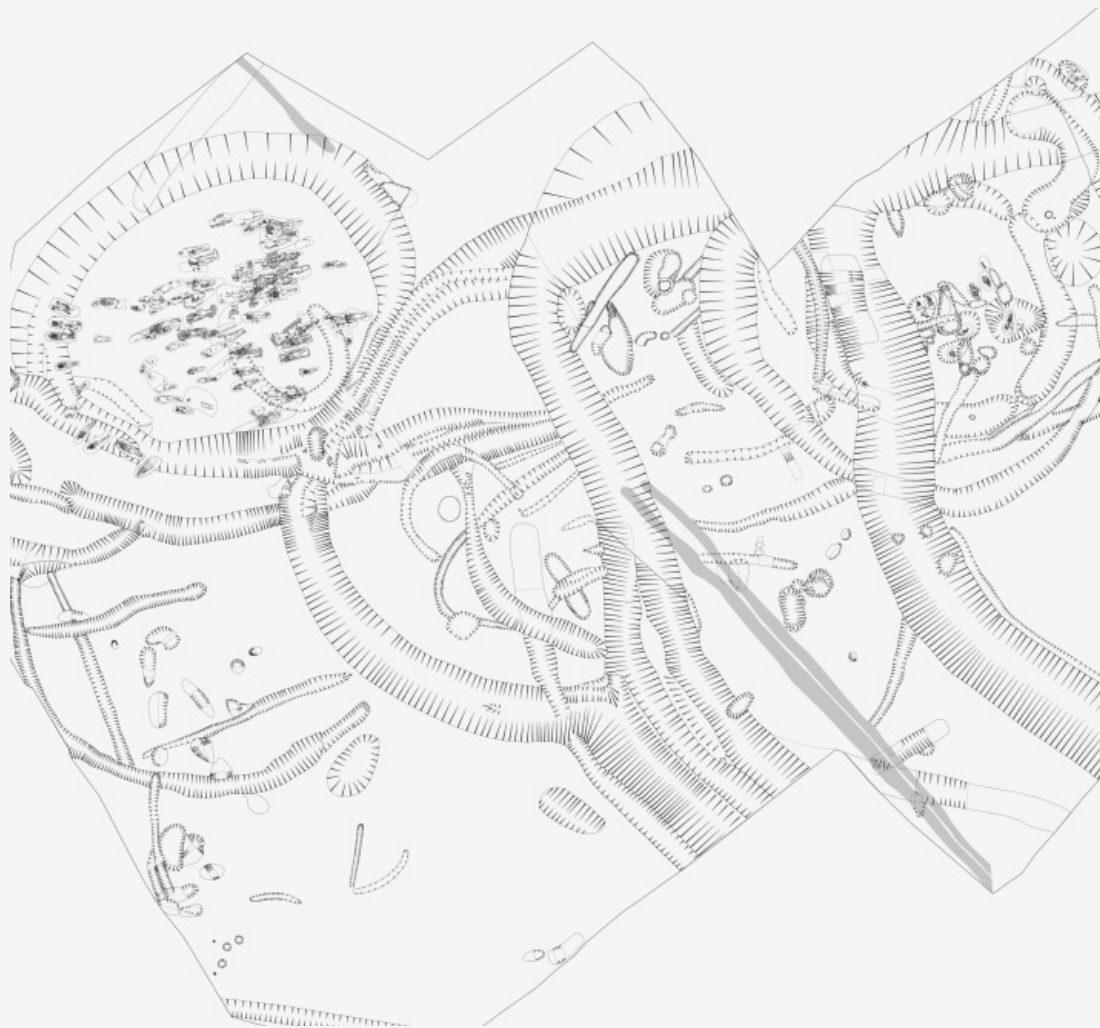


Preliminary Archaeological Report 2021 Season Donacarney Great 2, Co. Meath

GIACOMETTI

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archaeology plan

HERITAGE SOLUTIONS

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And particular thanks to Lauren Buckley

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Section 1 Introduction

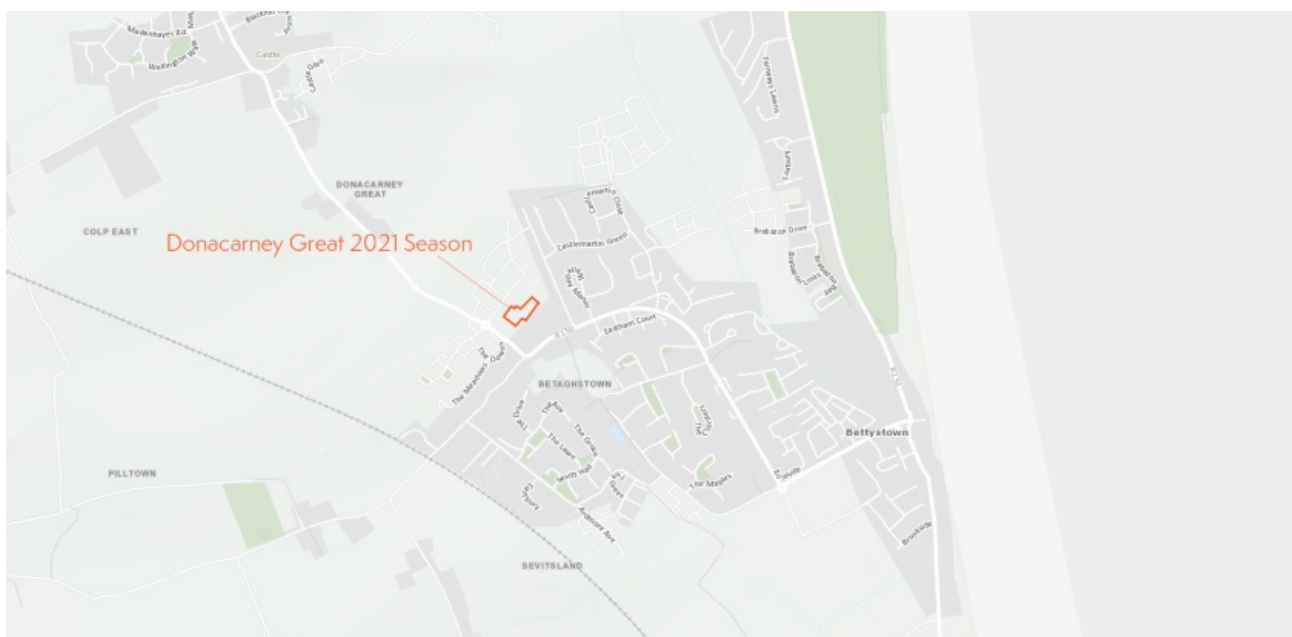
Report summary

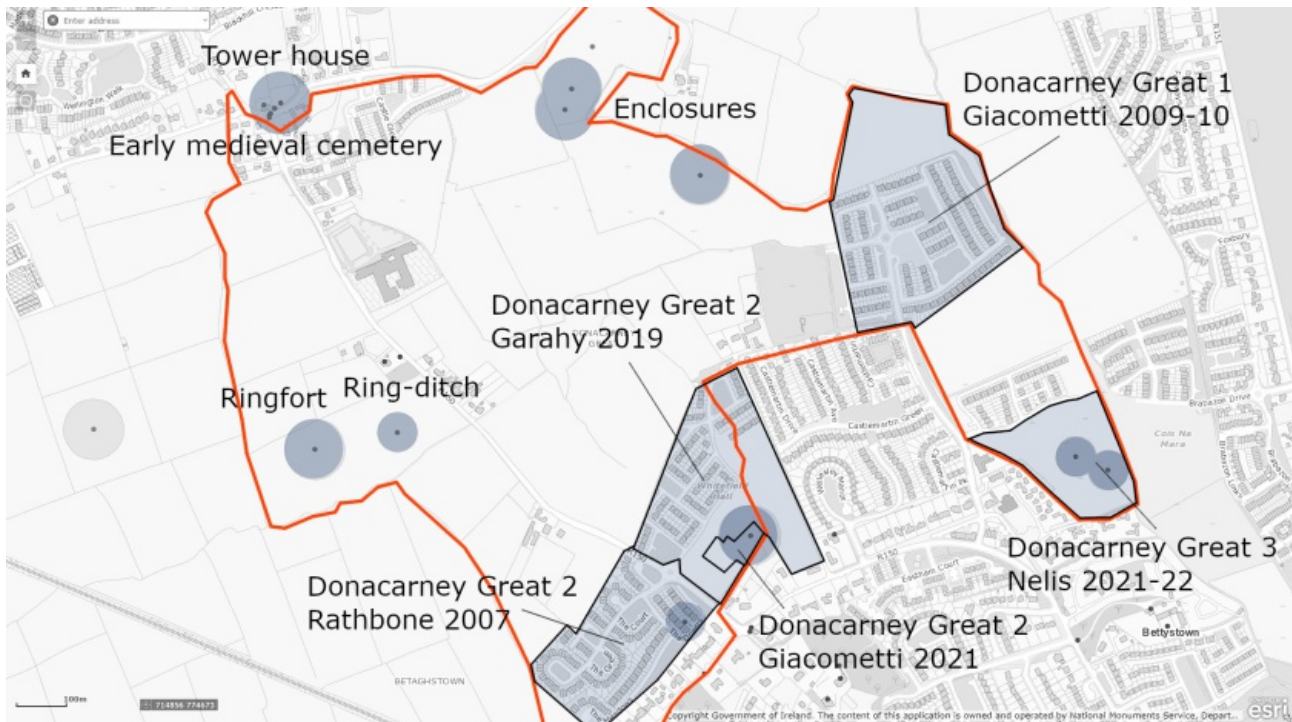
The archaeological site at Donacarney Great developed from a Neolithic or Early Bronze Age burial monument. A prehistoric coaxial field system and Late Bronze Age pit cemetery show occupation prior to the Iron Age. The earlier burial monument became the focus of a new cemetery, with fourteen crouched burials preliminarily dated to the Late Iron Age surrounded by a segmented ring ditch. This appears to mark the beginning of the cemetery complex at Donacarney Great 2, at the turn of the first millennium.

A small penannular enclosure to the west marked the establishment of a second burial ground, which was extended over the fifth and sixth centuries into a cemetery of over a hundred individuals. A third burial location in the east was established by the seventh century. The shift in the focus eastwards may reflect a growing consensus, as Christianity became consolidated in Ireland, for the appropriate location for burial. An unusual southeast-facing structure, perhaps associated

with rituals for the dead, seems to have been constructed next to the western cemetery at the same time as the shift from west to east, and may have provided a focal point for ritualised movement through the complex linking the three cemeteries.

Over the course of the fifth to eight centuries, the three cemeteries were gradually fused together, culminating in a polyfocal ceremonial centre. This was defined by an architecture of non-circular enclosures connected by bridges that channelled movement along defined routes. As with similar sites ('cemetery settlements') the cemetery complex had no evidence for residential domicile within the enclosed spaces. It did, however, and again in common with similar sites, have evidence for extensive agrarian and industrial processing that at Donacarney Great probably reflects trade and tribute. This, and the large and varied assemblage of imported pottery, links the cemetery complex to the wider political landscape during the time before the Southern Uí Néill gained full control over Brega.





Location of archaeological sites and Recorded Monuments in the townland of Donacarne Great (townland boundary shown by red line)

Site location and planning

The archaeological site at Whitefield Hall, Bettystown, Co. Meath is located in the townland of Donacarne Great (extending into the townland of Bethaghstown to the north) in the Barony of Duleek and the civil parish of Colp. It is located on the north-eastern side of the R150 road, 1.4km northwest of the centre of Bettystown. The site is bounded to the southwest by the R150 road, to the northeast by the Castlemartin development, to the northwest by fields, and to the southeast by the townland boundary with Bettaghstown and existing houses.

In the wider landscape it is situated on a low rise in otherwise low-lying (c. 10m OD) land, 1.5km west of the coast at Bettystown, and equidistant between the Boyne River three kilometres to the north and the Nanny River three kilometres to the south.

The excavation was carried out in response to a planning condition (Meath County Council planning ref. LB151268). Excavation took place in the areas that remained unresolved following the 2019 season of works (Garahy 2019). The full site has now been excavated with the exception of two proposed green areas.

Archaeological background

The archaeological site was initially identified during testing by Carmel Duffy in 2007 (06E0413) and was listed as a Recorded Monument (ME021-029) thereafter. A burial at risk of damage was excavated in 2007 (Rathbone & O'Reilly 2008, 07E0622). This came from the eastern cemetery and was dated with 95.4% probability to AD 575-670 (SUERC-16817 GU-15981). A geophysical survey (Leigh 2019, 19R0029) identified a series of curvilinear and linear responses representing circular and D-shaped enclosures surrounding the cemetery.

The southwest part of the site was excavated in June 2007 (Rathbone & O'Reilly 2007, 06E0413) exposing pits, corn-drying kilns and spreads of burnt material. A small iron knife of early medieval type, a large quantity of animal bone and carbonised plant remains were found. Animals were slaughtered, processed and (as there was evidence of roasting) consumed at the site. A radiocarbon date of AD 320-540 (2 sigma) was obtained from one of the animal bones. The excavator interpreted the site as 'a series of rubbish pits and kilns that may have been associated with a nearby settlement.'

A phase of excavation in 2019 focused on resolving the areas surrounding the cemetery. This identified significant archaeological material dating from the prehistoric period through the early medieval period (Garahy 2019). Artefacts included a late roman die, bone motif pieces, and nineteen sherds of E ware. Testing identified two cemeteries, which in this report are referred to as the western and eastern cemeteries.

A number of other archaeological sites have been excavated in Donacarney Great townland. The first ('Donacarney Great 1') was excavated by the author in 2009 and comprised a prehistoric ritual landscape running along a north-south ridge overlooking the coastal plain, with prehistoric settlement evidence on the lower-lying land to the west, and early medieval cereal processing at a large scale. The second is the early medieval cemetery site described in this report ('Donacarney Great 2') including the early medieval settlement evidence in the southwest excavated in 2007 by Rathbone (ME021-030) and the 2019 excavation by Garahy. The third ('Donacarney Great 3') was identified in 2005 (ME021-025-6) and is currently under excavation. It comprises prehistoric and possibly early medieval enclosures running along the same ridge as Donacarney Great 1 (McQuade 2005; Nelis pers.com).

There are also several known but unexcavated sites in the townland: a ringfort and ring ditch in the west (ME021-022 & -038) and three enclosures (ME021-021001, -021002 & -034) in the northeast. Finally, a medieval tower house (ME021-009 & -039) and a probable early medieval cemetery (ME021-040) are situated at the northern boundary of Donacarney Great and Little townlands. The latter was identified by Kieran Campbell (RMP File ME021-040) and may have been associated with an early medieval ecclesiastical site (Campbell pers. comm.).

Methodology

The 2021 excavation was carried out by a team of fifteen archaeologists for over six months from 4th April to 15th October 2021. The area excavated corresponded to the 'unresolved' area defined by Garahy (2019). This was an irregular shaped area measuring 110m NE-SW by 57-32m NW-SE (c. 0.5ha) that was bounded to the north, west and

south by areas previously excavated by Garahy in 2019, to the east by the townland boundary between Donacarney Great and Betaghstown, and to the northwest and southwest by unexcavated green spaces within the housing development.

The 2019 phase of excavation used context numbers 1 to 5000 (each area had been assigned a different thousand). Since the 2021 excavation had the same licence number, contexts had to begin with 5001. In practice, the 2021 excavation started with context 1 and ended with context 2149, and 5000 was added to each context afterwards, so the 2021 contexts are C5001 to C7149.

Historical background, Gill Boazman

Introduction

The excavated site at Donacarney Great 2 lies in an area bounded by the River Boyne to the north, the sea to the east, the River Nanny to the south and on the west by the rising ground north of Duleek. This area approximates to the nineteenth-century parishes of Colp and Julianstown. The terrain is low-lying, the site at Donacarney Great is at 10m OD and Colp lies at 30m OD. However, the site at Donacarney Great is delimited on the northeast by a steep escarpment which raises it above the surrounding landscape. Both excavated evidence of cereal-drying kilns at sites in the vicinity and early medieval and Anglo-Norman documentary references demonstrate this to have been productive land in the prehistoric, early and late medieval periods, supporting the mixed farming regime of the time but with an emphasis on arable. The Boyne River, whose mouth is 1.3km to the northeast of the site and whose first bridging point is at Drogheda 5.3km to the west, facilitated both movement and trade. This ingress and egress took place firstly across the Irish sea to Britain and mainland Europe and secondly by following the Boyne whose course led in and out of the political and ritual heartlands of Ireland from the beginning of the early medieval period and presumably before it. Patrick was said to have landed at Inber Colpdai (Colp). His disciple Lommán travelled upriver to found the church of Trim (Bieler 1979, 84,160-1). The canons of Furness Abbey, in a c.1234 charter granting them land in Marinerstown, north of Donacarney Great, had permission to bring timber from the king's forest at Trim, 'to carry by the Boyne' (Mills & McEnergy 1916, 8).

The area surrounding the excavation at Donacarne Great has considerable evidence of human activity, both prehistoric and early medieval, in the form of excavations mostly carried out within the last twenty years and many, therefore, with the benefit of radiocarbon dating and scientific recording methods. The keynote is burial, with five major excavations of inhumation cemeteries within three kilometres of the Donacarne Great 2 excavations.

Toponymy

Both the Historical Dictionary of Gaelic Placenames and logainm.ie associate the first part of the Donacarne toponym, 'Dona...', with the Irish word *domnach* (from Latin: *dominicum*) (Ní Carthaigh, Ó Riain & Murray 2018, 114; <https://www.logainm.ie/en/38480?s=Donacarne+Great>). This is usually anglicised 'donagh' or 'dona...' and was an early name for an ecclesiastical site. Flanagan considers it to have fallen out of use by the late seventh century as Tirechán does not use *dominicum* but instead *aeclessia*. She also feels it could have been used in the pre-Patrician period (1984, 26–30). This means that there was a pre-seventh-century, or even earlier, ecclesiastical site in the townland of Donacarne.

The second part of the placename, '-carny', is more complex in its derivation. The earliest reference is from Tirechán and it was second in a list of churches, supposedly founded by Patrick in Brega: 'Of the churches which were founded in the plain of Brega, first in *Culmine* ii [i.e., second] the church of *Cerne*, in which is buried Erc who carried [or suffered] a great plague' (Bieler 1979, 131). Erc was supposedly Patrick's judge and was associated with Slane and Lullymore, Co Kildare (Ó Riain 2011b, 286). An annalistic entry of 784 (AU) refers to 'the *adventus* of the relics of Erc into the *civitas* of Tailtu'. As Erc is said to be buried in Donacarne it is likely that his relics were being brought to the *óenach* of Tailtu from Donacarne and indicates the focus of power being firmly in the Southern Uí Néill centre at that point in the late eighth century. However, the Martyrology of Gorman records 'gentle Segnat' and notes: 'Segnat, a virgin, of *Domhnach Ceirne*' (Stokes 1895, 240). It is possible that this is a record of a pre-Patrician founder of the site taking into account Flanagan's remarks above. The Irish Litanies list *Secht noeb epscoip Domnaig Cairne* (Seven holy bishops of *Domnach Cairne*) (Plummer 1925, 75). This is a trope of the

Litany: numbers of bishops are not to be taken literally but its inclusion indicates a certain importance for the site. These references may indicate a mixed gender foundation (similar to Kildare) or perhaps a change from a female foundation by Segnat to a male, Erc, who was portrayed as a close link to Patrick and Armagh.

Lawlor, in a dissertation on the placenames of Duleek Lower (2014, 78) interprets the second part of the toponym as referring to the name of a saint, Cearnach. She supports the argument by citing the place name of Donnycarne/*Domhnach Cearna*, parish of Clonturk, Coolock, Co Dublin, as being another saint's name. She continues the investigation by searching documentary evidence for the saint's name. However, there is a basic flaw in this line of research: in very many ecclesiastical sites designated 'donagh', the second part of the name refers to a region and/or its people not a saint. For example, *Domnach Mór Mittine* in Co Cork: meaning the great church of the *Múscraige Mittine* or *Domnach Mór Maige Feimin*, the great church of the plain of Femin (Clonmel).

In the case of these examples the '*mór*' indicates a mother church of a large area. However, *domnach* churches were diverse in function and 'some (without the *mór* element) were perhaps associated with specific lineages or communities within a polity, rather than being identified as the primary church of a polity as a whole' (Talbot 2019, 85). This seems to be the case for Donacarne and the lack of any upstanding material evidence of an ecclesiastical site in the townland would suggest the *domnach* church was early and perhaps superseded in the early medieval period by other important sites in the area: Duleek and Monasterboice.

So, the second part of the toponym is more likely to refer to a placename than a person: both Erc and Segnat were of *Cerne* or *Ceirne* in the sense that they lived in that place. Swift explains that later linguistic changes could result in a change from 'e' to 'a', for example Tirechán's *Cerne* and '*síd Cerna*' 868 AU are almost certainly referring to the same place (2004, 68). The rendition of placenames changes and is obscured through time so Lawlor's rejection of the '*ceirne*' variant as corrupt with little discussion, does not correspond with several references to the same area, using this and other alternative spellings. Indeed, the two entries in the

relevant sections of the History of Gaelic Placenames treat the spelling as ‘*Cearna*’, ‘*Domnach Cearna*’ for the church and ‘*Cearna*’ for the area (Ní Carthaigh *et al.* 2018, 114; Ó Riain *et al.* 2011a, 90-2) suggesting a connection between the two. *Cearna* (*Cerne*), an area, is mentioned in ‘The Destruction of Da Derga’s Hostel’: a king of Ulaid, Conaire, went against a taboo and ‘hunted the crooked beasts of *Cerna*’ (Stokes 1902, 33). This happened on a journey from Tara to the North Dublin mountains. O’Curry suggests the itinerary of this journey to be from Tara to Lusk and identifies *Cerna* with the townlands of Carnes East and West, just southeast of Duleek, at the eastern end of the Bellewstown Ridge, which could be the route (1855, 67; I am grateful to Dr Joseph Flahive for help and discussion on the topic of *Cearna*). Most commentators have followed this identification. However, in the Da Derga text it says ‘so they took their way by the coast of Ireland southward’ which suggests they may have come closer to the Donacarney area, eight kilometers east of Carnes (Stokes 1902, 34). Before examining the place name *Cearna* further, it is necessary to review the political history of the area.

Extent of kingdoms around Donacarney Great

From around the first quarter of the sixth to the early eighth century, the area surrounding Donacarney was associated with the kingroup named Cianachta. This area lay within the kingdom of Brega. The northern boundary of Brega at the time of Muirchú, writing in the late seventh century, was the kingdom of the Conaille (Bieler 1979, 79). The territory of the Conaille stretched to the Glyde River, south of Dromiskin (Boazman 2015, 328). Thus, Brega probably included two territories north of the Boyne: Fir Rois and Ard Cianachta, although Fir Rois may not have been a separate kingdom in the early period; it lay approximately between the Glyde and the Dee (MacCotter 2008, 273). Ard Cianachta lay approximately between the Dee and the Boyne. The western border of Brega is less easy to define but it certainly included Trim and Lough Sheelin (Bhreathnach 2005, 413-4).

Cianachta, in the period suggested above, can be divided into three areas. Firstly, Ard Cianachta, as described above to the north and then the region between the Boyne and the Delvin, centred on Duleek, whose extent is matched by the diocese of Duleek in the 1306 Papal Taxation (Sweetnam 1896,

262). Donacarney Great 2 is situated in this area. Finally, there was a genealogically more diverse area from the Delvin to the Liffey, containing Lusk where the Cianachta had connections. It could be said that the Liffey formed the southern border of Brega. This southern area was also home to other groups such as the Gailenga and later the Saithne but the genealogies link these to the Cianachta through a proposed common ancestor, Cormac Gailenga, the son of Tadc mac Céin (Byrne 2008, 72,75; Charles-Edwards 2000, 549, Note 87).

Protohistory of Donacarney Great

The major story of fifth and sixth-century Ireland was the rise of the Uí Néill, who allegedly split into three lines of descent from the son of Cormac mac Airt: one of which was Niall Noígíallach who was the eponym of the Uí Néill, North and South. The Southern Uí Néill pushed the Laigen south and east thus forming their central powerbase of Brega and Meath, during the fifth to seventh centuries (Charles-Edwards 2000, 554; MacShamhráin 1996, 57-65). In *Cath Crinna*, the origin story of the Cianachta, Cormac mac Airt needed allies against the Ulaid. He persuaded a reluctant Tadc mac Céin of the Munster Eóganacht to help him, encouraging him by the promise of land in Brega. Despite considerable problems, including poisoning, instigated by Cormac, Tadc won the battle but was tricked into a delineation of land for his people that did not include Tara (O’Grady 1892, 359-68). This put the high kingship always out of reach of the Cianachta and perhaps represented a projection of subordinate status by the Southern Uí Néill.

However, from the late fifth century to the early eighth century the Cianachta appeared to assert a certain independence. There is a hint that this may have sprung partly from their pre-Uí Néill control of a more extensive area of Brega. In the list of churches ‘founded’ by Patrick in Tirechán’s account there is ‘*Cell bile in Mag Taidcna*’. Byrne associates this with ‘*Bri mac Taidg*’, Breemount in the parish of Laracor south of Trim, ‘*Taidcni*’ referring to the Dál Céin (i.e., the Cianachta) (Byrne 1968, 393, Note 421). There is an annalistic reference which suggests that the Cianachta, as a named cohesive kin-group as represented in *Cath Crinna*, were comprised of separate groups in the area. 618(AU) refers to the ‘*Síl Mescáin of Muintir Blaithne*’, Blaithne being the townland of Platin, c. eight kilometres west of Donacarney Great.

Although they are not in the Cianachta genealogies, the Síl Mescáin were important enough in the annalistic entry to be fighting with the Southern Uí Néill.

Political history of the Cianachta

The obits of three saints in the area are Cianáin of Duleek 489(AU), Mac Cuilin of Lusk 496(AU) and Buite of Monasterboice 519(AU). Geographically these fit quite neatly with the three areas of Cianachta influence described above. The saints' names occur in the Ciannachta genealogies, and it is said that the Cianachta named themselves after Cianáin. This seems an artificial form of kingroup naming. Indeed, the name 'Cianachta' is one of only three groups with the '-achta' suffix: Eóganachta and Connachta being the others. It has been suggested that this was an attempt to copy the successful Connachta and indeed that could be the case (Byrne 2000, 122-3; Sproule 1994, 31-7). It is likely that the form Cianachta was minted to meld together disparate kin (such as the Síl Mescáin mentioned above) and possibly non-indigenous elements in the area, boosting a common identity to provide a stronger challenge to the Southern Uí Néill. The Metrical Dindseanchas refers to incomers some of whom may have settled in the area:

From the land of genuine Cruithne
came Umor's household, across the sea
(Gwynn 1914, 440)

This is a reference perhaps to Picts or indeed people from the northern part of Britain. It may be relevant that strontium isotope analysis identified burials at Betaghstown, the next townland to Donacarney Great, as being from an area of the north of Britain (Cahill-Wilson *et al.* 2014, 139). The wealth of imported pottery at Donacarney Great suggests another source of incomers, some traders but perhaps also some settlers.

The first annalistic date which mentions the Cianachta as a group is 533(AU). At Luachair Mor (probably Lougher townland west of Platin, 20km west of Donacarney) they were defeated by Tuathal Máelgarb, grandson of Coipre, one of the sons of Niall Noígiallach. In 572(AU) they had a success claiming the assassination of two Northern Uí Néill dynasts and in 594(AU) they lost a battle to an Ulaid king.

The Cianachta and the Southern Uí Néill

To understand the next chapter in Cianachta history it is necessary to know what was going on among the Southern Uí Néill. Tuathal Máelgarb was assassinated in 544(AU), probably on the instigation of Diarmait mac Cerbaill. Diarmait was a grandson of another son of Niall and his twenty-year reign was the basis for the rise of the two pre-eminent families of the Southern Uí Néill: the descendants of Diarmait's son, Áed Sláine. These were the Síl nÁedo Sláine of Brega and the ultimately more successful Clann Colmán, from another of Diarmait's sons, Colmán Már, whose dominion was roughly Westmeath.

Áed Sláine's obit is 604(AU) and it seems that in the first half of seventh century two of his sons were progenitors of two important and opposed kingroups within Brega. These were the Uí Chonaing (North Brega) who initially remained around Slane, until their move east to Knowth, at possibly the end of the eighth century. Second were the Uí Chernaig whose central place became Lagore, to the south.

Returning focus to the Cianachta, in 662(AU) they were fighting unsuccessfully at the battle of Ogoman with the Uí Chonaing of North Brega against the Uí Chernaig of South Brega. There are two Cianachta dynasts mentioned, one Ultán, rex Cianachta and in two annals (AT and CS) Cenn Faelad is named as *rí Arda Cianachta*. This is the first mention of the two regions of Cianachta which appear to have separate but genealogically connected leaders. The South Brega, Southern Uí Néill group were victors again at the battle of Imlech Pich in 688(AU). Here the men of North Brega were allied with the Ard Cianachta and the Conaille Muirthemne. In the Fragmentary Annals of Ireland, it is suggested that Cianachta no longer existed as a kingdom after this: 'in this battle Cianachta came under foreign rule and was deprived of sovereignty' (Radner 1978, 39). As will become apparent, much of the territory of Cianachta was finally controlled by the men of North Brega but as the latter lost this battle it seems likely that the Cianachta hung on to their territory for some time longer. A king in the Cianachta genealogy, Ailill, was recorded as *rex Cianachta* in 702(AU). In 728(AU) they were allied with the North Brega kings against the Cenél Conaill (Connachta). In 737(AU) a king of Ard Cianachta is recorded. The North Brega kings

attempted to usurp Ard Cianachta in 749(AU), being initially successful, but the Uí Chonaing dynast was killed in a counterattack. In 758(AU), perhaps in acknowledgment of this success, a Cianachta dynast is *leth-rí Cianacht*, but whether it was a North Brega or an Ard Cianachta king who shared this title, is unclear. In 770(AU) the Cianachta were still a strong enough entity to attack the Uí Máil of Leinster successfully.

In 748(AU) it seems that the Cianachta had finally lost their central territory as the obit of Indrechtach of the Uí Chonaing (Síl nÁedo Sláine, North Brega), entitles him *rex Cianachta*. Shortly after, around 789(AU), the Uí Chonaing forced the abdication of a king of Knowth from a less successful branch of the Síl nÁedo Sláine and by 818(AU) an Uí Chonaing dynast was entitled *rex Cnogba*. The Uí Chonaing continued to call their kings *rex Cianachta* until 868 when their king is entitled *ríg Breghe n-uile* (king of all Brega).

The significance of Cerna

It seemed to be important for the Uí Chonaing to stress for half a century that they were kings of Cianachta. This was obviously a desirable area, one of whose attributes is referred to, in the Metrical Dindseanchas as '*treb Cerna*', 'the tilth of Cerna': tilth being fine fertile soil (Gwynn 1914, 440). The large number of cereal drying kilns at Donacarney Great provide material evidence for this description. Further documentary evidence for the place name *Cearna* may illuminate this connection with fertile land. An annalistic verse 868(AU) concerns the battle death of Flann, an Uí Chonaing king:

Flann, son of Conaing, a king until now
Took the land once held by Tadc, son of Cian;
He was a golden shoot to protect the seed of Niall
That had sprouted from the fairy hill of good Cerna.

The verse is obviously a metaphor for the takeover of Cianachta by the Uí Chonaing. 'Fairy hill' is, in Irish, *sidhe*. *Sidhe* is an entrance to the underworld, but also guarantees good governance by kings and peace and prosperity for the kingdom, here expressed in the metaphor of crop growing (Ó Cathasaig 1977-9, 140). In the Metrical Dindseanchas, *Cearna* is described as a hill (*cnoc*) under which are buried the heroes of the Síl nÁedo

Sláine, an embroidery on the metaphor of the previous verse which, in fact, does not state that Flann was buried there (Gwynn 1924, 202). The latter reference sounds more like a *ferta*, a burial mound. The references seem to be conflating *ferta* and *sidhe* but perhaps the meaning that should be drawn is that the legendary *Cearna* comprised several elements of a ritual landscape which formed the identity of the original residents, the Cianachta, usurped by their supplanters, the Síl nÁedo Sláine, Uí Chonaing. This landscape, previously thought to be restricted to the Carnes East and West (see Toponymy above), may have extended to the burial grounds now excavated in the Donacarney area. Could this be a case in which archaeology reshapes documentary evidence? Bhreathnach considers *Cearna* to be an area rather than a specific place (2005, 415) and a reference in the Book of Fenagh to '*rí Cearna*' suggests that it was considered a kingdom (Hennessey 1875, 362). This is supported by the reference above to the Cianachta losing their sovereignty after the battle of Imlech Pich. A later annalistic verse 890(AFM), about the battle death of Flannacáin's son, also suggests that *Cearna* was an area:

Illustrious are the careers of the three sons of Flann, who coursed over Odba,
Congalach of Colt, Cellach of Cerna and Cinead of Cnodba

Flannacáin is a further Uí Chonaing (North Brega) king and the placenames associated with his sons seem to be areas of the Uí Chonaing overkingdom for which the sons have sovereignty. Cnodba is Knowth, Colt is possibly Colt Island around Balrothery in the southernmost Cianachta region (Bhreathnach 2005, 422, note 81). *Cearna* would seem to be, as discussed above, the area from Duleek to Donacarney. A previous line in the verse suggests that Flannacáin delegated authority to his sons in the specific areas: 'There was no son of a king who rules over chiefs as good as Ceallach'. By the time of Flannacáin and his sons, *Cearna* was a subkingdom but it seems that before the seventh century it was a thriving kingdom in its own right, with the attribute of fertile soil and was thus coveted by more powerful kings. Although there was no recorded *óenach* of *Cearna*, it seems very likely, with the connection of *óenach* to burial, that the area of *Cearna* surrounding Donacarney Great was at least an important assembly place at *túath* level (Gleeson 2015, 37).

Cianachta after the Uí Chonaing takeover

The verse concerning Flannacáin's sons quoted above does not mention Ard Cianachta and throughout the ninth century there are mentions of kings of that area who were Cianachta rather than Uí Chonaing, suggesting that they kept their reduced kingdom. There is a reference to a Cianachta king of Fir Rois in 953(AFM), so maybe at times they were in control of both small kingdoms. The last recorded date of a king of Ard Cianachta is 896(AU). In 828(AU), 830(AFM) and 838(AU) there are mentions of early Viking presence in Ard Ciannachta and the adjacency of Annagassan, recorded as a *longphort* in 841(AU), could indicate semi-permanent residence. Attacks by the Northern Uí Néill 968(AFM) on Scandinavians in the monasteries of Monasterboice, Dromiskin and Louth, might suggest that the area was under the control of Amlaib Cuarán at a later period, until that king's defeat at the battle of Tara in 980(AU) (Purcell & Sheehan 2013, 52–53). It is perhaps to this second period of Viking dominance that the Hiberno-Norse ring pin, found at Donacarney Great, belongs.

Having relinquished political power, the Cianachta focused on the ecclesiastical sphere. From 764 to 1122 they produced nine abbots of Monasterboice, seven from the Ard Cianachta family of Eodus mac Ailello. Although this might sound like second best, they wielded considerable political power. A 924(AU) entry describes Muiredach, abbot of Monasterboice, as chief steward of the Southern Uí Néill and chief counsellor to all the men of Brega. Two further abbots of Monasterboice, father and son, were renowned as learned men: *fer léigind* (textual study) obits 1056(AU) and 1067(AU). The Cianachta provided three abbots of Lusk, two of Swords, one of Iniskeen Co Louth and two of Slane.

How long did the Donacarney church function?

As mentioned above one of the earliest mentions of Donacarney Great is in Tirechán's list of foundations of Patrick in Brega. Tirechán was writing c. 670s and his purpose was not to provide a historical itinerary of St Patrick's journeys, sometime in the mid fifth century, but was to do with the promotion and extension of the power of Armagh, through the instrument of the Síl nÁedo Sláine kings who held the high kingship at the end of the seventh century (Byrnes 2000, 134). Four of the eight churches on Tirechán's list refer to local saints, who, it could be assumed, were already in

residence when Patrick supposedly visited them, being probably of the early Cianachta or their forebears. A fifth is 'the church of *Cerne*', almost certainly *Domnach Cearna* (Donacarney), whose associated saints are discussed above. As discussed above it seems Donacarney could be said to be a foundation of the conversion period and still functioning at the time of Tirechán in the late seventh century. It would also mean that the church was in existence at the time of the instigation of the eastern cemetery of the Donacarney Great site according to the burial date of AD 575–670. However, the lack of material evidence for the foundation suggests that it may have been reduced in importance towards the end of the millennium. Talbot discusses this with reference to the church of *Domnach Mór Maige Áine* and Mungret, the foundation of Nessán: 'early *domnach* churches declined while somewhat later establishments, often more overtly monastic in character, flourished' (2019, 99). Donacarney, perhaps a fifth-century church of the elite of one of the groups that formed the Cianachta, was associated with the burial and assembly landscape of Donacarney Great, Betaghstown and Ninch. Almost two thirds of *domnach* churches were shown to be an integral part of these landscapes as large gatherings would have facilitated conversion (Gleeson 2015, 43; Talbot 2019, 85), The church declined in importance when the Cianachta lost control of their kingdom and as stated above, diverted their attention to ecclesiastical enterprises at important monastic centres. The references to learning in the foundations of Monasterboice and Duleek in the above paragraph and the exceptional quality of their stone sculpture (Stalley 2020) would suggest an ascetic milieu. Of course, it is possible that the local group who previously buried their dead at the cemetery of Donacarney Great 2, later in the millennium may have moved their allegiance to burial in the churchyard of *Domnach Cearna*, according to the precepts of the church.

The Anglo-Norman and early modern periods

In the later medieval documentary evidence, before the Down Survey, 'Donacarney' appears as an entity, not differentiated into the townlands of Donacarney Great and Donacarney Little. Evidence of the Anglo-Norman period enables a suggestion of how long the church of Donacarney was extant. When Henry II came to Ireland in 1171, after the murder of Thomas á Becket, papal equerries were

on their way to demand his presence in Rome. He had to decide quickly how to apportion and thus control his lands in Ireland. No doubt he felt Strongbow had built up considerable power in the Leinster area. Therefore, he granted his lands of Meath to Hugh de Lacy, a loyal knight also possessed of large estates in Wales (Veach 2007, 86). Hugh de Lacy was well used to establishing control on the Welsh frontier. One of tools of colonisation was the grant of tithes and lands to religious houses. Hugh was already a patron of Llanthony Prima and Secunda, two related, but constantly disputing, Augustinian abbeys on his Welsh estates and he granted them tithes and benefices of many churches in Meath, probably around 1174. One cell was located at Duleek, Llanthony Secunda and one at Colp, Llanthony Prima. These were not independent monastic houses but granges which possessed demesne lands. They also collected the tithes in kind and in money from many churches and other lands and shipped the proceeds from their quay in Drogheda to Wales. As de Lacy's relations and associates were sub-infeudated by him, they followed their lord's wish and example and granted the tithes of their lands to Llanthony (Hogan 2008, 20-2).

The first charter which details land in the Donacarne area, is dated c. 1230-4 and is of Walter, the eldest son of Hugh de Lacy, confirming his father's original grant (*ibid.*, 288). The relevant part is:

Namely the church of Colp with tithes and of the warren and of Donacarne, the vill of Marinierii (Morningstown) with the tithes of the fishery, the church of Anie (Julianstown), the church of Naul, Clonalwey.

This does not classify Donacarne as a church, similar to the others in the list, so perhaps it had ceased to function by 1230. Through the thirteenth century several charters of Alice Bele Jambe, a thrice-widowed landowner, concern grants to the cell of Llanthony at Colp (*ibid.*, 72-3). The first husband of Alice Bele Jambe, in 1206, funded the rebuilding of the church at Colp and granted it land (*ibid.*, 262). Alice called herself 'the lady of Colpe' and the restored church probably served as manor and parish church making Donacarne redundant, although it may have functioned between the original grant c. 1174 and 1206. In 1260 demesne land was granted to Llanthony Prima in Donore to

the west, as well as Kiltrough and Bey Beg and seems to stretch as far as Colp (*ibid.*, 74, 315). Donacarne was not mentioned so it seems likely it was not demesne land of Llanthony but that the cell gathered tithes from it.

The Bele Jambes disappeared from records during the fourteenth century and the next detailed reference is a grant of lease of land in Donacarne by Llanthony to Robert and Christopher Preston in 1380 (Mills and McEnery 1916, 8). The de Preston family came to Drogheda in the early fourteenth century and amassed a large amount of land recorded in the Gormanstown Register. This grant works out at about 429a: roughly the size of the two Donacarne townlands. Finally, an extent of the Llanthony lands compiled in 1408 shows the owners of Donacarne to be Thomas Preston and Croll. The extent makes it clear that the owners paid tithes on it to Llanthony:

Downaghkerny

Thomas Preston and Croll have there 2 carucates of land, from which 140 can be sown each year. Thence a tithe is fourteen acres (*ibid.*, 213-4, 382).

The two carucates of land, owned by Preston and Croll, c. 240a, were obviously much smaller than the Preston 1380 holding but there is no explanation of this. Perhaps it was at this point the townland was split. In the Down Survey, what became on the nineteenth-century First Edition map Donacarne Little, is named 'Donycarne' and measures 130 Plantation Acres. Donacarne Great is separate but not named, perhaps because the landowner, Valerian Wisley, has land adjacent in both Morningtown and Betaghstown. Wisley's land, in the unnamed area, is 155 Plantation Acres. The conversion of the Plantation Acres is equal to 1.62 statute acres so the unnamed area (now Donacarne Great) is c. 251a and 'Donycarne' (now Little) is c. 210a but between the vagaries of the calculation and the small difference in area it is hard to say which part of Donacarne, Preston and Croll owned in 1408. Thus, the only guide to the position of the church is that it lay within the combined townlands of Donacarne Great and Little. A further hint is given by burials found in 1964 and 2005 at the junction of the Bettystown to Morningside R150 and the Colp L5614 roads. Perhaps this is the location of the elusive church (Kieran Campbell pers. comm.; RMP ME021-040).

Conclusion

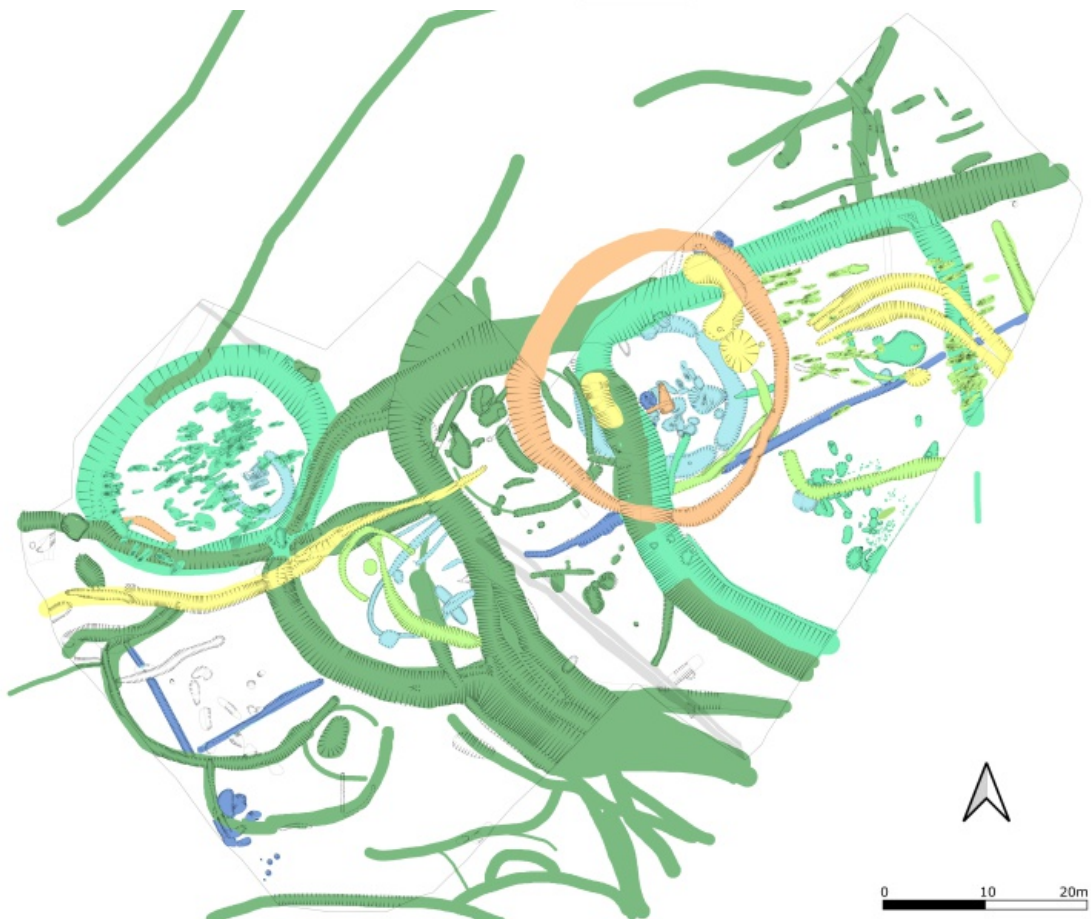
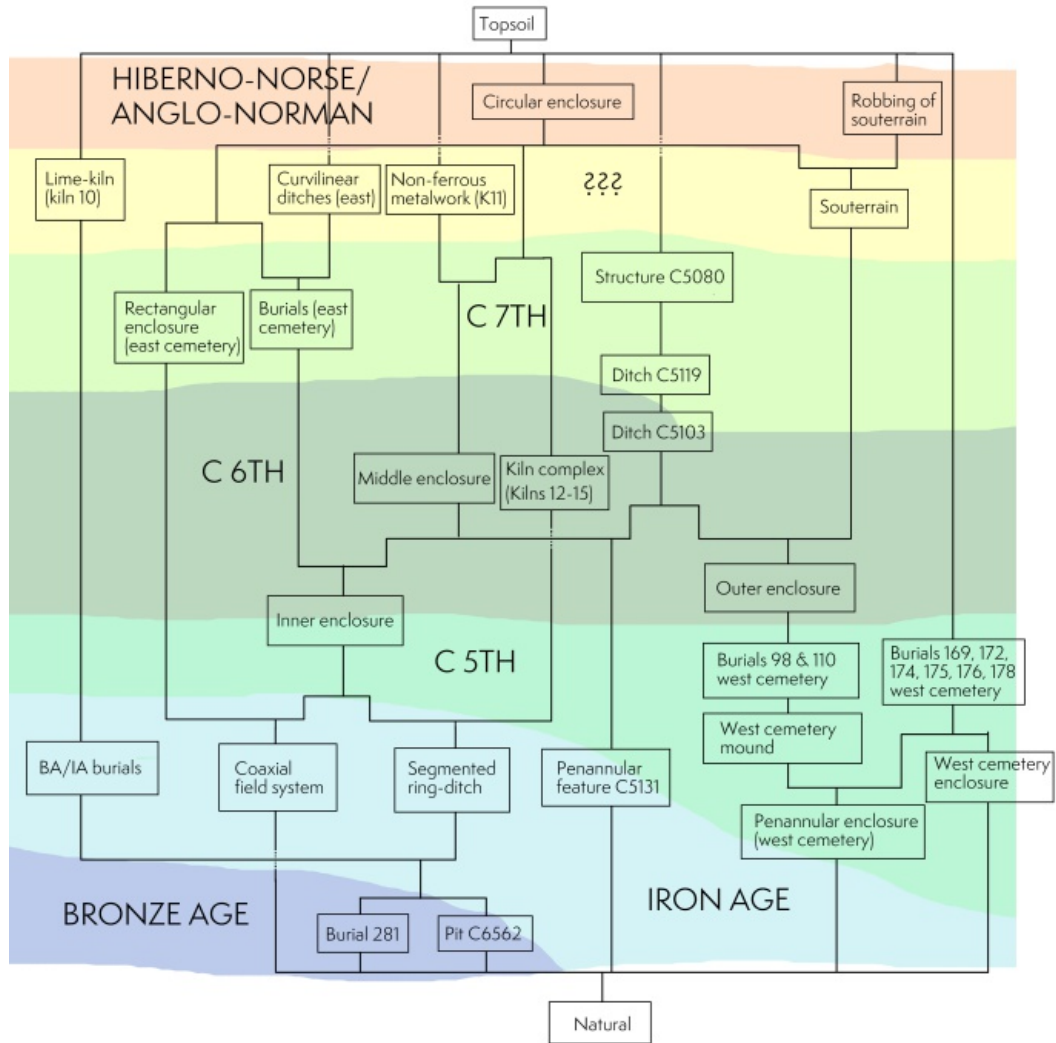
Donacarney Great and the ten burial sites in its close environs show a marked similarity in date range with most dates falling in the fifth to seventh centuries (see Discussion: Conclusion below). The *floruit* of the Cianachta fell into roughly the same timeframe. They were first identified as a group by their fifth-century saints and then by a series of annalistic dates which show them clinging, rather precariously, to their kingdom until probably the first quarter of the eighth century. Discounting the fanciful myth of Tadc mac Céin, this assumption of an encompassing name may have been the construction of an identity, by disparate groups living in the area, some of whom, as the strontium isotope analysis and documentary evidence show, were from outside Ireland. This was, almost certainly, a reaction to the fifth century assertion of power by the Uí Néill. Documentary references and the toponyms *Domnach Cearna* and *Cearna* suggest *Cearna* to be a small kingdom perhaps running from east of Duleek to the coast. As the central area of Cianachta possession it may indeed be the home of the royal lines of that group. The burial landscape, in a radius of three kilometres of Donacarney Great 2, is thus situated within the small kingdom of *Cearna* and was almost certainly mostly constructed and utilised by these royal lines of the Cianachta and perhaps initiated by their immediate forebears. Burial and land possession were inextricably linked in this early period, so the concentration of burial sites in this area were almost certainly associated with expressions of governance in the form of assembly within the ritual landscape. The situating of each burial ground on, or very close to, prehistoric burial evidence such as the prehistoric ring ditch at Donacarney Great, would have again emphasized this legitimacy by a real, or probably perceived, link to ancestral landownership. This was further supported by the tradition and legends of the ancient burial ground of *Cearna*.

Another component of Cianachta success may have been their early control of trade through their adjacency to the mouth of the Boyne. The combination of scientific evidence of incomers with imported pottery and its contents, indicate extensive trading networks and the concentration of cereal drying kilns and documentary references to fertile soils are evidence of export. It is possible that the incoming luxury goods may have been used in feasting to bolster the Cianachta collective

self-image, to 'consolidate strict social hierarchical frameworks' (Kelly 2010, 73). The early date of animal bone perhaps used for this purpose at Donacarney Great 2 would support this.

Recent research shows about two thirds of *domnach* churches to be situated in assembly and ancestral burial landscapes (see above). This was because kingroups would gather in significant numbers on occasions of assembly or burial thus providing a convenient opportunity for conversion as well as access to the elite of a group who would influence personal decisions to become Christian. *Domnach Cearna*, although no longer extant, was almost certainly an integral part of an assembly landscape around Donacarney Great 2, negotiating the transition between fluid but interacting belief systems during the fifth to seventh centuries.

There are several hints of how history was rephrased to reflect the power of the dominant group. Patrick supposedly founded 'the church at Cerne' although the foundation seems to have been by the local saints Segnat or Erc. Tirechán was writing to please an Uí Chonaing high king towards the end of the seventh century and the Uí Chonaing had an affinity with Armagh and Patrick (Byrnes 2000, 134). Similar identity theft is evident in the Tadc mac Céin legend which suggested an unlikely origin for the Cianachta and ensured they could never take the high kingship. The reference to the Síol nÁedo Sláine kings being buried in *Cearna* 868(AU) seems to be a symbolic statement of land ownership: possession of the *fertá* is possession of the land (Charles-Edwards 1976, 83-4). Dates so far, from the burial grounds of the Donacarney Great 2 site and the surrounding area, suggest that burial ceased there at approximately the same time as Cianachta possession. What can be drawn from these documentary authentications of Síol nÁedo Sláine overlordship is that they considered the Cianachta as a force to be reckoned with in the fifth to seventh century and this is perhaps why, when victorious, they called themselves *rex Cianachta*. The title, referring to a group controlling an ancient burial and assembly complex, trade connected the mouth of the Boyne and association with early saints, obviously bestowed kudos on the usurpers.



Section 2 Stratigraphy - Prehistoric

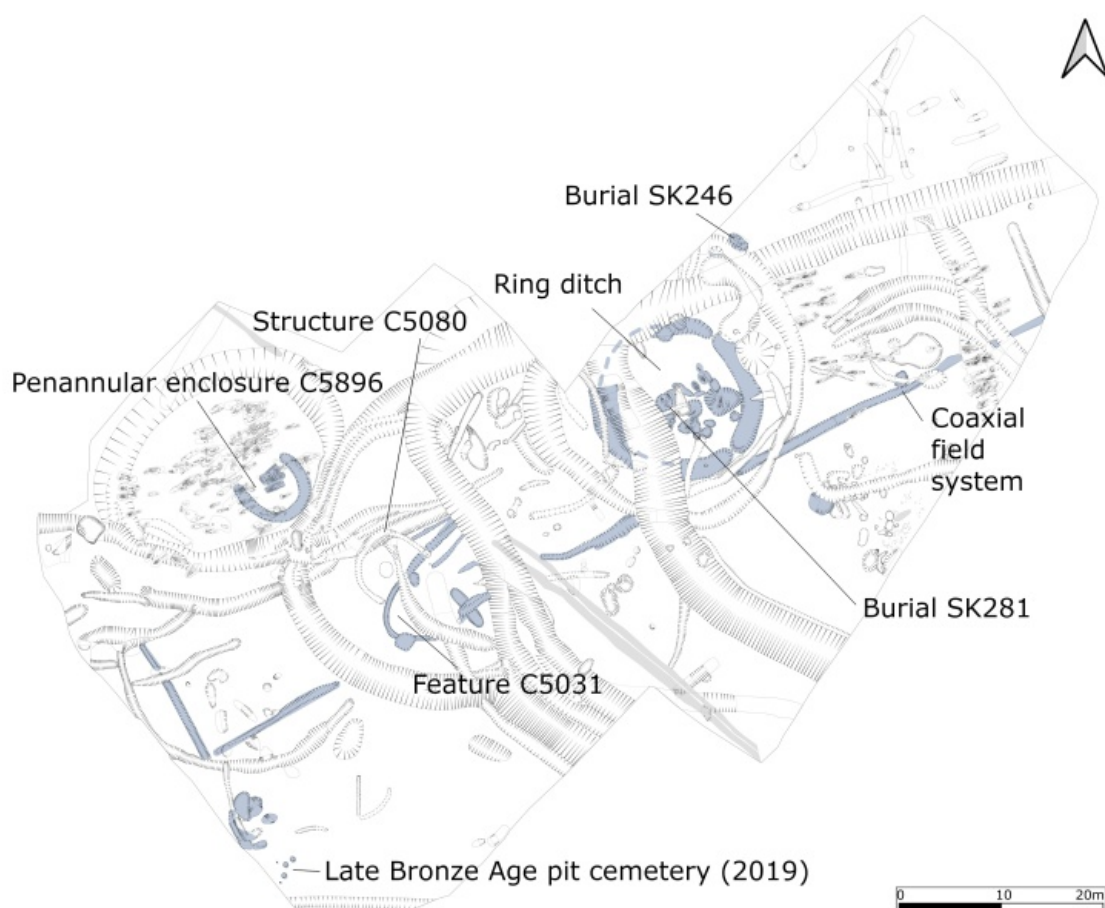
Ring ditch

Excavation of a circular ring ditch (C5829) produced measurements of a 12.5m internal diameter, and a ditch 1.8m-2m wide and 0.8m to 1.22m in depth, with a U-shaped profile formed by steep sides (far steeper than any of the early medieval enclosure ditches) and a flat base. The north and west sides of the ring ditch were truncated by a later early medieval enclosure ditch (C5542 in west, C5772 in north). Other features that truncated the ring ditch are as follows: C5933 (slot trench in the south), C5814 (slot trench in the west), C6071 (small ditch in the east), 6150 (large pit in the northeast), C6036 (A souterrains located on top of the ring ditch to the northeast), C6096 (pit in the north) and C5831 (small pit in the east).

The ring ditch truncated a pit to the north, C6146.

Two deliberate gaps in the ring ditch were identified: one to the south and one to the northeast. The distance between the gaps corresponded to about a quarter of the circumference of the ring ditch. The gaps appeared to be too narrow (118mm) to function as entrances, and instead they may have separated the ring ditch into segments. The termini defining the gaps were rounded in plan with very steep sides. There may have been more gaps in the truncated parts of the ditch, but no evidence remains. The base of the ditch noticeably steps down towards all of the termini.

Fifteen sherds of prehistoric pottery were found in



the fills of the ring ditch (C5830, C5904 & C5942), with occasional fragments of animal bone also recovered. The fills of the ring ditch were generally pale brown in colour with yellow and orange hues, and mostly sterile. The lower fills (C6171, C6627) were darker in colour and contained flecks of charcoal, the presence of charcoal led to these fills being sampled. Slump fills were noted on the external and internal sides of the ditch, possibly representing collapse from an internal/external bank or mound. Evidence for a possible recut (C6485) was identified in one of the sections through the ring ditch, however this was not noted consistently along the ditch's length.

Features within the ring ditch

The ring ditch encircled a number of burials, small linears and pits. These included crouched inhumation burials, two cremation burials, and a pit with cremated bone (unidentified). Most of the pits and linears were filled with sterile redeposited natural subsoil. A single crouched inhumation burial (C5738) lay outside the ring ditch.

The pits and linears were spread out within the interior and all were filled with variations of sterile yellowish brown sandy silts. The pits and linears were made up of multiple different sizes and shapes, while a few of them were intercutting (see below). Some of the pits did not interact with nearby features.

