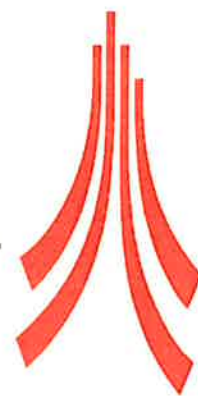


Lake District National Park Survey

Interim Report 1991/1992

LANCASTER
UNIVERSITY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
UNIT



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Lake District National Park Survey Interim Report 1991/1992

1991/1992 is the tenth year of the survey programme which has to date accurately surveyed and recorded over 12,000 archaeological monuments from c.70 sqkm of unimproved moorland. Six main areas have been examined:

South-Western Fells (Bootle Fell to Devoke water)
Western Fells (between Wasdale and Ennerdale)
Central Fells (Langdale - Scafell Pike)
Shap and Askham Fells
Caldbeck Fells

Heathwaite Fell (nr Broughton in Furness)

The survey results from the Central Fells and the Caldbeck Fells have already been published along with interim reports of parts of the other areas:

Claris, P & Quartermaine, J. 1989. The neolithic quarries and axe factory sites of Great Langdale and Scafell Pike: A new field survey *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* 55, 1-25.

Leech, R.H. 1983. Settlements and groups of small cairns on Birkby and Birker Fells, Eskdale, Cumbria. Survey undertaken in 1982. *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society* NS 83, 15-26.

Quartermaine, J. & Claris, P. 1986. The Langdale Axe Factories. *Current Archaeology* 102, 212-3

Quartermaine, J. 1989. Interim results of survey work on Stockdale Moor and Town Bank, West Cumbria. *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society* NS 89, 25-31.

Turner, V.E. 1987. Results of survey work carried out in the Caldbeck Fells, Cumbria. *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society* NS 87, 19-26.

Turner, V.E. 1991. Results of survey work carried out between the Shap and Askham Fells, Cumbria. *Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society* NS 91.

During the 1991/1992 programme it is hoped to complete the final monograph publication which will bring together all the diverse elements of the individual surveys (attached is one of the individual survey reports - Town Bank). The work will in part be funded by the Lake District Special Planning Board and also by English Heritage funds carried over from the previous financial year.

During the first part of the financial year, it was necessary to transfer personnel from the survey onto more urgent fieldwork projects (eg. Buckbarrow and Langdale); as a result the programme has only progressed by a limited amount since the february 1991

interim report. However, no other fieldwork projects are anticipated for the remaining half of this year, and the preparation of the report will be able to continue un-hindered.

Archive

The archive plans and survey gazetteers have now been completed for all surveys.

Monograph Publication

The monograph will comprise reports of the 19 individual surveys with selected publication plans of the more important elements of each survey. The final discussion will bring together the results of all the surveys and examine the overall pattern of upland settlement in the North-West.

All archive plans and the site catalogues will be reproduced (in a reduced format) in micro-fiche for inclusion within the monograph.

Most of the in-house publication text for the individual surveys has been produced, and another seven man-weeks will be necessary to complete it. Many of the monograph survey reports are being written by external contributors and we are presently awaiting the final text.

Publication illustrations for the Stockdale Moor, Town Bank, Bootle Fell and Mickleden surveys have been produced; however, another 25 publication illustrations have yet to be drawn.

It is anticipated that the programme will be completed by the end of the 1991/1992 financial year.

10-11-1991

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TOWN BANK
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Introduction

Town Bank is an extensive area of unenclosed moorland on the lower, southern slopes of Lank Rigg. Generally it has a fairly uniform moderate gradient, however it is edged to the south, west and east by the descending, steep slopes of the Worm Gill and River Calder gullies.

Despite some large expanses of bog across the moor, the settlements and cairnfields are generally located on the areas of well-drained land in between. The edges of the cairnfield occasionally approximate with edges of poor drainage (eg. the south-eastern edge of TB III) and there are only a limited number of sites presently within mires (eg. bank TB 74/75); hence there does not appear to have been a significant change in the drainage pattern since the construction of the cairns.

The boundary between the Stockdale Moor and Town Bank survey areas was the deep and fast flowing Worm Gill, which potentially also served as an ancient boundary.

Although there are small areas of simple cairnfield, the settlements on Town Bank are generally ordered field systems with associated huts or hut groups.

Archaeological History

The earliest recorded monuments on Town Bank are the TB XIII enclosures which were shown on the 1st edition 6" OS map of 1860-61. By the time of the second series OS map in 1926, settlements/cairnfields TB XI, X and part of TB III were also depicted.

The earliest descriptive record of the TB XIII settlement dates from 1877 (Clifton-Ward 1878, 249), but is fairly succinct.

Parker (1904, 114-7) produced a crude plan of the TB XIII settlement and also a mention of cairns around Grey Crag (TB III).

Published in 1938 were the results of another survey of the TB XIII settlement (Spence, 1938) and also a selective plan of the TB XI complex. It also includes a description of funerary cairn TB 803, which is the most detailed record of the cairn prior to its subsequent destruction: "the cairn is almost circular, measuring 62 feet by 58 feet and is six feet in height. It is composed of large river boulders and has two well marked depressions, the result of disturbance, near the centre".

