Parc Cybi, Holyhead:

post excavation assessment of potential report volume I

GAT Project No. 1701
Report No. 954
June 2011

Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Gwynedd
Gwynedd Archaeological Trust
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Prepared for Atkins
on behalf of the
Welsh Assembly Government

June 2011

By
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Front cover: sketch by Tegwyn Jones of view across the site in 1953,
looking towards Tyddyn Pioden and the wind mill beyond
and photograph of similar view with archaeologists working on the roundhouse settlement

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PARC CYBI, HOLYHEAD
(G1701)

ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL FOR ANALYSIS

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ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL FOR ANALYSIS

SUMMARY

This report provides a preliminary statement of the results of a programme of archaeological work carried out at Parc Cybi, Holyhead by Gwynedd Archaeological Trust for the Welsh Assembly Government. It assesses the importance of the results and the potential for further analysis. The excavated features ranged from the Mesolithic to the 19th century and the finds included pottery, lithics, glass, metal artefacts and palaeoenvironmental data. The following is a summary of the importance and potential for further analysis of the various different phases of activity on the site based on both the excavation and artefactual evidence.

The major sites include a rectangular early Neolithic building of national and international importance. This seems to have been aligned on the Trefignath Chambered tomb and had firepits dug through the demolished remains of the building. Other early Neolithic settlement of a different character was also present on site and extensive activity continued into the mid and later Neolithic, providing the potential to contribute to the re-evaluation of Peterborough and Grooved Ware in this region.

The Bronze Age was represented by a complex of ceremonial monuments, including a possible multiple-cist barrow, the ring ditch of a barrow and a deep-ditched enclosure. In relation to the standing stone in the middle of the site and the larger barrow excavated near Tŷ Mawr Farm to the north this suggests a ritual landscape of national importance. The period was also represented by two burnt mounds and a timber roundhouse that was poorly dated but probably of Bronze Age date.

A settlement of stone roundhouses with complex stratigraphy was accompanied by several outlining roundhouses and other structures as well as possibly contemporary field boundaries. The extent and variety of Iron Age settlement on the site means that this has a very high potential for studying all aspects of settlement development and use in this period. Settlement focus seems to have shifted in the Roman period but activity continued. A group of structures seem to have had industrial and storage functions and running from them was a trackway with associated traces of a field system.

A small early medieval cemetery was found on top of a hill, one of an important group on Holy Island. The use of the site into the high medieval period may be indicated by the smithing within the area of the cemetery and possibly by several corn driers. Excavation evidence has extended the knowledge of the changing field boundaries of the area gained from the historic maps and suggests early fields that might have a medieval or earlier origin. Several small farms developed within this landscape in the 18th and 19th centuries.

INTRODUCTION

Gwynedd Archaeological Trust carried out a programme of archaeological work at Parc Cybi, Holyhead in advance of a strategic mixed use development. The work was commissioned by Atkins on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government, and started on 6th November 2006. Phase 1 Part I of the fieldwork was completed on 30th June 2008, and Phase 1 Part II commenced on 7th September 2009 focusing on archaeology already uncovered but preserved i*n-situ* in areas K9 and F1b, as well as the previously unexcavated area J3. The second part of the fieldwork finished on 26th February 2010. The work was monitored and advised by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service on behalf of the Local Planning Authority to ensure that the planning conditions were fulfilled and the work undertaken to the appropriate standard.

This document provides a detailed assessment of the results of the archaeological excavation, and conforms to the guidelines for the 'Management of Archaeological Projects' (MAP 2) prepared by English Heritage (1991). It includes preliminary illustrated site narratives describing the results of the excavation, followed by an assessment including the quantification of the data collected and a statement on its academic potential. This document is accompanied by an 'Updated Project Design' which reviews the major research themes informing the next phase of the project, and provides a methodology for further work and a task list detailing the roles of all participants leading to the full publication of the results.

The management of this project follows guidelines specified in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991). Five stages are specified:

Phase 1: project planning
Phase 2: fieldwork
Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis
Phase 4: analysis and report preparation
Phase 5: dissemination

The post-excavation stage of the project includes phases 3 to 5. Some work, including washing and appropriate storage of finds and initial processing of soil samples has been undertaken whilst excavation was proceeding. This document reports on the results of phase 3, and contains recommendations for phases 4 and 5 including further analysis, report preparation, dissemination and curation.

The purpose of this phase is to ensure appropriate post-excavation analyses are undertaken. This involves the careful definition of academic and archaeological objectives, to ensure that 'appropriate selection is made and a publication produced which accurately reflects the value of the data collection'. All data sources have been collated, quantified and assessed for their potential to provide information of relevance. This includes all site records, made up of the written record, drawn record and photographic record, all artefacts, and all environmental samples, including those suitable for dating purposes. Relevant specialists have assessed the potential for each artefact category and for the palaeoenvironmental data.

The Archaeological Research Framework for Wales published on-line (http://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/index.html) in 2005 has been consulted when considering the research questions applying to the site. However this framework is in the process of being up-dated and a conference to review the framework was held on 16th and 17th September 2010. Issues raised at that conference, which will be incorporated in the reviewed framework have been included in the discussions below.

The report consists of the main text accompanied by a second volume of specialist reports. The main text summarises the specialist reports but the latter must be read for the full detail on the artefactual and environmental information available from the site. An Up-dated Project Design has been written to accompany this report describing the methodologies to be used to realise the potential of the data discussed in this document.

BACKGROUND

Topographic background

The site covers over 41 hectares of pasture land to the south of Holyhead on Holy Island (centred on SH 2555 8075) (Figure 1). The terrain is characterised by rocky outcrops, often covered by gorse or rough grassland with marshy hollows between, and some better pastureland. The site lies between the A55 and Kingsland Road, with Lôn Trefignath running through its eastern side.

Holy Island, or Ynys Gybi, is located off the western coast of Anglesey, to which currently it is joined by the Stanley Embankment, and also by the bridge at Four Mile Bridge (Pont Rhyd y Bont). Holyhead (Caer Gybi) is the principle town on Holy Island, and the development site lies to the southeast of the town.

Like much of Holy Island, the topography of the study area is characterized by north-east to south-west aligned rocky ridges within intervening boggy hollows. The bedrock is never far below the surface, and occasionally outcrops as small crags and knolls. Most of the area has recently been used for grazing sheep and cattle, so prior to the development the vegetation was mostly improved grassland with gorse and bramble growing on the rocky ridges. One paddock just west of the site of Trefignath Farm had been planted with sycamores but otherwise there were few trees on the site.

Geology
By Dr David Jenkins

Solid geology
Rock exposures are scattered over the site as low, smooth knolls. Their petrology is relatively uniform and comprises hard, green, low-grade (chlorite/muscovite) metamorphic schists. These have been mapped as the Celyn portion of the of the "New Harbour Formation" within the Precambrian Mona "Complex" (Greenly 1919) or "Terrane" (Treagus 2008) which accounts for the major proportion of exposures on Anglesey. Original sedimentary structures, such as thin bands of darker fine grits, are well preserved and the schists contain contorted quartz bands and veins. They show a pronounced schistosity which dips at a shallow angle to the NNW. Elsewhere on Holy Isle the Celyn beds include jaspers, and epidote-rich schistose tuffs, and they are intruded by altered palaeozoic dolerite dykes, but none of these are seen on the site. To the north-west of the site the Celyn beds pass up into quartzites and schistose grits of the South Stack formation.

Superficial geology and geomorphology
The geomorphology of Anglesey generally has been characterised as the "Arfon platform", a low planar surface at *ca*. 50-100m a.s.l. which is considered to have formed by Tertiary marine planation (Brown 1960). The site at Tŷ Mawr is located on this platform. Above this protrude low peaks (*ca*. 180-200m a.s.l.), such as Holyhead mountain, comprised of harder rock types.

The detailed morphology was the result of glaciation ("Devensian") for which there is evidence of at least two phases by ice advancing south across the Irish Sea, the earlier traversing this portion of Anglesey to the south-west. This resulted in the removal of existing superficial deposits and soils and in the abrasion and further planation of exposed rock outcrops, with striated surfaces on the harder rocks such as the quartzites of South Stack; however, striae are not usually preserved on the softer green schists of the site. Erosion was combined with local deposition of greyish glacial till which is relatively patchy and thin in this area of Holy Isle. Whilst the local metamorphic rock material (green schists) was incorporated into the glacial deposits, there are also "exotic" rock types brought in from the rock exposures to the north east, including harder quartzites, tuffs and dolerites from NW Anglesey and occasional Carboniferous cherts and other rock types from the floor of the Irish Sea. Superficial deposits would have been further modified by the local redistribution and grading of tills by powerful glacifluvial (melt water) action during the northward retreat of the ice margins. Large scale examples from eastern Anglesey have been quarried for sand and gravel and described in detail (Helm & Roberts 1984), but small deposits can be expected locally.

An additional cryptic deposit of loess was identified on site in a 2.5m deep trench on the north side of the shallow valley at the west side of the site. This homogenous fine (silt/sand) wind-blown deposit is typical of periglacial conditions and has been found at a number of localities overlying rock pavements in northern Anglesey. Of particular interest was the presence at some 2m depth of vertical cracks with a polygonal plan, outlined by paler colours due to the reduction of iron under waterlogged conditions. This is the "patterned ground" typical of the seasonal freezing of ground in periglacial regimes and, together with the overlying loess and probable solifluction deposits, indicative of such a climatic phase in the early post-glacial history of this site. In more recent times there will have been further modifications by stream activity in the small valley trending to the southwest, and by the coastal deposition by wind of sand (evident elsewhere in Anglesey) and by agricultural activity. This would have resulted in the localised patchwork of unsorted tills and resorted sands and gravels which are found over the site.

Soil development and vegetation
The climate in this area is oceanic (data for Holyhead from Roberts 1958) with little variation in the 98mm annual rainfall (*ca*. 2-4"/5-10mm *per* month) and an average daily temperature that ranges from 42-59ºF/ 5.5-15ºC; the daily sunshine hours are relatively high ranging from 1.7 (January) to 7.2 (June). The prevailing winds are from the south-west and the muted topography offers little shelter.

The soils of Anglesey were amongst the first to be mapped by the Soil Survey of England and Wales (Roberts 1958) and, although the terminology has been modernised (Avery 1980), this remains a useful reference for these soils. The soils on the site were broadly classified on the basis of parentage and drainage class as free-draining brown earths of the "Gaerwen Series", formed on glacial drift derived from the rocks of the Precambrian Mona complex. These grade into the rocky "phase" of the Gaerwen Series where of shallow depth over rock outcrops or into gleyed brown earths of the "Trisant Series", where there is some impedance to drainage due to topography or texture. The parentage of slow weathering schists imparts a low nutrient ("base")

status to these soils compared, for example, to soils with a limestone component elsewhere on Anglesey, and they therefore require the addition of fertiliser (potassium and phosphorus) in modern agriculture. Nevertheless, they are extensive, loamy, well structured and drained soils, easily managed, and therefore important as productive agricultural soils in Anglesey. They were amongst the soils which appear to have been selectively settled in prehistoric times (Grimes 1945).

In finer detail, variations exist over the site on a small scale due to variations in parentage and topography. Drainage is poorer in hollows and the valley floor leading to more pronounced gleying, and parentage may involve localised gravel and other deposits. For example the pocket of loess identified which will have produced higher nutrient status soil, and a pronounced iron/manganese "pan" (cemented horizon) was also noted in sandier material on the valley side nearby.

The nearest detailed record of the sequence of postglacial vegetation has been published for a lowland site (Llyn Cororion) on the mainland fringe of the "Arfon Platform" (Watkins *et al*., 2007). It follows in high resolution the succession from the early Postglacial (11,250 years BP) through the replacement of early shrubby vegetation (*Juniper* and *Salix*) to the early dominance of *Betula, Corylus, Pinus and Quercus* and to a *Betula-Quercus* forest by 5000 years BP. A decline of woodland was then recorded which began around 2500 years BP and became irreversible around 1250 years BP. A study of the charcoal content indicated that anthropogenic fires were an important factor in this decline combined with increasing agricultural activity. However, although Holy Isle is on the western edge of the same Arfon platform, extrapolation from Llyn Cororion will be complicated by varying localised climatic and edaphic factors.

This extrapolation is aided by a pollen study was carried out to the north-west of Trefignath burial chamber (Greig 1987). This suggested that the Boreal period vegetation was of a scrubby sub-arctic type. The woodland developed in the usual sequence, from open woodland with birch to denser, mixed oak forest, but with an unusual amount of willow. The climax forest contained oak and elm with hazel as an under-storey. A band of peat, with little pollen survival due to the drying out of the bog, was dated to about the start of the Neolithic period. The band contained charcoal and other evidence for burning, suggesting forest clearance in the immediate area. When the pollen record continued it showed that the forest had been replaced by grassland and arable fields. In the medieval period, and later, expanding arable farming caused increased erosion into the bog.

Archaeological and historical background
See figure 1

The town of Holyhead expanded in size and importance after the development of the port for use by packet boats to Ireland, but it has a long history. There is evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age and later prehistoric activity. Four Neolithic polished stone axes have been found in the northern part of Holy Island (Lynch 1991). Those found closest to the study area are two axes from the Graig Lwyd axe factory, above Penmaenmawr, found when excavating a hole for a turntable railway near Kingsland in 1926 (PRN 2507, SH 2504 8165), and one axe of unspecified stone found at Penllech Nest (PRN 2506, SH 251 816). Just outside the southern boundary of the development is the Trefignath Neolithic chambered tomb (a scheduled monument (A11)) and another possible, but more ruined, chambered tomb (Coetan Arddur) lies to the south. The Trefignath burial chamber was excavated between 1977 and 1979 (Smith 1987). It was partially reconstructed in 1980 and laid out for public exhibition and is under Cadw guardianship.

Two Bronze Age barrows were prominently situated on top of Holyhead Mountain (SH 219 829), though little can be seen of them now. There are others at Garn (SH 211 825) and Gorsedd Gwlwm (SH 227 816), and a cemetery of three barrows at Porth Dafarch (SH 234 801). A barrow was recently discovered under the early Christian cemetery at Tŷ Mawr (SH 2520 8135), next to Kingsland School just to the north of the development site (Davidson *et al* forthcoming). Within the development site is the Tŷ Mawr standing stone (scheduled monument (A12)). This standing stone is one of several such stones in this part of Holy Island. There is another to the south, next to Stanley Mill (SH 2664 7888), and a rare pairing of two stones just over 3m apart, to the west at Plas Meilw (SH 227 809) (Lynch 1991).

The island has several notable Iron Age and Roman period sites. Holyhead is dominated by its mountain, to the north-west of the town. The summit is enclosed by a stone rampart wall forming the hillfort of Caer y Twr (SH 219 829). A much smaller promontory fort, Dinas on the south coast of Holy Island (SH 223 794), is probably also Iron Age. This promontory is surrounded by high cliffs and a low bank runs along the edge of the chasm,

which separates it from the mainland. These forts were probably defensive refuges, and the population lived in more hospitable areas. Towards the foot of the south-western slope of Holyhead Mountain are a group of huts near another Tŷ Mawr (SH 211 820) and a similar hut group overlie the Bronze Age barrows at Porth Dafarch (SH 234 801). Excavation at Tŷ Mawr demonstrated that the stone huts belonged to the 1st millennium BC, but with some activity in the 3rd century AD, as well as earlier prehistoric and post-Roman settlement evidence. The finds from Porth Dafarch dated the huts to the Roman period (Lynch 1991, RCAHMW 1937).

A Roman fort was constructed at Holyhead towards the end of the 3rd century or later, as a naval base against Irish raiders (Lynch 1972). A Roman coin hoard was found in the area in 1710. The coins were buried in a brass vessel, and all dated to the 4th century (PRN 2503, SH 26 81). To the north of the aluminium works, on the shore of Penrhos Beach, Stanley (Way 1868) recorded a 'Danish fort'. The site (PRN 2509) is now under the main road, and all traces of it have been destroyed, so it is not known whether the fort was Iron Age, Roman or actually attributable to the Vikings.

Holy Island was of considerable importance in the early Christian period, with the *clas* site of Caer Gybi large enough to attract the attention of the Vikings in 961 (Edwards 1986, 24). The foundation of this monastic community by St Cybi is traditionally dated to the mid 6th century AD, and it was presumably located within the Roman fort; the present church on the site dates from the 13th century. There is an unusual concentration of early Christian sites known, or suspected, on the island. These include a cemetery of long-cist graves, dating to approximately 6th to 8th century AD, discovered during the construction of the A55 dual carriageway, to the north-west of Tŷ Mawr Farm. At this site the graves were located around, and cut into, the remains of a Bronze Age barrow. At Trearddur Bay another cemetery was located close to the sea shore. Excavations and antiquarian evidence show the site was, in medieval times, occupied by a small chapel dedicated to St Ffraid, and that the chapel overlay an earlier cemetery in use from the 7th to the 12th centuries AD (Edwards 1986, 31; Davidson forthcoming). Burials of a similar type have also been found on a multi-period site at Porth Dafarch.

Medieval settlements existed at Holyhead, Llanfawr and Penrhos and Tre'r Gof. The Owen's of Penrhos emerged within the post-medieval period as one of the leading landowners and most influential families within the area. Most of the land in the development area was part of the Penrhos Estate, which passed by marriage in 1763 to the Stanleys of Alderley (Ramage 1972, 1987, Richards 1940). W O Stanley was a noted antiquarian, recording many of the archaeological sites on Holy Island for the first time. The land was leased out as small farms. The Penrhos estate maps dated 1769 provide valuable historical evidence for both settlement location and changes in field systems. The maps show several farmsteads surrounded by small irregular fields. Most of this remained up to the late 19th century, when the area was again mapped by the Ordnance Survey, though some of the fields had been amalgamated, and some were laid out on a new alignment in the 19th century, partly as a result of the construction of both Telford's London to Holyhead road and Stephenson's Chester to Holyhead Railway. There was no Parliamentary enclosure of open fields on Anglesey, as occurred in other parts of Britain at this time, but some common land was enclosed by Private Act (Carr 1982), such as the small areas of common land around Tŷ Mawr enclosed in 1861 (WPE 68/128). There is evidence to show that some farmsteads were rebuilt on new sites during the 19th century (for example Trefignath and Tyddyn Pioden). In the mid-20th century some of the farms were amalgamated and the houses subsequently demolished. This process increased following the purchase of the land in the 1960's by Anglesey Aluminium.

The importance of Holyhead as one of the principal ports for Ireland increased in the reign of Elizabeth I, when it became the departure point for the Royal Mail to Dublin. During Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth Holyhead was garrisoned, and regular packet boats sailed to Ireland (Hughes and Williams 1981). The port subsequently grew until, by the early 19th century, it was the principle port for Ireland. During the 17th century the road across Anglesey to Holyhead was probably just a rough track, but the forerunner to the bridge at Four Mile Bridge already joined Holy Island to Anglesey by 1578 (Hughes and Williams 1981). One of the earliest maps of Anglesey, published by Speed in 1630, marks Pont-Rhydbont (the bridge at Four Mile Bridge), and just to the west of it is Llansanfraid (St Bride's or Trearddur Bay), the only place marked on Holy Island, other than Holyhead itself (Evans 1972).

In 1765 the road from the Menai ferries to Holyhead was turnpiked, and much improved (Ramage 1987). However, transport was still difficult until Telford built his new London to Holyhead road (the A5), which arrived on Holy Island in 1823. The Stanley Embankment (grade II listed, 20074) carried the road over the Afon Lasinwen, the tidal strait between Holy Island and Anglesey, replacing the ferries and fords (Gwynedd Archaeological Trust 1997) and its construction created the body of water now referred to as the Inland Sea. In 1846-8 the railway line was constructed along the southern side of the embankment (Gwynedd Archaeological

Trust 1996, 1997). Major improvements were also made to the harbour throughout the 19th century (Hughes and Williams 1981, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust 1993, 1997).

In the Second World War Holyhead was strategically important, as it was on the route both to Ireland and to the port of Liverpool. Pillboxes, arranged in a rough line across the island, defended the middle of Holy Island and the Inland Sea, preventing enemy troop movement on Holy Island and defending the approaches to Holyhead (Brown *et al* 1995). The line starts at the south-western end at Trearddur Bay and runs across to the inland sea with one previously unrecorded pillbox close to the development site.

Project background

An archaeological assessment covering an area larger than that finally proposed for development was undertaken in 2000 (Kenney 2000, GAT 389). This was followed in 2001 by an initial programme of field evaluation (Davidson 2002, GAT 459), which revealed a high density of archaeological sites, for which further archaeological evaluation was required before their full extent and importance could be assessed. The evaluation was undertaken as a staged process, of which the first stage was a geophysical survey (Donaldson 2004) followed by further trial excavations (Davidson et al 2004, GAT 554 and Davidson and Roberts 2005, GAT 561). The assessment and evaluation work identified 43 possible sites across the development area. A watching brief was carried out on geological test pits dug in 2006 (Roberts 2006, GAT 656), adding further information.

Outline planning permission was granted for the development (application number 19C842A/EIA) with a condition covering the archaeological issues. The Site-wide Archaeological Strategy written by Atkins covered the works necessary to comply with the condition. This aimed to approach the site as a complete landscape and specified Strip, Map and Sample (SMS) Investigation for all areas that would be affected by large-scale ground disturbing construction activities. Gwynedd Archaeological Trust was appointed to carry out the work and submitted a Site-Specific Project Design for Soil Strip and Archaeological Evaluation. The worked started on 6th November 2006. Phase 1 Part I of the fieldwork was completed on 30th June 2008, and a second part of excavations commenced on 7th September 2009 focusing on archaeology already uncovered but preserved *in-situ* in areas K9 and F1b, as well as the previously unexcavated area J3. Part II of the fieldwork finished on 26th February 2010. A watching brief was carried out on a cable trench dug by Scottish Power on 29th March 2010. All the work was monitored by Gwynedd Archaeological Planning Service on behalf of the Local Planning Authority to ensure that the planning conditions were fulfilled.

A design for the Assessment of Potential for Analysis of the material resulting from the 2006-2008 excavations was submitted in August 2009 and work started in that month on this analysis. A design for the assessment of material from the 2009 to 2010 excavations was submitted in March 2010 and resubmitted in April 2010. This work commenced in March 2010. The results of both assessments have been combined in the present document. This report is accompanied by an up-dated project design that describes the proposals and methodologies for the next phase of post-excavation analysis.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The original object of the programme of work was to mitigate the impact of the development on any archaeological remains. This was achieved by undertaking a phased programme of works comprising:

- a review of existing information,
- a phase of evaluation involving small scale geophysical survey and trial trenching,
- further geophysical survey
- a second phase of evaluation with additional trial trenches to further explore features found in the first phase and in the extended geophysical survey
- a combined programme of strip, map and sample excavation,
- followed where necessary by detailed area excavation.

All works were excavated in a competent and professional manner, in accordance with IFA standard archaeological procedures. The objectives of the excavations were:

- To make a full graphic, photographic and written record of the archaeological evidence in a manner whereby the extent, nature, form, date, function and relationships of archaeological features and/or deposits can be established, sufficient to achieve "preservation by record" in advance of construction;
- To identify and investigate the potential of the evidence to address the project research aims and objectives;
- To communicate the results of the project to the public, the Client and other stakeholders;
- To prepare an archive of the project, and to deposit the archive and finds with the appropriate local museum.

A staged and flexible approach to fieldwork was applied, creating an iterative framework to site investigation, and allowing for the early assessment of the quality of the archaeological remains and the updating of the research aims and methodologies where appropriate.

The initial top soil stripping exposed the character and nature of the archaeological remains and allowed the assessment of their potential to address the project aims. The primary aims were to:

- to expose archaeological remains across the whole archaeological site by the mechanical removal of topsoil and any masking subsoil;
- to create a pre-excavation plan of exposed deposits and features;
- to collect datable/activity specific material from the surface of exposed deposits;
- to confirm the priorities for further archaeological investigation.

Where significant archaeology was identified further archaeological investigations were designed to recover data sufficient to allow for "preservation by record" and to address the research aims of the project with regard to establishing the extent, date and character of the archaeological remains. The primary aims of this stage were:

- To characterise the overall nature of the archaeological resource and to understand the process of its formation;
- To create a detailed plan of all archaeological features;
- To establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
- To recover, where appropriate, across the archaeological site representative eco-factual and palaeo-environmental samples to provide evidence of function and past land-use;
- To establish in outline a dated sequence of structures and/or deposits and thus to define changes in site organisation over time

The purpose of the assessment phase that this document reports on is "to evaluate the potential of the data-collection to contribute to archaeological knowledge and to identify the further study necessary" (p15). The proposals in this report and in the up0dated project design aim to ensure the long term curation of the recovered data, and its dissemination in a form suitable to its academic value in line with nationally defined guidelines.

EXCAVATION METHODOLOGY

The technique of Strip, Map and Sample involves the examination of machine-stripped surfaces to identify archaeological remains. These are evaluated and information gathered to inform a Further Archaeological Works Design defining methodologies for the excavation of significant archaeological deposits and features where these are present.

All areas that would be affected by large-scale ground disturbing construction activities were subject to Strip, Map and Sample investigation. This started with the main access road and the area of the contractor's compound and expanded out to several of the development plots, but there remain significant areas still to be investigated. Areas not to be disturbed by construction or groundworks were clearly identified. Where stripping revealed no significant features or deposits a completion statement was written for the area and once this had been accepted the development in this area could proceed. Where significant archaeology was identified an FAWD was written and further work carried out under this. The completion statements for these areas were written once the Further work had been satisfactorily completed.

Over most of the site the turf and topsoil was removed in advance by a 360 degree tracked excavator fitted with a 2m wide toothless ditching bucket under intermittence archaeological monitoring to ensure that the soil removal stopped above any levels containing potential archaeology. Removal of the ploughsoil was undertaken

by a 360 degree tracked excavator fitted with a 1.8m or 2m toothless bucket under the continuous monitoring of an archaeologist. Machine stripping ceased when archaeologically significant deposits were encountered, or when the topsoil and subsoil had been removed to the underlying glacial till. Stripping was undertaken in such as manner as to ensure that no damage was caused to surfaces that had already been stripped, nor to archaeological surfaces that had yet to be revealed.

Features revealed by stripping were assessed to determine whether they are anthropogenic or natural. Where necessary this involved hand cleaning areas and limited test excavations in order to produce a plan of the revealed features that could be used to define and quantify the second stage of formal and detailed excavation as defined in a Further Archaeological Works Design.

A Total Station Theodolite was used for generating a pre-excavation CAD base plan of the exposed archaeological features. This plan was based on national grid co-ordinates from the start but the use of GPS to locate survey stations.

Where significant archaeological features or deposits were identified a Further Archaeological Works Design was submitted detailing the works to be undertaken as part of the excavation phase, and the methodology for undertaking the work. The Further Archaeological Works Designs allowed for intensive cleaned, excavation and recording; involving full hand excavation, detailed hand drawings at 1:20 or 1:10 as appropriate and a full photographic and written record.

Harding (2009) has criticised such strip and map techniques now popular in British archaeology for the loss of information that occurs through over machining. It is impossible to counter such criticisms as such loss clearly does occur. There are several places on the present site where over machining caused the loss of potential ground surfaces and possibly floor layers. Ideally the Early Neolithic building would have been stripped by hand from immediately below the turf layer. However as the main roundhouse settlement was defined by substantial stone walls machining stopped at quite a high level and loss in the middle of this area must have been small although some peripheral areas have suffered. Losses can also occur if the machine watcher does not remain vigilant, as was seen at Parc Cybi when a burnt mound was partly machined away in error during evening working. These are all serious faults to this methodology but against this should be placed the practicality of identifying the archaeology over such a large area. Alternative techniques such as geophysical survey or trial trenching are unlikely to have identified the Early Neolithic building, and trial trenching also suffers the risk of over-machining. Whilst some archaeology can be missed or lost through strip and map, the technique has revolutionised the range and detail of archaeology found on large development sites, and it is believed that the use of this technique was the most efficient and appropriate for the site at Parc Cybi.

The areas completely recorded are shown on figure 2, which also shows areas still to be investigated and those to be undisturbed by the development.

QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

Site records

Contexts	9047 (minus voided numbers)
Plan and section drawings	3217 drawings on 1355 sheets
Colour slides	4 films
Colour prints	219 films
Digital photographs	11,122 shots
TST digital site plan	1

Environmental samples

Flots from bulk samples	1924
Pollen/micromorphology monoliths	29
Soil samples for pollen	4
Burnt stone samples	66
Wood and other none charred organics	16
Bulk samples for insect remains	7
Shell	13
Animal bone	396

Human bone	22

Finds
For lithics the numbers refer individual pieces, but for other items they refer to small finds, which might include more than 1 piece.

Prehistoric pottery	880
Roman pottery	68
Medieval pottery	8
Post-medieval pottery	117
Post-medieval glass	40
Early glass	10
Flint	962
Chert	763
Quartz	134
Graig Lwyd	16
Other worked stone	408
Iron objects	52
Lead objects	8
Copper alloy objects	32
Burnt clay	273
Metal working debris	260
Coins	1
Gold	1
Amber	1
cannel coal/jet	1

EXCAVATION RESULTS

STRATIGRAPHIC AND STRUCTURAL DATA

The sites described in this section are those that were identified during the strip, map and sample process as requiring detailed excavation. They ranged in date from prehistoric through to the 20th century. The earliest sites were those of Mesolithic date (c. 8,000 to 4,000 BC), and though finds of this date were relatively few, they form an important addition to those already known. Neolithic sites were relatively numerous, and included a rectangular early Neolithic building and both early and late Neolithic activity in other locations across the site. There was a Bronze Age complex of monuments in the northern end of the site and other Bronze Age activity was represented by two burnt mounds, and, possibly, a timber roundhouse. An Iron Age settlement with stone roundhouses was located in the middle of the site and other buildings were excavated which are also thought to be of this date. Traces of a trackway and field system were associated with a building complex of Roman date and an early medieval cemetery with smithing activity within it was located on top of a small hill. The development of the post medieval landscape with several small farms could be traced through the buried remains.

The site was divided into building plots and each plot allocated an identifying letter. Because parts of these plots were investigated and signed off at different times the plots were often subdivided. The methodology used during the strip and map exercise and during subsequent excavation allowed for identification by plot and sub-plot number, and all archaeology was recorded and described by its plot identifier. In contrast this report aims to treat the archaeology chronologically and not by plot area. However in some areas, particularly B2 and F1, the archaeology of several periods was so intermixed and the assignment of phases is at present so tentative that the area will be discussed as a whole. In future it is hoped to segregate all archaeological features into their respective periods, though in practice this might always be difficult within B2 and F1.

The general location of prehistoric, Roman and medieval sites are shown on figure 3 and post medieval sites and field systems are shown on figure 4. All major sites have been allocated Primary Record Numbers (PRNs) from the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record, and these are shown on the plans. Table 1 lists all the PRNs with a brief description.

MESOLITHIC
See figure 3 for locations
Mesolithic activity was represented by a small number of microliths. These were scattered across the site, sometimes residual in later contexts, and do not suggest a focus for activity within this period. A single late Mesolithic microlith (sf 947) was retrieved from the gravel slope above a large burnt mound in area E (PRN 31582). It had no direct relationship with the mound feature itself but rather it is indicative of earlier activity in the vicinity. There were also 2 microliths (sf909 and sf5014) from a natural hollow in area E that contained much early Neolithic activity (PRN 18406). These 2 microliths were found when cleaning the surface of the natural loess deposit in this area and must have been residual within the soil when the hollow was occupied.

In area B2 a pit (91690) within a group of post medieval pits produced a small quantity of metalworking waste and a scalene triangle, narrow blade microlith (sf 4194). No other possible Mesolithic flints were recovered from area B2 but a narrow blade microlith (sf 4439) was found in the fill of ditch 92615 that produced a Bronze Age gold hair-ring in F1. Both these were presumably residual, having been present in the soil and incorporated in the later features.

The most significant group of finds were some flint and chert pieces (PRN 31627) recovered from a shallow linear hollow in the southern part of area H (SH 2574 8048). The hollow (50412) measured 2.5m by 0.5m and was only 0.14m deep and it contained a scalar/bipolar core and a narrow blade microlith (sf 4534) along with a large chert flake with microchipping on 2 sharp edges (sf4532). Feature 50412 was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east between two post medieval ditches and another linear hollow (50414) ran nearly parallel to it about 1.5m to the west. The later ditches were aligned north-west to south-east and cut through 50414, which seems to have extended for at least 9m, although it was discontinuous. These parallel linear hollows could have been furrows from an earlier field system preserved under the later boundaries protected from later ploughing. Feature 50414 contained small pieces of clay pipe and late pottery, suggesting a late date. It is possible, therefore, that the lithics were not *in situ* though for them to have remained together suggests that they had not been much disturbed.

EARLY NEOLITHIC

Early Neolithic rectangular timber building (PRN 31570)
See figure 5

Introduction
On a plateau in Area H at an altitude of 17m OD (SH 2574 8053), a rectangular arrangement of cut features was identified, cut into a loess-like natural silt (02069). Immediately to the south was a substantial schist outcrop. Recorded as Group 50100, the features comprised a number of postholes, straight linear gullies, and internal and external pits and hearths that appear to represent the remains of a rectangular timber structure. A large number of finds were associated with the features including black chert and flint lithics and early Neolithic ceramics. A relict soil layer was also recorded at the eastern end of the building which contained similar pottery and stone artefacts.

The building was orientated WSW-ESE and measured approximately 15.2m long and 6m wide. Two parallel rows of five posts, arranged symmetrically about the long axis of the building, formed a central aisle. A slightly more irregularly pattern of posts and plank slots formed the side and end walls of the building. The structure appears to have been subdivided internally into three separate compartments, a tripartite division of space that is encountered on other comparable Neolithic buildings in Britain and Ireland. The long axis of the structure was aligned on the Trefignath Neolithic chambered tomb which stands approximately 100m to the NNE and is visible from it through a narrow cleft in the rock outcrop.

Cleaning of the whole area around the structure revealed a number of further features to the north and west of the main concentration. A small number of possibly related features were also identified to the south on the southern side of the rock outcrop.

Relict soil layer
The remains of a Neolithic occupation deposit or relict soil layer (02093) were preserved at the eastern end of the building. This was identified due to the high density of finds visible in the overlying deposits during the

machine stripping of the site. It survived in two irregularly shaped areas; the largest in the eastern compartment of the building measured approximately 4m by 3m, with a smaller patch further west. It consisted of a layer of grey brown sandy silt which contained small stones and charcoal flecks. The remains of the deposit were excavated by hand and it was found to contain high quantities of artefacts, predominately fragments of Neolithic ceramics and black chert and flint stone tools, flakes, and debitage. As the deposit was removed, the edges of features at this end of the building began to emerge against the orange silty natural (02069). Though it was initially assumed that this layer sealed the features below, many of the packing stones from the wall slots and postholes protruded through the top of it and it seems likely that all of the features were in fact cut through it.

Aisle posts

The building appears to have been built utilising a system of central aisle posts, possibly in order to bear the weight of a roof. Ten postholes were arranged into five opposing pairs that formed two parallel, WSW-ENE aligned rows. The two rows were spaced around 2m apart, and both lines of posts ran the entire length of the building, defining the central aisle of the structure. All of the postholes appear to have been disturbed and their posts deliberately removed.

The western ends of the aisle post rows were formed by the two central postholes in the western gable end wall (50039 and 50097), and the eastern ends formed part of the eastern gable end (50182 and 50173). The central two pairs occurred on what appeared to be partitions within the building and there was an additional pair of postholes in the western compartment. Initially it was thought that (50178) on the western partition lacked a northern counterpart but a large hearth feature (50145) was located just where the posthole should have been. The remains of a possible truncated posthole were recorded as part of the base of the hearth, and it seems certain that this was the very base of an aisle posthole otherwise destroyed by the later pit.

The postholes were all sub-circular in plan and generally no more than 0.80m across, and mostly much smaller, although those on the eastern partition (50167 and 50179) were larger, at about 0.95m in diameter. Most of the aisle postholes were no more than 0.30m deep, although (50179) was 0.54m deep. All the postholes were filled with red-brown sandy silt, and most had some packing stones, some up to 0.50m long. In the top of posthole 50097 was a large, horizontally laid slab of angular schist more than 0.50m long. It filled a large proportion of the cut, and must have settled in place after any post had been removed. In (50062) a packing silt, very similar to the natural, could be distinguished from the later fill, presumably deposited after the post was removed. Other postholes also had darker upper fills apparently deposited after removal of the post. Posthole (50179) had a particularly clear sequence.

Posthole (50097) had a smaller posthole (50033) on its eastern edge. The relationship between the two features was uncertain and (50033) seems too small to be a replacement for (50039), so it probably relates to the internal postholes. Postholes (50179) and (50167) were much larger than the other aisle postholes, although the distribution of packing stones within the cuts suggested that the posts were located within the northern sides of the holes. However the post depression in the base of (50167) still suggested a post 0.30m in diameter.

The largest quantity of finds came from the gable end postholes with (50039), (50173) and (50182) containing large amounts of Neolithic pottery sherds, black chert flakes and some flint. However, only a single chert flake was recovered from the fill of posthole (50097). A smaller quantity of finds came from the other aisle postholes, mostly from deposits that appeared to have been deposited after the posts had been removed. The lower, packing fills generally contained fewer finds, although many of the finds from (50182) came from the packing fill. Finds also included occasional tiny pieces of knapped crystal quartz, small quantities of burnt bone and some charred hazelnut shells. In the upper fill of (50167) was a struck flake of Graig Llwyd stone, and in (50173) was a fragment of a polished stone axe.

Walls

Western Gable End

The posthole (50051) marked the north western corner of the structure, and was at the northern end of an approximately 5.71m long NNW-SSE aligned row of four postholes and associated features, forming the western gable end of the structure. The south-western corner of the building was marked by posthole (50236). Both postholes were sub-circular, about 0.5m in diameter and up to 0.2m deep. They were filled with orange-brown sandy silt. Posthole (50051) contained a number of large cobbles up to 0.36m long but (50236) had little evidence for post-packing material.

A narrow straight gully (50047/50043) ran between the aisle postholes (50097 and 50039). It was excavated as two separate features, both of which were only identified on the ground with great difficulty. The northern part, recorded as (50047), was 0.30m deep with a rounded base, but the southern end (50243) was only 0.09m deep and V-shaped in profile. The gully was filled with red-brown sandy silt clay with occasional large stones. This gully probably held planking for the wall, with the stones providing some packing on the wider parts of the gully.

The similarity between the fills of the slot and the central postholes also meant that no reliable stratigraphic relationships could be discerned between the different components. All appear to have been filled with similar material, probably under similar conditions and very likely contemporaneously. In addition, they all seem to have accumulated after the wooden components of each feature were removed.

Flakes of struck flint, black chert and quartz came from posthole (50051), but posthole (50236) and the gully produced no finds.

Eastern Gable end
The majority of the eastern gable end of the building was defined by a straight linear gully with four postholes (50225, 50174 and aisle postholes 50173 and 50182) cut along its length. The gully (50166) was around 4.07m long, steep sided and between 0.08m and 0.20m deep. Though it had a general NNW-SSE alignment, the northern part of the gully between postholes (50174) and (50184) had a slightly more N-S orientation. In addition to being generally deeper in this northern section, it was also broader here where its width was recorded at up to 0.78m. The southern stretch of the gully, between postholes (50225) and (50171), was between 0.30-0.05m wide.

Its fill was recorded along most of its length as (50165), a very dark, greyish brown sandy silt which contained frequent flecks and small fragments of charcoal, chert lithics and fragments of Neolithic pottery. Numerous stones, some resting vertically against the sides of the cut, suggested that this was a packing deposit intended to support and secure a wooden plank wall. The gully (50166) appeared to fade out at the northern end and there was a gap between it and a fifth posthole (50210) that formed the NE corner to the building.

The two aisle postholes (50182) and (50173) have already been discussed in the context of the aisle post settings. The other two postholes were both generally an irregular oval shape, up to 0.81m long, 0.55m wide and 0.28m deep. (50174) was quite difficult to distinguish from the gully fill. Both postholes contained disturbed packing stones and frequent flecks and chunks of charcoal, lithics, and pieces of pottery. (50174) contained a large number of Neolithic pottery sherds and fragments, black chert and flint debitage and flakes, and quartz crystal objects including a scalar/bipolar core, in its upper fill. A small posthole (50164), 0.36m long, 0.27m wide and 0.13m deep, just clipped the eastern side of the gully (50166). It contained packing stones, pottery sherds and lithics.

The four postholes and the gully all appear to have been part of the same wall structure and in use at the same time with the posts providing structural support to a wall probably constructed from split wooden planks. The disturbed positions of most of the packing stones suggest the removal of the posts and plank walling. Posthole (50164) probably provided additional support to the outside of the wall and might have been added after the construction of the wall.

The fifth posthole (50210) formed the north-eastern corner of the building, although it seemed quite small. Feature (50210) was 0.25m in diameter and 0.15m deep with some small fire-cracked stones in its fill. It also contained moderate amounts of charcoal and occasional small fragments of Neolithic pottery. Some confusion was caused in this corner by a large stone embedded in the natural and some artefacts that had worked their way into the natural, probably due to animal burrowing. A group of three intercutting features (50221), (50228) and (50219) were excavated in this area but only (50221), a small posthole on the northern wall, proved to be an archaeological feature.

Southern wall
The southern side wall of the structure was aligned ENE-WSW and was around 16m long. It was defined along most of its length by postholes, however in the eastern third of the building it was marked by the remains of a straight wall trench (50101), which was parallel sided, 2.67m long and 0.35m wide. It had fairly steep sides, a flattish base and was between 0.07m and 0.12m deep. This trench was filled with a firm grey sandy silt containing some charcoal and a number of pottery fragments and chert flakes. It also held some large

rectangular schist fragments up to 0.30m in length, that were consistent with a packing deposit. A small spur (50215) near the western end of the slot was probably an animal burrow.

Three postholes were associated with wall trench (50101). The fairly small postholes (50156) and (50150), measuring about 0.20m in diameter, had been cut centrally within the wall slot. The similarity of the fills in the postholes and the wall slot suggests that they all accumulated contemporaneously, most probably after the wall was dismantled, and that the postholes were an integral part of the wall.

The posthole at the eastern end of the wall trench (50150) cut through a much larger posthole (50084). Unlike the other two, this was much wider than the wall slot (50101) and appeared to have housed a substantial post. It was oval or sub circular in shape, 0.60m long and 0.54m wide and 0.30m deep. It was filled with a disturbed packing stone deposit. This seems to have been a major structural post, whereas the smaller ones are interpreted as lighter wall supports.

Only two more postholes survived on the remainder of the proposed southern wall line, both marking bays, and so presumably deeper than intermediary posts that have not survived. These postholes (50200 and 50067) were about 0.45-0.46m in diameter and up to 0.15m deep. The best evidence for packing stones came from the fill of (50067) in the form of a single large flat schist slab, 0.20m long, resting against the south-eastern side of the cut. The fill of (50067) contained a flint core, a large Neolithic rimsherd and two fragments of rock crystal, whilst a rimsherd, another smaller fragment of pot and a single piece of quartz crystal were recovered from (50200).

A stone was embedded in the natural silt the western end of the southern wall (50151), but despite some finds being introduced into the natural here by animal activity or ancient trampling this did not seem to be part of the wall.

Northern wall
A series of postholes formed the line of the northern wall of the building. Though they appeared to be more numerous than those that made up the southern wall, they were less regularly spaced, and in contrast, no posthole was identified at the northern end of the eastern internal partition. From west to east these postholes were 50239, 50070, 50072 (on the western partition), 50260, 50276 and 50221. These were generally no more than 0.50m across and between 0.07m and 0.18m deep. Their fills were mid to dark brown sandy silts, and some contained occasional packing stones, but others had no stones and only their presence on the proposed wall line suggested that they were postholes rather than small pits. There were generally few finds from these features but some did contain occasional flint and chert flakes and odd sherds of pottery.

Internal divisions
The building appears to have been subdivided by internal partitions into three units or bays. The location of aisle posts and wall posts suggests that these bays formed an integral part of the building design. At 6m, the width of the building was pretty much constant along its length. The western bay was approximately square and 6m long and 6m wide, the central bay was slightly smaller and approximately 5m long, whilst the eastern bay was the smallest, at approximately 4.4m long. There was a further partition located just inside the eastern gable end, but the function of this must have been different to the main bay partitions.

Western internal division
A 3.6m long straight gully, (50176), ran across the interior of the building, dividing the western bay from the rest of the structure. The gully was broad, up to 0.80m wide in places, but only 0.08m deep. Its sides were steep sides and the base was rather irregular. There was a gap between the gully and the side walls, with a 0.1m deep posthole or hollow (50205) marking the southern end of the gully, but no matching posthole at the northern end. The gully was filled with (50148), a firm grey brown silt containing a large quantity of Neolithic ceramic and lithic objects.

Though the aisle posthole 50178 appeared to be cut through, and therefore post-date the silting of gully (50176), it is likely that both the posthole and the internal wall cut were in contemporary use. The possible posthole (50065), 0.1m deep, may have supported the southern end of the partition.

Eastern internal division
The existence of a partition separating off the eastern bay is less well defined. The southern aisle post (50167) was joined to the southern wall by a line of three closely spaced postholes ((50199), (50196) and (50187)), between 0.13 and 0.17m deep, apparently set in a shallow trench. A number of schist slabs in their fills seemed

to be post packing stones. Early Neolithic pottery sherds and flint flakes and debitage were recovered from the fills of the three features; the vast majority coming from posthole (50196).

No trace of a similar partition was found on the northern side of the building, but the north-eastern part of the building less well-preserved than the remainder,.

Eastern internal slot or trench
Just inside and parallel to the eastern gable end wall was a further slot or gully (50232)/(50136). This was 2.6m long and ran perpendicular to slot 50101 from posthole (50084), and was truncated by hearth (50133). It was about 0.50m wide, 0.15m deep at the southern end and 0.25m deep further north, with gently sloping sides and a concave base, and had few packing stones compared with the gable end gully. There were more stones in the northern end and there may have been a posthole here but this could not be conclusively identified as a separate feature. The slot contained a few fragments of pottery, and black chert and flint flakes.

Two postholes (50139) and (50138) were cut into the western edge of the southern part of the wall slot (50232). These were rather elongated, about 0.7m long and 0.3m wide; both were quite shallow, 0.10 and 0.15m deep. Finds from these postholes included fragments of Neolithic pottery and flint and chert flakes. These postholes were presumably part of the partition structure.

Internal features
Postholes
There were two fairly large (c. 0.5m diameter and up to 0.28m deep) postholes (50087 and 50085) in the southern part of the western bay. (50087) had been truncated by the firepit/hearth (50044) and only its lower levels remained, but it still contained packing stones, as did (50085). In the top of this posthole a broken mortar (SF1204) was laid horizontally, presumably placed after the post was removed. These posts might have formed an alternative line with aisle post 50178, but they had no convincing matching posts to the north. Feature (50248), which was 0.19m deep, may have been another posthole on this line. Although it had some cobbles in its fill its profile was not entirely convincing as a posthole. Another possible posthole (50107) seemed to continue the line to the east. This was 0.22m deep but rather irregular in shape. A number of stones floating within the fill may have been the remains of a disturbed packing deposit. This possible line of postholes was close to but not quite on the same alignment as the aisle posts.

Smaller post and stakeholes in the western bay included (50143), which was 0.25m, with good packing stones, and the slighter posthole (50058), only surviving to a depth of 0.07m but with some packing stones remaining. Feature (50250) may have been a stakehole but was only 0.06m deep, and (50254) was similar but 0.12m deep.

Other internal features
There were several more or less convincing hollows and shallow pits within the building. Many contained finds, but some were probably no more than natural hollows retaining some of the occupation/relict soil layer. These features were rarely more than 0.1m deep and had gradually sloping sides. However feature (50245), in the eastern bay was 0.15m deep, and feature (50054) contained a number of burnt stones as well as the usual finds.

A number of features in and around the structure proved to be natural hollows or root holes, although some of these features contained finds. A narrow straight gully (50272) that ran at an angle across the western bay was probably not related to the building and may have been a plough scar or animal burrow.

There were four hearths within the building, however some of these definitely post-dated the structure and they are all discussed below as a possible later phase of activity.

Pit (50258) lay towards the northern side of the eastern bay, not far from the northern wall line. It was roughly oval in shape, and probably 0.57m long, 0.26m wide and 0.11m deep, but its fill was difficult to distinguish from the natural silts. It did however contain at least one vertically set stone that may have been post packing. A single piece of pottery SF1770 was recovered from the base of the fill. The sherd is a small rim sherd in a fabric that is not Early Neolithic and could possibly have come from a middle Neolithic Peterborough ware pot. This is the only sherd from within the area of the building that is not obviously Early Neolithic and hints at later activity here.

External features
Relatively few features lay outside the area of the building. There seems to have been some activity immediately outside the western gable end. Several carefully laid flat stones were placed in a hollow (50075) with some stones on edge possibly indicating very disturbed side slabs. There seems to have been *in situ* burning as the hollow below the stones was fire reddened, but there was little charcoal recovered. A large number of finds were recovered from the pit, including fragments and sherds of Neolithic pottery, flint and black chert flakes and debitage, and a small quantity of burnt animal bone. It is possible that this was the base of a hearth. A neighbouring irregular pit (50059) may have been related. This contained some larger stones and a charcoal-rich fill with numerous finds. Two smaller pits (50218) and (50230), no more than 0.15m deep, were also found in this area.

Further west a group of three postholes (50025), (50030) and (50032) were arranged in an 'L' shape. These were up to 0.29m deep and contained possible disturbed packing stones. Only one, the westernmost posthole (50025), contained any finds: a utilised flake of black chert and three sherds of prehistoric pottery. Two small, shallow features (50023 and 50282) to the south and north of this group might have been related truncated postholes but were probably just hollows.

Other features to the west of the building were natural hollows; 50022 was a fairly large tree root hollow, but a shallow feature (50020) 18.6m from the western end of the building, may have been genuine. It was 0.15m deep, contained a high proportion of charcoal and burnt stones, and may have been another hearth or cooking pit.

At the eastern end some features initially appeared to be forming a porch or extension but most proved to be root holes or other unconvincing features, although a flat schist slab (50256) may have been deliberately placed. One shallow pit (50142/20049), 0.1m deep, was more convincing and contained a number of fragments of prehistoric pottery. The adjacent feature (20047) may have been a posthole as it contained one or two larger stones that may have been post packing. Feature (50202) was almost certainly a posthole. It was 0.23m deep and may have provided some additional support to the building.

A possible hearth (50126) was found around one and a half metres outside of the south-eastern corner of the building. It was an irregular oval shape, 0.80m long and 0.60m wide, with steep sides. The base of the cut was slightly affected by heat and the fill contained charcoal and a number of large stones, most of which appeared to line the edge of the cut. Only a single flake of flint and some crumbs of what appeared to be prehistoric pottery were identified within the fill.

More archaeological features were identified to the north of the structure. The nearest (50264)/(50266) was an irregular natural hollow, although it contained a few finds, but more convincing features were grouped between 5 and 13m north of the building. There were four possible postholes, the most convincing of which (50010) was 0.23m deep with a number of vertically set packing stones. It contained two struck black chert flakes and a flake of burnt flint and a large unfinished bead in a black material, probably cannel coal (sf1073). This bead is highly unlikely to be early Neolithic in date and is more probably Bronze Age. A shallower (0.14m deep) pit or possible posthole (50009) contained a hammerstone (SF1030). The other two possible postholes ((50003) and (50286)) were smaller features, no more than 0.08m deep, neither of which produced finds.

There were also four larger features (50005, 50015, 50078, and 50103) up to 1.8m long and 0.24m deep with gradually sloping sides. These were rather irregular and not very convincing as deliberately dug pits but they did contain a small number of finds, mainly flint and chert flakes.

Post-building phase
Prominent within the building were three large fire-pits or hearths, as well as another smaller possible fire-pit, but their locations and relationships suggest that these formed part of a phase of activity that post-dated the building. Two large pits may also belong to this phase.

Hearths
The largest of the hearths (50145) was located on the western internal division (50176), just north of the longitudinal centre line of the building. The depth and sequence of the deposits contained within it indicate that this hearth was repeatedly used over a long period of time. It consisted of a large irregular oval shaped pit (50145), 1.5m long, 1.3m wide and 0.35m deep. The pit had quite gently sloping sides heavily fire reddened and oxidised by fire and lined with clay. The basal fill was rich in charcoal and contained some stones. This was

sealed by another clay layer, with some burning on its surface and cobbles embedded in it, forming what appeared to be a U-shaped hearth structure filled with charcoal-rich deposits.

Neolithic pottery, burnt bone, flint, chert and flakes of quartz crystal were all recovered from most of the deposits within the hearth. The upper fill had most pottery, all of which was early Neolithic, and a flake from a Graig Llwyd axe (sf3010).

A more steeply sided hollow beneath the cut of the hearth was probably the truncated base of an aisle posthole and the hearth clearly cut the partition gully (50176). The aisle post must have been removed before the hearth pit was dug, and the loss of an aisle post would suggest the roof had also been removed or had collapsed. The location directly over a aisle posthole implies a deliberate choice and probably the removal of the post immediately before the pit was dug. The presence of Early Neolithic pottery throughout the repeated use of the hearth also suggests that the hearth was not part of later use of the site.

Another reasonably large hearth feature (50044) was located in the western bay and this also truncated a posthole (50187), part of a post line of uncertain function. The fire-pit or hearth (50044) was oval in plan, 0.86m wide and 1.03m, with gently sloping sides and a concave base 0.19m deep. Its primary fill occasional flakes of charcoal and a large rimsherd from an early Neolithic vessel, above this was a black, charcoal-rich deposit (02100) containing sherds and lithics.

Another large hearth (50133) was located on the eastern side of the eastern bay, cutting through the possible wall gully (50232). It was oval with steep, near vertical sides and a flat base, and measured 1.37m long, 0.97m wide and was 0.30m deep. The sides and base of the feature were heavily reddened and oxidised, and the base of the pit was filled with a thin charcoal-rich deposit, containing fire cracked stones, large chunks of charcoal and a large number of artefacts. Above this was a clayey deposit that may have represented a clay lining, baked by later fires lit within the hearth. This also was covered by a charcoal-rich layer with fire-cracked stones. At this stage the hearth was also edged with stones. A third phase of activity at the hearth was indicated by the presence of another clay layer again covered by a charcoal-rich layer, and bounded by a kerb of stones. Numerous pot sherds, all early Neolithic, flint and chert flakes, burnt bone fragments and some knapped crystal quartz came from all the layers of the hearth.

Even if the structure supported in gully 50136/50232 had gone out of use before the abandonment of the building the hearth seems too close to the gable wall to function when this was standing. This hearth also therefore seems to have been used after the demolition of the building.

A smaller hearth (50207) was identified within the middle bay and although this does not cut any of the building features it also seems to be too close to structural features to be used inside the building. This was a shallow scoop, 0.05m deep, with heat affected sides and a fill of dark silt with frequent charcoal. A few fragments of early Neolithic pottery were identified within it.

Central pits

In the 1.3m wide gap between the two aisle postholes (50179) and (50167), two pits (50120) and (50092) were identified. The cut (50092) was a large, sub-circular pit approximately 0.95m in diameter and 0.22m deep with a steep sided, 'bowl' shaped profile. Six or seven large sub-angular and sub-rounded schist and granite stones (50091) had been very deliberately placed flat around the base and sides of the pit. One of these stones (SF1202) was a saddle quern placed face down on the northern side of the cut. A further large stone had then been set on the base of the pit at its centre, and together with the others, created a sort of very rough surface or lining of closely packed stones. The voids between the larger stones had then been filled with smaller cobbles and stones, some of which had been set almost vertically, producing a very carefully and purposefully created, stone filled pit. From the silt between the stones were recovered a utilised piece of black chert and at least 17 very small pieces of Neolithic pottery.

A large flat slab of schist (50121), 0.84m long, capped another, adjacent pit (50120). The slab may have been roughly shaped to some extent. The sub-rectangular pit (50120) that it covered was 0.81m long, 0.62m wide and 0.26m deep. Three smaller flat schist slabs (50119) had been placed upright against the straight, vertical sides of the cut. One each was positioned at the SE and SW corners of the feature, whilst the third had been set in the middle of the northern side. The large schist slab (50121), rested on these, almost completely sealing the deposits within. The base of the pit was filled with a thin iron panned deposit. The remainder of the fill was a soft brownish grey clayey silt with fragments of charcoal.

The pit contained a relatively high number of finds including fragments of chert, flint, Neolithic pottery, burnt clay and a piece of quartz crystal, but some small much later finds including a fragment of glass and a piece of cinder in the base of the pit suggest some animal disturbance introducing intrusive items.

The functions of these two features are unclear. It is possible that (50092) was a large posthole, with the outer stones being part of a post packing deposit. The central stone may have plugged the void left by the post after it was removed, with the smaller stones then inserted in the gaps between the larger cobbles after this had taken place. However, there appears to be no evidence of disturbance to the feature, and it is seems more likely that the stones in the pit are *in situ*. Pit (50120) was not stone-lined like a cist and contained no evidence of a cremation, so it could possibly have been a domestic storage pit, capped to allow access over the top. However placing these two features between the largest aisle posts does seem to be significant and if movement took place between the posts it would seem more practical to place the pits elsewhere.

Despite their proximity, the stratigraphic relationship between (50120) and (50092) was not established. The fact that the capstone overhangs the cut, though not conclusive, does suggest that the stones in (50092) were almost certainly *in situ* and visible when the capstone (50121) was placed for the last time. The material in (50120) might have been collected from elsewhere before finding its way into the pit. All of the pieces of pottery were small abraded pieces that appear to have been in circulation for a while before being deposited and sealed with the specially constructed and supported capping stone. It is possible that this was undertaken as some kind of act of ceremonial closure, performed at the end of the occupation of the building, but there are no stratigraphic relationships to firmly place these pits in the later phase of activity associated with the hearths.

Features around the building

With the exception of the small number of features described above the building was quite isolated from other possible contemporary or even much later activity. About thirty five metres to the north of the building were two possible postholes ((50001) and (50007)) up to 0.15m deep and spaced around 2.5m apart. Another 10m north of these was an isolated shallow circular pit (50294) with a charcoal rich fill and evidence for burning in situ. None of the features contained any finds and none is definitely prehistoric.

A prominent schist outcrop was located some 30m south of the Neolithic building. To the south of this were a small number of features. There were three possible postholes about 2.3m apart ((50389), (50322) and (50406)). These were between 0.18m and 0.08m deep, with some possible packing stones. The only finds recovered from any of the postholes came from (50322) which contained two small flint chips. There were also two pits; (50459) was shallow and oval pit, and (50397) was larger and up to 0.36m deep. Pit (50397) had a lower fill of orange brown silt with a high proportion of charcoal and an upper stony fill that produced a burnt thumbnail scraper (sf5421) and some burnt bone, as well as fire-cracked stone. This could have been a fire pit associated with the building or its later phase of use but there was no early Neolithic pottery so it could have been a later feature.

Ten metres south-east of this was a stone-lined pit (50452), 1.16m long, 0.69m wide and 0.33m deep. It had almost vertical sides and a flat base with a number of large schist slabs set on edge to line the cut. More large stones appeared to have been haphazardly dumped into the pit. Three small pieces of flint, a struck pebble, a flake and a burnt piece of debitage were recovered from the upper fill. The function of the feature is unclear. The size of the cut and its stone lining suggested that it was a cist grave, however the stones within the fills appeared to have been dumped rather than being part of a capping deposit. It is still possible that it is the remains of a disturbed cist, and the flint work does tentatively support a prehistoric date, however no finds were recovered from the feature to strongly support such a hypothesis.

The stone lined pit (50452) was associated with two further features, a smaller pit (50400) and a possibly truncated posthole (50398), but coal and metalworking residues in (50400) suggested a post-medieval date. Further east was a possible hearth or fire pit (21042), filled with black charcoal-stained silt with frequent fire-cracked stones, but producing no finds. Other features to the south of the outcrop proved to be natural features such as tree throws, root holes and stone sockets.

Discussion of Neolithic building and associated features.

There is little doubt that the features represent the remains of a roofed building. The aisle posts and gable ends would function effectively to support a roof and the walls in places are quite well defined. The plan and size of the building would be almost identical to that of the Llandygai II building found at Parc Bryn Cegin, except for

the eastern bay. These structures seem to have been modular in conception and it is possible additional bays were added either to the original design or in later use if a large building was required. It is possible that the eastern bay was a later addition. Postholes 50167 and 50179 seem particularly large for internal posts and may originally have formed the eastern gable end. The restriction of a foundation slot suggesting a plank wall to this end may also indicate that it was an addition in a different style to the original building. However there is no reason why the eastern end could not have been emphasised by using plank walling just for this end in the original design, and the size of the two aisle posts may not have been dictated by practical considerations. The structure would have functioned as a single building and whether the eastern bay was original or added at some time the building would have stood roofed to its full length.

The Llandygai II building had a post trench immediately inside the eastern gable end, although it was centrally placed unlike the slot 50136/50232. Similar features have been found in other buildings (e.g. Claish (Barclay et al 2002) and Balbridie (Fairweather and Ralston 1993) and at Balbridie an entrance was suggested in this end. The gully (50232)/(50136) does seem to form a sort of corridor with the gable end with the two postholes (50084) and (50025) at the southern end. The presence of a large post on either side might suggest an entrance but the gap at about 0.35m wide, does seem very small. If the posts were not as wide as the postholes this gap might have actually have been about 0.5m. It led into the space between the two wall slots 50166 and 50136/50232, which was no wider, giving a claustrophobic but passable corridor.

There are no other features that indicate the presence of an entrance, but if the entrance was in the south-eastern corner of the building it must have been a very restricted one, making access to the building difficult and intimidating. It is perhaps more likely that the entrance was elsewhere and that these features had another function.

Although all the internal hearths probably belong to the later phase there is no reason why the external hearths were not in contemporary use with the building. The position of the possible hearth 50126 close to the south-eastern corner of the building might support the suggestion of an entrance in this corner, but if external hearths are expected to be conveniently close to entrances 50075 might indicate a door in the western gable end. There was no trace of a wall trench between the aisle posts and the two corner posts on this wall and there could have been a door at either or both ends. If feature 50059 was an open pit or otherwise in active use then the southern end would appear the most likely. In this case posthole 50033 might have supported a door post. This western gable end is very similar to that at Llandygai II (Parc Bryn Cegin) (Kenney 2008), which also had a wall slot between the two aisle posts but not extending to the corner posts. In that case features on the south wall lead to an argument for a door at the western end of the south wall, but there was a burnt patch in a similar position to 50075. This burnt patch was largely disregarded as there were many similar ones in the area from scrub clearance, but it is possible that hearths are to be expected at the western end of these buildings. Unfortunately the relevant area was dug away at Llandygai I by the henge ditch.

A search of other Early Neolithic buildings in Britain and Ireland failed to find hearths in a similar position. In many structures the hearths do not survive, but where they do they are often central. However the north-west Wales buildings are so similar in design that it is justified in considering them as a specific regional sub-class of this site type. While clearly drawing on a common tradition these buildings are not quite the same as others elsewhere with the exception of the eastern end of the structure at Lismore Fields, Buxton (Garton 1987). This has an almost identical layout to Llandygai II, but with less emphasis on the gable ends. This similarity may support the suggestion that the complete Buxton structure was two buildings or at least extended. The concept of extendable modules seems to be demonstrated at Parc Cybi in the eastern bay and is perhaps reflected in the numerous bays of the larger Scottish buildings.

The degree to which the bays were partitioned off from each other is not entirely clear. The eastern bay may have had partitions running between the walls and the aisle posts but probably a gap between these posts. Where access through this gap was made more difficult in use by the presence of the two pits or whether these belong to the later phase of activity cannot be certain. The partition for the western bay represented by gully (50176) seems to have run across the building with access at each end next to the walls. However the gully was very wide and the nature of the partition is difficult to imagine. The gully seems much too wide to be for a plank or wattle partition. The shallow and rather irregular character of the gully might suggest that it was an erosion hollow rather than a partition, but it had steeply cut sides and it is hard to imagine why erosion should specifically occur perpendicularly across the building so close to the aisle posts. It is possible that the gully was widened by digging out the footings of a plank-built partition, possibly also explaining the more irregular eastern edge to the feature.

Few postholes, even the deepest, had *in situ* packing stones, suggesting disturbance and possibly deliberate post removal. No postpipes resulting from posts rotting *in situ* were identified. This and the fire-pits dug directly over the location of posts suggest that the building was entirely dismantled, probably immediately before the hearths were created. A phase of activity is therefore envisaged in the dismantled remains of the building involving the repeated use of hearths in pits. Whether all the hearths were in use at once or whether they were sequential is not yet clear but most individual hearths were used several times. The two pits between the aisle posts might also belong to this phase. The artefacts belonging to this phase are no different to those from the use of the building. Although some finds were probably introduced from the occupation deposits the lack of later material supports the stratigraphic evidence of this phase rapidly following the use and destruction of the building.

Early Neolithic Activity in Area E (PRN 18406)
See figure 6

The largest concentration of early Neolithic activity beyond the timber building was in area E where activity was concentrated within a large hollow on a south-western facing slope (SH 2531 8077). The underlying geology here was of glacial gravels and unevenness in their deposition had created the hollow, which had partially infilled with windblown loess. However the hollow had stabilised and a soil had developed on the loess. This had been sealed by colluvation caused by ploughing but had been protected from plough damage by being within the hollow. A patch of this relict soil (31025) measuring approximately 8m x 7.5m and up to 0.15m deep had survived, but this had almost certainly originally extended over a much larger area. The deposit was a firm light brown sandy silt with lenses of cream and orange containing occasional small sub-rounded stones and charcoal flecks. A considerable quantity of early Neolithic pottery, occasional possibly later sherds and flint artefacts were recovered during the excavation of the deposit.

As the relict soil appeared to be a largely undisturbed land surface finds were recorded in 3 dimensions on 1:20 scale plans to recover a precise artefact scatter for this area. This information will be analysed in a subsequent post-excavation phase to determine patterns of deposition and possible working areas.

The main focus of the activity was concentrated within the north-western end of the hollow over and near the surviving patch of relict soil. Some of the features were only identified after the relict soil (31025) had been removed as the similarities between the fills and the deposit made it very difficult to distinguish features with the relict soil. However it is most likely that these features were not underlying the deposit but rather were cut through it. The area was further confused by leached root hollows and other natural features, which were often difficult to distinguish from anthropomorphic ones.

The probable focus of the activity was a row of three hearths and a possible fire pit running on a north-east to south-west orientation. The three hearth structures (31005), (31006) and (31007) were patches of *in situ* burning ranging in diameter from 0.84m to 1.10m and surviving to a depth of up to 0.15m. There were no cuts associated with the hearths and it is postulated that they were the remains of fires lit directly upon the ground surface. Feature (31010) differed from the nearby areas of burning in that the episode appears to have been conducted within a cut. The pit contained a burnt clay lining overlain by a black silty charcoal layer, and may have been an earth oven.

A flat slab of schist (31041) measuring 0.55m x 0.22m was excavated in the immediate vicinity of the hearths. Very few other stones were found in the loess deposit and it was probable that this had been deliberately placed for a specific purpose, perhaps as a surface for food preparation. However no traces of cutting or grinding were identified on the stone’s surface.

In the area surrounding the hearths were a spread of 34 post and stake holes. Whilst it is possible to identify several patterns within this group, none are particularly meaningful, and the exact relationships and possible phasing remains elusive. The clearest grouping formed a row of 7 stakeholes running north-west to south-east across the base of the hollow terminating just to the south of hearth (31005). This group was met by a further group of 6 stakeholes which appeared to enclose the hearth. Certain stakeholes could feasibly belong to either of these groups although it would seem unlikely that the features were in use at the same time. There was an additional group of 6 post/stakeholes between hearths (31006) and (31007).

The exact function or indeed significance of these groupings is not clear and it is by no means certain that the groupings proffered are the only arrangements possible. It is therefore only a tentative suggestion that these stakeholes are the remains of possible windbreaks or ephemeral shelter structures.

To the north of the hearths were a dense group of thirteen stake and post holes. The diameter of features in this central group varied between 0.14m and 0.33m and they survived to a depth of up to 0.19m. These form a nearly symmetrical plan that suggests a small structure; much too small for a shelter but perhaps for storage, drying or another similar function. However two of the features ((31627) and (31625)) were intercutting and the shape of stakehole (31640) was indicative of two features rather than one, perhaps indicating more than one phase of postholes or repair to the structure.

Four pits (31509), (31595), (31666) and (31023) were located to the east of the small structure, all of which were irregular in plan, ranging in length from 0.34m to 0.85m and up to 0.40m deep. These pits contained flint and prehistoric pottery fragments, with one pit in particular (31595) containing an assemblage of 23 small finds including rock crystal and burnt flint. The fill of a neighbouring pit (31509) was charcoal-rich and was cut through by a small stakehole (31514). There were also five stakeholes to the west of the structure, which could have been related to it.

The activity spread to the south-west of the hearths with a general scatter of 24 similar pits, postholes and stakeholes. These features contained prehistoric pottery and flint debitage/tools and are thought to belong to the same broad phase of activity. As with other features in the area there is little coherence to the spread and it is uncertain as to how the features relate to the surrounding area.

Where the hollow opened out at its south-western end a burnt mound (31002) and its trough (31008) were located, with a group of probably associated features. These are discussed under the Bronze Age section of the report but the discovery of a leaf-shaped arrowhead from under the mound suggests that it might be Neolithic rather than Bronze Age in date and not post-date the main activity in the hollow by many centuries.

Table 2 lists the features within the hollow and indicates the range of finds from them and the amount of charcoal recorded.

Early Neolithic Activity in Area M (PRN 31571)
See figure 7

Towards the northern end of the site a group of Bronze Age monuments occupied a raised plateau. Their location was probably determined by the location of the standing stone and topographic considerations but it is possible that prior occupation of the area influenced the choice of this site. Various pits and postholes were scattered about this plateau and some may have been related to the Bronze Age activity but of the few that produced datable finds these indicated an early Neolithic date, so this group of features is considered under this section.

The majority of these features formed a dispersed group between the cist cemetery and ring-ditch with a group of three pits further north-east (centred on SH 2522 8107). The most westerly end of this spread of features might be seen as represented by pits 40071 and 40076 to the west of the cist cemetery. Pit 40071 was oval and measured 0.70m in diameter and 0.26m deep. In addition to a number of large smoothed stones, its dark brown silty sand fill (40072) contained a complete but broken stone quern (sf4314), shattered by heat. The three fragments refitted to recreate an oval shaped saddle quern 0.37m long, 0.30m wide and 0.10m thick. In addition to this, the fill also contained struck and burnt flints sf4564 and two tiny crumbs of prehistoric pottery (sf5850).

To the north was a sub-circular pit (40076) around 0.92m in diameter and 0.3m deep. The pit was filled with a sequence of four deposits (40195), (40129), (40077) and (40078). The basal fill (40195) consisted of a thin charcoal-rich layer. This deposit contained up to 50% burnt, angular stones, and was sealed by a loose, orange brown silty clay with frequent small stones and gravel. Above this was a loose, black silty clay with frequent charcoal lumps and fragments of burnt flint fragments (sf4067, sf4442, sf4509, sf5836, sf5839), including a possible fragment of a retouched knife (sf1893). It also contained small fragments of prehistoric pottery, including a very eroded possibly Early Neolithic sherd (sf4100, sf5805). Tiny fragments of modern pot (sf5575) were probably intrusive. An upper colluvial fill sealed the pit. There was no firm evidence for burning *in situ*

but the series of deposits resembles the firepits in the Early Neolithic building and this would seem to be a cooking pit of possible Neolithic date.

A large shallow feature (40140) to the south of the cist cemetery probably represents a tree throw hollow of unknown date, but to the south-west were a cluster of more convincing features.

Few features had clear post-packing stones and identifying the difference between postholes and pits was difficult. The size and distribution of some features suggested postholes but many features were fairly unconvincing as such. Probable postholes included (40094), 0.3m in diameter and 0.2m deep, and containing fragments of burnt bone (sf5840) and occasional charcoal flecks.

The pits were generally small, some sub-circular and some more irregular. Pit (40103) was a neat sub-circular pit, 0.4m in diameter and 0.13m deep, with a charcoal-rich fill. Pit (40099) was also circular, 0.54m in diameter and 0.15m deep, but lacked the charcoal in its fill. Pits (40003) and (40117) were more irregular in shape, up to 0.7m long and 0.2m deep. These contained occasional charcoal fragments and a tiny quantity of fuel ash slag (sf5594). Near the figure of 8 shaped enclosure was a group of three small, bowl-shaped pits (40085, 40063 and 40137) with charcoal-rich fills. They were up to 0.63m in diameter and up to 0.26m deep. Pit (40137) contained a sherd of prehistoric pottery (sf3070). Another closely spaced cluster of three bowl-shaped pits (40074, 40083 and 40081) with charcoal-rich fills lay about halfway between the cist cemetery and the ring-ditch. These were up to 0.50m long and up to 0.17m deep. Other pits of similar form and size also occurred in small groups. Pits (40042), (40046) and (40048) were located just east of the figure-of-8 shaped enclosure. Three slightly larger pits (40065, 40067 and 40069) were located some distance north-east of the ring-ditch. None of these produced any finds.

Some features were shallow, poorly defined hollows, such as (40097), which was 0.06m deep, but this still contained a charcoal-flecked fill. A shallow spread of charcoal-rich material (40131) approximately 0.40m in diameter produced four small fragments of prehistoric pottery (sf5891). Many lacked both charcoal and finds, such as (40013), (40044), (40053) and (40208) and were probably just shallow natural depressions or animal burrows.

The provisional dating of this activity comes from a group of features immediately north of the ring-ditch. Cut (40079) was an elongated oval 0.8m long and 0.15m deep, with a fill of dark greyish/black brown silt with frequent flecks of charcoal. More than twenty sherds and fragments of prehistoric pottery were recovered (sf1892, sf4481, sf5883). These represent parts of four pots, three of which are certainly early Neolithic. Joins between the sherds with non-recent breaks suggest that this group cannot be dismissed as simply residual. There was nothing indubitably post-Neolithic from this pit, although the fourth pot is not as characteristically early Neolithic as the others. This pit also produced an irregular flint fragment (sf5889).

To the north of (40079) was (40092), an oval shaped posthole, 0.45m long, 0.40m wide and 0.25m deep with *in situ* post-packing stones. This also contained a sherd of early Neolithic pottery (sf 4093).

To the west were several other, possibly related features. Feature (40057) was a linear feature 1.2m long and 0.2m deep that might have included a posthole in its northern end. Pit (40038) was 1.00m long, 0.65m wide and 0.22m deep with very occasional flecks of charcoal in its fill and a tiny flake of rock crystal (sf5792). Pit (40040) was circular, 0.40m in diameter and 0.15m deep containing fragments of burnt flint (sf5497). Posthole (40088) was 0.50m long, 0.35m wide and 0.16m deep with packing stones and the trace of a post-pipe. Fragments of prehistoric pottery were recovered from its fill. One sherd (sf1411) was early Neolithic but abraded. A larger piece (sf1994) was undatable but of a fabric more typical of the Bronze Age and other crumbs probably came from the same pot (sf4525, sf5886). Other finds from the posthole included a chert fragment sf1412 and a flint flake with microchipping and use-wear (sf1413).

As there were two convincing postholes within this group and other possible postholes these features may represent a small temporary structure and related activity.

Discussion

The pottery suggests a concentration of early Neolithic activity in this area but it is difficult to determine whether the features themselves were early Neolithic or whether the pottery was residual within them. Alternatively the later pottery might be intrusive and some of the other pits within area M represent Bronze Age activity. The date and nature of the activity represented by the pits and postholes in this area cannot yet be considered understood and these features might be better seen in the context of the monuments in this area.

However the scarcity of early Neolithic pottery over much of the site does suggest that this concentration is of significance.

The placing of the heavily burnt quern stone in pit 40071 is indicative of ritual activity. This could support the contention that many of these features were related to the monuments, although ritual of this sort could certainly occur in a domestic context and the quern is not diagnostic or either Neolithic or Bronze Age.

LATER NEOLITHIC

In several widely separated locations across the site there were pit groups dating to the mid Neolithic, and some dating to the Bronze Age. Pit groups or pit clusters are a recognised site type for the Neolithic and Bronze Age. The English Heritage Thesaurus defines 'pit cluster' as "A spatially discrete group of pits usually containing artefactual material, especially pottery, with little or no accompanying evidence for structural features. Use only for Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments." This definition separates this site type from pits found on settlement sites or with other features. However it is probable that these pit groups are related to settlement and the lack of other features may be due to the loss of slighter, shallower features. Some of the pit groups at Parc Cybi have evidence of being part of occupation activity either by being associated with a hearth (pits in area D) or with other features (area J), although some such as those in area Ia are a classically isolated group.

Classic pit clusters

Pits in area I (PRN 31572)
See figure 8
Description
In area Ia, on a flat plateau not far from the edge of a fairly steep north-west facing scarp (SH 2569 8062) was a group of 9 pits (18063, 21208, 21210, 21212, 21215, 21217, 21219, 21221, 25054). These were all nearly circular, bowl-shaped pits, no more than 1.2m in diameter and up to 0.45m deep. Generally they had single fills but some had two identifiable fills. Three of the pits (25054, 21219, and 21221) were located very close together but not quite cutting each other. The remainder were fairly randomly scattered. The most significant feature of these pits was the quantity and range of artefacts that they contained. Most contained pottery, including some large sherds but only parts of vessels. Much of the pottery was Fengate ware. Pit 18063 did produce a collar that resembled a collared urn, but this is probably also Fengate ware. There was also a significant quantity of flint and chert, mostly flakes and debitage with few tools. The debitage indicates that knapping was taking place nearby, or at least at the source of the material in the pits. The flint debitage, occasional tiny burnt bone fragments, charcoal and burnt stones suggest the normal range of domestic activities, but a stone macehead from pit 21215 indicates possible deliberate deposition. Very occasional fragments of hammerscale and other metalworking waste is probably later contamination. For details of finds in each pit see table 3.

Table listing sizes of pits in area Ia with their fills

Context No	Length	Breadth	Diameter	Depth	Filled by
18063			0.96m	0.45m	18064
21208			0.76m	0.24m	21209
21210	0.6m	0.48m		0.15m	21211
21212			0.69m	0.17m	21213,21214
21215	0.7m	0.5m		0.15m	21216
21217/18065			0.5m	0.18m	18066, 21218
21219			0.9m	0.13m	21224,21220
21221	1.2m	1.1m		0.29m	21222,21223
25054			0.96m	0.17m	25053

There were other similar but most widely distributed pits across area I. Fifteen metres east of the main group was a single pit (18059), with a layer of charcoal in its base and many burnt stones in its fill. It also contained a considerable quantity of flint and chert and small amounts of burnt bone, but no pottery except for a few crumbs. Close to the edge of the scarp was a small pit (21037) containing less charcoal but some burnt clay and flint debitage. Other features to the east are discussed below in the Iron Age section, but three small pits on the top of the scarp slope (11001, 11003, and 11007) might be contemporary with the Neolithic pits. They were no

more than 0.75m in length and 0.24m in depth and unlike the other pits discussed contained no charcoal and no finds. Two isolated pits (19075 and 50112) further south were more typical of this category of pit as they contained charcoal and flint debitage. The possible pot in 50112 was more like burnt clay pieces but 19075 contained decorated sherds, which could be Fengate ware. For details of finds in each pit see table 3.

Table listing sizes of pits in area Ia with their fills

Context No	Length	Breadth	Diameter	Depth	Filled by
18059			0.62m	0.16m	18060,18061
19075			0.6m	0.1m	19076
21037			0.64m	0.09m	21038
50112	0.80m			0.18m	50111

Interpretation
The main group of pits in area Ia was a classic pit cluster with fills containing artefacts, charcoal and burnt stones that would be typical of a midden deposit but also containing some special finds that might have been deliberately included. The macehead is the most obvious of these but the larger pieces of pottery might have been specially selected for inclusion. The other scattered pits are similar in size, shape and contents and there is no reason to suggest any different function for these pits than for those in the denser group. There were no related features suggesting settlement in this area, unless pit group 19073 and features 22002 and 21039 prove to be Neolithic rather than Iron Age as currently estimated. It might be speculated whether the single pits represent very short-lived occupation by a very small group, perhaps one family for one night and the larger group indicates a slightly larger settlement or one occupied for a longer time. However if the pits do not directly indicate settlement locations the dictates of the ritual might have influenced their location with groupings perhaps indicating relationships between people, and isolated pits created by visiting strangers. A wide range of similar possibilities might be postulated, none of which are testable.

Pit group in area K9 (PRN 31573)
See figure 25
Description
In the northern part of area K9 (SH 25675 80781) were a group of seven large pits (80594, 80686, 80602, 80606, 80608, 80610, and 80788). Four of the pits formed a closely spaced arc to the south, with three further pits being located 2m to the north. All of the pits were sub-circular in plan, and had steep, smooth and concaved sides with concaved bases; although the bases of pits 80602 and 80608 were rather uneven. The pits measured between 0.5m-1.12m in length, 0.34m-0.82m in width, and 0.22m-0.28m in depth, had charcoal-rich and stony fills, and with the exception of pit 80608, all produced fire-cracked stone.

The closely spaced pits to the south (80594, 80686, 80602, and 80788) all produced prehistoric ceramics and with the exception of pit 80788, all the pits had multiple fills. The pottery was mid-Neolithic Peterborough ware and included rims, bases and decorated sherds. Flint and chert flakes and debitage and some fragments of burnt bone were also found in some of the pits. Pits 80608 and 80606 did not produce any artefacts.

Several of the pits (80602, 80610, 80608 and 80606) contained large rounded pebbles and cobbles, particularly pressed into the sides and bases of the cuts, but none of these seemed to be post-packing or were consistent enough to be lining for the pits.

Summary of finds from pit group

Cut number	**Finds**
80594	Pot sherd, flint debitage, burnt bone
80602	Pot sherds, flint flakes and end scraper, burnt bone, possible fragment of hearth lining
80610	Pot sherds, flint flake, burnt hazelnut shells, burnt bone
80686	Pot sherds, flint flakes, burnt bone
80788	Pot sherds

Pit 80788 was truncated to the east by gully 80592, possibly related to the much later corn drier to the south (see building complex in K9 below).

In close proximity to pits 80606 and 80608, were two small postholes 80750 and 80738 which measured between 0.24m-0.32m in length, 0.25m in width, and up to 0.25m in depth. Both features were sub-circular in

plan and had steep, almost vertical sides with tapered bases. Pit 80750 had four well rounded cobbles located at the base and a single fill, while pit 80738 had two charcoal-rich fills.

There were four burnt out vegetation hollows located to the west of the pit group (80734, 80736, 80777, and 80740), all of which were irregular in shape and contained charcoal flecks within their fills. To the north of the pit group was an area of relict soil (80722/3), which contained a sherd of prehistoric pottery but no other finds.

Located approximately 4m to the south-west of the pit group was an area of relict soil which had been preserved by shallower machining around the Roman stone building (described below see building complex in K9). It is thought to have been more widespread, but was removed during the strip and map process. This relict soil consisted of two layers, 80828 and 80819. Layer 80828 was a dark red-brown silt-clay which was at least 6.0m in length, 5.0m in width, and 0.15m in depth. Layer 80819, which was located to the north of deposit 80828 and laid directly above it, was a grey-brown clayey silt.

Most of the features cut into the relict soil were Roman in date (see building complex in K9 below), however the relict soil was cut by a series of pits that were sealed beneath the wall of a Roman period stone building, and are therefore presumably pre-Roman in date. The series of pits started with pit 80905, which was sub-circular in plan and measured 2.6m in length, 2.1m in width, and 0.15m in depth, with almost vertical sides and a fairly flat base. The pit had two fills, produced a flint flake, and was partially covered to the north by a deposit of grey-brown silt-clay (80808) which produced a small smooth river pebble, a broken hammerstone, and a stone flake. The fill of pit 80905 was cut by another pit 81292 on its north-western side. This pit had an uncertain shape in plan due to heavy truncation, but the surviving limits of this pit showed that it measured 0.9m in length, 0.75m in width, and 0.35m in depth, and had steep sides and a fairly flat base. The pit had two fills, the lowest was a pale clayey silt, which may have formed a clay lining. The upper fill was cut by two pits, 81295 and 81297. Pit 81295 was circular in plan and measured 0.9m in diameter and 0.37m in depth, with slightly concaved sides and a concaved base. Pit 81297 was sub-circular in plan and measured 1.3m in diameter and 0.35m in depth, with steep sides and a slightly concaved base. Both pits were filled by grey-brown clayey loam with frequent poorly sorted stones. Pit 81297 was cut by another pit 81299 to the south-east, which was sub-oval in plan and measured 1.0m in length, 0.7m in width, and 0.35m in depth, with steep flat sides and a fairly flat base. No charcoal was identified in any of the fills of this series of pits.

To the south-east another small pit (80907) might have been contemporary with these. It also cut the relict soil but did not fit with the Roman activity. Pit 80907was orientated north-west to south-east and oval in plan with concaved sides and base. It measured 0.9m in length, 0.65m in width, and 0.12m in depth, and had frequent sub-rounded stone, burnt clay patches, and charcoal fleck inclusions within its fill.

The relict soil sealed several features that are most probably of prehistoric date. These were associated with a very stony red-brown silt-clay (81159) and a mottled clayey occupation deposit with frequent charcoal inclusions, fragments of burnt clay, and a sherd of possibly degraded Prehistoric pottery (81171). The latter overlay some of the early features, some of which cut an earlier relict soil deposit (81230/81214), 0.07m in depth.

