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# **NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD**

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**Client Report No. CP/302/06**

**ASSESSMENT REPORT ON  
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EXCAVATION AT  
NEW COWPER QUARRY  
(NORTHERN AREA)  
ASPATRIA  
CUMBRIA**

**FOR STEPHENSON  
HALLIDAY**

**ON BEHALF OF  
THOMAS ARMSTRONG  
(HOLDINGS) LTD**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In June 2003, Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Stephenson Halliday on behalf of Thomas Armstrong (Holdings) Ltd to undertake an archaeological evaluation at New Cowper Quarry, Aspatria, Cumbria (NGR NY 115 460) in response to a planning condition.

A strategy for the evaluation was agreed with the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) and consisted of partly open area strip and 14 sample trenches. Headland Archaeology produced the report for this first phase of work in late June 2003 under the project code NCF02. This assessment report (under the North Pennines project code NCF-C), details the follow-up work that occurred, namely the open area stripping of that part of the field that had previously been trial trenched, the whole area totalling 9500m. All the information obtained from both phases of excavation have been brought together and analysed with theoretical interpretations presented at the end.

A high number of important archaeological remains were discovered within the vicinity of the development site, and all would have been lost to sand extraction. The majority of features were postholes and rubbish pits, ditches, and one distinctive square ditched enclosure, open on the south side. All the features had suffered some degree of truncation with many only containing one fill.

A significant number of pieces of Bronze Age pottery (approximately 165) were recovered along with 26 pieces of flint, both worked and debitage, and fragments of a possible rubbing stone. The feature, finds and environmental data all combine to give the indication of a heavily used area of land comprising a field system and possible settlement focus, with various centres of activity, and a stock management zone.

A statement regarding the potential for further analysis of this information is presented at the end of this assessment along with an updated project design that would enable this site to be published at monograph level in association with other phases of work at New Cowper Quarry (NCF-A Railton forthcoming and NCF-B Davies 2006).

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Stephenson Halliday for commissioning the project. 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 thanks to Jeremy Parsons, Assistant Archaeologist, Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service for his assistance during the project.

This assessment report was written by Nicola Gaskell with conclusions by Martin Railton. Nicola Gaskell and Martin Sowerby produced the digitised drawings. The specialist reports were contributed by Dr. Carol Allen (pottery analysis), Patricia Crompton (environmental analysis) and Mark Dodd (lithic analysis). The project was managed by Gareth Davies, Project Officer, NPA Ltd and overseen by Frank Giocco, Technical Director, NPA Ltd. Martin Railton, Project Officer NPA Ltd, edited the report.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 In June 2003 Headland 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 New Cowper Quarry, Aspatria, Cumbria (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 This scheme affected an area of known archaeological interest, previously identified in a desk-based assessment that contained 10 HER sites in the vicinity of the study area including: a Neolithic axe, Iron Age/Romano British earthwork settlement site, a medieval chapel site and four other earthwork sites amongst others (LUAU 1999). The excavation area was located just under 700m north-west of the present farmstead of New Cowper at NGR 115 460, and consisted of one large area, totalling 9500 square metres. The area was excavated in two separate phases, beginning in June 2003. The majority of features uncovered comprised postholes and rubbish pits, putative enclosing ditches, and one distinctive square ditch enclosure, open on the southern side. All the features had suffered some degree of truncation with many only containing one fill. For the purposes of this report they have been amalgamated.
- 1.1.3 In February 2006 North Pennines Archaeology was commissioned to undertake the Map 2 Assessment (English Heritage 1991) of the excavation at New Cowper conducted by Headland Archaeology Ltd. This assessment report sets out the results of the excavation in the form of a document, outlining their initial findings and assessing the potential for future research arising from this. It is intended that all three phases of work at New Cowper (NCF-A, Railton forthcoming, NCF-B, Davies 2006 and NCF-C) will ultimately be amalgamated into a final report.



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## 2. PROJECT DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by Headland 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 CCHES. Following acceptance of the project design, Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work.

### 2.2 EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

2.2.1 The archaeological excavation comprised one open area measuring 9000 square metres in size, uncovered in three strips. 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 management of Russel Coleman, Headland Archaeology Ltd. 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 and the captured data was transferred into a computer software programme for manipulation.

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

2.2.5 A detailed record of the stratigraphic sequence was made, in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologist (IFA) and English Heritage guidelines.

2.2.6 Archaeological deposits and features were sampled systematically in accordance with Headland Archaeology Ltd standard environmental sampling practice. The processing was overseen by Dr Tim Holden

2.2.7 All written records utilised the Headland Archaeology Ltd pro-forma record sheets.

2.2.8 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 by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd.

- 2.2.9 A site diary was maintained detailing the nature of the work undertaken each day.
- 2.2.10 All finds belong to the landowner, but have been initially taken to the premises of North Pennines Archaeology at Nenthead for assessment.

## **2.3 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY**

- 2.3.1 This document is the *post-excavation assessment* of the two phases of excavation in the northern area of New Cowper Quarry (NCF02). 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 (Fig 1);
  - 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 excavated material from the New Cowper quarry northern extensions:
- Prehistoric pottery was assessed by Dr Carol Allen.
  - Lithics were assessed by Mark Dodd.
  - Environmental assessment (post-processing residue analysis) took place under the direction of Patricia Crompton (NPA Ltd).

## **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.

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## 3. BACKGROUND

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### 3.1 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.1.1 The site is situated (NGR 115 460), c.3km south east of Silloth and roughly 700m north west of the farmstead of New Cowper, within the modern civil parish of Holme St Cuthbert. 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 assessment 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 proposed extraction area is an undulating area of low ridges, approximately 35m AOD, and is used as pasture. 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 assessment area consists of Triassic Sherwood Sandstone, with Triassic Mudstone present to the north (Dunham 1969). The solid geology is masked by 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.
- 3.2.1 **Palaeolithic:** The earliest defined prehistoric period is the Palaeolithic, and it represents a time span covering almost the last half million years. No archaeological material dating to the time of the Pleistocene glaciations has ever been recovered from Cumbria, probably because the scouring of the latest glaciation, the Devensian, 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). No Palaeolithic material has been located within a 1 km radius of New Cowper Quarry.

- 3.2.2 **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).
- 3.2.3 Palaeoecological research has used the changing patterns of pollen contained within soil cores as evidence that there may have been some human management 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).
- 3.2.4 During the North West Wetlands Survey, systematic fieldwalking 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).
- 3.2.5 The relative lack of Mesolithic material from the North Cumbrian Plain is perhaps best explained by the poor visibility of 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 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.
- 3.2.6 **Neolithic:** The succeeding Neolithic period has been traditionally associated with the adoption of a settled agricultural lifestyle. New types of sites appear, including large ceremonial and funerary monuments. However, environmental and archaeological evidence suggests there was a large degree of continuity between the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic periods in Cumbria, and evidence for permanent settlements of this period is lacking in the county (Bradley 2002).
- 3.2.7 There was certainly a human presence in the North Cumbrian 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. This 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).
- 3.2.8 By the Later Neolithic, the distribution of artefacts such as polished stone axes, indicates widespread activity 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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).

- 3.2.9 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 Birkkrigg, near Ulverston. These monuments have no obvious practical explanation, and are probably best seen as public works central to complex religious or spiritual practices.
- 3.2.10 A number of Neolithic finds 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). A kilometre south of the Overby Quarry proposed extraction 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).
- 3.2.11 A single piece of Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flint was recovered from the permitted quarry area at High House (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 Neolithic in date (Higham and Jones 1975). It is highly likely that parts of the proposed extraction area at Overby Quarry were farmed, and perhaps even settled upon, during the Neolithic period.
- 3.2.12 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.
- 3.2.13 **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 *c.*2000 BC, clearly demonstrating the presence of agriculture in the North Cumbrian Plain by the Bronze Age (Hodgkinson *et al*, 2000).
- 3.2.14 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 long vanished, or hitherto undetected, Bronze Age agricultural landscapes.

- 3.2.15 Another burial practice attributable to the Bronze Age is cremation burial, which is sometimes 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 differences in chronology or differences in social practice. At Ewanrigg, c.8km south west of New Cowper Quarry assessment area, 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).
- 3.2.16 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 possible Bronze Age sites that are yet to be tested by excavation (Bewley 1986, 37, Davies, 2006).
- 3.2.17 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. There are a number of undated cropmarks within the area, which could possibly be of Bronze Age in date (Higham and Jones 1975).
- 3.2.18 **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.
- 3.2.19 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, including the enclosure at Wolsty Hall that continues in use into the Romano British Period (Blake 1959). Two possible Iron Age 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).
- 3.2.20 Although the evidence for settlements is lacking, 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).
- 3.2.21 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). However, the undated cropmarks within the proposed extraction area could possibly be of an Iron Age date (Higham and Jones 1975).

- 3.2.22 **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).
- 3.2.23 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 around Maryport 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) but by the late third century roundhouses were being superseded by rectangular timber buildings, for example at Crosshill (Higham and Jones 1983).
- 3.2.24 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 is situated approximately 7km south west of the study area (Philpott ed. 2004).
- 3.2.25 Intensive occupation of the fort at Carlisle continued until the fourth century, with extensive evidence for a vicus and associated civilian settlement to the south. The best evidence for the continued use of forts into the fifth century comes from Birdoswald (Wilmott 1997).
- 3.2.26 No Romano-British material has been discovered within a 1 km radius of the proposed extraction area at Overby quarry. However, undated cropmarks in the surrounding area could possibly be of a Romano-British date (Higham and Jones 1975).
- 3.2.27 **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.
- 3.2.28 Work in recent decades has shown that the Romans did not leave behind them a cultural vacuum. Archaeology has begun to fill the gap between the ‘Dark Ages’ and the colourful histories such as The Venerable Bede’s, *Historia Ecclesiastica* written in the early Eighth century.
- 3.2.29 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 also have had late phases that could have been identified 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 seventh or Eighth centuries AD (Newman ed. 2004).
- 3.2.30 Environmental studies focussing on pollen remains have indicated a continuing arable economy in Cumbria during the Early Medieval period (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).
- 3.2.31 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 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).
- 3.2.32 The name Cowper may derive from the Old Scandinavian ‘kaupa’ (Mills 1991,93), meaning purchased (land), or possibly from the Old English ‘cupe’ (op cit, 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.
- 3.2.33 No early medieval finds have been discovered within a 1km radius of the proposed extraction area at New Cowper quarry.
- 3.2.34 **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 Dolfin.
- 3.2.35 During the twelfth century many settlements started to emerge and population throughout the area increased. Certainly the parish of Holme Cultram was largely fossilised by this time.
- 3.2.36 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 moors 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 was made by Henry II when the area came under English control (LUAU 1999, 9).
- 3.2.37 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 of the Solway Plain in the twelfth century (Hodgkinson *et al*, 200, 137). The initial land granted to the Abbey would 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 forthcoming), 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 twelfth 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.
- 3.2.38 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 by the crown until after the Restoration of Charles II, when in 1732 it was purchased by the Stephenson family (Nicolson and Burn 1777 183-4).
- 3.2.39 No recovery of finds with a Medieval date have been made within a 1km radius of the proposed extraction area at New Cowper Quarry. It can be assumed that much of the land around the assessment 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 date (CHER 10162).
- 3.2.40 **Post-Medieval:** In 1732, Holme Cultram manor was purchased from 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).
- 3.2.41 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).
- 3.2.42 From the end of the eighteenth century onwards, the land around New Cowper 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).
- 3.2.43 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.

3.2.44 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).

3.2.45 It can be assumed that much of the land around the assessment 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 4km<sup>2</sup> study area centred on 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, see background for discussion).

### 3.4 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

3.4.1 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 assessment area (see Davies 2006).

3.4.2 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 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 is a major area of prehistoric activity and one of the few areas of Cumbria susceptible to aerial photography.

3.4.3 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. 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, Durranshill, Carlisle (McCarthy, unpublished) have suggested that this type of sub-circular enclosure could actually date to the Bronze Age or Neolithic Period.

3.4.4 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) appear to relate to former field systems and possible settlement features. The other two sites (at NY 11010 46290 and NY 11900 46500) 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.

### 3.5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS

3.5.1 In addition to aerial photographic reconnaissance (Higham and Jones 1975) 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. NWSW 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 Farm, Aspatria, Cumbria.** *Results of an Archaeological Evaluation, by Headland Archaeology, 2000*: Five trial trenches carried out in the southern area of proposed extension. Three trenches contained cultivation furrows and three possible pits were noted, but found to be non-archaeological, no finds were recovered during the evaluation so no further work was recommended.
- **New Cowper Quarry, Aspatria, Cumbria.** *Results of an Archaeological Investigation, by Elizabeth Jones for Headland Archaeology, 2003*: Open area excavation and sample trenching in the northern area 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. This assessment report recovers this work and the follow-up excavation of the rest of the area.
- **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*. 2005a: Soil samples from features at the New Cowper farm excavations (NCF-B Davies 2006) 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.

- 3.5.2 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 that assessment.
- 3.5.3 The results of the desk-based assessment indicated that the potential for Roman remains was low, although some prehistoric activity may have continued into the Romano-British period.
- 3.5.4 In contrast, the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period was extremely high. Existing evidence within the proposed extraction area 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 undated cropmark features throughout the proposed extraction area. These cropmarks seemed to represent the multi-phase remains of fields, settlement foci and possible ritual sites, which may date to the Prehistoric and Romano-British periods.
- 3.5.5 Soil coring was also undertaken at New Cowper quarry to help assess the reliability of geophysical survey techniques for the evaluation of the archaeological potential of the proposed extraction areas (Jordan 2005b). A pilot geophysical survey of Overby Quarry (Bartlett, in Davies 2006) experimented with a range of mapping techniques, but had limited success.

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## 4. ASSESSMENT RESULTS: THE FEATURES

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The results from the excavations will be summarised in this section, and for ease of analysis the archaeological features have been grouped purely on spatial grounds, although interpretations for the site as a whole will be expressed in the concluding section. Further reaching conclusions, informed particularly by finds and environmental analysis, will undoubtedly alter any initial interpretations in Section 7. Unless stated otherwise all cut features were stratigraphically above the natural subsoil.
- 4.1.2 **New Cowper Quarry Northern Area, (NCF-C):** The area was excavated in three strips (Figure 2). Machine stripping of the topsoil and subsequent hand cleaning, revealed a number of sub-surface archaeological features cutting into the natural sand and gravel subsoil. The features can be ascribed into two broad phases of land-use; *prehistoric* (including probable prehistoric features) and *post-medieval/modern* (plough furrows and drainage ditches). The feature groupings within each strip are illustrated in Figures 3-5.
- 4.1.3 **Prehistoric features:** The majority of the features observed are likely to be prehistoric. The grouped features are outlined and discussed below with interpretations in section 7.3. A complete list of contexts is included in Appendix 1.

### 4.2 ASSESSMENT OF GROUPS

- 4.2.1 ***Group 1: Pit and Posthole group at the southwest extent of Strip 1:*** This first group covers most of the features contained within the southwestern corner of the site and within the boundary of the first part of the field to be stripped when the initial evaluation took place (Figure 6). The group includes 21 features of archaeological interest, 15 of which were classed as postholes, three as pits, two as linear features and one as a stake-hole. Only three of the features had multiple fills; [245], [248] and [253]. These were all in the posthole category and contained evidence of a former wooden post (post-pipe), as well as the packing material around it. All the other features were observed to hold only a single fill, whether or not this was always the case, or truncation at a later date had removed any upper fills, may never be ascertained. Many fill descriptions were repeated in that they were variants of mid-dark orangey-brown sand.
- 4.2.2 The two linear features [226] and [228], situated towards the northern group boundary may have been contemporaneous. Positioned approximately 35m from the southwest corner of site, they had similar morphologies, contained similar fills, and were positioned in such a way that they were, perhaps, part of the same structure. Neither of the fills from these two features [226] (which ran in a northeast southwest direction) or [228] (a banana shaped cut that ran approximately northwest southeast), were sampled, nor did they produce any datable artefacts.

- 4.2.3 The three pit features included in this group [034], [298] and [317] were separate from each other and from other features within the group. Pit [034] contained fill (035), which was taken in two different samples, 13 and 14. This was because charcoal was present in the fill, although no datable artefacts were found within it. The second pit [298] was filled by (297), and although the feature went beyond the limit of excavation on the eastern side, its recorded width was 0.84m wide and its depth reached 0.36m. No datable artefacts were recovered from this feature, nor were any samples taken from it for environmental analysis. The final pit [317] was situated in the southeastern corner of the group. It measured 0.63m long, 0.52m wide and 0.13m deep, was sub-oval in plan and contained a single fill (316) of mid-dark orangey-brown sand that contained no organic material or datable artefacts.
- 4.2.4 Regarding the fifteen postholes, nine appear to form two groups, one of four, the other with five, while the remainder are more widely spaced and have no obvious relationship with any other feature in the immediate area. Posthole [300] on the west side of the group, was cut by the later pit [298]. It was probably circular in plan, only the lowest part of the feature remained untouched by the later intrusion. It measured approximately 0.23m in diameter and 0.22m in depth with dark brown sand fill (299). The other features that were 'isolated' included [231] which was 0.79m long, 0.50m wide and 0.24m deep, with a single fill (230) of mid-dark brown sand, [266], and a slightly smaller feature, with the same type of fill (265), and cut [268] with re-deposited natural subsoil fill (267). This feature along with the previous two, were not sampled for environmental material, nor did they produce any datable artefacts. The two posthole features that were in 'isolated' positions, but did have their fills sampled, were [264] that measured 0.46m long, 0.19m wide and 0.19m deep and contained (263), brown-black sand with charcoal pieces, and [270], which was 0.33m long, 0.29m wide and 0.11m deep with a similar fill (269). The sample numbers were 75 and 76 respectively (see section 6.4).
- 4.2.5 There were nine features that appeared to form two tight clusters within Group 1. This included postholes [278], [280], [282] and [284], and stake hole [286]. Posthole [278] cut the fill of [280], (279). This had a 0.50m diameter and was 0.18m deep with brown-black sand that contained a high percentage of charcoal. This was removed as environmental sample 81. The posthole [280] was 0.35m long, 0.26m wide and 0.20m deep and filled with mid-dark brown sand (279). Neither feature had any datable artefacts within them. Less than 0.30m to the northeast of the previous two features were [282] and [284]. They did not cut across each other but there remained only the narrowest of margins between the two cuts. Cut [282] was 0.30m in diameter and 0.17m deep with a dark brown fill (281) that held a high amount of charcoal, this was sampled as sample 92. Posthole [284] was slightly larger being 0.39m long, 0.33m wide and 0.17m deep, the fill (283) was very similar to (281) and was sampled with the number 83. The last feature in this cluster was recorded as a stake hole, slightly smaller than the postholes and with a distinctive 'V' shaped profile, indicative of a sharpened pole being forced into the ground. It measured only 0.20m long, 0.12m wide and 0.20m deep with a single fill (285), dark brown sand that contained some charcoal. It was taken for environmental sampling with sample number 84.

- 4.2.6 The second cluster of postholes was made up of 5 postholes. Their sizes varied from approximately 0.30m in length to 0.73, from 0.30m wide to 0.59m and in depth from 0.09m to 0.30m. The fills from [245], [248], [251] and [253] were all sampled as numbers 69-73 respectively (70 and 71 both came from [248]). Only posthole [258] did not have its fill (257) sampled. The basic make up of the fills was similar, orangey-brown sand, with varying degrees of charcoal and patches of grey (possible ash residues). Posthole [248] was truncated by [251] which also cut the edge of [245] to the south. Cuts [253] and [258] were positioned slightly to the east of these three, approximately 0.35m away. None of the features within this cluster produced any datable artefacts.
- 4.2.7 **Group 2: Pit alignment at southern edge of Strip 1:** This grouping includes four features situated 4 m from the southern boundary of the site (Figure 7). Pits [308], [310], [313] and [315], cover a length of approximately 6.5m and were all sub-rounded and sub-oval pits ranging in width from 0.59m to 0.96m and varying in depth from 0.2m to 0.36m, although they have been severely truncated by later land use.
- 4.2.8 Only the deepest pit [310], retained two fills, the rest were filled by a single context. Cut [308] was filled by (307), a mid-orange to brown sand. Pit [310] was filled by (311) at the base, a black/brown sandy layer with high amounts of charcoal. This was overlain by (309), a mid-brown orangey sand, virtually indistinct from the surrounding natural subsoil. Feature [313] was filled by (312), another example of mid-brown orangey sand that is very similar to the natural subsoil. No datable artefacts were retrieved from any of these features, although fill (311) was removed for environmental sampling (Sample 94).
- 4.2.9 **Group 3: Southern linear ditch in Strip 1:** This group consists of what appeared on the ground to be one continuous ditch that ran in a northwest southeast direction across the area of the site known as Strip 1 (Figure 8). The extent that was surveyed measured 62m in length and approximately 3m in width. Three investigations were made along the length of the feature and each time the cuts were recorded with different numbers. The northernmost investigation uncovered three ditches that were not apparent on the surface. Ditch [003] was the largest and most central. It had a 'V' shaped cut, was approximately 2.4m wide and had a maximum depth of 0.70m. This ditch contained two fills. The primary (004) was brown sand of loose compaction and was sampled as 001. The upper fill (007) was dark orangey-brown sand with the sample number 002. This ditch cut another feature than ran immediately to the south of [003], and was parallel with it. Ditch [008] was a smaller 'V' shaped cut of only 1m wide and 0.45m deep with a single fill (009) of dark orangey-brown sand. This was sampled as sample 003, although no datable artefacts were retrieved from the feature. On the north side of [003] was the smallest feature. Cut [010] was only 0.45m wide and filled with (011) dark orangey brown sand to a depth of 0.14m. The fill (011) was sampled as Sample 004, and provided no datable artefacts.
- 4.2.10 The middle excavation slot across the feature, 24.70m further to the southeast of the first only exposed two ditches and a pit. The pit [232] was cut on its northeastern side by the ditch and was 0.75m in diameter, 0.25m deep and filled with (233), a light brownish-grey sand with occasional charcoal flecks, (this was sample 74). The feature that cut it was [234] 0.86m wide and filled by (235) and (236), an even sided

ditch with a concave base that reached a depth of 0.58m. The primary fill, (235) was mottled in colour – grey/brown/orange while the upper fill (236) was light brownish-grey sand with occasional flecks of charcoal. This ditch was truncated on its northern side by ditch [237] a wider feature measuring 1.20m in width, and 0.63m in depth, and although it was even sided, it had a flat base unlike [234]. Neither of its two fills (238) or (239) were sampled as they were both variants on greyish-brown sand, the first being dark the second being light, nor did they contain any datable artefacts.

