

Preliminary Excavation Report
Donacarne Great, Co. Meath
2019 Season



GARAHY & BARRY

19E0077

17/12/19

VOLUME I

Meath County Council LB151268

archaeology plan
HERITAGE SOLUTIONS

SITE NAME

Donacarney Great, Bettystown, Co. Meath

CLIENT

Pearse Lyons, c/o Grandbrind Ltd. Unit 702, Kilshane Drive, Northwest Business Park, Ballycoolin, Dublin 15

PLANNING

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A glossary of terms

Concentric enclosure: a circular area enclosed by two or more concentric earth and/or stone bank.

Ditch: an extended linear cut that is longer than its width and depth.

Enclosure: an area defined by an enclosing element (e.g. bank, wall, fosse, scarp) ...occurring in a variety of shapes and size, possessing no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category.

Field boundary: a continuous linear or curving bank, wall or drain, which defines the limits of a field.

Field system: a group or complex of fields which appear to form a coherent whole. These date to any period from the Neolithic onwards.

Flat cemetery: at least three urn burials or cremations

Hearth: a place where a fire is made but where there is insufficient evidence to indicate habitation. Prehistory to Medieval.

Kiln: a furnace or oven for burning, baking or drying – e.g. corn-drying kiln

Linear earthwork: a substantial bank and fosse, usually forming a major boundary between two adjacent landholdings. Most date from the late Bronze Age and Iron Age.

Midden: a refuse heap sometimes surviving as a layer or spread. Prehistory to Medieval.

Pit: a circular or sub-circular hole that is wider than it is deep.

Pit alignment: a single line, or pair of roughly parallel lines of pits set at intervals along a common axis or series of axes. The pits are not thought to have held posts and are considered to have had a ritual function and date to the prehistoric period.

Pit burial: may contain an urn.

Post-hole: an oval or sub-oval pit that served a structural purpose.

Ring-ditch: a circular or near circular fosse, usually less than 10m in diameter.

Slab-lined burial: a grave containing an extended inhumation; the sides of the grave are lined with slabs, and sometimes slabs are also used to cover the burial.

Slot trench: a straight or curving linear cut that is longer than it is wide or deep with one steep side. Originally dug to accommodate wooden posts or planks.

Stake-hole: an oval or sub-oval small hole with steep, concave sides and a V-shaped base.

Urn burial: a burial accompanied by an urn.

1 Introduction

Report summary

The preliminary results of an archaeological excavation that was carried out under Licence 19E0077 in Donacarney Great, Co. Meath are detailed in this report. Only half of the archaeological site was excavated, and the second half of the site was preserved in situ and will not be impacted upon at this time.

The earliest evidence for human activity at the site was a Bronze Age flat cemetery of three vase urn pit burials. A nearby prehistoric structure and flint artefacts distributed across the site indicate prehistoric activity of the land beyond solely funerary purposes.

The main phase of occupation was a first millennium AD cemetery settlement. Two separate burial areas were identified but not fully excavated during this phase. The first burial area was likely bounded by a long, straight enclosure ditch. A previous excavation in this area yielded a radiocarbon date of 575AD from one of the burials. The second burial area was within a sub-circular enclosure. One individual in this area was found to be wearing a copper alloy necklace or coil. No other individuals on the site were buried with grave goods and all burials were fully extended and approximately aligned on an east/west axis.

Several large enclosures with associated annexes were excavated across the site. While evidence for structural habitation in gravelly natural subsoil was sparse, proof for significant settlement activity survived in the form of artefacts, cereal processing and food refuse. Rathbone (2007) previously acquired a radiocarbon date of 370AD from an animal bone excavated on an adjacent site. Several sherds of E-ware pottery dating to the late 6th/early 8th centuries were distributed across the cemetery settlement and a 10th/11th century Hiberno-Norse ringed pin was found

over one of the burial grounds. All of this was evident of a long-lived landscape.

Areas of unresolved archaeology and proposed green spaces within the development



Site location

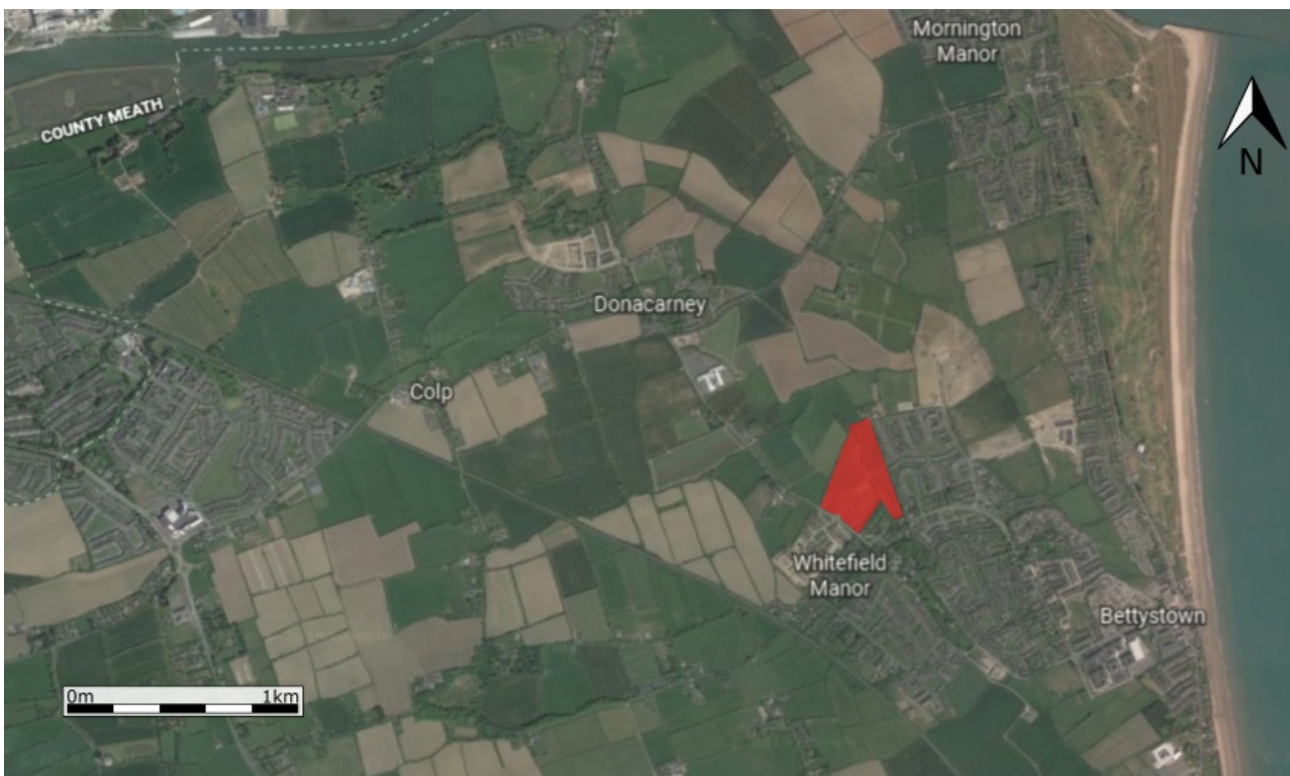
The development site was in the townland of Donacarney Great (and partially in the townland of Bethaghstown) in the Barony of Duleek and the civil parish of Colp. It is located on the north-eastern side of the R150 road, c. 1.4km northwest of the centre of Bettystown. The site was bounded to the north by a field boundary with open fields beyond, to the southwest by the R150 road, to the southeast by a field boundary and the back gardens of homes fronting on to the R150 and to the east by a small laneway that ran between the development site and the neighbouring Castlemartin development.

Development

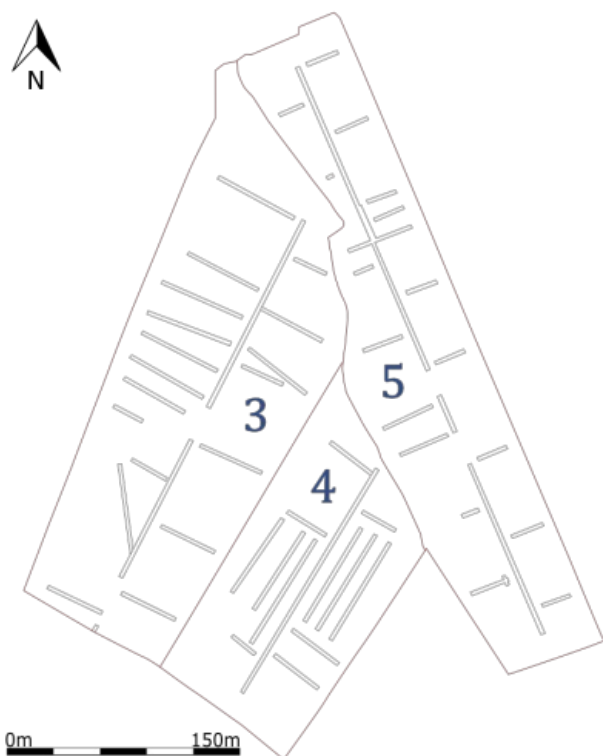
The development (Meath County Council planning ref. LB151268) is for the construction of 267 dwellings, a local shop and a crèche on a site to the northeast of the R150 road.

Phase 1 of the development, now known as Whitefield Manor, lies to the southeast of the development on the opposite side of the road and is completed. The excavation detailed in this report concerns Phase 2 of the development.

Site location aerial map



2 Archaeological Background



Plan of test trenches in Fields 3, 4 and 5 (after Duffy 2007)

Licence 06E0413

Carmel Duffy completed the archaeological assessment and test trenching for both Phase 1 and Phase 2 in March 2007. She produced a report for each phase in April 2007.

License 06E0413 was transferred to Stuart Rathbone in May 2007 and he resolved the southwestern Phase 1 fields. A further licence, 07E0622, was later granted solely to resolve a burial at risk that had been identified during the Phase 2 testing in Field 4.

Following the testing and excavation, the burial ground (Field 4) and the kilns and pits (Field 1) were listed as RMPs (ME021-029 & -030).

The fields southwest of the R150 were referred to as Phase 1: Field 1 and Field 2. These were tested by Carmel Duffy in April 2007 and resolved by Stuart Rathbone under a second transfer of the original licence. No archaeology was identified in Field 2.

Field 1 resolution

A cutting of 45m by 60m was stripped in Field 1. Six large pits with large amounts of animal bone were interpreted as refuse pits. Six smaller pits had evidence for in situ burning. Three cereal drying kilns, one of which was keyhole-shaped, were excavated. Two large areas of burning and a shallow curvilinear ditch were also excavated. Modern cultivation furrows ran in a northwest/southeast direction.

The evidence for burnt pits, refuse pits and the large assemblage of animal bone were interpreted as a site where food was prepared for a nearby settlement. The animal remains displayed evidence of slaughter, preparation, roasting and consumption. A cattle phalanx from a refuse pit returned a radiocarbon date of 320AD. Large cattle dominated the assemblage at 77% NME, but sheep, pig, horse, cat and dog were also present (Rathbone 2007A).

Licence 07E0622

This excavation took place in advance of the planned second phase of a housing development by Mycete Homes Ltd. That phase never came to pass, and the excavation of the burial was the last documented ground works at the site.

According to Rathbone (2007B), one of the inhumations uncovered during testing existed in a

very fragile and exposed condition. Following consultation with the Department of Heritage, Environment and Local Government, it was decided that it was necessary to excavate this burial to prevent further damage to, or deterioration of, the skeleton.

Burial 1

The burial was excavated on 22 August 2007. It was referred to as Burial 1 under 07E0622 (cut c10, fill c11). The bone preservation was described as moderate, and the remains were extremely disarticulated. C11 was a dark grey fill and comprised about 50% loose small pebbles. It was very similar to the gravelly subsoil. C10 was an extremely shallow cut with a max depth of 0.65. The individual adult male was buried in an extended supine position, in a simple shallow grave, oriented east/west. Disarticulated remains of at least one female aged 17 to 25 were located during the excavation of his burial.

A sample of a rib bone from Burial 1 was dated with 95.4% probability to 575-670AD (SUERC-16817; GU-15981).

Geophysical survey 19R0029

Joanna Leigh carried out a geophysical survey over the areas of archaeological potential that Duffy had identified during testing in Fields 3 and 4. Several potential linear features were recorded in Field 3.

In Field 4, the geophysical survey identified responses of clear archaeological interest that most likely related to the recorded burial ground (ME021-029). Numerous curvilinear and linear responses suggested possible multiphase activity that included a circular enclosure, a possible D-shaped enclosure and other ditches. Several isolated pit features were also recorded and may have related to burials.

Geophysical survey image, overlaying Field 4



Monitoring and testing 19E0077

Field 3

The removal of topsoil over the area of archaeological potential in Field 3 that had been identified in testing and in the geophysical survey was monitored by the current licence holder. A long, straight boundary ditch and several enclosure ditches that related to the First Millennium AD settlement/cemetery were identified in this area.

Field 4

Not all of Field 4 was stripped during the current excavation. Archaeological monitoring in the southern (Area A) and northern (Area D) parts of Field 4 identified significant archaeological features and deposits that related to the first millennium AD cemetery settlement. These included enclosure ditches, kilns, pits and spreads.

A sub-circular burial enclosure (Area E) was identified at the south-western limits of the known burial ground.

Monitoring in the western part (Area C) of Field 4 revealed less features of archaeological potential than what had been found in other areas. Nevertheless, some linear ditches and pits were identified.

Hand-dug test trenches

Four hand-dug test trenches were opened across the known burial ground in Field 4 (Area B) to establish the depth of topsoil, the limits of the burial ground and to locate the possible features identified in the geophysical survey.

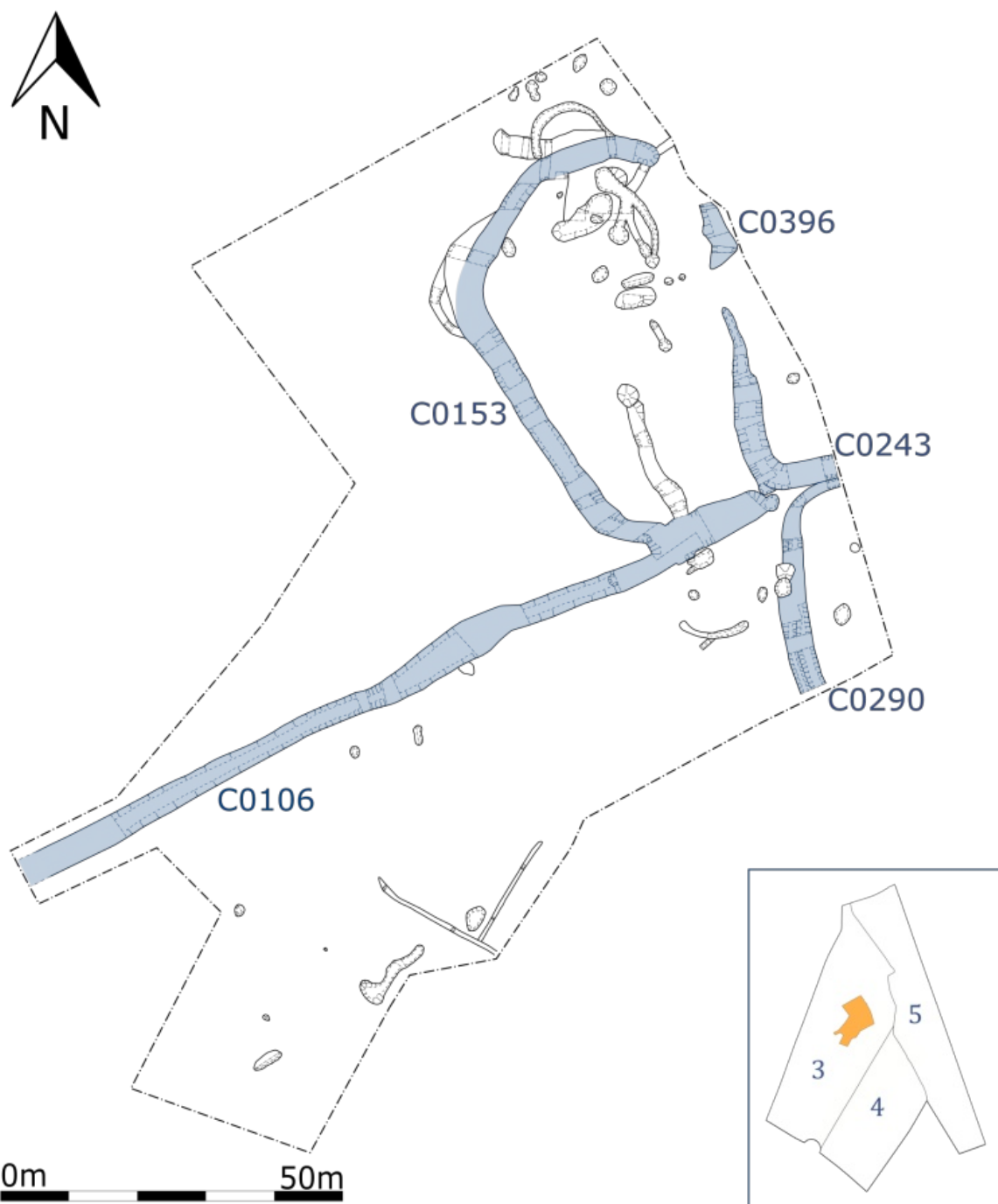
Field 5

Two previously untested areas in Field 5 were stripped of topsoil under archaeological supervision. One area was clear of archaeological features. Monitoring in the other area, adjacent to Field 4, identified a crescent-shaped slot trench and pits of potential archaeological interest.

Hand-dug test trenches in Field 4



3 Excavation Field 3



Overall plan of the excavation in Field 3

Field 3 was in the northwest area of the overall development site. Features of potential archaeological interest were noted in this area during the original testing programme Duffy (2007). Several possible linear features were subsequently recorded in the geophysical survey (Leigh 2019). The removal of topsoil by machine was monitored by the current licence holder and significant archaeological features and deposits were identified.

The main features of this area were three enclosure ditches (original cuts C0153, C0243 and C0290) a long, straight boundary ditch, C0106. All these ditches either terminated or turned in the area of the kiln C0414, suggesting a contemporaneity between the features.

A large modern man-hole trench (C0436) was dug at some stage after Duffy's testing and before the current development. It defined the north-eastern limits of the excavation and it truncated several features.

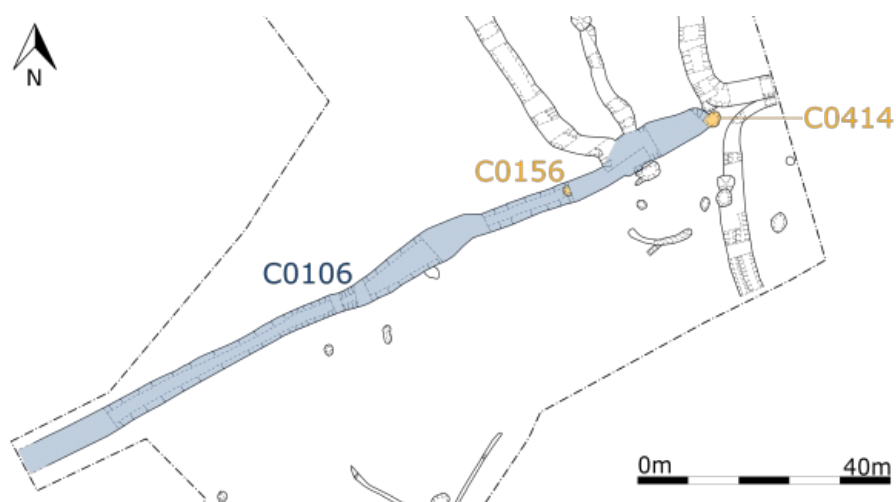
Natural subsoil, C0002, in this area comprised an orange-brown, silty sand and gravel that became more friable to the north. It was likely formed from deposits from receding glaciers during the last Ice Age. The high quantity of unworked flint that was recovered across the site was also likely resultant of depositions from glaciers receding from the nearby Irish Sea.



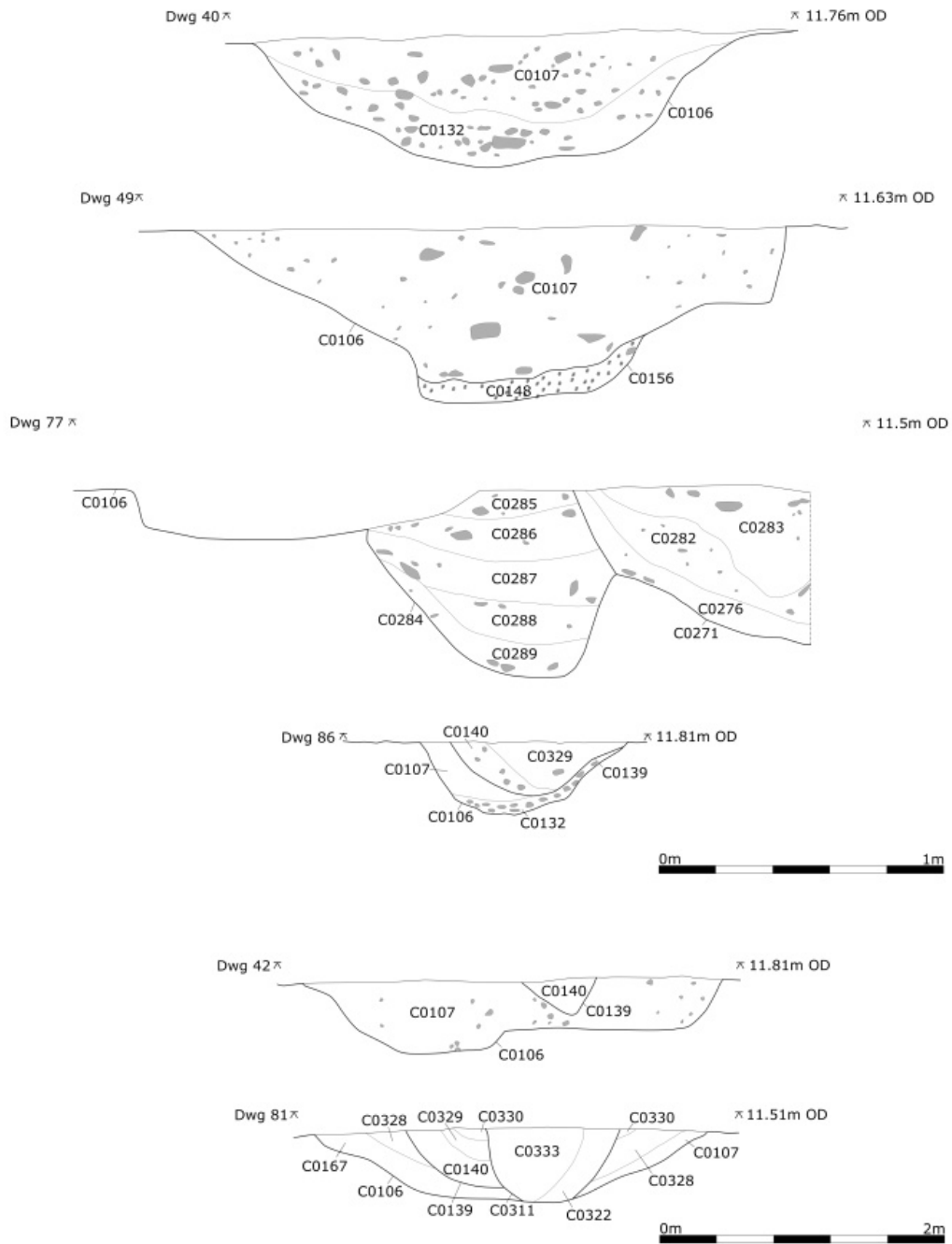
North-facing section of ditch C0106

Boundary ditch C0106

The boundary ditch C0106 ran southwest/northeast and influenced the placing of most of the other features, and in particular the enclosures, within Field 3. C0106 was over 40m long, extending south-westwards beyond the limit of excavation. It was 1.6-2.7m wide and up to 0.8m deep. C0106 had three fills (C0107, C0123 and C0130). It was re-cut throughout its entirety by C0139, which generally had a further three fills (C0334, C0363, C0364). All six fills tended to be very similar in appearance: orange- and grey-brown sandy silts with occasional animal bone.



Boundary ditch C0106



Section drawings of C0106

C0106 cut through C0176, a relatively short 10m northwest–southeast linear ditch that terminated in the centre of the enclosure C0153. C0153 also cut C0106.

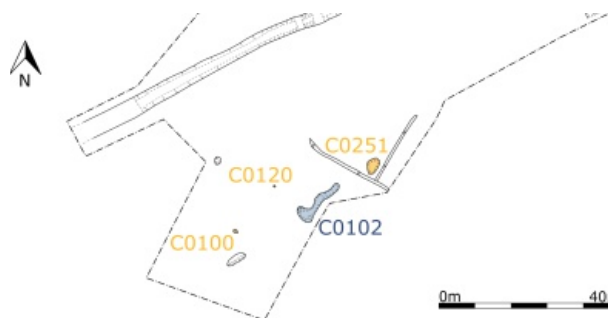
Given the relative paucity of features directly related to or close to C0106, and its long length, it seems likely that it served as a boundary division.

C0106 had a small charcoal-rich pit C0156 cut into its base. The last phase of C0106 was also cut by a larger U-shaped pit, C0331 near its eastern terminus.

Kiln C0414

The kiln C0414 was keyhole-shaped in plan. It was 1.7m long and was sealed by the final fill within the north-eastern terminus of the boundary ditch C0106. All of the ditches (C0153, C0243 and C0290) respected the kiln, suggesting that these features were broadly contemporary in date. The kiln was cut into natural subsoil sand, C0002, meaning it would have been difficult to maintain its shape for any length of time. Some small to medium sized pebbles were at the base and these may have been intended as a lining. The sides were smooth sand. There were at least eight re-cuts of the kiln, four to five layers of charcoal and three white, ashen sandy clay layers that contained burnt bone. No finds were present.

South-facing section of Kiln C0414



Features south of ditch C0106

Features south of ditch C0106

C0102 was a short linear ditch that was re-cut at its southern terminus on several occasions and in different directions. The ditch was first re-cut for the full extent of its 5.5m length by C0128. This may have contributed to the overall irregular appearance. Both C0102 and C0128 were then cut by two small pits or postholes, C0162 and C0164. Several worked flints came out of these features.

C0251 was a large 1.6m long pit on a north-east/southwest axis that was re-cut on at least two occasions. Its fills were reddish brown sandy clays and the lowest fill, C0261, was clayey sand. It had inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks and some struck flints. It was

close to two, long shallow plough furrows C0124 and C0266.

C0100 was a shallow oval pit with a yellow-brown sandy silt fill with infrequent charcoal flecks.

C0120 was a shallow circular pit with charcoal and burnt stone visible on top. It was less than 0.1m deep.

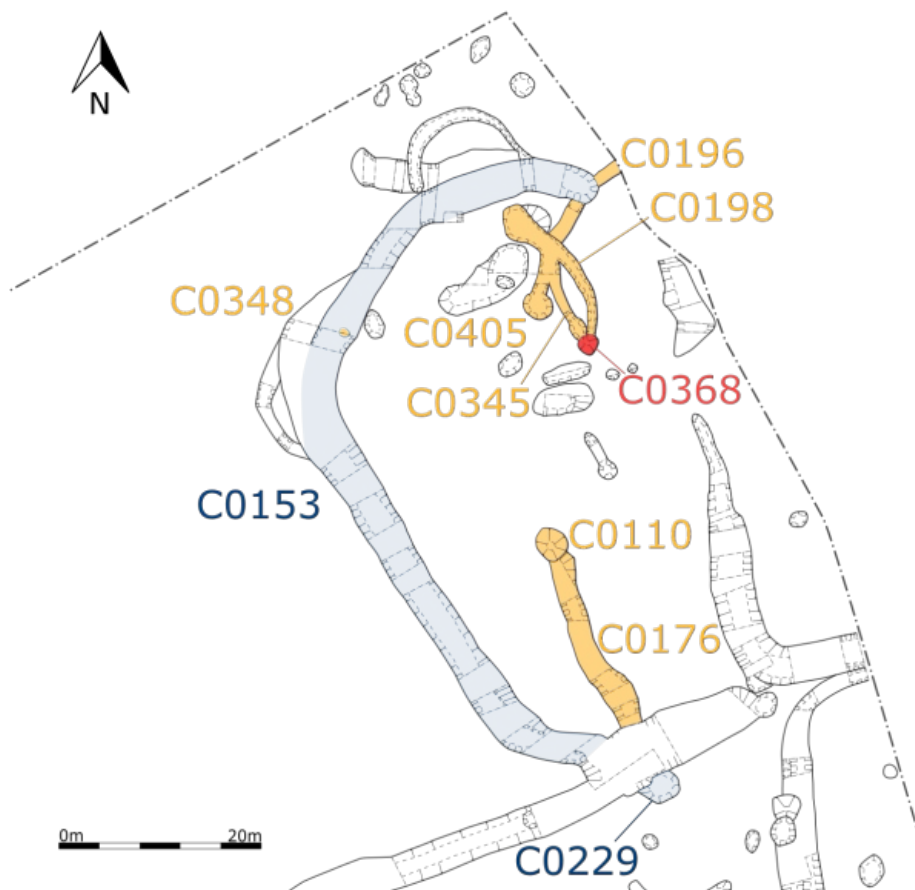
Enclosure ditch C0153

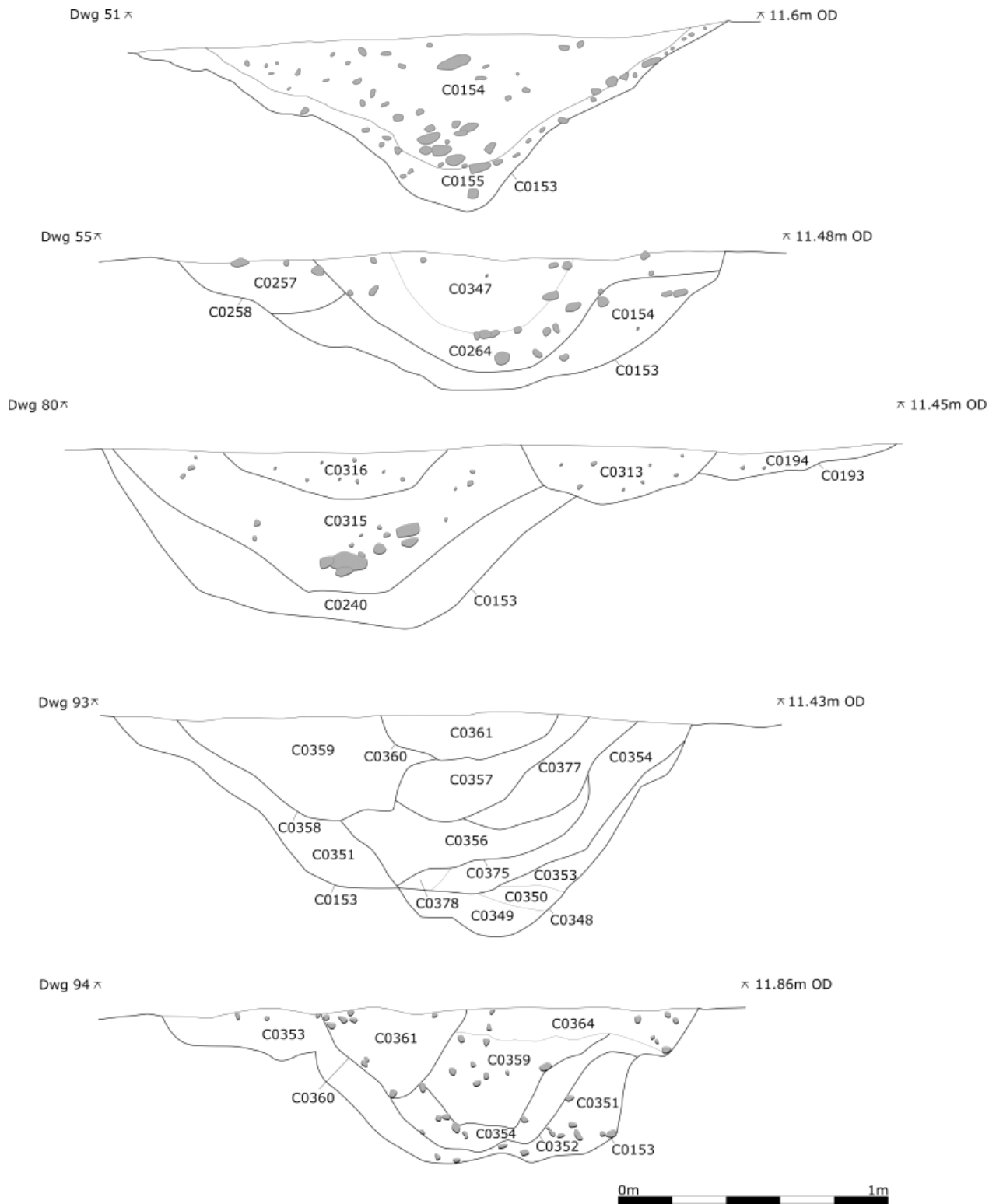
C0153 was a curving enclosure ditch that cut the boundary ditch C0106. It maintained a consistent profile at its southern end, where the outer, western edge was stepped. It was repeatedly re-cut as it turned to the northeast.

Subsoil C0002 was far sandier in that area and it may have been necessary to keep re-digging the ditch to maintain its profile. It had evidence for at least seven re-cuts. The step was identified both in the original cut of the ditch (C0153) and in at least two of the re-cuts (C0269 & C0352), suggesting that it was deliberately maintained.

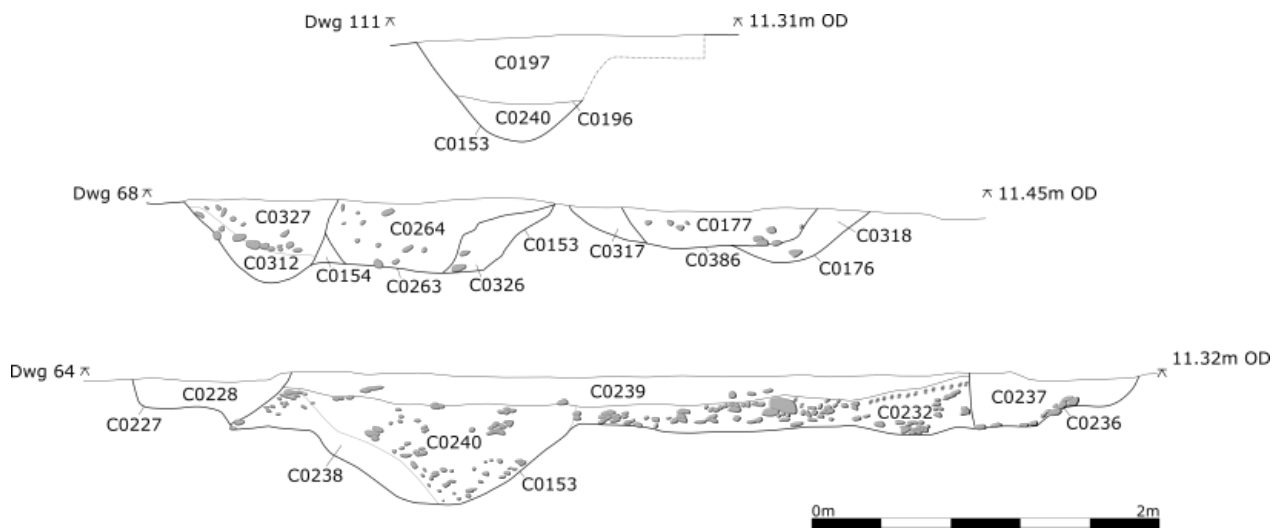
The fills of C0153 tended to be darker than C0106, though relatively homogenous towards its southern terminus. The upper fills in the northern half of C0153, with its frequent re-cuts, were very distinctive and contained large amounts of charcoal, seashells and animal bone. The nearby kiln C0387 and pits C0133, C0135 and C0137 had charcoal-rich fills and these may have influenced the formation of the upper fills within C0153.

