# OVERBY QUARRY, AIKSHAW, ASPATRIA, CUMBRIA

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION REPORT

**CP. NO: 715/08**

**15/09/2010**

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*Quality Assurance*

This report covers works as outlined in the brief for the above-named project as issued by the relevant authority, and as outlined in the agreed programme of works. Any deviation to the programme of works has been agreed by all parties. The works have been carried out according to the guidelines set out in the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Standards, Policy Statements and Codes of Conduct. The report has been prepared in keeping with the guidance set out by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd on the preparation of reports.

| **REVISION SCHEDULE** | | | |
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| | **01** | **02** | **03** |
| **PREPARED BY:** | Nigel Cavanagh | Matthew Town | |
| **POSITION:** | Project Officer | Project Manager | |
| **DATE:** | 14/06/10 | 04/07/10 | |
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| **APPROVED BY:** | Martin Railton | Frank Giecco | |
| **POSITION:** | Project Manager | Technical Director | |
| **DATE:** | 18/06/10 | 05/07/10 | |

# CONTENTS

# ILLUSTRATIONS

## FIGURES (APPENDIX 2)



## PLATES

# SUMMARY

During June and July 2008, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by Stephenson Halliday on behalf of Thomas Armstrong (Holdings) Ltd to undertake an archaeological excavation (OQA-B) at Overby Quarry, Aikshaw, Aspatria, Cumbria, (NGR NY 125 470) in response to a planning condition associated with mineral extraction.

Previous works at the site, undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in 2006, comprised a desk-based assessment and accompanying geophysical survey (Davies 2006a; Terra Nova 2005). The results of the desk-based assessment found a high potential for the survival of sub-surface archaeological remains, dating to the prehistoric period. Aerial photographs, which identified cropmarks within this area, were first taken in 1975 (Higham and Jones 1975), and were consulted during this stage of the investigation. They appeared to indicate the existence of prehistoric settlements, as well as agricultural and ritual practices, at the site. A Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flint was also recovered from within the site during the North West Wetland Survey (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000). The excavation at New Cowper Farm, a kilometre to the south-west of Overby Quarry, also found extensive evidence of Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation, and suggested that cropmarks within this area could represent only a tiny fraction of extensive remains below ground.

Subsequently, and as a result of the findings from this assessment, a limited field evaluation was conducted in March 2006 by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (Davies 2006b), which aimed to investigate the areas identified by aerial photography as being of particular archaeological interest. The targeted evaluation successfully located four archaeological features and two possible archaeological features. The fill of a single pit within one of the trenches produced a calibrated radiocarbon date of 1900-1650 BC (Early-Mid Bronze Age) confirming that archaeological features of an earlier prehistoric date were present on the site. The area was therefore considered to have a high potential for below ground remains associated with prehistoric settlement and land use.

The proposed extension to the extraction area covers some 19.8 hectares, due to be excavated in six phases. As a result of the known potential, Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) advised that an archaeological evaluation of the site would be necessary as a condition of consent. This would comprise a programme of trial trenching, covering 5% of the proposed development area, and the investigation and recording of deposits and features of archaeological interest identified within those trenches. 159 trial trenches are due to be excavated.

In May and June 2008, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd undertook Phases 1 and 2 of the required archaeological field evaluation, comprising forty-eight of the 159 trial trenches that are due to be excavated. Area A yielded no archaeological features, and

anecdotal evidence from the workers at the quarry indicated that this area had at one time been bull-dozed. Areas B and C were also notably truncated, but despite the truncation, archaeological features were noted on the south-western sides of the hill. Within Area B, in Trench 13, a series of five well preserved in situ probable cremations were noted: four in pits and one contained within a Bronze Age Collared Urn (1750 - 1500 cal BC). Archaeology was also noted within Area C, in the form of small linear gullies and pits but this proved to be of demonstrably modern date. This appeared to be mirrored by the results from Areas D through to F. During the evaluation, a number of linear features were noted within trenches in all three areas, and as these were undated, they were believed to be of prehistoric date, and related to the cremation cemetery. However, analysis of the 19th century tithe map indicates that most of the archaeological remains may be of fairly recent date, and corresponding to known field boundaries (Town 2008a).

As a result of these discoveries, the targeted excavation (OVQ-B) of Area B was immediately undertaken. The work was carried out over twenty-one days between the 25th June 2008 and the 12th July 2008 and recorded approximately thirty cremations, eight of which were within urns (mostly Collared Urns, though one has been tentatively identified as a Food Vessel, dated 2000-1700 cal BC). The number of cremations is tentative, as some pits were also excavated which contained only small amounts of bone, and which may not be 'true' cremations, but could represent ritual activity associated with the cremation rites. A number of pits and linear features of probable modern date were also identified.

The proliferation of other sites within a 10km radius, such as the recent find of a possible Bronze Age field system at High House Quarry (1.5km from the site), which has similar soil conditions to that at Overby, as well as the archaeological finds at New Cowper (2km from the site), mean that this site is part of a wider network across the region and so should not be viewed in isolation.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend thanks to Mark Brennand and Jeremy Parsons, both of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service, for their assistance during the project.

The archaeological excavation was carried out by Claire Gerson, Claire Mason, Sean Johnson, Patricia Shaw and was supervised by Martin Sowerby. This excavation report was written by Nigel Cavanagh. David Jackson and Nigel Cavanagh produced the digitised drawings. The project was managed by Matthew Town, Project Manager, NPA Ltd and overseen by Frank Giecco, Technical Director, NPA Ltd.

# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 In June 2008, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd were commissioned by Stephenson Halliday, on behalf of Thomas Armstrong (Holdings) Ltd to undertake an additional archaeological excavation (OQA-B) at Overby Quarry, following the discovery of prehistoric cremation burials during a previous archaeological evaluation (OQA-A) of the site (Town 2008a). The evaluation was being undertaken as part of a phased programme of works covering the proposed extension to the extraction area, 19.8 hectares, which is due to be excavated in six phases.

1.1.2 The plot of land on which the excavation was undertaken was in use as arable and pastoral land. The quarry 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. The assessment area is within a landscape zone known as the Abbeytown Ridge, which forms a significant topographic feature, defining the southern boundary of the Solway Plain (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000).

1.1.3 A desk-based assessment with accompanying geophysical survey had previously been undertaken, which emphasised the high archaeological potential of the site and the surrounding area (Davies 2006a). The report found that the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period was extremely high. Existing evidence within the proposed extraction areas included a single findspot of Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flint recovered during the North West Wetland Survey (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000). Numerous cropmark complexes indicative of prehistoric settlement, ritual and agricultural practices were also located on, and surrounding, the site. These undated cropmarks seemed to represent the multi-phase remains of fields, settlement foci and possibly ritual sites. The morphology of recently excavated features at New Cowper Farm, a kilometre to the west of Overby quarry, suggests that some of the cropmark features may be as early as Neolithic or Bronze Age in date and shows that such cropmarks represent only a tiny fraction of the extensive archaeological remains below ground.

1.1.4 As a result of this potential, a limited field evaluation was undertaken, with trenches positioned in order to adequately sample areas of features identified by aerial photography, deemed to be features of 'particular archaeological interest' (Davies 2006b). The main aim was to provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing their character, condition, and significance, which would enable the Overby

quarry extension planning application to proceed in a highly informed way. The targeted evaluation successfully located four archaeological features and two possible archaeological features. The fill of a single pit within one of the trenches produced a calibrated radiocarbon date of 1900-1650 BC (Early-Mid Bronze Age) confirming that archaeological features of an earlier prehistoric date were present on the site. The area is therefore considered to have a high potential for below ground remains associated with prehistoric settlement and land use.

1.1.5 As a result of the known potential, Cumbria County Council's Historic Environment Service (CCCHES) were consulted by the County's Minerals and Waste local planning authority, regarding two planning applications for the extension of the existing quarry. In accordance with guidance given in Planning Policy Guidance note 16 (Archaeology and Planning) and with local planning policy, CCCHES advised that an archaeological evaluation of the site would be necessary as a condition of consent. This would comprise a programme of trial trenching, covering 5% of the proposed development area, and the investigation and recording of deposits and features of archaeological interest identified within those trenches. 159 trial trenches are due to be excavated. The OQA-A evaluation comprised forty-eight of these trenches. A series of five well-preserved in situ probable cremations burials, four within pits and one contained within a Bronze Age Collared Urn (1750 - 1500 cal BC), were revealed within Area B. Small linear gullies and pits were also noted within Area C.

1.1.6 The archaeological excavation was targeted upon Area B of the evaluation and recorded an additional thirty cremations. This report outlines the works undertaken on-site, and the results of this scheme of archaeological works. All stages of the archaeological work were undertaken following approved statutory guidelines (IfA 2008) and generally accepted best practice, and were consistent with a Project Design that was prepared by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (Town 2008b) to a specification provided by CCCHES.

# 2 METHODOLOGY

## 2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1.1 A project design was submitted by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (Town 2008b) in response to a request by Stephenson Halliday for an archaeological excavation of the study area, in accordance with a brief prepared by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Services CCCHES (Parsons 2008). Following acceptance of the project design, North Pennines Archaeology Ltd was commissioned by the client to undertake the work. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and generally accepted best practice.

## 2.2 THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

2.2.1 The aims and principal methodology of the archaeological excavation can be summarised as follows:

- 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.
- to produce a site archive in accordance with MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE standards (English Heritage 2006).

2.2.2 Archaeological excavations were undertaken over a targeted rectangular area that measured 40m x 120m (Figure 2). This was located in the central part of the Area B quarry extension area.

2.2.3 The work was undertaken under the management of Matthew Town, NPAL Project Manager 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.

2.2.4 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.

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

2.2.6 A detailed record of the stratigraphic sequence was made, in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) and English Heritage guidelines.

2.2.7 Archaeological deposits and features were sampled systematically in accordance with NPA Ltd standard environmental sampling practice. The processing was overseen by Patricia Shaw (NPAL Environmental Supervisor).

2.2.8 All written records utilised the North Pennines Archaeology Ltd pro-forma record sheets.

2.2.9 Plans and sections were drawn on water resistant permatrace. Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:50, and sections at 1:10 or 1:20. The captured data was digitised using AutoCAD software by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd.

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

2.2.11 All finds belong to the landowner, but have been initially taken to the premises of North Pennines Archaeology at Nenthead for assessment.

### 2.3 THE ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the specification, and in line with current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage Guidelines (1991) and according to the Archaeological Archives Forum recommendations (Brown 2007). The archive will be deposited within an appropriate museum, with copies of the report sent to the County Historic Environment Record at Kendal, available upon request. The archive can be accessed under the unique project identifier OQA-B, CP 715/08.

