was also truncated to a certain extent by the four north-south aligned post-medieval furrows (Furrows 1-4, Fig 3) that ran along the entire length of the excavated area.

4.1.34 Ten slots were excavated across the curvilinear ditch feature (from west to east, cuts [213], [241], [215], [377], [199], [218], [335], [333], [292] and [243]). The ditch had a maximum width of 0.5m, a maximum depth of 0.4m, a minimum width of 0.2m and a minimum depth of 0.05m. In general the ditch cut had a moderately sloping to steeply sloping profile and in places the base of the ditch cut was very steep (see appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

Plate 7: Group 5 Curvilinear ditch east of cut [218], Looking West.

4.1.35 The curvilinear ditch feature was evidently heavily truncated, and all ten of the excavated ditch slots contained a single relatively homogenous mid red-brown ([244]), dark brown-black ([293]) or mid-light yellow-brown/brown (all other fills) silty sand fill. Where observable, these fills were interpreted as either naturally silted (e.g [200], [279]) or deliberately backfilled deposits (e.g [214]) (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations) .

4.1.36 In five of the excavated slots frequent inclusions of charcoal were observed (from west to east fills [214],[242],[216] and [378], [293]), suggesting that relatively large amounts of burnt wood had either been deposited or had been produced (i.e. wood had been burnt) within this cut feature. Charcoal was evidently more abundant towards the western extent of the curvilinear ditch feature.

4.1.37 Upon closer inspection three (and possibly four) of the excavated slots were found to contain the clear remains of posts. These features are now described below from west to east.

4.1.38 ***Cut [241] containing posts [278] and [280]:*** in the first slot, a longitudinal section was excavated towards the western extent of the curvilinear ditch feature. At this point, cut [241], had near vertical sides with an undulating concave base indicative of post impressions. The longitudinal section revealed two postpipes, cuts [278] and [280] abutted by the palisade ditch fill [242]. Fill [242], interpreted as a deliberately backfilled deposit, presumably surrounded the two posts. There were no dateable artefacts recovered from these features.

4.1.39 Post-pipe cut [278] was 0.3m in width and 0.3m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Postpipe [278] had near vertical sides and a flattish base, it contained a single fill, (279). The fill (279) was a loosely compacted mid red-brown silty sand (<0.04m diameter). No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (279), and although it contained frequent charcoal flecks it was not environmentally sampled due to contamination with (242). The fill (279) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post or in-situ burning.

4.1.40 Post-pipe [280] was 0.3m in width and 0.3m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Postpipe [280] also had near vertical sides and a flattish base, and it contained a single fill, (281). The fill (281) was a loosely compacted mid red-brown silty sand. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (281), and although it contained frequent charcoal flecks it was not environmentally sampled due to contamination with (242). The fill (281) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post or in-situ burning.

4.1.41 ***Cut [215] containing post [484]:*** in the second slot, a 1m long slot was excavated in the western half of the curvilinear feature. At this point, cut [215] had near vertical sides with an undulating concave base indicative of post impressions

4.1.42 Fill [216] contained significant charcoal deposits (<0.1m diameter), which were subsequently sampled (<41> and <42> C^{14}). The patterning and density of the charcoal inclusions led to the interpretation that they represented the in-situ burning of palisade timbers ([484]). There were no dateable artefacts recovered from this feature.

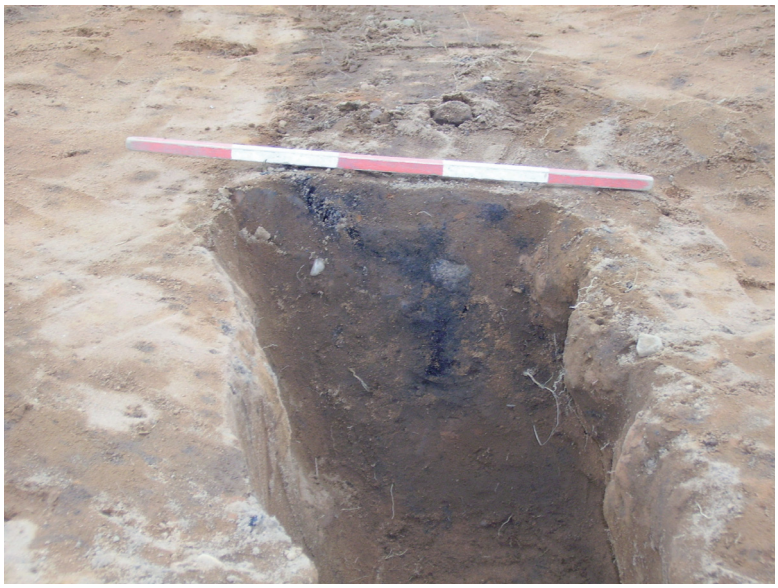


Plate 8: Group 5 Curvilinear ditch, cut [215], Looking West.

4.1.43 Posthole cut [484] was 0.2m wide and 0.3m deep. The break of slope at the top of the cut was sharp and the sides were near vertical. The break of slope at the bottom of the cut was sharp and the base was an inverted cone, tapering to a point. The cut

[484] contained a single fill, [485]. Fill [485], a compact dark brown silty sand contained a high percentage of burnt wood (<10cm3) interpreted as the remains of a wooden post burnt *in situ*. This material was sampled for C14 dating (see environmental section below).

4.1.44 The charcoal from fill [485] produced a calibrated radiocarbon date of Cal BC 830 to 740 indicating a Late Bronze Age date for the fill of the Group 5 Northern Curvilinear (see environmental section below).

4.1.45 **Cut [292] containing post [294]:** third slot, 1m in length, was excavated towards the eastern extent of the curvilinear feature. At this point, cut [292] had steep sides with a concave undulating base, indicative of post impressions. Cut [292] contained a single fill (293). Fill (293) was friable dark brown-black silty sand. At this point there were significant charcoal deposits within the fill indicating the remains of a post, burnt in-situ this was identified as cut [294] (discussed below). No dateable artefacts were recovered from this feature, and the fill (293) was environmentally sampled (<76>).

4.1.46 Cut [294] was 0.1m in width and 0.22m in depth, and interpreted as the remains of a post burnt in-situ. Post [294] had near vertical sides and a V-shape base, it contained a single fill, (295). The fill (295) was friable black silty sand, rich in charcoal. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (295), which was environmentally sampled (<76>).

4.1.47 In a fourth slot, the base of the curvilinear feature [199] (0.35m in width and 0.25m in depth at this point) consisted of an undulating concave base indicative of post impressions. The fill, (200), however, was a friable mid yellow-brown silty sand with no notable charcoal inclusions or evidence of post-pipes at this point. The fill was interpreted as a naturally silted deposit, presumably surrounding posts, as evidenced by the undulating base to the cut. There were no dateable artefacts recovered from this feature inclusions and the fill was environmentally sampled (<40>).

4.1.48 Two other points of evidence should also be noted with regards to the Group 5 Northern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch. Firstly, two of the excavated slots, [333] and [335], were found to terminate adjacent to one another forming an apparent constricted opening or entrance way c.0.4m wide. Secondly, the Group 5 Northern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch was apparently truncated away at the eastern extent of cut [218]

4.1.49 Due to the presence of the apparently burnt in situ posts, the Group 5 Northern Curvilinear ditch is interpreted as a palisade ditch. However, only where the posts had been burnt in situ was it possible to observe this with any degree of certainty; although undulations within the base of some of the excavated cut hinted at post impressions.

4.1.50 It appears that most of the palisade at the western extent of the curvilinear feature was burnt *in situ*, whereas the eastern half of the feature revealed little evidence of burning. As to why the palisade was partially burnt, we can only speculate.

4.1.51 The function of the Group 5 Northern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch is uncertain. The fact that the Group 5 Northern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch was apparently truncated

away at the eastern extent of cut [218], combined with the observation of the Group 13 Southern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch (see below), perhaps suggests that that this palisade ditch was once part of an enclosure ditch. If this is the case, the enclosure seems to frame the crest of a plateau on a south facing slope.

4.1.52 The palisade feature, judging by the radiocarbon date of Cal BC 830 to 740, is Late Bronze Age in date and although a number of the cut features (Groups 4-15) located to its south are undated these may also be of Bronze Age in date. If this were the case then it is possible that the Group 5 palisade ditch is part of an enclosure framing either an area of Prehistoric settlement or, just possibly, a ritual zone to its south. The presence of a possible constricted entrance (cuts [333] and [335]) within this Late Bronze Age enclosure perhaps hints at some ritual practice.

4.1.53 ***Group 6: Posthole cluster and pit at southwest extent of central area of NCF-B(Fig 6)*:** A relatively tightly grouped cluster of fourteen cut features ([251],[253],[255],[257],[259],[261],[263],[265],[267],[355],[357],[359],[361] and [387]) were identified towards the south west extent of the central portion of the NCF-B excavation area, covering an area of 8.8m (east-west) by 11.82m (north-south), and located 18m north of the southwest corner of the NCF-B central excavation area. The cut features were interpreted as six postholes ([251], [253], [255], [263], [355] and [357]), five pit/postholes ([257], [259], [261], [265], [267]), two post/stake-holes ([359] and [361]) and one pit, [387]**.** All the features cut into the natural pink-orange sand [116]. The posthole cluster was bounded to the east by a north-south aligned post-medieval furrow (Furrow 1, see Fig 3), which may have truncated away more posthole features.

4.1.54 The six circular ([251], [255], [355]) and sub-circular ([253], [263], [357]) postholes ranged in diameter from 0.58m ([263]) to 0.33m ([255]), in depth from 0.15m ([355]) to 0.25m ([251]), and had profiles ranging from near vertical (e.g.[355]) to moderately (e.g. [253]) sloping sides with a concave or flat base (e.g.[355). No discernable patterning could be observed in either the dimensions or the profile of the posthole cuts. The morphology of posthole [263] hinted that the feature might be a 'double post', but the homogenous nature of fill [264] means that this interpretation must remain conjectural.

4.1.55 All six of the Group 6 postholes contained a single fill. Posthole cuts [251], [253], [255] and [263] contained possible deliberately backfilled deposits (fills [252], [254], [256] and [264] respectively) potentially associated with the construction and subsequent disuse of the posts. Posthole cuts [355] and [357] appeared to contain naturally accumulated deposits. The fills were typically of a dark brown silty sand, although fills [356] and [358] were a mid yellow-red brown sandy silt (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

Plate 9: Posthole [263], Fill [264], Looking South.

4.1.56 Three of the six posthole fills ([252], [254] and [264]) contained frequent inclusions of medium sized sub-rounded stones indicative of post-packing material. None of the posthole features provide evidence of a 'post-pipe' this suggests either that the posts were removed from the features once they were no longer in use (explaining the slumping of many of the packing stones) or that the posthole fills had become sufficiently de-mineralised for the evidence of any post-pipes to survive. No artefactual evidence was recovered from any of the posthole fills. All fills, with the exception of [355], were environmentally sampled (samples <51>-<53>, <57> and <97> respectively, see environmental section below).

4.1.57 The five Group 6 pit/postholes ([257], [259], [261], [265] and [267]) ranged in shape from ovate ([257], [261]) to sub-circular ([259], [265], [267]) in plan. The features ranged in width from 0.66m ([259]) to 0.25m ([261]), in depth from 0.23m ([259]) to 0.05m ([255]), and had profiles ranging from steep sided with a concave base (e.g.[267]) to gently sloping sides with a concave base (e.g. [261]). No discernable patterning could be observed in either the dimensions or the profile of the pit/posthole cuts. Indeed, these five features are described as 'pit/postholes' due to their indeterminate morphology (therefore, a structural function is considered less likely, but cannot be fully ruled-out).

Plate 10: Pit/Posthole [255], Looking North.

4.1.58 Of the five Group 6 pit/postholes, four of the features contained a single fill (cuts [257], [259], [261] and [265]). Pit/posthole cuts [257] and [259] contained possible deliberately backfilled deposits (fills [258] and [259]), whilst pit/posthole cuts [261] and [265] appeared to contain naturally accumulated deposits (fills [262] and [266]). All fills were of a dark brown – dark grey-brown silty sand (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations). In contrast, pit/posthole, cut [267], contained two fills; a primary fill of a loose mid-dark brown silty sand, [269] and a secondary fill of a loose dark brown silty sand [268], both fills appeared to have accumulated by natural silting. None of the pit/postholes contained frequent inclusions for medium sized sub-rounded stones indicative of post-packing material or evidence of a 'post-pipe', perhaps arguing against a structural function for these features. No artefactual evidence was recovered from any of the posthole fills. All fills were environmentally sampled (samples <54>,<55>,<58>,<59> and <68>).

4.1.59 The two Group 6 post/stake-holes ([359] and [361]) were both circular in plan, ranging in width from 0.2m ([359]) to 0.23m ([361]), in depth from 0.16m ([359]) to 0.17m ([361]), with steep sides and a concave or flattish base. The two Group 6 post/stake-holes ([359] and [361]) contained a single naturally silted mid-dark grey brown sandy silt fill (fills [360] and [361] respectively, see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations). Neither fills were environmentally sampled. The dimensions, fills and the profile of the two Group 6 post/stake-holes cuts were very similar, perhaps suggesting that they were associated with one another (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations), although their function is uncertain.

4.1.60 The final group 6 feature, cut [387], was 1.4m in width, 0.4m in depth and partially obscured in plan by a later furrow (Furrow 1, see Fig 3). Upon investigation this potentially sub-circular feature was interpreted as a pit of unknown function. The single naturally accumulated fill, [389], was heavily demineralised and it contained

no artefacts. This fill was not environmentally sampled and the association of this pit with the other Group 6 features is conjectural.

4.1.61 Although the fourteen cut features discussed above vary greatly in individual size and shape, their relatively tight spatial grouping does perhaps suggest that they are in some way related. In particular, cuts [259], [255], [265] and [251] form a roughly square pattern similar to posthole clusters that on other sites have been interpreted as later prehistoric four-post ancillary structures. However, due to the lack of better stratigraphic resolution and dating evidence (combined with the fact that cut feature [259] was interpreted as either a pit or a posthole) this observation must remain conjectural. It is also possible that all of the Group 6 thirteen cut features (with the exception of pit cut [387]) actually represent the remains of a north-south aligned post-built structure of potential prehistoric date, and further research into archaeological parallels is clearly necessary at a later date.

4.1.62 ***Group 7: Posthole cluster at the centre-west of central area of NCF-B(Fig 6):*** a cluster of three cut features ([245], [276] and [283]) were identified towards the centre-west of the middle portion of the NCF-B excavation area cut into the natural pink-orange sand [116], covering an area of 3.5m (east-west) by 2.3m (north-south), and interpreted as three sub-circular postholes. The posthole cluster was bounded to the east and west by two north-south aligned post-medieval furrow features, which may have truncated away more posthole features (Fig 3).

4.1.63 The circular postholes ranged in diameter from 0.41m ([245] and [283]) to 0.45m ([276]) and in depth from 0.15m ([276]) to 0.28m ([245]). The profiles of the features ranged from steep near vertical sides with an undulating or flat base ([245] and [283]) to moderately sloping sides with a concave base ([276]). No discernable patterning could be observed in either the dimensions or the profile of the posthole cuts.

4.1.64 All three of the postholes contained a single naturally silted fill with occasional pebble inclusions. In the case of posthole [283] the fill, [296] probably formed following the natural decay of the post. Charcoal rich lenses observed in the upper 0.05-0.03 of postholes [245] and [283] (fills [246] and [296] are possibly remnants of posts burnt *in situ*, with a vague impression of a post-pipe visible in fill [246] (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.1.65 The single naturally silted fills were all of a mid-yellow/red-brown silty sand ([246], [277] and [296]]). None of the posthole features contained frequent inclusions of sub-rounded stones (c.0.2m in diameter) indicative of post-packing material as observed in other areas of the site, e.g posthole Group 4. No artefactual evidence was recovered from any of the posthole fills. Fills [246] and [296], were environmentally sampled (samples <63> and <72> respectively, see environmental section below).

4.1.66 Although the three posthole features discussed above vary in individual size and shape, the relatively tight spatial grouping of the features does perhaps suggest that they are in some way related. However, due to the lack of better stratigraphic resolution and dating evidence this observation must remain conjectural.

4.1.67 The demineralised fills within the Group 7 postholes imply a prehistoric date.

4.1.68 The function of the Group 7 posts is uncertain and they may represent the incoherent remnants of either structural or boundary features.

4.1.69 ***Group 8: Pit at the west of central area of NCF-B(Fig 6):*** a single isolated feature, cut [282], was identified towards the western extent of the central portion of the NCF-B excavation area. This feature consisted of one sub-rectangular pit.

Plate 11: Pit [282], Pre Exc, Looking North.

4.1.70 Pit cut [282] was a sub-rectangular shape in plan (2.2m in length 0.8 in width), and was located at the western extent of the central portion of the NCF-B excavation area, 144m south of the northern extent of the site. Upon excavation, pit [282] was found to contain three fills (fills [297], [298] and [299]) and had a maximum depth of 0.27m. Primary fill [299] was a mid red-yellow burnt sand, 0.08m deep, covering a sub-circular area at the northern extent of cut [282] and interpreted as an *in situ* burning event. The overlying charcoal rich dark grey sandy silt fill, [298], is interpreted as a combination of deliberate backfill and raked-out material. Overlying these deposits was a naturally silted secondary deposit, [297] (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

Plate 12: Pit [282], Mid Exc, Deposit [299] *in situ*. Looking West.

4.1.71 The function of pit cut [282] is uncertain but it appears most likely that it should be interpreted as a some kind of industrial/domestic fire pit or oven. The primary fill, [299], seemed to represent an *in situ* burning event and may result from a single firing event. During its disuse, however, the cut seems to have been rapidly infilled with both deliberate backfill and charcoal-rich rake-out material (fill [298]). The infilling episodes represented by the backfill and rake-out materials may suggest the close proximity of domestic industrial processes (e.g. hearths or ovens) during the time at which the pit was infilled. Fill [298] was not, however, necessarily directly associated with the *in situ* burning event [299].

4.1.72 Although pit [248] is undated, the nature of the infilling events may suggest a later prehistoric date for the feature (as suggested by a radiocarbon date obtained from a pit (cut [217], Cal AD 20-260) with a broadly similar, though more complex, infilling sequence in the southern half of the NCF-B excavation area). All fills were environmentally sampled (<73>,<74>,<75>,<76>,).

4.1.73 Pit [282] had no obvious spatial relationship with any other features within the NCF-B excavation area. The relatively close proximity of the potentially structural Group 6 and 7 post-holes (see above) may suggest that pit [282] was a domestic industrial feature adjacent, but removed, from these 'structures' although this must remain conjectural**.**

4.1.74 ***Group 9: Pits, posthole and treebole at the centre-south of central area of NCF-B (Fig 6 and 8):*** hand cleaning revealed a loose cluster of three groups of two intercutting features (interpreted as pits, cuts [217], [220], [247], [249], [383], [385]) and a single, possibly associated, posthole cut ([395]). The six pit features all cut into the natural pink-orange sand (116), and the common pattern of intercutting suggests that the features may have been broadly contemporary. A single treebole was also identified to the south of the three pit clusters (cut [367]).

4.1.75 ***Pits [217] and [220]:*** pit cuts [217] and [220] were the northernmost pair of intercutting pit features.

4.1.76 The southernmost pit, cut [217], was a sub-circular feature (1.3m in width and 0.46m in depth) with a steep to moderate profile leading gradually into a slightly concave base. The stratigraphic relationship between pit cut [217] and pit cut [220] had been obscured by a later intervention, cut [221] (see below).

4.1.77 Pit cut [217] contained five distinct fills. The primary fill [232] was a friable-loose mix of black and light pink silty sand with lenses of scorched sand (0.2m in depth) is interpreted a layer of charcoal and heated sand reflecting repeated burning *in situ*. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<126>). Primary fill [232] was overlain by [231], a friable-loose light yellow and pink sand. (0.15m in depth) interpreted as a layer of scorched sand. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<125>). Fill (231) was overlain by [230], a deliberately backfilled friable mid brown silty sand (0.1m in depth) containing several charcoal rich lenses indicative of *in situ* burning. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<122>). Overlying fill [230] were fills [228] and [229] (max 0.3m in depth) consisting of a naturally silted mid brown silty sand containing charcoal rich lenses. Overlying fills [228] and [229] was [227], a friable mid-dark grey brown sandy silt (0.19m in depth). The deposit represents the final naturally silted fill of pit [217] and was truncated by later intervention [221]. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<121>) (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information).

Plate 13: Pits [217] (left) and [220], Mid Exc. Looking West.

4.1.78 Charcoal retrieved from fill [230] produced a calibrated radiocarbon date of Cal AD 20 to 260 indicating a Late Iron Age/Romano-British date for the pit fill. The feature was undated by artefacts.

4.1.79 The northernmost pit, cut [220], was a sub-circular feature (1.2m in width and 0.46m in depth) with a moderately sloping profile and a slightly concave base. The

stratigraphic relationship between pit cut [220] and pit cut [217] had been obscured by a later intervention, cut [221] (see below).

4.1.80 Pit cut [220] contained five distinct fills. The primary fill [238] was a friable-loose light yellow and pink sand (0.18m in depth) with some charcoal inclusions. interpreted as backfilled or *in situ* layers of scorched sand, the deposit was environmentally sampled (<130>). Overlying primary fill [238] was [237] a friable-loose mid brown and mid yellow silty sand (0.2m in depth) containing occasional charcoal inclusions and interpreted as a backfilled deposit. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<129>). Overlying fill (237) was (236), a friable mid brown silty sand (0.1m in depth) containing several charcoal rich lenses and interpreted as a backfilled deposit.. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<128>). Overlying fill (236) was (235). Fill (235) was a friable mid brown silty sand. (0.15m in depth) interpreted as a naturally silted deposit. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<127>). Overlying fill (235) was (234). Fill (234) was a friable mid brown silt sand (0.1m in depth) containing small sub-rounded, occasionally burnt stones (<1%) and a lens of charcoal at its base interpreted as a backfilled deposit with some *in situ* burning. The deposit represents the final fill of pit [220] and is truncated by later intervention [221]. It was also noted that this deposit was identical to fill (230) in pit [217] (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information). The feature was undated by artefacts.

4.1.81 At the point at which pits [217] and [220] met, an elongated oval shape feature, cut [221], (0.5m in width and 0.37m in depth) with vertical sides was observed. This feature removed the relationship between the two pit cuts, and is interpreted as an archaeological intervention. These features were probably recognised by an earlier archaeological evaluation, although the location and interpretation is inconsistent (Clapperton, 2004, ?Feature 72 or 73). Cut [221] contained two fills, (233) and (222) interpreted as deliberate backfill. A single artefact was recovered from deposit (222) (SF 2) which was a modern Fe object. Deposit [233] was environmentally sampled (<120>) (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic analysis).

4.1.82 ***Posthole [395]:*** posthole [395] was located immediately to the northwest of pit cut [220]. Posthole [395] was 0.2m in width and 0.13m in depth with steep sides and a concave base. Posthole [395] contained a single naturally accumulated mid-dark grey-brown sandy silt fill [396]resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill [396] and it appeared to not contain any charcoal. Any potential association between posthole [395] and pits [217]/[220] is conjectural.

4.1.83 ***Pits [247] and [249]:*** pit cuts [247] and [249] were the central pair of intercutting pit features in the Group 9 cluster, and were located 1.7m south of pits [217]/[220].

4.1.84 The northernmost, and earliest pit cut, [247], was an ovate feature (1.6m in width and 0.43m in depth) with a moderately sloping profile leading to a flattish base.

4.1.85 Pit cut [247] contained three fills. The primary fill [248] was a loose mid-light orange-brown sand (0.2m in depth) interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit. The secondary fill [274] was a charcoal rich friable black sandy silt (0.1m in depth) interpreted as a deliberately backfilled deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this fill and it was environmentally sampled (<68>). Overlying

secondary fill [274] was [275], a naturally silted friable mid grey-brown silty sand (0.2m), representing the final observable infilling phase within this feature. Fill [275] was subsequently truncated to the south by a later pit, [249]. No dateable artefacts were recovered from fill [275] and it was environmentally sampled (<69>).

4.1.86 The southernmost, and later pit cut, [249], was a sub-circular feature (0.85m in width and 0.32m in depth) with steeply sloping sides and a concave base. Pit cut [249] contained a single fill (250). The fill [250] was a naturally silted friable-loose, mid orange-brown silty sand. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this feature and it was environmentally sampled (<70>) (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information).

4.1.87 ***Pits [383] and [385]:*** approximately 9 metres south of intercutting pits [247]/[249], two further intercutting pit features, cuts [383] and [385] were observed. Although these features are somewhat removed from the other Group 9 features, the shared pattern of intercutting suggests that these features are similar in character, and therefore warrant their association with pits [217]/[220] and [247]/[249].

4.1.88 The southernmost and earliest pit cut, [383], was a circular feature (1.1m in width and 0.2m in depth) with moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Pit [383] contained three fills [384], [393], and [394]. The basal fill, [384] was a naturally silted friable mid-dark grey-brown sandy. This was overlain by fill [393], a charcoal rich friable dark grey-black sandy silt interpreted as a deliberate dump of burnt material (there was no evidence for in-situ burning and the deposit probably originated from elsewhere). Overlying [393] was the upper fill, [394], a naturally silted friable mid-dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions charcoal flecks, this was environmentally sampled (<123>). This deposit was subsequently truncated to the north by pit cut [385] (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information).

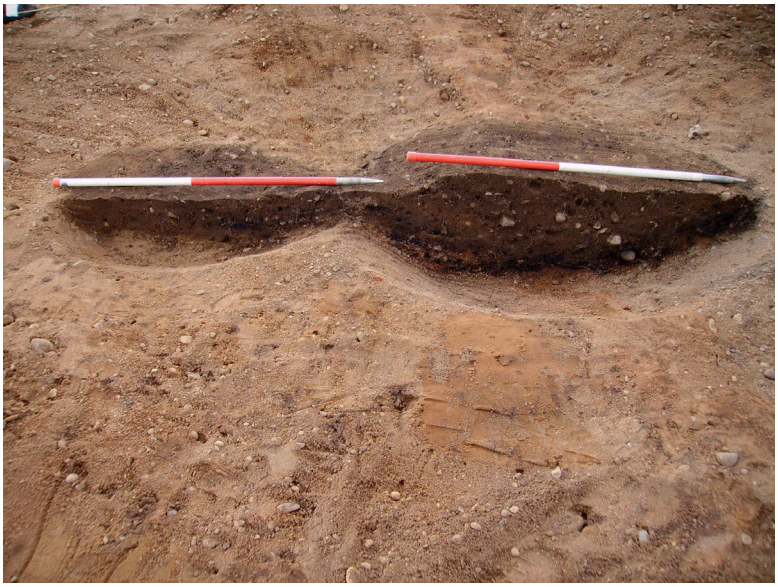


Plate 14: Pits [383] (left) and [385], Mid Exc. Looking West.

4.1.89 The northernmost and latest pit cut, [385] was a sub-circular feature (1.4m in width and 0.36m in depth) with moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It contained three fills [386], [391], and [392]. The primary fill [391] was friable dark grey-black sandy silt with 60% charcoal fragments and is interpreted as a deliberate dump of material (with no signs of in-situ burning) this deposit is interpreted as a. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<98>). Overlying [391] was fill [392], a loose mid orange-grey silty sand and gravel interpreted as naturally accumulated redeposited natural. Overlying fill [392] was the upper fill [386], a naturally silted friable dark grey brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal inclusions. A possible stone pot boiler of ?prehistoric date was recovered from fill [386]. This deposit was environmentally sampled (<99>, <124>) (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information).

4.1.90 A further feature, cut [367] was observed 11m south of pits [383]/[385], but upon investigation was found to be a kidney-shaped treebole with an irregular profile. Treebole [367] contained a single naturally accumulated fill [368]. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill [368], which was environmentally sampled (<93>). Cut [367] cannot easily be associated with any other features in the NCF-B excavation area, and does not warrant further analysis.

4.1.91 The functions of pit cuts [217]/[220], [247]/[249] and [383]/[385] are uncertain; they may have originally been excavated for extractive or for water containment purposes, but it appears most likely that they should be interpreted as features created in association with some kind of industrial/domestic firing/oven related process. Pit features [217]/[220] were both characterised by fills that indicated repeated episodes of *in-situ* burning, as represented by multiple layers of charcoal and scorched sand. In pit cut [220], fill [234], seemed to represent an *in situ* burning event that may have resulted from repeated firing events. It is just possible that these features may be the source of the charcoal that is present in other nearby features that do not exhibit any obvious signs of *in-situ* burning (pit cuts [247] and [249]), suggesting that the features were broadly contemporary

4.1.92 Posthole [395], although now isolated and heavily truncated, may be all that remains of several postholes that might have formed a windbreak for pits [217]/[220].

4.1.93 Other pit fills in pit groups [247]/[249] and [383]/[385] were more commonly characterised, not by in situ burning, but by rapidly accumulated infilling events of deliberate backfill and charcoal-rich rake-out material. The infilling episodes represented by the backfill and rake-out materials may suggest the close proximity of domestic industrial processes (e.g. hearths or ovens) during the time at which the pits were infilled.

4.1.94 All the Group 9 pits are undated artefactually, but the pits do contain broadly similar infilling sequences, suggesting that they are roughly contemporary. The radiocarbon date obtained from pit cut [217] (Cal AD 20-260) suggests that the pits are of Late Iron Age-Romano-British in date.

4.1.95 Positioned within the area of the putative palisaded enclosure (Groups 5/13), the pit features may possibly be related to the enclosure and are further indications of settlement related activity. However, the Group 5 Northern Curvilnear appears to date to be Late Bronze Age in date, whereas the Group 9 pits maybe somewhat later in date.

4.1.96 ***Group 11: Pits and postholes at the north west of central area of NCF-B (Fig 6):*** machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil [115] towards the northwest extent of the central portion of the NCF-B excavation area, followed by hand-cleaning, revealed a cluster of four important small finds, scattered on the surface of the natural pink-orange sand [116]. These finds, observed over an area of 2.9m by 1.5m, consisted of one fragment of an Early Neolithic polished stone axe (SF <5>), 2 sherds of Neolithic pottery (SF <6>, Middle Neolithic and SF <8>, Early Neolithic) and a flint blade of prehistoric date (SF <9>). Further hand cleaning revealed eight soil features cutting into the natural substrate, six which are probably related and which could be the origin of these dispersed artefacts.

4.1.97 These eight features are interpreted as four pits (cuts [284], [286], [313], and [319]), two probably related postholes ([288] and [339]) and two isolated postholes ([343] and [345]). The features were located in an area 11.6m east of the western extent and 130m south of the northern extent of the NCF-B excavation area.

4.1.98 The first of the four pits, cut [284] was a circular feature (0.5m in width and 0.2m in depth), and is interpreted as the base of a truncated pit. The feature had steep sides and a flattish base. Cut [284] contained a single fill [285]. Fill [285] was friable mid to dark brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of heated angular stones (<0.06m diameter), there were also charcoal flecks present throughout the fill. The fill was interpreted as a deliberate dump of material, but there was no evidence of *in situ* burning. No dateable artefacts were recovered from within the fill of pit [284], but a sherd of Early Neolithic pottery (SF<6>), and a flint blade (SF<9>) were found on the surface of the natural sand, [116], immediately to the south of pit cut [284]. Fill [285] was environmentally sampled (<77>).

Plate 15: Pit [284]. Looking east.