- 4.2.11 The most southerly intervention across the width of the broad ‘ditch’ was 7.80m further south than the central slot. At this point only one ditch was present (initial interpretations concluded that there were two features but this was later revised). Ditch [149] was found to be 1.90m wide with sloping sides and a flat base. Upper fill (151) was recorded as mid-yellowish brown silty sand, and the primary fill (153) was mottled grey-brown gritty sand, probably re-deposited natural sub-soil. Neither fill was sampled nor were there any datable artefacts recovered from the excavated slot.
- 4.2.12 **Group 4: Central linear ditch in Strip 1:** This central linear feature was surveyed for a length of 44m and was approximately 2-3m wide, being variable along its length. It ran parallel to, and just to the north of, the feature described in group 3, and may have been used in a similar, as yet, undetermined capacity (Figure 8). Two slots were excavated across the width of the feature, the first was at the ditch terminus [262] which was noted to be filled by (261) brownish red silty sand of loose compaction. The second slot was 18.40m west of the first and recorded as [292]. This again contained a single fill of (291) reddish brown sand that was loosely compacted. It reached a depth of 0.30m and measured at this point 2.20m across. In neither excavated slot was there any evidence of organic material that would have been suitable for environmental analysis or any datable artefacts.
- 4.2.13 **Group 5: Short linear ditch in Strip 1:** This grouping was within a large linear feature which lay immediately to the north of, and parallel with, group 4 (Figure 8). A 21m length of this was surveyed, being approximately 1.65m wide (this varied slightly along the length of the feature). One archaeological intervention was excavated through the feature, 1.70m from its southern end. This was 1m long and extended across the width of the feature. It was noted that the feature at this point appeared to be a single ditch with a shallow profile of gently sloping sides with a flattish base, and was numbered [020]. It contained a single fill (021) of loosely compacted dark orangey-brown sand that may have been re-deposited natural sub-soil, accumulating near the terminal end of the feature. The fill was sampled with the number 010 but no datable artefacts were found within it.
- 4.2.14 **Group 6: Northern linear ditch and intersections in Strip 1:** This group covers the intersections of three separate ditches and two pits (Figure 8). One ditch feature was observed to run for approximately 70m with a general northwest-southeast alignment. Five sections were cut through it, each one carrying its own number. Cuts [022], [121], [148], [162] and [214] were all parts of the same ditch, although the make-up of the fill material varied along its length, as did the width and depth of the ditch cut. Although there was variation, only one sample was taken from (023) within [022], as the fills appeared to be largely sterile sand changing a little in colour in shades of brown or orange. This large ditch [022] cuts the two other ditches that are within this group. Ditches [067] and [069] both ran in a north-south direction and were



- considerably shorter than [022]. Ditch [067] (same as [119]). It was, on average, 0.65m wide and 0.30m deep, containing two separate fills of orangey-brown sand, these fills were not sampled as they were observed to not contain any organic remains, nor did they produce any datable artefacts. This ditch may have been associated with the smaller ditch [069] that lay immediately to the east of it.
- 4.2.15 Ditch [069] was visible for a length of 16.50m, and had one slot excavated through it, 2.4m to the north of where it was cut by [022]. The slot was 0.55m in length, and covered the width of the ditch which at that point was only 0.20m. It may be that the ditch was heavily truncated, leaving only the base, or it may have acted as a palisade trench in conjunction with ditch [067] as it runs parallel to it. The cut contained a single fill of moderately compacted orangey-brown sand, the most common fill material observed throughout the entire site. For this reason it was not taken for environmental sampling, nor were there any datable artefacts recovered from the excavated slot.
- 4.2.16 **Group 7: North – South pit alignment in Strip 1:** Group 7 encompasses eight cut features situated at least 5m from the southern boundary of Strip 1 (Figure 7), extending in a line northwards for a maximum of 11.5m. All of these features were sub-rounded in plan, each measuring between 0.9m and 2m in diameter and varying in depth from 0.3m to 0.6m. Each feature contained multiple fills, although no datable artefacts were retrieved from any of them. Several environmental samples were taken from this group of cut features – Sample numbers 45-51, 54-56, 66-68, 77-80, 85-88 and 90-93 (see section 6.4).
- 4.2.17 The most southerly feature, pit [113], contained 4 fills. Two of these (136) and (137), were similar in content, both being mid-brownish orange sand with occasional fine root inclusions, possibly re-deposited natural sub-soils. Fill (138) was a burnt black sandy layer with a high percentage of charcoal. An interpretation of this layer is that it was a deliberate dumping of material, which in turn was overlaid by (139), a loose fine mid-orangey brown sand more akin to the earlier deposits, but with frequent charcoal flecks throughout.
- 4.2.18 The fill of pit [113] was truncated on its northern side by cut [114], denoting [114] as a later feature. Pit [114] contained three fills. The lowest (140) a mid-orangey brown sand similar to that seen in the bottom of many features on site, (141) a soft greyish-black burnt material containing large pieces of charcoal which reached up to 0.15m in thickness, and finally (142), a dark reddish-brown compacted sand layer which appeared to have suffered a colour change due to direct heat. This layer also included frequent charcoal flecks. Pit [115] was positioned so close to the northern edge of [114] it was first thought that they were intercutting. However, closer inspection proved them to be two discreet features. Pit [115] was filled by (143), a dark brownish-black burnt sandy layer that contained both ash and charcoal. Above that was layer (144), mid-orangey brown, soft silty sand, again comparable to the natural sub-soil. The uppermost fill was (145), light to mid-orangey brown fine grain sand.
- 4.2.19 Approximately 0.7m to the north of [115] was cut [178], containing (222) and (223). These are both cut by a smaller and later pit [177]. This measured 1m in diameter and 0.36m in depth and contained three distinct fills. The basal fill, (219) was loose orangey brown sandy gravel with rare flecks of charcoal, again probably evidence of

re-deposited natural subsoil. Above this was (220), a black, burnt sand deposit with a high concentration (approx 80%) of charcoal, (this could account for the rare inclusions in the layer below). This deposit continues a theme that was apparent in the other features within this group, which is indicative of burning. The top fill was (221) a light to mid-brown soft silty sand that was loosely compacted. The deposit may have formed by natural silting. Immediately north of [178] was [259], another pit that had been massively truncated by the later ditch feature [148]. A small section was investigated on the south side of the feature, and this revealed 4 fills. The most substantial fill was (303), orange-brown sand that started at the bottom of the cut and in places reached the top. Fill (304) was a discreet dump of loose dark orangey-brown silty sand in the centre of [259], while both (305) and (306) were mid orangey-brown compact silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks and small pebbles.

- 4.2.20 To the north of [259] was pit [260]. This feature was truncated by the east-west ditch [148], and contained 4 fills. The basal layer (293) was dark orangey-brown sand, overlain by mid-orangey brown sand (294); two further examples of re-deposited natural subsoil. Fill (295) was above (294) and was a black-orange mixed layer with charcoal. The upper fill (296) was quite a compact layer of orangey-brown sand with evidence of charcoal, ash and frequent stones. These deposits suggested in situ burning. The most northerly feature in this pit sequence was [275], positioned approximately 0.45m north of [260]. It contained 4 fills, (287), (288), (289) and (290), all of which were orangey-brown sands of varying degrees.
- 4.2.21 **Group 8: East – West posthole alignment in Strip 1:** This group covers 17 posthole features that ran in a line extending east-west across strip 1 for approximately 35m (Figure 7).
- 4.2.22 Fourteen of the features had single fills and the other three contained two fills. The largest feature in plan was 0.54m long and 0.47m wide, the smallest was 0.23m long and 0.19m wide. The majority of the holes around 0.30m in diameter; the narrow variation in the sizes possibly indicating that they were all part of the same structure. The shallowest surviving depth was 0.08m and the greatest was 0.25m.
- 4.2.23 Seven of the postholes had fills removed for environmental sampling, these were: fill (014) – sample 007, (016) – 008, (018) – 009, (123+4) – 042, (126) – 043, (198) – 052 and (200) – sample 053 (see section 6.4). These samples included the two features that contained multiple fills, [122] and [125], as they showed evidence of postpipes (wooden posts burnt or rotted *in-situ*) that could provide material suitable for radio-carbon dating. No datable artefacts were recovered from any of the features within the group.
- 4.2.24 **Group 9: Posthole cluster at eastern edge of Strip 1:** Group 9 covers 7 posthole features, 6 of which were in a tight cluster with one outlier (Figure 9). All ranged in length from 0.26m to 0.57m and in depth from 0.16m to 0.24m.
- 4.2.25 The fills of postholes [164], [166], [168] and [170] were all very similar in content, being a dark grey or blackish sandy fill and all containing high amounts of charcoal. The fill of [172], was noted as containing less charcoal and was lighter in colour. The fill of [174], was again different in its material make-up, recorded as being a mottled orange/yellow/grey colour and holding a lot of iron-pan material.

- 4.2.26 The final member of this Group, posthole [176], was filled by (175), re-deposited natural sub-soil, mid-orangy brown sand with natural gravel inclusions. As this feature stands in relative isolation its function within the broader area is not certain. No datable artefacts were retrieved from any of the features within the Group. The environmental samples that were removed were numbers 60-64 (see section 6.4).
- 4.2.27 **Group 10: Loose posthole group near centre of Strip 1:** This grouping encompasses 6 fairly isolated posthole features that have been brought together in this Group for ease of discussion (Figure 9). This Group lies immediately to the south and southeast of Group 11, a square open sided enclosure in the centre of Strip 1. The most northerly feature in this group is posthole [053], a cut measuring 0.35m across and 0.1m deep with a grey-brown sandy loam fill (054). The nearest posthole was situated 5.3m to the southeast, cut number [051], with fill (052). Its width was the same as [053], it was 0.17m deep, and the fill was similar. The next feature in the Group [182] was 1.6m to the southwest of [051]. It was slightly smaller at 0.26m across and 0.30m deep, and filled by dark reddish brown to grey sand (183) that was tightly compacted. Five metres to the southwest, posthole [215] measured 0.62m across and 0.25m deep, filled by reddish brown compact sand (216). Approximately 2.8m to the west lay a smaller posthole, [218] which measured 0.26m across and 0.27m deep containing the dark reddish-brown tightly compacted sand, (217). The last feature in the group posthole [302] was situated 13.6m west of [218] and measuring only 0.18m across and 0.20m deep. It contained a single fill (as did all the other features in this group) of dark greyish-brown, tightly compacted sand with infrequent charcoal inclusions (301). None of the features produced any datable artefacts and only two were sampled: [051] and [053] with sample numbers 16 and 15 respectively.
- 4.2.28 **Group 11: Square open sided enclosure ditch in Strip 1:** This group comprises a three-sided ditched enclosure measuring 11.0m by 10.4m, open on the south side, in the middle of Strip 1 (Figure 10). In plan it was a U-shaped ditched feature that was open on the southern side. Five separate investigations were made into the feature, and each was given its own cut number. The first [033] was in the western arm of the enclosure, which was aligned in a north-south direction. The excavated slot was 0.50m long and extended across the width of the feature, which at that point was 0.70m and 0.31m deep. It was found to contain two fills, a primary fill of what appeared to be re-deposited natural sub-soil, firm orangy-brown sand (032), overlain by light greyish brown sand (031).
- 4.2.29 The second intervention [037] was in the northern section (which ran southwest-northeast) and again was 0.50m long. The width of the feature at this point was 0.60m, although it was only 0.13m deep, probably due to truncation. The fills, primary fill (070) and upper fill (036), were observed to be the same colour and consistency as those excavated in slot [033], showing strongly that the fills may well have been consistent throughout. The third intervention [038] was in the eastern arm (that ran north-south, parallel to the western arm). It was 0.50m long, covering the width of the feature, which at that point was 0.60m and 0.30m deep. Both the upper fill (071) and the primary fill (072) were again the same as those recorded in [033] and [037], showing consistency throughout the feature. There was another cut feature [073] within the ditch, but it remains unclear as to which came first. This appeared to

- be a posthole, probably 0.28m in diameter, (the northern edge was under the section) and 0.1m deep, containing fill (072).
- 4.2.29 Interventions were also made into the ditch terminals, one on the eastern side and one on the western side. The eastern terminal [256] was half sectioned. From the end of the feature the slot extended for 0.85m and was 0.37m wide. It contained a single fill of dark greyish-brown silty sand (255) that reached a depth of 0.22m. This was sampled because of the high charcoal content (sample 96). This material showed a marked difference to that uncovered at other points around the feature, perhaps showing that a different archaeological event took place at the terminal to cause the discolouration of the sand.
- 4.2.31 The final investigation was in the western terminal of the feature [224]. The excavated area was 0.59m long and 0.17m wide. The feature was up to 0.40m deep and contained two fills. The primary fill (347) was mid orangey-brown sand, similar to (032) and (070), probably re-deposited natural that represents natural infilling processes. The upper fill (229) was dark greyish-brown firm sand that reached a depth of 0.19m, and contained a small piece of flint (see section 5.11).
- 4.2.32 **Group 12: Posthole cluster inside enclosure in Strip 1:** The location of Group 12 could be significant as it lies within the three-sided ditched enclosure in the centre of Strip 1 (Figure 10). Three of the five features have been identified as postholes; the fourth is a putative 'hearth', whilst the last is a large tree throw. The postholes vary in size from 0.20m to 0.33m in width, with depths from 0.11m to 0.15m. These features are contexts [079], [319] and [331] and are filled by (078), (318) and (330) respectively. All of the fills were grey or brown fine sands with slight gravel inclusions. No datable artefacts, charcoal or environmental samples were recovered to assist with the dating of these features.
- 4.2.33 A large irregularly shaped feature [323], was interpreted as a tree throw, an area of land disturbed by the falling over (or pulling over) of a tree. Its greatest length measured 3.5m (north-south) and its greatest width was approximately 1.1m (east-west). It was positioned very close to the eastern arm of the enclosure. The fill of the tree throw (322) was dark reddish-brown sand with gravels. No artefacts or other forms of datable evidence were present within this material. Feature [321] has tentatively been described as a hearth, being 0.5m in length and 0.35m wide, and was positioned within the enclosure at its southern end. The fill (320) was dark reddish-brown to black firm sand, with only occasional charcoal inclusions. Heat may have been present in this location, in the form of a small fire for cooking. This was sampled as Sample 95 (see section 6.4).
- 4.2.34 **Group 13: Disparate pits and postholes in north of Strip 1:** This group of loosely collected features all lie to the north of Group 11, the enclosure in the centre of Strip 1 (Figure 11). Only five features were present in that space between the enclosure and the northern field/site boundary. The smallest distance between two features of this group was 4.7m, showing just how separated they were. All these features were interpreted as postholes with the exception of [061] (recorded as a small pit), and all were sub-rounded or sub-oval in plan. They ranged in width from 0.30m to 1.3m, and in depth from 0.05m to 0.32m, indicative of later truncation.

- 4.2.35 The northernmost feature within this grouping was posthole [333], being approx 0.78m in diameter and 0.20m deep, filled by (332), reddish-brown to dark grey sand that was moderately compacted. This provided no further information as to function, use or date. The nearest feature was posthole [055], located 9.9m to the southeast, being 1.3m wide and 0.25m deep. This contained a single fill of brown sandy-loam (056). The central feature in the group was posthole [335], 0.67m long and 0.32m deep with two separate fills. The basal deposit (336) was light grey sand, devoid of any organic material or finds. The discolouration of what may have been a primary fill may be due to the layer above it (334), which was grey-black sand with large pieces of charcoal, possible evidence of *in-situ* burning of a wooden post that once filled the cut.
- 4.2.36 Approximately 12.8m to the southwest of posthole [335] was posthole [327], being 0.30m long and only 0.05m deep, it was filled by mid-grey brown sand of loose compaction (326). The last feature included in this loose grouping was pit [061], located approximately 4.7m to the northwest of [327], being 1m in length and 0.20m in depth. This was interpreted as a pit, because of its irregular dimensions. The fill (062) appeared to be a basal deposit of mixed brown orange sand, akin to a number of other features, that contained a primary fill of re-deposited natural sub-soil.
- 4.2.37 Three environmental samples were removed from some of the fills of these features – Sample 17 from posthole [055], Sample 20 from pit [061] and Sample 97 from posthole fill (334). Unfortunately, no artefacts were retrieved from any of the features within this group, so no further information could be obtained relating to date or function.
- 4.2.38 **Group 14: Field drains and pit to northwest of Strip 1:** This group covers five modern features and only one possible prehistoric feature (Figure 12). The five field drains that were located in area of peat, and were not recorded beyond being surveyed.
- 4.2.39 The other feature in the group was an oval shallow pit [328]. It measured 1.45m in length, was 0.65m wide and had a depth of 0.10m. The fill of the pit was mid brown silty sand (329), interpreted as re-deposited natural subsoil. It was sterile of any datable artefacts or organic material and so was not sampled. No further information could be gained from this pit, and it was very isolated from any other feature on site.
- 4.2.40 **Group 15: Northwest – Southeast aligned ditches in Strip 2:** The group was centrally located on the site. Although eleven cut numbers are listed in this grouping there are perhaps as few as five features (Figure 13). Two of the features [384] and [402], were pits. Pit [384] was situated towards the northern end of the group and was truncated by the machining process. It measured 0.50m long, 0.38m wide and was 0.15m deep. The fill (385) was sampled (Sample 99), as charcoal was present in the material. The second pit was 11.60m to the southeast and it too contained one fill of mid-dark brown fine grain sand (403). It was sub-circular in plan and measured 0.70m in length, 0.64m in width and 0.19m in depth. This was not sampled and contained no finds.
- 4.2.41 A linear feature [404], of unknown function, was aligned northeast-southwest, and [404] measured 2.74m long, 0.72m wide and 0.27m deep. Like most of the other features on the site it had suffered heavy truncation. Its single fill (405) was not

sampled as it consisted mid-dark orangey-brown sand, which was similar to that filling a large number of the features across the site

- 4.2.42 The remaining eight features could be grouped into two linear features, approximately 2m apart, that have been badly truncated. Each number refers to a small section of what once may have been badly continuous parallel ditches. Cuts [382], [390], [392], [392] and [398] could be parts of one feature, and [380], [388] and [396] could form the second. The edges of the cuts varied; some were quite diffuse through being truncated, and all were quite shallow. None of the fills from these cuts were sampled, nor did they contain any datable artefacts, but they were all very similar, being either mid or dark brown sand with occasional small stone inclusions.
- 4.2.43 ***Group 16: Tree throws and pit cluster in southwest corner of Strip 2:*** Six archaeological features and two tree throws are contained within this grouping, which lies towards the southern edge of the site in Strip 2 (Figure 14). Five of the archaeological features are close to one another, whilst one posthole [430] is quite isolated, both within the group and on the site generally. This measured 0.28m long, 0.18m wide and was 0.18m deep, containing a single fill of light-mid brownish-grey moderately compacted sand, (429). This layer contained charcoal and was sampled with the sample number 126.
- 4.2.44 The group of five features comprised four pits and a posthole. The posthole [413] was 0.30m in diameter, 0.14m deep and filled by a single deposit (414), dark orange fine-grained sand that was sampled, number 116. The four pits [368], [411], [415], and [417] all contained a single fill varying in colour from orange to brown sand, with the exception of (412) that had a higher percentage of burnt material, and (418) that was more grey in colour. These two fills were sampled as 115 and 118 respectively while the others were not. None of the pits or the postholes produced any finds.
- 4.2.45 The two tree throws were larger than any of the other features and contained multiple fills. Feature [425] was 4m long, 3m wide and 0.60m deep, while [437] was approximately 5m in diameter and up to 1m deep. The larger feature [437] was quarter sectioned and was observed to contain nine fills. The lowest two (444) and (445), were both contained charcoal. Approximately one third of (444) was charcoal while the layer immediately above, (445) contained frequent charcoal inclusions. Only those two layers were sampled, with the numbers 127 and 128. No datable artefacts were retrieved from this feature.
- 4.2.46 The second, smaller tree throw [425] was approximately 12m southwest of [437] and also contained nine fills, but in contrast to [437], this feature appears to have been used as a rubbish pit. The basal fill (515) plus those above it (527), (514) and (513), all appear to be natural infilling, by a gradual accumulation of sands and gravels. The layer above those (424), was the largest deposit, recorded as light yellowish-brown fine to medium sand that was sterile of charcoal or datable artefacts. The three fills that overlie (424): (422), (423) and (426) contained pieces of prehistoric pottery and lithic material (see Section 5), and were sampled (Samples 121-125 and 156-158). The final layer was fine wind blown sand (421). This uppermost fill of the feature did not share the same make-up as the three that produced the finds, as it was darker in colour and comprised fine sand.