In 1956 W.Fletcher and the pupils of Pelham House School excavated the large round cairn, TB 803, and hut-circle, TB 750 (Fletcher, Pers.comm). The round cairn was completely excavated. The cobble spoil, which was estimated by Fletcher to have weighed 1000 tons, was deposited in a ring around the site of the cairn. The only existing record of the results comprises four photographs and a sketch plan produced from memory, years after the event (cf. TB XIII group description). The hut circle excavation emptied the interior and clarified the lines of the walls which were subsequently reconstructed; again only a limited record of the results survives.

In 1964 parts of groups TB XIII, XI & X were scheduled on the basis of the 1926 OS map (SAM CU74).

In 1984 C.Palmer (1985) undertook yet another survey of settlements TB XIII & XI as part of an undergraduate dissertation. She also identified the locations of the main areas of Town Bank cairnfield.

The Sites

The survey was undertaken in April/May 1986 on 3.2 sqkm of unenclosed moorland (fig. XXX); 893 monuments were found within 15 site groups.

Just beyond the north-western limit of survey area at NY 06401026 is a well documented packhorse bridge (Parker 1904, 114-5) spanning the River Calder called Monks or Matty Benn's Bridge (Photo ??). It was the crossing point for a medieval/post-medieval drove road which traversed across Town Bank, crossed Worm Gill near Mountain Pinfold and continued towards Scalderskew and beyond (Hindle, 1984). The eastern section of the road on Town Bank is still clearly visible (marked DR on survey plans) and part of it is still in use. However the line of the original road between TB XI and Monks Bridge is in an area of poor drainage and is not now evident.

Town Bank I

Component sites: TB 1-3

Plan: 14

This is a small ring feature (TB 1) on an alluvial terrace of Worm Gill associated with two small cairns. It is isolated from the Town Bank cairnfields, the closest being 320m away. It has a regular circular shape, and both the inner and outer edges are well defined. There is no visible entrance but it has a slight internal terrace. It is similar to a 'ring cairn' on Stockdale Moor (SM 105) at NY 1038909686, which is also isolated, well defined inside and out, and has no entrance, but is not internally terraced.

Town Bank II

Component sites: TB 6-8

Plan: 14

This is a large, oval shaped enclosure (sized c.32m x 23m), comprising a well defined turf covered bank with a lot of protruding stone material. There is a short length of dry-stone masonry at the Southern end, and it is probable that this was a walled enclosure. There is a gap in the northern section of the wall coinciding with a small rectilinear structure attached on the inside of the wall, which is possibly a complex entrance. The land within the enclosure is unterraced, uniformly sloped, well drained ground.

The size, shape, continuous perimeter and unimproved land within suggest that it was a stock enclosure. There is no association with any of the cairnfield groups and in terms of the complete outer wall and the large size it is distinct from any of the other Town Bank enclosures, however the advanced state of decay indicates that it is not a recent construction.

Town Bank III

Component sites: TB 9-137

Plans: 13 & 14

This complex field system comprises three distinct groups of cairns (A, C & D) which surround a probable field (B) with associated enclosures

Sub-group A (TB 9-69) a cairn group located on moderately steep, well drained land, which changes to poorly drained land on a line which approximately coincides with the lower edge of the cairn group. The cairns have a random distribution, are poorly defined, are irregular in shape and profile and appear to be consistent with a stone clearance function. The cairn size varies substantially, those at the the north end of the group are significantly smaller and more ill defined than those at the Southern end.

Sub-group B (TB 70-87) This probable field is irregularly shaped and intermittently defined by an assorted and irregular set of stone banks and walls. The enclosed land is generally well drained, has little surface brash and is on a uniform slope. However, at the north-west end there is an area of poor drainage into which stone banks 74 & 75 disappear. These banks have converging orientations but, despite probing the area of marsh, it is not clear if they were ever joined. Most of the sections of bank (TB 72, 75, 77 & 78) are irregular in definition, width and quantity of stone and are probably stone banks. However site 80 comprises large quantities of stone, has an alignment of stones along the edge (at NY 90789845) which are suggestive of structure and has a well defined entrance near the northern end. Hence this section appears to have been a dry stone wall, but there is no clear explanation why this section alone was constructed.

Within the field there is a paucity of cairns which is in notable contrast to the concentrations of the cairn groups outside. And in the case of groups A & C, the spread of cairns is bordered along the line of the field boundaries. This situation is similar to that at the fields of Stockdale I and Town Bank IV.

On the end of wall 80 is a complex, heavily terraced platform (TB 82), subdivided into two parts. The western, smaller enclosure has a 'D' shape and a moderately defined entrance, while the larger, eastern part has a slightly irregular shape and has only an intermittent boundary to the south-east. The surface of the platform is featureless with the exception of a large, prominent boulder in the centre, which was probably a deliberate feature. The larger enclosure is both too large and too irregular in shape to have been roofed; however it may have served as a platform for one or more timber structures.

In line with the field boundaries are two similar sized, ring features (TB 73 & 76). The associations with the field boundaries and the small and regular shapes suggest that they may be hut structures, however site 76 has no internal terrace and site 73 has only a very ill defined entrance. Another possible hut structure is attached onto the inside of wall TB 80 (NY 90659850), immediately adjacent to the entrance through the wall. It comprises an ill defined, rectangular enclosure with slight, internal terracing on the inside.