4.1.99 The second of the four pits, cut [286] was a lozenge shaped feature (1.3m in length, 0.32m in width and 0.06m in depth) and is interpreted as a pit. The feature had steep sides and a slightly concave base. Cut [286] contained a single fill, fill [287] was a naturally silted mottled mid yellow-brown and red-brown silty sand, and contained a poorly stratified single sherd of Early Neolithic pottery (SF <7>) indicating a potential date for this feature. The fill [287] was environmentally sampled (<78>).

4.1.100 The third of the four pits, cut [313] was a lozenge shaped feature (0.5m in width and 0.18m in depth), and is interpreted as a pit. The feature had steep sides and a concave base. Cut [313] contained a single fill [314], fill [314] was a friable mid grey brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.03m diameter). There were no charcoal flecks noted within the fill, but a single piece of flint debitage was recovered (SF <10>). The demineralised nature of fill [314] does suggest a prehistoric date.

4.1.101 The fourth pit, cut [319] was a sub-circular feature (0.65m in width and 0.28m in depth), and is interpreted as a pit. The feature had steep sides and slightly concave base. Cut [319] contained a single fill; fill [320] was a naturally silted mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional inclusions of charcoal. The fill was very demineralised suggesting a prehistoric date. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill [320] although the proximity to cut [313] and the similarity of the feature fills, may indicate a relationship between the two features (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information) .

4.1.102 Two postholes were noted in close association with the four putative Neolithic 'pit' features. Posthole [288] was a sub-circular feature (0.4m in width and 0.15m in depth) with steep sides and a flattish, slightly concave base. Posthole [288] contained a single fill, [289], of a friable mid-dark brown sandy silt, containing moderate inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.12m diameter). The stone inclusions were positioned against the edge of the cut providing evidence of post-packing,

although there was no sign of a 'post-pipe'. Fill [289] is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit, possibly resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from fill [289], and it appeared to not contain any charcoal.

4.1.103 Posthole [339] was a sub-circular feature (0.3m in width and 0.27m in depth) with steep sides and a slightly concave base. Posthole [339] contained a single fill, [340], of a friable-loose mid-dark grey-brown silty sand, containing occasional inclusions of sub-angular stones (<0.15m diameter) providing evidence of post-packing, although there was no sign of a 'post-pipe'. Fill (340) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill [340] and it appeared to not contain any charcoal (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information).

Plate 16: Pit [339]. Looking south.

4.1.104 Two further, possible unassociated, postholes were noted 3.3m north of the northern extent of the main Group 11 cluster of features.

4.1.105 Posthole [343] was a truncated sub-circular feature (0.3m in width and 0.16m in depth) with steep sides and a slightly concave base. Posthole [343] contained a single fill [344]. Fill [344] was a friable-loose mid-dark orangey-brown sandy silt. There was no evidence of post-packing, or traces of a 'post-pipe'. Fill (344) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (344,) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal but was environmentally sampled (<89>).

4.1.106 Posthole [345] was a sub-circular feature (0.3m in width and 0.2m in depth with steep sides and a concave base. Posthole [345] contained a single fill, [346]. Fill [346] was a friable-loose, mid-dark orangey-brown sandy silt. There was no evidence of post-packing, or traces of a 'post-pipe', but a concentration of charcoal at the top the deposit perhaps indicates the burnt remains of a post, which was environmentally sampled (<90>) (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information).

4.1.107 The functions of the pits and postholes are uncertain, but it appears most likely that the spatially grouped features ([286], [313], [288], [339], [284] and [319]) should perhaps be interpreted as the remnants of some kind of structural feature. Within the group of features there seems to be some 'pairing' of the features, for example, there is a close morphological relationship between the postholes with packing material ([288] and [339]), the lozenge shaped pits ([286] and [313]) (which have no close parallels on the site), and the ephemeral postholes ([284] and [319]). This suggests some patterning to the 'structural' group that may be significant, but that is hard to decipher.

4.1.108 However, the above interpretation must proceed with caution. It might also be argued that posthole cuts [288] and [339] are similar to the, probably later, Group 4 post-holes located c.8m to the west. In addition, the apparent cluster of Group 11 features may be an artificial pattern created due to the truncation of other features by north-south aligned post-medieval furrows (Furrow 1 and 2). Finally, postholes [343] and [345], although of a similar morphology, are situated very close to the Late Bronze Age curvilinear ditch (Group 5) and may not relate to the Group 11 features at all.

4.1.109 The dating of the Group 11 features is uncertain. However, this small cluster of features did produce the largest number of finds from anywhere in the NCF-B excavation area. The recovery of Neolithic pottery, a flint blade and a fragment of polished stone axe within an area 4m by 3m in size does suggest that these features date to the Neolithic period. However, none of the finds were recovered from secure contexts, and caution must be exercised in associating these Neolithic finds with the Group 11 features. Nevertheless all observed fills were notably demineralised, potentially indicating their early date.

4.1.110 ***Group 12: Probable natural feature at south west of central area of NCF-B (Fig 4):*** two linear features, one aligned north south, and one aligned east west, were noted at the northern extent of the central NCF-B. These features were initially thought to relate to the possible Group5/13 palisade enclosure. Upon investigation, however, these features were found to be of natural origin and were interpreted as paleochannels or ice-wedge polygons of glacial origin (cuts [305], [307], [300] and [303]). Similar north-south aligned natural features were also observed to the immediate south of the group 10 Medieval pit at the eastern extent of the central portion of the NCF-B excavation (not numbered). These natural features were recorded as part of the excavation process, but are discounted from further analysis (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.1.111 ***Group 13: Southern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch, central area of NCF-B (Fig 6):*** at the southern extent of the central portion of the NCF-B excavation area, machine stripping of the topsoil [115] and subsequent hand cleaning revealed an ephemeral north-northwest to south-southeast aligned curved linear ditch feature cutting into the natural sand [116]. The linear feature was observed running over a total distance of c.13m. It is unlikely that the full extent of this curved ditch feature was observed; as both its eastern and western observed extents are likely to have been truncated away by modern ploughing. The curved ditch feature was also truncated towards its western extent by a north-south aligned post-medieval furrow (Furrow 1) that ran along the entire length of the excavated area.

4.1.112 Five slots were excavated across the curved ditch feature (from west to east, cuts [321], [323], [327], [329] and [337]), with a small patch of remnant fill also being excavated 4.8m to the east of cut [337] (cut [331], fill [332]). The curved ditch had a maximum width of 0.46m, a maximum depth of 0.23m, a minimum width of 0.23m and a minimum depth of 0.05m. The ditch cut had a moderately sloping to moderately steeply sloping profile, with a concave base. At its eastern extent the ditch feature was evidently heavily truncated (max. 0.05m in depth) resulting in a profile with shallow sides and a slightly concave base (see appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

Plate 17: Cut [327]. Looking west.

4.1.113 As noted above, the curved ditch feature was evidently heavily truncated, and all five of the excavated ditch slots contained only a single dark brown silty sand fill (fills [322], [324], [328], [330] and [338]). These fills were all interpreted as naturally silted deposits (see appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations) . No artefactual evidence was recovered from any of the ditch fills. Fills [328], [330], [332] and [338], were environmentally sampled (samples <84>, <85>, <87> and <86> respectively, see environmental section below).

4.1.114 In all of the excavated slots there was no evidence for in situ burnt palisade posts or undulations in the base of the cut indicative of post impressions. However, the morphology of the Group 13 curved ditch is otherwise extremely similar to the Group 5 Northern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch (see discussion above).Only where the posts had been burnt in situ was it possible to interpret the Group 5 ditch with any degree of certainty and as a result the Group 13 curved ditch must be interpreted with caution.

4.1.115 The function of the Group 13 Southern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch ditch is uncertain. However, the fact that the Group 13 Southern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch was apparently truncated away at both its the eastern and western extents, combined with the observation of the Group 5 Northern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch (see above), perhaps suggests that that this ditch was indeed once part of a ?palisaded

enclosure ditch. If this is the case, the enclosure seems to frame the crest of a plateau on a south facing slope.

4.1.116 The Group 13 palisade feature, judging by the radiocarbon date of Cal BC 830 to 740 from the Group 5 Northern curvilinear/palisade, is perhaps Late Bronze Age in date, and may be part of an enclosure framing the southern extent of either an area of Prehistoric settlement or, just possibly, a ritual zone to its north (see discussion of Group 5 ditch above).

4.1.117 ***Group 14: Postholes at north of central area of NCF-B(Fig 6):*** A loose and somewhat tenuous cluster of three cut features ([309], [311] and [315]) were identified towards the north-west extent of the central portion of the NCF-B excavation area cut into the natural pink-orange sand [116], covering an area of 3.3 m (east-west) by 8.5m (north-south), and interpreted as three circular postholes. The posthole cluster was bounded to the west by a north-south aligned post-medieval furrow feature, which may have truncated away more posthole features.

4.1.118 The circular postholes ranged in diameter from 0.4m ([309]) to 0.2m ([315]) and in depth from 0.15m ([276]) to 0.28m ([245]). All three features had steep/ near vertical sides with a concave base, implying some consistency of patterning in the dimensions and profile of the posthole cuts.

4.1.119 All three postholes contained a single naturally accumulated mid-dark brown sandy silt fill ([310], [312] and [316]), with occasional rounded stone inclusions. Fills [310] and [316] appeared to have silted-up following the possible deliberate removal of their posts. Fill [312] contained charcoal flecks throughout possibly a result of the post burning *in situ* (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.1.120 Posthole features, although heavily truncated, appeared to contain contained frequent occasional sub-rounded stones (c.0.1m in diameter) possibly indicative of post-packing material as observed in other areas of the site, e.g posthole Group 4. No artefactual evidence was recovered from any of the posthole fills. All fills were environmentally sampled (samples <79>, <80> and <80>, see environmental section below).

4.1.121 Due to a lack of better stratigraphic resolution and dating evidence, the potential association between the three Group 14 posthole features must remain conjectural. It is possible, for example, that posthole [309] actually relates more closely to the Group 5 Northern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch (although the very close spatial relationship between posthole [309] and the Group 5 Northern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch may actually suggest that these features were in fact not contemporary). If this is the case, the Group 14 post-holes may actually be Late Bronze Age or later in date. Indeed, the demineralised fills within the Group 14 postholes imply a prehistoric date.

4.1.122 The function of the Group 14 posts is uncertain and they may represent the incoherent remnants of either structural or boundary features.

4.1.123 ***Group 15: Posthole cluster at centre-north of central area of NCF-B (Fig 6)****:* a cluster of four cut features ([348], [350], [352] and [354]) were identified towards the centre of the middle portion of the NCF-B excavation area, cut into the natural

pink-orange sand [116], covering an area of 3.3m (east-west) by 2.0m (north-south), and interpreted as four sub-circular postholes. The posthole cluster was bounded to the east by a north-south aligned post-medieval furrow feature (Furrow 3), which may -have truncated away more posthole features.

4.1.124 The circular postholes ranged in diameter from 0.34m ([352]) to 0.67m ([350]) and in depth from 0.1m ([352]) to 0.35m ([354]). The profiles of the features ranged from steep sided with a concave base ([348] and [354]) to moderately sloping sides with a concave base ([350] and [352]). No discernable patterning could be observed in either the dimensions or the profile of the posthole cuts.

4.1.125 All four of the postholes contained a single naturally silted mid brown silty sand fill with occasional sub-angular stone inclusions (fills [347], [349], [351] and [354]). In the case of postholes [348] and [352] the fills, [347] and [351] had probably formed after the deliberate removal of the posts. The fill of posthole [350] (fill [352]) formed either after the deliberate removal of the post, or following the *in situ* decay of the post (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

Plate 18: Cut [354]. Looking west.

4.1.126 Posthole [354] contained frequent inclusions (up to 60% of the base of the deposit) of sub-angular stones (c.0.15m in diameter) indicative of post-packing material as observed in other areas of the site, e.g posthole Group 4. These stones, located at the base of the cut, were interpreted as either the remnants of a post-pad, or the result of post-packing slumping to the base of cut [354] following the removal of the post. No artefactual evidence was recovered from any of the posthole fills. Fills [348], [349] and [354], were environmentally sampled (samples <94>, <95> and <96> respectively (see environmental section below).

4.1.127 Although the four posthole features discussed above vary in individual size and shape, the tight spatial grouping of the features, and their relative isolation from other features, does perhaps suggest that they are in some way related. However, due to the lack of better stratigraphic resolution and dating evidence this

observation must remain conjectural. The function of the Group 15 posts is uncertain, but they may represent the incoherent remnants of either structural or boundary features. The demineralised fills within the Group 15 postholes imply a prehistoric date.

4.1.128 ***Group 16: Pit and posthole at south of central area of NCF-B (Fig 6):*** two features, cuts [363] and [365], were identified towards the southern extent of the central portion of the NCF-B excavation area. These feature consisted of the heavily plough truncated remains of one pit and one posthole.

4.1.129 Posthole cut [363] was a circular shape in plan (0.32m in diameter) and was located 19m east of the western extent of the site and 20 m north of the southwest extent of the site. Upon excavation, posthole [363] was found to have moderately steep sides, a concave base and it contained a single loose dark black-brown silty sand fill (fill [364]) (maximum depth of 0.19m) interpreted as a naturally silted deposit (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations). No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill, and it was environmentally sampled (sample <91>, see environmental section below). The function of poshole [363] is uncertain, and it is not necessarily associated with pit cut [365].

4.1.130 Pit cut [365] was an ovate shape in plan (1.37 m in length), and was located 17m east of the western extent of the site and 19 m north of the southwest extent of the site. Upon excavation, pit [365] was found to have moderately sloping sides, a concave base and it contained a single loose dark brown silty sand fill (fill [366]) (maximum depth of 0.16m) interpreted as a naturally silted deposit (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations). No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill, and it was environmentally sampled (sample <92>, see environmental section below). The function of pit [365] is uncertain; but it appears likely that in its disuse the pit was not utilised as a rubbish pit. This notion is largely supported by the fact that only fill, [366], did not represent a deliberate backfilling event.

4.1.131 Pit [365] has no obvious spatial or chronological relationship with any other features within the NCF-B excavation area. Indeed, although pit [365] is spatially close to posthole [363], the two features are not necessarily related. Pit cut [365] could possibly relate to Group 6 pit cut [387] although this must remain conjectural.

4.1.132 ***Group 17: Probable natural features at north of central area of NCF-B(Fig 6):*** a cluster of circular/irregular features were noted at the northern extent of the central NCF-B excavation area. Upon investigation these were found to be natural features, interpreted as an animal burrow (cuts [369], [371] and [373]) and a shallow depression infilled with remnant subsoil (cut [381]). These natural features were recorded as part of the excavation process, but are discounted from further analysis (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.1.133 ***Group 18: Isolated features in central area of NCF-B (Fig 6):*** two isolated and unrelated features were identified immediately beyond the northern extent of the Group 5 Northern curvilinear/palisade ditch. These features consisted of one small pit/posthole [341] and a treebole [375].

4.1.134 Pit/posthole [341] was a circular feature located 23m east of the western extent, and 124m south of the northern extent of the NCF-B excavation area. Pit/posthole

[341], 0.45m in diameter and 0.13m in depth, contained a single naturally silted fill, [342] (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information). Fill [342] contained no dateable artefacts or charcoal inclusions and was environmentally sampled (<88>) (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations). The function of pit/posthole [363] is uncertain. Pit/posthole [341] has no obvious spatial or chronological relationship with any other features within the NCF-B excavation area, although it could possibly be associated with the Group 5 Northern curvilinear/palisade ditch.

4.1.135 Treebole [375] was an ovate shaped soil feature, located 11m east of the western extent, and 121m south of the northern extent of the NCF-B excavation area. Treebole [375] was 1.1m in length, 0.28m in depth and upon investigation was interpreted as a natural feature. Fill [376] a light grey silty sand contained no dateable artefacts, and was not environmentally sampled (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.1.136 It should be noted that treebole [375] is similar in size and shape the Group 4 treebole, cut [211]. This feature also contained a heavily demineralised fill, but also a single flint microlith (SF 1), suggesting a prehistoric date.

4.1.137 ***Group 19: Posthole cluster at southern extent of NCF-B (Fig 8):*** a cluster of five cut features ([397],[399],[401],[403] and [405]) were identified towards the south of the NCF-B excavation area, cut into the natural pink-orange sand [116], covering an area of 1.7m (east-west) by 1.5m (north-south), and interpreted as four circular and one irregular shaped ([397]) postholes.

4.1.138 The four circular postholes ranged in diameter from 0.23m ([405]) to 0.35m ([399]) and in depth from 0.12m ([399],[403]) to 0.24m ([405]). The profiles of the features ranged from steep sided with a concave/flat base ([399],[403],[405]) to moderately sloping sides with a concave base ([401]). The irregular shaped posthole feature (0.83m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.12m in depth) may have been a double posthole. No discernable patterning could be observed in either the dimensions or the profile of the posthole cuts (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information)

4.1.139 All four of the postholes contained a single naturally silted mid brown silty sand fill with frequent charcoal flecks (fills [397],[399],[401],[403] and [405]). None of the features contained stones that could be interpreted as the remains of post-packing. No artefactual evidence was recovered from any of the posthole fills. All the fills were environmentally sampled (samples <104>-<108> respectively (see environmental section below).

4.1.140 Although the five posthole features discussed above vary in individual size and shape, the tight spatial grouping of the features, and their relative isolation from other features, does perhaps suggest that they are in some way related. However, due to the lack of better stratigraphic resolution and dating evidence this observation must remain conjectural. The function of the Group 19 posts is uncertain, but they may represent the incoherent remnants of either structural or boundary features, and their proximity to the western end of a possible northwest-southeast aligned boundary ditch (Group 21) may not be coincidental The demineralised fills within the Group 19 postholes imply a prehistoric date.

4.1.141 ***Group 20: East-west aligned ditches at southern extent of NCF-B (Fig 8):*** at the southern extent of the NCF-B excavation area, machine stripping of the topsoil [115] and subsequent hand cleaning revealed the remnants of two east-west aligned intercutting ditches ([409] and [407]/[413]/[419]) cutting into the natural sand [116]. The linear features were observed running over a total distance of c.11.9m. The full extent of the ditches were not observed as they both ran into the eastern and southern limits of the NCF-B excavation area.

4.1.142 Three slots were excavated across the earliest of the two ditches (from west to east, cuts [407], [413] and [419]). The gully had a maximum width of 1.2m, a maximum depth of 0.4m, a minimum width of 0.0.9m and a minimum depth of 0.15m. The ditch cut had a moderately-gently sloping profile, with a concave base. (see appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).The gully contained two fills. The naturally silted primary fill [408] was overlain by a mixed sandy silt fill (fills [417],[414] and [420]). These fills were all interpreted as naturally silted deposits (see appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

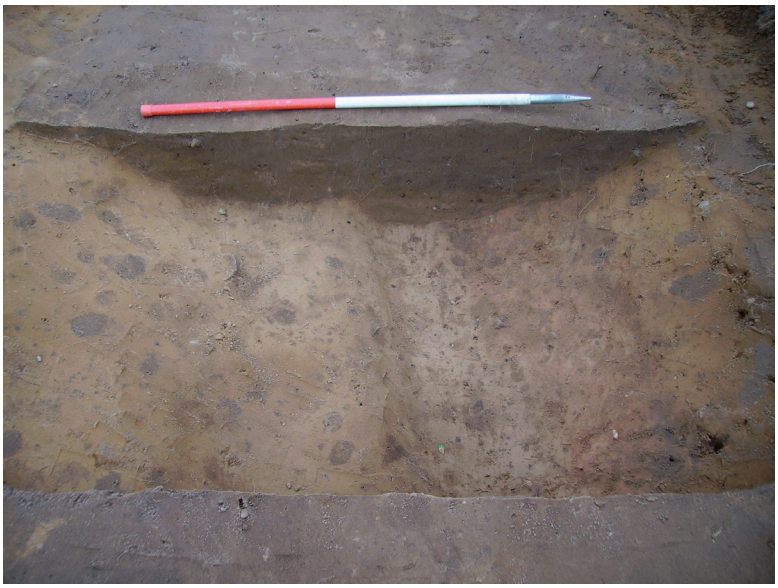


Plate 19: Cuts [409], [407] and [411]. Looking east.

4.1.143 A single slot was excavated across the later of the two ditches ([409]). The gully had a maximum width of 0.95m and a maximum depth of 0.25m. The ditch cut had a moderately-steeply sloping profile, with a concave base. The gully contained a single mid-dark grey-brown silty sand fill [410] (see appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations). It is likely that the eastern terminus of the ditch was c.1.5m to the east of slot [409], but the feature had been truncated at this point by an east-west aligned post medieval furrow, [411] (see below).

4.1.144 The function of the undated Group 20 ditches are uncertain. However, the ditches contain demineralised fills and are on a markedly different alignment to a number of Post-Medieval east-west aligned gully features excavated at the southern extent of the NCF-B excavation area (see Post Medieval features below) perhaps suggesting a prehistoric date. The fact that there are two ditches cut on the same

alignment perhaps suggest that the initial boundary ([407], [413] and [419]) was subsequently maintained ([409]).

4.1.145 ***Group 21: Northwest-southeast aligned gully at southern extent of NCF-B (Fig 8):*** towards the southern extent of the NCF-B excavation area, machine stripping of the topsoil [115] and subsequent hand cleaning revealed an ephemeral north-northwest to south-southeast aligned gully feature cutting into the natural sand [116]. The linear feature was observed running over a total distance of c.14.4m. It is unlikely that the full extent of the gully feature was observed; as both its eastern and western observed extents are likely to have been truncated away by modern ploughing.

4.1.146 Three slots were excavated across the gully feature (from west to east, cuts [450], [452] and [454). The gully had a maximum width of 0.28m, a maximum depth of 0.16m, a minimum width of 0.16m and a minimum depth of 0.15m. The ditch cut had a moderately sloping (eastern extent) to near vertical profile (western extent), with a concave base. (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.1.147 The gully feature was evidently heavily truncated, and all three of the excavated ditch slots contained only a single mid orange-grey-brown silty sand fill (fills [451],[453] and [456]). These fills were all interpreted as naturally silted deposits (see appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations) . No artefactual evidence was recovered from any of the ditch fills. Fill [453], was environmentally sampled (sample <115, see environmental section below).

Plate 20: Cuts [452]. Looking Northeast.

4.1.148 The function of the Group 21 gully is uncertain. However, the gully is on a markedly different alignment to a number of Post-Medieval east-west aligned gully features excavated at the southern extent of the NCF-B excavation area (see Post Medieval features below). Indeed, the Group 21 gully potentially shares a common alignment with the Group 13 Southern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch, perhaps suggesting that that this gully was potentially a settlement related boundary ditch. Judging by the radiocarbon date of Cal BC 830 to 740 from the Group 5 Northern curvilinear/palisade, the Group 21 ditch may well be of Late Bronze Age in date. The Group 21 gully may relate to another ditch observed to the east in the NCF-A excavation area (Railton, forthcoming).

4.1.149 ***Group 22: Postholes and stakeholes at southern extent of NCF-B (Fig 8):*** two further clusters of three (cuts [439], [441], [443]) and four (cuts [468], [470], [472], [474]) cut features and a single isolated cut feature [456] were identified towards the south of the NCF-B excavation area, cut into the natural pink-orange sand [116], and interpreted as six possible stakeholes ([439], [441], [468], [470], [472] and [474]) and two ephemeral postholes ([443] and [456]).

4.1.150 The group of three features, located at the western extent of the Group 21 Gully consisted of two circular stakeholes ([439],[441]) and a single posthole ([443]) ranging in diameter from 0.4m ([443]) to 0.08m ([439],[441]) and in depth from 0.08m ([439]) to 0.3m ([443]). The profiles of the features were steep sided with a concave base. No discernable patterning could be observed in either the dimensions or the profile of the posthole cuts (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information)

4.1.151 All three features contained a single naturally silted mid-dark grey-brown/black sandy silt fill ([440], [442], [444]). None of the features contained stones that could be interpreted as the remains of post-packing. No artefactual evidence was recovered from any of the posthole fills. Fill [444] was environmentally sampled (sample <106> , see environmental section below).

4.1.152 The group of four features, located 9m to the south east of the three features discussed above, consisted of four stakeholes, sub-circular ([468], [470]) or sub-square ([472], [474]) in plan, up to 0.3m in width ([472]) and 0.09m in depth ([468]). The profiles of the features were steep to moderately sided. No discernable patterning could be observed in either the dimensions or the profile of the posthole cuts (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information)

4.1.153 All four features contained a single naturally silted mid-dark grey-brown/black sandy silt fill ([469], [471], [473], [475]). None of the features contained stones that could be interpreted as the remains of post-packing. No artefactual evidence was recovered from any of the posthole fills.

4.1.154 The single isolated feature, posthole [456], was located 10.6m to the west northwest of the three features discussed above. Posthole [456] was sub-oval in plan, 0.53m in width and 0.16m in depth. The profiles of the feature was steep sided with a concave base and it contained a naturally silted brown silty sand (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic information).

4.1.155 The function of the Group 22 posts is uncertain, but they may represent the incoherent remnants of either structural or boundary features, and their proximity to the western end of a possible northwest-southeast aligned boundary ditch (Group 21) may not be coincidental The demineralised fills within the Group 22 postholes imply a prehistoric date, although none of the Group 22 features are necessarily related to each other. A number of similar clusters of incoherent posthole features were observed to the south of the NCF-B excavation area, and the Group 22 posts may represent a continuation of this settlement spread (Gaskell forthcoming).

4.1.156 ***Medieval Features: Group 10: Pit at east of central area of NCF-B (Fig 6):*** a single isolated feature, cut [270], was identified towards the eastern side of the central portion of the NCF-B excavation area. This feature consisted of the heavily plough truncated remains of one circular pit.

4.1.157 Pit cut [270] was a circular shape in plan (1.9 m in diameter), and was located at the eastern side of the central portion of the NCF-B excavation area, 18m west of the eastern extent of the site and 75m north of the southern extent of the site. Upon excavation, pit [270] was found to contain three fills (fills [271], [272] and [273]) and had a maximum depth of 0.22m. Primary fill [271] was a friable dark brown-black sandy silt rich in charcoal and burnt bone, 0.1m deepand interpreted as deliberately backfilled deposit. Three sherds of Medieval pottery (C12-15th) were recovered from fill [271] indicating an infilling date for this primary fill.

4.1.158 Overlying charcoal rich deposit [271] was a thin layer (0.04m thick) of light grey clay sand, [272], interpreted as layer of deliberately backfilled burnt sand. Overlying these deposits was a naturally silted secondary deposit, [273] (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations). Fill [273] contained a large quern stone fragment (SF 4) of probable Medieval date (Giecco *pers comm.,* see Section 5 below). Deposits [271] and [273] were environmentally sampled (<64> and <65>).

Plate 21: Pit Cut [270]. Looking North.

4.1.159 The function of pit [270] is uncertain; it may have been initially dug for extractive purposes, but it appears likely that in its disuse the pit was utilised as a medieval rubbish pit. This notion is largely supported by the fact that primary fill, [271], represents a deliberate backfilling event and that a large fragment of discarded quernstone was located in the latest observable fill of the pit, [273].

4.1.160 Pit [282] has no obvious spatial or chronological relationship with any other features within the NCF-B excavation area. Although pit [282] shows that there was some Medieval exploitation of the land at New Cowper Farm, it does not provide enough evidence to extrapolate about the nature of the Medieval period settlement.

4.1.161 ***Post-medieval features (Fig 4):*** As Figure 4 shows, a number of post medieval features were noted throughout NCF-B excavation area. Upon investigation these were shown to be five north-south aligned plough furrows (Furrows 1-5) that ran along much of the length of the NCF-B excavation area. These furrows are perhaps cultivation remnants of nineteenth century steam ploughing, and contained post medieval/modern pottery (see section 4 below).

4.1.162 In the south eastern corner of the NCF-B excavation area, a rather different agricultural regime was observed. Here, 11 north south aligned and 4 east-west aligned gullies suggest some kind of intense post-medieval/modern cultivation plotting. These furrows are perhaps nineteenth century cultivation remnants and contained post medieval/modern pottery (see section 4 below). Similar furrows were observed in the NCF-A excavation area (Railton, forthcoming).

Plate 22: N- S and E-W aligned cultivation remnants, pre exc. Looking North.

4.1.163 Where these post-medieval and modern features impinged on prehistoric archaeological features they were investigated (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.1.164 A modern Geotechnical test pit was observed at the south east extent of the NCF-B excavation area (see Appendix 3 for fuller stratigraphic observations).

4.2 STRATIGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

4.2.1 On completion of the excavation, the written, drawn and photographic records were checked and cross-referenced. The context record was entered into a table (Appendix 1) and a stratigraphic commentary was compiled (Appendix 3). The plans were digitised using Autocad 2004. As stated in 4.1.1 above, the context record was assessed in conjunction with the artefactual data and feature groups were created.

4.2.2 The excavation archive is presently held at the NPA office in Nenthead, Alston, Cumbria. The archive consists of 483 Context Records, 175 Plan and Section drawings, 397 Photographs (B & W/ Colour Slide) and 213 Digital Photographs.

5. ASSESSMENT RESULTS: THE ARTEFACTS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 This section details the artefacts recovered during the excavation. All of the artefacts have been listed by material type and quantified. The archive is currently held at the NPA offices Nenthead, Alston, Cumbria. The quantification of the finds archive is set out in Table 1.

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Period
118	Slag	1	0.4	unknown
271	Pottery	4	10	Medieval C13-15th
386	Stone pot boiler?	1	136	unknown
428	Post-Med Pottery	1	2	Post-Med
432	Post-Med Pottery	2	3	Post-Med
Furrow1	Post-Med Pottery	2	4	Post-Med
Furrow2	Post-Med Pottery	3	3	Post-Med
Furrow3	Glass	1	2	Post-Med
Furrow3	Post-Med Pottery	1	2	Post-Med
Furrow4	Post-Med Pottery	1	12	Post-Med
Furrow5	Post-Med Pottery	1	4	Post-Med
212, SF1	Chert Blade	1	1	Prehistoric
222, SF2	Mod FE Object	1	6	Modern
U/S, SF3	Burnt Flint	1	31	?Prehistoric
273, SF4	Quern Stone Fragment	1	1353	Medieval C13-15th
U/S, SF5	Broxen Axe	1	72	Prehistoric (Neolithic)
285, SF6	Pottery	1	24	Prehistoric (Neolithic)
287, SF 7	Pottery	1	22	Prehistoric (Neolithic)
U/S, SF 8	Pottery	1	13	Prehistoric (Neolithic)
285, SF 9	Flint Blade	1	1	Prehistoric
314, SF 10	Flint Debitage	1	2	Prehistoric
398, SF 11	Burnt Flint	1	1	? Prehistoric

Table 1: Summary Quantification of the Artefacts

5.2 THE PREHISTORIC POTTERY by Carol Allen

5.2.1 ***Introduction:*** this report provides an assessment and summary of three sherds of prehistoric pottery found on this site. The pottery types are identified and the likely dates for the vessels are given together with a summary of the fabric types. In section 6, the potential of the sherds is assessed, and recommendations for further work are provided together with costs.

5.2.2 ***Methodology:*** the pottery has been recorded and described according to the guidelines of the PCRG (1997). In addition, this report conforms to the standards and guidance of the IFA (2001). All the sherds have been weighed and recorded.

5.2.3 The sherds have been examined by use of a x2 binocular microscope in order to allow the fabric types to be summarised.

5.2.4 ***Quantifications:*** a total of 3 sherds weighing 59 g were recorded on this part of the site, and these are detailed in Table 2 below.

