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N7 Nenagh to Limerick High Quality Dual Carriageway Archaeological Resolution Project E2484: Rossfinch Site 2 Final Excavation Report



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Townland: Rossfinch

Parish: Kilnarath

Barony: Owney & Arra

County: Tipperary

OS 6" Sheet No.: TN025 & TN031

NGR: 174287/169189, 174144/168984 &
174099/168978

Excavation No.: E2484

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Chainage: 14750–15100

Client: Limerick County Council

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**Copies of this report
have been presented
by ÆGIS to:**

- Client — Mid West National Roads Design Office, Limerick (Richard O'Brien NRA Archaeologist).
 - Statutory Bodies — Archaeological Planning and Licensing Unit, National Monuments Service and the National Museum of Ireland.
-

Please note...

That the archaeological methodology followed in this report was agreed with the NRA Archaeologist and approved by the Archaeological Planning and Licensing Unit National Monuments Service, Room G50, Custom House, Dublin 1. The National Monuments Acts 1930–2004, The Planning and Development Act 2002 and the most recent EPA guidelines were consulted. Guidelines and Plans issued from time-to-time by the statutory bodies have been consulted. These are listed in the reference section of this report. Every effort has been taken in the preparation and submission of this report to provide as complete an assessment as possible within the terms of the brief, and all statements and opinions are offered in good faith. However, ÆGIS cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact or opinion resulting from the data supplied by any third party, for any loss or other consequences arising from decisions made or actions taken on the basis of facts and opinions expressed in this report, (and any supplementary information), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived, or as the result of unknown and undiscovered sites or artefacts.

Acknowledgements

ÆGIS acknowledges the information supplied by the client, their on-site assistance and information gathered from the SMR.

**Report Design and
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I. Abstract

This report details the licensed archaeological excavation of features uncovered during Phase 1 test trenching of the N7 Nenagh to Limerick High Quality Dual Carriageway. Phase 1 test trenching was carried out between January and March 2006 by ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd and Judith Carroll and Company under Ministerial Direction Number A026. During the testing within the townland of Rossfinch Co. Tipperary, four areas containing archaeological features and deposits were identified and given the sub-scheme numbers A026/012–013 and A026/015–016. A spread and a pit were recorded in A026/012, a charcoal rich spread in A026/013, a possible pit in A026/015 and two spreads in A026/016. The pit and two spreads recorded in A026/015 and A026/016 were deemed of no archaeological significance during the testing stage (Carroll 2006a–d). However, upon the request of the NRA Archaeologist these areas were reinvestigated during the excavation conducted on areas A026/012 and A026/013. During the revaluation of these two areas no further archaeological features or deposits were identified within area A026/015.

The excavation, conducted under Registration Number E2484, was carried out by ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd between September–November 2006, in accordance with the Directions issued by the Minister for the Environment Heritage and Local Government, following consultation with the National Museum of Ireland under the National Monuments Act (1930–2004) and in accordance with the *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavations* (Dúchas 1999). The site was designated Rossfinch Site 2 for reporting purposes.

In addition to the features identified during the Phase 1 test trenching a number of post-holes pits and linear features were revealed during the archaeological resolution. A Preliminary Excavation Report (Stronach 2009) was completed and submitted to the Archaeological Planning and Licencing Unit, National Monuments Service, Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) and to the National Museum of Ireland. Principally, as detailed within the preliminary report, a number of the stake-holes and post-holes within Area A026/012–013 appeared to form a possible penannular fence line enclosing a rectangular structure in the northern half of the site. The recovery of burnt bone from a

number of features within the southern half of the site led to these being suggested as funerary and, due to their morphology, these were seen to form a Middle to Late Bronze Age flat cemetery. In area A026/016 four pits, two stake-holes and two large furrows or lazy-beds were revealed, which were seen to represent two phases of activity. The first and earliest, which consisted of the pits and stake-holes, was seen to be contemporary with one of the two prehistoric phases identified in Area A026/012–013, with the later phase seen as post-medieval/early modern agricultural activity.

Based on the results of the excavation, combined with the specialist analyses carried out including the radiocarbon dates from the two areas, much of the activity in both areas was dated from the Early Bronze Age through to the Middle Bronze Age. This Bronze Age activity appeared to be domestic in nature with none of the burnt bone identified as human. In addition a feature located in area A026/012–013, identified during the excavation as a large pit returned an early medieval date and, as shown by the palaeoenvironmental analysis, formed a cereal drying kiln. The number of the linear features located in both areas identified as later agricultural activity appeared to date to the post-medieval period at the earliest.

ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd would like to express their thanks to everyone who aided in the completion of the excavation and reporting of the results of the excavation. In particular, to NRA Archaeologist Richard O'Brien, NRA Assistant Archaeologist Paul O'Keeffe, to the staff and excavation crew of ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd and to the specialists who carried out the post-excavation analysis.

The archaeological dimension of this project was funded in full by the client.

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III. Abbreviations and Terms Used

1σ	The one sigma (1σ) calibrated expressed date range are equivalent to the probable calendrical age of the sampled material with 68% levels of confidence.
2σ	The two sigma (2σ) calibrated expressed date range are equivalent to the probable calendrical age of the sampled material with 95% levels of confidence.
AODM	This relates to the height above sea level and is given in meters.
Barony, Parish, Townland	These terms refer to land divisions in Ireland. The barony is the largest land division in a county, which is formed from a number of parishes. These parishes are in turn made up of several townlands, which are the smallest land division in the country. The origins of these divisions are believed to be in the Early Medieval/Christian period (AD500–AD1000), or may date earlier in the Iron Age (500BC–AD500).
BP	Before Present where ‘present’ equals AD 1950
Cal. BC/AD	The calibrated radiocarbon dates given in the report are the 2σ calibrated expressed date range. Details of the radiocarbon dates received and the sampled material are given in Section 9.2 of this report.
Context	Each feature found during the excavations is allocated a number, commonly termed a ‘Context Number’ in order to record the archaeology.
DoEHLG	Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. This was the former governmental department whose heritage remit included a range of policy, regulatory, educational and promotional roles. The heritage functions were transferred to the <i>Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht</i> with effect from 1 May 2011.
E	East.
First Edition	This relates to editions of the OS 6 inch maps for each county. The first edition map completed for the area dates to the early 1840s and this is referred to in the text as the “first edition”.
HQDC	High Quality Dual Carriageway.
M	Metres, all dimensions are given in metres or part of a metre, unless otherwise stated.
N	North.
OS	Ordnance Survey.
Ph	Parish.
RMP	Record of Monuments and Places. An update of the older SMR, (sites and monuments record), on which all known archaeological sites are marked and listed in an accompanying inventory. The sites marked afford legal protection under the National Monuments Acts 1930–2004. The record is based on the 6-inch map series for the country and is recorded on a county basis.
S	South.
Sheet	This relates to the 6-inch map for each county, which are divided into sheets and numbered accordingly.
Td	Townland.
TN	This number is the number of the site on the RMP map (see above). It begins with the county code, here TN for Tipperary North, the 6-inch sheet number, followed by the number of the archaeological site.
W	West.

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd was contracted by Limerick County Council to undertake archaeological excavations in advance of the N7 Nenagh to Limerick High Quality Dual Carriageway. The western end of the scheme starts at the existing Newport Junction in the townlands of Carrowkeel and Mountshannon, Co Limerick, and runs north-east. The scheme ends at Nenagh in the townland of Ballintotty, Co. Tipperary, where the existing N7 Nenagh Bypass will be widened to accommodate the new road. The total length of the proposed route is 35.7 km.

Phase I test trenching to determine the character, nature and extent of any archaeological material was undertaken by ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd (Contract 1) and Judith Carroll & Co. (Contract 2) between January and March 2006, under Ministerial Direction Number A026. During testing several spreads and a possible pit feature were identified and given the sub-scheme numbers A026/012, A026/013, A026/015 and A026/016. During the testing, the features identified within A026/015 and A026/016 were believed to be of no archaeological significance. However, upon the request of the NRA Archaeologist, these areas were reinvestigated during the excavations conducted on A026/012 and A026/013. ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd excavated these areas under Ministerial Direction Number A026, Registration Number E2484, as three areas: Area A (A026/012 and 013), Area B (A026/015) and Area C (A026/016).

Excavations were conducted in accordance with the Directions issued by the Minister for the Environment Heritage and Local Government following consultation with the National Museum of Ireland under the National Monuments Acts (1930–2004) and in accordance with the *Policy and Guidelines on Archaeological Excavation* (Dúchas 1999).

1.2 Location & Existing Environment (figs 1 & 2)

Rossfinch Site 2, (NGR 174287/169189, 174144/168984 and 174099/168978), was located in the townland of Rossfinch, the parish of Kilnarath and in the barony of Owny & Arra Co. Tipperary approximately 0.7 km north of Ballinahinch and 4 km east of Birdhill. The site was situated at 77 m AODM within an area of low lying waterlogged pasture land which sloped gently down to the west. Area A was located 229 m to the northeast of Area B which was in turn 28 m to the east of Area C. Rossfinch Site 2 Area A was located 103 m to the south of the nearest elements of Rossfinch Site 1 E2485; and Rossfinch Site 2 Area C was located 189 m to the north of the nearest elements of Rossfinch Site 3 E2402. The underlying geology of the area was identified in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Gowen 2003) as a variety of rock types, being composed of glacial sands and gravels of mixed sandstone-shale composition, with limestone in places.

Rossfinch Site 2 was located within an archaeologically rich landscape being situated between Rossfinch Site 1 and Rossfinch Site 3. In addition, a number of sites were excavated within the neighbouring townlands of Ballynahinch, Cappadine and Garraun as part of the N7 Nenagh to Limerick HQDC, with both substantial Bronze Age and medieval activity recorded on these sites. Similarly dated activity was recorded on Ballynahinch Sites 1 and 2 (Scotland 2011b & 2011a), Rossfinch Sites 1 and 3 (Scotland 2011d & 2011c) and Garraun Site 1 (Long 2009)

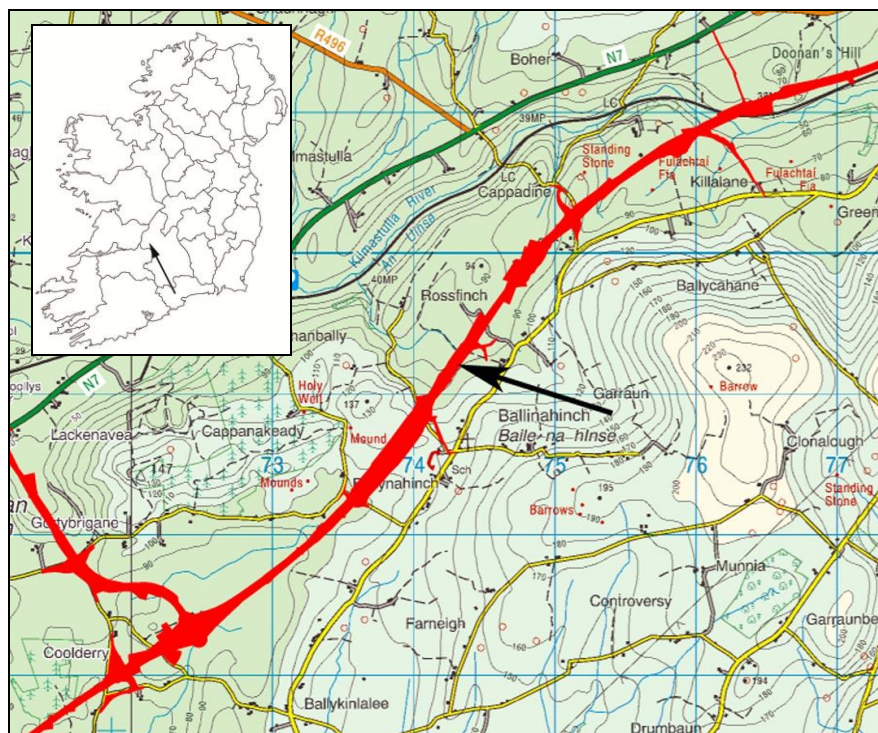


Figure 1. Discovery Series Map showing site location, for indication only, north to top (OSi sheet 59)

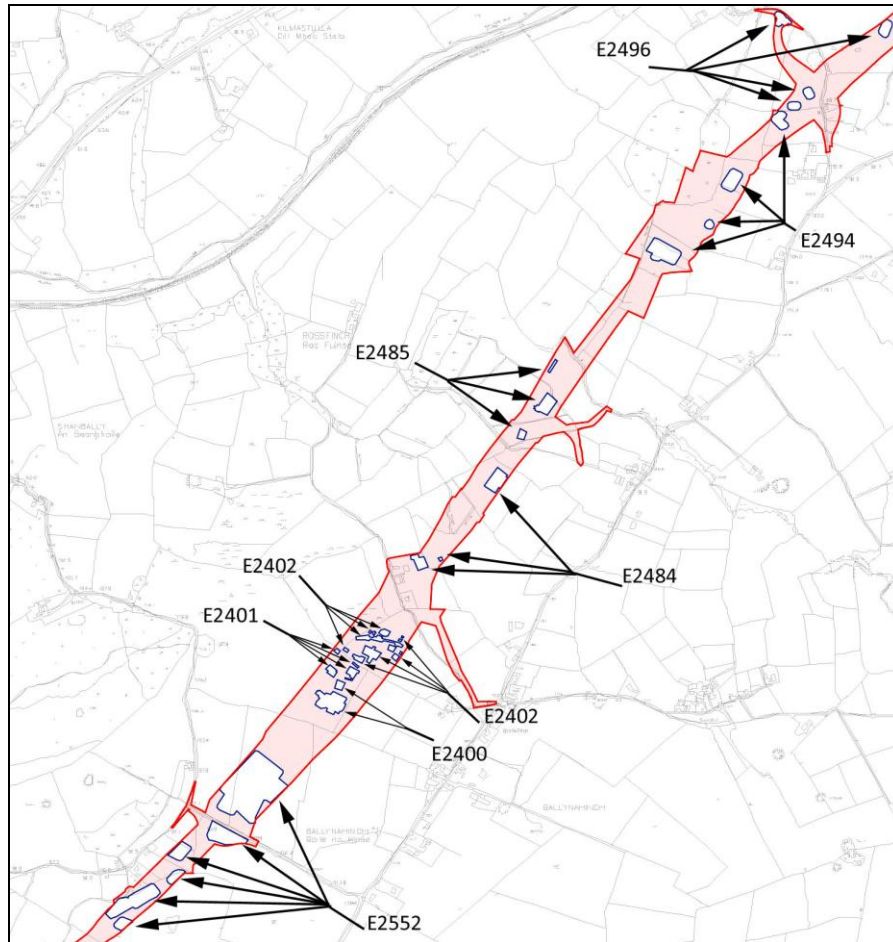


Figure 2. Location of Rossfinch Site 1 (Areas A-E) and neighbouring sites

1.3 Historical and Archaeological Background

(This section has been summarised, with additions, from Margaret Gowen & Company 2003 Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Section in: Environmental Impact Statement.)

A number of archaeological sites ranging from the prehistoric to the post medieval period were identified within the general area of the proposed N7 route. Monuments from the Neolithic (c. 4000–2300 BC), Bronze Age (c. 2300–500 BC), Early Christian/early medieval (AD 500–1100), Medieval and Post-Medieval Periods are particularly well represented in the study area.

The Neolithic Age saw the arrival of the first farmers who left behind them artifactual evidence such as the stone axe heads, examples of which have been found in the townlands of Shower and Annaholty. In Co. Tipperary, Neolithic settlement was most prevalent in the north and west of the county. From archaeological investigations along the Nenagh Bypass in the late 1990's a Neolithic site in Tullahedy (TN020-079---) was revealed and also a habitation site of possible Neolithic date in association with later Bronze Age activity was encountered in

Lahessseragh (**TN020-137---**). The archaeological potential of the bog through Gooig and Annaholty is reflected in a number of stray finds. A Neolithic spearhead and fragments of two polished stone axes were among the items discovered.

The Bronze Age was characterised by a considerable expansion of settlement and in north-west Tipperary extensive Bronze Age occupation is known to have occurred with the discovery during excavations on the Nenagh Bypass of a house site in Lahessseragh (**TN020-136---**) and a possible structure in Lisatunny (**TN021-099---**).

The concentration of burial mounds, standing stones, wedge tombs and *fulachtaí fia* also shows that the Kilmastulla River Valley and its surrounding areas flanked by the Arra and Silvermines Mountains was particularly attractive to Bronze Age settlers. During topsoil stripping along the Nenagh Bypass a number of *fulachtaí fia* were found within the townlands of Tullahedy (**TN020-132001-**, **-002**, **-003**), Lahessseragh (**TN020-135---**) and Ballintotty (**TN021-098---**).

One of the most common monuments in the region is the ringfort which dates from the Early Christian or medieval period. A ringfort generally consists of a circular area defined by one or more banks and external ditches, although examples such as that in Ballyhisky (**TN02-071---**) consist of a raised platform surrounded by a ditch with traces of a bank. Many of the ruined churches visible in the landscape on either side of the route date from the medieval period. There is a church and graveyard at Ballyard (**TN031-010001**), and in Kilmastulla (**TN025-077**) along the existing N7. Originally, many of these churches would have been associated with settlements, but the Reformation, 17th century religious wars and rural reorganisation under the subsequent estate system led to their abandonment.

The Normans came to Ireland and brought new military traditions, fortifications, new languages and social structure. These settlers introduced the Anglo-Norman way of life, founding manors, abbeys, boroughs and towns. The distribution of Anglo-Norman towns and boroughs in Tipperary is largely concentrated in the lowlands east of the River Suir, with Nenagh being the only large town in the north of the county. Some early fortifications include a possible motte site in Ballycahill and a motte and bailey in Tullahedy. A hall-house was also encountered during monitoring on the Nenagh bypass in Ballintotty (**TN021-094**) and was excavated in 1998. The stone castle and tower house are characteristic features of the Anglo-

Norman fortified manor. There are a number of tower houses in the region such as, for example, Ballintotty (**TN020:055001**).

In the seventeenth century the strategic importance of the Shannon waterway assisted in the infiltration of new English settlers, providing a navigable route into Limerick and Tipperary. One of the main features of this period was the stone manor house also referred to as the 'big house'. Big houses were constructed by planter families and they are often found on the sites of older ruined castles or tower houses. They often gave rise to ornamented demesne lands close to the house, such as at Mountshannon, located at the south-western end of the project.

The name of the townland is derived from the Irish form, *Ros Fuinse*. As highlighted within the EIS of the project, it is likely the townland name can be translated as the wood or grove of ash trees (Gowen 2003, 25). Though *Ros* has dual meaning, being translated as either promontory or grove (Flanagan and Flanagan 1994), from the nature of the surrounding landscape it is unlikely that in this instance *Ros* refers to a promontory. The name of the parish, Kilnarath comes from the Irish *Cill na Rátha* meaning the church of the rath or fort (www.logainm.ie).

Nothing of historical interest could be found regarding the townland of Rossfinch. A single RMP, **TN025-080---** (Ringfort-Rath), is located within the townland being approximately 0.9 km to the west of Rossfinch Site 1. A watermill, **TN025-087----**, is recorded within the townland of Rossfinch or Garraun though its exact location is unknown; this was mentioned within the Civil Survey (1654–1656) though it was not depicted on the Down Survey Maps (1655-56). However, within the EIS the area was highlighted as possibly an area of archaeological potential being located in an area with known Bronze Age ritual and settlement activity within the archaeological record (Gowen 2003, 33, 51& 56).

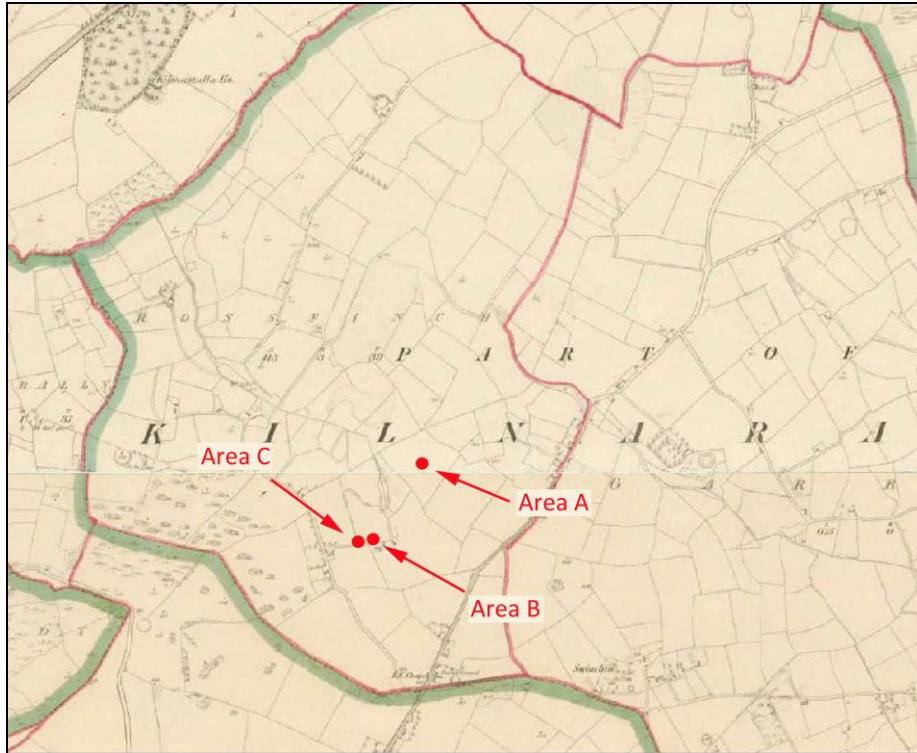


Figure 3. Detail from 1st Edition Map (c. 1840) for Tipperary with area locations illustrated (north to top, for indication only)

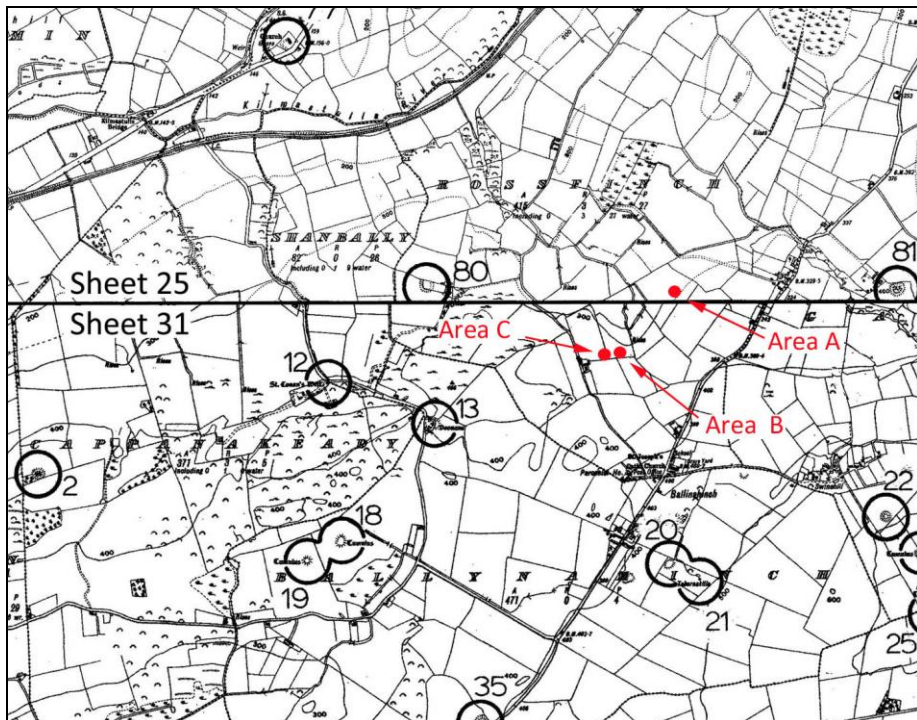


Figure 4. Detail from RMP Map for Tipperary (North Riding) (Sheets 25 and 31) with Area locations illustrated (north to top, for indication only)

1.4 Previous Archaeological Investigations

With the exception of the N7 Nenagh to Limerick HQDC programme of archaeological investigations, no previous archaeological investigation have been undertaken within the townland of Rossfinch, Co. Tipperary (as per a search of the archaeological database www.excavations.ie which lists all licenced archaeological investigations to 2007 at present) with only one listed within a neighbouring townland:

Tipperary

2004:1611

KILMASTULLA

No archaeological significance

17307 17000

SMR 25:77

04E1256

Trial-trenching of the footprints of two proposed houses lying partly within the zone of archaeological potential around Kilmastulla graveyard revealed nothing of archaeological significance.

Brian Hodkinson, Annaholty, Birdhill, Co. Tipperary.

As part of the N7 Nenagh to Limerick HQDC, a number of archaeological investigations were carried out within the immediate vicinity of the site. The site was identified in 2006 during the Phase 1 test trenching with two areas identified as containing archaeological features and deposits and two identified as containing no features of archaeological significance. The first, given the sub-scheme number A026/012, comprised of a spread of burnt material, described as consisting of a moderately compact black and dark brown sandy silt deposit with inclusions of small angular stones, oxidised clay and charcoal, measuring 3.8 m by 2.1 m and 5.5m by 0.3 m and a possible pit or post-hole measuring 0.3 m by 0.2 m by 0.15 m (Carroll 2006a). Area A026/013, comprised of an irregular shaped spread consisting of a sandy silt deposit with occasional inclusions of oxidised clay and charcoal measuring 1.8 m by 1.1 m deep (Carroll 2006b). The third area, given sub-scheme number A026/015, consisted of a possible pit or post-hole deemed as non archaeological (Carroll 2006c). The third area, given sub-scheme number A026/016, comprised of two spreads both of which were comprised of sandy silt material with inclusions of sub-angular stones (Carroll 2006d). Phase 1 test trenching also identified a number of other, previously unidentified sites within the immediate area, with Rossfinch Site 1 E2485 and Rossfinch Site 3 E2402 located within the townland.

1.5 Excavation Methodology

The excavation undertaken at Rossfinch Site 2 was carried out in accordance with the agreed method statement submitted with Ministerial Sub-Direction Form 4A-06. The site was excavated by hand using single context recording.

The four sites identified during Phase I testing were originally assigned the scheme sub-numbers A026/012, A026/013, A026/015, and A026/016. The subsequent excavation by ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd was conducted under registration number E2484, termed Rossfinch Site 1 for reporting purposes, and the sites were renamed as Area A, B and C. The following table lists the scheme sub-numbers and their corresponding Areas in this report:

Sub-Scheme Number	Area
A026/012 and A026/013	A
A026/15	B
A026/16	C

Table 1: Area designations

ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd Limited uses a context method of archaeological recording and has standard operating procedures for same (SOPS). This approach is fully detailed in the company's Quality Manual that is available on request. The method provides for pro-forma pre-printed recording sheets for all aspects of recording (written, drawn and photographic), thereby ensuring a smooth transition from on-site resolution to post-excavation reporting. This paper record forms the basis of the site archive. The Registration Number was used in the recording of the archive, as well as artefacts and ecofacts. Any finds recovered during the excavation were bagged and recorded according to Registration Number, context number, and unique identifier number e.g. 1-infinity within that context (following NMI guidelines).

All resolved sites have been surveyed.

