

**Archaeological Excavation  
Digging Drumanagh, Season III  
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  
Fine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



## **Abstract**

This report describes the preliminary results of Season III 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*. Excavation of a single trench took place over 13 days between 17 -31 August 2022.

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 excavation builds on the initial investigations of a multi-phase research project informed by the *Drumanagh Conservation Study & Management Plan* (2018-2023) and the Drumanagh Archaeological Advisory Group. The ultimate objectives of the proposed 2022 investigations were to address the research and knowledge gaps, investigate the nature and extent of a laneway identified on aerial photos and to inform future works and interpretation of the site.

The focus of the 2022 excavation at Drumanagh Promontory Fort was on establishing the nature of a trackway identified through non-invasive methodologies while engaging the community in their local archaeology. The presence of settlement activity was identified; the level of natural subsoil in this area 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 III of the *Digging Drumanagh-Fingal Community Excavation Project*. Excavation of a single trench took place over 13 days between 17 -31 August 2022.



*Plate 1: Trench 4 looking north to Loughshinny. Photo: Ray Kerr*

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

- Fulfil actions and objectives identified in the *Drumanagh Conservation Study & Management Plan* (2018, download from <https://www.fingal.ie/digging-drumanagh> )
- Establish the nature, context and significance of the features identified on aerial photos etc.
- Engage, inform and involve the community with Drumanagh Promontory fort and Martello Tower
- Inform the Drumanagh archaeological research agenda

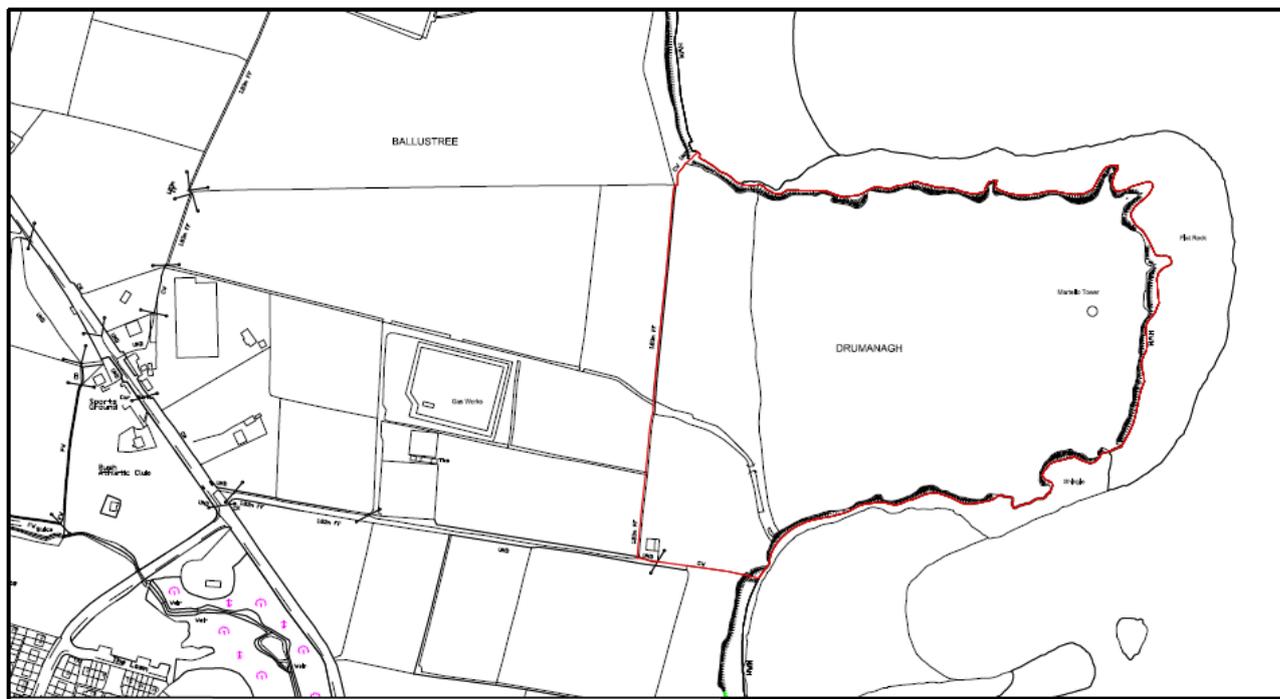
## 2 Location, topography & geology

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).

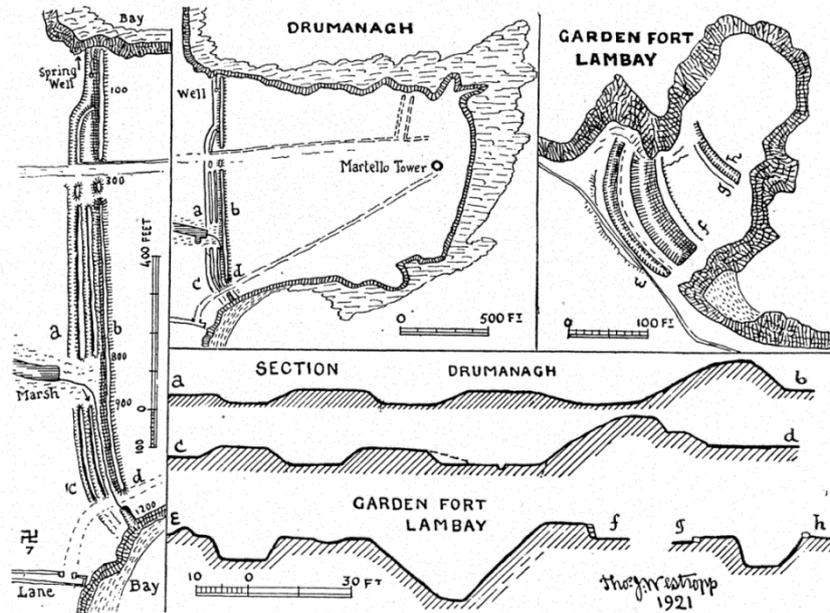


Fig.2 : Drumanagh and Lambay promontory forts (Westropp, 1921)

There are four promontory forts within Fingal. Drumanagh, is the largest and visible across the sea on Lambay Island 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. Recently, a number of possible promontory forts identified at Shenick Island (DU005-116), Giant's Hill, Rush (DU008-090) and Ireland's Eye (DU015-133) have been added to the Sites and Monuments Record.

### 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. Kenure 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 Rutton '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). 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.

#### 1.3.5. *Drumanagh, Port?*

A map from the *Fourth Report of the Commissioners of Irish Fisheries of their proceedings for 1822* depicts the suggestion of a port along the northern limit of Drumanagh promontory. It is listed in the appendix as a 'fishing station'. However, it does not

appear on previous or subsequent historical maps (refer 3.1) nor is there physical evidence under the water line, and may have been temporary in nature or a proposal.

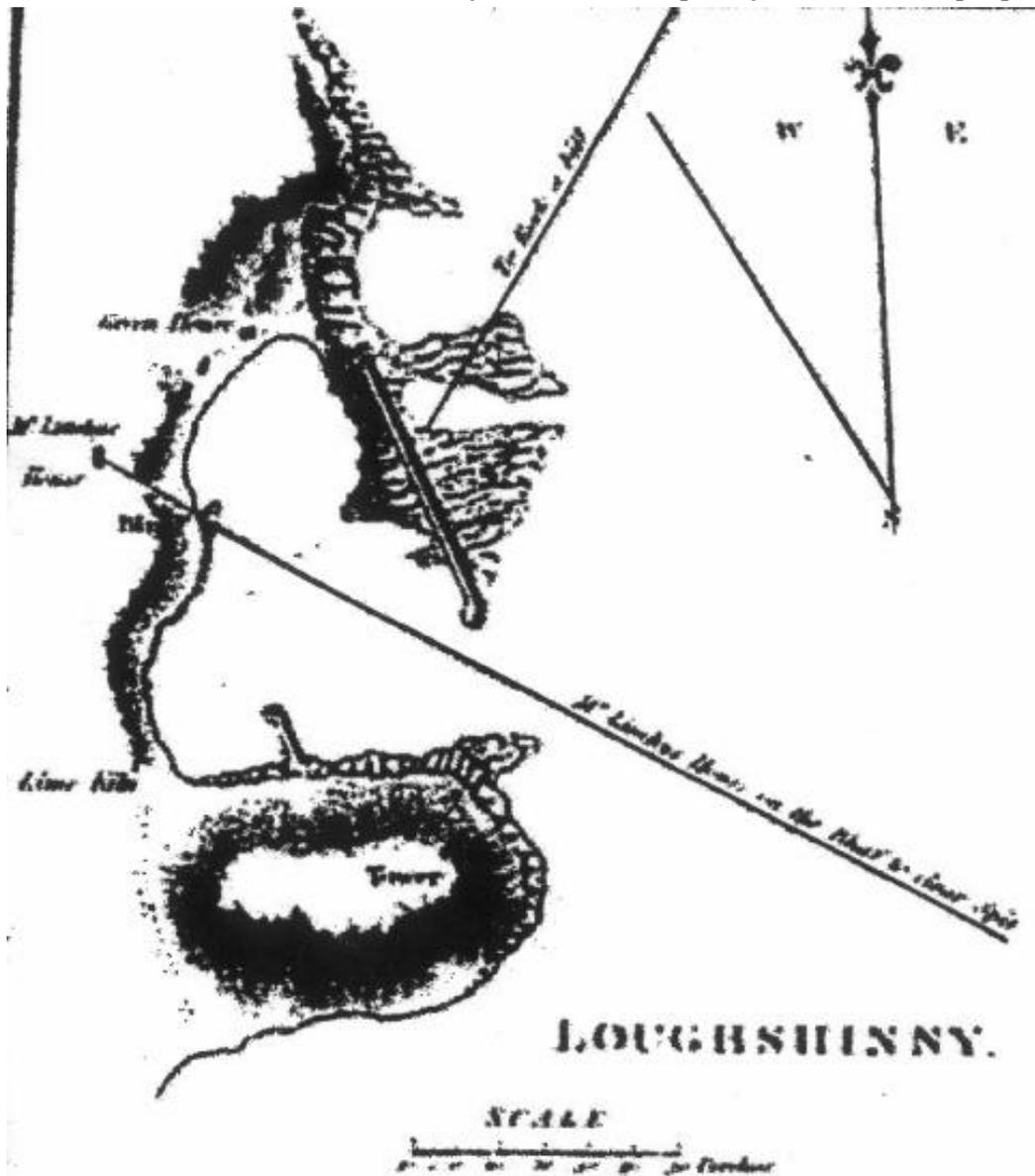


Fig.3: Fisheries Report 1822/23 courtesy of Rory McKenna

An examination of navigation, port and revenue maps of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries note Drumanagh or Drumangh Bay indicating a landmark for maritime



Fig. 4: Map of Dublin's Coast from Baldoyle to Skerries, published by William Richards in 1765  
<https://www.dublinportarchive.com/collection/historical-map-collection/>

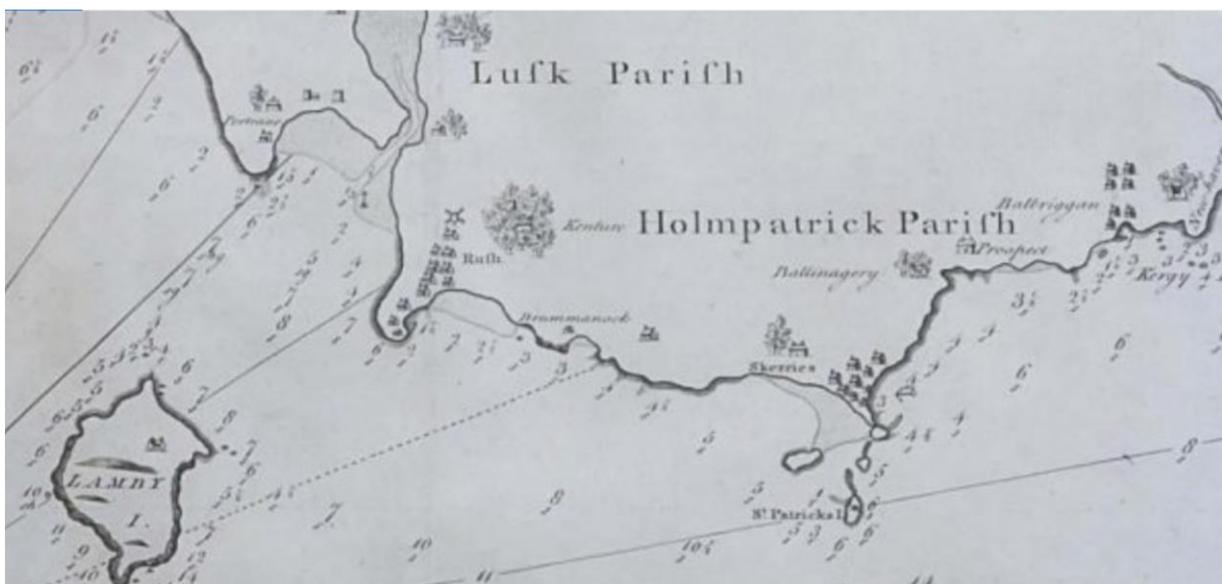


Fig.5 The East Coast of Ireland from Wicklow to Skerries surveyed by M. McKenzie c.1775  
<https://www.dublinportarchive.com/collection/historical-map-collection/>