Context	*Body Sherds No*	*Sherds Weight g*	*Fabric type*	*Type of pot*	*Abrasion level*	*Comments*
<8>	1	13	GT=granite	Probably early Neolithic	Abraded	No decoration very friable
285 <6>	1	24	R+Q=rock & quartz	Peterborough ware, Ebbsfleet type	Unabraded	Decorated with bone end impressions
287<7>	1	22	GT=granite	Probably early Neolithic bowl	Unabraded	Thick wall 15mm no decoration
Totals	***3***	***59***				

Table 2:Pottery from NCF-B

5.2.5 ***Fabric Types:*** the tempering materials of the pottery have been summarised for this assessment, but would require a more detailed study for a full report. The types of inclusions have been recorded on Table 2 but no attempt has been made to quantify the inclusions or to qualify the size or angularity of the tempering. Thin section analysis of similar sherds in the NCF-A assemblage will be required to determine the exact type and the origin of the inclusions.

5.2.6 Two sherds contain a granitic type of inclusion with quartz, feldspar and biotite mica. One sherd has angular rock tempering with some quartz, and both these types of inclusions require further investigation by thin section.

5.2.7 Study of the tempering materials can provide a useful regional database for determining chronology of future finds of prehistoric pottery (Allen and Hopkins 2000, fig. 8), and can assist with understanding technology of ceramic manufacture. In addition, investigation of the source of the tempering materials may improve understanding of trade and movement of pottery in prehistory.

5.2.8 The site lies on Triassic sandstones above Upper Coal Measures seen in bores near Aspatria (Taylor *et al* 1971, 64), and volcanic rocks lie within 10 to 20 kilometres of the site (ibid, plate 13). Prehistoric pottery often contains interesting tempering materials which are not local to the site as seen in Neolithic pottery at Brougham (Peacock 1972). Further information on the pottery inclusions is required for any conclusions to be drawn on nature and source of the fabric types.

5.2.9 ***Pottery Forms and Dates:*** the pottery sherds include early Neolithic pottery, and Peterborough ware of Ebbsfleet type.

5.2.10 ***Early Neolithic:*** the two sherds (<8> and 287<7>) are undecorated and contain granitic type of tempering material. These sherds are very similar to those of early Neolithic date found on the nearby NCF-A site which lies about 100m to the south

east of the present site, and strongly suggest that these were part of early Neolithic round bottomed bowls. One sherd is abraded and was found in the natural, but the second (287<7>) is unabraded and was found in the fill of a pit suggesting that this could be a pit of Neolithic date. The sherd is unlikely to have travelled far, as it is friable and would not survive redeposition well.

5.2.11 As described in the first report on pottery from this site (Allen 2005) similar vessels are known from sites such as Windmill Hill in Wiltshire (Smith 1965) where a large collection of similar vessels was found. A small amount of early Neolithic pottery is known from a few sites in Cumbria. Some of this pottery came from 19th century excavations (Darbishire 1874) at Ehenside Tarn, and some sites are currently unpublished, for example in Carlisle, and this material should be investigated for a full report. However, current knowledge of early Neolithic pottery found in Cumbria, for example at Barrow (Allen 2002), indicates that no comparable vessels have been found, as the known vessels are plain bowls or Grimston ware.

5.2.12 This type of vessel is usually dated to around 3500 BC (Gibson 2002, fig.36), and radiocarbon dates from the first excavations on this site provided a date of 3650 to 3510 cal BC (95% confidence) confirming very clearly the early date range of this material. Due to its age and extreme fragility early Neolithic pottery is rare nationally, and very rare regionally.

5.2.13 ***Peterborough Ware:*** A single sherd of Peterborough ware was found on this site (285<6>). This is an unabraded sherd from the rim and neck of an Ebbsfleet bowl. It has a deep external rim and a neck and is decorated with bird bone impressions both on the exterior of the rim and the interior of the rim and neck. The neck has decoration but the pattern and type is unclear. Peterborough ware was also found on the first part of the site but the type was unclear and the sherd was unstratified.

5.2.14 In this case the sherd was found in the fill of the pit and is unabraded. Decorated sherds, particularly rims, found in shallow pits are often considered to be special deposits which brought a deeper meaning to a locality (Thomas 1999).

5.2.15 Similar vessels are known in Cumbria, for example from Carlisle (unpublished), and an Ebbsfleet Bowl is known from Brougham (Fell 1972, fig. 2). However, no exact comparisons for the sherd are known in the area at present.

5.2.16 Dating of material associated with middle Neolithic impressed wares of this type confirms that these were in use between about 3400 and 2500 BC (Gibson and Kinnes 1997).

5.3 THE FLINT by Mark Dodd

5.3.1 ***Introduction:*** this report provides an assessment and summary of six flint and chert artefacts found on this site. The types are identified and the likely dates for the artefacts are given. In section 6, the potential of the flints are assessed, and recommendations for further work are provided together with costs.

5.3.2 ***Quantifications:*** a total of 6 artefacts were recorded on this part of the site, and these are detailed in Table 3 below.

Small Find No.	Context	Material	Type	Dimensions (LxW) mm	Weight
1	212	Chert	Microlith	17 x 7.5	1
3	U/S	Unidentified	N/A		31
5	U/S	Volcanic Tuff	Polished Axe (broken)	59 x 46 x 28	
9	285	Flint	Blade	18 x 9	1
10	314	Flint	Core tool	26 x 14	2
11	398	Flint	Debitage	7 x 6	1

Table 3: Flint from NCF-B

5.3.3 **SF 1:** Light grey brown chert microlith with evidence of multiple, dorsal flake scars indicative of multidirectional core reduction, leaving no evidence of cortex material. With the distal end orientated downwards an unimarginal working edge is visible on the right margin of the dorsal surface. Broken at the proximal and distal ends, both the bulb of percussion and any evidence of the termination type have been removed.

5.3.4 **SF 3:** Unidentified microcrystalline material. Non-flake debitage.

5.3.5 **SF 5:** Fragment of a broken polished stone axe of volcanic tuff, most probably from petrological group VI (Langdale). This object is only a small fragment of the original artefact and now only retains a polished surface along one edge and a small proportion of each face, but does provide evidence of lateral abrasion around this intact edge. The opposing edge and both (butt and cutting) ends have been removed but the morphology of the remaining object indicates that it would be located close to the butt end of a polished stone axe.

5.3.6 The cross-sectional form is difficult to ascertain due to the small remaining fragment but it would probably have formed an oval with rounded edges. There is evidence for multiple flake removal with both hinge and feather terminations, the intensity of which would suggest a secondary use as a core.

5.3.7 **SF 9:** Low quality, heavily patinated light grey flint, broken narrow blade. A single dorsal ridge indicates two previous flake removals leaving no cortical surfaces. Both the proximal and distal ends have been removed through damage and leave no trace of the striking platform or termination type. The bulb of percussion has been retained and is quite diffuse, indicating a soft-hammer percussion. With the distal end positioned downwards and the ventral surface facing away, there is significant shatter damage to the right margin of the dorsal surface. It seems likely that this damage is related to flaws within the flint and probably occurred at the production stage.

5.3.8 **SF 10:** Good quality, translucent grey flint, possible endscraper with re-use as a bipolar core. This piece has undergone significant damage since the original working took place but it is still possible to suggest the process of reduction. With the distal end orientated downwards there is evidence on the dorsal face for unimarginal feathered retouch along the distal end. The proximal end is missing due to a break along the width of the piece at what is estimated to be half way down the length of the original piece.

5.3.9 There is little more that can be said about the original use of this flint as an endscraper due to pronounced rippling in opposing directions on the dorsal and ventral surfaces. Furthermore, there are breaks to both the left and right margins that remove the percussion platforms and the termination types. The distinctive fracturing that has created this piece can only have resulted from intense compression. There are several obvious ways in which this may have occurred, including bipolar flaking, or use of the flint as a wedge, although it is also possible that this resulted from heavy machinery (Bruce Bradley *pers. comm.*). Given the relatively high quality of the flint and the evidence for an original use as a scraper, it seems most likely that this is the result of deliberate bipolar flaking.

5.3.10 It has been suggested that bipolar flaking was used to exhaust the utility of raw materials before discarding it, often resulting in the use of existing stone tools that are bipolarly flaked to obtain usable chips (Andrefsky 1994; Macdonald in Andrefsky 1998). Given the nature of the site and the quality of this flint, it appears that this is the most likely explanation for this specific flint. It appears that this was not locally sourced material that was subsequently reused after initial use as an end scraper to maximize the raw material.

5.3.11 **SF 11:** Light grey, heavily patinated flint recovered from an environmental sample. This is a very small fragment with no obvious indications that would suggest it is anything other than non-flake debitage. With such a small fragment it is difficult to be certain but it appears that this piece may have been subjected to heat at some point.

5.4 OTHER ARTEFACTS by Gareth Davies and Frank Giecco

5.4.1 ***Introduction:*** this section provides an assessment and summary of other artefacts found on this site. The types are identified and the likely dates for the artefacts are given. In section 6, the potential of these finds is assessed.

5.4.2 ***Medieval Pottery:*** four body sherds of a medieval Oxidised Grey ware pottery were retrieved from a pit fill ([271]). These are dated to the 13th-15th centuries (F.Giecco *pers comm*.) and provide a date for the pit fill.

5.4.3 ***Post Medieval Pottery:*** eleven sherds of post-medieval/modern pottery were recovered from the contexts listed below in Table 4. These consisted of white, cream and brown glazed domestic wares that can be dated to the 19th and 20th centuries and provide potential dates for a number of contexts.

Context	Material	Count	Date
428	Post-Med Pottery	1	Post-Med
432	Post-Med Pottery	2	Post-Med
Furrow 1	Post-Med Pottery	2	Post-Med
Furrow 2	Post-Med Pottery	3	Post-Med
Furrow 3	Post-Med Pottery	1	Post-Med
Furrow 4	Post-Med Pottery	1	Post-Med
Furrow 5	Post-Med Pottery	1	Post-Med

Table 4: Post Medieval Pottery from NCF-B

5.4.4 ***?Pot Boiler:*** a possible stone pot boiler of potential prehistoric date was recovered from fill [386].

5.4.5 ***Quernstone:*** a large fragment of the ?upper part of a rotary hand quern with an external diameter of ?300mm and a weight of 1,353g was recovered from Medieval pit fill [273] (SF <4>). The quernstone is made out of an as yet unidentified local stone.

5.4.6 ***Slag:*** a single undiagnostic and probably modern piece of slag was recovered from fill<118>.

5.4.7 ***Glass:*** a single undiagnostic and post medieval sherd of glass was recovered from Furrow 3.

5.4.8 ***Iron Object:*** a single undiagnostic and modern Iron object was recovered from fill [222] (SF<4>).

5.5 CURATION AND CONSERVATION

5.5.1 ***Introduction:*** apart from the ceramic assemblage, no arefacts requiring specific proposals for curation were recovered.

5.5.2 ***Condition and Storage:*** the early Neolithic pottery sherds are very friable, and the Peterborough ware is in good condition. This small assemblage requires very careful handling. This material is quite unusual and rare particularly in this region. It is recommended that all the material should be retained for further study and research, and that all the sherds should be well packed in suitable material to prevent further abrasion.

5.5.3 ***Museum:*** the intended recipient for the artefactual material is Tullie House Museum, Carlisle; all relevant standards and guidelines will be adhered to in preparation of the artefacts for long-term storage.

6. ASSESSMENT RESULTS: THE ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

6.1 THE ENVIRONMENTAL, MOLLUSC AND BONE REMAINS by Patricia Crompton

6.1.1 ***Introduction:*** the site of New Cowper Farm, Aspatria, Phase B, provides conditions of moist topsoil overlying natural layers of sand and gravel. Preservation of the organic remains was therefore expected to be limited, except where the material recovered was charred or fossilised to some degree. Recovery of bone, both human and animal was expected to be limited to burnt bone.

6.1.2 The mid brown silty sand topsoil was machine stripped, revealing a number of sub-surface archaeological features across the site, cutting into the pink-orange natural sand. All feature groups (except in the case of modern ones) were sampled for the recovery of environmental remains. Analysis of all the recovered material is skewed due to factors such as non recovery of unknown pertinent material, degradation of originally deposited material, degradation of material during processing, and differences between the preservation of different phases of occupation.

6.1.3 ***Methodology:*** 117 contexts from Phase B were considered worth sampling due to their organically rich content or the fact that they came from archaeological features (see Appendix 4). This number includes samples of burnt material removed from certain contexts as spot samples for radiocarbon dating. All the whole earth samples were selected for processing in order to assess their environmental potential. This will help provide further information as to the depositional processes involved in their formation. The methodology employed required that the whole earth samples be broken down and split into their various different components. This was achieved by a combination of water washing and flotation.

6.1.4 The process of flotation, by passing the sample through a Siraf style flotation tank, serves to separate the matrix of the whole earth sample into the organic fraction and the heavier mineral content of mainly sands, silts, clays and stones. The two resultant sub-samples are the flot and the retent or residue. The flot consists of the material that floats on water, recovered by retention in a 500µm sieve as the light or floating fraction after washing over in a trap. This produces mainly organic and charred remains. The heavy, retent fraction, retained in a 1mm mesh, consists of the denser material that usually sinks, including the waterlogged material. The method relies purely on the variation in density of the recovered material to separate it from the soil matrix, allowing for the recovery of ecofacts and artefacts from the whole earth sample. The recovered remains can then be initially assessed for content on a scale of richness.

6.1.5 The larger the quantity of the sample that can be processed, the better the interpretation of the results from it. All the material was processed from these samples, there being no suitable contexts for the recovery of parasitic material as none of the material was waterlogged, there then being no need for sub-sampling. Both the retent and the flot residues were examined. The results of these appear in Appendices 5 and 6 below. The results of the seed identification were expressed as diversity of taxa of seeds.

6.1.6 The retent, like the residue from wet sieving, will contain any larger items of bone or artefacts. The flot or floating fraction will generally contain organic material such as plant matter, fine bones, cloth, leather and insect remains. A rapid scan at this stage will allow further recommendations to be made as to the potential for further study by entomologists or palaeobotanists with a view to retrieving vital economic information from the samples. Favourable preservation conditions can lead to the retrieval of organic remains that may produce a valuable suite of information in respect of the depositional environment of the material, which may include anthropogenic activity, seasonality and climate and elements of the economy.

6.1.7 ***The insect and parasite remains:*** fragments of invertebrate exoskeletons and larva/pupa cases were noted in some organic flot samples from Phase 2, however these were modern. None of the remains then aided the interpretation of the site by this method. It is not then deemed necessary to study them further.

6.1.8 ***Assessment results of the plant remains from Phase B:*** the macrofossil assemblages from the contexts for Phase B fell into three main categories.

6.1.9 The first consists of those containing charred grain and weed seeds of arable land, usually associated with a quantity of charcoal (contexts [136], [158], [160], [176], [210], [227], [230], [232], [233], [236], [237], [238], [268], [273], [285], [297], [299], [349], [391], [404], [406]). Some of these also contained an amount of burnt bone (see below). Some material shows the effects of extreme heating where the grain is very blown and distorted, rendering it unidentifiable. Context [285] also contained Prehistoric pottery of Ebbsfleet type Peterborough ware.

6.1.10 The charcoal associated with these contexts suggests they probably originated from hearths or fires, the small amounts of grain and seeds becoming preserved by charring around the edge of the fire or during the drying process. None of these contexts were associated with their original hearths, fires or drying kilns; they were all recovered from pits and ditches through various areas of the site.

6.1.11 The second type of contexts contained just charred wood with a few uncharred seeds (contexts [103], [107], [108], [109], [110], [114], [118], [120], [121], [123], [126], [128], [132], [134], [138], [152], [157], [168], [175], [179], [183], [184], [186], [187], [188], [189], [191], [200], [204], [206], [208], [212], [214], [216], [219], [246], [248], [254], [256], [258], [260], [262], [264], [266], [271], [274], [293], [296], [312], [316], [328], [330], [332], [334], [336], [338], [342], [344], [346], [347], [353], [358], [364], [366], [368], [378], [382], [398], [400], [402], [417], [434], [444], [453]). Interpretation of these contexts is difficult without ecofactual or artefactual evidence to support it.

6.1.12 Charred wood was associated with almost all the contexts sampled, except for [105], [158], [163], [165], [190], [202], [222], [252], [287], [289], [310], [432], [436]. Of these only context 158 contained charred grain and that as a single oat, probably from soil management practices. Context [287] also contained a sherd of pottery of Neolithic date but very little else.

6.1.13 Very few contexts contained a substantial amount of grain (contexts [227], [230], [232], [235], [299], [386], [394]). Of these all but context [299] also contained a

substantial amount of charred wood. All except context [235] also contained weed seeds of arable land, perhaps indicating that this grain was part of a process such as grain drying. All these contexts contained wheat, barley and oats. Contexts [227], [230] and [232] were all fills of pit [217]. Context [299] was a fill of the fired pit [282]. Contexts [386] and [394] were fills of pits [385] and [383] respectively.

6.1.14 The third type of context contained burnt bone in the flot or the retent ([105], [106], [107], [108], [109], [110], [114], [126], [132], [134], [165], [175], [179], [183], [202], [238], [246], [254], [260], [264], [271], [296], [432]). Other samples contained burnt bone and either one or both of charred grain and charred wood ([112], [136], [160], [231], [236], [237], [273], [285], [297], [394]).

6.1.15 Unlike Phase 1, no hazelnut shells or acorns were recovered from this area. Due to the soil conditions, no preserved pollen was identified.

6.1.16 ***The mollusc remains:*** there were no mollusc remains recovered from the site, probably due to the acidic conditions from the geology present, as the close proximity of the sea would have been utilised as a food and materials resource. As the early Neolithic can be seen as a transition phase between hunter gatherers and farming practices the vast opportunities of the close proximity of the sea would not have been missed. This is a good example that absence of evidence does not mean evidence is absent.

6.1.17 ***The bone remains:*** no mammal bone remains were recovered from the Phase 2 excavation. This is hardly surprising due to the acidity of the soil. This would severely accelerate degradation of any bone initially deposited on the site hence none was recovered. Burnt bone was more prolific in small quantities throughout the contexts from the site. It was recovered from both retents and flots of the environmental samples and details are listed below in Table 5.

RETENT SAMPLES CONTAINING BURNT BONE

SITE CODE NPA 05 NCF-B					
CONTEXT NUMBER	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	VOLUME (LITRES)	SOIL CONDITION	Burnt bone
C105	2	PF	40	M	2
C106	3	PF	40	M	1
C112	4	PF	20	M	2
C114	5	PF	20	M	2
C101	7	PH	20	M	1
C110	9	PH	5	M	1
C109	10	PH	20	M	2
C108	11	PH	10	M	1

FLOT SAMPLES CONTAINING BURNT BONE

SITE CODE NPA 05 NCF-B					
CONTEXT NUMBER	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	VOLUME (LITRES)	SOIL CONDITION	Burnt bone
C105	2	PF	40	M	2
C112	4	PF	20	M	1
C273	66	PF	20	M	2

Key for amount of bone per context:

0 = Absent
1 = Present

C134	15	PF	40	M	1
C136	16	PF	10	M	1
C132	17	PF	6	M	1
C126	18	PF	40	M	1
C160	27	DS	10	M	2
C183	37	TB	20	M	1
C165	38	PH	10	M	1
C202	44	PH	10	M	1
C254	52	PH	10	M	1
C260	55	PH	20	M	2
C264	57	PH	20	M	1
C175	60	PF	20	M	1
C179	62	PF	20	M	3
C246	63	PH	10	M	1
C271	64	PF	20	M	2
C273	66	PF	20	M	3
C296	72	PH	10	M	1
C297	73	PF	10	M	1
C298	74	PF	20	M	1
C299	75	PF	10	M	2
C285	77	PF	10	M	1
C432	110	GF	7	M	1
C457	118	PH	5	M	2
C394	123	PF	10	M	2
C231	125	PF	10	M	1
C236	128	PF	10	M	1
C237	129	PF	5	M	1
C238	130	PF	5	M	1

2 = Frequent
3 = Abundant

Table 5: Flotation and Retent Samples Containing Burnt Bone

6.2 RADIOCARBON DATING

6.2.1 A total of **12** contexts provided charcoal and/or charred remains suitable for Radiocarbon dating. These contexts were [126], [169], [297], [216], [271], [378], [230], [404], [274], [391], [485] and [298].

6.2.2 As an assessment of the potential of the charred remains from the NCF-B excavation to produce accurate radiocarbon dates, the charred material from two contexts, [230] and [485], was sent for carbon dating, at the laboratories of Beta Analytic Inc., Miami, Florida.

6.2.3 The samples provided ample carbon for an accurate measurement, and the analysis went normally. The method of analysis used was Radiometric-Standard delivery. The radiometric technique uses benzene (92% C), measuring for 14C content in one of 53 scintillation spectrometers and then calculating for radiocarbon age.

6.2.4 The charred material was pretreated using acid, alkali and acid; this is a full pre-treatment and makes the given C14 age less subjective than samples that cannot be fully pretreated.

6.2.5 Calibrations of radiocarbon age determinations were then applied to convert BP results to calendar years. The short-term difference between the two is caused by fluctuations in the heliomagnetic modulation of the galactic cosmic radiation and, recently, large scale burning of fossil fuels and nuclear devices testing. Geomagnetic variations are the probable cause of longer-term differences.

6.2.6 A more detailed appraisal of the Beta Analytic Inc dating methods can be found at www.radiocarbon.com

6.2.7 The ages given to samples [230] and [485] are as follows:

Sample [230]: Conventional radiocarbon age: 1870 plus or minus 60 BP

Calibrated Result: Cal AD 20 to 260 (Cal BP 3850 to 3600)

Sample [485]: Conventional radiocarbon age: 2580 plus or minus 60 BP

Calibrated Result: Cal BC 830 to 740 (Cal BP 3850 to 3600).

6.2.8 Both samples [230] and [485] confirm that archaeological features of both Late Bronze Age and Late Iron Age/Romano-British date are present within the New Cowper Quarry (Phase 2, NCF-B) extraction area. These features are later than some early Bronze Age and Neolithic radiocarbon dated features identified at New Cowper Quarry (Phase 1, NCF-A, Railton, forthcoming) and 2km to the east at Overby Quarry (Davies, 2006).

7. INITIAL CONCLUSIONS AND STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

7.1 INTRODUCTION

7.1.1 This section presents the original aims of the NCF-B excavation and then presents some initial conclusions that highlights both the excavated data that relates to these research aims and also the potential for the excavated data to address these research question.

7.2 PROJECT AIMS

7.2.1 The original project design (Parsons 2005) set out three main aims for the excavation of the northern extension at New Cowper Quarry. To reiterate, these were:

- to preserve by record the archaeological evidence contained within the site and to attempt a reconstruction of the history and use of the site;
- to contribute to an understanding of prehistoric settlement, subsistence and agricultural practices, and environmental conditions on the west coast of Cumbria;
- to inform wider regional, national and period based research frameworks.

7.2.2 The second two aims listed above are consistent with research questions set out in : Hodgson, N and Brennand, M eds., 2004 Prehistoric Period, Research Agenda North West Region Archaeological Research Framework, www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/arf.

7.2.3 This document highlights a number of research problems in the North West region that the excavations at New Cowper may help to address:

- **[1] Discovering Prehistoric Settlements**: '*Ultimately some form of intrusive fieldwork is require to characterise and date these* [Neolithic/Bronze Age] *enclosure sites throughout the region. Dating of even a few sites has the potential to transform our understanding of Early Neolithic activity in the region, and provide details of regional site characteristics'* (Hodgson and Brennand, 2004, Introduction, 11).
- **[2] Dating these sites:** '*The Late Bronze Age ceramic and metalworking traditions seemingly disappear in the early fist millennium BC and the dating of settlement sites becomes fraught with difficulties…While some rural sites have more identifiable artefacts during the Romano-British period this is not always the case, and layers and even sites from this period can be seemingly artefact free, and ultimately misleading…The only solution to the problems of chronology and artefact recovery is to increase the size of sampling strategies and to undertake scientific dating, most especially AMS radiocarbon dating*' (*ibid*. Introduction, 17-18). '*Routine radiocarbon dating should be accepted as the norm on all prehistoric sites. This needs to target a wide variety of features and deposits, both with and without artefacts*' (*ibid*. Prehistoric Agenda, 4).

- **[3] Understanding prehistoric economies:** '*Details of agricultural and fundamental aspects of economy remain poorly undertood. One might postulate varying degrees of mixed farming according to the topographical character of different areas of the region, but this ratio is not known'* (ibid. Introduction, 18).' *'The potential for the recovery of environmental material from excavations must be recognised…and suitable sampling strategies must be employed'* (*ibid*. Prehistoric Agenda, 9).

- **[4] Understanding prehistoric ritual, religion and ceremony:** *'Although parts of the region have a number of impressive and even nationally important Neolithic and Bronze Age ritual monuments, there is little known of the wider context of these sites and their relationship with contemporary settlement* (ibid. Prehistoric Agenda, 9). '*Little is known of the larger enclosures in the North West, and indeed, it may be erroneous to place some of them within the Ritual and Religion section…*'(*ibid.* Prehistoric Agenda, 11).

7.2.4 The following section presents initial conclusions that can be arrived at from the assessment of the stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental data. and provides and assessment of the research potential of these different datasets.

7.2.5 The figures in brackets e.g. **[1]** or **[2]** in the following section refer to the specific research areas that future analysis of different data may help address. The group numbers refer to the feature groups described in Section 4.

7.3 STRATIGRAPHIC DATA

7.3.1 The excavated stratigraphic evidence from NCF-B has the potential to provide understanding of the spatial organisation, land-use and development at the site during the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age/Romano-British and general prehistoric period. In conjunction with the environmental and artefactual data the stratigraphic sequence may assist in the elucidation of the character of the occupation and the possible economic and social activities taking place at the site.

7.3.2 The potential of the data assigned to the individual periods of activity is set out below. This effectively provides an interim phasing (see Fig 9).

7.4 NEOLITHIC

7.4.1 One feature group can possibly be attributed to a Neolithic phase of land use (Figure 9).

7.4.2 **Group 11:** Six spatially grouped pits and postholes should perhaps be interpreted as the remnants of some kind of structural feature. The dating of the Group 11 features is uncertain. but this small cluster of features did produce Neolithic pottery, a flint blade and a fragment of polished stone axe suggesting that these features date to the Neolithic period.

7.4.3 Potentially Neolithic features are rare in Cumbria, a fuller consideration of these features (combining radiocarbon dating, environmental and stratigraphic analysis) might provide more detailed evidence about both the function and/or chronology (**[1], [2], [4]**) and the contemporary environment/economy (**[3]**). of these features.

Fuller spatial analysis and a search for archaeological parallels to the Group 6 features could inform about earlier prehistoric settlement form (**[1]**).

7.4.4 ***Summary***: The paucity of positively dated Neolithic features limits the potential of the stratigraphic data for understanding the earliest phase of occupation at the NCF-B site. However, there is a hint of settlement related activity and further analysis of the ecofact assemblages and radiocarbon dating, may further elucidate some spatial patterning.

7.5 BRONZE AGE

7.5.1 Two or three feature groups can possibly be attributed to a Bronze Age phase of land use.

7.5.2 **Group 5/13/?21:** the Group 5 Northern Curvilinear ditch is interpreted as a palisade ditch due to the presence of apparently burnt in situ posts. The function of the ditch is uncertain but the palisade feature, judging by a radiocarbon date of Cal BC 830 to 740, is Late Bronze Age in date. It is possible that the Group 5 palisade ditch is part of an enclosure framing either an area of Prehistoric settlement or, just possibly, a ritual zone to its south. The presence of a possible constricted entrance (cuts [333] and [335]) within the perhaps hints at some ritual practice.

7.5.3 The morphology of the Group 13 curved ditch is also extremely similar to the Group 5 Northern Curvilinear/Palisade ditch. The Group 21 ditch may share a common alignment.

7.5.4 A fuller consideration of these features (combining radiocarbon dating, environmental and stratigraphic analysis) might provide more detailed evidence about both the function and/or chronology of this feature (**[1],[2,[4]**) and the contemporary environment/economy (**[3]**).

7.5.5 ***Summary***: a possible palisade enclosure of Late Bronze Age date, potentially associated ditches and, as yet, undated postholes (see General Prehistoric below), suggest that the Bronze Age is the first period where there was extensive land-use focussed on the NCF-B site. These features may represent a settlement enclosure or, just possibly, a putative causewayed enclosure of less tangible ritual function (Brennand *pers comm*.). The paucity of positively dated features limits the interpretation of the stratigraphic data, and further analysis of the ecofact assemblages and radiocarbon dating is of paramount importance.

7.6 IRON AGE/ROMANO-BRITISH

7.6.1 Five feature groups can be attributed to a Iron Age/Romano-British phase of land use.

7.6.2 **Group 2** An field boundary, although undated, is probably of late prehistoric in date. Similarly aligned field boundaries have been recognised during the NCF-A excavation, and identified by aerial photography a kilometre to the north-east at Overby, where a later prehistoric date has been suggested (Davies 2005).

7.6.3 A fuller consideration of the ditch fills, combining environmental and stratigraphic analysis, would potentially be highly informative with regards to the past economy (**[3]**).

7.6.4 **Group 3**: A pit [148] backfilled with oven/hearth waste or cremation residues is undated, but the nature of the infilling events may suggest a later prehistoric date for the feature (as suggested by the radiocarbon date obtained from Group 9 pit (cut [217], Cal AD 20-260).

7.6.5 A fuller consideration of the pit fills (combining radiocarbon dating and environmental and stratigraphic analysis) would help provide evidence of both functional and/or chronological distinctions between this and other pit features on the site (**[1], [2], [3], [4]**).

7.6.6 **Group 4:** Posthole cuts [201], [205] [209] and [225] formed a roughly square pattern similar to posthole clusters that on other sites have been interpreted as later prehistoric four-post ancillary structures. However, due to the lack of better stratigraphic resolution and dating evidence this observation must remain conjectural. As posthole cut [225] truncated the fills of Late Bronze Age east-west aligned curvilinear feature (Group 5). It may be suggested that the Group 4 features are all of a later date than this feature.

7.6.7 Fuller spatial analysis and a search for archaeological parallels to the Group 4 features could inform about later prehistoric settlement form (**[1]**).

7.6.8 **Group 8:** A pit [282] is undated but appears to be some kind of industrial/domestic fire pit or oven having been rapidly infilled with both deliberate backfill and charcoal-rich rake-out material (possibly burnt *in situ*). The relatively close proximity of the potentially structural but undated Group 6 and 7 post-holes may suggest that pit was a domestic industrial feature adjacent, but removed, from these 'structures'**.** Although the pit is undated, the nature of the infilling may suggest a later prehistoric date for the feature (as suggested by a radiocarbon date obtained from a pit (Group 9, cut [217], Cal AD 20-260) with a broadly similar infilling sequence in the southern half of the NCF-B excavation area.

7.6.9 A fuller consideration of the pit fills (combining radiocarbon dating and environmental and stratigraphic analysis) would help provide evidence of both functional and/or chronological distinctions between this and other pit features on the site (**[1],[2],[3],[4]**).

7.6.10 **Group 9:** Six pits infilled with some kind of industrial/domestic firing/oven related waste. are undated artefactually, but do contain broadly similar infilling sequences, suggesting that they are roughly contemporary. The radiocarbon date obtained from one pit (cut [217], Cal AD 20-260) suggests that the pits are of Late Iron Age-Romano-British in date.

7.6.11 The pits are further indications of settlement related activity. A fuller consideration of the pit fills (combining radiocarbon dating and environmental and stratigraphic analysis) would help provide evidence of both functional and/or chronological distinctions between this and other pit features on the site (**[1], [2], [3], [4]**).