These early features included postholes, pits and a gully. Postholes 81236 and 81025 were both sub-circular in plan and measured 0.4m in length, 0.3m in width, and 0.18m to 0.12m in depth respectively. Pit 81176 was circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base. It measured 0.51m in diameter, 0.28m in depth and had three fills. The pit seemed to be sealed with a schist slab and a burnt sandstone cobble covered by a charcoal-rich black clay-silt which produced a small fragment of burnt bone. Roughly circular pit 81224 measured 0.7m in length, 0.6m in width, and 0.18m in depth, and had gradually sloping sides and two stony, charcoal-rich fills. A straight gully (81183) was orientated north-west to south-east and measured 1.2m in length, 0.5m in width, and 0.3m in depth. Towards the centre of the gully it was cut by posthole 81202, which was 0.4m in diameter, and 0.3m in depth. The posthole's fill had occasional cobbles but no clear post-packing material. At its north-western end the gully was truncated by a later corn-dryer feature 80835 (see building complex in K9 below).

Interpretation
The group of 7 pits appears to be a classic pit cluster with simple bowl-shaped pits filled with mixed artefact-rich deposits. There are considerable similarities with the pits in area Ia. Some larger pieces of pottery may have been deliberately chosen for deposition but the pits contained nothing that could not have already have been incorporated into a midden.

The two postholes (80738 and 80750) that seem to have been related to the pits hint that the pits may not have been entirely isolated. The features to the south-west contained no datable finds but a few flakes of flint and their stratigraphic relationships suggest a prehistoric date. If they were contemporary with the pit group some traces of Neolithic pottery might be expected so it is perhaps likely that they are a later prehistoric phase of activity. These features produced very few artefacts and do not make any clear structural or functional patterns, but are indicative of a general occupation of the area. It seems likely that pit 81224 was a fire pit, and perhaps the postholes 81202, 81236 and 81025 are related to it in the form of a temporary structure or posts for general domestic functions. Deposit 81171 is probably indicative of an occupation surface containing scattered, trampled fragments of artefacts. However, it is not clear whether all the features are contemporary, or are from several phases of activity.

The intercutting pits (81299, 81295, 80905, 81297, and 81292) seem to be prehistoric as they were below the corner of the Roman period stone building but also pit 80905 was partially sealed by a layer containing a broken hammerstone, smooth pebble, and stone flake. As this pit cut the relict soil a prehistoric date is also suggested for this. It is assumed that the relict soil was essentially the remains of a ploughsoil covering the early features and that it had formed in a hiatus in the use of this part of the site. However because few finds were recovered from these features dating must remain uncertain.

Pit group in area D (PRN 31574)
See figure 9
Description
Towards the southern edge of area D3, on the edge of the gravel plateau (SH 25268 80871) was a group of features. An area of burnt subsoil was surrounded by a shallow rectangular gully (60125). To the east of this were 3 sub-circular pits (60093, 60162, and 60164). These measured between 0.55 and 0.80m in diameter and no more than 0.3m deep. All contained some fragments of prehistoric pottery, with 60093 containing most. Some of these sherds were probably Fengate ware, but some were atypical and resembled Beaker ware. Flint flakes and debitage were also included in these pits. Other features in this area were probably root holes or other natural hollows.

Table with details of prehistoric features in area D3

Context No	Context type	Feature type	Finds	Length	Breadth	Diameter	Depth	Filled by
60093	Cut	pit	Heat cracked stones, charcoal, Fengate ware pottery, and flint flakes.			0.8m	0.3m	60092, 60100, 60102
60101	Layer	Hearth, burnt natural inside gully 60125				0.5m	0.08m	
60125	Cut	Narrow gully forming an enclosure around hearth 60101			0.2m		0.1m	60124
60135	Cut	Irregular feature which is either heavily disturbed or caused by root action.		1.38m	0.7m		0.18m	
60145	Cut	Irregular shaped feature, probably root hollow, although there is a possibility it could be a later pit disturbed by roots.		0.85m	0.47m		0.1m	60146
60162	Cut	pit	Prehistoric pottery, and some charcoal fragments.			0.66m	0.31m	
60164	Cut	An uneven shallow scoop	Prehistoric pottery			0.55m	0.075m	
60166	Cut	Small root hollow or shallow pit		0.28m	0.21m		0.07m	

Interpretation
Without the hearth this would appear as an isolated classic pit cluster but the hearth indicates that this was an occupation site. The less well defined features that also contain some finds might be explained as other traces of this activity that are not deliberately dug and filled pits.

Pit group in H/IB cable trench (PRN 31575)
See figure 3 for location
The western end of a cable trench running to the north of the northern boundary of area H4 revealed a group of pits (group 50341). These were on high ground at the foot of a rocky outcrop (SH 25448 80375).
The four pits were on average about 0.6m in diameter and up to 0.55m deep. Their fills were of grey-brown silt with occasional stones but no finds were recovered. None of the pits contained any charred plant remains so radiocarbon dating will not be a possibility. The date of these pits is therefore never likely to be determined. The lack of finds suggests that they were not the same as the other pit groups, but their tight cluster and prominent place in the landscape is similar. If further work is done in this area it might be possible to clarify the date of these features.

Later Neolithic activity in Area J
See figure 10

Introduction
Numerous pits, many probably Neolithic, but some Bronze Age in date, were found within area J, but these did not fit the classic pit cluster definition as they were mixed with postholes and other features. This extensive scatter of pits and postholes spread over the area to the north-west of the base of a rocky escarpment within area J. In places these formed quite dense, well-defined groups and elsewhere they were more widely distributed. The area was further confused by the presence of various tree and shrub root hollows, some of which had been burnt-out. The features have been divided into preliminary groups according to their distribution. Some of these groups are well defined but some are scattered and the inclusion of certain features in one group rather than another is entirely arbitrary.

Posthole Group I (PRN 31576)
Description
This group consisted of sixteen postholes (70387, 70334, 70385, 70336, 70409, 70394, 70411, 70416, 70418, 70380, 70424, 70338, 70390, 70420, 70422, and 70332), forming an uncertain circular pattern or staggered linear arrangement. The postholes lay to the north-west of the rock escarpment. They were cut into an area of orange-brown loess and were centred on NGR SH 25758 80700. This group consisted of sixteen postholes; four were symmetrical and measured between 0.2m-0.7m in diameter (70385, 70409, 70418, and 70332), while the remaining twelve ranged from 0.3m-0.55m in length and 0.22m-0.48m in width. The depth of the postholes varied between 0.08m-0.36m, and the fills of the postholes were very similar, ranging from a mid brown to a mid grey-brown silt-clay, occasionally sandy. All but one of the postholes had steep sides; posthole 70387 had gently sloping sides. All of the postholes except five 70411, 70418, 70424, 70420, and 70422 had stone inclusions within their fills, these mostly consisting of occasional small-medium sub-angular stones. Posthole 70422 located at the northern edge of the group produced a degraded ceramic sherd of unknown date (sf6440), and posthole 70332 located at the north-western edge of the group produced two knapped chert flakes (sf6035) and a smooth water-worn pebble (sf6036). Under a rough stone bank (70339) to the west of this group was found a sealed ground surface containing a sherd of what might be a Food Vessel (sf 6352), but could be Peterborough Ware. This may have originated from the activity in Group I.

Interpretation
It is not clear whether the postholes represent a single structure footprint, or are more indicative of a distribution of activity over several events. The fact that the postholes all contain a single fill, with the exception of posthole 70394, and that they are very similar in form suggests that they are contemporary. The postholes vary in dimensions but no pattern was discernable when they were compared by size. If the postholes are considered as being of a single event then it is possible to observe an uncertain circular pattern or a staggered linear arrangement. If it were not for the absence of a posthole on the western limit, then it would appear that the postholes form a circular arrangement, and might have formed a small circular structure. Furthermore four postholes (70385, 70409, 70394 and 70416) could be seen as forming the internal supports of such a structure, although the variation in dimensions makes this unlikely. It is possible to draw two straight lines between

postholes 70409, 70416, 70338, and postholes 70385, 70394, 70424 creating a six-post rectangular structure; reminiscent of posthole group V located 51m to the north-east.

Despite the absence of artefacts in all but two of the postholes, it seems likely that they are all prehistoric, due to their proximity to a spread of pits and postholes further to the north.

Posthole/Pit Group II (PRN 31577)

Description

This group, which lay to the north of the rock escarpment in area J, was located around NGR SH 25784 80714. The group comprised a spread of pits and postholes and the table 4 gives details on individual features. Table 5 lists the finds from each feature. The most notable arrangement of features was that of 4 postholes (70348, 70550, 70351, and 70555) which formed a roughly square shape in plan. These were about 0.5m in diameter and up to 0.29m deep and defined a square measuring about 3.3m by 2.7m externally. Only one artefact was recovered, a piece of struck chert (sf6421) from the primary fill of posthole 70550. To the eastern edge of this group were two features (70553 and 70639) which were almost certainly burnt vegetation holes.

Two metres to the north-west of the above group were 4 smaller postholes (70558, 70598, 70608, and 70609) which also formed a square shape in plan, measuring 1.5 by 1.4m externally. In reasonably close proximity to these postholes were three outlying sub-circular pits/postholes.

To the north were another two possible structures. One was defined by postholes 70120, 70122, 70124, 70226, 70228 and stakeholes 70230. The other consisted of postholes 70156, 70169, 70188, 70247 and stakeholes 70190 and 70192. An outlining posthole (70249) may have been related. There was charcoal in many of these features, and postholes 70120, 70226 and 70228 all contained stones which could be described as packing material. Of the postholes in the second structure, only 70156 had stones that could convincingly be described as packing material. Burnt clay (sf1883) and flint debitage (sf5795) were recovered from these features, but a tiny fragment of hammerscale (sf5700) can only be considered to be intrusive.

Just north-east of these structures were 2 pits (70173, 70181), 3 tree-root hollows (70319, 70092, 70150), of which two (70319 and 70150) were burnt, one posthole 70168 and one burnt patch (70233). Pit 70173 was an oval shaped pit measuring 0.70m by 0.64m, and 0.32m deep. Its fill contained frequent charcoal flecks and a large number of finds including flint flakes and debitage and sherds of pottery including a rim-sherd of Fengate pottery. Pit 70181 was more irregular and cut tree-root hollow (70150) at its west end. It also contained a number of finds including flint and undiagnostic pot sherds. Even the tree-root hollow 70092 contained a whetstone fragment (sf1678), a retouched flint flake, possibly the tang of a chisel arrowhead (sf1679) and a chert core fragment (sf1952).

In the western part of this group to the west of a large tree root hollow were several small features that might be either small pits or postholes (70635, 70637, 70642, 70590, 70627, 70498, 70469, 70462, 70467, 70480, and 70495) scattered amongst root hollows, some of which had been burnt. Towards the western end of this scatter was a large pit (70529), oval in shape with vertical sides and a flat base measuring 0.95m by 0.63m, and 0.32m deep. The fills of the pit were particularly complex, with some fills only being present around the edges of the pit, however no re-cuts could be discerned. On the north-eastern side pit 70503 cut through the fill of pit 70529. Pit 70503 was a 'figure-of-eight' shape in plan orientated north-east to south-west with steep sides and a flat base measuring 1.36m by 0.77m, and 0.22m deep. These two features were particularly rich in finds with many flint and chert flakes and some other worked stone. There were also numerous large pieces of pottery recovered. Many of the sherds have grooved decoration, and they are probably Grooved Ware, but might be Beaker. Several pots are involved and the sherds are quite large, so the potential for reconstruction and the recognition of new forms is high. There were also smaller sherds in a red fabric that might be Beaker sherds.

There were a few outlining features further west but posthole 70647 was exactly on the line of the former fence and was probably of recent origin. A shallow oval pit (70464) filled with stones also had a modern-looking fill. A probable posthole (70330) measuring 0.44m diameter and 0.28m deep with some possible packing stones could have been prehistoric, but it was isolated from the other activity.

Interpretation

There seems to have been definite structures within this group of features. The clearest is defined by the four features 70348, 70550, 70351, and 70555, which despite an absence of post-packing material were almost certainly postholes. The square structure may have been a granary or storage structure. The four postholes

70598, 70558, 70608, and 70609 immediately to the west may represent a similar but much slighter structure on a slightly different orientation. Although less coherent the postholes and stakeholes to the north of these must have been the remains of other small temporary structures.

The pit 70529 had a complex arrangement of fills, with fills 70531 and 70532 only existing around the edge of the feature and closely resembling the surrounding fluvio-glacial subsoil. It appears that this material was re-deposited within the pit, perhaps forming packing around the multiple internal fills, which produced the majority of the artefacts. Pit 70503, which cut pit 70529, appeared to have a figure-of-eight shape in plan, however it is possible that this feature was in fact two intercutting pits. The quantity and type of pottery it contained was similar to that in pit 70529 not in form, and it also had multiple fills, with a clean deposit around the edges of the pit, again reminiscent of pit 70529. The repeated filling of these pits, coupled with the assortment of ceramic fabrics originating from different vessels, suggests that they were reused over time and ritual purposive deposition may be represented. Although it lacked post-packing it is possible that the nearby feature 70480 was a posthole perhaps holding a marker post.

The finds from the features in this group generally suggest an area of working and living. The pottery suggests a Neolithic date for most of the activity but with both Peterborough Ware and Grooved Ware present both the middle and late Neolithic seem to be represented. More work on the pottery and radiocarbon dates will be needed to determine how many phases of activity might be present.

Some of the features did seem to cut through root hollows and as some of these contained evidence of burning it is possible that these represent vegetation clearance prior to the settlement. Finds from root hollows also support the suggestion that many of these hollows were prehistoric.

Posthole/Pit Group III (PRN 31578)

Description

Group III was a fairly dense concentration of postholes with some stakeholes and pits (SH 25779 80726). Near the centre of the group was a slot containing a line of three postholes (70060, 70062, 70068) running north-north-east to south-south-west, with a nearly parallel line of four postholes to the east (70084, 70091, 70086, 70161) and three postholes on a different alignment to the west (70113, 70111, 70109). Other features possibly continue some of these lines. Most of the postholes were within the range of 0.30-0.44m in diameter and 0.07-0.22m deep, with the stakeholes being between 0.10-0.13m in diameter and 0.09-0.13m in depth. Some of the pits were up to 0.9m in length, but no more than 0.2m deep. Only features 70062 and 70068 produced finds, namely chert debitage (sf1834) and worked stone (sf4054) respectively. There was also very little charcoal in these features.

Just to the north-west of this concentration of features was a larger sub-circular pit (70064) measuring 1.0m by 0.84m and 0.24m deep. This contained a few fragments of pottery with a rather vesicular fabric making them appear similar to early Neolithic ware. To the north was a collection of post and stakeholes (70033-70047). These were disturbed by animal burrowing but some at least seem to have been genuine features, supported by the find of a single chert chip. Other features in this area seem to have been root hollows and other natural hollows.

Interpretation

Although many of the features described as postholes did not contain any evidence of packing material, features 70068, 70086, 70058 and 70115 did have fairly convincing packing stones so there seems little doubt that most of these features were postholes and that they represent the remains of structures. It is possible that the short lines of posts on slightly different alignments indicate independent lines of posts rather than parts of a roofed structure. The scarcity of finds compared to other features within area J suggest that this was a specific activity area, on using few inorganic artefacts, rather than domestic activities.

Again the number of tree-root hollows many burnt out is suggestive of clearance.

Posthole Group IV (PRN 31579)

Description

This group, which lay to the north of a large bedrock escarpment, was located closely around NGR SH 25806 80715. It consisted of several postholes, most forming lines running parallel nearly north-south. The most prominent lines were two parallel lines of three postholes each (70303, 70307 and 70304; 70290, 70292 and 70294). The postholes ranged between 0.23m-0.44m in diameter, 0.09m-0.39m in depth, with the eastern

postholes generally being slightly deeper than the western ones. All were filled with and orange or grey-brown silt and 70290, 70292, 70304 and 70307 had convincing packing stones.

Finds were generally quite scarce and there was no charcoal in any of the features in this area. The small posthole 70297 contained fragments of burnt bone, flint and burnt clay or pottery. Flint flakes were found in 70303 (sf4049), and 70294 contained a burnt worked flint (sf1941) and a blue glass chip (sf4153). The latter might be intrusive but it might indicate an Iron Age date for this structure. The deep blue glass is typical of a number of bead types in use in the late Iron Age and Roman period and of vessel glass of the mid first century, but the state of preservation means that it is impossible to be sure whether the chip came from a vessel or a bead, though the latter might be more probable (Cool, vol II part IV).

The two lines described above seem to be continued at some distance by another group of four postholes (70285, 70311, 70287, and 70313). However these are slightly offset from the 6 postholes and probably represent a separate structure following a similar alignment. The six post structure measured 2.4m by 2.2m externally, where as the four post structure measured 2.2m by 2.0m. To the east and nearly parallel with the six post structure were two more possible postholes (70265, 70263) and to the west of the four-poster there were three small pits or postholes (70299, 70297, 70283) forming another roughly parallel line.

Interpretation
The six post structure is very similar to probable granaries excavated within the roundhouse settlement in areas B2 and F1. These were larger in size and perhaps had stone pillars rather than wooden posts. The current structure may have been smaller because fairly slight timbers were used. The four post structure could also be a granary or storage structure although its posts seem very small for its size compared with the four poster in group II. It is probable that the other postholes represent separate structures but the consistency in the alignment suggests that they are all contemporary. The alignment is also very similar to the larger four poster in group II so it is suggested that all the four and six post structures are contemporary. It is possible that they represent a distinct phase of activity in the shelter of the rocky scarp. They are structures more typical of the Iron Age than the Neolithic period and may not be related to other nearby features. Although not secure dating evidence the glass chip does help support an Iron Age date for this activity.

Posthole Group V (PRN 31580)
Description
This a rather vague and dispersed group extending away from the shelter of the rocky escarpment and onto the fairly level plateau within area J (centred on SH 25788 80747). An arc of stones was investigated in some detail during the excavation but the majority of the stones proved to be embedded in the natural loess and it seemed not to be anthropogenic, however some features did cut through it. A rather irregular pit (70268) with two stakeholes in the base might have been an animal burrow, and the linear feature 70223 had pale leached material below and around it indicative of root action so it may have been a root hollow. However feature 70202 seems to have been three conjoined postholes with a smaller posthole (70215) next to them. There was a chert flake and fragment of pot recovered from feature 70202 and some chert flakes, burnt clay and burnt bone from 70223 and 70268, showing that there had been some activity in this area.

To the north was a complex of features some of which seem to have been animal burrows but thee were cut by genuine pits, one of which (70054) contained pottery and flint flakes. At least one rim sherd can be fairly confidently identified as Bronze Age. An adjacent elongated pit (70126) also contained a sherd of late Bronze Age pottery along with flints, and a small pit cutting this (70128) contained undiagnostic pot fragments and flint and chert flakes.

To the east of this were seven possible postholes (70174, 70138, 70140, 70136, 70144, 70134, and 70176). These were heavily truncated but 70138 contained a chert flake and they could have been part of a structure.

Interpretation
The features in this group are confused and not well defined but they do indicate prehistoric activity in this area. The Bronze Age pottery suggests that it is of a different phase to much of the activity in area J but Bronze Age and mid Neolithic pottery has proved to be quite hard to distinguish on this site and closer inspection may result in a re-dating of the pottery.

Posthole Group VI (PRN 31581)
Description
Group VI was located in the western part of area J (SH 25743 80741) on the slope leading down towards the marsh in area K6. Only a few of the pits forming group VI were identified during the evaluation phase as they were obscured by colluvium and were only revealed by intensive cleaning. This group comprised 25 features, many small stakeholes but some well defined postholes and some larger pits (70452, 70580). Again there was no building plan discernable. The only finds were 2 flint flakes, but these support a prehistoric date for this group of features.

Interpretation
The features in group VI appear to be the remains of a small structure, although its plan cannot be clearly defined. The two flints from this group may indicate a prehistoric date.

General discussion
The part of area J sheltered by the rocky escarpment from south-westerly winds and overlooking the marsh in area K6 would seem to be a good location for settlement and it was probably used over a long period of time. Some of the feature groups discussed were compact and well defined, e.g. groups I, IV and VI. It is probable that all the features in each of these groups were contemporary. However in the more dispersed groups features of very different dates are probably present. Pottery does indicate that much of the activity was Neolithic but as both Peterborough Ware and Grooved Ware are represented even within this period activity might have been spread over a long period of time. Groups of postholes do suggest that small structures were present and short term domestic occupation seems the likely explanation for most features. The pits 70529 and 70503 might have been isolated at the time they were dug and could represent ritual structured deposition similar to that suggested for classic pit clusters. However there fills are much more complex that is typical for pit clusters and they may have had a specific, even practical function.

The presence of the four and six post structures does hint at an Iron Age or at least late Bronze Age phase of activity. It would be unusual for granaries to be constructed in isolation away from a settlement, so perhaps some of the features are the fragmentary remains of a more extensive settlement. The pottery in group V might support a late Bronze Age settlement but this was found a considerable distance from the four and six post structures.

There was clearly a large amount of prehistoric activity in this part of area J that is not yet fully understood. It should not be dismissed as a few random pits and postholes as there is the suggestion of extensive domestic settlement, although as this is truncated and fragmentary it might never be possible to reconstruct it fully.

BRONZE AGE

Burnt Mounds

Burnt mounds are a very common site-type in Ireland and many parts of Britain, most often interpreted as cooking sites (O'Kelly 1954), although their actual function is still debated (Barfield and Hodder 1987, Jeffery 1991, Barfield 1991). Perhaps surprisingly for the size of the site only two definite burnt mounds were found on Parc Cybi. Both were in area E and one was a large mound with three troughs or pits and a large complex pit that may originally have acted as a well. The other was much smaller with a single small pit.

Large burnt mound (PRN 31582)
See figure 11
Description
A large mound of burnt and fire-cracked stone and charcoal was excavated on the south-eastern boundary of area E (SH 25335 80747). The feature had been incorporated into a later post-medieval field boundary and later material had been heaped on-top of the mound. Deposits (31421) and (31427) were both mixed deposits containing approximately 50% burnt mound and 50% bank material and are thought to be the result of material from the immediate vicinity being utilised in the creation/enhancement of a field boundary. The bank had been topped with a dry-stone wall (31437).

The burnt mound was situated on a low lying, sloping area of natural sand and gravel adjacent to a marshy zone. The mound covered an area in excess of 15m x 8m and survived to a maximum height of just over 0.8m.

Unfortunately it was not possible to determine the full extent of the feature or to distinguish the shape of the mound in plan due to over-zealous machine stripping prior to its identification as a burnt mound. What was clear from the surviving material was that the burnt stone increased in volume/height at the base of the slope and this may be indicative of the characteristic crescent burnt mound shape. It is also possible however that the material could have been banked this way during a much later period and was built up along this zone as bank material.

In section it was possible to view a clearly stratified series of burnt stone deposits representative of a series of deposition episodes occurring over a prolonged period of time. These layers were formed from small fragments of burnt, fire-cracked stone which were present in proportions varying from 25-90%. Most deposits contained small white quartzite fragments and were blackened with a high charcoal content.

In all eleven separate contexts were identified within the main burnt mound deposit, of these deposits seven (31423), (31425), (31429), (31432), (31516), (31517) and (31518) were composed of in excesses of 75% burnt/ fire-cracked stone. No artefactual material was recovered from the burnt mound deposits.

Associated Burnt Mound Pits
There were a series of features associated with the burnt mound spread but the stratigraphy was unclear due to the machining error, however judging from the surviving material, it does appear that the mound at least partially covered these pits. This is likely to be due to slumping and it is presumed that the features are broadly contemporary.

The underlying features were a group of three smaller pits (31283), (31289), (31523) and a larger pit group (31303) which were clustered together along what is presumed to be the eastern edge of the burnt mound spread. Feature (31283) was an oval pit measuring 1.1m by 1.3m with steeply sloping, near vertical sides and a flat base. The feature survived to a depth of 0.53m and contained a single dark grey-black sandy silt fill (31284) which was predominantly (c.90%) formed of burnt stone. This material was impossible to distinguish from the overlying burnt mound material.

Immediately to the west of feature (31283) was a similar sub-oval pit (31289) measuring approximately 1.1m by 1.3m that survived to a depth of 0.28m. The pit had near vertical sides, a flat base and contained two distinct fills (31411 and 31288). The upper fill (31288) had a higher proportion (c.75%) of heat-cracked stone, including white quartzite fragments. It also contained some larger angular stones that had been heated and presumably used in the pit rather than being dumped from elsewhere. The lower fill (31411) was a charcoal-rich layer that may have indicated a fire lit directly in the base of the pit, although the sides of the pit had not been heat reddened.

To the south of feature (31289) lay a larger, elongated sub-oval feature (31523). This pit measured 2.10m by 1.20m and survived to a maximum depth of 0.45m with near vertical sides and a flat base like the neighbouring pits. Pit (31523) contained three fills (31524, 31558 and 31559). All of which contained some charcoal but a much lower percentage of heat-cracked stone, no more than 10%, compared with the other two pits.

These pits were thought to have been utilised to hold water into which hot stone was placed, presumably for cooking or bathing. Any lining material these features may have once contained has not survived. It was however observed in the field that lining may not have been necessary as the pits held water for a considerable time following heavy rain. No associated hearths were observed but it is possible that they simply did not survive the initial machining or were eroded in antiquity.

To the south-west of these smaller pits lay the much larger pit group (31303). This group contained four intercutting pits (31593), (31415), (31414) and (31413). The primary cut in this group was (31593) but little remained of this feature following subsequent re-cutting of the pit. The base of the cut was approximately 1.60m below the current ground level, although the actual surviving depth of the feature was 0.18m. Feature (31593) was roughly circular in plan with a very slightly concave base and concave sides sloping at an angle of approximately 40°. This feature appears to have been deliberately backfilled with burnt mound material and contained a single moderately compact dark grey sandy silt fill (31594) with frequent charcoal and burnt stone inclusions.

Feature (31593) was re-cut by the largest of the pits in the group (31415). The dimensions of this pit are difficult to ascertain due to the collapse of the pit sides and the resultant undercutting. This is due to underlying geology

as the area is formed from bands of gravel and sand, and it is believed that once exposed the sand layers were eroded by water causing the overlying gravel to collapse.

The pit was roughly sub-circular in plan and measured approximately 3m in diameter. This dimension is for the cut as visible on the surface but it is important to note that there was an overhang of approximately 1m on the western side of the feature. Feature (31415) had a shallow concave profile on the northern, eastern and southern sides which broke steeply to a near vertical drop at a depth of approximately 0.50m. On the western side of the pit the side was undercut. Pit (31415) had a flat base and would have been capable of holding a huge volume of water, even if one excludes the additional capacity enabled by the erosion of the sides.

The pit contained twelve distinct fills and the primary fill in the sequence was a mid-grey clay with frequent charcoal inclusions (31370). This deposit was approximately 0.10m in depth. It is possible that this fill is the result of a silting episode following the end of the first phase of the pits usage. It is also possible that this deposit was the remains of a clay lining utilised to stop water draining through the underlying sand as it was noted during excavation that following its removal the pit was well drained. This was in contrast to the smaller neighbouring pits which were observed to hold water following heavy rain.

Overlying (31370) was a mixed layer composed of a mix of dark grey silty sand and backfilled burnt mound material (31565). This was in turn overlain by a layer of compact mid-grey silty sand with occasional charcoal flecks (31369) interpreted as a layer of silting. Deposit (31564) was a compact natural gravel deposit which had eroded from the side of the pit and lay above (31369). A further layer of burnt mound material (31368) was deposited on-top of the natural gravel, followed by an additional layer of similar material (31561).

Context (31561) was overlain a layer (31373) of burnt mound deposit heavily stained by iron panning and natural gravel (31563) collapsed from the pit edge. More deposits (31366 and 31560) with high proportions of burnt stone (up to 80%) competed this sequence of filling with the final deposits (31562) being a compact dark grey clay layer containing frequent charcoal fragments. This layer has been interpreted as a layer of silting occurring in a period between usages but it is also possible that it represents the remainder of a clay lining layer that was dug away during the creation of pit (31414) cut into the top of these fills.

Pit (31414) was roughly sub-circular in plan with a diameter of approximately 3m. The feature survived to a maximum depth of 0.7m and had an asymmetric profile. The break of slope to the west was sharp (approximately 85°) whilst the feature had a gentler slightly concave eastern side. The base of the feature was flat. The pit contained a single fill (31372) which was a light to mid grey clay containing approximately 60% burnt stone and occasional charcoal flecks. Within this fill was the remains of a possible stone lining composed of flat slabs of schist which were not fire affected.

Pit fill (31372) was cut by pit (31413), the smallest of the cuts in this feature and in contrast to the other three cuts in this group did not contain burnt mound material. The pit contained a single homogenous light grey clay fill (31371) containing a moderate amount of (unburnt) stone. The uniformity of this fill is indicative of a single episode and the material is interpreted as a possible clay lining waste/storage pit for the neighbouring features. The deposit contained two worked flints (sf 984 and 985) including a thumbnail scraper.

Away from the main group of features but within the burnt mound area was a single outlying posthole (31521). The feature was sub-oval in plan measuring 0.60m x 0.44m and survived to a depth of 0.20m. It had steep sides and a flat base and contained a single firm mid grey-brown gravely sandy-silt fill with frequent small burnt stones (31522).

Interpretation
This seems to have been a classic burnt mound with three pits or troughs. The large stones and evidence of a fire in pit 31289 may indicate that it functioned slightly differently to the other two pits. It was noted that it never held water, whereas the other two often did. It is likely that 31283 and 31523 were more typical burnt mound pits designed to hold water to be heated by hot stones, while 31289 seems to have been a dry cooking pit more like an earth oven, the large stones perhaps helping to retain the heat during cooking. None of these pits seemed to have had linings. The unusual feature was the pit complex 31303. This group of features clearly represents a complex series of activities and the pits are unlikely to have all had the same function. The earlier, larger, deeper pits might have been dug to reach the water table to act as a well. The current water table is much lower but the pits were dug through the more compact gravel and into a layer of sand that water might have flowed through if the water table was higher in antiquity. The erosion of the sides is certainly consistent with water being held in

the pit. The recutting suggests that the pit became infilled with burnt mound material and had to be cleaned out at intervals. However the later recuts were much shallower and must have been created for a different function. The pits would have had to have been lined if they were to hold water as the loose stony deposits below would have been fairly well draining. It is possible that they had temporary organic linings, possibly leather, which would have left no archaeological evidence, and they may have acted as normal burnt mound troughs.

Small Burnt Mound (PRN 31583)

See figure 6

Description

Burnt mound (31002) was located towards the south-western end of the hollow in area E that contained the early Neolithic activity described above (SH 25301 80755). It was a much smaller feature than (31285) measuring 4.4m by 2.5m and surviving to a maximum depth of only 0.1m. The material was composed of approximately 75% burnt stone and charcoal within a dark-black brown silty clay. Although it is described as a single layer it is likely to have been formed over a prolonged period and be the result of a series of dumping episodes following the repeated clearing out of the associated pit (31008).

Pit (31008) partially underlay burnt mound (31002) and is thought to have produced the material found in the mound. The trough was sub-circular in plan with a diameter of approximately 0.93m. The profile of the pit was U-shaped with steep sides and a flat base. The feature survived to a maximum depth of 0.37m and contained four fills. The lowest fill of feature (31008) was a hard, yellowish-orange silty clay (31091). This fill has been interpreted as a clay lining in the base of the feature to enable the retention of water. This would have been necessary as feature (31008) had been dug into a free-draining silt.

Overlying the clay lining was a soft black charcoal and silt layer (31017). This material is not thought to have been burnt in-situ as there was no evidence for burning within the feature. Fill (31017) was overlain by a burnt stone and charcoal deposit (31018) similar to the material comprising the burnt mound. The upper fill of the pit (31009) was a further burnt stone and charcoal deposit.

Various features were located around the burnt mound and may have been related to it. These are fully listed in table 6. A possible stakehole was located to the south-east of pit (31008). This feature (31124) was sub-oval in plan measuring a maximum of 0.20m x 0.09m and survived to a depth of 0.10m. It contained a single orange-grey clay silt fill with charcoal flecks and a few sub rounded stones (31125). The interface with the natural is diffuse and it is unclear how convincing this feature is.

Features (31008) and (31124) are cut into layer (31020). This layer was described as a compacted, light white-yellow silty clay with occasional cobble and rare charcoal inclusions. It was interpreted as a relict soil layer leached by heat-induced changes caused by the burnt mound material. This implies that the material was deposited whilst still at a fairly high temperature in order to affect the underlying deposit, perhaps suggesting that the pit was used as an earth oven rather than a classic burnt mound water trough. Deposit (31020) contained a leaf-shaped arrowhead (sf912) along with a small number of flint and stone flakes. These must have been deposited on the ground surface before the deposition of the mound but it is not clear if they are directly related to the use of the pit or were merely residual in the soil.

A north-south orientated row of 6 stakeholes and two postholes were located approximately 4.5m to the west of the burnt mound. A further two stakeholes and one posthole were located in the immediate vicinity but these features do not appear to have formed a clear pattern in relation to the main grouping. This row of eight features does appear to have formed a clear alignment and may indicate some form of structure, possibly a fence or windbreak.

Approximately 2.5m to the north of the burnt mound (31002) was a posthole (31217) cut into the centre of a pit (31116). Neither feature contained any dating material and it is unclear as to how they fit into the wider site narrative. A patch of possible *in situ* burning measuring c.1m x 0.40m was located to the west of these features. None of the features around the burnt mound produced any finds.

Interpretation

This small mound has some similarities to earth ovens rather than a true burnt mound. The pit seems very small to have acted as a water trough and the layer of charcoal in its base may indicate that a fire had been lit within it. Earth ovens are often clay-lined as this pit seems to have been. The possible heat-alteration of the soil beneath the mound may indicate that the stones were still quite hot when removed from the pit. If hot stones are placed

in water they will cool quickly but used dry in an earth oven they might still be hot when the cooking was finished and they were removed. The small size of the mound would also be more consistent with an earth oven used only once or twice than a trough used many times.

The arrowhead below the mound might not be directly related to it but its presence does hint at a possible Neolithic date for the mound. If this feature should be considered an earth oven rather than a burnt mound then even quite an early Neolithic date would be unexceptional. It may prove to be part of the main phase of activity within the hollow.

Other possible burnt mound troughs and earth ovens

Across the site there were a small number of other features that had some similarities to burnt mounds, mainly pits containing burnt mound-type material (see figure 3 for locations). None had associated mounds and some might be earth ovens but they are discussed here because they used hot stones.

In the western side of area east approximately 48m to the north-north-west of the small burnt mound was an isolated pit (31436) (PRN 31584, SH 25283 80801). This pit was oval in plan and measured 1.2m by 0.9m and survived to a depth of 0.25m. It contained two fills, a lower fill (31435) composed almost entirely of charcoal and charcoal dust within a fine silt, and an upper fill (31434) which was of a similar material and contained a high proportion of burnt and fire-cracked stone. This fill was very similar to the material excavated from within the burnt mound and its underlying features. No obvious signs of *in situ* burning were observed in the pit, but the lower fill is suggestive of a fire within the pit. It is unclear if this feature was a separate earth oven or possibly associated with another burnt mound that lies outside of the excavation area.

Two further pits (31306) and (31513) were excavated 53m to the north of pit (31436) (PRN 31585, SH 25290 80853). These pits were also oval in plan with steep sides and concave bases. Pit (31513) was the larger of the two pits and measured 1.0m by 0.97m and 0.25m in depth. It contained two fills, the lower one very rich in charcoal. The second pit (31306) measured 0.95m by 0.7m and survived to a depth of 0.25m. The pit contained two charcoal-rich layers with burnt stones. A rim sherd and some flint and chert flakes were recovered from the fill of this pit. The pottery is not very diagnostic and will need closer inspection to determine whether it is Bronze Age. Again these might best be interpreted as earth ovens.

These pits were only about 20m south-east of the Neolithic pit group in area D3 so their date and function must be considered open for the present.

Towards the northern side of area A (PRN 31586, SH 25157 81099) was a sub-circular medium sized pit (07023), which contained concentrated charcoal and fire cracked stones. This resembled small burnt mound pits but there was no trace of a mound or other features in the area.

In area L5, about 54m south-east of the standing stone (PRN 31587, SH 25448 80939) were two sub-rectangular pits (03078 and 03082), the latter cutting through the fill of the former. Pit 03078 contained a layer of charcoal and was sealed by a dump of redeposited clay. Pit 03082 also contained a charcoal-rich layer but also contained burnt stones, which resembled the deposits found in burnt mound troughs. However no trace of a burnt mound was seen in the area or noticed mixed in the ploughsoil during stripping. Apart from a possible hammerstone (sf5704) no finds were recovered from the two pits.

About 6m to the north-west of these pits was the terminal of a small stone-filled ditch (03086). This had a substantial posthole (03094) in its end. The ditch ran into the western baulk and to the east no sign of any continuation was seen within areas L5 or L4, making it impossible to determine whether the ditch was curving or straight. No finds were recovered from this feature.

Discussion of earth ovens

While burnt mounds are widely discussed the term ‘earth oven’ is not generally used in British archaeology, although earth ovens dating from the Neolithic were identified at Clacton, Essex (Hedges 1980, 27). Earth ovens can be difficult to distinguish from other features filled with burnt stone. At Parc Bryn Cegin, Llandygai, near Bangor several pits were identified as earth ovens due to being deliberate, neatly dug pits filled with burnt stone, often lined with clay and in well preserved examples there were hints that the pit had been sealed with clay. Generally there was evidence of *in situ* burning in the pit but where this was lacking it might indicate that stones were heated on a fire outside the pit. The interpretation of these features as ovens is based on anthropological and ethnographic parallels (Hurl 1990, Campling 1991).

At Parc Bryn Cegin many of these features were quite isolated from other contemporary features, and radiocarbon dates showed that they belonged to two periods; the early Neolithic and the Bronze Age. If these were small ovens for everyday cooking this would be unlikely to take place far from contemporary settlement and these might be the only surviving evidence for ephemeral settlements with very slight structures, the traces of which would not survive. These small and isolated features at Parc Cybi might be indications of temporary settlements that fit into the wider use of the landscape.

Timber roundhouse in K1 (PRN 31588)
See figure 12

A circular structure interpreted as a timber-built roundhouse was excavated in area K1. As will be discussed below it was not possible to date this feature but it is consistent with Bronze Age roundhouses and there was Bronze Age activity in the vicinity so it is discussed under this section.

Description
The circular structure was located on the lower, eastern slopes of a small rounded hill in area K (SH 25662 80795) and in the lee of a low outcrop of schist and boulders which lay to the south-west. It comprised two almost concentric rings of heavily truncated and shallow post and stakeholes and associated features.

Inner ring
The inner ring consisted of an arrangement of 10 postholes set in diametrically opposed pairs which formed a circle about 5.4m in diameter. The majority of the postholes were sub-circular and between 0.37 and 0.31m in diameter with a depth of between 0.19m and 0.13m. Four cuts, (20070), (19098), (19096) and (18136) formed a continuous arc of larger postholes on the north side of the structure. Their diameters were between 0.45 and 0.40m and they were between 0.39 and 0.15m deep. The postholes were filled by a mid brown to brownish grey silty sand or clayey silt, and some contained very occasional flecks of charcoal. Cuts (21065), (18136), (18131), (19096) retained evidence for disturbed post packing in their fills whilst (18133) contained a post pipe, produced by a silting episode that filled the void produced by the removal of the post.

One other possible posthole (21071) lay just inside the inner circle of posts in the south-east quadrant. At 0.27m wide, 0.24m long and 0.22m deep its was similar to the smallest of those from the inner ring. Its location was reflected in the north-west quadrant by the position of a comparably sized flat broken stone (25002) that may have been the remains of a post pad.

Outer ring
The outer ring consisted of 9 much slighter features which intermittently described an approximately circular area 11m in diameter. The apparent heavily truncated nature of the ground surface made the initial positive identification of archaeological features difficult and a number of the potential features that were initially suspected to lie approximately on the circumference of the ring were subsequently designated as natural in origin. Two of those that were archaeological, (21075) and (21073) were probably stakeholes. Both were around 0.11-0.12m in diameter, the former was 0.13m deep, whilst the latter was just 0.04m. The other features, whose size is more consistent with an interpretation as postholes, were sub-circular in plan and mostly between 0.23 and 0.45m in diameter. One example (21077) was only 0.04m deep, the rest were between 0.09 and 0.20m. The features were filled with a mid brownish orange clayey silt or silty sand; a few of them also contained very occasional flecks and small fragments of charcoal.

In the south-east quadrant of the building, approximately halfway between the inner and outer post rings was a sub-circular pit (18156), 0.64m in diameter with a maximum depth of 0.08m. Its friable sandy silt fill contained quantities of charcoal throughout, seemingly concentrated in lenses. Another shallow posthole (18159), 0.55m in diameter and 0.09m deep was located adjacent to the north-west edge of (18156). A possible stakehole / animal burrow (18161) appeared to cut through the posthole fill and penetrate its base.

Another small stakehole (21061) was identified just outside the circle of inner posts. It was 0.12m in diameter, 0.18m deep and inclined to wards the outside of the structure.

Doorway/porch
A further 3 postholes (18145), (18148) and (18150) lay just outside of the outer ring on its north-west side. Together with postholes (22028) and (21077) from the outer circle, (18145) and (18147) formed a sub-rectangular shape with the shallowest of the three, (18150) located approximately in its centre. They were all sub-circular and at the smaller end of the size range of the posts from the rings. They had diameters of between 0.22 and 0.25m. Again the features appeared to be heavily truncated and their depths were variable, ranging between 0.19 and 0.06m. All three were filled with a mid greyish brown sandy silt with very occasional flecks of charcoal. Only (18145) contained a possible post pipe consisting of a mid greyish brown silty sand. It also contained a single large stone that may have been packing material.

Two lines of cut features were located adjacent to the proposed entrance of the structure, inside the limits of the outer post ring in its north-west quadrant. The first line was aligned north-north-west to south-south-east, about 1.5m long and consisted of three features (19106, 21079 and 21081) no more than 0.29m in diameter and up to 0.11m deep. The second line was composed of two postholes (22024 and 22026) of a similar size to the others. No evidence of packing stones or post-pipes was noted in any of the features.

Artefacts
Only a single find was recovered from anywhere within the circular structure. This was a utilised flint flake with microchipping and gloss (sf2175) from the feature 18156. There was very little charcoal from the features with most being unidentifiable flecks.

Discussion
The spatial relationship of the two post rings, together with the similarities in the features sizes, shapes and fills suggests that they are closely related, and form part of the same circular structure, which would have originally been approximately 11m in diameter. Together they are consistent with an interpretation as the heavily truncated remains of a roundhouse. In such a scheme, the inner ring of postholes would have held posts supporting a ring beam, whilst the outer ring indicates the external wall. It is possible that (21703), the very shallow stakehole in the south-west quadrant was not part of the proposed wall structure as it appears to lie just outside of the outer circle.

The features just outside of the outer circle to the north-west might have been postholes forming some kind of porch or entrance. However, this would not make best use of sunlight to illuminate the interior and its position upslope of the main structure would present a drainage problem. It is however possible that the choice of entrance location was not structured by purely practical considerations. The position of (18150) is also curious, as it would appear to be placed directly in the centre of the entrance structure, and in plan at least, on the basis of the available evidence it would appear to be at least as substantial the proposed structural posts located in (18145) and (18147).

The features that form the external wall were much more irregularly spaced than those in the internal post ring, they were also absent along large parts of the northern arc of the circumference of the proposed wall. However, the truncated state of the postholes on the site suggests that only the bases of the deepest cut features survive and it is possible that many have been lost through erosion. The absence of occupation deposits can also be attributed to the truncation. With the evidence so fragmentary it is difficult to discuss the surviving internal pits and postholes in relation to use of the space within the structure. However postholes (19106, 21079, 21081, 22024 and 22026) in the western part of the structure do seem to have focused on the possible entrance and may support this interpretation. Their symmetrical, funnel-like arrangement may potentially have directed movement and focussed attention from the interior of the structure towards the entrance.

It would seem possible that (18156) may represent the traces of a hearth or firepit although it cannot be proved to be contemporary with the building. Considering the degree of truncation proposed for the postholes, (18156) must have been a relatively substantial cut feature. It is also interesting to note that with the exception of stakehole (21061), the internal features all suggest activity towards the presumed rear of the building, directly opposite the proposed entrance to the north-west.

None of the postholes produced suitable charred material for dating. Pit 18156 contained quantities of charcoal which could be dated, but as discussed below there are pits from several periods within the area, and this may be from an earlier series, and its location within the roundhouse might be purely coincidental.

Bronze Age pits and related features in K1
See figure 12

A number of other features were also identified in the western half of area K1, and the finds recovered from these are listed in table 7. The features included three shallow hollows (2165), (21083) and 23011, measuring 0.53m, 0.23m and 0.56m in diameter respectively but no more than 0.10m deep. Feature (2165) contained a chert awl on a thick core trimming flake with a retouched point (sf1032). Aligned north-west-south-east, pit (19109) was about 2m long by 1.4m wide and 0.28m deep, it contained fragments of flint sf1521 and tiny crumbs of prehistoric pottery sf1523.

Another depression or pit (20081) lay about 3m to the south-west of (19109). It was a shallow, oval bowl-shaped feature, orientated north-east-south-west and approximately 1.1 m long and 0.76m wide and 0.11m deep. The edges of the feature showed the signs of oxidisation and fire reddening consistent with episodes of burning *in situ*. Its single fill consisted of approximately 15% charcoal in a sandy silt matrix. It was one of the few features in the area that contained many finds: sherds from a Cordoned Urn, including some rim sherds but few from the body (sf1031, sf1476, sf2063) and a single flint flake sf2064 were recovered from its upper levels. The *in situ* burning suggests a fire pit or oven. A similar sized and shaped feature lay about 4m metres to the south-west. Cut (18166), was slightly deeper at 0.23m however it lacked any evidence for burning; only occasional small flecks of charcoal survived in its two fills and it contained no finds.

A small group of four pits or possible postholes, cuts (22037), (22039), (22041) and (22043), lay in the western corner of the area adjacent to Lôn Trefignath. The four features were spaced between 1m and 1.8m apart and formed the corners of a possible sub-rectangular structure surrounding a patchy deposit of heavily oxidised clay (22044). They were all sub-circular in plan, between 0.4m and 0.3m long and 0.2-0.25m wide with little evidence of packing material. They appeared to be heavily truncated and (22037) was the deepest of the group at 0.15m. Only one (22039) contained any finds which consisted of a single flint flake (sf1044).

In the south-west corner of the site, around 20m to the west-south-west of the structure, a group of shallow cut features formed an arc. Cuts (21085) and (21086) appeared to be of recent origin, but 19112, 19115, 19115 and 19117 appeared to be a shallow pits or postholes, measuring 0.35 to 0.95m in length by 0.30 to 0.85m in width but no more than 0.16m deep. Feature (19112) had a possible packing stone in its fill, and (19113) contained tiny fragments of what is very probably prehistoric pottery sf1253. These features may have been associated with a pair of deep, well-defined postholes a few metres away to the north-west. Posthole (18169) was 0.55m in diameter and 0.46m deep, and (18172) was wider at 0.7m in diameter but 0.38m deep. The fill of posthole (18172) contained that may represent disturbed post packing. No diagnostic artefacts were recovered from either of the features. Both would appear to be much more substantial postholes than the group of features to the south-east discussed above, and also quite different to the predominately heavily truncated examples identified elsewhere in K1.

A number of natural features were identified across the K1 site. One of these, a large irregularly shaped tree-root hollow (22017/22021) was located to the north-east east of the roundhouse. During its excavation a flint flake sf5782 was recovered. Nearby shallow hollows or pits 19091 and 19093 contained little of interest and may be more natural hollows but a similar shallow sub-circular feature (18124) contained frequent flecks of charcoal, burnt and heat cracked stones (sf1344), unidentified burnt bone (sfs 1300, 1499 and 4289), flint (sf1336), and fragments of possibly Late Bronze Age pottery (sfs 1209 and 3051). This feature measured approximately 1.3 by 1.02 m and was 0.2m deep.

Other features to the east of the roundhouse included four truncated stakeholes. The group consisted of a 9m long south-west-north-east aligned linear arrangement of three features (18127), (19089), (19088), with an outlier (18120), about a metre to the north of the western end of the group. They all had a diameter of between 0.2 and 0.1m and a maximum depth of 0.18m.

Discussion
Most of these features are vague and truncated with only a slim scatter of flint flakes to indicate a prehistoric date. However, although shallow, pit 20081 contained a quantity of collared urn sherds giving a clear Bronze Age date to some at least of this activity. Feature 18124 to the east of the roundhouse also suggests some Bronze Age activity. It is possible that many of these features related to the roundhouse that they surround, but there are many scattered pits on the site and they are not necessarily associated. However it seems unlikely that a roundhouse of this size would not have associated activity around it as it must have been occupied for a

significant period of time. The pottery from the pits might very tentatively therefore be used to date the roundhouse.

Ceremonial complex in areas M2 and M4

About 185m north-west of the standing stone were a group of features included within area M2 and M4. They were located on the generally level summit of a slight gravel rise, the north-western side of which was most the sharply defined. The southern side had been disturbed by a large hollow, (context 19053, discussed below). About 40m to the north-west was a steep scarp where the ground rose to a higher plateau within area N. The area was therefore locally prominent but not the highest point in the landscape. It was noticeable that the surface natural geology here was all well-drained gravel, without the boulder clay or surface bedrock found elsewhere on the site.

The features in this area seemed to form a significant group of Bronze Age monuments comprising a ring-ditch, probably for a round barrow, the remains of a multi-cist cemetery and a deep ditched 'figure of 8' shaped enclosure. The first two are definitely Bronze Age but the date of the latter is still uncertain. Between these features were various small pits and postholes, some of which produced early Neolithic pottery and are discussed above in the relevant section, but others might be related to the monuments.

Cist Cemetery (PRN 31589)
See figure 13
On the north-western edge of the plateau (SH 25210 81080) was a group of eight stone-built short cist graves. All of the cists were set within sub-circular pits dug into the natural gravels. They were all contained within a circular area c. 10m in diameter and appear to have been arranged in three north-north-east to south-south-west aligned rows, with two cists in the central row and three on each of the flanks. An approximate line of symmetry ran north-north-east to south-south-west through cist 8 in the south and cist 2 in the central area with the location of the other cists more or less reflecting each other about this axis.

The cists were generally constructed from four flat slabs of locally available schist propped against each other to form an unbonded stone box. Seven of the eight structures were covered with substantial stone slabs that formed a more or less *in situ* capstone. Fragments of schist slabs found around the eighth cist, cist 1, are thought to be the remains of a broken example. Of those with *in situ* capstones, the majority show that great care was taken to level the capstones and seal the cist compartments using smaller stone slabs. None of the cists contained basal slabs and natural deposits formed the base of each of the chambers.

Three of the cists, 1, 2 and 4, were noticeably smaller than the rest and sat in much shallower cuts than the deeper set, larger examples. Two of them, cists 1 and 4, were both located at the northern edge of the cemetery, each of their pits clipping larger examples lying on their southern edges. The third, cist 2, was centrally located.

Two cists contained grave goods, in each case this consisted of a single pottery vessel. A small food vessel sf2038 was recovered from cist 3 and a broken a short necked Beaker sf4102 was found in the base of cist 7. Both of the pots appear to have originally been placed upright in the base of the cist. Table 8 lists all the finds from the cists.

A detailed description of each of the cists follows:

Cist 1
Cist 1 was the most northerly of the group. The cist chamber comprised four flat slabs of local grey schist (40111) laid to form a sub-rectangular box orientated E-W. The two longer side stones each consisted of two sub-rectangular slabs set on their long sides and leaning slightly to the S. Each was around 0.65m long, 0.45m wide and between 0.07 and 0.12m thick. The shorter sides were formed by two similar flattish stones, both of which were between 0.28-0.30m long, 0.45m wide and up to 0.05m thick. The shorter end stones were placed between the longer side slabs. At the eastern end, the slightly outward leaning short side stone had been set perpendicular to the two longer stones, whilst the vertically set western end slab had been placed at more of an angle. The four side stones rested directly upon the natural gravels and together defined a chamber with an internal measurement of approximately 0.60m by 0.25m and a depth of 0.47m.

The cist had been built at the base of a E-W aligned sub-oval shaped cut (40109), dug into the natural sand and gravel (40207) and clipping the northern side of cist grave 3. This construction cut, with steep, generally convex sides which broke gradually to a convex base, measured 1.1m long, 0.9m wide and 0.45m deep. It appears that after placing the side slabs, the space between the cist walls and the sides of the cut was backfilled (40130) with the sand and gravel that had been dug out to form the cist pit.

The side slabs of the cist protruded just above the level of the machined ground surface and unfortunately it appears that north side long stone was damaged by the machine bucket during the stripping process. No *in situ* covering slab was identified however a number of fragments of flat schist (40134), the largest of which measured 0.40x0.30x 0.05m, are thought to represent the remains of a broken capstone. Some of the fragments were found scattered around the cist structure, however most were in the interior of the cist, lying on top of the sequence of deposits that filled the chamber.

The interior of the cist box contained a primary fill (40122) which consisted of a loose brownish orange gravely sandy silt with a high proportion sub-rectangular, angular fragments of schist up to 20cm long. It is possible that these fragments were derived from the cist sides and capstone as the structure deteriorated over time. Above this lay (40113), a loose brown silty deposit which contained fragments of modern glass, with a further ploughsoil-derived deposit (40112) overlying it.

Cist 3
Immediately adjacent to cist 1 on its southern side was a much larger cist grave, cist 3. Its sub-circular construction cut, (40119), formed a pit 1.50m in diameter and 0.90m deep. It had steep sides and was truncated on the northern side by the cut of Cist 1 (40109).

The cist structure (40132) was formed from 4 slabs of schist set on their sides to form a sub-rectangular chamber orientated west-south-west to east-north-east. The longer north and south sides were made up of two slabs of stone 0.85 and 0.90 m long, 0.48m wide and up to 0.10m thick. The two shorter end stones were 0.50 and 0.55 m long, the west one was 0.45m wide and around 0.10m thick, the east was slightly wider at 0.47m but thinner at 0.05m. The east short side slab was laid against the two ends of the longer stones, whilst that at the west was set between them its sides abutting their inside edges. Three of the four side stones appeared to lean outwards slightly. The outward inclination on the fourth, the west short side slab, was particularly pronounced. In order to compensate for this, a horizontal slab appears to have been set over the west side stone. It measured 0.73m long and up to 0.25m wide, and brought the height of that end of the chamber up to the level of the of the other sides of the cist box. The resulting chamber was approximately 0.45m deep, 0.68m long at its base and 0.48m wide at its west end, though it tapered slightly towards the east where it's width was recorded at 0.40m.

The cist appears to have been constructed quite tightly in the base of the cut, and after the side slabs were placed gaps in the corners were sealed from the outside with smaller schist stones and cobbles. A deposit of mixed grey and buff coarse sand and gravel material (40136) was firmly packed into the narrow gap between the stones and the edge of the cut, almost up to the level of the top of the side slabs.

Before the cist was closed, a small globular bowl Food Vessel sf2038 was placed inside the compartment. It was found just inside the south-west corner of the cist, near to the south long slab and was lying tilted towards its side with the mouth of the vessel facing east. A small patch of brown 'earthy' silt (40133) was also identified in this south-west corner. This deposit partially underlay the ceramic vessel and would appear to represent the deposition, deliberate or accidental, of a small quantity of soil in the cist chamber before the pot was placed. There was no other fill inside the cist as the tightly fitting capstone had prevented the ingress of silts or other backfill.

A large, almost square schist capstone (40121), 1.1m long and 1.0 m wide, was placed on the side slabs, protruding over them and sealing the cist box. In places the capstone also rested on a layer of large angular schist slabs (40135) which appear to have been laid or even 'wedged' in place to level and stabilise it. Also of note is the ring of irregular flat stone slabs (40124), which appear to have been placed on top of the capstone along its perimeter, thus 'sealing' the structure. They varied in size, most were around 0.3m long and between 0.10-0.20m wide, though the largest examples were approximately 0.50m long and 0.24m wide. Some quartz was included, predominately those on the western side, although as this is naturally present in the schist rocks its significance.

Cist 3 was sealed by a backfill (40120), which entirely covered the closing stones (40124) and capstone (40121). It was a 0.30m deep layer of greyish yellow sandy silt and gravel, very similar to the natural sand and gravel in this area. It would appear this closing/backfill deposit, like the material that was used to pack the void between the cist and its cut, was derived from the upcast spoil of the initial excavation of the cist pit. This made it very difficult to distinguish from the natural and to locate the presence of the cist.

A hollow in the surface of deposit (40120) contained a quantity of flat schist stones (40194) up to 0.3m long lying in a brown silty matrix. Although this might be part of the backfilling activity but it is possible that they are the remains of another small cist, which was shallowly set and largely destroyed.

Cist 4

Cist 4 (40154) was in a much worse state of preservation than the other examples. It was located in an oval shaped cut (40166), at least 0.6m deep, 1.35m long E-W and 1.02m wide N-S. This was one of the features that first indicated activity in this area as it was visible after initial stripping. Only one of the side slabs, the E-W aligned stone on the longer south side, survived *in situ*. It was an angular sub-rectangular slab set vertically on its side and measured 0.85m long, 0.55m wide and was around 0.07m thick. Two shorter slabs, aligned approximately N-S, lay flat to the east and west of this. The stone to the west was 0.48m long, 0.20m wide and around 0.07m thick, the one to the east was 0.40m long, 0.30m wide and a similar thickness. It seems likely that these were the disturbed shorter side stones of the cist, although their narrow widths mean that they would not have projected as high as the south side slab. A sub-rectangular slab, approximately 0.93m long and 0.68m wide, formed the capstone, and rested on the three proposed side stones.

It was suggested during excavation that the cist had been disturbed and the capstone replaced, but this was partially covered by clean gravel (40155) typical of the undisturbed sealing deposits of the other cists, and it is probable that the cist was largely undisturbed, just crushed perhaps by the weight of agricultural machinery. The internal dimensions of the cist box appear to originally have been around 0.85m long, 0.6m deep and possibly about 0.4m wide. The lack of disturbance is proved by the fact that there was a void under the capstone. Some loose gravely sand (40158) and (40157) had apparently seeped in from the north, but much of the cist was empty.

Cist 6

The construction cut (40166) for cist 4 cut into on its northern edge of a larger cist grave (cist 6). The cist in this grave was constructed on the flat base of a steep sided, sub-circular pit (40164), 2.4m long, 2.2m wide, and 1.32m deep. A very thin deposit of very fine, light brown buff silt (40184) appeared to run under the cist side slabs, and was probably deposited as the cist was being constructed. The cist structure (40174) was orientated south-east-north-west. The slab on the south-east side was the slightly larger of the two long side slabs at 1.35m long, 0.70m wide and 0.18m thick. The opposing stone on the north-west side was 1.4m long, 0.60m wide and 0.15m thick. The shorter end slabs were of a similar width, the one at the north-east end was 0.65m long, 0.70m wide and maximum of 0.15m thick, the one at the south-west 0.70m long, 0.65m wide and the thinnest of the group with a maximum thickness of 0.10m. The two shorter end stones appear to have been placed abutting the longest south-east side slab and resting against the ends of the north-west long slab. All four stones appeared to lean inwards slightly, creating a chamber approximately 0.64m deep and which measured 1.2m long and approximately 0.70m wide internally at the base. As was noted with other examples in the group, the space outside of the side slabs appears to have backfilled almost up to the top of the stones with a firm brownish grey mixture of sand, fine grit and silt (40190), similar in appearance to the surrounding natural but slightly looser and more mixed.

A large, slightly tapered, sub-rectangular stone with rounded corners formed the capstone (40165) and was 1.80m long, 1.10 m wide and 0.15m thick. This slab completely covered the cist chamber, and apart from on the north-west side, extended beyond the side slabs. In contrast to the slabs from the other cists, which were predominately constructed of pieces of blue/grey schist, the capstone (40165) had more of a buff colour. Whether it was deliberately selected for this reason is unclear. The excavator also noted that the upper face of the capstone appeared weathered and smoothed. A number of cobbles and flat slabs of stone (40170) were arranged on top of the backfill/packing deposit (40190) and around the capstone. They seemed to represent a supporting, levelling and sealing deposit though it was not possible to clearly differentiate between the levelling and sealing stones as had been the case with Cist 3.

The cist itself was empty except for a silty layer (40175), particularly evident in the corners of the chamber. The excavator's suggestion that the deposit derives from backfill (40190) seeping in through the gaps between the

side slabs, would seem to offer an appropriate interpretation of its origins. On top of the capstone and sealing stones, a layer of firm, light to mid buff brown sandy gravel (40163), around 0.40m deep, had been deposited, filling the top of the construction cut and sealing the structure.

Cist 2
In the centre of the cemetery, between cists 1 and 3 to the north-west, and 4 and 6 to the north-east, lay another grave, cist 2. This cist, arguably the central structure of the group was, like cists 1 and 4, at the smaller end of the size range. Like the others, cist 2 was built at the base of a steep sided, shallow, irregular sub-circular pit (40127). This construction cut was 1.18m long, 0.75m wide and 0.48m deep and aligned north-east-south-west. The pit was slightly wider at the north-east end, and the cist structure (40116) appeared to have been built more tightly in against the cut to the south-west, suggesting to the excavator that it had been built from south-west to north-east.

The cist structure (40116) was aligned north-east-south-west like the cut. The stone on the north-west side was the more substantial of the two long side slabs and measured 0.65m long, 0.44m wide and 0.15m thick. The other on the south-east side was 0.57m long, 0.37m wide and a lot thinner at 0.04m. The north-east shorter side slab was even thinner at 0.02m, was 0.54m long and 0.31m wide. The south-west short side stone was 0.33m long, 0.44m wide and 0.11m thick. Both of the longer side slabs leant slightly towards the south-east whilst the shorter ends were inclined gently towards the north-east. Together they defined a sub-rectangular area which measured 0.58m long by 0.29m wide internally at the base, and was approximately 0.41m deep.

A 0.48m deep deposit of sub-angular stones and cobbles (measuring up to 0.23m long and 0.08-0.10m wide) (40125) in a mid brownish grey silty sand matrix (40128), had been packed around the cist. The stones, which appear to have been derived from a variety of sources including four or five quartz stones, were placed in three courses around the edge of the cist box, filling the cut and providing support to the cist structure.

There seem to have been two capstones. The main capstone (40114) covered most of the cist and was 0.43m long, 0.11m wide and 0.11m at it its thickest point. Next to this was another flat stone (40126), measuring 0.48m long, 0.26m wide and 0.04m thick. This covered the edge of the north-east end of the cist box and part of the packing deposit. The capstones did not completely seal the roof of the cist, and the excavator suggests that a 0.04m deep, loose, mid brown silty sand deposit (40115) within the cist chamber may derive from material that has seeped in through the gaps between the slabs. The relatively shallow depth of the cist cut meant that there was no backfill deposit over the capstones, which instead were overlain by ploughsoil (40206).

Cist 7
Cist 7 was the western most cist of the group, and along with cists 8 and 5, formed a north-west-south-east linear arrangement of graves that marked the south extent of the cemetery. Cist 7 was another of the larger cists on the site. As with the others, a large north-east-south-west orientated sub-rectangular pit (40169) had been dug into the natural sands and gravels to house the structure. The pit cut was 2.65m long, 2.26m wide and 1.46m deep, extremely steep sided, with a flat, even base. The pit was considerably wider than the cist itself, the size perhaps necessitated by the requirements of manoeuvring the large cap stone (40168) into position.

The cist structure (40187) was aligned north-north-east to south-south-west and consisted of four slabs of schist vertically set on their sides to form a box with the shorter end slabs to the north-east and south-west abutting the inside faces of the ends of the longer stones, the longer stones appearing to rest against the shorter. The north-western side slab was 1.35m long, 0.79m wide and up to 0.12m thick. The south-eastern one on the other long side was 1.35m long, 0.8m wide and had a maximum thickness of 0.16m. The north-east shorter side stone was 0.62m long, 0.70m wide and 0.06m thick, whilst the one that formed the south-west side of the cist was 0.73m long, 0.66m wide and around 0.08m at it its thickest point. The four vertically set stones formed a 0.8m deep compartment, 1.0m long and 0.65m wide at the base. The external faces of one of the end stones and the internal surface of one of the longer side slabs appeared to be weathered and discoloured. In addition, the stones used in the construction of cist 7 appear to be less robust, with more evidence of cracking and flaking noted than at cist 6. The existence of ‘scalloping’ on the top edges of the slabs was noted, evidence suggesting that they had been roughly hewn to shape before they were used.

Between the cist box and the cut, a 0.60m deep layer of large bluish grey schist stones (40188), up to 0.65m long and 0.60m wide, had been packed into the base of cut around the structure to stabilize and support the cist. The interior of the cist was empty except for a 0.05m deep patch of very loose, mid to dark brown silty sand,

with a high organic component (40177). An almost complete but broken pottery vessel, a Short Necked Beaker with large scale incised chevrons (sf4102), was found on and within this deposit in the eastern corner of the cist.

The cist box had been closed with a large, sub-rectangular capstone (40168). It was made from a piece of greenish grey schist, 1.3m long, 1.22m wide and 0.20m thick and appeared to have been broken *in situ* on its north corner. Though it overlapped all of the side stones, it did not quite cover the cist box, small gaps were apparent at the north and south corners. Three large, horizontally set greenish grey schist stones (40189), up to 1.05m long and 0.70m wide, sat on top of the capstone, partially covering it. A layer of loose, mid brownish orange silty sandy gravel with very occasional flecks of charcoal (40167) had been deposited over the closed cist structure. This deposit filled the construction cut to level with the surface of the natural gravel, approximately 0.5m above the top of the capstone. Again, this backfill material was probably primarily derived from the natural sands and gravels originally dug out for the cist cut but at least some anthropogenic material had been incorporated into it.

Cist 5
Cist 5 was the southernmost cist of the group. It had been built in the base of a large sub-circular pit (40159). The pit was 2.21m in diameter with steep flat, almost vertical sides 0.80m deep, making this the shallowest of the group of three cists in the southern part of the cemetery.

The stone cist (40161), much smaller than the construction cut itself, was orientated north-north-east to south-south-west. The long schist side slab on the western side measured 1.2m long, 0.48m wide and 0.12m thick. The long slab on the eastern side was 0.94m long, 0.45m wide and 0.10m thick. The slab on the northern side was noticeably shorter than its opposing stone to the south and was 0.50m long, 0.42m wide and a maximum thickness of 0.07m. The southern side stone was 0.60m long, 0.43m wide and 0.08m thick. The longer slabs appeared to rest upon the shorter sides slabs, whose ends abutted the inside face of the long slabs. The cist was extremely carefully built, and the almost perfectly vertically set stones created a 0.45m deep chamber which was 0.7m long and 0.55m wide at the base internally.

After the cist box was built, a number of large, flat stones were packed around the base of the cist slabs, filling the cut to a depth of approximately 0.22m. A basal fill (40176) was identified within the cist compartment. It consisted of a layer of very loose and friable, dark brown silt with a maximum depth of 0.035m and a diffuse interface to the natural sand and gravel below. Otherwise the cist was empty.

The cist was sealed with capstone (40162), a large angular, sub-rectangular slab of blue-grey schist 1.16m long, 0.83m wide and 0.15m thick. It appears that great care had been taken to ensure the capstone was set correctly on the cist compartment. A number of flat stones overlay the outside edges of the vertical side slabs, apparently deliberately selected and placed to ensure that the capstone sat horizontally on top of the cist.

After the capstone had been put in position, the construction pit had had been backfilled with (40160), a stony deposit with a mid brownish orange silty sand and gravel matrix. This deposit filled the space above the packing stones at the base of the cut, extended up the sides of the cist compartment and over the top of the capstone. Though deposit (40160) is recorded as a single context, it seems likely that the backfilling of the cist in this way happened in at least two stages, though they must presumably have occurred in quick succession. The first stage must have involved the back filling of the pit around the sides of the cist up to the level at which the flat levelling stones where placed. The second episode would appear to have taken place after the capstone was lowered into position over the side slabs and the levelling stones. This final stage resulted in the top of the capstone being buried about 0.22m below the machined surface of the sand and gravel natural.

In contrast to the other cists, a thin lens of organic rich, silty material was recorded at the base of this backfill deposit (40160) where it overlay the capstone. The lens must have accumulated rapidly as there is no evidence to suggest that any other part of the cist structure or associated deposits were exposed for any period of time, and may perhaps represent the deliberate deposition of turfs on top of the cist before the final act of backfilling. Alternatively rain might have washed the material in before the grave could be backfilled.

Cist 8
The last of the 3 cists that formed the north-west-south-east aligned linear group in the southern part of the cemetery was cist 8. The structure was equidistant from Cists 7 to the north-west and 5 to the south-east. It was set into the largest construction pit (40180), a sub-circular cut 2.75m long, 2.50m wide and 1.50m deep. The sides of the pit were cut at a steep angle into the sand and gravels and the base was flat.

In contrast to the other seven cists which were all orientated between east to west and north-north-east to south-south-west, the box of cist 8 (40186) was aligned north-west to south-east, its long axis rotated through 90 degrees relative to the others. This was also the largest cist in the group. The longer side stone on the south-western side measured 1.25m long, 0.85m wide and 0.10m thick, the other on the north-east 1.35m long, 0.90m wide and 0.17m thick. The shorter side slab on the north-western side was 0.66m long, 0.80 m wide and 0.12m thick, whilst that on the south-east was 0.76m long, 0.86m wide and 0.15m thick. Both of the of the longer side slabs appeared to have a weathered outer face, and appeared to be of a lower quality than those used for other cists in the group, specifically cist 6. The four side slabs were set more or less vertically on their edges, propped up against each other to form the cist compartment. The slab that formed the shorter south-eastern side leant inwards slightly. Together, the four stones defined a box with a maximum depth of approximately 0.90m and internal base measurement of 1.30m long and a width of 0.55-0.65m.

After the cist box was constructed, the area outside of it had been packed with a large quantity of angular schist stones and cobbles (40197), almost up to the level of the top of the cist side-stones. Though packed more densely against the cist walls, the packing stones completely filled the space between the cut and the outside of the cist. The size of the stones varied and included some large blocks up to 0.70 m long and 0.49m wide with a concentration of smaller stones and cobbles (0.08 – 0.20m long) in the north-east. A layer of firm greyish blue, silty sand and fine gravel (40192) had been deposited on top of the packing stones (40197) and some of this material had seeped down to fill the voids between them. Two fairly large flat stones, also recorded as part of (40192), had been placed on top of the south-west long side slab, with the apparent intention of creating a level support for the capstone (40191). The capstone was made from a large, sub-rectangular, slab of schist with rounded corners, 1.50m long and 0.95m wide.

A single fill (40196) was identified within the cist box. It is recorded as a thin deposit of loose, mixed light brown and yellow gravely silt with a clear interface to the sandy gravel natural. The layer was thicker in the corners of the cist box, and appears to derive from backfilled material that has seeped into the cist between the gaps in the wall and roof slabs. Otherwise the cist was empty.

After the capstone had been laid, a ring of flat pieces of schist (40202), between 0.30 - 0.60 long and 0.30 - 0.40m wide, were placed around its edge, resting on the capstone and the surface of the lower backfill deposit (40192). These were laid with sufficient care to suggest that they might also have had some decorative element. A similar arrangement of stones (40124) had been noted at Cist 3. A 0.25m deep mound of medium sized stones (generally between 0.10-0.30m long and 0.08-0.20m wide) in a loose, dark brown, sandy gravely silt (40185) was identified overlaying the capstone, within the area defined by the larger stones from (40202). Some fragments of burnt bone sf5561 were recovered from a wet sieved sample of (40185). A fairly loose, 0.42m deep layer of greyish yellow silty sand (40181) lay above this sequence of stone deposits filling the upper level of the construction cut, and sealing the cist structure below in a similar fashion to the upper backfill deposits noted for the larger, deeper set cists 3, 5, 6, and 7.

Some time after it was deposited, backfill (40181) was cut through by recut (40182). The cut was sub-circular in plan, 2.25m long and 2.0m wide and lay inside, though not quite concentric with, the original cist construction cut (40180). The sides of the recut had a sharp break of slope at the top and were steep and concave. They appeared to break sharply to a base formed by the surface of the stony deposit (40185) above the cist capstone. The excavator found it difficult to decide whether (40185) formed the basal fill of the recut (40182) or simply marked the level at which the cut terminated, an issue which has still not be resolved at the time of writing. The fill (40183) of the recut, consisted of a 0.32m deep loose, greyish brown, gravely silt, siltier and darker than the upper backfill (40181) of the original construction cut (40180).

Finds from the cists.
Despite the fact that the majority of the cists were sealed and undisturbed, relatively few finds were recovered from them. With the exception of the small globular bowl Food Vessel sf2038 from cist 3 and the Short Necked Beaker sf4102 from cist 7, no other finds were recovered during the excavation stage of the project.

More ceramic material was however recovered from wet sieved samples of the deposits. The fill (40177) of cist 7 produced more fragments of decorated body and base sherds, sf4112, sf4113 and sf5481, at least some of which appear to be from the beaker. Cist 3 also produced another small fragment of prehistoric pottery sf4230 from its basal fill (40156). Ceramic material was also recovered from cist 2; comprising a small abraded beaker

sherd with a line of hyphenated decoration sf2088 and another small prehistoric pot sherd (sf5997). However, sf2088 is very unlikely to have been part of a funerary vessel in the cist.

Despite the lack of bone identified during the excavation, small fragments of burnt bone were recovered from the wet sieved samples and small pieces were identified in the primary silting deposits in four of the cists. In cist 7, in addition to the beaker pot, deposit (40177) also contained a fragment of burnt bone sf5844 and a flint chip sf4511. In cist 3, the cist with the food vessel, at least five small fragments of burnt bone sf5509 were recovered from (40133) along with a flint flake sf 4147. In cist 4, small pieces of bone sf4274 and flint debitage sf4370 were recovered from (40158). Cist 8 also produced a small fragment sf4419 along with a flint flake sf4499 from a silting deposit (40196) inside the cist and some fragments of burnt bone sf5561 from (40185), the stony deposit overlying the capstone.

As was noted above, lithic items were recovered from all of the deposits that contained bone. In fact all of the graves contained flint objects in small quantities. The only find from cist 5, a retouched flint tool sf4500, came from the primary fill of the cist box (40176) and may have been intentionally included with the burial. In addition to the material from the primary cist fill in cist 4, the secondary fill in the cist compartment (40157) also contained a flint flake sf4069 and some small flint chips sf 5525. In cist 1, a fragment of struck flint sf4421 was recovered from the backfill deposit around the cist (40130). In cist 2, a flint nodule sf6110 was also recovered from the similar backfill deposit (40128). In cist 6, the backfill around the cist (40190) also contained lithics in the form of fragments of flint debitage sf4444 and sf4446. In cist 7, the upper backfill deposit of the grave contained some pieces of burnt flint and flint debitage sf5843. In cist 8, a similar upper backfill (40181), located above the cist and stone deposits, contained a struck, and subsequently burnt piece of flint sf4312 and a flint tool sf4313.

The use of some quartz stones in the backfilling has been mentioned and a careful search was made for worked quartz from the graves, but most pieces proved to be natural gravel, and one flake (sf5430) from an intrusive ploughsoil deposit (40112) in cist 1is probably glass. However in cist 2, the cist fill (40115) produced a tiny fragment of clear crystal quartz (sf5438).

The only other finds from the cists consisted of some fragments of what appear to be modern glass, all of which came from the ploughsoil derived fills of cist 1. Two small sherds of greenish glass sf4251 came from (40113), the secondary fill of the cist box, whilst sf5845, a green glass sherd was recovered the upper fill (40112) above.

Other features in cist barrow
A number of other features were also identified within the vicinity of the cist cemetery. Located halfway between cists 1 and 4, a large sub-circular feature (40171) was tenuously identified due to a slight difference in colour between its fill and the surrounding sandy gravel natural. The feature, which in plan appeared similar in size and shape to the larger cist cuts, was 2.3m long and 1.85m wide. Upon excavation, the cut appeared to have concave sides which broke gradually to a flattish base. No cist structure was identified within it. Its fill (40172) was excavated to a depth of 0.6m and seemed to consist of 3 lenses of relatively clean sands and gravels which were archaeologically sterile. The feature itself, despite its initial interpretation as a cist cut, was subsequently designated as natural in origin.

Very little charcoal was recorded within the cist graves. Some however was identified in a group of deposits just to the south of cist 7 and the west of cist 8. Two adjoining deposits (40198) and (40199) consisted of irregularly shaped patches between 0.10 and 0.15m deep of a pale to mid brown clayey silt mixed with natural gravels and small concentrations of charcoal. More charcoal-rich deposits were recovered from the silt filled voids left by the animal burrows or tree roots (40200) which appeared to skirt the edges of the two deposits above. In addition, two sherds of Bronze Age pottery sf4327 were recovered from (40200) during excavation, and more pot fragments sf5848, including a rim sherd sf6339, were recovered from a wet sieved sample.

Two smaller, oval shaped cuts (40101) and (40105) were identified in the eastern part of the cemetery, lying between cist 6 to the north and 5 to the south. Feature (40101), was 0.45m wide, 0.35m long and 0.11m deep, and feature (40105) was larger at 0.83m long, 0.57m wide and 0.13m deep. Neither contained any finds or charcoal and they may have been natural hollows. Another slight hollow (40107) just outside of the cist cemetery and only 0.05m deep would be similarly disregarded except for three pieces of struck stone (sf5499) from the fill. The stone appears to be from the Graig Lwyd axe quarry and as the flakes have two polished facets they seem to be fragments of stone axes.

Discussion of the cist cemetery.
The two complete pots indicate an early Bronze Age date for the cists and they fit well within that tradition.

The roughly symmetrical layout of the cists and their fairly regular spacing suggests that they were all visible at the same time. There seems to be no clear central burial around which they were grouped and all the large cists were of roughly the same depth with no indication of some being inserted through a barrow. It is possible that the small cists were later additions, they were certainly much shallower than the large cists but two of the small cists were placed in the same relationship to two larger cists, just clipping the back fill on their northern side. This makes it possible that they were deliberately located in relation to the larger cists which must, therefore, have been visible at the time. These considerations make it likely that either the cists formed a flat cemetery or a barrow covered all of them after all the burials had been interned. In the former case a more dispersed layout might be expected, but if a barrow was planned from the start and the cists concentrated close together with this in mind the present pattern might be explained. The cists could all be covered by a barrow about 10m in diameter; quite a modest size for a Bronze Age barrow.

If this interpretation is correct the cist group is an example of a multi-cist barrow. These have previously been unknown in North Wales, although a small number have been found in South Wales (Savory 1972), and therefore represents an entirely new site type for the region. No trace of this barrow was detected, but presumably this had been removed in the past. However it cannot have had a ditch around it as some trace of this would probably have survived.

Bronze Age cists can be associated with either inhumation or cremation burial rites, although the former is more usual in the early Bronze Age. The scarcity of unburnt bone from prehistoric features from across the site shows that bone is likely to be leached away by the acid soils, especially in this location where the gravel would have provided a well-draining substrate. However, burnt bone is very resilient and there is no reason why cremated remains would not be preserved if they were originally present, especially in the completely undisturbed cists. The tiny fragments of burnt bone that were recovered demonstrates that this does survive but there was on indication that this was human bone and very much more would have been present if even partial cremations had been deposited in the cists. It must be assumed therefore that the cists originally contained crouched inhumation burials, and that the well drained and acidic environment has resulted in the bones, and any other organic articles included with them at the time of burial, have long since disappeared. The size of the large cists is completely consistent with crouched adult inhumations. Small cists are more usual for cremations, but the lack of cremated bone on this site strongly suggests that these too held crouched inhumations. If this was so they could only have been children, possibly infants.

This raises questions about the two cists cutting the edge of larger cists. This might possibly have reflected a family relationship but without any bones this cannot be tested. The near central position of one of the smaller cists might also be significant, although it may just have been inserted in an obvious space.

Ring-ditch (PRN 31590)
See figure 7
A ring-ditch (group number 40193) lay on the south-eastern edge of the plateau. It was sub-circular in plan with a maximum external diameter of approximately 12m north-south and 11.3m east-west. The ditch defined a level, sub-circular area which measured up to 8.7m east-west and 9m north-south. The feature was initially investigated by excavating five 1-2m long segments along its length. The cut of the ring-ditch, recorded as (40017/40018/40021/40025/40030), was widest in the north-west quadrant where, as (40030), it reached a width of 1.83m in section. Elsewhere it was generally between 1.5 and 1.34m wide, though it was narrower in the south-east quadrant where, as (40018), it was just 1.19m. This narrowing was probably due to truncation as the ditch was also much shallower in this quadrant, at only 0.19m. Its maximum depth of 0.4m was identified in the north-west quadrant (40021), whilst elsewhere it tended to be around 0.3m deep. The profile of the ditch varied, it generally had convex or irregular sides which broke to an irregular but flattish base. In general the outside edge appeared to be more steeply cut and break more sharply to the base than the more gently sloping inside edges.

The primary fill of the feature was generally consistent around the circumference of the ditch. The deposit, recorded as (40020/40022/40027/40031/40091), consisted of a generally firm, mid brown to orange brown sandy silt with a high proportion of gravel and small stone inclusions. This primary deposit more or less filled the cut of the ring-ditch. It was very similar to the natural material into which the ditch was cut and could have formed as a result of the natural silting of the feature over a prolonged period. No evidence for tip lines that may

suggest an earthen bank around the ditch or mound within the central area were noted. No finds were identified within the primary fill during the excavation stage of the project but some hammer-scale (sf5847: a slag fragment and a single spheroid of hammerscale and sf5890: tiny fragments of slag or rust crusts) were subsequently recovered from wet sieved samples of (40022) and (40019). However these are so small that they could easily be intrusive. Wet sieving of a sample from (40091) produced burnt bone fragments sf3109 and sf4298, a natural flint chip sf4296, and a small black hexagonal bead (sf4297). This might be glass but is more probably another material and it is so small that again it is probably intrusive.

An upper fill of the ring-ditch was also identified in places, which appeared to extend over the edges of the cut in some places and contained fragments of post-medieval pottery and glass. This fill was probably derived from the post-medieval ploughsoil accumulating in the top of the hollow formed by the partially silted-up ring-ditch.

All of the area enclosed by the ditch was archaeologically examined however no internal features were identified, despite extensive hand cleaning and subsequent re-machining.

Recut
Cutting through this later fill was a narrow cut, concentric with the ring-ditch and running approximately along its centre line. This was recorded as (40016/40023/40028/40033), where it was originally identified in four of the five excavated segments. It was particularly apparent in the north-west quadrant, where it was recorded as (40033) and was approximately 0.27m deep, extending through the primary fill and all the way to the bottom of the ring-ditch cut (40030). In the north-east quadrant the fill of the recut (40023) appeared to be less easy to differentiate from remnant ploughsoil in the area but it still but appeared to be around 0.55m wide and 0.25m deep. Later, more extensive, excavation of a 9.2m long arc of the ring-ditch cut along its west side, established that the recut, now renumbered as (40201), was present along the complete length of the excavated segment. Wherever it was identified, it generally had steep, irregular or slightly concave sides which broke gradually/sharply to a sometimes slightly concave, generally flattish base.

The recut was filled with a stony deposit which generally contained a high proportion of larger stones. In some places more angular stones appear to have been deliberately laid flat, but much of the fill consisted of randomly placed cobbles.

The only part of the ring-ditch where the recut was not recorded as such is in the south-east quadrant. In this area a secondary ring-ditch fill (40019) was identified. It consisted of a shallow layer of dark blackish brown gravely silt, 0.12m deep and 0.65m wide in section. Though apparently lacking the large stones seen elsewhere, the fill does appear to be similar to the soil matrix of the stony recut fill and it probably represents the truncated remains of the recut in this quadrant. The recut, therefore, seems to have run round the full circumference of the ring-ditch.

Discussion of the ring-ditch
The circularity of the ring-ditch makes its only likely function as the ditch surrounding a Bronze Age barrow. There is a lack of dating evidence, but the proximity of other significant Bronze Age monuments makes this interpretation likely. One or more cists might be expected inside a ring-ditch, under the barrow that would have filled the interior. However, in this region there are other examples of upstanding mounds with cists within the body of the mound but not under it. The larger ring-ditch at Tŷ Mawr, just 400m to the north, had no contemporary cist in its interior (Davidson *et al* forthcoming). It is also probable that the area has been severely truncated by ploughing and that any small cremation cists under the barrow may have been lost.

The recut seems to have been a post medieval feature following a slight hollow left by the infilled ditch. Its stone fill suggests a drainage feature and it may be that the site of the barrow, and possibly slight remains of the mound, was reused for agricultural purposes, possibly for a haystack.

'Figure of 8' shaped enclosure (PRN 31591)
See figure 7
The geophysical survey identified a small enclosure defined by a deep ditch (group number 40203) (located at SH 25212 81058) and this was investigated with an evaluation trench, but was not understood. Even when fully stripped it was assumed to be a late feature as the upper fill was so dark and contained late artefacts. The feature was initially seen in plan as a roughly D-shaped enclosure defined by dark stony soil, but on excavation this proved to be just the final fill of the ditches. The feature was initially investigated by cutting a number of trenches through the ditch, then when its importance was realised it was fully excavated. When fully excavated

the enclosure appeared to be an irregular ovoid shape, pinched in at the middle to form a 'figure of 8' shape which enclosed two separate areas. It measured about 11.5m by 7.2m, with ditches up to 1m in depth and generally around 1.4-1.6 m wide. Excavation also demonstrated that its appearance is due to cutting and recutting of ditches during different phases of activity, and its form seems to have changed during its use. Intensive cleaning of the interior also revealed a small number of pits cut into the enclosed area.