Enclosure ditch C0153 and internal features





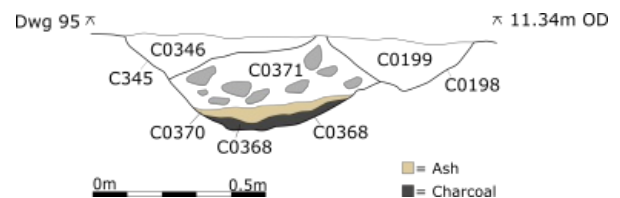
Sections of enclosure ditch C0153. Scale 1:10



Sections of enclosure ditch C0153. Scale 1:20



North-facing section of ditch C0153



South-facing section of kiln C0368

Kiln C0368

The kiln C0368 was figure-of-eight shape in plan. It was 2m long, with a charcoal layer at its base. The middle fill was a stony, ashy clay, with some charcoal flecking. A brown compact clay layer sat over this ashy fill and may have been the collapsed remains of a structural element. The kiln had evidence for at least one significant re-cut, C0435.

The kiln was cut by the short curvilinear ditch C0345, and both were cut by the short ditch C0198. It is likely that both of these features related to the kiln and may have been dug for shelter in what is still a windy spot at the apex of a ridge that once overlooked the sea.

Features enclosed by ditch C0153

A pit C0348 was cut into the base of enclosure C0153. It was filled with a sterile pink yellow sandy silt, C0350, over a loose yellow sand with frequent animal bone, C0349.

C0229 was as a 1.7m long pit, filled with C0230, C0231, and C0235 which were charcoal and burnt clay. A small 0.2m wide re-cut may have been a raking out area. However, it is likely that this is actually the cut for the terminus of C0153 cutting through ditch C0106.

Two deposits, one overlying the other, sat over many of the features within the north-western corner of the enclosure. These were C0195 and C0319 respectively. The enclosure ditch C0153 cut through the lower layer, C0319, but was sealed by the later layer, C0195. The spreads covered several of the pit features, while others were cut into them.

C0195 was a loose, dark brown sandy clay covering approximately 3m². Beneath this lay C0319 which was 30m² wide and up to 0.15m deep. It was a clayey sand containing charcoal flecks and animal bone.

The previously discussed C0176 was a short, shallow ditch, the south-eastern terminus of which that was cut by the boundary ditch C0106. The north-western terminus was cut by the shallow pit C0110.

C0110 was a shallow sub-circular pit filled with a dark grey sandy silt with occasional charcoal inclusions. It cut the terminus of C0176 and the fills of the two features were of a similar colour but were different in texture and depth.

C0198 was a short, shallow ditch within the enclosure formed by C0153. It was 5.2m long, 0.50-0.55m wide and 0.15-0.20m deep. Its fill, C0199 was a loose, grey-brown clayey sand with occasional flecks of charcoal. It cut another small ditch of similar width, C0196.

C0196 was a small slightly curving ditch, that extended beyond the northern terminus of C0193. It was 5m long, 0.6 wide, and 0.3–.5m deep. It cut the pit C0153. It was truncated to the east by the sewage trench C0436, and by C0198 to the west. It extended southwards beyond its intersection with C0196 as C0200 and the re-cut C0345. C0200 was cut by the pit C0405.

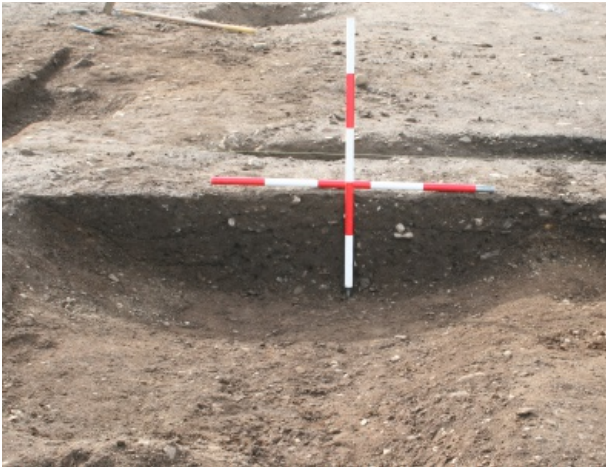
C0405 was a circular pit. It was 2m long on its north/south axis, 1.4m wide and 0.15-0.19m. It was filled by C0406, a firm black-brown sandy clay that had an abundance of burnt material, including charcoal and burnt stones, but no evidence for in situ burning. It cut the short ditch C0200/C0196.

Pit C0110 cutting ditch C0176, east-facing section



Southwest-facing section of pit C0405 cutting ditch C0200



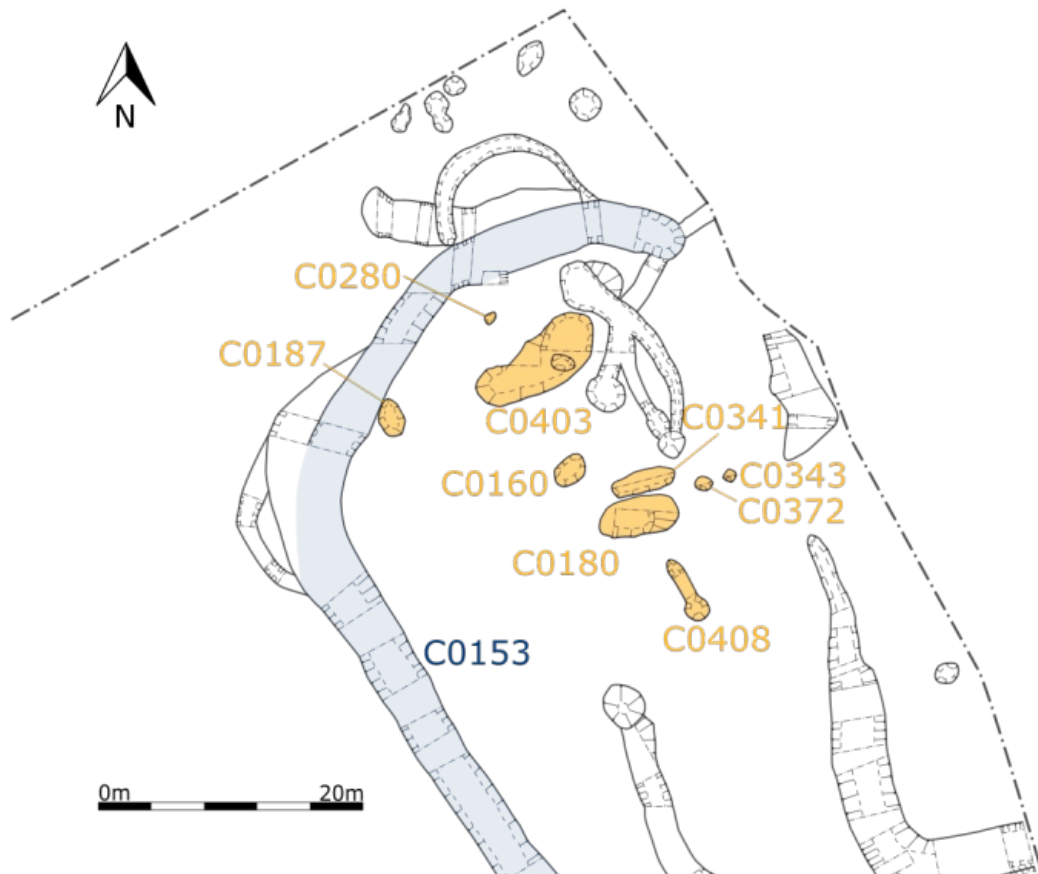


Northwest-facing section of pit C0403

C0403 was a large pit. It was cut into a loose brown spread C0195 (overlying the spread C0319) that covered many of the features in that area but was cut itself by C0153. C0403 was 1.6m long, 2.3m wide and 0.4m deep with an irregular shape in plan and a U-shaped profile. It was filled with C0404, a loose dark brown silty sand with occasional shell and charcoal.

The small pit C0280 was beneath the earlier spread C0319. This 0.4m in-diameter circular-in-plan shaped pit was filled with a loose brown sandy clay, C0281, that contained both a possible flint tool and a rubbing stone. It was the only feature within the enclosure C0153 to have artefacts, including an E-ware pottery sherd.

Pits enclosed by ditch C0153





Northeast-facing section of pit C0187 cutting ditch C0153



Mid-ex of pit C0160, facing west

The pit C0187 was cut into the top of the enclosure ditch C0153, at its re-cut C0352. This large, 1.4m long pit contained a grey-brown clayey sand C0188 with occasional animal bone and charcoal but no finds.

Pit C0180 was a large, 3m long, sub-oval pit, re-cut by C0383. It had three fills. C0181 was a black, moderately compact sandy clay. C0384 was a mottled brown, firm silty clay. C0385 was a grey-brown, loose sandy clay that contained charcoal, animal bone and shell.

The pit C0341, north of the pit C0180, was 1.5m long and 0.8 wide. It had a single fill, C0342, a dark brown sandy silt with frequent animal bone.

Two similarly small pits, C0372 and C0343 were within half a metre of one another and had similar fills (C0373 and C0344 respectively) of compact, black sandy silt with frequent charcoal and burnt white porous stones.

The pit C0160 was a 1.8m long oval-in-plan pit. It was 1m wide and 0.18–0.24m deep. It differed from the surrounding pits due to its fill of moderately compact yellow sand with occasional charcoal flecks, C0161.

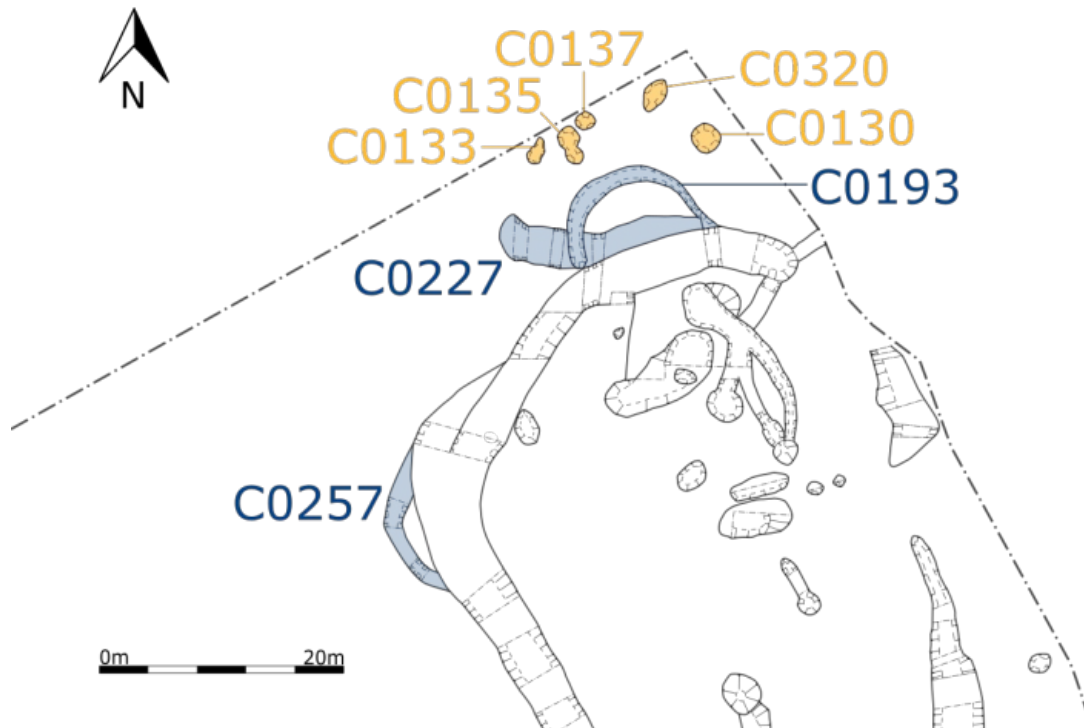


Northeast-facing section of pit C0212

A large, 1m long pit, C0212, contained two gravelly fills, C0223 and C0224. It was capped with a charcoal layer and was truncated by two furrows.

Features external to ditch C0153

C0257 was a small crescent-shaped ditch to the west of the enclosure ditch C0153. It cuts the earlier phase of C0153 but is cut by the later re-cut C0263. It was approximately 20m in length and 0.4m wide. It had occasional animal bone and struck flint in its fill C0258.



Features external to ditch C0153

C0227 was a short, curving ditch with a V-shaped base. It was filled with C0228, a light brown orange clayey silt. It was cut by the Enclosure Ditch C0153, the short linear C0337 and the slot trench C0193.

C0193 was a crescent-shaped slot trench that was 10m long, 1.2m wide and 0.20m deep. It was filled with C0194, a dark grey brown sandy silt. It cut the earlier short ditch C0227.

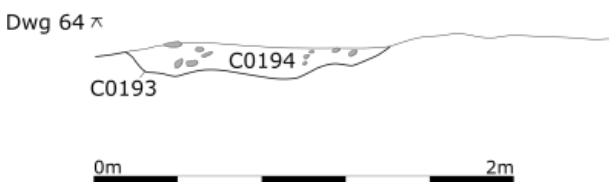
Five pits were excavated on the northern, external side of C0195. A cluster of three irregular shaped pits, C0133, C0135 C0137 and were filled with burnt waste material but had no evidence for in situ burning. All three of the pits were approximately 2m in length and 1m in width and all of them were dug into natural subsoil C0002.

Two larger nearby pits C0130 and C0320 had dark but sterile fills.

Pre-ex of pits C0133, C0135, C0137. Facing northeast



Southwest-facing section of slot trench C0193



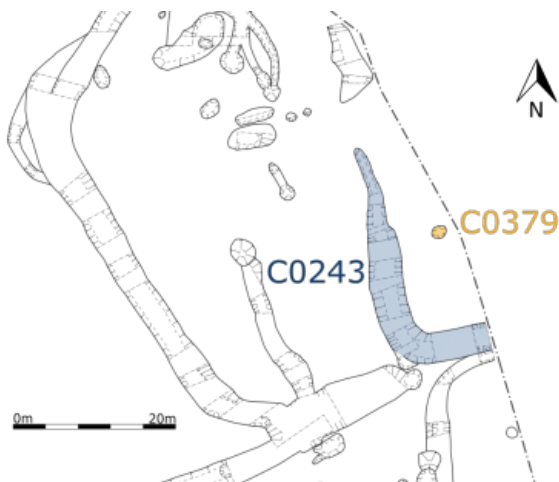


Post-ex view of slot trench C0193, facing southeast

Enclosure ditch C0243

C0243 was an enclosure ditch that was repeatedly widened and deepened over the course of its existence. The original cut for C0243 ran for five metres from north to south before being re-cut. It had four fills comprised of brown silty sands; C0244, C0245, C0308, C0309, C0391 and C0433.

Enclosure ditch C0243



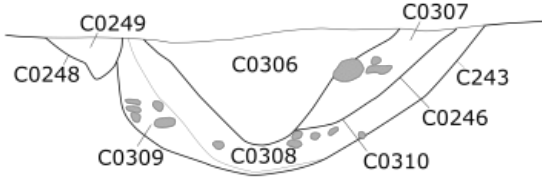
The re-cuts were initially quite wide and separate but came to converge on one another for approximately nine metres before the ditch turned eastwards. The re-cut C0246 also had four fills; C2047, C0295, C0296 and C0297. They were all comprised of clayey sands. The earlier phases of the ditch terminated before it turned eastwards, while the later phase re-cuts C0387 and C0303 continued eastwards. The fills of the re-cut C0284 were C0285, C0286, C0286, C0288 and C0289 and all were sandy clays.

The final re-cut C0269, extended eastwards beyond the limit of the excavation.

Feature enclosed by ditch C0243

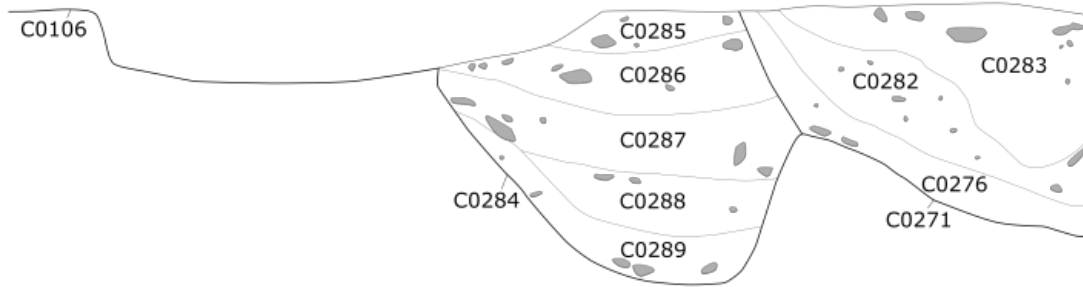
C0379 was an oval-in-plan pit. It was 0.84m long, oval-in-plan, and orientated west-southwest/east-northeast. It had a U-shape profile with a gradual break of slope at its top and very gently sloped sides (20-30°) falling to a concave base. There was scorching around the edges of pit. It was 0.36–0.64m wide and 0.15m deep. It was filled with C0380, a firm, pale yellow-brown silty clay with red and white mottling and occasional subangular burnt stones and frequent ash. This sealed C0381, a dark charcoal rich basal fill.

Dwg 79 ⚡ 11.35m OD



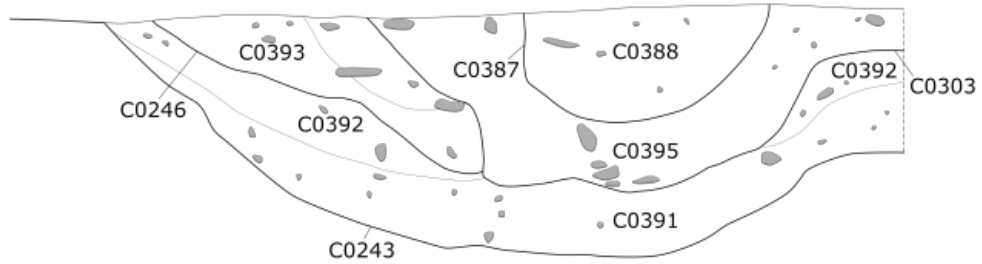
Dwg 77 ⚡

11.5m OD



Dwg 108 ⚡

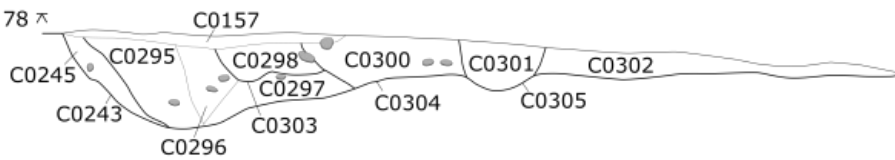
11.32m OD



0m 1m

Dwg 78 ⚡

11.4m OD



0m 2m

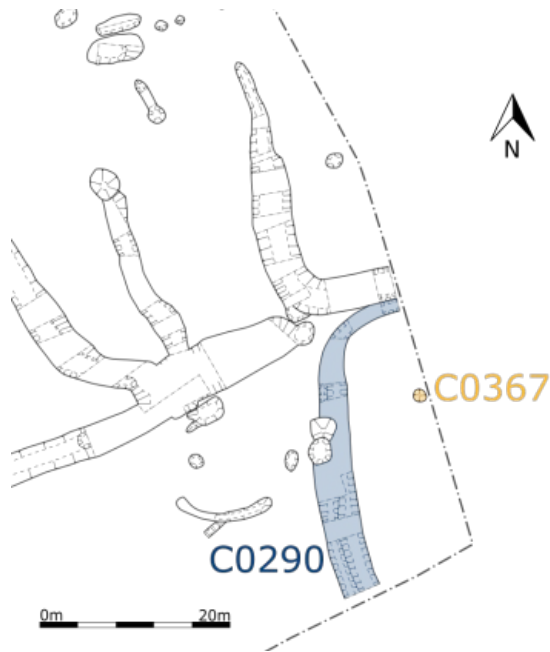
Sections of enclosure ditch C0243

Southwest-facing section of ditch C0243

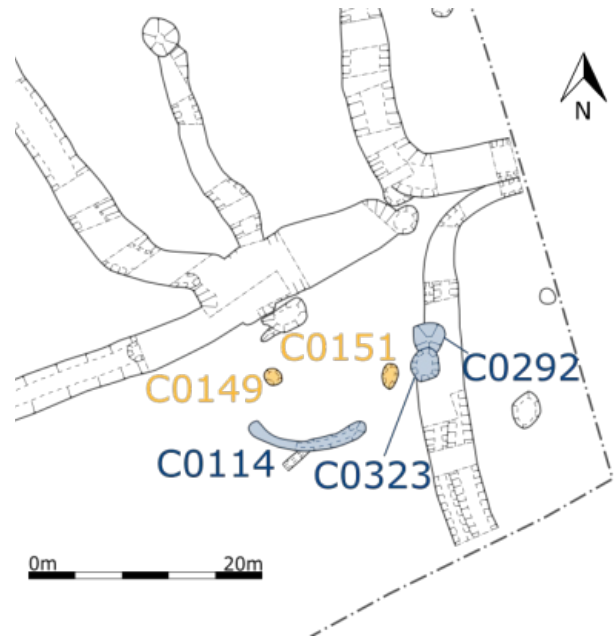


Southwest-facing section of ditch C0243





Enclosure ditch C0290



Features external to ditch C0290

Enclosure ditch C0290

C0290 was a small enclosure ditch, south of and adjacent to the enclosure C0243. It was at least 18m long, and extended eastwards and southwards beyond the limit of excavation, i.e. into the area truncated by the modern sewage trench C0436. It was 0.46m wide and 0.13m deep. It was filled with a dark grey sandy clay, C0291.

The re-cut C0170 truncated C0290 for 13m from southeast to northwest and terminated before the enclosure turned eastwards. C0170 was on average just over 1m wide and 0.34m deep and 16.5m long. The fill C0171 was a grey-brown sandy clay.

Feature enclosed by ditch C0290

C0366 was a small shallow oval fire pit filled with C0367 that had frequent charcoal and occasional ash.

Features external to ditch C0290

Two pits were cut into the outer edge of the enclosure ditch C0290. It is likely that C0278 and C0290 were the same ditch that was interrupted by C0292. C0292 was a shallow pit that contained infrequent animal bone. It was cut by the

later pit C0323 that contained a good deal of charcoal and heat-affected stones. Both pits were just over 1m in length.

The pit C0149 was also filled with the discarded remains of a burning event; charcoal and heavily burnt material. It had a very fresh appearance to it and may have been modern.

North-facing section of ditch C0290



The pit C0151 had less charcoal but contained molluscs and animal bone. Both pits were between 0.8 and 1m long.

C0114 was a small slightly curving ditch to the west of C0290. It was 4.4m long, 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. The fill C0115 contained animal bone, flint and chert. It was cut by the plough furrow C0116 but was otherwise an isolated feature.

Enclosure ditch C0396

C0396 was a 1.7m wide, 0.5m deep ditch. It survived for a length of only 7m due to truncation by the manhole trench C0436. It was filled with C0399, a loose dark grey-brown sandy silt. It was orientated northwest/southeast and may have related to C0243 and/or C0193.

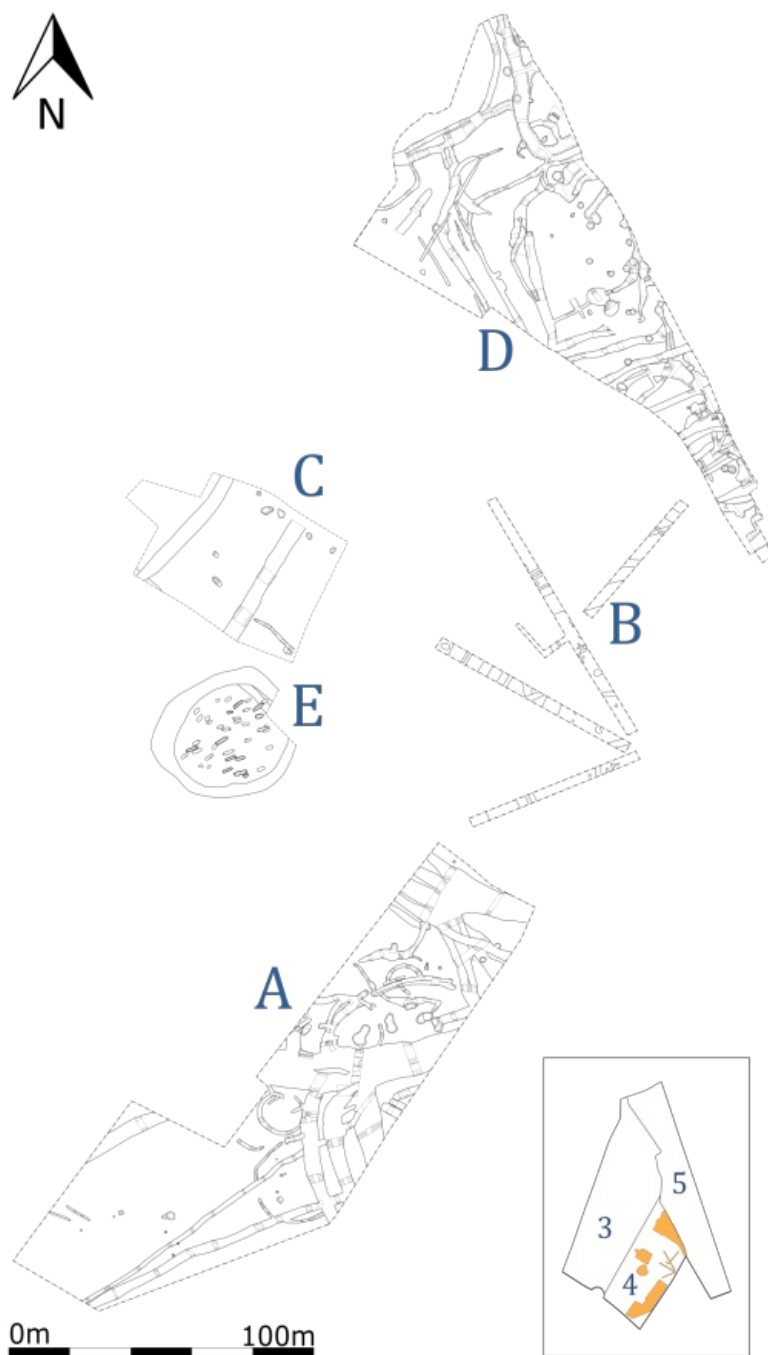


Northwest-facing section of ditch C0366, cut by the modern manhole trench C0436

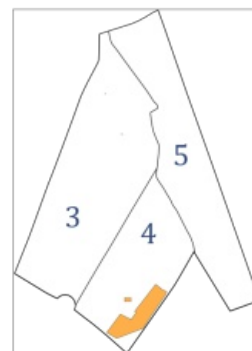
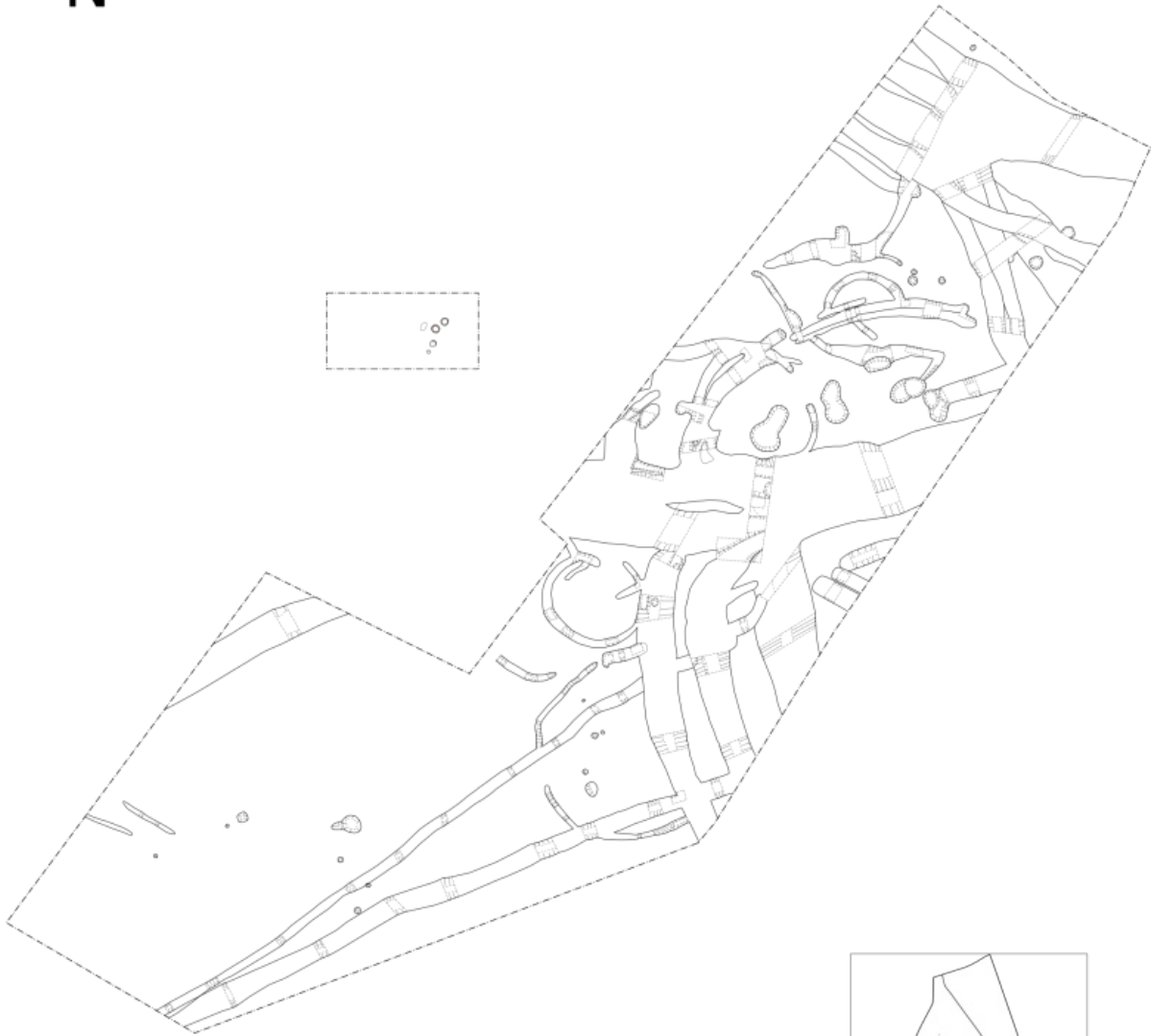
General post-ex view of the excavation in Field 3, facing southwest, with the modern trench C0436 in the foreground



4 Excavation Area A, Field 4



Plan of all of the excavated areas within Field 4



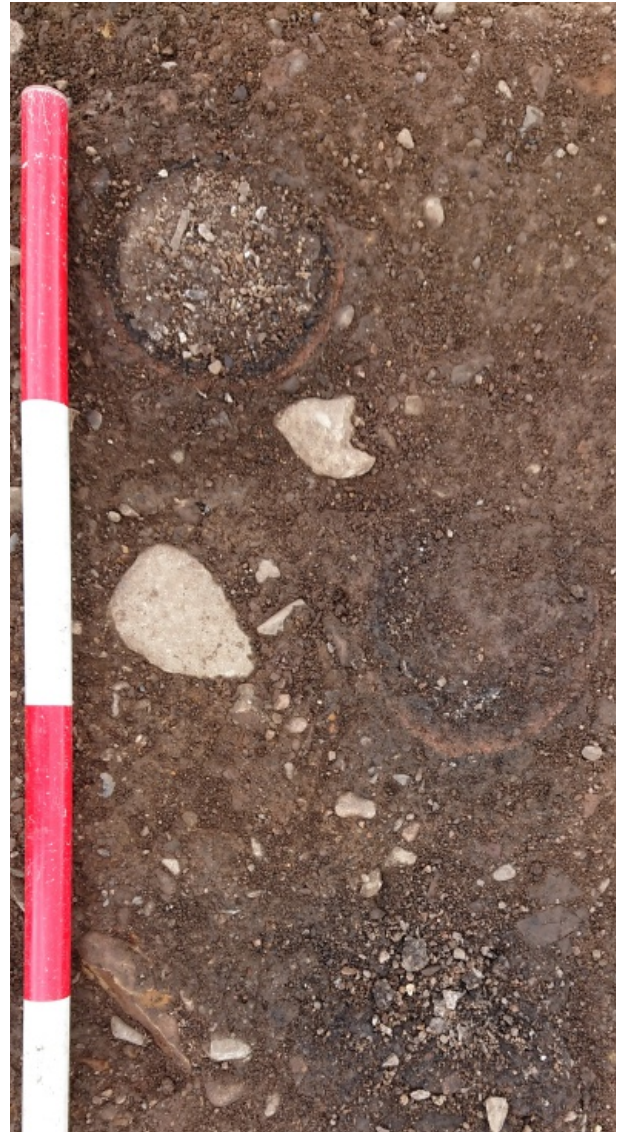
Plan of Area A, Field 4

Area A was at the south-eastern limit of Field 4 and of the development site. It was the largest area that was excavated in the 2019 season and it contained substantial archaeological features and deposits. Area A contained evidence for Bronze Age funerary practices, a prehistoric structure and sizable activity associated with a first millennium AD cemetery settlement.

Phase 1: Prehistoric

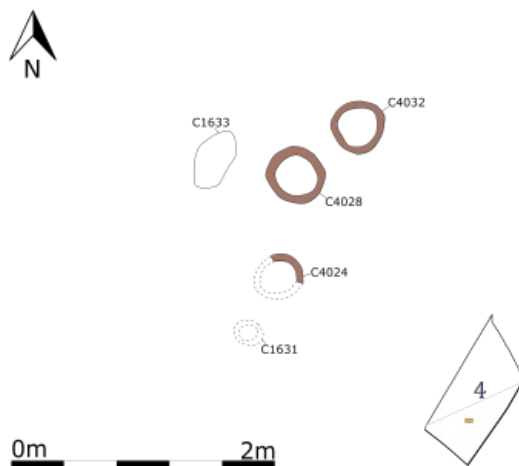
Bronze Age funerary

Three inverted Bronze Age vase urns (Brindley 2007, p15) C4024, C4028 and C4032 were box-lifted with the aid of the project conservator and later excavated and conserved in laboratory conditions. Cremated remains were found to survive in only one of the urns, 19E0077:4034:0001, that was also the best preserved. It came from the urn burial C4032 and had an external base of diameter of 0.115m and a surviving wall height of 0.09m. The other two urns, 19E0077:4026:0001 (from C4024) and 19E0077:4030:0001 (from C4028) were far more fragmentary and it is likely that the condition of the porous stony subsoil of C0002 allowed for the dissolution of the urn remains and contents.



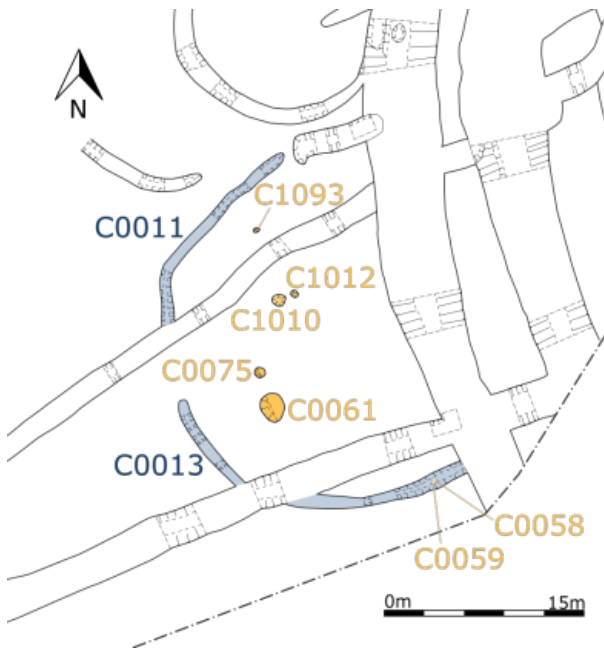
Pre-ex photo of C4032 (top) and C4028, facing northeast

Pre-ex plan of cremations



The nearby small pit C1633 contained the remains of a possible cremation, C1634, with cremated bone and charcoal, but no associated funerary vessel. A nearby small pit, C1631, 0.15m in diameter, and 0.1m in depth had a grey clay fill C1632.

There was no intercutting of features and these were the only features to be excavated in that part of Area A, Field 4 in this phase of the excavation.



Prehistoric structure in Area A

Prehistoric structure

The slot trenches C0013 and C0011 were possibly part of a single circular prehistoric structure that may also have been Bronze Age in date. Much of the slot trenches had been obliterated by the later first millennium AD enclosure ditches 1, 2 and 3. The structure would have had a diameter of c.12.5m. There was no evidence for post holes on the exterior of the slot trenches, however, the gravelly nature of the subsoil would have been unreceptive to their survival. Several pits did however survive within the structure.