All finds are stored in secure storage at the ÆGIS office, Limerick. All finds requiring conservation will be stored as per specialist advice and packaged as per National Museum of Ireland guidelines.

Upon completion of the excavation all pertinent samples and finds were analysed by the appropriate specialists, the reports of which have been incorporated into this report and inserted as appendices (see Section 9). Arrangements will be made, in consultation with the NRA Archaeologist, to deposit all finds with the NMI and for the long-term storage of the site archive.

2. Context List

2.1 Context List

This is the entire context list for the excavation at Rossfinch Site 2 which consisted of three areas, one of which was found to contain no archaeological significant features or deposits. Within Area A the principle features consisted of a number of pits, stake-holes and post-holes located across the excavation. Several concentrations of these were clearly apparent with, located within the central area of the northern half of Area A, a rectangular structure being the most notable. Two small arcs of post-holes and stake-holes appeared to form a segmented enclosing fence line. Later activity was recorded through the excavation of an early medieval corn-drying kiln and post-medieval/early modern agricultural features. Within Area C the principle features consisted of four pits and two stake-holes.

Area	Context Number	Description	Area	Context Number	Description
-	1	Topsoil	A	46	Pit filled by C45
C	2-3	Cancelled	A	47-48	Cancelled
C	4	Dark grey brown fill of pit C38	C	49	Cancelled
C	5	Greyish brown fill of shallow ditch C39	C	50	Shallow ditch filled by C17
C	6	Dark brownish fill of stake-hole C12	C	51	Cancelled
C	7	Mid brown fill of stake-hole C11	C	52	Dark grey fill of pit C53
C	8-9	Cancelled	C	53	Pit filled by C52
C	10	Light grey fill of pit C20	A	54	Orangey brown fill of furrow C56
C	11	Stake-hole filled by C7	A	55	Cancelled
C	12	Stake-hole filled by C6	A	56	Furrow filled by C54
C	13-16	Cancelled	A	57	Mid greyish brown fill of post-hole C60
C	17	Sandy fill of shallow ditch C50	A	58-59	Cancelled
C	18	Greyish brown fill of pit C21	A	60	Post-hole filled by C57
C	19	Dark grey fill of pit C20	A	61	Cancelled
C	20	Pit filled by C10 and C19	A	62	Mid brown fill of kiln C97
C	21	Pit filled by C18	A	63	Greyish brown fill of stake-hole C64
C	22-24	Cancelled	A	64	Stake-hole filled by C63
B	25-32	Cancelled	A	65	Cancelled
A	33	Mid brown fill of pit C34	A	66	Mid brown fill of kiln C97
A	34	Pit filled by C33	A	67	Cancelled
A	35-37	Cancelled	A	68	Mid grey brown fill of pit C71
C	38	Pit filled by C4	A	69	Mid orange brown fill of pit C71
C	39	Shallow ditch filled by C5	A	70	Dark grey brown fill of pit C71
C	40	Cancelled	A	71	Pit filled by C68, C69 & C70
A	41	Light reddish brown fill of furrow C43	A	72	Cancelled
A	42	Cancelled	A	73	Light brown of furrow C103
A	43	Furrow filled by C41	A	74-77	Cancelled
A	44	Cancelled	A	78	Mid brown fill of post-hole C93
A	45	Dark brown fill of pit C46	A	79-80	Cancelled
			A	81	Mid greyish brown fill of post-hole

Area	Context Number	Description	Area	Context Number	Description
		C94	A	151	Mid greyish brown fill of pit C157
A	82	Mid greyish brown fill of post-hole C95	A	152	Stake-hole filled by C149
A	83–85	Cancelled	A	153–154	Cancelled
A	86	Mid brownish grey fill of kiln C97	A	155	Light brownish grey fill of furrow C177
A	87	Light brown fill of kiln C97	A	156	Cancelled
A	88	Dark greyish black fill of kiln C97	A	157	Pit filled by C151, C158 & C159
A	89	Dark brownish grey fill of kiln C97	A	158	Dark grey lower fill of pit C157
A	90	Dark brownish grey fill of kiln C97	A	159	Dark greyish brown lower fill of pit C157
A	91	Cancelled	A	160	Shallow pit filled by C148
A	92	Mid greyish brown fill of kiln C97	A	161–165	Cancelled
A	93	Post-hole filled by C78	A	166	Dark red brown oxidised fill of pit C170
A	94	Post-hole filled by C81	A	167–169	Cancelled
A	95	Post-hole filled by C82	A	170	Pit filled by C166
A	96	Reddish orange fill of kiln C97 (oxidised natural)	A	171–174	Cancelled
A	97	Kiln filled by, C62, C66, C86, C87, C88, C89, C90, C92, C96, C186, C200, C201, C202, C206 & C207	A	175	Furrow filled by C150
A	98	Cancelled	A	176	Cancelled
A	99	Furrow filled by C100	A	177	Furrow filled by C155
A	100	Mid orange brown fill of furrow C99	A	178–181	Cancelled
A	101–102	Cancelled	A	182	Dark brown fill of post-hole C192
A	103	Furrow filled by C73	A	183	Dark, charcoal rich fill of post-hole C193
A	105–108	Cancelled	A	184–185	Cancelled
A	109	Light brownish grey fill of stake-hole C110	A	186	Light brown fill of kiln C97
A	110	Stake-hole filled by C109	A	187–191	Cancelled
A	111	Cancelled	A	192	Post-hole filled by C182
A	112	Mid greyish brown fill of furrow C123	A	193	Post-hole filled by C183
A	113	Mid orangey brown fill of furrow C124	A	194	Cancelled
A	114	Cancelled	A	195	Dark, charcoal rich fill of post-hole C196
A	115	Dark greyish black fill of post-hole C116	A	196	Post-hole filled by C195
A	116	Post-hole filled by C115	A	197	Mid orangey brown fill of stake-hole C198
A	117	Red oxidised silty clay fill of pit C119	A	198	Stake-hole filled by C197
A	118	Dark fill of pit C119	A	199	Cancelled
A	119	Pit filled by C117 & C118	A	200	Reddish orange oxidised fill of kiln C97
A	120	Greyish brown fill of stake-hole C121	A	201	Charcoal rich fill of kiln C97
A	121	Stake-hole filled by C120	A	202	Dark, charcoal layer of kiln C97
A	122	Cancelled	A	203–205	Cancelled
A	123	Furrow filled by C112	A	206	Blackish grey layer of kiln C97
A	124	Furrow filled by C113	A	207	Reddish orange oxidised fill of kiln C97
A	125–129	Cancelled	A	208	Dark greyish black fill of stake-hole C213
A	130	Mid greyish brown fill of furrow C131	A	209–210	Cancelled
A	131	Furrow filled by C130	A	211	Mottled black and red fill of pit C287
A	132	Dark grey fill of pit C139	A	212	Cancelled
A	133	Mid greyish brown fill of pit C140	A	213	Stake-hole filled by C208
A	134–138	Cancelled	A	214	Mid greyish brown fill of stake-hole C221
A	139	Pit filled by C132	A	215	Cancelled
A	140	Pit filled by C133	A	216	Mid greyish brown fill of stake-hole C222
A	142	Cancelled	A	217	Greyish orange fill of small post-hole C223
A	143	Mid greyish fill of stake-hole C145	A	218	Cancelled
A	144	Mid blackish grey fill of stake-hole C146	A	219	Dark brown fill of stake-hole C224
A	145	Stake-hole filled by C143	A	220	Mid greyish brown fill of furrow C244
A	146	Stake-hole filled by C144	A	221	Stake-hole filled by C214
A	148	Greyish brown fill of shallow pit C160	A	222	Stake-hole filled by C216
A	149	Mid greyish brown fill of stake-hole C152	A	223	Small post-hole filled by C217
A	150	Greyish brown fill of furrow C175			

Area	Context Number	Description	Area	Context Number	Description
A	224	Stake-hole filled by C219	A	293	Stake-hole filled by C280
A	225–228	Cancelled	A	294	Stake-hole filled by C282
A	229	Mid greyish brown fill of stake-hole C236	A	295	Small pit filled by C284
A	230	Mid orangey brown fill of stake-hole C237	A	296	Post-hole filled by C285
A	231–232	Cancelled	A	297	Stake-hole filled by C283
A	233	Mid brownish grey fill of stake-hole C241	A	298	Mottled grey orange fill of pit C339
A	234	Mid brownish fill of stake-hole C242	A	299	Cancelled
A	235	Mid brownish grey fill of stake-hole C243	A	300	Light brown fill of stake-hole C302
A	236	Stake-hole filled by C229	A	301	Dark brown fill of stake-hole C303
A	237	Stake-hole filled by C230	A	302	Stake-hole filled by C300
A	238	Light grey fill of pit C287	A	303	Stake-hole filled by C301
A	239	Red oxidised fill of pit C287	A	304	Cancelled
A	240	Mid greyish brown fill of pit C288	A	305	Mid greyish brown fill of shallow pit C307
A	241	Stake-hole filled by C233	A	306	Small pit filled by C290
A	242	Stake-hole filled by C234	A	307	Shallow pit filled by C305
A	243	Stake-hole filled by C235	A	308	Brown sandy fill of stake-hole C319
A	244	Furrow filled by C220	A	309	Dark brown fill of stake-hole C324
A	245	Lens of charcoal in pit C287	A	310	Dark brown fill of stake-hole C325
A	251	Cancelled	A	311	Dark brown fill of post-hole C320
A	252	Light brownish grey fill of stake-hole C257	A	312	Mid greyish brown fill of shallow pit C316
A	253	Light greyish brown fill of stake-hole C255	A	313	Mid brown fill of C323
A	254	Cancelled	A	314	Mid brown fill of pit C339
A	255	Stake-hole filled by C253	A	315	Dark brown fill of pit C339
A	256	Cancelled	A	316	Shallow pit filled by C312
A	257	Stake-hole filled by C252	A	317–318	Cancelled
A	258	Cancelled	A	319	Stake-hole filled by C308
A	259	Dark greyish brown fill of furrow C260	A	320	Post-hole filled by C311
A	260	Furrow filled by C259	A	321	Mid greyish brown fill of pit C326
A	261	Dark brown fill of furrow C262	A	322	Cancelled
A	262	Furrow filled by C261	A	323	Pit filled by C313
A	263	Dark lower fill of pit C347	A	324	Stake-hole filled by C309
A	264–267	Cancelled	A	325	Stake-hole filled by C310
A	268	Mid orangey brown fill of stake-hole C276	A	326	Pit filled by C321
A	269	Light greyish brown fill of stake-hole C277	A	327	Dark brown fill of stake-hole C343
A	270	Mid greyish brown fill of shallow pit C289	A	328	Light brown fill of stake-hole C344
A	271–273	Cancelled	A	329	Brown sandy fill of stake-hole C345
A	274	Brown sandy fill of shallow pit C278	A	330	Cancelled
A	276	Stake-hole filled by C268	A	331	Pit filled by C298, C314 & C315
A	277	Stake-hole filled by C269	A	332	Charcoal rich fill of post-hole C350
A	278	Shallow pit filled by C274	A	333	Mid brownish grey fill of stake-hole C342
A	279	Charcoal rich fill of stake-hole C292	A	334	Stake-hole filled by C341
A	280	Dark brown fill of stake-hole C293	A	335	Stake-hole filled by C335
A	281	Cancelled	A	336	Stake-hole filled by C336
A	282	Soft brown fill of stake-hole C294	A	337	Stake-hole filled by C337
A	283	Blackish brown fill of stake-hole C297	A	338	Mid brownish yellow fill of pit C347
A	284	Black sandy fill of pit C295	A	339	Pit filled by C346 & C263
A	285	Dark brown fill of post-hole C296	A	340	Light brown fill of post-hole C350
A	286	Cancelled	A	341	Post-hole filled by C340 & C349
A	287	Pit filled by C211, C238, C239 & C245	A	342	Charcoal rich fill of shallow pit C356
A	288	Pit filled by C240	A	343	Cancelled
A	289	Cut of shallow pit filled by C270	A	344	Mid greyish brown fill of shallow pit C384
A	290	Dark brownish black fill of pit C306	A	345	Mid brown fill of post-hole C361
A	291	Cancelled	A	346	Reddish clay deposit
A	292	Stake-hole filled by C279	A	347	Shallow pit filled by C351
			A	348	Dark brown fill of pit C371
			A	349	Dark fill of small pit C374
			A	350	Mid brown fill of stake-hole C360
			A	351	Stake-hole filled by C359
			A	352	Post-hole filled by C354
			A	353	Light orangey brown fill of stake-hole C377
			A	354	Cancelled
			A	355	Cancelled
			A	356	Cancelled
			A	357	Cancelled
			A	358	Cancelled
			A	359	Cancelled
			A	360	Cancelled
			A	361	Cancelled
			A	362	Cancelled
			A	363–364	Cancelled

Area	Context Number	Description	Area	Context Number	Description
A	365	Mid brown fill of stake-hole C367	A	424	Post-hole filled by C419
A	366	Greyish black fill of stake-hole C378	A	425–426	Cancelled
A	367	Stake-hole filled by C365	A	427	Cut of shallow post-hole filled by C421
A	368	Greyish brown fill of pit C395	A	428	Post-hole filled by C412
A	369	Mid greyish brown fill of post-hole C370	A	429	Cut of shallow pit filled by C383
A	370	Post-hole filled by C369	A	430	Blackish brown fill of stake-hole C431
A	371	Pit filled by C357, C372 & C373	A	431	Stake-hole filled by C430
A	372	Charcoal rich fill of pit C371	A	432–433	Cancelled
A	373	Light brown fill of pit C371	A	434	Post-hole filled by C413
A	374	Pit filled by C358, C375 & C376	A	435	Mid greyish brown fill of stake-hole C436
A	375	Light brown fill of pit C374	A	436	Stake-hole filled by C435
A	376	Grey black fill of pit C374	A	437	Dark brown fill of stake-hole C440
A	377	Stake-hole filled by C362	A	438	Light brown fill of post-hole C441
A	378	Stake-hole filled by C366	A	439	Linear filled by C422
A	379	Mid brown fill of shallow pit C404	A	440	Stake-hole filled by C437
A	380	Mid brown fill of shallow pit C386	A	441	Post-hole filled by C438
A	381–382	Cancelled	A	442	Greyish brown fill of stake-hole C447
A	383	Mid greyish brown fill of shallow pit C429	A	443	Post-hole filled by C411
A	384	Cut of shallow pit filled by C353	A	444	Dark greyish brown fill of stake-hole C451
A	385	Greyish brown fill of post-hole C396	A	445	Dark brown fill of stake-hole C450
A	386	Cut of shallow pit filled by C380	A	446	Dark greyish brown fill of stake-hole C448
A	387	Light greyish brown fill of post-hole C388	A	447	Stake-hole filled by C442
A	388	Post-hole filled by C387	A	448	Stake-hole filled by C446
A	389	Mid brownish grey fill of post-hole C397	A	449	Post-hole filled by C414
A	390	Mottled greyish brown fill of post-hole C398	A	450	Stake-hole filled by C445
A	391	Cancelled	A	451	Stake-hole filled by C444
A	392	Charcoal rich fill of post-hole C403	A	452	Dark greyish brown fill of post-hole C460
A	394	Cancelled	A	453	Mid greyish brown fill of stake-hole C454
A	395	Pit filled by C368	A	454	Stake-hole filled by C453
A	396	Post-hole filled by C385	A	455	Mid blackish brown fill of stake-hole C456
A	397	Post-hole filled by C389	A	456	Stake-hole filled by C455
A	398	Post-hole filled by C390	A	457	Mid brown, single fill of small pit C459
A	399–400	Cancelled	A	458	Cancelled
A	401	Light brown fill of post-hole C402	A	459	Small pit filled by C457
A	402	Post-hole filled by C401	A	460	Post-hole filled by C452
A	403	Post-hole filled by C392	A	461	Mid greyish brown fill of furrow C466
A	404	Cut of shallow pit filled by C379	A	462	Light brown fill of pit C479
A	405	Dark black brown fill of stake-hole C406	A	463	Dark brown fill of post-hole C496
A	406	Stake-hole filled by C405	A	464–465	Cancelled
A	407	Mid greyish brown fill of stake-hole C408	A	466	Furrow filled by C461
A	408	Stake-hole filled by C407	A	467	Cancelled
A	409	Cancelled	A	468	Mid greyish brown fill of stake-hole C473
A	410	Dark greyish brown fill of post-hole C420	A	469	Mid greyish black fill of stake-hole C477
A	411	Mid greyish brown fill of post-hole C443	A	470	Dark greyish brown fill of post-hole C472
A	412	Dark brownish grey fill of post-hole 428	A	471	Charcoal rich fill of pit C509
A	413	Mid greyish brown fill of post-hole C434	A	472	Post-hole filled by C470
A	414	Mid brownish grey fill of post-hole C449	A	473	Stake-hole filled by C468
A	415–418	Cancelled	A	474	Dark blackish grey fill of post-hole C491
A	419	Greyish brown fill of post-hole C424	A	475	Cancelled
A	420	Post-hole filled by C410	A	476	Mid brown, single fill of small pit C482
A	421	Dark grey fill of shallow post-hole C427			
A	422	Light brown fill of linear C439			
A	423	Cancelled			

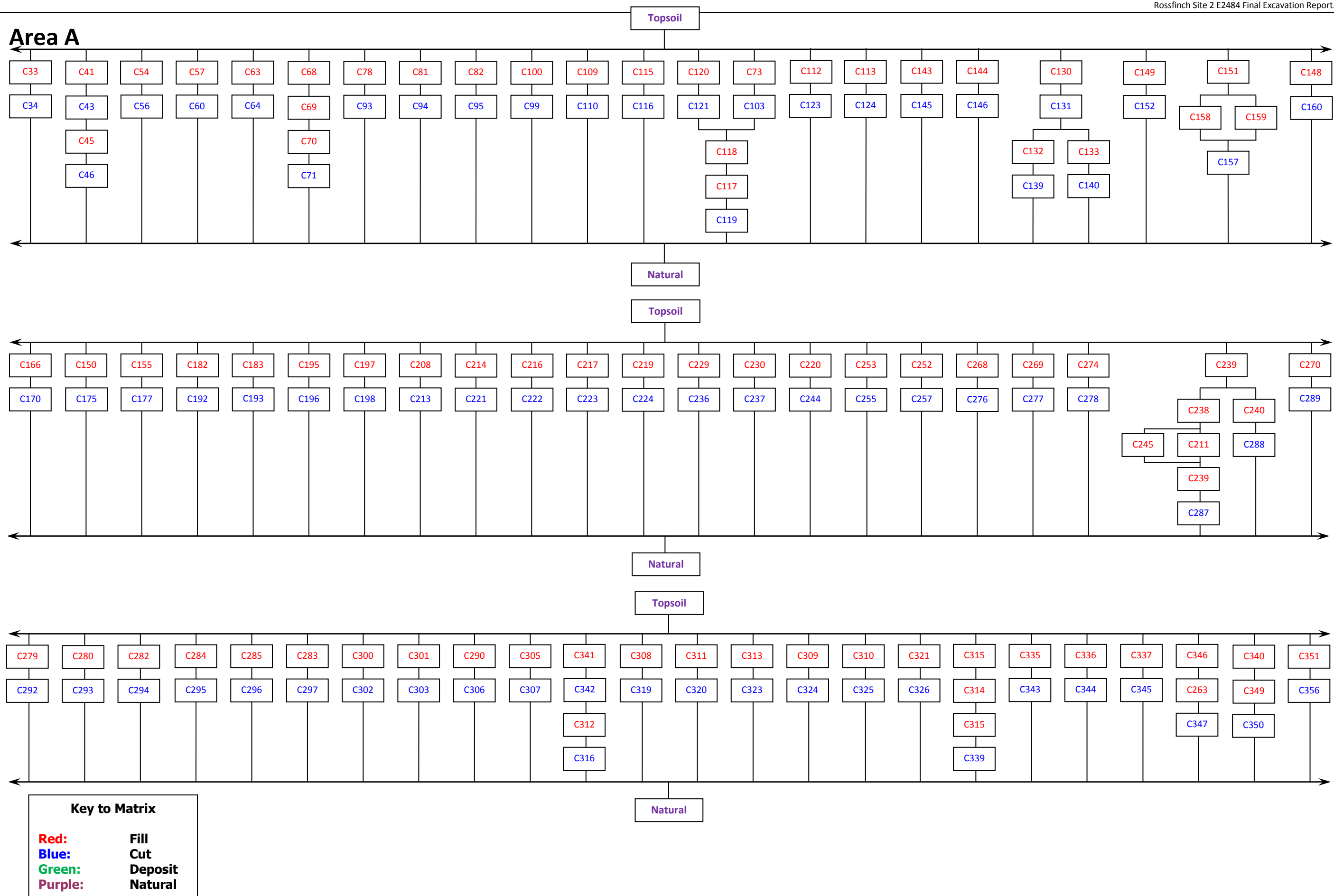
Area	Context Number	Description	Area	Context Number	Description
A	477	Stake-hole filled by C469	A	522	Brown & orange fill of pit C524
A	478	Dark grey fill of pit C479	A	523	Light greyish brown lower fill of pit C524
A	479	Pit filled by C462 & C478	A	524	Pit filled by C507, C521, C522 & C523
A	480	Mid greyish brown fill of stake-hole C494	A	525	Mid orangey brown fill of stake-hole C526
A	481	Light orangey brown, upper fill of pit C499	A	526	Stake-hole filled by C525
A	482	Pit filled by C476	A	527–528	Cancelled
A	483–487	Cancelled	A	529	Small pit filled by C517
A	488	Mid greyish brown fill of stake-hole C489	A	530	Greyish brown fill of stake-hole C533
A	489	Stake-hole filled by C488	A	531	Mid orangey brown fill of stake-hole C532
A	490	Cancelled	A	532	Stake-hole filled by C531
A	491	Post-hole filled by C474	A	533	Stake-hole filled by C530
A	492	Mid greyish brown fill of stake-hole C493	A	534	Cancelled
A	493	Stake-hole filled by C492	A	535	Dark brown fill of post-hole C538
A	494	Stake-hole filled by C480	A	536	Greyish brown fill of stake-hole C537
A	496	Post-hole filled by C463 & C497	A	537	Stake-hole filled by C536
A	497	Dark grey fill of post-hole C496	A	538	Post-hole filled by C535
A	498	Mottled brownish black fill of pit C499	A	539	Pit filled by C516
A	499	Pit filled by C481 & C498	A	540–544	Cancelled
A	500	Cancelled	A	545	Dark brown fill of stake-hole C547
A	501	Light greyish brown fill of furrow C506	A	546	Light brown fill of shallow pit C552
A	502	Dark brown fill of pit C505	A	547	Stake-hole filled by C545
A	503	Greyish brown fill of stake-hole C508	A	548	Small pit filled by C549 & C550
A	504	Dark brown fill of pit C519	A	549	Light brown fill of pit C548
A	505	Pit filled by C502	A	550	Mid brown fill of pit C548
A	506	Furrow filled by C501	A	551	Brownish grey fill of stake-hole C554
A	507	Mid brownish grey fill of pit C524	A	552	Pit filled by C546 & C553
A	508	Stake-hole filled by C503	A	553	Mid brown fill of pit C552
A	509	Pit filled by C471	A	554	Stake-hole filled by C551
A	510	Cancelled	A	555	Dark brown fill of post-hole C556
A	511	Greyish brown fill of post-hole C520	A	556	Post-hole filled by C555
A	512	Light orangey brown fill of post-hole C513	A	557	Reddish brown fill of stake-hole C558
A	513	Post-hole filled by C512	A	558	Stake-hole filled by C557
A	514–515	Cancelled	A	559	Light yellowish grey fill of shallow pit C562
A	516	Brown sandy fill of pit C539	A	560–561	Cancelled
A	517	Light brown fill of small pit C529	A	562	Shallow pit filled by C559
A	518	Cancelled			
A	519	Pit filled by C504			
A	520	Post-hole filled by C511			
A	521	Dark greyish brown fill of pit C524			

Table 2: Context Register

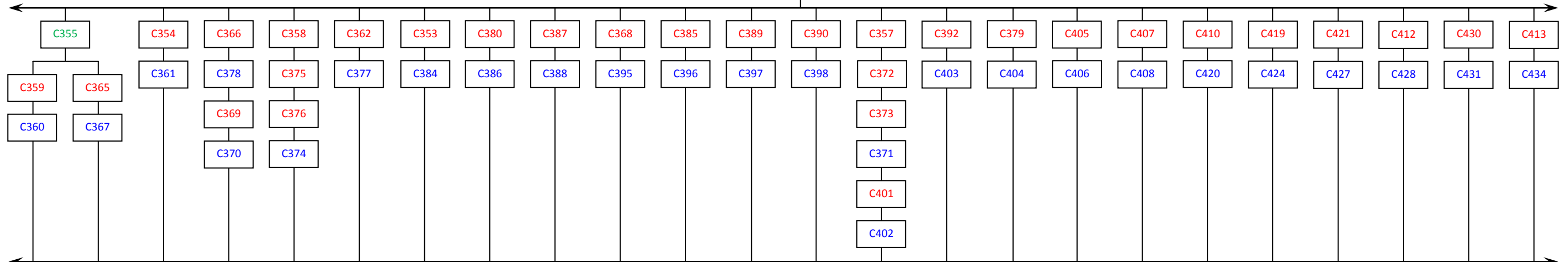
3. Stratigraphic Sequence

3.1 Matrix

The first stage of report compilation is the formation of the site matrix. This structure collates all the contexts that have been excavated and recorded, and preserves their stratigraphic relationships in flow chart fashion. The interpretation of a site rests on this visual manifestation of the archaeology as excavated. The contexts of the matrix are then grouped and segmented to create features and phases, all of which are described in detail below (Section 3.2 Context Descriptions).



