

**Archaeological Excavation  
Digging Drumanagh, Season II  
Preliminary Report**

**Drumanagh Promontory Fort  
Loughshinny, Co. Dublin**

**Consent no.: C786  
Excavation ref: E004805  
Detection No. R0000443**



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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta  
The Heritage Council



Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
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## **Abstract**

This report describes the preliminary results of Season II archaeological excavation, which was carried out under Ministerial Consent C786/E0046805 at Drumanagh Promontory Fort, Loughshinny, Co. Dublin as part of the *Digging Drumanagh-Fingal Community Excavation Project 2018-20*. Excavation of a single trench took place over 13 days between 15 -29 May 2019.

Drumanagh Promontory Fort which is a National Monument (Preservation Order No.13/177) a recorded monument (DU008-006001) and protected structure (No.252), is a coastal headland located between the villages of Loughshinny and Rush (ITM 727236/ 756210). Towards the eastern end of the promontory is a Martello Tower (RMP: DU008-006003-; RPS: No.253).

The focus of the 2019 excavation at Drumanagh Promontory Fort was on uncovering the nature of the Martello Road and the impact of its construction on underlying material, while engaging the community in their local archaeology. The presence of pre Martello road construction settlement activity was identified; the level of natural subsoil established and prehistoric activity examined.

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## 1 Introduction

This report describes the preliminary results of an archaeological excavation, which was carried out under Ministerial Consent C786/E0046805 at Drumanagh Promontory Fort, Loughshinny, Co. Dublin as part of Season II of the *Digging Drumanagh-Fingal Community Excavation Project 2018-20*. Excavation of a single trench took place over 13 days between 15 -29 May 2019.



*Plate 1: Aerial Photograph May 2019*

The *Digging Drumanagh-Fingal Community Excavation Project 2018-20* was designed to address the research and knowledge gaps identified in the *Drumanagh Conservation & Management Plan* and aimed to;

- Inform and enable future works-including remedial, conservation and landscape.
- Fulfil actions and objectives identified in the *Drumanagh Conservation Study & Management Plan* (download from <https://www.fingal.ie/digging-drumanagh-2018> )
- Establish the nature, context and significance of the features inferred from the results of the geophysical survey
- Establish the impact of the construction of the Martello Tower and access road
- Engage, inform and involve the community with Drumanagh Promontory fort and Martello Tower
- Inform the Drumanagh archaeological research agenda.

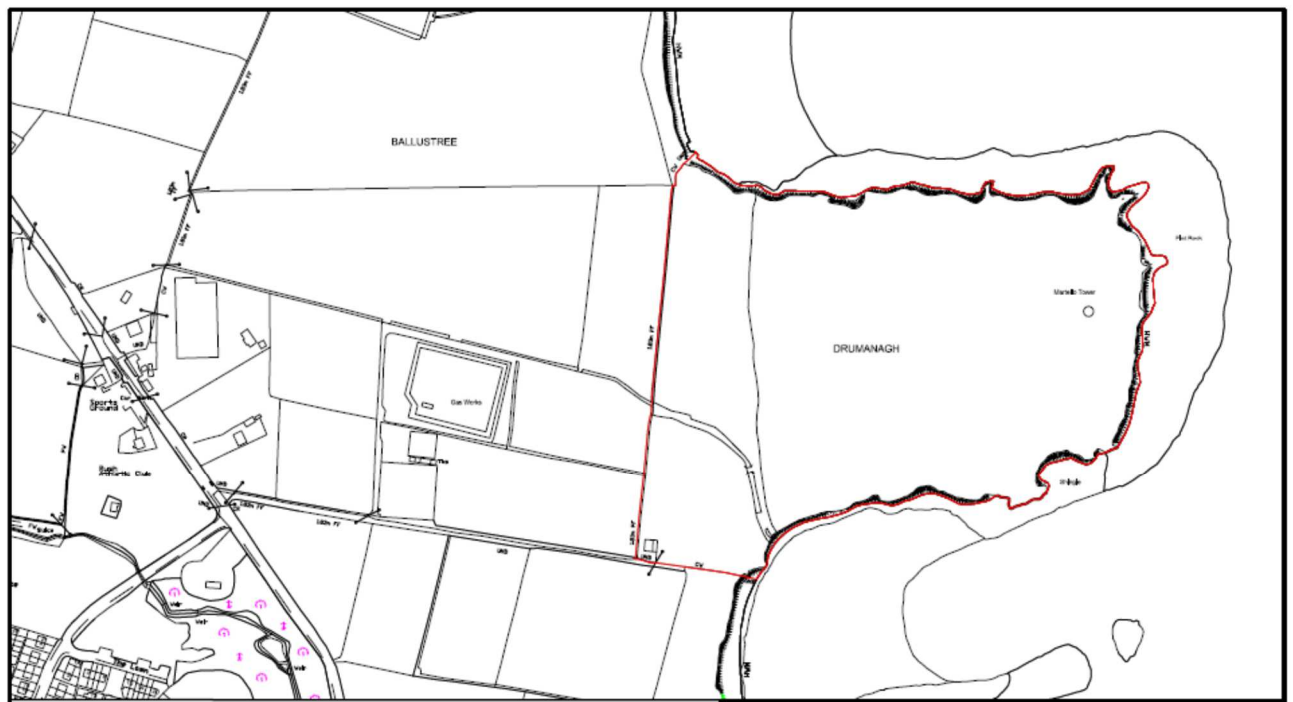
## 2 Location, topography & geology

Drumanagh Promontory Fort is a National Monument (Preservation Order No.13/177) a Recorded Monument (DU008-006001) and Protected Structure (No.252). Towards the eastern end of the promontory is a Martello Tower (RMP: DU008-006003-; RPS: No.253).

Drumanagh promontory fort is coastally located 0.6 km south of the village of Loughshinny, approximately 1.8 km north of the village of Rush and 0.5 km east of the R128 Rush to Skerries road. It is accessed to the south by a laneway and to the north along a cliff pathway. Approximately 6 km to the south-east is the island of Lambay.

The site consists of a headland of c.46 acres defended by a series of earthworks (L.350m), except where they curve inwards towards the southern limit. The relatively flat promontory is delimited to the west by three closely-spaced earthen banks and ditches. A small stream flows along part of the inner ditch to the southern cliff edge. A number of gaps occur along the ramparts, one or more of which may represent an original entrance. The site is bounded to the west by the townland boundary with Ballustree and to the south by the townland boundary with Rush.

The geology consists of glacial till overlying Lower Carboniferous limestone. The soils are Grey-Brown Podzolics, with associated Gleys.



*Fig. 1 Site Location Map (at scale 1:5000)*



### 3 Historical and Archaeological Background

The historical and archaeological background has been dealt with extensively in the *Drumanagh Conservation Study & Management Plan* (Section 5 Understanding the Monument pp.9-52) available for download from <https://www.fingal.ie/digging-drumanagh-2018>  
To summarise:

#### 1.3.1 Prehistoric Context

The extensive coastline of Fingal with its low-lying interior and naturally occurring flint pebbles was attractive to the earliest settlers who left behind ephemeral remains in the form of flint scatters and shell middens. Ms Gwendoline Stackpoole in her study of the north Dublin coastline identified nearby Kenure as 'One of the largest and richest sites on the County Dublin coast, and appears to be almost inexhaustible' (1963, 42). On nearby Lambay Island, evidence for the quarrying of the distinctive porphyry was uncovered. Links between Lambay, the coastline, Wales and Scotland indicate the emergence of a coastal and island network of communication and exchange. Approximately 600m south of Drumanagh is the site of Giant's Hill or Knocklea Passage tomb (DU008-013001-).

The Bronze Age is synonymous with the exploitation of mineral sources, the emergence of metal-working and the increased development of trade from Spain to the Baltic through the Irish seaways. Drumanagh is not only prominent in terms of being an identifiable landmark along the coastline but is located close to the copper ore deposits of Loughshinny. Mined in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries it is highly likely that this resource was the focus for earlier activity. A number of enclosures, ring ditches and cists of probable Bronze Age date have long been known along the Fingal coastline. Almost 300m north of the headland along the coast south of Loughshinny is an enclosure or possible ring ditch (DU008-051----). Three cists (DU008-013002-) were associated with the earlier passage tomb at Knocklea (Cahill & Sikora 2011, 176-180).

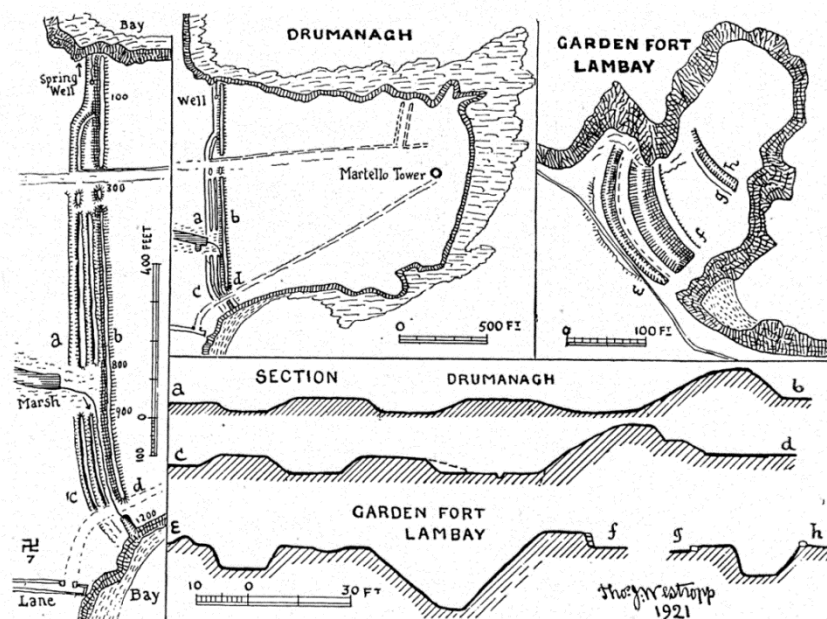


Fig.2 : Drumanagh and Lambay promontory forts (Westropp, 1921)



There are four promontory forts within Fingal. Drumanagh, is the largest and visible across the sea on Lambay are two further promontory forts, the Garden Fort which is defined by three large ditches and Scotch Point which was defended by a single ditch and bank. The size of the former indicates that it was for short term use, although its impressive rock-cut ditch indicates that it may have been a statement of power. The other large-scale promontory is Dungriffen fort, Howth

### 1.3.2. *The Roman Connection*

In recent years there has been in-depth analysis of the connections between the Romanised world and Ireland, not least of which was The Discovery Programme's *Late Iron Age and 'Roman' Ireland* (LIARI) project (2011-2014). In the 1920s work on the harbour on Lambay unearthed several burials accompanied by weaponry and jewellery. Analysis of the artefacts including a sword and shield, bronze fibulae and a beaded torc showed them to be from the Romanised world, perhaps northern England. In the 1970s ploughing on Drumanagh led to the discovery of Roman material including Gallo-Roman Samian ware and subsequent unauthorised metal-detecting of the fort and surrounding lands produced extensive metalwork from the Roman World.

Drumanagh was acknowledged as being of great significance in the context of Roman trade along the east coast (Raftery 1994, 207). Parallels have been suggested between Drumanagh and the trading port of Henigistbury Head, Dorset which was also defined by multivallate ramparts, contained evidence for metalworking, was located on the borderland between territories and had a role as a distributional centre. Newman has proposed that there is a significant routeway from Drumanagh-an extremely important entrepôt with the Romano-British world-through Damastown, Garristown, Edox and Skreen to Tara (2005, 379).

Another significant interpretation of the material recovered is that it is representative of a manufacturing centre at Drumanagh. Over forty ingots of copper bronze and brass were recovered from the site and its environs all of which are suggestive of metalworking on site (Cahill Wilson 2014, 26). A comparable ingot recovered from Damastown (c.13km from Drumanagh) is also similar to Romano-British specimens from copper-rich areas in Wales. While it has previously been assumed the Damastown ingot was imported from Roman Britain (Raftery 1994, 208) an examination of wider imperial trade patterns suggests that this was unlikely when copper was being imported to the continent from Roman Britain (Daffy 2003, 98). It is even more unlikely that copper was being imported into Drumanagh given the proximity of deposits of copper along the Loughshinny coastline.

### 1.3.3. *Early Medieval to Modern*

The development of the ecclesiastical system was closely tied to the complex secular dynastic system and ecclesiastical centres were often dependent on the largesse of particular kin-groups. St Patrick's Island is highly visible from Drumanagh as is the site of St Daman's foundation (now St Catherine's Church) at Kenure to the west and is likely that the Christian influence was felt by the communities occupying Drumanagh.

While there is as yet no direct evidence of the Vikings at Drumanagh the Norse influence in the region is extensive. The prominence of Drumanagh as a landmark for seafarers, the opportunities for landing in proximity to rich ecclesiastical centres such as Lusk, and the surviving placenames of Scandinavian origin including that of nearby Lambay infer extensive Norse activity in the vicinity of Drumanagh.

When ploughing disturbed the interior of Drumanagh in the 1970s it was noted that some of the internal earthworks may represent a medieval village on the site (NMI Files 1A/27/77). Medieval pottery was also recovered during fieldwalking of the west of the site in 2014. Drumanagh was part of the land of *Kinure* of the manor of Rush. The manor of Rush was in turn grouped with the manors of Balscadden and Turvey and frequently granted and leased throughout the medieval period by the Butlers of Ormond. Drumanagh is not recorded separately in the *Civil Survey of 1654-56*, but is encompassed within the holdings of *Kinure* held by Robert Walsh, which comprised 300 acres of mainly arable land a mansion house, ruined chapel and was bounded to the east by the sea. *Kinure* was occupied subsequent to this by Lord George Hamilton of Strabane, and then became the seat of Echlin family until 1765 when it came into the ownership of the Palmer family.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century Drumanagh was noted by naturalist John Ruddy 'as the richest spot by repute' (1772). This was reflected in an advertisement in *Saunders Newsletter* on 6 April 1780;

'To be let for such term of year as may be agreed on from the 11<sup>th</sup> May next the Townlands of Drumanagh and part of the lands of Rush and Kinure, thereto adjoining, now in the possession of Mr Richard Flood containing 154a 3 r 29 p. Part of the estate of Roger Palmer esq on which lands there are a good farmhouse and offices. These lands are remarkably fine fattening meadow and Pasture grounds, well enclosed and in high Order; and as they lie within half a mile of the Town of Rush and but 13 miles from Dublin they would make answer extremely well for a Dairy or Draw farm. Proposals in writing only to be received by Roger Palmer Esq at John Eden Brownes esq Great Winchester-dress London or by Mr Denis at Rush House or his house, Dawson St. Dublin'

#### 1.3.4. Drumanagh, Martello Tower No.9

One of twelve Martello towers that extend along the coast of Fingal, Drumanagh Martello tower was positioned on the promontory 'for the defence of Rush Strand and River, the pier and cover at Drummanagh Point'. A Lieutenant-Colonel Benjamin Fisher was put in charge of construction which included the choosing and marking out of sites for the towers and gun batteries, employing assistants, overseers and legal advice and engaging contractors to build the towers (Bolton et al 2010, 22). Work began on the first nine towers on the north side of Dublin Bay on 1 September 1804 but construction was postponed until the spring of 1805. The towers were built so quickly that negotiations with the owners for the price of the land often took place after the towers had been built. The deed for Drumanagh and Rush Martello towers between Robert Palmer and Benjamin Fisher dates to 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1806 when the land was purchased for £132.13.9. This was just over the average plot price of £50 per tower in

Fingal but substantially less than the £600 the Earl of Howth received for plots at Howth and on Ireland's Eye (Bolton *et al* 2012, 22).