Cross-cutting ditch
The earliest component of the enclosure was a ditch (22062) that ran in a 3.6m long arc from E-W, bisecting the area enclosed by the '8 shaped' ditch. It had an average width of 0.85m and was 0.97m deep with steep, almost vertical sides. Its primary fill (22074) consisted of a 0.25m deep layer of loose, dark reddish brown silt with occasional small rounded pebbles in it. Above this was (22061), a 0.15m deep layer of firm medium orange brown clayey silt with occasional pebble inclusions. The top 20cm of the cut were filled with a firm, light brown silt with frequent gravel and rounded pebble inclusions. This upper fill (22060) was much more gravely than the rest the fills but all the fills were very similar to the surrounding natural sands and gravels. The cut and its fills were truncated at either end by the main enclosure ditch, (22120/22111) to the west and (22124) to the east. No finds were recovered from any of the deposits associated with (22062).

It is probable that this ditch originally enclosed a circular area, but much of this ditch was entirely cut away by the later ditch. The circular shape however was retained in this end of the later enclosure.

Main Enclosure Ditch
Ditch cut and primary fill
The main enclosure was orientated north-south and was 11.6m long and 3.85m wide. It appeared to be divided into two separate enclosed areas, one to the north approximately circular in plan and approximately 3.54m in diameter, and a trapezoidal area to the south 4.45m long and 3.87m wide. As the cross cutting ditch was infilled before the larger enclosure was cut the two parts of the enclosure were not physically separated but the later ditch was nipped in as if it had been closely following the earlier circular ditch then had to correct to add on the larger southern end of the enclosure. The northern end may therefore have remained conceptually different from the southern end.

The ditch was generally around 1.4-1.6 m wide though slightly narrower along the southern side and south-eastern corner where it was between 1.0-1.2m. Its depth was generally around 0.80m, though this value ranged between 0.69 and 0.98m in various locations along its length. Its profile varied, though overall it had quite steep, even sides curving quite sharply into a flat base.

There were exceptions to this pattern however. On the eastern side at the junction with the cross cutting ditch (22062), the enclosure ditch (22129) had concave sides which imperceptibly broke to a rounded base. The profile of the ditch also appears to have been slightly different on the north side of the enclosure. In (22069) in the north and (22090) in the north-east, the sides were more gently sloping towards the top of the ditch and became much steeper around 0.40-0.55m from the bottom. It is possible that these deeper parts of the cut with their steeper profiles represent the remains of the north side of the earlier ring-ditch as their width and profiles are comparable to that noted for the cross cutting ditch (22062). There was little evidence to suggest a recut through the fills however, and the significance of the difference in profile of the ditch in this area is uncertain.

The primary fill of the enclosure ditch predominately consisted of a loose, mid to dark orangey brown clayey, sometimes sandy, silt. The deposit tended to contain some small and medium stones, sometimes concentrated in lenses. Its thickness varied, though it generally ranged between 0.36m (22083) and 0.45m (22089). It does however appear to have been recorded as a generally shallower deposit on the west side where its depth ranged from 0.11m (22137) to 0.22m (22096). The primary fill appeared to have eroded rapidly from both sides of the ditch, often lying at a steep angle where it had built up against the ditch sides.

No physical traces of an *in situ* bank associated with the enclosure were noted during the excavation. However the majority of the sections cut along the length of the enclosure displayed evidence for the primary deposit having a differential in the rate of infill between the inside and outside edges of the enclosure ditch. This was visible in the sections as tip lines in the primary fill which appear to indicate that material was eroding into the ditch from the outside at a faster rate than it was from within. The ditch sides remained sharp and steep so most of the eroded material does not seem to have come from the eroding sides. It therefore seems likely that there was an external bank made of material dug from the ditch, which rapidly slipped back into the ditch.

Relatively few finds were recovered from the primary fill. The majority of excavated portions appeared to be completely archaeologically sterile. In some, such as (22089) in the north-east, the only potentially anthropogenic materials identified were occasional charcoal fragments. Finds were however encountered in three areas. In the south-west corner, (22083) contained occasional fragments of charcoal, some worked chert chips sf1263, and some small white quartz pebbles recorded as sf1361 and sf1364, although these could have originated from the natural local gravel.

Secondary activity
The primary fill seems to have been very rapidly deposited in the ditch preserving its loose gravel sides in a fresh and uneroded state. Activity detected in the ditch immediately after this primary filling may therefore post-date the ditch digging by only a short period.

The two slots placed in the north-western part of the ditch revealed evidence for thin layers of organic-rich, silty deposits lying directly above the primary fill. These deposits (22099 and 22092) where only 0.03m deep and were dark brown to black, slightly sandy silt containing flecks of charcoal. It seems possible that they were part of a continuous layer in this north-western part of the enclosure and might represent the development of a soil layer and the stabilisation of the ditch. No finds were recovered from either deposit.

Other deposits in the same stratigraphic position suggest a more active use of the enclosure. In south-eastern corner of the enclosure, the gravely primary fill of the ditch (22075) seemed to have eroded only from the outside of the ditch and had built-up to a very steep angle against the ditch side. Immediately overlying this but deposited from the inside of the enclosure was a dark, greyish-brown, silty clay containing approximately 5% charcoal (22077). This deposit was recorded for a distance of at least 0.9m.

A number of finds were recovered from this inner, charcoal-rich fill (22077). These included a rim sherd (sf1074). This large rimsherd has 2 lines of stamped decoration and is made in a hard fabric that is well-fired with a lot of mica and other dark stone grit. The fabric is very suggestive of Malvernian Group A, and it is possible that this is a sherd of an Iron Age pot imported from the southern Welsh Borders. The deposit also contained fragments of burnt bone sf4211, some pieces of animal bone sf5880, a piece of worked stone sf1269, a fragment of flint sf1357 and two small white quartzite pebbles, sf1358 and sf1360. No finds were identified within the outer deposit (22075)

There was a suggestion during the excavation that 22077 was within a pit or recut of the ditch but this interpretation seems to have been based entirely on the steep interface between 22075 and 22077. There was no other evidence of a cut and this seems unlikely. It seems that deposit 20077 should be interpreted as material dumped or eroded into the ditch soon after the primary filling event from the inside of the enclosure.

A similar deposit seems to have been present in the ditch further along the eastern side of the enclosure where a charcoal-rich deposit (22116) contained flint and chert debitage sf1220, some worked stone sf1330, a number of white quartzite pebbles sf1359 and fragments of burnt bone (sf4278).

In the north-eastern part of the ditch the primary fill had also come to rest at a steep angle and the resulting hollow was infilled with a loose light grey sandy silt containing very frequent small pebbles and larger, rounded white quartzite pebbles (22088). At least one of these quartzite pebbles, sf1096 appeared to have been heated and traces of burnt earth or daub where identified adhering to its surface. This pebbly deposit appeared to run around the north-east corner of the enclosure a similar deposit (22091) rich in rounded quartzite pebbles, was also recorded in the north of the enclosure ditch, overlying a patch of possible buried soil (22092). As quartz is sometimes deliberately deposited in graves and monuments the excavators were noting the presence of quartz within this feature. The concentration of quartz in this area is therefore likely to be genuine and seems not to be related to variations in its concentration in the natural gravels, raising the possibility that it was deliberately deposited or originated from a deposit enriched in quartz pebbles.

On the west side of the enclosure at the west Junction between the enclosure ditch and cross cutting ditch (22062) a number of larger schist cobbles and slabs were noted. One of these, stone (22112), was a large sub-rectangular piece of schist 0.9m long, 0.46m wide and 0.19m thick. It appeared in section as an isolated slab, set almost vertically on its end and inclined slightly towards the inner edge of the ditch. The bottom of the stone was sunk within the primary ditch fill (22110/22109) and its top protruded through the upper ditch fill (22106). Stone (22112) rested against some other large stones and appears to have slid over and down them before

coming to rest in its near vertical position. Given the size and weight of (22112) it is unlikely to have slid to its final resting place without aid to be pushed or dragged over the inside edge of the enclosure ditch.

A similar concentration of larger stones was noted on the other side of the enclosure at the east junction with the earlier cross cutting ditch (22062).The stony deposit here (22126/22131) contained at least five large stones; sub-rectangular schist slabs approximately 0.1m thick and between 0.50 and 0.80m long, and 0.30 and 0.35m wide. They were quite densely packed against the inside face of the enclosure ditch. In the southern part of the enclosure another large stone slab appears to have been pushed or dragged into the ditch. The secondary fill of the ditch here (22080) contained at least one large schist slab at its edge, (0.6m long, 0.2m thick and at least 0.36m wide) together with some smaller cobbles. They all appear to have been tipped into the ditch from the inside of the enclosure following the primary erosion episode (22079). A further substantial schist slab was located in the south-western part of the ditch. This slab was sub-rectangular and at least 0.75m long, 0.50m wide and 0.15m thick. It rested on and against the inside face of the enclosure ditch immediately to the north of the south-western corner and parts of its top were visible before excavation commenced. It also appears to have been pushed, dragged or carried to the edge of the ditch from the inside of the enclosure.

Stone 22112 was associated with a relatively artefact-rich layer (22108) of firm, dark brown clay silt which contained four conjoining pieces of the rim of a medium sized undecorated, early Bronze Age Food Vessel (sf1090). Another small piece of pottery (sf1104) was body sherd from a different vessel, possibly a Beaker. The other finds from the deposit comprised an unworked river cobble (sf1097) and 2 irregular chert fragments (sf1266).

The large slab recorded as part of deposit (22080) in the south-west corner of the enclosure, was associated with layer (22084), another deposit of loose dark greyish brown sandy silt with frequent charcoal inclusions. The layer had accumulated against the inside edge of the enclosure ditch and partially filled the hollow surface of primary fill (22083). The section clearly demonstrates that the material had been deposited in the ditch from within the enclosed area. The layer contained six body sherds of a medium sized undecorated early Bronze Age Food Vessel (sf1094), made from the same poorly fired crumbly fabric as sf1090. It is possible that they may even be part of the same vessel. Some quartz pebbles sf1362 were also recovered from the deposit.

The relationship of these slabs to the charcoal and artefact-rich deposits and the fact that where these deposits or those with quartz stones all occur at the same stratigraphic level in different parts of the ditch demonstrates that they were probably part of a single phase of activity.

Later ditch infilling

Following the activity discussed above the enclosure seems to have been abandoned and the ditch continued to fill gradually. Generally this fill consisted of an orange-brown silty deposit with small pebble inclusions but its physical characteristics varied around the length of the ditch. The quantity of stones it contained varied and in places there were occasional flecks of charcoal. Very few finds were recovered from this deposit. In the north-eastern part of the enclosure ditch two chert flakes (sf5972) were identified within (22087), and in the south-east, a rubbing stone (sf1070) was recorded amongst the larger stones and cobbles in (22070).

All indications suggest gradual erosion of surrounding deposits into the ditch over a long time period. This filled most of the ditch but a shallow hollow must have remained marking where the enclosure had been.

When first exposed the enclosure was defined by a stony deposit in a dark matrix, which had initially given the impression of it being a post medieval feature. This stony deposit was seen along the entire length of the upper levels of the enclosure ditch, with the exception of the north-western corner. The layer was between 0.22 and 0.31m deep and consisted of medium to large angular blocks of schist and round and sub-rounded cobbles. The stones were contained within a generally loose, mid-dark greyish brown sandy or clayey silt matrix with occasional small pebble inclusions.

The stones along the eastern and southern sides of the enclosure appeared to be more densely packed, with some apparently deliberately placed along the centre line of the ditch. Although no evidence for coursing was identified, they gave the impression of being quite carefully stacked and seemed to possess a clearly defined outer edge or face at the base, suggesting a rough wall.

There appears to have been little trace of an upper stony deposit in a 3-4 long arc in the north-western corner of the ditch. The upper fill here is recorded as a 0.07m deep, loose mid greyish brown silty clay loam with small rounded stones (22101).

The only finds recovered from the upper stony deposit came from the south-east corner, where deposit (22073) contained a variety of post-medieval material including fragments of clear window glass, small sherds of late pottery (sf1252 and sf1276), a piece of sawn roofing slate with a hole (sf1271) and some fragments of coke (sf1301and sf1355). Some white quartz pebbles sf1356 and sf1363 were also collected.

On the eastern side of the enclosure, near to the junction with cross cutting ditch (22062), the stony fill was covered by a 0.20m deep layer of loose grey to blackish brown sandy silt with some charcoal (22132/22063/22127). The deposit contained post-medieval and modern finds including 4 pieces of post-medieval pottery, two pieces of glass, including part of the top of a glass bottle, and a piece of clay pipe stem (sf2134). A similar deposit (22138) was identified in the south-west part of the enclosure overlying stony deposit with fragments of post medieval pottery throughout.

Pits in and around the enclosure
Three small cut features were identified within the enclosure. All were sub-circular, no more than 0.5m in diameter, and relatively shallow (up to 0.12m deep) with charcoal-rich fills. No evidence for burning *in situ* was recorded but pit 22059 contained fragments of burnt clay (sf1303).

One (22059) was cut through the upper fill (22060) of cross cutting ditch (22062) at its west end. The two features (22200 and 22123) were identified within the south-western corner of the enclosure. Pit (22123) had apparently been disturbed by post medieval activity resulting in the inclusion of a post-medieval sherd but no other finds were recorded from these pits. The charcoal-rich fills of all three of the pits appeared to be quite fresh and it is possible that all three were associated with the latest activity resulting in the construction of the rough wall in the south-western part of the ditch.

Two features were located about 2m to the south of the enclosure. Posthole (22118) contained a number of large stones suggestive of post packing, and must have held a fairly substantial post as it was 0.72m in diameter and 0.3m deep. It produced a number of small fragments of pottery. Sf3049 was an unabraded early Neolithic sherd but it was associated with a number of fragments that appeared to come from a Food Vessel (sf1222, sf1469, sf1491), so it is assumed that the Neolithic sherd was residual and that the posthole was more likely to be of early Bronze Age date. Lithics recovered from the deposit comprised a number of pieces of flint (sf1230, sf1478), some worked chert (sf1245, sf1259, sf1342), and a tiny chip of rock crystal (sf1317). The fill also contained some fragments of burnt bone (sf1315, sf4254, sf1293).

Nearby was a slightly larger pit (19049), which was circular, 0.62m in diameter and 0.15m deep. The pit was filled with a friable dark brown sandy silt (19050) with concentrations of charcoal throughout. There was no evidence of burning *in situ* and no finds were recovered.

Other smaller pits and postholes further from the enclosure may not be related to it or the other Bronze Age monuments as early Neolithic pottery was recovered from some of them. The have been discussed above in the early Neolithic section.

Discussion
Unlike the ring-ditch to the east, or the cist barrow to the north, this monument is difficult to classify in terms of its function and purpose. With an absence of funerary material or depositions, it can only be assumed at this stage that this is some form of ceremonial monument. The presence of the ring-ditch and cists make it natural to assume that the enclosure was in some way related to these but its dating is problematic.

The truncated nature of the ditch cut (22062) does tend to encourage speculation that it may be the surviving portion of a larger feature. Though only a short length of the ditch survives, its shape in plan suggests that it may originally have formed part of the southern side of a circular ring-ditch. If this was the case, then given the steepness of the ditch sides, it appears that any early ring-ditch must have run within the course of the north portion of the wider, more gently sloping sided ‘figure of 8’ shaped enclosure ditch.

The monument seems to have developed from a small circular feature to a larger enclosure, suggesting a change of function perhaps. The northern end of the enclosure was regular and with the cross ditch defined a neat circle.

This has been used to suggest that the cross ditch was originally the southern arc of a circular ditch, much of which was cut away by the later ditch. The stepped profile of the ditch around the north perimeter of the later enclosure perhaps supports this argument. If this original ditch was of the same width as the cross ditch, i.e. narrower than the later ditch it is not surprising that most of it has been removed. The circle formed by this narrower ditch would have enclosed an area perhaps around 4m in diameter. However the surviving part of this ditch shows that it was nearly 1m deep, a depth that seems to have been out of scale with the area of the enclosure.

Bronze Age barrows are generally created from the upcast from the surrounding ditch, but in this case the interior space seems to be too small to accommodate the material dug from the ditch. This raises the question of whether this feature was the ring-ditch for a barrow. Despite intensive cleaning by hand, no funerary deposits or structures were discovered within either the original or later form of the enclosure, although as argued in relation to the nearby ring-ditch this cannot rule out the former existence of small cremation burials within a mound. The ditch sides, cut in loose gravels, were not eroded and there was little primary silting in the base of the ditch. It certainly seems unlikely that the ditch was open to the weather over a winter. The fills were clean gravel with little evidence of mixing with topsoil and these factors suggest that the fill was redeposited back into the ditch shortly after it was dug. The rapid refilling of ditches that seem to be dug purely for the process of digging them is seen in Neolithic causewayed camps and has occasionally been reported from Iron Age enclosures.

The surviving portion of the cross- cutting ditch appears to have been completely filled, and possibly deliberately levelled. The whole sequence of digging and filling was certainly complete before the creation of the later enclosure ditch, but the time span between the digging of the two ditches might have been short. The later ditch followed the earlier ditch very closely, that the eastern and western ditches were ‘pinched’ in creating a distorted number 8 shape, when they could easily have been parallel. The inside edges of the ditch clearly curved inwards at each side towards the truncated ends of the cross cutting ditch (22062). It is possible that there was an intention to express some kind of continuity between an earlier and later monument, a desire to incorporate not just the area enclosed by the original monument, but also to retain elements of its shape in plan.

The new southern part of the enclosure did not define a regular form. This is not an example of two conjoined ring-ditches as at Plas Gogerddan (Murphy 1992) as the southern part of the enclosure is unlikely to have surrounded a regular circular mound. It may be that the precise shape was of little importance. Although the ditches remained deep there was more room in the interior to contain a mound made from ditch upcast. However the differential infilling of the ditch is more suggestive of an external bank. The rapid initial infilling of the ditch seems to have come from this unstable bank as the sides of the ditch were steep with little evidence of collapse due to erosion.

There were no causeways across the deep ditch so, unless some kind of plank bridge was constructed, access to the interior would have been very difficult. It is possibly now impossible to reconstruct what was in the interior. The large slabs that ended in the ditch clearly came from the interior of the enclosure, where presumably they had formed some kind of structure. This was not a cist buried in a pit as the pit would have been clearly visible. It is unlikely to have been a cist within a mound as no mound-type material was deposited when the slabs were dumped in the ditch. It is therefore suggested that this was an upstanding structure or structures. A continuous stone bank or wall seems unlikely as in this case large stones would be present all the way around the inside of the ditch. The stones seem to have been pushed in at the corners of the southern part of the enclosure and they might have originally laid or stood near those corners. It is temping to imagine them as standing stones, but unless the holes that held them were very shallow some indication of their original positions should have survived.

At some point the monument seems to have been deliberately slighted and the stones were pushed into the ditch. With them went considerable quantities of what resembles occupation debris with charcoal, occasional burnt bone fragments, a few lithics and some pot sherds. Was this material generated by the people slighting the monument or had it been produced during the monument’s use? Disturbance inside the enclosure might have destabilised existing deposits that then washed into the ditch or the material might even have been deliberately dumped into the ditch to ritually clean the interior. As these deposits contain the only dating evidence for the monument their origin is critical if the date is to be understood.

The possible deposition of quartz pebbles during this phase of activity might indicate that it was not an act of desecration but a respectful ritual of closure. The deposition of quartz pebbles is attested at Neolithic chambered

tombs in many parts of British and Ireland (Darvill 2002, 81). In North Wales, Capel Garmon, Pant y Saer and Tŷ Newydd all contained quartz pebbles, as did the Anglesey passage graves, Bryn Celli Ddu and Barclodiad y Gawres (Lynch 1969, 150).

The Food Vessels suggest an early Bronze Age date for this second phase of activity, but the presence of the Iron Age Malvernian sherd raises questions. The other monuments in this area demonstrate that there was early Bronze Age activity nearby. It is possible that much of the material was from a ground surface or occupation deposit related to these and not associated with the enclosure at all. The primary fill seems to have been deposited rapidly but there seems to have been some stabilisation and the development in places of an incipient soil. The secondary activity may therefore have been sometime after the creation of the enclosure, but there was no time for significant silting and erosion into the ditch as would have occurred if it had been open for a long time. It is therefore suggested that the secondary activity was a matter of years rather than decades after the construction of the enclosure. Was the monument therefore in use for only a short duration? Was it an Iron Age monument dug through an area of Bronze Age occupation? Although the sequence of events and the form of the monument has been clarified by studying the field records there are still many basic questions to be answered about this feature, many of which might be impossible to do so.

The Tŷ Mawr Standing Stone (PRN 2501)
(SAM A12, SH 2539 8095, see figure 3 for location)

The stone is an attractive piece of schist with swirling bedding planes, and an almost anthropomorphic shape. It stands c. 2.5m high, and is a maximum of 1.7m wide and 0.4m thick. It is located on a local high point, at an altitude of 12m OD, but not on the highest point in the area, in a gently undulating, rather than a craggy, field. The views are good all round, but especially good of Holyhead mountain. When the stone was inspected for the initial assessment of the development area in 2000 it stood in a slight hollow caused by livestock eroding the ground around it, which had exposed the packing stones around the base of the monolith. No earthworks were noticed around the stone, despite the grass in this field being particularly short at the time.

A small square marks the stone on the 1889 map, but it is not labelled. On the 1926 map it is marked as a *maen hir*. The monument is listed by RCAHMW (1937) as a *maen hir* 83/4 ft high 4ft wide and 11/4ft thick. Baynes (1911, p71) states that its south-east face is facing the summer solstice sunrise, and that an alignment from here to the burial chamber at Trefignath is within one degree of the winter solstice sunrise. A geophysical survey was carried out by Geophysical Surveys of Bradford in 1990, which revealed a possible bank around the monument, and associated linear features. There is a possibility that the circular anomaly could be the trace of a former fence, but no such fence is shown on any map (Geophysical Surveys 1990).

In the current development an open area has been left around the stone and running towards the chambered tomb to preserve the site lines between the monuments. No investigation was therefore carried out close to the stone. However all round the excluded area was stripped and revealed to contain very few features. Some features such as feature 19136 in area M3 were probably not genuine anthropogenic features. 19136 was a large shallow pit with a peaty fill containing some charcoal and occasional burnt stones with tiny fragments of burnt bone, but it is more likely to have been a root hollow with some burning that a deliberate pit. Other features, such as an irregular group of hollows (19146, 19148, 19154, 19184, 19186 and 19188), possibly also the result of root activity contained fragments of 18th or 19th century pottery and were probably late in date. Pits 19184, 19186 and 19188 were located about 60m south-east of the standing stone. They shared the same greyish brown silty fill, but lacked dating evidence. About 110m north-west of the stone were three pits (19090, 19194 and 19174) with brown silty fills but no dating evidence. Closer to the stone on the west side, within area M3, were other pits and hollows but none produced any finds or other dating evidence and there was little evidence of burning or charcoal. While it cannot be ruled out that these were prehistoric features it seems that they were of little significance.

The stone therefore seems to be in isolation from contemporary activity. The nearest Bronze Age activity is represented by the ceremonial complex about 200m north-west in area M4. Apart from the burnt mounds and some isolated pits there is little that suggests Bronze Age activity over much of the site. However about 300m south-east of the stone and hidden from it behind a hill was the timber roundhouse that might have been Bronze Age in date. There is also the group of charcoal-filled pits (group 25046) that might be Bronze Age. All these features are close to a line defined by the standing stone and the chambered tomb. This line avoids marshes,

hills and most rock outcrops and may indicate a route through the landscape originating in the Bronze Age if not earlier.

Areas B2 and F1 (PRN 14599)

Introduction

In the middle of the development site, between Lôn Trefignath and an area of marsh (centred on SH 25555 80775), was an extensive zone of archaeological activity. This covered the site sub-areas referred to as B2 and F1 and occupied a large proportion of the excavation effort on the site. The majority of the activity is interpreted as a long-lived settlement with stone-built roundhouses and numerous ancillary structures. The main settlement is currently assumed to be Iron Age but there were a small number of earlier features and many later ones. The chronology given below is based on the stratigraphy and dating is largely by parallels with similar structures as the number of diagnostic finds was small. It is intended to submit this area to an intensive radiocarbon dating programme, which should enable a more secure chronology to be constructed.

A Harris Matrix has been constructed for the whole of the B2/F1 archaeology which defines a sequence of events as determined by the order in which layers and features occurred. However, this apparently objective tool cannot relate the history of the settlement as the nature and duration of these events require interpretation. Much of this interpretation is subjective, although based on detailed study of the field evidence and logical argument. The process of closely inspecting the evidence has resulted in a reassessment of some of the interpretations reached in the field. The text below is not divided into description and interpretation as in other sections of this report because the archaeology is too complex to make sense without considerable interpretation. The key to understanding this site is the phasing, which is created from a combination of stratigraphic relationships and the interpretation described above. The archaeology will therefore be discussed by phase, with justifications of how these phase divisions have been reached. However reinterpretation of a small part of the site can result in dramatic changes in the phasing and these phases should be considered as provisional until tested by the radiocarbon dating programme.

Natural substrate

Most of areas B2 and F1 were underlain by boulder clay. This was generally mottled in pale yellow and grey and quite stony. The boulder clay closer to the marsh (93623) generally contained more clay than the yellowish sandy clay (93624) further away. Places near the marsh were underlain by shattered stone, apparently regolith. Elsewhere the stone in the boulder clay seems to have migrated to the surface and been sorted into patterns. This stony layer (93622) was restricted to the edge of the marsh and composed of mainly angular schist pieces with rare rounded cobbles. Some of the slabs were up to 0.5m in length. Many of the stones lay at random angles but there were no coherent patterns and the edges of apparent features were very diffuse. Some stones were embedded in the firm blue-grey silty clay (93623), but others had been raised up into a peaty deposit (93620) above or had voids between the stones with little matrix. The latter stones tended to be concentrated in linear hollows. This pattern of linear hollows and stones being lifted to the surface of the layer suggests frost sorting. This can cause stones to be moved upwards often standing flat slabs on end and eventually when these penetrate the surface they collapse over and lay horizontally. Frost action works to sort stones by size with the larger stones moving towards the surface or into hollows or fissures caused also by frost action in the underlying clay. Frost sorting on this scale is indicative of peri-glacial conditions at the end of the last Ice Age (Ballantyne and Harris 1994).

Topography and the marsh

The location of human activity in this part of the site seems to have been heavily influenced by the natural topography. The south-west to north-east alignment of the topography is strongly defined here with a rocky outcrop running on this alignment with a parallel linear basin at its foot to the north. The focus of settlement was close to the northern margin of the north-eastern end of this basin. To the south-west of the settlement area was a rounded hillock c. 3.5m high with a similar knoll (c. 4m high) to the north-east. The settlement area was further sheltered by a slight rise in the ground to the north-west.

The linear basin is currently a well established valley marsh, which was until recently drained by a mid 19th century culvert (see below). A series of test pits dug in 2006 (Geotechnics 2006) and 2007 (Jones Brothers pers com), and 10 core samples taken by Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental in August 2007 established approximately the area and depth of the peat within areas F and G. Two trenches dug for the archaeological evaluation phase (trenches 20 and 21) also helped to define the edge of the marsh in area G (Davidson and Roberts 2004).

The investigations revealed a maximum depth of over 4m of peat and fine organic mud (gyttja) over a grey silty clay. The clay was deposited when the basin was an open lake and the gyttja represents more organic freshwater deposits. The peat was the result of this small lake filling in and becoming a marsh. The peat depth varies and the sides of the basin seem to be very steep in places, however, the peat is consistently shallower towards the south-western end of the marsh.

One of the cores was selected for pollen analysis by Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental and the results of the palaeoenvironmental assessment indicated that peat accumulation may have started from about 11,000 BC, towards the end of the glacial period. The pollen sequence traces the development of woodland dominated by hazel and willow but the sequence ends in the early Holocene (Mesolithic period) implying that the mid-late Holocene peat deposits had been removed by peat cutting (Gearey *et al* vol II, part XV). Evaluation trenches dug into the northern margin of the marsh revealed deposits of bark and twigs mixed with peat (93358 and 93468). A radiocarbon date on this bark of 8221-7827 cal BC (KIA40119) suggested a Mesolithic date for the surviving marsh edge deposits.

The basin was therefore never open water during human activity in the area, but a peat marsh not dissimilar to what appears today. However it seems to have suffered from regular flooding. Water-bourn deposits of gleyed sands and silts were found extending from the north-eastern end of the basin and flooding continued into the life of the settlement as will be described below. Loose dark brown and grey sands and gravels and grey silts up to 0.4m deep (90178/90179, 90189 and 18177) indicate a shallow channel under what was to be the northern part of the settlement. This probably drained water into the marsh at a fairly early period.

Overlying the glacial deposits a soil had developed, which was preserved as a buried horizon across much of the site. Generally this was seen as a firm grey or grey brown silty clay with occasional small stones (e.g. 91084, 91192) between 0.05-0.20m in depth. Occasionally considerable quantities of charcoal fragments had been introduced to the soil, probably by bioturbation (e.g. 91327 under the cobbled yard and 92578 under wall 92016 that pre-dated roundhouse C, which was unusually deep (0.4m) and contained bone and teeth fragments. Artefacts had also sometimes been trodden or worked into this soil horizon (e.g. a bone and a whetstone from 91573, and an amber bead and a whetstone from 92129).

However towards the edge of the marsh this clayey layer merged into a thin peaty deposit (e.g. 93394 and 93620). This was nearly continuous in area F1 adjacent to the marsh but also continued into area B2 immediately north of the marsh. This deposit was a friable dark brown silt with a well developed crumb structure and few stones. It had a high organic content, resembling compressed peat, and was up to 0.2m deep, but usually much shallower. This deposit became deeper and peatier as it sloped into the marsh basin, where it overlay the bark deposits.

A pollen assessment of a monolith sample bracketing the bark layer and the peat above indicated a phase of early Holocene vegetation development, supporting the radiocarbon date of 8221-7827 cal BC on the bark layer. The landscape was initially dominated by hazel scrub; with some willow carr on the damper soils and sedges and ferns in the damper and shadier habitats. The hazel scrub was replaced by oak and alder woodlands as the climate continued to ameliorate during the Holocene. The low values for herbs suggests that the woodland was fairly dense, but there is an indication that heather spread onto the drier contexts on the wetland itself later in the sequence. It is highly likely that this sequence has also been truncated by peat cutting with the top of the diagram indicating an early Holocene landscape.

Pollen assessment of samples from the peaty deposit itself indicated a closed mixed woodland environment with limited evidence for open or disturbed areas in the near vicinity of the sampling site, except for some sedges next to the marsh itself. The homogeneous character of the pollen spectra in these samples was probably due to bioturbation within soil profiles and shows that this was an active soil horizon, supporting the interpretation of this layer as the peaty 'A' horizon of a buried soil. There is no evidence for the effects of human activity in the pollen sequence, but charcoal was recovered from a patch (93466/93628) within the peaty deposit. A piece of

charcoal from this was radiocarbon dated to 1963 – 1768 cal BC (KIA40120). If this deposit represents an *in situ* soil horizon and the radiocarbon date is regarded as providing an accurate date for sediment accumulation, then the pollen sequence suggests that the local landscape at least remained wooded into the Bronze Age, with very little evidence for anthropogenic disturbance to the vegetation.

The part of the ground surface (93466/93628) that produced the sample for radiocarbon dating varied from the majority of this horizon. Below and mixed with the dark brown peaty deposit was a loose dark grey silty sand with numerous small stones including quartz fragments. Many of the stones were heat reddened and the quartz was shattered by heat. The sand suggests an alluvial deposit, but the heat shattered stones and charcoal in the peat layer above show that there was a fire in this location. The peat itself showed little signs of burning and there was no trace of a hearth. It is likely that vegetation on the edge of the marsh was burnt. This seems to have produced enough heat to crack some of the stones in the natural deposit below. Quartz pebbles are present across the site and they may only be particularly noticeable in this deposit because the heat cracked faces appear very white. The charcoal may have originated from a brushwood fire caused either by a lightening strike or lit by people during low intensity use of the area.

Details of radiocarbon dates

Lab number	Local number	Material	Date BP	Calibrated date BC (two standard deviations)
KIA40119	G1701/93358/5037	Bark (probably birch)	8865 ± 42	8221 - 7827
KIA40120	G1701/93466/5056	wood charcoal	3543 ± 31	1963 - 1768

Bronze Age (phase I)
See figure 14

The date on the buried ground surface suggests that it was active in the early Bronze Age, although the lack of finds on the investigated surface and the pollen record suggest that human activity at this period was not intensive. However several features seem to pre-date the roundhouse settlement, and may belong to the Bronze Age, although very few could be firmly dated by either finds or stratigraphy.

To the south-west of the main settlement was a ditch (92615), c.17m in length, which ran north-north-west to south-south-east and curved to the south-west at its southern end, where it was cut away by a large modern pit (94014). Towards the base of this ditch was found a 'hair-ring' (sf 784) made of sheet gold and dated by metallurgical and stylistic analysis to between 1300-1150 BC. The function and associations of the ditch are unclear but it cut a semi-circular gully (92652) at its northern end and a large shallow pit (92742) at its southern end. The gully was 0.45m wide and no more than 0.20m deep. The pit was oval in plan, measured 4.0m by 2.5m and was 0.2m deep. Pit 92742 contained a series of thin fills including grey silt and orange clay. The latter resembled a clay floor layer but a similar sequence might be expected in a tree-throw hole and this is suggested as the most likely interpretation of this feature. A nearby oval stone-filled pit (92761) could also be an early tree throw hole although it is very regular in shape. It could alternatively be related to a later collection of postholes, although it was cut by one of these postholes. A more irregular feature in this area (92810) was almost certainly just a variation in the natural.

It was thought during the excavation that the settlement was partially enclosed by a ditch and wall but stone surfaces relating to the earliest building phases of the settlement overlie these features. The shallowness of the ditch at its northern end also suggests truncation by the settlement. These features therefore seem to fit more comfortably into the pre-settlement phase, although this interpretation is still open to question.

The ditch at least 75m long ran gradually downhill from north-east to south-west along a slightly sinuous course. At its northern end it was investigated as 91445 and was about 1.7m wide and no more than 0.2m deep. Its southern part was recorded as 92799 and while about the same width it was up to 0.37m deep. The fills varied but were generally greyish water-bourn silts, sands and gravels. The ditch had been partially cut away by a later culvert (90522), which followed the ditch's line so closely that there must have been a linear hollow or wet ground to indicate its presence. The later culvert curved more than the earlier ditch so in places the latter was left undisturbed, while elsewhere, particularly at the ends the exact line of the early ditch could not be established. At its southern end it is likely that the ditch continued on the line followed by the culver and emptied out into the marsh. The northern end of the ditch is much more problematic. The last 13m of the northern end of the ditch were fully excavated but the ditch was then cut away again by the culvert. A possible

pre-culvert ditch (90484) may be a continuation of 91445 taking it very close to the north-west end of a stone wall (90120/90222) discussed below. The area to the north of this was very complex with post medieval activity sealing the culvert, which had cut through and partially reused stones of wall 90120/90222. After this point the culvert cannot be reliably traced, but coarse sandy deposits and a very shallow cut (91116) indicate a linear feature continuing to the north. This could be either the culvert or the early ditch. If it was the latter it supports the argument that this was not an enclosure ditch for the settlement, and as 91116 cut earlier features, raises the possibility that there was early activity in the northern part of area B2.

Another ditch (91783) ran north-north-east to south-south-west just to the east of 91445. It was about 2m wide and no more than 0.2m long and was traced for about 17m. At its northern end it faded out before its relationship with 91445 could be established. At the southern end there was no evidence of it under roundhouse C, so it seems to have faded out at this end as well. A slighter channel (92618) ran on almost the same alignment under roundhouse B. This channel was more irregular and no more than 0.1m deep. Its stratigraphic relationships show that it clearly pre-dates the settlement. Both 91783 and 91445 underlay the earliest of the stone surfaces associated with roundhouse E. Features 91783 and 92618 could possibly be explained as natural channels underlying the archaeology, however ditch 91445/92799 cannot be so explained as it cut buried soil deposits, some such as 92774, which was fairly deep and mixed, and probably representing an early ploughsoil.

Running north-west to south-east from close to the proposed northern end of ditch 91445/92799 was the foundation of a stone wall (90120/90222). This was mostly composed of large schist stones up to 1.5m in length. Many stones spanned the full width of the wall, though in some places 2 stones were used but there was no real core. In places 2 or more stones were on top of each other but this did not occur enough to indicate coursing. The north-west end may have been marked by a particularly large boulder (90188), which had been reused as the side of the culvert (90522) rather than move it. However a disturbed line of stones (90273) did continue the alignment very accurately. These stones were generally less substantial than 90120 but had been considerably disturbed. Like the ditch, if this continuation is genuine it suggests that the wall was not designed to enclose the settlement.

Running parallel to wall 90120 on its north-eastern side was a broad (c. 1.0m wide), shallow (0.17m deep) ditch (90789). This was not detected elsewhere along the length of the wall but was presumably related.

To the south-east the wall was continued, after being cut by the 19th century culvert (90066). Here it was recorded as 90222. This was of similar construction to 90120 with slabs of a similar size, although in places the wall foundation was only a single line of stones. The alignment of this wall reflects closely the alignment of culvert 90066 but the relationship of layers to this feature, especially to 90120 shows that it was very early in the depositional sequence. As with ditch 91445/92799 the wall might have had an influence on much later site development through its presence as a slight earthwork. Deposits related to the settlement seemed to respect the wall but one layer (90526) seemed to have built up against and around the stones of the wall. However this interpretation was not certain as the wall was initially thought to have a foundation trench cutting through 90526. A possible trench was detected at various points along the wall but wherever investigated in detail it proved to be discontinuous and unconvincing. It seems likely that weathering and bioturbation along the edge of the wall caused changes to the deposits beside it.

Other features may be related to this early phase but proving this is difficult and relies heavily on the phasing of the ditch 91445/92799. Running north-west to south-east under roundhouse C was a stone wall (92016) at least 10.4m long and about 0.5m wide. It was built of fairly small stones, no more than 0.25m in length some set horizontally and some set on edge forming rough faces. In places two or possibly 3 courses survived but generally only the lowest course was present. This was associated with activity deposits at either side. It may have had a length of at least 14m and started close to the ditch (91445) as a small stub of a wall on exactly the same line was discovered on the edge of the ditch. The wall runs perpendicular to the ditch and seems to relate to it. The wall underlay stone deposits related to roundhouse E, so appears to have been of the same phase as the ditch.

The north-west side of the culvert 90522 was an area of stone (92807). Around the edge of this were some larger stones (92806) possibly indicating the remains of a rough wall. The stone was deliberately deposited and in places quite carefully laid so at least some kind of rough surface might have been intended. The culvert had removed most of ditch 92799 here but enough of the north-east side remained to show that the ditch cut the stone surface. Alternatively it is possible that the surface ended exactly on the edge of the ditch and that both were essentially contemporary. The character of 92806/7 is similar to features belonging to the main settlement

phase and it is likely that this structure does belong to that phase. If so it suggests that the southern part of the ditch was reused during the life of the settlement. This could explain why the ditch was significantly deeper here than at the northern end.

Immediately to the west was a group of postholes (92735, 92736, 92737, 92755, 92762, 92764, and 92766). These were between 0.5 and 0.8m in diameter and c.0.3m deep, although some were truncated. The postholes contained substantial stones, presumably post packing and could have held substantial posts. Five of the postholes formed a rough arc, but they could represent three sets of two-post structures. Their relationship to structure 92806/7 cannot be proved but they were cut from about the same level that the stone features were built on.

A semi-circular gully (93012) lying close to the edge of the marsh might be included in this phase purely for its similarity with 92652. This was slightly more substantial at 0.9m wide and 0.25m deep but this is probably due to better preservation. An oval pit (93031) seems to continue its north-west end and a small pit (93014) inside the arc to the north may be related. There was no dating evidence for any of these features.

Discussion

The only current reason for assigning any features in this area to the Bronze Age relies is the presence of the gold hair-ring in ditch 92615, although a small group of probably Bronze Age flints from the buried soil immediately south of pit 92742 supports some early activity in this area. At present the hair-ring must be considered a casual loss and cannot be related to any specific activity. Presumably it would have been in a worse condition if it was residual in the fill of a much later ditch, but its curation for a considerable period of time and later loss cannot be ruled out.

However, stratigraphy suggests an early date for ditch 91445/92799 and wall 90120/90222. If ditches 91445/92799 and 92615 were contemporary they form an interesting pattern as they converged to create a gap about 5m wide. 92615 had a distinctive curve which turned the ditch so that its southern end ran parallel to ditch 92799. Unfortunately this parallel stretch only survived for a short distance before 92615 was cut by the modern pit and 92799 entirely removed by the culvert. However this seems more than coincidental and would provide a funnel-type exit from a field of the sort particularly useful in herding cattle and other livestock. If this was so then the postholes and structure 92807 were presumably only used when the gateway was no longer in use, if indeed they belong to this phase. Unless the posts at least were part of a structure in the gateway. This would seem to have been too complex for a field gate but could have been some sort of cattle crush for the management of livestock.

It is suggested that the two ditches and wall 90120/90222 formed boundaries to a field system pre-dating the roundhouse settlement. Wall 92016 seems also to have been part of this system. Whether features 92618 and 91783 were also connected or were much earlier natural channels is not yet clear.

Iron Age (phases II-III)

The main phases of activity comprised a stone-built roundhouse settlement with up to 0.95m in depth of stratified deposits and structures. Although the area had been ploughed in the past it had never deeply ploughed by modern equipment. Many of the walls had been robbed right down to foundation level but floor levels and lower deposits were generally well preserved.

The settlement was composed of substantial stone-built roundhouses. There were four large stone-walled houses (roundhouses A, B, C and E), a large circular building probably built of wood (roundhouse I) and numerous smaller structures. Of the latter there were two smaller stone-built buildings, both probably circular (structures D and H) and the postholes of 4 rectangular timber structures, probably granaries. The settlement was built on the edge of a marsh, which seems to have flooded at intervals. To counteract the flooding the houses were built on stone platforms and considerable areas were covered by deposits of stone to create dry courtyards. A series of stone banks also seemed to have protecting against flooding.

During the excavation and assessment of the data there was a feeling that there were several construction phases with perhaps roundhouse I being constructed much earlier than the rest of the settlement and roundhouse A being a later addition. However, closer consideration of the field data has revealed subtle but important evidence that suggests an extensive initial construction phase covering most of the settlement. The following discussion is

based on this interpretation. In this view there is a sequence in which the roundhouses were built but this occurred over a short timescale and as part of a single construction event. Roundhouse E seems to have been built first, then roundhouses A and B, then the roundhouse I, but in all cases this is a sequence of foundations and the construction of the houses themselves could have overlapped significantly. Only roundhouse C seems to have been built significantly later.

The houses are particularly large for stone built roundhouses with internal diameters up to 11m. The walls are massive and in several cases have been successively widened. At least two of the houses had opposing entrances and all but one had an entrance on the north-west side, facing the prevailing winds. This, and features emphasising the entrances, suggest factors other than practical considerations influencing the layout of the houses.

Phase II

See figure 15

The stone platform and courtyard

Under roundhouse E was a deposit of loose rubble mainly composed of small and medium sized angular stones (91906, 91694, and 91997). In the middle the deposit was 0.4m deep, and it was distinctive because the stones were loose with voids between. What silt matrix was present was black with charcoal, and the stones themselves were blackened. On the south-western side this was revetted and entirely contained by carefully stacked slabs up to 0.4m in length (91921). This revetment continued directly under the southern arc of the roundhouse wall with slabs and boulders up to 0.7m in length roughly laid in courses (92160). These contained the more angular vacuous rubble but more rounded stones (92395, 92396) extended further south to be supported by a very rough revetment of larger stones (92393). This rough revetment continued to the south-west as 91482 with stones 91451 to the north-west extending under the wall of roundhouse B. These stones merged into a more organised platform of sub-rounded cobbles and boulders (90884) matching the curve of the wall of roundhouse B on its southern and western sides and supported here by larger boulders forming a revetment (91381). To the north-east of roundhouse E a rougher bank of stone (91200) seemed to continue the alignment of the revetment banks. This bank continued under roundhouse E and although there were silt deposits between it and the wall of the roundhouse it seems most likely to be part of this phase.

The wall forming the northern side of roundhouse E (90539) was as much embedded in the vacuous rubble layer as lying on it. The vacuous rubble was not however restricted to the area under roundhouse E, although deepest there. To the west it extended well beyond the limits of the roundhouse. Here it was revetted by a line of large stones (91720/92575) only a single course high starting from close to the south side of the north-west roundhouse entrance, heading west-north-west then curving north. Adjacent to the entrance a particularly large stone (91807) formed the end of this revetment and was incorporated into the main revetment for the platform under the house. The vacuous rubble held within this revetment was covered by redeposited clay (92083) forming the surface for the roundhouse entrance.

To the north-west the same distinctive vacuous rubble deposit continued under the later wall (90010) as 92541 and 92519. All this area to the west of the roundhouse had slabs and cobbles (92079, 92472) covering the loose rubble to create a courtyard. To the north of roundhouse E the vacuous rubble (here 91109) contained some particularly large stones, but these became smaller as it continued north under where roundhouse A would be built. The description of these deposits was much the same as elsewhere with angular stones in a brown silt matrix but with many voids (90888, 91000, and 91008). The deposits reached 0.3m in depth but tailed off to the east, where they overlay a mixed layer of black and brown silt (91011) up to 0.2m deep. To the west and north-west of roundhouse A the stone layer continued but it became more compact with more silt between the stones. In the north-west the stone layer (90573) still appeared to be a foundation deposit supporting a whole sequence of silt deposits with some stone layers interleaved. To the west the stones appeared more like a coherent surface. This area was repeatedly resurfaced, mainly in relation to the use of roundhouse A, but the lowest levels (e.g. 91447) were clearly a continuation of the stone layers related to roundhouse E. It is probable that the whole of the area to the north-west of roundhouse E was one large open courtyard covering the earlier ditch (91445) but possibly reusing or at least respecting the stone wall (90120/90222).

The difference between the deposits in this ‘courtyard’ and those under roundhouse A are significant. The courtyard deposits were compact and silt had filled the interstices between the stones. Under roundhouse A this had not happened and the voids remained, yet stratigraphically these deposits were equivalent. This suggests different processes happening over the two areas of stone. Thin occupation deposits covered both areas, but it is suggested that this activity was short-lived and represents events immediately prior to the construction of

roundhouse A. The most likely reason for the voids in the stones under roundhouse A not being infilled with silt is that this area was rapidly sealed by the roundhouse and percolation of silt prevented. The time between the deposition of the vacuous rubble and the construction of roundhouse A is therefore suggested as being very short. Indeed the time gap was potentially not much longer than that between the construction of the platform under roundhouse E and the building of that house. These two buildings could therefore be essentially contemporary.

Roundhouse E

The vacuous rubble with its neat revetment on the southern side formed a platform on which the roundhouse was built. The quantity of charcoal within the interstices of the vacuous rubble suggests that a large fire was lit on the platform. The charcoal from this worked its way through the voids in the rubble but no consolidation of the deposit occurred and no other occupation deposits built up so it is assumed that this was a single brief event occurring immediately before the roundhouse was built.

The roundhouse had a wall (90539/ 91719/92432) about 1.4m in width defining a circular structure c.12m externally and 9.4m internally. The wall was faced with large boulders and had a core of smaller, loose stones. Although the wall stood only one course high this was the best preserved of the roundhouses as most of the full circuit was present. The southern arc of the wall had suffered some damage from post medieval pits (91136, 92101, and 91225) and the outer face of the eastern arc of the wall had been removed, but most of the rest survived. The well-built stone foundations imply a stone wall. A pale clayey silt deposit (91178) present in places over the wall may indicate that the wall had clay bonding or it is possible that this is the remains of a clay wall built on the stone foundations.

The building had two opposing entrances, facing the north-west and south-east. The north-west entrance had large vertical slabs facing the gap through the wall and gravels and clays had been laid down to form a surface in the entrance. The line of the northern side of this entrance seems to have been continued by a slot (94023) with packing stones, presumably to hold a post structure. This cut through the surface layers within the entranceway but was most probably part of the original design of the roundhouse. If this was part of a projecting porch no similar structure was found to the south of the entrance but this may have been too disturbed by ploughing or the stripping process to be recognisable.

The south-eastern entrance was more disturbed and harder to interpret. The northern side of the entrance seemed to be indicated by a vertical slab (94012) projecting into the interior of the house, but this was set into some of the interior deposits, including the fill of an early pit, so it seems to have been an addition rather than an original feature. However interior deposits extended through the gap showing that the wall had never continued here. It is suggested that the southern side of the entrance was indicated by another vertical slab (91947), this time set across the width of the wall. Part of the wall had been lost here so the slab was not in direct contact with the surviving wall segments but its similarity to the slabs in the north-western entrance makes this likely. This would give an entrance c.2.3m wide compared to 1.9m for the north-western entrance. However the entrance seems to have been partially blocked to reduce it to a gap of only 0.65m wide. Two large stones (92099) were laid against the vertical slab to form a short section of interior wall face. Some core stones suggest that there would also have been an outer face now lost. The south side of the new narrow entrance seems to have been marked by a short stone set in a hole and an adjacent posthole, possibly for a door or some other mechanism for temporarily blocking the gap.

Inside the roundhouse was well organised. It had a large granite hearth stone (91707) set close to the middle of the house and surrounded by clay floor deposits. The hearth stone had been set in a shallow pit in the platform deposits and layers of clay and charcoal had built up around it. This suggests a fairly long period of use but unlike some of the other roundhouses there was only one hearth and no build-up of secondary flooring deposits, so activity seems to have been restricted to one basic phase. The north-eastern arc just inside the wall was surfaced with a clay layer delimited by a kerb of pebbles. This zone was avoided by the pits cutting the floor in other parts of the house and might have been a sleeping area. A grinding stone (92230) and a stone-lined trough (92428, cut 92427) were set into the floor in the north-west quadrant of the house, again close to the wall. Various pits were scattered about the interior, but mainly in the north-east quadrant outside the possible sleeping area. Some pits were intercutting but there was nothing to indicate distinctly different phases of activity. A gap in the distribution of pits between the south-east entrance and the hearth may indicate a route directly to the hearth.

Roundhouse A
The wall of roundhouse E was dismantled in antiquity, perhaps explaining the good preservation of its foundations. This demolition took place during the life of roundhouse A as up to 0.4m of brown loamy deposits (91110 and 91111) built up directly over the foundations of roundhouse E but against the upstanding wall of roundhouse A and on top of these deposits was built the continuation (91578) of the main wall running through the settlement (90010). However, the demolition does not have to have occurred until after the construction of roundhouse A.

Thin silt deposits (e.g. 91173, 91782) built up over the foundations on the north arc of the wall of roundhouse E and it was on these deposits that roundhouse A was built. Despite some animal disturbance along the face of roundhouse A this relationship was quite clear, but it is worth considering possible interpretations of these thin but crucial deposits. These deposits were not recorded in the interior of roundhouse E as would be expected if they were an indication of its abandonment, but they were similar to and probably continuous with grey silt layers with charcoal covering much of the stone platform under roundhouse A. Where they overlapped the stones of roundhouse E they did not seal them and could have built up against and partially over the foundation stones while the wall was upstanding. If these deposits were flood silts trampled over the stone platform during building construction these layers might have built-up in a matter of weeks.

A short timescale has already been argued to explain the retention of voids in the vacuous rubble under roundhouse A and the silt layers do not contradict that, despite stratigraphically placing the wall of roundhouse E as earlier than that of roundhouse A. The way in which the two buildings spatially respect each other also supports their contemporaneity.

At present it is envisaged that soon after the construction of roundhouse E commenced a particularly large stone roundhouse (roundhouse A), was built immediately to the north on the same platform deposit. Roundhouse A has suffered considerably from stone robbing. Only half the arc of the wall survived and of that much of the original wall was missing, although its width and location were preserved by the existence of surviving features. The original building had an external diameter of about 14m and an internal one of c. 11m, the wall being about 1.6m wide. Concentric with the north-western arc of the wall but outside, it was a curving line of stones (90661) that formed a kerb defining a metalled path or external platform 1.4m wide. There was an entrance in the western arc of the wall. On the southern side a foundation slot (92477) with associated postholes (92475, 92431 and 91417) was mirrored on the northern side by a slightly more confused slot (92281) probably also incorporating a posthole and a large posthole 90684. Between them these would have supported large timbers sufficient to make an impressive porch with an entrance nearly 2m wide. This would have opened onto the courtyard area.

The eastern half of the wall had been entirely robbed away but the presence of postholes (90486, 90488, 90490, and 90554) may hint at a south-eastern entrance. These were substantial postholes, about 0.7m in diameter and up to 0.34m deep with packing stones. 90490 seemed to have been a replacement for an earlier posthole (90516). They were not directly opposite the western entrance but formed a neat right angle, which possibly might have been the southern side of a porch if the rest had been removed by the 19th century culvert (90066).

Towards the centre of the roundhouse a shallow hollow (90817) was roughly lined with stones (91384) and filled with clay (91383) to form a hearth. This was associated with various pits and postholes. An area of clay (90638) to the east may have been a contemporary floor surface and this was cut by numerous postholes.

Roundhouse B
Thin silty and peaty deposits contemporary with and occasionally earlier than roundhouse E extended to the south. One silty deposit, possibly the result of flooding (91730) seemed to have been deposited during the construction of the platform of roundhouse E as it filled around and amongst the stones of the platform. On top of these deposits was built the wall of roundhouse B. This and other relationships show that the construction of roundhouse B (90802/90803/90804) post-dated that of roundhouse E.

However, as described above, the extended rubble platform for roundhouse E merged into the stones forming the platform on which roundhouse B was built. In this jumble of stones stratigraphy was difficult to identify but the revetment to roundhouse E was built over stones extending to the south and west of this roundhouse. The relationship of these stones to those forming the platform of roundhouse B were confused by post medieval pits but it seems probable that they were essentially part of the same construction event. Two thirds of the wall of roundhouse B had been robbed away and the remaining section had probably survived because it was build at a

lower level than the rest and was essentially part of the foundations of this structure. The northern arc of the roundhouse wall rested directly on the earlier ground surface. Against the inside face of this wall a series of thin horizontal layers had built up, with 2 layers of silt (91025 and 92273) sandwiching a reddish sandy layer. These layers continued no more than 3.5m into the roundhouse and the rest of the area required building up to this level. This levelling was achieved by constructing a circular platform with the wall forming the northern boundary and a much looser revetment forming the southern edge. The southern half of this platform was composed of boulders and large stones up to 0.6m in length. Many of the stones were sub-rounded glacial boulders, and they were loosely heaped with many voids. The platform was about 13m in diameter and up to 0.4m deep. The southern edge of the platform was revetted and contained by more carefully laid larger boulders forming a rough face (91381). The north-eastern half of the platform was not made of stone but of dumps of loose grey brown soil with relatively few stones (90922/90956). It is probable that stone was used for half the platform to provide protection against water erosion in the event of flooding but the uphill side of the platform was not at risk of erosion so soil, which would have been easier to obtain and transport, was adequate for this part. The southern arc of the roundhouse wall would have been built on top of the stone platform, but very little of this survived. This sequence shows that the walls and the platform were built as a single event.

The curve of the wall and the size of the platform indicated a building about 14m in diameter externally and just over 10m internally. The original wall was about 1.5m wide. Both inner and outer faces of the wall were built partly of orthostats and large boulders (0.4 by 0.6m on average but some larger) and partly of drystone walling with up to 3 courses surviving. The inner face (90804) tended to contain more slabs set on edge with walling filling the gaps between, while the outer face (90803) contained more coursed sections but often with larger stones used in the coursing, but both faces varied considerably along the surviving sections. There was a rubble core (90802) between the faces.

There was an entrance in the north-west arc. The northern side of this survived and was indicated by a slab running perpendicularly across the wall; however it was somewhat disturbed and not was well defined as the north-west entrance in roundhouse E. The width of this entrance cannot be determined as no trace of the southern side survived. A slab path (92471) ran north-west from this entrance. It was composed of slabs up to 0.8m in length laid in a line with rougher stones around them, especially to the south. It was continued by a more widely spaced line of slabs (92635) set in a sequence of gravel and cobble deposits. This feature was cut by the culvert 90522 but no trace of it appeared at the other side and it is as if it ended at the earlier ditch 92799. It has been argued above that this ditch belonged to a pre-settlement phase and had been abandoned before the roundhouses were built. However this area west of roundhouse B and the persistent north-west to south-east orientation of many linear features in the settlement argue for its continued influence. It is possible that the southern part of 92799, which was deeper than the northern part, was maintained into the settlement period, although this gives problems with the location of granary 93059. If there was a ditch here then the pathway may have lead to a causeway over it.

The eastern arc of the wall of roundhouse B was damaged by large post medieval pits (91134, 91136) and general stone robbing but a small fragment of *in situ* wall (92506) did survive. This had 2 large stones running through the width of the wall and forming what appeared to be a faced end to the wall. This would make it the southern side of an eastern entrance, almost but not quite opposite to the north-western entrance. The fragmentary state of this entrance means that there is little that can be said about it except that it probably existed.

Over the platform within the walls was an orangey brown gravel (90990) up to 0.2m deep. Cut through this were numerous features including a group of postholes with substantial packing stones (91914, 91919, 92245, 92246, 92359, 92372). These postholes were about 0.6m in diameter and up to 0.5m deep. They were mostly concentrated in the northern part of the house and did not form a post ring or similar structure so it is assumed that they were related to ‘furniture’ or sub-divisions within the house. Some possible post pads may have formed a similar function (90908, 91928, and 91448). Numerous other pits and postholes were concentrated around the hearths to the west of the centre of the building. Many of these postholes were less well-defined and had either disturbed or less substantial packing.

The earliest hearth in the building had a single large stone slab (91964) 0.54m long set into a mottled yellowish clay deposit (91972/92596). To the south-west of this was a pit (91619) lined with stones that seems also to have been used as a hearth or fire pit. Part of the northern arc of the house seems to have been surfaced with deliberately laid with flat slabs and cobbles (92398 and 92367). This was disturbed by later alterations and may have extended over much of the northern arc of the house. Two nearly parallel elongated features (91466 and

91521) just inside the south-east entrance may have been foundation slots to hold a small structure. Another slot (91780) with vertical packing stones seems to have run radially for the northern wall. Although it is possible that this was a drain.

The whole area to the south of the path (92471) from roundhouse B seems to have been covered by a stone surface (92634), into which several features were cut. This area was referred to as roundhouse G during the excavation because the evaluation identified the covered drain of a roundhouse here and excavation initially proceeded on the assumption that there was a roundhouse. The feature identified in the evaluation proved not to be a drain and none of the features here resolved into a roundhouse. Several of the features formed a rectangular structure measuring 6.3m by 5m. This might be termed structure G but is better referred to by its group number 94019. The northern side was formed by a foundation trench (92731) with an additional trench (92690) outside it, possibly indicating an extension of the structure not otherwise detected. The southern wall was the feature that initially appeared to be a capped drain but the line of slabs (92684) were shown to lie between and in places over a line of postholes. This could indicate a post wall replaced by one in clay or turfs with a slab foundation. The western wall was defined by postholes (92868, 92688, and 92729). Posthole 92886, or possibly the less convincing posthole 94018, may have formed the southern corner of the structure but there seems to have been no eastern wall. Pit 92785, which may originally have been stone-lined, lay in the middle of this gap.

The megalithic wall
Running north-west to south-east into the settlement was a wall (90010, divided into 91802, 91803, and 91804). This was generally straight but with a slight curve and had facing on its north-east side composed of large slabs up to 1.0m in length generally set on edge. The southern face had occasional large stones but was generally much slighter with smaller stones laid in courses, although these rarely survived more than 2 courses high. In the middle was a rubble core.

The stones of the megalithic face were set in a foundation trench cut (92609) through the courtyard deposits and the south-west face of the wall was built directly on these deposits. However as the stone platforms and courtyard layers seem to have been laid down as a preliminary to construction the wall was probably built when the main roundhouses were constructed.

The wall survived to a length of 25m and was 1.2m wide. At its north-west end traces (90011) suggested that it continued for another 5m to a large boulder embedded in the natural gravels. There was no evidence of it continuing any further but another wall ran to this boulder from the south-west. This wall (90005) appears on the 1887 O south map and so was certainly used as a boundary wall in the 19th century. However it is possible that its south-eastern face (90029) was the reused remnant of an earlier wall. A series of more or less linear hollows (90134, 90020, and 90210) under lay the north-western face of the wall and these might have been the result of removing a megalithic facing similar to that of wall 90010.

The south-eastern end of the wall 90010 was close to both roundhouse A and roundhouse E. If there was some type of porch structure on roundhouse E this would have left a gap of only 3m allowing access to roundhouse E but this would have been more than large enough for most uses yet would have constrained significantly how a visitor moved through the settlement. Projecting south-west from the wall at its end was a slab set on edge (92589). This seemed to mark the wall end and possibly indicated the entrance to roundhouse E.

Part way along the north-eastern side of the wall a short, shallow ditch ran perpendicularly from it. This ditch (92189) was c.3m long, 1.25m wide and 0.27m deep. It ended at the wall rather than passing under it and this with its alignment suggest that it was contemporary with the wall. The north-east terminal of the ditch was rather rounded and there was a narrow causeway 1.8m wide before the start of another similar ditch (92210) 1.54m wide, up to 0.4m deep and at least 4.35m in length. These ditches seem to have formed an entrance into this part of the settlement. Paving running from the entrance of roundhouse A in a later phase was aligned on the gap between the ditches and stones on the causeway may have been the remains of paving here. There seems to be no associated structure although postholes 92220 and 92284 were not far away. The courtyard deposits extended west to be cut by the later culvert 90522 but the earlier deposits were not recorded on the western side of the culvert and it is likely that they ended just before two shallow ditches (92189 and 92210).

A possible 'gatehouse'
There was a clear focus of the settlement towards the north-west. The wall 90010 led north-west from roundhouse A, which was similarly orientated, an orientation further enhanced in phase III by a pathway leading to the probable entrance causeway between ditches 92189 and 92210. Roundhouse E was probably also

accessed through this entrance, but roundhouse B seems to have been orientated to a separate entrance. Its path headed north-west as if leading towards a specific point. If the interpretation that the main wall turned south-west is correct then this formed an enclosure to the north-west of roundhouse B through which access must have been gained. The point at which the projected line of the pathway from roundhouse B would have crossed the projected line of the enclosure wall occurs immediately adjacent to the remains of a small structure (group 94016). This structure had a well-made cobbled floor of a character suggestive of a post medieval date and during excavation it was assumed to be of this date. Some post medieval finds were recovered from the area but all came either from over the structure or from with an area of stone (92597/92598) possibly representing collapse. However as the alignment of the roundhouse settlement indicates that if there was an entrance structure associated with it then it would be located in exactly this position and as there is no firm evidence ruling out an Iron Age date for this structure it is tentatively included here as part of the main roundhouse settlement phase.

The structure was had a well-made cobble floor (92469) covering a rectangular area 2.6m by 1.8m and aligned south-west to north-east. It was composed of densely packed small cobbles and some larger slabs; a square of slabs in the south corner may have supported a post and represent a corner of the building. The north-western side was defined by a foundation slot (92467) packed with stones on edge, which presumably held a plank or stake wall. This seems to have continued round the north-eastern side of the structure but was covered by some flat stones and the wall may have been of a slightly different character here. The south-western wall was not clearly defined and it is possible that there was never a wall to the south-east, as on this side was an arc of large 5 postholes (92783, 92784, 92836, 92849, and 92876). Though containing many stones 92836 and 92849 were not definitely postholes but may have been disturbed. 92783, 92784 and 92876 had packing stones and were clearly postholes with the latter being entirely undisturbed and having large stones forming a stone setting that would have held a post 0.5m in diameter. These features were between 0.6m and 1.5m across, the larger ones being the most disturbed, and 0.3m to 0.6m deep, with the exception of 92849 which was particularly shallow at 0.14m.

A carefully made stone setting in 92852 may also have held a post as might the stone-filled pit 92780. A rough line of stones 92470 heading north-east from the structure may have been the remains of a wall on the same alignment as the proposed enclosure wall.

The fills of the postholes were no darker than other Iron Age features and contained no artefacts. Samples were taken from these fills but no identifiable charcoal was recovered so radiocarbon dating will, unfortunately, not be a possibility. The interpretation of this structure as some type of gatehouse for the Iron Age settlement must remain very speculative but if the large postholes had all held posts of the scale of that in 92876, which seems reasonable, then this would have created a closely spaced arc of large posts, a structure perhaps not out of place in the Iron Age but difficult to explain as a post medieval agricultural feature. However, a kink in the boundary shown on the 1769 estate map suggests that there may have been a post medieval building in this location so the identification of this structure with the Iron Age settlement cannot be taken as unproblematic.

Gravel platform
One of the most extra-ordinary aspects of the settlement appears to be the effort undertaken to raise the buildings above the flooding level. The stone platform and courtyard constructed for roundhouses east and A has been discussed, while roundhouse B essentially had its own platform. However the whole area from immediately south of roundhouse B to south-west of roundhouse I seems to have been made ground.

Multiple layers of gravely soil generally described as friable brown or grey gritty silt with up to 40% small and medium stones (e.g. 91716, 91717, 92863, and 93625) were recorded creating a combined deposit up to 0.5m deep. Much of the deposit had distinctive rotted stones appearing as yellowish smears. David Jenkins inspected this deposit and could detect no evidence of frost shattering or other traces that it was a glacial deposit. The early Bronze Age date from the buried soil horizon below, if confirmed, shows that the deposit must have been laid down after this date. At this period there were no natural mechanisms that could have moved so much earth, and human activity must be implicated. The deposit seemed to be too stony and compact to be colluvial ploughsoil. There is also no suitable slope for this quantity of material to have descended from. If it had originated from the hill in F2 to the west the deposit would have been deepest closer to the hill and probably would have failed to reach the marsh edge where it was seen at its deepest. It is therefore considered unlikely that the deposit built up through soil movement caused by ploughing, and that it was probably deliberately dumped. If this was the case it might have been used to raise the ground next to the marsh for the construction of the circular timber building (roundhouse I) and related features already excavated in this area.

The absence of artefacts or features on or within the buried soil horizon suggests little human activity prior to the dumping event. This is confirmed by the pollen from this horizon, which indicates undisturbed woodland. It is possible that the charcoal recovered from this layer is related to clearance of woodland immediately prior to the gravel dumping and construction of roundhouse I. However, if this was the case much more charcoal would be expected as well as heat alteration of the soil horizon itself. The charcoal is therefore more likely to have originated from a natural brushwood fire or casual anthropogenic burning, and may have little use in dating the later activity. The dumping event will therefore have to be dated by the features constructed on top of it.

Variation within the gravely deposit makes it difficult to securely prove that all similar deposits found were definitely part of the same event. However similar material was seen underlying most of the features south of the main settlement and east of the later culvert (90522), with the deposit becoming deeper towards the east until it reached the edge of the marsh where it stopped quite sharply and would have created a steep scarp. The northern edge of this deposit was seen to overlap the base of the stone platform (90884) for roundhouse B. The deposit was quite thin at this point and reworking of the material could account for this relationship but at face value it appeared that the gravel platform was deposited later than the construction of the stone platform of roundhouse B. This could suggest that these were essentially part of the same construction event rather than one being much later than the other. Roundhouse I could therefore be largely contemporary with the buildings in the main settlement, however the relationship is sufficiently tenuous that it should be rigorously tested by radiocarbon dating if this is possible.

Roundhouse I

If the interpretation given above of the gravel deposits as deliberate made-ground is correct then it seems to have been deposited as a platform for the construction of roundhouse I (93511). This near perfectly circular building lay to the south of the main settlement. It had an internal diameter of 9.6m and the wall was defined by conjoined, elongated postholes set within a continuous slot. The wall line was broken in the eastern arc by a gap of c.6m. This area was not more truncated than the rest and if the wall continued the foundations must have been much shallower than elsewhere. There was also a smaller gap in the southern arc.

A ring of postholes (93023, 93383, 93407, 93438, and 93600) may have held a post ring to support the roof. These had post pads in the base, except 93023, which had a surviving post pipe. Two stone slabs on the same circle were probably in the base of a posthole otherwise unrecognised. The postholes were between 0.3 and 0.7m in diameter and up to 0.3m deep. The circle formed was about 5.8m in diameter. Similar postholes are entirely lacking on the western side of the circle but at this side of the structure was a complex porch, which probably also provided support for the roof.

The entrance was on the north-western side with a substantial porch supported by large postholes and beam slots. The four large postholes (92971, 93162, 93165 and 93208) were between 0.8 and 1.0m in diameter and up to 0.48m deep. 93162 had numerous large packing stones, but 93208 had only a single stone and the other two largely lacked packing stones, perhaps indicating disturbance or that the large posts required little packing. Each of the two pairs of postholes were joined by narrow slots (93316 and 93178) and the alignment of these was roughly continued into the interior by linear features (93238/93268 and group 93334). The latter was composed of intercutting postholes and slots similar to but smaller in scale to the wall foundations. The former had flat stones in the end that might have been post pads. The eastern ends of these linear features stopped roughly on the line of the projected post ring and could have played a part on supporting a ring beam for the roof. In the north-east quadrant was a similar linear feature composed of joined postholes. Together with 93238/93268 this defined the northern segment of the circle, which contained a rectangular structure built up against the wall. This had a slot (93183) on the western side. The slot had packing stones and may have held timber planks or stone slabs, probably the latter as one survived on the southern side of the structure. The base of the feature seems to have been paved with slabs, although most of these had been lost.

In the centre of the structure was a complex group of intercutting pits and postholes. This sequence seems to start with a patch of pale yellowish clay (93091), probably a hearth. It was covered by a very thin charcoal layer (93007) but had not been heated to a sufficiently high temperature for the clay to have reddened. Much of the interior of the building was covered with a black deposit composed largely of small heat-shattered stone (92945). The majority of features post-dated this layer. Most of the features cutting and around the hearth were small pits no more than 0.4m in diameter, mostly containing little charcoal or other evidence of burning. These were then sealed by a very mixed silt deposit with patches of burning on its surface (92946). More small pits then cut this layer. A large stone with a smoothed surface apparently used for grinding (sf834) lay just the south

of layer 92946. It had been shifted, presumably by ploughing and rested within the base of the ploughsoil but it is likely to have been close to its original location.

Just north of the centre of roundhouse I stood a large post. It stood on a stone pad in a broad shallow posthole (93523). Layer 92946 had been laid up to and around the post, which had rotted *in situ* leaving a clear post pipe (92947). Next to this but cutting 92946 was a similar posthole (93367) with a post pad and a surviving post pipe. As these post pipes are around 0.6m in diameter they represent very significant posts, but their off-centre position makes it difficult to envisage them as structural elements. To the south was another large posthole (93080), which had stones lining the cut but no post pad and a post pipe only 0.3m in diameter. This posthole was early in the sequence of the building and seems to have been replaced twice by others in a similar location (92958, 92960).

The layer of small heat fractured stones and charcoal (92819) continued outside the structure and seemed to spill out through the entrance. This spread was associated with a hearth and other activity outside the structure.

Immediately east of roundhouse I were four circular cuts (93446, 93452, 93455, and 93474), measuring between 0.8 and 1.0m in diameter and 0.24 to 0.32m deep. These seemed to have been cut from the level of a pale silty layer and just below this level a large slab rested in each cut. These were placed horizontally and one of the pad stones (sf5412 in cut 93455) had a deliberately pecked cupmark on its upper surface. These slabs rested on lower stones. In 93474 this included another slab underneath as well as smaller stones lining the cut. The lower stones seemed to have been used to level the main slabs and raise them to the required level.

These four features cut through a pale silt layer (93505) seen all along the marsh edge. Beneath this layer were the remains of a broad wall (93515) with faces of rough boulders and a rubble core. This was less than 3m long and seemed to be deliberately positioned on the edge of the marsh deposits. A roughly made spindle whorl and other rather rough stone items were recovered.

Discussion

Structure I is very different in character to the stone-built roundhouses and it was assumed that it was earlier than them, but as discussed above the stratigraphic relationships of the made-ground deposit currently suggest that it is roughly contemporary to roundhouse B. The probable post ring and definite porch makes it almost certain that roundhouse I was a roofed building. The large gap on the eastern wall raised doubts about this during excavation but a gap or more flimsy section of wall here is unlikely to have compromised the viability of the building. Timber roundhouses with narrow grooves to hold a plank or wattle wall are typical of the Bronze Age and early Iron Age (e.g. Parc Bryn Cegin, Llandygai, roundhouse E, other egs), but the wall foundation in this case was not a simple groove. The elongated holes might have taken segments of logs or roughly shaped planks but it is also possible that they could have held stone slabs. The porch structure can be paralleled in many timber roundhouses (e.g.) but its north-west alignment seems to be significant. This reflects the direction of the entrances in several of the other roundhouses, yet would not have been the most practical direction in relation to light and the wind.

There is clear division of space in the interior of the roundhouse. Almost all the activity has taken place inside the area defined by the post ring. The only significant exception is in the northern arc, where an area seems to be specifically separated from the rest of the building and a rectangular trough or tank-like structure is enclosed. Presumably the initial spread of burnt stone and charcoal is related to the central hearth and possibly to this tank. Some activity involving hot stones and water may have taken place. However as most features cut the burnt deposit and deposits overlying the hearth the use of the building seems to have altered during its life. The two very large posts to the north of the centre of the building are intriguing. They do not seem to be in the correct position to function as a structural part of the building. They seem to be far too large for internal furniture or room dividers. Although they could have been in use together, one was added after the other was in place. There also seems to have been a series of posts in the southern part of the building near the grinding stone. The tank, burnt stone and numerous pits suggest a specific practical function for this building but the impressive north-west facing porch and the large posts could imply other significances. The position of the building on the edge of the marsh with considerable expenditure of effort to enable it to be built in this position supports a significance for this structure more than the merely practical.

The four features to the east almost certainly were post pads to support a timber structure, although the positioning and levelling of the pads seems to have been rather elaborate. Four-post structures such as this often date from the Iron Age and are interpreted as granaries or stores. A spindle whorl recovered from this area may

indicate its contemporaneity with the main settlement, which produced many spindle whorls. The stone structure adjacent to the four posts could have been the wall of a related stone building but its loose construction and lack of traces of the rest of a building perhaps indicates that it was part of the system of stone banks that seem to have been constructed to help defend the settlement from flooding.

Flood defences
The stones forming the south-eastern edge of the platform under the roundhouses (91482/92393) were fairly haphazardly dumped rather than carefully constructed and were interleaved with silt deposits. Similar but even more haphazardly laid lines of stones (91457, 91232, and 91235) were located to the south. These rough lines of fairly large stones did not seem to form any coherent structures and the stones were partially embedded in waterborne silts. There were no traces of foundation cuts so it appeared that the silts had built up around and between the stones after the later had been put in place. There were also spreads of smaller stones in this area but these were sealed by the silts and appeared to have formed naturally on the surface of the boulder clay.

The upper, more yellow coloured silts overlying the lines of stones seemed similar to silt layers to the north-east that underlay some of the phase II activity described below. It seems probable that there were repeated flooding events depositing the fine silts. During construction of the platform and foundations of the wall of roundhouse E flooding seems to have penetrated into the area of the settlement and silts were deposited over and around foundation stones. During construction the area seems to have been stabilised by not only the building of the platform, but also the deposition of stones within the silts to form additional defences against further flooding. These seem to have helped to trap the waterborne silts and may have helped cause the build-up of the silt into a drier area to the east of the main settlement, on to which the settlement could then expand.

Phase III
See figure 16
During its life the settlement was altered and additions made. Roundhouse E was demolished and roundhouses A and B were altered. More structures were added including roundhouse C in the centre of the settlement.

Roundhouse A
In roundhouse A 1.3m was added to the thickness of the wall around all the north-west arc of the house. This new wall (90497) had facing stones on both sides and the original wall could have been demolished although it is perhaps more likely that both were used together. This is supported by the southern arc of the wall where the original wall was clearly retained but it was widened in such a way that the entrance was emphasised. At the entrance the wall was made 1m wider but the addition tapered inwards to the south-east so that is probable that the eastern arc of the wall was left at the original thickness. This addition may have been for structural reasons but it seems probable that it was mainly to enhance the north-western entrance. It appears that the original massive porch was replaced by a slighter structure but a pathway leading from the entrance was probably added at this time. This path (90984) was constructed of slabs laid in a line. These were initially thought to be drain capping but no drain existed beneath them. A stone capped drain (92397) did run next to an area of slabs (92240/92241) which continued the line of the path towards the probable entrance into the settlement. To the north-east of the paved area were two lines of stones 92242 and 92243. The former were stones mainly set on edge and the later formed of horizontal slabs. They may be kerbing to different phases of cobbling and are probably not part of a single structure. The passageway leading to roundhouse A was resurfaced, probably several times, and finally a layer of cobbling was extended over the infilled entrance ditches (92189 and 92210).

As part of the remodelling in roundhouse A a new floor layer of orange gravel (90691) was laid down sealing the earlier features. This new occupation level had a hearth (90632) and several pits and postholes. There were also two drains (90597 and 90595/90570) curving round the northern arc of the building, both of which might belong to this phase. One at least seems to have emptied under the new wall. Built against the new facing on the south-west arc of the wall as a small rectangular stone structure (90679). This was not a tank was it was not lined and had no base slabs but it might have formed the foundation for a piece of fitted furniture.

To the south of roundhouse A roundhouse E was demolished and up to 0.4m of brown loamy deposits (91110 and 91111) built up directly over its foundations but against the upstanding wall of roundhouse A. Over the top of these deposits the main wall running through the settlement (90010) was extended until there was a gap only 1m wide between it and roundhouse A. The extension (91578) was less well-built than the original wall with no megalithic slabs, just small stones laid horizontally. Only a single course survived. Much of the southern part of

the area over roundhouse E was covered with stone (91343). This was jumbled and could not be described as a surface but may have been laid down to consolidate the area over the roundhouse. Some larger slabs were laid at this level adjacent to the walls of roundhouse B. This area seems to have become a new focus for the settlement as roundhouse C was built facing onto this open space rather than to the north-west as the other houses.

Roundhouse C
Roundhouse B was still in use when a smaller roundhouse was built up against its northern wall. Roundhouse C measured nearly 11m externally and c. 7.6m internally with a wall up to 1.6m thick. Much of the wall (90012) had been removed by stone robbing but the inner face of the southern arc survived to a height of 0.45m. This was because the house was terraced into deposits relating to roundhouse B and east on this side with the outer face of the wall on the contemporary ground surface and much of the middle and face of the wall in the terrace cut. The outer face of the wall was indicated only by occasional small stones and part of the north-east arc of the wall had been entirely robbed out. The roundhouse wall butted roundhouse B on one side and wall (90010) on the other. The entrance area was confused but there was a gap c.2m wide in the south-east arc of the wall. A wall (92487) abutting roundhouse B was probably contemporary and would have partially blocked the entrance so that a diversion to the north was necessary to enter the roundhouse. This makes it resemble the snail-shaped building at Bryn y Castell (Crew 1984) but there was no evidence of metalworking which was used to explain the shape of that structure. However controlling drafts might have been important for other reasons. The building had a clay hearth (91624/91708/91709) near the centre and numerous pits, mainly concentrated in the western part of the building away from the door. A cylindrical stone with a central hole (sf574) set upright in the floor next to the hearth may have held a post or stand for a function relating to the hearth.

Roundhouse B
Roundhouse B itself was also altered. Like roundhouse A additional width was added to its wall on the inside. This was a tapering addition like that on the south side of roundhouse A and added c.1.25m to the width of the wall at the entrance. A stone slab (92548) set on edge defined the face of the wall in the entranceway and stones laid flat formed the lowest course of the inner face (90805). Behind this was a jumble of stones forming the wall core (90807). This overlay the paved area previously existing in this area. Related to the new wall was a deposit up to 0.25m deep across most of the building interior. This was a yellowish brown gravely clay (90882/3) and represented a new floor level. A hearth stone (92234) lay on this surrounded by a clayey deposits (90806). This later hearth was more off centre than the earlier one and would have been quite close to the south-east wall and entrance. It is assumed that this entrance was in used during phase III as it would have been particularly useful for access to roundhouse C.

It is possible that the wall of roundhouse B was widened again because a curving line of stones 90847 resembled 90805 and could be a wall face. However this would give a very wide wall for a very small interior and there is no evidence of a similar reduction in the area of internal activity. Alternatively 90847 could have been the edge of a stone platform as there were flat slabs between it and the wall. A stony deposit (90875) extended from 90805 over much of the northern arc of the house. This was defined on its southern edge by another curving line of slabs (90985).

It is assumed that the pathway from roundhouse B was still in use in this phase. Certainly there seemed to be more than one phase of activity in the area to the south of it. The rectangular structure 94019 was cut by one of the postholes of a rectangular post-built structure (group 93004). This measured 3m by 2.6m externally and was composed of 2 rows of 3 substantial postholes each (92887, 92801, 92803, 92782, 92621, 92625), with a supporting posthole (92889) in the middle of the south-east side. Other smaller postholes in this area seem to pre-date the structure and 92623 seems superfluous to the design so it may be a later addition as a repair. Part of this structure was sealed under a layer of cobbling (92633) on top of which were some stones (92728), some of which may have been the remains of a wall face. If this was a wall it was probably straight but so little remains that it is impossible to say much about this feature.

Structure D
To the north-west of roundhouse A were the remains of a small stone building. This was initially referred to as roundhouse D but as it seems not to have been a domestic dwelling it is now referred to as structure D. Only a short arc of the wall survived (90464), and this probably indicates a circular building. The wall was 1.1m wide and had facing stones on each side with a rubble core. A fragment of possible stone walling (90641) to the south-west might have been part of the same structure but if so it was not perfectly round. This building had no central hearth and few pits inside, so it is probable that it did not have a primarily domestic function. It was underlaid by a sequence of thin silt and stone deposits but had no obvious floor layer. The pits found in this area

were not restricted to the interior of the proposed sub-circular structure, so either the building was of a different shape, there was a large gap in the south-eastern side, which seems possible, or some of the pits were unrelated to the building.

There is no secure reason to allocate structure D to phase III rather than phase II and either were equally possible. The wall of structure D was built over the earlier slab wall 90120, which even if in use during part of the life of the settlement had gone out of use when this building was constructed. To the north-east of 90120 was a parallel but later section of walling (90169), which might reflect a replacement of a wall defining the settlement on this side. However the complexity of this area means that the relationships here still need more consideration.

Immediately to the north-west but separated from structure D by the later culvert were 4 fairly substantial postholes (90911, 90912, 91078 and 90910) were associated with a rather irregular feature (90739) which was possibly a foundation slot for a slight wattled wall. There was also an area of stone (90586) which could have been the remains of a stone wall or stone base for a clay wall. Within the area were clayey layers that probably formed flooring. If this formed a structure (group 94024) it was probably rectangular but its plan is hard to discern. The postholes of feature were cut into a silty deposit (90855) up to 0.2m deep, which overlay the continuation of stone platform layer. Structure D similarly was constructed on top of silty layers overlying the stone layer, so it is probable that they were part of the same area of activity.

Eastern area
To the east of roundhouse E a considerable depth of silt had built-up over the lower platform stones until it reached a level with the floor of roundhouse E. These deposits (e.g. 91827) were very mixed and mottled and could have been more deliberate dumping. Numerous features were dug into this deposit. It is very difficult to date these or assign them to a phase but they could be contemporary with one phase of the settlement. A structure (group 93073) was constructed with an arc of substantial postholes. This may have been open on the north-east side, although it was disturbed by the foundations for a later wall (91509) so this is not certain. The structure measured about 5m in diameter externally. Immediately to its west was a rectangular area of cobbling (91474) measuring 5.0m by 1.8m with a neat kerb of carefully laid cobbles on its southern edge. There were several pits in the area and a basic hearth to the south of structure 93073. This hearth (91579) was little more than the site of a fire on the silts beneath. Some fragments of pottery from this hearth were considered to be possibly Beaker or Bronze Age from their fabric, and it would be useful if this date could be confirmed by analysis. This group of features is reminiscent of the possible ‘gatehouse’ features (94016), and may help to indicate an early date for this structure, although it is also poorly dated.

To the east was an area of stone (90443, 92046) initially assumed to be post medieval in date. Although post medieval finds were recovered none were from sealed contexts and most were from disturbed upper layers. In the absence of other dating evidence the features related to the stone spread might be of Iron Age date. A stone capped drain (92183) ran through the north-west corner of the area. A line of 5 postholes ran west-north-west to east-south-east across the area (92297, 92310, 92298, 92300, and 92350). With 2 more postholes that may have been related (92311, 92299). The postholes seemed to cut through the lower *in situ* stone deposits, although this relationship was nowhere very clear. Lines of stones (92184, 92235, and 92181) might indicate the fragmentary wall of a rectangular structure but this was on a different alignment to the postholes. Four pits (92348, 92379, 92344, and 92352) and a slight gully (92314) might also be related to this activity. From the old ground surface next to 92352 was recovered a broken amber bead (sf639), a whetstone or polishing stone (sf634) was also found in this area. These confirm early activity in the area though they cannot rule out later activity as well. A line of stone slabs (91968) leading south-west from this area resembled a path or walkway rather than the rough stone banks of the flood defences.