### 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).

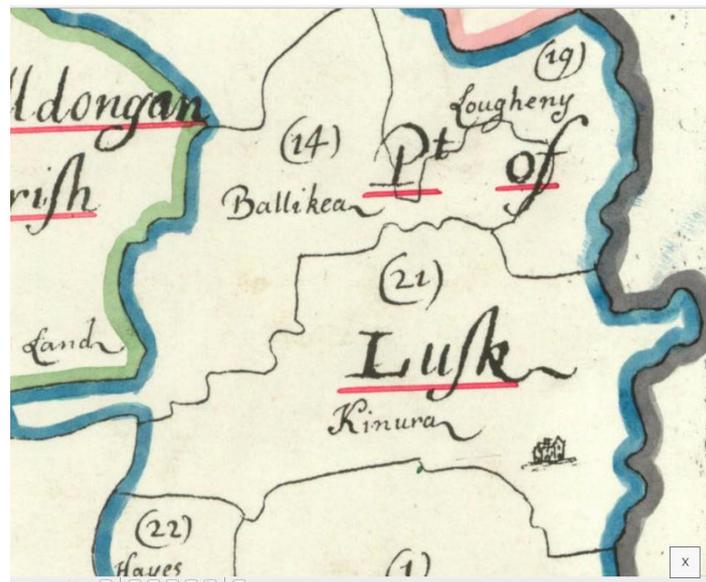


Fig. 6 Down Survey Barony Map c.1656

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. 7 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. 8: Duncan's 1821 map

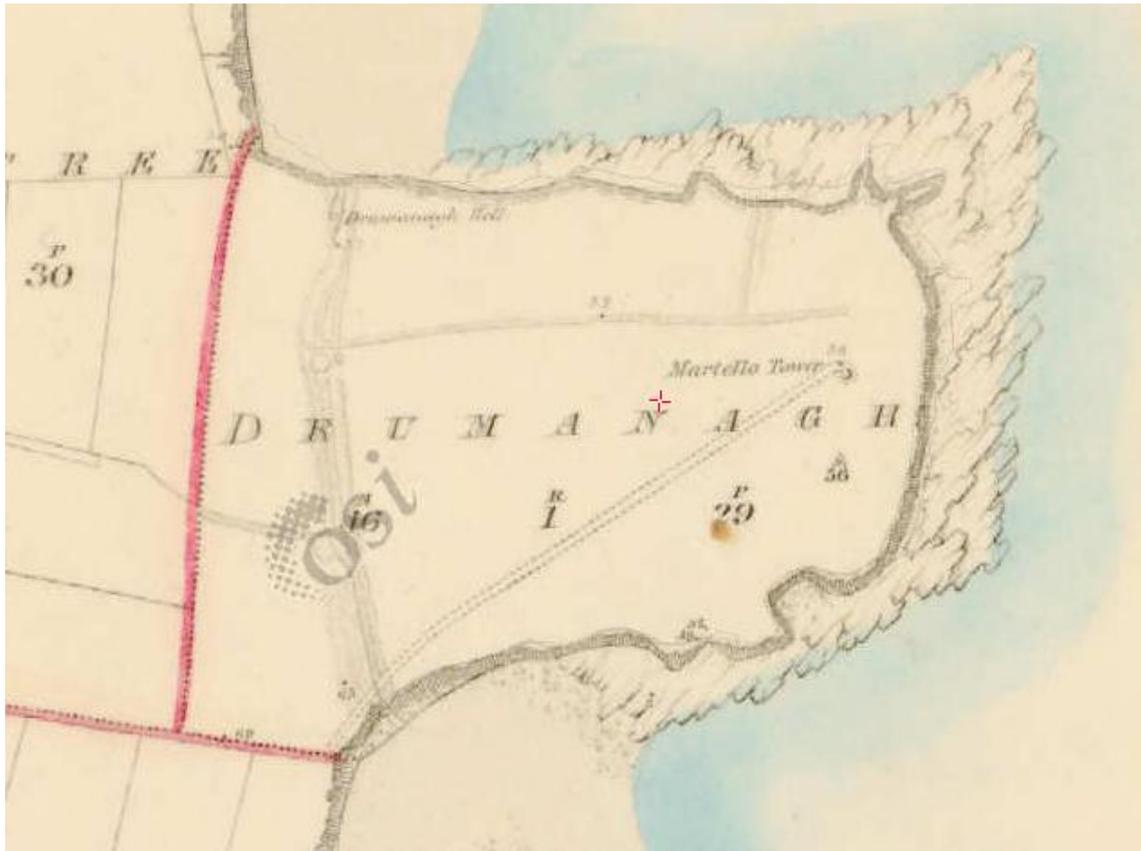


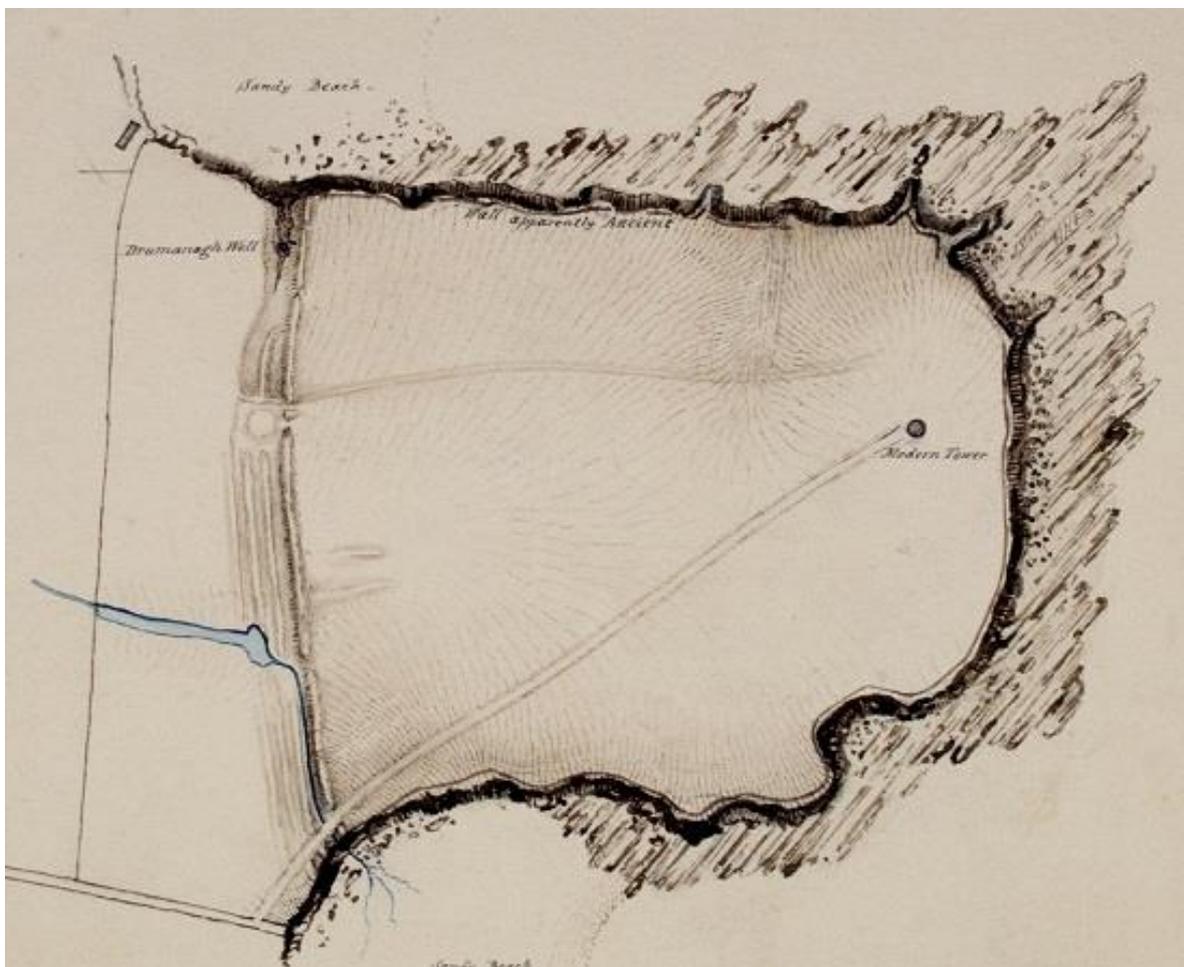
Fig. 9: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map.. Surveyed 1838, Published 1843

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 Drummanagh and Rush- and traverses the ramparts to the south. A stream flows from the western field boundary, that forms the townland boundary between Drummanagh and Ballustree, into the southern ditch and Drummanagh 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. 10: 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.

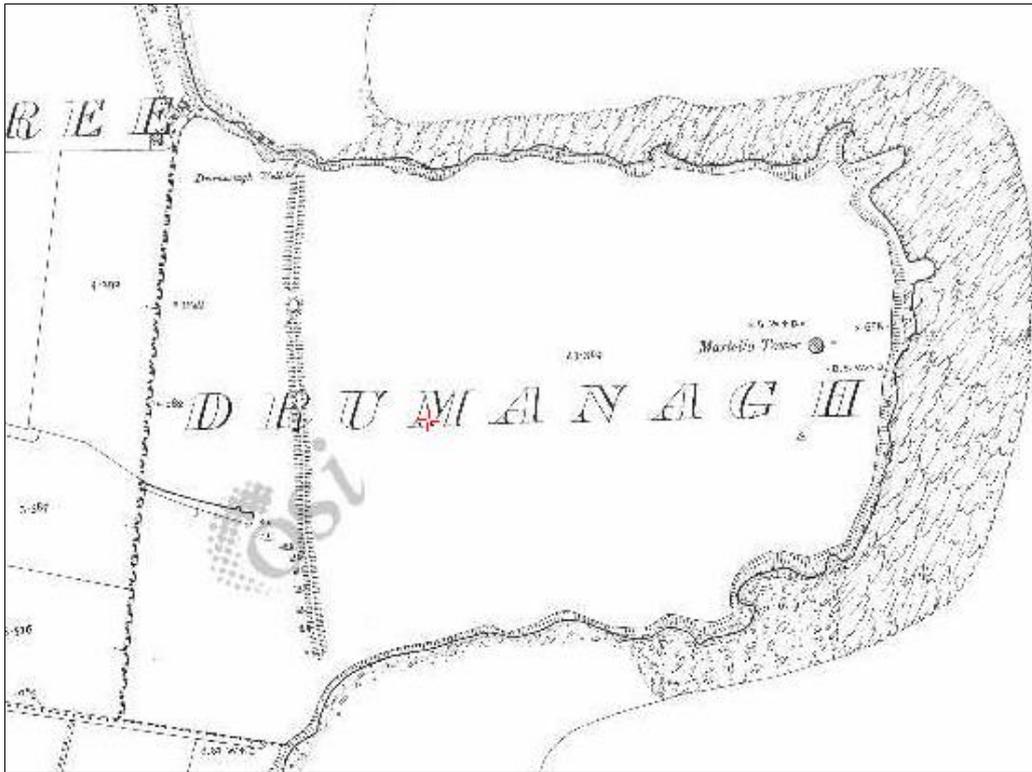
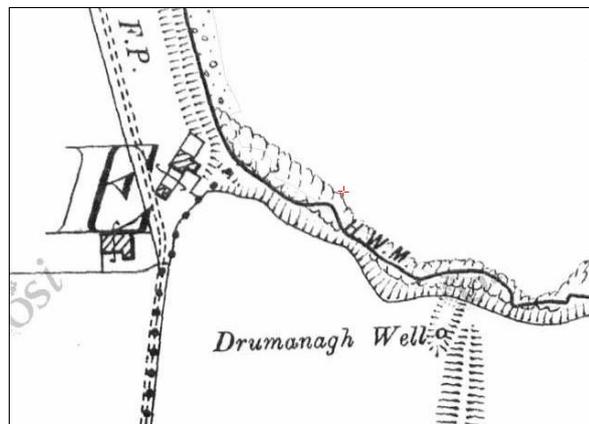
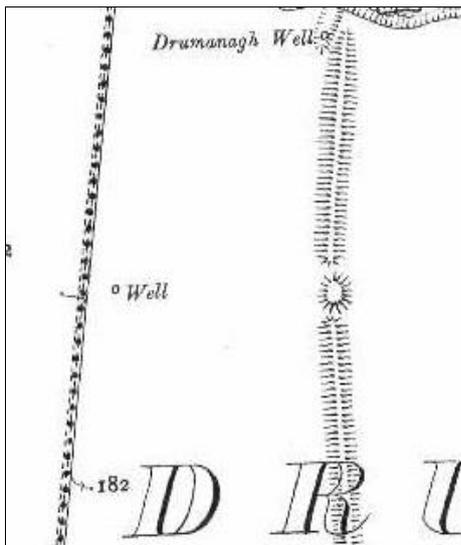