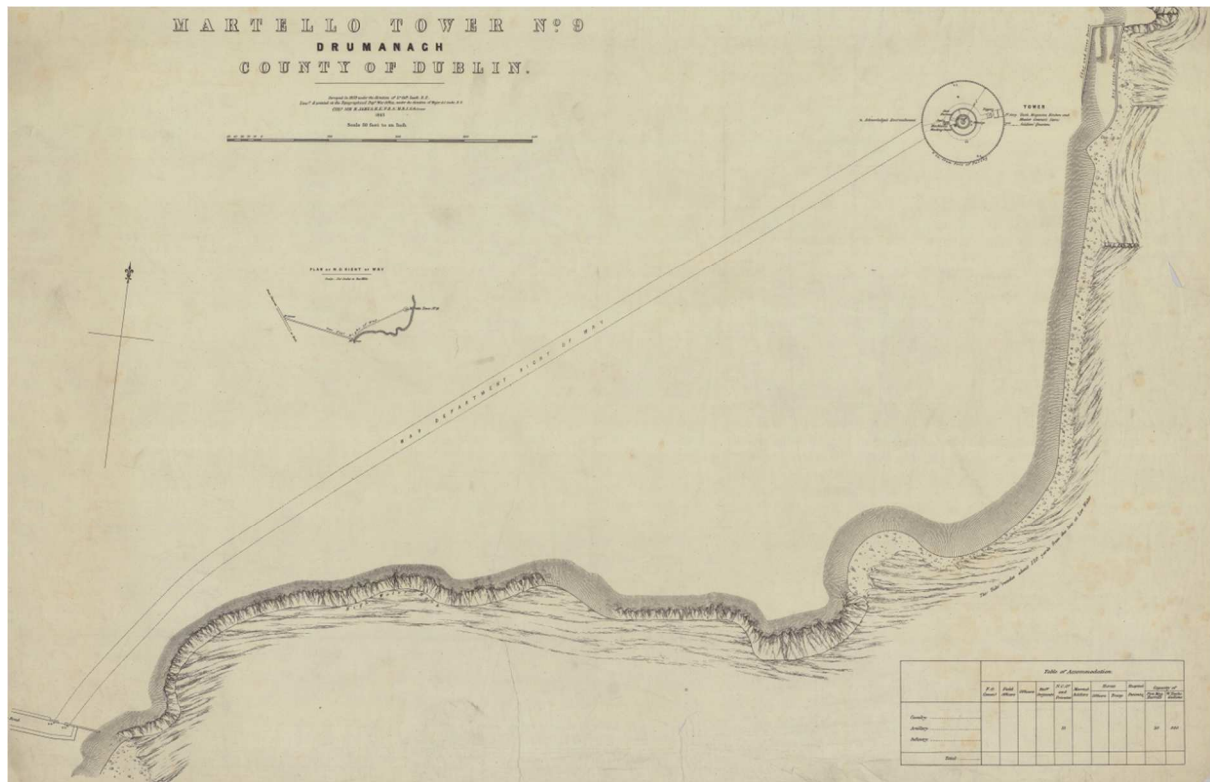


Fig.3: Martello Tower No.9 1862, Military Archive Map, Reference AD134122002

The original approach to the tower survives as a sunken trackway. A system of eighteenth and nineteenth relict field boundaries also extend across the promontory.

### 3.1 Cartographic Evidence

The Down Survey Parish and Barony maps produced c.1656 depict the promontory, almost to the point of exaggeration. Drumanagh while not labelled is very clearly shown as part of Kenure (Figure 4).

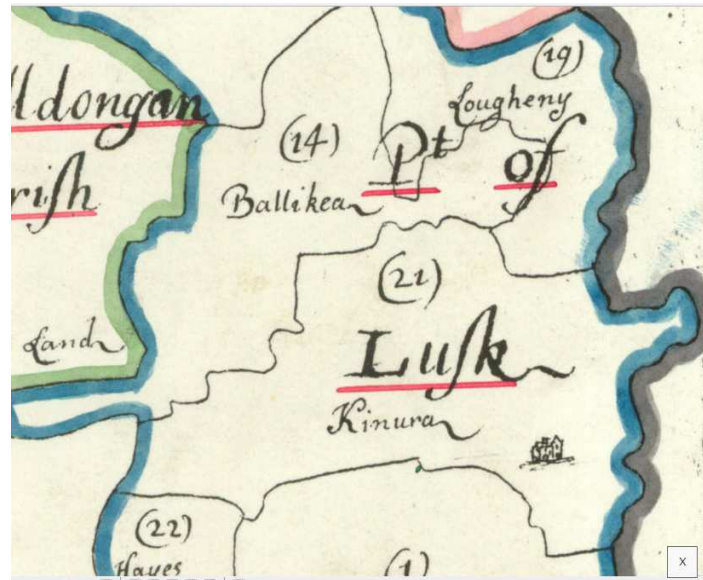


Fig. 4: Down Survey Barony Map c.1656

Rocque's Map of 1760 is particularly detailed. It depicts *Drummahaugh Land* surrounded by a wall. The western and southern boundaries are walls in contrast to the hedgerows and laneways that surround it. The nearest walled area is the demesne surrounding Rush House (later known as Kenure House). The Old Castle of Kinure and the Church in ruins date from the medieval period, elements of both survive at St Catherine's today.



Fig. 5 Rocque's Map of County Dublin, 1760

Also notable is the nomenclature for the area 'Old Danish Forts' which doubtless refers to the ramparts. It was a standard of the time when anything of antiquity was ascribed to the Danes and is reflective of subsequent folklore of the area.

Two structures are depicted to the north-west of the promontory. One structure is aligned east-west along the field boundary, the other north-south at the inlet of the cliff. Remnants of both are still visible in these positions.

Duncan's Map of 1821 is less detailed than Rocque's but depicts the addition of the Tower on 'Drumnough Point'. This is the first map to illustrate -although somewhat stylistically- the ramparts at the neck of the promontory which are labelled 'Danish Lines'



Fig. 6: Duncan's 1821 map





Fig. 7: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map.. Surveyed 1838, Published 1843

The First Edition six-inch Ordnance Survey (OS) map provides a particularly detailed picture of the ramparts. The northern trivallate banks appear integrated with the east-west field boundary, which in turn intersects with a north-south field boundary, indicating the land division of the time. South of the intersection of ramparts and field boundary are two distinct circular features which may represent the truncation of the ramparts at this point. As the four banks head southwards they become less well defined and more compressed.

The road to the Martello tower extends from the lane-which forms the townland boundary between Drumanagh and Rush- and traverses the ramparts to the south. A stream flows from the western field boundary, that forms the townland boundary between Drumanagh and Ballustree, into the southern ditch and Drumanagh well is depicted to the north. The rocks around the headland are distinctive and extensive.

The manuscript of O'Donovan's survey which appears in less detailed form in the Name Books is headed 'Ancient Remains' and is scaled 12 inches to the mile (Fig. 8). It contains some additional information. Along the northern limit of the promontory the line of a wall is depicted. It is referenced as 'Wall apparently ancient'. It is not continuous perhaps a result of the condition of being 'ancient'. There is a very definite portion of the wall at the north-east point of the promontory where there is a lunular-shaped inlet. There is a continuous although 'lighter' line that extends around the eastern and southern perimeter. It is unclear if this is a continuation of the apparently ancient wall. The stream pools within the outer banks of the ramparts before flowing within the ditch where it is traversed by the road to the Martello



tower. Significantly there are two short parallel banks on the eastern side of the ramparts. These aren't depicted on previous or subsequent maps.

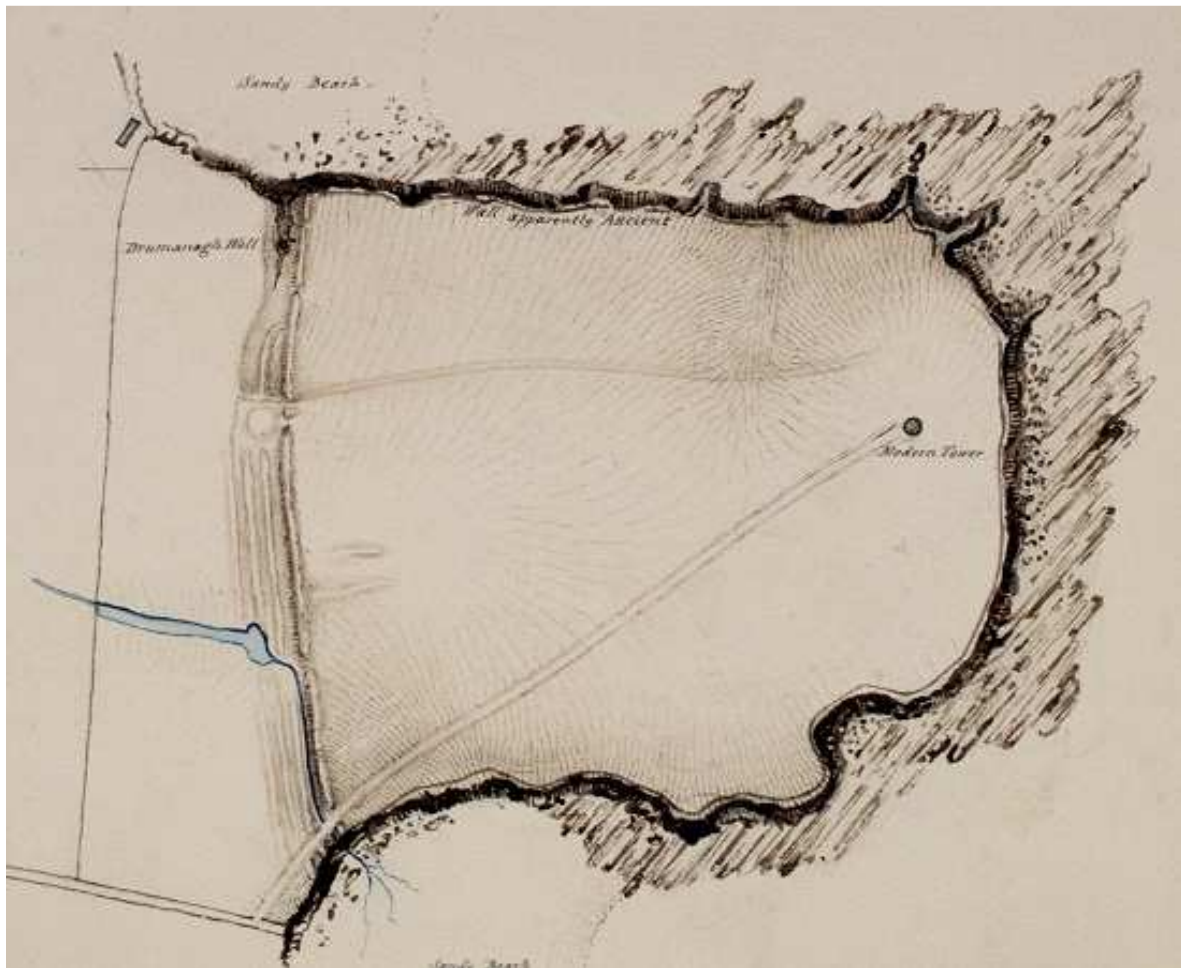
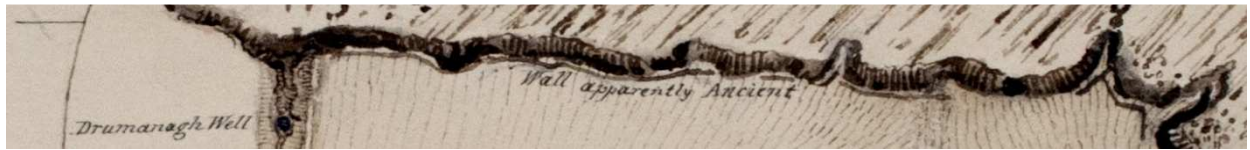


Fig. 8: Drawing 14 C 15(28) (1) Courtesy of the Royal Irish Academy ©

The 25 inch map no longer depicts the road to the Martello tower or the field boundaries to the north of the promontory. The stream no longer pools at the ramparts which are depicted as a single line.

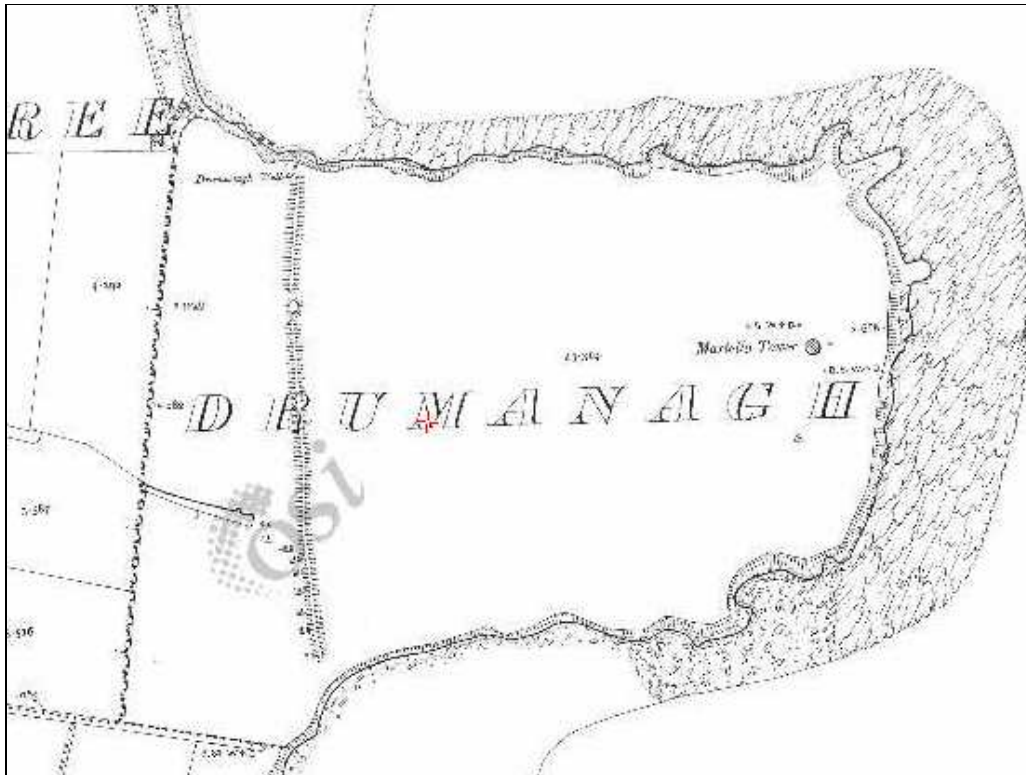
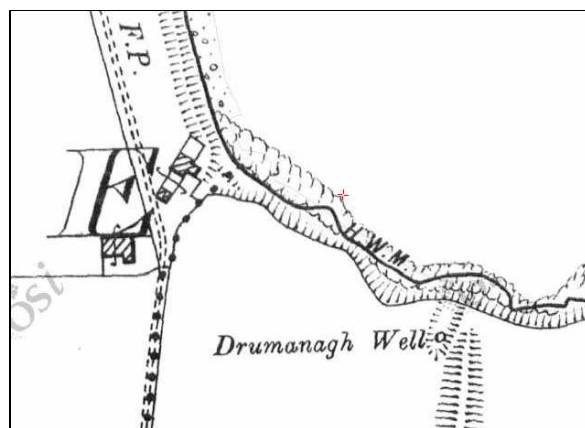
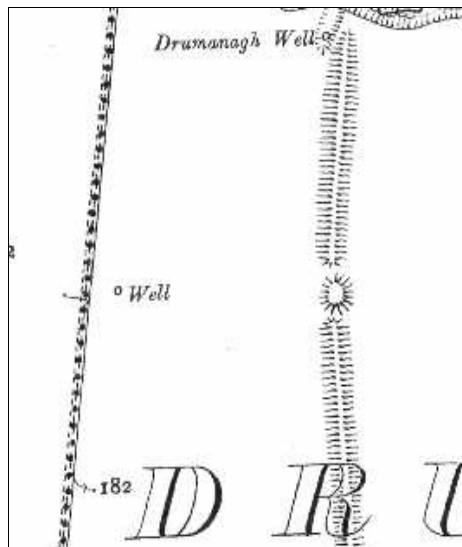


Fig. 9: 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map. Surveyed 1906; Published 1908

A previously unillustrated feature is a well, located east of the western townland boundary. The structure at the cliff edge appears to have been modified and perhaps divided into two structures east of the footpath. A structure has been constructed at the field boundary perhaps on the footprint of the building previously shown on Rocque's 1760 map.



