

Licence No: 98E0473

Final Report

on excavations at Lahesseragh, Site A,
N7 Nenagh Bypass, Co. Tipperary.

Client: North Tipperary County Council

Author: Dáire Leahy

Licence Holder: Richard O'Brien

Date of Field Work: September-October 1998

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ABSTRACT

In 1998 four sites were uncovered, on the route of the N7 Nenagh Bypass, in the townland of Lahesseragh. This report details the results of the excavation of Site A in this townland. The site comprised three areas the evidence uncovered represents settlement activity. The earliest dated activity on site is from the Early Bronze Age but the majority of features in Area 1 and 2 have been radiocarbon dated to the Middle Bronze Age. A Late Iron Age date was obtained for a posthole in Area 1. This is a significant find given the paucity of Iron Age Sites in the area.

1. INTRODUCTION

Archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping, in advance of the construction of the N7 Nenagh Bypass, resulted in the discovery of 4 sites (Sites A-D) in the townland of Lahesseragh. This report details the excavation of one of these sites, Site A. This site was subject to a full excavation and this work was carried out by Archaeological Development Services Ltd (ADS) for North Tipperary County Council. The site was excavated during September and October of 1998.

The site at Lahesseragh A (Fig. 1) consisted of a series of sub-soil cut pits and posts that produced artefacts dating from both the prehistoric and post-medieval periods. An RMP number TN020-137 was subsequently assigned to the site, which is listed in the Archaeological Inventory as 299, OS20:15:4 (Farrelly & O'Brien 2002, 51).

This document comprises the final report on these excavations and integrates the results of various specialist analyses that were undertaken on material recovered from these sites.

2. SITE LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

The site was located, in the townland of Lahesseragh at National Grid Reference 184770,177010 (Figs 1 & 2). It lay approximately 2km to the southwest of the town of Nenagh and approximately 7km to the north of the Silvermines Mountains. The site was situated on gently sloping, mainly east facing ground, at approximately 80m above sea level. There were unobstructed views to the east and south over the Kimastulla River valley. The site was overlooked to the east by Lahesseragh Site D, the *fulacht fiadh* (98E0475). The 1st Edition 6 inch OS map shows the site within fields called 'The Forty Acres' and there is a quarry beside the road, which appears to have been expanded by the time of the 1st Edition 25inch OS map (Fig. 4).

3. GEOLOGY

The underlying geology in the area to the south of the town of Nenagh is carboniferous limestone, which covers much of the midlands of Ireland. To the south, east and west are areas of Devonian Old Red Sandstones and Silurian Slates that comprise features such as the Silvermines Mountains (Aalen *et al.* 1997).

This geology is overlain by glacially derived deposits of till, dating to the end of the last glacial period and resulting from the retreat of the glacial ice cap. Other features deriving from this period are evidenced in the wider area with eskers occurring to the northeast, kames to the south and drumlins to the west (*ibid*).

The soils that have developed over these deposits consist, exclusively, of grey-brown podzolics, with brown podzolics and acid brown earths occurring on the higher ground to the south, east and west (ibid).

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site of Lahesseragh A forms part of an extensive archaeological landscape in the vicinity of the town of Nenagh (Fig. 3). The dates obtained for the features excavated at Lahesseragh A suggest that it may be related to a number of prehistoric sites in the vicinity. Also uncovered on the road route, in the townland of Lahesseragh, were two further prehistoric sites, Site C and D. Site C, some 200m to the west, (98E0474; Leahy & O'Brien 2009a) represented the remains of a round house, dated on the basis of the artefacts recovered, to the Bronze Age. Site D, some 500m to the east, was the remains of a burnt mound that had been subjected to severe modern disturbance (08E0475; Leahy & O'Brien 2009b). This site did not produce any dating evidence but was possibly also of prehistoric date. The site of Lahesseragh B, initially thought to be the remains of a possible cairn, is now considered to be the remains of an episode of field clearance. Nonetheless, this area was not to be further disturbed and the feature was preserved *in situ*.

The prehistoric landscape in the area, in particular as revealed on the route of the N7, extended to the west into the townland Tullahedy where there was a burnt mound complex of prehistoric origin, but including later activity (98E0540; Sheehan, Leahy & O'Brien 2009), and a Neolithic ceremonial site (97E0472).

To the east, in the townlands of Knockalton Upper, Knockalton Lower and Ballintotty (Knockaunkennedy) was a further concentration of prehistoric sites with these consisting of sections of ditches, a tentative Neolithic or Beaker period structure and a burnt mound (987E0320 Ext, 98E0471, 98E0472; Leahy & O'Brien 2009c, d and e).

5. EXCAVATION METHODS

The features described below were originally noted during the removal of topsoil along the route of the N7. This work was conducted by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless, grading bucket and the area was subsequently cleaned back, manually, before each of the features was half sectioned to assess its nature. All archaeological features were then drawn in section and photographed before being fully excavated and, where necessary, sampled for dating material and/or environmental evidence. All features and deposits were given unique context numbers and each context was described fully on a standard recording sheet. The site was then recorded, post excavation, photographically and in plan.

6. EXCAVATION RESULTS

Archaeological features were excavated in three areas at Site A. Detailed descriptions of each of the excavated contexts are contained within the context list in Appendix I.

6.1 AREA 1

This area, that measured approximately 240m², contained a series of natural subsoil-cut pits, postholes and stakeholes (Fig. 5). All of these features were sealed below the topsoil and, for the most part, there was no further stratigraphic relationship between the features.

Running from east to west through the centre of the site was a series of 21 postholes¹, to the north and south of which the pits were located. The majority of these postholes² occurred in a single, east to west oriented line, that formed the northern limit of the row of postholes, and the remainder, with one exception, were scattered over an area to the south (Fig. 5).

These postholes were generally oval/subcircular in plan with steeply sloping sides and rounded or flat bases. They measured between 0.15 and 0.48m in width and from 0.11 to 0.3m in depth and sections through three of these features ([11A], [12A] and [15A]) exhibited evidence for a post pipe and post pit (Fig. 7).

To the north of the post row, adjacent to the limit of excavation was a small cluster of features, consisting of a pit [80A], a curvilinear slot [35A] and two stakeholes [81A] and [83A]. The pit [80A] was roughly subrectangular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.8 by 1.28m in width and up to 0.33m in depth. Cut into the base of [80A] was a single stakehole, [83A] (Fig. 7). This stakehole had a vertical axis and its fill, (83) was identical to the fill of the pit, (80), both comprising deposits of mid brown sandy clay.

To the north, 0.2m from [80A], was a curvilinear slot feature, [35A]. This feature was oriented roughly east to west, perpendicular to the long axis of [83A], and measured 0.22m in width, 1m in length and 0.07m in depth. It was filled by mid brown sandy clay, (35). Immediately adjacent, to the north of [35A], was the stakehole [81A] that was oval in plan with a vertical axis. The stratigraphic relationship between these two features was not revealed during the process of excavation.

To the southeast of the post row was a cluster of four features, along the eastern boundary of the site, [28A], [29A], [86A], and [87A]. The easternmost of these features, [28A] was a subrectangular pit with steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 7). It measured 0.65 by 1.28m in width and 0.13m in depth. It was filled by two separate but similar deposits, (28) and (28B).

¹ [16A], [92A], [47A], [76A], [84A], [4A], [5A], [6A], [7A], [8A], [9A], [10A], [11A], [12A], [13A], [14A], [15A], [17A], [18A], [19A] and [25A].

² [5A], [6A], [7A], [8A], [9A], [10A], [11A], [12A], [13A], [14A], [15A], [17A], [18A] and [25A].

To the west of [28A], at a remove of 0.6m, was the feature [29A]. This was slightly curvilinear in plan with steeply sloping sides and an uneven base (Fig. 7). It measured 0.2m in width, 1m in length, up to 0.12m in depth and was oriented roughly north to south, perpendicular to the long axis of [28A]. It was filled by a single deposit, (29).

At the south end of [29A] was the feature [86A], a shallow irregular/oval shaped cut that measured 0.26 by 0.42m in width and 0.07m in depth. It was filled by a single deposit, (86). Cut into the base of [86A] was the stakehole, [87A] that had a vertical axis (Fig. 7) and was filled by (87). There was no record of the stratigraphic relationship between [29A] and [86A] and between [86A] and [87A].

To the south of the post row, in the southern corner of the site, was a further grouping of pits postholes and stakeholes. Somewhat isolated from this group was [91A]. This was oval in plan with very gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by a single deposit, (91), and it measured 0.83 by 0.84m in width and up to 0.22m in depth (Fig. 7).

To the west, 3m from [91A], were two pits, [22A] and [93A]. The former was T-shaped in plan with gradually sloping sides and a rounded base (Fig. 8). It measured 0.64 by 0.68m in width, 0.11m in depth and was filled by a single deposit of dark brown silty clay, (22), that produced two fragments of worked chert. Approximately 0.35m to the south was [93A]. This pit was oval in plan and measured 1.36 by 1.46m in width and 0.43m in depth (Fig. 8). It was filled by a single deposit of light grey clay, (93), from which no artefactual material was recovered.

To the south of [93A] was the pit [24A]. This was oval in plan with gradually sloping sides, and a rounded base (Fig. 8). It measured 0.69 by 0.86m in width, a maximum of 0.1m in depth and was filled by two deposits, (24) and (24B). The former consisted of dark brown/black sandy clay that overlay the latter, a layer of oxidised sandy clay (Fig. 8).

Surrounding [24A] was a concentration of eight stakeholes and postholes³. These features were all circular or oval in plan and had vertical axes (e.g. Fig. 8). They measured between 0.08 and 0.37m in width and from 0.03 to 0.28m in depth. The fills consisted generally of light to dark brown silty clays with varying amounts of charcoal.

To the west of the above features were two adjacent pits, [66A] and [67A]. The former was subrectangular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a slightly rounded base (Fig. 8). It was filled by a single deposit of light brown silty clay, (66), and it measured 0.52 by 0.9m in width and 0.1m in depth. The adjacent [67A] was oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and a flat base (Fig. 9). It measured 0.24 by 0.72m in width and 0.11m in depth and was filled by light brown silty clay, (67).

³ [45A], [90A], [46A], [69A], [70A], [71A], [75A], and [68A].

6.2 AREA 2

A total of 15 features, consisting of pits, stakeholes and postholes, were excavated within this area of approximately 107m² (Fig. 6). The northernmost of these features was the pit, [34A]. This was figure-of-eight shaped in plan with generally steeply sloping sides and a sloping base. It measured 0.6 by 0.7m in width and 0.12m in depth (Fig. 9). It was filled by an upper layer of oxidised clay, (34) and a basal layer of dark brown silty clay (34B). Cut into (34) was a single, vertical stakehole, [81A].

To the south of the above features were two adjacent features, [82A] and [23A], consisting of a posthole and a pit. The posthole, [82A], was circular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base (Fig. 9). It measured 0.2m in diameter, 0.1m in depth and was filled by (82). The adjacent [23A] was subrectangular in plan gradually sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.4 by 0.67m in width and 0.1m in depth (Fig. 9). It was filled by mid brown sandy clay (23).