- 4.2.47 **Group 17: Western plough furrow and pit in Strip 2:** This group includes two features. One was a modern plough furrow running N-S across the site measuring 53m in length. The other was a pit in close proximity to the plough furrow (see Figure 15). This pit [410] was located at the centre of the site. It was circular in plan, having a diameter of 0.70m and reaching a depth of 0.18m. It contained a single fill (409), mid to dark orangey-brown silty sand of moderate compaction. This was sampled as within the material were pieces of charcoal and cracked stone (possibly heat affected), and was given the sample number 113.
- 4.2.48 **Group 18: Eastern plough furrow in Strip 2:** This group lies immediately to the east of group 17 and consists of another modern plough furrow and three possible prehistoric features (Figure 15). The plough furrow was 57.40m long and was approximately 3m east of the furrow described in Group 17. A pit [631] was located to the east of this being sub-circular in plan and measuring 1.76m long, 1.24m wide and 0.34m deep. It contained two fills (632) and (633); the basal fill (632) was mid-brown/orange sand with some flecks of charcoal. Finds were recovered from this layer in the form of ‘pounding stones’, rounded, slightly polished stones used for breaking up soft materials. It was sampled as number 185 (see section 6.4). The uppermost fill in the pit (633) was dark brown sand with more frequent flecks of charcoal, and although this produced no finds it was also sampled for environmental analysis as Sample 184.
- 4.2.49 Located 11.30m to the north of [631] were two features [644] and [643]. The larger feature [644] was a pit measuring up to 1.94m long, 1.15m wide and reaching 0.60m deep. The primary fill (642) was pale greyish-brown silt, of moderate to firm compaction, either resulting from pit edge erosion or being wind blown and accumulating against one corner of the pit. The main fill of the feature reached up to 0.50m in thickness and was interpreted as re-deposited natural (641). It was a dark orangey-brown sand containing only very small and occasional fragments of burnt bone and charcoal and was sampled (Sample 189). Cut into the southern end of this fill was a smaller, later pit [643], which held seven distinct fills. It measured 0.58m wide and 0.30m deep and was at first interpreted as possible kiln with only the bottom portion still in evidence. Most of the fills show some evidence of burnt material, either charcoal or ash within them. The fills were all quite shallow, indicating either separate periods of burning within the feature, or material from nearby fires, the remains of which were dumped into the pit. Five of the layers within [643] were taken for environmental analysis: (634) as sample 186, (636), (637) and (638) as sample 187 and (640) as sample 188 (see section 6.4). No datable artefacts were retrieved from either of the pits.
- 4.2.50 **Group 19: Posthole cluster in southeast corner of Strip 2:** The six features within this group are all postholes (Figure 16). The features varied in size from 0.27m in diameter to 0.59m and from 0.06m in depth to 0.14m. All of the cuts were round or sub-rounded and all contained a single fill of mid to dark orangey-brown fine-grained sand of moderate compaction.
- 4.2.51 Only one feature was sampled for environmental remains, this was fill (628) from posthole [627], with sample number 182. This feature also produced pieces of prehistoric pottery, the only one in the group to do so.

- 4.2.52 **Group 20: Posthole cluster north of Group 19:** The centre point of this group was towards the southern end of Strip 2 (Figure 16). Four posthole features were included in this grouping with the most northerly one [597], being 0.38m in length and 0.18m deep. This contained a single fill, (like many other small features throughout the site), of mid-reddish brown medium sand (596). Approximately 6.4m to the southwest was [586], a very similar-sized feature, 0.40m long and 0.10m deep. Filled by dark brown sand with occasional charcoal flecks, (587) was the only deposit present within the cut and yielded no datable artefacts. 1.65m to the west of [586] was [588], 0.38m long and 0.09m deep. The single fill (589) was mid-brown sand also devoid of any datable artefacts. A further 7.5m to the southeast of posthole [588] was posthole [590], which was 0.60m long and 0.19m deep. This was the only feature within the group to retain two fills, the primary, (602) was dark brown to black sand with charcoal, whilst the overlying deposit (591) was mid-brown sand with only a few charcoal flecks. Three of the fills were removed from this group for sampling, numbered 172-174 (see section 6.4).
- 4.2.53 **Group 21: Postholes and tree throw northwest of Group 20:** The most southeasterly feature [630] was 9.95m to the northwest of [588] in Group 20 (Figure 17). This feature is the largest member of the group and has been interpreted as a tree-throw due to its irregular nature, size and fill pattern. It was approximately 1.38m long by 0.80m wide, and filled by (629), a very mixed deposit of small lenses of varying coloured sand with gravel inclusions.
- 4.2.54 The two postholes in this group were only 0.75m apart. Posthole [566] was 2.20m northwest of the tree throw [630] and was quite regular in plan, being sub-oval and measuring 0.66m across and 0.12m deep. It was filled by a single context (567), of mid-brown sand. Posthole [564] was slightly smaller and more rounded being 0.35m across and 0.2m deep. It too had a single fill of mid to dark brown sand (565). These fills may have naturally accumulated because of the lack of any sizable stones, gravels, organic or waste material. None of the features in this group contained datable artefacts. One sample was removed from the fill of the tree throw (629) for environmental analysis, sample number 183.
- 4.2.55 **Group 22: Posthole/Pit group north of Group 21:** This group includes ten features, of which three were inter-cutting pits (Figure 17). Seven cuts were interpreted as being postholes while the remaining three were pits. Five of the seven postholes were very similar in their morphology, varying in size from 0.18m to 0.25m in diameter and in depth from 0.04m to 0.09m. The other two were slightly larger at 0.44m and 0.54m in diameter, both being 0.12m deep. All the postholes contained a single fill and were all mid-dark brown sands. The exception was (624), fill of [623] that showed more evidence of burning and contained a significant amount of charcoal. All but one of the postholes had their fills sampled, these were (577), (579), (581), (583), (585) and (624), given the sample numbers of 175-9 and 181 respectively. No datable artefacts were recovered from any of the postholes.
- 4.2.56 The three pits in this group had a north-south alignment, with a maximum length of 1.77m and maximum width of 0.98m. The most northerly was [571], with dimensions of 0.90m in length, 0.80m in width and 0.07m in depth. The fill (570) was light reddish brown sand that produced no artefacts and was not sampled. This feature cut pit [573] to the south, which was filled by (574). This slightly smaller



feature was 0.60m in diameter, and contained a differing fill of mid-dark greyish brown sand. It too contained no artefacts and was not sampled. Pit [573] was further truncated on its southern side by pit [575], which was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.76m long, 0.60m wide and 0.25m deep. It was filled with (574), a similar mid-dark greyish brown sand that held no datable artefacts.

- 4.2.57 **Group 23: Posthole group north of Group 22:** Ten features were contained within this group which was situated in the centre of Strip 2 (Figure 17). The most southwest feature in the group was also the largest, being a sub-circular pit [545], measuring 0.8m in diameter and 0.26m deep. It was filled with slightly mottled mid-orangey brown sand (544).
- 4.2.58 Seven of the remaining features in Group 23 were clustered together and were of similar size and shape. The post holes varied in size from 0.22m in diameter to 0.4m and from 0.07m to 0.20m in depth. All the fills were mid to dark greyish-brown silty sand of moderate compaction. The cut numbers were [561], [563], [601], [604], [606], [608] and [610]. Cut [546] was slightly larger than the rest of those previously listed being 0.43m in diameter and 0.23m deep. It was set slightly apart from the others being 3.75m to the southwest of [561].
- 4.2.59 The posthole in the group was [612], being 0.78m long, 0.46m in width and 0.16m deep and filled with mid-orangey brown slightly silty sand. It was interpreted as having lost some of its edge to animal burrowing on its northern side, which has given the cut an irregular shape. It was situated 2.5m to the east of cut [608]. Only two of all the fills within this group were taken for environmental sampling. None of the features had any datable artefacts within them.
- 4.2.60 **Group 24: Posthole/Pit group northeast of Group 22:** The midpoint of Group 24 is located on feature [594], towards the eastern extent of Strip 2 (Figure 17). All the features were sub-rounded and have been interpreted as postholes, pits, a probable animal burrow, and a natural feature that will only briefly be discussed. 'Burrow' [554] was filled by (553), reddish-brown sand that was disturbed and re-deposited natural sub-soil in a steeply sloping cut.
- 4.2.61 The remaining three features are aligned north-south. The largest and most northerly was a circular pit [568], measuring 1.32m across and 0.70m deep. The single fill (569) was mid-dark brown fine sand with frequent inclusions of charcoal throughout. Since the depth was 0.70m, it was considered unusual to find only a single fill. The homogenous material may represent a single deliberate backfilling episode of waste that had since demineralised. Located 1.5m to the south south of [568] was a smaller pit feature [594], measuring 0.96m across and 0.44m deep. Despite the fact that this pit retained a good depth when compared to some of the smaller features on site, it also only had a single fill (595), which was of a similar make-up to (569), but included burnt bone fragments. The fill was removed for environmental sampling as Sample 171 (see section 6.4). The final feature in the group [550] was of a smaller size than the previous two, being 0.4m across and only 0.12m deep, because of this its function has not been determined. It may have been a small pit or a large posthole. One justification for this feature being a posthole is the fact that it contains two fills; a basal or primary deposit (552) of 90% small sub-rounded stones, that may have

- acted as packing for a post, overlain by (551), a light brown sandy silt that may represent a natural accumulation formed after the removal of the post.
- 4.2.62 Although no datable artefacts were recovered from any of the features within the group, several samples were taken for environmental analysis, numbered 167, 168 and 171 (see section 6.4).
- 4.2.63 **Group 25: Loose posthole group north of Groups 23 and 24:** This group was almost central to the area covered by Strip 2 (Figure 18). Feature [529] has been interpreted as a pit and was 1.5m long and 0.72m wide, but only survived to a depth of 0.07m. The fill (528), was mid orangey-brown coarse silty sand which represented the primary fill of the feature. There was no evidence of any organic material or datable artefacts.
- 4.2.64 The remaining five postholes vary in their sizes but all are under 0.6m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.12m in depth. All of the fills (534), (536), (540), (542) and (548) were either greyish-brown or light reddish-brown sands with a small percentage of small, coarse gravel inclusions, probably making-up the basal or primary deposits within the features. They did not survive to any significant depth. They filled postholes [535], [537], [541], [543] and [549] respectively. None of the features were sampled or produced any datable artefacts.
- 4.2.65 **Group 26: Pit group northeast of Group 25:** This group comprises four pit features, positioned approximately 29.6m from the northern edge of site, and 73.3m from the northeastern corner of the field, in the northern part of Strip 2 (Figure 18). The most northerly feature in the group was pit [525], a sub-rounded feature, 0.76m in length and 0.55m wide. It was filled by (526), mid to dark brown soft, fine-grained sand reaching a depth of 0.13m. At a distance of 1.4m to the south of [525] was pit [517], a sub-oval pit, 1.1m long and 0.24m deep, filled by (518), dark brownish-black fine sand with occasional charcoal inclusions. Located 2m to the southeast was pit [530], perhaps the most interesting of the features within this group. In plan it appeared as a 'double pit', two inter-cutting sub-oval features, measuring 1.57m in length by 1.22m wide, and surviving to a depth of 0.25m. However, only one fill was distinguishable throughout the whole of the cut, a mixed deposit of dark brownish-black burnt material with orange, heat-affected sand (531). This fill was sampled and given the number 159.
- 4.2.66 The final feature in Group 26 was cut [538], located approximately 2.7m to the east of [530], and the smallest feature of the four. Measuring only 0.68m in length, 0.34m wide and 0.11m deep, it was interpreted as a small pit, containing a charcoal rich dark brownish-black deposit of burnt material and sand (539). This was sampled for environmental processing with the number 160.
- 4.2.67 **Group 27: Small posthole group north of Group 26:** This grouping is quite distinct as the four features appear to form a cohesive group and possibly represent a single structure (Figure 18). The centre point of the group was located approximately 16.3m from the northern boundary of the site, and 65.9m from the northeastern corner, within Strip 2. The sizes range from 0.26m to 0.30m in diameter while the depth varies from 0.12m to 0.26m. All the features have been interpreted as postholes and form a trapezoidal shape. The cuts were [519], [521], [523] and [598] with the respective fills of (520), (522), (524) and (599). All the fills were described as being

dark greyish-brown silty sand with occasional small stones, and very rare flecks of charcoal. The cuts were regular circles with steeply sloping sides, one with a conical base [598], and the other three with concave bases. Each of the fills from the postholes were sampled and numbered consecutively 152-155. No datable artefacts were retrieved from any of them.

- 4.2.68 **Group 28: Loose pit grouping at northeast edge of Strip 2:** Only three features fall within this loose grouping and are distributed along a 20m line in a northeast-southwest direction (Figure 19). The most northern feature in this group was cut [510], interpreted as a shallow pit. It had a diameter of 0.5m but only reached a depth of 0.09m, with a fill of light greyish brown moderately compacted sand (509).
- 4.2.69 The middle feature of the three was cut [512], a sub-circular pit of approximately 1m diameter, being 0.18m deep. It contained 2 fills comprising mid orangey-brown compact sand (511), and very dark brown to black silty sand that was charcoal rich (516). This upper fill has been interpreted as evidence for *in-situ* burning because of the occasional heat affected stones that were within this layer. Context (516) was removed for environmental analysis with the number 149. The southernmost feature was [499], described as roughly curvilinear in plan, reaching 1.8m at its greatest length and 0.55m at its greatest width, but of indeterminate function. It was filled by (500), loosely compacted brown-grey silty sand to a depth of 0.3m.
- 4.2.70 **Group 29: Pit group along northern edge of Strip 2:** This grouping is relatively small containing two postholes and two pits (Figure 19). The mid-point of the group is only 4m from the northern boundary of site. The most northerly feature was posthole [377], which was filled by (376), light greyish-brown sand. The cut had a diameter of 0.40m and a depth of 0.33m. The feature produced no datable artefacts and the fill was not sampled. The cut [507], interpreted as an elongated pit, was 3.70m to the southwest of [377]. The feature was 1.35m long, 0.60m wide and 0.19m deep, containing a single fill of mid-dark orangey-brown fine sand (508). As before, this pit produced no finds or material suitable for environmental sampling. Posthole [501] was positioned 0.95m southeast of [507], and was sub-rounded in shape, 0.66m long, 0.58m wide and measuring 0.16m in depth. It had a primary fill of (503), mid orangey-brown sand, possibly a natural accumulation of material either wind blown or eroding from the edges of the cut when first opened. Above this lay (502), dark orangey-brown sand with occasional charcoal flecks. The last feature to be considered in this group is cut [504], another elongated pit similar to [507]. It was 1.50m to the west of posthole [501]. The orientation of [504] was east/west, whereas [507] was north/south. The fill material was also similar to that found in [507] and was a mid-dark orangey-brown sand which was fairly well compacted (505).
- 4.2.71 **Group 30: Disparate posthole group south of Group 29:** Group 30 contains five definite features and one naturally accumulated spread (Figure 19). It is positioned towards the northern edge of Strip 2, with the mid-point (taken from the western edge of [419]) being 13.45m from the northern boundary of site and 110.20m from the northeastern corner of the site. The natural feature [419] was a spread of topsoil that had not been removed by machine stripping, as it lay within a hollow in the natural sub-soil creating the impression of a cut feature. After investigation it was shown to be only 0.05m thick, but it did however contain four pieces of prehistoric pottery.

- 4.2.72 Just 0.70m east of the northeastern extent of [419] was [491], a 1m-diameter pit, that contained a single fill to a depth of 0.18m. The fill, (492) was mid-dark brown burnt sand with occasional flecks of charcoal, which was taken for environmental analysis, with the sample number 145 (see section 6.4). No datable artefacts came from this feature.
- 4.2.73 Moving from [491] in a southeasterly direction the next feature was [533], a small posthole 0.30m in diameter, and only 0.04m deep. This posthole did not have its fill sampled, nor did it produce any datable artefacts. The fill (532) was dark reddish-brown medium grained sand that was possibly re-deposited natural sub-soil.
- 4.2.74 Stakehole [489] was 10.65m southwest of [533] and oval in plan. Its dimensions measured 0.28m long 0.18m wide and 0.07m deep, filled by a single context (490), dark brownish-grey moderately compacted sand that was considered too small to be sampled and contained no datable artefacts. The nearest feature to [489] was [487], 5.95m to the north. This posthole measured 0.33m in diameter and 0.05m deep. The single fill (488) was light brownish-grey sand that held no finds and was not taken for sampling. The remaining feature [453] was situated 8.25m to the north of [487] and was interpreted as a posthole. It was sub-oval in plan being 0.42m long, 0.30m wide and 0.07m deep. Again, it had a single fill (454) that was mid-dark brown sand with some charcoal flecks. For this reason it was sampled with the number 136, but no finds were retrieved from it.
- 4.2.75 **Group 31: Pit cluster west of Group 30:** This group is positioned 9.85m from the northern limit of the excavation (Figure 20). It encompasses 11 features, three of which contained datable artefacts in the form of pottery sherds. Ten of the features were described as either postholes or pits, with only one of an indeterminate function. The latter was [486], a cut that was oval in plan, measuring 1.00m long, 0.30m wide and 0.22m deep with a V-shaped section, similar to that found in ditches. The postholes were numbered [427], [431], [433], [441] and [495]. Feature [427] should perhaps be moved into the ‘pit’ category due to its size and infilling pattern; it is proportionately larger than the other features being designated as postholes and contained prehistoric pottery. The other four are round or sub-rounded and vary in size from 0.45m to 0.90m in length, 0.34m to 0.50m in width and from 0.10m to 0.34m in depth. The fills of these features were (428), (432), (434), (442) and (443), the latter two both from [441], and (496) from [495]. All of these fills were sampled and carried the numbers of 119, 133, 132, 135, 131 and 147 respectively.
- 4.2.76 The five remaining features were interpreted as pits. Features [435], [438], [455], [456] and [480] were larger than the postholes, (with the exception of [427] with which they share a great deal in size and shape) and three of them carried multiple fills. The most northerly pit in the group was [438], only 3.85m from the northern edge of site, being sub-oval in plan, measuring 1.28m long, 0.90m wide and 0.30m deep, and containing two fills. The primary fill was (439), charcoal rich grey-black sand overlain by (440), a grey sand that showed possible evidence of being burnt and contained frequent flecks of charcoal. No finds came from this feature but both fills were sampled, (439) being number 129 and (440) numbered as sample 130. The nearest pit to [438] was [435], located 2.70m to the southwest. This feature was sub-oval measuring 1.03m long, 0.59m wide and 0.12m deep. The fill (436) was sampled

as sample number 134, and comprised mid-brown sand with very occasional flecks of charcoal. No datable artefacts were retrieved from the pit.