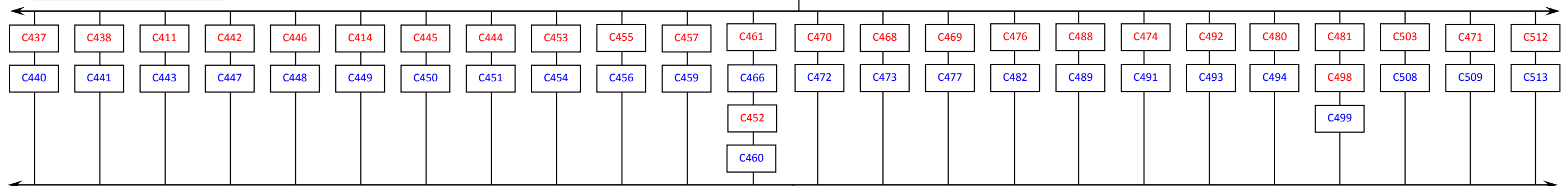
Topsoil



Key to Matrix
Red: Fill
Blue: Cut
Green: Deposit
Purple: Natural

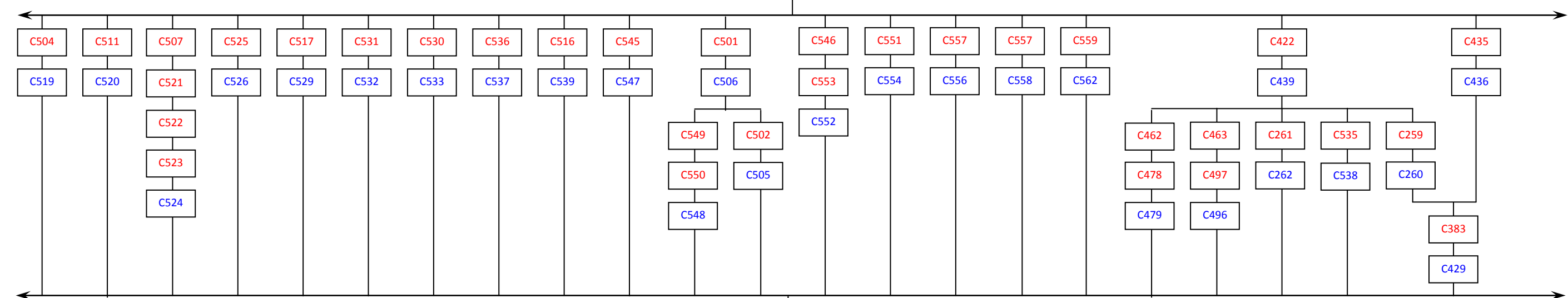
Natural

Topsoil



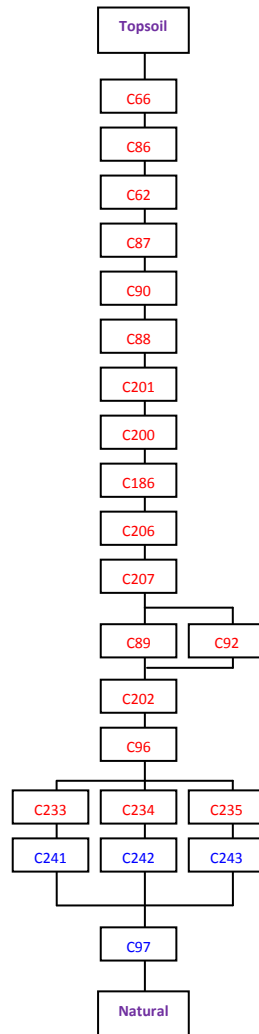
Natural

Topsoil

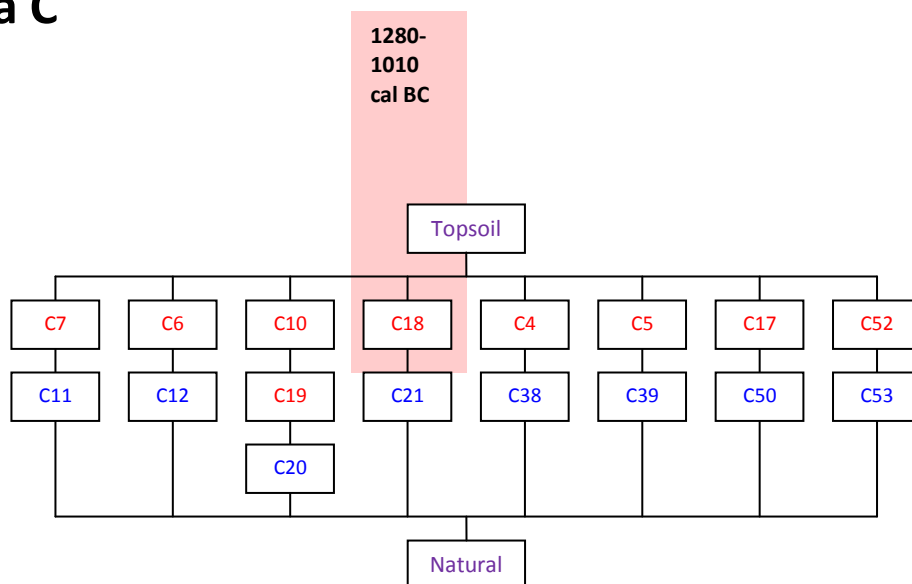


Natural

Kiln C97



Area C



3.2 Context Descriptions

Note: Contexts are grouped into features and are referred to by their cut context numbers. All features were located directly beneath the topsoil and cut/overlay the natural parent material, unless otherwise stated.

Context C1

Context Type: Topsoil

This context was a dark brownish black sandy clay that extended across the whole site to a depth of 0.5 m (max.) with occasional small stone inclusions.

Context C2–C3

Cancelled

Context C4

For a description of Context C4 refer to context C38 (Cut)

Context C5

For a description of Context C5 refer to context C39 (Cut)

Context C6

For a description of Context C6 refer to context C12 (Cut)

Context C7

For a description of Context C7 refer to context C11 (Cut)

Context C8–C9

Cancelled

Context C10

For a description of Context C10 refer to context C24 (Cut)

Context C11

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C7

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.05 m in diameter by 0.15 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled with soft mid brown sandy silt C7 with occasional small stone inclusions.

Context C12

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C6

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.08 m in diameter by 0.15 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by soft dark brown sandy silt C6 with occasional small stone inclusions

Context C13–C16

Cancelled

Context C17

For a description of Context C17 refer to context C50 (Cut)

Context C18

For a description of Context C18 refer to context C21 (Cut)

Context C19

For a description of Context C19 refer to context C20 (Cut)

Context C20

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C10 & C19

This north-east–south-west orientated pit was sub-oval in plan, measuring 2.7 m by 0.97 m by 0.41 m deep. It had sharp break of slope top to the west and gradual otherwise, vertical side to the west and convex sides elsewhere, sharp break of slope base to the west and gradual elsewhere and a flat base. It was filled by soft dark grey sandy silt primary fill C19 with frequent small and medium sized stone inclusions that filled the south-western extent of the pit, measuring 0.6 m by 0.35 m by 0.27 m deep, and soft light grey sandy silt secondary fill C10 with frequent small stone and charcoal fleck inclusions, measuring 2.35 m by 0.97 m by 0.41 m deep.

Context C21

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C18

This north-east–south-west orientated pit was oval in plan measuring 2.1 m by 1.2 m by 0.11 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by firm greyish brown sandy silt C18 with frequent charcoal flecks and small and medium sized stone inclusions.

Context C22–C32

Cancelled

Context C33

For a description of Context C33 refer to context C34 (Cut)

Context C34

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C33

This north-west–south-east orientated pit was an irregular oval in plan, measuring 2.4 m by 0.95 m by 0.35 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top to the north and north-east and sharp otherwise; gentle sides to the north and north-west and steep otherwise; sharp break of slope base and an irregular concave base. It was filled by mid brown clayey silt C33 with frequent charcoal flecks and medium to large stone inclusions.

Context C35–C37

Cancelled

Context C38

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C4

This north–south orientated pit was oval in plan measuring 2.0 m by 1.2 m by 0.28 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, a gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by moderately compact dark greyish brown sandy silt C4 with frequent charcoal flecks and small to medium sized stone inclusions.

Context C39

Context Type: Shallow ditch

Fills: C5

This north-west–south-east orientated ditch was linear in plan, measuring c.15.0 m by 1.5 m (3 m at south-eastern terminus) by 0.15 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope base, concave sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by soft greyish brown sandy silt C5 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C40
Cancelled

Context C41
For a description of Context C41 refer to context C43 (Cut)

Context C42
Cancelled

Context C43
Context Type: Furrow
Fills: C41

This east–west orientated furrow was linear in plan measuring 1 m by 0.7 m by 0.2 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a rounded base. It was filled by light reddish brown loosely compact silty clay C41 with occasional stone inclusions. This feature truncated pit C46.

Context C44
Cancelled

Context C45
For a description of Context C45 refer to context C46 (Cut)

Context 46
Context Type: Pit
Fills: C45

This pit was oval in plan, measuring 0.5 m by 0.3 m by 0.25 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a rounded base. It was filled by dark brown silty clay C45 with occasional medium stone inclusions. This feature was truncated by furrow C43.

Context C47–C49
Cancelled

Context C50
Context Type: Shallow ditch
Fills: C17

This north–west–south–east orientated ditch was linear in plan, measuring 16 m by 0.65 m by 0.29 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, concave sides to the north and convex to the south, gradual break of slope base and concave base. It was filled by mid brown firm sandy silt C17 with occasional small stone inclusions.

Context C51
Cancelled

Context C52
For a description of Context C52 refer to context C53 (Cut)

Context C53
Context Type: Pit
Fills: C52

This pit was oval in plan measuring 1.43 m by 1.1 m by 0.1 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, concave sides, gradual break of slope base and an irregular concave base. It was filled by dark grey soft sandy silt C52 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C54
For a description of Context C54 refer to context C56 (Cut)

Context C55
Cancelled

Context C56
Context Type: Furrow
Fills: C54

This east-west furrow was linear in plan measuring 18 m by c.0.62 m (1.1 m max) by 0.31 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides and a gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by orangey brown friable silty clay C54 with small to medium sized stone inclusions.

Context C57
For a description of Context C57 refer to context C60 (Cut)

Context C58–C59
Cancelled

Context C60
Context Type: Post-hole
Fills: C57

This post-hole was circular in plan, measuring 0.23 m in diameter by 0.2 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, very gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by mid greyish brown silty clay C57 with occasional stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context 61
Cancelled

Context C62
For a description of Context C62 refer to context C97 (Cut)

Context C63
For a description of Context C63 refer to context C64 (Cut)

Context C64
Context Type: Stake-hole
Fills: C63

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.1 m in diameter by 0.13 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, sharp break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid greyish brown silty clay C63 with occasional charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions.

Context C65
Cancelled

Context C66
For a description of Context C66 refer to context C97 (Cut)

Context C67
Cancelled

Context C68
For a description of Context C68 refer to context C71 (Cut)

Context C69
For a description of Context C69 refer to context C71 (Cut)

Context C70
For a description of Context C70 refer to context C71 (Cut)

Context C71

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C68, C69 & C70

This pit was sub-square in plan with rounded corners and measuring 0.61 m by 0.23 m by 0.26 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, moderate to steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by primary fill C70, a dark greyish brown firm silty clay with frequent root inclusions measuring 0.4 m by 0.2 m by 0.06 m deep. Secondary fill C69 was a friable mid orangey brown clayey silt with occasional small stone inclusions measuring 0.25 m by 0.23 m by 0.05 m deep. Tertiary fill C68 was a mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecks and frequent root inclusions, measuring 0.61 m by 0.23 m by 0.12 m deep.

Context C72

Cancelled

Context C73

For a description of context C73 refer to context C103 (Cut)

Context C74–C77

Cancelled

Context C78

For a description of context C78 refer to context C93 (Cut)

Context C79–C80

Cancelled

Context C81

For a description of context C81 refer to context C94 (Cut)

Context C82

For a description of context C82 refer to context C95 (Cut)

Context C83

Cancelled

Context C84

For a description of context C84 refer to context C99 (Cut)

Context C85

Cancelled

Context C86

For a description of context C86 refer to context C97 (Cut)

Context C87

For a description of context C87 refer to context C97 (Cut)

Context C88

For a description of context C88 refer to context C97 (Cut)

Context C89

For a description of context C89 refer to context C97 (Cut)

Context C90

For a description of context C90 refer to context C97 (Cut)

Context C91
Cancelled

Context C92

For a description of context C92 refer to context C97 (Cut)

Context C93

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C78

This post-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.16 m by 0.13 m by 0.12 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by friable mid brown silty clay C78 with occasional charcoal and small stone inclusions.

Context C94

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C81

This post-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.16 m by 0.12 m by 0.19 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep almost vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by friable mid greyish brown sandy clay C81 with occasional charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions.

Context C95

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C82

This post-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.18 m by 0.21 m by 0.11 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by friable mid greyish brown silty clay C82 with occasional charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions.

Context C96

For a description of context C96 refer to context C97 (Cut)

Context C97 (Plate 3 & 4; Fig 3 & 4)

Context Type: Corn Drying Kiln

Fills: C62, C66, C86, C87, C88, C89, C90, C92, C96, C186, C200, C201, C202, C206 & C207

This north-east–south-west orientated pit was oval in plan measuring 3.45 m by 1.8 m by 1.8 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gradually sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by primary fill C96 a friable red and orange oxidised silty clay measuring 1.2 m by 0.9 m by 0.03 m deep. The secondary fill, C202, was a loose blackish brown silty with ash and charcoal inclusions, measuring 0.89 m by 0.45 m by 0.05 m deep. The tertiary fill, C89, was a loose dark greyish brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small stone inclusions, measuring 1.22 m by 1.15 m



Plate 1. South facing section of kiln C97

by 0.16 m deep. The quaternary fill, C92, was a loose mid greyish brown silty clay fill with occasional small angular stones, charcoal flecks and burnt bone (this context was a lens within C89). The quinary fill, C207, was a loose red and orange oxidised silty clay, measuring 0.82 m by 0.25 m by 0.02 m deep. The senary fill, C206, was a loose dark grey silt with ash and charcoal inclusions, measuring 0.9 m by 0.42 m by 0.02 m deep. The septenary fill, C186, was a loose light brown fine silt with very occasional charcoal fleck and occasional burnt bone inclusions, measuring 0.9 m by 0.78 m by 0.08 m deep. The octonary fill, C200, was a loose red and orange oxidised silty clay with very occasional charcoal fleck inclusions, measuring 0.9 m by 0.8 m by 0.02 m deep. The nonary fill, C201, was a loose charcoal deposit with occasional small stone inclusions, measuring 1.2 m by 1.1 m by 0.04 m deep. The denary

fill, C88, was a loose dark brown grey silty clay with very frequent small chunks and flecks of charcoal, occasional small stones and very occasional burnt bone inclusions, measuring 1.38 m by 1.15 m by 0.1 m deep. The eleventh fill, C90, was a loose dark brown silty clay with occasional small to medium sized stones and very occasional burnt bone inclusions, measuring 0.85 m by 0.8 m by 0.15 m deep. The duodenary fill, C87, was a friable light brown silty clay with occasional small stones and burnt bone and frequent charcoal fleck inclusions, measuring 1.03 m by 1.02 m by 0.3 m deep. The tridenary fill, C62, was a friable mid brown silty clay upper with occasional small stones, charcoal flecks and burnt bone inclusions, measuring 1.52 m by 1.45 m by 0.18 m deep. The quaterdenary fill, C86, was a friable mid greyish brown silty clay with occasional small stones and sparse charcoal fleck inclusions, measuring 1.6 m by 1.4 m by 0.18 m deep. The uppermost fill, C66 (a fill within a large stone socket created by machine action during stripping) was a loose mid brown silty clay with occasional small and medium sized stone inclusions, measuring 2.1 m by 0.43 m by 0.12 m deep. Three stake-holes, C241, C242 and C243 were excavated along the northern edge of kiln C97.



Plate 2. East facing section of kiln C97

Context C98
Cancelled

Context C99
Context Type: Furrow
Fills: C100

This east–west orientated furrow was linear shape in plan measuring 5 m by 0.5 m by 0.1 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides and gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by friable mid orangey brown silty clay C100 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C100
For a description of context C100 refer to context C99 (Cut)

Context C101–C102
Cancelled

Context C103
Context Type: Furrow
Fills: C73

This east–west orientated furrow was linear in plan measuring 10 m by 0.5 m by 0.08 m deep. It had sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides and gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by friable light brown silty sand C73 with occasional medium sized stone inclusions. This feature truncated pit C119.

Context C105–C108
Cancelled

Context C109
For a description of context C109 refer to context C110 (Cut)

Context C110
Context Type: Stake-hole
Fills: C109

This stake-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.12 m by 0.1 m by 0.15 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by

moderately compact light brownish grey sandy silt C109 with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional small stone inclusions.

Context C111

Cancelled

Context C112

For a description of context C112 refer to context C123 (Cut)

Context C113

For a description of context C113 refer to context C124 (Cut)

Context C114

Cancelled

Context C115

For a description of context C115 refer to context C116 (Cut)

Context C116

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C115

This north-south orientated post-hole was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.35 m by 0.24 m by 0.21 m. It had a gradual break of slope top, gradually sloping sides to the west and steep otherwise, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by friable dark greyish black silty clay C115 with occasional charcoal fleck and bone inclusions.

Context C117

For a description of context C117 refer to context C119 (Cut)

Context 118

For a description of context C118 refer to context C119 (Cut)

Context C119

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C117 & C118

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.7 m by 0.69 m by 0.17 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a rounded base. It was filled by friable oxidised red silty clay primary fill C117 measuring 0.7 m by 0.79 m by 0.17 m deep with occasional small to medium stone inclusions and loose black silty clay secondary fill C118 measuring 0.17 m by 0.2 m by 0.08 m deep with frequent charcoal flecks and occasional burnt bone inclusions. This feature was truncated by furrow C103 and stake-hole C121.

Context C120

For a description of context C120 refer to context C121 (Cut)

Context C121

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C120

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.12 m in diameter by 0.13 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, sharp break of slope base and a rounded base. It was filled by loose greyish brown silty clay C120. This feature truncated pit C119.

Context C122

Cancelled

Context C123

Context Type: Furrow

Fills: C112

This east–west orientated furrow was linear in plan measuring 4.25 m by 0.49 m by 0.05 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by friable mid greyish brown silty clay C112 with charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C124

Context Type: Furrow

Fills: C113

This east–west furrow was linear in plan, measuring 19 m by 0.65 m by 0.08 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gradually sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by loose mid orangey brown clayey silt C113 with occasional charcoal flecks.

Context C125–C129

Cancelled

Context C130

For a description of context C130 refer to context C131 (Cut)

Context C131

Context Type: Furrow

Fills: C130

This east–west orientated furrow was linear in plan measuring 18 m by 0.46 m by 0.18 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and an undulating base. It was filled by mid greyish brown friable silty clay C130 with occasional root and small stone inclusions. This feature was located beneath the topsoil and truncated pits C139 and C140.

Context C132

For a description of context C132 refer to context C139 (Cut)

Context C133

For a description of context C133 refer to context C140 (Cut)

Context C134–C138

Cancelled

Context C139

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C132

This north-east–south-west orientated pit was sub-rectangular in plan with rounded corners, measuring 0.9 m by 0.37 m by 0.16 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and an irregular flat base. It was filled by dark grey friable silty clay C132 with occasional charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions. This feature was truncated by furrow C131.

Context C140

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C133

This pit was an irregular oval in plan measuring 0.58 m by 0.4 m by 0.19 m deep. It had sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid greyish brown friable silty clay C133 with occasional charcoal flecks and medium stone inclusions. This feature was truncated by furrow C131.

Context C142

Cancelled

Context C143

For a description of context C143 refer to context C145 (Cut)

Context C144

For a description of context C144 refer to context C146 (Cut)

Context C145

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C143

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.1 m in diameter by 0.14 m deep. It had gradual break of slope top, moderately steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid greyish brown friable silty clay C143 with charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions.

Context C146

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C144

This stake-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.12 m by 0.11 m by 0.23 m deep. It had sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and concave base. It was filled by mid blackish grey soft silty clay C144 with occasional charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions.

Context C148

For a description of context C148 refer to context C160 (Cut)

Context C149

For a description of context C149 refer to context C152 (Cut)

Context C150

For a description of context C150 refer to context C175 (Cut)

Context C151

For a description of context C151 refer to context C157 (Cut)

Context C152

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C149

This stake-hole was circular in plan, measuring 0.07 m in diameter by 0.09m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, sharp break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by mid greyish brown loose sandy clay C149 with small pebble inclusions.

Context C153–C154

Cancelled

Context C155

For a description of context C155 refer to context C177 (Cut)

Context C156

Cancelled

Context C157

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C151, C158 & C159

This north-east–south-west orientated pit was oval in plan measuring 1.1 m by 0.66 m by 0.17 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and an irregular concave base. It was filled by dark greyish brown friable silty clay primary fill C159 measuring 0.66 m by 0.44 m by 0.04 m deep with very occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. The secondary fill, C158, was a dark grey friable silty clay, measuring 0.66 m by 0.35 m by 0.04 m deep with occasional charcoal fleck

inclusions. The tertiary fill, C151, was a mid greyish brown friable silty clay with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions measuring 1.1 m by 0.66 m by 0.13 m deep.

Context C158

For a description of context C158 refer to context C157 (Cut)

Context C159

For a description of context C159 refer to context C157 (Cut)

Context C160

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C148

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.35 m by 0.3 m by 0.13 m deep. It had sharp break of slope top to the east and north and a gradual break of slope top to the west and south, steep sides to the east and north and gradually sloping sides to the west and south, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by greyish brown loose sandy clay C148 with occasional small and large pebble inclusions.

Context C161–C165

Cancelled

Context C166

For a description of context 166 refer to context C170 (Cut)

Context C167–C169

Cancelled

Context C170

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C166

This pit was an irregular oval in plan measuring 0.81 m by 0.76 m by 0.05 m deep. It had sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and an undulating base. It was filled by dark red brown oxidised loosely compact sandy silt C166 with occasional small stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C171–C174

Cancelled

Context C175

Context Type: Furrow

Fills: C150

This east–west orientated furrow was linear in plan measuring 11 m by 0.45 m by 0.15 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sides, gradual break of slope base and a rounded base. It was filled by greyish brown friable sandy silt C150 with occasional medium sized stone inclusions.

Context C176

Cancelled

Context C177

Context Type: Furrow

Fills: C155

This east–west orientated furrow was linear in plan measuring 2.25 m by 0.4 m by 0.09 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by light brownish grey silty clay C155 with occasional small stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C178–C181

Cancelled

Context C182

For a description of context C182 refer to context C192 (Cut)

Context C183

For a description of context C183 refer to context C193 (Cut)

Context C184

Cancelled

Context C185

Cancelled

Context C186

For a description of context C186 refer to context C97 (Cut)

Context C187–C191

Cancelled

Context 192

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C182

This post-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.3 m by 0.27 m by 0.18 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by dark brown friable silty sand C182 with frequent stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C193

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C183

This post-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.4 m by 0.3 m by 0.18 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by dark blackish brown silty sand C183 with frequent medium stones and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C194

Cancelled

Context C195

For a description of context C195 refer to context C196 (Cut)

Context C196

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C195

This post-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.30 m in diameter by 0.15 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by dark blackish brown loose silty sand C195 with frequent medium stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C197

For a description of context 197 refer to context C198 (Cut)

Context C198

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C197

This stake-hole was circular in plan, measuring 0.1 m in diameter by 0.17 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, sharp break of slope base and a tapered pointed base. It was filled by mid orangey brown loose sandy clay C197 with occasional small pebble inclusions.

Context C199
Cancelled

Context C200
For a description of context C200 refer to context C97 (Cut)

Context C201
For a description of context C201 refer to context C97 (Cut)

Context C202
For a description of context C202 refer to context 97 (Cut)

Context C203–C205
Cancelled

Context C206
For a description of context C206 refer to context C97 (Cut)

Context C207
For a description of context 207 refer to context C97 (Cut)

Context C208
For a description of context 208 refer to context C213 (Cut)

Context C209–C210
Cancelled

Context C211
For a description of context 211 refer to context C287 (Cut)

Context C212
Cancelled

Context C213
Context Type: Stake-hole
Fills: C208

This stake-hole was oval in plan measuring 0.13 m by 0.1 m by 0.18 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by dark greyish black loose sandy clay C208 with frequent small stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C214
For a description of context C214 refer to context C221 (Cut)

Context C215
Cancelled

Context C216
For a description of context C216 refer to context C222 (Cut)

Context C217
For a description of context C217 refer to context C223 (Cut)

Context C218
Cancelled

Context C219
For a description of context C219 refer to context C224 (Cut)

Context C220

For a description of context C220 refer to context C244 (Cut)

Context C221

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C214

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.13 m in diameter by 0.12 m deep. It had sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base, and a concave base. It was filled by mid greyish brown friable silty clay C214 with frequent stone inclusions.

Context C222

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C216

This stake-hole was circular in plan, measuring 0.09 m in diameter by 0.13 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a tapered point at base. It was filled by mid greyish brown loose sandy clay C216 with small pebble and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C223

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C217

This post-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.16 m by 0.13 m by 0.08 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by greyish orange loosely compact sandy clay C217 with frequent small stone inclusions.

Context C224

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C219

This stake-hole was circular in plan, measuring 0.15 m in diameter by 0.08 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by dark brown friable silty sand C219 with occasional small stones.

Context C225–C228

Cancelled

Context C229

For a description of context C229 refer to context C236 (Cut)

Context C230

For a description of context C230 refer to context C237 (Cut)

Context C231–C232

Cancelled

Context C233

For a description of context C233 refer to context C241 (Cut)

Context C234

For a description of context C234 refer to context C242 (Cut)

Context C235

For a description of context C235 refer to context C243 (Cut)

Context C236

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C229

This stake-hole was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.12 m by 0.1 m by 0.18 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, imperceptible break of slope base and a rounded, pointed base. It was filled by loose mid greyish brown sandy clay C229 with small stone and root inclusions.

Context C237

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C230

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.1 m in diameter by 0.15 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, imperceptible break of slope base and a tapered, pointed base. It was filled by loose mid orangey brown sandy clay C230 with occasional small pebble inclusions.

Context C238

For a description of context C238 refer to context C287 (Cut)

Context C239

For a description of context C239 refer to context C287 (Cut)

Context C240

For a description of context C240 refer to context C288 (Cut)

Context C241

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C233

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.09 m in diameter by 0.16 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a tapered, pointed base. It was filled by mid brownish grey loose silty clay C233 with charcoal fleck inclusions. This feature truncated kiln C97.

Context C242

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C234

This stake-hole was circular in plan, measuring 0.09 m in diameter by 0.14 m in depth. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sides, gradual break of slope base, and a tapered, rounded point at base. It was filled by mid brown loose silty clay C234 with moderate charcoal fleck inclusions. This feature truncated kiln C97.

Context C243

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C235

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.08 m in diameter by 0.12 m in depth. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a tapered, pointed base. It was filled by mid greyish brown loose silty clay C235 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. This feature truncated kiln C97.

Context C244

Context Type: Furrow

Fills: C220

This east-west orientated furrow was linear in plan measuring 2.5 m by 0.45 m wide by 0.06 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid greyish brown loose silty clay C220 with frequent roots and stone inclusions.

Context C245

For a description of context C245 refer to context C287 (Cut)

Context C251
Cancelled

Context C252
For a description of context C252 refer to context C257 (Cut)

Context C253
For a description of context C253 refer to context C255 (Cut)

Context C254
Cancelled

Context C255
Context Type: Stake-hole
Fills: 253

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.08 m in diameter by 0.14 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a tapered, rounded base. It was filled by light greyish brown friable clayey silt C253 with frequent small stone inclusions.

Context C256
Cancelled

Context C257
Context Type: Stake-hole
Fills: 252

This stake-hole was circular in plan, measuring 0.07 m in diameter by 0.14 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a tapered, rounded base. It was filled by light brownish grey friable clayey silt C252 with frequent small stone inclusions.

Context C258
Cancelled

Context C259
For a description of context C259 refer to context C260 (Cut)

Context C260
Context Type: Possible Field Boundary
Fills: 259

This east–west orientated linear measured 37 m by 0.3 m by 0.25 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by dark greyish brown friable silty sand C259 with frequent stone inclusions. This feature was truncated by C439 and truncated pit C429.

Context C261
For a description of context C261 refer to context C262 (Cut)

Context C262
Context Type: Furrow
Fills: 261

This east–west orientated furrow was linear in plan measuring 37 m by 0.6 m by 0.30 m deep. It has a sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and concave base. It was filled by dark brown loosely compact silty sand C261 with frequent stone inclusions. This feature was truncated by ditch C439.