Approximately four metres to the south were the first features of a concentration at this end of the area, where there were five pits and three stakeholes. The stakeholes, [88A], [31A] and [39A], all had vertical axes and measured from 0.1 to 0.11m in diameter. The five pits, [30A], [79A], [40A], [32A], [78A], were oval or subrectangular in plan, generally with moderately steep sloping sides and flat or rounded bases (Fig. 9). The fills consisted of a variety of silty clays with varying concentrations of charcoal. No artefactual material was recovered from any of these features.

A further three pits and a single stakehole occurred to the northwest of the concentration, described above. The largest of these, [27A], was subrectangular in plan, with gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. It was filled by a single deposit, (27), and measured 0.74 by 0.84m in width and 0.1m in depth. From this fill a possible rubbing stone was recovered.

Two metres to the southwest of [27A] was the stakehole, [85A]. This was circular in plan with steeply sloping sides that tapered to a point and measured 0.12m in diameter and depth. Eastwards of [85A] were the two pits [77A] and [67A]. Both were oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and flat or uneven bases. The former was filled with a deposit of light brown silty clay, (77) and the latter with a deposit of light brown gritty clay (67), neither of which produced artefactual material.

6.3 AREA 3

Twelve archaeological features were excavated in Area 3 that covered approximately 300m² (Fig. 7). These consisted of pits and a linear ditch feature, all of which were subsoil cut without interlinking stratigraphy. Of the pits, eight⁴ occurred in a slightly curved row. These cuts were all oval or subrectangular in plan and had steeply sloping sides and flat or rounded bases (Fig. 10). Their fills, in each case a single deposit, consisted of mid to dark brown silty clay with a varying amount of charcoal, none of which produced artefactual material.

⁴ [64A], [63A], [60A], [62A], [59A], [57A], [56A] and [54A].

The dimensions of the pits varied greatly with the smallest having measured 0.5m in diameter and the largest 1.65 by 1.8m in width. In depth the features ranged from 0.1 to 0.42m. The row formed by these pits measured 10m in length and curved slightly from the south to the northeast.

To the southeast, 10m from the pit row, were a further two pits, [50A] and [43A]. Both of these were oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and flat bases, filled by two separate deposits of light grey silty clay. The former measured 0.8 by 0.9m in width and 0.31m in depth, while the latter measured 0.5 by 0.55m in width and 0.23m in depth.

A final pit, [65A], occurred 7m to the northeast of the pit row. This was also oval in plan with steeply sloping sides, an uneven base and measured 0.3 by 0.45m in width and 0.28m in depth (Fig. 10). To the east, 3.25m from [65A], was the ditch [58A]. This was linear in plan with steeply sloping sides and a mostly flat base that sloped slightly towards the north, at the middle of the feature. It was filled by light brown gritty clay (58). In length [58A] measured 7.45m while in its width varied from 0.45 to 0.8m.

7. INTERPRETATION AND DATING

Area 1 occupied a prominent position with good views of the surrounding area. A line of postholes ran through the middle of this area with a further six posts scattered over an area to the south (Fig. 5). Attempts to reconstruct a credible structure from the combination of these features were unsuccessful and it seem likely that the post row was a single feature itself, probably a fence, and that the posts to the south comprised separate structures. This interpretation was reinforced by the radiocarbon dates returned for samples from this area. While samples of hazel charcoal from the main post row (cuts [6A] and [8A]) returned Early to Middle Bronze Age dates of 1864-1539 cal. BC (UBA- 15825) and 1735-1531 cal. BC, respectively (UBA- 15826; 2 sigma; see Appendix VII), a sample of ash from the adjacent post hole [47A] returned a Late Iron Age/early Christian date of 261-532 cal. AD (UBA-15830), indicating that this was part of a separate later structure.

The groups of features that surrounded the post row may represent distinct areas of activity that, in the case of at least two of these groups, may have been the result of similar activities, i.e. [28A]/[29A] and [80A]/[81A]. At both of these locations a pit was accompanied by a linear/curvilinear slot-like feature that may have supported a wind break. None of these features produced any artefacts or ecofacts and therefore it is unclear exactly what activity is represented here. However, it is likely that the features may represent contemporary activity. The absence of any waste products associated with these features indicates that they were unlikely to represent industrial activity and they probably result from domestic occupation.

From Area 1, a single worked chert artefact was recovered from the fill of [22A]. This was a piece of debitage (98E0473:22:1) and its presence indicates that chert was being worked on the site (Sternke 2010, see Appendix VI). A Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age date was suggested for the

Lahesseragh assemblage (ibid.) as a whole. A sample of charcoal from feature [22A] returned a calibrated date of 2464-2213 BC (UBA-15829). While this date would be in agreement with the suggested date of the lithics the material dated was oak and allowance must be made for the old oak problem. It is therefore possible that this feature was also of Early to Middle Bronze Age date.

The hearth feature, [24A] that was excavated at the southwest of the area produced six grains of barley, the use of which became more common as the Bronze Age progressed (Allen 2010, see Appendix IV). It is possible that this material was deposited during the preparation of food and the feature probably represents habitation activity. It was dated by hazel charcoal to 1618-1462 cal. BC (UBA- 15827) and is broadly contemporary with the structure represented by the post row on the north of the site.

In Area 2 there was no clear patterning in the features, and little in the way of artefacts. Despite the presence of a small number of stakeholes and possible postholes, no clearly defined structures were evident. The features in this area were dominated by pits and, as with Area 1, they probably represent domestic occupation. From [27A] a rubbing stone (98E0473:27:1) was retrieved and from [78A] a flint flake (98E0473:78:1) that may have been employed as a scraper (Sternke 2010). Sternke has suggested that these artefacts were made and used in the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age, which is slightly earlier than the results of radiocarbon dating obtained on a sample from the feature [77A]. This sample (of hazel charcoal) returned a date of 1662-1496 cal. BC (UBA- 15828) and was, therefore, broadly contemporary with the majority of the features in Area 1.

Area 3 contained a number of large pits, eight of which formed a slightly curved row. It is possible that these pits once held upright posts but there was nothing in the sections through these features to support this interpretation. It is, however, possible that the posts were removed and the features subsequently back-filled. That the pits were filled rapidly, perhaps as a single event, is suggested by the homogeneity of the deposit within each feature. Should these features have held posts, then they may represent a length of fencing similar to that in Area 1. Alternatively, they may form part of a larger structure. The size and form of the linear ditch in Area 3 suggests that was probably an agricultural furrow-type feature. No artefacts were recovered from any of the features in this area and the sample failed to produce sufficient or suitable material for radiocarbon dating. Thus it has not been possible to date this site. However, the proximity of this area to Areas 1 and 2 which produced prehistoric dates may indicate that Area 3 is broadly contemporary.

8. CONCLUSIONS

The three areas of archaeological features at Lahesseragh A primarily resulted from domestic occupation. The artefacts recovered and the results of radiocarbon dating of samples from Areas 1 and 2 demonstrate activity at these locations in the Early – Middle Bronze Age and Late Iron Age. Although there were no artefacts from Area 3 and the samples did not yield any material suitable for radiocarbon dating, its proximity to the other two areas suggests that it may also date to the prehistoric period.

The earliest feature was a pit of Early Bronze Age/Beaker date (2464-2213 cal. BC) in Area 1, which is consistent with the lithics recovered from the site. However, caution should be exercised in interpreting this radiocarbon date as evidence for Beaker activity since it was obtained on oak charcoal and there is a possibility that the early date may be due to the old wood effect.

The postholes uncovered on site did not form coherent structural ground plans, however the possibility remains that structure/s may originally have occupied these areas. The large post row in Area 1 could have been a free standing fence or may be the only surviving remains of a once much larger structure. The results of radiocarbon analysis indicate that that post row dates to the Middle Bronze Age while at least one of the other postholes [47A] represents the remains of a much later (Late Iron Age) structure. Those pits which returned radiocarbon dates are broadly contemporary with the Middle Bronze Age post row and probably represent associated domestic activity. They may have functioned as storage pits or refuse containers.

Evidence for domestic activity came from the remains of a hearth, cereal grains and a rubbing stone, which indicate that some level of food processing and/or consumption was being carried out on site. The lithics recovered were waste pieces and general purpose tools again indicative of domestic occupation rather than specialist activity.

While the sites were particularly undiagnostic in form they could be compared to a number of other excavated sites of likely Bronze Age date, such as those excavated at Ahanaghlough (Tierney & O'Domhnaill 2008) and Graigueshoneen, Co. Waterford (Tierney 2008).

These sites, of Early/Middle Bronze Age date would fit broadly in the gaps between the Neolithic site at Tullahedy (McConway & Sheehan 2010), to the west and the Late Bronze Age habitation site, also in the west, at Lahesseragh C (Leahy & O'Brien 2011). While the Late Iron Age date from one of the postholes on Area 1 demonstrates continuity of activity or a return to the area at that time.

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Appendices

10. APPENDIX I: CONTEXT LIST

Context	Description of Context
1	Topsoil. Mid brown gritty clay with occasional stones. Covered entire site. Produced post-medieval pottery, a clay pipe stem fragment and lithics.
2	Fill of [3].
3	Cut of pit.
4	Fill of [4A]. Moderately compact mid brown gritty clay with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.29 by 0.3m in width and 0.25m in depth.
4A	Cut of posthole. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.29 by 0.3m in width and 0.25m in depth. Filled by (4).
5	Fill of [5A]. Moderately compact dark brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking and occasional stones (0.05m ³). It measured 0.22 by 0.25m in width and 0.26m in depth.
5A	Cut of posthole. Oval in plan with very steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.22 by 0.25m in width and 0.26m in depth. Filled by (5).
6	Fill of [6A]. Moderately compact dark grey/brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecking and occasional stones (0.05m ³). It measured 0.28m by 0.28m in width and 0.2m in depth. Overlay (6B).
6A	Cut of posthole. Oval in plan with very steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.28 by 0.28m in width and 0.24m in depth. Filled by (6) and (6B).
6B	Fill of [6A]. Moderately compact mid brown gritty silty with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.15 by 0.13m in width and 0.12m in maximum depth. Underlay (6).
7	Fill of [7A]. Moderately compact dark brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking and very occasional stones (0.03m ³). It measured 0.29 by 0.2m in width and 0.18m in depth.
7A	Cut of posthole. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.2 by 0.29m in width and 0.18m in depth. Filled by (7).
8	Fill of [8A]. Moderately compact mid brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.2 by 0.26m in width and 0.11m in depth.
8A	Cut of posthole. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and an uneven base. It measured 0.2 by 0.26m in width and 0.11m in depth. Filled by (8).
9	Fill of [9A]. Moderately compact dark brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecking. It measured 0.2 by 0.3m in width and 0.22m in depth.
9A	Cut of posthole. Oval in plan with steeply sloping to vertical sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.2 by 0.3m in width and 0.22m in depth. Filled by (9).
10	Fill of [10A]. Dark brown/black sticky clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.22 by 0.24m in width and 0.24m in depth. Underlay (10B).
10A	Cut of posthole. Oval in plan with vertical sides and a pointed base. It measured 0.22 by 0.24m in width and 0.24m in depth. Filled by (10) and (10B).