- 4.2.77 The three remaining pits were all very close together forming a cluster. Pit [455] was 6m to the southwest of [435], but less than a metre from both [480] and [456]. Pit [455] was 1.10m in diameter and up to 0.58m deep: it contained four fills, the primary fill (471), taken as sample 138, was a black charcoal and sand deposit. Fills (472) and (473) both overlaid (471) and abutted each other. Fill (472) was the main deposit in the cut, grey coloured sand with frequent flecks of charcoal, pieces of prehistoric pottery and a nutshell. Fill (472) reached a depth of 0.43m and was sampled with the number 137. Fill (473), taken as sample 140, was a discreet deposit, probably a single dumping action of orange and grey mottled sand, that did not contain any finds, it reached a depth of 0.24m and was overlain by the final fill of (470). This black sand with high quantities of charcoal was another discreet deposit in the northwest corner of the pit that was sampled as 139, but did not contain any finds.
- 4.2.78 Pit [456] was a mere 0.10m to the southeast of [455], and 0.50m to the southwest of [480]. It was sub-circular in plan measuring 1.10m long, 1m wide and 0.08m deep. It contained a single fill of brown-black sand that contained flecks of charcoal and showed evidence of burning. It was taken for environmental sampling with the number 141, but contained no finds. The final pit in this group was [480], which contained four fills, and was sub-rounded in plan measuring 1.50m long, 1.20m wide and 0.55m deep. The earliest discernable fill was (506), sample number 164, a deposit of fired clay and mixed material, which was overlaid by (483), sample number 163, dark brown to black burnt sand with large pieces of charcoal, pieces of fired clay and pieces of prehistoric pot. The main fill within the pit was (481) (sample 165) medium brown and grey sand with frequent flecks of charcoal throughout and sherds of prehistoric pottery and flint. It reached a thickness of 0.55m, and the inclusions suggest that it was a deliberate deposit. Context (484) was charcoal, in the form of a wooden post. This was sampled with the number 166.
- 4.2.79 **Group 32: East-West running ditch at northern edge of Strip 2:** The ditch feature that forms group 32 was investigated at two separate points along its length (Figure 20). These interventions were given two cut numbers; [364] and [493]. The first investigation showed that the cut [364] was 1.00m wide and 0.20m deep, with a wide shallow profile filled by (365) brown sand with few inclusions. The cut at [493] was filled by a single context of (494) that was loosely compacted grey-brown sandy silt. This cut was 0.50m wide, with no extent recorded. It measured only 0.08m deep and had a V-shaped section with the orientation of the feature being east-west. This 'ditch' was not sampled, nor did it produce any artefacts to aid with dating. It narrowed towards its western end (close to [493]) and it is probable that it had suffered a high degree of truncation.
- 4.2.80 **Group 33: Ditch and posthole group west of Groups 31 and 32:** Seven features were contained within this grouping that was positioned towards the northern end of strip 2 (Figure 20). Two of the features were linear ditches, three were postholes, whilst one was a possible posthole/pit.

- 4.2.81 Ditch [360] ran in a northwest-southeast direction for 4.50m. It was 0.80m wide and 0.15m deep with an ill-defined outline, and irregular cut profile when sectioned. This held one fill, (352), sampled with number 102, which was dark brown sand of moderate compaction and few inclusions. Ditch [361] ran parallel to [360], located 2.05m to the east, and was longer at 9.5m, slightly wider at 0.90m and slightly deeper at 0.25m. This cut also only had one fill (353), sampled as number 100, dark-brown sand, very similar if not identical to (352). This may be an indication that the fills were contemporary.
- 4.2.82 Three of the other four features were interpreted as postholes, and they were arranged in a line from northwest to southeast from the end of ditch [361], stretching over a distance of 4.90m. The most northerly [370], was sub-circular in plan being 0.50m long, 0.45m wide and 0.10m deep, filled by a single context of brown sand (371), that was neither sampled nor held any finds. Cut [372] was 1.10m to the south of [370], was very similar, being 0.30m long, 0.25m wide and 0.12m deep, again filled by brown sand (373). Posthole [374] was the largest of the three. Positioned 2.75m to the south of [372], it was 0.60m long, 0.50m wide and 0.18m deep. It too was filled by mid-brown sand (375). The final feature [386] was slightly larger than the previous three but also fell in the same line, being 6.80m to the south of [374]. It measured 0.60m long, 0.50m wide and was 0.18m deep. Again, it contained a single fill (387), light brown sand that was neither sampled nor had any finds within it.
- 4.2.83 **Group 34: Ditches with intersections northwest corner of Strip 2:** The grouping of several ditch features that lay at the northern end of strip 2 is problematic due to the fact that they were often vague in their outline, truncated, or intersected each other with such similar fills that it was difficult to determine the sequence of events (Figure 20). Eight cut numbers were issued to interventions dug through these features, but there may be as few as six 'ditches'. East-west ditch [366] may be an eastern extension of ditch [356]. Cut [358] and [359] appear to be the same north-south ditch, although truncation at the southern end and the later feature [362] cutting across it made the issue less clear on the ground. It could be distinguished from excavation that [356] cut the larger and earlier ditch [358], as well as [363]. Ditch [401], also running north-south, parallel to and to the east of [357], did not quite meet with [356] so a relationship between those two features could not be established, however, conjecturally, it may have been the same feature as [361] (in group 33). All of the fills within these cuts, with the exception of [401], were mid-brown sand that made the observation of inter-cutting features very difficult. None of the features provided any datable artefacts and only one fill was sampled; (350) from [358] was sample 98.
- 4.2.84 **Group 35: Drainage ditches and isolated postholes in northeast corner of Strip 3:** This group is located at the northeast group of the site. Two modern features are included in this group and four archaeological features (Figure 21). Two field drains were observed and recorded by survey, extending from the eastern site boundary west for at least 23.35m. They were approximately 0.60m in width but not excavated. The southern field drain did, however, truncate one of the features in the area. Pit [809] was truncated on its southern edge but measured 0.70m long, 0.54m wide and 0.20m deep. It contained only one fill (810) which was sampled with the number 205. Situated 1.80m to the south of [809], was posthole [811]. It measured 0.40m long, 0.32m wide and 0.23m deep and contained a single fill of dark orangey-brown sand,

which contained pieces of burnt bone and charcoal. It was sampled for environmental material with the number 204.

- 4.2.85 Six and a half metres to the southeast was pit feature [817]. Its was 0.56m long, 0.36m wide and 0.13m deep. The eastern extent of the feature was not visible as it ran under the site section. The single fill, (818) was orangey-grey sand, sterile of datable artefacts. No sample was taken. The final feature of the group was positioned 2.10m to the southeast of [817] and was a posthole [813]. This feature too was only partially visible because of the site section. The extent was recorded as being 0.30m long and 0.26m wide with a depth of 0.14m. The fill material (814) was mid-brown sand, which showed no organic remains or datable artefacts within it.
- 4.2.86 **Group 36: Posthole group in northern part of Strip 3:** This group is situated towards the northern end of Strip 3, and its mid-point is approximately 40m from the northeastern corner of the site (Figure 21). It comprises of 16 features, 14 of which are interpreted as postholes, and the others as pits. Pit feature [723] had an irregular outline in plan measuring 0.78m long and 0.50m wide, it appeared to have suffered some degree of truncation on its southern side, with fills from within the cut deposited slightly south of the feature. It reached a depth of 0.48m and contained three fills (724), (725) and (726), all of which were sampled and numbered 193, 194 and 195 respectively. The basal fill (726) was probably heat-affected sand. Fill (725) was a dark orange/black sand with charcoal components. The top fill observed was (724) a lighter sand, possibly naturally accumulated, wind blown material.
- 4.2.87 The second pit [803] was oval in plan measuring 0.83m long, 0.54m wide and reaching a depth of only 0.08m; the shallow nature of the feature being probable evidence of truncation. It contained a single fill of mid-grey brown sand that carried charcoal pieces. Neither pit produced any datable artefacts.
- 4.2.88 The other 14 features were interpreted as postholes. They varied in size from 0.17m to 0.50m in diameter (some features were not perfectly rounded) and 0.04m to 0.30m in depth. None of the features produced any datable artefacts, but four of the contexts were sampled for environmental analysis. These were (705), (709), (718) and (816) and were ascribed the sample numbers of 196, 192, 197 and 203 respectively.
- 4.2.89 **Group 37: Posthole cluster south of Group 36 in Strip 3:** This group contains 13 features, eleven of which were postholes, and two pits (Figure 21). The group is within Strip 3 the mid-point being approximately 49m from the northeastern corner of site. The posthole features [649], [694], [698], [700], [706], [712], [721], [727], [791], [799] and [801] all contained a single fill, none of which provided any datable artefacts or were considered suitable for environmental sampling. They all varied slightly between greyish-brown and orangey-brown moderately compacted fine sand, with occasional small gravel inclusions, as was normal for this site.
- 4.2.90 Features [714] and [793] were the two pits in this group. The first pit measured 0.67m long, 0.54m wide and 0.17m deep and had a single fill of dark reddish-brown fine grained sand (715), whilst the second was 1.45m long, 0.90m wide and 0.26m deep, filled again by dark reddish-brown sand (794). Neither of these features were sampled nor did they contain any artefacts.

- 4.2.91 **Group 38: Loose collection of features in the centre of Strip 3:** Group 38 covered 9 archaeological features and two excavated slots through what was thought to be a tree-throw (Figure 22). Six features were interpreted as postholes and the remaining three as pits. A small cluster of three postholes and one of the pits was situated in the centre of the group. The postholes [729], [852] and [870] were morphologically similar, varying only between 0.20m and 0.40m in diameter, although the survival depths varied, probably due to differential truncation. Only the fill from [852], (853) was sampled (as 209) because of the inclusion of charcoal. None of the features in the cluster produced any finds. Pit [868] was larger than the other two, but again, contained only a single fill of dark brown silty sand.
- 4.2.92 Pit [858] was only 3.10m to the southwest of the cluster of features, on the south side of [676]. It may have had some connection with them, but the lack of information from it (no samples and no datable artefacts found) makes it difficult to conclude. The most northerly feature within Group 38 was pit [815] located 23.55m from the northeastern corner of the site. It was one of the largest features being 1.90m in length, and 1.10m in width, with a fill of light orangey brown fine-grained sand (816). This was not sampled due to a lack of organic remains. Just over 6.70m to the south was posthole [856], measuring approximately 0.37m in diameter and 0.41m deep. Its single fill (857) was mid greyish-brown in colour. This shared similarities with the fill of [830], (831), located 8.10m to the southeast. The cut of this posthole was approximately 0.33m in diameter, but only 0.09m deep. The fill was also light grey in colour. This may be evidence that the features were contemporary, as generally on the site the fills were more brown or orange.
- 4.2.93 The excavated slots (both numbered [676]) were attempts at distinguishing the limits of a tree throw. The edges of the feature were so diffuse, that it proved impossible to define them because of erosion and the irregular nature of the feature. The southern slot measured 7m in length, was 2m wide and reached a maximum depth of 0.33m. The fills observed in the sections of the slots all appeared to be naturally accumulated material, there was no noticeable evidence of human activity within them, unlike other tree bowl features on the site. Another possible tree throw [673] was located to the south of this group. This irregular feature measured 5.1m by 6.75m and contained two fills (674) and (675).
- 4.2.94 **Group 39: Loose pit/posthole arrangement southeast of Group 38:** Five distinct features are within this grouping, but again they may have no direct relationship with each other, they are grouped for convenience (Figure 22). The mid point of the group is 62.70m from the southeastern corner of the site and 12.30m from the eastern site boundary. None of the features in the group produced any datable artefacts, neither were any of the fills removed for environmental sampling.
- 4.2.95 Only one feature has been identified as a pit within the group, cut [819]. It measured 1.00m long, 0.50m wide and 0.30m deep, and was filled by light grey sand (820). It was an isolated pit, and the most easterly feature within the group, being 5.65m from the eastern site boundary. The most interesting aspect of this pit is the fact that a small stakehole [821], was cut into the southwestern edge. It was regular in plan, 0.09m in diameter and 0.09m deep, tapering to a point.



- 4.2.96 Three of the other cuts have been interpreted as postholes numbered [685], [781] and [822], each containing a single fill of greyish-brown sand numbered (686), (782) and (823) respectively. The final feature contained within this group was [687], an inter-cutting feature with [685] that, on inspection, was revealed to be an animal burrow and not archaeological in nature.
- 4.2.97 **Group 40: Large group of pits and postholes central to Strip 3:** This group is one of the largest, covering 33 features in an area that appears to have a high concentration of activity (Figure 23). Two thirds of the features have initially been interpreted as postholes. The arbitrary boundary for the group encompasses an area of approximately 32m<sup>2</sup>. The centre point of the group is approximately 51.50m from the southeastern corner of the site, towards the south end of Strip 3.
- 4.2.98 The eleven features not thought to be postholes are discussed first. Cut [647] was towards the northwestern limit of the group and was an irregularly shaped feature measuring, at most, 1.82m long and 1.06m wide, filled by mid-brown silty sand (648). Interpreted as a pit, it produced no datable artefacts, and no samples were taken as no organic matter was observed within the fill. Towards the southeast extent of the group lay [645], another irregular pit feature that was 1.62m long and 1.20m wide, filled with mid-orangey brown sand (646) to a depth of only 0.09m. No further information could be obtained from this pit, which had been largely truncated.
- 4.2.99 Approximately 12.90m northeast of [645] was [731]. Originally interpreted as one feature, investigation revealed that it was two inter-cutting pits, one of the few examples of stratigraphic relationships on site. Pit [731] had cut an earlier pit [872] on its northern side, a sub-circular feature 0.50m in diameter, filled by yellowish-grey sand (733), to a depth of 0.18m. The later feature was 0.23m deep, containing mid-dark brown sand (732). At a distance of 11.40m to the northeast of [731] was [777], a sub-circular cut measuring 1.15m long and 1m wide, that was interpreted inconclusively as either a pit or a tree throw. It held only one fill with a depth of 0.38m, dark orangey brown silty sand (778) containing occasional pebbles. Approximately 7.15m to the southeast of [777] lay [785], another irregularly shaped feature of indeterminate nature. It measured 2m long and 0.83m wide and was 0.53m deep, containing a single fill of light brownish-yellow sand (786). As before, no datable artefacts were retrieved from this feature, and no samples were removed for environmental analysis. 2.65m southeast of [785] was a similar sized and shaped cut [773]. It was 1.60m long, 0.72m wide, 0.33m deep and contained mid-grey brown sand (774), which again was devoid of any organic material or any datable artefacts with which to date this feature or those around it.
- 4.2.100 Another cut feature was [666], located 1.30m to the south of posthole [773]. This feature shared a common aspect with most of the others in this set, by having a very irregular outline. It measured 2m long, 1.3m wide and 0.43m deep, filled by very pale yellow fine grain sand (668) and dark orange-brown fine grain sand (667) that overlaid it. No samples were taken from this feature and no datable artefacts were recovered from it. Pit feature [655] was 4.55m southeast of [666], and was 1.14m long and 0.98m wide, and had two fills. The lowest fill (656) was fairly compact light yellowy brown fine grain sand that may have been deliberate packing around a possible post. Fill (657) was very light grey brown sand, noted as being very ash like, possible evidence of an *in-situ* post burning. However, none of the material was

sampled nor were there any artefacts within it. Cut [826] was positioned 9.25m from the eastern boundary of the site, and 45.05 from the southwestern corner. It was irregular in plan, 0.74m long, 0.62m wide and 0.13m deep filled by orangey-brown sand (827) that was seen in so many features across the entire site. It was interpreted, as a small pit but there remains the possibility that it was a disturbed or truncated posthole. The sub-oval pit [834] was 2.35m east of [655], measuring 1m long, 0.46m wide and 0.18m deep filled by light grey sand (835). Close by, only 0.80m to the northeast was [836], a sub-rounded cut filled by (837) light grey sand, measuring 0.70m long, 0.66m wide and 0.16m deep.

- 4.2.101 The remaining twenty-two features were all interpreted as postholes, which between them may provide evidence of structures. They vary in size, from 0.13m to 0.48m in diameter, and in depth from 0.05m to 0.24m. From all of these features only one environmental sample has been taken; Sample 199 from context (379). Only one feature produced any artefacts; daub was recovered from posthole [756]. Two features provided evidence of ‘post-pipes’ within their fills – [678] and [760], material infilling the area where a post was once situated.
- 4.2.102 **Group 41: Small cluster of postholes south of Group 40:** Within this grouping there are six features that form a central cluster with two outliers, one in the east and one in the west (Figure 24). This group is situated approximately 39.1m from the southeast corner of site and 12.75m from the southern edge of the site in Strip 3. Only three environmental samples were taken from the fills in this group and were numbered 200, 201 and 208.
- 4.2.103 The eastern outlier, feature [850] described as a possible pit contained only one fill, despite being 1.10m long, 0.60m wide and 0.20m deep. Its fill (851) was a very mixed reddish-brown sand with approximately 10% charcoal inclusions.
- 4.2.104 The isolated feature at the opposite end of the group [854] was a small posthole only 0.3m in diameter and 0.06m in depth. This feature was filled by mid-brown sand (855), that is quite likely to be re-deposited natural sub-soil.
- 4.2.105 The main cluster of six posthole features form the remainder of this group. Four cuts [658], [660], [746] and [754], containing fills of (659), (661), (747) and (755) respectively together form a lozenge shape. Fills (659) and (661) both appeared to be re-deposited natural; whilst fills (747) and (755) both showed possible evidence of *in-situ* post burning with large amount of charcoal and heat coloured sand forming a post pipe within each cut. The remaining two features, [669] and [750], filled by (670) and (751), comprise a further two postholes
- 4.2.106 **Group 42: Loose collection of pits and postholes southeastern corner of Strip 3:** Group 42 is the most southeasterly group on site and is made up of seven features (Figure 24). The most northerly feature in the group was [664], positioned 33.70m from the southeastern corner of site and 6.70m from the eastern boundary of site. The most southerly feature was [846] and was sited 9.95m from the southeastern corner of site and 6.45m from the eastern boundary. From these seven features, five were initially interpreted as postholes while the other two were pits or tree throws.
- 4.2.107 The five posthole features, [662], [664], [832], [844] and [846], were all circular or sub-circular in plan and ranged in size from 0.12m to 0.35m in diameter and in depth

from 0.03m to 0.12m. All contained a single fill, (663), (665), (833), (845) and (847) respectively, which were varying shades of orangey-brown sand. The exception was (845), which was charcoal rich, and appeared to be the remains of a vague post-pipe when viewed in section. This fill was sampled as sample 207. No datable artefacts were recovered from any of the postholes.

4.2.108 The two remaining features in this group were [842], measuring 1.88m long, 0.90m wide and 0.19m deep, filled by mid-orangey brown fine grained sand (843); and [848], measuring 1.45m long, 1.05m wide and 0.31m deep, filled by light grey sand (849). The fill of [848] was sampled for environmental analysis with the number 206.

4.2.109 The two pit features and posthole [846] were relatively isolated, whilst the remaining 4 postholes could be considered as two pairs. Cuts [662] and [844] were placed only 0.60m away from each other and [664] and [832] were 2.50m apart. The latter two features may be considered in conjunction with other postholes, arranged in another group (Group 40).

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## 5. ASSESSMENT RESULTS: THE ARTEFACTS

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1. This section covers the artefacts that were retrieved during the excavation. The artefacts have been listed by material type and quantified, with the archive currently held at the NPA office Nenthead, Alston, Cumbria. The quantification of the datable material archive is set out below.

### 5.2 ASSESSMENT REPORT ON PREHISTORIC POTTERY

*By Carol Allen*

### 5.3 INTRODUCTION

- 5.3.1 An archaeological excavation (NCF02) and an evaluation (NCC04) were carried out on this site. This report presents an assessment of the prehistoric pottery found during these excavations.
- 5.3.2 Wherever possible, it provides identification of the pottery types, and also gives a summary of the fabrics. The potential of the assemblage is assessed, and recommendations for further work are provided together with costs.

### 5.4 METHODOLOGY

- 5.4.1 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 counted, weighed and recorded and are detailed on Table 1 (attached). The pot type is indicated where this is known and the abrasion level of the sherds is recorded.
- 5.4.2 A sherd from each pot has been examined by use of a x2 binocular microscope in order to allow the fabric types to be summarised. The part of the pot remaining, rim, body or base is also recorded, together with the number of vessels estimated to be present and those requiring illustration for a report.

### 5.5 QUANTIFICATIONS

- 5.5.1 A total of 159 sherds and fragments of pottery weighing 1491g has been recorded on the site. These sherds appear to represent 12 separate vessels of Beaker type as shown on Table 1. Where vessels are represented by a few sherds, which do not join to others it is often not possible to be certain exactly how many pots are present, so this

is a best estimate on present knowledge before contexts and fabrics have been fully investigated.

5.5.2 A total of 176 pieces of fired clay weighing 594g were also found on the site (Table 1). These are often irregular moulded shapes and their fabric is described below.