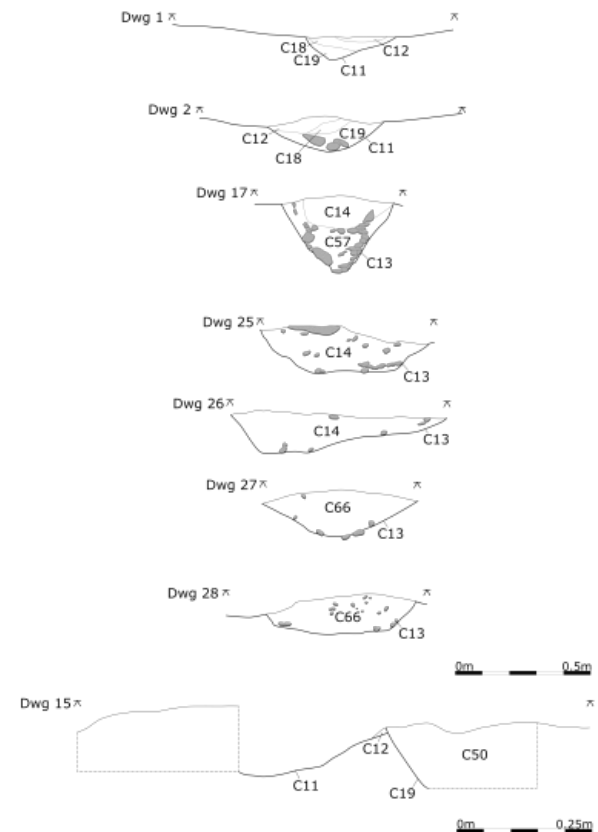
C0013 was a narrow semi-circular curvilinear slot trench. It had a sharp break of slope at the top, a sharp break of slope at its base, concave sides and a U-shaped base. It was 15m in total length, 0.45m wide and 0.3m deep. It had three fills. C0057 was the basal fill. It was a mid-orange-brown sandy silt with small stone inclusions and some burnt stones. The upper fill, C0014 was a charcoal-rich brown silt and is suggestive of a burning event within the slot trench. As the slot trench extended northwards, it was shallower at 0.2m depth and had only one fill, C0066. This was a reddish-brown soft sandy silt.

Two small post-holes, C0058 and C0059 had been dug into the slot trench. C0058 was sub-circular in plan and had a U-shaped profile with a rounded base. It had a gradual break of slope at both its top and base. It had one fill, C0044, a grey brown silty clay that included infrequent charcoal flecks, burnt bone, shell, a flint scraper and 16 sherds of prehistoric pottery.

C0059 was similarly sub-circular in plan with a U-shaped profile and gradual breaks of slope at its top and base. It was 0.45m in length, 0.3m wide and 0.3m deep. It had one fill, C0051 that was comprised of sandy silt and contained two flint scrapers and flint debitage.

C0013 was cut by enclosure ditch 3 (C0042) on its south-eastern side, just shy of the development site limits. It was also cut by the long, straight linear ditch C0067. C0013 terminates on its north-western side, approximately 3.5m south of the curvilinear slot trench C0011, the two possibly forming an entrance to the prehistoric structure.

Sections of slot trenches C0011 and C0013





Mid-ex of slot trench C0011, facing northeast

C0011 (same as C1000) was at least 7m in length and its southern terminus was cut by the long, straight ditch C0049. It had a sharp break of slope at its top, a moderate break of slope at its base, and it was U-shaped in profile. It was 0.43m–0.52m wide and 0.14m – 0.2m deep. It had three fills; C0012, C0018, C0019. The basal fill C0019 (same as C1004) and the middle fill C0018 (same as C1001) were both brown soft sandy silts, similar to C0066 in the opposing slot trench C0013. The upper fill C0012 was a mid-brown silty clay with occasional flecks of charcoal and was similar to the main upper fill C0014 in the other slot trench C0013.

Pits within the prehistoric structure

The pit C0061 was oval in plan with a sharp break of slope at its top and a gradual break of slope at its base. The sides were concave, and the base was irregular. It was 1.08m long, 0.81m wide and it had a maximum depth of 0.25m. It had one fill, C0062, an orange-brown sandy clay with infrequent charcoal flecks. C0061 may have

been an interior post-hole to support the Bronze Age structure. No evidence of timber survived.

A second nearby smaller possible post-hole C0075 was similarly oval in plan with a sharp break of slope at its top and base. It was 0.38m long, 0.24m wide and 0.28m deep. The fill C0076 was an orange brown sandy clay and had a possible packing 9cm wide packing stone at its base.

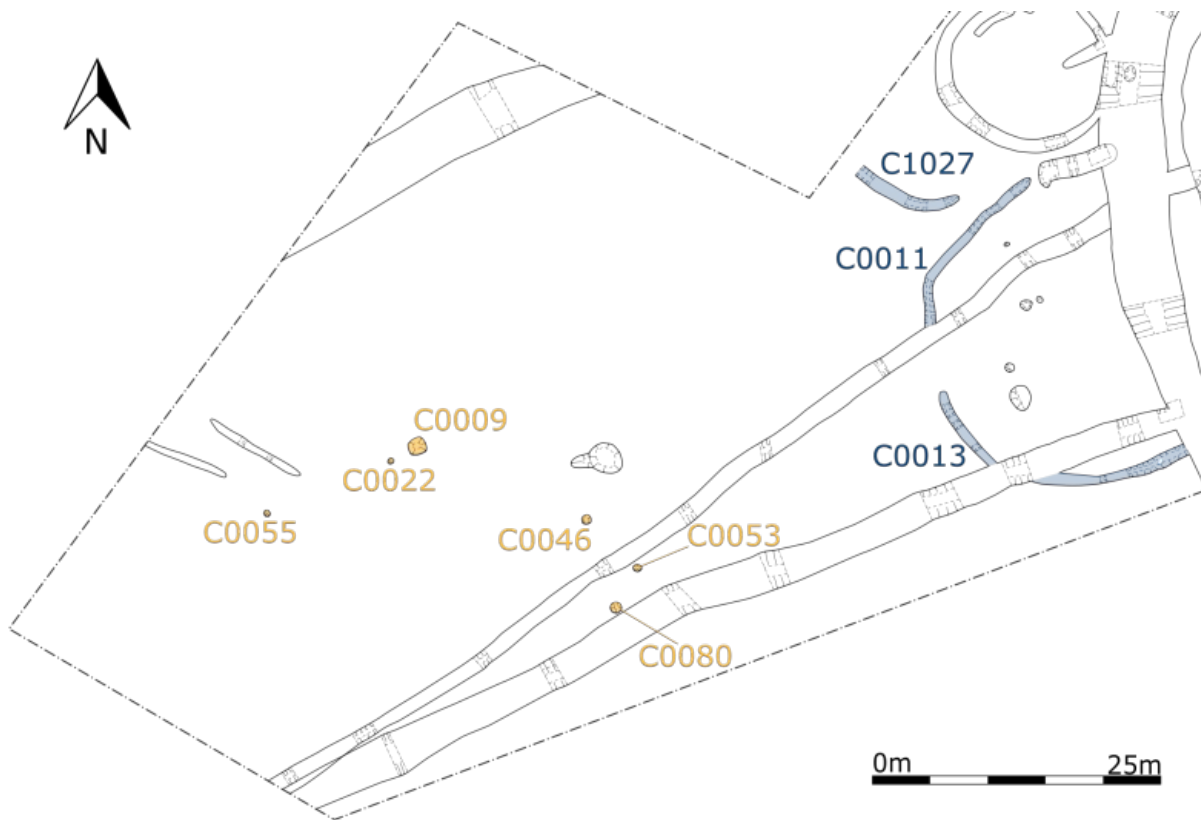
There were three smaller pits on the interior of the slot trench. C1010 was the cut of an irregular shaped pit with a sharp break of slope at its top, concave sides and a gradual break of slope at its irregular base. It was 0.7m in length, 0.6m in width and it was 0.24m deep. It had one fill, C1011, a soft orange-brown clay with sand and occasional charcoal flecks and a number of pre-historic ceramic sherds that appear to be from the same vessel (19E0077:1011:0001 - 0010).

C1012 was a smaller sub-circular pit that was 0.32m long, 0.29m wide and 0.16m deep with a sharp break of slope at its top, concave sides and a gradual break of slope at its almost-flat base. It too had one fill, C1013, a grey-brown clay with sand.

C1093 was circular in plan with a diameter of 0.23m and a depth of 0.13m. It had a sharp break of slope at its top and base and it had concave sides. It had a very sharp V-shaped base suggesting it was probably a post-hole on the interior of the slot trench C1000. The single fill C1094 was a sterile brown-grey silty sand.

Post-ex pf pit C1010, facing north





Features external to the prehistoric structure

Features external to the prehistoric structure

A narrow, shallow curvilinear ditch C1027 was just outside the prehistoric structure. It was at least 4m long, 0.65m wide and 0.2m deep. It extended westwards under the unstripped area and beyond the limits of the excavation. The basal fill C1029 was a brown gravelly silt. The upper fill C1028 was a brown sandy silt with occasional seashell and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Two clusters of pits were scattered within two areas to the southwest of the prehistoric structure. These were: C0009, C0022, C0055 and C0046, C0053 and C0080.

The first cluster were near the south-western limits of excavation, and relatively isolated from other features apart from two nearby plough furrows (C0005 and C0007). C0009 was a small oval-in-plan shaped pit with a sharp break of slope at its top and a gradual break of slope to its concave base. It was 0.3m in length and 0.2m deep. It was filled with a burnt orange-brown

sandy clay with frequent charcoal inclusions. It had no evidence for in situ burning implying it was a rubbish pit for discarded burnt material, possibly from the kiln C0003.

An adjacent small posthole C0022 was sub-circular in plan with a sharp break of slope at its top and near vertical sides, except on its eastern side which was angled. Likewise, it had a sharp break of slope on all sides except the eastern side. It had a diameter of approximately 0.2m and was 0.12m deep. It had a single fill, C0023; a grey-brown silty clay of moderate compaction and occasional charcoal flecks.

C0055 was removed at a greater distance from the previous two features. It was oval in plan with a moderate break of slope at its top, obtuse concave sides and a gradual break of slope to its almost flat base. It was 0.3m long, 0.26m wide and 0.04m deep. The single fill C0056 was an orange-brown sandy clay.

The second cluster of pits were south of the kiln C0003 and divided by the long linear ditch C0049. C0053 was circular in plan with a sharp break of slope at its top, concave sides and a sharp break of slope to its irregular base. It was 0.45m long, 0.4m wide and 0.08m deep. It had a single loose fill, C0054, that comprised an orange-brown clayey silt with no inclusions.

C0046 was oval in plan with a sharp break of slope at its top and base. It was 0.49m long, 0.34m wide and 0.22m deep. It had an almost V-shaped profile and steep concave sides. It was filled with a grey-brown clayey sand. C0047, that contained some unworked pieces of flint.

C0080 was sub-circular in plan with a sharp break of slope at its top, steep, concave sides and a moderate break of slope at its U-shaped base. It was 0.65m long, 0.53m wide and 0.36m deep. The basal fill C0082 was a red-brown sandy silt of moderate compaction. The upper fill C0081 was a soft brown silt with red burnt silt and charcoal fleck inclusions. C0080 may have served as a pit for burnt waste from the nearby, later kiln C0003.

C0048 was a possible posthole situated in the southeast of the site. It was circular in plan and roughly 10.5m southeast of C0046. The fill C0049 was a grey-brown silty sand, very loose in compaction and sterile.

Irregular-shaped pit C1220 was cut into natural subsoil C0002 and C1219. It was also recorded as cutting through the basal fill of Enclosure ditch 8, which has otherwise been dated to the early medieval period. This may represent complicated stratigraphy in this part of the site and will be resolved through radiocarbon dating. It was at least 0.6m long, 0.48m wide and 0.2m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at its top, a moderate break of slope at its base. It had concave sides and a U-shaped base. It had a single fill, C1221, a brown-yellow clayey sand with occasional charcoal inclusions. It was soft in compaction. It contained 34 sherds of prehistoric pottery that are likely from a single broken vessel. It was severely truncated by C1194 (enclosure ditch 8) on its northern side and slightly cut by C1088 (enclosure ditch 7) on its southern side.

Phase 2

Two long straight linear ditches, C0049 and C0067 were stratigraphically later than the prehistoric structure and earlier than the southern enclosure. The truncated the prehistoric structure and in turn were cut by the later Enclosures 2 and 3. C0049 ran from northeast to southwest beyond the site boundary and had a sharp break of slope at its top and a moderate break of slope at its base. It was over 36m long, 0.6m

Pit C0080, southeast-facing section



Phase 2 ditches C0045 and C0067





Northeast-facing section of Phase 2 ditch C0067

wide and 0.26m deep. It had two fills, C0050 and C0045. The basal fill C0050 was a grey-brown soft silty clay with occasional charcoal inclusions. The upper fill C0045 was a yellow sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks.

C0067 was also over 40m long; it had a maximum width of 1.15m and was 0.45m deep. It ran northeast-east to southwest-west. The basal fill was a grey brown sandy silt and the upper fill C0078 was also a grey brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks. The re-cut C0015 had two fills, C0016 and C0077. C0016 was a

brown-yellow sandy silt, similar to C0045, with occasional charcoal flecks. C0077 was a brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoals.

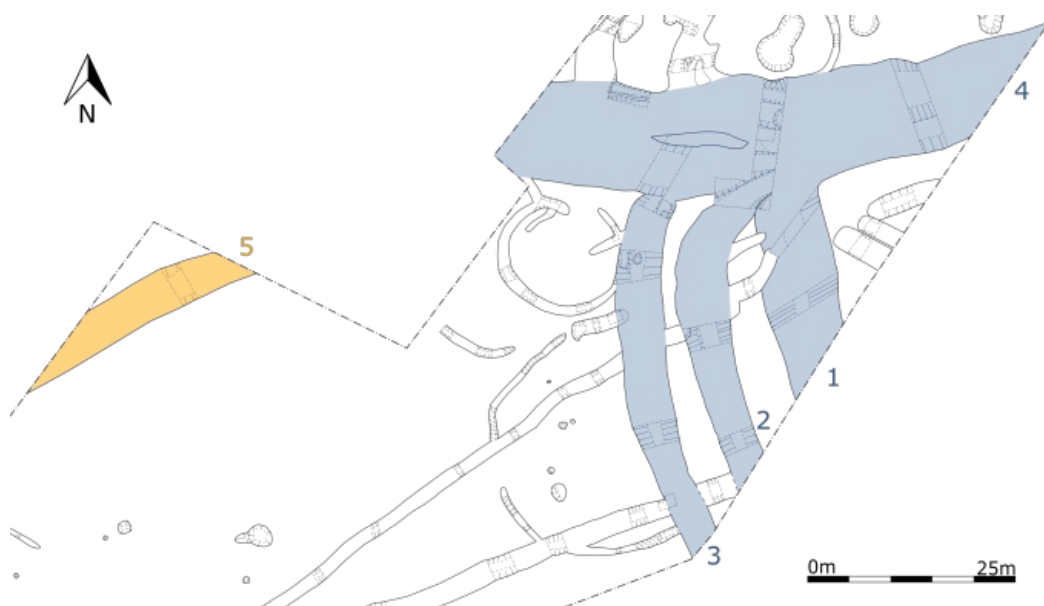
The two long linear ditches ran towards each other, almost meeting before the site boundary. Their purpose is unclear though the re-cut C0015 and the similar fills of the ditches suggest that they were being maintained and that they were contemporary to each other. Both ditches were cut by the later Enclosures 2 and 3.

Phase 3: Cemetery settlement

Southern enclosure

The edge of a possible D-shaped enclosure was identified near the site limits. It was defined by a straight boundary ditch (4) and three curvilinear ditches running off it to form an annex to the south (1-3). Stratigraphically, ditch 4 truncated ditches 1 and 2, however, it is clear from the plan that the line of ditch 4 must have been established before ditches 1-3 were formed. Ditches 1-3 followed the same overall line and may have been re-definitions of the same line. For example, ditch 2 cut ditch 1. All three ditches were too close together to be a trivallate

Southern enclosure ditches 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5



enclosure, and the maintenance of each ditch was different (the ditches were maintained/re-cut less as they moved outwards) and so it is concluded the re-cuts were not contemporary.

The enclosure ditches 1, 2 and 3 follow the same north-south orientation and extend beyond the south-eastern site limit. Enclosure ditch 4 was orientated northeast-southwest and extended beyond the eastern site boundary and the southwestern limit of excavation. It cuts the termini of the enclosure ditches 1 and 2, but is itself cut by enclosure 3, suggesting a broad contemporaneity between the features. The sand and gravel nature of the natural subsoil, C0002, would have necessitated regular maintenance of the ditch cuts.

Enclosure ditch 1

Enclosure ditch 1, C1037, had a minimum length of 10m, an average width of 5m and a depth of 1.65m. The base was U-shaped, the sides were concave, and it had a sharp break of slope at its top and base. It had four visible re-cuts and several fills, some of which contained E-ware pottery sherds (C1179 (E-ware), C1180 (E-ware), C1181, C1182 (medieval pottery), re-cut C1066, C1178 (E-ware), re-cut C1176, C1183 (medieval pottery), C1184, C1177, re-cut C1187, C1188 C1190, C1191, re-cut 1192, C1193, C1185 (medieval pottery), C1186). Given the gravelly nature of those fills on the western side of enclosure ditch 1, it is likely that

they represented slump material from a bank that once stood on that side of the ditch.

Two E-ware pottery sherds were recovered from the cut C1037; from C1179 and the earliest fill C1180. One E-ware sherd came from the latest fill C1178 of the final re-cut C1066. One other medieval pottery sherd came from C1183, within the re-cut C1176 and another from C1185, within the re-cut C1192. The E-ware sherds from the earliest and latest fills of enclosure ditch 1 suggest a mid-6th to late 7th century AD date for the use of the enclosure (Doyle, 2014).

Enclosure ditch 1 was cut by the narrow curvilinear features C1110 (fill C1111) and C1108 (fill C1109). These features did not survive to a great length as they were in turn both truncated by enclosure 2, C1030, and neither extended beyond it. They may have related to a kiln or kilns dug into the bank, no other traces of which survive.

Enclosure ditch 2

Enclosure ditch 2, C1030, was a minimum of 15m in length (extending southeast-wards beyond the site boundary), 2.25m – 3.33m wide and 0.76m – 1.05m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at the top, concave sides and an almost V-shaped base. It had only five fills, C1031, C1032, C1033, C1084 and C0185, and no visible re-cuts, suggesting that it was in use for a

Enclosure ditch 1, southeast-facing section



Enclosure ditch 2, cutting C1091, southwest-facing section



far shorter period than the neighbouring enclosure ditch 1, some 2m to 3m to the east. Enclosure ditch 2 was almost parallel to enclosure ditch 1, except where it curved and tapered north-eastwards, cutting enclosure ditch 1, towards enclosure ditch 4.

Enclosure ditch 3

Enclosure ditch 3, C0042, was the outer-most enclosing ditch of the three southeast-northwest orientated ditches. It was at least 22m long, extending south-eastwards beyond the site boundary. It was 2.55m-2.75m long and 0.85m-1.06m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at the top of its eastern side and a more gradual break at the top of its western side. Likewise, its eastern side was steep at 70-80 degrees while its western side was inclined at a c.60-degree angle. The base was U-shaped.

C0042 had five fills; C1035, C1034, C1121, C1120 and C0043. The basal fill C1035 was a grey-brown sandy silt. C1034 above that was a yellow brown sandy silt that had slumped in on the inner eastern side. C1120 was also slump material on the eastern side of C0042 and comprised orange-brown sandy silt. C1121 was yellow-brown silty sand fill on the eastern edge with frequent shell fragments. The upper fill C0043 was a yellow brown silty sand with some animal bone and infrequent charcoal flecks. The base of C0042 had two pits, C1086 and

East-facing section of enclosure ditch 3, cut by C1116



West-facing section of enclosure ditch 3 (re-cut C1113)

C1129, that were dug into the base close to the northern terminus. C1086 had a sharp break of slope at its top and a moderate break of slope at its U-shaped base. It was oval in plan and was 0.58m long, 0.38m wide and 0.18m deep. The single fill C1087 was a firm red-brown silty clay with infrequent charcoal flecks. It was beneath the basal fill C1035 in C0042.

C1129 was within the inner northern terminus of enclosure ditch 3. It was circular in plan and had a sharp break of slope at its top and a more moderate break of slope at its base. It had a diameter of 0.65m and it was 0.25m deep. It had a single fill, C1130, which was a firm grey-brown silty clay with occasional shell, and infrequent animal bone and charcoal. It was beneath C1035, the basal fill of enclosure ditch 3.

Enclosure ditch 3 was re-cut by C1116 (filled by C1117) on its western side and by C1113 (filled by C1115 and C1114). The terminus of enclosure ditch 3 was cut by enclosure ditch 4. Given the relative paucity of re-cuts in enclosure ditch 3, compared to the long-maintained enclosure ditch 1, it is likely that enclosure ditch 3 was not in use for as long a period as enclosure ditch 1.

Enclosure ditch 3 was cut on its western side by a long linear pit C1095. It was 2.85m long, 0.96m wide and 0.5m deep with a sharp break of slope at its top and a gradual break of slope at its U-shaped base. The basal fill C1097 com-

prised grey-brown silty sand while the upper fill C1096 was an orange-brown sandy silt.

C1095 was in turn cut by the oval pit C1098. It was 1.1m long, 0.45m wide and 0.2m deep with a sharp break of slope at its top and a gradual break of slope to its concave base. The solitary fill C1099 was a brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal.

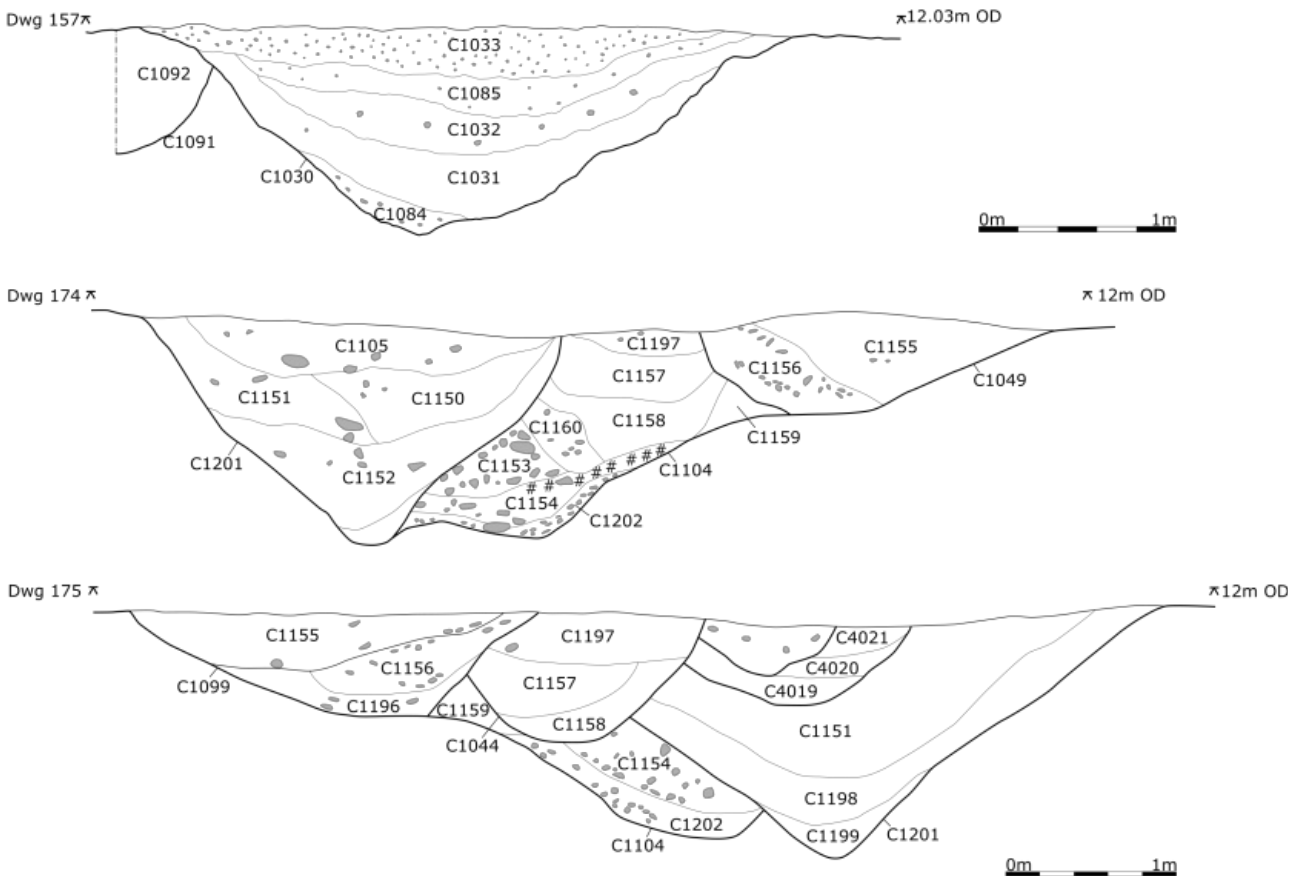
Enclosure ditch 4

Enclosure ditch 4, the earliest surviving cut of which is C1104, was a long, wide linear ditch that extended beyond the site boundary to the east and the limit of excavation to the south-west. Its relationship with the enclosure ditches 1,

2, and 3, would have created a large enclosed space to the east that was mostly outside of the site boundary. Enclosure ditch 4 continued south-westwards, beyond the limits of the other enclosures, and also beyond the limits of the current excavation.

Enclosure ditch 4 was at least 27m in length, 6m wide and varied in depth from 0.76m to 1m. It had a sharp break of slope at its tops, concave sides and almost v-shaped bases in its several re-cuts (C1049, C1201, C1122, C4018, C1046. The basal fill of C1104 was C1202, a yellow-brown gritty same with occasional animal bone and charcoal.

Sections of enclosure ditch 4





Northeast-facing section of enclosure ditch 5

Isolated enclosure ditch 5

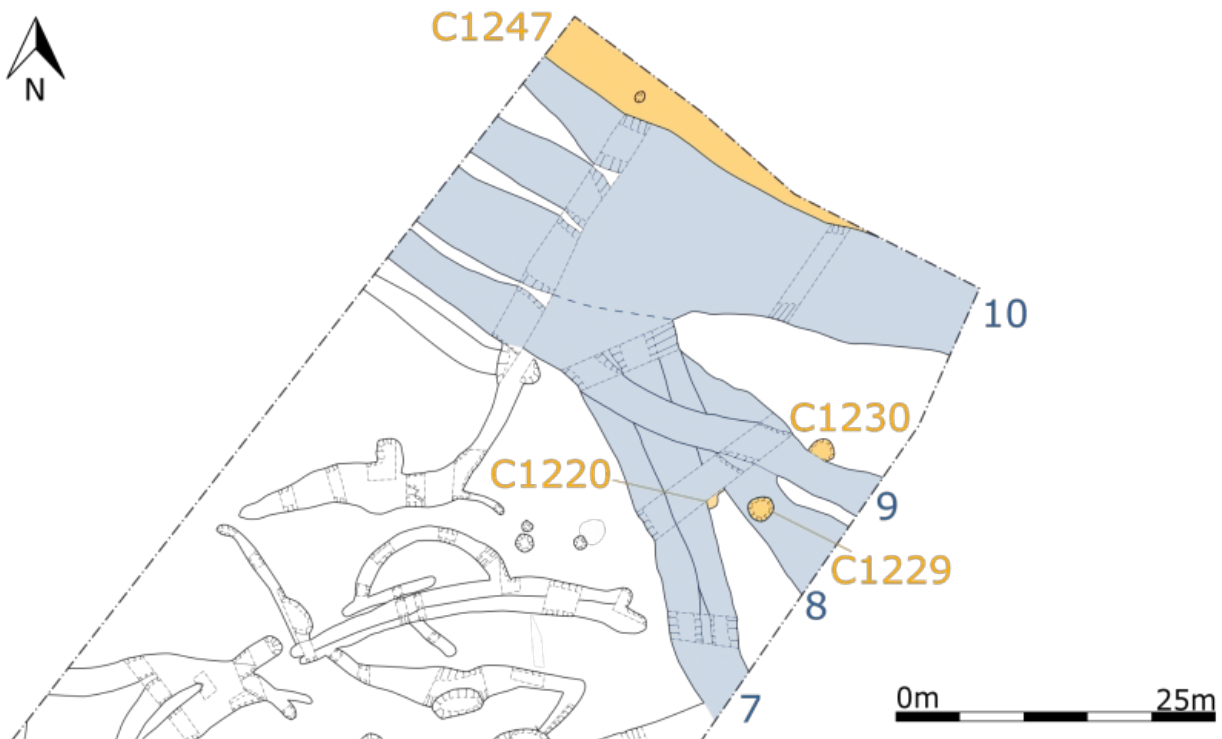
Enclosure ditch 5, C0020, was isolated from other features and only partially exposed for a length of 7m within the corner of the limits of the excavation. It was 2.5m – 2.75m wide and 0.7m – 0.8m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at its top, concave, irregular sides and a moderate break of slope to its flat base. The basal fill

C0041 was a loose mid-brown/grey silty sand with charcoal flecks and animal bone. It contained a flint core and other pieces of unworked flint. The upper fill C0021 was a light grey/brown clayey sand with occasional charcoal flecks and animal bone. Enclosure ditch 5 may have been enclosing a large area that included the kiln C0003 and the Bronze Age structure, but given its location at the excavation boundary, and in the absence of associated features, it is difficult to postulate on the feature's precise function.

Northern enclosure

Enclosure ditch 10 at the northern end of Area A, was a long, wide ditch similar in layout and orientation to enclosure ditch 4. It too created a large boundary and extended beyond the site limits to the east and the excavation limits to the west. The enclosure ditches 7 and 8, like the enclosure ditches 1, 2 and 3, created a possible annex to the south of ditch 10, beyond the site limits. The enclosure ditch 9 extended parallel to enclosure ditch 10 and may have formed an

Northern enclosure ditches



outer boundary to that enclosure. These enclosures were only partly exposed and so are open to other interpretations.

Enclosure ditch 7

Enclosure ditch 7, original cut C1088 was a linear ditch that cut enclosure ditch 8 (C4010/C1219). It was at least 10m long and extended beyond the eastern site limit. It was 3.3m wide and 0.7-0.95m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at its southern edge, a gradual break of slope at its northern edge and a moderate break of slope at its base. It had concave sides and an irregular, almost W-shaped, stepped base. The lower, primary fill C1089 was a brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks and animal bone.

The re-cut C1090 had a gradual break of slope at its top, especially on its stepped southern side and a U-shaped base. Its basal fill C1100 was a grey-brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks and animal bone and frequent shell. The upper fill was a yellow brown silty sand with animal bone and infrequent charcoal flecks. It was cut by a narrow, shallow linear ditch C1102 that had a single fill, C1103, that was a black, charcoal-rich clayey sand.

Enclosure ditch 7 (C1088) cut enclosure ditch 8 (C4010) and the prehistoric pit C1220. The pit C1291 cut both C1268 and C1286. C1291 was ovoid in plan with a sharp break of slope at its top and its near-flat base. It was 2m long, 1m

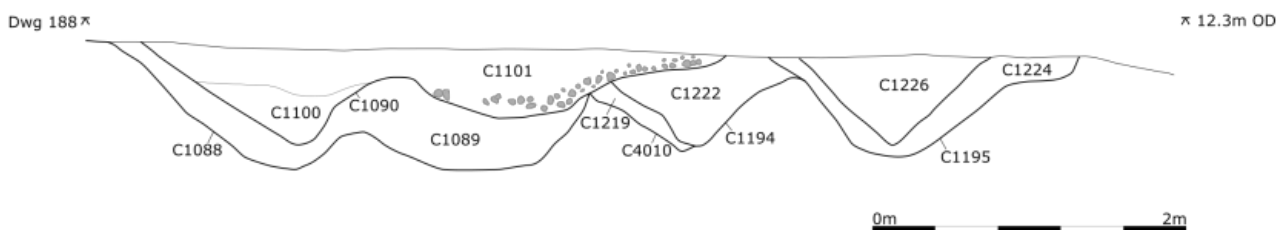


Mid-ex of pit C1220, facing northwest

wide and 0.37m deep. The basal fill C1293 was a brown silty sand with occasional charcoal inclusions. The upper fill C1292 was a darker brown silty sand with occasional inclusions of charcoal and animal bone.

C1291 also cut the short, linear ditch C1306. It had a sharp break of slope at its top and its U-shaped base. The basal fill C1329 was a brown-orange sandy silt and the upper fill C1328 was a darker brown sandy silt. Both fills were re-cut by C1330. Its fill, C1331, was a brown sandy clay with moderate inclusions of shell and animal bone and regular inclusions of charcoal. It too was cut by C1291.

Southeast-facing section of enclosure ditches 7 (C1088), 8 (C4010) and 9 (C1195)





Northwest-facing section of enclosure ditches 9 (C1195), 8 (C4010) and 7 (C1088)

Enclosure ditch 8

Enclosure ditch 8, original ditch cut C4010, is the stratigraphically earliest of the enclosure ditches at the northern limit of the excavation. C4010 only survived in section. It had an irregular, stepped base. A single fill C1219 survived. It was a slump layer of firm yellow silty clay with charcoal flecks. It was at least 1m in length, 1.25m in width and up to 0.3m in depth. This fill was recorded as being cut by the prehistoric pit C1220. The pit C1220 was also recorded as being cut by C1194, a later re-cut of enclosure ditch 8 and by enclosure ditch 7 (C1088). This represents complicated stratigraphy in this area of the site that will be resolved by radiocarbon dating.

C1194 was the primary re-cut of enclosure ditch 8. It had a sharp break of slope at its top, steep concave sides and an almost V-shaped base. Its single fill C1222 was a brown clayey sand of moderate compaction with occasional charcoal flecks and animal bone. It contained two sherds of E-ware pottery. This suggests that some time had passed between the filling of the pit with prehistoric pottery, C1220, and the re-cut C1194.

C1194 was at least 10m long; it extended south-east-wards beyond the site limits, and north-westwards beyond the excavation limits.

Enclosure ditch 8 was cut by a pit C1229 was sub-circular in plan that was cut entirely into C1222. It had a sharp break of slope at its top, concave sides and a gradual break of slope to its U-shaped base. It was 1.06m long, 0.2m wide and 0.23m deep. Its fill C1236 was a brown-orange silty sand with occasional animal bone and frequent charcoal. C1229 was likely a rubbish pit.

Enclosure ditch 9

Enclosure ditch 9, original cut C1195, cuts enclosure ditch 8. C1195 extends south-eastwards beyond the site limits. It was at least 20m long, 2m wide and 0.6m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at its top, concave sides and a gradual break of slope to its irregular-shaped, stepped base. C1195 was stepped on the opposite (northern) side to C1088 and C1194.

The slump fill C1223 on the southern side of C1195 was indicative of a former bank being on that side. C1223 was a yellow sandy clay with charcoal inclusions. It was under a 0.1m thick layer of charcoal and burnt clay, C1228. This layer was only visible in section and was the only evidence of a burning event in the base of the ditch. It was beneath C1227, a sterile brown silty sand of moderate compaction. That was beneath the primary fill C1224, a brown sandy clay with charcoal flecking.

The re-cut C1225 of Enclosure ditch 9 cut through C1224. It had a sharp break of slope at its top and at its V-shaped base. It had one fill, C1226, a grey-brown, firm clayey sand.

Enclosure ditch 9 cut enclosure ditch 7 as it extended northwest-wards beyond the limit of the current excavation. It also cut the pit C1268.

Features external to ditch 9

Several features on the south side of enclosure ditch 9 interact with each other.

Ditch C1289 is the cut of a short, shallow ditch that was at least 4m long, 0.62m wide and 0.23m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at its top, concave sides and a more gradual break of slope to its U-shaped base. It had a single fill, C1290, a brown silty sand with moderate inclusions of shell and bone and frequent charcoal.

It was cut by another short, shallow curvilinear ditch C1286. It was at least 6m in length, 1.09m in width and 0.28m deep. The basal fill C1288 was an orange-brown silty sand. The upper fill C1287 was a brown silty sand with moderate inclusions of charcoal and bone.

The northern terminus of C1286 was cut by the pit C1268. It was sub-rectangular in plan with a sharp break of slope at its top and its almost flat base. The sides were concave and steep. It was at least 1.1m long, 0.8-0.85m wide and 0.1-0.14m deep. The fill C1269 was a brown silty sand of moderate compaction with a charcoal lens near the base of the feature. The pit C1268 was cut by enclosure 9 (C1195).