2.3.2 North Pennines Archaeology, and Cumbria County Council Archaeology Service, support the Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by North Pennines Archaeology, as a part of this national project.

# 3 BACKGROUND

## 3.1 LOCATION AND GEOLOGICAL CONTEXT

3.1.1 Overby Quarry lies within the modern civil parish of Holme St Cuthbert, east of Silloth, and falls within the North Cumbrian Plain: a relatively low lying area (below 200m AOD) located to the north and the west of the Lake District Massif (Figure 1). The site is located within the landscape zone known as the Abbeytown Ridge, which is a relatively narrow tract of land stretching from Salta Moss at the western extent of the northwest Cumbrian coastal plain, to Wedholme Flow, some 20km to the northeast. The ridge forms a significant topographic feature, roughly 40m AOD high, and defines the southern boundary of the Solway Plain (Hodgkinson et al 2000). The Solway Plain is underlain by mudstones and sandstones of Permo-Triassic age to the south. To the west, Jurassic mudstones and limestones overlie these Permo-Triassic rocks, erosion of which created the low lying area of the Solway basin (Countryside Commission 1998). The predominating Clifton soil type is seasonally waterlogged (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000, 85).

3.1.2 Overby Quarry is bound by Overby Farm to the west and Hards Farm to the south (NY 123 467 and NY 127 473; Figure 2). The proposed extraction area covers approximately 19.8ha in area, with Phases 1 and 2 (5.8ha) lying to the south-west of the current permitted extraction zone, and Phases 3 to 6 (14ha) lying to the north-east. The proposed extraction area is an undulating area of low ridges. As is typical for the Abbeytown Ridge, 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).

## 3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.2.1 The previous works undertaken on the site include a desk-based assessment carried out by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd in 2006 (Davies 2006a), which indicated that the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period was extremely high (Figure 2).

3.2.2 The desk-based assessment found evidence of findspots of prehistoric worked flint in the vicinity of the proposed extraction areas recovered during the North West Wetland Survey (Hodgkinson *et al* 2000), which included, within the proposed extraction area, a single findspot of Neolithic/Bronze Age worked flint. In addition, extensive cropmark evidence was visible within the aerial photography of the area, to the north-east of the permitted extraction zone, though not within the area dealt with

in this report. The aerial photography, undertaken by Higham and Jones in 1975, identified numerous cropmark complexes indicative of prehistoric settlement, ritual and agricultural practices. These undated cropmarks seemed to represent the multi-phase remains of fields, settlement foci and possibly ritual sites. The morphology of recently excavated features at New Cowper Farm (section 3.2.4), a kilometre to the south-west of Overby quarry, suggests that some of the cropmark features may be as early as Neolithic or Bronze Age in date and shows that such cropmarks represent only a tiny fraction of the extensive archaeological remains below ground.. In 2005 a geophysical survey conducted by Terra Nova Ltd, on behalf of NPA Ltd, concluded that weak geophysical anomalies existed within the area, which correlated approximately with the features identified by the aerial photography (Terra Nova 2005).

3.2.3 Subsequently, and as a result of the findings of the 2006 desk-based assessment, a targeted field evaluation was undertaken by North Pennines Archaeology Ltd (Davies 2006b), in the area north-east of the permitted extraction zone. The targeted evaluation successfully located four archaeological features and two possible archaeological features. The fill of a single pit within one of the trenches produced a calibrated radiocarbon date of 1900-1650 BC (Early-Middle Bronze Age) confirming that archaeological features of an earlier prehistoric date were present on the site.

3.2.4 Between 2005-2007, phased excavations at New Cowper Quarry (1 km from Overby Quarry), uncovered Mesolithic/early Neolithic flint debitage, pits containing early Neolithic pottery, an Early Bronze Age cist burial containing a charcoal rich fill that was radiocarbon dated to 2400-2380 cal BC and 2360-2140, and a number of undated ditched boundary features (Railton 2007).

3.2.5 More recently, an archaeological evaluation undertaken at High House Quarry (Noakes 2008) has confirmed that features which were previously seen as cropmarks in the vicinity do indeed survive as the extensive ditches of field systems, suspected as being of Bronze Age date.

# 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

## 4.1 RESULTS

4.1.1 The archaeological excavation consisted of a rectangular area that measured approximately 120m x 40m. Three distinct types of archeological activity were noted.

## 4.2 CREMATION CEMETERY FEATURES

4.2.1 Following topsoil-stripping, a concentration of closely grouped and intercutting pit features were identified in the northern part of the site, situated on a slight crest in the undulating landscape (Plate 1). This area of heightened archaeological activity covered approximately 110 sq m and consisted of two main groupings of pit features that were arranged in two concentric circles.

*Plate 1: General View of Site. Facing South-west.*

## 4.3 OUTER GROUPING (FIGURES 4 AND 5)

4.3.1 The outer grouping consisted of thirteen newly-identified features [166], [169], [170], [178], [180], [182], [192], [190], [208], [243], [245], [248] and [252], together with a further four cremation pits [E146], [E150], [E148] and [E154] that were identified and excavated during the preceding archaeological evaluation (Town 2008a). Cremation Pit [E152], also identified during the evaluation, was an outlying feature that was located approximately 4.0m to the north east of the apparent concentric grouping.

4.3.2 Pit [248] was situated 0.76m to the south-west of cremation pit [E150] and was of sub-circular plan, with a diameter of 0.83m. The feature was 0.32m deep and had a steep-sided profile and concave base. The fill deposit (249) was an organic silty sand notable in that it contained flecks of burnt bone and charcoal. Significant quantities (>20g) of burnt bone were recovered from the fill and the likelihood is that the feature represented an *in-situ* cremation deposit. There was no vessel associated with the cremation.

4.3.3 Pit [243] was located immediately to the south-west of [248] and had a circular plan. The feature measured 0.50m in diameter and was 0.40m deep, with a steep-sided, concave-based profile. The silty organic fill (244) contained charcoal flecks and an extremely high (>1000g) proportion of burnt bone.

4.3.4 Two intercutting features were located immediately to the south-west of [243]. Pit [208] was the earlier and had a sub-circular plan of similar dimensions to [248]. The feature was 0.30m, 0.50m wide deep and had a bowl-shaped profile. The sandy organic fill (209) contained substantial (>100g) quantities of burnt bone.

4.3.5 Deposit (209) was cut by a large circular feature [252] that had a steeply-sloping, V-shaped profile. [252] had a depth of 0.25m, a diameter of 0.77m and was filled by a sandy organic silt (253) that contained burnt bone.

4.3.6 Two further intercutting pits, [168] and [245], were located 0.30m to the north of [252]. [168] was of sub-oval plan, with a steep-sided, flat based profile. It measured 0.76m x 0.56m x 0.30m deep and contained a silty organic fill (169). A small ceramic vessel <198> SF5, the interior of which contained organic silt and burnt bone (199), was recovered from (169).

4.3.7 Pit fill (169) was cut by a later circular pit [245]. Pit [245] had a diameter of 0.60m and a depth of 0.45m, with a steeply-sloping V-shaped profile. The basal fill consisted of an organic silty deposit that contained substantial quantities of burnt bone (230). Deposit (230) was sealed by a silty deposit containing large fragments of burnt/charred wood (189), further organic material containing burnt bone (188) and an upper fill deposit of silty sand (255).

4.3.8 An irregular-shaped pit [170] was situated 0.60m to the south-east of [245]. The feature measured 1.0m x 0.60m x 0.36m deep and had a steep-sided, flat-based profile (Plate 2). It was filled by a deposit of organic silty sand (171). (171) contained a small ceramic cremation vessel <182>, SF6 (Plate 3) that was filled with an organic deposit (183).

*Plate 2 : Cremation Pit Cut 170. Facing West.*

*Plate 3: Detail of Pit 170 Showing Cremation Vessel 182. Facing West*

4.3.9 A sub-circular cremation pit [174] was located 0.34m to the south-east of [170]. [174] had a diameter of 0.49m and a depth of 0.05m. It had a gently-sloping concave profile and was filled by a deposit of silty sand (175) that contained large quantities of burnt bone.

4.3.10 A small circular pit [192] was situated 3.80m to the south east of [174]. Pit [192] was 0.50m in diameter and 0.24m deep, with a steep-sided, concave-based profile. The silty sand fill (193) contained a small quantity of burnt bone.

4.3.11 Pit [186] was situated 1.20m to the north-west of [192] and was a shallow concave circular feature, with a depth of 0.10m and a diameter of 0.74m. It contained a silty sand deposit that contained burnt bone (193).

4.3.12 Pit [166] was located 2.20m to the north-east of [192] and was circular, with a diameter of 0.50m and a depth of 0.13m. The pit had a concave profile and was filled by silty sand (167) that contained a large (> 400g) quantity of burnt bone.

4.3.13 Two intercutting features [178] and [190] were situated 3.20m to the north of [166]. [178] was the earlier feature, a shallow concave pit that measured 0.60m in diameter x 0.25m deep. The pit was filled by silty sand (179) that contained large quantities of burnt bone.

4.3.14 Deposit (179) was cut by a second shallow pit [190] that was 0.40m in diameter and 0.14m deep. This feature again had a concave profile and was filled by silty sand (191) that contained a substantial quantity of burnt bone.

4.3.15 An irregular-shaped feature [180] was located 0.40m to the north-west of [178] and [190]. [180] measured 0.73m x 0.63m x 0.11m deep and had a shallow concave profile. It was filled by sandy silt (181) that contained substantial quantities of burnt bone.

### 4.4 INNER GROUPING (FIGURES 4 AND 6)

4.4.1 The inner grouping consisted of 18 features- [154], [158], [176], [194], [196], [200], [204], [206], [212], [214], [220], [223], [225], [231], [234], [236], [238], [246] and [250]. These were cut into 4m wide spread of silty material (256) that appeared to represent a focus of archaeological activity.

4.4.2 Pit [158] was situated 3.20m to the east of Pit [252]. It had a sub-circular plan, with a diameter of 0.75m and a depth of 0.15m. The profile varied from moderate to steeply-sloping, whilst the base was concave. A single ceramic cremation vessel <160> that contained burnt bone and organic silt (161) was recovered from the silty sand pit fill (159).

4.4.3 A single small feature [176] lay in a somewhat isolated position, some 0.90m to the south-west of [158] and equidistant between the inner and outer pit groupings. [176] was sub-circular in plan, with a moderately-sloping, bowl-shaped profile. The feature measured 0.41m in diameter x 0.14m deep and was filled by organic silty sand (177) that contained a trace amount of burnt bone.