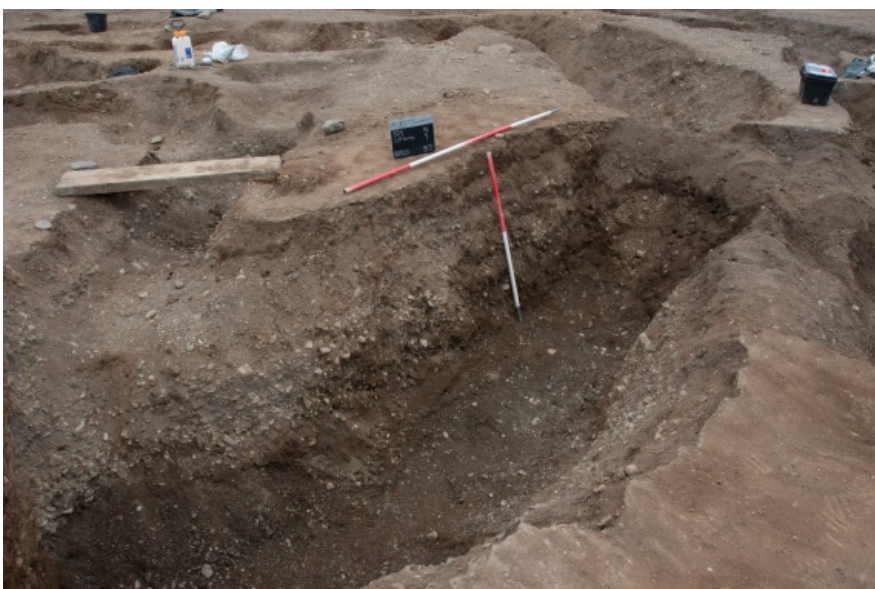
A series of at least seven intercutting pits (C6533, C6416, C6417, C6564, C6562, C6517, C6524) were located in the eastern portion of the enclosed space surrounded by the ring ditch. These had three later burials (SK241, SK260, SK266) cut into them. The fills of these pits were made up of sterile redeposited natural subsoil and yellowish brown sandy silts with frequent pebbles and occasional flint fragments. One of the pits (C6517) had occasional fragments of unburnt bone. Pit C6562 was truncated by the ring ditch, while pit C6533 was stratigraphically the earliest, and was also the largest, measuring a length of 3.4m, a width of 2.57m and a depth of 730mm.

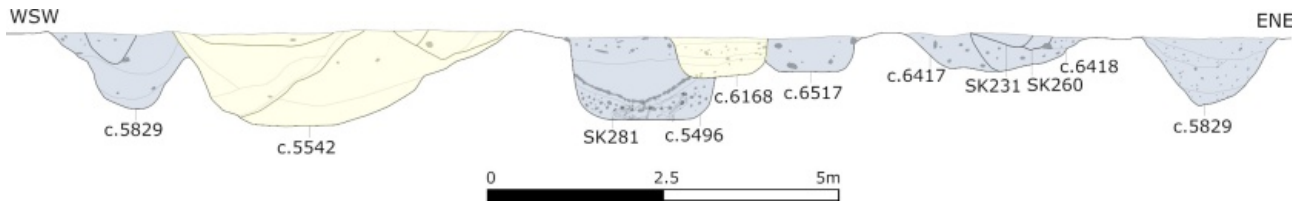
Linear feature (C6130)

A linear feature (C6130) truncating kiln 10 and oriented roughly west to east. It had a bowl-shaped profile with concave sides and a flat base. The break



Ring ditch, showing section face above, and termini with narrow gap below





Profile through ring ditch showing prehistoric features in blue and early medieval features in yellow

of the slope was sharp at the top and gradual at the base. It measured 2.74m in length, 470mm in width and had a depth of 120mm. The basal fill (C6132) was a moderately compact greyish brown clayish silt with inclusions of sand. It had occasional animal bone and flint fragments. It had a max thickness of 40mm. The upper fill (C6131) was a loose dark brownish grey silty clay with moderate seashell, burnt bone, unburnt bone and frequent small stones, with a max thickness of 100mm. This is from the latest phase of the site, and is not prehistoric.

Pit (C6515)

A rectangular pit (C6515) south of linear feature C6130 was oriented west-east. It had a U-shaped cut in profile with concave sides and a flat base. The break of the slope was sharp at the top and gradual at the base. It measured at least 1.1m in length (most likely originally longer, it appeared truncated in the west by C5542), a width of 760mm and a depth of 170mm. The fill (C6516) was a loose greyish brown clayish silt with occasional seashell, burnt bone, unburnt bone, flint, frequent stones and charcoal flecks.

Kiln 1168 (Kiln 10) - see below

Post holes (C6545 & C6547)

The post hole (C6545) was oval with a V-shaped cut in profile. It had a steep east side, while the west was more gently sloped. It had a sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual break at the base, while the base itself was concave. It measured 220mm in length, 170mm in width and a depth of 320mm. The fill (C6546) was a moderately compact greyish orange clayish silt.

A circular post hole (C6547) was identified just south of post hole C6545. It had a U-shaped cut in profile with vertical sides and a flat base. It had a sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual break at the base. In total it measured a diameter of

170mm and a depth of 380mm. The fill (C6548) was a moderately compacted greyish orange clayish silt.

Both post holes were cut into the top of the central early burial (SK281) next to the lime kiln. The fills contained no charcoal, charred seeds or lime, so they are unlikely to be contemporary with the kiln. The fills were identical to the prehistoric features.

Pit (C6479)

An oval pit (C6479) was identified with a deep bowl-shaped cut in profile, with a southwest-northeast orientation. It had concave sides and a flat base. The break of the slope was sharp at the top and gradual at the base. It measured 1m in length, 500mm in width and a depth of 310mm. The fill (C6480) was a loose greyish yellow silty clay with frequent gravel inclusions. It also had occasional stone and flint.

Pit (C5991)

The pit (C5991) was rectangular with a bowl-shaped cut in profile. It was oriented southeast-northwest. The pit had concave sides and a flat base. It had a sharp break of the slope at the top and a gradual break at the base. The pit measured 1.2m in length, 720mm in width and a depth of 200mm. The fill (C5992) was a moderately compact greyish brown silty clay with frequent inclusions of gravel.

Pit (C6011)

Pit (C6011) was rectangular in plan with a shallow bowl-shaped cut, concave sides and a flat base. The pit was oriented southeast-northwest and measured 1.2m in length, 500mm in width and a depth of 140mm. The fill (C6012) was a loose greyish orange clayish silt with occasional stones.

Pit (C6506)

This pit (C6506) in the west side of the ring ditch was heavily truncated in the west by the inner

enclosure ditch (C5542), and what remained was a half circle of what looked to be an oval pit in plan. It had a bowl-shaped cut in profile with concave sides and base, and was oriented south-north. It measured at least 1.1m in length, 500mm in width and a depth of 200mm. The fill (C6507) was a loose brownish yellow silty clay with occasional stones and charcoal. Most of the charcoal was concentrated in the southern portion of the cut.

Pit (C6553)

Pit (C6553) was heavily truncated in the east by kiln 10 (C6168) and only a fraction of it survived. It had an irregular shape. The remains of the side and base were concave. It measured 1.21m in length, 1.15m in width and a depth of 600mm. The fill (C6554) was a loose purpley-brown silty sand mottled with grey. It had occasional gravel pockets.

Pit (C5858)

This pit (C5858) was oval-shaped in plan and had a bowl-shaped cut in profile, with concave sides and a flat base, and a gradual break of the slope at the top and at the base. It was oriented southeast-northwest, and measured 1.2m in length, 900mm in width and a depth of 300mm. The fill (C5859) was a very loose dark brown sandy silt with occasional small stones, flint, animal bones and two fragments of a human skull. The fill had three stones in the centre which measured 100-150mm.

Curvilinear feature (C5933)

A curvilinear (C5933) was visibly truncating the prehistoric ring ditch (C5829). It curved south-northeast, and measured a length of 6.4m, width of 800mm and a depth of 500mm. The profile of the cut was U-shaped with steep concave sides, while the base varied from flat to concave. It had a sharp break of the slope at the top and at the base. The basal fill (C6135) was a loose dark greyish brown silty sand with occasional small stones and rare charcoal flecks, and was only identified in the northern half of the feature. The next fill (C6136) was a sterile slump fill, which was a loose reddish brown sandy silt. The top fill (C5934) was a loose greyish brown silt with occasional small stones and animal bones.

Pit (C6137)

This oval pit (C6137) was truncated by the northern terminus of curvilinear C5933. It had a bowl-shaped cut in profile with concave sides and a flat

base. It had a sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual break at the base. The pit was oriented from southeast to northwest. It measured approximately 1.7m in length, 940mm in width and a depth of 300mm. The fill (C6138) was a loose greyish brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks, small stones and gravel bands.

Pit (C6139)

This pit (C6139) was cut into the top of pit C6137. It had an oval shape on the surface with a bowl-shaped cut in profile. The sides were concave and the base was flat. The break of the slopes were gradual at the top and at the base. It had the same orientation as the pit below, southeast-northwest. It measured a length of 840mm, a width of 700mm and a depth of 160mm. The basal fill (C6140) was a loose yellowish brown gravel rich sand, with occasional small stones. The upper fill (C6141) was a loose blackish brown silt with moderate amounts of charcoal.

Pit (C6146)

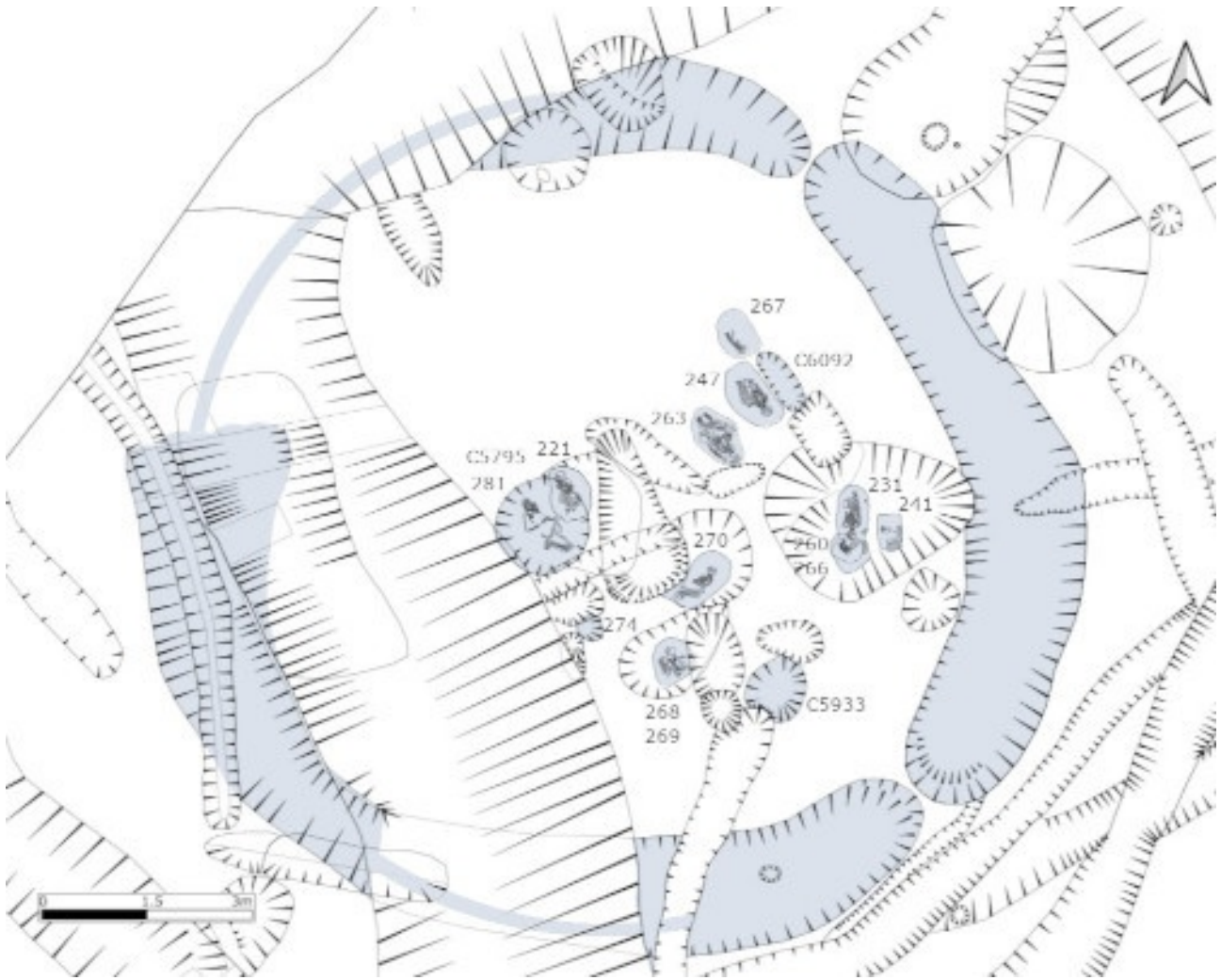
A circular pit (C6146) was truncated by the ring ditch (C5829). It had a U-shaped cut in profile with vertical sides and a flat base, a sharp break of slope at the top, and at the base. The pit measured 1.1m in length, 710mm in width and a depth of 520mm. The basal fill (C6148) was a loose grey sand with no inclusions. The upper fill (C6147) was a loose greyish brown silty sand with rare inclusions of small stones and occasional charcoal flecks and animal bones.

Linear feature (C6450)

A linear feature (C6450) was truncated by kiln 10. It had a U-shaped profile with concave sides and a flat base. The break of the slope was sharp at the top and imperceptible at the base. It was oriented southeast-northwest and measured 4.72m in length, a width of 550mm and a depth of 170mm. The fill (C6451) was a compact orangey brown gravelly silt with occasional charcoal flecks, flint and small stones.

Spread (C6540)

A spread (C6540) was truncated by multiple burials (C6124, C6009, C6306) and measured approximately 4m in length, 4m in width and a thickness of 100mm. It had an irregular shape on the surface and the depth varied. It was a sterile loose greyish brown clayish silt with moderate amounts of gravel.



Plan of ring-ditch showing locations of burials (SK-numbers) and cremations (C-numbers) inside it

Burials in and outside ring ditch

SK 221

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation upon excavation and had been buried in a crouched position on their right side, indicating they were possibly tightly bound. The skull and upper body were at a significantly lower level than the pelvis and the feet with the skull facing slightly towards the base. The pelvis and the legs were on the south sloping side of the burial with both feet together. The left arm was flexed under the knees with the left hand close to the feet. The right arm was flexed towards the chest/chin with the hand closed. Not all feet bones were preserved or articulated, possibly due to truncation by C5820. Concentrations of charcoal were observed on the pelvis (C5828) and scapulae. Burial fill C5805 was located directly above this, and as such was interpreted as possible purposeful

deposits placed at the time of burial. SK221 was buried within C5796, a deep pit, which was circular in plan with the skeleton in a NNW-SSE direction. The southern side of the pit was sloping, and the north side of the cut was nearly vertical, with a flat base. The burial pit had been filled with C5805, a mid-greyish brown silty sand with partially redeposited natural soil of moderate compaction. The fill included occasional burnt bone fragments. The burial was in the western-central portion of the remaining burial area, above SK281 and was cut into a larger, older pit, C6498. This was also truncating an older, deeper burial pit for SK281. SK221 was later truncated by a cremation pit C5820 down to the highest point of the pelvis. Some foot bones followed the edge of the cut of the burial.

SK 231

The remains of an adult were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine

crouched position in a N-S direction with skull in the south. The legs were tightly crouched toward the east with both knees over the right elbow, with the left arm flexed across the chest. The right arm was flexed by the elbow toward the right shoulder, while both hands were on the right shoulder. The skull was not intact. Some foot bones did not survive. SK231 was found within C5887, a simple burial. It had an oblong shape in plan with concave sides and a flat base, slightly sloping from north to south. The burial had four different fills. Above the skeleton was fill C5901, a mid- greyish brown clayey silt with a moderate compaction. This was thickest above the skeleton's left scapula, the deepest part of the burial. Above this was a 0.01m thin charcoal layer (C5898), mostly following the western side of the burial cut all the way up to the edge of the cut and unevenly over the legs. On the lower spine and left knee the charcoal was directly on the bone, while no charcoal was over the skull or the hands, some was present close to the western part of the skull. There was also charcoal on the eastern side of the cut, interpreted as possibly the same context. Above this was fill C5888, a mid-greyish brown clayey silt with sand and gravel inclusions and moderate to frequent

stones measuring 0.03-0.13m. The last context over the burial was C5889, consisting of five stones measuring 0.20m and twelve smaller stones measuring 0.10m in size. These stones were interpreted as a possible cairn with no apparent layout/shape/structure. SK231 was located in the east part of the burial area, with the south part of the burial truncating the upper north part of the fill of an earlier double infant burial, SK260/SK266. It is possible that the burial of SK231 was truncated slightly along its eastern side by a later shallow charcoal rich pit C5937.

SK 241

The remains of an infant individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a tightly flexed position with stone lining C5958. The skeleton was placed on its left side in a north-south direction with the skull located toward the south. The legs, except for one femur, were the only bones that were moderately preserved. The skull was fragmented with a few teeth surviving, while the remains of some ribs, spine and pelvis were poorly preserved. SK241 was within C5954, a simple grave. It had a rectangular shape in plan, in a north-south direction. The north side was concave, the south and east sides were vertical and stone lined. The western side was irregular with a flat base and the stone lining C5958 consisted of two rectangular stones placed in the SE corner of the burial. The eastern stone was 0.20m in length, 0.08m in width and 0.05m in depth. The south stone was 0.18m long, 0.11m wide and 0.13m thick. Due to the fragile type of stone it had broken and had tipped slightly inwards over the skull. It was backfilled with C5955, a mid-greyish brown silty clay with a loose to moderate compaction. The burial was in the east part of the burial area and around 0.15m east of SK231. It truncated the earlier fill (C6537) of pit C6564 and was truncated slightly on its western side by a later shallow pit, C5937.

SK 247

The remains of an adult individual were excavated in a good state of preservation and buried in a crouched position. The skeleton was placed on its left side in a SE-NW direction and was possibly tightly bound. Both arms were flexed with the left hand by the knees and the right hand by the chin, partially under the mandible. The skull was fragmented on its right side. The upper part of spine was disarticulated and the right ribs, right hip and sacrum were not present. The lower

Burial SK 221



vertebrae were truncated on the side facing upwards. These disturbances appear to have been caused by a pit C6011 truncating the skeleton from shoulder to pelvis along the north side of the burial. Most of the foot bones were also absent. A thin concentration of charcoal (C6116) was uncovered by the skull, spread over the base of the cut against the forehead. It measured 0.15m in length, 0.12m in width, and 0.01m in thickness. Another smaller concentration measuring 0.12m in length, 0.05m in width, and 0.01m in depth (C6117) was west of the feet. Both concentrations were interpreted as depositions during the act of burial. SK 247 was within C6009, a simple grave which was sub-rectangular in shape. The base was flat and the south side concave while the other sides were steep. It was backfilled by C6010, a medium greyish brown clayey silt with gravel inclusions of moderate to loose compaction. The burial was in the north part of the burial area and truncated an older context, C6540. The burial was 0.45m south of SK 267.

SK260/SK266

The remains of two infant individuals were in a moderate state of preservation and buried together in a stone lined grave. SK260 was buried in a flexed position placed on its right side in an NNW-SSE direction with the skull toward the SSE. It had its back against the western stone lining. Both arms and legs were under the left side of SK266. The arms were together and flexed in a 90° angle. The hands were poorly preserved. The feet were slightly apart with some of the left foot bones preserved. The skull was on its right side and both the mandible and the skull were fragmented. SK266 was buried in a supine extended position in a NNW-SSE position with the skull in the SSE. Its left side was placed over the legs and arms of SK260. The skull and mandible were fragmented. The left arm was extended and only some of the left hand bones were preserved. The right arm was slightly flexed with the right hand extended over the pelvis. Both femurs were disarticulated in 90° in an E-W direction. Only some of the feet bones were preserved. SK260 and SK266 were within C6086, a simple grave, sub-rectangular shape in plan and in a N-S direction. The sides were vertical and the base sloped from east to west. The sides were stone lined (C6095) in three places, the south side, the northern part of the west side and two stones in the NE corner. It was possibly disturbed by later burial SK231 on the north side. The stones were

irregular in shape and size with the largest stone measuring 0.18m x 0.12m x 0.11m and the smallest 0.06m x 0.04 x 0.07m. It was filled with C6087, a mid-orange brown gravelly silt of moderate compaction. The burial was in the eastern part of the burial area and truncated an earlier pit, C6417. The burial was later truncated in the north upper part of the fill by a later crouched burial, SK231.

SK 263

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine flexed position. The skeleton was placed in a NW-SE direction with the skull in the SE. It was tightly flexed with the legs towards NE and the body slightly turned towards NE. The right arm was flexed with the right hand over the right shoulder. The left arm was flexed over the right elbow with the left hand placed toward the skull. The skull and upper left humerus were disturbed by later activity, due to being close to the surface. SK263 was within C6124, a simple grave, sub-circular shape in plan and in a SE-NW direction. The base was flat with concave sides. The skeleton, from skull to scapulae, was placed on the south sloping side of the cut. The western part of the base was sloping slightly towards the west. It was backfilled with C6125, a mid-greyish brown silty sand with moderate stone inclusions of loose compaction. The burial was in the northern part of the burial area and truncated an older context, C6540. The burial was west of SK 247.

SK 267

The remains of an adolescent individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine crouched position. The skeleton was placed in a NNW-SSE direction with the skull in the SE. The right side of the skeleton was less preserved than the left side. The left arm crossed the torso to the right hip. The skull was facing west and slightly downwards and had a fragmented mandible. Partially under this were the preserved left ribs, clavicle and scapula. The left and right humeri were poorly preserved. A finger bone by the left humerus would indicate that the right hand was placed across the torso. The pelvis, part of the sacrum and the lower left arm were preserved under the crouched legs. The legs faced toward the west, where a few foot bones were preserved. A possible rectangular pillow stone was below the skull and right arm and a similar stone was north of the feet. SK267 was within C6306, a simple grave,

sub-oval shape in plan and in a SSW-NNE direction. The base was generally flat with concave sides. It was filled with C6307, a mid-yellowish brown silty sand of friable compaction. The fill included occasional flint flakes. SK267 was located in the northern part of the burial area, 0.45m north of SK247. The burial truncated the older context C6540.

SK 268

The remains of an adolescent individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a crouched position. The skeleton was placed in a NW-SE direction with feet towards the NW. Only the left leg and the right tibia and fibula were preserved. The legs were tightly flexed. The skeleton was possibly truncated below the pelvis by later pit C6128. SK268 was within C6407, a simple grave, oval shape in plan. The sides were near vertical and the base was flat. It was filled by C6408, a reddish-brown sandy silt of loose compaction, which was similar to the burial fill of the earlier burial SK269. The burial was directly above, and truncated the fill but not the edge of the cut of burial SK269. The skeletons had a thin lens of grave fill between them, as well as a charcoal layer under SK268. The burial of SK268 was later truncated in the east by pit C6128. The burial was in the southern part of the burial area, 0.28m east of SK274 and 1.10m west of cremation pit C6088.

SK 269

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine crouched position. The skeleton was tightly crouched in a E-W direction with the skull in the east, of which only teeth were present. The ribs and the vertebrae were not well preserved, while the legs were tightly flexed with the feet together. The femurs were disarticulated from the pelvis after burial and the arms were flexed with both hands extended. SK269 was within C6405, a simple, deep grave with a circular shape in plan. The sides were near vertical with a flat base at a depth of 0.59m. It was filled with C6406, a reddish brown sandy silt of loose compaction. The upper part of the burial was truncated by later burial SK268 and later truncated by pit C6128 in the east which truncated the skeleton itself. The burial was in the southern part of the burial area, 0.28m east of SK274 and cut into the natural soil.

SK 270

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and were buried in a crouched position. The skeleton was placed on its left side in a NE-SW direction with skull in the NE, which faced SSE. The left arm was flexed under the right arm which was also flexed, while the hands were placed together in front of the chin, south of the mandible. Only the right hand was well preserved, while the right scapula, the spine, the ribs and the feet bones were poorly preserved. SK270 was within C6461, a simple grave, sub-circular shape in plan in a NE-SW direction. The base was flat with vertical sides and 0.25m in depth. It was filled with C6462, a mid-greyish brown silty clay of moderate to loose compaction. SK270 was located in the southern part of the burial area, 1m north of SK269. The burial's north side truncated small pit C6524. Most of the burial also truncated older larger pit C6517 visible along the whole east side, and the burial was later slightly truncated by kiln C6168 in the west. The right pelvis, the sacrum and the lower spine were truncated but not absent.

SK 274

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and were buried in a supine position. The skeleton was placed in a slightly E-W direction with the skull in the east. The skeleton was truncated by later features at the lower spine, most of the right arm and across the left lower arm. Because of this it was not possible to determine if the skeleton was placed in a flexed or crouched position like the other skeletons in this area. The left arm was flexed across the torso. The left hand appeared closed and was over the right side of the chest, and the right arm was truncated below the shoulder. The body was slightly turned towards the north. The skull was facing NW and slightly fragmented. SK274 was within C6489, a simple grave, circular shape in plan in a E-W direction. The base was flat with concave sides. It was filled with C6490, a mid-brown silty clay of loose compaction. SK274 was located in the west part of the remaining burial area, 0.28m west of SK269. The burial slightly truncated earlier pit C6506 in the south. SK274 was later truncated in the west across the stomach by ditch C5542 and right arm by pit C6515 in the NW.

SK 281

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and were buried in



Burial SK 281 showing location of stone axe above, below close-up of stone axe

a supine flexed position. The skeleton was placed in a NW-SE direction with the skull in the NW. The skull and the long bones were well preserved while smaller bones, ribs, pelvis and vertebrae were not. The skull was damaged at the frontal bone and maxillae. The left upper arm and shoulder was positioned further north than the right shoulder and the skull was tilted slightly forward with the mandible by the left clavicle. The left arm was slightly flexed alongside the body and at a lower level. The right arm was flexed across the body at an angle of around 80° by the elbow. The legs were tightly flexed with the left lower leg under the right, the knees were at a higher level than the pelvis. SK281 was within C6496, a simple and deep grave. It had a sub-circular shape in plan with vertical sides and a slightly concave base. It measured 2.1m in length N-S, 1.88m in width E-W and was 1.26m in depth. It was the largest and deepest burial in this area and the only skeleton with a grave good, a polished stone axe by the



skeletons' left hand. It was backfilled with three fills. First C6499, a grey silty sand of loose compaction over the skeleton. Then a 0.04m thick layer of charcoal (C6497), likely placed during the burial. The third fill (C6542) was a greyish brown sterile sand of loose compaction. This fill was later truncated by large pit C6498. SK281 was located in the west part of the remaining burial area, possibly the first burial. SK221 was located above SK281 in the NW part of the grave cut.

Cremation C5795

C5820 is the cut of a possible cremation pit that truncated earlier crouched burial SK221 down to the highest point of the pelvis and some feet bones. It followed the burial cut edge of SK221. It had a round shape in plan in a N-S direction, a flat base and concave sides, apart from the south side that was near vertical. It measured 0.90m in length, 0.84m in width and 0.14m in depth. It was filled with context C5797, a dark brownish black sandy silt of friable to loose compaction. It included infrequent fragments of heavily-burnt bones, several which had a blue tint colour and some were black. The bone fragments were friable and measured 0.005m-0.06m in size. The bones were visible on the surface of the fill before excavation. The fill also included frequent charcoal and occasional fire cracked stones 0.04m in size, occasional fragments of unburnt bones, occasional seashell (cockle) fragments and three large stones, sized around 0.25m in length placed together in the centre of the cut, visible on the surface before excavation. The possible cremation appeared to be placed above SK221 deliberately. The possible cremation was excavated stratigraphically in two spits, each spit on the east side was fully sampled while the burnt bones from the west side were saved in the spit order. The bone has not been positively identified as human, and could be cremated animal bone. Five very small blue glass beads (5797:1-5) were found in this material.

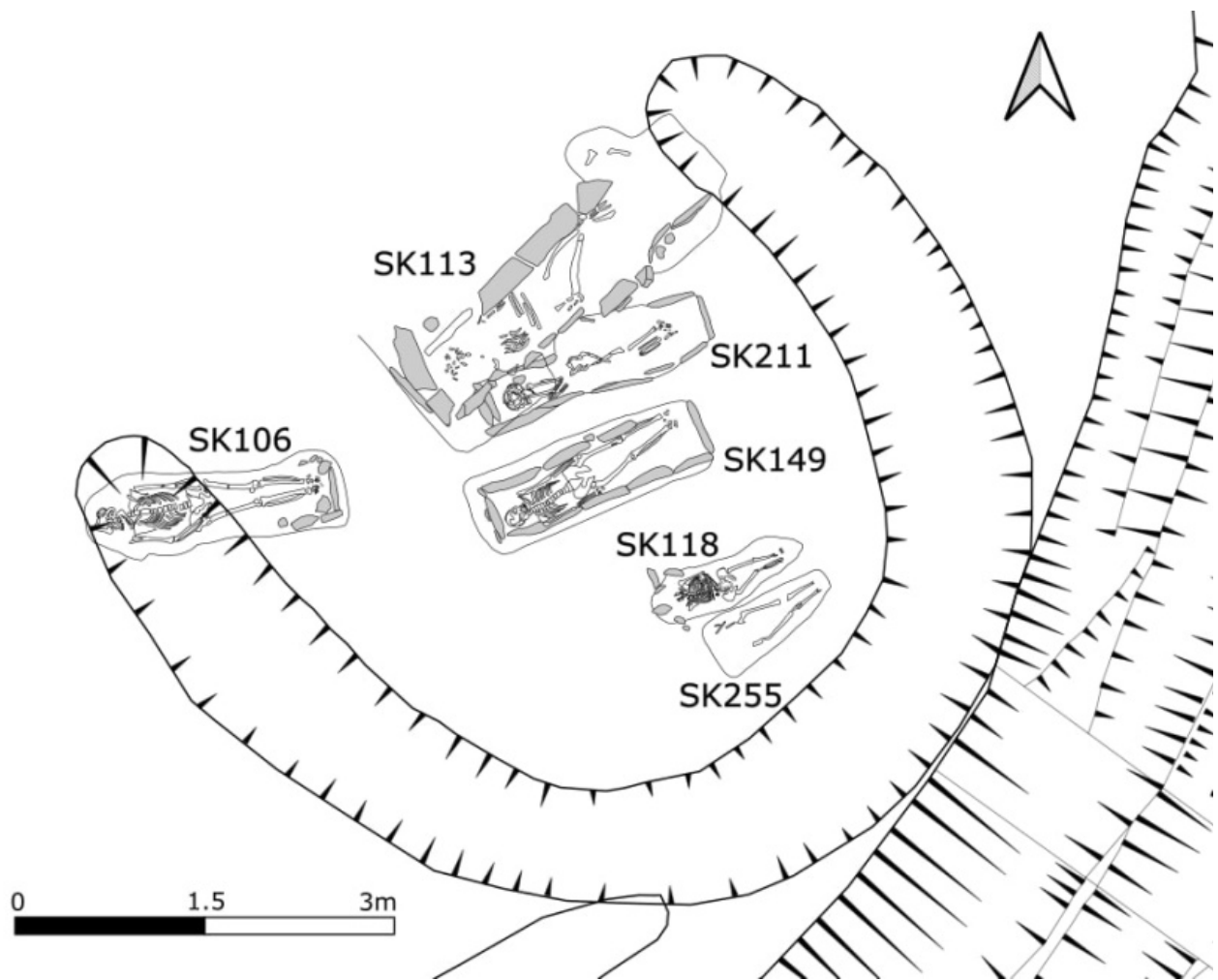
Cremation C5933

Cut of a burial pit in which a cremation was placed. The cut was sub-circular shaped in plan with a flat bowl shape in profile. It had a gradual break of slope at the top and base of the cut with varying sides ranging from gentle in the east to steep in the west. The base of the cut was flat. It measured 1.23m in length, 1m in width and 0.25m in depth. The cremation pit was slightly truncated by C5933. It was situated within the prehistoric burial ground

adjacent to a number of crouched burials. The fill surrounding the remains was a mid-orangey brown sandy silt with a firm compaction. It included frequent small stones and gravel pockets. The cremation was excavated in 5cm spits to a depth of 25cm. Spit 1 began at a depth of 10cm and ran to 15cm, with bone concentrated at the southwestern edge of the pit with some scattered fragments toward the northeast. Spit 2 had a depth of approximately 15 and ran to 20cm. The bone fragments were clearly concentrated in two areas. The concentration in the northeast was primarily skull fragments. The bones in the southwest were mostly long bones. Spit 3 was found at a lower depth and contained separate concentrations of bone at this point. The bone in this spit had no identifiable type and appeared to be the fragments of several bones. Spit 4 contained mostly small fragmented long bones and skull fragments. It also included occasional identifiable ribs. This spit contained the majority of the burial near the base of the pit. Spit 5 contained small fragments of long bones and ribs. This spit was primarily the last 2cm of the concentration. The cremated bone has been positively identified as human.

Cremation C6092

C6091 is the cut of a small pit, possibly an older posthole that was reused for a cremation. It had a circular shape in plan with near vertical sides and a flat base, measuring 0.19m in diameter and 0.09m in depth. It was filled with C6092, a brownish black sand of loose compaction with frequent charcoal and burnt human bones. The fill was excavated stratigraphically in three spits and each spit was fully sampled. The top spit (1) had less amount of charcoal than the below spits, a possible fragment of a rib bone was identified, bones at the surface were highly fragmented. Spit two included fragments of skull bone, ribs, long bones and a high amount of bones were small fragments. The lowest spit (3) had the highest concentration of charcoal and bones. It included some upper ribs and large fragments of skull bone and teeth. The soil of this spit was sampled separately. The cremation has possibly been truncated from above, this interpretation is based on the shallow depth of the pit. It was located in the interior of ditch C5829 on the west bank. It is 5.71m NW of possible cremation pit C5820 and 10.50m west of cremation pit C6088. The cremated bone has been positively identified as human.



Penannular enclosure C5896 and lintelled graves of western cemetery

SK 246 (outside ring ditch)

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and were buried in a crouched position. The skeleton was placed on its right side in a NW-SE direction with the skull in the SE. It was leaning against the NE edge of the burial pit. The skull was on its right side facing north and was fragmented. The left arm was flexed while the right humerus was partially preserved. Both lower arms were truncated. Vertebrae and ribs were not well preserved, some ribs were truncated. The right leg was flexed, while most of the left leg was not present. The pelvis and sacrum were also not present. Feet were not preserved while hands were possibly closed on the side of the pit. SK 246 was within C5738, a simple grave, oval shape in plan in a NW-SE direction with slightly concave sides and a flat base. It measured 2.2m in length, 1.25m in width minimum and 1.04m in depth. It was filled with C5739, a grey brown sandy silt of moderate to

loose compaction. Seven prehistoric pottery sherds were found within this fill and are possibly associated with SK 246. A small flake of flint was found underneath the skull, possibly under the jaw. The burial was located some distance north of the other crouched burials and ditch C5829. It was cut into the natural soil. The pit, but not the skeleton, was later truncated by ditch C5540 along the west side.

Coaxial field system

Among the oldest features on the site was a small ditch (C6327, C5278) running for c. 70m southwest-northeast skirting the southeast edge of the ring ditch. A possible return to the northwest was identified in the west (C5309). The ditch contained no artefacts other than flint debitage, had a sterile fill, and was stratigraphically earlier than every other feature it interacted with on the site. The

ditch had a max width of 1.3m and a depth of 0.55m. The profile of the cut varied from bowl-shaped to V-shaped, with a few breaks in the ditch across its running length caused by truncations. The southwest-northeast section was truncated by burials in the later cemetery, the medieval circular enclosure ditch C5540, C6329 (slot trench, small ditch), some pits (C5305, C5355) and the inner, middle and outer enclosure ditches.

The section that ran southwest-northwest (C5309) measured a length of 12.7m with a max width of 700mm and depth of 260mm. It had a bowl-shaped profile with the same sterile fill as mentioned above. It was filled (C5310) with a mid-brown gravelly silt redeposited natural with no inclusions other than flint. It was truncated by other features in this area: C5273, C5322 and C5437.

The section that ran from the southwest to the northeast (C6327) had a V-shaped cut in profile and measured a width of 1.3m and a depth of 550mm. It had moderate to steep sloping sides with a concave

base. It was the earliest of the features it interacted with, and was truncated in multiple areas. The fill (C6328) was a firm brown silty sand with frequent stones.

Penannular enclosure

A horse-shoe shaped ditch (C5896) was identified below the mound material of the western cemetery. It measured a length of 14m, width of 920mm and depth of 650mm, with the opening to the northwest. The cut was U-shaped in profile. It had a gradual break of the slope at the top along the inner edge and a sharp break at the outer edge. The break was gradual at the base. The sides were concave, but some parts got close to vertical. The base varied from concave to flat. The space enclosed by the ditch measured a length of 4.8m SE-NW and 4.5m SW-NE. It enclosed multiple burials, in particular three slab-lined and stone capped burials. It was cut by multiple burials and appeared to be the earliest feature in the western

Penannular enclosure C5896 under western cemetery



cemetery.

The ditch had four recuts (C5910, C6016, C6030 & C6031) and eleven fills. The fills of the feature (C5897, C5911, C5912, C5913, C6017, C6018, C6019, C6029, C6032, C6033 & C6079) were all silty sands of various compaction with brownish colours. Most of the fills were sterile, beside from C5913 which had occasional shell and C6032 which had occasional flecks of charcoal, frequent animal bones and rare flint.

Other prehistoric features

A group of stake holes, post holes and pits of varying sizes and depths were located on either side of the rectangular early medieval cemetery enclosure ditch (C6867), which was the latest feature in this cluster. These were mostly filled with redeposited natural subsoil and were very difficult to identify on the surface. They did not seem to follow any pattern or shape. One of the pits (C6873) contained prehistoric pottery, and several contained flint debitage. The fills resembled prehistoric features elsewhere on the site, and they were all cutting into a very sandy natural with a finer gravel composition. This was the only area on the site with natural subsoil like this.

A feature (C5131) south of the middle enclosure may have been horseshoe-shaped in plan, though truncation had made its form hard to reconstruct. The southern half of the structure was very similar in form to a later structure in the same area, C5080, with the same overall dimensions and measurements (430mm deep and 850mm wide) but opening to the northeast. The western “arm” was truncated but may have continued further, and the southern “arm” extended a further 4m at least, giving a total length of 10m. This truncation at the west was feature C5186, which may have been a continuation of the feature.

The upper fill was a mid-brown sand with stone, rare charcoal, and frequent flint. The lower fill was a dark-brown silty-clay with frequent small stones, occasional flint and rare charcoal (C5221). A series of different features truncated the feature (C5119, C5080, C5103).

Multiple pits and linear features were excavated in

the southwest end of the site, and a few of these are most likely prehistoric. A lot of them have a gravely, redeposited natural fill that didn't reveal any finds beside from flint. None of the features were well-preserved in this area, aside from a couple of large kilns and early medieval ditches.

Pennanular enclosure C5896 - sections



Section 3 Stratigraphy - Early Medieval A

Inner enclosure

Earlier phase inner enclosure

The inner enclosure ditch has multiple phases, with evidence for frequent maintenance. The first phase (C5542/C5649/C6180) was a curving enclosure running south-north, returning east and straightening before it returns south again, which extended beyond the limit of excavation. This formed a D-shaped enclosure, with the interior measuring 29.5m west-east and at least 34.5m north-south. Artefacts identified within the ditch date to the early medieval period. These include a bone comb with dot and circle decoration, E-ware pottery sherds, copper alloy and iron artefacts.

This first phase of the enclosure had soil of mid brown and greyish colours with a composition of

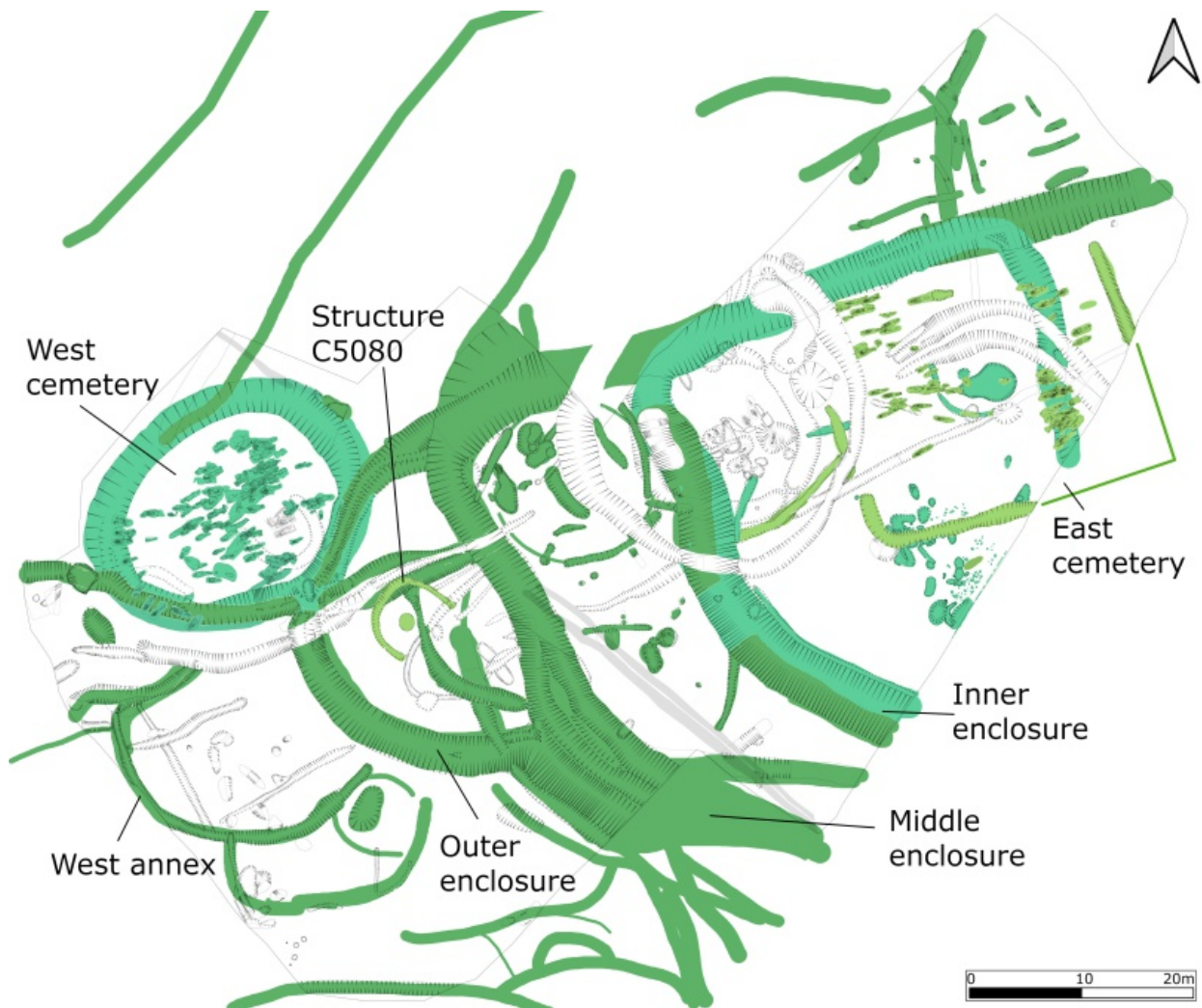
sandy and stony silts (C5547, C5844, C5841, C6177, C6178, C6179, C6240). Inclusions such as shell, charcoal and animal bones frequently appear. The enclosure ditch is at least 5.6m wide and 1.5m deep. The profile of the ditch varies from a bowl-shape to a U-shape, while the ditch was widest and deepest in the west, where it had the most recuts and maintenance. In the north it became narrower and shallower, down to 3.6m wide and only to about 0.7m deep.

The east part had a few burials on top of it. These were part of the later early medieval cemetery, with the majority of these being stone lined graves. They were mostly concentrated on top of the ditch in this area, with very few outside of the ditch cut.

Profiles of the ditch fills suggesting that material

Section through inner enclosure ditch





Plan showing early medieval features: blue-green colour c. 5th century; green colour c. 6th century; pale-green colours c. 7th century

had slumped into the ditch from the exterior, suggesting the presence of an external bank.

Later phase inner enclosure

The straight northern part of the enclosure ditch appears to have been later recut by a linear ditch (C5772) that continued to the northeast and southwest. This could be from a time of expansion perhaps, making C5772 part of the outer or middle enclosure ditch, forming a junction between the inner and middle/outer enclosures to the north. Numerous artefacts were recovered from this recut including a couple of bone pins, iron artefacts, copper alloy artefacts, antler and frequent animal bone.

A recut of the western side of the original enclosure was likely contemporary with recut C5772, this recut (C5625) terminated just before the

straight ditch section in the north, leaving a possible entrance causeway. It followed the same curve of the ditch, but the base was dug west of the base of C5542 making the enclosure ditch into a W-shape in profile. The northern terminus was well defined with a 45 degrees angle, intentionally matching the sides at the point the ditch previously curved sharply. The first fill of C5625 was a deliberate dump of water-rolled stones, gravel and sand (C5840) localised around the north terminus. Very similar to fill C6214 further to the south within C6210. This fill was pure natural and could originate from the construction of a nearby feature, being the sandy gravel that was taken out to place down a feature and since it was localised only in the terminus it must have been nearby. The slump fills of the ditch were different from C5840 with frequent inclusions like charcoal, mixed soil, etc. There were multiple silty fills recorded in

C5625 (C5839, C5778, C5779, C5786, C6368).

Recut C5625 also had alternating layers of ash, charcoal and reddened burnt earth, all located against the eastern/interior side of the cut, indicating they were thrown in from the interior, where a later kiln (C6168) was situated. Occasional silty lenses and clay (e.g. C5735) were recorded between kiln dump layers. No cereals were identified, but samples were taken. Much finer and less organic than the middle enclosure ditch fills containing kiln waste. These layers were very thin, max 20mm thick. These fills were patchy, rather than uniform, in consistency.

This was the same recut as C6210, with the fills changing as they went south. Here the fills are changing away from kiln waste as you move south through the cut, even though there was still kiln waste and burnt waste scattered in a few of the fills. Most of the fills are of stony silt and sand, but there was one layer of clay (C6221) which had frequent animal bones. Very little clay was present on the site in general, but some was present in the northeastern end of C5772. It is possible that these

areas were open around the same time.

On the exterior side of the recut was clear slump fill (C5939) laying on the west side, just like in the original cut.

The upper fill of the ditch is C5953, a very similar ditch fill to the early phase of the ditch. The fill itself was composed of mid-brown stony silt with small stones, with rare charcoal and occasional animal bone.

The ditch also had multiple recuts and fills beside these, showing that the ditch has been maintained for a long period, see table below for more information.

Entrance

There was evidence of a possible entrance across the inner enclosure ditch in the southwestern portion of the ditch. On the base of the ditch, two (possibly three) post holes were recorded, C6391, C6394 and C6567, which could be the remains of a bridge foundation. A large boulder was also identified, C6402, directly adjacent northwest of

Inner enclosure ditch showing entrance postholes, C6391 & C6394 in deeper slot at bottom of photograph



the post hole C6567 and a bit southeast of C6391, that could have been part of this structure. When it was not required anymore, it was simply pushed into the ditch/left in the ditch and discarded.

Pit C6391

An oval feature (C6391) running southwest-northeast was identified at the interior periphery on the base of the inner enclosure ditch (C5542) in the southwest. This had two fills, C6392 and C6393. The cut had a U-shaped profile with concave sides and base. The cut measured 1.31m in length, 0.9m in width and a depth of 0.84m. The basal fill (C6393) was a loosely compacted brownish grey gravelly sand. It had frequent small stones ranging from 30-65mm. The upper fill (C6392) was a loosely compacted dark grey silty sand with occasional angular stones ranging from 50-100mm. The pit predated the backfilling of the enclosure, which means it could be contemporary with the cut of the ditch.

Pit C6394

An oval feature (C6394) running southwest-northeast was identified southwest of feature C6391 on the base of the inner enclosure ditch (C5542). The feature had two fills, similar to C6391 (C6395 and C6396). The cut was heavily truncated by the excavation, but was recorded with a U-shaped cut. The sides and base were concave. The feature measured 1.22m in length, 0.78m in width and a depth of 0.8m. The basal fill (C6396) was a loose dark reddish-brown sand with infrequent rounded stones no larger than 20mm. The upper fill (C6395) was a loose brownish grey silty sand with occasional rounded and angular stones ranging from 35-45mm.

Pit C6567

A circular feature (C6567) was located southeast of feature C6391 on the base of the inner enclosure ditch. The feature ran southwest-northeast and was similar to the two previous pits described (C6391 and C6394). The cut was heavily truncated, but it had a U-shaped profile, with near vertical sides and a concave base. It only had one fill, C6568, which was a loose greyish brown gravelly sand. This fill was sterile. The pit measured a diameter of 800mm and a depth of 800mm.

Boulder C6402

A rectangular boulder measuring 1.1m in length, 840mm in width and 300mm in depth was

identified in the inner enclosure ditch, between pit C6391 and C6567. It was likely greywacke or shale with a rough face and no finish. Probably was a part of the entrance/bridge that could have been in this area. It was disposed of when the ditch was being backfilled and simply pushed into the ditch from the interior side.

Another potential later entrance crossing over C5772 in the east was identified. The only remains identified of this potential structure were leftovers of some stone packing, C6610, placed in a semi-circular shape in the base of the ditch. The stones were clearly placed there, with the stones dug into natural subsoil. Most likely the remains of a posthole that had stones packed around the post for support and it seems likely that it could have functioned as a foundation of a bridge at some point, even though little survived or could be observed during the excavation.

No other concentration of stones were found in the ditch like these, and it did not have frequent large stones either, with the normal stones not being larger than 150mm long.

We found no proof of any other entrances from the area excavated, but a good chunk of the enclosure continues under the limit of excavation to the southeast, meaning there is still the possibility that there might be more entrances/termini undiscovered for now.

Middle and outer enclosures

The middle and outer enclosure ditches were long-lived curving ditches that were composed of a series of intercutting ditches (C5015, C5023, C5024, C5034, C5239). We only excavated a portion of the ditches seeing as they run outside the limit of excavation to the southeast and they merged with a ditch complex in the northwest before they returned north and ran into the preserved park area. There's a possibility that they returned and joined with the ditch C5772.

Middle enclosure ditch

A minimum of twelve phases were identified within the middle enclosure ditch. Almost all of the phases were filled with a similar material: mid-brown sandy-silt with inclusions of water-rolled and sub-angular stones of small stones, occasional charcoal flecks, animal bone and unworked flint.



Aerial view (north to top) showing inner enclosure and eastern cemetery (plastic covering burials)

One of the earliest discernible phases (C5172) was heavily truncated, but appeared to follow the general curvilinear shape of the enclosure. This simple curving shape was also followed by eight of the later phases (C5015, C5023, C5096, C5020, C5134, C5194, C5196, C5193). The enclosure appears to have moved significantly at least twice, however there was no pattern showing movement either inwards to out or outwards to in.

Two of the phases of the enclosure had particularly interesting fills. Ditch C5134 (a substantial but localised recut of C5023) was entirely filled by eight distinct layers of probable waste from a corn-drying kiln. A furnace base was also recovered in this recut, which means that the fills originated from both metalworking and corn processing. The slope of the fills suggested they had derived from the interior of the enclosure. This ditch was relatively late in the stratigraphic sequence, but later recuts (i.e., C5193) revert to the normal fill. Ditch C5194 had a basal layer of charred material

(possibly seeds), overlain by a layer of baked clay, which appeared to be baked in situ. One of the latest phases (C5196) contained frequent animal bone directly on the base, and may represent a single large animal such as a cow.

Outer enclosure ditch

The other potentially earliest phased ditch (C5024) took a different route. It followed the simple curving shape of the other 7 (potentially later) ditches but diverged sharply at the west end of the enclosure to veer west, then return northwest. This diversion was very marked on the site, and the ditch appeared to be swerving around something, but it was unclear what was being avoided. This ditch continued to enclose the structure (C5080), and then terminated just before the ring ditch. This ditch had the same shape, fill and size as the other larger ditches that made up the middle enclosure. The maximum dimensions of this enclosure ditch were 3m wide and 1.4m deep (C5024).

It is possible that one of the cuts in the

northwestern ditch complex (C5066 or C5070) is a continuation of this enclosure, which would make it connect with the middle enclosure ditch in both south and north. This would also mean that it respected the possible entrance into the western cemetery with termini on either side of this.

No clear evidence for a bank was identified, except for possible slumped gravel along external sides of the two of the cuts (C5024, C5023). However, the enclosures were cut through very loose natural gravels, so any movement of a person in any of the ditches caused the sides to collapse and cascade, so any activity carried out nearby would collapse them.

Enclosure ditch junction

Multiple ditches merged together in one area northeast of the western cemetery. On the surface it seemed like one ditch running northeast southwest. However, recording of the sections showed at least ten to fifteen different cuts and recuts, but making out which were tied together was impossible. Some could be understood, C6421 was the same as C6644, C5023 was the same as

C6423, etc, but for the rest identification was not possible.

The middle and outer enclosure ditches (C5023 & C5024), two ditches from the western cemetery enclosure ditch (C5066, C5070) and local recuts were the parts that ran through this very maintained ditch complex. All the fills throughout the ditches were extremely similar with small variations of brown silty sands.

Linear ditches north of C5080

Three intercutting linears (C5049, C5052, C5054) were recorded between the western cemetery enclosure ditch and feature C5080. These were oriented southwest northeast. They were truncated to the southeast by a modern disturbance above the cemetery enclosure ditch. The earliest phase of these appeared in one section to be later than the middle enclosure ditch (C5023), however this could not be confirmed and these ditches are more likely to postdate the middle enclosure. It is possible that they are related to ditch C5510 in the western corner of the site.

Section showing junction of middle and outer enclosures



These ditches all had brown sandy silt fills, with the earliest cut C5052 having a pale yellowish-brown colour (C5053). Occasional animal bone was recovered along with occasional flint. Ditch C5049 measured at least 10.28m, 2.5m in width and a depth of 1.21m. This had four fills: C5084, C5083, C5085 and C5086. Ditch C5052 measured at least 5.03m in length, 720mm in width and a depth of 580mm. This had one fill: C5053. Ditch C5054 measured at least 5.03m in length, 1.95m in width and a depth of 750mm. This had two fills: C5055 and C5056.

Western cemetery

Introduction

The burial enclosure was surrounded by a circular ditch (C5025). This enclosed a sub-circular area c. 15m N-S by 19m E-W in diameter, and in general measured c. 3.8m wide and c. 1.1m deep. It was generally filled with a mid-brown sandy-silt with frequent stone, frequent pebbles, friable, some animal bone, rare charcoal, rare disarticulated human bone, and flint.

Entrance

The possible entrance feature (C5559) was situated in the southeast of the circular enclosure. It comprised a deep rectangular pit cut into the base of the ditch (C5025) with vertical sides, 2.1m in length and 1.2m-0.55m in width, and c. 0.85m deep. This was the deepest feature on the site, reaching a depth of 10.172m OD, which was 1.84m below the top of the mound material inside the burial enclosure. It was oriented slightly off the arc of the ditch at that point, aligned SSE-NNW. The basal pit of the was filled by layers of dark greyish-brown smooth peaty soft clay with a unique smell suggestive of decomposed organic matter, which became stonier nearer the top of the pit (C5560, C5561, C5562, C5563). This feature was cut into gravelly natural subsoil and could not have retained water. It may have held wooden supports for a bridge into the enclosure, however there was no evidence for this. The pit was located at the junction of four enclosure ditches, which may have been a factor in its location.

A shallow linear shaped feature (C5860) southeast of the penannular enclosure (C5896) measured 2.32m in length, 730mm width and a depth of 270mm. It had a bowl-shaped cut in profile with

uneven concave sides and base. The breaks of the slope were gradual at the base and at the top. It was oriented SW-NE. The fill (C5861) was a very loose orangey brown sandy silt with frequent small stones and occasional animal bones. The feature ran along the interior of the western cemetery enclosure at the point of entrance, and was interpreted as a structural entrance feature related to post hole C5559.

The main evidence that this was the location of an entrance is that recuts of the ditch that terminated to either side of this possible entrance area were identified (C5070 to the east and C5024 to the west).

Recuts and maintenance

Multiple phases of cutting and recutting were identified, particularly in the south-southeast portion, where evidence for a possible entrance was identified. The earliest identified phases of the ditch survived only sporadically in the southeast quadrant (C5100 & C5549). Both predated the possible entrance feature (C5559), however they may have terminated at the feature and thus be broadly contemporary with an earlier entrance in the same location.

At least nine phases of recut/maintenance were identified in ditch C5025 (C5100, C5549, C5070, C5066, C5585, C5589, C5596, C5608, C5042). All of these were situated in the southeast quadrant, and several terminated at or near the possible entrance pit. The area of highest maintenance (8 out of 9 recuts) of ditch C5025 corresponded with the locations of three burials in the ditch, and was centred on the possible entrance feature. The ninth recut (C5042) was situated in the western part of the ditch, and also truncated several burials in the main mound. Additional smaller localised recuts into the top of the ditch may be localised maintenance or later pits (C5580, C5594, C5602, C5606, C5604, C5611), and/or drains running alongside (C5076, C5583, C5600)

Later ditches

A later ditch (C5510), cutting into the western cemetery enclosure, was backfilled with multiple layers of black-coloured burnt waste material. It ran into the site from the western edge of excavation. It truncated the cemetery enclosure and followed the same curve towards the south where it faded to brown. It seemed to terminate



Post-excavation view of large entrance post-hole in ditch

just west of the possible entrance pit of the cemetery enclosure ditch. It was likely the same ditch as one of the three ditches (C5049, C5052 or C5054) identified in a small ditch complex on the opposite side of the entrance pit.

Another ditch (C5575) south of the black ditch was likely contemporary. This ditch didn't have the same burnt waste material, but instead had a high frequency of shells. The ditch ran west-east into the site from the west, then before hitting the enclosure ditches to the east it curved slightly towards the northeast and cut across the outer enclosure ditch (C5024). It was also interpreted, just like the black ditch, to be related to one of the three ditches (C5049, C5052 or C5054) in the small ditch complex that happened to be cut by feature C5080.