The Martello Road and relict field boundaries remain visible on aerial photographs, subsequent satellite imagery and LiDar images.



Plate 3: Oblique <http://lswanaerial.locloudhosting.net/items/show/39958>

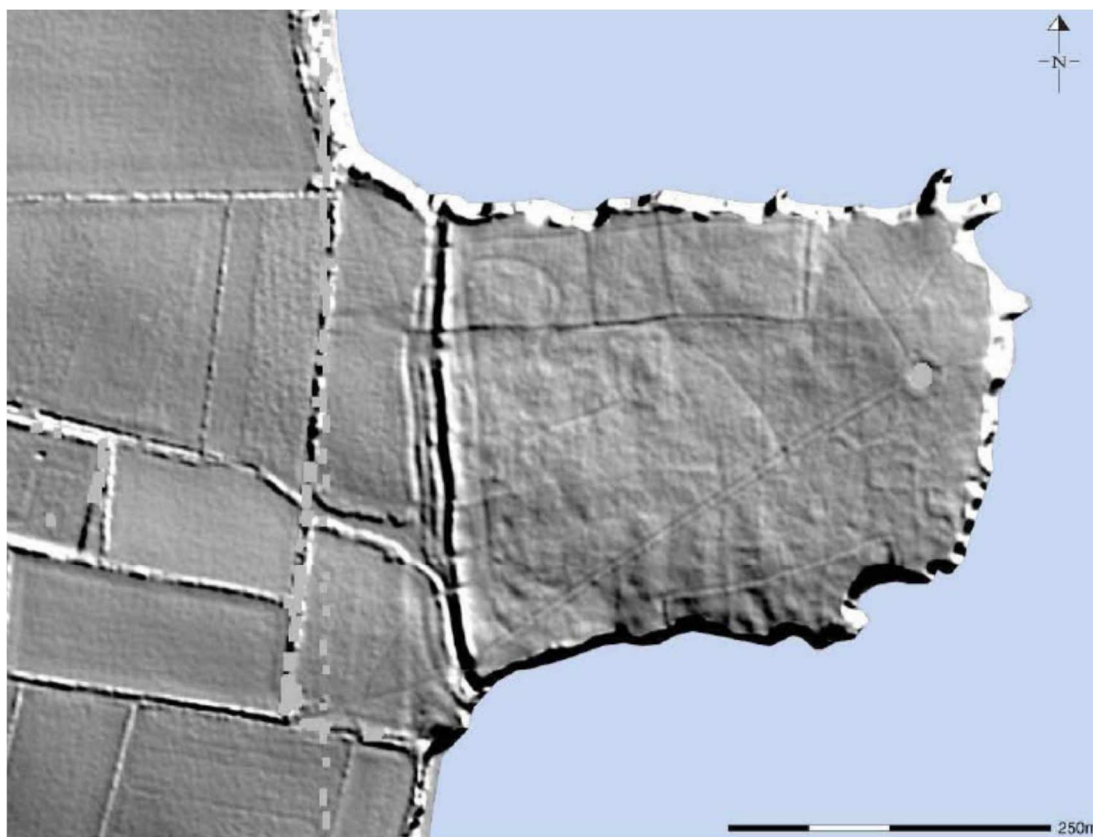


Plate 4: LiDAR image, Fingal County Council and The Discovery Programme 2014



### 3.2 Previous excavations:

Ploughing in the 1970s uncovered a series of hut sites suggesting extensive settlement. A sherd of Gallo-Roman Samian Ware was recovered from the site (Raftery 1996, 19), as was a pin of early medieval date and medieval pottery. A range of artefacts of both native and Romano-British derivation were recovered through illegal metal-detecting.

#### 2014 Ministerial Consent: C601/E4501

In advance of proposed fencing of the headland a programme of auguring was undertaken by Mr Tom Condit, of the National Monument Service in conjunction with members of the Discovery Programme. A total of 122 test pits, arranged in a series of 'runs' comprising six or less bore holes, were excavated as close to the cliff-edge defining the promontory as feasible using an 'auto auger mechanical post hole borer' with a 20cm diameter auger over two days in June 2014. No artefacts or, indeed, soil horizons of clear archaeological significance were encountered (Dowling 2014). A total of 49 surface finds of archaeological and potential archaeological interest were identified including flint (both worked and unworked) and pottery, together with a single fragment of roof slate.

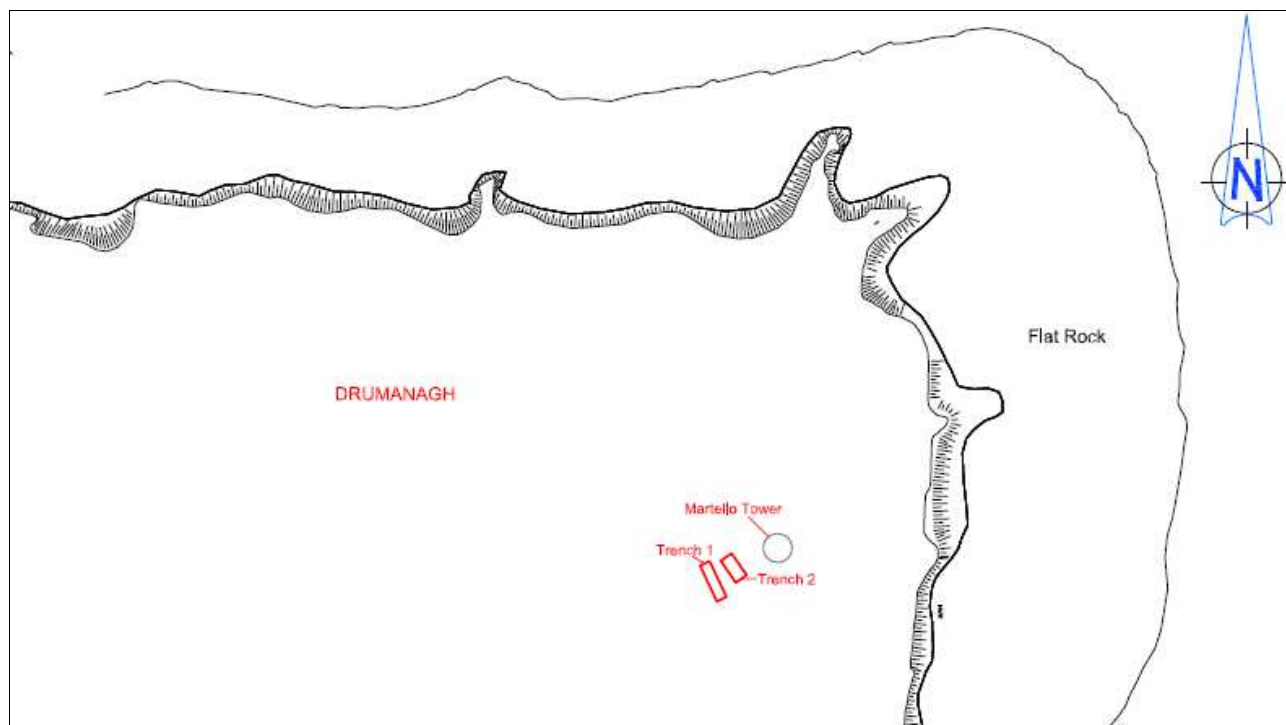
In addition lands outside the fort ramparts on the west were inspected to identify any material of archaeological interest that may have been exposed by ploughing across this area. A total of 49 surface finds of archaeological and potential archaeological interest were identified including flint (both worked and unworked) and pottery, together with a single fragment of roof slate.



*Plate 5: Auger holes locations 2014 survey (blue) and 2017 survey (red), courtesy of the Discovery Programme*

### 2017 Ministerial Consent: C786/E4805

In advance of the installation of boundary fencing and access gates, a two day programme of augering was undertaken by Ger Dowling and Gary Devlin, Discovery Programme and Christine Baker, Fingal County Council. A total of 56 auger holes were excavated. No artefacts or soil horizons of archaeological significance were identified although a high level of modern disturbance was evident, particularly along the north-western and southern boundaries. In addition monitoring of the removal of modern detritus and a cow shed was undertaken at the south-west limit of the site. A boundary stone associated with the Martello Tower was recovered.



*Fig. 10: Season I, Trench layout, at scale 1:2000, (Survey data supplied by The Discovery Programme)*

### 2018 Ministerial Consent: C786/E4805

Season I of Digging Drumanagh was undertaken by Christine Baker, Community Archaeologist, Fingal County Council over 10 days between 21 -31 May 2018. The focus of the 2018 season of excavation at Drumanagh promontory fort was the Martello road in the vicinity of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Martello tower, towards the eastern limit of the headland. Two trenches (T1 and T2) were excavated and the level of natural subsoil (hitherto unknown) was attained in both trenches; the nature and construction of the Martello road was investigated and the level of impact of its construction on earlier stratigraphy ascertained.



*Plate 6: Antler combs. Photograph: John Sunderland*

The insertion of the Martello road impacted on Iron Age activity that as characterised by the recovery of two antler combs which were for personal use and probably locally made (Katharina Becker pers. comm.). Two sherds of Dressel 20 pottery were also recovered from what would have been the original ground level disturbed by ploughing to the south of the Martello road. This pottery was from amphorae used for the transportation of olive oil. Dressel 20 was produced between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD in the Roman province of Baetica in Southern Spain. The hilt of a Raftery Type 2b/Rynne Ultimate La Tène sword was also recovered from this disturbed area. Carved from bone, the hilt would have come from a small, almost dagger-like sword which was considered to have developed in the 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>



centuries AD, away from the direct influence of the Roman military (Siobhan Duffy pers. comm.).



*Plate 7: Sherds of Dressel 20 from Drumanagh; amphora*

A number of fragments of human bone were also recovered from the Season I excavation and examined by Dr Linda Lynch. These fragments include the cranial fragment of a female individual aged between 18 and 45 years at the time of death. From a disturbed context, the fragment returned a radiocarbon date of BC 170 – cal. AD 52 (UBA-38844; 2042+/-44 BP, 95% probability). A long bone identified as an adult femur was recovered from the area south of the Martello road which returned a date of cal. BC 49 – cal. AD 118 (UBA-38843; 1976+/-35 BP, 95% probability). This indicates at least two in this area of the site that were disturbed by the insertion of the Martello road and subsequent ploughing south of it.



*Plate 8: Royal Downshire belt brace; Royal Artillery button*

There were also extensive remains associated with the Martello tower and its occupants. A belt plate of the Royal Downshire Militia dating to the period 1794-1800 AD was recovered. This was an unusual find in that it was common practice to return all such militia items to a central store. It also predates the construction of the Martello tower by five years. The Royal Downshires were given a commission in the Royal Artillery of Ireland who were stationed at Drumanagh. A shako plate of the Royal Artillery and two buttons were also recovered.

### 3.3. Geophysical Survey

The National Museum of Ireland commissioned a geophysical survey of the promontory in 1999. As part of the *Late Iron Age and 'Roman Ireland' Project 2011-14* undertaken by the Discovery Programme, six separate areas, comprising 4.7 ha in total were targeted for geophysical survey at Drumanagh and environs (Licence No.: 12R127).

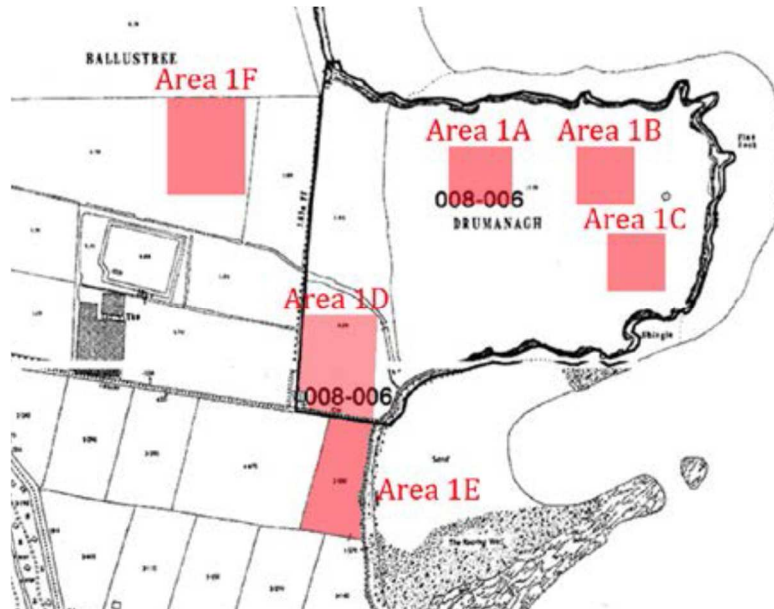


Fig.11 Layout of geophysical survey panels 2014, courtesy of the Discovery Programme

Three areas (1A, 1B, 1C and 1D) were to the east of the promontory and another (1D) was to the west of the ramparts in the south-west of the site. Gradiometry was conducted using 0.25m sample and 0.5m traverse intervals (Dowling 2014, 65).