7.6.12 ***Summary***: In the Iron Age/Romano-British period, land-use appears to continue on site, possibly in the form of a field boundary, structures of an undetermined nature and pits containing burnt waste. . The paucity of positively dated features limits the interpretation of the stratigraphic data, and further analysis of the ecofact assemblages and radiocarbon dating is of paramount importance.

7.7 GENERAL PREHISTORIC

7.7.1 **Group 1**: the infilling patterns of the seventeen pits containing quantities of charcoal and burnt bone suggest that the pits were dug and then rapidly backfilled to perform either a domestic waste deposition (hearth waste deposition), or unknown ritual (cremation) function.

7.7.2 A fuller consideration of the pit fills (combining radiocarbon dating, environmental and stratigraphic analysis) would provide evidence of both functional and/or chronological distinctions between the pit features (**[1],[2],[3],[4]**).

7.7.3 **Group 6:** thirteen postholes may represent the remains of a north-south aligned post-built structure of potential prehistoric date, whilst posthole, cuts [259], [255], [265] and [251] form a roughly square pattern similar to posthole clusters that on other sites have been interpreted as later prehistoric four-post ancillary structures, but these associations are tentative due to a lack of better stratigraphic resolution.

7.7.4 Fuller spatial analysis and a search for archaeological parallels to the Group 6 features could inform about later prehistoric settlement form (**[1]**).

7.7.5 **Groups 12, 14-17 and 19-20:** These feature groups are archaeologically less tangible and are their potential for further analysis is deemed to be low.

7.7.6 ***Summary***: It is felt that feature groups 1 and 6 may be attributed to the Bronze Age period or earlier, perhaps representing pits containing domestic/cremation waste and structural post-holes respectively.. The paucity of positively dated features limits the interpretation of the stratigraphic data, and further analysis of the ecofact assemblages and radiocarbon dating is of paramount importance. Further specialist identification of the burnt bone from the Group 1 features is also necessary.

7.8 POST-PREHISTORIC

7.8.1 **Group 10:** A single pit, possibly dug for extractive purposes, appears likely in its disuse to have been used as a medieval rubbish pit. The pit fill contained a large fragment of discarded quernstone.

7.8.2 A number of Post Medieval cultivation remnants and furrows were observed.

7.8.3 Summary: Although the Medieval pit feature does not provide enough evidence to extrapolate about the nature of Medieval period settlement. A fuller consideration of the pit fills (combining environmental and stratigraphic analysis), would potentially be highly informative with regards to the past economy ([3]).

7.8.4 The potential for further analysis of the Post Medeival and modern remains is deemed to be low.

7.9 THE ARTEFACTS

7.9.1 ***The Pottery:*** The three Neolithic sherds should be considered alongside the 13 prehistoric vessels from the NCF-A excavations, when some very unusual Neolithic and Beaker pottery was found and some Beaker pottery.

7.9.2 As the region does not have a large collection of prehistoric pottery known so far these sherds will add to the knowledge of early prehistoric pottery in this area.

Comparative material should be sought in the locality and in the region, in order to place this assemblage and that from the NCF-A excavation into its local and regional perspective. Comparisons with other vessels of these periods both in this region and elsewhere will help to build up knowledge of typical style, forms and decorations for the region. Prehistoric pottery, although conforming to national types, tended to have regional variations.

7.9.3 These sherds should be studied, illustrated and if possible published alongside the pottery from the earlier excavations. Ideally unpublished material at Tullie House Museum in Carlisle should be examined to be clear whether any of the pottery is comparable.

7.9.4 The tempering materials of the vessels should be analysed alongside the pottery sherds from the previous excavations. No thin sections are required from these particular sherds providing the sherds from the previous NCF-A excavation are sectioned. Once the nature and source of the tempering has been defined this will help to define typical fabric types for the region. This greatly assists in identifying sherds when found on sites. If the origins of the tempering can be established this helps to define trading patterns in prehistory. It is clear that not all prehistoric pottery in this region was locally made (Peacock 1972).

7.9.5 Dating for comparative material should be sought in order to better understand the assemblage from this site.

7.9.6 The sherd 285<6> should be illustrated as this is an unusual pot, particularly for this area.

7.9.7 ***The Flint:*** Limited conclusions can be drawn from assemblages of flaked stone, due to the limited number of artefacts recovered. This is further complicated by the suspicion that a full assemblage has not been recovered. Without knowing what is potentially missing, it is not possible to form any detailed statements about the processes of tool manufacture and the possible activities taking place on the site. What is certain is activity in the area from the Mesolithic through to the Bronze Age periods is represented.

7.9.8 The material recovered during NCF-B excavations, is emphasised towards tools, with less debitage than the NCF-A flint assemblage. However, it would be unwise to attempt drawing any conclusions from such a limited material assemblage.

7.9.9 The most diagnostic of the artefacts recovered is Small Find 5, a fragment of polished stone axe, which is almost certainly an early Neolithic artefact. Such tools are typically associated with early woodland clearance due to the onset of farming economies during this period and there is no reason to suggest that this is an exception.

7.9.10 Availability of raw materials is one of the main issues raised by this assemblage. The raw materials are varied and the average size of the tools and debitage all indicate limited availability, even the polished stone axe had been utilised in a secondary function as a core. Small Find 10, from Phase 2 is the best example of the necessity to reuse raw materials, having initially been used as a scraper of some kind, it appears to have subsequently been bipolarly fractured to optimise the material.

7.9.11 The assemblage evidences multidirectional core reduction and narrow blade technology within the debitage perhaps indicative of Mesolithic industries. It is however unwise to immediately conclude that this is a dominant period for lithic manufacture at this site. Narrow blade technology and multidirectional core reduction are key methods in maximising raw material and there is no reason to think that such methods of manufacture did not continue into the Neolithic period where materials were limited in availability.

7.9.12 Only a limited number of these artefacts were recovered from secure contexts and it appears that many of those recovered had been displaced following their deposition. Much more material has almost certainly not been recovered. It is therefore unlikely that this assemblages would benefit from any further work such as use-wear analysis. However, small finds <1>, <5>, <9> and <10> would benefit from being drawn and published

7.9.13 ***Quernstone:*** a large fragment of the ?upper part of a rotary hand quern was recovered from Medieval pit fill [273] (SF <4>). The quernstone is made out of an as yet unidentified local stone. And has the potential to enhance the understanding of the charcter of medieval occupation on the site. More detailed analysis of the artefact would therefore be of some benefit. The artefact should be drawn.

7.9.14 ***Other artefacts***: a possible prehistoric Pot Boiler is undiagnostic. It is suggested that no further work should be undertaken on this material. All other artefacts were of Post-medieval or modern date and it is also suggested that no further work should be undertaken on this material.

7.10 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.10.1 Of the 132 samples from NCF- B, 43 produced adequate flots containing organic material of sufficient quantity, quality and diversity for further analysis, mainly due to their content of charred grain, wood or burnt bone, or quantities of all three. This is especially true of those samples which are associated with burnt bone and pottery recovered from archaeological features such as pits containing ?hearth waste.

7.10.2 All 43 samples warrant further specialist analysis and interpretation with reference to the site stratigraphy. This analysis, in association with the dateable finds and radiocarbon dates, will aid in the reconstruction of the agricultural conditions, economy and habitats of the site. It is known that the site has both Neolithic and Bronze Age phases of occupation. This is a particularly rare and important discovery in Cumbria and offers a rare opportunity to compare a stratified macrofossil assemblage with others sites regionally and nationally.

7.10.3 In addition, analysis of the burnt bone, whether human or animal, will give us an important insight into the nature of the occupation at this site.

7.11 RADIOCARBON DATING

7.11.1 Two initial radiocarbon dates have been successfully obtained during this assessment. There are several reasons why further absolute scientific dating is very important at this site. There is very little material culture to act as relative dating clues. In addition, the radiocarbon dates from NCF-A (3650-3510 cal BC, 2400-2380 cal BC and 2360-2140), in comparison to NCF B (Cal BC 830 to 740 and Cal

AD 20 to 260) show that there are at least four periods of activity, if not a continuous sequence, spanning around three and a half millenia. There is very little in the way of vertical stratigraphy, so phasing the features at the site needs to be done by linking absolute dates, to see which features belong together in terms of activity periods, and which ones were obsolete when others were in use.

7.11.2 There are ten more samples from a variety of features at the NCF-B site, that contain good quantities of large pieces of charcoal that are still available for analysis [126], [169], [297], [216], [271], [378], [404], [274], [391], and [298]. In some cases, such as the palisade trench, duplicate samples have been taken from different slots to see if stakes may have been replaced over time. It may even be possible to identify the species and age of the wood fragments before they are sent for analysis (eg are they oak? are they twigs or branches or fragments of larger items such as tree trunks?) If this is achievable, short-lived items such as twigs/small branches rather than fragments of tree trunks would be dated to provide a tighter radiocarbon date.

7.11.3 It has been advised by Sue Stallibrass, English Heritage Scientifc Advisor, that radiocarbon dating will give a more precise date than other dating techniques (such as archaeomagnetic dating).

7.11.4 In short, further radiocarbon dating is of paramount importance for refining the stratigraphic resolution and understanding of the spatial organisation at the NCF-B site.

8. UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN, STAFFING AND RESOURCES

8.1 INTRODUCTION

8.1.1 This section presents an updated project design based on the results of the assessment. The work modules required for completion of the post-excavation programme are also set out in relation to a series of identified aims.

8.2 AIMS

8.2.1 The principal aims of the final post-excavation can be summarised as follows:

8.2.2 To produce, concurrently with the first phase Northern extension excavations (NCF-A, Railton forthcoming) and earlier excavation to the south (NCF-C, Gaskell forthcoming), an integrated interpretive synthesis of data for monograph publication.

8.2.3 Undertake analysis of identified categories of data at appropriate levels of detail.

8.2.4 To create and deposit an ordered and indexed research archive in Tullie House museum.

8.3 OBJECTIVES

8.3.1 Following on from the assessment it is possible to set out a number of objectives that will be addressed by the final post-excavation programme.

[1] To finalise, in conjunction with radiocarbon dating, the stratigraphic sequence of the site

[2] To determine spatial and temporal patterns within the Bronze Age and Iron Age/Romano-British site, once key stratigraphic elements have been scientifically dated.

[3] To better define the nature of occupation on the site and how this changes over time.

[4] To use the environmental evidence to undertake detailed spatial analysis of deposits and determine evidence for changing social and economic activities.

[5] To examine possible continuity of occupation between the Bronze Age and Iron Age.

[6] To illustrate and publish the important Neolithic finds (pottery and flint).

[7] To define the position and significance of the site, concurrently with the first phase Northern extension excavations (NCF-A, Railton forthcoming) and earlier excavations to the south (NCF-C, Gaskell forthcoming), within its local, regional and national context.

8.4 METHODS OF ANALYSIS

8.4.1 To achieve the post-excavations programmes specified aims and objectives the following methods will be used. Each dataset and the relevant objectives and work modules to which it relates are set out below.

8.4.2 ***Stratigraphic data:*** further stratigraphic analysis will involve the quantification and description of the archaeological sequence in the light of further radiocarbon dating. The context data will be reappraised and feature groups revised where necessary. Comprehensive interpretive group text has already been produced, but where applicable the environmental evidence will be integrated into this group text. Period text will be written to provide a chronological overview of the development of the site in conjunction with the first phase Northern extension excavations (NCF-A, Railton forthcoming) and earlier excavations to the south (NCF-C, Gaskell forthcoming). Illustrations will be produced fro each period including digitisation of key section drawings. *Objectives:* **[1,2,3,5,7]**

8.4.3 ***Pottery:*** the Neolithic sherds will be studied, illustrated and published alongside the pottery from the earlier excavations (NCF-A and NCF-C). Unpublished material at Tullie House Museum in Carlisle will be examined to be clear whether any of the pottery is comparable. The tempering materials of the vessels should be analysed alongside the pottery sherds from the previous excavations. Dating for comparative material willbe sought in order to better understand the assemblage from this site. Sherd <6> will be illustrated. *Objectives:* **[6,7]**.

8.4.4 ***Flint:*** small finds <1>, <5>, <9> and <10> will be drawn and published. *Objectives:* **[6,7]**.

8.4.5 ***Quernstone:*** the quernstone will be analysed by an appropriate specialist considering the type and technology of the find. The artefact will be drawn. *Objectives:* **[7]**.

8.4.6 ***Macrofossils:*** 43 samples will be further analysed with a view to integrating the raw data stratigraphic narrative. This analysis, in association with the radiocarbon dates, will aid in the reconstruction of the changing agricultural conditions, economy and habitats of the site. *Objectives:* **[4]**.

8.4.7 ***Burnt Bone***: the burnt bone, whether human or animal, will be analysed be an appropriate specialist to hopefully give an insight into the nature of the occupation at this site. *Objectives:* **[4]**.

8.4.8 ***Radiocarbon dating***: Radiocarbon dating of ten samples from a variety of features at the NCF-B site ([126], [169], [297], [216], [271], [378], [404], [274], [391] and [298]) will be undertaken and integrated into the stratigraphic narrative, providing the narrative with a comprehensive chronological foothold. *Objectives:* **[1,2,3,5,7].**

8.4.9 ***Report Synthesis, Preparation and Publication:*** The conclusions drawn from the final elements of analysis will be summarised and included in a synthesised descriptive text . Final site, interpretative and artefactual illustrations will be produced, in conjunction with the first phase Northern extension excavations (NCF-A, Railton forthcoming) and earlier excavations to the south (NCF-C, Gaskell forthcoming). The completed manuscript will be edited internally and submitted to an appropriate publisher as a monograph level publication. *Objectives*: **[1-7]**.

8.4.10 ***Outline Synopsis for publication:*** It is envisaged that the NCF-B excavation will be published together with the first phase Northern extension excavations (NCF-A, Railton forthcoming) and earlier excavations to the south (NCF-C, Gaskell forthcoming). As a result, this synoposis would include these as yet unassessed phases of work. The staffing and resources section below, however, only refers to work to be carried out on the NCF-B site. *Once all three sites (NCF-A, NCF-B and NCF-C have been assessed, a revised costing should be prepared that combines the stratigraphic analysis of all three sites as one*.

- **Summary**
- **Introduction**: Background, circumstances of project, geology/topography, archaeological background.
- **Site Description:** Location and fieldwork methodology.
- **Excavated Data:** Introduction, overall site plan. Neolithic: feature descriptions integrated with artefactual, environmental and radiocarbon evidence, illustrations. Bronze Age: feature descriptions integrated with artefactual, environmental and radiocarbon evidence, illustrations. Iron Age/Romano-British: feature descriptions integrated with artefactual, environmental and radiocarbon evidence, illustrations. Post-prehistoric: feature descriptions integrated with artefactual, environmental and radiocarbon evidence, illustrations.
- **Artefactual Data:** Pottery, flint and quernstone.
- **Environmental data**: Macrofossils, burnt bone and radiocarbon dating
- **Synthesis:** Site interpretation and discussion, comparative evidence, local and regional significance.

8.4.11 ***Archiving:*** The site and research archives will be prepared and deposited in Tullie House Museum.

8.5 STAFFING AND RESOURCES

8.5.1 ***Management Structure:***The post-excavation programme will be undertaken by a project team led by a Project Manager who is responsible for the execution of this project design and delegating elements of the work to nominated staff (e.g. external specialists). Monitoring of the project will be carried out by Frank Giecco, Technical Director, NPA Ltd.

8.5.2 ***Key Staff:*** The nominated key staff are as follows:

NAME	TITLE	DAYS	MODULES
Frank Giecco	Monitor	3	0
Martin Railton	Project Manager	22	1,5,7,8
Matthew Town	Report Editor	1	8
Carol Allen	Pottery Specialist	1.5	2

Mark Dodd	Lithics Specialist	0.5	3
Nicola Gaskell	Graphics	7	6
Tony Liddell	Illustrator	4	2,3,4
Patricia Crompton	Environmental Specialist	9	5
Jacqui McKinley	Burnt Bone Specialist	1	5
TBC	Quern Specialist	1	4

Table 6: Key Staff

8.5.3 ***Tasks and Modules:*** The modular structure of the post excavation programme has been broken down into a number of tasks. The task breakdown identifies the staff, time and costs for the completion of each task and the objectives, see 7.3 above, to which each task relates.

Table 7: Module Breakdown

TASK	DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVE	STAFF	DAYS	COST
General Project Monitoring					
	Project Monitoring	1-7	FG	3	£
Module 1: Stratigraphic Analysis					
	Refine Stratigraphy	1-3,5,7	MR	7	£
	Report	1	MR	3	£
Module 2: Pottery Analysis					
	Parallel Research/Fabric Analysis	6	CA	1	£
	Report	3,6,7	CA	0.5	£
	Illustration	6	TL	1	£
Module 3: Flint Analysis					
	Report	3,6,7	MD	0.5	£
	Illustration	6	TL	2	£
Module 4: Quern Analysis					
	Report	7	TBC	1	£
	Illustration	7	TL	1	£
Module 5: Radiocarbon Dating and Environmental Analysis					
	Final Macrofossil Analysis/Integration	1-5,7	PC	9	£

	of Enviro into stratigraphy				
	Burnt Bone Ident.	1-5,7	JM	1	£
	Radiocarbon Dating	1-5,7	N/A	N/A	£
	Radiocarbon Report	1-5,7	MR	1	£
Module 6: Illustration					
	Site Plans/Phase Plans	1-5, 7	NG	4	£
	Section Drawings	1-5,7	NG	3	£
Module 7: Completion of Site Report					
	Introduction		MR	1	£
	Site Description		MR	1	£
	Comparative Research		MR	1	£
	Integration of Spec. Reports		MR	2	£
	Synthesis		MR	3	£
Module 8: Report Editing					
	Editing	1-7	MT	1	£
	Revisions	1-7	MR	2	£
Module 9: Archiving					
	Archive Preparation	1-7	TBC	2	£
				…….	Total:

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Andrefsky, W. 1994. Raw Material Availability and the Organization of Technology. *American Antiquity* ***59***. 21-35.

Andrefsky, W. 1998.Lithics: Macroscopic Approaches to Analysis. CUP.

Allen, C and Hopkins D, 2000 Bronze Age Accessory Cups from Lincolnshire: Early Bronze Age Pot?, *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 66, 297-317

Allen, C, 2002 Prehistoric Pottery from Holbeck Park Avenue, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, OAN Report

Allen, C, 2005 New Cowper Farm (NCF-A), Aspatria, Assessment Report on Prehistoric Pottery and Fired Clay, North Pennines Archaeology Report

Bewley, R 1986 '*Ewanrigg-A Bronze Age Cremation Cemetery*' in Popular Archaeology, March 1986.

Bewley, R 1993 '*Survey and Excavation at a cropmark enclosure, Plasketlands, Cumbria*' in Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, n ser, 98, 107-18.

Bewley, R 1994 Prehistoric and Romano-British Settlement in the Solway Plain, Cumbria, Oxbow Monograph 36, Oxford.

Blake B, 1959 '*Excavations of Native (Iron Age) Sites in Cumberland*, 1956-58' in Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, n ser, LIX, 1-14.

Breeze DJ and Dobson B, 1976 Hadrian's Wall, London.

Chamberlain, A.T. & Williams, J.P. 2001. A Gazetteer of English Caves, Fissures and Rock Shelters Containing Human Remains. Revised version 2001. *Capra* 1 available at - http://www.shef.ac.uk/~capra/1/caves.html

Cherry, J and Cherry, PJ, 1983 '*Prehistoric habitation sites in West Cumbria: Part I, Eskmeals to Haverigg*' in Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, n ser, 87, 1-10.

Cherry, J and Cherry, PJ, 1983 '*Prehistoric habitation sites in West Cumbria: Part V, the St Bees area and north to the Solway*' in Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, n ser, 83, 1-14.

Cherry, J and Cherry, P J, 1987 *Prehistoric Habitation Sites on the Limestone Uplands of Eastern Cumbria,* Research Series Volume II, Appendix 1

Clapperton K, 2004 *New Cowper Quarry, Cumbria-Northern Extension.Results of an Archaeological Evaluation*, Headland Archaeology Unpublished Client Report.

Darbishire R D, 1874 Notes on discoveries in Ehenside Tarn, Cumberland, *Archaeologia* 44, 273-292

Davies G 2006, *Deskbased Assessment at Overby quarry, Cumbria*, North Pennines Archaeology.

DoE (1990) *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment*. Department of the Environment.

DoE (1990) *Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16: Archaeology and Planning*. Department of the Environment.

DoE (1990) *The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act*. Department of the Environment.

DoE (1987) *Circular 8/87*. Department of the Environment.

English Heritage (1991) *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2).* London: English Heritage.

Fell, C, 1972 Neolithic Finds from Brougham, *Transactions Cumberland & Westmoreland Antiquarian & Archaeological Society* 72, 36-43

Gaskell, N, forthcoming. Assessment report on an archaeological excavation at New Cowper Quarry (South) NCF-C.

Gibson, A, 2002 *Prehistoric Pottery in Britain and Ireland*

Gibson, A and Kinnes I, 1997 On the urns of a Dilemma; Radiocarbon and the Peterborough Problem, *Oxford Journal of Archaeology* 16(1), 65-72

Higham, N and Jones G, 1983 '*The Excavation of Two Romano British Farm Sites in North Cumbria*' in Britannia 14, 45-72

Higham N, 1986 The Northern Counties to AD1000, London

Higham, N and Jones G, 1985 The Carvetii, Stroud

Higham, NJ and Jones GDB, 1975 '*Frontiers, forts and farmers, Cumbrian aerial survey, 1974-5*' in Archaeological Journal, 132, 16-53

Hodgkinson, D, Huckerby, E, Middleton, R and Wells, CE, 2000 The Lowland Wetlands of Cumbria, Lancaster Imprints 8, Lancaster.

Hodgson, N and Brennand, M eds. 2004 Prehistoric Period Resource Assessment North West Region Archaeological Research Framework, Draft, www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/arf

IFA, 2001 *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*

Jones W 1996 Dictionary of Industrial Archaeology, Sutton Publishing, Gloucestershire.

Jones, E 2003 *New Cowper Quarry, Aspatria, Cumbria. Results of an Archaeological Investigation,* Headland Archaeology*,* Unpublished client report.

Jordan, D 2005a *The Geoarchaeology of Deposits at New Cowper Farm*, Terra Nova Ltd., unpublished client report

Jordan, D 2005b *The reliability of geophysical survey techniques in the evaluation of the archaeological potential of land at Overby*, Cumbria, Terra Nova Ltd., unpublished client report

Kirkby, DP, 1962 *Strathclyde and Cumbria: a survey of historical development to 1092*, Trans Cumberland and Westmorland Antiq and Archaeol Soc, n ser, 62, 77-94

Lancaster University Archaeological Unit, 1999 *Land at New Cowper Farm, Aspatria, Cumbria*. Unpublished Archaeological Assessment Report*,*

McCarthy M, unpublished Recent Excavation in North Cumbria, www.ucl.ac.uk/prehistoric/past/past32.html

Mills, A D, 2003 Oxford Dictionary of British Place Names, Oxford

Nicolson, J and Burn, R 1777, The History and Antiquities of the counties of Westmorland and Cumberland, Vol II.

Newman, Ra ed. Early Medieval Period Resource Assessment North West Region Archaeological Research Framework, Draft, www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/arf

Parsons, J 2005 *Brief for an archaeological Excavation at New Cowper Quarry, Aspatria* Cumbria (CCCHES), unpublished Brief.

Peacock D P S, 1972 Report on a sherd of Neolithic pottery from Brougham (Appendix), in C Fell 1972, 43

Philpott, R ed. Roman Period Resource Assessment North West Region Archaeological Research Framework, Draft, www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/arf

Railton, M, forthcoming. Assessment report on an archaeological excavation at New Cowper Quarry (Northern Extension, Phase 1) NCF-A.

S S E W (1984) *Soils and their use in Northern England.* Soil Survey of England and Wales.

Smith I F, 1965 Pottery, in *Windmill Hill and Avebury,* 43-84

Taylor B J, Burgess I C, Land D H, Mills D A C, Smith D B and Warren P T, 1971 *British Regional Geology, Northern England*

Thomas J, 1999 *Understanding the Neolithic*

West Yorkshire Archaeological Services, 2003 *New Cowper Farm near Aspatria, Cumbria. Geophysical survey for Headland Archaeology*. Unpublished Geophysical Survey

Winchester AJL, 1987 Landscape and Society in Early Medieval Cumbria, Edinburgh

APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context number	Type	Description
100	Cut	Pit/Posthole
101	Fill	Fill of [100]
102	Cut	Small shallow pit
103	Fill	Fill of [102]
104	Cut	Pit/Posthole
105	Fill	Secondary fill of [104]
106	Fill	Primary fill of [104]
107	Cut	Pit/Posthole
108	Fill	Fill of [107]
109	Fill	Fill of [107]
110	Fill	Fill of [107]
111	Cut	Small shallow pit
112	Fill	Fill of [111]
113	Cut	Pit/Posthole
114	Fill	Fill of [113]
115	Layer	Topsoil
116	Layer	Natural
117	Cut	Shallow pit
118	Fill	Fill of [117]
119	Cut	Pit containing burnt material
120	Fill	Fill of [119]
121	Fill	Fill of [119]
122	Cut	Pit/Posthole
123	Fill	Fill of [122]
124	Fill	Fill of [122]
125	Cut	Small Pit
126	Fill	Fill of [125]
127	Cut	Cut of Pit
128	Fill	Fill of [127
129	Cut	Pit/Posthole
130	Fill	Primary fill of [129]
131	Fill	Secondary fill of [129]
132	Fill	Fill of [125]
133	Cut	Cut of Pit
134	Fill	Fill of [133]
135	Cut	Cut of Pit
136	Fill	Fill of [135]
137	Cut	North-South Furrow
138	Fill	Fill of [137]
139	Cut	Cut of possible posthole
140	Fill	Fill of [139]

Context number	Type	Description
141	Cut	Cut of possible posthole
142	Fill	Fill of [141]
143	Cut	Cut of possible posthole
144	Fill	Fill of [143]
145	Cut	Large north-south ditch
146	Fill	Secondary fill of [145]
147	Fill	Primary fill of [145]
148	Cut	Cut of pit
149	Cut	Large north-south ditch
150	Fill	Fill of [149]
151	Fill	Fill of [149]
152	Fill	Fill of [149]
153	Cut	Large north-south ditch
154	Fill	Fill of [153]
155	Fill	Fill of [153]
156	Cut	Large north-south ditch
157	Fill	Secondary fill of [156]
158	Fill	Primary fill of [156]
159	Cut	Pit/Posthole next to [156]
160	Fill	Secondary fill of [159]
161	Fill	Primary fill of [159]
162	Cut	Possible Posthole
163	Fill	Fill of [162]
164	Cut	Posthole
165	Fill	Fill of [164]
166	Fill	Fill of [149]
167	Cut	Large north-south ditch
168	Fill	Fill of [167]
169	Fill	Fill of [148]
170	Cut	Posthole
171	Fill	Fill of [170]
172	Cut	Stakehole
173	Fill	Fill of [172]
174	Fill	Fill of [170]
175	Fill	Primary fill of[148]
176	Fill	Fill of [148]
177	Fill	Fill of [148]
178	Fill	Fill of [148]
179	Fill	Fill of [148]
180	Fill	Fill of [148]
181	Fill	Fill of [148]
182	Cut	Tree bole
183	Fill	Fill of [182]

Context number	Type	Description
184	Fill	Fill of [164]
185	Cut	Ditch slot of long N/Sditch
186	Fill	Top fill of [185]
187	Fill	Fill of [185]
188	Fill	Fill of [185]
189	Fill	Fill of [185]
190	Fill	Fill of [185]
191	Fill	Fill of [185]
192	Cut	Cut of large N/S ditch
193	Fill	Fill of [192]
194	Cut	Cut of Furrow
195	Fill	Fill of [194]
196	Fill	Fill of [192]
197	Cut	Cut of furrow to W of [185]
198	Fill	Fill of [197]
199	Cut	Cut of curvilinear enclosure
200	Fill	Fill of [199]
201	Cut	Posthole
202	Fill	Fill of [201]
203	Cut	Posthole
204	Fill	Fill of [203]
205	Cut	Posthole
206	Fill	Fill of [205]
207	Cut	Posthole
208	Fill	Fill of [207]
209	Cut	Posthole
210	Fill	Fill of [209]
211	Cut	Tree bole
212	Fill	Fill of [211]
213	Cut	Cut of Palisade ditch
214	Fill	Fill of [213]
215	Cut	Cut of curvilinear ditch
216	Fill	Fill of [215]
217	Cut	Cut of pit
218	Cut	Cut ofcurvilinear ditch
219	Fill	Fill of cut [219]
220	Cut	Cut of pit
221	Cut	Cut of posthole?
222	Fill	Fill of [221]
223	Cut	Cut of posthole
224	Fill	Fill of [223]
225	Cut	Cut of posthole
226	Fill	Fill of [225]

Context number	Type	Description
227	Fill	Fill of [217]
228	Fill	Fill of [217]
229	Fill	Fill of [217]
230	Fill	Fill of [217]
231	Fill	Fill of [217]
232	Fill	Fill of [217]
233	Fill	Primary fill of [211]
234	Fill	Fill of [220]
235	Fill	Fill of [220]
236	Fill	Fill of [220]
237	Fill	Fill of [220]
238	Fill	Fill of [220]
239	Cut	Cut of furrow
240	Fill	Fill of [239]
241	Cut	Cut of palisade ditch
242	Fill	Fill of [241]
243	Cut	Cut of Palisade ditch
244	Fill	Fill of [243]
245	Cut	? Cut if pit/poathole
246	Fill	Fill of [245]
247	Cut	Cut of pit
248	Fill	Fill of [247]
249	Cut	Cut of pit
250	Fill	Fill of [249]
251	Cut	Cut of posthole/pit
252	Fill	Fill of [251]
253	Cut	Cut of posthole/pit
254	Fill	Fill of [253]
255	Cut	Cut of posthole/pit
256	Fill	Fill of [255]
257	Cut	Cut of pit/posthole
258	Fill	Fill of [257]
259	Cut	Cut of posthole/pit
260	Fill	Fill of [259]
261	Cut	Cut of posthole/pit
262	Fill	Fill of [261]
263	Cut	Cut of pit/posthole
264	Fill	Fill of [263]
265	Cut	Cut of posthole/pit
266	Fill	Fill of [265]
267	Cut	Cut of posthole/pit
268	Fill	Secondary fill of [267]
269	Fill	Primary Fill of[267]

Context number	Type	Description
270	Cut	Cut of pit
271	Fill	Primary fill of [270]
272	Fill	Secondary fill of[270]
273	Fill	Final fill of [270]
274	Fill	Fill of [247]
275	Fill	Fill of [247]
276	Cut	Cut of posthole?
277	Fill	Fill of ? Posthole
278	Cut	Cut of posthole
279	Fill	Fill of [278]
280	Cut	Posthole
281	Fill	Fill of [280]
282	Cut	Cut of Pit
283	Cut	Cut of posthole?
284	Cut	Cut of pit
285	Fill	Fill of [284]
286	Cut	Cut of linear?
287	Fill	Fill of [286]
288	Cut	Posthole
289	Fill	Fill of [288]
290	Cut	Cut of N/S Furrow
291	Fill	Fill of [290]
292	Cut	Cut of curvilinear ditch
293	Fill	Fill of [292]
294	Cut	Cut of posthole
295	Fill	Fill of [294]
296	Fill	Fill of [283]
297	Fill	Upper fill (grey)of [282]
298	Fill	Lower fill (dark) [282]
299	Fill	Fired earth in [282]
300	Cut	Cut of linear N/S
301	Fill	Secondary fill of [300]
302	Fill	Primary fill of [300]
303	Cut	Cut of E/W linear
304	Fill	Fill of [303]
305	Cut	Slot in N/S linear
306	Fill	Fill of [305]
307	Cut	Cut of slot in E/W linear
308	Fill	Fill of [307]
309	Cut	Cut of posthole
310	Fill	Fill of [309]
311	Cut	Posthole
312	Fill	Fill of [311]