Context	Description of Context
10B	Fill of [10A]. Mid to light brown sticky clay with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.22 by 0.24m in width and 0.24m in depth. Overlay (10).
11	Fill of [11A]. Mid to dark brown sticky clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.15 by 0.17m in width and 0.3m in depth. Overlay (11B).
11A	Cut of posthole. Oval in plan with vertical sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.17 by 0.19m in width and 0.3m in depth. Filled by (11) and (11B).
11B	Fill of [11A]. Light brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecking and occasional stones (0.03m ³). Underlay (11).
12	Fill of [12A]. Dark brown/black sticky clay with moderate charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.08m ³). It measured 0.21 by 0.22m in width and 0.2m in depth. Overlay (12B).
12A	Cut of posthole. Oval in plan with steeply sloping to vertical sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.21 by 0.27m in width and 0.2m in depth. Filled by (12) and (12B).
12B	Fill of [12A]. Light brown sticky sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.04m ³). Underlay (12).
13	Fill of [13A]. Loose, light to mid brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecking and frequent stones (0.01-0.03m ³). Fill of [13B].
13A	Cut of posthole. Oval in plan with moderately steep sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.32 by 0.48 in depth and 0.16m in depth. Filled by (13).
14	Fill of [14A]. Mid brown sticky clay with occasional charcoal flecking and frequent stones (<0.02m ³). It measured 0.26 m in diameter and 0.16m in depth.
14A	Cut of posthole. Circular in plan with steeply sloping to vertical sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.26m in diameter and 0.16m in depth. Filled by (14).
15	Fill of [15A]. Mid to dark brown sticky clay with occasional charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.05m ³). It measured 0.2m in diameter and 0.15m in depth.
15A	Cut of posthole. Subcircular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.2m in diameter and 0.15m in depth. Filled by (15) and (15B).
15B	Fill of [15A]. Light brown sandy clay with very occasional charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.04m ³). Underlay (15).
16	Fill of [16A]. Dark brown sticky silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking and moderately frequent stones (<0.04m ³). It measured 0.15m in diameter and 0.24m in depth.
16A	Cut of posthole. Subcircular in plan with vertical sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.15m in diameter and 0.24m in depth. Filled by (16).
17	Fill of [17A]. Moderately compact, mid brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.1 by 0.16m in width and 0.14m in depth.
17A	Cut of stake/posthole. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.1 by 0.16m in width and 0.14m in depth. Filled by (17).

Context	Description of Context
18	Fill of [18A]. Mid brown sticky sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.07m in diameter and 0.17m in depth.
18A	Cut of stakehole. Circular in plan with vertical sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.07m in diameter and 0.17m in depth. Filled by (18).
19	Fill of [19A]. Mid brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.11 by 0.14m in width and 0.15m in depth.
19A	Cut of posthole. Oval in plan with steeply sloping /vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 0.11 by 0.14m in width and 0.15m in depth. Filled by (19).
20	Void.
21	Void.
21A	Void.
22	Fill of [22A]. Dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.64 by 0.98m in width and 0.11m in depth. Produced 2 fragments of worked chert.
22A	Cut of pit. T-shaped in plan with rounded corners, gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.64 by 0.98m in width and 0.11m in depth. Filled by (22).
23	Fill of [23A]. Moderately compact, mid brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.4 by 0.67m in width and 0.1m in depth.
23A	Cut of pit. Subrectangular in plan with rounded corners, gradually sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.4 by 0.67m in width and 0.1m in depth. Filled by (23).
24	Fill of [24A]. Dark brown/ black sandy clay with frequent charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.01m ³). It measured 0.69 by 0.86m in width and 0.1m in depth. Overlay (24B).
24A	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.69 by 0.86m in width and 0.1m in depth. Filled by (24) and (24B).
24B	Fill of [24A]. Orange/red compact sandy clay. It measured 0.6 by 0.82m in width and 0.1m in depth. Underlay (24).
25	Fill of [25A]. Mid brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.22 by 0.24m in width and 0.08m in depth.
25A	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with moderately steep sloping sides and a pointed base. It measured 0.22 by 0.24m in width and 0.08m in depth. Filled by (25).
26	Void.
27	Fill of [27A]. Light brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.74 by 0.84m in width and 0.1m in depth. Produced a rubbing stone.
27A	Cut of pit. Subrectangular in plan with rounded corners, gradually sloping sides and an uneven base. It measured 0.74 by 0.84m in width and 0.1m in depth. Filled by (27).

Context	Description of Context
28	Fill of [28A]. Dark brown/grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.06m ³). It measured 0.65 by 1.28m in width and 0.13m in depth. Overlay (28B).
28A	Cut of pit. Subrectangular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.65 by 1.28m in width and 0.13m in depth. Filled by (28) and (28B).
28B	Fill of [28A]. Dark grey/brown silty clay with light brown mottle, occasional charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.04m ³). Underlay (28).
29	Fill of [29A]. Dark brown/black silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.2 by 1m in width and 0.12m in depth. Filled by (29A).
29A	Cut of pit. Linear/subrectangular in plan with rounded corners, steeply sloping sides and an uneven base. It measured 0.2 by 1m in width and 0.12m in depth. Filled by (29).
30	Fill of [30A]. Mid to dark brown clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.43m in diameter and 0.04m in depth. Overlay (30B).
30A	Cut of pit. Circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.43m in diameter and 0.09m in depth. Filled by (30), (30B) and (30C).
30B	Fill of [30A]. Black gritty silt with heavy charcoal staining. It measured 0.23m in diameter and 0.04m in depth. Overlay (30C).
30C	Fill of [30A]. Compact mid brown silty clay with occasional stones (<0.01m ³). It measured 0.32m in diameter and 0.04m in depth. Underlay (30B).
31	Fill of [32A]. Orange/grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.11m in diameter and 0.12 in depth.
31A	Cut of stakehole. Circular in plan with steeply sloping/vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 0.11m in diameter and 0.12 in depth. Filled by (32).
32	Fill of [32A]. Moderately compact, dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.63 by 1.13m in width and 0.22m in depth.
32A	Cut of pit. Subrectangular in plan, with rounded corners, moderately steep sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.63 by 1.13m in width, 0.22m in depth and was filled by (32).
33	Void.
34	Fill of [34A]. Compact, orange/red burnt clay with occasional charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.05m ³). It measured 0.6 by 0.7m in width and 0.12m in depth. Overlay (34B).
34A	Cut of pit. Figure-of-eight shaped in plan with steeply sloping sides, at the northern end of the feature, more gradual to the south, east and west and a base that sloped from south to north. It measured 0.6 by 0.7m in width and 0.12m in depth. Filled by (34) and (34B). Cut by [81A].
34B	Fill of [34A]. Cut by [81A] Dark brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking and moderately frequent stones (<0.05m ³). Underlay (34).

Context	Description of Context
35	Fill of [35A]. Loose, mid brown sandy clay with with occasional charcoal flecking and frequent stones (<0.07m ³). It measured 0.22 by 1m in width and 0.07m in depth. Overlay (35B).
35A	Cut feature. Curvilinear in plan with rounded terminals, gradually sloping sides and a pointed base. It measured 0.22 by 1m in width and 0.15m in depth. Filled by (35) and (35B).
35B	Fill of [35A]. Light brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.2m by 0.5m in width and 0.08m in depth. Underlay (35).
36	Void.
36A	Void.
36B	Void.
37	Void.
37A	Void.
38	Void.
39	Fill of [39A]. Moderately compact light grey silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.11m in diameter and 0.12m in depth.
39A	Cut of stakehole. Circular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a pointed base. It measured 0.11m in diameter and 0.12m in depth. Filled by (39).
40	Fill of [40A]. Dark brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.03m ³). It measured 0.36 by 0.7m in width and 0.17m in depth.
40A	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.36 by 0.7m in width and 0.17m in depth. Filled by (40).
41A	Void.
42A	Void.
43	Fill of [43A]. Light grey silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.06m ³). It measured 0.5 by 0.55m in width and 0.23m in depth.
43A	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with steeply sloping/vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 0.5 by 0.55m in width and 0.23m in depth. Filled by (43).
44	Void.
44A	Void.
45	Fill of [45A]. Mid brown clay with occasional charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.03m ³). It measured 0.2 by 0.24m in width and 0.1m in depth.
45A	Cut of pit/posthole. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides that tapered to a point. It measured 0.2 by 0.24m in width and 0.1m in depth. Filled by (45).
46	Fill of [46A]. Moderately compact, light brown clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecking. It measured 0.2m in diameter in 0.09m in depth.
46A	Cut of stake/posthole. Circular in plan with moderately to steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.2m in diameter in 0.09m in depth. Filled by (46)

Context	Description of Context
47	Fill of [47A]. Loose, mid brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.03m ³). It measured 0.28 by 0.3m in width and 0.21m in depth.
47A	Cut of posthole. Oval in plan with vertical sides and an uneven base. It measured 0.28 by 0.3m in width and 0.21m in depth. Filled by (47).
48	Void.
48A	Void.
49	Void.
50	Fill of [50A]. Moderately compact light grey silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.8 by 0.9m in width and 0.31m in depth.
50A	Cut of pit/posthole. Oval in plan with very steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.8 by 0.9m in width and 0.31m in depth. Filled by (50).
51	Void.
51A	Void.
52	Void
52A	Void
52B	Void.
53	Void.
54	Fill of [54A]. Dark brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.07m ³). It measured 0.5m in diameter and 0.12m in depth.
54A	Cut of pit. Circular in plan with gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.5m in diameter and 0.12m in depth. Filled by (54).
55	Void.
56	Fill of [56A]. Mid brown gritty clay with moderate charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.07m ³). It measured 0.6 by 0.85m in width and 0.1m in depth.
56A	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and a uneven base. It measured 0.6 by 0.85m in width and 0.1m in depth. Filled by (56).
57	Fill of [57A]. Dark brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.55 by 0.65m in width and 0.25m in depth.
57A	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with very steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.55 by 0.65m in width and 0.25m in depth. Filled by (57).
58	Fill of [58A]. Moderately compact light brown gritty silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.45 to 0.8m in width, 7.45m in length and 0.23m to 0.31m in depth.
58A	Cut of ditch. Linear in plan with steeply sloping sides, rounded terminals and a mostly flat base that deepened towards the north. It measured 0.45 to 0.8m in width, 7.45m in length and 0.23m to 0.31m in depth. Filled by (58).
59	Fill of [59A]. Dark brown gritty silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking and moderately frequent stones (<0.12m ³). It measured 0.6 by 1m in width and 0.16m in depth.