**Table 1: Pottery Assessment of NCF02**

Context	Finds No / site code	Description	Sherd No's	Sherd weight	Fabric type	Abrasion level	Pot No	Drawing required	Type of pot	Part pot	Comments
		(1) primary fill									
		(2) sec fill									
		(3) (4) later fills									
<b>Pottery</b>											
NCF02					SH						
U/S	NCF02	0	1	2	SH	U	0	0	Preh	B	
U/S	NCF02	0	2	10	GT	S	0	0	Beaker	B	tw cord horiz parallel rows
0	2	0	8	177	GT	M/V	2	2	Beaker	Ba, B	twisted cord dec
420	0	deposit	2	4	GT	M	0	0	Preh	B	
420	0		4	27	GT	V	0	0	Beaker	Ba	undec & friable
421	2	(4) fill tree-	5	51	GT	U	3	3	Beaker	R, B	flat rim, tw cord horiz rows, cordon below rim
421	4	throw 425	9	9	GT	A	3	0	Beaker	B	
422	156	(3) fill 425	1	1	GT	M	0	0	Beaker	B	
423	NE quad	(2) fill 425	2	30	GT	M	3	0	Beaker	Ba	
423	5		8	72	GR	U	3	0	Beaker	B	
423	5		7	46	GT	M	3	0	Beaker	B	
423	6		1	41	GT	U	3	0	Beaker	B	
428	13	fill phole 427	2	29	GT	U	3	3	Beaker	R,B	twisted cord
481	0		6	26	GT	U	3	3	Beaker	B	lower body fine narrow tw cord
481	0		10	18	GT	A	3	0	Beaker	Ba, B	
481	16	(2) fill pit 480	1	6	GT	M	3	0	Beaker	B	fine tw cord narrow rows
481	17		1	2	GT	M	3	0	Beaker	B	as above
481	21		1	6	GT	S	3	0	Beaker	B	as above
481	28		1	9	GT	S	3	3	Beaker	Ba	flat base fine tw cord
481	29		17	264	GT	U	3	3	Beaker	R, B	flat rim small raised cordon below
481	31		1	3	GT	S	3	0	Beaker	B	as above
481	32		2	6	GT	U	3	0	Beaker	B	as above
481	33		1	8	GT	S	3	0	Beaker	B	as above
481	38		1	10	GT	S	3	0	Beaker	B	as above
481	40		1	6	GT	M	3	0	Beaker	B	as above
											rim tw cord fine narrow horiz rows
											straight neck almost complete profile
483	163		2	2	GT	S	3	0	Beaker	B	as above

423	5		1	7	GT	S	4	4	Beaker	R	round rim fnail herringbone below rim
											2 rows fine twisted cord
428	13		2	2	GT	U	5	5	Beaker	R	round undec rim
428	0 & 7		13	161	GT	S	6	6	Beaker	R, Ba	round rim straight neck
											horiz fine twisted cord
											widely spaced pinched out base
455	pit cut	fills 470-3	10	51	GT	M	6	0	Beaker	B	fine tw cord widely spaced
469	0	fill pit 453	3	12	GT	S	0	0	Beaker	B	rows tw cord
481	0		2	16	GT	S	6	0	Beaker	B	
481	18		1	4	GT	S	6	0	Beaker	B	
481	19		1	3	GT	S	6	0	Beaker	B	
481	27		2	5	GT	S	6	0	Beaker	B	
481	29		7	193	GT	U	6	6	Beaker	R, B	almost complete profile AOC tw cord widely horiz rows
											poorly executed not parallel occas obscured
											round rim
481	30		1	6	GT	S	6	0	Beaker	B	
481	35		1	8	GT	S	6	0	Beaker	B	
481	37		2	13	GT	S	6	0	Beaker	B	
481	40		1	18	GT	S	6	0	Beaker	B	
481	25	(2) fill pit 480	5	35	SH	M	7	7	Beaker	R, B	ext bevelled rim wide tw cord
481	39		1	16	SH	U	8	8	Beaker	R	flat rim horiz raised ridges
481	34		1	6	SH	U	9	9	Beaker	B	wide undec band narrow tw cord
632	185	?	1	2	SH	S	10	10	Beaker?	B	incised V decoration
481	8		1	19	SH	U	11	11	Beaker?	Ba	undec base
483	0	(1) fill 480	1	15	SH	U	0	0	Beaker?	B	undec body sherd
481	165		1	3	SH	S	0	0	Beaker?	Ba	body sherd
544	0	fill pit 545	1	7	R+QU	V	0	0	Preh	B	
628	43	fill phole 627	3	24	R+QU	V	12	0	Preh	Ba	
<b>Totals</b>			<b>159</b>	<b>1491</b>							
<b>Fired Clay</b>											
U/S	0		4	12	R+QU	M	0	0	Preh	irregular	broken lumps
455	0	pit cut	5	46	R+QU	M	0	0	Preh	irregular	shaped pieces and broken lumps
471	138	(1) fill 455	10	39	R+QU	M	0	0	Preh	irregular	broken shaped pieces
472	12	(2) fill 455	1	32	R+QU	M	0	0	Preh	irregular	large broken shaped pieces
472	8		1	9	R+QU	M	0	0	Preh	irregular	broken pieces

481	22	(2) fill pit 480	2	14	R+QU	M	0	0	Preh	irregular	rounded shaped pieces
481	24		1	17	R+QU	M	0	0	Preh	irregular	rounded shaped pieces
481	26		12	41	R+QU	M	0	0	Preh	irregular	rounded shaped pieces
481	163		5	43	R+QU	M	0	0	Preh	irregular	large pieces int & ext rounded
506	164	dep in pit 480	65	115	R+QU	S/M	0	0	Preh	irregular	moulded pieces & frags suggested
											used to support timbers in pit
506	0		70	226	R+QU	S/M	0	0	Preh	irregular	10 large pieces & many fragments
											moulded & shaped pieces most broken
<i>Totals</i>			176	594							

**Abbreviations***Type of Pot*

Coll Urn = Collared Urn, Preh = Prehistoric

*Pot Part*

B=Body, Ba=Base, R=Rim

*Abrasion Level*

S=slightly abraded (5-25% of surface affected), M=moderately abraded (25-50% of surface abraded)

*Fabric Type*

R=rock (unidentified), GT=granitic type with quartz, feldspar and mica, QU=quartz, Sh=shell, usually voids left

**5.6 FABRIC TYPES**

5.6.1 The tempering materials have been summarised for this assessment, but would require a more detailed study for a full report. The main types of inclusions have been recorded on Table 1 but no attempt has been made to quantify the inclusions or to qualify the size or angularity of the tempering. If the fabrics were studied further and recorded in more detail it might be possible to link tempering type and quantity to vessel type and form.

5.6.2 Most of the pottery (91% of the sherds by weight) has tempering which comprises a granitic type of inclusion with quartz, feldspar and mica apparent (GT on Table 1). About 6% of the pottery is tempered with shelly inclusions (SH on Table 1) or shows voids where shell has been leached out. The remaining sherds contain large angular pieces of unidentified rock with some quartz (R+QU, 2% of total) and a few sherds have only quartz (QU, 1%).

5.6.3 The fired clay found on the site comprises many broken pieces with a fabric similar to some of the pottery. Generally the fabric of the fired clay is coarse with a poorly mixed clay and large angular pieces of unidentified rock with some quartz (R+QU).

5.6.4 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. At this site thin section analysis of each of the main fabric types would be required to determine the exact type and origin of the material used as tempering in the sherds. A thin section of a piece of the fired clay would also provide information on the source of the material used.

- 5.6.5 The site lies on Triassic sandstones above Upper Coal Measures seen in bores near Aspatria (Taylor *et al* 1971, 64), but carboniferous limestones 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.

## 5.7 POTTERY FORMS AND DATES

- 5.7.1 Almost all the ceramic material in this assemblage is from Beaker pottery. The material is fine and mainly decorated but often fragmentary.
- 5.7.2 A few sherds in the assemblage have been identified as being prehistoric but their exact type is unclear. Some further study of these sherds may enable them to be dated with more certainty, but the general lack of form and decoration tends to make identification difficult. In addition, a quantity of fired clay pieces was found in a few contexts.
- 5.7.3 Twelve Beaker vessels are represented in this assemblage. None of the vessels is complete, although two have almost complete profiles (pots 3 and 6). Wall thickness varies between 5 and 10mm, but most vessels have walls, which are 6-7mm thick.
- 5.7.4 Decoration on most of the pots comprises horizontal twisted cord, and one vessel also has a small raised cordon below the rim (pot 3). These are All Over Cord decorated pots, unlike the slightly later Beaker pots, which tend to have zones of decoration. A few pots, each represented by a single sherd, show quite different decoration, as pot 4 has fingernail decoration in a herringbone pattern below the rim, and pot 8 has raised horizontal ridges. Pot 9 has a wide undecorated horizontal band and pot 10 has incised v-shaped decoration quite unlike the other vessels in the assemblage. These are considered to be sherds of individual pots and are unlikely to be from different zones of decoration on other specified vessels.
- 5.7.5 Some undecorated rim, body and base sherds are also apparent but the complete form of these pots is not clear nor is it known where decoration was located elsewhere on the vessels (pots 1, 5 and 11). Both flat and rounded rims are seen, and pot 1 has a round tapered and everted rim, and pot 7 has an unusual rim with a bevelled edge. Several sherds of flat bases (for example pot 2) are apparent, and one has a solid pedestal base (pot 11) and another is pinched out at the base (pot 6).
- 5.7.6 The vessels from the current excavations have traits which suggest they are early in the Beaker sequence (Needham 2005, 183), although some reconstruction and further investigation will be required to be certain of the form of the pots and this would also



assist illustration. However, it is not thought that a complete vessel could be reconstructed due to the fragmentary nature of the pot sherds.

- 5.7.7 The decoration of these vessels is not similar to those found at other parts of this site (NCF-A, Allen 2005), although material associated with those vessels also gave early radiocarbon dates for Beaker pottery (F. Giocco pers comm.).
- 5.7.8 Beakers are known elsewhere in the region (McK Clough 1968; Cherry and Cherry 1987) but compared to other parts of England there is little Beaker pottery known (Clarke 1970, 477 & 500). These vessels are therefore of particular regional importance, and comparative material in other areas should be sought.
- 5.7.9 Beaker pottery is known throughout Britain (Clarke 1970) and is usually dated to a period between 2600 and 1800 BC (Kinnes *et al* 1991). Recent work suggests that these particular vessels may lie in the earlier part of this period (2500-2100 cal BC, Needham 2005).

## **5.8 FIRED CLAY**

- 5.8.1 An amount of fired clay was found in three contexts which also contained Beaker Pottery. This clay is often broken but many of the pieces have been moulded and appear to have fitted around some kind of structure. Further study would be required to determine the use and origin of the fired clay.

## **5.9 ASSESSMENT REPORT ON LITHIC ARTEFACTS**

*By Mark Dodd*

- 5.9.1 Seven pieces of flint material were recovered from the excavation. They are listed and assessed in the table and section below.

## **5.10 SMALL FINDS ANALYSIS**

- 5.10.1 There are few signs from these pieces to indicate any specific period or industry, as the assemblage is dominated by undiagnostic debitage flakes. Small Find 20 appears to be the only piece that was produced with any specific purpose. This is the distal end of a thick blade with two pronounced dorsal ridges indicating previous blade removal. There are however, no signs of any secondary working and it may have been discarded as unsuitable following initial production, on the other hand, the missing proximal end may have been more informative, indicating potential uses.
- 5.10.2 With the exception of Small find 20, the other small finds reveal little information, the beach flint in particular has suffered greatly from frost shattering and it is difficult to tell whether it has ever been worked. Given low amount of naturally occurring material of this nature it is quite likely it has been deliberately selected, especially given its presence on this occupation site.

**Table 2: Flint from NCF02**

Small Find No.	Context	Material	Type	Weight
9	428	Burnt Flint	Debitage	1g
10	428	Beach Flint	Debitage	13g
11	472	Flint	Debitage	>1g
14	428	Flint	Debitage	3g
20	481	Flint	Blade	3g
23	481	Beach Flint	Debitage	20g
36	481	Burnt Flint	Debitage	1g

## 5.11 BULK FINDS ANALYSIS

- 5.11.1 The lithic material recorded as bulk finds are a mixture of poor quality cherts, beach flints and the occasional piece of higher quality non-local flint. Several of these exhibit signs of heat treatment through slight reddening which would have been undertaken to improve the knapping qualities of the material. Others have a white, cracked patina that is more indicative of intense heat, probably due to prolonged exposure within a fire. It is likely that these represent waste material discarded into a fire, following a knapping event.
- 5.11.2 Many of the pieces are minute fragments, recovered during post-excavation, environmental analysis and many of the larger pieces have suffered from frost shattering, post-deposition. Subsequently, these reveal very little information other than the fact that knapping was almost certainly taking place on the site.
- 5.11.3 None of the pieces exhibit any signs of secondary working and there are no obvious tools amongst the pieces within the bulk assemblage of flaked stone. Of some interest is a single blade recovered from context (481) that was not recorded as a Small Find. This piece is of translucent, good quality, dark flint but with the distal end missing. The dorsal face of this piece is covered with approximately 50% cortex with evidence for previous flake removal using multidirectional core reduction. This is a good example of narrow blade technology usually associated with Mesolithic industries. However, within the northwest of England, the low availability of high quality raw materials means that conservative methods, rather than more wasteful methods of core reduction may have continued into later periods

## 5.12 OTHER ARTEFACTS

*By Nicola Gaskell*

- 5.12.1 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 7, the potential of these finds is assessed.
- 5.12.2 The single ceramic floor tile found during the topsoil strip is probably of Post-Medieval origin

- 5.12.2 The ten sherds of post-medieval/modern pottery recovered from the topsoil strip of the site consisted of white, cream and brown glazed domestic wares that can be dated to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries but they cannot provide any potential dates for any of the features on site.
- 5.12.3 The two stones recovered from contexts (481) and (483) were rounded and smooth and fit well into an adult palm.

**Table 3: Other Artefacts Recovered From NCF02**

Context	Material	Quantity	Weight (g)	Period
Strip 2 Topsoil	Ceramic Floor Tile	1	196	Post-Med
Strip 2 Topsoil	Ceramic/Pottery	3	47	Post-Med
Strip 2 Topsoil	Ceramic/Pottery	6	215	Post-Med
Unstratified	Ceramic/Pottery	1	1	Post-Med
481	Stone	1	625	Prehistoric
483	Stone	1	542	Prehistoric

### 5.13 CURATION AND CONSERVATION

- 5.13.1 *Introduction:* Apart from the ceramic assemblage, no artefacts requiring specific methods of conservation were recovered.
- 5.13.2 *Condition and Storage:* Although much of the prehistoric pottery is in reasonable condition with a certain amount of abrasion the material should be well packed in suitable wrapping to prevent further abrasion.

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## 6. ASSESSMENT RESULTS: THE ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS

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### 6.1 INTRODUCTION

*By Patricia Crompton*

- 6.1.1 The site at New Cowper Farm, near Aspatria, Cumbria that was excavated by Headland Archaeology (NCF02) and was adjacent to NCF-A and NCF-B that were excavated and assessed by North Pennines Archaeology (NPA). Conditions of a similar degree, in that the contexts were moist and had similar geology, were observed at all three sites. Preservation of the organic remains was expected to be relatively poor unless the material was charred or fossilised.
- 6.1.2 Analysis of all the recovered material is skewed due to none recovery of pertinent material, degradation of originally deposited material, degradation of material during processing, and differences between the preservation of the phases of occupation.
- 6.1.3 The transfer of the material for post excavation assessment from Headland Archaeology included archives, flotted samples and other environmental material.

### 6.2 ENVIRONMENTAL REMAINS METHODOLOGY

- 6.2.1 Two hundred and nine contexts were considered worth sampling due to their organically rich content (see Table 4). Of the 209 samples taken, 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.
- 6.2.2 The process of flotation, by passing the sample through a 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 as the light or floating fraction. This produces mainly organic and charred remains. The heavy, retent fraction, 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 assessed for content. The more of the sample that can be processed the better the interpretation of the results from it. Both the retent and the flot residues were examined. The results of these appear in Table 4.
- 6.2.3 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 assessment at this stage will allow further recommendations to be made as to the potential for further

study by entomologists, faunal specialists 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.

6.2.4 According to the archive there should have been 209 samples present. Of these 107 were missing from the archive. A further 9 retents were missing and 1 flot was missing. A total of 63 sample sheets were also missing, some relating to missing samples but others were missing where samples were present. (See Table 4). This will limit the analysis of the environmental material.

6.2.5 Material labelled 'retent' only contained the organic matter recovered from the retent. None of the matrix that made up the bulk of the sample, retained in the 1mm mesh during flotation, was present. This further complicates the issue of analysis of the whole earth sample as this material can be used to determine whether a feature may have been a posthole (from the packing) or pit or other similar feature.

**Table 4: Environmental Assessment of NCF02**

SITE CODE NCF-C						CONSTITUENT ECOFACTS/ ARTEFACTS OF THE RETENTS													
CONTEXT NUMBER	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	VOLUME (LITRES)	SOIL CONDITION	FURTHER ANALYSIS	Stones	Gravel	Quartz Fragments	Pottery	Metalwork	Magnetic	Grain/Seeds/ Fruit	Nut shells	Charred wood	Charred plant material	Burnt bone	Root material	Burnt flint	Chert
138	46	PF	10	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
141	50	PF	10	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0
129	52	DF	10	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
144	55	PF	10	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
143	56	PF	10	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
163	60	PH	4	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
165	61	PH	4	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
167	62	PH	4	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
169	63	PH	4	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0
171	64	PH	4	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0
217	65	PH	2	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
220	67	PF	10	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
244	69	PH	4	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
263	75	PH	4	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0
269	76	PH	4	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
295	86	PF	4	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
304	92	PF	6	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
303	93	PF	2	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
320	95	HF	6	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
255	96	DF	4	M	Y	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
334	97	PH	2	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
350	98	DF	10	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
385	99	PF	2	M	N	NOT PRESENT						0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0

SITE CODE NCF-C						CONSTITUENT ECOFACTS/ ARTEFACTS OF THE RETENTS														
CONTEXT NUMBER	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	VOLUME (LITRES)	SOIL CONDITION	FURTHER ANALYSIS	Stones	Gravel	Quartz Fragments	Pottery	Metalwork	Magnetic	Grain/Seeds/ Fruit	Nut shells	Charred wood	Charred plant material	Burnt bone	Root material	Burnt flint	Chert	
352	101	DF	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
348	110	DF	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
409	113	PF	10	M	Y							3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
412	115	PF	1	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
418	118	PF	2	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
428	119	PH	2	M	Y							0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
421	120	PF	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
422	121	PF	?	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
422	122	PF	?	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
422	123	PF	?	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
423	124	PF	10	M	N							0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
426	125	PF	3	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
429	126	PH	2	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
439	129	PF	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
440	130	L	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
443	131	PH	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
442	135	PH	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
454	136	PH	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
472	137	PF	5	M	N							0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
471	138	PF	10	M	N							0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
469	141	PF	10	M	N							0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
466	143	PF	?	M	N							0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
492	145	PF	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
483	148	PF	30	M	N							0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
515	151	PF	?	M	N							0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
599	152	PH	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
522	154	PH	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
422	156	PF	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
422	157	PF	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
423	158	PF	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
531	159	PF	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
544	161	PF	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0
547	162	PF	?	M	N							0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
483	163	PF	60	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
506	164	PF	2	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
481	165	PF	10	M	N							0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
484	166	PH	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
569	169	PH	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
574	170	PF	?	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1
594	171	PF	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
596	172	PH	?	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
591	173	PH	2	M	Y							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
602	174	PH	1	M	Y							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
585	179	PH	10	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
628	182	PH	2	M	N							0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
629	183	PH	?	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
633	184	PF	2	M	N							0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2

SITE CODE NCF-C							CONSTITUENT ECOFACTS/ ARTEFACTS OF THE RETENTS														
CONTEXT NUMBER	SAMPLE NUMBER	CONTEXT TYPE	VOLUME (LITRES)	SOIL CONDITION	FURTHER ANALYSIS		Stones	Gravel	Quartz Fragments	Pottery	Metalwork	Magnetic	Grain/Seeds/ Fruit	Nut shells	Charred wood	Charred plant material	Burnt bone	Root material	Burnt flint	Chert	
632	185	PF	?	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
634	186	?	10	M	Y		NOT PRESENT					0	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
MIXED	187	?	15	M	Y		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
640	188	?	15	M	Y		NOT PRESENT					2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
641	189	?	10	M	Y		NOT PRESENT					0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
???	190	?	?	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
701	191	PH	2	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
709	192	PH	2	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
724	193	PH	4	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
725	194	PH	4	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
726	195	PH	4	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
705	196	PH	2	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
730	198	PH	1	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
739	199	PH	1	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
747	200	PH	1	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
751	201	PH	10	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
806	203	PH	2	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
812	204	PH	8	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
810	205	PF	20	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
849	206	PF	10	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
845	207	PH	10	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
851	208	PF	10	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
853	209	PH	2	M	N		NOT PRESENT					0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Abbreviations**

Context Type

PH = Posthole, PF = Pit fill, DF = Ditch fill

## 6.3 THE INSECT AND PARASITE REMAINS

6.3.1 Only one sample contained fragments of invertebrate exoskeletons in the organic flot. This was sample 97, context (334). This as a single beetle *elytra* and could have been modern contamination. There is not enough material for further study.

## 6.4 THE PLANT REMAINS

6.4.1 The diversity of seeds in the remains will be influenced by factors of preservation such as moisture content of the soil and fossilisation of seeds or other plant remains. Some of the best-preserved plant remains will be those that are charred. From Table 4 it can be seen that most contexts contained a relatively low diversity of seed species, with some contexts containing none. Very few samples contained any grain.