4.4.4 A series of four intercutting features [196], [231], [212] and [204], were located immediately to the south of [158]. Pit [231] was the earliest and was a small sub-circular pit, with a diameter of 0.40m, a depth of 0.23m and a

shallow concave profile. The silty sand fill (232) contained significant (>20g) quantities of burnt bone.

4.4.5 Deposit (232) was cut to the south-east by a second sub-circular pit [212] and to the west by a small sub-oval feature [196]. Pit [212] had diameter of 0.45m and was 0.24m deep, with a moderately-sloping, concave-based profile. The sandy fill (213) contained significant quantities of burnt bone.

4.4.6 Pit [196] measured 0.75m x 0.30m x 0.15m deep and had a shallow, bowl-shaped profile. The sandy fill (197) contained trace (<20g) amounts of burnt bone.

4.4.7 Pit [212] was cut to the south-east by [204]. This feature was a sub-circular pit with a diameter of 0.34m and depth of 0.23m. The pit had a steeply-sloping U-shaped profile and was filled by silty sand (205) that contained significant quantities of burnt bone.


*Plate 4: Cremation Pit Cut 204. facing East.*

4.4.8 A further pit [194] was situated approximately 0.20m to the south-east of [204], continuing on the same broad north-west to south-east linear alignment represented by [196] to [204]. Pit [194] was sub-circular in plan,

with a diameter of 0.80m and a depth of 0.23m. The feature had a bowl-shaped profile and was filled by silty sand (195) that contained a significant quantity of burnt bone

4.4.9 An oval feature [200] was situated 1.35m to the south-east of [194]. [200] measured 0.54m x 0.32m x 0.23m deep and had a bowl-shaped profile. It was filled by silty sand (201).

4.4.10 A sub-oval pit [214] was situated 0.90m to the north-east of [194]. [214] measured 0.64m x 0.47m 0.24m deep and had a bowl-shaped profile. The silty sand fill (215) contained a cremation vessel <241> SF7 that was filled with burnt bone (242).

4.4.11 Two intercutting pits, [236] and [238] were situated immediately to the north of [214]. The earlier pit, [238], was sub-circular in plan, with a diameter of 0.55m and a depth of 0.24m. It had a moderately-sloping bowl-shaped profile and was filled by sandy silt (239) that contained trace amounts of cremated bone.

4.4.12 Pit [238] was cut to the west by [236]. This feature had a diameter of 0.60m, a depth of 0.19m and a bowl-shaped profile. The silty sand fill deposit (237) contained significant quantities of burnt bone.

4.4.13 A complex sequence of intercutting features were located 0.70m to the north of [236]. The earliest was an oval pit [223] that had a shallow concave profile. [223] measured approximately 0.70m x0.43m x 0.11m deep and was filled by silty sand (224) that contained a significant quantity of burnt bone.

4.4.14 Deposit (224) was cut to the north by a second sub-oval pit [220] that had a similar profile. Pit [220] measured 0.75m x 0.43 x 0.14m deep and was filled with silty sand (221) that contained a trace mount of burnt bone.

4.4.15 Deposit (224) was also cut to the south, by a small circular feature [246]. Pit [246] was 0.13m in diameter and 0.09m deep, with a U-shaped profile. The sandy fill (247) contained a significant amount of burnt bone.

4.4.16 Deposit (221) was cut to the south by a circular pit [250] that also truncated (224). Pit [250] had a diameter of 0.56m, a depth of 0.38m and a steeply-sloping u-shaped profile. The silty sand fill (251) contained significant quantities of burnt bone.

4.4.17 Deposit (221) was also cut to the north by a large sub-circular pit [206]. This feature was 0.80m in diameter and 0.36m deep, with a steeply-sloping profile and a flat base. It was filled by silty sand (207) that contained significant quantities of burnt bone.

4.4.18 Deposit (207) was cut to the west by a second large circular feature [154]. [154] had a diameter of 0.98m, with a steeply-sloping, concave-based profile.

The pit contained two large inverted cremation vessels, <162> SF3 and <156> SF2 that both contained intact cremation deposits, (163) and (157) respectively, together with a fragmentary third vessel <172> SF4 and its associated cremation deposit (173). The two intact vessels were in an inverted position, whilst the remainder of the pit was filled by silty sand (155) that contained burnt bone and charcoal.

*Plate 5: Cut 154 Showing Cremation Vessels 162, 156 and 172. Facing East.*

4.4.19 A final cremation feature [225] was situated immediately to the east of [250]. [225] was a large sub-circular pit with a diameter of 0.75m and a depth of 0.14m. The pit had a moderately-sloping, flat-based profile and the silty sand fill (226) contained large quantities of burnt bone.

4.4.20 The final feature in this area was a sub-circular pit [234] that cut Cremation Pit Fill (221). Pit [234] had a diameter of 0.66m and a depth of 0.22m, with moderately-sloping, flat-based profile. The feature contained two fills, a 0.23m diameter organic deposit (235) that appeared to represent a decayed timber post, and a surrounding packing deposit of silty sand (240). Trace amounts of burnt bone were recovered from Deposit (235).

## 4.5 LINEAR FEATURES (FIGURES 7 AND 9)

4.5.1 A series of parallel linear features were identified in the southern part of the site, some 20m to the south-east of the main concentration of cremation burials. All the features ran on a south-west to north-east alignment.

4.5.2 The southernmost feature (Ditch A) was 7.0m long, with apparent rounded terminals at each end. A segment [105] that was excavated towards the south-eastern end showed it to have a maximum width of 1.60m, a depth of 0.12m and a shallow concave profile. It was filled by a homogenous deposit of fine, sterile silty sand (105). Ditch A became somewhat narrower and deeper towards the north-east, the north-eastern terminal cut [107] being 0.48m wide, and 0.25m deep, with a steep sided, flat-based profile.

4.5.3 Ditch B was situated 4.0m to the north-east of Terminal Cut 107 and continued on the same alignment as Ditch A. Three segments [109], [111] and [115] were excavated through this feature. The south-western terminal [109] was 0.60m wide and 0.10m deep, with a shallow, concave profile. A centrally-placed segment [111] had similar dimensions (0.60m wide x 0.14m deep) and profile, whilst the north-eastern terminal [115] was 0.30m wide and very shallow (less than 0.05m deep) with a concave profile. All three segments were filled by single deposits of sterile sandy silt (106), (112) and (116). A single sherd of post-medieval white glazed earthenware was recovered from Deposit (106).

4.5.4 Ditch C was located 12.0m to the north of Ditch B and was 12.30m long. Two segments [117] and [119] that were excavated through the feature showed it to vary from 1.15m to 1.50m wide, with a depth that varied from 0.28m to 0.10m. Both segments exhibited steep-sided, irregular-based profiles and were filled by silty sand (118) and (120).

4.5.5 Ditch D was situated 3.40m to the north of Ditch C and was 9.90m long. The south-eastern terminal [121] was 0.72m wide and 0.22m deep, with a bowl shaped profile. The single fill deposit (122) was a sterile silty sand. Ditch D became progressively shallower to the south-west before bifurcating into two shallow narrow gullies [128] and [130] that ended in rounded terminals. Both gullies were approximately 0.25m wide, 0.05m deep and were filled by sterile sandy silt (129) and (130).

4.5.6 Ditches A to D ran on a similar alignment that ran parallel to the existing post-medieval field boundaries. They are thus likely to represent drainage features associated with a post-enclosure agricultural improvement regime.

4.5.7 A final linear feature (Feature E) was situated in the south-eastern corner of the site. Feature E ran on a broad north-south alignment and was 14.5m long and 3.30m wide. Three segments [145], [101] and [143], were excavated

through the feature, which showed it to have a shallow concave profile that was 0.25m deep. All three segments were filled by sterile deposits of sandy silt (146), (102) and (144).

### 4.6 NON CREMATION PIT FEATURES (FIGURES 8 AND 9)

4.6.1 A group of eleven small cut features, [125], [132], [136], [134], [138] [141] [149], [147], [152], [216] and [218], were situated approximately 20m to the east of the main group of cremation features. Whilst the fills of some of the features contained charcoal, the lack of cremated bone suggested that the features themselves were not in-situ cremation burials and were not directly associated with the main concentration of cremations.

4.6.2 Five of the features, [125], [132], [136], [216] and [218], were postholes that appeared to form an east to west linear alignment. [216], the westernmost feature had a sub-oval plan with a diameter of 0.19m and a depth of 0.07m. It had a steep-sided concave profile and was filled by sandy silt (217). Pit [218] was situated 0.72 m to the east of [216] and was slightly larger, with a diameter of 0.40m and depth of 0.07m. It had a similar plan and profile, and was filled by sandy silt (219).

4.6.3 [125] was situated 0.60m to the east of [218] and was irregular in plan. It measured 0.46m x 0.26m x 0.16m deep and had a steeply-sloping U-shaped profile. The feature contained a well-defined post pipe (127) and a post-packing deposit of silty sand (126).

4.6.4 [132] was situated 0.20m to the west of [218] and had a diameter of 0.27m. the feature was 0.19m deep, with a steep-sided, bowl-shaped profile, and was filled by sandy silt (133). 0.60m to the east of [132] lay [136], a sub-oval feature that measured 0.27m x 0.60m x 0.17m deep. Pit [136] was again filled by silty sand (137).

4.6.5 Three further postholes [134], [147] and [152] were also located in this part of the site. Posthole [134] was situated 1.50m to the west of Pit [136] and was of sub-oval plan, with dimensions of 0.33m x 0.73m x 0.15m deep. The feature had a steep, stepped profile with a concave base and was filled by silty sand (135). [152] was situated 2.60m to the north-east of [134] and was sub-circular, with a diameter of 0.34m and a depth of 0.10m. The feature had a shallow concave profile and was filled by sandy silt (153). Posthole [147] was situated 2.80m to the north-west of [134] and was sub-circular, with a shallow concave profile. It had a diameter of 0.54m a depth of 0.10m and was filled by sandy silt (148).

4.6.6 The final features in this area of the site consisted of three similar-sized sub-oval pits [138], [141] and [149]. Pit [138] was the largest of the three and

measured 1.33m x 0.95m x 0.29m deep, with a stepped, moderately sloping profile. The pit contained a lower fill of silty sand (140) and an upper fill of sand that contained quantities of pebbles and small stones (139). Pit [141] was somewhat smaller, with dimensions of 1.0m x 0.73m x 0.17m deep, and had a similar profile. The feature was filled by silty sand (142). [149] measured 1.06m x 0.85m x 0.34m deep and had a stepped, concave profile. It contained two sandy fill deposits (150) and (151).