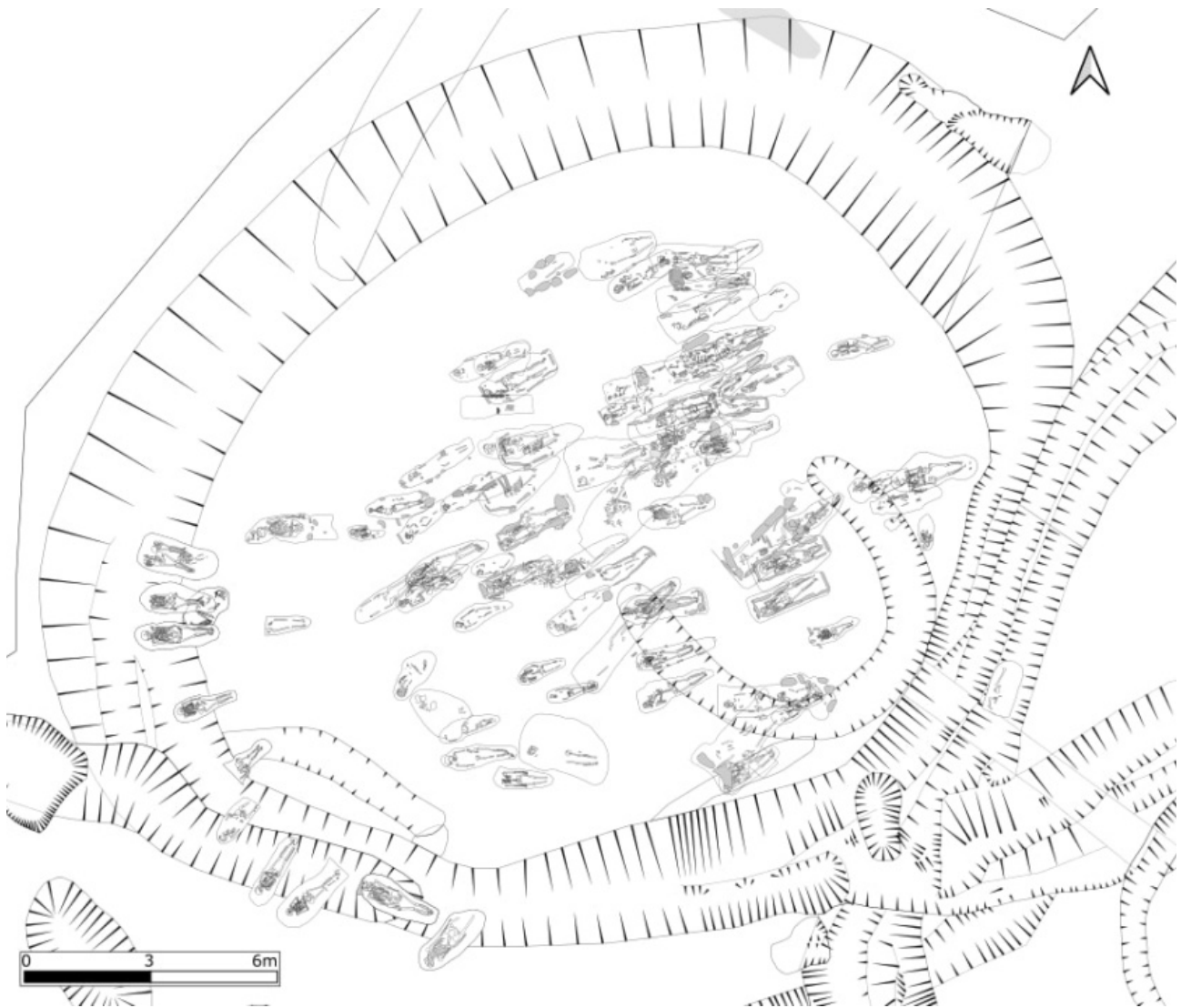
Burial mound

The inner edge of the ditch, particularly to the southeast, was difficult to distinguish from burial mound material. This meant that we could not establish which phase of the ditch, if any, cut through mound material. The proximity of burials

to the edge of the enclosure ditch obscured any stratigraphic relationship.

Eight burials (169, 170, 172, 174, 175, 176, 178) were cut into the partially backfilled ditch in the west of the enclosure. These were unlike the two (98 & 110) near the entrance, because they were oriented east-west and seemed to be an extension of the main burial ground towards the west, rather than a distinct decision to bury within the ditch. Three of these were cut by a later maintenance of the ditch (C517). This shows that the burial enclosure predated some of the burials, and also post dated some of the burials.

All burials are either constrained within a circular enclosure or buried inside the enclosure ditch, with no burials outside it, the ditch and burials are therefore contemporary. No suggestion of a bank, and no absence of burials just inside, means the likely presence of an internal mound. There was also no evidence for an external bank, except that there were no burials cut into the backfilled ditch, and the mound material appeared to be a combination of cast-up from ditch and burial



Post-excavation plan of western cemetery showing penannular enclosure and 2021 burials

churn of natural soil. Aside from animal bone and flint, no finds were identified, 1 piece of disarticulated human bone was also found.

Burials

Three burials were found in the ditch C5025. These were buried inside the southeast quadrant of the open or partially-open ditch, and were all post-dated by later ditch maintenance and recuts (C5066). All three were aligned to the ditch orientation (roughly west-east) rather than being exactly west-east. Burials 98 and 110 were situated roughly equidistant either side of the possible entrance pit. The later recuts of the ditch around the possible entrance expanded the diameter of the burial enclosure slightly, thus both burials were truncated to the south and only their left-hand

sides survived. In the case of burial 98, very little if any fill material appeared to cover the burial, and it is possible the body was left exposed and visible at the base of the mostly-empty ditch. The amount of burial fill over burial 110 could not be ascertained.

SK 77 and DSK 82

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull and arms had been severely damaged, and the hands were possibly overlying the pelvis, although only some metacarpals were recovered. The feet were extended and commingled. There were the remains of another possible individual DSK82 located in the north side of the grave cut. SK77 was

buried within C5003 which had been lined with slabs – C5005. The cut was not obvious but was likely sub-rectangular/ovoid in plan. It had been filled with C5004 a mid-brown sandy silt, heavily compacted which was likely made up of mound material. The stone lining C5005 was made up of six large slabs, the largest being 1.8 x 0.5m and 0.3m thick.

SK 78

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull and feet were missing and had likely been truncated by later activity. The spine also showed a slight curvature, while Two pieces of flint were recovered where the head and feet would have been, along with an animal tooth at the base of the pelvis. SK78 was buried within C5006, a simple grave. The cut was not obvious but was probably sub-oval in plan. It had been filled with C5007, a mid-dark grey-brown sandy soil of very firm compaction.

SK 79

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull had been heavily truncated. The hands were open but appeared to be underlying the posterior femora. Sections of the thoracic vertebrae also showed signs of damage/were missing. Small quartz pebbles were recovered from the fill directly over the skeleton. One larger pebble was also recovered but did not appear to have been worked. SK79 was buried within C5008 which had been lined with slabs – C5010. The cut was not very obvious but was likely sub-rectangular in plan. It had been filled with C5009 a mid-brown sandy silt, moderately compacted which was likely made up of mound material. The stone lining C5010 was made up of four slabs, the largest being 0.2m in size and 0.12m thick. (mound)

SK 80

The remains of an adult individual were in a

Aerial photograph of western cemetery in last phases of excavation, north to top



moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine but slightly flexed position. The skull was in poor condition and the feet were missing. Some bones not associated with this skeleton were recovered from the south side of the grave. The left arm was across the body while the right arm was extended. The thoracic and lumbar vertebrae were fused with possible sacralisation. SK 80 was buried within C5011, a simple grave. The cut was not very clear but was likely sub-rectangular in plan. It had been filled with C5012, a clayey silt, of moderate compaction which likely made-up mound material at the north side of the cemetery (C5099).

SK 81

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull was missing with some teeth surviving as was the torso and hands and feet. The left arm was almost completely eroded and the right was in poor condition alongside the body. The femora were best preserved. Two flints were found in the pelvic region. SK81 was buried within C5013 with a potential lining- C5044. The cut was not obvious. It had been filled with C5014 a light brown sandy clay, of soft compaction which likely made-up mound material. The stone lining C5044 was made up of small rounded pebbles at the southwest side of the grave near the skull and were around 0.05-0.1m in size. Burnt clay was also found amongst the possible lining. (C5099)

SK 83

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor to moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull was very fragmented, and the vertebrae were in a very poor state of preservation. Flint was recovered from near the skull. There was evidence of possible bowing in the left tibia and fibula which may be pathological. SK 83 was to the immediate west of SK 78 and was buried within C5059, a simple grave. The cut was not clear but was probably sub-oval in plan. It had been filled with C5060, a medium reddish brown sandy silt of very firm compaction. It was very similar to that of C5007. (mound)

SK 84 and DSK 85

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine position. The skull was severely



SK 79

fragmented as were the spine and pelvis. The left arm was flexed at a 45-degree angle across the chest while the right arm was placed across the lower torso. The feet had also possibly been cut during the widening of the southeast side of the enclosure ditch C5066 (?) as only two of the metatarsals of the right foot were recovered. SK 84 was buried within C5061, a simple grave. The cut was not obvious but was probably sub-oval in plan. It had been filled with C5062, a dark brown sandy soil of firm compaction. C5061 had also been truncated at the east end by C5066 XX. (mound 5099)

SK 87, DSK 86 and DSK 92

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in likely a supine extended position. The skull and torso and upper limbs had been placed over the top of the proximal femora and pelvis. The torso and upper limbs had been disturbed in order to bury the remains of SK 9XX, and appeared to have almost been compartmentalised by C5167.

Some effort had been made to place the left arm back in articulation during reburial. The ribs and vertebrae were also placed roughly together under the skull and long bones. Although difficult to discern, the skull may also have been placed face down. The disarticulated remains of an adult were found within this grave also in the grave. DSK 86 was recovered from the northwest side of the grave in the upper fill C5130. The remains consisted of part of the left and right femur and some pieces of the humerus. The disarticulated remains of an infant – DSK 92 were also recovered from the fill within this grave, from the south side and had been found beneath a stone which initially was thought to be capping. SK87 was buried within C5129, which had been lined with C5167. The cut was sub rectangular in plan and had been filled with C5120, a dark brown clay of very firm compaction. The lining C5167 consisted of four large slabs set on edge, the largest being 0.63m in size. (cut into 5163)

SK 80



SK 88

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull had been exposed when the enclosure ditch C5066 XX was being dug and came apart at the sutures, but the bone preservation was good. The left arm was crossed slightly over the pelvis with the right arm alongside the body. The spine also showed signs of degeneration especially of L5 with severe lipping on the superior and inferior margins. This type of degeneration would usually be seen in older individuals but SK88 appeared to be a younger individual so this may be due to a compression fracture or some injury like that. A possible worked stone and some quartz was recovered from the fill around the head. A piece of struck flint was also found over the pelvis. SK 88 was buried within C5094 a simple grave. The cut was sub-rectangular in plan. It had cut through C5074 which was possibly bank material that had slumped into the ditch, and just into the natural. It had been filled with C5095, a mid- grey-brown sandy clay soil of very moderate to loose compaction. Redeposited natural subsoil also ran through the fill.

SK 89

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had likely been buried in a supine extended position. The skull and torso were missing and had likely been truncated by later activity – possibly the burial of SK 84. SK 89 appeared to have been moved onto its right side in order to make way for the burial of SK 84. Given that the legs were still articulated it is likely the individual was still fleshed when it had been moved. SK 89 had also been partially exposed during the excavation of SK 84 and was visible in the south side of the grave. The arms were extended in front of the body and had also likely been “rolled”. SK 89 was buried within C5088, a simple grave. The cut was irregular and undefined. It had been filled with C5090, a dark brown silty sandy soil of very firm compaction, which was very similar to C5062. (mound 5099)

SK 90

The remains of an infant were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. SK 90 was located at the western side of the cemetery. The skull, torso and arms were all that survived and had been truncated by the burial of SK 91. The left side of the

pelvis had also been truncated while the right side, and right arm were fragmented. SK 90 was buried within C5090, a simple grave. The cut was irregular in plan, but likely had been sub-oval and was oriented southwest-northeast. It had been filled with C5091, a medium reddish-brown sandy silt of firm compaction (mound material).

SK 91

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. SK 91 was heavily truncated and was located at the western side of the cemetery, and in turn truncated SK 90. The skull, right arm, and a partial right scapula were all that survived. SK 90 was buried within C5092, a simple grave. The cut was irregular in plan, but likely had been sub-oval and was also oriented southwest-northeast. It had been filled with C5093, a medium reddish-brown sandy silt of firm compaction (mound material).

SK 93, DSK 96 and SK 97

The remains of two adult individuals were in a poor state of preservation and buried in an extended supine position. This grave was located almost in the centre of the cemetery. The skull of SK 93 had disintegrated/dissolved with only the teeth remaining and the feet and hands were also missing/probably degraded. The left arm was positioned across the body while the right was flexed over the chest. Given the tight position of the body it's possible that they had been wrapped/shrouded in the grave. SK 97 which likely had been the main burial was at the south side of this grave and was in possibly a supine position. Only parts of the skull, right arm and leg survived. The DSK 96 was found above SK 97 and consisted of a skull (which may relate to SK 93) and fragmented long bones. These individuals were buried in a stone lined grave (lining C5151). The grave appeared to have been partitioned by lining C5182 in order to accommodate the burial of SK 93. C5159 was the original cut of the grave which was irregular in shape, but likely had been sub-rectangular. It was cut on the western side by C5150 for SK 93. This was also irregular in plan and defined by decayed lining. The grave had been backfilled with C5152 and C5160, a medium-dark brown sandy silt of moderate to loose compaction. The lining C5151 was made of decayed shale/slate which had been cut on the west side by C5150. The largest stone was 1.82m x 0.4m. A small pit was also possibly dug

to contain DSK 96 – C5161 although this was near imperceptible during excavation. The fill within C5162 appeared to be of the same composition as C5152 and C5160. (cut into 5163?). This grave also contained a copper alloy object associated with SK 97 located towards where the feet would have been. Its exact form or purpose is not known and may have been part of the clothing of the individual.

SK 94

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. SK 94 was located to the immediate north of SK 88 at the southeast side of the cemetery. The skull was extremely fragmented and almost the entire right side including the legs, arms and pelvis had been truncated by the enclosure ditch (5072/5066?). The left arm had been placed across the torso. SK 94 was buried within C5144, and had reused lining C5158. After the skeleton was excavated it was possible to see that there was another individual underneath (SK 99). The cut for SK 94 was irregular in plan, but likely had been sub-rectangular. It had been filled with C5145, a dark brown silty clay of firm compaction. The lining, C5158 consisted of three to four long slabs set on edge, approximately 0.35m in size. These are more likely to be part of the grave of SK 99 underneath, as the remains of SK 94 are not really in line with it.

SK 95

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The torso, skull, legs and left arm were absent. It was originally thought that SK101 was part of SK95, however the distance between them was determined to be too great (between the end of the femur and the tibiae). Furthermore, the length of the remains were determined to be too great to represent one individual. The left arm was slightly flexed and the right arm was extended. Both legs were extended. The remains were within a sub-oval simple grave cut. This was slightly imperceptible. It was oriented E/W. The grave was filled with a mid to light orange-brown silty sand with moderate compaction. The fill contained occasional small pebble inclusions. The grave measured 1.25m in length and 0.6m in width.

SK98



SK 98, buried in the base of the west cemetery ditch and truncated by the outer enclosure

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. SK 98 was located at the southeast side of the cemetery within the ditch. The left femur and pelvis, and left arm were all that survived, and the right side and skull and torso had been truncated by the recut of the ditch C5066. Some metatarsals and were also recovered. The cut C5164 was only partially visible at the base and was oriented southwest northeast. It had likely been cut into the natural at the east bank of the original ditch C5070 and then had been taken out during the recut C5066. It had been filled with C5165 a light brown silty sand of moderate to loose compaction.

SK 99

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The grave was oriented SW/NE and was situated immediately west of SK88 under the previously excavated SK94. The skull is almost intact and lying slightly on the right side.

Both arms and legs were present. The right ribs were gone and the majority of the vertebrae had disappeared. The pelvis was in relatively good condition. The left arm appears to have been in relatively good condition, despite the partial collapse of the stone lining. This also happened with the right foot and the left leg. Both were intact upon lifting of the lining. The cut was sub-oval in shape with a sharp break of slope at top and base. The base was mostly flat. The grave measured 1.81m in length, 0.67m in width and 0.31m in depth. It was filled by a mid-brown silty sand with a loose compaction. It included occasional flecks of charcoal.

SK 100 and DSK 107

The remains of an adult were in a moderate/poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. SK 100 was located towards the centre of the cemetery. The torso was in a very poor condition with the right side not surviving. The left arm was also extremely fragmented, and the proximal end was at a higher angle than the right. It was turned medially and overlaid the pelvis while the right arm was extended. The skull was missing although some fragments and a tooth were recovered from the upper fill which could relate to this individual, as were finger and toe bones (DSK 107). Flint and burnt bone were recovered from the fill around the skeleton. SK 100 was buried within C5183 which was partially stone lined (C5184). The cut was irregular/oblong in plan, but likely had been sub-oval and was oriented east-west. It had been filled with C5185, a dark grey/black sandy silt which was very firm in compaction. C5184 consisted of seven large limestone slabs set on edge. It ranged in size from 0.2-0.45m in size. It is likely that the rest of the lining was robbed at the west end which may account for the damage to the upper half of the skeleton. (cut into 5163)

SK 101

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. Only the remains of lower legs survived with the feet crossing over one another and commingled. Due to compaction and poor preservation, they were difficult to separate during excavation. The remains were uncovered within an almost entirely imperceptible grave cut with a flat base. The remains were roughly oriented W/E. The cut (C5189) measured 0.8m in

length, 0.4m in width and 0.03m in depth. The remains possibly relate to SK95 to the immediate west of the cut. The grave was filled (C1590) with a light to mid-orangy-brown silty sandy clay with firm compaction. The fill was formed during the digging of the grave through the mound material C5099.

SK 102

The remains of an adolescent/young adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull was severely fragmented, and the ribs were also in a poor state of preservation with a few fragments surviving on each side. The left arm was across the body with the right flexed at the elbow towards the clavicle. No finds were associated with this individual. SK 102 was buried in C5191, a simple grave, located in the southwest area of the enclosure. The cut was difficult to discern but likely sub-rectangular in plan. It had been backfilled with C5192 a medium reddish brown sandy silt, of moderate compaction. (cut into mound/bank 5074?)

SK 103

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine, extended position. The skull and maxilla showed pathological changes with the side of the parietals superior to the temporal bone being weakened because of this. The distal end of the tibiae and fibulae and both feet were truncated. The right arm was flexed medially across the body while the left lay across the pelvis. SK 103 was buried within C5204 which had been lined with C5206 and was located to the immediate south of C5150 (SK 93). The cut was rectangular in plan with clear edges and sides. It had been backfilled with C5205, a mid-dark brown sandy silt which was moderate-loosely compacted. Lining C5206 consisted of seven long limestone slabs set on edge. None survived at the east end and had potentially been removed. The largest was 1.3m x 0.5m and was 0.32m thick.

SK 104

The remains of a juvenile individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skeleton was partially intact and had been heavily truncated and located towards the southern end of the cemetery. Only the skull and legs (which were mostly intact) survived. The torso and arms had possibly been

truncated by activity within the burial mound during its use. SK 104 was buried within C5209, a simple grave. The cut was imperceptible but was possibly irregular in shape. The base was uneven and the sides appeared steep as the cut was being dug to the level of the burial. It had been backfilled by C5210, a medium reddish brown silty soil, of firm compaction, (cut into mound material).

SK 105

The remains of an adult individual were in a very poor state of preservation. It was truncated by later burials possibly, at the east side. Only the left and right radii and ulnae had survived as well as both femora and the left hand. The skeleton was buried within C5211, a simple grave. The cut was shallow and well defined at the west end with gradually sloping sides, except at the north side. It had been backfilled with C5212, a semi-compacted brown silt (cut into 5099)

SK 106

The remains of an adult individual were in a

SK 99



moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine, extended position. The skull had fallen on its side facing southeast, and both hands were closed, lying over the pelvis. Small interlocking copper alloy rings (possibly forming part of a chain) were found lying above the left arm within the fill, rather than on the skeleton itself. The skeleton was buried within C5213 which had been partially lined with stone (C5228). The cut was sub rectangular in plan oriented west southwest-east northeast with near vertical sides and an almost flat base. It was backfilled with C5214, a light-medium reddish brown sandy silt of moderate to loose compaction. The lining C5228 was composed of sub angular stones located at the eastern end of the grave. The footstone was also possibly a quern stone. The largest measured 0.6-1m x 0.5m in size. (cut into C5163)

SK 108

The remains of an adolescent/young adult individual were in a poor-moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. This burial was located at the northern extent of the cemetery near the enclosure ditch. The skull was extremely fragmented, and the mandible had not survived with the teeth lying in their relatively anatomical position to the right of the skull. The clavicles and scapulae did not survive either nor did the right hand although there may be some truncation. The individual was buried within C5222, a simple grave. The cut was not very perceptible but appeared to be sub rectangular in plan with a flat base and what were possibly sloping sides. It had been backfilled by C5223, a mid-reddish brown sandy silt which was firmly compacted. Not clear whether this grave had been cut into the mound C5099 or a linear feature cutting across the enclosure ditch.

SK 109

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The bone was robust with large muscle attachments on the arms. The lower legs and feet had been truncated, and the teeth were very worn. The left hand was lying under the pelvis. The skeleton was buried in C5224 which was lined with shale lining C5225. This had collapsed and partially obscured the skeleton. The cut was sub rectangular in plan with sharp vertical sides and a flat undulating base. It had been backfilled with C5226, a very compact dark grey silty clay.



SK 109

The stone lining was of the same composition as C5151 – degraded shale/slate. It had a maximum thickness of 0.001m and was roughly square cut. NB this burial was also likely wood lined and the stone was actually capping. C5281 which contained burial SK 116 was of a similar construction – see SK116. (cut into 5163)

SK 110

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The left pelvis, femur, radius and ulna were all that had survived of this individual. Although truncated it appeared that the left arm would have been flexed medially across the body. The skeleton had been buried within C5231 which would have been a simple grave. The grave would have been cut into an earlier iteration of the enclosure ditch when it would have been partially backfilled, and into the natural. This had then been truncated by a later recut of the ditch. The cut had been backfilled with C5232, a mid-brown silty sand of loose to moderate compaction.

Very little of the main grave fill likely remains and may even relate to the mound/bank slip at this the southeast side of the cemetery.

SK 111

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The individual was located towards the eastern end of the cemetery. The bone was in a very fragmentary condition and was laid over stone lining which contained SKXX. The feet were not present and had possibly been truncated by stone lining at the eastern end. The teeth were quite worn, and the individual appeared to be male. What appeared to be burnt bone near the chest of the skeleton, upon lifting was determined to be disarticulated, unburnt bone. SK111 was buried in a simple grave, C5235. This cut was rectangular/sub-oval in plan with a concave base. The sides were sloping but the breaks of slope were non-perceptible. It had been backfilled with C5236, a light greyish brown clay-y silt which was very firmly compacted and almost cemented. (cut into 5163)

SK 112

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The individual was in a dense northwest area of the cemetery. The lower arms were flexed over the pelvis and the left leg

Detail of burial SK 112 showing stone spindle whorl



was extended. The skull and what torso survived were in a very fragmented state. This individual was partially over SK 87 as their original remains had been pushed aside into the extension of the grave and within a partition C5257. SK 112 was buried in C5250 which had been lined with C5257. The cut was most perceptible on the east side where the partition stone C5257 had been placed. It is possible that C5250 was originally an extension of C5129 (SK 87) and during this extension SK 87 was heavily truncated and moved out of articulation. C5250 had been backfilled with C5251, a dark reddish-brown silty sand which was firm in compaction. A stone spindle whorl was recovered from the fill surrounding SK112. The lining C5257 which survived at the east end had possibly been removed around the sides to be used elsewhere which may account for the fragmentary nature of SK 112. It measured 0.4m x 0.42m and was 0.15m thick. (Cut into 5163)

SK 113

The remains of an adult individual were in a very poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skeleton was partially intact and was located to the west of c.5072 (enclosure ditch). Both arms were placed across the torso and the left leg was partially crossed over the right. Both sets of ribs were extremely fragmented as was the skull. The stone lining c.5245 had collapsed on the south side which crushed the right side of the skeleton. SK 113 was buried within c.5243 which was lined with c.5245. C.5243 was sub rectangular in plan with steep sides and a mostly flat base. It was backfilled with c.5244, a mid-dark reddish brown silty sand of firm compaction. A piece of flint was recovered from the fill. During excavation it seemed that the fill was commingled with the mound material c.5163 which extended over much of the cemetery. The lining c.5245 had been placed around the entire interior walls of the grave and consisted of 14 stones, set vertically. The stones were 1.4-1.6m in size x 0.59m x 0.12m. The lining also consisted of four cap stones which is one of the few capped graves in the cemetery. (in 5099)

SK 114

The remains of a juvenile individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. Interestingly this person had been buried in a south-north orientation. The skeleton was in the southeast



SK 113

corner of the cemetery, just inside the enclosure ditch. SK 114 had been heavily truncated, and the legs, hands and feet had not survived. The skull was heavily fragmented, and it seemed like the second mandibular molar was erupting on the left side. SK 114 was buried in C5248 – a simple grave. It was oval in plan and was slightly U/bowl-shaped. The cut was not very perceptible however and was quite shallow. It had been backfilled with C5249 a mid- brown silty sandy clay, which was firm but friable. (In C5099).

DSK 115

These represent the disarticulated remains of an adult individual in poor condition. Present were skull fragments: some cranium and teeth scattered on the surface. There was a mix of very poorly preserved bone fragments found near the upper levels of the soil close to the cranium bones, which may or may not have been associated with articulated remains at a lower level. It was very difficult to determine bone type due to extreme

fragmentation and the poor condition. An upper mandible was also recovered with more teeth just below the skull fragments. The bones were uncovered within a heavily truncated and imperceptible shallow cut approximately 0.9m south of SK100.

SK 116

The remains of a probable juvenile individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position, southwest-northeast. The skeleton was in very poor condition and had almost completely dissolved except for part of the occipital and mid-diaphysis of the tibiae. Staining of the soil from where the torso should have been, was all that survived of that area. The individual was buried within c.5281 which was sub-rectangular in plan with steep near vertical sides and a flat base. The eastern end had been truncated slightly by SK 109 c.5224. The shape of the cut suggested that this burial was wood-lined.

SK 117

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The upper half of the remains were overall in poor condition. The right side of the skeleton was slumped downwards with the right hand situated below the pelvis. The skull was not intact and was crushed by various stones. There was a possible stone lining on the lower right side near the right leg. There were disarticulated remains along either side of the burial, however these do not appear to relate to SK117 directly. The remains were placed within an elongated oval cut with shallow sides. The grave measured 1.85m in length,

SK 118

The remains of an almost fully intact adolescent/ young adult individual were in a poor to moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The individual was located to the northern end of the cemetery and north of SK 113. The skeleton had been buried near the edge of enclosure ditch C5037 and appeared to be the only burial at this side of the cemetery. The lower body was in a poorer state of preservation than the torso. The right leg was slightly flexed and twisted towards the left and the arms were crossed over the body, near the sacrum. (SK 84 and 113). SK 118 was buried in C5293, a partially stone-lined grave. The grave had been cut into possible mound

material C5099. It was a shallow irregular cut with sloping sides and an uneven, slightly concave base. It had been backfilled with C5294, a mid-brownish red sandy silt which was extremely compacted. The stone lining (C5324) was localised at the western end of the grave by the head and consisted of three-four rough angular stones approximately 0.31 x 0.2m in size.

DSK 119

The remains of a disarticulated individual located above stone capping C5283. The remains consisted of a fragmented skull and vertebrae which were in poor condition. The skull fragments were located under a partial radius fragment. These remains were likely buried above SK 116 which the stone capping belonged to and had been disturbed during the burial of SK 109. C 5333 is the theoretical cut number for the deposition of these remains. This cut would have been completely truncated by the burial of SK 109 and would have been surrounded by fill C5334.

DSK 120

These were the remains of a disarticulated adult individual in moderate condition. The remains include a tibia and fibula, either from a disturbed burial or from ground levelling. The bone was nearly upright in the ground and does not appear to be associated with any burial. It was located 1.8m southwest of SK78. The part of the cut that survives was sub-circular, although this was likely arbitrary, due to heavy truncation in the area.

SK 121

Incomplete

SK 122

SK 122 are the partial remains of a skull located towards the southwestern end of the cemetery. The skull appeared to have been placed within a small pit C5311 which was irregular in shape and shallow, with a concave base. It had been backfilled with C5313 a dark greyish brown silty clay which was moderately compacted. The pit had also been filled with possible packing stones – C5312 – which were around the side of the pit and appeared to support the skull. C5312 consisted of small, rounded pebbles and were 0.02-0.08m in size.

SK 123

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a

supine extended position and were located at the northwest side of the cemetery. The skeleton had been partially damaged by the stone lining when it had collapsed which had also caused that side of the body to slump to the southwest. The arms were crossed over the body at the pelvis and the head had fallen to the left, facing north. The teeth, especially the molars showed severe signs of wear which would suggest an older individual. The individual was buried within C5325 which was sub oval/rectangular in shape. It had steep vertical sides and a flat slightly U-shaped base. The cut had been lined with C5327. These stones lined all sides of the cut and had collapsed on the northside which resulted in some damage to the skull. There was also double lining on the north side of the grave, which also may have been part of the capping. The lining consisted of large flat slabs and varied in size, the largest being 0.61 x 0.27m in size. The grave had been backfilled with C5326, a dark brown gravelly, clay fill. This soil was very firmly compacted and contained frequent charcoal flecks. SK 123 had been found under SK 90/91 and cut into edge of 5163

SK 124

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate to poor state of preservation and had likely been buried in a supine position. The grave had been heavily disturbed by the burial of SK 121. The legs and pelvis were pulled back still in articulation over the torso and where the skull should have been. Some of the vertebrae and sacrum had been displaced and were found below the long bones. The right arm was found crossed superiorly across the chest. DSK 115 which consisted of skull and long bone fragments were found above these partially articulated remains. A femur possibly relating to DSK 115 was located on top of SK124 but the remains were very commingled. The remains were buried within C5329 which was a simple grave and sub-rectangular in shape. The sides were sloping and irregular in places with an irregular sloping base. It was backfilled with C5330 a mid-orange/brown silty sand which was very firm in compaction. Flint was also recovered from this fill. The grave had been cut by C5307 which contained SK 121. DSK 132 was also found at the northern extent of the grave and appears to have been cut into this section of C5329. XXX cut into 5163

SK 125

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation in a supine extended position. The burial had likely disturbed the lower burial of SK 129 whose skull was visible at the east end of the grave underneath the left leg of SK 125. The upper part of the skeleton was in poor condition, the skull was severely fragmented and only the upper arm survived, and a fragment of the lower right arm. The burial was located towards the northern end of the cemetery at the edge of the mound. The individual had been buried within C5331 which had been partially lined with C5345. C5331 was sub-rectangular/oblong in shape with steep sides (on the southern extent) and a flat base. It was backfilled with C5332 which was a dark greyish brown silty clay of moderate compaction. C5345 was located at the west side of the grave around the skull. The lining consisted of three small stones 0.1-0.15m in size in the southwest side, with one larger slab 0.45 x 0.35m in size directly behind the skull - which had been dislodged slightly by the machine during ground reduction. Edge of 5163/5099

SK 126

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation buried in a supine extended position located towards the centre of the cemetery. The skeleton sustained damage to the pelvis by modern activity and the head was also removed in antiquity. The feet and lower legs had also been truncated, perhaps by a later burial. The hands were present though it was hard to discern their exact position. The skeleton was buried within C5341 which was partially lined with C5350. The cut was sub rectangular with gradual sides and a flat, slightly irregular base. The cut was truncated on the east side at the feet. The grave had been backfilled with C5342, a medium-dark reddish brown silty sand which was firmly compacted. This fill was very similar to the mound material C5163 into which the grave was cut. The stone lining C5350 only partially survived and was located at the north side of the burial alongside the left humerus. The stone had become dislodged and was lying against the arm. It was sub-angular, probably limestone and was 0.46 x 0.05m in size. Cut into 5163.

SK 127

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The left arm, majority of the

ribs and pelvis and hands did not survive due to the state of preservation. The legs were crossed slightly at the ankle and the feet were commingled. There was also a deposit of charcoal where the ribs would have been and on the right side of the body. Given the position of the legs it is possible that the individual had been wrapped in a shroud. The skeleton was within C5343 a simple grave which was located towards the southern side of the cemetery near the enclosure ditch C5037. The grave was sub-rectangular in shape, with gradual sloping sides and a slightly U-shaped base. The cut was barely perceptible and quite shallow. It had been backfilled with a greyish brown silty sandy clay which was firm in compaction. It was very similar in composition to the deposit of possible spread of bank/mound material at that side of the cemetery relating to C5037.

SK 128

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation. SK 128 had been heavily truncated and both tibiae and the left foot

SK 116 showing probable wood lining



survived. It is likely that it had been truncated by the burial of SK 131 to the west. The remains were buried within C5346, a simple grave which was irregular and almost imperceptible. The sides were possibly slightly sloping and the base was uneven. The grave was cut into mound material C5163. It had been backfilled with C5347 which was a dark brown silty sand which was firmly compacted. It again was similar to the mound material C5163.

SK 129

The remains of an adult individual in a moderate state of preservation were buried in a supine extended position, in a southwest-northeast alignment. All elements except the torso and hands had survived. This individual was located underneath the left leg of SK 125 and the skull had been truncated by it. The individual was possibly female based on the mandible. They were buried within C5351, a simple grave. This was sub-rectangular in shape with concave, steep sides and a flat slightly sloping base. It had been truncated on the northeast side or was perhaps just shallower here as the mound slopes downwards to the north at the edge of the cemetery. It had been backfilled with C5352 a mid greyish brown silty clay of moderate compaction. Cut into 5099

SK 130, DSK 132

The remains of an adult individual in a poor state of preservation were buried in a supine extended position, in a slightly southwest-northeast direction. The majority of the skeleton did not survive very well which may be due to truncation considering the amount of disarticulated bone within the grave. The left hand was located at the left leg and the arm had also been moved out of position. The feet were together with the right foot tilted to the right side. DSK 132 consisted of a skull which was oriented south-north on its right side and was badly fragmented and fragments of leg bones against the legs of SK 130. These bones and the skull were visible in the section face of the grave containing SK 121, but do not appear to have been associated with it. These remains were buried within C5378, a simple grave which was sub-rectangular in shape and imperceptible along the south side. The sides were irregular and the base flat. It may truncate C5329 (SK 124) to the south given that SK 130 sits higher than it, and DSK 132 seems to have been located within the grave fill for both SK 124 and 130. C5378 had been cut into mound C5163 and backfilled with C5379, a mid-

orangy-brown silty sand which was severely compacted and of the same composition as C5163.

SK 131

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine position. The left arm was flexed medially across the body and only the upper humerus survived on the right side so the position was unknown. The skeleton was severely truncated, especially the lower half, and only a partial left tibia survived. The individual was buried within C5380, a simple grave. This was irregular in shape and almost imperceptible. The sides were not very clear during excavation and the base was uneven. It had been cut into mound material C5163 and likely relates to the burial of SK 128 as the fills appeared to commingle. The grave was backfilled with C5381, a dark brownish silty sandy fill which was heavily compacted and again was similar to C5163.

SK 133

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had likely been buried in a supine extended position. Both legs were all that had survived of the individual. The left leg was fragmented as had possibly been affected by the slumped stone lining on the north side. The skeleton was buried within a stone-lined grave C5383, which was located at the northwest side of the cemetery, north of SK122 and 123. The cut was sub-oval in shape and had been truncated on the west and east sides. It was almost imperceptible except for the stone-lining. It had been backfilled with C5384 a medium brown silty clay which was moderately firm in compaction. The lining C5385, consisted of large slabs, probably beach stones and were sub angular in shape. The average size was 1.36 x 0.69m and one was recorded as a possible whetstone.

SK 134

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skeleton was extremely fragmented, especially the lower vertebrae and pelvis. Both arms appeared to be flexed, although had been moved slightly out of position and the right hand was located over the pelvis. The east end of the grave had been truncated as the lower legs and feet had been cut away. SK 134 was buried in C5387, a simple grave which was located within a concentration of burials in the northwest side of

the cemetery. It truncated an earlier burial C5424 which contained DSK145. The cut was irregular in plan with gradual sides and a semi flat base. It was backfilled with C5388, a mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt which was of moderate compaction. This was similar in composition to C5163 – the mound material into which the grave was dug.

SK 135

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. SK135 sits directly below SK161. However, it appears that SK161 respects SK135 in most regards, with only SK135's feet appearing damaged. Unfortunately the remains had sustained damage across the board from being covered over in a previous phase of excavation. This is most obvious at the ribs, skull and pelvis. Interestingly, the remains hands had been placed over the upper chest with the arms flexed upwards at the elbow. The mandible was in relatively good condition compared to the skull. Both hands were extended, as well as both legs. The feet were extended and slightly apart. The remains were placed within a sub-oval grave cut. This measured 1.66m in length and 0.71m in width. As with many of the burials in the area, however, the cut here was very difficult to determine due to the mound material being indistinguishable from the fill of the grave.

SK 136

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position, in a southwest-northeast orientation. The skeleton was well preserved overall except for the torso and pelvis. The skull was heavily fragmented and had fallen slightly to the left (northeast). Both arms were extended with the left hand lying over the left leg, the right hand was not present. The feet were together and slightly commingled. The individual was buried within C5393, a simple grave. The cut was sub-rectangular in shape with concave sides and a flat sloping base. The cut sloped upwards to the southwest which caused the skeleton to slump slightly. C5393 was backfilled with C5394 dark greyish brown silty clay of moderate compaction. (cut into 5098).

SK 137 and DSK 143

The partial remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had likely been



SK 121

buried in a supine extended position. The skeleton was located at the southern end of the cemetery near the enclosure ditch C5037. All that survived of the individual were the lower legs and feet. The individual had been truncated by the burial of SK 149 within stone lined grave C5412. DSK 143 is likely related to this individual as when the stone lining C XX as part of C5412 was being excavated, fragments of skull and long bones were recovered in the fill over the stones. SK 137 was buried within C5395 which would have been a simple grave. What remained of the cut was not perceptible but had slightly sloping sides and a flat base. It was backfilled with C5396 a medium-dark brown sandy clay of very firm compaction. The fill was consistent with redeposited mound material C5099 which the grave was cut into which would account for it not being very visible.

SK 138

The remains of a juvenile individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position towards the southwest

side of the cemetery. The skull was fragmented showing possible signs of pathology. The right arm was placed across the body by the pelvis while the left arm was extended by its side. The tight positioning of the long bones and feet would suggest that the body was possibly wrapped in a shroud. SK 138 was buried within C5399, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in shape with a U-shaped profile and a flat base, oriented slightly southwest-northeast. It was backfilled with C5398, a brown sandy silt of medium to loose compaction. This fill again was like the mound material the grave was cut into. (5098).

SK 139 and DSK 142

The partial remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The remains were located under SK 130 and SK 131 and over the left leg of SK 140. Most of the toes of this individual were missing, and the legs were in a brittle condition. DSK 142 was found immediately north of the left leg of SK 139. These disarticulated remains consisted of the lower left mandible and teeth. They were buried within C5405, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in shape with irregular sides which were almost imperceptible in places. The cut was truncated by C5378, and it in turn had cut C5407. It had been backfilled with C5406, a mid-orange/brown silty sand which was loosely compacted. Cut 5163

SK 140 and DSK 141

The partial remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had likely been buried in a supine extended position. They were located directly below SK 139's legs and SK 130. The skull was heavily fragmented with no obvious mandible although loose teeth were recorded. Some bones of the feet were also recorded next to the distal end of the right leg. Bone was also scattered throughout the cut of this burial which probably relate to this individual. DSK 141 consisted of a skull cap and fragments of a left humerus, femur and pelvis and a number of right phalanges/metacarpals. The bones were located to the south of SK 140. DSK 142 SK 140 was buried within C5407, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in shape with gradual sloping sides which were imperceptible on the south and west sides. It was backfilled with C5408 a mid orange/brown silty sand of loose compaction. It was similar to C5406. Cut 5163.

SK 144

The remains of a child were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull was fragmented but facing east and in a southwest-northeast orientation. The left arm was alongside the body with the forearm slightly over the pelvis and the right arm extended along the body. The feet were apart although only the left foot survived. SK 144 was buried in C5409 which was partially lined with CXXX. The cut was sub rectangular in plan with vertical sides and a flat slightly uneven base. It was backfilled with C5410, a brown sandy silt of moderate compaction. The lining consisted of 10 angular stones located at the head and foot of the grave. They were roughly 0.15m in size and banked against the side of the grave. Cut C5098/natural

DSK 145

The disarticulated remains of an adult individual were a poor state of preservation in a supine extended condition. DSK145 was very damaged, likely due to the movement of the remains in order to make room for another burial. The skull had been smashed with only part of the orbitals and the maxilla in place. Part of the back of the head was damaged and sat beneath the orbits. Many of the long bones had been placed together along the length of the remains. Interestingly there appears to have been an attempt in antiquity to rearticulate the remains with a tibia and a fibular adjoined lengthways with one another. The remains were moved adjacent to a stone lining, which would have once been the stone lining for DSK145's original burial. The grave was rectangular in shape with a stone lining which ran approximately halfway along the length of the burial, starting from the east. The grave measured 1.71m in length and 0.54m in width.

SK 146

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and in a supine extended position. The body was placed at an angle as the legs were higher than the head and was sloping towards the west. Both arms and legs were extended, and the torso, hands and feet had not survived. SK 146 was located towards the northwest side of the cemetery and had been buried in C5428, which was partially lined with C5429. The cut was oblong in plan and had gradual sides with a flat base which sloped from the northeast to southwest. The lining C5429 consisted



SK 133 showing detail of possible decorated/marked/defaced grave lining stone

of rectangular stones set on edge along the south and northwest sides of the grave. They measured on average 0.91 x 0.51m in size. SK 146 had been placed partially on one of these lining stones. 0.05m of a mid-brown silty clay fill had been put around the base of the stones to keep them in place. It looked during excavation that smaller stones had been placed over this fill and the base of the grave, and even around the skeleton itself, with the arms resting on these stones. The cut was filled with C5430, a mid-greyish brown silty clay of moderate compaction, which had been truncated slightly during machining.

SK 148

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor

state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skeleton had been truncated on the left side, likely by the burial of SK103 and by later disturbance, which may not relate to the burials. The skull had tilted to the right (southwest) and was fragmented. The left upper humerus and shoulder girdle had been truncated by SK 103 and the left leg by the other later truncation. The left radius and ulna were placed across the pelvis and were intact while the right arm was crossed directly across the middle of the torso. The legs were probably extended and fragments of the lower right leg were found at the base of the grave, out of articulation and almost pressed against the side. The skeleton was buried within C5415, a simple grave. It was sub-oval in plan but was imperceptible where it was truncated. The southeast corner was also truncated by the cut for SK 122. The sides were slightly concave with an irregular base and it was oriented almost west-east. It was backfilled with C5416 a mid orange-brown silty sand which was of moderate compaction but looser when

actually digging around the skeleton. A sherd of medieval pottery was found within the fill near the shoulder which is more likely to be a later insertion than associated with the skeleton itself. Cut into 5098

SK 149

The remains of an adult individual were found in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The remains were of an older individual as the sutures of the skull were fully closed and as a result the skull was intact, and facing north. The bone was robust and based on the pelvis was probably male. The arms were extended but slightly crossed over the pelvis with both hands extended in front. The feet had been

dislocated from the body and had probably been moved due to pressure from the backfill and collapse of the stone capping, but were found pressed against the foot of the grave. SK 149 was buried within C5412 which was lined with stone C5397. The cut was sub-rectangular in shape with vertical sides and a flat base, oriented west-east. C5412 likely cut the fill C5444 which overlay SK 154 which lay underneath SK 149. The lining was the best-preserved example of a lintelled grave in the cemetery. The capping had collapsed slightly from mound material C5099 being placed over it, sealing the grave. It consisted of six or seven large rounded slabs – probably beach stones were approximately 0.5-0.6m in size. All four sides were lined with large flat, slightly angular stones which had been very tightly packed together. The stones on the north side of the grave had fossilised worms on what would have been the underside. Some, which would have been on the capping, had fallen off onto the knees of the skeleton. These types of stones were not present on other lining found on the site and it could be suggested that these were picked specifically. Some of the capping had what appeared to be cup marks – but were naturally occurring – again suggesting deliberation. The grave had been backfilled with C5422, a medium-dark grey sandy gravel. There was very little fill within the grave especially at the western end due to the capping being undisturbed and being sealed with C5099. Cut 5099

SK 150

The remains of a child/adolescent were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. They were located towards the southeast side of the cemetery immediately east of SK 94 and 99. The skull was not present and the majority of the torso did not survive, nor did the feet. The arms were extended alongside the body but the exact positioning of the hands was not clear. The burial was very close to the surface which may account for some of the disturbance to the body. SK 150 was buried within C5426, a simple grave. It was irregular in plan with gradual sides and an uneven base. It was located in between SK 94/99 and SK 153/164 and did not appear to be buried with the same deliberation as other burials. C5426 was backfilled with a mid brown silty sand of firm compaction and was similar in fill to SK 102 and SK 104. Cut into 5099

SK 151 and DSK 147

The remains of an adult individual were found in a poor state of preservation at the northwest side of the cemetery to the north of SK 146. The skull was fragmented with a partial mandible and had fallen to the left side. No torso survived or right arm, which may have been disturbed during the burial of SK 123 to the southwest, although this is not clear. The left arm was extended alongside the body. Only fragments of the legs and pelvis survived and the feet were also absent. DSK 147 was found in the upper fill of the grave and consisted of the occipital and partial parietal of a possible juvenile. The remains were buried in C5413 a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in plan with sharp vertical sides and an uneven stony base. It was backfilled with a brown silty lay of moderate compaction and was similar in composition to that of SK 146. Cut 5099/5163.

SK 152

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. SK 152 was uncovered beneath DSK 145. It appears that the original remains within grave C5423 (stone lining C5425) was DSK145, which was moved to be reused for the burial of SK152. DSK145 was then laid adjacent to the burial with attention paid to rearticulating the remains. The remains were in poor condition with possible waterlogging having happened at some point in antiquity. The ribs and most of the vertebrae were non-existent. The vertebrae that remained were found below where the forearms were crossed. The remains were placed within a sub-rectangular shaped grave with stone lining C5425 defining the cut on the eastern side. Two broken quern-stones were found within the fill, leaning against the stone lining of the grave. These were above the right leg, in a manner to suggest they were placed within the grave during burial.

SK 153 and DSK 233

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a tightly flexed position, located at the south side of the cemetery. The body was lying on its left side and the side of the skull and mandible appeared to have been cut away. Both arms were extended alongside the body as were the hands. The legs were flexed and the feet were missing, although some disarticulated foot bones were found at the base of the grave which likely belong to this individual. The torso did not survive very well and was very fragmented.

The distal ends of the tibiae were lying on a disarticulated cranium – DSK 233 which was at the very foot of the grave. Where this skull is from or who it relates to is unknown. SK 153 was buried within C5441 which was partially lined. The cut was sub rectangular in plan with steep sides and an uneven base. The lining C5443 consisted of rounded cobbles approximately 0.6 x 0.23m in size and were located at the northeast and eastern side of the grave. These stones are a unique form of lining as the majority have been long flat slabs. These do mirror the lining of SK 121 slightly with similar stones as a basal course. The cut was backfilled with C5412, a medium brown silty sand of firm compaction which is similar to C5486 surrounding SK 5164. Cut 5099

SK 155

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull had slumped slightly to the right and was crushed. The torso had not survived but a partial sacrum and pelvis was present. The arms and legs were extended with the feet apart. The skeleton was buried within C5448 which was lined with C5447, while the cut was sub-rectangular in plan and had vertical sides with an uneven base and a west-east orientation. The lining C5447 consisted of sub rectangular stones, set on edge at the foot of the grave and on the northern side, there were six in all – probably limestone. The northeast side had collapsed slightly, possibly due to pressure from the mound material and ended up lying over the legs of the skeleton. The stones were approximately 0.4-0.5m in length, and grave was backfilled with C5446 a brown/grey sandy silt of firm compaction. Cut 5163

SK156

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and were in a supine extended position. SK156 was excavated in two phases; the legs, fragmented pelvis and feet were uncovered during the excavation of SK135 and SK161. Originally thought to be cut away by SK135, the remains uncovered were lifted, with the remainder of the skeleton excavated at a later date. Most of the vertebrae, ribs, and both hands and feet did not survive. Most bones showed wear at the joints. The skull and mandible were in good condition where they survived. The right radius and ulna were damaged in antiquity. The skull was supine and facing forward. The left arm was

extended, with the forearm gone. The right arm was flexed over the pelvis. Both legs were extended and the feet were together. The remains were placed within a sub-oval grave cut with shallow sides and a semi-flat base. The grave measured 1.86m in length.

SK 157

The remains of an adolescent were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull was on its left side, facing north. The right arm was extended along the body and the left could not be determined as it had been truncated by the burial of SK 77. Due to this truncation the hands, pelvis and legs had also been removed. The skeleton was buried within C5454, a simple grave. It was oblong in plan, the eastern side having again been truncated by SK77 CXX. The sides were sloped with a flat, slightly sloped base. It was backfilled with C5455 a dark grey/brown silty clay of moderate compaction. Cut 5098?

SK 158

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skeleton was severely fragmented but appeared complete. Parts of the lower arms survived along with parts of the tibiae. The lower arms had been placed across the body while the legs were extended. Comparatively the skull was in quite good condition. No hands or feet were present. SK 158 had been placed over the remains of SK 159 (skull and arm) located at the west end of the grave. SK 158 was buried in C5461, a simple grave. It was sub-oval in plan with an almost flat profile. The sides were irregular and concave except for the north side which was almost vertical which led to a flat base. It was backfilled with C5462, a mid-orange brown silty sand of loose compaction. Cut 5098?

SK 159

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation buried in a supine extended position. SK 159 consisted of a skull, badly fragmented and tibia and fibula fragments which were located to the west and above the skull of SK 158. The bone was very poor and was disintegrating. The long bone fragments were found alongside and partially under the SK 158's skull. This partial individual was buried in C5463 which was the same as C5461, and backfilled with C5464 which was same as C5462, i.e C5461 is a recut

of C5463. Cut 5098?

SK 160

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull was severely fragmented so it was difficult to discern position. The left arm was flexed across the body while the legs were both extended. The hands, vertebrae and ribs had completely degraded. The feet were present, but commingled. The teeth were severely worn which would suggest an older individual. The individual was buried within C5466 which was lined with C5467. The cut was sub-rectangular in plan with a concave profile, irregular sides and a concave base. It was located to the north of SK 152. The lining consisted of four stones on the north and south sides of the grave. The stones were angular and set on edge, 0.3-0.45m in size and 0.06-0.13m thick. The grave was backfilled with C5468, a light brownish grey sandy clay of moderate compaction. This was looser compared to similar fills in this area (e.g. SK 111 C5236). Cut C5163

SK 161

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. SK161 overlay SK156 to the south. It appeared that a grave was intended to be dug below the waist of SK161, which was removed. Upon reaching the remains of SK156 below this, however, a choice was made to backfill the area and move the burial elsewhere. Severe damage had taken place at the skull and humeri of SK161. Dry conditions and firm soil compaction compounded the damage. The right forearm had been flexed over the middle of the chest, unnaturally as the angle and position didn't line up with the right humerus. The skull was supine, tilted slightly northwards. The left arm was flexed medially at the forearm and the right hand was extended. The remains were placed within a sub-oval grave cut with a sharply breaking slope at the top and gradually breaking slope at the base. The base was semi-flat and the sides were steeply curved. The entire length of the grave was 1.83m in length, 0.61m of which contained the non-truncated remains of SK161. The grave measured 0.33m in width. It was filled by a mid to dark greyish brown sandy silt with firm compaction. There was no visible lining for the grave.

SK 162

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull and shoulders were missing and some of the cervical vertebrae had been moved out of articulation, likely when the skull had been removed. The distal end of the legs and both feet also did not survive. The left arm was crossed over the body and the right arm was extended alongside the body. A small possibly worked stone was recovered over the ribs of the individual. SK 162 was buried in C5477, a simple grave. This was located at the southwest side of the cemetery at the edge of the enclosure ditch C5037. The grave had potentially been cut by a recut of the ditch in this area which may account for the absence of the skull and shoulders. The cut was sub-oval in plan with sloping almost imperceptible sides and an uneven base. It was backfilled with C5478, a mid-orange, brown silty sand of very firm compaction. Cut into mound 5098?

SK 163

The remains of an adult individual were found in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine position at the northwest side of the cemetery. This individual was interesting as the legs had been removed. This was potentially due to being truncated by SK 157 above but due to the fact that they had been removed at the acetabulum with no disturbance at all to the pelvis would suggest that they had been removed carefully, and deliberately post deposition. The right arm of the individual was crossed over the body and the left arm and hand looked like they were braced against the side of the grave. The right hand was missing, and the left hand was closed. The left side of the ribs had not really survived, and the skull was heavily fragmented. This individual was likely male based on the pelvis. SK 163 was buried within C5483, a simple grave. The cut was sub-oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base, oriented northwest southeast. It was backfilled with C5484 a dark grey gravelly clay of moderate to firm compaction with occasional charcoal. The grave was cut into mound 5163/5098

SK 164

The remains of an adult individual were found in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The remains had been cut by the burial of SK 153, and the skull of SK 153 was resting on the legs of this individual. The skull was supine but fragmented with both arms



SK 149 showing stone capping over burial (above left), burial (above right) and post-excitation view of lintelled grave



extended alongside the body. Some of the phalanges of both hands survived which were also extended. The feet were not present but this is probably due to the possible truncation by SK 153. The torso was in poor condition with only fragmentary ribs being recorded. SK 164 was buried within C5485, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in plan with steep sides and an uneven base, roughly west-east. The east end of the grave was cut by C5441. C5485 was backfilled with C5486, a mid brown silty sand of moderate compaction. This fill was very similar in composition to C5442, which would suggest that their burial occurred close in time to each other. Cut 5099

SK 165

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. All that survived of the individual were the legs and pelvis. The grave had been heavily truncated, by a recut/ later ditch cutting through C5037. Only the diaphyses of the left leg were intact. The right hip was fragmented and only a partial right foot survived. The skeleton was buried within C5489, a simple grave. The cut was sub-oval in plan with sloping sides and an uneven, almost flat base. It was backfilled with C5490 which was similar in composition to C5478. The grave was located to the south of C5477 (SK 162).

DSK 166 and SK 167

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The grave had been heavily truncated and only the lower legs and feet survived, with the left foot overlying the right. This may have occurred during disturbance to the grave rather than it being the initial burial position. commingled with this individual were the remains of DSK 166 which consisted of lumbar vertebrae, teeth and unidentified long bone fragments. It is possible that DSK 166 is related to SK 167. SK 167 was buried within C5498, a simple grave. The cut was oval in plan with a U-shaped profile. The sides were sloping, and the base was slightly concave. It was backfilled with C5499 a dark brown silty clay of moderate-firm compaction. The fill was disturbed and had been mixed with mound material C5099.

SK 168

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had likely been buried in

a supine extended position. The grave had either been disturbed or the bone did not survive as all that was present were the lower legs. The grave was located towards the northwest side of the cemetery. The grave for this individual C5500 was stone lined (C5501). The cut was sub rectangular in plan with steep sides and a flat base. The lining was composed of degraded shale located on the north and south sides of the grave. The bone was high within the grave and upon further excavation it was found to contain another SK 180 beneath which would suggest C5501 was contemporary with that primary burial. C5500 was backfilled with C5503, a yellowish-brown silty clay of firm compaction. This was a mix of mound material C5163.

SK 169

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. SK169 was a truncated burial in the west side of C5037. The entire upper half of the skeleton was cut away by a later ditch coming in from the west. The remaining bones were in excellent condition. The pelvis was intact, and the left arm was completely gone. The full extent of the right arm was cut away by the ditch. A partial left hand survived. The legs were extended and pointed slightly northwards and were positioned slightly apart. The remains were placed into an oval shaped grave cut (C5505) with sharply sloping sides and a concave base. The grave measured 1.05m in length and 0.77m in width. The grave was filled (C5506) with a mid to dark brown sandy clay with moderate to friable compaction.

SK 170

The remains of an adult individual were found in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position, oriented northwest southeast. The skull had fallen to the left side and the left arm was extended alongside the body. The right arm was placed across the body, but the positioning of the hand was not clear while the left was extended. Both legs were extended with the feet apart. SK 170 was buried in C5037 at the west side of the cemetery. They were buried in C5507, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in plan with sloping sides and a flat base. It was backfilled with C5508, a dark brown sandy clay of loose compaction. SK 170 was one of several skeletons buried in enclosure ditch C5037. It appeared that this individual was buried in the basal fill of the ditch indicating a

period of disuse before the ditch was later recut.

SK 171

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The left arm was extended alongside the body while the right was placed across the pelvis. Both hands were extended, and the feet were together, but not crossed. The skull was supine but had been crushed. Based on the shape of the pelvis and the robustness of the bone they were likely male. The skeleton was located at the base of enclosure ditch C5037 and was oriented in a northwest-southeast direction. This skeleton was one of three skeletons that followed the orientation of the ditch lengthways as the ditch curved around (SK X and SK X). The cut was not perceptible and it's possible that the ditch had been partially backfilled when they were buried, and they had been placed on natural subsoil. The possible cut C5526 around the skeleton was sub rectangular with a flat-concave base. It was backfilled with C5527, a gritty brown silty sand of moderate compaction which is probably a mix of infill of the ditch. The skull was partially within the southwest facing baulk of C5037 and in section a large flat slab was recorded over the skull but it's more likely this was fill rather than capping. Another ditch C5510 cut the enclosure ditch at the western side of the cemetery and may have truncated the cut of the grave.

SK 172

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a tightly flexed/crouched position. The body was placed slightly prone, as the torso was twisted with the skull facing down into the base of the cut. The exact position of the arms was unclear due to the preservation, but it looked like the left arm was possibly across the body. Both hands and feet had not survived. SK 172 was buried in C5534, a simple grave. This was located at the west side of the cemetery at the edge of the enclosure ditch C5037. The cut was oval in plan with sloping sides and a concave base and was backfilled with C5535, a grey sandy gravel of firm compaction. Cuts 5098

SK 173 and SK 177

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine, extended position in a southwest-northeast orientation. Some skull fragments were recorded

and only the left and right arm survived. Both were extended. The right arm overlaid the skull of SK 177. SK 173 was buried in a simple grave C5536. It was sub-rectangular in shape with almost vertical sides and an uneven base. This cut was probably the same as C5587 as during excavation it seemed that SK 173 had been moved to make room for SK 177. It was backfilled with C5537, a brown sandy silt of moderate compaction (same as C5588). Mound?

SK 174, 175 and SK 176

The remains of three individuals: an adolescent; adult and infant were found in a good state of preservation in a supine extended position. SK174 and 175 were within and had been truncated by a recut of C5037. They were both located at the northwest side of the cemetery within C5037 and buried in a northwest-southeast orientation while SK 176 was west-east. The pelvis and legs were all that had survived of SK 174 (adolescent). The feet had been pushed sideways to the east, perhaps to make room for SK 176, and the legs were extended. SK 175 were the remains of the adult individual. The skull and arms had not survived, and the torso was fragmented. Based on the shape of the pelvis they were possibly male. The feet of this individual were also crossed. SK 176 was complete and was at the base of the grave, at the feet of SK174. The skull was fragmented and lying on its left side. The torso and pelvis were also fragmented, and the hands and left foot did not survive. The arms and legs were both extended. SK 174 and 175 were buried within C5538, a large simple grave. It was irregular in plan with sloping sides and an uneven base. This had been cut into the basal fill of C5037 and the southern side of C5037. It was backfilled with C5539, a mid-brown sandy silt which was very loose in compaction. Although there was little to no disturbance to SK 174, it is possible that SK176 had been inserted after the other individuals were buried. C5538 did appear to have been extended slightly at the southeast side. The cut for SK 176 was recorded as C5547 which was irregular in plan, again with steep sides and an uneven base. It was backfilled with C5548 which was the same as C5539. Even if SK 176 is a later insertion it is likely that it happened very soon after the others were buried due to their lack of disturbance or at the very least there was a knowledge of the other two burials.