C1230 was cut into natural subsoil C0001 and C1226, the upper fill of the re-cut C1225 within enclosure 9. It was a sub-circular pit with a sharp break of slope at its top, concave sides and a gradual break of slope to its U-shaped base. It was 1.04m long, 0.89m wide and 0.15m deep. The basal fill C1237 was a brown-grey sand with frequent shell and charcoal inclusions. The upper fill was a darker brown silty sand with occasional charcoal and shell inclusions. It was of similar dimensions and fills as C1229 and it was likely a contemporary rubbish pit.

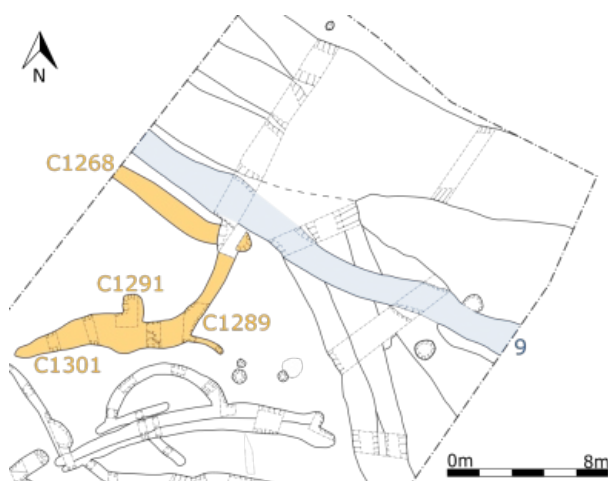
Enclosure ditch 10

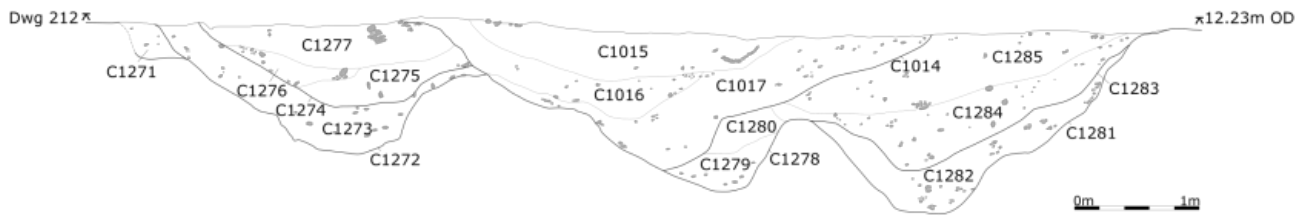
Enclosure ditch 10 was the northern-most enclosure ditch within Field 4, Area A. It was the largest of the northern enclosure ditches and like ditch 4 to the south, it determined the layout of the related enclosure ditches that formed an annex to the southeast. It comprised three main ditch cuts; C1272, C1278, and C1281. Some or all of these may be extensions of ditch cuts identified in enclosure ditches 7 and 8, in which case they are likely to represent maintenance and cleaning out after the initial establishment of the annex/enclosure.

C1272 was the original cut of Enclosure ditch 10. It had a sharp break of slope on its surviving north-eastern side, concave sides and a moderate break of slope to its U-shaped base. It was 2.25m wide and 1m deep. The basal fill C1273 was an orange-brown silt.

C1272 was truncated by the re-cut C1274. It had three fills. The lower fill C1275 was an orange-brown sandy silt. The middle fill C1276 was a grey-brown sandy silt. The upper fill C1277 was an orange-grey silty clay with some animal bone. All fills within C1272 and the re-cut C1274 were truncated by C1278 and/or its various re-cuts.

Features external to ditch 9





Northwest-facing section of enclosure ditch 10 and re-cuts

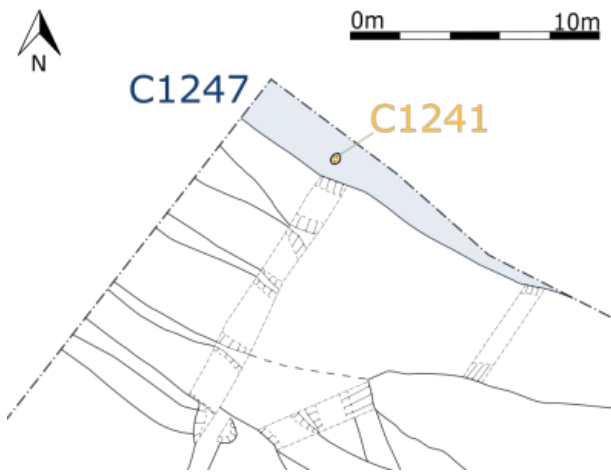
C1278 was the next main cut within enclosure ditch 10. It was only visible in section and only the U-shaped base and concave sides survived. It was 1.2m deep and at least 0.9m wide. The basal fill C1279 was a compact brown-grey clayey silt. It was below C1280, a grey-brown clayey silt of moderate compaction. Both fills were truncated by the re-cut C1014. It had a gradual break of slope at its tops, concave sides and a sharp break of slope at its almost V-shaped base. It was over 20m in length and extended south-eastwards beyond the limits of the site and north-westwards beyond the limits of the excavation. It was 3-3.5m wide and 1.1m deep. Its lowest fill C1017 was a grey-orange sandy silt. C1017 was visible on the surface of the ditch. As were the upper two fills; C1016

and C1015. The middle fill C1016 was a brown-grey silt with lenses of seashell and charcoal. The upper fill C1015 was a brown-black clayey silt, that contained some animal bones and again lenses of charcoal and seashell.

C1281 was the final main cut in enclosure ditch 10. It only survived in section and was at least 2.1m wide and 1.45m deep. Its fill C1282 was a compact grey-brown silty clay with animal bone. The re-cut C1283 was at least 20m long, 2.5m wide and 1m deep. It had two fills. C1284 was a brown-grey clayey silt with frequent animal bone. The upper fill C1285 was an orange-brown clayey silt with frequent large animal bones. C1281 cut C1278 and in turn was truncated by the re-cut C1014.

Northwest-facing section of enclosure ditch and re-cuts





Features external to enclosure ditch 10

Features external to enclosure ditch 10

C1247 was not fully exposed as it extended under the unstripped portion of the site. It was at least 0.3m wide and 0.3m deep. It also extended northwest-wards beyond the limit of this phase of excavation for at least 10m. One fill was partially recorded, C1271. It was an orange-brown sandy silt.

C1247 was cut by the small sub-circular pit C1241. It had a moderate break of slope at its top, concave sides and a gradual break of slope to its U-shaped base. It was 0.3m long, 0.2m wide and 0.4m deep. The single fill C1242 was a grey-brown clay silt with some animal bones.

Southeast-facing section of pit C1241, within ditch C1247



Central enclosure

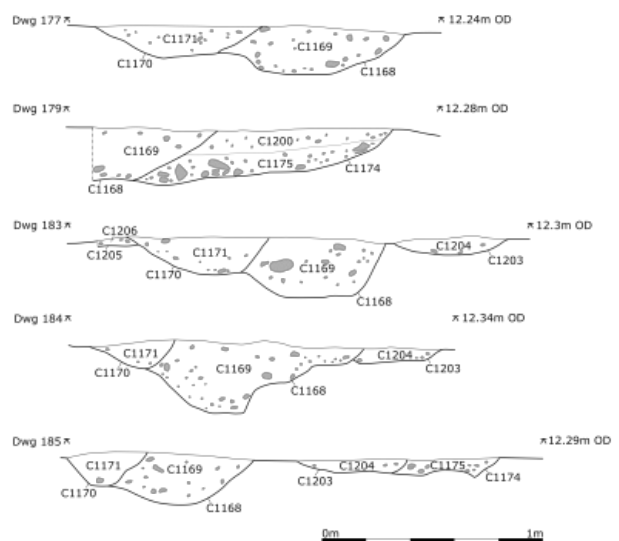
A smaller enclosure between the two larger ones described above was defined by enclosure ditches 4 and 6.

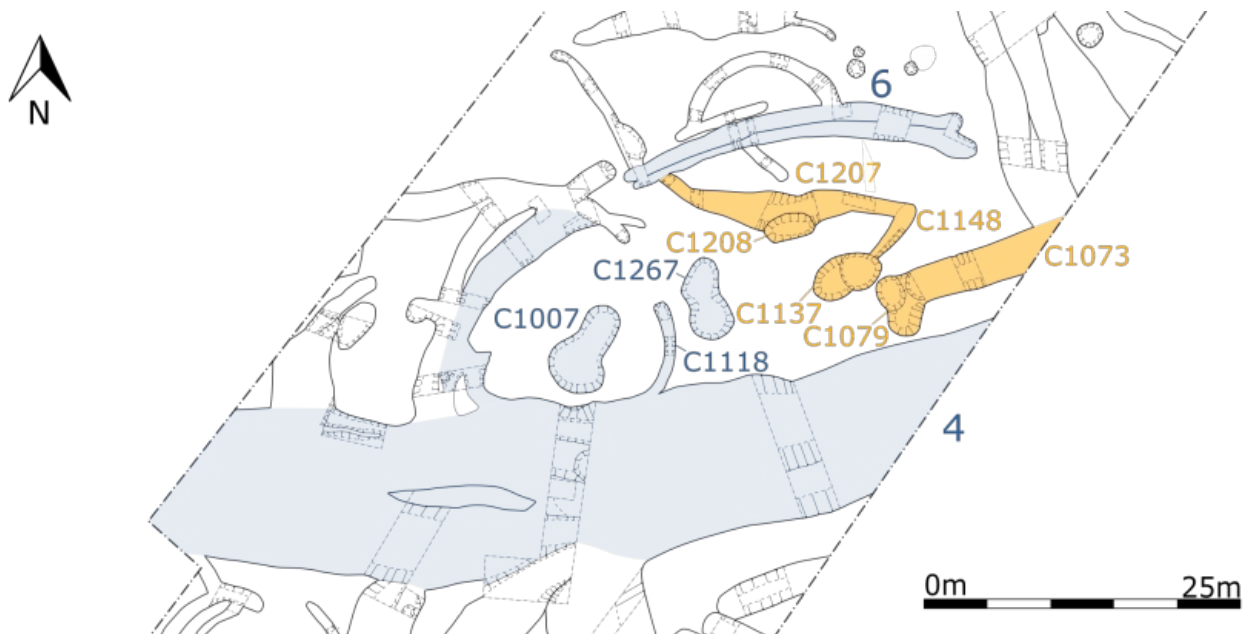
Enclosure ditch 6, original cut C1168, was smaller than the previously discussed enclosure ditches. C1168 measured 14.85m in length, 0.54m-0.67m in width and 0.12m-0.28m in depth. It had a sharp break of slope at its top, a gradual break of slope at its flat base and concave sides. It had a single fill, C1169, a mid-grey brown sandy silt with occasional animal bone inclusions. It was re-cut by the similar curvilinear ditch C1170 that suggests some maintenance of the enclosure. C1170 had a single yellow-brown clayey silt fill, C1171.

C1170 also cut the short, shallow linear pit C1205. It was 1.87m long, 0.48m and 0.08m deep. The fill C1206 was a yellow-brown sandy silt with some animal bone. C1295 may have formed an internal subdivision within Enclosure ditch 6.

C1170 additionally truncated the shallow curvilinear ditch C1207.

Sections of enclosure ditch 6





Central enclosure ditch 6 and internal features

Enclosure ditch 6 continued southwards in the form of the curvilinear shallow ditch cut C1233, that enclosed the kiln C1007. C1233 was at least 8m in length, 0.8–1.45m in width and 0.27 – 0.4m in depth. It had a sharp break of slope at its top, concave sides and its base changed from a sharp V-shape to a gradual U-shape as it progressed northwards. The earliest fill C4001, C1234 and C1235 were all similar silty sands with some animal bone inclusions. C1233 was re-cut a number of times by C1260, C1304 and C1305. C1305 may have been a continuation of C1118, the curvilinear ditch that enclosed the kiln C1007.

The most significant re-cut of the southern part of enclosure ditch 6 was the curvilinear shallow ditch C1215. It was external to and likely not contemporary to C1233, i.e. it was dug after C1233 had filled in. C1215 was 9.5m long, 0.4–0.9m wide and 0.16–0.32m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at its top and a gradual break of slope to its concave base. C1215 had two fills; C1216 and C1217. C1216 was a brown sandy silt with occasional animal bone and C1217 was a brown silty clay.

Both C1215 and C1233 extended into, and were truncated by, the larger enclosure ditch 4.

Features enclosed by ditch 6

The pit C1079 was ovoid in plan with a moderate break of slope at its top and a gradual break of slope at its base. It had three fills of varying silty sand, C1080, C1081 and C1082. It was originally greater than 1.1m in length and 0.96m in width. It had a maximum depth of 0.6m. It was cut by the terminus of the narrow linear ditch C1073 that was over 5.5m long (extending beyond the site limit), 1.5m wide and 0.64m deep. C1073 had five fills (C1074, C0175, C0176, C1077 and C1078) of various silty sands and sandy silts. It had a sharp break of slope at its top and a moderate break of slope at its base.

The nearby pit C1137 was figure-of-eight shape in plan and 2.9m long, 1.6m wide and 0.9m deep. It had at least two visible re-cuts, C1143 and C1164). Several bone artefacts were found in the pit, including an awl (19E0077:1140:0001) a die (19E0077:1144:001) and two pins (19E0077:1145:001 and :002). Each of the artefacts was damaged beyond proper use. The die, for example, had only five numbers; the dots representative of the number two (presumably) having eroded. C1137 may have functioned as a rubbish pit that was re-used on several occasions. There was some later disturbance of the pit as it was cut by a plough furrow and some

19th century glass was recovered from an upper fill.

It was also cut by the short, shallow linear ditch C1148. It was 3.3m in length, 1.3m wide and 0.07m deep, with a single grey-brown silty clay fill, C1149.

C1148 was cut by the southern terminus of shallow curvilinear ditch C1207. C1207 was also within, and cut by, the enclosure 6 (re-cut C1170) at its northern terminus. C1207 was 4.4m long, 2.47m wide and 0.6m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at its top, concave sides and a moderate break of slope to its U-shaped base. The basal fill C1232 was an orange-red silty sand of loose compaction with moderate inclusions of shell and animal bone and occasional charcoal inclusions. The middle fill C1231 was a brown, loose sandy silt with moderate charcoal inclusions and occasional shell and animal bone. The upper fill C1209 was a grey-brown silty sand with frequent animal bone and moderate charcoal inclusions. C1207 may have been an internal division within Enclosure 6, similar to the curvilinear slot trench C1118 that surrounded the kiln C1007.

The long pit C1208 was cut into the fill C1209. It was 1.58m long, 0.6m wide and 0.18m deep. Its fill C1210 was a grey-brown silty sand of loose compaction with inclusions of shell and charcoal.

Kiln C1007

A keyhole-shaped kiln C1007 was within a windbreak defined by a slot trench C1118. C1007 had a maximum length of 4m, a maximum width of 1.8m and a maximum depth of 0.5m. The chamber (to the south) was 2.85m long and the drying chamber (to the north) was 1.15m in length. The basal fill C1009 was a 0.05m thick layer of charcoal and was predominantly within the drying chamber. It contained some worked flint and burnt bone. The next layer above that, C1024, was a sandy silt that was red orange in colour as a result of oxidation from in situ burning. It was also mainly in the drying chamber. C1026 was another charcoal layer above C1024. It was beneath C1025, a dark brown clay-silt which itself was beneath C1036, another layer of red silt.

The re-cut C1022 contained the final kiln fill, C1023, another dark brown silt that had frequent animal bone inclusions.

C1118 was the cut of a curvilinear slot trench that likely acted as a windbreak for the kiln C1007. It had a sharp break of slope at its tops and bottom, with a concave base and sides. It was 3.7m long, 0.7m wide and 0.15m-0.3m deep. It had a single fill, C1119, a brown sandy silt with some animal bone.

It cut the wide enclosure ditch 4 (C1104) and it was likely originally dug into a bank associated

Northwest-facing section of kiln C1007



with the ditch. Evidence of C1118 did not extend beyond enclosure ditch 4 though it is likely that it may have been dug into a bank associated with enclosure ditch 4.

Kiln C1267

C1267 was a figure-of-8 shaped kiln within enclosure ditch 6 and on the exterior of the enclosing trench C1118 that encompasses the keyhole-shaped kiln C1007. C2167 had a sharp break of slope at its top, a moderate break of slope at its base, concave sides and an irregular base. It was 3m long, 1.3m-1.7m wide and 0.6m deep. The basal fill C1298 consisted of a 0.1m layer of soft charcoal. It was beneath a 0.3m thick layer of a light brown-grey silty sand, C1297, that had occasional charcoal inclusions. Another layer of burning was evident in the charcoal fill C1296 that also had occasional animal bone inclusions. C1295 was a loose gravel fill above that and beneath the final fill C1294, a dark brown loose silty sand with occasional animal bone inclusions and rare flecks of charcoal.

C1267 was not as well maintained as the other two kilns in Area A, suggesting that it was not in use for as long. Its location on the exterior of the slot trench C1118 suggests that it was a later addition.

Features external to Enclosure 6

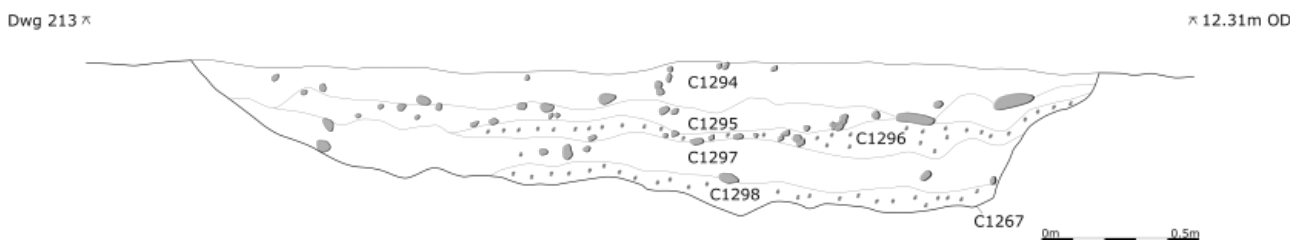
C1131 was sub-circular in plan with a sharp break of slope at both its top and its V-shaped base. It was 0.3m long, 0.48m wide and 0.25m deep. It had one fill, C1132, a dark brown silt some animal bone and shell. C1131 may have been a post-hole external to Enclosure 6.

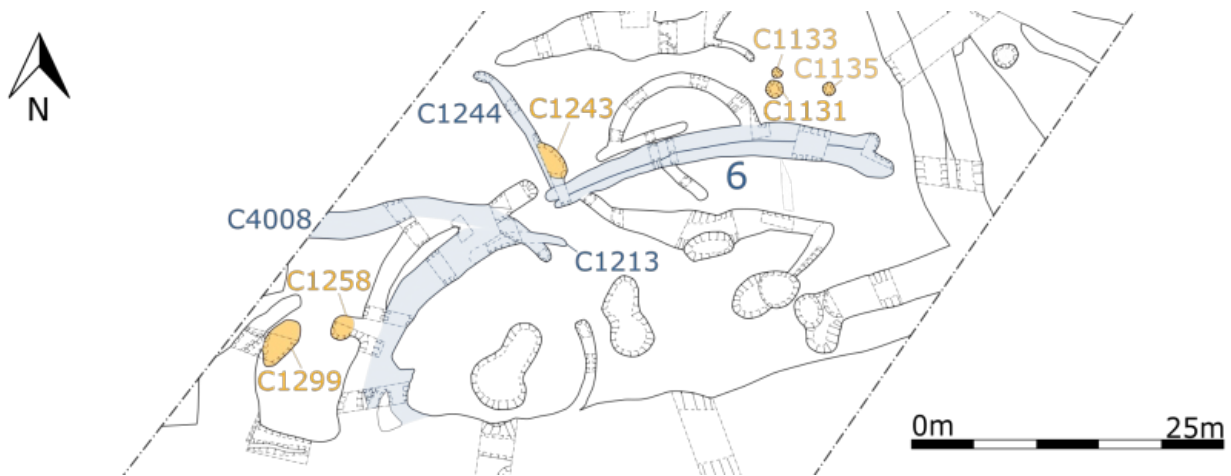
C1133 was also sub-circular in plan with a gradual break of slope at its top and base. It was 0.85m long, 0.77m wide and 0.15m deep with one fill, C1134. That was a dark brown sterile silt.

C1135 was sub-circular in plan with a gradual break of slope at its top and base. It was 0.8m long, 0.65m wide and 0.1m deep. The fill C1136 was a dark brown layer of clayey silt with a lens of charcoal at its surface.

C1243 was oval in plan with a sharp break of slope at its top and base. It had steep sides on its eastern and western edges, and more gradual sides to the north and south. The base was almost flat. The basal fill C1250 was a dark sandy clay of loose compaction with occasional animal bone, shell fragments and flecks of charcoal inclusions. The upper fill C1249 was a grey-brown clayey sand with occasional animal bone inclusions. It contained a layer of dumped stones, C1270. C1243 was likely a rubbish pit.

Southwest-facing section of kiln C1267





Features external to enclosure ditch 6

C1244 was a short, shallow linear ditch, with a sharp break of slope at its top and a moderate to sharp break of slope at its base. It was at least 3.6m long, 0.4m wide and 0.18m deep. The basal fill C1246 was a brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal flecks. The upper fill C1245 was a brown silty clay with moderate charcoal inclusions. The southern terminus was cut by the pit C1243.

Both C1215 and C1233 were cut by the features C4008 and C1213. C4008 was the cut of long, straight ditch that extended beyond the limits of this phase of excavation. It was at least 20m long, 0.5-1m wide and 0.15-0.3m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at its top and a gradual break of slope at its U-shaped base. The fill C4009 was a brown sandy silt with occasional animal bone. C4008, like C1215 and C1233, was cut by the plough furrow C1213.

C1215 cut the pit C1258 that was external to enclosure ditch 6. C1258 had a sharp break of slope at its top, a gradual break of slope at its U-shaped base and concave sides. It was 1.5m long, 1.2m wide and 0.25m deep. It had a dark, charcoal-rich sandy silt fill, C1259 with some animal bone inclusions.

C1299 was a nearby pit that was sub-oval in plan. It was 2m long, 1.2m wide and 0.4m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at its top, concave sides and a sharp break of slope at its U-shaped

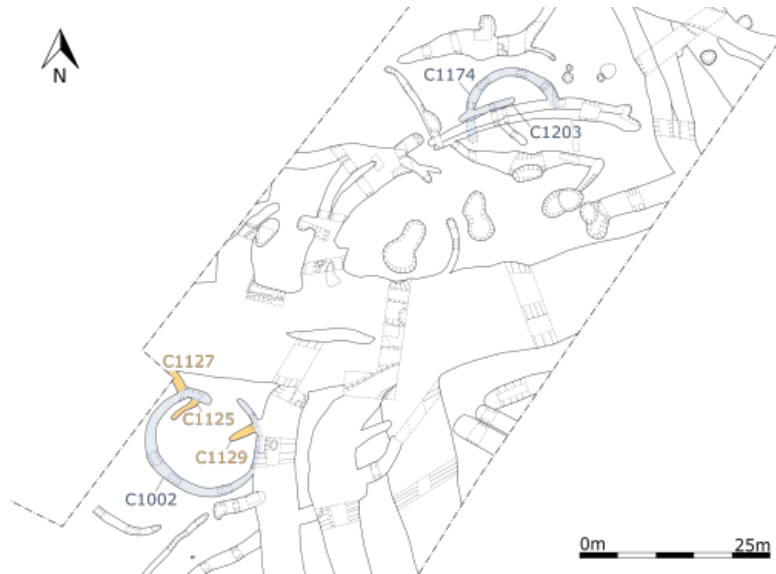
base. It was adjacent to a narrow linear ditch C1301 that appeared to extend into enclosure ditch 6, in an area beyond the limits of the current phase of excavation.

Other structures

C1002 was the cut of a penannular enclosing slot trench. It was 8m in length, 0.6m-0.95m wide and 0.3m-0.4m deep. It had a diameter of c. 6.25m. It had a moderate break of slope at its top, concave side and a gradual break of slope at its U-shaped base. It had a single fill, C1003, that was an orange-brown clayey sand of moderate compaction with infrequent charcoal fleck inclusions and very infrequent animal bones fragment. It cut enclosure ditch 3 (C0042) and it may have been dug into a bank associated with the large ditch.

Mid-ex of C1002, facing east





Other structures

Although of similar proportion to C1118, there was no kiln associated with C1002. A layer of shell midden material, C1124, sat on top of natural subsoil C0002 and beneath topsoil C0001 within the enclosure C1002. The enclosed space of C1002 likely served as a shell-processing area.

C1002 was cut by the short, shallow linear features C1125, C1127 and C1129.

C1174 was a small curvilinear enclosure/slot trench on the exterior of, and cut by, Enclosure ditch 6 (C1168). It was 8.8m long, 0.5m–0.6m wide and 0.1–0.23m. It had a sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual break of slope at its base. The base was U-shaped. The sides were concave and sharp on the external edge at an angle of c.80 degrees. The inner edge was angled at c.50 degree and this may have arisen from posts being inserted into the trench from the internal side. The fill C1175 was a dark yellow-brown sandy silt with occasional animal bone and infrequent charcoal flecks.

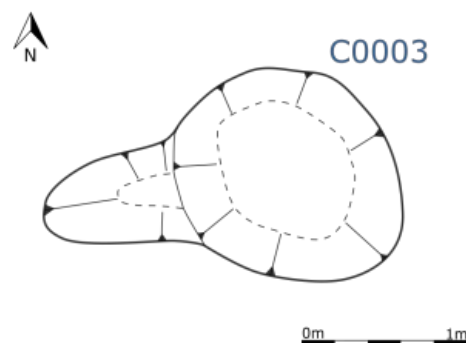
No evidence for a kiln survived within the enclosed space of C1174, though its central diameter is truncated by Enclosure ditch 6 (C1168/1170). It is also cut by the short, shallow linear ditch C1203. It was 4m long, 0.5m

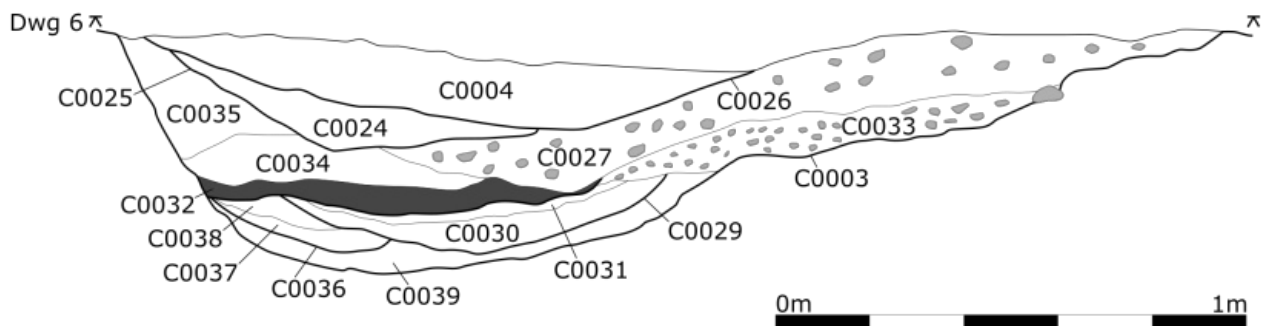
wide and 0.1m deep with gradual breaks of slope at its top and base. It had one fill, C1204; a dark grey brown clay-silt with occasional animal bone.

Kiln C0003

C0003 was the cut of a cereal-drying kiln that did not have an associated enclosing windbreak feature. It may be the case that such a feature did not survive in that area of the site, though it is worth noting that there were also no large enclosure ditches within the immediate vicinity of C0003, as was the case for the other kilns in Area A.

Plan of kiln C0003





Northwest-facing section of kiln C0003

C0003 was keyhole-shaped in plan, with a burning chamber and a drag area. It had a maximum length of 2.45m, a maximum width of 1.52m and a maximum depth of 0.57m. The burning chamber was 1.5m long, 1.52m deep and 0.57m deep. The drag area was 0.95m long, 0.8m wide and 0.26m deep. Both the burning chamber and the drag area had sharp breaks of slope at their tops. The drag area had a gradual break of slope at its base, as did the burning chamber. No evidence for an above-ground kiln structure survived.

The earliest fill of C0003 was a loose, stony, sandy clay that may have been the remains of a clay lining. It contained one piece of flint. The kiln was cleaned out several times and five re-cuts were visible in section. These were C0025, C0026, C0028, C0029 and C0036.

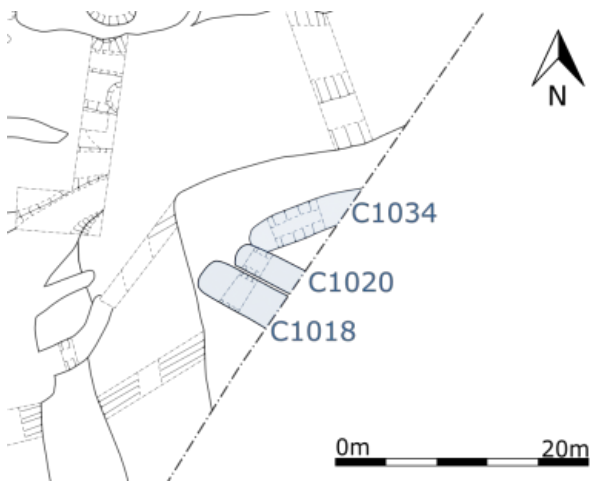
C0036 was the earliest surviving re-cut and it had evidence for in situ burning in the form of the burnt clay layer C0037. This was beneath a black layer of charcoal, C0038. The next re-cut C0029 contained another burnt clay layer C0030 with a thin ashy clay layer C0031 above that. C0032 was another charcoal fill with infrequent fragments of burnt bone. C0034 was dark grey charcoal-rich clay layer above this and it was the final evidence for burning within the chamber. It was beneath C0035, a 0.42m thick layer of clay on the edge of the chamber. C0033, a 0.09m thick gravel layer, extended across the

base of the drag area. It was a slumped subsoil layer that formed from multiple uses of the kiln.

The re-cut C0028 extended from the drag area into the central chamber and its sandy clay fill C0027 had no evidence for burning. The re-cut C0025 had a compact sandy clay fill, C0024. The final re-cut C0026 had a compact sandy clay fill, C0004, that contained one flint find and some animal bone. It had a depth of 0.1m. Both C0025 and C0026 may have related to later disturbances not associated with the kiln itself.

Post-ex of kiln C0003, facing northwest





Post medieval features

Phase 4: Post medieval

C1018 was the cut of a narrow post medieval linear feature, the terminus of which was just inside the south-eastern limits of the site boundary. It had a sudden break of slope at the top and bottom and a U-shaped base. It was at least 3.25m long, 1.5m wide and 1.1m deep. The single fill C1019 was a dark brown sandy silt. Aside from occasional shell and charcoal fleck-

ing, C1019 contained pieces of brick, cement mortar and slate throughout.

The terminus of the linear ditch C1020 was immediately adjacent to and parallel to C1018. C1020 was at least 3m long, 0.9m wide and 0.22m deep. It too had a brown sandy silt fill, C1021, with occasional charcoal and fill.

It slightly cut the terminus of the similarly shaped linear ditch C1039 that also extended beyond the site boundary. It was at least 4m long, 1.04m wide and 0.4m deep. It had three fills, C1040, C1041, C1042 and C1043, all of which were varying shades of brown sand silt. C1040, like C1019 and C1021, had inclusions of shell, bone and charcoal flecking.

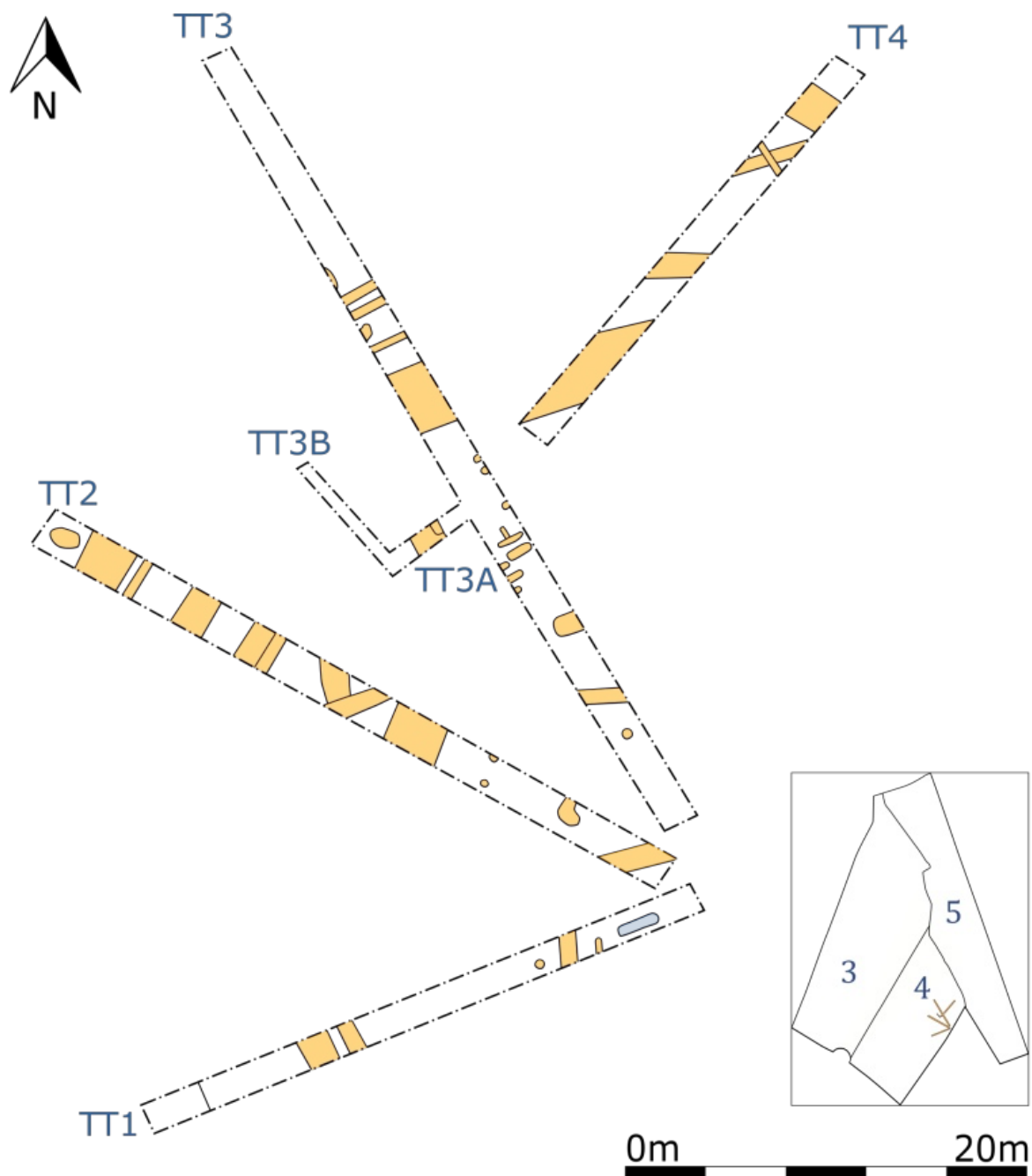
C1034 was at a roughly 45-degree angle to C1018 and C1020. Given the similarity in shape, fills and general respect between the three features, it is probable that they were all contemporary and dated to the Post-Medieval period or later.

The shallow plough furrows C0005 and C0007 had similar grey-brown sandy clay fills (C0006 and C0008 respectively) with some animal bone. Both furrows ran parallel to the field and south boundary at the limits of the excavation.

Mid-ex view of Area A, facing southwest



5 Excavation Area B, Field 4



Plan of the hand-dug test trenches in Field 3

Human bone was first identified in Field 4, Area B in test trenches 47, 55, 56 and 59 (Duffy 2007, Licence 06E0413). One burial that was exposed in Duffy's Test Trench 47 was deemed to be at risk and was fully excavated in 2007 (Rathbone 2008, Licence 07E0622). The remains of a male and a female were present which suggested the possibility of intercutting graves. A carbon-14 dated bone sample from Burial 1 (C10, C11) returned a calibrated date of 575AD. The testing report recommended that an area of 70m² be stripped by hand dug to the presence of very shallow grave cuts under extremely thin topsoil.