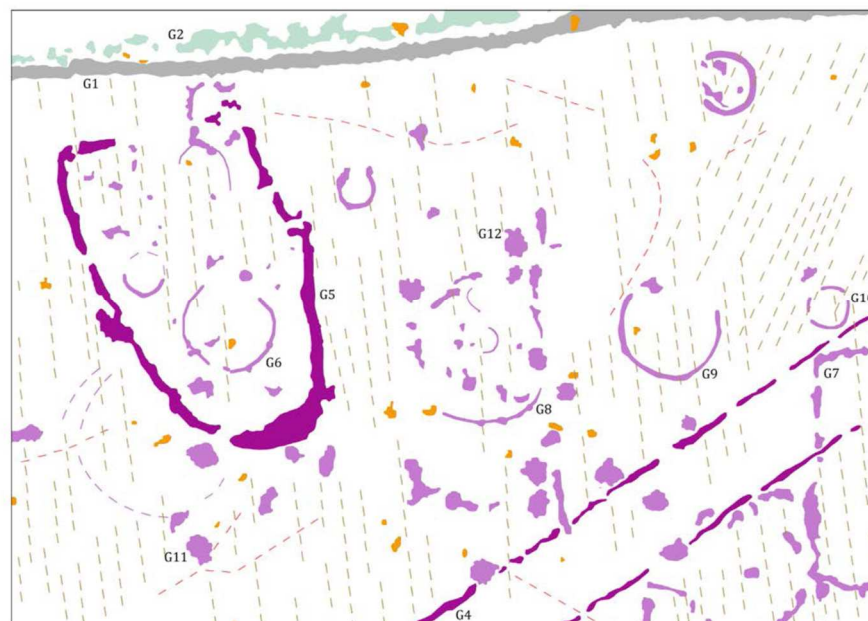
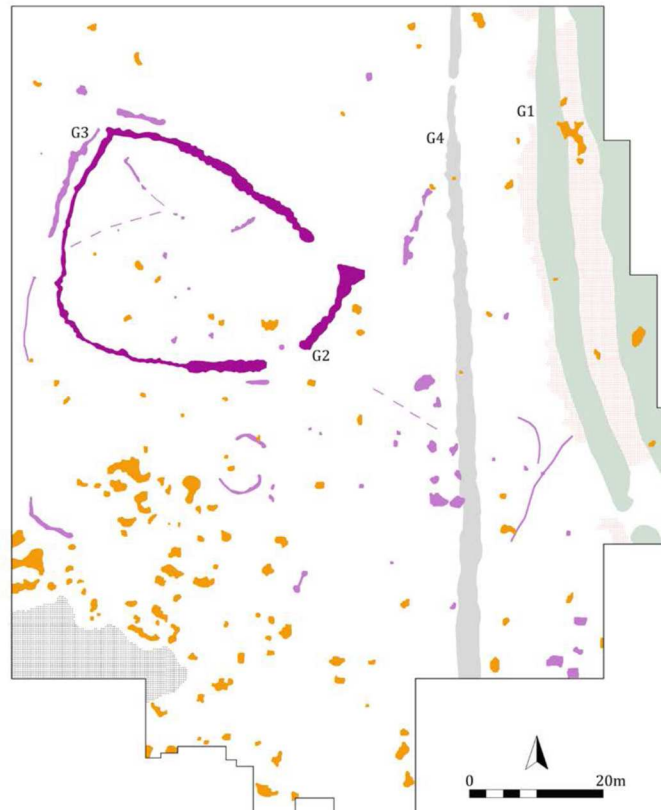


Fig.12 Geophysical survey results Area 1A, courtesy of the Discovery Programme

Within the promontory a large D-shaped enclosure (G5/SMR: DU008-006004) 43m NW/SE by 26m NE/SW enclosing a possible structure (G6/ SMR: DU008-006005) was identified. An enclosure with an array of large pit-type anomalies (G8/ SMR: DU008-006007); a rectangular enclosure c.30m in diameter (G7/ SMR: DU008-006006); possible ring-ditch truncated by a field ditch (G13/ SMR: DU008-006008) and another possible ring-ditch with a well-defined pit anomaly at its centre (G14/ SMR DU008-006009). These were interspersed with discrete pit-type anomalies, fragmentary circular anomalies and positive ditch-type anomalies (Dowling 2014, 59-74).



*Fig. 13 Geophysical survey results, Area 1D, courtesy of the Discovery Programme*

An area (1D) of c.1ha was investigated to the wets of the ramparts extending southwards to the southern boundary of the site. Magnetic disturbance and a scatter of ferrous litter defines the area to the south near the derelict building, but further north in a large oval enclosure measuring approximately 42mEW x 30mNS (G2/ SMR: DU008-094----) (Dowling 2014, 74).

In September 2018 Dr James O'Driscoll, University of Aberdeen and Dr Paddy Gleeson of Queen's University Belfast undertook magnetometry over 2.1 hectares of the site. The survey area was located in the north-west of Drumanagh, outside the ramparts of the promontory. The area was surveyed in zig-zag mode with 0.5m traverse and 0.25m sample intervals using a Bartington 601-2 gradiometry system which incorporates two magnetometers stacked 1m apart. The survey revealed that the enclosing elements i.e. bank and ditches of the fort continue uninterrupted on its northern side, which is significant, as neither the historical mapping nor topographical survey suggested that the earthworks were complete on this side. Outside the fort, the survey recorded a number of possible relict field boundaries and other

geological features. Of potential archaeological origin are a series of ephemeral circular anomalies that could represent hut structures or small, circular burial monuments such as ring-ditches. Furthermore, a series of curious oblong high magnetic responses running in a roughly north-south orientation could similarly be of archaeological significance.

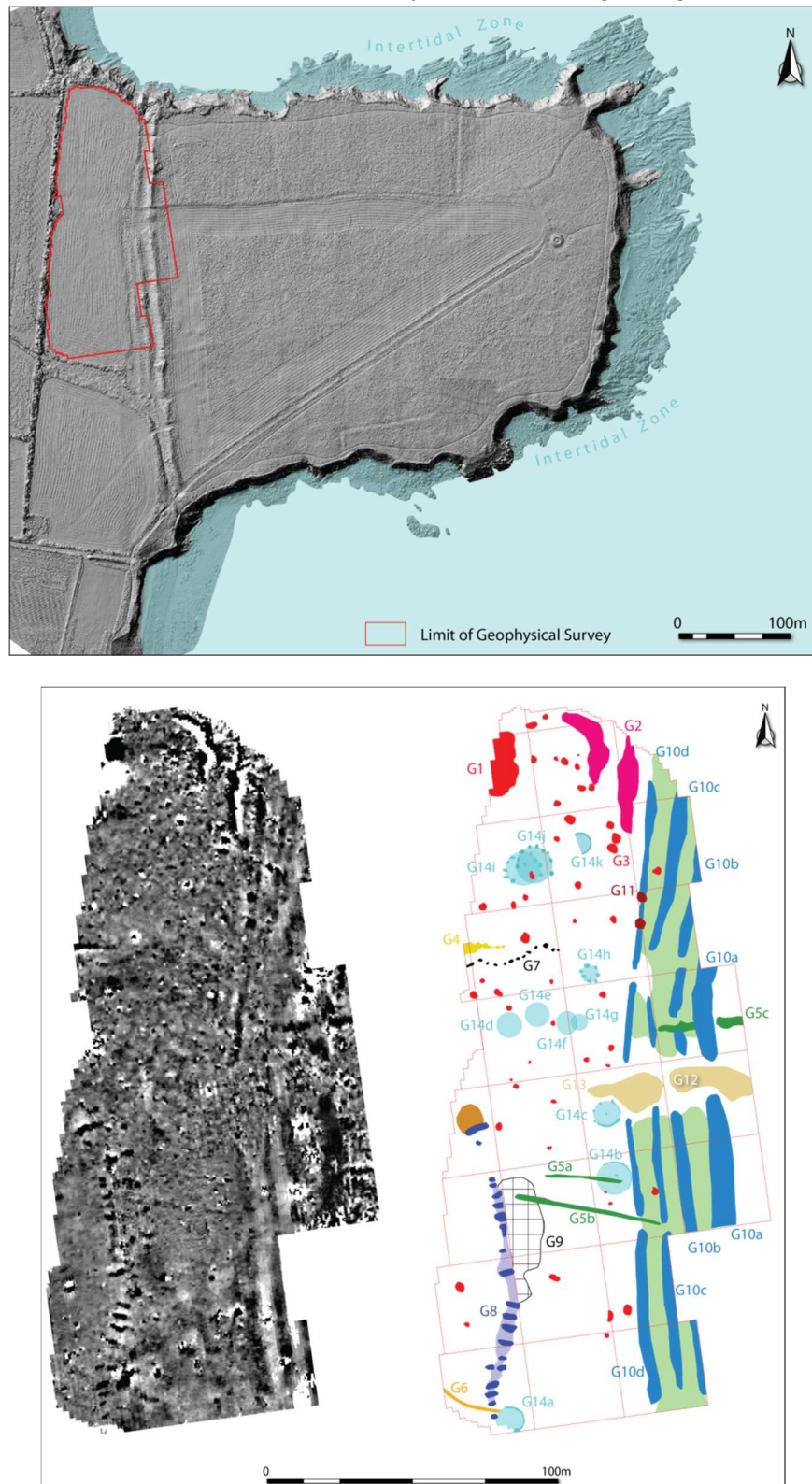
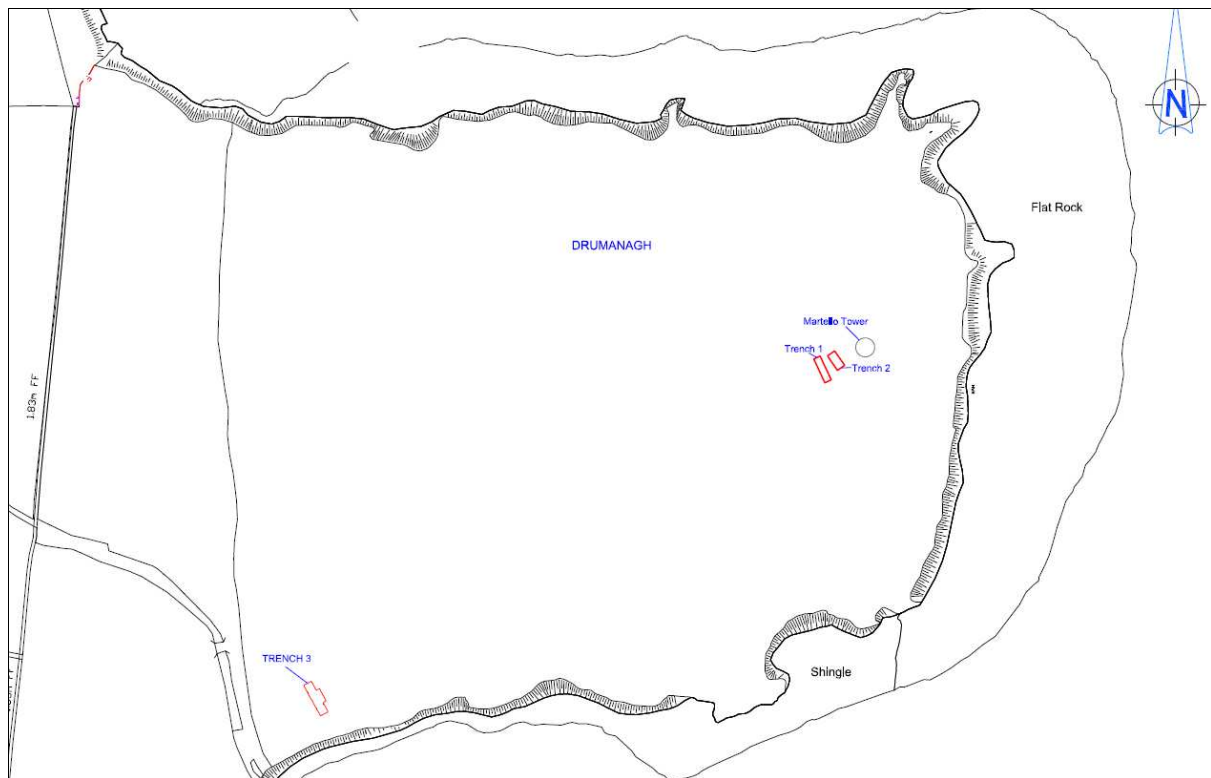


Fig. 14 Location and results of geophysical survey, courtesy of James O'Driscoll & Paddy Gleeson.



#### 4 Archaeological Excavation

The objective of the 2019 excavation was to investigate the impact of the insertion of the original approach road to the Martello tower towards the western end of the site; to examine the nature of construction of the road and to examine the stratigraphy and establish the level of natural subsoil in this area. A single excavation trench, Trench 3 was opened to the south-west of Drumanagh. The trench location, c.350m west-south-west of the Season 1 trenches traversed the Martello Road at a confluence of modern pathways providing an opportunity to assess the effect of modern activity on the site. An area of vegetation had been cut in advance of the excavation.



*Fig. 15: Trench layout, at scale 1:2000*

A single trench was opened within Drumanagh Promontory Fort during the Season II excavations. Trench 3 originally measured 20m NS x 5m and extended across the width of the extant Martello roadway. A variation to the agreed methodology to extend the trench by 14sq.m along its eastern limit was agreed with the National Monuments Service, in order to investigate the nature of features impacted by the Martello road. Trench 3 was excavated to subsoil to the east and south, to a maximum depth of 0.45m.



*Plate 9: Layout of Trench 3 , Season II and Trenches 1 and 2, Season I*

#### **4.1 Excavation Stratigraphy**

The overall stratigraphy consisted of orange grey brown stony natural subsoil overlain by disturbed soil layers truncated by the construction of the Martello roadway.

##### **Trench 3**

Trench 3 originally measured 20m NS x 5m EW. An additional 7m NS x 2m EW was excavated along the eastern limit in an attempt to establish the extent of particular features. Natural subsoil was attained to the north and east of the trench at an average of 0.35m below present ground level generally and 0.75m below the banks of the Martello road. Natural subsoil was overlain by an occupation layer (F49/50) through which a series of pits, postholes and stakeholes were cut and levelling layers (F39, F40, F36) which were cut by furrows. Centrally to the trench was a distinct metallised surface (F46) and stone platform (F26) which was overlain by a series of gravel deposits (F27, F23) that formed the surface of the Martello road. Cut by wheel ruts (F24, F25) the road surface was delineated by banks to the north (F34) and south (F33). Topsoil averaged between 0.08m and 0.26m across Trench 3.





*Plate 10: Trench 3, aerial photo mid-excavation*

### **Trench 3-Subsoil**

#### *Feature F69/F53*

The natural subsoil consisted of compact well-drained subsoil light yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate unsorted stone. It was uneven in places and in the south of the site was excavated to a depth of 0.20m to ensure it was not redeposited. To the north of the site the composition was the same but the compaction much softer. Sterile.

### **Trench 3- Layers:**

#### *Feature F49/F50*

Located towards the northern extent of Trench 3, this occupation layer immediately overlay subsoil. It consisted of yellow-orange brown silt and was exposed for 5mEW x 4.8m NS. A series of stakeholes and postholes were cut through this layer in the north-east corner of the site. Feature F49/50 which measured from 0.04m-0.12m in depth contained moderate animal bone and flint debitage. A fragment of copper alloy was also recovered from this layer. In the vicinity of the stakeholes an animal bone (E4805:49:3) was deliberately placed upright and appears to have been worked.