SK 177

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a



SK 152

supine extended position, oriented west-east, and was positioned under the right arm of SK 173. The skull and mandible were very fragmented. The left arm and leg did not survive, and the right arm was poorly preserved. SK 177 was buried in C5587, a partially lined grave. The cut was sub-rectangular in plan with almost vertical sides and an uneven stony base. The lining consisted of between six and eight angular stones placed on the northwest and northeast corners of the grave. It had been backfilled with C5587, a brown sandy silt of moderate compaction. Mound?

SK 178

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull had fallen to the right, looking south and both legs were extended with the feet together. The left arm was flexed slightly at the elbow and placed over the ribs with the hand over the pelvis. The right arm was extended along the body with the hand also on the pelvis. The positioning of the limbs would suggest that the

body may have been wrapped. Based on the pelvis the individual was possibly female, some worked flint was found near the shoulder along with some animal bone which may have been deliberately placed. SK 178 was buried in C5613, a simple grave. It was oval/sub-rectangular in plan with sloping sides and a concave base. It had been backfilled with C5614, a dark grey sandy gravel of loose compaction. The grave was in enclosure ditch C5037 at the western side of the cemetery. The grave had been cut into the basal fill and the side of the ditch which would suggest the ditch had been going out of use when SK 178 was buried. The fill was like that of C5508 which overlaid SK 170.

SK 179

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine, extended position. The skull had slumped forward slightly and was facing east while both legs were extended. The left arm was bent at the elbow and was overlying the pelvis while the right arm was bent and placed over the stomach. The hands were not well preserved and so their positioning was not clear. The body had slumped to the north which may be due to SK 181 below. The individual was buried in C5615, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in plan and was truncated on the west and east side. The sides were sloped with a flat sloping base. It had been backfilled with C5616 a grey/brown silty clay of moderate compaction.

SK 180

The partial remains of an adult individual were found below SK 168. The remains consisted of fragmented cranium and had been placed at the southern end of the grave. Fragments of bone found higher in the fill were bagged separately and probably associated with SK 168. The remains were buried within C5617. It was sub rectangular in plan with gradual sides and a concave base. It was backfilled with C5618 a reddish-brown clayey sand of moderate compaction. The fill had probably been truncated by C5500 – the later cut for SK 168.

SK 181

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a flexed position. They were found below SK 179 and oriented southwest northeast. The skull was on its right side facing east and the left arm was placed across the ribs. The right arm was also preserved but its exact positioning was not clear. The legs

were flexed with the left lying over the right and the feet were together. The legs had been truncated slightly by a machine test trench. They were buried within C5641 a simple grave. The cut was rectangular in plan with sloped sides and a flat, sloping base. The cut was truncated by a test trench on the north side and on the southeast side by C5615. It was backfilled with C5642 a grey/brown silty clay of moderate compaction and was very similar to C5616. Cut mound?

DSK 182

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. DSK182 represented a partial adult supine burial. The skull and mandible were present in fragments. Additional remains included a partial right humerus, fragments of the left radius, both of which extended along the side of the skeleton. Furthermore, SK190 seems to be related to DSK182 and likely consisted of the lower torso, hands and legs of DSK182. The remains were found within a sub-rectangular grave cut (C5626). The grave had a U-shaped profile with sharply sloping vertical sides with a flat base. The grave measured approximately 1.4m in length, 0.42m in width and 0.22m in depth. It was filled (C5627) with a brown sandy silt with firm compaction.

SK 183

The remains of an adult individual were found in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull was badly fragmented, and the upper torso and shoulder girdles had not survived. The right arm was placed across the body and the left partially over the pelvis. Some of the right hand was recovered from over the left ribs and the left did not really survive apart from one bone lifted from the sacrum. The legs were both extended and the feet had not survived. The skeleton was buried in C5628, a simple grave. The cut was sub-oval in plan with sloping sides and an uneven base. It was backfilled with C5629, an orange-brown silty sand of moderate compaction. Cut mound?

DSK 184

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine position. DSK184 was found within the western edge of C5438. It is likely a result of churning up of bone in the area. It was composed of a single skull without a mandible. The skull was

in moderate condition, being damaged mostly along the sutures. Only two teeth were present during excavation. Due to the damage done in antiquity it did not lift easily. As the remains were not found within a distinguishable grave cut it was given the context number C5099, the mound material.

SK 186

The partial remains of an infant were found in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine position, oriented south southwest north northeast. They were located to the immediate southeast of SK 179. Only fragments of the cranium and a couple of teeth survived. They were buried in C5643, a simple grave. The cut was not very perceptible but was probably sub-rectangular in plan with irregular sides and an uneven base. It was backfilled with C5644, an orange/brown silty sand of firm compaction. It contained a high frequency of small, rounded pebbles and some quartz. Cut into mound?

SK 187

The remains of an adult individual were found in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull of this individual was missing but the rest of the body was intact. Both arms were extended alongside the body and the hands were also extended. The legs were extended, and the feet were slightly commingled. The skeleton was buried in C5645, a simple grave. It was oval in plan with steep sides and a concave base oriented west-east. It had been backfilled with C5646, a dark grey sandy gravel. The fill contained an iron object found near where the skull would have been, but this may have ended up in the fill because of the truncation by C5037. This burial had been placed within C5037 and had been dug into the natural at the base. It's likely that the ditch had partially filled up when SK 187 was buried, like SK 174-176, SK 169 and SK 170.

SK 188 and DSK 194

The remains of a juvenile individual were found in a poor state of preservation buried in a supine extended position. It was found below SK 77. The burial had been heavily truncated. The skull was lying on its right side, facing south. The left arm was placed across the body, but the exact position of the right arm could not be established. Both legs were extended but the feet did not survive. DSK 194 - an adult skull - was found over the chest of

SK 188, facing south. SK 188 was buried within C5668, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in plan with steep, nearly vertical sides with a slightly uneven base. It had initially been thought that the burial of SK 77 was reusing C5668 but during excavation it was clear given the truncation of the skeleton that the burial of SK 77 had likely disturbed it. It had been backfilled with C5669, a dark brown sandy silt of moderate compaction. The grave had been dug into natural subsoil.

SK 189

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The right humerus and some teeth were all that had survived of the upper half of the skeleton. Both legs were extended. Underneath the pelvis was a deposit of small, rounded pebbles which were not dispersed throughout the fill, so it is not clear whether this was deliberate. It was buried in C5670, a simple grave, oriented west southwest north northeast. It was sub-oval in plan with sloping sides and a slightly sloped base. It was backfilled with C5671, an orange-brown silty sand of firm compaction with charcoal flecks. Cut into mound

SK 190

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. SK190 included the lower body of an adult individual. Possible evidence of having been wrapped was found as the remains were found tightly knit during excavation. The left hand was lying on the pelvis, which was fragmentary. The feet appear to have been together originally. The remains were found within a sub rectangular cut (C5672) with sharply sloping sides and a slightly uneven base. The grave measured 1.6m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.2m in depth. It was filled (C5673) with a brown sandy silt with firm compaction. The grave was lined (C5674) with sub rectangular stones.

SK 191

The remains of an adolescent were found in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. Their remains were in the eastern side of the site. The skull was extremely fragmented and had been partly damaged by a stone removed during machine stripping. The lower legs had also been truncated. The body had slumped slightly which caused the right arm to

SK 170 showing iron object under skull



bend. The left arm was extended along the body. The exact position of the left hand was unclear but appeared closed. The right was missing. SK 191 was buried in C5675, a simple grave. It was sub-oval in plan with irregular sides and base. It was backfilled with C5676, a light brown/grey sandy clay of firm compaction, with very occasional flecks of charcoal. Cut into mound material C5099.

SK 192

The remains of an adult individual were found in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. It was found at the northwest side of the cemetery within mound material C5163. Part of the skeleton had been disturbed during machine stripping and the pelvis and left leg were bagged separately prior to excavation. The skull and part of the torso had also not survived. The arms and legs were both extended, and the feet were together. No hands survived. The skeleton was buried in C5677, a simple grave. The cut was imperceptible and survived best at the base. It was sub-rectangular in plan with slightly concave sides and a flat, slightly sloping base. It was oriented southwest northeast. It had been backfilled with C5678, a reddish-brown silty sand of firm compaction. The grave had been dug through C5163 and C5098 into the natural.

SK 193

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull and torso did not survive, and the lower half of the skeleton was generally better preserved. The hands were not present, and the arms were extended alongside the body. The legs were also extended and the feet apart. At the feet the skull of SK 195 was visible. SK 193 was buried within C5686, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in plan with concave sides and a flat base. The cut partly truncated the burial of SK 195. It had been backfilled with C5687, a mid-greyish brown silty clay of moderate compaction. Cut into mound

SK 195

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position towards the southwest side of the cemetery. The skull was slumped to the east and was in a better condition than the rest of the body. Both arms were extended and the hands missing, and although preservation was poor it

looked like the feet were together. The metopic suture was also recorded on the skull. A deposit of teeth was recorded on the torso of SK 195, and some appeared to be deciduous. It could be suggested that these teeth had been kept as a token and were maybe worn around the neck/had been in a bag or pouch that had since degraded. XXX SK 195 was buried in C5705, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in plan with gradual sides and a flat base. The west end had been truncated slightly by the burial of SK 193. It was backfilled with C5706, a mid-grey-brown silty clay of moderate compaction. Cut 5098

SK 197 and DSK 210

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull was fragmented and tilted slightly to the right. The skeleton was quite fragmented, and where the lower left arm should have been were skull fragments. The right femur was missing (may have been bagged as part of DSK 210) along with the right hand. The left pelvis was missing and the right fragmented. The mandible showed evidence for antemortem tooth loss which could indicate an older individual. Both arms were extended, as well as the left hand which only partly survived. DSK 210 consisted of skull and femoral fragments located at the southeast side of the grave. The lower leg fragments were lying diagonally across the left leg of SK 197 and may belong to this individual. Skull and mandible fragments were also recovered. SK 197 was buried in C5690 which was partly lined with C5688. It was sub-rectangular in plan with irregular sloping sides leading to an uneven slightly concave base. It was oriented west northwest east southeast. The lining C5688 was located at the west end grave behind the skull with another stone on the southern end. The stones were irregular flat slabs – possibly shale – and had been set on edge. The largest was 0.26m x 0.12m in size. The grave was backfilled with C5691, a mid-yellow/brown silty sand of firm compaction. Some fragments of burnt bone were recovered from the fill at the right side of the skull. Cut 5163

SK 198

The remains of an adolescent were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The individual was located towards the centre of the enclosure and was disturbed possibly by another burial to the west. All that survived



SK 171, buried at base of western cemetery ditch and truncated by later recut

were the legs of the individual, which were extended. SK 198 was buried in C5698, a simple grave. It was irregular in plan with concave sides and a flat, sloping base. The cut was most obvious at the north and south sides, which was cut into mound C5163. It was backfilled with C5699, a reddish-brown silty sand of moderate compaction, and was more similar in composition to C5099. Some staining was noted around the bones also.

SK 199

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation. DSK199 were the disarticulated remains which included a skull and possible leg bones, which were originally thought to be associated with SK219.

SK 200

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation. All that remained were skull fragments located at the west end of the grave. The rest of the body did not survive and it is possible the grave was truncated. They were buried in C5694, a simple grave. It was oval in shape with sloping sides and an irregular base. It was located towards the west side of the cemetery. It was

backfilled with C5695, a dark brown/grey sandy clay of firm compaction. Cut into mound 5099

SK 201

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The burial had been heavily truncated and all that survived were the legs. They were extended but in poor condition and the feet were also missing. The individual was buried within C5696, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in plan with sloping sides leading to an uneven base. It had been truncated and the cut was barely perceptible and cut into the natural. It was backfilled with C5697, a dark brown silty sand of loose compaction.

SK 202

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. This burial was also heavily truncated and found at the northwest side of the cemetery and may be contemporary with SK 201 (directly to its south). Only part of the skull survived along with a partial left arm and both legs. The legs were extended but had been

truncated. SK 202 was buried in C5701, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in plan with sloping sides and an uneven base. It was cut into the natural and backfilled with C5702, a dark brown loose silty sand.

SK 203

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and in a supine extended position. The upper body of this individual had not survived, and the legs and feet were all that were present. A partial fragmented distal radius from the left side was recovered. The legs were extended with the feet apart. Located to the immediate south were the remains of SK 207. SK 203 was buried within C5703, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in plan with sloping gradual sides and an uneven concave base. It was filled with C5704, a brown silty sand of moderate to loose compaction. Cut through C5099 into natural.

DSK 204

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation. These remains were assigned a disarticulated number as it appeared that the grave had been heavily truncated, and these skull fragments had been left behind in the grave. The cut C5635 had been partially lined with C5637. It was sub-rectangular in plan with vertical sides and a flat, slightly concave base. The lining was located at the west side of the grave and consisted of several slate slabs set on edge measuring approximately 0.45m in size. The grave had been backfilled with C5636, an orange/brown sandy clay. The grave was cut into mound C5099.

SK 205 and SK 209 – double burial

The remains of two adult individuals were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position and oriented southwest northeast. SK 205 was lying against the left side of SK209, which had been pushed over against the side of the grave slightly. The left arm was extended with the right flexed medially and the right hand was also missing, and the left extended by its side. The maxilla and skull were also gone with only the partial mandible surviving which may have been deliberately cut away. The ends of the long bones showed signs of poor preservation. This individual was possibly male. SK 209 was located at the southern side of the grave and had been pushed slightly higher within the cut. The skull was also missing from this individual

although most of the cervical vertebrae appeared to be intact. Both arms were extended along the body with the feet together. This skeleton was in a slightly poorer condition than SK 205 and was possibly female. They were buried in C5717, a simple grave. The cut was oval in plan with gradual sides and a flat, slightly concave base. It was backfilled with C5718, a mid-dark greyish brown sandy silt, of loose compaction. The fill was like the mound material of C5098 and the grave had been cut into the natural.

SK 206

The remains of a juvenile individual were found in a poor state of preservation and located between SK 200 and SK 191. All that survived of this individual were skull fragments and teeth. The burial had probably been truncated but there was a preservation issue as it seemed that all dentitions were present but the surrounding bone had not survived. They were buried within C5719, a simple grave. It was sub-oval in plan with sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It was backfilled with C5720, a light brown sandy clay. The grave was cut into mound

SK 207

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position, to the south of SK 203. Only fragments of the skull and mandible survived along with the legs, which were extended. The feet partly survived and were apart. Fragments of the left pelvis survived also. SK 207 was buried within C5723, a simple grave. The cut was sub-rectangular in plan with sloping sides and an uneven base. It was cut into mound C5099. The grave was backfilled with C5724, an orange-brown silty sand.

SK 208

The remains of an adolescent individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. It was heavily truncated and located at the south side of the burial ground. Very little remained of the individual – the torso was almost entirely missing. The skull was fragmented and looking west. The left arm was possibly fully extended, and the right lower arm was placed across the body. The lower spine was in poor condition and the legs were extended. No feet were present, and this eastern side of the grave may have been truncated. They were buried in C5728, a simple grave. It was irregular in plan and had

almost imperceptible sides and an uneven base, cut into C5163. The eastern side of the cut particularly had been heavily truncated. It was backfilled with C5729, a yellow-brown silty sand, firmly compacted.

SK 211

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull had fallen to the right (facing south) and was fragmented and the body was slightly on its right side. The left arm was extended with the right placed across the body. The legs were slightly crossed over one another, with the left (slightly bent) and lying under the right. The pelvis on the left side was facing anteriorly while the right had fallen to the side. Given the slightly unusual position of the body it may indicate the body was wrapped. SK 211 was buried within C5725 which was lined and capped with C5727. The cut was rectangular in plan with vertical sides and an irregular base. The lining extended around the

entirety of the cut and supported capping stones which had partially collapsed. The lining consisted of large flat slabs set on edge, the largest being 0.83m in length. The grave was located in between C5375 and C5635 (lining for graves). It was backfilled with C5726, an orange/brown sandy clay of moderate compaction. C5725 was cut into C5099.

SK 212

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull was fragmented and facing east. The torso did not survive, and the feet had been truncated by C5206 (SK 103). The lining C5206 had been placed on top of SK 212's right lower leg which crushed it. Both arms were extended, and the right hand was lying on the right hip. The left hand had not survived. SK 212 was buried in C5732, a simple grave. It was rectangular in plan with steep sides and a flat, sloping base. It was cut into mound C5163 and was backfilled with C5733, a mid-brown silty clay of moderate compaction. At the base of the grave was C5736 which represents a singular stone 0.14m in size which was found beneath the skull and is interpreted as a pillow stone.

SK 189



SK 213

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine, extended position, at the northwest side of the cemetery. All that remained of this individual were the left arm, leg and part of the pelvis. The arm was bent at the elbow and had been placed over the pelvis. The left leg was extended. SK 213 was buried in C5749, a simple grave. The cut was not clear but appeared sub-oval in plan. The sides were vertical on the north side and sloped/imperceptible elsewhere with a flat base. Cut into C5163. It was backfilled with C5750, an orange-brown silty sand, firmly compacted. SK 213 and the cut were truncated on the south side by the later insertions of SK 87 and SK 112. It may be truncated slightly to the north also by the lining C5798 for the grave containing SK 218. At the northwest corner after excavation it was noted that this side of the grave had also been disturbed by the insertion of DSK 223.

SK 218

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The long bones looked hollow

as it did not seem that the spongy bone on the inside survived, while part of the right pelvis, the legs, and the feet which had been set apart remained. Skull fragments and teeth were recovered from the bottom of the grave by the feet which may be associated with this individual and had been moved to make way for the burial of SK 164 and SK 180. SK 218 was buried in C5793 which was partially lined. The cut was sub-rectangular in plan and had gradual sides with an uneven, sloping base. The lining - C5798 - consisted of thin vertically striated shale which was set on edge, at the east and south side of the cut, approximately 0.3m in length. C5793 had been backfilled with C5794, an orange-brown silty sand of firm compaction. C5793 had been truncated on the west side by C5617 (SK 164) and dug into mound C5163.

SK 222

The partial remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation to the immediate northeast of SK 213, and east of SK 218. The right humerus was all that was recovered of this individual, with fragments of unidentified bone being collected over it during excavation. This bone had initially been considered part of SK 218 but post-excavation of that individual it was clear that the lining provided a clear divide between the two. SK 222 was buried in C5810, a simple grave. What remained was sub-rectangular in plan with imperceptible sides (obscured by the possible reuse of C5798). The base was sloped. It was backfilled with C5811, which was the same as C5794. Cut into C5099

DSK 223

The disarticulated remains of an adult individual found in the southeast corner of C5793. The elements represented were skull fragments, teeth and some long bone fragments. These were initially thought to relate to SK 218 but it became clear during excavation that they had been placed in a pit dug into this grave. The cut for DSK 223 - C5812 - was sub-oval in plan with concave sides and an uneven base. The pit was not visible during excavation as it had been backfilled with the same material it had been dug into. C5813 filled the pit and was very compact. It was of the same composition as C5794 and C5811.

SK 214

The remains of a juvenile individual were found in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine



SK 194

extended position. They were buried in the southeast side of C5037, and the south side of the grave had been truncated by it. The skull was on its left side facing north. The left arm was extended while the right arm and both hands did not survive. The legs were extended and one partial right foot was recovered. One vertebra is all that has remained of the torso. SK 214 was buried in C5757, a simple grave. It was oval in plan with concave sides and a flat base. It was backfilled with C5758, a red-brown sandy silt of loose compaction. This fill was like the mound (C5099) that C5757 was cut into. The grave was sealed with slumped bank material of a recut in the ditch C5037. This would indicate that SK 214 is probably one of the earlier burials in the cemetery.

SK 215

The remains of a juvenile individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine slightly flexed position. The remains did not survive well, and the feet had been truncated. The skull was on its side, facing north. The left arm was

extended, and the right was bent slightly over the hip. No left hand was recovered, and the right was on the left pelvis. Both legs were bent slightly, the left more so. The teeth were slightly out of position but anatomically correct and it seemed that the skull had been disturbed. SK 215 was buried in C5787, which was partially lined. It was oblong in plan and had concave sides and a flat, slightly sloping base. It had been truncated by C5677 at the north side and by machine on the east side. It was cut into C5163. It was backfilled with C5788, a mid-grey/brown silty clay of moderate compaction with occasional charcoal flecks. The lining – C5795 – consisted of four rectangular stones around 0.28m in length and had been placed around the south and east side of the grave, by the legs. Two of the stones may have been capping that had collapsed.

DSK 216

The disarticulated remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and located to the west of SK 204. The remains – which consisted of skull fragments – were placed in a small sub-circular pit C5789. The cut had sloping sides and a concave base and was backfilled with C5790, a dark grey sandy clay. The pit was cut into C5099.

SK 217

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. They were found beneath SK 192 towards the southern side of the cemetery, north of SK 215. The bone had not survived very well, and the torso, hands and feet were missing. The grave had also likely been disturbed by the burial of SK 192. The skull was fragmented but facing west. The right arm was extended, and the left was absent. Both legs were extended and there was possible pathology on the upper left femur. A piece of worked flint was recovered near the east end of the grave but it's not clear if this had been placed deliberately. The skeleton was buried in C5791, a simple grave. It was oval in plan with sloped sides and an uneven base. It had been truncated by C5679. It was backfilled with C5792, brown/grey sandy clay of moderate compaction. The grave was cut into mound C5099.

SK 218

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. This appears to have been cut

by a grave containing SK164 and SK180 to the west. Only a partial right hip, right leg, partial right foot, partial left leg and a partial left foot. The bone was all in poor condition. A number of skull...

SK 219, DSK 199

The remains of an adult individual and disarticulated bone were in a moderate state of preservation. SK 219 was buried in a supine position with their legs splayed. Although the bone was in okay condition, SK 219 was badly damaged. The skull was fragmented and lying on the lower legs of SK 220, and faced east. Both arms were extended, and the hands were missing. The legs were in an interesting position. They were both splayed, and the lower legs pushed back towards the torso. This was done in order to make space for the burial of SK197 to the east. SK 219 had probably been buried relatively contemporaneously with SK 220, given the lack of disturbance to this individual below. Initially thought to be part of SK 219, DSK 199 was located on the northern side of the skeleton. The bone consisted of skull fragments and fragmented long bones. SK 219 was buried in C5806, a simple grave. It was irregular in plan, with steep sides and an uneven base. It was backfilled with C5807, a mid-reddish-brown silty sand of firm compaction. The grave was cut into C5163.

SK 220

SK 220 was located just under SK219. They were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. From the slumped, narrowed position of the body, it is possible that they were wrapped/shrouded. The skull was supine and faced east. Both arms were extended, and the hands were missing. The legs were also extended with the feet missing. The lower legs were probably truncated by the burial of SK 219 and may be part of DSK 199. The metopic suture was present on the skull. SK 220 was in C5808, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in shape with steep sides and an uneven base. The eastern side of the cut was truncated by the burial of SK 219 and was backfilled with C5809, which was the same as C5807. The grave was cut into C5163. These burials were in the northwest quadrant of the cemetery which had a high concentration of burials. This concentration showed signs of intercutting and reuse of graves.

SK 224

The remains of an adult individual were in a good

state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. They had been buried in the south end of the cemetery, within the enclosure ditch. The skull was almost whole, lying on its left side facing north. Both arms were placed across the body, just above the pelvis. Both hands were extended. The legs were also extended, and the right distal tibia had been truncated. The feet were mostly present but had been truncated during machining. This individual was found with a decorated copper alloy belt buckle which was over the pelvis and below the right hand. Based on the skull and pelvis morphology they were likely female. The individual was buried within C5826, a simple grave. It was rectangular in plan with slightly concave sides and a flat base. It was oriented southwest northeast. It was backfilled with C5827, a mid-dark brown silty sand, loosely compacted. It was similar in composition to other fills in the graves within the ditch and was probably part of the basal fill. The grave was cut into the natural at the base but through the possible natural silting up of the ditch.

SK 225

The remains of an adolescent were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull had fallen to its right side facing south. Both arms were extended, with the right lying over the pelvis. The hands were extended, and palmar side down. The legs were also extended and the feet were together. SK 225 was buried in C5821 which was partially lined. The cut was sub-rectangular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base. The lining and capping C5823 was present around the west side of the grave. The capping was also partial and it is possible the lining was removed and reused in other graves. One of the cap stones was part of a rotary quern and some were also heat affected. Generally, the lining was made up of irregular, flat stones set on edge, approximately 0.64m in size. The cut was backfilled with C5822, a dark brown/grey clay of firm compaction, and contained occasional charcoal flecks. This grave was one of a series of stone lined graves in the southeast side of the cemetery. Cut into C5099.

DSK 226

This represents the disarticulated remains of a

Double burial SK 205 & SK 209



severely fragmented skull and long bone located to the south of SK 199. The remains were not in any perceptible cut but C5833 was assigned. It was probably cut into the spread of bank material C5098 at the southwest side of the cemetery. The fill C5834 surrounding the bone was composed of a dark brown silty sandy clay of moderate compaction.

DSK 227

This represents the disarticulated long bone fragments found to the west of DSK 226. Again, any cut was not perceptible and C5835 was assigned. The fill, C5836, surrounding the bone was a dark brown silty sandy clay of moderate compaction. The remains were within the bank material C5098.

SK 228

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and found in a supine extended position. This was another burial within the enclosure ditch C5037. The skull was heavily fragmented and was tilted to the right, facing south. The torso had been truncated by ditch C5449, which had cut through C5037. The lower legs had been truncated by a recut which had probably cut SK 174 and 175. The lower left arm was still present and was placed across the pelvis. The right humerus was alongside the body. Both femora were extended. A possible tool mark/crush injury was noted on the left proximal femur which occurred before the skeleton was buried. A medieval pottery sherd was recovered within the fill, but this is probably a later insertion from disturbance from C5449. A stone had also been placed in the mouth, but it was not clear if that was deliberate. A rounded green stone, possibly a manuport, was located in between the legs. The skeleton was buried within C5848, a simple grave. It was sub-oval in plan with uneven sloping sides and an uneven, slightly concave base. The cut was also truncated by C5449 and a recut of C5037. It was cut into the natural and through the basal fill of the ditch. It was backfilled with C5849, a light orange/brown silty sand.

SK 229

The remains of a young adult individual were in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine, extended position. The skull was fragmented and facing east. Both arms were extended with the hands under the pelvis, alongside the proximal femora. The hands were both extended, palmar

side down. Based on the pelvis morphology they were possibly male. The legs were both extended with the feet apart. By the right hand, a small fossil was recovered which was initially thought to be a copper alloy bead. These fossils have been rare on the site so could have been placed deliberately. SK 229 was buried within C5856, a simple grave, towards the west side of the cemetery, near SK 212 and 195. It was sub-rectangular in plan with sloping sides and a flat base. The burial cut natural subsoil and was backfilled with C5857. This was a dark brown sandy silt loosely compacted.

SK 230

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. This was the central burial of the three at the southwest side of the enclosure ditch. The skull was supine, facing east. The left arm was crossed over the body with the hand open, resting on the right pelvis. The right arm was crossed over the lower torso with the hand also open. The pelvic morphology would indicate a possible female individual. They were also oriented more to the southwest than the other two individuals in this part of the ditch. The legs were extended and though the feet had been displaced, were probably apart. SK 230 was buried in C5881, a simple grave. It was oval in plan and had straight sides with a flat base. It was cut into C5592 and the southwest side of the ditch and had been backfilled with C5882, a dark brown silty sand of loose compaction.

SK 232

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull was in poor condition and was turned to face north. The left arm was extended and the right did not survive. The legs were also extended, and the individual was possibly female based on the pelvis. Given the condition of the bone however this was not very clear. The lower legs and feet had been truncated by the stone lined burial C5821 to the east. SK 232 was buried in a simple grave, C5894. It was oval in plan with curving sides and a concave base. It was backfilled with C5895, a mid-brown sandy clay of firm compaction, with occasional charcoal flecks. It is cut into mound C5098.

DSK 234

The partial remains of an adult individual were in a



SK 211

poor state of preservation. The remains consisted of a partially complete cranium and long bones. The remains had been placed in a pit and are being considered as charnel. There seemed to be an attempt to rearticulate the remains as the femur and fibula were placed together as if they were part of a whole leg. The pit C5905 was sub-circular in plan and had imperceptible sides and a flat base. It was found near SK 219 and SK 220. The pit had possibly been cut into C5163. It was filled with C5906, a dark grey sandy silt of moderate compaction.

SK 235

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. SK232 was directly over this individual and it was heavily truncated. The skull was severely fragmented and was facing south. Both arms were extended alongside the body, with the right hand in an open, extended position with the hand facing down. The legs had probably been extended too but the distal femora and lower legs had been truncated by SK 225. Given that SK 232 was above it probably absorbed much of the pressure of the mound compression which resulted in the bone being in better condition. SK 235 was

buried in C5907, a simple grave. It was sub-oval in plan with sloping sides and a slightly concave base. It was backfilled with C5908, a mid-brown sandy clay of firm compaction. Cut into 5098?

SK 236

The partial remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine, probably extended position. This burial was heavily truncated and the elements of the individual were dispersed throughout the grave. The legs are the only parts that seem to be in anatomical position. Bones from the feet were located at the west side of the grave where the skull would be expected and there were cranial fragments throughout the fill. This burial was in the northwest quadrant of the cemetery where the burials were densest which may explain the heavy truncation. A small copper alloy object which may be part of a belt buckle was recovered from the fill. The remains were within C5935, which was partly lined. The cut was irregular in plan with sloping sides and a wide, flat base. The lining, C5959 consisted of one stone, towards the east end of the grave, and was around 0.23m in size. The grave was filled with C5936, a mid-brown silty sand, firmly compacted. The grave had been cut into

C5163/5099. Given the dispersal of bone it is possible that this burial cut through earlier remains.

SK 237

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. All that remained of the individual were the legs which were fragmented. A single bone metatarsal was also recovered. The remains were buried within C5947, a simple grave. The cut was sub-oval in plan but was not obvious. The sides appeared to be sloped and the base was uneven. The grave was filled with C5948, a mid-brown silty sand, moderately compacted. Rough angular stones were present in the fill around the south and east side of the cut but they did not seem to form part of any lining. This was another burial within a cluster at the northwest side of the cemetery in C5163/5099.

SK 238

The remains of a juvenile individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The left side of the burial had been truncated by the burial of SK 215. Part of the left arm was present, over the spine. It looked like the whole body had been pushed over to make room for SK 215 as it was pressed against the side of the grave, which caused the body to slump northwards. The skull was missing/did not survive and all that was present were the dentition. The right arm was extended as were the legs. SK 238 is an interesting burial as it is the third wood lined burial in the cemetery. One of the other two burials was also juvenile. The lining C5941 survived and had been charred – probably as a way of preserving it. It was thin and may be part of a branch/brushwood rather than a plank. However, part of a plank, also heavily charred, was lifted whole at the west end. The cut C5949 was rectangular in plan but the east side did not survive. The sides were straight, and the base was flat and oriented southwest northeast. The grave was filled with C5950, a mid-dark red/brown silty sand of very firm compaction. Located at the north side of the cemetery it was cut into mound C5099.

DSK 239 and DSK 240

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation. This heavily truncated burial was located in the northwest side of the cemetery. All that survived were skull fragments and a

possible right humerus and tibia fragment. This disturbed burial was commingled with DSK 240 – an infant. This burial had also been heavily truncated and was located at the northern side of the grave. Mandible fragments, teeth and cranial fragments were all that was recovered. The remains were buried within C5951, a simple grave. It was not obvious but appeared irregular in plan. It had sloping sides and a flat base, oriented west-east. It was unclear during excavation which burial was earlier stratigraphically as both were heavily truncated by later activity. The grave was backfilled with C5952 which was a mid-brown silty sand of firm compaction. Cut into C5099.

SK 242, DSK 243 and 244 and 276

The partial remains of three adult individuals were in a poor state of preservation. They were located at the northwest side of the cemetery. The skull was severely fragmented and was facing north. The humerus was positioned alongside where the body would have been. DSK 243 and 244 were both disarticulated skulls at the north and south of the grave. DSK 276 were the remains of a juvenile individual located at the southwest side of the grave against one of the lining stones. The remains consisted of long bone fragments and skull fragments. They were buried within C5956 which was lined with C5961. The cut was oval in plan, but the sides were unclear and the base was slightly concave. The lining consisted of two stones placed at the north side of the grave. The largest was 0.43m in size and had been set on edge. This grave had been heavily disturbed, and it is possible that other lining stones had been robbed out. The cut was backfilled with C5957 which was a dark grey sandy clay of firm compaction. Cut into C5099/C5163.

DSK 245

The partial remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation located in the eastern side of the cemetery. Several vertebral fragments and metatarsals were found to the east of SK 149, 211 and 204. The bones were found in the area over the possible structure C5896 which possibly enclosed these three burials. The remains were buried in C5975 which is the theoretical cut number assigned to these burials. It was sub-circular in plan with imperceptible sides and a flat base. It was backfilled with C5957 which was a mix of C5099, which the pit was cut into.



SK 224 with copper-alloy buckle visible on pelvis

SK 248

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull was crushed and it was difficult to discern the exact position. The left humerus was all that survived of the upper body. The legs were extended with the feet together, with the left lying slightly over the right. The left distal tibia also showed evidence of possible pathology. The individual was buried within C6013 – a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in plan with gradual sides and a flat, slightly concave base, oriented southwest northeast. It was backfilled with C6014, a dark brown silty sand with some clay elements. It was firmly compacted and was the same as the mound material C5099 into which it was dug. This mound material appears to greatly affect surface bone preservation.

SK 249

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The skull was supine,

facing east and all long bones were extended. The left hand was extended alongside the body, but it was not possible to discern the position of the right. Although the torso survived, albeit in okay condition, the lower vertebrae did not. The distal tibiae and fibulae, and feet, were cut away by a later recut of the enclosure ditch C5072. The skeleton was buried within C6021 a simple grave. It was oval in plan with steep, straight sides and a flat sloping base. It was backfilled with C6022, a red/brown silty sand, loosely compacted. C6021 was cut into the upper fill - C6017 - of a prehistoric horseshoe shaped feature (C5896), which may have enclosed some of the earlier burials in the cemetery. The burial cut away the northeast edge of C5896 which would suggest it is probably one of the later burials in the cemetery. The west edge of C6020 was cut away by C5072/C5066 which was possibly a recut of C5037, although it appeared to continue in a linear direction, eastwards.

SK 250

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor

state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The burial was heavily disturbed and as a result the skull was very fragmented. The left arm was almost complete and extended alongside the body. The left hand was also extended. The right arm did not survive very well and the partial humerus, scapula and ulna fragments were recovered. No hand was recorded. The vertebrae had almost completely disintegrated, and the ribs were very fragmented. The legs were both extended with the distal tibiae and fibulae showing possible evidence for water damage? No metatarsals were recovered and only a partial right foot was recorded. SK 250 was buried within C6027, a simple grave. The cut was irregular in plan and had gradual sides and an uneven base. It was located on the west side of the cemetery. It was backfilled with C6028, a mid-brown silty sand of moderate compaction. Cut 6066/5098?

SK 251

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation, buried in a supine extended position at the southwest side of the cemetery. The bone was in a good, if not slightly fragile condition. The skull was fragmented, as was the pelvis, likely from pressure of the mound above. The skull was tilted to the right facing south. The arms were both extended alongside the body, the left hand was probably extended but a lot of the bones were missing. The right hand was extended. Both legs were extended, and the feet were also extended, and apart. Several metatarsals were recovered from around the right ribs as well as by the right leg. Some metacarpals/phalanges were recovered from the left ribs and pelvis which were likely from the left hand. Teeth were also dispersed through the fill which may not belong to this individual. At the west end of the cut, pressed into the side of the grave, were a radius and ulna. These upper limbs were stacked and appeared to wrap around the end of the cut which could be interpreted as lining for the grave. SK 251 was buried in C6051, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in plan with concave sloping sides and an uneven base. It was cut into mound material C6066 (?) and the top of the fill (C6015) of the horseshoe shaped structure C5896. It was filled with C6052, a mid-orange/brown silty sand of moderate compaction. Flint flakes and quartz were found throughout.

DSK 252

The remains of an adolescent individual were in a

poor state of preservation towards the southeast side of the cemetery. The remains were heavily disturbed and not in anatomical position. Cranial fragments and the left humerus were all that survived. The skull fragments were lifted from the side of the arm. It was buried within a theoretical cut C6055 which was not perceptible. The fill surrounding the bone C6056, a greyish yellow silty clay of moderate compaction. Cuts C6066?

SK 253

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The grave was disturbed, and some elements had been displaced from their anatomical position. Both arms appeared to be extended but the hands were missing. The left leg was extended, and the right was turned upside down out of position over the left leg and pelvis. Some vertebral fragments and scapula fragments were also recovered. No skull/feet or torso were recovered with this individual. They were buried within C6057, a simple grave. It was sub-rectangular in plan with concave sides and a flat base. It was truncated on the west, north and east side. It was filled with C6058, a mid-grey/yellow silty clay of moderate compaction. Cuts C6066?

SK 254

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. SK 254 is the second of three burials buried in the top of the backfilled feature C5896. SK 254 had slumped into the top of the fill of the ditch from the pressure of the mound above. The height difference between the skull and pelvis was 0.14m. The remains were in poor condition as a result of this pressure. The skull was crushed inward, supine but facing slightly east. The left arm was extended, and the right arm was crossed over the pelvis. The left hand was missing, and the right was extended. Both legs were extended, and the feet were together with the left over the right. The pressure of the mound C5099 had also compressed the pelvis and torso. It was buried within C6059, a simple grave. It was sub-oval in plan with imperceptible sides and a sloped base, oriented west southwest east northeast. It was cut into C6017, at the northeast side of the cemetery. The cut was backfilled with C6060, a dark grey/brown clay-y sand of moderate compaction. A charcoal sample was taken from around the right proximal radius/ulna and pelvis. It was possibly burnt grain

added as a grave good with the burial.

SK 255

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine, extended position. The partial remains had possibly been truncated/not survived due to poor preservation conditions. The preservation of remains at this level of the cemetery was quite varied but generally poor. Of the upper body only fragments of vertebrae and a partial left radius/ulna survived. Only parts of the pelvis were recovered. The legs were both extended, and the feet had not survived. The bone was quite thin, and the surface was flaky which would again suggest poor preservation. They were buried within C6067, a simple grave located in the east of the cemetery, just inside C5896. The cut was sub-rectangular, with concave sides and a flat base oriented southwest northeast. It was filled with C6068, a grey/brown silty clay of moderate compaction. Cuts C6066?

DSK 256, DSK 267A and B and DSK 261.

The disarticulated remains of an adult individual were recovered from a charnel pit C6073 at the southeast side of the cemetery in between SK 149 and SK 212. From the elements collected it was likely that one individual was represented. DSK 256 consisted of the pelvic girdle, both femora, scapulae and a clavicle, the radii and ulnae, ribs, and some vertebrae. The axial skeleton was flanked by the skulls at the north side and the crossed femora at the south. DSK 257A was likely part of DSK 256 but was bagged separately as this could not be fully confirmed. The skull was facing southwest and the mandible underneath was likely part of this individual too. Once the obvious bones related to DSK 256 were lifted it was clear that there was a second partial individual underneath which may be associated with DSK 257B. This was based on the presence of another pair of femora and upper long bones. DSK 257B was slightly commingled with the remains of DSK 256, but no mandible was present. This was the second of two obvious charnel pits on the site. The pit's relationship with the burial of SK 249 and SK 212 was not fully clear but it is likely that these two individuals were moved when those individuals were buried. This could suggest maybe a reuse of the stone lined graves to make way for 249 and 212. They were buried within C6073, which was irregular in plan with concave sloping sides and a

flat base. The cut was not obvious and was backfilled with C6074, a mid- grey/brown silty clay of moderate compaction. Cut C6066, below C5099.

SK 258

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. The remains were heavily truncated and located in the west side of the cemetery. The skull was supine, facing east. The left arm was extended alongside the body while the right was placed slightly over the pelvis. The left hand was extended but the position of the right was not clear. The legs were both extended but the feet had not survived. The left clavicle and some rib and pelvis fragments were all that survived of the axial skeleton. The right leg had been damaged also during mechanical ground reduction in this part of the cemetery. The left leg was also damaged, but by a rock which may be from collapsed lining. The skeleton was within C6082, a simple grave. The cut was irregular in plan with imperceptible sides and a flat base. It was cut into

SK 225





Overview of features in outer enclosure (curving across top) with structure C5080 and central pit in the centre

the natural and backfilled with C6083, a mid-brown silty sand of moderate compaction. This was probably a mix of C6066 and natural.

SK 259

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine, extended position. The remains had been heavily truncated. The skull was supine but severely fragmented, with a partial mandible surviving. The right radius and ulna were also heavily fragmented and had been placed across the body. The left arm had not survived. Only the lower vertebrae and rib

fragments along with a partial left ilium survived. The left leg was mostly intact, while again the right was in poor condition. Both feet had been cut away. The skeleton had also truncated an earlier burial SK 265 which was found below. SK 259 was buried in C6084, a simple grave. It was located at the north side of the cemetery, and was sub-rectangular in plan with steep, almost vertical sides and an uneven base. It was filled with C6085, a brown sandy silt of moderate compaction. Cut into natural and through C6066.

SK 265

The partial remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and buried in a supine extended position. It had been heavily truncated by the burial of SK 259 to its immediate west. All that survived were the tibiae, fibulae and feet. It was buried within C6093 which was sub-rectangular in plan with steep sides and an uneven base. The skeleton and ephemeral cut were found within what was thought to be an enlarged cut for SK 259. The length of the bone of SK 259 compared to this individual means it was unlikely they were part of the same individual. The cut was backfilled with C6094, a mid-brown silty sand of moderate compaction, equal to C6085.

Section through penannular feature C5131



Features within outer enclosure

Introduction

A cluster of features representing at least one structure were identified between the burial enclosure (A) and the larger settlement enclosure (D). The structural evidence remnants were enclosed by their own enclosure ditch (C5024) defining an area c. 21m (NE-SW) by 15m.

At least two obvious phases of features/structures were identified here: an early phase (C5131) that was archaeologically difficult to identify and excavate as it contained very little charcoal, animal bone or artefacts and whose upper parts were backfilled with sterile redeposited subsoil, and a later phase (C5080) which was very easy to excavate as it contained large amounts of charcoal, animal bone and artefacts. Despite the fact that the early phase was fully backfilled before the later phase was constructed, both phases appeared to respect each other, and the larger enclosure ditch (C5024) that surrounded this area enveloped both structures. This later phase contained E-ware and A-ware pottery, and metal objects including a later

early medieval ‘watchwinder’ pin, probably indicating it was occupied for most of the early medieval period.

Earlier feature (C5131)

The earlier feature or structure (C5131) may also have been horseshoe-shaped in plan, though truncation had made its form hard to reconstruct. The southern half of the structure was very similar in form to the later structure, with the same overall dimensions and measurements (430mm deep and 850mm wide) but opening to the northeast. The western “arm” was truncated but may have continued further, and the southern arm extended a further c. 4m at least, giving a total length of 10m. This truncation at west was feature number C5186, which may be a continuation of the feature.

The upper fill was a mid-brown sand with stone, infrequent charcoal, and frequent flint. The lower fill was a dark-brown silty-clay with frequent small stones, occasional flint and rare charcoal (C5221). The upper fill was a mid-brown silty-clay with frequent flint and stones.

Post-excavation view of structure C5080 and central pit



Later structure (C5080)

The later structure (C5080) was penannular in form, and comprised a small slot trench 440mm-900mm in width, 210mm-650mm in depth and 13.5m in total length, enclosing a horseshoe-shaped area c. 6m by 5m. The terminals ended abruptly leaving a 6m opening facing southeast exactly in line with the earlier structure (C5131). The fills of the feature were sieved through 4mm and 1.4mm flymesh, and (C5051, 5081, 5082, 5166, 5186 & 5203) contained three sherds of E-ware (in one terminal), a fragment of Samian ware and two iron objects (a possible buckle and a possible harness).

Other than a localised fill (C5186) in the northern terminus, the main lower fill (C5082, C5166) was a mid-brown sandy-silt with frequent charcoal packed with very frequent small stones, possibly intentionally laid to create drainage. A localised lens of ash (C5081) was found between two layers of stones in the northern terminus. The upper fill (C5051, a dark greyish-brown sandy silt) contained frequent animal bones, charcoal and mollusc shells, particularly in the southern half.

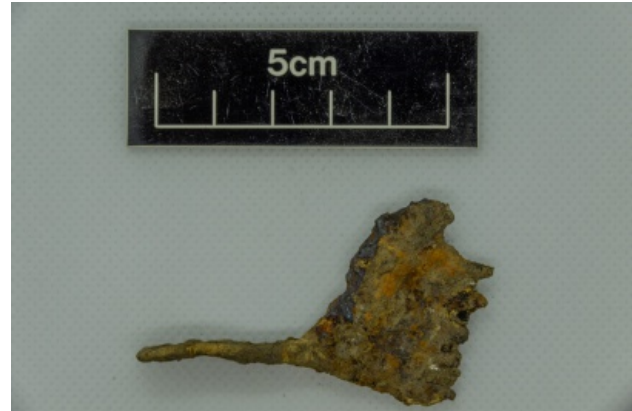
Central pit (C5170)

An oval pit C5170 was identified within the enclosed space of the outer and middle enclosure ditches (C5024 and C5023). The pit was surrounded by the horseshoe-shaped structure C5080. The pit measured 1.3m in length, 1.15m in width and 200mm in depth. The pit was very well defined with a very flat base and vertical sides. It was cut into natural subsoil and only had one fill (C5171).

The fill was a compact dark brown sandy silt. The fill had two stones ranging from 200-300mm and occasional pebbles. It had flecks of charcoal and occasional animal bones. The fill was sieved completely with a 1.4mm fine sieve mesh and sampled. Artefacts recovered from the feature included a 'watchwinder' copper alloy pin (5171:3), two small pieces of iron, flint and two fragments of disarticulated human bones, including a human skull fragment sitting on the base of the pit. The fill was very similar to fills contained within the nearby structure C5080. It is possible that these were related, since C5080 enclosed the area where C5170 was located.

Curvilinear feature (C5119)

This feature curved from the southeast to the



Iron object from C5080 (possible buckle)



Samian ware from C5080



'Watchwinder' style copper alloy pin from central pit C5170



Whetstone from linear feature C5103

northwest, and had a crescent shape. The cut was U-shaped in profile, with almost vertical concave sides and a bowl-shaped base. It had a sharp break of the slope at the top and a gradual break at the base. The feature measured 16.7m length, 650mm width and a depth of 530mm. The feature got wider and deeper towards the southeast.

The basal fill (C5121) was a loose orangey pale brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal,

Central pit C5170, showing pre-ex, mid-ex and post-ex



burnt clay, flint and small stones. One piece of slag was identified within this context. A burnt spread (C5177) was identified above the basal fill. It was a loose black charcoal with very occasional flecks of orange burnt clay. This appeared to have originated from the northeast side of the feature, either blown into the feature or deliberately thrown in. It measured 1.2m in length, 600mm in width and a depth of 60mm. The upper fill (C5120) was a loose brown sandy silt with occasional flecks of charcoal, burnt clay, small stones, flint and moderate amounts of animal bones. A small iron knife blade (5120:4), two iron nails and a very small fragment of copper alloy (5120:3) were recovered from this context.

Linear feature (C5103)

This was a linear shaped feature that slightly curved from the north to the southeast. The cut in profile was U-shaped with steep vertical sides and a flat base. The break of the slope was very sharp at the top and more gradual at the base. It measured at least 20m, and it continued outside of the site to the southeast while it had a well-defined terminus in the north. It had a width of 1.92m and a depth of 600mm.

The basal fill (C5109) was a dense yellow clayey silt which had occasional flecks of charcoal. Only situated on the sides at the base, and was most likely a slump fill. Above was a fill (C5108) which was a moderately compacted greyish brown sandy silt with inclusions of occasional animal bone, flint and shell. The next fill (C5107) was a moderately compacted yellowish brown sandy silt with inclusions of occasional animal bone, shell, flint and stone. Above this was a fill (C5106) which was a moderately compacted dark brown sandy silt with inclusions of occasional shell and stone and very frequent animal bone. The next fill (C5133) above was a loose dark brownish black sandy silt with high quantities of charcoal and occasional animal bone. One whetstone (5133:1) was recovered from this context. The next fill (C5105) above was a friable yellow clayey silt with occasional shell. The top fill (C5014) was a friable brown sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks. Further south in the cut there was a different top fill (C5227) which was a moderately compact dark brownish black clayish silt with occasional shell and charcoal. This fill was very localized and measured a length of 1.4m, a width of 750mm and a depth of 90mm.

Linear feature (C5101)

This feature was linear shaped and was oriented southwest-northeast. Both ends were truncated away; the middle enclosure ditch in the northeast and ditch C5049 in the southwest. The profile of the cut was U-shaped with steep concave sides and a base that varied from concave to flat. The break of the slope was sharp at the top and gradual at the base. It measured at least 3m in length, 420mm in width and a depth of 200mm. The basal fill (C5157) was a soft dark greyish brown sand with occasional burnt bone, shell, animal bone. It had frequent charcoal and burnt waste material that was sampled. This probably originated from nearby kilns or other burning activity. It had moderate amounts of small pebbles. The upper fill (C5102) was a soft pale brown sandy clay with occasional burnt bone, animal bone, charcoal and moderate amounts of pebbles.

Linear feature (C5146)

The linear feature (C5146) was oriented from the southwest to northeast. It had a terminus in the southwest and was truncated by the middle enclosure ditch in the northeast. It had a bowl-shaped cut with gently sloping sides and a flat base. The break of the slope was gradual at the top and imperceptible at the base. It measured 4.54m in length, 480mm in width and a depth of 170mm. The fill (C5147) was a soft dark brown clayish silt with occasional burnt bone, animal bone, shell and charcoal.

Pit (C5200)

An oval pit was identified 1m southwest of C5080's southern terminus. It had a shallow bowl-shaped cut in profile with gently sloping sides and a flat base. The break of the slope at the top and at the base were gentle. It measured 440mm in length, 390mm in width and a depth of 60mm. The fill (C5201) was a compact dark brown sandy silt with occasional flint, charcoal and animal bone.

Curvilinear feature (C5207)

The feature ran from the southwest, ran north, then turned southeast where it was truncated away by the middle enclosure ditch. It had a shallow bowl-shaped cut in profile, with gently sloping concave sides and a flat base. The break of the slope at the top and at the base were both gradual. It measured at least 2.7m in length, 550mm in width and 60mm in depth. The fill (C5208) was a loose dark brown silty sand with occasional animal

bone, flint, charcoal and small stone.

Post hole (C5215)

An oval feature was discovered below curvilinear C5119. It had a bowl-shaped cut in profile with concave sides, but the southern side was close to vertical. The base was concave. It had a gradual break of the slope at the top and imperceptible at the base. The orientation of it was north-south. It measured 460mm in length, 340mm in width and 120mm in depth. The fill (C5216) was a very compact dark brown sandy clay with frequent small stones. The fill could be a redeposited natural subsoil, and the feature could be a post hole related to the curvilinear above.

Stake hole (C5217)

The feature was circular in shape with a U-shaped profile of the cut. It measured a diameter of 130mm and a depth of 120mm. The sides were very steep and the base was flat. The break of the slope was sharp at the top and at the base. The fill (C5218) was a loose dark brown sandy silt with rare charcoal flecks.

Pit (C5219)

The remains of a heavily truncated pit oriented west-east were identified. It had an irregular oval shape on the surface with a shallow bowl shape in profile. The sides and base were concave. The break of the slope was gentle at the top and imperceptible at the base. It measured a length of 600mm, width of 240mm and a depth of 50mm. The fill (C5220) was a soft dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones.

Linear feature (C5233)

This feature is likely the continuation of feature C5131. It had a linear shape on the surface with a U-shaped cut in profile. The break of the slope was sharp at the top and gradual at the base. The sides were concave on the north side and almost vertical on the south side. The base was concave. The orientation was southwest-northeast. It measured 3.4m in length, 1.29m in width and a depth of 850mm. The cut had a shoulder on the north edge that measured 1m in length and 50mm in width. The fill (C5234) was a compact brown silty sand with occasional charcoal, flint, shell and animal bone.

Pit (C5241)

This pit was cut by feature C5131 and was one of

the earliest features in the area. It had an oval shape on the surface with a U-shaped cut in profile. The sides were very steep and it had a concave base. The break of the slope was sharp at the top and gradual at the base. It was oriented south-north, and it was the northern part that was truncated away. It measured 1.3m in length, 950mm in width and a depth of 380mm. The fill (C5242) was a very loose dark brown silty sand with a high frequency of gravel. Occasional flint was recovered from this context and 100% of the fill was sieved using a 1.4mm flymesh.

Pit (C5480)

An oval pit was identified below feature C5233 and it was oriented from southeast-northwest. It had a bowl-shaped cut in profile with concave sides and a rounded base. The break of the slope was sharp at the top and gradual at the base. It measured 3.9m in length, 1.4m in width and a depth of 180mm. The fill (C5481) was a loose brownish beige silty sand with infrequent charcoal flecks. Occasional unworked flint was identified.

Pit (C5487)

This was an oval pit that had a shallow bowl-shaped cut in profile. It measured 1.85m in length, 1.65m in width and a depth of 71mm. It had concave sides and a flat base. The break of the slope was gradual at the top and imperceptible at the base. The fill (C5488) was a moderately compact pale greyish black sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecks, flint pieces and small stones.

Ditch C5024

The enclosure surrounding 'Structure B' (C5024) connected with the circular burial enclosure at the possible entrance pit (C5559), and was later than it. The earliest phase of the C5024 ditch (C5567) terminated at the start of the pit and was stratigraphically later than the pit. A sheep skull was identified in the terminus (C5569). A later recut (C5571) terminates just southwest of the pit. The last phase (C5072) also avoided the pit, veering to

the east of it. This stratigraphy suggests that something was protruding above ground from the possible entrance pit (C5559) during all phases of the C5024 ditch construction and maintenance. Relationship between C5024 and burials: earliest phase of C5024 post-dates at least one burial (98).

Pit (C5229)

The remains of a pit was truncated into the top of the outer enclosure ditch. It had an irregular shape on the surface with a bowl-shaped cut in profile. It measured a length of 490mm, width of 420mm and a depth of 110mm. It had imperceptible breaks of the slopes at the base and at the top. The sides and base were all concave. The fill (C5230) was a loose black charcoal with rare flecks of red and occasional small stones.

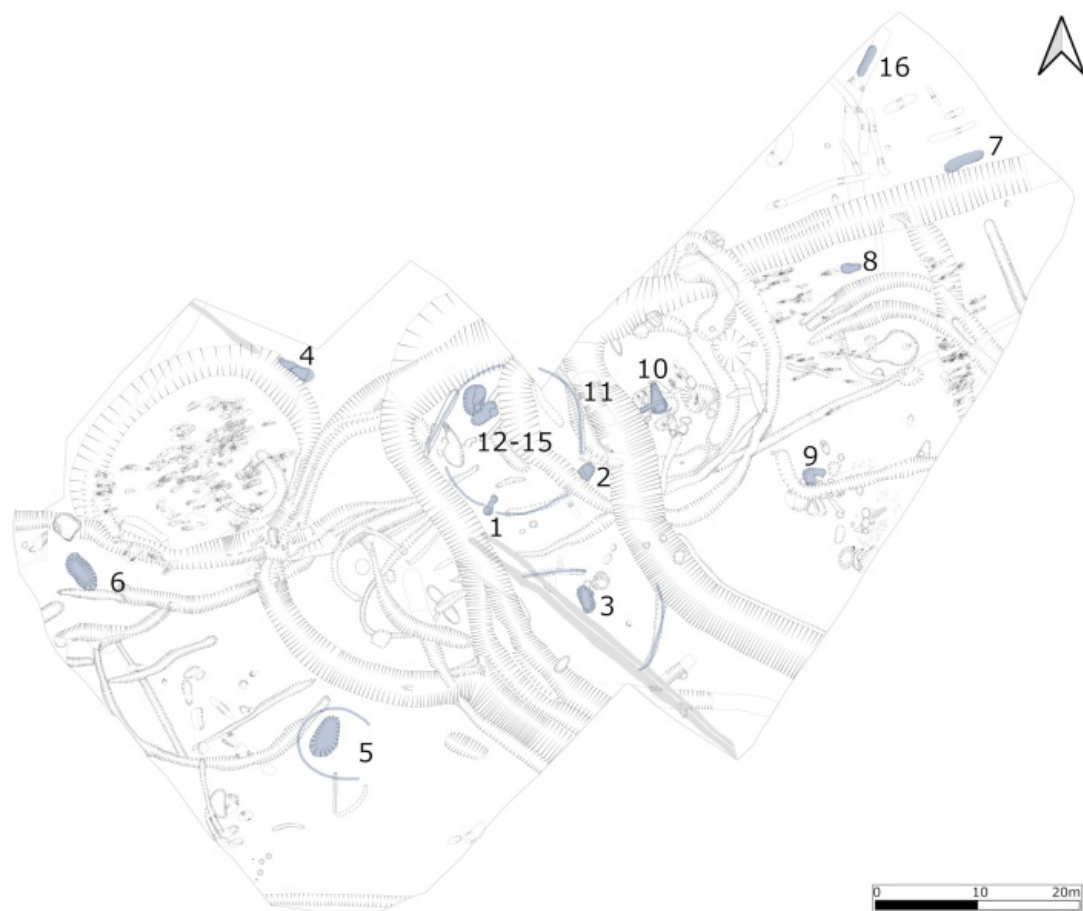
Kilns

Sixteen kilns were identified during the excavation, bringing the total number of kilns excavated on the site in 2019-2021 to 21. Most of them are figures of eight shape, keyhole shape, or slightly oval. Most of the kilns identified on the site contained charred grains and were interpreted as cereal drying kilns. The only exception was a probable lime-drying kiln (C6168) which had formerly been used to dry cereal.

Most of the kilns had signs of burning in situ and frequently had burnt waste material remaining

Kiln 1





Location of kilns. All are cereal-drying kilns except 10 (a cereal-drying & lime kiln) and 11 (not shaded; a non-ferrous metalworking feature)

within. Frequent seeds were identified in many of the kilns and these were then sampled. A couple of kilns also had baffle-stones, either between the two chambers, or collapsed inside. No signs of any structure above ground were identified around any of the kilns, but one or two of them had possible stone lining (C6134 & C5047).

