

**NEOLITHIC AND EARLY HISTORIC SETTLEMENT IN
NORTH NORTHUMBERLAND:**

EXCAVATIONS AT THIRLINGS¹ AND CHEVIOT QUARRY²

By

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The two landmark reports contained in this volume detail the results of excavations undertaken nearly a quarter of a century apart on sites that have each made a major contribution to our understanding of both the Neolithic and British/Anglo-Saxon periods in the north-east of England. They provide the most significant body of evidence for both earlier and later Neolithic occupation in the region, with structured deposits contained within numerous pits and post-pits offering an abundance of information, including radio-carbon dates and lipid residue analysis. They have also produced the largest assemblages of Neolithic pottery, in a variety of styles, including Carinated Bowl, Impressed Wares and Grooved Ware, overshadowing the meagre handful of casual finds previously bridging the rich abundances of north Yorkshire and lowland Scotland.

The sub-rectangular buildings dateable to the 5th/6th centuries AD found at Cheviot Quarry have their counterpart in buildings previously published from Thirlings.

Bounded to the south by the Cheviot granites and to north and east by rolling sandstone scarps, the gravel plateaus of the Milfield Basin on which these sites lie, reveal a wealth of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age activity, including pit-alignments and no less than eight henges, while their later activity sits against the backdrop of the nearby Anglo-Saxon settlements of *Ad Gefrin*, *Maelmin* and Lanton Quarry.

(Both sites are considered within their wider context, and the Thirlings report includes a catalogue of the Neolithic pottery from north-east England.)

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