*Plate 11: Deliberately placed animal bone*

#### *Feature 39/40/41*

These abutting spreads of material comprised the same stratigraphical phase of activity in the northern half of the site but with different densities of stone and so were assigned different feature numbers.

#### *Feature 39*

Extending from under the northern bank of the Martello road to the north-east quadrant of the site (5m EW x 5.94m NS) this layer comprised a loose stony surface with a high density of sub-angular and angular stone (0.05-0.12m diam.) set in mid-brown clayey silt. Cut by plough furrows (F42, F43) Feature 39 measured 0.1m-0.19m in depth and contained frequent animal bone. Worked bone, part of a copper alloy pin, a possible hone stone and a perforated stone were recovered. Seashells and burnt clay were also recovered. This layer appears to represent a levelling surface.

#### *Feature 40*

Located to the west of F39 this was a similar layer (6.4m SW/NE x 1.91m NW/SE) that measured from 0.08m-0.12m in depth. It extended from under the Martello road and was cut by furrows (F43, F48). Animal bone, a single fragment of cremated bone and a fragment of slag were recovered from this feature.

#### *Feature 41*

An irregular spread located between F39 and F40, Feature 41 consisted of a lighter brown clayey silt with a lesser density of small stone inclusions (3m SW/NE x 0.68m-1.23m NW/SE) that averaged 0.04m in depth. Similarly to F39 and F40, this spread was cut by furrow F43. Feature 41 contained moderate animal bone and an iron object and a single sherd of abraded pottery were recovered.

#### *Feature 38*

Located to the south of the extension to Trench 3 (2.5m EW x 2mNS) and partially overlain by F36, Feature 38 consisted of mid greyish brown stony silt with small irregular stone inclusions and grit that was of firmer compaction under the southern Martello bank. It is similar to F27, which has been interpreted as a portion of F38 exposed in the Martello road. Feature 38 also overlay the platform F26. A large amount of animal bone was also recovered from this feature. Iron nails, three sherds of prehistoric pot and a bone, pin, tool and bead were also recovered.

#### *Feature 36*

Located to the south of Trench 3 (5.5m EW x 5m NS), Feature 36 comprised of dark grey brown stony silt with small irregular angular stone and grit inclusions. Distinguished by frequent inclusions of animal bone this layer was loose to firm in compaction across its surface. Firmer under the southern bank of the Martello road (F33) it gradually thinned out to nothing along a WSW/ENE line to the south (0.05m-0.15m in depth). Flakes and fragments of copper alloy, a partial bone pin, struck flint, a loom weight and pot sherds were recovered from this layer. The latter included the base of an amphora. Burnt clay was also identified.

This layer was cut by plough furrows (F44, F47) and potentially represents a similar levelling episode to that of Feature 39, north of the Martello road.

### **Trench 3-Pits, postholes, stakeholes**

A number of postholes and stakeholes were uncovered towards the eastern limit of Trench 3. Cut into natural subsoil through the basal occupation layers of the site they constitute an early phase of activity on the site.

#### *Feature 52*

Located within a sondage excavated along the eastern baulk towards the south of the site, the upper surface of this feature was exposed on the removal of layer F36. Cut into firm natural subsoil (F69) this posthole was circular in plan (0.28m diam.; 016m in depth) with consistent steep sides and a U-shaped base. Feature 52 was filled with soft dark grey silt with occasional stone inclusions.



*Plate 12: Stakehole series, post excavation, facing south*

#### *Feature 56*

Located 1.2m south of posthole F52 during excavation of a sondage along the eastern baulk, Feature 56 lay beneath the southernmost extent of F36. Cut into natural subsoil it was circular

in plan (0.35m in max diam and 0.28m in depth), steep sided with a flat base. F56 was filled with soft dark grey brown silt. A post pipe (0.12-0.15m diam.) and stone packing was evident with stones (0.1m x 0.05m x 0.2m) at the edge of the cut set vertically and extending down almost to the base suggesting the post was supported. A single sherd of pot (E4805:56:1) and flint debitage was recovered from this posthole. The fill was sampled (#13) for further environmental analysis

*Features 55, 57, 58, 59, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66*

Located within a sondage excavated along the eastern baulk towards the north of the site a series of stakeholes were exposed upon the removal of stony layer F39. Cut through layer F49/50 into soft natural subsoil (F53) the stakeholes were situated within an area 1.8m NS x 1.2m EW.

	Description	Dimensions
<i>Feature 55</i>	Double stakehole. Cut into natural subsoil; Sub-oval in plan it was steep sided with a concave base. The fill consisted of a slightly yellowish-brown silt. The fill was sampled (#12) for further environmental analysis	0.23m NS x 0.1m; 0.1m-0.23m depth
<i>Feature 57</i>	Double Stakehole. Cut into natural subsoil; Keyhole shaped in plan; Steep sided with stone at the base. The fill consisted of yellowish brown silt	0.29m NW/SE x 0.17m; 0.2m depth
<i>Feature 58</i>	Stakehole. Located 0.3m west of F57. Sub-circular in plan. Cut into natural it tapered to base. Fill consisted of yellowish brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.13m-0.15m; 0.3m depth
<i>Feature 59</i>	Stakehole. Large sub-circular stakehole. Cut into natural subsoil it tapers to a point. The fill consisted of yellowish brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone. Three fragments of flint and 6 seashells were recovered from the fill.	0.15-0.17m diam; 0.33m depth
<i>Feature 61</i>	Stakehole. Large circular stakehole located 0.5m west of F55. Cut into natural subsoil it tapers to a point. The fill consisted of yellowish brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.14m diam.; 0.27m depth
<i>Feature 62</i>	Stakehole. Located immediately adjacent to F63. Cut into natural subsoil it tapers to a point. The fill consisted of yellowish brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.09m diam. 0.1m depth
<i>Feature 63</i>	Stakehole. Located immediately adjacent to F62. Cut into natural subsoil it tapers to a point. The fill consisted of yellowish brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.09m diam. 0.1m depth
<i>Feature 64</i>	Stakehole. Located 0.32m south of F62/F63. Cut into natural subsoil it tapers to a point. Fill consisted of yellowish brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.1m; 0.11m depth
<i>Feature 65</i>	Stakehole. Located 0.9m south of F64. Cut into natural subsoil it tapers to a point. Fill consisted of yellowish brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.11m; 0.1m depth

<i>Feature 66</i>	Stakehole. Located 0.4m south-west of F65. Cut into natural subsoil it tapers to a point. Fill consisted of yellowish brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.11m; 0.1m depth
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#### *Feature 54*

Located less than 0.2m from the eastern baulk and 1.3m south of the concentration of stakeholes, Feature 54 was a pit cut into natural subsoil. Circular in plan (0.7m diam.) the concave pit contained two distinct fills. The basal fill F54:1 consisted of mid-brown silt with charcoal fleck inclusions, 0.12m in maximum depth. The upper fill consisted of mid-dark brown clayey silt with sub-angular stone inclusions, 0.22m in max depth. Articulated pig-bone was identified within the upper fill. A possible flint core was also recovered. The ground level around this pit rose in comparison to that immediately to north and south. Stratigraphically similar to nearby stakeholes, its position may indicate contemporary use. The fill was sampled (#11) for further environmental analysis

#### *Feature 60*

Located in the north-eastern corner of Trench 3, this pit extended beyond the limits of the excavation. Feature 60 was an irregular (1.19m EW x 0.13-0.41m NS) possibly sub-circular pit with a relatively steep edge at its eastern limit where the pit cuts through unexcavated fill. The shallow relatively flat-bottomed base of cut was characterised by a yellowish brown matrix (possibly not natural). The excavated pit contained two fills, 0.1-0.35m in depth. The basal fill F60:2 consisted of a dark brown soft silty fill with rare flecks of charcoal and some small sub-angular stone inclusions. The upper fill F60:1 consisted of dark brown loose matrix with frequent stone inclusions (angular and sub angular 0.05m-0.1m diam.). Feature 60 contained frequent inclusions of animal bone. A possible worked bone was also included. The basal fill (#100 and upper fill (#9) were sampled for further environmental analysis.



### Trench 3-Platform

There was a concentration of activity located almost centrally within Trench 3, which was directly impacted by the insertion of the Martello road. Interpreted as a working platform this activity was characterised by a metallised surface (F46), large stone flags (F26) and a series of gravel deposits (F45) and layers (F38).



*Plate 13: Iron Age platform, facing east*

### Feature 46

This compact metallised surface extended under the stone slabs F26 and was overlain to the north by gravel deposit F45. Exposed for 5.3m NS x 2.5m EW Feature 46 consisted of small sub-angular stones (0.02m-0.05m diam.) and gravel set very compactly into orange clay subsoil. The surface which averaged 0.08m in depth sloped down from north to south and from the north-west to the south-east. A sondage (3.9m NS x 0.8m in width) was excavated through Feature 46 along eastern baulk. A blue glass bead (E4805:46:1), bone pin (E4805:46:2) and moderate mixed animal bone was recovered from this feature.

### Feature 67

Cut into metallised surface F46 this posthole was sub-rectilinear in plan and defined by stones set on their edge. Located 0.7m north of the stone flags Feature 67 was straight sided with a concave base, 0.26m in maximum depth. The fill consisted of dark grey brown clayey silt with small stone (0.04m diam.) inclusions with occasional charcoal flecks and two fragments of bone. The fill was sampled (#14) for further environmental analysis



#### *Feature 45*

Located immediately above metallised surface F45 and north of stone flags F26, Feature 45 consisted of a relatively compact deposit of angular and sub-angular stones (0.05m-0.11m diam.) in a gravelly dark brown silty clay matrix. This deposit appeared to fill a concave area created by a sloping ground level in this area. A large amount of animal bone (15 large sample bags) was recovered from this deposit along with moderate fragments of slag and burnt clay. Two copper alloy Romano-British fibulae (E4805:45:1 and E4806:45:2), and copper alloy pin (E4805:45:6) were recovered from Feature 45 along with numerous bone points, possible bone tools and a bone needle indicating processing and/or craftworking was been undertaken in the vicinity.



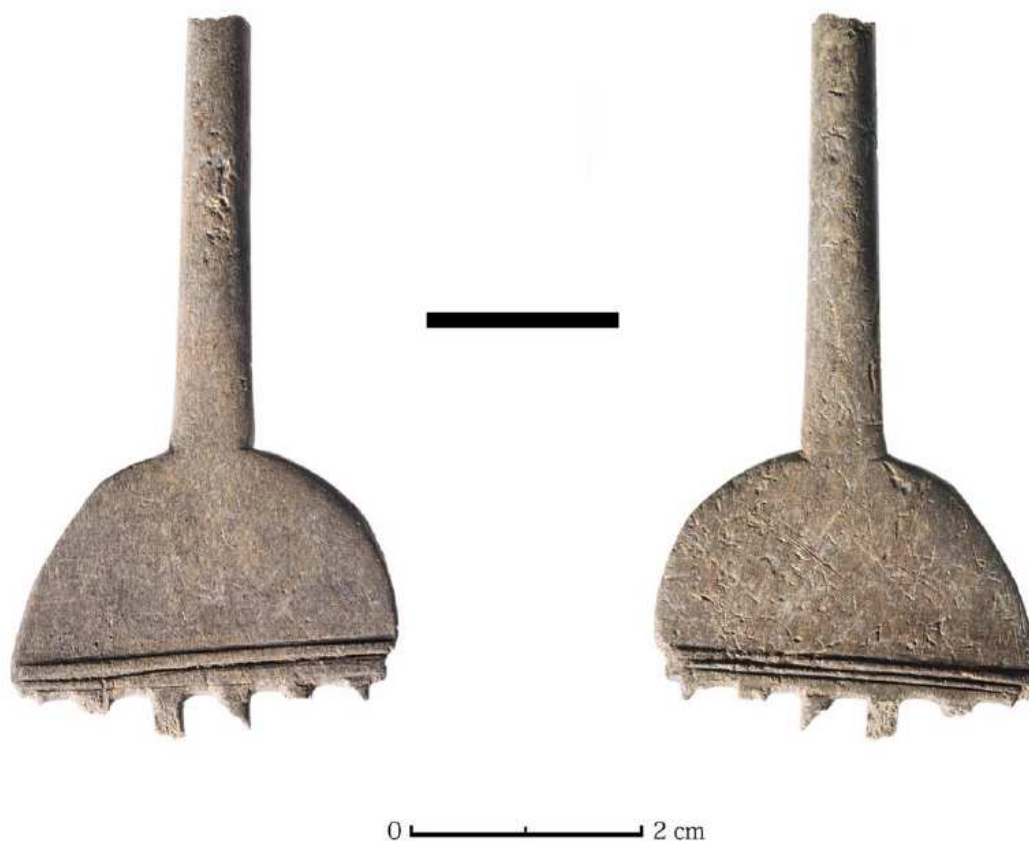
*Plate 14: Features F26 and F46 with sondage, facing east*

#### *Feature 26*

This feature comprised a setting of large flat stones preliminarily interpreted as a platform. It consists of a large flat stones (0.7m-0.8m diam.) deliberately set with smaller flat stones (0.2m-0.25m diam.) in a mid-brown silty clay with small stone/gravelly inclusions. It has an overall irregular shape it extends beyond the eastern limit of Trench 3. Exposed for 4.7m NS x 4.1m EW it may have had stones removed with the insertion of the Martello Road. Abutted to north by gravelly deposit F45 and to the east by F51, two fragments of copper alloy pins, a worked bone point and occasional animal bone were recovered from this feature.

#### *Feature 51*

Abutting stone slabs F26 to the east, Feature 51 extended beyond the limit of excavation. Exposed for 2.28m NS x 0.4m EW this deposit consisted of dark brown clayey silt with frequent small stone (0.05m-0.11m diam.) and gravel inclusions. Averaging 0.1m in depth it overlay metallated surface F46. Moderate animal bone and eight fragments of cremated bone were included in this deposit. A stone counter, Iron Age weaving comb and fragment of flint were recovered from F51.



*Plate 15: Weaving comb recovered from F51. Photo: John Sunderland*

#### *Feature 68*

Localised deposit (0.7m NS x 0.5m EW) of sod like consistency within occasional large stones located between gravelly deposit F45 and deposit F51. Possibly represents disturbance of the earlier deposits by the construction of the southern bank of the Martello Road. A possible worked bone and two fragments of cremated bone were recovered from this deposit.

### **Trench 3-Furrows**

A series of furrows extend across site truncated by the insertion of the Martello road. Stratigraphically they are in the same position north and south of the road. That is they extend under the Martello banks and are cut into similar stony levelled surfaces (F39 and F36). Furrow centres are approximately 3m apart between F44 and F47 suggesting a ridge and furrow pattern but shallow nature of feature means there may have been more furrows between that did not survive truncation by later activity.

#### *Feature 42*

Cut into stony layer F39 this furrow extended from the northern limit of Trench 3. Aligned NNE/SSW it averaged 0.6m in width and 0.08m-0.12m in depth with a slightly concave base. The fill consisted of a light yellowish-brown loose silt clay with occasional animal bone inclusions.