Sub-group C (TB 88-100) a small group of moderately well defined, low clearance type cairns, immediately to the south east of the field (B). The spread of cairns is restricted at the south-eastern edge by an area of poor drainage.

Sub-group D (TB 101-137) a group of cairns and stone banks on a well drained, natural terrace. The cairns are low in quantity, but significantly larger and more prominent than those of the part a) cairn group. However their irregularities and definition are consistent with a stone clearance function.

The cairnfield includes three examples of an unusual site type (TB 60, 117 & 120), which comprises a semi-circular bank, with the open side facing downslope (TB 117 is semi-rectangular instead of semi-circular but is otherwise the same). The profile of the central part of the bank is reminiscent of a lynchet, however the gradient within the 'semi-enclosure' is the same as that outside. Such a profile is indicative of soil slippage, hence there is a possibility that these are small, cultivated plots.

Town Bank IV

Component sites: TB 144-351

Plans: 8 & 13

This large complex field system is subdivided into distinct 'fields' by a series of intermittent stone banks, which are orientated

downslope.

The north-eastern field (A: TB 144-216) is on a steep, slightly undulating area of well drained moorland, and is defined to the north-east and the south-west by stone banks TB 210/214 and TB 146 respectively. Within the field there is a large concentration of ill-defined clearance type cairns, which are edged to the south-east by a sharp break of slope, dropping to the Worm Gill flood plain. The cairnfield is edged by the stone banks TB 210/214 & TB 146, which were presumably field boundaries.

Field B (TB 218-252) is on a slightly undulating, moderate sloped area of moorland and is generally well drained, however the lower end, to the east of TB 250, is very poorly drained. The field is defined between the stone bank TB 210/214 and the bank TB 247, which is predominantly continuous and is well defined. However it is also irregular in width and quantity of stone and is consistent with stone clearance. The field contains very few cairns in contrast to the adjacent field A, but there are two hut circles (TB 241 & 236) and a small rectilinear field attached to stone bank TB 247.

Hut circle TB 236, is connected to the rectilinear field system by a substantial linear bank of stone (TB 237), which contains large amounts of stone material, has a regular width and at NY 90539400 the edges to the north are defined by large prominent boulders with an associated rubble fill. Hence this would appear to be a decayed dry stone wall. It follows an 'S' shape which diverts around hut circle TB 241, and there is an implication that it post-dates the hut circle.

The small rectilinear field (TB 243) encloses 974 sqm of well drained land on a uniform gradient. At the top end, it is bordered by a large, slightly irregular negative lynchet with a height of 0.8m with respect to the downslope side. While at the lower end there is an irregular and ill defined bank, with a soil build up on the upslope side, which is indicative of a positive lynchet. There is substantial soil slippage within the field, which is indicative of ploughing.

At the top of Field B there are three sides of another possible field, defined by stone banks TB 219 & 220, which are very poorly defined. There is a greater depth on the downslope side of bank TB 219, in the manner of a lynchet, which may also imply soil slippage within this 'field'.

Field C (TB 253-290, 312-313) has a truncated 'V' shape and is defined to the East by stone bank TB 247 and to the west by the short bank TB 255. The 'field' contains many cairns which are generally well defined and slightly prominent but also irregular in shape and profile, consistent with stone clearance. The cairnfield is edged to the east by the line of cairns TB 256, 258, 260, 271 & 274-277, which may represent a further field boundary.

At the bottom of TB 255 there is a small oval enclosure (sized 14m x 10m), with internal terracing, irregular outer banks and a large ill-defined entrance. The shape and entrance are not normal for a hut circle but it is possibly a hut platform.

Immediately to the west of field C is an area (D: TB 301-311, 314-351) which is largely devoid of cairns, but contains a single hut circle. It is intermittently defined to the west and north by stone banks 304 and 302 respectively, to the east, by the line of TB 254, 269, 268, 312 & 313 and finally to the south by the cairn group 314-330. This small partially enclosed area is well drained, but has an abundance of surface brash. It is reminiscent of field B and there is a possibility

that it is also a field.

The cairn group 314-330 is distinct from the cairn group to the north-west (331-351) because the component cairns of the former group are generally larger, better defined, more prominent and are more regularly shaped. The possibility of a funerary function for some of these sites cannot be completely overlooked.

Above the possible 'field' D, is a compact, complex system of enclosures, banks and cairns (E: TB 291-300). The large enclosure (TB 291) is very heavily terraced, has a 'D' shape, and is about 20m across. The size and shape are inconsistent with a roofed structure, although there is a possibility that it is a hut platform. Adjacent to the entrance of this enclosure there is a large, very prominent round cairn with a possible kerb to the north west and is probably a funerary monument. TB 294 is a small, poorly defined, circular ring feature which may be a hut structure.

At the western end of the field system there are possible indications of more than one phase of field system; the cairnfield of field C is edged to the west by a field boundary defined by cairns, rather than the adjacent stone bank boundary 247, and hence these two boundaries may belong to two different phases of the field system. Similarly a possible field boundary defined by cairns TB 308, 309, 310, 331, 332, 335 & 340 is parallel to but distinct from two field boundaries defined by stone banks (TB 304 & 307), which may again represent slightly different alignments of a field boundary from different phases of use.

Town Bank V

Component sites: TB 354-367 **Plan 17**

A small, scattered group of cairns and two short sections of stone bank on a moderately sloped fell-side. There are extensive brash deposits in the area; some of the cairns are superimposed on the natural deposits, which confuses their definition.