Four kilns were situated within the inner enclosure: one in the ring ditch, and three in the eastern cemetery truncated by burials or the cemetery enclosure. Seven were situated between the inner and the middle enclosure ditches. Two of the largest kilns on the site, C5368 and C5414, were placed outside the outer enclosure in the southwest end of the site, either side of a small enclosure (western annex, C5273) that appeared to be related to them. These were large and deep, and oval in plan. One of these, C5368, had an animal skull in one of the basal layers. One outlier kiln (C5047) was cut into the top of the early medieval western cemetery ditch. Two other outlier kilns (C6000 & C6022) were located in the northeast

corner of the site.

Kiln 1

A kiln (C5657) was identified southwest of the circular enclosure (C5540) between the inner (C5542) and the middle enclosure ditch (C5023). It had a slight figure of eight shape in plan, orientated from southwest to northeast. The profile was bowl-shaped with the southwestern chamber being a bit deeper than the rest. The sides in the southwest were steep, while in the northwest they were more gentle. Sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual one at the base. The base was concave. The kiln measured 2.05m in length, 0.92m in width and a depth of 0.4m. The kiln had seven layers of fill and was cut into natural subsoil.

The basal fill (C5666) was a loose orangy-brown silty sand with charcoal flecking. It had a thickness of 80mm and was only located in the southwestern chamber of the kiln. Directly above that layer, the first evidence of a burning event (C5665) was

identified as a layer of loose black charcoal. This had a thickness of 40mm and was only identified in the southwestern chamber. Above the waste from the burning event, a layer of backfill (C5664) was identified as a quite compact brown sandy silt with a couple of stones (50-150mm) and occasional animal bones. This had a thickness of 180mm and was identified throughout the feature unlike the two earlier fills. Above the backfill, a kiln waste layer of ash and charcoal flecking was identified (C5663). This was very loose and had a whitish grey colour and had a thickness of 50mm. The ash layer had another backfill layer above it, which was a quite compact pale brown sandy silt (C5662), it had occasional animal bones and a thickness of 80mm. After this there was another layer of loose black charcoal (C5661) which had a thickness of 30mm, it was identified in the centre of the kiln, with a length of 540mm and a width of 600mm. The top fill (C5660) was a very loose pale whitish grey ash with flecking of charcoal and burnt clay. This context was circular in plan and had a thickness of 50mm and a diameter of 500mm.

A number of curvilinear features and pits were associated with the kiln, and are described below.

Curvilinear (C5679)

A short curvilinear slot trench (C5679) was identified 500mm northeast of kiln 1 (C5657). Curves from southwest to northeast. It had a bowl-shaped profile with gently sloping sides and a rounded base. It only had one fill, C5680, which was a loose dark brown sandy clay with frequent stones, animal bones and occasional flint. Flecking of charcoal present. The cut measured 3.3m in length, 600mm in width and a depth of 200mm. It was cut into natural subsoil. Likely related to kiln 1, but not structural or windbreak according to shape. Could be something related to drainage or other related work to the kiln.

Curvilinear (C5653)



Kiln 2, pre-excavation view

A curvilinear feature (C5653) was identified southeast of kiln 1 (C5657). It terminated just east of the kiln and curved to the northeast where it was truncated away by the circular enclosure (C5540). It had a U-shaped profile with soft sloping sides and a flat base. The cut measured at least 6.59m in length, a width of 510mm and a depth of 210mm. It only had one fill (C5654) and this was a moderately compacted dark grey clayish silt. It had occasional stones, animal bones and charcoal. Likely related to slot trench C5814, it could be the remains of an enclosure that surrounded a kiln complex (kiln 12, 13, 14, 15).

Pit (C5544)

A pit (C5544) was identified southeast of kiln 1 (C5657) and C5653. This pit was very similar to another pit, C5531, that was identified 800mm to the northeast of the pit. It had an oval shape in plan, with a bowl-shaped cut in profile. The orientation of the cut was west-east, and the sides were concave with a rounded base. The cut measured 580mm in length, 500mm in width and 160mm in depth. It had two different fills, the top fill (C5554) was a loose pale greyish white ash layer which had charcoal flecking and occasional burnt bone. It had a thickness of 50mm. The lower fill (C5555) was a firm pale brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecking, animal bones and stones. The thickness of this fill was 110mm.

Pit (C5531)

This pit was very similar to pit C5544 and is likely



Kiln 3

truncated away most of the western chamber, but the eastern chamber survived. The cut had a figure of eight shape with a profile that was shaped like two wide rounded bowls next to one another. Sharp break of slope at the top with a gradual break at the base. Sides and base were concave, and orientation of the cut was northeast southwest. The remains of the kiln measured a length of 2.15m (thus the original kiln would have been longer than this), a width of 1.25m and a depth of 550mm.

contemporary. It was also oval shaped in plan, but a bit deeper than the previous pit with a V-shaped cut in profile. The sides were concave with a rounded base. The pit measured a length of 650mm, a width of 590mm and a depth of 260mm. The pit had two fills, and they were the same as the fills of C5544. The top fill (C5532) was the same as C5554 with a thickness of 80mm. A small piece of slag was recovered from this context. The lower fill (C5533) was the same as C5555 with a thickness of 180mm.

The two pits, C5531 and C5544, were likely related to the kiln activity in this area since they were both backfilled with waste material from burning.

Burnt spread (C5579)

A burnt spread was investigated 4.8m southeast of pit C5531. This was located on top of C5996. It had an uneven shape in plan with a length of 400mm, a width of 300mm and was only 40mm deep. No real cut remained. It was a firm pale reddish brown clayish sand with charcoal flecking and occasional stones. The colour and composition of this context showed signs that in-situ burning had occurred at some point and that this was simply the very base of that event. Likely the remains of the base of a kiln or a hearth.

Kiln 2

A kiln (C5683/C5761) was identified just within the interior of the circular enclosure ditch (C5540), and was truncated by it. The enclosure ditch had

The kiln had five fills (C5762, C5781/C5763, C5764, C5782/C5765, C5783). Three of the fills were charcoal deposits from burning events, and two of the fills (C5781 and C5782) were backfills of dark brown clayish sand. Occasional animal bone recovered from the fills. The backfills had charcoal flecking present.

Kiln 3

Kiln 3 (C5799) had an oval shape in plan that almost made out a rough figure of eight. It was oriented from north to south. This kiln had a deeper chamber in one end, the northern chamber. The kiln had steep sloping sides, with a concave base in both chambers. It had a sharp break of slope at the top, but a soft gradual break at the base. The kiln measured a length of 3m, a width of 1.5m and a depth of 0.82m. A hard red heat-affected clay (C5804) was noted on the base of the northern chamber, suggesting that the northern deeper chamber was the fire chamber. This burning event measured 400mm in length, 380mm in width and 80mm in thickness.

The basal fill of the kiln (both chambers) was a soft thick layer of mixed silt, clay, ash and charcoal (C5803). It was mostly reddish black, but had some pockets of yellow and grey. There were moderate amounts of seeds identified and a sample was taken. This fill had a thickness of 200mm and it measured a length of 2.4m and a width of 1.12m. These two fills were the only remains of the kilns

original function, and above these there were three layers of backfill (C5802, C5801, C5800). These fills were all soft silty brown sands with occasional animal bone, charcoal flecking, stone and flint.

This kiln had six associated features surrounding it, which are described below.

Curvilinear feature (C5753)

A curvilinear feature (C5753) was identified 1.15m north of kiln 3 (C5799). The cut's orientation was from east to west, with the eastern terminus north of kiln 3. The cut was very shallow with a depth of 140mm and measuring a length of 6m and a width of 550mm. It had a bowl-shaped profile with concave sides and base, and a gradual break of slope at top and base. The fill (C5754) was a moderately soft pale brown silty sand with occasional small pebbles, flint and animal bones.

Post holes (C5768 & C5770)

Just north of C5753 two features interpreted as post holes were identified, C5768 and C5770. C5768 was truncated by C5753. They were both circular and only 70mm apart. They had shallow bowl-shapes in profile with concave sides and base. Post hole C5768 measured 500mm in length, 400mm in width and a depth of 150mm. The fill of it (C5769) was a soft brown silty sand with occasional pebbles and charcoal flecking. Post hole C5770 was north of C5768 and measured 500mm in length, 300mm in width and a depth of 120mm. The fill (C5771) was similar to C5769 and was a soft brown silty sand of

a bit darker grade than C5769. This had occasional pebbles and flecking of charcoal.

Pit (C5845)

A pit (C5845) was identified directly northeast of kiln 3 (C5799). It had an oval shape in plan with an irregular U-shape in profile. The orientation of the cut was south to north. The break of slope at the top varied from sharp to gradual while it was imperceptible at the base. The sides were steeply sloping close to the top and became more softly sloping close to the base. The base was concave. The pit measured a length of 1.7m, a width of 750mm and a depth of 370mm. The fill (C5846) was a soft brown silty sand and was very sterile except for occasional flint and very rare charcoal. One of the earlier pits in the cluster around kiln 3.

Pit (C5852)

A pit was identified truncating kiln 3 in the northeast corner. This pit also truncated the northwest corner of pit C5845. The feature's orientation was from west to east. It had an oval shape in plan with a U-shaped profile. The sides were very steep and the base was slightly concave. It had a hard break of slope at the top, while it was more gradual at the base. It measured a length of 970mm, a width of 600mm and a depth of 300mm. The top fill (C5853) was a soft dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal and occasional flint. It had a thickness of 180mm. The basal fill (C5854) was mostly black charcoal but had pockets of dark brown silty sand. It had a soft compaction and a thickness of 120mm. Inclusions included frequent shell, flint, occasional animal bone and burnt bone. The basal fill was clearly a dumped waste fill from a burning event in the area.

Pit (C5850)

A circular feature measuring a diameter of 560mm and a depth of 140mm was identified 3m southeast of kiln 3 (C5799). It had a bowl-shaped cut in profile, with gentle sloping sides and a concave base. The fill (C5851) was a soft pale brown silty sand with

Kiln 5



frequent pebbles.

Kiln 4

Truncating into the western cemetery enclosure ditch, a kiln was identified as C5047 orientated from northwest to southeast. The kiln was keyhole shaped in plan with a bowl-shaped cut in profile. The sides and base were concave. The kiln measured at least 4m in length, a width of 1.05m and a depth of 270mm.



Kiln 8

The kiln was recorded with 3 fills, with the two upper fills (C5122 & C5123) being firm silty and clayish sands with yellowish grey colours. C5123 (same as C5048) had occasional animal bones. The lower fill (C5124) was a friable greyish black silty charcoal. The fill behaved as very thin bands of burnt waste fill stacked over one another that couldn't be identified as separate events and were recorded as one context. Occasional animal bones and stones. This fill had a thickness of 130mm. The kiln had three larger stones (C5125) recorded in the northwest portion of the cut and they were placed standing up at the edge of the cut. The stones measured an average length of 340mm, a width of 180mm and a thickness of 150mm. Stones had charcoal staining on the lower half, and were likely remains of large baffle stones or stone lining of the northwestern chamber.

Kiln 5

Kiln 5 (C5368) was an oval shaped feature with a bowl-shaped cut in profile. The orientation of the cut was southwest to northeast, and the cut measured 4.3m in length, 2.2m in width and a depth of 0.9m. The cut had a sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual one at the base. Gently sloping sides with a steeper side in the northwest. The base is concave in the south chamber and flat in the north. The deepest part of the kiln was the south chamber.

The kiln had 10 fills (C5369, C5370, C5371, C5372, C5373, C5374, C5375, C5376, C5377, C5386) which were mostly loose silty sand, charcoal or sandy silt with clay pockets, frequent stones and animal

bones. An animal skull was recovered at the base of fill C5372. The colours varied from black to grey to brown, based on how much charcoal was within the fills.

Kiln 6

An oval shaped kiln (C5411) oriented from southeast to northwest was located in the west. The kiln had a bowl-shaped cut in profile with steep sloping sides and a flat, but slightly concave, base. The break of slope at the top was sharp, while it was gradual at the base. The kiln measured 4.5m in length, 2.2m in width and a depth of 0.89m which was similar to kiln 5.

The basal fill (C5417) was a loose black charcoal with inclusions of silty clay. It had occasional heat-affected stones and burnt clay. This was a waste fill from burning and had a maximum thickness of 100mm. Above that fill was a very compacted pale brown sandy clay (C5418) with very frequent stones. It had occasional animal bones and had a thickness of 400mm. Above the backfill a layer of heat affected sand (C5453) was present. It was very loose and had a pale reddish yellow colour. It had occasional burnt clay and a thickness of 80mm. Then there was another layer of waste fill from burning (C5419) which was a loose black charcoal with inclusions of silty clay. This had a thickness of 120mm. Above this was another band of backfill (C5420) which was a very compacted pale brown sandy clay with very frequent stones and occasional animal bones. It had a thickness of

100mm. Above this band the top fill was identified (C5421) as a loose black charcoal with silty clay inclusions. It had occasional animal bones. This was another waste fill from a burning event. It had a maximum thickness of 350mm.

Both of these kilns were located close to either terminus of the curvilinear ditch C5273. Kiln 5 outside of the south terminus and kiln 6 north of the northern terminus. Perhaps they were contemporary with the ditch or it could have been a coincidence.

Curvilinear ditch - western annex (C5273)

A curvilinear enclosure ditch was identified curving from the east towards the south before returning to the west. It had a well defined V-shaped cut in profile and was enclosing an area north of the ditch. The enclosed area was defined by multiple pits and linears. The cut had a gradual break of slope at the top and at the base, while the sides were steep sloping with a concave base (more V-shaped base in some areas). The ditch enclosed an area measuring 23.15m in diameter and it had a max width of 1.52m and a depth of 830mm.

The enclosure ditch had three fills (C5274, C5314, C5315). The basal fill was a compact brown silty sand with some clay, occasional charcoal, flint and frequent stone. It had a thickness of 300mm. The middle fill (C5314) was a moderately compacted greyish brown silty sand with occasional pebbles and flint. It had a thickness of 300mm. The top fill (C5274) was a compact greyish brown sandy clay with frequent stones, with a thickness of 290mm.

Kiln 7

An oval shaped kiln (C6022) was identified north of the eastern cemetery enclosure. It had a bowl-shaped cut in profile and it was oriented west east. The sides and base were concave and it had a gradual break of slope at the top and base. It measured 4.15m in length, 950mm in width and a depth of 480mm.

The basal fill (C6025) was a loose black charcoal fill with pockets of burnt silt and occasional pebbles, most likely a waste fill from a burning event which had a thickness of 150mm. Above this was a compacted pale orangey yellow sandy clay (C6024) with frequent small stones, this fill was heat-affected with charcoal flecking present, and had a thickness of 260mm. Above this was a backfill (C6023) of the kiln which was a very compacted yellowish brown sandy silt. It had very occasional flint and frequent stones. The thickness of this was 350mm.

In the area north and west of kiln 7 a number of shallow linears and pits of varying sizes were recorded. These mostly had loose dark brown sandy silts as fills. Most of these were very truncated, most likely as a result of landscaping or farming.

Kiln 8

A kiln (C6861) was recorded within the eastern cemetery with a figure of eight shape. It had a stepped U-shape in profile, and a steep concave side in the west into a bowl-shaped base. From the base it stepped up 210mm to the drying chamber, before it stepped up another 390mm into a possible flu where it was at its shallowest. The kiln was oriented from west to east, and measured a length of 1.65m, a width of 720mm and a depth of 660mm. The kiln was truncated in the west by a burial (SK319).

Kiln 9



The first event within the kiln (C6896) was the remains of burning in-situ. This measured a length of 1.21m, a width of 700mm and a depth of 210mm. It had scorched the natural subsoil below the cut into a soil of reddish colour. On the base was a white ash that had a charcoal lens above it, while above this charcoal was a lens of red scorched silt. It is possible that the kiln was used multiple times, though only one burning event remained due to the likely repeated cleaning out of the Kiln material. The fill above (C6862) was a compact dark greyish brown silty sand with moderate animal bone and stones. Because of the amount of animal bone found within the fill, it is likely that the pit was used as a waste pit when the kiln was no longer in use. This fill had a thickness of 200mm. The top fill (C6863) was a compact dark greyish brown silty sand with very few stones compared to the fill below. It had occasional charcoal flecking and a thickness of 260mm.

Kiln 9

A heavily truncated kiln (C6877) was identified below feature C6867. The length was impossible to determine, most likely more than 1m, but the width was 800mm and the depth was 500mm. Shape unknown, but it had a U-shape in profile with concave sides and a flat base. The basal fill (C6878) was a soft pale orangey brown silty clay with infrequent pebbles. C6879 was the same fill, just on the other side of the kiln. Above this was a fill (C6880) which was a soft yellowish brown sandy silt with infrequent pebbles.

Kiln 10

Kiln 10 (C6168), a cereal- and lime-kiln is described further down in the report.

Kiln 11

Kiln 11 (C5960), actually a non-ferrous metal working feature, is described further down in the report.

Kiln 12

A kiln (C6134) in a cluster of kiln activity was heavily truncated. It was the last of four kilns located there. The kiln measured 1.1m in length, 1.1m in width and a depth of 620mm. The shape was oval, with a U-shaped profile. The north side was concave with a gentle slope while the rest was vertical and with stone-lining. No stones were present in the north, perhaps because a flu was present at some point. The stone-lining (C6226)

was placed along the edges of the cut and consisted of angular stones of varying sizes all placed on natural subsoil.

In between the stones were three fills. The basal fill (C6229) was a compact pale orangey brown clayish sand. It was scorched and had frequent small stones and charcoal flecking, with a thickness of 100mm. Above this was a fill (C6228) which was a very loose black charcoal fill with flecks of red burnt clay, with a thickness of 30mm. Both these fills were clear evidence of burning events. The top fill - above (C6227) - was a loose dark greyish brown sandy silt with very frequent charcoal flecking. It had occasional animal bone, very rare slag and a piece of worked bone (6227:1).

Kiln 13

A kiln (C6176) was identified truncated by kiln 12. The kiln had a figure of eight shape with a bowl-shaped cut. The orientation of the cut was southwest northeast. It measured 2.6m in length, a width of 1.1m and a depth of 550mm. The sides were gently sloping into a concave shape, while the base was flat. It had a gradual break of slope at the top and at the base.

The basal fill (C6237) was a very compacted orangey brown sandy silt with occasional animal bone. It had flecks of charcoal. Above this was a quite similar fill (C6236) which was a compact dark brown clayish sand with flecks of orange. It had occasional animal bones and small stones. Then came a burnt waste fill (C6235) which was a very loose black charcoal with flecks of white ash and orangey burnt silt. Another backfill followed (C6234) consisting of a compact dark brown silty sand with charcoal flecking. It had occasional animal bones. Then another waste fill from burning followed (C6233, same as C6378). This was similar to the previous waste fill (C6235), this was followed by another backfill (C6232) which was a compact dark brown sandy silt. Above this was the last evidence of kiln activity, the fill (C6231) which was just like the two previous ones. Then came the top fill (C6230) that filled up the kiln after its last use. This was a compact greyish brown silty sand.

Kiln 14

Kiln 14 (C6475) was the earliest of the kilns in the cluster, with kilns 12, 13 and 15 truncating it. The kiln was oval in shape with a deep bowl-shape in profile. It had concave sides that sloped gently and



Kiln complex of kilns 12-15



a flat base. The break of slope at the top and base were gradual. The kiln was heavily truncated by all the activity in the area and very little of it remained. It measured 3.65m in length, 2.4m in width and a depth of 1.1m.

The fill (C7080) was a very compacted greyish brown sandy silt with very frequent charcoal. It had occasional animal bones and stones. Fill was very mixed and very disturbed from the nearby features of the kiln complex so no sample was taken from this context.

Kiln 15

Kiln 15 (C6414) was part of the same cluster of kilns as 12, 13 and 14. It was truncated by kiln 12. It was oval shaped in plan, while the profile was too disturbed by truncation to determine even though it probably was bowl-shaped. It had multiple burnt waste fills (C6381, C6382, C6384) consisting of loose black charcoal and backfills (C6380, C6383, C6385) consisting of compact brown sandy silts.

Kiln complex surrounding kiln 12, 13, 14 and 15

An area filled with different features was recorded as a kiln complex. It had multiple linears, slot trenches, waste pits and pits. These were mostly filled by the same burnt material as that recovered from the kilns. Numerous truncation events in the area between the numerous features indicated an area of continuous and varied kiln activity.

Slot trench (C5814)

A slot trench (C5814) east of the kiln complex was likely part of an enclosure that enclosed the long lived kiln complex. Feature C5653 could be another part of this enclosure. The slot trench was slightly curving in shape and had a V-shaped profile. It measured at least 9m in length, 610mm in width and a depth of 570mm. It had mostly vertical sides that changed to become more concave just before hitting the base. The base was flat. It had a very sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual break at the base. The feature started off with a well defined terminus in the south, then curved slightly toward the northwest and ran into the preserved green space area. It truncated the backfilled prehistoric ring ditch and the inner enclosure ditch. The fill (C5815) was a well compacted greyish brown stony silt. It had occasional charcoal flecks and frequent animal bones.

Slot trench (C6441)

A slot trench in the western part of the kiln complex was likely part of the same enclosure as slot trench C5814 and feature C5653. It was linear in shape, so if it was part of the same enclosure it wasn't curving in this area. The orientation was northeast southwest. It had a U-shaped profile, with steep sloping sides and an uneven base varying from flat to pointy. The break of slope at the top varied from gradual where it truncated other features to sharp where it truncated the natural subsoil. The break of slope at the base was gradual. It measured at least 7.86m, with a width of 520mm and a depth of 250mm. The fill (C6442) was a compact yellowish brown silty sand with frequent small stone and gravel, occasional animal bone and flint.

Kiln 16

Kiln 16 (C6000) was a keyhole shaped kiln oriented southwest-northeast. It measured a length of 2.9m, width of 1m and a depth of 260mm. In profile the cut was shaped like two bowls, with the deepest bowl in the northeast. The sides and base were concave. It had a sharp break of the slope at the top and a gradual break at the base. The basal fill (C6003) was a soft greyish brown silt with occasional charcoal and stone. Above this was a fill (C6002) which was a soft black charcoal layer with flecks of red burnt silt and grey ash. The top fill (C6001) was a firm dark greyish black sandy silt with very frequent ash and red flecks. It had occasional charcoal and stone.

Features north of eastern cemetery

A series of intercutting features were identified north of the eastern cemetery, outside of the enclosure ditch. These features were all heavily truncated and little remained for recording. Some of the features were agricultural furrows (at least C5981, C5983 & C5979), two were kilns (kilns 7 & 16) and the rest were irregular shaped, curvilinear and linear slot trenches or pits. These features were mostly filled by a loose blackish brown sandy silt with inclusions of animal bones, charcoal flecks and small stones.

Section 4 Stratigraphy - Early Medieval B

Souterrain and features nearby

Souterrain

A curvilinear cut for the souterrain (C6036) in a boomerang shape was identified northeast of the prehistoric ring ditch C5829, and truncated through the inner/middle enclosure ditch C5772 which seemed to have been completely backfilled at the time this cut was created. This in turn suggests the souterrain post-dates the eastern cemetery, as the inner/middle enclosure ditch had formed its northern boundary. The souterrain cut had completely vertical sides and a flat base. It had a very sharp break of slope at the top and at the base. It measured an approximate length of 13m, a width of 2m and a depth of 1.2m.

At the base of cut C6036, remains of a stone wall

C602 were preserved that ran along the edges of the cut. The wall had 1-3 courses of stones preserved in portions, with the best preserved portion being in the northwest. At the northwestern corner there was a semi circular chamber, with enough stones present to show the outline of the original chamber. The interior measured approximately 1.8m in diameter. In the east the chamber had an entrance where a passage led to the southeast to another smaller chamber, from where another small passage led to the southwest where a similar chamber to the northwestern one once must have been. The smaller chamber in the middle had some rectangular stones preserved in the wall, with some collapse on the base. A couple of the stones on the base looked like they were preserved in their original state as a step up towards the

Aerial view of souterrain



southwestern chamber which was a bit higher than the rest of the cut. The southwestern chamber was completely robbed out of stones at some point however, with only some remaining within the cut. Unlike the northwestern chamber where stones are encircling the chamber with 1-3 courses still intact and following the passage out of the chamber for at least 1.6m. This passage was about 0.8m wide. The southwestern chamber had a diameter of 2.2m. The northwestern chamber and the passageway also had a well-compacted metallated surface just on the top of the natural subsoil in between the walls.

The structure was made of dry stone, and no mortar was identified. Multiple different types of stones like granite, sandstone and gray shale were used in its construction. The largest stones present within the wall were two stones at the entrance into the northwestern chamber and they measured 380mm in length, 380mm in width and 180mm in depth. The stones were placed into natural subsoil.

The lowest backfill of the souterrain, the basal fill, was a dark greyish brown sandy silt (C6037; C6133) of soft compaction. It had a lot of small stones and charcoal flecking within it. There were frequent large stones within the fill and directly on top which looked like collapse from the souterrain walls and roof, especially in the northwest chamber where a pile appeared in the centre. This most likely represented the roof collapsing during theft or re-use of stone from the souterrain. The fill was present along the full extent of the souterrain, and had a thickness of 200mm. It contained frequent animal bones, with some being possible

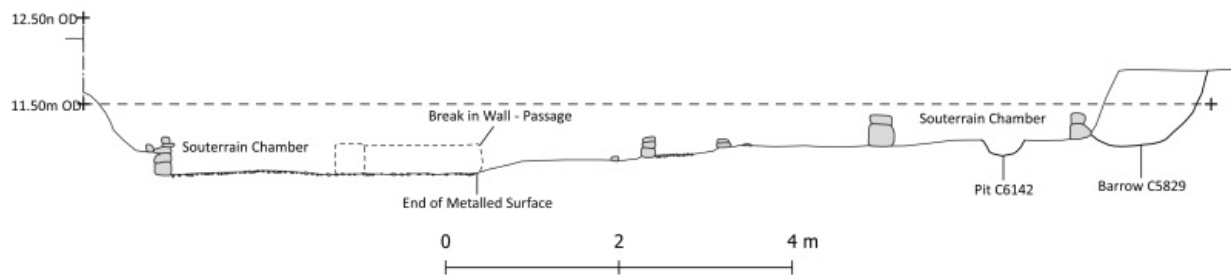


Souterrain showing northern chamber (above) and southern chamber (below) with central post-hole



human bones (Osteologist to confirm). A possible medieval pottery sherd (6037:2), a few pieces of flint and a copper alloy pin (6037:1) were also recovered within this context.

A slump fill (C6038) was recorded above some of the remaining stones (C6026) in the northwestern chamber to the north. This was a brownish orange friable silty sand which looked like deposited natural subsoil. It measured a length of less than 1m, a width of 0.3m and a thickness of 0.1m. Most likely this originated from the removal of the stones of the wall, which made some of the side collapse.



Profile through souterrain, north to left

The souterrain was backfilled with three further fills: C6041, then C6043/C6077 and the top fill C6044/C6076. These were all friable brown silty sands with inclusions of some stones, charcoal flecking and some artefacts. C6041 had occasional flint pieces, while C6043 had a possible medieval pottery sherd (19E0077:6043:5), an iron object (19E0077:6043:6) and some flint pieces. C6044 had a possible medieval pottery sherd (19E0077:6044:4), a jet-like bracelet fragment (19E0077:6044:3), a human radius and a couple of pieces of flint. A sherd of E-ware type pottery (19E0077:6076:2) along with some possible worked bone and flint and a sherd of medieval pottery (19E0077:6077:1) were also found in C 6044.

In the southwestern chamber a number of additional fills were recorded. The first fill was another small slump fill, C6322, which was similar to C6038. This also looked like redeposited natural subsoil. It was found in the northwest part of the southwestern chamber and measured about 0.63m in width and 0.17m in depth. The length was not more than 1m. The other fill found in this area was C6078. This was located at the southwestern point of the southwestern chamber, just where the souterrain truncated the ring ditch C5829. This fill was earlier than C6076 and later than C6077. This was the only place that the souterrain cut was not completely vertical, but had a small slope inwards before going vertical. This was identified as a possible entrance, either for the original cut or from the robbing of it. The fill was an orangey brown sandy silt with small stones, frequent charcoal and occasional animal bones. It measured a width of 1.49m and a depth of 0.19m. The length was not possible to identify during the excavation. A prehistoric pottery sherd was recovered from this fill (19E0077:6078:1).

Two features identified within the southwestern chamber:

Post hole (C6142)

A circular feature was identified on the base of the souterrain cut in the southwestern chamber. It had a bowl-shaped cut with a sharp break of slope at the top and imperceptible at the base. The sides and base were concave. It had a diameter of 470mm and a depth of 200mm. The fill (C6143) was a moderately compacted greyish brown sandy silt. It had frequent animal bone, charcoal, gravel and it contained potential daub and a piece of iron.

Stake hole (C6144)

A small circular feature was identified 300mm east of post hole C6142. It measured a diameter of 70mm and a depth of 50mm. It had a V-shaped cut in profile with a sharp break of slope at the top. It had near vertical sides with more of a slope on the western side. The base was pointed. The fill (C6145) was a moderately compacted greyish brown sandy silt.

Features later than the souterrain in the northwest corner:

Pit (C5916)

A heavily truncated feature, which was likely a pit, was identified in a section recording (DWG 43.2) of the souterrain and the later fills. It truncated the backfills associated with the souterrain C6036 (C6037, C6041, C6043). It was truncated by C5931. It measured a depth of 0.7m and a partial width of 0.4m. The length was not identified. The cut had a gradual break of slope at the top and the base, with a gently sloping side. The base was slightly concave. It had a yellowish brown fill which consisted of a silty sand that was friable. Inclusions included charcoal flecking and occasional pebbles. A possible medieval pottery sherd was identified

within this context (19E0077:5917:1).

Pit (C5923)

A second feature, likely a pit, was identified in the same drawing. This also truncated the backfills of the souterrain (C6041, C6043). It was truncated by the features C5927 and C5931. This feature had a circular shape in plan with a broad U-shape profile. The base had a flat concave shape and the sides had a moderate slope. The feature measured a diameter of 1.5m and a depth of 0.9m. The cut had 3 fills (C5924, C5925, C5926) and they were of different grades of brown with sandy silts or silty sands. They were all friable and similar. No other inclusions than small stones, pebbles and charcoal flecking. It is possible that this pit had something to do with the robbing out of the souterrain.

Pit (C5927)

A third feature in the same drawing, which could be a pit or a recut of pit C5923, was identified truncating the two upper fills (C5925 and C5926) of pit C5923. The shape in plan was unknown but was possibly circular with a bowl-shaped profile. Concave base with soft sloping sides. Top part was truncated away by C5929. The pit measured a width of 600mm and a depth of 200mm. Length was not identified. The fill of the cut was brown with an orange tinge. It was a friable silty sand that had some small stones and pebbles as inclusions.

Pit (C5929)

A fourth feature was identified in the same drawing which was likely to have been a shallow pit. It truncated the pits C5927 and C5923, and was truncated by the pit C5931. It was probably circular in plan like pit C5927, but could not be identified for certain. It had a shallow bowl-shaped profile with gently sloping sides and a concave base. The width was at least 1.2m and the depth at least 0.28m. The length was not identified. The fill was a brown silty sand that was friable with frequent stones and pebbles as inclusions. The fill held some artefacts including an E-ware sherd (19E0077:5930:6), an iron object (19E0077:5930:1) and occasional pieces of flint.

Pit (C5931)

A fifth feature was identified as the latest cut in this section. This was also likely a pit, and it truncated three of the previously mentioned pits (C5916, C5929, C5923) plus the backfilled souterrain (C6043). The shape in plan couldn't be identified

for this pit, but it could be circular. It had a very nice bowl-shaped cut in profile with concave sides and base. The pit measured a width of at least 2m and a depth of 0.6m. The length was not identified. The fill was a brown friable sandy silt with frequent grit and pebbles. It had occasional medium to large stones included.

Features later than the souterrain in the southwest corner:

Pit (C6315)

A possible oval feature was identified in the northwestern corner of the southwest souterrain chamber. It truncated the backfilled souterrain and was truncated by two possible stake holes (C6317 and C6319). This cut had a U-shaped profile with a more vertical side in the northwest and a more gentle slope in the southeast. The base was concave, with the deepest point being in the northwest. The cut measured at least 800mm in length, 930mm in width and depth of 390mm. The fill was a well compacted orangey brown sandy silt with frequent small stones and pebbles as inclusions. The fill looks like redeposited natural subsoil.

Stake hole (C6317)

This feature was circular in plan with a V-shaped profile. It truncated C6316 and was likely related to a stake hole directly adjacent to the southeast (C6319). It measured a diameter of 360mm and had a depth of 380mm. The fill was a well compacted brown silt with occasional small stones. This context contained less stones than the other features excavated in the same area.

Stake hole (C6319)

This feature was circular in plan with a V-shape in profile, where the southeastern side was sloping more gently. The stake hole truncated C6316 and was likely related to stake hole C6317 to the northwest. It measured a diameter of 530mm and a depth of 280mm. The fill was similar to the nearby stake hole with a well compacted brown silt that also had remarkably few stones compared to nearby features.

Features truncated by the souterrain:

Linear ditch (C6034)

A small linear ditch was identified running southwest-northeast and it was truncated by the

souterrain (C6036) and the inner enclosure ditch (C5772). Only a portion of it was preserved because of heavy truncation. It is a possibility that the cut respects the cut of the prehistoric ring ditch C5829. The ditch seemed to have a V-shaped profile and a linear shape in plan. It had moderate to steeply sloped sides with a moderate to sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual break at the base. The base was concave. The ditch had no more than 4m in length preserved because of truncation, with a width of 1.6m and a depth of 0.7m. The fill of this feature was a reddish brown silty sand with friable compaction. It had frequent small stones and pebbles with infrequent larger stones.

Pit (C6323)

A heavily truncated pit was recorded in the eastern corner of the southwestern souterrain chamber. The pit was cut into natural subsoil and was truncated by the souterrain cut, thus very little remained of it. The shape in plan was too truncated to identify, with the profile having the same issue. The profile could tell us however that it had a sharp break of slope at the top in the south with a concave side reaching a flat-ish base that could be seen post excavation. The pit measured at least 1.65m in length, 830mm in width and 300mm in depth. The fill was a well compacted yellowy brown stony silt which had occasional stones ranging from 50-100mm. The fill resembled the fills found in different prehistoric features on the site, with the same redeposited natural subsoil.



Pit C6150 with antler, showing section (above) and post-excavation (below)



Pit (C6150)

A large oval shaped pit (C6150) was truncated by the southern souterrain chamber. The orientation was southeast northwest and it measured 3.73m in length, 3.21m in width and a depth of 670mm. The cut was bowl-shaped in profile with gently sloping concave sides and a flat base. It had a gradual break of slope at the top and at the base.

The basal fill (C6151) was a well compacted orangey brown sandy silt with very frequent small stones (5-10mm) and occasional animal bones. It had charcoal flecking and it had a thickness of 60mm. Then there was a fill (C6238) in the northern end consisting of a well compacted brown stony silt. It had occasional larger stones (50-100mm) and a thickness of 270mm. It was most likely a slump fill from the side which consisted of similar subsoil. The fill above

(C6152) was a compacted greyish brown clayish silt. Recovered within this fill were 6 pieces of cut antler, 15 prehistoric pottery sherds and 2 possible fragments of whetstone. It had frequent animal bones, heat-affected stones, stones of varying sizes and charcoal. It had a thickness of 290mm. Above this was a fill (C6153) which was a well compacted brown silt with frequent animal bone. No charcoal in this fill, and it had a thickness of 390mm. The top fill (6154) was a compact dark brown sandy silt with a high frequency of stones. It had occasional animal bones and charcoal, and the thickness was 180mm.

Pit (C6155)

A pit (C6155) was cut into pit C6150, perhaps indicating a recut. It was oval in shape with a V-shaped profile. Gently sloping sides in the south with steep sloping sides in the north. It had a concave base and concave sides. It measured a length of 2.01m, width of 1.66m and a depth of 310mm. The fill (C6156) was a compact greyish brown sandy silt with frequent small stones and animal bones.

Nearby associated features:

Spread (C6409)

A spread was identified between pit C6150 and the circular enclosure ditch. It measured 6.1m in length, a width of 1.8m and a depth of 90mm. It was a friable grey sandy clay with frequent charcoal and animal bone. It was likely the spread from burning activity. This spread covered a post hole (C6400).

Post hole (C6400)

An oval post hole (C6400) was identified 190mm east of pit C6150. It measured a length of 810mm, a width of 660mm and a depth of 390mm. The orientation was south to north and it had a V-shaped profile. The south side of the cut was sloping more gently than the other sides which were very steep. The base was concave. The fill (C6401) was a firm pale orangey brown gravelly silt. Possibly related to nearby pit C6150.

Robbing of Souterrain

At some point during this phase, the souterrain was robbed out of stones. Very few of the original stones remained after this event.

East cemetery enclosure

Introduction

The eastern cemetery comprised a rectangular enclosure which was identified in three separate segments: C6065, C6867 and C6098. These enclosed a space which measured approximately 26m from west to east, and 22m from south to north. 87 human remains were uncovered during excavation. Of these, 68 were classified as articulated and 19 were classified as disarticulated. Other features within the cemetery included a spread C6670, 3 furrows: C6802, C6860 and C6923, a stone feature C7000, a linear C7059, two curvilinear features C6943 and C7068, and 5 pits: C7094, C7099, C7070, C7072, and C7074.

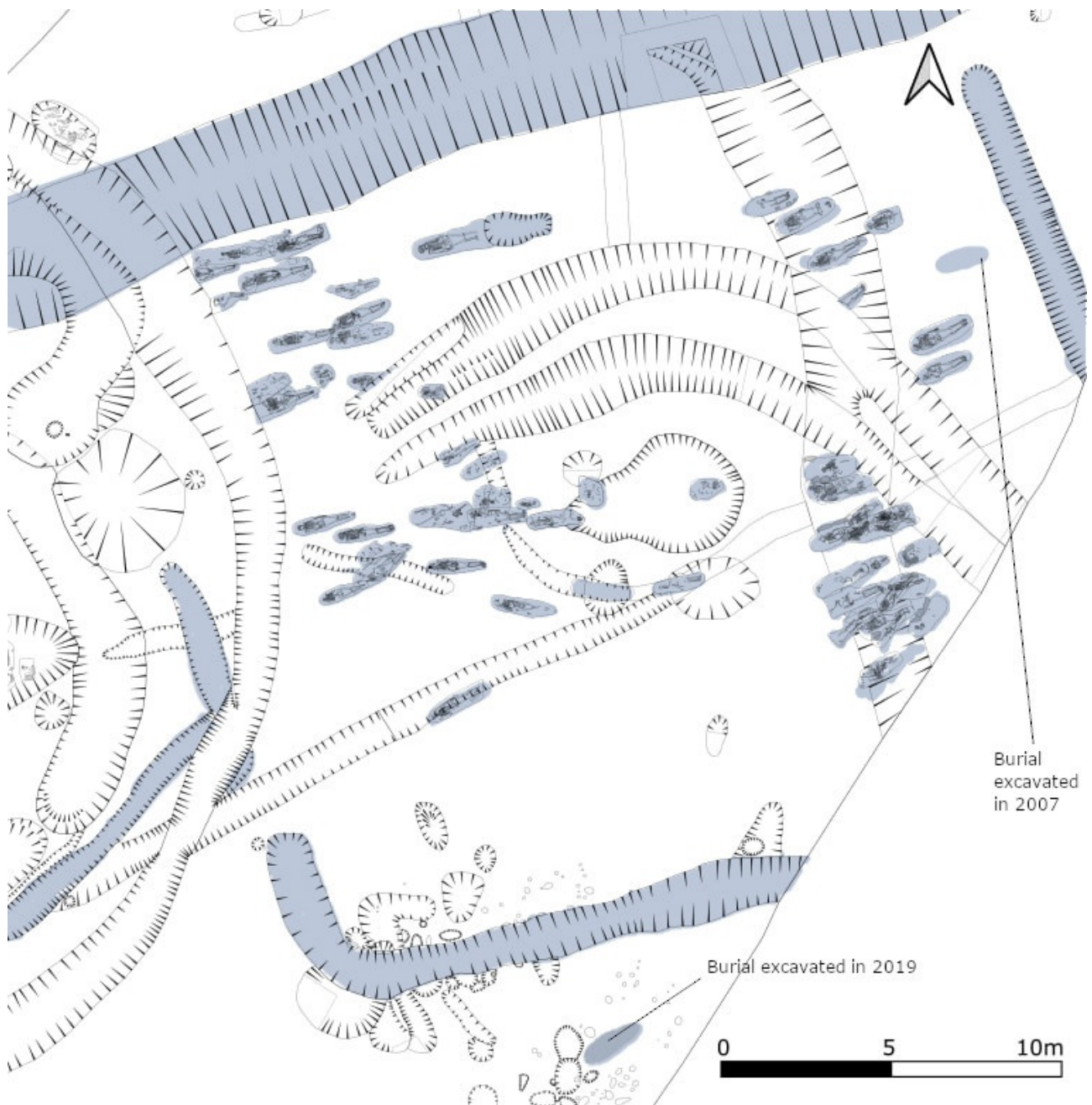
Northeastern ditch

The northeastern segment (C6065) that remained of the enclosure had a linear shape oriented north-northwest to south-southeast. It had a U-shape in profile, with steep concave sides and a flat base. Sharp break of slope at the top and at the base, but in the southern end it changed to a more gradual break near the base as the base got wider. In the north part of the cut, it had a well defined terminus with steep concave sides. In the south it got shallower (400mm) and widened before it ran out of the limit of excavation. The feature measured at least 9.37m in length, 1.5m in width and a depth of 600mm.

The basal fill (C7064) was a loose pale yellowish brown sandy silt with a high frequency of pebbles. It had occasional animal bones. The upper fill (C6070) was a compact dark brown clayish silt with frequent animal bone, occasional flint, very rare slag and one piece of E-ware (6065:1). The E-ware was found in the terminus. This segment of the enclosure was cut into natural subsoil, and didn't interact with any features besides from truncating the prehistoric coaxial field system (C6327).

Southern ditch

The southern segment (C6867) of the enclosure ditch started in the east with the return of the ditch from the limit of excavation and ran approximately 10m west before turning northwest. It ran 3.5m to the northwest before terminating with a well-defined terminus. It had a V-shaped cut in profile with steeply sloping sides and a V-shaped base. The break of slope at the base and the top were sharp. The cut measured at least 13.5m in



Plan of east cemetery

length, 1.1m in width and a depth of 800mm.

The basal fill (C6868) was a friable orangey brown sandy silt with frequent grit and small stones. It had infrequent charcoal flecks and animal bones. It was the most sterile of the fills of this segment. The fill above (C6871) was a soft greyish brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal and infrequent stones. This fill was only found in a very localised area within the terminus. Above this was a fill (C6869) which was a friable dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones, charcoal flecks and animal bones. One sherd of pottery was recovered from

this context (6869:1) which was possible E-ware. The top fill (C6870) was a friable brown sandy silt with occasional stones, animal bones and charcoal flecks. One piece of slag was identified within the context. This segment of the enclosure ditch truncated multiple features.

Southwestern ditch

The southwestern segment (C6098) of the enclosure was a linear-shaped ditch that ran south-southeast to north-northwest. It had a U-shaped profile, slightly bowl-shaped, with concave sides and base. It had a gradual break of slope at the

base, and a sharper break at the top. The cut measured 7m in length, 970mm in width and a depth of 470mm.

The basal fill (C6101) was a compact dark brown, with an orange tinge, sandy silt. It had frequent small stones. It was identified as slump fill from the sides due to its sterile composition. The middle fill



Rectangular enclosure, C6065 (ne) above and C6867 (sw) below



(C6100) was a loose pale yellowish brown sandy silt with very occasional animal bone. The top fill (C6099) was a loose brown sandy silt with a high frequency of animal bone and frequent stone. A broken spindle whorl (6099:1) was recovered from this fill. This segment of the enclosure ditch both truncated and was truncated by other features in the area.

The gap between the termini of the southern and the southwestern segments was 2m. This was most likely the main entrance into the cemetery enclosure. The gap between the eastern terminus and the enclosure ditch north of it was 1.6m. This could have been another entrance, but it is possible that there was an interior bank from the northern enclosure ditch (C5772).

East cemetery burials

SK 278

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The burial was severely truncated, possibly by ditch C5540. The surviving remains included a heavily fragmented supine skull, a partial spine, a partial right arm, both scapulae and possibly a right femur. The degree of truncation makes proper identification of articulation difficult. The remains were placed into a grave, which had a definitive cut C6527. It was a sub-oval shape in plan with an irregular shape in profile. It was filled (C6528) with a mid-brownish silty sand with a mid to firm compaction. The surviving portion of the grave measured 0.95m in length, 0.60m in width and had a depth of 0.1m. The cut of SK279, C6529, is located roughly in the location of the left femur of SK278. It was determined during excavation that SK278 postdates SK279, despite having worse fragmentation.

SK279

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were within a grave which was cut by burial SK278. This was primarily evident in the heavily fragmented skull and mandible of SK279. The left and right ribs were present, with the right ribs being in better condition. The left ribs may have been truncated by an unknown later feature. The spine, sacrum

and pelvis were all intact. It is possible that the burial was wrapped due to the tight position of the appendages. The forearms were flexed across the abdomen and both hands were extended. The remains were placed in a sub-oval grave cut C6529. This had a sharp break of slope at the top and base of the cut, with steep sides. The grave measured approximately 1.64m in length, 0.63m in width and 0.12m in depth. The western edge of the cut and remains were truncated by the same feature that truncated SK278 (possibly C5540). The grave was lined with shale (C6539) which measured 1.15m in length. It was also capped with shale (C6538), which measured 1.15m in length and 0.91m in width. The fill (C6530) of the grave was a mid-brownish silty sand with mid to firm compaction. The grave was backfilled in a single event.

SK280

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were very fragile and were truncated in the west by SK279. The skull and mandible of the skeleton were missing as a result of this truncation. The majority of the spine was absent, with only the lower portion surviving in a fragmented condition. Fragments of the right ribs, humerus, right scapula and clavicle were present. A partial right pelvis was found adjacent to five metacarpals. Additional fingers, likely belonging to the left hand, were found near the abdomen of the skeleton. However, the majority of the left side of the upper body was absent. These metacarpals were found adjacent to some flint flakes, which were possibly worked. The legs were both present, although in poor condition, and were extended. A single toe was found at the base of the cut. The slate lining (C6541) was a capping for SK273, which is below SK279 and partially below SK280. The skeleton was placed within a sub-rectangular cut C6531 with rounded corners. It had a gradual break of slopes at the top and base of the cut with gently sloping concave sides. The base of the cut was relatively uneven, although this could have been due to the heavy truncation in Area F. The grave measured 1.8m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.08m in depth. The fill of the grave was a mid-yellowish brown silty sand with loose compaction. The slate lining (C6541) of SK273 may have been re-used for SK280. A single animal tooth was found adjacent to the inner right femur.



Stone-capped burial SK 283 containing bone artefact

SK282

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull, right scapula and right upper humerus were absent, likely due to truncation from ditch C5540. Grave SK278 (C6527) overlaid this grave but cut the base of the grave of SK282 (C6559). This is evident as the toes were either missing or disturbed. The lower arms and left hand of the remains were fragmented prior to excavation. The right hand was not present. The pelvis was in a very delicate condition. There was a possible pathology on the upper tibia below the patella. The remains were roughly oriented E-W, although the legs veered slightly more WSW-ENE. The skeleton was placed into a sub-rectangular grave with rounded corners (C6559). It had gradual slopes at the top and base of the cut with concave edges. The base was uneven, although slightly concave. It measured 1.45m in length, 0.49m in width and 0.22m in depth. It was filled (C6560) with a mid-yellowish brown silty sand with a friable



Skull of SK 285 truncated by charnel pit

compaction. This fill had frequent medium sized pebbles, occasional flecks of charcoal and occasional nodules of flint.

SK283

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate to good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. It was a truncated burial in the eastern end of Area F. The skull was missing, with only a partial mandible surviving. Both clavicles and scapulae were intact. There was damage to the top of both humeri, which likely took place in antiquity in conjunction with the damage to the skull. The left finger bones remained intact and were flexed across the thoracic vertebrae. The left radius and ulna were not present. The pelvis and sacrum were in a moderate condition. The right tibia sustained some damage during excavation but overall, both legs were in good condition. The feet are intact and appear to have been placed together on the lining slate in a deliberate fashion. This skeleton was placed into a sub-oval shaped cut (C6582) with sharp breaks of slope at the top and base of the cut. It had steep sides and a flat base. The grave

measured 1.61m in length, 0.55m in width and 0.18m in depth. The burial was lined with stone (C6539) and was capped with shale (C6538), which was probably reused from burial SK279. A possible grave good was found in association with SK283. Worked bone was found on the southern side of the burial near the right scapula. It should be mentioned, however, that the grave good was in close proximity to the disturbance that saw damage to the skull, mandible and humeri, and thus may be unrelated. The burial was backfilled (C6583) in a single event by a mid-brown silty sand with firm compaction.

SK284

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains within this burial had been heavily disturbed by the cutting of ditch C5540. This was particularly evident above the right arm, which was extended across the body toward the left arm. Nothing remained of SK284 above this point. Only fragments of the spine and pelvis remain. The sacrum was entirely missing. Both humeri were also missing and the left ulna was damaged in antiquity. The left femur was fragmented; only pieces of the top of the bone survived. The left tibia appeared to have been damaged in antiquity. The right femur and tibia were in relatively good condition, although the right fibula was fragmented on its proximal end. The feet survived together in relatively good condition, with only the smaller toe bones missing. The right hand survives relatively well, although a few finger bones at the end of the left ulna may be the fragmented remains of the left hand. The skeleton was placed into a sub-oval grave cut (C6635) with gradual breaks of slope at the top and base. The sides were gently sloping and concave. The base was uneven, although generally flat. The burial measured 1.27m in length, 0.52m in width and 0.09m in depth. The westernmost edge of this cut was truncated by C5540. The grave was backfilled (C6636) in a single event with a mid-yellowish brown silty sand with loose compaction.

SK285

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull was depressed on the right side by a charnel pit (DSK 286 & DSK 293). This caused damage in antiquity to the back

left portion of the skull, while the teeth showed definite signs of wear. The jaw was large and square, possibly indicating the individual's sex as male. Both arms were present, although the right ulna and left radius had been damaged. Both clavicles and scapula were present and intact. The left and right ribs were both present, though only a partial sternum remained. The spine was in good condition, though there was a possible pathology on the lower cervical vertebrae, namely Ankylosing Spondylitis. The hands appeared to have been purposely placed across the pelvis in a grasping or cupping position, with the right hand covering the sacrum. The pelvis and legs were in good condition, with possible signs of arthritis on the knees. The feet were covered by a large capping stone. The skeleton was placed into a sub-rectangular grave with sharp breaks of slope at the top and base of the cut (C6637). The sides were steep on the western end and gently sloping on the east. The base of the grave was flat. The grave measured 2.06m in length, 0.69m in width and 0.25m in depth. The cut had definitive edges with an obvious stone lining (C6639). The stone lining was placed on top of the natural surrounding the grave. The foot stone collapsed over the feet in antiquity. The grave was backfilled with a mid-brown mottled silty sand with a moderate compaction.

DSK286

DSK286 was a charnel pit (C6708) cutting into SK285. It contained several jumbled-up bones from different individuals, which had either fallen in on top of SK285 or had been placed deliberately. This event damaged the skull of SK285 in antiquity. The remains included a leg (femur and tibia), some metacarpals, a pelvis, and skull fragments. There were other highly fragmented bones throughout the charnel pit. Two femurs (DSK 293) were not related to the charnel pit C6708 but were placed on top of the cut in antiquity. The cut was irregularly shaped in plan with a sharp break of slope at the top and base. The sides were steeply sloping with an uneven base. The cut measured 0.44m in length, 0.23m in width and 0.18m in depth. It was backfilled with a mid-brown silty sand with mid to firm compaction.

SK287

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were

heavily disturbed by later ploughing activity and were truncated in the northwest by C6664. The spine and parts of the left ribs were present but disturbed. The right ribs, skull, proximal end of the right arm, scapulae, and most of the left arm were not present. There were some small skull fragments over the pelvis, although it is unclear as to whether this belonged to SK287. The right hand was disturbed, and the left hand was mostly absent, bar one phalange. The legs were heavily fragmented as well, however enough survived to prove they were extended. The feet did not survive. The skeleton was buried in a sub-oval shaped grave (C6640) with imperceptibly sloping sides and a relatively flat base. The unknown nature of the grave cut was due to later agricultural activity damaging the area. It measured 1.3m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.05m in depth, and was backfilled with a dark brownish-grey silty clay with moderate compaction.

DSK288

Disarticulated human bone was found in an area with heavy ploughing activity in Area F. A number of skull fragments were found along the southern edge of the cut (C6690). The disarticulated remains included a fragmented radius, part of the right temporal bone, a number of phalanges, left femur fragments, right ulna fragments, a pelvis fragment, tibia fragments, a tarsal, a cuneiform, and the fragmented remains of a frontal bone. A mix of possible vertebrae fragments and a number of unidentified long bone fragments were also found. The heavily disturbed remains were originally placed within a rectangular shaped grave with imperceptible sides and an uneven base. The cut is listed as 'theoretical' due to the large degree of truncation. The grave measured 1.4m in length, 0.73m in width and 0.1m in depth. It was backfilled by a mid-yellowish brown silty sand that was firmly compacted. The western edge of the cut had a stone lining C6696 for a separate grave (SK289).

SK289

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The right-hand stone of the stone lining C6696 was pulled over the skull, probably during agricultural activity. This event heavily fragmented the skull of SK289. The bones were in very good condition. The right lower arm, right pelvis, both hands and both femurs were damaged and disarticulated in antiquity, once

again possibly due to agricultural activity. Disarticulation of the hands made it difficult to assess their original positions. The lower legs were also fragmented, and the bone was very fragile. The feet were together, but the toes were disturbed by burial SK294 and quite possibly by SK295, both of which are located to the east. One toe bone from SK289 was found just to the left of the skull of SK294. The remains were placed within a sub-rectangular grave (C6694) with gradually sloping concave sides and an uneven base. The grave measured 1.98m in length, 0.56m in width and 0.14m in depth. It was backfilled by a mid-yellowish brown silty sand with firm compaction. The compaction of the grave soil was looser in the area around the skull. The fill included occasional charcoal flecking and flint chips. The grave was lined by C6696 on the western end of the cut. This included three large, flat rectangular and sub-rectangular stones. These were generally placed around the skull.

SK 295



SK290

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine position. This burial was truncated by ditch C5540 to the west. Only the lower portion of the left femur and the partial remains of the lower legs remain. The right fibula was heavily fragmented and represented the only remains of the right leg that survived. The lower left leg survived in much better condition. This included an intact tibia, fibula, and the right foot. It is unclear as to whether the remains were originally extended or not. The only hint of this is the surviving lower right femur, which was articulated in what would appear to be an extended position. The remains were placed within a sub-oval grave cut (C6697) with gradually sloping concave sides and an uneven base. The grave measured 1.5m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.1m in depth. It was backfilled (C6698) by a mid-brownish orange silty sand with moderate to loose compaction.

SK291

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. This burial was truncated by C5540 to the west. Several vertebrae survived along with the upper right arm. Fragmented skull and rib fragments were located adjacent to the left scapula. Only the upper portion of the right femur was evident. Located above this were the heavily fragmented remains of the pelvis. This burial was placed within a sub-oval grave cut (C6706) with gradually sloping concave sides and an uneven base. The grave cut measured 1m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.1m in depth. The grave was backfilled by a mid-brownish orange silty sand with a moderate to loose compaction (C6707).

DSK292

Disarticulated pelvic fragments possibly related to SK 290. This relationship was unclear, however. Also found within this deposit was a single human tooth. The remains were found adjacent to the surviving left foot of SK290. These remains were found within the same cut of SK290, C6697.

SK294

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were moderately to poorly preserved. It was truncated at the right humerus and right ribs. The

femurs, located downwards toward the feet, saw the greatest degree of truncation. The left and right ribs, sternum, left scapula and left humerus were well preserved. The lower vertebrae were truncated, and the hips and pelvis had been disturbed slightly. As the feet were mostly absent due to truncation it was not possible to say as to whether they were together or apart. The hands were too disturbed to say whether they were closed or extended. The burial was placed within an oblong grave cut (C6712) with imperceptible sloping sides and a flat base. The grave measured 1.7m in length, 0.55m in width and 0.04m in depth. The grave was backfilled by a mid-brownish grey silty clay with moderate compaction (C6713).

SK295

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. These are the well-preserved remains of a possibly male adult. The skull was facing southeast, with the right arm flexed with the right hand over or around the left arm. The left arm was slightly flexed with the left hand over the pelvis. Top of both humeri were damaged by later activity. The pelvis was also damaged and partially missing. The right foot was absent, likely due to later truncation. Despite the cut and fill looking undisturbed, the toe bones were present adjacent to the right hip and on the right ribs. The left ribs were fragile and easily broken during excavation. The sternum was preserved in two parts. Both femurs had a fracture on the middle of the shaft, likely due to pressure on the bones after burial. The pubic symphysis was fractured and had collapsed. The burial was placed within an oblong grave cut (C6714) with a sharp break of slope at top and gradual at the base of the cut. The sides were steep and concave with a flat base. The grave measured 1.81m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.12m in depth. It was backfilled by a mid-brownish grey silty clay (C6715) with moderate compaction. The fill is very similar to the older context C6670 that the burial was cut into.

SK296

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull was not present, though some teeth remained. The right scapula was severely truncated, possibly a result of ploughing, which would have caused damage or pressing in antiquity. The legs, pelvis and sacrum

had been cut away entirely. It was unclear what caused this. The cervical spine remained intact, with the bottom vertebrae showing signs of some pathology. The left clavicle was intact, though the scapula appears to be very damaged. The left ribs were present, although in a fragile condition. There was a small pile of disarticulated skeletal remains associated with SK296 immediately to the east of the left clavicle and scapula. The remains were placed within a sub-oval grave cut (C6716) with gradually sloping concave sides and an uneven base. The grave measured 1.1m in length, 0.61m in width and 0.18m in depth. It was backfilled with a mid-brown silty sand with moderate to firm compaction (C6717).

SK297

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. Both arms were flexed upward toward the sternum. The body was likely wrapped before burial, which is evident through the tight-knit nature of the arms, hands, legs, and feet. The remains saw damage at the pelvis, skull, and lumbar vertebrae. The disturbance here was likely a result of pressure from modern machinery or through ploughing activity in antiquity. Alternatively, the remains may have been disturbed by the digging of ditch C5540, although this is unclear. The remains were placed within a sub-oval shaped grave (C6718) with imperceptibly sloping sides, which was nearly vertical. The base was flat, and the grave measured 1.8m in length, 0.43m in width and 0.17m in depth. The grave was backfilled with a greyish brown gravelly sand with a soft compaction (C6719). The grave had a stone lining (C6722), marked by 5 stones located in various locations around the base of the cut.