Southern area
At the southern end of the settlement roundhouse I seems to have gone out of use. The burnt spreads related to its use were covered by a layer of stone (92834/92862). This had lines of flat stones (93101, 93239) that seemed to mark its southern edge. The former blocked the entrance to roundhouse I and the stone layer covered the porch postholes and part of the north-west arc of the wall trench. However the stone seems not to have extended into the interior of the house making it possible that at least collapsed remains of the structure may have still existed, although no deposit representing collapse was recorded. The stone layer seems to have been a rough surface associated with another of the six post structures interpreted as granaries. The stone might therefore be seen as a threshing floor. The structure (group 93003) consisted of six major postholes (93044, 93042, 93040, 93056, 93054, and 93050) with substantial packing stones defining a structure measuring 3.6 by 3.5m

externally. Between the southern 2 pairs of postholes were additional posts (93048, 93046) presumably to support the floor of the structure.

Just to the north-west and on a different alignment was another very similar structure (93059). This consisted of 6 large postholes in 2 parallel rows forming a rectangle 4.0m by 3.6m externally. These postholes measured 0.6 to 0.8m in diameter and 0.25 to 0.4m in depth. They had large stones as post packing with the best preserved (93052 and 93078) having these packing stones still *in situ* wedged upright around the edges of the cut. In the middle of the structure were two smaller postholes (92981 and 92983) 0.5m in diameter and no more than 0.22m deep as they were heavily truncated. These also had packing stones. Three much smaller features (92985, 92987 and 92989) also appeared to be postholes, although 92989 had little in the way of packing stones, and may have been related to this structure but were clearly not major structural elements. A more irregular feature to the south-west (93001) lacked any packing stones and was probably not a posthole.

Despite their proximity it seems that the two granaries were constructed sequentially and were not contemporary. The stone layer sealed postholes of 93059, where as 93004 seemed to be positioned deliberately to stand on the edge of the stone surface. However the time difference might be quite short between the two granaries and both belong to the same phase. The purpose of the middle support posts and whether their position indicates the location of an entrance to the structures is worth consideration. It is possible that the posts in the postholes were not of timber but of stone. Stone pillars would have made it more difficult for rodents to climb them and would have resisted damp better and wood; staddle stones were used in medieval and later granaries for these reasons. The interpretation of these structures as granaries originates from a similar feature excavated in the Tŷ Mawr settlement on Holyhead Mountain (refs). Here some of the stone pillars remained *in situ* in their holes and the interpretation as a granary was based on these. Although at Parc Cybi there were no stones *in situ* a stone (sf729) with a carved tenon on top had been built into the second phase of the entrance way to roundhouse A and this was the right size and shape to function as one of these pillars. If 93059 was dismantled to build 93004 it would be expected that all the pillars would have been reused, so possibly both these granaries pre-date the alteration of roundhouse A. Alternatively the stone may have come from granary 93003 near roundhouse B, which must have been dismantled when part of it was covered by the later stone layer (92633) and possible stone structure.

To the north of the stone area (92834/92862) were the fragmentary traces of a small roundhouse (roundhouse H). This had a very fragmentary wall (92833/92872), 1.2m wide and faced where it survived best but largely lost. The curve of the wall would give a structure with an external diameter of nearly 9m and an internal one of c.6.5m. A few stone slabs (92878) to the north lie on this circle and could have been part of the wall, although it seems impossible that the adjacent hearth (92904) was contemporary.

Inside the roundhouse was a floor deposit composed of heat altered silts (92822/92875) which was cut by a large posthole with substantial packing stones (92909). The floor deposits contained the fragmentary remains of a long thin iron object (sf 814-816). The packing in the large posthole indicated that it held a post c.0.3m in diameter yet it was off centre in the house and no other similar posts indicated a post ring. Despite its size this posts therefore seems not to have been structural. Two smaller postholes (92908, 92912) in the south-west arc of the building may be related to an entrance. They were associated with two smaller features (93291, 93296) disturbed by animal burrowing but still convincing as postholes. Another posthole (93066) fell on the projected line of the outer face of the wall and may be related to an entrance structure. The presence of a doorway on this side might be supported by the discovery in the evaluation (trench 9) of a possible door socket stone from a pit (903) not far from the location of the proposed entrance.

Posthole 93066 seemed to cut the stone spread and the wall line overlaps this spread so it is possible that roundhouse H post-dated the stone spread. However as stone spreads elsewhere were laid down in preparation for building the same may have occurred here and the stratigraphic relationship may not have much chronological significance.

Roman Period (Phase IV)
See figure 17

No Roman artefacts were recovered from sealed contexts within the roundhouse settlement. Two 2nd century sherds were recovered from the evaluation trench over the area of the rectangular structure 94019 and granary 93004. A melon bead was found in the initial cleaning for the area excavations just east of roundhouse B. These

finds might indicate Roman activity in the vicinity but do not suggest a Roman phase for the main settlement. Finds from evaluation trenches in area K5 to the north suggest the presence of a Roman period settlement. Excavation in area K9 revealed a Roman period building complex, so the indication is that in the Roman period the settlement focus moved to the north. A circular structure on the northern edge of area B2 may be of Roman date and other features further south in area F1 might be roughly contemporary, although dating evidence is extremely slim.

Northern area

A rim sherd of a 2nd century Black-burnished ware jar was recovered from deposits next to Lôn Trefignath. This sherd was found within a slight circular structure (structure F). Part of a polished shale bangle (sf275) also from within this structure helps to support a Roman date. Structure F was defined by a narrow foundation slot (90551) probably for a wattle and daub wall. Inside the structure most of the features were postholes. No post ring was evident but there was a north-west-south-east alignment of postholes (90845, 90770, 90779, 90720, and 90523). Some of these postholes were sealed by a slab surface (90303/90502) suggesting two phases of use in this area, but it is difficult to tell which of the other features were related to which phase. The slab surface was associated with a probable pivot stone (sf239), but if this was *in situ* and represented one side of a door the other side and the wall it gave access through seem not to have survived. A stone-lined trough (90606) and a clay hearth composed of a sequence of thin layers (90454) suggest an industrial function for this structure. Slag and vitrified clay from this hearth suggests smithing.

Immediately south of structure F was a linear spread of stone slabs and a couple of larger stones (90301 and 90894). These seem to have formed part of a stone structure or surface, probably confused fragments of both, and were associated with a fairly stony layer 90298. Underneath 90298 was a thin but densely packed spread of small stones (90498) restricted to the area defined by 90301 and 90894. This may have been a deliberate surface but it is possible that it was formed naturally, although the process is not obvious. The stones of this layer were embedded directly in the surface of the natural clay with no trace of a buried soil, but terracing or levelling of the area might explain this.

Further south were several postholes and possible postholes (91103, 91094, 91096, 91085, 91071, 91092, and 91118) associated with a small hearth (91047). Most of these form two parallel lines although the postholes are not paired as would be expected if they supported a building. Nearby were another three smaller postholes and a pit (90131, 90197, 90199 and 90216). The latter features were securely sealed beneath the post medieval activity in this area and cut into a patch of buried soil (90133). The hearth in the two lines of postholes was cut by a linear features (90116), probably the continuation of the culvert (90522). There was no dating evidence from the stone features but hammerstones and rubbing stones similar to those from Iron Age and Roman period features on the site were found in this area. The proximity of structure F has been used to justify the inclusion of these features in this phase but it is not impossible that the stone features were related to the culvert and the postholes were Iron Age or even Bronze Age.

Western area

The south-eastern corner of area east was adjacent to area F1, and the features within it are considered with those in the western side of F1. Like many of the outlying features these had no diagnostic artefacts and were difficult to assign to a phase. One feature may have been a smithing hearth dating it to the Iron Age at the earliest. Another feature was a stone trough, which as discussed below might indicate a Roman period date. The features formed a linear spread down the western side of this area with groups of features possibly linked by linear features. Due to their possible spatial relationships they are considered at present to be roughly contemporary and possibly of Roman date, and so are discussed in this phase. However it is difficult to determine securely which of these features are associated and their date must be considered as highly speculative at present.

In area F1, to the west of the large modern pit (94014), was a stone spread with a broad, straight wall (93027) defining the southern side (group 93308). South of the wall was the arc of a possible circular wall (93295) and a stone-lined trough (93254). These were associated with a sequence of deposits under and against the wall. Post-medieval pottery was recovered from the stone spread but only hammerstones were recovered from the more complex deposits to the south of the wall. It appeared that the straight wall was essentially contemporary with the curving wall and related deposits. The straight wall was much broader than the late field boundary walls and no trace of the wall turning or continuing were found. It is probable that the wall was the south side of a rectangular building; the stone spread being a disturbed deposit over its interior. It is assumed that this building was largely robbed out to build the later field walls. It would appear that this structure was very substantial and

had a circular or apsidal structure attached to its southern side. The stone trough was initially thought to be a burial cist but there was no proof of this.

The foundations of a stone wall found to the north (93097) can be identified on the First Edition O south map (1889). The same wall appears on the 1817 Estate map, at which time it continued to the south after a wall junction and a slightly different layout is shown on the 1768 map. Wall 93027 was aligned differently to any of the mapped boundaries but might have represented a building in the corner of a field not indicated on the maps. The straightness of wall 93027 does might a late date, but its width and construction suggests a different period to the 19th century field walls. At present this activity is dated purely by the presence of the trough. Structure F had a similar stone-lined trough and at least one was associated with the activity in area K9. A smaller version was also found inside the building containing the possible dying hearth. Troughs on this site therefore seem to be Roman in date and this gives a very tentative date in the Roman period for this activity.

In area east a large shallow hollow (30082) contained pieces of vitrified hearth wall lining, including some from beside a blowhole. This and a small quantity of hammerscale suggests that the hollow had contained a smithing hearth. It is possible that the sinuous gully (30080/93318) was a flue related to this. A narrow straight gully (93279) also ran towards the hollow (30082), although it faded out before reaching it. At its south-western end 93279 cut a slightly curving linear feature (93275) and was cut by a pit (93281). Feature 93275 and a roughly parallel linear feature (93273) ran roughly north-south and at their southern end the alignment was continued by a roughly linear stone spread (93100). This could have been the remains of a stone bank and contained a pebble that had been used for polishing and hammering. This was similar to finds from group 93308 and may have been related to this group of features.

To the west of hollow 30082 were several postholes and possible postholes. These occurred in three groups (30099, 30074, 30006, 30008, and 30010), (30012, 30026, 30044, 30029, 30004, 30040, 30031, and 30038) and (30064, 30066, 30068). The first group contained only fairly large deep postholes varying from 0.24m to 0.7m in diameter and 0.2 to 0.3m in depth. The second group had some large postholes up to 0.7m in diameter and 0.35m deep but also some smaller ones, one only 0.11m deep. The third group had postholes all about the same size, no more than 0.4m in diameter and 0.16m deep. Some had *in situ* post-packing but others had only occasional packing stones or none at all and were identified as postholes by their steep sides. None of the groups of postholes had a clear pattern or could be easily interpreted as structures. Also in this area was a shallow (0.15m deep) pit (30048) with a figure-of-shaped plan. This resembled a corn drier but at 1.0m long seemed rather small. Unfortunately its fill produced very little charcoal.

Other hollows around feature 30082 may be related but they were all shallow and poorly defined. A group of circular and oval pits further west were filled with grey silt and could be entirely unrelated.

Later features (Phases V-VII)

Phase V

See figure 18

Running north-north-east to south-south-west across the site was a stone-built culvert (90522). It certainly ran from near structure D, but may have started further north and it issued towards the edge of the marsh within area F1. This feature is fully described below in the Post Medieval section, but its impact on the earlier archaeology was significant. It cut away critical sections of ditch 92799/91445 and divided structure D from the features to the west.

Phase VI

See figure 19

The 1817 estate map shows two small enclosures related to the cottage or small farmstead of Pen y Lôn. These were marked 87 and 88, with the northern one (enclosure 88) containing a building, presumably the farmhouse or cottage. The 1769 map also shows this cottage, although the boundaries to the enclosures are different. The maps can be related to finds on the ground because the later large culvert (90066) seems to have followed the dog-legged boundary running between the two enclosures. Some of the later features on site are within the area occupied by Pen y Lôn and were probably related to it. These are discussed in detail in the post medieval section below, but it should be noted that while features to the north and east of the culvert (90066) caused little confusion with archaeology of earlier periods, to the south and west of the culvert it was often difficult to securely identify different periods. Particular problems were encountered where stone had been deposited to

support a kerbed structure (90051) with a stone circular structure (90113/4) inside interpreted as the remains of a pony gin.

Phase VII
See figure 20
The most prominent feature in area B2 was a large linear feature (90066), which doglegged across the site running from south to north. This was a stone-built culvert in the base of a deep cut, and was probably constructed in the middle of the 19th century. It is fully described below in the Post Medieval section. Despite its size its impact on earlier archaeology was relatively slight. It must have removed some traces of roundhouse A but it is likely that this was largely robbed out before the culvert was built. Other later ditches also crossed the site but they were not very deep and their impact was generally superficial.

A kink in the boundary of Bonc Deg Farm shown on the 18th century map indicates that there may have been a building, which would not have lain on Penrhos land so it is not shown in detail on the estate maps. There is no map evidence to suggest that the structure survived into the 19th century, but this could explain the structure 94016 already proposed as a possible 'gatehouse' to the Iron Age settlement. A search should be made for the map that covers this land to determine whether there was indeed a building there, if so any suggestion of an Iron Age gatehouse should be rejected.

Finds

Most of the finds from the settlement were made of stone, with no genuine pottery apart from one sherd of VCP ware. This single sherd is of importance in identifying the cultural links of the people in the settlement, but it can indicate no more than very occasional use of imported salt. As salt was valuable for preserving food and leather it seems unlikely that the people of Parc Cybi managed without it, and local salt production must be a possibility with the sea so close.

The most common find was a variety of pebble and cobble tools. Some were clearly hammerstones and others seem to have been used for grinding, polishing or possibly as whetstones. Some rounded water-worn pebbles seem to have been collected from the beach. A cache of these in roundhouse C indicates that this was a deliberate activity, but it is not clear what the stones might have been used for.

After cobble tools the most numerous find type was spindle whorls, and 26 of these came from the roundhouse settlement, along with 3 stone loom weights and a possible clay loom weight. The densest concentration of spindle whorls was from roundhouse E, which also contained one stone and one clay loom weight. The distribution of these finds may indicate certain parts of the settlement used for textile manufacturing and perhaps a change in emphasis in this activity through time.

Some larger perforated stones were much too large for loom weights and may have been used for weighing down thatch on roofs or haystacks. The use of flat slabs with cup marks in needs some consideration, although smaller stones with cupmarks were probably used to create fire with a bowdrill. It is surprising that only two mortars and no quern stones were recovered from in and around the settlement. Even if the settlement concentrated on wool production rather than arable they would have imported grain rather than ready ground flour. It could be possible that they were processing their grain elsewhere, or disposed of mortars and quern stones in a ritual manner off site. The presence of granaries on site strongly suggests that grain was important and most likely was ground on site. That these granaries had stone supports, like the one at the Tŷ Mawr settlement near South Stack (Smith 1985), is demonstrated by a probable staddle stone, with a tenon on top reused in the entrance of roundhouse A.

The most unexpected finds within the roundhouse settlement were four complete or broken polished stone axes. One of these came from a pit within the area of the Pen y Lôn farmstead and it was accompanied by post medieval artefacts. The other axes were from within the Iron Age layers of the settlement. Polished stone axes would have been recognised at all periods as being different and possibly correctly identified as made by earlier people. It is likely that these axes were found during ploughing and that in some cases they were thought sufficiently significant to retain them. However it is interesting that there were also two flakes from axes, which may indicate some attempt to reuse them.

Area north-west of roundhouse settlement

About 7.5m north-east of the end of the main wall through the settlement (90010), where it might have turned to the south-west, was the end of a narrow shallow gully (25047). This gully ran north-north-west to south-south-east straight down the natural slope before turning more towards the east to fade out at this point near the entrance to the roundhouse settlement. It extended for at least 38m, although it was broken, probably where it had been truncated, and was up to 0.6m wide and 0.2m deep. Small gullies joined it part way along, some apparently cutting the main gully and some cut by it. At the northern end the gully faded out close to a group of small pits with charcoal-rich fills (group 25046).

A post medieval field boundary ran across this area with associated animal burials and other late features but some earlier features were present. There were 4 very shallow scoops (07013, 07011, 06046, and 06044) no more than 0.5m in diameter and less than 0.1m deep. These had charcoal-rich fills and traces of heat alteration in their bases. Although very shallow these might be truncated pits. Nearby was found an undecorated spindle whorl with a bi-conical perforation (sf35), possibly linking this activity to the roundhouse settlement.

To the north and east of gully 25047 there was little evidence of activity. A small pit (21190) was undatable and a much larger pit (13019) was probably post medieval. Features 03010, 03014, 03015 and 14004 were small hollows of little significance, although 03015, which most closely resembled an animal burrow produced a flint flake. However there was a low level scatter of flint and chert including a thumbnail scraper (sf41) and a crude pebble core (sf43). Roughly parallel to the southern end of 25047 was a straight narrow gully (04003), 4.8m by 0.4m and 0.16m deep, filled with stone, especially quartz. It also contained some charcoal, especially towards the base. This feature produced only one small flint flake and its date and function are unknown.

To the south and west of gully 25047 were some larger features, including (06113) measuring 4.4m by 3.9m and 0.6m deep. This was probably a natural hollow in the glacial gravels, largely infilled by natural processes but leaving enough of a hollow to be useful for dumping field stones to remove them from the level of the plough. The only element confusing this interpretation was a small patch of material low down in the feature containing some charcoal and fragments of burnt clay. This was probably the remains of an animal burrow bringing down burnt material originating from scrub clearance, but it is possible that it represents human activity nearby while the hollow was filling in.

Pit 13002 was an elongated rectangular cut measuring 2.25m by 0.65m by 0.4m deep, which resembled a grave cut but was filled with stone. A couple of these stones rested on edge against the cut sides and were thought perhaps to be lining stones. However the other stones were haphazardly dumped in the cut and none were the flat slabs used in the long cist graves. The north-south alignment of the cut also suggested that it was not a grave. It is probable that this was a pit dug quite recently to bury field stones and remove them from the level of the plough. A single tiny flint flake fragment from the fill of this pit was almost certainly residual. An adjacent sub-circular pit (14006) measuring 1.9m by 1.2m by 0.4m deep was certainly for this purpose and was filled with angular blocks of schist and rounded quartzite boulders. A nearby oval pit (13003) measuring 1.95m by 1.2m by 0.18m deep looked similar but contained fewer stones in the fill. No finds were recovered from these features. A small pit (13007) measuring 0.62m by 0.58m by 0.26m deep produced some broken fragments of chert but these are probably heat fractured rather than knapped.

Pit group 25046 (PRN 31592)

See figure 21

Gully 25047 ran down the eastern side of a low gravel knoll, on the top of which was a cluster of small sub-circular pits (25046) (SH 25513 80839). The top of this knoll was covered with orange brown fine silt over the glacial gravels. There were 21 pits if features 4015 and 6111 are taken to be just patches of charcoal rather than truncated pits and feature 10019 was probably a root hollow (a list of the pits and their dimensions is given in table 9, and finds are listed in table 10). The pits were on average, 0.5m in diameter. Some were very shallow, not more than 0.06m deep and presumably heavily truncated, but some reached 0.3m in depth. Of these 21 pits all apart from 21196 and 3026 had charcoal-rich fills, however 21196 did contain quantities of burnt clay. Many of the pits had traces of *in situ* burning, where the edges of the pits were heat altered to give orange, pink and red colours to the natural silts. Pit 5026 seemed in addition to have a lining of orange burnt clay. Many of the pits contained medium sized stones. While most of these did not show signs of heating pit 4011 produced 2.14kg of burnt stone and 11019 also contained some burnt stone.

The finds were undiagnostic. There were small amounts of metalworking debris, coke and burnt clay in many of the pits. This would be disregarded as background contamination except for the piece of smithing hearth cake (sf5986) from pit 11019. There was also nearly 100g of fired clay from pit 21192. Occasional small chert flakes may indicate a prehistoric date and these are supported by a sherd of probable Late Bronze Age pot from pit 10001. This pit also produced a tiny annular bead of translucent deep blue glass. This bead is difficult to date. It could be late Roman, but equally could be seventeenth century, however it is probably not Bronze age (Cool, vol II, part IV). It is so small that it could easily have been introduced to the pit fill be worms at any time. There were also several flint flakes and a thumbnail scraper (sf028) found in cleaning in the general area. Both prehistoric finds and metalworking debris are widely scattered over the pit group with no clear concentration of activity. Most of the metalworking waste is very small and could easily be intrusive. The best argument for the pits being prehistoric rather than later is that the only larger piece of metalworking waste, the smithing hearth cake was recovered from pit 11019, which had clear evidence for late disturbance in the form of clay pipe fragments and window glass.

Occasional fragments of unidentifiable burnt bone were suggestive of the inclusion of domestic cooking waste and did not indicate the use of the pits for cremations.

There were other pits in this area, some very close to pit group 25046 but they are not included ion the group due to differences in size and fill type. On the western edge of the pit group was an oval pit (05053) measuring 1.3m by 0.9m but only 0.15m deep. This contained a compacted gravel fill forming a flat surface on which was a deposit of silt containing frequent limpets and periwinkle shells fragments.

About 7m west of the pit group was pit 13013, which was much larger than those in the pit group at 1.05m by 0.84m and 0.54m deep but was similar in the traces of burning and charcoal-rich fill in its base. It may be that the pits in the main group were originally of similar dimensions but being on a more prominent location had been truncated by ploughing whereas 13013 had been protected to some extent by the hill slope.

Just south of 13013 was a smaller pit (13011) measuring 0.6 by 0.43m and 0.12m deep. Its fill contained only a small proportion of charcoal but it produced one pot sherd (possibly Roman) and some flint debitage.

To the north feature 21206 was disregarded as a probable natural hollow or ploughing disturbance. A neat oval pit (21225) to the north-east of the pit group was more convincing. It measured 1.4m by 0.9m and was 0.3m deep. Again it contained little charcoal but did produce some flint debitage.

Much further west features 08081, 08083 and 17001 proved to be peat-filled hollows and they were probably natural.

Structure 22171 (PRN 31593)

See figure 21

A rather irregular roughly oval hollow (22171) measuring about 7m by 6m lay on a gentle west-facing slope to the north-west of the main roundhouse settlement (SH 25504 80853). The hollow was orientated with its long axis north-west to south-east and was effectively a terrace into the slope, so its south-western side was level and open. At its deepest the hollow was about 0.40m deep.

Just inside the hollow were seven postholes (21200, 21204, 22174, 22176, 22180, 22182, and 22187). These did not form a very regular pattern but were sufficiently evenly distributed to suggest that they were structural postholes and had supported a small timber structure over the hollow. The posthole on the north-western side (21204) was a double posthole, although it was not clear whether this was due to it having been replaced or whether it performed a different function to the other single postholes. With the exception of the double posthole all were between 0.2 and 0.3m deep and about 0.5m in diameter.

At the centre of the feature was a pit 22170 (measuring 1.0m by 0.6m and 0.2m deep), which contained fragments of clay but little evidence of burning. It was sealed by a layer of clay (22143), which had definitely been burnt and used as a hearth. This may have been the central part of a general clay floor as a patch of clay surviving to the west (22172) suggested that originally the clay extended much further over the base of the hollow. Near the hearth was a pit (22141) measuring 0.9m by 0.7m and 0.3m deep.

In order to check whether the archaeology continued into the unstripped area an additional band to the north and north-west of the hollow 22171 was stripped. This revealed a linear feature with stones in the top, possibly a

stone-capped drain (22183); a small pit (22184) and a patch of burnt clay (22186). These were planned but not excavated, covered with geotextile and reburied. This additional area has therefore not been fully investigated and was included in area L8 for future investigation.

A piece of copper allow waste or slag and a single piece of vitrified hearth wall were recovered from the clay floor patch (22172) and a single spheroid representing smithing activity came from feature 22182. However the only more diagnostic find was a spindle whorl (sf1375) from over the possible caped drain (22183) to the east of the hollow. This could hint at a date contemporary with the main roundhouse settlement, which contained numerous spindle whorls.

South of structure 22171 and running through the edge of the pit group 25046 were some ditches or gullies. Although there was no clear dating evidence these are interpreted as post medieval features (see below).

Later features
A steep-side ditch (05044/05051/05059) runs through this area from north-north-east to south-south-west, ending just before pit 05053. This was up to 0.4m deep and 0.88m wide and cut a shallower ditch (05049/09030) that continued further north. Some marine shells were found in the northern ends of both ditches and they were presumably related to pit 05053, which contained numerous shells. Although the ditches cannot be firmly identified with a boundary on the early maps they are roughly parallel to post medieval boundaries in this area and probably had a drainage function. A pit near Tyddyn Pioden also contained numerous shells and it is assumed that the survival of marine shells on this fairly acid site indicates a post medieval date.

Running perpendicularly from these ditches to the west was a shallow gully (10025/10027), which was heavily truncated but probably turned north to join a gully (10021/10023) running parallel to the ditches. Where best preserved this was up to 0.7m wide and 0.54m deep but along most of its length was little more than 0.1m deep. The fill of this gully was very similar to the ploughsoil and it is assumed that it was a small enclosure contemporary with the north-south ditches.

Interpretation
Most of the length of gully 25047 continues quite closely the alignment of the northern end of wall 90010; the curve at the southern end coming at a point appropriate to create and entrance into the roundhouse settlement. The flints scattered in the area may indicate and earlier date but the spindle whorl supports an Iron Age date for activity in this area. In the absence of dating from the gully its alignment might be used to suggest that it was part of the field system related to the roundhouse settlement.

It is tempting to suggest that it originally continued to enclose the pit group and small structure. The flint and single pot sherd from the pit group does suggest a possibly Bronze Age date from these features, but the spindle whorl and more substantial pieces of metalworking waste from structure 22171 could place it as contemporary with the roundhouse settlement. The function of the pit group must await radiocarbon dates and more detail from the charred plant remains. One possibility is that they were for cooking, with hot stones used to create small earth ovens. The *in situ* burning may support this, especially the one case of clay lining and some burnt stones were present, but more might have been expected if this was their function. If they were used for cooking why were there so many within the same area and why on the top of a rise instead of in a more sheltered location?

Feature 22171 appears to have been a small, probably quite casually built structure, but almost certainly roofed and with a central hearth. If smithing had been taking place within the structure it would be expected that more smithing waste might be found, but possibly this activity had occurred nearby in the area not yet investigated.

Field boundaries to east of settlement (PRN 31594)
See figures 16 and 22

To the south-east of the roundhouse settlement (centred on SH 25626 80726), for about 95m the ground remained level, low lying and fairly damp as it was underlain by boulder clay. The subsoil then changed to sands and gravels and rose fairly steeply to an outcrop of bedrock. Within the low-lying area ditches defined several enclosures that may be related to the settlement. Ditch 90325 ran roughly north-west-south-east from near the limits of the settlement for about 40m then turned almost a right angle to the north-east (now numbered 01079). In places this had a shallower ditch (01084/12017/16004) running parallel, which it seems to have cut

and therefore post-dated. Although largely truncated 01079 seems to have curved east at its north-east end and become ditch 22147. This curved round in an arc and then ran almost due south for over 70m as ditch 08020/01045. There was a 3m gap in ditch 22147 where it arced round, and this may have been an entrance, although as the ditch was only 0.2m deep maximum it could have been an artefact of truncation. The fills of all the ditches were peaty, suggestive of frequent water-logging.

Close to the point at which ditch 90325 turned north-east another section of ditch (11015/12013) seemed to continue the curving line of 22147. The north end of 11015/12013 had a deliberate terminus and the gap between it and 90325 was apparently surfaced with a layer of clay and cobbles (12018), suggesting that this was an original entrance and that the track through it had been reinforced with stones. Ditch 90325 seemed to have carried water from the curving ditch (22147) towards the north-west as at its north-west end 4 shallow curvilinear outflow channels (90315, 90317, 90456 and 90457) turned abruptly to the south to fade out not far from the much later culvert (90066). These channels had the same distinctive dark brown, silty rather organic fill as 90325 but no direct stratigraphic relationship could be established. The narrow channels formed an intercutting sequence with 90456 as the earliest and 90315 as the latest. These ran straight, from north-east to south-west perpendicular to ditch 90325, then curve to the west and petered out just before they reach the large culvert (90066). It is probable that they originally drained into a ditch or drain preceding 90066.

Adjacent to these ditches was a large irregular hollow, probably a tree hollow (90419) cut by a small, shallow pit (90417).

The areas to the north-east and south-west of ditch 90325 contained almost no activity, but within the enclosure with the curving northern end there were various pits. Close to the gap in ditch 22147 were three circular stone-filled pits, 22153, 22151 and 22155. They are of similar dimensions, the largest of which (22153) is 1.20m diameter x 0.25 deep. Within the enclosed area were three large pits: (03029) was sub-rectangular and oriented north-west to south-east, (12003) was roughly egg-shaped and located immediately adjacent to (03029) and parallel to it, and (09023) which was sub-square and located some distance to the north-west. There was evidence of significant undercutting in all three pits suggesting that they had held water and had been open for some time. The fills of two of the pits contained peaty clays which supports this theory. Pit (03029) had a notch cut in its north-west edge, (09023) had one battered south-eastern edge and (12003) had a shallower cut at its north-west end. These elements suggest periodic access was required. It was notable that once excavated, two of the pits quickly filled up with water and retained it and it is possible that their function was to collect and hold water. The fills of all three contained a jumble of large stones within the fill and this may indicate that once they fell out of use they became a convenient dumping point for unwanted boulders. (03029) produced half a shale bracelet (sf27) and a fragment of a mid 2nd century mortarium rim (sf36) was recovered from (12003). These indicate a Romano-British date, making them, presumably, later than the main roundhouse settlement in area B2, but possibly contemporary with the activity in area K9. Other potential features within the enclosure proved to be root hollows and other natural hollows.

To the east of the enclosure was a smaller cluster of pits. 22158 was a shallow irregular shaped pit containing a charcoal-rich deposit 22156. The presence of flat burnt stones within the pit indicates that this may have been a hearth. Context 22167 was a shallow irregular gully and was cut by a later pit 22163. These were truncated by a post medieval boundary ditch. A group of three small pits, which produced no dating evidence, was investigated at the extreme south end of Area B3 on the top edge of the outcrop ridge.

Ditches 90325 and 22147 appeared to have been boundary ditches defining fields. None of these ditches appear on the 18th or 19th century maps and are presumably earlier, although it is not possible to know how much earlier. Ditch 90325 continued the alignment of the main wall through the roundhouse settlement and would fit well with the layout of the settlement in its landscape, but the Roman period activity in area K9 was only 25m north of ditch 22147 and these fields would equally well fit with that period. A Roman date being supported by the finds in the two pits within the enclosure. However these two interpretations are not mutually exclusive. Even if the settlement locations migrated from the Iron Age into the Roman period the fields might well have continued in use and might have influenced the location of later settlements.

Iron Age roundhouses in area K (PRN 31595)
See figure 23

To the north-east of the main settlement was a rounded hill and at the foot of the northern side of this (SH 25684 80870) were two more structures that probably dated to the Iron Age. These were two, probably circular structures interpreted as clay-walled roundhouses (80248) and (80249). Both were equipped with internal drains and the choice of location provided both protection from the prevailing south-westerly winds and the necessary slope gradient to manage the flow of water through the drains and out of the structures. Whether the location down wind and out of sight of the main settlement is significant and perhaps related to the function of these structures needs some consideration.

The two structures were located just metres from each other, the drain from (80249) flowing downslope eastwards and apparently into (80248). Unfortunately the sewerage rising main trench ran north-south between the two buildings and bisected the occupation area. This made it difficult to explore the relationships between the deposits either side of the baulk and to establish the relative chronology of the two buildings.

Western roundhouse (80249)
The first of the two structures encountered was recorded as group (80249). This was defined almost entirely by its internal features, particularly a 'question mark' shaped drain, but had possible traces of a wall which originally may have been approximately 9m in diameter.

The interior drain and hearths
The most prominent feature associated with the building was the cut of the 'question mark' shaped drain (80180). From its origin in the south western quadrant of the area, it arced around in a clockwise direction through 135° before heading off to the east-north-east where it ran down the slope and was cut by the rising main trench. In total, the exposed length of the drain was approximately 7.60m. It was between 0.20 and 0.30m wide and 0.13m deep, with steep sides and a flat base. It was lined (80195) with schist pieces averaging 0.28m in length, set vertically against the edges the cut, with others laid horizontally on top to cap the structure. Occasional base slabs were also identified but these were not continuous along the length of the drain cut.

The drain (80180) terminated in the south-east quadrant of the area at pit (80185). The pit was orientated north-west to south-east and was sub-rectangular in plan, approximately 0.90m long, 0.64m wide. It had steep, almost vertical, sides and at 0.28m deep, its flat base was more than twice the depth of the drain channel which joined its north-west end. The pit had dark grey silty clay (80184) in the base with a dark greyish brown silty clay (80183) forming the main fill. The relationship between the drain and the pit strongly suggests that the two were functionally related, with the pit apparently serving as some kind of reservoir or container for liquid. The drain was cut at its highest level where it met the pit, and became slightly deeper as it headed away to the north-east in order to compensate for the uphill inclination of the natural ground surface and maintain a constant downward flow away from the pit. After around 0.6m the drain turned and began to flow with the gradient of the hillside seemingly to channel its contents away and to the east. As the pit was clearly deeper than the drain, it appears that the that the drain may have been intended to provide some kind of overflow facility, channelling water or liquid away from the reservoir once its depth had reached a certain level.

The drain is typical of those found inside Iron Age roundhouses in North Wales, so it is probable that it was inside a roofed building. However, despite extensive cleaning by hand, only tentative evidence for a structural enclosing wall was identified. Two shallow patches of light brown silty clay with pebbles (80202 and 80196) no more than 0.08m deep formed a discontinuous arc around the north-western side of the area of activity. Although these were subtle features, it is possible (80202) and (80196) were the only surviving remains of an approximately circular clay wall, which originally may have been approximately 9m in diameter.

A hearth or fire pit (80227) lay on the southern edge of the drain, roughly central to the scatter of identified features. The fire pit was an irregular sub-circular shape, 0.17m deep, largely filled by firm yellow silty clay (80228) with clearly defined darker lenses. The appearance of the deposit is consistent with its use as a hearth, with repeated episodes of burning of its upper surface accompanied by periodic resurfacing with fresh clay. Above this lay a thin firm, black and yellow silty clay deposit (80229) with frequent charcoal inclusions, which appears to represent the remains of the final fire in the hearth. The clay deposit (80228) did not extend along the entire base of the pit. It had a clearly defined, almost vertical edge along its western side indicating that the various lenses had built up against some kind of vertical surface. This might have been the side of a wooden trough, since decayed, but it would have been vulnerable to burning and it might be more likely that this was the cast of a stone later removed.

Any such component of the hearth must have been removed before (80230), a levelling layer of firm, brown clayey silt with charcoal flecks and patches of clay, was deposited. This layer covered the charcoal-rich deposit (80229) and filled the void on the western side of the clay layer; it also filled a 0.19m deep sub-circular cut (80236) located in the north-west corner of the fire pit. This feature was initially interpreted as a posthole though it is unclear whether the posthole cut through or was butted by the burnt clay deposit (80228). If it was a posthole, it might reasonably be argued that it is not contemporary with the hearth; if it was not to be set alight, any wooden post would have been removed before the hearth was used. It is also possible that the posthole was cut after the hearth had gone out of use, and then deliberately and completely removed before (80230) was deposited. Another possibility is that cut (80236) is the socket of another removed stone used to line the edge of the pit, partially enclosing the clay hearth within and contemporary with its use.

Two other deposits of heated and oxidised clay were identified in this central area. Both features, located either side of the firepit (80227), also appeared to represent the remains of hearths. Deposit (80182) was later than the firepit (80227) and overlay the western edge of its levelling fill (80230). Deposit (80222) lay on the other side of the firepit. Both consisted of a slightly convex layer of moderately hard and burnt, mottled yellow, grey and brown clay with moderate flecks of charcoal set in slight hollows. Though hearth (80182) clearly postdated the use of the firepit, no such stratigraphic relationship was identified between (80227) and (80022).

Postholes and pits

In total 12 postholes, including the one associated with firepit (80227), were identified in this area, straddling the stone-lined drain. The majority of them were circular or sub-circular in plan. Four of the larger examples, (80186), (80213), (80215) and (80245) appeared to form a linear arrangement of two groups of two, with a total length of 6m and orientated west-north-west to east-south-east. Although they were mostly similar in shape, their dimensions varied greatly from between 0.66m to 0.25m in diameter and between 0.38 to 0.12m in depth. Their fills were also variable and only posthole (80186), contained some larger packing stones. Despite these differences, it is likely that all four are functionally related and that they formed part of a wall line possibly sub-dividing the roundhouse. A further posthole on the same alignment, (80422), lay 3.5m away from (80245) on the other side of the rising main baulk and was recorded as part of roundhouse group (80248). It is possible that was part of the same line and if so indicates that it might have been later than the roundhouse and cut through its remains. In this case the posthole alignment might have been associated with the other roundhouse (80248).

In the northern half of the roundhouse were postholes (80247) and (80241), which were 0.20 and 0.28m deep respectively and posthole (80200), which was 0.35 long, 0.29m wide and 0.13m deep and (80208) was only slightly smaller. Two conjoined postholes lay to the west of the large 'reservoir' pit (80195). The sub-rectangular, shallower, and more irregular cut of posthole (80224) contrasted sharply with the steep sided and deeper cut of the 0.20m diameter and 0.27m deep posthole (80226) located at its western end. Posthole (80205) lay nearby, in the south-west quadrant of the structure. The cut was, like the majority of the others, circular in plan with steep sides and a flat base. With a diameter of 0.65m and 0.24m deep, it was one of the largest examples in this area. It was filled with a single deposit of firm, brown silty sandy gravel (80204). Two large flat stones lay overlapping each other within the fill, possibly the remains of post pads or dislodged packing stones.

Three stakeholes ((80216), (80218), and (80233)) were located just to the north west of hearth deposit (80182). All were sub-circular in plan, between 0.16 and 0.10m in diameter and 0.13-0.10m deep. It seems likely that they were related in function, and possibly represent the remains of a small stake-built structure associated with the use of the hearths, perhaps used to facilitate the heating or drying of materials over the westernmost fire.

A small shallow pit (80198), 0.31m wide, 0.17m wide and 0.10m deep had discoloured and oxidised gravel in its base demonstrating *in situ* burning and a thin charcoal-rich deposit, presumably the remains of the fire. Pit (80232) was located in the north-east quadrant of structure (80249), on the northern edge of drain (80180). It was a large, irregular ovoid shape in plan, 0.80m long, 0.70m wide and 0.15m with a firm grey pebbly fill (80231) that appeared to contain a high proportion of redeposited natural gravel. It was clearly cut through by drain (80180) on its western end, and though its function remains unclear, pit (80232) appears to have been deliberately filled and levelled before the drain was cut. Pit (80243) was a similar pit, measuring approximately 0.75m by 0.68m and 0.28m deep, within the eastern part of the structure.

A number of features which were initially thought to have had archaeological significance subsequently turned out to be natural in origin. The largest and most extensive of these was (80197), a 0.12m deep deposit of firm yellowish brown silty clay which extended across the eastern and north eastern side of the drain structure.

Initially interpreted as the remains of a clay floor layer, an exploratory slot demonstrated that this was in fact just variation in the natural drift geology.

Finds
Very few finds were recovered from any of the roundhouse features. Table 11 lists the finds from roundhouse 80249. The upper fill (80183) of the reservoir/pit (80185) at the end of the internal drain contained half of a sub-circular stone loomweight (sf837) approximately 10cm in diameter. More material suggestive of craftworking at the structure, a stone spindle whorl sf4248, came from the basal fill (80187) of posthole (80186). This posthole also produced a flint core sf4249. The only other lithic objects associated with the building were four pieces of struck black chert sf4385 found embedded within (80197), the silty clay deposit in the north eastern quadrant of the structure. Though they appear to have been deliberately struck, the fragments are functionally undiagnostic and unfortunately their recovery from what appears to be a natural deposit means that it is unclear whether the relate to activity at the structure or represent an earlier phase of activity in the area.

Small fragments of what was probably burnt clay rather than pottery were recovered from wet sieving from layer (80222) (sf4375), the burnt clay deposit and from the fill of hearth (80227) (sf4382). More fragments (sf4482) were identified within the silting deposit (80181) of the internal drain (80180) and probably derive from material washed into the drain from the surrounding floor deposits as it silted up. Wet sieving also produced limited evidence for metalworking including corroding iron fragments and a small piece of smithing floor concretion (sf5936) from posthole (80200), although these do not seem enough to argue for smithing in the structure.

Eastern roundhouse (80248)
The second structure (80248) was located a couple of metres away from the edge of (80249), just downslope and to the east.

Terraces
The earliest activity associated with this building was found on its western side. Here, at the base of the hillslope, two apparent terraces were cut in order to create a series of steps or platforms upon which structure (80248) was built. The longest of these, (80419/80338), was slightly confused by being clipped by the mechanical excavator close to the baulk, but it seemed to curve round the western, uphill side of the area of activity. The terrace had quite a steep cut up to 0.7m deep, though it became shallower towards the southern and northern ends where it merged with the natural hillslope.

The terracing created a partially sunken floored structure, with the resulting ground surface in the west and north-west part of the roundhouse sitting below the level of that of the outside of the building in these areas. It does not appear to have been cut to provide a level platform, but instead to produce a surface with a gentler gradient and the resulting ground surface within the structure still slopes away to the east. There appears to have been a trade off between producing a more level, comfortable occupation/activity surface whilst still maintaining enough of a downward slope to facilitate the flow of water/liquid through the drains and out of the building.

Another terrace cut (80327), apparently not directly related to the structure, was cut into the hillslope at the northern end of (80419). It ran for about 6m, in an almost semi-circular ‘C’ shape. Its steep, in places almost vertical, sides were cut into natural deposits and up to 0.40m deep. Terrace (80327) contained the remains of a possible annexe wall (80317).

Walls
There was a large quantity of tumbled stone recorded across the area, which suggests some stone was used in the walls but none was found *in situ*. It seems most likely that any potential wall would have sat just outside of the terrace cut (80149)/ (80338). A circular wall, with an approximate internal diameter of 7.2m, if it were located just outside of, and concentric with, the projected original edge of the northern terrace cut (80338) and the southern part of the cut discussed above, would contain all of the occupation features centrally within and enclose the vast majority of the demolition and burning deposits. Other deposits support the suggestion of a wall in this location. A layer of tumbled angular cobbles (80434) sat below general demolition deposit (80263) on the inside of the southern terrace cut. It was a curvilinear deposit 2.8m long, 0.64m wide, and 0.1m deep and consisted of stones and clayey silt. It had a well defined outside edge within the terrace cut which clearly continued along the same curvilinear line through the south-west quadrant after the remains of the terrace cut faded out. In the south-east quadrant deposit (80332) consisted of a curvilinear deposit of 90% small and

medium cobbles in a dark greyish brown clayey silt matrix. It was 0.66m wide and curved around the south-east quadrant for a distance of 8.22m. The southern part of this deposit appears to follow the proposed wall line, before turning northwards to run on its inside edge. Both appear to be tumble from a more or less completely dismantled circular stone and cob wall.

Better, more direct, evidence for stone walls did survive to the north and south of the structure; however they appeared to be annexe or boundary walls associated with, but not part of, the building. Both (80317) and (80265)/(80287) appear to start approximately on the circumference of the proposed wall line discussed above and only relatively short lengths of each were identified. Both were overlain by later wall tumble and general demolition deposits. The south-eastern, better preserved, end of wall foundation (80287) consisted of an approximately 1m wide straight linear deposit of schist stones. They were laid flat in a shallow, 0.09m deep, construction trench (80291), cut into what was believed to be a relict soil horizon (80403)/ (80300). Smaller stones towards the middle of the deposit appeared to be the remains *in situ* wall coring. At its north-western end where it was recorded as 80265 many of the deliberately laid schist cobbles, appeared to be oxidised and burnt.

Further to the north, and within the terrace cut 80327 was another deposit of flat schist cobbles (80317), 3m long, 1.75m wide and 0.40m deep. It curved around the base of terrace cut (80327). Like the stone tumble inside the roundhouse this may have been pushed in from the top of the terrace. The larger slabby nature of the stones in this deposit suggest they may have been from a drystone wall rather than the cob wall of a roofed building. It is possible that a small enclosure or animal shelter was constructed adjacent to the main roundhouse. If so it contained no occupation debris.

Several postholes (80420, 80422, 80352, 80365 and 80392) lay on or near the projected wall line. They were between 0.22 - 0.42m in diameter, and 0.10 - 0.34m deep. With the exception of (80365), an altogether less substantial feature, they all had steep sides and a flattish base. They were all filled with a dark or reddish brown, clayey silt and generally had good evidence for packing stones.

How the posts would have functioned as part of a wall is unclear. They appear to be too widely spaced to have supported wattle panels or a ring beam. As noted above 80422 continued the line of posts crossing structure 80249 and could be related to these, and posthole (80420) is as likely to have belonged to structure 80249 as to 80248. Two other postholes and a pit (80424 and 80321 and 80319) are stratigraphically later than the roundhouse occupation, and it is possible that all the postholes are unrelated to roundhouse 80248. Posthole (80392) contained a sherd of 19th century bottle glass though it is possible that the sherd is intrusive from the layer above.

Given the difficulties in identifying the walls of the structure it is perhaps understandable that uncertainty also surrounds the location of any entrances to the building. It is possible that there was an entrance in the northern side, more or less at the eastern end of terrace cut (80338). A 1.3m long, 0.5m wide aligned sub-rectangular patch of redeposited yellowish, stony sandy clay natural, was identified, running north-south between drains (80259) and (80288). The deposit also partially covered two large drain capstones near to the end of the drain. The adjacent ends of each capstone dipped downwards, suggesting that they may have partially collapsed. It is possible that this slumping has occurred due to the amount of traffic that this part of the drain had endured, and the application of the redeposited natural above was an attempt to cover and protect the drain and provide a level surface in an area of heavy traffic.

Alternatively postholes 80352 and 80392, which were fairly substantial with large packing stones, might have supported entrance posts, although pit 80371 would have posed an obstacle if this was the entrance.

Drains and related features

The best preserved elements of the building were its fairly elaborate internal drains. The main drain, (80259), was a similar ‘question marked’ shape to that in the structure to the west, however it appeared to made of a number of almost straight segments in contrast to the smooth curving shape of drain (80180). The drain was approximately 6.28m long and originated on the western side of the structure. It arced round to the north and east and then ran off downslope towards the east-south-east where it gradually faded out. It had an average width of 0.35m, with generally steep, slightly concave sides and a flattish base up to 0.28m deep. It had a stone lining (80250) constructed from flat schist pieces up to 0.40m in length. Some of the stones appear to have been set vertically, though along much of the drains length the side slabs appeared to have been laid at an angle to the cut to produce an almost ‘V’ shaped profile to the resulting stone drain channel. The drain was capped continuously along its length with horizontally laid schist slabs up to 0.63m long, but no basal slabs were found.

The basal fill of the drain was a soft grey green silty clay (80390) over which was an orange brown silt (80389) apparently coloured by a concentration of precipitated iron oxide.

The main drain appeared to serve as some kind of overflow channel for a deeper pit or reservoir at its uphill end. The drain ran from a large, sub-rectangular pit or trough (80372) in the south-east quadrant of the structure. Pit (80372) was approximately 1.00m long and 0.08m wide with almost vertical sides and a flat base. At around 0.41m deep, it was around 0.20m or so deeper than drain (80259).

Traces of wood, including a burnt piece (sf4460) suggest a possible timber lining to this pit. An upright stone against the eastern side of the pit seems to have been *in situ* and may have provided packing or support for this wooden lining. There were seven or eight other large, flat schist slabs (80373) in the pit but all but one were laid over the top of the pit. These seemed to be quite carefully laid but had slumped into the middle of the pit with one stone falling into the base of the pit. The stones could not have been self-supporting over an empty pit so it is suggested that they rested on a wooden structure and collapsed into the pit as this decayed. Two of the stones had perforations and had broken across the perforations. The largest (sf5391) was 0.42m long and had been deliberately shaped to create a rough ovoid. Stone sf5392 was slightly smaller and had not obviously been shaped. As they were broken it is presumed that they were reused from elsewhere. There were two similar perforated stones (sf5393 and sf5394) reused to line drain (80359).

The main fill of the pit (80374) seems to have been deposited when the pit went out of use as the trough decayed but in the base was a patch of orange clayey silt (80375). This was so red that it was initially assumed to be burnt but it seems probable that reddening was due to iron oxide precipitation as seen in the drain fill.

There was also a number of subsidiary drains associated with the main drain (80259). A short but sinuous stretch of drain (80331) began in centre of the area enclosed by the main drain and headed off in a generally south-easterly direction. With a maximum width of 0.28m and depth of 0.19m, it was slightly smaller than the main drain (80259). It had steep, sometimes vertical sides and a flat base. It had been lined with schist slabs (80330), an average of 0.20m long, and capped with slightly larger, flat slabs. After about 2m the drain changed direction and turned sharply to the east-north-east, heading downslope in a straight line to a ‘Y’ shaped junction with the main drain (80259). This eastern segment, recorded as (80359), had different characteristics to the other end of the drain; it was wider at 0.40m, deeper and the lining and capping stones were larger. It is possible that the western end (80331) was a later addition.

Drain (80331) cut through the southern edge of a large pit (80431) measuring 1.02m long, 0.88m wide and 0.29m deep with steep sides and a flattish base. It appeared almost triangular in plan, however it is possible that this was due in large part to its truncation to the south west by (80331), without which it would more than likely have been a more regular, sub-rectangular shape. This pit was capped by flat schist slabs like pit (80372) and it seems likely that the eastern section of the drain (80359) originally ran from the south-eastern corner of this large pit. The western section of the drain (80331) appears to have been added at a later date after pit (80431) had gone out of use.

Another substantial drain segment was located in the northern part of the roundhouse**.** Drain (80288), ran for a distance of 2.6m, running downslope to the east-south-east then south-south-east to join main drain (80259). It was 0.36m wide and up to 0.30m deep with quite steep, concave sides and a flat base and was lined and capped with schist slabs (80286), but had no trace of an associated pit or a trough.

Three of the subsidiary drains were noticeably narrower, shallower and less well constructed than the other examples found within the structure. One of these, a curvilinear drain (80348), led away down the slope eastwards from the south eastern corner of the trough (80372). It appeared to be almost symmetrical with the main drain to the north about an E-W axis, however it started to become noticeably shallower as it headed eastwards and faded out in the south-west quadrant after running for a distance of 1.71m. At 0.20m wide and 0.09m deep it was smaller than the main drain and utilised a simpler construction technique; instead of side and capping slabs, the drain was filled with angular schist stones (80349).

The two other examples were both smaller drains that fed into the main drain (80259) in the north-west quadrant. The easternmost (80393) and the other (80404), were slightly curvilinear in plan and ran from the base of the inner terrace cut (80338), more or less perpendicular to the arc of the main drain to the south-east. Drain (80393) was 0.76m long, 0.23m wide and 0.10m deep with slightly concave sides and a mildly concave but flattish base. This drain appears to have been unlined, though it was capped as two horizontally laid schist slabs

(80394) remained *in situ*. These were set across the top of the cut, and located around halfway along its length. The other drain, (80404), was around 0.6m long and had a similar profile, width and depth to (80393). Again the drain was unlined but a capping deposit of four flat schist slabs (80405) covered its entire length. It is possible that these two drains performed a different function to the other larger examples.

The main drain (80259) and two of the three of the larger subsidiary drains, (80359) and (80288), all contained a grey silty clay primary fill (80390), (80367) and (80366). In the main drain (80259), this primary fill (80390) had a distinct green tinge to it. The deposits sat at the base of the drains, usually to a depth of between 0.04-0.06m. The drains were then all filled almost to the level of their capstones by a secondary silting deposit, recorded as (80389), (80360) and (80407). These secondary deposits can be generally characterised as a soft bright orange clayey silt, sometimes with blacker, charcoal-rich, lenses. The deposits had stained the lining stones a bright orange colour along the length of the drains. They appeared to represent the deposition of iron-rich silts within the drains during their use.

No grey silty clay primary fill was identified within drain (80331) in the centre of the roundhouse. The drain was instead completely filled by the bright orange silt deposit (80368). In contrast, the eastern end of the drain, (80359), did possess an earlier, grey primary fill (80367). This observation may provide more support the argument that (80331) was a later, western extension to drain (80359). The three smaller drains, (80348), (80393) were all filled by a brown clayey or silty deposit recorded as (80350), (80417) and (80406) respectively.

Other internal features
To the west of the trough (80373) there was a small, north-south aligned rectangular recess within the main terrace cut (80419). This niche, measured approximately 1.5m long and 0.67m wide. At its base was (80266) a 0.17m deep deposit of small to medium stones, and this possibly formed a small, roughly paved platform related to activity at the trough.

It is possible that both the trough (80373) and stone platform (80266) were related in function to an elongated posthole (80427) cut into the top of the terrace (80419), directly above (80266) which would have been located just inside the proposed wall line. The posthole was in the form of a slot 0.56m long, 0.26m wide and 0.17m deep, aligned parallel with the terrace cut and set slightly back from its edge. It had *in situ* packing stones (80428) set on edge around the sides of the slot and one stone in the base. The northern end of the slot was cut away by a later pit.

After the construction of the drains occupation deposits built up sealing some of the drains, which were presumably in use, protected from infilling by their capstones. These occupation deposits (80380 and 80398) were composed of a dark brown, charcoal-rich clayey silt up to 0.15m thick covering parts of the north-western and centre of the roundhouse. Deposit 80398 was sealed below a paved surface (80341) located in the north-west quadrant of the structure and comprising a number of flat schist slabs. It formed a 1.8m long paved area, extending from the base of the terrace cut (80338) to the north-west edge of the main drain (80259). The paving was exclusively limited to this area, and appears to be an attempt to create a more stable, dry ground surface at the base of the terrace cut following the silting of the smaller subsidiary drain (80404).

The best evidence for a hearth within the structure was located in the central area, overlying occupation deposit (80380). It consisted of a shallow deposit of yellow/red and black clay (80381), 0.57m long and 0.53m wide, centrally located in the building and obviously burnt *in situ*. Two stakeholes, (80382) and (80384) were located adjacent to the hearth deposit. They were both quite substantial, around 0.17m in diameter and 0.20m deep. Their proximity to the hearth suggests that the wooden stakes that they held were used in activities taking place there.

A large pit (80371) was located in the north-east corner of the building close to drain (80288) and probably just inside the wall of the building. It measured 0.78m in diameter and 0.25m deep with fairly gradually sloping sides and a flat base. A thin layer of dark grey silty clay (80376) covered the base and sides of the pit and possibly formed a clay lining. This was reinforced by three flat schist slabs (80377) lying directly on the clay suggesting that the pit was at least partially also stone-lined. The fill was a stony deposit (80379) containing predominately flat, angular schist slabs up to 0.33m long, apparently dumped into the northern side of the pit. Many had oxidised surfaces from exposure to heat, a process that appears to have happened whilst the stones were *in situ*. The stones were concentrated in the northern half of the pit and the southern half was filled with a deposit of mottled brown, orange and black burnt material (80378) that contained a high quantity of burnt clay and charcoal. This material was very similar to the overlying burnt roof deposit (80334) discussed below.

Another large pit (80346) lay just to the south of drain (80348) in the central southern part of the structure. It was sub-circular in plan, 1.14m in diameter and 0.64m deep, with relatively steep sides. It contained four stony fills (80397, 80396, 80395 and 80347), suggesting deliberately backfilling. The pit was sealed by the general demolition deposit (80267).

There was only one posthole (80400) inside the structure, which lay in the north-east quadrant, between drains (80259) and (80359). It was circular in plan, around 0.33m in diameter and 0.30m deep, with steep, almost vertical sides. It was filled with (80399) a soft, dark greyish brown clayey silt with a number of pebbles and two medium sized stones that appear to be the remains of post packing. The lack of an identifiable post pipe, suggests that the fill represents disturbed packing material from a post that was deliberately removed.

Destruction
It appears that the roundhouse may have burnt down at the end of its occupation. A soft dark blackish brown silty clay deposit (80334) spread across much of the structure. Though it was shallow, with a maximum depth of 0.06m, it was quite extensive and spread in an irregular fashion to cover an area approximately 6.00m long and up to 3m wide within the centre of the structure. Its dark colour derived from the high proportion of charcoal contained within it. It also contained quantities of burnt clay, possibly daub, burnt bone and burnt fire cracked stones. During excavation some of the burnt plant material was seen to resemble straw or reeds, possibly from a thatched roof or flooring deposit. Another similar, though less extensive deposit (80358) was noted in the south-east part of the roundhouse, however the burnt deposits did not cover the floor area of the entire building.

Burnt material was identified in the upper levels of a number of the cut features within the roundhouse. Two of the larger drains, (80259) and (80288), had a charcoal-rich layer overlying the main fill possibly material that had washed into the drains following the burning episode represented by (80334/80358). The stakeholes (80382 and 80384) next to the hearth 80381 were both filled with dark blackish brown silty clay indistinguishable from 80334, which also sealed the hearth deposit. This suggests that the stakes remained *in situ* around the hearth until the roundhouse roof was burnt, and that the voids that were created when the stakes were removed filled up with debris from the fire. The fill of posthole 80400 was sealed by the burnt deposit 80334, and the paving 80341 was directly overlain by it. In pit (80371) stones seem to have been pushed into the pit partially filling it and then they seem to have been burnt as part of the fire. The later fill (80378), a mottled brown, orange and black deposit of burnt clay and charcoal may have been pushed into the pit after the fire.

The extent of this burnt deposit and evidence for some stones being burnt suggests a general conflagration and possibly the roof of the structure being burnt. The burning event certainly marked the end of the use of the structure.

Abandonment
After the burning of the roundhouse, the building appears to have been abandoned. In the north-western quadrant of the structure a 0.15m deep, grey clay deposit (80340), 3.5m long and 1.1m wide, accumulated over the burnt deposit (80334). It lay within the arc of the terrace cut (80338) and appears to derive from material eroded from the edge of the terrace cut. Another clay deposit (80329) in the south east quadrant again clearly postdates the burning of the building.

Following these natural silting episodes, it appears the walls of the structure began to collapse and the tumble from them spread across the site. Tumble from what was presumably the western wall of the roundhouse was identified in the base of the terrace cut (80338). A 0.3m deep deposit of large and medium stones (80272) appears to have tumbled downslope and collected in the base of the terrace. A further tumble deposit (80337) overlay (80272) and represents a later stage in the collapse and spread of material from the same, western, part of the wall. Tumble deposit (80326)/(80285) may mark the approximate position of the wall on the south and east side of the building. This was an extensive deposit of mid grey, slightly sandy, silty clay containing 50% medium sub-rounded and angular stone cobbles and was generally located on and to the south of the proposed wall-line. Another curvilinear stony deposit, deposit (80332) is also likely to be tumble from this south-eastern part of the wall, though it appears to represent an earlier stage in the process as does (80434) in the south west.

Other stony, tumble deposits appear to be more generalised, and it is difficult to associate them with a specific element of any original wall structure and they must instead be designated as reworked and plough disturbed general building collapse material. This list of demolition deposits includes (80267), (80268), (80269), (80315), (80318), (80336), and (80410). Within this overall pattern of structural degeneration it was possible to identify

localised episodes of relative stabilisation represented by thin grey silty layers (80263) and (80345). Following these phases of decreased activity, the process of demolition and decay appears to have continued as these silting episodes were overlain by (80267), a 0.12m deep, mid brown clayey silt with 60-80% sub angular and angular cobbles, an extensive demolition/tumble deposit that covered much of the interior of the structure.

The quantity of stones in these deposits shows that the walls contained stone but it was not suitable building stone and the silt between the stones may have been the remains of the cob that formed the main structure of the walls.

Following the collapse of the walls, the western side of the roundhouse appeared to have been covered with a sequence of thin colluvial deposits (80274 and 80270/80271), material that had been washed or ploughed down the hill and sealed the remains of the structure below. These deposits lay below the ploughsoil (80304) and above the wall tumble and demolition deposits (80272) and (80336).

Post roundhouse features
A small number of features in the area of the roundhouse appear to represent later phases of activity. Posthole 80321 and feature 80319 cut through the demolition deposit 80303 and posthole (80424) was probably also cut from a higher level. Feature 80319 was seen in section as 1.24m wide and 0.43m deep, but it had a short narrow gully in the base. Unfortunately the feature was not followed in plan at the higher level but the gully was recorded an exactly the same alignment as the end of the drain (80180) in structure 80249. The sewer pipe trench prevented any attempt to prove that this was part of the drain but it was cut from about the same level OD as the drain and could represent the broadening of the drain caused by water erosion near its end. This is a speculative connection that could not be proved but may hint that 80249 was later than 80248.

A roughly north-south orientated 0.65m wide curvilinear ditch (80261) cut through the ploughsoil (80304) and truncated the top of the roundhouse deposits. Another pit or ditch (80323) was only seen in section in the baulk on the western side of the site. It was also cut through ploughsoil (80304) and appeared to be around 0.84m wide and 0.31m deep.

Finds
Table 12 lists all the finds from roundhouse 80248. The pieces of burnt wood sf4460 that were removed from the central fill (80374) of the reservoir pit (80372) have been mentioned. Small fragments of bone and tooth were found scattered amongst various deposits, mostly recovered from wet sieving. The burnt roof layer (80334) contained small pieces of both teeth and burnt bone sf4556. The primary fill (80390) of the main drain (80259) contained a few small pieces of tooth sf5785. The erosion deposit (80340) at the base of the terrace cut (80338) contained some small fragments sf5766. More small pieces sf5431 were recovered from the extensive, early tumble deposit to the south and south east of the structure (80326) and some burnt bone pieces sf5558 were identified within the general demolition layer (80268).

Sixty six grams of burnt clay fragments (sf4424) were identified in tumble (80326) along with the bone fragments recorded above, and more (sf4459) were recovered from the possible roof burning layer (80334). One piece in sf4424 has a curved surface that appears to be the cast of a withy, suggesting that this is burnt daub, and may have originated from the face of the wall. Other small fragments were found in other deposits.

Struck and chipped lithics were found in seven of the deposits. Some flint flakes sf5784 were recovered from the primary fill of drain (80288) in the northern part of the roundhouse. Other flint items came from later, abandonment deposits. These comprised sf4458, a piece of flint from tumble deposit (80326) and sf4425, some worked flint from within (80263), the silting episode that took place between earlier and later phases of the collapse of the roundhouse walls. A piece of struck chert, sf5468 was found within (80390), the primary fill of the main drain. Chert debitage came from the burnt upper fill of the pit (80371) (sf5474) and within (80270), the colluvial deposit on the western side of the structure (sf4379).

A number of other, larger, stone items were also found. These included possibly as many as four large schist stones with holes. Slabs sf5391 and sf5392 were part of the stone structure (80373) within the reservoir pit (80372) or trough at the end of the main drain (80259). Stone sf5391 had been roughly shaped and its almost complete circular perforation was up to 71mm across, placed centrally along its straighter edge. The other stone sf5392 was slightly smaller at 0.36m long and had not been shaped. Its hole was located along its longest side but slightly off centre. Another two large perforated stones had been reused as part of the drain lining (80335) in drain (80359) in the north-east quadrant. Stone sf5393 was 0.42m long and had been shaped like sf5391. Its

perforation was set slightly off the centre. The other stone sf5394 was more ambiguous. It was an irregular pentagonal shape with the possible remains of a hole near to one of the corners.

All of the stones had broken across the perforation, which must have been a weak point but also suggests some force applied to this point. They must have been discarded from their original function when they broke and were reused in the roundhouse. They may have functioned as substantial stone weights, with a rope attached to the stone through the perforation. Weights this size would be much too large for use as loom weights, so perhaps they were used to weight down thatch or even as anchor stones for small boats; the off centre location of the hole perhaps supports the former.

Other stone items included a large cobble heavily peck-marked and with red staining (sf4461). This was recovered from (80368), the fill of drain (80331), which might explain the staining and it could have been used to crush ore. Very dense, but highly weathered slag (sf4494), weighing 75g was identified in (80266), the stone deposit within the terrace recess (80430). The slag was slightly vesicular and probably a piece from centre of a smithing hearth cake. A smaller, 1.7g piece (sf4552) was removed from (80334) the burnt roof deposit. This was a small fragment of variegated black/red glassy slag and might be copper alloy slag. All the wet sieving residues from this area were checked for magnetic fragments to detect hammerscale and other smithing waste but none was found, so the smithing hearth cake seems to have been imported from elsewhere. However quantities of iron oxide does seem to have been introduced to the drains from some source, staining the deposits and the lining stones orange. A low density friable material, which might be ochre precipitate (sf5440) was found in the charcoal-rich upper fill (80338) of the main drain (80259). The silting deposit (80406), in the small tributary drain (80404) contained a lump of siliceous residue from decalcified limestone (sf5498), which was presumably introduced as limestone is unlikely to be present in the natural gravels.

The only glass find was sf5424, the piece of post-medieval material recovered from the fill (80391) of posthole (80392). A piece of post-medieval pottery was recovered from (80268), the general demolition deposit that underlay the ploughsoil.

Discussion of the roundhouses

These structures are interpreted as clay or clay and stone-walled roundhouses, although the evidence for the walls is slight. Structure 80249 did not have postholes appropriate for a timber structure and if the walls were stone they must have been entirely robbed out. Circular buildings with thick clay walls due not need posts to support the roof and the capped drains have been found in buildings with convincing traces of clay walls. In structure 80248 some posts might have had a function in the walls but they do not appear able to have supported the roof. The quantity of stone over this area strongly suggests a significant stone component in the wall but this was not good building stone and was more likely to have been used within a clay matrix.

The probable wall lines of the two buildings would have over lapped so they are unlikely to have been contemporary. The drain from structure 80249 would also have flowed directly into 80248 if they were in use together. They must therefore have been sequential but there was no statigraphic information to determine which came first. Structure 80248 seems to have burnt down and its gradual covering by colluvium might suggest that it was the last structure otherwise it might have been more deliberately covered over and levelled. However if feature 80319 really was the end of the internal drain of 80249 it would demonstrate that this structure was the latest. This may explain why the walls of 80248 were pushed into the terrace hollow.

It is possible that the line of postholes crossing structure 80249 did not belong to it but to a later structure, which might explain some of the other postholes in the areas, but there is no good reason to assume this. Both structures seem to be essentially single phase. There are some sequences in the use of structure 80248 but the changes are minor, with a drain extended and a bit of paving added, so there is little to suggest a very long duration of use.

The main question is the function of these structures. 80249 with its central hearth and question-mark drain is typical of clay-walled roundhouses in North Wales that are confidently interpreted as domestic buildings. The spindle whorl supports this even though there were few other finds. Several of these buildings have a pit at the start of the drain. Perhaps waste water from domestic processes was dumped into the pit and allowed to flow out through the drain. However the drains in structure 80248 seem more specialised. There seems at one stage to have been two pits emptying into separate drains, which only joined to exit the building. As well as subsidiary drains and other large pits. The best preserved pit at the end of the main drain may have had wooden lining and both pits were capped with stone, perhaps suggesting storage or processing by soaking etc rather than discarding

waste water. The amount of iron oxide in the silts of the drains also raises the question of what kind of fluid was being put down the drains. The possible ochre deposit may indicate the processing of some minerals, as the possible ore crushing hammerstone also implies but there seemed to be no waste surviving from this process and a single hammerstone might come from anywhere, and there was no grinding stone to go with it. The pieces of slag seem to be too isolated to indicate copper or iron working and there was no convincing furnace. In fact although the building probably burnt down there is little evidence for much use of fire inside. The proposed hearth is very slight and could just be related to the burning event. The capping over the pits and the isolated location might suggest a smelly organic process and the iron might come from organic sources rather than from raw minerals.

Structure 80248 is about 110m north of a clay-walled structure in area K9 that contained an unusual boulder hearth and much other industrial activity. There is, as yet, no evidence that they were contemporary, but they both seem to have been clay-walled structures that incorporated stone-lined drains and carried out unknown 'industrial' processes. The K9 structure appears to date to the Roman period and there is nothing from structure 80248 that rules out a similar date, although equally nothing diagnostically Roman was found. Whether structures 80248 and 80249 should be seen in the context of the pre-Roman or Roman Iron Ages is still to be established.

ROMAN PERIOD

Building complex in area K9 (PRN 31596)

See figure 24

The remains of a group of buildings was located in area K9 next to the lane (centred on SH 25665 80765). This was slightly sheltered by the slope of the ground towards the north-east and overlooked the marsh in area K6. The complex consisted of a probably square stone building, a clay-walled circular structure and numerous small timber structures. Finds dated these to the Roman period.

Structure 80526

Description

Structure 80526 is interpreted as a square stone-built building possibly measuring about 5m by 5m internally and orientated south-west to north-east. This was constructed on a relict soil (80828) that sealed some earlier, presumably prehistoric features described above. The north-western side of the building was defined by a straight stone wall which measured approximately 1.0m in width and just over 5.0m in length. This wall was constructed with internal (80823) and external facing stones (80825) and a rubble core (80824), but the external face was not well preserved. The wall was composed of small sub-angular slabs bonded together by a brown sandy clay-silt, which produced a broken hammerstone (sf6172). At the north-eastern end of the wall two *in situ* stones (80868) and a slightly displaced larger stone (80867) indicated the northern corner of the building. This corner overlay the fill of one of the early pits (81295).

While the wall was built directly on the relict soil the area for the floor to the south-east was prepared by levelling it out, creating a shallow terrace (81091), up to 0.15m deep, of which the north-western and south-western side had survived. A similar rectangular terrace (81090) was dug on the other side of the wall but this is assumed to be exterior to the building as there were no floor layers in this area. The south-western side of terrace cut 81091 was approximately 2.0m long before gently petering out, and this indicated the position of the south-western wall of the building although no traces of foundations survived.

The interior terrace cut (81091) was covered by a rough floor make-up layer (80810), 0.2m thick covering and area measuring 3.4m by 2.8m. This deposit was composed of stony brown clay-silt, and was built up against the internal wall facing stones (80823). The floor make-up layer (80810) was partially covered to the south by floor surface deposits (80858 and 80898). Deposit 80858, a stony brown-yellow sand-silt, was only 0.05m thick, and contained a cache of limpet shells (sf6129, sf6130). Deposit 80898 was a slightly stony dark brown sandy clay-silt, which was 0.08m in depth. Both floor deposits were covered by a thin (0.05m thick) layer (80811) with large flecks of burnt clay and charcoal. In this deposit was a shallow hollow (80896), 0.6m in diameter, and 0.07m deep, containing two layers of flat stone slabs laid in a rough circle. Above the stones was a layer of yellow silt-clay (80813) which produced two struck flints (sf6265). Although there was little obvious burning this feature resembled a hearth.

Towards what was probably the centre of the building was a large pit (81041). This was cut into the relict soil deposit (80828) and partially sealed by the floor make-up layer (80810). Pit 81041measured 2.0m in length, 1.6m in width, and 0.75m in depth and had an irregular shape in plan resembling a main oval pit with two shallower ancillary pits. It is not clear whether the irregular shape of the pit was intentional, or as a result of the main pit cutting through two earlier natural hollows. The upper edges of the pit were gently sloping, but the sides became stepped to the east and to the north-west, before becoming almost vertical with a slightly concaved base which sloped gently to the north. The main pit had three large blue-grey schist slabs (81098) averaging 0.65m in length, 0.35m in width, and 0.1m in depth set on end around its sides. The three orthostats probably supported capstones (80814) over the pit. A large schist slab, measuring 0.8m long and 0.5m wide, rested across the pit with one end supported on one of the orthostats. The other orthostat that should have acted as a support seemed to have slipped and no longer performed its function, causing the capstone to slump slightly into the pit. Two other slabs lay side by side and measured approximately 0.4m in length and 0.3m in width. They were partially supported on the first slab and partially on the edge of the pit. A single course of smaller stones (81274) were wedged under the slabs around the southern edge of the pit presumably to level and partially support the slabs.

The pit was therefore an empty, roofed chamber. Once it had gone out of use the pit became half-filled with a brown loam (81100) containing some flat slabs. This fill also produced a quarter fragment of a flat disc rotary quern topstone (sf6173), nine fragments of black-burnished ware pottery (sf6174), and one fragment of degraded ceramic (sf6457). A fine silt (81273) built up against the sides of the pit. Both these initial fills were probably the result of gradual erosion, but a deliberate backfilling episode followed when a stony deposit (81101) and two upright schist slabs (81102) were used to fill the north-western end of the pit, leaving a void beneath the capstones to the south-west. This void silted up over time with a soft dark grey-brown silt-clay (81074), while to the north-west further stone was added to the pit in the form of a row of tightly packed, irregular flat schist slabs (80816) set on edge.

The capstones were sealed beneath the rough floor make-up layer (80810) for the building, but the backfilling stones protruded through this. It is therefore possible that the pit was in use inside the building with an access into the north end. The pit slowly filled in through this access hole and the remaining gap was eventually blocked by stones being jammed into it. This presumably occurred when the building went out of use as the blocking stones would have protruded through the floor.

As the structure was abandoned various stony demolition deposits spread either side of the wall and across the internal area of the building. To the south-east and exterior side of the wall, two stony deposits 80827 and 81082 spread away from the structure. These were interpreted by the excavator as demolition from the building, but as discussed below these layers are important in relating an adjacent corn drier to the building and depending on the radiocarbon dates recovered from that features the interpretation of these deposits may be open to reinterpretation. Within the interior of the structure a general stony deposit (80815, 80818, and 80817) spread over the internal floor cores. This material might be more confidently interpreted as demolition from the wall.

Finds

Material	Count of Material
bone	7
burnt clay	6
ceramic	3
ceramic (R)	6
charcoal	1
chert	1
flint	2
shell	2
stone	6
stone (burnt)	1

Interpretation

The precise size and shape of the structure is uncertain. The evidence of a possible return wall to the north-east and the terrace cuts to the south-west strongly suggest that the portion of surviving wall is a complete gable end.

If this is so, then the internal width of the structure is approximately 5.0m, however no direct evidence exists to suggest how long the structure was. A dense spread of postholes thought to be contemporary to the south-east, are approximately 6.5m away. When this and the thickness of the wall (approx 1.0m) are taken into account, it seems entirely plausible that the structure was square in plan rather than rectangular. If this is the case and the building had internal dimensions of approximately $5m^2$, then it seems rather curious that such thick stone walls were required. There were at least three different floor layers but this suggests small scale repair work done to parts of the floor, rather than multiple phases of use.

If the building was square in plan and had an internal area of $5m^2$ then the irregular shaped pit 81041 would have been central within the structure. The significance and indeed purpose of this complicated pit is not fully understood, but it can be surmised that the pit was at least partially covered with capstones to the south, and possibly originally to the north as well. If capstones did exist to the north, as suggested by the upright support at the northern end of the pit, then the pit would have been completely covered over and access to it must have required the partial removal of some capstones. The *in situ* southern capstones were sealed under the building floor, so whether capstones existed to the north or not, access must have been from that end. This theory is supported by the insertion of the rubble from the northern end, leaving a void between the rubble and the capstones, a void which later silted up. Within the rubble there were two upright parallel schist stones and a group of tightly packed schist slabs set on end. It is possible that these were from a structure on the side of the pit which had been toppled into the pit opening.

It is clear than the pit pre-dated the construction of the floor but whether is was much earlier than the building or constructed at the same time as an integral part of its function is difficult to prove. It is possible that when the building was abandoned the sealed pit under its floor was discovered and then more securely backfilled; the pottery and other finds being introduced at this time. However, the capstones were directly under the floor and would not have been concealed from the builders. They would surely have just removed the capstones and infilled the pit if it had been an earlier feature. The filling sequence and the central position of the pit in the building argue for their contemporaneity. The finds in the fill were probably introduced during the abandonment of the building but could have originated from the occupation deposits dating from its use. Alternatively it may have been a useful place to dump rubbish.

The original function of the stone-capped pit may therefore have been for storage under the floor of the building, although other functions for this chamber are possible.

Possible corn driers

Approximately 6.5 metres due east of the northern end of the wall was a large pit (80924) cut into glacial gravel. This feature was almost a ‘figure of eight’ shape in plan and was orientated north-east to south-west, measuring 2.6m in length and 1.12m in width. The pit was substantially deeper at its south-western end, measuring 0.74m in depth at this point but only 0.33m at its north-eastern end. The deeper south-western end was lined with firm yellow clay, after which it was partially filled up with a charcoal-rich black clay-silt layer sealed by schist slabs. These slabs, although flat, were arranged in a haphazard fashion, and were restricted to the south-western end of the pit, bringing the level up to that of the north-eastern end. Overlying the stones a 0.19m thick layer of charcoal-rich black-clay silt filled the entire length of the pit. This deposit in turn had schist slabs (81020) laid on its surface. These extended the full length of the pit, but were more carefully arranged to the north-east, where there was a large slab measuring 0.8m in length. These stones appeared to constitute base slabs, with more slabs (80925) forming a stone lining to the sides. A succession of burning events took place inside this structure resulting in a black, charcoal-rich layer with yellow clay lenses (81006) accumulating upon the basal slabs, which produced eleven fragments of burnt bone (sf6434). The pit was then completely filled with a stony red-brown silt-clay.

Running from the north-east end of 80924 was a narrow, slightly sinuous gully (80590), containing fragments of burnt clay. This cut a similar, but longer, gully (80592), which cut through the prehistoric pit group. The southern end of 80592 was lost and confused, but 80590 ended at the pit. The fills of the pit and the gully were similar and their relationship was difficult to demonstrate clearly. One of the side slabs blocked the end of the gully, and it is possible that the pit cut the gully, but the similarity of their orientation and the lack of a continuation of the gully south of the pit suggests that the two features were related. The burnt clay in gully 80590 probably also originated from the lining of pit 80924. It is possible that both 80590 and 80592 were sequential flues for the pit, until the last phase of use when the whole pit was lined with stone.

The shape of pit 80924 and the charcoal-rich layers within it suggest that it was corn drier, although it seems to have had a more complex history than many corn driers with at least two phases of lining. The gullies suggest that it may originally have had long flues but that these were then abandoned when the whole pit was lined with stone.

Close to the south-western corner of the square building was another corn drier (80835). This was sub-rectangular in shape, measuring 1.9m by 1.2m and 0.9m deep, and was orientated north-west to south-east, exactly perpendicular to the surviving wall of the building. It probably had a flue at the north-western end and the south-eastern end was lined with stone, with evidence of two phases of lining. The lining stones were set in clay, which was burnt red and many of the stones were heat cracked.

This corn drier cut through what appeared to be rubble deposits from the demolition of the stone building. However the orientation and position of the drier suggests that it was directly related to the building. It is possible that the rubble deposits were left from the construction, rather than destruction of the building. Both the corn driers could be contemporary with the square building and if they are they are so close that they were probably directly related to its use. However in both cases the stratigraphic relationships are either unproven or difficult to interpret and the date of the corn driers will only be resolved by radiocarbon dating.

Structure 80527

Structure 80527 was located approximately 19.0m to the south-east of structure 80526. It is interpreted as a clay-walled sub-circular building with an industrial function.

Structure

The structure was largely defined by the distribution of features within it, but there were small pieces of evidence which hint at the existence of a wall. The activity was largely restricted to an area defined by a slight hollow or terrace (81318), clearest on the western side and within this seems to have been a clay floor as a compacted clay layer (81023) covered much of the northern interior of the structure. This suggests a roofed structure, otherwise the clay floor would not have functioned. Around the north-western side of the structure was a rough arc clay (80855/80857), which seemed to be natural in origin but may have been altered by presence of a wall above. A series of twenty small stakeholes (81317) followed the inner arc of deposit 80857, and may have been associated with a wattle and daub wall. Furthermore, lying above these stakeholes was a band of firm, mottled brown-orange sandy clay-silt (80931), which arced around the north-eastern quadrant of the structure. This deposit was only a thin skim of material, measuring on average 0.9m in width and approximately 5.0m in length, but in conjunction with the stakeholes could represent the degraded remains of a clay-wall with a wattle inner face.

Another small patch of clay (81094) in the southern part of the structure was considered to be possibly part of the wall but this seems to have been located too far inside the structure, and was probably part of the main hearth complex.

Ten postholes were located within the structure (80997, 81238, 80920, 81108, 81161, 81163, 81036, 81250, 81169, and 81303), eight of them towards the western limit and cutting through the natural glacial clay. All of the postholes were sub-circular in plan and measured between 0.2m-0.5m in length, 0.2m-0.5m in width, and 0.10m-0.48m in depth. The fills of the postholes varied between an orange grey clay, a dark brown clay-silt, and a black silt-sand with stone packing. None of the postholes produced any artefactual evidence. The distribution of the postholes did not suggest that they supported the walls or the roof, but some might indicate an entranceway or porch. A gully (80918) running north from this area had an expanded and confused southern end that might indicate a disturbed posthole. If this was a posthole it would have created a neat rectangle with postholes 81238, 80997, and 80920. Postholes 81108 and 81036 were also paired across this possible entrance, making a fairly convincing porch plan. Two short irregular gullies (80999 and 80973) ran south from posthole 80997, and gully 80918 may have run north from a porch posthole. These gullies were between 0.1m and 0.2m in depth with irregular sides and undulating bases. All three were filled by a firm brown clay-silt. They do not seem to have been drains and might have been related to the wall, either its construction or facing. Two shallow gullies (80960 and 81233) running directly across the entrance might have been post trenches for some kind of door surround or blocking construction.

Internal Activity Phase I

Inside the structure was a myriad of features which included several pits, postholes, stakeholes and gullies, many cut into the clay floor (81023). The most prominent features were located in the south-eastern quadrant of

the structure and comprised a suite of features associated with an industrial process. These included a boulder-built hearth, a flat hearth, a large stone mortar/bowl, and a rectangular stone-built structure with evidence of burning (firebox). These features were all contemporary and were set in conjoining cuts, the individual structures being packed in place with a firm bright yellow clay, which was also used as a levelling material between them. This clay extended further to the north and to the edge of a small stone-lined trough (cut 81219), where it was cut through by pit 81282 and gully 81280 (see below).

The cut (80938) for the boulder hearth (80839) was ovoid in plan and orientated north-west to south-east. It measured 1.7m in length, 1.3m in width, and 0.28m in depth, and had steep and concaved sides, and a concaved base. Once the firm yellow clay (80883) had been packed into the cut the main structure of the hearth (80839) was set into the clay. This consisted of four large sub-rounded granite boulders forming an open ended rectangle, the opening being to the south-east. Next, more firm yellow clay was used to cement the structure in place. A flat blue-grey schist slab (80940) was then placed on end against the southern end of the granite structure, creating a lower chamber. The internal chamber of the hearth was sealed with a clay lining (80869) that had become reddened through use. The base of the chamber was partially filled with two charcoal-rich deposits (81205 and 81206), that also contained burnt clay. These contained a hammerstone (sf6181) and a possible quern stone fragment (sf6180), and 81206 extended through a construction (80950) built within the open end of the hearth structure. Structure 80950 was built of schist slabs which extended approximately 0.7m in front of the open end of the furnace. These stones averaged 0.15m in length and the structure had clear side and capstones, although some partial collapse had taken place. Above these were another layer (80878) of larger flat stones, averaging 0.32m in length. The structure appeared to have been some sort of level working platform, or more plausibly the a flue chamber used to supply air to the hearth. Fills 81205 and 81206 seem to have represented the latest use of the hearth and where it expanded beyond the structure deposit 81206 was cut by a later recut (81185) associated with the adjacent flat hearth (81308), which is described below. Once the boulder hearth went out of use it partially filled up with a clay-silt deposit (80866) mixed with silts, charcoal, fragments of clay lining, and fire cracked stones which produced a fragment of burnt bone (sf6462). The remainder of the hearth chamber was filled by a stony brown clay-silt (80840) with fire-cracked stone and charcoal which produced three fragments of burnt bone (sf6037, sf6043), and two sherds of post medieval pottery which had made their way into the hearth due to animal burrowing. The top of the hearth was covered with a very stony demolition deposit (80833) which is discussed below.

The cut (81009) for the stone mortar/bowl (81001) was sub-circular in plan, with steep and concaved sides and a flat base, and was located approximately 1.0m east of the open end of the furnace structure. The cut measured 0.58m in length, 0.44m in width, and 0.27m in depth. The firm yellow clay deposit was again utilised as packing material in the base and sides of the cut, into which the stone bowl was inserted. The mortar/bowl (sf6149) was pecked out inside a small boulder of possibly conglomerate stone and the bowl itself measured 295 mm by 230mm and 140mm deep and had vertical sides and a flat base. Once the vessel had been inserted into the cut it was packed in place with more of the same firm yellow clay and small packing stones. Once the mortar/bowl went out of use it filled up with a stony material, very similar to wall/platform (80921) located immediately to the east (see below).

A stone-lined structure described as a firebox was located approximately 1.1m to the south-east of the open end of the furnace. Its cut (81137) was sub-ovoid in plan, with very steep and concaved sides and a roughly flat base. The cut measured 1.1m in length, 0.74m in width, and 0.14m in depth, and was orientated north-north-east to south-south-west. The firm yellow clay was used to pack and level the base of the cut before five schist slabs (80911), on average 0.3m long, were inserted to make vertical sides, and two slabs (81105) formed the base. These stones were almost square in shape and had been discoloured by heat. The structure was filled with a firm dark grey-brown silt-clay (80912/81073) with frequent charcoal, burnt stone, and burnt grain, which also spread for 0.9m to the south of the structure, where three large flat stones (80913) were laid on top of it possibly forming part of a flue structure. The shape and the presence of burnt grain suggests a corn drier but was very small.