Town Bank VI

Component sites: TB 368-409 **Plan: 17**

This 'cairnfield' is on well drained, undulating land, however there is only a thin turf deposit and there are sporadic small stone outcrops in the area. The 'cairns' are generally low with angular stones, which have little lichenation. The stone deposit of these 'sites' is often much deeper than the present turf level and it is apparent, from probing, that the stone material merges gradually with the natural base stone deposit. The implication is that a large proportion of the 'cairns' are natural or partly natural. However some of them have regular shapes and slightly rounded profiles and it is possible that areas of small stone outcropping were enlarged with stone cleared from the adjacent land.

Town Bank VII

Component sites: TB 423-442 **Plan: 16**

This cairnfield comprises two small groups of cairns divided by an area of marsh. The northern group (A: TB 423-430) is on an island of moderate drained land. While the southern group (B: TB 431-442) is on well drained land. In general the cairns are small, ill defined, low lying and consistent with a stone clearance function. However there are some of the northern group that are possibly natural.

Town Bank VIII

Component sites: TB 443-464

Plans: 15 & 16

This is a small field system on well drained, moderate sloped land, which incorporates enclosures, hut circles and occasional cairns.

There are three possible fields, defined by four parallel stone banks (TB 450, 452, 458 & 464), which are aligned downslope. They are edged to the south by a scarp that drops to the Worm Gill flood plain. There are a few cairns within all of the fields but there is no evidence of any lynchets or soil slippage along the banks.

Within the easternmost field there is a small, ill defined ring feature (c.9.5m diam.), which is adjacent to a beck. It has a slight internal terrace, which is cut back into the slope, however there is no obvious entrance. It is associated with a small rectilinear enclosure (sized 10m x 7m). This ring feature is probably a dwelling, because of the size, internal terracing and association with a field system, but the lack of entrance suggest that it is more likely to be a hut platform than a hut circle.

Two other hut structures (TB 444 & 445) are located further up the beck, but are remote from the field system. Site 444 has a substantial internal terrace, a north-west orientated entrance and is a probable hut circle. Immediately adjacent is TB 445 which is a circular terraced platform with no clear upslope edge, and is probably a hut platform.

TB 443 is a large, irregularly shaped, terraced enclosure, with a large ill defined entrance, which is remote from the field system. It is similar to sites TB 82, 291, 620 and 636.

Sites TB 446 & 448 are both rectilinear enclosures with ill defined outer banks, and both exhibit soil slippage along the lower banks. Extending to the East from these lower banks there are lynchet like earthworks. There is a possibility that ploughing took place either within the enclosures or in the areas immediately to the West.

Though this field system is small, it exhibits a diversity of agricultural activities and may represent a small self sufficient farmstead.

Town Bank IX

Component sites: TB 466-483

Plan: 15

The main part of this field system comprises a ring feature associated with two possible fields.

The ring feature has been disturbed by the later construction of two stubs of dry stone walling on top of the outer bank. The original ring appears to have a regular, circular shape, but does not appear to have an entrance. Its size, shape and association with a field system suggest that it may be a dwelling structure.

The westernmost 'field' (TB 477a) encloses an area of c.158 sqm, and has a lower lynchet, indicative of soil slippage, but there is no corresponding lynchet at the top of the field. The easternmost 'field' (TB 477b) is much larger (c. 540 sqm) and has possible lynchets both at the top and the bottom. Though there is apparent soil slippage within the field, suggestive of cultivation, there are also some large boulders which would have impeded the movement of a plough.

Town Bank X

Component sites: TB 508-612

Plan: 18

This is a cairnfield comprising many small cairns mixed with a low number of large and prominent cairns. Many of the cairns and some stone banks appear to be aligned along a series of radial lines extending from an unmarked origin at NY 07711003. The first of these comprises stone bank TB513 and cairn TB 510, the second comprises an

alignment of at least 8 cairns (TB 517,516,515,530,532,533,550,555) and the third is an alignment of two stone banks and an elongated cairn (TB 524, 547, 548), which may continue after a dog-leg via cairns TB 570-574. It is possible that these alignments respected former field boundaries and it appears that some of these appear to divide areas with cairns from areas without. In between the first and second alignment there is a marked paucity of cairns whereas in between the second and third there is a large concentration of cairns of all sizes. To the east of the third alignment there is a small area devoid of cairns and beyond that there is a further concentrated cairn group. Although not very clearly defined this apparent alternating arrangement of fields, with and without cairns, compares with the radial field pattern observed at Town Bank IV, in particular fields C & D.

At the lower end of the cairnfield there is a small, irregularly shaped terrace in between a straight, large bank/lynchet (TB 590a), which has a sharp break of slope on the downward side, and a curved irregular bank (TB 588). Although the terracing is irregular, it would appear to be deliberate.

Within the cairnfield there are a number of cairns which have elements characteristic of funerary cairns (TB 518, 536, 541, 551, 564 & 591). TB 518 is large, oval shaped, slightly prominent, well defined and has two large boulders protruding from the centre of the cairn.