SK298

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The grave was heavily truncated by ditch C6734. The skull was fragmented in places, but untouched by the ditch cut. The right scapula was also heavily fragmented due to the ditch cut, and some right rib fragments remained articulated. The left humerus was broken in antiquity and fragmented left ribs were found throughout the northern side of the grave. These were co-mingled with numerous finger bones. Pelvis fragments and some rib fragments were

placed on top of the grave. It is unclear whether this was during the ditch digging in antiquity or during archaeological testing. A fragment of a femur and pelvis were found within ditch C6734. Possible further fragments of the left radius and possible vertebrae fragments were found commingled at the base of the grave. The remains were located within a sub-rectangular grave (C6720) with gradually sloping concave sides and a slightly concave base. The surviving portion of the grave measured 0.67m in length, 0.35m in width and 0.08m in depth. It was filled (C6721) with a mid-yellowish brown silty sand with a loose compaction. It included occasional charcoal flecking, occasional chips of quartz and occasional animal bone fragments.

SK299

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains had been truncated by modern farming activity. The entire upper half, including the skull, torso, and right arm were absent. All that remained were the left radius and ulna, some left-hand bones, the left hip and top of the left femur. The left radius showed sign of damage from machinery. The left pelvis remained somewhat intact, with some signs of mechanical damage. The left femur was likely broken in antiquity. There was also a possible left tibia, although it is slightly out of the correct alignment. The remains were placed within a sub-oval grave cut (C6728). This had gradually sloping sides and an uneven base. It measured 2.1m in length, 0.92m in width and 0.05m in depth. The grave and skeleton had been almost entirely truncated, like others in the area, such as SK307 to the west. The grave was filled (C6729) with a mid-brown silty sand with moderate to loose compaction.

SK300

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull was fractured after burial at a later time in antiquity. Both femurs had a fracture on the middle of their shafts, due to pressure after burial. There was a second fracture on the right femur on the proximal end near the femoral head. The pubic symphysis on both sides were fractured in several places but had not collapsed during excavation. Most toe bones were present except for a few phalanges. Both scapulae were fractured at their thinnest points. The right



SK 300, containing a sherd of LRA1 (B-Ware)

hip showed fracturing that likely occurred after burial. The sternum and patellae were both preserved. This skeleton had an extra lumbar vertebra. The left pelvis appeared to be possibly fused with the sacrum +L6. The remains were placed within a sub-rectangular grave cut (C6730) with sharply sloped concave sides and a flat base. This measured 2.3m in length, 0.58m in width and 0.16m in depth. This was filled (C6731) with a mid-brownish grey silty clay with moderate to loose compaction. Included within the fill were occasional inclusions of animal bone, human bone and a shard of e-ware pottery.

SK301

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The right side of the grave was badly damaged or truncated during testing. Right leg bones and other assorted bones were visible in a scatter on the surface prior to excavation. These appeared to belong to SK301 as the size matched the left leg. The skull was badly

fragmented, and the spine was intact. The right side was badly damaged by truncation, with the right arm mostly missing, the right ribs fragmented, and the right hip fragmented. Finger bones below the right pelvis appeared to be the remains of the right hand. The left side of the skeleton was in much better condition, the humerus, radius and ulna, hand, ribs, pelvis, sacrum, and femur were all intact. The left tibia and fibula were in good condition on their proximal ends. These were cut away shortly after due to truncation. No feet were uncovered. Animal bone was found adjacent to the skull and left hip. The remains were placed within a sub-rectangular grave (C6736) with imperceptibly sloping edges and an uneven base. The grave measured 1.56m in length, 0.46m in width and 0.1m in depth. It was filled with a mid-yellowish brown silty sand with loose compaction.

SK302

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The top half of the remains were heavily truncated and degraded. The pelvis was particularly fragmentary. The lower half of the skeleton, including both femurs, tibiae and fibulae were in good condition. The feet were absent, likely due to the cutting of another grave at this point. No skull was uncovered during excavation. This skeleton was part of a double burial in which the arms were linked (left arm of SK302 with right arm of SK303). The skeleton was placed into a sub-rectangular grave cut (C6738) that was heavily truncated to the west. The grave had sharply sloping near vertical sides. It measured 1.7m in length, 0.9m in width and 0.2m in depth. It was filled (C6739) with a brown silt with small, rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks.

SK303

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. SK303 was heavily truncated and in worse preservation than the other skeletal remains in the burial SK302. The left hand was missing, likely a result of ploughing activity. The bones were degraded, which may be a result of pathology. The tibia had an unfused epiphysis. The primary bones that survived in this burial were the left humerus, radius and ulna, both legs and a portion of the right hip. Similar to

SK302, the feet do not survive. The skeleton was placed into a sub-rectangular grave cut (C6738) that was heavily truncated to the west. The grave had sharply sloping near vertical sides. It measured 1.7m in length, 0.9m in width and 0.2m in depth. It was filled (C6739) with a brown silt with small, rounded pebbles and occasional charcoal flecks.

DSK304

Disarticulated remains uncovered on the western edge of the partially excavated grave cut of SK51, C5703. They comprised a damaged left femur, snapped on the shaft close to the ball-in-socket joint. The femoral head was uncovered adjacent to the other remains, facing the opposite direction. The left talus was also found near the shaft of the southern side. The documentation for SK51 noted several disarticulated remains localised to the area around DSK304. These remains, DSK52 were not documented or identified at the time by the excavator. They likely relate directly to DSK304, but this is difficult to ascertain. The remains were found within the grave cut C5703, which had a sub-oval shape in plan with steeply sloping concave sides and a flat base. The fill surrounding the disarticulated remains was a grey silty gravel with loose compaction. These were concentrated in an area at the base of the cut with approximately 0.4m diameter.

DSK305

Disarticulated remains found within a definitive grave cut C6740. The bones were poorly preserved and were disturbed in antiquity. The remains included a partial left humerus, fragmented vertebrae, part of a left scapula and left ribs, and a portion of the frontal bone. They were found within an oval shaped grave cut with near vertical sides and a flat base. This measured 0.87m in length, 0.37m in width and 0.09m in depth. It was filled with a mid-grey gravelly sand with a loose compaction.

DSK306

Disarticulated remains are located on the eastern edge of ditch C6734. These included skull fragments, a left clavicle, a cervical vertebra, a left radius, a right ulna, the distal ends of two femurs, two tibiae, and an assortment of toe bones from both feet. These were poorly preserved. These were found within the ditch C6734 in the ditch fill C6735.



Double burial SK 302 and SK 303

DSK307

The highly truncated disarticulated remains immediately west of SK299. It was in a similar condition probably due to ploughing and farming activity. The right arm was present and severely damaged between the C2 and C5 vertebrae. The mandible was also heavily fragmented. Some teeth were present amongst the bones. The left humerus remains, although damaged by machinery. The left clavicle and scapula survived, although they are truncated. The remaining bone was very disturbed, but it was impossible to say as to where each piece came from. The left ribs were very fragmented. These remains were placed within a sub-oval grave (C6794) with gradually sloping sides. It measured 1.1m in length, 0.55m in width and 0.04m in depth. It was filled (C6795) with a mid-brown silty sand with loose to moderate compaction.

SK308

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. This burial

had been severely truncated, probably from agricultural activity. The skull was depressed, causing a complete fracturing. The right upper side of SK308 was cut away, including the clavicle and scapula. Most of the ribs, arm and pelvis, including C7-C5 of the cervical vertebrae survived. This included some of the thoracic vertebrae. The left scapula showed signs of being almost entirely crushed. The left arm was damaged in antiquity. There is a lot of DSK throughout the grave, possibly disturbed from ploughing action. The legs were in very good condition. Beside the left tibia was a left humerus, possibly associated with SK311. The skeleton was placed within a sub-oval shaped grave (C6796) with sharply sloping sides at the top and gradual at the base. The grave measured 1.94m in length, 0.68m in width and 0.12m in depth. It was filled (C6797) with a brown silty sand with moderate to loose compaction.

SK309

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were likely shrouded due to the tight-knit nature of the remains. The arms of the remains were crossed with the left hand on the left hip and the right hand near the sacrum. The sternum survived but had fallen into the right ribs. The skull was looking north and has possibly fallen rather than placed. There was decay on the right mandible, probably from an abscess on a tooth. Animal bone was found within the grave near the right hip. The left and right pubic arches touching reflects the tight wrapping. The skeleton was placed within an oval shaped grave (C6798) with flat edges and a concave base. It measured 1.75m in length, 0.43m in width and 0.11m in depth. It was filled with a medium brownish-grey gravelly sand with a moderate compaction.

SK310

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. Both lower legs were truncated, and the feet were disturbed, likely in antiquity. The left humerus was not present and the left scapula had been damaged in antiquity. The left hand was extended by the side. The right hand was placed over the pelvis. The knees may indicate that the body was shrouded prior to burial. There was possible pathology on the upper lumbar vertebrae. The remains were placed within

an oval-shaped grave (C6800) with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 1.86m in length, 0.37m in width and 0.11m in depth. It was filled (C6801) with a mid-greyish brown gravelly sand with moderate compaction.

SK311

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull was truncated either by later ploughing activity or by SK308 in the northwest (C6796). Both femurs and lower legs were truncated, likely from later ploughing activity. The left foot and left humerus were both truncated. Both the left and right ribs were poorly preserved. Only two left rib fragments were present. Only one fragment of the left scapula was preserved. The sternum survived. The right and left hips were both slightly damaged. The distal ends of both forearms were fractured. The proximal end of the left femur was fractured. It is possible that the lower legs present in the grave do not belong to SK311. It was buried in a sub-rectangular grave (C6804) with imperceptibly sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 1.66m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.05m in depth. It was filled (C6805) by a mid-brownish grey silty clay with moderate to loose compaction. It included occasional unburnt animal bones and disarticulated human bones.

SK312

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull was fragmentary. Both arms were present and were flexed at the elbow upwards toward the skull under the chin. The right hand was lying across the right clavicle. The upper legs were present, and the lower legs were absent. No feet survive. A spindle whorl was found in close proximity to SK312 within the grave cut (C6806). It was found with associated remains SK315 and DSK 316. It was found within a sub-oval grave cut with sharply sloping vertical sides with an uneven base. It measured 1.7m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.1m in depth. It was filled (C6807) with a brown to dark brown silty sand with moderate to loose compaction. It contained frequent animal bone, possibly due to truncation.

DSK313

The disarticulated remains of a juvenile burial

which has been cut through, possibly to make way for a later burial, by SK308. Only small fragments remained within the same fill, which are moderately preserved. The remains included a possible right femur, vertebrae fragments and some toe bones. A partial right hip may be related to these remains. These remains were found within grave C6796 for SK308. The disarticulated skeleton was placed within a sub-oval shaped grave (C6796) with sharply sloping sides at the top and gradual at the base. The grave measured 1.94m in length, 0.68m in width and 0.12m in depth. It was filled (C6797) with a brown silty sand with moderate to loose compaction.

DSK314

The poorly preserved disarticulated remains of an individual found within the grave cut C6796. The disturbance was likely related to later agricultural practises. It is likely that these were the remains of an earlier burial which was cut away to make room for a later burial. The bones found included a partial left and right femur, and two distal ends of both humeri. The disarticulated skeleton was placed within a sub-oval shaped grave (C6796) with sharply sloping sides at the top and gradual at the base. The grave measured 1.94m in length, 0.68m in width and 0.12m in depth. It was filled (C6797) with a brown silty sand with moderate to loose compaction.

SK315

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor to moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains included an articulated left lower leg, and the partial remains of a left and right feet. The remains of SK315 were lying on the left side of SK312. It was found within a sub-oval grave (C6806) cut with sharply sloping vertical sides with an uneven base. It measured 1.7m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.1m in depth. It was filled (C6807) with a brown to dark brown silty sand with moderate to loose compaction. It contained frequent animal bone, possibly due to truncation.

DSK316

The moderately preserved disarticulated remains of a left hand lying at the left hip of SK312. It was found within a sub-oval grave (C6806) cut with sharply sloping vertical sides with an uneven base. It measured 1.7m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.1m in depth. It was filled (C6807) with a brown to dark

brown silty sand with moderate to loose compaction. It contained frequent animal bone, possibly due to truncation.

SK317

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor to moderate state of preservation. The burial was heavily truncated in all directions. The preserved remains included a left scapula, two left ribs, vertebrae, one right rib and fragments of a right scapula. Surface bones in the immediate area may have possibly belonged to SK317. There were a few fragments of animal bones were northwest of the left scapula as well. The burial was placed into a grave (C6894) that was difficult to ascertain the shape during excavation. The base beneath the remains was flat, however. The grave was cut into an older context C6670 like many other burials in Area F. It measures 0.5m in length, 0.42m in width and 0.03m in depth. It was filled (C6895) with a mid-brownish grey silty clay with moderate to loose compaction.

SK318

The remains of an infant were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull was heavily fragmented, and the facial features had been crushed by a stone. The left arm was slightly flexed overlying the pelvis. The right arm was flexed across the body. The legs were extended but given the positioning of the body, they are extended anteriorly against the side of the grave cut. The body was sitting in a V shape, with the lower legs crossed over each other, left over right. The remains were found at the edge of the enclosure ditch C6565 but within the cemetery itself. The legs were extended, and it was not clear as to whether the feet were together or apart, due to disturbance. This appeared to be an isolated burial. The infant was placed within a sub-oval shaped grave (C6897) with sharply sloping edges at the top and gradual at the base. The sides were almost vertical, and the base was concave. The grave measured 0.52m in length, 0.27m in width and 0.18m in depth. The grave was filled with a mid to dark brown silty sand with a loose compaction. It had frequent gravel inclusions. Betty O'Brien has requested that we radiocarbon date this burial in particular.

SK319

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a

supine extended position. It was located on the northern edge of the rectangular enclosure C6565 within the cemetery of Area F. A bone pin was located in the fill between SK319's legs. It is unclear as to whether this was a grave good or disturbance after the grave was dug into a rubbish dump (C6861). The skull was damaged in antiquity. The ribs were poorly preserved. The upper teeth, particularly the incisors were not present during excavation. The hands were located slightly behind the pelvis. The feet were excavated prior to the identification of the burial as part of the rubbish dump C6861. The remains were buried in an oval-shaped grave (C6899) with gradually sloping shallow sides and a slightly concave base. The grave measured 1.68m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.18m in depth. It was filled with a dark-greyish brown silty sand with loose compaction. It included inclusions of animal bone and some charcoal flecking.

SK320

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor

SK 310



state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. These remains were located between SK301, SK302 and SK309. It was heavily disturbed by agricultural activity. The partially articulated remains of the legs suggest that the body was buried in a supine position. The remains uncovered include a left rib, vertebra, a partial frontal bone, an upper right radius, two patellae and two fragmented femurs. These were placed within a sub-oval shaped grave (C6946) with flat sides with an irregularly shaped base. The grave measured 1.71m in length and 0.31m in width. It was filled (C6947) with a mid-grey gravelly sand with moderate compaction.

SK321

The remains of an infant were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. It was a highly truncated child burial in the southwestern portion of Area F. The burial has been clearly ploughed during agricultural activity in the past. The back of the skull survived, and the mandible was fragmented. The left scapula and clavicle were present along with fragmented right ribs. Part of the sternum was present as well. Small baby teeth were found throughout the disturbed cut. The left arm was present, although fragmented. The left leg was truncated away. Alternatively, the right leg survived although it was in a fragmentary condition. The right tibia and fibula have been damaged, and the bone was very friable. The remains were placed within an irregularly shaped grave (C6948) with gradually sloping concave sides and a concave base. The grave measured 0.21m in length, 0.31m in width and 0.04m in depth. It is possibly related to SK311 or other similar burials in the area. It was filled with a mid-brown silty sand with moderate compaction (C6949).

SK322

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. These are the remains of a heavily truncated skeleton on all sides. The surviving bones include the upper vertebrae, left scapula and clavicle, the right ribs, hand bones, a fractured ulna, skull fragments and three teeth. The surviving hand bones were situated over the left ribs. The ulna was disturbed and was found near the eastern edge of the grave in a disarticulated fashion. The burial was possibly truncated by grave cut C6996 SK308 along the

southern side of the grave. It also appears to have been disturbed by later ploughing activity. Bone fragments (including some animal) were present on the northern side of the skeleton. This included the possible lower ribs associated with SK322. SK308 in the south had several DSK (314) possibly associated with this skeleton. The remains were placed within a grave (C6950) which had been heavily truncated and had no definitive shape during excavation. The base beneath the remains was flat. The grave measured 1.16m in length, 0.4m in width and 0.07m in depth. It was filled (C6951) with a mid-brownish grey silty clay with moderate compaction.

SK323

The remains of an adult individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The grave was heavily truncated, although it is unclear by what. It is likely that most damage to the remains took place during ploughing activity. The remains comprise a fragmented orbit, fragmented right ribs, a partial right hip, a partial right femur, fragmented vertebrae, the distal ends of two femurs, left and right tibiae, a right fibula, and two heavily fragmented feet. Damage from a plough furrow can be clearly seen along the femurs. A clear cut at the distal ends of both femurs and the proximal end of the right femur resulted in the removal of the bones at this point. The remains were placed within an irregularly shaped grave (C6953), a result of later disturbance. The edges of the cut gently slope down toward a concave base beneath the remains. It was filled (C6954) with a dark-greyish brown silt with a firm compaction.

SK324

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were heavily truncated by later ploughing activity. The remains primarily include skull fragments, the middle part of the torso (including vertebrae, 6 left ribs and 6 right ribs, and two teeth). The ground was sloping toward the east. It was unknown if the skeleton was sloping at the time of burial or if it was levelled with C6670 beneath it due to agricultural activity. The remains were placed with a sub-rectangular shaped cut (C6966), with imperceptible sides and slope due to heavy truncation. The surviving grave measured 0.83m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.03m in depth. It was

filled (C6967) with a mid-yellowish brown silty sand with a loose compaction. The fill included occasional charcoal flecking and flint fragments. Animal bone was found in the fill, adjacent to the skull fragments uncovered.

SK325

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were mostly present bar a missing left arm (humerus, radius and ulna). The skull was heavily fragmented, however enough survived to deem that it once faced south. The right arm was tightly flexed toward the right clavicle. The left hand, which survives, was likely extended next to the left hip. The right hand was slightly grasping. The vertebrae, ribs, sacrum, pelvis, and legs are generally in good condition. The feet were together, although the ankles of the individual had decayed severely. The remains were buried in an oval shaped grave (C6991) with shallow concave edges and a flat base. The grave measured 1.74m in length, 0.37m in width and 0.07m in depth. It was filled (C6992) by a mid-brown gravelly sand with moderate to firm compaction.

SK326

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. SK326 was found within a severely truncated grave in the southwestern quadrant of Area F. The skeleton showed signs of severe disturbance with most of the lower half of the remains having been cut away. Only the left tibia and a partial left femur survived at this point. The skull was present and was damaged by mechanical action. There appeared to be a stone between the maxilla and mandible, which may have been deliberate. There was also animal bone in a similar position above the right scapula. The skull had been wrenched forward and leaned to the right side. The right hand was present and was extended across the thoracic vertebrae. The right arm had been severely disturbed. The right humerus had been truncated and the radius and ulna had been displaced. The remains were buried in an oval-shaped grave cut (C6993) with sharply sloping steep sides with a concave base. The grave measured 1.91m in length, 0.79m in width and 0.23m in depth. There was a possible stone lining (C6995) surrounding the cut, however it was definitely not related to these remains. The grave



SK 319, with bone artefact

was filled (C6994) with a mid-brown silty sand with firm compaction. It also contained frequent animal bones.

SK327

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains had been disturbed and truncated, as it was possibly moved to make way for burial SK331. The skull was present and leaning to the left toward the left scapula. The left arm was present and extended as was the left hand. The right arm appeared to have been truncated, although this was obscured by burial SK331. The spine was fully intact along with some sternum. The right hand appears to be flexed across the lumbar spine, just above the sacrum. This was also obscured by the burial of SK331, however. Upon lifting the femur and tibias were also present. The right radius and ulna were present but displaced to the right of SK331. A sherd of prehistoric pottery was found when lifting the skull. The remains were placed in a sub-oval

shaped grave (C6996) with sharply sloping sides with a concave base. It measured 2.59m in length, 0.85m in width and 0.25m in depth. This length represents the measurement of both graves (SK327 and SK331). The grave was filled (C6997) with a mid-brownish silty and with moderate to firm compaction. A stone lining (C6995) lined this grave and grave C7020. They consisted of sub-oval stones roughly 0.28m in diameter. These may have been used to divide the burials.

SK328

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The upper body, in conjunction with the left hip and left femur (to above the knee) were truncate. This was interpreted as disturbance due to agricultural activity in the area. The lower part of the left hip and finger bones of the left hand were preserved. The right arm was truncated at the lower portion of the radius and ulna. The right hand was extended, palmar side down. The remains were placed within a sub-rectangular grave cut (C7012) with a flat base and sharply sloping concave sides. The grave measured 1.7m in length, 0.55m in width and 0.14m in depth. It was filled (C7013) by a mid-greyish brown silty clay with moderate to loose compaction. The fill included occasional bone (possibly associated with SK328), flint and animal bone. Also found was a piece of prehistoric pottery.

SK329

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were partially articulated and found in ditch C6734. Articulation was found between the femur, right hip and right ribs. The co-mingled nature of the bones infers that the remains still had flesh at the point of disturbance. The truncation was caused by the digging or backfilling of the ditch C6734 through the grave of SK329. The left side and lower limbs were missing as well as the skull and vertebrae. Other fills within the ditch contained an extensive quantity of human remains. The remains were associated with C7065, the context associated with the event of grave truncation and placing of the remains.

SK330

The remains of an adolescent individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a

supine extended position. The skull was disturbed, nearly flush with the base of the grave. The left arm was extended. The right arm was not present, although the presence of the right hand near the hip likely suggests that the arm was once extended prior to truncation. The left hand was not present. The right legs were both extended, and the feet were together. The skeleton was slumped at the pelvis and the feet were rising. The skull was disturbed, possibly at the same time as the right arm. This may have been due to the digging of grave C7012 to the east. The remains were placed within a sub-oval shaped grave (C7018) with shallow sloping sides. The grave measured 1.1m in length, 0.74m in width and 0.11m in depth. The fill (C7019) was a mid-grey gravelly sand with moderate to firm compaction. A stone lining (C7104) associated with the burial consisted of oval shaped stones measuring 0.46m in length, 0.14m in width and 0.32m in depth.

SK331

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. SK331 is an almost fully intact burial immediately west of SK326 and immediately east of SK339. It appeared that SK331 had been placed over SK327. The skull was present but damaged in antiquity. The left arm was flexed at the elbow across the lower abdomen. The right arm was extended. Both hands were present as were both arms and both sets of ribs. Some sternum remains intact. It appears that the left scapula had degraded away, showing the placement of a femur underneath belonging to SK327. The pelvis was in good condition although the pubis on both sides had been damaged. Both femurs were intact in conjunction with the partial fragmentation of the upper right fibula and partial fragments of the left tibia. The skeleton had been placed at an angle which does not appear to respect the lining stones toward the bottom of the grave cut, this may indicate that the burial was a later addition to the graveyard. The remains were placed within a sub-oval grave cut (C7020) with sharply sloping sides and an undulating base. It measured 2.59m in length, 0.85m in width and 0.25m in depth. It was filled (C7021) by a mid-brown silty sand with firm compaction.

SK332

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been



SK 327 and SK 331

buried in a supine extended position. This was a heavily truncated skeleton; the upper part of the remains had been ploughed away. SK328 was located to the south of SK332. The remains had feet preserved lying on the eastern stone lining. Both tibias were truncated, and the lower parts of both femurs were also truncated. A few hand bones were present on the southern side, directly west of the right femur and under a disarticulated upper part of the femur. The feet were placed together. SK332 was placed within a sub-rectangular grave (C7026) with a concave base. The edges of the cut were imperceptible due to truncation. The grave measured 1.73m in length, 0.45m in width and 0.14m in depth. It was filled (C7027) with a mid-greyish brown silty clay with moderate to loose compaction. The fill also contained occasional flint pieces and burn bone. The grave was lined with stones (C7028) consisting of two flat stones measuring 0.26m in length, 0.2m in width and 0.04m in depth. They were located around the feet of the skeleton. No other stone lining was found

associated with SK332.

SK333

The remains of an infant individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull was truncated by a later burial SK332 C7026 in the west. The vertebrae were found under the eastern stone lining C7028. The mandible was preserved along with several hand and foot bones. The left and right arms were both extended, with the right arm slightly flexed. Both legs were extended, and the feet were slightly apart. The remains were placed within a rectangular grave cut (C7029) with a flat base and sharply sloping concave sides. The grave measured 0.58m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.12m in depth. The grave truncated the upper ditch fill C6558 of ditch C6551. The grave was filled (C7030) with a mid-greyish brown silty clay with loose compaction. Three stones were deliberately placed around SK333 as part of a stone lining (C7031). The maximum stone measurements were 0.19m in length, 0.1m in width and 0.06m in depth.

SK334

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were heavily truncated from the mid legs upwards. The partial left hip survives. Approximately half of the left hand was present resting against the top of the left leg. Both legs have been truncated. The top of the legs and feet were much deeper in the fill of ditch C6551. The skeleton was placed within a sub-rectangular grave (C7034) with a gradually sloping edge at the top and gradual at the base. The base was uneven. It measured 1.5m in length, 0.5m in width and 0.24m in depth. It was filled (C7035) with a brown sandy silt with a moderate compaction. The grave had a stone lining associated with SK334. The stones measured roughly 0.18m in length by 0.2m in width.

SK335

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The grave and remains were truncated by two furrows, which removed the skull and damaged the lower legs. The right leg tibia and fibula were missing. The left tibia and fibula were present but disturbed by truncation. The right arm was flexed at the elbow and the radius, ulna and hand were lying over the

upper body. The legs appear to be bowed. The feet were present and positioned together. The remains were placed within a sub-rectangular grave cut (C7045) with gradually sloping sides at the top, gradually at the base. The base was uneven. It measured 1.7m in length, 0.56m in width and 0.12m in depth. It was filled (C7046) with a brown sandy silt with moderate compaction.

DSK336

DSK336 is the heavily truncated remains of an infant individual on the eastern side of SK331. It contained small, clearly infant bones including vertebrae, foot phalanges, humerus fragments and a possible maxilla. The burial was probably cut away by SK331 during the funerary process. The bones are thus co-mingled with the fill of SK331 C7020. The remains were co-mingled with a fill within a sub-oval grave cut (C7020) with sharply sloping sides and an undulating base. It measured 2.59m in length, 0.85m in width and 0.25m in depth. It was filled (C7021) by a mid-brown silty sand with firm compaction.

SK337

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were heavily disturbed due to ploughing activity. The femur was truncated but formed the only remaining parts of the lower body. Also found were skull fragments, a few ribs, fractured upper and right humeri, a right clavicle, and a few hand bones. The finger bones were spread throughout the burial, disturbed. The grave was disturbed on all sides (C7057), with unknown edges and an uneven base. It measured 1.2m in length, 0.35m in width and 0.02m in depth. The grave was filled (C7058) with a mid-greyish brown silty clay with a loose compaction.

DSK338

DSK338 was a possible charnel pit of early adolescent or child bones found during the excavation of SK327/SK331. There was no articulation, so it is difficult to establish which side each bone came from. It is possible that this burial was moved down toward the bottom of SK327 during the funerary process. The bones present were the upper arm, an intact orbital bone, partial ribs, vertebrae, a single patella, a partial right femur, a partial tibia, and hand bones. The bones were placed within a sub-oval shaped grave

(C7062), which was mostly absent due to heavy truncation. The surviving portion of the grave measured 0.42m in length, 0.35m in width and 0.05m in depth. It was not clear if this is a true charnel pit or if this burial, similar to DSK336 was just moved toward the eastern end of the grave to make way for later burials. There could also be a relationship between this child burial and either SK327 or SK331. The fill of the grave (C7063) was a mid-brownish silty sand with moderate to firm compaction.

SK339

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. Both tibiae, fibulae, and feet had been completely removed. This, in conjunction with disarticulated human bone found in the grave suggested a heavy amount of disturbance. The left shoulder of the individual was cocked, and the spine had a significant amount of lateral curve. It is unclear if this was due to placement or pathology. The skull was facing northward. The left arm was extended; the right arm was flexed over the pelvis. The two femurs were extended with the knees nearly touching. The remains were placed in a sub-rectangular grave (C7055) with moderately sloping sides with a flat base. The grave measured 1.32m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.2m in depth. The grave was filled with a mid-brown sandy silt with a friable texture.

SK340

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were truncated by a later ditch C6732. The left side of the skeleton, skull and both shoulders were also truncated. The right tibia was truncated halfway down its shaft. The bones of the right foot were well preserved. The sternum and right patella were also preserved. The hand bones were found in situ on the right hip (likely the left hand). A metal fragment was found near the right foot, although it is unclear as to whether this was due to disturbance. The remains were placed with an oval shaped grave with shallow sides and a concave base. It measured 1.37m in length, 0.3m in width and 0.18m in depth. It was filled with a mid to dark brown silty sand mixed with a significant amount of clay. It was moderately compacted.

DSK341

DSK341 is a disarticulated adolescent possibly associated with SK329 which was above and found within the same event as DSK342. These DSK's were both found at the base of C6735 and above C7051, which had frequent amounts of stone. The remains included two scapulae, left ribs, vertebrae and a left ulna. C7067 was given as an associated context for the event in which DSK341 and DSK342 were displaced. This event likely took place during the digging of the ditch C6735.

DSK342

DSK342 were the disarticulated remains of an adult found in slot 2 of ditch C6734. A concentration of bone found in C6735 was possibly placed on stones, although this is unclear. The remains included a maxilla, vertebrae, ribs, a partial sternum and a left tibia. C7067 was given as an associated context for the event in which DSK341 and DSK342 were displaced. This event likely took place during the digging of the ditch C6735.

SK343

SK 344, with one sherd of E ware and an iron object



The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. Stones within the fill of the grave appear to have caused damage to the bone during backfilling and overtime. The skull was fragmented prior to excavation, although the mandible was still intact. The right clavicle was fragmented in antiquity. The ribs were in fairly good condition although they were very fragile. Animal bone appears to have been deliberately placed just below the left clavicle. The lower right arm was placed over the abdomen and has sunk between the vertebrae. The right hand was present but disarticulated from their original position at the base of the left arm. The only remains of the lower body were the upper left femur. This appears to have been a young adult. The humerus was not yet fused. A number of hand bones found in post excavation at the point where the hand met the spine. The skeleton was buried in a sub-rectangular grave (C7076) with rounded corners. It had sharply sloping sides at the top of the cut and gradually sloping sides at the base of the cut. The base was relatively uneven. The grave measured 1.26m in length, 0.64m in width and 0.21m in depth. It appears to have been cut into ditch C7101 and the eastern end of the grave was cut away by a later feature. It was filled (C7077) with a mid-brown silty sand with frequent small stones. The fill was very compacted, which made lifting the remains difficult.

SK344

The remains of a juvenile individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The burial was in close proximity to a number of juvenile burials in the southern portion of Area F, which included SK330 and SK333. The burial was truncated by at least one other burial. The left lower leg was truncated away, most likely by SK339. This is evident through the disarticulated juvenile tibia found in that burial. The skull was fragmentary, and the mandible survived. The arms were flexed slightly over the pelvis. The legs were extended, and the knees were tightly knit. A large number of disarticulated human remains were found within the fill of this grave. The remains were placed within a sub-rectangular grave cut (C7078) with sharply sloping sides and a flat base. The grave measured 1.35m in length, 0.65m in width and 0.2m in depth. It was filled (C7079) by a mid-brown sandy silt with a friable texture. A piece of pottery was found under

the skull of the individual. A possible stone lining survives surrounding the cut of the grave. This was disturbed by later truncation. This may have been used to partition SK344 from other burials in the area. The largest stone measured 0.36m in length, 0.15m in width and 0.26m in depth.

SK345

The remains of a juvenile individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. SK345 was found in the southern extent of Area F in an area densely populated with juvenile burials. The skull was present but heavily fragmented, perhaps due to mechanical action. The left arm was flexed across the lower abdomen; the spine and sternum were both intact. The right arm was extended as well as the right hand. The left hand was missing completely. The remains were buried in a sub-oval shaped grave cut (C7081) with sharply sloping sides at the top of the cut and gradually sloping at the base, which was uneven. The grave measured 1.68m in length, 0.61m in width and 0.07m in depth. The grave was filled (C7082) with a mid-brownish silty sand with moderate compaction. A singular stone (C7107) may have been the remains of a stone lining for SK345 which has since been damaged by agricultural activity.

SK346

The remains of a juvenile individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull was disturbed inside the stone lining with a flat stone capping covering it. The teeth and vertebrae were disarticulated. Small vertebrae and a toe bone were found further east, likely due to truncation of the burial. No articulated bones of SK346 were found in situ. The grave that the remains were placed in (C7032) was sub-rectangular with vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 1.15m in length, 0.57m in width and 0.18m in depth. It was filled (C7083) with a mid-brownish grey silty clay with loose compaction. The grave had five stones lining the edge of the cut. One long rectangular stone on the southern side held the greatest measurement at 0.4m in length, 0.13m in width and 0.1m in depth. The surviving stones surrounding the fragmented skull of SK346. The capping over the skull measured 0.35m in length, 0.25m in width and 0.03m in depth.

SK347

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull was partially fragmented prior to excavation. A small, rounded stone was under the maxilla. The ribs were also fragmented and appear to be in a very fragile state. A slight curve in the lower thoracic vertebrae and upper lumbar vertebrae. The right hand was disarticulated. The left hand had its palm upwards, clenched into a fist. The sacrum was very fragile, with its right-side disintegrating. The left hip was fragmented prior to excavation. Both left and right toes were disarticulated pre-excavation as the feet were placed on the edge of the ditch C6551. The feet were located together. A number of animal teeth and animal bone fragments were found scattered throughout the grave. A possible sternum was found intact and was located below the right ribs toward the right humerus. The grave (C7105) that the remains were placed in was sub-rectangular with gradually sloping sides and a concave base. This measured 1.6m in length, 0.67m in width and 0.3m in depth. The grave was cut into the fill of C6551, C6558. The fill of the grave (C7106) was a mid-brown silty sand with firm compaction. The fill included occasional animal bones, shells and quartz pebbles.

SK348

The remains of an adolescent individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The lower body remained in situ. The upper body was truncated by later ploughing activity. The lower right arm was positioned over the stomach with the hand over the left arm. The left hand was located over the left hip. Some left ribs were found in situ along with the lower spine. The upper spine was truncated away. DSK351, a child femur, was located within the area of SK348. The left and right legs were both extended, with the right leg being slightly flexed toward the left leg. The feet were together. The remains were located within a sub-rectangular grave (C7109) with sharply sloping sides at the top and gradual at the base. The base was flat. The grave measured 1.1m in length, 0.25m in width and 0.09 in depth. Some child toe-bones of DSK351 were found above the ribs of SK348. DSK351's femur was found south of the skull fragments of SK348. The fill of the grave (C7110) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay with a loose compaction. Occasional animal bones and human bones were found throughout the fill.

SK349

The remains of an adolescent individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were mostly present. The burial was cutting SK353 C7121. The remains were likely that of a young adult, as the femoral heads had not fused yet. The skull was facing upward. The left arm was extended, and the left hand was located adjacent to the left hip. The right arm was flexed with the hand over the pelvis. The hands were both extended. Both legs were extended, and the feet were located together. There was evidence of gnawing on the long bones of the remains. The remains were placed within an oval-shaped grave (C7114) with steeply sloping sides. The grave measured 1.62m in length, 0.51m in width and 0.13m in depth. It was filled (C7115) with a mid-brownish grey silty sand with loose compaction. The fill contained occasional charcoal flecking and gravel pockets.

SK350

The remains of an adolescent individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were truncated away from the pelvis downward. The grave was truncated by ditch C6732 and by a furrow. These removed a significant proportion of the spine, ribs, lower ribs, and legs. These are commingled in the area directly below the vertebrae and ribs. The skull was turned slightly toward the left side of the body. The left and right arms were both extended. The hands were not present. The surviving remains were in good condition. The skeleton was located in a sub-rectangular grave cut (C7116) with sharply sloping sides and a flat base. The surviving portion of the grave measured 1.05m in length, 0.7m in width and 0.3m in depth. It was filled (C7117) by a mid-brown sandy silt with a soft compaction and frequent stones. The grave had an associated stone lining. The stone lining is formed primarily of two stones on the right side of the body. The largest of these had a length of 0.3m.

DSK351

Disarticulated remains found within the grave of SK348. The remains include a fractured child's femur and a few children's toe bones. The toes were found around and over the left ribs of SK348. The femur was found adjacent to its skull fragments. Each adolescent remains SK348 and DSK351 had been disturbed by later ploughing



SK 347

activity. The disarticulated remains were located within a sub-rectangular grave (C7109) with sharply sloping sides at the top and gradual at the base. The base was flat. The grave measured 1.1m in length, 0.25m in width and 0.09 in depth. Some child toe-bones of DSK351 were found above the ribs of SK348. DSK351's femur was found south of the skull fragments of SK348. The fill of the grave (C7110) was a mid-greyish brown silty clay with a loose compaction. Occasional animal bones and human bones were found throughout the fill.

SK352

The remains of an adolescent individual were in a poor state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were heavily damaged and truncated, most likely by modern machinery. The skull fragments were mostly disarticulated. The most articulation present was in the upper vertebrae. The right humerus was located roughly in the correct position. A small fragment of possible pelvis was

also uncovered further down the length of the grave. No hands, legs or feet were uncovered during the course of the excavation. The remains were originally placed in an oval-shaped grave (C7118) with imperceptibly sloping sides and a semi-flat base. The grave measured 1.36m in length, 0.49m in width and 0.16m in depth. The grave was located on the southern limit of excavation for Area F. Three stones on the northern side of the cut may have been lining stones (C7145), these likely relate to a separate burial, however. The stones were all angular and measured between 0.21-0.25m in size. They were roughly arranged in a row, with some movement, possibly from ploughing. The grave was filled (C7119) with a dark-greyish brown sandy silt with a loose compaction.

SK353

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains comprise the articulated legs of an individual which run from the top of the femur to the ankles. The skull of SK349 was placed on the lower tibia and fibula of SK353. The lower legs of SK353 were not damaged, and the clean removal of the ankle joints suggests that the skeleton was decayed at the time of placement of SK349. The right femur survives better than the left. The left femur was damaged halfway down the shaft of the bone. A few finger bones were found adjacent to the top of the right femur. These remains were found within an oval-shaped grave (C7121) with imperceptibly sloping sides and a flat base. The grave measured 0.82m in length, 0.28m in width and 0.06m in depth. It was filled (C7122) with a mid-brown gravelly sand with a moderate compaction.

SK354

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The left and right tibiae and fibulae were found articulated in an extended supine position. The right patella was found articulated above the right lower leg along with a possible phalange just above the patella. The grave was cut away above the legs by ditch C6734. Thus, it was difficult to assume that the phalange belonged to SK354. A shard of animal bone was found at the base of the left leg. No feet were present, as they had been cut away by SK347 C7105. The remains were found in a sub-rectangular grave

(C7121) with gradually sloping concave sides with a flat base. The grave measured 0.82m in length, 0.34m in width and 0.1m in depth. The western edge of the cut was removed by C6734, and the eastern side of the cut was cut by C7105. It was filled (C7124) by a mid-brown silty sand with a firm compaction.

SK355

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were located in the east of the graveyard within Area F. It lies alongside SK359 outside of the graveyard. The skull was heavily damaged by modern machinery. Excluding this, the remains were in excellent condition. Unfortunately, the left hip arch had collapsed, and the right did not survive excavation. The skull was supine and facing south. The left arm and hand were extended. The right arm was flexed slightly over the right hip. The right hand was extended over the pelvis. The legs were extended, and the feet were apart. The grave (C7125) was oval shape in plan with gradually sloping concave sides. The base was flat. The grave measured 2.09m in length, 0.76m in width and 0.18m in depth. The grave was dug directly into the natural soils in the area. The grave was filled (C7126) with a dark-greyish brown silty sand with a loose compaction.

SK356

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. Both femurs have been cut midway by the ditch C6734. Four phalanges (presumably from the left hand) were located near the top of the fragmented left femur. The left tibia and fibula were fragmented prior to excavation. The right patella was located to the left of the lower right femur. The right tibia and fibula were extended. The feet were together, both tilted to the north. The remains were in a truncated grave (C7127) which was sub-rectangular in plan. It had gradually sloping sides with an uneven base. The grave measured 0.96m in length, 0.34m in width and 0.06m in depth. It was filled (C7128) with a mid-brown silty sand with a firm compaction.

DSK358

The disarticulated remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation. The remains were close to the surface in the upper part of fill



SK 355

C6733 in ditch C6732. Many other disarticulated remains were found in the C6732 ditch. The left hip was standing on its side with the front facing downward. The articulated hand bones were on its front side. The hand would have been over the left hip at the time of the original burial. The remains include the left hip, left radius and ulna, and a toe bone from the right foot. As they were located within the ditch C6732 the remains do not have a specific cut.

SK359

The remains of an adult individual were in a moderate state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull and parts of the upper skeleton were truncated away, likely from ploughing activity. The remains were likely a younger individual as some of the bones were unfused. The upper part of the spine, left ribs, and left shoulder were heavily truncated. The right arm was partially truncated. The right tibia has a fracture from pressure. The left femur has a

fracture on the middle of the shaft. The lower parts of the skeleton, the legs and feet, were undisturbed. They were both extended, and the feet were together. They were located in an oblong grave (C7131) with sharply sloping sides at the top and gradually sloping sides at the base. The base was flat. The grave measured 1.4m in length, 0.6m in width and 0.07m in depth. The grave was filled with a mid-brownish grey silty clay with sand inclusions. The fill was loosely compacted.

SK360

The remains of an infant individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The remains were found to the west of SK351, a similar aged burial. The skull was in a delicate condition, facing south. Only the back of the skull remained intact with baby teeth present in the mandible. The right ribs, arms and hand had been truncated away. Some fragmented upper right ribs and a partial clavicle were present. The spine and partial sternum were also present. Though these were mainly the thoracic vertebrae and some lumbar vertebrae. The left clavicle and scapula were present and some fragmented left ribs. The left arm, the humerus, was damaged in antiquity. The radius and ulna survived. The left hip was damaged in antiquity. The sacrum had mostly disintegrated. The remains were placed in a sub-oval grave with gradually sloping sides and an uneven base. The grave measured 0.92m in length, 0.45m in width and 0.07m in depth. The grave was filled with a mid-brown silty sand with moderate compaction.

SK361

The remains are heavily disturbed and appear to be those of one individual north of child burial SK360. The extreme disturbance may have been due to the burial of SK360. There were two legs present, a right femur, tibia, and fibula. These were damaged in antiquity. A left femur and tibia also survived. There appeared to be a truncated mandible along with a skull and possible sacrum. The surviving legs suggest the grave was oriented SW-NE. Furthermore, it suggests that the remains may have once been in an extended supine position. The remains were found within an irregularly shaped cut (C7135), due to truncation. The surviving edges were gradually sloping with an uneven base. It measures 0.84m in length, 0.52m in width and 0.12m in depth. It was filled (C7136) with a mid-brown silty sand with moderate compaction.

SK362

The remains of an adolescent individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skeleton was found west of an adult burial SK363. A partial stone lining (C7146) was present to the north. The adult and child burial were placed within a single cut. The adult appeared to have been placed first, evident by the placement of the child over the legs of the adult. A sherd of E ware was found within the grave fill C7140. The adult was facing the child and the left arm of the adult is either under the child or possibly holding it. Alternatively, the child may have slumped onto the adult during backfilling. The child was facing the adult. An adult fibula was over the child's skull and a tibia over the child's legs were possibly associated with SK364. The skull was evident although fragmented. The left arm was extended down to the left hip. The right arm was flexed up toward the skull. The left hand was extended, and it was not clear as to the position of the right hand. Both legs were extended. The feet did not survive. Both individuals were placed within a sub-oval grave cut (C7139) with imperceptible sides due to truncation. The base of the grave was concave. It measured 1.25m in length, 0.73m in width and 0.21m in depth. This grave was truncated by a later burial, SK350. It was also cut by a ditch, C6732, on the eastern part of the cut. It was filled (C7140) with a dark-brown gravelly sand with moderate compaction. The fill contained occasional shell fragments.

SK363

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine flexed position. These are the remains of an adult buried adjacent and beneath a child (SK362) within the same grave. The adult remains were flexed at the knees and the skull was placed on the right tibia of SK364. The left arm was placed under the child burial; however, it is also possible that SK362 had slumped. Infant bones were found underneath the skull of SK363 during lifting. The skull was lying on its left side facing north. The left arm was extended under the right hip of SK362. The right arm was extended over the body. The left and right hands were both extended with palms up. Both legs were flexed. The feet had both been truncated by ditch C6732. Both individuals were placed within a sub-oval grave cut (C7139) with imperceptible sides due to truncation. The base of the grave was concave. It measured 1.25m in

length, 0.73m in width and 0.21m in depth. This grave was truncated by a later burial, SK350. It was also cut by a ditch, C6732, on the eastern part of the cut. It was filled (C7140) with a dark-brown gravelly sand with moderate compaction. The fill contained occasional shell fragments.

SK364

The remains of an adult individual were in a good state of preservation and had been buried in a supine extended position. The skull was truncated, although the mandible was present. The right arm was flexed with the right hand over the right of the chest. The left clavicle was fractured, and both hips had some fractures too. The left femur was fractured above the knee. The vertebrae in the neck were not articulated. The remains of another adult, SK363, were over the right femur of the remains. A child skeleton, SK362, was over the left femur, at the knee. Both of SK364's lower legs were truncated and no longer present. SK364 had a DSK365 foot (articulated) over the left hand/hip. There was fill between the remains, so it may be the result of a later burial that was heavily disturbed. The skeleton was sloping from the shoulders, downwards toward the east. The left arm was extended and located under the left hip. The right hand was over the chest but was disarticulated at the time of excavation. The left hand was extended and located by the left hip, palm down. Both legs were extended to the point of truncation at the knee. Neither foot was present. This appears to be the earliest burial in the area, as there were several skeletons above this, which sits on natural. The remains were found within a sub-rectangular cut (C7141) with imperceptibly sloping sides due to truncation. The base was flat. The grave measured 1m in length, 0.45m in width and 0.1m in depth. It was filled with a mid-greyish brown silty clay with a loose compaction. The fill (C7142) contained occasional animal bones and disarticulated human bone.

DSK365

The remains of a truncated articulated foot of an adult over the left hand and hip of SK364. There was fill between the remains, so the foot was likely a later truncated burial. There were several later burials of SK364. The remains were found within a sub-rectangular cut (C7141) with imperceptibly sloping sides due to truncation. The base was flat. The grave measured 1m in length, 0.45m in width and 0.1m in depth. It was filled with a mid-greyish

brown silty clay with a loose compaction. The fill (C7142) contained occasional animal bones and disarticulated human bone.

DSK366

The disarticulated remains of an adult individual were found as a concentration of human bone immediately north of SK360. During excavation it was thought that the bones were those belonging to SK361. The bones uncovered suggested that more than one individual was also present. The remains included a skull, mandible, right hip, sacrum, humerus, tibia, two femurs, ribs, scapulae, feet bones, and hand bones. Of these multiple individuals were represented, including an infant, an adolescent, and an adult. The remains were found within an irregularly shaped cut (C7135), due to truncation. The surviving edges were gradually sloping with an uneven base. It measures 0.84m in length, 0.52m in width and 0.12m in depth. It was filled (C7136) with a mid-brown silty sand with moderate compaction.

DSK367

The truncated remains of an infant skeleton. The remains were present as a few ribs, a vertebra and some possible skull fragments. They were found under the skull of SK363, which was over the right knee of SK364. The bones were not visible before the skull of SK363 was lifted. DSK367 was located 0.1m south of the right knee of SK364. It is unknown if it was an earlier or later burial than SK364. Both seemed to be on the same level. It is possible that the event of burying SK363 disturbed the original burial of DSK367. The remains were found within a sub-rectangular cut (C7141) with imperceptibly sloping sides due to truncation. The base was flat. The grave measured 1m in length, 0.45m in width and 0.1m in depth. It was filled with a mid-greyish brown silty clay with a loose compaction. The fill (C7142) contained occasional animal bones and disarticulated human bone.

Other features in east cemetery

Spread (C6670)

A spread (6670) of compact yellowish brown silty sand was identified below the topsoil (C5340) in the northwest quarter of the eastern cemetery. This was identified as remains of ploughing activity. It had occasional disarticulated human bone, stone, flint and one spindle whorl (6670:1) was recovered.

Since some burials were truncating this spread, it is possible that the spread originated from the maintenance of the cemetery, and that it was created when they made new cuts for skeletons that happened to truncate earlier ones.

Plough furrow (C6802)

This plough furrow (C6802) had a linear shape and was oriented from south to north and was later than the cemetery. It was similar to other late features in the area, including C6664. It had a bowl-shaped profile with concave sides and a flat base. Little of it had survived and it measured 700mm in length, 500mm in width and 60mm in depth. The fill (C6803) was a loose brownish grey silty clay with occasional disarticulated human bone, animal bone and stone.

Plough furrow (C6860)

This feature had a linear shape and was oriented from south to north, like plough furrow C6802. It measured at least 3.5m in length, 530mm in width and a depth of 100mm. The cut was bowl-shaped in

SK 362, SK 363 and SK 364



profile and had concave sides and base. It had a gentle break of slope at the top and an imperceptible break of slope at the base. It was impossible to determine the relationship with the inner enclosure ditch to the north and the curvilinear C6734 to the south. The fill (C6864) was a loose brownish grey silty sand with inclusions of occasional clay, animal bone, flint and one piece of iron (6864:1).

Plough furrow (C6923)

This feature had a linear shape and was oriented from southwest to northeast. Little remained of it, and it ran into the C6670 spread. It measured at least 1m in length, 460mm in width and 70mm in depth. It had a bowl-shaped profile with concave sides and a flat base. The fill (C6924) was a loose brownish grey silty clay with occasional stone, animal bone, flint and some roots.

Feature with stones (C7000)

This feature (C7000) was identified by a stone layer (C7001) on the surface. It was expected to be a stone covered burial, but there was nothing beneath the stones. The cut was oval on the surface with a bowl-shaped profile. The orientation was west-east and it measured 2.32m in length, a width of 1.66m and a depth of 290mm. It had concave sides with an irregular base. The fill (C7001) of the cut was a layer of stones of varying sizes (100-410mm), where the larger ones were placed along the edges of the cut. One of the stones was a fragment of a quern stone (7001:1). The stones could originate from stone-linings of the surrounding burials, and could have been placed into the cut as a drying platform or perhaps just as a clearance cairn for agriculture.

Linear feature (C7059)

A heavily truncated linear feature was truncated by curvilinear C6732. It was oriented southeast northwest and it measured 2m in length, 540mm in width and a depth of 200mm. The profile was bowl-shaped with concave sides and base. It had a gradual break of slope at the top and base. The basal fill (C7066) was a loose greyish brown silty clay with sand inclusions. It had occasional seashells, animal bones and stones. The upper fill (C7054) was a moderately compact dark brownish black silty clay. It had occasional animal bones, burnt bones, charcoal and one piece of copper alloy (7054:1). This could be related to curvilinear C6943 that terminated 600mm south of this

feature.

Pit (C7094)

This pit was found truncated by the inner enclosure ditch. It had an oval shape with a U-shaped cut in profile. It had steep vertical sides with a concave base. The break of the slope was sharp at the top and more gradual at the base. The basal fill (7095) was a moderately compact brownish grey sandy silt with occasional stones. The upper fill (C7096) was a moderately compact greyish brown silty clay with occasional animal bones and small stones.

Pit (C7099)

The pit (C7099) was pear-shaped and had a shallow bowl-shaped cut in profile. It had a west to east orientation and it measured 5.32m in length, 3.6m in width and a depth of 380mm. It had a gradual break of slope at the top and the base, and the sides were concave. The base was mostly flat, but some of it was irregular. The fill (7100) was a loose dark greyish brown sandy silt. It had moderate amounts of animal bone, occasional charcoal flecking, heat affected stones and not heat affected stones. It was likely a pit made for rubbish based on the quantity of animal bone. This pit was located in a space partially enclosed by curvilinear C6943.

Curvilinear (C6943)

The remains of a truncated curvilinear were recorded 600mm south of feature C7059. It curved to the southeast where it was truncated by feature C7000. It measured at least 6m in length, 700mm in width and a depth of 200mm. It had a bowl-shaped cut in profile, with concave sides and base. It had a sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual break at the base. The fill (C6944) was a very loose dark brown silty sand with frequent charcoal, occasional stones and animal bones. One E-ware sherd (6944:1) was recovered from this context. Likely related to linear feature C7059.

Curvilinear (C7068)

Not much of the curvilinear survived, and the portion that did, ran southeast, then turned northeast before returning to curve southeast. The remains of it measured 5m in length, 600mm in width and a depth of 160mm. It had a shallow bowl-shaped profile with concave sides and base. The break of slope was gradual at the top and imperceptible at the base. The fill (C7069) was a loose dark brown silty sand with clay inclusions. It

had occasional charcoal flecks, animal bones and flint.

Pit (C7070)

This was a circular pit that had a shallow bowl-shaped profile. It measured a diameter of 1.1m and a depth of 150mm. The break of slope was gradual at the top and imperceptible at the base. The sides were very gently sloping and the base was concave. The fill (C7071) was a loose brown silty sand with occasional charcoal flecking and frequent small stones.

Pit (C7072)

This was an oval pit that had a shallow bowl-shaped profile. The orientation of the cut was south to north and the cut measured 1m in length, 600mm in width and a depth of 150mm. It had a gradual break of slope at the top and at the base. The sides were gently sloping and it had a concave base. The fill (C7073) was a soft dark brown silty sand with occasional small stones.

Pit (C7074)

A pit underneath curvilinear C6943 was oval shaped on the surface, and had a deep bowl-shaped profile. Its orientation was roughly south to north. The cut measured 1.6m in length, 1.4m in width and a depth of 350mm. It had concave sides and a concave base. The break of the slope was sharp at the top and gradual at the base. The fill (C7075) was a very compacted orangey brown silty sand with small inclusions of clay. It had frequent small stones. The fill looked like redeposited natural subsoil, which was common across the site, specifically for the prehistoric phase.

Other features outside east cemetery

Linears in the southeast corner

In the southeast corner of the interior of the circular enclosure (C5540) there were two linear features (C6331, C6329). These ran southwest northeast and were truncated away in both ends (C5540 and C5933). The features cut away portions of C6327. These were interpreted as being broadly contemporary with each other and were a result of maintenance of some sort of industry. The remains didn't seem structural, but could possibly be agricultural, drainage, etc. They could be



Above, stone pile C7000; below, linear features C6329 and, C6331 southeast of ring-ditch



connected to one of the entrances of the later cemetery east of these or simply some sort of activity within the inner or circular enclosure.

The linear C6329 was slightly curving from the southwest to the northeast and had a U-shape in profile. The sides were steeply sloping in a concave shape and the base was concave. It was at least 10m in length, 700mm in width and 300mm in depth. The upper fill (C6330) was a friable brown sandy silt with frequent animal bones and charcoal flecking. The lower fill (C7017) was a friable brown sandy silt with a grey tinge. It also had less animal bones than the top fill and had more frequent stones.

The linear C6331 was running southwest northeast and was smaller than C6329. It terminated as it truncated the southern terminus of the prehistoric ring ditch. The linear feature measured at least 3m in length, a width of 450mm and a depth of 200mm. It had a U-shaped cut with concave sides and base. The fill (C6332) was a soft friable brown sandy silt, a bit darker than C6330. It had occasional small stones and pockets of frequent animal bones and charcoal. Likely associated with C6329, as it truncated into that linear and then followed the same cut running southwest with very similar fills.

Post hole (C6412)

A circular post hole (C6412) was identified with the measurements of 330mm in diameter and a depth of 170mm. It was U-shaped in profile with vertical sides and a flat circular base. Very sharp break of slope at the top and at the base. It consisted of a moderately compacted grey sandy clay with frequent stones (40-60mm) which could be remains of stone packing of a post.

Post hole (C6334)

An oval post hole identified within the enclosed space of C5933 measured a length of 240mm, a width of 210mm and a depth of 140mm. It had a U-shaped profile with vertical sides and a flat base. The break of the slope was very sharp at the top and at the base. The fill (C6335) was a loose dark brownish grey silty sand with occasional flecks of charcoal. It had rare inclusions of sub-rounded stones (10-30mm) and two sub-rounded stones which could have been packing stones. Possibly related to post hole C6412 and C6120.

Post hole (C6120)

A circular post hole close to the terminus of the eastern cemetery enclosure ditch measured approximately 350mm in diameter and a depth of 180mm. It had a sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual break at the base. It had vertical sides and a flat base, which formed a U-shape in profile. It had a brown friable sandy silt with occasional stones, possibly remains of stone packing.