## 4.7 DISCUSSION

### 4.7.1 *General Remarks*

4.7.1.1 The archaeological excavation recorded a total of 36 prehistoric features that were concentrated into a relatively small (110sq m) area of the site. Of these, five features [200], [238], [220], [176] and [234] did not appear to represent *in-situ* cremations. However, these features were located in close association with obvious cremation features and two [220] and [238] were cut by cremation burials. With this in mind, it is likely that all 36 features were of broadly contemporary date.

4.7.1.2 The cremation features were arranged in two broad groups; a central concentration of 18 features surrounded by a ring of 18 other features. The central features were cut into a raised mound of dark, silty material (256). One of the central features [234] consisted of a post-pit with a well-defined post-pipe and it is possible that this feature contained a post or monument that acted as the focal point for the cemetery.

4.7.1.3 There was considerable evidence for intercutting features, particularly within the central grouping. This suggests that the cemetery was in use for a significant amount of time, rather than representing a single episode of activity. The build-up of silty material in the central area would also suggest activity over a considerable period of time.

4.7.1.4 The apparent morphology of the cemetery is of interest and raises a number of questions. Although the pattern varies considerably from region to region, the Bronze Age in general is notable for several different funerary traditions. In the early Bronze Age, the practice of inhumation within communal tombs gradually gave way to inhumation or cremation in or under round barrows (Bradley 1981). In the later Bronze Age, cremations were placed in flat cemeteries without a covering mound. In the north of England, the Neolithic tradition of cairn cemeteries persisted into the Bronze Age, as did the construction of ring cairns (Hodgson and Brennand 2004).

4.7.1.5 Given that the cremation features at Overby were closely-grouped in a circular distribution with a diameter of approximately 11m it is possible that

they were originally cut into or sealed below a barrow mound that has since been ploughed away. The extremely shallow depth of some of the features (<0.10m) may support this theory in that they are evidence for vertical truncation at the site. A second possibility is that the cemetery was demarcated by a ring-cairn, although the quantities of stone that might be expected from a ploughed-out cairn were not noted during the topsoil-stripping of the excavation area. A third possibility is that the cemetery was a "flat" cemetery that was marked by means of upstanding timbers (perhaps associated with the "empty" features noted above) or a natural feature such as a tree. In either case, the cemetery must have been visible in the landscape in order to facilitate the return visits to the site that evidently produced the tightly-grouped distribution of archaeological features.

4.7.2 *Regional Context*

4.7.2.1 Although relatively uncommon, a number of Bronze Age cremation cemeteries are known in the north-west of England. Whilst the ongoing analysis and quantification of the pottery, small finds, environmental evidence and cremated bone from Overby Quarry will allow the regional and national significance of the site to be more fully appreciated, it is possible to draw some parallels with previously excavated sites. At Ewanrigg, Maryport, for example (approximately 12km the south-west of Overby) twenty-nine cremation burials were arranged in a circular grouping around a central cist burial (Bewley 1986). There was no barrow associated with the cemetery, which was situated on a natural knoll (ibid.) A number of fragmentary cremation vessels were recovered, including Collared Urns and part of an Enlarged Food Vessel. The latter is a rare form; another example forms part of the Netherhall Collection, an assemblage of nine vessels that were collected over the last 400 years by the Senhouse family and which are reputed to have come from the vicinity of the Roman fort at Maryport (Hodgson 1956).

4.7.2.2 A further assemblage of five cremation vessels were recovered from Waterloo Hill sandpit, Aglionby, near Carlisle during 1927. The finds were recovered by during quarrying operations, but contemporary accounts again suggest that the cemetery was not marked by a barrow (Hodgson 1956).

4.7.2.3 An assemblage of fifteen cremation vessels is known from the site of the former Westmorland Lunatic Asylum at Garlands, near Carlisle. Although these finds were reputedly made in 1861 during building works at the hospital (Hodgson 1956), more recent research has concluded that they were probably retrieved from a flat cemetery that was uncovered in a sand pit attached to Garlands Farm in 1870 (Perriam 2008).

4.7.2.4 A final cemetery of interest was located at Allithwaite, South Cumbria. Here, ten cremations, four within inverted Collared Urns, were inserted into natural solution holes in the limestone bedrock (Wild 2001, 2003). The focus of the cemetery was a natural gryke which contained five cremations, whilst the evidence for a covering mound was inconclusive (ibid.).

4.7.3.5 The brief summary of regional sites given above would suggest that Overby Quarry falls into a regional tradition of Bronze Age flat cremation cemeteries. Whilst there is obviously considerable variation from site to site, the arrangement of cremations around a central focal point, the type of vessels employed and elements of the burial practice (for example, the inversion of cremation urns) are consistent elements from site to site. The full analysis of the finds and other material from Overby, and their close comparison with other published sites, will allow a fuller picture to emerge of the regional and national significance of the site.

# 5 FINDS

## 5.1 FINDS ASSESSMENT

5.1.1 The finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines, and recorded under the supervision of F. Giecco (NPA Ltd Technical Director).

## 5.2 PREHISTORIC POTTERY

5.2.1 In total eight complete and fragmentary prehistoric ceramic vessels were recovered during the excavation. Specialist analysis and consolidation of these finds is currently ongoing and a full catalogue and pottery report will be included in the Publication Report. A preliminary rapid assessment (Allen *Pers. Comm*.) has indicated that the assemblage contains at least four Collared Urns (date range circa 1750-1500 cal BC) and one Food Vessel (date range circa 2000-1700 cal BC).

## 5.3 POST-MEDIEVAL CERAMIC VESSELS

5.3.1 One sherd of post-medieval pottery was recovered during the excavation. This was a body sherd of white glazed earthenware that was of minimal archaeological interest.

## 5.4 FLINT

5.4.1 One fragment of struck flint was recovered during the excavation, although it is likely that more material will be recovered during the processing of environmental samples and the micro-excavation of the cremation urns. A full catalogue of this material and a specialist analysis will be undertaken for inclusion in the final Publication Report.

# 6 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSES

## 6.1 INTRODUCTION

6.1.1 During the excavation 57 contexts were considered for environmental sampling. Each sample was recovered from stratified deposits. The samples are currently undergoing specialist analysis.

6.1.2 The sampled contexts are listed below in Table 1.

| Sample number | Context Number | Sample size (L) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 102 | 30 |
| 2 | 114 | 10 |
| 3 | 122 | 10 |
| 4 | 142 | 10 |
| 5 | 147 | 10 |
| 6 | 127 | 10 |
| 7 | 133 | 10 |
| 8 | 137 | 10 |
| 9 | 135 | 30 |
| 10 | 150 | 30 |
| 11 | 153 | 10 |
| 12 | 155 | 80 |
| 13 | 156/157 | 10 |
| 14 | 158/9 | 10 |
| 15 | 159 | 40 |
| 16 | 160/161 | 10 |
| 17 | N/A | N/A |
| 18 | 162/163 | 10 |
| 19 | 167 | 20 |
| 20 | 172/173 | 20 |
| 21 | 169 | 130 |
| 22 | 171 | 100 |
| 23 | 177 | 20 |
| 24 | 175 | 20 |
| 25 | 181 | 30 |
| 26 | 179 | 30 |
| 27 | 182/183 | 20 |
| 28 | 187 | 10 |
| 29 | 191 | 20 |
| 30 | 193 | 30 |
| 31 | 197 | 10 |
| 32 | 195 | 90 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 33 | 199 | 10 |
| 34 | 189 | 10 |
| 35 | 201 | 30 |
| 36 | 209 | 30 |
| 37 | 207 | 110 |
| 38 | 205 | 30 |
| 39 | N/A | N/A |
| 40 | 215 | 10 |
| 41 | N/A | N/A |
| 42 | 217 | 25 |
| 43 | 219 | 25 |
| 44 | 213 | 30 |
| 45 | 221 | 30 |
| 46 | 224 | 20 |
| 47 | 226 | 60 |
| 48 | 229 | 10 |
| 49 | 230 | 10 |
| 50 | 237 | 30 |
| 51 | 239 | 30 |
| 52 | 232 | 50 |
| 53 | 242 | 10 |
| 54 | 244 | 50 |
| 55 | 240 | 40 |
| 56 | 247 | 10 |
| 57 | 253 | 40 |
| 58 | 249 | 60 |
| 59 | 251 | 30 |
| 60 | 203 | 60 |

*Table 1: Details of samples and contexts*

### 6.2 ASSESSMENT RESULTS

6.2.1 An assessment report of the environmental samples will be prepared for inclusion in the Publication Report.

# 7 CONCLUSIONS

## 7.1 CONCLUSIONS

7.1.1 Excavations at Overby Quarry revealed a Bronze Age cremation cemetery of regional and national importance. Approximately thirty cremations were uncovered, eight of which were within urns (mostly Collared Urns, though one has been tentatively identified as a Food Vessel, dated 2000-1700 cal BC). The number of cremations is tentative, as some pits were also excavated which contained only small amounts of bone, and which may not be 'true' cremations, but could represent ritual activity associated with the cremation rites. In addition, one of the vessels, Cremation 5, was a very small Collared Urn only around 20cm in height. This may have been used as a votive cup rather than as a cremation vessel, though it was associated with cremated material; it is known that smaller vessels have previously been associated with infant cremations. A second similar vessel may also have been uncovered, though this was lifted in a soil block, and is still encased and has yet to be examined.

7.1.2 The cremations were arranged in two concentric circles; the outer ring, broadly 12m in diameter (which had been partly uncovered by the evaluation trench), with a central ring broadly 5m in diameter, arranged around a central agglomeration of cremated deposit into which several cremations had been cut, which may have represented the remains of a barrow or low mound. The unurned and urned cremations showed no spatial arrangement, suggesting the decision to have urned or unurned cremations probably did not relate to chronology but to other factors. The arrangement must have been around a central focal point, perhaps a natural feature such as a tree or stone, which could fit with the proposition that the cemeteries generally had associations with natural objects. Alternatively, the central point may have been the mound itself; Middle Bronze Age cremations were often situated in and around smaller mounds containing earlier cremations, which could be the case here. The urned cremations were lifted intact, and the urned and unurned cremations are currently undergoing analysis.

7.1.3 The evaluation also successfully investigated a series of fields to the south-west of the current quarry site, but, beyond the cremation cemetery which was investigated as an open area excavation, no archaeological finds were recovered to indicate that this site was being used for any other purposes than agricultural, and no identifiable evidence of further settlement or ritual activity was noted, though stray prehistoric finds were recovered.