Context C263
For a description of context C263 refer to context C347 (Cut)

Context C264–C267
Cancelled

Context C268
For a description of context C268 refer to context C276 (Cut)

Context C269
For a description of context C269 refer to context C277 (Cut)

Context C270
For a description of context C270 refer to context C289 (Cut)

Context C271–C274
Cancelled

Context C274
For a description of context C274 refer to context C278 (Cut)

Context C276
Context Type: Stake-hole
Fills: 268

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.07 m in diameter by 0.16 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid orangey brown friable sandy silt C268 with frequent small stone inclusions.

Context C277
Context Type: Stake-hole
Fills: 269

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.06 m in diameter by 0.13 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by light greyish brown friable clayey silt C269 with frequent small stone inclusions.

Context C278
Context Type: Pit
Fills: 274

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.45 m by 0.4 m by 0.15 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid brown moderately compact sandy clay C274 with occasional charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions.

Context C279
For a description of context C279 refer to context C292 (Cut)

Context C280
For a description of context C280 refer to context C293 (Cut)

Context C281
Cancelled

Context C282
For a description of context C282 refer to context C294 (Cut)

Context C283
For a description of context C283 refer to context C297 (Cut)

Context C284
For a description of context C284 refer to context C295 (Cut)

Context C285

For a description of context C285 refer to context C296 (Cut)

Context C286

Cancelled

Context C287

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C211, C238, C239 & C245

This pit was an irregular sub-rectangular shape in plan measuring 1.65 m by 1.3 m by 0.16 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, imperceptible break of slope base and an irregular undulating base. It was filled by moderately compact red oxidised silty clay primary fill C239 measuring 1.65 m by 1 m by 0.11 m deep. The secondary fill, C211, was a friable black silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal flecks and very occasional burnt bone inclusions measuring 1.3 m by 1.3 m by 0.04 m deep. The tertiary fill, C245, was a friable black charcoal rich silty clay lens within C211 measuring 0.2 m by 0.14 m by 0.05 m deep. The quaternary fill, C238, was a compact light grey silty clay with occasional charcoal and small stone inclusions measuring 1.2 m by 0.58 m by 0.05 m deep. Fill C239 extended over the eastern edge of this feature and partly overlay pit C288.

Context C288

Context Type: Pit

Fills: 240

This pit was oval in plan measuring 1.6 m by 0.7 m by 0.42 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and an irregular flat base. It was filled by mid greyish brown compact silty clay C240 with occasional charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions. This feature was located beneath fill C239 of pit C287.

Context C289

Context Type: Pit

Fills: 270

This pit was sub-circular shaped in plan measuring 0.9 m by 0.79 m by 0.12 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid greyish brown loosely compact sandy clay C270 with frequent small pebble and root inclusions.

Context C290

For a description of context C290 refer to context C306 (Cut)

Context C291

Cancelled

Context C292

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: 279

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.07 m in diameter by 0.08 m deep. It has a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, imperceptible break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by soft black sandy silt C279 with frequent charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C293

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: 280

This stake-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.09 m by 0.08 m by 0.14 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a rounded pointed base. It was filled by dark brown soft sandy silt C280 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C294

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: 282

This stake-hole was circular in plan, measuring 0.05 m in diameter by 0.07 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by mid brown soft sandy silt C282 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C295

Context Type: Pit

Fills: 284

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.22 m by 0.20 m by 0.06 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, concave sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by black soft sandy silt C284 with frequent charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C296

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: 285

This post-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.24 m by 0.23 m by 0.24 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, sharp break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by dark brown soft sandy silt C285 with frequent small stones and moderate charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C297

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: 283

This stake-hole was circular in plan, measuring 0.05 m in diameter by 0.07 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by dark brown and black soft sandy silt C283 with occasional small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C298

For a description of context C298 refer to context C339 (Cut)

Context C299

Cancelled

Context C300

For a description of context C300 refer to context C302 (Cut)

Context C301

For a description of context C301 refer to context C303 (Cut)

Context C302

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: 300

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.08 m in diameter by 0.12 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, sharp break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by light brown soft sandy silt C300 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C303

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: 301

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.1 m in diameter by 0.16 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by dark brown soft sandy silt C301 with moderate charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C304

Cancelled

Context C305

For a description of context C305 refer to context C307 (Cut)

Context C306

Context Type: Pit

Fills: 290

This pit was oval in plan measuring 0.31 m by 0.23 m by 0.05 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by dark blackish grey loosely compact silty clay C290 with occasional charcoal flecks.

Context C307

Context Type: Pit

Fills: 305

This pit was sub-square in plan with rounded corners, measuring 0.38 m by 0.37 m by 0.05 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid greyish brown loosely compact silty clay C305 with small stone, root and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C308

For a description of context C308 refer to context C319 (Cut)

Context C309

For a description of context C309 refer to context C324 (Cut)

Context C310

For a description of context C310 refer to context C325 (Cut)

Context C311

For a description of context C311 refer to context C320 (Cut)

Context C312

For a description of context 312 refer to context C316 (Cut)

Context C313

Cancelled

Context C314

For a description of context C314 refer to context C339 (Cut)

Context C15

For a description of context C315 refer to context C339 (Cut)

Context C316

Context Type: Pit

Fills: 312

This pit was oval in plan measuring 0.61 m by 0.56 m by 0.15 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, sharp break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid greyish brown loosely compact sandy clay C312 with frequent root, charcoal fleck and small pebble inclusions. This feature was truncated by stake-hole C342.

Context C317–C318

Cancelled

Context C319

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: 308

This stake-hole was circular in plan, measuring 0.1 m in diameter by 0.1 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by brown soft sandy silt C308 with occasional small stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C320

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: 311

This post-hole was circular in plan, measuring 0.16 m in diameter by 0.13 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by dark brown soft sandy silt C311 with moderate charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C321

For a description of context C321 refer to context C326 (Cut)

Context C322

Cancelled

Context C323

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C313

This pit was irregular in plan measuring 1.5 m by 0.26 m by 0.32 m deep max. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid brown loose silty clay C313 with occasional small stone inclusions.

Context C324

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C309

This stake-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.12 m by 0.1 m by 0.08 m deep. It has a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, imperceptible break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by dark brown soft sandy silt C309 with occasional small stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C325

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C310

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.13 m in diameter by 0.12 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by dark brown soft sandy silt C310 with moderate charcoal flecks inclusions.

Context C326

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C321

This north-east–south-west orientated pit was oval in plan measuring 0.82 m by 0.65 m by 0.25 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, imperceptible break of slope base and a concave base sloping to the south. It was filled by mid greyish brown compact silty clay C321 with occasional small stone inclusions.

Context C335

For a description of context C335 refer to context C343 (Cut)

Context C336

For a description of context C336 refer to context C344 (Cut)

Context C337

For a description of context C337 refer to context C345 (Cut)

Context C338
Cancelled

Context C339

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C298, C314 & C315

This pit was oval in plan measuring 2 m by 1.25 m by 0.32 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides (slightly undercut to the east), gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid brownish grey soft clayey silt primary fill C315 measuring 2 m by 1.25 m by 0.09 m deep with occasional small stone inclusions. The secondary fill, C314, was a mid greyish brown friable silty clay with frequent small stone and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions measuring 2 m by 1.25 m by 0.17 m deep. The tertiary fill, C298, was a lightly mottled grey and orange soft silty clay with frequent small stones and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions measuring 2 m by 1.25 m by 0.15 m deep.

Context C340

For a description of context C340 refer to context C350 (Cut)

Context C341

For a description of context C341 refer to context C342 (Cut)

Context C342

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C341

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.07 m in diameter by 0.08 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by mid brownish grey sandy clay C341 with small pebble inclusions. This feature was located beneath the topsoil and truncated pit C316.

Context C343

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C335

This stake-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.1 m by 0.9 m by 0.14 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by dark brown soft sandy silt C335 with frequent small stones and occasional charcoal inclusions.

Context C344

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C336

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.08 m in diameter by 0.13 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by light brown soft sandy silt C336 with moderate small stone inclusions.

Context C345

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C337

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.14 m in diameter by 0.1 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid brown soft sandy silt C337 with occasional small stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C346

For a description of context C346 refer to context C347 (Cut)

Context C347

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C346 & C263

This pit was irregular in plan with well rounded corners, measuring 2.7 m by 1.6 m by 0.31 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gradually sloping sides to the west, steep sides otherwise, gradual break of slope base and an irregular concave base. It was filled by mid brownish yellow firm clayey silt primary fill C346 measuring 2 m by 1.5 m by 0.27 m deep with occasional small rounded stone inclusions; and dark greyish brown soft sandy silt secondary fill C263 measuring 2.7 m by 1.6 m by 0.04 m deep with moderate charcoal fleck inclusions

Context C349

For a description of context C349 refer to context C350 (Cut)

Context C350

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C340 & C349

This post-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.28 m by 0.27 m by 0.23 m deep. It had sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by light brown soft silty clay primary fill C349 measuring 0.28 m by 0.27 m by 0.11 m deep with occasional pebble inclusions; and blackish grey soft silty sand secondary fill C340 measuring 0.28 m by 0.27 m by 0.12 m deep with occasional small pebble and charcoal inclusions.

Context C351

For a description of context C351 refer to context C356 (Cut)

Context C352

Cancelled

Context C353

For a description of context C353 refer to context C384 (Cut)

Context C354

For a description of context C354 refer to context C361 (Cut)

Context C355

Context Type: Deposit

This deposit was oval in plan measuring 0.7 m by 0.5 m by 0.05 m deep. It consisted of friable red oxidised silty clay with occasional small stone and charcoal fleck inclusions. This context was located beneath the topsoil and overlying stake-holes C360 and C367.

Context C356

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C351

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.76 m by 0.69 m by 0.15 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, sharp break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by blackish grey moderately compact sandy clay C351 with frequent stone, root and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C357

For a description of context C357 refer to context C371 (Cut)

Context C358

For a description of context C358 refer to context C374 (Cut)

Context C359

For a description of context C359 refer to context C360 (Cut)

Context C360

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C359

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.09 m in diameter by 0.12 m deep. It has a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by mid brown loose silty clay C359 with moderate charcoal flecks. This feature was located beneath deposit C355.

Context C361

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C354

This post-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.18 m by 0.16 m by 0.26 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides and a sharp break of slope base and a tapered, pointed base. It was filled by mid brown soft silty clay C354 with occasional charcoal and pebble inclusions.

Context C362

For a description of context C362 refer to context C377 (Cut)

Context C363–C364

Cancelled

Context C365

For a description of context C365 refer to context C367 (Cut)

Context C366

For a description of context C366 refer to context C378 (Cut)

Context C367

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C365

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.08 m in diameter by 0.12 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by mid brown loose silty clay C367 with occasional charcoal flecks. This feature was located beneath deposit C355.

Context C368

For a description of context C368 refer to context C395 (Cut)

Context C369

For a description of context C369 refer to context C370 (Cut)

Context C370

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C369

This post-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.24 m by 0.20 m by 0.15 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a rounded, pointed base. It was filled by mid greyish brown loose sandy clay C369 with occasional root and small stone inclusions. This feature was truncated by stake-hole C378.

Context C371

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C357, C372 & C373

This pit was sub-square in plan measuring 0.64 m by 0.5 m by 0.22 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, concave sides, a gradual break of slope base and a flat base. The primary fill, C373, was a light brown soft sandy silt with occasional stone and charcoal inclusions measuring 0.47 m by 0.4 m by 0.08 m deep. The secondary fill, C372, was a soft black sandy silt with occasional stone and frequent charcoal inclusions measuring 0.53 m by 0.45 m by 0.06 m deep. The tertiary fill, C357, was a blackish brown soft sandy silt with occasional stone and frequent charcoal inclusions measuring 0.64 m by 0.5 m by 0.08 m deep. This feature truncated post-hole C402.

Context C372

For a description of context C372 refer to context C371 (Cut)

Context C373

For a description of context C373 refer to context C371 (Cut)

Context C374

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C358, C375 & C376

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.97 m by 0.87 m by 0.2 m deep. It has a gradual break of slope top, concave sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. The primary fill, C376, was a greyish black soft sandy silt with frequent charcoal fleck inclusions measuring 0.87 m by 0.75 m by 0.07 m deep. The secondary fill, C375, was a light brown soft sandy silt middle fill C375 measuring 0.65 m by 0.1 m by 0.13 m deep. The tertiary fill, C358, was a dark brown soft sandy silt with charcoal fleck inclusions measuring 0.87 m by 0.85 m by 0.12 m deep.

Context C375

For a description of context C375 refer to context C374 (Cut)

Context C376

For a description of context C376 refer to context C374 (Cut)

Context C377

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C362

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.06 m in diameter by 0.11 m deep. It has a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a rounded, pointed base. It was filled by light orangey brown friable sandy silt C362 with occasional small stone inclusions.

Context C378

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C366

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.07 m in diameter by 0.07 m deep. It has a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, imperceptible break of slope base and a tapered point at base. It was filled by greyish black moderately compact silty clay C366 with charcoal inclusions. This feature truncated post-hole C370.

Context C379

For a description of context C379 refer to context C404 (Cut)

Context C380

For a description of context C380 refer to context C386 (Cut)

Context C381–C382

Cancelled

Context C383

For a description of context C383 refer to context C429 (Cut)

Context C384

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C353

This east–west orientated pit was an irregular oval shape in plan measuring 1.65 m by 0.7 m by 0.13 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid greyish brown friable silty clay C353 with frequent stone and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C385

For a description of context C385 refer to context C396 (Cut)

Context C386

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C380

This north-west–south-east orientated pit was oval in plan measuring 0.6 m by 0.51 m by 0.19 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid brown loose silty clay C380 with occasional small stone inclusions.

Context C387

For a description of context C387 refer to context C388 (Cut)

Context C388

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C387

This pit was circular in plan measuring 0.2 m in diameter by 0.13 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by light greyish brown loose sandy clay C387 with gravel and root inclusions.

Context C389

For a description of context C389 refer to context C397 (Cut)

Context C390

For a description of context C390 refer to context C398 (Cut)

Context C391

Cancelled

Context C392

For a description of context C392 refer to context C403 (Cut)

Context C394

Cancelled

Context C395

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C368

This north-west–south-east orientated pit was oval shape in plan measuring 0.63 m by 0.43 m by 0.23 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid greyish brown friable silty clay C368 with occasional stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C396

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C385

This post-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.4 m by 0.32 m by 0.2 m deep. It had gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by greyish brown moderately compact silty sand C385 with occasional small stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C397

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C389

This post-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.23 m by 21 m by 0.23 m deep. It has a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, imperceptible break of slope base and a rounded, pointed base. It was filled by mid brownish grey loose sandy clay C397 with charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C398

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C390

This post-hole was oval in plan measuring 0.23 m by 0.15 m by 0.11 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid greyish brown friable clayey silt C390 with frequent small stone and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C399–C400

Cancelled

Context C401

For a description of context C401 refer to context C402 (Cut)

Context C402

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C401

This post-hole was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.22 m in diameter by 0.12 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by light brown very soft sandy silt C401 with frequent small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. This feature was truncated by pit C371.

Context C403

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C392

This post-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.23 m in diameter by 0.13 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, sharp break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by black soft sandy silt C392 with frequent charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C404

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C379

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.49 m by 0.48 m by 0.13 m deep. It had sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid brown loose silty clay with C379 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C405

For a description of context C405 refer to context C406 (Cut)

Context C406

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C405

This stake-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.13 m by 0.11 m by 0.12 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a rounded, pointed base. It was filled by dark blackish brown clayey silt C405 with occasional small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C407

For a description of context C407 refer to context C408 (Cut)

Context C408

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C407

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.1 m in diameter by 0.08 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a rounded, pointed base. It was filled by mid greyish brown soft clayey C407 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C409
Cancelled

Context C410
For a description of context C410 refer to context C420 (Cut)

Context C411
For a description of context C411 refer to context C443 (Cut)

Context C412
For a description of context C412 refer to context C428 (Cut)

Context C413
For a description of context C413 refer to context C434 (Cut)

Context C414
For a description of context C414 refer to context C449 (Cut)

Context C415–C418
Cancelled

Context C419
For a description of context C419 refer to context C424 (Cut)

Context C420
Context Type: Post-hole
Fills: C410

This post-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.18 m in diameter by 0.2 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by dark greyish brown loose clayey silt C410 with frequent small stone inclusions.

Context C421
For a description of context C421 refer to context C427 (Cut)

Context C422
For a description of context C422 refer to context C439 (Cut)

Context C423
Cancelled

Context C424
Context Type: Post-hole
Fills: C419

This post-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.21 m by 0.19 m by 0.20 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by greyish black loose silty clay C419 with frequent charcoal fleck, stones and root inclusions.

Context C425–C426
Cancelled

Context C427
Context Type: Post-hole
Fills: C421

This north-west–south-east orientated post-hole was oval in plan measuring 0.3 m by 0.2 m by 0.15 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope base, gentle sloping sides to the south-west, undercut sides to the north-east, and steep sides elsewhere, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by blackish grey soft sand with frequent charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C428

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C412

This post-hole was oval in plan measuring 0.2 m by 0.1 m by 0.14 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, sharp break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by dark brownish grey loose sandy silty clay C412 with frequent charcoal fleck and occasional small stone inclusions.

Context 429

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C383

This north-west–south-east orientated pit was oval in plan measuring 0.51 m by 0.31 m by 0.12 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid brownish grey friable silty clay C383 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. This feature was truncated by furrow C260 and stake-hole C436.

Context C430

For a description of context C430 refer to context C431 (Cut)

Context C431

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C430

This stake-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.08 m by 0.06 m by 0.07 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by dark blackish brown soft clayey silt C430 with occasional charcoal inclusions.

Context C432–C433

Cancelled

Context C434

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C413

This post-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.2 m in diameter by 0.12 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid greyish brown silty clay C413 with occasional charcoal fleck and small stone inclusions.

Context C435

For a description of context C435 refer to context C436 (Cut)

Context C436

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C435

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.08 m in diameter by 0.09 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by mid greyish brown loose silty clay C435. This feature truncated pit C429.

Context C437

For a description of context C437 refer to context C440 (Cut)

Context C438

For a description of context C438 refer to context C441 (Cut)

Context C439

Context Type: Ditch

Fills: C422

This north–south orientated ditch was linear in plan measuring 17 m by 0.87 m by 0.28 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, concave sides, gradual break of slope base and a tapered point at base

giving the feature a v-shaped profile. It was filled by light brown soft sandy silt C422 with occasional charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions. This feature was located beneath the topsoil and truncated pit C479, post-holes C496 and C538, possible field boundary C260 and furrow C262.

Context C440

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C437

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.08 m in diameter by 0.12 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by dark brown soft sandy silt C437 with charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C441

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C438

This post-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.19 m in diameter by 0.12 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, sharp break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by light brown soft sandy silt C438 with charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C442

For a description of context C442 refer to context C447 (Cut)

Context C443

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C411

This post-hole was oval in plan measuring 0.3 m by 0.23 m by 0.09 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid greyish brown loose sandy silt C411 with occasional small stone inclusions.

Context C444

For a description of context C444 refer to context C451 (Cut)

Context C445

For a description of context C445 refer to context C450 (Cut)

Context C446

For a description of context C446 refer to context C448 (Cut)

Context C447

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C442

This stake-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.06 m by 0.05 m by 0.13 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, imperceptible break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by mid greyish brown loose sandy clay C442 with small pebble and root inclusions.

Context C448

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C446

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.07 m in diameter by 0.1 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by dark greyish brown loose silty clay C446 with occasional charcoal fleck and small pebble inclusions.

Context C449

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C414

This post-hole was oval in plan measuring 0.3 m by 0.14 m by 0.05 m deep. It had sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid brownish grey loose silty sand C414 with occasional small stone inclusions.

Context C450

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C445

This stake-hole was oval in plan measuring 0.08 m by 0.05 m by 0.11 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by dark brown loose silty clay C445 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C451

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C444

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.06 m in diameter by 0.13 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by dark brownish grey loose silty clay C444 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C452

For a description of context C452 refer to context C460 (Cut)

Context C453

For a description of context C453 refer to context C454 (Cut)

Context C454

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C453

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.15 m in diameter by 0.06 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid greyish brown soft silty clay C453 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C455

For a description of context C455 refer to context C456 (Cut)

Context C456

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C455

This stake-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.1 m by 0.07 m by 0.07 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by mid blackish brown firm silty clay C455 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C457

For a description of context C457 refer to context C459 (Cut)

Context C458

Cancelled

Context C459

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C457

This pit was sub-circular shape in plan measuring 0.62 m by 0.58 m by 0.26 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid brown loose silty clay C457 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C460

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C452

This post-hole was circular in plan, measuring 0.18 m in diameter in 0.07 m deep. It has a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by dark greyish

brown friable silty clay C452 with occasional small stone and charcoal inclusions. This feature was truncated by furrow C466.

Context C461

For a description of context C461 refer to context C466 (Cut)

Context C462

For a description of context C462 refer to context C479 (Cut)

Context C463

For a description of context C463 refer to context C496 (Cut)

Context C464–C465

Cancelled

Context C466

Context Type: Furrow

Fills: C461

This east–west orientated furrow was linear in plan measuring 2.3 m by 0.35 m by 0.06 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and concave base. It was filled by mid greyish brown friable sandy silt C461 with frequent stones and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. This feature truncated post-hole C460.

Context C467

Cancelled

Context C468

For a description of context C468 refer to context C473 (Cut)

Context C469

For a description of context C469 refer to context C477 (Cut)

Context C470

For a description of context C470 refer to context C472 (Cut)

Context C471

For a description of context C471 refer to context C509 (Cut)

Context C472

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C470

This post-hole was oval in plan measuring 0.25 m by 0.22 m by 0.1 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base sloping slightly to the east. It was filled by dark greyish brown friable silty clay C470 with occasional small stones and occasional charcoal inclusions.

Context C473

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C468

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.09 m in diameter by 0.2 m deep. It has a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a rounded, pointed base. It was filled by mid greyish brown friable sandy silt C468 with occasional charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions.

Context C474

For a description of context C474 refer to context C491 (Cut)

Context C475
Cancelled

Context C476
For a description of context C476 refer to context C482 (Cut)

Context C477
Context Type: Stake-hole
Fills: C469

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.04 m in diameter by 0.08 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a rounded, pointed base. It was filled by mid greyish black friable sandy silt C469 with occasional small stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C478
For a description of context C478 refer to context C479 (Cut)

Context C479
Context Type: Pit
Fills: C462 & C478

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.56 m by 0.45 m by 0.29 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, sharp break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by dark grey soft sandy silt primary fill C478 with occasional charcoal inclusions, and light brown soft sandy silt secondary fill C462 and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. This feature was truncated by ditch C439.

Context C480
For a description of context C480 refer to context C494 (Cut)

Context C481
For a description of context C481 refer to context C499 (Cut)

Context C482
Context Type: Pit
Fills: C476

This pit was oval in plan measuring 0.36 m by 0.26 m by 0.11 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid brown loose silty clay C476 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C483–C487
Cancelled

Context C488
For a description of context C488 refer to context C489 (Cut)

Context C489
Context Type: Stake-hole
Fills: C488

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.06 m in diameter by 0.07 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid greyish brown loose silty clay C488 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C490
Cancelled

Context C491

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C474

This post-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.2 m by 0.18 m by 0.16 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, imperceptible break of slope base and an irregular flat base. It was filled by dark blackish grey friable silty clay C474 with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small stone inclusions.

Context C492

For a description of context C492 refer to context C493 (Cut)

Context C493

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C492

This stake-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.12 m by 0.11 m by 0.17 m deep. It had sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, imperceptible break of slope base and rounded, pointed base. C493 was filled by mid greyish brown loose sandy clay C492 with occasional small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C494

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C480

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.08 m in diameter by 0.15 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope base, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by mid greyish brown loose silty clay C480 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C496

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C497 & C463

This post-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.6 m in diameter by 0.3 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, steep sides, sharp break of slope and flat base. It was filled by dark grey soft sandy silt primary fill C497 measuring 0.6 m by 0.6 m by 0.04 m with occasional charcoal flecks and occasional small stone inclusions, and dark brown soft sandy silt secondary fill C463 measuring 0.6 m by 0.6 m by 0.26 m with occasional small stone and charcoal fleck inclusions and two large unworked stones (probable packing stones). This feature was truncated by ditch C439.

Context C497

For a description of context C497 refer to context C496 (Cut)

Context C498

For a description of context C498 refer to context C499 (Cut)

Context C499

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C481 & C498

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.55 m by 0.5 m by 0.12 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by dark blackish brown oxidised silty clay primary fill C498 measuring 0.4 m by 0.29 m by 0.02 m deep with mottled red patches and frequent charcoal fleck inclusions and light orangey brown firm silty clay secondary fill C481 measuring 0.55 m by 0.5 m by 0.1 m with occasional large charcoal flecks.

Context C500

Cancelled

Context C501

For a description of context C501 refer to context C506 (Cut)

Context C502

For a description of context C502 refer to context C505 (Cut)

Context C503

For a description of context C503 refer to context C508 (Cut)

Context C504

For a description of context C504 refer to context C519 (Cut)

Context C505

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C502

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 2.2 m by 1.8 m by 1.97 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gradually sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid brown loose silty clay C502 with occasional small and medium sized stones and charcoal fleck and chunk inclusions. This feature was truncated by furrow C506 and was cut into the underlying subsoil. This feature was not fully excavated as it extended beyond the eastern limits of excavation of the site and the road take of the project.

Context C506

Context Type: Furrow

Fills: C501

This east–west orientated furrow was linear in plan measuring 6 m by 0.35 m by 0.1 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gradually sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by light greyish brown friable silty clay C501 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. This feature truncated pits C505 and C548.

Context C507

For a description of context C507 refer to context C524 (Cut)

Context C508

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C503

This stake-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.21 m by 0.12 m by 0.09 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, vertical sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid greyish brown moderately compact silty sand C503 with occasional charcoal flecks.

Context C509

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C471

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.32 m by 0.22 m by 0.07 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gradually sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and an irregular concave base. It was filled by dark greyish brown firm silty clay C471 with very frequent charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C510

Cancelled

Context C511

For a description of context C511 refer to context C520 (Cut)

Context C512

For a description of context C512 refer to context C513 (Cut)

Context C513

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C512

This stake-hole was sub-square in plan with well rounded corners, measuring 0.2 m by 0.18 m by 0.14 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and flat base. It was filled by light orangey brown soft silty clay C512 with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C514–C515

Cancelled

Context C516

For a description of context C516 refer to context C539 (Cut)

Context C517

For a description of context C517 refer to context C529 (Cut)

Context C518

Cancelled

Context C519

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C504

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.79 m by 0.67 m by 0.29 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, concave sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by dark brown soft sandy silt C504 with occasional small stone and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C520

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C511

This post-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.42 m by 0.39 m by 0.11 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by greyish brown moderately compact sandy silt C511 with charcoal flecks and small stone inclusions.