Context	Description of Context
59A	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and an uneven base. It measured 0.6 by 1m in width and 0.16m in depth. Filled by (59).
60	Fill of [60A]. Dark brown gritty silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.12m ³). It measured 0.45 by 1.25m in width and 0.3m in depth.
60A	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.45 by 1.25m in width and 0.3m in depth. Filled by (60).
61	Void
62	Fill of [62A]. Dark brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking and moderately frequent stones (<0.35m ³). It measured 1.65 by 1.8m in width and 0.42m in depth.
62A	Cut of pit. Subrectangular/irregular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a stepped base, getting deeper from the north to the south. It measured 1.65 by 1.8m in width and between 0.26 and 0.42m in depth. Filled by (62).
63	Fill of [63A]. Mid to dark brown clayey silt with moderate charcoal flecking and occasional stones (<0.08m ³). It measured 0.55 by 0.65m in width and 0.15m in depth.
63A	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and an uneven base. It measured 0.55 by 0.65m in width and 0.15m in depth. Filled by (63).
64	Fill of [64A]. Mid brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.5 by 0.6m in width and 0.23m in depth.
64A	Cut of pit. Subrectangular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.5 by 0.6m in width and 0.23m in depth. Filled by (64).
65	Fill of [65A]. Dark brown gritty silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.3 by 0.45m in width and 0.28m in depth.
65A	Cut of pit/posthole. Oval in plan with steeply sloping/vertical sides and an uneven base. It measured 0.3 by 0.45m in width and 0.28m in depth. Filled by (65).
66	Fill of [66A]. Moderately compact, light brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. Dense charcoal concentration in one corner of the base. It measured 0.52 by 0.9m in width and 0.1m in depth.
66A	Cut of pit. Subrectangular in plan with rounded corners, steeply sloping sides and a slightly rounded base. It measured 0.52 by 0.9m in width and 0.1m in depth. Filled by (66).
67	Fill of [67A]. Compact, light brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.24 by 0.72m in width and 0.11m in depth.
67A	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.24 by 0.72m in width and 0.11m in depth. Filled by (67).
68	Fill of [68A]. Dark grey/brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.16m in diameter and 0.13m in depth.

Context	Description of Context
68A	Cut of posthole. Circular in plan with steeply sloping sides that tapered to a point. It measured 0.16m in diameter and 0.13m in depth. Filled by (68).
69	Fill of [69A]. Dark grey silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.09m in diameter and 0.04m in depth.
69A	Cut of stakehole. Circular in plan with steeply sloping sides that tapered to a point. It measured 0.09m in diameter and 0.04m in depth. Filled by (69).
70	Fill of [70A]. Dark brown gritty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.08m in diameter and 0.04m in depth.
70A	Cut of stakehole. Circular in plan with steeply sloping sides that tapered to a point. It measured 0.08m in diameter and 0.04m in depth. Filled by (70).
71	Fill of [71A]. Moderately compact, mid brown gritty silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.1 by 0.12m in width and 0.03m in depth.
71A	Cut of stakehole. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides that tapered to a point. It measured 0.1 by 0.12m in width and 0.03m in depth. Filled by (71).
72	Void.
73	Void.
74	Void.
75	Fill of [75A]. Moderately compact, light brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.11 by 0.13m in width and 0.13m in depth.
75A	Cut of stakehole. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides that tapered to a point. It measured 0.11 by 0.13m in width and 0.13m in depth. Filled by (75).
76	Fill of [76A]. Light grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.2m in diameter and 0.15m in depth.
76A	Cut of posthole. Circular in plan with steeply sloping/vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 0.2m in diameter and 0.15m in depth. Filled by (76).
77	Fill of [77A]. Moderately compact light brown gritty clay with frequent charcoal flecking. It measured 0.2 by 0.3m in width and 0.1m in depth.
77A	Cut of pit/posthole. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and an uneven base. It measured 0.2 by 0.3m in width and 0.1m in depth. Filled by (77).
78	Fill of [78A]. Light brown sandy clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.42 by 1.18m in width and 0.1m in depth.
78A	Cut of pit. Subrectangular in plan with rounded corners, steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.42 by 1.18m in width and 0.1m in depth. Filled by (78).
79	Fill of [79A]. Moderately compact light brown silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.4 by 0.66m in width and 0.48m in depth.
79A	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with steeply sloping/vertical sides and a stepped base, deepening towards the north of the cut. It measured 0.4 by 0.66m in width and 0.48m in depth. Filled by (79).

Context	Description of Context
80	Fill of [80A]. Loose, mid brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecking and frequent stones (<0.10m ³). It measured 0.8 by 1.18m in width and 0.33m in depth.
80A	Cut of pit. Subrectangular in plan with rounded corners, moderately steep sloping sides and a flat base. It measured 0.8 by 1.18m in width and 0.33m in depth. Filled by (80). Cut by stakehole [81A].
81	Fill of [81A]. Moderately compact mid grey silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.02 by 0.03m in width and 0.14m in depth.
81A	Cut of stakehole. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides that tapered to a point. It measured 0.02 by 0.03m in width and 0.14m in depth. Filled by (81). Cuts (34B)
82	Fill of [82A]. Moderately compact light brown silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.2m in diameter and 0.1m in depth.
82A	Cut of posthole. Circular in plan with vertical sides and a flat base. It measured 0.2m in diameter and 0.1m in depth. Filled by (82).
83	Fill of [83A]. Mid brown sandy clay with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.9m in diameter and 0.12m in depth.
83A	Cut of stakehole in base of [80A]. It was oval in plan with vertical sides and a pointed base. It measured 0.9m in diameter and 0.12m in depth. Filled by (83).
84	Fill of [84A]. Moderately compact light brown gritty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.24 by 0.26m in width and 0.26m in depth.
84A	Cut of posthole. Subcircular in plan with vertical sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.24 by 0.26m in width and 0.26m in depth. Filled by (84).
85	Fill of [85A]. Moderately compact dark grey silty clay with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.12m in diameter and 0.12m in depth.
85A	Cut of stakehole. Circular in plan with steeply sloping sides that tapered to a point. It measured 0.12m in diameter and 0.12m in depth. Filled by (85).
86	Fill of [86A]. Moderately compact light brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecking. It measured 0.26 by 0.42m in width and 0.07m in depth.
86A	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with moderately to steeply sloping sides and an uneven base. It measured 0.26 by 0.42m in width and 0.07m in depth. Filled by (86). Cut by [87A].
87	Fill of [87A]. Compact light grey clayey silt with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.1m in diameter and 0.22m in depth.
87A	Cut of stakehole in base of [86A]. It was circular in plan with steeply sloping sides that tapered to a point. It measured 0.1m in diameter and 0.22m in depth. Filled by (87).
88	Fill of [88A]. Compact dark grey clayey silt with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.1m in diameter and 0.08m in depth.
88A	Cut of stakehole. Circular in plan with steeply sloping sides that tapered to a point. It measured 0.1m in diameter and 0.08m in depth. Filled by (88).

Context	Description of Context
89	Void.
89A	Void.
90	Fill of [90A]. Moderately compact light grey/brown silty clay with frequent charcoal flecking. It measured 0.33 by 0.37m in width and 0.28m in depth.
90A	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with steeply sloping sides that tapered to a point. It measured 0.33 by 0.37m in width and 0.28m in depth. Filled by (90).
91	Fill of [91A]. Moderately compact dark grey/brown clayey silt with moderate charcoal flecking. It measured 0.83 by 0.84m in width and 0.22m in depth.
91A	Cut of pit. Oval in plan with gradually sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.83 by 0.84m in width and 0.22m in depth. Filled by (91).
92	Fill of [92A]. Moderately compact dark grey silty clay with occasional charcoal flecking. It measured 0.23 by 0.24m in width and 0.23m in depth.
92A	Cut of posthole. Subcircular in plan with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. It measured 0.23 by 0.24m in width and 0.23m in depth. Filled by (92).
93	Fill of [93A]. Compact light grey clay with moderate charcoal flecking and moderately frequent stones (<0.20m ³) . It measured 1.36 by 1.46m in width and 0.43m in depth.
93A	Cut of pit. Irregular/oval in plan with steeply sloping sides and a rounded base. Filled by (93).

11. APPENDIX II: FINDS LIST

Find Number	Context	Cut	Material	Type
98E0473:1:1	1	-	Pottery	Post medieval
98E0473:1:2	1	-	Pottery	Post medieval
98E0473:1:3	1	-	Pottery	Post medieval
98E0473:1:4	1	-	Pottery	Post medieval
98E0473:1:5	1	-	Clay pipe	Stem fragment
98E0473:1:6	1	-	Stone	Hone stone
98E0473:1:7	1	-	Flint	Retouched artefact
98E0473:22:1	22	22A	Chert	Debitage
98E0473:27:1	27	27A	Stone	Rubbing stone
98E0473:78:1	78	78A	Flint	Flake

12. APPENDIX III: SAMPLE LIST

Sample Number	Context	Cut	Number of bags
19	6B	6A	2
34	10	10A	1
35	8	8A	2
50	78	78A	3
56	24	24A	2
63	77	77A	3
70	77	77A	1
71	66	66A	2
90	34	34A	2
93	22	22A	2
-	10	10A	1
-	47	47A	2
-	81	81A	1

13. APPENDIX IV: LAHESSERAGH SITE A (98E0473) PLANT REMAINS REPORT

Ryan Allen, MSc

INTRODUCTION

One sample was analyzed from Lahesseragh (98E0473), part of the N7 Nenagh Bypass. Barley grains were the only remains identified.

METHODOLOGY

Carbonized remains ("flots") were analyzed using a low-power binocular microscope (8x-80x). Remains were identified using a modern reference collection with the help of identification manuals (Martin & Barkley, 1973; Schoch, Pawlik, & Schweingruber, 1988). A full list of results can be found at the end of this report (Table 1).

RESULTS

One sample was analyzed from Lahesseragh Site A, which produced six barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) grains.

Barley is a shallow rooted crop that is best suited to light loams; it is intolerant of excessive moisture, but can ripen in colder climates than wheat and it is a particularly versatile crop, as it survives well in many ecological conditions (Monk *et al.*, 1998). Barley was probably used for coarse breads and gruels in the prehistoric period. It can also be used for malting, although there is no evidence of this occurring in Ireland until the early historic period. It was a common cereal, probably grown in Ireland since the earliest day of farming, although evidence for its use in the early Neolithic is scant and it became more common in the Bronze Age.

CONCLUSION

One sample was analyzed from Lahesseragh Site A (98E0473). From this six barley grains were identified.

Sample	56
Context	24
Cut	24A
Preservation	++
H. Vulgare	6

Table 1. Full Lahesseragh Site A plant remains results

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Martin, A. C., & Barkley, W. D. (1973). *Seed Identification Manual*. Berkeley, Los Angeles and London: University of California Press.