TB 536 is large, very prominent, and pear shaped, however the profile and shape are slightly irregular, particularly on the eastern side. TB 541 is large, well defined, prominent and oval shaped. However it has been severely damaged by a parallel sided cut through the centre of the cairn. The appearance of the cut suggests the use of a mechanical excavator, and it would seem that the cairn was robbed to provide metallurgy for the adjacent track.

TB 551 is well defined, large, prominent and pear shaped. It has a regular rounded profile and there is a very large boulder placed on the top of the cairn, which is possibly a marker stone.

TB 564 is very large, very prominent, regular in profile and pear shaped. There are some larger stones set into the east side which may be part of a kerb. Again there is a very large boulder set on top of the cairn, which is possibly a marker stone.

TB 591 is large, pear shaped and slightly prominent. It has been disturbed by a cut on the west side and there is a later semi-circular dry-stone structure constructed on top of the northern end.

These cairns were deliberately constructed and are clearly distinct from the small, irregular, clearance type cairns and would appear to be funerary long cairns. Apart from TB 591 they are grouped and may represent a small cemetery, similar to that at Monks Graves (Stockdale Moor VII). They are between the second and third cairn/stone bank alignments, but they are not necessarily contemporary with the field system and stone clearance activity.

Town Bank XI

Component sites: TB 620-693

Plan: 18

This is an extremely complex area of banks, cairns and inter-related enclosures on a moderate sloped, well drained area of moorland. This is in marked contrast to the area immediately to the north, which is flat and poorly drained with peat cover.

In the centre of the settlement are a series of partial, enclosures. They do not appear to exhibit soil slippage, however in some cases (TB

636) there is very clear evidence of terracing. The largest of these is the TB 649 enclosure which appears to butt onto enclosure TB 643. The TB 649 boundary is very irregular in form and size; to the south-west it contains many large boulders, it is prominent and exhibits dry stone structure, but further to the north-east there are sections in which it is ill-defined, with small amounts of stone and where there is no clear evidence of structure. There are also apparent discontinuities so although substantial sections of it were constructed as a wall there may have been others where it had a more ephemeral form (eg a fence) along which some waste stone was deposited in patches. There is a small ring feature incorporated into the northern corner of the feature, which has dry-stone structure around its northern side, it has an ill-defined entrance facing into the enclosure and its internal area is approximately flat. It would appear to be a hut circle and is paralleled by the corner huts of the 'D' shaped enclosure on Hesk Fell (see below). The southern part of the extended enclosure (TB 643) is decayed and ill-defined partly because a dry-stone shelter built on top of it; the shelter is shown on the 1st edition OS map of 1860. The internal area of TB 643 has a gentle slope as a result of extensive terracing up against the northern bank. The entrance leads into the larger TB 649 enclosure and so this would appear to be an internal part of the double enclosure.

There are other possible enclosures, but they are not as well defined; the banks of TB 685-9 represent a possible, very incomplete enclosure associated with a circular hut-platform, TB 688. Site 640 is a further example of an incomplete enclosure, associated with another circular platform, 641. These enclosures, with attached hut structures, exhibit no evidence of soil slippage and are probably for stock control.

TB 636, although also partly enclosing an area, is a very different type of structure. It comprises a large platform, with an artificially flat internal area. It is set slightly into the slope to the north, but to the south there is a very large build up of stone and earth, forming the forward apron of the platform. Stone material and possibly some soil must have been brought to the site, to construct the platform because the back of the terrace is cut into an area of turf, which contrasts with the large stone concentrations in the forward apron. In addition the volume of the forward apron is far greater than was removed from the back of the terrace. The surface of the platform is well drained, which may have been the reason for constructing it proud of the adjacent moorland. The effort involved in building it would imply that it served a domestic rather than an agricultural function and it may have had hut structures built on it. The platform is paralleled at SF 90 on Stainton Fell (see below).

TB 620 is an irregular shaped enclosure, which is also terraced and has an approximately flat internal area. However the volume of negative part of the terrace is greater than the positive side, and it is predominantly below the level of the surrounding moor. As a consequence it is very badly drained and would have been an undesirable location for a hut structure.

Unlike other Town Bank field systems (eg. TB IV, TB III or TB X) there are no random scatters of cairns; the cairns here are generally aligned along field boundaries and there are only a few which are not related to the field system. At the southern side of the settlement area there is a series of approximately parallel stone-banks/ cairn alignments: TB 625, 626, 630 & 631/632. They contain large quantities of stone material but are very irregular in width and are probably

concentrations of cleared stone dumped along lines of field boundaries.

A further example of a cairn alignment is at the north end of the settlement area (TB 670-672 & 681-682), which is orientated towards the TB XIII settlement area. The stone banks TB 679 & 680 are also possibly related to the TB XIII settlement; they are parallel with and very similar in form to a series of seven stone banks associated with TB XIII (TB 742, 745, 755, 788, 791, 793 & 797) and they may all be part of a single field system. Stone bank 679 has a lynchet like profile, implying soil slippage in the field between it and TB 680. Similarly there are indications of cultivation from some of the banks associated with the TB XIII settlement.

At the top of the TB 679 bank there is a prominent, well defined ring feature, which is internally terraced, but has no obvious entrance. However the association with a field system would suggest that it was a hut structure.

Running through the centre of the settlement area is a track, but it may not be contemporary with the settlement and may be part of the medieval track which passes through this area towards Matty Benn's bridge (NY 064103).