Immediately to the north of the furnace cut, were a small pit 81263 and a cut for a flat hearth 81308. The pit was oval in plan, measured 0.65m in length, 0.36m in width, and 0.13m in depth and was filled with a brown-grey clay-silt. The hearth cut was square in plan with rounded corners, and measured 0.76m in length, 0.6m in width, and 0.09m in depth. It was filled by a heat affected bright red-orange clay, which was built up against the stones of the boulder hearth. The clay was sealed by a charcoal-rich deposit, and was cut on the western side by a small straight gully (81260), which may have acted as a flue to the hearth. The hearth was partially recut and the clay replaced several times. The second hearth cut (81259) was sub-circular in plan and filled with a bright yellow

and red, heat affected clay with charcoal inclusions. This fill contained four large and flat schist slabs to form a firm surface for the hearth. The third hearth cut (81257) was again filled with firm bright yellow clay which contained a well-preserved iron cleaver (sf6186) with a large blade and cylindrical handle, forged from one piece of iron. The fill of the fourth hearth cut (81185) was darker and more silty with charcoal and fire-cracked stones, and contained three pieces of slag and a fragment of iron nail shaft (sf6311, sf6452). This fourth hearth fill also cut through the backfill deposit of the boulder hearth structure to the south (as mentioned above), and possibly dates to when the boulder hearth went out of use.

To the north of the hearths were numerous pits and stakeholes scattered around a stone-lined a trough 81219. The cut (81219) of this feature was roughly ovoid with vertical sides and a flat base, but the trough (81220) was more rectangular. The trough measured about 0.70m in length, 0.55m in width, and 0.45m in depth, and constructed of five schist side slabs and a base slab packed and bonded with firm, light orange-yellow clay. All the seams of the slabs were then sealed with the same light orange-yellow clay used for packing. The south-western side of the trough had no sub-structure and had a gully 81211 feeding into it, which measured 0.7m in length, 0.7m in width, and 0.15m in depth. There was also a straight narrow gully (81280) that seemed to feed into the trough on the western side. Both the trough and gully 81211 appear to have been contemporary and functionally related. The trough had a thin basal deposit of loose mid red-brown sand-silt which presumably had accumulated while the trough was still in use, and both the trough and gully were backfilled with a stony deposit, which included fire-cracked stone and charcoal, and produced a grooved stone mould, and a piece of worked flint (sf6182, 6442).

To the east the yellow packing clay of the trough was cut by a pit or posthole (81054) containing six sherds of black-burnished ware pottery (sf6131, sf6147, sf6161). Once the trough and gully were backfilled, the gully was cut by two roughly circular pits 81222 and 81248, the latter of which was cut by another pit 81086 to the south-east. This pit had had been initially half backfilled and had a layer of small flat schist stones laid flat, upon which a second backfill was added. This pit also cut an earlier small pit 81107, which produced thirteen fragments of burnt bone (sf6324). This intercutting complexity was typical of the rest of the activity in this area but there was little to suggest that there was much time between the cutting, filling and recutting of pits. They were mostly probably used of a single event and rapidly superseded.

Most of the pits were approximately sub-circular and rarely more than 0.55m in length or over 0.25m in depth. Some where filled with dark grey-brown clay-silt and others with an orange-brown clay-silt. In some cases pits with the darker fill seemed to be earlier than features with the orange-brown fill, but most seemed to be associated with the process taking place in the trough. To the north-west of the trough was a gully (81275) with eight stakeholes cut into its base, and a number of probable packing stones were found to be well embedded into the sides of the gully. A further eleven stakeholes were located to the south and east of the gully. It is not clear what the purpose of the gully and stakeholes was, but it is possible that they were the foundation to a screen or small structure.

One pit (81037) to the east of the trough had multiple fills the first two of which produced twelve sherds of black-burnished ware pottery, one of which had an iron rivet through it (sf6159, 6157, 6155, 6168, 6449), an iron nail head (sf6166), five fragments of burnt clay (sf6167, 6158), one rim sherd of coarse ceramic (sf6156), one sherd of dark grey ceramic (sf6169), and one fragment of a curved bead (sf2165). A later fill produced five sherds of black-burnished ware pottery, one with an iron repair (sf6030, 6151, 6152), an iron nail shaft (sf6171), a copper alloy droplet (sf6154), some burnt clay fragments (sf6153), and some small sherds of a coarse ware ceramic (sf6170). The sheer volume and variety of artefacts recovered from the pit could suggest the deposition of waste material.

Drains and Gullies

Located on the north-western side of the structure was a complex of drains and gullies. Flowing downhill from south-west to north-east was a substantial drain (80881) that emptied onto a straight, level terrace 81279 (see below). The drain was 0.7m wide and 0.32m deep and lined with large schist side slabs, but no obvious base or capstones. A rather disturbed drain (80861) ran into this part-way down its length. Drain 80861 seemed to be designed to drain from inside the structure. The drains were filled with a fine brown silt and 80881 produced burnt stone and four abraded sherds of orange ware (sf6219, 6072). The tail of the drain produced a broken pot boiler, a piece of worked stone, a tiny intrusive sherd of post medieval white glazed ceramic, and two fragments of burnt bone (sf6481, 6144, 6244, 6459).

At its southern end drain 80881 seemed to narrow and fade away as drain 81021. It seems to have cut through earlier, narrow drains on a similar alignment (81018) and a short section of a north-west to south-east aligned drain (81204) that had three surviving side slabs. The line of drain 81018 seemed to continue as a very rough and undulating gully (81013), which may have been a trench for slabs along one side rather then the main part of the gully. Near its north-eastern end drain 80881 also cut through another drain (80916), which lacked any stone lining and ran west then turned sharply north.

Internal Activity Phase II
As the features associated with the stone-lined trough either silt up or are deliberately filled in the focus of activity appeared to shift and the area was covered with a firm dark grey-brown silt-clay deposit 80847. This deposit was generally about 0.05m in depth and spread across all of the interior of the structure, producing six fragments of burnt bone, one sherd of black-burnished ware pottery, and a hammerstone (sf6436, 6323, 6026, and 6133). Even the stone mortar and flat hearths were filled and covered, although it is not clear as to whether the boulder hearth and firebox features had gone out of use at this point. The level of activity within the structure appeared to decrease, however some cut features originated from this phase of activity. Thirteen stakeholes (80984 to 80996, 81008) were located in the north-eastern corner of the structure, mirroring the earlier stakeholes possibly forming part of the wall; however these stakeholes were located within the interior and possibly represented an internal screen or partition. In close proximity to the stakeholes were a straight gully 81288 and a pit 81068. The gully was orientated north-east to south-west and was only 0.1m deep; the ovoid pit was also shallow at 0.08m deep, and had an undulating base. Both the fill of the gully and the pit was an orange-brown clay-silt, which produced a heavily sooted black-burnished ware sherd (6188) from the gully. The function of both features is unknown.

Also dating to this phase of activity were three fairly large pits 81131, 81143, and 81133, located to the north-west of the interior of the structure. The pits were closely spaced and ran in a line orientated south-west to north-east, with the largest pit 81143 being in the centre. This pit measured 0.65m in diameter and 0.25m in depth. All the pits were roughly circular in plan and had bowl shaped profiles. The central and largest pit 81143 cut through the end of the earlier drain (80861, see above). The pits may well have been used for storage as they had a layer of schist capstones placed over them, from which a piece of rotary quern stone was recovered (sf6176). The pits all had a thin basal deposit of red-brown sand-silt, presumably having accumulated from a natural silting process. The pits and capstones became filled with black silt deposit 80904 when they went out of use (see below).

Internal Activity Phase III
The third phase of activity is focused around the deposition of a black clay-silt 80904 throughout the structure interior. This deposit was only approximately 0.04m thick but filled all three pits 81131, 81143, and 81133 (see above) and covered over all the cut features from phase II. The deposit produced a variety of artefacts including a pot boiler (6132), four fragments of burnt bone(6134, 6433, 6075), three pieces of burnt daub(6058, 6136), a rim and a base sherd of black-burnished ware pottery (6056, 6057), a rubbing stone from a saddle quern (6065), a flat slab of schist with a central depression (6070), a small fragment of blue glass (6463), a smoothed quartz pebble (6259), three iron objects (6073, 6074, 6067), and a rubbing stone (6076).

Despite the colour of the deposit, it is not clear if it contained a high quantity of charcoal or whether the colour derived of the deposit derived from a high concentration of organic material.

Internal Activity Phase IV
Once the process which produced the black clay-silt deposit 80904 had ceased, the structure had a layer of flat, sub-angular stones (80899) laid down seemingly to create a new floor layer. The deposit had no features cut into it, but produced a variety of artefacts including one sherd of black-burnished ware ceramic (sf6063), three sherds of Roman orange ware ceramic (sf6053), the top half of a rotary quern (sf6054), a flat schist slab with a central depression (sf6069), and one fragment of burnt bone (sf6322).

Demolition Activity
Once the activity associated with the stony floor deposit 80899 had ceased, the structure went out of use. This phase in the structure's history is typified by several stony demolition deposits, spread across the interior and exterior of the structure. The deposits consisted mostly of medium sized sub-rounded and sub-angular stones within a firm grey-brown clay-silt. There appear to have been smaller episodes of demolition, possibly from a clay and stone wall collapsing. Demolition deposits 80850 and 80901 were located to the south-east of the structure and produced a fragment of burnt clay (sf6033), and a long thin iron object (sf6064), four pieces of

daub (sf6062), one samian rim sherd (sf6059), and one rim sherd of black-burnished ware ceramic (sf6061) respectively. Towards the centre of the structure was a similar demolition deposit 80893 which produced a fragment of burnt bone (sf6466), a piece of burnt clay (sf6060), and a piece of slag (sf6293).

Next three general levels of demolition spread across the area, starting with stony demolition deposit 80846 (same as 80843, 80870, 80806, 80807, and 80838). This deposit produced a sub-rectangular iron object (sf6021), a waisted stone weight (sf6022), a half fragment of a blue glass bead (sf6464), twenty fragments of burnt clay (sf6038), three pieces of slag (sf6048), a broken rubbing stone (sf6039), one sherd of Roman orange ware pottery (sf6055), a small hammerstone (sf6003), twenty-one fragments of burnt bone (sf6453, 6006, 6465), and burnt stone (sf6212). Above this was demolition deposit 80834 which produced three sherds of black-burnished ware ceramic (sf6009, 6010, 6041), a sherd of Samian ware ceramic (6008), and a sherd of Roman orange ware ceramic (sf6040). A final demolition deposit 80833 with a looser arrangement of stone mixed with ploughsoil, produced a sherd of Roman orange ware ceramic (sf6020), and a sherd of black-burnished ware ceramic (sf6025). To the north of this structure demolition deposit 80833 becomes 80844 (see central area below).

Finds
A summary of finds from group 80527 is given below but table 13 lists all the finds in detail. The precise location of finds still requires some consideration but it appears that 3rd/4th century Black-burnished ware was associated with the main phase of activity within the structure and that 2nd century Samian ware was associated with demolition deposits. This could suggest that the later date can be applied to the construction and use of the structure and that the Samian was included within the cob walls, although this might suggest earlier Roman activity in the vicinity. The sheer quantity of stratified Roman artefacts make the date of this structure clear.

The boulder hearth was initially considered to be a furnace but the clay lining was clearly not heated to a temperature sufficient for a furnace or smithing hearth. The probable lack of metalworking in the structure is also indicated by the absence of metalworking debris, despite careful searching of the wet sieving residue and checking unsieved, dried soil for magnetic material. The structure produced large amounts of burnt clay but this is all consistent with fairly low temperature hearths.

There were some interesting metal objects, particularly the iron cleaver but no evidence that these were made on the site. Similarly the two Roman glass objects do not necessarily indicate the reuse of glass items to produce glass beads as has been seen on some sites. The scatter of small fragments of burnt bone seems too slight to suggest that bone was being used in the processes carried on in the structure.

Although the pottery provides a fairly firm date for the activity the finds appear to provide few clues as to the function of the structure.

Material	Number of small finds (not number of individual pieces)
bone	16
burnt clay	44
post med pot	2
Roman pot	33
chert	6
copper alloy	2
flint	4
Post med glass	1
Roman glass	2
iron	9
shale	1
slag	1
Coke/clinker	4
stone	24
stone (burnt)	12

Interpretation
It seems probable that structure 80527 and structure 80526 were contemporary and related. Structure 80527 produced much more datable artefactual evidence, however enough ceramic was found within secure contexts within structure 80526 to confirm a 3rd to 4th Century AD date. Moreover, the two structures were spatially linked by a mass of activity between them which is discussed below.

The structure 80527 probably had clay or clay and stone walls, although very little of the walls remained, which would explain the absence of structural posts. The numerous stakeholes located to the north of the structure appear to be within what would have been the wall line. Moreover, these stakeholes were covered by a firm clay material that might have collapsed from a wattle and daub facing to the wall. Furthermore, the large amount of stone spread across the structure from its demolition phase suggests that stone may have been incorporated into the clay walls to create stability, or as a footing material to the wattle and daub construction.

The structure itself appears to have been built to serve a very particular industrial process, incorporating the boulder hearth, stone mortar, firebox structure, other hearths, stone trough, and drains. The boulder was particularly large and well-made, utilising glacial granite erratics for a sub-structure. These were badly heat fractured, possibly suggesting repeated heating rather than high temperatures as the clay lining was not highly fired. The absence of metalworking waste also suggests that this was not a furnace or smithing hearth but was clearly required to be of substantial construction. Tim Young has suggested that the massive boulder construction was intended to support a heavy vessel possibly for boiling materials to create dyes. The stone-lined trough and other features could be associated with different stages necessary in processing dye stuffs. The steep sides and flat base of the stone mortar/bowl suggest use as a bowl rather than a mortar which might be expected to have sides curving into a rounded base, making even grinding easier. The bowl must have taken a considerable time to carefully peck when other containers would be much easier to produce. Some qualities of the hardness or resilience of stone must therefore have been important to its function.

The door seems to have been on the western side of the structure and the drains immediately outside the door would have been useful to empty waste liquid into. The position of the door suggests that a good draught to the hearth was not important, in fact the boulder hearth possibly opened away from the door specifically to ensure that air flow was not too vigorous and that temperatures could be more easily controlled.

The stratigraphy suggests that the firebox structure was related to the main activity in the building. The feature was essentially a stone-lined hearth with an open side to the west with hearth material in it. The spread of burnt clay deposits radiating away from the structure strongly suggests that it had a temporary clay superstructure probably repeatedly destroyed during use. However the position of this feature was awkward squashed between the boulder hearth and the proposed wall with its opening facing the wall. Deposits built up around this structure were initially considered to be traces of the building wall but this would make a very odd-shaped building. However it is perhaps possible that the firebox was partially build into the wall and was accessed through it. The presence of charred grain within this feature suggest that it might have been a type of grain dryer, but it seems to have been very small for this and the details of its form need to be further considered before its function can be suggested.

The location of the stone-lined trough some distance to the north of the hearth suite suggests that it was used for a related but separate process, almost certainly in conjunction with the pits around it. The careful sealing of the joints between the stones of the trough with clay strongly suggests that it was used to contain a fluid. The arrangement of pits and gullies around the trough is clearly indicative that it was a busy area and used regularly for a specific purpose, supported by the fact that as some pits went out of use others were dug.

It is possible that the second phase of pits could have been associated with the continued use of the boulder hearth or perhaps the later form of the flat hearth. However it is clear that the trough, earlier hearths, stone mortar, and firebox all go out of use and are back-filled before these later pits were dug, and the flue to the boulder hearth seems to have also been blocked so any use of this structure would have been less efficient as originally designed. Activity in this second phase was very limited and was soon sealed by the deposition of a very black silt-clay layer. This deposit, which covered the internal floor of the building, did not appear to be a deliberately deposited floor layer, but more the bi-product of a process not yet understood. The dark colouring may have been the result of a large concentration of organic material, perhaps from animal manure or plant material, suggesting the building was being used as an animal shelter or barn.

Once production of the black silt-clay deposit ceased, the use of the building seems to have changed again and a coarse stone floor was added to the interior of the structure. The creation of a drier floor surface might indicate a change from livestock shelter to storage use.

Pits and Postholes

Group A

Between and to the east of the structures 80526 and 80527 was an area of very dense activity, which consisted of thirty-five postholes, sixteen pits, and seven features which were either postholes or pits. The arrangement of the features did not make any clear formal pattern in plan; however there was a strong bias of features spreading from north-east to south-west on the same orientation as structure 80526. The features could be divided up into groups based upon the types of soil which filled them, the presence of stone packing material within the fills suggesting a common construction technique and phase, and by their dimensions. Found throughout the spread of features, but more concentrated to the south was a collection of seventeen postholes which were roughly circular or ovoid in plan. Four of these (80797, 80758, 80766, and 80770) were significantly smaller than the rest and located to the north of the group, measuring between 0.38m-0.54m in length, 0.28m-0.46m in width, and 0.23m-0.30m in depth. The rest of the postholes (81190, 80692, 80694, 80698, 80696, 80708, 80710, 80700, 80725, 80689, 80702, 80747, and 80760) were larger and measured between 0.50-0.90m in length, 0.40m-0.80m in width, and 0.25m-0.60m in depth. All of the postholes had steep sides and flat bases. The postholes were all filled with a firm and stony mid grey-brown silt-clay, which did not contain any charcoal but the majority had large, flat and angular schist stones measuring on average 0.25m in length. These stones appear to have been deliberately inserted as packing material and as post pads for some of the features. Curiously, many of the flat schist stones lay horizontally across the posthole occasionally at the surface or part way down, perhaps suggesting that the posts had been pulled out of the ground thus disturbing the post-packing structure, as opposed to the post decaying *in situ*. The similarity of the fills are more indicative that the postholes were constructed and backfilled at the same time, rather than that they formed a single structure. It was not possible to form a single or multiple structures from the layout of these postholes. There are potential lines of postholes both on a north-east to south-west axis, and on a north-west to south-east axis. The most convincing of these was a set of three postholes 80698, 80725, 80692, and a feature which was either a pit or a posthole 80731, located to the south of the group. These features were all of similar length and widths, had similar fills with packing stones, and were aligned in a square shape in plan. This feature was very similar to other four-post structures discovered typically dating to the late Prehistoric period, and generally believed to be granary structures serving small settlements. However, the arrangement of postholes did not completely work due to the fact that the posthole 80692 in the south-west corner was a lot deeper than the others. This feature was 0.6m in depth, while the other features ranged between 0.32m-0.45m in depth. Moreover, the posthole or pit 80731 to the south-east had a very uneven profile, more suited to a pit. This group of postholes could be seen as extending further south to include postholes 81154 and 81190 to become a six-post granary structure, however feature 81190 was smaller in dimensions suggesting it was dug for a smaller post.

Towards the centre of the spread of features were two large pits 80681 and 80711 that were roughly ovoid in plan and measured between 1.0m-1.08m in length, 0.89m-0.9m and width, and 0.35m-0.39m in depth. These features had multiple fills which included large angular schist pieces resembling packing stones. These features could be large postholes which have expanded due to erosion of the open cut within the gravely glacial soil, or pits of unknown function which have filled up with the same material seen in the postholes and thus dating to roughly the same time period.

Within the spread of features were four pits 80655, 80659, 81213, and 80729, which appeared to be fire pits. Two of the pits (80655 and 80729) contained large quantities of charcoal and evidence of *in situ* burning. Pit 80655 had fragmentary traces of a burnt clay lining and resembled an earth oven. Pit 80729 was not as deep and may have been an open fire. There were no finds from any of the features in this area to give an indication of date but the charcoal recovered will allow radiocarbon dating.

The group A features were defined on the west and south by a broad scarp that became a shallow ditch at its south-eastern end (81158). The northern end of this ran towards structure 80526 but did not quite reach it. Filling the south-eastern end of the ditch was a sequence of backfilling and use. The ditch had some activity including a pit (81154) within its base and the ditch itself cut through an earlier pit (81085). The area was infilled with colluvial deposits that may have been revetted by drystone walling. A small square area of cobbling (81121) was then constructed over the colluvial deposits. This was adjacent to a large pit (81200) and seems to have been associated with postholes, possibly forming a shelter or supports for use with the pit rather than a roofed building. A rough wall (81209) probably ran east-west on the top of the slope to the south of this area of

activity. The floor surface was replaced by slabs and a smaller pit (81150) was dug in the infilled larger pit. Some of the postholes probably continued in use but others were replaced. When the area went out of use the wall to the south collapsed and partially covered the earlier features.

This is a critical area as it ties structure 80527 to the postholes in group A, some of which cut through this area. It is possible to join some of the group A postholes together to make the plan of a six post structure (see below) but this involves stratigraphic problems in this area and more work is necessary to fully understand this area.

Group B
To the west of pit/posthole group A and divided from it by a blank area with a shallow straight scarp running north-south through it was another group of pits and postholes. This area consisted of forty two excavated features which comprised of twenty-one postholes, twelve pits and five features which could be pits or postholes, one hollow, one deposit, and features deemed non-archaeological, one tree-hollow (80564), and two likely stoneholes/bioturbated features (80558) and (81229). To the south of this group ran a fairly straight north-east facing scarp aligned north-west to south-east (80554), probably an ancient field boundary or even the edge of a trackway as discussed below. Some features were only seen when the fill (80553) of this feature was removed but it is likely that they did cut this layer but were not recognised within it. The features that did clearly cut this deposit were pit (80562), tree-hollow (80564), hollow (80567), and features filled with yellow clay (80942), (80948), (81066) and (81060).

There were a number of postholes which contained possible stone post-packing material. These postholes can be separated into two types using their fill to characterise them. Postholes (80632), (80616), (80569), (80579), (80598) and (80581) all had grey-brown gravely fills and were from 0.42m to 0.64m long, 0.34m to 0.54m wide and 0.13m to 0.30m deep. These postholes were to the north of the group and generally ran in a line from north-west to south east. Postholes (80964), (80952), (81056), (80972), (81064) and (81060) all had fills consisting of brown firm silt sand ranged in depth from 0.29m to 0.42m. These postholes are more to the south of the group. Three of them (81056), (80964) and (80952) ran in a line from east to west. No actual structure could be formed from these lines of postholes.

In addition to the two types above there were also possible postholes with no packing stones but with similar fills to those described above they had similar fills to the above two forms of postholes. Features (80630), (80626), (80622), (80620), (80618), (80577), (80583), and (80614) had grey gravely fills and (80970), (80968), (81078) and (81062) had brown sandy silt fills. These possible postholes varied considerably in size.

Amongst the concentration of postholes was an elongated pit (80946) measuring 1.27m in length, 0.74m in breadth and 0.26m in depth, which had quite a thick yellow clay lining with a significant amount of charcoal and burnt clay fragments and evidence of *in situ* burning of this clay lining possibly implying an earth oven however the depth suggests perhaps that of an open fire. There were two shallow circular possible firepits (80560) and (80556) further west.

Group C
About 8m to the east of group A was another group of features. The area between these groups was stripped and inspected so the gap seems to be genuine. Activity in this area was concentrated within an irregular hollow (80540) filled in by colluvium and stones. There were various postholes, some substantial and some small, but again not forming a structure of obvious plan. Pits were also scattered about the area. One pit (80441) held a trough (80440) built of stone slabs and measuring 0.90m by 0.73m and 0.34m deep. This was initially assumed to be a burial cist but a clay layer in the base suggested an attempt to waterproof the feature and made it resemble the trough in structure 80527. There was no trace of a capstone and a corroded iron object was found in the upper part of the fill. An adjacent pit (80449) also had traces of a stone lining and may have been a more damaged trough. A shallow gully (80572) ran into this pit from what appeared to be a posthole (80545), but might have been another, smaller pit. These features are suggestive of a specific task possibly involving water or other fluids.

These features were associated with a group of small pits or possible postholes (80485, 80548, 80536, 80499, 80501, and 80481). Although some of these had stones in their fills there were no very convincing packing stones. An arc of similarly uncertain features surrounded this area. Some of these features, such as 80463 were up to 0.4m deep and fairly convincing as postholes, but others (e.g. 80447) were only 0.08m deep and too truncated to be sure of their function. However postholes 80475, 80463, 80447, 80492, 80533, 81311, 80466 sat on or close to a circle of about 10m in diameter that could have defined a small post-built structure,

unfortunately rather short of postholes on its western arc. The hollow 80540 might be seen as crude terracing within this structure.

Interpretation
The eastern group of features (group C) may represent the remains of a circular timber structure housing troughs for similar activities as carried out in structure 80527. It is possible that these similar activity areas were sequential rather than contemporary. Perhaps the Samian ware from this part of the site was related to earlier activity in group C, that when the nature of the activity expanded was then moved into structure 80527 in the 3rd or 4th century. However with few finds from group C this sequence cannot be proved.

Many of the postholes in group B were probably post pairs, but in the eastern part of this group two parallel lines with three postholes each (80630, 80632, 80581, and 80952, 80968, 81142) seemed to define a 6 post structure measuring about 3.9m square externally. Across the middle at the east end of this were two more postholes (80626, 80618). All the postholes were of a similar size and depth and this structure resembles in form and size the possible granaries described in the main roundhouse settlement. Posthole 80972 might also be associated with this structure but it was off the line of the western side of the structure.

A similar structure can be seen in group A with postholes 80725, 80698, 80587 forming the northern side, 81190, 81154, and 81116 the southern side with 80731 and 80692 in the middle. This interpretation requires feature 81154, which entirely lacked packing stones to be accepted as a posthole and excludes other postholes along the same alignments but does make a square structure measuring just over 4.0m on each side externally. Feature 81154 also causes problems with the stratigraphy of this area as it seemed to clearly predate the infilling of the linear hollow (81158), which other postholes included in this structure seemed to post-date. These issues and the function of the many other postholes in this group need to be resolved before this area can be understood. However it seems probable that most of the features in groups A and B represented posts of storage structures, several possibly built sequentially but on the same alignment. The fire pits suggest some processing of the stored material taking place next to the structures. Grain or other food stuffs might be the most likely material to be stored but if the interpretation of the boulder hearth in structure 80527 as a dying hearth then dye materials being dried and stored could be a possibility.

Trackway and possible field system (PRN 31597)
(Location: from SH 25658 80762 to SH 25921 80704)
See figure 10

Running through the building complex in K9, described above, was a terrace about 1.25m wide running east-west between structure 80527 and feature group A. It was defined by parallel, gentle, north facing scarps (81208 and 81279). There were traces of a stone wall (81209) running parallel at the foot of the northern scarp. The southern scarp faded out to the west but the northern one continued as 80554, curving round to head north-west it defined the southern limits of feature group B. It is suggested that this was a trackway through the building complex.

Immediately to the east of the buildings it faded out, but 13m further east on the same alignment as the southern scarp of the trackway was a rough line of boulders (80476). This ran straight west to east for about 12m then curved more to the north-east. Where the boulder line turned there was a gap and it seems likely that there were originally two parallel lines about 1.5m apart, probably a continuation of the track through the building complex. Some of the boulders in 80476 had been deliberately laid flat but the impression was more of stony banks than firm wall foundations. The stones rested on colluvium, which had built up against a gentle, north-facing scarp in the natural ground slope. The scarp may have been the result of ploughing, and as colluvium continued to build up over and around the stones it seems likely that they were dumped along the boundary of a ploughed field to form a bank or revetment to the field. The scarps running through the building complex may also have originated as field boundaries before the buildings were constructed.

Feature 80476 continued north-west into the baulk and was obscured under an area not yet investigated. In the eastern edge of area K9, just north of the proposed line of feature 80476 and running north at approximate right angles to it was a shallow and rather irregular channel (80635) that might have been largely natural. Cut into this was one of a group of four postholes. This group of postholes (80505, 80508, 80511, and 80514) had packing stones and were quite well-defined but no other features were associated with them. They failed to form a

functional four-post layout and there were no finds so their date is unknown, but they could have been related to the proposed trackway and the nearby building complex.

Just to the east the continuation of feature 80476 could be seen in area J. A broad terrace (70527) ran west to east; defined on the south side by a kerb of stones (70525), which may have been the northern face of a stone and earth bank. A short section of these stones was in place but elsewhere the wall seemed to have collapsed and numerous stones had fallen into the fill of the terrace. The edge of the terrace itself, defined by an earth bank (70526) was some way south of the kerb line. It is probable that the terrace was originally the edge of a field and produced largely by ploughing, and that it was later adapted for the trackway with a new revetted bank added.

The northern side of the terrace had the remains of a stone wall (70543) resting in a shallow ditch (70517). A deep ditch (70622) ran on its inner side. The relationship between ditches 70517 and 70622 was unclear but the former may have been later than the latter. Traces of metalling survived in the base of the terrace cut, suggesting a track surface, and a small area of larger cobbling (70516) lay immediately to the north. This seemed to have been cut by the foundation trench for the wall 70543, but it was not clear if it was significantly earlier. These features together seemed to have formed a trackway with walls or banks.

The deeper ditch (70622) continued to the east as ditch 70009 and although not distinguished in plan the shallow ditch (70517) could be seen in section running on the northern side of it. These ditches were seen in plan for a total of 24m. The southern side of the track was visible as a kerb or revetment then a rough wall or bank (70306) for a total of 45m, but its line seems to have been continued to the east by a disturbed and discontinuous gully (70152), probably the truncated remains of the base of the terrace scarp. The northern side of the track was indicated by even slighter traces of the continuation of the ditch (70736). In the eastern half of area J this ditch reappeared again as a much better preserved feature were it was protected from plough damage by build-up of colluvium on the slope. Here it was recorded as 70231/70238 and it started to curve round towards the south-east. Where it was best preserved and recorded as 70444 it was 1.8m wide and 0.47m deep. The ditch was accompanied on the northern side by a wall or bank (70442); again a loose line of stones, up to 0.4m in length, with little structure. The stones lay on the remains of an earthen bank (70441). The bank seems to have formed the northern side of the ditch, which was in fact more of a terrace cut.

The southern side of the trackway was bounded by a short section of straight walling or stone bank (70539) running parallel to wall 70442. Next to this wall segment was a small area of metalling similar to that found at the western end of the trackway. This suggests that a surfaced track once continued through to this point but that it had only survived as a double-walled feature in protected locations.

A short section of wall (70544) ran from 70442, approximately at right angles, and this may have been a field wall related to the trackway. Other ditches also may be related. Ditch 70382/70388 ran down the slope at a different angle to wall 70544, and appeared to pre-date the walls. Ditch 70392 was shown to be earlier than wall 70442 but seemed to respect its alignment. There may therefore have been more than one phase of field layout roughly related to the line followed by the track. Two ditches (70193/70216 and 70246) in J2 probably belonged to the same system. A scatter of loose large stones was recorded to the west of ditch 70246. Some were embedded in the natural silt but others were within the ploughsoil. Similar large stones were not seen elsewhere in area J or on the rest of the site so it is possible that they were not natural but spread by ploughing from a demolished wall or bank adjacent to 70246.

At the western end of the trackway in area J a ditch (70007) with a stone bank (70006) also ran almost perpendicularly north from the northern side of the trackway. Much further south was a short section of surviving stone bank (70339) on a nearly north-south aligned scarp. The character of the bank and the alignment suggests that this may also have been a fragment of the same field system.

There were very few finds from these features but two sherds of Roman Black Burnished ware were recovered from wall 70539 and a decorated Samian sherd was found over the ditch 70444 at the eastern end of the trackway. A sherd of eroded Samian ware was found within the stone bank 80476 towards the western limit of this feature. A sherd of prehistoric pot and a flint flake were recovered from the ground surface sealed below the stone bank 70339, although these were more likely to be related to the nearby pit group than to the field system.

Interpretation
The features described above seem to represent a walled and at least partially metalled trackway running across area J to the building complex in area K9 and continuing through the complex and possibly out along the route of Lon Trefignath. This trackway was possible constructed along existing field boundaries and continued to be part of a wider field system.

As described above a small number of Roman pot sherds were found along the line of the trackway. This was of some significance as few pieces of Roman pot have been found across the site outside area K9, so it hints at a Roman period date. However, the best dating evidence for the trackway was its alignment with the Roman period building complex in area K9.

The walls bounding the trackway and forming related field boundaries seem to have been a type of clawdd boundary (earth bank faced with stone) rather than drystone walls, as all seemed to consist of earthen banks with some disturbed stone and occasional in situ slabs or revetment.

Area K5 and the potential of another roundhouse settlement (PRN 14602)
See figure 25

Area K5 lies towards the northern end of the site, to the east of Lôn Trefignath. The field is roughly triangular in shape and the A55 trunk road runs on its north-eastern side. The topography is fairly level with the ground rising to the south of K5 to form a small rounded knoll. The knoll is formed of schist bedrock covered by glacial gravels but where the natural subsoil has been exposed to the north it has generally been glacial clays.

Geophysical surveys have been carried out on parts of this area in 2001 (Davidson 2002) and in May 2004 (Donaldson 2004) but these produced unclear results. The area has also been subjected to 3 phases of evaluation trenching; in 2001 (Davidson 2002), in 2004 (Smith 2004) and later in 2004 (Davidson and Roberts 2004). The trial trenches revealed a stone-capped drain, and various pits and gullies. The densest area of archaeological activity included stone spreads, some burnt and patches of yellow clay, possibly floor surfaces. A raised area of stones was interpreted as a possible clay and stone wall. Other possible wall footings were associated with a clay floor. One area of burnt stone contained a Romano-British rim sherd, and another stone spread produced **t**hree mortarium body sherds and two mortarium rim sherds dating to the 2nd century AD. A fragment of a large crucible was also found nearby.

In 2007 a strip, map and sample evaluation was carried out on a narrow corridor down the western edge of area K, known as K2. A concentration of archaeology was found and a 3m by 5m extension (K3) was dug on the east side of the original trench. This revealed a linear spread of stones (22050), possibly a wall footing, crossed by a straight shallow gully (35003), in turn cut by a pit (35005). To the north was a roughly circular gravel and clay surface (20069), which was cut by several ill-defined stone filled pits (22065, 22067, 21020, and 21022). A further very shallow, charcoal-filled pit (22077) was located immediately to the north. No diagnostic finds were discovered and no clear building plan could be discerned but it is possible that these were structural remains.

The work done so far indicates a probable Romano-British settlement in the southern part of K5. No other part of the site produced so many Roman finds from the evaluation and the features found in the trial trenches are suggestive of the floors and drains of roundhouses with some hints of walls. The full nature and extent of the settlement is still unclear. No stone roundhouse walls have been identified, but trenches in area B2 proved poor at locating roundhouses even when large stone walls were present. Some possible stone footings for clay walls are suggested and several areas of clay flooring similar to that seen in the roundhouses in area B2.

This suggests that Iron Age and Roman settlement was concentrated around the foot of the knoll on which the early medieval cemetery was located, possibly implying that the earlier settlement influenced the location of the later cemetery or that the Roman settlements were still occupied in the early medieval period. The settlement in area K5 has the potential to infill a gap in the Iron Age, Roman and early medieval landscape, although it remains to be seen whether the evidence is there to fulfil this potential. It is certainly difficult to make any definitive statements about theses periods and the relationship of the settlements and activity areas to each other without knowing what is in area K5.

Pit group 19073 and possibly related features in area I
See figure 26

Many features on site are still insecurely dated and difficult to assign to a period. A group of features in area I are preliminarily included in this section on very tentative dating evidence but they might form part of the Roman period activity on the site. The full list of features in this group with dimensions is giving in table 14 and the finds in table 15.

In area I, not far from the top of a fairly steep, north-west facing scarp (SH 25722 80654) was a group of pits (group 19073, PRN 31598). They were focused around a rather irregular elongated hollow (18085 and 22015) aligned roughly north-east to south-west and measuring 3.4m long, 0.9m wide and up to 0.32m deep. The hollow had been lined with burnt clay; a small fragment remained *in situ* on the edge of the cut but quantities of the lining material were found in the stony fill. There was also a stone slab in the base of the cut, which seemed to be part of the lining. The smoothed surface of many of the pieces of the burnt clay from the fill showed that it was lining but it had not been fired to the temperature of a furnace or a smithing hearth and not slag or other metalworking waste of any sort was found. Unusually for such a feature the fill contained very little charcoal and bulk soil samples recovered only a very small amount, some of which however might be suitable for dating.

Just clipping the south-western end of this feature were pits 22013/18078 and 19084. The former had a flat slab in the base with another smaller one stacked on top. Pit 19084 had a stack of 4 slabs, in this case the smaller ones were underneath, and the stack had partially toppled over. It is unclear whether these two features were postholes with the pad-stones raising the posts to a specific height, or whether the stones had another function. There were no other packing stones and even when packed around with earth the stacks of stone do not appear very stable, but then that may explain why the stones in 19084 had slipped. This feature may then have been replaced by 19071, which also had a flat stone in the middle of its fill. A larger sub-circular pit (19065) contained only small stones and no evidence for its use except for a single heat-cracked stone. This and a shallow scoop (18102) also contained tiny fragments of burnt bone, but these were so small and so few that their significance is very uncertain.

Several of the surrounding features seem to have been postholes (18106, 18122, 18082, 19069/18088, 18098, 18100, 19067), although only 18100 and 18082 had *in situ* post-packing and 18122 had the remains of a post-pipe into which clay had slumped. Although some lines of three can be made there is no real sense of this being a single roofed structure, although some small patches of clay (18096, 18097, 18095) might represent a floor surface.

No chronologically diagnostic finds were recovered from group 19073, but a sherd of Samian ware was found only 3.5m to the south-west. This could be a chance find with no associated to the feature group, but the scarcity of Roman pottery on the site does suggest that its location is significant. A Roman or at least Iron Age date for this group is supported by two possibly associated features 10m to the south (PRN 31599, SH 25723 80638). A rather disturbed spread of clay (22001/22003), some of it in a shallow pit (22002) had a posthole (21039) to the north-west. These features would have been largely discounted were it not for a large broken stone mortar (sf1036) from the clay deposit, a grinding stone (sf 1039) adjacent to it and a spindle whorl (sf1042) from the base of the posthole. These items could easily be Iron Age, although they would not be out of place in the local culture of the Roman period either. The clay deposit could possibly be a floor or the base of a hearth, although there was no burning on it. The finds indicate that these are the very damaged remains of a small structure. Grinding and pounding seem to have been necessary to the activities occurring in this structure and these activities may have been related to the oven or similar structure in group 19073.

EARLY MEDIEVAL

Early medieval long cist cemetery (PRN 31600)
See figure 27

A cemetery containing twenty three graves was identified on top of a small rounded hill in area K7 (SH 25645 80835). The graves were laid out in quite a regular arrangement along a roughly east-west axis. There was a group of eight closely packed graves in two rows in the centre with longer, more widely spaced rows to the north and south with some infilling following the alignment of existing rows. The roughly symmetrical layout suggests an organised and coherent cemetery in which the location and extent of earlier burials were still visible

when later graves were dug. Very few of the graves cuts appeared to overlap, with some merging of cuts probably occurring due to post-depositional effects. The only stratigraphic relationships came from the north western side of the cemetery where the cut of Grave G (80052) appeared to just clip the eastern edge of Grave I (80068), cutting through its packing fill (80146). It is likely that Grave G is also later than Grave L (80070) to the west; the former appears to truncate the eastern end of the latter in plan.

Grave Cuts

The graves were almost all sub-rectangular in plan and aligned approximately around an east-west axis. Twelve graves (graves A, B, D, F, J, M, P, Q, R, S, U and W) were orientated almost exactly east-west and nine graves (C, G, I, K, L, O, T, V, and X) were aligned west-south-west to east-north-east. One, grave N, was aligned east-south-east to west-north-west and another, grave H was orientated north-east to south-west.

The size of the grave cuts varied. The three smallest graves (W, N and R) were located on the eastern side of the cemetery, in a column just to the east of the central cluster. Grave N, cut (80081), was the smallest of the graves at just 0.88m long and 0.60m wide. Another grave just to the north of this, grave W, cut (80101) was also measured at just under a metre long and was 0.50m wide. Presumably both graves were cut to hold infant burials. Grave R, cut (80088) was the most southerly of the three and measured 1.55m long by 0.63m wide. The size of the rest of the graves fell within the range of 1.68m long and 0.72m wide, the dimensions recorded for grave K, cut (80078) in the north of the cemetery, and up to 2.30m long and 1.44m wide, as recorded for the cut of grave G (80052) in the north-east corner.

Some of the graves in the central group appeared to have one large cut for two or more graves, e.g. graves F and J, and graves Q, S and U. However neither of these had a neat regular cut and projecting remnants of individual grave cuts survived so it is most likely that these all had individual cuts but were so close together that bioturbation and weathering along the cut edges caused the cuts to apparently merge. Graves F and J were initially thought to be surrounded on three sides by an arc of firmly set angular cobbles (80060), but on excavation the stones were shown to be natural weathered schist fragments embedded in the subsoil.

The graves had steeply cut sides which broke to a flattish base though their depth varied across the site. Fifteen of the graves were between 0.20 and 0.30m deep. Four fell outside the bottom end of this range: Grave U (80097) was 0.18m deep; grave M (80080) 0.14m; Grave P (80061) was just 0.13m deep whilst grave west (80101), the shallowest on the site, just 0.10m. Grave M, in the south part of the cemetery, was cut against the northern edge of a schist outcrop which protruded through the sand and gravels on the top of the hill. The resulting exposed surface of this outcrop formed the base of the grave; it was probably the level of this that determined the final depth of the grave more than any other factor. At the other end of the scale, four of the graves measured over 0.30m deep: Grave south (80086) was 0.34m; Grave V (80100), 0.35m; Grave C (80046), 0.40m and the deepest, and longest, grave cut on the site, that of Grave G, was 0.50m deep.

In some cases, as in Grave A (80036) in the south-west corner of the cemetery, the cut had been dug just large enough to accommodate the stone structure inside and the cist stones (80037) were packed in tight against the edges of the cut. The removal of the stone cist structures demonstrated that the cuts of some were larger than had been initially suspected. In some cases, as in graves G (80052) and L (80070) in the north-east corner of the cemetery, the cut appears to be significantly larger than the cist.

The original graves must have been significantly deeper and it seems likely that considerable soil loss has occurred since the graves were dug. Both graves P and W discussed above appeared to be disturbed and truncated from above. They, like the majority of the cists, were revealed only just below the level of the modern topsoil and would have been susceptible to plough disturbance. The quantity of colluvial material identified at the base of the hill also suggests substantial soil movement due to ploughing.

Stone cists

All the graves appear to have been lined, and there seem to have been two types of grave lining; the stone cist and what is interpreted as a timber cist. The stone cists were most common and all were constructed to the same general pattern. They were built from generally large, thin flat slabs of locally available blue-grey schist some of which appeared to have been roughly shaped for the purpose. These stones were set on their edges, usually vertically, to form the side and end slabs of an approximately rectangular cist box. Some of the cists were described as ‘coffin-shaped’ (Graves N (80082) and B (80042)), a slightly more hexagonal design, wider at the west and tapering towards the east. Most of the cists also contained a basal layer of large horizontally set slabs

which formed the floor of the grave. Smaller pieces of schist had often been used to fill any gaps between the larger stones in the base and sides.

A good example of this type of cist was grave G, located in the extreme north-eastern corner of the cemetery. The grave cut (80052) was an irregular sub-rectangular shape, 2.30m long, 1.44m wide, 0.50m deep and aligned west-south-west to east-north-east. A rectangular stone cist (80053/80633/80634), 1.8m long, 0.47m wide at its base, and 0.29m deep had been constructed towards the south and east edges of the grave cut. Eight flat schist stones (80634) had been set on edge to form the sides of the cist. The largest of these measured 0.72m long, 0.35m wide and 0.03m thick. With the exception of a single example in the south-east corner, all of side slabs appeared to lean inwards slightly towards the centre of the grave. They also appeared to abut, and therefore probably postdate, the placing of the two end slabs (80633). The end slabs were constructed from similar pieces of flat schist; the stone at the west end measured 0.48m long, 0.34m wide and 0.04m thick, whilst that at the east was 0.44m long, 0.31m wide and 0.07m thick. The base of the cist (80053) comprised at least twelve flat slabs of horizontally laid schist. These base slabs measured up to 0.60m long, 0.30m wide and 0.04m thick. Smaller stones had been laid to fill the gaps between the larger and create a continuous rectangular paved area. In this cist, some of the base stones were seen to underlie, and therefore predate, the side slabs though no stratigraphic relationship could be established between the base and the ends.

The quality of the stone cists varied across the cemetery. Some, as with that in Grave G above, were very well constructed displaying evidence for tightly fitted and continuous side, end and base slabs. Other similar high quality examples included the cists in Graves C (80047), J (80051) and F (80049). The better quality cists do not appear to have been confined to the larger graves, one of the two smallest cists in the cemetery (80082), in the probable infant's grave, Grave N, was well preserved. Most of the missing elements were the result of later disturbance. For example, the western end of Grave L, in the north eastern part of the cemetery, was cut into by a small pit (80072), possibly part of a stone robbing event resulting in the truncation of the western end of the cist. Other damage may have been caused by ploughing but Grave H (80066) was damaged during the machine stripping. Some graves had odd side slabs missing with no obvious disturbance visible.

Just over half, of the cists contained evidence for basal slabs. Most of these contained a near intact continuous paved surface across the bottom of the cist, but grave U had only a single slab at the east end of the grave. Of the eight that did not contain basal slabs, the bottom of 5 (Graves M, O, Q, T and V) was formed by the relatively smooth and flat (though not always horizontal) surface of the exposed bedrock. Graves A and W had unlined bases cut into gravel. In some cases, e.g. graves F and J, an uneven base was levelled before the base slabs were laid.

There was no evidence for large lintel type capstones on any of the cists. At least six of the graves did however show evidence for partial capping deposits. In Grave T (80092), at the centre of the southern row of graves, four flat stones (80671), the largest of which was 0.40m long, had been set horizontally on, and aligned parallel with, the cist side slabs (80093). They appeared to form a separate stone course above the sides of the cist. None of them were large enough to span the width of the cist and no similar slabs were recorded collapsed into the grave, so they do not appear to have entirely sealed the grave. Similarly in Grave A (80036) in the south west corner, three flat schist slabs represented a partial stone covering deposit, resting on the top of the cist side stones. Slabs were also recorded on top of the fills of graves Graves G, I and N; in these cases lying directly on the grave fill and not supported by side slabs. It appears that in all these cases the long cist was backfilled with soil and then small slabs were laid on top as a sealing deposit rather than true capstones.

This was particularly clearly seen in Grave C (80046) on the north western side of the cemetery, where six flat schist pieces (80673) had been placed upon the top of the cist (80047), with their outside edges resting on the side slabs. These stones did not span the width of the cist, and all appeared to slope downwards towards the centre of the cist, as if they had originally been supported but the support had decayed. This was a well-made stone cist and the body would have occupied most of the space in the cist. The body was presumably covered with backfill (80008) and the slabs laid on top but as the body decayed a void would have been created causing the covering slabs to slump inwards.

It is possible that more of the graves originally had covering stones, as these could easily have been disturbed by ploughing, and some were probably disturbed during machine stripping. A number of smaller slabs recorded near some graves were probably remains of disturbed covering slabs.

In some of the cists their constructional sequence could be identified. Sometimes it was possible to identify whether the end slabs had been placed before the sides, as in Grave T. Where there were basal slabs these often appear to have been inserted after the sides, e.g. in Graves C, D, I and K, but in others (e.g. Graves R and G) the base stones were placed first followed by the side and end slabs. No overall pattern emerged and it appears that the constructional sequence was largely a matter of choice on behalf of the cist builders.

As the cists were constructed the slabs were supported by a packing deposit between the side slabs and the cut. This generally consisted of a deposit of gravely silt that probably originated from upcast from digging the grave.

Possible wooden cists

At least two of the graves (Q and X), both within the central group, appear not to have contained a stone cist structure at all. These had a number of sub-rounded and sub-angular cobbles (80090) placed against the grave sides. Their smaller size and more rounded form showed that they were not part of a damaged cist, but were probably packing stones, probably to support a timber lining. This grave is not sufficiently well-preserved to prove this interpretation but other graves elsewhere (e.g. St Andrews (Proudfoot 1996)) give more indication that this interpretation is correct. In particular a grave on the nearby site adjacent to Tŷ Mawr Farm (Davidson *et al* forthcoming) contained the stain of a timber structure supported by packing stones. The structure appeared to be composed of unjointed planks forming essentially a timber version of the stone cists. In Graves S and U, also in the central group, stone base slabs had been used but only small packing stones were present around the sides, suggesting timber cists with stone bases. Other graves, particularly Graves O (80083) and M (80080), largely lacked lining stones but as both had single surviving side slabs it is assumed that they had been disturbed and most of the cist slabs lost, rather than being odd combinations of timber and stone.

Cist size

The dimensions of the cist structures varied. Predictably, the two smallest cists were found within the smallest grave cuts. What initially appears to be the smallest cist, (80080) in Grave W, was only 0.48m long, but this was damaged and must originally have been about 0.90m long. The smallest cist was therefore (80082) in grave N, which was 0.73m long, 0.28m wide and 0.14 deep. It seems that both Graves N and W held infant burials and their position together on the eastern side of the cemetery might be of significance.

Of the complete cists there were two intermediate between the infant cists and the majority in the cemetery, and may possibly have been the graves of children. Grave R contained a relatively well preserved cist structure (80089) measuring 1.16m by 0.33m, which might be taken as a rough indicator of the height of the deceased. In grave K, the cist (80030) was also relatively well preserved and measured 1.40m by 0.46m, again suggesting a smaller individual. Interestingly, these smaller graves accompanied larger, presumably adult graves, and were both located on the eastern side of the cemetery next to a larger grave, adding to the symmetrical character of the cemetery.

The other stone cists all fall within a relatively tightly clustered size range from 1.70m, as recorded in Graves J (80051) and D (80038), to 2.03m recorded at the longest (80073) at Grave H. In cases where the cist is incomplete, such as the truncated Grave D cist, this measurement represents the minimum length. It is assumed that these larger cists graves represent adolescent or adult members of the community. The possible timber-lined graves also seem to fit within this size range.

On the basis of the sizes of the cists, the cemetery appeared to contain two infants, two children, and nineteen adults or adolescents. All of the children's and infants graves lie in the eastern half of the cemetery, suggesting that this was deemed an appropriate place for the younger members of the community to be buried. The two children's graves, K and R, each lie adjacent to the larger, presumably adult, Graves V and G respectively. Each is located on the inside, cemetery side, of the larger grave. In both cases the cuts of the pairs of graves appeared to be touching each other, but despite the physical relationships it proved impossible to decipher any stratigraphic relationship between them. Interestingly, this situation is repeated in the northern part of the cemetery with the larger Grave I and the smaller, apparently truncated Grave L. On this basis, it is possible that Grave L is the remains of a further child burial, despite the possibility of a relatively large cist structure indicated by the size of the grave cut.

Orientation

The orientation of the cists tended to be the same as that of their grave cuts. There were however two examples where the cist was orientated slightly differently: Grave R (80678/80089), just to the north of the central cluster of graves, and Grave B (80042) in the south eastern corner. Both appear to have been constructed on an east-

north-east to west-south-west alignment in oversized east-west orientated grave cuts. If the orientations of graves X (80091) and Q (80094) are included, both of which lacked strong evidence for a stone long cist, the burials in the cemetery appear to have been orientated as follows: ten were orientated E-W; eleven were aligned west-south-west to east-north-east; one east-south-east to west-north-west and one north-east-south-west. With one or two exceptions, the graves in the central cluster of burials seem to show a preference towards a general E-W orientation, whilst those on the 'wings' to the north and south tended more towards an east-north-east to west-south-westerly alignment.

Human Remains

At least seven, and possibly eight, of the graves contained human remains. **Grave A** in the south western corner of the site contained the best preserved example sf2036, but even here the state of preservation was relatively poor and the surviving bone fragments were extremely fragile. The remains consisted of fragments of skull, mandible, and teeth (also recorded as sf5919, sf5920 and sf5931), parts of the right leg (also recorded as sf5917, sf5929), left leg (also recorded as sf5932), left hip (also recorded as sf5921), right hip (recorded as sf5912, sf5916) left arm and spine. The distribution of the surviving fragments suggest that grave had not been subject to any major disturbance episodes, and that the cist had originally contained a single extended inhumation, laid out with its head at the western end of the grave. The left arm appears to have been raised as the surviving parts of its lower portions were recovered resting against the left side of the head, but this may have been the result of post-depositional disturbance.

Grave B, in the north western corner of the central grave cluster also contained fragmentary parts of another human skeleton sf818. A piece of skull and a single tooth were recovered from the west end of the cist; pieces of a left femur and left tibia were also recovered from the eastern half. At Grave D, again in the north western corner, some pieces sf2037 of the lower left leg (fibula and tibia), parts of the right side of the pelvis (also recorded as sf5918 and sf5933) and other unidentified skeletal fragments (sf 5913, sf5914) were recovered. A small fragment of human skull sf822 was also recovered from the western end of **Grave G** in the cemetery's north eastern corner. As with the material from Grave A, though fragmentary, the position of the bone fragments in Graves B, D and G are all consistent with the poorly preserved, but *in situ*, remains from extended inhumation burials, positioned with the head lying at the western end of the cist.

The fill (80012) of **Grave F**, on the western side of the central cluster also contained a few crumbling fragments of bones from a right leg sf2043 along with some human teeth sf4437 recovered from a sample of the deposit. Another human tooth sf4431 was also recovered from a wet sieved sample from cist fill (80011) in **Grave J**. In **Grave C**, a number of small, soft fragments of bone were identified within fill (80008) during excavation. Because of their size they were collected as part of a bulk soil sample. Unfortunately the fragments proved to be too fragile to survive the wet sieving process.

Small quantities of burnt bone were also identified in three of the graves. In **Grave K**, some small fragments of unidentified bone sf5559, some of which was burnt sf4352, was recovered from a wet sieved bulk sample from cist fill (80018). The burnt bone is likely to be residual in this context, and was almost certainly introduced with the mixed backfill deposit. Samples derived from the fills of two other graves, from **Grave F** (80012) and the infant burial in **Grave north** (80019), also contained fragments of burnt bone sf4545 and sf4438. The bone in both of these contexts is also likely to have been deposited in a similar fashion.

Finds from the graves

Artefacts are very rare in early medieval graves as grave goods and clothing other than shrouds were not normally part of the burial tradition. However some finds were recovered from the graves. Chert and flint flakes, mostly small fragments came from Grave O (sf5783), Grave S (sf4445, sf5859), and Grave W (sf4417). These must have been residual, originating from the ground surface, and introduced by backfilling. However a collection of 32 fragments of white quartz (sf2039), weighing a total of 278g but no more than 42mm in diameter, could have been deliberately included during the backfilling of Grave F. The majority were recovered from the area of the thighs, though a few were in the vicinity of the head.

Grave F contained a screw and washer (sf2040) and small sherds of post-medieval pottery (sf4016) that were clearly intrusive, but Grave I contained a small tanged, iron knife with organic remains of a handle (sf3006) and a copper alloy sheet fragment, with three rectangular holes (sf3005). Grave I was missing a side slab so disturbance could have introduced these items, although it possible that they were originally placed in the grave.

A collection of materials indicative of smithing came from Grave K. These include vitrified hearth lining (sf809, sf811, sf4101) and slag including a part of a smithing hearth cake, spheroids, hammerscale and lining slag (sf808, 810, 4353, 4358, 5602, 5603, 5910, 5983, 6350). Small fragments of iron-rich slag and spheroidal and flake hammerscale were recovered from Grave B (sf5695), Grave G (sf5597), Grave J (sf5760), Grave Q (sf5826), Grave R (sf5824), and Grave X (sf5825). A small piece of clinker (sf4544) came from Grave O. This material must be related to metalworking activity within or close to the cemetery as described below.

Metalworking within and near the cemetery

The cemetery was laid out in a fairly symmetrical plan and according to this there should have been 4 graves in the southern row. There were certainly 4 features of the same size and shape as graves but the feature between Graves A and T had no cist and a large quantity of metalworking debris within its fill. This cut (80063) was grave-shaped, aligned west-south-west to east-north-east, and measured 2.01m long, between 0.70 and 0.80m wide and up to 0.26m deep. It had steep, almost vertical sides and an irregular uneven base. The cut was divided internally by a large flat piece of schist (80045) which ran slightly obliquely across its width towards the east end. Another large flat slab, also recorded as part of (80045), was set on its side at 90° to the first. These defined a separate compartment (80044) at the eastern end of the cut. The larger western compartment measured about 1.4m long and had a primary fill (80064) of very dark, blackish brown silty sand with charcoal, covered by a less charcoal-rich but still dark deposit (80065). The eastern compartment contained a single fill of a charcoal-rich, friable, blackish brown sandy silt (80013).

No finds were associated with the primary fill of the western compartment (80064), but the secondary fill (80065) contained metalworking debris, including hearth floor deposits and flake and spheroidal hammerscale (sf4434, sf4473, sf5593 and sf5957). More material was identified within deposit (80013) at the east end of the cut. Slag from this part included hearth slag, quantities of smithing floor concretion and hammerscale (sf2041, 4472, 4514, 4516, 5548, 5596, 5598, 5599, 5600, 5787). Amongst this material were some copper alloy fragments from sf 4472, 4514, 5548 and 5600 including 3 pieces of folded thin copper alloy strip and a fragment of a bifurcated copper alloy rivet. There were other larger metal objects including a concretion of metal fragments including fragments of iron sheet (sf2042) and a possible nail (sf2035). Copper alloy objects included a plain strip, bent round to form a small loop (sf4471) and a folded fragment of a sheet of copper alloy (sf6345) with a small blob of iron corrosion on one side. It is unclear whether this corrosion is simply attached to the surface of the sheet or is a small pin/ rivet that passes through the sheet.

No evidence for burning was recorded in the cut, and it appears that the metal objects and metalworking residue was dumped into eastern compartment of the cut. This probably happened after the western half had partially silted up and was itself covered by another similar deposit. The similarity of the form of the pit to the surrounding grave cuts, and its placement and orientation suggests that it may actually have been originally dug as a grave before it was filled. Whether it was actually used as one before being emptied and reused is less clear, although the slabs forming compartment 80044 could have been reused from a cist. No evidence for residual human remains were recorded in any of its fills, however no skeletal material had survived in most of the graves either.

An irregular hollow (80104) just north of feature 80063 contained frequent charcoal flecks and slag, hammerscale and fuel ash, presumably originating from feature 80063 or related activity. About 6m to the north-west was a shallow sub-circular pit (80055) with a charcoal-rich lens at its base. This also contained metalworking debris in the form of lining slab, fuel ash slag and hammerscale (sf823, sf4469, sf4515, sf5418 and sf5956). Evidence for burning *in situ* could be seen across the cut and it appears possible that the feature may be the remains of a shallow bowl furnace or hearth used for smelting iron.

In total approximately 550g of smithing residue was recovered from the fills the graves, with this spread over much of the cemetery. Grave K, which produced most, was in the opposite side of the cemetery to the feature 80063. This reused grave (80063) produced 3.3kg of smithing residue, with much of this showing secondary cementation into the concretionary material known as “smithing floor”. Such concretionary material is commonly associated with smithy floors (hence the name) where it builds-up around the anvil. It is not however restricted to such an origin, but may form wherever accumulations of smithing debris contain decomposing fragments of iron (T Young). The possible hearth (80055) produced 0.186kg of residue and hollow 80104 produced 0.537kg.

The occurrence of copper-alloy waste in the “smithing floor” concretions is important, and relatively unusual. The occurrence of tiny scraps of folded copper-alloy strip is suggestive of the bifurcated rivets commonly used

in the construction and repair of sheet metal vessels. The occurrence of deposits like this (predominantly smithing remains, with evidence for some use of copper alloy, including as rivets) is recorded elsewhere, with that at the 15th-17th century site at Ballykillaboy, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland, being of particularly similar character (Young 2010b). The use of bifurcated rivets has a long history from the early medieval to post-medieval periods (T Young). The smithing may therefore have occurred some considerable time after the cemetery went out of use, which might make the reuse of a grave more explicable.

Possible prehistoric activity on the hill

Scattered amongst the graves in the south-eastern corner of the cemetery and just outside it were several hollows (80107, 80112, 80114, 80116, 80118, 80120, 80122 and 80143). Feature 80114 was 0.27m deep and might have been a posthole but the rest were little more than naturally accumulated deposits in hollows. Feature (80143) contained a single piece of struck flint (sf5859), 80114 had some tiny fragments of burnt bone (sf4506) and 80116 had a flint flake (sf5852) and a tiny fragment of prehistoric pottery (sf5855). The rim fragments from a Bronze Age Collared Urn (sf1635) and further pieces of unidentified prehistoric pottery (sf1637) were recovered from the ploughsoil (80002) on the top of the hill during machine stripping, so there may have been some prehistoric activity on top of the hill pre-dating the cemetery.

MEDIEVAL

Corn drying ovens

See figure 3 for locations

Scattered over the southern part of the site but mainly concentrated in area K were several features interpreted as corn driers. These were generally distinguished by a roughly dumbbell shape in plan, evidence of burning in one end and often quantities of charred remains including charred grain. They are typologically similar to Irish corn driers generally with a medieval date.

The rounded hill in area K seemed to be a focus for these features; with two near its summit and one on the eastern side. One of these was found just over a metre to the west of Grave A, on the south western side of the cemetery (PRN 31601, SH 25638 80831). The cut (**80056**) gave the impression of being two circular pits, approximately 1.25m in diameter, both linked by a short (0.4m long) north-west to south-east aligned channel approximately 0.8m wide. The south-eastern circular feature and the linking channel had steep sides (0.37m deep) and a flat base. The north western end of the cut consisted of a deeper, bowl-shaped cut, with a maximum depth of 0.55m. All of the component parts appear to have been in contemporaneous use and possibly dug in a single episode of activity.

The north western bowl contained two fills in its base which were confined to this part of the feature. The basal fill (80127) consisted of a 0.07m deep layer of grey-black clayey silt with very frequent charcoal flecks. A number of fragments of burnt bone (sf4436) were recovered from this deposit. Above this lay a thin lens of orange brown silt (80126), containing more fragments of burnt bone (sf4435, sf4521, and sf5857), and tiny fragments of burnt clay (sf5856). Layer (80058) sealed these deposits and extended across the entire length of the feature, forming the basal deposit in its south-eastern end and the linking channel. It appears to have been at its thickest at the north western end of the feature where it reached a depth of 0.25m; elsewhere it was between 0.10 and 0.18m deep. It consisted of a dark greyish brown charcoal-rich clayey silt with more burnt bone (sf5861).

Three large stones (80128) appear to have been placed in the top of the feature and were embedded within the top of deposit (80058). Two schist slabs were deposited in the north-western end, and appeared to be resting on their sides against its northern edge. A large sub-rounded cobble, 0.60m in diameter, was located towards the centre of the north-western end. When the feature went out of use it filled with brown colluvial deposits (80125 and 80057), which produced a flint flake (sf5926) and a piece of a perforated schist disc (sf4476), possibly a fishing weight.

Approximately 16m from the north-eastern corner of the cemetery was another possible corn drier (PRN 31602, SH 25659 80851). This was an oval shaped pit (**80137**), 2.3m long, 1.30m wide and with a maximum depth of 0.50m, which had been dug on a north-west to south-east alignment. The pit was slightly narrower and shallower at the north-west end where it was recorded at 0.30m deep. Around 0.80m along its length, the flat base broke gradually into the deeper bowl-shaped cut which formed the south-eastern end of the feature. The

maximum depth of the cut at this end was recorded at 0.50m. The form of the cut is consistent with an interpretation as a corn drying oven, with the flue at the north-western end and the drying chamber in the slightly wider and deeper south-eastern end.

A well built 'C' shaped stone structure (80138) had been constructed against the sides of the south-east end of the cut. It was made from unbonded sub-rounded schist cobbles, up to 0.43m long. The structure was a single stone in width and comprised 3 courses of cobbles on the western side and 2 on the east. Together the cobbles formed the 0.40m wide wall of a stone drying chamber, approximately 1.6m in diameter and up to 0.50m high. The chamber was open at the flue end to the north-west, though it appears to have been blocked by seven or eight smaller cobbles which presumably had tumbled into the entrance from the walls after it had gone out of use.

The base of the chamber was filled with a 0.19 m deep layer of brown-black sandy silt with abundant fragments of charcoal (80139) and burnt bone fragments (sf 4430, sf4463, sf 4498, sf4540, sf5556, sf5557, sf5958 and sf6124). Above this primary fill lay a further layer (80142) of brown sandy silt with occasional charcoal fragments. The deposit extended beyond the confines of the stone chamber and filled the entire length of the feature. A rubbing stone (sf4103) was recovered from the flue end of the deposit and more burnt bone fragments were recovered (sf4441, sf5563, sf5572, sf5927).

On the eastern slope of the hill (PRN 31603, SH 25673 80819) was a figure-of-eight shaped cut (21051), orientated north-east to south-west and about 2.09m long with a maximum width of 0.85m and depth of 0.42m. It had steep flat sides which broke sharply to a flattish, slightly concave base. This was a typical corn drier shape with the drying chamber formed by a bowl located at the south-west end of the feature. At the other end of the proposed flue to the north-east, the firing chamber lay at a slightly lower level. A number of large flattish angular stones, between 0.12 and 0.5m long, lay within the drier's two fills, (21052) and (21053), which may represent the remains of a stone lining in the flue and firing area. Layer (21052) formed the basal fill of both the firing chamber and flue and contained lenses of charcoal and heavily oxidised clay. It contained unidentified fragments of burnt bone (sf2070 and sf4290). The upper fill contained 2 fragments of flint (sf1267 and 1314), which might be assumed to be residual.

Two probable corn driers (80835 and 80924) to the east of the hill in area K9 have been described in the Roman section. While these might be related to the other activity in this area medieval corn driers elsewhere (e.g. Graeanog (Fasham *et al* 1998)) have been inserted into earlier settlements. Another feature, almost certainly a corn drier was found in area Ia (PRN 31604, SH 25657 80667). Feature 21229 was located towards the base of the north-west facing scarp in area Ia. It measured 2.44m in length by 0.90m wide and 0.50m deep, and was isolated from other features with the exception of ditch 08020. Feature 21229 was orientated north-west to south-east almost perpendicular to this ditch and they may have been related. The basal fill of 21229 was rich in charcoal and contained tiny fragments of burnt bone. There were traces of heat-reddening on the sides and base of the feature. Its dumbbell shape in plan is typical of a corn drier, but the sample of the charcoal-rich layer produced little identifiable charcoal and no charred cereal grains. It is possible that the bone as introduced accidentally with the fuel.

POST MEDIEVAL

Introduction

See figure 4

The majority of the site was, by the 18th century, owned by the Penrhos Estate, and map evidence helps interpret much of the archaeological detail from the later post-medieval period. A number of small farms occupied the site, some of which were only demolished in the 1970s, or more recently, though others disappear from the map evidence in the early nineteenth century. The farmstead of Pen y Lôn (occupying part of area B2) is shown on the 1768 and 1817 maps but not later. Adjacent to Pen y Lôn was the farm of Bonc Dêg (area L8), owned by Lord Boston and then Lord Newborough and probably originating in the eighteenth century. The site of the farmhouse was not exposed in the excavations. The best preserved remains were those of Tyddyn Pioden (area E). A house of that name still exists but the original farmstead is shown on the 1817 map some distance away to the south-east. Trefignath Farm (area J) also shifted its location. In 1769 it was probably just outside the development area to the north of the chambered tomb. It then moved closer to Lôn Trefignath where a large

farmhouse was built in a commanding position. The buildings of Merddyn Poeth (area A) were demolished at the start of the present project but the remains showed no evidence of its probable eighteenth century origin.

Tegwyn Jones, now an artist living in Bodedern, grew up in Holyhead, living on Cyttir Road. As a boy he explored the fields and when he was 14 years old in 1953 he recorded the landscape for a school project. The finished paintings do not survive but his sketch pad does and shows the landscape with the farm buildings but with very few trees. These images are reproduced here with his permission. Plate 1 shows the view from the northern end of the site looking south down Lôn Trefignath to the farm of Bonc Dêg and beyond to Trefignath Farm on the hill. Plate 2 shows the farmyard of Bonc Dêg looking in from the road and plate 3 shows the view across the site from the lane towards Tyddyn Pioden and Merddyn Poeth with the wind mill beyond.

Mr Jones also remembers that the gentleman then living at Tyddyn Pioden referred to the area at the north-western end of the marsh (our area B2) as 'pant yr hen bobl' (hollow of the old people). Young Tegwyn was confused by this and thought it might be a reference to the old couple living in Bonc Dêg but now it can be seen to be a memory of the existence of the roundhouse settlement. The memory might not have been very ancient as the walls of the settlement had been robbed out and presumably used for the surrounding field walls in the nineteenth century, but local people must have been aware that the stones they were using came from an ancient settlement.

Farmsteads

Tyddyn Pioden (PRN 18403)
The modern house of this name is at SH 2510 8092, outside the development area, but the earlier maps (1769 and 1817) show that it was originally further east. The earliest spelling on the maps is Tyddyn y Pregodyn. By 1845 there is a building shown next to the road, further south than present, at c. SH 2510 8078 (PRN 31605), and no structures are shown in the middle of the fields. It is called Tyddyn y Biodan on the tithe map and Tyddyn Piodan on the 1817 estate map.

The earliest location of the farm was on the north-eastern side of a ridge of gravel (SH 25337 80821), above the boggy hollow to the south. Excavation revealed much of the farmyard and part of the house.

Farmhouse
Figure 28
The 1817 Penrhos Estate Map marks a building within the farmyard of "Tyddyn Piodan". The map is not accurate enough to locate precisely this building but the shape of the farmyard is distinctive. An approximately triangular area of post medieval activity was identified on the north-east facing slope of the gravel ridge in area E. This was in about the right location and formed a very similar shape on the same orientation as the farmyard shown on the map. At the western end of the area of activity were the remains of a small building, in the same relative location as that marked on the map.

The building remains were recorded as Group (31174) refers to a collection of features which together form a small structure measuring approximately 4.80m x 3.25m. This was constructed in a rectangular terrace cut (31223), with a steep western side, where it cut most deeply into the slope. At this side the terrace was up to 0.5m deep and the depth reduced towards the east with the angle of the slope. The western side of the cut was not quite straight as the southern end seems to have been recut to provide a square emplacement of a chimney or hearth base.

A make-up deposit (31398 and 31399) of grey or brown silt with varying quantities of stones lay within the main building terrace cut, and was overlain by a well-made cobbled floor (31219). The floor was mainly composed of small and medium cobbles, up to 10mm and closely packed to the east of the surface whereas those lying to the west were larger up to 0.5m, with the largest concentrated in the south-western corner of the floor. Several of the cobbles formed lines but overall the arrangement within the cobbled area was rather random. Many of the stones were thin and set on edge, but within the surface there are also a number of larger horizontally set stones. Most of the stones were schist but occasional quartz pebbles were also utilised. A large slab, measuring 1.35m x 0.5m, lay along the eastern edge of the floor. It was raised to a slightly higher level than the others and was roughly aligned along the long axis of the building. It seems to have been a threshold stone but some of the small cobbles continue to the east of it.

At the level of the cobbles pressed against the western edge of the terrace cut was a row of small angular stone blocks up to 0.2m in length (31419). The line of these was continued by an *in situ* lump of plaster and a layer of red brown clay. This seems to have indicated the inner face of the wall, which appears to have been plastered. The row of stones probably represented the edge of the cobbled floor where it met the wall, but the western part of the floor had been damaged and did not reach the wall.

Cutting through the floor make-up layers and dug as part of the construction phase of the building was a shallow cut (31397) made into hold two large stone slabs. A thin layer of gravel (31396) was placed in the base of the cut on which two large slabs (31220) up to 1.5m in length were placed. The largest of the slabs seemed to have broken in two, and small packing stones were inserted to fill the gap between this and the other slab. There was another stone to the north which appeared to have been disturbed and is slightly tilted. Originally the surface of this stone was set around 0.12m higher than the main slabs and roughly level with cobbled surface (31219). This stone may have acted as a step down onto the main slabs. The two main slabs were partially covered by a thin layer of fine charcoal (31395), consisting largely of charcoal dust, and suggestive of a fire. Although there were no obvious reddened areas or extensive heat cracking on the slabs they were most likely hearth stones.

Layer 31395 was partially covered by two schist slabs and some smaller stones (31394) in a matrix of fine red-brown sand with patches of friable degraded white mortar. These stones seemed to have been quite carefully placed but they would have blocked the use of much of the hearth. The mortar was not bonding the stones and seemed to be fragments from elsewhere. The stones might have collapsed from a structure above or they might represent a remodelling of the hearth.

Hearth slabs (31220) seemed to have been positioned to fit around a square steep sided cut (31393) 0.3m deep. This must have held a post in use with the hearth, but it was filled with a red-brown silt with flecks of burnt silt and charcoal. Another possible posthole just south-east of the hearth was represented by a sub-rectangular cut (31501), 0.26m deep, located near to the south-eastern corner of the building terrace. This feature contained loose brown silty gravel fill, which might have fallen in from the sides when a post was removed.

The floor (31219) was damaged, especially on the western side, and the gap was filled by a dump of stone (31222). The floor and the hearth area were all covered by a firm yellow-brown silty clay mixed with grey silt (31221). This deposit overlay and obscured most of the remains of the building and filled in the building terrace. This clay material may have been the remains of a cob wall and is likely to have originated from the demolition of the structure. This layer produced a silver coin (sf4440) of medieval or early medieval date, but it was too corroded to date more precisely.

The trace of plaster on the inner face of the terrace cut suggests that the wall of the structure was on top and outside the cut with the terrace designed to level the floor of the structure. A patch of clay (31400) similar to 31221 but possibly *in situ* just west of the terrace may have been a surviving trace of the wall itself. The scarcity of postholes or other roof supports along with the quantity of clay in the demolition level does suggest that the walls were of cob construction.

A linear feature (31190) containing what initially appeared to be packing stones was located to the west of, and parallel with, structure (31174), and underlying the clay (31400). This was in the right position to be related to the wall, but the stones were firmly embedded in the natural gravel and it seemed to be a peri-glacial frost formation coincidentally on the same orientation as the building.

The surviving remains suggest a very small building and it is possible that it continued to the north. Here there was considerable later disturbance by pit 31228, but some stones in the pit (31227) and a small collection of *in situ* slabs (31416), might represent traces of the northern end of the building. Alternatively, and more probably, the alignment of the building on the 1769 and 1817 maps suggests that the surviving remains were the north-eastern end of a north-east to south-west aligned building. The maps shows this as twice as long as it was broad, so as is was about 4.8m wide internally, the building could have been about 10m long. The presence of a boundary ditch (31179) to the west supports this length. The building must therefore have been a modest dwelling, smaller than the early Neolithic building.

The Farmyard

To the north of the building was the foundation of a wall (31224) aligned west-north-west to east-south-east on the same alignment as the northern boundary of the farmyard shown on the map. The wall (31224) composed of large slabs of schist up to 0.52m x 0.46m as facing stones and a core of smaller stones. Between the wall and the

building was a stony spread (31225), presumably collapse from the wall, overlying fragments of a possible stone surface (31226).

The spread of collapsed stone continued as a broad deposit up to 0.45m deep (31257) and this sealed the remnant of the boundary ditch (31256), no more than 0.15m deep, that continued the alignment of the farmyard boundary of about 28m beyond where the wall foundation faded away.

The eastern boundary of the farmyard was marked by the surviving fragment of a wall (31331) and a parallel ditch (31332). This and the northern farmyard boundary had been incorporated into field boundaries that continued in use until after 1953. The southern boundary may have been indicated by a short fragment of wall (31347) constructed with large boulders. This was on the right alignment for this boundary but the construction made the wall appear ancient and it is possible that this was a reused earlier field boundary.

Most of the activity in the farmyard was in the north-eastern corner. There were several shallow pits (31345, 31268, 31334, 31327, 31325, 31265), ranging in diameter from 0.4m to c.3m. Their fills had a high organic content and resembled topsoil. They produced no finds with the exception of pit 31265, which contained some quite fresh animal teeth (sf925). These pits cut through several parallel, north-west to south-east aligned features, but it is possible these significantly pre-dated the 18th century farmstead. A shallow hollow west of the farmhouse contained quantities of limpet shells and 18th century pottery, while another shallow pit closer to the house contained mid 19th century pottery, which must represent the latest use of the house before its demolition.

Smithing activity and straight and circular gullies
Figure 28
In the north-east corner of the farmyard but cut by the later pits were several parallel linear features. There was a shallow ditch (31329) with a broad, shallow elongated pit (31270) to its north and three narrow intercutting gullies (31156, 31155, and 31154). None of these produced finds but an oval pit just north-west of the gullies contained large quantities of smithing waste. This pit (31152) measured 1.3m by 0.7m and was 0.25m deep. It contained abundant micro-residues and macroscopic slags typical of smithing, including hearth lining slags and smithing floor material as well as flake and spheroid hammerscale. It also contained a copper alloy buckle tongue (sf5517). This pit would seem to have contained a smithing hearth. The narrow gullies (31154, 31155, and 31156) seem to run from the pit and could have acted as flues for the hearth. The gullies survived to a maximum depth of 0.28m and had fills similar to the circular gullies.

About 12m north-east of the pit was through a series of circular gullies. These features were two near circular gullies and a curving gully apparently created sequentially. The earliest of these features (31164/31160) was a curvilinear gully measuring approximately 7.0m in length and 0.60m in width. It survived to a depth of 0.20m and its fill contained three worked flint flakes (sf916) and a small quantity of burnt bone (sf915). This gully was cut by a sub-circular gully (31162) with an internal diameter of approximately 3.20m. Feature (31162) contained moderate amounts of iron slag including hearth lining slag and a large smithing hearth cake (sf918, 919, 922). This was in turn cut by a larger, slightly more oval gully (31166). The interior of this feature measured approximately 6.0m x 5.0m and the gully survived to an average depth of 0.16m. The fill contained occasional iron slag and was cut by enclosure 31168/31244.

Aligned perpendicular to the straight ditches and gullies was a large rectangular ditched enclosure (31168/31244) measuring approximately 14m x 9m. The feature was subdivided into two smaller sections by a central ditch which ran the majority of the way across the enclosure, stopping short of the north-western wall. The enclosure was open at the south-western end and this appears to have been the result of later truncation. There were several small pits and hollows inside the enclosure but these seemed to be root disturbed and of little significance.

The rectangular enclosure could have been a small garden or livestock enclosure but its size is suggestive of a barn and the gully may have been a foundation slot for a timber building. As this enclosure or foundation slot was cut through by the boundary to the farmyard it presumably pre-dates Tyddyn Piodan, although it could represent a barn in the corner of a field. It cut though the circular gullies so it presumably post-dated the smithing activity, although it reflects the alignment of the straight gullies, some of which were probably still in use when it was constructed.

The smithing activity seems to have taken place in a pit, but floor level hearths are not generally found in British smithies after the Middle Ages (Young). The smithing hearth cake from the circular gully is larger than typical

for post medieval smithing and larger than Iron Age examples (e.g. Crawcwellt Crew, 1998). It lies at the very maximum end of the size spectrum for Roman and medieval smithies, but lies well within the range of late medieval (13th century and later) (Young). The English evidence would suggest that a late medieval or younger age is likely for the smithing in this area, although the evidence from Ireland would suggest that an early medieval date is possible. The continuous use of this site into the 18th century perhaps suggest that the late medieval date is the most likely.

Pen y Lôn (PRN 14588)

The 1769 Estate map shows a building, presumably the farmhouse or cottage, marked as Pen-y-Lone, and another building to the south on the edge of a ploughed field. By 1817 the cottage is within a small enclosure, with another to the south but the second building has gone and the farmstead has its more correct name of Pen y Lôn. The two small enclosures, probably a garden and a paddock are marked as 87 and 88. All trace of Pen y Lôn had disappeared by 1889. In the 18th century Pen y Lôn was a fairly substantial farm, covering the land subsequently farmed by Trefignath Farm, and even including some land as far away as Cae Glas.

During the assessment a mound was noted on the aerial photographs and on the ground, which was thought to be a house platform, but stripping for excavation showed it to be an illusion caused by the outcropping bedrock. Very little of the farmstead was recovered during the excavation with the exception of various pits, although the location of the cottage could be quite accurately defined because the later large culvert (90066) seems to have followed the dog-legged boundary running between the two enclosures. This places the cottage on the northern edge of area B2 (SH 25577 80798), where the field-gate used to give access from the lane. No trace of the building was found, but a complex of pits must originally have been close to its southern corner. Two large pits (90084 and 90152) were filled with rubble but contained no finds. Cutting the upper fill of 90084 was a small pit (90082) containing well preserved animal bones, the preservation suggesting a post medieval date. Cutting that in turn was another small pit (90055), which contained sherds of glass, one part of a 19th century bottle, and fragments of coal and clinker, clearly late post medieval rubbish. However it also produced a fine polished stone axe, which was presumably collected in the eighteenth or early nineteenth century, possibly from the chambered tomb, and then discarded in this small pit.

Further south were more pits in an area largely defined by a shallow north-south aligned ditch (90047). This ditch does not fit well with the map boundaries, and a slight, largely truncated ditch (94025) further east would be a better candidate for the eastern boundary of the farmyard. Although dating evidence was limited small sherds of post-medieval pottery and pieces of coal suggest a late date for ditch 90047, which seemed to stop at the prehistoric wall (90222) but it could have continued at a shallower level as far as the line of the culvert. Ditch (90047) cut a large, rather irregular pit (90050). This pit had no dating evidence but it was similar to another pit (90064), which contained pieces of coal and was presumably post-medieval. A stone spread (90098) was located on the edge of ditch 90066. This spread was cut by a pit (90087) containing a large boulder, but sealed an adjacent pit (90089). Even this earlier feature contained coal and all these features must be post-medieval. Nearby were two small irregular features (90059 and 90061), and three small pits (90039, 90100, 90102) to the east of the ditch.

The southern boundary of the paddock marked 87 on the 1817 map was probably indicated by a rough line of stones (91509) to the south of the culvert. It ran north-west to south-east and over-lay other features in the area. A ditch (91963), just north of the marsh, running from the south-east to be cut at its north-western end by the culvert, was probably the southern boundary of the field, parcel 89, shown as ploughed on the 1769 map. Within this field and possibly just behind the second building shown on the 1769 map was a complex of intercutting pits and either short ditches or elongated pits. Six of these were more or less elongated pits with loose, voided stony fills (90037, 90257, 90262, 90279, 90285/90290 and 90287). The longest of these was 4.8m long, and there was another similar, but isolated feature (90330) further east. The loose, voided nature of the fill suggested a late post-medieval or modern date for these features. Some of these contained post medieval artefacts but others had few or no finds and two sherds of 13th century pot were found in separate pits. Slag including a smithing hearth cake and hammerscale (sf600, 5547, 5736, and 5907) were found in many pits, particularly 90037, and scattered around the area. The pits seem to follow the alignment of the culvert but it could have been the earlier boundary that they were following.

Parallel and very probably related to these were a longer ditch-like feature (90254) and two short, intercutting trench-like features (90294 and 90310), cut by a pit (90410). Even later disturbance was represented by two hollows containing well-preserved and therefore recent animal bone (90304 and 90423) and a geological test pit from an earlier phase of this project (90313).

Just south of this group was an even more complicated group of features. The latest was a large irregular hollow (91639), with a stony fill. This may have been the hollow formed by a tree and it contained 19th century pottery. No dating evidence was recovered from the earlier features. Elongated features 91611 and 91690 were more or less parallel to the features discussed above, although they had silty rather than stony fills. Feature 90421, which contained more stone, continued the line of these features to the north-west. The other features were more or less regular intercutting pits, none of which produced any dating evidence.

The area to the west culvert 90066 and north of a shallow boundary ditch 90045 was part of the farm of Bonc Dêg and the property of Lord Boston and then Lord Newborough. This area had complexity archaeology with features of different periods intimately mixed together, and few diagnostic artefacts. However it was clear that there was some post medieval activity in the corner of this property.

Bonc Dêg (PRN 13928)

Plates 1 and 2

The farm of Bonc Dêg first appears on the 1817 map. On the 1853 tithe map it is called Penbonc-deg, and Bonc-deg or Bonc Dêg on later maps. The layout of fields around Bonc Dêg was the same in 1817 as it was in 1889, and some of the fields remained largely unchanged until at least 1969. The small fields apparently used for a market garden in the 20th century according to a local man whose grandfather owned the farm.

The site of the farmhouse (SH 25549 80870) was not investigated in this phase of the project, although faint earthworks were noted during the assessment. Some of these may be the remains of building foundations but they are as likely to be demolition disturbance. Area L4 was the area close to Bonc Dêg that was investigated and this contained a large pit (19217) or infilled hollow, measuring 34m in length by a maximum of 10m width, and over 2m in depth. It was filled with concrete and other building rubble and artefacts indicated a mid twentieth century date, certainly rubble from the demolition of the farm. A large pit with similar rubble was also found on the northern side of area B2. This demolition apparently occurred during the 1970s. Plate 1 shows that the farmhouse was substantial and plate 2 shows the farm buildings as seen from the lane in 1953.

Features investigated within area B2 that lay to the west culvert 90066 and north of a shallow boundary ditch 90045 were part of the farm of Bonc Dêg. Almost all features in this area were either cut by culvert 90066 or were demonstrably earlier than contexts cut by this feature. The main feature in this area was an arc of stone slabs set on edge like a kerb (90051). These were surrounded and supported by a broad band of stones deposited to a depth of up to 0.4m (90052). Inside the 'kerb' was supported by a series of dumped deposits raising the level of the ground internally. The uppermost of these deposits was a yellow clay layer (90129), which seemed to level off the surface, then roughly paved with a thin layer of stone (90053), mostly small slabs laid flat. This was built up against two arcs of facing stones (90113 and 90114), built directly on the underlying made-up ground deposits, with 2 postholes in the south-east arc. Layer 90129 appears to have been a floor surface for what was presumably a circular structure. On the western side the edge of layer 90129 indicated where the circular wall had continued round, but on the eastern side it continued beyond the line of the facing stones. It is likely that there was an entrance to the structure at this side. Immediately east of this gap were 4 postholes with well placed, vertical packing stones and, in two cases, flat stones in the base to help support the weight of the posts in fairly soft deposits. The circular structure appeared not to have outer facing stones but had a spread of small stones built up against the back of the facing stones, which were therefore more like revetting stones than the base of a free-standing wall.