Context number	Type	Description
313	Cut	Linear cut by furrow
314	Fill	Fill of [313]
315	Cut	Cut of post/stakehole
316	Fill	Fill of [315]
317	Cut	Furrow
318	Fill	Fill of [317]
319	Cut	Pit/terminus
320	Fill	Fill of [319]
321	Cut	W terminal of E/W curvilinear
322	Fill	Fill of [321]
323	Cut	Cut of curvilinear in Linear slot
324	Fill	Fill of [323]
325	Cut	Cut of furrow in linear slot with curvilinear [323]
326	Fill	Fill of [325]
327	Cut	Cut of curvilinear in slot (2)
328	Fill	Fill of [327]
329	Cut	Cut of curvilinear in slot (3)
330	Fill	Fill of [329]
331	Cut	Cut of "slots"- poss continuation of curvilinear
332	Fill	Fill of [331]
333	Cut	Cut of curvilinear ditch
334	Fill	Fill of [333]
335	Cut	Cut of curvilinear ditch
336	Fill	Fill of [335]
337	Cut	Curvilinear ([321] etc)
338	Fill	Fill of [338]
339	Cut	Posthole
340	Fill	Fill of [339]
341	Cut	Posthole
342	Fill	Fill of [341]
343	Cut	Posthole
344	Fill	Fill of [342]
345	Cut	Posthole
346	Fill	Fill of [344]
347	Fill	Fill of [348]
348	Cut	Cut of posthole
349	Fill	Fill of [350]
350	Cut	Posthole
351	Fill	Fill of [352]
352	Cut	Posthole
353	Fill	Fill of [354]
354	Cut	Posthole
355	Cut	Posthole

Context number	Type	Description
356	Fill	Fill of [355]
357	Cut	Posthole
358	Fill	Fill of [357]
359	Cut	Posthole
360	Fill	Fill of [359]
361	Cut	Posthole
362	Fill	Fill of [361]
363	Cut	Posthole
364	Fill	Fill of [363]
365	Cut	Cut of pit to W [363]
366	Fill	Fill of [365]
367	Cut	Cut of pit, poss treebole
368	Fill	Fill of367]
369	Cut	Posthole
370	Fill	Fill of [369]
371	Cut	Posthole
372	Fill	Fill of [371]
373	Cut	Posthole
374	Fill	Fill of [373]
375	Cut	Cut of tree bole/pit
376	Fill	Fill of [375]
377	Cut	Cut of curvilinear
378	Fill	Fill of [377]
379	Cut	Cut of furrow
380	Fill	Fill of [379]
381	Cut	Cur of pit
382	Fill	Fill of [381]
383	Cut	Cut of pit(S)
384	Fill	Fill of [383]
385	Cut	Cut of pit (N)
386	Fill	Fill of [385]
387	Cut	Cut of pit
388	Fill	Fill of pit
389	Cut	Cut of furrow
390	Fill	Fill of furrow
391	Fill	Fill of [385]
392	Fill	Fill of [385]
393	Fill	Fill of [383]
394	Fill	Fill of [383]
395	Cut	Posthole ?
396	Fill	Fill of [395]
397	Cut	Posthole ?
398	Fill	Fill of [397]

Context number	Type	Description
399	Cut	Posthole ?
400	Fill	Fill of [399]
401	Cut	Posthole ?
402	Fill	Fill of [401]
403	Cut	Posthole ?
404	Fill	Fill of [403]
405	Cut	Posthole
406	Fill	Fill of [405]
407	Cut	E/W ditch S ext
408	Fill	Fill of [407]
409	Cut	E/W ditch S ext
410	Fill	Fill of [409]
411	Cut	E/W ditch S ext
412	Fill	Fill of [411]
413	Cut	E/W ditch S ext
414	Fill	Fill of [413]
415	Cut	E/W ditch S ext
416	Fill	Fill of [415]
417	Fill	Fill of [407]
418	Layer	Subsoil
419	Cut	E/W ditch S ext
420	Fill	Fill of [419]
421	Cut	E/W ditch S ext
422	Fill	Fill of [421]
423	Cut	E/W linear
424	Fill	Fill of [423]
425	Cut	N/S linear (cuts [423])
426	Fill	Fill of [425]
427	Cut	E/W linear
428	Fill	Fill of [427]
429	Cut	N/S linear
430	Fill	Fill of [429]
431	Cut	E/W linear
432	Fill	Fill of [431]
433	Cut	E/W linear
434	Fill	Fill of [433]
435	Cut	E/W linear
436	Fill	Fill of [435]
437	Cut	N/S linear
438	Fill	Fill of [437] (cuts [435])
439	Cut	Stakehole (S)
440	Fill	Fill of [439]
441	Cut	Stakehole (N)

Context number	Type	Description
442	Fill	Fill of [441]
443	Cut	Posthole
444	Fill	Fill of [443]
445	Cut	E/W linear
446	Fill	Fill of [445]
447	Layer	Subsoil
448	Cut	E/W linear
449	Fill	Fill of [448]
450	Cut	Gully terminus
451	Fill	Fill of [450]
452	Cut	Gully
453	Fill	Fill of [452]
454	Cut	Gully
455	Fill	Fill of [454]
456	Cut	Pit/post
457	Fill	Fill of [456]
458	Cut	Quarry test pit
459	Fill	Fill of [458]
460	Layer	Natural silting overlying (116)
461	Layer	Subsoil remnant
462	Cut	Cut of N/S linear
463	Fill	Fill of [462]
464	Cut	Cut of N/S linear
465	Fill	Fill of [464]
466	Cut	Cut of E/W linear
467	Fill	Fill of [466]
468	Cut	Stakehole?
469	Fill	Fill of [468]
470	Cut	Stakehole?
471	Fill	Fill of [470]
472	Cut	Stakehole?
473	Fill	Fill of [472]
474	Cut	Stakehole?
475	Fill	Fill of [474]
476	Cut	Truncated linear
477	Fill	Fill of [476]
478	Cut	Cut of N/S linear
479	Fill	Fill of [478]
480	Cut	Cut of N/S linear
481	Fill	Fill of [480]
482	Cut	Cut ofE/W linear
483	Fill	Fill of [482]
484	Cut	Posthole

Context number	Type	Description
485	Fill	Burnt in situ post

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF FINDS

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Period
118	Slag	1	0.4	unknown
271	Pottery	4	10	Medieval C13-15th
386	Stone pot boiler?	1	136	unknown
428	Post-Med Pottery	1	2	Post-Med
432	Post-Med Pottery	2	3	Post-Med
Furrow 1	Post-Med Pottery	2	4	Post-Med
Furrow 2	Post-Med Pottery	3	3	Post-Med
Furrow 3	Glass	1	2	Post-Med
Furrow 3	Post-Med Pottery	1	2	Post-Med
Furrow 4	Post-Med Pottery	1	12	Post-Med
Furrow 5	Post-Med Pottery	1	4	Post-Med
212, SF1	Chert Blade	1	1	Prehistoric
222, SF2	Mod FE Object	1	6	Modern
U/S, SF3	Burnt Flint	1	31	?Prehistoric
273, SF4	Quern Stone Fragment	1	1353	Medieval C13-15th
U/S, SF5	Broxen Axe	1	72	Prehistoric (Neolithic)
285, SF6	Pottery	1	24	Prehistoric (Neolithic)
287, SF 7	Pottery	1	22	Prehistoric (Neolithic)
U/S, SF 8	Pottery	1	13	Prehistoric (Neolithic)
285, SF 9	Flint Blade	1	1	Prehistoric
314, SF 10	Flint Debitage	1	2	Prehistoric
398, SF 11	Burnt Flint	1	1	? Prehistoric

APPENDIX 3: STRATIGRAPHIC COMMENTARY

Pit Cluster at the northeast extent of NCF-B: Group 1
Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil [115] towards the north eastern extent of the excavation area, followed by hand cleaning, revealed a loose cluster of seventeen circular and sub-circular cut features cutting into the natural pink-orange sand [116].. The cluster of features was spread over an area of 14 metres north-south, by 8 metres east-west. Two N-S aligned post-medieval furrows were observed (spaced 8.5 metres apart from one another) at the western and eastern extents of the pit cluster. These furrows may well have truncated away further pit features.

Pit/Posthole [100]: Cut [100] was a sub-circular feature, 0.5m in width and 0.22m in depth, located towards the northeast of the pit cluster, and interpreted as the cut of a pit or post-hole. Pit cut [100] had steep sides and a concave base. Cut [100] contained a single fill [101]. Fill [101], 0.22m in depth, was a loosely compacted mid-dark brown silty sand, containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded sandstone (<0.05m in diameter).Fill [101] may have been a deliberately backfilled deposit. Fill [101] contained no dateable artefacts, but was charcoal rich and was therefore environmentally sampled (<7>).

Pit/Posthole [102]: Cut [102] was a sub-circular feature, 0.18m in width and 0.08m in depth, located at the southwest extent of the pit cluster, and interpreted as the cut of a pit or post-hole. Pit cut [102] had moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Cut [102] contained a single fill [103]. Fill [103], 0.08m in depth, was a loosely compacted dark grey-brown sandy silt, containing occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded stones (<5%). Fill [103] could have been deliberately backfilled or a naturally silted deposit. Fill [103] contained no dateable artefacts, but contained charcoal pieces and burnt bone and was therefore environmentally sampled (<1>).

Pit [104]: Cut [104] was a double-circle 'kidney' shaped feature, with maximum dimensions of 0.45m (north-south) and 0.88m (east-west) in plan, and 0.4m in depth. Cut [104] is interpreted as a pit, and was located towards the southeast extent of the pit cluster. Pit cut [104] had steep-moderate sides and an undulating base.The shape of cut [104] suggested that the feature was actually two intercutting pits, but no evidence for this could be obtained upon excavation of the feature. Cut [104] contained two fills [105] and [106]. The primary fill [106], 0.15m in depth, was a loosely compacted mid brown silty sand, and contained occasional small sub-rounded stones (<1%). Fill [106] is interpreted as a naturally infilled windblown sand.. Fill [106] contained no dateable artefacts. Fill [106] was environmentally sampled (<3>). The secondary fill [105], 0.235m in depth, was a loosely compacted dark grey silty sand, and contained occasional small sub-rounded stones (<1%) and a large granite stone (0.3m by 0.2m). Fill [105] is interpreted as a possibly deliberately backfilled deposit. Fill [106] contained no dateable artefacts, but was charcoal rich and was therefore environmentally sampled (<2>).

Pit/Posthole [107]: Cut [107] was a sub-circular feature similar in character to pit/post-hole [100]. The feature was 0.75m in width and 0.32m in depth and was located in the central area of the pit cluster. Cut [107] is interpreted as the cut of a pit or post-hole. Pit/posthole cut [107] had steep sides and a flattish base. Pit/posthole [107] was discrete from pit/post-depression cut [129], although this was not clear in plan. Cut [107] contained three fills [108], [109] and [110]. The primary fill [108], 0.14m in depth, was a loosely compacted mid-light reddish-brown sand, containing occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded stones (<0.04m in diameter, <2%). Fill [108] is interpreted as a naturally infilled windblown sand. Fill [108] contained no dateable artefacts, but contained occasional charcoal flecks and was therefore environmentally sampled (<11>). The secondary fill [109], 0.22m in depth, was a loosely compacted mid-light grey-brown silty-sand, containing occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded stones (<0.04m in diameter, <2%). Fill [109] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit. Fill [109] contained no dateable artefacts, but contained occasional charcoal flecks, burnt bone and burnt stones, and was therefore environmentally sampled (<10>). The tertiary fill [110], 0.1m in depth, was a loosely compacted dark grey-brown silty-sand, containing occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded stones (<0.03m in diameter, <2%). Fill [110] could have been deliberately backfilled or a naturally silted deposit. Fill [110] contained no dateable artefacts, but contained frequent charcoal flecks and burnt bone fragments, and was therefore environmentally sampled (<9>).

Pit [111]: Cut [111] was a sub-circular feature, 0.8m in width and 0.07m in depth, located at the northwest extent of the pit cluster, and interpreted as the cut of a pit. Pit cut [111] had gently sides and a concave base. It was evident that the feature had been severely truncated by either ploughing or furrow digging. Cut [111] contained a

single fill [112]. Fill [112], 0.07m in depth, was a loosely compacted mid-dark grey-brown sandy silt, containing occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded stones (<0.02m, <1%). Fill [112] could have been deliberately backfilled or a naturally silted deposit. Fill [112] contained no dateable artefacts, but contained small charcoal pieces and burnt bone and was therefore environmentally sampled (<4>).

Pit [113]: Cut [113] was an irregularly shaped feature, 0.78m in width and 0.17m in depth, located at the western extent of the pit cluster, and interpreted as the cut of a pit. Pit cut [113] had gently sides and a concave base. It was evident that the feature had been severely truncated by either ploughing or furrow digging. Cut [113] contained a single fill [114]. Fill [114], 0.17m in depth, was a loosely compacted dark grey-brown sandy silt, containing occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded stones (<5%). Fill [114] could have been deliberately backfilled or a naturally silted deposit. Fill [114] contained no dateable artefacts, but was charcoal rich and contained burnt bone fragments and was therefore environmentally sampled (<5>).

Pit [117]: Cut [117] was an oval shaped feature, 1.17m in width (east-west), 0.51m in width and 0.17m in depth, located at the southern extent of the pit cluster, and interpreted as the cut of a large pit. Pit cut [117] had gently sides and a rounded base. Cut [117] contained a single fill [118]. Fill [118], 0.17m in depth, was a friable orange-brown silty sand. Fill [118] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit of wind blown sand. The edges of the cut were extremely diffuse.. Fill [118] contained no dateable artefacts, but contained charcoal flecks and was environmentally sampled (<8>). The southern extent of fill [118] was truncated by pit/posthole [125].

Pit [119]: Cut [119] was an oval shaped feature, 0.45m in diameter and 0.3m in depth, located at the southeast extent of the pit cluster, and interpreted as the cut of a pit. Pit cut [117] had steep sides (gradual at the southern extent) and a concave base. The northern edge of the pit was obscured by bioturbation. Cut [119] contained two fills [120] and [121]. The primary fill [121], 0.17m in depth, was a moderately compacted mid grey-brown sandy silt. Fill [121] is interpreted as a deliberately backfilled possible raked-out deposit from a fire. Fill [121] contained no dateable artefacts, but contained moderate small charcoal pieces and was environmentally sampled (<13>). The secondary fill [120], 0.16m in depth, was a loosely-moderately compacted dark grey silty-sand, containing occasional sandstone inclusions (<2%). Fill [120] is best interpreted as a naturally silted deposit. Fill [120] contained no dateable artefacts, but was e environmentally sampled (<6>).

Pit/Posthole [122]: Cut [122] was a sub-circular feature, 0.4m in diameter and 0.15m in depth, and was located at the eastern extent of the pit cluster. Cut [122] is interpreted as the cut of a pit or post-hole. Pit/posthole cut [122] had steep sides and a concave base. Cut [122] contained two fills [123], and [124]. The primary fill [123], 0.06m in depth, was a loosely compacted mid brown silty sand, containing occasional inclusions of small sub-angular granite stones (<0.08m in diameter). Fill [123] is interpreted as a possibly deliberately backfilled deposit. Fill [123] contained no dateable artefacts, but contained occasional charcoal flecks and was therefore environmentally sampled (<12>). The secondary fill [124], 0.09m in depth, was a loosely compacted mid-dark grey-brown silty sand, containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded granite stones (<0.05m in diameter). Fill [124] is interpreted as a possibly backfilled deposit. Fill [124] contained no dateable artefacts, but contained frequent charcoal flecks.

Pit [125]: Cut [125] was a double-circle 'kidney' shaped feature, with maximum dimensions of 1m in length (east-west), 0.8m in width (north south) and 0.33 in depth. The feature was located towards the southern extent of the pit cluster, and interpreted as the cut of a pit. Pit cut [125] had steeply sloping sides at the northern extent, gradually sloping sides at the southern extent and a rounded base. The shape of cut [125] in plan suggested that the feature was actually two intercutting pits, but no evidence for this could be obtained upon excavation of the feature. The northern extent of the cut truncated pit fill [118] (see above). Cut [125] contained two fills [126] and [132] The primary fill [132], 0.13m in depth, was a firm mid grey-brown sand, containing occasional inclusions of small stones. Fill [132] is interpreted as a a naturally silted or possibly deliberately backfilled deposit. Fill [1323] contained no dateable artefacts, but contained occasional charcoal pieces and was therefore environmentally sampled (<17>). The secondary fill [126], 0.25m in depth, was a loosely compacted mid-dark brown silty sand, containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones and degraded granite pieces. Fill [126] is interpreted as a possibly backfilled deposit. Fill [126] contained no dateable artefacts, but contained moderately sized charcoal pieces and was environmentally sample (<18>). A sample was also taken for radiocarbon analysis.

Pit/Treebole [127]: Cut [127] was a sub-circular feature, 0.7m in diameter and 0.15m in depth, located at the northern extent of the pit cluster, and is interpreted as the cut of a truncated pit or a natural treebole. Cut [127] had gradually sloping sides and a sloping base (sloping to the south). It was evident that the feature had been severely truncated ploughing. Cut [127] contained a single fill [128]. Fill [128], 0.15m in depth, was a loose mid red-brown

silty sand. Fill [128] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit. Fill [121] contained no dateable artefacts, but did contained very occasional charcoal flecks and sub rounded stones (<0.02m), and was environmentally sampled (<14>).

Pit/Posthole [129]: Cut [129] was a sub-circular feature, 0.8m in diameter and 0.18m in depth, and was located at the centre of the pit cluster. Cut [129] is interpreted as the cut of a small pit or post-depression. Pit/posthole cut [129] had gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Pit/posthole [129] was discrete from pit/post-depression cut [107], although this was not clear in plan. Cut [129] contained two fills [130], and [131]. The primary fill [130], 0.1m in depth, was a loosely compacted mid reddish-brown silty sand, containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<2%). Fill [130] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit. Fill [130] contained no dateable artefacts. The secondary fill [131], also 0.1m in depth, was a loosely compacted mid grey-brown silty sand, containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded granite stones (<1%, <0.03m in diameter). Fill [131] is interpreted as naturally silted deposit. Fill [131] contained no dateable artefacts, but contained occasional charcoal flecks.

Pit/Treebole [133]: Cut [133] was a sub-oval feature, 0.7m in diameter and 0.26m in depth, located towards the northern extent of the pit cluster, and is interpreted as the cut of a truncated pit or a natural treebole. Cut [133] had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was evident that the feature had been severely truncated by ploughing. Cut [133] contained a single homogenous fill, [134]. Fill [134], 0.26m in depth, was a friable mid orange-brown silty sand. Fill [134] contained occasional sub-rounded pebbles (<8cm, <1%). Fill [134] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit. Fill [134] contained no dateable artefacts, burnt bone or charcoal flecks, and was environmentally sampled (<15>).

Pit [135]: Cut [135] was a circular feature, 0.46m in diameter and 0.14m in depth, located towards the northern extent of the pit cluster, and interpreted as a possible pit. Pit cut [135] had steep sides and a concave base.. Cut [135] contained a single fill [136]. Fill [136], 0.14m in depth, was a friable mid orange-brown silty sand. Fill [136] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit. Fill [136] contained no dateable artefacts, but did contain occasional small charcoal flecks (<1cm, <1%), and was environmentally sampled (<16>).

Possible posthole[139]: Cut [139] was a circular feature, 0.5m in diameter and 0.05m in depth, located towards the southwest extent of the pit cluster, and interpreted as a possible posthole. Posthole cut [139] had gradually sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It was evident that the feature had been severely truncated by ploughing. Cut [139] contained a single fill [140]. Fill [140], 0.05m in depth, was a loosely compacted mid orange-brown silty sand, containing occasional small sub-rounded stones (<1%).. Fill [140] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit. Fill [140] contained no dateable artefacts.

Possible posthole[141]: Cut [141] was a circular feature, 0.38m in diameter and 0.04m in depth, located towards the central area of the pit cluster, and interpreted as a possible posthole. Posthole cut [141] had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It was evident that the feature had been severely truncated by ploughing. Cut [141] contained a single fill, [142]. Fill [142], 0.04m in depth, was a loosely compacted mid orange-brown sand. Fill [142] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit. Fill [142] contained no dateable artefacts.

Possible posthole[143]: Cut [143] was a circular feature, 0.42m in diameter and 0.05m in depth, located towards the southwest extent of the pit cluster, and interpreted as a possible posthole. Posthole cut [143] had moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave-irregular base. It was evident that the feature had been severely truncated by ploughing. Cut [143] contained a single fill [144]. Fill [144], 0.05m in depth, was a loosely compacted mid orange-brown silty sand, containing occasional small sub-rounded stones (<1%, <3cm). Fill [143] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit. Fill [143] contained no dateable artefacts.

Northeast to southwest aligned ditch; northwest extent of NCF-B: Group 2
Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil [115] towards the north and western extents of the excavation area, followed by hand cleaning, revealed a large northeast to southwest aligned ditch, cutting into the natural pink-orange sand [116]. Seven slots were excavated across the width of the ditch.The full extent of the ditch feature was not observed as it ran beyond the northern and western limits of the NCF-B excavation area. The upper fills of this feature were truncated in places by a number of post-medieval north to south aligned furrows.

The ditch slots are described from north to south.

Ditch section [149]: A metre long slot was excavated across the ne-sw aligned ditch and the observed cut was labelled as cut [149]. Ditch cut [149] was a maximum of 1.9m wide, 0.85m deep, had a sharp break of slope at the top of the cut, and a steeply sloping (45º angle) v-shaped profile (very steep at the base). Ditch cut [149] contained four fills ([150], [151], [152] and [166]). The primary fill [150], 0.13m in depth, was a friable mid reddish brown coarse sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (<0.03m). Fill [150] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit of redeposited natural sand (possibly windblown). Fill [150] contained no dateable artefacts. The secondary fill [151], 0.5m in depth, was a loosely compacted reddish-brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.03m). Fill [151] is interpreted as a naturally accumulation of windblown sand. The fill appeared to be sterile, contained no dateable artefacts and was environmentally sampled (<22>). The tertiary fill [152] , 0.17m in depth, was a dark grey-brown sandy silt, containing occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.01m). Fill [152] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit, perhaps forming as the underlying deposits settled. Fill [152] contained no dateable artefacts and was environmentally sampled <23>.

Ditch section [145] : A metre long slot was excavated across the ne-sw aligned ditch and the observed cut was labelled as cut [145]. Ditch cut [145] was a maximum of 2.73 wide, 0.84m deep, had a sharp break of slope at the top of the cut, and a steeply sloping (45º angle) v-shaped profile. Ditch cut [145] contained two fills, [146] and [147]. The primary fill [147], 0.6m in depth, was a loose-moderately compacted mid brown silty sand, containing occasional sandstone inclusions (<1%). Fill [147] is interpreted as a naturally silted slumped deposit of redeposited natural sand (possibly windblown). Fill [147] contained no dateable artefacts. The secondary fill [146], 0.24m in depth, was a loose-moderately compacted dark grey-brown silty sand, containing occasional sandstone inclusions (<1%). Fill [147] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit from the contemporary topsoil. Fill [147] contained no dateable artefacts.

Ditch section [153]: A metre long slot was excavated across the ne-sw aligned ditch and the observed cut was labelled as cut [153]. Ditch cut [153] was a maximum of 1.7 wide, 0.76m deep, had a sharp break of slope at the top of the cut, and a steeply sloping (45º angle) v-shaped profile. Ditch cut [153] contained two fills, [154] and [155]. The primary fill [155], 0.6m in depth, was a friable mid brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions (<8cm, <1%). Fill [155] is interpreted as a deposit formed by natural silting (possibly windblown) and weathering of the sides of the ditch cut. The lower 0.05m of fill [155] consisted largely of redeposited sand/gravel and represented an initial weathering of the cut. Fill [155] contained no dateable artefacts. The secondary fill [154], 0.19m in depth, was a friable mid-dark grey sandy silt, containing occasional sub-rounded pebbles (<10cm, <1%). Fill [154] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit from the contemporary topsoil. Fill [154] contained no dateable artefacts.

Ditch section [156]: A metre long slot was excavated across the ne-sw aligned ditch and the observed cut was labelled as cut [156]. Ditch cut [156] was a maximum of 1.9 wide, 0.77m deep, had a sharp break of slope at the top of the cut, and a moderately steeply sloping v-shaped profile. Ditch cut [156] contained two fills, [157] and [158]. The primary fill [158], max. 0.77m in depth, was a friable mid orange-brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded sandstone inclusions (<5%). Fill [158] is interpreted as a deposit formed by natural silting (possibly windblown) and weathering of the sides of the ditch cut. Fill [158] contained no dateable artefacts. The secondary fill [157], 0.5m in depth and truncated away in places, was a friable dark greyish-brown sandy silt, containing occasional sub-rounded pebbles (<5%). Fill [158] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit from the contemporary topsoil. Fill [158] contained no dateable artefacts.

Ditch section [192]: A metre long slot was excavated across the ne-sw aligned ditch and the observed cut was labelled as cut [192]. Ditch cut [192] was a maximum of 1.57 wide, 0.67m deep, had a sharp break of slope at the top of the cut, and a steeply sloping (45º angle) v-shaped profile with a rounded base. Ditch cut [192] contained two fills, [193] and [196]. The primary fill [193], 0.42m in depth, was a friable mid brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions (<7cm, <1%) and occasional charcoal flecks (<1%). Fill [193] is interpreted as a deposit formed by natural silting (possibly windblown) and weathering of the sides of the ditch cut. The lower 0.05m of fill [193] consisted largely of redeposited sand/gravel and represented an initial weathering of the cut. Fill [193] contained no dateable artefacts. The secondary fill [196], 0.19m in depth, was a friable mid-dark brown sandy silt, containing occasional sub-rounded pebbles (<5cm, <1%). Fill [196] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit from the contemporary topsoil. Fill [196] contained no dateable artefacts.

Ditch section [167]: A metre long slot was excavated across the ne-sw aligned ditch and the observed cut was labelled as cut [167]. Ditch cut [167] was a maximum of 1.15 wide, 0.69m deep, had a sharp break of slope at the top of the cut, and a steeply sloping (45º angle) v-shaped profile. Ditch cut [167] contained a single fills, [168] and

had evidently been severely truncated by ploughing. The primary fill [168], 0.69m in depth, was a friable mid brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded gravel inclusions (<5cm, <1%). Fill [168] is interpreted as a deposit formed by natural silting (possibly windblown) and weathering of the sides of the ditch cut. Fill [168] contained no dateable artefacts.

Ditch section [185]: A metre long slot was excavated across the ne-sw aligned ditch and the observed cut was labelled as cut [185]. Ditch cut [185] was a maximum of 2.3m wide, 1.01m deep, had a gradual break of slope at the top of the cut, and a steeply sloping (45º angle) narrow u-shaped profile (flat-concave base). Ditch cut [153] contained six fills, [186],[187],[188], [189], [190] and [191]. The primary fill [191], 0.28m in depth, was a moderately compacted yellow sandy silt. Fill [191] is interpreted as a deposit formed by natural silting and weathering of the sides of the ditch cut, and contained no dateable artefacts. The secondary fill [190], 0.22m in depth, was a moderately compacted dark brown sandy silt. Fill [190] is interpreted as a naturally slumped deposit formed by weathering of the eastern side of the ditch cut. Fill [190] contained no dateable artefacts.Overlying fill [190] was a tertiary fill [189]. Fill [189] was a moderately compacted light orange-brown silty-sand, 0.3m in depth. Fill [189] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit and contained no dateable artefacts. Overlying fill [189] was a tertiary fill [189]. Fill [188] was a loosely compacted orange-brown silty-sand, 0.23m in depth. Fill [188] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit, and contained no dateable artefacts. Overlying fill [188] was a tertiary fill [187]. Fill [187] was a loosely compacted mid-brown silty-sand, 0.2m in depth. Fill [187] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit derived from the contemporary topsoil, and contained no dateable artefacts. Overlying fill [187] was a tertiary fill [186]. Fill [186] was a loose dark greyish-brown silty-sand, 0.2m in depth and containing occasional sub-rounded fragments of sandstone (<5%). Fill [186] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit derived from the contemporary topsoil, and contained no dateable artefacts. Fill [186] was truncated by n-s aligned post-medieval furrow, cut [197].

Isolated Features. Northern Half of NCF-B: Group 3
A number of isolated cut features were observed in the northern half of the NCF-B excavation area.

Pit/Posthole [159] At the eastern extent of ditch cut [156] was a sub-circular feature [159], 0.34m in diameter and 0.39m in depth. Cut [159] is interpreted as the cut of a small pit or posthole. Pit/posthole cut [159] had moderately steep sides and a v-shaped base. Pit/posthole [159] was discrete from ditch cut [156], and was possibly cut to receive a pointed post (although no post-pipe was visible.. Cut [159] contained two fills [160], and [161]. The primary fill [161], 0.33m in depth, was a loosely compacted mid-dark brown silty sand, containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded sandstones (<5%). Fill [161] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit. Fill [161] contained no dateable artefacts. The secondary fill [160], 0.06m in depth, was a loosely compacted dark grey silty sand. Fill [160] is interpreted as naturally silted deposit from the contemporary topsoil. Fill [160] contained no dateable artefacts.

Pit [148] Pit cut [148] was a regular ovoid shape in plan (1.35m in width), and was located in the centre-north portion of the NCF-B excavation area. Upon excavation pit [148] was found to contained eight fills (fills [175], [176], [177], [178], [179], [180] and [181]) and had a maximum depth of 0.56m.

The primary fill, [175] was a loosely compacted orange-yellow silty sand containing moderate inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<10%, <5cm). Fill [175], 0.24m in depth, is interpreted as a rapidly accumulated primary fill formed by the natural silting of the sand through which pit cut [148] was dug. Fill [175] contained no dateable artefacts, but did contain occasional charcoal flecks and was environmentally sampled (<60>).

Overlying fill [175] was a secondary fill, [176]. Fill [176] was a loosely compacted mid pinkish-brown fine sand containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<1%, <4cm). Fill [176], 0.15m in depth, is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit and contained no dateable artefacts. Fill [176] was environmentally sampled (<61>).

Overlying fill [176] was fill [178], a loosely compacted orange-brown sand containing sub-rounded stones (<2%, <4cm). Fill [178], 0.2m in depth, is interpreted as erosion or collapsed of the western edge of cut [148], and contained no dateable artefacts.

Overlying fill [178] was fill [169], a loosely compacted mid-dark reddish-brown silty sand containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<1%, <3cm). Fill [169], 0.05m in depth, was charcoal rich, contained burnt bone fragments, and is best interpreted as a deposit of deliberately backfilled material derived from a charcoal rich source. Fill [169] contained no dateable artefacts.

Overlying fill [169] was fill [179], a friable mid brown silty sand containing occasional sub-rounded stones (<2%, <5cm). Fill [179], 0.2m in depth, is interpreted as a period of natural silting occurring in between deliberate backfilling events of charcoal rich material (e.g. [169] and [181]).