- 6.4.2 The diversity of seed species fell into two main categories: The first consisted of those containing charred grain, sometimes with weed seeds of arable land, and always associated with a quantity of charcoal. Samples 96, 119, 173 and 174 fell into this category and contained only a small amount of grain with weed seeds seen in only one of those samples, sample 119 (context 428) in the form of *Chenopodium* species and Pale Persicaria. The flotation remains recovered were small in all these cases and the grain could have been the result of soil management practices, residues from fires being spread on the arable land as fertiliser. Sample 113 (context 409) had more barley than wheat in the 20 grammes of flot recovered, than the samples discussed above, and a small amount of *Chenopodium* seeds. There was also an amount of charred wood recovered from this sample.
- 6.4.3 The contexts containing most grain were (634), 'mixed' sample 187, (640) and (641). Of these samples, 'contexts mixed' and (640) were almost all grain and measured 400 and 500 grams respectively, with both being recovered from 15 litre samples. This is a considerable amount of grain in both cases as the proportion of the total sample the grain represented was approximately 5%.
- 6.4.4 Sample 186, context (634) was the dark brown silty upper fill of pit [643]. The total of flot and retent amounted to 40mls with the whole sample processed being 10 litres. This is less than 0.5% recovery of the original sample. The retent did however contain nutshell and burnt bone as well as a high proportion of charred wood. The flot consisted mainly of charred grain with a single seed of both the *Chenopodium* sp. and *Stellaria media* weeds. The grains were either wheat or barley, but the distortion caused during charring was too great to determine which.
- 6.4.5 The combination of material recovered suggests a cremation, if not in the upper fill then perhaps in the lower ones adjacent to it, with some mixing occurring between the contexts. The problem with the analysis is that context sheets (628) to [644] are missing from the archive so nothing else is known of the other fills from this pit. This also affects the discussion of the next three samples.
- 6.4.6 Sample 187, from the combined contexts (636), (637) and (638), was listed as a mix of charcoal, seeds and ash in the sample register. The soil matrix was a black peaty substance. The only material recovered in the retent was charred wood. The wood fragments were too small to identify but from the cell size and compaction they seemed to be hard woods. The considerable amount of flot recovered contained oats, barley and wheat, a small amount of both charred wood and root material. Wheat and barley were the most prolific.
- 6.4.7 Context (640), sample number 188, was listed in the sample register as a black silty material with burned grain and charcoal in it. The retent material contained mostly charred wood but also a considerable amount of grain whilst the flot contained grain and a small amount of charred wood. Again the wood fragments were too small to identify but showed the granular appearance and cell size of hard woods. The grain was mostly wheat with possibly some barley as well. There were also heavy chaff fragments, probably associated with grain drying, especially as there was a large amount of grain recovered from this sample.
- 6.4.8 Sample number 189, context number (641) was said to be a red brown silty matrix, possibly redeposited natural. The retent contained a fair amount of burnt bone and



charred wood. The flot contained mainly charred grain with some charred wood and a small amount of root material. The wood again appears to be hard woods, the grain made up of both wheat and barley. The flot and retent were both fairly small but the material recovered suggests a cremation.

- 6.4.9 From the limited amount of information recovered from the archive it is probable that samples 186, 187, 188, and 189 were fills of the same pit, cut [644]. The charcoal associated with these contexts suggests they probably originated from hearths, fires, or drying kilns, small amounts of grain and seeds becoming preserved by charring around the edge of the fire, larger amounts becoming preserved during the grain drying process. The black peaty and black silty matrices of samples 187 and 188 respectively suggest the material may have been misinterpreted when it could in fact be degraded burnt organic remains from a hearth or kiln. This material could have been drawn out of a corn drier or be in situ as part of a drier or hearth.
- 6.4.10 The second category of sample type contained no grain but mainly charcoal. From the material received from Headland Archaeology many of the samples, both flots and retents contained a high proportion of charred wood, ranked in the scoring as 3.
- 6.4.11 Working on the original volume of the sample taken and the remaining volume of the retent and flot the following samples were considered to contain a significant quantity of charred wood. Samples (followed by context number in brackets) for discussion in relation to their charcoal content are 46 (138), 50 (141), 75 (263), 86 (295), 93 (303), 95 (320), 99 (385), 166 (484) and 206 (849).
- 6.4.12 Sample 46 (138) was a fill of pit [113]. It was made up of sand and ash from burning with an amount of charcoal present. Burning does not appear to have been in situ.
- 6.4.13 Sample number 50 (141) was probably material burnt in situ in pit [114]. Burning probably occurred in situ as there were heat affected stones within the matrix and a good amount of charcoal. Again there was no other material to define the feature.
- 6.4.14 Sample 75 (263) was material burnt in situ with an adjacent spread of burnt material, possibly a draw off from a hearth or small kiln. There is sufficient material to produce a C<sup>14</sup> date. As this is interpreted as a posthole the burnt material may represent the post burnt in situ.
- 6.4.15 The burnt layer (295), sample 86, was the fill of a pit or hearth. Both the flot and the retent contained an amount of charred wood but no other material. Sample 93 from context (303), was the fill of a fairly deep pit (0.6m). Both the flot and retent contained only charcoal, suggesting a cooking pit. Sample 95 (320) was the fill of a possible hearth feature although there were no burnt sand or stones in the matrix. Again sample 99 (385) was the fill of a pit with signs of burning. Only charcoal was present in the flot and retent. This material would provide good C<sup>14</sup> dating evidence.
- 6.4.16 Sample 166 (484) was a burnt timber recovered in situ within pit [480]. It was very fragmentary and broke up on extraction. The timber had possibly slumped in the pit and was at an angle against one of the other contexts. This would provide excellent dating material for this feature.
- 6.4.17 Sample 206 (849) was the fill of pit [848]. The matrix was a sandy light grey/white base with charcoal and ash inclusions. The flot was made up of charred wood whilst

the retent contained charred hazelnut shells as well. There was also a small amount of pottery, possibly Neolithic, associated with this context.

- 6.4.18 Pottery was associated with several of the contexts from which samples were taken although generally both flots and retents were in small amounts. The sample numbers were 120 (421), 124 (423), 137 (472), 138 (471), 141 (469), 148 (483), 156 (422), 161 (544), 163 (483), 164 (506), 182 (628), 185 (632) and 206 (849).
- 6.4.19 Samples 120, 156, 163, 164, 185, although all containing pottery, only contained charred wood, and all the flots and retents recovered were fairly small amounts. This material could however be used for dating purposes.
- 6.4.20 Samples 119 (428), and 161 (544) contained pottery and burnt bone as well as charred wood. These two features are both postholes. Context 428 also contained some worked flint and other lithics.
- 6.4.21 Samples 124 (423), 137 (472), 138 (471), 141 (469), 148 (483) and 182 (628) contained pottery, charred wood and nutshells. All these fills came from pits except 628, which appeared to be a posthole.
- 6.4.22 Sample 165 (481) contained pottery and burnt bone as well as charred wood. There were also flints, fired clay, lithics and 2 used pounding stones found in association with his context. The variation and type of the finds associated with this context suggests a cremation deposition. This sample is important and requires the bone to be identified and radiocarbon dating to be carried out on the charred wood material.
- 6.4.23 Sample 162, context (547) contained burnt bone as well as charred wood, as did samples 169 (569), 171 (594), 204 (812) and 205 (810). Contexts (547) and (812) were from post holes, the others being pit fills. This material needs to be identified as to whether it is human or animal bone. Sample 170 (574) and 184 (633) contained fragments of chert as well as charred wood. Both samples were from pit fills.

## **6.5 THE MOLLUSC REMAINS**

- 6.5.1 There were no mollusc remains recovered from the site.

## **6.6 THE BONE REMAINS**

- 6.6.1 The only bone remains recovered from the site were of burnt bone and are discussed in the text above.

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## 7. CONCLUSIONS AND STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

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### 7.1 INTRODUCTION

7.1.1 This section presents the original aims of the NCF02 excavation and then presents some conclusions that highlight both the excavated data that relates to these research questions, and also the potential for this excavated data to address these research questions.

### 7.2 PROJECT AIMS

7.2.1 The original project design (Parsons 2003) set out three main aims for the excavation of the northern area 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 in North West Region Archaeological Research Framework, [vbg](#).

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 required 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 first 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 need 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 understood. 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 drawn from the assessment of the stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental data and provides an assessment of the research potential of these different datasets.

### 7.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONCLUSIONS

7.3.1 The excavated evidence from NCF-C has the potential to provide an understanding of the spatial organisation, land-use and development of the site during the later prehistoric periods. The concentration of excavated features demonstrates that this area was once used as a settlement focus, possibly with associated animal husbandry areas; ditches that may have formed a route-way to herd animals, an enclosure perhaps utilized as a stock corralling area, and dozens of postholes that may represent buildings or dividing fence lines. However there are a number of problems which will need to be considered if the full potential of the data is to be realised.

7.3.2 Firstly, the spatial patterning of archaeological features within the site is problematic. Two blank strips running northwest to southeast across the site, which are apparently devoid of archaeological features, are clearly a result of the excavation methodology. The site was excavated in three strips as stated in Section 2 (Figure 2), but this has artificially separated the features into three separate areas. Any stratigraphic or spatial relationships between these three areas have been lost, and it is likely that a number of archaeological features in the intervening spaces have gone unrecognised or unrecorded.

7.3.3 In general, the excavated features from NCF-C are widely distributed across the site, apart from the northwest corner, which contained very few. In particular, a large number of postholes have been recorded across the entire site, but it has not been possible to interpret the majority of these due to the lack of any obvious spatial patterning. Nevertheless, some structures have been recognised based on morphological and spatial relationships, and these are discussed below.

7.3.4 Stratigraphic relationships within the site are very limited, and datable artefacts are restricted to a relatively small number of contexts. This has meant that at present it is

not possible to fully interpret the development of the site due to this lack of dating material. Some stratigraphic relationships have been observed, and can be used to phase parts of the site. Radio-carbon dating of key contexts could shed further light on the developmental sequence of a number of the excavated features. The potential of the data, assigned (where possible) to individual periods of activity, is set out below. This initial phasing of this data is presented in Figure 25.

- 7.3.5 Parts of the excavated evidence from NCF-C can be directly related to that recovered from fields to the north (NCF-A and NCF-B). Most notably the linear ditched field boundaries recorded in the central part of the NCF-C site, can be seen to link up to similar boundaries in both of these excavations, aligned northeast-southwest (Figure 26). These boundary features apparently form part of a rectilinear field system. The excavated evidence suggests the presence of a combination of activities associated human occupation and stock management. The three sided enclosure may have been the location either of a dwelling or a stock compound. It is recommended an integrated interpretive synthesis of data from these three phases of excavation be undertaken in order to answer more fully the research questions set out above (see Section 8).
- 7.3.6 **Neolithic:** No Neolithic activity has positively been identified in the excavated evidence from NCF-C. However, a large number of the features have yet to be dated, and some could potentially be Neolithic in date.
- 7.3.7 **Early Bronze Age:** The presence of Beaker pottery within a number of contexts suggests an Early Bronze Age date for a number of the excavated features. These particular vessels appear to be relatively early in the Beaker pottery sequence, being ascribed to the period 2500-2100 BC (see Section 5.7). This would traditionally place them within the Early Bronze Age. However, it is considered artificial to draw too rigid a boundary between the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age periods on the basis of the pottery evidence alone, and the acquisition of further dating evidence for these contexts is a priority.
- 7.3.8 *Group 31:* Six spatially grouped pits and postholes formed Group 31, of which three of the pits contained Beaker pottery, fired clay and flint debitage. These deposits are indicative of rubbish disposal, most likely associated with occupation activity. The postholes might be interpreted as the remnants of some kind of structural feature. The location of the features, close to the intersection of several linear ditches may be significant. However, the precise relationship of the pits and postholes to these boundary features is unclear as the ditches are undated. It is recommended that radiocarbon dating be undertaken of the material from Pit [480] in this group, which contained prehistoric pottery, fired clay, flint and a burnt post (484), Sample 166. Suitable dating material should also be sought from the ditch fills.
- 7.3.9 *Groups 16/18/19:* All of the features positively dated to the Beaker Period, are located within the central part of the site, and are associated with rubbish disposal. It is not possible without further dating evidence to associate these with other structural features on the site, although this evidence suggests an Early Bronze Age date is likely for at least one phase of occupation at NCF-C. Pit [631] in Group 18 contained rounded pounding stones in association with Beaker pottery and fragments of chert, which provides further evidence for the presence of occupation activity. The

opportunistic use of a tree throw for the disposal of pottery and flint waste in Group 16, has provided further evidence for early Bronze Age activity. The pottery found in a posthole in Group 19 may be residual.

- 7.3.10 **General Prehistoric:** The majority of the excavated features, whilst identified as prehistoric, lack absolute dating evidence, or stratigraphic relationships. However, it is possible to suggest a developmental sequence for parts of the site and these features have been phased below. It is likely that this phasing will be redefined in light of future radiocarbon dating, the need for which is also discussed.
- 7.3.11 **Phase 1 Prehistoric, Groups 2/6/7/8:** Two parallel linear ditches running north-south in Group 6, and a parallel pit alignment in Group 7 are stratigraphically earlier than a pair of east-west ditches (interpreted as a track or droveway) which cut them. The Group 6 ditches are interpreted as the fragmentary remains of an earlier boundary, which was respected by the pit alignment. The 8 pits, which form a discreet group of intercutting features, were used for the disposal of burnt waste material from nearby fires. The dating of these deposits would serve to provide a *terminus post quem* for the later droveway. Context (138) in pit [113], Sample 46, and context (141), fill of pit [114], Sample 50, both contained charcoal suitable for radiocarbon dating. Group 8 comprised an east-west posthole alignment representing a former fence line, which appears to terminate at the Group 6 north-south ditches. This may be contemporary with the boundary feature, and it could not have existed at the same time as the droveway (although it could also conceivably be later than the droveway). Possibly contemporary with the fence line, is a parallel alignment of four pits (Group 2). Although heavily truncated these appear to have been used for rubbish disposal. The disposal of waste material close to a boundary, is typical of activity undertaken on the periphery of a settlement.
- 7.3.12 **Phase 2 Prehistoric, Groups 3-6:** A number of ditch features aligned in an east-west direction appear to have comprised a track or droveway for animals, forming part of a stock management system. This is currently undated, but can be shown to be stratigraphically later than several Phase 1 features discussed above, and exhibited at least two phases of use. The southern ditch contained evidence for at least one re-cut. The northern ditch had a narrower trench on the north side, which may have been the location of a palisade/fence. Both of these were truncated by a later re-cut ditch. Dating evidence for this group of features should be sought from the existing samples.
- 7.3.13 **Undated Prehistoric, Group 1/9/10:** A possible alignment of postholes running east-west can be recognised in this group, and may have formed a fence line. The linear features to the north could potentially form two sides of a structure of some kind, but the high degree of truncation makes interpretation difficult. The postholes recorded in Group 9 appear to be contemporary, having similar fills, and form a tight cluster that may be interpreted as a former timber structure. The features in Group 10 are widely spaced and more difficult to interpret.
- 7.4.14 **Undated Prehistoric, Groups 11/12/13/14:** The fills of the small enclosure forming Group 11 contains evidence for prehistoric activity in the form of flint debitage and burnt deposits. A single posthole located within the eastern arm of the ditch may suggest this enclosure was fenced. The absence of dating evidence for this feature is a

problem in terms of relating this enclosure to the rest of the site. The presence of a possible hearth within the enclosure is significant, although its function remains uncertain, due to the lack of information recorded about this feature. The ditch fill from the eastern terminal, context (255), Sample 96, contained large amounts of charcoal which could provide a date for the enclosure. The isolated pits and postholes north of the enclosure (Groups 13 and 14) have not provided any further information about prehistoric activity at the site.

- 7.4.15 ***Undated Prehistoric, Groups 15/32/33/34:*** The ditches recorded in these separate groups form a coherent group of features which may be interpreted as the truncated remains of a series of intersecting linear field boundaries. The parallel ditches recorded in Groups 15 and 33 appear to form a distinctive type of boundary, whereby material from either ditch is thrown up to form a central bank, possibly planted with a hedge. This ditched boundary feature cuts an earlier boundary ditch in Group 34, which is aligned north-south. None of these features are dated but can be seen to continue in the excavations in fields to the north (NCF-A and NCF-B).
- 7.4.16 ***Undated Prehistoric, Groups 16-30 and 35-42:*** Features within these groups comprise a large number of relatively isolated pits and postholes indicating a high level of activity in the central and eastern parts of the site. The majority of these features cannot easily be interpreted in terms of structures or buildings as they have been heavily truncated and contain very little in the way of finds or organic material.

## 7.4 ARTEFACTURAL CONCLUSIONS

- 7.4.1 ***The Pottery:*** The collection of Beaker pottery is significant, particularly for this region. Contexts in which the material was found should be clarified as far as possible, as some of this information is not clear at present. Fine Beaker pots are often found with burials and grave goods although this is not the case here. In the Early Bronze Age Period, many Beaker vessels were associated with monuments, rather than burials, and often with timber settings (Needham 1996; Needham 2006).
- 7.4.2 The pottery originated in a number of pits and postholes. Parts of Beaker No. 3 were found in three separate contexts, (421 <2>, 428 <13> and 481 <29>) and this deposition requires further study. Six separate Beaker vessels were found in context 481 and the character of this pit requires investigation. The abrasion levels of the vessels require further study together with the fabrics.
- 7.4.3 Fired clay was also found in three of these contexts. It is suggested that this clay may have formed part of some kind of structure, although it is unclear how it came to be fired. The clay is often moulded, and further investigation is required to determine its function.
- 7.4.4 This is a distinctive assemblage of 12 Beaker pots, a type which is rare in this region. The context of the vessels should be investigated in order to better understand the character of their deposition. If possible suitable material associated with the vessels should be considered for radiocarbon dating.

- 7.4.5 Comparative material should be sought in the locality and in the region, in order to further understand the assemblage and place it within its local and regional perspective. Also, dating for comparative pottery should be sought in order to better understand the assemblage from this site. New investigations of Beaker pottery have recently been published and these vessels should be considered in light of these results (Needham 2005).
- 7.4.6 The fabrics of the pottery and fired clay should be investigated by thin section analysis and it is recommended that 5 thin sections would be required. This will clarify the type of tempering being employed for the manufacture of the pots, and will assist understanding of the technology and potting traditions on this site, and may indicate trading connections.
- 7.4.7 The fabrics should be quantified and qualified, as this would add considerably to knowledge of pottery fabrics of this period in this area. This study has begun and can substantially aid the identification of regional prehistoric pottery once the basic data is established (Allen and Hopkins 2000, fig. 8). It should be possible to determine whether different fabrics relate to different styles of pots and whether the pottery fits within a regional pattern, or has an uncharacteristic tradition.
- 7.4.8 In view of the unusual context of these pots a number of sherds could be selected for lipid analysis, and four samples would be sufficient to provide some information on the function of these vessels.
- 7.4.9 Some vessels require some reconstruction before illustration, and this can be completed by a pottery specialist during the study of the vessels and the fabric types.
- 7.4.10 A number of vessels should be illustrated from this assemblage, and the individual pots which should be drawn are indicated on Table 1. The minimum number required in order to represent the types of rims and profiles from this site, without duplication, has been selected for illustration. In total, remains of 11 vessels require illustration, and some are partial and are represented by only a few sherds.
- 7.4.11 **The Flint:** There is little information that can be gathered from this assemblage as much of the material is either too small or has suffered too greatly from post-depositional processes. It is therefore not possible to confidently suggest which period that these flints come from. The only indication of the date suggests Mesolithic activity, such knapping techniques may have continued into the Neolithic.
- 7.4.12 The variety of raw materials utilised is interesting and suggests that there was no fixed supply of raw materials. They were probably procured locally at the beach, or from river gravels. This is further demonstrated in a few of the pieces that have been heated to improve their knapping quality.
- 7.4.13 Many of the pieces are from the same contexts; this would suggest occupation and specific knapping sites within the area excavated. The waste debitage was probably then deposited in the pits and postholes following this.
- 7.4.14 Interestingly, there are no tools within this assemblage the flint mentioned above from context (481) may either be debitage, or a demonstration of expedient tool manufacture that requires no secondary working. This may mean that the areas in which tools were being used was elsewhere and the knapping areas were isolated



from these. Given the small size of the assemblage, this is difficult to really make any specific statements and it is unlikely that this assemblage would benefit from any further analysis.

- 7.4.15 **Other Artefacts:** The single tile fragment recovered from the topsoil may have been a floor tile. As it was a unstratified find and there were no other finds of the same kind, no suitable interpretation of it can be offered. The pottery pieces recovered may be evidence of waste material being spread onto fields, or accidental breaks occurring when agricultural work was taking place in the fields in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The stones from contexts (481) and (483) could possibly have been used as pounding stones in domestic processes, either to break animal bones open, to pound grain or to smooth and make flexible animal skins.