Following Rathbone's excavation and prior to the current development the northeast corner of Field 4 was mechanically excavated. This trench, C0827, was approximately 0.75m deep, 30m long and 15m wide. It impacted on human remains in Field 4, Area B and the uppermost layers of archaeology in Field 4, Area D, including the ditch C1553. The northeast end of a burial had been cut through by C0827. Grave cut C0747 was still visible in section and contained the distal end of the left femur and proximal tibia of ISSKB003. The right femur and patella were removed and numbered as Human Bone Sample #12, while the rest of the right leg and foot were probably removed by machine. The base of the trench C0827 was covered in matted grass and moss. Some human remains were present within the grass that may have been impacted by C0827.

2019 Test Trenches

A geophysical survey (Leigh 2019, Licence 19R0029) was commissioned prior to the 2019 excavation to try and establish the limit of the burial ground and to reduce the area to be potentially stripped by hand.

Five test trenches were then hand-stripped in Area B to test the results of the geophysical survey and to establish the limits of the burial ground. Trenches 1, 2, 3 and 4 were 2m wide and averaged 30m in length. Trenches 3A and 3B were 1m wide and approximately 6m long. Two different topsoil numbers were assigned to Area B to distinguish between undisturbed top-

soil (C0700) and the disturbed topsoil and grass containing human remains and artefacts (C0701) that had been piled along the edges and in the mechanically excavated trench.

Where no artefacts or remains were removed from a deposit within the hand-dug test trenches, it was not assigned a context number to prevent duplication at a later stage of excavation. If human remains were found and required immediate removal, the bone removed was assigned a Human Bone Sample number and a cut and fill to allow the remains to be matched up in the post-excavation phase.

Following the opening of the test trenches, the project osteoarchaeologist came to site and several articulated and disarticulated remains were deemed to be at risk. These were then fully excavated. The identified burials that remained in situ were covered in terram under topsoil.

During the excavation of the human remains, four number types were used:

SK – Skeleton

DSK – Disarticulated Skeletal remains

- found in the course of excavating a grave or on its own. Where found in a grave, they may be disturbed elements of the main SK00, or they may be remains that were disturbed when the grave was dug.

ISSK – In Situ Skeleton

- this number was used when a burial was found but left in situ, usually under an excavated grave. These were recorded on GPS.

ISSKB – In Situ Skeleton or Burial

- where human remains or a possible stone lining for a grave were visible on the stripped surface. These were recorded on GPS.

Test Trench 1

Test Trench 1 was set out on a northeast/southwest axis and was opened to determine the extent of the burial ground and to locate the long, straight possible enclosure ditch (Leigh's 3,) that was identified in the geophysical survey. It was 30m long, 2m wide and the topsoil ranged from 0.1-0.5m in depth from northeast to southwest.



Test Trench 1, facing east



Possible structure in Test Trench 2, facing east

Human remains were identified in the north-eastern corner of Test Trench 1. C0703 was a disturbed grave cut and the lower legs of two individuals were removed under HBS:1. These remains were later excavated along with an underlying burial SK51.

A nearby possible narrow, 1m wide ditch C0705 contained the skull of a calf. This feature was not tested for depth.

Another potential burial, C0707, was located five metres to the south of C0705.

A possible curvilinear ditch, C0733, was also identified in Test Trench 2. A large circular pit was adjacent to this potential ditch. No burials were identified beyond this potential ditch.

A final wide, potential ditch C0728 may have corresponded to the southern ditch (Leigh's 3) of the possible enclosure identified in the geophysical survey.

Test Trench 2

Test Trench 2 was orientated northwest/south-east and was designed to test the extent of the burial ground and to locate the possible small enclosure (Leigh's 2) identified in the geophysical survey. Test Trench 2 was 36m long, 2m wide and the topsoil ranged from 0.10–0.37m deep from east to west. No human remains were identified in Test Trench 2.

The possible ditch C0733 that was recorded in Test Trench 1 was located near the south-eastern corner. A large pit to the west of this may have corresponded to one of the potential deep pits (Leigh's 7) identified in the geophysical survey (Leigh 2019).

A 3m wide potential ditch C0737 may have corresponded to the possible circular enclosure (Leigh's 2) identified in the geophysical survey.

Another potential ditch in the north-western end of the test trench possibly corresponded to the other side of the possible circular enclosure. The remains of two possible walls forming the corner of a structure C0828 were identified in Test Trench 2. Each wall was 1m wide and just over 2m long. The total visible length of the structure was 4.5m. The potential structure was not tested in this phase of excavation, but the stones did not appear to be continuing to any depth beneath the surface. The relatively small size of the stones and the apparently random coursing suggest that they were not a suitable foundation for a significant structure.

Several other potential features were noted in the trench, including a ditch C0739 that possibly extended into Test Trench 3 and Test Trench 5 and likely corresponded to the possible enclosure ditch (Leigh's 3) identified in the geophysical survey.



Test Trench 3, facing northwest

Test Trench 3

Test Trench 3 was orientated north-northwest/south-southeast. It was opened to determine the extent of the burial ground to the north and to locate the possible enclosure ditch (Leigh's 3) that was identified in the geophysical survey.

Test Trench 3 was 42m long, 2m wide and topsoil C0700 was 0.12–0.46m deep from southeast to northwest.

A potential burial cut, C0709, was identified in the south-eastern corner. A concentration of burials was identified near the centre of the test trench. The burials on the eastern side of this concentration had been considerably disturbed, likely by agricultural activity. Topsoil in this area was only 0.1 – 0.15m thick in this area.

Some of these burials may have been dug into the possible circular enclosure (Leigh's 2), or features associated with it, that was identified in the geophysical survey (19R0029). An Hiberno-

Norse ringed pin (19E0077:0738:0001) and some slag pieces were found in this potential ditch. Two copper-alloy straight pins (19E0077:0700:0024 and 19E0077:0700:0025) were also recovered from the topsoil in this area.

The ditch C0739 in the north-western end of the test trench may have corresponded to the enclosure ditch (Leigh's 3) that was identified in the geophysical survey. It was associated with a layer of dark charcoal-rich soil with frequent seashell inclusions. Three other potential linear features were recorded in the northwest, including the 1m deep terminus of C0745. A copper alloy pin was found in the topsoil above this feature.

Test Trenches 3A and 3B

Test Trenches 3A and 3B were off-shoot trenches of Trench 3. Following the discovery of the concentration of burials within Test Trench 3, Test Trench 3A, and subsequently Test Trench 3B, were opened to establish the western limit of the burial ground. Test Trench 3A was 5m long, and 3B was 7m long. Both trenches were 1m wide. Topsoil was 0.10–0.15m thick.

A disarticulated skull, SK54 was discovered, and later excavated upon the advice of the project osteoarchaeologist, in the north-eastern end of Test Trench 3A. SK54 may be related to the nearby SK71 in Test Trench 3 that was found without a skull. No other human remains were discovered in 3A or 3B.

Maxilla of disarticulated skull SK54





Ditch C0739 in Test Trench 4

Test Trench 4

Trench 4 was orientated northeast/southwest and was plotted to establish a northern limit to the burial ground and to locate the possible enclosure (Leigh's 3) that was identified in the geophysical survey. Test Trench 4 was 25.8m long, 2m wide and topsoil was 0.2–0.3m deep. The cut C0739 of the possible enclosure ditch was identified. No human remains were discovered in Test Trench 4. Some other possible linear features, that likely relate to those excavated in Area D were noted.

Burials

DSK52

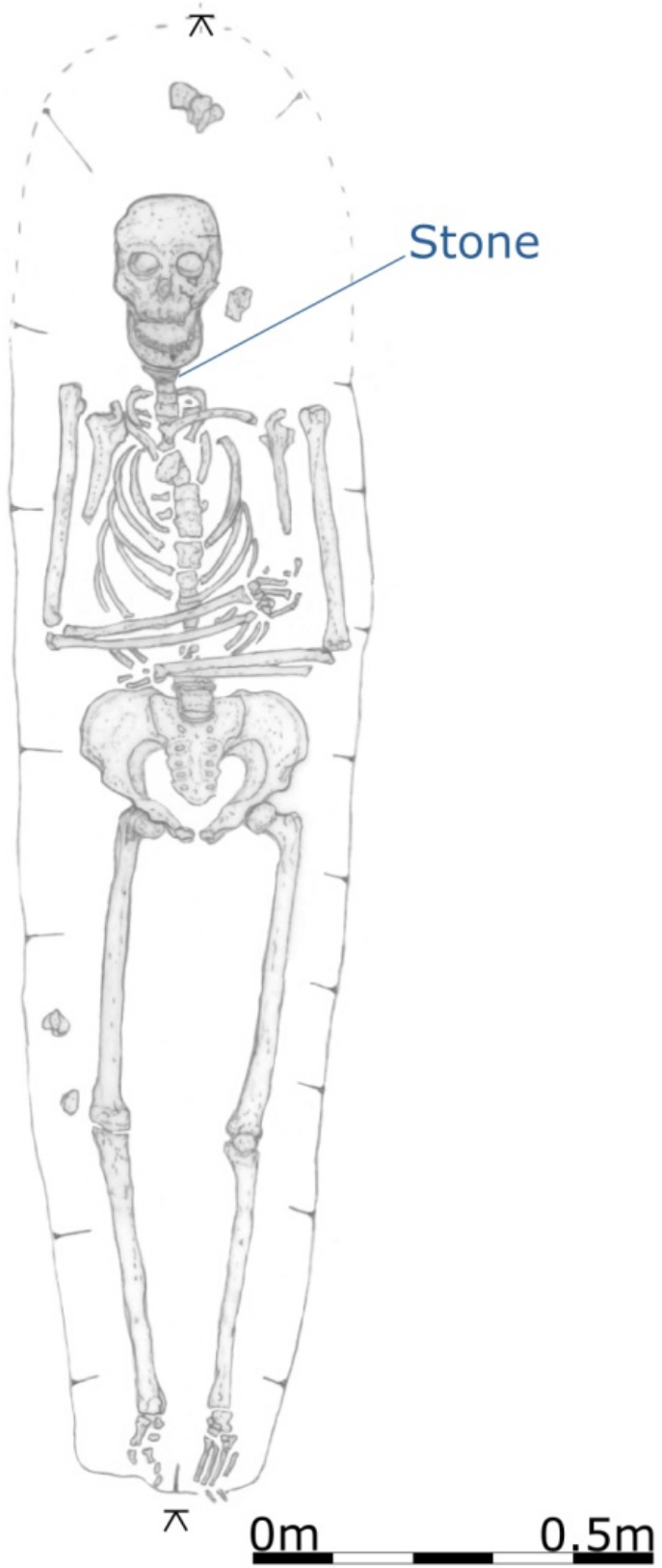
There were at least three burials in Test Trench 1. One potential burial C0707 was not excavated. Another grave, C0703, may have cut an earlier burial, C0704. C0704 contained the remains of SK51, above which were the remains of at least two individuals (DSK52) which had been disturbed. They consisted of lower leg bones and vertebrae. These disturbed remains may have been from individuals buried over SK51 or may have been remains dragged from elsewhere. Another possibility is that they were burials earlier than SK51 that were truncated by C0703.

SK51

SK51 was very well preserved and lay in an extended supine northeast/southwest direction. A stone beneath the mandible had either been placed there to prop it up or had fallen beneath it during the taphonomic process. The feet were flexed against the grave cut and the arms were crossed with the hands resting on the lower ribs and pelvis. There may have been slight degenerative changes to the lumbar spine, with lipping on the L4/L5 vertebrae. The grave cut C0703 was a long irregular oval-shape in plan that was cut into a sandy gravel natural, C002. It may have cut another grave to the south that was not excavated. It was filled with a very dark brown silty sand, C704, with frequent charcoal, shell and small to medium stones.

Stone beneath the mandible of SK51





SK51



SK51 facing southeast

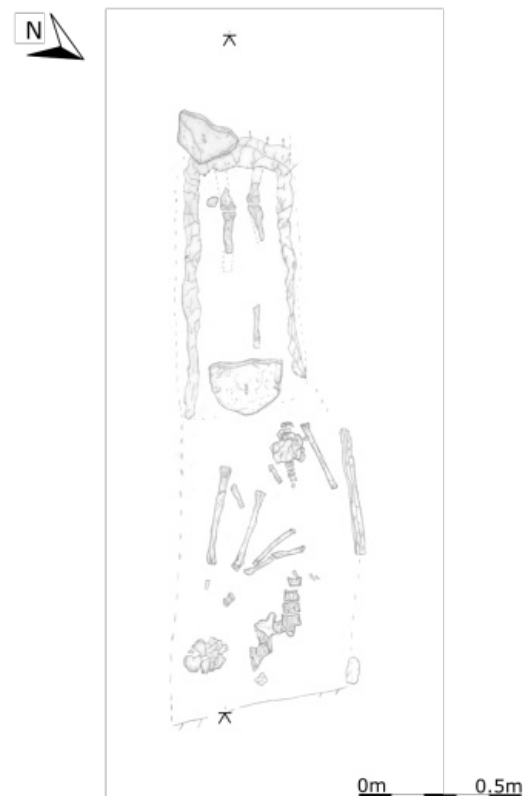
SK55

C0825 contained what remained of SK55; namely the distal ends of the femora and fragmentary tibiae. The feet appeared to be fragmented under a large stone. Upright shale stones may have lined the grave of SK55 or a later burial that is no longer in site. The line of the cut extended under the baulk to the southwards beyond the limit of the test trench.

SK56 and DSK57

Another grave C0814, containing SK56 (and DSK57), was in the same line as C0825. SK56 was heavily disturbed; the left forearm lay near the skull, the right arm and hand crossed over the pelvis. The right leg was articulated and continued under the baulk. A disarticulated skull, DSK57, from a different individual lay near the pelvis, while the humerus of a third, possibly articulated, individual was found under the scapula. A possible stone lining, C0816, of black slate was not investigated further.

SK55, SK56





SK71, facing north

DSK60 and DSK62

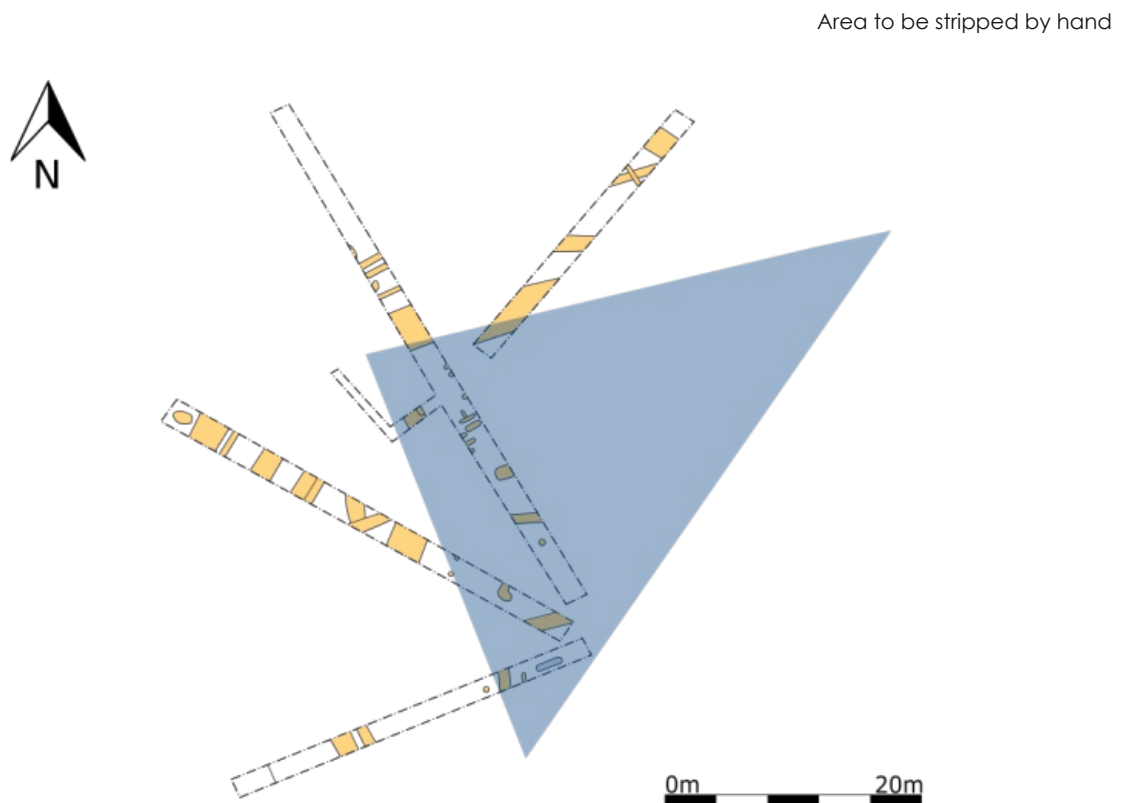
C0710 was the cut of a heavily disturbed grave that contained DSK60 and DSK62. There was no articulation of bones and animal bones were also present. The disturbed grave cut may have been originally stone-lined.

SK71 and DSK72

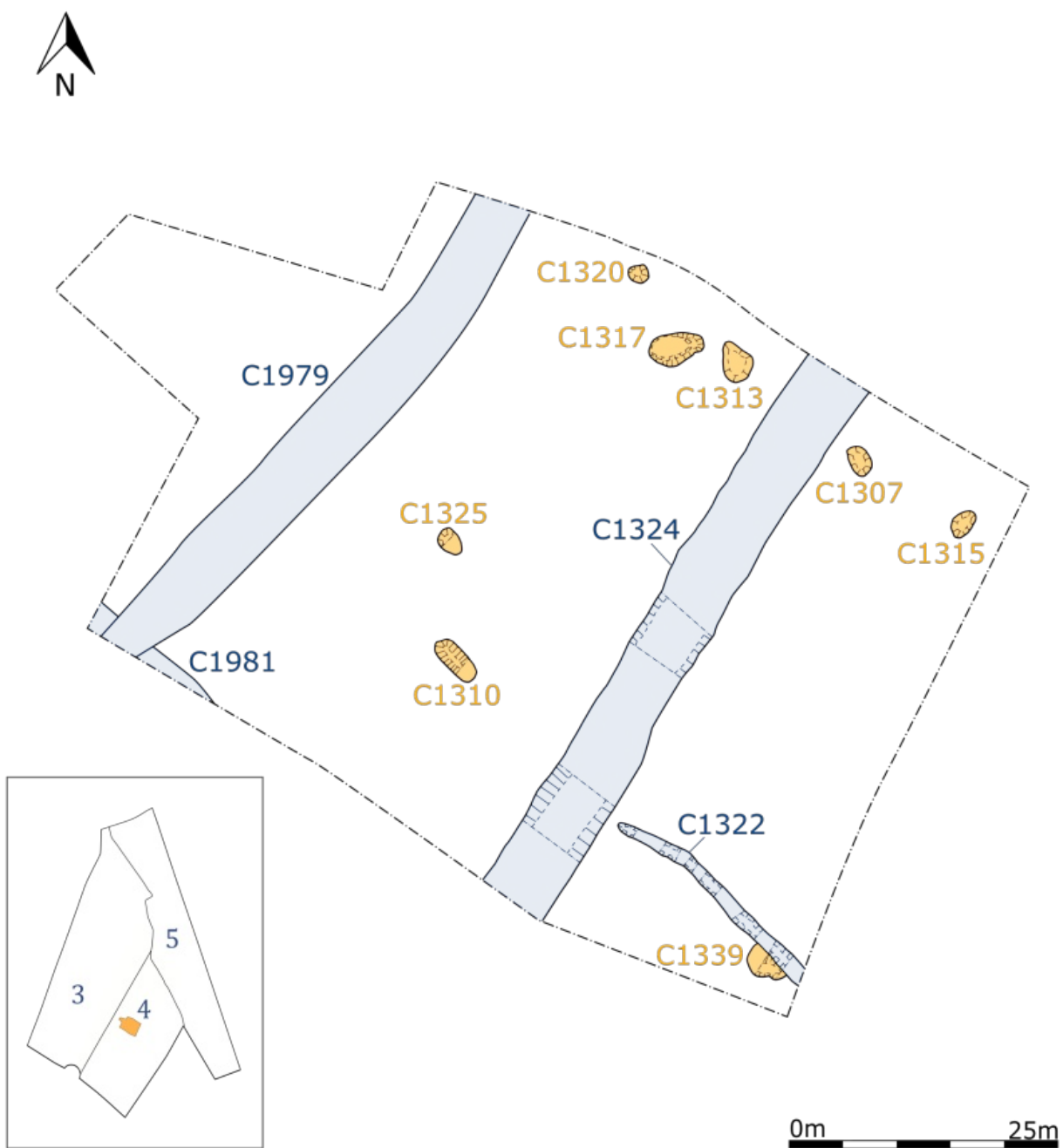
The partially intact burial of SK71 (and DSK72) was located south of SK58, in the centre of the test trench. The skull possibly SK54) was missing. The left shoulder, arm and lower leg were missing, as were the right lower leg and ribs. The right arm was extended. There was no stone-lining.

Future works

No burials were identified beyond that of SK51 in Test Trench 1. No burials at all were identified in Test Trenches 2, 3B and 4. No burials were identified beyond the ditch C0739 in Test Trench 3. It is recommended, therefore, that the hand-stripping of the burial ground in Area B be confined to the corresponding area of potential burials as identified in the 2019 excavation and as illustrated below.



6 Excavation Area C, Field 4



Overview of Area C, Field 4

Area C was a small area to the west of Field 4.

Ditches

The main features of interest within Area C were two long linear ditches, C1324 (C1328, C1329) and C1981 (C1982, C1983, C1984).

C1324 was over 30m long (extending beyond the limits of this phase of excavation), 1.92m wide and 0.43m deep. It was orientated roughly north/south and it curved eastwards in an area that was not investigated during this phase. It had a sharp break of slope at the top and a steep concave side on its western edge and a more gradual break of slope at its top and corresponding less pronounced eastern side. The base was U-shaped. C1324 had three fills, C1332, C1333 and C1334.

The basal fill C1332 was a grey-brown clayey silt with animal bone. The middle fill C1333 was a brown-grey soft sandy silt. The upper fill C1334 was a grey-brown clayey silt, similar to C1333 but with a higher silt content.

It extended north-eastwards into an area that was unstripped and southwards to interact with the enclosure ditch C0773 that surrounds the burials in Area E.

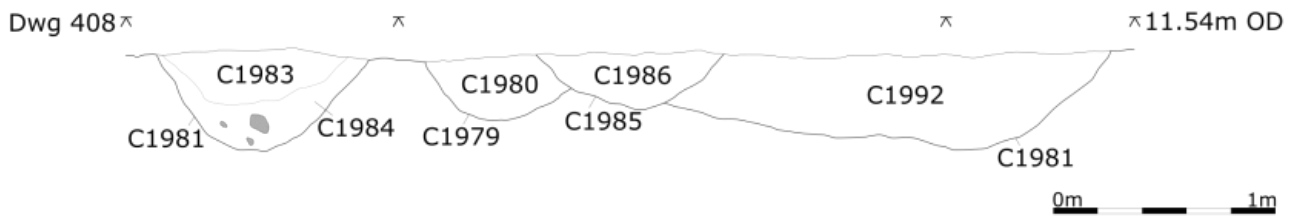


North-facing section of ditch C1324

The narrow shallow linear ditch C1322 ran southeast-northwest, stopping just short of and respecting the larger C1324. It had a sharp break of slope at its top and its base. The sides were concave and steeper towards the north-western terminus. Likewise, the base changed from U-shaped to V-shaped towards the north-western terminus. It was 9.75m long (extending eastwards into an unstripped area), 0.25m wide and 0.17m – 0.26m deep. The main fill C1323

Sections of ditch C1324





Southwest-facing section of ditches C1981, C1979 and C1985

was a grey-brown soft sandy silt with animal bone. The upper fill C1337 was a charcoal-rich black silt with shell inclusions.

The ditch C1322 cut the earlier pit C1335, which had a sharp break of slope at its top and a moderate break of slope at its base. It had concave sides and a U-shaped base. It was 1.6m long, 0.7m wide and 0.2m deep. The basal fill C1338 was an orange-brown silty sand. It was beneath C1336, a brown sandy silt that contained occasional pieces of animal bone.

C1981 was a long straight linear ditch that extended westwards beyond the limits of excavation. It too appears to interact with the enclosure ditch C0773, and with C1324, though these relationships also could not be investigated during this phase of excavation. It had a sharp break of slope at its top with a more gradual break at its U-shaped base. It was ori-

entated southeast-northwest and extended beyond the limits of the excavation to the west and into the unstripped area in the east. It had three fills; C1982, C1983 and C1984.

The basal fill C1984 was a soft red-brown sandy silt with infrequent flecks of charcoal. The upper fills C1982 and C1983 had no interacting relationship as they were both cut by two long, straight parallel shallow ditches C1979 and the re-cut C1985. Both fills were grey-brown sandy silts with infrequent charcoal flecks, the only difference between them being that C1983 was slightly drier and more compact than C1982. This was probably a result of the truncation by the shallow ditches. There were no artefacts found in C1984.

C1979 and C1985 were two shallow ditches. C1979 was over 30m in length, extending into the unexcavated part of Field 4, Area C, 0.9m in width and 0.25m in depth. It had a sharp break of slope at its top and a gradual break of slope at its U-shaped base. It had one fill, C1980, a firm red-brown sandy clay with infrequent charcoal flecks. It was re-cut by the other long, straight shallow ditch C1985. The re-cut was also over 30m in length and 0.9m wide. It was 0.2m deep. It too had a single fill, C1986, a grey-brown sandy silt with infrequent charcoal flecks. One flint flake was found ex situ on the surface of C1986.

South-east facing section of ditch C1981



Pits

A row of pits ran in a southeast-northwest direction on either side of the enclosure ditch C1324. C1320 was the most north-westerly and the smallest of these pits. It was sub-oval in

plan and measured 1m in length, 0.7m in width and 0.18m in depth. It had a yellow-brown sandy silt fill, C1321.

C1317 was in irregular-shaped pit with an uneven base. It had a maximum length of 2.27m, it was 1.44m wide and 0.4m deep. Its main fill C1318 was a dark sandy clay and the upper fill C1319 was a red clay. Given the irregular shape and uneven base of the pit, it seems likely to have been a tree-bowl or a natural deposit of clay within an otherwise gravelly-sandy area.

C1313 was oval in plan with a sharp break of slope at its top, a gradual break of slope at its flat base and concave sides. It was 1.5m long, 0.9m wide and 0.22m deep. It had a single yellow-brown sandy silt fill, C1314, similar to that in C1320.

C1307, on the south-eastern side of the enclosure ditch C1324, was sub-oval in plan with concave sides, a sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual break of slope to its U-shaped base. The basal fill C1309 was a brown sterile silty sand. The upper fill C1308 was a lighter brown silty sand with occasional charcoal.

C1315 was oval in plan with a sharp break of slope at its top, a gradual break of slope at its base and concave sides. The base was stepped on its south-eastern side and U-shaped on its north-western side. It was 1.12m long, 0.5m wide and 0.3m deep. The single fill C1316 was a red-brown silty sand with frequent charcoal flecks.

Two other pits were excavated on the western side of C1324. C1325 was an oval pit that was 1.15m long, 0.95m wide and 0.28m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at the top and a moderate break of slope at its U-shaped base. The main fill C1326 was a yellow-brown firm sandy clay. C1327 was a grey-brown clayey sand. Both fills were sterile and it is possible that C1324 was a natural feature.

C1310 was oval in plan with a sharp break of slope at its top a sharp break of slope at its base. It was stepped on the southern side of the base, but otherwise U-shaped. It was 1.2m long, 0.63m wide and 0.31m deep. The basal fill C1311 was a red-brown clayey sand. The upper fill was a grey-brown firm clayey silt.

Mid-ex view of 4C



7 Excavation Area D, Field 4



0m 50m

Overview of Area D, Field 4

Area D was in the north-eastern end of Field 4, and adjacent to Field 5. It was at the edge of the Donacarney Great townland, while Field 5 was in the neighbouring townland of Betaghstown.

Land improvement

Area D, Field 4 was at the crest of a north-south running ridge line. The ground surface at the north-eastern end of Field 4 had been artificially raised to make a level field surface. This raised it 2m above Field 5. Two cultural deposits were recorded during the 2019 excavation.

C1507 was deposited mostly on the north-eastern boundary of Area D. It was a light humic material associated with the hedge that ran along the townland boundary between Donacarney Great and Betaghstown.

The deposit C1784 was found below C1507. It covered approximately 40% of the stripped site in Area D. It ran from the top of the ridge line to the boundary with Field 5, where it had been impacted by the hedge line material C1507. It likely formed from land improvement works that were designed to remove the downward slope from the north-eastern end of Field 4 to make a level field. This area of the field was also



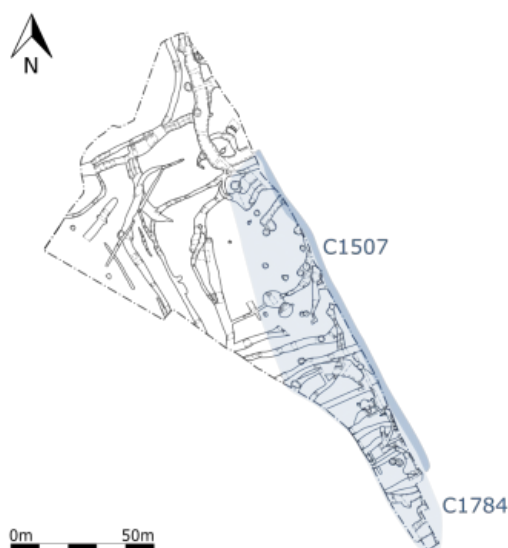
North-facing section of ditch C1553 beneath the deposit C1784

an interface between the sand and gravel topsoil of much of the site and the heavy clay found in Field 5. The relatively thin topsoil in the nearby Area B and the absence of above-ground banks associated with enclosures in the field might well be the result of these land improvement works. The raising of the ground level in this area would have established the boundary between Fields 4 and 5 and perhaps also the first physical townland boundary.

C1784 was cut by a few of the later phases of ditches related to C1531 (see below) and C1521, and in particular by C1357 and by the drainage channel C1343.

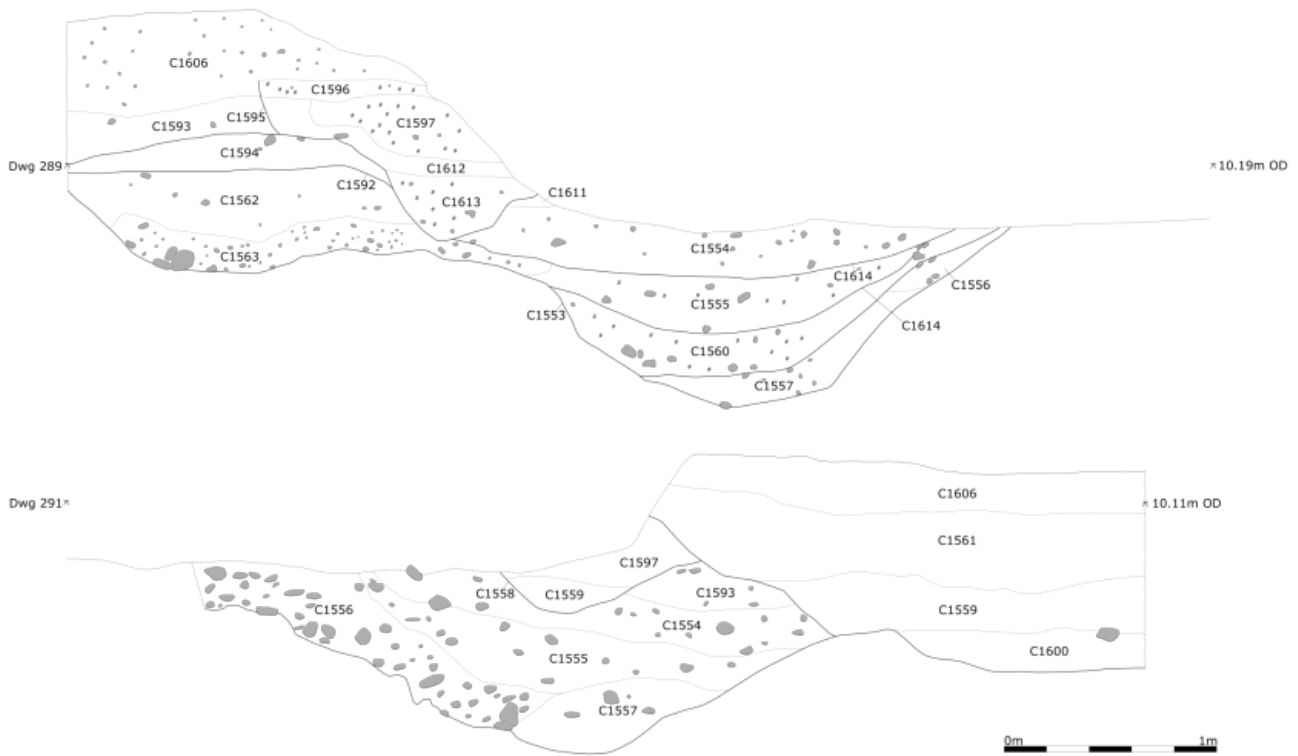
An unusual yellow green layer (C1427, C1587 C1778, C1790, C2053) occurred in a number of ditches in Area D. This was always distinctive from the surrounding fills and contained stone iron-like inclusions. In most cases it was 0.07m thick and felt like a firm crust sealing the previous layer. This occurred in cut C2016 (C1790) and C1759, amongst others. C1759 was later than the deposit C1784. C2016 did not have a clear relationship with the same spread.

Deposits C1784 and C1507 in Area D



Boundary ditch C1553

The ditch C1553 was identified in the geophysical survey, and in the 2019 hand-dug Test Trenches 4 and 3 (recorded as C0739), extended through, and beyond, the southeast corner of Area D. Possible associated bank material



Sections of ditch C1553

C1368 was identified to the northwest of the ditch, as was a second large ditch C1531. The total width of the two ditches and central bank was 10m. The two ditches, especially the outer C1531, were frequently redefined and maintained.

Inner bank maintenance

The larger ditch C1553 was 3m wide, 1.85m deep and had a U-shaped base. It was orientated northeast/southwest. It was amongst the earliest features in the area. C1531 and another ditch cut C1521, were likely contemporary. Evidence for at least six final re-cuts (C1614, C1999, C2002, C2004, C2014, C2016) suggests that the ditch was well-maintained.

Later activity

Evidence for a possible bank C1368 was found on the western edge of the ditch in the form of a stony grey clay that had been heavily truncated by later linear features including C1687 and C2038.

The ditches C1521 and C1531 were also heavily truncated by later activity. C1531 was 1.2m deep and cut the north/south running C1521. It was repeatedly maintained by a series of re-cuts that varied in depth and width. (C1695, C1745,

South-facing section of ditch C1531 and possible bank C1368



C1747, C1757, C1759, C1775, C1776, C1779, C1791, C1793, C2033). The fills differed greatly throughout the sequence of re-cuts. For example, earlier cuts such as C1745 and C1747 contained mid to dark stony grey clays with few inclusions. Later phases such as C1791 and C1691 contained lighter grey silty clays with frequent large subangular stones. The cut C1779 contained a dark blue-black peaty clay with medieval green glazed ware (19E0077:1780:0001), while C1700 had evidence of burnt clay and charcoal. The variance in the fills suggests that the ditches may have undergone changes in usage and purpose over time. There may also have been a constant need to clean out ditches in an area of interface ridge between the sand and gravel natural subsoil found higher up on the ridge and in the rest of Field 4 and the heavy clay at the bottom of the ridge in Field 5.

The later narrower re-cuts of the ditch, including C1595, C1369, C2004, C1779 and C2029 were on average 0.7m wide and 0.3-0.7m deep. These cuts more closely resembled the later agricultural ditches to the west.

Features southeast of the boundary ditch

A set of five intercutting ditches of varying orientation were located southeast of the ditch C1553. All five ditches were later than C1553. C1592 was the first ditch to cut C1553. It ran north/south and extended into the unstripped area. C1614 was the next ditch to cut C1553, but this was more likely a re-cut than a separate, new ditch. It was cut by C1607 which ran north-northwest/south-southeast.

A fifth ditch C1610 cut both C1592 and C1607. It was orientated east/west and did not extend beyond C1553 to the west. Another linear ditch, C1595, may have been contemporary with C1610. It ran northeast/southwest and contained darker fills and was narrower than the surrounding features. It was cut by the terminus of the final ditch in the sequence, C1560. That ditch ran northwest/southeast and was deeper than the other features. It contained two iron fragments; 19E0077:1599:0001 and :0002, and a fragment of rough lime mortar. It ran from the eastern site limit to and terminated short of the boundary with Field 5.