Overlying fill [179] was fill [181], a friable dark brown sandy silt containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<1%). Fill [181], 0.05m in depth, was charcoal rich, contained burnt bone fragments, and is best interpreted as a deposit of deliberately backfilled material derived from a charcoal rich source. Fill [181] contained no dateable artefacts.

Overlying fill [181] was fill [180], a friable very dark brown sandy silt containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<1%, <2cm). Fill [180], 0.06m in depth, was charcoal rich, contained burnt bone fragments, and is best interpreted as a deposit of deliberately backfilled material derived from a charcoal rich source. Fill [180] contained no dateable artefacts.

Overlying fill [180] was fill [177], a loosely compacted very dark brown silty sand containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<2%). Fill [177], 0.12m in depth is best interpreted as either a dump of burnt material or the residue of some in situ burning (as deposit [177] is discoloured through heating). Fill [177] contained burnt bone, but contained no dateable artefacts.

Posthole [162] Cut [162] was a circular feature, 0.48m in diameter and 0.12m in depth, located towards north of the NCF-B excavation area, and interpreted as a possible posthole. Posthole cut [162] had steeply sloping sides and a slightly concave base. No evidence for a post-pipe was observed. It was evident that the feature had been severely truncated by ploughing. Cut [162] contained a single fill, [163]. Fill [163], 0.12m in depth, was a friable dark grey-brown sandy silt. Fill [163] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit. Fill [142] contained no dateable artefacts but did contain frequent charcoal inclusions and was environmentally sampled (<26>).

Posthole [164] Cut [164] was a sub-circular feature, 0.54m in diameter and 0.32m in depth, located towards north of the NCF-B excavation area, and interpreted as a posthole. Posthole cut [164] had fairly steeply sloping sides and a narrow concave base. No evidence for a post-pipe was observed, perhaps because the post had been deliberately removed (see [164] below). It was evident that the feature had been severely truncated by ploughing. Cut [164] contained two fills, [165] and [184]. The primary fill [184] was a compact mid yellow-brown silty sand, containing 40% sub-angular stones (<4cm). Fill [184] is interpreted as the remnants of possible post-packing. The secondary fill [165], 0. 2m in depth, was a friable mid-brown silty sand. Fill [165] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit after the post had been removed. Fill [165] contained no dateable artefacts.

Posthole [170] Cut [170] was a circular feature, 0.3m in diameter and 0.25m in depth, located towards northwest of the NCF-B excavation area, and interpreted as a posthole, possibly in association with stakehole [172]. Posthole cut [170] had near vertical sides and a concave base. It was evident that the feature had been severely truncated by ploughing. Cut [170] contained two fills, [171] and [174]. The primary fill [171] was a loose mid-dark red-brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.08m). Fill [171] is interpreted as deliberately backfilled material. The secondary fill [174], 0. 06m in depth, was a loose dark reddish-brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stones (<2cm). Fill [174] is interpreted as a the remnants of a post-pipe, although this is far from certain. Fill [174] contained no dateable artefacts.

Stakehole [172] Cut [172] was a circular feature, 0.1m in diameter and 0.1m in depth, located towards northwest of the NCF-B excavation area, and interpreted as a stakehole, possibly in association with posthole cut [170]. Stakehole cut [172] had near vertical sides and a concave base. Cut [172] contained a single fill [173], a loose dark red-brown silty sand, 0.1m in depth and containing occasional charcoal flecks. Fill [173] is interpreted as the probable rotted remains of a stake. Fill [173] contained no dateable artefacts.

Treebole [182] Cut [182] was an irregularly shaped feature, 1m in width and 0.23m in depth, located at the northwest extent of the NCF-B excavation area, and interpreted as the cut of a natural treebole. Cut [182] had gradually sloping sides and an undulating base. It was evident that the feature had been severely truncated ploughing. Cut [182] contained a single fill [183]. Fill [183], 0.23m in depth, was a loose mid-dark red-brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded (<2cm). Fill [183] is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit. Fill [183] contained no dateable artefacts, but was environmentally sampled (<37>).

Posthole Cluster at the west of NCF-B: Group 4
Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) towards the western edge, in the middle portion of the excavation area, followed by hand cleaning, revealed a cluster of seven circular cut features. Whilst the majority cut into the natural pink-orange sand (116), two of the features cut into a broadly east-west aligned curvilinear feature, The posthole cluster was bounded to the east by a north-south aligned post-medieval furrow [239] which may have truncated more posthole features.

Posthole [201] Cut [201] was a circular feature, 0.4m in width and 0.45m in depth, located to the southeast of the posthole cluster, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. The feature had near vertical sides leading to a concave base. Cut [201] contained a single fill, (202). The fill (202), was a loosely compacted mid-dark red-brown silty sand, containing frequent inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.10m in diameter though on average approximately 0.05m in diameter). The stone inclusions appeared to represent post-packing material, but were well mixed within the fill (202). The fill (202) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (202) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<44>).

Posthole [203] Cut [203] was a circular feature, 0.25m in width and 0.25m in depth, located towards the southeast of the posthole cluster, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [203] had very steep sides and a concave base, it contained a single fill, (204). The fill (204) was a loosely compacted mid-dark red-brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.04m diameter). The fill (204) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (204) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<45>).

Posthole [205] Cut [205] was a circular feature, 0.22m in width and 0.26m in depth, located towards the southwest of the posthole cluster, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [205] had steep sides and a concave base, it contained a single fill, (206). The fill (206) was a loosely compacted mid-dark red-brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.15m diameter). The stone inclusions were positioned as evidence of post-packing though there was no sign of a 'post-pipe'. The fill (206) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (206) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<47>).

Posthole [207] Cut [207] was a circular feature, 0.27m in width and 0.12m in depth, located at the southwest of the posthole cluster, and interpreted as the cut of a truncated posthole. Posthole [207] had very steep sides and a flattish base, it contained a single fill, (208). The fill (208) was a loosely compacted mid-dark red-brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.03m diameter). The fill (208) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit, possibly resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (208) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<48>).

Posthole [209] Cut [209] was a circular feature, 0.43m in width and 0.38m in depth, located towards the northwest of the posthole cluster, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [209] had steep sides and a flattish base, it contained a single fill, (210). The fill (210) was a loosely compacted mid-dark red-brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.15m diameter), indicative of post-packing material. The fill (202) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (204) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<49>).

Pit/Treebole [211] Cut [211] was irregular in plan, 0.9m in width and 0.28m in depth, located at the centre of the posthole cluster, and interpreted as a pit or treebole. Cut [211] had steep sides and an undulating base, although the clarity of the cut was poor and appeared to be underlying the natural substrate (116) in places. Cut [211] contained a single fill, (212). The fill (212) was friable with multiple lenses of mid grey-brown and mid yellow-brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.06m diameter). The fill (212) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit. A single flint microlith (SF 1) was recovered from the fill (212) and was subsequently environmentally sampled (<46>).

Posthole [223] Cut [223] was a circular feature, 0.38m in width and 0.42m in depth, located towards the northeast of the posthole cluster, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [223] had near vertical sides and a concave base, it was cut into an earlier, curvilinear feature [213] (discussed below). Cut [223] contained a single fill, (224). The fill (224) was a loosely compacted mid-dark red-brown silty sand with a lens of slightly grey brown

silty sand at the base. It contained a moderate frequency of sub-rounded stones (<0.25m diameter), indicative of post-packing material. The fill (224) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of a post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (224) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal. The fill (224) was not initially identified from the earlier curvilinear feature [213] during excavation and was therefore not sampled.

Posthole [225] Cut [225] was a circular feature, 0.47m in width and 0.35m in depth, located towards the northeast of the posthole cluster, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [225] had near vertical sides and a concave base, it was cut into an earlier, curvilinear feature [213] (discussed below). Cut [225] contained a single fill, (226). The fill (226) was a loosely compacted mid-dark red-brown silty sand. It contained frequent inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.20m diameter), indicative of post-packing material. The fill (226) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of a post as the stones where well sorted within the fill (226). No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (226) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal. The fill (226) was not initially identified from the earlier curvilinear feature [213] during excavation and was therefore not sampled.

Northern Curvilinear/ Palisade Feature: Group 5

Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) towards the middle section of the excavation area, followed by hand cleaning, revealed slightly curvilinear feature cutting into the natural pink-orange sand (116). Running from the eastern extent of the excavation area it followed a southwest to northeast alignment across the excavation area before curving to the southeast approximately halfway across the site. It was not possible to trace the feature any further to the east as it had either terminated or been truncated away by ploughing and machining. The feature was also truncated in several places by north-south aligned post-medieval furrows. Several slots 1m in length were excavated along the length on this feature.

Curvilinear/ Palisade Ditch [199] Cut [199] was a curvilinear feature, 0.35m in width and 0.25m in depth. Running along an east-west orientation at this point, cut [199] had near vertical sides with an undulating concave base indicative of post impressions. Cut [199] contained a single fill (200). Fill (200) was a friable mid yellow-brown silty sand with occasional sandy lenses. It contained occasional inclusions of rounded stones (<0.01m diameter). At this point there were no notable charcoal inclusions but the fill was environmentally sampled (<40>). The fill is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit, presumably surrounding posts as evidenced by the undulating base to the cut. There were no dateable artefacts recovered from this feature.

Curvilinear/ Palisade Ditch [213] A 1m long slot was excavated within the slightly curvilinear feature, 0.5m in width and 0.4m in depth, the cut was subsequently labelled [213]. Running along a southwest to northeast alignment and across the excavation before curving to the southeast, cut [213] was located towards the north of the posthole cluster and interpreted as a palisade ditch. Cut [213] had steep to near vertical sides with an undulating concave base and contained a single fill (214). Fill (214) was a loosely compacted mid yellow-brown silty sand, although through excavation, mid to dark yellow brown stains were identified throughout the length of the fill. It contained occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.06m diameter) and frequent inclusions of charcoal and was environmentally sampled in response (<50>). The fill is interpreted as a deliberately backfilled deposit, presumably surrounding posts as evidenced by the mid to dark yellow brown stains. The feature was later truncated at this location by postholes [223] and [225]. There were no dateable artefacts recovered from this feature.

Curvilinear/ Palisade Ditch [215] A 1m long slot was excavated within the curvilinear feature, 0.32m in width and 0.38m in depth, the cut was subsequently labelled [215]. Running along an east-west orientation at this point, cut [215] had near vertical sides with an undulating concave base indicative of post impressions. Cut [215] contained a single fill (216). Fill (216) was a friable light-mid brown silty sand. It contained occasional inclusions of rounded stones (<0.01m diameter). At this point there were significant charcoal deposits (<0.1m diameter) within the fill, which was subsequently sampled (<41> and <42> C^{14}). The patterning and density of the charcoal inclusions led to the interpretation that they represented the in-situ burning of the palisade timbers ([484] and (485)). There were no dateable artefacts recovered from this feature.

Posthole [484] Cut [484] was a feature 0.2m wide and 0.3m deep. The break of slope at the top of the cut was sharp and the sides were near vertical. The break of slope at the bottom of the cut was sharp and the base was an inverted cone, tapering to a point. It is possible that the top of the feature was truncated by the machining. The cut [484] has been interpreted as a posthole. It contained one fill: (485). Fill (485) comprised largely of an in situ

burnt wooden post. The material contained a high percentage of burnt wood. It was fairly compact dark brown silty sand and the charred wood pieces reaches a size of <10cm3. Material was sent off for C14 dating.

Curvilinear/ Palisade Ditch [218] A 1m long slot was excavated within the curvilinear feature, 0.4m in width and 0.05m in depth, the cut was subsequently labelled [218]. Running along a slightly more northwest-southeast orientation at this point, cut [218] had steep sides with a near flat undulating base. Cut [218] contained a single fill (219). Fill (219) was a friable mid yellow-brown silty sand. It contained occasional inclusions of small rounded stones (<0.01m diameter). At this point there were no notable charcoal inclusions but the fill was environmentally sampled (<43>). This portion potentially represents a termination of this feature although later truncation prevents this from being a certainty and it may originally have continued further to the southeast. There were no dateable artefacts recovered from this feature.

Curvilinear/ Palisade Ditch [241] A longitudinal section was excavated within the slightly curvilinear feature, 0.5m in width and 0.31m in depth in order to prove its stratigraphic relationship with what proved to be a later furrow [239]. Running along a northeast-southwest orientation at this point, cut [241] had near vertical sides with an undulating concave base indicative of post impressions. The longitudinal section revealed two postpipes [278] and [280] that had been inserted into the palisade ditch (discussed below). Cut [241] contained a homogonous fill (242). Fill (242) was a loosely compacted mid yellow-brown silty sand with occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.08m diameter). There were frequent charcoal fragments throughout the fill but it was not sampled as it could not be easily differentiated from the two posts [278] and [280]. The fill is interpreted as a deliberately backfilled deposit, presumably surrounding the two posts. There were no dateable artefacts recovered from this feature.

Post-pipe [278] Cut [278] was noted in section within the fill of the palisade ditch [241], 0.3m in width and 0.3m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [278] had near vertical sides and a flattish base, it contained a single fill, (279). The fill (279) was a loosely compacted mid red-brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.04m diameter). No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (279), and although it contained frequent charcoal flecks it was not environmentally sampled due to contamination with (242). The fill (279) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post or in-situ burning.

Post-pipe [280] Cut [280] was noted in section within the fill of the palisade ditch [241], 0.3m in width and 0.3m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [280] had near vertical sides and a flattish base, it contained a single fill, (281). The fill (281) was a loosely compacted mid red-brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.04m diameter). No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (281), and although it contained frequent charcoal flecks it was not environmentally sampled due to contamination with (242). The fill (281) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post or in-situ burning.

Curvilinear/ Palisade Ditch [243] A 1m long slot was excavated within the curvilinear feature, 0.35m in width and 0.15m in depth, the cut was subsequently labelled [243]. Running along a slightly more northwest-southeast orientation at this point, cut [218] had moderately sloping sides with a near flat undulating base. Cut [243] contained a single fill (244). Fill (244) was a friable mid red-brown silty sand. It contained occasional inclusions of small rounded stones (<0.01m diameter). There were no notable charcoal inclusions within this length of the curvilinear and was not environmentally sampled, no dateable artefacts were recovered from this feature. Truncated away at eastern extent.

Curvilinear/ Palisade Ditch [292] A 1m long slot was excavated within the curvilinear feature, 0.5m in width and 0.25m in depth, the cut was subsequently labelled [292]. Running along an east-west orientation at this point, cut [292] had steep sides with a concave undulating base, indicative of post impressions. Cut [292] contained a single fill (293). Fill (293) was friable dark brown-black silty sand. It contained inclusions of small rounded stones throughout (<0.01m diameter). At this point there were significant charcoal deposits within the fill indicating the remains of a post, burnt in-situ this was identified as cut [294] (discussed below). No dateable artefacts were recovered from this feature, and the fill (293) was environmentally sampled (<76>).

Palisade Post [294]
Cut [294] was noted in section within the fill of the palisade ditch [292], 0.1m in width and 0.22m in depth, and interpreted as the remains of a post burnt in-situ. Post [294] had near vertical sides and a V-shape base, it

contained a single fill, (295). The fill (295) was friable black silty sand, rich in charcoal. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (295), which was environmentally sampled (<76>).

Terminus of Curvilinear/ Palisade Ditch [333] A 1m long slot was excavated within the curvilinear feature at a point it appeared to be terminating before continuing as [335]. Measuring 0.38m in width and 0.15m in depth, the cut was subsequently labelled [333]. Running along an east-west orientation at this point, cut [333] had steep sides with a concave base. Cut [333] contained a single fill (334). Fill (334) was friable light-mid brown silty sand with ephemeral traces of a post-pipe. It contained occasional inclusions of small rounded stones (<0.08m diameter). There were no notable charcoal inclusions within this deposit, which was environmentally sampled (<82>), no dateable artefacts were recovered from this feature.

Terminus of Curvilinear/ Palisade Ditch [335] A 1m long slot was excavated within the curvilinear feature at a point it appeared to be terminating before continuing as [333]. Measuring 0.3m in width and 0.1m in depth, the cut was subsequently labelled [335]. Running along an east-west orientation at this point, cut [335] had a near vertical northern edge and a more moderately sloping southern side, with a concave base. Cut [335] contained a single fill (336). Fill (336) was friable mid brown silty sand. It contained occasional inclusions of small rounded stones (<0.08m diameter). There were no notable charcoal inclusions within this deposit, which was environmentally sampled (<83>), no dateable artefacts were recovered from this feature.

Curvilinear/ Palisade Ditch [377]
A 1m long slot was excavated within the curvilinear feature, 0.36m in width and 0.20m in depth, the cut was subsequently labelled [377]. Running along an east-west orientation at this point, cut [377] had near vertical sides with a concave undulating base, indicative of post impressions. Cut [377] contained a single fill (378). Fill (378) was friable dark brown silty sand. It contained inclusions of rounded stones throughout (<0.08m diameter). At this point there were significant charcoal deposits within the fill suggesting the remains of a post, burnt in-situ. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this feature, the fill (378) was environmentally sampled (<101>). Fill (378) is truncated by n-s furrow cut [379]. Cut [377] truncates fill (376) (fill of treebole cut [375].

Posthole Cluster at the southwest of NCF-B: Group 6
Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) towards the southwestern edge, of the excavation area, followed by hand cleaning, revealed a cluster of nine circular cut features.

Posthole [251] Cut [251] was a circular feature, 0.42m in width and 0.25m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. The feature had moderately steep sides leading to a concave base. Cut [251] contained a single fill, (252). The fill (252) was loose, dark brown silty sand, containing large sub-rounded granite stones (<0.20m in length) which appear to represent post-packing material. The fill (252) is interpreted as a deliberately backfilled deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (252) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<51>).

Posthole [253] Cut [253] was a sub-circular feature, 0.44m in width and 0.22m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. The feature had moderately sloping sides leading to a pronounced concave base. Cut [253] contained a single fill, (254). The fill (254) was loose, dark brown silty sand, containing small-medium sized sub-rounded granite stones (<5%) which appear to represent post-packing material. The fill (254) is interpreted as a deliberately backfilled deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (254) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<52>).

Posthole [255] Cut [255] was a circular feature, 0.33m in width and 0.22m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. The feature had moderately steep sides leading to a concave base. Cut [255] contained a single fill, (256). The fill (256) was loose, dark brown silty sand, containing small sub-rounded granite stones (<1%). The fill (256) is interpreted as a deliberately backfilled deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (256) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<53>).

Pit/Posthole [257] Cut [257] was an ovate feature, 0.45m in width and 0.15m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a pit/posthole. The feature had moderately sloping sides leading to a second break of slope on the southern side, after which this side became much steeper leading to a narrow, undulating convave base. Cut [257] contained a single fill, (258). The fill (258) was loose, dark brown silty sand, containing small sub-rounded granite stones (<5%). The fill (258) is interpreted as a deliberately backfilled deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (258) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<54>).

Pit/Posthole [259] Cut [259] was a sub-circular feature, 0.66m in width and 0.23m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a truncated pit or posthole. The feature had moderately sloping sides leading to a smooth concave base. Cut [259] contained a single fill, (260). The fill (260) was loose, dark brown silty sand, containing medium sized sub-rounded and sub-angular granite stones (<5%), which may represent post-packing material. The fill (260) is interpreted as a deliberately backfilled deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (260) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<55>).

Pit/Posthole [261] Cut [255] was a heavily truncated ovate feature, 0.25m in width and 0.05m in depth, and interpreted as either the base of a pit or posthole or residual remains of the subsoil. The feature had gently sloping sides leading to a slightly concave base. Cut [261] contained a single fill, (262). The fill (262) was loose, dark brown silty sand, with no apparent inclusions. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (262) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<56>).

Posthole [263] Cut [263] was a sub-circular feature, 0.58m in width and 0.19m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole or possibly a double posthole. The feature had steep sides leading to an undulating concave base. Cut [263] contained a single fill, (264). The fill (264) was loose, dark brown silty sand, containing small sub-rounded granite and sandstone inclusions (<5%), which may represent packing material. The fill (264) is interpreted as a deliberately backfilled deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (264) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<57>). The steep sides and general morphology of the feature indicate this may be a double posthole but was not recognised as such during excavation. It was not possible to differentiate any changes within the fill but this may be due to the de-mineralised state of the deposit (264).

Pit/Posthole [265] Cut [265] was a sub-circular feature, 0.34m in width and 0.14m in depth, and interpreted as either a pit or posthole. The feature had steep sides leading to a concave base. Cut [265] contained a single fill, (266). The fill (266) was loose, dark brown silty sand, with small sub-rounded granite inclusions (<5%). No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (266) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<58>).

Pit/Posthole [267] Cut [267] was a sub-circular feature, 0.36m in width and 0.18m in depth, and interpreted as either a pit or posthole. The feature had steep sides leading to a concave base. Cut [267] contained a two fills, (268) and (269). The primary fill (269) was loose, mid-dark brown silty sand, with small sub-rounded granite inclusions (<5%), 0.07m in depth. The secondary fill (268) was loose, dark brown-grey silty sand, with a single, large quartz stone and other small-medium sub-rounded granite inclusions (<5%), 0.11m in depth. No dateable artefacts were recovered from either fills and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but were still both environmentally sampled (<59> and <68> respectively).

A cluster of circular features were identified in the southwest portion of the enclosure and subsequently investigated. A north-south furrow was located just to the east of these features and also partially excavated in case it had truncated earlier features. This revealed a further pit to the east of the posthole cluster.

Posthole [355] Cut [355] was a circular feature, 0.5m in width and 0.15m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [355] had near vertical sides and a flat base, it contained a single fill, (356). The fill (356) was friable mid yellow-brown silty sand, with no apparent inclusions. The fill (356) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (356), it appeared to not contain any charcoal, and was not substantial enough to be environmentally sampled.

Posthole [357] Cut [357] was a sub-circular feature, 0.55m in width and 0.15m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [357] had near vertical sides and a flattish base it contained a single fill, (358). The fill (358) was friable mid red-brown sandy silt, containing occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.05m diameter). The fill (358) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (358) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was environmentally sampled (<97>).

Post/Stakehole [359] Cut [359] was a circular feature, 0.2m in width and 0.16m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole or stakehole. Feature [359] had steep sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (360). The fill (360) was friable mid-dark grey brown sandy silt, with no apparent inclusions. The fill (360) is interpreted as a

naturally accumulating deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (360), it appeared to not contain any charcoal, and was not environmentally sampled.

Post/Stakehole [361] Cut [361] was a circular feature, 0.23m in width and 0.17m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole or stakehole. Feature [361] had steep sides and a flattish base it contained a single fill, (362). The fill (362) was friable mid-dark grey brown sandy silt, with occasional pebble inclusions (<0.03m). The fill (362) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (362), it appeared to not contain any charcoal, and was not environmentally sampled.

Pit [387]
Not fully observed, cut [387] was only seen in section and partially in plan within a slot excavated through a later furrow [389]. Pit [387] was a sub-circular feature, 1.4m in width and 0.4m in depth with steep sides and a concave-flat base it contained a single fill, (389). Largely consisting of friable mid-light grey fine silty sand there are three distinct parts to the deposit. Within the lower 0.2m at the western extent is a stoney tip, this was followed by a phase of natural silting with an overlying phase of redeposited natural. Occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.1m diameter) were present throughout the deposit. The fill was not environmentally sampled and provided no dateable artefacts.

Discussion This group of posthole features is similar to other groups on the site and may be related to them. As with the other groups of postholes there is not artefactual evidence to help date them and they do not form an easily identifiable structure. They may relate specifically to a group of postholes located just to the south, though this is speculative.

Posthole Group to the west of the Lower Middle Part of NCF-B: Group 7
Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) towards the western edge, of the excavation area, followed by hand cleaning, revealed two sub- features cutting into the natural pink-orange sand (116).

Posthole [245] Cut [245] was a sub-circular feature, 0.41m in width and 0.28m in depth, and interpreted as a posthole. The feature had steep, near vertical sides leading to a flat base. Cut [245] contained a single fill, (246). The fill (246) was friable, mid red/yellow brown sand silt, with occasional pebble inclusions (<1%). The upper 0.05m consists of a charcoal rich deposit, interpreted as the remnants of a post, burnt in-situ with the vague impression of a 'post-pipe' below this indicating a portion of unburned post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (246), which was environmentally sampled (<63>).

Posthole [276] Cut [276] was a sub-circular feature, 0.45m in width and 0.15m in depth, and interpreted as the truncated remains of a posthole. The feature had moderately sloping sides leading to a concave base. Cut [276] contained a single fill, (277). The fill (277) was friable, mid yellow brown silty sand, with occasional pebble inclusions (<1%). The upper 0.03m consists of a charcoal rich deposit, interpreted as the remnants of a post, burnt in-situ. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (277), which was not environmentally sampled.

Posthole [283] Cut [283] was a sub-circular feature, 0.41m in width and 0.2m in depth, and interpreted as a posthole. The feature had steep sides leading to an undulating base. Cut [283] contained a single fill, (296). The fill (296) was friable, mid brown silty sand with yellow mottling, and occasional pebble inclusions (<1%). The fill is interpreted as natural silting following the decay of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (296), which was environmentally sampled (<72>).

Pit to the west of the Lower Middle Part of NCF-B: Group 8
Pit [282] Cut [282] was a sub-rectangular feature on a north-south orientation, 2.2m in length, 0.8m in width and 0.27m in depth, and is interpreted as a fire pit or oven. The feature had a steep cut on three sides, the southern side was more moderately sloping and may represent a flue. The base was almost flat throughout the feature. Cut [282] contained three fills, (297), (298) and (299). The basal fill (299) was friable/ moderately compacted, mid red and mid yellow burnt sand, with no apparent inclusions. Deposit (299) was 0.08m deep and covered an area 0.6m across in a sub-circular pattern in the northern part of cut [282]. The differentiated into an outer portion primarily consisting of the mid red sand, whilst the inner part was comprised of mid yellow sand. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (299), which was environmentally sampled (<75>).

Overlying the basal fill (299) was deposit (298). The fill (298) was friable, mid-very dark grey sandy silt with charcoal represent <10% of the deposit. Other inclusions included occasional pebbles (<1%) and burnt clay flecks,

particularly in the northern extent. Deposit (298) was 0.27m deep and was present throughout the extent of the cut feature [282] overlying (299). Fill (298) was interpreted as the primary fill of the feature consisting of deliberately backfilled material combined with rake-out material from burning events as represented by charcoal rich lenses throughout the deposit which was environmentally sampled (<74>).

Overlying the primary fill (298) was deposit (297). The fill (297) was friable, mid-dark grey silty sand with occasional pebbles (<1%). Deposit (297) was 0.18m deep and covered an area 1.6m in length and 0.6m wide. Fill (297) was interpreted as the secondary fill of the feature consisting of naturally silted material. The deposit which was environmentally sampled (<73> and <76>).

Pit Group [247], [249], [217], [220] and [221], Posthole [395], Pits [383], and [385]: Group 9
Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) towards the eastern middle portion of the excavation area, followed by hand cleaning, revealed a group of three intercutting features. These features cut into the natural pink-orange sand (116) and consist of two almost identical sub-circular pits [217] and [220] that may have been contemporary although they are truncated by a smaller later feature [221] that cuts both features at the point they would originally have joined each other.

Pit [217]: Cut [217] was a sub-circular feature, 1.3m in width and 0.46m in depth, located at the south of the pit group. Pit [217] had steep sides, which become more moderate halfway down the feature before a second break of slope after which they are much steeper again leading gradually into a slightly concave base.

The primary fill (232) was a friable-loose mix of black and light pink silty sand with lenses of scorched sand. Measuring 0.2m in depth it contained small sub-rounded stones (<3%). The fill (232) is interpreted as layers of charcoal and heated sand representing the remains of repeated burning in-situ. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<126>).

Overlying primary fill (232) was (231), a friable-loose light yellow and pink sand. Measuring 0.15m in depth it contained small sub-rounded stones (<2%). The fill (231) is interpreted as a layer of scorched sand. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<125>).

Overlying fill (231) was (230), a friable mid brown silty sand. Measuring 0.1m in depth it contained small sub-rounded stones (<1%). It is noted that this deposit consisted of several charcoal rich lenses. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<122>).

Overlying fill (230) were fills (228) and (229). Fill (228) was a lightly compacted mid red-brown sand. Measuring 0.3m in depth it contained small sub-rounded stones (<10%). It is noted that this deposit consisted of several charcoal rich lenses. Fill (229) was a friable mid brown silty sand with red-brown patches. Measuring 0.08m in depth it contained small sub-rounded stones (<1%).

Overlying fills (228) and (229) was (227). Fill (227) was a friable mid-dark grey brown sandy silt. Measuring 0.19m in depth this deposit contained small sub-rounded stones (<3%). The deposit represents the final fill of pit [217] and is truncated by [221]. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<121>).

Pit [220]: Cut [220] was a sub-circular feature, 1.2m in width and 0.47m in depth, located at the north of the pit group. Pit [220] had moderately sloping sides which led into a slightly concave base.

The primary fill (238) was a friable-loose light yellow and pink sand. Measuring 0.18m in depth it contained small sub-rounded stones (<1%) and some charcoal inclusions. The fill (238) is interpreted as layers of scorched sand, the deposit was environmentally sampled (<130>).

Overlying primary fill (238) was (237), a friable-loose mid brown and mid yellow silty sand. Measuring 0.2m in depth it contained small sub-rounded stones (<2%) with occasional charcoal inclusions. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<129>).

Overlying fill (237) was (236), a friable mid brown silty sand. Measuring 0.1m in depth it contained small sub-rounded stones (<2%). It is noted that this deposit consisted of several charcoal rich lenses. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<128>).

Overlying fill (236) was (235). Fill (235) was a friable mid brown silty sand. Measuring 0.15m in depth, it contained small sub-rounded stones (<3%). The deposit was environmentally sampled (<127>).

Overlying fill (235) was (234). Fill (234) was a friable mid brown silt sand. Measuring 0.1m in depth this deposit contained small sub-rounded, occasionally burnt stones (<1%) and a lens of charcoal at its base. The deposit represents the final fill of pit [220] and is truncated by [221]. It was also noted that this deposit was identical to fill (230) in pit [217].

Pit [221]: Cut [221] was an elongated oval shape feature, 0.5m in width and 0.37m in depth, located at the point pits [217] and [220] meet and is interpreted as an archaeological intervention. Pit [221] had vertical sides which follow the edges of pits [217] and [220]. Pit [221] has two fills, (233) and (222). The primary fill [221] was (233) which consisted of loose mid grey silty sand measuring a depth of 0.3m and containing small sub-rounded stones (<1%). The deposit was environmentally sampled (<120>).

Overlying fill (233) was (222), loose red-brown sand. Measuring 0.28m in depth it contained sub-rounded stones (<0.04m in diameter representing <1% of the context). Both fills were notable for the amount of roots contained within them and were interpreted as deliberate backfill resulting from the Headland Evaluation. A single artefact was recovered from deposit (222) (SF 2) which was an Fe object. The deposit was environmentally sampled (<119>).

Posthole [395]: Cut [395] was a heavily truncated circular feature located just to the west of the pits, 0.2m in width and 0.13m in depth, interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [395] had steep sides and a concave base, it contained a single fill, (396). The fill (396) was friable mid-dark grey-brown sandy silt, containing frequent inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.02m diameter). There was no sign of a 'post-pipe' or evidence for packing material. The fill (396) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (396) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal.

Further Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) in the middle portion of the excavation area, followed by hand cleaning, revealed two more pit features features cutting into the natural pink-orange sand (116).

Pit [247]: Cut [247] was an ovate feature, 1.6m in width and 0.43m in depth, and interpreted as a pit. The feature had moderately sloping sides leading to a flattish base. Cut [247] contained a three fills, (248), (274) and (275). The primary fill (248) was loose, mid-light orange-brown sand, with small sub-rounded stone inclusions (<10% and <0.05m), and 0.2m in depth.