## 7.5 ENVIRONMENTAL CONCLUSIONS

- 7.5.1 The natural geology of the area comprised a sandy matrix with occasional gravel or stone inclusions. This material heavily influenced the matrices from which the environmental samples were taken. In some cases though, the burning that has associated with the sampled features affected the natural subsoils during the process, or alternatively the burnt material was added as fill to the feature.
- 7.5.2 Although many of the samples produced charred wood in the flot or retent, the amounts were sometimes very minimal and could be the result of soil management practices. Where charcoal occurred in any quantity, it was almost definitely anthropogenic in origin, especially combined with some of the other artefacts/ecofacts recovered from the samples.
- 7.5.3 All the grain recovered was carbonised. Most of the seeds, and all weed seeds, were probably modern, no charring or fossilisation having occurred. These were probably due to modern deposits of windblown origins, or because the samples recovered occurred close to the surface. The larger amounts of carbonised grain recovered in some of the contexts needs identifying to species, and quantifying more accurately, to try and determine its origins in the context of the feature from which it came. Where grain occurs in smaller amounts further identification would not be required unless other significant finds were recovered from the same context.
- 7.5.4 Those contexts from which hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana*) was recovered should be analysed further, any burnt bone recovered in association with them should also be identified as to human or animal. Pottery should also be analysed to period to determine the origins of the whole assemblage.
- 7.5.5 All the samples contained charred fragments but these can be characteristic of both natural and anthropogenic activity. The large range of archaeological features such as pits, postholes and ditches does, however, suggest the latter, especially considering the recovery of pottery and lithics.
- 7.5.6 Further analysis to determine the grain to species and discuss the associated finds may provide further information relating to the nature and use of this site. This should also be taken in consideration with the other phases of evaluation and excavation carried out by NPA.

- 7.5.7 Contexts containing larger assemblages of grain should be examined further for naked barley and emmer wheat grains, both being indicative of prehistoric crop assemblages. Radiocarbon dating should also be carried out on important features, identification of wood being carried out first if possible, as this can affect the determined date. The burnt bone should be analysed to determine whether it is human or animal to further assess the nature of the features from which it comes.
- 7.5.8 The material recovered from this study will aid the reconstruction of the conditions and habitats of the site. It will, in association with the dateable finds, lead to the determination of the various phases and periods of the site. In conjunction with the information gained from the adjacent sites, this will help build a picture of what was occurring in this area of Cumbria in the prehistoric period.

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## 8. UPDATED PROJECT DESIGN, STAFFING & RESOURCES

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### 8.1 INTRODUCTION

- 8.1.1 This section presents the outline of 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: to produce, concurrently with the first phase Northern extension excavations (NCF-A, Railton forthcoming) and later excavation to the north (NCF-B, Davies forthcoming), an integrated interpretive synthesis of data for monograph publication.
- 8.2.2 Undertake analysis of identified categories of data at appropriate levels of detail.
- 8.2.3 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.
- 8.3.2 [1] To finalise, in conjunction with radiocarbon dating, the stratigraphic sequence of the site
- 8.3.3 [2] To determine spatial and temporal patterns within the site, once key stratigraphic elements have been scientifically dated.
- 8.3.4 [3] To better define the nature of occupation on the site and how this changes over time.
- 8.3.5 [4] To use the environmental evidence to undertake detailed spatial analysis of deposits and determine evidence for changing social and economic activities.
- 8.3.6 [5] To examine possible continuity of occupation between the Bronze Age and Iron Age.
- 8.3.7 [6] To illustrate and publish the important Bronze Age finds (pottery and flint).
- 8.3.8 [7] To define the position and significance of the site, concurrently with the first phase Northern extension excavations (NCF-A, Railton forthcoming) and later excavations to the north (NCF-B, Davies forthcoming), within its local, regional and national context.

## 8.4 METHODS OF ANALYSIS

8.4.1 To achieve the post-excavation 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 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 later excavations to the north (NCF-B, Davies forthcoming). Illustrations will be produced including digitisation of key section drawings. *Objectives:* [1,2,3,5,7]

8.4.3 **Pottery:** For a report providing a full analysis of the assemblage suitable for publication or for a client report, the following tasks will be required:

- Laying out and sorting the pottery. Search for any joins or groups, and joining sherds where possible and appropriate.
- Checking all information and plans are available.
- Sorting the pottery into fabric types and recording.
- Incorporate fabric types into the catalogue and make any necessary adjustments to catalogue.
- Select sherds for thin section, despatch, liase and incorporate results.
- Select sherds for illustrations of the 11 representative vessels.
- Compile descriptive catalogue of material to be illustrated.
- Consider all associated finds and investigate the fired clay pieces.
- Search for and consider comparable material from other sites in the region and nationally. Look for dating evidence for similar material.
- Consider results of fabric analysis and interpret.
- Write report with analysis and interpretation of investigations.
- Return sherds for illustration, advise and check illustrations.
- Parcel up and return pottery.

*Fulfil objectives:* [6,7].

8.4.4 **Flint:** Small finds <9>, <10>, <20> and <23> will be drawn and published. *Fulfil objectives:* [6,7].

8.4.5 **Burnt Bone:** The burnt bone, whether human or animal, from samples 162, 169, 171, 204 and 205 will be analysed by an appropriate specialist to hopefully give an insight into the nature of the occupation at this site. *Objectives:* [4].

8.4.6 **Radiocarbon dating:** Radiocarbon dating of nine samples from a variety of features at the NCF-C site will be undertaken and integrated into the stratigraphic narrative, providing the narrative with a comprehensive chronological foothold. *Objectives:* [1,2,3,5,7].

**8.4.7** *Report Synthesis, Preparation and Publication:* The conclusions drawn from the final elements of analysis will be summarised and included in a coherent 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 later excavations to the north (NCF-B, Davies, 2006). The completed manuscript will be edited internally and submitted to an appropriate publisher as a monograph level publication. *Objectives:* [1-7].

**8.4.8** *Outline Synopsis for publication:* It is envisaged that the NCF-C excavation will be published together with the first phase Northern extension excavations (NCF-A, Railton forthcoming) and later excavations to the north (NCF-B, Davies, 2006). As a result, this synopsis 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-C 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 etc.
- **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 Giocco, 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	24	1,5,7,8
Matthew Town	Report Editor	1	8
Carol Allen	Pottery Specialist	4	2
Mark Dodd	Lithics Specialist	0.5	3
Nicola Gaskell	Graphics	7	6
Tony Liddel	Illustrator	6	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
<b>General Project Monitoring</b>					
	Project Monitoring	1-7	FG		
<b>Module 1: Stratigraphic Analysis</b>					
	Refine Stratigraphy	1-3,5,7	MR		
	Report	1	MR		
<b>Module 2: Pottery Analysis</b>					
	Parallel Research/Fabric Analysis	6	CA		
	Report	3,6,7	CA		
	Illustration	6	TL		
<b>Module 3: Flint Analysis</b>					
	Report	3,6,7	MD		

	Illustration	6	TL		
<b>Module 4: Quern Analysis</b>					
	Report	7	TBC		
	Illustration	7	TL		
<b>Module 5: Radiocarbon Dating and Environmental Analysis</b>					
	Final Macrofossil Analysis/Integration of Enviro into stratigraphy	1-5,7	PC		
	Burnt Bone Ident.	1-5,7	JM		
	Radiocarbon Dating	1-5,7	N/A		
	Radiocarbon Report	1-5,7	MR		
<b>Module 6: Illustration</b>					
	Site Plans/Phase Plans	1-5, 7	NG		
	Section Drawings	1-5,7	NG		
<b>Module 7: Completion of Site Report</b>					
	Introduction		MR		
	Site Description		MR		
	Comparative Research		MR		
	Integration of Spec. Reports		MR		
	Synthesis		MR		
<b>Module 8: Report Editing</b>					
	Editing	1-7	MT		
	Revisions	1-7	MR		
<b>Module 9: Archiving</b>					
	Archive Preparation	1-7	TBC		
Total:					

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## APPENDIX 1: LIST OF CONTEXTS

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
001	VOID							
002	VOID							
003	Ditch Cut			008		004, 007		Re-cut ditch
004	Fill		007				003	Fill of 003
005	Ditch Cut					006		Linear ditch
006	Fill						005	Fill of 005
007	Fill	004					003	Upper fill of 003
008	Ditch Cut				003	009		Linear ditch (cut by 003)
009	Fill						008	Fill of 008
010	?Ditch Cut					011		Small ditch / palisade?
011	Fill						010	Fill of 010
012	Ditch Cut					013		Ditch within 005
013	Fill						012	Fill of 012
014	Fill						015	Fill of 015
015	Posthole					014		Posthole
016	Fill						017	Fill of 017
017	Posthole					016		Posthole
018	Fill						019	Fill of 019
019	Posthole					018		Posthole
020	Ditch Cut					021		Ditch
021	Fill						020	Fill of 020
022	Ditch Cut			067,069		023		Re-cut Ditch
023	Fill						022	Fill of 022
024	Fill						025	Fill of 025
025	Posthole					024		Posthole
026	Fill						027	Fill of 027
027	Cut					026, 030		Broad linear
028	Fill						029	Fill of 029
029	Cut					028		Broad linear
030	Fill						027	Lower fill of 027
031	Fill	032					033	Upper fill of 033
032	Fill		031				033	Primary fill of 033
033	Ditch Cut					031, 032		Ditch (enclosure)
034	Pit					035		Pit
035	Fill						034	Fill of 034

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
036	Fill						037	Fill of 037
037	Ditch Cut					036, 070		Ditch (enclosure)
038	Ditch Cut					071, 072		Ditch (enclosure)
039	Fill	46,47			50		048	Fill of 048
040	Fill	41					045	Fill of 045
041	Fill		40				045	Fill of 045
042	Fill	43,44					045	Fill of 045
043	Fill		42				045	Fill of 045
044	Fill		42				045	Fill of 045
045	Pit					040-044		Pit
046	Fill		39				048	Fill of 048
047	Fill		39				048	Fill of 048
048	Cut					039, 046, 047		Double linear
049	Fill						050	Fill of 050
050	Cut					049		Re-cut linear
051	Posthole					052		Posthole
052	Fill						051	Fill of 051
053	Posthole					054		Posthole
054	Fill						053	Fill of 053
055	Posthole					056		Posthole
056	Fill						055	Fill of 055
057	Posthole					058		Posthole
058	Fill						057	Fill of 057
059	Posthole					060		Posthole
060	Fill						059	Fill of 059
061	Cut					062		Pit
062	Fill						061	Fill of 061
063	Cut					064		Linear feature
064	Fill						063	Fill of 063
065	Fill	066					067	Fill of 067
066	Fill		065				067	Lower fill of 067
067	Ditch Cut				022	065, 066		Ditch
068	Fill						069	Fill of 069
069	Palisade Cut				022	068		Palisade trench
070	Fill						037	Fill of 037
071	Fill	072					038	Upper fill of 038
072	Fill		071				038	Primary fill of 038
073	Posthole							Posthole

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
074	Cut					075		Linear feat.
075	Fill						074	Fill of 074
076	Fill						077	Fill of 077
077	Cut					076		Peat ditch
078	Fill						079	Fill of 079
079	Posthole					078		Posthole
080	Ditch Cut					081		Linear ditch
081	Fill						080	Fill of 080
082	Fill						083	Fill of posthole 083
083	Posthole					082		Posthole
084	Fill						085	Fill of 085
085	Ditch Cut					084		Linear ditch
086	Ditch Cut				088	087		Large linear ditch
087	Fill						086	Fill of 086
088	Ditch Cut			086		089		Ditch which cuts 086
089	Fill						088	Fill of 088
090	Posthole					091		Posthole
091	Fill						090	Fill of 090
092	Fill						093	Fill of 093
093	Pit					092		Pit
094	Posthole					095		Posthole
095	Fill						094	Fill of 094
096	Fill						097	Fill of 097
097	Posthole					096		Posthole
098	Ditch Cut					099		Ditch
099	Fill						098	Fill of 098
100	Posthole					101		Posthole
101	Fill						100	Fill of 100
102	Posthole					103		Posthole
103	Fill						102	Fill of 102
104	Posthole					105		Posthole
105	Fill						104	Fill of 104
106	Posthole					107		Posthole
107	Fill						106	Fill of 106
108	Posthole					109		Posthole
109	Fill						108	Fill of 108
110	Stakehole							Stake hole in ditch 102
111	Posthole					112		Posthole
112	Fill						111	Fill of 111

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
113	Pit				114	136-139		Pit
114	Pit			113		140, 141, 142		Pit
115	Pit					143, 144, 145		Pit
116	VOID							-
117	VOID							-
118	Fill	1					119	Fill of 119
119	Ditch Cut					118, 133		N-S ditch
120	Fill	132					121	Fill of 121
121	Ditch Cut					120, 132, 134		E-W ditch
122	Posthole					122, 123		Posthole
123	Fill	124					122	Fill of 122
124	Fill		123				122	Fill of 122
125	Posthole					125, 126		Posthole
126	Fill	127					125	Fill of 125
127	Fill		126				125	Fill of 125
128	Ditch Cut					129, 130, 131, 135		Re-cut E-W ditch
129	Fill	130					128	Upper fill of 128
130	Fill	131	129				128	Secondary fill of 128
131	Fill	135	130				128	Primary fill of 128
132	Fill	134	120				121	Lower fill of 121
133	Fill						119	Primary fill of 119
134	Fill		132				121	Primary fill of 121
135	Fill		131				128	Primary fill of 128
136	Fill		137				113	Primary fill of 113
137	Fill	136	138				113	Fill of 113
138	Fill	137	139				113	Fill of 113
139	Fill	138					113	Fill of 113
140	Fill		141				114	Primary fill of 114
141	Fill	140	142				114	Secondary fill of 114
142	Fill	141					114	Fill of 114
143	Fill		144				115	Primary fill of 115
144	Fill	143	145				115	Secondary fill of 115

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
145	Fill	144					115	Fill of 115
146	Fill	147					148	Upper fill of 148
147	Fill		146				148	Primary fill of 148
148	Ditch Cut			259, 260		146, 147		E-W ditch
149	Ditch Cut					151, 153		E-W Ditch
150	Cut					152		N-S linear parallel to 150
151	Fill	153					149	Fill of 149
152	Fill						150	Fill of 150
153	Fill		151				149	Fill of 149
154	Fill						155	Fill of 155
155	Posthole					154		Posthole
156	Fill						157	Fill of 157
157	Ditch Cut					156		Small ditch
158	Fill	159					162	Upper fill of 162
159	Fill	160	158				162	Fill of 162
160	Fill	161	159				162	Fill of 162
161	Fill		160				162	Primary fill of 162
162	Ditch Cut					158-161		E-W ditch
163	Fill						164	Fill of 164
164	Posthole					163		Posthole
165	Fill						166	Fill of 166
166	Posthole					165		Posthole
167	Fill						168	Fill of 168
168	Posthole					167		Posthole
169	Fill						170	Fill of 170
170	Posthole					169		Posthole
171	Fill						172	Fill of 172
172	Posthole					171		Posthole
173	Fill						174	Fill of 174
174	Posthole					173		Posthole
175	Fill						176	Fill of 176
176	Posthole					175		Posthole
177	Pit			178		219, 220, 221		Pit
178	Pit				177	222, 223		Pit
179	VOID							-
180	VOID							-
181	VOID							-
182	Posthole					183		Posthole

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
183	Fill						182	Fill of 182
184	Fill						185	Fill of 185
185	Posthole					184		Posthole
186	Fill						187	Fill of 187
187	Posthole					186		Posthole
188	Fill						198	Fill of 189
189	Posthole					188		Posthole
190	Fill						191	Fill of 191
191	Posthole					190		Posthole
192	Fill						193	Fill of 193
193	Posthole					192		Posthole
194	Fill						195	Fill of 195
195	Posthole					194		Posthole
196	Fill						197	Fill of 197
197	Posthole					196		Posthole
198	Fill						199	Fill of 199
199	Posthole					198		Posthole
200	Fill						201	Fill of 201
201	Posthole			201		200		Posthole
202	Fill						203	Fill of 203
203	Posthole				199	202		Posthole
204	Fill						205	Fill of 205
205	Posthole					204		Posthole
206	Fill						205	Fill of 205
207	Fill						208	Fill of 208
208	Posthole/Pit					207		Posthole / Pit
209	Fill						210	Fill of 210
210	Posthole					209		Posthole
211	Fill	212					214	Upper fill of 214
212	Fill	213	211				214	Fill of 214
213	Fill		212				214	Primary fill of 214
214	Cut					211, 212, 213		E-W ditch
215	Pit					216		Pit
216	Fill						215	Fill of 215
217	Fill						218	Fill of 218
218	Posthole					217		Posthole
219	Fill		220				177	Fill of 177
220	Fill	219	221				177	Fill of 177
221	Fill	220					177	Fill of 177
222	Fill						178	Fill of 178



Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
223	Fill						178	Fill of 178
224	Ditch Cut					347		Enclosure ditch
225	Fill						226	Fill of 226
226	Cut					225		Linear feature
227	Fill						228	Fill of 228
228	Cut					227		Linear feature
229	Fill	347						Fill of W arm of enclosure ditch
230	Fill						231	Fill of 231
231	Posthole					230		Posthole
232	Posthole/Pit				234	233		Posthole / Pit
233	Fill						232	Fill of 232
234	Ditch Cut			232		235, 236		Ditch
235	Fill		236				234	Lower fill of 234
236	Fill	235					234	Upper fill of 234
237	Ditch Cut					238, 239		Re-cut Ditch
238	Fill		239				237	Lower fill of 237
239	Fill	238					237	Upper fill of 237
240	Fill						241	Fill of 241
241	Ditch Cut					240		Enclosure ditch
242	Fill						243	Fill of 243
243	Ditch Cut					242		Enclosure ditch
244	Fill						245	Fill of 245
245	Posthole				248	244, 246		Posthole, cut by 248
246	Fill						245	Fill of 245
247	Fill	249					248	Upper fill of 248
248	Posthole			245	251	247, 249		Posthole, cuts 245
249	Fill		247				248	Lower fill of 248
250	Fill						251	Fill of 251
251	Posthole			248		250		Posthole, cuts 248
252	Fill						253	Fill of 253
253	Posthole					252, 254		Posthole
254	Fill						253	Fill of 253

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
255	Fill						256	Fill of 256
256	Ditch Cut					255		Enclosure ditch east terminal
257	Fill						258	Fill of 258
258	Posthole					257		Posthole
259	Pit				148	303-306		Pit cut by 148
260	Pit				148	293-296		Pit cut by 148
261	Fill						262	Fill of 262
262	Ditch					261		Ditch
263	Fill						264	Fill of 264
264	Posthole					263		Posthole
265	Fill						266	Fill of 266
266	Posthole					265		Posthole
267	Fill						268	Fill of 268
268	Posthole					267		Posthole
269	Fill						270	Fill of 270
270	Cut Posthole					269		Posthole
271	Ditch						272	Ditch
272	Fill						271	Fill of 271
273	Ditch						274	Ditch
274	Fill						273	Fill of 273
275	Pit					287-290		Pit
276	VOID							-
277	Fill						278	Fill of 278
278	Posthole			280		277		Posthole cuts 280
279	Fill						280	Fill of 280
280	Posthole				278	279		Posthole cut by 278
281	Fill						282	Fill of 282
282	Posthole					281		Posthole
283	Fill						284	Fill of 284
284	Posthole					283		Posthole cut by 282
285	Fill						286	Fill of 286
286	Stake hole					285		Stake hole
287	Fill		288,289, 290				275	Fill of 275
288	Fill	287					275	Fill of 275
289	Fill	287					275	Fill of 275
290	Fill	287					275	Fill of 275

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
291	Fill						292	Fill of 292
292	Ditch Cut					291		Ditch
293	Fill		294				260	Fill of 260
294	Fill	293	295				260	Fill of 260
295	Fill	294	296				260	Fill of 260
296	Fill	295					260	Fill of 260
297	Fill						298	Fill of 298
298	Pit			300		297		Pit
299	Fill						300	Fill of 300
300	Posthole				298	299		Posthole cut by 298
301	Fill						302	Fill of 302
302	Posthole					301		Posthole
303	Fill		304, 305, 306				259	Fill of 259
304	Fill	303					259	Fill of 259
305	Fill	303					259	Fill of 259
306	Fill	303					259	Fill of 259
307	Fill						308	Fill of 308
308	Pit					307		Pit
309	Fill	311					310	Upper fill of 310
310	Pit					309, 311		Pit
311	Fill		309				310	Lower fill of 310
312	Fill						313	Fill of 313
313	Pit					312		Pit
314	Fill						315	Fill of 315
315	Pit					314		Pit
316	Fill						317	Fill of 317
317	Pit					316		Pit
318	Fill						319	Fill of 319
319	Pit					318		Pit
320	Fill						321	Fill of 321
321	Hearth Cut					320		Hearth
322	Fill						323	Fill of 323
323	Tree Throw					322		Tree throw
324	Fill						325	Fill of 325
325	Pit					324		Pit
326	Fill						327	Fill of 327
327	Posthole					326		Posthole
328	Pit					329		Pit
329	Fill						328	Fill of 328