7.1.4 The discoveries at both New Cowper Quarry and High House Quarry, which are within a short distance of Overby Quarry, and have the same soil conditions, where substantial archaeological remains have been found, suggest that the potential for substantial archaeological remains at Overby Quarry is still high, especially to the north east of the current quarry where archaeological remains have been noted. Therefore, archaeological mitigation should be sought prior to any heavy groundwork in those areas. A picture of the full significance of the site will emerge from the Publication Report, which will synthesise and present the results of the post-excavation analysis of the finds from the site.

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# APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

| Context Number | Context Type | Description |
|---|---|---|
| 100 | Deposit | Natural |
| 101 | Cut | Linear feature segment cut same as 143 and 145 |
| 102 | Cut | Fill of 101 |
| 103 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 104 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 105 | Cut | Ditch segment cut same as 107 |
| 106 | Cut | Fill of 105. |
| 107 | Cut | Ditch segment cut same as 105 |
| 108 | Cut | Fill of 107 |
| 109 | Cut | Ditch segment cut same as 111 and 115 |
| 110 | Deposit | Fill of 109 |
| 111 | Cut | Ditch segment cut same as 109 and 115 |
| 112 | Deposit | Fill of 111 |
| 113 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 114 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 115 | Cut | Ditch segment cut same as 109 and 111 |
| 116 | Deposit | Fill of 115 |
| 117 | Cut | Ditch segment cut same as 119 |
| 118 | Deposit | Fill of 117 |
| 119 | Cut | Ditch segment cut same as 117 |
| 120 | Deposit | Fill of 119 |
| 121 | Cut | Ditch terminal cut same as 128 and 130 |
| 122 | Deposit | Fill of 121 |
| 123 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 124 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 125 | Cut | Pit filled by 126 and 127 |
| 126 | Deposit | Fill of 125 |
| 127 | Deposit | Post-pipe within 125 |
| 128 | Cut | Ditch terminal cut same as 121 and 130 |
| 129 | Deposit | Fill of 128 |
| 130 | Cut | Fill of 129 Ditch terminal cut same as 121 and 128 |
| 131 | Deposit | Fill of 130 |
| 132 | Cut | Posthole filled by 133 |
| 133 | Deposit | Fill of 132 |
| 134 | Cut | Pit filled by 135 |
| 135 | Deposit | Fill of 134 |
| 136 | Cut | Posthole filled by 137 |
| 137 | Deposit | Fill of 136 |
| 138 | Cut | Pit filled by 139 and 14 |
| 139 | Deposit | Fill of 138 |
| 140 | Deposit | Fill of 138 |
| 141 | Cut | Pit filled by 142 |
| 142 | Deposit | Fill of 141 |
| 143 | Cut | Linear feature segment cut same as 101 and 145 |
| 144 | Deposit | Fill of 143 |
| 145 | Cut | Linear feature segment cut same as 143 and 101 |
| 146 | Deposit | Fill of 145 |
| 147 | Cut | Posthole filled by 148 |
| 148 | Cut | Linear feature |
| 149 | Cut | Pit filled by 150 and 151 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 150 | Deposit | Fill of 149 |
| 151 | Deposit | Fill of 149 |
| 152 | Cut | Posthole filled by 153 |
| 153 | Deposit | Fill of 152 |
| 154 | Cut | Pit filled by 155 |
| 155 | Cut | Filled oby154 |
| 156 | Ceramic | Cremation vessel within 154 |
| 157 | Deposit | Cremated fill of 156 |
| 158 | Cut | Pit filled by 159 |
| 159 | Deposit | Fill of 158 |
| 160 | Ceramic | Cremation vessel within 158 |
| 161 | Deposit | Cremated fill of 156 |
| 162 | Ceramic | Cremation vessel within 154 |
| 163 | Deposit | Cremated fill of 162 |
| 164 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 165 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 166 | Cut | Pit filled by 167 |
| 167 | Deposit | Fill of 166 |
| 168 | Cut | Filled by 169 |
| 169 | Deposit | Fill of 168 |
| 170 | Cut | Pit filled by 171 |
| 171 | Deposit | Fill of 170 |
| 172 | Ceramic | Cremation vessel within 154 |
| 173 | Deposit | Cremated fill of 172 |
| 174 | Cut | Pit filled by 175 |
| 175 | Deposit | Fill of 174 |
| 176 | Cut | Pit filled by 177 |
| 177 | Deposit | Fill of 176 |
| 178 | Cut | Pit filled by 177 |
| 179 | Deposit | Fill of 176 |
| 180 | Cut | Pit filled by 181 |
| 181 | Deposit | Fill of 180 |
| 182 | Ceramic | Cremation vessel within 171 |
| 183 | Deposit | Cremated fill of 182 |
| 184 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 185 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 186 | Cut | Pit filled by 187 |
| 187 | Deposit | Fill of 186 |
| 188 | Deposit | Fill of 245 |
| 189 | Deposit | Fill of 245 |
| 190 | Cut | Pit filled by 191 |
| 191 | Deposit | Fill of 190 |
| 192 | Cut | Pit filled by 193 |
| 193 | Deposit | Fill of 192 |
| 194 | Cut | Pit filled by 195 |
| 195 | Deposit | Fill of 194 |
| 196 | Deposit | Pit filled by 197 |
| 197 | Deposit | Fill of 196 |
| 198 | Ceramic | Cremation vessel within 169 |
| 199 | Deposit | Cremated fill of 198 |
| 200 | Cut | Pit filled by 201 |
| 201 | Deposit | Fill of 200 |
| 202 | Cut | Pit filled by 203 |
| 203 | Deposit | Fill of 202 |
| 204 | Cut | Pit filled by 205 |
| 205 | Deposit | Fill of 204 |
| 206 | Cut | Posthole filled by 207 |

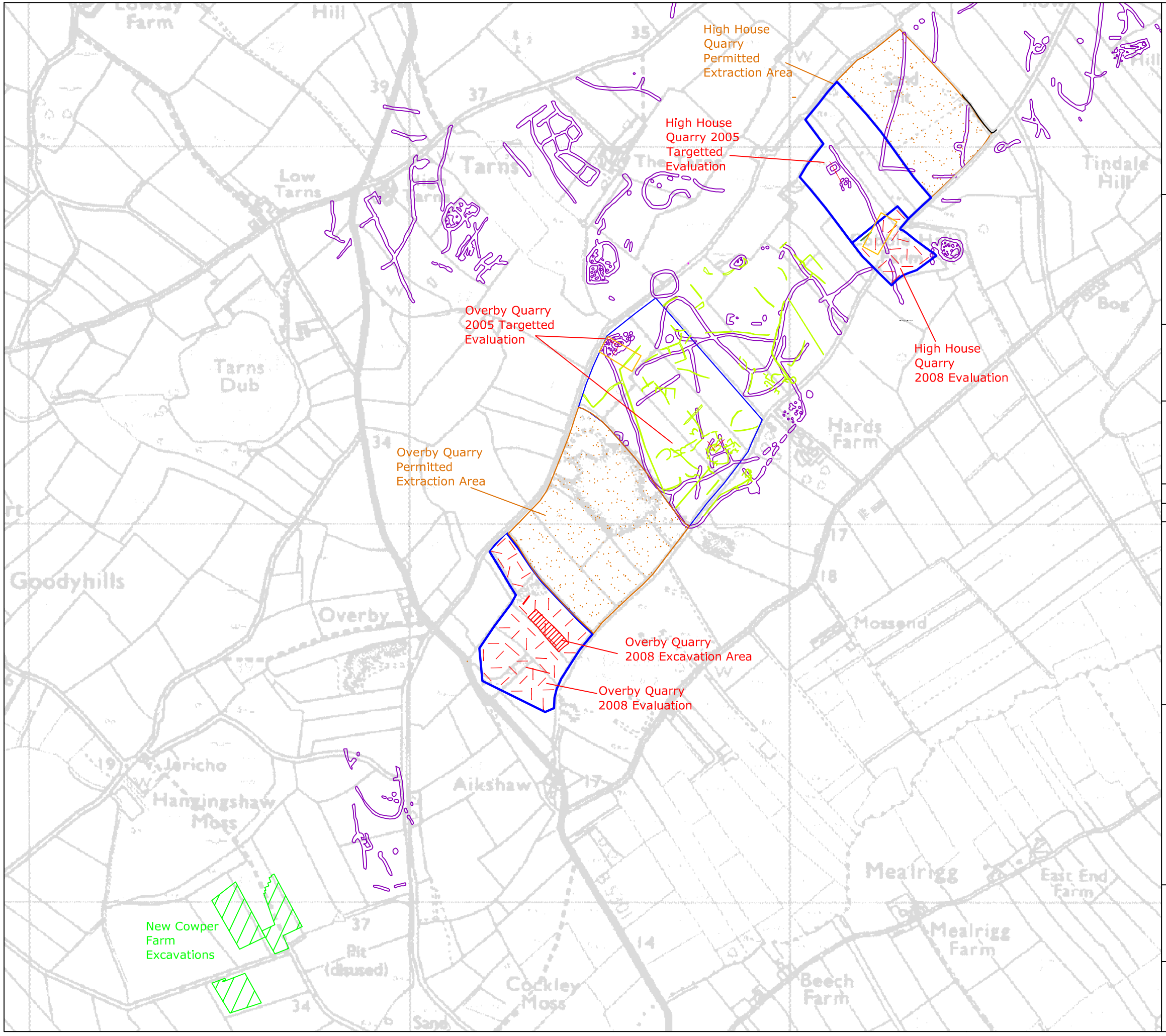
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 207 | Deposit | Fill of 206 |
| 208 | Cut | Pit filled by 209 |
| 209 | Deposit | Fill of 208 |
| 210 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 211 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 212 | Cut | Pit filled by 213 |
| 213 | Deposit | Fill of 212 |
| 214 | Cut | Pit filled by 215 |
| 215 | Deposit | Fill of 214 |
| 216 | Cut | Posthole filled by 217 |
| 217 | Deposit | Fill of 216 |
| 218 | Cut | Posthole filled by 219 |
| 219 | Deposit | Fill of 218 |
| 220 | Cut | Pit filled by 221 |
| 221 | Deposit | Fill of 220 |
| 222 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 223 | Cut | Pit filled by 224 |
| 224 | Deposit | Fill of 223 |
| 225 | Cut | Pit filled by 226 |
| 226 | Deposit | Fill of 225 |
| 227 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 228 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 229 | Deposit | Fill of 245 |
| 230 | Deposit | Fill of 245 |
| 231 | Cut | Pit filled by 232 |
| 232 | Deposit | Fill of 231 |
| 233 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 234 | Cut | Post-pit filled by 240 and 235 |
| 235 | Deposit | Fill of 234 |
| 236 | Cut | Pit filled by 237 |
| 237 | Deposit | Fill of 236 |
| 238 | Cut | Pit filled by 239 |
| 239 | Deposit | Fill of 238 |
| 240 | Deposit | Fill of 234 |
| 241 | Ceramic | Cremation vessel within 215 |
| 242 | Deposit | Cremated fill of 241 |
| 243 | Cut | Pit filled by 244 |
| 244 | Cut | Fill of 243 |
| 245 | Cut | Pit filled by 230, 229, 189, 188, 255 |
| 246 | Cut | Pit filled by 247 |
| 247 | Deposit | Fill of 246 |
| 248 | Cut | Pit filled by 249 |
| 249 | Deposit | Fill of 248 |
| 250 | Cut | Pit filled by 251 |
| 251 | Deposit | Fill of 250 |
| 252 | Cut | Pit filled by 253 |
| 253 | Deposit | Fill of 252 |
| 254 | N/A | Number not assigned |
| 255 | Deposit | Fill of 245 |
| 256 | Deposit | Sread |