Context C521

For a description of context C521 refer to context C524 (Cut)

Context C522

For a description of context C522 refer to context C524 (Cut)

Context C523

For a description of context C523 refer to context C524 (Cut)

Context C524

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C507, C521, C522 & C523

This pit was sub-circular shape in plan measuring 0.7 m by 0.6 m by 0.28 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep, undercut sides, sharp break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled light greyish brown friable clayey silt primary fill C523 measuring 0.7 m by 0.5 m by 0.13 m deep with small stone inclusions. The secondary fill, C522, was a light brown and orange firm silty clay with frequent small stones and occasional charcoal inclusions measuring 0.7 m by 0.6 m by 0.06 m deep. The tertiary fill, C521, was a mid greyish brown friable silty clay with occasional small stones and charcoal fleck inclusions measuring 0.7 m by 0.6 m by 0.16 m deep. The quaternary fill, C507, was a mid brownish grey friable silty clay with frequent small and medium sized stones and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions measuring 0.7 m by 0.6 m by 0.09 m.

Context C525

For a description of context C525 refer to context C526 (Cut)

Context C526

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C525

This stake-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.08 m by 0.07 m by 0.06 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid orangey brown loose clayey silt C525.

Context C527 and C528

Cancelled

Context C529

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C517

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.5 m by 0.48 m by 0.12 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by light brown soft clayey silt C517 with frequent large stones and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C530

For a description of context C530 refer to context C533 (Cut)

Context C531

For a description of context C531 refer to context C532 (Cut)

Context C532

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C531

This stake-hole was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.1 m by 0.09 m by 0.15 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, imperceptible break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by mid orangey brown soft clayey silt C531.

Context C533

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C530

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.04 m in diameter by 0.05 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, steep sides, sharp break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by greyish brown moderately compact silty sand C530.

Context C534

Cancelled

Context C535

For a description of context C535 refer to context C538 (Cut)

Context C536

For a description of context C536 refer to context C537 (Cut)

Context C537

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C536

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.08 m in diameter by 0.12 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope base, steep sides, sharp break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by greyish brown moderately compact sandy silt C536.

Context C538

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: C535

This post-hole was circular in plan, measuring 0.15 m in diameter by 0.12 m deep. It has a sharp break of slope top, gradually sloping sides, imperceptible break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by dark brown soft sandy silt C535 with occasional charcoal inclusions. This feature was truncated by ditch C439.

Context C539

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C516

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.6 m by 0.56 m by 0.38 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gentle sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by brown soft sandy silt C516 with occasional large stones and charcoal fleck inclusions.

Context C540–C544

Cancelled

Context C545

For a description of context C545 refer to context C547 (Cut)

Context C546

For a description of context C546 refer to context C552 (Cut)

Context C547

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: C545

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.1 m in diameter by 0.12 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, sharp break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by dark brown soft sandy silt C545.

Context C548

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C549 & C550

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.67 m by 0.6 m by 0.35 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by light brown loose silty clay upper fill C549 measuring 0.67 m by 0.6 m by 0.29 m deep with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions, and mid brown loose silty sand lower fill C550 measuring 0.4 m by 0.3 m by 0.06 m deep. This feature was truncated by furrow C506.

Context C549

For a description of context C549 refer to context C548 (Cut)

Context C550

For a description of context C550 refer to context C548 (Cut)

Context C551

For a description of context C551 refer to context C554 (Cut)

Context C552

Context Type: Pit

Fills: C546 & C553

This pit was irregular sub-circular in plan, measuring 1.78 m by 0.89 m by 0.42 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, sharp break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by mid brown soft clayey silt primary fill C553 measuring 1.78 m by 0.89 m by 0.17 m deep with occasional pebbles and charcoal fleck inclusions and light brown soft clayey silt secondary fill C546, measuring 1.78 m by 0.89 m by 0.25 m deep with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions, and.

Context C553

For a description of context C553 refer to context C552 (Cut)

Context C554

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: 551

This stake-hole was circular in plan measuring 0.05 m in diameter by 0.07 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, vertical sides, imperceptible break of slope base and a pointed base. It was filled by brownish grey loose sandy clay C551 with gravel inclusions.

Context C555

For a description of context C555 refer to context C556 (Cut)

Context C556

Context Type: Post-hole

Fills: 555

This pit was sub-circular in plan measuring 0.26 m by 0.23 m by 0.2 m deep. It had a sharp break of slope top, gradually sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. C556 was filled by dark brown loose silty clay C555 with occasional charcoal inclusions.

Context C557

For a description of context C557 refer to context C558 (Cut)

Context C558

Context Type: Stake-hole

Fills: 557

This stake-hole was circular in plan, measuring 0.05 m in diameter by 0.11 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gentle sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a concave base. It was filled by mid brown loose silty clay C557 with occasional charcoal inclusions.

Context C559

For a description of context C559 refer to context C562 (Cut)

Context C560–C561

Cancelled

Context C562

Context Type: Pit

Fills: 559

This pit was sub-circular in plan, measuring 0.75 m by 0.65 m by 0.08 m deep. It had a gradual break of slope top, gradually sloping sides, gradual break of slope base and a flat base. It was filled by firm light yellowish grey silty clay C559 with frequent small stones and occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

4. Interpretation & Discussion of Stratigraphy

4.1 Interpretation of the Archaeological Stratigraphy

Rossfinch Site 2 consisted of three areas, Areas A–C, of which Area B contained no archaeological features or deposits. The greatest quantity of features and deposits were located within Area A where several concentrations of stake-holes and post-holes formed a possible outer fence line to a rectangular structure. Other features included a corn drying kiln and several modern agricultural features. Area C consisted of two stake-holes, four pits and two large furrows or lazy-beds. Though only a limited stratigraphy was observed on site, three phases of activity were identified on Area A and two on Area B.

Area A

Within the southern half of Area A (see fig 14) three separate groups of features, all of which consisted of pits, post-holes and stake-holes could be seen. Located at the south-west corner of the site, and contained within an area measuring approximately 10 m by 10 m, were five stake-holes (C110, C121, C145, C146 and C152), four post-holes (C93, C94, C95 and C116) and eight pits (C46, C119, C139, C140, C157, C160, C170 and C278). Apart from pits C119 and C157, all of these features contained a single fill. Pits C46, C119, C139 and C140 were truncated by several furrows with pit C119 truncated by stake-hole C121. The pit contained two fills, C117 and C118 with fill C117 a layer of red oxidised subsoil rather than an actual fill. This indicated that *in situ* burning took place within C119 or loose black upper fill C118, which contained burnt bone, had been deposited into C119 while hot. Pit C157 contained three fills, C151, C158 and C159, all of which contained occasional charcoal inclusions and may show successive deposits of domestic waste material.

Two further groups of features were located within the southern half of the site, one to the north of the south-west concentration and one to the north-east. The smaller of the two, the one located to the north, was formed by pits, C287 and C288, and post-holes, C192, C193 and

C196. The three post-holes all contained single fills with frequent charcoal flecks and stone inclusions. These fills, C182, C183 and C185 respectively, may be representative of packing material left *in situ* after the posts had been removed. They were all cut into the underlying subsoil and were situated in a south-west–north-east orientated linear fashion that extended for c. 2 m. However, these did not correspond to any other feature so the nature of the structure these formed was unclear. The two pits were located to the west of these post-holes. Pit C288 was cut into the underlying subsoil and had a single fill, C240, which contained occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. It was overlain by fill C239 of pit C287 (Fig. 8) which formed the primary fill of C287; this was a heavily oxidised fill that may indicate the presence of *in situ* burning after an initial period of backfilling. Pit C287 also contained a further three fills C211, C238 and C245. Fill C211 was a dark charcoal rich silty layer which contained burnt bone and a lens of particularly charcoal rich material, C245. The upper-most fill, C238, was a compact clay fill which may represent redeposited subsoil being placed into the remainder of the cut.

The second, and larger, group of features comprised a total of 18 features: two post-holes (C64 and C350), six stake-holes (C241, C242, C243, C360, C367 and C436), eight pits (C71, C306, C323, C326, C386, C395, C404 and C429), kiln C97 and spread C355. Though it could be suggested, based on location evidence, that the majority of the features within this group were associated with the kiln, none contained any positive evidence of comparable activity. Only two other features were found to contain charred cereal grain in this area: stake-hole C241, located within the base of kiln C93, and pit C287. The grain from C287, though not identified to type, was retrieved from the Bronze Age dated fill of this feature. It would appear that pit C287 was comparable in date and activity to the northern area of the site. Further Bronze Age evidence from this group of features was obtained from pit C429. Pit C429 contained a single fill, C383, which had frequent charcoal fleck inclusions and a sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery. It had been cut into the underlying subsoil and truncated to the north by ditch C260 and to the east by stake-hole C436. Not counting the post-medieval activity represented by C260, this would appear to show two phases of activity within this area which, possibly shows that several of the features were in fact related to the kiln which was radiocarbon dated to the early medieval period.

Kiln C97 was the largest of the features in this group, measuring 3.45 m by 1.8 m (max) by 1.8 m deep and it may be that the majority of the features within this group, notably those located adjacent to kiln C97, were contemporary. Three of the stake-holes, C241, C242 and

C243, were clearly associated with kiln C97 being placed along the western internal edge. These stake-holes may represent some form of light weight structure associated with the kiln, possibly an internal drying rack or some sort of support for a cover or superstructure. The kiln contained 15 fills (C62, C66, C86, C87, C88, C89, C90, C92, C96, C186, C200, C201, C202, C206 and



Plate 3. Post-Ex photograph of kiln C97; from east

C207) with the lower 10 (C88, C89, C92, C96, C186, C200, C201, C202, C206 and C207) consisting of successive layers of oxidised silty clay and charcoal rich silts. This stratigraphic arrangement represented different phases of *in situ* burning with the kiln not being cleaned out after successive firings. These successive 'firings' would appear to have occurred within a short period of time of each other as no build up of material between the burning events was evident.

From the location of the heat affected natural and the charcoal rich and oxidised layers the fire spot was located at the south-west of the cut; this was the widest area of the kiln. The medial and upper fills, C62, C86, C87 and C90, contained less charcoal but occasional inclusions were noted throughout. During excavation, five of the kiln fills, C62, C88, C90, C92 and C186, were found to include burnt bone which may indicate domestic waste being burnt within the kiln during the firing process. However as C62 and C90 were part of the upper fills it may be that domestic waste was backfilled into the kiln after use. The palaeoenvironmental analysis also identified the remains of charred cereal grain from these contexts, combined with the inclusions of burnt bone, it is likely that the domestic waste was related to the kiln activity and as such deposited directly after use. A further nine contexts, C86–C89, C92, C186, C201, C202 and C206, were also found to contain charred cereal grain.

Three of the pits, C323, C326 and C386 which lay immediately north-west of kiln C97, were all cut into the underlying subsoil and all had similar single fills, C313, C321 and C380 respectively. A further three pits, C306 to the north and C395 and C404 to the north-west of kiln C97, had similar single fills that contained occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. Pit C71, also north-west of kiln C97, had three fills, C68, C69 and C70, of which upper fill C68 contained inclusions of occasional charcoal flecks. None of these features contained any

evidence to suggest their function and they were all cut into the underlying subsoil. At the north of this group two stake-holes, C360 and C367, were excavated. They were cut into the underlying subsoil and were sealed by the small oxidised deposit C355. This could represent a small hearth including some form of light weight structure as indicated by the two stake-holes. Two post-holes were located at the east extent of this group of features. C64 was located at the south-west of kiln C97 and C350 was located at the north-east. C64 contained a single fill, C63, and contained occasional charcoal fleck inclusions whereas C350 contained two sterile fills, C340 and C349. One feature, post-hole C60 was located in isolation to the east of kiln C97. This was comparable to post-hole C64 in that it also contained a single fill with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

A further three features, stake-holes C198 and C224 and pit C34 were located in isolation in the southern half of the site; stake-hole C198, lay c. 3 m north-east of pit C46 and stake-hole, C224, lay c. 6 m north-west of pit C46. A large pit, C34, was irregularly oval in shape and had an irregularly cut base partially intruded upon by a large bedrock outcrop that made up the majority of the south-eastern corner of Area A. The fill, C33, had frequent charcoal flecks and medium and large stone inclusions. It was suggested that, due to the very stony nature of this fill, that this feature was most likely the result of field clearance.

Within the northern half of the site all but one feature was located within an area at the east of the site measuring approximately 20 m by 30 m. This isolated feature, post-hole C396, was located to the north-west of kiln C97 and contained a single fill. From its location it is possible that it was associated with the activity to the south of linears C260 and C262. The remaining features located within the northern area can be seen to form several concentrations, much the same as the features located to the south. As detailed in the preliminary report, during the excavations these were seen to principally form a central rectangular structure which was partially enclosed by a semicircular fence line. However, the dating evidence received would suggest that at least two phase of prehistoric activity occurred within this area.

The greatest concentration of features was located centrally. This consisted of 28 features: 12 post-holes (C296, C398, C403, C420, C424, C428, C434, C443, C449, C460, C472 and C538), 13 stake-holes (C292, C293, C294, C297, C344, C345, C448, C451, C450, C473, C477, C489 and C494), and three pits (C295, C459 and C482). None of these features interacted stratigraphically with C460 and C538 the only features to be truncated by later agricultural activity. The post-holes located within this area appeared to form a rectangular structure

measuring c. 3.5 m by 5 m with a possible internal division. Post-holes C398, C403, C472 and C538 appeared to form the corners with post-hole C424 located along the path of the projected northern wall and C296 located along the eastern. Post-hole C460 was located immediately south of post-hole C424 and may represent an attempt to support or fix this length of wall. The final five post-holes (C420, C428, C434, C443 and C449) appeared to form the possible internal divide. All of the post-holes contained a single fill, with the fill of C434, C413, containing a sherd of Middle Bronze Age pottery.

The three pits, C295, C459 and C482, all contained a single fill, C284, C457 and C476 respectively, which were similar in composition and contained charcoal fleck inclusions. Pits C459 and C482 were located adjacent to each other within the western area of the structure with C295 located within the eastern. The stake-holes appeared to be arranged in groups. One group, consisting of C448, C450, C451 and C489, was located to the east of pits C459 and C482. Extending from the south of pit C295 were three stake-holes, C292–C294, and the third group was located to the north-east; this third group consisted of five stake-holes, C343–C345, C473 and C477. Two isolated stake-holes were also excavated within this area with C494 located to the south of post-hole C460 and within the internal area of the rectangular structure. The second, C297, appeared to be external to the structure being located to the south-east of post-hole C296.

Two smaller groups were located adjacent to the central concentration, one to the north-west and the second to the east. The group to the north-west consisted of seven features: four stake-holes (C431, C447, C454 and C456), two pits (C499 and C509) and a single post-hole (C491). These features did not form a notable pattern, though both pits were located furthest to the north and the stake-holes and post-hole were located near to the possible rectangular structure. All seven of these features contained a single fill apart from pit C499 which contained two fills. The lower fill of pit C499, C498, was oxidised with frequent charcoal inclusions, suggesting *in situ* burning, and the upper fill, C481, contained occasional charcoal fleck inclusions similar to the fill of pit C509. The south-east group consisted of two stake-holes, C302 and C303, both of which contained a single fill.

Three groups of features were located to the south of the central concentration. The group furthest to the west consisted of three features, post-holes C427 and C441, and stake-hole C440. All three features were filled by a single fill. A group of four pits (C356, C371, C374 and C479) and two post-holes (C402 and C496) were located directly to the south of the central

concentration. Pit C356 contained a single fill compared to the other pits which contained a multiple of fills; pit C479 had two fills (C462 and C478) and pits C371 and C374 had three fills (C357, C372 and C373, and C358, C375 and C376 respectively). All of the pit fills were dark and charcoal rich. Pit C371 had also truncated post-hole C402 which contained a single fill, C401. The second post-hole, C496, was located c. 2 m east of these pits and contained two fills; deep upper fill C363 which contained charcoal flecks and two large unworked stones that were likely packing stones, and very shallow lower fill C497 which also contained occasional charcoal flecks. A single isolated feature, C361, was located between these two groups of features. The most easterly of the three groups located to the south of the central group consisted of four stake-holes (C319, C324-C325 and C547), and a single post-hole (C320). All five features contained a single fill. Unlike the other two groups these features appeared to form a single arc of features extending for approximately three meters.

Two groups were located to the east of the central concentration. The smallest of these consisted of two features, post-hole C513 and stake-hole C526. Like the majority of features excavated within the Area A these contained a single fill and were cut into the underlying subsoil and below the topsoil. Though these two features were located adjacent to each other and a relationship may be inferred, they appeared to be in isolation from the surrounding features. To the north of this small group, and to the east of the central concentration, was a group of 13 features within an area measuring approximately 5 m by 5 m. This consisted of six pits (C519, C524, C529, C539, C552 and C562), five stake-holes (C532, C533, C537, C554, and C558) and two post-holes (C520 and C556). Pits C519, C529, C539 and C562 all contained a single fill that appeared to be similar in composition; these fills, C504, C517, C516 and C559 respectively, were all silty fills with occasional charcoal fleck inclusions. Pit C552 contained two fills, C546 and C553, the upper of which (C546) was similar to the previous pit fills with occasional charcoal inclusions while the lower fill was more clayey. Pit C524 contained four fills, C507, C521, C522 and C523, all of which were clay fills with occasional charcoal inclusions with the exception of the lowest fill, C523, which contained no charcoal. All of the stake-holes and post-hole C520 were located between pit C519 at the north and pits C562 and C552 at the south. The second post-hole, C556, was located at the southern edge of pit C552. Though there appeared to be a general order to the arrangement of stake-holes and post-holes, particularly those appearing between the pits, no clear structure was discernable. None of these features interacted stratigraphically and as such it can be suggested that they were all contemporary.

A further three groups of features were located to the north of the central concentration, the nearest of which consisted of 11 features which formed an arc, possibly respecting the central structure. This group consisted of six stake-holes (C377, C378, C406, C408, C493 and C508), three post-holes (C370, C388 and C397) and two pits (C384 and C548). Pit C548, which contained two fills was located at the south-eastern extent of this group and had been truncated by furrow C506. The second pit, C384, was located almost centrally along the arc of features. This feature, though containing a single fill and being larger in size than C548, was similar in that its fill was also seen to contain charcoal inclusions. With the exception of stake-hole C378 and post-hole C370, the stake-holes and post-holes were filled by a single fill. Stake-hole C378 had truncated post-hole C370 which likely shows a support had been placed next to the post within C370 or a repair had to have been made. To the north-east of the curvilinear group of features were located seven stake-holes (C222, C236, C237, C255, C257, C276 and C277,) and a single post-hole (C223). All of these features contained a single fill.

Five pits (C289, C307, C316, C339 and C347) spaced approximately three meters apart formed an east–west orientated arc at the north-western extent of the site. Three of these pits, C289, C307 and C316, with the fill of pit C289 being sterile; the fill of the other two pits contained inclusions of charcoal. Pit C316 had also been truncated by stake-hole C342; this was the only stratigraphic arrangement observed. The other two pits were seen to contain several fills. Pit C339 contained three, C298, C314 and C315, with the lower fill (C315) identified as sterile but the middle fill and upper fill, C314 and C315 respectively, contained occasional charcoal flecks and stone inclusions. Pit C347 was a large pit, measuring 2.7 m by 1.6 m by 0.31 m deep, and contained two fills, C346 and C263. The lower fill C346 was sterile but upper fill C263 had occasional charcoal fleck inclusions.

Another very large pit, C505, extended out from the eastern baulk of the site. This feature was not fully excavated as it extended beyond the eastern limits of excavation of the site and the road take of the project. It measured 2.2 m by 1.8 m by 1.97 m deep and contained single fill C502 with occasional stones and charcoal fleck inclusions. This feature was truncated by furrow C506 and was cut into the underlying subsoil. No evidence was recovered from this pit to suggest a function for it.

The latest activity recorded on site appeared to consist of a single linear feature. This feature, C439 differed from the other linear features located within Area A in that it was orientated north–south; all the other linear features shared an east-west orientation. As well as

truncating two post-holes, C496 and C538, and pit C479, it had also truncated two east–west orientated linear features; C260 and C262. All of these east–west orientated features (C56, C99, C103, C123, C124, C131, C175, C177, C244, C260, C262, C466 and C506), with the exception of C260, were agricultural furrows that shared similar dimensions and profiles, as well as a similar orientation. C260 was larger than the furrows and likely represents a redundant field boundary. All of these furrows, as well as C260, appeared to be of a similar phase of activity, though no direct dating evidence was retrieved from any of the east–west orientated features, a probable late 18th century halfpenny or farthing (see Appendix 9.5) retrieved from the fill of C439 would date this group to the post-medieval period at the latest. Only six of the east–west orientated features were found to truncate earlier features. C43 truncated pit C46, C103 truncated pit C119, C131 truncated pits C139 and C140, C260 truncated pit C429, C466 truncated post-hole C460 and C506 truncated pits C505 and C548. With the exception of C506, all of these features were located within the southern half of the site.

Area C

All of the features excavated within Area C were located below the topsoil and cut into the underlying natural parent material. Of the eight features excavated within Area C only pit C20 contained more than one fill; C20 was filled by two fills, C10 and C19. Though the observed stratigraphy was limited, from the nature of the features excavated two phases could be identified. The four pits all shared similar fills with occasional charcoal inclusions. However, C52, the fill of C53 contained frequent medium sized and sub-angular shaped stones inclusions. These inclusions were similar to pits excavated within the townland of Rossfinch and Ballynahinch which were interpreted as probable post medieval field clearance. The remaining pits, C20, C21 and C4, may all be related; all shared similar fills and were located within close proximity to each other. From the radiocarbon date received from C18, the fill of C21, these pits, if related, would be Bronze Age in date. The remaining features excavated were two stake-holes, C11 and C12, located almost centrally within Area C. Both had sterile single fills (C7 and C6 respectively) suggesting that the stakes were removed rather than burnt or decomposed *in situ*. These may have been from a comparable period as the possible Bronze Age pits. Though this conclusion is only a tentative one, the stake-holes did not appear to be associated with the two linear features; if these were the fragmentary remains of a redundant fence line their orientation would not match that of the linear features.

The latest of these two phases appeared to consist of two ditches, C39 and C50, were located at the south-western extent of Site C, orientated northwest-southeast and were 5 m apart. Both had single fills, C5 and C17 respectively, with C5 containing occasional charcoal flecks. The matching orientation of the features along with their shallow profile suggests they were part of a furrow system or, as they were quite wide (0.65 m to 1.5 m wide), a lazy-bed system. The fills contained no other evidence to suggest a date; however their orientation mirrored that of the field boundary to the south. This boundary changed slightly between the publication of the 1st and 2nd Edition OSi mapping of the area and it is possible that these features became defunct at this time.

4.2 Discussion

During the course of the excavation, and detailed in the Preliminary Report, Area C was identified as of minor agricultural activity and Area A as consisting of three phases of activity; the earliest, and most extensive, was believed to consist of the smaller features, namely the pits, post-holes and stake-holes and likely Bronze Age in date. The two later periods of activity were seen to consist of two episodes of post-medieval agricultural activity. The Bronze Age activity was seen to consist of cremations and related activity to the south of possible field boundary C260 and two structures to the north. These conclusions were formulated from the limited stratigraphy encountered during the course of the excavations and the recovery of burnt bone and several shards of prehistoric pottery. However, the results of the post-excavation analyses identified four phases of activity, predominately Bronze Age in date though with both early medieval and post-medieval/early modern phases also recorded. The earliest activity was recorded within Area A with both Early and Middle Bronze Age radiocarbon dates returned. Further Bronze Age activity was recorded within Area C, this was later than the activity within Area A being from the Late Bronze Age. None of this Bronze Age activity was identified as ritual or funerary in nature; all of the burnt bone was found to be animal and the pottery a domestic variant. The early medieval activity was only positively identified within one feature, C93, a corn drying kiln.

4.2.1 Area A: Bronze Age Activity

The Bronze Age activity within Area A consisted of two structures; one located centrally within the northern half and the second a light weight penannular structure encompassing the rectangular structure. A number of stake-holes, post-holes and pits were located throughout the area. However, as both Early and Middle Bronze Age activity was recorded on Area A it is unclear whether or not these were associated with the structures. The earliest activity was obtained from pit C374 and post-hole C556 both of which were located in one of the outlying groups. Charcoal, identified as hazel in both cases, returned comparable radiocarbon dates showing activity at the end of the third/beginning of the second millennium BC (Beta-258994 and Beta-258995). Further Early Bronze Age activity was obtained from ash charcoal from C296, one of the structural elements of the possible central structure, which returned a date of 1900–1690 cal. BC (Beta-258993). A Middle Bronze Age date, though early on in this period, was also obtained from one of the structural elements of the possible central structure; this date, 1690–1500 cal. BC (Beta-258993) was obtained from ash charcoal from C428. One further date, 1880–1630 cal. BC (Beta-258997) from ash charcoal, was obtained from the northern area; this was obtained from C406, one of the features forming part of the penannular structure. These dates clearly show continued activity from the middle of the Early Bronze Age into the early Middle Bronze Age across Area A, particularly when the dates from the southern area of the site are taken into account.

The rectangular structure was dated to the end of the Early Bronze Age. Later, Middle Bronze Age activity was recorded within the structure through both radiocarbon dating and the recovery of a sherd of Middle Bronze Age domestic cordoned urn. A similar fragment was obtained from pit C429 to the south which was radiocarbon dated to 1680–1500 cal. BC (Beta-258998). This date is comparable to the date obtained from post-hole C428 within the internal area of the rectangular structure. It is unclear whether this shows later activity unrelated to the rectangular structure or whether or not this shows continued/repeated occupation of the structure. Fifteen post-holes and stake-holes were located within the central area of the structure, with a further five stake-holes located directly to the south-east of the southern wall. Unlike the features forming the walls of this structure, these internal features were closely spaced. The three pits located within the internal area, C295, C459 and C482, all contained charcoal rich fills but showed no evidence of *in situ* burning. This would suggest that the features were used for the disposal of waste rather than acting as a hearth

like feature; it is likely that a hearth, if one had been located within the internal area of the structure, had been destroyed by C447.

Though inconclusive, there is evidence to suggest that there was an enclosing fence line to the rectangular structure that was both light weight and penannular in nature. Two separate arcs of post-holes and stake-holes can be seen, one to the north-east and the second to the south-east. In addition post-holes C427 and C441 and stake-hole C440 may have also formed part of this enclosing fence line. The orientation and the curvature of the arc of each individual group of features appeared to respect the structure. Interestingly these were all located approximately seven meters away from the structure. It is unclear whether or not the three sections represent the actual full extent of the enclosing fence line, which would have been segmented, or were the surviving remains of a fully encompassing fence.

Two groups of features (pits C356, C371, C374, C479, C519, C524, C529, C539, C552 and C562; stake-holes, C532, C533, C537, C554, and C558; and post-holes, C402, C496, C520 and C556) were located along the length of the fence line. However it would appear that a number of these features were of an earlier phase of activity. Dates from these two groups of features were comparable to each other and earlier than those obtained for both the structure and the fence line; a date of 2190–1940 cal. BC (Beta-258994) was obtained from post-hole C556 and a date of 2280–2030 cal. BC (Beta-258995) was obtained from pit C374. In addition, none of the stake-holes or post-holes appeared to be related to the enclosing fence line in that no well defined arc was noted. Later activity was noted as post-hole C402 was truncated by pit C371. It is interesting to note that charred cereal grain, though of an indeterminate type, was recovered from pit C371 and also from a number of other features associated with the central and enclosing structure. Pit C524 also contained charred indeterminate cereal grain and it may be that these two pits were associated with the structural activity. In addition, if these features were associated with the structures, it can be postulated, if pits were being excavated between the lengths of post-holes and stake-holes forming the enclosing fence line, that this was indeed segmented.