Fig. 11: 25 inch Ordnance Survey Map. Surveyed 1906; Published 1908

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

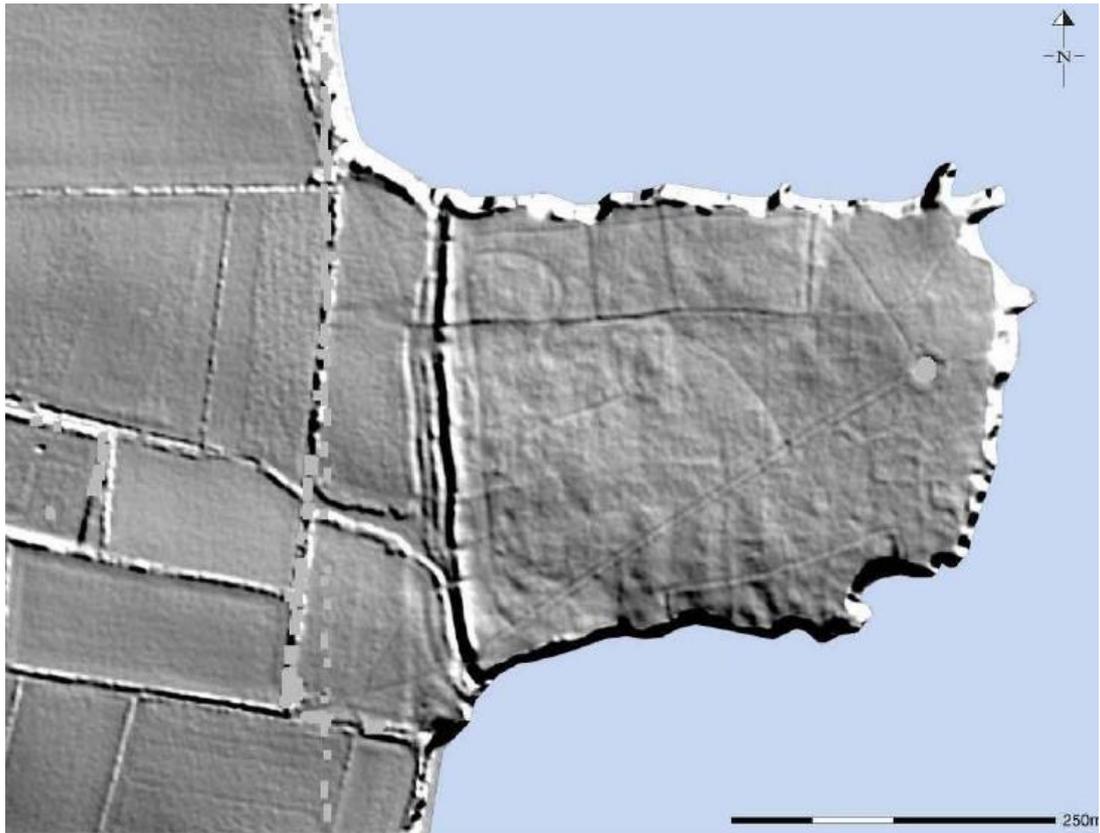


Plate 3: LiDAR image, Fingal County Council and The Discovery Programme 2014

### 3.2. 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).

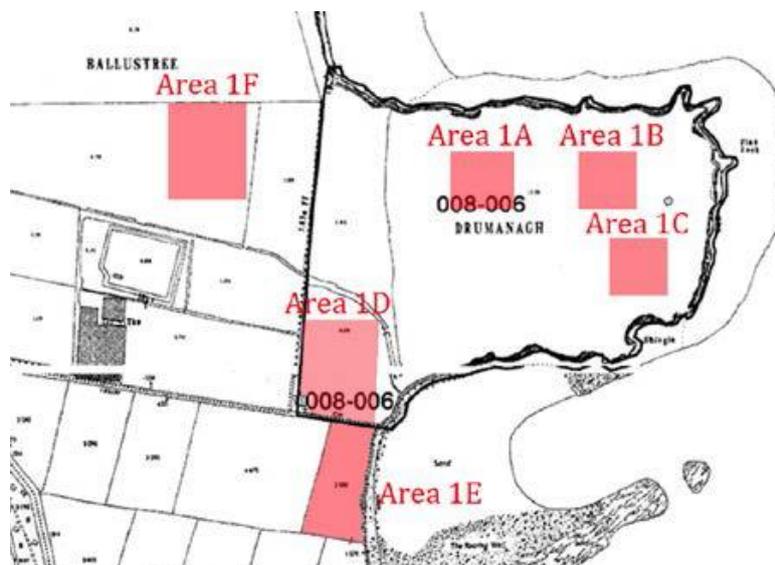
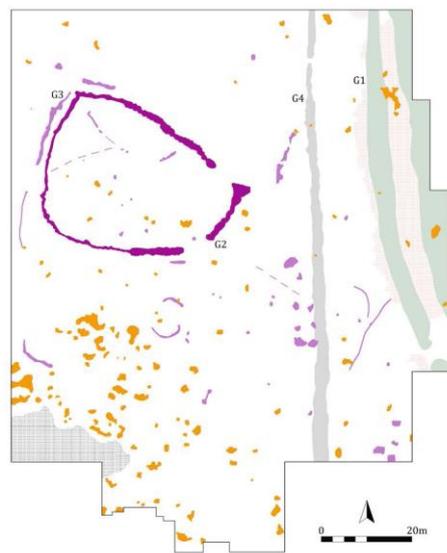


Fig.12: Layout of geophysical survey panels 2014, courtesy of the Discovery Programme

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). 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 west 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.

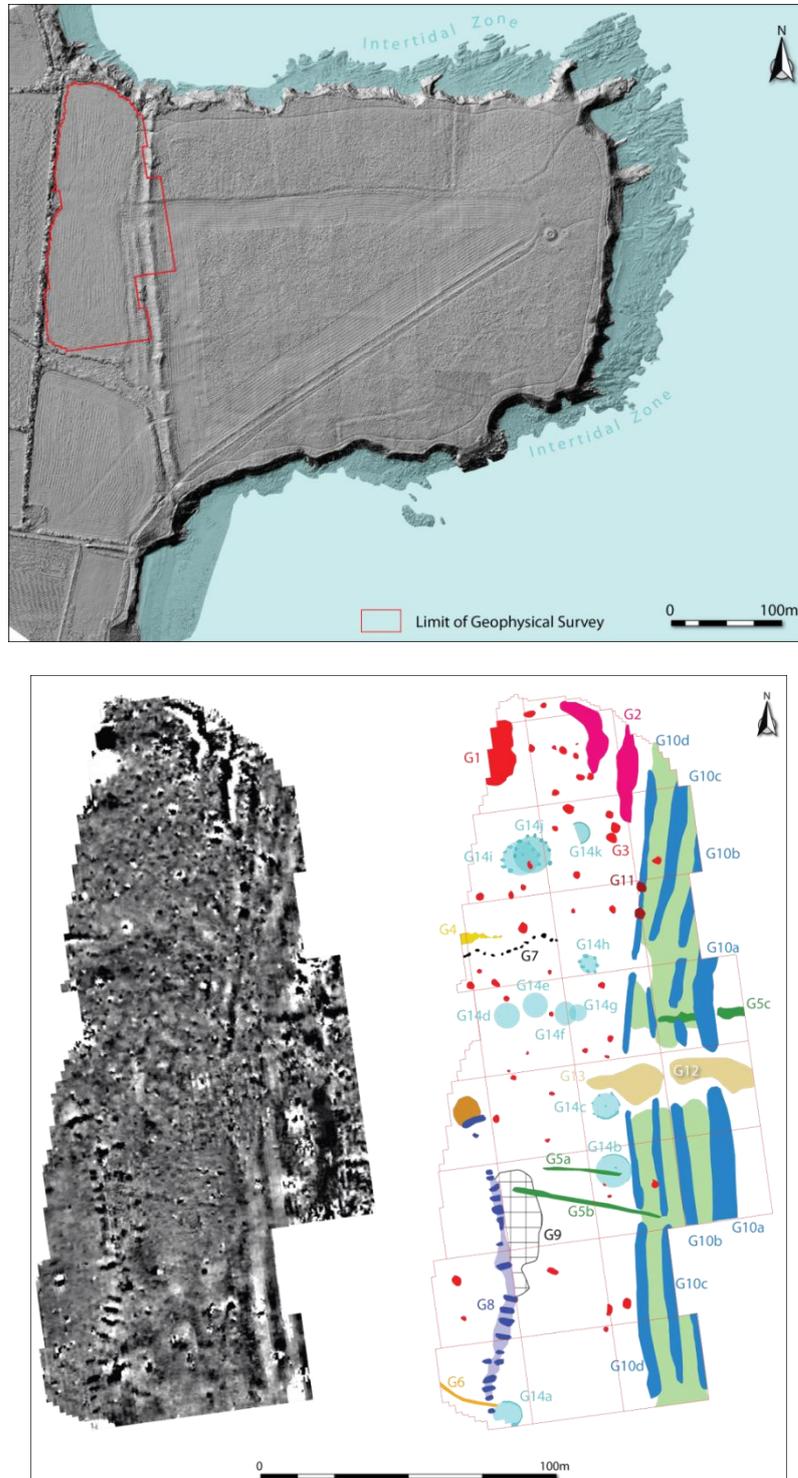


Fig. 14 Location and results of geophysical survey, courtesy of James O'Driscoll & Paddy Gleeson.

### 3.3 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 (Rafferty 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.

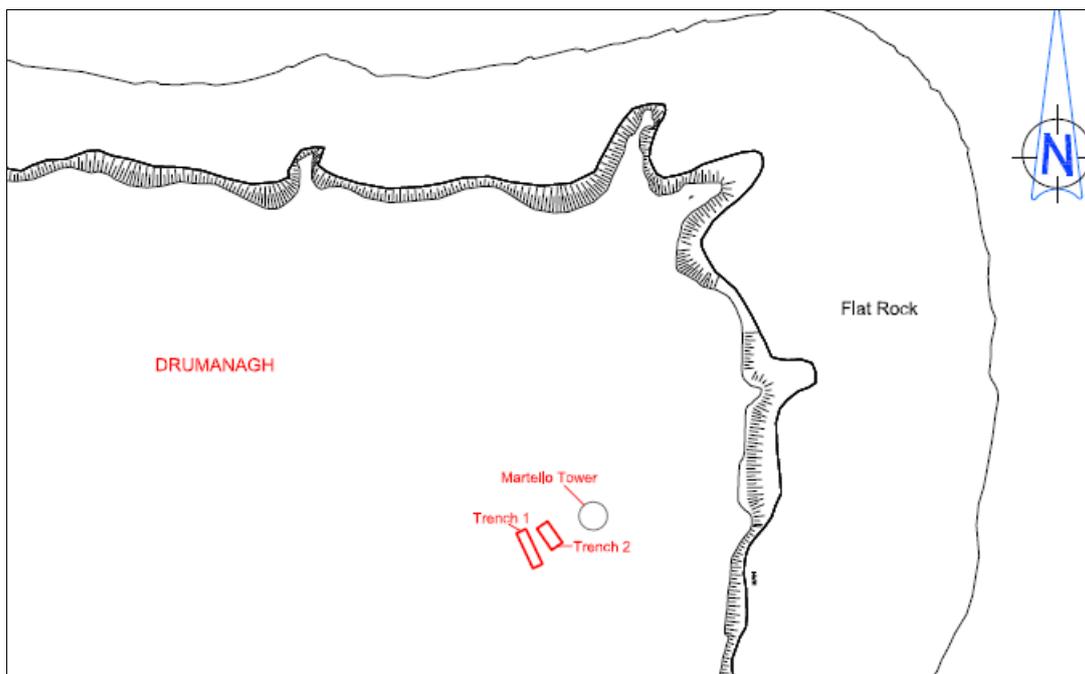
In addition lands outside the fort ramparts on the west were inspected to identify any material of archaeological interest that may have been exposed by ploughing across this area. A total of 49 surface finds of archaeological and potential archaeological interest were identified including flint (both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



Plate 4: Auger holes locations 2014 survey (blue) and 2017 survey (red), courtesy of the Discovery Programme

**2017 Ministerial Consent: C786/E4805**

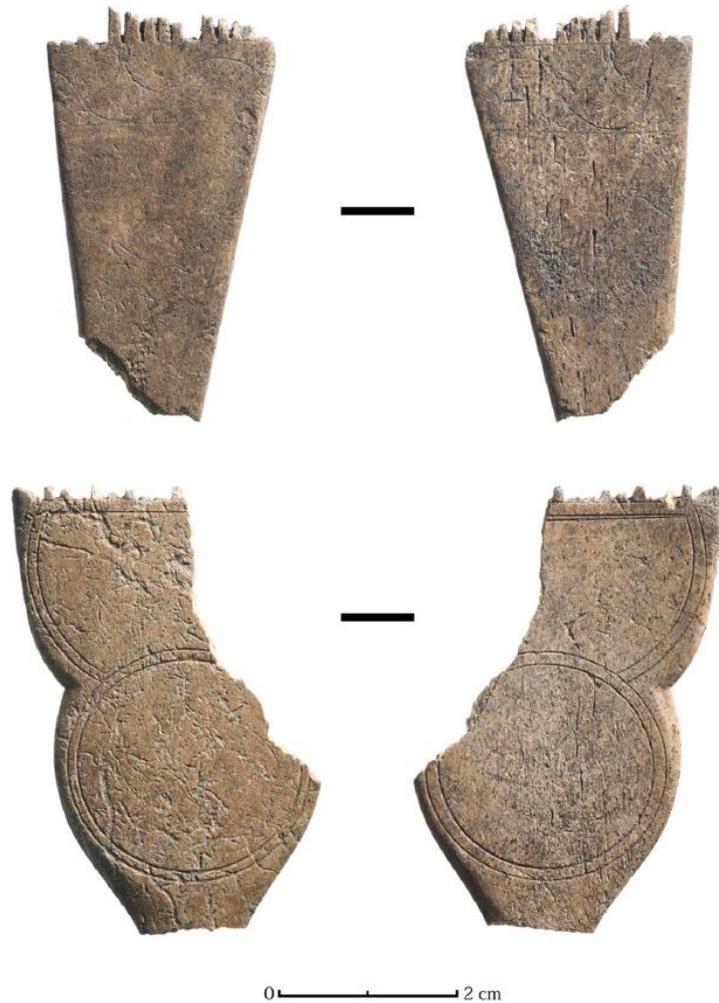
In advance of the installation of boundary fencing and access gates, a two day programme of augering was undertaken by Ger Dowling and Gary Devlin, Discovery Programme and Christine Baker, Fingal County Council. A total of 56 auger holes were excavated. No artefacts or soil horizons of archaeological 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. 15: Season I, Trench layout, at scale 1:2000*

**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 5: 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 6: 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 7: 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.