#### *Feature 43*

Located at toward the north-west limit of the site Feature 43 was aligned NNE/SSW similar to plough furrow F42 which was 2.9m-3.4m east. It was well defined along the east and exposed for 3.05m before extending under the western baulk. Averaging 1.32m in width and 0.16m in depth F43 was cut onto stony layer F39 and the top of pit F60. The fill consisted of light yellowish brown loose silt clay with occasional animal bone inclusions.

#### *Feature 44*

Located to the south of the site, this furrow was aligned NNE/SSW and was exposed for 6.6m in length and 0.8m in width. Cut into layer F36 the furrow was gently concave in profile. The fill resembled overlying topsoil and Martello road bank material F33 which consisted of yellowish brown silty clay with very occasional small stones inclusions. A sherd of abraded pot, fragments of cremated bone and burnt clay were recovered from this furrow. The furrow extended under southern Martello bank F33 and may continue as furrow F42 north of northern Martello bank F34. Apparent cross furrow was interpreted as remnant of topsoil rather than definite feature.

#### *Feature 47*

Aligned NNE/SSW this furrow was located parallel to furrow F44 to the south of Trench 3. Feature 47 was exposed for 5m in length and 0.9m in width. Cut into layer F36 it was gently concave in profile. The fill was very similar to topsoil, firm yellowish brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions. A fragment of cremated bone was recovered from the fill.

#### *Feature 48*

Located to the north of the site and aligned NNE/SSW this ill-defined linear deposit was exposed for 1.8m in length and 0.78m in width. Cut into stony layer F40, Feature 48 was concave in profile and measure 0.11m in depth. The fill consisted of mid-greyish brown silty clay with small angular and sub-angular stone inclusions. A single animal bone and a possible struck flint were recovered from the fill. This feature was interpreted as a truncated plough furrow.

### **Trench 3-Martello Road**

This road or hollow way was visible at ground level as two distinct banks bounding a pronounced hollow road approximately 4m in width.



*Plate 16: Martello Road mid-excavation, facing east*

### **North Bank-Martello Road**

#### *Feature 37*

Extending from under the north bank of the Martello road this was interpreted as an interface layer at the time of excavation and given a feature number to facilitate finds retrieval. It is more likely to constitute the disturbed upper surface of levelling layer F39. Feature 37 comprised a layer of small stones in a mixed greyish brown silt matrix. It was exposed for 5m NS x 5mEW and measured 0.1m in depth. An unusual figure of a bird in stone (E4805:37:3), two sherds of pot and moderate amounts of animal bone were recovered from this feature.

#### *Feature 34*

Aligned ENE/WSW this linear bank consisted of greyish mid-brown firm silty clay with very occasional sub-angular stones, very similar to topsoil. With gentle convex slopes to the north and south, the linear bank averaged 2.3m in width and 0.39m in height and was exposed for 5m across the width of the trench. A small amount of animal bone, four sherds of possible prehistoric pottery, a possible hone stone and a strip of copper alloy were retrieved from the Martello road bank material.



#### *Feature 32*

Located on top of bank material (F34) Feature 32 comprised a loose stone surface that extended unevenly downslope along the north side of the bank. F32 consisted of a deposit of loose small stones (0.01m-0.07m diam.) in a gritty yellow matrix that followed the contours of the bank of the north facing slope where it abuts larger stones at the base of the bank (F29). To the south the deposit mirrors the top break of slope. Feature 32 measured 1.64m NS x 5m EW and contained some mixed animal bone. It was directly overlain by sod.

#### *Feature 31*

Located at the base of the southern face of the northern bank of the Martello road, Feature 31 consisted of a deposit of rounded unsorted angular stones (0.1-0.25m diam.) in a loose brown silt/topsoil matrix. Extending for 7m east-west, F31 measured 0.6m in maximum width, becoming noticeably larger towards its eastern extent and may represent clearance stones built up against the inner face of the north bank of the Martello road.

#### *Feature 29*

Located at the base of the northern face of the northern bank of the Martello road, Feature 29 consisted of a deposit of angular, sub-angular and occasional rounded stones (0.07m-0.20m diam.) within moderately loose pale brown silty clay. This deposit extended 5m across the trench and had a maximum width of 1.42m. Three sherds of pottery and a fragment of copper alloy were recovered for this deposit.

### **Trench 3-Roadway**

Between the two well defined banks of the Martello Road was the rutted surface of the early nineteenth century road or hollow way.

#### *Feature 23*

The surface of the nineteenth century Martello road consisted of a compact setting of small stones (<0.05 diam.) that extended ENE/WSW across for 7m Trench 5 and averaged 4m in width. This metalled surface lipped up unevenly at the base of the north and south banks where the uneven slippage from both banks resulted in uneven definition. The surface of the roadway is eroded/compressed by two parallel linear features (F24, F25) 0.83m (W) to 1.1m (E) apart interpreted as wheel ruts. There was a slight camber in the road surface noted as a high point between these ruts. Iron objects, a bone pin and two sherds of glazed pot were recovered from this feature.

#### *Feature 24*

One of two linear hollows in road surface F23, the northern Feature 24 has been interpreted as a wheel rut filled that with topsoil. The U-shaped depression extended for 7m across the central portion of the Martello road and measured 0.4m in width and approximately 0.1m in depth. The infill material was indistinguishable from the topsoil overlying it-firm pale brown silty clay with small stone inclusions. There was a notable concentration of small/medium stones within the rut from 2m-5m east which may represent infilling/abandonment. A small

amount of animal bone, an iron nail and a coin (E4805:1:499) were recovered from this feature.



*Plate 17: Surface of Martello road with wheel ruts F24 and F25, facing east*

#### *Feature 25*

This feature was the southernmost of two linear hollows in road surface F23, which have been interpreted as wheel ruts. As with F24 the U-shaped depression was infilled with topsoil like material. An apparent split in the rut that occurred c.2m east, where the hollow bifurcates into a slightly wider and deeper rut (0.3m in width; 0.1m in depth) to the south and a narrower and shallower rut (0.15m in width; 0.06, in depth) to the north. The former is interpreted as the original line, the latter a re-orientation that took place as the deepening rut encountered the western edge of stone slabs F26 and started to divert to the north. A tiny sherd of Blackware was recovered from this feature.

#### *Feature 27*

This feature comprised loose small stony material that overlay stone slabs (F26). Feature 27 was interpreted as the Martello road surface where it ran over western extent of the earlier stone surface. Except for compaction it was similar to the surface F23 and comprised rounded, unsorted stones (0.02m-0.05m in diam.) in mid-greyish brown dry silty matrix. Feature 27 appeared to fill a hollow surface at F26 within the line of F23 but was distinguished from it because it was appreciably looser. The wheel rut (F25) stopped just short of F27 but continued past it. This may be because the looser stonier surface of F27 didn't retain the rut on top of stones. A small quantity of pottery, including a heavy rimsherd of

imported ware (E4805:27:2) and a coin of George II (E4805:27:10); were recovered from the surface as well as a partial loom weight (E4805:27:11) and possible worked bone. The finds suggests F27 is a disturbed mixture of the nineteenth century road and underlying layers F45 and F38 and represents a portion of the F38 layer exposed in the Martello Road

### **South Bank-Martello Road**

#### *Feature 33*

Aligned ENE/WSW this linear bank consisted of almost pure pale greyish brown firm silty clay with very rare stone inclusions. The gentle convex slopes to north and south, tailed off gradually to south where it had been truncated by later activity and sharper to north where the stone road surface (F23) lips up slightly onto the inner face of the bank (F33). The bank measured between 2.2m and 2.5m in width and averaged 0.4m in height. The homogenous stone free nature of the bank material suggested a simple quick build from local sod as it appears to be a single source and very difficult to differentiate from surrounding the topsoil. Mixed animal bone, cremated animal bone, an iron horseshoe and possible prehistoric pot were recovered from this feature.

#### *Feature 30*

Similarly to the northern bank there was a loose stone surface on top of southern bank Martello Road. This deposit (1m in width) consisted of loose small stones (0.05m-0.7m diam.) in a gritty brown matrix (0.05m in depth) that extended from top of south bank and follows contours of the bank down south-facing slope only. Evident immediately below the sod, Feature 30 may represent upcast or the final stage of construction of the bank.

#### *Feature 35*

Identified within the eastern extension of Trench 3, Feature 35 was a deposit of sub-angular stones (0.1m-0.25m diam.) located downslope along the inner face of the southern bank of the Martello road. The stones were within brown rooty topsoil/bank material with very occasional small stone inclusions from which occasional mixed animal bone and cremated bone was recovered. This deposit which abutted the loose stone road surface (F23) did not extended for 2.2m east-west and measured 1.2m norther south. It did not extend along the length of the Martello bank, but was in a similar position to that along the interior of the northern bank (F31).

### **Trench 3-Topsoil**

#### *Feature 1*

Topsoil within Trench 1 consisted of a greyish brown silty clay of friable compaction and small stone inclusions. It measured from 0.08m to 0.22m in depth and contained occasional animal bone. Possible prehistoric pot, perforated stone, possible worked bone, copper alloy penny and iron objects were recovered from topsoil.

#### 4.2. Samples & Finds

As there was no running water at Drumanagh animal bone washing, artefact processing, labelling and registering took place during a Drumanagh Post-Ex week (4-11 June 2019) in Swords Castle.



*Plate 18: Drumanagh Post Excavation week*

##### *Soil Samples*

A total of six soil samples were retrieved and all were sent for environmental analysis. These samples, maximum of 20 litres in volume were taken from stratigraphically early features cut into subsoil. Two samples (#9, #10) were taken from the pit F60, upper and lower fills respectively. A sample (#11) was also taken from a pit (F54) cut into subsoil while two stakehole fills (#12 #13) were taken from the possible structure in the north-east of the trench. Finally the fill (#14) of posthole F67 sealed by artefact rich layer F45 was retrieved. These samples will undergo analysis for archaeobotanical remains.

##### *Bone Samples*

The sampling methodology for bone was to hand-retrieve all bone from all features and layers. Additional retrieval was from dry sieving of the layers and wet sieving of samples. A total of 89 samples were registered from layers and features including a substantial amount of cattle bone and small mammal bones.

##### *Cremated Bone*

A total of 25 samples of cremated bone were retrieved. These samples comprised two to three fragments and small bags. However they tended to be distributed through features and none formed distinct deposits. Dr Linda Lynch examined the cremated bone and it appears to be animal bone.



### *Sea shell Samples*

A total of 25 samples of seashell were recovered. The samples are mainly fragmented.

### *Flint*

A total of 14 samples of flint were recovered mixed throughout the layers and features. Some appeared to be field flint common along this coastline; other examples were of struck flints evident of processing.



*Plate 19: Soil sampling on site*

### Artefacts

Artefacts were hand-retrieved during excavation, identified with a detection device which was used to scan the spoil heaps, and retrieved through extensive sieving. A total of 232 artefacts were registered. This can be divided into pottery (87), stone (6), glass (1) and bone (7) artefacts. There were a further thirty three possible worked bone items. Metal finds were divided into iron nails and objects, tiny fragments of copper alloy and two lead fragments. Finds of prehistoric date included a fragment of a long-handled comb, five fragments of bone pins and a carved stone bird.



*Plate 20: Caoimhe uncovering a bone/antler bead*

### *Pottery:*

A total of 87 sherds of mainly prehistoric pottery were recovered during the excavation. A number of sherds were abraded and represent prehistoric wares. Two thick rim sherds and a base of an amphora recovered during Season II are comparable to two sherds identified as Dressel 20 that were recovered during Season I. Dressel 20 amphorae were used for the transportation of olive oil and were produced between the late 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD in the Roman province of Baetica, Southern Spain (Williams & Peacock 1983) .

### *Bone:*

A bone pin (E4805:36:13) and a fragment of a bone pin (E4805:23:5) were recovered from contexts disturbed by the insertion of the Martello Road. A further three bone pins (E4805:38:6, E4805:46:2) included a perforated pin or needle (E4805:45:2) were found in the gravelly deposits associated with what is currently interpreted as a working platform. It was also from this area that thirty-three modified bones were discovered. These animal bones



have been cut at an oblique angle, smoothed and shaped to form bone points. Analysis of comparable tools from Iron Age sites of south-west Britain have been defined variously as gouges, awls, and weaving shuttles (Rathgaber 2010). At Danebury hillfort, the majority of these tools classified as gouges were made from sheep longbones and although interpreted as 'all-purpose' tools were further interpreted by wear pattern as possible pin-beaters in the weaving process or having been used in hide dressing (Sellwood 1984, 387). Also associated with this area of the site was a decorated antler weaving comb (E4805:51:2). One bone or antler personal item was recovered-a bone bead or ring (E4805:38:4). Similarly, to the other bone material it was found in the vicinity of the working platform.



Plate 21: Bone tools

#### Stone:

A total of twenty stone objects were retrieved from excavation, the majority of which were retrieved from the northern end of the site. A number were identified as possible hone stones and as stone counters. Several perforated stone objects were retrieved. It is not clear as to whether these are artefacts, were perhaps employed as weights in textile manufacture or if they were the result of natural geological processes. Two stones objects associated with textile manufacture were spindle whorls- one partial (E4805:27:11) and one complete (E4805:36:2). In Britain the diagnostic feature of a whorl is the diameter of the spindle hole as Iron Age and Roman examples had spindle holes that ranged in size from 4-8mm in diameter to accommodate thin spindles of these periods (Drinkall 2000 165). The complete example from Drumanagh had a whorl hole of 4.5mm diameter.

The most unusual stone find is a rudimentary figure of a bird (E4805:37:3). Carved from soft stone it appears unfinished but sufficient detail to be identifiable as a bird. There are shallow holes bored into the back and base of the figure perhaps indicating it was to be mounted or is a mold for a metal iteration.



0 2 cm

*Plate 22: Stone bird. Photo: John Sunderland*

*Glass:*

A single tiny blue glass bead (E4805:46:1) was recovered from the compact metallised surface associated with the platform towards the centre of the site.

*Metal finds:*

Almost thirty iron objects were recorded. All were x-rayed by conservator Susannah Kelly. A third of these objects were associated with the nineteenth century Martello road and consisted of unidentifiable scraps, possible nails and a horseshoe. The remainder- a mix of iron fragments and nails-were associated with the earlier deposits (F45, F51) around the working platform. Armit in his analysis of the Roman objects recovered from Tara points out that 'despite being probably the single most common metal objects on Roman sites in Britain, iron nails are all but absent on Iron Age settlements....iron nail were not part of the general repertoire of joinery techniques for most of the pre-Roman Iron Age....In Scotland, iron nails first appear in any numbers on sites with strong links to the Roman world (2013, 290). It may be that the presence of iron nails here reflects similar strong links between Drumanagh and the Roman world.

This possibility is further confirmed by the retrieval of two imported copper alloy artefacts from the same earlier gravel deposits. A dished cone Type 5b brooch of 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century date (E4805:45:3) was recovered in close proximity to a Romano-British dolphin type fibula



(E4805:45:1) of similar date. The former which is also referred to as a tutulus brooch of Gaulish origins in other typologies, is described by Mackreth as British-‘the weight of numbers in Britain guarantees that this is where it was made’ (2011, 163). An examination of the brooches contained within the Drumanagh metal detected finds assemblage and elsewhere show no direct parallels as yet identified in Ireland. The fibula (E4805:45:1) is similar in form to the dolphin-type fibulae recovered from Lambay Island, specifically the Polden Hill type (Raftery 1994). Based on the decoration of the fibula a close parallel is an example from Hadrian’s Wall which has also been categorized as Polden Hill and dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (Hattatt 2000, 377).