The secondary fill (274) was friable, black sandy silt with small-medium sub-rounded stones (<5%), forming a charcoal rich deposit, 0.1m in depth. No dateable artefacts were recovered from this fill and it was environmentally sampled (<68>).

Overlying secondary fill (274) was (275). Deposit (275) was a friable mid grey-brown silty fine sand with inclusions of small sub-rounded stones throughout (<2%). This deposit measured 0.2m in depth and represented the final phase of deposits within this feature. Pit [247] was then subsequently truncated to the south by a later pit, [249] (discussed below). No dateable artefacts were recovered from this fill and it was environmentally sampled (<69>).

Pit [249]: Cut [249] was a sub-circular feature, 0.85m in width and 0.32m in depth, and interpreted as a pit. The feature had steeply sloping sides leading to a concave base, and had truncated pit [247] located slightly to the north. Cut [249] contained a single fill (250). The fill (250) was a friable-loose, mid orange-brown silty sand, with sub-rounded stone inclusions (<10% and <0.05m). No dateable artefacts were recovered from this feature and it was environmentally sampled (<70>).

Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) towards the southeast middle portion of the excavation area, followed by hand cleaning, revealed two inter-cutting features. These features cut into the natural pink-orange sand (116) and consist of two almost identical circular pits [383] and [385] that may have been broadly contemporary with each other.

Pit [383]: Cut [383] was a circular feature, 1.1m in width and 0.2m in depth, located to the south of the two pits. Pit [383] had moderately sloping sides, which led gradually into a flattish base. It contained three fills (384), (393), and (394). The basal fill (384) was friable mid-dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.02m). This deposit was interpreted as a naturally accumulated fill within the cut.

Overlying (384) was fill (393), friable dark grey-black sandy silt with occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.02m) and very rich in charcoal. This deposit was interpreted as a deliberate dump of burnt material, although there is no evidence for in-situ burning and probably originated elsewhere.

Overlying (393) was the upper fill (394), friable mid-dark grey-brown sandy silt with occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.03m) and occasional charcoal flecks, this was environmentally sampled (<123>). This deposit was interpreted as a natural silting event, subsequently truncated by the cut to the north [385].

Pit [385]: Cut [385] was a sub-circular feature, 1.4m in width and 0.36m in depth, located to the north of the two pits truncating pit [383]. Pit [385] had moderately sloping sides, which led gradually into a slightly concave base. It contained three fills (386), (391), and (392). The primary fill (391) was friable dark grey-black sandy silt with occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.02m) and charcoal fragments constituting approximately 60% of the context. With no signs of in-situ burning this deposit is interpreted as a deliberate dump of material. It was environmentally sampled (<98>).

Overlying (391) was fill (392), loose mid orange-grey silty sand and gravel with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded stones of varying sizes (though <0.03m). This deposit is interpreted as redeposited natural, occurring as lenses within pit [385].

Overlying (392) was the upper fill (386), friable dark grey brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.04m) and occasional charcoal fragments. This deposit was environmentally sampled (<99>, <124>). Fill (386) is interpreted as a natural silting event.

The presence of large quantities of charcoal within the fills suggests a fire related activity. However, there is no evidence of any in-situ burning which would indicate that there was a separate original function to these pits. For example, they may have served as watering holes with a hide laid down to retain the water. Once this function had ended, burnt material was dumped within them before silting up naturally over time. Pits [217], [220] and [221] showed evidence of in-situ burning and are located a short distance to the north. This may have been the origin of the burnt material.

Isolated Feature [367] : **Treebole [367]** Cut [367] was a kidney-shaped feature with an irregular cut, this feature was interpreted as a treebole. It contained a single fill (368), was loose dark brown silty sand, containing frequent sub-rounded stones (<0.06m diameter) and occasional charcoal inclusions. The fill (368) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (368), which was environmentally sampled (<93>).

Medieval Pit [270]: Group 10

Pit [270]: Cut [270] was a circular feature, 1.9m in width and 0.22m in depth, and interpreted as the base of a truncated pit. The feature had gently sloping sides leading to a slightly rounded base. Cut [249] contained three fills (271), (272) and (273). The primary fill (271) was friable, dark brown-black sandy silt and measured a depth of 0.1m. Although this deposit was rich in charcoal and burnt bone was recovered from throughout the fill there was no evidence of any in-situ burning, and was therefore most likely, a deliberate deposit. A single sherd of pottery was found within the fill (271), which was also environmentally sampled (<64> and <65>).

Overlying deposit (271) was (272). Deposit (272) was friable light grey clay sand with no notable inclusions. This deposit measured 0.04m in depth and was interpreted as a layer of burnt sand.

Overlying deposit (272) was (273). Deposit (273) was friable mid grey silty sand with occasional inclusions of rounded pebbles (<0.08m). This deposit measured 0.08m in depth and was interpreted as a natural silting event representing the final fill of the pit. A single artefact was recovered from fill (273) (SF 4), which was also environmentally sampled (<65>).

Potentially Neolithic Features to the West of the Middle Part of NCF-B: Group 11
Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) to the west of the middle portion of the excavation area revealed several sherds of early Neolithic pottery on the surface of the natural pink-orange sand (116). Hand cleaning of this area revealed several isolated features cutting into the natural substrate which could be associated with these artefacts.

Pit [284]: Cut [284] was a circular feature, 0.5m in width and 0.2m in depth, and interpreted as the base of a truncated pit. The feature had steep sides leading to a flattish base. Cut [284] contained a single fill (285). The fill (285) was friable mid to dark brown sandy silt with frequent inclusions of heated angular stones (<0.06m diameter), there were also charcoal flecks present throughout the fill. The fill was interpreted as a deliberate dump of material as there was no evidence of in-situ burning. No dateable artefacts were recovered from within the fill of pit [284], but a sherd of Neolithic pottery and a flint blade were found on the surface of this feature and may be associated. The fill (285) was environmentally sampled (<77>).

Pit ? [286]: Cut [286] was a long lozenge shaped feature, 1.3m in length, 0.32m in width and 0.06m in depth, and is of unknown function, potentially even a natural feature. The feature had steep sides leading to a slightly concave base. Cut [286] contained a single fill (287). The fill (287) was loose mottled mid yellow-brown and red-brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.04m diameter) suggests a more natural origin. There were no charcoal flecks noted within the fill and neither were there any artefacts recovered from within the excavated portion, however a single sherd of Neolithic pottery was recovered from the surface and may be associated. The fill (287) was environmentally sampled (<78>).

Posthole [288]: Cut [288] was a sub-circular feature, 0.4m in width and 0.15m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [288] had steep sides and a flattish-slightly concave base, it contained a single fill, (289). The fill (289) was friable mid-dark brown sandy silt, containing moderate inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.12m diameter). The stone inclusions were positioned against the edge of the cut providing evidence of post-packing, though there was no sign of a 'post-pipe'. The fill (289) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (289) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal.

Pit ? [313]: Cut [313] was a lozenge shaped feature, 0.5m in width and 0.18m in depth, and is of unknown function. The feature had steep sides leading to a concave base. Cut [313] contained a single fill (314). The fill (314) was friable mid grey brown silty sand with frequent inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.03m diameter) suggests a more natural origin although the cut is quite distinct. There were no charcoal flecks noted within the fill and no artefacts were recovered from within the excavated portion. The fill was not as being noticeably more demineralised than other deposits suggesting an early date.

Pit ? [319]: Cut [319] was a sub-circular feature, 0.65m in width and 0.28m in depth, and is interpreted as a pit. The feature had steep sides leading to a slightly concave base. Cut [319] contained a single fill (320). The fill (320) was friable-loose mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.04m diameter) with occasional fragments of charcoal noted throughout the deposit. The fill is interpreted as a single event of natural silting that has become very demineralised over time. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (320) although the proximity to cut [313] and the similarity on fills, may indicate a relationship between the two features.

Posthole [339]: Cut [339] was a sub-circular feature, 0.3m in width and 0.27m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole with subsequent truncation by a post-medieval furrow [317]. Posthole [339] had steep sides and a slightly concave base, it contained a single fill, (340). The fill (340) was friable-loose mid-dark grey-brown silty sand, containing occasional inclusions of sub-angular stones (<0.15m diameter) providing evidence of post-packing, though there was no sign of a 'post-pipe'. The fill (340) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (340) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal.

Posthole [343] Cut [343] was a sub-circular feature, 0.3m in width and 0.16m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a truncated posthole. Posthole [343] had steep sides and a slightly concave base, it contained a single fill, (344). The fill (344) was friable-loose mid-dark orangey-brown sandy silt, containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.03m diameter). There was no evidence of post-packing, or traces of a 'post-pipe'. The fill (344) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable

artefacts were recovered from the fill (344) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal but was environmentally sampled (<89>).

Posthole [345]: Cut [345] was a sub-circular feature, 0.3m in width and 0.2m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [345] had steep sides and a concave base, it contained a single fill, (346). The fill (346) was friable-loose, mid-dark orangey-brown sandy silt, containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.02m diameter). There was no evidence of post-packing, or traces of a 'post-pipe', but a concentration of charcoal at the top the deposit (346) indicates the burnt remains of a post, which was environmentally sampled (<90>)

Linear/Palaeochannel in Southwest Corner of NCF-B Group 12
Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) in the southwest corner of the excavation area, followed by hand cleaning, revealed two linear features cutting into the natural pink-orange sand (116) intersecting each other. A slot was excavated at this intersection to investigate the relationship between these features and a separate slot was excavated in each linear to obtain a full profile.

Linear [305]: Cut [305] was a linear feature, 0.39m in width and 0.15m in depth, running along a north-south orientation. Cut [305] had moderately sloping sides with a concave base. Cut [305] contained a single fill (306). Fill (306) was loose mid orange-brown silty sand. It contained occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded stones (<5%). It was noted that throughout fill (306) were numerous lenses of compact mid red silty sand, which were interpreted as mineral deposits leaching through the deposit, similar to those in fill (308). There were no notable charcoal inclusions and the deposit was not sampled.

Linear [307]: Cut [307] was a linear feature, 0.5m in width and 0.44m in depth, running along an east-west orientation. Cut [307] had near vertical sides with a slightly concave base. Cut [307] contained a single fill (308). Fill (308) was loose-friable light grey-brown sandy silt. It contained occasional inclusions of small sub-rounded stones (<5%). It was noted that throughout fill (308) were numerous lenses of compact mid red silty sand, which were interpreted as mineral deposits leaching through the deposit, similar to those in fill (306). There were no notable charcoal inclusions and the deposit was not sampled.

Linear [300]: A slot was excavated at the point the two linears [305] and [307] intersected each other and the continuation of linear [305] was subsequently marked as cut [300]. Cut [300] was 0.46m in width and 0.18m in depth, running along a north-south orientation. Cut [300] had near moderately sloping sides with a concave base. Cut [300] contained a two fills (301) and (302). Primary fill (302) was moderately compacted light orange-brown sandy silt. It contained occasional inclusions of rounded stones (<5%). It was noted that throughout fill (302) were numerous lenses of compact mid red silty sand, which were interpreted as mineral deposits leaching through the deposit, similar to those in fill (304). There were no notable charcoal inclusions and the deposit was not sampled.

Overlying the primary fill (302) was (301). Fill (301) was moderately compacted light brown, gravel-sand. This deposit represents the upper fill of linear [300] and is interpreted as an alluvial deposit formed within the linear [300].

Linear [303]: A slot was excavated at the point the two linears, [305] and [307] intersected each other and the continuation of linear [307] was subsequently marked as cut [303]. Cut [303] was 0.5-0.6m in width and 0.24m in depth, running along an east-west orientation. Cut [303] had near vertical sides with a near flat base. Cut [303] contained a single fill (304). Fill (304) was moderately loose mid orange-brown sandy silt. It contained occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<5%). It was noted that throughout fill (304) were numerous lenses of compact mid red silty sand, which were interpreted as mineral deposits leaching through the deposit, similar to those in fill (302). There were no notable charcoal inclusions and the deposit was not sampled.

These two linears were only identified in the southwest corner of the excavation and were initially thought to relate with the palisade enclosure. Upon investigation of these features it became apparent that they were probable of glacial origin. The mineral leaching in particular supports this, as it was observed continuing beyond the limits of the feature and into the natural sands indicating that these features are of great antiquity. These features may either be palaeochannels or ice polygons formed as the ground thaws from the permafrost. Either way they are unlikely to be the result of human intervention.

Southern Curvilinear/ Palisade Feature: Group 13

Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) towards the south west section of the excavation area, followed by hand cleaning, revealed a slightly curvilinear feature cutting into the natural pink-orange sand (116). Running from the eastern extent of the excavation area it followed a southwest to northeast alignment across the excavation area. Significant truncation in several places gave the appearance of a discontinuous curvilinear and prevented it from being traced to the east. Several slots 1m in length were excavated along the length on this feature.

Curvilinear [321]: Cut [321] was a curvilinear feature, averaging 0.36m in width and 0.15m in depth although truncated by a furrow to the west and almost completely removed by machine to the east. Running along an east-west orientation at this point, cut [321] had moderately steep sides with a concave base. Cut [321] contained a single fill (322). Fill (322) was loose dark brown silty sand. It contained occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<5%). The fill is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit and contained no dateable artefacts.

Curvilinear [323]: A 1m long slot was excavated within the slightly curvilinear feature in order to confirm its relationship with a north-south aligned furrow [325]. Measuring 0.45m in width and 0.23m in depth the cut was subsequently labelled [323]. Running along an east-west orientation at this point, cut [323] had moderately steep sides with a concave base. Cut [323] contained a single fill (324). Fill (324) was loose dark brown silty sand. It contained occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<5%). The fill is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit and contained no dateable artefacts.

Curvilinear [327]: A 1m long slot was excavated within the slightly curvilinear feature measuring 0.46m in width and 0.13m in depth the cut was subsequently labelled [327]. Running along an east-west orientation at this point, cut [327] had moderately steep sides with a concave base. Cut [327] contained a single fill (328). Fill (328) was loose dark brown silty sand. It contained occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<5%). The fill is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit and contained no dateable artefacts, the deposit was environmentally sampled (<84>).

Curvilinear [329]: A 1m long slot was excavated within the slightly curvilinear feature measuring 0.32m in width and an average 0.05m in depth, although completely truncated at the eastern end. The cut was subsequently labelled [329]. Running along an east-west orientation at this point, cut [329] had moderately steep sides with a concave base. Cut [329] contained a single fill (330). Fill (330) was loose dark brown silty sand. It contained occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<5%). The fill is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit and contained no dateable artefacts, the deposit was environmentally sampled (<85>).

Curvilinear [331]: An ovate feature interpreted as a severely truncated section of the curvilinear feature was excavated measuring 0.23m in width and 0.08m in depth the cut was subsequently labelled [331]. Running along an east-west orientation at this point, cut [331] had moderately sloping sides with a concave base. Cut [331] contained a single fill (332). Fill (332) was loose dark brown silty sand. It contained occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<5%). The fill is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit and contained no dateable artefacts, the deposit was environmentally sampled (<87>).

Curvilinear [337]: A 1m long slot was excavated within the slightly curvilinear feature measuring 0.35m in width and an average 0.05m in depth, although completely truncated at the eastern end. The cut was subsequently labelled [337]. Running along an east-west orientation at this point, cut [337] had shallow sides and a slightly concave base. Cut [337] contained a single fill (338). Fill (338) was loose dark brown silty sand. It contained occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<5%). The fill is interpreted as a naturally silted deposit and contained no dateable artefacts, the deposit was environmentally sampled (<86>).

Postholes Near Northern Part of Enclosure: Group 14
A cluster of circular features were identified near to the most northern portion of the enclosure and subsequently investigated.

Posthole [309]: Cut [309] was a circular feature, 0.4m in width and 0.26m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [309] had steep sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (310). The fill (310) was friable mid brown silty sand, containing occasional rounded stones (<0.05m diameter). The fill (310) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post. Stones located on the surface of the natural (116) alongside the posthole may represent packing material disturbed during machining. No dateable

artefacts were recovered from the fill (310) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<79>).

Posthole [311]: Cut [311] was a circular feature, 0.35m in width and 0.33m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [311] had near vertical sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (312). The fill (312) was friable mid-dark brown sandy silt, containing occasional rounded stones (<0.08m diameter). The fill (312) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit and contained small charcoal flecks throughout possibly resulting from the burning of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (312), which was environmentally sampled (<80>).

Posthole [315]: Cut [315] was a circular feature, 0.2m in width and 0.22m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [315] had near vertical sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (316). The fill (316) was friable mid brown silty sand, containing occasional rounded stones (<0.08m diameter) near the edge of the cut which may represent post-packing material. The fill (316) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post or decay of the post in-situ, although no post-pipe was identified. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (316) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<81>).

This group of posthole features is similar to other groups on the site and may be related to them. As with the other groups of postholes there is not artefactual evidence to help date them and they do not form an easily identifiable structure. However, their close proximity to the palisade structure would suggest that they are not contemporary events. If related contemporary with the similar group of postholes on the western extent of the excavation area (discussed above) then these postholes are most likely later than the enclosure.

Postholes in Central Part of Enclosure: Group 15
A cluster of circular features were identified near to the central portion of the enclosure and subsequently investigated.

Posthole [348]: Cut [348] was a sub-circular feature, 0.42m in width and 0.24m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [348] had steep sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (347). The fill (347) was lightly compacted mid brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-angular stones (<0.08m diameter) near the base of the cut which may represent post-packing material. The fill (347) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (347) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was environmentally sampled (<94>).

Posthole [350]: Cut [350] was a sub-circular, slightly square feature, 0.67m in width and 0.13m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [350] had moderately sloping sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (349). The fill (349) was lightly compacted mid brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.08m diameter). The fill (349) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post or decay of the post in-situ, although no post-pipe was identified. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (349) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was environmentally sampled (<95>).

Posthole [352]: Cut [352] was a sub-circular feature, 0.34m in width and 0.1m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [352] had moderately sloping sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (351). The fill (351) was lightly compacted mid brown silty sand, containing occasional sub-angular stones (<0.10m diameter). The fill (351) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (351) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, and was not environmentally sampled.

Posthole [354]: Cut [354] was a sub-circular feature, 0.44m in width and 0.35m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [354] had steep sides and a slightly concave base it contained a single fill, (353). The fill (353) was lightly compacted mid brown silty sand, containing sub-angular stones (<0.08m diameter) representing approximately 3% of the upper part of the fill. The base of the cut contained sub-angular stones (<0.15m diameter) representing approximately 60% of the deposit. The significant amount if stones at the base was interpreted as either a post-pad, supporting a post or the result of post-packing material slumping to the base of the cut following removal of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (353) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was environmentally sampled (<96>).

Postholes Near Southern Part of Enclosure: Group 16
A cluster of circular features were identified near to the most southern portion of the enclosure and subsequently investigated.

Posthole [363]: Cut [363] was a circular feature, 0.32m in width and 0.19m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Posthole [363] had moderately steep sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (364). The fill (364) was loose dark black-brown silty sand, containing frequent sub-angular stones (<0.10m diameter) representing post-packing material. The fill (364) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit and contained small charcoal flecks throughout possibly resulting from the burning of the post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (364), which was environmentally sampled (<91>).

Pit [365]: Cut [365] was an ovate feature, 1.37m in length and 0.16m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a truncated pit. Pit [365] had moderately sloping sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (366). The fill (366) was loose dark brown silty sand, containing frequent sub-rounded stones (<0.06m diameter). The fill (366) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (366), which was environmentally sampled (<92>).

This group of posthole features is similar to other groups on the site and may be related to them. As with the other groups of postholes there is not artefactual evidence to help date them and they do not form an easily identifiable structure.

Natural Features Near the North-Eastern Part of the Enclosure: Group 17
A cluster of circular features were identified near to the eastern side of the enclosure and subsequently investigated.

Animal Burrow [369], [371], [373]: Cuts [369], [370] and [373] were a circular features, 0.21m in width and 0.09-0.16m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of an animal burrow, connected by a single silty linear running between each feature. The fills (370), (372) and (374) were loose, dark black-brown silty sand, with frequent sub-angular stones (<0.10m diameter). The fills are interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit

Shallow Pit/ Subsoil [381]: Cut [381] was an irregular feature, 1.62m in length, 0.18m in width and 0.09m in depth with a shallow cut and slight an undulating base. It contained a single fill (382), friable dark brown silty sand, containing frequent rounded stones (<0.08m diameter). The fill (382) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit. The cut may be the base of a heavily truncated pit but is more likely to be a remnant of subsoil resting in a natural hollow. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (382), which was environmentally sampled (<100>).

Isolated Features [341] and [375] : Group 18

Pit/Posthole [341]: Cut [341] was a circular feature, 0.45m in width and 0.13m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole or truncated pit. Pit/Posthole [341] had steep sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (342). The fill (342) was friable mid-dark brown silty sand, containing occasional rounded stones (<0.05m diameter) on the edge of the cut. The fill (341) is interpreted as a naturally accumulating deposit possibly resulting from the removal of a post. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (342) and it appeared to not contain any charcoal, but was still environmentally sampled (<88>).

Treebole [375]: Cut [375] was an ovate feature with an irregular sides and a rounded base, this feature was interpreted as a treebole. It contained a single fill (376), firm light grey silty sand, containing frequent sub-rounded stones (<0.08m diameter). The fill (376) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (376), which was not environmentally sampled, treebole [375] was truncated by the northern curvilinear ditch section, [377].

Posthole Cluster at the South of NCF-B: Group 19
Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) at the southern extent of the excavation area revealed a layer of colluvial silting which also had to be machined away. Followed by hand cleaning, a cluster of sub-circular cut features was revealed.

Posthole [397]: Cut [397] was an irregular feature, 0.83m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.12m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of one, possibly two postholes. Cut [397] had moderately steep sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (398). The fill (398) was homogonous friable mid brown silty sand, containing frequent charcoal flecks. The fill (364) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit. The morphology of the feature suggests that the cut may have been two separate features but the fills are indistinguishable. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (398), which was environmentally sampled (<104>).

Posthole [399]: Cut [399] was a circular feature, 0.35m in width and 0.12m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Cut [399] had near vertical sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (400). The fill (400) was friable mid brown silty sand, containing frequent charcoal flecks. The fill (400) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (400), which was environmentally sampled (<105>).

Posthole [401]: Cut [401] was a circular feature, 0.32m in width and 0.14m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Cut [401] had moderately steep sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (402). The fill (402) was friable mid-dark brown silty sand, containing frequent charcoal fragments near the top of the deposit. The fill (402) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit with potentially the remains of a post, burnt in-situ. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (402), which was environmentally sampled (<106>).

Posthole [403]: Cut [403] was a circular feature, 0.33m in width and 0.12m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Cut [403] had near vertical sides and a flat base it contained a single fill, (404). The fill (404) was friable mid brown silty sand, containing frequent charcoal flecks throughout. The fill (404) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (404), which was environmentally sampled (<107>).

Posthole [405]: Cut [405] was a circular feature, 0.23m in width and 0.24m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Cut [405] had vertical sides and a flat base it contained a single fill, (406). The fill (406) was friable mid brown silty sand with no apparent inclusions. The fill (406) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (406), which was environmentally sampled (<108>).

Ditches at the Southern Extent of NCF-B: Group 20
Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) at the most southern extent of the excavation area revealed a three intercutting ditches on an east-west alignment. These ditches were then excavated in four locations to understand the relationships.

SLOT 1:A 1m wide slot was excavated across the widest part of three intercutting ditches and were subsequently recorded.

Ditch [407] (same as [413] and [419]): Cut [407] was the earliest of the three linears, measuring 0.95m in width and 0.3m in depth it had moderately steep sides and a concave base, it contained two fills (408) and (417). Primary fill (408) was lightly compacted mid yellow-brown silty sand with very occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.02m).

Overlying (408) was fill (417), lightly compacted mid to dark orangey brown silty sand with very occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.02m). Both fills probably represent gradual silting over a long period of time.

Ditch [409]: Cut [409] was located slightly to the north of and truncated the earliest of the three linears, measuring 0.95m in width and 0.25m in depth it had moderately steep sides and a concave base, it contained a single fill (410). Deposit (410) was lightly compacted mid to dark orangey grey-brown silty sand with very occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.01m). The fill was interpreted as a gradual silting event.

SLOT 2: A 1m wide slot was excavated at what appeared in plan to be the terminus of one of the ditches and includes two of the linears.

Ditch [413] (same as [407] and [419]): Cut [413] was the earliest of the two linears, measuring 0.9m in width and 0.15m in depth it had gently sloping sides and a concave base, it contained a single fill (414). Deposit (414) was lightly compacted mid to dark orangey grey-brown silty sand with very occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.01m). The fill was interpreted as a gradual silting event.

SLOT 3: A 1m wide slot was excavated at the point one of the linears met the eastern limit of excavation in order to assess which of the three was continuing to the west.

Ditch [419] (same as [407] and [413]): Cut [419] was an east-west aligned linear, measuring 1.2m in width and 0.4m in depth it as visible in section, this provides the most complete record for this feature. It was recorded as cutting through the subsoil (418), lightly compacted mid orange-brown silty sand. Cut [419] had moderately steep sides and a concave base, it contained a single fill (420). Deposit (420) was lightly compacted mid to dark orange-brown silty sand with very occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.01m). The fill was interpreted as a gradual silting event.

SLOT 4: A narrow slot was excavated at the most western point for the northern linear to assess whether it was terminating or truncated by later activity.

Gully [448]: Cut [448] was an east-west aligned linear 0.7m in width and 0.15m in depth. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (449). Fill (449) was lightly compacted mid orange-brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (<1%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear. This may be the continuation of linear [411] and [421].

Northwest-Southeast Aligned Gully in Southern End of NCF-B: Group 21
Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) at the most southern extent of the excavation area revealed a narrow gully on a northwest-southeast orientation cutting into the natural. It was subsequently investigated in three, 0.5m wide slots, described below from the northwest to the southeast.

Gully [450]: Cut [450] represents the northwest end of the linear, measuring 0.16m in width and 0.15m in depth. It had steep sides and a concave base, it contained a single fill (451). Fill (451) was lightly compacted mid orange-grey-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear.

Gully [452]: Cut [452] measured 0.28m in width and 0.15m in depth. It had steep, near vertical sides and a concave base, it contained a single fill (453). Fill (453) was lightly compacted mid orange-grey-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was environmentally sampled (<115>). No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear.

Cut [454]: measured 0.26m in width and 0.16m in depth. It had a steep southern edge and a more moderately sloping northern edge with a concave base. It contained a single fill (455). Fill (455) was lightly compacted mid orange-grey-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks. The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear.

Posts and Stakes in the Southern End of NCF-B Group 22

Posthole [456]: Cut [456] was a sub-oval feature, 0.53m in width and 0.16m in depth. The break of slope at the top of the cut was sharp and the sides sloped at an approximate 45 degree angle. The base of the feature was concave. Cut [456] has been interpreted as a possible posthole. It contained one fill: (457). Fill (457) was a lightly compacted mid brown silty sand which contained <1% sub-rounded small stones. An environmental sample was taken from this fill (sample no. 118). No datable artefacts were recovered from this fill.

Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) at the southern extent of the excavation area revealed clusters of circular features cutting into the natural.

***Sub-group* Stakehole [439]:** Cut [439] was a circular feature, 0.08m in width and 0.08m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a stakehole. Cut [439] had very steep sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (440). The fill (440) was lightly compacted mid-dark grey-black sandy silt, containing frequent charcoal fragments near the top of the deposit. The fill (440) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit with potentially the remains of a stake, burnt in-situ. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (440), and it was not environmentally sampled.

Stakehole [441]: Cut [441] was a circular feature, 0.08m in width and 0.1m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a stakehole. Cut [441] had very steep sides and a concave base it contained a single fill, (442). The fill (442) was lightly compacted mid-dark grey-black sandy silt, containing frequent charcoal fragments near the top of the deposit. The fill (442) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit with potentially the remains of a stake, burnt in-situ. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (440), and it was not environmentally sampled.

Posthole [443]: Cut [443] was a circular feature, 0.4m in width and 0.3m in depth, and interpreted as the cut of a posthole. Cut [443] had steep sides and a concave almost V-shape base it contained a single fill, (444). The fill (444) was lightly compacted mid-dark brown-grey sandy silt, containing occasional charcoal fragments near the top of the deposit. The fill (444) is interpreted as a naturally accumulated deposit. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill (444), which was environmentally sampled (<106>).

Sub-group **Stakehole [468]** Co-ords for section 470.50E, 627.15N to 470.85E, 627.20N
Cut [468] was a sub-rounded/oval feature, 0.26m in width and 0.09m in depth, and interpreted as possibly being a cut for the insertion of a wooden stake. Cut [468] had a clearly defined break of slope at the top, described as sharp, had sides that sloped at a 45 degree angle and a gradual break of slope at the base. The base itself was concave. The fill (469) was lightly compacted and mid-dark grey-brown silty sand. This context contained <1% small sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks. No datable artefacts were recovered from the fill (469).

Stakehole [470] Co-ords for section 469.85E, 626.45N to 470.10E, 626.62N
Cut [470] was a sub-square feature with rounded corners, 0.23m in width and 0.05m in depth, and interpreted as possibly being a cut for the insertion of a wooden stake. Cut [470] had a gradual break of slope at the top of the feature, moderately sloping sides and a gradual break of slope at the bottom of the feature with the base being slightly concave. The fill (471) was lightly compacted and mid-light brown silty sand. This context contained <1% small sub-rounded stones. No datable artefacts were recovered from the fill (471).

Stakehole [472] Co-ords for section 470.70E, 630.22N to 471.05E, 630.35N
Cut [472] was a sub-square feature, 0.3m in width and 0.03m in depth. The break of slope at the top was sharp and the sides were moderately sloping with a gradual break of slope at the bottom of the feature. The base was largely flat. Cut [472] was interpreted as possibly being a hole for the positioning of a wooden stake. The fill (473) was a lightly compacted mid brown silty sand and contained <1% sub-rounded stones which were 1-2cm in diameter. No datable artefacts were recovered from the fill (473).

Stakehole [474] Co-ords for section 471.10E, 629.80N to 471.30E, 629.80N
Cut [474] was a sub-circular feature, 0.18m in width and 0.04m in depth. The break of slope at the top of the feature varied in places from gradual to sharp and the slope of the sides was moderate. The break of slope at the bottom of the cut was gradual and the base was slightly concave. Cut [474] has been interpreted as possibly being a cut for the insertion of a wooden stake. Fill (475) was lightly compacted mid brown silty sand which contained <1% sub-rounded small stones. No datable artefacts were recovered from the fill (475)

POST MEDIEVAL FEATURES

Excavated Furrows
Furrow [137]: A slot was excavated across post-medieval Furrow 4 towards the north-east extent of the NCF-B excavation area. Furrow cut [137] was 0.9m wide, 0.1m deep with a concave profile. The feature had evidently been severely truncated by ploughing (it was fully truncated north of the excavated slot). Furrow [137] contained a single fill [138]. Fill [138] was a naturally accumulated mid-dark brown silty sand and produced no dateable artefacts.

Furrow [194]: A slot was excavated across post-medieval Furrow 2 towards the centre-west extent of the NCF-B excavation area. Furrow cut [194] was 1.07m wide, 0.06m deep with a concave profile. The feature had evidently been severely truncated by ploughing. Furrow [194] contained a single fill [195]. Fill [195] was a naturally accumulated -dark brown sandy silt and produced no dateable artefacts.