TB XI further comment

This is a complex settlement with at least three possible domestic structures or platforms (TB 636, 649 & 679). They are associated with a series of plots defined by parallel stone banks (TB 625, 626, 631/2, 630, 679 & 680), some of which have lynchet profiles suggesting cultivation. In addition there are a series of semi-enclosures, which also display evidence of soil slippage (TB 643 & 689). The cairns are almost all aligned along plot boundaries and are generally very large and prominent; they appear to be a product of very intensive and organised stone clearance activity.

This appears to be a broadly self-contained, agricultural settlement; its complexity and diversity of site type may be an indication that it was not short lived.

Town Bank XII

Component sites: TB 694-741

Plan: 18

This small site group is located on a natural sloping terrace, which is edged to these north and south by steep slopes. It includes parallel lines of irregular, ill-defined, artificial, narrow terraces which are overlain by cairns. The cairns are irregular in form and would appear to be cleared stone, which is deposited along the terrace edges to maximise the workable land in between, however there are also some cairns, which are removed from the terraced strips. At the northern edge of the area there is a small, rectilinear, dry-stone structure which survives to a height of 1.2m.

This type of rectilinear hut is not found elsewhere within the survey area but it is closely comparable with the medieval type of simple farmstead or shieling (Ramm, 1970). The terraces are most probably for cultivation and are in marked contrast to the other forms of field system elsewhere on these moors. It is therefore possible that they are not only spatially associated with the hut but are also contemporary.

Town Bank XIII

Component sites: 742-762 & 788-812

Plans 18 & 20

This is a relatively complex area of settlement comprising a regular field system (A: 742-747, 752-762) which is spatially associated with

three enclosed and partly enclosed farmsteads (B i,ii,iii). The field system is in an area of uniformly sloped, well drained land and is defined by a series of parallel, ill-defined stone banks which are approximately orientated downslope (TB 797, 793, 791, 788, 755, 752/758, 745 & 742). As mentioned above the field system probably also includes the 679/680 field, which is parallel and broadly similar, but is spatially associated with Town Bank XI. The stone banks are low, often ill-defined and contain irregular, but generally minimal amounts of stone material. There is no evidence of any dry-stone structure and they are consistent with an erratic deposition of stone clearance along the line of field boundaries.

Along the top of the western section of the field system there is an alignment of small cairns (TB 791-794 & 796), including two incorporated into the termini of banks 791 & 793. There is a possibility that these are clearance cairns positioned beside the upper boundary of the two western-most fields. Parallel to this is an extended alignment of short sections of stone bank (TB 795, 806 & 809) which may represent the line of a further field boundary.

The fields defined by the stone banks are generally long, narrow and they have comparatively uniform widths; for example, those between banks 755 & 793 have widths: 28m, 29m & 28m respectively. The field to the east of 755 has a probable eastern boundary marked by an alignment of stone bank and cairns (TB 752, 757 & 758); this would entail a width of 32m which is in accord with the neighbouring fields. There is a marked paucity of clearance cairns within the fields except between banks 755 & 745, where the banks are less continuous. Such differences represent slightly varied stone clearance practices, and may be indicative of differing agricultural functions for the respective fields.

Stone banks 742 and to a lesser extent 745 have a higher ground surface on the eastern side than on their western side. This is an indication of limited soil slippage and hence may be resultant from ploughing within the fields.

Farmstead (Bi) is spatially associated with the area of cairns and patchy stone banks and comprises three interconnected units: a hut circle, an oval enclosure and an irregularly shaped enclosed area between the other two. The hut circle has been excavated and partly reconstructed by W.Fletcher in c.1956, unfortunately this was not adequately recorded and is unpublished. It presently comprises 2-3 courses of well-defined dry stone masonry, in a regular circular wall, with a well defined entrance to the west, but it is unknown what form it had prior to the exploratory work. Mr W.Fletcher believed (pers.comm.) that the lines of the walls were genuine and stated that no excavation work or reconstruction was undertaken around the entrance. The stone debris found within the structure was either used to build up the walls or was dumped outside the structure. There are narrow ditches around the outside of the wall which were presumably excavated at this time, however because of these and the dumped spoil it is not clear how the hut circle connects with the adjacent enclosures. The present plan of the structure is broadly similar to that produced by J.Spence in 1937 (Spence 1938), which would appear to indicate that the excavation and reconstruction of 1956 did not seriously distort the structure. However Spence records that the entrance to the irregular enclosure (748) was via a 1.2m alley in between the hut circle and the 'inturning of the east wall' of the irregular enclosure. Presently any access way in this position is obscured by spoil. Site 751 is a very well defined, oval enclosure

which is sunk below the surrounding ground level, by as much as 1.2m. Around the edge there is a bank comprising medium sized stone to large boulders and there is no evidence of dry-stone structure. The internal area is irregular but is approximately flat. The rough construction of the banks and the slightly irregular elongated shape, would suggest that it could only ever have had a very crude type of roof construction and was unlikely to have been a hut structure.

The irregular enclosure has a large amount of material within the outer bank, but it is irregular in width and quantity of stone it has no evidence of any dry-stone structure. The irregularity of shape would suggest that it too was never roofed.

The complex comprises a small hut structure, with two ancillary structures, which possibly relate to stock control and as such this would appear to represent a simple farmstead.