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Schoch, W. H., Pawlik, B., & Schweingruber, F. H. (1988). *Botanical macro-remains*. Berne and Stuttgart: Paul Haupt Publishers.

14. APPENDIX V: N7 NENAGH CHARCOAL IDENTIFICATIONS FOR RADIOCARBON DATING.

Lorna O'Donnell

26/07/2010.

Exc. No.	Site Name	Material	Context	Cut	Sample No.	Identification	Fragment count	Weight (g)	Comment
98E0473	Lahesseragh 'A'	Charcoal	6B	6A	19	<i>Corylus avellana</i> (hazel)	1	0.1	
98E0473	Lahesseragh 'A'	Charcoal	8	8A	35	<i>Corylus avellana</i> (hazel)	1	0.08	
98E0473	Lahesseragh 'A'	Charcoal	24	24A	56	<i>Corylus avellana</i> (hazel)	1	0.08	
98E0473	Lahesseragh 'A'	Charcoal	77		70	<i>Corylus avellana</i> (hazel)	1	0.06	
98E0473	Lahesseragh 'A'	Charcoal	22	22A	93	<i>Quercus</i> sp. (oak)	1	0.07	Sapwood identified for C14 dating. 20 further fragments of oak identified
98E0473	Lahesseragh 'A'	Charcoal	47	47A		<i>Fraxinus</i> sp. (ash)	1	0.04	Sapwood identified for C14 dating. 10 further fragments of elm also identified

15. APPENDIX VI: LITHICS FINDS REPORT FOR 98E0473 LAHESSERAGH SITE A, CO. TIPPERARY, N7 NENAGH TO LIMERICK HQDC ROAD SCHEME

INTRODUCTION

Seven lithic finds from the archaeological excavations of a prehistoric site at 98E0473 Lahesseragh Site A, Co. Tipperary as part of the N7 Nenagh to Limerick HQDC Archaeological Resolution Contract were presented for analysis (Table 1). The finds are associated with a possible structure and adjacent pits.

Find Number	Context	Material	Type	Condition	Cortex	Length (mm)	Width (mm)	Thickness (mm)	Complete	Retouch
98E0473:1:6	1	Siltstone	Hone Stone?	Weathered	n/a	74	37	15	No	No
98E0473:1:7	1	Flint	Retouched Artefact	Lustred	No	28	18	7	No	right edge and distal left edge direct abrupt
98E0473:1:8	1	Chert	Natural Chunk							
98E0473:22:1	22	Chert	Debitage							
98E0473:22:2	22	Chert	Natural Chunk							
98E0473:27:1	27	Sandstone	Rubbing Stone	Weathered	n/a	49	45	36	Yes	No
98E0473:78:1	78	Flint	Flake	Reasonably Fresh	No	15	25	5	Yes	No

Table 1 Composition of the Lithic Assemblage from Lahesseragh Site A (98E0473)

METHODOLOGY

All lithic artefacts were examined visually and catalogued using Microsoft Excel. The following details were recorded for each artefact which measures at least 2 cm in length or width: context information, raw material type, artefact type, cortex, artefact condition, length, with and thickness measurements, fragmentation and retouch. The general typological and morphological classifications are based on Woodman *et al.* 2006. Natural chunks were not analysed further.

QUANTIFICATION

The lithics are two worked pieces of flint, a worked piece of chert, one modified piece of sandstone and a possible modified piece of siltstone. In addition, two natural chunks of chert were also presented for analysis. Five artefacts measure more than 2 cm in length and width and were therefore recorded in detail.

PROVENANCE

The finds were recovered from the topsoil and the fills of three pits (c. 22A, c. 27A and 78A).

CONDITION

The artefacts survive in variable condition (Table 1). Two artefacts are incomplete (98E0473:1:6 and 98E0473:1:7) and one (98E0473:22:2) bears the remnants of cortex. The lustre observed on one artefact (98E0473:1:7) is a direct result of its exposure to heat, i.e. it did not directly come into contact with fire, but was perhaps strewn around a hearth.

TECHNOLOGY/MORPHOLOGY

The lithics are a flint flake (98E0473:78:1), a retouched flint artefact (98E0473:1:7), a piece of chert debitage (98E0473:22:1), a rubbing stone (98E0473:27:1) and a possible hone stone (98E0473:1:6).

Flakes

The flake (98E0473:78:1) was produced on an irregular platform core. It has polish and use-wear traces on its distal edge and was probably used as a natural end scraper. It measures 15 mm in length, 25 mm in width and 5 mm in thickness (Ill. 1). The flake most likely dates to the second half of the Neolithic period based on its technology and morphology.

Debitage

The presence of one piece of bipolar chert debitage (98E0473:22:1) indicates that some knapping took place at this site.

Retouched Artefacts:

The retouched artefact is a well made convex end scraper (98E0473:1:7). It is made on a bipolar flint flake which derives from a split pebble which rested on an anvil during the reduction process. It measures 28 mm in length, 18 mm in width and 7 mm in thickness and probably dates to the second half of the Neolithic period of early Bronze Age based on its technological features and its morphology (Ill. 2).

Rubbing Stones

The sandstone rubber (98E0473:27:1) shows wear on its entire circumference. It measures 49 mm long, 45 mm wide and 36 mm thick. This rubbing stone was most likely used during food processing activities.

Hone Stones

A possible hone stone (98E0473:1:6) made of siltstone was recovered at this site. It is worn and smoothed on one surface and one edge. This stone has fossil inclusion on one broad surface. It measures 74 mm in length, 37 mm in width and 15 mm in thickness. A similar example was recovered at the nearby Neolithic mound at Tullahedy (97E0742) and is thought to be Middle Neolithic in date.

DATING

The assemblage from Lahesseragh Site A is typologically relatively undiagnostic. However, it probably dates to the second half of the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age based on its technological characteristics.

CONSERVATION

Lithics do not require specific conservation, but should be stored in a dry, stable environment. Preferably, each lithic should be bagged separately and contact with other lithics should be avoided, so as to prevent damage and breakage, in particular edge damage which could later be misinterpreted as retouch. Larger and heavier items are best kept in individual boxes to avoid crushing of smaller assemblage pieces.

DISCUSSION

In Co. Tipperary, flint is only found in the glacial tills. Green and Zvebil (1990, 65) noted that "flint takes on a less distinct or definable function" in the Bronze Age which is not born out in the Lahesseragh Site A assemblage. This is all the more reason to suggest a dating to the later Neolithic or Early Bronze Age. O'Hare (2005) suggested that during the Bronze Age, there is a significant drop in the range of stone tool types that occur. If retouched artefacts do occur, they tend to be scrapers or arrowheads. However, the occurrence of small convex scrapers is not necessarily a reliable indication of a Bronze Age date (Woodman *et al.* 2006). This is very apparent from their presence in Neolithic contexts. Thus, a dating of Bronze Age assemblages often relies on technology and other aspects such as the occurrence of diagnostic tools (e.g. arrowheads, saddle querns, large manos, some types of hone stones and spindle whorls etc) and their association with other artefact types and/or evidence of metalworking. In addition, it is difficult to separate Early Bronze Age from Middle Bronze Age material based solely on technological characteristics, as the smash-it-and-see bipolar technology tends to be dominant in both periods (O'Hare 2005).

Given that the flakes appear to have been produced from a platform core and a core that rested on an anvil, they most likely date to the second half of the Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

SUMMARY

The lithics from the archaeological excavation at 98E0473 Lahesseragh Site A, Co. Tipperary are a flint flake, a convex end scraper made of flint, a piece of bipolar chert debitage, a rubbing stone and a possible hone stone. In addition, two natural chunks of chert were also included in the assemblage.

The assemblage is technologically diagnostic and probably dates to the Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age.

The artefacts represent waste from lithic production and domestic activities such as hide scraping, food processing and perhaps also metalworking.

This site makes a minor contribution to the evidence for prehistoric settlement and land use in Co. Tipperary.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ILLUSTRATION

- Convex End Scraper (98E0473:1:7)
- Flake (98E0473:78:1)

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Woodman, P. C., Finlay, N. and E. Anderson, 2006. *The Archaeology of a Collection: The Keiller-Knowles Collection of the National Museum of Ireland*. National Museum of Ireland Monograph Series 2. Wordwell, Bray.

16. APPENDIX VII: RADIOCARBON DATES

I.D.	Context	Material	Date	1 Sigma	2 Sigma
UBA-15825	(6B)	Charcoal (hazel)	3390 ± 36 BP	1739-1707 cal. BC 1698-1658 cal. BC 1655-1637 cal. BC	1864-1850 cal. BC 1772-1607 cal. BC 1572-1559 cal. BC 1549-1539 cal. BC
UBA-15826	(8)	Charcoal (hazel)	3349 ± 30	1689-1608 cal. BC 1567-1565 cal. BC	1735-1608 cal. BC 1694-1600 cal. BC 1593-1531 cal. BC
UBA-15827	(24)	Charcoal (hazel)	3269 ± 27	1606-1574 cal. BC 1558-1551 cal. BC 1538-1501 cal. BC	1618-1493 cal. BC 1474-1462 cal. BC
UBA-15828	(77)	Charcoal (hazel)	3290 ± 31	1609-1567 cal. BC 1565-1526 cal. BC	1662-1653 cal. BC 1639-1496 cal. BC
UBA-15829	(22)	Charcoal (oak)	3869 ± 27	2454-2419 cal. BC 2405-2377 cal. BC 2350-2293 cal. BC	2464-2281 cal. BC 2249-2232 cal. BC 2218-2213 cal. BC
UBA-15830	(47)	Charcoal (ash)	1652 ± 31	348-369 cal. AD 378-427 cal. AD	261-281 cal. AD 325-442 cal. AD 450-461 cal. AD 484-532 cal. AD