*Plate 8: Layout of Trench 3 , Season II and Trenches 1 and 2, Season I*

#### **2019 Ministerial Consent: C786/E4805**

Season II of Digging Drumanagh was undertaken by Christine Baker, Community Archaeologist, Fingal County Council over 13 days between 15 -29 May 2019. 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. A single trench (T3) traversed the Martello road c.350m west-south-west of the Season 1 trenches. 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.

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 metalled 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 9: Trench 3, aerial photo mid-excavation*

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 10: Weaving comb recovered from F51. Photo: John Sunderland*

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. The next phase of activity was a levelling event or spreading of material to form a surface. This layer was animal bone rich and contained pottery including an amphora base, worked bone tools, copper alloy pins and a spindle whorl. 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). Material of probable Iron Age date and artefacts of Romano-British origin were present in both these deposits. Radiocarbon dates from pits and postholes indicate activity with dates ranges from AD 17-139 to AD 253-403.

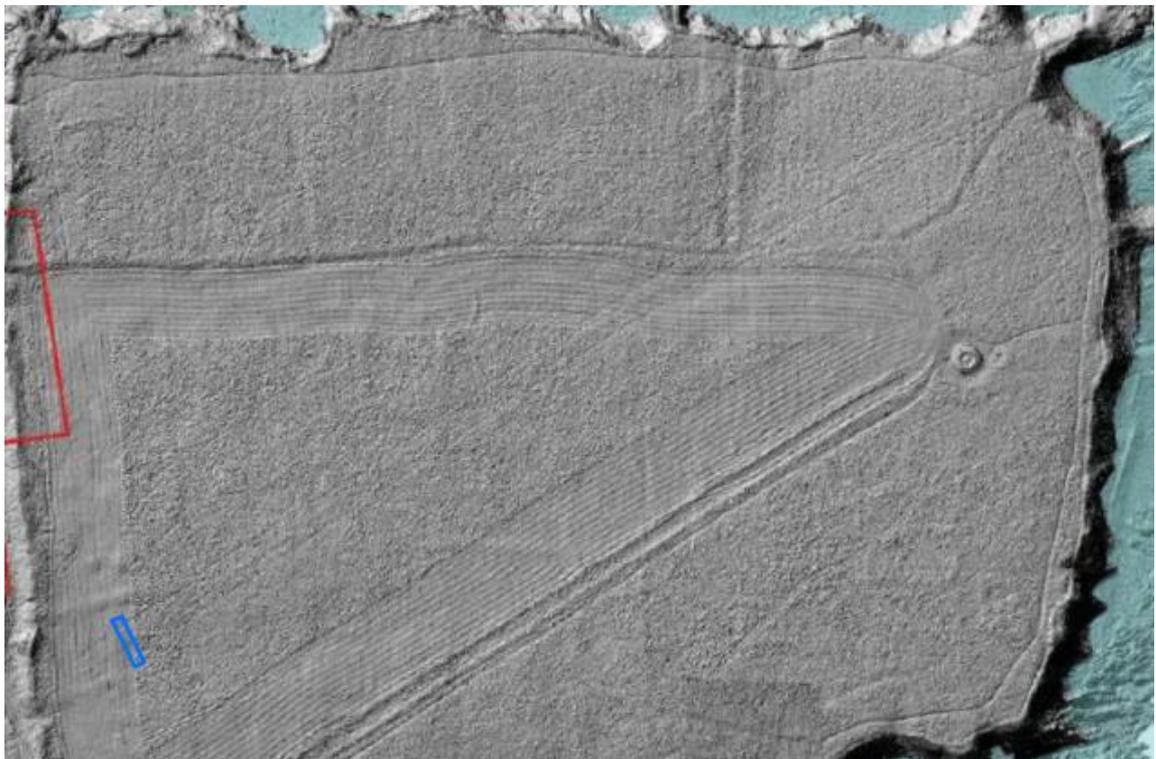


0 ————— 2 cm

*Plate 11: Stone bird. Photo: John Sunderland*

#### 4 Archaeological Excavation

The objective of the 2022 excavation was to investigate the nature of construction of a trackway identified on aerial photographs, geophysical survey and on the hill-shade model. The trackway traverses Drumanagh from a possible landing point at the north-east corner of the promontory towards the ramparts. It runs almost parallel to the Martello road but is located c.70m north of it and average 10m in width flanked by what appear on the geophysical survey to be ditches. In addition this trench was located away from the impact of the insertion of the Martello road and it was an aim to examine the stratigraphy and establish the level of natural subsoil in this area.



*Fig. 16: Trench 4 location overlaid on Hillshade model courtesy of Gleeson & O'Driscoll*

A single excavation trench, Trench 4 that measured 20m NS x 4m EW was opened across the width of the trackway towards the west of the site, c.70m north of Trench 3, to the south-west of Drumanagh promontory. An area of vegetation had been cut in advance of the excavation uncovering a distinct sub-rectangular hollow c.10m NS x c.7mEW, not readily identifiable on aerial photographs etc. Trench 4 traversed the western limit of this hollow. The ground surface rises from south to north across this area of the promontory. A possible field bank extends eastward from the ramparts. The hollow is located s.17m south of the field bank and higher ground. The gentle fall to lower ground is evident within Trench 4.



*Plate 12: Location of Trench 3 , Season II and Trenches 1 and 2, Season I*

#### **4.1 Excavation Stratigraphy**

The overall stratigraphy consisted of light yellowish brown sandy silt natural subsoil overlain by occupation layers and truncated by the insertion of pits, postholes and a substantial structure with a stone footing, which were in turn traversed by agricultural activity in the form of furrows. Topsoil comprised a medium brown friable silt clay with occasional stone and roots.

##### **Trench 4**

Trench 4 measured 20m NS x 4m EW. Natural subsoil was attained to the north and east of the trench between 0.4m and 0.52m below present ground level, depending on the slope. To the north of the trench natural subsoil was cut by a number of pits, postholes and depressions and overlain by an occupation layer (F71). The southern 10m of the trench which coincided with a drop in ground level was dominated by a structure (F100) defined by stone slabs (F79) and attendant metallised surfaces (F97, F97). Possible work surfaces were identified in the south-eastern quadrant of the trench. Evidence for agricultural activity comprised a series of NNE/SSW aligned

furrows (F72, F73, F74, F76, F81, F82, F83, F84). Topsoil averaged measured between 0.15m-0.22m across Trench 4.



*Plate 13: Trench 4 post-excitation*

#### **Trench 4-Subsoil**

##### *Feature F69/F53*

The natural subsoil consisted of compact well-drained subsoil light yellowish brown sandy silt with moderate unsorted stone. Sterile.

#### **Trench 4- Early Features:**

These features were characterised by being cut into natural subsoil and stratigraphically under layer F71. They were located within the northern 10m of Trench 4,

##### *Feature 85*

Located almost centrally within Trench 4 F85 was a sub-circular shallow pit (0.96m EW x 0.85m; 0.22m in maximum depth), cut into natural subsoil. The pit contained two fills. The basal fill consisted of a compact grey-brown silty clay with occasional small stone and charcoal inclusions. The upper fill consisted of a mid-brown silty clay with angular and rounded stone (0.12m-0.15m diam.). Frequent animal bone was recovered from both fills. A struck flint (85:1) was also recovered from this pit.

##### *Feature 86*

Located c.0.80m north of shallow pit F85, this posthole F86 was cut into natural subsoil. Sub-circular in plan it measured 0.5m EW by 0.43m NS and had a maximum depth of

0.16m. The posthole had a gradual break of slope and was U-shaped in profile. The fill consisted of a soft loose mid brown silt with moderate small stone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. There were larger stones (0.02-0.05m diam.) in the upper fill, that may have acted as packing stones or posthole setting. A single fragment of animal bone was recovered from F86.



Plate 14: Pit F85, mid-excavation, facing north

#### *Feature 87*

Originally thought to be potential posthole, this feature was determined to be a stone socket. It was characterised as a shallow depression (0.2m diam. and 0.07m in depth) filled with moderately loose sandy mid-brown sandy silt.

#### *Feature 89*

Cut into natural subsoil this posthole or shallow pit was sub-circular in plan (0.49m x 0.51m) and measured 0.15m in depth. The break of slopes were rounded and the base was relatively even. The fill consisted of moderately compact mid to dark grey-brown silty clay with small stone inclusions and charcoal flecks. A small amount of animal bone was retrieved from the fill.

#### *Feature 90/F92*

Initially considered as a posthole this feature was determined to be a stone socket (and inadvertently numbered twice). Located north of F94 this irregular concave feature measured 1.08m NW/SE and 0.62m SW/NE and 0.13m in depth. The linear feature was cut into natural subsoil and contained very loose mid greyish red brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and traces of charcoal. A small amount of animal bone was recovered from this feature, which appears this was formed as a result of a large stone having been removed.

#### *Feature 91*

Irregular charcoal flecked spread within a shallow depression. Cut into natural subsoil the irregular cut 0.03m in depth, it was very irregular in plan (1.21m NS) with an irregular base. F91 was filled with firmly compacted mid brown sandy clay with small stone and charcoal inclusions, surrounded by a stained natural. A small amount of animal bone associated was associated with this feature.

#### *Feature 94*

This feature was a shallow trace of a curving irregular linear located south of stone socket F92 and north of shallow depression F91. Feature 94 was cut into natural subsoil and measured 2.63m NW/SW, 0.25m in width and 0.03m in depth. The base of the cut was very irregular and stony and the fill consisted of moderately loose coarse grey mid brown sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions.

### **Trench 4-Layers & Surfaces**

Overlying the natural subsoil and early cut features were layers and surfaces, the relationship between which was truncated by later disturbance especially in the south of the trench.

#### *Feature 71*

Feature 71 was an occupational layer that extended across Trench 4. A set of furrows had been ploughed into this layer, which were very evident across the northern 10m of the trench. F71 was a light brown stony compact layer which includes angular and sub-angular stones (0.02m-0.10m diam.). This layer averaged 0.10-0.12m in depth with frequent animal bone inclusions. Artefacts recovered from this layer included a copper alloy object (71:1); bone objects (71:14; 71:16); bone spindle whorl (71:17); bone tool (71:22), Romano-British pot (2; 3; 4; 11; 18; 19) polished stone, struck flint (8; 9; 10; 23; 24; 25; 26; 27; 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 33; 34); iron object (71:12); iron nail (71:13) iron blade (71:5); possible hammerstone (71:5); pebbles (6; 7; 21); possible slingshot (71:21). Removal of F71 was removed on to natural subsoil in the northern end of the trench and possible pits/postholes F85, F86 and F87. To the south of Trench 4, F71 was disturbed by the insertion of the cut of the structure (F100) and pit (F90) and later agricultural activity.

#### *Feature 101*

Located to the south of Trench 4 was a rough metalled surface abutting the cut of sunken structure F100. Exposed for 1.6m NS and 1.8m EW this rough stone surface consisted of irregular rounded stones (0.02-0.07m diam.) packed into natural subsoil. Truncated to the west by the furrow F83 and potentially cut by F100 to the east the

stones of this surface were larger and more irregular than those noted in F96/97 and appear to have been a rough working or floor surface.

#### *Feature 98*

Located in the south-west corner of Trench 4, F98 was a layer of compact stony material that was exposed for 2.5m NS by 1.4m EW and measured from 0.01m-0.1m in depth. F98 consisted of very firm mid-brown silt with occasional inclusions of burnt clay and heat affected stone with occasional charcoal flakes. A quantity of animal bone and an antler tine was recovered from this compact deposit. Feature 98 overlay F71 and was itself cut by furrows F82 and F83. However the west side of furrow F83 truncated where its eastern limit was adjacent to F101 meaning the exact relationship between the stony material and the metallated surface was lost. F98 appears to represent a distinct category of waste that may have been associated with a hearth or kiln and appears to have been subject to compression as a surface. A bone spindle whorl, sawn antler tine and possible rubbing stone were recovered from this material.

#### *Feature 80*

Feature 80 was a shallow sub-oval pit, cut through a thin layer of F71 into natural subsoil. Directly underlying the western most slabs of F79 and located just 0.10m west of the cut of structure F100, the pit F80 measured 2m NS and 0.8m in maximum width and 0.3m in depth. The fill which consisted of a mid-greyish brown coarse silt was characterised by frequent animal bone, occasional charcoal flecks and small stone (0.01-0.06m diam.) inclusions. Possible Romano-British pottery (80:1), and a human bone (80:2) were retrieved from the fill.

#### **Trench 4-Structure**

There was a distinct concentration of activity located in the southern 10m of Trench 4 which corresponded with the western limit of a rectilinear hollow, identified post-vegetation removal. Interpreted as a structure this activity was characterised by rectilinear cut (F100) with basal metallised surface (F96/F97), packed soil (F99, F102), posthole (F93), large stone flags (F79) and a series of internal occupation deposits (F88, F95, F78) and stone disturbance (F70, F77).