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
330	Fill						331	Fill of 331
331	Posthole					330		Posthole
332	Fill						333	Fill of 333
333	Posthole					332		Posthole
334	Fill	336					335	Upper fill of 335
335	Posthole					334, 336		Posthole
336	Fill		334				335	Fill of 335
337	Fill						338	Primary fill of 338
338	Ditch Cut					337		Ditch
339	Fill						340	Primary fill of 340
340	Ditch Cut					339		Ditch
341	Fill						342	Primary fill of 342
342	Ditch Cut					341		Ditch
343	Fill						344	Fill of 344
344	Ditch Cut					343		Ditch
345	Fill						346	Primary fill of 346
346	Ditch Cut					345		Ditch
347	Fill		229				224	Lower fill of 224
348	Fill						356	Fill of 356
349	Fill						357	Fill of 357
350	Fill						358	Fill of 358
351	Fill						359	Fill of 359
352	Fill						360	Fill of 360
353	Fill						361	Fill of 361
354	Fill						362	Fill of 362
355	Fill						363	Fill of 363
356	Cut					348		Linear feature
357	Cut					349		Linear feature
358	Ditch Cut					350		Linear ditch
359	Ditch Cut					351		Linear ditch
360	Cut					352		Linear feature
361	Cut					353, 378		Linear feature
362	Cut					354		Linear feature (narrow)
363	Cut					355		Linear feature

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
364	Ditch Cut					365		Linear ditch
365	Fill						364	Fill of 364
366	Ditch Cut					367		Linear ditch (narrow and shallow)
367	Fill						366	Fill of 366
368	Pit					369		Pit
369	Fill						368	Fill of 368
370	Posthole					371		Posthole
371	Fill						370	Fill of 370
372	Posthole					373		Posthole
373	Fill						372	Fill of 372
374	Posthole					375		Posthole
375	Fill						374	Fill of 374
376	Fill						377	Fill of 377
377	Posthole					376		Posthole
378	Fill	379					361	Fill in west terminus of 361
379	Fill		378				361	Lower fill in west terminus of 361
380	Ditch Cut					381		Linear ditch
381	Fill						380	Fill of 380
382	Cut					383		Linear feature (truncated)
383	Fill						382	Fill of 382
384	Pit					385		Pit
385	Fill						384	Fill of 384
386	Posthole/Pit					387		Posthole / Pit
387	Fill						386	Fill of 386
388	Ditch Cut					389		Linear ditch
389	Fill						388	Fill of 388
390	Ditch Cut					391		Linear ditch
391	Fill						390	Fill of 390
392	Cut					393		Linear feature (truncated)
393	Fill						392	Fill of 392
394	Cut					395		Linear feature (truncated)
395	Fill						394	Fill of 394

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
396	Cut					397		Linear feature
397	Fill						396	Fill of 396
398	Posthole					399		Posthole
399	Fill						398	Fill of 398
400	Fill						401	Fill of 401
401	Cut					400		Ditch
402	Pit					401		Pit
403	Fill						402	Fill of 402
404	Cut					405-408		Linear feature
405	Fill						404	Fill of 404
406	Fill						404	Fill of 404
407	Fill						404	Fill of 404
408	Fill						404	Fill of 404
409	Fill						410	Fill of 410
410	Pit					409		Pit
411	Pit					412		Pit
412	Fill						411	Fill of 411
413	Posthole					414		Posthole
414	Fill						413	Fill of 413
415	Pit					416		Pit
416	Fill						415	Fill of 415
417	Pit					418		Pit
418	Fill						417	Fill of 417
419	Natural/Layer							Area of natural soil
420	Layer							Deposit of material
421	Fill	422					425	Fill of 425
422	Fill	423	421				425	Fill of 425
423	Fill	424	422				425	Fill of 425
424	Fill		423				425	Fill of 425
425	Tree Throw					421-424, 426, 513-515, 527		Tree throw
426	Fill	424	422				425	Fill of 425
427	Cut Posthole					428		Posthole
428	Fill						427	Fill of 427
429	Fill						430	Fill of 430
430	Posthole					429		Posthole
431	Posthole					432		Posthole
432	Fill						431	Fill of 431
433	Stake hole					434		Stake hole

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
434	Fill						433	Fill of 433
435	Pit					436		Pit (shallow)
436	Fill						435	Fill of 436
437	Tree Throw					444-452		Tree throw
438	Pit					439, 340		Pit
439	Fill		440				438	Fill of 438
440	Fill	439					438	Fill of 438
441	Posthole					442, 443		Posthole
442	Fill	443					441	Fill of 441
443	Fill		442				441	Fill of 441
444	Fill	448,446, 447					437	Fill of 437
445	Fill	448,446, 447					437	Fill of 437
446	Fill		444, 445				437	Fill of 437
447	Fill		444, 445				437	Fill of 437
448	Fill	449	444, 445				437	Fill of 437
449	Fill		448				437	Fill of 437
450	Fill						437	Fill of 437
451	Fill						437	Fill of 437
452	Fill						437	Fill of 437
453	Posthole					454		Posthole
454	Fill						453	Fill of 453
455	Pit					470-473		Pit
456	Pit					469		Pit (south of Pit 455)
457	Tree Throw					458-465, 474-479		Tree Throw
458	Fill		461				457	Fill of 457
459	Fill		460				457	Fill of 457
460	Fill	459	461,462, 465				457	Fill of 457
461	Fill	458, 460	465, 464				457	Fill of 457
462	Fill	460	463				457	Fill of 457
463	Fill	462	465				457	Fill of 457
464	Fill	461	465				457	Fill of 457
465	Fill	460, 464, 463, 461	466, 467, 468				457	Fill of 457
466	Fill	465					457	Fill of 457
467	Fill	465					457	Fill of 457
468	Fill	465	466				457	Fill of 457
469	Fill						456	Fill of 456
470	Fill	472					455	Fill of 455
471	Fill		472, 473				455	Fill of 455

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
472	Fill	471					455	Fill of 455
473	Fill		470				455	Fill of 455
474	Fill		476				457	Fill of 457
475	Fill		479, 476				457	Fill of 457
476	Fill		477, 478				457	Fill of 457
477	Fill						457	Fill of 457
478	Fill	476					457	Fill of 457
479	Fill	475	478				457	Fill of 457
480	Pit	506				481, 506		Pit
481	Fill						480	Upper fill of 480
482	VOID							-
483	VOID							-
484	VOID							-
485	Fill						486	Fill of 486
486	Cut					485		Cultivation slot
487	Posthole					488		Posthole
488	Fill						487	Fill of 487
489	Stake hole					490		Stake hole
490	Fill						489	Fill of 489
491	Cut					492		Pit (shallow)
492	Fill						491	Fill of 491
493	Cut					494		Ditch
494	Fill						493	Fill of 493
495	Cut					496		Pit
496	Fill						495	Fill of 495
497	Cut					498		L-shaped feature
498	Fill						497	Fill of 497
499	Cut					500		Curvilinear feature
500	Fill						499	Fill of 499
501	Posthole/Pit					502, 503		Pit / Posthole
502	Fill						501	Fill of 501
503	Fill						501	Fill of 501
504	Cut					505		Linear feature
505	Fill						504	Fill of 504
506	Fill		481				480	Fill of 480
507	Cut					508		Linear feature
508	Fill						507	Fill of 507
509	Fill						510	Fill of 510



Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
510	Pit					509		Pit
511	Fill						512	Fill of 512
512	Pit					511, 516		Pit
513	Fill						425	Fill of 425
514	Fill						425	Fill of 425
515	Fill						425	Fill of 425
516	Fill						512	Fill of 512
517	Pit					518		Pit
518	Fill						517	Fill of 517
519	Posthole					520		Posthole
520	Fill						519	Fill of 519
521	Posthole					522		Posthole
522	Fill						521	Fill of 521
523	Posthole					524		Posthole
524	Fill						523	Fill of 523
525	Cut					526		Circular feature
526	Fill						525	Fill of 525
527	Fill						425	Fill of 425
528	Fill						529	Fill of 529
529	Pit					528		Pit
530	Cut					531		Linear feature
531	Fill						530	Fill of 530
532	Fill						533	Fill of 533
533	Posthole					532		Posthole
534	Fill						535	Fill of 535
535	Posthole					534		Posthole
536	Fill						537	Fill of 537
537	Pit					536		Pit
538	Pit					539		Pit
539	Fill						538	Fill of 538
540	Fill						541	Fill of 541
541	Pit					540		Pit
542	Fill						543	Fill of 543
543	Cut					542		Posthole
544	Fill						545	Fill of 545
545	Pit					543		Pit
546	Pit					547		Pit
547	Fill						546	Fill of 546
548	Fill						549	Fill of 549
549	Pit					548		Pit (double)
550	Pit					551, 552		Pit

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
551	Fill	552					550	Fill of 550
552	Fill		551				550	Primary fill of 550
553	Fill						554	Fill of 554
554	Cut					553		Feature
555	VOID							-
556	VOID							-
557	VOID							-
558	VOID							-
559	Fill						561	Fill of 561
560	Fill						561	Fill of 561
561	Posthole					559, 560		Posthole
562	Fill						563	Fill of 563
563	Posthole					562		Posthole
564	Posthole					565		Posthole
565	Fill						564	Fill of 564
566	Cut					567		Oval feature
567	Fill						566	Fill of 566
568	Pit					569		Pit
569	Fill						568	Fill of 568
570	Fill						571	Fill of 571
571	Cut					570		Shallow feature
572	Fill						573	Fill of 573
573	Pit					572		Pit
574	Fill						575	Fill of 575
575	Cut					574		Pit
576	Posthole/Pit					577		Posthole / Pit
577	Fill						576	Fill of 576
578	Posthole/Pit					579		Posthole / Pit
579	Fill						578	Fill of 578
580	Posthole/Pit					581		Posthole / Pit
581	Fill						580	Fill of 580
582	Posthole/Pit					583		Posthole / Pit
583	Fill						582	Fill of 582
584	Posthole/Pit					585		Posthole / Pit
585	Fill						584	Fill of 584
586	Posthole					587		Posthole
587	Fill						586	Fill of 586
588	Posthole					589		Posthole
589	Fill						588	Fill of 588
590	Posthole					591, 602		Posthole
591	Fill						590	Fill of 590

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
592	Posthole					593		Posthole
593	Fill						592	Fill of 592
594	Pit					595		Pit
595	Fill						594	Fill of 594
596	Fill						597	Fill of 597
597	Posthole/Pit					596		Posthole / Pit
598	Posthole					599		Posthole
599	Fill						598	Fill of 598
600	Fill						601	Fill of 601
601	Posthole					600		Posthole
602	Fill						590	Fill of 590
603	Fill						604	Fill of 604
604	Posthole					603		Posthole
605	Fill						606	Fill of 606
606	Posthole					605		Posthole
607	Fill						608	Fill of 608
608	Posthole					607		Posthole
609	Fill						610	Fill of 610
610	Posthole					609		Posthole
611	Fill						612	Fill of 612
612	Posthole					611		Posthole
613	Posthole					614		Posthole
614	Fill						613	Fill of 613
615	Posthole					616		Posthole
616	Fill						615	Fill of 615
617	Posthole					618		Posthole
618	Fill						617	Fill of 617
619	Posthole					620		Posthole
620	Fill						619	Fill of 619
621	Posthole					622		Posthole
622	Fill						621	Fill of 621
623	Posthole					624		Posthole
624	Fill						623	Fill of 623
625	Posthole					626		Posthole
626	Fill						625	Fill of 625
627	Posthole					628		Posthole
628	Fill						627	Fill of 627
629	Fill						630	Fill of 630
630	Tree Throw					629		Tree throw
631	Pit					632, 633		Pit
632	Fill						631	Fill of 631
633	Fill						631	Fill of 631

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
634	VOID							-
635	VOID							-
636	VOID							-
637	VOID							-
638	VOID							-
639	VOID							-
640	VOID							-
641	VOID							-
642	VOID							-
643	VOID							-
644	VOID							-
645	Pit					646		Pit
646	Fill						645	Fill of 645
647	Pit					648		Pit
648	Fill						647	Fill of 647
649	Posthole					650		Posthole
650	Fill						649	Fill of 649
651	Posthole					652		Posthole
652	Fill						651	Fill of 651
653	Posthole					654		Posthole
654	Fill						653	Fill of 653
655	Cut					656, 657		Oval pit / Tree throw
656	Fill						655	Fill of 655
657	Fill						655	Fill of 655
658	Posthole					659		Posthole
659	Fill						658	Fill of 658
660	Posthole					661		Posthole
661	Fill						660	Fill of 660
662	Posthole					663		Posthole
663	Fill						662	Fill of 662
664	Posthole					665		Posthole
665	Fill						664	Fill of 664
666	Cut					667, 668		Pit / Tree Throw
667	Fill	668					666	Upper fill of 666
668	Fill		667				666	Lower fill of 666
669	Posthole					670		Posthole
670	Fill						669	Fill of 669
671	Posthole					672		Posthole
672	Fill						671	Fill of 671

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
673	Cut					674, 675		Pit / Tree Throw
674	Fill						673	Upper fill of 673
675	Fill						673	Lower fill of 673
676	Cut					677, 682-684, 861-867		Slot 1 through tree throw
677	Fill		683, 682, 684				676	Primary fill of 676
678	Posthole					679		Posthole
679	Fill						678	Fill of 678
680	Posthole					681		Posthole
681	Fill						680	Fill of 680
682	Fill	677					676	Fill of 676
683	Fill	677					676	Fill of 676
684	Fill	677					676	Fill of 676
685	Pit					686		Small pit
686	Fill						685	Fill of 685
687	Cut					688		Animal burrow
688	Fill						687	Fill of 687
689	Layer							Rooted area
690	Posthole					691		Posthole (burnt)
691	Fill						690	Fill of 690
692	Field Drain					693		Field drain
693	Fill						692	Fill of 692
694	Posthole					695		Posthole
695	Fill						694	Fill of 694
696	Posthole					697		Posthole
697	Fill						696	Fill of 696
698	Posthole					699		Posthole
699	Fill						698	Fill of 698
700	Posthole					701		Posthole
701	Fill						700	Fill of 700
702	Posthole					703		Posthole
703	Fill						702	Fill of 702
704	Posthole					705		Posthole
705	Fill						704	Fill of 704 (burnt)
706	Posthole					707		Posthole
707	Fill						706	Fill of 706
708	Posthole					709, 716		Posthole

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
709	Fill	716					708	Fill of 708
710	Posthole					711		Posthole
711	Fill						710	Fill of 710
712	Pit					713		Pit
713	Fill						712	Fill of 712
714	Pit					715		Pit
715	Fill						714	Fill of 714
716	Fill		709				708	Fill of 708
717	Pit					718		Pit (shallow)
718	Fill						717	Fill of 717
719	Posthole					720		Posthole
720	Fill						719	Fill of 719
721	Posthole					722		Posthole
722	Fill						721	Fill of 721
723	Posthole/Pit					724-726		Posthole / Pit
724	Fill	725					723	Fill of 723
725	Fill	726	724				723	Fill of 723
726	Fill		725				723	Fill of 723
727	Posthole					728		Posthole
728	Fill						727	Fill of 727
729	Posthole					730		Posthole
730	Fill						729	Fill of 729
731	Pit					732, 733		Pit
732	Fill						731	Fill of 731 (north)
733	Fill						731, 872	Fill of 731 (east)
734	Posthole					735		Posthole
735	Fill						734	Fill of 734
736	Posthole					737		Posthole
737	Fill						736	Fill of 736
738	Posthole/Pit					739		Posthole / Pit
739	Fill						738	Fill of 738
740	Posthole					741		Posthole
741	Fill						740	Fill of 740
742	Cut					743		? Burrow
743	Fill						742	Fill of 742
744	Posthole					745		Posthole
745	Fill						744	Fill of 744
746	Posthole					747		Posthole
747	Fill						746	Fill of 746
748	Posthole					749		Posthole
749	Fill						748	Fill of 748

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
750	Posthole					751		Posthole
751	Fill						750	Fill of 750 (charcoal rich)
752	Posthole					753		Posthole
753	Fill						752	Fill of 752
754	Pit					755		Pit
755	Fill						754	Fill of 754
756	Posthole					757		Posthole
757	Fill						756	Fill of 756
758	Posthole					759		Posthole
759	Fill						758	Fill of 758
760	Posthole/Pit					761, 762		Posthole / Pit (shallow)
761	Fill	762					760	Fill of 760
762	Fill		761				760	Fill of 760
763	Posthole					764		Posthole
764	Fill						763	Fill of 763
765	Posthole					766		Posthole
766	Fill						765	Fill of 765
767	Posthole					768		Posthole
768	Fill						767	Fill of 767
769	Posthole					770		Posthole
770	Fill						769	Fill of 769
771	Posthole					772		Posthole
772	Fill						771	Fill of 771
773	Pit					774		Pit
774	Fill						773	Fill of 773
775	Posthole					776		Posthole
776	Fill						775	Fill of 775
777	Pit					778		Pit
778	Fill						777	Fill of 777
779	Posthole					780		Posthole
780	Fill						779	Fill of 779
781	Posthole					782		Posthole
782	Fill						781	Fill of 781
783	Posthole					784		Posthole
784	Fill						783	Fill of 783
785	Pit/Ditch Cut					786		Pit / Ditch
786	Fill						785	Fill of 785
787	Posthole					788		Posthole
788	Fill						787	Fill of 787
789	Posthole					790		Posthole

Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
790	Fill						789	Fill of 789
791	Posthole					792		Posthole
792	Fill						791	Fill of 791
793	Pit					794		Pit
794	Fill						793	Fill of 793
795	Posthole					796		Posthole
796	Fill						795	Fill of 795
797	Posthole					798		Posthole
798	Fill						797	Fill of 797
799	Posthole					800		Posthole
800	Fill						799	Fill of 799
801	Posthole					802		Posthole
802	Fill						801	Fill of 801
803	Pit					804		Pit
804	Fill						803	Fill of 803
805	Posthole					806		Posthole
806	Fill						805	Fill of 805
807	Field Drain					808		Field drain
808	Fill						807	Fill of 807
809	Pit					810		Pit
810	Fill						809	Fill of 809
811	Posthole					812		Posthole
812	Fill						811	Fill of 811
813	Posthole					814		Posthole
814	Fill						813	Fill of 813
815	Pit					816		Pit
816	Fill						815	Fill of 815
817	Pit					818		Pit
818	Fill						817	Fill of 817
819	Pit					820		Pit
820	Fill						819	Fill of 819
821	Stake Hole							Stake hole
822	Posthole					823		Posthole
823	Fill						822	Fill of 822
824	Posthole					825		Posthole
825	Fill						824	Fill of 824
826	Pit					827		Pit
827	Fill						826	Fill of 826
828	Posthole					829		Posthole
829	Fill						828	Fill of 828
830	Posthole					831		Posthole
831	Fill						830	Fill of 830



Context	Type	Above	Below	Cuts	Cut by	Filled by	Fill of	Comments
832	Posthole					833		Posthole
833	Fill						832	Fill of 832
834	Pit					835		Pit
835	Fill						834	Fill of 834
836	Pit					837		Pit
837	Fill						836	Fill of 836
838	Posthole					839		Posthole
839	Fill						838	Fill of 838
840	Posthole					841		Posthole
841	Fill						840	Fill of 840
842	Pit					843		Pit
843	Fill						842	Fill of 842
844	Posthole					845		Posthole
845	Fill						844	Fill of 844 (burnt)
846	Posthole					847		Posthole
847	Fill						846	Fill of 846
848	Pit					849		Pit
849	Fill						848	Fill of 848
850	Pit					851		Pit
851	Fill						850	Fill of 850
852	Posthole					853		Posthole
853	Fill						852	Fill of 852 (charcoal rich)
854	Posthole					855		Posthole
855	Fill						854	Fill of 854
856	Posthole					857		Posthole
857	Fill						856	Fill of 856
858	Pit					859		Pit
859	Fill						858	Fill of 858
860	Cut							Slot 2 through tree throw
861	Fill						676	Fill of 676
862	Fill						676	Fill of 676
863	Fill						676	Fill of 676
864	Fill						676	Fill of 676
865	Fill						676	Fill of 676
866	Fill						676	Fill of 676
867	Fill						676	Fill of 676
868	Pit					869		Pit
869	Fill						868	Fill of 868
870	Posthole					871		Posthole

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<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Above</b>	<b>Below</b>	<b>Cuts</b>	<b>Cut by</b>	<b>Filled by</b>	<b>Fill of</b>	<b>Comments</b>
871	Fill						870	Fill of 870
872	Pit						733	Pit (filled by 733)

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## **APPENDIX 2: ILLUSTRATIONS**

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