*Table 2: List of Contexts issued during the Excavation*

# APPENDIX 2 FIGURES


| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| North Pennines Archaeology Ltd 2010 | PROJECT: Overby Quarry, Cumbria<br>SCALE: 1:125000 at A4<br>REPORT No: CP715<br>CLIENT Stephenson Halliday<br>DRAWN BY: NC<br>DATE: June 2010<br>FIGURE: Figure No 1 | KEY:<br>Site |  |

Figure 1: Site Location




NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010
Overby Quarry, Cumbria

CLIENT: Stephenson Halliday

SCALE: 1:10000 at A3

DRAWN BY: NC

DATE: June 2010

KEY:

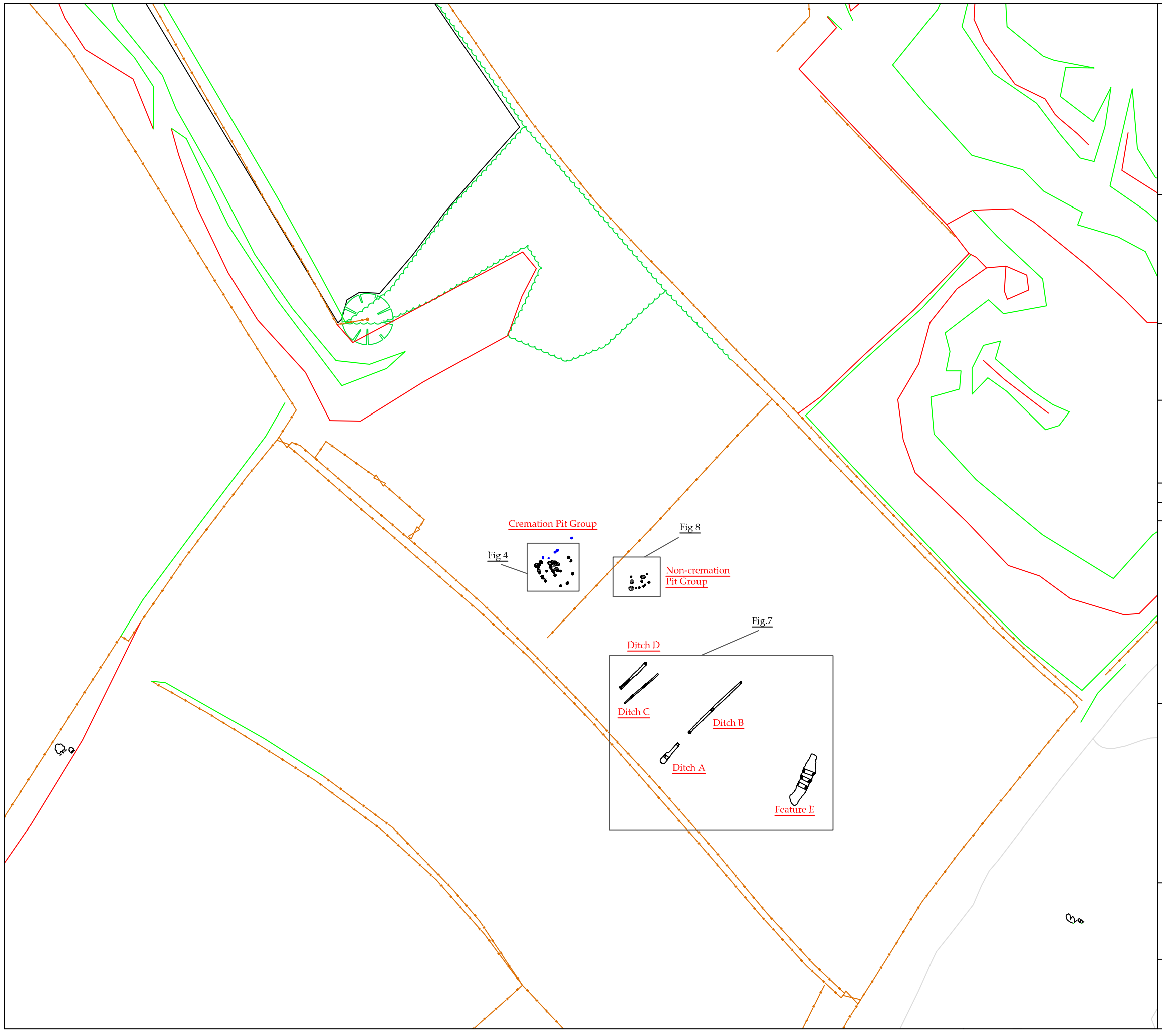
2008 Excavation Area



REPORT No: CP715

FIGURE: Figure No 2

Figure 2 : Location of Excavation Area




NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010
Overby Quarry, Cumbria

CLIENT: Stephenson Halliday

SCALE: 1:400 at A3

DRAWN BY: NC

DATE: June 2010

KEY:

Features identified during evaluation



REPORT No: CP715

FIGURE: Figure No 3

Figure 3 : Location of Archaeological Features

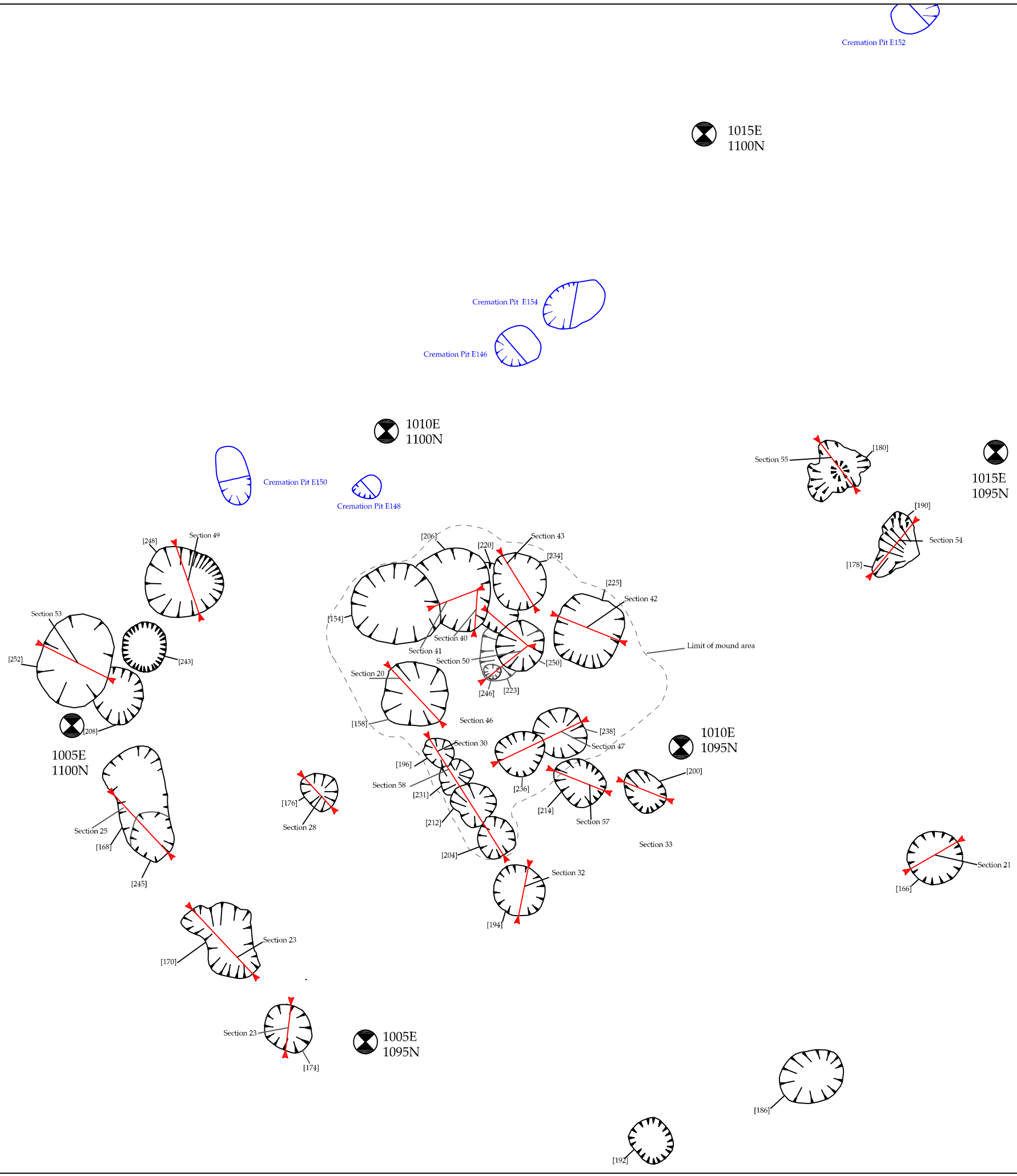



Figure 4 : Plan of Cremation Cemetery Features

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010
Overby Quarry, Cumbria

CLIENT: Stephenson Halliday

SCALE: 1:50 at A3

DRAWN BY: NC

DATE: June 2010

KEY:

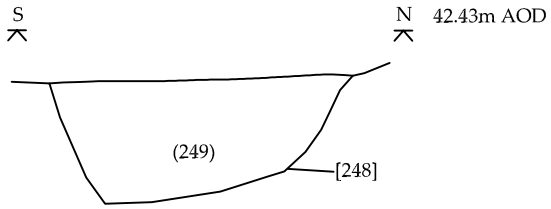
Features identified during evaluation



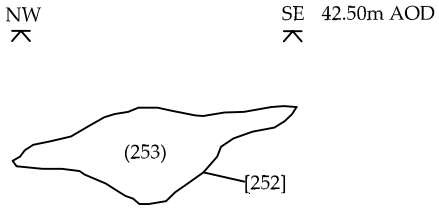
REPORT No: CP715

FIGURE: Figure No 4

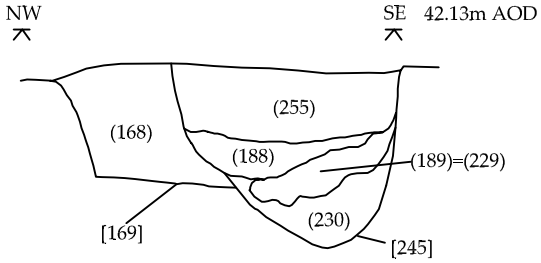
## Outer Pit Group



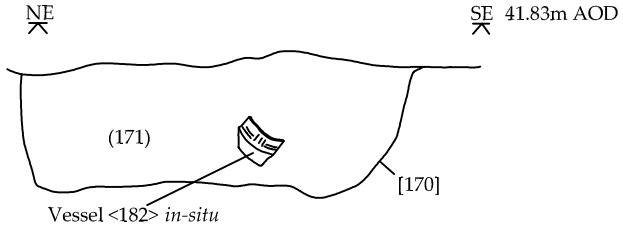

S49. East facing section Cut 248



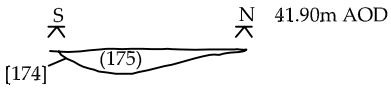

S53. South-west facing section Cut 252



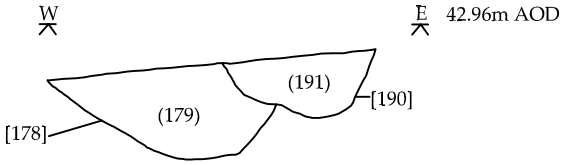

S25/56. South-west facing section Cuts 168 and 245



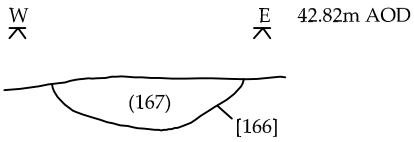

S23. South-west facing section Cut 170



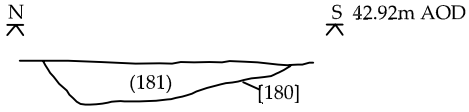

S22. East facing section Cut 174




S54. South facing section Cuts 178 and 190




S21. South facing section Cut 166




S55. West facing section Cut 180

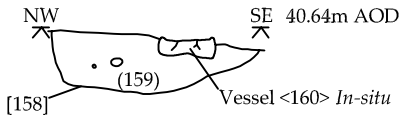
North Pennines Archaeology Ltd 2010

| | |
|---|---|
| PROJECT: | Overby Quarry, Cumbria |
| SCALE: | 1:20 at A4 |
| REPORT No: | CP 715 |
| CLIENT: | Stephenson Halliday |
| DRAWN BY: | NC |
| DATE: | June 2010 |
| FIGURE: | Figure No 5 |