Two other concentrations of features were also seen within the northern half of Area A, both of which were located north of the rectangular structure. The first group of features consisted of eight stake-holes with two further stake-holes located to the north, though in an isolated position. No clear pattern was formed by these stake-holes nor was there any dating evidence obtained. It is likely however that these represent further prehistoric activity. The second

group, a series of five pits, did not clearly relate to the activity further to the south. From the size of pits C289, C339 and C347, and C505, it could be suggested that these were field clearance pits, comparable to other examples located elsewhere within Rossfinch Td. and the neighbouring townland of Ballynahinch.

A number of features located across the southern half of Area A may have been associated with one of the two phases of Bronze Age activity located within the northern half. The arrangement of post-holes and stake-holes in the south-west corner, if contemporary these formed a roughly semi-circular shape possibly structural in nature. Two pits, which appeared to contain domestic waste, were located adjacent to this possible structure, though as one of the stake-holes had truncated one of these pits it could be that two distinct phases of activity occurred within this area. A further four pits and two stake-holes could be seen extending to the north-west. The pits were similar to the pits located next to the possible structure being filled with charcoal rich fills and again indicative of disposal of domestic waste.

The remaining features of this phase of activity in the southern half of the site lay directly to the south of field boundary C260; it must be noted that there were several isolated features that could not be accurately placed into one of the recorded phases of activity on site. Located within this area, at the west of this final concentration, were pits C287 and C429. These appeared, like the pits further to the south, to be domestic refuse pits. It is possible that the other features located within this area were contemporary; however, as kiln C64 was also part of this group a number of these features may have been associated with this later activity.

It is possible, as these features lay away from the structure and exterior to the possible enclosing fence line, that these features represent deliberate disposal of material away from the structure. Sherds of domestic Cordoned Urn pottery were recovered from pit C429 and post-hole C434, located in the internal area of the rectangular structure. These fragments were identified by Helen Roche and Eoin Grogan (see Appendix 9.7) as representing a single vessel belonging to the Middle Bronze Age domestic cordoned urn tradition; unusually for this pottery type, though examples are known, the sherds have been burnished on both sides which is believed to be an attempt to further waterproof the vessels. There is growing evidence of domestic pottery belonging to the Cordoned Urn Tradition being found on settlement sites. Grogan and Roche (129, 2009) list a number of sites recently excavated in which domestic Cordoned Urn variants have been found with the largest assemblage found at

Lough Gur Co. Limerick. Dating evidence suggests that cordoned urn burials range from c. 1750-1400 BC with the domestic variant continuing into the Later Bronze Age (*ibid* 131). The radiocarbon date received from pit C429 would certainly support this dating. In conjunction with the date from the adjacent pit C287, these features appeared to be of a comparable date to the rectangular structure. This would support the possibility that waste material from the structure was been deposited outside the line of the possible enclosing fence line.

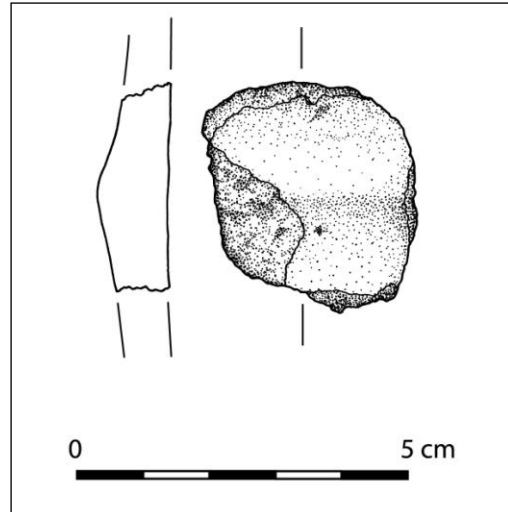


Plate 4 E2484:413:1 (Andrzej Wojtowicz, ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY)

Further evidence of this came from the palaeoenvironmental samples from a number of the Bronze Age features which were found to contain charred plant material. These features, C287, C295, C96, C343, C345, C370, C406, C408, C420, C424, C428, C454, C472, C491, C499 and C524 (as C241 was truncated by the medieval kiln this has not been included within this discussion), were predominately part of the rectangular structure. However as several pits, post-holes and stake-holes located outside of the structure also contained charred cereal remains the possibility exists that waste material was being deposited outside of the structure. Where identifiable the charred remains consisted of *triticum aestivum* (found within C296 and C424), *hordeum vulgare* (found within C408 and C420), *rumex sp* (found within C499), *avena sp/secale cereal* (found within C499) and hazelnut shell (found within C371). Though similar material was found within the medieval corn-drying kiln it is believed that the recovery from the above features is indicative of Bronze Age activity; several of the features were dated to the Bronze Age and though medieval activity was recorded on site this seemed to consist of the kiln and possibly several features within the immediate vicinity of it. A similar assemblage was retrieved from samples collected from a Bronze Age kiln excavated at Killalane Site 1 (Scotland 2011e) dated to the end of the Early Bronze Age, into the Middle Bronze Age.

Area A: Medieval Activity

Only one feature on site, C97, was positively dated to the early medieval. This, as evident from the charcoal rich nature of its fills and the recovery of a number of charred cereal grains, was a corn drying kiln. A number of undated features, six pits, three stake-holes and a post-hole, were located within the immediate vicinity of this kiln and may have been contemporary; though it was clear that the kiln had truncated an area of Bronze Age activity.

Kilns were a key element of Irish agriculture and were a common feature of the landscape up to the middle of the 19th century, where they seemed to have been in almost every townland (O'Sullivan & Downey 2005). These kilns were used mainly for drying grain to prevent it from sprouting and to harden it prior to grinding, though it is possible that other crops, such as flax and hemp, may have undergone the same process following wet harvests. At times corn-drying kilns may have been modified to carry out different functions, such as being converted to lime kilns as seen in Donegal and Tyrone (O'Sullivan & Downey 2005). Drying kilns can be broadly broken up into five groups comprising oval/sub-oval shaped kilns, figure of eight kilns, dumbbell kilns, keyhole shaped/tobacco-pipe kilns and L/comma shaped kilns (Kinsella 2007 in O'Sullivan & Harney 2008, 69) which were often cut into the ground rather than being built at surface level. They were of drystone construction and comprised four structural elements, namely a bowl, a drying platform above the bowl, a flue which extended from the bowl and a stoke hole or firing chamber, located at the opposite end of the flue. Kilns were often located to take maximum advantage of the prevailing wind in order to increase its efficiency. Other measures such as a raising flue would have also helped to raise the efficiency of the kiln whereas elements such as baffle stones or deviations in the line of the flue would help in keeping sparks and embers away from the crop being dried. The kiln excavated at Rossfinch Site 2 was a simple oval shaped earth cut example with no distinct flue or separate chambers for the drying area or the fire spot.

It is through the passage of hot air, generated at the fire spot, that dries the cereal and not through direct heat. It is the role of the flue to direct the hot air into the drying area and keep the fire away from the produce being dried so as not to cause a miss fire; this occurs when the material being dried catches fire and combusts. This was clearly not the case with kiln C93 where no pronounced flue was seen. The successive layers of oxidised and charcoal rich fills, seen to be extending along the base of the kiln, would appear to suggest that there was no defined fire spot. It was clear from the lower fills within the kiln that it was not cleaned after successive periods of firing, though whether or not this showed one period of continuous

firing or repeated use over a longer period of time is unclear. The dating evidence retrieved from the kiln returned two early medieval dates: a date of cal. AD 400–640 (Beta-258990) was obtained from C86 and a date of cal. AD 550–660 (Beta-258991) from C202. These would suggest that the kiln had been used over several years and it is more likely that the lower fills show the last period of use, which was likely to have seen repeated use as there are several layers of charcoal and oxidised material, over a short period of time. The upper fill returned the earlier of the two dates, this would indicate clearly that earlier waste material was placed near to the kiln, probably as a mound of material, and after the final use this was backfilled into it. As kilns were primarily used on a seasonal basis to dry and harden grain (this allows for the grain to be both stored for a greater period of time and also allows for easier milling) this arrangement is not surprising.

The processing of grain would have involved the entire community from the planting of the crop through to the harvesting, to the collection and drying of fuel for use in the kiln. Successful operation of the kiln would have been of paramount importance to the community at large. The grain itself was then used for a variety of purposes including malting, baking and as animal feed. Clearly, though the kiln appeared as an isolated early medieval feature it represents more extensive early medieval activity within this area. Ballynahinch Site 2, located to the south-west, returned similar early medieval dates as well as a similar shaped kiln. This kiln was radiocarbon dated to cal. AD 420–610 (Beta-258982), which was remarkably similar to the date obtained from Rossfinch Site 2. Further comparison between the two kilns is restricted by the fact that kiln C97 was approximately twice the size of the Ballynahinch kiln; C97 measured 3.45 m by 1.8 m by 1.8 m deep where as the Ballynahinch kiln measured 1.75 m by 0.95 m by 0.3 m deep. Similar cereal grains were however found within the fills of both kilns with *triticum aestivum* (bread wheat), *hordeum vulgare var. nudum* (naked barley) and *triticum dicoccum* (emmer) recovered. There was however notable differences between the two assemblages. Unlike the kiln at Ballynahinch a large quantity of *hordeum vulgare* (hulled barley) was recovered from the fills of kiln C97, in fact considerably more hulled barley was recovered from C97 than naked barley; no hulled barley grains were found within the kiln at Ballynahinch. This may show a distinct patterning of resources with the free thrashing variety being primarily used within the enclosure at Ballynahinch Site 2 and the more labour intensive hulled barley (this would have had to been dehusked beforehand) being prepared at Rossfinch Site 2. The recovery of oat (*avena sp.*) and rye (*secale cereal*) from kiln C97 and not from Ballynahinch would support the suggestion that kiln 97 was producing lesser early medieval cultivars (Kelly 1998). One other notable difference between

these two early medieval kilns was the greater quantity of wild plant seeds within C97 compared to none being found within the Ballynahinch kiln; one other interesting comparison is that the Bronze Age assemblage also contained fewer wild plant seeds with only a small amount of *Rumex sp.* was found within C481 of pit C499 compared to nearly 50% of the samples looked at from kiln C97. This highlights possibility that the activity occurring here was concerned more with the primary phases of crop processing. These wild plant seeds included ivy-leaved speedwell (*veronica hederifolia*), pale persicaria (*persicaria lapathifolia*), fat hen (*chenopodium album*) dock (*rumex sp.*), bramble (*rubus sp.*), brome (*bromus sp.*) and orache (*atriplex sp.*), though the last four types could not be identified to species. This assemblage of wild seeds represents a mixed grassy and disturbed ground with fat hen and ivy-leaved speedwell common weeds of cultivated ground. Fat hen and several species of dock have at times been used as a food source by itself (not to mention the fruit from various brambles).

Therefore, from the early medieval period there is evidence of repeated use of the kiln and that the assemblage may show either the initial stages of cereal production or that the produce was intended for a lower social class, particularly in comparison to a similarly dated kiln excavated within Ballynahinch Site 2.

Area A: Post-Medieval Activity

The latest period of activity recorded on site consisted of a series of agricultural features. From the stratigraphical arrangement of several of these, two phases of activity were evident. The earliest was represented by the east-west orientated linear features which were predominately identified as furrows. A sherd of glazed red earthenware, or 'brownware' was recovered from the fill of furrow C260; these were widely manufactured within Britain and Ireland from the late 17th century through to the 19th century. The latest phase of activity consisted of a single north-south linear feature. A seventeenth or eighteenth century halfpenny or farthing was recovered from C439 which would show the second phase of activity to be comparable in date to the east-west furrows; it is possible however that the coin came from one of the two east-west features truncated by this feature.

Area A: Summary

In summary the Bronze Age activity on Area A appeared to date from the latter part of the Early Bronze Age into the early stage of the Middle Bronze Age. Through an analysis of the burnt bone and the samples collected from a number of features this activity was domestic in nature. A clear concentration of activity could be seen within the central area and, from the arrangement of these features a rectangular feature could be discerned. Further to this several arrangements of stake-holes and post-holes appeared to form a structure, circular in nature, extending around part of the rectangular structure. These remains would appear to show that the enclosing fence line, which was lightweight in nature, was segmented. Though two structures are postulated as this was not conclusively proven as the footprint of these structures were not definitively defined. A number of concentrations of features could be seen elsewhere. With the dating evidence from several features both earlier and later activity could be seen, though it was not clear which phase all the outlying features belonged. Two further concentrations of stake-holes and post-holes could be seen at apposing corners of the site; one at the northeast and the other at the southwest. Though not clearly structural in nature these did suggest continued activity outside of the site boundaries as excavated.

These dates, when considered with sites excavated within the surrounding areas particularly those with extensive prehistoric activity, clear phases of activity become apparent. The Bronze Age dates received from Rossfinch Site 2 clearly showed both Early and Middle Bronze Age activity. The Early Bronze Age date received was comparable to activity recorded at Rossfinch Site 1 and Site 3. The activity at Rossfinch Site 1 consisted of two Early Bronze Age *fulachtaí fia*, a third possible *fulacht fia* was also excavated at Rossfinch Site 1 and dated to the Late Bronze Age. Further Early Bronze Age domestic activity was recorded at Rossfinch Site 3 which consisted of several rubbish pits. It has been suggested that *fulachtaí fia*, particularly in large concentrations, indicate permanent settlements of groups of people rather than isolated family units (Brindley & Lanting 1990, 32). The settlement evidence from Rossfinch Site 2 and the pits from Rossfinch Site 3, would not indicate a particularly large population however, with later activity being recorded within the townland and showing continued occupation of the landscape, permanent settlement during the Bronze Age is apparent. Middle Bronze Age activity was also recorded on Rossfinch Site 3 and Ballynahinch Site 1. Activity continued into the Late Bronze Age with the greatest concentration being recorded on Ballynahinch Site 2 and being ritual in nature.

Early Medieval activity was positively identified with the remains of a corn drying kiln located within the southern half of the site. Several pits, post-holes and stake-holes, located within the immediate vicinity of the kiln may have been related. However, as the kiln had truncated several stake-holes and a pit dating to the Middle Bronze Age was located seven meters to the northwest it is possible these features were also related to earlier Bronze Age activity. Evidence of repeated use of the kiln was noted and the palaeoenvironmental analysis showed that either the initial stages of cereal production or that the produce was intended for a lower social class, particularly in comparison to a similarly dated kiln excavated within Ballynahinch Site 2. Further medieval activity was noted at Ballynahinch Site 2 with the excavation of a sub-circular enclosure and associated activity, including a corn-drying kiln. The final phase of activity could be seen to be post-medieval or early modern in date; this activity was agricultural in nature.

Area C: Summary

The archaeological features excavated on Area C, on their own, constitute a small scale site consisting of two identifiable phases of activity. The earliest, as shown by radiocarbon dating was dated to the end of the Middle Bronze Age, beginning of the Late Bronze Age. From the similarities seen between pits C20, C38 and the dated pit C21, it is possible that these three pits were of a related period and activity; the two stake-holes may also have been related to this activity, though as these two features were not located near to any of the pits, this is only tentatively suggested. There was no evidence of the activity taking place, though as the fill of the pits contained charcoal coupled with no evidence of direct heat, it is probable these pits represent dumps of waste material.

The date received, 1280BC–1010 cal. BC (Beta-258989), when compared to the dates received from Area A and the other two sites excavated within the townland of Rossfinch (Rossfinch Site 1 E2485 and Rossfinch Site 3 E2402) is earlier, though it does clearly show continued occupation of the area throughout the Bronze Age. Of greater interest is when the date from Area C is compared to Ballynahinch Site 1 and Ballynahinch Site 2. In the case of Ballynahinch Site 1, one of two dates received overlapped the date from Area C. Some caution has to be attributed to this date however as it was retrieved from oak, and as such, the actual date may be several hundred years later than the date received. As this date (1380BC–1120 cal. BC (Beta-258983) was earlier than that received from Area C, when the ‘old wood problem’ is taken into account it may actually show activity of a comparable date.

Interestingly the activity recorded on Ballynahinch Site 1 (E2401) also consisted of several isolated pits.

Nine of the ten Bronze Age dates received from Ballynahinch Site 2 E2400 were very similar as that from Area C, with several nearly of the exact date range. The Bronze Age activity recorded on Ballynahinch Site 2 was much more substantial than that recorded at either Ballynahinch Site 1 or Rossfinch Site 2 Area C. This activity consisted of several token cremations and a pyre site attesting to a complex ritual zone of activity. This ritual activity would suggest that a settled Bronze Age community existed within the area. Though the activity from Area C, nor from Ballynahinch Site 1, would show clear settlement activity they do show the area outside of the ritual activity at Ballynahinch Site 2 was being exploited and that somewhere within the surrounding landscape permanent Bronze Age settlement was taking place. A further site excavated within the townland of Ballynahinch currently remains undated. This site, Ballynahinch Site 3 E2552 excavated by TVAS (Ireland) Ltd, consisted of a cremation cemetery, prehistoric roundhouses, two *fulachtaí fia* a burnt stone spread, an enclosure, droveway and field system (Mulcahy *et al*, 2010).

The shallow linear features, which resembled lazy-beds, and possibly pit C53, represent the second and latest phase of activity on Area C. Although undated their orientation mirrored that of the field boundary to the south. It would appear from the cartographic evidence that the boundary changed slightly in the mid 19th century and may have coincided with the removal of several barn like buildings, though this does only give us a *terminus ante quem*.

5. Conclusions

The areas investigated at Rossfinch Site 2 under Registration Number E2484, Areas A–C, constituted a rurally situated site, consisting of numerous pits, post-holes and stake-holes located, predominately, in Area A and, to a lesser extent, within Area C; Area B was found to contain no archaeological features or deposits. The features within Area A were found, through the recovery of diagnostic finds and radiocarbon dates, to consist of Early and Middle Bronze Age activity with an early medieval kiln also excavated. The principle activity on Area A, though not conclusive, consisted of a rectangular structure and a possible segmented circular fence line. In conjunction with the excavations conducted as part of the N7 Nenagh to Limerick HQDC carried out within this area, Rossfinch Site 2 clearly shows the continued use of the area throughout the prehistoric periods and into the historic period. The excavations within the townlands of Ballynahinch and Rossfinch clearly highlight the importance of this area. Comparable Early and Middle Bronze Age dates were seen on sites Rossfinch 1, Rossfinch 3 and Ballynahinch 1. Later activity, dated to the Late Bronze Age through to the early medieval was also recorded within this area and on Rossfinch Site 2. The activity recorded within this wider landscape was both ritual and domestic in nature, with Rossfinch situated within an area that appeared as domestic and possibly showing small settlement groups.

It would appear that excavations conducted as part of the N7 Nenagh to Limerick HQDC revealed additional evidence of the prehistoric landscape within the locality of the Kilmastulla River. The Killaloe-Ballina area and the Slievefelim-Silvermines uplands were an important early prehistoric settlement area with Neolithic core activity in the Slievefelim-Silvermines Mountains area located around Reardnogy (Grogan 2005b, 93). The lowlands of east Limerick are separated from those of North Tipperary by the Silvermines-Slievefelim-Arra uplands with access granted by the narrow Kilmastulla river valley which leads to the important fording-points at Killaloe (Grogan 2005b, 27). It is to the southeast of the opening of the narrow valley that the sites of Ballynahinch and Rossfinch were located. The physical landscape of the area, most notably the river Shannon and poorly drained areas, led to the fording places in the

Killaloe area to be particularly important for prehistoric travel. In addition to this, extensive copper deposits within Silvermines would mark this area of west Tipperary as of particular importance (Condit & O'Sullivan 1999, 26-27).

Clusters of standing stones, *fulacht fia*, and possible barrows have been suggested to show concentrations of Middle Bronze Age settlement and that these site types occur in several areas of North Tipperary including Ballynahinch and Killalane (*ibid*, 31). A review of the known archaeological monuments within the area between the Kilmastulla and Mulkear Rivers clearly shows the concentration of these site types located within the vicinity of Rossfinch townland: nine barrows are located within the townlands of Ballynahinch, Controversy, Farneigh and Garraun; three standing stones are located within the townlands of Cappadine, Garraun and Clonalough; and five *fulachtaí fia* are located within the townlands of Clonalough, Greenhall and Killalane. There are a number of anomalous features within the landscape which may also show further prehistoric activity. For example four earthworks are located within the townlands of Ballykinlalee, Ballynahinch, Conalough and Greenhall and two trackways within the townlands of Garraunbeg and Garraunbeg/Rossaguile (though **TN031-042----** is marked on the 1st Edition OSI map as 'Track of Cromwell's Road'). In addition to these features the excavations, conducted as part of the N7 Nenagh to Limerick HQDC, augmented the recorded monuments of the area and revealed extensive prehistoric activity, predominately Bronze Age in date but with significant Neolithic sites also excavated. These sites were discovered along the entire route from Richhill located at the Newport junction (and close to the lower fording points of the River Shannon at O'Briensbridge and Castleconnell (Grogan 2005b, 94)) through to the townland of Ballintotty located at the eastern extent of the scheme.

Early medieval activity was also positively identified on Rossfinch Site 2 with the excavation of a simple earth cut kiln. Though this was the only identified early medieval activity recorded here the radiocarbon dates received from the kiln were comparable to a number of dates obtained from the early medieval activity recorded on Ballynahinch Site 2. A similar, but smaller, kiln was excavated on Ballynahinch Site 2 which not only had a similar radiocarbon date but was also found to contain similar charred cereal grains. From an examination of the two assemblages it is possible to suggest that the activity recorded on Rossfinch Site 2 saw the preliminary stages of crop processing or that it was being used by a lower social class. Whatever the activity, combined with Ballynahinch it is clear that significant early medieval activity was occurring within this area.

6. The Quantity of Materials

6.1 The Archive

Item	Quantity	Condition
Context Registers	1	Average
Drawing Registers	1	Average
Finds Registers	1	Average
Photo Registers	1	Average
Sample Registers	1	Average
Context sheets	7	Good
Notebooks	3	Average
1:10 Sections (A3)	0	-
1:20 Sections (A3)	0	-
1:10 Plans (A3)	75	Good
1:20 Plans (A3)	23	Good
1:50 Plans (A3)	0	-
1:100 Plans (A3)	0	-
Digital Photographs	975	Good
Print Photographs	210	-

Table 3: Quantity of Materials

6.2 Finds List

Find Number	Description	Specialist	Condition
E2484:54:01	Clay Pipe	Lee Scotland	Stable
E2484:86:01	Rounded stone	N/A	Stable
E2484:87:01	Burnt Bone	L. Lynch & M McCarthy	Fragile
E2484:88:01	Rounded stone	N/A	Stable
E2484:115:01	Bone	M McCarthy	Fragile
E2484:118:01	Burnt Bone	L. Lynch & M McCarthy	Fragile
E2484:155:01	Pottery	–	Stable
E2484:186:01	Burnt Bone	L. Lynch & M McCarthy	Fragile
E2484:186:02	Burnt Bone	L. Lynch & M McCarthy	Fragile
E2484:211:01	Burnt Bone	L. Lynch & M McCarthy	Fragile
E2484:259:01	17th–19th brownware sherd	Clare McCutcheon	Stable
E2484:263:01	Baked clay	N/A	Fragile
E2484:263:02	Baked clay	N/A	Stable
E2484:263:03	Baked clay	N/A	Stable
E2484:383:01	Middle Bronze Age bodysherd	H. Roche & E. Grogan	Stable
E2484:383:02	Middle Bronze Age bodysherd	H. Roche & E. Grogan	Stable
E2484:413:01	Middle Bronze Age bodysherd	H. Roche & E. Grogan	Stable
E2484:422:01	Cu alloy token/halfpenny or farthing	Órla Scully	Stable
E2484:438:01	Chert trimming flake	Conor Brady	Stable
E2484:Surface:01	Clay Pipe Bowl	Lee Scotland	Stable
E2484:Surface:02	Early modern pottery	–	Stable
E2484:Surface:03	Iron Rivet	Órla Scully	Stable
E2484:Surface:04	Early modern pottery	–	Stable
E2484:Surface:05	Baked clay	Clare McCutcheon	Stable
E2484:Surface:07	Small Clay Pipe Fragment	–	Stable
E2484:Surface:08	17th–19th brownware sherd	Clare McCutcheon	Stable
E2484:Surface:09	17th–19th brownware sherd	Clare McCutcheon	Stable
E2484:Surface:10	17th–19th brownware sherd	Clare McCutcheon	Stable
E2484:Surface:11	Baked clay	N/A	Stable
E2484:Surface:12	Baked clay	N/A	Stable
E2484:Surface:13	Slag	–	Stable
E2484:Surface:14	Slag	–	Stable
E2484:surface:15	Nail	Órla Scully	Stable

Table 4: Finds List

6.3 Sample List

Sample Number	Context Number	Context Description	Sample Type	Processes Completed
9	206	Fill of kiln C97	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
10	4	Single fill of pit C38	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
11	18	Single fill of pit C21	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
23	57	Single fill of post-hole C60	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
29	78	Single fill of post-hole C93	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
30	82	Single fill of post-hole C95	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
32	62	Fill of kiln C97	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
33	86	Fill of kiln C97	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
34	87	Fill of kiln C97	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
35	90	Fill of kiln C97	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
36	88	Fill of kiln C97	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
37	89	Fill of kiln C97	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
45	115	Single fill of post-hole C116	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
46	117	Primary fill of pit C119	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
58	132	Single fill of pit C139	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
59	133	Single fill of pit C140	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
60	92	Fill of kiln C97	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
61	143	Single fill of stake-hole C145	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
69	151	Tertiary fill of pit C157	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
70	158	Secondary fill of pit C157	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
81	182	Single fill of post-hole C192	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
85	201	Fill of kiln C97	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
86	195	Single fill of post-hole C196	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
87	186	Fill of kiln C97	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
89	202	Fill of kiln C97	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
91	206	Fill of kiln C97	Bulk soil	Wet sieving
95	216	Single fill of stake-hole C222	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis

Sample Number	Context Number	Context Description	Sample Type	Processes Completed
99	230	Single fill of stake-hole C237	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
101	238	Quaternary fill of pit C287	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
102	211	Secondary fill of pit C287	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
103	239	Primary fill of pit C287	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
105	245	Tertiary fill of pit C287	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
106	233	Single fill of stake-hole C241	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
108	235	Single fill of stake-hole C243	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
110	252	Single fill of stake-hole C257	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
115	269	Single fill of stake-hole C277	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
117	280	Single fill of stake-hole C293	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
119	284	Single fill of pit C295	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
120	285	Single fill of post-hole C296	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
123	300	Single fill of stake-hole C302	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
130	312	Single fill of pit C316	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
131	308	Single fill of stake-hole C319	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
135	310	Single fill of stake-hole C325	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
137	314	Secondary fill of pit C339	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
140	335	Single fill of stake-hole C343	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
142	337	Single fill of stake-hole C345	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
143	341	Single fill of stake-hole C342	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
144	340	Secondary fill of post-hole C350	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
148	351	Single fill of pit C356	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
149	354	Single fill of post-hole C361	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
150	359	Single fill of stake-hole C360	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
151	365	Single fill of stake-hole C367	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
152	362	Single fill of stake-hole C377	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
153	365	Single fill of stake-hole C367	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
154	369	Single fill of post-hole C370	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
155	353	Single fill of pit C384	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
158	376	Primary fill of pit C374	Bulk soil	Wet sieving;

Sample Number	Context Number	Context Description	Sample Type	Processes Completed
				palaeoenvironmental analysis
161	357	Tertiary fill of pit C371	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
162	372	Secondary fill of pit C371	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
163	373	Primary fill of pit C371	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
167	263	Secondary fill of pit C347	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
171	389	Single fill of post-hole C397	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
183	405	Single fill of stake-hole C406	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
185	407	Single fill of stake-hole C408	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
186	410	Single fill of post-hole C420	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
187	419	Single fill of post-hole C424	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
190	412	Single fill of post-hole C428	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
191	383	Single fill of pit C429	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
197	438	Single fill of post-hole C441	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
200	446	Single fill of stake-hole C448	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
201	414	Single fill of post-hole C449	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
204	457	Single fill of pit C459	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
205	453	Single fill of stake-hole C454	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
206	452	Single fill of post-hole C460	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
212	470	Single fill of post-hole C472	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
215	462	Secondary fill of pit C479	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
216	478	Primary fill of pit C479	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
218	476	Single fill of pit C482	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
224	474	Single fill of post-hole C491	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
226	481	Secondary fill of post-hole C499	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
228	463	Secondary fill of post-hole C496	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
229	497	Primary fill of post-hole C496	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
232	498	Primary fill of pit C499	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
237	502	Single fill of pit C505	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
238	504	Single fill of pit C519	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
243	531	Single fill of stake-hole C532	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis

Sample Number	Context Number	Context Description	Sample Type	Processes Completed
248	516	Single fill of pit C539	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
249	535	Single fill of post-hole C538	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis
254	551	Single fill of stake-hole C554	Bulk soil	Wet sieving
255	553	Primary fill of pit C552	Bulk soil	Wet sieving; palaeoenvironmental analysis

Table 5: Sample List

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www.excavations.ie

8. Signing off Statement

Archaeological Firm: ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

Writers: Lee Scotland BA
ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY Ltd
32 Nicholas Street,
King's Island,
Limerick

Client: Limerick County Council

Signed:



For ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

Dated: October 2011

9. Appendices

9.1 Site Plans & Sections

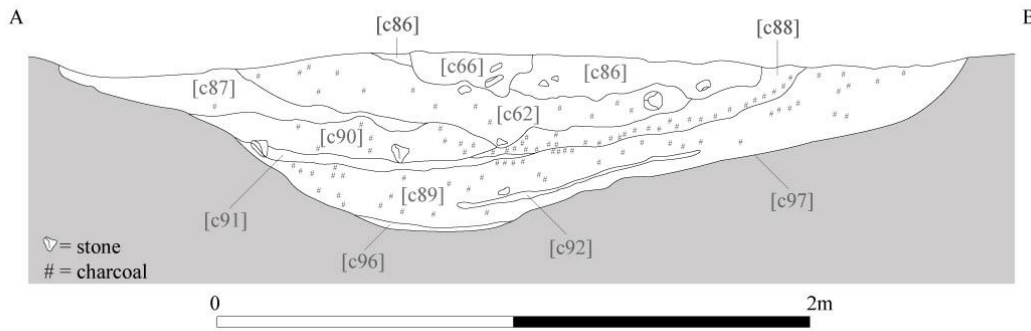


Figure 5. South facing section of kiln C97.