Furrow [197]: A slot was excavated across post-medieval Furrow 1 towards the centre-west extent of the NCF-B excavation area. Furrow cut [197] truncated fill [186], the final infilling of a ne-sw aligned ditch. Furrow cut [197] was 3.19m wide, 0.25m deep with a concave profile. Furrow [197] contained a single fill [198]. Fill [195] was a naturally accumulated dark brown sandy silt and produced no dateable artefacts.

Furrow [239]: Cut [239] was a linear feature (Furrow 1), 2m in width and 0.05m in depth, located to the east of the excavation area, and interpreted as a north-south aligned post-medieval furrow. The feature had gradually sloping sides leading to a shallow concave base. Cut [239] contained a single fill, (240). The fill (240), was a friable mid-dark brown sand silt, containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.08m in diameter) with no dateable artefacts. This furrow truncates the curvilinear palisade feature [241] (see below).

Furrow [290]: Cut [290] was a linear feature (Furrow 4), 1.7m in width and 0.1m in depth, located to the east of the excavation area, and interpreted as a north-south aligned post-medieval furrow. The feature had gradually sloping sides leading to a shallow concave base. Cut [290] contained a single fill, (291). The fill (291), was a friable dark brown silty sand, containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.08m in diameter) with no dateable artefacts. This furrow truncates the curvilinear palisade feature [292] (see below).

Furrow [317]: Cut [317] was a linear feature (Furrow 2), 1.5m in width and 0.08m in depth, located in the central part of the excavation area, and interpreted as a north-south aligned post-medieval furrow. The feature had gently sloping sides leading to a slightly concave base. Cut [317] contained a single fill, (318). The fill (318) was a friable mid-dark brown sandy silt, containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.08m in diameter) with no dateable artefacts. This furrow truncates earlier circular cut features [319] and [339] (discussed below).

Furrow [325]: Cut [325] was a linear feature (Furrow 1), 1.5m in width and 0.06m in depth, located in the southwest part of the excavation area, and interpreted as a north-south aligned post-medieval furrow. The feature had gently sloping sides leading to a slightly concave base. Cut [325] contained a single fill, (326). The fill (326) was a loose dark brown sandy silt, containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.06m in diameter) with no dateable artefacts. This furrow truncates the curvilinear feature [323] (discussed below).

Furrow [379]: Cut [379] was a linear feature (Furrow 2), 1m in width and 0.15m in depth, located in the central part of the excavation area, and interpreted as a north-south aligned post-medieval furrow. The feature had gently sloping sides leading to a concave base. Cut [379] contained a single fill, (380). The fill (380) was friable mid-dark brown silty sand, containing occasional inclusions of rounded stones (<0.08m in diameter) with no dateable artefacts. This furrow truncates the curvilinear feature [377] and is itself truncated by cut [381] (discussed below).

Furrow [389]: Cut [389] was a linear feature (Furrow 1), 3.5m in width and 0.25m in depth, located in the western part of the enclosure area, and interpreted as a north-south aligned post-medieval furrow. The feature had gently sloping sides leading to a concave base. Cut [389] contained a single fill, (390). The fill (390) was friable mid-dark grey-brown sandy silt, containing occasional inclusions of sub-rounded stones (<0.01m in diameter) with no dateable artefacts. This furrow truncates the pit feature [387] (discussed below).

East-West and North-South Gullies in Southern End of NCF-B: Machine stripping of the compact mid brown sandy silt topsoil (115) at the southern extent of the excavation area revealed a series of parallel north-south and east-west aligned gullies cutting into the natural. These were subsequently investigated along their lengths and at key points where they intersected each other.

Ditch [411] (same as [415] and [421]): Cut [411] was the latest of the three linears positioned slightly to the north of and truncating ditch [409], measuring 0.4m in width and 0.06m in depth it had gently sloping sides and a concave base, it contained a single fill (412). Fill (412) was lightly compacted mid-dark brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.01m). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event, the ditch [411] was very shallow and appeared to be quite severely truncated.

Ditch [415] (same as [411] and [421]): Cut [415] was the latest of the two linears, located just to the north of and truncating ditch [413], measuring 0.35m in width and 0.03m in depth it had gently sloping sides and a slightly concave base, it contained a single fill (416). Fill (416) was lightly compacted mid-dark brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.01m). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event, the ditch [415] was very shallow and appeared to be quite severely truncated and it is not possible to say with certainty whether the feature terminated at this point or originally continued to the east but was truncated away by later activity.

Ditch [421] (same as [411] and [415]): Cut [421] was the an east-west aligned linear, measuring 0.6m in width and 0.15m in depth it had moderately steep sides and a concave base, it contained a single fill (422). Fill (422) was lightly compacted mid-orange brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stones (<0.01m). The fill is

interpreted as a natural silting event, the ditch [421] was very shallow and appeared to be quite severely truncated and originally would have continued further to the west.

Gully [423]: Cut [423] was an east-west aligned linear 0.6m in width and 0.23m in depth. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (424). Fill (424) was loose dark brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions (<5%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear. This linear was truncated by gully [425].

Gully [425]: Cut [425] was a north-south aligned linear 0.6m in width and 0.14m-0.29m in depth. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (426). Fill (426) was loose dark brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions (<5%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear.

Gully [427]: Cut [427] was an east-west aligned linear 0.6m in width and 0.14m in depth. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (428). Fill (428) was loose dark brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions (<5%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear. This linear was truncated by gully [429].

Gully [429]: Cut [425] was a north-south aligned linear 0.45m in width and 0.12m in depth. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (430). Fill (430) was loose dark brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions (<5%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. The only artefacts recovered were post medieval pottery sherds.

Gully [431]: Cut [431] was an east-west aligned linear 0.42m in width and 0.15m in depth. It had moderately steep sides and an undulating concave base. It contained a single fill (432). Fill (432) was loose dark brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions (<5%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. Two sherds of post-medieval pottery were recovered from the fill of this linear.

Gully [433]: Cut [433] was an east-west aligned linear 0.48m in width and 0.15m in depth. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (434). Fill (434) was loose dark brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions (<5%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was environmentally sampled (<111>). No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear.

Gully [435]: Cut [435] was an east-west aligned linear 0.43m in width and 0.1m in depth. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (436). Fill (436) was loose dark brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions (<5%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was environmentally sampled (<112>). No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear. This linear was truncated by gully [437].

Gully [437]: Cut [437] was a north-south aligned linear 0.6m in width and 0.14m in depth. It had moderately steep sides and an undulating concave base. It contained a single fill (438). Fill (438) was loose dark brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded and sub-angular stone inclusions (<5%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear.

Gully [445]: Cut [445] was an east-west aligned linear 0.8m in width and 0.12m in depth cutting into a layer of subsoil remnant (447), compact, mid-light orange-brown silty sand. It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (446). Fill (446) was lightly compacted dark brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (<1%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear.

Gully [476] : Cut [476] was the remains of a truncated east-west aligned linear 0.56m in width and 0.1m in depth. It had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (477). Fill (477) was lightly compacted mid-light grey-yellow-brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (<1%) with occasional charcoal flecks. The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear.

Gully [478]: Cut [478] was a north-south aligned linear 0.3m in width and 0.04m in depth. It had moderately steep sides and a flattish base. It contained a single fill (479). Fill (479) was loose mid brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions (<1%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear

Gully [482]: Cut [482] was the remains of a truncated east-west aligned linear 0.38m in width and 0.12m in depth. It had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (483). Fill (483) was lightly compacted mid grey-brown silty sand with occasional sub-rounded stone inclusions (<1%) and occasional charcoal flecks. The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear. It was truncated by the north-south linear [480].

Gully [478]: Cut [478] was a north-south aligned linear 0.22m in width and 0.15m in depth. It had steep sides and a concave base. It contained a single fill (481). Fill (481) was lightly compacted mid to dark grey brown silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions (<1%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear.

Gully [462]: Cut [462] was a north-south aligned linear. It had gradually sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Cut [462] has been interpreted as a plough furrow. It contained a single fill (463). Fill (463) was a lightly compacted mid red/brown mottled silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions (<1%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No dateable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear.

Gully [464]: Cut [464] was a north-south aligned linear. It had moderately sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Cut [464] has been interpreted as a plough furrow. It contained a single fill (465). Fill (465) was a lightly compacted mid red/brown mottled silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stone inclusions (<1%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No datable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear.

Gully [466]: Cut [466] was an east-west aligned linear. It had gradually sloping sides and a concave base. Cut [466] has been interpreted as a plough furrow. It contained a single fill (467). Fill (467) was a lightly compacted mid red/brown mottled silty sand with occasional small sub-rounded stones inclusions (<1%). The fill is interpreted as a natural silting event and was not environmentally sampled. No datable artefacts were recovered from the fill of this linear.

Layer [461]: Layer [461] was a discreet area of what has been interpreted as subsoil left in situ from when the area was machine cleaned. It was lightly compacted mid to dark reddish-brown sandy silt with the occasional sub-rounded stone. No datable artefacts were recovered from this layer.

Modern Geo-technical test pit [458] Cut [458] was an approximately two year-old feature. It was dug by Thomas Armstrong Ltd to discover if the right type of sand was present in the area before purchasing the land for the purpose of extraction. Cut [458] was sub-oval with a sharp break of slope at the top of the feature, sides that sloped at a 45 degree angle to a sharp break of slope at the bottom. It was back-filled by (459) which was a loose material varying in colour from light-mid browns to greys and consisted of silty sands. Inclusions were >1% rounded pebbles which were >8cm2. It appeared as though the feature had been backfilled from the south.

Layer [460]: Layer [460] was a discreet area measuring approx 6.4m in length and up to 0.28m in depth, (width not recorded). It was a compact light whitish brown slightly silty sand layer with <1% small sub-rounded stones. It has been interpreted as possibly subsoil left on site from machine cleaning. No datable artefacts were recovered from this layer.

APPENDIX 4: LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA - SAMPLE DETAILS AND VOLUMES RECOVERED

Sample details NCF-B		Volumes of material		
Context number	Sample number	Sample (litres)	Retent (mls)	Flot (mls)
103	1	20	200	15
105	2	40	2800	250
106	3	40	2600	125
112	4	20	400	120
114	5	20	1100	15
120	6	20	800	50
101	7	20	1000	100
118	8	40	800	50
110	9	5	300	15
109	10	20	600	100
108	11	10	700	15
123	12	20	500	70
121	13	10	100	7
128	14	40	1300	100
134	15	40	2000	120
136	16	10	300	15
132	17	6	200	100
126	18	40	3000	400
126	19	CARBON DATING SAMPLE		
138	20	10	1500	50
163	21	10	1700	15
151	22	20	1100	8
152	23	20	900	15
169	24	CARBON DATING SAMPLE		
157	25	20	3000	15
158	26	20	1200	15
160	27	10	800	15
297	28	CARBON DATING SAMPLE		
	29	VOID	VOID	VOID
168	30	20	800	5

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA - SAMPLE DETAILS AND VOLUMES RECOVERED

Sample details NCF-B		Volumes of material		
Context number	Sample number	Sample (litres)	Retent (mls)	Flot (mls)
186	31	10	200	15
187	32	10	300	15
188	33	10	100	15
189	34	10	300	10
190	35	10	100	10
191	36	10	400	10
183	37	20	1600	50
165	38	10	600	15
184	39	10	3000	15
200	40	20	1400	70
216	41	20	1800	200
216	42	CARBON DATING SAMPLE		
219	43	20	2000	60
202	44	10	800	15
204	45	5	500	15
212	46	10	700	50
206	47	5	300	5
208	48	5	500	10
210	49	15	1000	10
214	50	20	900	100
252	51	20	500	15
254	52	10	1200	50
256	53	20	1000	50
258	54	3	1000	5
260	55	20	1000	15
262	56	15	100	5
264	57	20	200	10
266	58	20	200	10
268/269	59	10	50	60
175	60	20	1600	8
176	61	20	500	10
179	62	20	1200	200
246	63	10	500	200
271	64	20	200	50
271	65	CARBON DATING SAMPLE		

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA - SAMPLE DETAILS AND VOLUMES RECOVERED

Sample details NCF-B		Volumes of material		
Context number	Sample number	Sample (litres)	Retent (mls)	Flot (mls)
273	66	20	4000	100
248	67	10	3000	15
274	68	10	2200	500
275	69	10	500	100
250	70	10	3000	15
289	71	10	500	50
296	72	10	1500	90
297	73	10	700	200
298	74	20	1600	400
299	75	10	2000	70
293	76	20	1600	110
285	77	10	1400	50
287	78	10	2000	15
310	79	8	1000	10
312	80	10	2000	100
316	81	5	1500	50
334	82	10	2000	15
336	83	10	600	15
328	84	20	5900	15
330	85	10	2000	15
338	86	10	800	15
332	87	10	50	5
342	88	5	2500	50
344	89	5	1000	15
346	90	5	1000	15
364	91	3	2000	15
366	92	15	3000	15
368	93	15	2000	100
347	94	6	700	50
349	95	10	400	5
353	96	10	300	50
358	97	7	300	10
391	98	8	1000	200
386	99	10	3000	70
382	100	5	700	10

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA - SAMPLE DETAILS AND VOLUMES RECOVERED

Sample details NCF-B		Volumes of material		
Context number	Sample number	Sample (litres)	Retent (mls)	Flot (mls)
378	101	9	1500	70
	102	CARBON DATING SAMPLE		
230	103	CARBON DATING SAMPLE		
398	104	10	100	70
400	105	5	100	100
402	106	5	100	150
404	107	10	100	50
406	108	10	100	5
417	109	15	2000	15
432	110	7	500	50
434	111	5	300	10
436	112	5	300	5
404	113	CARBON DATING SAMPLE		
444	114	10	100	10
453	115	10	100	5
274	116	CARBON DATING SAMPLE		
391	117	CARBON DATING SAMPLE		
457	118	5	300	5
222	119	5	800	10
233	120	17	2000	20
227	121	10	1600	75
230	122	20	2100	250
394	123	10	2000	75
386	124	10	3100	50
231	125	10	3000	15
232	126	5	800	5
235	127	10	2000	12
236	128	10	1800	50
237	129	5	2000	20
238	130	5	900	5
485	131	CARBON DATING SAMPLE		
298	132	CARBON DATING SAMPLE		

APPENDIX 5: FLOTATION SAMPLE ANALYSIS

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY

Site Code: NPA 05 NCF- B

Soil samples of whole earth were recovered from the site at New Cowper, Aspatria, Cumbria, and processed in a flotation tank. Retents were collected in a 1mm mesh. The floating fraction was recovered by sieving the overflow through 500 micron sieves. Flot residues were examined and their contents listed as below.

KEY:

Soil conditions:
D = dry
M = moist
W = waterlogged

Other:
X = sample void, not present
* = not applicable

Context type:
PF = pit fill
L = deposit
HF = hearth/furnace
A = amorphous organic
DS = ditch section
FP = fill of pot
PH = fill of posthole/small pit
PD = palisade ditch
TB = treebole
GF = gully fill

NPA: ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FLOTATION SAMPLE ANALYSIS **SITE CODE: NPA05 NCF-B**

SAMPLE DETAILS						CONSTITUENT ECOFACTS/ ARTEFACTS OF THE FLOTS																								
CONTEXT NUMBER	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	CONTEXT RELATIONS	SOIL CONDITION	VOLUME (LITRES)	Charred cereal	Charred wheat	Charred barley	Charred oats	Cereal stems	Nut shells	Pale persicaria	Raspberry	Grasses	Vicia	*Brassica*	*Spergula arvensis*	Docks	*Stellaria media*	*Chenopodium*	Dandelion	Charred heather	Woody plant parts	Bone	Burnt bone	Fishbone	Charred wood	Larvae/insects	Root material	Spores
103	1	PH	A102 B Sub	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	1
105	2	PF	A106 B Sub	M	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	1
106	3	PF	A104 B105	M	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0
112	4	PF	A111 B115	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	1	0
114	5	PF	A113 B115	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	3	0
120	6	PF	A121 B115	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0
101	7	PH	A100 B Sub	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	0

NPA: ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FLOTATION SAMPLE ANALYSIS **SITE CODE: NPA05 NCF-B**

SAMPLE DETAILS						CONSTITUENT ECOFACTS/ ARTEFACTS OF THE FLOTS																										
CONTEXT NUMBER	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	CONTEXT RELATIONS	SOIL CONDITION	VOLUME (LITRES)	Charred cereal	Charred wheat	Charred barley	Charred oats	Cereal stems	Nut shells	Pale persicaria	Raspberry	Grasses	Vicia	*Brassica*	*Spergula arvensis*	Docks	*Stellaria media*	*Chenopodium*	Dandelion	Charred heather	Woody plant parts	Bone	Burnt bone	Fishbone	Charred wood	Larvae/insects	Root material	Spores
118	8	PF	A117 B125	M	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	1
110	9	PH	A109 B Sub	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	2	1
109	10	PH	A108 B110	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	1
108	11	PH	A107 B109	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0
123	12	PF	A122 B124	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0
121	13	PF	A119 B120	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0
128	14	PF	A127 B Sub	M	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	2
134	15	PF	A133 B115	M	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	1
136	16	PF	A135 B115	M	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	2
132	17	PF	A125 B126	M	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	1
126	18	PF	A132 B Sub	M	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0
138	20	PF	A137 B Sub	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	1
163	21	PH	A162 B Sub	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
151	22	DS	A150 B152	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	2
152	23	DS	A151 B166	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
157	25	DS	A158 B115	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
158	26	DS	A156 B157	M	20	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
160	27	DS	A159 B161	M	10	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1
168	30	DS	A167 B Sub	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
186	31	DS	A187 B115	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
187	32	DS	A188 B186	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
188	33	DS	A189 B187	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
189	34	DS	A190 B188	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
190	35	DS	A191 B189	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
191	36	DS	A185 B190	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
183	37	TB	A182 B Sub	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	2

NPA: ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FLOTATION SAMPLE ANALYSIS **SITE CODE: NPA05 NCF-B**

SAMPLE DETAILS						CONSTITUENT ECOFACTS/ ARTEFACTS OF THE FLOTS																								
CONTEXT NUMBER	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	CONTEXT RELATIONS	SOIL CONDITION	VOLUME (LITRES)	Charred cereal	Charred wheat	Charred barley	Charred oats	Cereal stems	Nut shells	Pale persicaria	Raspberry	Grasses	Vicia	*Brassica*	*Spergula arvensis*	Docks	*Stellaria media*	*Chenopodium*	Dandelion	Charred heather	Woody plant parts	Bone	Burnt bone	Fishbone	Charred wood	Larvae/insects	Root material	Spores
165	38	PH	A116 B184	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
184	39	PH	A164 B165	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	0
200	40	PD	A199 B115	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	2
216	41	PD	A215 B115	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	0
219	43	PD	A218 B115	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	2
202	44	PH	A201 B Sub	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
204	45	PH	A203 B Sub	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
212	46	PF	A211 B Sub	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	1
206	47	PH	A205 B Sub	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	0
208	48	PH	A207 B Sub	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	2
210	49	PH	A209 B Sub	M	15	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	3	1
214	50	PD	A213 B223	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	2	0
252	51	PH	A251 B115	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
254	52	PH	A253 B115	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	1
256	53	PH	A255 B115	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	1
258	54	PH	A257 B115	M	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
260	55	PH	A259 B115	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	3	1
262	56	PH	A261 B115	M	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
264	57	PH	A263 B115	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	3	0
266	58	PH	A265 B115	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	3	1
268	59	PH	A269 B115	M	10	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0
175	60	PF	A148 B176	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
176	61	PF	A175 B178	M	20	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
179	62	PF	A169 B181	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	3	1
246	63	PH	A245 B115	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	1
271	64	PF	A270 B272	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	1

NPA: ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FLOTATION SAMPLE ANALYSIS **SITE CODE: NPA05 NCF-B**

SAMPLE DETAILS						CONSTITUENT ECOFACTS/ ARTEFACTS OF THE FLOTS																								
CONTEXT NUMBER	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	CONTEXT RELATIONS	SOIL CONDITION	VOLUME (LITRES)	Charred cereal	Charred wheat	Charred barley	Charred oats	Cereal stems	Nut shells	Pale persicaria	Raspberry	Grasses	Vicia	*Brassica*	*Spergula arvensis*	Docks	*Stellaria media*	*Chenopodium*	Dandelion	Charred heather	Woody plant parts	Bone	Burnt bone	Fishbone	Charred wood	Larvae/insects	Root material	Spores
273	66	PF	A272 B115	M	20	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	3	1
248	67	PF	A247 B274	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0
274	68	PF	A248 B275	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
275	69	PF	A274 B Sub	M	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0
250	70	PF	A249 B Sub	M	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0
289	71	PH	A288 B Sub	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
296	72	PH	A283 B115	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	1
297	73	PF	A298 B115	M	10	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1
298	74	PF	A299 B297	M	20	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0
299	75	PF	A282 B298	M	10	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
293	76	PD	A292 B294	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
285	77	PF	A284 B Sub	M	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0
287	78	PF	A286 B Sub	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
310	79	PH	A309 B115	M	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	1
312	80	PH	A311 B115	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	2
316	81	PH	A315 B115	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	1
334	82	PD	A333 B115	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	1	2
336	83	PD	A335 B115	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
328	84	DS	A327 B115	M	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1
330	85	DS	A329 B115	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	1
338	86	DS	A327 B115	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
332	87	DS	A331 B115	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
342	88	PH	A341 B115	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	2
344	89	PH	A343 B Sub	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0
346	90	PH	A345 B Sub	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	3	2
364	91	PH	A363 B115	M	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0

NPA: ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FLOTATION SAMPLE ANALYSIS **SITE CODE: NPA05 NCF-B**

SAMPLE DETAILS						CONSTITUENT ECOFACTS/ ARTEFACTS OF THE FLOTS																										
CONTEXT NUMBER	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	CONTEXT RELATIONS	SOIL CONDITION	VOLUME (LITRES)	Charred cereal	Charred wheat	Charred barley	Charred oats	Cereal stems	Nut shells	Pale persicaria	Raspberry	Grasses	Vicia	*Brassica*	*Spergula arvensis*	Docks	*Stellaria media*	*Chenopodium*	Dandelion	Charred heather	Woody plant parts	Bone	Burnt bone	Fishbone	Charred wood	Larvae/insects	Root material	Spores
366	92	PH	A365 B115	M	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	0
368	93	TB	A367 B115	M	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
347	94	PH	A348 B Sub	M	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	1
349	95	PH	A350 B Sub	M	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0
353	96	PH	A354 B Sub	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
358	97	PH	A357 B115	M	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
391	98	PF	A385 B392	M	8	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0
386	99	PF	A391 B Sub	M	10	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0
382	100	PF	A381 B115	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3	1
378	101	PD	A377 B379	M	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
398	104	PH	A397 B Sub	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
400	105	PH	A399 B Sub	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
402	106	PH	A401 B Sub	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
404	107	PH	A403 B Sub	M	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
406	108	PH	A405 B Sub	M	10	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	0
417	109	DS	A408 B409	M	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	2
432	110	GF	A431 B115	M	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0
434	111	GF	A433 B115	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1
436	112	GF	A435 B437	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
444	114	PH	A443 B Sub	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1
453	115	GF	A452 B Sub	M	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	2	1
457	118	PH	A456 B115	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	1
222	119	PF	A233 B Sub	M	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
233	120	PF	A221 B222	M	17	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	1	3	1

NPA: ENVIRONMENTAL DATA FLOTATION SAMPLE ANALYSIS **SITE CODE: NPA05 NCF-B**

SAMPLE DETAILS						CONSTITUENT ECOFACTS/ ARTEFACTS OF THE FLOTS																										
CONTEXT NUMBER	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	CONTEXT RELATIONS	SOIL CONDITION	VOLUME (LITRES)	Charred cereal	Charred wheat	Charred barley	Charred oats	Cereal stems	Nut shells	Pale persicaria	Raspberry	Grasses	Vicia	*Brassica*	*Spergula arvensis*	Docks	*Stellaria media*	*Chenopodium*	Dandelion	Charred heather	Woody plant parts	Bone	Burnt bone	Fishbone	Charred wood	Larvae/insects	Root material	Spores
227	121	PF	A228 B221	M	10	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
230	122	PF	A231 B228	M	20	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
394	123	PF	A393 B385	M	10	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
386	124	PF	A391 B Sub	M	10	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	1
231	125	PF	A232 B230	M	10	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	2
232	126	PF	A217 B231	M	5	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
235	127	PF	A236 B234	M	10	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	0
236	128	PF	A237 B235	M	10	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0
237	129	PF	A238 B236	M	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
238	130	PF	A220 B237	M	5	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1

APPENDIX 6: RETENT SAMPLE ANALYSIS

CONTEXT NUMBER	NUMBER OF VARIANTS IN RETENT	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	VOLUME (LITRES)	SOIL CONDITION	Stones	Gravel	Quartz Fragments	Magnetic	Seeds/ Fruit	Nut shells	Charred wood	Charred plant material	Plant/animal fibres	Bone	Burnt bone	Animal teeth	Shell	Pupae/ Larva	Insects	Textile	Moss	Flint	Charred heather	Root material
C103	4	1	PH	20	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C105	7	2	PF	40	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C106	7	3	PF	40	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C112	5	4	PF	20	M	2	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C114	7	5	PF	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C120	6	6	PF	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C101	7	7	PH	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C118	5	8	PF	40	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C110	5	9	PH	5	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C109	8	10	PH	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
C108	6	11	PH	10	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C123	6	12	PF	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C121	5	13	PF	10	M	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C128	6	14	PF	40	M	1	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C134	8	15	PF	40	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
C136	6	16	PF	10	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C132	6	17	PF	6	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C126	7	18	PF	40	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C138	5	20	DS	10	M	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
C163	5	21	PH	10	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C151	5	22	DS	20	M	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C152	6	23	DS	20	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
C157	5	25	DS	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C158	6	26	DS	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C160	9	27	DS	10	M	2	3	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C168	7	30	DS	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
C186	5	31	DS	10	M	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
C187	5	32	DS	10	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C188	5	33	DS	10	M	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C189	5	34	DS	10	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C190	5	35	DS	10	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C191	5	36	DS	10	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C183	7	37	TB	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C165	7	38	PH	10	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
C184	4	39	PH	10	M	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C200	6	40	PD	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C216	6	41	PD	20	M	2	3	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C219	4	43	PD	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C202	6	44	PH	10	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C204	4	45	PH	5	M	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

CONTEXT NUMBER	NUMBER OF VARIANTS IN RETENT	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	VOLUME (LITRES)	SOIL CONDITION	Stones	Gravel	Quartz Fragments	Magnetic	Seeds/ Fruit	Nut shells	Charred wood	Charred plant material	Plant/animal fibres	Bone	Burnt bone	Animal teeth	Shell	Pupae/ Larva	Insects	Textile	Moss	Flint	Charred heather	Root material
C212	4	46	PF	10	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C206	5	47	PH	5	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C208	5	48	PH	5	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C210	7	49	PH	15	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C214	7	50	PD	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C252	4	51	PH	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C254	6	52	PH	10	M	3	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C256	4	53	PH	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C258	5	54	PH	3	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C260	8	55	PH	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
C262	4	56	PH	15	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C264	7	57	PH	20	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C266	6	58	PH	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C268	5	59	PH	10	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C175	7	60	PF	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C176	6	61	PF	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C179	7	62	PF	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C246	3	63	PH	10	M	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C271	7	64	PF	20	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C273	7	66	PF	20	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C248	5	67	PF	10	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C274	6	68	PF	10	M	3	3	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C275	5	69	PF	10	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C250	5	70	PF	10	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C289	5	71	PH	10	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C296	7	72	PH	10	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C297	6	73	PF	10	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C298	5	74	PF	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C299	6	75	PF	10	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C293	6	76	PD	20	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C285	7	77	PF	10	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C287	4	78	PF	10	M	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C310	5	79	PH	8	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C312	5	80	PH	10	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C316	5	81	PH	5	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C334	4	82	PD	10	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C336	5	83	PD	10	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C328	5	84	DS	20	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C330	6	85	DS	10	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C338	5	86	DS	10	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C332	4	87	DS	10	M	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C342	3	88	PH	5	M	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C344	4	89	PH	5	M	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C346	4	90	PH	5	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C364	5	91	PH	3	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

CONTEXT NUMBER	NUMBER OF VARIANTS IN RETENT	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	VOLUME (LITRES)	SOIL CONDITION	Stones	Gravel	Quartz Fragments	Magnetic	Seeds/ Fruit	Nut shells	Charred wood	Charred plant material	Plant/animal fibres	Bone	Burnt bone	Animal teeth	Shell	Pupae/ Larva	Insects	Textile	Moss	Flint	Charred heather	Root material
C366	5	92	PH	15	M	3	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C368	5	93	TB	15	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C347	4	94	PH	6	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C349	3	95	PH	10	M	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C353	5	96	PH	10	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C358	3	97	PH	7	M	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C391	5	98	PF	8	M	3	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C386	6	99	PF	10	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C382	5	100	PF	5	M	3	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C378	4	101	PD	9	M	3	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C398	6	104	PH	10	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
C400	5	105	PH	5	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C402	4	106	PH	5	M	1	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C404	3	107	PH	10	M	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C406	3	108	PH	10	M	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C417	4	109	DS	15	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C432	6	110	GF	7	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C434	5	111	GF	5	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C436	5	112	GF	5	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C444	6	114	PH	10	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C453	5	115	GF	10	M	1	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C457	7	118	PH	5	M	2	3	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C222	6	119	PF	5	M	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C233	7	120	PF	17	M	2	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C227	6	121	PF	10	M	2	3	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C230	6	122	PF	20	M	2	3	1	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C394	7	123	PF	10	M	2	3	1	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C386	6	124	PF	10	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
C231	6	125	PF	10	M	3	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
C232	5	126	PF	5	M	2	3	1	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

CONTEXT NUMBER	NUMBER OF VARIANTS IN RETENT	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	VOLUME (LITRES)	SOIL CONDITION	Stones	Gravel	Quartz Fragments	Magnetic	Seeds/ Fruit	Nut shells	Charred wood	Charred plant material	Plant/animal fibres	Bone	Burnt bone	Animal teeth	Shell	Pupae/ Larva	Insects	Textile	Moss	Flint	Charred heather	Root material
C235	6	127	PF	10	M	2	3	1	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C236	7	128	PF	10	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C237	6	129	PF	5	M	2	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
C238	6	130	PF	5	M	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

CONTEXT NUMBER	NUMBER OF VARIANTS	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	VOLUME (LITRES)	SOIL CONDITION	DETAILS OF SAMPLES
126	NA	19	NA	NA	M	CARBON DATING SAMPLE
169	NA	24	NA	NA	M	CARBON DATING SAMPLE
297	NA	28	NA	NA	M	CARBON DATING SAMPLE
NA	NA	29	NA	NA	M	VOID - SAMPLE NOT RECOVERED
216	NA	42	NA	NA	M	CARBON DATING SAMPLE
271	NA	65	NA	NA	M	CARBON DATING SAMPLE
NA	NA	102	NA	NA	M	CARBON DATING SAMPLE - SURFACE FIND SO NO CONTEXT NUMBER
230	NA	103	NA	NA	M	CARBON DATING SAMPLE
404	NA	113	NA	NA	M	CARBON DATING SAMPLE
274	NA	116	NA	NA	M	CARBON DATING SAMPLE
391	NA	117	NA	NA	M	CARBON DATING SAMPLE
485	NA	131	NA	NA	M	CARBON DATING SAMPLE
298	NA	132	NA	NA	M	CARBON DATING SAMPLE

APPENDIX 7: ILLUSTRATIONS