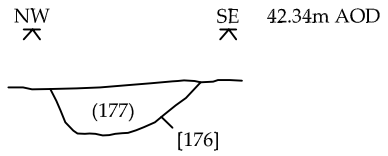


Figure 5 : Sections of Outer Cremation Pit Group

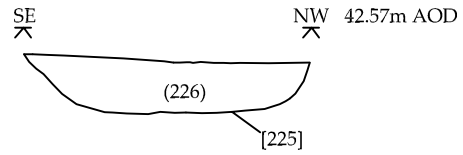
## Inner Pit Group



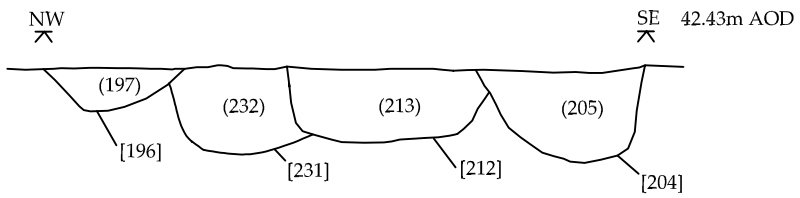

S20. South-west facing section Cut 158



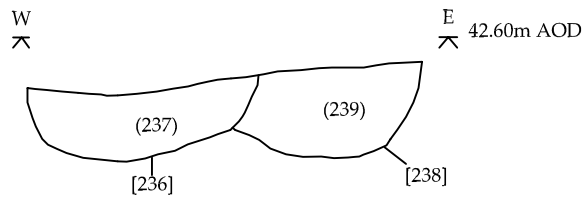

S28. South-west facing section Cut 176



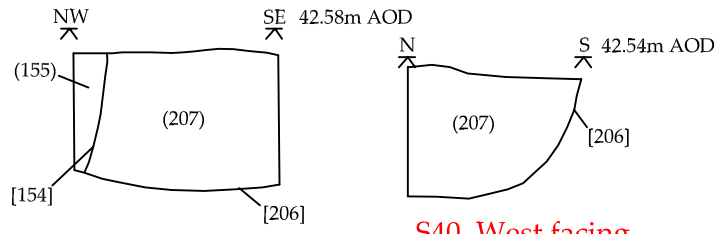

S42. North-east facing section Cut 225




S58. South-west facing section Cuts 196, 231, 212 and 204



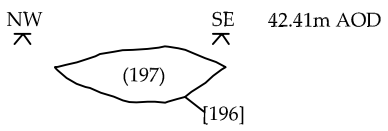

S47. South-east facing section Cuts 236 and 238



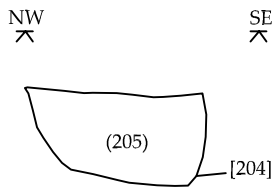

S41. South-west facing section Cuts 154 and 206



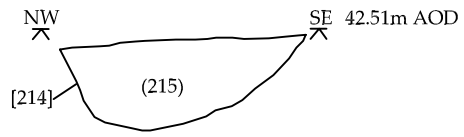

S40. West facing section Cut 206



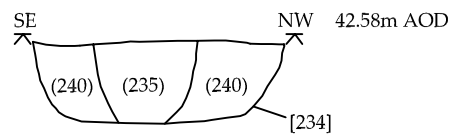

S30. South-west facing section Cut 196



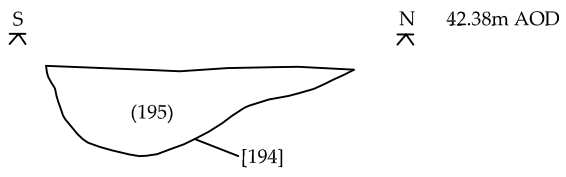

S34. South-west facing section Cut 204



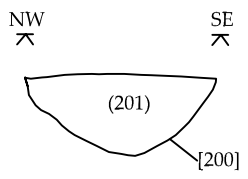

S57. South-west facing section Cut 214



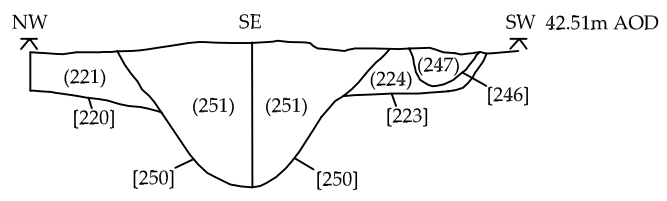

S43. North-east facing section Cut 234




S32. East facing section Cut 194




S33. South-west facing section Cut 200




S50. Western quadrant sections of Cut 250, showing Cuts 220, 223 and 246

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CLIENT: Stephenson Halliday

SCALE: 1:20 at A3

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DATE: June 2010



REPORT No: CP715

FIGURE: Figure No 6

Figure 6 : Sections of Inner Cremation Pit Group

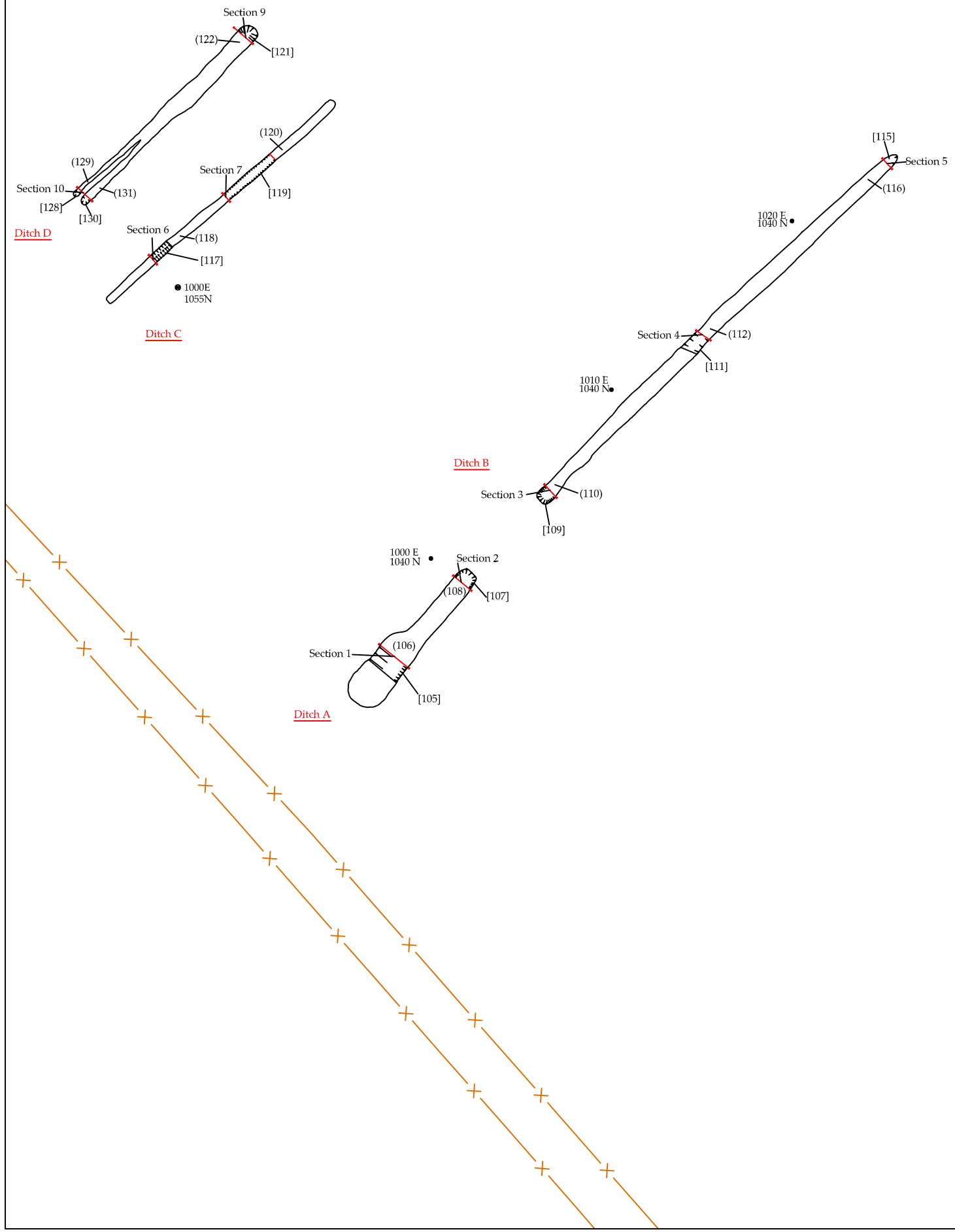


Figure 7 : Linear Features

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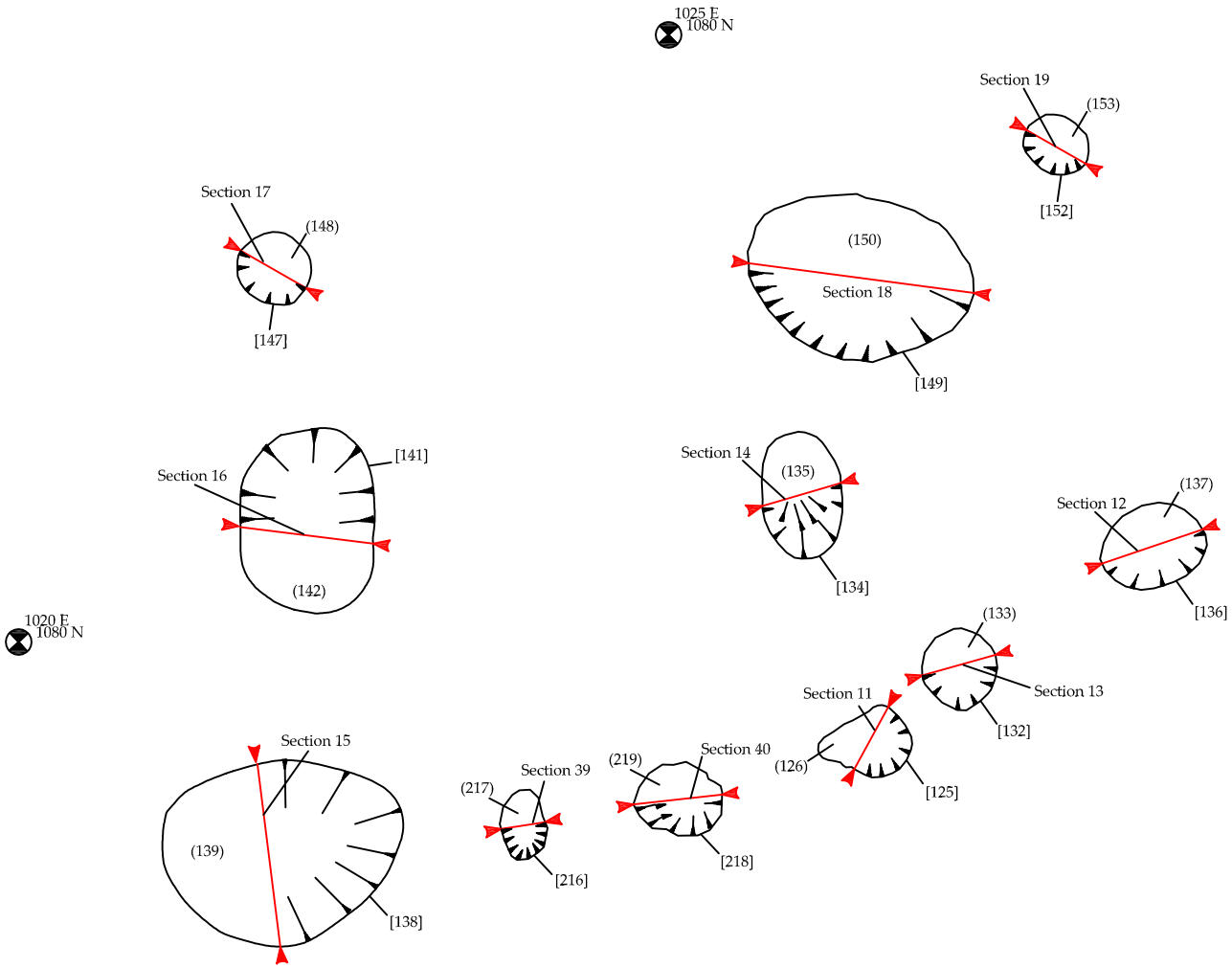
FIGURE: Figure No 7

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Stephenson Halliday

SCALE: 1:40 at A4

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DATE: June 2010



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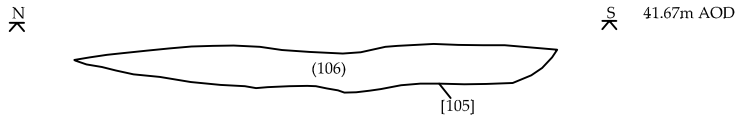
CP715

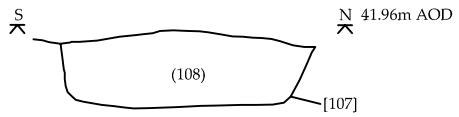
FIGURE:
Figure No 8

Figure 8 : Non-cremation Pits and Postholes

## Ditch A Sections



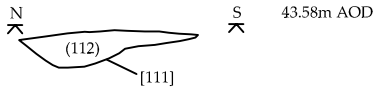

S1. South-west Facing section Cut 105



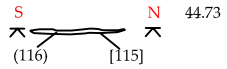

S2. North-east facing section Cut 107

## Ditch B Sections


S3. South-west facing section Cut 109

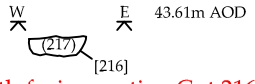



South-west facing section Cut 111

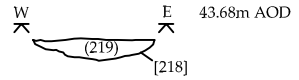



S5. North-east facing section Cut 115

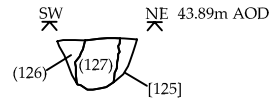
## Non-Cremation Pit Features



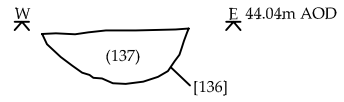

S39. South facing section Cut 216




S40. South facing Cut 218

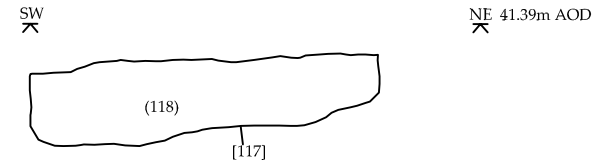



S11. South-east facing section Cut 125



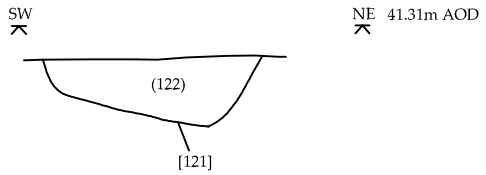

S12. South facing section Cut 136

## Ditch C Sections

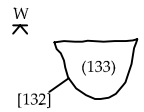



S6. South-east facing section cut 123

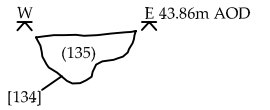
## Ditch D Sections



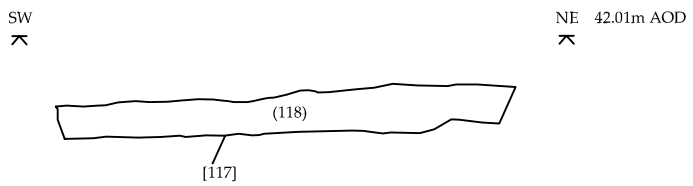

S9. North-east facing section Cut 121



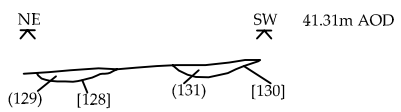

S13. South facing section Cut 132



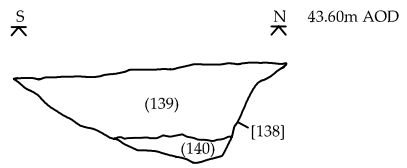

S14. South facing section Cut 134



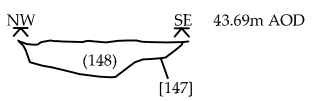

S7. South-east facing section Cut 117



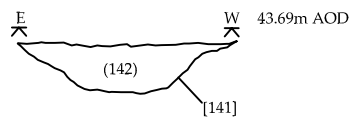

S10. South-west facing section Cuts 128, 130



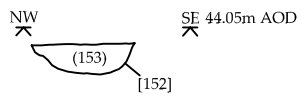

S15. East facing section Cut 138




S17. South-west facing section Cut 147

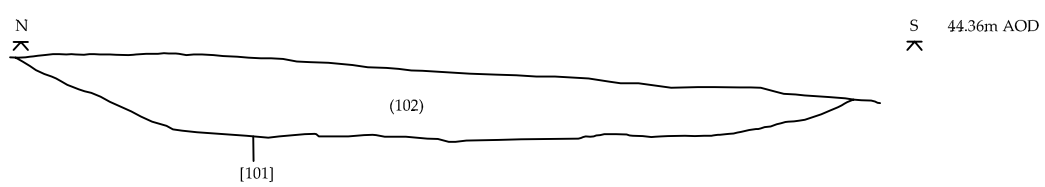



S16. North facing section Cut 141

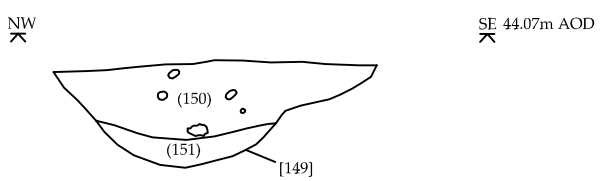



S19. South-west facing section Cut 152

## Feature E Section




S8. South-west facing section Cut 101




S18. South-west facing section Cut 149

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2010
Overby Quarry, Cumbria

CLIENT: Stephenson Halliday

SCALE: 1:25 at A3

DRAWN BY: NC

DATE: June 2010



REPORT No: CP715

FIGURE: Figure No 9

Figure 9: Non-cremation Feature Sections