*Plate 15: Iron Age Structure, post-excitation*

#### *Feature 100*

The western limit of a sub-rectangular cut which formed a sunken area of a structure was excavated within Trench 4. Exposed for a total length of 11m NS and 3m EW the large stones F79 were left in situ and partially obscured F100, and the material to the north and south of which were excavated (and numbered separately), the area to the south having been more disturbed. The concave cut through F71 into natural subsoil averaged 0.4m at the northern end, dropping to 0.25m at the southern end, which is reflective of the ground slope in this area. The base of F100 dropped c.0.3m in absolute level across over 9m along its length, which is similar to the fall in current ground level over the same area, although slightly less which may be indicative of the base of the

feature being intentionally levelled. The metalled surfaces F96 and F97 line the base and unevenly extend along the slope of F100.



*Plate 16; Metalled surface F96, detail, courtesy of John Sunderland*

*Feature 96 (=F97)*

Metalled surface which formed the base of the structural cut F100, Feature 96 consisted of generally rounded pebbles (0.02-0.04m diameter), hard packed into natural subsoil. Visibly extending under the larger displaced stone of F79 to the west and south, the metalled surface was exposed for 5m NS and 2.10m EW. The metalling did not extend up the steeper sides of cut F100 at the north-west where it was overlain by F102 but did extend to the lip of F100 to the north-east which may be suggestive of an entrance to the north. the surface of F96 was slightly dished sloping very gradually down from north to south and from west to east.

*Feature 97(=F96)*

Located to the south of collapsed stone this metalled surface was stratigraphically located exactly as metalled surface F96, forming the base of the cut F100 and overlain by deposit F88 and is likely an extension of F96. Feature 97 was exposed for 2.3m NS and 1.6m EW, and consisted of small, rounded stones (0.02m-0.04m diameter) set into natural subsoil within cut F100. This metalled surface extended under stone F79 to the north and commenced at the base of the slope of cut F100. It was slightly dished in profile and sloped gradually down from west to east.



*Plate 17: Iron Age Structure, post-excitation, facing south*

#### *Feature 102*

Feature F102 comprised soil packed against the steep north west slopes of F100 beyond the extent of metallated surface F96. Exposed for 2m NE/SW and 0.6-0.7m NW/SE to a depth of 0.02-0.05m, this layer consisted of mid brown compact clayey silt with infrequent small stone inclusions and rare animal bone. The posthole F93 appeared to form the southern limit of this layer and the bone rich fill F93 overlay it, as did deposit F88. This layer directly overlay the cut F100 where metallating didn't survive or was perhaps never present.

#### *Feature 99*

Located to west of the large slabs (F79), Feature 99 appeared to fulfil a packing function similar to that of F102, within the upper limit of the cut of F100. Exposed for 1.5m NS and 0.1-0.5m EW to a depth of 0.02-0.05m, this layer consisted of mid brown compact clayey silt with infrequent small stone inclusions, occasional charcoal flecks and frequent animal bone. Two sherds of Romano British pottery (99:1, 99:2) were recovered from this deposit.

#### *Feature 93*

Initially identified as a concentration of bone and charcoal, 0.5m in diameter at the interface of layers F88 and F71, around a concentration of stones. On excavation the

upper layer of material was seen to sit into a very shallow hollow overlying packing stones, which defined a well-cut vertical edge of 0.25m diameter and depth. Cut through fill F102 into natural subsoil, the base of posthole F93 was flat/very slightly dished and the sides near vertical. Stones were set around the upper edge and the fill consisted of compact mid-brown silty clay. Animal bone and a bone object (93:1) was retrieved from the posthole fill.



*Plate 18: F88 south facing section, mid-excavation*

### *Feature 88*

This occupation deposit containing large quantities of well-preserved animal bone and artefacts. F88 consisted of a loose brownish dark-grey deposit of silt, 0.20-0.40m in depth, located within the cut defined by F100. This deposit directly overlay a metallised surface (F96) and in the north-west corner of F100 it overlay a hard-packed clayey silt F102, where F96 was absent. Exposed for 5m NS and 2.8m EW, F88 continued beyond that excavated but would have required the removal of much of the stone slabs (F79) to pursue further. Towards the base of F88 is loose and friable with c.5% angular stone (0.1m-0.2m diam.) inclusions. The upper surface of F88 was characterised by a higher concentration of sharp shaley stone fragments (<0.05m diam.). F88 both abutted the slabs of F79 and underlay disturbed slabs. F88 was artefact rich the following were retrieved from this area; Bone comb fragment (88:1); antler tine (88:3; 88:28); Bone scoop (88:14); Bone tools (88:16; 17, 20, 25, 26, 27, 29, 32); Bone spindle whorl (88:21; 88:24) Unfinished bone spindle whorl (88:22); Bone comb (88:7); Bone comb fragments

(88:15; 88:23); Possible Romano British pot (88:19); Copper alloy bangle (88:2); Copper alloy pin fragments (5;6; 11); Cu alloy fragments (88:13); Flint (88:33); Roman Glass fragment (88:12); DHR -human tooth (88:18); Iron pin (88:8-9) and part possible stone ring pendant (88:4).

#### *Feature 95*

This occupation deposit consisted of loose charcoal rich material under stone collapse in south-east corner of F100, closely analogous to deposit F88 to the north. Feature 95 consisted of mid-dark grey deposit of animal bone rich silt (lacking the brownish tint that F88 had). Located directly above metallated surface F95, it mirrored the line of the cut F100 to the west and extended for 3m NS x 2mEW with a depth ranging from 0.11m to 0.2m. A copper alloy pin (95:1), bone subject (95:3) and possible Romano British pot (95:2) were recovered from this deposit.



*Plate 19: West-facing section within Structure, composite courtesy of John Sunderland*

#### *Feature 79*

F79 consisted of a disturbed line of substantial stone slabs, sitting along cut F100. The slabs were a mix of fossil? local slabs and bedded red sandstone and occasional coarse granites. Lined and pitted surfaces were common and appeared natural. Exposed for 8m NNW/SSE and across the width of the trench these substantial stones consisted of four elements. Firstly the larger stones 0.8 x 0.33m x 0.3m were generally found closest to the edge of cut F100 and were sitting on either metallated surface F96/F97 or over a thin layer of soil F88. Two of these larger stones were very large with a minimum depth of 0.25m and potentially 0.55m. Secondly were medium slabs, ranging from 0.3m-0.4m in diameter and 0.10m to 0.15m in thickness. Generally located to the east of cut F100, these medium slabs were sitting on soil deposit F88 and also overlay pit F80 and deposit F99. The third element consisted of smaller more rounded slabs (0.15-0.30m in diam.) set flat face up, that were used to infill between the larger slabs. Finally an irregular jumble of smaller more angular stones (average 0.10m diam.) were very tightly packed in around the larger stones. There was a high level of disturbance

towards the southern end of Trench 4, where stones were pitched at angles, in contrast to the central portion of F79. This feature has been interpreted as a footing of a structure.

#### *Feature 78*

Feature 78 consisted of a compact bone rich material directly overlying the upper surface of stone slabs F79 at the eastern downslope side of Trench 4. F78 was characterised by a smooth firm surface and consisted of a dark brownish grey firm but very friable silt. F78 extended north-south for 7.5m and east-west for a maximum of 2m and measured from 0.05m to .15m in depth. F78 sat directly on the slabs F79 where it formed a thin firm layer of 0.05-0.075m in thickness and also partially overlay loose stone F77. However some of the displaced stone slabs of F79 were also under F78 towards the south of the trench, indicative of disturbance it in this area. It appears F78, which does not extend across the western half of Trench 4, represents a topsoil pre-dating the agricultural disturbance associated with the furrows.

#### *Feature 77*

Disturbed stone deposit displaced from stone slabs F79. Located to the north and south over stone layer F79, this deposit of stones appears to represent disturbance of F79 by later agricultural activity. Feature 77 consisted of a layer of smaller stones, generally less than 0.20m in diameter, frequently angular, with occasional larger examples (0.2-0.35m diam.) sitting in a mid-grey matrix of firm silt with c.5% inclusions of tiny fragments of stone. This deposit also included frequent roots and occasional animal bone. The extent of F77 to the south was well-defined and was clearly cut by furrows F81 and F83. To the north F77 was less defined but there was a definite concentration c.6m-7m north of the southern baulk of Trench 4. To the east F77 overlay deposit F78. An iron Nail (77:1), iron object (77:6), fragment of possible lead mould (77:2), bone tools (3, 4, 5, 9); bone scoop (77:8) and antler off cut (77:7) were recovered from this stone deposit.



*Plate 20: F70, mid-excavation, facing north*

*Feature 70*

Located towards the south end of Trench 4, Feature 70 comprised a spread of loose stones, ranging from 0.10-0.30m in diameter in a matrix of very loosely compacted dark grey brown silty friable topsoil with frequent roots. Infrequent small stone and moderate animal bone inclusions. Disturbed by later agricultural activity a decorated copper alloy pin head (70:1) , possible Roman pot (70:6, 70:9); medieval pot (70:2); elongated bone object (70:5), iron object (70:7), iron nail (70:10) possible hammerstone (70:3); tracked stone (70:4); quartz crystal (70:11); and possible slingshot (70:12) were recovered from this feature.

### Trench 4-Furrows

A series of furrows extend across site Stratigraphically they are in the same position north and south of the stone deposit F70 that they appear to traverse. The topography slopes down from north to south at c.10m north of Trench 4, which also coincides with the location of the structure and occupational layers. The result is a higher degree of disturbance in the southern 10m of Trench 4 by this agricultural activity and better definition of the furrow in the north half of the trench. Furrows are 0.5-0.7m apart suggesting relatively intensive ploughing.



*Plate 21: Trench 4 furrow pre-excavation, facing south*

### Feature 72

Aligned NNE/SSW F71 is one of a set of similarly aligned furrows. Exposed for 10.4m along the length of the trench, the furrow averaged 0.45m in width. The depth was uneven ranging from 0.03m to the north before becoming deeper, 0.07m-0.15m as the land slopes downward to the south. The fill consisted of medium brown friable silty clay with few inclusions including some roots. A sherd of Samian ware (72:1), a possible barista ball (72:2), a fragment of blue glass bead (72:3) and a sherd of Roman glass vessel (72:4) were recovered from the northern end of the furrow. Frequent inclusions of animal bone along its length.

#### *Feature 73*

Located 0.8m east of furrow F72, Feature F73 extended SSW from the eastern baulk of Trench 4. Exposed for c.9m it was cut into stony layer F71 and measured, an average of 0.35m in width and 0.04m in depth, the furrow gradually ran out as the ground level dips. The fill was consistent with that in furrow F72, a medium brown friable silty clay with animal bone inclusions. A possible amphorae sherd (73:1) was recovered from the fill.

#### *Feature 74*

Aligned NNE/SSW F74 is one of a set of similarly aligned furrows. Exposed for 7m along the length of the trench, the furrow averaged 0.45m in width and 0.03m in depth. Located east of F73, furrow F74 was cut into F71 and F80 where it came up against the stones F77. It appeared to continue southwards. Romano British rim sherd (74:1) was recovered from the fill.

#### *Feature 75*

Aligned NNE/SSW, Feature 75 is the most western of similarly aligned furrows traversing Trench 4. located in the north-west corner of the trench, F75 was exposed for 2.3m and measured 0.45m in width and averaged 0.04m in depth. The fill consisted of medium brown friable silty clay with roots, not dissimilar to topsoil. Cut into layer F71, a fragment of stone pendant (75:1), bone rod (75:2) and flint (75:3) were recovered from the fill.

#### *Feature 76*

Located 0.8m east of adjacent furrow F75, furrow F76 presents as much deeper than associated furrows. Aligned NNE/SSW, F76 measured 0.45m in width and 0.08-0.10m in depth. Cut into layer F71, the furrow became deeper as it extended south-west and contained a fill consistent with that contained in the adjacent furrows with frequent inclusions of animal bone. A range of artefacts including Romano British pot (76:1, 76:9); possible colour coated? (76:8); iron object (76:3; 76:10) Iron nails (76:2, 76:5, 76:7); Stone object (76:4) and flint (76:6) were recovered from the fill.

#### *Feature 81(=F82)*

Aligned NNE/SSW, this furrow extended from the eastern baulk for 4m and was located 0.50-0.70m east of F74. Furrow F80 averaged 0.45m in width and 0.07m in depth, rising where it traversed the area of stone deposits.

#### *Feature 82 (=F81)*

Extending from the south west corner and western baulk of Trench 4, Feature 82 was one of three furrows visible to the south of the stone deposits F77, F79. Exposed for 1.9m, the furrow measured 0.45m in width and from 0.06m to 0.10m in depth, rising

up over F77. Cut into layer F71, the fill of furrow consisted of medium brown friable silty clay. It is probably the same furrow as F81 which extended north of the stone F77 and slabs F79.



*Plate 22: Furrows F82 and F83, mid-excavation, facing north-east*

#### *Feature 83*

Located 0.7m east of F82, furrow F83 was exposed for 2.3m NNE/SSW and measured 0.6m in width and from 0.1-0.20m in depth. Similarly to F82 it raised up over the stone deposits F77, F79 and possibly continues to the north of these as F74. The fill was consistent with that of the other furrows.