The kerbed structure (90051) with the stone circular structure (90113/4) inside probably represented the remains of a pony gin. The central structure would have supported the mechanism and the pony would have walked round within the kerbed area. Seems to pre-date the early nineteenth century boundary ditch and can possibly be dated to the eighteenth century.

Trefignath Farm

Possible 18th century activity (PRN 13929)

The name of the farm has been very variable, including Trefignerth (1624), Trefignedd (1769) and Trefignant (1817). The forms show no logical development, and 1624 is the earliest known reference (Smith 1987). The 1769 map shows two small buildings to the north of the modern farm, which were in a field called Trefignedd, part of the Pen-y-Lone land. By 1817 there was a building, named as Trefignath, in the same location as the recent farm, but the two buildings to the north were still in use. The situation was the same in 1845 and 1853, but by 1887 the whole farm had moved to the southern location; although a very small structure is indicated

further north near the railway. The Trefignath Farm buildings, which can be seen on plate 1 in 1953, had been removed by 1971 (OS 10K map), and the site of the farm was occupied by sheep pens until recently.

The early site of the farm is probably immediately east of the development site boundary (SH 25917 80676). An attempt was made to locate the buildings by geophysical survey, during the archaeological evaluation in advance of the A55 road improvements. No clear evidence of the buildings was found, but a circular anomaly, c. 5m in diameter, and an associated linear feature of unknown status, were revealed to the north-east of the burial chamber (GAT 204).

A pair of large gateposts in the field wall probably indicates the entrance to the farmyard, and close to this gateway the excavation on the western side of the wall revealed several features that might have been associated with the farm. A near perfectly circular gully (70491), measuring 5.0m by 4.5m, was initially suspected to be the inner drain of a roundhouse but proved on excavation to have no out-flow or related pits or hearths. It is probable that this was an agricultural feature, possibly a gully around a hayrick or similar structure related to the 18th century farm. The only find was a flint flake, which was presumably residual.

Another curving gully (70706) further up the hill slope may have been a similar feature. This was a shallow gully defining part of a larger circle, possibly about 6.5m in diameter. Near it were several shallow pits, all again lacking datable finds but the gully cut through a ditch (70382) probably associated with the Roman period system. Other small pits and postholes in this area may have been associated with this focus of activity. Further south three small pits or postholes were associated with two gullies (70623 and 70631) running down the slope from south-west to north-east. Gully 70631 had capping stones but neither gully was deep or stone-lined.

The 1817 map suggests that field gate probably led directly into what was a paddock or yard behind the house, and the excavated features were probably from outlying activity related to the farm. The absence of finds does not disprove this theory as features relating to the contemporary farmhouse of Pen y Lôn (in area B2) produced very few diagnostic finds. It appears that material culture of the sort that survives burial was scarce in the small 17th and 18th century farmsteads of this area. Whether the circular and curving gullies were for hayricks or other similar functions they seemed to be appropriate features to be located just outside a farmyard.

Trefignath Farm, 19th century (PRN 31606)
Plate 1
The recent farm buildings have been almost entirely removed down to bedrock, with only traces of concrete and other foundations remaining where the farm buildings stood. The farmhouse itself (located at SH 25789 80657) was represented by a large stone threshold slab leading to an internal concrete floor (70365). Another pad of concrete (70366) may have represented a wall foundation. To the north-east were fragmentary traces of activity in the form of small postholes and a slight gully. More substantial was a group of foundation slots for a small building (70357, 70359, 70361 and 70363). There were also the remains of a midden (70356) full of late 19th century pottery, iron and glass. No structure shown on the maps corresponds to the foundation slots, but these would have been in a corner of a walled garden and it is possible that they were the base for a glasshouse.

In a better state of preservation were structures around the rocky knoll immediately to the east of the farmhouse. This was mostly enclosed by a stone wall (03037 and 03041) and remains of sheds survived in the western side of the knoll. One structure was square, built of stone and brick, with a concrete roof (03038). The other two structures (03039 and 03040) were stone built, and 03039 had plaster on the interior wall. The remains represented the eastern ends of small buildings on the edge of the farmyard, shown on the First and Second Edition OS maps as very small sheds, presumably for tool or root storage. The concrete roofed structure (03038) was not shown on the maps, probably because it was small and virtually obscured within the side of the rocky knoll. It was probably a dog kennel or goose shed.

On the top of the knoll was a stone-built structure with a reverse Z-shaped plan (03042). This was well-built with lime mortar, unlike the drystone construction of 03039 and 03040, but had no floor layers. It may have been a double lean-to structure as slates scattered around it suggested that it might have been roofed. However no remains of the lean-to survived and the floor must have been of earth. Quantities of late 19th century or early 20th century pottery and other debris, including butchered cattle bones, were found around the structure, which was not shown on any maps through to 1953. To the south of the knoll a pond in a walled enclosure still remains undisturbed by the development, although silted up and over grown.

The scarcity of remains of the farmhouse was due to its complete demolition in the 1970s. Much of the material from the house and outbuildings was levelled over the adjacent area, in filling some of the undulations in the land. The farmyard to the south of the house had been constructed on a concrete pad that investigation showed to rest on a stone make-up layer and that the ground had been at least partially levelled in preparation. The external wall of the range of barns on the south-western side of the farmyard still survived, until the present works, although converted into a field wall. The eastern (internal) side of this was cement rendered, and some stones projected where they had been keyed into perpendicular walls. The concrete yard and the range of out-buildings on its south-west and north-western sides had been created by 1887.

Merddyn Poeth (PRN 31607)
In 1768 the land was owned by a Mrs Morris and as it was not part of the Penrhos Estate the farmhouse is not shown on the map. The property is shown as an odd T-shape running between Tyddyn Pioden lands. However the house was shown on the 1817 map in roughly same position as the modern building (SH 25077 81021). The field layout was also similar to recent times. The buildings were demolished in 2006 in advance of the present project and the remains were examined but no early structures were found under the stone, brick and concrete foundations of the recent house. To the north-east of the house was a stone-built 'walk-in' well (18030) which first appears on the 2nd edition OS map, and is discussed below.

The field system

Many elements of the field system have remained fairly constant since the early 19th century, although some simplifying and straightening of boundaries occurred in the late 19th century. However the 18th century maps show quite different fields and there are hints on the maps of earlier systems. On the ground the site was covered with numerous ditches and furrows, many of which could be identified on the later maps and a few on the 18th century maps but several followed completely different alignments. The probable Roman period field system has been described above, and it is possible that some of the features described below originated in this period. As there was very little dating evidence it is difficult to attribute many of the ditches to a period but some fields appeared to be on different alignments to both the Roman and the late post medieval system and these are assumed at present to belong to an intermediary period.

Pre-map evidence field boundaries
Area K
Area K7 had the most complete section of a pre-map field system (PRN 31608). This enclosed the area to the north-west of the rounded hill on which the early medieval cemetery was location (centred on SH 25648 80868). The base of the hill was enclosed by a ditch, which started as a narrow ditch (20082)/(80169) running along the western side following the contour of the hill near to its base. At its north-eastern end this ditch was cut by a wider and deeper ditch (80164), which followed the same course. This ditch had a rounded south-western terminus and a deposit of stones (80239) and a large schist block, 1m long, in its base.

At its north-eastern end ditch 80164 turned sharply towards the east, heading upslope slightly for about 7m as it followed the changed orientation of the hillside. At this corner on the uphill side of the ditch was a circular pit (80179), approximately 1.30m in diameter and 0.5m deep. It was filled with large cobbles (80170), which might have been disturbed packing material for a post.

After the corner the ditch then ran downhill, now recorded as (80176), and curved slightly as it ran down the eastern side of the hill towards the marsh. It skirted the southern edge of the roundhouses (80248) and (80249), and was recorded in section as (80298). It was seen to cut through a sequence of relict ploughsoil layers and colluvial deposits and was originally about 0.55m deep, but it did not penetrate into the natural and so it was difficult to follow in plan further east. However it seems to have joined ditch 80252, a long, straight ditch, which ran for a distance of about 50m, skirting the north-western edge of the marsh area before it disappeared. At its south-western end a short straight length of walling about 11m long survived within this ditch. The wall (80253) was generally around 1.1m wide and up to a metre high, and constructed within a shallow and uneven construction trench (80310), that was apparently continuation of the ditch. The wall was composed of some large, sub-angular blocks of schist, up to 1m in length. Most of these large stones appeared to be set vertically on their edges, the largest, at the eastern end of the wall stood a metre high. The space between the large stones and the construction cut had been packed with a number of smaller schist cobbles (80312). The wall faded out at the base of the hill and although it had been robbed out it is possible that it never continued up the steep eastern side of the hill.

The ditch around the base of the hill may have continued. An 18m length of shallow ditch (23019/23021) survived on the south-eastern side of the hill. A shorter length of ditch (23013/23015/23017) running south, almost at a right angle, may have indicated another boundary radiating from the hill, but it is a very small fragment. As it contained heat-cracked stones it is, perhaps, more likely to have been related to the prehistoric activity in area K1.

From the point at which ditch 80164 turned east another ditch (80174) ran north-west directly down the slope. This terminated abruptly in a rounded end about 1.6m short of the culvert (80189). It was preceded on much the same line by a shallow straight gully (80193), which did reach the culvert and was cut by it. Running perpendicularly from the southern end of 80193 was ditch (80171), which ran for approximately 47m in a north-easterly direction.

On the west side of culvert 80189 a straight ditch (80153) ran parallel to 80169 and was probably related to the same field system. A shallow perpendicular gully (80148), also did not relate to the later field boundaries and could fit with this system. The south-west to north east aligned ditches in this area defined a narrow field and this seems to be continued in an odd projection that existed in the north-western corner of the modern field until the A55 was built. This field resembles an enclose strip or quillet.

Relatively few finds were recovered from these ditches; a sherd of 19th century Buckley ware and a sherd of a coarse earthen-ware jar (sf4250) with a lead glaze probably dating to the late 17th or 18th century were found in ditch 80164. The northern end of ditch 80171 contained a piece of agricultural ironwork (sf5407) and a sherd of post-medieval black glazed ware pottery in its upper fill. All these finds from the ditch fills might give little indication of the original date of the ditches. The pit (80179) at the corner of ditch 80164 contained a small elongated stone with polish on two faces (sf4229), similar to items from the roundhouse settlement but a chronologically undiagnostic object.

Other areas
The rounded hill in area F also had interesting ditches at its base (PRN 31609, centred on SH 25406 80730). The hill was enclosed in the late 18th and early 19th century by ditches 21187, 21177, 21133 and 21161. Running along the base of the western side of the hill was ditch 21101. At its north-eastern end it continued over the hill as ditch 21091. Parallel to this and probably also running into ditch 21101 was another shallow ditch (21089). A short ditch running from the south-western end of 21101, where it turns to the west, probably also marked a field boundary. Together these defined a series of small fields. The way that ditch 21101 joined one of the 18th/19th century ditches and was aligned on them suggests an earlier 18th century date for these fields and they were presumably disused by the first estate map was drawn up.

However ditch 21101 cut an earlier ditch (21099) running along much the same line. This may indicate a much earlier origin for parts of the field system. Ditch 21099 seems to have followed the line of a yet earlier ditch (21119). It is possible that this early boundary enclosed the base of the hill and that that ditch/gully 21163 represented its continuation, but this cannot be proved. A large hollow (21108) seems to have been a small pond dug into the line of the boundary once it went out of use.

Ditch 21101 produced a sherd of what was initially thought to be a Roman mortarium (sf 1093), but which proved to be the rim of a large North Devon Gravel Tempered pan dating to the 18th-early 19th century. A slender tapering copper alloy bar (sf 1103) came from the upper fill of ditch 21168, probably also late post medieval, and a sherd of 19th century pottery was recovered from ditch 21089. There is therefore no evidence that the earlier ditches were Roman or medieval.

The southern part of the site also seems to preserve fairly long stretches of earlier boundaries (PRN 31610, centred on SH 25806 80437). A pair of parallel ditches 18047 and 19028 curved across the southern part of area H. They probably crossed a rocky outcrop and joined up with the similar ditches 50428 and 50408. These ditch probably originally joined with two straight south-west to north-east aligned parallel ditches (50385 and 50388). These must have crossed the more prominent rocky outcrop just south of the early Neolithic building and were recorded again as 02067 and 19014. The southern part of this enclosure has an additional, possibly earlier straight pair of ditches (18018 and 18049). Ditch 50456 ran off this enclosure to the south-west and ditch 50424/50440 may represent a boundary leading to the north-west. There seems to have been a small enclosure (50394) where this probably met the double ditches. It is assumed that the double ditches, which were consistently about 1.5m apart, were on either side of an earth bank or a hedge. The boundaries probably used the

rocky outcrops where possible to remove these from the main part of the field. The finds from these features were consistently late post medieval, but they are not shown on any of the maps.

In area D2 (PRN 31611, SH 25244 80845) ditches defined a narrow field and this is shown on the 1769 map and is marked as owned by the Owens. Ditches in area E (60109 and 31351) clearly show that this had continued further north-east than shown on the map. A slight hint in the map boundaries and a ditch (05037) in area B1 on the same alignment suggest that this field might have continued much further. This seems to have been another enclosed quillet.

Discussion
In area K7 ditch 80298 cut through the colluvium sealing the roundhouses, suggesting some considerable time had passed between the use of the roundhouses and the field system. It is possible that the ditches enclosing the hill in area K7 were originally related to the cemetery on top, but there is no evidence that the boundaries were so early. The section of wall (80253) on the north-eastern side, resembled megalithic walls common in upland areas with a probable late Iron Age or Roman origin, but it was quite different to the walls of the trackway and field system described above with a more secure Roman date. It is likely that this style of wall was used over a very wide time period. A similar wall (31347) was found in area E. This was composed of large boulders set on edge in a line and supported by smaller stones which formed a rough bank, much like 80253. This wall probably formed part of the boundary to the Tyddyn Piodan farmyard shown on the 1817 map, so an early date for this style of wall cannot be certain. The only other dating evidence for these earlier field boundaries, apart from their absence from the historic maps, is the single late 17th or 18th century sherd from ditch 80164 in area K7.

Hints of narrow enclosures, possibly enclosed strips, were seen in areas D/E, F and K. These could indicate traces of an open field system. The field immediately west of Bonc Dêg Farm also may have been a group of enclosed strips, and the Owens' parcel of land in areas D and E is a clear example. The late 18th century estate maps indicate ridges in ploughed fields, but these are all small rectangular fields and give little indication that they are the remains of earlier strips in open fields.

Without further evidence it should perhaps be concluded that the pre-map field system was probably of 17th and 18th century date with some possible traces of the medieval field system preserved. However the late 18th century estate maps shows much of the southern part of the site as pasture and waste with few boundaries and only small areas of arable, such as at Pen y Lôn. It gives the impression of an area only just being improved, not one previously enclosed. The relationship with the roundhouses in area K7 perhaps rules out a Roman date for the K7 field system, although colluvial soil movement from the hillock might have caused a rapid build-up of soil over the abandoned roundhouses. The date of the pre-map field system is therefore uncertain.

Eighteenth century field system (PRN 13925)
The first maps show the late eighteenth century field system and this could be detected on the ground in many places. The boundaries around Pen y Lôn could generally be discerned. Ditch 06109 seems to have formed the southern and eastern of one of Tyddyn Pioden's fields (parcel F2). The western boundary of this field was reused when the field was regularised in the 19th century but the other boundary ditches were backfilled and a large stone drain was inserted in the base of the southern ditch before backfilling. The map shows north-west to south-east aligned ridges in parcel F2 and although these were not seen on the ground furrows (08064, 08066, 08068, 09017, 09019, 09021 etc) on the same alignment were seen in the next field, and probably date from this period. There were also some perpendicular furrows here (01036, 07059 etc) suggesting a reorientation of ridges at some time.

The field boundaries within Bonc Dêg land are not shown on currently available maps but the farm boundaries are shown. The early maps contain errors, and so are not always easy to over lay on modern mapping. A problem occurs around Bonc Dêg but comparison of field boundaries on each side of the road suggest that, at least on the 1769 map, the confusion is due to the field west of the farm having been much narrower than in the late 19th century. If this is the case the earlier boundary seems to have been represented by a steep-side ditch (05044/05051/05059) in area B1. This was up to 0.4m deep was recut by a shallower ditch (05049/09030). Marine mollusc shells were found in the northern ends of both ditches and in an adjacent pit 05053.

Running perpendicularly from these ditches to the west was a shallow gully (10025/10027), which was heavily truncated but probably turned north to join a gully (10021/10023) running parallel to the ditches. Where best preserved this was up to 0.7m wide and 0.54m deep but along most of its length was little more than 0.1m deep.

The fill of this gully was very similar to the ploughsoil and it is assumed that it was a small enclosure contemporary with the north-south ditches.

The eastern boundary of this field was seen on the ground. The distinctive shape created where the ditch (90008/14011/14045) met the wall (90005) in area B2 is easily recognised on the 1887 OS map, but is also shown on the 1817 and 1769 estate maps. The maps show the boundary continuing to the south-west, but, except for a truncated trace of the ditch, it had survived no further. A kink in the boundary on the 18th century map indicates that there may have been a building on this boundary, which would not have lain on Penrhos land so it is not shown in detail on the estate maps. There is no map evidence to suggest that the structure survived into the 19th century, but this could explain the structure 94016 already proposed as a possible 'gatehouse' to the Iron Age settlement. A search should be made for the map that covers this land to determine whether there was indeed a building there.

A cable trench dug on the northern boundary of the site, beyond K8, revealed the traces of what might have been a stone structure at the corner of a boundary shown on the 1769 map. To the south-east of this were also remains of a possible trackway.

19th century field boundaries

A major change took place at the start of the 19th century when many field boundaries were altered or newly created, although this was done within the framework of the pre-existing field system. The Penrhos estate seems to have bought plots from small neighbouring landowners to consolidate their estate. In area D2 the Owens seem to have been bought out and their narrow field incorporated into Tyddyn Pioden land. Other land to the south was also incorporated and a small field (parcel 308) created in the corner of area D5 and D2. A series of furrows in this area probably belong to this period, with one of the larger furrows defining the northern boundary to field 308.

A boundary running across area K and shown on both the 18th and early 19th century maps had a new wall (18074/80280) built along it in the later 19th century. This can be dated because it was built over the infilled culvert discussed below. Wall 90073 in area B2 was essentially part of this same farm boundary where it continued south of the road.

In the north-western corner of area M the remains of a wall corner (19214) were recorded. This can be identified on the 1887 First Edition Ordnance Survey map, and formed the corner of a small walled yard with buildings opposite (PRN 18402). Although the buildings had changed the yard wall was still in the same place when the Second Edition OS map was surveyed.

Culverts and drainage

The mid 19th century saw significant drainage projects to improve the land, but some culverts pre-dated this activity and probably represent drainage from farmyards.

Culvert 90522 (Area B2 Phase V)

Probably the earliest post medieval feature on the site ran north-north-east to south-south-west across all of areas B2 and F1 (from SH 25568 80815 to SH 25499 80737). This was a stone-built culvert (90522, PRN 31612), and where best preserved this had large stone slabs forming the sides but generally had no base slabs. It certainly ran from near the possible pony gin (see above), which it definitely pre-dated and may have started further north but it became shallow and difficult to identify to the north. At the south end it was either never lined or the stones had been removed and it issued towards the edge of the marsh. Although quite straight in places it was sinuous at its southern end and for much of its course seems to have followed the line of the earlier ditch (91445/92799), cutting away all evidence of the early ditch in places. Presumably there was a linear depression or slight watercourse along the route of the ditch which was formalised into the culvert.

At its northern end the culvert had been infilled with stone so that later activities could take place over the top. Elsewhere, although in some places the lining had been disturbed, the culvert had infilled with silt. The culvert narrowed where it cut through the main wall through the roundhouse settlement.

It is possible that two sub-rectangular pits close to the possible northern end of the culvert were related to it. Both pits (90320 and 90406) were about 1.9m long and 0.9m wide, the former was 0.83m deep and the latter

0.65m. Both had near vertical sides and were filled with loose rounded stones. Their function is unclear as is their date but they were cut from immediately below the ploughsoil and could be fairly late.

Towards the northern end of the culvert 2 sherds of pottery, one late 17th to early 18th century and one late 18th to early 19th century, and the remains of a tin can were found. This was in the area where the culvert had been infilled prior to the construction of the pony gin, so it is probable that these finds were introduced at that time. Where there was no disturbance no other artefacts were found in the culvert and no charcoal for dating, although any present would have been of very uncertain provenance. The culvert clearly post-dated the Iron Age and pre-dated some post medieval activity. Three sherds of 13th century pottery from features otherwise consistent with a post medieval date on the eastern side of the area indicate some medieval activity, but dating the culvert to the medieval period on this basis is clearly indefensible. Apart from the two pits there are no other features that seem to be related to the culvert, although it is possible that some of the other undated outlying features might be contemporary. The only similar feature on the site is a similarly lined culvert (19059) running through area K5. This was seen in area K2 and was picked up in the evaluation trenches in K5. Although it follows a similar alignment to 90522 the two culverts could not have been part of the same feature as 90522 flowed south-west and 19059 must have flowed north-east. However both seem to have been related to Bonc Deg farm. Culvert 19059 may have drained the farmyard but 90522 seems to have drained a corner of the Bonc Deg property with little clear evidence of what might have been happening here to require such a well constructed culvert.

19th century culverts

The main phase of culvert building occurred in the mid 19th century and was accompanied with the creation of walk-in wells to access the water.

A large linear feature (90066, PRN 31613) doglegged across area B2 from south to north (from SH 25574 80735). This was about 4m wide contained late pottery in its upper fills. Where sectioned it was shown to be over 1.2m deep with a well-built stone culvert in the base, which still had running water when it was investigated. The culvert was very well built with large capstones up to 0.7m in length. It had smaller stones forming drystone sides. The base of the culvert was not exposed but it was at least 0.5m deep. A vigorous flow of water drained the marsh in areas F and G. The ditch cut had immediately been back filled once the construction of the culvert was complete, so it was never an open drain.

The culvert continued to the north under Lôn Trefignath into area K7. From the south west corner of this area it ran along and down a shallow, north-east-south-west orientated valley in a virtually straight line for about 66m. It then turned to follow the valley as it heads north-north-east to south-south-west for a distance of approximately 38m before disappearing into the baulk at the northern edge of the excavated area (at SH 25643 80919). It continued beyond the development area and exited next to the A55 (Glynne Morris pers. comm. former estate manager, Ty Mawr Estate). In area K7 the culvert was recorded as (21031) and (80189). It was generally about 3m wide but its depth in this area was not established.

In the south-west corner of area K7, a stone-built well (80157, PRN 31614) had been constructed to draw water from the culvert (21031/80189). Oriented west-north-west to east-south-east, it had been built almost perpendicular to the north-east-south-west line of the culvert on its north western side. The well was rectangular in plan with a semicircular south east end, 3.64m long, up to 1.51m wide and approximately 2.00m deep. It was entered from the west-north-west where a series of 8 steps led down from ground level into a short, water filled, apsidal chamber. The steps were constructed of schist slabs, and the walls were of dry stone construction. The lower five courses of the side walls consisted of vertically set stones, with upper courses formed from horizontally laid slabs with coping stones set vertically. The east-south-east end wall was constructed entirely from vertically set stones. At the south-east end larger slabs had been laid flat on top of the side and apsidal walls to create a roof over the water chamber.

Two shallow linear hollows (18071) and (18069) ran to the well steps. They started from the steps as a single hollow then diverged. It seems likely that they were paths worn away by people accessing the well from Lôn Trefignath. Each appears to have been formed by traffic travelling in different directions; (18071) leading north onto the lane in the direction of the Bonc Dêg farmhouse, whilst (18069) turns to head south along the lane towards the Trefignath farm.

In area D a large drainage ditch (60009) running north through D2 continued into D3 and seems to have run into a major culvert (60175), from which water could be drawn using a well (60087). This well (PRN 13927) was

similar to that in K7. It was well-built of dry-stone walling composed of the local schist stone, with steps leading down to water level and the sides revetted with walling. The deeper end of the well were roofed over with large slabs. A similar well (18030) was found in area A, to the north-east of Merddyn Poeth (PRN 31615). This well seemed not to have a large culvert associated with it but was probably fed by the extensive system of land drains in this area.

Discussion
The large culvert (90066) almost certainly followed the boundary shown on the 1817 map. This boundary disappears on the 1887 OS map and the drain within the marsh in Area G was constructed by this date, emptying to the north into a culvert. The open boundary ditch must therefore have been superseded by the buried culvert sometime after 1817 and before 1887, giving a rough date for the digging of ditch 90066. The culvert, which was still active until the development works, drains this marsh, so it must have been built before 1887, probably in the mid 19th century. A construction of this size must have been built by the Penrhos Estate as part of an extensive redevelopment of the drainage system across the landscape. A search of the archives might reveal a reference to the construction of the culvert.

The three wells were scattered over the site, all relatively close to farmhouses, which they presumably served; the well in area A is behind the house of Merddyn Poeth, that in D3 is half way between the present location of Tyddyn Pioden and its early 19th century site, and that in K7 is just across the road from the site of the farm of Bonc Dêg. The map evidence provides the most accurate dating for these structures. The wells in area A and D3 are not shown on the First Edition OS map surveyed in 1887 but are on the Second Edition map, published 1900. The well in area K7 is not shown on either map but its similarity to the other two strongly suggests a similar date of construction. The culvert that feeds the well was constructed by the time that the First Edition map was surveyed, as the channel from the marsh is shown heading underground on this map. The well might have been constructed at the same time as the culvert, which would make it the earliest of the three, but it is probable that it was inserted later, and all three were constructed around the same time.

Small enclosures

Across the site were several small enclosures defined by narrow, shallow gullies. The circular gully (70491) and nearby gully arc (70706) have been described above as related to the 18th century site of Trefignath Farm, but most other examples were not close to the sites of farms.

In area E on the southern slope of the gravel ridge (SH 25292 80723), leading down to marshy land were two small enclosures (PRN 31618). Feature 31579 was roughly sub-rectangular and aligned nearly east-west along the contours. Feature 31529 was nearly oval in plan and aligned north-east to south-west across the contours. Neither was terraced into the slope. Feature 31579 enclosed an area measuring 5.5m by 3.4m and was open at each narrow end, whereas feature 31529 measured 3.9m by 2.2m internally and had no gap in the surrounding gully. The fill of 31579 contained very occasional charcoal fragments, but no finds, however a hollow cut into the terminus of its southern gully contained 19th and 20th century pottery. Enclosure (31529) produced no finds, and neither feature had evidence of postholes or any structural use of the gullies.

In area K7 a C-shaped gully (80162, PRN 31619), forming an arc approximately 11.8m diameter, about 10m internally, cut through one of the pre-map field system ditches (80169). The gully was 0.40m deep and no artefacts were recovered from its fill.

In area D3 was a narrow, shallow gully (60186, PRN 31620) defining a sub-rectangular enclosure measuring 6.5m by 5.3m externally, and a C-shaped enclosure (60079, PRN 31621) measuring 5.2m by 3.5m, possibly originally oval. They contained coal fragments within their fills. In the western corner of area D3 was a larger ditched enclosure measuring approximately 20m by 10m (PRN 31622). The ditch (60204/60221) was up to 0.25m deep and defined three sides of a rectangle. The fourth side may have been formed by a narrow, shallow gully (60219), but this was on a slightly different orientation to the rest of the enclosure and may have been an unrelated drain. No finds were recovered from the fill of the ditches apart from a fragment of modern drain pipe from the north east segment.

Discussion
The small oval or sub-rectangular enclosures show no terracing even when on fairly steep slopes and have no outlets to the gullies as might be expected for drains. However it is assumed that they had some drainage

function and defined storage areas in the fields. The recut around the ring ditch on area M seems to be a similar feature, although in this case it was stone-filled, making it more clearly a drainage feature (PRN 31623). In that case a drain around a raised platform created from the remains of the barrow can be imagined, which would be suited for the storage of hay. There is no evidence that the other gullies surrounded raised platforms but they might also have surrounded hayricks. Hayricks are prone to catching fire and if incorrectly constructed can spontaneously combust. The encircling gully would allow the area below the hayrick to drain freely preventing the base becoming damp. Damp hay allows bacteria and fungi to grow and this process causes an increase in the internal temperature of the material leading to combustion. However hayricks are often supported by a central post and no postholes were found in any of these features.

The two features in area E were located on a dry area close to the peat in the marshy hollow and their gullies may have drained peat stacks. It is more usual to stack peat on or immediately next to the marsh from which it is cut but drying may have been faster a little way up the hill slope. It might be speculated that the orientation of these features was related to the direction of the wind when they were constructed; from either the west or south-west.

The larger features such as the gully in area K7 and especially the rectangular enclosure in the corner of area D3 might have been small livestock enclosures for constricting animals for inspection and treatment. However in this case a bank with a stockade on the top must be postulated, as the ditches alone would not have retained the livestock.

Most of these features seem to have been in the middle of fields. Feature 60079 cut the ditches of one of the narrow field in area E, dating it to the late 18th century at the earliest. The rectangular enclosure (60204/60221) fits better in the corner of the modern field than with previous field layouts and presumably dated from at least the late 19th century.

Other post medieval features

In area D3 numerous pits were dug in the corner of a field used from the 18th century onwards (PRN 31624). These were dug into boulder clay and may have been quarry pits. They could have been related to the construction or repair of the Tyddyn Pioden house, which appears to have been largely a cob building.

Pits were found towards the edges of fields elsewhere on site. Some may have been to bury stones below the level of the plough but others contained degraded animal bones, and were clearly to dispose of dead stock. None of these were investigated in detail because of the risks of what might be quite recent animal burials.

Within area M was a large, roughly oval hollow (19053, PRN 31625) measuring about 42m by 26m and up to 1.5m deep in the middle. This had gradually sloping sides and a relatively flat base. The fill was similar to the ploughsoil but contained numerous glass bottles and other rubbish. The area appears enclosed, possibly by a wall on the 1817 estate map, but the enclosure had gone by the First Edition OS map was surveyed. The lack of waterborne silts suggests that it was not a pond so the most likely explanation is that it was a gravel quarry. The enclosure of this feature in the early 19th century probably indicates that it was in use then and the wall was to prevent animals falling into the quarry.

In area E a group of three outlying pits (31356, 31359, and 31364) were located approximately 32m to the north-west of the Tyddyn Pioden farmstead. These features (PRN 31626) are as yet undated but they have been provisionally assigned to the post medieval period. The features were rectangular in plan with rounded ends ranging between 2.6m and 3.0m in length and 1.1m and 1.2m in width. They survived to depths ranging from 0.4m to 0.6m. They were most similar to the two pits in the northern part of area B2, also attributed to a post medieval date and possibly associated with culvert 90522.

A scatter of features was identified lying to the west of the cist cemetery in area M4. A small circular posthole (40152), 0.4m in diameter and 0.65m deep contained numerous fragments of animal bone, horn and horn membrane (sf4017, sf5838, sf5414, sf5465, sf5466, sf5763, sf5773 and sf5940). The degree of preservation of the organic remains and the recovery of a number of small pottery fragments, including a sherd of blue and white ware (sf2112, sf5887) suggest a post-medieval or modern date for the feature.

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

The general environmental research questions to be addressed by the project were:

- The changing nature of the environment
- The chronological development of the vegetation as seen against local and national trends, particularly as it relates to post-glacial development of climax woodland and the elm decline
- The impact of human agency upon the environment, in particular the chronology of clearance and cultivation
- The nature of crops grown at different times.

The data to address these issues were collected largely by pollen coring and the collection of deposits from the marshes on site. Charred plant remains recovered by wet sieving bulk soil samples will also help to address these general issues. Bone preservation was poor on the site and much of the animal bone recovered was in the form of tiny, unidentifiable fragments, but some identifiable material was recovered including some from Iron Age contexts. Human bone can also be included in this section as despite the very fragmentary state of the small amount of bone recovered it was possible to determine some information relating to health and diet. Volume II gives the full reports on each aspect of the environmental data. Below is a summary of the results.

Studies of the marshes and pollen analysis

Figure 3

There were three principal areas of peat within the site boundary, lying within Areas K, F/G and E. The deposit within area K lies at the north-east corner of the site, and forms a wet, marshy area with some open water surrounded by reeds. The deposits were known to be some 2m deep, and were partially examined for pollen in 1979 during excavations at Trefignath. The peat within Areas F and G lies alongside an open ditch in a low-lying valley. Deposits of peat were noted here during the evaluation phase, though their full depth was not ascertained. The deposits within Area E lie within a low-lying depression that is parallel to that in Area F. Deposits of peat were recorded here during evaluation, but once again their full depth was not ascertained.

These deposits all had potential for preserving environmental evidence. The level of the marsh in area K was to be reduced to enable it to act as a drainage sump for the site. This therefore required extensive mitigation measures. In area F and G the current works had little impact on the marsh but future works may impact at least the marsh edges, so this area had to be evaluated. The area of peat in area E was avoided by the stripping for this phase of the project and is still to be investigated.

Marsh in areas F and G

The marsh in the adjacent areas F and G fills a long, natural basin running roughly east-west. Until the present project it was drained by an open drain and a culvert constructed in the mid 19th century. Drainage has been improved as part of the current development, but water levels have been regulated to maintain the marshland.

A series of test pits and cores have established approximately the area of the peat and, over much of the basin, its depth. Test pits were dug across the site in October 2006 as part of the geotechnical survey (Geotechnics 2006). Several of these test pits were located around the marsh, although most investigation intended within the marsh was not carried out. Two trenches dug for the archaeological evaluation phase (trenches 20 and 21) extended into the edge of the marsh (Davidson and Roberts 2004). More test pits were dug within the marsh in 2007 specifically to determine the depth of the peat (Jones Brothers pers com). Ten core samples were taken by Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental in August 2007, one of which was selected for pollen assessment (PRN 31616).

Taken together these investigations revealed a maximum depth of over 4m of peat and fine organic mud (gyttja), over a grey silty clay. The clay was deposited when the basin was an open lake and the gyttja represents more organic freshwater deposits. The peat is the result of this small lake filling in and becoming a marsh. The bottom of the basin seems to be fairly uneven as the peat becomes shallower towards the north-eastern end of the marsh but then becomes deeper again just before the marsh edge. The sides of the basin seem to be very steep in places. The peat is consistently shallower towards the south-western end of the marsh.

In August 2007 a trench for an electricity cable was dug into the eastern margin of the marsh in area F (see figure 2). This excavation was watched and recorded by archaeologists (Completion Statement 15). The peat in this location was seen to be unexpectedly shallow, being from 0.30m to 0.75m deep. The peat was at its deepest

close to the edge of the marsh, suggesting that the lack of peat further into the marsh was due to peat cutting. Below the peat was the very fine, blue-grey silty clay representing the late glacial freshwater lake deposits.

In April 2008 two trenches were dug entirely under archaeological supervision on the northern shores of the marsh close to significant archaeological features in area F1. These trenches revealed the limits of the peat deposits and exposed deposits of densely packed bark. On cleaning, although very dense in places, these appeared to be the remains of fallen trees and branches. The conditions at the time of deposition had cause the wood to rot away but the more resistant bark to be preserved. Conditions for wood preservation were better both before and after the bark deposits was laid down as wood did survive above and below this level. Under the bark deposits was a brushwood peat with randomly distributed small branches and twigs. The base of the peat was not reached in either of these trenches showing that a considerable depth of peat does survive around the marsh edges. Bark from this deposit was radiocarbon dated to 8221 – 7827 cal BC (KIA40119).

The trenches revealed the relationship between dry and wetland deposits. The peat became more degraded at the edge of the marsh but continued as a thin deposit well onto what is now dryland. A gleyed clay underlay the edge of the marsh but as the substrate changed to well-drained altered bedrock the peaty soil horizon that had developed on the clay became a more typical organic A horizon. The original edge of the basin was exposed and shown to be steep and well-defined. The basin was probably formed by the uneven deposition of glacial clays in the undulations of the bedrock.

A monolith (sample 5039) was taken through the upper peat on the north-western limit of the marsh in Area F and assessed for pollen. This deposit incorporated a densely packed birch bark layer at a depth of approximately 0.15m. In addition four pollen sub-samples (samples 5040, 5041, 5042 and 5043) were taken through a deposit identified as the 'A' horizon of the buried soil on the dryland. These samples were submitted to Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental for assessment.

The buried soil was investigated under most of area F1, where it was sealed by a gravely deposit possibly related to the roundhouse settlement and discussed above (see B2/F1 section). The buried soil was found to be a more or less degraded peaty deposit over boulder clay and frost sorted stones. No human activity was recorded from this layer with the possible exception of an area of burning; a piece of charcoal from which was radiocarbon dated to 1963 – 1768 cal BC (KIA40120).

Table of radiocarbon dates from deposits in area F

Lab number	Local number	Material	Date BP	Calibrated date BC (two standard deviations)
KIA40119	G1701/93358/5037	Bark (probably birch)	8865 ± 42	8221 - 7827
KIA40120	G1701/93466/5056	wood charcoal	3543 ± 31	1963 - 1768

The marsh in area K6

In area K a small sub-circular natural basin, measuring some 60m in diameter, had accumulated peat deposits. A pollen core was taken from this hollow in 1979 and subsequently analysed. The analysis was successful, and showed a vegetation succession through tundra to climax forest and the elm decline. The early levels, dating from the post glacial to the Neolithic were not analysed in detail, and there was a gap in pollen in the Neolithic period, though clearance and cultivation was identified with in prehistoric times. The author of the report states that the amount of time available was limited and that 'the intervals between the peat samples are wider than desirable' (Greig 1987, 39).

Before any disturbance occurred to this marsh Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental took a total of 13 cores on two intersecting transects across the marsh. The deposits identified tended to be fairly shallow (up to *c*. 0.50 m) and consist of stiff grey slightly organic clayey-silt over gravels/bed rock. The exception to this was in the western part of the area, where the capping silty clay trends into dark brown well humified silty peat with wood and monocotyledonous remains (grasses/sedges etc), which in turn overlies grey-green *gyttja*. These deposits were deepest at Core 13, with a total depth of nearly 3.0 m, and this core was selected for pollen assessment (PRN 31617).

The shallower outer peat deposits were entirely removed by machine with archaeological monitoring. In the deepest part of the marsh a 2m deep trench had to be excavated and backfilled with hard core to enable a mechanical excavator to reach this area. As digging proceeded spoil was checked visually and with metal detectors and timber and other artefacts removed. No in situ timber features were identified. An overlapping

series of monoliths and bulk samples were recovered from the deepest part of the marsh covering a peat sequence up to 2m deep.

Seven bulk samples from the marsh in area K6 were assessed for plant macrofossil and beetle remains. The preservation of plant macrofossils was good and the range of species recorded demonstrate a transition from an acidic mire with areas of open water to a damp sedge and grass dominated fen. The preservation of beetles was poor and the range of taxa recorded does not provide significant information regarding past environmental change.

Reconstructing the environment from pollen and other data
The results of the palaeoenvironmental assessment undertaken in area G by Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental indicate that peat accumulation commenced c.11,140±70yrs BP (11480-11210 cal. BC) after the freshwater lake had been gradually infilled in the late glacial period, although it is possible that this date is somewhat too old. The palynological assessment suggests that a relatively open landscape initially prevailed, prior to the expansion of birch dominated woodland in response to Holocene climatic amelioration. The woodland subsequently became denser, with hazel and willow replacing the previously dominant birch scrub/woodland. A sample taken from only 0.55 m below the surface was dated to 8960+60 BP (8280-7960 cal. BC) suggesting an early Holocene (Mesolithic) date and implying that the mid-late Holocene peat deposits had been removed by peat cutting. However there were indications that the core from area K6 might extend a little later (Gearey *et al* vol II, part XV).

The plant macrofossils from area K6 also supported a transition from an acidic mire with areas of open water to a damp sedge and grass dominated fen.

The pollen sequence from the marsh edge monolith in area F1indicated a phase of early Holocene vegetation development, supporting the radiocarbon date of 8221-7827 cal BC (see above) on the birch bark layer, which occurred in the monolith at a depth of 0.15m. The landscape was initially dominated by *Corylus* scrub, with some *Salix* carr, sedges and ferns on the damper soils. The subsequent rise in *Quercus* and *Alnus* produced a fairly dense woodland, with at the top of the diagram a spread of heather onto drier contexts on the wetland itself. It is highly likely that this sequence has also been truncated by peat cutting with the top of the diagram indicating an early Holocene landscape.

The four sub-samples from the ‘A’ horizon of the buried soil indicated a generally closed mixed woodland environment with limited evidence for open or disturbed areas in the near vicinity of the sampling site. The radiocarbon date of 1963-1768 cal BC (KIA40120) obtained on charcoal from the continuation of the same layer suggest that the pollen sequence represents a landscape at least remained wooded into the Bronze Age, with very little evidence for anthropogenic disturbance to the vegetation.

Bulk soil samples

The sampling strategy employed was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. Unquestioning sampling of all deposits was avoided so that sampling was restricted to significant contexts. Modern features and post-medieval ditches were generally not sampled. Tree hollows were not sampled unless they were in close proximity to prehistoric features. In some cases the significance of a context was not always immediately obvious on excavation, so a sample was taken and if necessary removed from the processing and analysis at a later date.

Where the context was large enough a bulk sample of c. 20 litres of soil was collected, floated and wet sieved. In some cases more deposit was collected than this because the deposit was large or particularly important or both. Where the importance of the context and the results from the initial sample justified it, some of this additional material was also wet sieved. The remaining samples will be retained until the environmental specialists have completed their assessment and final examination, so that further sieving of samples can be undertaken should it be required.

Wet sieving
The aim of the bulk samples was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains and, if the deposit was waterlogged, possibly non-carbonised plant and animal remains, especially insect remains. However, the

samples simultaneously enabled the recovery of small artefacts particularly knapping debris and evidence for metal working.

Both flotation tanks and bucket sieving were used to process the bulk samples. The volume of the sample was measured and any large stones were removed. The deposits were first placed in the flotation tank where material floating over the sluice was caught in a 0.3mm mesh and the heavy fraction was held a 1mm mesh. The residue was then sieved through a 1cm sieve and this large fraction was saved. Stones were removed from this fraction and discarded unless they were burnt, in which case a sample of the burnt stones was retain for analysis. The flotation did not separate all the charred remains from the residue so the 1mm residue was bucket floated. This involved agitating the material in water so that the charred remains were suspended long enough to pour off through a 0.3mm mesh sieve. This combined method proved to be very effective at separating the charred remains from the heavy fraction. The flot was dried and both the 1cm and 1mm residue fractions were dried and retained for sorting.

The flots, composed largely of charred plant remains, were catalogued and sent to Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental for study. The residue was sorted to check for small artefacts and samples from the roundhouse settlements, burnt mounds, area K9 and other appropriate were tested for the presence of magnetic metal working debris using a magnet. All samples were visually checked for non-magnetic metal or glass working debris. Once all artefacts and any other useful evidence were removed from the residues they were discarded.

Area	Number of samples	Area	Number of samples
A	1	F1 roundhouse H	11
B1	74	F1 roundhouse I	93
B2	28	F3	2
B2 Eastern Area	33	H	135
B2 Laneside/structure F	21	I	20
B2 NW area	6	Ia	12
B2 passage-way to roundhouse A	68	J1/J2	74
B2 roundhouse A	132	J3	103
B2 roundhouse B	70	K1	34
B2 roundhouse C	134	K2	4
B2 roundhouse D	36	K3	1
B2 roundhouse E	69	K7	173
B3	18	K8	1
D3	8	K9a	61
E	6	K9b	165
E (burnt mounds)	26	L3	16
E (hollow)	129	L5	3
E (post medieval)	2	M2	14
F1 eastern part	24	M3	2
F1 western part	32	M4	103
F1 structure G	28		
Total number of samples 1972			

Table listing number of samples from each area or major feature group

Birmingham Archaeo-Environmental assessed the plant macrofossil content of the flots. The aims of the assessment were:

- To assess the form of preservation (i.e. charred, waterlogged) of any macrofossils;
- To assess the potential of any such macrofossils to provide information regarding site environment and economy;
- To make recommendations regarding further analyses of the samples.

This assessment found that of the 1972 flots 1680 did not justify further study. Many of these contained little or no charcoal. Some contained a small amount but this was not considered worth species identification or the preservation was sufficiently poor to make such identification unlikely. 292 samples from significant contexts contained enough identifiable charcoal to justify further analysis. An additional 326 samples contain charcoal which may be identifiable for radiocarbon dating if required. Other identifiable charred plant remains were present in 40 samples. Although the preservation of this material is generally good, the range of taxa preserved is restricted, although barley (*Hordeum vulgare* L.) and fragments of hazelnut shell (*Corylus avellana* L.) were recorded. Of the samples with cereal grain 3 were prehistoric, 15 Roman period and 5 medieval, with no grain recognised from the early Neolithic samples. Hazelnut shells came from 4 early Neolithic samples, 8 later Neolithic, 3 Bronze Age and 2 generally prehistoric.

The scarcity of identifiable plant macrofossils other than charcoal at Parc Cybi suggests that soil conditions at the site were generally inimical to the preservation of plant macrofossils. It is also possible that the absence of identifiable material reflects an actual low density of deposition in the past.

Animal Bone

Animal bones were recovered from 215 contexts across the site including mid Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman period, and post-medieval contexts. The animal bone was mostly very fragmentary and poorly preserved. The unburnt assemblage mainly consists of teeth and tooth fragments, while the burnt bone is generally too small to be identifiable.

Human bone

Human bone was recovered from the long cists in the cemetery in area K7 but it was very fragmented and degraded. Human bone was recovered from 5 graves. Surviving fragments are predominantly from the denser skeletal elements as bone density is a key factor in maintaining preservation in hostile environments. Much of the material was too fragmentary to contained significant information but the best preserved skeleton (from grave 80036) could be identified as probably a male between 16.5 to 19.5 years old at death with enamel hypoplasia indicating three episodes of physiological stress, caused by illness or nutritional deprivation, during late infancy (c. 18 – 30 months), at around 6 – 8 years and again around 11 – 13 years. Another individual, from grave 80040, was possibly a female over 30 years in age. A tooth from grave 80043 indicates an individual with a possible age range at death of 16 – 24 years, and the body in grave 80052 is of an adult, or near adult, possibly male.

Soil micromorphology

Dr. Helen Lewis visited the site during excavation to assess for geoarchaeological potential. Soil micromorphology samples were taken mainly from deposits in the roundhouse settlement including hearths, floor layers and possible buried soil layers. From these samples thin sections have been made to produce nine medium format (110 x 76 x 3 mm) slides and five small format (75 x 50 x 3 mm) slides.

Samples were taken from a series of gravely and loamy floor layers in roundhouse A, loamy floor layers in roundhouse B, alternating gravel and sandy loam floor layers in roundhouse C, and hearth rake-out deposits and flooring in roundhouse E. One monolith was taken through the hearth deposits in structure F and into the buried soil below. The series of silt deposits in the eastern part of the roundhouse settlement were sampled. These underlay most of the archaeology and may be alluvial or buried soil layers, but some built-up against the foundations of the roundhouses and their character is important in understanding the environment immediately before and during the settlement occupation, particularly flooding events. A sample was also taken from the buried soil seen in section in area K2.

Potential quarrying

Various features on site use large slabs of local schist, which were presumably quarried close to where they were used. Some possible sources on site were inspected and examined for quarrying by Dr Margaret Wood and

Dr David Jenkins. They inspected outcrops at the northern and southern ends of the site, which could have been used to provide some for the Bronze Age cists and for the Neolithic chambered tomb. While they concluded that these monuments used the local rock identifying certain quarrying scars proved difficult. The outcrop at the north end of the site was largely overgrown with vegetation and some quarrying might have been obscured. The southern outcrop was stripped of soil and partially cleaned during the excavation, so this could be inspected in detail.

The rock outcrops are roche moutonées, eroded by the passage of ice giving a smooth surface on the rock face where the ice travels over it and a plucked uneven jagged surface on the leaward end to the outcrop. The southern outcrop was not well suited to quarrying as the rock would have produced small irregular slabs. Inspection of the outcrop for possible quarried sites revealed several small scarp faces, but these were mostly south-facing and likely to represent the natural product of plucking by ice, and no convincing evidence for prehistoric quarrying was found.

It seems that not all the outcrops were suitable for producing large and useful slabs and quarrying might have been limited to specific locations not yet identified.

Other palaeoenvironmental evidence

Seven bulk samples were taken from the marsh in area K6 for plant macrofossil and coleopteran (beetle) remains. The preservation of plant macrofossils was good and the range of species recorded demonstrated a transition from an acidic mire with areas of open water to a damp sedge and grass dominated fen. The preservation of beetles was poor and the range of taxa recorded does not provide significant information regarding past environmental change.

Twelve contexts from across the site produced marine mollusc shells. These were inspected and identified by Andrew Moss. These seemed to be food assemblages with no normal beach types, but with no whelks or cockles. Apart from one very fragmentary sample of mussel shells from the Iron Age settlement in area B2 it is probable that all the samples were from post medieval contexts.

A total of 14 wood samples were collected and examined. Only 2 items are possibly worked, all other samples were either natural roundwood debris or woody peat samples. Where possible the wood, twigs or bark have been identified to species.

ARTEFACTS

During the assessment phase all stratified pottery, and occasional unstratified pieces of value, were cleaned, marked with the site code and small finds number. The cleaning was appropriate to the type of pottery; post-medieval pottery and the harder Roman wares were washed, prehistoric pottery was very gently cleaned with a dry brush when thoroughly dry. Cleaning aimed only to expose any decoration or other details, and did not aim to remove all dirt from the sherds. Care was taken not to remove any residues or sooting on the surface. Several categories of finds were recovered from wet sieving, but were processed and recorded in the same way as the rest of the material.

All the prehistoric and Roman pottery has been marked using the site code and small find number. Longworth and Wood (2000, 10) recommend using the excavator's site code as one option for assigning identity codes, and in consultation with Oriel Ynys Môn it was felt to be the most appropriate option in this case. The marking was done using black and white drawing ink with a base and covering of B72 lacquer so that the marking is reversible as recommended by Elizabeth Walker, Collections Manager, National Museum of Wales.

Lithics and glass were washed, iron and other metal objects were gradually dried and dirt was removed from the iron objects with a dry brush if necessary. Copper alloy objects were dried but not cleaned in any way. All finds were packaged in suitable containers and conditions for long term storage, including the use of silica gel for metal items. The bags or boxes were labelled with the site code, small find number and context number, so they can be fully cross referenced to all other site information. Artefacts requiring conservation have already been discussed above and all objects are in a stable condition for long term storage. With the exception of the largest

stone objects all finds currently held at GAT, i.e. knapped and other worked stone and prehistoric pottery, have been stored in archive quality cardboard boxes of a size and specification agreed with Oriel Ynys Môn. Other finds will be similarly boxed when they return from the specialists.

All finds were entered in the site database with weight, dimensions, a written description recorded. All significant items were scanned or photographed and this was linked to the database to provide an archive record.

The artefacts were assessed for potential by the appropriate specialists and their full reports are included as volume II. The assessment in most cases involved the creation of detailed catalogues including the description and date of each artefact, where this was possible. A preliminary catalogue was made for the lithic assemblage but detailed cataloguing will be done in the next phase. Detailed cataloguing is also required for the prehistoric pottery. What follows is a brief summary of the specialists' assessments.

Prehistoric pottery

The pottery from the rectangular timber building in area H is exclusively Early Neolithic, similar to that from the Llandygai buildings and to the small assemblage from the Trefignath chambered tomb. The pieces give the impression of being a random scatter of domestic pottery. The other main concentration of early Neolithic pottery is from the occupied hollow and buried ground surface in area E. There is more variation in fabric here than in the building. There is very little residual Early Neolithic material elsewhere on the site, with the exception of a concentration from small features in area M4.

Pits in areas I, J and K produced mid Neolithic Fengate ware, but there are also many sherds with grooved decoration, which are probably Grooved Ware, but might be Beaker. Several pots are involved and the sherds are quite large, so the potential for reconstruction and the recognition of new forms is quite high. The pit group in area D3 also produced some large Grooved Ware sherds.

Occasional Beaker sherds were recovered from the hollow in area E, and there were occasional possible Bronze Age or Beaker sherds from areas I, J and K. One of the pits with the charcoal-rich fills in pit group 25046 contained a Late Bronze Age sherd. The cists in area M contained a complete small necked Beaker and a small globular Bowl Food Vessel. The Figure-of-8-shaped Enclosure produced some undecorated Food Vessel sherds but also a sherd of Iron Age Malvernian ware. The only other possibly Iron Age sherd from the site was a piece of VCP from the main roundhouse settlement.

Roman pottery

The Roman assemblage from Parc Cybi consists of 57 sherds, most coming from area K9. The material is spread both in terms of context and date. No sherds need be first century but both samian and Black Burnished Ware of second century date are present. There is some pottery likely to be of the third century, and activity may continue at least into the middle of the fourth century. Possibly the second century saw most activity.

The assemblage is very small but the predominance of Black Burnished Ware, the quintessential cooking ware, is evident. Fine wares are present, so this does not appear to be the product of purely subsistence farming, but neither does it suggest the activity of the comparatively wealthy.

Post-medieval pottery and glass

The assemblage was composed of ceramics, clay pipes and glass and these were quantified by means of a sherd/fragment count. Most of the finds are post-medieval in date (principally late 17th- late 19th century), although a small quantity of earlier material, including a handful of medieval pottery sherds, are also present amongst the assemblage.

The ceramic assemblage was recovered from 90 contexts and comprises a mix of coarse and refined wares representative of ceramic material produced during the 13th-15th and 17th-20th centuries. The majority of the 295 sherds that make up the assemblage were from ceramic vessels, with the exception of some sherds of a decorative 19th-century chimney pot.

Medieval sherds included a sandy fabric with green or brown glaze, possibly from the Cheshire plain and north Clwyd and probably 13th-century in date. Two conjoining jug sherds in a fine pinkish-white fabric with a pale yellowish-green glaze may date to the 13th- to 15th-century, and a third probable medieval fabric is represented by a single sherd. This has a fine, hard, sandy fabric with a brown glaze on the vessel interior.

The post-medieval material is dominated by coarse earthenware vessels, in a limited range of vessel forms, most commonly pans or storage jars. The date range for the coarse earthenwares is potentially quite wide, as the ware was produced in a relatively static range of utilitarian forms from the 17th to 20th centuries. A small number of dense, highly-fired sherds have some affinities with Midlands Purple ware and may represent transitional 17th-century wares. Similarly, the buff coarse earthenwares are comparable in terms of fabric colour and consistency with some of the late 17th- to early 18th-century slipwares from the assemblage.

Other post-medieval coarsewares within the assemblage include a possible transitional Cistercian/blackware cup sherd, perhaps of mid 17th-century date and a single mid-late 17th-century blackware fragment, again from a cup. Fragments of a 17th-century Midlands Purple ware jar are present and late 17th- to early 18th-century press-moulded slipware vessels. Mottled wares of a similar date appear as bowls and a possible mug. A buff-bodied, slip-coated ware bowl dates from the first half of the 18th century. There is an assortment of mid-late 19th-century stoneware ink and blacking bottles and preserve jars from multiple contexts.

Eighteenth and 19th-century refined wares are well-represented within the assemblage. There are single examples of early to mid 18th-century dipped and white salt-glazed stonewares. Mid 18th-century redwares with applied slip are present and undecorated creamwares, mainly dating to the early 19th century, appear in several contexts in a limited range of tea and tableware forms. Pearlwares and white-bodied earthenwares are, however, by far the most common refined wares in the assemblage. Pearlwares, with their distinctive bluish lead glaze and white ceramic body were produced throughout the late 18th to the mid 19th centuries, although all the Parc Cybi examples seemingly belong to the latter part of this period. Tea and tableware forms (saucers, bowls, plates etc) are present, most of which feature either under-glaze transfer-printed or painted decoration.

Whitewares, characterised by their clear lead glazes and dense white fabrics, were produced from the second quarter of the 19th century onwards. Whitewares appear in a number of contexts from Parc Cybi and display a range of decorative techniques, including under-glaze transfer printing, painting, sponge-applied colour and applied slip. Tea ware forms predominate, with cups, bowls and saucers present. Table ware forms are mostly plates, whereas toilet wares are represented by single sherds of a wash basin and a possible ewer.

Only a few mid-late 19th-century bone china sherds are present, typically representing cups or saucers. Yellow wares are few in number and are limited in their forms to bowls, a chamber pot and a dish. Two examples of mid-late 19th-century red earthenwares feature in the assemblage, one a teapot cover and a slip-banded bowl. Single sherds of a mid 19th-century blue-bodied earthenware saucer and a late 19th-century foliate-moulded majolica or coloured-glaze ware bowl are present.

The production source of the refined wares is difficult to pin-point with any certainty, as many centres produced such material in a standard range of forms and marketed their goods widely. North Staffordshire is perhaps the most obvious candidate for the wares, although Welsh potteries such as Swansea and the factories of Liverpool and Bristol could equally have been responsible for the material.

Forty-one clay pipe fragments were recovered from 23 contexts. The majority of these are undecorated stem fragments, probably of 19th-century date. Of the two decorated stem fragments, one features a line and chevron design, while the other has indeterminate moulded decoration at its former junction with the bowl. Of the small number of bowls present, three are decorated, two of which have foliate moulding on their seams. The latter of these examples also features a moulded stag on the bowl body. The remaining decorated bowl is the most complete example within the assemblage and features a moulded harp and shamrock design. This motif was common during the late 19th century and although it may suggest an Irish production source, variations on the harp and shamrock design are known to have been produced in mainland Britain, possibly for Irish Republican supporters during the Home Rule debate of the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Green 1991 48-49).

Sixty-nine glass fragments were recovered from 42 contexts and one unstratified group. The assemblage comprises 45 bottle sherds, fifteen pieces of window pane, three vessel parts, two beads, one button and three undiagnostic items. Most of the material that is datable belongs to the 19th century, although a number of items

may well be earlier. These include a small fragment of an apparently mould-blown green glass vessel with decorative bosses that may be medieval or early post medieval, and two facetted glass beads of unknown date.

Roman Glass

Three fragments of vessel glass, four beads and one counter were recovered. The vessel glass can be broadly dated to the first to third centuries but each fragment shows re-working indicative of the pieces not having been used on site as vessels, but rather have being exploited at raw material. The beads include one frit melon bead of first to second century date and the counter is likely to be contemporary.

Knapped stone

1702 objects were classified by general and specific type and material, and examples selected for illustration, but not analysed in any more detail or measured. There were 227 retouched or utilised pieces. The assemblage derives approximately equally from black chert and flint with a small number from other types of chert or crystal quartz. The flint is from local sources in the drift or on the beaches. No imported material of better quality has been identified. There are relatively few casually retouched or utilised pieces except from the Neolithic Area H, where most pieces were used for cutting tasks. The greatest number of retouched pieces was also in area H but these were also more widely distributed. The retouched pieces include objects of Later Mesolithic, Earlier Neolithic and Bronze Age type, and most are of domestic character, typified by scrapers, denticulates and knives. The almost complete absence of arrowheads is interesting, suggesting that hunting was not a major activity. There are no complete arrowheads but there are four possible fragments, two possibly oblique arrowheads from area E and two that may be chisel arrow-heads from areas Ia and J, all of Neolithic type.

Other worked stone

This collection of 263 objects is unusually large and therefore useful; the largest component of the assemblage coming from the main roundhouse settlement. The raw material derives from cobbles or pebbles from the local drift, the local green schist bed-rock and deliberately imported material, including conglomerates from Anglesey, Graig Lwyd stone from Penmaenmawr and fine sandstone from an unidentified source. The largest group of object type was that of the utilised pebble/cobble/boulder tools, and the second largest group was the spindle whorls, coming mainly from the roundhouse settlement in Area B2. Area B2 also produced a number of larger perforated discs or slabs, most probably loom-weights, but the largest examples were perhaps thatch weights. One unusual object is a finely made perforated mace-head of Neolithic/Early Bronze Age type from a pit in area Ia.

Cup-marked stones include examples that were possibly working hollows or unfinished perforations although one example appeared to be a fragment of cup-marked local schist outcrop, which would be expected to be of Bronze Age date, that had been deliberately split off and removed to its location in roundhouse B. Querns, mortars and rubbers illustrate the presence of domestic food processing, but their number is unusually small in relation to the areas of settlement excavated.

There are three complete stone axes, one butt segment of a broken axe and one snapped axe blade, all of them fully ground. Four are of Graig Lwyd rock and one similar to Graig Lwyd, perhaps from the Graig Lwyd area. Various pieces of axes are also present, generally in association with areas of Neolithic activity.
However all four of the complete or almost complete axes (and of two of the possible axe flakes) came from the area of the Iron Age roundhouses. The axes may have been collected as items of curiosity from the eroding remains of the Neolithic activity area, perhaps during later cultivation over it. The axes do not seem to have been collected for re-use or re-working. One unusual object is a perforated mace-head of Neolithic/Early Bronze Age type from a pit in Area Ia.

Metal

Forty nine iron, 34 copper alloy and 9 lead or white metal objects were catalogued. There was also one object composed of leather and copper alloy pins and a silver coin. Nine of the objects of Roman and possibly early medieval date were considered of importance. Some of these are from the building complex in area K9 and securely dated to the Roman period, but some are from the long cist cemetery. It is unclear whether the latter were intrusive and if so which period they belong to. Grave goods are not normal in long cist burials and it may be significant that all the finds from the graves were metal. They may have originated from the later smithing activity carried out within the cemetery. This is not yet dated but it should be possible to date the smithing with radiocarbon.

Archaeometallurgical residues

Hand collected slag and burnt clay pieces along with slag, burnt clay and hammerscale recovered from wet sieving were assessed by Tim Young. All materials were examined by visual inspection and with a low powered binocular microscope. Samples were individually weighed, described and recorded to a database.

The samples include a variety of archaeometallurgical materials, including approximately 3.6kg of identifiable smithing hearth cakes (SHCs), 1.5 kg of iron slag probably from smithing, 4.9kg of hammerscale and other smithing microresidues and 0.6kg of vitrified hearth lining. Materials that were probably not of metallurgical origin included 16.8kg of fired clay and much of the 0.8kg of 'fuel ash slag' (FAS).

The residues provide very slight evidence for iron smithing in the Iron Age, for a variety of low temperature processes in the Roman period, for two smithies of uncertain age (areas E and K7) and for smithing in the post-medieval period (Area B2).

The macroscopic smithing slags and the hammerscale together provide evidence for iron working (blacksmithing) in three distinct locations: in Area E, in Area K7 and in B2. The occurrences in areas E and K are not dated, but the moderately large size of the smithing hearth cakes would suggest a Roman or younger date, although a post-medieval date is considered unlikely. In Area K7 the smith also worked with copper alloy objects. A small quantity of residue is associated with various "Iron Age" roundhouses in Area B2, but is not indicative of any particular focus, but there does seem to have been a concentration of post medieval smithing in B2.

The low density fuel ash slag resembles material produced in long-lived fires, particularly where the hearth is cut into a calcareous substrate. These slags are not indicative of metallurgical activity and the contexts in which such slags have been found on other sites include corn-drying ovens and long-lived domestic hearths (particularly of Iron Age date).

It is likely that there is no one single origin behind the large quantity of fired clay. The most common type of fired clay seems likely to have been employed structurally, possibly as flooring and possibly often within hearths and kilns.

Special Objects

Small numbers of objects made of uncommon materials or particularly carefully worked have been included under the class of special objects. These include beads of amber and cannel coal, a gold object and a small group of shale bangles.

Shale objects

Eight shale objects were catalogued including fragments of bangles and annular beads. One bead was nearly complete but the rest were all broken fragments. One piece appeared to be a waste piece from making one of these objects and might indicate local production. They all came from probable Iron Age or Roman contexts, with the exception of sf772, which came from a ground surface deposit within the roundhouse settlement and could easily have been trodden into the earlier deposit. The two bracelet fragments (find nos. 27 and 275) would fit comfortably with an Iron Age/Roman date, while some of the other shale items could well be earlier. As these objects are not closely datable they are best dated from their context than from typology.

Cannel coal and amber beads
An early-stage roughout for a large bead or pendant, probably made in cannel coal or oil-rich shale, was found in a pit just north of the Early Neolithic rectangular building. About a quarter of a large bulbous amber bead with central perforation was found amongst the feature to the east of the main roundhouse settlement.

The roughout was abandoned after a central perpendicular hourglass perforation had been initiated, and after its outer edge had been roughly shaped by grinding. It is not closely comparable with the rare Neolithic jet beads known, and its proximity to the Early Neolithic building may thus be coincidental. It does not have diagnostic features suggesting a specific period, and a Late Bronze Age or early Iron Age date cannot be ruled out.

The amber object is a quarter of a large bulbous bead with central perforation. Large amber beads formed part of large necklaces during the Late Bronze Age, especially in Ireland; whether this had originally formed part of one such necklace is unclear, but it is not impossible. A Late Bronze Age or Iron Age date seems likely for this item, and given that it was found on the edge of the Iron Age roundhouse settlement, a date contemporary with its occupation seems likely.

Gold penannular ring
The ring (sf784) was found within the lower fill of a ditch (92615) located on the edge of the roundhouse settlement. There were no associated finds from the ditch. This is a small gold penannular ring of sheet construction, whose opposing terminals are separated by a narrow gap of approximately 0.7mm. The sheet gold strip has been carefully rolled over, to give an oval shaped cross section. The internal cavity may once have contained a clay or organic core, around which the gold sheet was shaped and formed. The terminals are simple and there is no evidence of decoration over the surfaces of the ring. Metallurgical analysis demonstrated that the ring had an average composition of 96.5% gold, 2.5% silver and 1% copper, which is consistent with a Bronze Age date.

The ring has close affinities with the penannular gold rings of the Middle and Late Bronze Ages (1500-800BC). These were probably used as hair or ear ornaments as their small internal diameters and thick cross-sections preclude their use as finger- or toe-rings. As a sheet gold penannular ring, seemingly originally tightly formed around a clay or organic core, this finds parallels with 'hair-rings' which flourished during the Late Bronze Age, particularly in Ireland. But its details of construction are not directly comparable and it might fit more comfortably amongst the earlier forms of penannular rings of the Middle Bronze Age. These include 'hair-rings', and although they are not identical to the Parc Cybi example it is possible that its sheet gold construction means that it be an early 'hair-ring' and made between 1300-1150BC. Its metallurgical composition, with a low copper content supports an Early or Middle Bronze Age date.

Three 'hair-rings' are known from Wales: Graeanog in Gwynedd, Port Eynon and Brynmill, both in Swansea (Green 1988; Gwilt 2000; 2004; Gwilt *et al* 2005, 40 & Fig. 5) and these contain 6.5%, 4% and 10% copper respectively (Davis pers. comm.). Of particular relevance for the Trearddur ring are the three penannular rings discovered within the Burton Hoard, Wrexham (Gwilt et al 2007, 198-9 & Fig. 485.1). This is confidently dated to the Penard metalworking tradition of the Middle Bronze Age (1300-1150BC), and included sheet gold objects with low copper content. On metallurgical grounds therefore, the Parc Cybi ring on current evidence best sits alongside these small sheet ornaments of Middle Bronze Age date.

Conservation

Conservation has been carried out on a shale bangle and several iron and copper alloy objects as detailed in volume II part XI. All vulnerable objects have been left in a stable condition for long term storage. X-rays have been taken of all significant iron and copper alloy objects to aid identification.

Burnt stones

Sixty six samples of burnt stone have been identified as having potential to provide information on the use of hot stones in a variety of activities. These were collected by hand and as coarse residues from the wet sieving. All potential burnt stone was checked to establish whether it was really burnt/heat affected, whether the stones were small incidentally burnt pieces or potentially related to hot stone technology and whether they were residual in a late context or otherwise of little significance. Samples of low significance were discarded.

The samples retained related to mainly prehistoric activity from the burnt mounds and from activity related to the Iron Age roundhouses. There are also burnt stones from several earlier pits, generally associated with later Neolithic pottery and these may relate to cooking activities nearby by that are not otherwise recorded in the archaeological record. There is also an extensive collection from the Roman period industrial activity in area K9.

DATING

Archaeomagnetic dating was attempted on three hearths within the main roundhouse settlement. At total of sixty samples were taken from three hearths in roundhouse B (context 91972), roundhouse E (context 92141) and an area to the east of the roundhouses (context 91579). Only eighteen samples from roundhouse E recorded a consistent, stable magnetisation, but the strength of the magnetisation was extremely weak preventing further analysis. The samples from roundhouse B and the eastern area were also weakly magnetised but displayed much more scatter in the recorded magnetic direction. These results may indicate that the material has not been fired *in situ* to a sufficient temperature or that the mineralogy of the material does not retain the magnetic signal. Given the archaeological evidence, the most likely explanation is that the material does not contain appropriate magnetic minerals, making the features undateable by archaeomagnetic dating.

This method of dating therefore proved unsuitable for the site and no usable results were obtained. The archaeomagnetic dating of the boulder hearth in area K9 was considered but finds date this to the Roman period. There is a loop of repeated values in the geomagnetic field in the Roman period giving very imprecise dating (Dr C Batt, Senior lecturer in Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford). It was therefore decided that finds and radiocarbon dates would be more appropriate dating tools in this case.

STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL

Stratigraphic and structural data

This section will discuss the potential of the excavated data. Fuller consideration of the significance of the data and comparisons with national and international research agenda will be found within the accompanying updated Project Design. It is, however, clear that though there are individual sites and features of international importance on the site, the significance of all the features is considerably raised by the wide chronological and spatial context into which they can now be placed. Because of the size of the area examined and the thorough approach taken to excavation even the smallest and least significant of features can now contribute to a wide array of research issues and a much clearer understanding of the development of the landscape from Mesolithic times to the present day.

Mesolithic
The Mesolithic evidence on the site is very slight but the total number of items found on Holy Island makes even the small assemblage from Parc Cybi significant. This importance is reinforced by potential palynological information from more detailed pollen analysis.

The Early Neolithic building
The rectangular early Neolithic building is of national importance as relatively few of these structures have been found throughout Britain (see project design). It can also be considered of international importance as many of the closest parallels are found in Ireland. The archaeological remains were well-preserved, with fairly extensive areas of original ground surface, and a second phase of activity represented by the firepits or hearths. The positioning and alignment of the building suggests a strong relationship with the Neolithic chambered tomb that lies to the east. Identifying a relationship of this nature is rare, and raises the significance of both monuments.

The investigation of the function of the structure requires close comparison with similar sites and an analysis of the structural and subsidiary elements. The full analysis of the finds and particularly the charred plant remains will allow some comments on the function of the building to be made. Artefact analysis is needed to study in detail the range of artefacts found and their distribution within the structure. Radiocarbon dating the building is a research priority of international importance to allow comparisons with other similar sites as well as clarifying the relationship to the Trefignath Chambered Tomb and to the other foci of Early Neolithic activity on the site.

There are few features in the vicinity of the building but these should be considered in the discussion of the structure, especially the pit containing the large cannel-coal bead. The location of the structure should be considered in relation both to the tomb and other Neolithic activity on the site and also within a wider landscape.

The final results of this study will be of international significance, and will form a very positive contribution to European research into Neolithic settlement.

Later Neolithic pit groups

The clusters of later Neolithic pits contain a regionally important assemblage of pottery. They have considerable potential for studying the relationship of pit clusters to contemporary settlement. Their potential is increased by the number of other similar pit clusters found in North Wales in recent years. Together these form a body of evidence with radiocarbon dates and fabric analysis that has the potential to extend the understanding of Neolithic activity in the region. Dates to clarify the duration and possible, overlap of the use of Peterborough and Grooved Ware pottery in this area are important, as is the comparison of these assemblages, which at present is leading to the possibility that pottery types may need reassessing and other Welsh assemblages may need to be reconsidered in the light of these recent discoveries. There are possible implications for the development of later pottery styles such as Food Vessels and Collared Urns.

The identification of Neolithic settlement and the understanding of its character and development is an important aim in this region, where until recently burial monuments were common but settlements very rare. The results from Parc Cybi have the potential to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the development of Neolithic settlement throughout the full extent of the period from its origins through to the Early Bronze Age.

Bronze Age ritual and settlement

The cist cemetery and ceremonial complex in area M, combined with the standing stone and prehistoric barrow excavated in advance of the A55, form a group of national significance. Study of their location within the wider landscape, and their links with the Late Neolithic sites, will allow a clearer understanding of the development of an extensive ritual landscape and its domestic counterpart. This is particularly significant as the evidence for Early Bronze Age settlement does not survive, a research issue which was highlighted in the recent Research Framework Conference. A clearer understanding and coherent narrative of events will only become possible following study and dating of sites either side of the Early Bronze Age. Relevant sites in this respect include the burnt mounds, which can indicate settlement over a wide chronological span, from Late Neolithic through to Early Iron Age. Targeted dating of these sites will help clarify chronological development within the landscape, and relationships with other sites. The timber round house in Area K1 may be the forerunner of the explosion of settlement remains that appear within the Iron Age and Roman periods.

Iron Age settlement

The extent and variety of Iron Age settlement on the site means that this has a very high potential for studying all aspects of settlement development and use in this period. The stratigraphy of the main settlement provides an opportunity for dating that raises the potential for this to be of national importance. Duration of use of individual houses as well as the full history of development of the settlement might be revealed if the dates fall within a reasonably favourable area of the calibration curve. The full potential for dating will not be revealed until preliminary dates have been received. The potential for Bronze Age origins of the settlement in area F1 and continuation of activity in the area into the Roman period in structure F and area K9 gives a very long duration of settlement over which change and development can be studied. The possibility for continuation in the post-Roman period must exist in the features yet to be investigated in area K5.

At a more detailed scale the roundhouses in area B2/F1 and in area K7 were preserved in sufficient detail for their interior use of space to be studied. In the main settlement the number of finds is high enough to carryout spatial and temporal studies and the detailed interior structures are varied and have the potential to reveal uses of interior space. The spaces between the roundhouses were also well preserved with numerous related structures and surfaces indicating uses of areas around the buildings and control of movement throughout the settlement. Alignments of walls and entrances provide considerable potential for the study of practical, social and cultural influences on the layout of the settlement and the houses.

The bone animal assemblage is not large but is significant for the Welsh Iron Age and spindle whorls and loom weights have the potential to suggest the importance of sheep and how that may have changed over time.

Roman and early medieval periods
The evidence would suggest a shift in settlement location took place within the later prehistoric or Roman period, which included the establishment of both new settlements and industrial sites. The hearth in K9 is unusual, and no parallels have been found for it, though it might have been used for textile processing or dyeing. It seems likely that this was not an independent settlement but part of a range of contemporary sites. The trackway links this into a wider environment, which potentially includes the fort at Holyhead and possibly a landing place on the inland sea.

Our evidence for sites of post-Roman date tends to shift from settlement to burial, and this is the case at Parc Cybi. The withdrawal of troops from Britain in 410 AD would have left a vacuum at the fort in Holyhead, and possible invasion of Irish raiders. However the reasons for the abandonment of native settlements in this period are not entirely clear, though the presence of a local population is confirmed by the cemetery at Parc Cybi and those in the surrounding area. Strategic dating of the Roman occupied buildings, the cemetery and related features will allow a fuller understanding of the changes that took place. Of particular significance here may be comparisons of the date of the iron working with the skeletal remains, as cemeteries in south-west Wales also regularly reveal similar evidence for iron working, but comparative dating is rarely possible. Establishing the chronological relationship between the two would provide evidence of national significance.

Corn driers
The corn driers identified across the site are potentially the only high medieval features within the site and as such have considerable local importance. They may contribute to very fragmentary hints in the later field systems of earlier field layouts. These features have produced charred grain and they have the potential to provide information on medieval arable regimes.

Post-medieval features
The post medieval landscape can be effectively studied through the available historic maps, but the excavations have shown that there are many features that do not appear on the maps, either because they pre-date the maps or because they were not considered to be of sufficient importance to include. The evolution of the medieval landscape into the modern one is a subject of crucial importance, marking the transfer of a feudal economy into a capitalist one, and the rapid rise of large estates. It was the three-fold society of landowner, tenant and labourer which provided the capital, ideas and labour for the agricultural revolution, which in turn was able to feed the expanding population which peopled both the industrial revolution and the British Empire. These trends are all clearly visible at Parc Cybi. The enclosure of open fields and common land and the exchange of lands between landowners allowed coherent holdings to be built up and let to tenants. Improvements including further enclosure, drainage and new buildings can be identified. The archaeological evidence has the potential to contribute both to an understanding of the major trends and the minute detail of everyday life.

Environmental evidence

Pollen
Pollen evidence can make a considerable contribution to make to our understanding of climate change and vegetation patterns. This in turn informs a wide range of other research issues including farming, cultivation and crop processing. Whilst the sampled peat sequences appear to be truncated there is potential for retrieving information about the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic environment. A secure date for the buried soil horizon would be useful for interpreting the date of the later archaeology.

The palynological assessments undertaken at Parc Cybi have revealed a valuable sedimentary sequence worthy of further analysis although the mid-later Holocene record appears to have been removed probably by peat cutting. The sequence from Area G covers a substantial period from the Late-glacial through to the earlier Holocene but the precise timeframe is unclear. There is evidence that the alder tree might have been present on Anglesey during the earlier Holocene/Late-glacial and hence a substantial time before its conventional expansion in southern England.

Given the potential biogeographical importance of these deposits, further palynological study is proposed to investigate the possible early presence of alder with supporting radiocarbon dating. More detailed palynological

study of the record could also investigate whether any environmental impacts arising from Mesolithic activity in the area can be detected. As far as the mid-late Holocene record and potential for linking this to the archaeological excavations, more detailed study of Core 13 (area K6) is recommended with close resolution assessment of the upper deposits in Core 1(area G) necessary to establish how conformable the later record is at this location.

Pollen preservation and concentration were good in the monolith from Area F (5039). These samples clearly reflect an early Holocene period of landscape development, prior to any significant human impact on the landscape, again supporting previous palaeoenvironmental work which indicates peat cutting has removed much of the mid-later Holocene deposits at the site (Gearey *et al*, vol II, part XV). Further analytical work of the monolith from Area F, supported by radiocarbon dating, has the potential to shed light on early Holocene vegetation change and also to detect any possible small scale Mesolithic impacts on the local vegetation. The pollen assessment of the buried soil has indicated excellent pollen preservation and concentration for this deposit, but that the biostratigraphy has probably been affected by sediment mixing either by anthropogenic or natural processes. Further more detailed analyses of these samples may provide information regarding the early Bronze Age environment at the site. If more material is available, this should be supported by radiocarbon dating.

Charred plant remains

There has been relatively little archaeo-botanical work carried out on Anglesey. The English Heritage Environmental Archaeology Bibliography database (http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/specColl/eab_eh_2004 last modified October 2009) lists only three sites on Anglesey which have produced plant remains (Hillman, 1981, Williams 1999, and Caseldine, 1997). A further report by Caseldine from Castellior, Anglesey (Caseldine, 2004), would appear to be the sum of the published work, with material from sites along the A55 not yet published (Davidson *et al* forthcoming). The samples from Parc Cybi that contain identifiable plant remains will provide valuable information regarding the site and will also add to this regional picture.

This assessment found that of the 1972 flots 1680 did not justify further study due to lack of charcoal. 292 samples from significant contexts contained enough identifiable charcoal to justify further analysis. An additional 326 samples contain charcoal which may be identifiable for radiocarbon dating if required.
It is proposed that full analyses of the 292 samples containing significant quantities of identifiable charcoal or other charred plant remains are carried out. No waterlogged plant remains, molluscs or insects were recovered from the samples so no further analysis is required for these. Taphonomic processes at the site clearly preclude the preservation of abundant identifiable or interpretable, site-specific non-charcoal plant macrofossil evidence, limiting the information that might be obtained. The absence of early Neolithic grain is particularly disappointing. However, the charcoal should give an indication of tree species present, possible changes in fuel wood selection over time and may answer specific questions, such as whether the burnt deposits in the roundhouse in area K7 represents the destruction of a thatched roof. Identified short-lived charred plant material will form the basis of the radiocarbon dating programme described in the appropriate section below.

Charred plant remains from deposits in and around the Early Neolithic building will provide valuable palaeoenvironmental and economic evidence. The remains of carbonised hazelnut shells were recovered from three contexts. The highest quantity, more than thirty fragments, came from posthole (50164) on the eastern gable end wall, and one of the fills of the hearth recut (50116) in the eastern bay contained 20-30 pieces. A few pieces, less than ten, were recovered from posthole (50174), also in the eastern gable end, suggesting a distribution of hazelnut shells restricted to the eastern end of the structure. No charred material identifiable as cereal grains or chaff was recovered from any of the contexts associated with the Neolithic building.

The use of the building is a critical issue and the type of plant remains may contribute to the understanding of its function. The absence of cereal grains may be significant, but charred hazelnut shells are evident within the samples and may indicate the importance of wild species. Charred timber fragments or pieces of wattle may add to the understanding of the building's structure.

The nature of the charred remains from the later Neolithic pits could be critical in determining the origin of the deposits filling them. Again the scarcity of cereal grains and other similar evidence limits the potential information but the type of charcoal could suggest either the casual collection of any available wood for domestic fuel or the choice of specific species possibly for symbolic reasons. The samples include material from hearths from throughout prehistory and into the Roman period. Comparisons of charcoal from all these periods

may indicate changes in woodland management or fuel wood choice. The burnt mounds might also provide interesting comparisons in the wood used. Where smithing occurred specific wood species may have been preferred to produce charcoal for fuel, and although not identified in the assessment it is possible that a closer study might reveal charred plant remains that aid in the interpretation of the processes occurring in the industrial structure in area K9. Most of the charred remains from the roundhouse settlements are likely to be from fuel wood but in the clay-walled roundhouse in area K7 the large spread of charred material might be part of a burnt thatched roof. The charred remains should be able to prove this and to identify the thatching material.

Animal Bone

Animal bones were recovered from 215 contexts across the site including mid Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman period, and post-medieval contexts. The animal bone was mostly very fragmentary and poorly preserved. The unburnt assemblage mainly consists of teeth and tooth fragments, while the burnt bone is generally too small to be identifiable. However the discovery of identifiable bone fragments from 5 mid Neolithic and 28 Iron Age represents a very important assemblage for these periods which rarely produce bone in Wales. This problem was highlighted in the relevant sessions at the recent review of the Research Framework and any new evidence that is able to fill this gap could be of considerable significance.

Further analyses are recommended in the form of:

- Quantification of both identifiable & unidentifiable material by simple fragment count and weight
- Species/element analysis of identifiable material from all contexts other than modern. A list of which contexts can be associated or merged for the purposes of analysis should be provided by the client
- Given poor preservation and the level of fragmentation, obtaining reliable ageing or sexing information is unlikely though where such information is preserved it will be recorded
- Where reliable dating evidence is available, each dated assemblage can be considered in relation to contemporary farming, economic and dietary preferences.
- Bone fragments from context 81106 should be examined by a human osteologist to determine if these fragments represent human bone.

Human bone

All the material is very degraded, friable and fragile under handling. Larger bone fragments are proportionally light in weight. This severely limits the potential for further analysis. Further biomolecular analysis (stable isotopes, trace elements, C14) from crown dentine may be possible in the well-preserved teeth (e.g. 8003), where the enamel crown and portions of root are intact. It seems likely that the bone fragments, with the *possible* exception of the large skull fragment from grave 80052, will be too degraded to yield C14 or other isotopic data.

Archaeologically and socio-culturally, ancient human skeletal remains from this region are extremely rare, but, accordingly, so is the opportunity to gain related data from destructive sampling. There is nothing *osteologically* notable about the surviving fragments that might otherwise argue against destructive sampling of potentially viable specimens. It would seem reasonable to attempt isotopic/radiocarbon analysis from one or two of the best preserved, non-diagnostic, teeth. However, the possibility remains that no useful data may be obtained.

Soil micromorphology

House floor samples are known to produce interesting geoarchaeological signatures, particularly pertaining to use of space over time. While the Tŷ Mawr sediments are not ideal for soil micromorphology studies, often being very gravely, a number of sequences of clay layers (possible floors) do show potential to tell us about how people used these buildings, and whether they all saw similar uses, especially in comparison to artefact distributions and other environmental archaeological studies of space within and external to the structures. The presence of buried soils is also very interesting, giving potential for initial exploration of what was happening at the site before individual structures were built, and comparing different areas of the site to each other in this regard, again in relation to find spots, land use indicators and other environmental archaeological analyses, both localised and regional.

Other palaeoenvironmental evidence

The bulk samples taken from the marsh in area K6 produced well-preserved and abundant plant macrofossils, but the range of taxa recorded is associated with a natural sequence of wetland development from an environment with shallow, open water to a sedge fen. The interpretative value of the plant macrofossil record is compromised by the poor preservation of microfossils. The low diversity and concentration of beetle remains these samples prohibit detailed comment regarding the palaeoenvironment, with those species which are recorded found in a wide range of open habitats.

These largely negative results support those from palynological assessment of a monolith sequence from this area. Pollen concentrations were also generally low and preservation poor to medium for the majority of samples (Gearey and Hopla, vol II, part XV), but an early Holocene timeframe was inferred due to the lack of tree and shrub pollen. The poor preservation of insects and pollen may thus be a reflection of conditions inimical to the preservation of microfossils, such as relatively dry conditions during sediment accumulation. Alternatively, the low concentrations of these remains might be a result of generally low biomass during the earlier Holocene. No further analysis is recommended on the beetle samples. Further analyses of the plant macrofossil samples are unlikely to provide significant information regarding the wider environment and hence no further work is recommended.