Ditch C1553, facing southeast



Another find was a sherd of pottery from C1387 (same as C1759). C1387 was a 1.1m deep ditch with three fills. C1415 was the upper fill that contained the pottery (19E0077:1415:0001). C1427 (same as C1790) was a solid green crust that was found in other features. C1428 was the basal fill with very frequent animal bone. C1387 cut an earlier large spread C1784 and a linear ditch C1757. It was cut by the north–south linear ditches C1520 and C1536, that ran along the northern eastern limit of the stripped area.

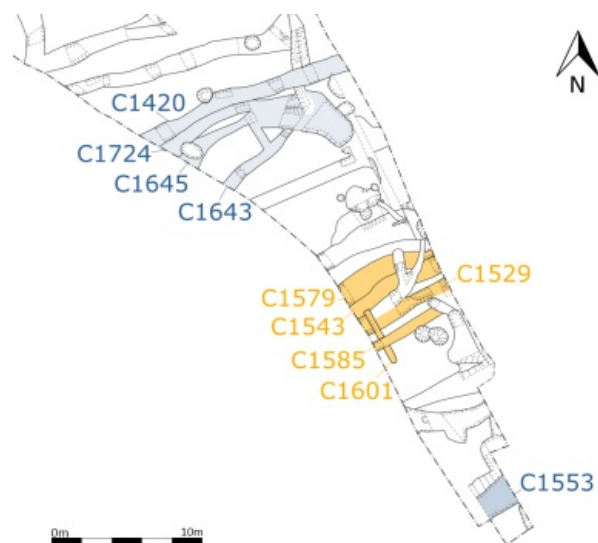
Modern disturbance

At some time between 2007 and 2019, a trench was mechanically excavated in the northeast corner of the field. This cut, C0827, impacted on human remains in Area B (as previously discussed) and the uppermost layers of archaeology in the northeast corner of Area D. This included the re-cut C1553 of the possible D-shaped enclosure. The modern trench was approximately 30m long, 15m wide and 0.75m deep.

Natural subsoil C0002 was exposed in the trench but the bases of some features remained. Four rows of stone, C2021, C2022, C2013 and C2039 ran from west to east across the base of the trench and were associated with drain cuts. The cut C1343 for one of these drains was cut into the spread C1784. The drain was related to a series of organic peaty layers that formed on top of the impermeable natural clay subsoil. The clay and organic layers did not extend all the way into the hedge-line C1507. There was evidence for re-use of the drains. The drains were concentrated within an area of 1.6m width and 0.3m depth. In the case of C2013, where the stones were laid out in a flattened, alternating smaller and larger stones, it is possible that only the base of a later drainage feature survived. The drains were all at a similar depth to C1784.

Features northwest of ditch C1553

The area northwest of the boundary ditch C1553 (and southeast of the second enclosure ditch C1489) contained a series of ditches that were orientated in two different directions. These may be associated with agricultural activity, while several furrows to the northwest could



Features northwest of ditch C1553

represent later ploughing. A small number of pits which had no visible alignment or function were scattered throughout the area.

Five ditches, C1529, C1579, C1543, C1585 and C1601 were arranged at intervals of 1.5m to 3m. They corresponded with anomalies identified in the geophysical survey (19R0029). They all ran ENE–WSW and appeared to be converging as they extended north beyond the excavation limit.

Further northwest, five other ditches, C1420, C1724, C1579, C1643, and C1645 were 0.5m to 2.5m apart. They also corresponded with anomalies identified in the geophysical survey (19R0029). They ran south-southwest–north-northeast and appeared to be converging on one another in plan to the north.

Ditch C1811 differed from the surrounding ditches. It was cut into a spread C2050 and what may have been part of a metalled surface, C1809. One of the re-cuts, C1529, contained two fills. The lower fill C1530 was a blue-grey manganese silty clay onto which a rubble layer of large rocks had been placed. This was under a dark grey brown clayey silt, C1543. C1811 was the only ditch to contain a rubble fill. It was also under the spread C1784.



Northeast-facing section of ditch C1811

C1811 was cut by a small pit or ditch C1817 that was filled with the deposit C1784. It was cut by C2066, a 1.95m wide ditch cutting over a spread C2064, which is probably the same metallised surface as C1809.

C1579 was a 4m long, 1.05m wide, and 0.3m deep straight ditch. It was U-shape in profile and had a gradual break of slope at the top and base. C1579 was the earliest of three ditches (C1575, C2061), that converged on each other. They were cut into C2051. They had a combined width of 3m and were 0.55m deep.

North-facing section of ditch C1579



C1601 was a 1m wide, 0.5m deep ditch. It was re-cut four times and may itself have been a re-cut of C1585 that took a slightly different arc.

C1585 was also re-cut four times. It was a 0.6m deep and 2m wide and was separated only by 0.5m worth of C2050 from ditch C1579.

East-northeast/west-southwest ditches

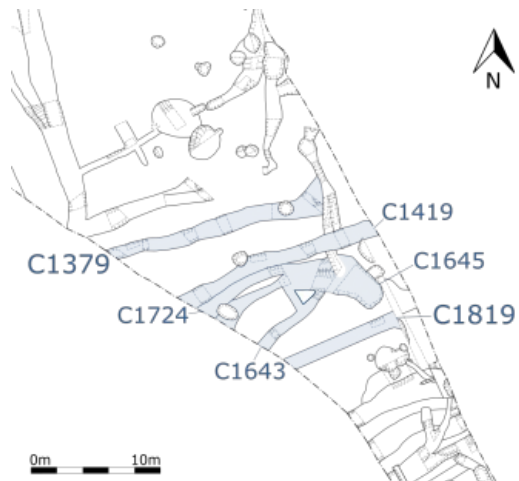
The western ditches C1419, C1724, C1751, C1643, C1653, C1379 and C1819 have an east-west to west-southwest/east-northeast orientation and were generally at a greater distance apart than the eastern ditches.

The ditches had been maintained, but the angles of the re-cuts were not consistent meaning they were widened as they were cleared out. In general, the fills of these features were very similar apart from those in ditch C1529. They were all earlier than the spread C1784, but the majority cut another spread C2050 that was under C1784.

C1420 was a 6m long, 1.5m wide, 0.9m deep ditch. It was filled with a grey brown silty clay with animal bone.

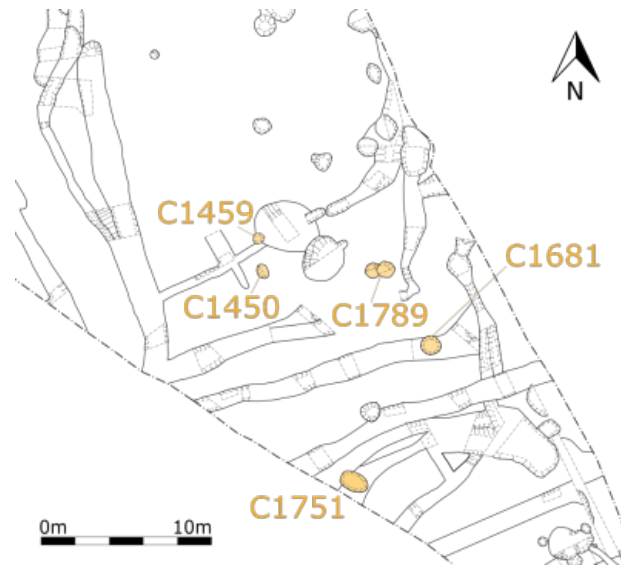
C1645 was a 1.2m wide small ditch cutting a smaller linear C1722. Both ran ENE/WSW and were cut by the north/south running ditch, C1661.

East-northeast/west-southwest ditches





North-facing section of ditch 1420



Unaligned pits

C1724 was over 5m in length, 0.85m wide and 0.17m deep. It had a gradual break of slope at its top, a rounded base and concave sides. It had a grey brown silty clay of firm compaction with frequent stone and pebble inclusions.

C1643 was over 4.7m long, 1.34m wide and 0.7m deep. It had a concave profile. It had a sharp break of slope at its top and a gradual break of slope at its base. The 3m wide burnt spread C2069, sat over C1643 and contained frequent charcoal and pieces of heat-affected clay. The spread was darker on top and almost ashen towards the base. It was under C1784 and was topped with fine subangular pebbles, similar to spread C2064.

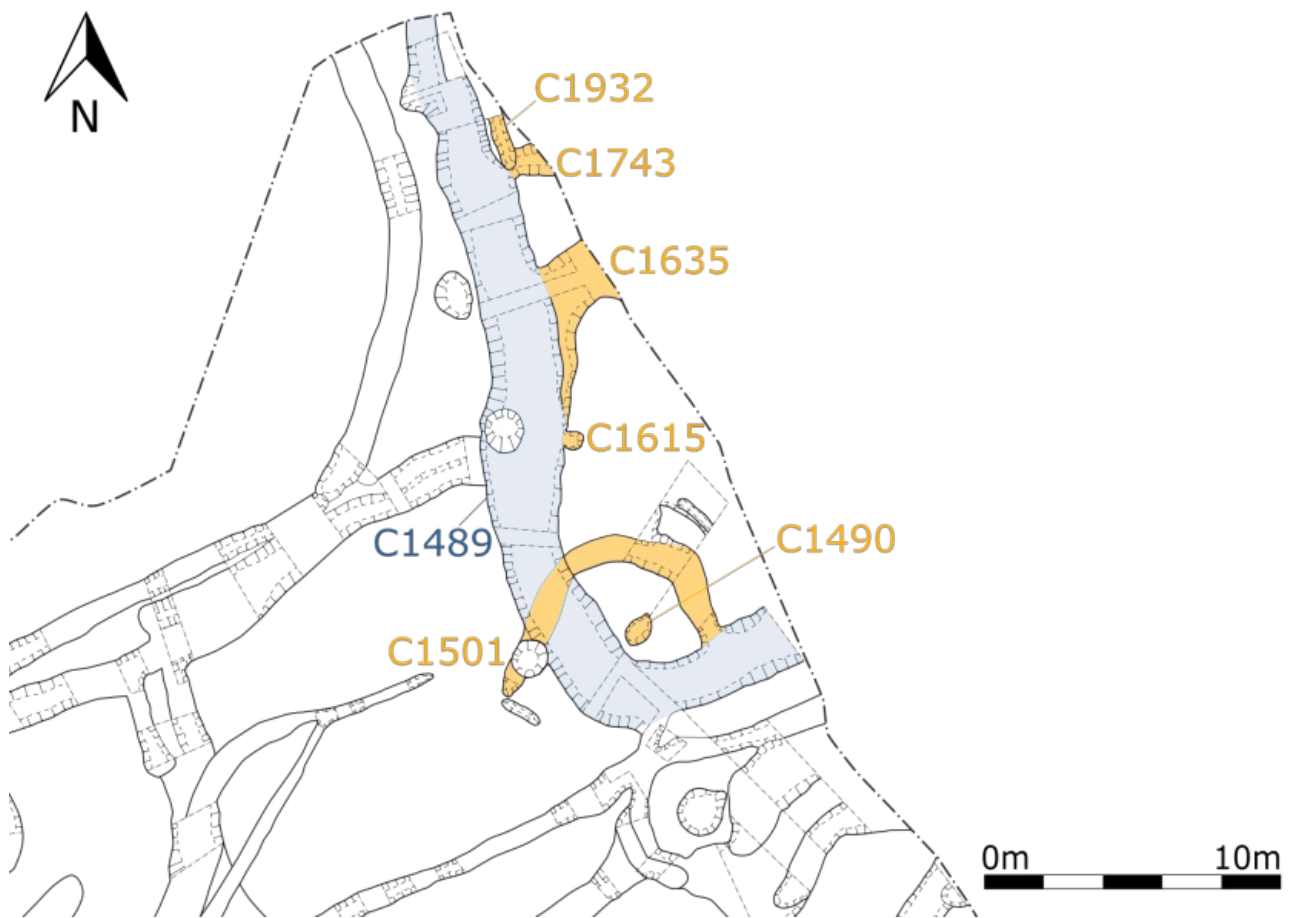
Unaligned Pits

A number of pits, C1751, C1450, C1459, C1789, C1861 were found throughout this area. In the main, they had no stratigraphic relationship with surrounding features. Two very large pits, C1789 and C1787, were surrounded by a scatter of smaller pits. C1789 was cut by C1787. C1789 was 2.75m long, 2.5m wide and 0.91m deep. It was filled with dark charcoal-rich sandy clays. The basal fill, C1785, was a soft, dark brown silty clay with frequent seashell inclusions. The surrounding pits C1450, C1651, C1796 and C1459 were shallow, and on average were 0.75m wide. All apart from C1459 (which was charcoal-rich) were filled with grey clays.

Further to the southeast, where the ground flattens following a drop in the level, was a cluster of pits of varying shapes and sizes. These were C1701, C1704, C1706, C1716, C1720. They cut the pit C1718 and were cut by ditch C1529. The largest was C1701, at 2.5m in length; the smallest was C1720.

Post-ex view of pit C1861, facing northwest





Enclosure ditch C1489 and internal features

Enclosure ditch C1489

The main enclosure ditch in Area D was the long, wide ditch C1489 that ran north-west/southeast from the northern excavation limit for 65m before turning north-eastwards and extending beyond the excavation limit. It contained four sherds of E-Ware pottery within its fills and it cut two other ditches, C1922 and C1635, that also contained E-ware sherds.

The enclosure, or that part of it that was identified, was similar in plan to those in the nearby Field 3, as it turned at a 90-degree angle. Very little of the interior of the enclosure was available for excavation. A possible annex to the enclosure is described below as are a series of pits that followed its trajectory.

Southeast-facing section of ditches C1489 and pit C1490





E-ware handle sherd (19E0077:1551:01)



Post-ex view of ditch C1489, facing east

The enclosure ditch C1489 had three fills. The basal fill C1551 was a mottled dark grey sandy clay with occasional medium pebbles and flecks of charcoal. It contained a sherd of E-Ware (19E0077:1551:02). The middle fill C1550 was a mottled, lighter grey silty clay with yellow flecking. This contained a coarse yellow E-Ware handle (19E0077:1551:01). The upper fill C1499 was a brown-grey compact silty clay. It had occasional animal bone and charcoal inclusions.

Smaller ditches within the enclosure

The enclosure ditch cut three smaller ditches that were within its interior: C1932, C1743, C1635 and C1501. C1932 ran parallel to the enclosure ditch C1489 but did not appear to have been a phase of it. It had a channel-like appearance and a U-shaped profile. It was 0.70m wide

and 0.40m deep. It only survived for 3m in length and it contained two compact fills. The upper fill C1933 was an orange sandy silt over a compact, brown silty clay, C1934.

C1743 ran east/west and did not continue past the exterior of the enclosure ditch and they may have been contemporary. The ditch only survived to a shallow 0.08m in depth but it was up to 1m wide.

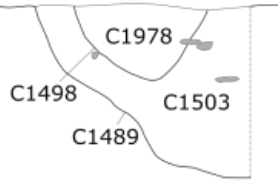
C1635 was a larger ditch that was cut by the enclosure. It was orientated northeast/southwest and extended north-eastwards beyond the limit of the excavation. The southern end of C1635 may have terminated close to the stone deposit C1965 and pit C1964. Though truncated by C1489, the base of this portion of the enclosure ditch more closely resembles the cut of the earlier C1635 than the later C1489. The fill, C1642, of this ditch was a firm grey-brown silty clay with occasional stone and animal bone. It contained one fragment of E-Ware pottery (19E0077:1642:001) and copper alloy bird-headed stylus (19E0077:1642:002).

Copper-alloy bird-headed possible stylus (19E0077:1642:002)



The enclosure ditch cut an earlier, crescent-shaped ditch C1501 that had a diameter of about 6m. It was 0.38m deep, 0.7-1.7m wide and survived for a length of 11m. A flint artefact was found where C1501 cut through pit the pit C1973. Pit C1490 was in the centre of the enclosed space of C1501.

Dwg 281^x x 10.9m OD



Dwg 311^x x 10.43m OD



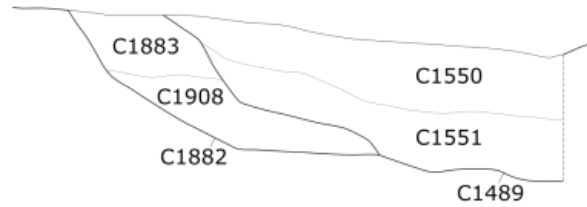
Dwg 312^x x 10.55m OD



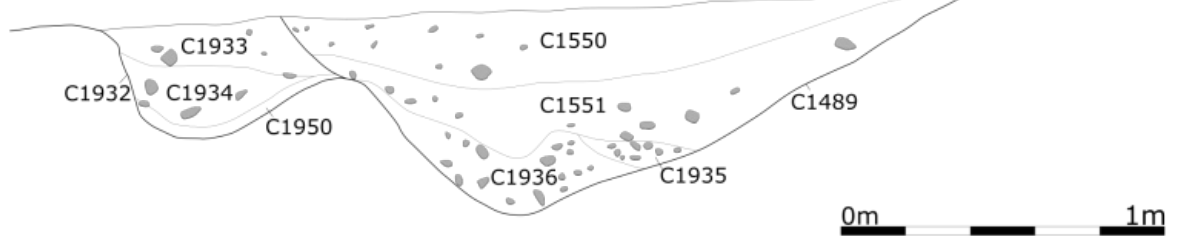
Dwg 325^x x 10.61m OD



Dwg 360^x x 10.62m OD

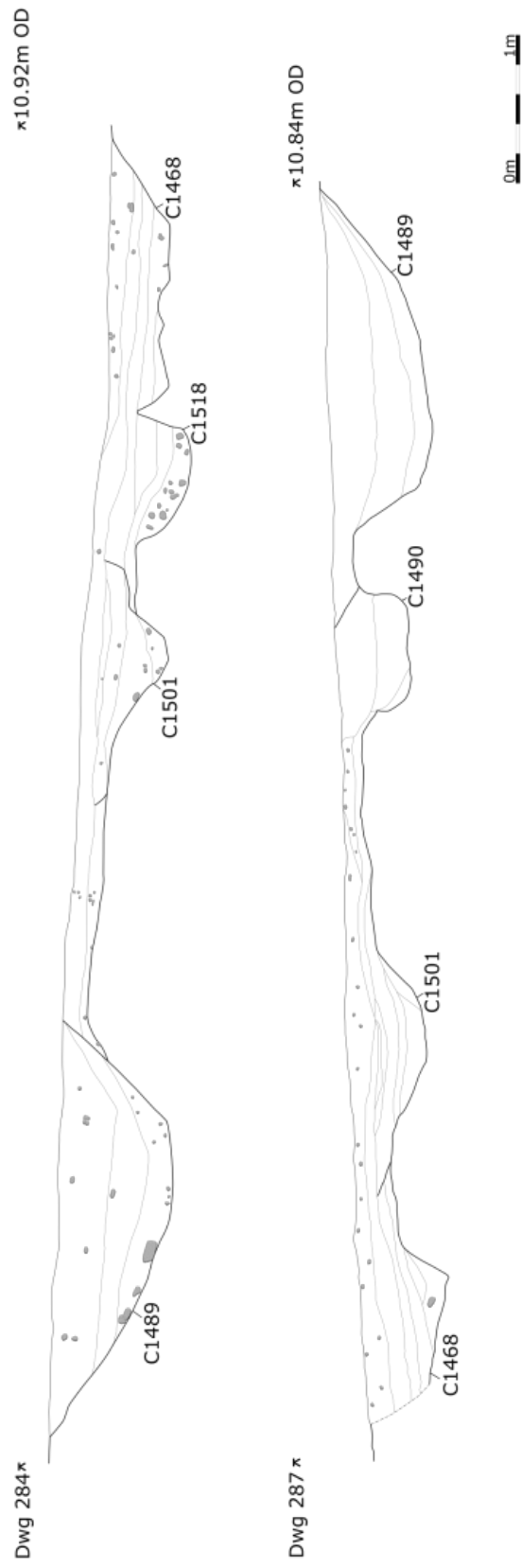


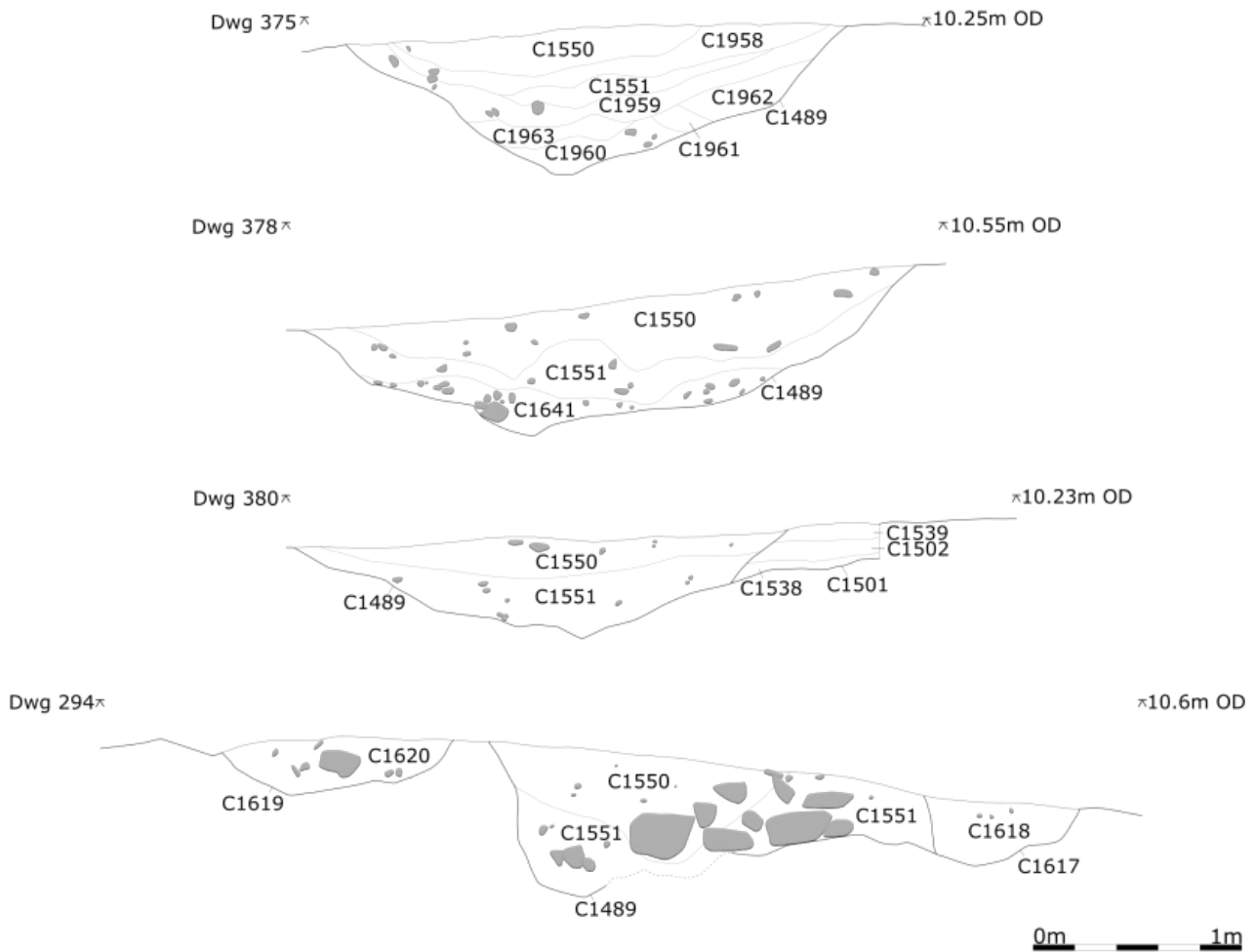
Dwg 369^x x 10.285m OD



Sections of enclosure ditch C1489

Long sections of ditch C1489





More sections of ditch C1489

Pits within the enclosure ditch C1489

C1490 was a subcircular pit cut by the northeast side of C1489 and was south of C1501. It cut a spread C1569 that covered the smaller ditches C1468 and C1501. It was 1.05m long, 0.48m wide and 0.5m deep. The pit contained three fills; C1564, C1565 and C1566. These were all firm grey and brown clays with no finds.

Pit C1615 was a circular, 0.80m in diameter, pit that cut the enclosure ditch C1489. It was filled with C1616, a loose light brown gravelly silty sand. The pit was 0.22m deep.

Pit C1615, facing north





Pit alignment

Pit alignment

A series of pits ran along the same trajectory as the large enclosure ditch C1489 and through the line of the possible structure within the enclosure of the ditch C1349. Some of these pits, such as C1964, were cut into the western side of the ditch. The northern edge of the pit was tightly packed with stone (C1965.) Several of the stones appeared to have been specifically placed, particularly in the south-facing section, in interlocking courses while those on the northwest side had collapsed. The stones may have been packing stone for a large post, no trace of which survived.

The pits were on average 5.9m apart but were closer together in the north and gradually became further apart to the south. The fills of the pits tended to resemble the surrounding naturals. To the north, they were more sandy, siltier in the middle and dark and peaty to the south. Apart from the single filled C1910 which was also very close to C1882 and may not have been part of the alignment, the pits had between two



East-facing section of pit C1663

and four fills. Two pits, C1663 and C1440 had four fills which were more clay-rich than the others.

A sub-oval pit, C1712, was cut into an upper fill of C1489 and it also cut a pit, C1663, outside of the enclosure. The latter was a large 1.4m in diameter, circular pit. It had four fills to a depth of 0.5m. Most of these were compact grey clays with occasional charcoal flecking and sub-angular pebbles. The two upper fills were cut by C1712. It was 1.1m long and 0.15-0.30m deep.

Pre-ex of pit C1910, cut by ditch C1489, facing southeast





Post-ex view of pit C1440, facing west

Several other pits were cut by the final phases of the enclosure C1489 on its western side. C1910 was probably originally oval in plan. It survived to 0.90m in length and 0.40m in width. It was extremely shallow. It was filled with a firm, light grey sandy clay, with yellow-orange inclusions. Occasional charcoal flecks were also present.

C1882 was also probably originally circular with a surviving length of 1.8m and a depth of 0.3m. It was filled with a firm yellowish grey clayey sand (C1883) with occasional charcoal flecks and a yellowish grey sandy silt (C1908).

C1973 was also cut by the enclosure ditch C1489. It was 1.24m long, 1.12m wide and 0.93m deep. It contained two clay fills (C1974, C1975) with animal bone, including articulated vertebrae. It was the deepest of the pits in the possible alignment. It was cut by a small ditch C1498 that was probably a continuation of the small curving ditch C1501.

The possible pit alignment continued south-eastwards beyond the limit of the enclosure C1489. C1440 was a pit with five compact clay fills. It contained one flint core and several flint blades. The oval pit was 1.8m wide and 0.77m deep with a U-shaped profile and sharp breaks of slope at the top and at its north-eastern base. The basal fill (C1464) probably formed from slump material and was similar to the surrounding natural clay. It contained a flint core. C1463

was a grey clay with frequent charcoal inclusions and some flint. It contained medium to large (0.03-0.20) stones and one large, 0.40m long stone. Over this was C1443, a grey brown clay with green, yellow and brown decayed stones, followed by two compact dark grey brown clays with orange mottling (C1442 under C1441).

The pit C1888 was 1.5m long and 0.5m deep. It was cut by the southerly pit C1873, and the combined pits were figure-of-eight shape in plan. C1873 in turn was cut by two shallower pits C1869 and C1871. The main fill (C1889) of C1888, was a dark brown silty clay with black charcoal patches and organic inclusions. It also contained several flint artefacts. The fill (C1874) of C1873 was a grey brown silty clay with patches of orange, yellow and green. It also contained a badly degraded cow skull.

C1869 was 1.26m long, 1.07m wide and 0.18m deep. It was circular in plan with gentle breaks of slope at the top and base. It was filled with a light grey brown silty clay with some orange brown patches (C1870).

C1871 was 1.1m long, 0.93m wide and 0.11m deep. It was also circular in plan. It had a flat base with gentle breaks of slope at top and base.

The pit C1879 was of similar dimensions and was the most southerly of the possible pit alignment. Unlike most of the other pits, it

Post-ex view of pits C1873 and C1888, facing northwest





Post-ex view of enclosure ditch C1489 and pit alignment, facing northwest

contained a large number of roots which from a nearby tree in the hedge-line. The wood pieces (C1886) sat over a stony basal layer. The surrounding fill, C1907 was a dark peaty, similar to other nearby fills in that area and was covered with a grey silty clay C1799.

A nearby pit C1919 was slightly smaller. It had a dark peat base but did not contain any wood. Its upper fills C1782 and C1799 were almost identical to those of C1879.

C1783 which was a small pit west of C1879 and also contained a dark organic basal fill, C1887, that was beneath a dark grey silty clay spread C1782 which covered a number of features in the area. All of the pits with organic basal fills were on the downward slope of ground beneath the ridgeline and were dug into the impermeable clay subsoil in that area.

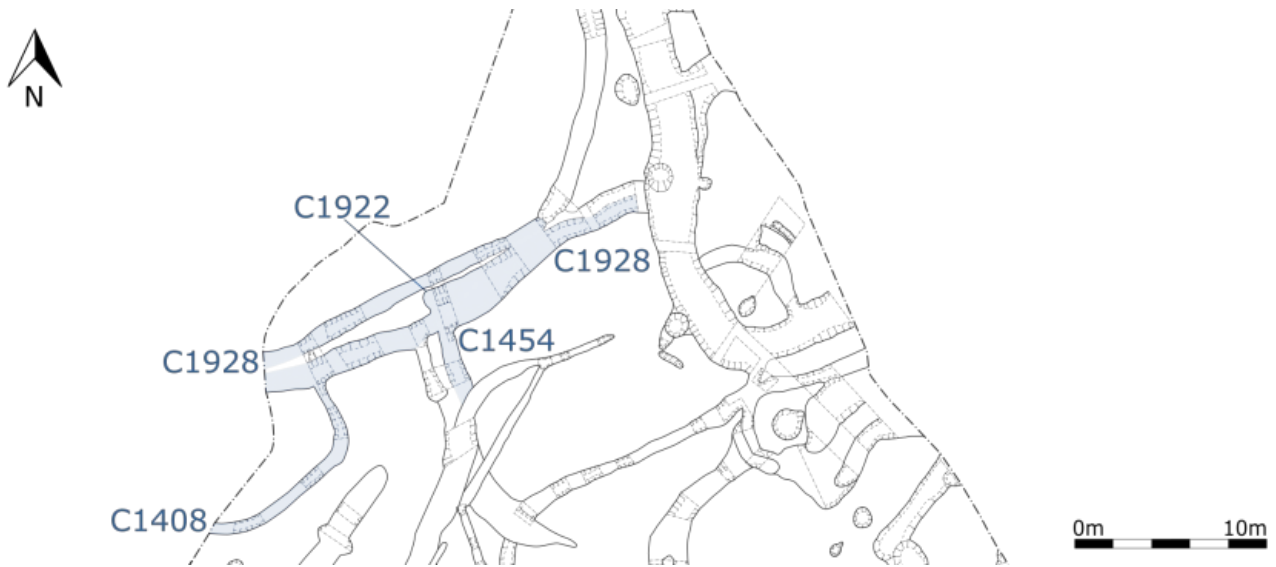
Smaller enclosure ditches

Several smaller ditches that were associated with C1489 were on the external side of the enclosure. They may have formed external annexes or separate enclosures that were contemporary

with it. Two of these ditches ran north-east/southwest and extended into the unstripped portion of Area C.

C1928 was the smaller of these. It was 0.7m wide and was 15m long, terminating just short of C1950. C1928 had a U-shaped base and a much straighter profile than the C1950 and they did not appear to be contemporary. C1928 was 0.3-0.34m deep and filled with a loose brown silty sand. It contained some animal bone and charcoal flecks. It cut the larger north-east/southwest aligned ditch C1930 that was 9m long and cut by the deeper C1922 at its terminus. C1930 was twice the width of C1928 and 0.3m deep. Its fill C1923 was a loose mid brown sandy clay.

C1922 was 0.6m deep and continued for 12m before being cut by the final phase of the large enclosure C1489. It had two fills and a U-shaped profile. The upper fill C1927 was a brown sandy silt with frequent animal bone and occasional shell and charcoal. C1931 also contained frequent animal bone but consisted of a silty sand.



Smaller enclosure ditches in Area D

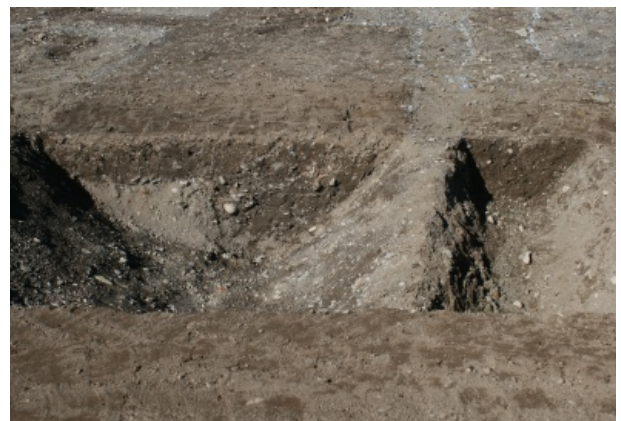
C1930 also cut the northwest/southeast orientated ditches, C1455 (a recut of C1454) and C2071, which joined with the ditch C1448 to form the corner of another enclosure. The latter curving ditch was much smaller and only 0.17m deep. C1448 may have been contemporary with C1357 as it continued parallel to it before turning to the northeast. It was re-cut by C1452 which had a terminus within the turn of C1448. C1448 was approximately 20m long and 0.6m wide and filled with a dark sandy silt with small subangular stones and occasional animal bone. It was cut by C1454 to the south and by C1752 to the north.

C1950 had a terminus close to that of C1928 and followed the trajectory of enclosure ditch C1489. There was no discernible relationship with C1930 or C1922.

C1408 (same as C1943) was a curvilinear ditch that extended into the unstripped area to its southwest. Its north-eastern terminus was cut by C1930 and C1928. It had a V-shaped profile, was 10m long, 0.75 wide and 0.27 deep. Its fill was a brown sandy silt with occasional animal bone and shell. No features were identified within the enclosed space of C1408. C1408 terminates in the base of C1939, a shallow deposit that was also cut by the C1928 and C1930.

C1454 was later than the other ditches. It was a short northwest/southeast aligned ditch that may have been intended to square the annex or re-enforce it. It was re-cut by C1455, and both cut C1452 and C1448. C1454 cut the earlier ditch C1971. Both ditches extended north where C1454 was cut by C1922. C1971 continues further along C1922 before terminating. It was approximately 5m long and 0.15 deep.

North-facing section of ditch cuts C1922, C1928 and C1930



The ditch C1379 was on a west-southwest/east-northeast alignment and extended from unstripped area to the southwest of Area D for 9m. It may have been the south-eastern extent of the enclosure formed by C1357, and C1452/C1448. It had a U-shaped profile. The fill C1380 was present throughout. It comprised dark brown to black silty sand with occasional medium pebbles. The remaining fills, C1381 and C1382, were light brown silty sands with a re-deposited clay and C1385 which had charcoal flecks at the base. Occasional animal bones were present.

Features south of the ditch C1489

Three ditches were south of the large enclosure ditch. They were each extended beyond the limit of excavation to the northeast and were only visible for 3-6m.

C1496 was a curving ditch that cut the ditch C1494 (a re-cut of C1452), the curving ditch C1392 and the ditch C1898 to the southeast. C1496 was 0.9m wide and 0.3m, and filled with a brown sandy silt, C1497. A small slot ditch, C1504 was cut into C1496 and C1392. It was 2m long, 0.6m wide and 0.25m deep and filled with a loose brown silty sand with occasional animal bone, C1505.

C1898 was a straight, southwest-northeast aligned ditch that was exposed for 5m before it extended beyond the limit of excavation. Its southern terminus was close to the pit C1440.

The sides were steep, and it quickly became shallow as it approached its terminus. It was filled with nine peat and silt clays (C1899, C1955, C1900, C1956, C1901, C1989, C1902, C1903 and C1904) that occasionally contained small pebbles and charcoal but were otherwise quite sterile.

C1905 was a shallow, wide ditch that extended beyond the excavation limits. It was 0.4m deep and 1.7m wide. Its upper fill C1966 contained an almost complete cow skeleton that had been deposited near the surface of the fill.