#### *Feature 84*

Furrow F84 extended from the eastern baulk for 1.7m before traversing the slabs F79 and stone deposit F77. F84 measured 1.70m and from 0.1m to 0.5m in width and averaged 0.1m in depth. The fill is consistent with that in the adjacent furrows. A copper alloy pin tip (84:1); iron object (84:2) and piddock stone (84:3) were recovered from the fill.

## Trench 4-Topsoil

### *Feature 1*

Topsoil within Trench 1 consisted of medium brown silty clay of friable compaction and small stone inclusions with root intrusion. It measured from 0.15m to 0.22m in depth, depending on slope, and contained frequent animal bone. A range of artefacts were retrieved for the topsoil including a stone gaming pieces, counters and discs; bone pin and objects; Romano-British pottery, glass bead, Romano-British glass, fragment of stone/lignite bracelet and a human tooth. Later finds included one sherd of post-medieval bottle and a fragment of modern glass bottle.



*Plate 23: South facing section Trench 4*

#### 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 (5-9 September 2022) in Swords Castle.



*Plate 24: Drumanagh Post Excavation week, Swords Castle*

##### *Soil Samples*

A total of seven 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. Two samples (#15, #18) were taken from the rich occupational layer F88 and one (#19) from F95. Another (#20) from layer F98 A sample (#16) was taken from a pit (F85) cut into subsoil and another (#21) from posthole F93. Finally, a sample (#17) was taken from the depression F91 to the north of the trench. 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. A total of 149 samples were registered from layers and features including a substantial amount of cattle bone and small mammal bones.

*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 25: Penny 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 205 artefacts were registered. This can be divided into pottery (39), stone (31), glass (7) metal (37) and bone (42) artefacts. There were a further forty-nine possible worked flint registered.



*Plate 26: Caoimhe with a sherd of possible Colour Coated ware*

### *Pottery:*

A total of 39 sherds of mainly prehistoric pottery were recovered during the excavation. The majority of sherds were very small, abraded sherds that represent prehistoric wares. Two rim sherds are comparable to fragments Dressel 20 amphora recovered during Seasons I & II. 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). Four sherds have been

preliminarily identified as Samian ware (Terra sigillata), a red-gloss pottery that was mass produced from the 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries AD, first in northern Italy, then Gaul and Colchester in Roman Britain. Two sherds are possibly Colour Coated ware, which is a type of Romano-British ceramic produced in the Nene Valley area of Cambridgeshire, England from the mid -2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. A single sherd of medieval pottery was retrieved and a fragment of 19<sup>th</sup> blackware was recovered from the topsoil.



*Plate 27: Wayne uncovering a sawn antler tine*

*Bone:*

A total of 42 bone artefacts were registered. The majority consisted of modified animal bones that 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).



*Plate 28: Bone spindle whorls*

Five animal bone spindle whorls have also been recovered, the majority from the occupational layer F88 of the partially excavated structure. Two are unfinished indicating their manufacture on site. Three fragments of bone/antler combs (E4805: 88:1; 88:15, 88:23) and a complete weaving comb (E4805: 88:7) were also retrieved from F88, indicating textile processing and manufacture in this area. Sawn antler tines were also recovered from this area indicating craft manufacture in the vicinity.



*Plate 29: Aidan with the excavated stone ball*

*Stone:*

A total of 11 stone objects were retrieved from excavation and a further 20 stones registered as potential objects, although quite a number appear to be the result of natural processes. Two fragments of stone rings, one of which is probably lignite (E4805:1:579) were recovered. This may have been part of pendants or a bracelet. A

third fragment of ringed stone was shaped and may have been a loom weight (E4805:88:4). Potential polishing stones also indicative of craft and textile manufacture, while hammerstones may indicate flint knapping. A rubbing stone (E4805:98:8) from a saddle quern which indicates food processing was also identified. Of particular interest was a spherical carved stone (E4805:72:2) measuring 0.06m in diameter and weighs 270g, which was considered to be a slingshot or ballista ball. However, sling stones, ballista balls and hand thrown stones are hard to distinguish as there does not appear to have been any standard weights. It is also difficult to distinguish the context of their use. Were they used in hunting or as weapons in battle? An examination of slingshots and ballista balls in Britain infers that the Drumanagh find was too small and too light to qualify as a ballista ball, but neither was it comparable to the sling stones recorded. A cache of thirty-three small ovoid stones were excavated from a discreet location within an Iron Age ring ditch in Corke Little, Co. Dublin and interpreted as sling stones, technology possibly arriving from Britain or the Continent (McGlade 2022 , 231).

#### *Flint*

A total of 49 struck, burnt or flaked flint were recorded, the majority from topsoil and layer F71, both of which extended across Trench 4. None were immediately identifiable as artefacts and are perhaps more evident of flint processing and the field flint that commonly along this coastline.



*Plate 30: Fragment of glass melon bead, probable 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> century AD*

*Glass:*

A total of six prehistoric glass artefacts were recovered including fragments of three glass beads and three sherds of glass vessel. The glass beads are distinct and include a twisted red and black glass (E4805:1:530), a mottled glass stud (E4805:1:569) and a classic blue glass melon bead (E4805:72:3), all of which have parallels in the Roman world. A single modern fragment of bottle glass was identified in the topsoil.

*Metal finds:*

A total of 37 iron objects were recorded. A total of 12 objects were of copper alloy and included several fragments of pins, one of which appears to be a decorated pin head (E4805:70:1). At least five copper alloy objects were recovered from the occupation layer with the structure, including a bangle (E4805:88:2) and pin fragments. A mix of iron fragments, nails and possible blades were retrieved, although in contrast to the iron nails recovered during Season that were associated with earlier deposits, the iron nails from season III were mostly recovered from the furrows and later deposits.

## 5 Discussion

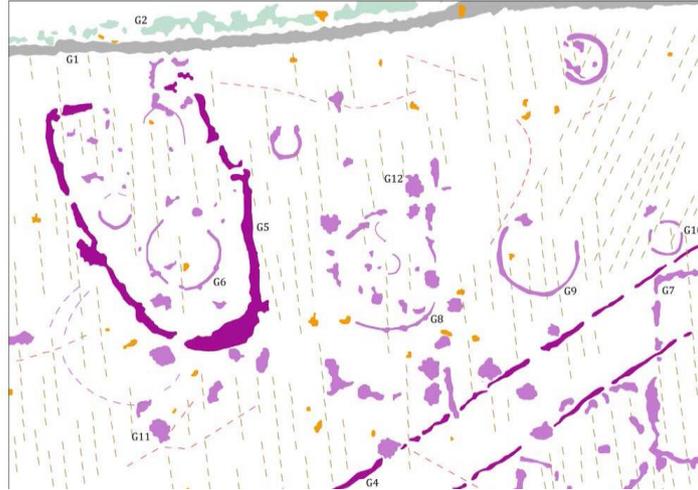
The focus of the 2022 season of excavation at Drumanagh promontory fort was to establish the nature of a potential trackway, identified on aerial photographs, geophysical survey and hill shade analysis. The trackway extends from an area of at the north-western limit of the headland identified as a possible landing place and extends across the promontory to the ramparts. While there was little evidence of the trackway, a structure was identified and the stratigraphy in this area ascertained.



*Plate 31: Trench 4 with trackway to north-east corner of promontory visible*

### *Trackway*

Not visible on the ground trackway traverses Drumanagh from a possible landing point at the north-east corner of the promontory towards the ramparts. It runs almost parallel to the Martello road but is located c.70m north of it. Identified on geophysical survey as parallel negative lineations (G4), spaced 10m apart, likely to comprise ditches containing stone, or, alternatively, a soil infill that is less magnetic than the surrounding matrix. Though possibly comprising field/drainage ditches, they could equally delimit a trackway (Dowling 2014, 12).



*Fig.16 Geophysical survey results Area 1A, courtesy of the Discovery Programme.  
Note the trackway.*

Aside from a slight dip in the sod layer (Plate ??) , visible on the west facing section of Trench 4, there was no evidence of the trackway apparent. This infers that the trackway is of a later date, at least in this area of the site.



*Plate 32: Northern end of west facing section*

#### *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 in the form of linear furrows aligned NNE/SSW that pre-dated the construction of the Martello road. The agricultural activity uncovered in Trench 4 also consisted of linear furrows aligned NNE/SSW.



*Plate 33: Relict field boundaries in winter light <https://www.facebook.com/isitbizitpicz/about>*

#### *Earlier Activity*

Prehistoric activity and artefacts dominate Trench 4. To the northern 10m were pits and possible postholes and uneven depressions which do not form a distinct pattern. A number of potential postholes transpired to be stone sockets and are indicative of some clearance potentially as a result of agricultural activity.

The next phase of activity was the layer F71. This material was impacted by the insertion of the structure and occupational activity in the southern 10m of Trench four and was cut by the later agricultural furrows in the northern 10m. Consisting of a stony silt layer of varying compaction this deposit extended across the majority of Trench 4 gradually thinning as it extended southwards. This layer was animal bone rich and contained pottery including an amphora base, worked bone tools, copper alloy pins and a spindle whorl.



*Plate 34: Structure, Trench 4*

There was a distinct concentration of activity located in the southern 10m of Trench 4 which corresponded with the western limit of a rectilinear hollow, identified post-vegetation removal. Interpreted as a structure this activity was characterised by rectilinear cut (F100) with basal metallised surface (F96/F97), packed soil (F99, F102), posthole (F93), large stone flags (F79) and a series of internal occupation deposits (F88, F95, F78) and stone disturbance (F70, F77). Material of probable Iron Age date and artefacts of Romano-British origin were present in these deposits.

The rectilinear hollow measured c.7m EW x 10m NS and is located as the to the south of slightly higher ground indicating it was situated to take advantage of the shelter offered by the immediate topography. Excavation of the western limit of the rectilinear structure indicates a rectilinear cut with basal metallised surface that sloped down into the occupational space. A potential entrance way flanked by wooden post is evident to the north of the structure. The large stones within the cut and spread beyond it have been interpreted as a stone footing for the structure. Internally were animal bone and artefacts rich deposits.



*Plate 35: Trench 3 Structure*

The closest comparison for this structural activity was excavated in Trench 3 in 2019. Interpreted as a working platform the activity in Trench 3 was characterised by a metallised surface (F46), posthole (F67), large stone flags (F26) and a series of animal bone and artefact rich deposits (F45, F38). A review of this material in light of the 2022 excavation results shows the layout and stratigraphy of both areas of activity in trenches 3 and 4 are similar. Both are cut/overlying natural subsoil and truncated by later agricultural activity. The elements -basal metallised surface, possible entrance to the north with attendant posthole, sloping internally, large flags, Romano-British artefacts from internal layers-are notably similar.



*Plate 36: Trench 3 structure, facing south*

The dominant house type of the Iron Age is circular in form, with rectangular prehistoric sites tending to be ascribed to ritual and non-domestic purposes. However recent geophysical survey work at the royal site of Navan Fort in Co. Armagh has identified rectilinear anomalies that may represent structures (Gleeson *et al* 2020). A sub-rectangular post and stake-built structure measuring c. 5.5m by 4m has recently been excavated along with other elements of Iron Age settlement and burial at Corke Little, Co Dublin. Both the eastern and western sides are slightly bowed and it is possible the structure was originally round, which is also the case with the structures at Drumanagh. McGlade has identified comparable examples to the post-built structures of Corke Little site in In Iron Age Wales, specifically eight buildings excavated at Goldcliff in the Gwent Levels, which were generally 7m by 5m and had bowed ends (Moore 2003, 53). Roundhouses would be more in keeping with typical prehistoric structures of the Iron Age (Becker *et al* 2008, 25-6), although in Britain changes to the basic domestic unit, the roundhouse are apparent in the late Iron Age and Roman period. In western Wales there is a definite increase in rectilinear house plan with the north-west of Wales also seeing a change from construction in timber to stone. Although emergence of incipient regional identities and reaction to and influence of the Roman presence are considered, modifications to structure plans are primarily seen as different communities utilising the resources available to them (O'Driscoll 2011).



*Plate 37: Rectilinear hollow of structure, by Trench 4, after regrowth, facing south*

The majority of Iron Age structures so far excavated in Ireland are post-built roundhouses, often with a central roof support and a porch defined by postholes. A series of postholes found in Trench 3 near to the stone structure at Drumanagh are indicative of this type of structure. Geophysical surveys at Drumanagh, undertaken both internally and externally to the ramparts indicate the presence of potential timber built structures such as roundhouses in a variety of sizes (Dowling 2014; O'Driscoll & Gleeson 2019). However no comparable stone built houses of similar date have been identified in Ireland (Dowling 2014, 155). It would appear that the structures in Trench 3 and 4 at Drumanagh are a combination of stone footings and posts that slope down into an interior with a metalled basal surface. Both have potential entrance to the north with a large posthole at the north-west rounded corner of the structure, possibly indicating an entranceway. The similarities in structure layout and materials could be a response to the local conditions. The promontory of Drumanagh is exposed to the elements, particularly wind. The ground level while appearing almost flat, rises and falls across the promontory. Are these particular structure types located to take advantage of the small bit of shelter afforded by the topography? Would the occupants have stepped down into the shelter of the stone walls holding the roof posts in place, entering from the north, away from cutting south-westerly winds?

Given the similarity not only of the morphology of the two structures but the materials found within them it is possible that the purpose of the structures was specific? In both trenches 3 and 4 a large amount of animal bone, bone tools, and artefacts associated with textile manufacture were associated with the structures. Unfortunately analysis of the animal bone and tools from Season II have yet to be returned from the specialist, but comparison with the assemblages and tools uncovered from Season III will be useful in further interpretation.