The marine mollusc shells found came generally from post medieval contexts and the small size of the assemblages make further analysis of limited potential. Most of the samples of wood recovered from peat deposits are also not worth further analysis. However it is proposed that the samples from the edge of the marsh in area F be identified to species. There is a radiocarbon date from this material placing it in the Mesolithic period and a fuller understanding of the marsh edge vegetation would help give an indication of the environment in this period for which there is little other evidence.

Prehistoric pottery

The juxtaposition of the megalithic tomb, the rectangular building in Area H and two large assemblages of Early Neolithic pottery in Area H and Area E are of very considerable value and enormous potential for study, now and in the future. Excavation of the tomb at Trefignath in the 1980s revealed that it had had a long history as a focus of burial and ritual, being extended on three occasions and receiving offerings in the later Neolithic and again in the Iron Age: over 4000 years of service in some form to the community.

Those excavations revealed some evidence for settlement close to the site which has now been augmented in a dramatic way by the discovery of the rectangular building close behind the tomb and in line with it. Such a relationship has not been demonstrated before and the opportunity to get closer to the thinking behind the concepts of ‘houses’ for the living and for the dead, is one that should be grasped enthusiastically. Alongside all other possible avenues of analysis, the study of the pottery will be of prime importance. The presence of a second area of settlement on the other side of the valley gives another rare opportunity for studying questions of chronology, of function and of complementarity of ritual and domestic living.

In the 1980s a particularly valuable scientific study of the manufacture of the pottery was carried out. The discovery of a much larger assemblage is an opportunity to re-visit that study and to extend it. The presence of a good deal of later Neolithic pottery and of some Bronze Age wares will add a diachronic element and hopefully help to measure the influence of local resources against the power of changing styles and fashions.

In the last five years the quantity of Late Neolithic pottery found in north west Wales has increased enormously and the material from Parc Cybi will add a good deal to this on-going study. Broader questions relating to the origin of Early Bronze funerary pottery used all over Britain are likely to be illuminated by this new body of material which has altered the weight of relevant evidence very considerably.

Further study of the rather featureless pottery of the Middle and Late Bronze Age will be advanced by the small but significant assemblage from Parc Cybi, especially if petrographic analysis is used. Pinning down Bronze Age settlement has been notoriously difficult in Wales and so every opportunity to extract the maximum information from material and sites such as this should be exploited.

Dr. Elaine Morris has commented on the importance of the single VCP sherd as a significant contribution to the limited evidence currently available for the participation of Iron Age people within the wider world distribution and use of salt in the later prehistoric period in Britain.

The Parc Cybi assemblage also presents an opportunity for exploring certain questions through residue analysis on the pottery. The scarcity of faunal evidence for Wales was repeatedly discussed in the recent Research Framework Conference and this provides a way to correct that preservation bias. The question of early Neolithic dairying is of particular relevance to a period largely defined by the introduction of agriculture. An earlier study has demonstrated the presence of milk residues in early Neolithic pottery, so proving that dairy farming emerged prior to the introduction of the Neolithic to Britain and that it was part of the initial 'Neolithic package' (Copley et al. 2005). However this concentrated on southern England and the question remains whether these results can be applied to early Neolithic Wales. With two contrasting early Neolithic assemblages Parc Cybi provides a particularly good opportunity to test this.

The University of Bristol has recently been carrying out a study on pottery from funerary contexts, and analysis of the two vessels from the Bronze Age cists would complement that work. The chance that any material that they contained gradually evaporated or decayed *in situ* is high so although there are no visible residues it is hoped that these will have a good chance of producing positive results. Residue analysis is therefore proposed on specific pieces to answer these specific questions.

Roman pottery

The small size of the assemblage limits its potential. Its value is largely for dating specific features and phases of activity on the site, and more study of the provenance of the sherds is required to achieve that. The pottery also indicates the relative wealth of the inhabitants of the site and the trading contacts for this part of North Wales. The presence of cooking ware indicates domestic activity. In combination with other artefactual and stratigraphic evidence this has the potential for contributing particularly to the interpretation of the building complex in area K9.

Post-medieval pottery and glass

The Parc Cybi material is of limited potential for further analysis. The assemblage is split over a large number of contexts, none of which are individually substantial enough to offer any conclusive evidence of the consumption of ceramics and other artefacts within the area during the late medieval and post-medieval periods. At least in terms of the ceramic material, the assemblage offers few surprises. The small number of medieval wares are probably indicative of sources relatively local to the area, whereas the post-medieval material, particularly the 18th- and 19th-century refined wares, represents a typical collection of largely mass produced, widely distributed ceramics that could be found in most households during the period. The material offers evidence of very broad activities such as general food preparation and storage, beverage consumption and formal dining, but provides little in terms of the specifics of these tasks.

Roman Glass

Though the quantity is not great, the small group has the potential to throw light on what the inhabitants found a use for amongst the range of Roman material culture available to them. As such it will contribute to broader synthetic studies of the interaction between native and 'Roman' in the region.

Specific items are of importance within their detailed contexts and the bottle glass indicates reuse seen on several recent excavations. Some of the hearths within the Iron Age settlement might be considered with this in mind. Many of the small beads may be intrusive in the contexts in which they were found, but SF5388, a small annular bead of an extremely long-lived type, was well sealed in the floor of structure I in the main roundhouse settlement. This may aid dating of the structure but as these beads occur in contexts dating from the sixth century BC into the eighth century AD, it is not particularly helpful. The possible gaming counter or jewellery piece from the industrial activity in area K9 was from a sealed context and its possible second century date may contribute to dating this activity.

SF1291 was a tiny blue glass bead from the fill of a pit in group 25046 also containing a sherd of Bronze Age pottery. If this bead could be proved to be Bronze Age it would be particularly interesting but it could easily

have been introduced by worm activity and a Bronze Age date cannot be securely assigned to this bead from the associated material.

Knapped stone

Of the 43 areas of the site, 17 represented fairly specific areas of prehistoric activity, although sometimes of more than one period and sometimes including scattered areas of activity of as yet unassigned period, but this should become clearer after radiocarbon dating. Some of the areas produced very small quantities of lithic material indicating minor or short-lived activity. The material from these areas is of less value for further analysis but may include isolated diagnostic pieces that are useful for wider archaeological interpretation.

More detailed analysis of the lithic assemblage from the Neolithic Area H will be productive and will allow proper comparison with the assemblage from the previous excavation of the nearby Trefignath chambered tomb, which produced a significant assemblage of lithics, some from a settlement phase pre-dating the construction of the tomb.

The waste material has only been recorded to a general level at this stage. A more detailed analysis would record flint colour, cortex type, flake reduction class, fragmentation, impact type and dimensions of complete flakes. The latter can be used as a characteristic to help distinguish assemblages by period. These additional recording fields would allow more detailed comparison of, and perhaps differentiation between, waste material from different areas or context groups or periods of activity. There are a number of micro-fragments - pieces under 10mm maximum length – mainly recovered from residues of environmental sieving of soil samples. These were counted and are not very numerous and were not studied as part of this assessment. These fragments constitute a sample from certain contexts and could provide some new insights into flint and chert working if further analysis is carried out.

The only further recording needed for casually retouched pieces and utilised pieces is the measurement of complete pieces and the recording of position of retouch or use wear. However, better understanding could be achieved if microscopic use-wear analysis was carried out on a sample of them. This might identify the types of materials being worked on and the type of activity represented.

More detailed study of the retouched pieces would include recording of flint colour, cortex, types of retouch and dimensions. This would allow better differentiation between objects from different areas or context groups.

The Mesolithic pieces are of interest as they indicate activity in this period in the area but they do not suggest occupation sites or other foci of activity within the development area. A flint scatter with no associated features is most vulnerable to loss through Strip and Map investigation, but flint is recognisable in the soil as stripping proceeds and a scatter could have been likely to have been identified by the monitoring archaeologist. Mesolithic evidence has been equally sparse on other large excavations in North Wales. Both the Industrial Estate site and Parc Bryn Cegin at Llandygai had a similar slight scatter of Mesolithic finds, although one pit outside henge B had a number of Mesolithic style flints and a microlith (Lynch and Musson 2001, 24).

Other worked stone

At present the types of objects in the roundhouses suggest that most of the activities there were associated with the working of soft materials such as foodstuffs, wood, bone or leather. There is some possible specialisation in round house B in Area B2, which had the largest number of utilised pebble tools, especially polishing stones and working/polishing/abrading slabs. Some of the objects are broadly datable but on the whole they are of most use for analysis of activities.

Although the objects have been recorded in some detail, the typology needs to be reconsidered and accompanied by research into comparative intra-site evidence and studies. Within the site, analysis of the occurrence of different tool types in different contexts, once these are stratigraphically and functionally understood, will throw light on the types of activity being carried out. Closer study and classification of the wear marks, as well as specialist microscopic study may also identify more closely the types of activity and types of material being worked. This should also be accompanied by geological identification of the rocks used. There is also the possibility of residue analysis of a sample of stones, which now can extend to materials that may have been

absorbed into the rock, such as fats, as opposed to simply adhering to them. This may also help to identify what materials were being worked with or on them. The additional information can then be incorporated in a full assessment of the activities in different areas of the site and an overall interpretation.

Metal

There is very little of any note, or worthy of further work, among the iron and copper alloy objects. Most are fragments or belong to the type of object that is difficult, or impossible, to date in itself. Those objects that do suggest a date for themselves are generally clearly post-medieval and would all fit comfortably with the 18th - 20th century farming activity recorded for the site.

There are nine items of interest which are worthy of fuller recording; most because of the date of the context in which they were found. In particular any material of potentially early medieval date is of significance in the context of the scarcity of finds of that date in Wales. The same, to a slightly lesser extent, can be said of the ironwork from the Iron Age context. The three Roman pieces are nicely preserved objects. Of these objects four should be drawn: the copper alloy sheet (sf3005) and iron knife (sf3006) from a long cist grave, and the possible Roman iron candlestick (sf6064) and cleaver (sf6186).

The only item of any note among the lead and white metal objects is the very worn silver coin (find no.4440). In its present state no surface detail is visible and the conservation assessment was that the surface was probably too fragile to survive any further cleaning.

Archaeometallurgical residues

The various types of fired clay and the fuel ash slags probably have little potential for the generation of useful information through further analysis. The smithing residues do have potential for further analysis to help illuminate the changes to smithing over a considerable time period potentially allowing snapshots of approaches to smithing from the Iron Age through to the post medieval period, which would be a very useful contribution to the understanding of regional practice.

Light might be shed on the purpose of the ‘furnace’ in Area K9B through investigation of the chemical composition of drain residues in the area, but if the suggestion of a dye works is correct, then archaeo-botanical investigations would probably be more likely to produce useful results.

The smithing residues do have potential for further analysis to help illuminate the changes to smithing over a considerable time period. Such interesting information is partly dependent on the dating of the various areas of smithing activity, and on a reassessment of the security of the stratification of the residues from Iron Age contexts. At best the data from Parc Cybi might allow snapshots of approaches to smithing from the Iron Age through to the post medieval period, which would be a very useful contribution to the understanding of regional practice.

The work that could be done on the residues is to some extent limited by the paucity of the macroscopic slag assemblages, compared with the rich assemblages of microresidues, particularly in Areas E and K7. Understanding of microresidue assemblages is improving markedly at present, and the investigation of these assemblages would be useful addition to that process.

Detailed definition of a programme of work involving the analysis of the smithing residues should however ideally follow the determination of the age of the various occurrences and also a thorough reappraisal of the site records to identify the possible nature of the archaeometallurgical features (hearths, postholes, gullies, waste pits...) in Areas E and K7. Investigation of excavation records to help determine whether the residues from the grave fills in Area K7 represent likely contamination from younger deposits or residual material from an earlier smithing phase is also very important.

A likely scheme of work would involve chemical and microstructural comparison of both macro- and micro-smithing residues from the distinct phases of smithing activity.

An additional area in which further laboratory analysis would aid understanding of the site would be in the identification of the black glass residues from areas H and K1, which may be a modern industrial contaminant.

Special Objects

The shale objects are of considerable interest and all would deserve being written up in full and illustrated. The stone is probably local but this needs identifying and parallels from sites in North Wales and elsewhere need to be considered. However they are most likely locally made objects for local use and only of regional importance.

The significance of the cannel coal object is partially due to its proximity to the Early Neolithic building and the potential relationship to this needs to be established. A full search for comparisons might aid it dating. Compositional analysis will securely identify its material so that a source can be located.

The importance of the amber bead is largely related to its connections and indication of long distance links. Amber necklaces are a particular feature of the Irish Bronze Age and this may suggest links with Ireland. Amber can be found in beach deposits in Britain and Ireland but there is strong evidence that Baltic amber was being taken to Ireland during the early first millennium BC and worked up into chunky necklaces there. This bead could have resulted from that movement. An analogy can be cited in the Late Bronze Age amber necklace found at Balmashanner in Angus, east Scotland, where it has been argued that Scotland formed a 'stopping off' point between Ireland and Scandinavia.

Amber would have been prized not only as a rare and precious material, but also for its supposedly magical properties (of being able to float and burn, and its electrostatic property). The bead may well have been used as an amulet as well as a status symbol of a high-ranking individual.

The gold 'hair ring' provides important evidence for Middle or Late Bronze Age activity in this part of the site, and indicates the high status nature of this activity. The dating programme should help to clarify which features the ring should be seen in association with and may aid their interpretation. The gold ring should perhaps be considered with the amber bead as their connections and possible dates seem to be similar.

The rarity of gold means that the ring inevitably has a wider significance. The discovery is situated approximately 4.2km from the site of the Late Bronze Age hoard at Tŷ Mawr, to the north-west. This was discovered in 1832 under a stone near to the prehistoric hut circles at Tŷ Mawr (Way 1867; 1868; Lynch 1991, 246-9 & Fig. 69) and contains bronze tools, weapons, ornaments and amber beads. The Trearddur penannular ring is also an interesting addition to the known examples of Bronze Age gold from Anglesey: the three bracelets and bulla in the Llanfflewyn hoard, the eleven penannular bracelets and twelve lock-rings from the Gaerwen (Cae Capel Eithin) hoard and the two penannular bracelets from the Beaumaris hoard (Lynch 1991, 239-44 & 365-6; Gwilt 2005, 38 & Fig. 5). Many of these artefacts copy Irish metalwork styles, suggesting close exchange relations between north-west Wales and Ireland during the Bronze Age.

Further surface analysis, from freshly exposed surface points, rather than old surfaces could serve as a check on the possible phenomenon of surface depletion of copper on old surfaces, thereby confirming or improving upon the accuracy of the metal composition. Careful observation of the ring may reveal further information about the manufacture technique and life history of the artefact. This research has the potential to add to the description and understanding of the construction of the object; setting it within a broader tradition of gold-working. Further clarification of the burial context may provide improved understanding of chronology and potentially interesting relational connections with other features or artefacts from the site.

Conservation

All vulnerable objects have been left in a stable condition for long term storage. In the opinion of Phil Parkes of Cardiff Conservation Services further cleaning of iron object recovered from roundhouse H (sf814, 815, 816) would reveal very little additional information. This is due to the almost complete corrosion of the object, resulting in no easily recognisable surface to clean down to. The x-rays already taken provide the best information on the object as it is. Other iron object, such as the cleaver and other large items from area K9, are also best seen from their x-rays rather than further expensive cleaning.

The aim of further conservation work would be to enable the display of certain objects. The only objects for which this would be particularly appropriate are the two complete pots from the Bronze Age cists in area M. These items are fairly large and visually attractive and are likely to form a significant part of any exhibition. The Food Vessel is intact and could probably be displayed as it is, but the rim in particular is weak and there may be other cracks and weaknesses, which could cause it to break during display or handling. The Beaker, although complete, is in pieces and would need to be reassembled before display. It is proposed to conserve both these objects. While conservation is being undertaken samples can be extracted for residue analysis and the damage caused can be immediately repaired.

Burnt stones

The samples of burnt stone have the potential to demonstrate which rock types were used, particularly if any exotic material introduced to the site; establish whether rock types varied spatially or with time across the site, and establish whether there was any preference in choice of materials, such as those with more favourable thermal properties. On other sites in North Wales it has been observed that there was a degree of preferential selection for cooking purposes of dolerites, which are a relatively uncommon rock type. Presumably the preference relates to the more favourable thermal properties of this massive, mafic crystalline rock type.

The burnt stone samples related to mainly prehistoric activity. Their use in burnt mounds is well known, but the function of these features is still not understood, so the stone used might provide additional information. Burnt stone from settlement sites is generally assumed to be generated by domestic cooking activities, so the comparison between these and the burnt mound stones may be of interest. The function of burnt stones within the area K9 Roman period industrial activity is not yet known and the study of these stones may aid understanding of the processes carried out here.

SUMMARY

The excavations undertaken at Parc Cybi have revealed a very extensive range of sites from the Mesolithic period through to the 19th century AD, with few chronological gaps. This range, and the detailed and intensive knowledge of the landscape which has been recorded by the excavation process, is rare, and means the results are ideally suited for the identification of continuity and change within the landscape. The rise and fall of settlements and the subtle intimate changes which occur through use are identifiable. So also are changes in ceremonial practice as generations of inhabitants adopt and in turn reject differing religious views and practices. This natural flow of events can be examined outside the strait-jacket of conventional chronological periods, which allows change to be not merely chronicled, but explained afresh.

The presence of peat deposits within the site adds to the potential of the excavated evidence, and though the deposits may have been truncated there is good potential for new information on climate and vegetation within the earlier prehistoric periods.

The Mesolithic evidence is slight but the small number of sites from Anglesey and north-west Wales in general makes this small assemblage of regional importance. The rectangular early Neolithic building is of national and international importance, especially considering its relationship to the chambered tomb and to other Early Neolithic activity on the site. The phase of activity immediately post-dating the main use of the building is also unusual and of considerable significance. Artefact and ecofact studies in the building and at the other contemporary sites will contribute considerably to the study of this period and site type, while the cannel-coal bead from a pit adjacent to the building raises the possibility of a continued importance of this location in the landscape. The excavation of the building provides an outstanding opportunity to investigate a rare and important site type and contribute significantly to the understanding of these features as a class.

The continued activity across the site into the mid and later Neolithic is of regional importance as it fits into ongoing studies on pits and settlement in this period in North Wales. It has the potential to provide new pottery studies and radiocarbon dates to contribute to the understanding of Peterborough and Grooved Ware in this region.

The burnt mounds and earth ovens might suggest continuity of settlement into the Early Bronze Age. Settlement sites are rare from these periods, and if, as seems likely, this is because construction methods have failed to leave any archaeological trace, then it is the more ephemeral features like this which will provide the necessary

information to confirm the location of settlements. The presence of a thriving population in the Early Bronze Age is clearly demonstrated by the group of ceremonial sites in Area M. The multiple cists and related monuments, including the standing stone and larger barrow excavated in advance of the A55, are evidence of an extensive of national significance.

Later in the Bronze Age settlement may be represented at Parc Cybi by the timber roundhouse in area K1, a forerunner, perhaps, of the explosion in settlement sites which occurs in the Iron Age. The extent and variety of Iron Age settlement on the site means that this has a very high potential for studying all aspects of settlement development and use in this period. Dating is of particular importance but there is also potential for artefact studies, some evidence for agriculture, the function of different structures and of spatial division within buildings. The position of this extensive settlement activity within the physical and temporal landscape of the site makes even the smaller groups of features of much greater importance than if they had been found in isolation.

The impact of the Roman invasion of Anglesey in AD 60 and AD 78 is not easily identified through archaeological evidence. Nonetheless the evidence from Parc Cybi appears to suggest continuity of settlement but with a shift taking place in the pattern of settlement. One of the few readily identifiable results of the Roman conquest is the spread of Roman pottery, and it is its absence from the settlement in B2 and its presence in the adjoining structures to the north-east which identifies this change. A clearer understanding of these changes and their relationship with the trackways and fields which lie in the wider landscape will be of significance. Combined with the possible identification of the hearth for dyeing there is potential for contributing to research issues of national importance.

The presence of the Early Medieval cemetery, one of a number of comparable date on Holy Island, indicates the presence of a resident population, though settlement sites are rarely found. The apparent desertion of native settlement sites, the impact of the Roman troop withdrawal and increasing threat from Irish raiders, and the introduction of Christianity as the dominant religion are all research issues which can be explored at Parc Cybi.

Similarly, though no medieval settlement sites have been excavated, the presence of the corn driers, combined with the growth of post-medieval settlement, roads, field systems and land improvement all chart the events which gave rise to the landscape visible today, and new evidence from Parc Cybi has potential to throw light on research issues which have typically been explored through historical sources only, but for which archaeology can now offer fresh evidence and insights.

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Tables related to volume I

Table 1: List of sites within Parc Cybi as they are to be registered in the HER

PRN NGR (qualifier)	Site name Community Council	Importance	Period	Notes
2500	**Trefignath Burial Chamber**			
SH25868055	Trearddur	AA	Neolithic	
2501	**Ty Mawr standing stone**			
SH25398095	Holyhead Urban	AA	Bronze Age	
13925	**Field Boundaries, Ty Mawr**			
SH25508070 (C)	Holyhead Urban/Treaddur	D	Post Medieval	Excavation revealed some of the 18th and 19th century field boundary ditches as shown on the historic maps.
13927	**Well, Ty Mawr**			
SH25268091	Holyhead Urban	D	Post Medieval	Well with steps leading down to water level. Fed by a culvert and constructed in the late 19th century.
13928	**Bonc Deg (site of)**			
SH25558087	Trearddur	C	Post Medieval	The farm of Bonc Dêg first appears on the 1817 map. On the 1853 tithe map it is called Penbonc-deg, and Bonc-deg or Bonc Dêg on later maps. The layout of fields around Bonc Dêg was the same in 1817 as it was in 1889, and some of the fields remained largely unchanged until at least 1969. The small fields apparently used for a market garden in the 20th century according to a local man whose grandfather owned the farm.
13929	**Trefignath (site of)**			
SH25928068	Trearddur	C	Post Medieval	The name of the farm has been very variable, including Trefignerth (1624), Trefignedd (1769) and Trefignant (1817). The forms show no logical development, and 1624 is the earliest known reference (Smith 1987). The 1769 map shows two small buildings to the north of the modern farm, which were in a field called Trefignedd, part of the Pen-y-Lone land. By 1817 there was a building, named as Trefignath, in the same location as the recent farm, but the two buildings to the north were still in use. The situation was the same in 1845 and 1853, but by 1887 the whole farm had moved to the southern location. Excavation to the west of the site of the early farm revealed gullies and pits probably related to it.
14588	**Pen y Lon (site of)**			
SH25588080 (C)	Trearddur	C	Post Medieval	Site of the cottage and yard of Pen y Lon. Excavation revealed various pits, one containing a polished stone axe. The boundaries defining the yard, paddock and adjacent field could be identified on the ground.
14599	**Parc Cybi stone roundhouse settlement**			
SH25568078 (C)	Trearddur	AA	Iron Age	Settlement with three stone-built roundhouses and a timber roundhouse as well as numerous ancillary buildings, a wall running through the settlement and a possible enclosing wall and ditch. A possible Roman period industrial structure lies to the north of the settlement. Fully excavated.

PRN NGR (qualifier)	Site name Community Council	Importance	Period	Notes
18402	**Enclosure and Structure, Ty Mawr**			
SH25258112	Holyhead Urban	D	Post Medieval	During excavation a corner of the walled enclosure was identified but no remains of the buildings were found.
18403	**Tyddyn Pioden (site of)**			
SH25348082	Holyhead Urban	C	Post Medieval	The modern house of this name is at SH 2510 8092, but the earlier maps (1769 and 1817) show that it was originally further east. The farm had moved to London Road by 1845. The earliest spelling on the maps is Tyddyn y Pregodyn, it is called Tyddyn y Biodan on the tithe map and Tyddyn Piodan on the 1817 estate map. The excavation revealed part of a cob-walled house, the farmyard boundaries and associated features, as well as earlier features including possibly early smithing activity.
18406	**Parc Cybi Early Neolithic activity**			
SH25318077	Holyhead Urban	A	Neolithic	An area of activity in a natural hollow, consisting of pits, post and stakeholes and hearths associated with a patch of buried soil. Numerous pot sherds and flint flakes were recovered from the buried soil and the features. Most of the pottery was Early Neolithic but one or two sherds might be Beaker.
31570	**Parc Cybi Neolithic rectangular timber building**			
SH25748053	Trearddur	AA	Neolithic	The building was orientated WSW-ESE and measured approximately 15.2m long and 6m wide. Two parallel rows of five posts, arranged symmetrically about the long axis of the building, formed a central aisle. A slightly more irregularly pattern of posts and plank slots formed the side and end walls of the building. The structure appears to have been subdivided internally into three separate compartments, a tripartite division of space that is encountered on some of the larger rectangular Neolithic buildings in Britain and Ireland. The long axis of the structure was aligned on the Trefignath Neolithic chambered tomb which stands approximately 100m to the NNE and is visible from it through a narrow cleft in the rock outcrop.
31571	**Parc Cybi Early Neolithic activity**			
SH25228107 (C)	Holyhead Urban	A	Neolithic	Scattered group of pits and some possible postholes of uncertain date, but some contained occasional sherds of Early Neolithic pottery. Some BA pottery was also present, and these features were spread between a group of Bronze Age monuments.
31572	**Parc Cybi Neolithic pit group**			
SH25698062	Trearddur	B	Neolithic	A group of 9 pits containing Fengate pottery and other artefacts including a stone macehead. There were other more widely dispersed, probably contemporary, pits in this area as well.
31573	**Parc Cybi Neolithic pit group**			
SH25678078	Trearddur	B	Neolithic	A group of 7 pits containing large sherds of Peterborough Ware and other finds.
31574	**Parc Cybi Neolithic pit group**			
SH25268087	Holyhead Urban	B	Neolithic	Three pits and a hearth, one pit containing Fengate Ware sherds.
31575	**Parc Cybi pit group**			

PRN NGR (qualifier)	Site name Community Council	Importance	Period	Notes
SH25448037	Trearddur	U	Prehistoric?	A group of four pits. As these contained no finds or charcoal they cannot be dated. They were located on high ground at the foot of a rocky outcrop.
31576	**Parc Cybi prehistoric structure**			
SH25758070	Trearddur	B	Prehistoric	Group of postholes probably forming a small structure but the plan of this was not clear. Two chert flakes were recovered but no other finds. A sherd of possible Food Vessel or Peterborough Ware was found nearby.
31577	**Parc Cybi prehistoric activity**			
SH25788071 (C)	Trearddur	B	Prehistoric	Scattered group of pits and postholes. Includes possibly two four post structures, and a pit containing Grooved Ware. Possibly a mixture of features from different periods of activity.
31578	**Parc Cybi prehistoric activity**			
SH25788073 (C)	Trearddur	B	Prehistoric	Postholes forming some kind of small structure with pits around it. Some flint and prehistoric pot from the pits.
31579	**Parc Cybi prehistoric activity**			
SH25818072 (C)	Trearddur	B	Prehistoric	Group of features including a 6 post structure with some flints but few other diagnostic finds. Possibly part of an Iron Age settlement with some earlier activity mixed in.
31580	**Parc Cybi prehistoric activity**			
SH25798075 (C)	Trearddur	B	Prehistoric	Dispersed and vague collection of pits and less convincing features. One pit contained Bronze Age pottery.
31581	**Parc Cybi prehistoric activity**			
SH25738074	Trearddur	B	Prehistoric	A group of 25 features including many small stakeholes but some well defined postholes and some larger pits. The only finds were 2 flint flakes. The features appear to be the remains of a small structure, although its plan cannot be clearly defined.
31582	**Parc Cybi large burnt mound**			
SH25348075	Holyhead Urban	B	Bronze Age	Large burnt mound with three pits; two water troughs and a possible dry cooking pit. Also a very large pit that may have functioned as a well.
31583	**Parc Cybi small burnt mound**			
SH25308075	Holyhead Urban	B	Neolithic?	Small burnt mound with a small trough or pit. A large bifacial leaf-shaped flint arrowhead was found under the mound.
31584	**Parc Cybi earth oven**			
SH25288080	Holyhead Urban	B	Prehistoric	This pit [31436] was oval in plan and measured 1.2m by 0.9m and survived to a depth of 0.25m. It contained two fills, a lower fill (31435) composed almost entirely of charcoal and charcoal dust within a fine silt, and an upper fill (31434) which was of a similar material and contained a high proportion of burnt and fire-cracked stone. It is unclear if this feature was a separate earth oven or possibly associated with a burnt mound that lies outside of the excavation area.
31585	**Parc Cybi earth ovens**			
SH25298085 (C)	Holyhead Urban	B	Prehistoric	Two pits [31306] and [31513], oval in plan with steep sides and concave bases. Pit [31513] was the larger of the two pits and measured 1.0m by 0.97m and 0.25m in depth. It contained two fills, the lower one very rich

PRN NGR (qualifier)	Site name Community Council	Importance	Period	Notes
				in charcoal. The second pit [31306] measured 0.95m by 0.7m and survived to a depth of 0.25m. The pit contained two charcoal-rich layers with burnt stones. A rim sherd and some flint and chert flakes were recovered from the fill of this pit. The pottery is not very diagnostic. Might best be
31586	**Parc Cybi earth oven or burnt mound trough**			
SH25168110	Holyhead Urban	B	Prehistoric	A sub-circular medium sized pit (07023), which contained concentrated charcoal and fire cracked stones. This resembled small burnt mound pits but there was no trace of a mound or other features in the area.
31587	**Parc Cybi pits with burnt stone**			
SH25458094	Holyhead Urban	U	Prehistoric	About 54m south-east of the standing stone were two sub-rectangular pits (03078 and 03082), the latter cutting through the fill of the former. Pit 03078 contained a layer of charcoal and was sealed by a dump of redeposited clay. Pit 03082 also contained a charcoal-rich layer but also contained burnt stones, which resembled the deposits found in burnt mound troughs. However no trace of a burnt mound was seen in the area or noticed mixed in the ploughsoil during stripping. Apart from a possible hammerstone (sf5704) no finds were recovered from the two pits. About 6m to the north-west of these pits was the terminal of a small stone-filled ditch (03086). This had a substantial posthole (03094) in its end. The ditch ran into the western baulk and to the east no sign of any continuation was seen within areas L5 or L4, making it impossible to determine whether the ditch was curving or straight. No finds were recovered from this feature.
31588	**Parc Cybi timber roundhouse**			
SH25668080	Trearddur	B	Bronze Age?	Heavily truncated postholes defining a timber roundhouse, with an inner post-ring measuring 5.4m in diameter and an outer wall of c.11m diameter. No finds or dating evidence directly associated with the roundhouse but pits containing sherds of Bronze Age cordoned urns were located nearby.
31589	**Parc Cybi short cist cemetery**			
SH25218108	Holyhead Urban	AA	Bronze Age	A group of eight short cist graves contained within a circular area c. 10m in diameter and possibly originally under a barrow. There were 3 small cists and 5 larger ones. Two of the large cists contained pots, one Food Vessel and one Beaker but there were few other finds and no surviving human remains.
31590	**Parc Cybi ring ditch**			
SH25238105	Holyhead Urban	A	Bronze Age	A ring-ditch with a maximum external diameter of approximately 12m enclosing a level, sub-circular area about 9m in diameter. The ditch was up to 0.4m deep. There were no burials inside the ring ditch and no finds were recovered. The infilled ditch was recut probably in the 19th century to form a drain around the remains of the barrow to reuse it as a hayrick or similar.
31591	**Parc Cybi deep-ditched enclosure**			
SH25218106	Holyhead Urban	AA	Bronze Age?	Deep ditches formed an enclosure with an irregular ‘figure of 8’ shape with two separate areas. The whole enclosure measured about 11.5m by 7.2m, with ditches up to 1m in depth and generally around 1.4-1.6 m wide. The monument began as a circular enclosure, which was partially infilled and then extended. There were some small pits in and around it but these were not necessarily associated. The ditch was partially infilled with erosion from a probable external bank and partially by material including large slabs and pottery being pushed in from inside. The pottery was mainly Bronze Age but there was one sherd of

PRN NGR (qualifier)	Site name Community Council	Importance	Period	Notes
				Malvernian ware, so the date of the monument is not certain; neither is its function.
31592	**Parc Cybi group of pits with charcoal-rich fills**			
SH25518084	Holyhead Urban	B	Bronze Age?	A group of small sub-circular pits (group 25046) on top of a low knoll. There were 21 pits, on average 0.5m in diameter, and between 0.06m and 0.3m in depth. Most had charcoal-rich fills. Many of the pits had traces of in situ burning, where the edges of the pits were heat altered to give orange, pink and red colours to the natural silts. Pit 5026 seemed in addition to have a lining of orange burnt clay. Pit 4011 produced 2.14kg of burnt stone and 11019 also contained some burnt stone. One Bronze Age sherd
31593	**Parc Cybi sub-circular structure**			
SH25508085	Holyhead Urban	B	Iron Age?	A rather irregular roughly oval hollow (22171) measuring about 7m by 6m with postholes around the edge and a hearth in the middle. Finds were not very diagnostic but a spindle whorl found nearby hints at an Iron Age date.
31594	**Parc Cybi early field boundaries**			
SH25638073 (C)	Trearddur	A	Iron Age?	A ditch (90325) running from near the roundhouse settlement joins an enclosure with a curved north end. No dating evidence was available but it is possible that these ditches formed boundaries to fields associated with the settlement or related to the Roman field system to the north.
31595	**Parc Cybi clay-walled roundhouses**			
SH25688087	Trearddur	A	Iron Age	Two roundhouses, probably originally with clay-walls. One had a ?-shaped internal drain and the other had numerous complex covered drains, and had probably burnt down. The number of finds were small but consistent with an Iron Age date.
31596	**Parc Cybi Roman period building complex**			
SH25668076 (C)	Trearddur	A	Roman	A square stone building and a clay-walled roundhouse with numerous post-built structures between them. A trackway runs through the middle of the complex. Pottery indicates a 3rd to 4th Century AD date with some 2nd century activity. The clay-walled building contained industrial activity possibly including dyeing.
31597	**Parc Cybi trackway and possible field system**			
SH25668076	Trearddur	A	Roman	Linear feature from SH25668076 to SH25928070. A trackway starting as a terrace through a building complex and curving east with stone banks on either side preserved in places. The north side had one or more ditches and there were traces of metalled surface. Ditches that ran from the trackway probably represent a contemporary field system. Occasional finds of Roman pottery along the trackway indicate a Roman date but the track is best dated by its relationship to the Roman period building complex
31598	**Parc Cybi pit complex**			
SH25728065	Trearddur	U	Roman?	A group of pits (group 19073) focused around a rather irregular elongated hollow (18085 and 22015), with a burnt clay and stone slab lining. There were several pits and postholes, some of the pits had stacks of stone slabs in their bases. No clear structure was defined and no finds were recovered with the exception of a samian ware sherd located nearby.

PRN NGR (qualifier)	Site name Community Council	Importance	Period	Notes
31599	**Parc Cybi hearth and mortar**			
SH25728064	Trearddur	U	Roman?	A disturbed clay hearth (22001/22003) with an adjacent posthole (21039). The hearth contained a large broken stone mortar (sf1036). A grinding stone (sf 1039) came from djacent to the hearth and a spindlewhorl (sf1042) came from the base of the posthole. These items could easily be Iron Age, although they would not be out of place in the local culture of the Roman period
31600	**Parc Cybi long cist cemetery**			
SH25648084	Trearddur	A	Early Medieval	A cemetery containing twenty three graves on top of a small rounded hill. The graves were mainly stone long cists but some seemed to have been partial or complete wooden cist graves. Both adult and child graves were present and it seems to have been a small family cemetery
31601	**Parc Cybi corn drier**			
SH25648083	Trearddur	C	Medieval?	Corn drier [80056] formed of two linked pits gave the impression of being two circular pits, one the fire chamber and one the drying pit. It seems to have had a stone lining but the stones were disturbed.
31602	**Parc Cybi corn drier**			
SH25668085	Trearddur	C	Medieval?	Possible corn drier with oval shaped pit (80137), and 'C' shaped stone structure.
31603	**Parc Cybi corn drier**			
SH25678082	Trearddur	C	Medieval?	A figure-of-eight shaped corn drier [21051].
31604	**Parc Cybi corn drier**			
SH25668067	Trearddur	C	Medieval?	Dumb-bell shaped corn drier, feature 21229.
31605	**Tyddyn Pioden (site of)**			
SH25108078 (A)	Holyhead Urban	C	Post Medieval	Early 19th century location of Tyddyn Pioden as shown on 1845 tithe map.
31606	**Trefignath (site of)**			
SH25798066	Trearddur	C	Post Medieval	Site of Trefignath Farm demolished in the 1970s. Some features remained until work related to the creation of Parc Cybi. Traces of the house were excavated and upstanding walls of outbuildings were recorded.
31607	**Merddyn Poeth (site of)**			
SH25088102	Holyhead Urban	C	Post Medieval	In 1768 the land was owned by a Mrs Morris and as it was not part of the Penrhos Estate the farmhouse is not shown on the map. The property is shown as an odd T-shape running between Tyddyn Pioden lands. However the house was shown on the 1817 map in roughly same position as the modern building. The field layout was also similar to recent times. The buildings were demolished in 2006 and the remains were examined as part of the Parc Cybi project, but no early structures were found under the stone, brick and concrete foundations of the recent house.
31608	**Parc Cybi, pre-map evidence field systems**			
SH25658087 (C)	Trearddur	C	Post Medieval	Several ditches and a fragment of wall forming part of a field system around a low rounded hillock. Not shown on the historical maps, so presumably earlier than late 18th century. One sherd of late 17th or 18th century pottery found but very little other dating evidence. Possible traces of enclosed medieval strips in the field boundaries.

PRN NGR (qualifier)	Site name Community Council	Importance	Period	Notes
31609	**Parc Cybi, pre-map evidence field systems**			
SH25418073 (C)	Trearddur	C	Post Medieval	Ditches around and over a low hillock defining fields not shown on the historical maps, so presumably earlier than late 18th century. Only later post medieval finds recovered but these do not necessarily date the ditches.
31610	**Parc Cybi, pre-map evidence field systems**			
SH25818044 (C)	Trearddur	C	Post Medieval	Paired ditches forming the boundaries to fields not shown on the historical maps, so presumably earlier than late 18th century. Only later post medieval finds recovered but these do not necessarily date the ditches.
31611	**Parc Cybi, pre-map evidence field systems**			
SH25248084 (C)	Holyhead Urban	C	Post Medieval	Excavated ditches defined a narrow field, shown on the 1769 map and is marked as owned by the Owens. The ditches continued further north-east than shown on the map, with a slight hint in the map boundaries and in a ditch (05037) in area B1 on the same alignment that it might have continued much further.These ditches defined a long narrow field that may have been a group of strips.
31612	**Parc Cybi, culvert**			
SH25578082 (L)	Trearddur	D	Post Medieval	Linear feature running from SH 25568 80815 to SH 25499 80737. Stone-lined culvert (90522) running towards the marsh from an area of activity in the corner of the Bonc Deg property. Pre-dates probable 18th century activity, but not otherwise dated.
31613	**Parc Cybi, large culvert**			
SH25578074 (L)	Trearddur	D	Post Medieval	Linear feature running from SH 25574 80735 to SH 25643 80919. Well-built stone culvert in the base of a deep cut, which still had running water when it was investigated in 2007. Constructed with large capstones and drystone sides. Probably built in the mid 19th century.
31614	**Well, Parc Cybi**			
SH25598084	Trearddur	D	Post Medieval	Well with steps leading down to water level. Fed by culvert and probably constructed in the late 19th century.
31615	**Well near Merddyn Poeth**			
SH25138105	Holyhead Urban	D	Post Medieval	Well with steps leading down to water level. Fed by land drains and constructed in the late 19th century.
31616	**Parc Cybi, pollen core**			
SH25588072	Trearddur	B		Core taken for pollen analysis and other cores taken to study the depth and nature of the peat deposits.
31617	**Parc Cybi, pollen core**			
SH25728083	Trearddur	B		Core taken for pollen analysis and other cores taken to study the depth and nature of the peat deposits.
31618	**Small ditched enclosures, Parc Cybi**			
SH25298072	Holyhead Urban	D	Post Medieval	In area E on the southern slope of the gravel ridge, leading down to marshy land were two small enclosures. Feature 31579 was roughly sub-rectangular and aligned nearly east-west along the contours. Feature 31529

PRN NGR (qualifier)	Site name Community Council	Importance	Period	Notes
				was nearly oval in plan and aligned north-east to south-west across the contours. Neither was terraced into the slope. Feature 31579 enclosed an area measuring 5.5m by 3.4m and was open at each narrow end, whereas feature 31529 measured 3.9m by 2.2m internally and had no gap in the surrounding gully. The fill of 31579 contained very occasional charcoal fragments, but no finds, however a hollow cut into the terminus of its southern gully contained 19th and 20th century pottery. Enclosure (31529) produced no finds, and neither feature had evidence of postholes or any structural use of the gullies. These are interpreted as hayrick gullies or peat drying areas.
31619	**Small enclosure, Parc Cybi**			
SH25628085	Trearddur	D	Post Medieval	In area K7 a C-shaped gully (80162), forming an arc approximately 11.8m diameter, about 10m internally, cut through one of the pre-map field system ditches (80169). The gully was 0.40m deep and no artefacts were recovered from its fill. This may be some sort of livestock enclosure.
31620	**Small enclosure, Parc Cybi**			
SH25288094	Holyhead Urban	D	Post Medieval	In area D3 was a narrow, shallow gully (60186,) defining a sub-rectangular enclosure measuring 6.5m by 5.3m externally. It contained coal fragments within its fill. Possibly a hayrick gully.
31621	**Small enclosure, Parc Cybi**			
SH25308089	Holyhead Urban	D	Post Medieval	In area D3 was a C-shaped enclosure (60079) measuring 5.2m by 3.5m, possibly originally oval. It contained coal fragments within its fill. Possibly a hayrick gully.
31622	**Ditched enclosure**			
SH25188091	Holyhead Urban	D	Post Medieval	In the western corner of area D3 was a ditched enclosure measuring approximately 20m by 10m. The ditch (60204/60221) was up to 0.25m deep and defined three sides of a rectangle. The fourth side may have been formed by a narrow, shallow gully (60219), but this was on a slightly different orientation to the rest of the enclosure and may have been an unrelated drain. No finds were recovered from the fill of the ditches apart from a fragment of modern drain pipe from the north east segment. Probably post medieval and possibly a livestock enclosure.
31623	**Circular drain recutting barrow ditch, Parc Cybi**			
SH25238105	Holyhead Urban	D	Post Medieval	Narrow steep-sided stone-filled gully recut around the ring ditch in area M, forming a drain around a raised platform created from the remains of the barrow. Possibly used for the storage of hay.
31624	**Quarry pits, Parc Cybi**			
SH25308092	Holyhead Urban	D	Post Medieval	In area D3 numerous pits were dug in the corner of a field used from the 18th century onwards (PRN 31623). These were dug into boulder clay and may have been quarry pits. They could have been related to the construction or repair of the Tyddyn Pioden house, which appears to have been largely a cob building.
31625	**Possible gravel quarry, Parc Cybi**			
SH25258103	Holyhead Urban	D	Post Medieval	Within area M was a large, roughly oval hollow (19053, PRN 31625) measuring about 42m by 26m and up to 1.5m deep in the middle. This had gradually sloping sides and a relatively flat base. The fill was similar to the ploughsoil but contained numerous glass bottles and other rubbish. The area appears enclosed, possibly by a wall on the 1817 estate map, but the enclosure had gone by the First Edition OS map was surveyed. The

PRN NGR (qualifier)	Site name Community Council	Importance	Period	Notes
				lack of waterborne silts suggests that it was not a pond so the most likely explanation is that it was a gravel quarry. The enclosure of this feature in the early 19th century probably indicates that it was in use then and the wall was to prevent animals falling into the quarry.
31626	**Three pits, Parc Cybi**			
SH25318086	Holyhead Urban	D	Post Medieval	In area E a group of three outlying pits (31356, 31359, 31364) were located approximately 32m to the north-west of the Tyddyn Pioden farmstead. These features (PRN 31626) are as yet undated but they have been provisionally assigned to the post medieval period. The features were rectangular in plan with rounded ends ranging between 2.6m and 3.0m in length and 1.1m and 1.2m in width. They survived to depths ranging from 0.4m to 0.6m. They were most similar to the two pits in the northern part of area B2, also attributed to a post medieval date and possibly associated with culvert 90522.
31627	**Mesolithic flints, Parc Cybi**			
SH25318086	Trearddur	D	Post Medieval	In area E a group of three outlying pits (31356, 31359, 31364) were located approximately 32m to the north-west of the Tyddyn Pioden farmstead. These features (PRN 31626) are as yet undated but they have been provisionally assigned to the post medieval period. The features were rectangular in plan with rounded ends ranging between 2.6m and 3.0m in length and 1.1m and 1.2m in width. They survived to depths ranging from 0.4m to 0.6m. They were most similar to the two pits in the northern part of area B2, also attributed to a post medieval date and possibly associated with culvert 90522.

Table 2: Neolithic features from the hollow in area E, listing the finds and quantities of charcoal in their fills

Cut or layer number	Fills	Description	Finds	Charcoal
31005	N/A	Burnt deposit – possible hearth	4546 – struck flint	None recorded
31006	N/A	Burnt deposit – possible hearth	None	None recorded
31007	N/A	Burnt deposit – possible hearth	None	None recorded
31010	31011 31012 31013 31014	Possible fire pit	861 – chert fragment 4565 – pot fragment 4561 – burnt flint	One charcoal-rich layer
31016	31004	Possible posthole	None	Charcoal flecking
31023	31022	Oval pit	None	Frequent charcoal
31026	31027	small shallow pit	None	Occ flecks
31028	31029	small shallow pit	None	Occ flecks
31030	31019	Possible stakehole	None	Moderate flecks and smears
31031	31032	Stakehole	4383 – worked stone debitage	Moderate flecks
31033	31034	Stakehole/post hole	None	Occ flecks
31035	31036	Posthole	4378 – flint debitage	Moderate flecks
31037	31038	Stakehole	None	Moderate flecks
31039	31040	Stakehole	851 – pottery 4387 – pottery (beaker?) 6357 - slag	Charcoal flecks
31043	31042	Possible stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31045	31044	Possible stakehole	None	Charcoal rich
31047	31046	Possible stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31049	31048	Stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31051	31050	Stakehole	None	Moderate-frequent flecks
31053	31052	Stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31055	31054	Possible stakehole	4415 – flint chip	Occ frags
31057	31056	Stakehole	None	Occ frags
31059	31058	Stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31061	31060	Stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31063	31062	Stakehole	None	Moderate flecks + frags
31065	31064	Stakehole	4418 – small flake of burnt flint	Occ flecks
31067	31066	Stakehole	None	Occ frags
31069	31068	Stakehole	None	Occ frags
31071	31070	Stakehole	None	Occ flecks + pieces
31073	31072	Stakehole	None	Frequent flecks
31075	31074	Stakehole	None	Frequent flecks

31076	31077	Shallow pit	None	None recorded
31078	31079	Small pit/ posthole	None	None recorded
31080	31081	Stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31082	31024	Shallow pit or hollow	Pottery Sherds: 872, 873, 883, 905, 906, 907, 908, 4555, 4559,5447,5471,5508 5529,6337 5471 – struck chert 5508 – struck stone pos retouch 5529 – flint chip 6337 – broken fishing weight	Moderate flecks
31083	31084	Stakehole	None	None recorded
31085	31086	Stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31088	31087	Stakehole	None	Frequent charcoal
31090	31089	Sub-rectangular posthole	None	Occ charcoal
31093	31092	Stakehole	4414 – flint thumbnail scraper 4422 – struck stone debitage	Moderate charcoal
31094	31095	Stakehole	None	Frequent flecks
31096	31097	Stakehole	5507 – pottery fragments	Frequent flecks
31099	31098	Possible stakehole – very shallow	None	Occ flecks
31101	31100	Square pit	None	Moderate flecks
31103	31102	Small tapering pit cut	None	Moderate flecks
31105	31104	Small pit/post hole	913 – flint blade	Occ charcoal
31107	31106	Stakehole	None	Moderate charcoal
31109	31108	Stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31112	31111	Truncated stakehole	None	Moderate flecks
31122	31121 31120	possible posthole	None	Frequent flecks
31127	31126	Stakehole	None	Moderate charcoal
31128	31131	Stakehole	None	Occ charcoal
31129	31132	Stakehole	None	Occ charcoal
31130	31133	Stakehole	None	Occ charcoal
31134	31135	Pit/ posthole	None	Occ charcoal
31136	31137	Small pit/ posthole	None	Occ charcoal
31138	31139 31140	Pit	None	Frequent to moderate charcoal
31142	31141	Shallow stakehole	None	Moderate charcoal
31144	31143	Circular posthole	5476 – possible struck stone	Moderate charcoal
31147	31148	Pit	4548 – pottery fragment	One charcoal-

	31149 31151		5470 – struck chert	rich layer
31191	31192	Small pit/ posthole	None	None recorded
31193	31194	Possible posthole	None	Occ charcoal
31196	31271	Stakehole	None	Occ charcoal
31197	31198	Posthole	None	Occ charcoal
31199	31200	Stakehole	None	None recorded
31201	-	Patch of relict soil layer	934 – pottery fragments	Occ charcoal
31212	31208	Small pit	None	Charcoal rich
31215	-	Alluvial deposit	940 – pottery 941 – Struck flint pebble 942 – flint flake frag 943 - flint	Occ charcoal
31216	-	Clay and charcoal flecks	None	Frequent charcoal
31273	31272	Stakehole	None	Occ small flecks
31278	-	Alluvial deposit	945 – flint pieces 4558 – struck flint flake	Occ charcoal
31280	31279	Silted up stone hole	None	Occ flecks
31282	31281	Stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31296	31297 31298	Possible stakehole	None	Charcoal flecks
31308	31309	Stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31358	31357	Stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31402	31401	Possible small pit/ posthole but described as hmm	5473 – pottery fragment	Charcoal flecks
31404	31405	Stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31503	31502	Evaluation trench	None	-
31506	31505	Evaluation trench	None	-
31508	31507	Evaluation trench	None	-
31509	31510	small pit or hollow	4560 – flint thumbnail scraper 990 – flint lump 5417 – 3x slag frags? 5429 – pot frag	Charcoal-rich with flecks and lumps
31514	31515	stakehole/ small posthole	None	Freq flecks
31527	N/A	Probable root action	N/A	N/A
31595	31596, 31602, 31607	pit	Pottery Sherds 5386,4554,4562,5371 4542,5209,5477 4549 – flint 4556 – flint debitage and burnt flint 4557 – struck chert flake 4541 – flint flakes 4543 – rock crystal 5833 – flint and burnt flint flakes 5210 – struck flints 5419 – burnt flint flake 5426 – baked clay 5444 – flint flakes 5494 – flint debitage inc burnt flint	

			5906 – rock crystal 2179 – flint 5446 – pottery fragment 5448 – flint debitage 5372 – struck flint	
31600	31601	possible stakehole	None	None recorded
31605	31606	small circular pit	5488 – flint chip and debatage 5489 – pottery frag	Occasional flecks
31608	31609	possible small pit or hollow	5365 – pottery fragments 5485 – pottery fragments x10	Frequent flecks
31610	31611	posthole	None	Frequent flecks
31612	31613 31614	possible shallow pit or hollow	None	Moderate flecks
31615	31616	possible small pit or hollow	None	None recorded
31617	31618	stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31619	31620	stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31621	31622	possible pit or hollow	5377 – flint core 5378 – pottery frags	Occ flecks
31623	31624	possible shallow pit or hollow	5384 – flint core and retouch 5385 – pottery frags	Dark charcoal patches, occ frags
31625	31626	small posthole	None	Frequent flecks
31627	31628	posthole	5366 – struck flint	Frequent flecks
31629	31630	posthole	5368 – struck flint 5373 – flint blade	Moderate flecks
31631	31632	posthole	5367 – struck flint blade and flake 5487 – slag?	Moderate flecks
31633	31633 31634	Tree root hollow	None	Occ flecks
31636	3167	small posthole	None	Occ flecks
31638	31639	small posthole	None	Occ flecks
31640	31641	stakehole and possible re-cut	5374 – flint tool and struck flint	Moderate flecks
31642	31643	posthole	None	Moderate flecks
31644	31645	posthole	None	Frequent flecks
31646	31647	posthole	None	Occ flecks
31652	31650 31651	Short linear feature unclear if real feature or tree-throw	5369 – struck chert 5370 – pottery frags 5434 – possible stone flake	Moderate flecks
31655	31656	stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31666	31663 31664 31665	pit	5380 – flint 5255 – pottery frags 5379 – flint core and flake	Occ and Mod flecks
31668	31667	Irregular root hollow	5382 – pos flint scraper 5383 – pottery sherds inc rim	None recorded
31670	31669	Animal burrow	None	None recorded
31671	31672	shallow stakehole	5345 – flint flake	Frequent flecks

Table 3: Finds from pits in areas I and Ia

Area	Cut No	Fill No	Find No	Description
Ia	18063	18064	3011	worked flint
			3012	pottery with large inclusions. 5 sherds plus fragments.
			3058	Decorated pottery sherds, probably Fengate vessel
			3071	Possible worked stone
			3080	Pottery fragments
			4117	Pot fragments
			4118	Flint debitage
			4124	Pot fragments
			4221	Flint flakes
			5584	flints
Ia	18065	18066	113	Rim sherd; Fengate Ware
			114	Rim sherd; Fengate Ware, decorated
Ia	21210	21211	1082	Decorated pottery sherds including one rim; Fengate Ware.
			1322	burnt bone frags
Ia	21212	21213	1139	crumbly sherds, possible late neolithic/early bronze age
			1236	flint debitage
			1503	flint flake
			1504	pot frags?
		21214	1138	very crumbly pot sherd, probably late neolithic/early bronze age
			1232	prehistoric pot frags
			1233	worked stone?
Ia	21215	21216	1145	stone mace head
			1229	worked flint
			1729	Flint chips
			5668	one piece of flake hammerscale and one slag fragment
Ia	21217	21218	1234	flint debitage
			1374	burnt bone fragments
			1451	pot frag
Ia	21219	21220	1149	prehistoric body sherd
			1587	coal fragments
		21224	1443	pot frags
			1447	worked stone
			1588	worked stone
			1589	clinker
			1590	pot crumb?
			5674	two hammer scale spheroids
Ia	21221	21222	1151	Fengate ware: body sherds with grooved decoration
			1162	Fengate ware: very friable chunky pottery, part of a base
			1163	oxidised and reduced pot sherds with coarse inclusions
			1164	light grey coloured flint blade with retouching and debitage. 36mm by 18mm at widest points.
			1165	Possible chert hollow scraper
			1170	very fragile coarse pot sherds

Area	Cut No	Fill No	Find No	Description
			1171	flint debitage with cortex
			1404	chert flake
			1405	Pot sherds: part of Fengate collar
			1565	flint flakes: one piece possibly a frag of a chisel arrowhead
			1566	Chert fragments and a possible axe fragment, with a polished facette
			1567	pot frags
			1593	flint debitage
			1594	burnt flint frag
			1595	pot fragments
			1618	pot fragments, 2 pieces probably same as SF1151
			1619	chert flake frags
			1620	Flint frags and small scalar/bipolar core
			1638	Burnt bone fragments
			1759	Flint flake chips
			1954	Pot sherds
			2012	worked flint
			2027	Pot sherds
			4116	Pot fragments
			4180	Flint debitage
			4181	small pot fragment
			4396	Struck flint
			5692	possible tiny slag fragment
			5989	1x flint flake
		21223	1150	oxidized and reduced crumbly sherd, probably late neolithic/early bronze age
			1172	symmetrical oval hammerstone
Ia	25054	25053	1152	abraided chert debitage
			1167	rim sherd, probably Fengate Ware
			1168	coarse pot sherds
			1169	chert debitage x2
I	18059	18060	1216	flint debitage/ flake
			1237	quartz(1), flint(2), chert(8) debitage
			1238	burnt bone
			1239	bone frag
			1241	bone frags
			1242	worked flint and chert
			1243	glass frags
			1250	pot frag
			1324	flint
			1350	heated stone
			1352	heated stone
			1354	heated stone
			2172	flint blade?

Area	Cut No	Fill No	Find No	Description
			2178	flint flake
			2191	worked stone
			2196	worked stone
			2243	struck chert
I	19075	19076	1037	Decorated collar sherd: could belong to either a BA urn or a Fengate vessel
			1217	flint debitage
			1235	Scalar/bipolar core and four small flakes
			1334	burnt bone
			4136	Flint debitage
I	21037	21038	1306	burnt clay frags
			1033	oxidized and reduced naturally fired clay frags
			1035	flint chip/ debatage
			5752	poss. struck flint
			2169	flint worked
I	50112	50111	1215	Chert flakes
			1427	Flake from a pebble
			1435	flint chips
			1436	pot frags
			1439	daub?
			1535	pot/burnt clay frags
			1541	flint debitage
			6105	3x clear glass sherds sample 1125

Table 4: Features in area J group II

Context	Feature	Shape in plan	Sides	Base	Length (m)	Width (m)	Diameter (m)	Depth (m)	Fill numbers
70120	posthole						0.3	0.15	70121
70122	posthole						0.28	0.19	70123
70124	pit						0.34	0.15	70125
70156	posthole						0.3	0.15	70157
70168	posthole				0.6	0.4		0.34	70166,70167
70169	stakehole						0.2	0.16	70170
70173	pit				0.7	0.64		0.32	70171,70172
70188	posthole						0.3	0.24	70189
70190	stakeholes						Average 0.08	0.03	
70191	stakeholes						Average 0.06		
70192	stakeholes							0.05	
70199	pit	subcircular	shallow	concave	x	x	0.56	0.08	70200
70226	stakehole						0.2	0.15	70227
70228	posthole						0.19	0.14	70229
70230	stakeholes						0.06/0.07	0.06/0.04	

Context	Feature	Shape in plan	Sides	Base	Length (m)	Width (m)	Diameter (m)	Depth (m)	Fill numbers
70247	posthole						0.18	0.2	70248
70249	stakehole						0.1	0.16	70250
70348	posthole	circular	vertical	flat	0.66	0.54	x	0.24	70349,70350
70351	posthole	circular	steep	flat	0.55	0.5	x	0.29	70352
70462	pit/posthole	sub-circular	steep to N, very shallow to S	flat	0.4	0.35	x	0.05	70461
70467	posthole	oval	steep to E, sloping to W	uneven	0.5	0.35	x	0.17	70466,70468
70469	pit	sub-oval	shallow, slightly concave	uneven	0.9	0.35	x	0.1	70476
70480	posthole	sub-oval	concave		c.0.40	0.36		c.0.20	70479
70495	stonehole				0.59	0.44			70496
70498	tree hollow-burnt				0.80	0.79		0.10	70499
70503	pit	kidney-shaped	steep, concave	flat	1.36	0.77		0.22	70538,70530,70519,70502
70529	pit	oval	vertical becoming concave	flat	0.95	0.63		0.32	70536,70528,70531,70532,70533,70534,70535
70550	posthole	circular	vertical	flat	0.66	0.63	x	0.27	70551,70552
70555	posthole	circular	nearly vertical	flat	x	x	0.48	0.27	70556,70557
70558	posthole	subcircular	steep and straight	flat	0.33	0.29	x	0.24	70559,70560
70590	pit	sub-circular	very shallow	flat	0.68	0.45		0.02-0.08	70590
70598	pit/posthole	subcircular	slightly concave		0.3	0.22	x	0.1	70597
70604	posthole	subcircular	steep to SE, shallow to NW	flat	0.4	0.38	x	0.03-0.08	70603
70608	posthole	subcircular	slightly concave	flat	0.28	0.24	x	0.06	70607
70609	posthole	circular	concave	uneven	0.34	0.32	x	0.24	70610,70611
70612	pit/posthole	oval	slightly concave	tapered	0.5	0.36	x	0.28	70613
70627	posthole	circular	concave	flat	x	x	0.35	0.24	70628,70629
70635	posthole	oval	steep	uneven	0.42	0.2	x	0.2	70634
70637	posthole	oval	slightly concave	uneven	0.45	0.3	x	0.02-0.13	70636,70638
70642	pit	oval	shallow, concave		0.5	0.4	x	0.08	70641

Table 5: Finds from prehistoric features in area J

Cut number	Layer or fill number	Feature type	Probable date	Find No	Description
	70437	deposit	Prehistoric?	6447	possible clinker?
				6352	fragment of possible decorated pot
				6377	brown, worked flint
70037	70036	stakehole	Prehistoric	1781	Flint chip
70039	70038	stakehole	Prehistoric	1785	Flint flake
70054	70055	pit	Bronze Age	4030	Pottery fragments
				1703	2 prehistoric pot sherds, one a rim sherd, probably Bronze Age
				1841	chert flake

Cut number	Layer or fill number	Feature type	Probable date	Find No	Description
				1884	Worked chert
				1899	Pot sherd
				4029	Worked flint
70062	70061	posthole	Prehistoric	1834	chert debotage
70068	70067	posthole	Prehistoric	4054	Worked stone
70087	70088	posthole	Prehistoric	5802	flint debatage
	70089			5799	burnt clay
70092	70093	tree hollow-unburnt	Prehistoric?	1678	Broken whet stone
				1679	flint flakes retouched
				2200	broken whetstone
				1952	chert core frag
70124	70125	posthole	Prehistoric	5700	magnetic residue
70126	70127	linear feature	Bronze Age	1812	Pot sherd from wet sieving
				1890	Worked stone
				1997	struck flint
				4373	Worked flint
70128	70129	pit	Prehistoric	1898	Chert flake
				4513	Flint
				5800	pot fragments
				5798	hammerscale
				1926	Pot sherd
				4495	Pottery sherds
70138	70139	posthole	Prehistoric	5793	chert flake
70146	70053	pit	Prehistoric	1950	struck flint
				1862	Pot sherds
70150	70180	burnt patch	Unknown	1811	Flint flake
70173	70171	pit	Mid Neolithic	1965	
				1828	Flint
				5851	pot fragments
				1993	pot fragments
				1990	struck flint
				1868	Tiny fragment of burnt bone
				1856	Flint debitage
				1845	stone debitage
				1844	debitage
				5789	struck stone
				5788	flint debitage
				1824	Pot fragment
				1823	Polished stone axe flake, Graiglwydd?
				1821	Flint debitage
				1819	worked stone flake, chert chip, stone chip
				1815	Pot sherds
				1814	Various flint debitage, plus broken tool.
				4188	Flint debatage
				4189	Pot
				1825	Flint debitage
				5791	flint debatage
				2062	flint debitage
				2047	flint flakes
				1858	Stone debitage
				1853	Burnt flint and flint debitage
				5804	slag / metal work residue
				1829	worked flint
				1826	struck stone/chert?

Cut number	Layer or fill number	Feature type	Probable date	Find No	Description
				1968	decorated rim sherd
				1705	Decorated rim sherd
				5794	pot fragments
				5803	struck stone
70181	70182	pit	Prehistoric	5797	pot fragments
				4183	Flint
				3044	Stone flake
				3043	Possible pottery sherds
				3097	split pebble frag
				3095	Slag?
				1835	flint debotage
				5796	flint debatage
				3096	Flint debitage
				1869	Flint debitage
				1860	flint debitage
				1880	Flint debitage
				1953	Pot sherd
				1888	Pot sherds
				1909	Flint debitage
70202	70201	pit	Prehistoric	1838	chert flake
				1878	Pot sherd
70223	70222	Root hollow?	Prehistoric	1804	Chert flake
70226	70227	stakehole	Prehistoric	5795	flint debatage
				1883	Burnt clay
70268	70267	pit	Prehistoric?	4465	Burnt bone
				4468	Minute fragment of fuel ash slag
70294	70293	posthole	Prehistoric	4153	Chip of deep blue translucent glass, possibly Iron Age or Roman
				1941	worked flint - burnt
70297	70298	stakehole	Prehistoric	2011	burnt bone fragments
				5790	flint debatage
				5949	pot sherds
				1991	pot sherds
70303	70301	pit	Prehistoric	4049	Flint flakes
70332	70331	posthole	Prehistoric?	6035	2x knapped chert flakes
				6036	smooth water worn pebble
70422	70423	posthole	Prehistoric?	6440	possible pot
70428	70429	posthole	Prehistoric?	6446	struck chert
70452	70451	posthole	Prehistoric?	6379	brown flint flake
70480	70479	posthole	Prehistoric?	6404	prehistoric pot fragments and one possible Roman pot fragment
				6424	chert flake, worked?
				6380	prehistoric pot
70484	70483	posthole	Prehistoric?	6415	flint flake
70503	70502	pit	Prehistoric	6400	polished stone fragment
				6411	flint flakes
				6409	2 fragments of grit-tempered pot
				6423	possible struck chert
				6405	pot fragments
				6381	prehistoric pot
				6401	2 fragments flaked flint
				6403	chert flake
	70519			6422	possible struck chert
				6412	flint flake
	70530			6467	burnt clay/pot?
70513	70512	pit	Prehistoric?	6418	struck chert
70529	70528	pit	Prehistoric?	6390	several pieces prehistoric pot - including one flanged fragment

Cut number	Layer or fill number	Feature type	Probable date	Find No	Description
					and several decorated pieces
				6391	polishing stone?
				6388	chert flake
				6387	black worked flint
				6386	black flint flake
				6383	prehistoric pot - grit tempered
				6499	struck flint - possibly worked
	70531			6427	possible prehistoric? pot - grit-tempered
				6384	decorated pot fragment
				6389	large piece decorated prehistoric pot - rim sherd of large vessel with pinched deocoration inside rim
				6393	decorated sherds prehistoric pot
	70536			6394	degraded pot
				6498	burnt clay
				6406	prehistoric pot fragments
				6430	flint debitage
				6414	flint flakes
				6392	polished stone

Table 6: Outlying Features near Small Burnt Mound Area

Cut or layer number	Fills	Description	Finds	Charcoal
31002		Burnt Mound		Frequent
31020		heat affected layer underlying burnt mound, pos relict soil	leaf shaped arrow head	
31008	31009 31017 31091	circular pit – burnt mound trough	None	One charcoal-rich layer
31116	31117	large pit – noted that the fill is looser and different to other fills in the vicinity	None	Occ frags
31124	31125	probable stakehole located close to burnt mound 31002 and on the edge of pit [31008]	None	Charcoal flecks
31207	-	Light silt patch – evidence of insitu burning	None	Frequent flecks and occasional pieces
31217	31218	probable posthole	None	Occ flecks
31531	31530	small pit/ posthole	None	Occ flecks
31533	31532	small pit	None	None recorded
31535	31534	small stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31537	31536	stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31539	31538	stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31541	31540	stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31543	31542	stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31545	31544	stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31548	31546 31547	pit	None	Occ flecks
31550	31549	stakehole	None	Occ flecks
31551	-	Variation in natural/ root hollow	-	-
31553	31552	stakehole	None	Occ flecks

Table 7: Finds from prehistoric features in area K1

Cut number	Fill or layer number	Find No	Description
2165	2164	1032	black chert flake
18124	18125	1300	burnt bone frags
		1336	flint
		1344	heated stone
		4289	Burnt bone fragments
		1209	prehistoric pot frags
		1499	burnt bone frags
		1501	quartz debitage
		3051	Pot sherds
19109	19108	1521	flint frags
		1523	pot frags?
20081	19110	1208	prehistoric pot frags
		1496	clay frags
		1213	prehistoric pot frags
		1031	prehistoric incised pottery sherds
		1476	pot frags 7+frags
		2063	Pot fragments
19113	19114	1253	tiny pot fragments
	22018	5782	flint flakes
22039	22038	1044	flint flake

Table 8: Finds from the Bronze Age cists

Cist No.	Find No.	Context No.	Material	Description
cist 1	4421	40130	flint	struck flint
cist 1	5845	40112	glass	green glass sherd
cist 1	5430	40112	quartz	rock crystal flake
cist 1	4251	40113	glass (PM)	2 small sherds of greenish glass
cist 2	5438	40115	quartz	rock crystal
cist 2	2088	40115	ceramic	Decorated beaker sherd.
cist 2	5997	40127	ceramic	prehistoric pot fragment
cist 2	6110	40128	flint	half flint nodule
cist 3	4230	40156	ceramic	Pottery fragment
cist 3	5509	40133	bone	burnt bone frags 5+
cist 3	2038	40133	ceramic	Complete globular Bowl Food Vessel
cist 3	4147	40133	flint	flint flake
cist 4	4274	40158	bone	Bone?
cist 4	5525	40157	flint	flint chips
cist 4	4370	40158	flint	Struck flint debitage
cist 4	4069	40157	flint	Flint flake/ debitage
cist 5	4500	40176	flint	Retouched flint tool
cist 6	4444	40190	stone	Stone debitage from cist

cist 6	4446	40190	flint	flint debitage from cist 6
cist 7	5841	40177	ceramic	pottery fragments from cist 7
cist 7	4511	40177	flint	Flint chip
cist 7	4102	40177	ceramic	small necked Beaker with large scale incised chevrons from
cist 7	4113	40177	ceramic	decorated body and base sherds from
cist 7	4112	40177	ceramic	Decorated pot sherds from
cist 7	5843	40167	flint	burnt flint+ flint debitage
cist 7	5884	40167	burnt clay	burnt clay
cist 7	5844	40177	bone	burnt bone fragment
cist 8	4499	40196	flint	Flint flake
cist 8	4312	40181	flint	Burnt flint chip
cist 8	4313	40181	flint	Worked flint tool, with possible retouch
cist 8	5561	40185	bone	burnt bone
cist 8	4419	40196	bone	Possible bone fragment

Table 9: Pits in pit group 25046

Cut No	Description	Length	Width	Diameter	Depth	Filled by
3020	Charcoal-rich fill.			0.48m	0.24m	5066,5067
3023	Charcoal-rich fill, evidence of in-situ burning.			0.62m	0.19m	5039
3024	Charcoal-rich fill, evidence of in-situ burning.			0.45m	0.06m	10010,10011
3026	No evidence of burning and very little charcoal in fill	0.65m	0.48m		0.08m	6090
4011	Charcoal-rich fill.			0.7m	0.15m	1044
4012	Charcoal-rich fill.			0.4m	0.18m	5057,5056
4014	Charcoal-rich fill, traces of burning on the east edge.	0.29m	0.22m		0.05m	7052
4015	burnt patch, not a real pit					7053
4016	Charcoal-rich fill, the interior is heavily burnt.	0.51m	0.45m		0.08m	4018
4017	Charcoal-rich fill and burning on north top edge of pit	0.52m	0.4m		0.07m	10018
5026	Probable clay lining, with a charcoal-rich fill.	0.43m	0.4m		0.21m	5027,5028
6032	Heat affected areas in the base. Charcoal-rich fill.			0.6m	0.08m	6035,6034,6033
6089	Charcoal-rich fill. Traces of burning in base			0.5m	0.3m max	6088
6111	Charcoal patch rather than real pit.			0.23m	0.02m	6110
7015	Charcoal-rich fill	0.45m	0.39m		0.07m	7051
8024	Charcoal-rich fill			0.4m	0.06m	8023
8047	Charcoal-rich fill. Evidence of *in situ* burning on north-east side.			0.75m	0.13m	8048,8046
10001	Charcoal-rich fill.			0.77m	0.08m	10002,10003
10012	Charcoal-rich fill, *in situ* burning.			0.58m	0.18m	10013
10019	Fill contains little charcoal, possible root hollow	0.72m	0.48m		0.1m	10020
11017	Charcoal-rich fill, evidence of in-situ burning.			0.64m	0.13m	11018
11019	Charcoal-rich fill.	0.7m	0.62m		0.25m	11020,11021
21192	Charcoal-rich fill, evidence of in-situ	0.65m	0.64m		0.11m	21193

Cut No	Description	Length	Width	Diameter	Depth	Filled by
	burning.					
21196	Fill not charcoal-rich but contains quantities of burnt clay			0.25m	0.18m	21197

Table 10: Finds from pit group 25046

Context No	Find No	Pit Cut No	Material	Description	Weight (g)
1044	1475	4011	slag	Coke	11
1044	2173	4011	flint	Flint flake	1
1044	5632	4011	Metalworking	slag fragments	12
4018	5549	4016	slag	slag	46
4018	5761	4016	burnt clay	Burnt clay	2
5027	29	5026	chert	Chert flake	10
5027	2067	5026	ceramic	Pot/burnt clay fragments	4
5067	55	3020	chert	Black chert flake	29
5067	5550	3020	Metalworking	hammer scale	0.3
5067	5595	3020	Metalworking	hammer scale and magnetic residue	1
6033	5684	6032	Metalworking	metalic residue	6
6088	5753	6089	ceramic	Tiny crumbs of prehistoric pot	1
8046	2213	8047	stone	small chert flake	2
8046	6090	8047	cinder	1x cinder	2
10002	1210	10001	ceramic	prehistoric pot frags	2
10002	1353	10001	chert	Black chert flake	1
10003	1291	10001	glass	Very tiny blue bead	<1
10010	5939	3024	Metalworking	metal work residue	1
10013	4393	10012	flint/chert	worked flint flake with retouch	<1
10013	4394	10012	bone	Burnt bone	<1
11018	1240	11017	bone	Burnt bone frag	<1
11018	2210	11017	stone	Fragment of split pebble. Poss sandstone? Poss heat fractured	24
11018	5751	11017	slag	slag	0.2
11020	1343	11019	stone (burnt)	heated stone	420
11020	1348	11019	stone (burnt)	heated stone	0
11020	1529	11019	burnt clay	burnt clay?	1
11020	6083	11019	ceramic (PM)	2x clay pipe stem fragments sample 65.	6
11020	6099	11019	glass (PM)	3x glass modern window	5
11021	5986	11019	slag	Part of a smithing hearth cake	64
21193	1289	21192	burnt clay	burnt clay/daub	53
21193	1297	21192	burnt clay	burnt clay frags?	45
21197	4241	21196	burnt clay	Burnt clay	12

Table 11: Finds from roundhouse (80249) by context.

Cut or layer No	Find No	Fill No	Find description	Weight (g)
80181	4482	80180	Pottery or burnt clay fragments	2

80183	837	80185	Broken loom weight	75
80187	4248	80186	Spindle whorl found in posthole.	25
80187	4249	80186	Flint core	25
80197	4385	N/A	struck chert	10
80201	5936	80200	slag / metalwork residue	3
80222	4375	N/A	Burnt clay fragments	13
80230	4382	80227, 80236	Burnt clay fragments	6

Table 12: Finds from roundhouse (80248) grouped by context.

Context or Layer No	Find No	Fill No	Find description	Weight (g)
80263	4425	N/A	Worked flint?	5
80266	4494	N/A	Lump of slag, probably piece from centre of a smithing hearth cake	75
80268	5558	N/A	Burnt bone	<1
80270	4379	N/A	Chert debitage	13
80326	5431	N/A	Burnt bone fragment	<1
80326	4424	N/A	Burnt clay	66
80326	4458	N/A	Flint	0
80334	4456	N/A	Fragments of burnt bone and tooth	5
80334	4459	N/A	Fragments of burnt clay	5
80334	4552	N/A	Piece of slag, possibly a Cu-alloy slag	1.7
80335	5394	80359	Large stone with partial hole	0
80335	5393	80359	Large stone with partial hole	0
80340	5766	N/A	Bone fragments	<1
80366	5784	80288	Flint flakes	<1
80368	5483	80331	Burnt clay	5
80368	4461	80331	Hammer stone	>2000
80373	5392	80372	Large sub-rectangular, almost semicircular, schist slab with a hole drilled into the side near the edge.	0
80373	5391	80372	Stone with hole. Subrectangular schist slab with a hole drilled into the side near the edge.	0
80374	4460	80372	Burnt wood. 'Iron Age wood'. Sample number 5507.	0
80378	5474	80371	Stone flakes x5	6
80388	5440	80259	Possible ochre precipitate in drain.	63
80390	5785	80259	Tooth fragments	<1
80390	5945	80259	Burnt clay	<1
80390	5468	80259	Struck chert x1	1
80391	5424	80392	19th century bottle glass	3
80406	5498	80404	decalcified limestone	9

Table 13: Finds from structure 80527

Fill or layer No	Feature type	Cut number	Find No	Material	Description	Notes
80805	Layer		6005	bone	bone fragments	
80806	Layer		6453	bone	burnt bone	sample 5617
80807	layer		6006	bone	burnt bone fragments	
80807	layer		6465	bone	burnt bone	sample 5616
80840	boulder hearth	80938	6037	bone	burnt bone fragment	
80840	boulder hearth	80938	6043	bone	burnt bone fragments	
80847	Layer		6323	bone	burnt bone fragments	from Sample 5653
80847	Layer		6436	bone	burnt bone	sample 5653
80866	boulder hearth	80938	6462	bone	burnt bone	sample 5604
80893	layer		6466	bone	burnt bone	sample 5612
80903	drain	80861	6459	bone	burnt bone	sample 5624
80904	layer		6433	bone	burnt bone	sample 5637
80904	layer		6134	bone	burnt bone	
80909	Floor?		6322	bone	burnt bone fragment	from Sample 5626
80910	layer		6075	bone	bunt bone fragment	
81106		81107	6324	bone	burnt bone fragments	from Sample 5670
80840	boulder hearth	80938	6448	burnt clay		sample 5603
80840	boulder hearth	80938	6042	burnt clay	burnt clay	
80840	boulder hearth	80938	6228	burnt clay	burnt clay	sample 5603
80843	layer		6038	burnt clay	burnt clay	
80845	Layer		6018	burnt clay	burnt clay	
80845	Layer		6017	burnt clay	burnt clay	
80849	pit	81037	6153	burnt clay	burnt clay	
80850	layer		6033	burnt clay	burnt clay	
80866	boulder hearth	80938	6473	burnt clay		sample 5604
80866	boulder hearth	80938	6438	burnt clay		sample 5604
80866	boulder hearth	80938	6364	burnt clay	burnt clay	sample 5604
80866	boulder hearth	80938	6366	burnt clay	burnt clay	sample 5604
80866	boulder hearth	80938	6230	burnt clay	burnt clay	sample 5604
80866	boulder hearth	80938	6229	burnt clay	burnt clay	sample 5604
80869	boulder hearth	80938	6474	burnt clay		sample 5655
80869	boulder	80938	6487	burnt clay		sample 5655

Fill or layer No	Feature type	Cut number	Find No	Material	Description	Notes
	hearth					
80869	boulder hearth	80938	6443	burnt clay		sample 5655
80869	boulder hearth	80938	6455	burnt clay		sample 5655
80869	boulder hearth	80938	6458	burnt clay		sample 5655
80869	boulder hearth	80938	6460	burnt clay		sample 5655
80869	boulder hearth	80938	6237	burnt clay	burnt clay	large quantity of chunky fragments sample 5655
80874	layer		6049	burnt clay	burnt clay	c20 small fragments of oxidised fired clay
80893	layer		6060	burnt clay	burnt clay / daub	sw quad of k9b
80900	occupation layer?		6468	burnt clay		sample 5615
80900	occupation layer?		6058	burnt clay	burnt daub	Probably pot
80901	layer		6062	burnt clay	daub	From sw quad of k9b Probably pot,
80910	layer		6136	burnt clay	burnt daub	nw quad of k9b
80939	Boulder hearth	80938	6431	burnt clay		sample 5652
80939	Boulder hearth	80938	6410	burnt clay	burnt clay	from Sample 5652
81029	pit?	81028	6150	burnt clay	burnt clay	3 fragments of oxidised fired clay - inner surfaces more highly fired (approaching vitrification)
81042	pit	81037	6454	burnt clay		sample 5687
81042	pit	81037	6167	burnt clay	burnt clay	
81042	pit	81037	6158	burnt clay	burnt clay	
81043	pit	81037	6437	burnt clay		sample 5686
81048	pit	81049	6160	burnt clay	burnt clay	
81073	corn dryer?		6472	burnt clay		sample 5693
81144	pit	81143	6470	burnt clay		sample 5712
81166			6428	burnt clay	burnt clay	c100 fragment of oxidised fired clay. Rather variable clay, sometimes with pebbles. Has good smooth, slightly brown surface.
81166			6461	burnt clay		sample 5749
81205	furnace	80938	6476	burnt clay		sample 5745
81206	furnace	80938	6475	burnt clay		sample 5746
81264	pit	81263	6469	burnt clay		sample 5748
81287	pit	81286	6471	burnt clay	degraded pot sherd or burnt clay	sample 5767
81287	pit	81286	6477	burnt clay		sample 5767
80840	boulder hearth	80938	2160	ceramic (PM)	post medieval pottery, from animal burrow within	

Fill or layer No	Feature type	Cut number	Find No	Material	Description	Notes
					80840	
80903	drain	80861	6244	ceramic (PM)	post med white glazed pot sherd	
80833	Layer		6020	ceramic (R)	Orange ware sherd	?jar in orange with grey surface.
80833	Layer		6025	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware rim sherd	Black burnished jar broken at the neck. 2nd-4th cent.
80834	Layer		6008	ceramic (R)	Samian sherd	Samian bowl, East Gaulish. Probably form 31 or similar. c.AD 160-220.
80834	Layer		6009	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware sherd	Black burnished jar fragment. 2nd-4th cent.
80834	Layer		6010	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware sherd	Black burnished jar fragment. 2nd-4th cent.
80834	layer		6040	ceramic (R)	Small abraded orange sherd	?jar in orange fabric
80834	Layer		6041	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware sherd	
80847	Layer		6026	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware sherd	Black burnished jar fragment. Prob. Late 3rd-4th century.
80849	pit	81037	6030	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware sherd	Fragment from near the base of a Black burnished ware jar. 3 fragments. Prob. 3rd-4th cent
80849	pit	81037	6151	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware sherd with possible iron repair	Black burnished ware jar. Iron acretion, possibly a rivet.
80849	pit	81037	6152	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware sherd	Black burnished jar fragments. 2nd-4th cent.
80849	pit	81037	6170	ceramic (R)	Small coarse ware sherds	Dark grey fabric, probably Black burnished ware. 2nd-4th cent.
80870	layer		6055	ceramic (R)	Fine orange pot	Pale pink/buff wall sherd from a jar or flagon
80879	drain	80862	6072	ceramic (R)	small abraded sherds of orange ware	Redware jar. 4 sherds
80884	layer		6053	ceramic (R)	Orange ware sherd	Orange ?jar with grey surface.
80899	layer		6063	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware sherd	Black burnished jar fragment. 2nd-4th cent.
80900	occupation layer?		6056	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware rim sherd	Jar rim in Black Burnished Ware of the same general type as SF6044. 4th century.
80900	occupation layer?		6057	ceramic (R)	Base sherd with oxidised surface	Jar base in black fabric with plentiful quartz-like grits. Probably a Black burnished ware derivative.
80901	layer		6059	ceramic (R)	Rim in fine orange ware	Samian, probably Central Gaulish. Form 37 rim. 2nd cent.
80901	layer		6061	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware rim sherd	Sooted/burnt Black burnished ware jar with obtuse angled lattice. Late 3rd- 4th cent Temporarily lost but found 16/04/10

Fill or layer No	Feature type	Cut number	Find No	Material	Description	Notes
80936	layer	81288	6188	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware	Jar, probably Black burnished. Heavily sooted. 2nd-4th cent.
80937	posthole	81054	6131	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware sherd	Heavily sooted Black burnished jar. Lattice appears to be right angled. Prob. 3rd cent.
80937	posthole	81054	6147	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware sherd	Black burnished ware jar with lattice just on the obtuse side of right angled. Prob. 3rd cent.
80937	posthole	81054	6161	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware sherd	
80939	Boulder hearth	80938	6146	ceramic (R)	black burnished ware pot sherd with 2 iron rivvets running through it.	Black burnished jar sherd with iron rivets. Prob. 3rd-4th cent similar to sf6157
80939	Boulder hearth	80938	6145	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware sherds	2 Black-burnished ware jar sherds. Prob. 3rd-4th cent
81042	pit	81037	6449	ceramic (R)	BB ware sherd	sample 5687
81042	pit	81037	6157	ceramic (R)	black burnished ware pottery with iron rivet through it.	Black burnished jar sherd with an obtuse angled lattice. There is an iron rivet. Late 3rd- 4th cent similar to sf6146
81042	pit	81037	6155	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware sherd	6 Black burnished ware jar sherds including obtuse angled lattice decoration below a horizontal line. Late 3rd - 4th cent
81042	pit	81037	6156	ceramic (R)	Coarse rim sherd	Straight sided dish in grey fabric with a smoothed surface, Possibly a Crambeck product as Corder 1928, Pl.3, 50 and thus 4th century.
81042	pit	81037	6168	ceramic (R)	Sherds of Black burnished ware ware	Black burnished ware jar fragment with faint lattice decoration probably obtuse angled. 3 fragments. Late 3rd- 4th century.
81042	pit	81037	6169	ceramic (R)	Small sherd with possible decoration	Dark grey sherd with raised line
81043	pit	81037	6159	ceramic (R)	Black burnished ware sherd	Black burnished ware jar sherd. 2nd-4th cent. Some confusion with numbers but this seems to be the missing sherd from 6159 as Peter only records a small crumb of pottery for this find.
80857	Layer		6297	chert	chert flake	sample 5653 not photographed
80865	Ice wedge		6275	chert	struck chert	sample 5706 not photographed
81011	posthole	81012	6304	chert	chert flake	sample 5661 not photographed
81044	posthole	81045	6279	chert	chert	sample 5684 not photographed
81094			6269	chert	struck chert	sample 6269 not photographed
81247	pit	81248	6444	chert	Core fragment on rolled chert cobble	sample 5734

Fill or layer No	Feature type	Cut number	Find No	Material	Description	Notes
80849	pit	81037	6154	copper alloy	copper alloy droplet / overspill?	
80872	natural		6068	copper alloy	copper alloy object	lozenge shaped copper alloy object.
81221	trough	81219,81211	6442	flint	thumbnail scraper	sample 5754
80863	Layer		6023	flint/chert	flint flake with hinge fracture	
80874	layer		6052	flint/chert	retouched flint	very tiny retouch
80983			6148	flint/chert	pressure flaked blade	
80900	occupation layer?		6463	glass (PM)	possible vessel glass (blue). Very tiny fragment.	sample 5615 Colour suggests post medieval (H Cool)
80846	layer		6464	glass (R)	half glass bead (blue)	Bead; half extant. Translucent deep blue glass. Slightly squashed spherical. Diameter 4mm, length 3mm, perforation diameter 1.5mm. From sample 5607.
80854	hollow/pit	81110	6175	glass (R)	blue glass droplet / counter with smooth domed surface with roughly flat base, streaked with a flash of white	Counter. Translucent deep blue glass with a streak and a fleck of opaque white glass flush with the surface, but not giving the appearance of having been separately applied and marvered smooth. Plano-convex with pitted base. Diameter 12 x 11mm, thickness 5.5.
80846	Layer		6021	iron	Sub-rectangular iron object with possible central projection. Very corroded.	flat on one face domed on reverse.
80849	pit	81037	6171	iron	iron object.	possibly a square shafted nail.
80901	layer		6064	iron	Long thin iron object, broader at one end, similar to a very large nail	
80910	layer		6073	iron	iron object	small amorphous lump, possible nail head.
80910	layer		6074	iron	iron object.	
80910	layer		6067	iron	iron object and wood	possible nail shaft.
81042	pit	81037	6166	iron	iron nail head	heavily corroaded
81172	pit	81185	6452	iron	nail shaft fragment	sample 5720
81258	pit	81257	6186	iron	Iron cleaver	large blade with cylindrical handle formed from one piece of metal, hollow in end of handle possibly to attach longer handle of wood or bone?
81042	pit	81037	2165	shale	bead fragment	tiny curved fragment of bead
80843	Layer		6048	slag	slag	3 small fragments of black glassy slag with white inclusions and slightly purple surface
80921	layer		6135	slag	coke	

Fill or layer No	Feature type	Cut number	Find No	Material	Description	Notes
81053			6439	slag	coke	sample 5691
81079	pit?	81080	6312	slag	coke	sample 5695
81172	pit	81185	6450	slag	tiny fragment of clinker	sample 5720
80805	layer		6004	stone	large hammerstone	
80806	Layer		6003	stone	poss small hammerstone	
80839	boulder hearth	80938	6187	stone	large granite stone, possible anvil	over 2kg
80843	Layer		6039	stone	broken rubbing stone	
80846	Layer		6022	stone	waisted stone weight	
80847	Layer		6133	stone	hammerstone	
80859	Layer		6069	stone	platey slab of schist with centeral depression	same as SF6070 over 2 kg
80865	Ice wedge		6256	stone	possible smoothed stone	from Sample 5706
80865	Ice wedge		6163	stone	hone stone	
80884	layer		6054	stone	top half of rotary quern	over 2 kg
80893	layer		6315	stone	quartz pebbles	sample 5612 not photographed
80900	occupation layer?		6065	stone	rubbing stone for a saddle quern.	over 2 kg
80900	occupation layer?		6070	stone	platey slab of schist with centeral depression	same as sf6090 over 2kg
80903	drain	80861	6481	stone	possible broken pot boiler	sample 5624
80903	drain	80861	6144	stone	worked stone	
80904	layer		6132	stone	pot boiler	
80910	layer		6259	stone	possible smoothed quartz	from Sample 5631
80910	layer		6076	stone	rubbing stone	
80979			6176	stone	piece of rotary quern stone	over 2 kg
81010		81009	6149	stone	carved out stone bowl	over 2 kg indentation size, length: 295 mm breadth:230mm diameter:140mm
81165	posthole	81054	6177	stone	small hammerstone	
81205	furnace	80938	6181	stone	hammerstone	
81206	furnace	80938	6180	stone	snapped granite stone	over 2 kg
81221	trough	81219,81211	6182	stone	grooved stone mould?	
80807	Layer		6212	stone (burnt)	burnt stones	from Sample 5616 Heat cracked stone to be studied with other burnt stone.
80807	Layer		6489	stone (burnt)	burnt stones - quartz	from Sample 5616 Heat cracked stone to be studied with other burnt stone.
80840	boulder hearth	80938	6216	stone (burnt)	burnt stones	from Sample 5603 Heat cracked stone to be studied with other burnt stone.
80869	boulder hearth	80938	6490	stone (burnt)	burnt stone	from Sample 5655 Heat cracked stone to be studied with other burnt stone.
80879	drain	80862	6219	stone	burnt stone	from Sample 5605 Heat cracked

Fill or layer No	Feature type	Cut number	Find No	Material	Description	Notes
				(burnt)		stone to be studied with other burnt stone.
80912	layer		6218	stone (burnt)	burnt stones	from Sample 5625 Heat cracked stone to be studied with other burnt stone.
80921	layer		6221	stone (burnt)	burnt stones	from Sample 5671 Heat cracked stone to be studied with other burnt stone.
81073	corn dryer?		6225	stone (burnt)	burnt stones	from Sample 5693 Heat cracked stone to be studied with other burnt stone.
81094			6210	stone (burnt)	burnt stone	from Sample 5697 Heat cracked stone to be studied with other burnt stone.
81108	posthole		6220	stone (burnt)	burnt stones	from Sample 5704 Heat cracked stone to be studied with other burnt stone.
81172	pit	81185	6213	stone (burnt)	burnt stones	from Sample 5720 Heat cracked stone to be studied with other burnt stone.