C1867 only survived to a shallow 0.1m depth. It was 1.1m wide and measured 2.7m in length before extending beyond the limit of the excavation. It was filled with a brown silty clay, C1868. It was cut by the pit C1880. It was also cut by the pit C1888, which was part of the possible pit alignment.

Features west of the ditch C1489

A shallow pit C1371 was cut by the ditch C1364 and modern trench C1363 that ran between the ESB substations. C1364 may also have been a furrow. Furrows were found frequently in the northwest part of Area 4D. The pit was oval in plan, 1.14m wide, 2.04m long and 0.24m deep. The basal fill, C1391 was a charcoal-rich brown black fill with was no evidence of in-situ burning.

Southwest-facing section of ditches C1905, C1898 and C1494



Features west of and south of enclosure ditch C1489





Ditches C1349 and C1357

Inner enclosure ditch C1349

Two rectangular enclosures were located south west of enclosure ditch C1489. The inner enclosure ditch C1349 had an internal area of 25m northwest to southeast by 15m southwest to northeast. The external enclosure ditch C1357, had an internal area of 31m northwest to southeast by at least 22m southwest to northeast.

The smaller of these, C1349, extended north/south for 21m from the unstripped area in the south to its terminus in the north. It had a U-shaped base with steep sides. Its western side was stepped where the ditch had been widened. It had two fills, C1350 and C1351, both of which were loose, light and mid grey-brown sandy silts with occasional animal bone. C1351, the basal fill, contained the remains of a cow skull near its base. Cow skulls were also found in ditch C1489 and in Test Trench 1 in Area B. The silty nature of the fills was in sharp contrast to the surrounding natural subsoil C0002 of sandy gravel. The location of C1351 higher up the sides of the ditch suggested that it was a slump fill.

C1349 cut a small shallow linear ditch C1354 just before both ditches extended into the unstripped area. They formed a perpendicular corner and C1354 comprised the south eastern part of the enclosure.

C1354 was re-cut by C1362. C1362 was a u-shaped linear ditch filled with a black sand with frequent charcoal (C1437). It ran north-east/southwest and was cut by a pit C1423. The

South-facing section of C1349 and associated re-cuts





South-facing section of curving ditch C1392, and re-cut C1470

pit was 1.12m long, 1.12m wide, 0.55m deep and sub-circular in plan. Charcoal and heat-affected stones in the fills (C1424, C1425, C1426) suggest that the pit contained the discarded remains of a nearby fire.

Enclosure ditch C1349 was also cut at its northern extent by the curving ditch C1392. C1392 was 6m long, 0.6m wide and 0.4m deep. It narrowed as it ran northwards, or, alternatively, its southern end may have been widened by the re-cut C1470. It was also re-cut by C1394 and C1349. The latter extended for 15m and terminated near the terminus of C1349.

Large pits within the inner enclosure C1349

Two large pits were located near one another within the enclosure C1349. C1461 (same as C1869) was a large pit cutting a narrow ditch C1785. It was 1.5m long, 0.48m wide and 0.57m deep. It had been re-cut and filled with three similar sandy clays, C1864, C1865 and C1462 (same as C1866). The latter contained two sherds of medieval pottery and a possible whetstone.

C1339 was a shallow, 0.5m wide, U-shaped in profile, linear ditch that ran northwest/southeast. It extended for 2.3m from the unstripped area before being cut by a later ditch C1341.

C1341 was 1m wide and also U-shaped in profile. It narrowed and steepened towards its

north-western extent. The ditch cut through pit C1366 and turned to the north, where it was cut C1454 and C1455 and was cut by C1386. C1341 may have been a later widening of the ditches as it closely followed the trajectory of C1357 and its associated ditches. It had an almost-flat, shallow base with gentle breaks of slope at its top and base.

Pit C1366 was sub-circular in plan with a U-shaped profile. Multiple burning events were evinced by three to four thin layers of charcoal-rich silt fills interspersed with layers of yellow and red ash and infrequent heat-affected stone and charred animal bone.

Structure within inner enclosure C1349

A set of smaller pits (C1912, C1919, C1783, C1894 and C1924) may have formed an oval structure measuring 14m by 9m externally and 11.5m by 6m internally. The pits were on average 1.25m long, 0.86m wide and 0.4m deep. They were laid out at regular intervals of 3.5–4.5m to the northwest and intervals of 0.75m apart to the southeast. Two pits (C1948 and C1880) 8m to the northwest may have formed an entrance. The pits were filled with silty sands and silty clays depending on the surrounding naturals.

Northeast-facing section of pit C1924





Northeast-facing section of ditch C1357 and pit C1360

Outer enclosure ditch C1357

C1357 was exposed for 19m in length. Its width ranged from 0.5 to 1.5m and it had a maximum depth of 0.34m. It had a U-shaped profile. It was filled with two brown silty sands, C1358 and C1359. The ditch was cut by C1454 and C1455. The northern extent of the enclosure was comprised of ditches C1452 and C1488. The ditch C1379 likely formed the southern extent of the enclosure, though this area was not fully stripped. It was on a west-southwest/east-northeast alignment and extended from the unstripped area to the southwest of Area D for 9m. It had a U-shaped profile and was filled with C1380, a dark brown to black silty sand with occasional medium pebbles. The remaining fills, C1381 and C1382, were light brown silty sands with a re-deposited clay and C1385 which had charcoal flecks at the base.

Pits associated with enclosure ditch C1357

C1357 was cut by three pits (C1421, C1388 and C1360) and cut another; the oval pit C1372 that contained a large amount of lime. It was 2.6m long and 1.68 wide with a depth of 0.70m. The surrounding natural subsoil showed evidence for an exothermal reaction. The fill was a heavy, powdery white and grey lime. There were moderate inclusions of sub-rounded fine pebbles.

The pit was cut by C1374, a sub-circular pit filled with a brown sandy silt, C1375. Both pits were re-cut by a shallow pit C1377. C1377 was 0.6m long, 0.53m wide and 0.26m deep. It was

oval in plan with sharp breaks of slope at top and base. It was filled with a brown, loose sandy silt with regular small stones and moderate charcoal inclusions.

C1421 was a 2.3m long, 0.53m wide, 0.31m deep narrow oval pit with a concave profile. It cut C1357 and was filled with C1422, a loose, mid-brown silty sand with regular small sub-angular and rounded stones.

C1388 was a 0.4m long, 0.75m wide 0.1m deep oval pit cutting C1357. C1360 also cut C1357 and was over 1.36m long, 0.5m wide and 0.13m deep. It was also oval and oriented NE-SW. It was filled with C1361, grey brown silty clay with occasional small sub-rounded stones and charcoal inclusions.

The pit C1433 was 0.54m long, 0.19m deep and 0.66m wide. It had three fills, C1434, C1435 and C1436, and all were composed of sandy silts.

C1371 was the 2.04m long, 1.14m wide and 0.24m deep cut of an oval-shaped pit with a U-shaped base. It was aligned southeast/northwest. It had a sharp break of slope at its top. It had a gradual break of slope at its south-eastern base and sharp break of slope at its north-western base. It had evidence of scorched clay in its basal fill C1391 and a dark charcoal-rich layer, sealed by a mottled brown sandy silt, C1390, on top.

Northeast-facing section of pit C1371



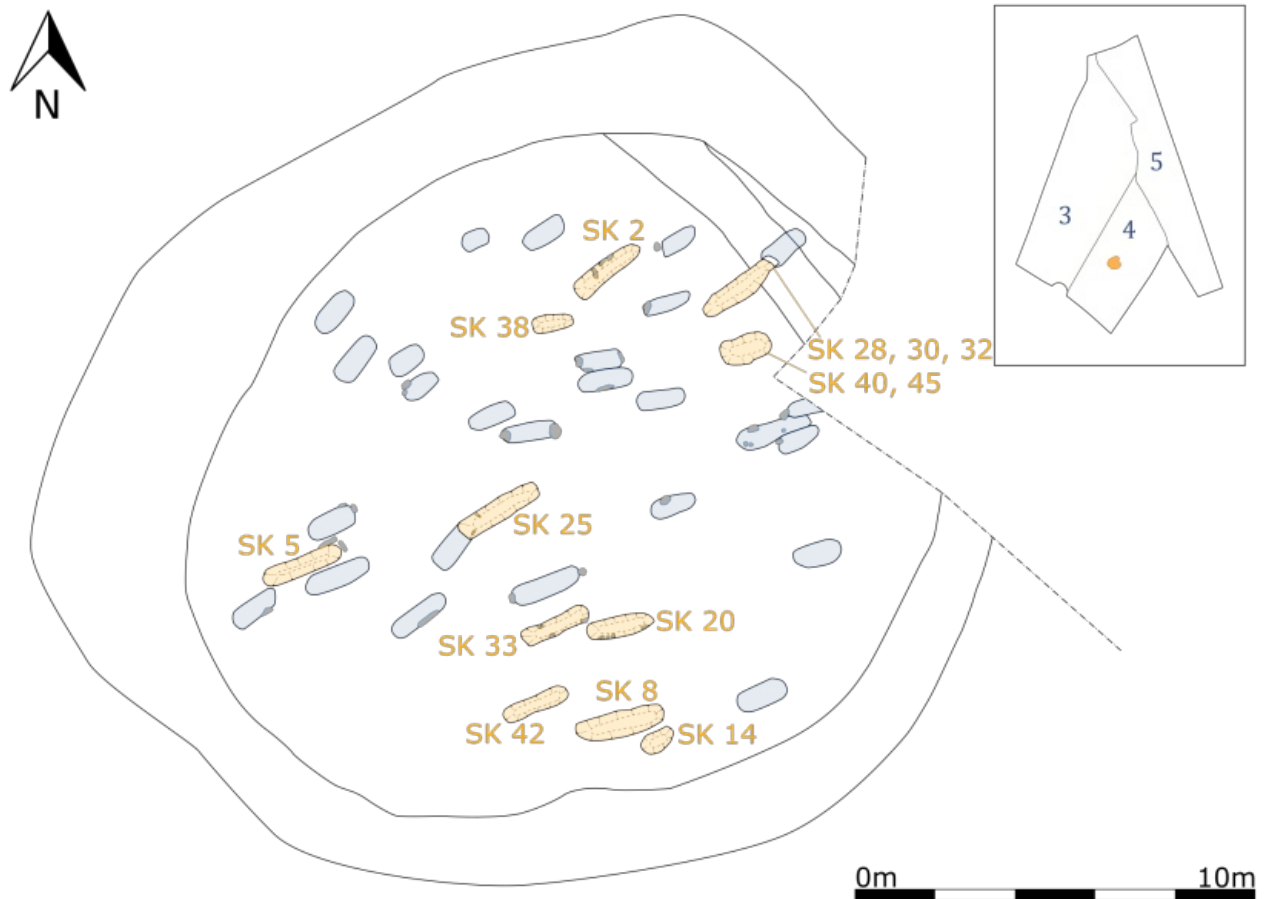


Area D, mid-ex

Aerial view of Area D, mid-ex



8 Excavation Area E, Field 4



Area E, Field 4

Area E Area E in Field 4 was defined by a circular enclosure ditch, C0733, that Duffy (2007) had identified (F78/F84) during testing. The skulls of three burials were also identified at that time in Test Trench 55 (Features 80, 81, 82, Burials 2 to 4). The area was carefully stripped under archaeological supervision in 2019 to the height of the burials.

The remains of approximately 46 individuals, all

buried on a northeast/southwest alignment, and enclosed by the circular ditch, were identified. The burials for SK 42 (F82), SK 33 (F80) and ISSKB00014 (F81) likely corresponded to Duffy's Features 80, 81, 82 and Burials 2, 3 and 4.

The enclosure ditch C0733 had an internal diameter of 19m and an external diameter of 22m. It was not excavated during the 2019 works.

The project osteoarchaeologist visited the site and determined that certain exposed burials needed to be excavated while most of the identified graves could remain in situ for a later phase of excavation. Most of the graves that were excavated were cut into material other than natural subsoil. This could not be fully investigated in the 2019 excavation, without disturbing in situ remains, but it is possible that a mound associated with the enclosure may have once covered the burials. The other possibility was that the higher, exposed burials had been cut into topsoil as there was some evidence for the re-use of graves.

Seventeen burials were excavated. A further five burials were identified beneath some of the excavated skeletons and left in situ. The skulls of two individuals, ISSKB0016 and ISSKB0019 (ISSKB – In Situ Skeleton or Burial) were discovered near SK14.

Twelve of the graves, including two of the underlying in situ burials, were possibly stone-lined. The grave of SK2 was over the stone-lining of ISSKB0049. The stone lining of the grave cut C0777 rested on the ribs of the individual ISSKB0021. There were a further seven possible unlined graves.

Given the close proximity of the graves to each other, and the number of intercutting and stacked burials that were identified during the excavation, there could be up to another 120 burials within the enclosure.

The descriptions below are based on preliminary on-site observations and are subject to change upon analysis by the project osteologist.

Excavated burials

SK1, DSK10

The remains of an adult, consisting of the lower half of the body, including most of the pelvis, were buried in grave cut C0754. The distal ends of the right arm and the phalanges of the left hand were missing. Most of the ribs and vertebrae were also missing and there was considerable damage to the skull.

SK2, DSK9

The remains of an adult, SK2 in a simple grave C0763, were excavated. The lower legs, including the patellae and the left humerus were missing. Otherwise the skeleton was in reasonable condition. A stone lining was more likely associated with the unexcavated burial ISSKB0049 as that individual's skull has a head stone.

SK3

Only the right femoral, tibial and fibular shafts and left tibial shafts were present in this heavily disturbed grave of SK3, C0769. Part of the lower grave cut was visible but otherwise imperceptible.

SK4

The grave for SK4, (C0771), had also been heavily disturbed and only parts of the lower left leg survived. The remains of an earlier grave, ISSKB0029 were identified and left in situ.

SK5, DSK11

The remains of the adult, SK5, were excavated from a possibly stone-lined grave, C0775. The stone lining however, may have been associated with other nearby graves. Most of the upper right side of the skeleton had been disturbed and was missing.

SK5, facing northeast





SK8, facing northeast

The upper grave cut was not clearly visible, but the legs were at a depth of 0.2m below the surface. The feet rested against the cut, with the toes pointing upwards at a 45-degree angle.

There may have been L5 sacralisation, where the fifth vertebra fused to the sacrum, which was suggestive of an older individual or a person with a genetic condition. The remains of another individual, DSK11, were present in the fill.

SK7

SK7 was buried close to the boundary ditch C0773 and was 0.15m lower than the other remains at 11.91mOD. The possible tibial shafts were present within a just-visible grave cut, C0780.

SK12, facing southeast



SK8, DSK17

The remains of an adult, SK8, were in a poor condition, with much of the right side of the body missing or damaged. A grave cut, C0781, was clearly visible and had been cut at the feet by a plough furrow C0787. The left arm was extended with the hand on the pelvis. The right hand rested over the left pelvis.

SK12, DSK13

The skull, ribs and lower tibial shafts of an individual were found almost piled up on top of the grave of SK 20. The legs were articulated, but the remainder may have been dragged out of position by agricultural activity.

SK14

The grave of a smaller adult or juvenile, SK14, was in poor condition. The grave C0784, was in between two unexcavated graves ISSKB0016 and ISSKB0019. A plough furrow C0787 had likely removed the feet. Most of the left side of the skeleton was missing. The cut, however, was clear and semi-ovoid in plan with a stone lining (C0785) that consisted of four large stones with an average width of 0.2m. It was subsequently filled with (C0786) a moderately compact, mid-brown silty clay.

ISSKB0016, HBS:15

ISSKB0016 was a slightly caved-in skull that had seemingly been impacted by the plough furrow C0787. It was left in situ west of SK 14, and probably extended under the unstripped area.

ISSKB0019

This was the intact crown of a skull identified during the cleaning of grave C0784 for SK14. This burial was east of SK14 and continued under the unstripped area. No samples were taken.

SK20

C0777 was the grave of a well-preserved adult individual SK 20, over whom the remains of SK12 (DSK 13) had been placed. The grave cut C0778 was a long and narrow and ovoid in plan. It was partially lined with stone, C0796. The right arm rested against the stone lining and was flexed slightly with the hand on the pelvis. The left arm was flexed completely, and the left

hand was with the left clavicle. The feet were missing but the distal ends of the fibulae and tibiae were together. The grave was backfilled with a dark brown silty clay with frequent animal bone and occasional charcoal inclusions. The stone lining for this grave rested on the ribs of an earlier burial, ISSKB0021.

ISSKB0021, HBS:16

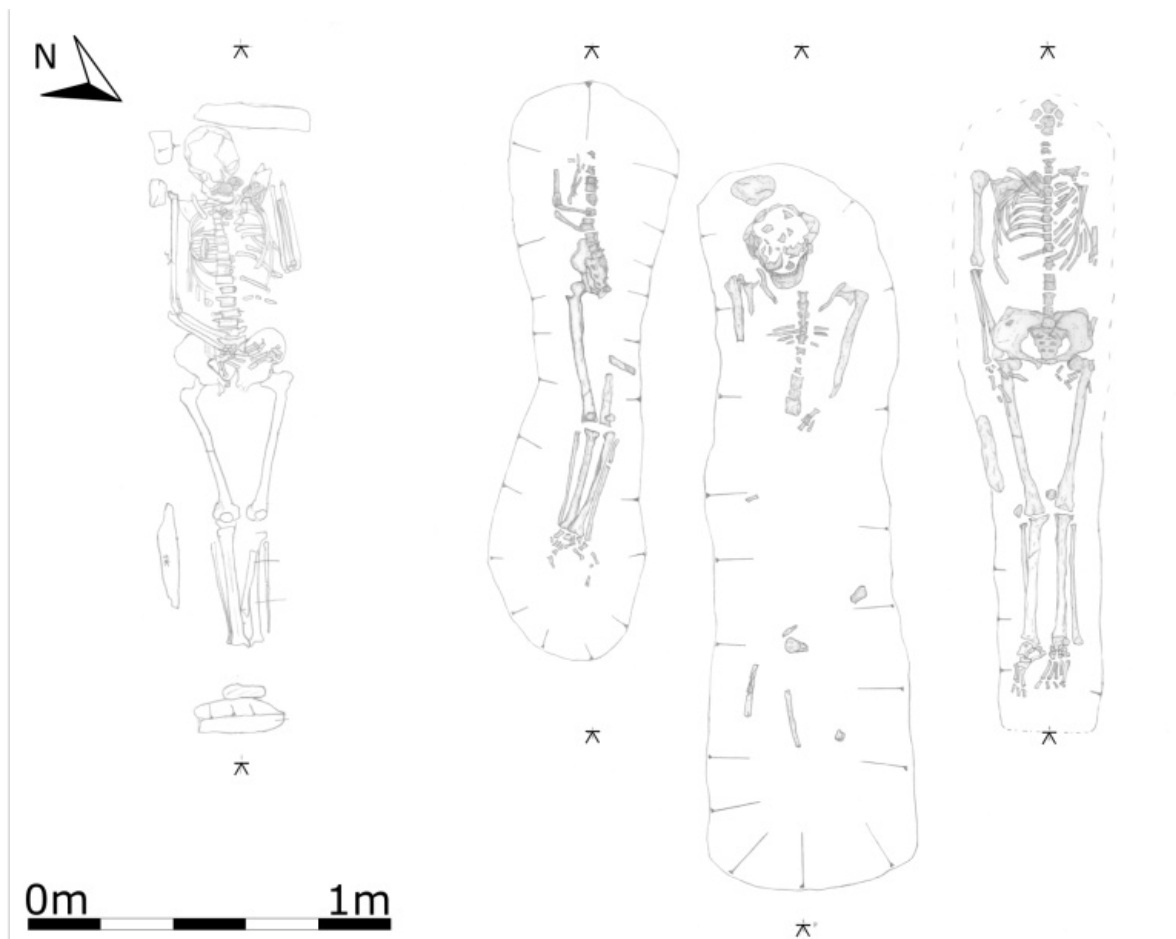
This individual was identified beneath SK20. It appeared to be an intact inhumation with patellae, femora, sacrum, hand and ribs noted. There was very little soil between the two burials. The stone lining at the head of SK20 rested on the ribs of SK21. The burial was covered in terram and left in situ. The patellae were removed as they were deemed to be at risk from

degradation or loss.

SK23, DSK24

C0789 was the grave of a possible juvenile, SK23, that survived in a moderate condition. This was the outermost grave within the south-eastern part of the enclosure. It was 0.2m east of SK8. The skull, cervical vertebrae, scapulae and clavicles were all missing, as were most of the ribs. The spine, pelvis and sacrum were in a twisted position and the grave cut appeared to follow this posture. The grave may have been dug so as not to interfere with nearby known burials and the individual may have been buried on their side to fit into the narrow grave. Some disarticulated bone, DSK24, found underneath SK23, was suggestive of an earlier grave.

SK20, SK23, SK26 and SK33





SK25, facing southwest

SK25, DSK26

The grave, C0790, contained the poorly preserved remains of a probably male adult, SK25. The lower half of the skeleton had been disturbed. The mandible was in good condition, but the maxillae were pushed over to the right side and the skull was caved in. The skeleton was partially buried on slate; the vertebral processes and ribs were on slate, the left arm rested at a lower level on clay. The left arm was flexed with the lower arm over the pelvis. The damaged right fibula and patella were all that remained of the lower limbs. The grave likely cut into an earlier burial, DSK26, to the west as tibiae were found next to the skull. The slate lining may have been associated with the earlier grave.

SK28, DSK29

The skull and long bones of SK28 were well-preserved but the more delicate, spongier bones had either disintegrated or been removed by later grave cuts. The jaw was tilted to the north-west. The left arm was flexed towards the midline and the right forearm was missing. The tibia and fibula were at a lower level and the disturbed feet were lower again. The grave cut, C0792 was very difficult to discern. The vestiges of an earlier grave, ISSKB0044 (cut C0809) was suggested by a separate tibia and fibula which were removed under HBS:17.

The grave cut was disturbed by the later grave of SK32 to the east and by the unexcavated linear feature C0812. SK32 was later disturbed by the burial for SK30.

SK30, DSK31

As the final burial in a sequence of at least four, SK30, was the best preserved and most intact. The skull, lower legs and left leg were not present. The right arm was flexed over the pelvis and the hand would have been in the pelvic cavity. The left arm was straighter, and the left hand may have rested under the pelvis. The ribs were present but fragile; the vertebral bodies were gone but the fragmented processes mostly present. The sacrum and left hip were missing. The individual was probably an adult, but it was difficult to determine in the field given the level of preservation and consequent lack of intact epiphyses.

The grave cut C0794 for SK30 cut the grave C0799 and was itself cut by the linear feature C0812.

SK28, SK 30 and SK 32





SK28, SK30 and SK32, facing northwest

SK32, DSK33

SK32 was likely an adult. The skull, ribs, right arm and pelvis were not present. The femora were present, but the lower legs were missing, having possibly been removed by C0812. Following the excavation of SK28, no further remains of SK32 were identified.

The later grave cut C0794 (for SK30) cut through the fill C0800 and probably also through the skeleton as the remains on the right side were damaged or missing. Skeleton 32 was buried before SK 30 and after SK 28.

SK33, DSK34

The skull and left arm of SK33 were damaged but the skeleton was otherwise quite well preserved. Both arms were at the sides of the

SK33, facing northeast



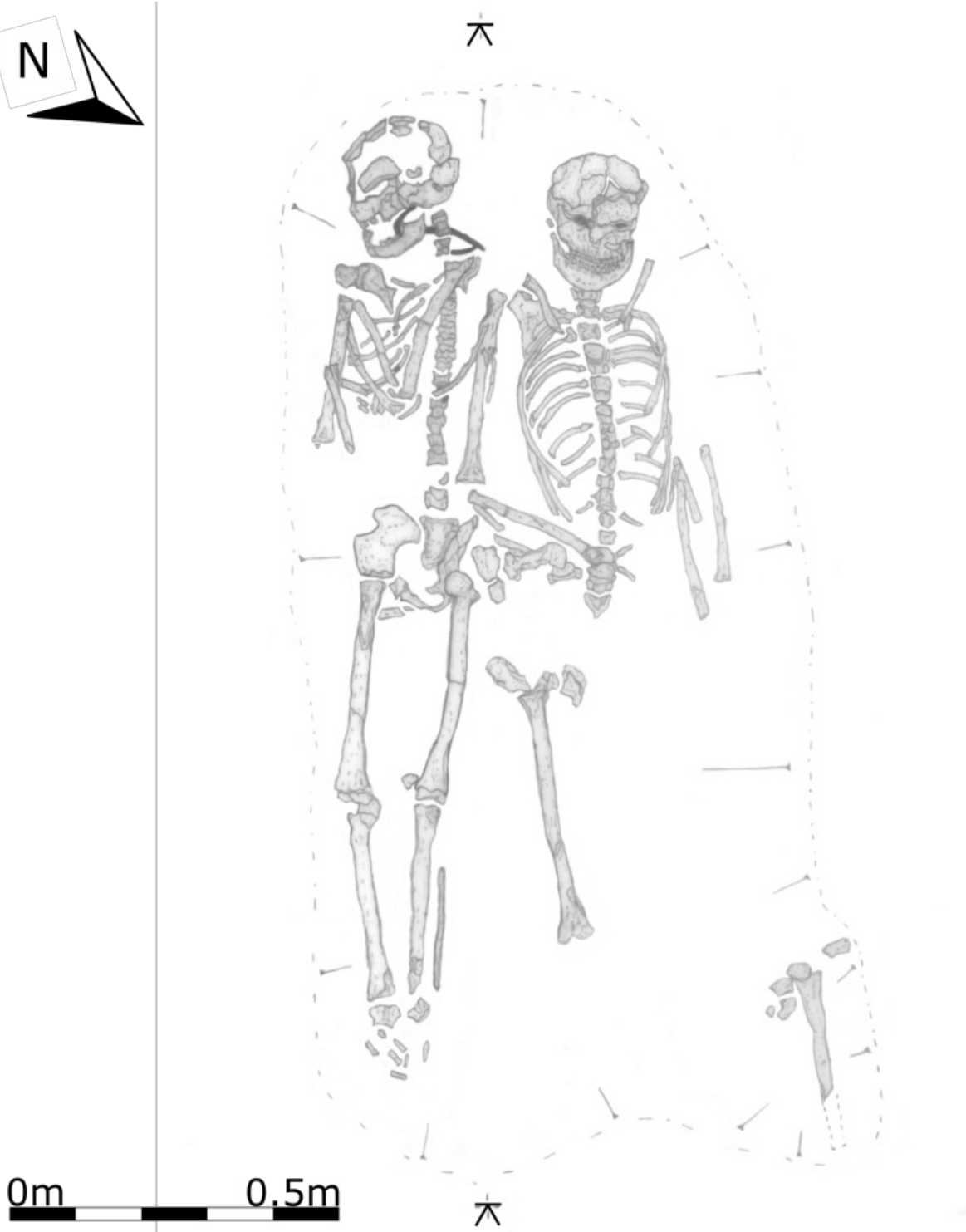
body; the right lower arm was under the iliac bone and the bones of the hands rested over the proximal ends of the femora. The bones of the face were not present; only the occipital remained. No lines of fusion were noted on the epiphyses and the individual appeared to be quite robust. The pelvic cavity and sciatic notch appeared to be wide, but the sacrum was in pieces. Some animal bone and teeth were noted in the dark brown silt grave fill C0798.

SK38, DSK39

The remains of SK38 had been heavily disturbed. The upper half of the skeleton was completely missing. It had been 0.2m higher than the feet, and close to the surface making it susceptible to damage from ploughing. Two large flat stones that may have acted as lining along the sides of the grave cut C0801 were found lying flat over the knees. A shaft of what may have been one of the bones of the right forearm lay across the body over the pelvis. The remainder of the skeleton was in good condition and it was likely an adult. Similar to SK25, some slate or shale was on the base of the grave.

SK38, facing northwest





SK40, SK45 and DSK47

SK40, DSK41

C0803 was the grave cut for the remains of a juvenile, SK40. This individual differed from all other human remains on site in that they were wearing a copper alloy coil or ring around their

neck. Some of the bones, including the left ribs, the right upper ribs and forearm also displayed evidence of having been in contact with some copper alloy.



SK40 and copper alloy neckpiece, facing southeast

SK40 and copper alloy neckpiece, facing southeast



The body was deposited in a slightly different position than others, with the right arm flexed back towards the right shoulder and the upper left arm across the ribcage. The lower left arm then joined the right forearm and hands. Both hands may have originally been together at the right shoulder. The skull was turned to the right. The right pelvis was lying flat and the left pelvis had been turned towards the right or had settled there due to taphonomic changes. The left leg was flat, and the right femur may have been tilted slightly to the right or east. The sacrum rested under the left pelvis and was also suggestive of taphonomic processes or depositional positioning.

Despite post-depositional damage to SK40, it was otherwise in relatively good condition. The skull was mostly present, but the frontal bone had been crushed. Some of the upper and lower dentition was missing. Most of the upper body was present apart from the vertebral bodies. The ribs were mostly present but slightly disarrayed. The pelvis was damaged but mostly present. The legs and feet were in good condi-

tion with the feet together. The left femur of SK45 was at some point dragged across the pelvis of SK40.

The proximal epiphysis of the humerus, the trochlea on the distal humeral epiphysis and the femoral and tibial epiphyses were unfused. The unfused trochlea was suggestive of a young age of under 10 years, but the teeth were suggestive of an age closer to 12 years.

The copper alloy jewellery

The copper alloy neck-chain or coil comprised a thin, soft sheet metal that had been rolled to form a cylinder 0.005m wide. There was perhaps 0.2m length of the cylinder present overall. It had a dark green hue and was shiny or glossy when first exposed, almost as if it had been varnished or glazed. The first piece came from just under the mandible, perhaps over the cervical vertebrae. The piece was already broken. One loop was under the cervical vertebrae and the second may have lain over it. The second, higher loop with a pressed end was under the mandible and in under the temporal bone via an

Mid-ex view of SK40 and SK45, facing northwest



unfused suture. The lower loop that ran under the cervical vertebrae and up to the left mandible also appeared to have a pressed end. No decoration was noted.

The left thoracic vertebra and a lower rib also had a trace of copper alloy remains and that looked almost like a lozenge.

Some burnt clay and a small quartz pebble were noted in the grave fill.

SK45, DSK46

SK45 was buried north of SK40 in grave cut C0810. The humeral head of SK 45 appeared to have been cut into. The ribs of SK40 lay over SK45 and the radius and ulna of SK45 were wedged between the distal humerus of SK45 and the pelvis of SK 40. SK45 was most-probably the earlier burial.

SK45 was an adult. It was robust and had all three molars. The skull, though crushed, was mostly intact. The left scapula and humerus were missing but the forearm survived at the side of the body, at a slightly lower level. The right arm was flexed across the body; the hands may have been between the ribs and the pelvis. Elements of the pelvis were present but disturbed. The left femur was on top of SK40 and the right femur was undisturbed. The left lower leg was present, but the right lower leg and the feet were not located, apart from a possible patella.

Evidence of an earlier grave, ISSKB0047, below SK 45 was noted. Both burials appeared to be cut into an earlier fill, rather than natural subsoil C0002. Some flints recovered from under the ribs came from a second, lighter orange sandy clay fill.

Both SK40 and SK 45 showed changes to the mastoid processes below the ears. These may have been taphonomic, disease-related or genetic changes. This was not noted on other skeletons in the field.

SK42, DSK43

The remains of SK42, south of SK33, were poorly preserved and completely fragmented. The hands, feet, pelvis and right ribs were miss-

ing. The skull was collapsed but the mandible survived and faced southwest. One toe bone, possibly from the right foot, survived. The positioning of the arms was not possible to determine. The lower legs appeared to be separated, but this may have been the result of disturbance. The grave C0806 was cut into natural gravel subsoil C0002. An ossified muscle attachment was reported as coming from beneath of skull during excavation.

SK44, HBS:17

SK44 were the remains of an individual that had been disturbed by the later grave cut for SK28. The bones were lifted under HBS:17.

ISSKB0047

This in situ grave was earlier than that of SK45 and a pelvis and femur were identified.

SK42, facing northeast



ISSKB0049

This stone-lined burial had been disturbed by the grave cut C0762 for SK 2. This individual was left in situ.

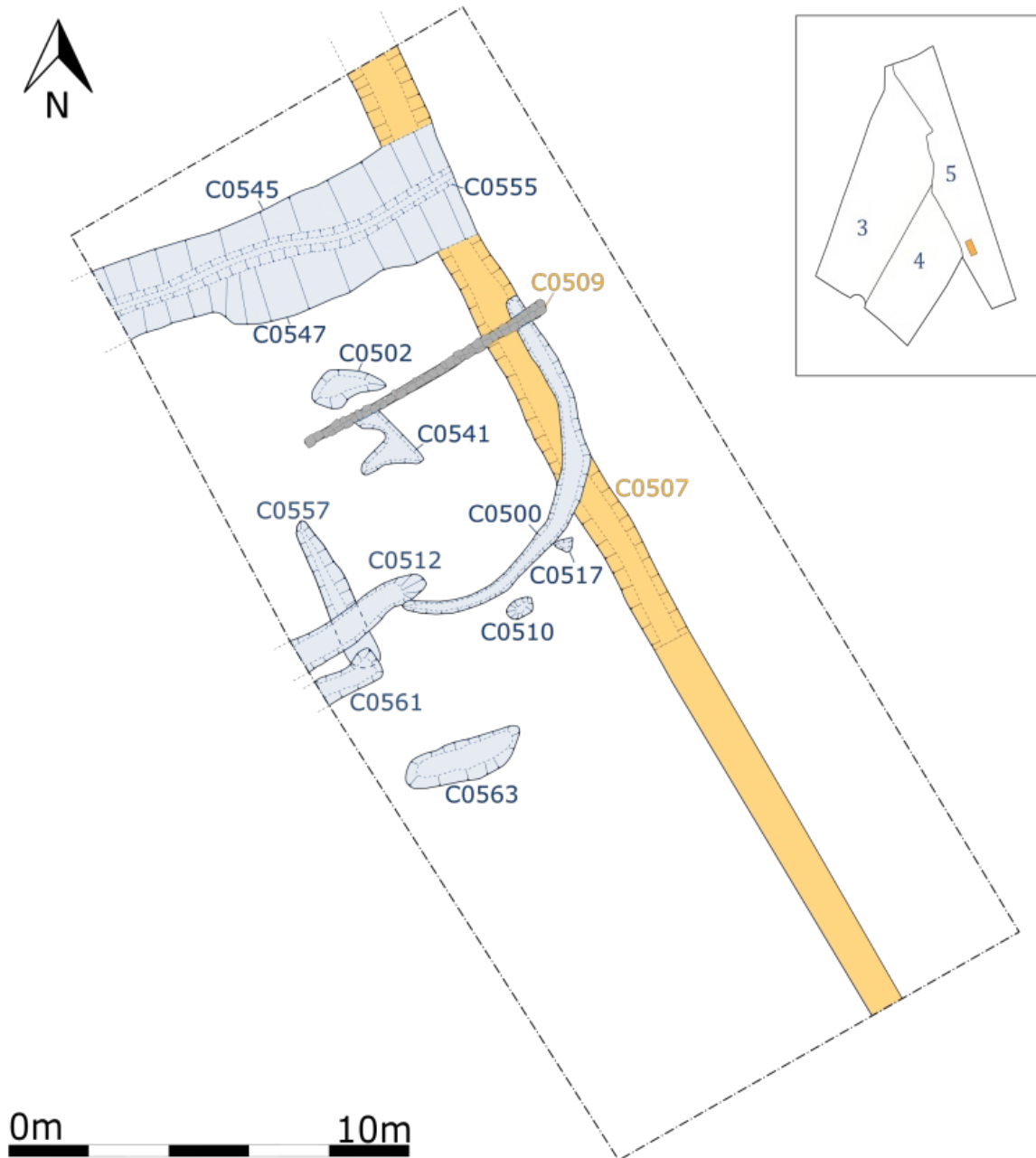
A small amount of remains that have not been listed above were collected as disarticulated material. The locations of these remains were recorded on GPS.

Aerial view of Area E, facing southeast



9

Excavation Field 5



Excavation within Field 5

Field 5 was in the northeast of the development site and within the townland of Betaghstown. No archaeology was identified there in Duffy's (2007) testing programme. Two areas that had not been previously tested were stripped in 2019 under Licence 19E0077. Archaeology was identified in the area adjacent to and north of Field 4. This area was subject to flooding and part of it was under a large body of water during the 19E0077 excavations. The flooded portion of the site was not stripped to prevent the body of water flooding the excavation. Several of the features that were investigated in Field 5 were related to land drainage.