Figures & Plates

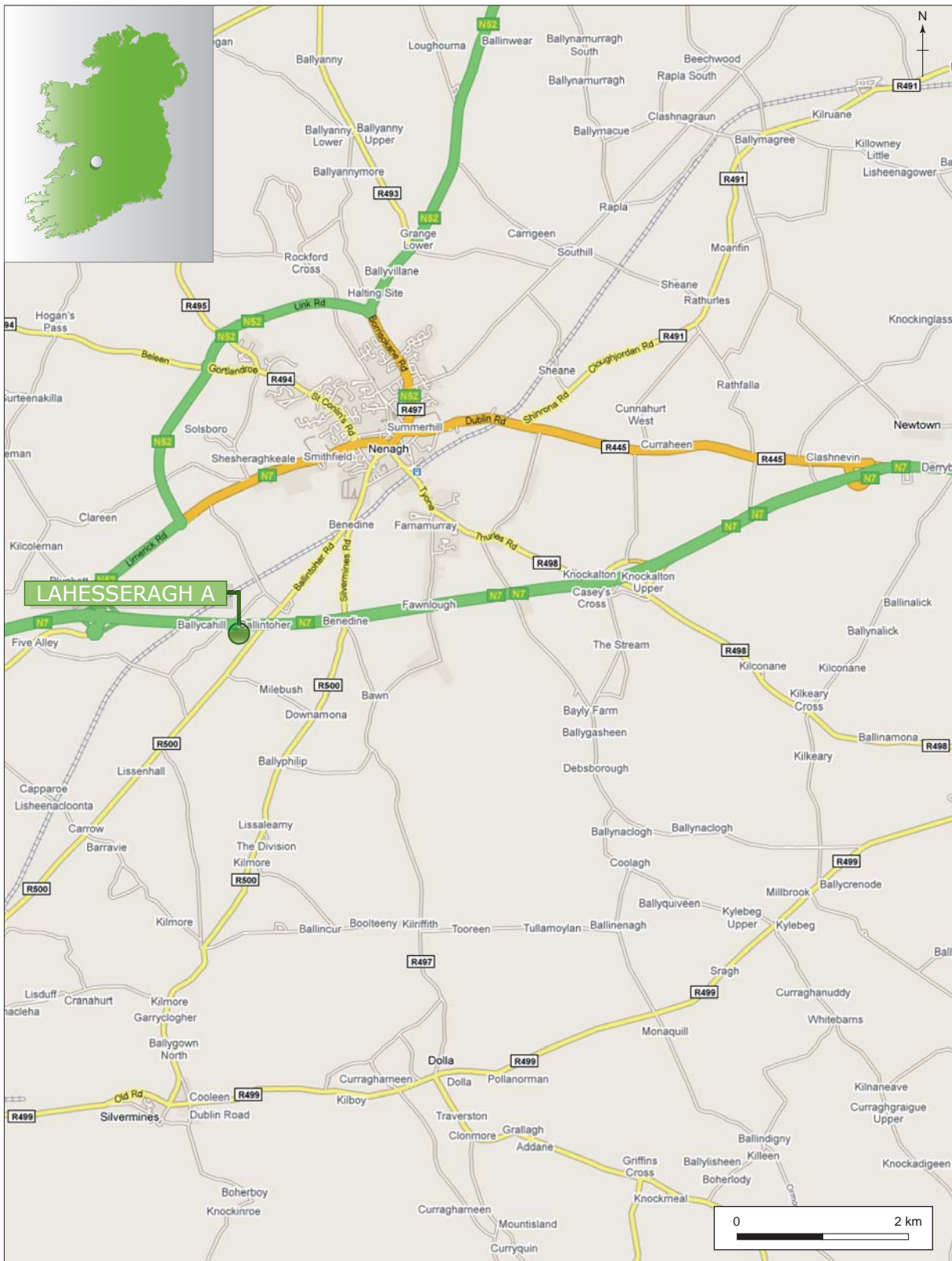


Fig. 1 General site location

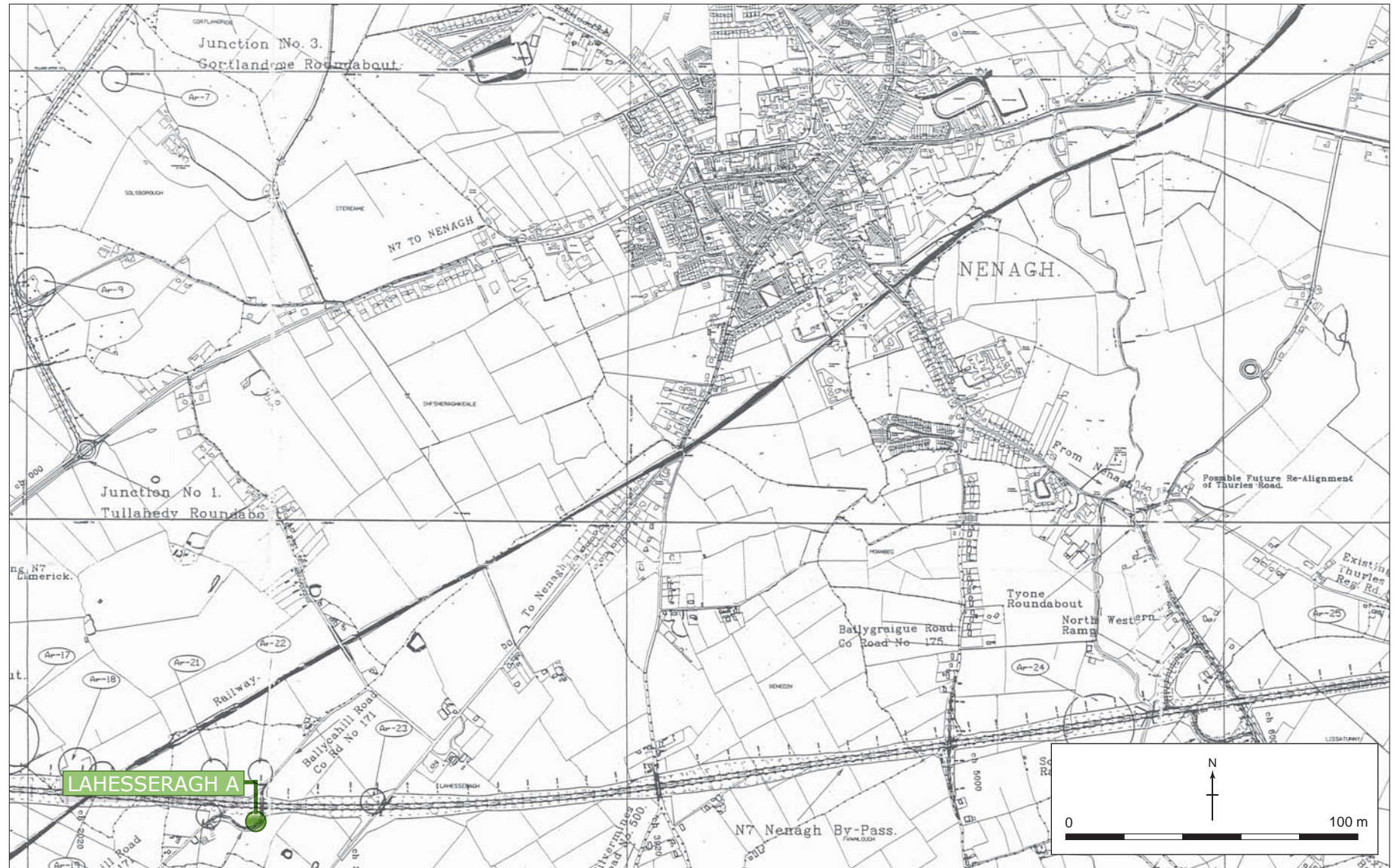


Fig. 2 Site Location

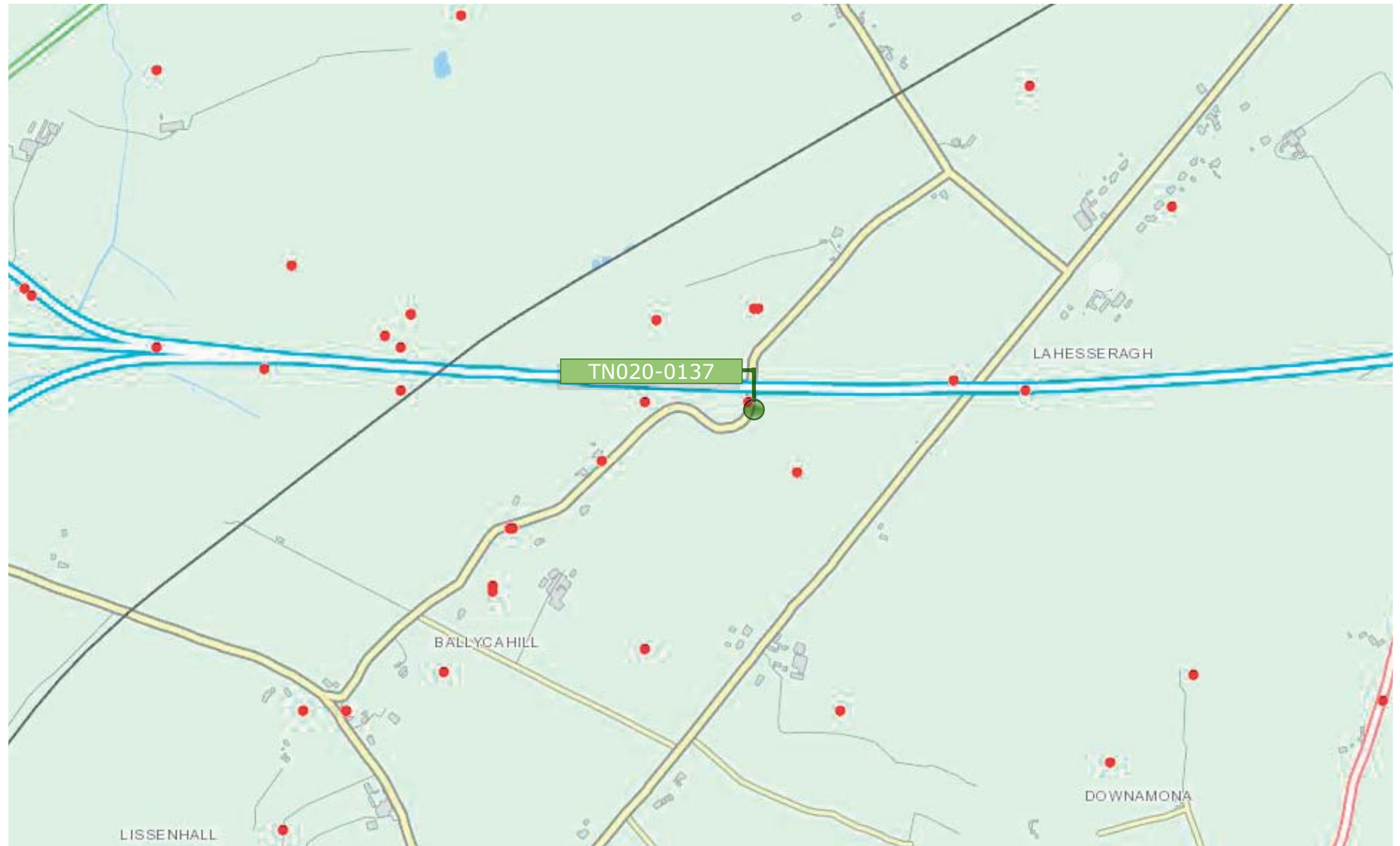


Fig. 3 Location of the site on an extract from the Record of Monuments & Places, Sheets 19 & 20, Tipperary North