Parcel number	boundary ditch	ditch parallel to boundary	land drain
1269 & 1268	03035	06067	02140
	06063		06047
			06048
			06049
			06050
			06051
			06052
			06053
			06055
			06059
			06060
			06061
			06062
			07021
			07024

Table 14: Features in group 19073

Context No	Feature type	Length	Breadth	Diameter	Depth	Filled by
18078/22013	pit	0.9m	0.7m		0.32m	18081, 18080,18079, 22012
18082	posthole			0.47m	0.24m	18083
18085	pit	1.7m	0.9m		0.32m	22016,22009,18086,18087
18088/19069	posthole?			0.42m	0.19m	18089, 19070
18092	posthole?			0.22m	0.07m	18093
18098	posthole?			0.38m	0.17m	18099
18100	posthole	0.4m	0.3m		0.25m	18101
18102	pit			0.6m	0.15m	18103
18104	pit?					18105
18106	posthole?			0.4m	0.12m	18107
18122	posthole?			0.5m	0.15m	18123,18096?
19065	pit			1.10m	0.24m	18094
19067	posthole			0.30m	0.12m	19068
19071	pit	1.25m	0.74m		0.25m	19072
19084	pit			0.8m	0.48m	19085,19086
22011	pit					22010
22015	pit	0.6m	0.5m		0.15m	22014
21039	pit			0.64m	0.32m	21041,21040
22002	pit					22001, 22003

Table 15: Finds from group 19073

I (19073)	18085	18087	6373	Fired clay with coarse gravely temper, many pieces have planar surface, some moderately convex, with reduced fired surface
		22009	1040	Fired clay fragments, many with a single planar to slightly convex surface with a slight reduced fired, or at least pale, surface. Clay is tempered with coarse rounded gravel.
			1302	burnt clay
		22016	1207	burnt clay
			1255	burnt clay
I (19073)	18102	18103	1320	bone frags (2 very tiny pieces)
I (19073)	19065	18094	1349	Heat cracked stone
			1560	Very tiny burnt bone frags
			1579	Burnt clay crumb
I (19073)	22015	22014	1043	rubbing stone
			1221	Oxidised fired clay with coarse temper
			1309	Oxidised fired sandy clay with some possible organic (hair?) temper
			1468	5 fragments of oxidised fired clay with coarse temper, and paler smooth planar surface
			1480	burnt clay
			4243	10 rounded fragments of oxidised fired clay
I (19073)	2070 (near pit group)		1034	Samian, probably Central Gaulish. Form 31. c.150-200
I	21039	21041	1042	decorated perforated spindle whorl. The pattern changes around the edge.
I	22002	22003	1036	Large broken stone mortar
I	2070 (near		1039	Large grinding stone

	22002)			

Table 16: Finds from post medieval contexts in area E

Fill or layer No	Cut No	Feature type	Find No	Description	Notes
31153	31152	smithing hearth	917	slag, hearth lining and smithing floor material	4.5g fired and vitrified clay with adhering residue of ash, including fuel ash microspherules 125g 12 fragments of smithing floor with flake hammerscale inclusions, 2 fragments of vitrified lining
31153	31152	smithing hearth	5822	hammerscale	Hammerscale; good assemblage of flake and spheroidal hammerscale with slag flats sample 878
31153	31152	smithing hearth	5911	hammerscale	Hammerscale; good assemblage of flake and spheroidal hammerscale with slag flats sample 878
31153	31152	smithing hearth	5500	smithing slag	122g 6 pieces of dense smithing slag, 82g 18 pieces of low density fuel ash/lining slag, 12g 8 pieces of smithing floor concretion plus 3 slag flats sample 878
31153	31152	smithing hearth	5511	vitrified hearth lining and corrdode iron object	1 small piece of vitrified lining, 1 piece lining or fuel ash slag, 4 pieces of corrosion from iron? object sample 878
31153	31152	smithing hearth	5517	copper alloy buckle tongue or brooch pin	strip bent round at one end and tapering towards a point at the other, probably a buckle tongue, rather than a brooch pin, particularly given date of context From sample 878
31153	31152	smithing hearth	5551	large amount of hammer scale	good assemblage of hammerscale, majority is in flake form, also small fragments of slag, lining and fuel ash slag spheroids, corroded iron fragments and smithing floor concretions sample 878
31163	31162	gully	918	hearth lining	5 pieces of vitrified lining
31163	31162	gully	919	hearth slag	5 pieces of rather blebby/lobed hearth slag. One good fragment from margin of SHC
31163	31162	gully	922	smithing hearth cake	2 halves of dense well formed plano-convex SHC (100x100x50mm) 90%? complete, charcoal inclusions
31170	31164	ditch	916	3 flint flakes	retouch on the largest
31170	31164	ditch	915	burnt bone	
31172	31166	gully	920	furnace lining large lump, vitrified surface	fragment of furnace lining vitrified on one side
31172	31166	gully	921	kiln/furnace lining	fragment of lining (high fired on one side)
31181	31182	hollow	4426	Buckley ware and white glazed pot	creamware cylindrical mug? with turned decoration. Late C18th coarse e'ware pan. Very hard red/orange fabric with brownish lead glaze on interior. C18th coarse e'ware jar. Orange fabric with white laminae. black iron-rich lead glaze on interior and exterior surfaces. Possibly C18th
31181	31182	hollow	4427	shells, mainly limpet	56 apexes of Patella vulgata (Common Limpet) plus 1 whole Littorina littorea (Edible Winkle)
31183	31184	pit	4428	5 sherds glazed pot and one piece of clay pipe stem	pearlware moulded rim of a plate. Early-mid C19 th pearlware/ WW teapot sherd. Mid C19th WW?cup. Mid-late C19? Sherd of yellow ware chamber pot. Mid-late C19th coarse e'ware * jug/jar? * 1 C19 Hard orange fabric with

Fill or layer No	Cut No	Feature type	Find No	Description	Notes
					black iron-rich lead glaze on interior and exterior.
31221		Layer	4440	Small circular silver coin	coin, medieval or early post-medieval, no further detail visible
31266	31265	pit	925	animal teeth.	Not found 25/01/10, presumed discarded
31291	31290	ditch	948	Fragments of C19th pottery, glass and part of clay pipe	Sherd of pearlware large bowl/ basin. Mid C19th WW plate. Red and blue sponging applied randomly over interior surface - under glaze. Blue wash on underside of vessel. Mid-late C19th
31291	31290	ditch	949	Samian flagon neck	Flagon neck in a light red to grey somewhat sandy fabric. There is a red slip on the lower neck. Above a cordon, the extant surface is scored, probably as keying for a projection of handle. The most likely reconstruction is as a flanged flagon, a common mid 3rd to 4th century type (cf. Young 1977, C8-10).
31292	31294	ditch	950	fragment of red/brown flint, possibly struck	scalar/bipolar core
31384	31385	ditch	4486	Lumps of slag	2 lumps of slag, probable fragments of SHC
31410		Trial trench	986	Fragment of flint	From evaluation slot backfill.
31576	31578	pit	4528	White glazed sherds, some decorated	Sherds of pearlware plates. White ware sherds from plate, bowl, mug/jug?, saucer? bone china hollow ware sherd All mid C19th

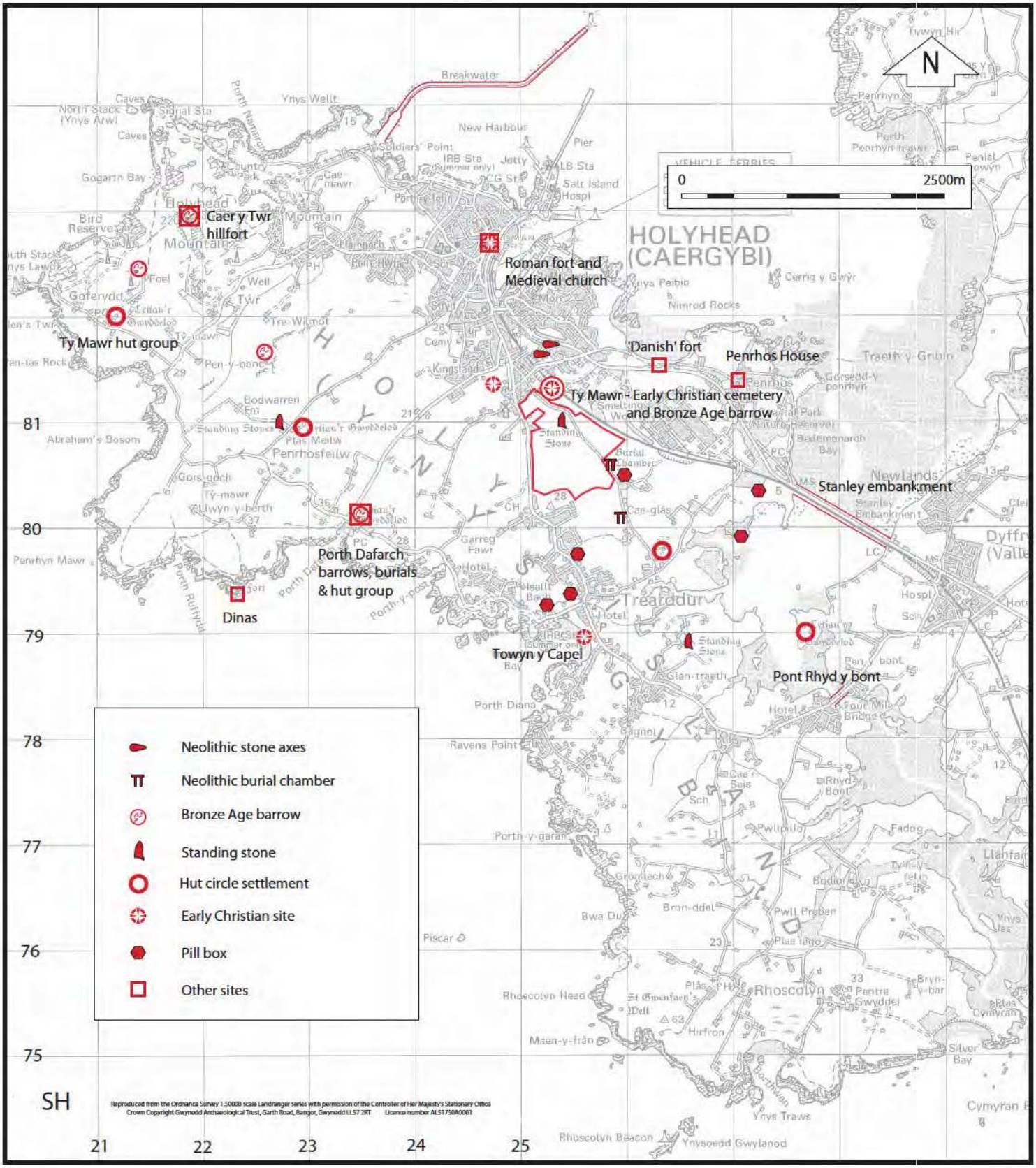


Figure 1. Location of development area and surrounding archaeological sites

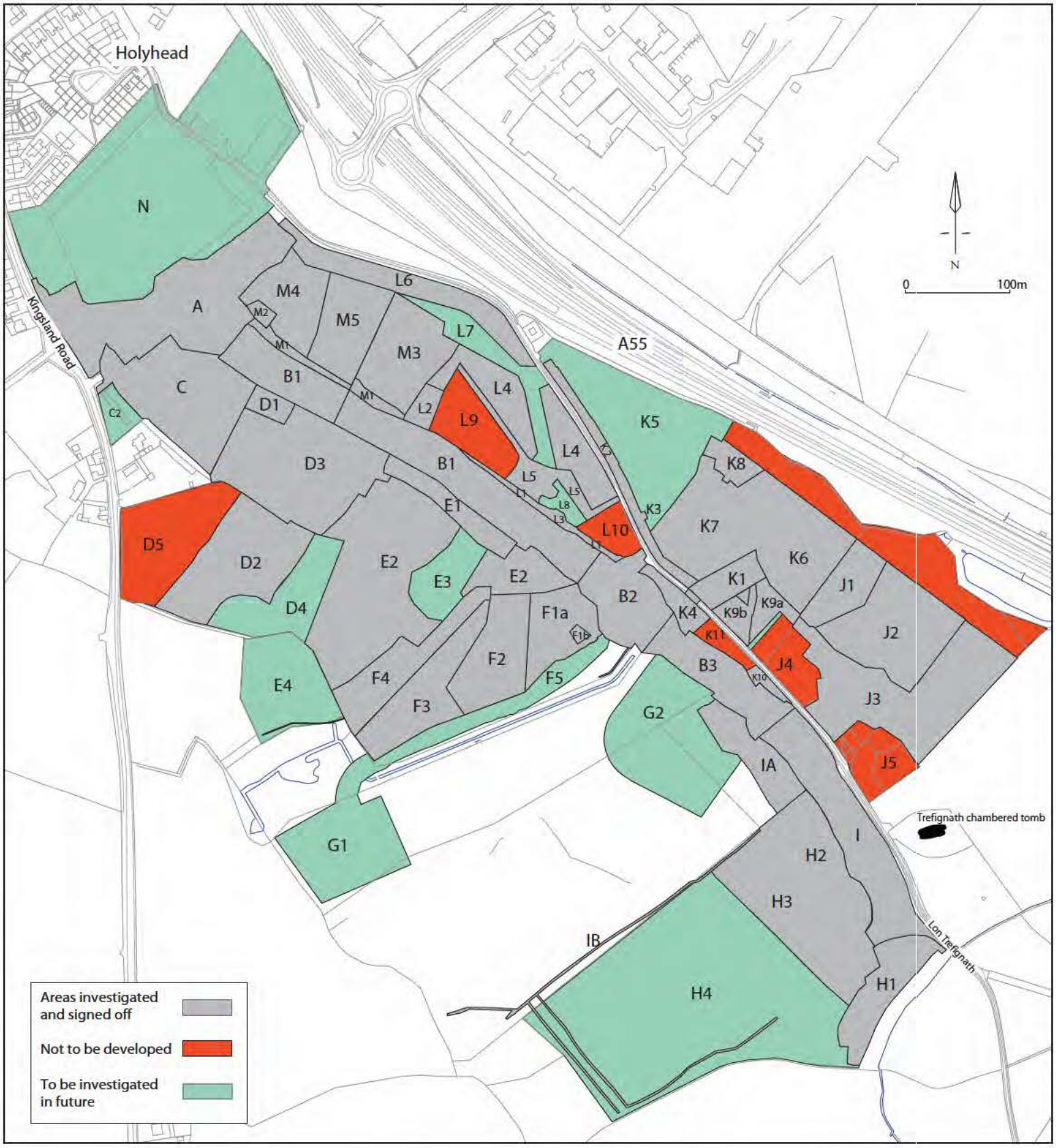


Figure 2. Areas and sub-areas of Parc Cybi and their status

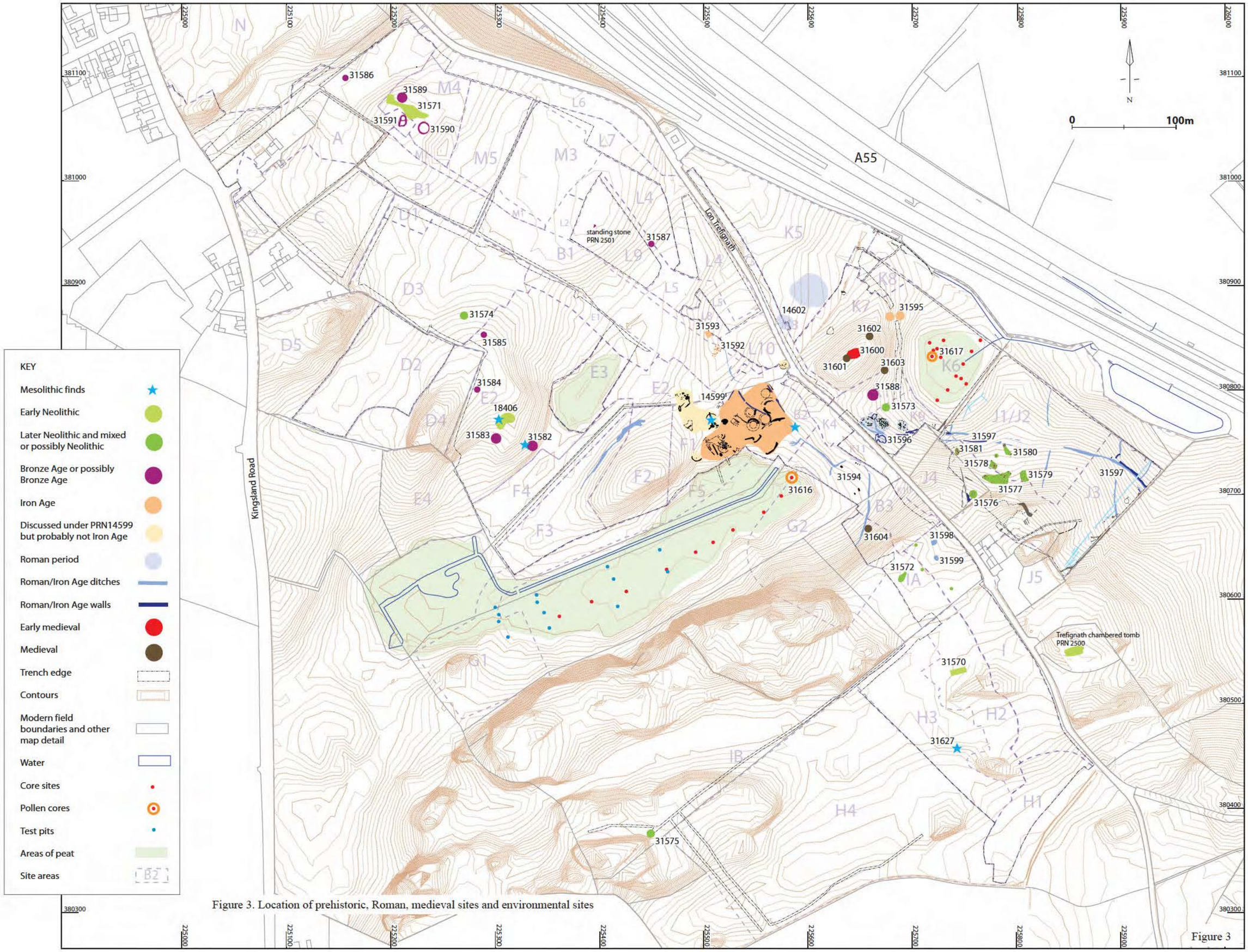


Figure 3. Location of prehistoric, Roman, medieval sites and environmental sites

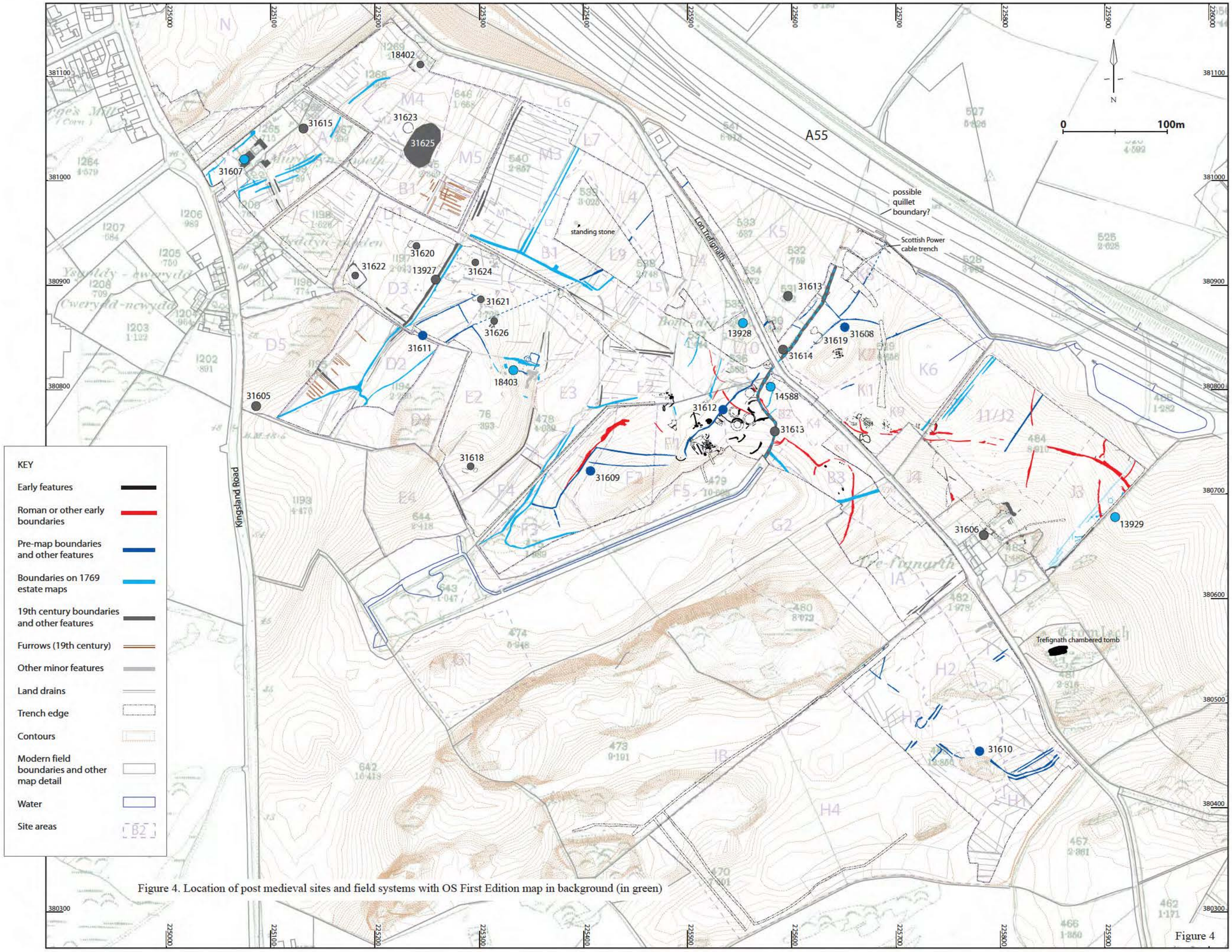


Figure 4. Location of post medieval sites and field systems with OS First Edition map in background (in green)

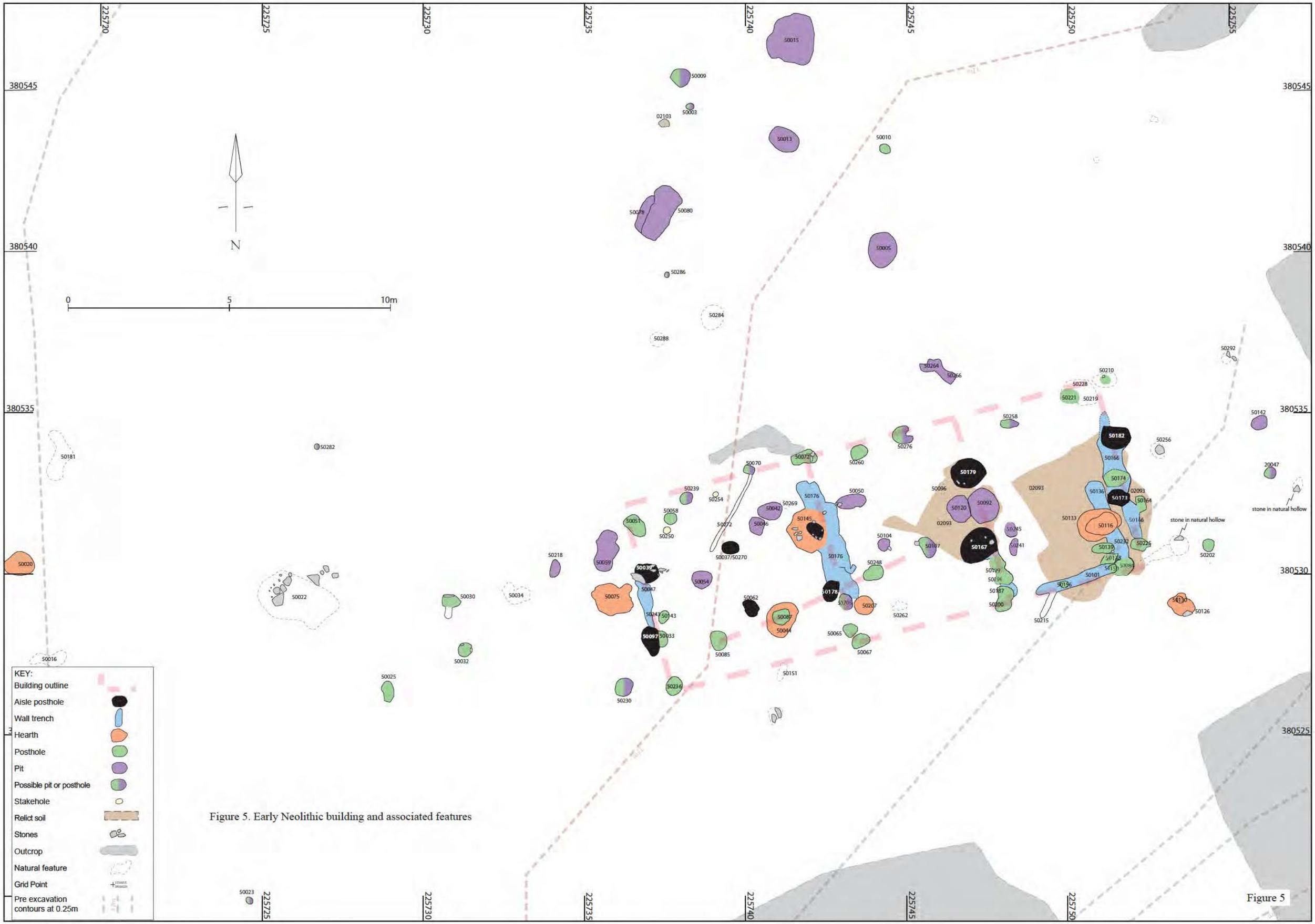


Figure 5. Early Neolithic building and associated features

Figure 6. Neolithic hollow area showing the location of features

Figure 7. Excavated features in areas M2 and M4

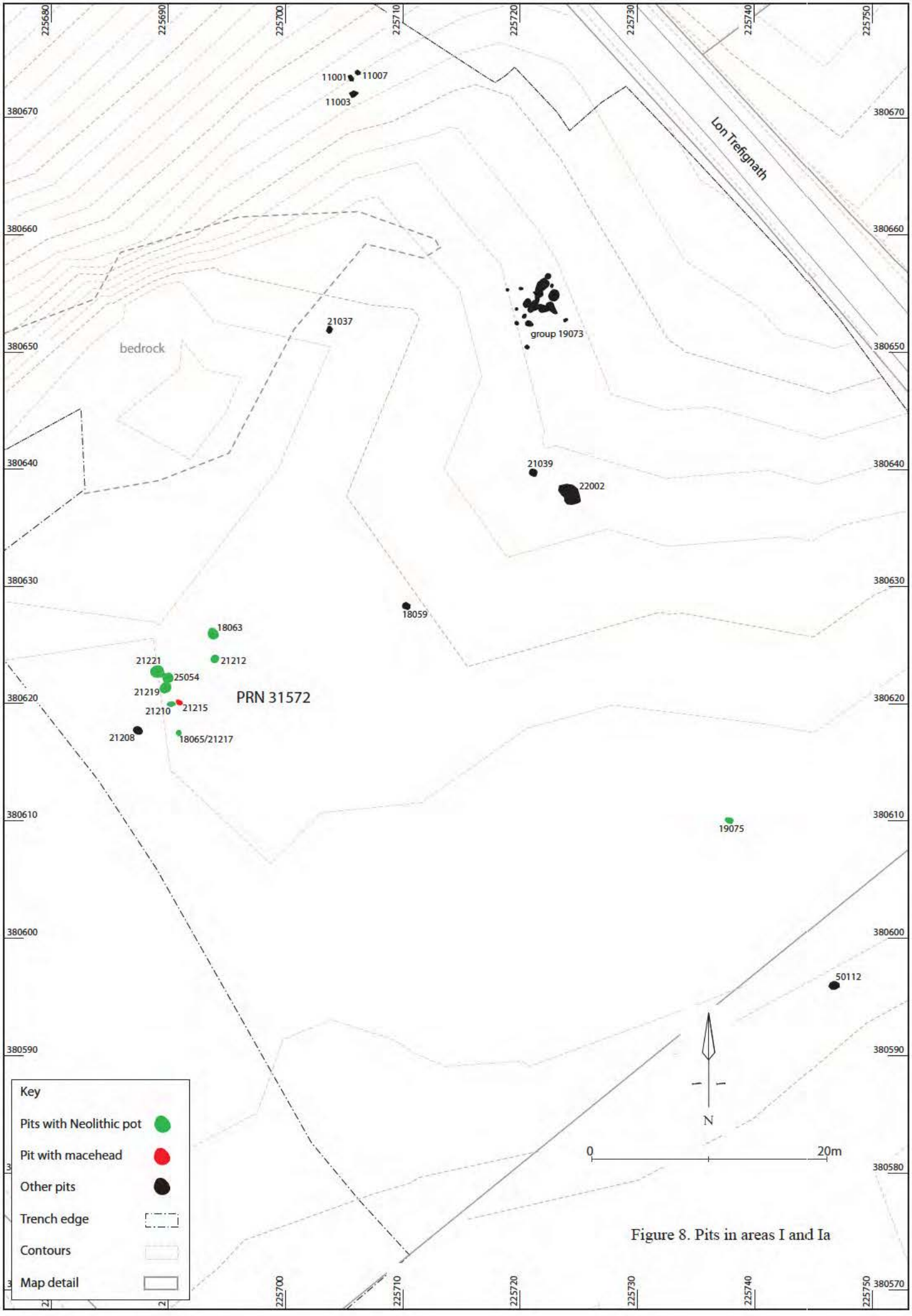


Figure 8. Pits in areas I and Ia

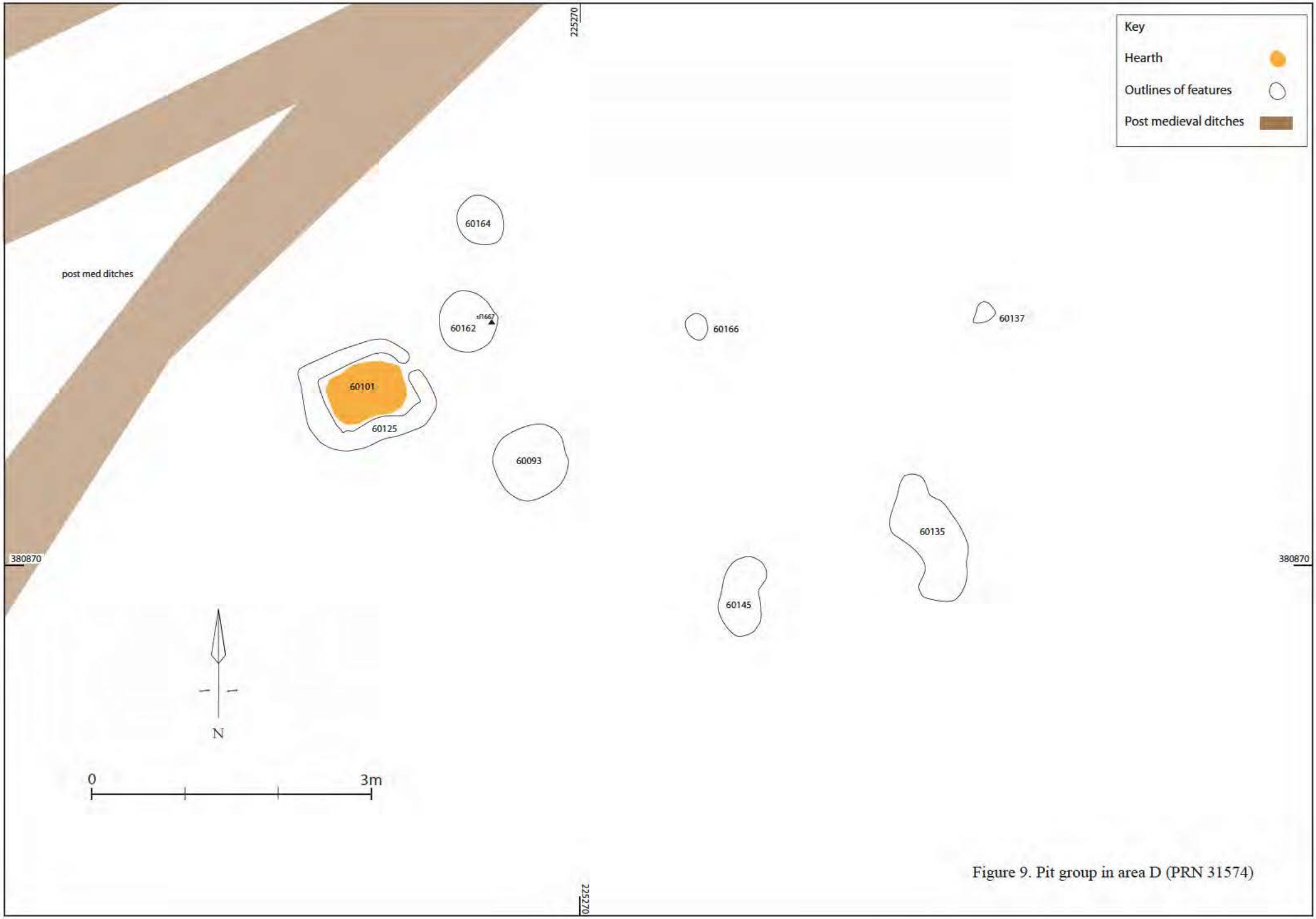


Figure 9. Pit group in area D (PRN 31574)

Figure 10

Key
Post medieval
Roman period ditch
Roman period wall
Prehistoric
Natural features
Unknown period
Land drains
Trench edge
Contours
Map detail

N

marsh

70193/70216

70527

Group VI
Group V
Group III
Group II
Group IV
Group I

70341
70328
70330
70464
70431
70339
70367
70356
70368
70363
70361
70359
70357
70372
70374
70376
70345
70347
70343
70366
70365
03040
03039
03041
03042
03037
03038
rocky knoll
test trench
Lon Trefignath
70246
f1207
f1206
70388
70401
70544
70660
70397
70399
70407
70392
70405
70403
70442
70444
70657
70692
70539
70674
70522
70524
70491
70382
70706
70378
70685
70438
70682
70701
70666
70435
70433
70428
70426
gateway
site of earlier farmhouse
70631
70623
wall

0 50m

Figure 10. Features in area J

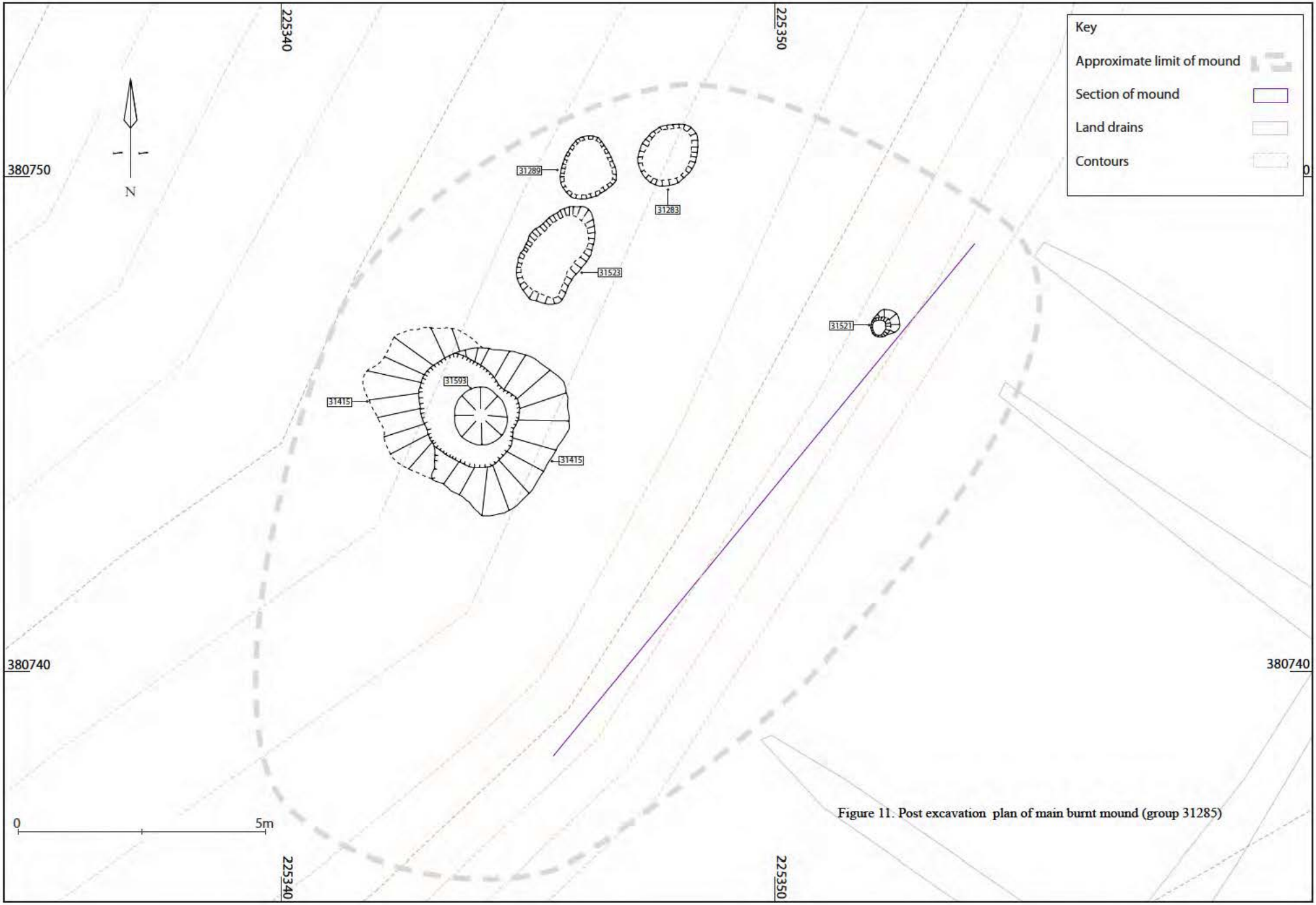


Figure 11. Post excavation plan of main burnt mound (group 31285)

Figure 12. Excavated features in area K1

Figure 12

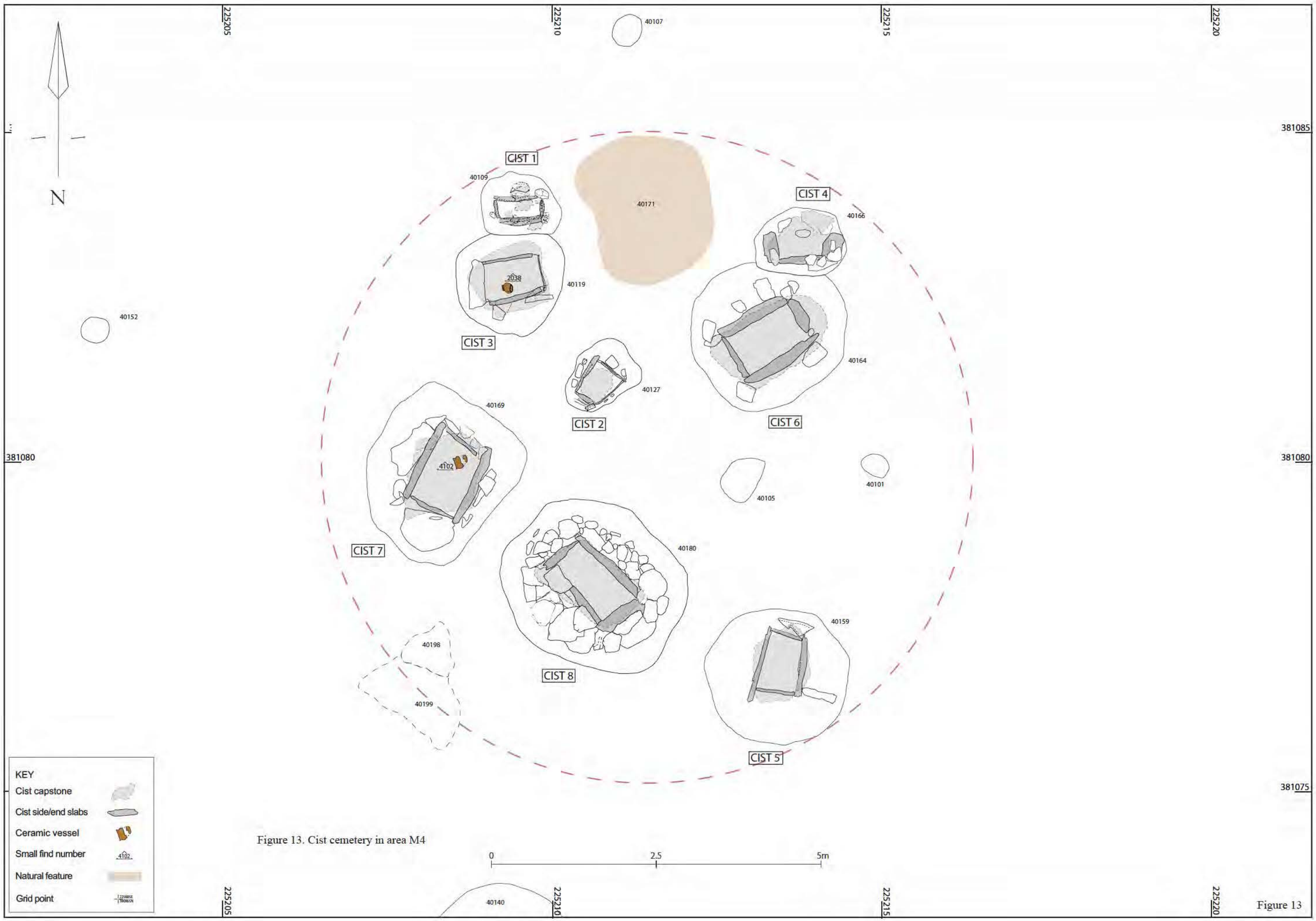


Figure 13. Cist cemetery in area M4

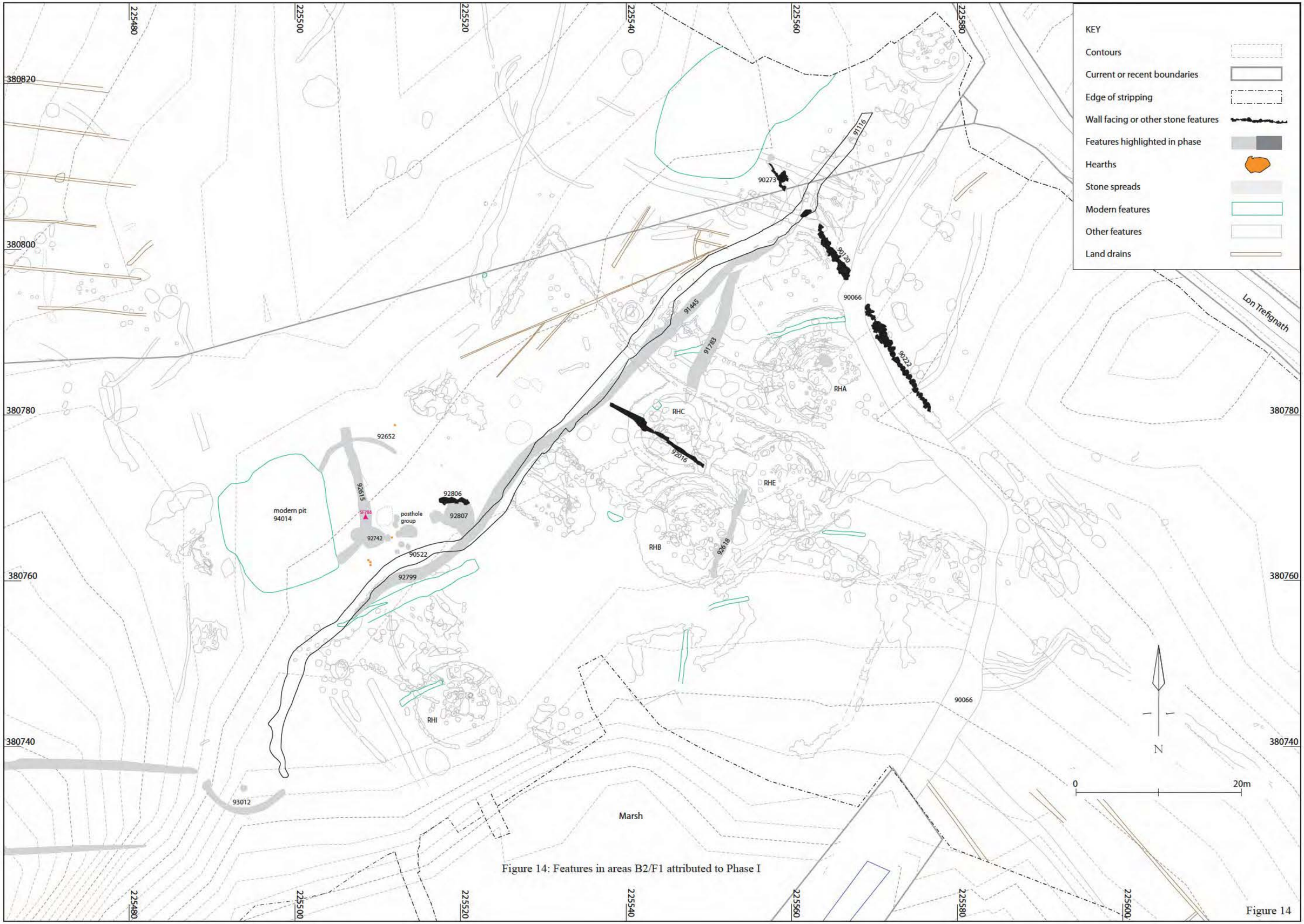


Figure 14: Features in areas B2/F1 attributed to Phase I

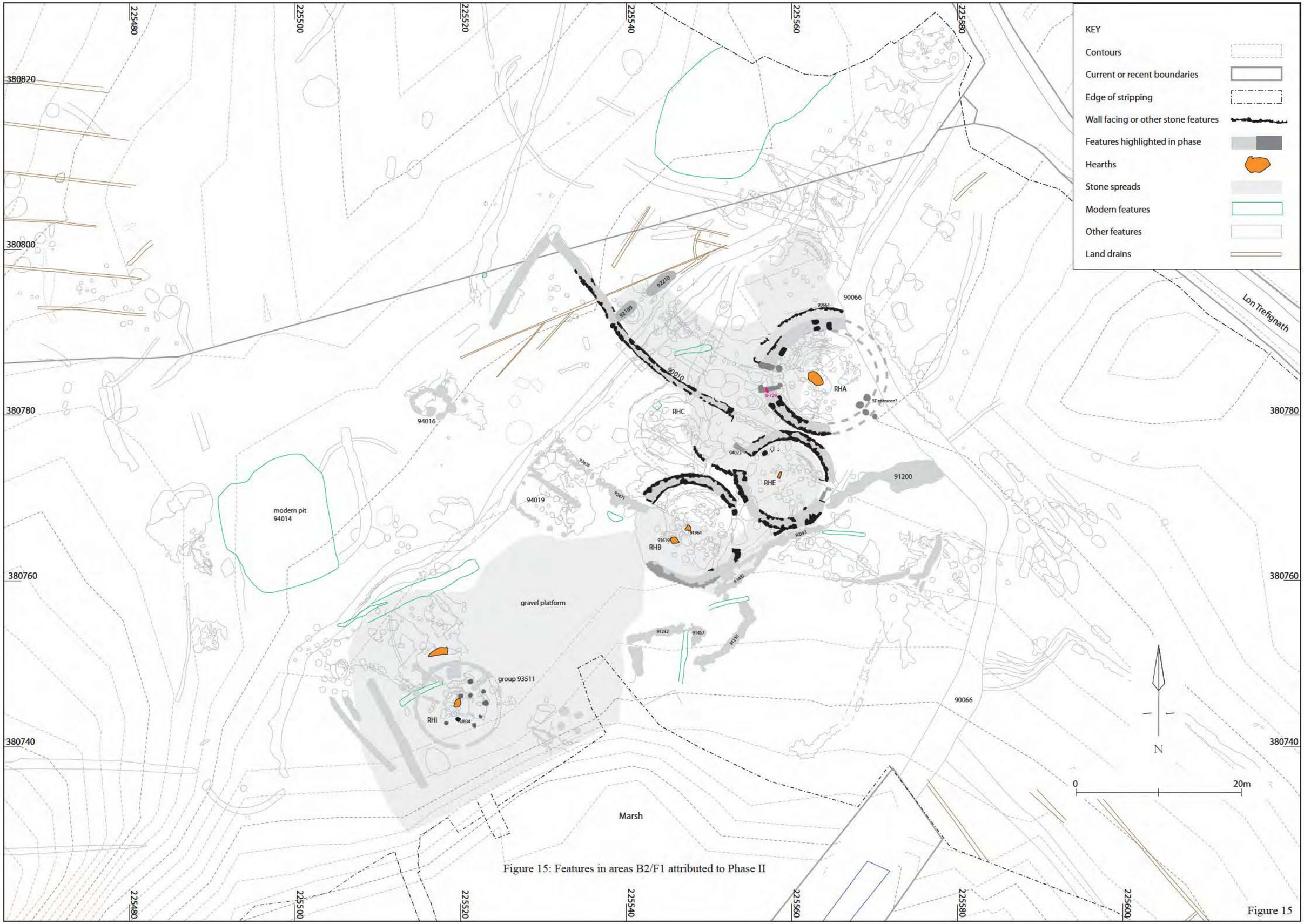


Figure 15: Features in areas B2/F1 attributed to Phase II

KEY

Contours

Current or recent boundaries

Edge of stripping

Wall facing or other stone features

Features highlighted in phase

Hearths

Stone spreads

Modern features

Other features

Land drains

225480 225500 225520 225540 225560 225580 225600

380820 380800 380780 380760 380740

25047 13019 06113 14011/14045 04003 13001 03010 13002 14006 25047 06046 06044 07011 07013 94024 structure D 92210 92189 90066 Lon Trefignath 90010 90632 RHA RHC 91578 RHE 93004 RHB modern pit 94014 92904 92909 roundhouse H entrance? 93059 92834/92862 93003 RHI 91474 93073 92183 92344 92352 92379 92348 92046 postholes 91579 91968 90066 Marsh

N

0 20m

Figure 16: Features in areas B2/F1 attributed to Phase III

Figure 16

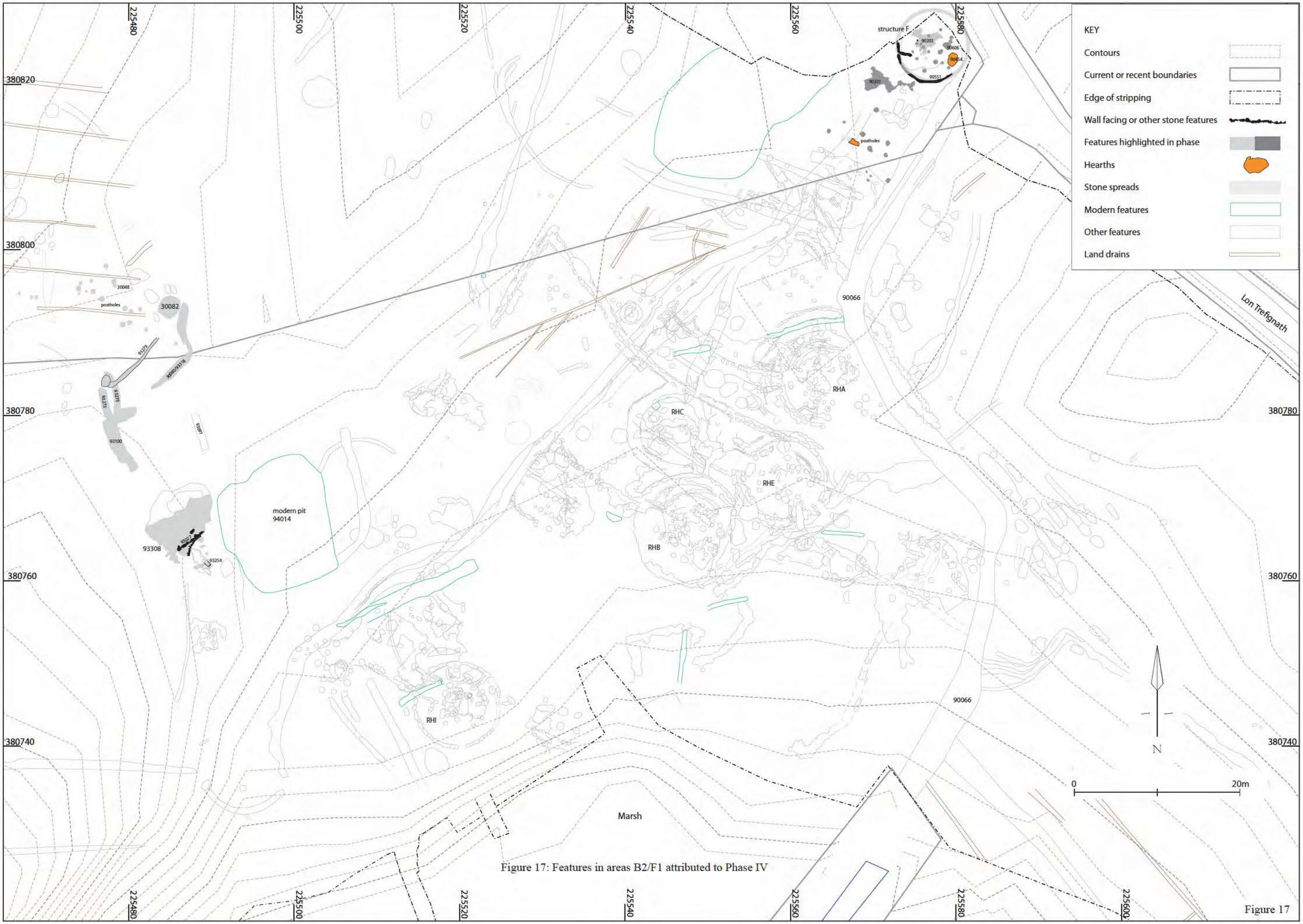


Figure 17: Features in areas B2/F1 attributed to Phase IV

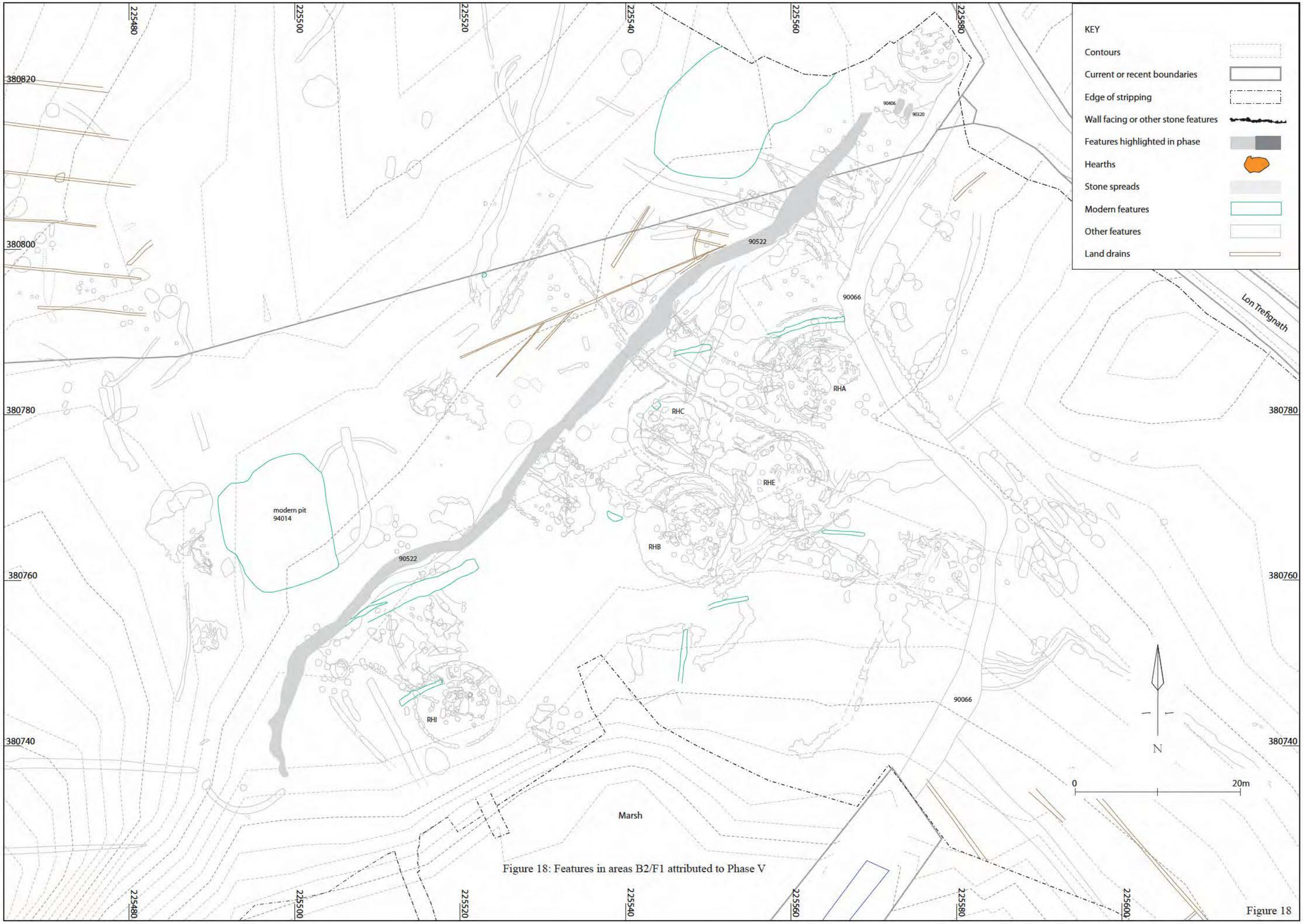


Figure 18: Features in areas B2/F1 attributed to Phase V

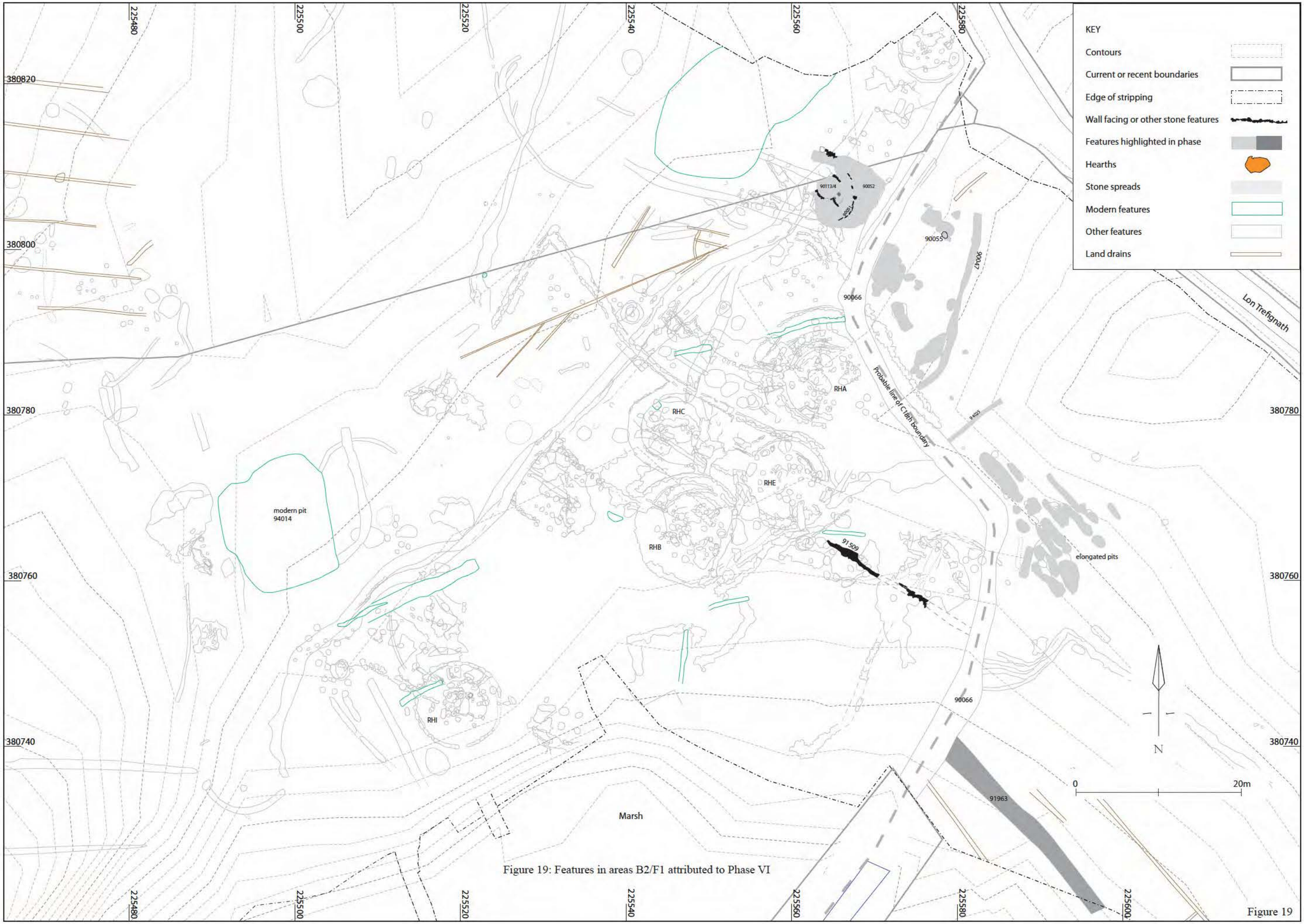


Figure 19: Features in areas B2/F1 attributed to Phase VI

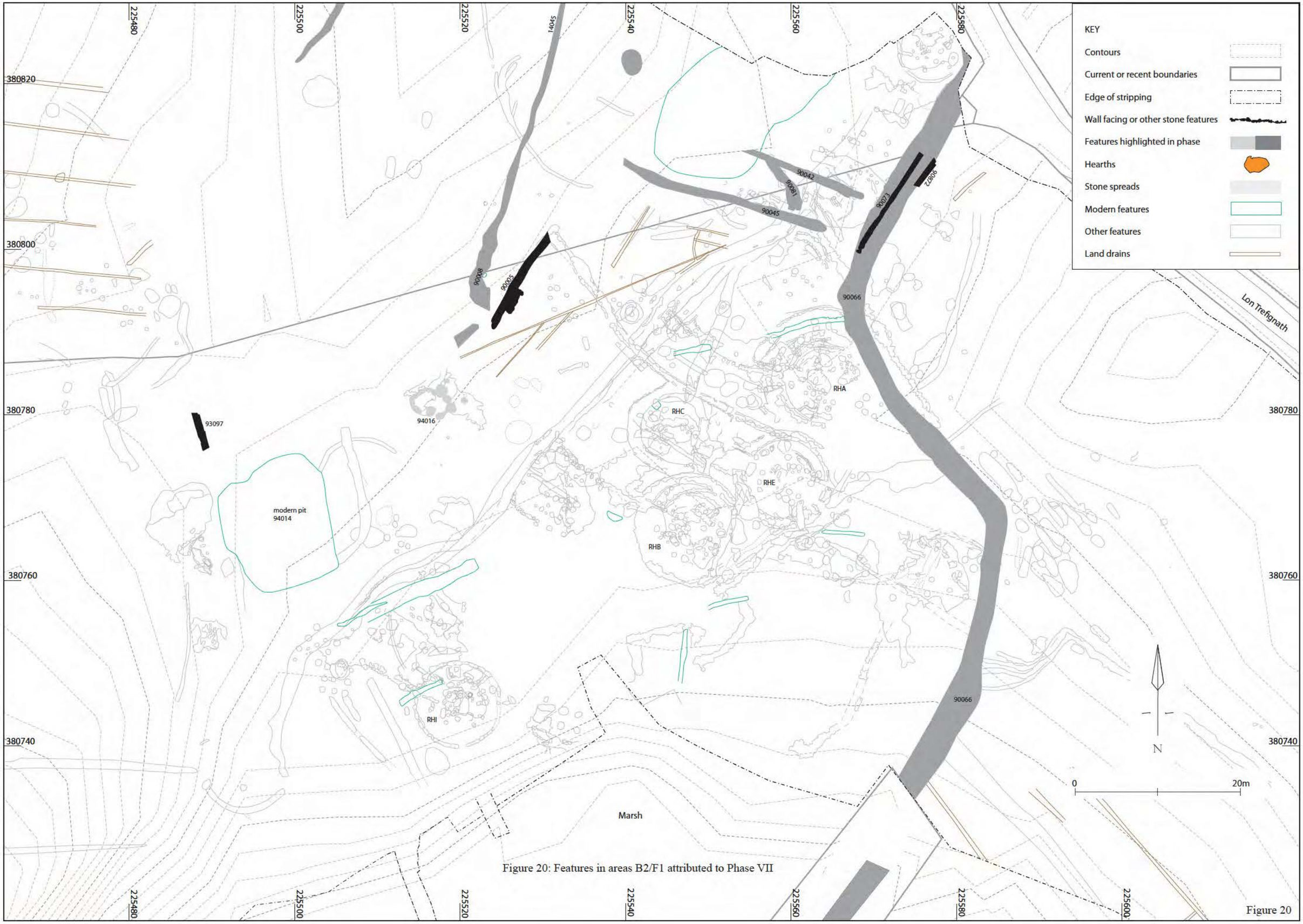


Figure 20: Features in areas B2/F1 attributed to Phase VII

Figure 21

Figure 21. Pit group 25046 and structure 22171 in area B1

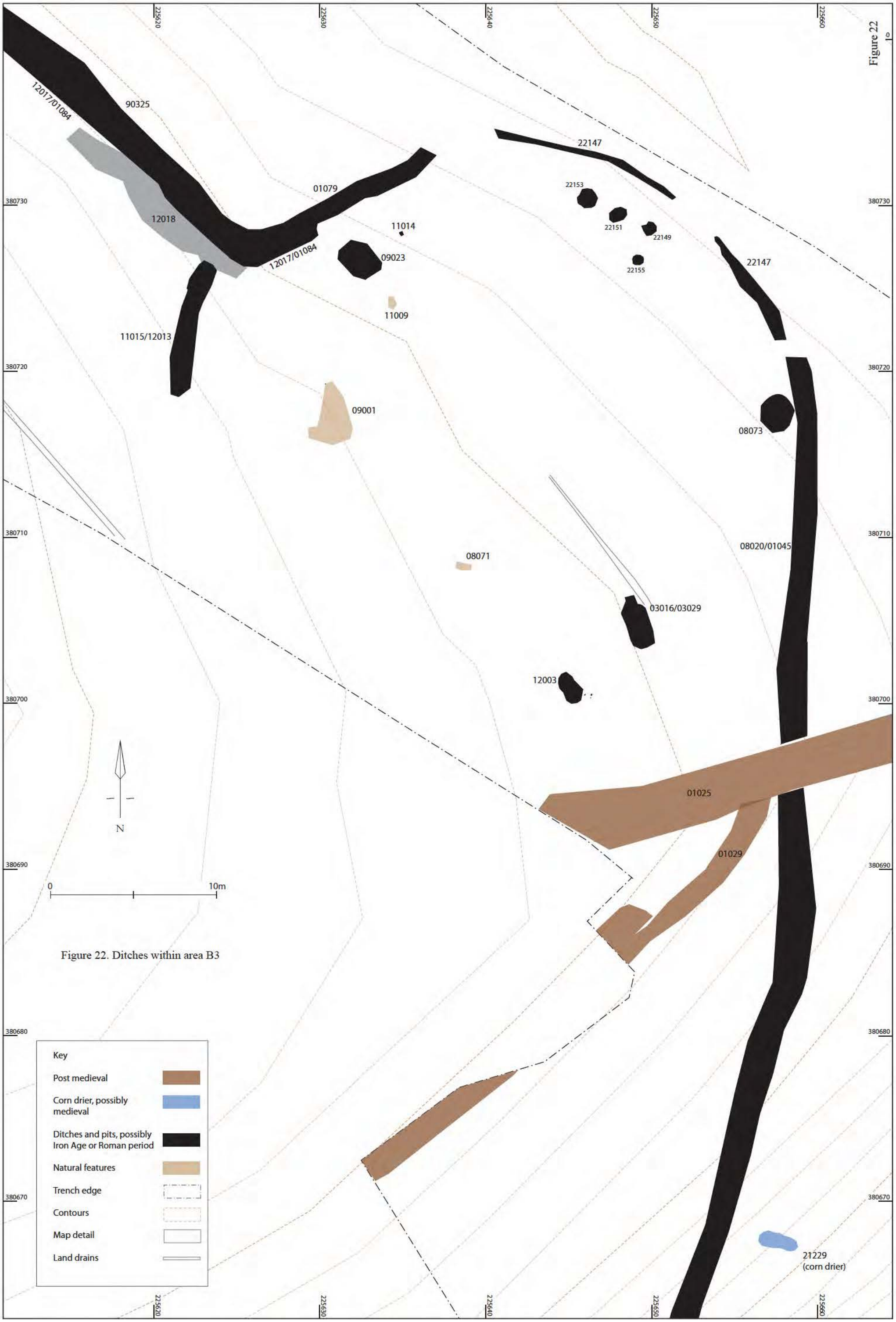
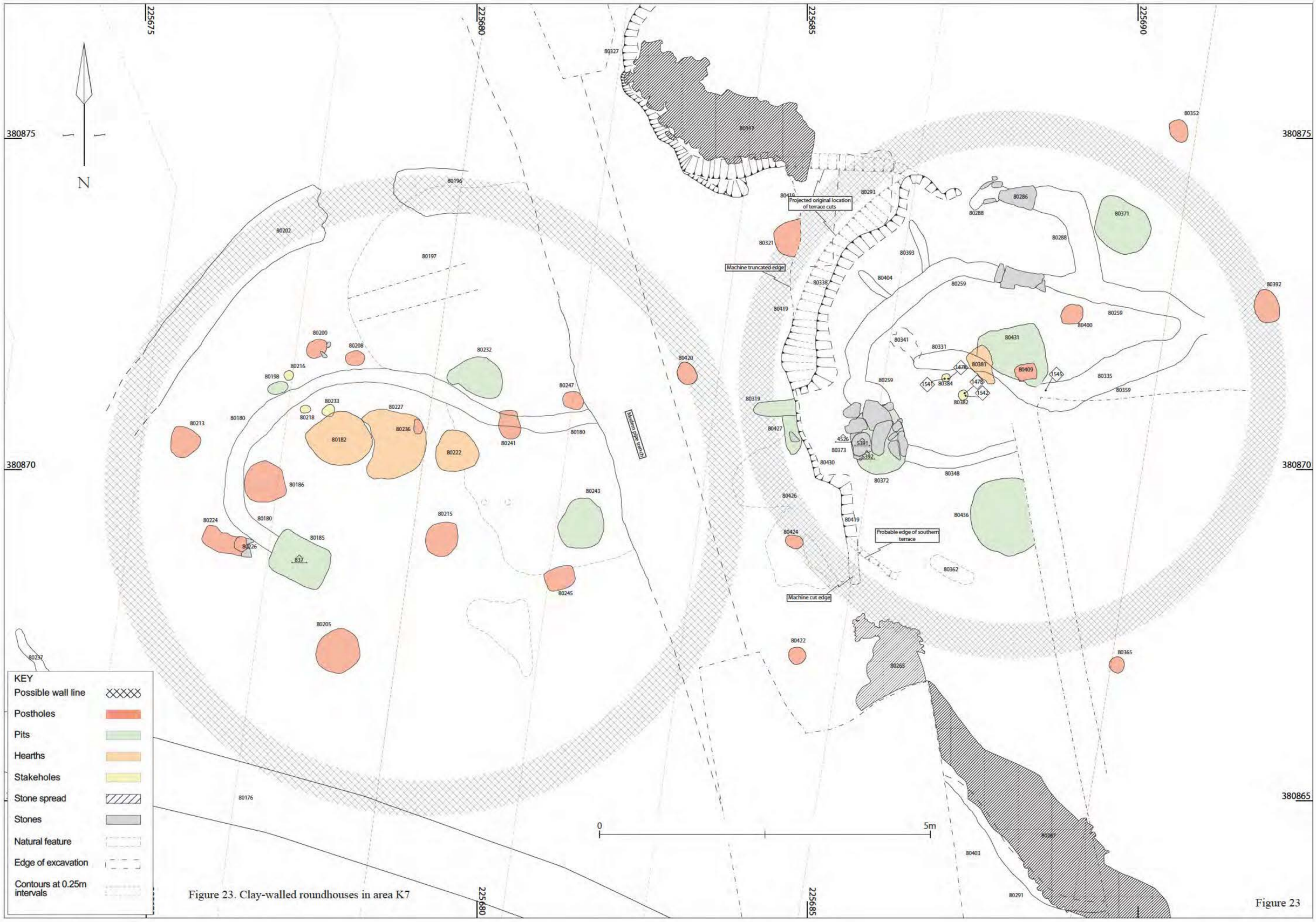


Figure 22. Ditches within area B3



KEY

- Possible wall line
- Postholes
- Pits
- Hearths
- Stakeholes
- Stone spread
- Stones
- Natural feature
- Edge of excavation
- Contours at 0.25m intervals

Figure 23. Clay-walled roundhouses in area K7

timber roundhouse

80722/3

PRN 31573

80526

sewer rising main

trackway

Lon Trefignath

80527

boulder hearth

sf6149

N

0 10m

Key

- Postholes
- Roman period pits
- Firepits and hearths
- Clay floors
- Other Roman period features
- Pits with Neolithic pottery
- Other probably prehistoric pits
- Post medieval
- Natural features
- Trench edge
- Contours
- Map detail

Figure 24. Building complex in area K9

KEY

Limit of stripping 2007/8

Evaluation trenches

Geophysics

Area of Stratascan survey

Magnetic disturbance

Positive area anomolies

Positive linear anomalies

Negative linear anomalies

Limit of GAT survey and anomalies

Archaeological features

Post medieval ditches

Clay floor surface

Stone spread

Burnt stone

Stone structures

Other features

Finds

Selected section drawings

Land drains

Modern dumping

Map detail

Pipeline easements

Field boundaries on 1889 map

N

0 20m

Figure 25. Possible Roman period roundhouse settlement in area K5

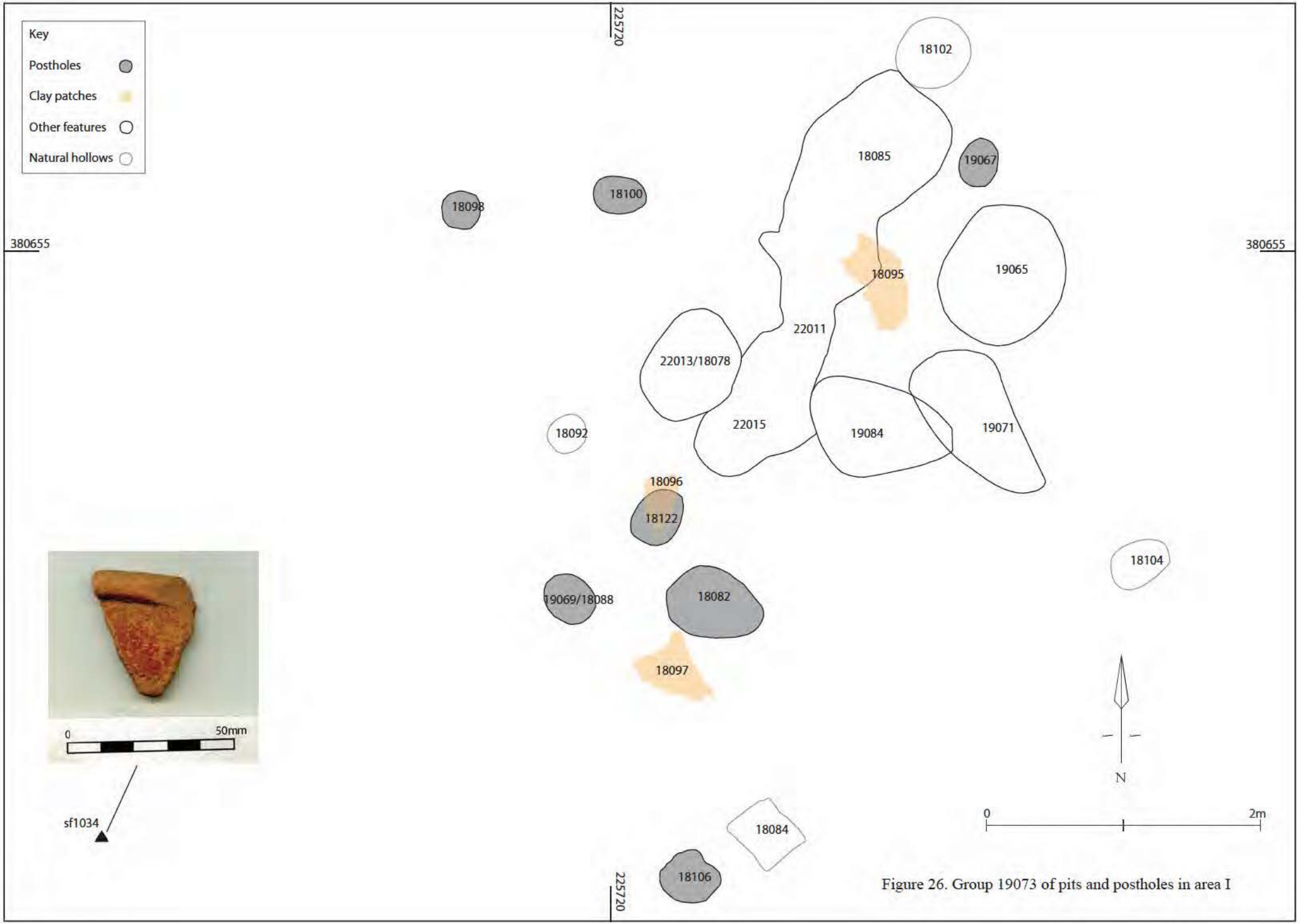


Figure 26. Group 19073 of pits and postholes in area I

225640
225645
225650
225655
380840
380835
380830
N
GRAVE G
GRAVE I
GRAVE C
GRAVE L
GRAVE K
GRAVE H
GRAVE B
GRAVE X
GRAVE D
GRAVE S
GRAVE W
GRAVE P
GRAVE U
GRAVE J
GRAVE Q
GRAVE N
GRAVE F
GRAVE O
GRAVE R
GRAVE M
GRAVE V
GRAVE T
GRAVE A
80052
80068
80072
80046
80078
80070
80066
80043
80091
80040
80086
80101
80120
80124
80055
80061
80097
80060
80131
80081
80048/80050
80003
80094
80122
80088
80118
80083
80080
80143
80104
EXPOSED BEDROCK
80100
2041
2042
2035
80114
80112
80036
2036
80044
80063
80108
80107
80092
80056
80116
80026
80025
80027
80024
80028
80023
80022
818
2037
823
KEY
Human Bone
Exposed bedrock
Natural feature
Contours at 0.25m intervals
0
5m

Figure 27. Early medieval cemetery

Figure 28. Tyddyn Piodan farmstead and earlier features

Plate 1. The view in 1953 from the northern end of the site looking south down Lôn Trefignath to the farm of Bonc Dêg and beyond to Trefignath Farm on the hill (reproduced permission of Tegwyn Jones)

Plate 2. The farmyard of Bonc Dêg in 1953 looking in from the road (reproduced permission of Tegwyn Jones)

Plate 3. The view in 1953 across the site towards Tyddyn Piodan and Merthyn Poeth with the wind mill beyond (reproduced permission of Tegwyn Jones)

YMDDIRIEDOLAETH
ARCHAEOLEGOL
GWYNEDD

GWYNEDD
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
TRUST

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