Fragments of copper alloy pins and possible pin heads were also recovered from earlier material while two coins were associated with the Martello Road. One (E4805:1:499) from the surface of the road and a George III penny from the base of the road surface (E4805:27:10), providing a date range of between the early years of the 1800s and 1919 for its use.



*Plate 23: Mick Mongey who excavated the Romano-British fibula*

## 5 Discussion

The focus of the 2019 season of excavation at Drumanagh promontory fort was the Martello road towards the south-western limit of the headland. The construction of the Martello road was investigated and the level of impact of its construction on earlier stratigraphy ascertained.



*Plate 24: Original approach to the Martello tower (left) and modern trackway. Photo: Ray Kerr*

### *Martello Road*

The 'Right of Road' or 'War Department Right of Way' is depicted on the 1850 and 1859 (published 1862) Royal Engineer Corp maps for Drumanagh. It extends from the end of the laneway (that runs from the Rush-Skerries road) from the stone piers that mark the former gates, through the prehistoric ramparts and across the headland to the land take of the Martello tower, marked at its limits by boundary stones.

Clearly visible on the ground as a hollow road between two parallel low banks, Season 1 excavation revealed the roadway had been constructed by simply digging into sod and topsoil and casting it up onto banks. The base of the road which measured 4m in width was compacted earth. Results of the 2019 excavation show the roadway to the west of the headland to have been similarly constructed. The homogenous stone free nature of the banks here indicate a simple quick build of local sod. These banks were both topped with a deposit of small gravelly stone and had deposits of bigger stone towards the base of the banks internally and externally. This may have been an attempt to prevent slippage of the clay banks or upcast from the road itself, at least internally.

While the width of the roadway also measured 4m, the road surface consisted of a compacted gravelly stone surface which traversed an earlier stone feature (F26). The difficulty in encountering an earlier object was clearly visible where one of the two wheel ruts (F25) had deepened and expanded as the driver of the cart had to re-orientate his vehicle to avoid the

obstacle. The different layers of gravel (F27, F38) that overlaid the earlier stone platform may attest to the need to resurface the Martello road in this area while at the same time the mix of artefacts retrieved indicated the disturbance on the layers beneath. The recovery of a coin dated 1919 from the surface and a coin of George II (E4805:27:10) from the base of the Martello road indicate the road was in use for a century. In contrast to Season 1 the nineteenth century finds were minimal, confined mainly to iron objects and a horseshoe. An intriguing find of eight small beads set on a copper alloy chain (E4805:38:1) was made from the base of the Martello Road. This may be a fragment from a set of rosary beads.

#### *Agricultural activity*

Aerial photos, satellite image and LiDar data all show relict field boundaries across the Drumanagh headland. Dating to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries there was significant land management taking place on the site. The 2019 excavation uncovered evidence for cultivation. Pre-dating the construction of the Martello Road the linear furrows were aligned NNE/SSW and were set approximately apart suggesting a ridge and furrow pattern.



*Plate 25: Location of Season II excavation in relation to Drumanagh promontory fort ramparts. Photo: Ray Kerr*

#### *Earlier Activity*

Both the geophysical survey (1999) and aerial photographs from the 1970s and 1980s show a degree of disturbance immediately contiguous to the southern limit of the Martello road. This had been very evident from the Season I excavation results in proximity to the Martello Tower where Iron Age objects were recovered from the same context as nineteenth century ones. It may be that the subsoil in Trench 3 was comparatively shallow to the south of the Martello road as the land dropped away towards the southern cliff edge or that there was less intense early modern activity in the area but the agricultural activity described above dominated the area to the south of the Martello road in Season II.





*Plate 26: Original approach to the Martello and disturbance photographed by Swan (1970s-80s)  
courtesy of Discovery Programme/National Museum of Ireland*

There are a number of distinct phases of prehistoric activity identifiable within Trench 3. To the north-east of the site was a series of stakeholes and postholes that indicate a structure that appears to extend north and eastwards beyond the limits of the excavation. Exposed within an area of 1.8m NS x 1.2m EW the stakeholes were driven into subsoil that dropped down as it extended southwards indicating that the structure was constructed on a slightly higher ground level. A pit (F54) a further 1.3m to the south of the structure may have been contemporary. There is not enough of the structure exposed to comment on its layout although the somewhat rectilinear nature of the stakeholes may suggest a 'porch', not uncommon in prehistoric structures. The Iron Age roundhouse at Carrickmines Great had a 'porch' projecting to the south-west (O Drisceoil & Devine 2012, 249) which is a similar position to the structural remains at Drumanagh.

Given the partial nature of the remains and in advance of dating it is difficult to determine the function of the structure. However the presence of a deliberately placed modified animal bone upright in the subsoil may indicate a connection with textile manufacture. The worked bone (E4805:49:3) has been shaped at both ends with a distinctive groove pattern and drilled hole at its exposed end. This artefact is similar to over thirty similar objects previously recovered nearby and indicative of use in the weaving process.

The next phase of activity appears to have been a levelling event or spreading of material to form a surface. Recorded as F39 to the north of the site and F36 to the south these similar spreads of material were impacted by the insertion of the Martello Road and both were cut by the later agricultural furrows. Consisting of a stony silt layer of varying compaction this deposit extended across the majority of Trench 3 gradually thinning out along a WSW/ENE line to the south possibly the result of ploughing or erosion. This layer was animal bone rich



and contained pottery including an amphora base, worked bone tools, copper alloy pins and a spindle whorl.



*Plate 27: Southern bank of the Martello Road, overlying Iron Age stratigraphy*

The focus of early activity uncovered during Season II was located centrally to Trench 3 and had been impacted by the insertion and use of the Martello road. Interpreted as a working platform this activity was characterised by a metallised surface (F46), large stone flags (F26) and a series of gravel deposits (F45, F38). The flagged surface was abutted to north by a gravelly finds rich deposit (F45) and to the east by clayey silt (F51). Material of probable Iron Age date and artefacts of Romano-British origin were present in both these deposits. However the deposition of the compacted gravel appears over a sloped area of the metallised surface that underlies all these features is indicative of levelling using material from elsewhere, whereas the material to the east of the flagged surface appears to represent a primary activity. The presence of a weaving comb along with numerous bone points, possible bone tools and a bone needle denote processing and/or craftworking and textile production as a function being undertaken in the vicinity.

A possible comparison is a flagged area uncovered at the Iron Age site of Nidderdale in Yorkshire. The initial interpretation was of a well-made platform but lack of dating evidence meant it could be of any age. However based on excavation of similar sites in the area which found flagged floors at the entrance or just inside roundhouses of Iron Age/Romano-British date, the possibility of a Nidderdale type of round house has been put forward (Barker 2018). Given the platform and associated features extend beyond the limits of Trench 3 and in advance of dating evidence the exact form and function of this feature at Drumanagh cannot

be ascertained, as yet. However the material evidence including the brooches recovered, indicate contact between Drumanagh and Roman Britain in the early centuries AD.



*Plate 28: Artefacts of Romano-British origin. Photo: John Sunderland*

## 6 Conclusions

This second excavation at Drumanagh promontory fort has answered questions around the nature and effect of the latest period of construction activity the nineteenth century Martello road on the south-west of the site. In doing so evidence for earlier activity has also been identified. Further post-excavation analysis and radiocarbon dating will allow for the development of a definitive chronology for that activity and will inform the future management of the site.



*Plate 29: Some of Team Drumanagh*

The *Digging Drumanagh* project was designed as a Fingal community archaeology project and is an objective of the *Drumanagh Conservation Study & Management Plan*. It is an important aim to engage the wider public with the National Monument in their locality. This year saw the participation of 62 volunteers including local people and those who have taken part in previous Fingal community archaeology projects. A further 23 people participated in the post-excavation week, an essential part of the process.

An over-arching final report encompassing specialist contributions and an analysis of the excavation results in conjunction with the historical and architectural evidence will be produced in due course for submission to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the National Museum of Ireland.

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## 7 Post-Excavation Programme

All animal bone samples were processed artefacts were cleaned and labelled during the Drumanagh Post-Ex week at Swords Castle between 4-11 June 2019. Specialist analysis is ongoing (see below). Dating material will be forwarded for AMS dating once selected in conjunction with the recommendations of the appropriate specialist.

Task	Specialist	Status
Archaeobotanical analysis	Dr Meriel McClatchie	Ongoing
Animal Bone analysis	Dr Ruth Carden	Ongoing
Pottery	Paul Bidwell	Awaiting export licence
Small Finds (metal, bone, stone)	Siobhan Duffy	Ongoing
X-Ray & Conservation	Susannah Kelly	Completed
C14 Dating-macrofossil plant remains; human bone; charcoal	Chrono Lab, QUB	Selection of datable material to be undertaken

### 7.1 Archiving

All digital photographs are indexed. A total of twenty plans and section drawings have been scanned. Both have been saved to the Heritage file on the Fingal County Council mainframe. The paper archive is currently with the director and will be scanned and copied for deposition in the both the Fingal Local Studies Archive, Swords and the Collections Resource Centre.

### 7.2 Dissemination

A summary account will be submitted to Excavations.ie. The results of the excavation will be published in several accessible forms and disseminated through talks and appropriate media.

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## Feature Register

Feature	Trench	Description	Dimensions	Over	Under	Artefacts
1	T3	Topsoil. T1-greyish brown silty clay of friable compaction and small stone inclusions.	0.12-0.25m in depth	F31, F30, f33, f23, F24, f25, F36	Sod	Pot, stone, flint, glass, possible tile, possible worked bone
23	T3	Surface of 19th century Martello Road: consist of a compact setting of smalls tones (.005m diam.) that extends across Trench3. Forms the base of the Martello road. Lips up at base of northern and southern banks. Uneven slippage from both banks resulted in uneven definition. Aligned ENE/WSW. The surface is eroded/compressed by two parallel linears 0.83m (w) to 1.1m (E) apart interpreted as wheel ruts. Slight camber in road surface as high point is between F24 and F25.	7m EW x 4m NS; 0.3m in depth	F27, F26	Cut by F24, F25	Iron objects, part of a bone pin, 2 sherds of glazed pot
24	T3	Linear hollow (N) in road surface F23; wheel rut filled with topsoil. Northern U-shaped depression interpreted as a wheel rut, running across the central portion of the Martello road. The infill material is indistinguishable from the topsoil overlying it-firm pale brown silty clay with small stone inclusions. There are notable concentration of small/medium stones within the rut from 2m-5mE which may represent infilling/abandonment.	7m Ew x 0.4m; 0.1m in depth	F23	F1	Iron nail (E4805:24:1), flint; Coin (E4805:1:499) from directly above
25	T3	Linear hollow (S) in road surface F23; wheel rut filled with topsoil. Southern U-shaped depression interpreted as a wheel rut, running across the central portion of the Martello road. The infill material is indistinguishable from the topsoil overlying it-firm pale brown silty clay with small stone inclusions. Of interest in the apparent split in the rut that occurs c.2m east. here is bifurcates into a slightly wider and deeper rut to the south and a narrower and shallower rut to the north. The former is interpreted as the original line, the latter a r-orientation that took place as the deepening rut encountered the western edge of stone slabs F26 and started to divert to the north. there is an apparent gap of 1-1.5m where the rut traverses the west of F26	7m EW x 0.45m NS (in total = 0.15m (N)-0.3m (S); 0.06m (N)-0.1m (s)	F23	F1	tiny sherd of blackware



26	T3	Setting of large flat stones; Platform: Consists of a large flat stone (0.7m-0.8m diam.) deliberately set with smaller flat stones (0.2m-0.25m diam.) in a mid-brown silty clay with small stone/gravelly inclusions. Overall irregular shape although may have had stones removed with the insertion of the Martello Road. Abutted to north by gravelly deposit F45. abutted to east by F51.	4.7m NS x 4.1m Ew at southern extension (max.) at 10m grid peg 2.6m EW; average depth 0.12m	F46	F23, F27, F38, F45	Cu alloy pin fragments; worked bone point
27	T3	Loose small stony material overlying F26; Martello Road surface where it runs over western extent of earlier stone surface; looser version of F23, composed of stones (0.02-0.05m diam.), rounded, unsorted in mid greyish brown dry silty matrix. F27 appeared to fill hollow surface at F26 within the line of F23 but distinguished from it because it was appreciably looser. Wheel rut stops just short of f27 but continues past it-may be because the looser stonier surface of F27 didn't retain the rut on top of stones F27. small quantity of pottery including a heavy rimsherd of imported ware. A coin of George II was recovered from the surface as well as a possible loom weight and possible worked bone. the mix suggests F27 is a mixture of use (disturbed) of the 19th century road and underlying layer f45 and F38 and represents a portion of the F38 layer exposed in the Martello Road	1.3m NS x 0.9m Ew; 0.05m-0.1m in depth.	F26	F1	Coin, pot, partial loom weight, worked bone, possible tile
28	T3	Equals F37: Possible stone surface north of road		F41, F42, F43, F48	F34	1 sherd pot
29	T3	Bank slippage with large stones, north base of North bank Martello road; deposit of angular, sub-angular and occasional rounded stones (0.07m-0.20m diam.) within moderately loose pale brown silty clay. Located towards base of northern façade of northern bank of Martello road. not clear if part of the structure of the bank or may have been the result of agricultural activity beyond the bank-clearance stones built up against bank.	5mEW x 1.42m NS; 0.08m-0.16m in depth	F32	F1	3 sherds pot, Cu alloy fragment , Iron
30	T3	Loose stone surface on top of southern bank Martello Road; Deposit of loose small stones (0.05m-0.7m diam.) in a gritty brown matrix that extends from top of south bank and follows contours of the bank down south-facing slope only. May represent upcast or the final stage of construction of the bank.	3.5m Ew x 1m NS; 0.05m	F1	F33	Worked bone, lead? Tack, iron nail, 2 sherds of glazed pot

31	T3	Larger stones at base of N bank-south face; Clearance stones built up against inner face of N bank of Martello road; Deposit of stones along internal base of North bank; consisted of a rounded, unsorted, angular stones (0.1-0.25m diam.) in a loose silt/topsoil matrix. deposit of stones becomes noticeable; larger at eastern extent and may represent displaced/removed stones thrown up on the bank	7m EW x 0.6m NS; 0.1-0.2m in depth	F34	F1	Small sherds of glazed pot
32	T3	Loose stone surface on top of northern bank; Deposit of loose small stones (0.05m-0.07m diam.) in a gritty yellow brown matrix that extends from top of north bank and follows contours of the bank down north-facing slope only where it abuts larger stones F29.	5m EW x 1.64m NS; average 0.1m in depth	F1	F34	3 tiny sherds pot
33	T3	South bank of Martello road; Aligned ENE/WSW. Consists of almost pure pale greyish brown firm silty clay very similar to local topsoil; very rare stone inclusions. Gentle convex slopes to north and south, tailing off gradually to south and sharper to north where F23 lips up slightly onto the face of F33. The homogenous stone free nature of the bank material suggests a simple quick build from local sod-appears to be a single source. very difficult to differentiate from surrounding topsoil - the southern edge calculated on base of slope rather than change in material.	7m Ew x 2.2-2.5m; 0.4m in height	F1, F30	F36	Iron horseshoe, Cu alloy fragment; possible prehistoric pot including rimsherd; 2 flint samples
34	T3	North bank of Martello Road; linear bank consisting of mid brown silty clay very similar to topsoil.	5m EW x 2.3m NS; 0.39m in height	F1, F32	F37	4 sherds pot, Cu alloy strip, possible hone stone, perforated stone
35	T3	Larger stones on N face of S bank in Ext; slump/upcast? Of stones in bank material/topsoil to E of hollow road (within extension) located downslope of the northern face of the south bank of the Martello road and stratigraphically above F26. Consists of sub angular stones (0.1-0.25m diam.) within medium brown rooty topsoil/bank material with very occasional small stone inclusions. Abutted to north by loose gravelly F23. This stone did not extend along the south bank to the west but does reflect a similar position and slump/upcast along interior of northern bank (F31).	2.2m Ew x 1.2m NS; 0.1m-0.25m	F26, F33	F31	1 sherd of pot