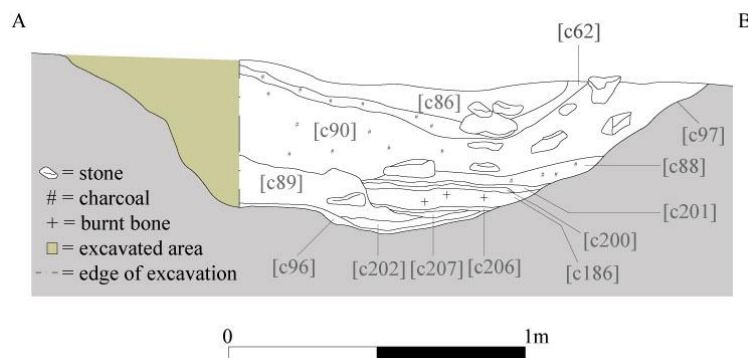


Figure 6. North-east facing section of kiln C97.

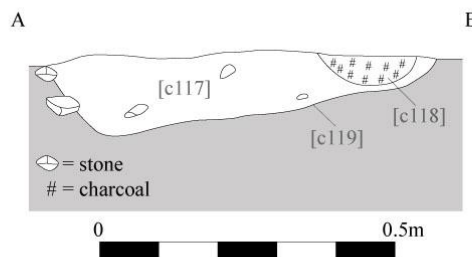





Figure 7. South facing section of pit C119.

 	Aegis Archaeology Ltd. 32 Nicholas St King's Island Limerick City Tel: 061-634375 www.aegisarchaeology.com		Project Name: N7 Nenagh to Limerick High Quality Dual Carriageway		Fig. No: 5, 6 & 7	
	Aegis Project Ref: I-11		Project Client: Limerick County Council		Licence/Excavation No: E2484	
	Compiled by: K. Stomach Edited by: A. Wojtowicz		Completion date: 15/2/11		Description: Section drawings of kiln C97 and pit C119	
						

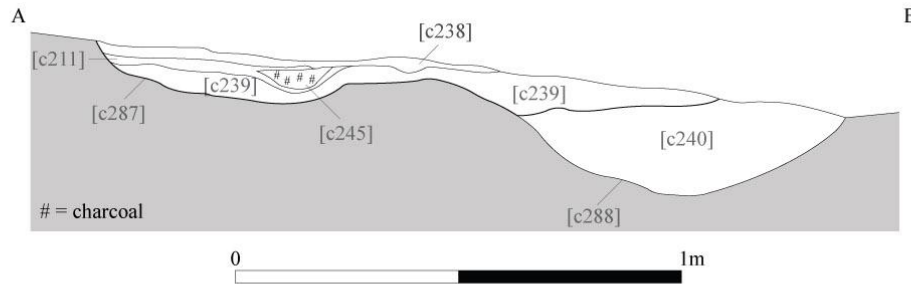


Figure 8. North-east facing section of pit C287 & C288.

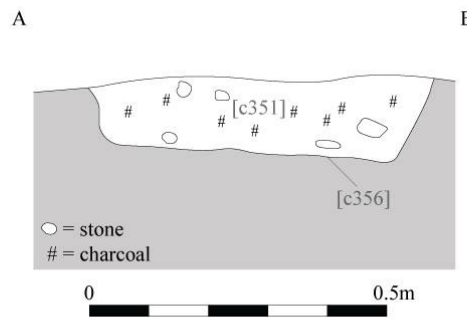


Figure 9. South-west facing section of pit C356.

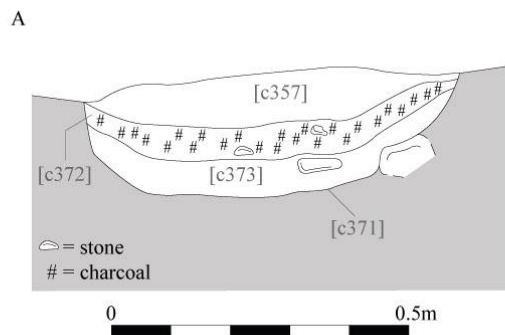



Figure 10. South-west facing section of pit C371.

	Aegis Archaeology Ltd. 32 Nicholas St King's Island Limerick City Tel: 061-634375 www.aegisarchaeology.com		Project Name: N7 Nenagh to Limerick High Quality Dual Carriageway		Fig. N°: 8, 9 & 10	
	Aegis Project Ref.: 1-11		Project Client: Limerick County Council		Licence/Excavation N°: E2484	
	Compiled by: K. Stronach Edited by: A. Wojtowicz	Completion date: 15/2/11	Description: Section drawings of pits C287, C288, C356 & C371.			
						

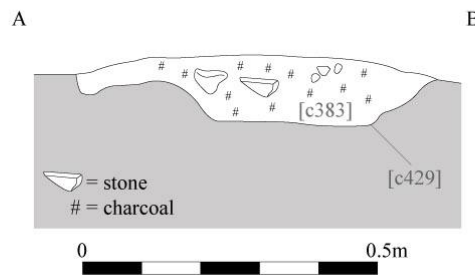


Figure 11. North-east facing section of pit C429.

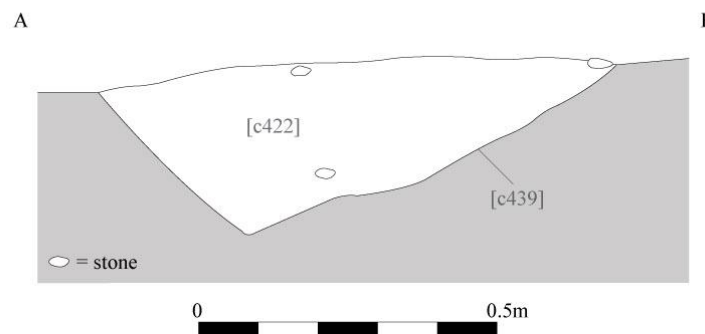

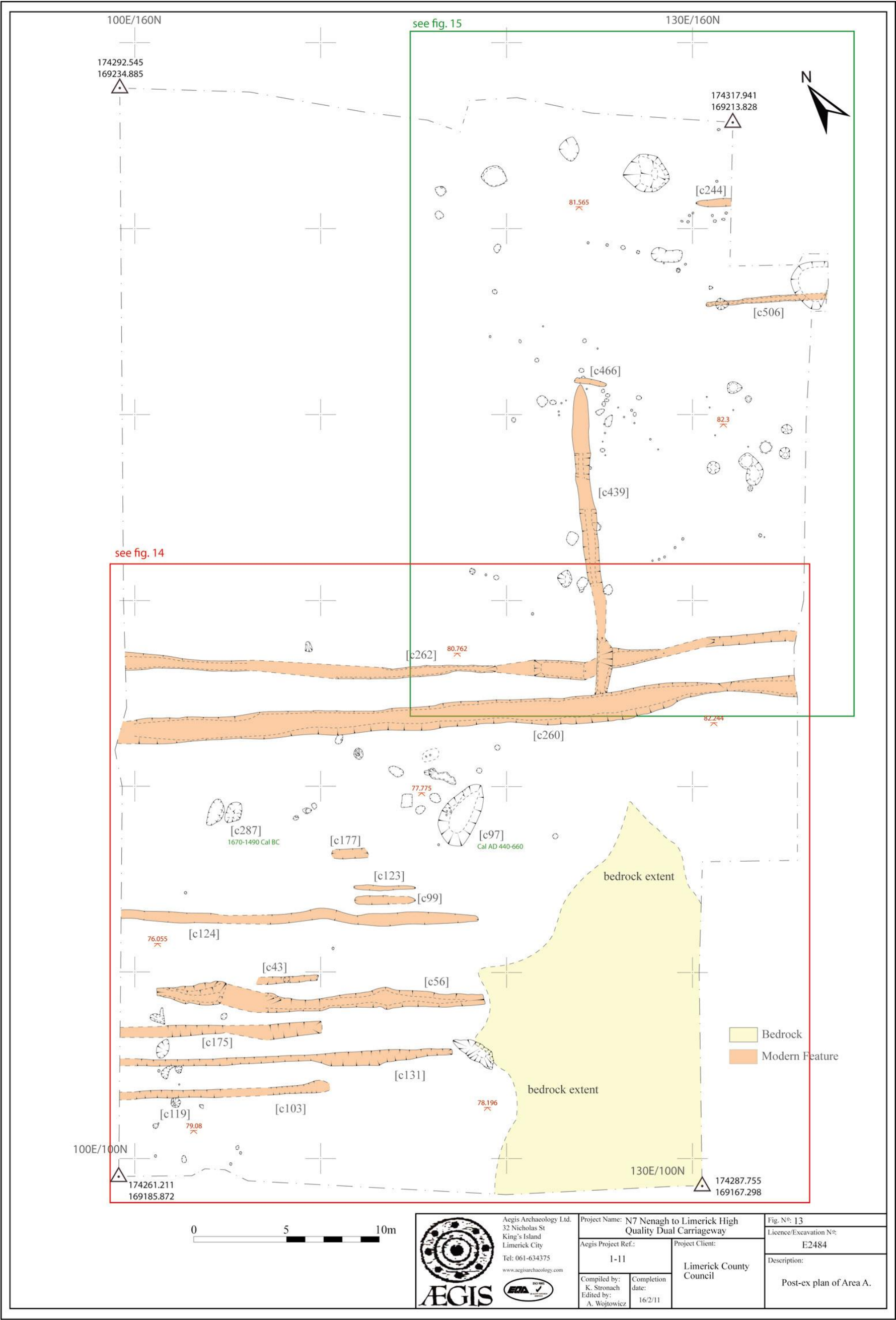
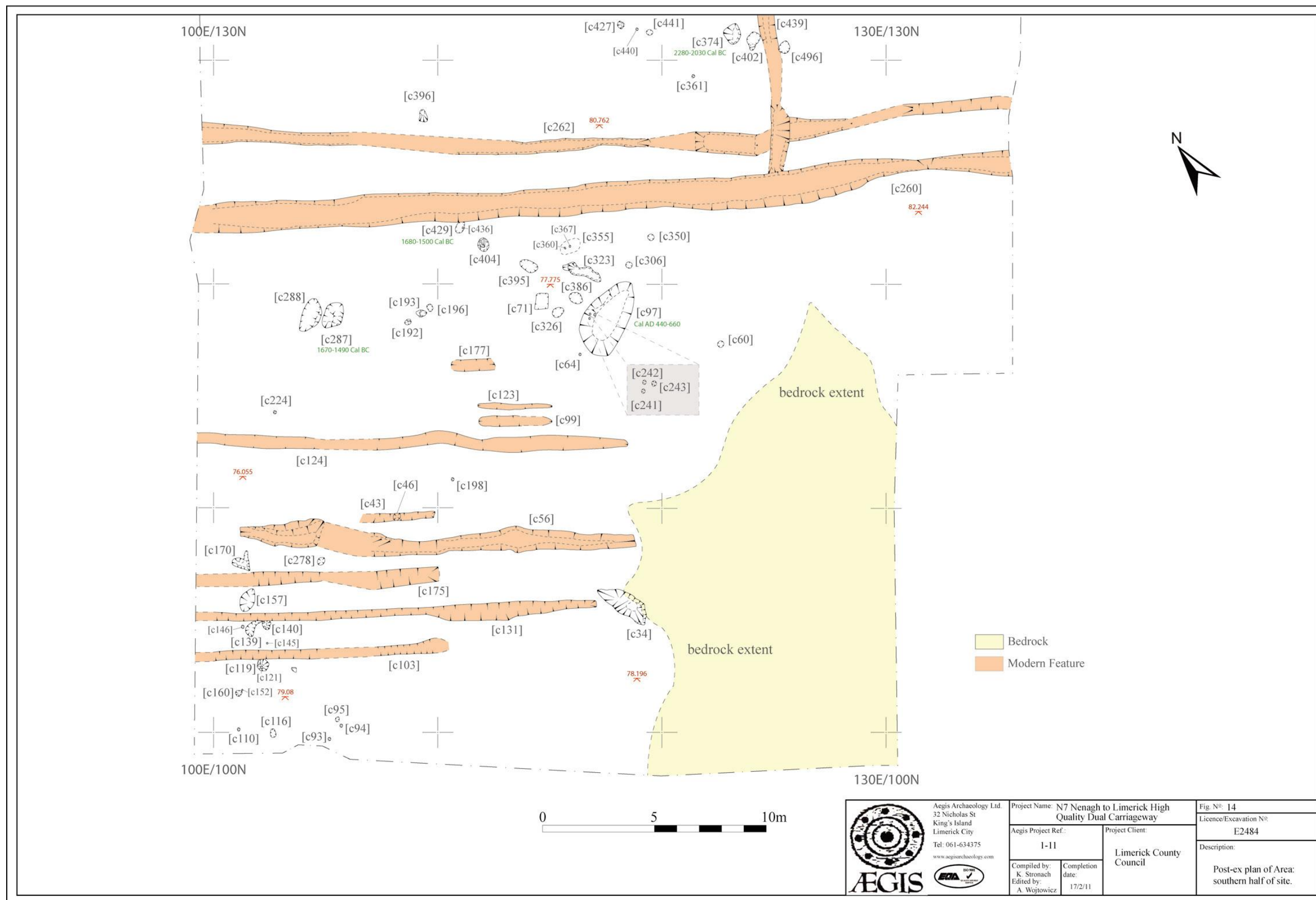
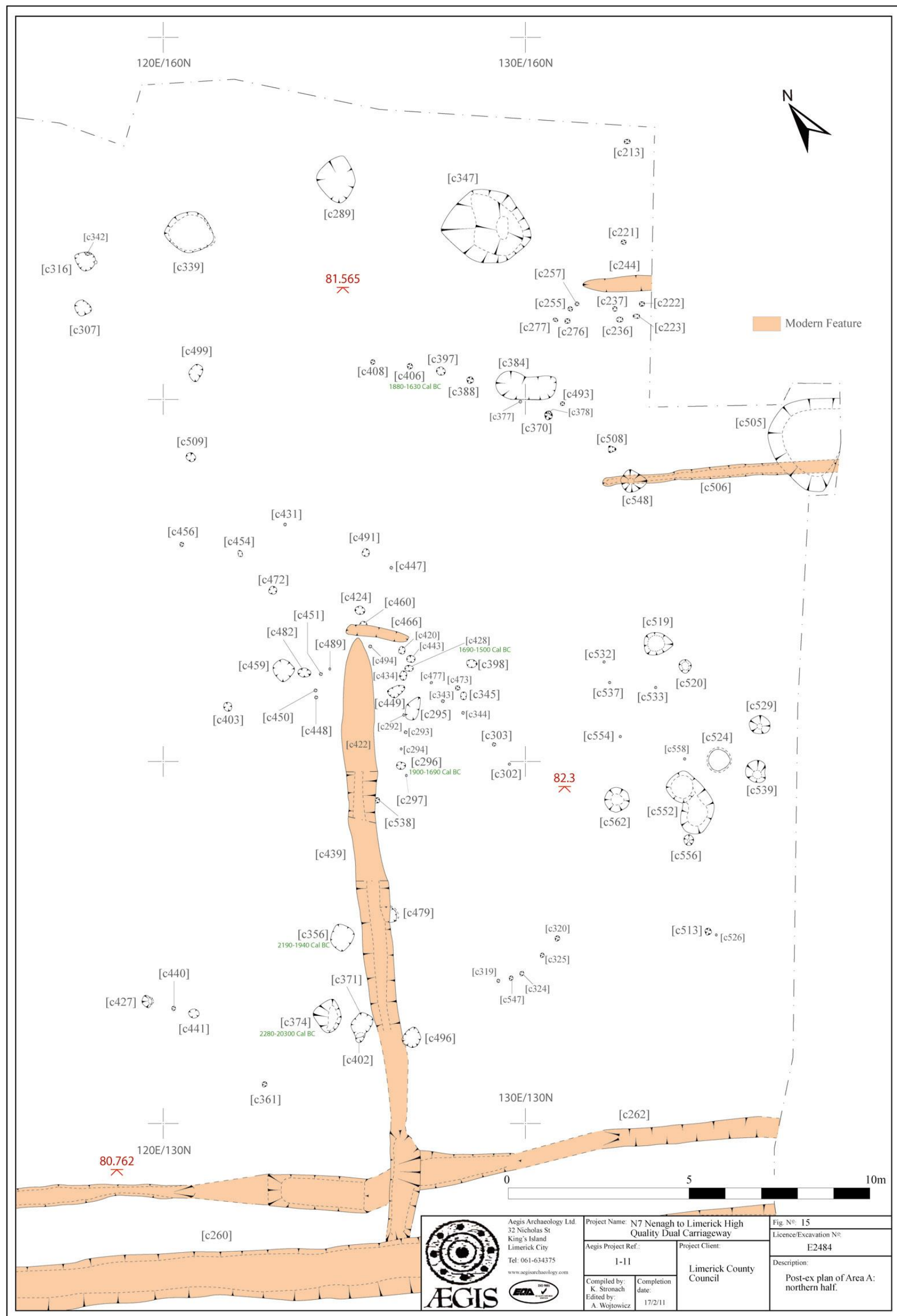


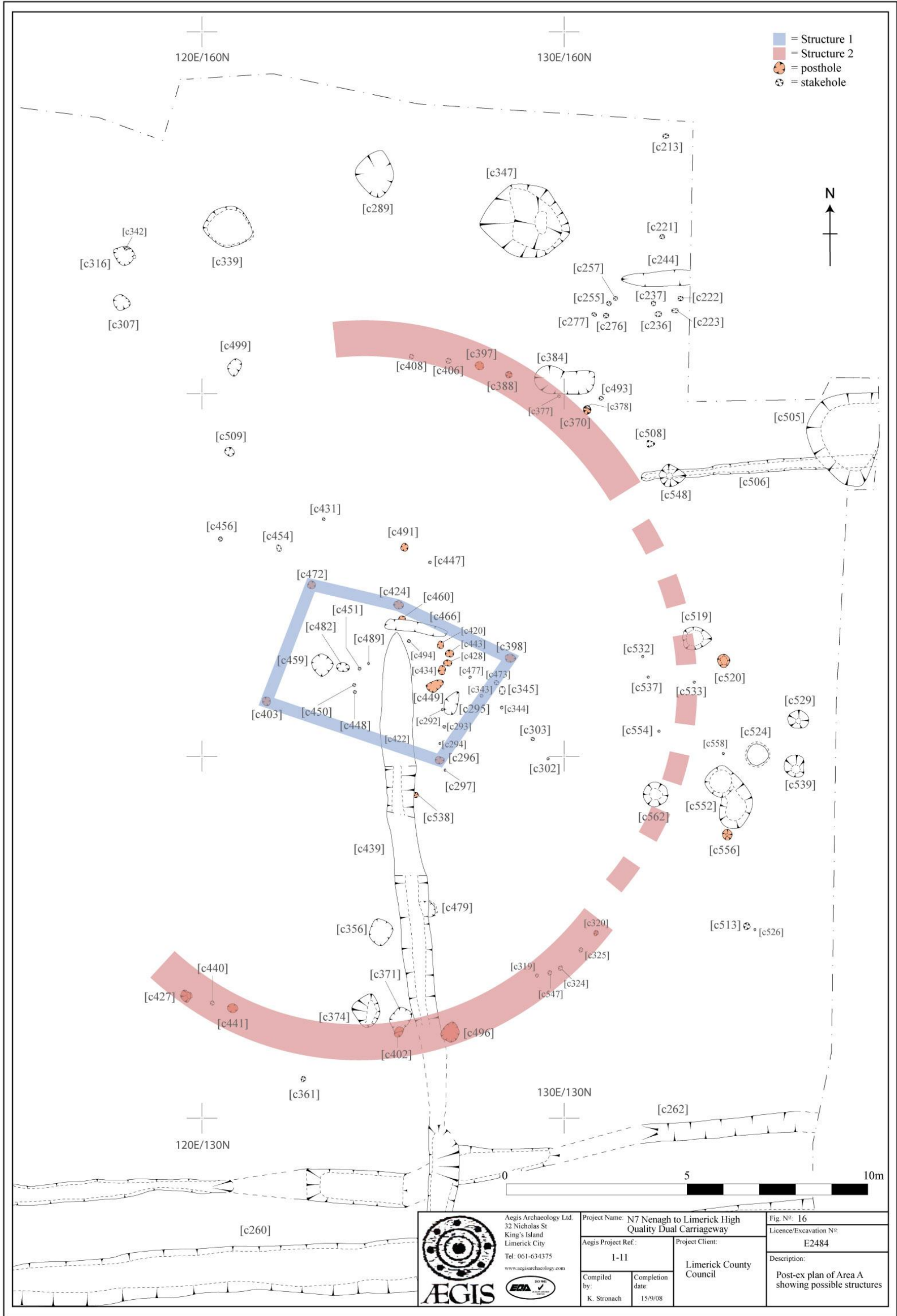
Figure 12. South-west facing section of ditch C439.