Section 5 Stratigraphy - Hiberno-Norse & later

Late circular enclosure

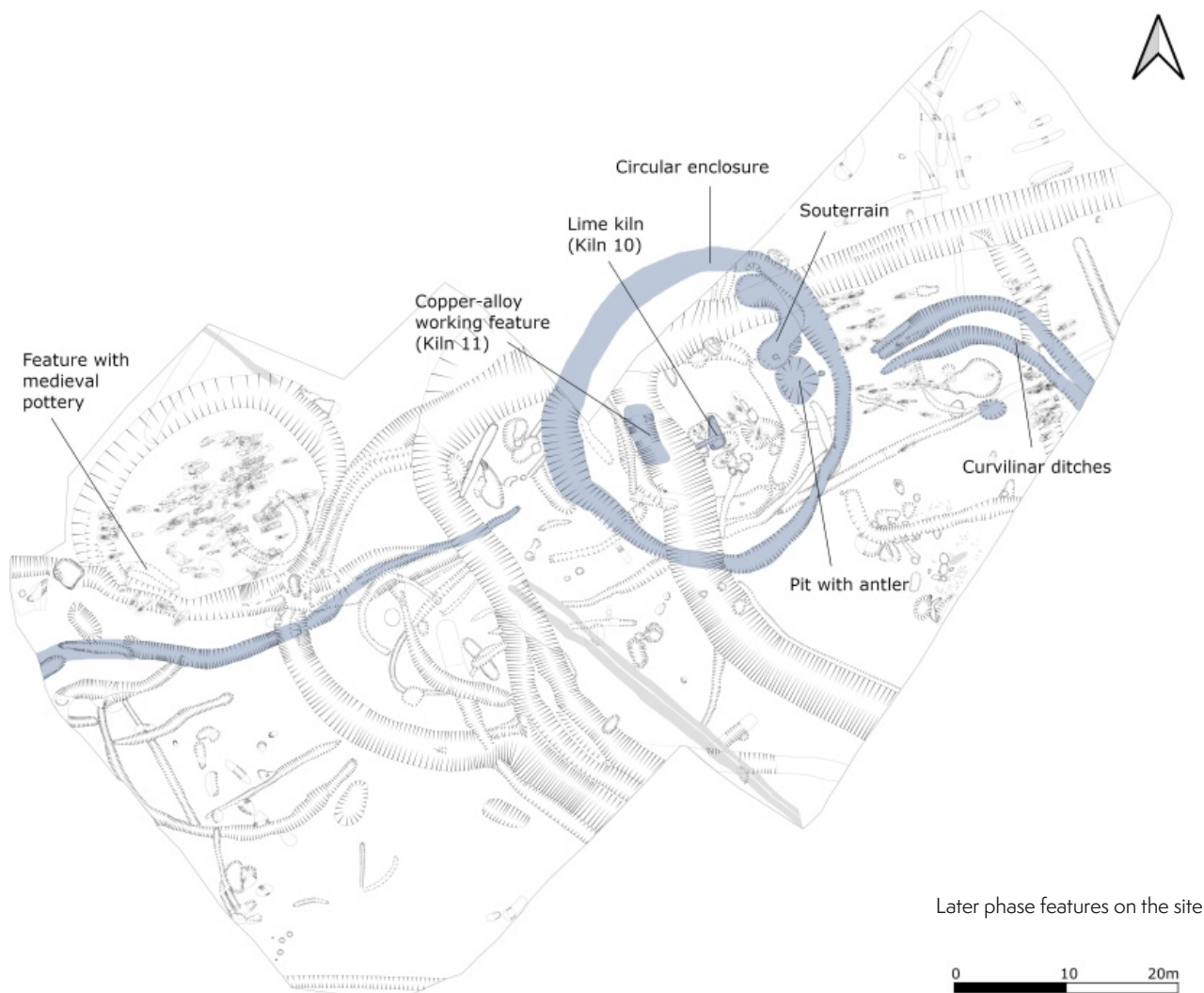
A later circular enclosure ditch, C5540, surrounded the earlier prehistoric ring ditch. The ditch measured approximately 25m in diameter. The upper fill of this ditch (C5541) was one of the richest contexts in terms of artefacts from the entire site, and these date through the entire early medieval period and into the Anglo-Norman period. The artefacts are: a Hiberno-Norse bracteate approximately dated to the middle of the 12th century (Michael Kenny pers.com.), a fragment of a quern stone, 2 pieces of worked bone, frequent flint, 2 possible pieces of worked

stone, a jet-like bracelet, a bone pin, 4 sherds of medieval (Anglo-Norman) pottery, a sherd of B-ware, a sherd of D-ware, 6 sherds of E-ware, a red-stained bone or antler spindle whorl, 9 unidentified iron objects, a copper alloy pin, and 2 fragments of copper alloy. Most of the artefacts were recovered from the eastern half of the ditch. Frequent animal bone was found throughout the ditch. Disarticulated human bone was also present, particularly in the eastern part where the enclosure ditch cut through the eastern early medieval cemetery.

Remains of metalworking consisting of small pieces

Pre-excavation aerial view of circular enclosure, north to top





of iron and copper alloy slag were recovered. The area where these were recovered from was sampled for metallurgical analysis. The presence of these metals indicates there must have been some sort of fine metalworking in the area, possibly inside of the enclosure. There was a possible metalworking feature (C5960) within the circular enclosure that could be contemporary, and there was also a small lime kiln (C6168) in the centre of the prehistoric cemetery which may also be contemporary.

The profile of the ditch varied from a shallow bowl-shaped cut in the southeast to a deeper U-shaped ditch in the northwest. Thus the deepest part of the ditch was in the northwest, where it truncated the inner and outer enclosure ditches. The max depth of the ditch was 1.2m and the max width was 3.6m. In the south it was 1.1m in width and a depth of 400mm. It is possible that the ditch terminated at a causeway in the south, at its shallowest, however this could not be established with

certainty as this was also the location where the circular ditch truncated the inner enclosure ditch C5542 and the stratigraphy was obscured. A human skull was identified within the ditch (possibly in an entrance terminus) in this area.

The ditch had multiple fills changing from the deepest part to the shallow parts. Two fills ran most of the length of the ditch, C5541 and C5710. A possible earlier cut of the ditch was present in the northwest (C7097) with one fill (C5713). This was only identified in the deepest part however, so it was impossible to say if this went the whole way around or if it simply was an earlier feature truncated away.

In the southeast portion of the enclosure there was a layer of stones on the top of the ditch. The stones were of similar sizes (50mm-200mm) and shapes: They were first thought to be a causeway leading over the ditch into the enclosure, since this is the shallowest part of the ditch. However, upon

excavation these were found to be a relatively thin layer of stones, and may have been dumped into the upper fill of the ditch to solidify muddy ground or as field clearance. One of the stones was identified as a quern stone. The stones were most likely placed when the ditch had gone into a phase of disuse.

During stripping of the topsoil, we observed stones placed on top of the ditch in the northwest end of the enclosure, but these were not recorded since they were in the lower part of the topsoil and looked to be a modern disturbance. They could be related perhaps as clearance for farming. Since the

area is between two early medieval cemeteries which have frequent stone lined graves, it makes sense that the farmers would have hit stones frequently with their agricultural tools in the area and would want to pile these together to avoid hitting them again. A third pile of stones, identified as field clearance, was identified in 2019 near the east of the circular ditch, and a fourth was found nearby, directly over the southern chamber of the souterrain.

The circular ditch was morphologically very different in the northeast, just east of the souterrain (C6036). The enclosure ditch truncated the top fill of the backfilled souterrain C6036 (C6044). None of the previous fills were present and completely new ones appeared (C6159, C6160) along with a couple of recuts (C6161 and C6163). This was interpreted as a connection to the robbing out phase of the souterrain: that the circular enclosure was recut at this point during the robbing out of the souterrain. However the stratigraphy showing the circular ditch cutting the backfilled souterrain was clear (suggesting the souterrain had been robbed out before the ditch was cut), so this relationship was not resolved.



Circular enclosure showing shallow depth and stones in upper fill to southeast (above), and deeper section in northwest (below)



The other relationships between the circular enclosure and nearby features demonstrated that the enclosure ditch was one of the latest features on the site and truncated most of the features it passed through, including the inner enclosure ditch (C5542, C5772), the souterrain (C6036), the eastern early medieval cemetery, the prehistoric coaxial field boundary (C6327), a kiln (C5683), a slot trench

(C5619), an isolated prehistoric burial (C5738) and a possible prehistoric pit (C6543). The latest artefacts within the ditch are the four sherds of Anglo-Norman medieval pottery which date to between the 12th to 15th century. These were not intrusive, and were found in four separate areas of the ditch, including one sherd lying on the base of the ditch. It is likely that the ditch is at least 12th century in date, therefore, and that all the other early medieval artefacts within it are residual or belong to an earlier version of the ditch.

A small portion of the enclosure ditch remained

unexcavated because it ran into the preserved green space area to the northwest and will be preserved.

Copper-alloy working feature (Kiln 11)

A feature (C5960), originally called kiln 11, was cut into the terminus of the earlier ditch C5625 running north-south. It measured 5.13m in length, 2.22m max width and 430mm depth at its deepest and was approximately oval in shape. It was central within the backfilled ditch, dug right up against the northern ditch terminus. It had gently-sloping sides less than 45 degrees. The southern end was defined with a clear and well-defined bowl form. It had a flat even base running the length of the feature north-south. No large stones were present in the feature. The feature seemed to be the latest of the cuts in this area of the ditch, and it looked like it had been cut deliberately into the ditch fills, maybe for stability since the gravel natural was prone to collapse.

The lower fills were alternating layers of ash, charcoal and reddened burnt earth (C5734, C5730, C5700, C5647). In contrast to dump fills from C5625, these were flat on base and came up evenly on both sides, not patchy. All of the finds are from fill C5647, except for the perforated bone strip. These included a cluster of a knife blades, an iron fragment, an iron cylindrical object and a flat disc copper alloy object. C5647 was a dark red burnt silt, with lots of charcoal and animal bone. This context was also magnetic and a metallurgical sample was taken. This was



Cooper-alloy working feature (Kiln 11), profile(above) and mid-excavation (below)



the most interesting fill in the cut. There was an interruption by a slump from the west which had backfilled a large portion of the cut in that area (C5659). Then there was a layer of pale greyish-yellow ash and charcoal (C5651) with frequent animal bone, a bone pin and localised charcoal lenses (C5650, C5632). Then all covered by the same generic ditch fill (C5630), with a very high frequency of animal bone.

Brendan O'Neill (2021 pers.com) identified multiple small fragments of crucible and tuyere heated to over 1100 degrees in the feature which he suggested may indicate non-ferrous metalworking. This interpretation is supported by the absence of cereal grains, which were present in all of the other excavated kilns and dumps of kiln waste.

Slot trench (C5619)

A curving slot trench (C5619) running southeast-northwest then returning north, located west of the feature, could have been part of a windbreak for the working area. This slot trench was cut by the circular enclosure, so if it is contemporary with the metalworking feature then it means that the circular enclosure was constructed later. The slot trench had a U-shaped profile with a flat base. It measured at least 3.12m in length before being truncated to the north, and it had a maximum width of 0.75m and a depth of 0.51m. There were no finds in the slot trench apart from some flint, animal bone and charcoal flecking. The fill had a mid-brown colour and was composed of a sandy

silt that was loose.

Lime kiln (Kiln 10)

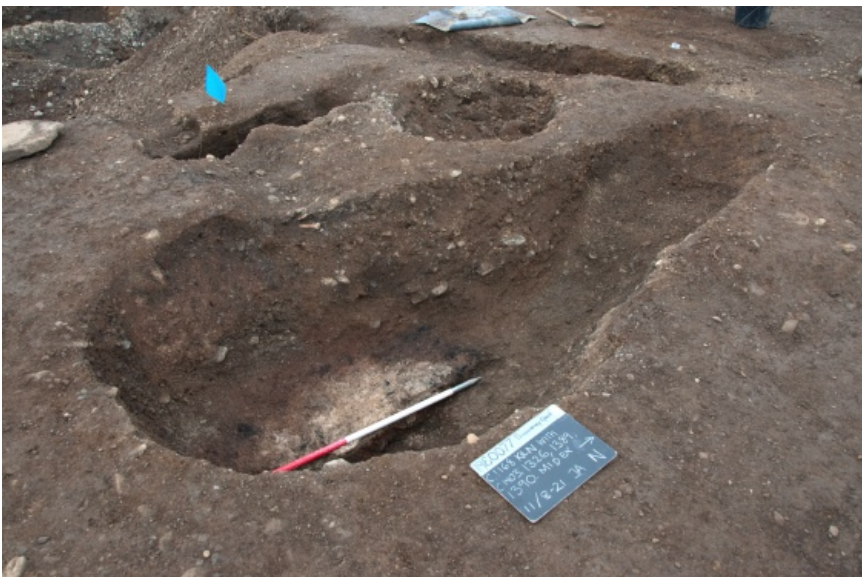
In the centre of the prehistoric ring ditch C5829 a keyhole shaped kiln (C6168) was identified. This was cut into a busy area with intercutting features. The kiln measured a length of 3.2m, a width from 1.5m in the south to 0.7m in the north and a depth going from 0.74m in the south to 0.31m in the north. It had a flat base that sloped down toward the south from north. The sides were more concave in the north at the shallow part, while it went much steeper in the south. It had a sharp break of slope at the top and a gradual one at the base. The kiln was oriented north northwest to south southeast.

The kiln had two main phases of use, the first for cereal processing of grain with the fill C6390. This fill had a reddish grey colour with a composition of sand, silt and clay. It was very loose and was located in the south part of the kiln. This was sampled. The fill was clearly heat affected with remains of charcoal and heat affected soil within and the natural surroundings was also reddened from heat, which was a clear sign of in situ burning. The fill measured 1.32m in length, 1m in width and 70mm in depth.

The second phase of the kiln was used to process lime. A second layer of sand, silt and clay that was heat affected into a red colour (C6389) overlay the C6390. It represents a burning event to heat the overlying lime that post-dated the use of the kiln to dry cereals. It was overlain by a pale yellowish white fine loose, but sticky, sand (C1326) that Brendan O'Neill (UCD) concluded was lime. This lime layer measured 900mm in length, 650mm in width and 60mm in depth. This was localized to the south chamber of the kiln. This was then covered by a gravel fill (C6325).

A small rectangular cut at

Post-excavation view of lime kiln (Kiln 10)





Half-section of lime kiln (Kiln 10) showing large stone in upper left, and lime layer near base

the western edge of the south chamber was identified as a possible flue related to the second phase of the kiln. This measured 720mm in length, 340mm in width and 350mm in depth.

A prehistoric pottery sherd was recovered in the northern part of the kiln in fill C6333 close to the base. This could have come from a range of different features and burials since the kiln is truncating the centre of a prehistoric cemetery. A small concentration of unburnt bones was identified in the top of fill C6321 and were given the context number C6279. These were recorded as a possible small animal, and measured 140mm length, 60mm width and 20mm depth.

A few large stones were identified, and their use in the kiln were not identified, besides from a couple in the middle which could have been used as baffle-stones. One of them was on the top of the kiln after it had been backfilled, originally thought as a cap stone for a burial since it was more or less right in the centre of the prehistoric cemetery, but was likely just part of the backfill. The rest of the fills in the kiln were generic pale brown to darker

brown silty sand and gravel.

The kiln was truncated after being backfilled by a shallow ditch or furrow (C6130) that ran in from the west and terminated on top of the kiln. The kiln also truncated several features including burials SK270, C6553 and C6450.

Curvilinear ditches in east cemetery

Two ditches were identified and excavated in the east end of the site. They started outside of the limit of excavation and entered the site east of the inner enclosure ditch C6551. These ditches then ran northwest, truncating across the inner enclosure ditch, before they turned almost 90 degrees and ran toward the southwest. They terminated about 3m east of the northeastern part of the circular enclosure ditch C5540. These ditches truncated a large portion of the eastern early medieval cemetery, including many burials.

Curvilinear ditch and recut (C7050 & C6734)

The earliest cut (C7050) of the curvilinears ran



Curvilinear ditches in eastern cemetery following excavation

from the southwestern terminus to the junction where it truncated C6551. It had one fill (C7051). This cut measured at least 14.5m in length, 450mm in width and 400mm in depth. It had a classic V-shape in profile with steep slopes on both sides and a flat narrow base. The fill was a greyish brown sandy silt which was loose in compaction. There was frequent gravel and stones in different sizes scattered around in the fill, with stones up to the size of 400mm. The fill had frequent disarticulated human bones and animal bones. The fill had flecking of charcoal.

The recut above C7050 was identified as C6734. This cut went all the way from the terminus to the limit of excavation. It measured at least 25m in length with a max width of 1.55m and a depth of 800mm (1.25m with C7050 included). It had a U-shape with steep sloping sides, but the base of this cut was wider than the older cut and made for a good flat base. The fill (C6735) was a medium brown sandy silt which was of a medium compaction. The fill had inclusions of smaller stones (10-90mm of size), charcoal flecking and animal bones. There was a large quantity of disarticulated human bones in this context. A few artefacts were recovered from the fill including two E-ware pottery sherds, one piece of a rotary quern stone, flint and three iron objects.

Linear feature (C7052)

The recut of the ditch (C6734) truncated a small linear feature that followed the same direction as the ditch in the northwest end of the ditch. This was identified as C7052 and had one fill only. This feature had a U-shaped profile with gently-sloping sides and a concave base. The measurements were 3.97m in length, 0.72m in width and a depth of 0.37m. The fill consisted of a soft grey gravelly sand.

Curvilinear ditch (C6732)

The second ditch C6732 ran parallel south of recut C6734. It truncated the very top of the recut, even though it was likely broadly contemporary

with the recut since they mostly respected each other and were enclosing the same area.

This ditch did not have a well-defined terminus like the northern ditch, and instead the ditch started very shallow and ran deeper and deeper, making it possible to walk into, and where it started turning to the southeast it flattened out (1.2m depth). It remained at this depth until it started truncating the inner enclosure ditch and got shallower (800mm) just before running out of the limit of excavation. This ditch was at least 22m long with a max width of 2m and a depth of 1.2m. The cut had a U-shape with steep sloping sides and a flat even base. The fill looked basically identical to the fill of recut C6734, with the same amounts of disarticulated human bones, animal bones, flint, charcoal and artefacts like two E-ware sherds and two unidentified iron objects.

Recut of curvilinear ditches (C7147)

In the southeast corner where the ditches ran into the limit of excavation, they were both truncated by a recut (C7147) which was not possible to observe on the surface, only after having sections. This recut followed the line of both the ditches (recut C7050 & C6732) since they fused together in this area, and measured at least a length of 2m, a width of 2.5m and a depth of 500mm. This could have been a pit cut into the ditches, but it was

more likely the remains of maintenance of the ditches. The recut was bowl-shaped with the fills being similar to C6733 and C6735, but without the amount of animal bones and disarticulated human bones. No artefacts recovered from these fills.

The ditches were enclosing an area within the cemetery enclosure which was empty of burials. No burials were placed in this area which could mean that the cemetery was respecting the area, plus the ditches truncated the cemetery at a later date and enclosed the same space, which made us think that the location had been important over a long period of time. It was interpreted that this area likely had been an assembly space within the cemetery that perhaps included an early ritualistic building like a church. No remains of such a structure had survived however.

Medieval pottery feature

A small linear feature (C5681) with a bowl-shaped cut was excavated in the southwestern part of the western early medieval cemetery. This was likely cutting the enclosure ditch of the cemetery (the relationship was lost during excavation of the enclosure ditch) and possibly cutting SK162. The feature truncated pit (C5633).

The feature only had one fill (C5634) and was running east-west parallel to the inner edge of the cemetery enclosure ditch with a minimum length of 4m. It measured 900mm width and 160mm depth. It had a flat base with concave sloping sides. The fill was a dark greyish brown clayish silt with some sand. It was compact with frequent small stones and pebbles. The artefacts recovered from this feature were significant in amount. There were frequent pottery sherds of varying sizes, unidentified iron objects and flint. Frequent animal bones and some possible fish bones were also identified. The fill was sampled.

The exceptional quantity of artefacts suggested a deliberate desposition. The pottery appeared to be of high-medieval date and may have been broadly contemporary. with pit C5170 nearby. It could also be related to ditch C5510 which could be later than the cemetery. That ditch was cutting into the cemetery enclosure from the southwest and turned east following the curve of the earlier enclosure ditch.

Feature C5681 containing medieval pottery in western cemetery



Section 6 Discussion

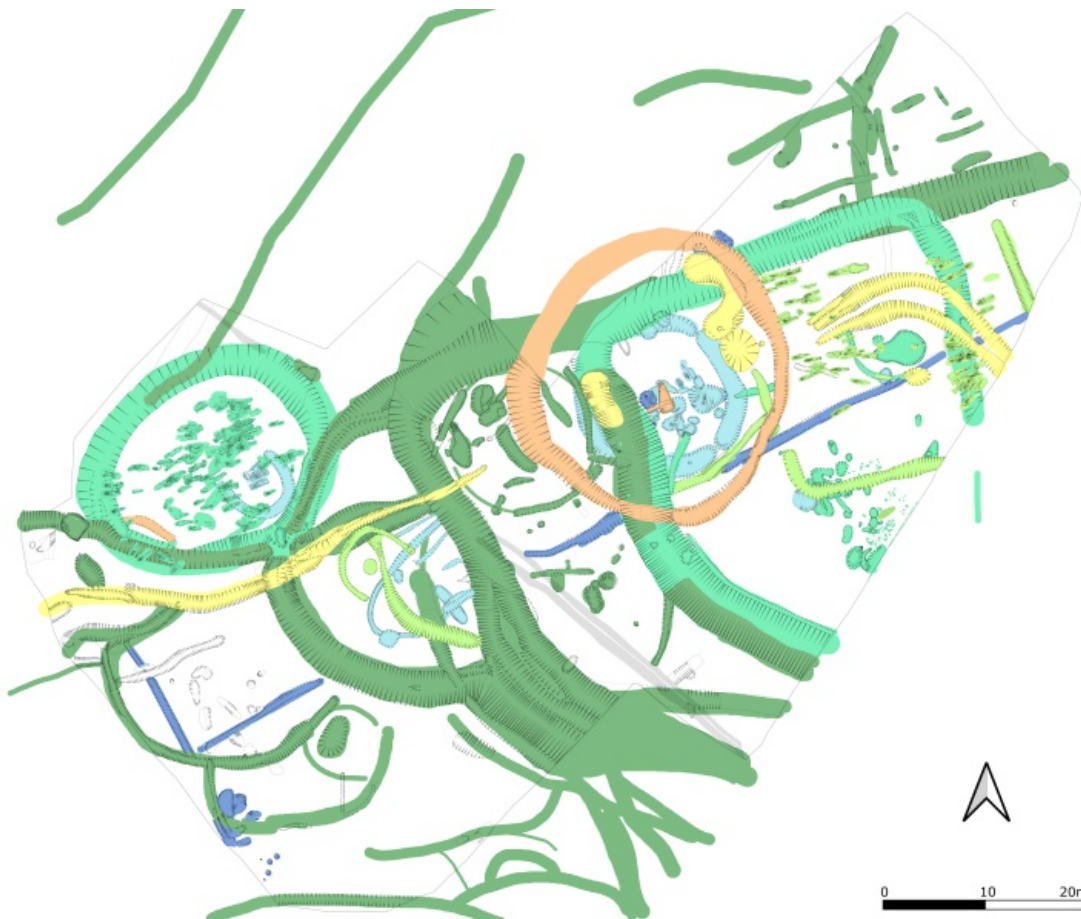
Discussion format

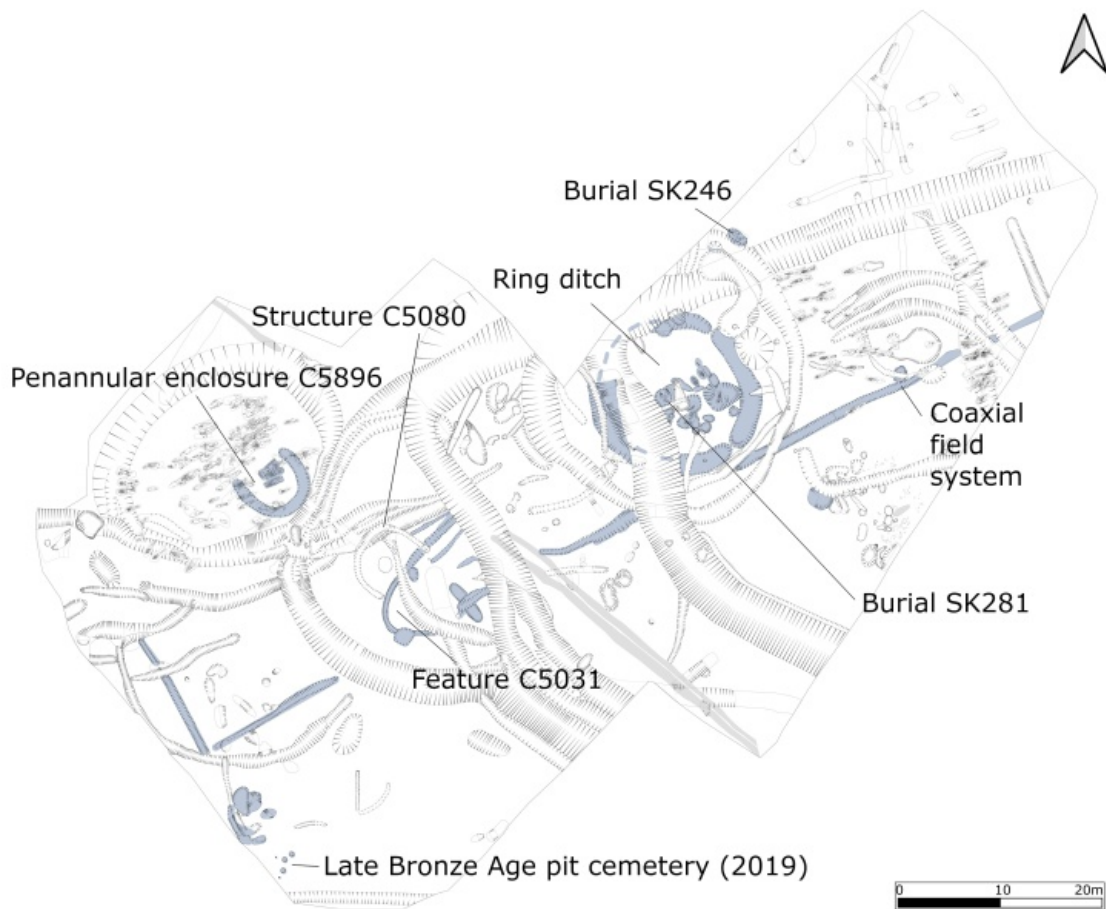
The discussion is organised into five broadly-chronological sections: prehistoric cemeteries; western cemetery; early medieval enclosures and kilns; eastern cemetery; and later early medieval and Anglo-Norman activity. It concludes with a brief discussion of the site in the context of 'cemetery settlements' in Meath and by integrating the findings of the 2021 phase of excavation with the 2019 and 2007 phases. All dates are calibrated radiocarbon dates at 2-Sigma (94.5% accuracy) unless otherwise stated.

Prehistoric cemeteries

Two prehistoric cemeteries were identified on the site: a Neolithic(?) / Early Bronze Age / Iron Age(?) cemetery/monument in the centre, and a Late Bronze Age pit burial cemetery in the south (excavated in 2019 by Garahy but within the area of the 2021 excavation). A possible prehistoric coaxial field system is also discussed here. An Iron Age / early medieval possible penannular enclosure that underlay the early medieval western cemetery is discussed in the following section.

Overview of findings with colours representing phases: blue prehistoric, green early medieval, orange medieval





Prehistoric burial monument

This monument was defined by a deep and steep-sided circular ring ditch that measured 12.5m diameter internally (c. 2m wide and 1m deep). Two deliberate gaps, to the south and northeast, were too narrow (180mm) to be entrances. A third and fourth gap may have been located in the truncated western part of the ring ditch, in which case it would have been formed by three unequal or four equal segments. The ring ditch contained fifteen sherds of prehistoric pottery that may date to c. 2450-2300 BC and which may not be in their primary context (Grogan pers. comm.). A segmented ring ditch in seven sections containing a central burial and other surrounding burials from Porton Down, Wiltshire, was dated to 2370-2200 BC (Andrews & Thompson 2016, 74). A segmented ring ditch in seven sections with a large central cremation pit was excavated at Drumacrow, Derry (Crothers 2004) and sherds of Bronze Age pottery were recovered from pits within it. Not all segmented ring ditches are Early Bronze Age, however. A ring ditch at Ardsallagh 2 was recut into three segmented parts in the Iron Age (Clarke

& Carlin 2006, 24). Similarly, a segmented ring ditch at Glebe South, Dublin, was dated to 360-90 BC (Ryan 2008, 117-9), also Iron Age.

A circular pit in the centre of the Donacorney Great ring ditch contained an unburnt crouched male burial (SK281) with a stone axe near his hand. The grave cut was notable for its circular form, vertical unlined sides, large size and great depth (1m); much larger than the burial would have required for a grave. No other grave goods were present other than the axe, which had been damaged prior to deposition. A small pile of stones covered the burial within the grave, like a small cairn. This burial is likely to date to the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age (Gabriel Cooney pers. comm.). Similar straight-sided burial pits containing crouched inhumations were discovered at the A303 works in Stonehenge by Wessex Archaeology (Lauren Buckley pers. comm.), and dated to the EBA/Beaker period, which is the same period as the pottery in the ring ditch. Buckley (*ibid.*) excavated a very deep Early Bronze Age cist at Ballyoan, Co. Derry in 2006 that was covered by a cairn.

Thirteen additional crouched inhumation burials were placed in shallow grave cuts around and over the primary central burial. Two cremation burials were also identified. A third pit containing cremated bone (not positively identified as human) post-dated a crouched inhumation (sixteen individuals minimum buried in this cemetery). Burials appeared organised in grouped clusters: seven burials in the east had heads facing south; four in the south had heads facing east; and the two central burials had heads facing northwest. Three flexed infant burials in the east had stone linings. Most of the burials were situated within the ring ditch, however a crouched burial whose grave fill contained seven sherds of prehistoric pottery (SK246; C5739) lay beyond it. Numerous large pits containing sterile subsoil were also noted and tended to predate the burials, and one was cut by the ring ditch.

Several of the burials contained distinct patches of organic burnt material possibly representing perishable grave goods. Six tiny blue-green heat-damaged annular glass beads (5797:1-6) were found in the possible cremation burial (C5820) truncating crouched burial SK221. These beads are identical to a group of twenty tiny glass beads (Carroll 2010a) found in a ring ditch associated with a cremation and dated to 175-45 BC (UBA 26150) in Donacarney Great 1 (Giacometti 2010), located 400m to the north. They are also identical to thirty-eight tiny glass beads found in a ring ditch of Ballyboy 2, Co. Galway, and a further five found during excavation of the ring ditch site of Ballyboy 1, less than a kilometre from Ballyboy 2 (Carroll 2010b & c). The Galway sites are Iron Age and date to the latter centuries BC, with dates concentrated in the late first century BC. Pale blue-green almost spherical beads were found also at the Iron Age ring ditch at Ask (AD 03-20), Co. Wexford, and in a ring ditch cremation burial site from Ferns, Co. Wexford excavated by Frank Ryan in 1999 that is radiocarbon dated to the latter centuries BC to the first century AD (Carroll 2010a).

Bronze Age crouched inhumations often do not contain pottery and are sometimes found in unlined pits (Waddell 1990, 15-6). An Early Bronze Age date for some or all of the crouched inhumations would conform with the pottery in the ring ditch and burial SK246, and the stone axehead in the central burial.

However, crouched inhumations are also dated to the Iron Age (McGarry 2010, 173-4; O'Brien 2020, 34-5). Some or all of the Donacarney Great burials in the ring ditch may belong to a group of thirty-six Iron Age crouched inhumations in Ireland, all located in coastal Meath-Dublin. O'Brien (2020, 40) notes that a quarter of these burials were infants, which is a similar proportion to the crouched and flexed inhumations within the Donacarney Great ring ditch (three infants, ten adults). The other locations of these Iron Age crouched burials are Tara, Knowth, Platin Fort, Lambay, Rath, Claristown 2 and Bettystown Anchorage (*ibid.*, 35). O'Brien (*ibid.*, 34, 37) dates the introduction of this burial rite to the second century BC to first century AD, and the end to c. AD 200, stressing that they co-existed with the cremation rite. She also notes that several of the individuals buried in this way originated from Britain, where crouched inhumation was the common tradition at the time (*ibid.*, 36). An Iron Age date would conform with the glass beads from the late first century BC.

The primary burial (SK281) may be contemporary or earlier than the ring ditch. It is possible that the primary burial was marked above the ground by an earthen mound or a stone cairn (large amounts of stone were noted in nineteenth century contexts surrounding the feature). This monument was certainly in use during the Early Bronze Age, based on the pottery. The monument was also utilised during the Iron Age, based on the distinctive late first century BC tiny glass beads, and it is hypothesised that some or all of the thirteen crouched burials are of Iron Age date. If some or more of the burials are Iron Age, the segmented ring ditch may also date to the Iron Age.

In the early medieval period this prehistoric burial monument formed the centre of the Donacarney Great early medieval cemetery complex. The monument was later surrounded by a circular enclosure preliminarily dated to the tenth to thirteenth century, though it is unclear if the builders of this final phase were concerned with the funerary nature of the prehistoric monument. The use of this monument for such a wide span of time between the end of the Neolithic and the early medieval period is part of a well-documented pattern of re-use of older burial monuments (O'Brien 2020 64-82; Dowling 2014, 164; Hawkes 2021, 42-5; O'Sullivan *et al.* 2013, 300). At Donacarney Great the monument was no longer

used for burial in the early medieval period, but it clearly retained significance within the cemetery complex.

The other feature of note within the ring ditch was a small kiln, located directly over the primary burial in the centre of the monument, and cut into it. A very large stone slab, which may have belonged to the primary burial monument, was re-used in this kiln. The first phase of the kiln showed evidence for cereal drying. Similar cereal drying kilns of early medieval date were common on the site, however the location of this kiln in the centre of the burial mound, which was otherwise untouched in the early medieval period, is unusual. Even more unusual is evidence for the re-use of the same small kiln to burn lime. The earliest use of lime mortar in Ireland is in mortared stone churches from the ninth century onwards (Ó Carragáin 2010, 87; Manning 2000, 38-9), but this small kiln would have been unable to make enough lime for any large structure. This kiln is presently enigmatic and will require further study.

Late Bronze Age pit cemetery

At the southern edge of the site, Garahy excavated three Late Bronze Age funerary vessels that contained cremated human bone (Garahy 2019, 24). A radiocarbon date from the cremated human bone from one of these returned a date of 1199-985 BC. The location of this small pit cemetery, close to a prehistoric structure also excavated by Garahy (and dated to 1386-1224 BC), appears to respect the layout of the prehistoric coaxial field system identified in 2021. Eoin Grogan (2020) notes that close comparisons to these occur in the pit cemeteries at Darcystown 1 (Wiggins 2008). As at Donacarney Great, the Darcystown pit cemetery had no evidence for a surrounding enclosure.

Prehistoric coaxial field system

Among the oldest features on the site was a narrow shallow ditch running for c. 70m southwest-northeast skirting the southeast edge of the prehistoric ring ditch. A possible return to the northwest was identified, establishing this ditch as part of a probable coaxial field system. The Late Bronze Age pit cemetery was located in line with the return, which may indicate contemporaneity. It is possible that several linear ditches excavated in 2019 at the same alignment as the coaxial field system may also form part of this field system (notably ditches C0067 and C0049, which cut a

structure dated to 1386-1224 BC, and were cut by enclosure ditches dated to AD 602-661).

The coaxial field system ditch contained no artefacts other than flint debitage, had a sterile fill, and was stratigraphically earlier than every other feature on the site it interacted with. On this basis it is likely to be prehistoric. It was very similar to a coaxial system of ditches identified nearby at Donacarney Great 1 400m to the north (Giacometti 2010), which was contemporary with a ring ditch and burial dated to 175-45 BC (UBA 26150). Prehistoric field systems were also identified at the early medieval sites at Kiltrough (Gallagher 2008) and Colp West 2, and at the latter site the field system seemed to influence the layout of the early medieval settlement (Murphy 2011, 253). Coaxial field systems have been identified at prehistoric burial landscapes, for example at Ask in Co. Wexford (Stevens 2007), where they respect, or are respected by, the burial monuments.

The persistence of past materiality to physically influence later architecture, those constructing it, and those using it, is a recurrent theme at Donacarney Great 2. This was also identified as a key factor at the adjacent site of Donacarney Great 1 (Giacometti 2010) and was interpreted as the gradual ritualisation of the landscape over a long time frame.

Western cemetery

The westernmost cemetery on the site was defined by a large circular ditch, with evidence for a wooden bridge access to the southeast. The ditch measured c. 3.8m wide and over 1m deep, and enclosed an oval area 15m-19m in diameter. It contained four iron artefacts and two quernstone fragments. The ditch had extensive evidence for maintenance, particularly on either side of the bridge-post. Eight burials were cut into the ditch; most to the south cut into the latest ditch fills, but a few either side of the bridge-post cut into an earlier phase of the ditch and truncated by later phases of ditch maintenance and enclosure. No burials were found beyond the ditched enclosure. A layer c. 500mm thick of burial mound material, formed from the upcast of the ditch construction and maintenance and upcast from digging graves, was present inside the circular ditched enclosure. The ditch is likely to date to the early medieval

period (estimated fifth to sixth century).

171 articulated burials (including forty in 2019) and 67 disarticulated burials were identified in the western cemetery. Almost all (141 out of 171) of the articulated burials were W-E supine extended inhumations. Of the remainder, one was crouched, five were flexed, and twenty-four could not be assigned. One burial (SK40) was dated to AD 421-555 (UBA-44042). Thirty-four were lined, mostly with stone, though three were slab-lined and lintelled (see below), one (SK109) was wood-lined and stone-capped and one (SK119) was probably wood-lined. 113 were unlined and 23 could not be assigned. None of the burials had evidence of ear-muffs. Eighteen of the burials contained artefacts inside the grave such as small copper-alloy or iron items, quern stones or spindle whorls, which are interpreted as grave goods. Of the nine quern stones found on the site, seven were associated with the western cemetery, either as grave goods, re-used in stone linings, or found in the cemetery ditch. Where stratigraphy between burials was present, the burials containing grave goods were generally later than the ones without grave goods. A juvenile (SK40) excavated in 2019 had an exceptional tubular copper-alloy neck-ring. The burial population appeared to be disproportionately male and included relatively few infants. Most of the burials were cut into the burial mound material with only very few of the deepest burials reaching the depth of the underlying natural subsoil. This suggests that the earliest burials were cut into a pre-existing mound.

There is no evidence for whether or not the buried individuals were Christian (O'Brien 2020, 54-57; Ó'Carragáin 2010, 218; McGarry 2010). As Donacarne Great has no material evidence of being an ecclesiastical site, the disproportionate number of males in the western cemetery probably indicates gendered burial of an elite rather than an all-male religious community. The presence of grave goods, ring ditch burial and an early radiocarbon date two-hundred years earlier than burials at the all-male monastic site at Illaunloughan (Marshall & Walsh 2005, 84), also argue against the latter interpretation.

An almost-penannular enclosure (C5896) was identified under the burial ground (refer image on page 23). This comprised a C- or horse-shoe-shaped

ditch (or large slot trench) 13.5m in length enclosing an area c. 6m by 5m. The terminals ended abruptly leaving a 6m opening facing northeast. The fill of the feature was completely sterile. This was sealed by the burial mound material and truncated by some burials. It certainly predates the majority (if not all) of the burials and the circular burial enclosure.

However, three of the deepest west-east inhumations were situated in the centre of this almost-penannular enclosure: burials SK113, SK149 and SK211. These three burials were slab-lined and capped with lintels, a grave structure not present in the other graves of the cemetery. If these three burials predate the others (and there is no stratigraphic evidence that they do) they may have been interred within the penannular ring ditch before the larger circular cemetery enclosure was constructed. Slab-lined graves, with or without basal slabs, are relatively common in Irish familial burial grounds but generally represent a small percentage of the total, compared with round stone surrounds or earth-cut grave types, for example, at Betaghstown Anchorage (Eogan 2010, 107) and at Faughart Lower where, out of 772 burials only 5% were slab-lined (Buckley & McConway 2010, 54). They do not necessarily signify an earlier date than round stone-lined or earth-cut graves (O'Sullivan *et al.* 2013, 288-9). However, O'Brien (2020, 58) emphasises the labour and ritual associated with constructing such graves, and this could also suggest that these three graves at Donacarne were significant and of an early date in the formation of this community, preceding the construction of the larger burial enclosure. As the date obtained for burial SK40 in the enclosure was fifth to sixth century, then a fifth century date is possible for these three burials.

A number of similar penannular enclosures have been identified in Ireland, including several local to Donacarne Great. These penannular enclosures contained the earliest or primary burial on which subsequent burials were focused (O'Brien 2020, 84-93; O'Sullivan *et al.* 2013, 298). At Colp West 1 the central foundation burial in the penannular enclosure was dated by the Mapping Death project to the latter half of the sixth century and the burial ground produced B and E ware. At Ninch 3, two burials out of four in a penannular enclosure were dated to AD 390-535 and 435-547. The earliest

burial was in a slab-lined grave (Cahill-Wilson 2014, 144-5; mappingdeathdb.ie Ninch 3). At Collierstown 1 the earliest grave, partially slab-lined, dated to the fifth to sixth century AD, was placed within a penannular enclosure and covered by a small mound (O'Brien 2020, 96). Further graves and an outer enclosure were added in the eighth to ninth century. A, B and E wares were identified at that site (albeit not in the penannular enclosure).

O'Brien (2020, 102) characterises these early medieval penannular enclosures as 'imitative ancestral monuments' and suggests that they represent 'an attempt to create an impression of ancestral continuity' by mimicking already existing burial monuments of the Iron Age and perhaps earlier. This is similar to the insertion of later burials into *fertá*, the Old Irish for ancestral burial monuments, such as Knowth. This legitimisation of new kin-groups would have been crucial in the fluid political situation after the end of the Roman Empire and during the rise of the Uí Néill in Ireland (*ibid.*, 92, 102).

This horse-shoe-shaped or penannular feature under the western cemetery was mirrored by an identical one on the outside of the circular burial enclosure ditch. The second feature (C5080) comprised a horse-shoe-shaped slot-trench 13.5m in length enclosing an area c. 6m by 5m. The terminals ended abruptly leaving a 6m opening facing southeast. These dimensions are identical to the almost-penannular enclosure described above. Unlike its mirror under the burial ground, this feature was filled by a distinctive charcoal- and ash-rich occupation material that contained shell, animal bone, three sherds of E-ware (in one terminal), a fragment of Samian Ware with a possible second century date (Ian Doyle pers. comm.) and two iron objects (a possible buckle and a possible horse harness fragment). No evidence of recutting or maintenance was identified, however feature C5080 did truncate an earlier poorly-understood feature (C5031) with a sterile fill that may also have been penannular (C5031 was most likely prehistoric and may have been associated with the coaxial field system). Feature or structure C5080 was situated centrally within its own sub-circular enclosure (the 'outer' enclosure), which also provided the only access to the cemetery via a wooden bridge. No human remains were associated with 'penannular' enclosure C5080, however a human skull fragment was found in a pit in its

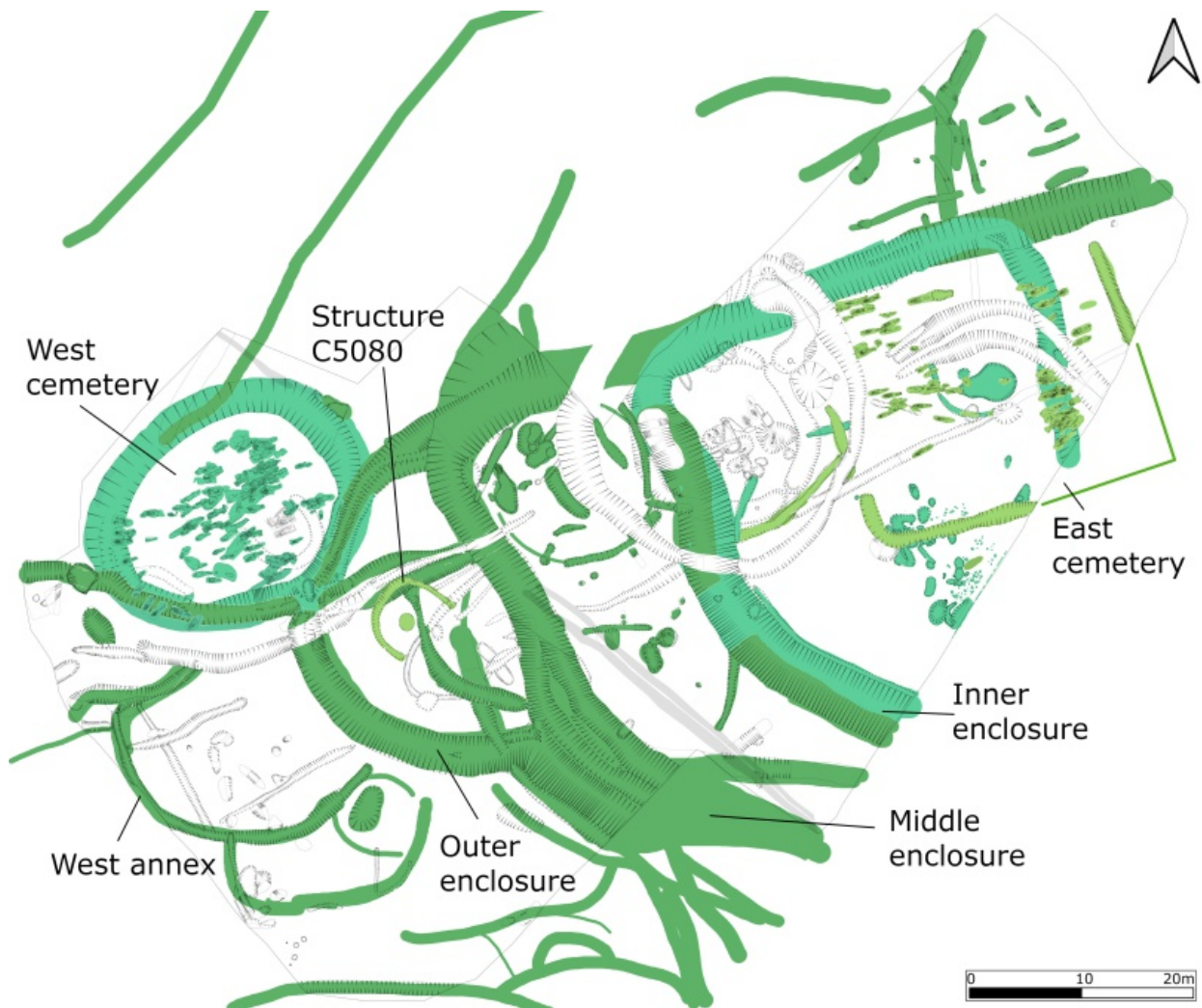
centre that also contained a 'watchwinder' copper-alloy pin. The pit was perfectly circular with vertical sides and was interpreted as holding a circular wooden vessel such as a barrel.

The connections and contrast between the two almost-penannular features are interesting. C5080 is tentatively interpreted as a non-domestic structure dating to the seventh century AD, based on stratigraphic evidence, and the 'watchwinder' pin in the central pit is interpreted as a later addition. The Samian ware would therefore have been placed inside the structure long after such pottery ceased being produced and the similarity between the two features would be a coincidence. However, it is also possible that the two are contemporary, and Finn O'Carroll (pers. comm.) has speculated that if both features were walled, then the northwest-facing one in the burial ground would be mostly in shadow, whereas the southeast-facing outside the burial ground would be filled with sunlight; a house of the dead and a house of the living.

Even if structure C5080 (estimated seventh century) is later than the earlier phase of the western cemetery (estimated fourth to fifth century), it may still have referenced the initial penannular enclosure (C5896), and thus maintained continuity whilst re-directing the new emphasis of the site towards the east. As the eastern cemetery (c. seventh century) was initiated during the consolidation period of Christianity, the symbolism of the later penannular enclosure facing the rising sun to the southeast would not be lost on the users of the cemetery. It may have been used in the ritual of burial, for example as a place to rest the deceased before being transferred to the eastern cemetery.

Early medieval enclosures

A series of early medieval ditched enclosures radiated from the centre of the site, and are preliminarily dated to the sixth to eighth century AD. The innermost and earliest enclosure was D-shaped and measured c. 30m in diameter. This truncated the prehistoric ring ditch but included the majority of the prehistoric cemetery, perhaps also encompassing any upstanding remains marking the cemetery. The remainder of the inner enclosure contained the eastern graveyard, which



Early medieval features

mostly post-dates the inner enclosure (but may have been established from the time of its construction) and a large empty space with no features.

The inner enclosure ditch was very large, c. 4-5m wide and 1.5m deep, but in the north and east it became much shallower and narrower. An entrance in the inner enclosure ditch to the southwest was identified in the form of large post-holes cut into the base of the ditch, interpreted as supporting a timber bridge. This led directly into the empty space within the inner enclosure. Artefacts within the ditch included a bone comb with dot and circle decoration, E-ware pottery sherds, copper-alloy and iron artefacts.

The middle enclosure was stratigraphically later than the inner enclosure and enlarged it by c. 10-15m to the west and at least 15m to the east. A

third outer enclosure enlarging the complex by a further 15m to the west was broadly contemporary or later than the middle enclosure, enlarging the complex to over 80m across at least. The inner enclosure was most likely recut at this time, possibly leaving an unexcavated causeway entrance to the north. All of the ditches defining the inner, middle and outer enclosure were similarly large in scale and could not have been easily crossed without bridges. A fourth enclosure to the west defined by a far smaller ditch may have functioned as an outer annex. Additional enclosures were excavated in 2019 further out again from these (Garahy 2019) and contained E ware pottery and are discussed in the conclusion.

The scale of these ditches is at the upper end of dimensions of ditches of other comparable enclosed early medieval ancestral burial ground sites, designated 'cemetery-settlements' in the

literature. For example, Ratoath (Wallace 2010, 301) and Cabinteely Co Dublin (Conway 1999, 24) have enclosing ditches about half the width. The only example with similar dimensions is the site at Ninch 2, just two km to the southeast of Donacarney (McConway 2010, 167).

The gradual enlargement of the enclosures culminated in encircling, not only the prehistoric and eastern cemeteries, but also an extension of space without burial in the middle enclosure, and the mirroring penannular structure (C5080) within its own outermost enclosure. The western cemetery was not fully embraced, but was instead fused with the developing enclosure complex by the outer ditch cutting into the burial enclosure ditch. This was as if it was a point of past reference, but the ritual emphasis had moved by now to the eastern cemetery. This may be an explanation for the construction of the mirroring penannular structure C5080, which seems to be later than the western cemetery, but to those using the complex may have remained a potent symbol.

This enlargement of the original enclosed space by the construction of roughly concentric ditches is a feature of many multi-period, non-ecclesiastical ancestral burial grounds excavated in the last twenty years. This corpus of sites varies considerably in the trajectory of this enlargement over time. At Ninch, disparate elements become combined within the largest Phase 7 enclosure (McConway 2010, 167). At Cabinteely and Faughart Lower the increase in enclosed area seems to be to facilitate greater burial numbers (Conway 1999, 23, 28-9; Bowen & Dawkes 2011, 37; Boazman 2015, 347, Fig 6). At Raystown, although the original penannular burial ground ditch was re-enclosed by a second enclosure, in the later life of the site emphasis seems to be on development of a centralised milling complex (Seaver 2010). At Balriggeran a considerable industrial area developed on the northeast of the central enclosure separated from the burials in the southeast. A second concentric enclosure 19m from the first contained small subdivisions and a causeway entrance to the central space (Delaney 2010, 93). Despite these variations in development, what nearly all these sites have in common is the location of burial in a discrete area of a central enclosure and a considerable amount of space within the central enclosure, and sometimes within the concentric enclosures, for other activities. However, there is

very little evidence throughout the whole group for habitation in the form of post-hole circles or hearths.

Empty space - assembly?

The sequential enclosures defined spaces that were tightly restricted. The innermost enclosure had a c. 10m by 10m area in the southwest that had no archaeological features. The only identified entrance into the inner enclosure (by bridge, from the southwest) led directly into the empty space, and in turn this space led into the eastern graveyard. Empty enclosed spaces in early medieval 'cemetery settlements' have been interpreted as evidence for cattle corralling or gardens, for example at Ninch Phase 5, Raystown and Balriggeran (McConway 2010, 166; Seaver 2010, 275; Delaney 2010, 94). This accords with a generally prosaic approach to the meaning of these sites, nominated 'settlement-cemeteries' stressing the settlement element. At Donacarney Great, however, and at most of these enclosed burial grounds, the location of the empty space with no evidence for domicile, in the centre of a tightly restricted complex of enclosures adjacent to several cemeteries, and the large quantity of material culture (e.g. animal bone and imported pottery) deposited within the enclosing ditches, does not support this interpretation. Instead, it seems more likely that the empty space was intended for the gathering, movement, or assembly of people. The empty space at Donacarney Great may have been a central location where people feasted and perhaps paid tribute in proximity to the ancestors, whose presence was a cohesive force in cementing disparate sections of the kin-group (Gleeson 2015, 40; Gleeson & Ó Carragáin 2016, 90-4; Boazman 2015, 349).

Kilns and crafting

Fifteen kilns were identified during the excavation, bringing the total number of kilns excavated on the site in 2019-2021 to twenty. Three of the cereal drying kilns from the 2019 phase of excavation at Donacarney Great have been dated to AD 417-539 (Kiln C3), 607-756 (Kiln C1137) and 774-944 (kiln C1267). Two or three further kilns were excavated 150m to the southwest (but in the same overall site of Donacarney Great 2) in 2007 (Rathbone 2007). Most of the kilns were figure-of-eight shaped, keyhole shaped, or oval, and many were partly surrounded by curving trenches that may have held windbreaks. Most of the kilns identified on the

site contained charred grains and were interpreted as cereal drying kilns. The only exception was a probable lime-drying kiln (C6168) which had formerly been used to dry cereal.

There appeared to be a pattern in the placement of kilns on the site: the two largest oval-shaped were outside the enclosures to the west, seven long-lived kilns associated with drains, windbreaks and smaller enclosures were located between the inner and middle enclosures, and the three smallest kilns were situated within the inner enclosure (one of which was truncated by a burial in the eastern cemetery). Contemporaneity between the kilns and large enclosure ditches was occasionally confirmed by the presence of kiln waste inside a nearby ditch.

The large number (over twenty) of early medieval cereal drying kilns at Donacarney Great 2 is at the upper end of kiln numbers at these burial grounds. Raystown has five, Johnstown has seven, Ratoath has about five, Balriggeran Co. Louth has one, and Ninch has two later medieval ones (Seaver 2016, 168; Carlin *et al.* 2008, 73; Wallace 2010, 300; Delaney 2010, 97; McConway 2010, 157). Twenty-seven kilns were found at Corbally Co Kildare (Tobin 2003, 36; Coyne 2010, 84). Readsland has 25 (McGlade 2020, 319). Rosepark has eleven, with five more in adjacent Glebe South and Darcystown (Carroll 2008, 103-4). Colp West 2, 2.6km to the west of the Donacarney site, although not a burial ground, has seventeen (Murphy 2011, 258). Kilns at early medieval 'cemetery settlements' generally date from the late Iron Age continuing into the later medieval period (Delaney 2010, 97; Timpany, Monk & Power 2011, 80).

A non-ferrous metalworking feature, most likely for copper- or bronze-working, was identified in the form of a large kiln-shaped pit cut into the recut-and-backfilled inner enclosure ditch containing multiple phases of in-situ burning. It was identified by Brendan O'Neill (2021 pers. comm.) who noted multiple small fragments of crucible and tuyere heated to over 1100 degrees in the feature, and from the absence of cereal grains. It contained a large quantity of bone, iron and copper-alloy artefacts, including an enigmatic antler/bone and iron piece, which is possibly a lock plate from a box. Copper/bronze-working or other non-ferrous metalworking evidence is rare on early medieval sites and tends to be associated with

high status secular sites and monasteries (O'Sullivan *et al.* 2008, 230). There is evidence for crucibles used for non-ferrous metal working from the ancestral burial ground of Faughart Lower (Schuster 2011, 13) and from Readsland (McGlade 200). Copper alloy production was also identified at Roestown 2 (O'Hara 2006, 149). A bone motif piece (700:84) excavated just south of the outer enclosure in 2019 has a sketch of a penannular brooch and a fragmentary circular pattern, possibly intended to be an interlaced design (Riddler & Trzaska-Nartowski 2020) and may demonstrate the sort of items being manufactured on the site.

No iron-working features or ferrous metallurgical waste was identified on the site.

Antler manufacturing also took place within the site, based on a pit containing numerous fragments of red deer antler within the inner enclosure. The fragments show cut and hand sawn marks separating parts of the antler beam and tines, which is typical of working these parts and discarding the waste bits (Ruth Cardon pers. comm.). Evidence for the manufacture of jet-like bracelets on the site was identified by Paul Stevens (2020) in the form of an unfinished bracelet (6044:3) found in the souterrain.

At Donacarney Great all of the ditches at the site were excavated into natural gravels that would have been unable to hold water, and therefore could never have functioned as part of a water management system or mill complex. The closest recorded watercourse is located c. 450m from the centre of the settlement cemetery to the northeast, north and northwest (1837 OS map). The 1837 OS map also depicts a small tributary of this watercourse extending c. 250m to the southwest of the centre of the site (both watercourses depicted in Eogan 2010, Fig. 9.13). A spring is also marked on the c. 1910 OS map c. 150m to the west. The edge of a large enclosure identified by Garahy in 2019 (2019, Ditches 1-4) was clearly a component of a larger complex connected to the cemeteries that extended to the south and east of the site, towards the twentieth century mapped spring. These contained E ware and were radiocarbon dated to AD 594-651 and 602-661 (UBA 44033 & 44038).

Animal bone

The very large quantity of animal bone at Donacarney Great present in all of the enclosure



Distribution of ceramic sherds from 2021 excavations on the site

ditches is a feature found at other early medieval settlement cemetery sites. At Raystown more than nine thousand animal bones concentrated in the burial enclosure were thought to define the location of consumption and discarding of animal remains, and thus the ‘centre of habitation’ (Seaver 2010, 275). At Faughart Lower (Louth) there were two significant features of the animal bone distribution. One was that the bulk of animal bone was deposited in the western ditches, on the other side of the site to the cemetery, and the second was that 47% of the animal bone was deposited in Phase 2 of the site (Higbee 2011, Appendix XXII). These features of animal bone deposition could signify that consumption of animals respected the cemetery and that it was an activity which had a limited time period. If it was the waste of normal domicile, one would expect it to continue throughout the life of the site. But, if it was feasting, then perhaps the gradual introduction of a Christian ethos slowly discouraged this particular ritual activity (O’Brien 2020, 122). At Collierstown 1 the bone came ‘primarily’ from the enclosing ditches, but the exact location is unclear. Similarly

to Faughart Lower, the animal bone came mostly from two early phases of the site, Phase 2: 427-606 and Phase 3: 559-663 with 47% and 29% respectively (O’Hara 2009, 43-4). The excavator considers the animal bone to represent feasting (*ibid.*). Work on analysing the distribution of the Donacarne Great animal bone is ongoing.

International connections and artefacts

The artefacts from the early medieval phase of the site (2019 & 2021 phases) include a sherd of Samian ware, two sherds from Late Roman Amphorae (LRA1 & LRA2, B ware), a sherd of *Dérivées sigillées paléochrétiennes* (DSPA; D ware) and 73 sherds of E ware. To put this in context of other Meath sites, at Collierstown 1 the total number of A, B and E ware sherds was c. 25 (Kelly 2010, 85-88). Colp West 1 produced 25 sherds of E ware and six sherds of B ware, Colp West 2 produced one sherd of B ware and eight sherds of E ware, and at Ninch 2, eighteen sherds of E ware and one rim of D ware were found (Doyle 2009, 44, 46, 55). The Samian ware sherd may date to approximately the second century AD (Doyle pers. comm.)

Doyle (2020, 4) who examined the 2019 E ware from Donacarney Great 2, has noted that ‘what makes the Donacarney Great assemblage stand out is the range of forms present, the lack of weathering or wear on the vast majority of sherds and the low number of joining sherds. The forms present include standard E1 jars and an E2 beaker, yet the unusual items are the E4B spouted pitcher and the E4 jug strap handle. The base and rim from what are likely to represent two E3 bowls are also unusual.’

This concentration of imported pottery suggests that Donacarney Great was connected to Mediterranean trade in the fifth and sixth centuries, and with Gaul-Frankish trade in the seventh and eighth centuries. Other local sites that have early medieval imported pottery include Colp West 1, Colp West 2, Kiltrough and Ninch 2 (Doyle 2019). The pottery finds at Donacarney Great add to the significance of this cluster of burial and settlement sites between the Boyne and Nanny rivers (see map on page 145), reiterating their links to the Post-Roman world.