Another factor to consider in terms of the emergence of a structure type at Drumanagh is the builders and occupants and the influences they were subject to. The recovery of a range of artefacts from the Roman world are indicative of extensive contact with Roman Britain and beyond. The occupants of Drumanagh were using table ware of glass and imported cups and jars, but of more interest are the results of archaeobotanical analysis from Season II. Two pits (F54, F60) yielded spelt wheat (with a date range of 17-139 AD and 121-344 AD respectively). Spelt was not a common cereal at any time in Ireland's past, but it is strongly associated with farming strategies in Roman Britain (McClatchie pers comm.). Spelt grains were also recovered from an undated posthole at an Iron age settlement in Baysrath, Co. Kilkenny. The settlement which consisted of successive post-built roundhouses and a cereal drying kiln dated from 62-241 AD was located 5km from the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD Roman type burial at Stoneyford. It has been suggested that the evidence from Baysrath may indicate the

presence of settlers or traders from Roman Britain at a fording point of the River Nore (Dowling 2014, 157).

Likewise a sherd of mortarium was recovered in Season II of the Drumanagh excavations. Mortaria were multi-purpose mixing bowls (Cramp *et al.* 2011), used most often for the preparation of food. This particular sherd was confirmed as typical of mortaria made at Holt, the works depôt that supplied pottery and ceramic building materials to the Twentieth Legion at Chester. Its main period of production was confined to the first half of the 2nd century AD. The distribution of Holt pottery beyond the fortress at Chester and its dependent civilian settlements has yet to be studied comprehensively, but a few mortaria attributable to the industry have been recorded from the fort at *Segontium* (Caernarfon) which overlooks the Menai Strait and Anglesey (Bidwell 2020). Combined with the importation of olive oil in the amphora, the evidence for food importation, preparation and consumption, it seems the occupants of Drumanagh had a life style commensurate with their contemporaries in Roman Britain. The question remains was it one predominantly of settlement or trade?

Drumanagh has long been acknowledged as being of great significance in the context of Roman trade along the east coast (Raftery 1994, 207) and parallels have been suggested with the trading port of Henigstbury Head, Dorset, which was also defined by multivallate ramparts and had a role as a distribution centre. Newman has also suggested that there is a significant routeway from Drumanagh to Tara (2005, 379). In regard to the latter, the only other assemblage from Ireland, thus defined, comparable to that at Drumanagh, is from the Rath of the Synods at Tara, inland and some 35km west of Drumanagh (Evans 2008). The assemblages are of a similar size, with seven or eight identifiable vessels at Drumanagh and nine at Tara. Both include single examples of mortaria, and from Drumanagh there is a possible sherd from a Severn Valley vessel to match that from Tara. There are samian beakers from both sites, a type that seem to have been prized by communities beyond the Roman frontiers and suggests a source in common with the pottery at Tara, emphasising the function of Drumanagh as a redistribution centre (Bidwell 2020).

Bidwell suggests Meols on the Wirral (Merseyside) as 'a strong candidate' for a sea port engaged in trade with Ireland and would accord with the sources of the Romano-British pottery at Drumanagh and Tara. Although north Wales is closer to these sites, Meols seems to have been established as a trading place in prehistoric times, continuing to serve that purpose in the Roman and Viking periods. Some of the Iron Age, Roman and medieval objects indicate trade as far afield as Ireland, Europe, Scandinavia and the Mediterranean, and are exceptional as a regional group. Meols was one of the earliest sites in the region producing Roman finds including, including glass and pottery. Echoing the finds metal detected from Drumanagh, over 70

brooches and 120 coins at Meols point to a metalwork-rich, coin-using oasis in an economically undeveloped landscape (Griffiths 2001).

From the evidence recorded and the analysis undertaken so far, Drumanagh appears to be a redistribution centre for imported goods, but that was probably not its sole function. The amphorae could have been discarded as soon as they were emptied of their contents, but the other pottery, used for drinking and the preparation of food, suggests a settled population, as do the portable artefacts, combs and tools and the emerging evidence for structures of a particular type and function.

## 6 Conclusions

The third season of excavation at Drumanagh promontory fort has built on the evidence recovered in Season II, identifying a structure type that appears to respond to local conditions and where textile and craftwork are undertaken. The work has also raised more questions around the nature of the settlement on site and its occupants. What is clear is that evidence of the Iron Age is just centimetres below the surface. Further post-excavation analysis and radiocarbon dating will allow for the development of a definitive chronology for that activity and will inform the future investigation and management of the site.



*Plate 38: Some of Team Drumanagh 2022*

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 86 volunteers including local people and those who have taken part in previous Fingal community archaeology projects. Reflecting the school's curriculum, this video [https://youtu.be/3B\\_R9XASjuw](https://youtu.be/3B_R9XASjuw) records what is involved in archaeological excavation and post-excavation, celebrates the experiences of the participants and summarises what was found in Trench 4.

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 Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the National Museum of Ireland.

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## 7 Post-Excavation Programme

All animal bone samples were processed during the Drumanagh Post-Ex week at Swords Castle between 5-9 September 2022. 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	Siobhan	Ongoing
Pottery	TBP	TBP
Small Finds (metal, bone, stone)	TBP	TBP
X-Ray & Conservation	Susannah Kelly	Ongoing
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 fifteen 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	T4	Topsoil. T1-greyish brown silty clay of friable compaction and small stone inclusions.	0.12-0.25m in depth		Sod	Stone gaming piece (E4805:1:523); Bone objects (526; 585); Bone pin (555); Pottery post med (528; 572; 574) Romano British (527; 531; 533; 543; 546; 547; 548; 549; 560; 566; 573; 581; 586); Copper alloy object (565); Flint (535; 536; 557; 558; 561; 577; 578; 580; 588; 589; 590; 591; 592; 593; 594; 595; 596; 597; 598; 599; 600; 601; 602; Glass bead (530; 569) modern glass bottle (568) ; Romano British glass (570); DHR-human tooth (552); bone fragment (587); Iron nail (540; 584); iron object (541; 554); Stone disc (529); stone gaming piece (538); Stone object 544; Rubbling stone (550); polishing stone (551, 556); Stone counters?? (559; 564); Fragment stone/lignite bangle (579)
70	T4	Stones at south end of T4; Spread of loose stones, ranging from 0.10-0.30m in diameter in a matrix of very loosely compacted dark grey brown silty friable topsoil with frequent roots. Infrequent small stone and moderate animal bone (burnt and unburnt) inclusions.	5.5m NS x 4mEW; 0.10-0.20m	F77, F79	F1; cut by F83	Decorated Cu alloy pin head (70:1) , Possible Roman pot (70:6, 70:9); Medieval pot (70:2); Elongated bone object (70:5), iron object (70:7), iron nail (70:10) possible hammerstone (70:3); Tracked Stone (70:4); Quartz crystal (70:11); Possible slingshot (70:12).

71	T4	Feature 71 is an extensive layer into which a set of furrows has been ploughed. It extends across the northern 10m of the trench before it interacts with the stone dump F77 etc. F71 is a light brown stony compact layer which includes angular and sub-angular stones (0.02m-0.10m diam.). This layer averages 0.10-0.12m in depth with frequent animal bone inclusions. Cu alloy, polished stone and possible Samian material were recovered from this layer. Removal of F71 was removed on to natural subsoil in the northern end of the trench and possible pits/postholes F85, F86 and F87. F71 was cut by depression F88.	20m NS x 4m EW; 0.1m-0.02m in depth	F85, F86, F87, Natural	F1 F80; cut by F88	Cu alloy object (71:1); Bone objects (71:14; 71:16); Bone spindle whorl (71:17); Bone tool (71:22), RB pot (2; 3; 4; 11; 18; 19) polished stone, struck flint (8; 9; 10; 23; 24; 25; 26; 27; 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 33; 34); iron object (71:12); iron nail (71:13) iron blade (71:5); Possible hammerstone (71:5); pebbles (6; 7; 21); possible slingshot (71:21)
72	T4	Aligned NNE/SSW F71 is one of a set of similarly aligned furrows. Exposed for 10.4m along the length of the trench, the furrow averaged 0.45m in width. The depth was uneven ranging from 0.03m to the north before becoming deeper, 0.07m-0.15m as the land slopes downward to the south. The fill consisted of medium brown friable silty clay with few inclusions including some roots. A sherd of Samian ware, a possible barista ball and a fragment of blue glass bead were recovered from the northern end of the furrow. Frequent inclusions of animal bone along its length.	10.4m x 0.45m; 0.03-0.25m in depth	F71	F1	Samian pot (72:1), melon bead (72:3), Roman glass vessel (72:4), possible barista ball (72:2)
73	T4	Located 0.8m east of furrow F72, Feature F73 extended SSW from the eastern baulk of Trench 4. Exposed for c.9m it was cut into stony layer F71 and measured An average of 0.35m in width and 0.04m in depth, the furrow gradually ran out as the ground level dips. the fill was consistent with that in furrow F72, a medium	9m x 0.35m; 0.04m in depth	F71	F1	Possible amphorae sherd (73:2); burnt flint (73:1)

		brown friable silty clay with animal bone inclusions. a possible amphorae sherd was recovered.				
74	T4	Aligned NNE/SSW F74 is one of a set of similarly aligned furrows. Exposed for 7m along the length of the trench, the furrow averaged 0.45m in width and 0.03m in depth. Located east of F73, furrow F74 was cut into F71 and F80 where it came up against the stones F77. It appeared to continue southwards.	7m x 0.45m; 0.03m in depth	F71, F80	F1	Romano British pot rimsherd (74:1)
75	T4	Aligned NNE/SSW, Feature 75 is the most western of similarly aligned furrows traversing Trench 4. located in the north-west corner of the trench, F75 was exposed for 2.3m and measured 0.45m in width and averaged 0.04m in depth. The fill consisted of medium brown friable silty clay with roots, not dissimilar to topsoil. Cut into layer F71, a sherd of samian ware and fragment of stone pendant were recovered from the fill.	2.3m x 0.45m; 0.04m in depth	F71	F1	Fragment stone ring pendant (75:1); Bone rod (75:2); flint (75:3)
76	T4	Located 0.8m east of adjacent furrow F75, furrow F76 presents as much deeper than associated furrows. Aligned NNE/SSW, F76 measured 0.45m in width and 0.08-0.10m in depth. Cut into layer F71, the furrow became deeper as it extended south-west and contained a fill consistent with that contained in the adjacent furrows. Inclusions of animal bone.				Romano British pot (76:1, 76:9); Colour coated? (76:8); Iron object (3; 10) Iron nails (2, 5, 7); Stone object (76:4); flint (76:6)

77	T4	<p>Disturbed stone deposit displaced from F79. Located to the north and south over stone layer F79, this deposits of stones appears to represent disturbance of F79 by furrows. F77 consisted of a layer of smaller stones, generally less than 0.20m in diameter, frequently angular, with occasional larger examples (0.2-0.35m diam.) sitting in a mid-grey matrix of firm silt with c.5% inclusions of tiny fragments of stone. Includes frequent roots and occasional animal bone. The extent of F77 to the south was well-defined and was clearly cut by furrows F81 and F83. To the north F77 was less defined but there was a definite concentration c.6m-7m north of the southern baulk of Trench 4. To the east F77 overlay deposit F78. Iron pieces, lead and worked bone were recovered from F77.</p>	4.5m NS x 3mEW; 0.05m-1m in thickness	F79, F78	F70; Cut by F82, F83	Iron Nail (77:1), iron object (77:6), Fragment of possible lead mould (77:2), Bone tool (3, 4, 5, 9); Bone scoop (77:8); Antler off cut (77:7)
78	T4	<p>Feature 78 consisted of a compact bone rich material directly overlying the upper surface of stone slabs F79 at the eastern downslope side of Trench 4. F78 was characterised by a smooth firm surface, and consisted of a dark brownish grey firm but very friable silt. F78 extended north-south for 7.5m and east-west for a maximum of 2m and measured from 0.05m to .15m in depth. F78 sat directly on the slabs F79 where it formed a thin firm layer of 0.05-0.075m in thickness and also partially overlay loose stone F77. However some of the displaced stone slabs of F79 were also under F78 towards the south of the trench, indicative of disturbance it in this area. It appears F78, which does not extend across the western half of Trench 4,</p>	7.5m NS x 2m EW; 0.05m-0.15m in depth	F79, F88, F95	F70, F1	Bone scoop (78:2), Bone object (78:7) Bone tool (78:8) possible RB pottery (3, 4, 9), Copper coin (78:5), flint (6; 12; 13; 14); stone counter (78:10); possible stone weight (78:11)