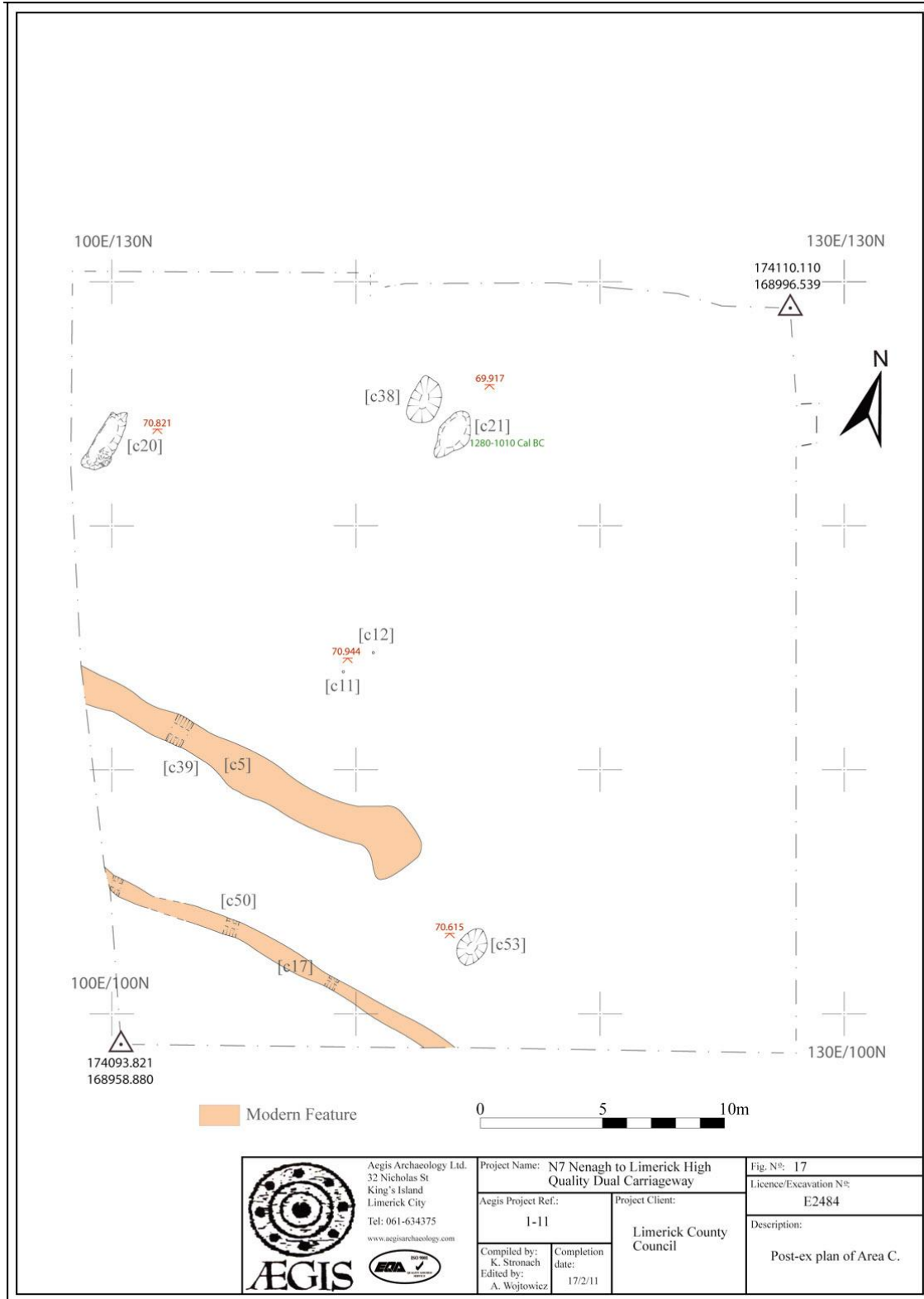
	Aegis Archaeology Ltd. 32 Nicholas St King's Island Limerick City Tel: 061-634375 www.aegisarchaeology.com		Project Name: N7 Nenagh to Limerick High Quality Dual Carriageway	Fig. N°: 11 & 12
	Aegis Project Ref.: 1-11		Project Client: Limerick County Council	Licence/Excavation N°: E2484
	Compiled by: K. Stomach	Completion date: 15/2/11	Description: Section drawings of pit C429 and ditch C439	
	Edited by: A. Wojtowicz			











9.2 Radiocarbon Dating¹

Aegis Ref: Townland/County: Excavation No: Site Name:			1-11 ROSSFINCH, TIPPERARY E2484 ROSSFINCH SITE 2				
Sample No.	Context No	Material	Beta No.	Conventional Radiocarbon Age	$\delta^{13}C^2$	1 Sigma Calibration	2 Sigma Calibration
11	18	Charcoal (Hazel)	258989	2940±40 BP	-24.3‰	Cal BC 1250–1240 (Cal BP 3200–3190) and Cal BC 1220–1080 (Cal BP 3170–3030)	Cal BC 1280–1010 (Cal BP 3230–2960)
33	86	Charcoal (Birch)	258990	1500±40 BP	-26.5‰	Cal AD 540–610 (Cal BP 1410–1340)	Cal AD 440–490 (Cal BP 1510–1460) and Cal AD 520–640 (Cal BP 1430–1310)
89	202	Charcoal (Willow)	258991	1450±40 BP	-25.6‰	Cal AD 580–640 (Cal BP 1370–1300)	Cal AD 550–660 (Cal BP 1400–1290)
102	211	Charcoal (Hazel)	258992	3290±40 BP	23.6‰	Cal BC 1620–1510 (Cal BP 3570–3460)	Cal BC 1670–1490 (Cal BP 3620–3440)
120	285	Charcoal (Ash)	258993	3480±40 BP	-26.3‰	Cal BC 1880–1740 (Cal BP 3830–3690)	Cal BC 1900 – 1690 (Cal BP 3850–3640)
148	351	Charcoal (Hazel)	258994	3670±40 BP	-24.9‰	Cal BC 2130–2080 (Cal BP 4080–4030) and Cal BC 2060–2010 (Cal BP 4010–3960) and Cal BC 2000–1980 (Cal BP 3950–3930)	Cal BC 2190–2180 (Cal BP 4140–4120) and Cal BC 2140–1940 (Cal BP 4100–3890)
158	376	Charcoal (Hazel)	258995	3740±40 BP	-25‰	Cal BC 2200–2130 (Cal BP 4150–4080) and Cal BC 2090–2050 (Cal BP 4040–4000)	Cal BC 2280–2240 (Cal BP 4230–4190) and Cal BC 2240–2030 (Cal BP 4190–3980)
183	405	Charcoal (Ash)	258996	3430±40 BP	-26.1‰	Cal BC 1760–1690 (Cal BP 3710–3640)	Cal BC 1880–1630 (Cal BP 3830–3580)
190	412	Charcoal (Ash)	258997	3320±40 BP	-24.8‰	Cal BC 1650–1530 (Cal BP 3600–3480)	Cal BC 1690–1500 (Cal BP 3640–3450)
191	383	Charcoal (Hazel)	258998	3300±40 BP	-24.6‰	Cal BC 1620–1520 (Cal BP 3570–3470)	Cal BC 1680–1500 (Cal BP 3630–3440)

Table 6: Summary of Radiocarbon Dates

¹ The radiocarbon dates were obtained from Beta Analytic, Florida USA. Calibrations were calculated using the IntCal04 calibration dataset (Reimer *et al.* 2004)

² Measured ¹³C/¹²C ratios (delta ¹³C) were calculated relative to the PDB-1 standard

In advance of the radiocarbon process the charcoal sub-samples, retrieved from samples 140, was identified by Ellen O'Carroll MA to species:

Sample No.	Context No.	Context Description	Fragment Count	Weight	ID	Comments
11	18	Secondary fill of pit C7 (Area C)	50 pieces	5 g	Hazel (<i>Corylus sp.</i>)	0.16 g extracted
33	86	Deposit in north-west quadrant	130 pieces	3 g	Birch (<i>Betula sp.</i>)	0.06 g extracted
89	202	Secondary fill of kiln C15	80 pieces	3 g	Willow (<i>Salix sp.</i>)	0.06 g extracted
102	211	Fill of pit C156	50 pieces	1 g	Oak (<i>Quercus sp.</i>) and Hazel (<i>Corylus sp.</i>)	0.03 g hazel extracted
120	285	Primary fill of post-hole C173	100 pieces	11 g	Ash (<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>)	0.139 g extracted
148	351	Deposit in north-west quadrant	100 pieces	6 g	Oak (<i>Quercus sp.</i>) and Hazel (<i>Corylus sp.</i>)	0.01 g hazel extracted
158	376	Primary fill of kiln C15	50 pieces	2 g	Hazel (<i>Corylus sp.</i>)	0.05 g extracted
183	405	Deposit in north-west quadrant	85 pieces	2 g	Ash (<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>)	0.1 g extracted
190	412	Fill of post-hole C297	87 pieces	5 g	Ash (<i>Fraxinus sp.</i>)	0.23 g extracted
191	383	Fill of pit C429	1¼ x bag (2.25" x 3")	27 g	Hazel (<i>Corylus sp.</i>)	0.7 g extracted

Table 7: Charcoal Identification

9.3 Palaeoenvironmental Analysis

Palaeoenvironmental samples assessment for Rossfinch Site 2, E2484

By: Karen Stewart

Introduction

The samples were taken during the excavation of site E2484. The site consisted of a number of ditches, two cremation pits, 14 furrows, 35 post-holes, 45 pits and 64 stake-holes (Stronach, 2008). The flots of these samples have been assessed for palaeoenvironmental potential and the results of this assessment are discussed herein.

Methodology

All plant macrofossil samples were analysed using a stereomicroscope at magnifications of x10 and up to x100 where necessary to aid identification. Identifications were confirmed using modern reference material and seed atlases including Cappers *et al* (2006).

Results

The results are summarised below in Table 1 (composition of flots). All plant material was preserved by charring. Five of the samples (samples 35, 45, 46, 99 and 143) were found to contain no material of archaeological significance.

Wood charcoal

Wood charcoal was recovered from all of the samples that contained archaeological material. The charcoal in these samples was noted in a variety of concentrations varying from rare (+) to abundant (++++).

Cereal grain

In many cases the grains were abraded, or charred at too high a temperature to retain defining characteristics, and these grains have been recorded as 'cereal indeterminate'. Grains of oat and rye are morphologically very similar and so even slight abrasion can make distinction between the two difficult. When this is the case, they have been recorded as oat/rye (*Avena* sp./*Secale cereale*). Also In order to differentiate between the cultivated and wild varieties of oat, some of the chaff elements must be present. As none were in this case, the oat has been identified as *Avena* sp., though the volumes and their association with other cultivated species and the absence of other weed seeds, indicates that the cultivated variety *Avena sativa* is probably represented.

Significant quantities of bread wheat (*Triticum aestivum*), hulled barley (*Hordeum vulgare*), naked barley (*Hordeum vulgare* var. *nudum*), emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*), spelt (*Triticum spelta*) and oat (*Avena* sp.) were noted in the samples.

Nutshell

Hazel (*Corylus avellana*) nutshell was recovered from two of the samples, 162 and 163.

Other plant remains

Low concentrations of a variety of wild plant seeds were recovered. Ivy-leaved speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*) and pale persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*) were the most numerous, with seeds of fat hen (*Chenopodium album*) present in one sample. Seeds of dock (*Rumex* sp.), bramble (*Rubus* sp.), brome (*Bromus* sp.) and orache (*Atriplex* sp) were also noted in the samples, though none of these could be identified to species.

Discussion

Oat was cultivated in Ireland only from the medieval period onwards, and its presence in archaeological deposits most usually dates from the early medieval period or later. As wild species of oat cannot always be differentiated from the cultivated strain however, this is not always the case.

The eighth century law tract *Bretha Dein Chécht* lists the range of grain crops cultivated in early medieval Ireland (Kelly 1998). Wheat is considered the highest status cultivar, with rye, barley and oats of a lesser status, more often associated with the 'middle classes', such as land-owning commoners.

Samples 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 60, 85, 87 and 89 were all recovered from fills of pit (97). These contain the highest concentration and greatest variety of cereal grain of the samples taken (see Table 1). Though the majority of the grain was too abraded to be identified to species, grains of bread wheat, barley, naked barley, spelt, emmer, oat and rye were all identified in the assemblage. The variety of species present, along with the presence of oats, does seem to represent an early medieval to medieval assemblage. The volume and differences between the species and proportional representations of species also seems to indicate that the feature was utilised for a considerable period of time, either as a waste dump or perhaps involved in a stage in the processing of the cereals.

Those sample not containing oat grains may also date to the medieval period, but could on the other hand predate it. Emmer and barley in particular have been cultivated since the Neolithic period in Ireland, with emmer being the primary species recovered at Tankardstown (Monk 1988). Radiocarbon dating will hopefully help refine the chronology of crop history at the site.

In general, the assemblage represents the later stages of crop processing after the initial threshing and winnowing, when the crop is brought to the site for final processing such as drying, grinding or brewing (Hillman 1981, Jones 1984). The range of species present may indicate a prolonged period of domestic activity occurring at the site.

The wild seed assemblage at the site represents a mix of grassy and disturbed ground. Fat hen and ivy-leaved speedwell in particular are common weeds of cultivated ground, though fat hen has at times been used as a food source by itself (Behre 2008).

Recommendations

A full environmental analysis of this site is recommended, as further identification, quantification and spatial analysis of the macroplant remains present may allow for a greater understanding of the material recovered at the site. Radiocarbon dating may also allow for the refinement of the chronology of the crop history of the site. There is a large range of material present that is suitable for radiocarbon dating. Cereal grain and nutshell are recommended for use before charcoal as the results of dating these materials do not have to take into account the Old Wood Effect.

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Table 1: Composition of flots

Sample number	Context number	Total flot vol. (ml)	Cereal grain:	<i>Triticum aestivum</i>	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> var. <i>nudum</i>	Other cereals	Other plant remains	Charcoal			Comments
									Quantity	Max size (cm³)	AMS	
9	206	30	+++ cereal indeterminate		+			+ <i>Veronica hederifolia</i> ; + <i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>	++++	0.5		
10	4	10							++	0.4		
11	18	15							+++	1	*	
23	57	2							+	0.1		
29	78	5							++	0.6	*	
30	82	5							+	0.4		
32	62	60	+++ cereal indeterminate	++	++++		+ chaff elements	+ <i>Atriplex</i> sp.	++++	1	*	
32	62	140	++ cereal indeterminate			++	+ <i>Secale cereale</i> ; ++ <i>Avena</i> sp./ <i>Secale cereale</i>		++++	0.6	*	
33	86	15	++ cereal indeterminate		++				+++	0.8	*	
34	87	25	++ cereal indeterminate						++++	1	*	
34	87	40	+++ cereal indeterminate		++		+ <i>Avena</i> sp./ <i>Secale cereale</i>	+ <i>Chenopodium album</i>	++++	1.5	*	
35	90	2										Archaeologically sterile
35	90	15	++ cereal indeterminate		++		++ <i>Triticum dicoccum</i> ; + <i>Avena</i> sp.		+	2	*	

36	88	300	+++ cereal indeterminate	+++	++++		++ <i>Triticum spelta</i> ; + <i>Triticum cf. dicoccum</i>		++++	2	*	
35	90	60	+ cereal indeterminate			++	+ <i>Avena sp.</i>	+ <i>Veronica hederifolia</i>	++++	3	*	
37	89	100	++ cereal indeterminate		++++		++ <i>Avena sp./ Secale cereale</i>		++++	2	*	
45	115	2										Archaeologically sterile
46	117	1										Archaeologically sterile
58	132	15							+++	0.5		
59	133	5							++	0.6	*	
60	92	50	++ cereal indeterminate	+	+++			+ <i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>				
61	143	15							+++	0.5		
69	151	10							+++	0.5		
70	158	15							++++	1	*	
81	182	2							+	0.1		
85	201	80	++ cereal indeterminate		++++		++ <i>Triticum dicoccum</i> ; + <i>Secale cereale</i>	+ <i>Rubus sp.</i> ; + <i>Persicaria sp.</i>	++++	1	*	
86	195	15							+++	0.8	*	
87	186	60	++ cereal indeterminate	++		+?	++ <i>Triticum dicoccum</i>	+ <i>Bromus sp.</i> ; + <i>Lapsana communis</i> ; + <i>Rumex sp.</i>	++++	0.5		
89	202	50	++ cereal indeterminate	+			+ <i>Secale cereale</i>		++++	0.7		
95	216	2							+	0.2		
99	230	1										Archaeologically sterile

101	238	10							+	0.2		
102	211	20	+ cereal indeterminate						+++	0.8	*	
103	239	5							+	0.4		
105	245	40							++++	1	*	
106	233	5	++ cereal indeterminate						+	0.1		
108	235	2							+	0.1		
110	252	2							+	0.2		
115	269	4							+	0.1		
117	280	15							++++	1	*	
119	284	15	+ cereal indeterminate						+++	0.5		
120	285	40	++ cereal indeterminate	+					++++	1	*	
123	300	5							++	0.4		
130	312	5							++	0.3		
131	308	10							+++	0.5	*	
135	310	10							++	0.5		
137	314	5							+++	0.8	*	
140	335	30	+ cereal indeterminate						++++	0.5		
142	337	5	+ cereal indeterminate						++	0.1		
143	341	1										Archaeologically sterile
144	340	30							++++	0.5		
148	351	10							++	0.6	*	
149	354	20							+++	0.8	*	
150	359	5							+	0.2		
151	365	1							+	0.1		
152	362	5							+	0.5		

153	367	10							++	0.2		
154	369	10	+ cereal indeterminate						++	.2		+ burnt bone
155	353	10							+++	0.7	*	
158	376	15							++++	0.4		
161	357	5							+	0.4		
162	372	60						+ <i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell	++++	1	*	
163	373	40						++ <i>Corylus avellana</i> nutshell	+++	0.8	*	
167	263	10							++	1	*	
171	389	5							+++	0.6	*	
183	405	15	+ cereal indeterminate						+++	0.5		
185	407	10	++ cereal indeterminate		+				++	0.3		
186	410	15	+ cereal indeterminate		+				++++	1	*	
187	419	10	+ cereal indeterminate	+								
190	412	80	++ cereal indeterminate						++++	5	*	
191	383	100							++++	2	*	
197	438	20							++++	2	*	
200	446	5							+	0.6	*	
201	414	15							+++	0.6	*	
204	457	5							+	1	*	
205	453	15	+ cereal indeterminate						+++	1	*	
206	452	50							++++	1	*	
212	470	10	+ cereal indeterminate						++	0.3		

215	462	2							+	0.1		
216	478	10							++++	1	*	
218	476	2							+	0.1		
224	474	30	+ cereal indeterminate						++++	1	*	
229	497	15							+++	0.8	*	
226	481	10	+ cereal indeterminate					+ <i>Rumex sp.</i>	++	1	*	
228	463	2							+	0.2		
232	498	40	+ cereal indeterminate				+ <i>Avena sp./Secale cereale</i>		++++	2	*	
237	502	15	+ cereal indeterminate						++	0.5		
238	504	15							++++	0.8	*	
243	531	5							++	0.2		
248	516	10							+	0.2		
249	535	20							++++	0.4		
255	553	15							++++	1	*	

Key: + = rare, ++ = occasional, +++ = common and ++++ = abundant

* = sufficient sized charcoal for identification and AMS dating

9.4 Lithic Analysis

Lithic Analysis

N7 Nenagh-Limerick Project,

E2484

Rossfinch, Co. Limerick

Conor Brady

Site E2484 was located in the townland of Rossfinch, Co. Limerick. A total of one hundred and sixty features were recorded and included ditches, a deposit, cremation pits, furrows, post-holes, pits and stake-holes.

One lithic artefact was recovered from the fill of a post hole and is examined here. The condition of the piece was assessed and recorded and as the identification of burning on chert is problematic, burning is only recorded for flint artefacts. All pieces were measured, weighed and a standardised objective colour determination was made using Munsell Soil Colour Charts. Maximum length, breadth and thickness dimensions were recorded in millimetres, as was weight in grams. Platform width and platform depth were also recorded in millimetres for prepared platforms where such were present.

E2484:438:1

This piece is a complete chert trimming flake and is likely to be a waste by-product of the secondary working of another piece of chert. Chert is a loose term used to describe siliceous material from a range of carboniferous limestone deposits, available from primary *in situ* deposits in the form of seams or from secondary pebble sources. It is a commonly used raw material although frequently only accounting for a very small proportion of lithics assemblages (Woodman *et al.* 2006, 83-4). However, in some parts of the country where there is no availability of flint, chert is used as an alternative (e.g. Bergh 2000, 16-17).

The flake has a point/punch platform. The condition of the piece is fresh and the chert is opaque black. The flake has a feather termination and there are four multi-directional flake scars on the dorsal surface.

L: 6mm W: 4 mm Th: 1 mm Wt: <1g

The artefact is undiagnostic although the nature of the retouch indicates that it is likely to date to the Neolithic or Bronze Age. As this does not form part of an extensive assemblage, it is not possible to provide a detailed interpretation of the activities that the artefact is likely to represent. However, it is broadly indicative of activity in this area during this time. Furthermore, the piece is associated with the secondary working or curation of a formal retouched tool.

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9.5 Analysis of Metal Artefacts

Report on the Metal Artefacts

From Rossfinch 2 (E2484)

On the N7

Nenagh to Limerick H.Q. Dual Carriageway, For ÆGIS Archaeology

By

Órla Scully, MA MIAI

Three metal artefacts were examined from the excavations at Rossfinch 2 on the N7 Nenagh to Limerick dual carriageway. The results of the examination are given in the accompanying catalogue. The finds are listed according to their National Museum of Ireland registration no. The next listing is the site name, followed the feature from which the artefact was recovered; the finds no; what the object is, what metal type it is; its description; the dimensions and under what category it functioned as.

The measurements are all given as millimetres. The format of measurement is length by breadth by width. In the case of circular objects, the letter 'd' preceding a measurement indicates a diameter. When giving measurements of nails, the first measurement gives length, followed by the max width of the head, followed by the max width of the shaft. If an object is fragmented, the dimensions of the largest piece are given, with the prefix 'max'.

The objects are assigned a function to facilitate discussion. The finds from Rossfinch 2 fall under two functional categories; coins and structural.

Coins

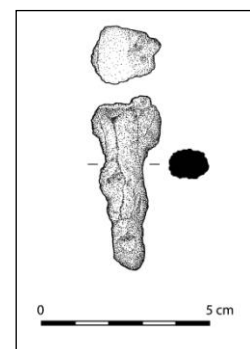
The disc of copper alloy (E2484:422:001) has no detail on either the obverse or reverse. It may be a token, but compares best with the size of a copper halfpenny, if slightly smaller. It could simply have lost its detail to corrosion, which makes it hard to distinguish on any other criterion than its circumference. In 1680 Charles II granted a patent to strike halfpennies for Ireland. This ceased in 1688 and did not recommence till 1692. 'Regal halfpennies were issued in the reign of William and Mary (1692-4) ...[and] similar coins, with the omission of Mary, were minted for William III in 1696. No more copper was produced for Ireland until 1722, when William Wood obtained a patent for producing Irish half pennies and farthings'³.

If this abraded copper alloy disc is a halfpenny or farthing, then it can be no earlier than late 17th century, but quite likely to be late 18th century or later.

Structural

A rivet (E2484:surface:003) and a nail belong in this category. The rivet has a thick rectangular shaft, broken before the point, and a sturdy, now sub-rectangular head. It would have functioned with a rove, a plate with central aperture through which the rivet passed and was hammered or clenched over, hence the other term for these items; clench bolts. 'Clench bolts are known in Romano-British contexts and again in Britain from the 7th century onwards. A large collection of early

Plate 4 E2484:surface:3 (Andrzej
Woitowicz. ÆGIS ARCHAEOLOGY)



³ Noël Hume (1991) 165

7th century date was found at Sutton Hoo⁴. Though often associated with ship building, they are not exclusive to that function, used to join two timbers when the boards are not required to be kept in the same plane surfaces.

Nails are one of the most common metal artefacts in most metal assemblages. This stands to reason as wood was the most used medium for structural building. 'In Ireland, excavations in the port cities of Dublin, Limerick, Wexford, Cork and Waterford in the last twenty years have shed new light on the material remains of this period [Late Viking Age and Medieval]. From these investigations it is apparent that timber was one of the most important requirements in the fabric of these towns, providing defence, shelter, artefacts, tools, furniture and firewood'⁵. Several nails are now known from Iron Age contexts, for example Freestone hill⁶. Nails did not change much in form from those times to the late 18th century when cut nails were produced, 'sliced from sheet iron'⁷, though they continued to be hand wrought particularly in rural areas which would by necessity have been more self sufficient. The nail from Rossfinch is only a fragment, yet it would appear to have a sturdy rectangular shaft, and likely to be earlier than the latter part of the 18th century. 'Nails cut from plates of wrought iron by manual labour, are particularly known as wrought nails, and possess the property of bending sufficiently to clinch without breaching. Of late years, however, these have been produced by machinery, which has been improved to cut sufficiently and yet not to destroy the tenacity and pliability of good wrought iron'⁸.

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⁴ Ottaway, (1992) 617

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9.6 Analysis of Post Medieval Pottery

**A note on the pottery
from
Rossfinch, Co. Tipperary (E2484)
N7 Nenagh to Limerick**

Clare McCutcheon MA MIAI

Introduction:

A total of six pieces of ceramic were presented for study. One of these could only be identified as baked clay. Four of the sherds were recovered from the topsoil (F1) and the fifth was found in the fill (C259) of a furrow cut (C260) in Area A.

Glazed red earthenware:

Glazed red earthenware or 'brownwares' were made widely in Britain and Ireland from the later 17th century through to the 19th century (Dunlevy 1988, 24-5). Because of the standardisation of the clay and vessel form it is always difficult to specify a particular production site but a typical kiln was excavated at Tuam, Co. Galway with milk pans and dishes comprising a majority of the vessels (Carey & Meenan 2004). The fabric is generally sandy earthenware, usually oxidised buff to light orange through to brown. The clear lead glaze takes its colour from the fabric with variations due to firing conditions (Jennings 1981, 157).

The identifiable sherds are fragments of glazed red earthenware and appear to represent a small bowl or cup.

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9.7 Analysis of Prehistoric Pottery

N7 Nenagh to Limerick Dual Carriageway

The prehistoric pottery assemblage from Rossfinch, Co. Tipperary (E2484)

Helen Roche and Eoin Grogan

This small assemblage consists of two bodysherds, Context 383 - Nos 1/2; Context 413 – No. 1, representing a single vessel belonging to the broad middle Bronze Age domestic cordoned urn tradition.. The good quality orange-brown fabric is hard and compact with a moderate content of crushed inclusions ($\leq 5.9\text{mm}$). The sherds measure from 8.4mm to 12.8mm thick. Part of a low raised cordon is present on sherd **413:1** and carbonised residue is present on the interior surface. The sherds are burnished on both surfaces, an unusual feature that has been noted on other similarly dated vessels from Ballybrowney Lower 1, Rathealy 3 and Scartbarry, all in Co. Cork (Roche and Grogan 2005a). It is a treatment that appears to have been executed on the upper portions of vessels and may have been intended to further waterproof pots for domestic use.

Domestic pottery belonging to the broad cordoned urn tradition has been identified from an increasing number of settlement sites including Lough Gur Sites C and D (Ó Ríordáin 1954, 333–40 and 392–4, figs 18.7–9, 19.1–6, 34.26, pl. 34), Circle L and Site 10 (Grogan and Eogan 1987, 405 and 449–51, figs 45.891, 68.893–11). Other sites to the south in Co. Cork include Ballinaspig More 5 (Danaher 2004; Grogan and Roche 2004), Rathcormack, (Purcell 2003; Roche and Grogan 2004) and Mondaniel (Roche and Grogan 2005b). A general date range of c. 1600–1300 BC is indicated for these assemblages as is suggested by the date of 1700–1430 BC from Ballinaspig More 5 and several dates from the extensive settlement at Ballybrowney Lower (Cotter 2005; NRA 2005, 149). Cordoned urns are widely represented in burial contexts and constitute one of the latest special funerary wares in the Bronze Age (Brindley 2007; Kavanagh 1976; Grogan 2004); while they had emerged earlier they are largely dated to the middle Bronze Age. The domestic variety is generally similar in form and fabric to funerary vessels but it has been observed on other sites that decoration, where present, is generally more haphazardly applied.

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9.8: Faunal Remains

Margaret McCarthy, MA MIAI

Rossfinch Site 2 E2484

The samples of cremated bones from Rossfinch were all recovered from Area A where the greatest concentration of archaeological activity was identified. The evidence suggests that small-scale domestic activity of possible Bronze Age date existed in this area, supported by the recovery of prehistoric pottery sherds from pit C439. The burnt bones were recovered from the fills of three pits (C97, C119 and C287) and a post-hole (C116) all of which are associated with the first phase of activity at the site. The recovered bones from the three pits were all indeterminate fragments of bone and extremely fragmented. An associated post-hole (C116) contained five indeterminate fragments of burnt bone.

9.9 Catalogue of Clay Pipe Finds

Lee Scotland BA MIAI

During the course of the excavations conducted at Rosssfinch Site 2, two incomplete clay pipe fragments were recovered; E2484:54:1 and E2484:Surface:1. Neither could be accurately dated.

Find No.	Object Type	Description	Dimensions
E2484:54:1	Clay Pipe Stem	Straight stem fragment, cream in colour, tapered slightly at one end and oval in section. Circular perforation located centrally.	L: 31 mm D: 8–9 mm Perforation Diam.: 2 mm
E2484:Surface:1	Clay Pipe Bowl	Fragment of bowl side wall, with external face cream in colour and internal and broken faces white. No indication of base or spur. The approximate maximum diameter of the bowl measured 17mm.	L: 35.5 mm T: 4 mm Diam. 17 mm (approx)