Fig. 4 Location of the site shown on extract of 1st ed. OS map

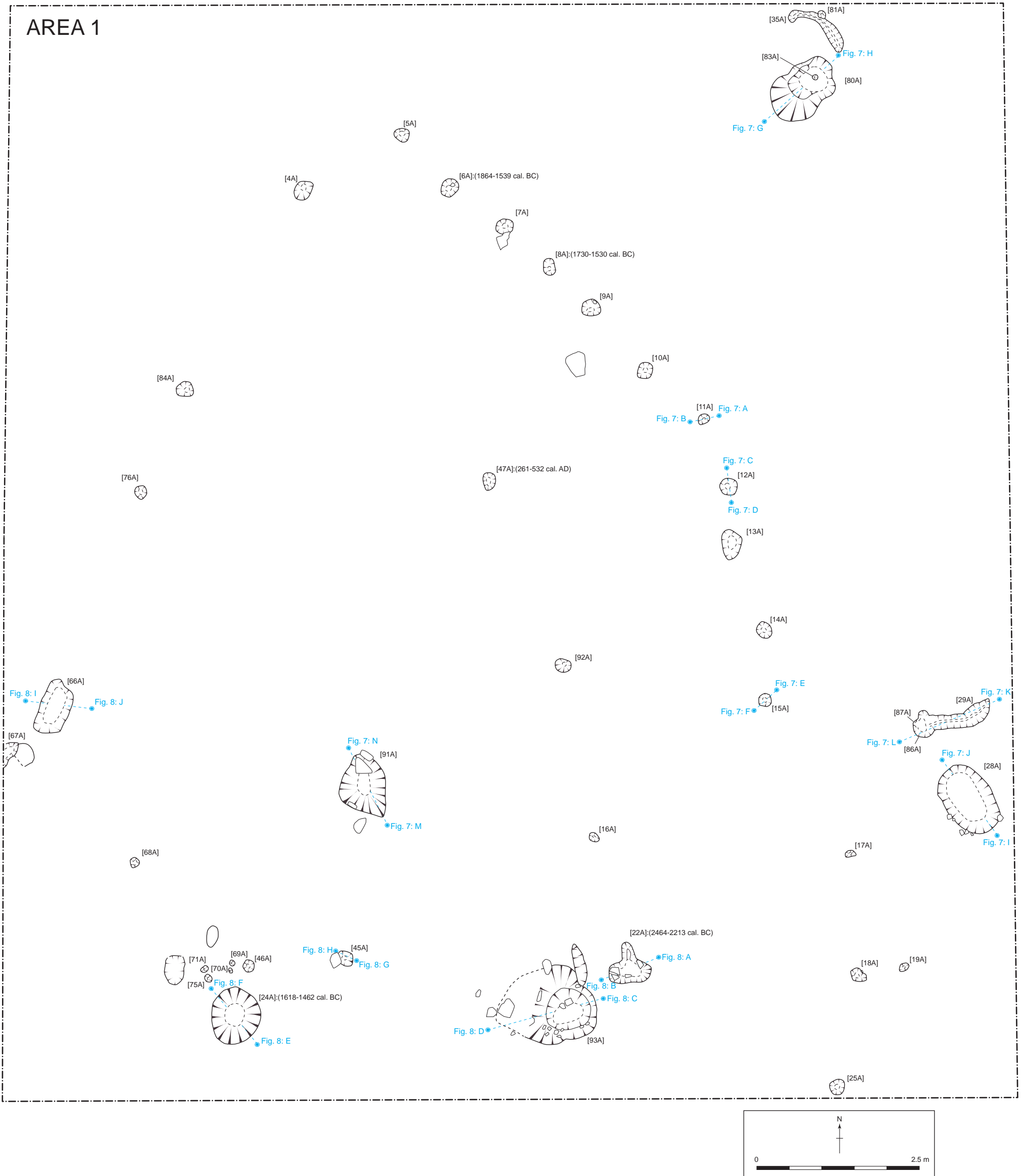


FIG 5: Post excavation plan of the site Area 1

AREA 2

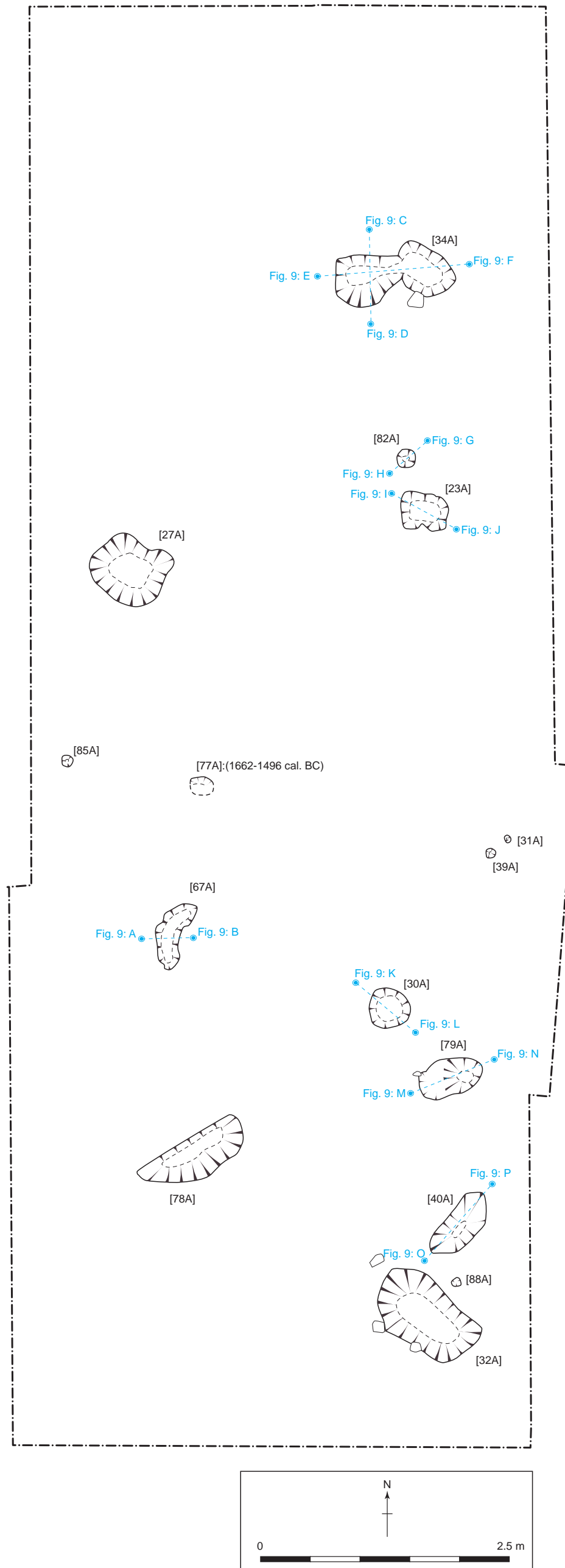


FIG 6: Post excavation plan of the site Area 2

AREA 3

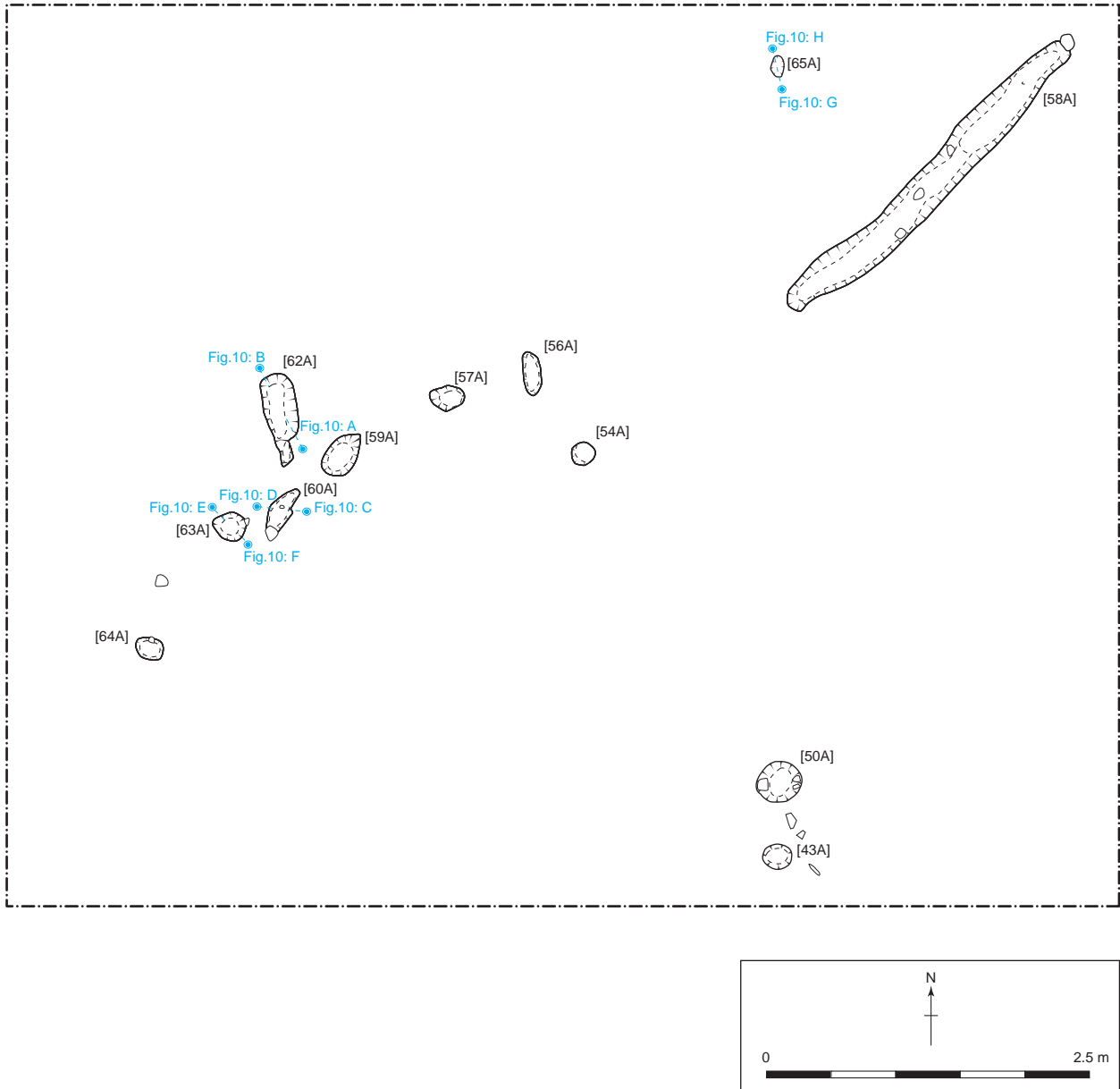


Fig. 7 Post excavation plan of the site Area 3

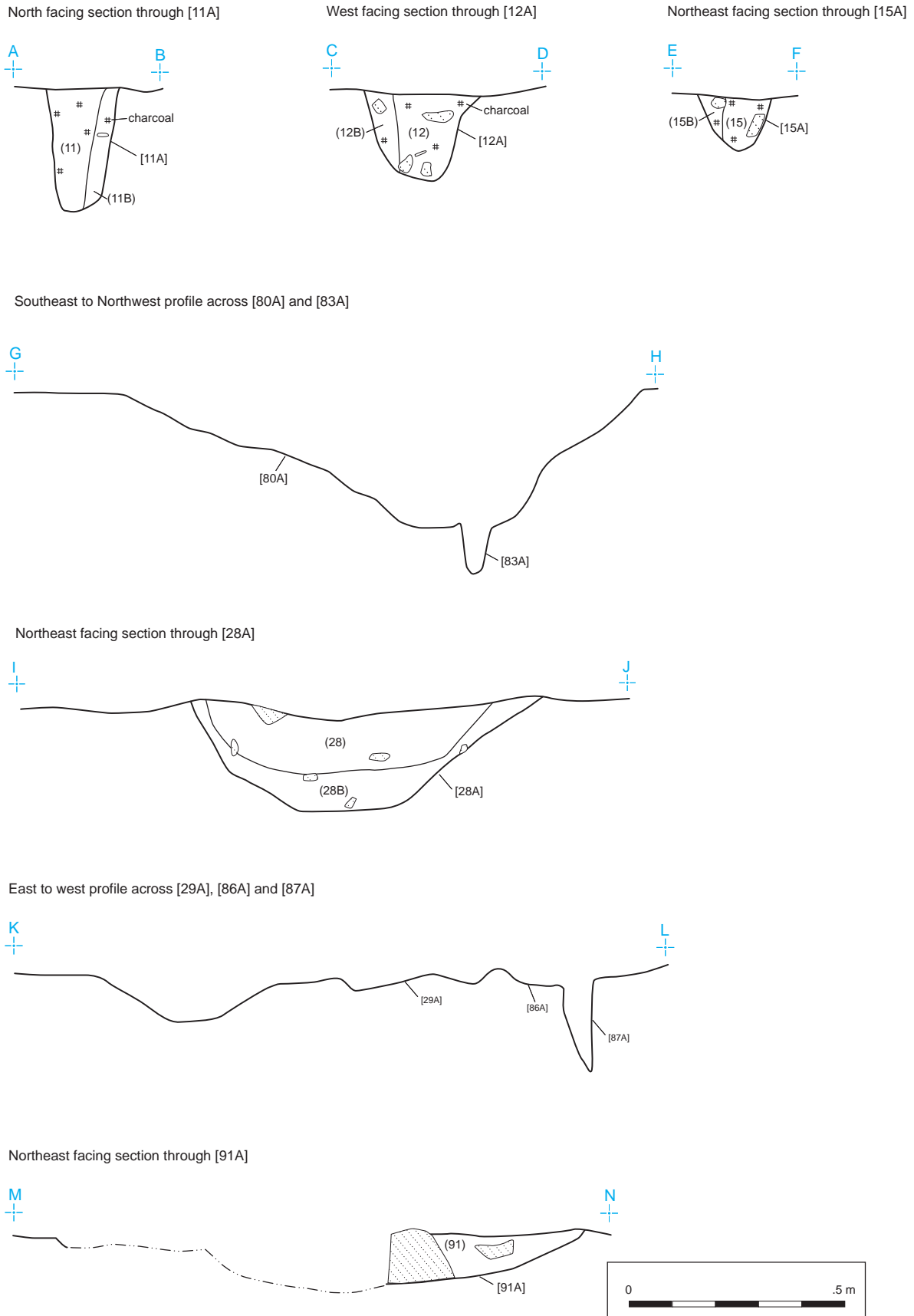
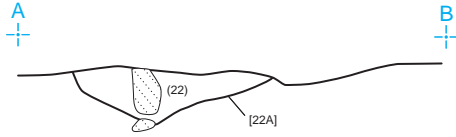
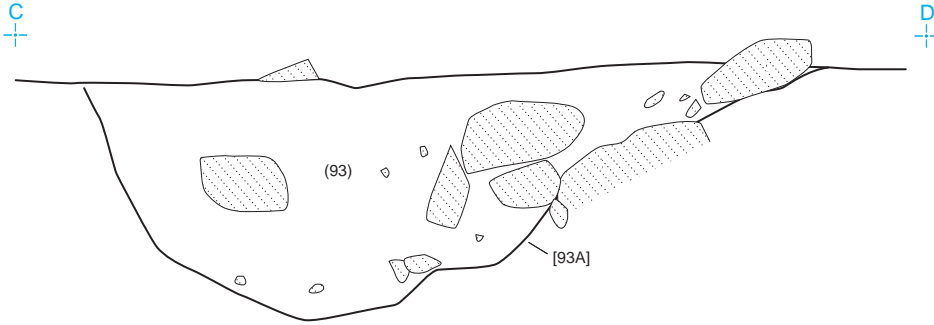


Fig. 8 Sections

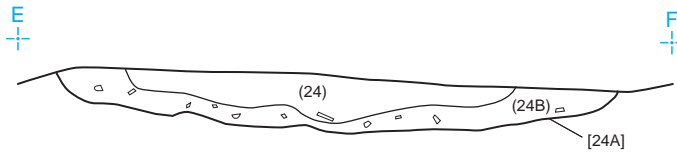
North facing section through [22A]



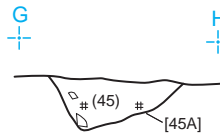
Northeast facing section through [93A]



North facing section through [24A]



North facing section through [45A]



South facing section through [66A]

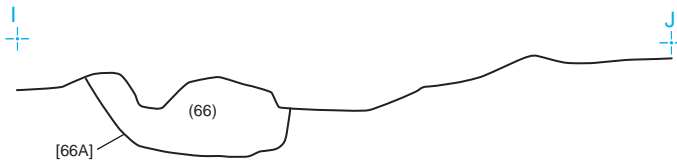
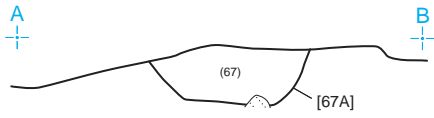
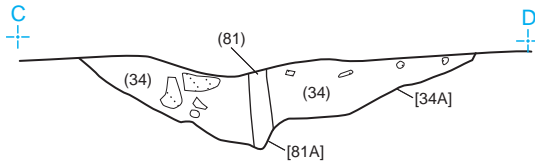


Fig. 9 Sections

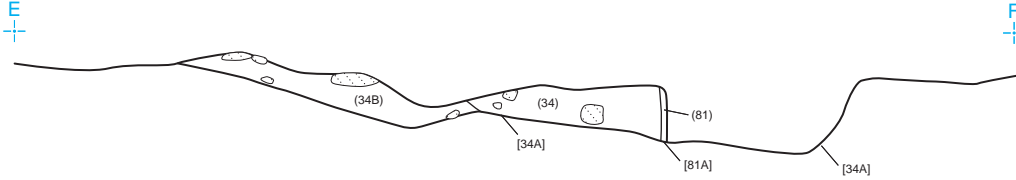
South facing section through [67A]



