ANCIENT MONUMENTS LABORATORY

MATERIAL Soil SAMPLES

SITE: CROOKHORN FARM ..... (DATE:

SHEET: 1 .....

AM No	X-Ray No	Photo No	Description and Report	Ref No
74.216	"Soil from bottom layer of pit, beneath [illegible] structure."		This is a sandy deposit, Munsel chart colour 7.5 YR 2/2. Visual examination of the sample did not produce any charcoal or organic remains. This was confirmed by ignition of part of the sample. Upon ignition, there were no red flashes which typically indicate the presence of charcoal, etc. A brick red residue resulted, suggesting the presence of fairly large amounts of iron. A few grams of the deposit were boiled in 2N sodium hydroxide. An orangey-brown solution resulted, indicating the presence of very little humus. There is no evidence that this sample had been subjected to burning. The dark colour seems to be due mainly to iron staining. This can occur naturally.	SF 574
74.217	[illegible] deposit in [illegible] valley, adjacent to [illegible]		Water sieving and visual examination of the sample produced tiny fragments of charcoal (too small for identification), a few carbonised seeds, and a few tiny fragments of bone. An orange residue was obtained after ignition of part of the sample, indicating the presence of significantly less iron than in the former sample. Boiling in 2N sodium hydroxide produced a dark brown-black solution, indicating the presence of a large amount of alkali-soluble humus. The large amount of humus and fairly low iron concentrations suggests that this deposit might represent "top soil" (i.e. the A horizon of a soil), or was derived from topsoil. Therefore, this may represent a naturally accumulated deposit. However, the inclusion of charcoal and carbonised seeds in the sample fits in with the known fact that man was living in the immediate vicinity.	