36	T3	Spread of material; deposit of material disturbed/displaced from layers to N and NE; Consist of a dark greyish brown stony silt, loose to firm across its surface; small irregular/angular stone inclusions and grit. A relatively loose layer distinguished by a darker greyish brown colour and frequent finds of animal bone. firmer under the bank material F33, looser to the south. northern edge was the south of the Martello road F23 which was lower than it by 0.05m-0.1m which could be due to compaction or truncation. Gradually thinned out to nothing along a WSW/ENE line to the south, interpreted as ploughing and/or erosion, as south of this line the topsoil sits directly onto natural. It appears to overlie F38 at the NE and is less bone rich, suggesting disturbed/mixed, a result of cultivation/erosion. The presence of two shallow cultivation furrows cut into it (F44, F47) may be the deepest of several more extensive episodes of cultivation. Potentially F36 represents a disturbed version of F39 north of the Martello road but the level of stone seems far less.	5.5m EW x 5mNS; 0.05m-0.15m	F38	F33	Cu alloy, pot sherds including amphora base, loom weight, 2 copper alloy fragments; partial bone pin; 12 possible struck flints
37	T3	Stony layer under North bank (interface); layer between disturbed topsoil and potential archaeological features below; a layer of mixed greyish brown stony silt. Given a number to facilitate finds retrieval- probably a highly disturbed mixture of successive plough furrows and metalised surfaces F39 and F40	&m EW x 5mNS; 0.1m depth	F39	F34	Stone bird, 2 sherds of pot
38	T3	Stony layer of varying compaction that is potentially a version of F36. Located to the south of the extension to Trench 3 (2.5m EW x 2mNS) and partially overlain by F36, Feature 38 consisted of mid greyish brown stony silt with small irregular stone inclusions and grit that was of firmer compaction under the southern Martello bank. It is similar to F27, which has been interpreted as a portion of F38 exposed in the Martello road. Feature 38 also overlay the slab platform F26 and a large amount of animal bone was also recovered from this feature. Iron nails, three sherds of prehistoric pot and a bone, pin, tool and bead were also recovered.	2m NS x 2.5mEW; 0.05m-0.15m	F26	F33, F36	Iron nails, 3 sherds pot, Bone pin and tool, bone bead

39	T3	Spread, north of northern bank to NE (metalled surface/levelling)-variations in compaction/stone inclusion given separate numbers F40 and F41. Stratigraphically this extends from under the northern Martello bank to northern limit of site and is cut by plough furrows F42 and F43-similar to relationships south of the southern bank. May represent levelling spread. F39 moderately loose stony surface with a high density of sub angular and angular stone 90.05-0.12m diam.) set in mid-brown clayey silt. Frequent animal bone.	5m EW x 5.94m NSI 0.1-0.19m in depth	F54-F57, F61-F65	F40	Worked bone, Cu alloy pin, possible hone stone, perforated stone; flint
40	T3	Spread to the west of F39 and probably a variation of F39/same phase of activity but with a higher density of stone. Cut by plough furrows F43 and F48.	6.4m SW/Ne x 1.91m NW/SE; 0.08m-0.12m depth	F39, F60	Cut by F41, F42, F43, F48	
41	T3	Irregular spread between F39 and F40 and probably a variation of F39/same phase of activity but less density of stone inclusions and a lighter yellow brown clayey silt matrix. Like F40 and F39 cut by furrows F42. very indistinct but given the intensity of activity in this area possibly the result of agricultural activity.	3m SW/Ne x 0.68m-1.23m NW/SE; 0.04m in depth	F39	F1	Iron object; 1 sherd abraded pot
42	T3	Plough furrow-extending from the northern limit of Trench 3 for 4.79m it is located min 0.2m/max 1.5m east of western baulk. Aligned NNE/SSW it averages 0.6m in width and 0.08m-0.12m in depth. Slightly concave base it was cut into layer F39. The fill consisted of a light yellowish-brown loose silt clay.	4.79m NNE/SSW x 0.61m in width; 0.08m-0.12m in depth	F39	F1	
43	T3	Plough furrow-located at NW limit of the site this feature was aligned NNE/SSW similar to plough furrow F42 which was 2.9m-3.4m east. It was well defined along the east and extended under the western baulk. It had the same fill as F42 a yellow brown silt clay (which is also similar to topsoil). It is also in a stratigraphically similar position cut into F39 but also overlies F60	3.05m NNE/SSW x 1.32m in width; 0.08m-0.16m in depth	F39, F60	F1	



44	T3	Plough furrow (south of south bank) Aligned NNE/SSW this linear feature measured 6.6m in length and 0.8m in width. Cut into layer F36 the gently concave. The fill resembled overlying topsoil and bank material F33 which consisted of greyish brown silty clay with very occasional small stones. Continues under southern Martello bank F33 and may continue as F42 north of northern Martello bank F34. Apparent cross furrow was interpreted as remnant of topsoil rather than definite feature. Furrow centres are approximately 3m apart between F44 and F47 suggesting a ridge and furrow pattern, but shallow nature of feature means there may have been more furrows between that did not survive truncation by later activity.	6.6m NNE/SSW x 0.8m; 0.08m in depth	F36	F1, F33	1 sherd abraded pot
45	T3	Gravel deposits in dark clay matrix-stony gravelly material packed over metallised surface F46, immediately north of slabs F26. Consisted of a relatively compact mix of angular and sub-angular stones (0.05m-0.11m diam.) in a gravelly dark brown silty clay matrix. Frequent animal bone inclusions. Appears to be filling concave area created by F26	2.5m NS x 2.8m EW; 0.1m-0.16m in depth	F46, F69	F27	Worked bone x 3, Cu Alloy pin, Brooches x 2, bone pin, Cu alloy object, Bone needle, iron tacks and nails x 7, lead strip; oddly worn bone-13 possible bone points
46	T3	Compact metallised surface that extended under slabs F26 and was overlain to the north by F45. Exposed for 5.3m NS x 2.5m EW this surface consisted of small sub-angular stones (0.02m-0.05m diam.) and gravel set very compactly into orange clay subsoil interface F69. Slopes down from north to south and from NW to SE. Sondage (3.9m NS x 0.8m in width) excavated along eastern baulk. Covered posthole F67.	5.3m NS x 2.5m EW; 0.05m-0.08m depth	F67, F69	F45, F26, F51	Blue glass bead, bone pin
47	T3	Furrow parallel to F44. Aligned NNE/SSW this linear feature measured 5m in length and 0.9m in width. Cut into layer F36 the gently concave. Very similar fill to topsoil, a firm greyish brown silty clay with occasional small stone inclusions. At NE difficult to precisely identify end point as was very shallow and similar to overlying F33 material but it extended under southern Martello bank F33. Appears to have been truncated by F33.	5m NNE/SSW x 0.9m; 0.08m in depth	F36	F1, F33	

48	T3	Plough furrow -possible remnant. Aligned NNE/SSW this ill-defined linear deposit that consisted of concave elongated cut into F40, 0.11m in depth. The fill consisted of a mid-greyish brown silty clay with small angular and sub-angular stone inclusions. Interpreted as a truncated plough furrow.	1.8m NNE/SSW x 0.78m in width; 0.11m in depth	F40	F1	
49	T3	Consists of a soft yellowish organic brown silt below layer F39 into which a series of stakeholes in NE corner of site and pit are cut F54 into. Interpreted as an occupation layer associated with prehistoric features. Exposed for 5m EW and 4.8m NS	5m Ew x 4.9m NS; 0.04m-0.12m in depth	F53	F39. Cut by F54-F65	Cu alloy bit, possible thumbnail scraper and debitage; worked bone
50	T3	<i>Same as F49</i>		F39	F48	
51	T3	Dark brown material clayey silt with frequent small stone ( and gravel inclusions 0.05m-0.11m)	2.28m NS x 0.25m EW; 0.4m depth	F53	F26	Stone counter, decorated bone comb, iron object , fragment flint
52	T3	Possible posthole - Located within sondage along eastern baulk towards south of site. Upper surface exposed on removal of F36. while shallow and lacking evidence of packing beyond one decayed stone the sides were steep and consistent, cut into firm natural. Circular in plan (0.28mNS x 0.25m EW) with U-shaped base; Filled with a soft dark grey silt with only occasional stone inclusions.	0.28m NS x 0.25m EW; 0.1m in depth	F69	F36	
53	T3	Natural like material-identified in the sondage to the west of the site this was a soft yellowish brown clayey silt with sub angular stone inclusions. May constitute natural in this part of the site but very soft compaction.	2.8m EW x 0.4m	F49/F50	n/a	

54	T3	Pit-located less than 20cm from the eastern baulk towards the north of the site, this circular pit was cut into natural subsoil. Measuring 0.7m in diameter the concave pit contained two fills. The basal fill F54:1 consisted of a mid-brown silt with charcoal fleck inclusions, 0.12m in maximum depth. the upper fill consisted of a mid-dark brown clayey silt with sub-angular stone inclusions, 0.22m in max depth. Articulated pig-bone was identified within this fill. The ground level around this pit rose in comparison to that immediately to north and south. Stratigraphically similar to nearby stakeholes-may indicate contemporaneous use.	0.7m diam.; 0.29m depth	F39	F49/F50 into natural	Flint core
55	T3	Stakehole-possible double. Cut into natural subsoil this was one of a series of stakeholes located in the NE corner of the trench. Sub-oval in plan it was steep sided with a concave base 0.23m NS x 0.1m; 0.1-0.23 in depth. The fill consisted of a slightly yellowish-brown silt.	0.23m NS x 0.1m; 0.1m-0.23m depth	F39	F49/F50	
56	T3	Posthole-Exposed 1.2m south of posthole F52 during excavation of a Sondage along the eastern baulk. It lay beneath the southernmost extent of F36. Cut into natural subsoil it was circular in plan 0.35m in max diam and 0.28m in depth. Steep sided with a flat base it was filled with soft dark grey brown silt. Post pipe (0.12-0.15m diam.) and stone packing evident with stones (0.1m x 0.05m x 0.2m) at the edge of the cut set vertically and extending down almost to the base suggesting the post was supported. May have been truncated during excavation.	0.35m NS x 0.3m Ew; 0.28m depth	F69	F36	1 sherd pot, flint debitage
57	T3	Double Stakehole. Cut into natural subsoil this was one of a series of stakeholes located in the NE corner of the trench. Keyhole shape in plan the overall length of this double stakehole was 0.29m NW/SE and 0.17m in width. Steep sided with stone at the base the fill consisted of yellowish-brown silt	0.29m NW/SE x 0.17m; 0.2m depth	F39	F49/F50 into natural	
58	T3	Stakehole-located 0.3m west of F57. Sub-circular in plan it measured 0.15m in max diam. Cut into natural it tapered to base. Fill consisted of yellowish-brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.13m-0.15m; 0.3m depth	F39	F49/F50 into natural	
59	T3	Stakehole-Large sub-circular stakehole 0.17m max diam. Cut into natural subsoil it tapers to a point 0.33m in depth. Fill consisted of yellowish-brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.15-0.17m diam; 0.33m depth	F39	F49/F50 into natural	3 pieces of flint

60	T3	Pit, NE corner site, Extends beyond limits of excavation. Irregular, possibly sub-circular pit. Relatively steep edge at eastern limit where pit cuts through unexcavated fill, otherwise shallow relatively flat bottomed base of cut characterised by yellowish brown matrix (possibly not natural). Basal fill F60:2 consisted of a dark brown soft silty fill with rare flecks of charcoal. Some small sub angular stone inclusions. Upper fill consisted of dark brown loose matrix with frequent stone inclusions (angular and sub angular 0.05m-0.1m diam.)	1.19m EW x 0.13m-0.41m NS; 0.1-0.35m depth	F53	F40	Worked bone-possible handle
61	T3	Stakehole-Large circular stakehole 0.14m max diam. Located 0.5m west of F55. Cut into natural subsoil it tapers to a point 0.27m in depth. Fill consisted of yellowish-brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.14m diam.; 0.27m depth	F39	F49/F50 into natural	
62	T3	Stakehole-located immediately adjacent to F63. Cut into natural subsoil it tapers to a point 0.1m in depth. Fill consisted of yellowish-brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.09m diam. 0.1m depth	F39	F49/F50 into natural	
63	T3	Stakehole-located immediately adjacent to F62. Cut into natural subsoil it tapers to a point 0.1m in depth. Fill consisted of yellowish-brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.09m diam. 0.1m depth	F39	F49/F50 into natural	
64	T3	Stakehole-located 0.32m south of F62 F63. Cut into natural subsoil it tapers to a point 0.1m in depth. Fill consisted of yellowish-brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.1m; 0.11m depth	F39	F49/F50 into natural	
65	T3	Stakehole. Located 0.9m south of F64. Cut into natural subsoil it tapers to a point. Fill consisted of yellowish brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.11m; 0.1m depth	F39	F49/F50 into natural	
66	T3	Stakehole. Located 0.4m south-west of F65. Cut into natural subsoil it tapers to a point. Fill consisted of yellowish brown clayey silt with few sub-angular stone.	0.11m; 0.1m depth	F39	F49/F50 into natural	
67	T3	Posthole-set into F46 the stones are set on their edge, 0.12m-0.17m in depth. Located 0.7m north of stone flags F26 and 0.96m west of eastern baulk. Sub-rectilinear in plan (0.13m x 0.17m diam. And 0.26m in max. depth. Fill consisted of dark grey brown clayey silt with small (0.04m diam) inclusions with occasional charcoal flecks and two fragments of bone	(0.13m x 0.17m diam. And 0.26m in max. depth	Cuts F46	F45	



68	T3	Localised deposit (0.7m NS x 0.5m EW) of sod like consistency within occasional large stones located between gravelly deposit F45 and deposit F51. Possibly represents disturbance of the earlier deposits by the construction of the southern bank of the Martello Road. A possible worked bone and two fragments of cremated bone were recovered from this deposit.		F46		Worked bone
69	T3	Natural Compact well drained subsoil. Light yellowish brown sandy/silty subsoil with moderate unsorted stone. Uneven surface in places.			F52 F56 F46	