Slot trench C0500

The main feature of Field 5 was a curvilinear slot trench, C0500 that was cut into natural sub-soil C0002. The slot trench was C-shaped in plan. Its two termini were in the north and south with the trench curving to the east between them. It measured 10.35m in length between the termini. It varied in depth from 0.32m at its northern terminus to 0.39m in the centre, and 0.13m in the southern terminus. The maximum width was 0.5m and the minimum width was 0.3m.

It had a consistently sharp break of slope at its top. The break of slope at its base varied from gentle to sharp and the shape of the base varied accordingly from concave to almost V-shaped.

It had eight fills. These were C0501, C0523, C0536, C0537, C0538, C0539, C0540 and C0565. C0537 was the only fill to be found throughout the slot trench. It was a soft brown peaty fill with no inclusions and may represent



Slot trench C0500 cut drain C0507 and stone-lined drain C0509

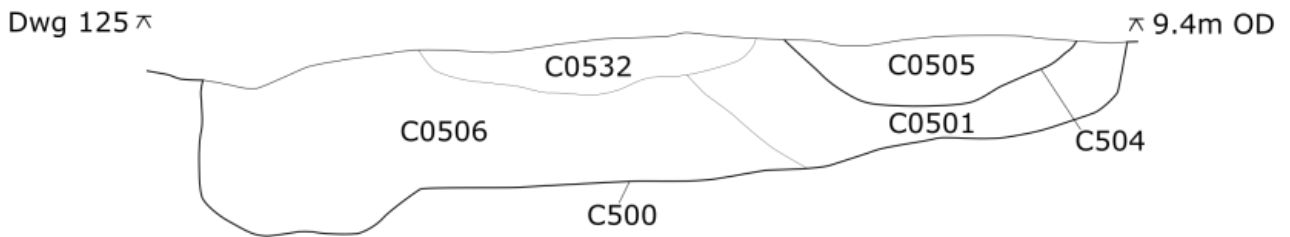
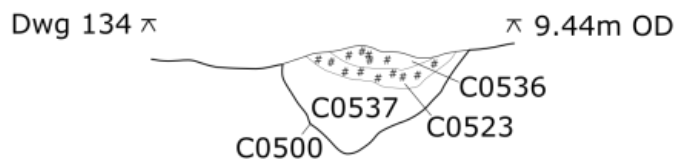
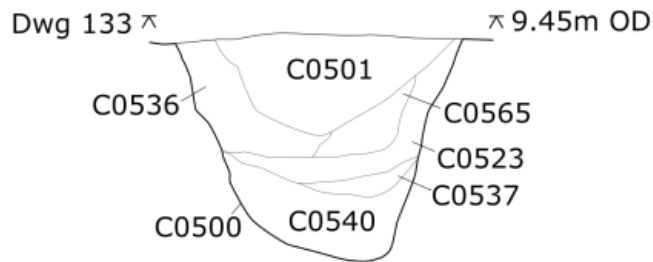
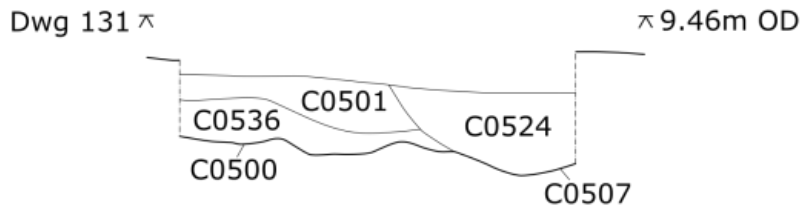
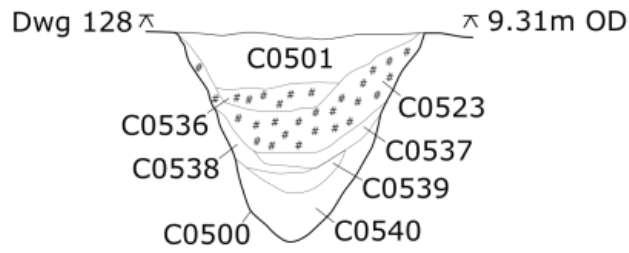
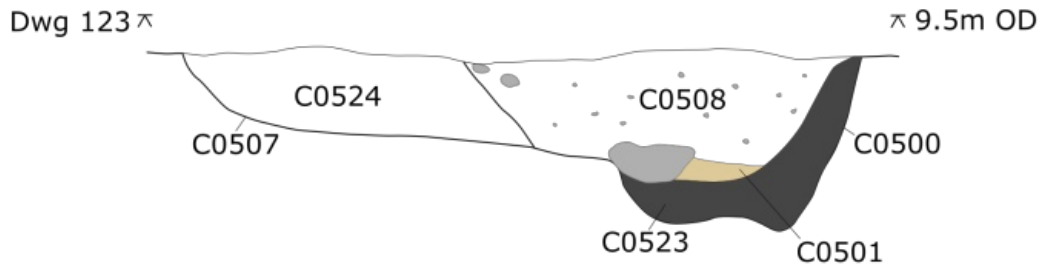
the decayed remains of an early fence/palisade. C0523 was the next most frequently found fill. It too was a dark organic peaty fill with frequent charcoal and wood fragments. It may be the remnants of a repaired or replacement later palisade/fence. One flint flake was found in the earlier fill C0539.

Features external to the slot trench C0500

C0510 was an oval pit on the southern exterior side of the slot trench C0500. It had a sharp break of slope at its top, with steep sides and a sharp break of slope at its almost flat base. It was 0.7m long, 0.42m wide and 0.22m deep. It had one fill; C0511, a brown silty clay with frequent wooden fragments and seeds.

The stone-lined field drain C0509 cut an irregular pit C0541, on the southern side of the drain. A similarly irregular pit, C0502, was found on the north side of the drain. Both pits were filled with grey brown clay with frequent pieces of wood. The irregular shape in plan and uneven bases of both pits, combined with their washed-clay fills suggest that they were likely either tree bowls or natural hollows that had been filled in by frequent flooding. Their proximity to each other may have caused a water-logged spot in the field and warranted the digging of the field drain C0509 to carry the water away to the larger drain C0507 to the east.

C0555 is the cut of a shallow ditch running east/west across the stripped area of Field 5. It may have once been a larger feature, but it was



Sections of slot trench C0500

cut on its southern side by the narrow linear gully C0547 and on its northern side by the larger ditch C0545. C0555 was filled by C0556, a dark brown soft peaty fill similar to a lot of the other fills in Field 5, and C0514, a mottled grey clay. Both fills likely formed as a result of flooding events on the edge of Field 5. The two fills were also cut by C0547 and C0545. All of these features were likely dug and re-dug as drainage channels through Field 5. They extend in both directions beyond the limits of excavation. They are all cut by the modern field drain C0507.

A number of later features were cut into the ditches. C0566 was an irregular pit that cut C0514 and C0547. It was filled with a dark silty clay, C0506 that contained infrequent animal bone and occasional organic material.

C0504 was a smaller shallow irregular pit with in situ burning that was cut into both C0506 and C0547. It was filled with a black-grey clayey sand, C0505, with frequent charcoal inclusions.

Later phase

C0500 was cut by three other features. These were a narrow ditch C0512, and two modern field drains; C0507, itself cut by C0509.

The ditch C0512 was at the southwestern limit of excavation in Field 5. It was linear in plan and had a dark grey brownish silty fill, C0513, with frequent large stone inclusions. C0512 partially cut the southern terminus of the curvilinear C0500. C0512 extended beyond the limit of excavation, beneath the stone dump C0559, and could not be safely fully investigated. It is possible that C0512 is the terminus of the east/west running ditch C1531 in Field 4D.

A similarly shaped and orientated ditch, C0561, was just south of C0512 and extended beyond the limit of excavations and beneath the stone dump C0559. It was at least 1.4m in length, 0.6m wide and 0.3m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at its top and base and had concave sides and a concave base. It was filled by a dark brown silty clay C0562.

The stone dump, C0559, sat within the unexcav-

ated baulk material C0520 and above C0512 and C0561. The stone dump continued for 3m in length within C0520 and was 0.4m in height. A sandy clay, C0560, had formed within the gaps between the stones and had likely been washed down from Field 4 to the north. One sherd of medieval pottery was found in C0560, as well as one sherd of modern pottery.

Both ditches were cut by the oblong pit C0557. It had a gradual break of slope at its top and a near-flat base. It was 2m in length, 0.5m deep and was 0.4m deep. Its purpose was unclear though it seems likely that all three the linear features served some sort of drainage function.

C0519 was originally interpreted as the bed of a stream that ran along the western limit of Field 5. In hindsight, C0519 was likely a drainage ditch at the edge of the field. The artificial townland boundary between the two fields raised the ground level in Field 4 some 2m above that of Field 5. This inevitably caused frequent flooding along the boundary in Field 5. C0520 was an organic-rich dark peat. It was not permitted to strip or fully investigate C0519 and C0520 as this would have allowed the large body of water to flood the development site.

Isolated pit

C0563 was an oblong pit, south of the linear C0561. It measured 3m in length and was 1.1m wide and 0.25m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at its top and a concave base with concave sides. It had one fill; the dark brown silty clay C0564.

Modern features

The drain C0507 was machine-cut and ran from southeast to northwest across and beyond the stripped portion of Field 5, measuring at least 26m in length. It was 1.2m in width (the same width as a standard machine bucket) and was approximately 0.3m in depth. C0507 had an extremely sharp break of slope at the top and a less sharp break of slope at its base. It had a wide, almost flat base. It was recorded as having two fills; C0508 and C0524, that were essentially the same dark grey soft and wet clay. C0524 had flecks of iron panning while C0508 had a high

frequency of iron panning. The random rubble limestone stones that formed the field drain had been deposited in the centre of the base of the cut. Both fills formed as a result of clay material being washed into the drain, with the iron panning clay forming the streamside C0508 on one side of the drain and the iron panning speckled C0524 forming on the field side of the drain. One sherd of modern pottery was found in the fill C0524. C0507 also cut the linear ditches C0545, C0547 and C0555.



C0509, facing southwest

The drain C0507 was cut by the stone-lined field drain C0509. C0509 also cut the slot trench C0500. The stone-lined field drain ran north-east/southwest. It had a length of 6.86m. It was 0.2m wide and 0.19m deep. It had a sharp break of slope at both its tops and its base and had a U-shaped profile. It was filled by an interconnecting series of purposely placed limestone stones C0534 and the washed-in clay material of C0535. Given the modern pottery sherd that was found in the drain C0507, the later field drain C0509 was perhaps the most recent activity in Field 5.

Post-ex view of Field 5, facing southwest



10 Discussion

A preliminary discussion on the excavation findings follows. All of the artefacts, human remains and samples that were recovered during the excavation are currently undergoing specialist analysis. All dates suggested below, therefore, are estimates and are likely to be substantially revised once analysis of the samples and artefacts is complete. A detailed discussion of the results of the excavation will then be undertaken in the final excavation report.

Prehistoric

A large amount of unworked flint was dispersed across the site at Donacarney Great. A significant number of worked flint artefacts, both stratified and unstratified, were recovered over the course of the excavation. The site was 1.3km from the coastline and Woodman et al (2006) identified the nearby Bettystown beach as a source of beach flint. Glacial retreat in the last Ice Age likely deposited a substantial amount of the nearby beach flint on the current site.

Prehistoric activity on the site was confirmed by the presence of Bronze Age funerary urns and a probable Bronze Age structure. The use of flint artefacts associated with this phase is to be expected. Given the large amount of freely available (unworked for?) flint in the area, it seems highly likely that this rich resource was utilised throughout the different phases of activity at the excavation site, i.e. beyond the prehistoric and into the medieval period. The presence of flint, therefore, within features could not solely be relied upon as solid evidence for estimating dates. This was also the case at the nearby excavation 07E0451, also at Donacarney Great, where evidence for Mesolithic and Neolithic flint production was identified from much later archaeological features (Giacometti 2010). The results of the ongoing analysis of C14 samples, in conjunction with the artefactual analyses, should provide more concrete dating across the site. It may yet be the case that there was far more prehistoric activity on the site than what is argued in this discussion.

Flint scraper



Pre-ex view of cremation urn, facing southeast



The earliest firm evidence, at this preliminary stage, for dating on the Donacarney Great site were the three Bronze Age funerary urns forming a small flat cemetery. They were box-lifted and excavated under laboratory conditions by the project conservator. None of the urns survived in a complete state. No decoration was apparent on any of the urn remains and it would be imprudent to attempt to classify them at this stage as anything other than undecorated vase urns (Brindley 2007, p15). Brindley (2007, p 335) put these vase urns within the mid-Bronze Age of c.2000 – 1800BC. A cordoned urn, dating to c.1800 – 1700BC was excavated on a site in the neighbouring townland of Mornington (Stirland 2015), and an encrusted urn was found in a fulacht fiadh well in Donacarney Great (Giacometti 2010, 40). Encrusted urns and vase urns are associated with a change in burial rites where cremations became the preferred option over inhumation. Cordoned urns are also more commonly found in pits than cists (Cahill 2011, p 55).

The nearby structure, formed by two slot trenches, is certainly prehistoric in form and finds. Given the proximity of the urn burials, the structure can be tentatively dated to the Bronze Age also.

The slot trench in Field 5 is cautiously dated to the prehistoric period, based on its crescent-shaped form and the find of a single flint flake. Its location in an area that floods regularly since the land-improvement works to the north, would suggest that it was constructed long before those works were envisaged. The slot trench contained organic material that should provide a calibrated C-14 date.

Cemetery settlement

The main phase of activity at Donacarney Great was characterised by burials, large enclosures, agricultural and industrial activities typical of a first millennium AD cemetery settlement (EMAP 2008, 179). These site types are generally comprised of rounded or oval enclosures that contain evidence of both burials and non-funerary activity. There are often a series of enclosures, sometimes concentric to each other



Aerial view of cemetery settlement, facing northeast

that may represent expansion of the settlement over time (EMAP 2007, 175).

The large enclosure ditches of Areas A and D were on either side of a dense burial ground in Area B. These enclosures contained frequent E-ware pottery that places them in the late 6th to early 8th centuries AD (Doyle 2009, 17). Rathbone (2008) previously acquired a radiocarbon date of 575AD (+/- 35) from the rib of one of the burials in Area B, placing that individual's death within the same period. A separate burial zone in Area E was defined by a circular enclosure with all individuals buried on a roughly southwest-northeast alignment. Habitation evidence for that period was less obvious, though one structure in Area D may have survived in a sub-oval alignment of large pits/post-holes. Agricultural and industrial activity was evident in the form of several cereal-drying kilns in Area A and Field 3.

Burials

Few of the burials that were identified in the hand-dug test trenches in Area B were fully excavated. Of those that were, only SK51 comprised an almost complete skeleton. It was in an extended supine position and orientated southwest/northeast. It had no grave goods. The grave likely cut another burial and Rathbone (2008) also found evidence for the intercutting of burials. Rathbone's Burial 1, calibrated date 575AD, was also orientated southwest/northeast.



10th/11th century Hiberno-Norse ringed pin

The burial ground was probably in use for at least several hundred years from the 6th to the 10th centuries. This is suggested by the discovery of a 10th/11th century Hiberno-Norse ringed pin near a concentration of burials, combined with the evidence for intercutting graves. SK51 was at the southern limit of burials that were identified in the hand-dug trenches. Rathbone's Burial 1 came from the other side of the burial area, and close to the potential limit of

burials, as defined by the ditch C0739. A C-14 date from SK51 is worth obtaining to determine if there was a major time difference in the burials of those individuals that might imply an expansion of the burial ground in one direction or another.

The evidence from the hand-dug test trenches may also indicate that this burial area was bounded by the long, straight ditch C0739 (C1553 in Area D) that had originally been identified by geophysical survey (Leigh 2019). Whether or not this ditch formed part of a D-shaped enclosure, as suggested by the geophysical survey, was not tested in this excavation and should form the basis of a research question for any future excavations at the site.

The burials within Area E were all within a sub-circular enclosure. Not all the burials were excavated, and the majority were left in situ. All of the excavated burials were orientated roughly southwest/northeast, and all were extended inhumations. Some of the graves were slate-lined and there was some evidence for intercutting. One individual, SK40, was wearing a copper-al-

Burials in Area E under excavation





Area E excavation

loy necklace or coil. It was the only skeleton found in association with a grave good. The enclosure was not fully stripped. No entrance was identified, and it is unlikely for there to be an entrance within the small unstripped area. No stratigraphic relationship between the burials of Area B and those of Area E was established.

If the burials of Area B are enclosed by the ditch C0739, as the evidence from the geophysical survey and the hand-dug test trenches suggest, then the possibility for two distinct burial areas (not counting the small Bronze Age flat cemetery) is high. If there are two distinct burial areas, then certain criteria other than location must apply to each of the areas. The most obvious explanation is that they date to different periods and were in use at different times. It may be the case that the enclosed burials of Area E were earlier, and that the burials of Area B represent a later expansion that occurred once the enclosed space of Area E became full. Alternatively, the sub-oval enclosure of Area E may have been dug in respect of, and separate from, a known burial ground in Area B.

If the two separate burial areas were in use at the same time, then it is possible that the sub-circular enclosure of Area E was reserved for individuals of status, or for a single family or clan. The copper alloy necklace or coil that was found in association with one juvenile skeleton was significant and is evidence of special treatment of a corpse, regardless of whether Area E was reserved for individuals of status.

No other substantial dating evidence was recovered from Area E and the fragmentary evidence from the test trenches makes it difficult to make meaningful comparisons between the two areas at this time. Some comparisons, however, can be made with the burials found in other, fully excavated settlement/cemeteries.

These sites appear to have evolved during the late Iron Age/early medieval transitional period, most often in the fifth century AD, with burial grounds providing the focus of activity (Kinsella 2010, 122). Burials were generally extended inhumations, east-west in orientation, in long stone lined-cists or unprotected graves without grave goods. This practice was not entirely

Christian in origin, having been identified in 2nd/3rd century graves in Roman Britain (EMAP 2008, 158). Though rare for the time period and settlement/cemeteries, grave goods are not entirely unknown. Excavations at Raystown, Co. Meath revealed personal items such as knives, beads and pins that accompanied burials. Several individuals were interred with copper alloy adornments and one person was found with the shaft of a ringed pin on their right shoulder (Seaver et al 2016, 81). No grave goods were found at the cemetery/settlement sites at Colp West (Gowen 1988), Ninch (Buckley 2010) and Bettystown (Eogan 1998), all in Co. Meath.

Inhumations at all these sites were usually fully extended, like those discovered at Donacarney Great, and orientated with the head towards the west. There were minor variations on this alignment, as at Donacarney Great, with the head sometimes found in the northwest or southwest. Raystown (Seaver 2016, 61-62) had evidence

for burials both within and without a penannular enclosure and some burials had partial stone linings. Ninch had some simple grave cuts but also had some well-constructed stone-lined cists with stone coverings in contrast to Bettystown, where all of the individuals were in simple stone-lined graves with no stone covers (Buckley 2010, 43). Colp West had evidence for over one hundred extended burials, some of which were in stone-lined graves and all but one were within an enclosure. The outlier burial was within the enclosure ditch (Gowen 1988).

Enclosures

No complete enclosure was fully excavated at Donacarney Great. They tended to extend into areas that were either beyond the site limit, beyond the excavation limit, unstripped, or truncated by modern features. Of those parts of the enclosures that were excavated, few of the centres of the enclosures were available for excavation. Similarly, few complete annexes lay within the excavated area. Despite this, however,

Enclosure ditches in Area D



some general patterns of enclosure were observed across the site.

Both Field 3 and Area A, Field 4 had long, straight boundary ditches with associated annexes. In both areas, the annexes formed sub-rectangular enclosures. The long, straight boundary ditches were wider and deeper than the annex enclosure ditches. The annex enclosure ditches may have functioned as corrals for livestock and so did not need to be any wider or deeper. The large amount of animal bone retrieved at Donacarney Great, and especially from the enclosure ditches, was testament to the prevalence of animal husbandry on or near the site.

The northern enclosure ditch in Area D was the most uniquely shaped on the site, with an almost question mark-like bend on its western side. It was also unique in the alignment of post-pits that ran along its western side and extended beyond its southern boundary. The alignment is too long to form the foundation of a medieval building, but it may have formed the basis of a borderline. The pit alignment did not extend into the excavated area of Field 5 and its location on or close to the present townland boundary is worth noting.

Most cemetery settlements sites are comprised of non-circular enclosures that developed

around late Iron Age/early medieval transitional period burial grounds (Kinsella 2010, 89, 122). The evidence from both Raystown (Seaver 2016) and Johnstown (Clarke 2002) supports this. At Ninch, although the main burial phase succeeded the earlier enclosures, there was evidence for a crouched burial of possible Bronze Age or Iron Age date (Kinsella 2010, 123). While the Donacarney Great enclosure ditches did truncate the prehistoric structure in Area A, the small flat cemetery of three urn burials survived in an otherwise busy (and as of yet, unexcavated) area. It would be extremely tenuous to claim that settlement was continuous at Donacarney Great from the Bronze Age to the medieval period, but perhaps some upstanding remains of the flat cemetery, such as small mounds over the urn burials, survived and were not interfered with when the enclosure ditches were dug out in the late Iron Age/early medieval transitional period. This is also a pattern noted by the excavator at the adjacent site 09E0451 (Giacometti 2010).

Habitation

Habitation evidence in settlement/cemeteries has mostly survived in the form of artefacts, food refuse, industrial material and features associated with processing crops (EMAP 2008, 180). Evidence for houses is limited and this was also the case at Donacarney Great. Only one possible building dating to the First Millen-

Slot trench C0013 in Area A, facing southwest



nium AD phase of activity was identified in an alignment of post holes in Area D. There was no associated slot trench such as those found at Ninch (McConway 2010, 164). Only 'negative' features such as ditches, pits, grain drying kilns and burials tend to survive in heavily ploughed agricultural land (EMAP 2008, 180). It has been argued that these sites were primarily for burial and other activities, such as smelting and corn working, that are normally carried out away from the main settlement (Stout and Stout 2008, 76).

Whether habitation was a primary function or not, Donacarney Great produced large quantities of animal bone and it is clear that animal butchery and consumption were taking place at the site throughout the First Millennium AD. Rathbone (2007) found evidence for refuse pits associated with food preparation on a site 50m to the southwest that was almost certainly part of the same settlement/cemetery. He acquired a C-14 date of 370AD for one pig bone. It is likely that faunal analysis and C-14 dating of the Donacarney Great animal bone assemblage will provide similar results.

Agriculture and Industry

Cereal cultivation was also evident at Donacarney Great. While some of the many plough furrows on the site may prove to date to the First Millennium AD settlement/cemetery the most apparent proof for cereal cultivation was in the five corn-drying kilns that were excavated in Field 3 and Area A, Field 4 and that are frequently found on settlement/cemetery sites. Raystown produced five cereal drying kilns (Seaver 2016, 20) and Ninch had two figure-of-eight kilns (McConway 2010, 159). One of the Donacarney Great kilns was figure-of-eight in plan, two were keyhole-shaped and the two in Field 3 were likely also figure-of-eight but heavily truncated. Two of the kilns were found in association with, or with the remains of, penannular slot trenches that formed the foundations for wind-break palisades.

Examples of corn-drying kilns in Ireland are known from the middle Bronze Age and Iron Age, but the majority date to between the fourth and thirteenth centuries AD. The latter group had their roots in the first or second century AD and the early appearance of

Post-ex view of kiln C1267, facing east



figure-of-eight shape kilns hints to Roman British origins (Monk and Power 2012, 38-39). A high density of kilns is known from Meath and many of these are early (Monk and Power 2012, 339) suggesting close links with Roman Britain. They are also suggestive of the importance of crop husbandry at or near the settlement/cemetery at Donacarney Great.

While the kilns were likely in use at different periods, the number already identified at the Donacarney Great site is comparatively high when equated to the larger excavations at Raystown and Ninch, albeit comparatively low when compared to the 22 kiln cuts excavated at Dunshaughlin (McGlade, forthcoming). It may have been the case that cereal processing was being carried out at something close to industrial levels at Donacarney Great as argued in the adjacent site (Giacometti 2010), i.e. that the community were processing more cereals than they needed. Kinsella (2008) has suggested that the rise of kilns was linked to the tribute demands of developing chiefdoms based around Tara. A decline in the use of kilns was similarly argued to be linked to the decline of this power base.

No evidence for any other industrial activities, such as metalworking, that are often found at other settlement/cemetery sites was identified at Donacarney Great.

Trade

Artefacts from the First Millennium AD settlement/cemetery, while not exactly rare, were somewhat uncommon. Most excavated features, ditches included, had no artefacts. When a feature did contain artefacts, it was often the case that it contained more than one. Many of the artefacts from the excavation came from topsoil, especially from the heavily disturbed topsoil over the burials in Area B Field 4.

Artefacts comprised flint tools, the copper alloy necklace or coil, copper alloy pins and a bird-headed possible stylus, bones pins and a die, medieval pottery sherds and over twenty sherds of E-ware pottery. The copper alloy artefacts are examples of fine metal workmanship and, as has been previously discussed in relation to the necklace/coil grave good, were very likely associated with individuals of status. E-ware pottery has also been associated with elite sites and it is of interest when discussing potential trade links with the Donacarney Great site.

E-ware base sherd



The E-ware pottery consists of a variety of undecorated jars, bowls and jugs of a white gritty fabric with a blemished surface (Campbell 2007, 32). The production of E-ware has been narrowed down to western France from the late sixth to early eighth centuries AD (Doyle 2009, 17). It is the most frequently found imported pottery type in early medieval Ireland and western Britain and it has been found on over fifty Irish sites that are mostly concentrated in the southwest, on the east coast and along the Boyne valley (Doyle 2009, 23, 25). The E-ware vessels probably carried foodstuffs, spices, dyes and wine and it has been assumed that these were being imported by prosperous secular and ecclesiastical elites or by local coastal communities (O’Sullivan and McCormick 2017, 115).

The sheer volume of E-ware pottery from Ireland suggests direct trading routes with western France (Doyle 2009, 34). The concentration of E-ware pottery from southwest England, southwest Wales and southwest Scotland (Campbell 2007, 46) however, in tandem with pre-Christian burials with no grave goods and early figure-of-eight kilns means that closer trade links between Donacarney Great and post-Roman Britain can-

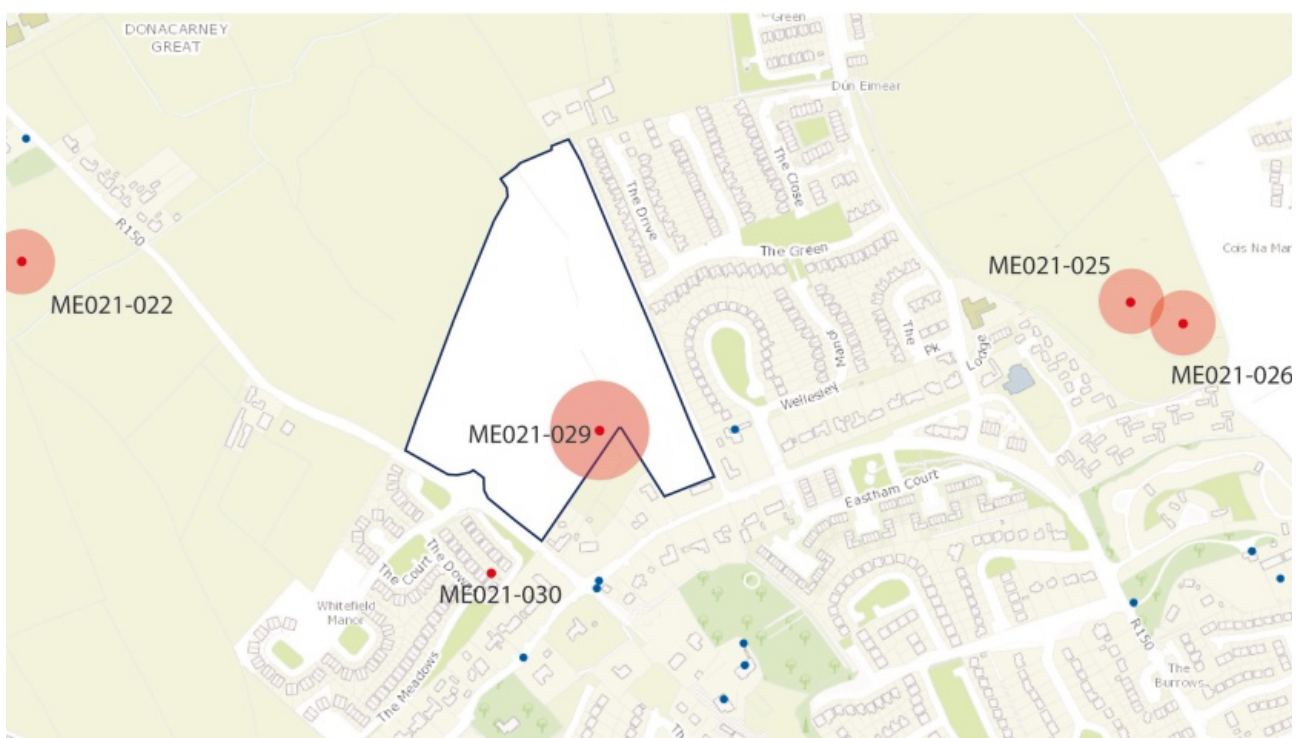
not be discounted.

The presence of E-ware across the Donacarney Great site is strong evidence of occupation from the late sixth to early eighth centuries. Some sherds of other medieval pottery types were found during excavation, but no other single type was represented as often as E-ware.

Conclusion

The site at Donacarney Great was part of a long-lived landscape with funerary and settlement evidence going back to the middle Bronze Age. Human occupation of the site intensified in the first Millennium AD and a community lived, worked and died there from at least the sixth to tenth centuries AD. This community eventually declined and faded from memory. The monuments to their dead, and the remains of their settlement, also declined and may have been intentionally cleared to improve the land for agricultural purposes at some stage prior to the post medieval period. Specialist analysis of the artefacts, human remains, animal remains, and environmental samples will shine further light on those forgotten lives.

Map of the development site and nearby RMPs, including that of the burial group ME021-029



Resolved

Unresolved



All archaeologically resolved areas are in blue

Resolved

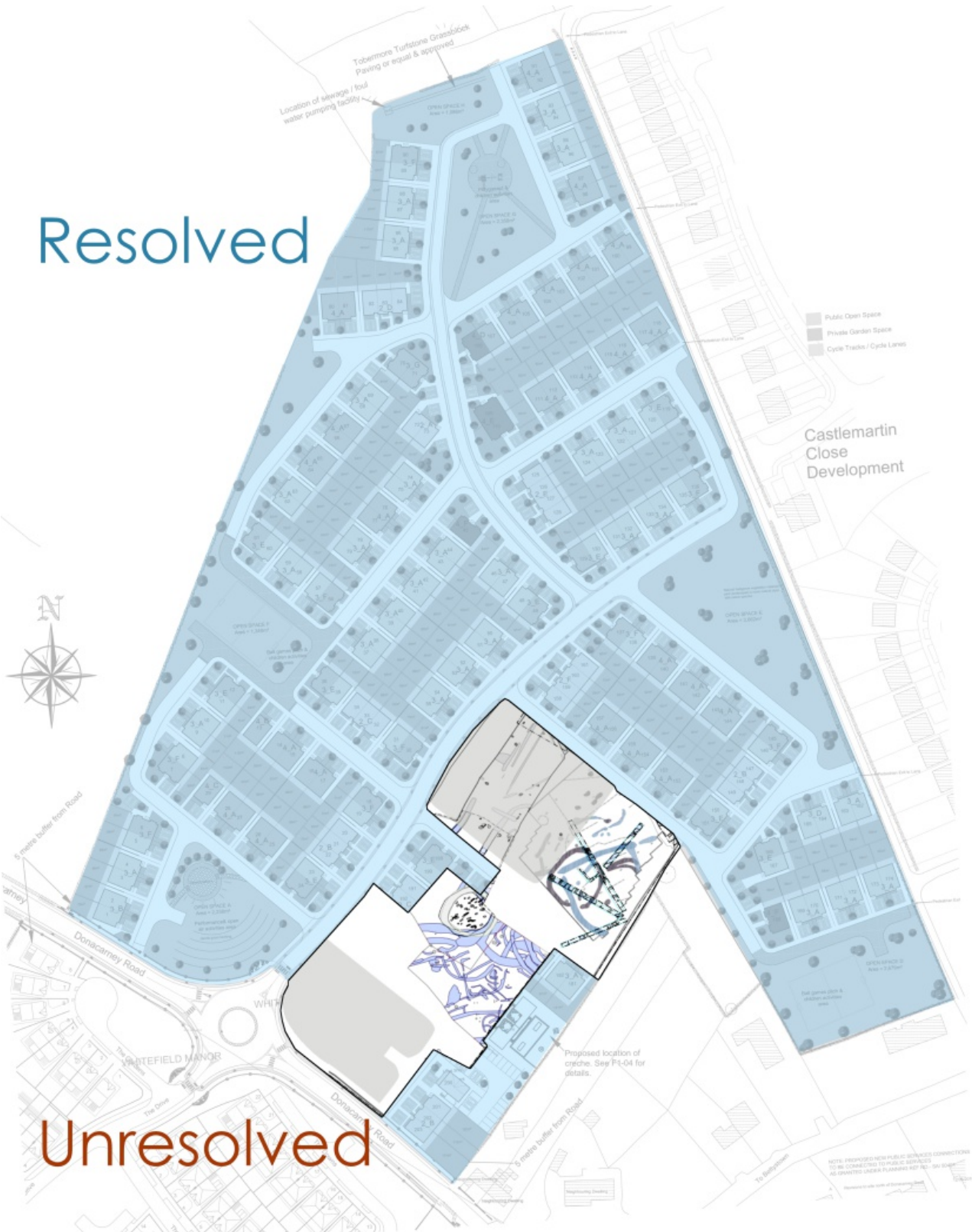
Unresolved



Unresolved areas and proposed green spaces within the development

Resolved

Unresolved



GPS and geophysical surveys of archaeologically unresolved areas. Grey areas represent the green spaces within the development and the blank areas have not been stripped. All stripped unresolved areas have been covered in terram.

11 Specialist Analysis

Specialist analysis and reporting on the archaeological material retrieved during the excavation is currently being carried out. The final findings of the excavation will be compiled in a final report once the specialist analysis is complete.

Historical research

Gillian Boazman has been engaged to compile the historical and archaeological background on Donacarney Great.

Osteological analysis

A minimum number of 57 individuals were excavated over the course of the project. These have all been processed under the supervision of Philippa Barry, our resident osteoarchaeologist. Sixty-five soil samples relating to the burials were also taken during the excavation. These have also now been processed. The remains have been sent to the project osteoarchaeologist, Denise Keating for analysis and reporting. She will also report on the cremated remains that were found in association with the urn burials.

The animal bone from the site has been processed and is currently being analysed by Emily Murray. She will be reporting on diet and animal husbandry carried on the site. She will also be analysing the cremated animal bone from the site.

A small assemblage of fish bone was also retrieved, which will be analysed by Sheila Hamilton-Dyer.

Environmental analysis

The environmental analysis for the excavation is being carried out by Nikola Gilligan. Over one hundred environmental samples were taken during the excavation. It is hoped that the analysis of the samples and charred seeds from the kilns will provide information on the local environ-

ment and land use of the site.

Charcoal analysis

Charcoal will also be selected from these samples to be sent to Queen's University Belfast for dating radiocarbon dating. This will target the various phases of activity of the settlement as well as the later burial ground.

It is hoped that charcoal from the kilns and wood from the soil samples will provide information on wood selection associated with kilns and structures on the site. These will be assessed and analysed by Lorna O'Donnell.

Artefact analysis

Seán Sharpe is conducting analysis on the lithic assemblage and Niamh Kelly is analysing the ground stone tools from the site.

An assemblage of metal artefacts was retrieved from the site. These have undergone conservation and will then be sent to Cormac Bourke for analysis and recording.

A limited assemblage of worked bone was retrieved from the site and has been analysed by Ian Riddler. A specialist report is forthcoming.

The prehistoric pottery will be analysed and reported on by George Eogan.

Clare McCutcheon will analyse and report on the medieval pottery

The E-ware pottery has been sent to Ian Doyle for analysis and a specialist report on his findings.

The post-medieval pottery and glass has been analysed by Antoine Giacometti.

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