The three enclosures are interconnected, such that access to enclosure 751 is only through enclosure 748, whereas the access to the hut circle is independent of the other two, so separating the domestic and agricultural functions of the farmstead. While it is commonly considered that the enclosed settlements typified by farmstead C (TB 805) were built to include a defensive function, this does not appear to be the case with this type of grouped farmstead because the single access of the hut away from the rest of the farmstead is a defensive weakness.

Farmstead (Bii) is similar to farmstead (Bi), comprising three main interconnected, circular enclosures. The TB 802 enclosure has a regular, well defined, fairly prominent outer bank. The entrance is narrow and faces east (away from prevailing winds). The area within the bank has been internally terraced, and is flat with no obvious internal features. This would appear to show all the classic symptoms of a hut circle.

TB 800, however, is a very different form of enclosure; the internal area is sunk considerably below the present ground level (c.1.8m between top of the outer bank and the floor), and it is crudely terraced, such that there remains a slight slope towards the south. There is a small, three sided structure within the enclosure, which has patchy lichen cover on the stones and is comparatively recent in date, however it overlies a decayed, ill-defined curved bank which may be the remnants of a earlier structure. The outer bank of the enclosure is very prominent and has steep internal sides, it is slightly irregular and includes some large jagged boulders protruding from the turf cover. There is a large entrance to the north which according to Spence (Spence 1938, 67) had large orthostats on either side of it. However there is presently little clear evidence of an entrance structure, implying a limited amount of subsequent decay. Although the bank is a little higher than the surrounding ground level, its volume is considerably less than that of the artificial hollow within, which would indicate that the resultant spoil was taken away from the site. As there are no obvious spoil tips in the vicinity it is possible that the original function of the site was as a quarry pit and it may have been subsequently reused as a part of the farmstead complex.

TB 798 is linked to the TB 800 enclosure by a length of bank, and comprises an oval shaped, well defined, regular outer bank. Within it there is a prominent, sub-triangular cairn butting onto the inside of the bank, which takes up most of the internal space and as such would be an inconsistent element within a dwelling structure. However it is not necessarily contemporary with the outer bank.

TB 799 is a large prominent mound, with a small, irregular, central

depression. It has the appearance of a disturbed round cairn and appears to be an incongruous element within the farmstead.

The adjacent large, circular bank TB 803 is the spoil tip from an excavation in 1956, by W.Fletcher, of a large round cairn. According to Spence (Spence, 1938) the original cairn was 18.9m by 17.6m in size and c.2m in height and had two approximately central depressions attesting to earlier disturbance. Nothing now survives of the cairn, but there are possibly some surviving elements of the site within the base mineral soil, because Fletcher (pers.comm) claims not to have excavated through the 'floor', however there are three small hollows in the present ground surface which are probably attributable to his excavations. The excavation was not recorded, but from sketches that he produced after the event (pers.comm) it would appear that there was a small cist (sized 0.9m x 0.61m) on the eastern side of the cairn (Plate:?), comprising 9 small uprights. There was a "scatter of charcoal" associated with it but there is no record of any skeletal remains, so it is possible that this was a secondary cremation. The only other finds recorded were a piece of deer antler and a sandstone "rubbing stone".

Farmstead Biii (TB 805) is a large enclosed settlement on flat, poorly drained ground. The outer bank is generally well defined, prominent, contains a regular quantity of stone material and displays evidence of dry-stone structure on the western side. There are three, well defined circular structures which are probably hut circles and their entrances as well as that of the enclosing bank are all orientated towards the west, away from the prevailing winds.

A very similar form of settlement is found on the opposite side of Worm Gill at Thornholme Farm (Crawford 1983, 27); however it is considerably larger (c.70m across) and has seven hut circles.

TB XIV

Component sites: TB 828-844

Plan: 20

This is a farmstead and associated scatter of cairns on a gently, sloping well drained area of exposed fell. The farmstead is similar to those of TB XIII and comprises a sunken, oval enclosure linked by a wall to a circular hut. The oval enclosure has large outer banks and has a large but well defined entrance orientated towards the hut circle. The internal area has been terraced, is approximately level and is up to 0.4m below the surrounding ground level. The hut structure has a regular, circular outer bank with a small, well defined entrance on the western side. The internal area is terraced into the hillside and is approximately level and flat, with no surface stone material.

The surrounding cairns are loosely scattered and there is a possible field boundary represented by the alignment of cairns/stone banks TB830-832.

TB XV

Component sites: TB 763-787, 813-827 & 845-893

Plans: 20 & 21

This is a patchy group of cairns and short stone banks along the gently sloping, well drained south-western edge of Town Bank. Although first appearances suggest that these sites are randomly distributed, closer examination shows a series of alignments of cairns and stone banks which may represent the boundaries of an irregular field system.

At the north-eastern side of the group there is an alignment of cairns (TB 773, 784, 786, 787, 816, 820, 825) which is perpendicular to the stone bank TB 819, and together they possibly represent the

rough frame of a field system. Stone bank 819 has a slight lynchet like profile, it is parallel to an alignment of stone banks/cairn (TB 826-827) and there is a possibility that these are the boundaries of a cultivated field. This possible field is very similar to those of the TB XIII field system; the stone bank 819 has a similar lynchet-like profile to the stone banks 742 & 745 and the dimensions of the field are also similar; its width is 28m by comparison with an average width of 29.6m from the TB XIII fields. Hence there is a possibility that this field was contemporary with the TB XIII field system.

