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**Title:** Ancestral heaths: reconstructing the barrow landscape in the Central and Southern Netherlands  
**Issue Date:** 2013-11-21
Part Two

**Methodology**

The methodology of palynological research can be rather complicated and requires some exposition before palynological results can be interpreted appropriately. The technique of sampling a barrow and its surroundings, and the chemical analysis of the soil samples, is described in Chapter 4. Vegetation reconstruction of the barrow's locale does not follow as a matter of course from the soil samples taken from those barrows. The theory underpinning the palynological research of soil profiles is discussed in Chapter 5. The expression of palynological data in percentages is common to palynology, enabling comparison of different sites and time series with one another. These percentages are fractions of an arbitrarily chosen pollen sum. Which pollen sum will be used in this research and the theory behind this choice is explained in Chapter 6. One of the main research questions concerns the size of the open place a barrow was built in. Chapter 7 discusses three methods that can be used to determine the extent of the open area around a barrow.