		represents a topsoil pre-dating the agricultural disturbance associated with the furrows.				
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79	T4	<p>F79 consisted of a disturbed line of substantial stone slabs, sitting along cut F100. The slabs were a mix of fossil? local slabs and bedded red sandstone and occasional coarse granites. Lined and pitted surfaces were common and appeared natural. Exposed for 8m NNW/SSE and across the width of the trench these substantial stones consisted of four elements. Firstly the larger stones 0.8 x0.33m x 0.3m were generally found closest to the edge of cut F100 and were sitting on either packed stones F99, F96 or over a thin layer of soil F88. Two of these larger stones were very large with a minimum depth of 0.25m and potentially 0.55m. Secondly were medium slabs, ranging from 0.3m-0.4m in diameter and 0.10m to 0.15m in thickness. Generally located to the east and west of cut F100, these medium slabs were sitting on soil deposit F88 and also overlay pit F80 and deposit F99. The third element consisted of smaller more rounded slabs (0.15-0.30m in diam.) set flat face up, that were used to infill between the larger slabs. Finally an irregular jumble of smaller more angular stones (average 0.10m diam.) were very tightly packed in around the larger stones. There was a high level of disturbance towards the southern end of Trench 4, where stones were pitched at angles, in contrast to the central portion of F79. This feature has been interpreted as a footing of a structure.</p>	8m NNW/S SE x 4m EW; 0.35m	F96, F97, F99, F100	F70, F77, F78, F95, F88, F98	
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80	T4	Feature 80 was a shallow sub-oval pit, directly underlying the western most slabs of F79. Cut into layer F71, the pit F80 measured 2m NS and 0.8m in maximum width and 0.3m in depth. The pit was covered by the western extent of stone slabs F79 and was cut through a thin layer of F71 into natural subsoil. The fill which consisted of a mid-greyish brown coarse silt was characterised by frequent animal bone, occasional charcoal flecks and small stone (0.01-0.06m diam.) inclusions.	2m NS x 0.8m; 0.3m in depth	F71, cut into natural	F79	Possible pottery (80:1), human bone (80:2); Worked piddock stone (80:3)
81	T4	Aligned NNE/SSW, this furrow extended from the eastern baulk for 4m and was located 0.50-0.70m east of F74. Furrow F80 averaged 0.45m in width and 0.07m in depth, rising where it traversed the area of stone deposits.	4m NNE/SSW; 0.45m in width; 0.07m depth	F71	F1	
82	T4	Extending from the south west corner and western baulk of Trench 4, Feature 82 was one of three furrows visible to the south of the stone deposits F77, F79. exposed for 1.9m, the furrow measured 0.45m in width and from 0.06m to 0.10m in depth, rising up over F77. Cut into layer F71, the fill of furrow consisted of medium brown friable silty clay. It is probably the same furrow as F81 which extended north of the stone F77 and slabs F79.	1.9m NNE/SSW x 0.4-0.45m in width; 0.06m-0.1m in depth	F71	F1	

83	T4	Located 0.7m east of F82, furrow F83 was exposed for 2.3m NNE/SSW and measured 0.6m in width and from 0.1-0.20m in depth. Similarly to F82 it raised up over the stone deposits F77, F79 and possibly continues to the north of these as F83. The fill was consistent with that of the other furrows.		F71 F77 F79	F1	
84	T4	Furrow F84 extended from the eastern baulk for 1.7m before traversing the slabs F79 and stone deposit F77. F84 measured 1.70m and from 0.1m to 0.5m in width and averaged 0.1m in depth. The fill is consistent with that in the adjacent furrows.		F88 F77 F79	F1	Copper alloy pin tip (84:1); Iron object (84:2); Piddock stone (84:3)
85	T4	Located almost centrally within Trench 4 F85 was a sub-circular shallow pit (0.96m EW x 0.85m; 0.22m in maximum depth), cut into natural subsoil. The pit contained two fills. The basal fill consisted of a compact grey brown silty clay with occasional small stone and charcoal inclusions. The upper fill consisted of a mid-brown silty clay with angular and rounded stone (0.12m-0.15m diam.) Frequent animal bone was recovered from both fills.	0.96m EW x 0.85m NS; 0.14m- 0.22m in depth	Natu ral	F71	Struck flint (85:1)
86	T4	Located c.0.80m north of shallow pit F85, this posthole F86 was cut into natural subsoil. Sub-circular in plan it measured 0.5m EW by 0.43m NS and had a maximum depth of 0.16m. The posthole had a gradual break of slope and was U-shaped in profile. The fill consisted of a soft loose mid brown silt with moderate small stone inclusions and occasional charcoal flecks. There were larger stones (0.02-0.05m diam.) in the upper fill, that may have acted as packing stones	0.5m x 0.43m; 0.16m depth	Natu ral	F71	

		or posthole setting. A single fragment of animal bone was recovered from F86.				
87	T4	Stone socket. Originally thought to be potential posthole, this feature was determined to be a stone socket. It was characterised as a shallow depression (0.2m diam. and 0.07m in depth) filled with moderately loose sandy mid-brown sandy silt.	0.2m diam. 0.07m depth	Natural	F71	
88	T4	Deposit containing large quantities of well-preserved animal bone and artefacts. F88 consisted of a loose brownish dark-grey deposit of silt, 0.20-0.40m in depth, located within the cut defined by F100. This deposit directly overlay a metallised surface (F96) and in the north-west corner of F100 it overlay a hard-packed clayey silt F102, where F96 was absent. Exposed for 5m NS and 2.8m EW, F88 continued beyond that excavated but would have required the removal of much of the stone slabs (F79) to pursue further. Towards the base of F88 is loose and friable with c.5% angular stone (0.1m-0.2m diam.) inclusions. The upper surface of F88 was characterised by a higher concentration of sharp shaley stone fragments (<0.05m diam.). F88 both abutted the slabs of F79 and underlay disturbed slabs. F88 was artefact rich and bone combs, a copper alloy bangle and pin, copper fragments, iron shanks, bone tools, bone loom weight, glass, possible pot and human teeth were recovered.	5m NS x 2.8m EW; 0.2-0.4m in depth.	F93, F96, F102	F78; cut by F81, F84, F74	Bone comb fragment (88:1); antler tine (3; 28); Bone scoop (88:14); Bone tool (16; 17, 20, 25, 26, 27, 29, 32); Bone spindle whorl (21; 24) Unfinished bone spindle whorl (88:22); Bone comb (2 fragments-88:7); Bone comb fragments (15; 23); Possible Romano British pot (88:19); Copper alloy bangle (88:2); Copper alloy pin fragments (5;6; 11); Cu alloy fragments (88:13); Flint (88:33); Roman Glass fragment (88:12); DHR -human tooth (88:18); Iron pin (8; 9); Part possible stone ring pendant (88:4); Stone pebbles (10; 14).

89	T4	Posthole. Cut into natural subsoil this posthole or shallow pit was sub-circular in plan (0.49m x 0.51m) and measured 0.15m in depth. The fill consisted of moderately compact mid to dark grey brown silty clay with small stone inclusions and charcoal flecks. A small amount of animal bone was retrieved from the fill.	0.49m x 0.51m; 0.15m in depth	Natural	F71	
90	T4	Same as F92				
91	T4	Irregular charcoal flecked spread within a shallow depression, this was interpreted as a tree bowl. Cut into natural subsoil the irregular cut 0.03m in depth was filled with firmly compacted mid brown sandy clay with small stone and charcoal inclusions, surrounded by a stained natural. Possible small pot sherd and a small amount of animal bone associated was associated with this feature.	1.21m x 1.2m; 0.03m in depth	Natural	F71	
92	T4	Initially considered as a posthole this feature was determined to be a stone socket. Located north of F94 this irregular concave feature measured 1.08m NW/SE and 0.62m SW/NE and 0.13m in depth. The linear feature was cut into natural subsoil and contained very loose mid greyish red brown sandy silt with occasional small stones and traces of charcoal. A small amount of animal bone was recovered from this feature, although it appears this was formed as a result of a large stone having been removed.	1.08m x 0.62m; .13m in depth	Natural	F71	

93	T4	Initially identified as a concentration of bone and charcoal, 0.5m in diameter at the interface of F88 and F71, around a concentration of stones. On excavation the upper layer of material was seen to sit into a very shallow hollow overlying packing stones, which defined a well-cut vertical edge of 0.25m diameter and depth. Cut through fill F102 into natural subsoil, the base of posthole F93 was flat/very slightly dished and the sides near vertical. Stones were set around the upper edge and the fill consisted of compact mid-brown silty clay.	0.3 (lower)- 0.5m upper diam.; 0.25- 0.3m in depth	F102	F88	Bone object (93:1)
94	T4	This feature was a shallow trace of a curving irregular linear located south of stone socket F92 and north of shallow depression F91. Feature 94 was cut into natural subsoil and measured 2.63m NW/SW, 0.25m in width and 0.03m in depth. The base of the cut was very irregular and stony and the fill consisted of moderately loose coarse grey mid brown sandy clay with occasional stone inclusions.	2.63m x 0.25m; 0.03m in depth	Natu ral	F71	
95	T4	Loose charcoal rich material under collapse in SE corner closely analogous to deposit F88 to the north. Feature 95 consisted of mid-dark grey deposit of animal bone rich silt (lacking the brownish tint that F88 had). Located directly above metallated surface F95, it mirrored the line of the cut F100 to the west and extended for 3m NS x 2mEW with a depth ranging from 0.11m to 0.2m. Finds recovered from this deposit included a fragment of copper alloy pin.	3m NS x 2m EW; 0.11- 0.2m in depth	F97, F79	F78	Copper alloy pin (95:1); Bone object (95:3); Possible Romano British pot (95:2)

96	T4	<p>Metalled surface under F88, with cut F100, Feature 96 consisted of generally rounded pebbles (0.02-0.04m diameter), hard packed into natural subsoil. Visibly extended under the larger displaced stone of F79 to the west and south, the metalled surface was exposed for 5m NS and 2.10m EW. F96 did not extended up the steeper sides of cut F100 at the north-west where it was overlain by F102 but did extend to the lip of F100 at North east which may be suggestive of an entrance to the north. the surface of F96 was slightly dished sloping very gradually down from north to south and from west to east.</p>	5m NS x 2.1m EW;	Natural	F88	
97	T4	<p>Metalled surface overlying cut F100 in the south of Trench 4. Very similar metalled surface to that in the north F96 and may be a continuation of F96. Extending for 2.3m NS and 1.6m EW, F97 consisted of small rounded stones (0.02m-0.04m diameter) set into natural subsoil within cut F100. This metalled surface extended under stone F79 to the north and commenced at the base of the slope of cut F100. It was slightly dished in profile and sloped gradually down from west to east.</p>	2.8m NS x 1.6m EW;	Natural	F95	

98	T4	<p>Located in the south west corner of Trench 4, F98 was a layer of compact stony material that was exposed for 2.5m NS by 1.4m EW and measured from 0.01m-0.1m in depth. F98 consisted of very firm mid-brown silt with occasional inclusions of burnt clay and heat affected stone with occasional charcoal flakes. A quantity of animal bone and an antler tine was recovered from this compact deposits. Feature 98 overlay F71 and was itself cut by furrows F82 and F83. However the west side of furrow F83 truncated where its eastern limit was adjacent to F101 meaning the exact relationship between the stony material and the metallated surface was lost. F98 appears to represent a distinct category of waste that may have been associated with a hearth or kiln and appears to have been subject to compression as a surface. A bone spindle whorl, sawn antler tine and possible rubbing stone were recovered from this material.</p>	2.5m NS x 1.4m EW; 0.01m-0.10m in depth	F71, Natural	F82, F83	Bone object (1; 6); Bone spindle whorl (98:3); sawn antler tine (98:7); Cu alloy object (98:2); Iron object (4, 5)
99	T4	<p>Located to west of the large slabs (F79), Feature 99 appeared to fulfil a packing function similar to that of F102, within the upper limit of the cut of F100. Exposed for 1.5m NS and 0.1-0.5m EW to a depth of 0.02-0.05m, this layer consisted of mid brown compact clayey silt with infrequent small stone inclusions, occasional charcoal flecks and frequent animal bone.</p>				Romano British Colour coated? (99:1); sherd RB (99:2)

100	T4	<p>The western limit of a sub-rectangular cut which formed a sunken area of a structure was excavated within Trench 4. Exposed for a total length of 11m NS and 3m EW the large stones F79 were left in situ and partially obscured F100, and the material to the north and south of which were excavated separately, the area to the south having been more disturbed. The concave cut through F71 into natural subsoil averaged 0.4m at the northern end, dropping to 0.25m at the southern end, which is reflective of the ground slope in this area. The base of F100 dropped c.0.3m in absolute level across over 9m along its length, which is similar to the fall in current ground level over the same area, although slightly less which may be indicative of the base of the feature being intentionally levelled. The metalled surfaces F96 and F97 line the base and unevenly extend along the slope of F100.</p>	11m NS x 3mEW; 0.25m-0.45m in depth	Natural	F96, F97	
101	T4	<p>Rough metalled surface located to the south of Trench 4 abutting the cut of sunken structure F100. Exposed for 1.6m NS and 1.8m EW this rough stone surface consisted of irregular rounded stones (0.02-0.07m diam.) packed into natural subsoil. Truncated to the west by the furrow F83 and potentially cut by F100 to the east the stones of this surface were larger and more irregular than those noted in F96/97, and appear to have been a rough working or floor surface.</p>	1.6m NS x 1.8m EW	Natural	F78	

102	T4	<p>Feature F102 comprised soil packed against the steep north west slopes of F100 beyond the extent of metalled surface F96. exposed for 2m NE/SW and 0.6-0.7m NW/SE to a depth of 0.02-0.05m, this layer consisted of mid brown compact clayey silt with infrequent small stone inclusions and rare animal bone. The posthole F93 appeared to form the southern limit of this layer and the bone rich fill F93 overlay it, as did deposit F88. This layer directly overlay the cut F100 where metalling didn't survive, or was perhaps never present.</p>	<p>2m NE/SW x 0.6/7m NW/SE; 0.02- 0.05m in depth</p>	F100	F88	
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