At the western end of the group there is a pair of parallel site alignments: (850,851,852,870 & 868) and (848,854,853 & 862-5), which are approximately perpendicular to a further alignment: (845, 846, 847, 849 & 850). Together these are potentially the surviving elements of an extended field system.

At the north-western end of the group there are a number of small 'terraces' associated with small, clearance type cairns (TB 782, 821 & 822). They are too irregular to be hut platforms, they do not have flat bases and are more likely to be resultant from soil slippage than deliberate terracing.

Town Bank Conclusion

The character of the Town Bank settlement is very distinct from the neighbouring settlement area on Stockdale Moor. The Town Bank field systems generally fall in to two basic types: at the eastern end there are large, irregularly shaped fields which are associated with high concentrations of randomly distributed clearance cairns (eg. TB IV, TB III & possibly TB X). The settlements at the western end (TB XI, TB XIII & TB XV) exhibit a very different approach to stone clearance; they have only a few randomly distributed clearance cairns, and the unwanted stone appears to have been piled into large, irregular alignments of stone banks, eg. 626 & 625. The fields defined by the banks are often long, narrow and small but usually have regular widths (eg fields TB 788-797). These differences between the various settlements may reflect a change of agricultural practices. Random cairns can obstruct the use of a plough and as there are lynchet profiles exhibited on some of the TB XIII & TB XV field boundaries, the differences between the field systems may reflect a change of emphasis towards greater use of cultivation. They appear to represent different stages of agricultural development and while it is possible that these two contrasting farming practices were in contemporary use, it is probable that the eastern field-systems originally preceded the western fields.

To a lesser extent the farmsteads display a similar development between the west and east ends of Town Bank; at the eastern end

There are a number of farmsteads on Town bank (TB XIII A, XIII B, XIV, IV (291)) of a distinctive type; comprising a large sunken enclosure, linked to a hut circle with additional enclosures in some cases. The volume of spoil removed from the large sunken enclosure of TB XIII A is far greater than that within its outer banks, which would suggest that it was originally a quarry pit and may possibly have supplied stone material for the rest of the farmstead. The deliberate entrances and outer banks of these enclosures would suggest that they were also used as an enclosure. However they would have been unsuitable for domestic accommodation as they are below the adjacent ground level and would have been extremely damp.

The uniformity of the farmsteads would suggest that they were

broadly contemporary, however there are examples associated with both types of field system: the TB XIII A & B farmsteads are associated with the regular, narrow field system whereas the TB IV (291) farmstead is spatially associated with the large, irregular, cairnfield related field system. The TB XIII A farmstead appears to be contemporary with its adjacent field system because there is a stone bank extending from it which is separated from its parallel, neighbour by 24m; a normal width for these fields. Whereas the TB IV (291) farmstead is not directly linked to the adjacent field system and is very different in form from the basic unenclosed, ungrouped hut-circles, which are directly linked with the field system (TB 236, 241 & 303). Thus farmstead TB 291, was possibly a later addition to the TB IV field system.

The complex TB XII settlement is in between a cairnfield associated settlement (TB X) and narrow field settlement (TB XIII). It includes a mixture of features from both types of settlement; it has a parallel field system similar to that of TB XIII, but also has a possible hut platform similar to one (TB 82) from the TB III settlement. It is extremely complex; it has a diversity of forms of enclosure and plot and there is evidence of more than one phase of construction (i.e. TB 649 appears to butt TB 643). It does not appear to be a product of a short lived occupation.

Dating

The settlements on Town Bank do not appear to be a product of a short lived phase of occupation; there are a limited number of datable monument types which seemingly indicate sporadic occupation and exploitation over a broad period. Within the TB X cairnfield there are five cairns (TB 536, 541, 551, 564 & 591) which have forms similar to those of excavated, funerary long cairns. Such cairns are typically dated to the neolithic or early bronze age (Smith 1974, 128-37); however; the associated cairnfield is not directly related to the larger cairns and was not necessarily contemporary with them.

Within TB XIII is a large, funerary round cairn with an off-centre inhumation. This form of cairn is typically dated to the bronze age (Yates 1984, 2-4); however, again this does not imply a similar date for the spatially associated settlement. However; there are a number of unenclosed hut circles which are directly associated with the adjacent field systems (eg. TB 236, 241 & 303 within TB IV). Although there is a scarcity of dated unenclosed huts from the North-West, there are some dated examples from Northumberland (Gates 1983, 117) which span a broad period from about 1750 BC to 450 BC.

At the western end of Town Bank is a characteristic form of enclosed settlement; there are numerous excavated parallels from North-East England, utilising timber construction (eg. Alnham, Northumberland; Jobey & Tait 1966). These simple enclosed settlements are usually found to date from the later part of the first millenium bc (Ritchie 1970, 52-55; Jobey 1985, 183), however there is an example from Wolsty Hall, Cumbria (Blake 1959, 7-10) which may have continued into the RB period. Although the TB 805 enclosed settlement is a stone construction and has a circular enclosure, by contrast with many of the Northumbrian examples which are rectilinear, it probably has an Iron Age/Romano-British date.

Although parallels with this limited number of characteristic monuments suggest settlement on the fell over a broad period there is no evidence of continuity of occupation.