South facing section through [34A]



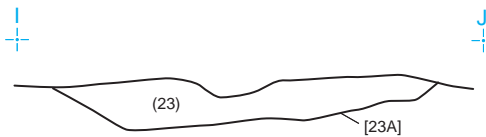
West facing section through [34A]



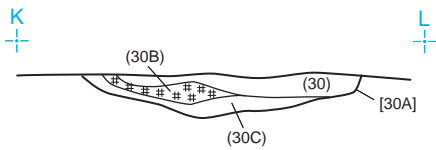
Northeast facing section through [82A]



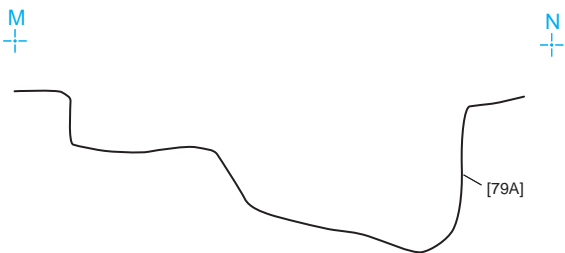
Northwest facing section through [23A]



Southwest facing section through [30A]



East to West profile through [79A]



Southwest to Northeast profile through [40A]

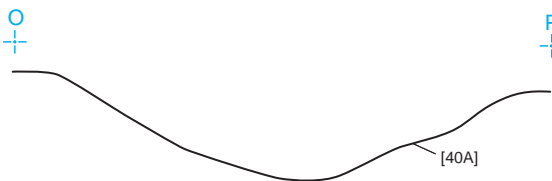
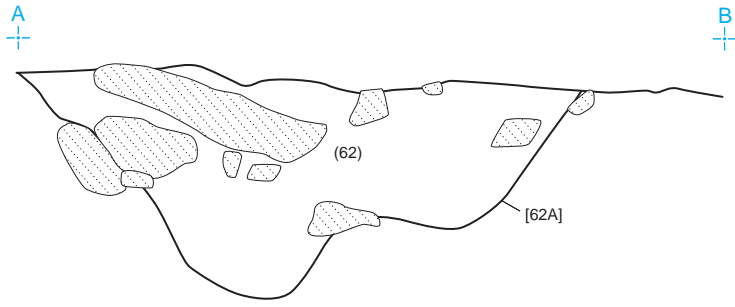
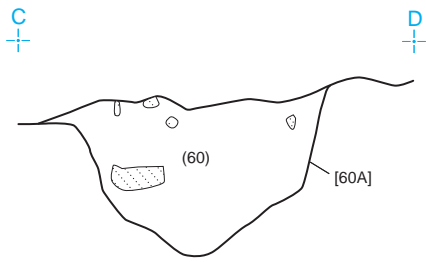


Fig. 10 Sections

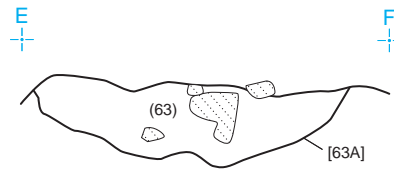
East facing section through [62A]



North facing section through [60A]



Southwest facing section through [63A]



East facing section through [65A]

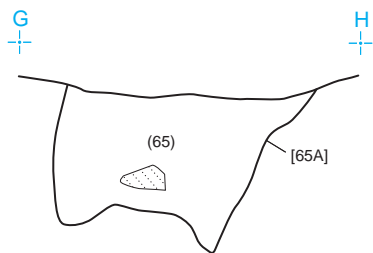
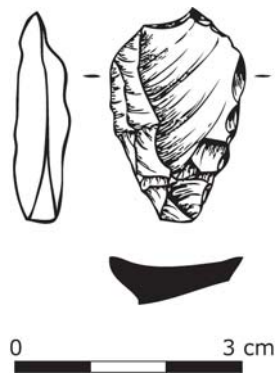
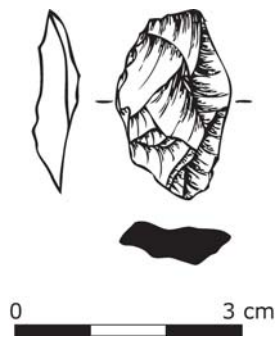


Fig. 11 Sections49



III. 1 Convex End Scraper (98E0473:1:7).



III. 2 Flake (98E0473:78:1).