Other artefacts from the excavation also may indicate international links: the die (found in 2019) reflects Late Roman influence (Riddler & Trzaska-Nartowski 2020). Rena Maguire (2021 pers. comm.) has suggested that the possible cold-forged decorated disc-headed pin, a copper-alloy pin, and an early medieval horse cheek ring are suggestive of Anglo-Saxon British influence. A possible chatelain fragment found as a grave-good in the western cemetery may also be Anglo-Saxon. If indeed Iron Age, the crouched burials in the prehistoric ring ditch would also display Romano-British influence. The burial rite of extended inhumation, adopted across the site is a Late Roman influence, the dominant form of burial rite in Ireland up to AD 400 being cremation (McGarry 2010, 176). Even some of the individuals buried may have been from outside Ireland; at two neighbouring burial grounds, Betaghstown and Ninch 3, strontium analysis showed several individuals to have originated in the north of England and southern and eastern Europe (Cahill-Wilson, Standish & O’Brien 2014, 131, 139, 143).

Eastern cemetery

The eastern cemetery was a square enclosure 25m

across defined by ditches that were far smaller in scale than the large curvilinear enclosure ditches described above. An unexcavated causeway in the ditch provided an entrance from the west, in line with the bridge crossing the inner enclosure ditch.

This cemetery was stratigraphically later than the first phase of the inner enclosure, as burials were cut into the fully backfilled inner enclosure ditch, but was probably contemporary with the later phase of the inner enclosure and the middle and outer enclosures. All the burials were contained within the square cemetery enclosure, and the orientation of the enclosure (ENE-SSW) was mirrored by the orientation of the burials. A single burial has been dated to AD 575-670 (SUERC-16817; GU-15981), which is later than the dated burial in the western cemetery (AD 421-555). On this basis (only two radiocarbon dates), it is tentatively suggested that the eastern cemetery was established later than the western cemetery, perhaps in the seventh century.

The position of this cemetery in the east of the inner enclosure is replicated at Knowth Site M, Ratoath and Readsland (O’Brien 2020, 98; McGlade 2020). A comparative study of these enclosed burial grounds found that in thirteen out of twenty-one ‘cemetery settlement’ sites, the burial area was situated in the east (Boazman 2014, 57). In the majority of minor ecclesiastical sites, it is also the case that the burial ground was in the east (Ó Carragáin 2010b, 217).

It may be significant that the southern third of the rectangular enclosure, south of the prehistoric co-axial field boundary has no evidence of burial although there are burials to the east in the infilled inner enclosure ditch. This is unlikely to be a space for a church (see discussion of the late ditches below). It is possible that burial in the rectilinear enclosure was for a shorter period than expected when the enclosure was constructed. Perhaps a series of events contributed to a change in burial location before the enclosure was filled.

The rectangular enclosure of the eastern cemetery at Donacarney is quite unusual in the corpus of enclosed burial grounds. There is an example at Parknahown which is dated to the early ninth to early eleventh centuries and is considered by the excavator to have replaced an earlier enclosure during a redefinition of site function (O’Neill 2010,

258). Readsland (Co. Meath), Carrigatogher (Co. Tipperary) and Camlin (Co. Laois) have partial rectangular burial enclosures, but unfortunately undated so it is hard to tell if the enclosure was contemporary with the earliest burials or a later addition (McGlade 2020; Taylor 2010, 286; Flynn 2009, 137). In all three cases the enclosure has rounded corners, as at Donacarney Great. As discussed above, at some of these sites a ring ditch is contemporary with the earliest fourth to fifth century burials, for example at Raystown (Seaver 2010, 264). However, at Treenbaun (Co. Galway) early medieval burial (dated from ninth to thirteenth centuries) is contained in an Iron Age ring ditch (Lehane *et al.* 2010, 145, 155). At other enclosed burial sites, such as Faughart Lower, Johnstown and Balriggeran there is no obvious enclosure of the burial area, although it is always in a discrete area of the site.

The overall change from round houses to rectilinear has been noted around the tenth to eleventh century (Lynn 1994, 93) but whether this change is a chronological indicator for enclosures, and in this case burial ground enclosures, is hard to say. In the 2019 excavation at Donacarney Great, a tentative rectilinear ditch in the north produced four sherds of E ware and was dated c. AD 550-800 (Garahy 2019, 66; Doyle 2020). In the surrounding area of Donacarney, a rectilinear enclosure at Colp West 2, a settlement site, was dated to the seventh to eighth century (Murphy 2011, 254) and at the multiperiod burial ground at Ninch 2, rectilinear enclosures to the south of the multivallate site were interpreted by the excavator as tenth to eleventh century based on the find of a Hiberno-Norse ring pin (McConway 2010, 171). Until dates are obtained for the ditch and other burials within it, it is impossible to say whether it is contemporary with the seventh century dated burial mentioned above or post-dates it. However, it seems likely that the enclosure of the eastern cemetery was part of a shift in focus on the site from the western cemetery. This shift is also manifest in the encircling of most of the site by the extension of the outer enclosure.

The eastern cemetery contained 84 burials (including one excavated in 2007 and fourteen from 2019) and a further 29 disarticulated human remains. This is less than half of the quantity of the western cemetery, however the eastern cemetery was far more truncated by nineteenth century field

levelling, so may have contained more graves than were excavated. 73 of the burials were W-E supine extended inhumations, with eleven unassigned. Eleven were in stone-lined graves (the lined graves were less impressive than the western cemetery), one (SK238) was wood-lined, sixty were unlined, one was slab-capped, and twelve were unassigned. No slab-lined graves or ear-muffs were identified. Two burials contained possible grave goods. All of the burials were cut into the gravelly natural subsoil and were in general not stratified. There was no obvious candidate for a 'primary' or 'central' burial that may have been the earliest or most significant. The burials were more organised than in the western cemetery as they seemed to be laid in rows. There was a noticeable absence of burials in the southwest quadrant of the cemetery that did not appear to be due to truncation or later disturbance. Perhaps the orderly rows and uniformity of the burial pattern, combined with a lack of focus on a primary burial, indicate a gradual acceptance of the Christian precept of community burial rather than ancestral burial (Ó Carragáin 2010a, 224).

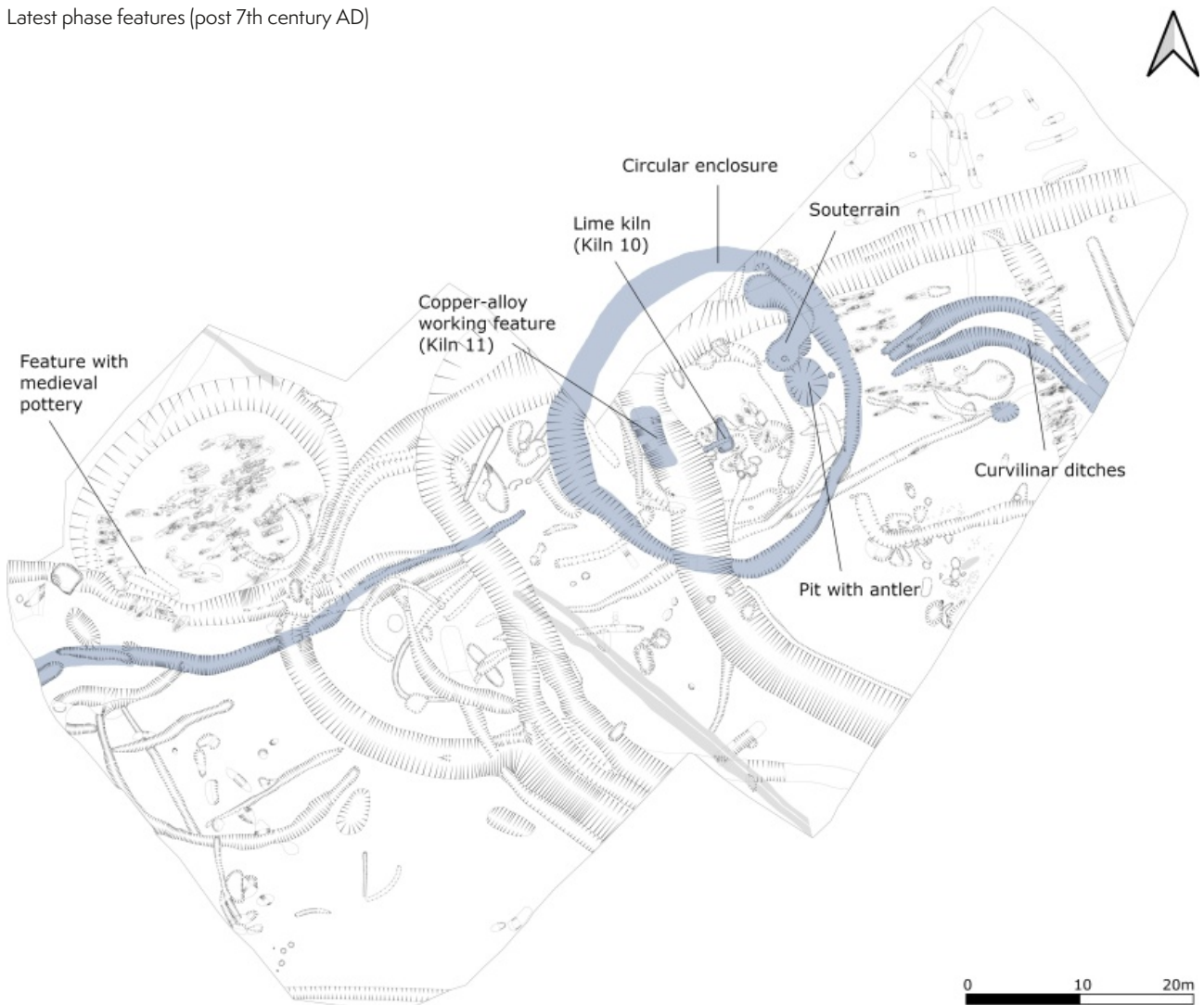
Later early medieval activity

The final phase of the site comprised a set of features that post-dated the early medieval enclosures but considered the location of the three cemeteries of the Iron Age/early medieval complex. This means that whilst the large early medieval ditched enclosures were completely or mostly silted up, the three cemeteries must have been marked above ground, or in the case of the two earlier cemeteries, visible as mounds.

Souterrain

A souterrain was cut through the fully backfilled early medieval inner and middle enclosure ditches, so is likely to post-date the most extensive phase of the site's development. The form of the souterrain comprises two circular chambers connected by a L-shaped passage. The circular 'beehive' shaped souterrain chambers are a regional characteristic of Meath and southern Louth (Clinton 2001, 120). Although the Donacarney Great souterrain had been robbed out, enough stones and metal floor surface survived to reconstruct the shape. The fills of the souterrain, which must post-date its robbing out, contained several artefacts including one sherd of medieval pottery (6077:1) dating to the

Latest phase features (post 7th century AD)



Anglo-Norman period.

Souterrains are not common in 'cemetery settlements', perhaps partly because at many of these sites the most vibrant part of their use-life preceded the floruit of souterrains (Clinton 2001). Treanbaun (Co. Galway) has an example, comparatively small, 4.5m in length, which was late in the life of the site as it was built into the infilled enclosure ditch (Lehane *et al.* 2010, 146). Similarly, at Millockstown (Co. Louth) there were two souterrains with beehive chambers, one dug into earlier infilled ditches (Manning 1986, 147-151). At Faughart Lower (Co. Louth), there were two souterrains, the first, 5m long, dug into an earlier infilled ditch. The second was more impressive, 30m long, ending in the stone-faced wall, the final enclosure of the site. It was only utilised for a short period, construction date and first infill being in the same range: AD 678-776

(Bowen & Dawkes 2011, 48, 53, Appendix VIII). As this range was within the period of dated burial c. fifth to tenth centuries (*ibid.*, Appendix XIV) and did not overlay the outer enclosure, it has been interpreted as an integral part of the ritual area although it belongs to the later period of the site (Boazman 2015, 347-8). Raystown is unusual as the earliest of two souterrains is of wooden post construction and has a very early date: AD 530-630. The second is later in the site's development, stone-built and bucking the Meath trend with a sub-rectangular chamber (Seaver 2010, 255, 268). The final example in the group of sites, is at the neighbouring site southwest of Donacarney Great: Ninch 2, where again the larger of two souterrains is built into previous infilled enclosures and comprises circular chambers connected by a L-shaped passage with a crawl-space. It was dated to the latest phase on that site (McConway 2010, 169-170). It is perhaps significant that the souterrains

at Donacarney Great and Ninch 2 share roughly the same dimensions, are stone-built with multiple round chambers and are both late in the chronology of the sites. Apart from these two examples, only three other souterrains are recorded in the parishes of Colp and Julianstown. These parishes form the extents of the low-lying terrain of Donacarney Great and Ninch 2, bordered on the north by the Boyne and the east by the sea.

Circular enclosure

The most significant intervention in this final phase was the construction of a large 25m circular enclosure surrounding the prehistoric cemetery in the centre of the site. The upper fill of this ditch was one of the richest contexts in terms of artefacts from the site. These include a Hiberno-Norse bracteate dated to the middle of the twelfth century (Michael Kenny pers. comm.), a quern stone, worked bone, flint debitage, a jet-like bracelet, a bone pin, four sherds of medieval (Anglo-Norman) pottery, a sherd of early medieval B ware (LRA), a sherd of D ware, six sherds of E ware, a red-stained bone or antler spindle whorl, iron objects and a copper-alloy pin. Most of the artefacts were recovered from the eastern half of the ditch. Frequent animal bone was found throughout the ditch. Disarticulated human bone was also present, particularly in the eastern part where the enclosure ditch cut through the eastern early medieval cemetery. The disarticulated human remains were in good condition, possibly suggesting that the ditch was backfilled relatively soon after its construction and that the material within it contains artefacts from earlier phases of the site.

This circular enclosure was the latest feature on the site in terms of its stratigraphic relationship with every other feature. The only event which may be stratigraphically contemporary or later was the robbing out of the souterrain for stone (the souterrain itself was truncated by the circular enclosure). The latest artefacts within the ditch are four sherds of green-glazed Anglo-Norman medieval pottery which date to between the twelfth to fifteenth century. These were not intrusive and were found in four separate areas of the ditch, including one sherd lying on its base. While it is tempting to view these as the result of later disturbance, relating primarily to the robbing out of the souterrain, the stratigraphic evidence suggests that the ditch fill must be at least twelfth

century in date, and that all the other early medieval artefacts (including the sherds of B ware and E ware) within it derive from other truncated features, or belong to an earlier version of the ditch.

Matthew Stout (pers. comm.) has suggested that the circular ditch, if actually Anglo-Norman in date, could be a defensive ringwork, in that ringworks are the only comparable feature to a twelfth to thirteenth century circular enclosure of c. 25 m in diameter. The 'ringwork' surrounding a prehistoric burial monument which was probably a mound makes this slightly more likely, as the mound, being on higher ground, would have been attractive defensively. One factor in this interpretation's favour is that the circular enclosure truncated early medieval burials, perhaps implying that the builders had little regard for the previous occupants' history.

However, there are several problems with this suggestion for the identification of the ditch, the first being the nebulous morphology of ringworks (O'Keefe 2000, 30). They seem to be very variable in both size and shape but are, in general, on a larger scale than the ditch at Donacarney Great as a quick survey of RMP examples of this class of monument in Co. Meath and Co. Kildare will demonstrate. A possible example is at Hollymount c. 6km southwest of Donacarney Great. This is described as a flat-topped mound of 25m but surrounded by a broad 10m wide bank, a fosse of 5m and a further bank. Dunboyne also provided evidence of a fosse 5m wide and 2.5m deep. Mulpheddar was much larger and subcircular: 50m by 70m but had the same form of enclosing features: inner bank, fosse and outer bank. Partial excavation revealed a palisade. Pollardstown, Co. Kildare, which was also partially excavated and produced twelfth to fourteenth century artefacts, had an estimated external diameter of c. 80m. There was no evidence of these large outer defences at Donacarney Great. There are many examples of existing platform ringforts being repurposed into mottes (Lynn 1981-2; Ó Drisceoil 2002) and this is suggested for the base of the structure at Dunboyne, mentioned above. However, the remaining mound of the prehistoric burial ground at Donacarney is unlikely to be broad or high enough to serve this purpose. It is hard to find examples of mounds in the inner enclosure of ring ditches but the mound at Cherrywood,

excavated by O'Neill (1998), was just 0.30m high.

There is one dated example of Anglo-Norman re-use of a ritual monument. A limited excavation of the outer ditch at Raith Airthir, part of the ceremonial landscape of the *óenach* of Teltown (Dowling 2011, 219-20), found 'the ditch had been cut and inner bank levelled in the medieval period'. There was a sherd of Anglo-Norman pottery found near the base of the ditch and a horse bone dated to AD 1155-1267 in a secure context. Also, blue glass beads and a lignite bracelet indicated earlier activity. It was concluded that although the ditch could have been cut *de novo* in the twelfth century, it was more likely that an early medieval ditch had been re-cut and enlarged in the medieval period. For what purpose is unclear, although, in a footnote the excavator surmises the proximity to the fording place of the River Blackwater may have made this an attractive initial defence position for the Anglo-Norman takeover of Meath. Although this seems like Donacarney Great in the mix of artefactual evidence, again scale would mitigate against a similar defensive role for Donacarney as Raith Airthir is a multivallate enclosure 140m in diameter. Also, it does seem that the late enclosure at Donacarney was dug *de novo*.

There is very little evidence for 'cemetery settlements' being used or re-used into the later medieval period. This is, in most cases, because burial ceased in these cemeteries around the eleventh century or earlier, probably because burial at an ecclesiastical site became the norm (O'Brien 2020, 196-200). At Johnstown, Co. Kildare, there was burial in the main cemetery into the late medieval period and a cilleen, outside the enclosure, which was used for burial up to the early modern period. There is evidence of metal working at the site from 1420-1650 (Carlin *et al.* 2008, 62, 65, 74). At Castlefarm, Co Meath there was a re-cut of the enclosure ditch in the twelfth century and a considerable amount of twelfth to fourteenth century Leinster ware (O'Connell & Clarke 2009, 20). However, Castlefarm was very close to Dunboyne castle, mentioned above, possibly a ringwork. In the pre-Norman period Castlefarm had been focused on different types of craft production with just twelve early burials. It may have been perceived as an asset by the incoming Anglo-Normans and continued to be used for manufacture after their arrival.

To sum up, the presence of the sherd of Anglo-Norman pottery in the base fill of the late ditch of Donacarney Great 2 could indicate some medieval use of the site, but a defensive use as a ringwork seems unlikely, for reasons of comparative scale and morphology of other recorded ringworks. On the other hand, re-use as a continuing manufacturing area with the re-purposed lime kiln and metal-working area, such as at Castlefarm, is a possibility.

One other interpretation for the late ditch places a great weight on the Hiberno-Norse bracteate found in the ditch. These coins are dated to the mid-twelfth century and are contemporary with a period of powerful Hiberno-Norse families ruling Dublin. One of these families, the Meic Torcaills, were very active from the end of the first quarter of the twelfth century to the coming of the Anglo-Normans, appearing in several attacks either on or with the Southern Uí Néill in 1138 (AFM), 1146 (CS) and 1149 at Duleek (AFM, although only named as 'the foreigners'), c. seven kilometres southwest of Donacarney (Duffy 1992, 122-3). Anglo-Norman charters show part of the family as owners of land donated to St Mary's Abbey around the Portmarnock area (Gilbert 1884, 83) so it is likely that they held land in various parts of North Dublin. They would have had commercial connections with the Donacarney area, which is very close to Fine Gall. Although there is no twelfth century documentary record of their owning land there, the area was under Hiberno-Norse control in the tenth century.

However, the conundrum of the late ditch, apparently protecting the prehistoric cemetery but destroying burials in the eastern cemetery, remains. As surmised above this shows little respect for a traditional burial ground. Perhaps, if it was the Anglo-Normans who cut the ditch, as

Hiberno-Norse bracteate 5541:11



Christians, they did not respect burial that was not in hallowed ground. The encirclement of the prehistoric burial place may have been for some practical purpose not evident. The same argument could apply to a Hiberno-Norse cutting of the late ditch. They were committed Christians by the twelfth century, endowing churches in Rathdown (Boazman 2019, 43-53), so they also may have felt that burial outside the confines of an ecclesiastical sphere was unsanctified. Indeed, they built a settlement on a burial ground at Cherrywood (O'Neill 2006).

Late ditches in the eastern cemetery

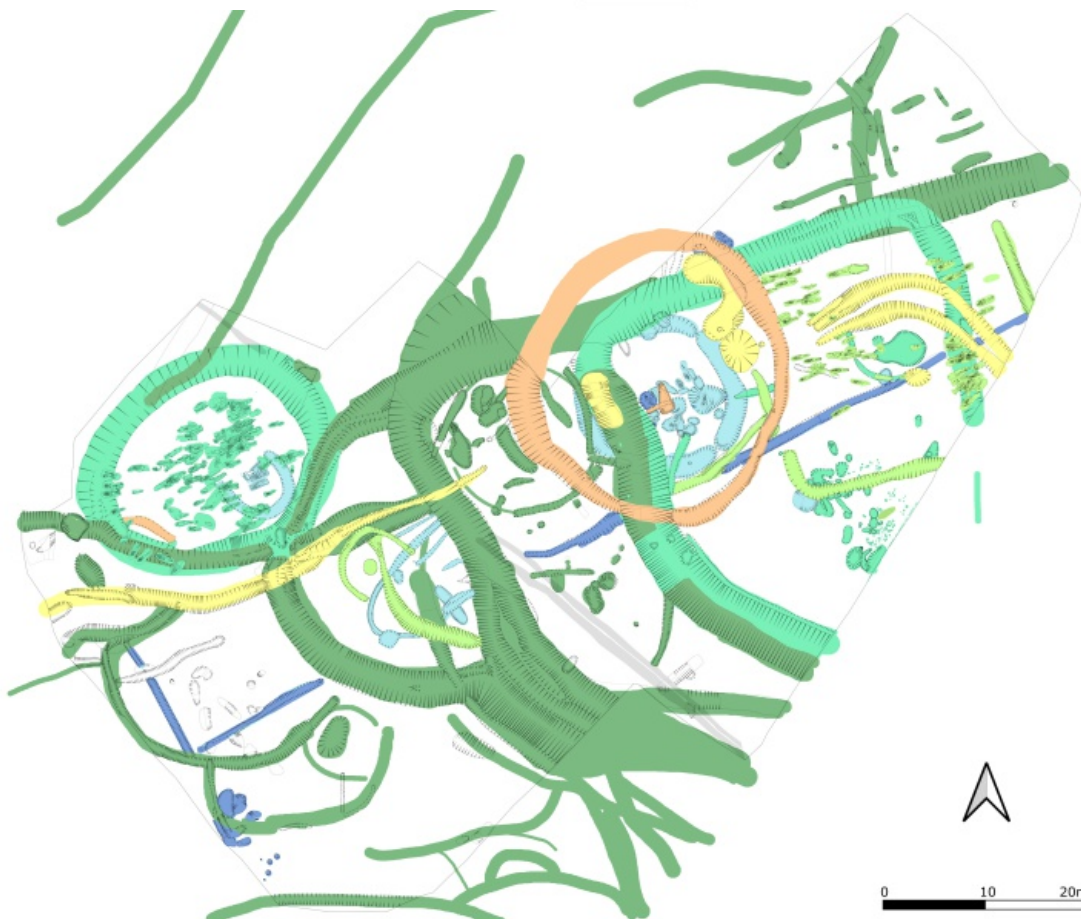
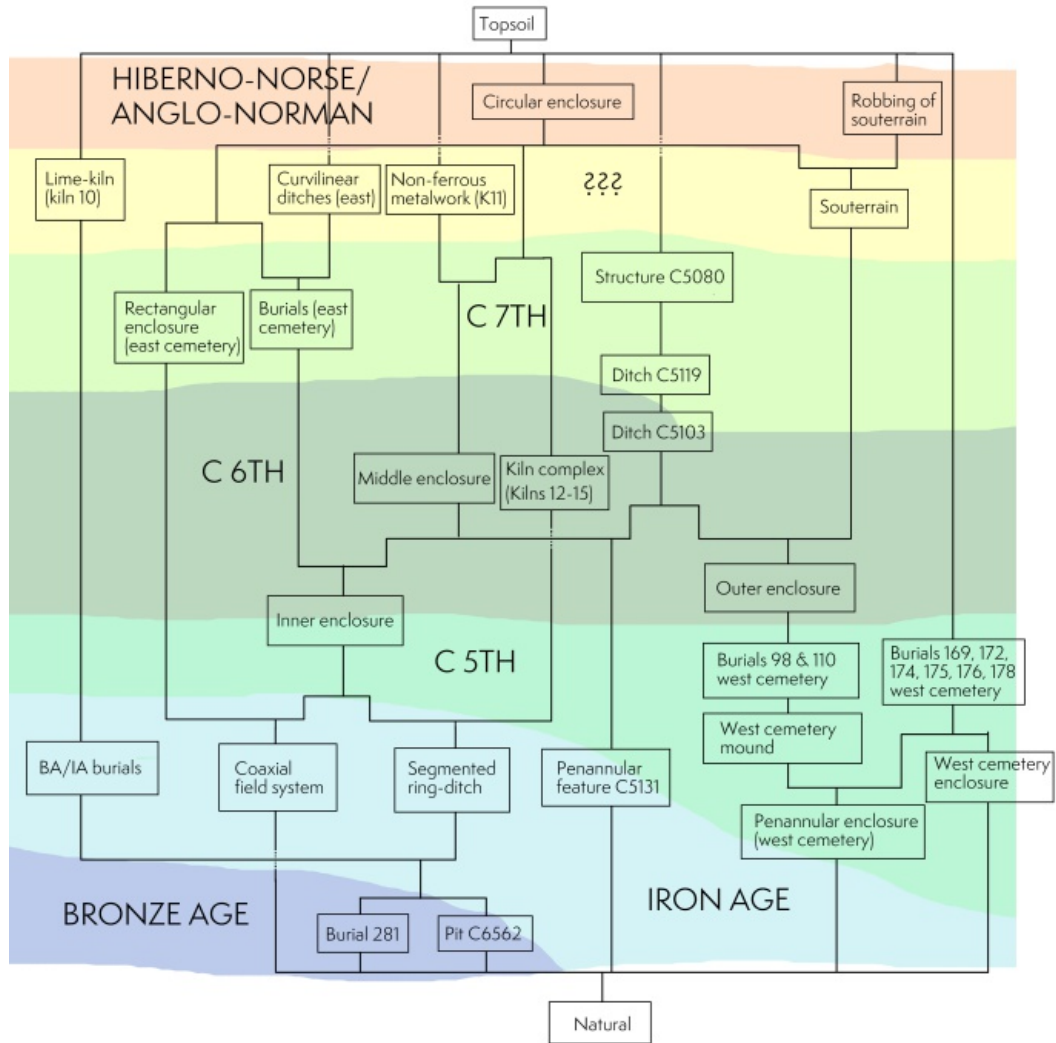
Two curving ditches to the east of the enclosure may also be broadly contemporary with the circular enclosure. These also cut through the later eastern cemetery, disturbing numerous graves, and were also the stratigraphically latest features in the eastern area. The way they truncate the graves of the eastern cemetery, and the large amount of well-preserved disarticulated human bone inside them, recalls the circular enclosure. These also contained E ware pottery. As yet, there is only one dated burial in the eastern cemetery, AD 575-670, roughly seventh century. Looking at sites designated as 'cemetery settlements', burial often continues at minimum up to the tenth century. At Parknahown and Johnstown there is strong evidence of burial up to at least the twelfth century and at Faughart Lower up to the eleventh (O'Neill 2010, 258; Carlin & Clarke 2009, 67; Bowen & Dawkes 2011, Appendix XIV). The excavator of Raystown considers that burial continued there until the ninth century (Seaver 2010, 270). So, it would seem likely that burial in the eastern cemetery at Donacarney Great could have continued to at least the ninth century. Although at Collierstown, with very early burials dated to the fifth century similar to Donacarney's western cemetery, burial ceased around the eighth century (O'Hara 2009, Appendix V). However, at Collierstown burial continued in different areas in the same enclosing space, at Donacarney the eastern cemetery was a separate space from the western cemetery.

At the most conservative estimate, that would mean that burial continued in the eastern cemetery until perhaps one hundred years after the seventh century dated burial. Local memory of the burial site might push this out for another century. That would mean the ditches were ninth

century or after it, when memory of the cemetery had been erased. It seems very likely then, as surmised in the first sentence, that the destruction of the burial ground by these ditches is contemporary with the late ditch surrounding the prehistoric burial ground.

It may be significant that the two ditches, which are roughly concentric, curve from west to southeast as if they could be surrounding something, although there is no trace of a structure within the curve. A possibility is that there was a wooden church here, perhaps of sill-beam construction (Ó Carragáin 2010b 26-7), that left no trace. However, even sill-beam churches had large corner posts which would almost certainly have left some impression (*ibid.*). At Owenbristy, Co Galway, there is a clear space in the centre of the burial ground, with five post-holes which the excavators suggest could have been a wooden church (Lehane & Delaney 2010, 20-3, 62). However, one seventh century burial lies inside the space and O'Brien maintains that burial within a church was unknown in the early medieval period. She suggests that the space is for the ritual laying out of the dead before burial (2020, 224). Neither Owenbristy nor Donacarney possess any other evidence of being an ecclesiastical site, such as stone sculpture. Regarding the two ditches at Donacarney, an ecclesiastical site invariably has only one inner ditch, encompassing all the sacred features: church, burials, stone sculpture, not the church alone. It is very unusual for 'cemetery settlements' to evolve into ecclesiastical sites although they may continue a relationship with a nearby ecclesiastical site such as at Faughart Lower and Faughart Upper (Boazman 2015). Although the toponym 'donagh' (Dona-) indicates an ecclesiastical site it seems very unlikely that Donacarney Great 2, with no evidence of Christian monuments, is the site referred to by the toponym, and that the two concentric ditches surround a church.

However, the possible interpretation of Donacarney Great 2 as part of a ceremonial landscape (see above) does not preclude a separate ecclesiastical site in the same townland and ceremonial landscape. In fact, early churches with the toponym 'donagh' (see discussion of toponym in historical section) occur in a considerable number of assembly landscapes (Gleeson 2015, 43; Talbot 2019, 85, 99).



Conclusion: ‘cemetery settlements’

Overall morphology and nomenclature

The overall morphology of the early medieval enclosures at Donacarney Great 2, their association with three cemeteries and the absence of overt ecclesiastical elements, means that the site falls into a category which has been variously named over the last fifteen years. Ó Carragáin suggests ‘cemetery settlements’ (2010b, 217), but ‘settlement-cemeteries’ has also been used (Kinsella 2010; O’Sullivan *et al.* 2013, 285), as well as ‘secular cemeteries’ (Stout & Stout 2008). All these terms are problematic, as the sites, including Donacarney Great 2, show little indication of domicile although they possess considerable evidence of both industrial and agrarian processing activities. Also ‘secular’, with its binary connotation of ‘not ecclesiastical’, denies the possibility of the fusion of spiritual and mundane that animates all ritual activities. This report uses the term ‘cemetery settlements’ despite these issues.

These sites are part of wide-ranging evidence of a transformation in meta-narratives which was happening in Ireland on a small scale from the final centuries BC through to the beginning of the

fourth century AD, and then increasing in momentum during the fourth and fifth centuries. This manifested itself in a continuity of previous architectures but changing attitudes to rituals of burial of the dead. In Ireland the concept of enclosure had its roots in the royal sites and ring ditches of the late Iron Age but the rite of extended inhumation, replacing cremation, is evidence of influence from the Roman world (Dowling 2011, 215-7, 230; O’Brien 2020, 49). In addition, the presence of unenclosed burial from the same period alerts us to the danger of categorising sites too closely: both cemetery settlements and unenclosed burial grounds were part of the same seismic shift.

Burial in the vicinity of Donacarney Great 2

There is a particular concentration of enclosed ‘cemetery settlements’ in Meath and southern Louth, extending inland from the coast. This area approximated to the overkingdom of Brega in the first millennium. Within a 2.5km radius of Donacarney Great are Colp West 1 to the northwest (Gowen 1989; O’Brien 2020, 91) and Ninch 2 to the southeast (McConway 2010). Knowth Site M (Stout & Stout 2008) lies fifteen kilometres to the west, and Millockstown (Manning 1986) twenty-one kilometres to the north in southern Louth, which

Archaeological sites discussed in text in the vicinity of Donacarney Great



was also part of Brega in the early medieval period. Approximately twenty-six kilometres to the southwest lies another group: Collierstown (O'Hara 2009), Ratoath (Wallace 2010), Readsland (McGlade 2020, 311), Augherskea (Baker 2004) and Raystown (Seaver 2016). This group lies to the southeast of Tara. Johnstown (Carlin *et al.* 2008) lies about twenty kilometres southwest of these. Castlefarm, just south of Dunboyne, is about twelve kilometres south of the Ratoath group (O'Connell & Clarke 2009). The two last lie close to the early medieval border between Brega and the Laigin group, Uí Fáeláin (MacCotter 2016, 59, 63-4). These Meath and southern Louth sites represent about half of all the sites in Ireland categorised as 'cemetery settlements'.

In the area of Donacarney Great 2 there are several unenclosed burial grounds. Within the townland, at Donacarney Great 1, a skull was found in a cereal drying kiln (Giacometti 2010) and burials have been found at Donacarney 3 which is still under excavation (see map on page 3). At the boundary of Donacarney Great and Little, a disturbed burial ground (which may or may not have been enclosed) of probable early medieval date was discovered during roadworks (Campbell pers. comm; ME021-040). In the adjoining townland of Betaghstown, at Brookside, fifteen burials were found, one crouched (Kelly 1977-9), and about 100m to the north at Anchorage sixty-five burials were excavated, two crouched (Eogan 2010). About 200m to the southwest, in the vicinity of the now demolished Triton Lodge, two skeletons and cremations were excavated (Lehane 2004). Just over a kilometre to the northwest two inhumation burials were excavated (Clarke 2001). Around two kilometres to the southeast, lies the enclosed burial ground of Ninch 2, mentioned above, but also Ninch 3, 600m from it, with thirty-seven burials (Powell 2004). At Colp West 2 a skeleton was found in a corn drying kiln (Murphy 2011).

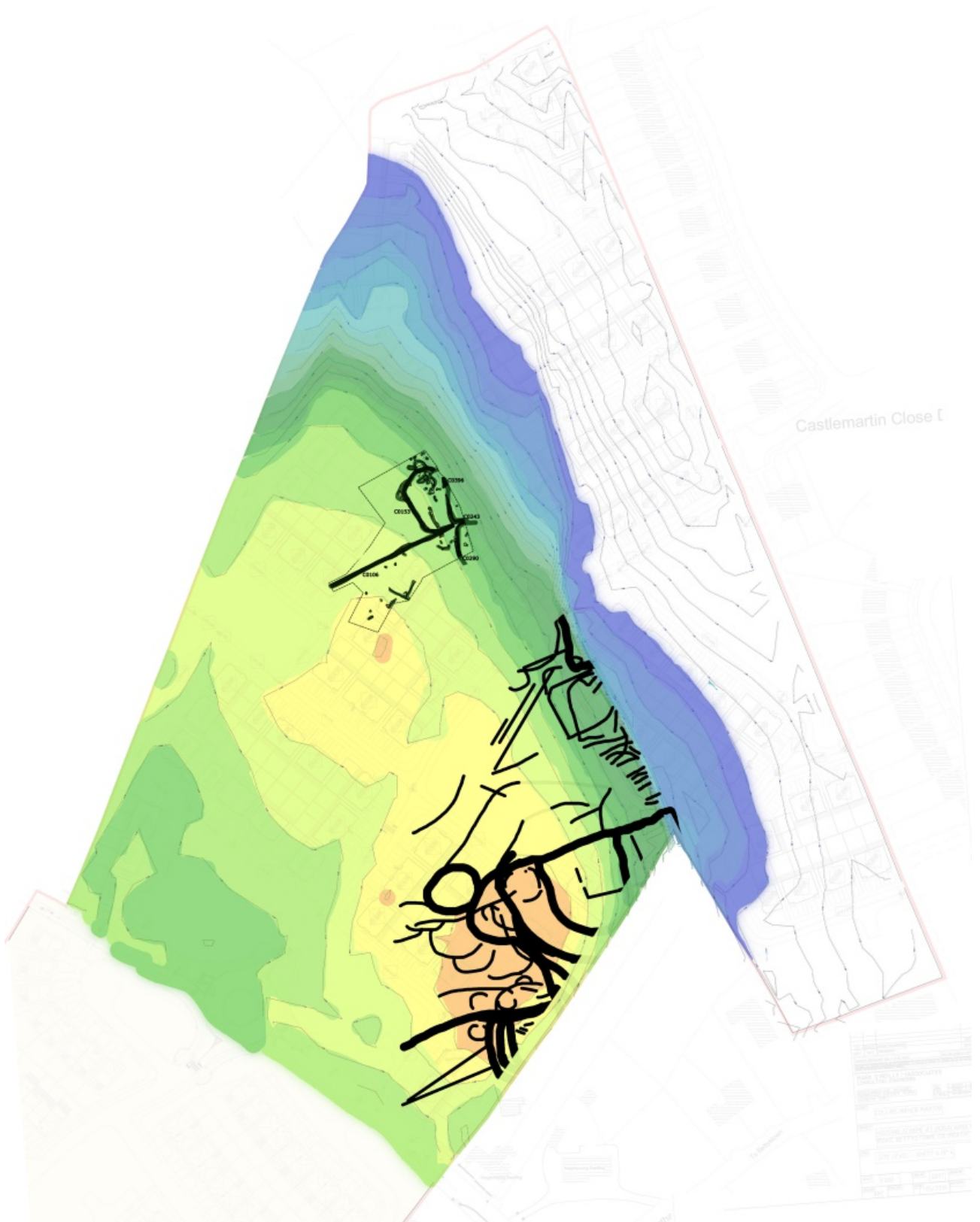
This dense cluster of at least seven instances of unenclosed burial and two cemetery settlements in the close vicinity of Donacarney Great 2, lying in a small area of the Meath coastal plain south of the Boyne and generally north of the Nanny, seems to indicate a special importance for this landscape. The chronology of dated burials in these sites places their beginnings in the Late Iron Age with crouched burials, a phenomenon of the last two centuries BC and the first two centuries AD, at

Bettystown Anchorage and Bettystown Brookside (O'Brien 2020, 34-45). At Ninch 2 there was an undated crouched burial and two extended inhumations in a ring ditch, but two extended burials within the enclosure were dated to the seventh century, and extended inhumations at Colp West 1 were dated to the fifth to sixth century. Extended inhumation burial continues at most sites in the area from the early fifth century though to the seventh. This corresponds very closely with burial at Donacarney Great 2. The prehistoric ring ditch contains cremations and crouched burials with some evidence of Bronze Age funeral ceramics in the ditch. The crouched burials are, as yet, undated but the presence of six blue glass beads with local parallels dated to 175-45 BC in a cremation above a crouched burial provides a concrete Late Iron Age date. A single date from the western cemetery indicates a fifth to sixth century horizon and a single date for the eastern cemetery is early seventh century. The presence of these three burial horizons in separate cemeteries makes Donacarney Great of particular significance as a ceremonial landscape of the Late Iron Age to early medieval transition.

This particular significance is emphasised by the topography of the site. The Donacarney Great 2 site was situated on a plateau of high land overlooking Bettystown and the sea to the northeast. This is evident from surveyed levels on engineering drawings from 2009 (see image next page). The townland boundary between Donacarney Great and Betaghstown, directly north of the Donacarney Great 2 site, was a dramatic topographical feature that sloped very steeply down c. 2m to the northeast and was remarked upon in the 2007 testing (Duffy 2007, Plate 1 caption). This steep slope appears to have defined the morphology of the site, as many of the prehistoric and early medieval features run from the crest down the slope, exactly perpendicular to the escarpment. The elevation above the surrounding landscape must have lent a pre-eminence to the Donacarney site which was perceived by contemporary observers.

Evidence of domicile at Donacarney Great 2

There is no convincing evidence of domicile within the early medieval enclosures excavated in 2021 at Donacarney Great 2. There is considerable indication of habitation, however, outside the enclosures. Two hundred metres to the south



Topographic survey of site from 2009, emphasising each 250mm contour line with colour, overlain with early medieval phases only of archaeological findings from 2019 and 2021. The highest land is shown in yellow and orange (15m OD), and the low-lying land is shown in blue (12m OD). Levels down to 10m OD to the north are not coloured. The dramatic escarpment along the townland boundary between Donacarney Great and Betaghstown is visible in the change from green to dark blue.

Rathbone (2007) excavated early medieval rubbish pits, corn-drying kilns and spreads of burnt material, and a large quantity of animal bone and carbonised plant remains. A radiocarbon date of AD 320-540 was obtained from one of the animal bones. Garahy (2019, Area 3) excavated a small complex of structures and enclosures 150m to the north of the 2021 excavation containing E ware and returning radiocarbon dates of AD 251-406 and 420-539 (UBA-44029 & 44030). These dates are significant because being fourth to early sixth century they are contemporary with the one date in the western cemetery (SK40 421-555 AD) and may even overlap with the crouched burials in the prehistoric ring ditch approximately 200 BC to AD 200. They also precede the floruit of ringforts in the seventh to ninth centuries (Stout 1997, 29).

Garahy also excavated features directly north and south of the 2021 excavation that probably represent the edges of large enclosures contemporary with the 'cemetery settlement'. Both were defined by very large ditches that contained numerous sherds of E ware. The southern enclosure ditches, dated to AD 594-651 and 602-661 (Ditches 1-4, UBA 44033 & 44038), may have formed a circular enclosure morphologically comparable to a univallate multi-phase non-circular 'ringfort', and thus a potential area of domicile. This may have extended towards the location of an early twentieth century mapped spring in Betaghstown townland. Cereal drying kilns located outside the southern enclosure were dated to AD 417-539 and 607-756. All these dates for ditches and kilns fall within the ringfort date range. A ringfort (ME021-022) is situated 850m to the west and several undated enclosures are situated 1km to the north (ME021-021001, -021002 & -034). All of this suggests that domestic habitation may have surrounded the Donacarney Great central ritual area, rather than being contained within it. A similar argument has been made at Ninch 2 (McConway 2010, 171), and at the 'cemetery settlement' at Readsland which had evidence for five roofed structures, all located outside the outer enclosure (McGlade 2020, 325), although in the latter case the interior was not excavated.

Bone and cereal: domicile or feasting & tribute?

The high levels of animal bone at Donacarney Great need not indicate domestic residential settlement within the enclosed cemetery complex. Bhreathnach (2010, 29) points out that

documentary references to *feis la marb*, *fled crólige*, 'the death feast' and *cluich cáintechn*, 'the grieving games' indicate feasting during burial rites that could explain the large number of animal bones at early medieval cemetery sites. This is echoed by O'Brien (2020, 122-8), who documents the evidence for funerary feasting in early medieval Ireland as being more widespread than pronouncements from ecclesiastical sources would suggest. Although it is prior to the period of the establishment of Irish 'cemetery settlements', the ritual centres of the late centuries BC in northern France, such as Gournay sur Aronde, show evidence for ritual slaughter, with bones of large specially-bred cattle in the ditches (Fitzpatrick 2009, 393). This rite may have transferred into Roman influences that came to Ireland in the succeeding centuries, and become part of the rituals for the dead in the fluid situation of Christian and pagan practices in the early years of the first millennium. The osteologist who examined the animal bones from the southwest part of Donacarney Great 2 (excavated by Rathbone in 2007) concluded that 'concentrated disposal of bones from one individual points to the consumption or processing of large quantities of meat at one time' (Tourunen 2008), which may support feasting as opposed to domestic consumption. At Faughart Lower, the disposal of bones on the opposite side of the enclosure ditch to the cemetery seemed to respect the sanctuary of the dead and at Collierstown the excavator interprets the animal bone as evidence of feasting (Higbee 2011, Appendix XXII, 1, 5; O'Hara 2009, 43-4).

Similarly, the large quantity of cereal drying kilns at Donacarney Great 2 need not equate to domicile within the enclosed cemetery complex. Indeed, the number of kilns at Donacarney Great contrasts with the few kilns excavated at many early medieval residential sites such as raths (O'Sullivan *et al.* 2013, 203, 308). There are far more kilns in the vicinity of 'cemetery settlements' than would be required to serve a single, or even enlarged, domestic family unit. The centralisation of cereal processing infrastructure in a restricted non-domestic setting may imply jurisdiction by those in authority at Donacarney over surrounding people and their land. This could suggest control in the Nanny to Boyne area over production and outlets, perhaps even international trade in grain or grain products. At Donacarney Great 1, located 400m to

Combined map showing archaeological findings from 2019 and 2021 at Donacarney Great 2.



the north, enormous early medieval kilns associated with large ditches and structures were interpreted as cereal processing complexes for export, possibly to Britain (Giacometti 2010). There is a reference to Julian, Caesar of the western provinces, in AD 359, commissioning 600 ships of grain from Britain (Salwey 1981, 259). Although this is earlier than the kilns dated so far, there may have been a similar trading arrangement with Ireland that continued into the early medieval period. Kinsella (2009, 106) has hypothesised that the rise in the number of kilns in the first part of the early medieval period (Timpany *et al.* 2011, 80) is associated with the tribute demands of the developing Uí Néill chiefdoms based around Tara. However, before the seventh century, the area around Donacarney Great 2 may have had some independence from Tara and a certain control over its production and trade. This same emphasis on communal rather than family production is evidenced in the eight watermills at Raystown. The excavator suggests that the site 'was not a subsistence-based farmstead' but 'was a processing centre providing services' within a larger estate (Seaver 2016, 168).

CMs: ringforts with burial or something more?

Archaeologists disagree on the function of cemetery settlements and the meaning of agrarian and industrial evidence within them: animal bone and arable processing structures, and both ferrous and non-ferrous metalworking remains. The more utilitarian interpretations frontload the settlement evidence: 'They are all essentially early medieval settlements with associated communal burial grounds' (O'Sullivan *et al.* 2013, 306), or present caveats: 'Even where little evidence for structures has been found there is often evidence for a range of domestic and craft activities' (Ó Carragáin 2010a, 217). Stout and Stout (2008) characterised Knowth M as a place for 'dirty and dangerous activities' - corn drying and metalwork - which seemed to equate burial with such activities. This was not, however, the norm of the early medieval mindset which perceived burial as ritually-charged. On the other hand, the situation of Knowth M in close proximity to Knowth, a prehistoric passage tomb whose antiquity was used to promote the pre-eminence of the Southern Uí Néill, Síol nÁedo Sláine kings in the seventh century, led the excavators to suggest feasting as an activity on the site. So, the concept of a ritual meaning for the sites began to be asserted. Kinsella (2010, 125) utilised Swift's

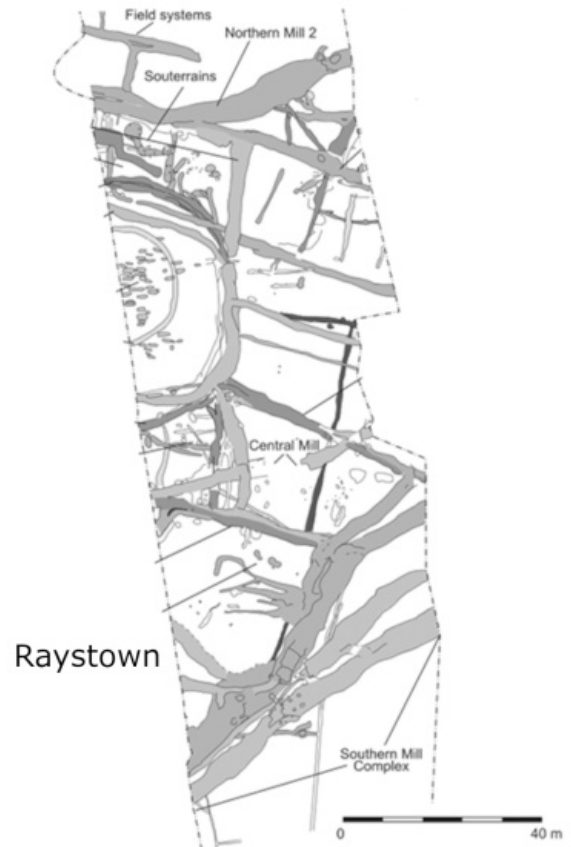
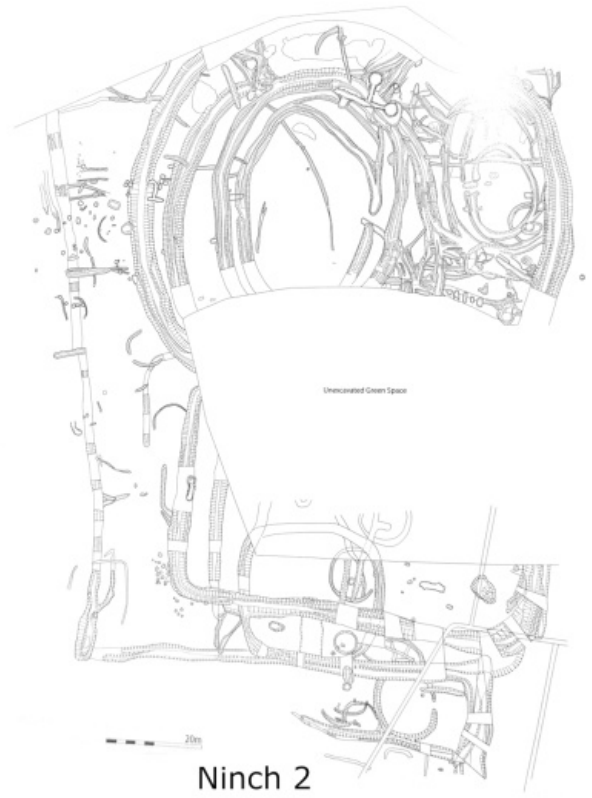
article (2000) on the meaning of *óenach* at Tailtu to suggest that 'cemetery settlements' might have had some part to play in social organisation. However, he found it hard to detach from the 'ringfort with burials' hypothesis: 'families living, working and burying their dead within the enclosed confines of their settlements' (*ibid.* 2010, 24).

Dowling (2014, 168-9) explores the possibility of a ritual meaning beyond domicile in the association of burial, metalworking and cereal processing, indicating the connection between the transformation of metal in smelting and smithing and the transformation of the body in death (Williams 2012, 48). There are many Irish documentary references to the transformative role of the smith: Brigid was associated with both smithing and fertility, and it is possible that these roles were manipulated by local kings at the 'cemetery settlement' at Faughart Lower (Boazman 2015, 349-50). Similarly, the processing of corn involved a change of state but could also be concerned with ensuring the continued fertility of the land. The deposition of skulls or full inhumations in kilns as at Donacarney 1, Corbally, Colp West 2 and Raystown may be to this end.

However, Gleeson was the first to develop the detail of a ritual and political function for these sites. He interprets the cemeteries as components of polyfocal landscapes of governance (2015). These landscapes, often on a royal estate, contain an *óenach*/assembly site and are concerned with integrating diverse lines of a kin-group: *óenach* means 'one' (*ibid.*, 34). This fusion takes place at high-profile assembly meetings and at individual burial events at different cemeteries within the landscape, each of which is dedicated to a kin-group segment (*ibid.*, 41). The sporadic nature of these events explains the lack of domicile evidence; Gleeson perceives cereal drying kilns and metal work to be part of tribute gathering (*ibid.*, 35). This approach led to a multidisciplinary analysis of the cemetery settlement of Corbally, Co. Kildare, investigating its function as part of a polyfocal landscape of governance associated with *Óenach Carmain* (Gleeson & Ó Carragáin 2016; MacCotter 2016).

Donacarney Great: ritual site or homestead?

The difficulty that archaeologists have found in making up their minds about the meaning of these



Comparison of three sites, all at the same scale: Donacarney Great 2 (2019 & 2021 phases, early medieval findings only), Raystown and Ninch 2.

sites is not helped by their variety, in morphology, numbers of burials, amounts of evidence for agrarian and industrial activities, and longevity. Although many of them have their beginnings in the Late Iron Age, some are much later, for example Carrowkeel with eighth to twelfth century dates and Carrigatogher with seventh century dates (Lehane *et al.* 2010, 154; Taylor 2010, 291). Also, the trajectory of the sites is very different. Raystown, as remarked above, appeared to evolve from an early burial function to a large-scale milling site, Johnstown continued both its metalwork and burial functions to the twelfth century and beyond, and Faughart Lower developed from an ancestral burial site to a pilgrimage station on the way to an adjacent ecclesiastical site (Seaver 2016; Carlin *et al.* 2008; Boazman 2015). Only through fine-grained analysis of each site in its archaeological, cartographical, toponymic and historical contexts can similarities and differences between them be teased out (Ó Carragáin 2021, 23-4).

There do seem to be some common threads, all of which are found at Donacarney Great 2: initiation of inhumation burial in the late Iron Age and continuing up to at least the eighth century, association with arable food processing and metal work, and lack of evidence for domicile or ecclesiastical involvement. Also, on the east coast sites and their hinterlands there is considerable evidence of Mediterranean and Gaulish imported pottery. There is also the possibility of animal bone as a by-product of feasting, but this needs closer comparative and focused analysis.

Conclusion

The Donacarney Great 2 ‘cemetery settlement’ was constructed within a landscape that already had a long history of burial. This included the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age burial with the stone axe, further Early Bronze Age burials nearby, and the Late Bronze Age pit cemetery containing cremations in urns. This formed part of a wider rich and complex prehistoric landscape along ridges of higher land that included Donacarney Great 1 to the north, where Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement and ceremonial structures, including a possible timber circle, were excavated in 2009 (Giacometti 2010).

This discussion has argued that the initiation of the ‘cemetery settlement’ at Donacarney Great 2

occurred in a window between the last two centuries BC and the first two centuries AD, as this is the period when crouched inhumation burials are found in Ireland reflecting a burial trend in northeast Britain (O’Brien 2020, 36). There is no way of knowing yet whether all the burials in the prehistoric cemetery were incomers from outside Ireland. Perhaps some were and the remainder were descendants who followed the burial rite. It is also unknown what happened on the site between the crouched burial period and the initiation of the western cemetery, with one burial dated AD 425-55. However, the cattle bone date of AD 320-540 (Rathbone 2007) suggests habitation directly south of the cemetery complex. The fifth century was a period of change and insecurity in Ireland. There was a reflux movement of peoples across the Irish Sea in the wake of the collapse of Roman rule in Britain (Charles-Edwards 2000, 160), and within Ireland the rise of powerful groups like the Uí Néill who fought their way to possession of land previously under the auspices of the Laigin (Mac Shamhráin 1996, 57-65). Land rights in Ireland were inextricably linked to burial: the presence of the ancestors in the burial mound guaranteed land possession (Charles-Edwards 1976, 83-7; O’Brien 2020, 65-6). So those who buried their dead in the western cemetery were stating their legitimate right to surrounding land by being buried in close proximity to their ancestors, although this could be a manufactured genealogy. Sometime around the sixth to seventh century at Donacarney Great 2, this right had to be reiterated by the building of two further enclosures attached to the first and then initiating burial in the earliest enclosure, close to the prehistoric burials, and in the east of the complex. The whole was encompassed by an outer ditch, except for the western cemetery, which was both outside and inside the whole complex, probably still being accessible from the main enclosure by a series of bridges or breaks in the outer enclosure ditches.

At 4-5m wide and 1.5m deep, the enclosure ditches were larger than most ringfort ditches, being comparable in size only to major ecclesiastical enclosures (O’Sullivan *et al.* 2013, 147) although ecclesiastical sites were usually surrounded by up to three very widely spaced enclosures. However, the enclosing features at Donacarney Great were also larger than other cemetery settlements; only Ninch 2, just a short distance away, being of similar width and depth (McConway 2010). There was



evidence for two wooden bridges crossing two of the large ditches, meaning the spaces enclosed by the early medieval architecture could be tightly controlled. This gave a sense of exclusivity for strangers, but these same restrictions channelled movement through the complex in prescribed routes. This exclusive/channelling effect of the architecture must have bound those within closer together. This was one of the purposes of the early medieval assembly, to bind disparate strands of the kingroup (Gleeson 2015, 34) which would have been essential in the face of *Síl nÁedo Sláine* aggression against the *Ciannachta* or their predecessors in the area of Donacarney Great 2. Although the group may have first gathered in the inner enclosure, built to enclose the legitimising prehistoric cemetery, perhaps they then processed to the western cemetery. At the initiation of the eastern cemetery the process may have been reversed in that the western cemetery was acknowledged first, then the progress was through the outer and middle enclosures before reaching the inner sanctuary containing the prehistoric burials and the latest burials. In the last phases of the site the enigmatic penannular structure in the outer enclosure may have formed part of this ritual connection to the earlier cemetery.

Although assembly and burial events at ‘cemetery settlements’ may appear to be sporadic, isolated happenings, the habitation evidence surrounding

Donacarney Great 2 suggests that at least caretakers were present on a regular basis. If assembly was at Lughnasa in the harvest period, and the corn was needed for trade as suggested, the cereal drying kilns must have been operating for a long period before, through and after the assembly celebrations to process enough grain. Cereal drying kilns needed constant attention. Also, cattle would have had to be fattened for feasting and perhaps corralled. Perhaps traders from Europe and the Mediterranean came to negotiate at the site as suggested by the large quantity of imported pottery sherds at Donacarney. It seems it was, at its zenith, not just a burial place but a busy centre as Kinsella suggests for ‘cemetery settlements’ (2010, 125). This would have been comparable to major ecclesiastical sites later in the millennium, whose numbers fluctuated, rising on feastdays of saints but keeping a constant core population.

Donacarney Great 2 is a very significant site. Although it shares many facets with the growing corpus of ‘cemetery settlements’ it is the only example that has three separate cemeteries which appear to be sequential in chronology. Post-excavation analysis may show overlaps in use between the western and eastern cemeteries but the focus of the subsequent cemeteries on the prehistoric cemetery is incontrovertible. The prehistoric cemetery itself is possibly a unique feature in Ireland, containing only crouched burials. There are thirteen burials at Donacarney Great 2. At Knowth there are fourteen, the highest number at one site in Ireland, but they are inserted into the prehistoric burial mound (O’Brien 2020, 36–7), whereas at Donacarney Great they are gathered in their own discrete ring ditch. The eminence of the site is also shown in the considerable amounts of Gaulish and Mediterranean pottery including a sherd of Samian ware and types of E ware vessels that are only rarely found in Britain and Ireland (Doyle 2020; forthcoming).

The burial landscape of Donacarney Great 2 is an important witness statement to the fluidity of mind-set in the Late Iron Age to early medieval transition. Although it is in the hinterland of Tara, its early dates and archaeology may illuminate a period before the hegemony of the Southern Uí Néill when groups less pre-eminent in the documentary record held considerable power.

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